

George William Rud

Born

October 7, 1883, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Entered Service

1904, Minnesota

United States Navy

Chief Machinist's Mate

USS Memphis (CA-10) formerly USS Tennessee (ACR-10)

"Interim Awards, 1915-1916" (Peacetime)

Died

August 29, 1916 (age 32)

off Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic



Early Years

George William Rud was born October 7, 1883, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. His mother was Maren Caroline (Halvorsen) Ingebredtson.ⁱⁱ She was married to Martin Ingebredtsen by 1901, and George Rud may have used the Ingebredtsen family name for a time when younger, but then went back to his birth name when he joined the Navy.

Checking the Minneapolis City Directories for the 1900'S, sheds some light on the family's movement and occupations in Minneapolis. In the 1901 Minneapolis City Directory, his family was living at 2311 Queen Ave, and Rud was living at 2440 Newton Ave N, working as an operator for the NS Shoe Co. In the 1903 Minneapolis City Directory, Rud "machine operator", sister Olga "seamstress", and father Martin Ingebredtsen "scaler", are all living at 2818 Aldrich.ⁱⁱⁱ

In the Minnesota State 1905 census, the family is residing at 1925 Hillsdale Ave North in Minneapolis: Martin Ingebredtson (48) born Norway, both parents born in Norway, wife Caroline Ingebredtson (48), born in Norway, children: George W. Ingebredtson (21), born in Minnesota, occupation: US Navy, Olga (19) Sine (17), Florence (12), Arthur (14), Ethel (6).^{iv}

In the 1906 Minneapolis City Directory, Rud is no longer listed, and is probably now stationed on a ship. The family is still at 1925 Hillsdale Ave N and listed in the directory are Martin, "scaler", Bovey-DeLaittre Lumber Co, Olga M. "operator", Whiting-Charlton Shirt Co, Sine N., "Stenographer", Northern Engineering Co and Arthur, "timekpr," Mpls Dry Goods Co. ⁱⁱ

In 1907, the family has moved again and is now residing at 3110 Morgan Ave North. Martin Ingebredtsen, "foreman", Melone-Bovey Lumber Co, Olga M. Ingebredtsen, "machine operator", Sine N. Ingebredtsen, "stenographer" Climax Refilling Co, and Arthur Ingebredtsen, "Electrician", Northern Engineering Co. ⁱⁱ

The 1913 Minneapolis City Directory lists Caroline as the widow of Martin and that he died on November 10, 1912 at age 56. In 1918, the Directory shows that M. Caroline (widow of Martin) residing at 2943 Dupont Ave North, with daughter Ethel M "bookkeeper", KC Holter Pub Co. In 1922, Caroline (widow of Martin) and Ethel M "clerk", Augsburg Seminary, are residing at 2210 Emerson Ave North. ⁱⁱ

The Military Years

Rud entered service in the US Navy in 1904.^v George W. Rud served aboard the following ships: USS Memphis, USS Franklin, USS Maine, USS Roe, USS Hancock, USS Bagley, USS Minnesota, USS Wenley, and USS Tennessee. ⁱⁱ

The Minneapolis Morning Tribune published an article regarding the sailor's last moments:

**Minneapolis Man A Victim of Disaster to Cruiser Memphis
G.W. Rud, Machinists' Mate Drowned in San Domingo Harbor
One of four Known to Have Perished
Thirty Three enlisted Men Missing and Believed to be Lost**

Washington, Aug. 31.-Reports to the Navy department last night said 33 enlisted men were missing, most of them probably drowned; four were known to be dead, two officers and six men seriously injured and 67 others hurt as a result of the armored cruiser Memphis by a hurricane Tuesday in San Domingo City Harbor.

Most of the missing were in a small boat overturned by wind and waves while returning to the Memphis. It is believed by the Navy department perhaps a dozen of these may be alive on shore and will be discovered by a later muster.

The Known Dead

The known dead are:

J.H. Townsend, fireman (address not given). George W. Rud, Minneapolis. A.H. Porter, water tender, address not given. W. Copius, coal passer, Hemstead, L.J.

The cause of the wreck has not yet been explained fully.

The scout cruiser Salem was ordered to San Domingo yesterday to replace the wrecked vessel, which as Admiral Pond's flagship. Early reports from Admiral Pond were taken by navy officials to indicate that the storm was of such force that it created a series of tidal waves which drove the Memphis across a long stretch of shallow water to her present resting place at the foot of the rocky bluff upon which San Domingo City stands. Wrecking companies will be asked to study the vessel's plight and determine whether she may be saved.

G.W. Rud, chief machinists' mate of the first class, who was drowned when a heavy swell struck the cruiser Memphis in San Domingo harbor, was a Minneapolis man, and is survived by several relatives living in the city.

Dispatches concerning his death vary, one stating that he lost his life when a small boat capsized and another stating that he died when a steam pipe burst. He had served 12 years in the navy, and would have been discharged January 1, 1917, had he lived. He is survived by his stepmother, Mrs. Caroline Ingebredtsen, four sisters, Mrs. Albert Hanson, 3926 Penn A venue North, Mrs. J. C. Johnson, 1405 Girard A venue North, Mrs. Albert DeBoynton, 2640 Penn A venue North, and Ethel Ingebredtsen, 3110 Morgan A venue North, and a brother, Arthur Ingebredtsen, who lives with his mother. Carl W. Watts, 304 Fifth Street Southeast, also a Minneapolis man, was Chief master of arms on the cruiser. No reports of his death have been received by relatives. ^v

His body was brought to Washington DC, where a ceremony was held for the dead crew members of the USS Memphis, and then his body was transported back to his family in Minnesota. vi

Another article in the Minneapolis Morning Tribune outlines the burial of Rud:

SAILOR KILLED ON U.S. SHIP BURIED HERE
Navy Men Are Pall Bearers at Funeral of Minneapolis Jackie

The funeral of George W. Rud, 3110 Morgan Avenue North, who was killed when the cruiser Memphis was driven ashore at San Domingo beach by a tidal wave, was held from the family residence at 2 p. m. yesterday. Services also were said at St. Olaf's Norwegian Lutheran church at 2:30 p. m. The body was taken to the Crystal Lake cemetery wrapped in the naval jack and the United States flag and interred with military honors. Comrades from the navy were the pall bearers. They were Chief Quartermaster Howard Benjamin, Chief Machinist Edward Thompson, Chief Yeoman Leo B. Ketterer, Chief Gunner's Mate F. A. McClure and Second Class Quartermaster Edward Johnson.vii

Medal of Honor Citation

For extraordinary heroism in the line of his profession while attached to the U.S.S. Memphis, at a time when that vessel was suffered total destruction from a hurricane while anchored off Santo Domingo City, 29 August 1916. C.M.M. Rud took his station in the engine room and remained at his post amidst scalding steam and the rushing of thousands of tons of water into his department, receiving serious burns from which he immediately died. viii

The Post War Years

Rud's mother, Maren Caroline Ingebredtsen, was certified as a Navy Dependent on November 2, 1916, and certificate dated Jan 10, 1920. Maren Caroline Ingebredtsen died at age 86 on September 9, 1943 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.J"

The Medal of Honor was awarded to George William Rud posthumously on August], 1932.

Rud was buried September 14, 1916 at Crystal Lake Cemetery, Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota.ix



Photos of grave marker courtesy of Don Morfe, "Find A Grave" contributor who researches and photographs Medal Of Honor Recipient gravesites.

Compiled by Tracy Moore MacAllister
Maria Sanford Chapter OAR

Notes

i Birth information for Sine Nellie Ingebredtsen; Ancestry.com. Minnesota, Births and Christenings Index, 1840-1980 [database online]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011_; Original Data: "Minnesota Births and Christenings, 1840-1980." Index. FamilySearch, Salt Lake City, Utah, 2009, 2010. Index entries derived from digital copies of original and compiled records.

ii "United States Veterans Administration Pension Payment Cards, 1907-1933," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:IMM9.3.1rrH-1-17525-70739-57?cc=1832324>: accessed 24 April 2016), Iliff, Alpheus -Ingels, William B. > image 722 of 758; citing NARA microfilm publication M850 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.).

iii Minneapolis City Directories

iv 1905 Minnesota State Census

v *Minneapolis Man A Victim of Disaster to Cruiser Memphis*; *The Minneapolis morning tribune*. Pub. Date 1916-08-31

http://www.mnhs.org/newspapers/lccn/sn830_1677211916-0B-31/ed-1/seq-4

vi *Hospital Ship Solace Brings Memphis Dead*; *Evening star*. (Washington, D.C.) 1854-1972, September 09, 1916, Page 4, Image 14; Image provided by Library of Congress, Washington, DC; Persistent link: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045462/1916-09-09/ed-1/seq-141>

vii "Saifor Killed on US Ship buried here"; *The Minneapolis Morning Tribune* September 15, 1916, p.8

<http://newspapers2.mnhs.org/jsp/viewer.jsp?docid=mnhi00052F1DFC5G5B2F16083101&query1=&recoffset=O&collectionfilter=All&collectionname=28c436b4-f574-4314-9c39-86d7a7d4924c&sortcot=Title&CurSearchNum=-1>

viii U.S. Army Center of Military History

<http://www.history.army.mil/html/moh/inlerim1915-16.html>

ix "Minnesota Death Index, 1908-2002," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:V4HZ-SDB> : accessed 24 April 2016), Maren Caroline Ingebredtsen, 09 Sep 1943; from "Minnesota Death Index, 1908-2002,"

database, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : 2001); citing Hennepin, Minnesota, record 930548, certificate number 021913, Minnesota Department of Health, Minneapolis.

x Find A Grave; Originally Created by: Don Morfe; Record added: Sep 27, 2003; Find A Grave Memorial# 7915258

[http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-](http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=rud&GSfn=george&GSmn=wilfiam&GSbyrel=atl&GSdyrel=all&GSob=n&GRid=7915258&df=all&)

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