

BONCHER, JAMES

On Killed, Other Missing in Action



SGT. J. F. BONCHER JUL 26 1943 GT. G. A. REAGAN

Nazareth Flyer Killed in Action; Pen Argyl Aviator is Missing

Two Northampton county soldiers, Staff Sergeant George A. Reagan, 27, of R. D. 3, Nazareth, and Technical Sergeant James F. Boncher, of Pen Argyl, figured in yesterday's unfavorable news of the war. Reagan was killed in action in the North African theater of war, on July 13. Boncher is missing in action in the Pacific area. In each case official word was conveyed by telegrams from the War Department to the parents of the soldiers.

Sergeant Reagan is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William A. Reagan. The father is secretary of the War Board at Nazareth and also secretary of the Triple-A.

The soldier who lost his life in the African zone of army operations was called in the draft from his work as an assistant engineer with a sugar company in California. He trained as a flight engineer in aviation with the Army Air Corps.

Two brothers, Kinsey and Paul, are also in the Army Air Corps. They are aviation cadets. The former is at Las Vegas, New Mexico and the latter at Nashville, Tenn.

PARENTS NOTIFIED

Tech. Sgt. James F. Boncher, 23, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Boncher, 516 West Pennsylvania Avenue, Pen Argyl, is missing in action in the General Pacific area, according to word received in a telegram from Adjutant General Ulio. This is the first instance within the borough of Pen Argyl to be reported under such circumstances.

The telegram to the Boncher family was dated July 24, at Washington, D. C., and said: "I regret to inform you that the Commanding Officer of the General Pacific area reports that your son, Tech. Sgt. James F. Boncher is missing in action since July 20. If further details or other information of his status are received, you will be

promptly notified. Signed, Ulio, The Adjutant General.

Boncher enlisted in the U. S. Army Air Corps, leaving Pen Argyl on January 5, 1942. At Chanute Field, Ill., he was graduated from the Air Corps technical school in airplane mechanics on August 8 and in September was a graduate in the course of propeller. At Wendover Field, Utah, he was graduated from the Wendover aerial gunnery and fire control school.

Boncher visited his parents last April, just prior to his promotion to the rank of technical sergeant.

WROTE FROM HAWAII

From his home, he went to Topeka, Kansas, where he was a member of a crew on a liberator bomber, as gunnery engineer, and also was in charge of the instrument board.

His parents heard from him by letter from Hawaii Thursday of last week. He wrote that he had a date with Tojo.

The family holds every hope that he may have been forced down in action and is safe at some point unknown.

He was a member of the class of 1938 of the Pen Argyl high school. This class has one member already a war casualty, Pvt. Walter Ace, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ace of West Pen Argyl, who was officially listed as dead in April.

Boncher was a member of the high school football team for several seasons, only to have his senior year on the squad spoiled when he suffered a leg fracture. Prior to entering the U. S. Army he was employed at the Crown plant of the Julius Kayser company, Bangor. He has membership in the St. John's Lutheran Church, Pen Argyl, and was active in several of the organizations of the church. He has two sisters, Miss Katherine Boncher, a student nurse at the school of nursing of the Allentown General Hospital, at present on duty at the State Hospital, Allentown, and Miss Evelyn Boncher, of Dover, N. J.

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