

Honor Roll Dedicated In Peru

Maj. Bailou
Reviews Town's
War History

PERU.--About 60 attended the dedication of the town honor roll Sunday afternoon in the Town Hall.

The honor roll was unveiled by Sca. Albert Andersen, son of Mrs. Ellen Andersen, and Pvt. Martin Frusciente, son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Frusciente. Selectman Thomas Butler presided and Selectman Carl Rath gave the welcome. Mrs. Andersen spoke on behalf of the five mothers of servicemen present.

Other events on the program were: Songs, "Battle Hymn of the Republic," "The Star Spangled Banner," "America," audience, accompanied by E. K. Shuttleworth; dedicatory prayer and benediction, Rev. Samuel R. Swift, Hinsdale; duet, "God Take Care of Our Boys," Mrs. William Reimer of New Haven, Conn., and Mrs. Sara Malstrom of New York, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. John Berggren. The hall decorations were flags, red, white and blue streamers and flowers.

The names of the following eight young men appear on the honor roll: Harold F. Andersen, Robert W. Torrey, George P. Dunham, Thomas J. Quail, Kenneth F. Torrey, Robert L. Sherman, Martin Frusciente, Albert L. Andersen.

The main address was delivered by Maj. Alfred Bailou of Adams, a veteran of World War I. He traced the history of Peru, and its part in all wars, from 1762, when it was first settled, and, with Hinsdale, was called Partridgefield, to the present. Twenty-eight Peru men, including Capt. Nathan Watkins, served in the Revolutionary War. Among them were 15 who responded early to the call for Minute Men.

Maj. Bailou noted that Peru men were included in the two Berkshire regiments in the War of 1812. Seventy-seven residents served in the Civil War and 11 fought in World War I. "The town of Peru should feel proud of its military record through nearly two centuries of its existence," declared the speaker. "One of its residents, Maj. Amasa Rockwell, was a spy who showed hardihood, intrepidity, strength and courage such as few men could boast. His adventures rivaled those of Nathan Hale." Maj. Rockwell was twice captured by the British, escaping each time. ~~He died~~ He died in Peru on Dec. 31, 1836.

The speaker said that "We are all proud of your town obtaining a national citation for your work in the recent airplane crash." He noted that the two Torrey boys who assisted victims of the mishap have themselves enlisted in the air corps.

Peru Will Be Given Citation for Aid Given When Army Plane Crashed



Massachusetts Committee on Public Safety

THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY RECOGNIZES THE ALERTNESS, EFFICIENCY, AND SELF-SACRIFICE OF THE PERSONNEL OF THE PERU COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY FOR THE PROMPT RESCUE OF THE VICTIMS OF THE U.S. ARMY BOMBER DISASTER ON AUGUST 15, 1942, AND IN APPRECIATION, AWARDS THIS CITATION OF MERIT.

Honor Roll of Peru Incident

Mrs. Mattie Bishop
Robert Torrey
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Wheeler
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Culver
Mr. & Mrs. David Cochran
Kenneth Torrey
James Torrey
Thomas Torrey
Nelson Pelky
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Rath

Thomas Butler
Edward Shuttleworth
Herbert Fairbanks
William Cullet
John Bergen
William Avery
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Layburn

Dated FEBRUARY 8, 1943

J. W. Farley
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Twenty-two names are engraved in document to be awarded town by state committee on public safety

Presentation To Be Made Sunday Afternoon

PERU—This town will be presented a citation of merit for aid given during the Army plane crash Aug. 15 by the Massachusetts Civilian Defense Committee Sunday at 2 PM in ceremonies to be conducted at the auditorium of WBRK in Pittsfield. The citation, signed by J. W. Farley, executive director of the defense committee, carries 22 names. A representative of the state committee from Boston will speak at the meeting. William J. Connelly of Great Barrington, district director of aircraft warning service, will preside.

Under the caption, "Massachusetts Committee on Public Safety," the citation reads as follows:

The Massachusetts Committee on Public Safety recognizes the alertness, efficiency and self-sacrifice of the personnel of the Peru committee on public safety as evidenced by their prompt rescue of the victims of the U.S. Army bomber disaster on Aug. 15, 1942, and in appreciation awards this citation of merit:

Honor Roll of Peru Incident

Mrs. Mattie Bishop, Robert Torrey, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wheeler, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Culver, Mr. and Mrs. David Cochran, Kenneth Torrey, James Torrey, Thomas Torrey, Nelson Pelky, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Rath, Ronald Wheeler, Thomas Butler, Edward Shuttleworth, Herbert Fairbanks, William Cullet, John Bergen, William Avery, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Layburn. The citation is signed by J. W. Farley, executive director of the Committee on Public Safety.

J. A. Cancilla, Commissioned, Has Busy First Day at Home

Second Lieut. Joseph A. Cancilla, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mariano Cancilla, 14 Meriam Street, enjoying his first day at home as a commissioned officer in the Army, moved into a first class detail late Saturday night and early Sunday morning at the scene of the Army transport crash at the Peru State Forest.

Accompanying newsmen from The Eagle, where he was employed before being inducted in March, 1941, he assisted officers in charge at the scene before executives of Westover Field took over the salvage and investigation. He identified bodies for state police, assembled squads of onlookers to assist in moving the survivors into ambulances and assisted state police at the scene of the crash.

Lieut. Cancilla is the third member of his family to become an officer. His brother, Natale, a major, now attached to the ordnance in Washington, D. C., was credited recently with cracking a bottleneck on armor steel for tanks, thereby opening the way for mass production of the land juggernauts. Another brother, Ernest, is a second lieutenant in the field artillery reception center at Fort Bragg, N. C.

Another Pittsfield boy, who graduated from the officer's candidate school at Fort Benning, Ga., with Lieut. Cancilla was Lieut. Donald J. Reed, son of Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Reed, 207 Second Street.



Lieut. Joseph A. Cancilla

Both boys were drafted from this city March 15, 1941, and were assigned to Company I, 104th infantry. They were named as officer candidates early in May and have just completed three months of intensive training.

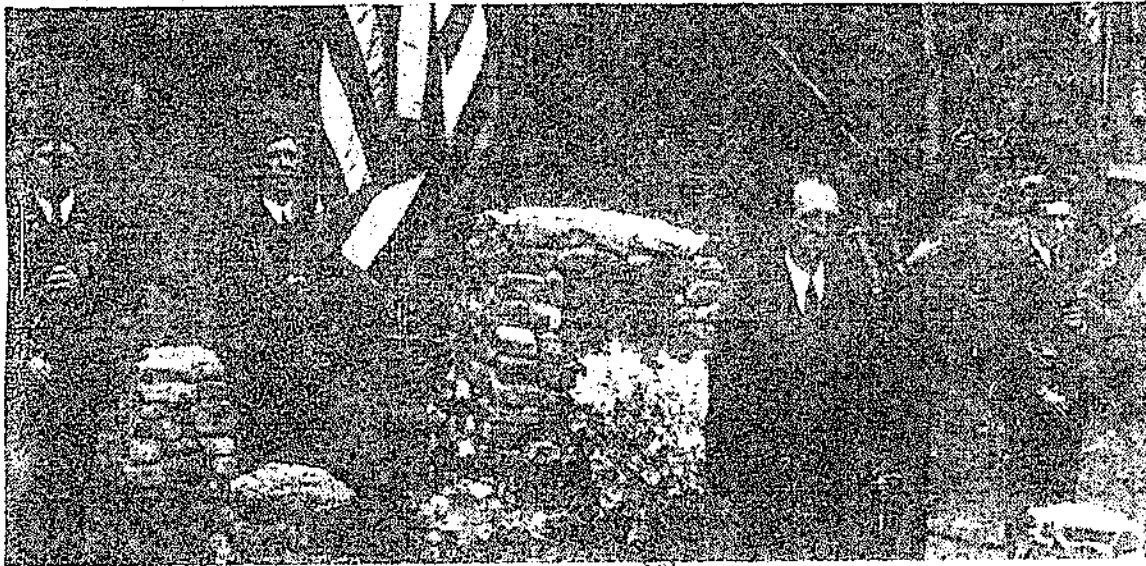
NAMES OF VICTIMS AT PERU MOUNTAIN RELEASED BY ARMY

16 Commissioned Officers, Noncommissioned Officers and Privates Lost Lives in Crash—None From Massa- chusetts

Identification of the 16 members of the army air force who lost their lives when their army transport plane crashed on Peru mountain Saturday night was made by air force officials yesterday. Three other men, Privates Alonzo Pearson of Windbert, Pa., and James Fern of Abington, Va., and Sergt Robert Lee of Columbus, O., were the only survivors. Tuesday, Sergt Lee was awarded a Soldier's Medal for his heroic act in entering the burning plane to rescue Pearson and Fern. The three men are in Pittsfield hospitals recovering from their injuries.

The army's casualty list included: Second Lieut Joseph J. Fields, Jr., of Atlanta, Ga., pilot; Staff Sergt Charles M. Scott of York, Pa., copilot; Staff Sergt Robert W. Lamon of Shawnee, Okl., crew chief; Corp Austin E. Weeces of Craig, Neb., assistant crew chief, and the following passengers: First Lieut Gardener VanEtten Plain, Ransomville, N. Y.; Sergt John H. Kelley, Titus, Ala.; Sergt Sam Hathorn, Princess, Miss.; Corp Frank A. Lastosky, Swoyerville, Pa.; Corp Joseph C. Neurohr, Brooklyn; Private First Class Hyman Flinkman, Baltimore, and Privates James P. Thompson, Los Angeles; Stanley Edward Racine, Pensacola, Fla.; Norman Sands, Chicago; Steve E. Schollin, Oak Haven, Ill.; James D. Westbrook, Anderson, S. C., and Jack E. Palmer, Antigo, Wis.

Peru Dedicates Air Crash Plaque



Rev. A. Rawson Holgate saying prayers at the monument to the 16 men who perished in a plane crash, August 15, 1942, on Garnet peak, Peru. Mr. Holgate is the former pastor of the Middlefield Congregational Church. Members of the Benjamin Sullivan post of the American Legion constitute the color guard.

PERU DEDICATES

2 AIR CRASH PLAQUE

(Continued From First Page)

Legion, was opened with a prayer by Rev. A. Rawson Holgate, former pastor of the Middlefield Congregational church.

Following the presentation of colors by members of the Legion, Mr. Holgate dedicated the monument to the victims of the ill-fated plane.

Three families of boys on the plane were represented as was one of three survivors. Mrs. Ethel Fields of Atlanta, Ga., mother of the pilot, Joseph J. Fields, Mrs. W. Lastosky, mother of Frank A. Lastosky, with six members of her family from Edwarsville, Pa.; Mrs. Eleanor Plain, widow of 1st Lieut. Gardner V. Plain, with his father, Dr. John Plain and Mr. and Mrs. Corlies Plain of Ransomville, N. Y., were present.

James Fern, who is now married and living in Lee, was the only survivor able to appear. Robert Lee of Columbus, O., and Alonzo Pearson of Wimer, Pa., are the remaining living members.

Mrs. August Killgas of Pittsfield, the first woman to give blood to the civilian defense program, also attended. It was her blood that saved the life of James Fern.

As the sun set through the opening of the trees, created by the plane crash, the Legion members fired three salutes to the dead, and taps was sounded. Flowers, on the monument, were presented by Mrs. Field, Dr. Plain and family, and Mrs. A. J. Young of Pensacola, Fla., mother of Stanley E. Racine, one of the men killed.

Preceding the dedication service, the First Congregational church of Peru has observed its annual mid-summer homecoming service. This custom instituted 25 years ago, was well attended, and many old acquaintances and friendships were renewed. This year also marks the 50th anni-

Peru, Aug. 18.—In a hushed and sacred spot on Garnet peak townspeople of the village and surrounding communities gathered with family members of the deceased and one of three survivors in a memorial service to the 16 officers and enlisted men, who lost their lives at this site in an airplane crash August 15, 1942.

The five-foot cobblestone monument, with a bronze plaque, on which is listed the names of those who died, has been erected by the voluntary contributions of people from Peru at the site of the disaster. The ceremony attended by 146 persons, under the direction of the Benjamin Sullivan post of the Dalton American

Legion of the present edifice, the original building now housing the town hall.

The oldest member present was James Merchant, 82, of Westfield. He at one time worked for Benjamin Friesell of Peru. A letter was received from Dr. Philip Warren, former member of the Drew Theological seminary, N. J. Rev. E. R. Swift of Hinsdale, present pastor, introduced Rev. Albert H. Plumb, who was minister of the church in 1897.

In Mr. Plumb's sermon, he related the history of Peru and conditions that existed at the time of his pastorate. He also spoke of the many great men that have come from small villages, who make up the backbone of the nation.

At the close of the service, all those present were asked to sign a guest book. 35 cars then left the church, driving four miles from Peru hilltop before walking a half-mile through a marshy road to attend the dedication of the monument on Garnet peak.