

Harry Grant

Born: April 15, 1922
Hometown: Winetka, IL
Class: 1944
Service: Merchant Marine
Position / Rank: Third Mate
Date / Place of death: October 31, 1944 / Port of Hollandia, New Guinea
Date / Place of burial: November 1, 1944 / USAAF Cemetery, Hollandia, New Guinea, Grave #123
Age: 22



Harry Grant signed on as Third Mate aboard the SS Francis G. Newlands at San Francisco, CA on August 14, 1944 two days after being issued his Coast Guard License. The ship sailed the same day to the South Pacific bound for Finschhafen, New Guinea with a cargo described by the ship's Armed Guard Officer as "heavy lifts and subsistence." Upon arrival in Finschhafen the Francis G. Newlands awaited further routing orders until September 12 when it was ordered to sail to Hollandia, New Guinea. At that time Hollandia was the headquarters for General MacArthur and the main staging base for the invasion of the Philippine Islands.

From September 14 through November 14, 1944, the Francis G. Newlands was moored at Hollandia, New Guinea delayed in the discharge of its cargo by the tremendous ship traffic (both merchant and navy) in preparation for the invasion of the Philippines. On the afternoon of October 31st, Harry Grant was supervising cargo operations at the after end of #4 hatch. At 1620 local time he was crushed between the ship's Number 4 heavy boom and the pipe guard around the Number 4 starboard winch. The Francis G. Newland's Third Mate was pronounced dead 28 minutes later by Lieutenant Hugh Crawford, USNR the Medical Officer assigned to the USS Isherwood (DD 520). The Francis G. Newlands sailed from Hollandia bound for Port Moresby, New Guinea on 14 November. The Captain had been unable to find a replacement for Grant, so the ship sailed without a Third Mate.

Harry Grant entered the San Mateo Basic School on November 11, 1942, roughly six weeks after his family name was changed from Goldstein to Grant. He signed on aboard the Liberty Ship SS Simon Bolivar as Deck Cadet on April 28, 1943. Fourteen months later the Simon Bolivar arrived at San Francisco from Australia. Harry Grant signed off on June 13, 1944 and reported to Kings Point to complete his education. This culminated in his graduation later that summer and issuance of his Third Mate's

license on August 12, 1944.

Based on his Merchant Marine service Harry Grant was posthumously awarded the Pacific War Zone Bar, Victory Medal and Presidential Testimonial Letter. Further it is likely that he was also entitled to the Combat Bar.

Harry (Goldstein) Grant was the only son and youngest child of Harry Goldstein and Lorraine Beilman Goldstein. His older sisters were Lois and Marion. According to the 1930 and 1940 U.S. Census, Harry Sr. was the manager/owner of a clothing factory in 1930, but was listed as a salesman for a clothing factory in 1940. After his death, Harry's sister Lois wrote to the Coast Guard for more details on her brother's death, but no further details were available. Most of the men buried overseas during World War II were either re-interred at permanent military cemeteries overseas or returned home for reburial by their family. There is no record of Harry Grant being buried in an overseas military cemetery, so his remains must have been returned to his parents for burial after the war.