



## Guadalupe Castaneda

Seaman First Class  
United States Navy  
Born 17 December 1921  
Killed In Action 15 November 1942

Guadalupe “Lupe” Castaneda was born December 17, 1921, in Orange County, CA, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Pete Castaneda of Santa Ana.

The earliest records show him living with his grandparents, Pedro and Felipa Castaneda and cousins Augustine and Francisco Hernandez on a ranch on Redhill Ave. in Tustin.

Lupe attended Tustin Elementary and Tustin High School graduating with the class of 1941. While at Tustin High, he lettered in track. After graduation he enlisted in the United States Navy on March 2, 1942, and received his training in San Diego and Hawaii and was stationed in San Francisco.

Seaman Castaneda was stationed aboard the light cruiser USS Atlanta and saw action in the Pacific, Midway, and Guadalcanal. On November 13, 1942, at the second Battle of Guadalcanal, the Atlanta saw battle with Japanese forces at close range. The Japanese ship Akatsuki illuminated the Atlanta and the Americans sunk the Akatsuki but not before it was hit on the port side engine room. While it was dead in the water, it was hit by an additional 19 enemy shells. Sadly the USS San Francisco mistakenly identified the Atlanta as an enemy ship and opened fire. A Japanese sub fired upon the San Francisco but the torpedo passed by the San Francisco and hit her Atlanta’s sister ship, the USS Juneau, sinking the ship and killing the infamous 5 Sullivan brothers.

The Atlanta was too badly damaged to continue with any journey and a captain received permission to scuttle the Atlanta. Seaman Guadalupe Castaneda, wounded in the battle, died two days after his wounds.

He was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation and the Purple Heart. He is buried at Holy Sepulcher Cemetery in Orange, CA.

