

**HENRY MORRISON, MISSING SINCE MARCH 31, 1945, DECLARED DEAD**

Henry F. "Peck" Morrison, 27, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wiley Morrison, reported missing in action since March 31, 1945, is now listed by the navy department as dead, according to word received by his parents here.

Morrison, who wore a "hash mark" to denote his longevity, was a member of the navy's most daring service - the submarine crews.

He was reported missing after his sub - the U. S. S. Kete - failed to return from a war patrol in the vicinity of Nansei Shoto, according to the letter received by the Morrisons from Secretary of the Navy Forrestal.

Nansei Shoto, sometimes known as the Ryukus chain, covers Okinawa and a group of similar islands lying southwest of Japan proper.

The mission from which the sub failed to return was one of a number of hazardous patrols in enemy waters far in front of the then established "combat lines."

His last letter to his parents was written February 28, 1945 and received here by them on March 8 of the same year. Although he had been officially declared missing, some slight hope had been held by relatives that he would be alive.

The letter from Forrestal, however, declared that "in view of the strong probability that the submarine sank during action in enemy controlled waters and that your son lost his life as a result thereof, because no official or unconfirmed reports have been received that he survived, because his name has not appeared on any lists or reports of personnel liberated from Japanese prisoner of war camps, and in view of the length of time that has elapsed since he was reported missing in action, I am reluctantly forced to the conclusion that he is deceased."

The letter continues, "I know what little solace the formal and written word can be to help meet the burden of your loss, but in spite of that knowledge, I cannot refrain from saying very simply, that I am sorry."

The letter informs the Morrisons that on March 1, 1945 the Kete departed from Guam in the Marianas to conduct a war patrol in the vicinity of Nansei Shoto and that a message was received on March 20 which gave her position at that time in the patrol area. No further communications were received.

**RECEIVES CITATION**

The submarine combat insignia and a citation have been awarded posthumously to the young man by the commander of the submarine force of the Pacific fleet "for materially contributing to the success of this vessel (the Kete) against the enemy."

It is known that the Kete sank three ships during the patrol from which she failed to return.

Morrison, a machinists' mate first class, was born in Decatur, attended high school here and was employed by the Lafontaine Handle company prior to enlisting in the navy.

**Contributed by Karin King**