

NAVY DEPARTMENT
Bureau of Naval Personnel
Washington 25, D. C.

Dec. 21, 1944

Mrs. Goldia Lee Carr
1340 So. Cinn.
Tulsa 5, Oklahoma

Dear Mrs. Carr,

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

Paul 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.

Paul's leadership and sterling qualities, early in the ship's career, won for him the battle station of gun captain of one of the ship's five inch guns. His gun and gun crew were the pride of the ship.

Throughout the battle, your husband's gun delivered the most rapid and accurate fire of which the SAMUEL B. ROBERTS was capable against a Japanese heavy cruiser, materially damaging that cruiser to an extent previous believed impossible for a destroyer escort to accomplish.

It was Paul's characteristic cool-headness and bravery, in a situation which he knew meant the sacrifice of our ship in order to protect the aircraft carriers with which we were operating, that led to his performance of the most outstanding individual deed of valor on our entire ship.

Our ship, near the end of the battle, received a merciless bombardment from heavy Japanese shells which destroyed all power and communication to Paul's gun and damaged the gun itself. A lesser man would have abandoned the gun as useless but your husband led his men in loading, ramming, and firing the gun entirely by hand thereby obtaining several damaging hits on a Japanese cruiser when they counted most.

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Paul knew that it was dangerous to fire an overheated gun in this manner but that did not deter him. Finally there was an explosion within the gun mount which killed or critically wounded the entire crew. Although fatally wounded, your husband, unaided, attempted to lift into the gun our one remaining shell for a last shot at the Japanese. The petty officer who cared for the wounded men in the mount removed the shell from Paul's hands and moved him to a more comfortable position. Your husband, however, would not give up and courageously attempted to lift the shell into the gun once more. At this time he lost consciousness and passed on while he was being treated for his wounds. He went down with his ship, a companion of some of the greatest heroes in this country's history.

For these heroic acts your husband has been recommended by the Commanding Officer of the SAMUEL B. ROBERTS for the Navy Cross which is second only to the Congressional Medal of Honor in heroic combat awards.

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