

WAR DEPARTMENT
SERVICES OF SUPPLY JAU
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY RBFXR TO
AG 201 King, Ben Ewing
(5-20-42) OG

May 20, 1942.

Mrs. Ben E. King,
2013 Oldhani Street, Austin, Texas.

Dear Mrs. King:

According to War Department records, you have "been designated as the emergency addressee of Captain Ben Ewing King, 0-275671, Coast Artillery Corps, who, according to the latest Information available, was serving in the Philippine Islands at the time of the final surrender.

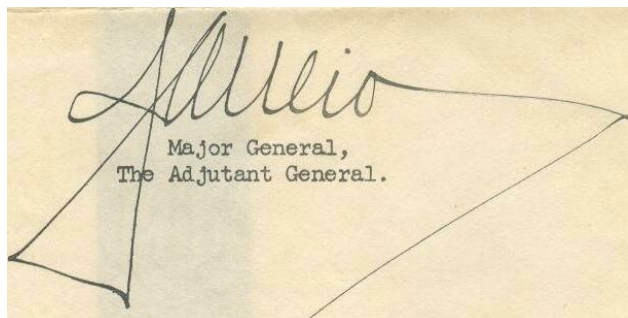
I deeply regret that it is impossible for me to give you more Information than is contained in this letter. In the last days before the surrender of Bataan there were casualties which were not reported to the War Department. Conceivably the same is true of the surrender of Corregidor and possibly of other islands of the Philippines. The Japanese Government has indicated its intention of conforming to the terms of the Geneva Convention with respect to the interchange of information regarding prisoners of war. At some future date this Government will receive through Geneva a list of persons who have "been taken prisoners of war. Until that time the War Department cannot give you positive information.

The War Department will consider the persons serving in the Philippine Islands as "missing in action" from the date of the surrender of Corregidor, May 7, 1942, until definite Information to the contrary is received. It is to be hoped that the Japanese Government will communicate a list of prisoners of war at an early date. At that time you will be notified by this office in the event his name is contained in the list of prisoners of war. In the case of persons known to have been present in the Philippines and who are not reported to be prisoners of war by the Japanese Government, the War Department will continue to carry them as "missing in action," in the absence of information to the contrary, until twelve months have expired. At the expiration of twelve months and in the absence of other information the War Department is authorized to make a final determination.

Recent legislation makes provision to continue the pay and allowances of persons carried in a "missing" status for a period of not to exceed twelve months; to continue, for the duration of the war, the pay and allowances of persons known to have been captured, by the enemy; to continue allotments made by missing personnel for a period, of twelve months and. allotments made "by persons held, by the enemy during the time they are so held.; to make new allotments or increase allotments in force to certain dependents defined, in Public Law 490, 77th Congress. The latter dependents generally include the legal wife, dependent children under twenty-one years of age and dependant mother, or such dependents as have "been designated in official records. Eligible dependents who can establish a need for financial assistance should be advised to approach their local chapter of the American Red Cross who will assist them in

obtaining any benefits to which they may be entitled. In the event dependents require financial assistance and are eligible to receive this assistance the amount allotted will be deducted from the pay which would otherwise accrue to the credit of the aliasing Individual.

Very truly yours,



Almeida
Major General,
The Adjutant General.