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World War II Casualties

World War II

8-1-1945

Leonard E. Gladson

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Leonard Gladson Killed in Action Over Nagasaki

Lt. E. Leonard Gladson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer L. Gladson, former Kearney residents, was killed in action Aug. 1, while participating in a bombing mission over Nagasaki, Japan with the seventh army air force, according to a telegram received from the war department, by his wife, Mrs. Ann M. Gladson of Oakland, Calif.

Lieutenant Gladson was born March 11, 1921, at Ord, and moved to Kearney with his family in time to start school in Kearney public schools. He graduated from Kearney high school in 1938 and went to Kearney State Teachers college for one year. While in high school, he was active in football and track. He went to the army in December, 1940, when the Kearney national guard was mobilized, and trained at Camp Robinson, Ark., and in Louisiana during 1941. Early in 1942, he went overseas with a tank destroyer unit, transferring to the army air corps while overseas. After seeing action as a gunner on a B-24 bomber, he returned to the states in March, 1943, for training as an AAF pilot. He received his second lieutenant commission and pilot wings March 12, 1944, at Fort Sumter, N. M.

In a wedding ceremony, attended by fellow officers, at Kirkland field, Albuquerque, N. M., he was united in marriage to Miss Ann Mary Grensteiner of Dodge, N. D., April 8, 1944.

After further training at Kirkland field and Muroc army air field, in California, he returned overseas October 15, 1944. He was with the seventh army air force participating in bombing missions over the Philippines, Japan and the coast of China.

Memorial services were held in Oakland, Calif., Sunday, Aug. 26.

Lieutenant Gladson is survived by his wife, a baby daughter, Sharon Ann, whom he had never seen, his father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Gladson of Oakland, Calif., a sister, Mrs. Naomi Turner, of Richmond, Calif., a brother, Glen, in the army, stationed at Fort Logan, Colo.