

## Ryder Mathison (19.. – 1942)

Ryder Mathison had listed his home state as California. Mrs. Violet Mathison, the wife of Ryder Mathis lived at 337 Church Street in Chula Vista, CA.

He was an Engineman First Class (EM1C) in the United States Navy (E-6). His service number was 03206560. He was assigned to the USS Grunion (SS-216). The following was extracted from the records of the USS Grunion:

LCDR Mannert L. Abele took *GRUNION* out of Pearl on her first war patrol and, as ordered, proceeded to the Aleutian theater and patrolled westward from Attu on routes between the Aleutians and the Japanese Empire. On 10 July *GRUNION* was reassigned to the area north of Kiska. *GRUNION* made her first report on 15 July: Dutch Harbor received her message that, attacked by an enemy destroyer, she had fired three torpedoes at it, and missed with all.

Shortly after this message was received *GRUNION* sent another relating that she had sunk three destroyer-type vessels on 15 July. This message was garbled to the extent that details of the attacks were never learned (Japanese information reveals that *GRUNION* sank patrol boats 25 and 27 and damaged a third patrol vessel). On 19 July *GRUNION*, *USS S-32* (SS-137), *USS TRITON I* (SS-201) and *USS TUNA II* (SS-203) were assigned areas in the approaches to Kiska, all to be there by daylight 22 July.

On 30 July, 1942, the last known transmission was that the Grunion was near the entrance to the island of Kiska with ten remaining torpedoes, and that the submarine reported heavy Anti-Submarine activity. The submarine was ordered to return to Dutch Harbor, in the Aleutians. She was not contacted or heard from since that date, and on 16 August was reported as lost at sea.

In September, his wife and family received official word that Petty Officer Mathison was reported as missing in the Aleutian Waters on August 2, 1943, and has been reported as Killed in Action. Ryder Mathison had completed 16 years of enlistment in the Navy. He has two daughters, one of which he had never seen. (Source: The *Star-News* 10-1-1943, Page 1). His name appears on the "Tablets of the Missing" at the Honolulu Memorial Cemetery located in Honolulu Hawaii. He is listed as Missing in Action (MIA) or Buried at Sea. Petty Officer Mathison was awarded the Purple Heart.



