

Marvin Robert Neitsch

Born August 20, 1914

died: 1 Nov 1942

Marvin Robert Neitsch was born on September 6, 1914, in Texas to IDA BIRKELBACH, age 29, and ROBERT WALTER NEITSCH, age 24. Zion Lutheran, Walburg, member

Born: 9-06-1914 • Theon, Texas

(source – Neitsch and Rowe family Tree by 1949Opa)

1920 Census: Justice Precinct 5, Williamson, Texas

Walter Neitsch 29 head

Ida Neitsch 33 wife

Hugo Neitsch 10 son

Thekle (sic) Neitsch 7 daughter

Mar?Lin (sic) Neitsch 5 son

Henry Neitsch 3 [3 1/12] son

Norena Birkeldeash (sic --- Birkelbach) sister 17

1930 Census: Precinct 1, Williamson, Texas

Walter Neitsch 39 head

Ida Neitsch 44 wife

Hugo Neitsch 20 son

Theola Neitsch 18 daughter

Marvin Neitsch 15 son

Henry Neitsch 13 son

Walter Neitsch 10 son

Norma Birkle Bock (sic -Birkelbach) sister-in-law

1940 Census: San Diego, San Diego, California U.S. Naval Training Station (April 3, 1940)

Marvin R. Neitsch, born about 1915, Born-Texas, single, Seaman, Residence 1935 – Rural Williamson County, Texas

From www.ancestry.com in the U.S. World War II Navy Muster Rolls, 1938-1949

Name:	Marvin R Neitsch
Ship, Station or Activity:	Savannah
Ship Number or Designation:	CL-42
Muster Date:	31 May 1940

Name:	Marvin R Neitsch
Ship, Station or Activity:	Pensacola
Ship Number or Designation:	CA-24
Muster Date:	30 Jun 1940

in the U.S. WWII Military Personnel Missing In Action or Lost At Sea, 1941-1946

Name:	Marvin R Neitsch
Date of Loss:	30 Nov 1942 0
Branch:	U.S. Navy
Rank:	SEA1
Service Number:	3601177
Status:	Missing in Action

in the U.S., Navy Casualties Books, 1776-1941

Name:	Marvin Robert Neitsch
Residence Place:	Texas, USA
Branch of Service:	US Navy
Father:	Walter Robert Neitsch
Volume Title:	Combat Naval Casualties, World War II, (MT-WY)

in the World War II and Korean Conflict Veterans Interred Overseas

Name:	Marvin R Neitsch
Inducted From:	Texas
Rank:	Seaman First Class
Combat Organization:	United States Navy
Death Date:	1 Dec 1943
Monument:	Fort William Mckinley, Manila, the Philippines
Last Known Status:	Missing
U.S. Awards:	Purple Heart Medal

From <https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=NE&GSpartial=1&GSbyrel=all&GSentry=80&GSsr=41&GRid=56749953&>

S1 Marvin R Neitsch

Birth: unknown

Death: Dec. 1, 1943

Note: Entered the service from Texas.

Burial: Manila American Cemetery and Memorial
Manila, Metro Manila, National Capital Region, Philippines

<https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=13170340>

Birth: Aug. 20, 1914

Death: Nov. 30, 1942

Memorial: Zion Cemetery, Walburg, Williamson County, Texas, USA



Action During Which Marvin Neitsch Lost his Life

The **Battle of Tassafaronga**, sometimes referred to as the **Fourth Battle of Savo Island** or, in Japanese sources, as the **Battle of Lunga Point** (ルンガ沖夜戦²), was a nighttime [naval battle](#) that took place on November 30, 1942 between [United States](#) (US) [Navy](#) and [Imperial Japanese Navy](#) warships during the [Guadalcanal campaign](#). The battle took place in [Ironbottom Sound](#) near the [Tassafaronga](#) area on [Guadalcanal](#).

In the battle, a US warship force of five cruisers and four destroyers under the command of [Rear Admiral Carleton H. Wright](#) attempted to surprise and destroy a Japanese warship force of eight destroyers under the command of Rear Admiral [Raizo Tanaka](#). Tanaka's warships were attempting to deliver food supplies to Japanese forces on Guadalcanal.

Using [radar](#), the US warships gained surprise, opened fire, and sank one of the Japanese destroyers. Tanaka and the rest of his ships, however, reacted quickly and launched numerous Type 93 "[Long Lance](#)" torpedoes at the US warships. The Japanese torpedoes hit and sank one US cruiser and heavily damaged three others, enabling the rest of Tanaka's force to escape without significant additional damage but also without completing the intended supply delivery mission. Although a severe tactical defeat for the US, the battle had little strategic impact as the Japanese were unable to take advantage of the victory to further resupply or otherwise assist in their ultimately unsuccessful efforts to recapture Guadalcanal from Allied forces.

Battle of Tassafaronga



Pensacola the day after being heavily damaged off Tassafaronga by a Japanese torpedo.

Pensacola returned to Espiritu Santo to join [TF 67](#) under [Rear Admiral Carleton H. Wright](#). On 29 November, TF67 sailed to intercept a Japanese destroyer-transport force expected off Guadalcanal the next night. Just before midnight of the 30th, the American ships transited Lengo Channel and headed past Henderson Field on Guadalcanal as the Japanese task group steamed on a southerly course west of [Savo Island](#) to enter "[Ironbottom Sound](#)".

The two opposing task forces clashed in the [Battle of Tassafaronga](#). American destroyers launched torpedoes as the enemy range came within [5 mi](#) (4.3 [nmi](#); 8.0 [km](#)) of *Pensacola*'s cruiser formation. Now gun flashes, tracers, and star shell candles stained the inky darkness. [Takanami](#)—hit many

times—was afire and exploding. [Minneapolis](#) took two torpedo hits that blasted her bow downward like an immense scoop and left her forecastle deck awash, but she continued to fight on. [New Orleans](#) closed on [Minneapolis](#), and ran into the track of a torpedo that ripped off the forward part of the warship.

[Pensacola](#) turned left to prevent collision with two damaged American ships ahead of her. Silhouetted by the burning American cruisers, she came into the Japanese line of fire. One of 18 torpedoes launched by Japanese destroyers hit her below the [mainmast](#) on the portside. Her engine room flooded, three gun turrets went out of commission, and her oil tanks ruptured to make a soaked torch of her mast. Meantime, [Honolulu](#) maneuvered radically at 30 [kn](#) (35 mph; 56 km/h), her guns continuing their rapid fire as she escaped the trap. The last American cruiser in column—[Northampton](#)—took two torpedo hits to duplicate on a larger scale the havoc inflicted on [Pensacola](#).

The oil-fed flames engulfed [Pensacola](#)'s main deck aft where ammunition exploded. Only supreme effort and skillful damage control by her gallant men saved the ship. The fire—punctuated by the frightful explosion of 8-inch projectiles in her Number 3 turret—gradually subsided. [Pensacola](#) made steady progress toward Tulagi. She arrived there still aflame. After 12 hours the last fire was quenched. Her dead numbered seven officers and 118 men. One officer and 67 men were injured.