

Aubrey (Al) Allen Lopp



Aubrey Lopp known to all as Al was born on 5 Jan 1905. He enlisted in the US Navy on 30 January 1925 and was a sailor for over 30 years. In the photo of the two sailors, Al is the sailor on the right. We do not have a photo date. It is the only known photo of Al from his Navy career. I got it from his family's family history page.

During WWII, he spent most of the war aboard the USS Mayrant. Using the ship's history as a guide, we can see what Al experienced.



The Mayrant was launched 14 May 1938. In 1941-1942, the Mayrant was assigned to the north Atlantic escorting ships bound for England. The Mayrant was in Cape Town, South Africa when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and joined the British ships protecting convoys transporting British and Canadian troops to South Africa. In 1942 she returned to escort duty in the North Atlantic including a sea search for the German battleship Tirpitz and escorting convoys on the 'suicide run' to Murmansk, Russia. In 1943 she was assigned to Mediterranean support the battle of North Africa. On 26 July 1943, she was attacked by Luftwaffe dive bombers suffering severe damage. She was towed to Palermo with five dead and 18 wounded. Her executive officer at the time was Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Jr. Following the end of the war in Europe, the Mayrant was transferred to the Pacific Fleet escorting convoys to Iwo Jima, Okinawa and Saipan. She also performed sea rescue operations in the Marshall and Mariana Islands. After the war, the Mayrant participated in the 1946 atomic bomb tests at Bikini Atoll, Marshall Islands. She survived the tests, but was highly contaminated and sunk 4 April 48 and struck from the Navy Register on 30 April 1946.

Les Bakke's recollections of Al Lopp.

After completing his career in the Navy, Al seemed to still have a restless spirit. He lived in many different locations and had several occupations. For instance, he owned a pheasant ranch near Detroit Lakes, MN, ran the Boys Club in Detroit Lakes, spent some time as a county deputy, owned a resort near Hackensack, MN. His lovely wife Minnie Bakke Lopp stayed with him throughout all his adventures. I was at their home in Nisswa, MN helping them celebrate their 51st wedding anniversary. Following breakfast, Al kissed Minnie thanking her for breakfast. They were a very happy couple and spent the last years of their lives near Chicago, IL, close to a VA Hospital. Both are buried at the Fort Sheridan cemetery, near Chicago. I remember Al loved to tell stories about his life and could go on for hours.



Al and Minnie are buried at the Fort Sheridan cemetery, near Chicago.