

AVIATION WALL OF HONOR



First Lieutenant George Collin Bennett Killed in Action

First Lieutenant George C. Bennett graduated from Graveraet High School, Marquette in 1939. He attended the Northern Michigan College of Education for two years majoring in art before entering the service.

He took flying lessons at Michigan Tech before going to Rochester, Minnesota for Civil Aeronautics training. Late in 1941 he enlisted in the Naval Air Corps and had training at

Glenview, Illinois, and Jacksonville, Florida. After being commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Air Corps in January 1943, he was sent to San Diego, California for advanced training with fighter squadrons. He received his overseas orders in June and was assigned to Marine Air Group II and left for the South Pacific.

In November 1943, Lt. Col. J.A. Smoak, commanding officer of Air Group II, informed George's parents, Dr. and Mrs. Arthur K. Bennett, that on September 9, George was returning from a mission over enemy territory when he was attacked by a Japanese plane. He was seen to drop out of formation with his plane smoking but under control.

Other aircraft in his flight formation disposed of the enemy plane and a week later a parachute was seen on the ground near his last known position. It could not be investigated as it was in enemy-held territory.

G.C. Bennett