

HISTORY QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What Cottonwood Heights resident was killed in a plane crash on Okinawa in October of 1945 and what other event made his death more tragic for his family?

ANSWER

Ensign Floyd G. Handley was the son of George A. and May Handley of Butlerville. He was born June 10, 1923 in Butlerville, Utah. He attended school at Butler Elementary and graduated from Jordan High School. He attended New York University and worked in New York City before entering the Navy in July of 1943. He received his commission as an Ensign in December, 1944, after training at New York and Columbia Universities. At the time of his death on October 7, 1945, he was the navigator on a repair ship in the Pacific.

This was the second tragedy to befall the Handley family. On October 24, 1930, George Handley, Floyd's father, was returning home, traveling east on the Butlerville Road, (70th South) when he was struck by another car traveling along 2300 East. The force of the collision caused the Handley car to roll over and it ended up in a field on the southeast corner of the intersection. The other driver and his wife were shaken up and injured, but the other driver was able to get to Mr. Handley and pull him from the vehicle just before it burst into flames. According to the Officer investigating the accident, this saved Mr. Handley from burning to death. Mr. Handley, unfortunately however, suffered from a crushed chest and died on the way to the hospital. Two days later, officers were able to locate a witness to the accident and later charged the other driver with involuntary manslaughter in Mr. Handley's death. The other driver was eventually exonerated when the state failed to prove negligence on his part.