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# USS OSMOND INGRAM (DD 255)

## Honoring A U.S. Navy Hero



### Osmond Ingram's Service

- Osmond Kelly Ingram, born in Pratt City, AL, Aug. 4, 1887, entered the Navy Nov. 24, 1903.
- Rising to the rank of gunner's mate 1st class, Ingram served on USS Cassin (DD 43) when the destroyer was attacked by a German U-boat off Ireland on Oct. 16, 1917.
- Realizing an incoming torpedo would strike near the ship's explosives, Ingram rushed to jettison the ammunition.
- When the torpedo struck, Ingram was blown overboard becoming the first enlisted Sailor killed in action during World War I. His courageous actions saved his ship and shipmates.
- Though heavily damaged, the destroyer was able to fire at the U-boat once it surfaced, forcing it to abandon its attack. The warship was later towed to the naval base at Queenstown, Ireland, where it was repaired and returned to service.
- For his selfless action, Ingram received the Medal of Honor posthumously. The destroyer, USS Osmond Ingram (DD 255), was named in his honor and would be the first U.S. Navy ship named after an enlisted Sailor.

### DD 255 Quick Facts:

Name: USS Osmond Ingram (DD 255)

Class: Clemson-class Destroyer

Length: 314 feet 5 inches

Speed: 15 knots

Crew: 114 total

Dates of Service: Commissioned June 28, 1919  
Decommissioned June 24, 1922  
Commissioned Nov. 22, 1940  
Decommissioned Jan. 8, 1946

Mission: The Clemson class was a series of 156 destroyers, which served with the U.S. Navy after World War I through World War II. The Clemson class was modeled after the Wickes class for great fuel capacity and was the last pre-World War II class of flush-decker destroyers built by the United States.



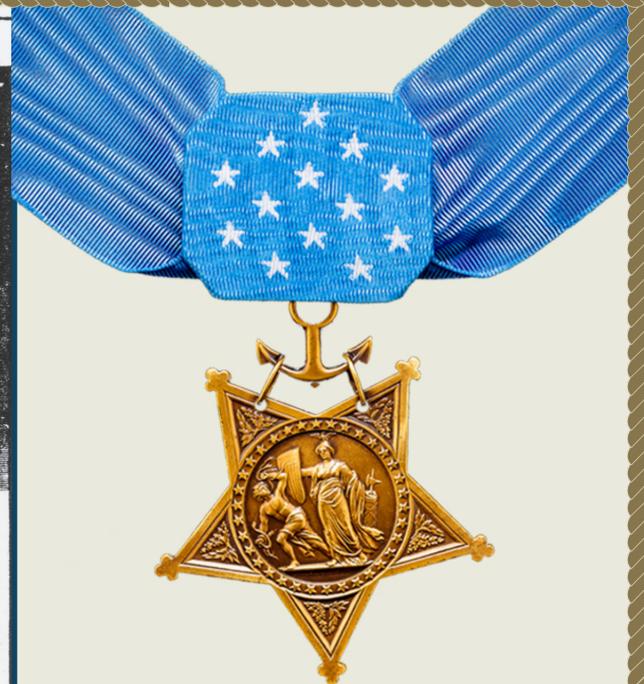
USS Cassin (DD 43) painting by Charles B. Falls depicting the gallant but futile effort of Gunner's Mate 1st Class Osmond K. Ingram, USN, to release the ship's depth charges just before she was hit by a torpedo from the German submarine U-61 on Oct. 15, 1917.

**The Highest in Honor** by MARIO L. RAY DE MARCO

FOR EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ENEMY ON THE OCCASION OF THE TORPEDOING OF THE CASSIN ON OCT 15, 1917 WHILE THE CASSIN WAS SEARCHING FOR THE SUBMARINE INGRAM SIGHTED THE TORPEDO COMING AND REALIZING THAT IT MIGHT STRIKE THE SHIP AFT IN THE VICINITY OF THE DEPT CHARGES RAN AFT WITH THE INTENTION OF RELEASING THE DEPT CHARGES BEFORE THE TORPEDO COULD REACH THE CASSIN THE TORPEDO STRUCK THE SHIP BEFORE HE COULD ACCOMPLISH HIS PURPOSE AND INGRAM WAS KILLED BY THE EXPLOSION. THE DEPT CHARGES EXPLODED IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARD HIS LIFE WAS SACRIFICED IN AN ATTEMPT TO SAVE THE SHIP AND HIS SHIPMATES. AS A RESULT DAMAGE TO THE SHIP WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH LESS IF HE HAD BEEN ABLE TO RELEASE THE DEPT CHARGES.

**GUNNER'S MATE FIRST CLASS**  
**OSMOND K. INGRAM**  
U.S. NAVY

INGRAM WAS BORN IN ALABAMA ON AUGUST 4, 1887



"...His life was sacrificed in an attempt to save the ship and his shipmates, as the damage to the ship would have been much less if he had been able to release the depth charges."