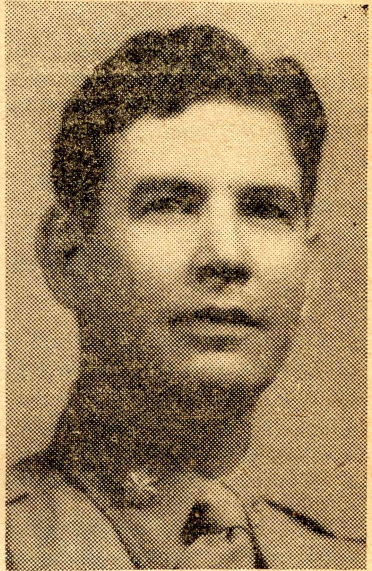
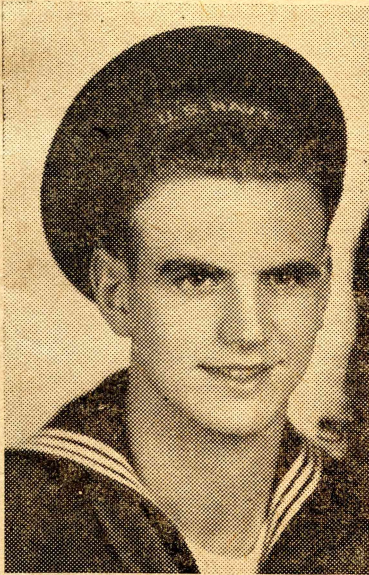


**BROTHER WRITES PARENTS TO TELL
OF MISSING BROTHER**

June 7, '45'



Above are shown four Meurlott brothers of Wheeler, in the armed forces, one of whom, Archie (upper left) is reported Missing in a plane crash in Hawaiian Waters. His brother Lt. Col. Byron, (upper right) wrote the parents of his brother's misfortune, At the lower left is Sidney and lower right Lawrence. They are sons of Mr. and Mrs. Emile Meurlott of Wheeler.

Mr. and Mrs. Emile Meurlott, of Wheeler, received word from the Navy Department last Friday that their son, Aviation Ordnanceman third class Archie Verne Meurlott was missing following a plane crash in the Pacific waters since May 8.

Archie, one of the four sons of Mr. and Mrs. Meurlott in the service of his country, was a top gunner on a navy bomber. He had been in service three years last November.

He graduated from Newton Community High School with the class of 1942 and was employed at Effingham at the time of his enlistment. He was married last October 26 at Clinton, Okla.

While official notice came from Chief Admiral Randall Jacobs, chief of Naval Personnel, the parents had previously received word of their son's misfortune from another son, Lt. Col. Byron M. Meurlott, who is stationed in Hawaii.

The letter from Lt. Col. Meurlott is most touching, though sensible and comforting to the sorrowing parents and wife. He, the oldest of the Meurlott boys in the service has earned the bitter side of war by his experience in this one and the first World War. He enlisted in the army when he was barely sixteen years of age and had seen hard, active duty in three major battles of World War I before his seventeenth birthday.

He has been in the army ever since, advancing from one rank to another until he is now a Lieutenant Colonel. For the past twenty years he has been stationed in Hawaii and has seen his parents only twice during that time. He married there and has one son.

Through the courtesy of his parents we have been permitted to publish that part of Lt. Col. Meurlott's letter which tells of the tragic fate of his brother who had been visiting him at intervals during the time he was stationed with the naval air force

The letter follows:

Dearest All: It has taken a long time to bring myself to writing you the sad news, but you probably have heard from Washington about Archie by this time, so that this letter may not be so much of a shock.

Archie is gone — that's about all anyone can say about it.

Ironically enough it happened on V-E Day, during the evening. His plane took off that evening for a routine patrol flight and that was the last heard from or seen of it. However, it is known to have gone down into the ocean within minutes of its take-off. No bodies have been recovered, and it is not likely that any will be at this late date.

You may be certain that ours has been a very saddened household since then; in fact, it is still very hard for us to believe that we won't see Archie again. It was our good fortune to have had him with us twice after

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MORE ABOUT MEURLOTT BROTHERS

(Continued From First Page)

June 7, 1928
he got here. Once he stayed two days and the last time one day. We made such elaborate plans to have him and Melba visit us after the war and I believe he was thinking seriously of staying here. We tried to show him a good time — as good as possible under present conditions — and I'm sure he enjoyed himself thoroughly while with us.

Our big regret is that we couldn't have had him with us more often. He was, without a doubt, the finest male member of the Meurlott Clan, in fact the finest boy I have ever met. He and "Sonny" became very close and "Sonny" feels terrible about it all.

Unfortunately Dale did not get to see Archie. Archie tried hard to contact him each time he was in town, but without success. Dale heard about it the last time Archie was in and came up to the office to see him but we had left about ten minutes earlier to take Archie back. I wrote to Dale, telling him the sad news, but have not heard from him. Please tell Melba that we sympathize with her with all our hearts and that, while we haven't met her, we feel we know her, so much did Archie talk to us about her. We hope to meet her some day.

And now, Dad and Mother, we know how badly you feel at losing your youngest and finest son, and we know, too, there isn't much we can say to temper your grief. It is just one of those inevitable sorrows of life.

I do believe you can find some solace in the fact that you have remaining children who love you dearly and for whose sake you must "carry on" with your chins up. No amount of grieving will relieve or change the situation any.

It would be best to remember that Archie departed this life a fine, undefiled young man, of whom anyone could rightfully be proud. Melba, too, can find solace in that and I hope life will deal kindly with her.

With all our love, BYRON.

Besides Archie and Byron Mr. and Mrs. Meurlott's other two sons in the service are Pfc. Sidney Meurlott, 38 years of age, now serving in Ft. Benning, Ga., and Lawrence, 25, who is in the navy, stationed at New Orleans.

They also have a son-in-law, F 1/c Wayne L. Manuel who is serving in the Navy with the Atlantic fleet.