



## *Ernest Peter Ferman, Jr.*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.      born: July, 1922 - Ames, Oklahoma*

*Inducted:    Joined the Army Air Force July 28, 1942, called to action  
February 4, 1943*

*Trained:    Lubbock, Texas  
Liberal, Kansas,  
Casper, Wyoming  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
Topeka, Kansas*

*Campaigns: B-24 bomber pilot - Europe*

*Honors:*

*Discharged:*

*Deceased:    July 24, 1944 - killed off the southern coast of France, July, 1944*

Submitted by Gula R. Stough Jerman Adams

Pete was the son of Eva A. and Ernest Peter Jerman, Sr. He graduated from BCHS in 1939 and attended Western State for one year. Then the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and this meant the U.S. was at war with Japan.

Pete joined the Air Force July 28, 1942 and was called to active duty February 4, 1943. He received his wings as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant at Lubbock, Texas on December 2, 1943.

Pete and Gula R. Stough were married in the First United Methodist Church in Las Animas, Colorado on December 12, 1943.

His first training assignment was at Liberal, Kansas, flying the B-24 Liberator Bomber. Other extended training was Casper, Wyoming, Salt Lake City, Utah, and Topeka, Kansas. From this assignment he was sent overseas to a base at Bari, Italy with the 15<sup>th</sup> Air Force, 459<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group, 759<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron.

Pete was on a mission over Southern France when a German fighter plane hit his plane and he went down over the Mediterranean Sea. The bombers didn't have protection from U. S. fighter planes. He was missing in action for several months. On August 9, 1945 his body was found.

He was buried in a local cemetery. Later he was reburied in a military cemetery. After the war, he was brought back to the U.S. for burial in the Las Animas Cemetery.

Submitted by Ron Jerman:

My brother Pete and Jack Quinn were exactly the same age and they began first grade together at Rixey School. They both skipped the fourth grade at Rixey and graduated together from BCHS in 1939 at age 16. Shortly after Pearl Harbor, they both took the examination for aviation cadet training with the Army Air Corps and were accepted. In February 1943, they were called up together and sent to Randolph Field in San Antonio for pilot training. At that point their training paths were separated, with Jack ending up as a P-51 fighter pilot in China and my brother going to Europe as the pilot of a B-24 bomber. Prior to their overseas departure, Pete and Gula Stough were married in the Las Animas Methodist Church, with Jack serving as best man.

Shortly after their initiation into the fighting, both Pete and Jack were shot down by enemy fire, on approximately the same date in July 1944. While Pete and his entire crew were killed by an attack of German fighters off the Southern coast of France. Jack's plane was hit by Japanese ground-fire over occupied China and he was forced to bail out. His parachute caught in a tree as he came down, breaking a shoulder bone and doing other damage. Fortunately, he was discovered by Chinese patriots who were able to conceal him and transport him to a safe area. After spending several weeks recovering in a remote Chinese hospital, he was able to get word to his unit and a small Stearman aircraft was sent to return him to his base. On the way to the base, the Stearman crashed into the side of the mountain with the pilot and Jack both sustaining minor injury. They were both picked up and made the rest of the journey back without further problem.