McKenzie, Daniel

Private First Class, Daniel McKenzie, US Army, 262nd Infantry Regiment, 66th Infantry Division, enlisted January 30, 1942. The location of his enlistment was Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He was born 1920 and died December 25, 1944. He was awarded the Purple Heart. McKenzie is listed on the Tablets of the Missing at Normandy American Cemetery. His service ID was 38064632.

McKenzie is listed among 783 Soldiers reported lost at sea/perished when their Transport Ship was crossing the English Channel. The SS Leopoldville, a Belgium passenger ship converted into a transport, was struck by a torpedo fired by the German Submarine U-486 on Christmas Eve 1944.

Many were killed by the initial explosion of the torpedo when it struck the ship. Others stood on deck, awaiting orders which came slow or not at all as on this evening. The men boarded in Southampton in an unorganized manner, units were scattered throughout the ship.

Those who did not make it to lifeboats or rafts died from drowning or hypothermia as the ship listed and slowly slipped beneath the waves during the late evening and into the morning hours of December 25, 1944.