

1945 April 16-22

Killed, But Not By the Enemy

Col. Krause Dies On Luzon



COL. EMIL KRAUSE

Word was received Tuesday of the death on Luzon in the Philippine islands of Col. Emil Krause, a native of La Crosse and a veteran officer in the U. S. army.

Col. Krause died on March 31 from injuries received on March 19, it was stated. He was a passenger in a jeep that was involved in a convoy accident on Luzon, according to the information relayed to members of the family.

The former La Crosse resident has been in the army since 1917, when he was graduated from West Point. He was graduated from La Crosse high school in 1910 and from La Crosse State Teachers college in 1912.

During World war 1, Col. Krause was with the 41st Infantry from 1917 to 1919. He was with the 8th Infantry in Germany and the United States from 1919 to 1925, and then was with the 18th Infantry from 1926 to 1929.

From 1934 to 1938 Col. Krause was assigned to the 10th Infantry, and then was with the 31st Infantry in Manila from 1938 to 1940. In 1942 he was assigned to the 305th Infantry.

His war record shows he was with the Polish typhus relief expedition in 1919.

He is survived by his wife, who lives in New York City; one daughter, Elaine, a student at Sweetbriar, Va.; three brothers, George E. and William of La Crosse and Arthur of Los Angeles; and one sister, Mrs. A. C. Rennebohm of La Crosse.

(La Crosse Tribune, 1945 April 17, page 1)

Deaths in war are not always the result of combat. There are many ways to die in a war that has nothing to do with battles. The death of **La Crosse native Emil Krause** is just one example.

Colonel Krause was killed in a traffic accident involving a Jeep on the island of Luzon in the Philippines. Although the article does not provide details, his death was most likely the result of a collision or a rollover, or a combination of both. The versatile Jeeps were small open-air vehicles without a roof or doors, so the occupants had almost no protection when they crashed into something or rolled over.¹



A World War II jeep goes airborne
(CarCovers.com)

Emil Krause grew up at 1512 Mississippi Street in La Crosse. His father, Edward C. Krause, worked for the V. Tausche Hardware Co. for 28 years and for the Krause Clothing Company for 20 years.²

Emil Krause graduated from La Crosse High School in 1910. Then he graduated from the two-year teacher training course at the La Crosse State Normal school in 1912.³

Krause's first teaching job was in Superior, but after one year he resigned so he could study for the examinations necessary to gain admittance to the prestigious United States Military Academy at West Point.⁴ By early May of 1914, Krause had passed the examinations and secured an appointment to West Point from Congressman John J. Esch. When he reported for duty on June 15, 1914, Krause was the fifth man from La Crosse ever to be appointed to West Point.⁵

After the United States entered World War I in early 1917, the Army officers accelerated Krause's education at West Point. The Class of 1918 was graduated and commissioned in August 1917.⁶

Krause was a career Army infantry officer, rising from Lieutenant to Captain, to Major, to Lt. Colonel, and finally Colonel. Krause served in an infantry regiment from 1917 to 1919. He was part of the Polish Typhus Relief Expedition in Warsaw in 1919. The interwar years saw him serving with infantry regiments in Germany and the United States, as well as in the Philippines for two years.⁷ He also did a stint as a Reserve Officer Training Corps instructor at the University of Minnesota in the early 1930s.⁸

Early in World War II, he was assigned to the 305th Infantry Regiment.⁹ The 305th Infantry Regiment was reactivated and reorganized at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, in March 1942.¹⁰

Three years later, Colonel Emil Krause was in that ill-fated convoy on Luzon.

His widow, who he had married in Germany in 1922, was the former Edna DeWitt Kelly of New York City.¹¹

Non-battle deaths have occurred in war probably as long as there has been war.

The American Civil War was the deadliest conflict in American history, but the majority of soldiers died from disease instead of battle by a ratio of five to three.¹² Two-thirds of the military deaths in the American Civil War were caused by disease. Primitive sanitation and rudimentary medical care were the main contributing factors.¹³

During World War I, the influenza pandemic killed 15,849 soldiers in France and an additional 30,000 in military camps stateside.¹⁴ Those 45,849 dead were more than all the American military deaths in the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 combined.¹⁵

In World War II, three out of every 1,000 American servicemen died from causes other than combat.¹⁶ For the Army alone, 75,280 men died of non-battle injuries and disease (60,054 from injuries and 15,226 from disease). By comparison, battle caused 225,165 deaths.¹⁷

The World War II armed forces were not consistent in what was counted in their casualty statistics. The Army and Army Air Force categorized such deaths as "DNB = Died Non-Battle" for "Army personnel who died in the line-of-duty, from sickness, homicide, suicide, or accidents *outside combat areas* [emphasis added]. This would include deaths during training and maneuvers outside combat areas." The Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard "only listed those men on active duty that died as a direct result of enemy action or from operational activities against the enemy in designated war zones from 7 December 1941 until the end of the war."¹⁸ By the Army definition, Emil Krause would be counted as a battle casualty because he died in a combat area, even though the cause of death was a traffic accident.

In the U.S. Army during World War II, there were about 17 million hospital admissions due to illness or accidents. Two million of these were attributed to accidents, so hospitalizations for illness were about 15 million. That compared to about one million combat casualties.¹⁹

Training for deadly combat could itself be lethal. Men drowned while practicing river crossings. Parachutes failed to open. Some training was conducted with live ammunition, so accidents were inevitable.

Camp McCoy in nearby Monroe County was a training base for many servicemen during the war, and it provides a few examples of death and injury during training. Three McCoy soldiers were killed when

their car collided head-on with a semi-trailer on Highway 16 near Bangor in November 1942.²⁰ Two soldiers were seriously injured and four more had minor injuries in an accident on the artillery range in June 1943.²¹ A Second Lieutenant from Rhode Island, training with the 76th Infantry Division, was "instantly killed" in August 1944.²²

Aircraft were a major killer of servicemen, and not just in combat. Aircraft crashed because of weather, mechanical problems, and human error. The United States lost 65,164 planes during World War II, but just 22,948 of those were because of combat. Accidents in the United States brought down 21,583, and accidents overseas claimed 20,633. Combat killed 52,173 American aircrew, but accidents killed another 25,844. Just learning to fly warplanes resulted in the deaths of 15,000 trainees.²³ Often neglected are the 38 female WASP pilots who died while flying military aircraft.²⁴

Even the servicemen who did not fly were not totally safe. Corporal Floyd Hortum of Black River Falls, a member of the Medical Corps attached to the Army Air Force, died by falling from the top of a 70-foot tower at an airfield in England.²⁵

Just being around so many weapons was a risk factor. A combat-seasoned paratrooper in the 101st Airborne Division took a pistol as a souvenir from the body of a German officer that he had killed. The pistol was in his right pocket as he walked around, with his hands in his pockets, talking to his comrades about his recent exploit. The pistol went off in his pocket sending a bullet into his thigh. The bullet hit an artery, and he bled to death despite the efforts of a medic.²⁶

Of La Crosse County men in the Army during World War II, 37 of them died from non-battle causes in a war zone.²⁷

Colonel Emil Krause, the West Point graduate from La Crosse who served his country as a career Army officer for 28 years, died in a simple vehicle accident amidst the vicious carnage of a world war. It matters little whether his death or all the other deaths that did not happen at the hands of the enemy is categorized as battle or non-battle; they were all tragic losses in a time filled with many tragic losses.

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Sources & Notes:

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² "Edward C. Krause," *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 1939 November 11, page 6.

³ "Capt. Emil Krause Enjoying Visit At Old Home in Town," *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 1925 August 4, page 5.

⁴ "Emil Krause Is Named As Cadet," *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 1914 February 5, page 7.

⁵ "Order Krause To Go To West Point," *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 1914 May 7, page 6.

⁶ "La Crosse Boy Out Of West Point Today," *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 1917 August 30, page 1.

⁷ "Emil Krause, Native of La Crosse, Now Colonel In U.S. Armed Forces," *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 1942 November 29, page 7.

⁸ "Emil Krause, Of La Crosse, Finishes Infantry School," *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 1930 June 10, page 11.

⁹ *La Crosse Tribune*, 1942 November 29.

¹⁰ "Lineage and Honors Information Regiment," *U.S. Army Center of Military History*, 2019 July 8, <https://history.army.mil/html/forcestruc/lineages/branches/regt/0305rgt.htm>. In the book, *Second to None! The Story of the 305th Infantry In World War II* edited by Charles O. West, Philip C. Wood, Neil F. Wender, and Harold R. Butler (Infantry Journal Press, 1949), there is a chapter on the regiment's service on Leyte but nothing about Luzon. Colonel Emil Krause is also not listed as one of its officers killed in action. Col. Krause was probably with a different unit on Luzon.

¹¹ "Mr. and Mrs. P. F. Kelly of New York City," *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 1922 December 3, page 13.

¹² "Civil War Casualties," *American Battlefield Trust*, accessed 2020 April 23, <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/civil-war-casualties>.

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¹⁴ Harry Thetford, "Flu killed more World War I troops than any battle," *The United States World War One Centennial Commission*, accessed 2020 April 23, <https://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/communicate/press-media/wwi-centennial-news/3978-flu-killed-more-world-war-i-troops-than-any-battle.html>.

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¹⁶ "Research Starters: US Military by the Numbers," *The National WW II Museum*, accessed 2020 April 22, <https://www.nationalww2museum.org/students-teachers/student-resources/research-starters/research-starters-us-military-numbers>.

¹⁷ B. Dixon Holland, Medical Corps, U.S. Army, and Arthur P. Long, Medical Corps, U.S. Army, "Cost of Non-Battle Injuries and Diseases as Compared to Battle Casualties," *Oxford Academic*, accessed 2020 April 23, <https://academic.oup.com/milmed/article-abstract/117/1/46/4932890?redirectedFrom=PDF>.

¹⁸ "Casualty Codes," *With Military Honors*, 2016 August 1, http://www.withmilitaryhonors.com/wwii/code_index.php.

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²⁰ "Highway 16 Crash Kills Three McCoy Soldiers," *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 1942 November 4, page 2.

²¹ "McCoy Men Hurt On Artillery Range," *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 1943 June 24, page 2.

²² "McCoy Officer Killed in Training Accident," *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 1944 August 11, page 1. The article does not provide any details of how the officer died.

²³ Robert Blanchard, "Sobering Stats: 15,000 U.S. Airmen Killed in Training in WW II," *RealClearHistory*, 2019 February 12, https://www.realclearhistory.com/articles/2019/02/12/staggering_statistics_15000_us_airmen_killed_in_training_in_ww_ii_412.html.

²⁴ Captain Barbara A. Wilson, United States Air Force (Retired), "They Gave Their Lives," *AUG UNK Communications*, accessed 2020 April 23, <http://userpages.aug.com/captbarb/lives.html>.

²⁵ Robert W. Teeple, *Jackson County Veterans [Volume 1]* (Black River Falls, Wisconsin: Block Printing, 1984), 102.

²⁶ Stephen E. Ambrose, *Band of Brothers: E Company, 506th Regiment, 101st Airborne From Normandy to Hitler's Eagle's Nest* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1992), 202-203.

²⁷ "Tabulation By Counties and Types of Casualties," *National Archives and Records Administration*, accessed 2020 April 23, <https://nara-media-001.s3.amazonaws.com/arcmedia/media/images/29/21/29-2045a.gif>.