

September 6th, 1944

ENS. HOWARD ALLEN HOLDING

US Navy, VF-20 Squadron

F6F-5 Hellcat from the carrier USS Enterprise (CV-6)



The Man: The wreckage of Ens. Howard Allen Holding's F6F-5 Hellcat rests in the Yap Harbor not far from this marker. Howard was a college student and musician from Salt Lake City, Utah prior to entering the US Naval Aviation program in 1942. In the early afternoon on September 6th, 1944, Howard and thirty-four fellow US fighter pilots ascended from the flight decks of the carriers USS Enterprise, USS Franklin and USS San Jacinto to conduct a fighter sweep of already battered island of Yap. The island had been hit hard over the previous three months by high-flying, long-range B-24 bombers of the US Army Air Force but there were still a few buildings standing. They circled around to attack out of the sun from the southwest. On their first pass of what was thought to be a routine neutralization strike (milk run) Howard and two other F6F-5 Hellcat's from his squadron were shot down near this location. One of them, a plane flown by Lt. Harry Brown was hit by anti-aircraft fire and went down in a shallow dive hitting the ground west of Colonia. The other, a plane flown by Ens. Joseph Cox, was hit by anti-aircraft fire and turned into Howard's plane causing a mid-air collision. Both planes quickly became caught in tight, nose-down spirals from which neither recovered. Howard's plane crashed into the harbor while Joseph's plane crashed near the present day Yap dump. Howard's remains were never found and to this day he remains missing in action (MIA).

The Plane: The Grumman F6F Hellcat was a fighter aircraft descended from the earlier F4F Wildcat fighters. The Hellcat and the F4U Corsair were the primary US Navy carrier fighters in the second half of WWII. The Hellcat proved to be the most successful aircraft in naval history destroying 5,171 enemy aircraft.

The Carrier: The USS Enterprise (CV-6), the "Big E", was the sixth aircraft carrier of the US Navy and the most decorated ship of WWII. She participated in more major actions in the war against Japan than any other US ship. Her aircraft and guns downed 911 Japanese planes; her bombers sank 71 ships and damaged or destroyed 192 more.

This marker is in memory of Ens. Howard Allen Holding and all the other brave men who lost their lives on Yap Island during World War II.

A man is not dead unless he is forgotten!

MISSING AIR-CREW PROJECT: WWW.MISSINGAIRCREW.COM

was S. L. Musician

Allen Holding, 24,
Mrs. J. Terrence
Sherman ave., was
Sept. 6, 1944, in
previously was

was pilot of a Hell-
cat based on the car-
rier. He reportedly was
on the Caroline is-
land during the air med-
ical evacuation for mer-
it for action on
Yap Island. He was
listed missing.

Holding was born Jan. 15,
1920, in Salt Lake City,
Utah. He was graduated from
high school. He was a junior
at the University of Utah when
he entered naval aviation Nov. 25,

1942. He includes his parents; a
father, Jesse Jacob, and a
brother, Lloyd Holding, both of
Salt Lake City.

His services will be con-
ducted today at 3 p. m. in
the chapel, 1455
South Main St., Salt Lake City.
Funeral requests no
flowers.

By The Associated Press



uss enterprise

