



Donald Eugene Ynigues

Seaman 2nd Class
United States Naval Reserve
Born 5 May 1923
Missing in Action 13 August 1943

Donald Eugene Ynigues was born in Orange, California on May 5, 1923, to Marshall Ynigues and Alberta Quintana Ynigues. He had an older brother Marshall Jr. that did not survive infancy, a year older sister Luella and a younger brother Robert. The family lived at Prospect and Santa Clara Avenue, where their father was employed as a Citrus Ranch foreman. The children attended Tustin elementary schools and Tustin High School.

Although small and weighing only 125 pounds, Don was a Tustin High star athlete, playing basketball, third base on the baseball team, and was the star quarterback on the Tustin High football team. He was a graduate of the Tustin High Class of 1942.

Don enlisted into the United States Naval Reserves on January 8, 1943, and shortly after training was stationed aboard the attack transport ship and newly commissioned USS John Penn, already serving in the Guadalcanal and Solomon Islands area of the Pacific. The Penn was responsible for transporting ammunition, equipment supplies, and troops to and from Fiji and New Zealand to Guadalcanal.

Late in the evening of August 13, 1943, the Penn had just completed offloading of ammunition when it was attacked by enemy torpedoes. Despite vigorous efforts to save the ship, the USS John Penn was sunk in 30 minutes carrying all but 35 sailors with her. The remains of Seaman 2nd Class Donald Ynigues were never recovered.

