

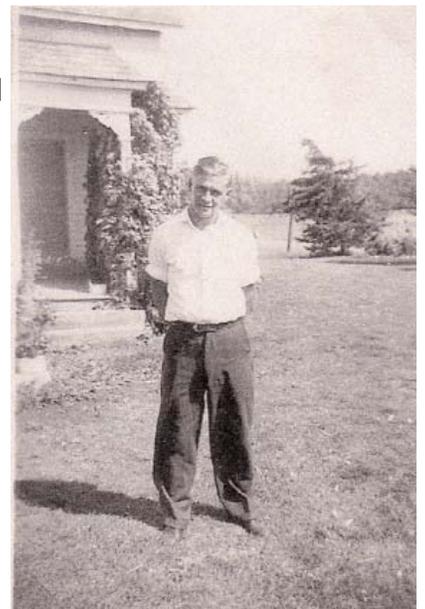
# IRVIN G SLINDEN



Irvin Gerald Slinden (06392571) was born on 28 April 1922 and raised on the home farm near Atwater Minnesota in Genesee Township. He attended Bethlehem Lutheran Church and was baptized and confirmed there. He attended Atwater school, including high school for two years.

In 1942, at the age of 20 years old, World War II was raging overseas. Irvin decided that he would serve in the military, and on 5 September 1942 enlisted in the US Navy. He was sent to the Naval Training Station at Great Lakes Illinois for boot camp.

Training at Great Lakes, slinden learned the basics of Naval service. His training included learning rules of conduct, physical fitness, military discipline, first aid, and small arms training. After weeks of training, Irvin graduated from Boot Camp and was allowed leave before heading for his service school. In October 1942, he returned home to spend time with family & friends before continuing his military service.



Slinden at home



His leave was all too short, and soon Irvin had to return to the Navy reporting to Treasure Island San Francisco and then on to Pearl Harbor to complete his training.

He was training to become a Motor Machinist Mate for the US Navy. As a Machinist Mate (MoMM) he would work within the engine room of whatever ship he was assigned to.

Irvin trained with the diesel engines in common use on Naval ships at that time. His instruction would consist of the operations of the engines, and repairs of them in case of failures.

He also learned tooling for making repairs to the ship engines. In the machine room, they would at times have to repair parts while machining parts, or possibly fabricating new ones to make the engines work.

When he completed his training, he was officially ranked a Motor Machinist Mate 3rd Class.

While at Pearl Harbor, Irvin was able to see some of the destruction left from the Japanese attacks. He was also reunited with his brother Pelvin. Pelvin joined the Navy shortly after Irvin did.

It was during this time that Irvin told his brother that he was going to be assigned to the submarine force. He explained a little bit of what he would be doing, and told Pelvin that these missions were, "Suicide missions". He honestly didn't think he would make it home.

Irvin was assigned to the USS Pompano (SS-181). The Pompano had been serving on war patrols since 18 December 1941. By the time Slinden was assigned to the ship, it had completed 5 previous war patrols.

The Pompano had arrived back at Pearl Harbor in May 1943. It held with it a distinguished service record for its service during the war and earned 5 battle stars.

Soon enough, Irvin's service in Pearl Harbor would come to an end.





On 6 June 1943 the USS Pompano left Pearl harbor for its 6th war patrol, with Irvin Slinden on board. They were underway to patrol near Japanese waters, specifically the Nagoya Japan. They stopped briefly to top off with supplies at Midway, and were underway on 19 June. They patrolled across the traffic lanes from Japan and to the south.

On 4 July 1943 the Pompano torpedoed and destroys the Japanese seaplane carrier Sagara Maru on the coast of southern Honshu. The ship had been beached from a previous attack by the USS Harder, and the torpedoes of the Pompano finished it off. This was Irvin's first taste of action in World War II.

The next day, 5 June, they encountered a convoy and fired four torpedoes but scored no hits. On 7 July, Irvin and the crew of the Pompano came upon two destroyers. Showing surprising aggressiveness, they launched three torpedoes at each, but missed every time. Two days after that they took a long shot at a three-ship convoy also missed.

On 10 July they torpedoed and damaged the Japanese oiler Kyokuyo Maru, the tanker escaped being destroyed thanks to the two erratic Mark 14s. The torpedoes they fired did not function as they thought they should. The Pompano ended the unsuccessful patrol at Midway on 28 July.

On 20 August 1943 Irvin and the Pompano left Midway for the ship's 7th war patrol, Irvin's second. They were ordered to patrol in Japanese home waters off Hokkaido and Honshu. It was the last time the ship was seen.

The Japanese knew they were in the area. On 1 September the USS Pompano sank the Japanese merchant Nankai Maru off Miyako, Japan. The Akama Maru was torpedoed by the Pompano on 3 September and sank south-east of Hokkaido. On 9 Sep 1943 USS Pompano torpedoed and damaged the Japanese transport ship Nanking Maru east of Honshu.

The USS Pompano was expected to return to Midway following its patrol. When it didn't return, the ship and all of its crewmembers were reported as Missing In Action.

The official version is that she was lost while patrolling off the coasts of Hokkaido and Honshu.

Probably lost to Japanese mines. The date usually given (27 September) is an approximate one.

## GENESSEE BOY IS MISSING IN ACTION

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Slinden of Genessee township have received word from the Navy Department, that their son, Irving Slinden, is missing in action. The word came on Friday. He was 21 years of age.

Irving was in the submarine service. He enlisted at the Navy Re-

cruiting office in Willmar in September, 1942. He was last at home in October of last year after having completed his boot training at Great Lakes.

The last word his folks had from him was a letter which they received on August 14.

## Irvin Slinden on Sub Duty, Lost in Action

Irvin Slinden has been reported as missing in action. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Slinden residing southeast of Atwater. Irvin, 21, was serving on submarine duty in the Pacific ocean.

## Irvin Slinden, on Missing Sub, Commended

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Slinden have received the following citation from C. A. Lockwood, Jr., vice admiral, U. S. navy, honoring their son Irvin, who was part of the sub crew reported missing:

"The Commander Submarine Force, Pacific Fleet, has the honor to award the Submarine Combat Pin and to commend in absentia Irvin Gerald Slinden, U. S. Naval Reserve, for services set forth in the following citation:

"The U. S. S. Pompano on an offensive war patrol in confined and heavily patrolled enemy waters failed to return as scheduled. Although there is no information as to number of successful attacks delivered against the enemy during this patrol, this vessel has continuously distinguished herself since the first days of the war by her successful and relentless attacks against the enemy and it is definitely believed that the Pompano was pursuing just such bold and aggressive tactics to the end.

"As Fireman First Class of the U.S.S. Pompano, Irvin Gerald Slinden's performance of duty materially contributed to the success of this vessel against the enemy. The Commander Submarine Force, Pacific Fleet, forwards this commendation in recognition of his splendid performance of duty, which is in keeping with the highest traditions of the Naval Service."

some evidence suggests, however, that Japanese records show that a submarine was sunk on 17 September by air attack off the Aomori Prefecture near Shiriya Zaki. Though it is not certain the boat was actually sunk here, it must be taken into consideration

since it can only have been directed against Pompano as this is within her patrol area and as there were no other submarines operating in that area. They say a seaplane based on Ominato attacked a surfaced sub which returned fire then dived. The Japanese minelayer Ashizaki dropped depth charges the following day on a spot where oil was surfacing, bringing up more oil.

Other information states that the enemy made no anti-submarine attacks during this period in Pompano's area. It is believed that newly-laid mines in the vicinity, not known to U.S. Navy intelligence until after the Pompano sailed probably sank her.

Pompano was stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on 12 January 1944.

Although there was no specific information telling them that he was possibly alive, Irvin's family held out hope that he might have been captured and still alive. Information during that time was slow at coming, and the Japanese were not good at telling who all they had captured.

The hope was a dim possibility, but there could be no official declaration of Irvin's death until after the war and a complete prisoner exchange could take place.

In August 1945, the Japanese surrendered, and the war was over.

## Atwater Sailor Listed as Dead

Irvin Gerald Slinden, MM 3/c of Atwater, son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Slinden of Atwater, has been listed as dead by the navy department, the Associated Press reports. Heretofore he had been listed as missing in action.

The family held a special memorial service for Irvin in Atwater MN. He was 21 years old at the time of his death. His brother Pelvin, whom Irvin met up with at Pearl Harbor, had been recently discharged from the Navy at the time of the service. A memorial stone marker was placed at Bethlehem Lutheran Church Cemetery near Atwater in honor of Irvin.

In the years that followed Irvin's death, his immediate family including most of his brothers & sisters have all passed away. They always remembered their lost brother. Today, nieces & Nephews continue to remember the service and sacrifice of Irvin G Slinden.

Although the remains of the Pompano remained lost to to the sea for nearly 70 years, the US Navy found sonar evidence of a wreck in the vicinity of where the ship was believed lost in 2012. They asked for permission to investigate further in November 2012.



Memorial Stone placed at family plot in Atwater MN.

After all of the prisoners were exchanged, and no evidence of Irvin he was declared Killed in Action on 4 January 1946. his family was officially notified of his loss.



Medals earned by Irvin Slinden including the Purple Heart. Not his original medals, but replacement medals.

## Memorial Service in Honor of Irvin Slinden Sunday

Relatives and friends gathered at the Bethlehem Lutheran church on Sunday afternoon to pay their respects to the memory of Irvin Slinden, lost while serving aboard a submarine in 1943. The following program was given:

Organ prelude, Mrs. Carl Hovey; invocation, Rev. J. P. Trelstad; song by quartet, "In the Sweet Bye and Bye", Mr. and Mrs. B. P. Samstad, Rev. and Mrs. Trelstad; scripture reading, Rev. Trelstad; song, "Saviour, Pilot Me", Mrs. Lester Ramey, Miss Helen Hovey, Mrs. Gillman Slinden; memorial sermon, Rev. Trelstad; song, "God Understands Your Sorrow", Mrs. B. P. Samstad; presentation of citation and the American flag, placing of gold star on service flag, Bennel G. Samstad Post, American Legion; song, trio, "Sometime We Will Understand", Mrs. Ramcy, Mrs. Slinden, Miss Hovey; benediction, "taps."

The sum of \$170.00 was donated to missions and memorials and a book was placed in the school library in his memory.

Among those from a distance who attended the service were Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Eide, Mr. and Mrs. Oven Eide, Mrs. Richard Carr, Mrs. Joe Angel, Minneapolis; Mr. and Mrs. Anton Ettesvold, Alfred Lee, P. O. Lee and Marian, Cyrus; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Heller, Roy and Miss Lofstrom, Mankato; Mrs. Reinhold Black, Gibbon; Mrs. Merwyn Sheesley, Fairfax; Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Johnson, Art, George and Freda, Strout; Mrs. L. R. Ingold, Linda and Alan, Long Lake.

Irvin Gerald Slinden was born on April 28, 1922, on the home farm south of Atwater. He was baptized June 4 of that year and was confirmed May 31, 1936, in the Bethlehem Lutheran church, being a communicant member at the time of his departure. He attended the Atwater high school for two years.

On Sept. 5, 1942, he enlisted in the navy and was sent to the naval training station at Great Lakes for his basic training. While there he was given a short leave to visit his parents and friends, and this visit proved to be his last in this community. From Great Lakes he was sent to Treasure Island and then to Pearl Harbor for a completion of his schooling. While there he received his rating of machinist's mate third class.

He was serving aboard the Pompano and was reported missing in action October 15, 1943, when that submarine was reported overdue and failed to return from the Pacific area. No further information concerning the boat or its crew has been received by the navy department.

He leaves to mourn his departure his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Slinden, and the following brothers and sisters: Halvin, Clara (Mrs. Evert Johnson) and Mildred (Mrs. Roger Christenson), all of this community and Burton, Pelvin and Allan at the home farm. Pelvin was recently discharged from service.