

Andrew Melvin Calhoun, T-35

28 December 1915 – 22 June 1944

(aged 28)



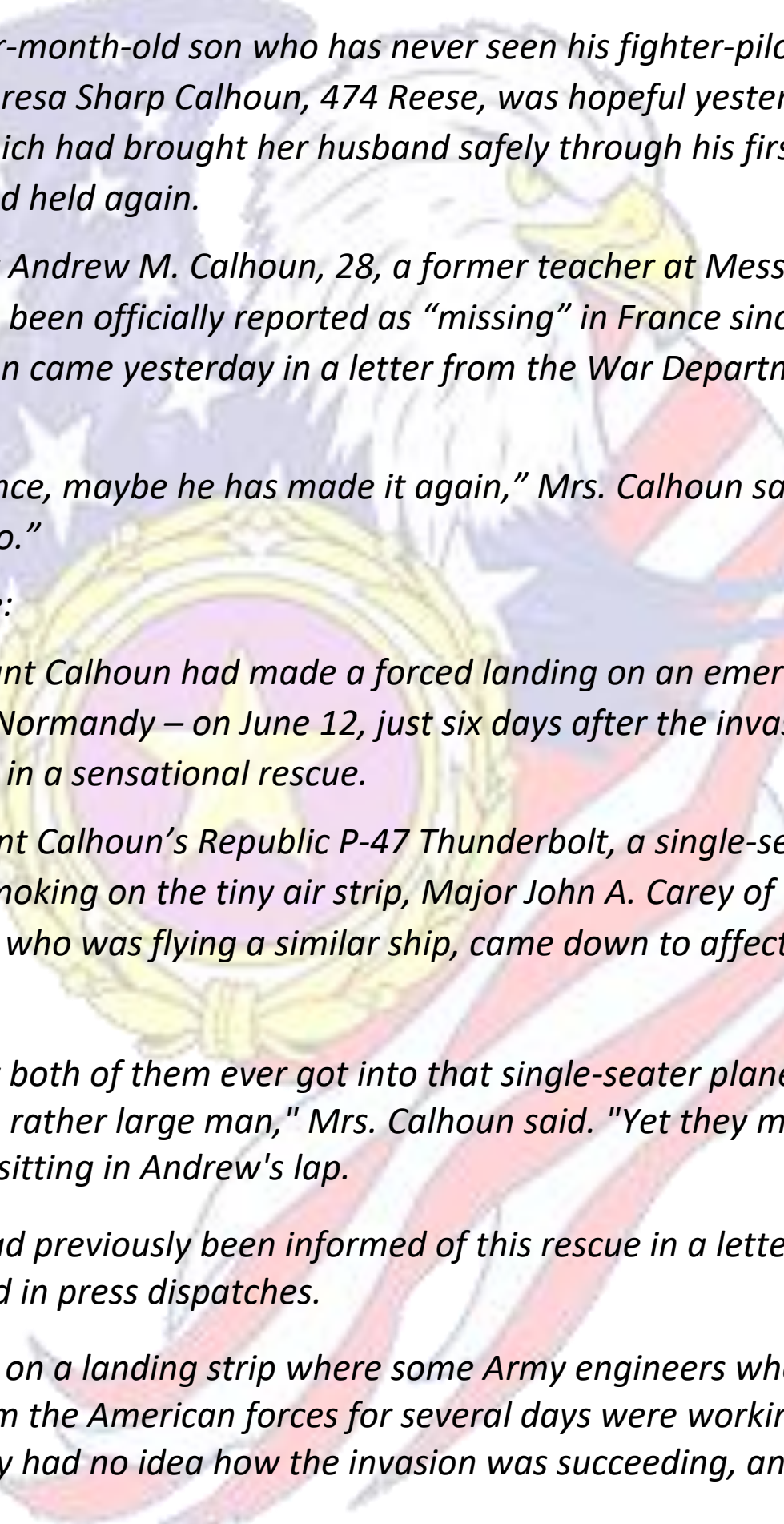
Lieutenant Andrew "Pop" Calhoun, Memphis Thunderbolt pilot who has been commended for his spectacular exploits with the invasion forces in France, is missing in action over Normandy. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Calhoun, 2191 Nelson, were notified that their son failed to return from a raid June 22.

His wife, Theresa Sharp Calhoun, also lives at that address.

A former Memphis State halfback and Tech High graduate, Lieutenant Calhoun is credited with breaking up a convoy of eight German supply trucks headed for the German lines in Normandy. He sailed for overseas on New Year's Day and has since been promoted to First Lieutenant and flight leader.

He wears the Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters.

Information from The Commercial Appeal, Saturday, July 15, 1944.



Rocking her four-month-old son who has never seen his fighter-pilot daddy, Mrs. Theresa Sharp Calhoun, 474 Reese, was hopeful yesterday that the luck which had brought her husband safely through his first crash in Normandy had held again.

He is Lieutenant Andrew M. Calhoun, 28, a former teacher at Messick School, who has been officially reported as "missing" in France since June 22. Confirmation came yesterday in a letter from the War Department at Washington.

"If he made it once, maybe he has made it again," Mrs. Calhoun said, "I certainly hope so."

Major to Rescue:

Earlier, Lieutenant Calhoun had made a forced landing on an emergency landing strip in Normandy – on June 12, just six days after the invasion – and had figured in a sensational rescue.

Seeing Lieutenant Calhoun's Republic P-47 Thunderbolt, a single-seater fighter plane, smoking on the tiny air strip, Major John A. Carey of Wilmington NC, who was flying a similar ship, came down to affect his rescue.

"I don't see how both of them ever got into that single-seater plane, for my husband is a rather large man," Mrs. Calhoun said. "Yet they made it by Major Carey sitting in Andrew's lap.

Mrs. Calhoun had previously been informed of this rescue in a letter from her husband and in press dispatches.

"He came down on a landing strip where some Army engineers who had been cut off from the American forces for several days were working," she continued, "They had no idea how the invasion was succeeding, and were

very much interested when he pulled out his map and showed them how the Americans were advancing."

In his last letter written June 21 (the day before he was reported "missing") Lieutenant Calhoun told his wife that he had 160 combat hours to his credit in 50 missions, plus 106 sorties over enemy lines. He sent her an Air Medal with 10 Oak Leaf Clusters which had been awarded to him.

Lieutenant Calhoun, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Calhoun, 2191 Nelson, went overseas last December. He trained at Maxwell Field, near Montgomery AL, Tuscaloosa AL, and Greenville MS, prior to receiving his wings and Commission at Dothan AL on July 28, 1943. In England, he was with the Ninth Air Force.

His son, Andrew M. Calhoun, Jr. was born last March.

Information from The Commercial Appeal. Sunday, July 17, 1944.

