

War Era Story Project 2012

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Current home town: Sharonville, Ohio
Age: Not given

Albert Wesley Holloway
March 17, 1913 - January 7, 2002

Round One

Albert Wesley Holloway entered the United State Navy on November 7, 1939, and was assigned to the *USS New Mexico*. Mr. Holloway had two jobs on the ship. During conflict, he served in damage control, attending to structural emergencies on ship during battle. During more peaceful times, he was a Baker 1st Class. Exactly as the title implies, he baked everything imaginable that was served to the more than 2,500 sailors on board. In March of 1945, while cruising near the Philippines, a Japanese kamikaze plane slammed into their ship leaving, 53 dead, 31 wounded and five missing. Al escaped injury, this time.

Round Two

It was a clear, calm evening on May 12, 1945, at Okinawa, Japan when the buzz of about 40 Japanese kamikaze planes filled the air seeking their targets below. After the first experience in the Philippines, the buzzing noise these planes created struck fear in the hearts and minds of the sailors that knew exactly what that noise meant.

Once again, the *USS New Mexico* was attacked, with five planes diving towards its deck. Three of the planes missed, one hit the ship's fantail but the other hit square on deck. This time, 63 sailors were killed, 123 wounded and five were missing. Albert Holloway was one of the wounded with back, shoulder and foot injuries. He was taken to the hospital ship, the *USS Hope* and then transported to the Mariana Islands to an army hospital where he spent 3 1/2 months recovering.

During his stay there, he was awarded the Purple Heart for bravery. In addition, Mr. Holloway received the following Area Campaign Medals and Ribbons: American Theatre, Asiatic Pacific Theatre, Philippine Liberation Medal, American Defense Service Medal, WWII Victory Medal and Good Conduct Medal.

After recovering from his injuries, he returned to the *USS New Mexico* and served four more years before illness forced him to retire from military service. Mr. Holloway had intended to make the Navy a lifelong career until tuberculosis forced his honorable discharge on December 10, 1949. He spent two years in a Veterans Hospital and one year in a TB sanatorium, or "halfway house," before treatment of the disease was discovered and he was released. (That's right, "released". Had treatment not been discovered, he would have been kept indefinitely in the sanatorium and not allowed to leave!)

He later moved to Cincinnati, where he married, worked and continued to serve others through his church ministries. Albert passed away in January 2002, just two months short of his 89th birthday, on St.

Patrick's Day, March 17. It seems like the luck of the Irish and God's care have followed Albert around the world and back. As Al would surely say, God Bless America!