

Lynch, Thomas

## Lt.-Col. Thomas Lynch, Air Ace, Catasauqua, Killed In Action

PITTSBURGH, (AP)—Lt. Col. Thomas Lynch, Army Air Forces hero from Catasauqua, Pa., with 20 Japanese planes to his credit, was killed in action over New Guinea last Wednesday, the War Department notified his wife here today.

No details of the air battle in which he met death were contained in the terse message from the war department, a member of his wife's family said.

Mrs. Lynch, almost prostrated by the shock, left two letters from her husband unopened. They arrived shortly after the telegram.

Their wedding during his brief furlough last Fall climaxed a romance that began at a college dance four years earlier. Col. Lynch returned to the Pacific Theater after their honeymoon—the area in which all of his air exploits were accomplished.

The report he had shot down his 20th Jap plane came from the war department the same day of his death, March 8. It was his fourth aerial victory since returning to the South Pacific Theater.

Col. Lynch, who was 27, was the second University of Pittsburgh flying ace—and also the second Lieutenant Colonel—to lose his life.

The first was Lt. Col. Boyd D. (Buzz) Wagner, of Johnstown, who also had 20 Japanese planes to his credit. He was killed when his plane crashed in a Florida pasture while on a tour of duty in the United States.

At the time Col. Wagner, then 26, was the youngest Lieutenant-Colonel in the Army.



LT. COL. AND MRS. LYNCH

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