

**Ben V. Rittelmeyer, T-40**

**7 August 1921 – 20 April 1945**

**(aged 23)**



*Second Lieutenant Ben V. Rittelmeyer, 23, Tech High Graduate and forward observer for Airborne Field Artillery, was killed in action in Germany, April 20, the War Department has notified his wife, Mrs. Gwendolyn Roulhac Rittelmeyer, who lives with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roulhac on E. Suggs Drive.*

*He volunteered three years ago for duty with the airborne artillery and went overseas last February 16, joining the 17<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division. His outfit took part in the first airborne invasion of Germany last March 24<sup>th</sup>. He also leaves his brother, Jack B. Rittelmeyer, Turrell AR, and two sisters, Mrs. Wilfred S. Kinsel and Mrs. Arthur Rosenstein of Memphis.*

*Information from The Press-Scimitar, 2 May 1945.*

*Lieutenant Ben V. Rittelmeyer, Memphis paratrooper who jumped into Germany in the first airborne invasion last March, was killed in action there April 20, the family was notified yesterday. He was 23, and prior to his enlistment in the Army in June 1942, he was in the construction business with his father, the late Vernon V. Rittelmeyer.*

*Lieutenant Rittelmeyer received his basic training at Camp Rucker AL, and entered Officer Training School at Fort Sill OK, in October 1942. Upon completion of his field artillery course, he was retained at Fort Sill as a gunnery instructor due to his high grades, and later was stationed at Camp Shelby MS with the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division for about a year.*

***Trained at Fort Benning.***

*When the need for paratroopers arose, Lieutenant Rittelmeyer volunteered for the Airborne Field Artillery and took his jump training at Fort Sill, he went overseas with a parachute field artillery battalion last February and in March he jumped into Germany. For the last month, he has been a forward observer for his field artillery unit, fixing artillery fire from a position in front of the infantry. He was battery executive officer and second in command of his battery. He leaves his wife, Mrs. Gwendolyn Roulhac Rittelmeyer; his mother Mrs. Mary E. Rittelmeyer, 898 East Drive; a brother, Jack B. Rittelmeyer, of Turrell AR; and two sisters, Mrs. W. F. Kinzell and Mrs. Arthur Rosenstein, 340 North Cleveland.*

*Lieutenant Rittelmeyer was the first and only elected World War II member of the Memphis Chapter of the Military Order of World Wars, and invitational organization of commissioned officers.*

*Information from The Commercial Appeal, Thursday, May 3, 1945.*