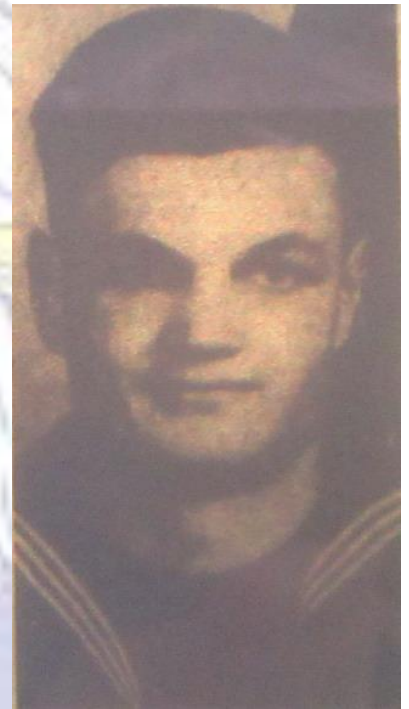


John Winter Martin, T-40

25 May 1921 – 7 December 1941

“A date which will live in infamy.”

(aged 20)



Fireman Third Class Martin, attached to USS California. California was moored in Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941 when the Japanese attacked the port, bringing the United States into World War II. The ship was moderately damaged by a pair of torpedoes and a bomb, but a fire disabled the ship's electrical system, preventing the pumps from being used to keep the ship afloat. California slowly filled with water over the following three days and eventually sank. Her crew suffered heavy casualties in the attack and four men were awarded the Medal of Honor for their actions during the attack. She was raised in April 1942, repaired and heavily rebuilt, and returned to service in January 1944.

The Commercial Appeal:

Mrs. Henry K. Martin was visiting relatives at Hutto TX yesterday when Memphis friends reached her by telephone to forward a message that her

son, John Martin, had been killed “in the performance of his duty and in the service of his country.”

His father, Henry K. Martin, has long lived here as a sales representative of the Liberty Glass Company, Sapulpa OK, but had recently been transferred to OK. With the furniture in storage, pending establishment of the new home. Mrs. Martin was visiting her daughter for the holidays.

John Martin was 20 last May 25. He had enlisted in the Naval Reserve a year and a half ago. He leaves his parents, two brothers, Dr. Marion Martin and Henry K. Martin, and a sister, Mrs. C. Skipworth.

He graduated from Tech High School.

Information from The Commercial Appeal, Wednesday, December 17, 1941.

