

## War Era Story Project 2012

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Current home town: Madeira, Ohio  
Age: 85

I enlisted in the U. S. Navy on my 17th birthday, April 27, 1944. After basic training at Great Lakes, IL, I was assigned for duty aboard *USS Markab*, a destroyer tender. I served two years in the Pacific, Philippines, China and Japan, and I had never been away from home before.

Upon discharge on June 3, 1946, I was awarded the American Area Ribbon, Victory Medal, Asian Pacific Area Ribbon and Philippine Liberation Ribbon. I returned to my job for the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, which eventually became the C & O Railroad, Chessie System, and finally CSX Corp. After 44 years "working on the railroad," I retired in 1987.

In the meantime, I had met and married my wife Virginia. We had our first date at Cincinnati's "Moonlite Gardens". This coming March, we will celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary.

ROBERT LEE MERSMAN  
MADEIRA, OH

U.S. NAVY 1944 - 1946

