Merle G. Aunspaugh

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Lt. Mearle Aunspaugh
Killed In Crash Landing
In England March 6th

Second Son Of Mrs. Lily Aunspaugh Lays Down His Life In Service Of His Country.

Lt. Mearle G. Aunspaugh of the Army Air Forces was killed in the crash of his plane in England on March 6th, according to word received by his mother, Mrs. Lily Aunspaugh. Lt. Aunspaugh had been a commissioned fighter pilot for nearly a year.

His brother, Lt. Wm. K. Aunspaugh, has been "missing in action" for about a year. The plane on which he was navigator was forced down near the French coast in the English channel and no word has been received from him.

The following news release from Headquarters of the United States Strategic Air Forces in Europe was received by The Times on Saturday:


Lt. Aunspaugh is assigned as a combat pilot with the 359th Fighter Group, led by Col. John P. Randolph, Schertz, Texas, which is credited with destruction of more than 300 Nazi aircraft. He has escorted our "heavies" on a daylight raid to Berlin.

A graduate of Gothenburg public schools and former student at the State Teachers College, Kearney, Neb., Lt. Aunspaugh entered the Army Air Forces Jan. 31, 1943, and earned his "wings" Mar. 23, 1944.

In addition to flying on bomber-escort missions, Lt. Aunspaugh has flown his Mustang fighter on low-level strafing attacks against enemy transport centers feeding Nazi supply lines to the Western front.

Lt. Merle G. Aunspaugh
Army Air Corps
Freshman, 1943
Son of Mrs. Lily C. Aunspaugh
Gothenburg, Nebraska
Killed in crash landing in England March 6, 1945