

(FOR THE CATHOLIC STUDENT AT NOTRE DAME)

University of Notre Dame

Religious Bulletin

November 19, 1943

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Our 69th Gold Star -- Lieut. Richard J. Coad.  
(A letter from P.f.c. Joe Neufeld '42)

"It is with a deep sorrow that I give you, Father, the name of another Notre Dame man to be added to that ever-growing list of fatalities of this war. It is that of Richard J. Coad, my fourth cousin and a graduate of Notre Dame in September 1942. His mother received official word yesterday that he was killed in action in the Pacific area and was buried in the vicinity where he was killed. As soon as possible his body will be brought to his home in Green Bay, Wisconsin. The details of his death were not given, but it was stated that a letter giving them would follow.

"Dick and I entered Notre Dame together in September 1940. He, however, had completed a year and a half of college at St. Norbert College. That is why he finished in September 1942. After graduation Dick joined the Marines and was called into active duty at Parris Island a week before last Christmas. In June of this year he was commissioned a second lieutenant in that organization and in August was sent into the Pacific area, the exact location, of course, being unknown.

"I am not one to judge the character of a person, but in Dick Coad one found all the characteristics of a true Catholic young man. He was ever faithful to his God and to his country. His father died in 1937 and Dick was left the protector of the family in which there were his mother and his two sisters. He was very good to them. Every day since he had been in the Service he wrote to his mother. For the past two weeks, however, Mrs. Coad had not heard from him, and she became alarmed. On Saturday morning two letters came, the one being dated the twentieth of October. At noon word came from Washington of his death."

Corporal Joseph W. (Bill) Reynolds, '43  
(A letter from his mother.)

"Letters from the Brigadier-General commanding the 87th Division and the 1st Lieut. commanding Bill's Company say that Bill was an excellent soldier and had many friends.

"The boy who brought Bill home said that Bill had a crushed lung and did not suffer. He lived only a half hour after the accident, but he received the Last Rites of our Church before he died, which is a great comfort to us. "A" Company was on night night maneuvers. There were seventeen boys riding in a truck. The driver lost control and it rolled down a twenty foot embankment. A boy from Pennsylvania was also killed.... (Accident happened near Camp McCain, Mississippi)

"The boys of "A" Company sent a large floral replica of the Field Artillery insignia. The family flowers were gold roses with blue ribbon, in the form of a cross. We knew he would have liked that as he was so very proud of his Alma Mater. I thought you might like to see a corner of Bill's room - Bishop O'Hara's picture is there."

"Our hearts are very heavy, but God is sending us strength to bear the sorrow...."

Other Recent Casualties.  
(As announced last Sunday at Mass)

Lieutenant John Cox, ex '43 of New Haven, Conn., pilot on bomber, killed in action in Northern Europe October 22.

Aviation Cadet Archie C. Strang, Jr., ex '43 of Anaconda, Montana, was fatally injured in an airplane crash at the naval air training station at Hutchinson, Kansas in July.

Lieutenant Ed Miller, ex '42 recently reported missing in action, is now in a German concentration camp.