

Captain Paquette Is Presumed Dead

His B-29 Exploded
In Raid Over Tokyo



The War Department has notified Mrs. Annette M. Paquette of 122 North Champlain st. of the "presumptive finding of death" of her husband, Captain Richard E. Paquette (above) who was reported missing in action in May, 1945.

The department's letter said: "The record concerning your husband shows that he was a crew member aboard a B-29 aircraft which departed from Guam on a bombardment mission to Tokyo on May, 24, 1945. Your husband's plane was neither seen nor contacted by radio after the time of the take-off, and no information concerning its loss was available until statements were received from Staff Sgt. Sherwood C. Kierman and Sgt. Lloyd R. Hill, the two crew members who returned."

"They stated that the plane was hit by bursts of flak while over the target, and that when all attempts to extinguish the fire and release the bombs proved unsuccessful, and the order to bail out was given, they were the first to leave, and a few seconds thereafter they saw the plane explode and crash. They also state that since it was impossible to see parachutists in the darkness, they did not know whether any other members of your husband's crew bailed out."

Paquette had earned the air medal and distinguished flying cross. Mrs. Paquette has two children, Patricia Ellen and Richard Allen. The late captain's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Paquette, live at 71 Rose st. One brother, Ralph Paquette, was killed in action on Bougainville in Nov., 1943. Another brother, Donald G. Paquette, recently returned from 26 months in the South Pacific with the First Marine Division.

Richard E. Paquette 5 Jun 1946

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