

War Era Story Project 2012

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I was drafted in January, 1941, in Greenville, OH, some ten months before Pearl Harbor, and put in the Ohio 37th Buckeye Infantry Division at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. Even though I had a handicapped right hand, I was accepted into the Army and served almost five years, three of them plus four months in the Pacific Theater, island-hopping from Auckland, New Zealand to Luzon, Philippines.

I spent one year and nine months in the Solomon Islands, consisting of Guadalcanal, New Georgia and Bougainville. Our job was to protect the airfields, which were called unsinkable aircraft carries. On Jan. 3, 1945, I left the Solomons by convoy to land at Lingayen Luzon. I was in the drive to liberate Manila, and then to the summer Capitol, Baguio.

The next campaign was the Casayan Valley to Aparri on the northern tip of Luzon. So it was with great relief when the atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Japs were a deadly enemy, especially after the Bataan Death March to prison camps. One officer made the remark "the only good Jap is a dead Jap."

I attained the rank of Sergeant Technician and was discharged as such at Camp Attebury, in October of 1945. It was quite a long boat ride from Aparri, Luzon to San Francisco, and back home again.