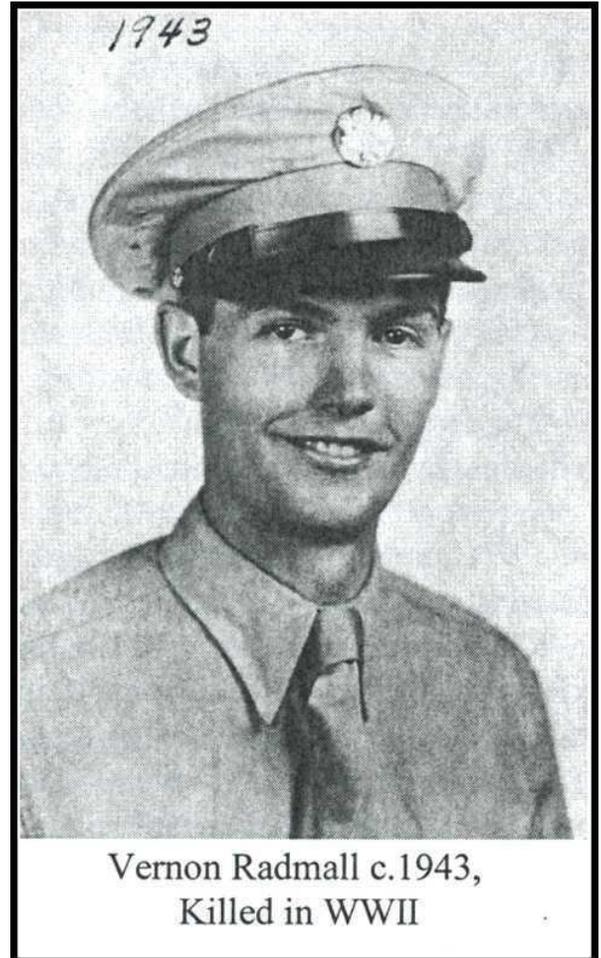


Vernon Reuben Radmall

Compiled by Judy Hansen
July 2020

Birth Date: 27 Sep 1917
Birth Place: American Fork, Utah
Father: Nephi Radmall
Mother: Louisa E Monson
Education: 4 years High School
Spouse: Eloise Russon
Marriage Date: 25 Nov 1940
Marriage Place: Salt Lake City, Utah
Service: US Army Air Forces - WW11
Awards: Purple Heart
Air Medal
Rank: Sergeant
Speciality: Radio Operator
Service ID: 39025623
Division: 4th Emergency Rescue Squadron
Height: 71 (5'11")
Weight: 146
Death Date: Aug 13, 1945 - MIA
Memorials: Tablets of the Missing at Honolulu Memorial
Memory Grove Memorial – Salt Lake City
Pleasant Grove City Cemetery
Lehi City Cemetery Veterans Wall of Honor



Vernon Rueben Radmall was born 27 Sept 1917 in American Fork, Utah to Nephi Radmall and Louisa E Monson Radmall. His older brother Marvin and younger brother Max also served during WWII. He had two sisters, Della and Beth. He was raised in Pleasant Grove, Utah.

Vernon's teenage years was during the great depression. He was a hard worker and always tried ways to make a few dollars selling newspapers and magazines. Once he suggested to his brother they gather all the scrap iron and hides in the neighborhood. They did, and took the items to the Utah Hide and Fur Company in Provo. The net profit was almost a hundred dollars. They were delighted to have so much money. This was the most money they had seen during the Depression.

On the way home they went through the small town of Vineyard and noticed a man dressing out a beef. Vernon wanted to buy the hide and quoted a price he thought was reasonable. They bought it and took it to Utah Hide and Fur Company and sold it for \$2 less than they paid for it. After that they took on the business motto, "Buy high and sell low."

Vernon attended High School at Pleasant Grove High where he graduated. One of the things Vernon loved was dancing. He often went to the Saturday night dances at the Apollo Hall in American Fork, Utah where he danced with a girl from Pleasant Grove, Helen Harper. He kept asking her who she was with and he kept telling her he had a brother he wanted her to meet. That ended up history as his brother married Helen. Vernon also met a nice Lehi girl Eloise Russon at the Apollo and she stole his heart away. Vernon and Eloise married in November 1940.



Vernon was drafted into the United State Air Force in May 1942. After preliminary training he was sent to Boca Raton Air Force Base, Florida where he became an instructor in the operation and maintenance of some new radar equipment that the air force was putting in the new B-19 bombers. Eloise joined him there and they had a nice apartment in the nearby town of Delray Beach.

Vernon's brother Marvin was sent to the same base to train and they all felt very fortunate to spend time off together.

Brother Marvin was sent to the island of Tinnian in the Pacific and after nine-months received a phone call from Vernon from the nearby Island of Siapan. Vernon had been in Siapan for two weeks. He had been assigned to a search and rescue squadron as a radar operator on a PBV-5 (Catalina) plane. Vernon had made arrangements the next night after training to land on Tinnian and see his brother. They had a good visit and his brother received a one-day leave to go to back to Siapan with Vernon. Vernon received orders to go to Iwo Jima the next day. His brother was able to go to the airstrip and watch Vernon's plane take off. Vernon smiled and waved at his brother but Marvin said he had a feeling come over him that he wouldn't see Vernon again. Marvin went back and wrote a letter to Vernon thanking him for the wonderful time. Ten days later the letter came back to Marvin unopened with a mark across the front, "Missing in Action."

**PROMOTION RECEIVED
BY LOCAL SOLDIER**

Relatives and friends have recently been advised that Vernon R. Radmall has been promoted to Staff Sergeant. Young Radmall who entered the service in the early summer of 1942 is the son of Nephi and Louise Radmall and is stationed at Roca Raton Field, Florida.

The *OA-10A Catalina serial number 44-34080* was assigned to the 20th Air Force, 4th Emergency Rescue Squadron (4th ERS).

On August 13, 1945 the *AO-10 Catalina serial Number 44-34080* took off from the Motoyama No. 1 Airfield (Airfield No. 1) located on the Motoyama plateau in the southern corner of Iwo Jima. Its codename was "Playmate Nine Six." It was on a "Dumbo" patrol mission. Aboard was Pilot 1st Lt. Edmund L Eliason from Ocean City, N.J, Co-pilot 2nd Lt Lawrence H Chandler Jr from Newport News, Va, Navigator 1st Lt. Edwin E

Bodley from Chicago, Il, Radio Operator Ssgt. David A Kressler of Summit, PA, Radio Operator

Sgt. Vernon R Radmall from Lehi, Ut, Engineer Sgt Roger E Regain from Mt. Pleasant, TX and Medical Tech Cpl Philip W Carter of Ollie, Iowa. It was escorted by two fighters.

They had been radioed to investigate a downed aircraft so the *OA-10 Catalina* went to the Uraga Channel near Tateyama on the southern tip of Honshu (or the main Island), Japan. It was probably going to investigate the crash of one of two F6F Hellcats that were lost in the area. The *OA-10 Catalina* was intercepted by eight A6M5 Zeros fighter aircraft operated by the Imperial Japanese Navy that was on a patrol mission over the Uraga Channel. Leading with a head-on attack was Lt. Morioka, firing his 20 mm cannons and causing black smoke from the *Catalina's* left engine. That attack was followed by Kondo who opened fire and caused the *Catalina* to catch fire. Four other Zeros attacked the damaged *Catalina* before it crashed into the sea off Tateyama Seaplane Base. This fight was witnessed by many observers on the ground. Right before this, another AO-10 was shot down.

Escorting fighters searched the area but only found wreckage and no survivors were spotted. Sgt. Regain survived the crash and was rescued from Toyko Bay by the Japanese. He was transported to a prison camp and when the war officially ended, he was set free and returned to the United States.

By September 12, 1945 Japanese fishermen discovered four bodies that had washed ashore on the southern tip of the Boso Peninsula. Two were identified and Lt. Eliason and Lt Bodley but the other two were noted as unknowns. They were later identified as Lt Chandler and Cpl Carter. These bodies that were recovered were placed into wooden caskets by the Japanese and offerings were made. Later, they were recovered by American Graves Registration Service (AGRS) and transported to the US Armed Forces Cemetery #1 at Yokohama.

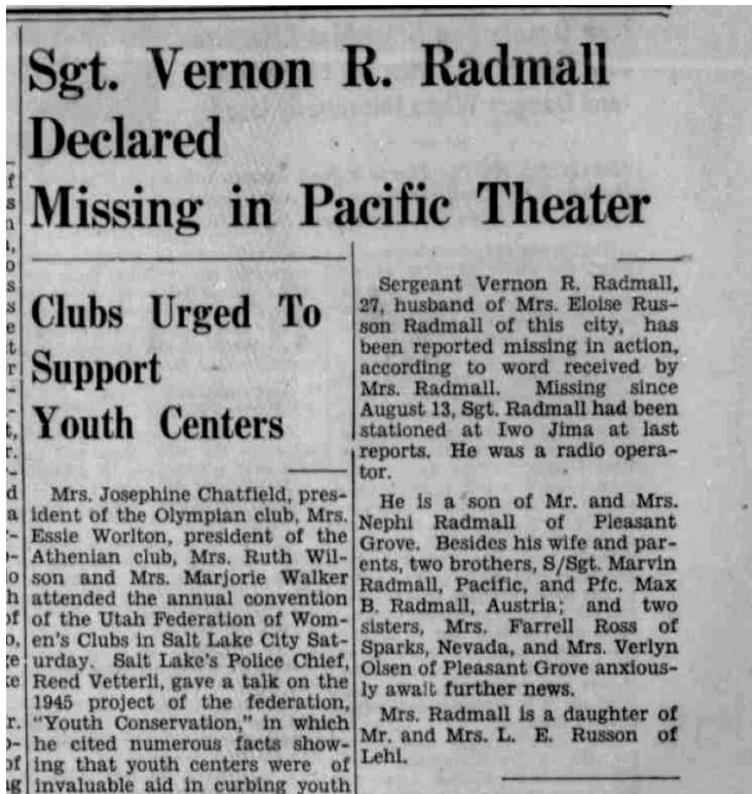
Vernon Radmall was never located and remains listed as Missing in Action (MIA). He is memorialized at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) on the courts of the missing. He has memorial markers at the Pleasant Grove Cemetery in Pleasant Grove, Utah where he grew up; at the Memory Grove Memorial in Salt Lake City, and also is on the Lehi City Cemetery Veterans Wall of Honor in Lehi, Utah where his widow was living at the time of his death. (A picture of the lost men can be found on Pacific Wrecks)

Veron Reuben Radmall is a true hero sacrificing his life to search and save the lives of others and was awarded an Air Medal and the Purple Heart.

From the History of his mother Louisa Monson Radmall – “Shortly before V-J Day, the end of the war with Japan, Della woke up in her home and saw an old woman sitting in the front room. Then she saw Beth and Della woke up Farrel. They went out to see them and found the old woman was Louisa. Because of her worrying about her boys, she had gone really downhill. She had lost a lot of weight and her hair had really gone gray. They had brought Clela, Max’s wife, with them. Della had not met her yet. They were all together in Sparks when Japan capitulated and they went to Reno for the big celebration. The family all went back to Utah to wait to hear

about the boys. They heard that Max and Marvin were okay and then they waited and waited and didn't hear from Vernon. Finally they were told that Vernon was missing in action and a search was still going on. Louisa and Nephi were really upset, so Della took baby Doris in to be with them. It helped them having a baby there to distract them. After she left, Louisa and Nephi were told that Vernon had been on an air-sea rescue mission at Tokyo Bay the day before Japan capitulated and had been shot down. They had declared him dead. There was a special memorial service in Salt Lake City to honor those who were missing in action from World War II. Louisa was given the honor of being a Gold Star Mother."

This story is sponsored by the Lehi Historical Society and is part of the Stories Behind the Stars project (see www.storiesbehindthestars.org). This is a national effort of volunteers to write the stories of all 400,000+ of the US WWII fallen here on Fold3. Can you help write these stories? Related to this, there will be a smart phone app that will allow people to visit any war memorial or cemetery, scan the fallen's name and read his/her story.



Vernon Radmall Reported Missing in Action

Word was received Wednesday by Mr. and Mrs. Nephi Radmall of Pleasant Grove, informing them that their son Sergeant Vernon R. Radmall was missing in action in the Pacific war zone, on August 13th. Sergeant Radmall was a radio operator on a Catlina plane, of an emergency rescue squadron.

He was born Sept. 27, 1917, in American Fork, but spent most of his life in Pleasant Grove. He is a member of the Elders Quorum of the L D S church.

He married Eloise Russon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sol E. Russon of Lehi and resided in Lehi until he entered the service on May 8, 1941.

He received training at Shepherd Field, Texas; Boca Raton, Florida; Savannah, Georgia, Biloxi, Mississippi; and since going to the Pacific has been stationed on Iwo Jima.

Awaiting further word are his wife, and parents, and the following brothers and sisters: Staff Sergeant Marvin Radmall, in the Pacific; Private Max B. Radmall, Austria; Mrs. Farrell Ross, Sparks Nevada and Mrs. Verlyn Olson Pleasant Grove.

LEHI CITY, UTAH, THURSDAY

Sgt. Vernon Radmall Dies Over Tokyo

Sgt. Vernon K. Radmall, who married Eloise Russon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Russon of Lehi, was reported this week by the War Department to have been killed August 11, 1945, while engaged on a rescue mission over Tokyo Bay.

The young flier, who entered the Army in May of 1942, previously was reported as missing in action. Flying from its base at Iwo Jima on August 11, 1945, the Catalina plane of which Sgt. Radmall was a member, was nearing its objective of taking fliers from the bay when it was attacked by two Japanese Zero planes. It was understood that shortly before the attack the Catalina's escorting fighter planes apparently were ordered elsewhere.

The Zeros strafed the ship and set it afire. The plane crashed into the bay and exploded, according to the only survivor, who later was taken prisoner by the Japs.

Sgt. Radmall was born September 27, 1917 in American Fork and was graduated from Pleasant Grove High School.

After entering the Army, he was trained at Shepherd Field, Texas, and Scott Field, Ill., before being assigned to Foga Raton, Fla., for instruction in radar. After completing the course, he was retained as an instructor.



**SGT. VERNON K. RADMALL,
KILLED ON RESCUE MISSION**

CIVIC GROUP RELECTS OFFICERS, DIRECTORS RODEO SET JULY 2, 3 4

All officers of the Lehi Civic Improvement Association were re-elected at a meeting held Saturday night in the Memorial Hall. The officers are Alva H. Wing,

Vernon Radmall Reported Killed in Action

Mrs. Eloise Russon Radmall of Lehi, this week received a telegram from the war department, telling her that her husband Vernon Radmall was killed in action in the Pacific on August 13, when his plane was shot down, while on a rescue mission.

Mr. Radmall was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Nephi Radmal of Pleasant Grove.

He had earlier been reported missing.

REFERENCES

Pacific Wrecks - Motoyama No. 1 Airfield (Airfield No. 1, Chidori, Central Field, South Field) Ogasawara Subprefecture, Japan

Source: https://pacificwrecks.com/airfields/japan/motoyama_no1/index.html

Data Source: World War II Honor Roll

1930 US Census Pleasant Grove, Utah

<https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=6224&h=5608944&tid=&pid=&usePUB=true&phsrc=RsG256&phstart=succesSource>

Utah, Select Marriage Index, 1887-1985

<https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=60965&h=387554&tid=&pid=&usePUB=true&phsrc=RsG268&phstart=succesSource>

U.S. WWII Draft Cards

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2238/images/44041_05_00021-01495?treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true&_phsrc=RsG261&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&_ga=2.217322399.805134115.1593981832-1004001888.1591474577&pId=10987030&backurl=https%3A%2F%2Fsearch.ancestry.com%2Fcgi-bin%2Fsse.dll%3Findiv%3D1%26dbid%3D2238%26h%3D10987030%26tid%3D%26pid%3D%26usePUB%3Dtrue%26_phsrc%3DRsG261%26_phstart%3DsuccessSource

Utah, Military Records, 1861-1970 for Vernon Reuben Radmall

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2228/images/31805_00025258-03118?treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true&_phsrc=RsG264&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&pId=79198&backurl=https%3A%2F%2Fsearch.ancestry.com%2Fcgi-bin%2Fsse.dll%3Findiv%3D1%26dbid%3D2228%26h%3D79198%26tid%3D%26pid%3D%26usePUB%3Dtrue%26_phsrc%3DRsG264%26_phstart%3DsuccessSource

Remarks made by Marvin Radmall at a July 10, 1999 Memorial service at the Pleasant Grove Cemetery.

Casualty listings

https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=8853&h=100108&tid=&pid=&usePUB=true&_phsrc=RsG257&_phstart=successSource

Missing Air Crew Report

<https://www.fold3.com/image/63573961?terms=vernon%20r%20radmall>

Honolulu, Hawaii, National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl), 1941-2011 for Vernon R Radmall

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2462/images/40034_B086854-00039?treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true&_phsrc=RsG260&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&_ga=2.149044159.805134115.1593981832-1004001888.1591474577&pId=11583&backurl=https%3A%2F%2Fsearch.ancestry.com%2Fcgi-bin%2Fsse.dll%3Findiv%3D1%26dbid%3D2462%26h%3D11583%26tid%3D%26pid%3D%26usePUB%3Dtrue%26_phsrc%3DRsG260%26_phstart%3DsuccessSource

HonorStates.org

<https://www.honorstates.org/index.php?id=117335>

Pacific Wrecks

<https://pacificwrecks.com/aircraft/oa-10/44-34080.html>