

September 10, 2007

Dear John,

Thank you for your letter of August 27. I too, thoroughly enjoyed the reunion. Great seeing old friends again.

Please accept these items regarding the service of my brother, Bobby, for the World War II history you are involved in compiling. I am willing for you to keep these originals, if they can be used in any way. If not, kindly return them to me.

I certainly will look forward to seeing the completed work and am grateful for your effort on this project.

Regards,
Lunny

My correct address is :

1613 VIRGINIA ROAD

Edenton, NC 27932

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

1201

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter

NL = Night Letter

LC = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination.

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Y.LA831 68 GOVT=WASHINGTON DC 26 431P

MRS BRONNA HENDERSON BROOKS=

102 GRAY ST WILSON NCAR=

THE NAVY DEPARTMENT REGRET TO INFORM YOU THAT YOUR SON
ROBERT LEE BROOKS GUNNERS MATE THIRD CLASS USNR IS MISSING
FOLLOWING ACTION WHILE IN THE SERVICE OF HIS COUNTRY. THE
DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES YOUR GREAT ANXIETY BUT DETAILS NOT
NOW AVAILABLE AND DELAY IN RECEIPT THEREOF MUST NECESSARILY
BE EXPECTED. TO PREVENT POSSIBLE AID TO OUR ENEMIES PLEASE
DO NOT DIVULGE THE NAME OF HIS SHIP OR STATION=

VICE ADMIRAL RANDALL JACOBS CHIEF OF NAVAL PERSONNEL.

USNR.

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

Pers-8249-jv

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



13 January 1945

Mrs. Bronna H. Brooks
102 Gray Street
Wilson, North Carolina

My dear Mrs. Brooks,

It is with very great sorrow that I write you concerning the death of your son, Robert Lee Brooks, Gunner's Mate third class. He was initially listed as missing, but a review of the facts has led to the conclusion that Robert was killed in action.

On the night of 2 December 1944, the U.S.S. COOPER proceeded with two other destroyers to Ormoc Bay to seek out and destroy Jap shipping. From about 11:00 to 12:00, we were under constant attack by enemy planes. A few minutes past midnight, the COOPER made her first surface contact and we opened fire immediately. After assisting one of the other destroyers in sinking a Jap ship, we were hit by what I think was a torpedo. The ship sank very quickly. The torpedo hit in the engineering spaces on the starboard side and a terrific shock was transmitted throughout the ship as she listed to forty-five degrees immediately. About one half of the officers and crew were lost.

At the time we were hit, your son, Robert, was at his battle station in charge of the 40 and 20 millimeter guns on the superstructure deck. He was in the vicinity of the explosion and must have been instantly killed. Robert was a fine boy and greatly admired by his shipmates. Memory of him is an inspiration, and we must now carry on the struggle to preserve the ideals for which he so valiantly gave his life. He was a credit to his home and country and performed his duties in accordance with the highest traditions of the Naval service.

On 3 and 4 December, Catalina Flying Boats rescued the survivors from Japanese held Ormoc Bay. The area in which the COOPER was sunk was thoroughly searched and, as you recall, since about 7 December the surrounding shores have been in the hands of friendly forces. My words cannot lighten the burden which is yours, but I hope knowledge of Roberts's splendid service and devotion to duty will give you some comfort and courage. To bring you this sad news is very hard but it is not fair that you should maintain hope when the facts indicate none should exist.

Very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mell A. Peterson".

Mell A. Peterson
Commander, USN
Commanding U.S.S. COOPER

In reply address not the
signer of this letter, but Com-
mandant Sixth Naval District,
Fort Sumter Hotel, Charleston,
S. C.

Refer to No.

HEADQUARTERS SIXTH NAVAL DISTRICT

FORT SUMTER HOTEL

CHARLESTON, S. C.

DISTRICT CHAPLAIN'S OFFICE
NAVY YARD, S. C.

3 February 1945

Mrs. Bronna Henderson Brooks
102 Gray Street
Wilson, N. C.

My dear Mrs. Brooks:


The Commandant of the Sixth Naval District has just received a notice of your son, Robert Lee Brooks, as "Missing". As the District Chaplain, may I extend to you and to your family, the sympathy and concern of our Personnel. We realize the deep anxiety and worry you are experiencing during this period of waiting for further news of your son and wish it could be within our power to assure you of his safe return. However, many men who are reported "Missing" are found, or find their way back to their unit, so you must not lose your faith and courage.

The only source of information is the Bureau of Naval Personnel, Director of Dependent's Welfare Division, Navy Department, Washington, 25, D. C. This department endeavors to furnish all the available information possible to the families of Naval Personnel, but if you do not hear, after a reasonable time, it will be in order for you to write to them and request the desired information.

The Commandant of the Sixth Naval District and all Officers and Personnel here present send you, herewith, sincere hopes that you may soon receive word that he has returned.

May the Grace of God and His love abide with you and yours.

Sincerely yours,



THOMAS B. THOMPSON
CAPTAIN, CHC, USN
DISTRICT CHAPLAIN

TBT:DM

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

WASHINGTON

5 February 1945

Mrs. Bronna Henderson Brooks
102 Gray Street
Wilson, North Carolina

My dear Mrs. Brooks:

It was with deep regret I learned that your son, Robert Lee Brooks, Gunner's Mate third class, United States Naval Reserve, previously reported missing, is now known to have lost his life on 3 December 1944.

I extend to you my sympathy in your sorrow, and hope you may find comfort in the knowledge that he gave his life for his country, upholding the highest traditions of the Navy.

Sincerely yours,

James Forrestal

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

February 10, 1945.

A. HAND JAMES, CLERK
CECIL E. NORMENT, ASST. CLERK

Mrs. Bronna Henderson Brooks
102 Gray Street
Wilson, North Carolina.

Dear Mrs. Brooks:

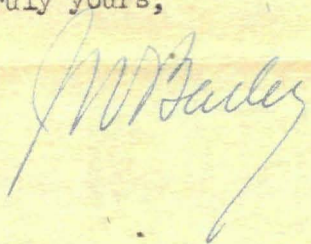
I have received with profound sympathy the news of the death of your son, Robert Lee Brooks, in his country's uniform and in his country's cause, - in the larger cause of all humanity. I realize the inadequacy of words to convey sympathy in such sorrow or to express oneself worthily.

However, I wish you to know that you do have my sympathy and prayers, and you have the consolation of knowing that your son died in the discharge of the highest duty on the field of honor and under his country's flag.

With all good wishes,

Very truly yours,

JWB/h



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

WASHINGTON

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



Mrs. Bronna Henderson Brooks
102 Gray Street
Wilson, North Carolina

NAVY DEPARTMENT

HEADQUARTERS

SIXTH NAVAL DISTRICT

FORT SUMTER HOTEL

CHARLESTON, S. C.

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NAVY YARD, S. C.

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE



Mrs. Bronna Henderson Brooks
102 Gray Street
Wilson, N. C.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

FREE



Mrs. Bronna Henderson Brooks
102 Gray Street
Wilson, North Carolina

NAVY DEPARTMENT

BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
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Mrs. Bronna H. Brooks

USS Cooper (DD-695)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

USS *Cooper* (DD-695), a *Allen M. Sumner*-class destroyer, is the only ship of the United States Navy to be named for Elmer Glenn Cooper, a naval aviator who died in a seaplane accident in 1938. The *Cooper* was launched 9 February 1944 by Federal Shipbuilding and Drydock Company, Kearny, N.J.; sponsored by Mrs. Elmer G. Cooper; and commissioned 27 March 1944, Commander J. W. Schmidt in command.

Cooper cleared Boston 23 July 1944 for Pearl Harbor arriving 4 September. After operational training, she sailed 23 October for Ulithi, arriving 5 November, and put to sea at once to screen carriers in air attacks on Luzon, Ormoc Bay, and Manila Bay until 19 November.

After repairs at Ulithi, she entered San Pedro Bay, Philippines, 29 November and joined in patrols in Leyte Gulf until 2 December, when she sailed with *Allen M. Sumner* (DD-692) and *Moale* (DD-693) to destroy shipping in Japanese-held Ormoc Bay. Here the ships engaged two small enemy destroyers and numerous small craft. At about 00:13 on 3 December, *Cooper* was torpedoed by the Japanese destroyer *Take*.^[1]

Reports state that she suffered an explosion on her starboard side, then it broke in two, and sank within a minute. The presence of enemy forces prevented rescue of survivors until about 14:00, when "Black Cat" airplanes were able to save 168 of Cooper's crew; 191 were lost.

In the Battle of Ormoc Bay, *Kuwa* was sunk and *Take* was damaged by the American destroyers. In addition to the loss of *Cooper*, *Allen M. Sumner* and *Moale* were both damaged.^[2]

A documentary TV film, *USS Cooper: Return to Ormoc Bay*, was produced by Bigfoot Entertainment and made its debut in mid-2006. It featured deep-sea diver Rob Lalumiere and survivors of the *Cooper* sinking.

Cooper was awarded one battle star for World War II service.

References

This is the Navy ship that Robert Lee Brooks was serving on when it was sunk.



USS *Cooper*, in New York before commissioning.

Template:Infobox Ship Careerpoop

General characteristics

Class and type:	<i>Allen M. Sumner</i> -class destroyer
Displacement:	2,200 tons
Length:	376 ft 6 in (114.8 m)
Beam:	40 feet (12.2 m)
Draft:	15 feet 8 inches (4.8 m)
Propulsion:	60,000 shp (45 MW); 2 propellers
Speed:	34 knots (63 km/h)
Range:	6500 nmi @ 15 knots (12,000 km @ 28 km/h)
Complement:	336
Armament:	6 × 5 in./38 guns (12 cm), 12 × 40mm AA guns, 11 × 20mm AA guns, 10 × 21 in. torpedo tubes, 6 × depth charge projectors, 2 × depth charge tracks