

VETERANS' DAY 2006

Our Veterans—Yesterday & Today



Mount Suribachi on the island of Iwo Jima in the background

CHARLES N. JACKSON

When World War II started in 1941, I was working in a defense plant in Toccoa, Georgia, as an apprentice tool and die maker. The next year, 1942, I moved to Baltimore, Maryland, and was working in a shipyard, helping to build ships. This gave me the idea to join the Navy. In January 1943 I joined the Navy, with a salary of \$50 per month, not so bad, since I could purchase a carton of cigarettes for 50 cents.

Then it was to boot camp at Bainbridge, Maryland. A couple of months later, it was to Radar School at Virginia Beach, Virginia. A few months later, it was to the Norfolk Shipyard barracks waiting for a ship to be finished. While waiting and making up a crew for the ship, we went to Fire-fighter training and training with 20 mm and 40 mm anti-aircraft guns (also 5-inch guns).

July 16, 1943, the crew boarded the ship and commissioned the USS LEEDSTOWN (APA-56) in the US Navy. It was an amphibious troop ship with a crew of about 500 and troop capacity of about 3000 troops and 28 LCPLs.



Received 6
Bronze Stars
on Pacific
Theatre
Ribbons

- SHAKEDOWN CRUISES & TRAINING EXERCISES, CHESAPEAKE BAY — JULY-DEC 1943
- SET SAIL FOR PEARL HARBOR, VIA THE PANAMA CANAL — DECEMBER 10, 1943
- TRAINING MANEUVERS, MAUI, HAWAII — JANUARY 12-17, 1944
- D-DAY INVASION, KWAJALEIN ATOLL, MARSHALL ISLANDS — JAN 31-FEB 5, 1944
- REINFORCEMENTS, BOGAN BAY, NEW BRITAIN — APRIL 28-MAY 1, 1944
- BACKUP REINFORCEMENTS, SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS — JUNE 17-JULY 2, 1944
- D-DAY INVASION, GUAM, MARIANA ISLANDS — JULY 21-25, 1944
- D-DAY INVASION, PELELIU, PALAU ISLANDS — SEPTEMBER 15-20, 1944
- D-DAY INVASION, LEYTE, PHILIPPINES — OCTOBER 20, 1944 (1 DAY)
- REINFORCEMENTS, LEYTE, PHILIPPINES — NOVEMBER 14, 1944 (1 DAY)
- D-DAY INVASION, LINGAYEN GULF, PHILIPPINES — JANUARY 9-10, 1945
- DELIVERY OF OCCUPATION TROOPS, TAKYO, JAPAN — OCTOBER 13-21, 1945
- HONORABLE DISCHARGE, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON — DECEMBER 1945



Received 2
Bronze Stars
on Philippine
Theatre
Ribbons

-
- TELEVISION & RADIO ENGINEERING SCHOOL, CHICAGO — MARCH 1946
 - TAPE RECORDER & SOUND ENGINEER, REVERE CAMERA COMPANY, CHICAGO — 1947-1948
 - PILOT TRAINING & FLEW WITH THE ILLINOIS WING OF THE CIVIL AIR PATROL — 1950's
 - MOVED TO MOUNTAIN HOME — JUNE 1968

IN 1993 THE USS LEEDSTOWN CREW STARTED HAVING AN ANNUAL REUNION, AT DIFFERENT CITIES THROUGHOUT THE U.S. THE 2006 REUNION WAS HELD AUGUST 10-14 IN CINCINNATI, OHIO.

