

MAIN FORCE YAMAMOTO A C USAAF PACIFIC FLEET NIMITZ
 XXX STRIKING FORCE FLETCHER
 XXXX ADVANCED FORCE KOMATSU

BONIN ISLANDS
 VO

6'
 59"
 56"
 53"
 5'

321 17 69

NAVY PER 807 (5-40)
 No. 321 17 69
 WOODSIDE
 DARREL D
 3YRS 9MOS 10260
 (Phonetic Number) (U.S.C. Number)

USE LETTERS	DATE	RATE	VESSEL
I-1-41	AMM2C	ENL	

W.D.

MIDWAY

8-T-5

The File of AMM1c D.D. Woodside

HONORING THE FALLEN ONE STORY AT A TIME

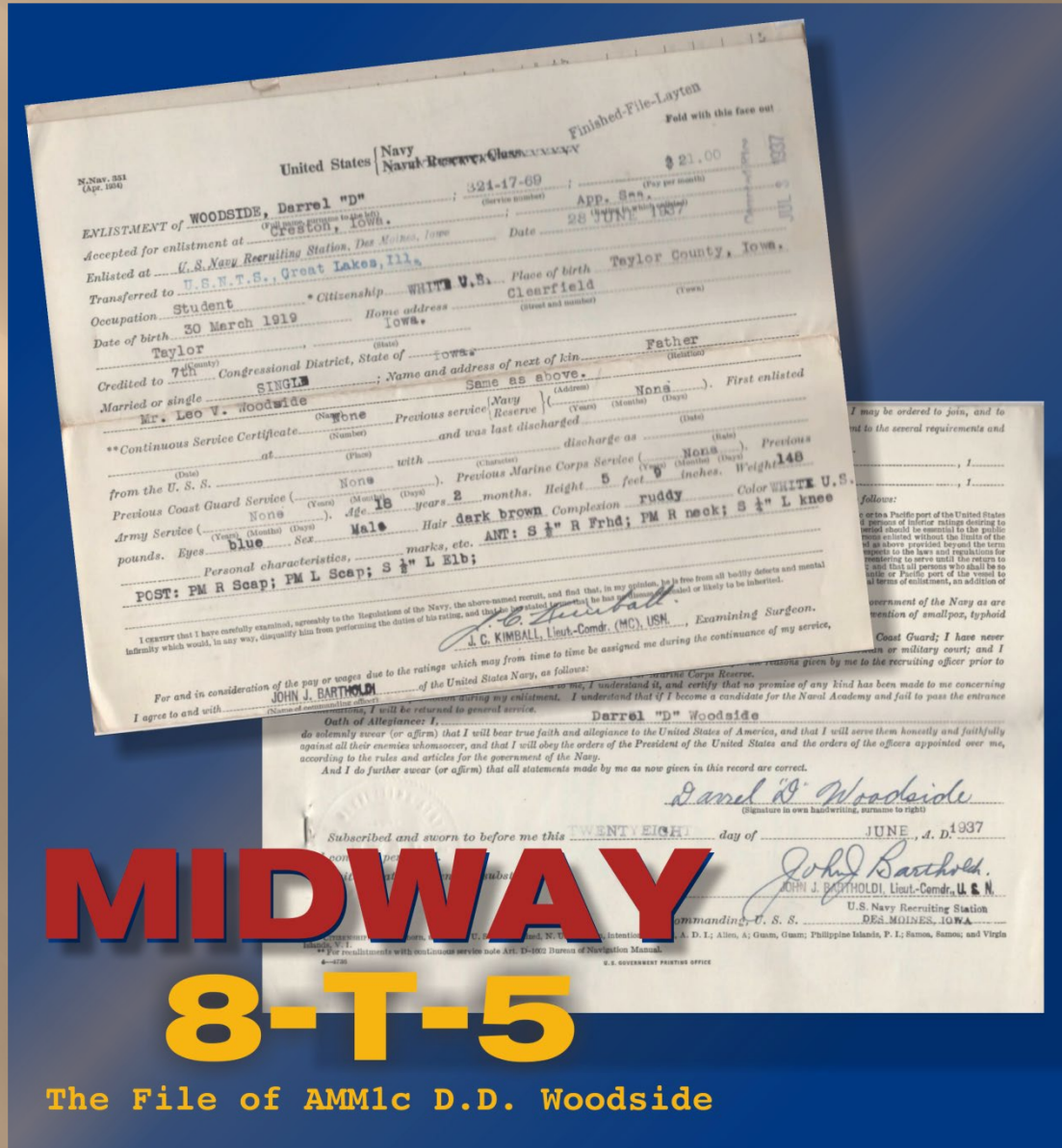
Midway was a pivotal event of WWII in the Pacific. The naval battle was a titanic clash between nations, but ultimately it is a story woven of individual sacrifice and valor.

We want to share with you the story of AMM1c D.D. Woodside, one of the brave pilots of Torpedo Squadron 8 who made the ultimate sacrifice at Midway. D.D. Woodside was the pilot of 8-T-5, a new Grumman Avenger Naval plane assigned to the USS Hornet carrier.

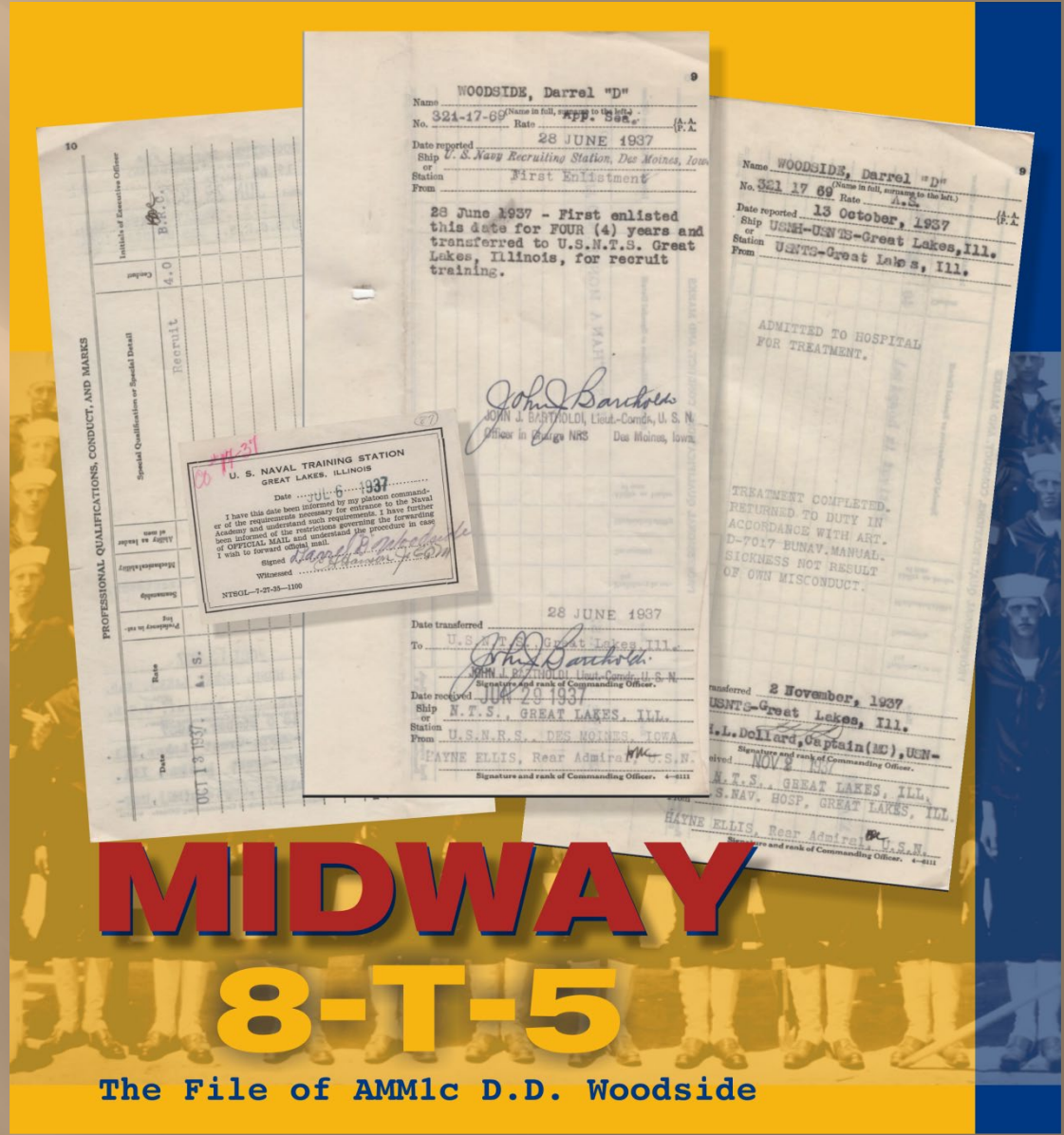
Follow along as we bring to life this single thread of the story of the Battle of Midway using original military personnel records, and find out what you can learn from your own veteran's records.

Enlistment Form and Oath - Darrel D. Woodside of Iowa was fresh out of high school and just over 18 years old when he first enlisted in the Navy in June 1937. He would go on to earn his pilot's wings and remain in the service for the rest of his life.

This paper is the formal service contract between the enlistee and the Navy. Almost always found in Naval OMPF files, it contains great details like residence, next of kin, and a detailed physical description.



Service Book Pages:
 By July of 1937, D.D.
 Woodside was assigned to
 the Great Lakes Naval
 Training Station in
 Illinois for boot camp.
 Here he would learn basic
 Navy skills alongside
 recruits from all over the
 country.

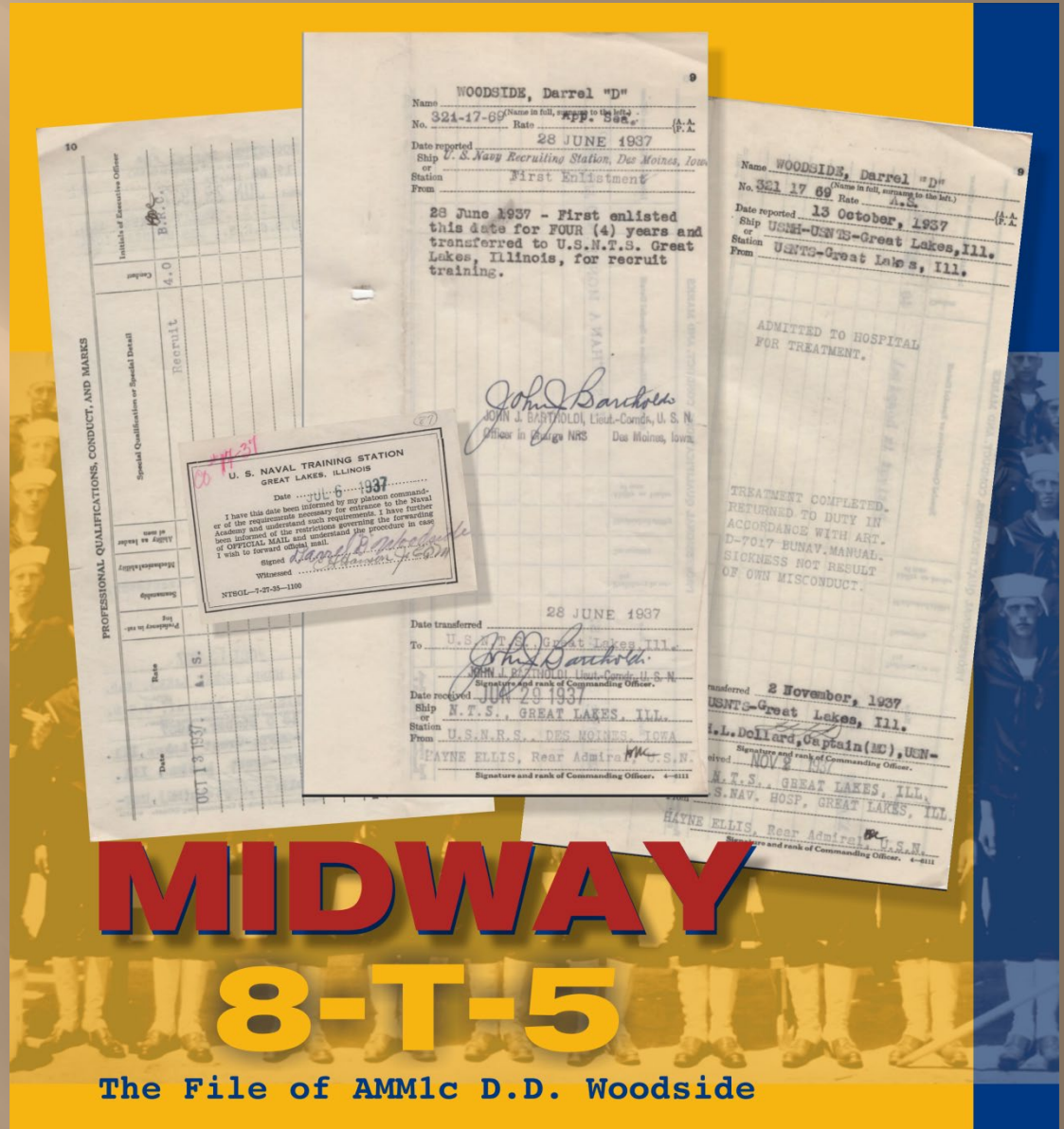


MIDWAY

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The File of AMM1c D.D. Woodside

Each significant event throughout the career of enlisted navy servicemembers (such as battle participation, assigned duties, disciplinary notes or advancement in rating) generated a detailed page in their service record book. Individual pages were then bound in a small book forming a portable record. During the war these records were used to keep track of milestones in the career of individual servicemembers.

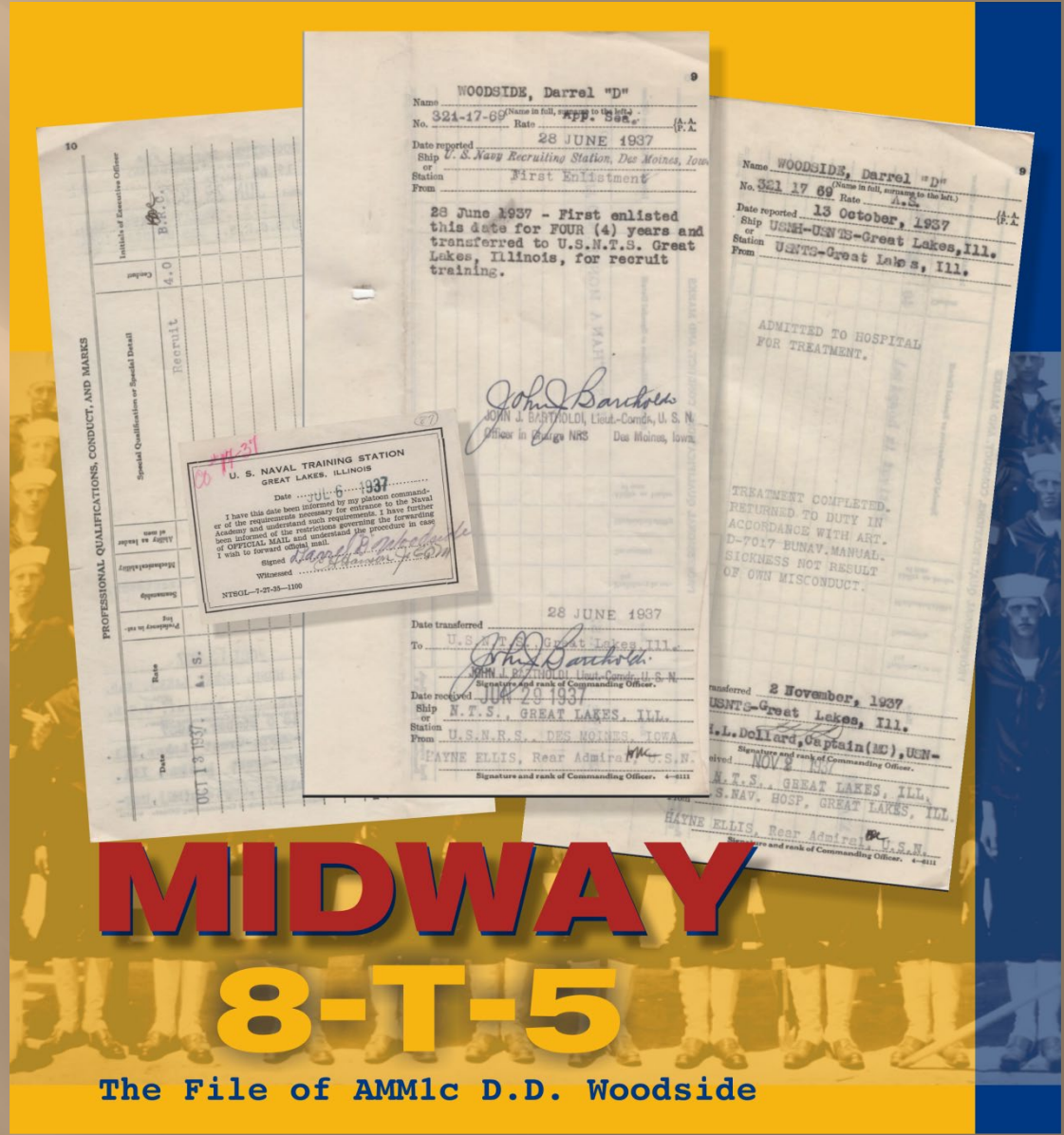


MIDWAY

8-T-5

The File of AMM1c D.D. Woodside

Today, navy service books allow us to track the individual throughout their tour of duty making the booklets an excellent resources for understanding the service history of the individual sailor.



MIDWAY

8-T-5

The File of AMM1c D.D. Woodside

Transfer Orders:
 By November of 1937 D.D. Woodside received his first assignment. Sent to San Diego, he would become part of the crew of the USS Memphis. She was an Omaha class light cruiser built shortly after WWI. Used as a fleet scout, the USS Memphis carried small float planes that launched from catapults.

Name WOODSIDE, Darrel "D"
 No. 521-17-69 Date 26 Nov 37 (M)
 Date reported 20 November 1937.
 Ship U.S.S. MEMPHIS
 Station USNTS, Great Lakes, Ill.
 From _____

6/8/38: Temporarily based ashore at FAB, NAS, San Diego, California, with USS MEMPHIS Aviation Unit, VOS-2.

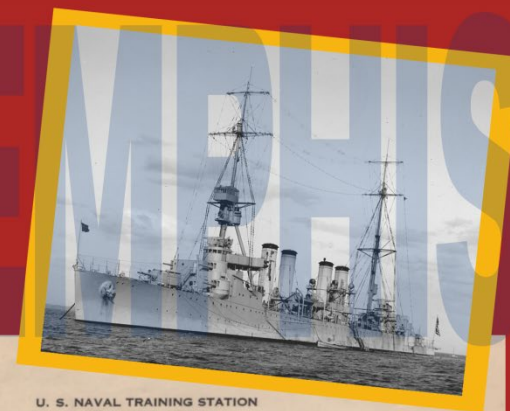
 6/18/38: Returned to U.S.S. MEMPHIS this date. Temporary duty FAB NAS San Diego, California completed.

 8/1/38: Temporarily based ashore at FAB, NAS, San Diego, California, with USS MEMPHIS Aviation Unit, VOS-2, AUTH: CONCOMBATFOR Desp. 0026 1938 of July 1938.

 11/12/38: Returned to U.S.S. MEMPHIS this date. Temporary duty FAB NAS San Diego, California completed.

 12/25/38: Transferred this date to U.S.S. WRIGHT for temporary duty in accordance with COMAEROSOP Desp. 0009 1152 of December 1938.

Date transferred 23 December 1938
 To USS WRIGHT for temp. duty.
 R. H. GRAYSON, Commander, USN.
 Signature and rank of Commanding Officer.
 Date received 24 Dec 1938
 Ship U.S.S. WRIGHT
 Station U.S.S. MEMPHIS
 From R. H. GRAYSON, USN.
 Signature and rank of Commanding Officer. 4-4111



U. S. NAVAL TRAINING STATION
 GREAT LAKES, ILLINOIS

17 November 1937.

From: Commanding Officer.
 To : WOODSIDE, Darrel "D", 321 17 69, Sea.2c, U.S. Navy.
 Subject: Orders.

- Reference: (a) BuNav ltr. Nav 65 175 MM of 18 Oct 1937.
1. Upon receipt of these orders, proceed as indicated in your transportation report to San Diego, California, and upon arrival at that place, immediately report to the Commanding Officer, U.S.S. MEMPHIS for duty, in accordance with reference (a).
 2. In the event that the U.S.S. MEMPHIS is not in port, you will report aboard the ship of the Senior Officer Present.
 3. Transportation and subsistence necessary in the execution of these orders are handed you herewith.
 4. Your records and accounts will be forwarded to the Commanding Officer, U.S.S. MEMPHIS, via registered mail.

Copy to:
 CO USS MEMPHIS
 OIC, Rec. Training

B.H. Crosser
 B.H. CROSSER,
 By direction.

20 November 1937.

From: Commanding Officer.
 To: WOODSIDE, Darrel "D", 321 17 69, Sea.2c, U.S. Navy.

1. Reported aboard this date.

R.H. Grayson
 R. H. GRAYSON.

MIDWAY

8-T-5

The File of AMM1c D.D. Woodside

Serving both ship and shore duties during this time he would have taken part in coastal patrol duties on the west coast, peacekeeping patrols to the West Indies, and had his first prolonged exposure to naval aviation.

These records which are maintained in the service files of naval personnel can be used to dive deeper into other resources (such as deck logs and ship histories) to better understand a veteran's experiences and movements.

Name: WOODSIDE, Darrel "D"
(Check in full, subject to the act.)
 No. 221-17-69 Rate Sea.1c (A)
 Date reported: 20 November 1937.
 Ship or Station: U.S.S. MEMPHIS
 From: USNTS, Great Lakes, Ill.

6/8/38: Temporarily based ashore at FAB, NAS, San Diego, California, with USS MEMPHIS Aviation Unit, VOS-2.

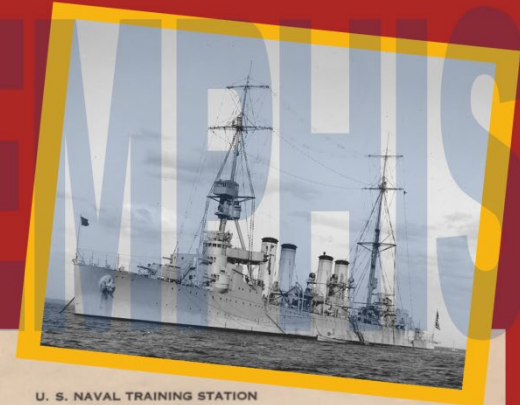
 6/18/38: Returned to U.S.S. MEMPHIS this date. Temporary duty FAB NAS San Diego, California completed.

 8/1/38: Temporarily based ashore at FAB, NAS, San Diego, California, with USS MEMPHIS Aviation Unit, VOS-2. AUTH: COMBUREAUFOR Desp. 0026 1936 of July 1938.

 11/12/38: Returned to U.S.S. MEMPHIS this date. Temporary duty FAB NAS San Diego, California completed.

 12/23/38: Transferred this date to U.S.S. WRIGHT for temporary duty in accordance with COMBUREAUFOR Desp. 0009 1152 of December 1938.

Date transferred: 23 December 1938
 To: USS WRIGHT for temp. duty.
 By: E. H. GRAYSON, Commander, USN.
Signature and grade of Commanding Officer.
 Date received: 24 Dec 1938
 Ship or Station: U.S.S. WRIGHT
 From: U.S.S. MEMPHIS
 By: E. H. GRAYSON, Commander, USN.
Signature and grade of Commanding Officer. 4-111



U. S. NAVAL TRAINING STATION
 GREAT LAKES, ILLINOIS

19 November 1937.

From: Commanding Officer.
 To: WOODSIDE, Darrel "D", 321 17 69, Sea.2c, U.S. Navy.
 Subject: Orders.

Reference: (a) BuNav ltr. Nav 63 FJS MM of 15 Oct 1937.

1. Upon receipt of these orders, proceed as indicated in your transportation report to San Diego, California, and upon arrival at that place, immediately report to the Commanding Officer, U.S.S. MEMPHIS for duty, in accordance with reference (a).
2. In the event that the U.S.S. MEMPHIS is not in port, you will report aboard the ship of the Senior Officer Present.
3. Transportation and subsistence necessary in the execution of these orders are handed you herewith.
4. Your records and accounts will be forwarded to the Commanding Officer, U.S.S. MEMPHIS, via registered mail.

B.R. Crosser
 B.R. CROSSER,
 By direction.

Copy to:
 CC USS MEMPHIS
 OIC, Rec. Training

20 November 1937.

From: Commanding Officer, U.S.S. MEMPHIS, 321 17 69, Sea.2c, U.S. Navy.

1. Reported aboard this date.

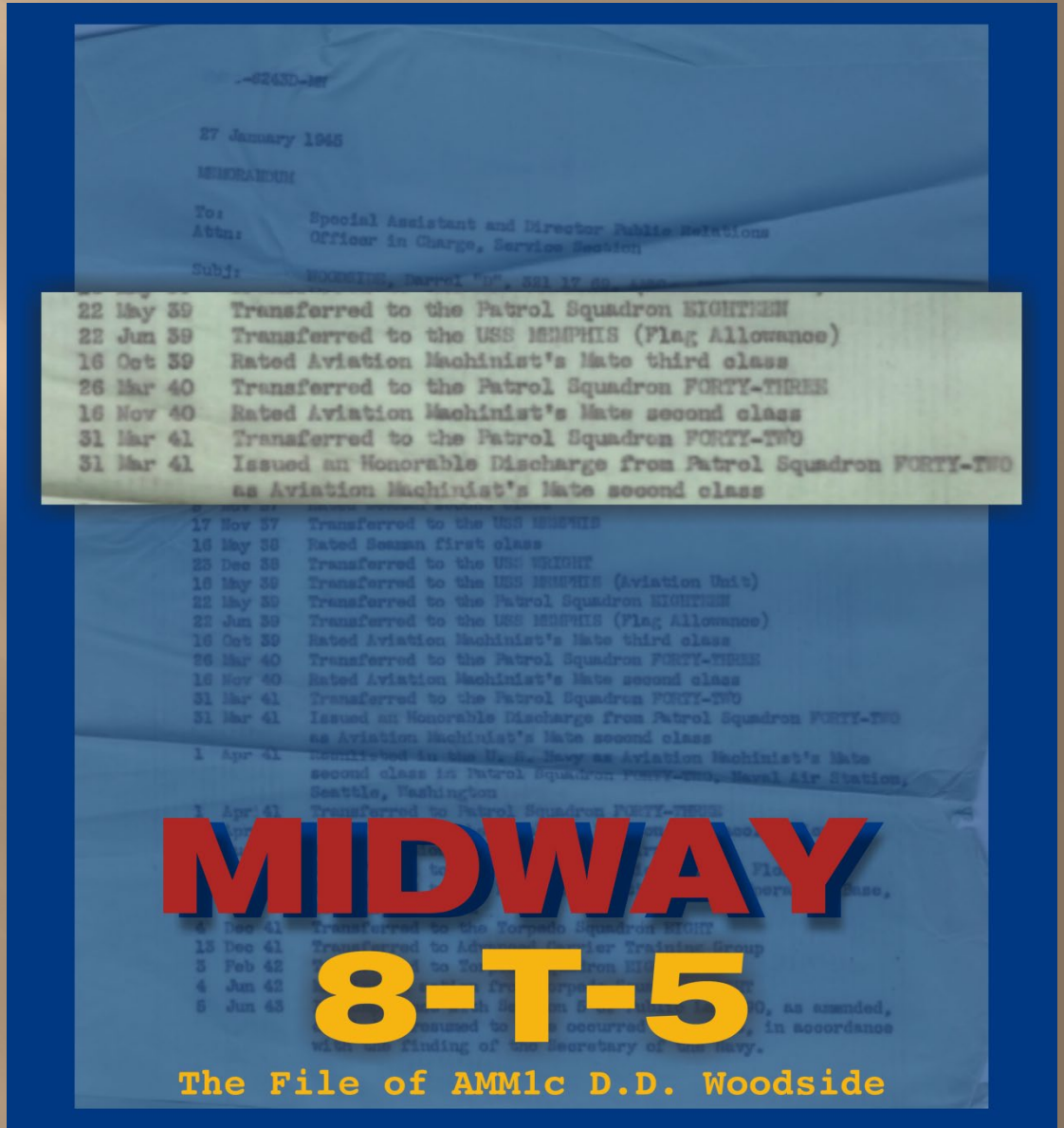
E. H. Grayson
 E. H. GRAYSON.

MIDWAY

8-T-5

The File of AMM1c D.D. Woodside

D.D. Woodside moved rapidly through flight training assignments. Beginning with Patrol Squadron 18 in San Diego, he briefly returned to duty on the USS Memphis before joining Patrol Squadron 43 based in Seattle, WA. He was rated Aviation Machinist Mate Second Class while flying in Alaskan practice exercises. His enlistment term expired on 31 Mar 1941.



This comprehensive service list is a rare find in a file. Dated 1945, it was most likely created as part of the process of confirming his final benefits and awards. It also highlights the difficulty of sorting out assignments, as unit designations constantly evolved, merged and were recycled in later decades.

MEMPHIS
27 January 1945
MEMPHIS
To: Special Assistant and Director Public Relations
Attn: Officer in Charge, Service Section
SUBJ: WOODSIDE, Darrel 'D.D.', SS1 IT 20 1945

22 May 39	Transferred to the Patrol Squadron EIGHTEEN
22 Jun 39	Transferred to the USS MEMPHIS (Flag Allowance)
16 Oct 39	Rated Aviation Machinist's Mate third class
26 Mar 40	Transferred to the Patrol Squadron FORTY-THREE
16 Nov 40	Rated Aviation Machinist's Mate second class
31 Mar 41	Transferred to the Patrol Squadron FORTY-TWO
31 Mar 41	Issued an Honorable Discharge from Patrol Squadron FORTY-TWO as Aviation Machinist's Mate second class

17 Nov 37	Transferred to the USS MEMPHIS
16 May 38	Rated Seaman first class
23 Dec 38	Transferred to the USS WRIGHT
16 May 39	Transferred to the USS MEMPHIS (Aviation Unit)
22 May 39	Transferred to the Patrol Squadron EIGHTEEN
22 Jun 39	Transferred to the USS MEMPHIS (Flag Allowance)
16 Oct 39	Rated Aviation Machinist's Mate third class
26 Mar 40	Transferred to the Patrol Squadron FORTY-THREE
16 Nov 40	Rated Aviation Machinist's Mate second class
31 Mar 41	Transferred to the Patrol Squadron FORTY-TWO
31 Mar 41	Issued an Honorable Discharge from Patrol Squadron FORTY-TWO as Aviation Machinist's Mate second class
1 Apr 41	Reinstated in the U.S. Navy as Aviation Machinist's Mate second class in Patrol Squadron FORTY-TWO, Naval Air Station, Seattle, Washington

MIDWAY

8-T-5

The File of AMM1c D.D. Woodside

Report of Examination for Advancement in Rating: This sheet records the results of testing for advancement. D.D.

Woodside passed with flying colors in October of 1939.

Examination reports provide a comprehensive look at a veteran's performance and job competence. Some examinations occurred on a regular schedule, while others were given by request or recommendation. Enlisted personnel had rates, while Officers had ranks.

N. NAV. 224 (Revised 12-1-37) U. S. S. MEMPHIS
Place San Diego, California.

REPORT OF EXAMINATION FOR ADVANCEMENT IN RATING
Examination for rating of A.M.M.3c

Name WOODSIDE, Darrel "D". Present rate Seale
Date of examination 16 June 1939 Service number 321-17-69
Scale of marks: 4, excellent; 3.5, very good; 3, good; 2.5, passing; 1.5, fair; 1, poor; 0, bad. (See Bureau of Navigation Manual, Art. D-5105 (6).)

1. CHAPTER 3, PART D, BUREAU OF NAVIGATION MANUAL, A TO N (Not Required for Chief Petty Officers)
(Required only for lowest petty officer ratings and for ungraded men. Arts. D-5201, D-5202, Bureau Navigation Manual)

SUBJECT	MARK	SUBJECT	MARK	SUBJECT	MARK	SUBJECT	MARK
D-5201 (a)	4.0	D-5201 (e)	3.8	D-5201 (f)	3.7	D-5201 (m)	3.5
(b)	4.0	(f)	3.9	(g)	4.0	(n)	3.7
(c)	3.7	(g)	4.0	(h)	4.0	(o)	3.89
(d)	4.0	(h)	4.0	(i)	4.0	Average (mark)	3.89

2. QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE INDIVIDUAL RATING AS PRESCRIBED IN CHAPTER 3, PART D, BUREAU OF NAVIGATION MANUAL

SUBJECT	MARK	SUBJECT	MARK	SUBJECT	MARK
D-5232 (2)	(a) 4.0				
	(b) 4.0				
	(c) 4.0				
	(d) 4.0				
	(e) 3.8				
	(f) 3.0				
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Discharge and Re-Enlistment:

Carrying an excellent rating and recommendation at the completion of his initial commitment, D.D.

Woodside received an honorable discharge at the end of May 1941. With war already raging in Europe he chose to remain in the Navy and continue his flight training.

A veteran may have more than a single discharge date, especially if they served longer than two years. Discharges were issued for expiration of enlistment term, and also for rank changes from enlisted to officer.

MIDWAY

8-T-5

The image displays three overlapping discharge forms for D.D. Woodside. The top form is a 'HONORABLE DISCHARGE, UNITED STATES NAVY, SERIES C' with number C247749. It lists the ship as 'Patrol Squadron 42' and 'Woodside, D.D.', dated '28 June 1939'. The rating is 'AMM2C 321-17-69'. The discharge date is '3-31-41' at 'Seattle, Wn'. The rating best qualified to fill is 'AMM2C'. The discharge address is 'Clearfield, Iowa'. The pay per month at discharge is '\$72.00' and the amount paid in full is '\$135.32'. The commanding officer is 'J.R. Nash, Lt. Comdr. U.S.N. A.B.N.H.S.'. The bottom form is a 'HONORABLE DISCHARGE, UNITED STATES NAVY, SERIES C' with number C247749. It lists the ship as 'Patrol Squadron 42' and 'Woodside, D.D.', dated '31 March 1941'. The rating is 'AMM2C 321-17-69'. The discharge date is '3-31-41' at 'Seattle, Wn'. The rating best qualified to fill is 'AMM2C'. The discharge address is 'Clearfield, Iowa'. The pay per month at discharge is '\$72.00' and the amount paid in full is '\$135.32'. The commanding officer is 'J.R. Nash, Lt. Comdr. U.S.N. A.B.N.H.S.'. The middle form is a 'HONORABLE DISCHARGE, UNITED STATES NAVY, SERIES C' with number C247749. It lists the ship as 'Patrol Squadron 42' and 'Woodside, D.D.', dated '31 March 1941'. The rating is 'AMM2C 321-17-69'. The discharge date is '3-31-41' at 'Seattle, Wn'. The rating best qualified to fill is 'AMM2C'. The discharge address is 'Clearfield, Iowa'. The pay per month at discharge is '\$72.00' and the amount paid in full is '\$135.32'. The commanding officer is 'J.R. Nash, Lt. Comdr. U.S.N. A.B.N.H.S.'. The forms are filled out with handwritten information and include various stamps and signatures.

The File of AMM1c D.D. Woodside

Orders:

D.D. Woodside was already making plans before his tour ended. He had requested shore duty on the east coast in December of 1940. He had also been recommended for the Naval Aviation program at Pensacola, FL as early as 1938.

MIDWAY 8-T-5

The File of AMM1c D.D. Woodside

U.S. NAVAL AIR STATION
Miami, Florida

(On)

November 3, 1941.

NA30/P16-4/LM

From: The Commanding Officer,
To: WOODSIDE, Darrel "D", 321-17-69, AMM1c.(NAP),USN.
Subject: Orders.
Reference: (a) BuNav ltr. Nav-632-PHD, of October 15, 1941.

1. Upon receipt of these orders and when directed by proper authority, you will proceed to Receiving Station, Naval Operating Base, Norfolk, Va., and immediately upon arrival report to the Commanding Officer, for further transfer to duty designated by Commander Train, Atlantic Fleet Subordinate Command, in accordance with reference (a).
2. Paragraph 1 above is so modified in that you are authorized a delay in reporting in obedience to these orders until 0800, December 4, 1941; this delay to count as leave. Address while on leave will be: Clearfield, Iowa.
3. You are authorized to perform travel via privately owned automobile, subject to reimbursement by the government at the rate of three (3) cents per mile, in accordance with the U.S. Navy Travel Instructions. Cash for subsistence enroute will be advanced by the Disbursing Officer, Naval Air Station, Miami, Fla.
4. On transfer from one activity and before reporting at next station to which ordered, you are considered as being attached to the new station, hence, should any unforeseen circumstances arise, you are directed to communicate with the Commanding Officer of the activity to which ordered.
5. Relations involved claimed by the Naval Air Station, Miami, Florida, for this date.
6. Your records and accounts, properly addressed and sealed, are hereby intrusted in your care in accordance with Art. D-7008, BuNav Manual, and are to be delivered to the Commanding Officer, Receiving Station, Naval Operating Base, Norfolk, Va.

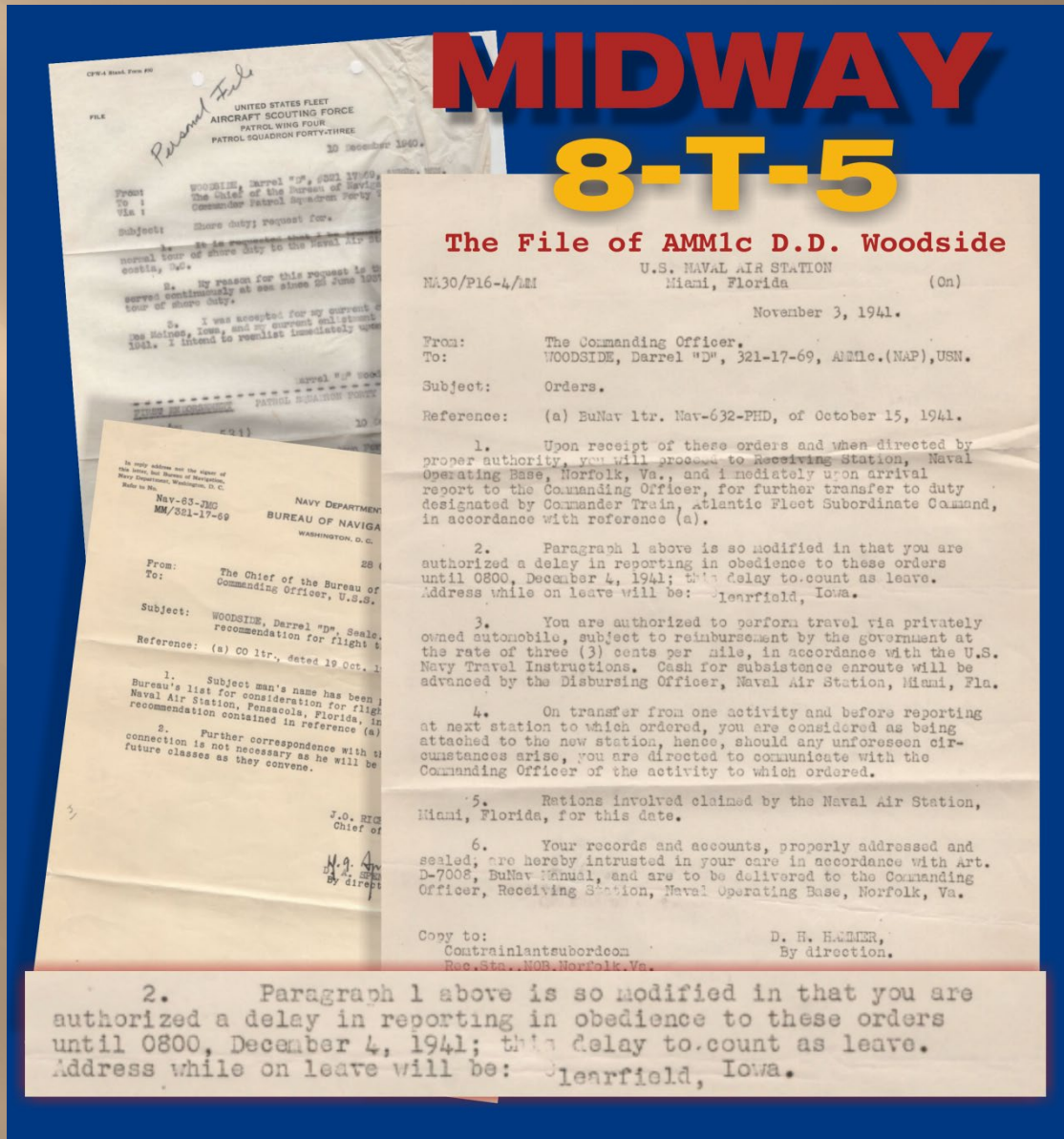
Copy to:
Contraintantsubordon
Rec.Sta.,NOB,Norfolk,Va.

D. H. HAMMER,
By direction.

2. Paragraph 1 above is so modified in that you are authorized a delay in reporting in obedience to these orders until 0800, December 4, 1941; this delay to count as leave. Address while on leave will be: Clearfield, Iowa.

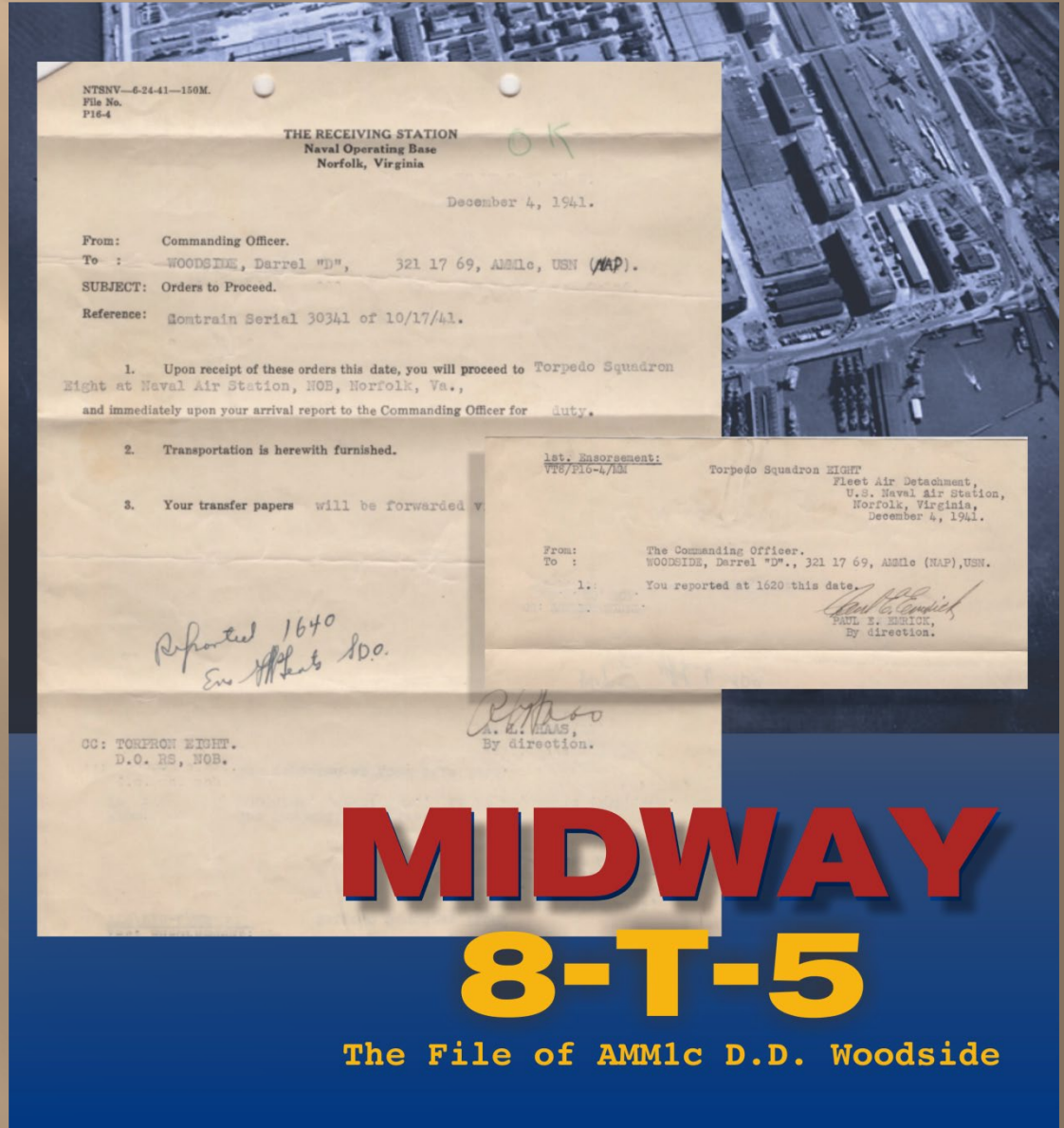
Upon re-enlistment he was immediately assigned there for further flight training. He was also given a month of leave in November of 1941 after earning his wings, which he spent at home. This was likely the last time his family saw him.

These pages illustrate the details which fill out the human story behind the dry lines of bureaucratic forms.



Three days prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor, Woodside reported for duty with Torpedo Squadron Eight at Norfolk Naval station in Virginia.

Dated paperwork found in files can be used to track a veteran's movements and create a timeline of service and locations.



Pearl Harbor changed everything for D.D. Woodside. After five years in the Navy, he was a freshly minted pilot suddenly serving for a country at war. The Navy accelerated pilot training and on 13 December 1941 Woodside was sent to the Advanced Carrier Training Group, where he would practice carrier takeoffs and landings for the next month.

8-T-5

**The File of
AMM1c D.D. Woodside**

Name in Full WOODSIDE, Darel D. Rate AMM1c Date 4-28-41
(Surname First)

TO BE OPENED IN CASE OF MY DEATH OR SERIOUS INJURY

MIDWAY

U. S. NAVAL AIR STATION
MIAMI, FLORIDA Date _____

From: W.D. Woodside, Darel D.
(Mark) (Full name, first, middle and surname) (Grade)

To : The Commanding Officer.

Subject: Accident notification form- Statement regard wish in the event of a serious or fatal accident.

1. My permanent home address is _____
(Street and Number)
City and Country Lynchburg Virginia State Virginia

2. Send Telegram to:
(a) Mrs. Joe Woodside, Mother Chapel Hill, Va.
(Name) (Relationship) (Address)
(b) _____
(Name) (Relationship) (Address)

3. My nearest living relative is:
Mrs. Joe Woodside, Mother Chapel Hill, Va.
(Name) (Relationship) (Address)

4. My Beneficiary is:
Mrs. Joe Woodside, Mother Chapel Hill, Va.
(Name) (Relationship) (Address)

5. It is requested that _____ inventory my effects.
(Officer or Cadet on this Station)

6. After inventory please deliver all my personal effects and papers to:
Mrs. Joe Woodside, Mother Chapel Hill, Va.
(Name) (Relationship) (Address)

7. My religion is: Methodist

8. My life is insured at the following companies:
Aviation Life Ins. Co. Wash. D.C.
(Name of Company) (Location of Policy)
3 of Patery Wash. D.C.
(Name of Company) (Location of Policy)
(Name of Company) (Location of Policy)

9. I have accounts at the following banks:

(Name of Bank) (Location of Bank)

(Name of Bank) (Location of Bank)

10. I have a safe deposit box at: _____

11. I have a will at: _____

12. REMARKS: Card + all belongings to Mrs. Joe Woodside

13. Social Security Number: _____

Darel D. Woodside
(Signature)

This emergency form was required of each pilot who entered the program, and sealed into an envelope. WWII pilots and crews lived with tremendous risks. Each flight could well be their last. Forms like these facilitated the notification of the families of those who were lost.

8-T-5

The File of
AMM1c D.D. Woodside

Name in Full WOODSIDE, Darel D. Rate AMM1c Date 4-28-41
(Surname First)

TO BE OPENED IN CASE OF MY DEATH OR SERIOUS INJURY

MIDWAY

U. S. NAVAL AIR STATION
MIAMI, FLORIDA Date _____

From: AMM1c Woodside, Darel D.
(Mark) (Full name, first, middle and surname) (Grade)

To: The Commanding Officer.

Subject: Accident notification form- Statement regard wish in the event of a serious or fatal accident.

1. My permanent home address is _____
(Street and Number)
City and Country Lynchburg Virginia State Virginia

2. Send Telegram to:
(a) Mrs. Lee Woodside Mother Chapel Hill, N.C.
(Name) (Relationship) (Address)
(b) _____
(Name) (Relationship) (Address)

3. My nearest living relative is:
Mrs. Lee Woodside Mother Chapel Hill, N.C.
(Name) (Relationship) (Address)

4. My Beneficiary is:
Mrs. Lee Woodside Mother Chapel Hill, N.C.
(Name) (Relationship) (Address)

5. It is requested that _____ inventory my effects.
(Officer or Cadet on this Station)

6. After inventory please deliver all my personal effects and papers to:
Mrs. Lee Woodside Mother Chapel Hill, N.C.
(Name) (Relationship) (Address)

7. My religion is: Methodist

8. My life is insured at the following companies:
Govt. Life Ins. Wash. D.C. (Name of Company) (Location of Policy)
3 Nat. Patery (Name of Company) (Location of Policy)
(Name of Company) (Location of Policy)

9. I have accounts at the following banks:

(Name of Bank) (Location of Bank)

(Name of Bank) (Location of Bank)

10. I have a safe deposit box at: _____

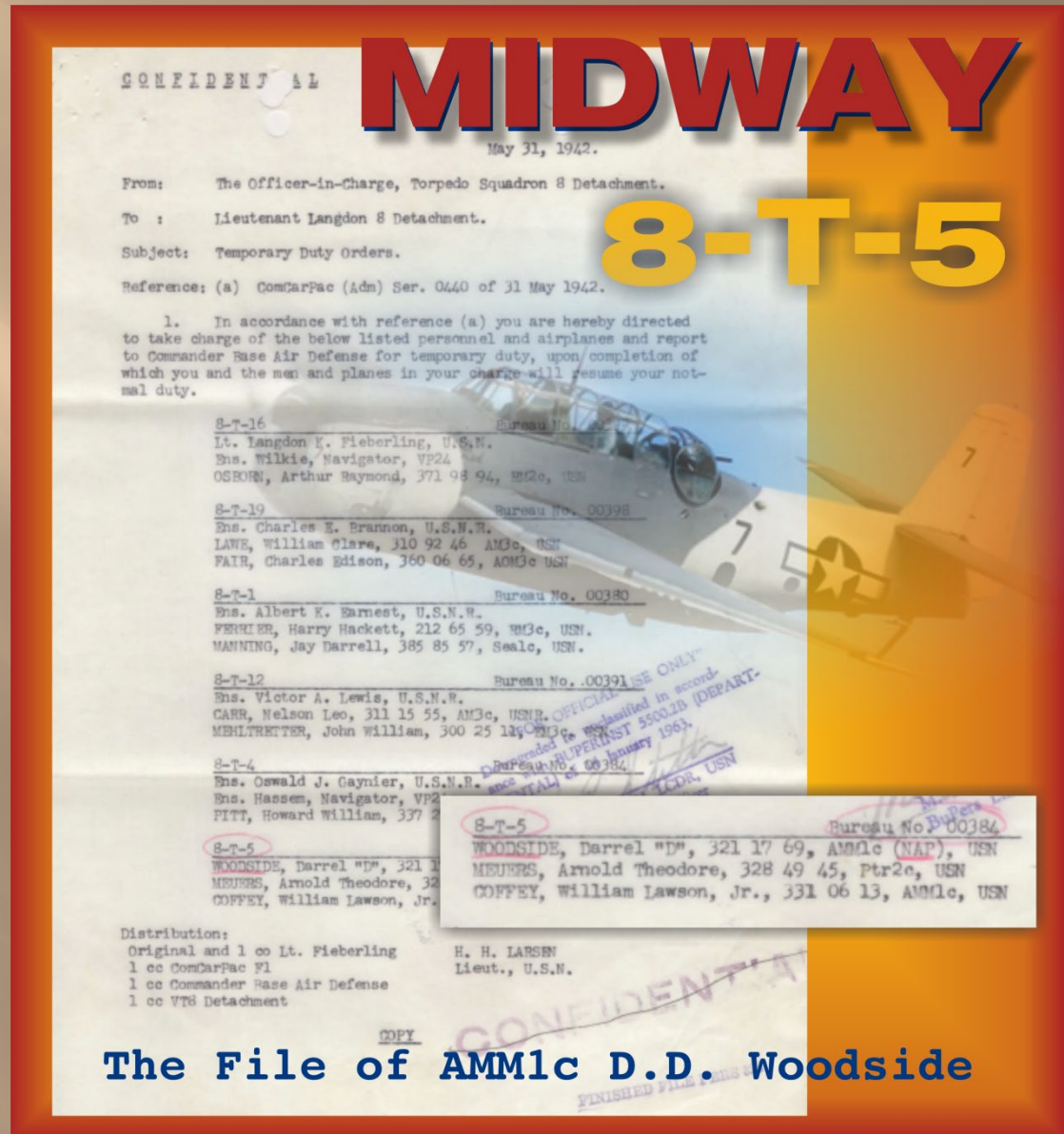
11. I have a will at: _____

12. REMARKS: Card + all belongings to Mrs. Lee Woodside

13. Social Security Number: _____

Darel D. Woodside
(Signature)

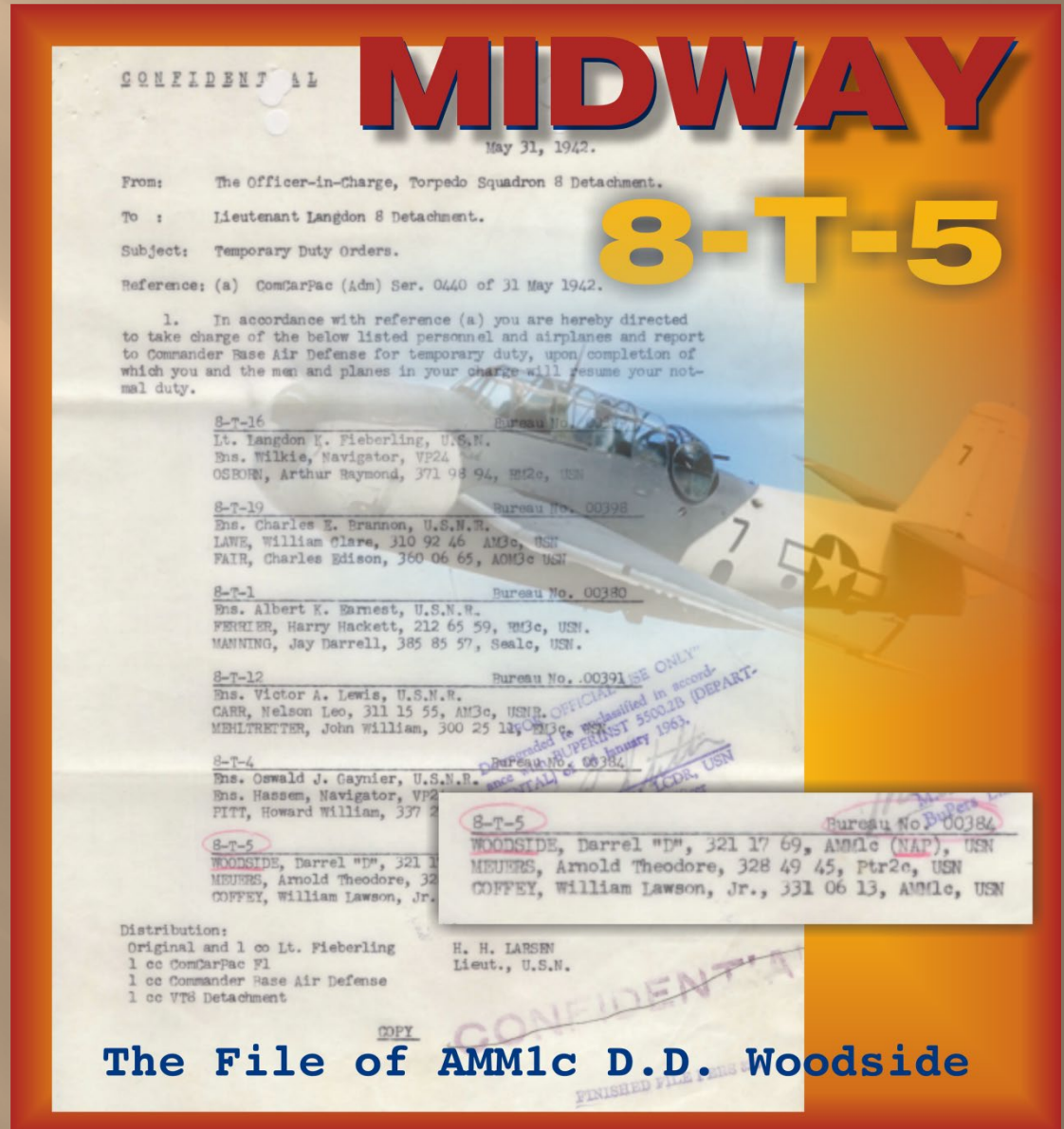
D.D. Woodside would spend the months after Pearl Harbor at the Norfolk VA base of Torpedo Squadron 8. As coded Japanese transmissions were broken and deciphered early in 1942, the Navy began to plan for an attack on Midway. TS-8 was assigned to the carrier USS Hornet. The squadron was divided as some left to join the Hornet in Hawaii, while some pilots remained in Norfolk to take the first delivery of new Grumman TBF Avenger planes.



The File of AMM1c D.D. Woodside

The new planes and their pilots would arrive at Pearl Harbor one day after the USS Hornet had set out for Midway Island.

This is the original temporary duty order which sent Lt. Langdon K. Fieberling and five other handpicked TS-8 pilots to join the fleet at Midway. Only one of these planes would survive the coming battle.

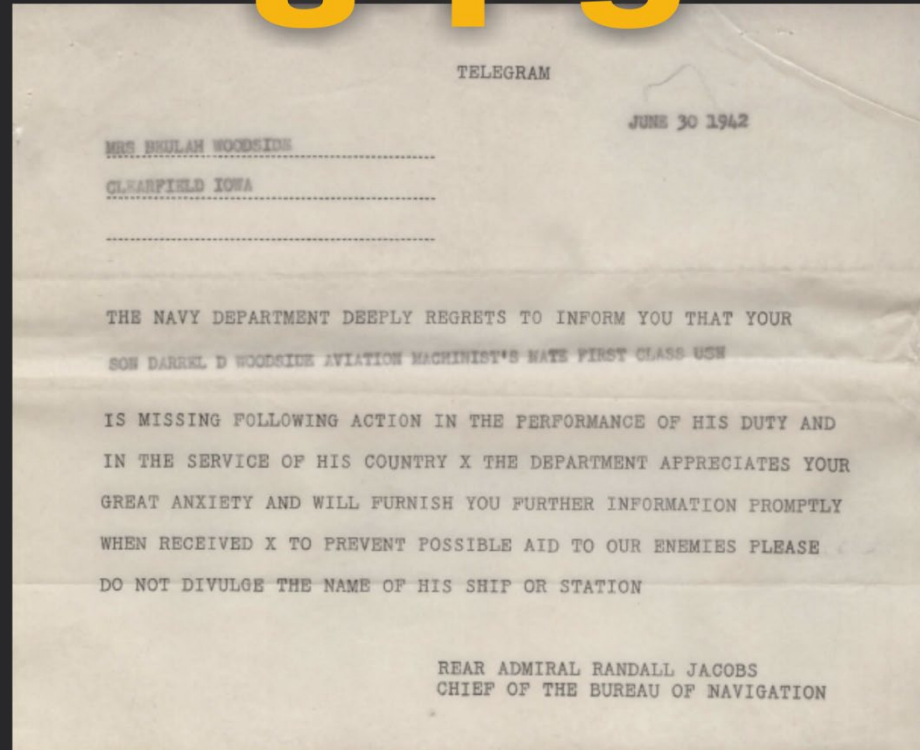


The File of AMM1c D.D. Woodside

MIDWAY

8-T-5

Once the Navy determined that the whereabouts of D.D. Woodside were unknown, the family was informed of his status. Telegrams such as this one were all too common during wartime, and the delay in notification reflects the chaos following a major battle such as Midway and the time taken to interview personnel and conduct searches of battle sites and POW reports.



The File of AMM1c D.D. Woodside

MIDWAY

8-T-5

Mrs. Woodside wrote the Navy immediately regarding her son D.D. Woodside. It would take months to sort out the initial errors made by the Navy in identifying her son as a gunner rather than a pilot, which originated due to his enlisted rating. Her heartbreaking hope that a mistake had been made was pinned on these errors, and gradually faded as more details of the Battle of Midway emerged to the public.

Donnel D. Woodside
Clearfield Iowa
July 2 1942.
Mr. Rear Admiral Randall
Washington D.C.
Dear Sir: I read your
telegram July 1st & I do
not know what to think
about Donnel missing.
Having not heard from
him since June 2nd
I have been terribly
worried although aft
leaving San Francisco
he wrote & said he ca
not write much and
that he was well &
getting plenty of sleep
I feel quite sure

that they have made
a mistake when they
reported to the Navy the
partiment as Donnel
missing as Aviation
Mechanical Mate 1st Class
Donnel is a Pilot &
I know he left
on a Air Craft Carrier
of the West Coast He
received his Wings aft
graduating from Pensacola
Florida & which he was
so proud.
I do not want to bur
you with this letter b
I am so worried about
Donnel I can hardly st
it. I wish you the

let me hear what ship
he was on & Station.
He was flying a
Brewster 2 engine a
fighter plane.
after he left the west
Coast.
I trust I may hear from
you & all the information
that is given to me
I will keep confidential
your Respectful
Mother
Donnel D Woodside
PS Donnel has been
in the navy for some
time.

The File of AMM1c D.D. Woodside

MIDWAY

8-T-5

Donnel D. Woodside

Clearfield Iowa
July 2 1942.

Mr. Rear Admiral Randall Jac
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir: I read your
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Having not heard from
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I have been terribly
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he wrote & said he could
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that he was well &
getting plenty of sleep.
I feel quite sure

that they have made
a mistake when they
reported to the Navy De
partment as Donnel
Missing as Aviation
Machinist Mate 1st Class
Donnel is a Pilot &
from all I know he left
on a Air Craft Carrier
of the West Coast He
Received his Wings
graduating from Pensacola
Florida of which he was
so proud.
I do not want to bur
den you with this letter but
I am so worried about
Donnel I can hardly sit
it. I wish you the

Let me hear what ship
he was on & Station.
He was flying a
Brewster B-239
fighter plane.
after he left the west
coast.

I trust I may hear from
you & all the information
that is given to me
I will keep confidential
Your Respectful
Donnel D Woodside
Mother of
Donnel D Woodside

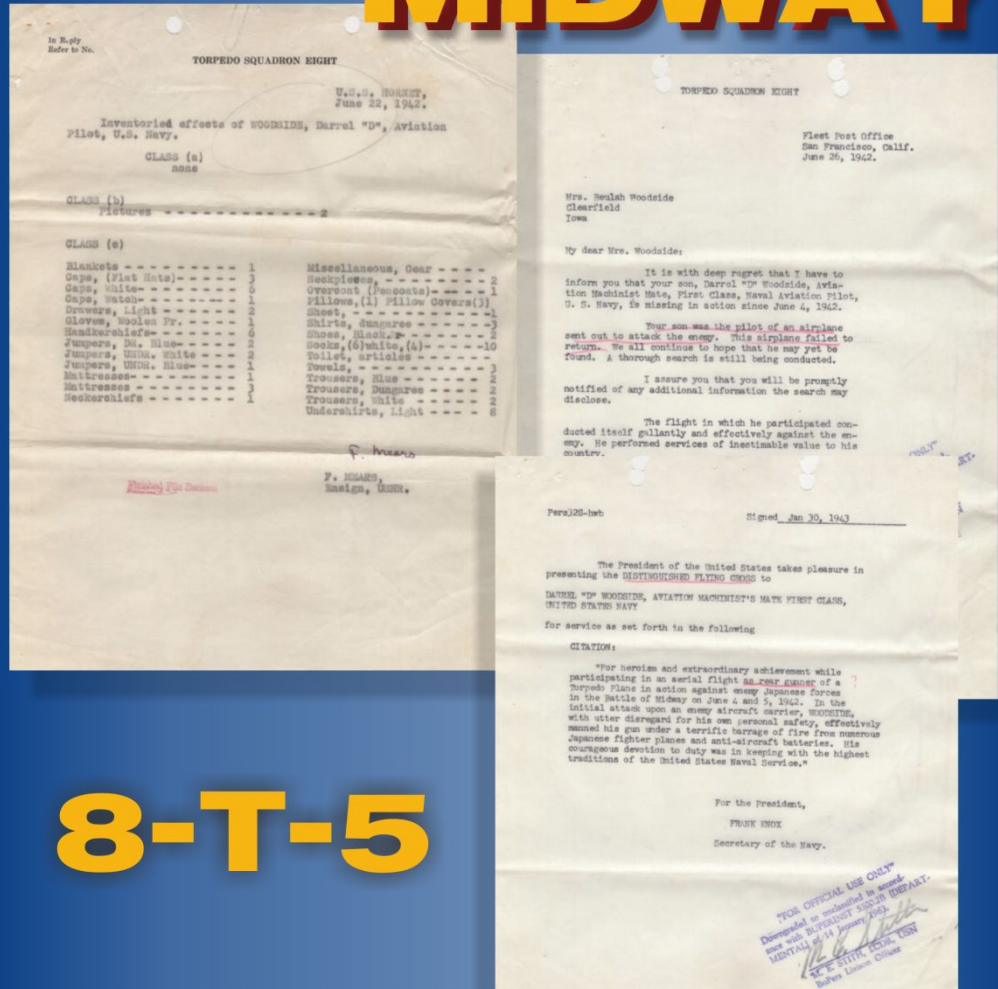
P.S. Donnel has been
in the navy for some
time.

The File of AMM1c D.D. Woodside

The specific details she mentions in the letter regarding her son's duty assignments and movements are unusual, and show that he was in contact with her regularly.

In the days and weeks following the loss of D.D. Woodside, the Navy began the process of closure. His few effects were inventoried and forwarded to his mother, and the process of recognition and awards for his service and sacrifice was begun. The transferal paperwork for medals which are maintained in his service file document and preserve the story of his heroic actions in aerial combat.

MIDWAY



8-T-5

The File of AMM1c D.D. Woodside

MIDWAY 8-T-5

AMM1c (NAP) Darrel D. Woodside was declared dead on 5 June 1943 in accordance with Naval law, one year and a day after he was reported missing in action at Midway. His remains were never recovered.

He was posthumously awarded the American Defense Service Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Area Campaign Medal with One Engagement Star, the Purple Heart, a Presidential Unit Citation, and the Navy Cross.

The File of AMM1c D.D. Woodside

BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL
20 July 1943
P-222-Kd

From: Chief of Naval Personnel
To: Addressee in file
Subject: WOODSIDE, Darrel W.D., 321 17 69, AMM1c, USN.

Report of death of
Married Single Born Taylor County, Iowa Date 30 March 1919
Enlisted NAS, Seattle, Washington (Patrol Squadron #42)
Date 1 April 1941 Prior Service 3 years, 9 months 2 days
Place of death Midway Island (Pacific Area)
Presumptive
Date of death 5 June 1943 Attached to VT-8 (USS HOENET) (Sea Duty)
Officially reported to be MISSING IN ACTION as of 4 June 1942, having been a member of the Midway Detachment of VT-8 based on Midway Island when the plane of which he was a pilot was shot down by the enemy in the Battle of Midway on 6 June 1942. In compliance with Section 5 of Public Law 490, as amended, he is declared dead as of 5 June 1943.

March 19 1943
3 2 1 1 7 6 9

NAVY DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Mrs. Beulah Woodside,
Clearfield,
Iowa.

The Bureau forwards this date
One (1) Navy Cross.

Please acknowledge receipt below and return.
Respectfully,
E. L. STANLEY,
Chief of Bureau, Ensign, USN.

WOODSIDE, Darrel W.D., AMM1c, USN.
(Deceased)
March 30 1943

To the Bureau of Naval Personnel, Naval Personnel
Navy Department, Washington, D. C.
I have this day received One (1) Navy
Cross above mentioned.
Mrs. Beulah Woodside

NAME AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN
Mother
(Relationship)
PERSONS NAMED AS BENEFICIARIES
Mrs. Beulah Woodside
(Relationship)
RANFALD
Chief

My dear Mrs. Woodside:
I take pleasure in informing you that your son, Darrel D. Woodside, Aviation Machinist's Mate first class, United States Navy, who is carried on the rolls of the Department as "Missing", has been awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross for service as set forth in the enclosed citation.
The Distinguished Flying Cross is being forwarded to you by registered mail under separate cover. Please acknowledge receipt of the medal and citation on the enclosed form and return it to the Bureau.
Sincerely yours,
L. E. Duford
Rear Admiral
ASST. CHIEF OF BUREAU

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
Downloaded to UNCLASSIFIED STATUS DEPART.
MIDWAY ISLAND, IOWA
M. E. SMITH, USN, USN
Rear Admiral, Chief

His squadron's bravery in the first hours of the Battle of Midway literally changed the course of the engagement. Their sacrifice caused the Japanese command to abandon their carefully laid plan of attack, and bought time for Allied planes and ships to locate and cripple the Japanese Pacific Fleet.

MIDWAY

8-T-5

to reply address
2200, 2nd Bureau
Navy Department
Walter to No.

P-222-Kd BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL 20 July 1943
JULY 25 D. C.

From: Chief of Naval Personnel
To: Addressee in file
Subject: WOODSIDE, Darrel *D*, 321 17 69, AMM1c, USN.

Report of death of
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Enlisted NAS, Seattle, Washington (Patrol Squadron #42)
Date 1 April 1941 Prior Service 3 years, 9 months 2 days
Place of death Midway Island (Pacific Area)
Presumptive
Date of death 5 June 1943 Attached to VT-8 (USS HOENNER) (Sea Duty)
Officially reported to be MISSING IN ACTION as of 4 June 1942, having
been a member of the Midway Detachment of VT-8 based on Midway Island
when the plane of which he was a pilot was shot down by the enemy in the Battle of
Midway. In compliance with Section 5 of Public Law 490, as amended,
which occurred on the 5th day of June 1943.

Basic Act
Avis Pers-650-48
MM/321 17 69

NAME AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN
Mother
(Relationship)
PERSONS NAMED AS BENEFICIARIES
Mrs. Beulah Woodside
(Relationship)
RANDAL
Chief
A. C.
L. E. Duford
Rear Admiral
ASST. CHIEF OF BUREAU

My dear Mrs. Woodside:
I take pleasure in informing you that your son,
Darrel D Woodside, Aviation Mechanic's Mate first class,
United States Navy, who is carried on the rolls of the
Department as "Missing", has been awarded a Distinguished
Flying Cross for service as set forth in the enclosed
citation.
The Distinguished Flying Cross is being forwarded
to you by registered mail under separate cover. Please acknowledge receipt of the medal and citation on the enclosed
form and return it to the Bureau.
Sincerely yours,
L. E. Duford
Rear Admiral
ASST. CHIEF OF BUREAU

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
Downloaded to authorized personnel only
MIDWAY ISLAND, HAWAII
L. E. DUFORD, USN
Rear Admiral, Chief

March 19 1943
3 2 1 1 7 6 9

NAVY DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL
WASHINGTON, D. C.
MAY 27 1944
Mrs. Beulah Woodside,
Clearfield,
Iowa.
The Bureau forwards this date
One (1) Navy Cross.
Please acknowledge receipt below and return.
Respectfully,
E. L. STANLEY,
Chief of Bureau, Ensign, USN.
WOODSIDE, Darrel *D*, AMM1c, USN.
(Deceased)
March 30 1944
To the Bureau of Naval Personnel, Naval Personnel
Navy Department, Washington, D. C.
I have this day received One (1) Navy
Cross above mentioned.
Mrs Beulah Woodside

The File of AMM1c D.D. Woodside

Here are some links which may be of further interest for those who have enjoyed the series on the service of AMMc1 D.D. Woodside:

'Torpedo 8: The Other Chapter' by Commander Harry H. Ferrier, U.S. Navy (Retired)

Hall of Valor project page for D.D. Woodside

National Archives: The Battle of Midway/TS-8 A Memorial To A Fallen Unit

John Ford footage from USS Hornet on YouTube

Harry Ferrier - TS-8's Celebrated Survivor By Robert J. Mrazek