



SAMUEL BOWERMAN

* * *

LIMA COXSWAIN REPORTED LOST

Parents Learn Samuel Bowerman Is Missing

Samuel Bowerman, coxswain, U. S. N. R., 23, son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Bowerman, 621 N. Jefferson-st., is reported missing in action somewhere in the Southwest Pacific, the Navy department has informed his parents.

Bowerman entered the service Oct. 28, 1942, training at Great Lakes, Ill., and went overseas from San Francisco in 1943. After returning to the United States last December, he spent a 30-day furlough with his parents, and was overseas only several months when reported lost.

Prior to his entrance in the service, he was employed with the Campnell & Co. Contractors, 124 E. Elm-st.

U.S.S. MULLANY (DD528)

At Sea,
6 April 1945.

BOWERMAN, Samuel Alexander, #723 18 13, Cox, V-6, USNR, was attached to this ship and served on board, during the following operations against the enemy, in which he conducted himself with credit:

15 August 1943: Occupation of Kiska Island, Rat Islands, Aleutians.

24 December to 26 December 1943: Screening bombardment forces during occupation of Cape Gloucester, New Britain.

17-18 January 1944: Bombardment of Gali, New Guinea.

25-26 January 1944: Bombardment of Alexishafen, New Guinea.

2-4 March 1944: Bombardments of enemy installations, under enemy fire and aerial attack in Admiralty Islands Operation.

18-19 March 1944: Shipping search and bombardment at Kariru-Mushu Islands, New Guinea. (Wewak)

22 April 1944: Bombardment and seizure of Tanahmerah Bay area, New Guinea.

17 May 1944: Bombardment of Sawar Airdrome vicinity during seizure and occupation of Wakde-Sarmi Area, New Guinea.

27 May 1944: Bombardment and seizure of Bosnik, Biak Island, Schouten Islands, New Guinea.

4-5 June 1944: Under day and night air attack by Japanese planes off Biak Island, Schouten Island Group, New Guinea.

8-9 June 1944: Under night air attack by Japanese aircraft, and pursuit of enemy surface craft off Biak Island, Schouten Islands, New Guinea.

2 July 1944: Bombardment and occupation of Noemfoor Island, New Guinea.

30 July 1944: Screening occupation forces during landings on Cape Sansapor, Dutch New Guinea.

15 September 1944: Bombardment of Mitita Island during seizure and occupation of Morotai Island, Moluccas Group. (Halmahera)

20-29 October 1944: Screening flagship of Commander Seventh Fleet during occupation and seizure of Leyte-Samar Islands during Central Philippine Invasion. Under continuous enemy air attack during these days, and participated in attack on enemy submarine in northern entrance to Surigao Straits.

16-20 February 1945: Participated in bombardment and initial landing on Iwo Jima Island, Volcano Islands.

1-6 April 1945: Screening initial landing force during invasion of Okinawa Shima, Ryukyu Retto. Under continuous heavy day and night air attack during this period.

BOWERMAN, Samuel Alexander, #723 18 13, Cox, V-6, USNR, was attached to this ship and served on board, during the following operations against the enemy, in which he conducted himself with credit:

- 15 August 1943: Occupation of Kiska Island, Rat Islands, Aleutians.
- 24 December to 26 December 1943: Screening bombardment forces during occupation of Cape Gloucester, New Britain.
- 17-18 January 1944: Bombardment of Gali, New Guinea.
- 25-26 January 1944: Bombardment of Alexishafen, New Guinea.
- 2-4 March 1944: Bombardments of enemy installations, under enemy fire and aerial attack in Admiralty Islands Operation.
- 18-19 March 1944: Shipping search and bombardment at Kariru-Mushu Islands, New Guinea. (Wewak)
- 22 April 1944: Bombardment and seizure of Tanahmerah Bay area, New Guinea.
- 17 May 1944: Bombardment of Sawar Airdrome vicinity during seizure and occupation of Wakde-Sarmi Area, New Guinea.
- 27 May 1944: Bombardment and seizure of Bosnik, Biak Island, Schouten Islands, New Guinea.
- 4-5 June 1944: Under day and night air attack by Japanese planes off Biak Island, Schouten Island Group, New Guinea.
- 8-9 June 1944: Under night air attack by Japanese aircraft, and pursuit of enemy surface craft off Biak Island, Schouten Islands, New Guinea.
- 2 July 1944: Bombardment and occupation of Noemfoor Island, New Guinea.
- 30 July 1944: Screening occupation forces during landings on Cape Sansapor, Dutch New Guinea.
- 15 September 1944: Bombardment of Mitita Island during seizure and occupation of Morotai Island, Moluccas Group. (Halmahera)
- 20-29 October 1944: Screening flagship of Commander Seventh Fleet during occupation and seizure of Leyte-Samar Islands during Central Philippine Invasion. Under continuous enemy air attack during these days, and participated in attack on enemy submarine in northern entrance to Surigao Straits.
- 16-20 February 1945: Participated in bombardment and initial landing on Iwo Jima Island, Volcano Islands.
- 1-6 April 1945: Screening initial landing force during invasion of Okinawa Shima, Ryukyu Retto. Under continuous heavy day and night air attack during this period.

Albert O. Momm
 Albert O. Momm,
 Commander, U. S. Navy,
 Commanding.

U.S.S. Mullany (528)
April 12, 1945.

My dear Mr. and Mrs. Bowerman -

Your son Samuel has been officially classified as missing in action. At about 5:30 in the afternoon of April 6, 1945, he was at his battle station aiming a large antiaircraft gun when an explosion from an enemy hit occurred. He was then seen on the after part of the ship helping with the wounded. He threw off his life jacket, which had caught fire, and was later seen to have jumped into the water without a life jacket. A long scouring of the sea afterward failed to find a trace of him. He was not picked up by any of the rescue ships which remained in the area until the following morning. I feel that your son died in the last measure of devotion to the Navy and to his country.

Words cannot express the shock and sorrow of myself and the rest of Samuel's shipmates in the loss of so fine a man. His willingness to work hard, to help his shipmates wherever possible, and his nonchalant nature made him popular on board ship. Often he spoke of you, of his fiancée Jean, and his brother who had been in the Army. He liked the farm, and had looked forward to going back again.

We are all proud of Samuel, and his sacrifice and devotion to duty will not be forgotten.

The Navy Department forwards this letter for your personal information. It is not intended for publication.

Very sincerely,
Albert D. Morris, Commander, U.S. Navy,
Commanding