

1983

## Ralph F. Kleffman, 65

Portsmouth — Ralph Fred Kleffman, the son of John and Frances Rau Kleffman was born July 23, 1917 on a farm near Portsmouth. He was baptized, received his First Communion and confirmed at St. Mary's Catholic school and worked on the family farm while growing to adulthood.

On May 8, 1941 he entered the U.S. Army. He served his country during World War II as an Infantryman over seas in Europe and Africa, where he was awarded three bronze stars and obtained the rank of Corporal. He also served 26 months in German Prisoner of war camps. After his honorable discharge on Aug. 4, 1945, he returned to live in Portsmouth.

On Dec. 3, 1945, he married Helen Kloewer at St. Mary's Catholic church in Panama. Eight children were born to this union. After marriage they made their home in Portsmouth. Ralph then worked a short time for Shelby county and also farmed a short time before doing construction work.

He was a member of St. Mary's Catholic church in Portsmouth. He died at Veterans Memorial hospital in Omaha, Nebr., on Friday, Feb. 18, 1983 at the age of 65 years, 6 months and 27 days.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one son William. He is survived by his wife Helen of Portsmouth; one daughter, Lori (Mrs Robert) Mages of Panama; six sons, Robert of Foster City, Calif., Ralph Jr. of Olathe, Kans., Stephen of Tahoe City, Calif., Glen of Portsmouth, Paul of Littleton, Colo., and Bernard of Deloit; three sisters, Lottie McDermott of Portsmouth, Alice Kleffman of Co. Bluffs; Mary Ann Schueller of Dawson, Minn.; four brothers, Harold, Harry and Norbert all of Portsmouth and Chaplin James Kleffman of Bethesda, Md., nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held at St. Mary's Catholic church in Portsmouth on Monday, Feb. 21, 1983 with his brother the Rev. James Kleffman as celebrant and the Rev. Fred Reischl, Rev. Vincent Rosonke and Msgr. Michael Schwarte as concelebrants. Burial was in the St. Mary's cemetery, Portsmouth with Robert Kleffman, Ralph Kleffman Jr., Stephen Kleffman, Glen Kleffman, Paul Kleffman and Bernard Kleffman serving as casketbearers.

Pauley Funeral Home in Harlan was in charge of arrangements.