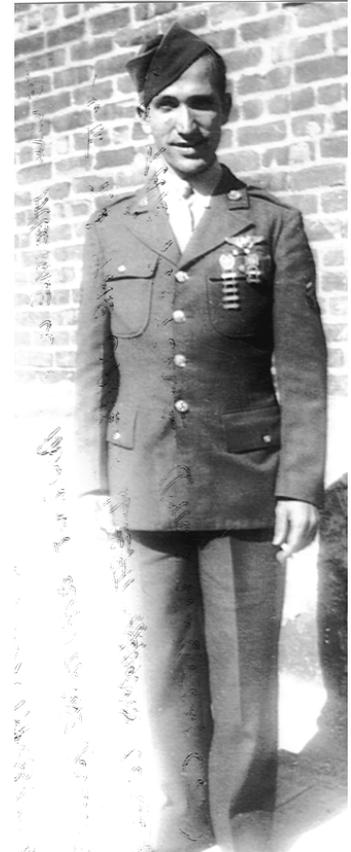


SSGT. Adolph R. Lenti, KIA **Serial #: 11045524**

My father, Adolph Lenti, was born in the Tuscan town of Monte San Savino, Italy on June 6, 1912. He was two years old when WWI began. His father, Luigi, decided to leave for America, because he feared that he would be drafted into the Italian Army. He didn't want to leave his family fatherless in the event of his death.

Consequently, the family left for America sometime during 1915. During his early years, my father pursued the activities that most children do. He played baseball, rode his bicycle, and hunted and fished with his father and friends.

When it came time to attend secondary school, he chose technical school (what we today know as vocational school). He had great manual skills from an early age, and he decided to become a carpenter. His father was a cooper turned carpenter- this apparently influenced his choice of trades. Early on, he also showed a passion for things mechanical. I'm told he could always be found tinkering with machines, especially automobiles. From this base, he also discovered the love of speed and racing. I understand that he raced motorcycles on dirt tracks, cross-country, and also made a trip to the Daytona Race Track, where he successfully completed his one and only race.



He built a racing car from the ground-up. Those who knew him tell me that it was the fastest car in Litchfield County. He named the car the Winfield Special, after a famous Indy racer of the 1930's. This car was his pride and joy. My aunt told me that he spent quite a lot of time making improvements on it.

In his late teens, he enrolled in a correspondence course in architecture. He spent two years completing this course by mail, and finished with an A. I saw his Drawings - they were nothing short of magnificent!

Finally, he was a very competent musician (as was his Father). He was proficient on the clarinet, trumpet, and the accordion. He and his Father played at many weddings and house parties.

From what I have seen and heard, it appears that my dad was a man of great intelligence and abilities. I see him as a Renaissance man with a wild streak. His loss is very hard to bear because I believe that he would have been very successful throughout his life.

Dad began building our family home in 1934, at age 22. He worked on it with his father and finished it a year later.

When he enlisted in the A.A.F., he was assigned to ground crew duty as an engine mechanic. Eventually, he was made a ground crew chief. He wanted to fight, and after battling his C.O. for months, he was assigned to a bomber crew. One of the ironies of this time period is that he encountered a very dear friend from our hometown, who argued that he should become an aerial gunner. As luck would have it, Chet Depaoll survived the war. Every time I saw him he would cry, because he felt my dad's death was his responsibility. When I grew up I finally told him that the responsibility was solely my dad's. He alone made the choice to go into combat.

One final fact, and one of which I am inordinately proud- he enlisted at age 29, even though he did not have to. His job at the time was important to the war effort, and he was granted a 4A Defense deferment. He pondered enlistment for six weeks after Pearl Harbor, and finally decided that as an American, he absolutely was required to serve his country. This choice cost him, and his family, dearly. But from what I have learned of him, he would make the same choice a second time. He is listed on the Wall of the Missing at Cambridge American Memorial Cemetery in Cambridge, England.

I am an only child, and have two children. My son, Louis, is a sales and marketing manager. He and his wife Pam, have three daughters who we love inordinately! My daughter, Catherine, is recently married, and as yet has no children. She is a lawyer, and currently works for The Hartford Financial Group in Hartford, CT.

Written by his son: Lou Lenti

Lou Lenti is shown in the photo to the right that was taken on November 18, 2001. Lou was born on July 20, 1944 - the day before his father was MIA.

