

Liddell, John P.

## Two Local Aviation Cadets Killed as Train Hits Army Bus

Two Bethlehem aviation cadets are listed among the 28 persons killed in a collision between an Army bus and a fast freight train Thursday evening near Kingman, Arizona, the worst crash in Arizona history.

The one, Niles E. Long, son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl R. Long, 737 High Street, was reported in Friday evening's Globe-Times, though de-



AV. CADET NILES E. LONG

tails of the crash were not then available.

The other is John P. Liddell, son of Mrs. Clement Wechter, 35 Martin Road, Bethlehem. Thorough search has failed to reveal up to press time today any information of Cadet Liddell, as neither his name nor that of his mother is listed in local directories and there is no such address or street in this city.

Army Air Field officers at Kingman reported that in addition to 26 cadets, a gunnery officer and

the bus driver who were killed, seven other cadets were critically injured and that none of the 36 servicemen aboard the bus escaped injury.

### RETURNING FROM RANGE

The collision came at 9 p. m. near the entrance to the field as the bus was returning the young fliers to the base from a gunnery range across the railroad tracks after a night gunnery mission.

Five minutes after the crash more than 1,000 servicemen at the base had volunteered their blood for the cadets. A message appealing for donors was flashed on the screen of the base theater and the rush to exits was so great military police had to be summoned to maintain order.

The only known witness of the crash, an Army guard who was the crossing watchman, is in a hospital with a complete breakdown.

### ENGINEER'S VERSION

A public relations officer gave this version of the crash as told by C. L. Hickey, Needles, Calif., engineer of the train:

The flagman at the crossing waved down the bus, which appeared to stop and then plunged out of control into the path of the train going at the usual speed of about 45 miles an hour."

One hundred feet of the right-of-way was strewn with the bodies and the wreckage of the bus.

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