

# MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



**BERNARD LEE MORRIS**

UNITED STATES ARMY  
PRIVATE (E-1)

APRIL 24, 1944 – FEBRUARY 11, 1945

KILLED IN ACTION

as

**PURPLE HEART PATRIOT  
SEPTEMBER 2025**

*Becky Walker Honoring Her Great Uncle's Service and Sacrifice*

*Sponsored by: Matilda Polk Campbell Chapter, NSDAR*



*The Great Uncle that I didn't know – Bernard Lee Morris*

I knew my great-grandparents, Jess and Addie Morris, quite well. When I was a child, they lived rather close to us in Bolivar, Missouri. They were always kind. They fed me apple pie, and we listened to the St. Louis Cardinals play baseball on the radio.

They would talk about their adult children, and I met several of them. However, they didn't talk about their son, my Great Uncle Bernard Lee Morris, who died in WWII. Not because they didn't love him, but because it caused them too much pain. They didn't want to discuss that they had received word from the war department of how the ship he was on had been torpedoed and that he was missing in action. Nor did they talk about the memorial that lists his name in the Manila American Cemetery. However, they kept the letter from him, postmarked before his death, that they didn't receive until after his death.

This is what I did learn later about him later.

Bernard Lee Morris was age 24 when he enlisted in the U.S. Army during WWII. He served as a private.

He was a passenger on USS LST-577 during the war. LST-577 earned two battle stars for her heroic World War II service. Bernard was declared "**Missing In Action**" when LST-577 was sunk by a Japanese submarine-launched torpedo RO 50, east of Mindanao off the Philippine Islands during the war.

Bernard resided in California prior to the war. He was married to Ruth Alene Montgomery and a father to three young children, Charlene, Mara, and Tommy Lee Morris. He was awarded the Purple Heart.

Ruth remarried after Bernard's death. Tommy reconnected with my father after the passing of my great-grandparents. This connection is when I learned about Bernard Lee Morris, the son my great grandparents grieved about all their lives, and the father that Tommy lost at age five.