## THE DAILY TELEGRAM Columbus, Nebraska, Friday, July 28, 1944 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

ERNARD

ETCHER

at Pyote, Tex., Sept. 22, 1943. theater. On July 3 The

Telegram published a story about "Bernie" stating he had flown 21 missions. He was a technical serge-

Bernie was graduated from St. furnished when available." . Bonaventure high school in 1941. He was regular member of the basketball team for three years visit with his wife's parents, Mr. and was elected honorary captain and Mrs. Keith Perkins, sr., and of the 1941 track team. He holds his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Mark the county pole vault record. Shorts, sr.

her husband, a second lieutenant, Columbia, S. C., replacement cenis missing in overseas flight.

field, California, and said in part "your husband reported missing in husband Sunday night. He was ......



LIEUTENANT DIEDERICH: Missing after mission over Yap island.

the Flying Fortress Alamo II. stituted and further details will be at the home of her parents. Here in Winter

Mark was home in January to

After graduating from the La lands. Mrs. Mark Shorts, jr., received Junta pilot training school at La word about 8 p. m. Thursday that Junta, Colo, he was assigned to ter to assemble his crew. From The telegram came from Fair Columbia he went to Savannah.

Mrs. Shorts just talked to her

LIEUTENANT SHORTS: ing in overseas flight.

ant and radio operator-gunner on overseas flight. Search being in- pilot of a B-25. Mrs. Shorts is here

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 is-

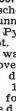
He joined the army June 4, 1942, and was called to service Nov. 15, attending schools at San Antonio, St. Louis, Pampa, Tex., Fort Worth, Tex., and Tonopah, Nevada. He had been overseas since May

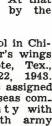
## Brother in Navy

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 Mar-







He was assigned to overseas combat duty with the 15th army air force in the M e d i terranean