

WAR DEPARTMENT

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO:

AG 201 Garner, Ernest W., Jr.

PO-CO 036020

12 February 1948

• Mrs. Lela S. Garner
108 Rainey Street
Ashburn, Georgia

Dear Mrs. Garner:

I am writing you relative to the previous letter from this office in which you were regretfully informed that a Finding of Death had been made in the case of your son, Second Lieutenant Ernest W. Garner, Jr., 0824462, Air Corps, and that the presumptive date of his death had been established as 15 April 1946.

As you were previously informed, your son was the pilot of a P-51 (Mustang) fighter plane which was lost while participating in a combat mission from Sian, China on 14 April 1945. Additional information indicates that on 14 April 1945 a United States plane was hit by enemy gunfire and crashed in West Yu Village, south of the Agricultural Granary Highway, outside of the North gate, Yuncheng City, Shansi Province, China. The body of the pilot was reported removed from the wreckage by the Japanese and buried beside the granary. It was later reburied in a coffin and the grave was marked by a wooden tablet, set up by the Magistrate, to indicate the spot. While the body in question was not definitely identified as that of your son, evidence is conclusive that it represents Lieutenant Garner, since the only other pilot of a P-51 lost on 14 April 1945 in the approximate area of the flight, has been evacuated to the United States. In view of the absence of any information indicating the survival of Lieutenant Garner and the length of time, which has elapsed since he was reported missing in action, the records of the Department are being amended to show that he was killed in action on 14 April 1945 in China.

Pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 490, 77th Congress, 7 March 1942, as amended, official reports will now be issued by the Department of the Army which will indicate the actual date of his death as that shown above. The issuance of this official Report of Death will not affect any payment or settlement of accounts which has been made on the basis of the Finding of Death.

My continued sympathy is with you in the great loss you have sustained.

Sincerely yours,


EDWARD F. WISELL

Major General

The Adjutant General of the Army