

Charles William Harris, T-40

12 June 1923 – 29 March 1951

(aged 27)



Lt Charles W. Harris, nephew of Mrs. T. H. Elder of Kimball Road, has been missing in action over enemy-held Europe since June 20, the War Department reported yesterday. He was 21 and was graduated from Tech High School three years ago.

ANOTHER GRIM NOTICE FOR MEMPHIS FAMILY

Lieutenant Harris Is Again Missing in Action

CAPTIVE IN WORLD WAR II

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Elder of 3337 Kimball have twice had the harrowing experience of receiving a telegram notifying them their nephew, Lieutenant Charles W. Harris, whom they reared, is missing in action.

The first telegram came when Lieutenant Harris was shot down over Germany in World War II. He was taken prisoner by the Germans and liberated 12 months later to fight again for his country.

The Elders received their second telegram Friday, reporting Lieutenant Harris missing in Korean operations. Lieutenant Harris was a B-29 navigator with the 19th Bomb Group of the 93rd Bomb Squadron, based in Okinawa. In a letter written February 3 he said he had flown three missions since his arrival. He left the United States January 15, 1951.

The Department of Defense telegram to the Elders coincided with a report of an Okinawa-based B-29 downed in the ocean while on a combat mission to Korea. The plane was ditched Thursday, the same date of which Lieutenant Harris was listed as missing. Planes of the Far Eastern Air Forces have been searching the area where the Superfortress was supposed to have gone down. Names of the crew members have not been released.

After his release from duty following World War II, Lieutenant Harris did clerical work with the Illinois Central Railroad. He was recalled to active-duty last July. He was graduated from Tech High, and received his wings at Monroe LA.

Lieutenant Harris was reared by his aunt and uncle after the death of his parents when he was 12.

Information from The Commercial Appeal, Sunday, April 1, 1951.