

Henry Wright Hurley, T-29

26 November 1911 – 14 July 1943

(aged 31)



Lt Col Hurley, commander of an armored engineer unit of the Fifth Army has been killed in action in Sicily.

Lt Col Hurley, graduate of Tech High School and the University of Tennessee, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Hurley who operate a 1,000-acre plantation on Crusoe Island northwest of Memphis.

KILLED SEEKING WATER

Lt Col Hurley was killed July 14, in Sicily as he and a squad of men were seeking to locate water for his unit, which had aided in landing forces on Sicily on July 9.

His Captain in a letter to Mr. and Mrs. Hurley said that he was in a truck searching for water when the truck left the cleared road and struck a land mine.

Mr. and Mrs. Hurley have not been officially notified by the War Department of their son's death, but enclosed in the letter from the captain was the last letter from their son, written in June.

AWARDED SOLDIERS MEDAL

Lt Col Hurley was awarded the Soldiers Medal for heroism in June for extinguishing a fire among foreign mines and explosives.

The citation read: "On the (date censored) of April 1943, at the Division Mine School near his bivouac, Lt Col Hurley, at great personal risk, extinguished a fire started amongst some foreign mines and explosives which had been caused by the accidental discharge of an Italian grenade. His prompt action prevented further detonation of dangerous explosives which would have caused further injuries to personnel lying in the vicinity, who had been injured by the original explosion. Lt Col Hurley's prompt action with utter disregard for his own safety is in keeping with the highest traditions of the service."

AIDED IN AFRICAN LANDING

Lt Col Hurley commanded an engineer combat team during the landing in North Africa in November.

Lt Col Hurley, who was 31, was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity of Tennessee, where he received a degree in engineering. He received a master's degree at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

He spent two-and-a-half years with the Army Engineers in the Canal Zone before taking part in the invasion of North Africa.

Information from The Commercial Appeal, Wednesday, August 11, 1943.