LT. NAT BROWNFIELD FREY

"Nat B. Frey"

U. S. Navy - Lost in the Battle of the Java Sea, 1942

Wheeling News-Register, 13 Jan 1944

MOUNDSVILLE FORMER MOUNDSVILLE LOST IN BATTLE, JAVA S

HALF BROTHER OF MRS.

L. GARBESI, OF property at E. Morton avenue operated a salot room now occur GLENDALE .

lerk J Randall Crow, seeking had asked aid of the county clerk to aid in locating the family Bible locate the family Bible, last known in which were kept the birth records of children of the late Lewis B Frey of Moundsville and his hirst wife, Mrs. J. B. Conway (Halling Frey Conway), of 5447 Mash r st. Philadelphia (20), Pa., in-fermed the Marshall county clerk at her prother Lieut. Nat B. Frey of the United States Navy, a former resident with his family m Moundsville, was lost in the Lattle of the Java Sea in Feb-

Lieutenant Frey, Mrs. Conway's etter states, was chief engineer the U S Navy aircraft carrier iningles, but the letter did not at ite specifically that it was, or us not, on the Langley that Lieutenant Frey was lost

Lieutenant Frey was a half prother, and the writer of the tier a half sister of Mrs. V. L. irbesi of Glendale, whose husden is a department manager for " Hazel-Atlas Glass company at w heeling

Clerk Crow telephone Mrs. Garst and informed her of Mrs. Conav s request to locate the family tible, and learned that Mrs. Gar-... st had lost contact with Mrs onway, and would communicate ith her at once Apparently, the irk said, Mrs Garbesi had not scard of the loss of her half brothr in battle

Lieutenant Frey is well remenibered by many Moundaville peo-The He lived with his family just posite what was formerly the In nderson Brothers department store at Jefferson avenue and

SEEKING BIBLE BIRTH REC-ORDS, REVEALS LOSS OF NAT FREY

Third street, which now houses the state liquor store. Prior to in what was then the Bowman in what was then the Bowman property at Eighth street and Morton avenue His atner, who operated a saloon in the business room now occupied by the T F Rogerson dry goods stere died at Benwood in December, 1906.

to her to have been in the possession of the second wife of her father, Mrs. Ella Craft Frey, to assist in procuring birth records for the first children of Mr Frey

Former Moundsville Youth Lost In Java Sea

Writing to County Clerk J. Randall Crow in quest of informa-tion that would enable her to locate the family Bible in which are written birth records of the children of the lato Lewis B. Frey of Moundaville by his first marriage, Mrs. J. B. Conway (Hallie Frey Conway) of 5447 Maseher strect. Philadelphia (20), Pa., disclosed that her brother, Lieutenant Nat B. Frey of the Navy, a hattve and former resident of Moundaville, was lost in the battle of the Java Sea in February, 1942 are written birth records of the Java Sca in February, 1942

Licutenant Frey was a half brother, and Mrs Conway is a half sister of Mrs Vinton L Garbesi of Glendale, whose husband is a department manager for the Hazel-Atlas Glass company at Wheeling. Clerk Grow, learning of the re-

lationship between Mrs. Conway and Mrs. Garbesi, communicated and Mrs. Garbesi, communicated with the Glendale woman by telephone and informed her of the quest for the family Bible being made by Mrs. Conway in order to secure birth certificates.

Mrs. Garbesi told the clerk she had lost touch with her half sister and that she would communicate the conditions of the conditions o

had lost touch with her half sister, and that she would communicate with her at once.

A.postscript to Mrs Conway's letter, telling of the loss of her brother, said that he was lost in the battle of Java Sea, and that he was chief engineer on the U.S. Navy airplane carrier Langley. Navy airplane carrier Langley. The letter did not say whether or not it was in the sinking of the Langley that her brother

Evening Standard, Uniontown, PA, 28 April 1942

Missing Man Related To Local Residents

Lieut. Nat Brownfield Frye, reported missing after the sinking of the U. S. Aircraft Tender Langley in Fur Eastern waters, was a native of Uniontown and lived here during the early years of his life.

He was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Lewis B. Prye, grandson of Mrs. Helen M. Patton, who resided in West Berkeley street for a number of years, and nephew of the late Drusilla M. Patton, a teacher in Uniontown schools for many years.

Lieutenant Frye, who had been in the Navy for 34 years, resided with his wife, two sons and two daughters in San Diego, Cul. He also has two sisters, Mrs. John Byron Conway, Philadelphia, and Mrs. John E. Wallace, Waukegan, Ill.

The son of Lewis Beall Frey and Isabelle Moore McMackin, Nat was born in Uniontown, Fayette County, Pennsylvania on November 19, 1890. His siblings were Samuel, Hellen, Charles and Harriet. His mother died in September 1896.

The father, Lewis Beall Frey, then married Ella Craft and had additional children: Caroline Mary, Lewis Beall, Henry Gilmore and Irene Ella.

Father, Lewis Beall Frey, a former saloon keeper in Moundsville, died in 1906 and is buried at Mt. Rose Cemetery, Moundsville.

Cremated Himself in A Blaze of Whiskey

Lewis B. Frey, a former Moundsville saloon keeper, ended his life in a sensational manner in T. B. Dolan's saloon, at Benwood Junction, about midnight Friday. dead body, burned to a crisp, was found shortly after midnight by "Squire" Lilly, a bartender, who was aroused by smoke from the blaze which was rapidly eating into the floor and would soon have had the entire building in a mass of

The dead man is supposed to have fired his clothes after saturating them with whiskey, and then lay down on the bed, where he died, apparently in terrible agony.

LEWIS B. FREY KILLS HIMSELF

SATURATED HIS CLOTHES WITH WHISKEY AND THEN SET THEM ON FIRE DYING IN TERRIBLE AGONY—HOUSE WAS SET ON FIRE AND WAS SAVED WITH DIFFICULTY.

WHEELING, W. Va., December 15.—Lewis B. Frey, a former Moundsville saloon keeper, ended his life in a sensational manner in T. B. Dolan's saloon, at Benwood Junction, about midnight Friday, his dead body, burned to a crisp. "Squire" Lilly, a bartender, who was aroused by smoke from the blaze which was rapidly eating into the floor and would soon have had the entire building in a mass of flames.

The dead man is supposed to have fired his clothes after saturating them with whiskey, and then lay down on the bed, where he died, apparently in terrible agony.

Had Been Drinking.

Frey came to Benwood Junction early in the evening, and visited a number of saloons. He is said to have been drinking heavily. He had occupied a room on the third floor of the hotel, run in connection with the saloon a number of times previously, and unoknown to any of the attaches of the place went through the hall and upstairs to the room. It is thought he entered the room about 11 o'clock.

Short after midnight the bartender, who had occasion to visit a room in the upstairs portion of the building, detected the smell of smoke and made an investigation. Shortly before he reached the room occupied by Frey he met Mr. Dolan, the proprietor, who occupied a room nearby, and who had also been attracted by the smell of smoke.

Together they made their way into the room, which was literally packed with smoke. The fire was communicating with one of the walls of the room and blazing merrily. Dead Body in Bed.

They found Frey laying stretched out on the bed. A glance showed that he was dead, his clothing being burned off and the flesh burned to a crisp. Other inmates of the house were aroused, and by this time they succeeded in extinguishing the fire.

A physician was summoned, and upon examination stated that the men was doubtless dead some time before he was discovered. The body was removed to the undertaking parlors of Becker & Son, at Benwood. Coroner McCombs, of Moundsville, was summoned, and made arrangements to hold an inquest this morning.

Had Narrow Escape.

Peter Dolan, the aged father of the proprietor of the place, ocupled a room adjoining the one occupied by the dead man, and when found was almost completely overcome by the smoke. Had the fire gained much more headway the entire building would soon have been in a mass of flames and it would have been almost an impossibility for all of the inmates to have made their escape without injury. The building is a frame structure, and, with practically no fire-fighting equipment, it would have burned down in a short time.

Officer Press Matthews, of the Benwood police force, arrived soon after the body was discovered and stated early this morning that the case was evidently suicide.

Was Well Known.

Deceased formerly conducted a saloon on Jefferson avenue, near the corner of Third street, Moundsville, His place was one of the finest in the city. Since the "drys" have been in the majority Mr. Frey has been engaged principally in horse racing. He owned two fast animals which were run on a number of tracks throughout the State and valley during the summer and fall.

He resides at No. 709 Eighth street. Moundsville. He was in comfortable circumstances and his friends are at a loss as to the motive of his deed, unless it was despondency from drink.

He is survived by his widow and three children. Mr. Frey was well known throughout this vicinity.

Frey was well known here. For a long time he was manager of the Fairmont Brewing Company. Henry Gilmore, of this city, was a pariner with him in his business at Benwood. Mr. Gilmore left here this morning and will look after matters there.

In New Jersey, in 1911, Nat B. Frey married Ilena Gale, born in Baltimore. She died in 1920.

FREY.—On February 27, 1920, ILENA GALE, wife of N. B. Frey. [Newport (Ohio) papers please copy.]

Funeral from her late residence, 107 West Saratoga street, on Monday at 1.30 P. M. Interment in Greenmount Cemetery.

With Ilena Gale, Nat had a son, Nathaniel Brownsfield Frey, born in Baltimore, Maryland on January 7, 1914, and Earl Wells Frey, born about 1916.

In 1922, Nat B. Frey married Myrtle D. Weber.

Santa Ana Register (Santa Ana, California) - 30 May 1922,

Nat B. Frey, 31, San Pedro, and Myrtle D. Weber, 29, Philadelphia, Pa.

In the 1930 Census, Nathaniel Frey, Electrical Engineer, U.S. Navy, lived in Long Beach, Los Angeles, California with Myrtle, Naomi V., 16, and Ruth L. (Lufkin) Frey, 19. Naomi and Ruth were the daughters of Myrtle and her first husband, James Weber.

In 1940, Nat B and Myrtle D. Frey lived in San Diego, California. Her daughter, Naomi, 26, lived with them. Her surname is stated as Frey, however.

Myrtle Dorothy Luskin/Lufkin Frey, born in New Jersey 18 Nov 1892, died on 20 Nov 1942 at San Diego. As the wife of Nat B. Frey, she is buried at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, San Diego.

The death of Nat Brownfield Frey occurred on February 27, 1942. He was declared "Missing In Action" when the Langley was attacked by Japanese dive bombers during the war. He is named on the Manila American Cemetery Memorial at Manila, Capital District, National Capital Region, Philippines. He was awarded a Purple Heart.

VETERAN'S COMPENSATION APPLICATION

NUMBER 31322

Myeveenmission expires at the

of the Attorney

Read instructions and then type or print answers to the following questions striking out words that do not apply. Numerals in parenthesis refer to corresponding numerals in the instructions. COMMONWEARTH PENERWANKS Of Hawaii, NAT BROWNFIELD FREY xxxxxxxxxCity and County of Honolulu, being duly sworn, deposes and says: I am the veteran named in the following descriptive information; I served in the military or naval forces of the United States from June 22, 1908 to still in service claim veteran's compensation as authorized by Act No. 53, approved January 5, 1934; I was a resident of Pennsylvania at time of entry into service; I make this claim with full knowledge of the penalty for making a false statement relative to a material fact concerning this claim and the answers to the following questions and descriptive information are true: FREY, Nat Brownfield White (First and middle name) (Last name) (White or colored) 4257 17th St., , Philadelphia. Pennsylvania. (Street and number, City, County and State) Legal residence at entry into service Road, Honolulu Territory of Hawaii (Street and number, City, County and State) Present residence: 3617 Bethshap. (5) Enlisted, commissioned for Andreted in RAX ANCX NAX NGX XERCX Navy; XNRR; XMC X ORC X PAX York; XUS Yelk; X at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on 22 June, 1908. to Still in active Navy. (6) On active duty in Navy of Xn Reserve from 22 June, 1908 (7) Place and date of birth Uniontown, Pennsylvania - 19 November, 1890. Names and addresses of dependents: Wife (full name) Myrtle Dorothy Lufkin Frey. (3617 Bethshan Road, Honolulu, Minor children None Mother (full name) Dead Dead Father (9) Service in organizations, at stations or on vessels in the order named as follows: U.S.N. Training St., Newport, R.I. from 22 June, 1908 U.S S. MAINE 21 Nove., 1908 JERSEY (continued on from 1 Sept., 1909 (10) Grades or ratings with dates of appointments or promotions: (see back (11) Engagements: None (Served in World's War) Wounds or other injuries received with dates: None (12) (13)Served overseas from In regular Navy from June 22, 1908 to date hereof. Honorably discharged on Did you ever apply for or receive a bonus or veteran's compensation from any other State? (15) Did you ever refuse on conscientious, political or other grounds to perform full military duty or to render unqualified No Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12th day (Signature and seal of officer administering oath) WOTANT PUBLIC, FIRST JUDICIAL CINCUIT, CERTIFICATE OF IDENTIFICATION April 12, 1934 My license expires June 30, 1934. CLIFTON H. TRACY . do hereby certify that I am a Notary Public (19) I. (Name of person certifying to) in and for Territory; that NAT BROWNFIELD FREY applying for Veteran's and position) (Name of applicant) Compensation is known to me to be the applicant named in the application; that — he is mentally competent; that the signature of the affidavit is the signature of the applicant. Signature and impression of seal or stamp indicating office or position held. Rend instructions (19) before signing. 20 哥) Months at \$10.00 per month; Total \$

Computed by

Checked and approved by

71)