

## War Era Story Project 2012

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*The following is a summary of a one-hundred page book that I had privately printed as a record and my WWII experiences for my twenty- three grandchildren, Titled, Time To Go, printed in 2002. The book was given to the Library of Congress at their request in 2003. As a result, the American Broadcasting Company (ABC) picked out the book and requested to use parts of it as a documentary on World War II.*

I enlisted in the United States Navy so that I could choose the military organization I wanted to serve in instead of being drafted and being assigned to the Army. My choice was useless because after boot camp and training as a signalman I was assigned to a special group in the amphibious Navy and trained in a mud hole of a camp known as Little Creek, VA. I never saw shipboard duty other than being transported to an invasion site.

I avoided the army because I did not want to carry a gun; however I was issued a Thompson sub-machine gun and a Colt 45 sidearm. I underwent Special Forces training to be first ashore by various means, such as rubber rafts to landing crafts. Our duty was to set up naval visual communication on the invasion beach four to six hours before the signal to commence the invasion by troops. The major invasions were well shelled and neutralized by heavy naval craft fire.

We first went to Oran, Africa, then overland by trucks to Bizerte, Algeria, from where our first invasion was on the shore of Sicily and two separate behind-line landings. Next, we were shipped to, Fowey Cornwall, England, where we staged for the Normandy, Invasion. Our invasion site was Utah Beach. Thirty days after Normandy, I was deployed to New Guinea in the Pacific Theater of War for the invasion in Lingayen Gulf on Luzon of the Philippine Islands. The Luzon invasion was made in the daylight morning hours. Intelligence indicated there would be very little Japanese resistance; however, we were subjected to heavy air dive bomber attacks.

From there, we moved to invade Okinawa. Shortly after Okinawa, the atom bomb was dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, ending the war. Our unit was transported to occupy and take over harbor traffic communication of Hiroshima forty days after the atom bomb was dropped. Almost a month later, the light cruiser *USS Montpelier* picked us up and I was returned to the Brooklyn Navy Yard in New York City via the Panama Canal. I was honorably discharged from the Great Lakes boot camp two days before Christmas, 1945, as a Second Class Signalman.