

Killed



Sec. Lt. Earl L. Urban

Second Lieutenant Earl Leonard Urban, 27, was killed in action in Italy on April 23, the War Department last evening informed his mother, Mrs. Lelia Urban, 631 Cleveland avenue. His death came just nine days before fighting ceased in Italy.

One of the county's first inductees, Lt. Urban was in combat more than 500 days with the 701st Tank Destroyer Battalion of the First Armored division of General Mark Clark's Fifth Army. He saw combat service from "D" day in North Africa until almost the virtual end of the Italian campaign.

He was given a combat commission after the Tunisian and Italian campaigns, being commissioned early last February. He held the rank of first sergeant several months.

"Hubbell", as he was known to sports fans, was one of Ashland's best known and most popular athletes. He was a varsity basket ball and baseball player at Ashland high school and later was a member of championship softball and basket ball teams here.

After graduation from Ashland high school in 1937, he was employed by the A. L. Garber Company until his induction on Oct. 8, 1941.

A brother, Pfc. Carl Urban, is with the Marines on Guam.

After going to Northern Ireland in June, 1942, Lt. Urban's outfit took part in the invasion of Oran on African "D" day, Nov. 8, 1942. The First Armored Division was one of the first to fire on German tanks, was credited with being the first to destroy a German tank and was first to knock out a German Mark VI tank.

After the invasion at Oran, the First Armored seized airfields in Northern Algeria, was in the Tunisian campaign, lost heavily at Kasserine Pass and was in the battle at El Guettar. In the invasion of Italy, the First Armored was in the battle on Mt. Camino, saw heavy action at Anzio, led the drive on Rome and the thrust to the Arno river and was in fighting on the Gothic Line. In these engagements, Lt. Urban distinguished himself, particularly in a battle for Castel D'Aino, a key road junction in the Apennines.

From the time of the African invasion, the First Armored division fought alongside armies of eight United Nations.

Mrs. John Urban of Cleveland avenue is Lt. Urban's grandmother. His father, Elton Urban, died several years ago.

He was 78th Ashland countian to give his life in World War II.