

Halteman Jr.; Clemence

Lieut. Clemence W. Halteman Jr., Area's First B-29 Commander, Killed In Action Over Guam

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The first Northampton County boy to become commander of a B-29 bomber unit and one of two from this city to qualify for this high responsibility, was killed in action May 10 on Guam.

He was Second Lieutenant Clemence W. Halteman Jr., 24-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Clemence W. Halteman Sr., of Butz-town. On May 4 the young Air Corps Lieutenant wrote his parents describing a successful flight over Tokyo after which the city was left in flames. This letter reached the Haltemans May 12, to be followed yesterday by the news of his death.

In August of 1942, Lt. Halteman enlisted in the air corps as an aviation cadet. He was called to service March 19, 1943 and was dispatched to the classification center at Nashville, Tenn. After 1,000 hours on a B-17 as a gunnery pilot in gunnery school in Florida, he was sent to Rapid City, Neb., as an instructor.

Last April the young serviceman was sent overseas as the leading pilot of a double formation of B-29 bombers from Camp Mather Field, Sacramento, Calif., on a flight that took in the Hawaiian Islands and the Marianas.

A 1938 graduate of Liberty High and a former worker in the billing department of the Bethlehem Steel Company, Lieutenant Halteman qualified prior to his enlistment as a commercial pilot, receiving his license at El Paso, Texas, with an average of 95 percent during this training period.

As a boy, Lt. Halteman early showed that airplanes fascinated him. He was one of the charter members of the Bethlehem Airplane Model Club in which young boys tried their skill at building and flying small airplane models.

Mr. and Mrs. Halteman Sr., are both active war workers, Mrs. Halteman as a physical tester of steel in the physical laboratory of



LT. CLEMENCE HALTEMAN JR.

the Bethlehem Steel Company and the father, a veteran of World War I, as a shipper in the shipping department of the same plant.

In addition to his parents, Lieut. Halteman is survived by a sister, Dolores, a junior at Liberty High School; and a brother, William, a student at Technical High. His maternal grandmother, Mrs. William Brensinger, is a resident of Easton.

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