

Lt. Col. John Porter Adams, (19 Jul 1893 – 31 Dec 1944), Newport News July 26, 1945; Lt. Col. J. Porter Adams, Killed on Japanese Ship



The following sad message was received on Saturday by **Mrs. John R. Adams**, of this place: Washington D. C., July 21, 1945.
To: **Mrs. John R. Adams**, New Bloomfield, Pa.

Deeply regret to inform you that delayed information has reached this headquarters that your son, Lt. Col. John Porter Adams, lost his life 31st of December 1944, when the ship on which he was being removed from the Philippines to Japan was sunk. He is carried on the rolls of the Marine Corps as having been killed in the performance of his duty and service of his country. Please accept my heartfelt sympathy,

A. A. Vandergrift,
General U. S. M. C.
Commandant Marine Corps.

Colonel Adams had been a prisoner in a Japanese prison camp in the Philippines and was being taken by the Japanese to Japan to prevent his rescue by the Americans. The Japanese ship on which he lost his life was sunk by an U. S. submarine, not knowing that the vessel carried American prisoners. Colonel Adams was in the U. S. Navy during the first World War and had remained in the service ever since, being promoted step by step through merit to his present rank.

He was a son of the late **John R. Adams**, of this place. Surviving him are his mother, 88 years of age; three brothers, **Charles**, of Bartow, Fla; **Frank** and **Dr. Raymond Adams**, of this place, and one sister, **Mrs. Grace Schlitte**, of Philadelphia; also a son, **John Porter Adams Jr.**, 18, of Augusta, Ga; who has applied for enlistment in the Marine Corps. **Mr. Porter Owings**, of Newport, is an uncle. The late news of **Colonel Adams'** death is a sad blow to his family and many old friends here, where he spent his youth.

Newspaper Clipping, The Perry Historians

News has been received here of the death of **Lt. Col. John P. Adams**, U.S. Marine Corps, who died aboard a Japanese vessel while being transported with a group of war prisoners from the Philippines to Japan. The information was released by the Marine Corps.

Col. Adams, one-time inspector-instructor of the 19th Marine Corps battalion here, had been missing since the fall of Corregidor in the spring of 1942. Last December, he was aboard a Jap vessel bound for Japan when the ship was torpedoed and sunk.

Col. Adams was well-known in Augusta and had a host of friends. A son **John P. Adams, Jr.**, student at the Richmond Academy recently enlisted in the Marine Corps but will finish school before going on active duty. A daughter, **Mrs. Barbara Adams Pund**, wife of **Lt. Harry Pund, Jr.**, is with her husband at his naval post. **Col Adams'** children have made their home with **Mr. and Mrs. Harry Pund**, 1119 Highland Avenue, for several years.

The Navy Cross for distinguished service during the bombardment of Cavite, the Navy base in Manila Harbor, was awarded **Col. Adams** before his capture.