

# Lieutenant Wayne Hildreth Jr. Killed In Plane Crash, First Rhodes Casualty Of Second World War

## Hildreth Services To Be Held Thursday

Rhodes (Special) 1942  
Military funeral services for Lieut. Wayne Hildreth, Jr., first Rhodes soldier to lose his life in World War II, will be held Thursday afternoon at the Methodist church here in charge of Rev. Lloyd L. Holm of Belmond, a former Rhodes pastor. Burial with military honors will follow in the Eden cemetery.

Lieutenant Hildreth, an army flier, was killed in the crash of his pursuit plane last Friday near Muroc, Calif., when the motor failed and the ship went into a tail spin. His body was cremated and the ashes will arrive in Des Moines at 10:10 Wednesday night and be taken overland to Rhodes. A prayer service will be held at the home here at 1:30 Thursday afternoon and the funeral at the church will be at 2 o'clock.

The Rhodes soldier was the eldest son of a man who saw action in France in the first world war. Wayne Hildreth, Sr., enlisted in the conflict at the age of 19, May 20, 1917, and was trained at Fort Miley, Calif. He became chief gunner of the 23rd battalion, First Anti-aircraft sector, A. E. F., and served on the western front from April 15 to Nov. 11, 1918. He served in the battle of the Marne, St. Mihiel drive and the Argonne drive and was mustered out at Camp Dodge March 25, 1919.

A pall of gloom has hung over our community since word was received Friday of the death of Wayne Hildreth Jr. The message received here last Friday evening came from the officials of Muroc air base. The accident occurred Friday morning when Wayne was piloting a fighter plane on a route flight. When the motor died the plane went into a tailspin and crashed about five miles from Muroc. Wayne was dead when picked up.

He was the first of our boys to receive a commission. This was awarded on Sept. 29 in Phoenix, Ariz. His primary training was completed in Rankin aeronautical academy, Tulare, Calif., May 29. Secondary training was received in Lamore, Calif., after which he was commissioned a second lieutenant. In October he was transferred to Muroc, Calif. As he was first to earn a commission so he was first to give his life in his country's time of peril. He had been gone from home just nine months when the tragedy took place.

### Born In Rhodes

He was born in Rhodes July 11, 1920, was graduated from Rhodes high school in 1937 and later attended business college in Des Moines. Besides his parents, he is survived by a brother, William Charles, 20, who has enlisted in the air force and will begin his training in the C. P. T. class in Marshalltown, and his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Hildreth, of Rhodes, and Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Shaffer, of Wyoming. A sister, Jean, preceded him in death.

Wayne was a member of the Rhodes Methodist church and the Elks lodge at Marshalltown.

His life cut off at the verge of manhood, his memory will remain to us a symbol of sacrifice. Going from home as a care-free boy he assumed the responsibility his work entailed. He well understood the grim reality of war and the seriousness of his work. Although his life span was brief—he gave his all—and he will be among those who gave “the last full measure of devotion.”

### Funeral Yesterday

Military services were held yesterday (Thursday) afternoon at the Methodist church, in charge of the Rev. Lloyd L. Holm, of Belmond, pastor here last year. Burial with military honors was at Eden cemetery. A prayer service was held at the home at 1:30 and services at the church were held at 2:00 o'clock.

### Father World War Veteran

The soldier's father saw action in France in the first World war. Wayne Hildreth Sr. enlisted in the conflict at the age of 19, May 20, 1917, and was trained at Fort Miley, Calif. He became chief gunner of the 23rd battalion, first anti-aircraft sector, A. E. F. and served on the western front from April 15 to Nov. 11, 1918. He served in the battle of the Marne, St. Mihiel drive and the Argonne drive and was mustered out at Camp Dodge March 25, 1919.