

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND883078

Extra

AGRC-RJY

Sinking of USAT "Cynthia Olson"

Mr. D. Shelton
Misc. Records Section
World War II Branch

Project "J" Section
RPRB

17 AUG 1954

Miss Cupp/mh/677

In accordance with instructions received from Miss Doyle, attached are photostats for your files of information concerning the sinking of the United States Army Transport "Cynthia Olson".

1 Incl
9 pages (photostats)

ELVARD L. DAVIS, Supervisor
Project "J" Section, RPRB

17/26/56
All to file on this Boat
cases being fwd to AFC
case BAES, ZACARIAS A (#226 Ferrari #05 file)

See ARS DIV J. FILE FOR
PABIGAS, SOTERO V.

MEMO ROUTING SLIP		NEVER USE FOR APPROVALS, DISAPPROVALS, CONCURRENCES, OR SIMILAR ACTIONS	
1 NAME OR TITLE <i>Mr Josie</i>	INITIALS 	CIRCULATE 	
ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION <i>Rec Per Rec Br</i>	DATE 	COORDINATION 	
2		FILE	
3		INFORMATION	
4		NECESSARY ACTION	
		NOTE AND RETURN	
		SEE ME	
		SIGNATURE	
REMARKS <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">Please have a copy of the memo referred in Part 2 of Comment prepared and sent to Mr Shelton for file.</p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">I had a telephone call a few weeks ago on the "Cynthia Olsen" and many man hours were spent on the search as we had nothing in Misc Rec Sec. We finally reported we had no information on that vessel. ✓ ↑ send thru Br Hdqs.</p>			
FROM NAME OR TITLE <i>Noyle</i>		DATE <i>11 Aug 54.</i>	
ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION		TELEPHONE	

MEMO ROUTING SLIP		NEVER USE FOR APPROVALS, DISAPPROVALS, CONCURRENCES, OR SIMILAR ACTIONS	
1 NAME OR TITLE Chief Clerk, Project J Section	INITIALS		CIRCULATE
ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION Chief Clerk, Records Section	DATE		COORDINATION
2			FILE
3			INFORMATION
4			NECESSARY ACTION
			NOTE AND RETURN
			SEE ME
			SIGNATURE
REMARKS Instructions have been received from Center Headquarters that any inquiries or cases regarding the loss of the vessel "Cynthia Olsen" in Dec 41 are not to be processed in MPRG. It is desired that any such inquiries be forwarded to RFRB Headquarters immediately upon receipt.			
FROM NAME OR TITLE ROBERT E. WYRSCH, Acting Chief Clerk		DATE 25 Jun 54	
ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION RFRB		TELEPHONE 688	

SEE BAES, ZACARIAS FILE
 FOR REC OF FINDING ~~OF~~
 OF DEATH RECVD. FROM
 FED. RECS. QTR. FO 12
 ARMY FINANCE CENTER 4/9/59

Mr. Loring

THREE ONE CONVERSATION
COL SMITH - WASH DC, D.C.
LT COL TURNER - ST. LOUIS, MO.
25 JUNE 1954 - 1117 HOURS

Col Smith: This is Col Smith in the Casualty Branch. I have something on which I need a little help. We had a DF come in on a case and it was returned to you by Comment Nr. 2 on 22 June. This case is file AGPS-DD 201 CABIGAS, Sotero V., subject of our comment: Determination of Status. It was sent out on the 22d of June. I would like to get it back here just as fast as it can get here.

Col Tucker: Would that be on one of the Filipinos?

Col Smith: Yes. This had to do with personnel on board a U. S. transport by the name of CYRENIA OLSEN. This ship was apparently lost on 6 December 1941. Should you receive any queries on that loss of a vessel on that date, under no circumstances does General Jones want you to answer them but get them in to us. This is getting to be a very hot subject on the hill again, and we want to preclude The Adjutant General from getting involved.

*I like see action please
ALT*

Col Tucker: In other words, if anything that comes in on the sinking of that vessel, the CYRENIA OLSEN, send it to you.

Col Smith: Yes, an investigation (Congressional) is going on and I can't put my finger on what they are trying to do. They had some information this morning that concerns some clerks in the Casualty Branch here and the actions taken throughout the years, and their relationship with Navy personnel concerning certain messages—I can't find out where they are obtaining their information. I do know that in this file which I sent to you, we had copies of the messages from the vessel, and I have to have it back here because that is one of the things they are after. I have to have that before I can go into it further.

Col Tucker: I will contact Mr. Loring right away and see if we can get it back to you today.

Col Smith: It should probably be there today, I imagine, if it left here on time.

Col Tucker: Do you want us to TIX you on it?

Col Smith: Please. I would appreciate it. Thank you, very much.

AMRC-RJ 201 Cabigas, Sotero V. 1st Ind
D/B 3 Oct 15 (3 Nov 53)
SUBJECT: Memorandum for Record

DA, TAGO, Military Personnel Records Center, St. Louis 20, Missouri
17 AUG 1954

TO: Chief, Settlements Division, Finance Center, U. S. Army, Ft. Benjamin
Harrison, Indianapolis 49, Indiana

1. There are inclosed four photostats of correspondence pertaining
to the status and payment of personnel who perished in the sinking of the
United States Army Transport "Cynthia Olson".

2. As the name of Sotero V. Cabigas appears as one of the crew members
on the "Cynthia Olson" and a determination regarding the status of all the
personnel on such vessel was made, it is believed that a further determina-
tion of status for subject is not necessary.

FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL: J. E. Miller, Jr.,
AGC

cal

JEM
Adjutant General

Rw
[Signature]

- 3 Incl
- Added & incl
- 2. 1st Ind dtd 27 Nov 46
- 3. Ltr dtd 6 Jan 47 (2 pages)
- 4. Status of Pers. of USAT
"Cynthia Olson" dtd 11 Mar
47
- 5. Ltr dtd 11 Mar 47 (2 pages)



file
~~RETURN TO:~~

CAC/mh/J
RPRB

Refile -

C O P Y

SETTLEMENTS DIVISION
FINANCE CENTER, U. S. ARMY
Indianapolis 49, Indiana

FINVN 247 Cabigas, Sotero V.
(23 Sep 53) Civilian

3 NOV 1953

SUBJECT: Memorandum for Record

TO: Chief, Military Personnel Records Center, AGO
4300 Goodfellow Boulevard
St. Louis 20, Missouri
ATTENTION: Casualty Unit

Attached letter dated 23 September 1953, claiming arrears of pay under the provisions of the Missing Persons Act of 1942, as amended, in the case of Sotero V. Cabigas, deceased civilian War Department employee, is forwarded herewith for a determination of status.

FOR THE DIVISION CHIEF:

1 Incl:
Ltr dtd 23 Sep 53

for /s/ James J. Kelly
/t/ C. L. CARDWELL
Captain, FC
Finance Officer

C O P Y

C O P Y

1151 Ipil, Alvarez St.
Sta. Cruz District
Manila, Philippines
September 23, 1953

Finance Officer, U.S. Army
Army Finance Center
Office of the Chief of Finance
Building 205, St. Louis 20
Missouri, U.S.A.
To: Finance Officer

Dear Sir:

Up to this time we have not collected the backpay compensation of my brother, Sotero V. Cabigas, who lost his life while serving during World War II aboard "S.S. Cynthia Olson".

We made an investigation at the Judge Advocate Office in Camp Murphy here in Manila (P.I.) and found out that no records has yet been forwarded to enable us to claim the backpay.

Please, enlighten us on this matter regarding the collection of backpay compensation, so as to enable us to collect them.

Very respectfully,

/s/ Eduardo V. Cabigas
/t/ Eduardo V. Cabigas

C O P Y

MEMO ROUTING SLIP		NEVER USE FOR APPROVALS, DISAPPROVALS, CONCURRENCES, OR SIMILAR ACTIONS	
1	NAME OR TITLE <i>CO MPRC, TAGO</i>	INITIALS	CIRCULATE
	ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION <i>St Louis, Mo.</i>	DATE	COORDINATION
2		<i>MM</i>	FILE
			INFORMATION
3			NECESSARY ACTION
			NOTE AND RETURN
4			SEE ME
			SIGNATURE
REMARKS <p><i>The attached comment # 2 dated 22 June 1954, which was recalled by Col. Smith, is forwarded for action.</i></p> <p><i>The investigation regarding the "Cynthia Adson" case has been concluded.</i></p>			
FROM NAME OR TITLE <i>Peifer, J.C., Lt Col & Unit Sec</i>		DATE <i>9 Aug 54</i>	
ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION <i>Case Br, TAGO 1D642</i>		TELEPHONE <i>55257</i>	

PJ

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND883078

AGPS-DD 201 Cabigas, Sotero V.
DB (3 Oct 15) 4 Jun 54

SUBJECT: Determination of Status.

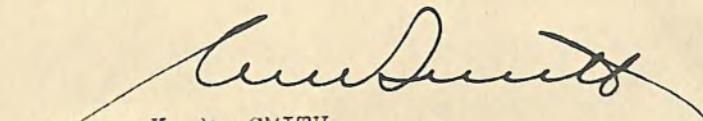
TO: CO	FROM:	DATE:	COMMENT NO. 2
MPRC, TAGO	Cas. Br., TAGO	22 Jun 54	Maj J. E. Crumb
St. Louis, Mo.	Det. Sec.		55251

1. This is a World War II case and all pertinent files are at your headquarters. Determination of Status was made 11 March 1947 by Casualty Branch. File AGPC-CR 704 (11 March 1947), USAT Cynthia Olsen. Attached are 4 copies of pertinent correspondence pertaining to case, which were found in this office's precedent files. Full copy of determination of status of Cynthia Olsen has previously been forwarded to your office.

2. Case returned herewith for disposition.

182

6 Incls:
1 & 2 n/c
Added:
Incls 3, 4, 5, 6.
Copies of Corr.



V. M. SMITH
Colonel, AGC
Chief, Casualty Branch, TAGO

DISPOSITION FORM

FILE NO.
AGRC-RJ 201 Cabigas, Sotero
V., D/B 3 Oct 15 (23 Sep 53)

SUBJECT
Determination of Status

TO Chief, Casualty Branch
Personnel Bureau, TAGO
ATTN: Mr. Arval B. Pifer

FROM CO, MPRC, TAGO

DATE

4 JUN 1954

COMMENT NO. 1

Mr Turner/mh/677

1. The attached case pertaining to Sotero V. Cabigas, date of birth 3 October 1915, former civilian employee of the Department of the Army, is forwarded for appropriate action.
2. Copy of Memorandum to Chief, Casualty Section, Personnel Actions Branch, AGO dated 11 March 1947, file AGPO-CR 704 USAT "Cynthia Olson", on file in this office, indicates that Sotero V. Cabigas was one of the crew members aboard the USAT "Cynthia Olson" who perished when vessel was sunk by enemy action on 7 December 1941 in the vicinity of the Hawaiian Islands.
3. Incomplete file for Sotero V. Cabigas is inclosed for your use in processing this inquiry. Records in attached file indicate subject individual is not among those considered as Project "J" personnel. In the event file is retained in your office, request Recovered Personnel Records Branch, this Center be so advised in order that charge out may be cleared.
4. The Chief, Settlements Division, Finance Center, U. S. Army, Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indianapolis 49, Indiana has been advised of this referral.

2 Incls

1. Ltr dtd 3 Nov 53 w/1 incl
2. Incomplete 201 File

for C.A. Cuff
H. H. NEWMAN, Colonel, AGC
Commanding

1780
RECEIVED
JUN 10 1954
RECEIVED

AGPO-GR 201 Cabigas,
Sotero, Vequilla

Next of Kin

Finance Officer
U. S. Army
Army Finance Center, OCF
Building 205
St. Louis 20, Mo.

Personnel Actions Br., AGO
Casualty Section
SR&D Unit
Room 5EB29 Pentagon
Washington 25, D. C.

21 August 1947

Miss Caveed
73401

Attached is copy of 1st Indorsement, 1 August 1947, from Philippine-Burkys Command, regarding next of kin of Sotero Vequilla Cabigas, deceased, Fireman, USAF "Cynthia Olsen", who was killed in action 7 December 1941 near Hawaii.

EARLE H. BIVING
Lt. Col., AGO
Officer in Charge
Casualty Section
Personnel Actions Branch, AGO

1 Incl.
Copy 1st Ind. PHILHYCOM, 1 Aug 47

und 3

ASPO-GR 704 (11 Mar 47)

11 March 1947

Status of Personnel of USAT Cynthia Olson.

Chief, Transportation Corps,
Water Transport Service, Marine Casualty Section,
The Pentagon,
Washington 25, D. C.

Attention: Miss Goad, Room 3C475

1. Reference is made to the case of the USAT Cynthia Olson, on Voyage No. 1, outbound 29 November 1941 from Seattle, Washington to Honolulu, Territory of Hawaii.

2. Pursuant to the provisions of the Missing Persons Act (Public Law 490, 77th Congress, as amended), the status of the crew members of the Olson was previously determined as missing in action on 7 December 1941; presumed to be dead 7 December 1942 (with entitlement to one year's accrued salary benefits from missing date); and it has now been determined that these employees of the Army Transport Corps were killed in action in the vicinity of the Hawaiian Islands as result of an attack by enemy submarine on 7 December 1941.

3. Attached for your information are:

- (a). Crew List of USAT Cynthia Olson, with names and addresses of relatives, which has been currently compiled from various sources by this office.
- (b). Copies of 41 letters, this office, dated 11 March 1947, addressed to relatives of the Olson's crew.

4. Further efforts are being made to contact near relatives of some of the Filipino crew members of the Olson and if successful you will be promptly notified.

5. Casualty reports are in process and will be forwarded to you when completed.

By order of the Secretary of War:

Adjutant General.

42 Incls:

- List of Olson's crew & next of kin.
 - 41 copies of AGO ltr, dtd 11 Mar 47 to relatives.
- 200 4

AGPO-CR 704 (11 Mar 47)

11 March 1947

Status of Personnel of
USAT Cynthia Olson

Commanding General,
Philippine - Ryukus Command,
APO 707, c/o Postmaster,
San Francisco, California.

1. Reference is made to letter this office, dated 5 November 1946, file: AGPC-S 704 (5 Nov 46); Subject: Status of crew of USAT Cynthia Olson.

2. Pursuant to the provisions of the Missing Persons Act (Public Law 490, 77th Congress, as amended), the status of the crewmembers of the Cynthia Olson was previously determined as missing in action on 7 December 1941; presumed to be dead 7 December 1943 (with entitlement to one year's accrued salary benefits from missing date); and it has now been determined that these employees of the Army Transport Corps were killed in action 7 December 1941 as result of attack by enemy submarine in the vicinity of the Hawaiian Islands.

3. Attached for your information are:

- (a) Crew list of USAT Cynthia Olson, with names and addresses of relatives, which has been currently compiled from various sources by this office.
- (b) Copies of 37 letters, this office, dated 11 March 1947, addressed to relatives of the 23 Filipino members of the Olson's crew, according to the latest information in this office. (Further efforts are being made to contact other Filipino relatives of these seamen).

4. This information is furnished you in anticipation of inquiries from relatives of these employees of the War Department regarding settlements of claims, which will be effected in this country.

By order of the Secretary of War:

28 Incls:
List of Olson's crew & next of kin.
37 Copies of AOC letters, dated
11 Mar 47 to relatives.

Adjutant General.

AGPC-CR 704 (11 Mar 47)

11 March 1947

Status of Personnel of USAT Cynthia Olson.

Commanding Officer,
Special Settlement Accounts Division,
Army Finance Center, Office of the Chief of Finance,
Building 206, St. Louis 20,
Missouri.

1. Reference is made to the case of the USAT Cynthia Olson, on Voyage No. 1, outbound 29 November 1941 from Seattle, Washington to Honolulu, Territory of Hawaii.
2. Pursuant to the provisions of the Missing Persons Act (Public Law 490, 77th Congress, as amended), the status of the crew members of the Olson was previously determined as missing in action on 7 December 1941; presumed to be dead 7 December 1942 (with entitlement to one year's accrued salary benefits from missing date); and it has now been determined that these employees of the Army Transport Corps were killed in action in the vicinity of the Hawaiian Islands as result of an attack by enemy submarine on 7 December 1941.
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Adjutant General.

42 Incls:
List of Olson's crew & next of kin.
41 copies of AGO ltr, dtd 11 Mar 47
to relatives.

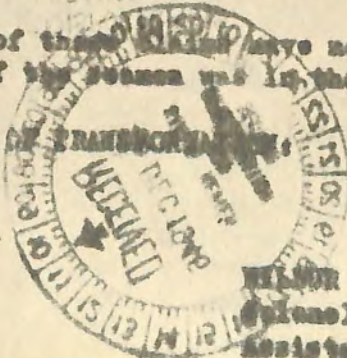
TO: The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D. C.

1. There are given below the names of seamen of the USS CHESAPEAKE OLSCH, on whose account claims have been filed with the records of benefits approved by this office and the date of payment.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Approved Claim</u>	<u>Date</u>
Carlson, Berthel	\$ 200.00 (Personal Effects)	
Duchale, Wm. F.	200.00 (Personal Effects)	
Johnstad, Gnd	\$200.00 (Life & Personal Effects)	
Daguicon, Joaquin	\$150.00 (Life & Personal Effects)	
Santiago, August S. D.	\$150.00 (Life & Personal Effects)	
Soliman, Pedro	\$150.00 (Life & Personal Effects)	
Villa, Raymond T.	\$150.00 (Life & Personal Effects)	
Rajo, Soproic	\$150.00 (Life & Personal Effects)	
Jaloon, Comrado M.	\$150.00 (Life & Personal Effects)	
Enay, Leodegario T.	150.00 (Personal Effects)	10/21/44
Dodd, Roland J.	\$500.00 (Life & Personal Effects)	
Lofving, Harry K.	300.00 (Personal Effects)	
Moore, Thomas G.	300.00 (Personal Effects)	
Taylor, Charles E.	300.00 (Personal Effects)	6/24/44
Muirhead, Thomas, Jr.	300.00 (Personal Effects)	6/14/44
Atad, Anastacio M.	\$150.00 (Life & Personal Effects)	
Barbas, Maximo	\$150.00 (Life & Personal Effects)	
Pedro, Victoriano T.	\$150.00 (Life & Personal Effects)	
Gabigay, Sotero V.	\$150.00 (Life & Personal Effects)	
Montegrejo, Isidro E.	\$150.00 (Life & Personal Effects)	9/44
Rodriguez, Benito	\$150.00 (Life & Personal Effects)	
Terro, Maximo	\$150.00 (Life & Personal Effects)	
Bushka, Antony G.	250.00 (Personal Effects)	6/1/44
Mannita, Domingo L.	300.00 (Personal Effects)	
Valen, Guillermo G.	150.00 (Personal Effects)	6/44
Enes, Zacarias	\$150.00 (Life & Personal Effects)	
Bastie, Alfred M.	\$150.00 (Life & Personal Effects)	
Cadag, Fred G.	\$150.00 (Life & Personal Effects)	
Escalante, Leo M.	\$150.00 (Life & Personal Effects)	paid

2. The majority of these claims have not been settled due to fact that the next-of-kin of the seaman was in the Philippines.

FOR THE CHIEF OF TRANSPORTATION:



1 Incl
 by Crew List
 Incl 2. w/d

WILSON S. ELLIOTT
 Colonel, TC
 Assistant

*General Accounting Office
Washington 25*

Misc-1048933-WHM and others

JAN 6 - 1947

The Department,
The Adjutant General's Office,
Washington 25, D. C.

Re: AFPC-5 704 (19 Nov 46) Missing

Sirs:

Reference is made to your letter of November 19, 1946, transmitting a list of the names of the crew members of the USAT "Cynthia Olson," who are reported to be missing and requesting that information be furnished as to which members have been paid by this office, as well as which members have not been paid the benefits due under the provisions of Public Law 490, 56 Stat. 143, as amended.

For your information, there are listed below the names of the deceased crew members of the USAT "Cynthia Olson," whose estates have been paid the amounts due for the period each was reported in a missing in action status:

<u>Claim Number</u>	<u>Name of Crew Member</u>
1048933	Berthel Carlson
1049052	William P. Bunktele
1049971	Roland Joseph Bodd
1049063	Harry K. Lofving
1048918	Charles H. Taylor
1049591	Thomas Muirhead, Jr.
1049053	Anthony G. Busika
1049065	Domingo L. Mananita
1119036	Guillermo O. Voles
1042248	Sammuel J. Zickind
1042293	Ernest J. Davenport

The following are the names of the deceased crew members whose estates have not been paid the amounts due under the provisions of Public Law 490, 56 Stat. 143, as amended:

<u>Claim Number</u>	<u>Name of Crew Member</u>
1114623	Mudino Bastos
1049064	Clare Haagan
1049054	Jesse L. Bata
1049068	Isidro E. Montegrejo
1114865	August S. D. Santiago
1049510	Carl Johnstad
1114580	Joseph Daguison
1055541	Francisco Perales

Serial Number

Name of Inventor

112470
112497
112498
112499
104921
112499
112440
112440
112472
104924
112461
112462
121199
104933
104927
104967
104969

Pedro Salinas
Raymond T. Villa
Systonia Raje
Conrado H. Jalson
Leanduario T. Hany
Amatocio H. Ated
Victoriano T. Pedro
Soburo V. Gallego
Benito Rodriguez
Marino Torre
Eusebio Diaz
Alfred H. Benillo
Fred C. Casing
Leo H. Escalante
James W. Mills
Thomas G. Moore

For the Comptroller General of the United States,

Respectfully,

M. SHENK

Claims Reviewer.

e/gbb

11 21 1942

Mr. Mark Voquilla,
25 1st Marine Street,
Seattle, P.I.

Dear Mr. Voquilla:

I am referring to General Wile's letter of 25 January 1942 in which he informed you that a finding of death had been made in the case of your cousin, Ettore Voquilla Cabigas, civilian employee of the Army Transport Service, and that the presumptive date of his death had been established as 7 December 1941.

Since that time a revision has been made in the Missing Persons Act (Public Law 490, 77th Congress, as amended), which enables the War Department to fix an actual date and issue an official report of death in any case where circumstances lead to no other logical conclusion. Your cousin was serving as Fireman on the United States Army Transport "Synthia Olson", which disappeared 7 December 1941 about 1200 miles west of Seattle, Washington, and approximately 700 miles northeast of Honolulu, carcase to Honolulu, Territory of Hawaii. Little is known of the circumstances surrounding the disappearance of the Olson. The last message received from the boat was a SOS signal on 7 December 1941 reporting a submarine on the surface. No further information was ever received on the fate of the vessel or any of the members of the crew. A destroyer searched the area from which the ship's last radio message was dispatched, but failed to discover any trace of the vessel, its appurtenances, cargo or personnel. In consideration of the amount of traffic passing in the vicinity of the last reported position of the Olson, and the long period of time since its disappearance it must now be concluded that the Synthia Olson was sunk by enemy action and that your cousin was killed in action when the ship sank. Therefore the date of your cousin's death is being established on War Department records as 7 December 1941.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Missing Persons Act (Public Law 490, 77th Congress, as amended), official reports will now be issued by the War Department which will indicate that your cousin was killed in action on 7 December 1941. The issuance of this official report of death will not affect any payments or settlements which have already been made on the basis of the previous finding of death.

SR + E

1947-48 Mr. Cabigas, Retiree Vequilla
(11 Mar 47)

It is suggested that the legal heirs of Retiree Vequilla Cabigas contact the following agencies, if such has not already been done, regarding possible benefits on this date:

Special Settlement Accounts Division, GSA,
Army Finance Center, Office Chief of Finance,
Building 203,
St. Louis 30, Missouri. (regarding account solely for one year after his death).

Federal Security Agency,
Bureau of Employees' Compensation,
205 Madison Avenue,
New York 17, New York. (relative to pension benefits).

Transportation Corps, US Army,
Water Transport Service,
Marine Casualty Section,
Room 3C 475, The Pentagon,
Washington 25, D. C. (regarding insurance and personal effects claims).

United States Civil Service Commission,
Washington, D.C. (regarding refund of retirement deductions).

You have my deepest sympathy in your bereavement.

Sincerely yours,

EDWARD F. WITSELL
Major General

The Adjutant General of the Army.

MEMO FOR RECORD:

Inf. from Merchant Marine Files: (Treasury - Ext. 5542)

Cabigas, ro Vequilla,
Born: ept 1913, Cebu, Cebu, P.I.

Cousin: Miss Maria Vequilla,
63 San Nicolas Street
Manila, P.I.

070001

AGPO-CR 704 USAT "Cynthia Olson"
(11 Mar 47)

11 March 1947

MEMORANDUM TO: Chief, Casualty Section, Personnel Actions Branch, AGO.

SUBJECT: Reports of Death of Personnel of USAT "Cynthia Olson".

I - FACTS

1. The "Case History of the Cynthia Olson", received in the Casualty Branch, AGO, 10 December 1942, apparently from the Office of the Chief of Transportation, is as follows:

"The Freight Steamship CYNTHIA OLSON, operating under Army Charter B.B., left Seattle Port of Embarkation, Seattle Washington, on December 1, 1941, bound for Honolulu, T.H., with a miscellaneous cargo valued at approximately \$75,000.00, of which the majority was lumber.

"On December 7, 1941, the Steamship LURLINE, operated by the Matson Navigation Company, returning from Honolulu, T.H., to San Francisco, California, on the normal course, was contacted via the automatic radio alarm system and immediately thereafter at 18:38 Greenwich Civil Time (G.C.T.) (8:08 A.M. Honolulu time, 8:38 A.M. at position of the LURLINE, 1:38 P.M. EST), received an SOS-SSS from the CYNTHIA OLSON. This message reported a submarine on the surface at latitude 33.42 North, longitude 145.29 West, a position approximately 700 miles northeast of Honolulu, directly on the normal trade route from Seattle to Honolulu, and about 100 miles north of the LURLINE.

"The last pertinent message received by the LURLINE was from a station in San Francisco, stating that hostilities had commenced with a raid on Honolulu Harbor at 19.02 G.C.T. December 7, 1941 (8:32 A.M. Honolulu time, 11:02 A.M. San Francisco time 2:02 P.M. EST), and confirming the distress signals of the CYNTHIA OLSON from a position, latitude 33.42 North, longitude 145.29 West.



AGPO-CR 704 USAT "Cynthia Olson"
(11 Mar 47)

"No further information has been received on the fate of the OLSON or any members of the crew. The vessel carried a deck load and under deck load of lumber, and on January 22, 1942, a dispatch from the Commanding Officer of the 13th Naval District by dispatch to Navy Department January 22, 1942, stated in substance that in view of having received no reports of any trace of the vessel, appurtenances, cargo or personnel, and in consideration of the amount of traffic passing in vicinity of the last reported position of the OLSON and the nature and type of stowage of the cargo carried by the OLSON, it is very possible that the vessel has been taken as a prize by the enemy."

2. A Memorandum For Record, dated 10 December 1942, states that Captain Nelson, Insurance and Claims Section, Office Chief of Transportation, stated by phone that a ship case history is a resume of all available information on the case, and is compiled for record purposes only. He further stated that the fact that a destroyer searched the area from which the ship's last radio message was dispatched, and failed to discover any trace of the vessel was not considered by his office as conclusive evidence of either the capture or sinking of the ship, but was merely entered in the history as possible pertinent information.

3. Letter from Fort Mason, California, dated 13 December 1941 to the Quartermaster General is as follows:

"1. Here are copies of messages received regarding the distress of the "CYNTHIA OLSON" which appeared to have been attacked by an enemy submarine on Sunday, December 7th. No further information is available at this time regarding this ship or its crew members.

"2. It is apparent from the last message on this sheet that the Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet, was advised of the distress of the ship, and it is possible that some action was taken by him to offer assistance of some sort, but nothing is known here yet as to this. The "LURLINE" was ordered to proceed to port by the Twelfth Naval District and did not, therefore, respond to the call for help."

4. The copy of messages referred to above is as follows:

" THATS CYNTHIA

NV V CG HR RECD FM MONITOR SANFRAN CG

FM KIEK TO KPH

RUSH THIS TO NAVY PEARL HARBOR

AT 1838 GMT WUAP USAT CYNTHIA OLSON SENT FIRST AUTO ALARM SIGNAL
FOLLOWED BY SOS SSS SSS* DE WUAP LAT 33 42 NORTH AND LONG 13 145 29
WEST SAYS NATURE OF SOS SUBMARINE ON SURFACE WE ARE IN DIRECT
COMMUNICATION WITH WUAP

SIG SS LURLINE KIKK

1914/7 BD CLR

A 17

Q 21 10 14 57 OINC 20

LD 1654

CQ CQ CQ XXX XXX XXX

WGBC V NPG

7 DEC 41

FROM: RADIO SANFRAN
TO: ALL SHIPS

BT USAT CYNTHIA OLSEN SENT DISTRESS REPORTS ENEMY SUBMARINE LAT 33.42
N LONG 145.29 W 071902

A 20

Q 17 19 OINC 10 14 16 12 21

CQ CQ CQ XXX XXX XXX WGBC

CORRECTED COPY

1842 HOSTILITIES COMMENCED WITH AIR RAID ON PEARL HARBOR 1902 USAT
CYNTHIA OLSEN DISTRESS REPORTS ENEMY SUBMARINE LAT 33.42 N LONG 145.29 W
ALL TIME COT
BROADCAST SKED CAST AND AS FIRST ITEM ON MAJOR WEATHER

A 17

Q 20 OINC

LD 1679

19

10 - 14

* SSS(enemy submarine chasing)

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5. Copy of the crew list of the USAT "Cynthia Olson" (sometimes spelled Olsan), which was furnished the Casualty Branch, AGO, on 6 February 1942, by the Quartermaster General, is as follows:

CREW LIST U.S.A.T. "CYNTHIA OLSON" -- Voyage No. 1, outbound Nov. 29, 1941 from Seattle, Washington.

Carlson, Berthel	Master	Wife: Mrs. Berthel Carlson, 1415 LeGrande Terrace, San Pedro, Cal.
Buchtele, Wm. P.	1st Officer	Wife: Mrs. Katherine Buchtele, 811 Loma Vista Dr., Long Beach, Calif.
Johnstad, Cad	2nd Officer	Brother: J. Johnstad, 1290 Webber St., Alameda, Calif.
Mills, James W.	3rd Officer	Grandmother: Mrs. Anna M. Woods, 2257 W. Viewmont Way, Seattle, Wash.
Daguison, Joaquin	Boatswain	Wife: Adelina C. Daguison, 303 Sabang Baliuag, Bulacan, P.I.
Bata, Jose L.	A.B. Seaman	Uncle: Tibrosio Burila, 1719 6th St., Sacramento, Calif.
Maagas, Claro	A.B. Seaman	Mother: Adriana Castillo, 683 Broadway, San Francisco, Calif.
Perales, Pio J.	A.B. Seaman	Brother: Tony Perales, P.O. Box 786 Turlock, Calif.
Santiago, August S.D.	A.B. Seaman	Wife: Julita Santiago, 65 Tupas St., Morong, Rizal, P.I.
Soliman, Pedro	A.B. Seaman	Sister: Christina Soliman, 64 Solano St., Manila, P.I.
Villa, Raymond T.	A.B. Seaman	Sister: Mrs. Pedro T. Ramos, Macato, Capiz, P.I.
Bajo, Sopromio	Ord. Seaman	Father: Macanor Bajo, Talingting, Oriental Negres, P.I.
Jalocan, Comrado M.	Ord. Seaman	Father: Rufino Jalocan, Calibo, Capiz, P.I.

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Kaay, Leodegario T. Ord. Seaman

Friend: Pacifico Pacolba,
 Navy Yard, Mare Island, Vallejo, Calif.

ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT

Dodd, Roland J. Q. M. A.

Brother: C. M. Dodd, Jr.,
 611 Naples St., Corpus Christi, Texas

ENGINE DEPARTMENT

Lofving, Harry K. Ch. Engr.

Wife: Hulda E. Lofving,
 1060 Warfield Ave., Oakland, Calif.

Moore, Thomas G. 3rd Asst. Engr.

Wife: Mrs. Edith J. Moore,
 2217 E. Terrace St., San Francisco, Cal.

Taylor, Charles H. 2nd Asst. Engr.

Wife: Mrs. Mabel R. Taylor,
 1425 Harrison St., Oakland, Calif.

Muirhead, Thomas, Jr. 1st Asst. Engr.

Wife: Mrs. Thomas Muirhead,
 734 Bush St., San Francisco, Calif.

Atad, Anastacio M. Oiler

Wife: Mrs. Florentino Dizon,
 956 Bildao St., Manila, P. I.

Basbas, Maximo Oiler

Brother: Philmyoita Basbas,
 Oroquieta, Md., P.I.

Pedro, Victoriano T. Oiler

Sister: Macaria T. Pedro
 Romblon, P.I.

Cabigus, Sotero V. Fireman

Cousin: M. Vequilla,
 603 San Nicholas St., Manila, P.I.

Montegrejo, Isidro E. Fireman

Father: Agapito Montegrejo,
 USAT "HOLBROOK" Ft. Mason, Calif.

Rodriguez, Benito Fireman

Cousin: D. L. Cipriano,
 631 Jackson St., San Francisco, Cal.

Terro, Maximo Wiper

Brother: Johnnie Terro,
 Leyte, Bato, P.I.

STEWARD DEPARTMENT

Bushka, Anthony G. Ch. Steward

Wife: Mrs. Della Marie Bushka,
 737 Douglas St., San Francisco, Cal.

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Mananita, Domingo L.	Sr. Cook	Cousin: Badong Rosales, 528 1/2 "M" St., Sacramento, Calif.
Velez, Guillermo O.	Jr. Cook	Sister: Januaria Vad. Tamay O. Cebu Cebu, P. I.
Baes, Zacarias	Messman	Brother: Victor Baes, Guinan, Samar, P.I.
Basilio, Alfred M.	Messman	Friend: Moises Evangalista, 668 Clay St., San Francisco, Cal.
Cadag, Fred C.	Messman	Brother: Ben C. Cadag, 614 King St., Seattle, Wash.
Escalante, Leo M.	Messman	Son: Leo M. Escalante, Jr. 722 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco, Cal.

MILITARY PERSONNEL

Ziskind, Samuel J.	Pvt. SC Radio Opr.	Mother: Mrs. Lena Ziskind, 234 Utica Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y.
Davenport, Ernest J.	Pvt. MD Med. Tech.	Mother: Mrs. A. L. Clifton, Creswell, North Carolina.

6. Contract No. W928 QM-40989, Office Identifying No. ATS-697, states in part:

"THIS CHARTER PARTY made and concluded in the City of San Francisco, California, on the 18th day of November, 1941, between OLIVER J. OLSON & COMPANY a California corporation, Owner of the steamship "SS CYNTHIA OLSON" with proper certificate for hull and machinery and classed American Bureau of shipping of about 3,420 tons deadweight or thereabouts, on summer free board, inclusive of bunkers and stores, and THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (represented by the Superintendent, Army Transport Service, San Francisco, California). Charterer.

"(4) (Cost of Operation) The Government shall, at its own expense, man, operate, victual, fuel, and supply the vessel and pay all port charges, pilotages, and all other costs and expenses incident to the use and operation of the vessel.

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or its crew.

II - CONCLUSION

In view of the fact that the USAT Cynthia Olson radioed a distress signal and reported a submarine on the surface at 1:38 P.M. EST on 7 December 1941, about 1200 miles west of Seattle and 700 miles northeast of Honolulu, and nothing further was ever heard of the vessel or anyone known to have been on board, it may now be concluded (after a lapse of more than 5 years) that the vessel was sunk by enemy action and all on board perished.

III - RECOMMENDATION

1. It is recommended that pursuant to the provisions of Section 9, of the Missing Persons Act, the foregoing information be accepted as an official report of death and that casualty reports be issued stating that the 2 enlisted men and the 33 civilian employees of the Army Transport Service, Quartermaster Corps, USAT "Cynthia Olson", named in paragraph 5, (I FACTS) above, were killed in action on 7 December 1941 in the Central Pacific Area as result of enemy submarine attack. The casualty reports and official reports of death will contain the following statement:

"Finding of death has been issued previously under Section 5, Missing Persons Act, showing the presumed date of death as 7 December 1942. This 'Report of Death' is issued in accordance with Section 9 of said Act and its effect on prior payments and settlements is as provided in Section 9."

2. Attached is a revised list of names and latest known addresses of next of kin of the individuals known to have been aboard the Cynthia Olson, which is to be used for processing the casualty reports. Notifications have been made by Status Review and Determination Sub-Section, Philippine Unit. A copy of the Casualty Report on each of the 33 civilians will be forwarded to Transportation Corps, Water Transport Service, Attention: Miss Goad, Room 3C475, the Pentagon.

MYRTA WHEEL CAMOOD

Investigator

Status Review and Determination Sub-Section.

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APPROVED:

Recommended action will be taken.

By order of the Secretary of War:

EARLE R. EWING
Lt. Colonel, AGO
Officer in Charge, Casualty Section
Personnel Actions Branch, AGO

Crew List Attached.



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Authority NND883078

USAT "CYNTHIA OLSEN"