OKLAHOMA WAR MEMORIAL—WORLD WAR II

PART XVI*


JACKIE PUGH BISHOP, Sergeant, U. S. Army Air Corps. Home address: Stilwell, Adair County. Mrs. Lola P. Bishop, Mother,

*The purpose of the Oklahoma War Memorial—World War II, in addition to the publication of brief biographies of the State's war dead in The Chronicles, is the preservation of a record of the interests and achievements of each one of these who gave their lives in the service of their country in World War II. The records in the archives of the Historical Society will continue to hold their memory in honor and will be a source of pride to their relatives and to all who have an interest in Oklahoma history as the years pass. Word has come to the Editorial Department that in some instances complete information from the War and the Navy departments is not yet available. We ask that when additional information is received with reference to a service record that it be forwarded to the Oklahoma Historical Society, to be placed with other data that may have already been placed in the War Memorial—World War II.

—Muriel H. Wright.
Stilwell. Born September 6, 1923. Enlisted February 8, 1942. Decorations: Order of the Purple Heart; Citation of Honor. Graduated from High School, Frederick, Oklahoma, in 1941. Attended Northwestern State College, Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Member of Methodist Church. Trained in basic at Wichita Falls, Texas; in academic, University of Ohio; as bombardier, Randolph Field, Texas; as gunner, Lowery Field, Denver, Colorado. Served as Gunner on B-17 (Flying Fortress). Died October 26, 1944 in action on bombing mission over Germany.


LEX H. BLANKENSHIP, Second Lieutenant, U. S. Army Air Corps. Home address: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County. Mrs. Winifred (Blankenship) Carson, Wife, 1441 N. W. 24th St., Oklahoma City. Born October 14, 1921. Enlisted August 31, 1942. Decorations: Silver Star; Order of the Purple Heart; Mediterranean Theatre Ribbon. Graduated from Classen High School, Oklahoma City. Attended State Teachers College, Maryville, Missouri; Oklahoma City University, and Bob Jones College, Cleveland, Tennessee. Member of Trinity Baptist Church, Oklahoma City. Licensed to preach and assisted the Chaplain in every field where stationed. Received commission in February, 1944, graduating in the upper 10%. Served as Navigator on B-24. Died May 31, 1944, on second mission, over Ploesti Oil Fields, Salina, Rumania.


VERNON ALLISON BOUCHER, JR., Sergeant, U. S. Army. Home address: Bartlesville, Washington County. Dr. and Mrs. Vernon A. Boucher, Parents, 1321 Cherokee, Bartlesville. Born November 27, 1922. Enlisted October 13, 1942. Decorations: two Presidential Unit Citations; Order of the Purple Heart awarded posthumously. Graduated from Bartlesville High School in 1940, where he lettered in track and was member of National Athletic Scholarship Society and National Honor Society. Attended the University of Oklahoma,
Norman. Talented in voice and piano and was member of the Men's Glee Club, the Men's Quartet, and the a cappella choir at the University of Oklahoma. Arrived in Luxembourg in January, 1945, and assigned to the 4th Division, Third Army, which received citations for rescue at Bastogne and for the capture of more than 100,000 Germans in the Ruhr. Died March 25, 1945, in action at Hanau, Germany.


CURG KAY CRESS, Second Lieutenant, U. S. Army Air Corps. Home address: Perry, Noble County. Mrs. Helen Cross, Wife, Jef-

JAMES DEAN CROCKETT, Corporal, U. S. Army. Home address: Cherokee, Alfalfa County. Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Crockett, Parents, 210 West Central, Anadarko. Born November 6, 1917. Enlisted September 16, 1940. Decorations: Order of the Purple Heart; Bronze Star Medal awarded posthumously. Graduated from Cherokee High School in 1937. Member of 189th Field Artillery, Oklahoma National Guard. Member of Baptist Church. Sailed for duty overseas in August, 1944, and assigned to Tank Destroyer Battalion, Third Army. Died April 10, 1945, in action in Germany.


HOWARD L. FIELDEN, Captain, U. S. Army. Home address: Fort Cobb, Caddo County. Mrs. Fred Fielden, Mother, Fort Cobb. Born May 2, 1912. Enlisted August 15, 1940. Decorations: Silver Star; Oak Leaf Clusters; Order of the Purple Heart. Employed for two years by an oil company in South America before enlistment. As a Reserve Officer called into the service in 1940. Died June 4, 1944, of wounds received in action in Mediterranean Theatre.


MAXIE D. HENSLEY, Corporal, U. S. Army. Home address: Haskell, Muskogee County. Mrs. Clara Alexander, Mother, Bixby, Oklahoma. Born April 9, 1923. Enlisted May 5, 1941. Decoration: Order of the Purple Heart. Graduated from Haskell High School in 1941. Member Haskell Haymaker Football Team three years. Member of the Oklahoma National Guard, enlisted in May, 1939. Member of Christian Church. Sailed for duty overseas in May, 1942, and served with the 45th Division in the invasions of Sicily, Italy and France. Died March 27, 1945, in action near Metz, France, during campaign in crossing the Rhine River.

RALPH SENTER HOGAN, Captain, U. S. Army. Home address: Hobart, Kiowa County. Mrs. Richard C. Prater, Mother, Rte. 2, Hobart. Born March 25, 1914. Enlisted October 24, 1942. Decoration: Order of the Purple Heart. Graduated from Hobart High School in 1932; from Phillips University, Enid, (B.S. degree) in 1937; and received M.A. degree from University of Kansas. Member of First Christian Church, Hobart. Attended U. S. Army Chaplain School, Harvard University, Massachusetts. Served as Chaplain at Majors Army Air Base, Greenville, Texas; and in Aleutian Islands from June 21, 1944, to May 13, 1945, when he was stricken with rheumatic fever and returned by plane to the United States for hospitalization. Died August 28, 1945, in Base Hospital, Grand Bend, Kansas.

THOMAS A. HOLLAND, First Lieutenant, U. S. Army Air Corps. Home address: Cushing, Payne County. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Holland, Sr., Parents, 1034 East Broadway, Cushing. Born April 4, 1916. Enlisted May 19, 1942. Decorations: Air Medal; Order of the Purple Heart. Graduated from Cushing High School in 1934; attended Oklahoma A. and M. College, Stillwater. Member of Sigma Chi Fraternity and of Reserve Officers Training Corps. Member of First Christian Church and of Rotary Club and Chamber of Commerce, Cushing. President of The Bachelors Club; Fifth District Chairman, League of Young Democrats; Assistant Manager, McCoy's Jewelry Store, Cushing. Received wings and commission at Lubbock, Texas. Sailed for duty overseas in October, 1943, and served as Pilot of B-26 (Martin Marauder) in North Africa and Sardinia. Died February 12, 1944, in action as Squadron Leader on mission, near Naples, Italy.


KENNETH LEE ROY ISBELL, Staff Sergeant, U. S. Army Air Corps. Home address: Tulsa, Tulsa County. Mrs. Ruby Lane Isbell, Wife, 822 South 63d West Ave., Tulsa 6. Born January 22,


ENOCH D. MCGAHEY, Private, First Class, U. S. Army. Home address: Madill, Marshall County. Mrs. Eva McGahey, Mother,

WILLIE MCJUNKINS, Private, First Class, U. S. Army. Home address: Eufaula, McIntosh County. Mrs. Mary A. McJunkins, Mother, Rte. 2, Eufaula. Born August 7, 1920. Enlisted January 7, 1943. Decoration: Order of the Purple Heart awarded posthumously. Attended Washington grade school. Member of New Hope Baptist Church. A letter from the Division Chaplain stated: “Your son was a member of a very proud organization. He had been a member of it almost a year. During this time the spirit of the organization had become a part of him and like the others the height of his aspirations was to prove worthy his membership in it and to serve his country well. This he did and gave his life in doing so.” Died February 5, 1945, in action in Northern Italy.


OREN CLEM MORGAN, Ensign, U. S. Naval Reserve. Home address: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County. Mr. and Mrs. Jesse R. Morgan, Parents, 123 S. E. 32nd St., Oklahoma City. Born February 10, 1920. Enlisted July 9, 1942. Decorations: Air Medal; Order of the Purple Heart; Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal; Bronze Star Medal; World War II Victory Medal. Attended Capitol Hill School, Oklahoma City, and Oklahoma A. and M. College, Stillwater. Member of Baptist Church. Served as Pilot of Fighter Plane. The Citation with the Air Medal awarded for participation in aerial flight during a successful raid on Marcus Island August 31, 1943, stated in part: “After taking off at night from his carrier and escorting our bombers to their target area, Ensign Morgan, with courageous disregard for his own personal safety, pressed home bold strafing guns which either diverted or destroyed actively firing anti-aircraft guns and cleared resistance for our following bombers. His superb airmanship and aggressive fighting spirit contributed materially to the success of our attack. . . .” Died August 31, 1943
(official date January 8, 1946), in action on Marcus Island, Pacific area.

ROBERT EDWIN MOORE, Second Lieutenant, U. S. Army. Home address: Seminole, Seminole County. Mrs. Helen Moore, Wife, 2351 Terminal Ave., Long Beach 4, California. Born August 18, 1920. Enlisted September 16, 1940. Decorations: Order of the Purple Heart; Silver Star awarded posthumously. Graduated from Mountain View School, Seminole County in 1940. Member of Oklahoma National Guard. Sailed for duty overseas in December, 1944. The Citation with the Silver Star stated in part: "Lieutenant Moore adjusted artillery fire from his liaison plane upon enemy positions. Repeatedly, he made hazardous trips over hostile lines and exposed himself to anti-aircraft fire to complete assignments. . . ." Died April 11, 1945, in action on daring mission, Marburg, Germany.


EBONEZER JOSEPH MURPHY, Second Lieutenant, U. S. Army Air Corps. Home address: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County. Mrs. Mary E. Case, Mother, 815 West California, Oklahoma City 4. Born July 24, 1922. Enlisted September 1, 1942. Decorations: Air Medal; two Oak Leaf Clusters; Order of the Purple Heart. Served as Co-Pilot "accomplishing with distinction, several aerial operational missions over enemy occupied continental Europe." Died November 22, 1944, in action over Germany.


ROBERT OLDHAM, Staff Sergeant, U. S. Army. Home address: Stigler, Haskell County. Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Oldham, Parents, Stigler. Born October 7, 1920. Enlisted November 4, 1942. Decoration: Silver Star awarded posthumously. Member of Holiness Church. The Citation with the Silver Star stated in part that Sergeant Oldham leading part of a squad advanced under withering machine gun and sniper fire on January 15, 1945, and that "Although they were subjected to heavy fire and they knew that the enemy was numerically superior, Sergeant Oldham and his comrades dashed across the remaining distance to the building where they forced twenty-six of the enemy to surrender, thereby clearing a main enemy defense position." Died March 25, 1945, in action near Lohnen, Germany.

in European Theater of Operations in summer of 1944. Died December 28, 1944, in action in Belgium.


JAMES LLOYD POE, Private, First Class, U. S. Army. Home address: Miami, Ottawa County. Mrs. Dove T. Poe, Mother, 617 K. Street N.W., Miami. Born February 8, 1913. Enlisted February 25, 1942. Decorations: Order of the Purple Heart awarded posthumously; American Defense Medal; four Battle Participation Stars in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater; Combat Infantry Badge; World War II Victory Medal; Philippine Liberation Medal. Attended Miami public schools. Employed by the Eagle-Picher Mining and
Smelting Company before enlistment. Awarded Expert Rifleman Medal and Good Conduct Medal in service. As Expert Rifleman and Gunner, he participated in the Battle for Attu in the Aleutian Islands; and in 32nd Infantry, Seventh Division, rated as one of the toughest American jungle fighting units in the Pacific Theater, he saw action in the Kwayalein and the Marshall Islands' campaigns. Died October 24, 1944, in action on Leyte, Philippine Islands.


CHARLEY KEENITH PRICE, Private, U. S. Army. Home address: Welling, Cherokee County. Mrs. Carrie E. Price Cain, Mother,
WILLIAM DONALD RANKIN, Sergeant, U. S. Army Air Corps. Home address: Enid, Garfield County. Mr. and Mrs. Fred B. Rankin, Parents, Breckinridge, Oklahoma. Born November 16, 1923. Enlisted January 14, 1943. Decorations: Order of the Purple Heart, Citation of Honor; Air Medal. Graduated from High School, Carrier, Oklahoma, in 1942. Member of First Baptist Church, and a charter member of Bible Baptist Church, Enid. Employed in shipyard at Richmond, California, before enlistment. Sailed for duty overseas in May, 1944, and served as Radio-Gunner on B-24 (Liberator). Died May 24, 1944, in action over Austria, on mission to attack enemy aircraft factories at Wiener-Neustadt, Austria.


on Ardennes Front. Died March 22, 1945, in German prison camp near Bensheim.


EASTMAN GARLAND WARD, JR., Corporal, U. S. Army. Home address: Miller, Pushmataha County. Mr. and Mrs. Eastman Ward, Parents, Miller. Born August 15, 1921. Enlisted December 17, 1942. Decoration: Order of the Purple Heart. Attended High School, Moyers, Oklahoma. Member of Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Choctaw Indian descent. His Commanding Officer wrote in part: "He has served his country in such a way that we can all be very proud. It will be very hard to replace him in this organization because of the skill and technical ability which is necessary to fill such an important job." Died December 5, 1944, in action in Western Germany.


NORMAN WOODROW WOODY, Staff Sergeant, U. S. Army Air Corps. Home address: Duncan, Stephens County. Mrs. Mandie Lee Freeman, Mother, Duncan. Born October 18, 1922. Enlisted February 8, 1940. Decorations: Air Medal; Order of the Purple Heart; Presidential Unit Citation. Attended Duncan High School. Member of First Presbyterian Church, Duncan. Awarded Good Conduct Medal. Died June 22, 1943, in action at Muenchen, Gladbach, Germany.