

Missing Pilot Killed Over Yap Island

AUG 12 1944

Previously reported missing in action on July 13, 2nd Lt. Walter E. Ball, jr., a son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter E. Ball of 525 Third avenue, was declared killed in action on the same date over Yap island, according to a telegram received this morning by his parents from the war department. The message stated that a letter would follow.

Lt. Ball, aged 23, pilot of an AAF B-24 bomber in the south Pacific area, and Lt. Wayne L. Simpson, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Simpson of 207 Eighth avenue, Juniata, were crew members of the same plane and were reported missing in action on the same day, but efforts of the Altoona Mirror to contact the Simpson family today were unavailing.

Lts. Ball and Simpson had been overseas for less than sixty days and it was only by coincidence that they were serving aboard the same ship, since the AAF does not permit two men from the same community to serve together. Lt. Simpson had given his home address as Juniata, while Lt. Ball's home was in Altoona.

Lt Ball entered the service as an aviation cadet in July, 1942, and was called to active duty on Jan. 12, 1943. He trained at San Antonio, Corsicana, Greenville and Houston, Tex. Prior to entering the service he was employed in the Twelfth street shops of the

DECLARED DEAD



LT. WALTER E. BALL, JR.

MISSING PILOT IS KILLED

(Continued from page 1)

Pennsylvania Railroad company and earlier had served as a bookkeeper for the Altoona Tribune.

Lt. Ball was born in Altoona on Dec. 31, 1920, a son of Walter E. and Viola (Sweeney) Ball. He is survived by his parents, and two brothers, S 1/c Regis Ball, now stationed at Towanda, N. Y., and Robert, who is employed at the Baldwin Locomotive works in Philadelphia.

A graduate of Altoona High school in 1938, he was a member of St. Mark's Catholic church and of the Holy Name society.

Join 13th AAF.

HEADQUARTERS, 13TH AAF SOUTH PACIFIC—Three Altoona men recently arrived in the South Pacific and became members of the 13th AAF, the air force which blasted Jap air power from Guadalcanal to Truk in its northward drive.

They are: 2nd Lt. Walter E. Ball, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter E. Ball, 525 Third avenue. Lieutenant Ball, pilot of a B-24 Liberator, entered the AAF Jan. 8, 1943 and received his wings and commission Nov. 3, 1943.

2nd Lt. Wayne L. Simpson, son of Mr. and Mrs. William S. Simpson, 207 Eighth avenue, Juniata. Lt. Simpson, bombardier of a B-24 Liberator, was graduated from Al-

toona High school, worked for the Pennsylvania railroad, Martin Aircraft company and Bethlehem Steel corporation before entering the AAF Jan. 7, 1943. He received his wings and commission Dec. 24, 1943.

Flight Officer John I. Hudspeth, son of Mrs. Sue Hudspeth, 2602 Eighth avenue. F. O. Hudspeth, bombardier of a B-24 Liberator, formerly attended Susquehanna university, Selinsgrove, and entered the AAF July 18, 1940. He received his wings and commission Feb. 5, 1944, at Deming, N. M.

Member of Class.

FORT WORTH, Tex. — Second Lieutenant Walter E. Ball, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Ball of 525

Third avenue, Altoona, today was a member of the fourteenth and one of the largest classes of B-24, Liberator bomber pilots to graduate from the AAF pilot school at Fort Worth army air field. Thirty-seven states were represented. Lieutenant Ball, aged 22, received

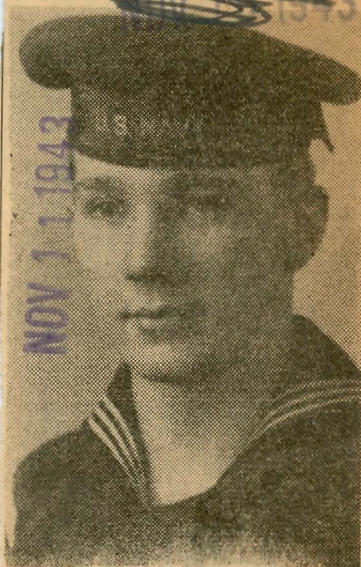


Lt. Ball

his earlier flight training at Corsicana, Greenville and Houston, Tex.

City Brothers Meet While on Leave at Home

... last Wednesday and received
second lieutenant's commission.
was granted leave which will
include the coming week-end
when he will report back to his
station for assignment.



NOV 11 1943

REGIS W. BALL

The week-end at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Walter E. Ball was a joyous one, occasioned by the arrival of their

sons, Seaman First Class Regis W., and Second Lieutenant Walter E. Ball, jr., for leaves. The two young service men's coming home was unknown to them individually and it was their first meeting in almost a year.

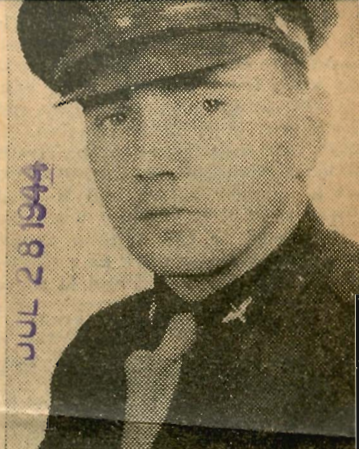


W. E. Ball

They do not expect to be home at the Christmas season and their request for a turkey dinner with pumpkin pie was complied with on Sunday by their parents. Their father is a veteran of the first World war and during the day some fifty or more soldiers and other friends greeted the boys at the home, 525 Third avenue.

Seaman Regis was wounded in the attack and taking of Sicily, was hospitalized in north Africa and a short time ago was returned to the naval base at Norfolk where he was treated at a naval hospital. Being granted a thirty-day leave, he came home Saturday. He enlisted Aug. 16, 1942. He spent last Christmas at home on a furlough. He is a former Altoona Mirror carrier.

Lieutenant Walter E. Ball was enrolled as an aviation cadet last December and in January he was called for training. He is a graduate of the Altoona High school. He was graduated at Ellington field



LT. WALTER E. BALL, Jr.
Missing In Flight

PILOT ALSO MISSING IN SO. PACIFIC

JUL 28 1944

Second Lt. Walter E. Ball, jr., aged 23, pilot of an AAF B-24 bomber in the south Pacific, has been missing in action since July 13, when he participated in the American attack on Yap island according to a telegram received yesterday afternoon by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter E. Ball of 525 Third avenue.

Since both Lt. Ball and Lt. Wayne L. Simpson of Juniata, reported in yesterday's Altoona Mirror as missing in the same area on the same date, were known as fellow crew members aboard a Liberator bomber, it is assumed that the two young men were serving together when they disappeared.

Word of Lt. Simpson's status was received by his parents yesterday morning and they telephoned Mr. and Mrs. Ball. When the day went on into the afternoon without the latter receiving a message concerning their son their fears that he, too, was missing began to fade. Then they received a telegram identical with that of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Simpson.

Lt. Ball was pilot of the plane on which Lt. Simpson flew regularly as bombardier. Both had been overseas less than sixty days and it was only by coincidence that they were serving aboard the same ship since the AAF does not permit two men from the same community to serve aboard the same

plane. Lt. Simpson gave his hometown as Juniata while Lt. Ball listed Altoona. They were not acquainted until they met as members of the same plane crew but had become close friends in their service.

Lt. Ball entered the service as an aviation cadet in July, 1942, and was called to active duty on Jan. 12, 1943. He trained at San Antonio, Corsicana, Greenville and Houston, Tex. Prior to entering the service he was employed in the Twelfth street shops by the P. R. R. and earlier had served as a bookkeeper for the Altoona Tribune.

He was born in Altoona and graduated from Altoona High school in the class of 1938. His family is comprised of his parents and twin brothers, S 1/c Regis Ball now at Towanda, N. Y., and Robert who is employed at the Baldwin Locomotive works, Philadelphia.