

WAR DEPARTMENT

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

IN REPLY REFER TO:

AGPC-S 201 Callaghan, James A.  
(19 Dec 45) 0699980

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

19 December 1945

Mrs. Mary A. Callaghan  
Locust Court Apartments  
New Rochelle, New York

Dear Mrs. Callaghan:

Since your son, Second Lieutenant James A. Callaghan, 0699980, Air Corps, was reported missing in action 18 December 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. The record concerning your son shows that he was a crew member of a B-29 (Superfortress) bomber which departed from Saipan, Marianas Island, on a combat mission to Nagoya, Japan. While en route, his plane left its formation and started to return to its base. Radio silence was not broken and all searching efforts failed to give any trace of the plane or any evidence of survivors.

Full consideration has recently been given to all available information bearing on the absence of your son, including all records, reports and circumstances. These have been carefully reviewed and considered. In view of the fact that twelve months have now expired without the receipt of evidence to support a continued presumption of survival, the War Department must terminate such absence by a presumptive finding of death. Accordingly, an official finding of death has been recorded under the provisions of Public Law 490, 77th Congress, approved March 7, 1942, as amended.

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 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 19 December 1945, the day following the expiration of twelve months' absence.

I regret the necessity for this message but trust that the ending of a long period of uncertainty may give at least some small measure of consolation. I hope you may find sustaining comfort in the thought that the uncertainty with which war has surrounded the absence of your son has enhanced the honor of his service to his country and of his sacrifice.

Sincerely yours,



EDWARD F. WITSELL

Major General

Acting The Adjutant General of the Army

1 Incl.