



James W. O'Neil 49-43

First Lieutenant, U.S. Army

Service # 1176756

**249th Field Artillery Battalion
27th Infantry Division**

Entered the Service from: New Jersey

Died: June 30, 1944

Missing in Action or Buried at Sea

**Tablets of the Missing at Honolulu Memorial
Honolulu, Hawaii**

Awards: Air Medal, Purple Heart

JAMES O'NEIL KILLED IN ACTION

**Liaison Pilot, 24, Was
Working With Artillery
On Saipan**

BOUND BROOK, March 18—Lieut. James W. O'Neil, 24-year-old liaison pilot attached to a "grasshopper squadron" doing reconnaissance work for the field artillery, was killed in action on Saipan on June 30, 1944, according to advice received from Adjutant General J. A. Ulio by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. O'Neil of 607 North Church street.

The flyer had originally been reported missing in action since June 29. His commanding officer has told his parents in a letter that Lieut. O'Neil was a passenger in a Navy plane acting as observer over Tanapag Harbor, Saipan, when it was brought down by enemy anti-aircraft fire.

The War Department telegram signed by Ulio read as follows: "I am deeply distressed to inform you corrected report now received states your son, 1st. Lieut. James W. O'Neil, who was previously reported missing in action, was killed in action thirty June on Saipan. The Secretary of War asks that I express his deep sympathy in your loss and his regret that unavoidable circumstances made necessary the unusual lapse of time in reporting your son's death to you."

Lieut. O'Neil entered foreign service in April of last year. A graduate of Bound Brook High School and Duke University, class of 1942, he entered the Army in July, 1942, and trained at Camp Gruber, Okla., and Fort Sill, Okla., where he was commissioned a second lieutenant.

He underwent advanced training in flying at Denton, Tex., and received his wings in the Army Air Forces there. Subsequently, Lieut. O'Neil was stationed at Camp Breckenridge, Ky., and Camp Rucker, Ala. He is survived by his parents, a brother, S/Sgt. Thomas J. O'Neil Jr., who is attached to the famed Americal Division, and two sisters, Miss Helen O'Neil of Detroit, Mich., and Mrs. Harry J. McGowan of Birmingham, Mich.

The letter from his commanding officer describing the circumstances surrounding Lieut. O'Neil's death said that only one person was seen bailing out of the plane, and the only one picked up was the pilot. The pilot did not know whether either of the others bailed out although he had ordered them out over the inter-plane telephone.