



Isaac Campbell Kidd



Born	March 26, 1884 Cleveland, Ohio
Died	December 7, 1941 (aged 57) killed in the attack on Pearl Harbor
Resting place	Hull of USS <i>Arizona</i>
Allegiance	 United States of America
Service/branch	 United States Navy
Years of service	1906–1941
Rank	★★ Rear Admiral
Commands held	USS <i>Vega</i> (AK-17) Port of Cristóbal, Panama Canal Zone Officer Detail Section, Bureau of Navigation Destroyer Squadron 1 USS <i>Arizona</i> (BB-39) Battleship Division 1
Battles/wars	World War I World War II <ul style="list-style-type: none">Attack on Pearl Harbor †
Awards	Medal of Honor Purple Heart

Isaac Campbell Kidd (March 26, 1884 – December 7, 1941) was an American Rear Admiral in the United States Navy. Kidd was killed on the bridge of the USS *Arizona* during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. He was the father of Admiral Isaac C. Kidd, Jr. He was a posthumous recipient of his nation's highest military honor—the Medal of Honor. The highest ranking casualty at Pearl Harbor, he became the first U.S. Navy flag officer killed in action in World War II as well as the first killed in action against any foreign enemy. A *Fletcher*-class destroyer, *Kidd* (DD-661), was commissioned in his honor on April 23, 1943. The second ship named after him, *Kidd* (DDG-993), lead ship of four *Kidd*-class destroyers, was commissioned on March 27, 1981. An *Arleigh Burke*-class guided missile destroyer, *Kidd* (DDG-100), was the third ship named after him and was commissioned on June 9, 2007.

Kidd was born in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1884. He entered the U.S. Naval Academy in 1902, graduating with the Class of 1906 in February of that year. He was commissioned an ensign in 1908. Kidd participated in the 1907–1909 Great White Fleet cruise around the world while serving on the battleship *New Jersey*. Following service on the battleship *North Dakota* and armored cruiser *Pennsylvania*, Kidd became the Aide and Flag Secretary to the Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet, the first of his many flagstaff assignments. He was an instructor at the U.S. Naval Academy in 1916–1917.

During and after World War I, Kidd was stationed on *New Mexico*, and then he had further staff and Naval Academy service. He was the executive officer of the battleship *Utah* in 1925–1926, then commanded *Vega* until becoming the Captain of the Port at Cristóbal, Panama Canal Zone from 1927 to 1930. Promoted to the rank of captain, he was the Chief of Staff to the Commander, Base

Force, United States Fleet in 1930–1932. After three years at the Bureau of Navigation in Washington, D.C., he was the Commander of Destroyer Squadron One, Scouting Force, in 1935–1936.

During the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Rear Admiral Kidd was the Commander of Battleship Division One and the Chief of Staff and Aide to the Commander, Battleship Battle Force. At his first knowledge of the attack, he rushed to the bridge of USS *Arizona*, his flagship, and "courageously discharged his duties as Senior Officer Present Afloat until *Arizona* blew up from a magazine explosion and a direct bomb hit on the bridge which resulted in the loss of his life."

Admiral Kidd's body was never recovered and to this day he is considered missing in action. U.S. Navy salvage divers located his Naval Academy ring fused to a bulkhead on *Arizona*'s bridge. A trunk containing his personal memorabilia was found in the wreck and sent to his widow. Rediscovered in the attic by his children, both the trunk and its contents are now displayed in the museum at the USS *Arizona* Memorial.

Admiral Kidd posthumously received the Medal of Honor and the Purple Heart. His other awards include the Army of Cuban Pacification Medal, Mexican Service Medal, World War I Victory Medal with Atlantic Fleet Clasp, American Defense Service Medal with Fleet Clasp, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with one bronze battle star for Pearl Harbor (posthumous), and the World War II Victory Medal (posthumous).

Citation

"For conspicuous devotion to duty, extraordinary courage, and complete disregard of his own life, during the attack on the Fleet in Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii, by Japanese Forces on December 7, 1941. He immediately went to the bridge and as Commander Battleship Division ONE, courageously discharged his duties as Senior Officer Present Afloat until the USS *Arizona*, his Flagship, blew up from magazine explosions and a direct bomb hit on the bridge, which resulted in the loss of his life."