

HEADQUARTERS SPECIAL TROOPS
32d Infantry Division
APO 32

CHM/ed

29 January 1945

Miss Alice Bottcher,
239 Ramsdel Street,
San Francisco, California.

Dear Miss Bottcher,

Please accept my most sincere sympathy in your recent bereavement. It is with deep regret that I cannot personally give you a message of condolence on the death of your nephew, Herman.

Herman was killed 31 December 1944 by shrapnel from Japanese mortar fire while on a reconnaissance deep in enemy territory, midway between the villages of Jainagnatan and Baranbang, northeast of Silad Bay on the west coast of Leyte Island, Central Philippines. Services were held 3 January 1945, with full military honors. Your nephew is interred in a temporary United States cemetery at Limon, Leyte Island, Central Philippines, Grave No. 268, and will be given the care worthy of those who have made the supreme sacrifice for their country.

Herman commanded the 32d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop Mechanized, 32d Infantry Division, under my command, since 1st June 1944. He gained the full respect and friendship of every officer and enlisted man of the troop, and the deep admiration of officers and enlisted men of the 32d Infantry Division as well. Herman was considered one of the outstanding officers in the Southwest Pacific Area and in recognition of this was awarded many decorations for valor and meritorious service.

As a leader, his calmness, courage and determination, were an example followed by the officers and men of this Division in previous campaigns, and will undoubtedly be followed in the future.

Information of the enemy gained by your nephew, not only on the reconnaissance at the time of his death, but many others, was invaluable to this Division's success in the Leyte Island Campaign.

If I can be of any help, whatsoever, in the matters that may present themselves, please do not hesitate to write and ask for assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Charles H. Meyer
Charles H. Meyer,
Lt. Col., Infantry