



Derril Charles Wollert*

Ensign
United States Navy
Born 26 January 1921
Missing in Action 19 September 1943

Derril Charles Wollert was born on January 26, 1921, in Hennepin, Minnesota, the middle child of five to Henry C. Wollert and Alice Carlson Wollert. The family moved to Orange County in 1925 where Mr. Wollert was the manager of T-O Paint Company before starting his own successful business. Until his passing in 1971, Mr. Wollert was the owner of Wollert Interiors and HC Wollert Paint Company. From 1944-1946, Mr. Wollert ran his business from the Martin Home, which is now Jeff and Cherie Thompson's Historic Home on 6t Street in Tustin.

Derril attended Orange High School and was quite active in school and in leadership. He was a member of the Drama Club and had a leading role in the play "You and I" during his senior year. After Orange High, he attended Santa Ana College and by graduation had two years of flying to his credit. Shortly after his 21st birthday, Derril enlisted in the United States Navy Air Corps. He left for training on March 26, 1942, and received his training in Long Beach, followed by aviator training in Corpus Cristi, earning his wings in October 1942.

Ensign Wollert was sent overseas in August 1943 to the South Pacific as a torpedo pilot with Squadron V-T 1. Less than one month later, Ensign Wollert was killed when his plane crashed. His remains were never recovered.

He is listed on the Tablet of the Missing at the Honolulu Memorial Cemetery.

