

NAME: Lewis

RANK: Second Lieutenant

ORGANIZATION: 8th Air Force

OVERSEAS WARTIME SERVICE: European Theater of Operations

- The following text is directly from two original wartime period documents about Lewis. These are two of many documents related to Lewis in the site curator's possession and more will be transcribed in the future.
- The following text is presented under public domain provisions for educational purposes.
- No controversial material has been omitted from the following text. No grammatical or spelling errors have been corrected.

The War Department sends a telegram to Lewis' grandfather in the United States:

“WASHINGTON DC XXX XX 1944

THE SECRETARY OF WAR DESIRES ME TO EXPRESS HIS DEEP REGRET THAT YOUR GRANDSON HAS BEEN REPORTED MISSING IN ACTION SINCE XX XXX OVER GERMANY PERIOD. LETTER FOLLOWS=

DUNLOP ACTING ADJUTANT GENERAL.”

The War Department sends a letter to Lewis' mother in the United States:

“XX XXX 1945.

Since your son was reported missing in action XX XXX 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 aboard a B-17 (Flying Fortress) bomber which departed from England on XX XXX 1944, on a bombardment mission to XXX, Germany. During this mission your son's aircraft sustained damage from action by enemy aircraft and was seen, with two of its engines smoking, to leave the formation and head for a cloud cover approximately sixty miles northwest of XXX, Germany.

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 XX XXX 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,

J. A. Ulio

Major General,

The Adjutant General.”

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- Lewis was killed in action in the Second World War.
 - **For visual context, this link connects to an original wartime film in the public domain that covers the above time period and Lewis' organization (viewer discretion advised):**
<https://archive.org/details/TF13384TargetForToday1944>
 - **For additional detail, this link connects to the Wikipedia article that covers Lewis' wartime organization, the 8th Air Force (reader discretion advised):**
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eighth_Air_Force