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War Department Files

2LT John Joseph McKenna
Class 46-43

ID: 1175796

Branch of Service: U.S. Army
Hometown: Queens County, NY
Status: DNB October 8, 1943



Graduated from OCS at Fort Sill on January 7, 1943 and assigned to the Field Artillery School at Fort Sill with temporary duty at the Harte Flying Service, Denton, Texas for basic flying training. In March 1943, he was selected to escort the body of his Field Artillery OCS classmate and current room-mate, 2LT Ervin Meyer back to Blair, Nebraska who had died in a training accident at Camp Howze. The other flier killed in the crash that killed 2LT McKenna was 2LT George Milton Jones (FAOCS Class 38-42).

LT. J. J. McKENNA OF HOLLIS DIES IN TEXAS AIR CRASH

Lt. John J. McKenna, liaison pilot with a field artillery detachment at Camp Howze, Texas, was killed Friday in a plane crash there, according to word received yesterday from the War Department by his father, Frank B. McKenna, advertising manager of the Lehigh-Portland Cement Co., at his home, 109-20 196th St., Hollis. The flying officer was 28, and had been in the armed services for two and a half years.

Details of the accident were lacking. Another flier was killed in the crash.

Lieutenant McKenna, who was married in camp four months ago to the former Margaret Briggs, a graduate of North Texas State Teachers College, since receiving his wings in April had been serving as instructor in plane-artillery observation.

Coming with his parents to Hollis 20 years ago, Lieutenant McKenna with his brother, Frank McKenna, now a deputy with the Internal Revenue Bureau, gained local fame in baseball and football. He pitched for the South Hollis baseball team and also starred with the Queens Alliance and Hollis Cardinals.

After graduating from Jamaica High School he became a salesman. Following his enlistment in 1940 he was assigned to Fort Bragg, N. C., and later prepared for his commission at the officers training school at Fort Sill, Okla.

Besides his parents, widow and brother, he is survived by a sister, Mrs. John Travers of Hollis.

The funeral will be held Thursday with requiem mass at 10 a.m. in St. Pascal R. C. Church, Hollis. Burial will be in St. Charles Cemetery, Pinelawn.