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War Department Files

2 LT Charles B. Finney

Class 52-43

ID: O1177795

Branch of Service: U.S. Army

Hometown: Los Angeles, CA

Status: KIA 29 August 1944



From the 391st Field Artillery Battalion History:

29 August 1944: Operations continued to mop up Soissons and secure the high ground North and East of Soissons. Moderate opposition was encountered in crossing the Aisne River. Battery C advanced to a position North of the city to support the attack. At 0950 hours, 1st Lt. Edward J. Golas and 2nd Lt. Charles B. Finney were killed in action. The liaison plane from which they were registering the Battalion was shot down, directly over the battalion by a flight of 32 FW 190s which dipped through the overcast, shredded the cub in a second from all angles and continued on without strafing and bombing the position. Both officers were thrown clear of the plane, killed by machine gun bullets and not having a chance to use parachutes. The plane burned and fell in a matter of seconds. It was a registration they were observing when it happened. You could see them sitting up there in that cub, the sky so cloudy and grey all around them, and you could hear their commands coming over the radio. Then, if you were looking, you could see the planes coming out of the clouds. There -must have been thirty of them. They said later that they were CIE logs. I don't know. But, if you were looking, you could see one of them peel off, and you could see the flashes of the guns. It took but a few seconds and then it was all over.