

AVIATION WALL OF HONOR



**Ensign
Albert John Nurkala
Pilot Navy Air Corps
WWII
Killed In Action**

Albert John Nurkala was born November 4, 1921 in Watton, Michigan. He graduated from Michigamme High School in 1939. While attending Northern Michigan Teachers College, he was a member of the Northern Michigan Wildcats. His induction to the Wildcat Squadron occurred at the Palestra on February 7, 1942.

Later the same month, he reported to the U.S. Naval Air Station at Glenview, Illinois for flight training.

On April 30, 1942, he was transferred to Corpus Christi, Texas for active duty and advanced training resulting in his appointment as a Naval Aviator with a rank of Ensign.

His next assignments were at Fort Worth, Texas, Jacksonville, Florida, and finally the U.S. Naval Air Station in Sanford, Florida.

In May 1943, he was detached from the Air Force Atlantic Fleet and assigned to a bombing squadron for active duty involving flying.

On June 11, 1943, he was reported missing in the Atlantic area near Natal, Brazil in an

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overdue scheduled flight. His death was confirmed by a letter from the Secretary of the Navy, Frank Knox, on October 9, 1943.

In a letter to his mother, Mrs. Lempi Miriam Nurkala, Mr. Knox expressed his deep regret that Albert had died on 11 June 1943 as the result of an airplane crash.

He said: "My sincerest sympathy is expressed to you in your sorrow and I trust that you may be comforted by the thought that he died at his station of duty. The Navy shares in your sense of bereavement and will miss the services of a valued officer."

T.J. Mudge, Oct. 2004