

J A Y H A W K   R E B O U N D S

June, 1943

No. 2

To all of you Rebounding Jayhawkers I want to pass on the very proud yet sad note from the family of Wayne Nees: "The family of Lt. Charles Wayne Nees acknowledges with deep appreciation your kind expression of sympathy."

On June 5th we received the depressing news of the passing of one of our splendid athletes and immortal soldiers. His father wrote me as follows:

"I am writing to tell you of a wire just received yesterday from the War Department advising us that my son, Charles Wayne Nees, was killed in action in the North American area on May 18th last.

"We have no further details, but presume that his death occurred in the Attu drive in the Aleutians. He was graduated from the Infantry School as a 2nd lieutenant in November 1942 and had been at Fort Ord, California, until about the first of April.

"Since Wayne, or 'Gus' as he was known on your campus, held such dear memories of his associations in basketball and track when he was at Lawrence from 1935-'40, I would like for you to see that the University is properly notified for their records. I am today writing his fraternity, Sigma Phi Epsilon, and would appreciate your checking with them to be sure that they get the letter, as I do not know whether they are still in their chapter house, due to present day disruptions on college campuses."

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It is difficult, of course, for all of us to realize that Wayne is gone. The Aleutian Islands represent to us a spot that is difficult to visualize, even though we have read so much about the place. Wayne Nees is the first of our Jayhawker Rebound boys who will not return. Like Flankers Field, Attu now becomes a part of America's consecrated ground -- consecrated with the blood of one of our Jayhawk Rebounders. In future days it is thinkable that we will traverse Attu and other battle grounds to pay homage to American boys who are not afraid to die.

Out of this war will come another great memorial enshrining the names of these men and women who made the supreme sacrifice for their country and the University. You will remember in the Memorial Union Building there is a bronze plaque honoring the 129 men and women who gave their lives in the first World War. The Memorial Stadium and the Memorial Union Building are edifices built as a great war memorial for World War One.

My yppermost desire is to endeavor to keep you informed of the glorious achievements and whereabouts of you boys in the service, and I will be here at this station awaiting anxiously for your return. Some of you I know will not come back. It is this uncertainty of life that makes