



EASTERN AIR LINES

INCORPORATED

MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL

ATLANTA MUNICIPAL AIRPORT
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

October 29, 1945

Mrs. Lawrence Low Kay
7 West 82nd Street
New York, New York

Dear Mrs. Kay:

I received your letter of October 18th yesterday, as it had to be forwarded to me at Atlanta, where I am employed with Eastern Air Lines, having been discharged from the Army July 7, 1945.

I will try to tell you what little I can of the attack that we went through the evening of November 26, 1943. We were in a convoy of fifteen large troop ships, ours being the H.M.S. Rohna. We were on the outside ~~lane~~ ^{lane}, and the last ship in that particular lane. We had sailed from Oran on November 25th and the evening of November 26th we were about sixty miles East of Algiers, headed for Karachi, India. Everything was going fine until just at dusk. The Germans attacked us out of Southern France with a large number of bombing planes. The attack lasted about thirty minutes, and during the thick of it our ship was struck by a 1000 pound bomb. As fate would have it, we were the only ship in the convoy to suffer damage and, of course, our losses sustained were terrific. We carried 2,017 and from that number only 856 survived, and many of those were badly injured.

Your husband and I, along with four others, shared the same cabin on this particular boat on which we were traveling. I had been up on deck before the attack started, and to my knowledge your husband was in our cabin along with several other of my very close friends who, I know now, were killed instantly. I do not like to speak of this so frankly, but I do know that it means much to you to know that he did not suffer at all, and that he was taken from you in the most painless way that one can go in a war.

I knew your husband well as we had been close friends for twenty-three days crossing the Atlantic. He was well liked by all the boys that knew him, and I particularly enjoyed his friendship and his high intelligence. We spent many pleasant hours together which I will always remember, and I will never forget that he was one of the finest men that I have had the opportunity to associate with, in the Army or anywhere else.

I wish to extend my deepest sympathy to you, and if at any time there is anything I can do for you, or if you ever get down this way, please let me know. Our home, such as it is, will be open to you at any time and you will be more than welcome to visit us here in Atlanta, if you do happen to travel this way.

Sincerely,

Bob Kowalczyk



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