

Ruth, Harold F.

Ruth, Miriam

T/Sgt. Harold Ruth, Nazareth, Missing A Year, Declared Dead

NOV 14 1945

Reported missing in action on November 8, 1944, Technical Sergeant Harold F. Ruth, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Ruth, 16 North Broad Street, Nazareth, former residents of this city, has been officially declared dead, according to advices received by the parents from the War Department today.

Major General Edward F. Whitesell, acting adjutant general, in a letter about Tech. Sergeant Ruth to Mr. and Mrs. Ruth, said ". . . the War Department has entertained 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 information. The record concerning your son shows he was a member of Co. "L", 112th Infantry Regiment, 28th Infantry Division, which departed from Germer, Germany, south of the Cologne plain, to occupy, defend and hold Schmidt, Germany. Your son was last seen at Schmidt in combat with the enemy. Upon reorganization of the company thereafter he was found to be missing.

"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. In view of the fact that twelve months have now expired without receipt of evidence to support a continued presumptive survival, the War Department must terminate such absence by a presumptive finding of death."

The letter then declares Tech. Sergeant Ruth officially dead as of November 9, 1945, the day following the expiration of twelve months' absence.

Tech. Sergeant Ruth, 26 years old, beat the first draft by enlisting in April, 1941. He was trained at various camps in the south and became an instructor in amphibious landings. At Camp Gordon Johnson, Florida, during a storm, he was aboard an LCI washed ashore. He was credited with sav-



T/SGT. HAROLD F. RUTH

ing the lives of four men. Sixteen who were aboard drowned.

He was a graduate of Liberty High School and a member of College Hill Moravian Church. He is survived by his parents, a sister, Lieut. Miriam Ruth, Camp Lee; and a brother, Lloyd Ruth, of this city.

November 14, 1945