

Berndt, Wellington W.

Bucks Countian Dies in Jap Prison ?

1943

Victor Bernd of Argus, Bucks County, yesterday disclosed that he received a telegram last week from the War Department in which he was notified that his youngest son, Private Wellington W. Berndt, 26, died in a Japanese prison camp.

Private Berndt was among the American forces on the Philippines the day of the Jap sneak raid, Dec. 7, 1941. He was then stationed on Corregidor as a member of a chemical warfare detachment.

When he was captured the family does not know. They received no word from him since Pearl Harbor Day other than a letter which was written several days before the sneak raid.

According to the War Department, Private Bernd was confined in the Jap prison camp for 14 months before his death. All known efforts

such as the Red Cross and the Chaplains Society were tried in an effort to contact him during those months to no avail, said Mr. Bernd.

Private Bernd was among the first Bucks Countians to be called by draft, entering service on June 5, 1941. Prior to that he was employed by the Royal Pants Company of South Perkaspie. He was the seventh serviceman of the Sellersville-Per-

kaspie area to lose his life in World War II.

He is survived by his father, who is head supervisor of West Rockhill Township, Bucks County. Also surviving are four brothers, Washington and Arthur, Tylersport, and Clarence and Milton, Argus, and three sisters, Arlene of Argus, Mrs. Helen Bergey, Souderton, and Mrs. Mabel Fluck, Sellersville.

Jul 7, 1943