

PLANE CRASH

Blockville Boy Dies in Salute

B-24 Chops Off Trees, Falls In Gully; 3 Pulled From Fire

Six army fliers, one believed to have been Lt. Levine S. Nelson, 22, of Blockville, perished in the flaming wreckage of a four-motor bomber which crashed and exploded in a gully just outside Blockville at 10:30 A. M. today.

At least five cremated bodies were seen in the jumble of charred and twisted junk when rescuers were able to get near the scene. Intense heat drove them back immediately after the crash. A sixth was missing.

Three other crewmen were pulled from the flaming wreckage and a fourth was thrown clear and only slightly scratched. He returned to the scene an hour after the crash, shortly after the gasoline tank exploded, scattering spectators.

One crew member is in Jamestown General Hospital with critical burns and serious lacerations of the head and leg. Two others were singed and lacerated and held at the hospital.

Number of men aboard was determined when officials at the scene found the log book containing ten names. The names were withheld.

Residents of Blockville asserted the plane was piloted by Lt. Nelson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar G. Nelson and husband of Mrs. Marian Nelson of Chautauqua. They said the young pilot had written his wife and parents he would fly over their house today. The tragedy occurred almost within sight of Nelson's home and was seen by a score of witnesses.

Chops Off Tree Tops

Witnesses said the huge craft flew low over the village and ap-

scalp and leg lacerations. Two others were singed and lacerated. The fourth man suffered only singeing and scratches. Their names were withheld.

Kenneth Mitchell, Panama undertaker and a member of the fire department, said he had heard the plane flying over that village only a short time before the siren called the firemen.

When he got to the scene one of the crewmen was standing beside the wreckage, his clothing torn and his hair singed.

Pulled From Wreckage

Clarence Wellman, a farmer who lives near the scene, assisted by two sons of B. J. Carpenter, on whose property the plane crashed, was the first to reach the spot and start pulling out the victims. They got out two of the four taken to the hospital. John Samec of Panama pulled out a third.

Richard Beachner, 12, of Blockville, who saw the plane heading toward the gully, asserted that one of the four motors was smoking. He saw it strike the wires before it took its final fatal plunge.

Mrs. Clarence Swanson, who lives about 500 yards from the Kenyon Chapman property, was another eye-witness.

Pilot Circled Home

"The plane was so low that we could see it very distinctly. I was looking out of our upstairs window and the plane seemed to be directly over our heads.

"It circled around the Nelson home and seemed to brush



JUL 15 1944