

Eugene Leroy Clayton, T-39

13 September 1921 – 1 September 1942

(aged 20)



MEMPHIAN LOSES LIFE IN ARMY PLANE CRASH

Pvt. Eugene L. Clayton Dies with Six Others



A Memphis youth, Pvt. Eugene L. Clayton, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Clayton, 1003 Meda, was one of seven Harding Field LA fliers killed when the twin-engine bomber (41-7483 Martin B-26A-1-MA Marauder) in which they were flying crashed Tuesday night near Angola LA.

Private Clayton's name was released last night by Harding Field officials, who said the ship was on an operational mission at the time of the crash. The Memphis youth who would have been 21 this month, was a student bombardier.

Convict guards of the Louisiana Penitentiary at Angola who act as civilian defense air raid warning wardens saw the flaming ship crash and reported it. They told the Associated Press that the plane went into a spin and struck a high hill, then crashed through about six acres of woods. The scene of the crash was just across the Louisiana line in Wilkinson County MS. Bodies of the men were brought out on pack horses because of the rough terrain.

Others losing their lives in the crash:

SECOND LIEUT. LOUIS J. PIGONI, pilot, son of James Pigoni, Oak Park IL

SECOND LIEUT. WILLIAM E. EVANS, co-pilot, son of Myrnice M. Evans, Freeport IL. His wife, Mrs. Alice P. Evans, resides in Baton Rouge.

SECOND LIEUT. NORMAN L. VAUGHN, bombardier, son of Mrs. Ethyl E. Vaughn, Logansport IN.

STAFF SERGEANT JOHN P. DYE, radio operator, son of John W. Dye, Santa Barbara CA.

PVT. FIRST CLASS WADE H. FRY, engineer son of Mrs. Clarence L. Fry, Ashville OH.

PVT. LOUIS H. LABERTRANDI, JR., gunner, son of Louis H. Labertrandi, Sr., Yonkers NY.

Information from The Commercial Appeal, Thursday, September 3, 1942.

