

The First Casualty List, December 8, 1941

Much sooner than one would have expected, telegrams from the War Department arrived at a handful of American homes on Monday, December 8th. They informed families of their loved one's death on December 7th at Pearl Harbor. On that same Monday, the War Department also released to the public the first casualty list from the enemy attack a day earlier. News of both the telegrams and the casualty list made the December 8th evening newspapers. In communities across the country, Americans read the names and hometowns of servicemen killed. This first casualty list, short as it was, personalized the torrent of war news begun the day before. New York's *The Sun* and Washington, D.C.'s *Evening Star* published thirteen names in their December 8th edition. A careful reader of this first casualty list would have noticed that all of the men served in the Army Air Corps. They all died at air bases on the Hawaiian island of Oahu, where Pearl Harbor is located. Ten of them had been stationed at Wheeler Field. One other died at Hickam Field, and two others were killed at Bellows Field. What follows are the stories of three soldiers named in the First Casualty List.¹

First Casualty List in War With Japan

By the Associated Press.

Following is the list of members of United States armed forces killed in the war in the East, as disclosed by official advices to the next of kin:

First Lt. Hans Christiansen, 21. Woodland, Calif., Marine aviator, at Pearl Harbor.

Sergt. James Guthrie, Republican Grove, Va., Air Corps engineer, in Hawaii Sunday.

Pvt. George G. Leslie, 20. Arnold, Pa., Army Air Corps, at Hawaii.

Robert Niedzwiecki, 22, Grand Rapids, Mich., at Hawaii.

Lt. James Derthick, 22, Ravenna, Ohio, Army Air Corps at Honolulu.

Second Lt. Forge A. Whiteman, Sedalia, Ohio, Air Corps, at Pearl Harbor.

Gordon Mitchell, Hoisington, Kans., Air Corps, at Hawaii.

Pvt. Donald Plant, 22, of Wausau, Wis., Air Corps, at Wheeler Field, Hawaii.

John Fletcher, 32, of Janesville, Wis., Air Corps, at Wheeler Field, Hawaii.

Pvt. Dean W. Ceibert of Galesburg, Ill., at Honolulu.

Sergt. George R. Schmersahl, 22, Bloomfield, N. J., Air Corps, Hawaii.

Theo F. Byrd, 20, Tampa, Fla., private first class, Air Corps, at Wheeler Field, Hawaii.

Pvt. Robert Shattuck, 21, Blue River, Wis., at Hickam Field, Hawaii.

From the December 8, 1941 *Evening Star*, Washington, D.C.

*Second Lieutenant George Allison Whiteman
(October 12, 1919 – December 7, 1941)*

When George Whiteman passed a physical exam that qualified him to be a pilot in the Army Air Corps, he sent his mother, Earlie Whiteman, a picture of himself. In the photograph, George is decked out in the gear associated with fliers. Looking towards the sky, he is seated in an airplane, helmet and goggles atop his head. Across the bottom of the picture, George wrote, "Lucky, lucky me!"²



On the afternoon of December 7, 1941, millions of homes across America had the radio turned on. Families gathered around it as they listened to news of the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor. This was not the case, however, at the Whiteman residence in Sedalia, Missouri. The family radio was not working. Neighbors later told Earlie, whose son, George, was stationed in Hawaii, about the news reverberating through the nation. (Her husband, John, was not at home; he lived away from the family while he worked as a carpenter at a St. Louis defense plant.) Once Earlie heard about the attack later on Sunday, she was not that concerned about George. She told a local reporter that while he had been stationed at Fort Shafter near Pearl Harbor, in June he wrote her that he was going to be transferred, to where she did not know.

Earlie thus believed George was not in danger on the day of the enemy raid. Her shock late on the night of December 7th must, therefore, have been great when she received the first of three government telegrams that informed her of George's death.³

The first telegram arrived "at midnight, Sunday night," according to a story in the hometown newspaper. It was sent by the Commanding General at Fort Shafter in Hawaii. A telegraph operator in the local office of the Missouri Pacific Railroad received the message. A taxi driver delivered it to the Whiteman home at 623 West 24th Street. Surrounded by five sons who still lived at home, Earlie read its contents:

"Second Lieutenant George A. Whiteman killed in action this date. Further information will reach you from war department, Washington. Sincere Sympathy.
'Short C.G. Fort Shafter, T. H.' "

The "C.G" (Commanding General) was Lieutenant General Walter C. Short. His office was at Fort Shafter, Army headquarters in the "T.H.," the Territory of Hawaii. The fort was located on the outskirts of Honolulu.⁴

The second telegram arrived at the Whiteman home on the night of Monday, December 8th. George's father had still not arrived back in Sedalia, so Earlie opened the telegram, probably with her children again gathered around her. It read:

"Deeply regret to inform you official information received your son, second Lieutenant George Allison Whiteman, air corps killed December 7, in Hawaii. No decision now possible as to when the remains can be returned. You will be further advised when shipment is contemplated.

Adams, the Adjutant General's office, Washington, D.C."⁵

Tuesday morning, around 10:30 a.m. on December 9th, Earlie Whiteman received the third government telegram on George's death. By that time, his father had returned home from St. Louis. The office of General George C. Marshall, the Army's Chief of Staff in Washington, D.C., sent this third telegram. It read, "I wish to extend to you personally, on behalf of the officers of the war department, our sincere sympathies in the death of Lieutenant Whiteman."⁶

Relatives and friends must have visited George's parents throughout the days following the attack at Pearl Harbor. The Whiteman family had deep roots in the community. Both John and Earlie had been born in Missouri, living their whole lives there. Married in 1918, they initially lived in Longwood, where George was born. He was the first of their ten children. Eventually, the family moved to Sedalia where John farmed the land. (That had been his occupation even before he married Earlie.) But early in 1940, John worked as a "watchman" at the state fairgrounds, living with his wife and five sons who ranged in ages from three to twelve. By the time of the raid at Pearl Harbor, John apparently found better employment at a defense plant in St. Louis. Earlie told a local reporter in one of the December 1941 newspaper stories that money had always been tight for the family, with so many children to care for.⁷

Nevertheless, George's parents did not demand that he, as their oldest child, quit school, find a job, and contribute to the family's income. Instead, after George attended Sedalia's two

grammar schools, he graduated from Smith-Cotton High School. According to a newspaper story published days after his death, George was such a superior student that he graduated when he was just fifteen. He received a one-year scholarship to the Missouri School of Mines in Rolla where he studied chemical engineering. Somehow, financially, George was able to attend the school for two years, not just one. After leaving Rolla, he could not find a job in Sedalia. For the next few years, George worked in Hammond, Indiana and Chicago, Illinois. After returning home, he decided in either 1939 or 1940 to enlist in the Army. Undoubtedly, the Army Air Corps (AAC) found George an attractive candidate because of his two years at the Missouri School of

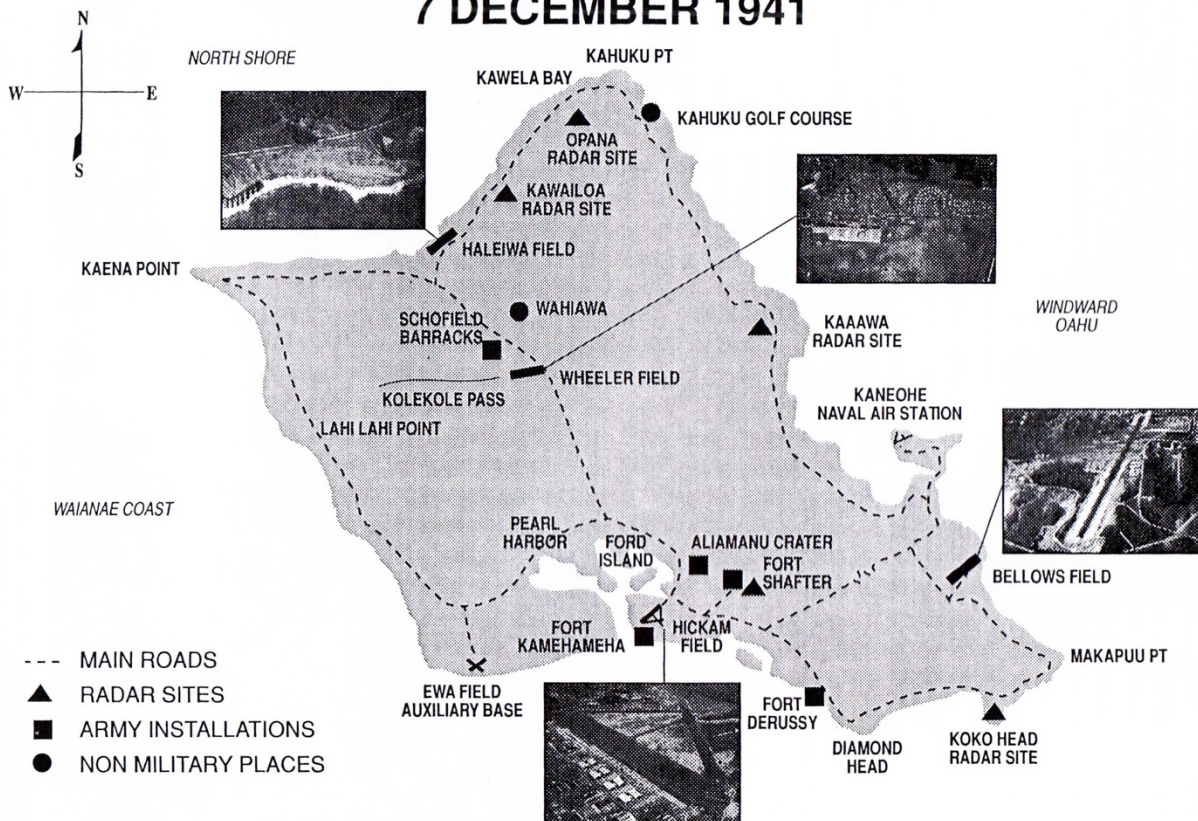


Mines. (Today, the institution would be categorized as a college that specialized in science.) The AAC sent George to its Gulf Coast Air Corps Training Center at Randolph Field in Texas, where he began his flight training. It may have been from Randolph Field that George sent his mother the picture of himself in the cockpit, signed with the phrase, "Lucky, lucky, me!" After Randolph, George went to Kelly Field, also in Texas, for advanced training. He received his "wings" in the fall of 1940. After spending time at Hamilton Field in Northern California, the AAC transferred George to Hawaii in February 1941. Later that year, on December 6th, a bomber squadron of B-17s left Hamilton Field for Pearl Harbor. It arrived while Japanese planes carried out their attack on the United States Pacific Fleet and nearby Army air bases, including the one where George was that December 7th morning.⁸

*Bellows Field
December 7, 1941*

The principal target of the enemy planes was the Pacific Fleet. Japan hoped to damage it so much that, in the immediate future, the United States Navy would not be able to stop Japan's expansion as it seized more territories. To carry out the December 7th attack, 353 bombers, fighters, and torpedo planes struck Pearl Harbor and other U.S. military installations. They came in two waves. The first wave arrived around 7:55 a.m. and the second shortly before 9:00 a.m. The attack continued until about 9:45 a.m. Essential to the Japanese plan was the need to knock out the Navy and Army air power based at various airfields on the island of Oahu. If the American planes were not destroyed or heavily damaged, they would takeoff to engage the Japanese planes and possibly follow them back to the aircraft carriers that had brought them to within striking distance of Oahu. Japan assigned 56% of its attacking aircraft (199 planes) to bomb Army and Navy airfields on Oahu.⁹

ISLAND OF OAHU, TERRITORY OF HAWAII 7 DECEMBER 1941



Leatrice R. Arakaki and John R. Kuborn, Pacific Air Forces, Office of History, Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, *7 December 1941, The Air Force Story* (Washington, D.C., 1991), p. 4.

The Army's primary air installations were Hickam Field (on the eastern side of the entrance to Pearl Harbor) and Wheeler Field (northwest of Pearl Harbor). American bombers were based at Hickam, while pursuit planes and fighters were at Wheeler Field. The enemy war plan called for both of those airfields to be attacked. Bellows Field, on Oahu's eastern coast, was not a main target of the Japanese. The field had just opened in 1941. Pursuit and light bomber planes used Bellows. That December morning, two pursuit squadrons were sitting at Bellows and Haleiwa Fields where they were to undergo gunnery practice. (Haleiwa was a small training field on the northwestern side of Oahu.) These planes were armed as they sat on the field; they were, in essence, ready to go once fueled and warmed up. According to an Army history of its role in World War II, "Apparently, the Japanese did not plan to attack either of these outlying fields [Bellows and Haleiwa]."¹⁰

On that December 7th morning, Lieutenant George Whiteman was at Bellows Field as a member of his pursuit squadron. The enemy did not appear in the skies over the airfield until around 8:30 a.m. when just one Japanese fighter strafed it. He hit the tent area where one

enlisted airman was wounded. A report written by an AAC lieutenant colonel some three weeks later concluded that the Japanese pilot may have “used up all his ammunition on this one burst because the attack was not repeated.” It could be that after the one enemy strafing, some members of the AAC ground crews fueled a few of the planes. Two pilots prepared to take off. George Whiteman was one of them. But the air raid that morning was not over at Bellows Field. Around 9:00 a.m., nine enemy fighters “came in from the North.” They may have attacked because one of the American B-17s that had left Hamilton Field in California landed at Bellows. If the Japanese identified the B-17 bomber, the fact that it landed at Bellows may explain this second enemy attack on the field. It was over in approximately fifteen minutes. At one point, two AAC pilots attempted to take-off in two P-40 Warhawks to engage enemy aircraft. Japanese machine gun fire killed Lieutenant Hans Christensen before he could get to his plane.¹¹

Lieutenant George Whiteman made it somewhat farther. George had been trained well, like all of the AAC pilots. Hours of flight instruction at Randolph and Kelly Field prepared him. This was his first mission under fire, however, and he attempted it in the chaos of the war’s opening hours. Still, George knew what to do. Like Hans Christensen, he ran toward his plane, armed and fueled up. But unlike Hans, George made it into the plane. He taxied it down the runway and, briefly, became airborne. The December 20, 1941 after-action report, written by Lieutenant Colonel Clyde K. Rich, described what happened next—“Just as he left the ground, he was attacked from the rear by two Japanese and was shot down, crashed and burned...” Rich estimated that George made it “about 200 yards” from “the end of the runway.” According to the Army’s history of the attack, “Material damage at Bellows was slight...” The only deaths were those of Lieutenants Christensen and Whiteman. They were two of the two hundred and forty men who died at AAC installations in the enemy attack at Pearl Harbor. And those two hundred and forty represent about 10% of the 2,403 military deaths--Navy, Marine Corps, and Army--that occurred on December 7, 1941.¹²

*Staff Sergeant Andrew Aloysius Walczynski
(November 2, 1900/1901 – December 7, 1941)*

The Japanese hit Wheeler Field with greater force. The majority of the planes at the airfield were destroyed or sustained considerable damage. And casualties were much higher at Wheeler than at Bellows. One of those who died at Wheeler Field was Staff Sergeant Andrew Walczynski. His name appeared in the updated First Casualty List released by the War Department on Tuesday, December 9th. The list included the thirteen names that some newspapers had printed the day before. With twenty-four more names added to that initial list, newspapers now printed the names of thirty-seven servicemen killed at Pearl Harbor. Again, they all served in the AAC. Their ranks ranged from privates to first lieutenants. The December 9th press release announced that the Navy “had only meager information to date about casualties in Hawaii and that it was carefully checking all names to avoid mistakes.”

Hawaiian Death List Started

War Department Gives Out First Names of Men Lost in Jap Attacks.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9. (AP)—The War Department published the Army's first official casualty list of the war today, making public the names of 37 army officers and men killed in action in the Japanese attack on Hawaii.

Six were commissioned officers, all of the air forces and the others also were Air Corps men.

The names were announced as a partial list of the casualties resulting from Sunday's bombardment of the Island of Oahu, Hawaii, by Japanese air units.

"The adjutant general of the army, in each case, notified the next of kin of the deep regret of the Secretary of War at the death of this soldier in the defense of his country," the War Department said.

The Navy said today it had only meager information to date about casualties in Hawaii and that it was carefully checking all names to avoid mistakes.

Relatives of men will be notified as soon as names and numbers are determined, the Navy said, and later the public will be informed through an official list.

The Army list included:

Second Lieutenant Robert H. Markley. Nearest relative: Arthur H. Markley, father, Mandin, Okla.

Second Lieutenant Jay E. Pietzsch, nearest relative: Otto Pietzsch, father, Amarillo, Tex.

First Lieutenant John S. Greene, nearest relative Mrs. Ida H. Greene, wife, Colfax, Ia.

First Lieutenant Robert M. Rickey, nearest relative: Mrs. Geo. K. Rickey, mother, Wellsburg, W. Va.

Second Lieutenant George A. Whitman, nearest relative: John C. Whitman, (relation not given) Sedalia, Mo.

Second Lieutenant Hans C. Christiansen, nearest relative: Peter C. Christiansen, father, Woodland, Calif.

Private Robert G. Allen, nearest relative: Mrs. Sarah E. Allen, mother, Sims, Ind.

First Sergeant Edward J. Burns, nearest relative: John J. Burns, father, Pittsfield, Mass.

Corporal Robert P. Buss, nearest relative: Robert Buss, father, Elk-

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hart, Ind.

Private First Class Theodore F. Byrd, Jr., nearest relative: Theodore F. Byrd, father, Tampa, Fla.

Private Wilbur S. Carr, nearest relative: John W. Carr, father, Miamisburg, Ohio.

Corporal Malachy J. Cashen, nearest relative: Mrs. Gertrude Cashen, mother, Lamoine, Iowa.

Private Dean W. Covert, nearest relative: Mrs. Mildred Covert, mother, Galesburg, Ill.

Private First Class Eugene L. Chambers, nearest relative: Mrs. Violet Chambers, mother, Apollo, Pa.

Private William C. Creech, nearest relative: Mrs. Martha H. Creech, mother, Cumberland, Ky.

Staff Sergeant Frank J. DePolla, nearest relative: Mrs. Laura C. DePolla, mother, Remora, Pa.

Sergeant James H. Dethick, nearest relative: Paul Dethick, father, Ravenna, Ohio.

Staff Sergeant James Everett, nearest relative: John W. Everett, father, James Springs, N. H.

Private John R. Fletcher, nearest relative: John Fletcher, father, Jocasville, Wis.

Staff Sergeant Joseph F. Good, nearest relative: Mrs. Ellen Good, mother, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Staff Sergeant James E. Guthrie, nearest relative: Claude M. Guthrie, father, Nethall, Va.

Staff Sergeant Joseph C. Herbert, nearest relative: Walter J. Herbert, father, Clear Spring, Md.

Corporal Vincent M. Horan, nearest relative: Timothy Horan, father, Standard, Conn.

Private George G. Leslie, nearest relative: George S. Leslie, father, Arnold, Pa.

Private First Class William H. Nanley, nearest relative: Mrs. Elizabeth J. Nanley, Atlanta, Ga.

Private First Class John G. Mitchell, nearest relative: Mrs. Clara Mitchell, mother, Haldington, Kan.

Private Robert K. Niedzwiecki, nearest relative: Peter P. Niedzwiecki, father, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Donald D. Plant, (no rank shown). Nearest relative: Mrs. Mable Plant, mother, Wauson, Wis.

Staff Sergeant John A. Price, nearest relative: Mrs. Leona Price, mother, McComb, Miss.

Anson E. Robbins (no rank shown). Nearest relative: Kelsey Robbins, brother, Boston, Mass.

Sergeant George R. Schmersal, nearest relative: Mrs. Edith D. Schmersal, mother, Coesna, Long Island, N. Y.

Private First Class Robert L. Schott, nearest relative: Mrs. Hazel C. Schott, mother, Elkhart, Ind.

Robert R. Shattuck, (No rank shown). Nearest relative: Joseph Shattuck, father, Blue River, Wis.

Sergeant Robert O. Sherman, nearest relative: Mrs. Ursula Knack, mother, Middletown, N. Y.

Sergeant Morris Stacey, nearest relative: James H. Stacey, father, Fairmont, W. Va.

Staff Sergeant Andrew A. Walczynski, nearest relative: Mrs. Catherine Walczynski, mother, Duluth, Minn.

Private Luman E. Walker, nearest relative: Mrs. Bessie Walker, Zoulev, Ill.

The above list appeared on the front page of the Tuesday, December 9, 1941 edition of *The Plain Speaker* in Hazelton, Pennsylvania. Andrew Walczynski's name is in the right column, the second to the last name.

Unlike George Whiteman, Andrew Walczynski was an immigrant to the United States. He was also much older than George and most of the names on the First Casualty List. Andrew was born on November 2, 1900/1901 in Poland. He immigrated to the United States with his parents, Jacob and Catherine, along with his siblings, in February 1907. They were bound for Duluth, Minnesota where one of Andrew's older brothers lived. The Walczynskis were part of a tidal wave of immigration to the United States that began around 1890 and continued down to the outbreak of World War I in 1914. In those twenty-four years, more than sixteen and a half million immigrants came to America. (The sixteen million stands in sharp contrast to the number of people who came between 1790 and 1890--about fifteen and a half million over the course of one hundred years.) Some two million of the sixteen million came from Poland. By the time of the 1910 federal census three years after the Walczynskis' arrival, Jacob worked as a laborer in the railroad yards. He still held the position ten years later in the 1920 census. In that document, two of Andrew's older brothers were working, too, one as a barber and another as a bottler for a brewing company.¹³

A few months after the 1920 Federal Census, Andrew graduated from Duluth Cathedral High School. As Catholics, it was important to the Walczynskis that their children attend parochial school. Andrew's senior class yearbook listed his educational track as an "academic" one, not a "commercial" one, a sign that he may have been thinking of college. Interestingly, his only extracurricular activity seems to have been football, which he played throughout his four high school years. His position was that of fullback. Self-described as medium in height and weight, Andrew obviously enjoyed the sport even though it may have been dominated by young men who were physically larger than he was. Exactly what Andrew did immediately after high school graduation is not clear. Apparently, he went to more than one university before he decided in 1930 to enlist in the Army.¹⁴

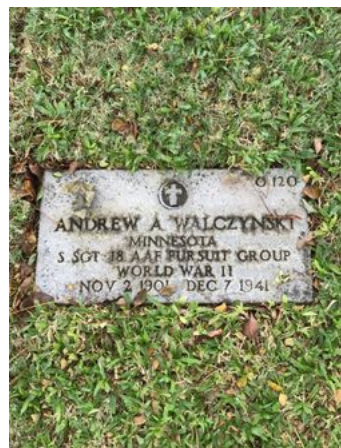


The above is Andrew's senior class picture from his high school yearbook.

*Wheeler Field
December 7, 1941*

By December 1941, Andrew had been a member of the United States Army for eleven years. He had earned the rank of staff sergeant. At the time of his death at age forty-one, Andrew served in the 6th Pursuit Squadron that was part of the 18th Pursuit Group. Wheeler Field was his unit's home base. In the period before the 1941 attack, the squadron focused on flying and gunnery training while also participating in Army-Navy maneuvers. With a field of pursuit planes, Wheeler presented a rich target for the enemy.¹⁵

Enemy dive bombers appeared over Wheeler Field about 8:02 a.m. From an altitude of five hundred to one thousand feet, twenty-five of them dropped an estimated thirty-five bombs, with fifteen weighing between one hundred and six hundred pounds each; the others were smaller, incendiary bombs. Two hangers were destroyed. Another bomb hit the 6th Pursuit Squadron's barracks, Andrew's unit. That bomb came through a second floor window in the barracks; it exploded once inside, resulting in heavy casualties. Many more came from an attack on "a temporary tent city" situated between two hangers. Japanese fighters joined the dive bombers when they saw that the Americans had been caught by surprise, with both enemy bombers and fighters machine gunning the field at "very low altitudes." The AAC pursuit aircraft was parked "in close formation" (wing-to-wing) in front of the hangers, a perfect target for an enemy air attack. (The Command assumed sabotage as the most likely threat to the planes; parking them close together made it easier to guard the planes.) After this initial raid on Wheeler Field, a second one did not occur until just after 9:00 a.m., and it was an enemy machine gun raid. By the time the Japanese planes withdrew, they had destroyed two-thirds of the planes at Wheeler. Thirty-eight enlisted men died that morning. Andrew Walczynski was one of them. A December 18, 1941 Army report on Wheeler Field concluded, "These casualties were suffered mostly by the men sleeping in the tents and those sleeping in the 6th Pursuit Squadron barracks that was hit by a bomb."¹⁶



When a War Department telegram arrived at the Walczynski home in Duluth, Catherine was the only parent still alive. Jacob had died in December 1933. As an eighty-two-year-old widow, she lived with her family, principally with her son, Stanley. Andrew was temporarily interred in Hawaii at the post cemetery in Scofield Barracks, adjacent to Wheeler Field. Catherine died in May 1947, so she did not live long enough to make the arrangements for her son's final resting place. In the years immediately after World War II, the government asked families to choose a permanent cemetery for their loved one's remains, either one of the new national cemeteries or another of their choosing, usually one in their hometown. Andrew's family chose the former. Once the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, commonly known as the Punchbowl, was built after World War II, Andrew was

reinterred there early in 1949. Far from his birthplace in Poland, and far from his American hometown of Duluth, Minnesota, Andrew was surrounded by fellow servicemembers. Some of them, like him, had died in the first hours of America's participation in World War II.¹⁷

On Thursday, December 11th, what the *Oakland Tribune* termed the "First Extensive Casualty List" appeared in the newspaper. The addition of eighty-five more names, all Army officers and enlisted men, brought the total number of men on this casualty list to 122.

Victims of Japanese Bombers

FIRST EXTENSIVE CASUALTY LIST

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10.—(AP)—The names of three more officers and 85 soldiers were added today to the Army's first casualty list of the war.

The list of the dead now has reached 122. They were at Pearl Harbor, where, the White House said Monday, casualties might run to 3000 dead and wounded, almost half of them dead.

Following are the new additions to the death list with the names of the next of kin:

Shields, Private William F., Mr. John Shields, father, Bisbee, Ariz.

Fox, Private Jack W., Mr. John A. Fox, father 3368 1/2 Bagley Avenue, Culver City, California.

Lusk, Private Howard N., Mrs. Ann Reynolds, sister 3616 Platt Avenue, Lynwood, California.

Roberts, Corporal Thomas E., Mrs. Sibyl M. Roberts, mother Box 515, Westminster, California.

SAN FRANCISCO

Vernick, Private Edward F., Mrs. Mary J. Vernick, mother 1100 Gough Street, San Francisco, California.

Sylvester, Sgt. Lewis William Grover, Mrs. Roberta C. Anderson 613 Broadway, Needles, California.

Anderson, Private Garland C., Mrs. Jennie Mae Anderson, mother Omega, Georgia.

Gannam, St. Sergeant George K., Karam G. Gannam, father Savannah, Georgia.

Fairchild, Private Malcolm W., Mrs. Maude Fairchild, mother Chicago.

Schick, 1st Lieutenant William R., Chicago.

Chapman, Private Donal V., Irvin M. Chapman, father Wheeler, Illinois.

Defenbaugh, Private Russell C., Mrs. Pearl Felton, mother Peoria, Illinois.

Garrett, Corporal Robert R., Mrs. Leila M. Garrett, mother Galesburg, Illinois.

Johnson, Private James R., Mrs. Kettie Johnson, mother, Jacksonville, Illinois.

Smith, Private Harry E., Frank H. Smith, father Harvey, Illinois.

INDIANANS

Drisner, Private Joseph R., Mrs. Anna Drisner, mother East Chicago, Indiana.

Ferris, Tech. Sergeant Homer E., Mrs. Walter Morrison, sister Patoka, Indiana.

Kujawa, Private Conrad, John Kujawa, father Hammond, Indiana.

Offutt, Private William H., Mrs. Lillian Binder, mother Coonersville, Indiana.

South, Private Elmer W., Mrs. Amelia E. South, mother Indianapolis, Indiana.

Stultz, Private Julian C., William G. Stultz, father Zionsville, Indiana.

Coyne, Private William Jr., William Coyne Sr., father Kansas City, Kansas.

Dyer, Tech. Sergeant Daniel A. Jr., D. A. Dyer, father Beverly, Kansas.

King, Private Marion E. Jr., Mrs. Rebecca King, mother Route No. 1, Hunter, Kansas.

Narramore, Sergeant Roth J., Mrs. Beatrice Lena Narramore, mother Elmdale, Kansas.

Welles, Private James I., James I. Wells, father General Delivery, Browder, Kentucky.

FROM NORTH, SOUTH

Perry, Private Hal H. Jr., Mrs. Willie Mae Perry, mother General Delivery, Newellton, Louisiana.

Boyle, Private Arthur F., Frank Boyle, father Lowell, Massachusetts.

Brown, Private Robert S., Mrs. Lena Ayers, mother Chatham, Massachusetts.

Flander, Private Stuart H., Mrs. Fanny Masters, grandmother North Quincy, Massachusetts.

Lyons, Private Lawrence P. Jr., Mrs. Leontina Lyons, mother Chelsea, Massachusetts.

Moran, Private George A., Joseph Moran, father Somerville, Massachusetts.

Zappala, Private Joseph S., Charles Zappa, father Rosindale, Massachusetts.

Anderson, Private Manfred C., Carl Anderson, father Hancock, Michigan.

Bennett, Private Gordon R. Jr., Gordon R. Bennett, father, R.F.D. No. 3, Clio, Michigan.

Edwards, Private Lyle O., Ralph Edwards, father Leslie, Michigan.

Reuss, Tech. Sergeant Herman C., Mrs. Marie Reuss, mother Menominee, Michigan.

MAINE, MISSISSIPPI

Staples, Private Merton I., Albert Staples, father Biddleford, Maine.

Jencius, Private Joseph H., Theodore Huard, friend Waterville, Maine.

Bryant, Sergeant William M., Mrs. Josie Bryant, mother Route Number 2, Vicksburg, Mississippi.

Gossard, Private James E., James E. Gossard Sr., father Electric, Mississippi.

Joyner, Private Theodore K., Mrs. Ada Joyner, mother Canton, Mississippi.

Hays, Private Alfred, Mrs. Ruth Hays, mother Kahoka, Missouri.

Avery, Private Robert L., William E. Avery, father R.R. No. 6, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Meyers, Private Victor L., Mrs. Sylvester L. Meyers, mother, Henderson, Nebraska.

Porterfield, Private Charles P., Mrs. Julia C. Porterfield, mother 1621 West Sixth Street, North Platte, Nebraska.

FROM HAMPSHIRE

St. Germain, Private Maurice J., Mrs. Azilda St. Germain, mother Manchester, New Hampshire.

Alois, St. Sergeant Ralph, Robert Alois, father Paterson, New Jersey.

Schleifer, Private Louis, Morris Schleifer, father Newark, New Jersey.

Price, Private George, Ed Price, father Artesia, New Mexico.

Tafoya, Corporal Antonio S., Jesus A. Tafoya, father Route 3, Box 765, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Moser, Private Joseph G., Frank Moser, father Flushing, L.I., New York.

Penny, Private Russell M., Clifford Penny, father Mattituck, L.I., New York.

Cashman, Tech. Sergeant Edward J., John J. Cashman, father New York, New York.

Chagnon, Sergeant Joseph J., Joseph Chagnon, father New York, New York.

Merithew, Private William W., William Merithew Jr., son, Oneonta, New York.

Burlison, Corporal Weldon C., Henry W. Burlison, father Cane River, North Carolina.

CAROLINANS

Westbrook, Private Robert E. Jr., Mrs. Mildred Dement Westbrook, mother Raleigh, North Carolina.

Livingston, Private Richard E., Mrs. Agnes Roberts, mother, Worthington, Ohio.

Messam, Private Horace A., Ernest Messam, father R.F.D. Barberton, Ohio.

Brandt, St. Sergeant Billy O., Ralph A. Brandt, father Coburn, Pennsylvania.

Brubaker, Private Brooks J. Jr., Brooks J. Brubaker Sr., father Altoona, Pennsylvania.

Gummerson, Sergeant Elwood R., Mrs. Flora Gummerson, mother Uniontown, Pennsylvania.

Mosier, 2nd Lieutenant Louis G. Jr., father Monaca, Pennsylvania.

Narehood, Private Charles W., Mrs. Elizabeth Narehood, mother Pine Glen, Pennsylvania.

Smith, Private Ralph S., Harry A. Smith, father Essington, Pennsylvania.

Szematowicz, Private Jerome J., Mrs. Anna Szematowicz, mother Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania.

MORE PENNSYLVANIANS

Walker, Private Ernest M. Jr., Ernest M. Walker Sr., father R. D. No. 1, Shelocta, Pennsylvania.

Zackiewicz, Private Marion H., Ludwig Zackiewicz, father R.F.D. No. 2, Doylestown, Pennsylvania.

Feldman, Private Jack H., Mrs. Reba Feldman, mother Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Lewis, Corporal Theodore J., Mrs. Anna Lewis, mother Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Mattox, Private Harrell K., Mrs. Willie B. Coffey, mother 714 North Kickapoo Street, Shawnee, Oklahoma.

Northway, Private William N., Mrs. Bessie H. Barton, aunt Providence, Rhode Island.

Beasley, Private Leland V., Cyrus C. Beasley, father Route No. 1, Loretto, Tennessee.

Brownlee, Private William J., Ruth I. Brownlee, father 822 Furman Avenue, Corpus Christi, Texas.

Dickerson, Corporal Richard A., Richard L. Dickerson, father 3653 Bishop Street, El Paso, Texas.

MORE TEXANS

Rodriguez, Private Ruperto B., Joe A. Rodriguez, brother 104 Garza Street, Del Rio, Texas.

Sparks, Private J. B., Mrs. Ida Mae English, mother, Dumas, Texas.

Tennison, Private Anderson G., Mrs. Bessie Tennison, mother Canadian, Texas.

Anderson, Private William T., Herbert C. Anderson, father, R.F.D., Quantico, Virginia.

Morris, Corporal Emmett E., Charles Morris, father, Charlottesville, Virginia.

Needham, Corporal Laverne J., Mrs. Lottie I. Needham, mother 422 North Seventh Street, Walla Walla, Washington.

Elyard, St. Sergeant Harold C., Mrs. Lona Conway, mother Coke-ton, West Virginia.

Holloway, Private John P., Dan Holloway, father R.F.D. 6, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

McLaughlin, Private Herbert E., Mrs. Mary Ann McLaughlin, mother Shawano, Wisconsin.

Philipsky, Private first class Thomas F., John Philipsky, father R.F.D. No. 1, Box 169, Horicon, Wisconsin.

Hoyt, Private Clarence E., Air Corps, Liberty, N.Y., at Hickam Field, December 7.

Powell, Tech. Sergeant Raymond E., Lynchburg, Virginia.

According to a United Press (UP) release that accompanied this new list, the Navy now had an initial casualty list. As explained in the UP story, “The [Navy] list was flown from Hawaii to San Francisco by Pan American Clipper.” None of those names would be released by the War Department to the general public until the next of kin had been notified.¹⁸

In the above list from the *Oakland Tribune*, note the name “Szematowicz, Private Jerome J.” in the third column, above the phrase “More Pennsylvanians.”

Jerome J. Szematowicz
(March 30, 1920 – December 7, 1941)

One of the War Department’s telegrams was delivered to the home of Mrs. Anna Szematowicz in Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania. Widowed since 1936, she and her husband, John, immigrated to the United States separately in the early years of the twentieth century. In 1930, when their son Jerome was in elementary school, 12.8% of Pennsylvania’s population had been born in another country or had parents who had been born outside of the United States. These new Americans had emigrated from over thirty countries, with slightly more than half of them from Italy, Poland, Germany, and Czechoslovakia. Jobs in industrial cities such as Pittsburgh in southwestern Pennsylvania, with its steel mills, and Scranton in the northeast, with its coal mining areas, attracted them. John Szematowicz found employment in the coal mines around Mahanoy City, approximately fifty-seven miles southwest of Scranton. Mining had begun in Mahanoy City in 1863. In the late 1930s, the creek bed for Mahanoy Creek was black from the silt that flowed into it from mines in the area.¹⁹

John and Anna met and married in Mahanoy City, where Anna gave birth to nine children, three sons and six daughters. While the mines were a source of employment for John and others in the Polish community, they may also have caused John’s death. The family history, preserved in part by Jerome’s great-niece, Laura Harris Veit, attributes his passing to black lung disease. When John died in 1936, the United States was in the middle of the Great Depression. Millions of families struggled in those “hard times.” But Anna’s children and the Polish American community, especially the church, would have been there for her. In the Szematowicz household, unmarried children worked and brought home their earnings. Anna took in boarders at one point. Through all of these years, Anna’s faith must have been central to her life. In Mahanoy City, the Szematowicz family belonged to St. Casimir’s Polish Roman Catholic Church. They attended mass regularly, John and Anna baptized their children in the church, and the couple, according to Jerome’s great-niece, sent their children to St. Casimir’s grammar school. In the story Harris Veit wrote on Jerome, she tells us that the Szematowicz children learned to speak English at the school since Polish was the dominant language in the home of their immigrant parents.²⁰

After elementary school, Jerome continued his education at Mahanoy City High School. That fact alone indicates the value his parents placed on education at a time when children from the working class usually did not attend or graduate from high school. At the same time, Jerome seemed to be gifted when it came to science. His great-niece writes that he excelled in

science classes, along with ones in math. Jerome became fascinated with radio, a new form of communication that came of age in the 1920s. He built more than one of them. Aviation, another area of growth in the 1920s, also attracted his interest. In his high school years, not surprisingly, Jerome became active in an aviation club. This was not unusual for those born in the 1920s. In that decade, pilots known as “barnstormers” flew surplus planes from the Great War. In rural areas, they took off and landed in fields or pastures, offering rides to local residents. Later in the decade, aviator Charles A. Lindbergh became a national hero in 1927 for flying the first nonstop, transatlantic flight between New York City and Paris. In the 1920s, Americans used the phrase “the winged gospel” to describe the reverence they held for those who seemed to defy gravity. In the words of one historian, “aviation was more than merely a technology.” It was “a secular religion.” People of all ages, it was said in the early twentieth century, became “airminded.” In Mahanoy City, Jerome joined the Mahanoy City Air Corps, a club where members flew model planes. Jerome even participated in local, model airplane flying contests. At his June 1938 graduation ceremony, he received a science award.²¹



Members of the Mahanoy City Air Corps in front of 338 West Mahanoy Street . From left to right are: Jerome Szematowicz, Chester Moncavage, John Sedlock, and Mike Moran. This photo was taken shortly before Jerome's enlistment in the Army Air Corps. Jerome lived at 401 West Mahanoy.



(The above two photographs are taken from Laura Harris Veit's story on Jerome. The story, in its entirety, is at mahanoyhistory.org/szematowicz.)

Eleven months later, on May 16, 1939, Jerome enlisted in the Army. It placed him in the AAC. That branch of the Army was seen as an elite group. No foxholes for those soldiers. Whether in the air or part of ground support, enlistees with a high school degree proved to be attractive candidates for the AAC. The fact that Jerome excelled in science only added to the potential the AAC would have seen in him. The Army initially sent Jerome to Chanute Field in Illinois, where it trained men in the repair and maintenance of aircraft. From there, Jerome left for a six-month course in aeronautics at a New York school, graduating as a mechanic. He then returned to Chanute Field. In May 1940, one year after his enlistment, Jerome received orders for Hawaii. His arrival coincided with President Franklin D. Roosevelt's decision to transfer the Pacific Fleet to Pearl Harbor in light of increasing tensions with Japan. The Command assigned Jerome to the 22nd Material Squadron, 17th Air Base Group at Hickam Field.²²

Jerome wrote home to family and friends. In the days after Pearl Harbor, the Mahanoy City newspaper published some of the letters he sent to the latter group. Two of them spoke to Jerome's love of radio and model planes. In a September 24, 1941 letter to Larry Kaczmarczyk,

described by the newspaper as a “local amateur radio operator,” Jerome shared a project he was working on. While another reader may not have understood what Jerome was describing, Larry did. “I have just finished constructing an oscillator for practicing code. The tube used is a Type ’30, and the note is very nice sounding.” Knowing that Larry broadcast on his radio, Jerome posed a question to him—“say, Larry, what time do you usually go on the 20 & 80? Maybe I can pick you up. I’ll be looking around for you.” From these last few lines, one imagines Jerome perhaps turning the radio dial to the left, then to the right, as he tried to receive Larry’s broadcast signal.²³

A month later, on October 21st, Jerome wrote his “Aero Pal Mike,” no doubt a member of the Mahanoy model plane club. The letter tells us how Jerome spent some of his Army pay, namely, pursuing his interest in radio. “Recently I bought a Hallicrafter Sky Champion Receiver. It is 9 tube 4 band Amateur Communications Receiver. Last night I heard KSAL in Salt Lake City and KNX in Hollywood on the standard broadcast band.” Jerome also mentioned to Mike that someone he knew, probably another soldier, “has a six foot Taylor craft. He intends to have it radio controlled.” Jerome’s last line in his letter to Mike repeated a phrase seen on posters back in the States, especially in factories producing aircraft parts or the planes themselves--“Keep ‘Em Flyin.’ ” Jerome did just that in his job at Hickam Field. “I’m doing mechanics work on engines,” he explained to Mike. “I have been rerated and this time [I] am Air Mechanic First Class, besides that I’m still pfc [private first class]. That means a little more money, eh?” Jerome probably spent his pay raise looking at, if not buying, more radio parts.²⁴

*Hickam Field
December 7, 1941*

The first Japanese planes appeared over Hickam Field around 7:55 a.m., but they did not linger. The torpedo planes headed to nearby Pearl Harbor to bomb the Pacific Fleet. “Almost immediately,” however, enemy dive bombers descended over Hickam. They dropped their loads and strafed installations on the airbase. The attack lasted about ten minutes. A second attack, that began around 8:25 a.m., consisted of more dive bombers and some high-altitude bombers. The third and last raid on the airfield took place around 9:00 a.m. Fire consumed three of the five hangars at Hickam. Other installations, especially the barracks, were extensively damaged. The enemy destroyed over half of the AAC aircraft, parked wing-to-wing as at Wheeler. Hickam suffered heavy casualties, many from servicemen who sought cover in the hangars after the first attack, only to have the hangars hit on the next two enemy runs over the field. The 3,200-man barracks, at that time the biggest barracks in the AAC, suffered a direct hit; thirty-five airmen eating breakfast in “the chow hall” located in the building’s center died. In total, one hundred and twenty-one men, including Jerome, lost their lives in the enemy assault on Hickam Field.²⁵

*Jerome’s mother, Anna,
and his brother, Stanley*

Anna Szematowicz received the War Department telegram, informing her of Jerome’s death, on the morning of Wednesday, December 10th. Two sons and two daughters still lived at

home. Their local church, St. Casimir's, celebrated a requiem mass for Jerome on the 15th. Relatives and friends, probably classmates from Jerome's years at St. Casimir's grammar school and Mahanoy's high school, attended. During the war years, a family could hang in its window a service flag, with a blue star designating a relative in the military. The blue star became a gold one if the relative was killed in the war. A mother who lost a son or daughter who served in uniform became a Gold Star Mother. Unfortunately, Anna qualified twice for that title.²⁶



Her son, Stanley, was one of the children at home the day the December 10, 1941 telegram arrived that informed Anna of Jerome's death. At age twenty-eight, Stanley worked in a coal mine, as had his father before him. Stanley joined the Army on a date he purposely chose-- December 7, 1942, the one-year anniversary of the attack at Pearl Harbor where his brother died. Late in November 1943, Stanley's unit, Company G of the 135th Infantry, shipped out to Europe where he fought in Italy. In July 1943, Anna received a telegram informing her that Stanley had been "slightly wounded." Some months later, the War Department sent another telegram to Anna. This one mirrored the one she had opened on December 10, 1941. It, however, was about Stanley. On September 14th, Sergeant Szematowicz had been killed in action in Italy. After World War II ended, recall that the government asked families of those who died overseas if they wanted their loved one to be reinterred in a new national cemetery or if the remains should be shipped home. Anna chose the latter for both of her sons. They returned to Mahanoy City in 1949. Anna herself lived until 1954. At age sixty-three, she joined her husband in their family plot in St. Casimir's parish cemetery, with Jerome's grave on one side of her and Stanley's on the other side.²⁷



Another "Twice a Gold Star Mother"

The parents of George Whiteman, killed at Bellows Field, also decided they wanted his remains returned home. He arrived in Sedalia, Missouri in October 1947. George is buried in the city's Memorial Park Cemetery.²⁸



Marshall Whiteman, George's brother, was too young to serve in World War II. Born on December 31, 1933, he came of age during the Korean War. (From 1950-1953, United States forces fought with the South Korean military to repel an invasion of the South by Communist North Korea.) Marshall enlisted in the Marine Corps in January 1952. As part of the 1st Marine Division, his unit was shipped out to Korea. There, Marshall was killed in action on April 9, 1953 in the Battle of Bunker Hill. He had only been in South Korea for a few weeks. Another brother, also a Marine, accompanied Marshall's body home. Marshall is buried next to George in Sedalia's Memorial Park Cemetery. Their mother, Earlie, lived until 1972.²⁹

No More Casualty Lists

On Friday, December 12, 1941, Washington, D.C. added eleven more names to what the Associated Press still called "the first American casualty list of the war." That, however, would be the last War Department list released with the names of servicemen who died at Pearl Harbor. (Families would continue to be notified, of course, if their next-of-kin was killed or wounded.) By the middle of December, the government announced the total number of casualties, well over two thousand, for those killed and wounded in the Pearl Harbor attack. But there would be no more names added to the initial casualty list that had been printed in newspapers beginning Monday, December 8th through Friday, December 12th. Both the Navy and President Roosevelt made that announcement on the 12th. The government felt such facts could furnish the enemy with military information. Perhaps, too, the government understood something else--there is a difference between reading statistics and reading names. Names of individual servicemen, along with their hometowns, personalized casualty figures. One could argue that reading them impacted Americans more than any number ever could.³⁰

¹ "First War Deaths," *News-Pilot*, December 8, 1941, p. 8; "First American Casualty List," *The Evening Sun*, December 8, 1941, p. 4; "U.S. Casualties," *The Sun*, December 8, 1941, p. 1; "First Casualty List in War With Japan," *Evening Star*, December 8, 1941, p. 2.

² *The Kansas City Star*, December 9, 1941, p. 6 (picture and caption only).

³ "Sedalia Pilot Dies In Raid," *Sedalia Weekly Democrat*, December 12, 1941, p. 2; "Sedalia Officer Killed In Action At Pearl Harbor," *The St. Louis Star and Times*, December 8, 1941, p. 3.

⁴ "Sedalia Pilot Dies In Raid," *Sedalia Weekly Democrat*, December 12, 1941, p. 2; on Lieutenant General Walter C. Short and Shafter's location, see Stetson Conn, Rose C. Engelman, and Byron Fairchild, *United States Army in World War II, Guarding the United States and Its Outposts* (Washington, D.C., 1964), pp. 152, 163.

⁵ The wording of the telegram is in "Sympathy On Flier's Death," *The Sedalia Democrat*, December 9, 1941, p. 1.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ "Mrs. Whiteman dies; mother of Eldon resident," *Eldon Advertiser*, January 6, 1972, p. 5; John Whiteman, 1920 U.S. Federal Census; John Casey Whiteman, U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918; John C Whiteman, 1940 U.S. Federal Census (all documents from ancestry.com; accessed October 25, 2023).

⁸ "Sedalia Pilot Dies In Raid," *Sedalia Weekly Democrat*, December 12, 1941, p. 2; the Missouri School of Mines in Rolla evolved into today's Missouri University of Science and Technology, still in Rolla; "First Training Center Grad Meets Death in Opening Battle," *The Daily Standard* (Sikeston, Missouri), December 26, 1941, p. 9; novatohistory.org/timeline-hamilton-field/ (accessed October 26, 2023). Whiteman's 1939 enlistment date is taken from "Funeral of Lt. Whiteman," *The Sedalia Democrat*, October 30, 1947, p. 4 but the U.S. government's "Application For Headstone Or Marker" form, filled out when his remains were returned home in 1947, shows his

enlistment as “Sometime in Aug 1940” (George Allison Whiteman, U.S. Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1861-1985; ancestry.com; accessed October 20, 2023).

⁹ Conn, Engelman, and Fairchild, *Guarding the United States*, pp. 187-188.

¹⁰ Ibid., pp. 152, 170, 190.

¹¹ Memorandum dated December 20, 1941, by AAC Lt. Colonel Clyde K. Rich to Colonel Raley (aviation.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Attack-at-Bellows-Field; accessed October 24, 2023); Conn, Engelman, and Fairchild, *Guarding the United States*, p. 190. The aircraft Christensen and Whiteman ran to, P-40 Warhawks, is identified in *Brief Summary of the 7 December 1941 Japanese Attack on Air Force Installations in Hawaii* by 15th Air Base Wing Historian L.R. Arakaki, July 8, 1991 (aviation.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Brief-Summary-of-the-7-Dec-1941-Japanese-Attack-on-Air-Force-installations-in-Hawaii; accessed October 23, 2023).

¹² Memorandum dated December 20, 1941, by AAC Lt. Colonel Clyde K. Rich to Colonel Raley (aviation.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Attack-at-Bellows-Field; accessed October 24, 2023); Conn, Engelman, and Fairchild, *Guarding the United States*, p. 190. *Brief Summary of the 7 December 1941 Japanese Attack on Air Force Installations in Hawaii* by 15th Air Base Wing Historian L.R. Arakaki, July 8, 1991 (aviation.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Brief-Summary-of-the-7-Dec-1941-Japanese-Attack-on-Air-Force-installations-in-Hawaii; accessed October 23, 2023) for the 240 number of those who died at “Army Air Forces installations.” For the 2,403 number of deaths suffered by the U.S. military in the Pearl Harbor attack, see the National WW II Museum’s Pearl Harbor Fact Sheet at census.gov/history/pdf/pearl-harbor-fact-sheet-1 (accessed October 23, 2023).

¹³ Andrzej Walczynski, New York, U.S. Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists..., 1820-1957 gives Andrew’s age as seven and the family’s destination as Duluth, specifically at the home of his brother. While Andrew’s grave marker gives his birth date as November 2, 1901 (SSgt Andrew A Walczynski, U.S., Find a Grave Index, 1600s-Current), he wrote it as November 2, 1900 when he registered for the World War I draft (Andrew Aloysius Walczynski, U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918). Since Andrew himself entered the year “1900” for his birth on the draft registration form, it might be the correct one. United States immigration statistics are taken from Leonard Dinnerstein, *Anti-Semitism in America* (New York, 1994), p. 58. The two million Poles who immigrated to the United States is from John J. Bukowczyk, *And My Children Did Not Know Me, A History of the Polish-Americans* (Bloomington, 1987), p. 15. Jacob Walchinski [sic], 1910 U.S. Federal Census and Jacob Walczynski, 1920 U.S. Federal Census (all documents accessed on ancestry.com, October 27, 2023).

¹⁴ Andrew Walczynski, U.S. School Yearbooks, 1900, 2016 (ancestry.com); Andrew Aloysius Walczynski, U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918 has his physical description, which he himself entered. Andrew Aloysius Walczynski, honorstates.org/index.php?id=366030 (accessed October 11, 2023).

¹⁵ armyaircorpsmuseum.org/18th_Fighter_Group.cfm (accessed October 29, 2023); *Brief Summary of the 7 December 1941 Japanese Attack on Air Force Installations in Hawaii* by 15th Air Base Wing Historian L.R. Arakaki, July 8, 1991 (aviation.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Brief-Summary-of-the-7-Dec-1941-Japanese-Attack-on-Air-Force-installations-in-Hawaii; accessed October 23, 2023).

¹⁶ H. C. Davidson, Brigadier General, AAC, Headquarters Hawaiian Interceptor Command, to Commanding General, Hawaiian Air Force, December 18, 1941 (aviation.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Report-of-Enemy-Activity-December-7-1941; accessed October 27, 2023); the quote on the tent city is taken from *Brief Summary of the 7 December 1941 Japanese Attack on Air Force Installations in Hawaii* by 15th Air Base Wing Historian L.R. Arakaki, July 8, 1991 (aviation.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Brief-Summary-of-the-7-Dec-1941-Japanese-Attack-on-Air-Force-installations-in-Hawaii; accessed October 23, 2023). Conn, Engelman, and Fairchild, *Guarding the United States*, p. 189 is the source of the quote “at very low altitudes.” The thirty-eight deaths at Wheeler is in the above December 18th report by General Davidson and at nps.gov/articles/wheeler-filed (accessed October 30, 2023).

¹⁷ Jacob Casper Walczynski, U.S. Death Index, 1908-2017; Katherine [sic] Walczynski, 1940 U.S. Federal Census; Andrew A. Walczynski, U.S. National Interment Control Forms, 1928-1962; all documents from ancestry.com; accessed October 24, 2023. On Catherine’s death, “Deaths,” *Star Tribune* (Minneapolis, Minnesota), May 30, 1947, p. 13.

¹⁸ “Army Lists Dead; 112 Men, Nine Officers,” *The St. Louis Star and Times*, December 11, 1941, p. 2.

¹⁹ “John Szematowicz Dies Sunday Morning,” *The Record American*, January 27, 1936; p. 1; Jerome’s great-niece, Laura Harris Veit, wrote an exceptional story on her grandmother’s brother where she shared family history, one

piece of which is the fact that Jerome's parents immigrated separately and met in Mahanoy City (mahanoyhistory.org/szematowicz). For various years on exactly when Jerome's parents immigrated, see just three U.S. Federal Census records (Jan Szematowicz in 1910, John Izimutowicz in 1920, and Anna Izimutowicz in 1920; while their last name is misspelled, these are Jerome's parents). The statistics for Pennsylvania are from the Writers' Program of the Work Projects Administration in the State of Pennsylvania, *Pennsylvania, A Guide to the Keystone State* (New York, 1940; 1950 edition), pp. 59, 76 (hereafter cited as WPA, *Pennsylvania*); the history of Mahanoy City is also from the WPA volume, p. 539. The 1930 U.S. Federal Census identifies the nine children (John Shewatavage, again, with the surname misspelled). (All census documents on ancestry.co; accessed October 15, 2023.)

²⁰ Laura Harris Veit, "December 7, 1941: One Man's Place," 2001, on her uncle, PFC Jerome Szematowicz, mahanoyhistory.org/szematowicz.

²¹ Veit, "December 7, 1941." Joseph J. Vorn, *The Winged Gospel, America's Romance with Aviation* (New York, 1983; 2001 edition), pp. x, 114-116, 150. "Local Boy Is Killed In Hawaii Raid," *The Record American*, December 10, 1941, p. 1.

²² On Chanute Field, see illinois.gov/news/press-release.5249. (accessed October 22, 2023); "Local Boy Is Killed In Hawaii Raid," *The Record American*, December 10, 1941, p. 1; afrc.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/1715421/from-pearl-harbor-attack-to-tradition-of-service/ puts the 22nd Material Squadron, which Jerome mentioned in letters home, with the 17th Air Base Group at Hickam Field (accessed October 23, 2023).

²³ "Soldier Szematowicz Wrote About His Life In The Army," *The Record American*, December 11, 1941, p. 9.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Conn, Engelman, and Fairchild, *Guarding the United States*, p. 189 is the source of the quote "almost immediately." The quote on "the chow hall" is taken from *Brief Summary of the 7 December 1941 Japanese Attack on Air Force Installations in Hawaii* by 15th Air Base Wing Historian L.R. Arakaki, July 8, 1991 (aviation.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Brief-Summary-of-the-7-Dec-1941-Japanese-Attack-on-Air-Force-installations-in-Hawaii; accessed October 23, 2023). The 121 total deaths at Hickam Field is from [nps.gov>articles>hickam-field](http://nps.gov/articles/hickam-field) (accessed November 5, 2023); from this same source, 274 were wounded, and 37 missing.

²⁶ "Local Boy Is Killed In Hawaii Raid," *The Record American*, December 10, 1941, p. 1; "Requiem Mass On Monday For Pvt. Szematowicz," *The Record American*, December 13, 1941, p. 10.

²⁷ "Local Boy Is Killed In Hawaii Raid," *The Record American*, December 10, 1941, p. 1; Stanley J. Szematowicz, in Pennsylvania, U.S. Veterans Compensation Application Files, WWII, 1950-1966 (ancestry.com; accessed October 14, 2023); "Gold Star Mother Learns Her Second Son Is Wounded," *The Record American*, July 21, 1944, p. 3; "Award, Letters Are Received By Mrs. Szematowicz," *The Record American*, November 22, 1944, p. 2; "Mother Who Lost Two Sons In War Is Dead," *Pottsville Republican* (Pottsville, Pennsylvania), May 26, 1954, p. 30.

²⁸ "Funeral of Lt. Whiteman," *The Sedalia Democrat*, October 30, 1947, p. 4; George Allison Whiteman, U.S. Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1861-1985 (ancestry.com; accessed October 20, 2023).

²⁹ "Whiteman's Body Returned From Korea," *Sedalia Weekly Democrat*, June 11, 1953, p. 4; "Mrs. Whiteman dies; mother of Eldon resident," *Eldon Advertiser*, January 6, 1972, p. 5.

³⁰ "More Casualties Announced By U.S.," *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, December 12, 1941, p. 3; "Navy Casualty Lists Not To Be Made Public In Future," *The La Crosse Tribune*, December 12, 1941, p. 2; "Press Denied Army, Navy Casualty Lists," *Arizona Republic*, December 13, 1941, p. 9; "Roosevelt To Conduct Inquiry Into Knox's Charges Of Laxity," *The Daily Journal* (Vineland, New Jersey), December 16, 1941. The casualty numbers given out for this last December 16th story were not correct.