

LOCAL MAN DIES IN PLANE CRASH

8-24-1942
Lieut. Leon Shane, Lehigh
Graduate, One of 7 Killed
in New Mexico.

Lieut. Leon Herman Shane, 25, son of Mr. and Mrs. Isadore Shane, 1024 West Market Street, was killed Sunday in the crash of a United States Army flying fortress in the Southern New Mexico mountains, near Las Cruces, N. M., the Associated Press reported today.

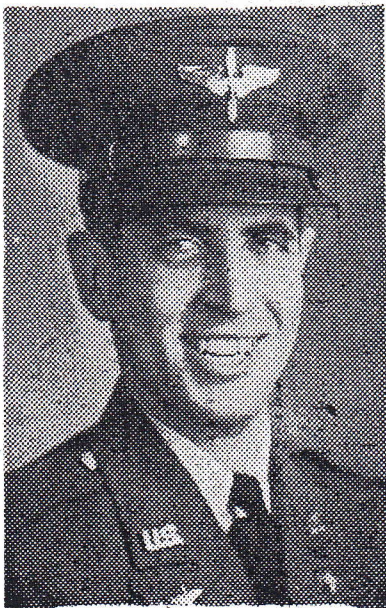
He was one of seven men killed. Two others were injured in parachuting to earth.

Col. W. B. Hough, commander of Biggs Field at El Paso, Tex., furnished this list of casualties:

The dead:

Lieut. James E. Hudson, Indianapolis, Lieut. James Van George, California, Eugene E. Rochester, La Grande, Ore., Leon Shane, Bethlehem, Pa., Frank B. Johnson, White Plains, N. Y., William R. Simno, New Orleans, and Sgt. Cato H. Myers, Houston, Tex.

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LIEUT. LEON H. SHANE

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Injured:

Staff Sgt. Walter E. Knox, Melba, Idaho, and Lieut. Quentin W. Hargrove, Shreveport, La.

Dispatch Confirmed

The family received telegraphic confirmation of Lieut. Shane's death this afternoon from Colonel James H. Wallace, commanding, 303rd Bombardier Group, Fort Bliss, Texas, the message reading, "Deeply regret to inform you of the accidental death of First Lieutenant Leon Shane."

The officer's mother said that she had last heard from her son just two weeks ago when he telephoned from Fort Bliss to say that he had just been advanced from a second to a first lieutenancy.

Hoped to Be Captain By Christmas

"Mom, you're going to have a captain by Christmas," he told me proudly," said Mrs. Shane this afternoon. "He liked his work very much and was making rapid progress. He had flown enough miles to circle the earth four times. He was an instructor and navigator. He was so glad to have been transferred from New Mexico to El Paso, Texas, because he could go in town for dinner occasionally."

Lieut. Shane was last home on leave December 18 when he spent a day and a half here. His mother telegraphed Colonel Wallace asking information so that funeral arrangements from the Community Center, Packer and Brodhead Avenues, could be made.

Lieut. Shane, who graduated from Lehigh University in 1938 with a degree in accounting in the College of Business Administration, was inducted into the Army early in 1941 and applied for admission as a flying cadet May 14, 1941, according to his record in the offices of Bethlehem Selective Service Board No. 3, in the DPA Building, Eighth Avenue.

He was accepted August 1, 1941, coming into the office of the Local Board to inform Chief Clerk L. R. Drown of the good news. He was commissioned upon completion of his course of instruction in aerial navigation April 1, 1942, at Mather Field, Sacramento, Cal. Later he was transferred to Boise, Idaho, where he was assigned to flying bombers.

Lieut. Shane was born Leon Herman Shane in Bethlehem, January 23, 1917. He graduated from Liberty High School preparatory to entering Lehigh. At Lehigh he completed his basic training in the Reserve Officers Training Corps and held the rank of corporal.

He was employed as a junior accountant with the firm of Siegel, Berg and Company, Easton, at the time of his induction. He is survived by his parents and three brothers, Norman Abram Shane, who is hem Steel Company; Marvin and Ronald Shane, all at home; his grandfather, Kater Elfman, Philadelphia.

August 24, 1942