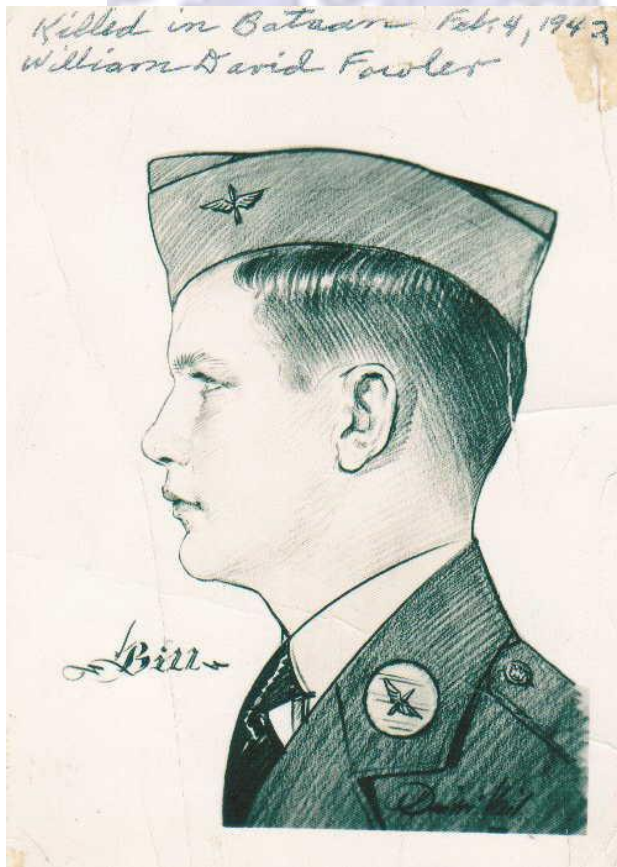


William David Fowler, T-38

26 June 1921 – 4 February 1942

(aged 20)



The secretary of war desires me to express his deep regret that your son, William D. Fowler, was killed in action in defense of his country in the Philippine Islands, February 4, 1942.

Mr. and Mrs. Quincy W. Fowler, 632 Eva, announcing that their 21-year-old son was Memphis' first officially reported fatality in the Philippines.

He had been a staff sergeant assigned to ground work in the Army Air Corps and stationed at Nichol Field, near Manila. When he was killed he had been playing his part in Gen. MacArthur's valiant struggle against terrific odds in Bataan Peninsula.

Sergeant Fowler enlisted three years ago at the age of 18. He had attended Tech High two years. His preliminary training had been received at Randolph Field TX. He was then sent to Hamilton Field CA.

He had been particularly fond of Army life and last wrote to his parents on Thanksgiving Day, the letter arriving after the Pearl Harbor attack. He told his parents not to worry if they failed to hear from him, and said "something will be happening soon."

During his stay at Hamilton Field he met and married Miss Merle McKay of Palo Alto CA. They married July 12, 1941 and Sgt. Fowler sailed November 1. His bride is with her parents at Palo Alto. Sgt Fowler's family has never met his bride, since he had no chance for furlough before sailing. The last time he was home was in December 1940.

Besides his parents and wife, he leaves three sisters, Mrs. H. G. Keesler, Miss Ruth Fowler and Miss Betty Ann Fowler, and a brother, Ralph Fowler, all of Memphis.

Information from The Press-Scimitar, Tuesday, February 10, 1942.

W. D. FOWLER, FORMER RESIDENT, KILLED IN WAR

Sgt. William D. Fowler, 20, former Caruthersville resident, has been reported killed February 4 during the fighting in the Philippines. He was a grandson of the late Mr. and Mrs. Chesley Morrison of Caruthersville.

Sgt Fowler enlisted in the Army Air Corps at the age of 18, and was a staff sergeant assigned to ground work. He received his preliminary training at Randolph Field, Texas, and married Miss Merle McKay of Palo Alto, on July 12, 1941. He sailed for the Philippines November 1, 1941, and his bride remained with her parents. She has never met Fowler's parents because the last leave granted him was in December, 1940.

Fowler was born in Morehouse MO, and attended school in Caruthersville and then Holland before moving to Memphis, where his parents now live.

Surviving are his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Quincy W. Fowler; three sisters, Mrs. H. G. Keesler, Miss Ruth Fowler and Miss Betty Ann Fowler; and a brother Ralph Fowler.

Information from The Democrat-Argus (Caruthersville MO) 17 February 1942.

