

L. MENDEL RIVERS  
FIRST DISTRICT  
SOUTH CAROLINA

OFFICE ADDRESS:  
1417 HOUSE OFFICE BLDG.

COMMITTEE ON  
NAVAL AFFAIRS

DELACY SHUMAN  
SECRETARY

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

May 23, 1945

Mrs. Livinia A. Padgett  
175 Hampton Street  
Walterboro, South Carolina

Dear Mrs. Padgett:

It was with deep regret that I learned from the War Department that your husband, Lieutenant Richard P. Padgett, had made the supreme sacrifice in the service of our country.

While I know that any words of mine would be of little comfort, I want you to know that my heartfelt sympathy goes out to you and the other members of the family in this hour of sorrow. But there is comfort in the thought that your husband "fought the good fight and kept the faith" and in the knowledge that he has won for himself a place in that great company of patriots whose heroic deeds have made possible our American way of life.

Again assuring you of my sincere sympathy and with the hope that you will call on me if I can be of service to you now or any time in the future, I am

Sincerely yours,

L. Mendel Rivers, M. C.

LMR/hj

COMPANY "G", 303D INFANTRY  
APO 445 c/o Postmaster, New York, N. Y.

9 May 1945

Mrs Lavinia A. Padgett  
175 Hampton Street  
Walterboro, South Carolina

Dear Mrs Padgett:


It is with my sincere personal sympathy that I write to you concerning the death of your husband, Second Lieutenant Richard P. Padgett, Army Serial Number 0553036. As his immediate commander, I knew him very well both as an officer and a personal friend, and it is my sincerest hope that a message from me may bring some measure of comfort to you in your bereavement.

Lieutenant Padgett was killed in action while his company was advancing into enemy-held territory in Eastern Germany on April 30, 1945. His body was removed from the combat area and taken to a cemetery in Eastern Germany. Full military honors were accorded your husband at his burial and a Protestant Chaplain was present to officiate.

You have the deepest sympathy of all the officers and men of this organization. Lieutenant Padgett was held in high regard by all members of the command. He was a superior officer and an outstanding character.

I realize the news that your husband has been killed in action has brought a great sorrow and caused a void in your heart which in time can only be partially healed. Your husband was one of the most popular and well known men of this organization and he will remain in our minds as an example of courage and an inspiration to the cause for which we have fought, to bring about a better world and to keep in the years to follow.

Yours most sincerely



THOMAS W. MELLEN  
Captain, Infantry  
Commanding

THE CITADEL  
THE MILITARY COLLEGE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
CHARLESTON, S. C

May 16, 1945

Mrs. Richard Paul Padgett  
Walterboro  
South Carolina

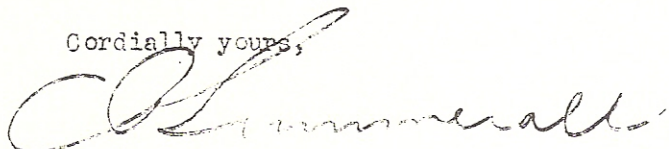
Dear Mrs. Padgett:

I was inexpressibly shocked upon reading this morning the announcement of the death in action of your husband, a Citadel man. Both personally and for the college I want to extend my expression of deepest sympathy.

We had only the highest regard for your husband, a gentleman and a proven soldier. When Governor Jeffries came to visit The Citadel at our centennial celebration in December, 1942, we chose Lieutenant Padgett from the entire cadet corps to act as aide to the governor that day.

Under separate cover I am sending you a copy of a color reproduction of a photograph of the sanctuary of the cadet chapel. The inscription on the dedicatory tablet shows that The Citadel does not forget its patriot dead. The photographic print inclosed with it shows the honor flag which hangs below the tablet and on which your husband's is the 149th star.

Cordially yours,



C. P. Summerall,  
President.