

Lt. Mansfield Nazi Prisoner, Parents Learn

Fortress Pilot Had Been Missing Since May 19 Kiel Raid

First Lt. Robert W. Mansfield, San Angelo pilot of a Flying Fortress, downed over the North Sea on May 19, is now a prisoner of war of the German government.

The good news came in a telegram from the adjutant general to his wife, Mrs. Corrine B. Mansfield, this morning. Mrs. Mansfield is with her aunt in El Paso and Lt. Mansfield's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Mansfield and sister, Miss Ruth, are at the Mansfield ranch near Vega. Word was telephoned to them immediately.

The wire from the adjutant general was as follows:

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Report just received through the International Red Cross states that your husband, 1st Lt. Robert W. Mansfield, is a prisoner of war of the German government. Letter of information follows from the provost marshal general.

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Lt. Mansfield was reported missing on the big American raid over the Kiel Canal on May 19. The family got the word on May 27. The Associated Press got a story from his squadron base three days later which told of his plane being hit by flak after it had gone over the target and dropped its bombs. Men in other planes saw his big ship, called "In the Mood," smoking on the waters of the North Sea.

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Lt. Mansfield had come through a crash landing in training and his family and friends here felt that the experience would stand him in good stead in landing the plane on the water near the German or Danish shore. In his training accident he had saved both his crew and his ship and was highly commended for the way he brought the ship down.

It is believed that the reason the word of Lt. Mansfield being a prisoner of war came through much quicker than is customary, was because his plane crashed near Kiel or Flemsburg, both large cities and was moved to a prison camp