

AGPC-S 201 Sasaoka, Itsumu  
(1 Mar 46) 30,101,548

1 March 1946

Mr. Masaru Sasaoka  
Waipahu, Oahu  
Territory of Hawaii

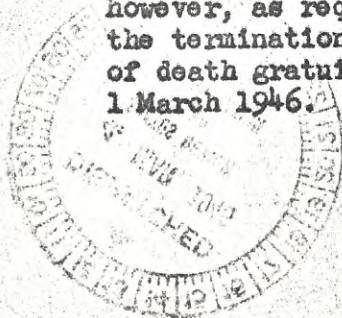
Dear Mr. Sasaoka:

Since your brother, Staff Sergeant Itsumu Sasaoka, 30,101,548, Infantry, was officially reported a prisoner of war of the German Government, the War Department has entertained the hope that he survived his imprisonment and that information would be forthcoming regarding his liberation and return to allied control. The conditions of warfare, however, have denied us such information. The record concerning your brother shows that he was last known to be a prisoner at Stalag III C, Germany, on 31 January 1945.

In the absence of any additional information concerning the fate of your brother and since his liberation from enemy hands has not been reported, the War Department now finds it necessary to change his initial status to missing in action as of 31 January 1945, the date of his last known whereabouts. Under the provisions of the Missing Persons Act the War Department is required to review the facts surrounding the disappearance of all persons officially determined to be missing in action in excess of twelve months and, when circumstances warrant, to make a finding of death.

Full consideration has recently been given to all available information relative to the absence of your brother, including all records, reports and circumstances. These have been carefully reviewed and considered, and the evidence is deemed to warrant a presumptive finding of death. Accordingly, an official finding of death has been recorded under the provisions of Public Law 490, 77th Congress, approved 7 March 1942, as amended.

The finding does not establish an actual or probable date of death; however, as required by law, it includes a presumptive date of death for the termination of pay and allowances, settlement of accounts and payment of death gratuities. In the case of your brother this date has been set as 1 March 1946.



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I regret the necessity for this message but trust that the ending of a long period of uncertainty may at least give some small measure of consolation. I hope you may find sustaining comfort in the thought that the uncertainty with which war has surrounded the absence of your brother has enhanced the honor of his service to his country. An appraisal of his sacrifice compels in us a feeling of humility and respect. May providence grant a measure of relief from the anxiety and anguish you have experienced during these many months.

Sincerely yours,

Charles Fetter  
1st Lt. AGC

EDWARD F. WITSELL

Major General

The Adjutant General of the Army

1 Incl.

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