

WAR DEPARTMENT

Headquarters 179th Infantry
APO 45, c/o Postmaster
New York, N. Y.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



Mrs. John Hancock
Box 344
Auburndale, Fla.

HEADQUARTERS 179th INFANTRY
APO 45, c/o Postmaster
New York, N. Y.

23 April 1945

Mrs. Edna P. Hancock
Auburndale, Fla.

Dear Mrs. Hancock,

There is indeed little that I can say. The War Department will have informed you, by the time you receive this letter, of the very regrettable death of your husband, John B. Hancock, Army Serial Number 34784565. He was killed in action in ground combat on the 1st of November, 1944, while advancing with his unit against the enemy in Northeastern France.

I realize that words I may say by way of condolence are altogether inadequate to lift the burden of sorrow which must lie heavily upon your heart. It should, however, be a strengthening and consoling thought to contemplate that your husband gave his life on the field of battle that those back home might have a free and better world in which to live.

A Chaplain conducted services at his grave, and he now rests among his fellow countrymen in a well cared for American Military Cemetery at Epinal in France.

The Regimental Commander asks me to express his sympathy for the loss of your husband and to say his loss has been felt keenly in this Regiment, as he was an excellent soldier and was admired by all who knew him.

I can only assure you that the men of this command will dedicate every effort to achieve ultimate victory, so that the death of your husband may not have been without a solemn purpose.

May God's Divine Guidance be with you in this time of tribulation.

Very sincerely,

John R. Hull

JOHN R. HULL
1st Lt., 179th Infantry
Personnel Officer