

Exploring the Cemetery: Amos Shrom

On June 15, 1944, the U. S. 6th Marine Corps landed on "Red Beach" at Saipan as part of *Operation Forager*, designed to put the Army Air Force within bomber range of Japan. The landing would be one of the most difficult and costly in the history of the regiment. Casualties were high, and the reserves were called in almost immediately.



Amos Shrom and unknown officer.

Among those killed on that first day of battle was Amos R. Shrom (April 14, 1924-June 15, 1944), son of Amos and Mary F. (Rhoads) Shrom. He was a pharmacist's mate, second class and just over 20 years old.

Shrom was inducted into the Navy in September 1942 and underwent basic training at Great Lakes, Ill. He was sent first to Bremerton, Wash., and then, in May 1943, overseas, probably to New Zealand where the unit was preparing for the assault on Tarawa.

The Marines did not have a separate medical corps and relied on the Navy's medics. Shrom is one of two men buried in the cemetery that trained as Navy medics and served with the Marines in the Pacific theater. The other is H. Leslie Ferrell.

Shrom's body was returned home and buried in the family plot (Section 8 Lot 228). He received the Silver Star posthumously.

His citation stated that "his outstanding professional ability and great personal valor in the face of grave peril reflect the greatest credit upon Shrom and the U. S. Naval service. He gallantly gave his life in the service of his country"

Shrom's parents operated a general store and post office in Millway. His mother, Mary, died in 1950 and is buried beside her son.

Amos Shrom Sr. moved to York County and worked at Pinchot State Park. He remarried, and when he died in 1974, was buried in Greenmount Cemetery, York. A son, Abram, survives and continues to live in the Rothsville area. The photograph is courtesy of Abram Shrom. Thanks to Mel Ravegum for putting me in touch with Abram.



"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity while serving with Company "K," 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines, during action against enemy Japanese forces at Saipan, Mariana Islands, on June 15, 1944."