

Pers 8249-vo

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



12 September 1945

My dear Mrs. Jiggetts,

In this time of victorious celebration of the ending of the greatest war, it is with a deep feeling of sorrow I write you concerning your husband, James Wilbert Jiggetts, lost in the sinking of the U.S.S. UNDERHILL (DE 682), caused by enemy action in the Philippine Sea on July 24, 1945. Although James was initially listed as missing in action, after a careful review of all the evidence we feel that there is no chance for his survival.

I am certain that you will want to know something of the sinking of the UNDERHILL. We were on convoy duty returning from Okinawa to Leyte when a sound contact on an enemy submarine was obtained. Our ship went into attack. A depth charge attack was made and evidence of sinking a midget submarine was obtained. Just following this a periscope was sighted nearby. Speed was increased and word was passed to standby to ram as the sub was at periscope depth. Upon ramming the submarine it exploded underneath the ship. The ship was blown in two, demolishing the forward part including the forward fireroom. All hands forward were lost.

James was a very hard worker and took pride in his work. He was always on his job and ready to lend a helping hand to his shipmates. We, the survivors, are proud to say he was our shipmate. James' battle station was near the explosion and it is my opinion that he died instantly.

The peace we now have was made possible by such men as James who gave their all. Nothing that I can say will ease your sorrow; his loss is deeply felt by those of us who survived. I do hope you may receive some comfort and courage in the knowledge of your husband's splendid service, which was in keeping with the highest standards of our Naval traditions.

Very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. H. Timberlake".

J. H. TIMBERLAKE  
Lieutenant, USNR  
Senior Surviving Officer

Mrs. Sadie A. Jiggetts  
1024 North 2nd Street  
Richmond, Virginia



NOV 14 1955

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