



Gratto M. "Jack" Rosazza

(This picture taken September 1944 on West Broadway, Hopewell)

Gratto M. "Jack" Rosazza

Born June 6, 1918

Killed in Action December 9, 1944

Jack Rosazza was born in Bedford, Virginia to Karl McCorkle and Mazzie Wilkes Rosazza. In the mid-1920s the Rosazza family moved to Hopewell, Virginia. They lived on 8th Avenue at that time and attended First Christian Church on 11th Avenue.

Jack married Dorothy "Dot" Kirby on November 13, 1938. Their only child, Karl Kirby Rosazza was born in 1940 just as World War II was starting. They lived in the Roselawn area of Prince George, west of Hopewell on Dinwiddie Avenue. In 1944, Jack was working at the Hummel-Ross Corporation paper mill as a crane operator when he was drafted and assigned to the 3rd Army, 26th Division, 328th Infantry.

Because military pay was lower than most could earn in civilian life, many of the wives got jobs when their husbands went in the service. Under a government program, spouses of servicemen were given priority for jobs. Jack's wife, Dot, applied for and got a job at Camp Lee as a military chauffeur soon after Jack was inducted. Dot continued working as a chauffeur after Jack was killed. She eventually remarried, having two more children.



Dot Rosazza working as a military chauffeur at Camp Lee in June 1944 before Jack was killed.

Jack's family provided the information included for this memorial document, including Jack's service record as follows:

April 1944: Inducted at Ft. Meade, MD

May 1944: Began Basic Training at Camp Blanding, FL

September 1944: Completed training at Camp Blanding, FL. Visited family in Hopewell for 10 days on the way to Ft. Meade, MD.

October 6, 1944: Arrived at Ft Meade, MD

November 1944: Shipped out from Camp Shanks, NY to Europe

November 6, 1944: Arrived in Normandy, France

December 7, 1944: Reported Missing In Action, Kirviller France

December 9, 1944: Confirmed Killed In Action, Kirviller France

December 1944: Interred US Military Cemetery, Hochfelden, France (about 12 miles northwest of Strasbourg France)

March 1949: US Army Transport "Haiti Victory" transported remains to the USA

April 30, 1949: Remains arrive in Petersburg, VA

May 1949: Burial in Appomattox Cemetery, Hopewell, VA

October 1983: Reburial with family members in Merchant's Hope Memorial Park, Prince George, VA

Jack had two cousins from Bedford that were killed in the D-Day invasion, Weldon Rosazza and John Wilkes, part of the "Bedford Boys" unit. In November 1944, Jack wrote to his family that he found Weldon's grave. Although Jack could not tell the family where he was because of censorship, they knew that Weldon was buried at Normandy, so they knew Jack was at Normandy at that time.

Soon after Jack's death, a member of Jack's unit provided the family with the pictures included below of the Hochfelden US Military Cemetery where Jack was buried before his remains were returned to Virginia.



Above and Below: Hochfelden, France US Military Cemetery





Above: Men erecting a cross at Jack's grave to replace the simple board marker.



Above: Jack's grave with cross erected.

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Jack Rosazza Is Reported As Missing

Serving In Gen. Patton's 3rd Army With Infantry

Private G. M. (Jack) Rosazza, 26-year-old Hopewell infantryman, who entered the Army last April

His wife, the former Miss Dorothy Kirby, who lives in Rose-lawn, received a telegram from the War Department a week ago last night, December 21. It gave no details but said any information received would be forwarded to her.

Only that morning, Mr. and Mrs. K. M. Rosazza of 412 North 8th Avenue, parents of the missing soldier, received their first letter since he landed in France. His wife had gotten several letters but this was the first to come to them. They got another letter on Tuesday of this week, dated November 27.

In Third Army

Private Rosazza is with General Patton's Third Army, a member of the 328th Infantry, 26th Division.

He was inducted at Fort Meade last May and sent to Camp Blanding, Fla., for his basic training. After completing his basic, he was returned to Fort Meade and given a 10-day delay en route to visit his family. After a week or two at Meade, the Hopewell man was sent overseas, presumably directly to France. This was the last of October.

Private Rosazza attended Hopewell High School and was employed at Hummel-Rose Fibre Corporation for eight years as a crane operator and welder.

Besides his parents and wife, he has a four-year-old son, Carl Kirby Rosazza, and one sister, Mrs. Margaret Smith, who works in the office at Short & Thompson.

Jack Rosazza Was Killed In Action, Dec. 9 Infantryman With Third Army In France

Private G. M. (Jack) Rosazza, who was reported missing in action in France since December 7, was killed on December 9, according to a telegram from the War Department to his wife, Mrs. Dorothy Kirby Rosazza, last night.

The first telegram came December 21 but gave no details other than he had been missing since Pearl Harbor Day.

Private Rosazza, aged 26, was with General Patton's Third Army, a member of the 328th Infantry, 26th Division. He entered the Army last April and was sent overseas the latter part of October.

He attended Hopewell High School and was employed at Hummel-Rose for eight years as a crane operator and welder.

In addition to his wife, who lives in Roselawn, the soldier is survived by a four-year-old son, Carl Kirby Rosazza; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. K. M. Rosazza, of 412 North 8th Avenue, and one sister, Mrs. Margaret Smith, also of this city.

Army Transport Is Returning 8 Area War Dead

Eight men from the Richmond-Petersburg-Hopewell area are among the 37 Virginia World War II dead being returned to the United States aboard the United States Army Transport Haiti Victory.

The 2,918 dead aboard originally were buried in temporary military cemeteries in Northern France, Holland and Luxembourg.

Names of Richmonders being returned, together with their branch of service and next of kin, are:

Sergeant Ernest D. Beasley, Army, Mrs. Ella M. Childress, 3306 Idlewood Ave.; Private First-Class Wyndham R. Butler, Army, Mrs. Ruth V. G. Butler, 1717 North Twenty-first St.; First Lieutenant Frank S. DuBose, Army, Mrs. Nettie D. Powers, 2239 West Grace St.; Private First-Class Stanley L. Goodman, Army, E. L. Goodman, 2241 Venable St., and Private First-Class Mitchell P. Vincent, Army, Mrs. Beatrice W. Vincent, 2415 Lancelot Ave.

Those from the vicinity of Petersburg and Hopewell, and next of kin, are:

Technical Sergeant John A. Mann, Air Force, Reginald L. Mann, Colonial Heights; Private First-Class Wilbur F. McFedrick, Army, Raymond W. McFedrick, Petersburg, and Private Gratto M. Rosazza, Army, Karl McCorkle Rosazza, Hopewell.

Jack Rosazza Funeral Rites Are Held Sunday

Funeral services for "Jack" Rosazza, 26, well known Hopewell man, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. Rosazza, who died in France while serving with the Third Army, were held at the Grave in Appomattox Cemetery at three o'clock Sunday afternoon.

The Rev. Frederic C. B. Mohr, pastor of the Chesterfield Charge of the Methodist Churches officiated.

Head Consul T. G. Smoak, of Richmond, had charge of the Woodmen of the World rites at the grave.

Members of Beech Camp 264, W. O. W. attending as honorary pall bearers were: L. Bannerman, W. W. Howell, M. I. Lewis, J. W. Masey, H. L. Thompson, J. T. Howard, W. H. Masson, L. L. Wright, H. S. Bishop, Jack Burgdorf, W. A. Creel, W. S. Webb, M. H. Robbins, T. J. Jeffords, O. O. Robbins, Fred Farmer, M. M. Liverman, Sam E. Dorsey, Everett M. Ellis, A. G. Brittle, L. H. Kirby.

Active pall bearers were: Andy DuBouvsky, Francis Lanning, Roy Glass, Milton Glass, Leroy Tatum.

Funeral Service Pamphlet for Interment at Appomattox Cemetery

May 1949

CROSSING THE BAR

Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be
no moaning of the Bar
When I put out to sea,
* * * * *
For tho' from out our bourne
of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot
face to face,
When I have crost the bar.

—Tennyson



Services for

**Private
Gratto M. "Jack" Rosazza**

Born

June 6, 1918
Bedford, Virginia.

Killed in Action
in France
December 9, 1944
while serving with
328th Infantry Regiment
26th Division
of Third Army.

Services held
at Grave.

Rev. Frederic C. B. Mohr
officiating.

Interment
Appomattox Cemetery
Hopewell, Virginia.





Jack & Dot Rosazza with son Karl, September 1944

This was the last time the family was together

Final resting place at Merchant's Hope Memorial Park



PVT G M "JACK" ROSAZZA

JUN 6 1918 DEC 9 1944

328TH INF 26TH DIV

3RD ARMY

May 2014

This memorial tribute can be obtained by contacting:

The Prince George Regional Heritage Center

P.O. Box 452

Prince George, VA 23875

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