



Theodore L. Taulbee

Seaman 2nd Class
United States Navy
YMS 341 Minesweeper
Born 2 August 1921
Died 17 September 1945
Okinawa

Theodore L. Taulbee was born in Los Angeles County on August 2, 1921, the only child of Bennie Laverne Taulbee and Alice Walker Taulbee. He grew up in Santa Ana, California where Mr. Taulbee's large family had made their home since the early 1900's. Mr. Taulbee was a livestock trucker and Mrs. Taulbee a fifth-grade teacher at Fremont School in Santa Ana.

Mr. and Mrs. Taulbee divorced when Teddy, as he was called, was in elementary school. Mrs. Taulbee moved to Tustin and later married Norris Keirse. Ted was raised in Tustin along with his step brothers, Joe and David.

Ted attended Tustin elementary schools and Tustin High School. He was active in the Candid Camera Cutup Club and at Tustin Presbyterian Church. After graduating in 1940, Ted enlisted into the United States Naval Reserve in May 1942. He completed his training in San Diego, Los Alamitos, and Roosevelt Field New York before heading overseas in October 1943.

He served in Guadalcanal, the Battle of Saipan, Battle for Atoll, Manus, Hollandia, Guam, and the Battle for Okinawa. On September 16, 1945, Typhoon Ida struck off the coast of Okinawa gusting 109 knot winds, equivalent to 125 miles per hour. The Minesweeper YMS 341, plus 4 United States naval vessels and 5 Royal Navy vessels were lost during this storm. The body of Boatswain Mate Theodore L. Taulbee was never recovered.

He is listed on the Tablet of the Missing in Honolulu's Punchbowl National Cemetery.

