

Harrington, James C. Cir. Empl. of W.D. Determined to be entitled to benefits. No E.A. ever found. KIA.

work sheets only - see 201 file.

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 883078

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NNT 883078

Cawood

Cas.

SR&D

1E529

6 June 46

*Coast guard*

201

HARRINGTON, JAMES C.

CIV. IN P. I.

*will send photos.  
Called: 13 June 46.*

*James Claude Harrington  
missed ship at Manila,  
21 Oct 1941.*

*Born: 11 April 1901,  
Brunswick, Maine. (let. came back) (not here)*

*30 Mar 1937 - Next of kin: Mr. Ed Harrington  
2087 North West Northrup St.,  
Portland, Oregon.*

Harrington

Brother: Ed Harrington,

2087 N.W. Northrup St.,  
Portland, Oregon

(Nov 18-1944) not  
reclaimed.

1933-1935

1935 - Margaret, Sister  
Nome, Alaska.

SS "General Pershing"

Signed on 10 Feb 1936

Portland, Oregon.

Mrs. Finlayson

5520 -

add. of Shipping Co.

Mr. Nolan - Ntl. Archives 470.

American President Lines,  
311 California St.,  
Los Angeles, Calif.

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me 0695-

Called: 19 Mar 47  
will write out - expect answer  
in about 2 weeks

Carroll -

IMMEDIATE

Locate Ed. Harrington

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Authority NNTD883078

SS "Heredia" changed 1942

United Fruit Company,

<sup>new</sup>  
Pier 3, N.R. - New York, N.Y.

Mrs. Adams - 5520 -

AGPO-CR 201 Harrington, James Claude scheme 1B 734  
( ) (Born: 11 April 1901)

— 1948

United States Coast Guard,  
Merchant Marine Personnel Records and Welfare Section,  
1300 E. Street, N.W.,  
Washington 25, D.C.

Attention: Lt. Comdr. R. H. Fairholt.

Dear Sirs:

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NNT 883078

It has been determined under the provisions of the Missing Persons Act that James Claude Harrington, a former seaman on the SS. "Ruth Alexander", was employed by the Army Transport Service on 26 December 1941, and entered on duty the same date. His status at beginning of missing period was Fireman, \$1104.00 per annum.

The records of the Department of the Army show that subject was missing in action as of 7 May 1942, until receipt of official report on 24 August 1943, that he was a prisoner of war of the Japanese Government. He was killed in action 24 October 1944, in the South China Sea as result of the sinking of a Japanese vessel upon which he was being transported as a prisoner of war.

Attached is copy of missing status direction.  
This office has been unable to contact deceased's  
brother, Ed. Harrington, whose last known  
address was 2087 N.W. Northrup Street,  
Portland, Oregon, or his sister, Mrs. John S.  
Copley, Portland, Oregon (no street address shown).

Sincerely yours,

1 Incl.

Cpy. m.s.d.

W. Tell.



A-9 PO-CR 201 Harrington, James C.

SC/MCC/ (113734)

( ) (Born " April 1901)

— — 1947

Subject: Status of James C. Harrington

Commanding General,  
Philippine - Ryukyus Command,  
APO 707 c/o Postmaster,  
San Francisco, Calif.

1. Same as paragraph 1 in Ind to Fin.

2. This office has not been able to establish contact with deceased's brother, Ed Harrington, whose last known address (Sept. 1946), was 2087 N. W. Northrup St., Portland, Oregon; or his sister, Mrs. John S. Coplin, Portland, Oregon (no street address known).

By order of —

A - G.

AGPO-CR 201 Harrington James O  
( ) (Reim 11 April 1901)

sc/mc/ 113734

# Disposition Form

	From	Date	Controlled
To: Transportation Corps, Water Transport Service, Attn: Miss Goad, R-5D530 The Pentagon, Washington 25, DC	US	-	113734

Copy same inf. as 5th Ind.  
to Finance O.

1 Incl.  
on 5D

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 883078

ASPO-CR 201 Harrington, James C. 5th Ind. Sc/MCC 1/10734  
( ) (Born: 11 April 1901)

Department of the Army, 290, Washington 25-DC. -- 1948  
To: Finance Officer, USA Army Finance Center, OCT,  
Building 205, St. Louis 20, Missouri.

1. It has been determined, under the provisions of the Missing Persons Act, (Public Law 490 77th Congress as amended, that James Claude Harrington was employed by the Army Transport Service on 26 December 1941 and entered on duty the same day. His status at beginning of his missing period was Foreman \$1104.00 per annum. Subject was missing in action as of 7 May 1942, until receipt of official report on 24 August 1943 that he was a prisoner of war of the Japanese Government. He was killed in action 24 October 1944, in the South China Sea as result of the sinking of a Japanese vessel upon which he was being transported as a prisoner of war. The date of receipt of evidence in the War Department sufficient to establish the fact of death is 16 June 1945.

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2. A copy of Missing Status Direction is attached. Casualty reports are in process and will be furnished you in due time. This office has been unable to

contact deceased's brother, Ed Harrington  
whose last known address (Sept. 1946) was  
2087 N.W. Northrup St., Portland Oregon;  
or his sister, Mrs. John S. Copley, Portland,  
Oregon (no street address known).

By order of \_\_\_\_\_

1 Incl.  
msd.

a - 4 .

Miss Kirta :  
Please copy third ind.  
for file .


ASPO-CR 201 Harrington, James Claude  
( ) (Born: 11 April 1901)

SO/MEC/ 113734

— — 1948

please make extra copy  
of review

Memorandum To: Chief, Casualty Section,  
Personnel Actions Branch, AGO.

 Subject: Review and determination of  
status of James Claude Harrington,  
Civilian Employee of the War  
Department.

I FACTS.

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1. James C. Harrington, civilian, was reported as  
a prisoner of war of the Japanese government in  
Philippine Islands, Camp # 3, according to  
Postal Censor List, dated 24 August 1943.

AS 383.6 (24 Aug. 1943).

2. "J. C. Harrington, U.S. Citizen employed by the  
Army," was reported a prisoner of war of the  
Japanese government on US 1171, Tokyo Cable,  
received in the war department 19 October 1943.

AS 383.6 (19 Oct. 1943).

3. James C. Harrington, civilian, was recorded

by the Casualty Branch, Ogo as killed in action on 24 October 1944, in the South China Sea, as result of sinking of a Japanese ship on which he was being transported while a prisoner of war.

Emergency addressee: 2d Harrington, 2087

N.W. Northrup, St. Portland, Oregon, relationship unknown & no determination of status under the Missing Persons Act has been made for Mr. Harrington.

*Memorandum: S.R. & D. approved: Chief of Casualty Branch, 16 June 1945 # 2704 lead*

4. A letter, dated 6 August 1946, from the US Coast Guard and Merchant Marine Personnel Records signed by R. H. Fairholt, Lt. Comdr, USCGR, states that "James Claude Harrington missed the SS 'RUTH ALEXANDER' in Manila on 23 December 1941. . . . and that files of the Merchant Marine Personnel Records and Welfare Section show that he was interned by the Japanese and reported missing following the sinking of a Japanese transport ship on 24 October 1944."

5. The office of the US Coast Guard and Merchant

marine Personnel Records furnished this office a photostatic copy of two sheets of Seaman's Documents of James Claude Harrington born 11 April 1901, Brunswick Cumberland Maine. This document is dated 30 March 1937, Port of Boston, Mass., and shows the photograph and fingerprints of Seaman James Claude Harrington and states: "next of kin: none." Permanent address: 158 Market Street, San Francisco, Calif.

6. Three payrolls, Army Transport Service Quartermaster Corps, Manila, P.I., <sup>(accounts of J. R. Vance)</sup> which were brought out of the Philippines during the war, list one James Harrington (no middle name) and furnished the following information regarding his employment:

a. Fireman, SS, "Henry Keswick", \$804.00 per annum, R-#144, Q-#60. Earned: \$78.16, deducted: R-#14. Q-#5.83. Voucher # 3692, Period 26 December 1941 to 31 January 1942. Remarks: "Employed and entered on duty 26 December 1941."

b. Fireman, "H. B. McHyde", \$1104.00 per annum,  
R. \$144.00, Q \$60.00. Earned: \$92.00. Deductions:  
R. \$12.00, Q. \$5.00. Paid: \$75.00. Voucher  
# 4956. Period: 1-28 February 1942.

c. Fireman, "H. B. McHyde", same salary  
and pay as b above. Voucher # 6323.  
Period: 1-31 March 1942.

7. The signature of James Harrington on payroll  
cited above appears to be identical to that  
of James Claude Harrington, <sup>(except middle name)</sup> on the Seaman's  
Documents cited in paragraph 5, above.

8. A letter, dated 8 March 1946, from Edward J.  
Ritz, 1437 N.E. Euclid Ave., Portland 13, Oregon,  
to office of the Fiscal Director, was forwarded  
to the Casualty Section, AGO for determination of  
status of James Harrington, formerly a sailor on  
the SS "Ruth Alexander". Mr. Ritz requests death  
benefits of James C. Harrington, stating that "he  
made his home with us for years and informed  
us that he has no next of kin and that he has



his insurance made out to me. . . . can you tell me if he left a will of any kind?"

9. Various attempts have been made to find the relatives of James Claude Harrington:

a. Further inquiry to Navy Department by phone, revealed that subject's records showed next of kin as - Brother: Ed Harrington, 2087 N.W. Northrup St., Portland, Oregon, in the years 1933 and 1935. A letter, dated 21 Aug 1946, was dispatched to Ed Harrington at this address, but was returned unclaimed. A telegram, dated 19 September 1946, from Captain Jim Purcell, Jr., Chief of Detectives, Portland, Oregon, states "Ed Harrington, address 2087 N.W. Northrup St., checked subject there up to week ago left no forwarding address."

b. The Navy also reported that in 1935 James Claude Harrington gave his next of kin as "Margaret, sister, Nome, Alaska." A letter was dispatched to the Postmaster, Nome, Alaska.

in an effort to identify and locate this sister. The Postmaster, Nome, Alaska, replied 2 June 1947, stating that "Mr. Ed. Harrington's sister has been in Nome a number of years ago and she married a John S. Copley. From all information I can gather here, her address is Portland Oregon. But cannot find any street number."

c. Letter, dated 24 June 1947, from Postmaster Portland, Oregon states: "A careful search of the Portland city and telephone directories failed to disclose any listing for Ed Harrington or Mrs. John S. Copley. Inquiries made at 2087 N.W. Northrup Street failed to disclose any information as to present address of Ed. Harrington."

10. Letter, dated 31 March 1947, <sup>to this office was received</sup> from the American President Lines, inclosing copies of correspondence with Mr. Edward J. Ritz regarding Harrington's insurance. Letter, dated 2 March 1946, from Mr. Ritz states in part: "He made his home

with us for years and has told us he was the only child and his parents were dead. He was married and had two children but all were killed in an automobile accident." Mr. E. C. Kester, manager Insurance Dept. American President Lines replied to Mr. Ritz, stating: "The crew of the 'Ruth Alexander' provided that the beneficiaries should be the same as 'Next of Kin' shown on the crew list. In the case of James Harrington the record is somewhat confused as on the line opposite his name there appears the words, 'Bro. 2087 N.W. Northrup Portland, Oregon' and also the word 'none'." "I have no doubt very much that a claim would be allowed by the War Risk Underwriters in the case of Mr. Harrington."

11. Letters to the City Recorder Brunswick, Maine and <sup>the</sup> Bureau of Vital Statistics, Augusta, Maine, <sup>(requesting names of the lines)</sup> proved unfruitful, as the record of James Harrington's birth could not be found without the names of his parents.

12. No other information of value to this review and determination has been found, nor has it been recorded as a civilian employee of the Army Transport Service, missing as of 7 May 1942, following the surrender of Corregidor.

## II Conclusion

1. It is concluded that James Claude Harrington, born 1 April 1901, was employed by the Army Transport Service, Quartermaster Corps, Manila, P. I. on 26 December 1941 as Fireman "Henry Neswick", \$804.00 per annum, and that he was promoted as Fireman, "H. B. McHyde", at \$1104.00 per annum on 1 February 1942.

2. As a civilian employee of the War Department serving outside the continental limits of the United States, James Claude Harrington was entitled to the benefits of the Missing Persons Act (Public Law 490, 75th Congress, as amended) as he followed the troops to the field and "was

12. No other information of value to this review and determination has been found, nor has James Claude Harrington been recorded as a civilian employee of the Army Transport Service, missing as of 7 May 1942, following the surrender of Corregidor.

## II Conclusion

1. It is concluded that James Claude Harrington, born 11 April 1901, was employed by the Army Transport Service, Quartermaster Corps, Manila, P. I. on 26 December 1941 as Fireman "Henry Keswick", \$804.00 per annum, and that he was promoted as Fireman, "H. B. McHyde", at \$1104.00 per annum on 1 February 1942.

2. As a civilian employee of the War Department, serving outside the continental limits of the United States, James Claude Harrington was entitled to the benefits of the Missing Persons Act (Public Law 490, 75th Congress, as amended), as he followed the troops to the field and was

captured and detained along with military prisoners of war". (See: Outline of Provisions of Law, Civilian Employees under Missing Persons Act, dated 1 May 1945, signed Jay L. Benedict, Major General, USA, President, War Department Dependency Board).

3. In order to establish subjects' rights under the Missing Persons Act, he should be recorded missing in action in the Philippines as of 7 May 1942, following the surrender of Corregidor.

III Recommendation

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 9 of the Act of 7 March 1942, Public Law 490, 77th Congress, as amended, it is recommended that a casualty report be initiated stating that James Claude Harrington was a civilian employee of the War Department, serving outside the continental limits of the United States, that he was employed 26 December 1941; that his status at beginning of missing period was Fireman, \$1104.00 per annum; that he was in a beleaguered status in the Philippine Islands from 26 December 1941 to 6 May 1942; was missing in action as of 7 May 1942; was continued as missing in action until 24 August 1943, the date of receipt of official report that he was a prisoner of war of the Japanese Government; that he was killed in action 24 October 1944, as result of sinking of a Japanese vessel upon which he was being transported as a prisoner of war; and that

his prisoner of war status terminated 16 June 1945, the date upon which evidence sufficient to establish the fact of death was received in the War Department. All records pertaining directly or indirectly to the administration of the Missing Persons Act will set forth the determination made. No action will be taken to notify the emergency addressee, since this office has been unable to contact deceased's brother, Ed Harrington, whose last known address (September 1946) was 2087 N. W. Northrup St, Portland, Oregon, or his sister, Mrs. John S. Copley, Portland, Oregon (no street address known).

Maryta Ethel Cannon  
 Dir.

Concurred:  
 Sanford Coffin,  
 etc

Approved: Recommended action will be taken.

By order of the Secretary of the Army:  
 Earl E. Erving,  
 etc



AYPO-CR 201, Harrington James Claude,  
( ) (Born: 11 April 1901)

— — 1948

Memorandum To: Officer in Charge, Certification Unit,  
Casualty Section.

Subject: Distribution of Death Report.

In addition to the regular distribution of Report of Death of James Claude Harrington, civilian employee of the War Department, copies should be sent to the following:

Transportation Corps, Water Transport Service,  
Attention: Miss Goad, Room 5D530,  
The Pentagon, Washington 25, DC.

US Coast Guard,  
Merchant Marine Personnel Records & Welfare Section,  
1300 E. Street, N.W.,  
Washington 25, D.C.

Sanford Coffin,  
etc

make 3 extra  
copies

## Missing Status Direction.

Pursuant to Section 5, of Public Law 490,  
77th Congress, as amended, and following  
a full review of all available information  
upon direction and delegation by the Secretary  
of War, the Chief, Casualty Section,AGO  
finds that James Claude Harrington (Born:  
11 April 1901), was a civilian employee of  
the Army Transport Service, Quartermaster  
Corps, who was missing in action as of 7  
May 1942 in the Philippine Islands  
following the surrender of Corregidor, and  
directs that he be continued in the status  
of missing in action as of 7 May 1943.

By order of the Secretary etc

### Distribution:

Fin. Off. USA (3) —

Dept: Qm

Cas. Sec. —

U.S. Employees Comp. Comm. —

" Civil Ser. Com. —

Record Copy: AG 701 file —

U.S. Coast Guard:

Merchant Marine Personnel Sec. —

Transportation Corps, Water Transport Service,  
Form 52-530.

Earle E. Emery

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Authority NND 883078

Capt. Grant:

Re: Ber Kovitz, Maurice, former crew member SS President Grant, stranded in Manila outbreak of war.

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Authority NND 883078

1. was POW -

2. Stat. by Maj. George B. Hart, S.C. states he was employed on or about 25 December 1941 by Brig. Gen. Aiken, as asst. to Capt. Christenson, S.C. on telephone detail and to Mr. Myers, civilian cable expert of the Signal Corps, on cable work.

Maj. George B. Hart, (dead.)

John F. Meyers, Assoc. Sp. Engr. SS Lt. P-3 (dead.)

Gen. Spencer B. Aiken, says he believes Berkowitz was hired as Major Hart says, but he has no records (recommends we contact ~~to~~ Col. R.C. Jackson, which we did - Jackson does not remember - has no record of Berkowitz).

3. Berkowitz was KIA on 24 Oct 44 boat and therefore comes under M.P.A. (if fact of employment can be sustained).

4. Robert F. Overbeck, who escaped on 24 Oct 44 boat knew Berkowitz in prison camp, and says he (Berkowitz) went to Balayan and was employed by US Army, but he doesn't remember who he worked for.

5. Pacific Hq. threw case back to us 26 Jan 46 stating

They had no record of Berkowitz & for us to  
secure further evidence & make determination.

6. Shall we consider evidence sufficient to  
establish fact of employment by Signal Corps?

If so — Yes ~~no~~

Shall we indorse the chain of correspondence  
to Chief Signal Officer, D.C. requesting  
salary rate for positions comparable to that  
Major Hart says Berkowitz had in P.D.?

yes ~~no~~

Carroll - Inv.  
13 Aug 46.

311 Calif St.  
San Francisco, Calif.

Augusta Me.

19 Aug

Miss Carwood:

Make an attempt to determine relationships of Ed Harrington to Subject. I think we should inquire if any other members of family are living. Inasmuch as we have all the facts regarding employment we can initiate determination upon receipt of info name of beneficiary.

Capt. Grand

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Authority NND 883078

DISTRIBUTION:

CASUALTY BRANCH FILE  
A. G. 201 FILE

U. S. D., A. G. O. Form No. 0353-2  
13 March 1944

Re: Harrington James Claude (former crew member  
SS Ruth Alexander, stranded in Manila, P.I. 23 Dec 41)

Capt. Graws:

1. We sent this case to Pacific for deter., they retd. it to OSSA (see 3rd Ind). requesting deter. be made here since beneficiary is residing here.
2. Edward J. Rity, friend, wrote in claiming Harrington had no relatives.
3. Mr. Ed Harrington relationship unknown, has been given the accolade awarded J.C. Harrington.
4. We had a good payroll record of him, accounting for him from 26 Dec 41 to 31 March 42.
5. He was killed on 24 Oct 44 boat and is entitled to benefits of M.P.A.
6. We have no record of a designated beneficiary.
7. There's no reason why Pacific couldn't have made deter, but they didn't.

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Authority NNT 883078

Shall we make further efforts to ascertain relationship of Ed Harrington to subject?

or

Shall we write review & deter. on what we have

or  
shall we return to Pacific to make deter.<sup>2</sup>

Carroll-12529  
13 Aug 46



AGPO-CR 201 Harrington, James C.  
 (3 M (17 Apr 47) Claude

17 April 1947

3 March 1947

City Recorder,  
 Postmaster  
 Cumberland County, Maine.  
 Nome, Alaska

Dear Sir:

This office is desirous of locating the next of kin of James Claude Harrington, who was a seaman on the SS "Ruth Alexander", and was stranded in Manila, P.I. when his boat departed before scheduled time because of Japanese bombings and he subsequently lost his life in the war.

This office has attempted to locate his brother, Ed Harrington at 2087 N.W. Northrup Street, Portland, Oregon, but the letter was returned unclaimed. A record has been found listing a sister, Margaret (surname not shown), whose address was Nome, Alaska in 1935. If this sister is known to you her name and present address will be greatly appreciated so that the War Department may be able to officially notify Mr. Harrington's relatives of his death.

A self-addressed envelope is inclosed for your reply.

Very truly yours,

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

1 Incl.  
 Env.

*Extra*

AGPO-CR 201 Harrington, James  
 (3 Mar 47) Harrington, Claude S.  
 (21 Aug 45)

21 August 1945

3 March 1947

Mr. J. Harrington,  
 City Recorder,  
 Brunswick,  
 Cumberland County, Maine.

Dear Mr. Harrington:

Dear Sir:

This office is desirous of locating the next of kin of James  
 Claude Harrington, born 11 April 1901, Brunswick, Cumberland County,  
 Maine.

Mr. Harrington was a seaman on the SS "Ruth Alexander", who  
 was stranded in Manila, Philippine Islands, on 23 December 1941 when his  
 boat departed before scheduled time because of Japanese bombings of  
 the harbor.

The names, addresses and relationships of Mr. Harrington's legal  
 heirs will be greatly appreciated by the War Department.

A self-addressed envelope is inclosed for your convenience.

Very truly yours,

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

*Cas*

S 21 Oct 46

AGPC-S 201 Harrington, James C.  
(21 Aug 46)

21 August 1946

Mr. Ed Harrington,  
2087 North West Northrup Street,  
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Mr. Harrington:

I am writing to you relative to James Claude Harrington, born 11 April 1901, at Brunswick, Maine.

Mr. Harrington was a seaman on the S.S. "Ruth Alexander", who was left in Manila, Philippine Islands, on 23 December 1941, when his boat departed before scheduled time because of Japanese bombings in the port area.

It will be appreciated if you furnish this office a statement as to your relationship to James C. Harrington as well as the names and addresses of other members of his family who are living.

A self-addressed envelope is inclosed for your convenience.

Very truly yours,

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

1 Incl.

Case  
11  
11

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Harrington, James C. Cir. Empl. of M.D. Determined to be entitled to benefits. No E.A. ever found. KIA.

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Authority NND 883078

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Authority NND 883078