

## NAVAL HISTORY DIVISION

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER MANNERT L. ABELE, U. S. NAVY, DECEASED

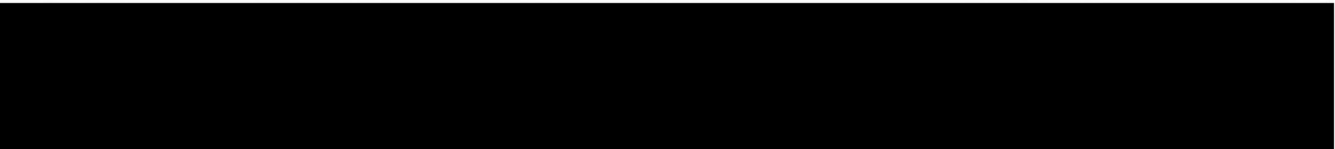
Mannert Lincoln Abele was born in Quincy, Massachusetts, on July 11, 1903, son of Francis I. Abele, Jr., and Addie L. (Tupper) Abele. He attended Cranch Grammar School and had three years at Quincy High School, and on August 12, 1920, at the age of seventeen, enlisted in the U. S. Navy as an Apprentice Seaman. He trained at Newport, R. I., and was assigned to the USS UTAH just before that vessel's departure for European duty. In December 1921 he was detached from the UTAH with orders to the United States to take entrance examinations to the Naval Academy, and on appointment at large became a Midshipman in June 1922. Graduated and commissioned Ensign on June 3, 1926, he was promoted to Lieutenant (jg) on June 3, 1928; to Lieutenant on June 30, 1936; and to Lieutenant Commander, to date from December 1, 1940.

After graduation from the Naval Academy he served as a junior officer on board the USS COLORADO until January 7, 1929, when he reported to the Submarine Base, New London, Connecticut, for instruction in submarines. Completing the course several months later, he was assigned to the USS S-23, a unit of Submarine Division 4, in which he served until April 1933. He then had shore duty in the Bureau of Navigation, Navy Department, until May 30, 1936, and for three years thereafter was at sea, first on board the USS R-11, later in command of the USS R-13.

From June 1939 until August 1940 he served as Assistant Professor of Naval Science, in connection with the Naval Reserve Officers Training Unit at Harvard University. He placed in commission the USS S-31, and commanded that submarine from August 1940 until November 1941, then fitted out the USS GRUNION then building at the Electric Boat Company, Groton, Connecticut. He assumed command of that submarine at her commissioning, on April 11, 1942, in the early period of World War II. He was reported missing on August 1, 1942, when the GRUNION was lost, and was officially declared dead on August 2, 1943. He was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross, with citation as follows:

Navy Cross: "For extraordinary heroism as Commanding Officer of the USS GRUNION during an aggressive and successful submarine war patrol from June 30 to July 24, 1942. Despite vigorous anti-submarine measures on the part of the enemy, Lieutenant Commander Abele, availing himself of every attack opportunity with alert skill and efficiency, succeeded in sinking, in one day, three Japanese destroyers of the TOWLEKJU class. By his courageous initiative and resourceful command he inflicted considerable damage upon the enemy and fulfilled a highly important mission at great risk against tremendous odds."

He was also posthumously awarded the Purple Heart Medal, and was entitled to the American Defense Service Medal, Fleet Clasp; the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal; and the World War II Victory Medal.



A destroyer, the USS MANNERT L. ABELE, named in honor of the late Lieutenant Commander Abele, was sponsored by his widow, at the launching at Bath Iron Works Corporation, Bath, Maine, on April 23, 1944. Commissioned on July 4, 1944, this ship served with distinction in the Iwo Jima operation before she was sunk off the coast of Okinawa by two hits from enemy planes - a Japanese suicide plane and a jet-propelled Baka Bomb.