



Russell Fairfield Hoyt (1899 – 1945)

Russell F. Hoyt had listed his home state as California. He lived at 478 Third Avenue in Chula Vista, CA and was survived by his wife Mrs. Marjorie Hoyt, a daughter, Miss Melveen Hoyt, a son, Chief Yeoman Glenn Hoyt, USN, two sisters, Mrs. Lela Marshall of Los Angeles, and Helda Hoyt Wae, and a 23 month granddaughter, Pamela Hoyt. A native Californian, he came to Chula Vista in 1935. The 1920 Census shows him in the Naval Hospital at Balboa Park in San Diego, CA.

He was a Chief Machinist (CM) in the United States Navy (E7) and received a “Warrant Commission during the World War II. His service number was 00310432.

Chief Warrant Officer Hoyt was a 26 year veteran of WWI and WWII. There was an article in the San Diego Union newspaper on February 20, 1944, when he was reunited with his wife after four and a half years. He had been a Japanese Prisoner of War and had just returned to Chula Vista. In 1940 and 1941 he was stationed at Cavite shipyard, Republic of the Philippines. On December 8, 1941, that navy yard was flattened by enemy bombing. For eight days, he and a number of hand-picked officers worked at night to destroy everything of value for the Japanese invasion. Several of his shipmates were killed during the attack on Cavite. After the demolition work was finished, he and his men trekked to Corregidor, stopping at Manila and saved the gold bullion by carrying it to a ship that had slipped into Manila Bay at night.

At Corregidor, he was recruited into the army as part of the unified defense, where he was a member of the beach defense guarding against Japanese landing forces. After ammunition ran low, the Americans retreated into partly completed fuel tunnels in the mountain of Corregidor. He said that there were about 10 raids a day to try and take Corregidor. When Bataan fell on April 9, 1942, Hoyt was ordered to leave Corregidor for special duty in Australia.

During his 26 years in the Navy, he had been assigned to Submarines, Submarine Tenders, Destroyers and Navy Shipyards. He had seen duty in China and the South Pacific. He was killed in the South Pacific on July 4, 1945 and his grave is located at the Manila American Cemetery at Manila, Republic of the Philippines. His headstone is located at Plot B, Row 47 Grave # 150. Chief Hoyt was awarded the Purple Heart. A street in the Montecito Ridge subdivision of Otay Ranch honors his name.

