

Ellstrom, George

7/1 1943

Heroic Story Of Lieut. Ellstrom To Be Broadcast

At 6:45 p. m. today over the Allentown radio station, WCBA, Bob Rhedans, director of Allentown Boys Haven, will tell the story of Lieut. George Ellstrom, U. S. Air Force flier, of Bethlehem, who was murdered by the Japs as he floated earthward in his parachute harness the morning of the sneak raid on the Philippines. Mr. Rhedans' talk will be a feature of the program known as "Explanations."

The heroic story of Lieut. Ellstrom, former Lehigh University athlete, is familiar by now to almost everyone, but Leonard Schick, former Globe-Times reporter and now editor of the Lehigh Alumni Bulletin, gives it new drama in an article appearing in the March issue of Esquire.

It will be recalled that Lieut. Ellstrom was one of three army pilots able to get his plane off the ground and into the fight as the Japs swooped down over the army base where he was stationed. Diving into the midst of the invaders, Lieut. Ellstrom fought brilliantly until his motor was shot out and he was forced to take to his parachute.

With true Samuarian sportsmanship, the Japs took pot shots at him as he floated earthward and succeeded in inflicting mortal wounds. Refusing medical aid when he hit the ground, Lieut. Ellstrom insisted in reporting to his superior officer, and the information he imparted helped materially in the consequent battles with the Jap airforces.

His death on the field of battle and under such inspiring circumstances of self-sacrifice and heroic devotion to duty forms the theme of Mr. Schick's fine article.

May 19, 1943