

# Pvt. Hugh Leonard Reported Lost On Jap Freighter

## PERRYVILLE MAN WAS PRISONER BEING MOVED FROM DAVAO BY SEA

Private Hugh J. Leonard, United States Army, husband of the former Miss Elizabeth Best of Boyle county and son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Leonard of Perryville, who among those listed as lost on the Japanese freighter which was sunk on September 7, 1944, it was learned here yesterday by his wife, through a letter from the War Department at Washington, D. C.

Signed by Major General J. A. Ulio, Adjutant General, the message regretted his inability to entertain a probability of Mr. Leonard's survival.

The information available to the department was that the vessel sailed from Davao, Mindanao, on August 20, 1944, with 750 prisoners of war aboard. The freighter was sunk on September 7, 1944, by torpedoes of the western shores of Mindanao. The indications are that relatively few of the prisoners had opportunity to leave the sinking ship, and of those who did, many were killed by enemy gun fire.

A small number managed to reach shore and a close watch for others was kept for several days. The Japanese government reports all of the prisoners lost, indicating that no survivors are in the hands of that government. There is no information as to

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what happened to the individual prisoners, but known circumstances lead to the regrettable conclusion that all of the unaccounted for prisoners lost their lives at the time of the sinking, General Ulio informed Mrs. Leonard.

A former student of Perryville schools, Private Leonard worked for the late W. Bowman Myers, county engineer, and the State Highway Department before entering service with the armed forces. A member of the National Guard Unit of Harrodsburg known as the 38th Tank Division and later designated the 192nd Battalion the serviceman received his training from Nov. 25, 1940, to August 1941 at Fort Knox. Going from there to Louisiana for further training, he was assigned overseas and landed in the Philippines on Thanksgiving Day, 1941.

Reported missing in the spring of 1942 following the fall of Corregidor and Bataan, Private Leonard was eventually reported a prisoner of the Japanese government. His wife and family received at least two cards from the soldier at Davao.

Private Leonard's brother, Ben, serving with the United States Navy, has already received his orders to leave Washington, D. C., for the Pacific theatre of operations.

In addition to his personal expression of heartfelt sympathy from General Ulio, Mrs. Leonard has received from General Marshall a card expressing his "deep sympathy in your bereavement." The General says further, "Your husband fought valiantly in a supreme hour of his country's need. His memory will live in the grateful heart of our nation."

Mrs. Leonard is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Best of Perryville.

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