

Source: [catalog/archives.gov/id/290666?objectPage=244](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/290666?objectPage=244)

Letter #244

Pers-8249-maj or naj

September 27, 1945

RICHARDSON, John Richard S2c USN 329 68 64

My dear Mr. and Mrs. Richardson:

It is with great sorry that I, as Command officer of the U. S. S. INDIANAPOLIS, write to you concerning your son, John Richard Richards, Seaman second class, United States Navy, who lost his life as a result of the sinking of the INDIANAPOLIS in the early hours of July 30, 1945.

The INDIANAPOLIS was enroute to the Philippines from Guam after a run which set a new speed record from San Francisco, and after delivery of an atomic bomb she was approximately 450 miles from Leyte when two heavy under-water explosions occurred on the starboard side forward. She filled rapidly with water through the gaping holes in her under-water body caused by this explosion and within fifteen minutes sank. Many men lost their lives almost instantaneously. The exact manner in which your son met his death is not known, but it is believed that he went down with his ship.

Nothing that I can say will lighten the burden which is yours at this time, but I do want you to know that your son had done his part in the team work which made the INDIANAPOLIS an efficient fighting unit of the fleet.

The surviving officers and men of my command join me in the expression of wholehearted sympathy to you in the great loss which you have sustained.

Very sincerely

CHAS B. McVay, III
Captain, U. S. Navy

Mr. and Mrs. Clark Richardson
413 No. Concord Street
So. St. Paul, Minnesota

Richardson, John Richard S2c p 220

329 68 64

South Saint Paul, Minnesota

October 19, 1945

Chas. B. McVay, III
Captain, U. S. N
Navy Department
Bureau of Naval Personnel
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Sir:

We received your kind letter concerning our son, John Richardson, who lost his life on the Cruiser Indianapolis, and wish to thank you for your sympathy.

It has been a terrible blow, and as Jack was our only child, life has seemed very empty, but such is the way of the Lord.

Let us hope that all the boys killed in this war have not died in vain, and that the world will remember and find Unity and Peace as a result of their sacrifices. We know Jack would have wanted it that way, as he was very proud to be a part of our great fleet.

Mr. Richardson was born and raised in Indiana and Jack was quite thrilled to write home that he had been assigned to the Indianapolis. I went to visit one of the survivors, Lyle Paskette from Saint Paul last week, and got the complete story. It must have been a nightmare for you men who survived. He told me that if he goes back on a ship he hopes it will be the one of which you are in command.

We are very anxious to get a picture of the Indianapolis, and have tried everywhere but to no avail. Would you please advise us where we could obtain one? Hoping this letter finds you fully recovered from your trying experience and thanking you again, we are

Very sincerely yours,

(signed) Mrs. Clark R. Richardson

Mr. and Mrs. Clark R. Richardson
639 Thirteenth Avenue North
South Saint Paul, Minnesota

Pers-8249-LK

Page 219

Richardson, John Richard 329 68 64 s2c

October 25, 1995

My dear Mrs. Richardson

Thank you very much for your kid letter of October 19th which reached my desk this morning.

There is enclosed herewith a picture of the INDIANAPOLIS taken off Mare Island, California the 10th of July just prior to our departure.

Very truly yours,

CHAS B. McVay, III

Captain, U. S. Navy

Mr. and Mrs. Clark R. Richardson

639 Thirteenth Avenue North

South Saint Paul, Minnesota