



Ernest Richard Costello*

Petty Officer 2nd Class
United States Navy
Born 15 September 1922
Killed in Action 12 October 1944
Island of Formosa

Ernest "Rick" Costello was born September 15, 1922, the only child of Frank and Pauline Costello. He attended Tustin High School, graduating with the Class of 1940.

Rick was a track and field star while attending Tustin High. He held the discus record with a throw of 102 ft and competed as a solo runner and member of the relay team.

Rick attended Santa Ana College and the University of New Mexico. He was a member of the Marine Reserves and planned on entering Officer's Training School at Quantico, VA after his senior year. Before completing his senior year, Rick entered the United States Navy on November 28, 1942. He attended recruit training in San Diego, training as an Aviation Radioman. On April 12, 1944, he was assigned to the USS Enterprise for combat duty in the Pacific Theater.

During his service time, he participated in the Hollandia landings, Truk Atoll, Marianas Island landings, Bonin Island battle, and many others. Between October 10 and 20, 1944, the Enterprise was engaged in the Battle of Formosa and part of Task Force of the US 3rd Fleet. The attacks were to hold the Japanese position to prevent them from participating at Leyte in the Philippines.

On October 12, 1944, Pilot Lt. Henry Murphy, Aviation Ordnanceman Francis Skeffington, and Aviation Radioman Ernest Costello took part in a bombing of Takao Harbor as part of VT-20 Air Squadron. The plane was shot down by Japanese forces. The crew was originally listed as missing in action, presumed killed. In 1950, their remains were recovered but they were not able to individually identify them. Lt. Murphy, Ordnanceman Skeffington, and Radioman Costello are buried together in Fort Scott, KS.

