

COMMANDER DESTROYER SQUADRON  
TWENTY ONE  
U.S. PACIFIC FLEET  
Care Fleet Post Office  
San Francisco, California

2 March 1955

Mrs. LeVern H. Webb  
2018 1/2 H Street  
St. Parks, Nevada

Dear Mrs. Webb:

As chaplain of the destroyer squadron to which your son's ship is attached, I want to express to you my deepest sympathy over the loss of your son, Lyle Leroy Morse, FN, 367 87 29, USN-1. It is during times like this when life becomes most difficult to understand. We can only have faith that God's love and concern for a young man whom He made is deeper even than our own.

I was not on board the Cogswell at the time of the accident, but was aboard another destroyer, the Isherwood, which was steaming in company with the Cogswell. Your son fell overboard at 6:26 P.M. (Philippine Time), Tuesday, March 1, 1955. This is equivalent to 2:26 A.M., March 1, Pacific Standard Time, which I assume you are on. The accident took place in calm water off the western coast of the Philippine island of Luzon, approximately fifty (50) miles from land. The Cogswell immediately dropped a green dye marker at the spot where he fell in and made the turn for pick-up. Your son was sighted in the water within 100 yards of the dye marker, but before he could be reached, he disappeared.

The destroyers Cogswell, Isherwood, and Knapp and the aircraft carrier Midway then began a systematic search of the entire area where your son was last seen. Lighted buoys were used to mark the area after the green dye faded out. Three small boats were lowered from the destroyers to conduct a detailed search. When night fell all ships employed powerful searchlights. About 10:30 P.M. three other destroyers joined the search.

The search continued until 11:30 P.M., at which time it appeared fruitless to continue. However, the Cogswell remained searching all night and during first light in the morning. Planes from the Midway also searched the area at daylight. I can assure you that no effort was spared to recover your son.

I assume that you are the beneficiary of your son's \$10,000 life insurance policy under the Servicemen's Indemnity Act of

1951. In this case you will receive equal monthly installments of \$92.90 per month for 120 months (ten years). Also, if and when your son's body is recovered, all shipping and burial expenses will be borne by the government.

Once again I extend to you my deepest regret and concern. If there is any way I can be of service to you, please let me know. I trust that God will be with you at this time and go with you always.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ John P. Crossley, Jr.  
John P. Crossley, Jr.  
LTJG, ChC, USNR

SHIP OR STATION

U.S.S. COGSWELL (DD 651)

1 MARCH 1955:

Fell overboard and presumed dead of drowning this date. Fell overboard at 1826 hours, position 15° 13.5N 119° 18.2E. Sighted in the water but disappeared before assistance could be rendered. Search of the immediate area by surface units and aircraft revealed no trace of the body. Health Record forwarded to BUMED; Pay Record forwarded to BUSANDA Field Branch, Cleveland, Ohio. Personal effects inventoried and transferred to Naval Supply Depot, Sangley Point, P.I. for shipment to Personal Effects Division, U.S. Naval Supply Depot Clearfield, Ogden, Utah for return to next-of-kin. Next-of-kin were not notified by this command. Commanding Officer has prepared letter of condolence and forwarded it to the next-of-kin. Had Servicemen's Indemnity Type Insurance; no allotment. Chapter 9, Section 8, BUPERS Manual complied with.

*C. N. Duberg*  
 C. N. DUBERG, LT, USN  
 Executive Officer

RECORD OF TRANSFER

DATE TRANSFERRED	AUTHORITY		
NOTE: Transferring activity indicate current primary and secondary or special program job code.	JOB CODE	RATE	SIGNATURE AND RANK *
	FOR USE OF INTERMEDIATE REPORTING STATIONS (if necessary)		

RECORD OF RECEIPT

REPORTED AT (ultimate destination)	DATE REPORTED
	SIGNATURE AND RANK *

NAME (Last)	(First)	(Middle)	SERVICE NO.	BRANCH AND CLASS
MORSE, Lyle Leroy			369 87 29	USN-U1