

HEADQUARTERS 307TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (HV)  
Office of the Chaplain  
APO 719

10 August 1945

Mrs. Anne Plutchak  
2346 Bancroft Way  
Berkeley, Calif.

My dear Mrs. Plutchak:

I wish to express to you the sympathy of the 307th Bombardment Group (Hv) and my own personal sympathy at this time of anxiety.

The plane in which Gene was flying was on its return from a bombing mission in the Celebes Islands. While returning the crew was on the lookout for shipping to strafe. The weather being bad this plane became separated from the other planes in the formation. Approximately 80 miles south of Sidate, Celebes Island, the #3 engine went out, followed immediately by the #4 and #2 engines, due to a lack of fuel. The bailout bell was rung and the crew started to jump. All of the crew was seen to bail out of the plane. Eight of the crew landed within 400 yards of each other and were rescued the following day. The survivors could find no trace of the three missing members after hitting the water. Your son was one of these. In spite of extensive searches the results have been negative. As you know Gene was a member of our choir.

I know at this time of anxiety you will find comfort in Him who is "our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble".

If there is any other way in which I can be of service please let me know.

Sincerely,

  
FRANK D. DENNIS  
Group Chaplain