

Genesee News, Sept. 15, 1944

CAPT. GLEN ERICKSON LOST LIFE IN DECISIVE OPERATION

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Erickson, Clarkston parents of Captain Glen Erickson former Genesee residents, and eager to learn details relative to the death of their son, have received the following letter from Colonel Arthur S. Champeny, who commands the infantry regiment in which Captain Erickson served as a company commander:

“My responsibilities and many preoccupying problems while this regiment has been committed to action, have precluded until this late moment, any efforts upon my part, to express my deepest sympathy for you in your hour of bereavement.

“From the time your son joined this regiment, he proved to be one of my most efficient and reliable officers. His hardy, good natured disposition, together with his well-balanced sense of responsibility served to distinguish him as an officer, well liked and greatly respected by all who knew him.

“During the recent advance of the Allied Forces, which resulted in the smashing of the German Gustave line, and the later capture of Rome, your son was one of my best company commanders, and justified my high opinion of him through some of the bitterest fighting yet seen in this war.

“His death occurred as he was attempting to communicate with supporting units during a very decisive phase of our recent operations.

“Throughout the entire campaign, until his death, his heroic and inspiring leadership was the driving force of his company. The spirit that your son so thoroughly instilled in his men, and in good measure responsible for the singular honor which this regiment achieved, when it distinguished itself by being the first infantry unit to enter the Eternal City.

“My personal acquaintance with the officers serving under me, has always been a source of great pleasure to me, and the loss of Captain Erickson as a member of my command, was indeed a great sorrow to myself, as well as the men of his company and is second only to the sorrow you feel over the loss of one so dear to you.”