

Some Gave All

In the fall of 1944, The Carrollton Chronicle ran an article under their "News From Men in the Service" column. At the top of the article is the image of an American Minuteman. He clutches a rifle in hand, his plow beside him on the ground. The American Flag stands behind the soldier. A somber headline sits beside the image. It reads, "Carol Kirkland Dies From Wound Rec'd in Germany."

Kirkland was a Coppell native. The child of John and Edna Kirkland, he was born January 13 of 1914 and grew up in the house now known as the Historic Kirkland House, located in Coppell's Heritage Park. He attended Carrollton High School, where he lettered in multiple sports, graduating in 1932. At the time of his death, he left behind a wife, Katherine, and a five-year-old daughter named Beverly.

The article states that no particulars were given relating to the cause of death. However, an old cardboard box stored in Coppell's First United Methodist Church holds the rest of the story. Filed away in the box is a letter addressed to Kirkland's wife. It details, with regret, how Kirkland was mortally wounded by machine gun fire while attempting to capture a hill in the Huttgen Forest, near Heistern Germany.

Kirkland was laid to rest in the American Military Cemetery at Henri Chapelle, Belgium. He received the Purple Heart for his service and the gratitude of those he left behind and all who came after him for his sacrifice.

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