

2LT Robert H. Tank

Location - East-A: R31, C29

LT. ROBERT TANK FREED IN GERMANY; PRISONER SINCE 1943

5-26-45

An American Red Cross message reading, "Lt. Robert Tank requests you to be notified of his liberation" informed Harold Tank 168 Winnebago street, that his son had been freed after being held a German prisoner of war for almost a year and a half.

Another message confirmed the report when the parents of Lawrence Spanbauer, 57 Cedar street, called to tell Mr. Tank that their son was pilot of the plane which picked up prisoners in Germany and transported them to England and that among them had been Robert Tank of Oshkosh.

Lieutenant Tank went into service June 8, 1942, and has been overseas since October, 1943. He served both as a bombardier and as a navigator while based in England. His plane went down while on a mission Thanksgiving day, 1943, and he was reported a prisoner of war later. The last letter received from him was in December and at that time he was still at Stalag Luft 1.

5-26-45

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ROBERT H. TANK REPORTED MISSING OVER GERMAN AREA

Oshkosh Young Man Was
Bombardier and Navigator
in Crews of B-17 Flying For-
tresses

Second Lieut. Robert H. Tank, son of Harold Tank, 120 Rosalia street, has been officially listed as missing in action, according to a government wire received by the father Wednesday.

The government message stated that Tank had been missing in action over Germany since Nov. 20. No other details were given and the telegram stated further information would be forwarded as soon as it was possible to do so.

The youth was a bombardier and navigator on a B-17 (Flying Fortress) and served in an unusual capacity of dual roles, as navigator in one crew and as bombardier in another.

Last Letter Dated Nov. 25

He had been overseas for the past two months. In one of his early letters home he wrote that he could not say much about his duties, but told his father and aunt, Mrs. Harriet Hargraves, 168 Winnebago street, who cared for him since his mother died when he was a small child, that an article in a national magazine of a certain date pretty well described the work. (This article described Flying Fortress raids on Stuttgart.) The last letter received by the father from Robert was written on Thanksgiving day.

Lieutenant Tank graduated from Oshkosh High school in 1940. He attended the Oshkosh State Teachers college and in January of 1942 enlisted in the flying cadet group. He had received pilot training at the Oshkosh airport under the civilian pilot training class in the summer of 1941.

Called Last June

In June of last year he was called to active training and studied in Kelly Field, Tex., Ellington, Tex.; graduated and received his "wings" at Big Springs, also in Texas; took combat training in Salt Lake City and completed his training in Dalhart, Tex. He was sent overseas in early October. The missing young man is a nephew of Assemblyman Walter Tank, Oshkosh.

In Oshkosh High school he was active in basketball and tennis. He was a member of Trinity Episcopal church and the church choir. Active in the Boy Scouts for a number of years, he was originally a member of troop No. 8 at the Washington school and at the time he left the city he was assistant cubmaster of pack No. 108 at the same school.