

William M. DeVitt, Jr., T-35

19 February 1918 – 24 August 1942

(aged 24)



THREE MIDSOUTH MEN GIVE LIVES FOR NATION

One of the men is William M. Devitt, Jr., a Memphian imprisoned in a Japanese camp.

It was a quirk of fate that placed young William M. Devitt, Jr., son of William M. Devitt, Sr., 620 McDavitt, in Japanese hands.

A student of chemical warfare, he had served two years with the Army overseas and was scheduled for a transfer from the Phillippines shortly after December 1941. Then came Pearl Harbor, forcing him to stay at his station. When Bataan fell, he was among those captured.

Letter from Marshall

On May 17, his father was notified that the Japanese government has reported the death of his son May 12 in the Southwest Pacific. Then yesterday came a letter from General Marshall, Chief of Staff, advising Mr. DeVitt that, "Although full details of William DeVitt's death are not available at this time, he died while in the service of his country and he will not be forgotten by those who are determined to bring this terrible struggle to a victorious conclusion."

Young DeVitt was born here and attended Sacred Heart, Humes, and Tech High Schools. His father is his sole survivor.

Information from The Commercial Appeal, Tuesday, June 1, 1943.

