



1LT. William C. Dierker
Class of 1943
Enshrined 2025



William C. Dierker graduated from Xavier University in January 1943, one of the members of the 1943 class which graduated a semester ahead of normal due to the oncoming war. While at Xavier Dierker was an associate editor of the 1942 Musketeer. Concerning ROTC, Dierker was a member of the Pistol Club, and a member of the Xavier Order of Military Merit.

1Lt. Dierker received his commission under the Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP) at Ft. Sill, OK after completing his Field Artillery Officer Course in May 1943. He volunteered for liaison flight work and was awarded his pilot's wings at Denton, TX in August 1943. He completed his training in Tennessee and Alabama. In 1944 he married Marjorie Ruff.

1Lt. Dierker was an Army Liaison pilot attached to either the 11th 155mm Gun Battalion or the 5th 155mm Howitzer Battalion Marine Field Artillery units when he was killed on November 1, 1944 in Leyte Province, the Philippines. According to his posthumous Air Medal citation, as described by his Commanding Officer, Col. John E. Brannen, 1Lt. Dierker “participated in numerous flights totaling over 60 hours over front lines and deep into enemy held territory. On many occasions he flew at perilously low altitudes through anti-aircraft fire.” Further, “Ordered to make an observation flight on the 1st of November, the plane piloted by Lieutenant Dierker, on taking off from the field, was attacked by Japanese “Tony’s” (Kawasaki Ki-61 Hien fighter aircraft) and forced into a coconut grove, resulting in a crash in which he was fatally injured.” Still further “He displayed high professional skill, courage and devotion to duty which reflected credit upon himself and the United States Army.”

1Lt. Dierker was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and Air Medal as maintained by his surviving relatives. 1Lt. Dierker's remains were returned to Cincinnati and he is buried in the Calvary Cemetery in Cincinnati, Ohio.