

November 12, 1945

Dear Mrs Kay:

Received your letter after I arrived home from China, concerning the facts of the death of your husband Lawrence.

You remembered quite well as we were very friendly at Goldsboro. The whole affair was one of the worse tragedies of the war.

The boat was struck by a rocket bomb which was radio controlled, with a direct hit in the engine room. As far as I recall Lawrence was very slightly injured due to the initial explosion.

He was definitely seen after the explosion and later confirmed by a few of the officers who knew him.

We made a very thorough search of all the many rescue boats and also all of the hospitals for many miles in the vicinity of the sinking to check on all the lists of casualties and we were never able to get any information

concerning the real fate of your
husband.

The search continued
for a week, in fact until we
were ready to move on to
Espina. The only logical con-
clusion would be that he was
drowned.

All of the ship's
complement were supplied with
life belts, but as we later
found out a few were defective.
One Lawrence could not
swim. This is the only
possibility to explain his un-
timely death.

The blame are purely
my own carelessness. I guess
no one will ever know the
fate of many of the boys who
lost their lives on that ship.

My sincere con-
dolences to you, particularly
knowing you were a bride of
only a few days before Lawrence
sailed for foreign duty. If there
are any questions you might
want to ask I will be only
too glad to try to answer them
for you. The best wishes to
you in your many hours of
sorrow.

Edw. Kelly.

Major E. A. Kelly
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