World War II Casualties

4-16-1945

Tom Erthrum

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Pfc. Tom Erthum
Killed In Action
On Italian Front

Word of Death Arrived Here
Day Before Germans Surrendered.

Pfc. Thomas Erthum, 22, an infantryman, was killed in action on the Italian front on April 16th, according to notice received from the War Department by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Erthum of this city Tuesday.

His death brings to eleven, the number of gold stars in the service flag of the Ravenna community.

The sadness of the family was made greater by the fact that the telegraphic notice reached here only a few hours before all German forces unconditionally surrendered in the Italian theatre.

Pfc. Erthum had been in Italy for many months. He entered the service two years ago in May, and went overseas in September of last year. He spent a short time in England, Scotland and France before being assigned to the Italian front, where he had since been in action. He was with the 350th infantry, of the 88th Division.

Although short, his life had been an extremely busy one. An athletic star since his early days in high school, he was well and favorably known throughout the community. He was one of the highlights of Ravenna football teams, and achieved state mention for his play. He was also a track star of considerable renown. Following his graduation, he attended Kearney State Teachers College for one year, then attended the University of Nebraska one semester prior to entering the service of his country. Always dominant in athletics, he made a fine showing at both schools. He was a fine young man, and the entire community grieves with his family over his passing.

He spent most of his Army training days at Ft. Bragg, S. Carolina, but also received training in Alabama, Florida, and Maryland before going into overseas service.

Surviving are his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Erthum, and five sisters, Mrs. Ray Johnson of Ogallala; Mrs. Paul Gray of Asbury Park, N. J; Mrs. Arthur Stubbs, Mrs. Melvin Biggs and Alice, all of Ravenna.