

World War II - 1944 Allied Wins - 616 Losses Continue

The old and the new

Unlike the younger men who passed through Honolulu on their way to Pacific battles, Chief Aviation Machinist's Mate **Andrew Zutter** was a "lifer," a career Navy man and Elk since 1930. He was born Oct 15, 1903, New York, NY, to immigrant parents: Christian Zutter (Switzerland) and mother Henrietta (France). In the 1920's the family moved to New Jersey. Andrew joined the Navy and came to Hawaii. Reflecting his new family, the 1930 census lists Zutter's home as the US Naval Air Station, Honolulu, Hawaii Territory, and his "household members" as a long string of fellow sailors.

In and out of 'Pearl', Zutter's 616 membership lapsed in 1933, then picked up with 1940 reinstatement. He was paying dues regularly - and then the payments stop after Feb 1942.

Although we know Elk Zutter was on the USS *Yorktown* in 1939-1941, he seems to have transferred off the ship before the battles of the Coral Sea and Midway. We know only that he died in service Jan 31, 1944, and was buried at Virginia's Arlington National Cemetery on Feb 5, 1944. Given the short gap between his death and his burial on the east coast, we can suppose he may have transferred to the Atlantic theater (1942 when his dues stopped?), but we don't know. With his prior record, and unaware of his death, 616 dropped him from the membership rolls in March 1944.

More representative of the young military men joining Elks 616 in the first years of the war was US Navy Carpenter, Warrant Officer **Otho Burton Propst**. Proposed by Brother Jack Kearns, Apr 12 and initiated May 24, 1942, his address, like many of the squeaky new sailors moving through Honolulu read "Advance Destroyer Base 1, PH." He was a long way from his family and home in Mt. Salon, VA, where he was born April 11, 1914.

Elk Propst appeared to be on his way to becoming a long-time member. Even after he traded in his generic address for a forward assignment he paid dues regularly for 2 ½ years. But after the March 1944 payment, nothing. Hoping the end of the war would bring news, Lodge 616 carried him as a member until 1947.

Carpenter and Elk Propst remains in Hawaii. We don't know how, but he was killed in action Sept 6, 1944. Survived by his father Andrew, he was among those interred soon after the opening of the National Memorial Cemetery at Punchbowl. You can find him in the center oval at the end closer to the entrance flag pole: grave A414. He might appreciate a visit as he's still a long way from home and family.

Task Force 38

Water Tender, First Class **Peter Panas** was born Mar 12, 1918, in the windy city of Chicago to Greek immigrant parents Nicholas and Anna Panas. He was their first son, their second child. In 1942, like thousands of other 20-somethings, he found himself in the US Navy and in Honolulu.

Initially he was assigned to a Pearl Harbor tug USS *Sunnadin*. This meant time in port and someone suggested the Elks. Panas, proposed by Joseph Murphy Sept 13, was elected and initiated Oct 11, 1942.

Later he was reassigned and on Dec 17-18, 1944, Panas was at sea, part of Admiral Halsey's Third Fleet and Task Force 38. In that long night, the US Navy was attacked by an enemy it was powerless to oppose - Typhoon Cobra. The group of 7 fleet carriers, 6 light carriers, 8 battleships, 15 cruisers, and about 50 destroyers was about 300 m. east of Luzon in the Philippine Sea. Destroyers USS *Hull*, USS *Monaghan* and USS *Spence* sank and 21 other ships were damaged taking the lives of 790 men. Water Tender, First Class Panas is listed as Missing In Action on the Tablets of the Missing at Manila American Cemetery.

Lodge 616 received Brother Panas's last payment about a month before he died. Unaware of his status, but hopeful he would reappear at war's end, 616 carried him on the membership rolls until 1947.

Anita Manning, 616 Lodge Historian

References:

616 Membership records and Minutes
www.familysearch.org & ancestry.com
American Battle Monuments www.abmc.gov
National Archives World War II Archival Databases

For more about Typhoon Cobra go to <http://www.history.navy.mil/faqs/faq102-4.htm> or Hawaii State Library *Typhoon, the other enemy* by C. R. Calhoun and *Halsey's typhoons* by H. C. Adamson & G. F. Kosco.