

BURIAL SERVICES OF JOHN JACKSON SHAFFER, III, COMMANDER, U.S.N.

AT 1715, APRIL 9, 1944, EASTER SUNDAY, THE CREW AND OFFICERS OF THE U.S.S. CHAMPLIN ASSEMBLED ON THE FORECASTLE IN DRESS BLUES TO RENDER HONOR TO THEIR DECEASED COMMANDING OFFICER, JOHN JACKSON SHAFFER, III, COMMANDER, UNITED STATES NAVY.

A SPACE IN THE CENTER OF THE GATHERING WAS OPENED TO ADMIT A STAND FOR THE BODY OF CAPTAIN SHAFFER. AS THE PALL BEARERS, LIEUT. ALBERT B. NEWTON, LT.(JG) FRED H. WEBER, ENSIGN JOHN A BOOKHOUT, ENSIGN WAYNE A SMITH, ENSIGN WILLIAM GUSTIN, ENSIGN WARREN J. MURBACH, AND BOATSWAIN HOWARD E. MITCHELL, BROUGHT THE BODY OF CAPTAIN SHAFFER TO THE FORECASTLE, ALL OFFICERS AND MEN UNCOVERED AND STOOD AT ATTENTION.

AFTER A BRIEF PAUSE, LIEUT. ROBERT L. BAUGHAN, ACTING COMMANDING OFFICER, READ THE FOLLOWING SERVICE:

WE ARE GATHERED HERE IN MEMORY OF A FINE SKIPPER AND AN OUTSTANDING GENTLEMAN. NO WORDS THAT I COULD SAY WOULD DO HIM JUSTICE OR BEGIN TO DESCRIBE SUFFICIENTLY HIS HIGH CODE OF LIVING AND SERVICE. WE HAVE KNOWN HIM ONLY A FEW MONTHS, YET THE SHORT CONTACT WAS ENOUGH TO CAUSE US TO RESPECT HIM, ADMIRE HIM, AND FEEL A LOYALTY NEVER BEFORE FELT.

LET US PRAY

(ACTING COMMANDING OFFICER ROBERT L. BAUGHAN LT.) READ THE 23RD AND 24TH PSALMS, AND THE LORDS PRAYER, WHILE THE CREW STOOD IN REVERENCE.)

"WE THEREFORE COMMIT THIS BODY TO THE DEEP, TO BE TURNED INTO CORRUPTION, LOOKING FOR THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY, WHEN THE SEA SHALL GIVE UP HER DEAD, AND THE LIFE OF THE WORLD TO COME."

AT THE WORD "COMMIT" THE INBOARD END OF THE STRETCHER WAS RAISED. BOATSWAIN MITCHELL AT THE HEAD HELD THE COLORS AND AT 1737 JOHN JACKSON SHAFFER, III WAS BURIED AT SEA IN THE APPROXIMATE POSITION: LATITUDE 39°56' NORTH, LONGITUDE 71°04' WEST. AT THE MOMENT OF BURIAL THE SHIP WAS STOPPED, A SALUTE OF SEVEN RIFLES WAS FIRED AND ACCOMPANYING SHIPS MANNED THEIR RESPECTIVE RAILS AND TOLLED THEIR BELLE IN MOURNING.

RESPECTFULLY,
ROBERT L. BAUGHAN,
LIEUTENANT, U.S. NAVY,
COMMANDING