

# Louis C. Mahan Was on Sunken Japanese Ship <sup>11/3/44</sup>

**War Department Notifies His Parents, Rev. and Mrs. Charles N. Mahan, That He Is Missing**

Rev. and Mrs. Charles N. Mahan are in receipt of a letter from Secretary of War Henry Stinson, notifying them that the War Department has learned that their son, Private First Class Louis Clay Mahan, was aboard a Japanese freighter which was recently sunk while carrying American prisoners of war from the Philippines. He was not picked up among the survivors and the Department has no present word of his fate, the letter states. It follows:

"The War Department was recently notified of the destruction at sea of a Japanese freighter that was transporting American prisoners of war from the Philippine islands.

## **Survivors Picked Up**

"A number of survivors were later returned to the military control of our forces. There were also a large number who did not survive or who were recaptured by the Japanese and about whose present status no positive information is available. It is with deep regret that I must inform you that your son, Private Louis C. Mahan, was in this latter group. Because of the War Department's lack of definite information concerning Private Mahan, no change in his prisoner of war classification is being made at this time.

"Please be assured that as soon as additional information becomes available you will be immediately notified."

Private First Class Albert Nichols, son of John E. Nichols, was also on the same ship and no word has been received from him. Both were captured in the Philippines and were confined in a prisoner of war camp in the islands until this summer. William Elmer Ervin has been in Japan.