

WWII

John E. Hardy, George A. Hardy, Tucson

One of 12 children, John Ellis Hardy joined the Navy in 1942. A pharmacist's mate third class, the 21-year-old Hardy badly injured his right arm while exiting an amphibious tractor in an attack on the Pacific atoll of Tarawa in 1943. He plunged ahead, attacking with the first wave of Marines and treating wounded men on the beach for more than five hours until he was killed by a hand grenade. Hardy received a Silver Star.

George Albert Hardy was 17 when his brother died. He enlisted in the Marines when he turned 18. On Feb. 19, 1945, the private first class died at Iwo Jima. He was 19.

The Hardy brothers are buried side by side in Tucson's Binghampton Cemetery.