

Coquille

**LARRY PIPER -
U.S. NAVY**

May 1942 to Apr. 1947

Pharmacist Mate, O.R. Technician. Served in the South Pacific landing on Okinawa. I remember burying hundreds of dead bodies at sea. It was overwhelming.



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WILLIAM BOYER - U.S. NAVY
1940 - 1968

Boilermaker, change to Hull Tech. Served in Subic Bay when the war started. Remember the loss of the cruiser I was on in the Pacific. Returned to U.S. and put a new Destroyer in commission then returned to the Pacific and finished the war on into Tokyo. I returned as Master Chief Hull Tech in 1968 after 28 years in the service.



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**RAY CHMIEL
U.S. ARMY**

Feb. 1941 to Aug. 1945

Personnel Clerk. Served in the Southwest Pacific. One evening while on New Britain I was dialing the Special Service's radio when I got a skip from Salt Lake City, KSL, which lasted about 5 minutes and it was early a.m. news, but the day before, due to the International date lines. Also remember the oodles and oodles of sheep carcas' the cooks threw away. No one, including me, could stand the awful smell of mutton - let alone "feast upon them" - Phew!!!



**BERNHARD M. AMDAHL
U.S. AIR FORCE**

Feb. 1943 to Feb. 1946

Section Chief, Radio Repair, 326th Signal Co. Wing. Served in the U.S. in the 953rd Radio Intelligence Co. prior to assignment on Tinian Island. I remember hearing of VE day, news our outfit had dropped the atom bomb, VJ day, celebration of it. It impressed me that the monitoring by Radio Intelligence Co. may have helped in breaking codes used by the enemy. Daily de-briefing on our crews where news of the bombing missions was shared with us, the non-combat members of the team. Destruction was terrible.



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THOMAS MASON - U.S NAVY
Sept. 1940 to May 1946

Chief Bosun Mate. Gunner, Master at Arms, Co. Cmdr., Co. 88-46, operated landing craft at Okinawa.. Served in Normandy, Philipines, Samar, Okinawa. Operated landing craft at Okinawa, the 1st totally intergrated Navy Recruit Training Co., U.S.N. San Diego, 1946. Sinking of ship off Samar. The Samuel B. Robert DE 413. We lost several jeep carriers, 4 destroyers and DE's. spent 50 hrs. in the water before rescue. Training of integrated Boot Co. at San Diego, CA., many years before Harry Truman passed law to integrate all training co. for all branches of service.



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AL REINER - US ARMY AIR CORPS
Jan. 1940 to Sept. 1945

Flight Chief/Engineer. Served in India, China, Burma Theatre, Normandy, Philipines, Samar, Okinawa. I remember preparing aircraft for cross country flight at Mitchell Field, N.Y. Dec. 7, 1941 when news of Pearl Harbor bombing came over the air; being stationed at the same airbase the Flying Tigers operated from and to observe the aerial heroics they performed; the many flights over the "Hump" flying supplies into China for the eventual bombing of Japan, also the experience of listening to the "Buzz Bombs" coming in over London.



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