



Arcadio Robles (1924 – 1945)

Arcadio Robles was born on August 22nd, 1924. He was the second of nine children, born in the United States, to Mexican immigrant parents. Robles attended F Street Grammar School, Chula Vista Junior High School, and Sweetwater High School.

He was well-rounded, soft-spoken son and brother, whose work ethic showed a promising future. One of his goals was to master the saxophone, which he spent many hours practicing in his spare time. His other hobbies included softball pitching and model airplane building.

He was raised in a small neighborhood at the foot of H St., where Rohr Aircraft stands today. Proximity to the airstrip, which was located in the same area, sparked his interest in airplanes. He would spend time there, and on occasion was invited to fly with pilots

He worked for Rohr Aircraft in Chula Vista, prior to being drafted into the Army at the age of 18. He attended basic training at Camp Roberts and then attached to the 182nd Infantry Regiment, Americal Division. He was assigned to the South Pacific in 1943

On March 27th, 1944, during military operations on Bougainville in the Solomon Islands, Robles received a letter of commendation for outstanding services. According to the Army, Private Robles, a rifleman, displayed great courage and devotion to duty during an attack on enemy positions on Hill 260. He moved forward to act as a lead scout for the attacking forces. Private Robles guided a platoon safely through the jungle to an ideal location for the directing of mortar fire on the enemy.

Although sustaining wounds when the enemy counterattacked this position (for which he was awarded a Purple Heart), Private Robles continued to deliver a heavy volume of fire on the attacking force, which resulted in many casualties among the enemy and secured the position until the platoon mission was accomplished. After recovering from his wounds, he returned to his unit as a rifle platoon Sergeant, and later landed on the Island of Luzon in the Philippine Islands.

On March 1, 1945, Robles received a second letter of commendation for outstanding services in connection with military operations against the enemy at Samar in the Philippine Islands. According to the Army, Sergeant Robles, a squad leader, displayed a high degree of bravery and devotion to duty during an attack against the enemy at Mauo. When his platoon was held up by heavy enemy machine gun fire from the right flank, he immediately led his squad to that flank, located the enemy gun position and brought fire upon it. This diverted the gun's fire, allowing a mortar observer to advance and direct mortar fire upon it, resulting in the enemy gun being destroyed.

After securing this island, he was sent to Cebu in the Philippine Islands where he was killed in action April 12th, 1945 at the age of 20 due to sniper fire. He was initially buried on Cebu Island and is now interred at Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery in San Diego, CA.

