

In the southwest Pacific's first tank battle, the enemy attacked
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Gjertsens Receive More Details of Son's Plane Loss

The John R. Gjertsens, 950 Baker street, have received further information regarding their son, Lieut. Ralph N. Gjertsen, who on March 15 was reported missing in action in the North African theater of war since February 22.

In a letter from the army's personal affairs division, under the chief of air staff, the Gjertsens are told: "Further information has been received indicating that Lieut. Ralph Gjertsen was a crew member of a B-17 (Flying Fortress), which departed from southern Italy on a bombardment mission to Regensburg, Germany, on February 22."

"Full details are not available, but the report indicates that during the mission, as our planes were over the Adriatic sea, off the east coast of Italy, your son's bomber, which at the time appeared to be in a damaged condition, was seen to fall into the water.

"The report further states that this occurred at about 10:25 a. m. and that eight parachutes were seen to leave the falling craft. The crew members of other planes in the formation were unable to make further observation of your son's craft, therefore there is no other information available at this time."

Appended to the letter, however, in addition to the list of names of the nine crew members on the ill-fated bomber, is a note stating that one father in Philadelphia received word that his son, a member of the bomber crew, was "alive and presumably well."

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Nazis Capture News

SUMMER SCHEDULE