

WAR DEPARTMENT
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO:

AG 201 Buchman, Arthur H.
PC-O 194075

24 July 1945

Mr. Harry H. Buchman
3030 Jenkin Arcade
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Buchman:

This is to confirm my telegram to you, which was sent regretfully, informing you of the death of your son, Second Lieutenant Arthur H. Buchman, 0392308, Coast Artillery Corps, and to convey such information as I can of the circumstances.

From the available information it appears that 1619 prisoners of war were embarked 13 December 1944, at Manila on a Japanese vessel, presumably for transfer to Japan. The ship was bombed and sunk in Subic Bay, Luzon, Philippine Islands, 15 December 1944. After considerable delay there has been received from the Japanese government a confirmatory report of this sinking, with partial official lists of those lost and of the survivors. Nine hundred and forty-two of the prisoners of war, among them your son, are officially reported by the Japanese to have lost their lives at the time. Of the survivors remaining in the hands of the Japanese fifty-nine are reported to have died and others to have been later transferred to Japan. Only two of the prisoners of war aboard are known to have evaded recapture and returned to our forces.

I regret that the known circumstances and the reports received offer no hope that your son survived this catastrophe. He will be carried on the records of the War Department as killed in action 15 December 1944. However his pay will terminate and his accounts will be closed as of 23 July 1945, the evidence of his death having been received in the War Department on that date.

Please know that you have my heartfelt sympathy.

Sincerely yours,

Edward F. Witsell

EDWARD F. WITSELL
Major General
Acting The Adjutant General of the Army

1 Inclosure
WD Pamphlet No. 20-15