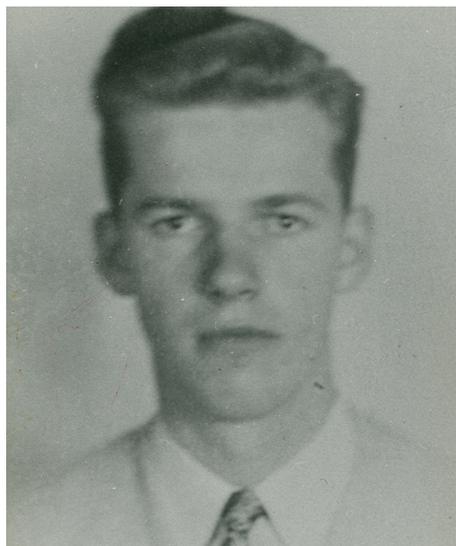
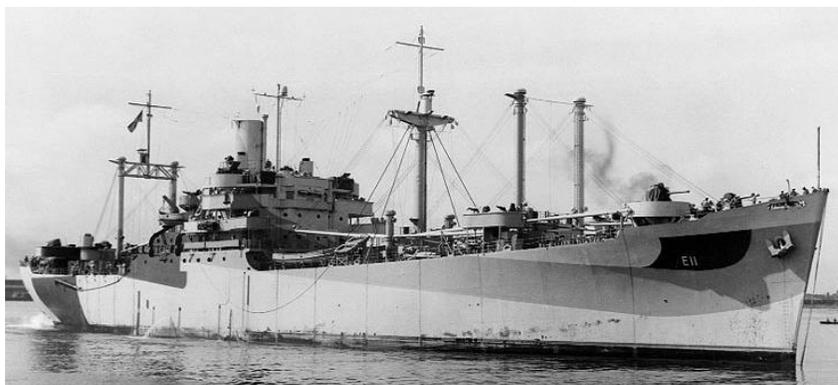


Lloyd Stanley Strom

Born: November 4, 1921
Hometown: San Francisco, CA
Class: 1944
Service: USNR
Position / Rank: Asst. Engineering Officer / Ensign
Date / Place of death: November 10, 1944 / Seadler Harbor, Admiralty Islands, New Guinea
Date / Place of burial: November 10, 1944 / Lost at Sea -- Seadler Harbor, Admiralty Islands, New Guinea; Tablets of the Missing at Manila American Cemetery Manila, Philippines
Age: 23



Lloyd S. Strom was appointed a Midshipman, USNR on October 9, 1942 but was hospitalized for a hernia the following day. By November 20 he was expected to be ready to ship as Engine Cadet aboard the *SS Phillipa*. He graduated with Section A-156 on January 28, 1944, and was commissioned an Ensign, U.S. Naval Reserve.



USS Mount Hood (AE 11)

After training at Newport, RI, Ensign Strom reported to the pre-commissioning detail for the *USS Hood (AE 11)* a U.S. Maritime Commission C2-S-AJ1 cargo ship being converted into an Ammunition Ship. Ensign Lloyd Strom officially reported aboard the *USS Mount Hood* upon its commissioning on July 1, 1944, as one of three

Assistant Engineering Officers. After a brief shakedown cruise, the ship reported for duty on August 5, 1944, loaded ammunition for Pacific Fleet ships, and sailed for Manus, Admiralty Islands on August 21, 1944.

On September 22, 1944, the *Hood* arrived at Manus and anchored in Seeadler Harbor, a major repair and logistical support site for ships participating in the Philippine invasion. The *Hood* was a primary provider of ammunition for all ships attached to the Third Fleet, and she was kept busy over the next weeks supplying ammunition to other ships in the harbor. Though the harbor had certain designated berths for ammunition ships, the *USS Hood* ended up taking a berth closer to the center of the harbor, in order to more easily transfer ammunition to other ships.

The *USS Mount Hood* had an estimated 3,800 tons of ammunition aboard on the morning of November 10, 1944. Just before 0900 the ship was observed to have a landing craft alongside with aerial depth charges aboard while 500 pound bombs were being loaded into the Number 3 hold from another landing craft. Meanwhile, .50 caliber machine gun ammunition in boxes were sitting on the deck of a nearby pontoon lighter, waiting to be loaded onto the Hood. Several other landing craft were also in the area, carrying unknown cargo. All five of the ship's cargo holds were open and being worked by, what the Board of Inquiry called, "... a relatively inexperienced crew."



USS Mount Hood (AE-11), Seeadler Harbor, Manus, Admiralty Islands, November 10, 1944

At around 0855, the ship's cargo detonated, completely disintegrating the ship as well as the nearby landing craft. Everyone on board, including Ensign Lloyd Strom were killed in the explosion. The Board of Inquiry concluded that there were several irregularities with the cargo and its handling that could have contributed to the disaster.

Ensign Lloyd Strom, USNR was posthumously awarded American Area Campaign Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal and the World War II Victory Medal for his U.S. Navy Service. For his merchant marine service he had already earned the Pacific War Zone Bar, the Victory Medal and Presidential Testimonial Letter.

Lloyd S. Strom was the only son and oldest child of Louis Strom and Emily Strom. The 1930 U.S. Census identifies Louis Strom as a seaman working aboard a freighter. However, a 1941 San Francisco City Directory indicates that Louis was employed as a stationary engineer. At the time of his death Lloyd Strom was married to Rosemary Strom who was living in San Francisco.