

Louis Ulmer Pitts, Jr., T-40

14 June 1923 – 26 July 1945

(aged 22)



Friends for years, eight Memphis youths entered Civilian Pilot Training (CPT) at the Municipal Airport in February 1942. They finished together in May. All were called into active cadet training the following November. After one of the most remarkable training records, this team was awarded its wings on August 31, 1943.

They began their final combat training on September 10, after a brief furlough together here.

THIRD OF TEAM LOSES HIS LIFE.

Louis Pitts Killed on Raid:

2 of 8 are missing.

There is another empty file in the ranks of the Memphis team of eight AAF bomber pilots.

Lt Louis Pitts, B-25 pilot, was killed in action July 26 over Kyushu, a War Department telegram had informed his parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. U. Pitts.

Lt Pitts is the third of the team to be officially reported killed in combat. Two others are listed as missing in action

Last Letter July 20

Lt Pitts, former Memphis State student, went overseas on March 29. He first went to Pearl Harbor and later completed three missions to New Guinea. From there he went to Luzon.

In his last letter to his mother, dated July 20, Lt Pitts wrote: "Pretty muchly on the hop."

Lt William E. Luton, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Luton, 561 Lundee, was the first of the team to lose his life in combat. He was reported killed in New Guinea on May 21, 1944.

Lt Robert B. Birckhead, second to lose his life was reported shot down over Germany on October 5, 1944. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Birckhead live at 1623 McLemore.

Listed as missing

Lt. William C. "Billy" Doyle flying a P-47, was reported missing over Germany December 12, 1944. No further official information has been received, according to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Doyle, 707 West Drive.

Lt Albert L. Newman, Jr., another of the team, has been listed as missing in action since December 1, 1944. He was on a mission over Leyte. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Newman, Sr., 1921 Linden.

Lt John C. Carby, only member to complete over 30 missions, returned from the European zone last October and is stationed in Pyote TX.

Lt Charles K. Frank, medium bomber pilot, returned from Italy recently and is home on furlough.

Lt Lloyd Stuart, who saw combat duty in the European theater has been discharged from the Army and now is working for Pan American Airlines.

Information from The Press-Scimitar, Wednesday, August 8, 1945.

