

## Officially Dead



S/SGT. BENJAMIN IASIELLO

## War Dept. Declares Local Soldier Dead

Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Iasiello, 210 West Broad St., have received word from the War Department that their only son, S/Sgt. Benjamin Iasiello Jr., has been officially declared dead.

Reported missing in action since February 28, 1945, S/Sgt. Iasiello was seriously wounded by enemy machine gun fire that morning while acting as squad leader on a reconnaissance patrol mission into enemy-held Salvaro, located in Northern Italy near the town of Vergoto and southwest of Bologna.

The strong enemy position forced his comrades to withdraw from their positions before Sgt. Iasiello could be evacuated. Several weeks later, after Salvaro had been captured by Allied forces, a search was conducted for him, but no trace of the sergeant was found.

Two of Iasiello's fellow soldiers mentioned receiving information from German prisoners captured during the month of April, 1945, in the vicinity of Salvaro, to the effect that a wounded American soldier was evacuated to a nearby German hospital at the time Sgt. Iasiello was reported missing. No further information has been received by his family since that time.

S/Sgt. Iasiello is a graduate of Liberty High School, class of 1943. He was inducted May 7, 1943, and received basic training at Camp Shelby, Miss., before going overseas in November of the same year. He arrived in Africa with the 11th Armored Infantry Battalion of the First Armored Division in time to celebrate his 19th birthday anniversary.

He was then sent to Italy, where he was wounded twice while participating in major campaigns. During his Army career, he earned the Purple Heart with an Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star Medal and Combat Infantry Badge.