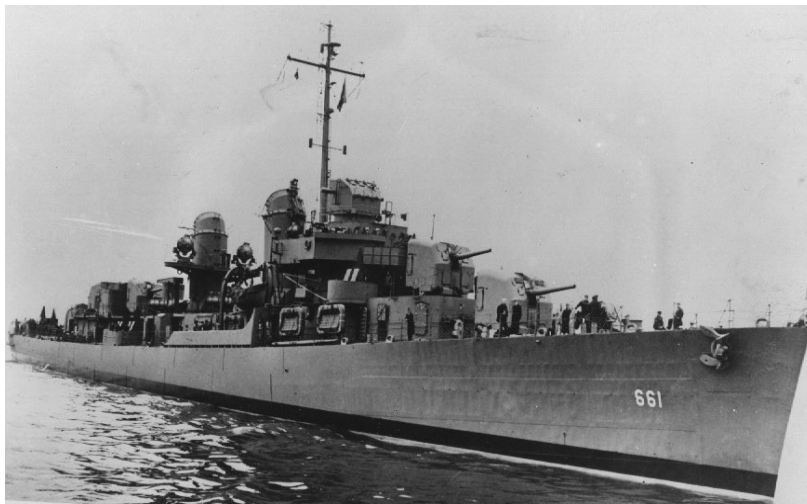


George Pershing Grieshaber

Born: October 19, 1918
Hometown: Union, NJ
Class: 1943
Service: USNR
Position / Rank: Chief Engineer / Lt. (j.g.)
Date / Place of death: April 11, 1945 / 90nm E. of Okinawa
Date / Place of burial: April 12, 1945 / Buried At Sea-- 23-25N, 131-58E; Tablets of the Missing, Honolulu Memorial, Honolulu, HI
Age: 26



George P. Grieshaber was appointed as Cadet, Merchant Marine Reserve, on November 22, 1941 upon completion of Basic School. According to Crew Lists on file in New York, NY, he signed on aboard the SS Argentina as Engine Cadet between the 22nd and 24th of November, 1941. After the war began, the SS Argentina was taken over by the Army as a troop transport. He signed off on June 20, 1942. Upon reporting to the Academy to complete his training he was assigned to Section A204. For his service aboard the SS Argentina Cadet-Midshipman George P. Grieshaber was awarded the Atlantic War Zone Bar and Pacific War Zone Bar.



USS Kidd (DD 661)

Upon his graduation from Kings Point George Grieshaber was commissioned an Ensign, U.S. Naval Reserve and called to active duty. He was subsequently assigned to the pre-commissioning unit for a new USS Fletcher (DD 445) Class Destroyer, USS Kidd (DD 661) then completing construction at Federal Shipbuilding & Drydock Company, Kearny, NJ. The USS Kidd, named after Rear

Admiral Isaac C. Kidd, Sr., who was killed aboard his flagship, USS Arizona (BB 39) on December 7, 1941, was commissioned on April 23, 1943. The USS Kidd's crew adopted the pirate "Captain Kidd" as their mascot as they began training for combat duty with the Pacific Fleet. From September 1943 to December 1944 the Kidd was in combat operations with the Pacific Fleet. During the ship's first overhaul Lieutenant (junior grade) Grieshaber was assigned as the ship's Engineering Officer. He was also one of very few of the ship's original officers remaining aboard.

The USS Kidd and its crew returned to combat in February 1945, escorting the aircraft carrier strike group Task Force 58. On April 11, 1945 the Kidd and three of its shipyard sisters, were part of the escort group for three aircraft carriers. At 0343 the USS Kidd and its three sister ships of Destroyer Division 96 were assigned to radar picket duty 25 miles north of the task group. About ten hours later the radar pickets were attacked by Japanese suicide planes.

According to the USS Kidd's Deck Log, the ship's guns opened fire on the attacking aircraft at 1353. A few minutes later the Kidd accelerated to its full speed of 35 knots and began maneuvering radically to avoid the attacking aircraft. However, twenty minutes later the Kidd's luck ran out. A kamikaze aircraft flew over the USS Black, off the Kidd's starboard side and attacked the Kidd skimming over the wave tops. The Kidd's 40mm and 20mm gunners were able to score several direct hits on the plane but could not destroy it before it struck the Kidd at the waterline at the Forward Fire Room where Lieutenant (j.g.) George P. Grieshaber was checking a leaky gauge. He was killed instantly along with all of the other crewmen in the space. In addition, the ship's Commanding Officer, doctor and other officers and men were put out of action from multiple wounds.



Aircraft that Hit USS Kidd seconds before impact (USS Black in background)

At 1411 the Executive Officer, himself badly wounded, took command of the USS Kidd which was on fire and dead in the water with holes in its hull on both sides of the Forward Fire Room. However, within minutes the Kidd's Engineering Department had the ship back up to 5 knots and reported it was ready to make 25 knots. By 1427, a little more than fifteen minutes after being hit, fires were out on the Kidd and it was ready to retire to the protection of Task Group 58.3 escorted by its sister ships. That evening, the USS Kidd, escorted by the USS McNair (DD 679) was ordered to sail to the fleet base at Ulithi Atoll for repairs.

From 1030 to 1100 local time on April 12, 1945, the crew of the USS Kidd buried their dead at sea, including Lt. (j.g.) George P. Grieshaber, USNR. The Commander, Destroyer Division Ninety-Six said the following about the actions of the Kidd's

Engineering Department in his After Action Report for April 11-15, 1945.

“The quick recovery of the ship from personnel and material damage of such magnitude is considered to be remarkable and conclusive proof of the high standard of training existing on the KIDD.”

As one of the ship's original engineers, and its Engineering Officer, much of this credit must lie with George P. Grieshaber. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and the Asiatic - Pacific Campaign Medal in addition to his Merchant Marine awards



In 1975 the decommissioned USS Kidd was selected to be preserved as a memorial and museum in Baton Rouge, LA where it has been returned to its World War II configuration. A proud fixture of the ship's Quarterdeck is the plaque cast by the crew of the Destroyer Tender USS Hamul (AD 20) at Ulithi Atoll in 1945 to honor the dead of April 11, 1945.

George P. Grieshaber was the only child of George T. Grieshaber and Estelle P. Grieshaber. The senior Grieshaber's occupation is listed in the U.S. Census as draftsman and architect. A graduation note in the Academy newspaper "Polaris" reports that Grieshaber attended Union Junior College and Mississippi State College before enrolling at the Merchant Marine Academy. According to the note, George planned to obtain a degree in mechanical engineering after the war. At the time of his death George P. Grieshaber was married to Grace Adelaid Grieshaber, whose residence was listed in the roster of the Kidd's officers as 115-19 199th Street, St. Albans, Long Island, NY. On a trip to Bermuda in 1946 her occupation is listed as receptionist, living at the same address. No further information could be found about Mrs. Grieshaber.