

Fritz Bergbower Killed In Action in the Pacific

Feb. 3, 1944

**Parents Notified By War
Department Friday**

HE GAVE HIS LIFE

Mr. and Mrs. George Bergbower, residing east of Newton received a telegram Friday afternoon from the War Department stating that their son, George Fredrick Bergbower had been killed in action in the battle on Bougainville island in the southwest Pacific on January 20.

The message which brought the news of the death of the Newton boy bore no other information as to the manner and under what conditions he met his death.

"Fritz" as he was known to his many friends in and around Newton held the rank of staff sergeant in the U. S. Infantry. He had been in service for almost three years, having enlisted in April 1941.

During that time he had been at home only once or twice and it had been some two years since he had been here on a furlough.

Prior to entering military service he worked on his father's farm. He was industrious and a hard worker. According to letters received by his parents, he was among the first of the American soldiers to land in Australia, having reached that continent in January, 1942. Since that time he had seen much action in the various engagements in the Pacific.



George F. Bergbower, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Bergbower, who was killed in action in the battle at Bougainville Island in the South Pacific.

A cousin of his, Robert Dhom, was reported missing in action in the Italian campaign a few weeks ago, and another cousin, Lawrence Bergbower, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bergbower, at last reports had been serving in the same regiment with Fritz.

Besides his father and mother he is survived by the following brothers and sisters: William, Ted, Jr., and Frank Bergbower, all of Newton route 5; Edward Bergbower, Grand Rapids, Mich; Mrs. Ray (Margaret) Yager, of Newton; Mrs. Mary Hippler, Newton and Mrs. John (Emma) Yager, of Newton.

He was 28 years of age, and previous to his entry into military service had spent his life in this community.