

WAR DEPARTMENT

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

IN REPLY REFER TO:

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

AGPC-S 201 Mossburg, Louis G.  
(28 Feb 46) 0701266

28 February 1946.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy L. Mossburg  
2185 Westbrook Drive  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Mossburg:

Since your son, Second Lieutenant Louis G. Mossburg, 0701266, Air Corps, was reported missing in action 23 June 1944, the War Department has entertained the hope that he survived and that information would be revealed dispelling the uncertainty surrounding his absence. However, as in many cases, the conditions of warfare deny us such information.

Public Law 490, 77th Congress, as amended, provides for a review and determination of the status of each person who has been missing in action for twelve months. Accordingly, your son's case was reviewed and he was continued in the status of missing in action as of 24 June 1945. The law further provides that a subsequent review shall be made whenever warranted. Upon such subsequent review the making of a finding of death is authorized.

All available records and reports concerning the absence of your son have been carefully investigated and are deemed to warrant a subsequent review of his case. Information in the hands of the War Department indicates that your son was a crew member of a B-24 (Liberator) aircraft which departed Los Negros Island on 23 June 1944 on a combat strike mission to bomb shipping off Yap Island. As the formation of planes came from the bomb run your son's plane was seen with one of its engines smoking. At about the same time the plane was attacked by enemy planes and fell behind, losing altitude. It fell into the water and quickly disappeared. Battle conditions prevented immediate search and no trace of your son or any other crew member has been found since that time.

Since no information has been received which would support a presumption of his continued survival, the War Department must now terminate your son's absence by a presumptive finding of death. Accordingly, an official finding of death has been recorded. The finding does not establish an actual or probable date of death; however, as required by law, it includes a presumptive date of death for the purpose of termination of pay and allowances, settlement of accounts and payment of death gratuities. In the case of your son this date has been set as 28 February 1946.