

I was with William the entire time he was in sick bay. Doctor Lonergan, the ships psician, did his outstanding best as did the medical attendants. It's beyond my words to tell you how everything humanly possible was done to save William's life, and to make him comfortable. The Captain of the ship manuevered at high speed to bring us close to an aircraft carrier in order to effect a transfer if it were deemed necessary.

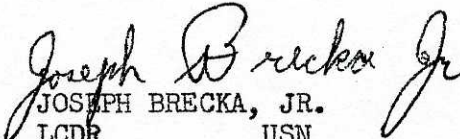
At one time, William regained consciousness and his only concern was for my well being. This is indicative of his nature. He was always concerned about others and ready to help.

The pilot that we were trying to rescue was undoubtedly captured during the night as no contact could be made with him. The Air Group that the pilot was attached to sent the following message to me: "The tragic death of ATN3 William Joseph Duggan saddened all of us. The gallant and courageous actions displayed by Duggan, and the pilots of your helicopter in attempting to pick up our pilot on 6 January in the face of intense automatic weapons fire, and approaching darkness were extraordinary. Please convey our heartfelt condolences and sorrow to William Duggan's shipmates and family for his untimely death."

As for myself, his death is a deep personal tragedy and I will always see his red hair and smiling face.

If there is anything else you would like to know, or if I can help you in anyway, please let me know.

Very sincerely,

  
JOSEPH BRECKA, JR.  
LCDR USN