

Drauch, Kenneth.

Flight Officer Kenneth Drauch Reported Dead In Plane Crash

MONROE, La., (AP)—The names of six of 13 crewmen of a giant C-47 training plane which crashed 60 miles northeast of Tampa, Fla., on Wednesday, were released by Manzanillo Field authorities today.

The fate of the other seven members of the crew was undetermined by Army officials.

Those identified as dead included: Cadet Richard C. McClellan, 22, of 159 Hamilton Avenue, Vandergrift, Pa., whose wife resides in Monroe.

Cadet Thomas B. Lloyd, 19, of Springfield, Ohio.

Cadet Leland M. Leeds, 19, Los Angeles, Cal.

Cadet Peter P. Melnick, 22, Campbell, Ohio.

Pfc. Gerald U. Scruggs, 24, Stevensville, Mont.

Cadet Vernon Larson, 23, Poulson, Wash.

Captain and Mrs. Leidy Drauch, Bath Pike, today are anxiously awaiting word from the War Department relative to a telephonic report which brought them information that their son, Flight Officer Kenneth Drauch had been killed in a plane crash off the Florida coast.

According to the report, the plane carrying fifteen crew members became lost in a fog and crashed into the sea. Bodies of thirteen of the crew have been recovered and a search is being made for the other two bodies. The parents have not received the War Department's confirmation of the report.

Flight Officer Drauch was a graduate of Liberty High School and was employed by the Bethlehem Steel Company prior to entering the service. He was the only member of a class of five hundred who completed his flying course and was commissioned in the Air Forces.

His wife is a resident of Easton. A brother, Edward, A.M.M., is stationed at Anacostia Field, Washington, D. C.; a sister, Jean, S 1/C,



FLIGHT OFFICER DRAUCH

is also stationed at Washington, D. C. and a brother, William, and a sister, Ruth, are at home.

His father is a veteran of World Wars I and II and former commander of Company C, Pennsylvania Guard.

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