

SSG Lewis A. Kuhnz

Location - East-A: R17, C33

Lewis A. Kuhnz

Lewis A. Kuhnz, age 82, of Oshkosh, died Thursday evening, February 22, 2007 at Aurora Medical Center. He was born on a farm in New Lisbon, Wisconsin on May 5, 1924 to Arthur and Bessie (Lewis) Kuhnz. Lewis married Betty Lou Seivers on December 14, 1944 in Oshkosh and she preceded him in death on April 18, 1994.

Lewis enlisted in the Army Air Corp in August 1942, where he served in the 92nd Bomb Group of the 8th Air Force as an Aerial Gunner on a B-17 Flying Fortress. He flew 29 combat missions over France and Germany, was on the first raid to Berlin. His airplane ditched two times in the English Channel after having received major battle damage. In recognition of his service, Lewis received the Distinguished Flying Cross, 5 Air Medals-Presidential Citation, and Good Conduct Medal-ETC Ribbon.

Lewis was a member of Zion Lutheran Church. He and Betty Lou were the first home in Winnebago County to be licensed as a Children's Receiving Home by the State of Wisconsin. He was a member of the Goldfish Club, Lucky Bastard's Club, and He was a Hero in His Time Club. Lewis enjoyed time spent at the cottage near Conover in Northern Wisconsin, hunting, and watching the Packers.

Lewis was employed by WPS for 37 years until his retirement as a line foreman. After retirement he became the "Best Go-For" a son could ever have. He enjoyed stopping for a "cold one" at Robbins and later at George's Gaslight. Lewis was affectionately known as "take one Louie".

Survivors include two daughters, Barbara "Bobbie" Johnson and Sandra Summerville, both of Oshkosh; one son, David Kuhnz of Oshkosh; nine grandchildren, Courtney, Jamie, David, Robert, Lana, Krista, Debbie, Terri, and Joe; 17 great grandchildren and 2 great-great grandchildren; a

brother, Arthur "Bonner" (Brownie) Kuhnz of Oshkosh; many nieces and nephews. Preceding Lewis in death are his wife, parents, great grandson Cory, and a brother, Charles Kuhnz.

Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, February 27, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in Seefeld Family of Funeral Chapels, 300 North Eagle Street, with Reverend Gerald Nerenhausen officiating. A time of visitation and support will be held on Tuesday from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the funeral chapel. Interment will take place in Lake View Memorial Park. A memorial is being established in Lewis' memory. The Kuhnz family wishes to extend their gratitude to the 2nd floor staff at Park View Health Center for the care and kindness given to Lewis.

"Wings of Steel"

The roar and rumble of metal ever so gently, but with such mass part the clouds that fill the sky! Young men silently waiting in perfect formation with destination in mind. Everything seems so peaceful and calm when looking down like angels above. There is serenity there. But quickly reality sets in. Soon young men will gray of age as time is near. Who would ever think such a bird with wings of steel would lay its eggs of death on a nest of life in which we all dwell? Powder and burning metal fill the sky, all around us is fear. The bird is getting tired, for she has laid her eggs. It's time to rest now! Let's guide her home to the nest, for she is the wings of steel. Dedicated to Lewis Kuhnz, waist gunner on B-17 of the 92nd Bomb GP and to Arthur Kuhnz, crew chief on a B-17 of the 447th Bomb GP, US Army 8th Air Corp.

Written by Adam Lewis Kuhnz.

Condolences may also be given online at www.seefeldfuneral.com.
Seefeld Funeral and Cremation Services
(920) 236-7750

Five Wisconsin Men Are Presented DFC

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The War department today announced the names of five Wisconsin members of the Eighth Air force who have been awarded the Distinguished Flying cross:

Lt. Paul O. Peloquin, Cadott; Sgt. Paul D. Hennie, Edgerton; Sgt. Earl A. Hall, Eau Claire; Sgt. Lewis A. Kuhn, Oshkosh; and Sgt. Clifford B. Moody, South Milwaukee.

S/Sgt. Lewis' A. Kuhnz, 157, Central avenue, was with the 354th army air force base unit. He entered service Aug. 26, 1942. He assisted in the air offensive in Europe. He was decorated with the ETO ribbon, the air medal with three oak leaf clusters and the good conduct medal.

RECEIVES AWARDS GIVEN LOCAL SERGEANT

An air medal and three oak leaf clusters, awarded Staff Sgt. Lewis Kuhnz for meritorious service in the European theater of war, were received today by his mother, Mrs. Arthur Kuhnz, 157 Central avenue.

They were sent her by his copilot, Lieut. W. F. Licher, Beloit, now home on leave. Last word from her son, a tail gunner, indicated he had completed 28 missions. He has been shot down twice since arriving in England about 11 months ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Kuhn, 341 Fourteenth street, have been informed that their son, Sgt. Lewis Kuhn, a recent graduate from the Las Vegas, Nev., aerial gunnery school, is now attending a radio school at Salt Lake City, Utah. He enlisted in the army on Aug. 24 1942.

Local Aviator Has Close Call When Flying Fort, Returning from Bombing Mission, Crashes in North Sea

A clipping from the Stars and Stripes, American army publication, received here by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur H. Kuhn, 156½ Frederick avenue, discloses that their son, Staff Sgt. Lewis Kuhn, was aboard a Flying Fortress that was forced down on the North sea on July 31.

The clipping was sent to Oshkosh by Sergeant Kuhn who also wrote that he is in a hospital as a result of the experience but insisted he was not hurt. He is an aerial engineer.

Although the 60,000 pound plane sank in 31 minutes, all eight members of the crew were saved, according to the news article. At the time the pilot, Lieut. Paul S. Casey of Peoria, Ill., decided to set the big ship down on the open sea 45 miles off the English coast, the flaps had been partially shot off and the gasoline supply was exhausted.

Were Never Worried

All members of the crew except the pilot and copilot crowded into the radio room before the plane hit the sea and were able to climb out, walk along the wings and get into a rubber dinghy.

The pilot and copilot crawled out of the windows and made their way to the dinghy, which, however, was too small for the eight-man crew. Two of the crewmen remained in the water

clinging to the dinghy.

The crewmen related they were never worried after landing as there was always an air sea rescue plane in sight.

The rescue plane dropped them a boat by parachute and the Fortress crew climbed in, set the sails for England and had proceeded 20 miles when they were picked up.

Second Lieut. Luther Baker of Wooster, O., was quoted as saying that the boat dropped by parachute "had everything in it but a blonde and a bottle of rum."

Turned Boat Upside Down

"We turned the boat upside down looking for that," Lieutenant Baker said, explaining he meant the rum not the blonde.

After sailing half way home using the navigational aids in the boat they were picked up by a large air sea rescue launch and brought ashore. The entire crew was hospitalized, apparently more for precautionary reasons than injuries or ill effects from the experience.

The news article did not say so but the Fortress was evidently returning from a raid over Europe at the time of the accident.





LEWIS A KUHNZ
US ARMY AIR FORCES
WORLD WAR II
MAY 5 1924 ✕ FEB 22 2007
BEST GO FOR
A SON COULD EVER HAVE