

Kline, John W.

## Four Words Describe Local Flyer's Kill

DEC 18 1943

### 'One Bomb-One Boat' Lieut. John Kline's Succinct Report

By ASAHEL BUSH  
SOMEWHERE IN NEW GUINEA,  
Dec. 16 (Delayed) (AP)—"One bomb  
—one boat."

That was the succinct report of the crew of a Liberator bomber crew as they returned from an 11-hour reconnaissance mission which included less than 10 minutes of action against a 2,000-ton Japanese tanker.

The otherwise drab reconnaissance mission flared into action over the Hermit Islands, 220 miles northeast of Wewak, Japanese supply base on northwestern New Guinea.

First Lieutenant John W. Kline, (Route 3) Lehighton, Pa., bomber pilot, spotted two-heavily-laden Japanese tankers apparently bound for Rabaul, enemy stronghold on New Britain.

On the first bombing run a 1,000-pound bomb was dropped squarely on the vessel and six minutes later it sank.

A bombing run on the second tanker failed to result in a direct hit. But a strafing attack on the Jap ship sent the Japanese scurrying for cover.

Other members of the crew included: Staff Sergeant Walter J. Ronscavate (6 Cotton Street) Hudson, Pa.

Lieutenant Kline is the son of Fred C. Kline, a former director of public safety in Bethlehem. The family formerly lived at 617 West Broad Street, Bethlehem, and is now living in the Lehighton area where Mr. Kline is in charge of Bethlehem's Wild Creek water project. Lieutenant Kline received his wings and commission in August of 1942 at Kelly Field, Texas.

He graduated from Moravian College in 1941 and formerly directed the college glee club. He was a graduate of the Juilliard School of Music before entering Moravian.



LIEUT. JOHN W. KLINE  
... Report Brief, Pointed!

December 18, 1943