

Enoch Harrison Heath, Jr., T-41

31 December 1922 – 13 January 1944

(aged 21)



Among the nine MidSouth men who were reported as dead or missing in action is Lieutenant Enoch Heath, Jr., pilot of one of the famous heavy bombers "Star Duster," reported as killed in action in the Pacific area.

Lieutenant Heath was reported killed in action January 13. His parents, formerly of Memphis, now live in Washington, D. C., but a sister, Mrs. Berry McAlister, of 1362 Tutwiler, and his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Warren, live in Memphis.

Lieutenant Heath received his bombardier's wings at Midland TX, on January 7 of last year and has been a member of the crew of the "Star Duster" since that time. According to his sister, the lieutenant was very fond of Hoagy Carmichael's popular song entitled "Star Dust" and prevailed upon the other members of the plane to name the ship the "Star Duster." The ship insignia consisted of a beautiful girl with a feather duster in her hand, busily dusting stars painted on the side of the plane.

Mrs. McAlister said a recent letter from the lieutenant declared he was to receive the Distinguished Flying Cross and two other decorations, in addition to a promotion, at an early date, but she was unable to say whether he had received the awards at the time of his death or not.

He was graduated from Tech High in 1941 and moved to Roanoke VA, where he worked for a while in a war plant and with Sears, Roebuck & Company.

Information from The Commercial Appeal, Thursday, January 20, 1944.

Lt. Heath, Bombardier on The "Star Duster" Is Killed:

A Memphis outstanding air hero of the war today was placed on the casualty list as word was received that Lt. Enoch H. Heath, Jr., has been killed in action in the Pacific.

Graduate of Tech High in 1941, Lt. Heath, a bombardier, went to the southwest Pacific last March. His favorite song had always been "Star Dust," so he got his crew to name their Liberator "Star Duster."

The plane was decorated with stars, and a girl clutching a feather duster was dusting the stars on the plane. It has not been revealed whether it was in the "Star Duster" that Lt. Heath met death. (The photo below was taken 9 Apr 1944)

Lt. Heath sent his sister, Mrs. Berry McAlister, 1362 Tutwiler, a picture of his plane and crew last September, from New Guinea. At that time, he had been on nine missions. Lt. Heath then was credited with having sunk two Japanese ships.

He hadn't written Mrs. McAlister much about his experiences, tho he did mention he has been "put in for the Distinguished Flying Cross and two other possible medals' and expected to be a first lieutenant soon. Lt Heath wrote his sister on his 21st birthday, December 31, that he expected to be home in March. He received silver wings of a bombardier at Midland TX, January 7, 1943. He had been a lifelong Memphian, except for a while after graduation from high school, when he worked in a war

plant in Roanoke VA, then at Sears, Roebuck there. While at Tech, he was a Golden Gloves fighter.

His parents moved to Washington last July.

Mr. Heath, Sr., was chief engineer at Veteran Hospital in Memphis, and is chief utility officer at Mt. Alto Veterans Hospital, in Washington.

His grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Warren, live in Memphis. His sister, Mrs. McAlister, left last night for Washington to be with her parents after receiving the news of her brother's death.

Information from The Press-Scimitar, Wednesday, January 19, 1944.

