

BARNUM, ROBERT RAYMOND  
1890-September 13, 1907

The funeral services of Robert R. Barnum, who lost his life in the service of the U.S. Navy, were held at the Methodist church Tuesday afternoon. A large crowd attended the services and accompanied the remains to the last resting place.

The following letter to his mother describes the manner of his death:

U.S.S. North Dakota  
Sept. 14, 1917

Mrs. Eunice J. Barnum,  
Wheatland, Wyoming,

My dear Mrs. Barnum:

It has been my very painful duty to send you a telegram announcing the death of your son, Robert Raymond Barnum, fireman third class, who died on his ship while at sea at 2 p.m. Sept. 13. Your son had a watch in the fire room on his regular tour of duty from eight to twelve in the forenoon. It was a hot day and the fire room was under forced draft, the ship making a little more than her cruising speed at the time. He became fatigued but stuck to his post of duty until overcome by exhaustion and heat at eleven thirty, when he was taken to the sick bay. Our three doctors did everything in their power to revive him but their efforts were in vain.

Allow me on my own behalf, Mrs. Barnum, and on behalf of the officers and crew of the North Dakota, to extend to you and to other relatives of your son, the expression of our profound sympathy. Your son was a fine manly man and had the respect and admiration of his officers and shipmates. He died most honorably and bravely at this post.

Very respectfully,  
W.M. Crose  
Captain, U.S. Navy,  
Commanding U.S.S. North Dakota

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