

Walden I Hayden

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July 2020

Walden Ira Hayden was the 2nd child of four children born to Ira Edwin and Elvira Naomi Wilding Hayden on 5 July 1905 in Hunter, Utah which is the west side of Salt Lake City. His siblings were Ida, Edna, and Raymond. His father died when he was just a year old.

Walden joined the Navy Dec 1923. He married Arlene Leah Webb from Lehi, Utah on 25 Nov 1929 in Salt Lake City, Utah. They were the parents of three children; a stillborn son born 11 Oct 1930, Son Warren Ray born 10 Sept 1935, and daughter Elaine estimated birth July 1939.

Records show that Walden was on the *USS Detroit* (CL-8) in 1931 and 1939. In January 1931 the *USS Detroit* sailed for a combined fleet problem off Balboa, then became flagship for Commander, Destroyer Squadrons, Battle Force on 19 March 1931 based on San Diego California. The 1940 US Census of San Diego shows that Walden was living with his wife and two children on Villa Terrace Street in San Diego on April 3, 1940. His daughter is 9 months old at that time and was born in Utah so it may be safe to say his family had recently moved to San Diego.



Records show that Walden was on the *USS Jarvis* in 1939, 1941, and 1942. This was the 2nd *USS Jarvis* (DD-393). This would have put Walden serving along the California Coastline until leaving San Diego 1 April 1940. At that time they went to the Hawaiian Islands arriving at Pearl Harbor 17 April 1940. The ship had to go back to San Francisco arriving on 8 Feb 1941 for an overhaul. They returned to Pearl Harbor 17 April 1941 and worked maneuvers there for seven months as part of Destroy Division Eight (DesDiv 8) of Destroyer Squadron Four. *USS Jarvis* arrived into Pearl Harbor on 4 December after doing exercises off Maui Island so we know he was there during the attack on Pearl Harbor 7 Dec 1941.

Within minutes of the attack, the *USS Jarvis* opened fire with 5-inch guns and machine guns which were among the first to challenge the enemy invaders and destroyed four Japanese planes. They did not have any loss of crew and only superficial damage. *USS Jarvis* left Pearl Harbor on 16 Dec 1941 to escort a convoy to Brisbane, Australia and returned in March 1942. We know his family was living with him in Hawaii as we find his wife and two children were evacuated from Honolulu in March 1942 at which time they returned back to Lehi, Utah.

After a brief trip to San Francisco for some ship alterations the *USS Jarvis* escorted thirteen ships back to Pearl Harbor and from there they left for Sydney, Australia and was convoy escort and

ASW patrol from Australia to New Caledonia. Then they were called to participate in the invasion of Guadalcanal.



They arrived off the landing beaches the morning of 7 August 1942. The *USS Jarvis* patrolled as part of a protective screen while the Marines established a beachhead. On Aug 9 while escorting troop ships, a torpedo exploded against the *USS Jarvis*' starboard (right) side and stopped her dead in the water. This killed 14 crewmen. It opened a hole 50 feet long in the boiler room. They were towed to a shallow anchor where seven wounded were transferred and they completed some emergency repairs. Although there was this 50-foot gash in the side the Navy considered the *USS Jarvis* seaworthy and they

were ordered to proceed under the cover of darkness. They apparently were not aware of the order because the radio had been taken out with the torpedo. They steamed to Sydney, Australia for immediate repairs.

They left at midnight on Aug 9 moving slowly westward but again were attacked by the destroyer *Yunagi* but without ill effect. With no speed, no radio communications, and few operating guns they refused aid from the destroyer *USS Blue*. After daybreak a scout plane sighted the *USS Jarvis* 40 miles off Guadalcanal trailing fuel oil behind them. This was the last time American's saw the *USS Jarvis*.

The Japanese thought the *USS Jarvis* was an escaping cruiser and sent out 31 planes to destroy it. The badly damaged *USS Jarvis* was no match for the bombers raking the ship with bullets and torpedoes. According to Japanese records, *USS Jarvis* "split and sank" at 1300 hours on 9 August 1942. None of her 233 remaining crew survived the onslaught (a varying report claims 247 crew).

Ensign Walden I Hayden (Service #0-146869) had been promoted to serve as a Warrant Officer and served 17 years in the United States Navy. He died for his country during the Battle of Savo Island. His name is on the Tablets of the Missing at Manila American Cemetery in the Philippines, Memorial ID 56782898. *A structure erected in honor of someone whose remains lie elsewhere. His name is also on the Veteran's wall at the Lehi City Cemetery Lehi, Utah and he had a headstone in the Lehi City Cemetery at grave location: 33-6-6. He was killed in action Aug 9, 1942 but finding of death (FOD) was 12 July 1945.

This story is a combined effort of the Lehi Historical Society and the Stories Behind the Stars project, a national effort of volunteers to write the stories of all 400,000+ of the US WW2 fallen on Fold3. 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.

References:

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