

1944

## 1944, Clipping

A. W. Young

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### Keywords

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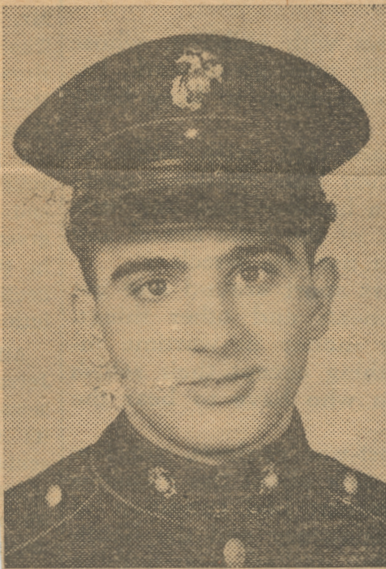
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### Comments

An exact date is not known for this letter. The year listed is an estimation and may not be accurate.

# Parents of Pfc. David Sarraiocco Receive Description of The Heroic Death of Son on Guam, Trying to Save Two Wounded Pals

David Single Handed Routed Japanese Force With Automatic Rifle, Enabling Marine Pals to Annihilate Attackers; Buried on Green, Grassy Hill on Guam, Overlooking Sea



PFC. DAVID SARRAIOCCO

Paulsboro — Recently the mother of Pfc. David Sarraiocco received a letter from Lt. Buena A. W. Young, in charge of David's platoon in the Lesser Marshalls; also at Engebi, Eniwetock and the Parry Islands.

The Lieutenant paid a thrilling tribute to the young PHS athlete who made the supreme sacrifice while attempting to drag to safety two wounded Marines. He was hit and instantly killed by Japanese machine-gun fire, on Guam.

The letter of Lt. Young follows:

United States Marine Corps  
December 4, 1944.

My dear Mrs. Sarraiocco:—

By this time you have received official notification of the death of your son. There is nothing that I can say that would lessen the grief that you must feel. You will be proud to know, however, that David lived and died displaying the same courage and spirit that you must know so well and which his company will always remember.

It was during the assault landing and ensuing battles on Engebi, Eniwetock and Parry Islands that I first became aware of the type of man that David was. While in my platoon he was fearless under fire, sound in judgment, and could always be depended upon to accomplish with willingness, accuracy and dispatch every fire mission to which he was assigned.

On February 19, 1944, when an enemy force of Japanese soldiers with automatic weapons and knee mortars penetrated the outer defenses of the battalion command post, subjecting personnel and equipment to heavy machine gun and mortar fire, your son held his ground and laid down a heavy concentration of automatic rifle fire to cover the advance of the rest of his squad. In order to provide protective cover and fire it was necessary that he expose

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## Parents of David Sarraiocco Receive Word of Death

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himself to the enemy. Nevertheless, in order to accomplish his mission, and despite his eminent peril, he unhesitatingly continued to place heavy automatic fire on the enemy. His courage, his coolness under fire and his accuracy contributed materially to his platoons' disruption of the enemy attack and to the enemy's eventual annihilation.

In the succeeding invasion of The Lesser Marshalls, David displayed the same qualities of leadership and heroism as indicated above. During the Guam operation, although I was no longer commanding officer of his platoon, I was greatly interested as to his activities during the operation. From his company commander, from men who were with him I learned that on July 21, 1944, while advancing the attack toward Orote Peninsula, two men who were near him were seriously wounded. With utter disregard for his personal safety and without detriment to the accomplishment of the mission of his platoon, David attempted to drag the men to safety. In the attempt he was hit and instantly killed by Japanese machine gun fire. His display of courage and leadership and his spirit of self sacrifice in an effort to save the lives of his friends were truly in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps.

David was buried with full

military honors in the beautiful Army, Navy, and Marine Corps Cemetery number two, Plot number two, Row number one, Grave number two. A Catholic Chaplain officiated at his burial. The cemetery is on the Island of Guam on a green and grassy hill, overlooking the sea and the terrain over which David so gallantly fought and died.

If there is any further information that I can give you regarding your son, please feel free to write to me.

Buenos A. W. Young,  
First Lieutenant, USMCR  
Formerly Platoon

Leader