

Villa Grove, Ill.
April 25-1943.

Dear Mrs Reed:

I want to thank you for writing to me about the message from my son who is a war prisoner of the Japanese. I want you to know how grateful I am to get that message just as it was sent over the Radio. My son's name was not correct on your card, but it came through alright. The son's correct name ~~was~~ Robert Eugene Gillis. On your card it read "Robert Eruss Gilland." Because the street and town address was correct the card reached me alright. Several people have written to me about hearing the message on the Radio, and not one had his name correct. But all the cards

and letters reached me alright.

Could I ask another favor of you? what station on the Radio did the message come over? Is your Radio just an ordinary Radio, or is it a short wave Radio. I would like to listen to that station on my Radio if I can get it on mine. One lady that wrote me said the station came on the air at 9:45 a.m. and that the program started and ended by ~~singing~~ playing "My Bonnie Lies Over The Ocean". But she did not say what the number or call letters of the station were. If it is not an imposition would you be kind enough to write me about it.

Now then I want to tell you something about my

Son, since you were so kind to relay his message to me.

Robert has been missing for 14 months and in all that time I never heard a word from him or about his fate till I got this message. So you see how much that message meant to me. I did not hear it on ~~the~~ my Radio & did not know about it till letters began to come in from people along the Coasts who had heard his message.

Robert enlisted in the Navy in 1940, ^{at the age of 18} to make that his career, because he was fond of Navy life. He was a member of the crew on the Destroyer U. S. S. Pope. His ship was sunk, during the Java Sea Battle on March 1-1942.

There were 3 boys from this town reported missing and my son was the only one who ~~was~~ had not been located. I have one other child, a son, who is anxious to get in the service to revenge his Brothers fate. But he is only 15 yrs old now, so I will have him with me quite awhile yet. This message sure has meant a lot to him, because he did not think his brother was alive.

Thanking you again a thousand times. I will always ask Gods Blessing on you for the kindness you have done me. I will always remain your friend

Mrs Ada Gillins
208 So Richmond St.
Villa Grove, Ill.