

TRIBUTE PAID TO MEMORY OF CAPT. GUSTAFSON

MANY FRIENDS GATHER IN THE
GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
FOR MEMORIAL.

DR. WILLIAMS, PASTOR,
DELIVERS EULOGY.

Church Beautifully Decorated With
Roses, Greenery, Flags, Etc., a
Service Flag With Gold Star
Having Prominent Place.

Grace Episcopal church was filled Sunday evening with relatives and friends of the late Capt. LeRoy Gustafson, who was killed in an airplane accident in France, February 20th. The occasion was a memorial arranged for the young Boone aviator and a most befitting ceremonial it was. Grace church never looked prettier with its flowers and ferns, palms, and flags. Numerous baskets of flowers were arranged about the altar, organ, chancel, while at the head of the center aisle was a pedestal with a huge basket of flowers, and small silk flags of the Allies. Topping this was the Van Gorder silk service flag, with a gold star in the center. On either side of the altar were arranged larger silk American flags, and suspended from the walls were two large flags, one of the United States and one of France, where Roy now sleeps. The arrangement of flags and flowers was very effective.

The Program.

A special program had been arranged for this memorial, which follows:

For the processional hymn, St. John 11:25-26, Job 19:25-26-27, 1 Tim. 6:7, Job 1:21, said by the minister.

Hymn, Lead Kindly Light.

Psalm 90, chanted.

Hymn, Some Day We'll Understand.

The lesson, 1 Cor. 15:20-58.

Anthem, "Alpha and Omega" Boone Quartette.

Sermon—The Men Ahead of Their Age.

Hymn, Those Eternal Bowers.

The Creed.

Solo, "Just a Wearyin' For You,"

Miss Elizabeth Ertz.

Prayers.

Recessional Hymn, "Hark, Hark My Soul"; Angelic Songs.

Hymn, "My Country 'Tis of Thee."

Benediction.

The music was an especial feature of the program, the Boone quartette taking part with one number, and Miss Ertz with a solo. LeRoy was one of the originators of the Boone quartette and was bass in that organization for some time. It was befitting that his friends should sing at this last tribute to him.

The Knights Templar attended in a body.

Sermon Thoughts.

The sermon was a tribute to Capt. Gustafson, to his answer of the country's call to service, to his work in France and to his final days, when he met with the accident which snuffed out his life and ended a most promising career. Dr. Williams, the pastor, spoke of the Memorial as an occasion of more than local moment, and dealt with topics of national and international nature. All in all the sermon was unusually ably given and one which befitted the young man who has gone.

Life Sketch.

The following is a life sketch of Capt. Gustafson:

Charles LeRoy Gustafson was born in Boone, Iowa, August 28, 1885, and was the only child of Charles and Evalyn Gustafson. He was the victim of an airplane accident, together with two of his companions in service, on the 20th day of February at 2:00 P. M. He was taken to the field of rest on February 22 and buried with full military honors.

LeRoy graduated from the Boone high school in the class of 1904. The same year he went to Chicago and took voice training. After the death of his father, the late Charles Gustafson, who was killed in a railroad accident in Boone while in the employ of the Chicago and Northwestern railroad company, Roy decided to take up architecture at the University of Illinois, entering in 1908 and graduating in 1912. He spent one year in a local architect office at Champaign, Illinois, and then took a position as designer under Prof. James M. White, supervising architect at the Univer-

Clippings regarding the death of LeRoy Gustafson who died in an airplane accident in France 20 February 1919.

ity, which place he filled to the time of his enlisting for service.

Enlisted in September.

Mr. Gustafson enlisted about the middle of September, 1917, and went to Washington, D. C., to take examination for a commission on the 6th day of October. He was notified from Washington that he had passed the examination and received a commission as first lieutenant construction division, aero service. He left Champaign on October 10th for Mincola, Long Island and on the 27th day of November, 1917, he sailed for France. He was in charge of construction work at the largest American foreign flying field located at Issoudun, France. After the construction work had been completed at this camp he was made commanding officer of a squadron of men whose duties were to assemble and repair airplanes. At the end of ten months he was made adjutant and sent to Chatillon-sur-Seine, France, where he was located at the time of the accident.

Popular at School.

While attending university Mr. Gustafson was very popular in student activities. He was a member and assistant director of the University Glee Club in 1911. He was a member of Theta Delta Chi national fraternity, the Scarab, an honorary arch-society, the Ypsilon, an honorary interfraternity society, a member of the University Club, always popular in student operas and vocal music, being a good baritone singer. He was conductor of music at Emanuel Episcopal church of Champaign of which congregation he was a member. He was also a member of the A. F. and A. M. of the chapter commandry and Eastern Star, and also the Shrine at Mohammed Temple in Peoria. He designed the ceramics building, the woman's residence hall and also had charge of designing the educational building, all at the University, and while in France spent his spare time in studying the different types of French and Italian architecture. That his services in the service for his country were appreciated was proven by a promotion to captaincy which reached the post the day after the accident.

A Splendid Type.

He was of the highest type of young manhood, a cheerful happy disposition, a good word for everyone, and held in the highest esteem by all his acquaintances, and the news of his death was an unexpected blow, especially at this time when so many were expecting his early arrival.

The mother was expecting a message to go to New York City to greet him as he had sent word that he would be home about the 1st of March. Instead the message which she received told of his tragic death. Aside

from Mr. and Mrs. Charles Van Gorder, No. 604 Linn street, of this city, the grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Pike of Glens Falls, New York, survive, together with numerous relatives here and elsewhere.

Among the out of town relatives here for the memorial were the following: Three brothers of Mrs. Van Gorder, F. R. Pike and daughter Miss Jessica of Clinton, H. J. Pike and wife of Toledo, Iowa, G. M. Pike and wife of Sioux City, a cousin, Kenneth Anderson of Clinton, Miss Elizabeth McLeod, Mr. and Mrs. Don McLeod and daughter Miss Isabelle, of Moingona.

Killed at Tracy.

Mrs. Van Gorder just a few days ago received another letter, this one from Lieut. Col. Edward Bartow of the Sanitary Corps and a fraternity brother of Capt. Gustafson, which brought additional details of the accident. One paragraph from the letter reads:

"Captain Gustafson met his death in an air collision near Tracy (sur-Loire) at 2 P. M., on February 20th. In the collision three men were killed and one lieutenant injured and later taken to the hospital at Dijon. Gustafson, who was acting as observer, was killed instantly. The funeral was held at Chatillon-sur-Seine on the afternoon of February 22nd and the bodies were buried in American Cemetery No. 454 at Chatillon. Gustafson's grave is number 605 in this cemetery."

LETTER OF CONDOLENCE FROM FRANCE

Mrs. Charles Van Gorder Receives Letter From French Couple Who Knew Her Son, Lieut. LeRoy Gustafson, Killed Feb. 22.

Mrs. Charles Van Gorder, 604 Linn street, has received a letter of condolence from L. Le'gey and wife, of France, expressing sympathy over the death of her son, Lieut. LeRoy Gustafson, who was killed in France, Feb. 20 in an airplane accident. Lieut. Gustafson had made his home with these people. The letter was written in French but a translation follows:

Chatillon-sur-Seine,
March 5, 1919.

Dear Madame:

Will you have the kindness to excuse me for waiting so long to write to you. I was waiting to do so until I could get your address, which I finally obtained from an officer, friend of your dear son.

I am telling you that which you doubtless already know through the American military authorities—that Lieut. Charles L. Gustafson was the victim of an aeroplane accident together with two of his companions on the 20th of February at 3:00 o'clock, and that they were taken together to the field of rest on Saturday, the 22nd of February with all military honors; it was a very sad but impressive ceremony; sorrow was reflected on all the faces of the Americans and the French and all the people of Chatillon thought with grief of the poor mothers who will never again see their children who came to France to defend us courageously and to help us to gain the victory—only God will recompense them throughout eternity.

My wife and I did not fail to be present at this sad ceremony and we assure you dear madame that as long as the body of your son remains at Chatillon we shall visit his tomb from time to time and place flowers upon it. This tragic death has caused us all the more sorrow since Lieut Gustafson had been living in our house since the 10th of September, 1918, and he was like a son to us; and he was so good and of such pleasant agreeable character that we were very fond of him and he loved us a great deal; besides he had given us his picture which we are keeping carefully.

I beg of you then dear madam to receive the sincere condolences and the respectful greetings of my wife and myself.

L. Le'gey,
27 Rue Bourgamont,
(Cote d' Or) France.

Chatillon-sur-Seine.