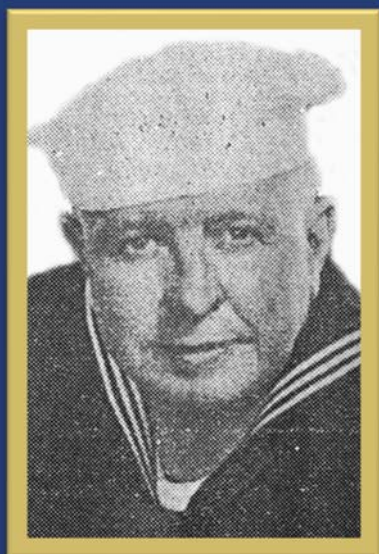


World War II

Born - 1901 Canton Massachusetts

Entered Service – September 1943 Canton, Massachusetts



EM 2nd Class William F. Roach
U.S. Navy
Age 43

Bill grew up at 155 Mechanic Street with his two brothers and sister. After attending St. John School, he worked as an apprentice electrician but when work got scarce in the depression, he became a chef at the Canton Diner. When the war broke out, people with electrical experience were needed, so Bill enlisted at the age of 42. He was assigned to the ammunition ship USS Hood as an Electrician's Mate. The Hood entered the Pacific in August 1944 to prepare for the Philippine invasion but on November 10th while anchored at Seeadler's Harbor, Manus Island (northeast of New Guinea) it blew up. All 300 aboard perished. The explosion was so fierce that only 45 men could be identified and an additional 72 sailors on neighboring ships also lost their lives. Roach was one of the unidentified. At age 43 he was the oldest Canton resident to be killed in the last four wars.

Date of Death – November 10, 1944 Manus, Admiralty Islands
Buried - Pacific Ocean