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Red Huff, Hit In Bob Hope Bombing, Dies Of Wounds

Robert Franklin (Red) Huff, 40, son of the late Will Huff and Mrs. Eleanor Hastings Huff, 250 West Water street, a professional trumpet player for 23 years, died Wednesday evening in the Veterans hospital at Indianapolis as the result of injuries received during the bombing of a Bob Hope camp show in Tunisia on July 10, 1943.

At that time, Mr. Huff was a sergeant and trumpeter with the 2nd Replacement Depot band which he had helped organize, primarily for the welcoming of troops arriving in North Africa. His injuries were received when German bombers came over the site of the U. S. O. show, blasting a cement-block hangar which was being used as a theater. Sgt. Huff received head and internal injuries from the falling blocks.

Four Killed Outright

Four other musicians were killed outright in the blast Sgt. Huff later told his mother. Hope, a moment before the hit, had been standing in front of the bandsmen, congratulating them upon their playing. He was on the opposite side of the stage, however, when the explosion occurred.

Born in Williamson, W. Va., on July 16, 1904, he inherited his musical ability from his father who was at various times director of the I. O. O. F. and 20th Century bands here. At the age of 20, the son entered the professional ranks playing here with Spetnagel's and the Winter Garden orchestra. He later played with numerous "name" bands including those of Jack Crawford, George Olsen, Paul Whiteman, Red Nichols, Paul Sabin and

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Negro USO To Be Enlarged

Plans for establishment of a new and larger Negro USO center in the former St. Mark's Episcopal church on South Walnut street were made at a meeting of the executive committee of the USO council with representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and unofficial representatives of the community chest, Thursday night.

Anticipating an increase in the detachment of Negro soldiers at the Veterans hospital, the need for larger quarters is serious, W. F. Goodell, associate regional executive of USO from Chicago, told the committee, headed by Ben M. Segal, USO chairman.

The Negro USO council will be reorganized and a trustee board will be called together next week to plan operation of the center. The board will include representatives from groups interested in the USO, the YMCA, the Negro community recreation program and the Negro civilian population.

The USO plans ot invite the YMCA and community recreation committee to participate in the center.

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