

*Technical Sergeant
Merle Vanderhoof
Is Missing in Action*

3/17/44

Mr. and Mrs. J. Quincy Vanderhoof of Newton received a telegram, Thursday, from the War Department bringing the word that their son, Technical Sergeant Merle Vanderhoof, had been missing in action in the Mediterranean area since February 22.

Sergeant Vanderhoof was a waist gunner aboard a B-25 Liberator bomber and had been stationed in Africa and Italy for seven months. He had participated in numerous sorties over enemy held territory.

It is presumed that his bomber was lost in a mission over Italy or German territory, and he may have been taken prisoner after parachuting to safety.

Hoped to Return Soon

Mr. and Mrs. Vanderhoof received a letter from him dated February 5 in which he stated that he had completed thirty-three missions and hoped to complete the remaining seventeen and return home by April. He had been in Africa since August 5, 1943, his twenty-second birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. Vanderhoof have three other children, Mrs. Roy Woods and Mrs. Orval Resch of Newton, and Mrs. Leo Thomas of New Albany, Indiana.

Hurt in Accident

Mr. and Mrs. Lon Stanley of near Newton have received word from their son, Private Gordon W. Stanley, that he was in a truck accident in the Aleutian islands and had his left arm broken just above the wrist and also some ribs cracked. He has been in the hospital since February 26.