

Ricci, Robert

Local Soldier On Jap Freighter Sunk Sept. 7 Declared Dead

FEB 28 1945

Aboard a Japanese freighter sunk on September 7 as it was carrying American prisoners of war from the Philippine Islands, Pfc. Robert A. Ricci, of this city, has been declared officially dead. The information was received in a letter from the adjutant general's office by Mrs. Rose Ricci, 844 East Fourth Street, mother of the missing man.

According to the letter, "the information available to the War Department is that the vessel sailed from Davao, Mindanao, August 20, 1944 with 750 prisoners of war aboard. The vessel was sunk by torpedoes on September 7 off the shores of Mindanao. Indications are that relatively few of the prisoners had opportunity to leave the sinking ship and those who did were killed by enemy gunfire."

A nephew of the accident victim, Daniel Del Grosso, of this city, a member of the Seabees arrived in the Philippines in September coincident with the time the ship was sunk. He had volunteered for service in the hope that he might participate in the liberation of his kinsman with other prisoners of the Japanese. He has not yet learned of his uncle's death.

Pfc. Robert Ricci was a son of Mrs. Rose Ricci and the late Michael Ricci, of 824 East Fourth Street. Inducted in the ordnance department of the Aviation Corps, March 20, 1941, he received his basic training at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Md.; Springfield, Mass., and March Field, Calif. He arrived in the Philippines in November, 1941. After the fall of Bataan he was taken prisoner and had been in the hands of the Japanese since 1942.

Previous to his induction he was employed as a fireman at the Bethlehem Steel Company. Surviving, besides his mother, are two sisters, Mary at home, and Mrs. Dominic DelGrosso, of Bethlehem; two brothers, Onorio Ricci, of Hellertown, and Henry, of Allentown.

A memorial mass will be said at Holy Rosary Church, March 10 at 9 a. m.



PFC. ROBERT RICCI

February 28, 1945