



## Gy. Sgt. Arthur B. Summers

June 30, 1916 - November 24, 1943

Born June 30, 1916 in Poplar, Montana, Arthur was the 3rd of six children blessed to the union of A. B. and Louise "Lizzie" (nee Schmitz) Summers.

The 20-year-old high school graduate originally enlisted at a United States Marine Corps Recruiting Station in Seattle, Washington on November 12, 1936 to serve for a term of four years. On November 23, 1941, an extension assigned him to MDAE, Peiping, China (Extension of the Foreign Service Staff) and again on November 23, 1943 for General Services.

Gunnery Sergeant Arthur Branson Summers, 27, was killed in November 1943, during combat with Japanese forces on Betio Island in the Tarawa Atoll. Approximately 1,000 U.S. Marines and sailors died in the intense fighting for Tarawa. Almost half the known casualties were never found.

Summers, originally from Poplar, Montana, served with Company I, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division. He was killed in action sometime between November 23 and 24, 1943 during the amphibious assault on Betio. In November 1943, Summers was a member of Company I, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force, which landed against stiff Japanese resistance on the small island of Betio in the Tarawa Atoll of the Gilbert Islands, in an attempt to secure the island.

On October 17, 2019, the DPAA identified the remains of Gunnery Sergeant Arthur Branson Summers, and his family received "The Call" from the Marine Corps POW/MIA Section with the good news.

Arthur will soon be returned to his family and laid to rest in East Wenatchee at Evergreen Memorial Park, Washington with full military honors (205393612).

Arrangements in the care of Chapel of the Valley, East Wenatchee.