

**KIRTS, ELMER B.**

Birth

August 28, 1919 at Cumming,  
Linn Twp., Warren Co., Iowa



Death

May 4, 1945 in Asiatic Area.

Cause of Death

Killed in action in off Shore Seas,  
Kerama Retto, Okinawa and buried  
at sea

Cemetery Lot

A military memorial marker on  
Bertha Kirts lot which is Lot 22.

Father

George Kirts

Mother

Bertha Wyckoff

Census

1920 – Linn Twp., Warren Co., IA; ED 218; Page 7A; January 16, 1920  
Dwelling 178; Family 180

Kirts, George	42	stockbuyer	KS	OH	IN
Bertha E.	33		MO	MO	MO
Mary A.	09		MO	KS	MO
Herald G.	08		IA	KS	MO
Virginia H.	06		IA	KS	MO
Donald F.	04	6/12	IA	KS	MO
Ruth W.	02	6/12	IA	KS	MO
<b>Elmer B.</b>		<b>9/12</b>	<b>IA</b>	<b>KS</b>	<b>MO</b>

1925 – Linn Twp., Warren Co., IA; Line 116

Kirts, George	48		KS		
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Bertha	37	Father, David Kirts, born in Missouri Mother, Mary Jane Ellas, born in Ohio MO
Mary Anna	14	Father, Frank Wycoff, born in Kansas Mother, Anna Ulrich, born in Missouri MO
Harold	13	Father, George Kirts, born in Kansas Mother, Bertha Kirts, born in Missouri IA
Virginia	11	Father, George Kirts, born in Kansas Mother, Bertha Kirts, born in Missouri IA
Donald	09	Father, George Kirts, born in Kansas Mother, Bertha Kirts, born in Missouri IA
Ruth	07	Father, George Kirts, born in Kansas Mother, Bertha Kirts, born in Missouri IA
Boyd	05	Father, George Kirts, born in Kansas Mother, Bertha Kirts, born in Missouri IA
Female	02	Father, George Kirts, born in Kansas Mother, Bertha Kirts, born in Kansas IA

1930 – Cumming, Linn Twp., Warren Co., IA; ED 16; Page 1A; April 18, 1930  
Dwelling 8; Family 8

Kirts, Bertha E.	43		MO	MO	MO
Harold G.	18	coal mine laborer	IA	KS	MO
Virginia H.	16		IA	KS	MO
Donald F.	14		IA	KS	MO
Ruth W.	13		IA	KS	MO
Boyd E.	10		IA	KS	MO
Jean R.	07	daughter	IA	KS	MO
Lynn M.	05	son	IA	KS	MO

1940 –

### Military

Elmer Boyd was born August 28, 1919 at Cumming, Iowa and died in action on May 4, 1945. His rank was a Chief Gunner's Mate in the Navy and he was buried at sea. He had blue eyes, blond hair with a fair complexion and was 6' 3" tall and weighed 193 pounds. His service # was 321 26 46. His rank was CGM (AA) USN. He was serving aboard the USS Luce when

that vessel was attacked by Japanese suicide planes, downing one plane whose bomb caused a power failure on ship, with its power out and unable to maneuver, with no guns working, a second Kamikaze plane struck the ships aft-section, rendering tremendous and fatal damage. At 0814 the order to abandon ship was given, moments later she slid beneath the surface in a violent explosion, carrying 126 of her 312 officers and men with her. USS Luce received five battle Stars for World War II battle service.