

Strathman - Continued from Page 3

WESTERN UNION

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SYMBOLS:

- ES - Easy Letter
- LC - Limited Circulation
- LT - Limited Telegram
- MT - Cable Telegram
- ST - Standard Telegram

SH DL PD Govt Kansas City Mo 9:39 AM Sept 1/48

Leroy Strathman,
120 First St
Manning Iowa.

We have been advised remains of the late Staff Sergeant Lyle Strathman are enroute to the United States. Our records indicate you wish remains delivered to Ohde Funeral Home Manning Iowa period within forty eight hours after receipt of this message please confirm your original instructions or submit new delivery instructions and furnish your correct mailing address by telegram collect to Kansas City Quarter Masters Depot Kansas City Missouri. Reply is necessary within this period since it will not be possible to comply at Government expense with any desired changes in delivery instructions received after the expiration of forty eight hours. While delivery of the remains will be made as soon as practicable after receipt factors beyond our control may delay delivery of remains for several weeks. However as soon as remains are received here and it is possible to schedule them for delivery your funeral director will be notified by telegram of rail routing and scheduled time remains will arrive at railroad station. Also he will be requested to furnish you this information so that you may complete funeral arrangements. This telegram will be sent at least three days prior to actual shipment from this distribution center. Please instruct funeral director to accept remains at railroad station upon arrival remains will be accompanied by Military Escort. If you desire Military honors at funeral you should ask any Local Patriotic or Veterans Organizations to make arrangements. Your prompt cooperation will greatly assist this office in making final delivery. Please include full name of Deceased in reply telegram.

S Zablocki 1st Lt QMC

September 1, 1948

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S Zablocki 1st Lt QMC

*Gilmore City, Ia.
Oct 4, 1944*

Dear Folks -

I have just read of Gene's death. Please accept my deepest sympathy in your hour of need.

I remember Gene so well, it seems only yesterday he was playing on the F.F.A. basketball team. I am enclosing a picture of the team I thought you might like to have it.

If there is anything I could do to help in any manner, please let me know. I would feel it was a privilege to be able to help in any manner.

Sincerely yours,
Bill Campbell
Former Agricultural Teacher

As you know Gene was one of my favorite boys. He always seemed like a boy's boy, and he lived a full life. It is always a consolation to think that he did the things he enjoyed while he was with us.

I was pleased to note that he had received several promotions while in the Army he must have shown considerable ability to have received these.

Gilmore City, Iowa

October 4th 1944

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Sincerely yours, Bill Campbell
Former Agricultural Teacher at Manning

Oct 4, 1944

Service Club
Camp Barkley, Texas

Dear Friends:

My deepest heartfelt sympathy is all I can offer you in your time of deep grievance and sorrow.

May God's mercy be with you and help to lighten your sorrows in this, your hour of despair.

That he gave his life so nobly for his Country and friends is an Award to you, his parents, that only God can give.

If there is anything that my wife and I can do to help lighten your sorrows, please don't fail to ask it.

God's blessings are with him tonight, may they lighten your hearts from this terrible grief. My sympathies to you. God's Blessings. Sincerely,
Your neighbor, Paul B. Vollmer

October 4, 1944

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Sincerely, Your Neighbor, Paul B. Vollmer

Names and addresses of surviving crew members:

1st Lt. William J. Grace Jr, 0855602
27 East Morris Avenue
Buffalo, New York

2d Lt. Robert D. Moss, 0812642
235 North Latrobe Street
Chicago, Illinois

S Sgt. Martin Woogen, 12218427
966 East 181st Street
Bronx, New York, N. Y.

S Sgt. Oscar W. Windham, 33374571
Butler, Georgia

Sgt. Robert W. Smith, 15335007
48 North 26th Street
Lafayette, Indiana

Sgt. Llewellyn G. Thiel, 32751204
3086 Congress Street
Camden, New Jersey

General Marshall extends deep sympathy in the loss of your son. He died in the honorable service of his country to preserve the freedom under which he lived.

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POST CHAPEL
APO # 942
c/o P.M. Seattle, Wash.

10 June 1947

Mrs. Lee Strathman
120 First Street
Manning, Iowa.

Dear Mrs. Strathman:

Your letter of 19 May was unfortunately received after Memorial Day containing the six dollars for a wreath on your son's grave. As I knew that the grave had been decorated by a contribution from Joyce Strathman, it was decided to return this money to you. We considered it probable that you would like to use the same next year. In addition to the decoration mentioned there was also placed on your son's grave a wreath made by the American Legion Auxiliary of Anchorage.

If in the future, you might desire to deal direct with a local florist, I would recommend the following firm; Bagoy Greenhouse, 117 East Fourth Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska. They take special pains on these occasions to give value received, as they had a son in the service and feel privileged to serve others.

I will inclose a copy of the program, which was conducted at the Post Cemetery.

Very sincerely,
Gerritt E. Mouw
GERRITT E. MOUW
Chaplain (Maj) USA
Post Chaplain

POST CHAPEL APO # 942 c/o P.M. Seattle, Washington

June 10, 1947

Mrs. Lee Strathman

120, First Street Manning, Iowa.

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Very sincerely, GERRITT E. MOUW Chaplain (Maj) USA Post Chaplain



It is not known for sure but this picture is believed to be the burial ceremony for Gene Strathman. It was taken at the Post cemetery at Fort Richardson Anchorage, Alaska. Gene was buried in plot 15, Row 4, Grave 99

Crewman of Ill-Fated Plane Visits Manning

Bob Smith, Lafayette, Indiana, crewman of the ill-fated planes which crashed in Alaska during the war taking the life of S-Sgt. Gene Strathman, spent Monday in the home of Gene's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Strathman.

The Indiana soldier was severely injured in the crash and has spent many months in hospitals. He was accompanied here by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R.B. Smith and sister, Janet, all of Lafayette.



I haven't had time to digitally touch up this picture but it is a wonderful image of Gene in his airmen's uniform.



Probably one of the last times that Gene was in Manning, standing on the corner of Third and Main Street.



Gene in the middle - practice assembling the large caliber machine gun used to defend the plane on bombing missions.



Gene in his baby swing - a tender age that he would have never known what lay ahead of him...that he would participate in a world-wide event that would free the world of Nazism and Imperialism.