

Hackman, Charles.

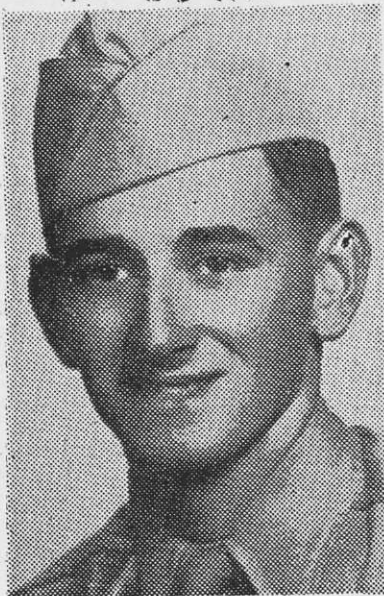
Local Gunner Killed in Crash In Take-Off for Jap Mission

MAY 28 1945

Sgt. Charles Hackman, waist-gunner on a B-29 stationed in Tinian, was killed in an airplane crash May 20, according to a letter received by his mother, Mrs. Harry Nolette, Bethlehem, R. D. 4, from Chaplain Richard B. Chambers. According to the letter, Sgt. Hackman was taking off on a mission against the Empire of Japan when for some unknown reason, a wing tip hit the runway and crashed into another parked plane. All the members of his crew were killed except the tail gunner. Burial and funeral services were held for the airmen in an American cemetery May 21.

Sgt. Hackman was a member of the first B-29 which made a forced landing on Iwo Jima March 4, the day after his 20th birthday. He served previously as a tail-gunner on another B-29 which was downed April 12. He and another flyer were the only two survivors of the crew on that mission.

Sgt. Hackman was the youngest of four brothers serving in the armed forces. His brothers, Archibald, M. M. 1-c., and Richard, S. 1-c., are both serving in the Pacific, and another brother, Cpl. T.-5 Howard, is home after serving actively in the Aleutians. Born in Bethlehem, he attended vocational school in Philadelphia and was employed by the Silvex Company in Hellertown prior to his induction Aug. 6, 1943. Hackman received his training at A. A. F. bases in Rochford, Ill.; Mis-



SGT. CHARLES HACKMAN

issippi, Florida and Nebraska before going overseas with the 9th Bombardment Group.

In addition to his mother and three brothers, he is survived by a step-father, Harry Nolette; his father, Paul E., of Spring Valley, and his maternal and paternal grandparents.

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