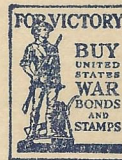


answered  
11/7/44

NAVY DEPARTMENT  
BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



DEC 21 1944

Mrs. Charles Staubach,  
600 SW Fourth Street,  
Miami, Florida

Dear Mrs. Staubach,

It is with the greatest sympathy for you and your family that I write you concerning the heroic circumstances of your husband's death.

Charles' gave his life to his country in what has been described by the Chief of Staff of the United States Fleet as "the outstanding naval battle of this present war", the Second Battle of the Philippines. He died in the performance of his duties against odds which he knew were overwhelmingly superior.

His devotion to duty, his patriotism, and his courage in fighting in the defense of his loved ones are qualities which will assure him unstinting admiration and lifelong respect in the hearts of those who knew him.

Charles' outstanding work both before and during the battle was an inspiration to the men who worked with him. We were of course hopelessly outnumbered by the Japanese and they battered our ship unmercifully.

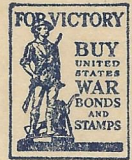
Your husband was in the act of preparing an auxiliary battle telephone circuit, to replace circuits which had been rendered inoperative by battle damage, when a salvo from a Japanese battleship struck the ship near where he was working. He received injuries in his back and left shoulder and was given first aid before the order to abandon ship. He was assisted to a life raft which was maneuvered clear of the area.

You and your son were foremost in his mind throughout the ordeal and his last words were words of hope that he might get back to his family and see his son. Your son should be eminently proud of his courageous father and the splendid life he gave to his country.

Charles died of his wounds while being treated on the raft about 11:00 a.m., October 25, 1944 (Philippine time), approximately two hours after he was wounded. He was given a simple burial service at sea directed by the Captain and participated in by his grieving shipmates.



NAVY DEPARTMENT  
BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



If at any time you wish to communicate with me, mail addressed to me at Island Hill Avenue, Ridgefield, Connecticut, will be forwarded promptly.

Regretfully yours,

*E. E. Roberts, Jr.*  
E. E. ROBERTS, Jr.

Lt. Comdr., USN  
Former Executive Officer  
U.S.S. SAMUEL B. ROBERTS