

Columbus Man Dies in Action; Two Missing

Three Platte county men in the armed forces of their country were listed as casualties last night as result of action during the last few days, according to word received here.

Bernard B. Fletcher was killed in action in the Mediterranean war theater; Second Lieut. Mark Shorts, jr., B-25 pilot, is missing in an overseas flight; Second Lieut. Anthony F. Diederich, B-24 Liberator pilot, is missing since July 15 in a mission over Yap island.

Friends of Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Fletcher have received word Bernard B., youngest son of the family, was killed in the Mediterranean war theater.

Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher, former Columbus residents who now make their home in Grand Island, received the message last night from the war department.

Bernard, 20, entered the armed forces in January, 1943. At that time he was employed by the Union Pacific railroad.

Radio School

He attended radio school in Chicago and won his gunner's wings at Pyote, Tex., Sept. 22, 1943. He was assigned to overseas combat duty with the 15th army air force in the Mediterranean theater.

On July 3 The Telegram published a story about "Bernie" stating he had flown 21 missions. He was a technical sergeant

and radio operator-gunner on the Flying Fortress Alamo II.

Bernie was graduated from St. Bonaventure high school in 1941. He was regular member of the basketball team for three years and was elected honorary captain of the 1941 track team. He holds the county pole vault record.

Mrs. Mark Shorts, jr., received word about 8 p. m. Thursday that her husband, a second lieutenant, is missing in overseas flight.

The telegram came from Fairfield, California, and said in part "your husband reported missing in

overseas flight. Search being instituted and further details will be furnished when available."

Here in Winter

Mark was home in January to visit with his wife's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Keith Perkins, sr., and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Shorts, sr.

After graduating from the La Junta pilot training school at La Junta, Colo., he was assigned to Columbia, S. C., replacement center to assemble his crew. From Columbia he went to Savannah.

Mrs. Shorts just talked to her husband Sunday night. He was

pilot of a B-25. Mrs. Shorts is here at the home of her parents.

Lieutenant Diederich, 22, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tony J. Diederich, who live north of Monroe, was reported missing after a mission July 15 over Yap island. He had been stationed in the Admiralty islands.

He joined the army June 4, 1942, and was called to service Nov. 15, attending schools at San Antonio, St. Louis, Pampa, Tex., Fort Worth, Tex., and Tonopah, Nevada. He had been overseas since May 25.

Brother in Navy

He was born at Lindsay and was graduated from Platte Center high school in 1939. He is a member of St. Anthony's Catholic church in Burroughs township.

A brother, Edward, is a first class torpedoman on a submarine; three other brothers are at home, Mark, Greg and Paul; he has five sisters, Mrs. Dave Berg, Waterloo, Ia., Sister M. Antonita, Menominee, Mich., Sister M. Carol, Manitowoc, Wis., and Cleo and Marilyn.



BERNARD
FLETCHER



LIEUTENANT DIEDERICH:
Missing after mission over Yap
island.



LIEUTENANT SHORTS: Miss
ing in overseas flight.