

Dies In England



LIEUT. J. W. NEUNDORFER

NEUNDORFER DIES IN BASE HOSPITAL

Ex-Freeport High School
Athlete, 21, Succumbs
At Chelveston, Eng.

Lieutenant John W. Neundorfer, who, while a student at Freeport High school, captained the boxing team and held the 118-pound and the 126-pound championship, and captained the school golf team for two years, is dead, according to a war department announcement.

The news was imparted in a telegram received by Lieutenant Neundorfer's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore T. Neundorfer of 77 East Seaman avenue, Freeport, from the secretary of war, which stated that the lieutenant died November 15 at Chelveston, England, and that a letter from the adjutant general's office would follow.

Was A Radio Operator

Lieutenant Neundorfer, who was 21 years old in June, was a radio operator on a Flying Fortress. He was home on a five-day leave in June, and had many interesting stories to relate of his experiences in the war. In a recent letter received by his parents, Lieutenant Neundorfer described his participation in the smashing raid on the Wilhelmshaven base in Germany November 3. It was John's first trip over Germany, made only about a month after he went overseas.

"We saw only one German fighter plane," he wrote. "Two P-38's jumped him and he seemed to go down in a tailspin. We got a few bursts of anti-aircraft fire off the wings." The number of Flying Fortresses and the blanket of protection offered by the roaring P-38 fighters, impressed him most, he added, otherwise, the raid was just a "ride."

John was a member of the 14th regiment, New York national guard, when it was called into federal service about three years ago. In June, 1942, he transferred to the air corps and a year later received his commission at Luke Field, Arizona.

Lieutenant Neundorfer came by his athletic prowess naturally. His father at one time was United States long distance walking champion. One of the first persons to whom the heart-broken parent showed the telegram, was Larry Lobaugh, principal of the Seaman avenue school, Freeport, who, while acting as boxing coach at the high school, instructed John in the sport and had the satisfaction of seeing his pupil awarded the 118-pound Long Island school championship in 1939 and the 126-pound championship the following year.

When John went to Camp Shelby, Miss., for training with a tank destroyer battalion, he became a member of the camp's boxing team. He made his first solo flight December 30, 1942.