

LT. FRANK M. HIGDON, JR.



FRANK HIGDON REPORTED DEAD

Pilot Of P-38 Has Been
Missing In Action
For - Year

Mr. and Mrs. Frank M. Higdon, Sr., of Franklin, have had a letter from the Adjutant General's office, stating that following a year of uncertainty surrounding the absence of their son, First Lieutenant Frank M. Higdon, Jr., he has been presumably pronounced dead by the war department.

Lieut. Higdon, who was flying a P-38, was on a bombing mission over Hungary when he was last seen on July 14, 1944, and was on his 26th mission. After a year of searching the war department stated that they had no further information in regard to him, that the last time he was seen by his crew members, he was diving into a bunch of enemy fighters.

The letter further stated that full consideration was being given to all available information bearing on the absence of their son, including all records, reports and circumstances. These have been carefully viewed and considered. In view of the fact that 12 months have now passed without the receipt of evidence to support the continued presumption of survival, the War Department must terminate such absence by a presumptive finding of death.

The air medal with two oak leaf clusters had previously been received in a ceremony in Asheville in February of this year for "his exceptionally meritorious achievement while participating in bomber combat missions over enemy territory. The courage, coolness and skill displayed by these officers and enlisted men upon these occasions reflect great credit upon themselves and the armed forces of the United States," the citation stated.

Lieut. Higdon entered the armed forces in February, 1943 and took his basic training at Maxwell Field, Ala., and at Avon Park, Fla. He was then returned to Gunner Field, Ala., for further advanced training, and was later sent to Spence Field, Monticello, Ga., where he received his wings and was commissioned as Second Lieutenant. He was commissioned as First Lieutenant on July 12 before he was reported missing on July 14. His squadron holds the Presidential citation.

Lieut. Higdon was a graduate of the Franklin high school and was employed by the Tennessee Valley Authority prior to entering the armed forces. He was married to Miss Ruth Higdon, of Franklin, on February 4, 1944. He was the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Higdon.