

**ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY  
OCTOBER 24**

The *Arisan Maru*, a Japanese cargo ship carrying prisoners of war, was sunk by an American submarine on October 24, 1944, resulting in the deaths of more than 1,700 American soldiers, including a number of West Virginians.

**CSO: SS.8.1, SS.8.25, ELA.8.1**

**Investigate the Document: (West Virginia Veterans Memorial Archives Database)**

1. According to the bio of Ernest Bailey, the *Arisan Maru* was torpedoed by an Allied submarine in *this* marginal body of water that encompasses a small portion of the Pacific Ocean.
2. What award did Charles Race Brown, Jr. posthumously receive?
3. How many cards was Luther Hartzell Godwin able to send home to his family during his time in captivity?

**Think Critically:** In what ways did West Virginia contribute to war effort? What was the major difference between the Pacific Theater, where these men lost their lives, and the European Theater? What day would be an appropriate day to demonstrate our patriotism through remembrance of the Pearl Harbor attacks that led to our involvement in World War II?

West Virginia  
Veterans Memorial**Ernest Bailey**

Ernest Bailey was the son of Chriss and Cassie Bailey of Clear Fork, Wyoming County, West Virginia. He grew up in the close-knit Wyoming County community with his six brothers, Feltt, Glen, Seth, Ralph, French, and Ray, and three sisters, Thelma, Gladys, and Anthy. Ernest's father died when he was younger, and his mother, who had suffered for many months with dropsy, passed away just two weeks before the family learned of his death.

Ernest was among the first of Wyoming County's young men to be inducted into the service, and he enlisted in the United States Army Air Forces. He was sent overseas to the Pacific to serve in the Philippines as a private with the 698th Ordinance Company, Aviation. He proudly served during the Japanese assault on the islands in 1941-1942, but he was captured as a prisoner of war when the islands fell into the hands of the Japanese and the troops were forced to surrender in May, 1942.

Ernest was held as a prisoner of war in the Philippines for two years. While being transported to Japan on the *Arisan Maru*, Ernest lost his life on October 24, 1944 when the unmarked ship was torpedoed by an Allied submarine in the South China Sea. His death was received by the War Department on June 16, 1945.

Ernest was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and his body was buried at sea. In recognition of his honorable service in World War II, and for his ultimate sacrifice, Ernest Bailey's name is inscribed on the Tablets of the Missing at the Manila American Cemetery in Manila, Philippines, and Ernest's was one of the original names inscribed on the West Virginia Veterans Memorial.

West Virginia  
Veterans Memorial**Charles Race Brown, Jr.**

Charles Race Brown, Jr. was born December 16, 1922 to Charles Race Brown and Lauren C. Vandyne in New Martinsville, Wetzel County, West Virginia. Charles's dad was an oil well driller in the area. When Charles was still young, his mother died and his father remarried. From this marriage several half-siblings were produced and Charles was joined by Harley, Lulabell, and Lillie Mae. By the time of Charles's entry into the armed forces, the family had relocated to Upshur County, West Virginia.

Charles enlisted in the United States Army on January 7, 1941 (eleven months to the day before the attack on Pearl Harbor). He received eight weeks of mechanical training at a school in Columbus, Ohio before he was sent in the foreign service. He was shipped overseas to the Pacific in October, 1941 to serve with the 17th Ordnance Company in the Philippines. When the Japanese began their assault on the Philippines, Charles was wounded on December 14, 1941. He was captured as a prisoner of war when Corregidor fell in 1942.

Charles was held as a prisoner of war in the Philippines for two years. While being transported to Japan on the *Arisan Maru*, Charles lost his life on October 24, 1944 when the unmarked ship was torpedoed by an Allied submarine in the South China Sea. His death was received by the War Department on June 16, 1945.

Charles was awarded the Purple Heart with Oak Cluster and his body was buried at sea. In recognition of his honorable service in World War II, and for his ultimate sacrifice, Charles Race Brown's name is inscribed on the Tablets of the Missing at the Manila American Cemetery in Manila, Philippines, and Charles's was one of the original names inscribed on the West Virginia Veterans Memorial.

West Virginia  
Veterans Memorial**Luther Hartzell Godwin**

Luther Hartzell Godwin was born in 1921 to Hartzell Godwin and Grace Blackwood of Elkins, Randolph County, West Virginia. He was the only child of the Godwin family, and his mother died during his youth. He was well-known around his local Elkins community during his formative years, prior to him entering the armed forces.

Luther enlisted in the United States Navy in January, 1940. He was soon shipped overseas to the Pacific to serve in the Philippines as a Pharmacist's Mate 3rd Class. Luther served gallantly with the military forces in the Philippine Islands, but he was captured as a prisoner of war at the fall of Corregidor when the US troops were forced to surrender to the invading Japanese.

Luther was held as a prisoner of war in the Philippines for two years. His father received three cards from him in December, 1943; these were the only communications from his son during his entire period of captivity. While being transported to Japan on the *Arisan Maru*, Luther lost his life on October 24, 1944 when the unmarked ship was torpedoed by an Allied submarine in the South China Sea. His death was received by the War Department on June 16, 1945.

The *Clarksburg Exponent* carried a large obituary on Thursday, June 28, 1945 detailing the death of Luther along with another local boy killed on the *Arisan Maru*, Thomas Abruzzino.

Luther was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and his body was buried at sea. In recognition of his honorable service in World War II, and for his ultimate sacrifice, Luther Hartzell Godwin's name is inscribed on the Tablets of the Missing at the Manila American Cemetery in Manila, Philippines, and Luther's was one of the original names inscribed on the West Virginia Veterans Memorial.