

John Edgar Peabody (1919 – 1944)

John E. Peabody entered the service in Virginia. He was born in Fairfax County, Virginia, and his father was a farmer. He is shown in the 1920 as well as the 1930 census living in Providence, Fairfax County, VA on the family farm.

John Peabody was a United States Naval Reserve Officer during World War II. His rank was ENSIGN (O-1). He lived at 1061 Jefferson Street, Harborside in Chula Vista and his father was Edgar Stanley Peabody. His military service number was 0-264245.

His name appears on the “Tablets of the Missing” at the West Coast Memorial located at the Presidio, California. He died on February 23, 1944. He is listed as Missing in Action (MIA) or Buried at Sea.

During this timeframe, the following significant events took place in the Pacific Theater of Military Operations:

Carrier Task Force Raids (Feb 1944)

During the operations against Eniwetok, United States carrier task groups struck Truk on 16 and 17 February, Jaluit on the 20th, and the Marianas on the 22d. At Truk the sustained two-day attack by carrier aircraft destroyed 26 merchant vessels, 6 combatant ships, and 270 aircraft, damaged 6 more naval vessels, and inflicted severe damage on fuel and provision storage. It had been planned to strike Ponape and Jaluit next but in view of the success of the Truk operation a carrier strike on the Marianas was substituted

The carrier task force which attacked the Marianas on 22 February struck this center of the new Japanese defense line in the Pacific at the very time the enemy was making strenuous efforts to reinforce it. Although detected by reconnaissance aircraft 420 miles east of Saipan, the task force fought its way through a night-long series of attacks by land-based aircraft without significant damage and commenced launching the first of a day's strikes next morning. One hundred twenty aircraft, the entire strength of that portion of the Japanese First Air Fleet in the Marianas, were destroyed. The destruction of the advanced echelon of the First Air Fleet was a severe blow to the air organization upon which Japan was depending heavily for the defense of the Marianas and Western Carolines. It was the first of several strikes by carrier task forces which were to prevent the First Air Fleet from ever reaching its full strength and fighting efficiency.

He was awarded the Purple Heart.

