

Lt. Leo Braun Killed In Action In New Guinea



Bomber Pilot Loses Life

The above picture of Lt. Leo B. Braun, who was killed in action in New Guinea on Jan. 8, 1944, was taken in 1942 at the time he was an aviation cadet at Greenville, Mississippi.

Credited With Numerous Successful Bombing Missions

Solemn Requiem Held At St. Boniface Church Wednesday

The war has left another mark on this City and community in claiming the life of one of its fine young men. First Lieutenant Leo Bernard Braun, son of Mrs. Cecella Braun of Melrose, was killed in action in New Guinea on January 8, 1944. News of his death was received from the War Department by his wife at Austin on Saturday, the 15th.

A solemn requiem was held at the St. Boniface church here Wednesday morning at 9 o'clock. Members of the Melrose American Legion Post and Auxiliary attended in a body and the large church was filled with relatives and friends.

A cousin of the late Lt. Braun, Father Martin Schoenberg of Crozier, Onamia, officiated at the requiem assisted by Very Rev. S. J.

Schirmers and Rev. Will A. Blockner. Father Schirmers preached a stirring sermon at the services, which were the first of this war at the St. Boniface church.

Leo Braun, known to his friends as Lee, was born at Lastrup Aug. 7, 1918, and was past 25 years of age at his death. His father died in the flu epidemic of the fall of that year and the family came to Melrose in December 1918. Leo attended the St. Boniface grade school and graduated from the Melrose high school in 1936.

Previous to March 1941, when he was inducted into the Army from Mawes County, he was employed in the Kolb bakery in Austin. He had his basic training at Camp Claiborne, La., and entered pilot training in July 1941 and attended flying schools at Douglas, Ga., Maxwell Field, Ala., and Greenville, Miss. At George Field, Ill., on January 14, 1943, he received the silver wings of a flying officer and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army Air Forces.

After receiving his wings he went to Greenville, South Carolina, and it was there that he married Selma Paul of Austin. He went to Hawaii in July 1943 and spent a few weeks there and later was in Australia for a short time before being assigned to bomber flying from a base in New Guinea. He piloted a twin-motor medium bomber and had been on numerous missions. He recently was promoted to the rank of First Lieutenant. His wife and mother received letters from him dated January 3 in which he wrote that he had then just returned from a two-weeks rest leave at Sidney, Australia. Details of how he met death have not been received by the family.

Besides his wife and mother, two brothers, Clarence "Johnny" Braun of Melrose and Roman with the U. S. Army in Italy, and a sister, Mrs. Arnold Roering of New Munich survive.