



Project 888

USS Indianapolis CA-35 Legacy Organization

Submission Example

Theodore Ott was only 20 when he boarded *Indianapolis*. Read his true story as submitted by his granddaughter Dawn Ott Bollhoefer. Information submitted for your crew member on the Submission Form will be edited in this format.

Chapter 1

Ott, Theodore G.

Name: Theodore G. Ott, Yeoman 1

DOB: March 19, 1923

From: Eddyville, IA

Went Aboard: Sept 23, 1943

Age When Ship Went Down: 22

Spouse: Peggy Perry Ott

Children: Theodore A. Ott, Peggy G. Ott Esperanza

Grandchildren: Dawn Ott Bollhoefer, Jack Suttek, Keri Burton, Tisha Kelley, Aaron Ott?, Bo Galloway



Theodore Gene Ott, affectionately called "Deanie" was born in Eddyville, IA on March 19, 1923. He fell in love in elementary school with a young girl named Peggy. He would hide in the bushes and watch her go by, dreaming that someday they would marry. He also dreamed of being a sailor some day and he wanted to have children.

Life was hard in the late 1920's, so his family uprooted and moved to California to find work. Deanie completed high school in California and lost track of Peggy. When he graduated from high school he joined the Navy.

Stationed in Hawaii, he was reunited with an old friend from Eddyville, IA who still knew Peggy and had her address. They reconnected, she moved to CA and in November of 1944, they were married.



Theodore went aboard USS Indianapolis in September of 1943. He was a Yeoman and eventually worked up to Y1.

In March of 1945, he celebrated his 22nd birthday. Just a few days later Indy was hit by a kamikaze and had to limp back to San Francisco for repairs.

He and Peggy were able to spend some time together. Theodore expressed concern about their upcoming mission. He knew that something was different and that something very secret was going on. He struggled with even wanting to go back on the ship, but Peggy reminded him of his commitment and desire to always be a sailor. It was something she would regret for the rest of her life. He went back for Indy's final mission, but he left all of her personal affects with Peggy. He seems he knew what he was facing.