in Aspinwall, Allegheny County. He was 76.

Born and raised in East Pittsburgh, Mr. Hassan was one of six children of Hetem and Barbara Stadjahar Hassan. His father, who operated a hotel and general store in East Pittsburgh, emigrated from Turkey in 1907. Barbara Hassan emigrated from the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

At 16, John Hassan dropped out of East Pittsburgh High School. Two years later he joined the Army. “My brother was a radio operator at Hickham Field in Pearl Harbor, the day the Japanese attacked,” recalled Adam Hassan. “John escaped injury, but every plane on the ground was destroyed.”

Returning to the United States, John Hassan opted for pilot and navigator training with the Army Air Forces. Upon receiving his commission as a Navigator, Mr. Hassan was based at Torretta Airfield in Italy and participated in the bombing of the oil fields in Romania.

While home on leave, before his discharge, Mr. Hassan was asked to speak before a student assembly at his former high school. “When John was finished speaking, they handed him a high school diploma,” said Adam Hassan.

Upon returning to East Pittsburgh, Mr. Hassan married Gelda Sweeney. To support his wife and two children, Mr. Hassan at first took a job at the Union Railroad and he later worked as a sales representative for Design Sales Associates. Gelda Hassan died in 1978.

John Hassan met his second wife, Jean Marsteller, a realtor, when he was trying to sell his home in Plum Borough, Allegheny County. “I met John and appraised his home,” said Jean Hassan. “I never did sell John’s house. He called me about a week later and invited me out to dinner. We were married soon after and I moved in.”

In addition to his wife, Mr. Hassan is survived by two sons, John R. Hassan of Pittsburgh’s North Hills and George P. Hassan of Durango, Colo.; and a brother, Adam Hassan of Tampa, Fla.

It is felt that you might like to have the enclosed photograph of the stone, which has been placed at the grave.

You are assured that the grave will always be cared for in a manner fully commensurate with the sacrifice your son has made for his country. Any desired information concerning the grave or the cemetery will be furnished upon request.

Sincerely yours,

Lt./Col James F. Watt

Memorial Division

Editors Note:

George Scheina was KIA, as was most of the crew on the mission of 2/17/45 to Trieste (Now part of Italy). The plane “Bells of St Joe” serial No. 44-48828 collided with aircraft 44-49721 piloted by Abner O. McDaniel who died 2/18/45 from his wounds. Edward M. Duke was the only survivor of the crew.

Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery

Charles Wayshak, 824 Sq.

Watertown, MA.

Dear Mr. Markel:

Thank you for your kind letter of June 15th. Now that things have settled down I am answering it.

My husband, Charlie had many stories about the War. But unfortunately we didn’t put anything down in writing. So it would be very hard to tell. He had 31 missions in all. As he always said “War was an adventure but it also was Hell.”

I am enclosing a couple of pictures maybe you can use. One is Charles in his flying gear and the other is with a group he flew with. We had a flood at one time. Some or most of our pictures were lost. These two pictures have a little damage. Charles has a collection of all your Torretta Flyers to date. He enjoyed them over and over again.

My husband had hepatitis in Italy in November 1944. In fact he said the whole outfit was grounded for two weeks. They had nothing to eat then but beef morning, noon and night until they were sick of it. His health wasn’t too bad until in Sept. of 1998 he started to feel the hepatitis again. Now almost 55 years later it came back to take him. Continued on next page