

# Downstown Officer Killed In Action Near Birthplace

1st Lt. Basil Antonelli, 28, son of Mr. and Mrs. Angelo Antonelli of Tuckahoe road, Downstown, was killed in action, on Feb. 6 at Mt. Cassino, Italy, the War Department announced yesterday in a telegram to his parents.

The Downstown officer was killed near the spot where he was born, and only a few miles from where his grandmother still resides.

A member of a Tank Destroyer unit, Lt. Antonelli was wounded while his outfit was invading North Africa in November, 1942. A torpedo destroyed the landing craft of which he was commanding officer, and despite his wound, he stayed on the craft until all the men aboard had been safely rescued. He received the Purple Heart award for the wound, and rejoined his outfit, taking part in the battles of Africa, Tunisia, Sicily and Italy. He had been overseas 27 months.

Lt. Antonelli died in action a day after he wrote to his parents and friends, stating he was then stationed near the place of his birth and near his grandmother's residence. His letters arrived last Monday.

The officer attended Vineland High School and joined the 157th Field Artillery, National Guard, in Vineland, as a private, becoming an officer after attending school. He was engaged to a girl in Audubon.

He is survived by his parents, a brother, Americo, 12, and three sisters, Marie, Jemie and Anna. He is the fifth soldier from Buena Vista Township to pay the supreme sacrifice in the present war.