

1 May 1945

Dear Mrs Friend

You will no doubt already have received a number of letters, giving you as much information as can be told regarding the accident in which your husband lost his life and expressing the heartfelt sympathy of all who knew him. There is very little that I can add nor say that will be of further consolation to you in the face of your tragic bereavement.

When details of the accident reached us, the entire Ships Company felt that they had lost three of the finest messmates it had ever been their privilege to know. Your husband's loss was perhaps felt most keenly of all because he had so readily and completely gained the confidence of his officers and the respect and friendships of his messmates. Your husband was never without a smile and his very cheerful disposition, I know, helped his messmates to weather some very trying times that are peculiar to this service.

Perhaps it was because mere words of sympathy seem so inadequate that the entire Ships Company responded so eagerly to the suggestion that we should give more tangible expression of our respect for your husband. A collection was taken up among all officers and ratings of this ship and with a donation, voted unanimously by the Con-  
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Committee, it came to a total of one thousand dollars.

The two other members of our ship's company who lost their lives were unmarried and we felt sure that they would have agreed wholeheartedly with us that this fund could be put to no better service than in assisting to ensure the best possible start in life for your daughter. We have therefore purchased a thousand dollar Dominion of Canada Victory Bond, fully registered in your daughter's name and the bond will be delivered to you in due course

It is hoped by all that this bond might be put to use eventually, in furthering your daughter's education. This of course is merely a hope and is intended in no way to limit the purpose for which this bond may be used

This donation goes to you with the deepest sympathy and with the very best wishes for the future for you and your daughter from the entire Ship's Company of HMCS Orkney.

Yours sincerely  
Nelson Castonguay Lieut RCNVR  
First Lieutenant  
HMCS Orkney