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Marshfield, Wis. — War department messages to relatives here over the week-end told of the deaths in the New Guinea area of seven more Marshfield men, raising the count of dead from this city in New Guinea to 14.

Widow of One Lives Here

Among the new list of casualties was Sgt. Frank J. Busche jr., 24, whose wife, the former Frances Elmer, resides on Route 4, Wisconsin Rapids. He was killed in action December 27. His father lives in Marshfield.

The other men killed in action, all on December 28, were:

S/Sgt. William A. Lemke, 25, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Lemke, Marshfield, R. 4.

Sgt. Lloyd J. Mueller, 22, son of Henry C. Mueller, Marshfield.

Sgt. Donald E. Reese, 21, son of Mrs. Cleo Reese, Marshfield.

Cpl. Cornelius J. Lange, 24, son of Mr. and Mrs. William J. Lange, Marshfield.

Pfc. Victor L. Michels, 29, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Michels, Marshfield, R. 3.

Pfc. Terry C. Markee, 24, son of Mr. and Mrs. James O. Markee, Marshfield.

4 Missing, 14 Wounded

All of the dead were members of the Marshfield National Guard unit inducted into service in October, 1940. In addition to the 14 dead, four Marshfield men have been reported as missing in action on other battle-grounds and 14 others have been wounded.

American Legion officials believe the community's war toll is one of the highest in proportion to population in the state.

Merkel Awarded Purple Heart

One of the soldiers, whose death was announced previously, has been awarded the decoration of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, his parents were notified Saturday. The award was made post, humorously to Sgt. Leander Merkel, 29.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Merkel were informed by the war department that an engraved certificate and the medal will be forwarded to them in about two weeks. Sgt. Merkel was killed in New Guinea December 7.

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