

Town's First Casualty Of War Laid To Rest

Funeral services for T/5 Wilbur R. Cushman, who died July 3, 1943 of wounds received in the South Pacific a day earlier, were held on April 27 at the Calderwood Memorial Chapel with burial following at Grove Cemetery, East St. Johnsbury.

T/5 Cushman, husband of Mrs. Helena Croteau Cushman and son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur E. Cushman, all of East St. Johnsbury, was the first soldier from the St. Johnsbury area to lose his life in combat in World War 2. He was killed in action on Rendova Island during a severe enemy bombing a few days after the Americans were established there. After a sea burial his body was washed ashore at New Guinea, where it received temporary burial. At the request of his family the remains were returned here last January.

The Rev. Charles F. Hood and the Rev. Harold S. Hannum officiated at the military services conducted for the local war hero by the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars with a firing squad from National Guard Company M.

Wilbur E. Cushman, Robert Cushman and Paul Croteau, of East St. Johnsbury, Archie Croteau and Robert Croteau, of Kirby, and Volney Blodgett, of Brookfield, were bearers.

Among those present from out of town were Henry Graves and Mrs. Marguerite Locklin, Lyndonville, Mr. and Mrs. George Surridge and family, Kirby, Mrs. A. Croteau, Archie Croteau, Flossie Lesperance, Kirby, Mr. and Mrs. Volney Blodgett, Brookfield, Mrs. Minnie Corey, Springfield, Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Willey, Littleton, N. H., Ernest Skinner, Passumpsic, and Governor Ernest W. Gibson and Alexander Smith, Montpelier.

In addition to his wife and parents, Cushman is survived by a daughter, Louise Mary, who was born a few weeks before his death and whom he never saw, three sisters, Mrs. Lillian Blodgett, Brookfield, Mrs. Esther Croteau, East St. Johnsbury, and Lucille Cushman, East St. Johnsbury, a brother, Robert Cushman, of East St. Johnsbury, and several aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews.

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to thank Miss Anne Smith for the use of her car, Mrs. Helen Steele and Mrs. Olive Lawrence for caring for the children, C. A. Calderwood, Inc. for their services, the Rev. Charles F. Hood and the Rev. Harold S. Hannum, the V. F. W., the American Legion, and Company M, and all who sent flowers, cards, and words of sympathy at the time of the services for T/5 Wilbur R. Cushman.

Helena Cushman and daughter
Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Cushman
Mr. and Mrs. Volney Blodgett
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Croteau
Robert and Lucille Cushman

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