

U.S.S. Marblehead (CL-12)

Marblehead Biography Carroll Lee Albright

If you can share a photo of **Carroll Lee Albright**, please do so by email to spwade@gmail.com

Source: TBD

Carroll Lee Albright, born 11 FEB 1918 in Phoenix, Arizona to William Oliver Albright (1881–1962), a farmer and salesman from Stanford, KY, who eventually became a maintenance man in the Phoenix Arizona school system, and Loma Elizabeth Woods (1890–1972), a homemaker born in Alfive, TX. Carroll had one brother, William David Albright, who also served in the Navy in WWII and went on to a career with the U.S. Postal Service. The Albrights lived in Peoria, a suburb of Phoenix in 1920, and by 1930, they were living in Miami, Gila County, AZ, about 95 miles east of Phoenix, near the Tonto National Forest.

A 1937 Phoenix, AZ residential directory lists Carroll as a student living with his brother William David, a taxi driver, his father William Oliver, a mechanic, and his mother, Loma. He probably finished high school early that summer. Carroll joined the Navy on 10 SEP 1937 at San Diego, CA. He was assigned service # 3812488. It is likely that he went to boot camp in San Diego.



USS Detroit (CL-8) off Port Angeles, WA, Apr 1944
Source: Wikipedia

[USS Detroit CL-8](#) was probably not the first ship on which Carroll served, but he left that ship for a munitions ship, the [USS Nitro AE-2](#), on 10 MAR 1941, the date of her sailing from Pearl Harbor to Midway Island. He was being transferred to the Asiatic Fleet. At that time, he was a Machinists Mate



USS Nitro AE-2
Source: Wikipedia

2nd Class (MM2c). On 29 MAR 1941 at the Navy Yard, Cavite, Philippines, he joined the [USS Marblehead \(CL-12\)](#), a sister ship of *Detroit*, as MM2c. On 10 SEP 1941, he reenlisted for two years aboard *Marby* at Tutu Bay, Philippines.

Affectionately known to her crew as *Marby*, the nearly 20-year old ship was obsolete in comparison to ships of its class in the Japanese Navy. However, her leadership and the training and discipline of her crew were superb as the Japanese would soon learn. Their efforts would bring the Allied forces much needed morale-lifting stories of heroism and ingenuity in the dark early days of WWII in the Pacific (see [Marby's own biography](#)).

Carroll did not relate much about his service on *Marby* to his family, however, during the battle and bombing off Java on 4 FEB 1942, all the men at his gunnery post except for him were killed or wounded during the battle. This had to have had a traumatic impact on Carroll, but he stayed with the ship throughout its long journey home, her overhaul in Brooklyn New York, and her subsequent redeployment to the mid-Atlantic.



USS Wasatch AGS-9
Source: usndazzle.com

Carroll reenlisted as a MM1c on 3 AUG 1943 at Recife, Brazil. On 28 OCT 1943, he transferred off the *Marby* for medical treatment. He ended up at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, VA, where on the day of her commissioning, he joined the [USS Wasatch AGC-9](#), an amphibious force command ship named after a northern Utah



USS Klondike AD-22
Source: Navsource.org

mountain chain. He later transferred to the [USS Klondike AD-22](#), a destroyer tender, and then to the 9th Fleet, San Diego CA on 10 JAN 1947, after which it was difficult to track him. However, he continued his career in the Navy until 19 MAR 1959 when he retired with the rank of Chief Petty Officer.



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Carroll married “Sadie” Garland Foster, born in Hopkins, MO on 15 JUN 1910 to George Elmer Foster and Bessie Mae Thompson. It is unclear when they met and married, or whether they had any children. Carroll passed away on 13 DEC 1972, at age 54 in White City, Jackson County, OR, probably at the VA Rehabilitation Center there. His last residence was in Grants Pass, Josephine County, OR, about 30 miles west of where he died. Carroll’s brother, William David, a native of Tempe, AZ, died the same year at the age of 56.

On 29 FEB 1980, Sadie remarried in Clark County, NV to an Everett E. McDowell. Sadie died on 26 SEP 2003 in Visalia, Tulare County, CA at the age of 93.

Carroll Lee Albright is listed on page 234 of the book [Where Away – A Modern Odyssey](#).

Don’t forget to read [Marby’s own biography](#).

Biography by Steve Wade, son of Frank V. Wade, BM2c, USS Marblehead 1939-1945, with contributions from Ancestry.com, Newspapers.com, and other Internet records.

Corrections, additions and photos are welcomed by email to spwade@gmail.com.