

INFORMATION RELEASABLE UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

Name

Howard Allen Holding

Branch of Service and Serial/Service Number(s)

Navy Enlisted 559-05-38 Officer 305686

Dates of Service

Inactive Duty: September 8, 1942 TO November 25, 1942

Enlisted Active Duty: November 26, 1942 TO August 20, 1943

Officer Active Duty: August 21, 1943 TO February 6, 1946

Duty Status

Killed In Action

Rank/Grade

Ensign

Salary

N/A

Source of Commission

By the direction of the Secretary of the Navy

Promotion Sequence Number

N/A

Assignments and Geographical Locations

See Attached

Military Education

None

Decorations and Awards

American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Air Medal, Purple Heart Medal, Navy Unit Commendation

Transcript of Court-Martial Trial

Not In File

Photograph

See Attached

Place of Entry

Salt Lake City, UT

Place of Separation

N/A

FOR DECEASED VETERAN ONLY

Place of Birth

Salt Lake City, UT

Date of Death

Presumed dead on February 6, 1946. Missing in Action on September 6, 1944

Location of Death

Yap Island, Philippines

Place of Burial

N/A

NOTE: N/A denotes information is not available in the veteran's records

Pers 5323a-eng
305686

MAR 29 1948

ENSIGN HOWARD ALLEN HOLDING, S(A1), UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE,
ACTIVE, DECEASED

Re: Service of

1922 Jan 15 Born in Salt Lake City, Utah.

ENLISTED SERVICE

1942 Sep 8 Enlisted in U.S. Naval Reserve as Aviation Cadet
1943 Aug 20 Enlistment terminated to accept appointment as Ensign, U.S. Naval Reserve.

OFFICER SERVICE

1943 Aug 21 Accepted appointment and executed oath of office as Ensign, A-V(N), U.S. Naval Reserve, to rank from 16 August 1943. Reported to Naval Air Training Center, Corpus Christi, Texas for temporary active duty involving flying pending further assignment to duty involving flying.
Aug 21 Detached Naval Air Training Center, Corpus Christi, Texas and to Naval Air Station, Miami, Florida for temporary active duty involving flying under instruction. Reported 28 August 1943.
Aug 28 Designated Naval Aviator (Heavier-than-Air).
Oct 29 Detached Naval Air Station, Miami, Florida and to Carrier Qualification Training Unit, Glenview, Illinois for further active duty involving flying under instruction. Reported 31 October.
Nov 4 Detached Carrier Qualification Training Unit, Glenview, Illinois and to Fleet Air, West Coast, Naval Air Station, San Diego, California for further assignment to duty involving flying. Reported 26 November 1943.
Nov 28 Further ordered to Fighting Squadron TWENTY for active duty involving flying in that squadron. Reported 28 November 1943.
1945 Jul 17 Classification changed to S(A1) in accordance with BuPers Circular Letter 298-44.

Medals: American Area Campaign Medal
Asiatic-Pacific Area Campaign Medal
World War II Victory Medal
AIR MEDAL
PURPLE HEART

FINISHED FILE - Pers 5324

Education: University of Utah

Died: Presumptive 6 February 1946 - "Officially reported to be MISSING IN ACTION as of 6 September 1944, when the plane in which he was flying, a unit of Fighting Squadron TWENTY, failed to return from an attack against enemy installations on Yap Island, the Philippines. In compliance with Section 5 of Public Law 490, as amended, death is presumed to have occurred on the 6th day of February 1946."

Place: Yap Island, The Philippines (Pacific Area)

Cause: Plane failed to return from attack against enemy installations (Enemy Action)

Next of Kin: [REDACTED]
Mother [REDACTED]

In reply address not the signer of this
letter, but Bureau of Naval Personnel
Navy Department, Washington, D. C.
Refer to No. Pers-328 -05

305686

NAVY DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



24 May 1946



Dear Mr. and Mrs. Holding:

The Bureau has the honor to inform you of the award of the
Purple Heart and certificate to your late son,

ENSIGN HOWARD A. HOLDING, U. S. NAVAL RESERVE

in accordance with General Order 186 of January 21, 1943 which
reads in part as follows:

"The Secretary of the Navy is further authorized
and directed to award the Purple Heart posthumously,
in the name of the President of the United States, to
any persons who, while serving in any capacity with
the Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard of the United
States, since December 6, 1941, are killed in action
or who die as a direct result of wounds received in
action with an enemy of the United States, or as a
result of an act of such enemy."

S-2

The medal is being forwarded under separate cover. Please
acknowledge receipt on the enclosed form.

By direction of the Chief of Naval Personnel.

Sincerely yours,

L. C. Thompson,
Lieutenant Commander, U.S.N.R.,
Medals and Awards.

Enclosures

RECEIVED
MISCELLANEOUS

Prepared--10 March 1945

Pers 328--rwa

Signed 20 MAR 1945

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the AIR MEDAL to

ENSIGN HOWARD ALLEN HOLDING, UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For meritorious achievement in aerial flight as a Pilot in Fighting Squadron TWENTY attached to the U.S.S. ENTERPRISE in action against enemy Japanese forces on Yap, Caroline Islands, September 6, 1944. Flying as Wingman during a vigorous fighter sweep against vital hostile installations and gun emplacements, Ensign Holding courageously maneuvered through an intense barrage from Japanese anti-aircraft weapons and pressed home his strafing and rocket attack with determined aggressiveness, steadfastly holding to his target until his plane was hit by enemy fire and crashed. Ensign Holding's expert airmanship and resolute devotion to duty throughout this and numerous other hazardous combat missions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

For the President,

James Forrestal

Copy to:
Pers 328
Public Relations, Navy Dept
Secretary's Files
DCNO (Air) Editorial Research
R4830

Secretary of the Navy

Ref: BdAwdMtg of 15 Feb 1945
End 5 on CO USS ENTERPRISE
SecLtr CV6/P15/00/MM (10-Br)
Ser 0049 of 28 Oct 1944

ENTERPRISE

RECEIVED

Finished Enc Pers-328

