

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION (18)

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter

NL = Night Letter

LC = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

VA 504 70 GOVT=WASHINGTON DC 12 753P

MRS ALMA LUCILLE WALTERS=

1245 AUG 12 PM 10 22

2522 WEST CUCHARRAS COLSPGS=

I DEEPLY REGRET TO INFORM YOU THAT YOUR HUSBAND DONALD HENRY WALTERS FIREMAN FIRST CLASS USNR IS MISSING IN ACTION 30 JULY 1945 IN THE SERVICE OF HIS COUNTRY YOUR GREAT ANXIETY IS APPRECIATED AND YOU WILL BE FURNISHED DETAILS WHEN RECEIVED. TO PREVENT POSSIBLE AID TO OUR ENEMIES PLEASE DO NOT DIVULGE THE NAME OF HIS SHIP OR STATION UNLESS THE GENERAL CIRCUMSTANCES ARE MADE PUBLIC IN NEWS STORIES=

VICE ADMIRAL RANDALL JACOBS THE CHIEF OF NAVAL PERSONNEL.

30 1945

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

ly address not the signer of this
but Bureau of Naval Personnel,
Navy Department, Washington 25, D.C.

Refer to No.

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



• Pers 53230-jd
877 08 58

24 August 1945

• Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Ernest Walters
2512 West St. Urain,
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Walters:

It is with regret that this Bureau confirms the report that your son, Donald Henry Walters, Fireman first class, U.S. Naval Reserve, is being carried on the official records in the status of missing. Detailed information in connection with his disappearance has not been received.

Sincere sympathy is extended to you in your anxiety. Should any information be received which can be released, it will be promptly forwarded to you.

You are urged to read the enclosed booklet carefully as it explains matters of importance concerning naval personnel in the missing status.

By direction of Chief of Naval Personnel.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "H.B. Atkinson".

H.B. ATKINSON
Commander, USNR
Officer in Charge
Casualty Section

Encl.

IN REPLY ADDRESS
COMMANDANT
TWELFTH NAVAL DISTRICT
AND REFER TO

OFFICE OF COMMANDANT
TWELFTH NAVAL DISTRICT
SAN FRANCISCO, 2, CALIFORNIA



69-Ln

1 September 1945

Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Ernest Walter
2512 W. St. Urain
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Walters:

The Bureau of Naval Personnel has informed the Commandant Twelfth Naval District that your son, Donald Henry Walters, 877 08 58, Flc SV V-6, USNR, is missing in enemy action.

I know words can mean little in a period of anxiety of this kind and I join with you in the hope that later news will indicate that your son is still alive and may find his way back to our forces.

If I may be of any service to you, do not hesitate to call upon me.

With best wishes, I am

Very truly yours,

R. W. Truitt
R. W. TRUITT
Captain (ChC) U. S. Navy
District Chaplain

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WESTERN UNION

1220

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Ship Radiogram

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

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V8546 07 GOV T=WASHINGTON DC 17 754P

MRS ALMA LUCILLE WALTERS=

2522 WEST CUCHARRAS COLSPGS=

15 SEP 17 PM 7 32

I DEEPLY REGRET TO INFORM YOU THAT A CAREFUL REVIEW OF ALL FACTS AVAILABLE RELATING TO THE DISAPPEARANCE OF YOUR HUSBAND DONALD HENRY WALTERS FIREMAN FIRST CLASS USNR PREVIOUSLY REPORTED MISSING LEADS TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THERE IS NO HOPE FOR HIS SURVIVAL AND THAT HE LOST HIS LIFE AS RESULT OF ENEMY ACTION ON 30 JULY 1945 WHILE IN THE SERVICE OF HIS COUNTRY. IF FURTHER DETAILS ARE RECEIVED THEY WILL BE FORWARDED TO YOU PROMPTLY. SINCEREST SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO YOU IN YOUR GREAT LOSS=

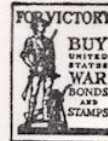
VICE ADMIRAL LOUISE DENFELD THE CHIEF OF NAVAL PERSONNEL.

30 1945

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

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

Pers-8249-vmh



September 28, 1945

My dear Mrs. Walters:

It is with great sorrow that I, as Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. INDIANAPOLIS, write to you concerning your husband, Donald Henry Walters, Fireman first class, U. S. Naval Reserve, who lost his life as a result of the sinking of the INDIANAPOLIS in the early morning hours of July 30, 1945.

The INDIANAPOLIS was enroute to the Philippines from Guam after a run which set a new speed record from San Francisco, and after delivery of an atomic bomb she was approximately 450 miles from Leyte when two heavy under-water explosions occurred on the starboard side forward. She filled rapidly with water through the gaping holes in her under-water body caused by this explosion and within fifteen minutes sank. Many men lost their lives almost instantaneously. The exact manner in which your husband met his death is not known, but it is believed that he went down with his ship.

The first group of survivors were picked up Thursday, August 2, 1945, and the rest, of which I was one, the next morning, bringing the total to fifteen officers and three hundred one enlisted men. For days thereafter the area where the ship went down, and where any possible survivors could be, was searched by ships and planes but no other survivors were picked up.

Nothing that I can say will lighten the burden which is yours at this time, but I do want you to know that your husband had done his part in the team work which made the INDIANAPOLIS an efficient fighting unit of the fleet.

The surviving officers and men of my command join me in the expression of wholehearted sympathy to you in the great loss which you have sustained.

Very sincerely,

Chas. B. McVay, III

CHAS. B. McVAY, III
Captain, U. S. Navy

Mrs. Alma Lucille Walters
2522 W. Cucharas,
Colorado Springs, Colorado

IN REPLY ADDRESS
COMMANDANT
TWELFTH NAVAL DISTRICT
AND REFER TO
MF-69-Pe

OFFICE OF COMMANDANT
TWELFTH NAVAL DISTRICT
SAN FRANCISCO, 2, CALIFORNIA



11 October 1945

Mrs. B. E. Walters
2512 W. St. Urain
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Dear Mrs. Walters:

Your letter of 17 September 1945 has reached me and may I commend you upon the evidence of Christian Strength and fortitude it contains. Our prayers continue for you and your loved ones. I am sure you are praying for many others who are also bearing heavy burdens of grief today.

Our official information is that the casualty status of your son, Donald Henry Walters, Flc, 877 08 88, USNR, has been changed from "Missing in Action" to "Reported Dead". We are glad to know that your other son has received his discharge from the army and we trust he is now safely at home.

It is true that quite a large number of the crew of the USS INDIANAPOLIS, were rescued and most of the survivors have been returned to the states. However the records are not available in this naval district and we are sorry to be unable to give you additional information. May we suggest that you write the Casualty Section, Bureau of Naval Personnel, Navy Department, Washington, D.C., giving file number of your recent telegram. They will be glad to supply you with other information as it may become available.

With sincere best wishes I am,

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. W. Truitt".

R. W. TRUITT
Captain (ChC) USN
District Chaplain

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON

877 08 58

15 October 1945

Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Ernest Walters
2512 West Street
Vrain
Colorado Springs, Colorado

My dear Mr. and Mrs. Walters:

I learned with deep regret that your son, Donald Henry Walters, Fireman first class, U.S.N.R., previously reported missing, is now known to have lost his life on 30 July 1945.

I know what little solace the formal and written word can be to help meet the burden of your loss, but in spite of that knowledge I cannot refrain from writing to say very simply that I am sorry.

I hope that you may find comfort in the thought that his sacrifice was made in order that the freedom of his country might be preserved.

Sincerely yours,

James Forrestal