

National Archives & Records Administration War Department Files

2 LT William H. Nichols

Class 62-43

ID: O1181390

Branch of Service: U.S. Army

Hometown: Rock Island County, IL

Status: KIA 16 Sep 1945



Although Japan had formally surrendered, many of her soldiers in the Philippines continued to fight. My grandfather volunteered to fly medical supplies to an American soldier wounded by die-hard resisters, when his spotter plane crashed in poor weather.
From Dr. Curt Nichols Baylor University



Rock Island Man Killed on Luzon On Mercy Task

Rock Island — Lt. William H. Nichols, son of Mrs. Edna May Nichols, 1035 Seventeenth street, Rock Island, was killed in a plane crash on Luzon on September 16



while flying rations and other supplies to a wounded man in the hills of Luzon.

News of the tragedy first was written to Mrs. Nichols by another son, Robert Lee Nichols, technician fourth grade, who is recuperating from

a broken jaw in a Luzon hospital, and the story was confirmed by a telegram received this morning from the lieutenant's wife, who resides with their 2-year-old son in Sunnyvale, Cal.

Lieutenant Nichols, a liaison pilot with the 465th field artillery, had been overseas on Luzon two months. A former employe of Rock Island arsenal, he left with the national guard in March, 1941. He was commissioned in April, 1943, at Fort Sill, Okla., and received his wings at Sheppard field, Tex., last March.

Born in Rock Island.

Lieutenant Nichols was born Jan. 20, 1919, in Rock Island, a son of William H. and Edna May Nichols. He was graduated from Rock Island high school in 1937. He married Kathleen Steen of 2016 West Sixth street, Davenport, in February, 1943.

Surviving, in addition to his mother, widow, brother and son, Ronald, are his father, a lieutenant in the army overseas, and a grandmother, Mrs. W. L. Hynes, Rock Island.

The Nichols brothers had not seen each other in more than two years until both were stationed on Luzon. The corporal was awaiting a visit from his brother when informed of the accident. Corporal Nichols has been overseas twenty-eight months.



*Buried at Rock Island National Cemetery, Rock Island, Illinois
Plot E 278*