



Robert Semple (1887 - 1943)

Robert Semple was born in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania on August 18, 1887. When he was 28, he received the Mexican Vera Cruz Campaign Congressional Medal of Honor as a Navy Chief gunner. This was received for his extraordinary efforts on behalf of the landing forces landing at Vera Cruz, Mexico on April 21, 1914.

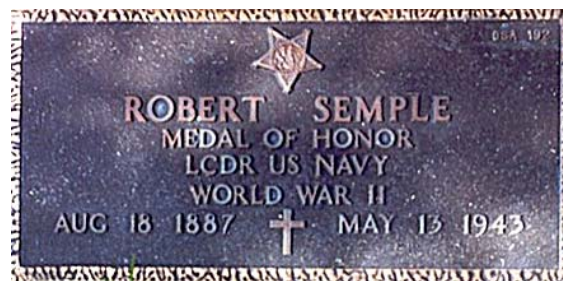
Later in his naval career, he served as Chief Turret captain on the USS Florida, a naval battleship.

LCDR Semple also received the second highest military award for bravery, the Navy Cross for distinctive service in the North Sea minefields during WWI. Of special note, Robert Semple is the only recipient among the names in Memorial Park to receive the Medal of Honor or the Navy Cross

He received many medals and honors in his career as a Navy Lieutenant Commander, including the Navy Cross for gallantry. He died during WWII in San Diego on May 13, 1943 and is buried at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery. In 2006, the City of Chula Vista and the McMillin Housing Development honored Robert Semple by having a street named in his honor in the Lomas Verdes subdivision.

The inscription on his headstone reads:

Robert Semple
Medal of Honor
LCDR US Navy
World War II
August 18, 1887 May 15 1943



Citation: For meritorious service under fire on the occasion of the landing of the American naval forces at Vera Cruz on 21 April 1914. Chief.Gunner. Semple was then attached to the U.S.S. Florida as a chief turret captain.