PFC Dale Erskine Baumgartner

April 5, 1922 – December 10, 1944



Photo by Alicia Kneuss

PFC. DALE BAUMGARTNER, 22, IS REPORTED KILLED

Joe Baumgartner Family Loses 2nd Son in War; Dale Dies in Germany

Friends and relatives of Joe Baumgartner family formerly of Jefferson township and now residing in Decatur, were saddened to learn that Baumgartners have lost a second son in the present war. On Monday, New Year’s day, the parents were notified by the war department that their son Pfc. Dale Baumgartner, 22, was killed in action in Germany on December 10.

Pfc. Baumgartner was the husband of the former Miss Pauline Acker, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Acker of Decatur.

The second member of his family to give his life for his country, Pfc. Baumgartner went overseas in May, 1944 and was attached to the third division of General Hodges First army, that first captured a town in Germany.

His brother, Pfc. Carl Baumgartner was killed in a bomber crash near Pratt, Kan., in August, 1943.

Four years ago he was married to Miss Acker. They have a here-year-old son, Ned Baumgartner.

Pfc. Baumgartner was a graduate of Kirkland high school. He entered the army on Nov. 21, 1942, and was trained at Camp Beale, Cal., and Camp Bowie, Texas. He was sent overseas in Mary, 1944 and participated in the invasion of France. Prior to entering the armed forces he was employed by the Rae wire company in Fort Wayne.

Besides his parents, wife and child, he is survived by four brothers, Glenn of Preble; Roy and Don of Decatur; Russell of Peterson; and three sisters, Mrs. Chad Yager, Spencerville; Mrs. Anna McKean and Mrs. Alice Smith, living on Decatur rural routes.

Pfc. Baumgartner’s death is the fourth tragic death in the family within the past few years. A son died tragically while the family resided in Jefferson township and sometime later a son-in-law, Otto Smith Jr., was killed when a plane he was flying crashed northwest of Berne, killing him instantly.

**Berne Witness, Adams County, IN; January 3, 1945**

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Kirkland Graduate Killed in Action

   Pfc. Dale Baumgartner, 22, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Baumgartner of Decatur, graduate of Kirkland High School, and husband of Pauline Acker Baumgartner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Acker, was killed in action in Germany on December 10.  
   Pfc. Baumgartner, the second son of Mr. and Mrs. Baumgartner to give his life for his country, went overseas in May, 1944 and was attached to the Third Division of General Hodges First Army that first captured a town in Germany.  
   His brother, Pfc. Carl Baumgartner, was killed in a bomber crash near Pratt, Kan., in August, 1943.  
   Four years ago he was married to Miss Acker. They have a three-year old son, Ned Baumgartner.  
   Pfc. Baumgartner entered the Army on Nov. 21, 1942, and was trained at Camp Beale, Cal., and Camp Bowie, Texas. He was sent overseas in May, 1944 and participated in the invasion of France. Prior to entering the armed forces he was employed by the Rae Wire Company of Fort Wayne.  
   Besides his parents, wife and child, he is survived by four brothers, Glenn of Preble; Roy and Don of Decatur; Russell of Peterson; and three sisters, Mrs. Chad Yager, Spencerville; Mrs. Anna McKean, and Mrs. Alice Smith, living on Decatur rural routes.

**Bluffton News-Banner, Wells County, IN; January 3, 1945**

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FUNERAL ON SATURDAY FOR PFC BAUMGARTNER

Body of Dale E. Baumgartner to Arrive Here Friday

Graveside services will be held at 2:00 p.m. Saturday at the Pleasant Dale Church of the Brethren in Kirkland township for Pfc. Dale e. Baumgartner, a deceased soldier of World War II. Rev. Russel Weller will officiate at the services. Members of Adams Post 43 of the American Legion will have charge of the military rites.

The Yager Mortuary of Berne is in charge of the funeral. The body will arrive here Friday evening. If will come to Decatur on the Erie Railroad and will be brought to Berne in the Yager ambulance. The body will be taken to the home of parents of the deceased soldier, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Baumgartner, in Kirkland township, Friday evening. A military escort will accompany the body.

Pfc. Dale E. Baumgartner was killed in action December 10, 1944, during the battle of the Bulge. He was killed in Germany. The body was returned to this country a few weeks ago on the transport Joseph V Connolly. The young soldier had been a member of the infantry and was buried in a U.S. Military cemetery in Belgium.

The youth was 22 years old at the time of his death. He was born April 5, 1922, the son of Joseph and Viola Beitler Baumgartner. He was born in French township and was a graduate of the Kirkland high school. He was a member of the Pleasant Dale Church of the Brethren.

Surviving are the widow, formerly Pauline Acker of Decatur; a son, Ned, age 6; the parents and the following brothers and sisters: Mrs. Charles (Esther) Yager, Big Rapids, Michigan; Russel and Roy Baumgartner, Decatur rural route; Glen Baumgartner, Preble; Mrs. Marion (Anna) McKean, Monro R. R.; Mrs. Merle (Alice) Burkhead, Decatur R. R. ; Don Baumgartner, Hoagland R. R. Two brothers are deceased. Carl was killed in an airplane crash at Pratt Field, Kansas in 1943.

**Berne Witness, Adams County, IN; December 3, 1947**

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