

YOUTH KILLED IN NO. AFRICA BATTLE



PFC JOHN A. GIBEAU
Killed In Action

PFC John A. Gibeau, 28, Was Serving With Tank Corps

Lawrence's growing casualty list of World War Two had added to it the name of Private First Class John A. Gibeau, son of Mr. and Mrs. John F. Gibeau of 101 Franklin street, who was reported killed in action in the North African area on March 23.

The local youth had been with a United States Army Tank Corps in North Africa since the invasion of that continent by the Allies.

Born on December 18, 1914, he entered the service on January 12, 1942. Prior to that time he had been employed by the Walton Shoe company of this city and later of Chelsea. He attended St. Anne's parochial school and was much interested in sports, especially boxing. While residing in this city he was a member of St. Anne's club.

The telegram from the war department bearing the sad tidings follows in part:

"Mrs. Diana Gibeau, 101 Franklin street. The Secretary of War desires me to express his deep regret that your son, Private First Class John A. Gibeau, was killed in action in defense of his country in North African area March 23. Letter follows".

It was signed by the adjutant general and was dated yesterday.

A brother of the local man, Private First Class Leo E. Gibeau, 23, is stationed with a U. S. Army unit in New Caledonia. He entered the service in February, 1941, and was assigned to the U. S. Field Artillery. Before joining the colors he was employed in the Wood Mill.

Ironical as it may seem now, the two brothers at their last meeting made a bet as to which one would reach home first after the war. They joked about their so called "standing bet" in letters to one another since that time.

In his last letter home, dated March 16, from North Africa, Private Gibeau wrote that he was fine and that he expected that the war would be over soon. He also inquired about a box of cigars he had been expecting from home. The shipment could not be made because of new Army postal regulations and Private Gibeau had not forwarded a written approval for the shipment by his commanding officer.

The local soldier was the fourth to make the supreme sacrifice for his country from St. Anne's parish.

Besides his parents and brother, he is survived by four sisters, Blanche, wife of Nelson Ginchereau; Gertrude, wife of Alfred Lacourcier; and Misses Marcelle and Barbara Gibeau, all of this city.