

1-16-91
Thomas Blair, 70

Thomas (Chic) Blair, 70, Groton, died January 1, 1991 at St. Luke's Midland Regional Hospital. The funeral was held at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Friday, Jan. 4, with the Rev. John Garvey officiating. Burial was in the Groton Catholic Cemetery.

There was a scriptural wake service at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel January 3.

There were military grave side rites by the Groton American Legion.

He was born April 22, 1920 at Andover to Edward and Lucy (Gorman) Blair. He attended school in Andover and the family moved to Groton where he graduated from high school.

He enlisted in the United States Army in October 1941. He served during the World War II in England, France and Belgium. He was in the Battle of the Bulge during Christmas of 1944. He was wounded at Remagen Ridge. He was discharged in November 1945.

He married Joan McCoy at Webster June 25, 1945. They lived in Groton for a short time before moving to Philadelphia. Then he moved to Albany, New York, where he was a district manager for Fort Dodge Laborites.

Later, they returned to Groton where he served on the police force for 17 years, first as a policeman and then chief of police. He was a member of St. John The Baptist Catholic Church, the Groton American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Aberdeen, and the Groton Senior Citizens. He has been in the Americana Health Care Center, Aberdeen, since September 1990.

He is survived by one son, Thomas, Austin, Texas; three daughters, Mrs. Jerry (Lori) Oliver, Alma, Ark.; Mrs. Glenn (Valerie) Gonsolin, Austin, Texas; Mrs. Ron (Leslie) Reinbold, Aberdeen; one sister, Lucy Siefkes, Groton and 12 grandchildren.

The casketbearers were Emmet Anderson, John Blair, Edwin Nehls, Eddy Opp, Jerry Sundling, Robert Volk, Lyle Wagner, all of Groton; and Giles Wilson, Aberdeen.

The organist was Marilyn Gibbs. The soloist was Lee Schinkel who sang, "Let There Be Peace" and "Amazing Grace." Usher was George Trembl.

He was preceded into death by wife, Joan, in 1984; his parents, three brothers and one sister.