

WWII Memories and Experiences
by Cranston Williams, Jr.

I was born in Chattanooga, TN on August 12, 1926. When I finished the 7th grade in 1939, our family moved to Scarsdale, NY when my Father accepted a position as General Manager of the national association of all daily newspapers in the United States. After finishing high school in Scarsdale in May of 1944 and accompanying my Mother, Father and younger brother on a business trip of my Father to Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland, Vancouver and back through Canada to Montreal and then New York, I had delayed my Selective Service draft requirements as long as possible.

When I went through the draft procedure in November 1944, I wanted the US Navy and I was successful. My 10-week recruit training was in Sampson, NY. When complete, I was chosen along with other to go to Buffalo, NY to shovel snow for the Pennsylvania Railroad from the tracks and switches in their yards for 10 days. We worked 12-hour days from leaving to returning to our residential hotel. Our nights were free. I saw a lot of ice hockey games.

Upon returning to Sampson as a S2c, I went to Brainbridge, MD for a 16 week Fire Control Maintenance School (aiming and firing of guns). Upon graduation as a S1/c(FC), VE day was very close and new schoolers were delayed. Hence, We were assigned to general maintenance and support activities with guaranteed liberty at night. After off and on denials, about 300 or more of us had a sit down strike during WWII in the mess hall at 8:00 am. After the officer of the day, heard our side of the liberty denial, he reversed the prior order and we had our liberty reinstated.

My next station was the Fire Control Operational Fleet School in the Ft. Lauderdale Beach Hotel, FL for 6 weeks. We completed our schooling just as VJ Day was declared. The Navy sent us by train to Shoemaker, CA demarcation center for the Pacific, across from San Francisco. Our Kaiser trioop ship rolled 39 degrees during the typhoon that his Okinawa in September 1945 as we proceeded to China. It was only guaranteed for 35. This ship went to Shanghi, China, let some troops off, and picked up eligible discharges, headed for Okinawa where I was assigned to the engine room detail of LST 623. My duties were the entire ship.

The LST then proceeded back to Shanghi, then Tsingtao and Tientsin, China. There we picked up 999 Japanese to be repatriated after being held in China during the War and took them to Sasebo, Japan. During this period, I became MOMM3 (Motor Machinist's Mate 3/c). The LST then proceeded to Yokohama to be decommissioned to Japan. I then was station on LCI (FF) 424. This ship then returned to the States by way of Hawaii and was decommissioned at Tiburon, CA, across the Golden Gate Bridge from San Francisco.

On July 4, 1946 I headed east and was honorably discharged at Lido Beach, L.I., and N.Y. on July 13, 1946.



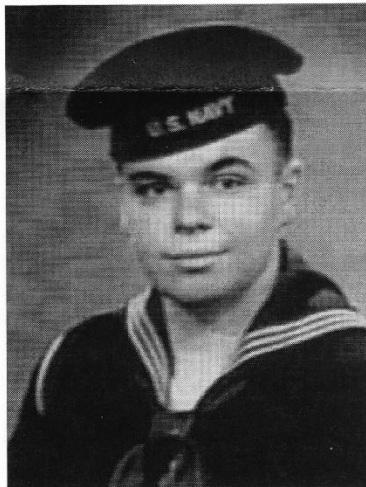
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CRANSTON WILLIAMS JR.



SCARSDALE, NY - 1945



Rate / Rank
MOMM3

Service Branch
USNR

Service Dates
11/1944 - 7/1946

Born
8/12/1926
CHATTANOOGA, TN



- NTC SAMPSON, NY
- NTC BAINBRIDGE, MD
- NTSCH FT. LAUDERDALE, FL
- USS LST-623
- USS LC(FF)-424

SIGNIFICANT AWARDS

- ASIATIC-PACIFIC CAMPAIGN MEDAL
- AMPHIBIOUS FORCE INSIGNA
- PHILIPPINE LIBERATION BAR
- AMERICAN THEATER MEDAL
- WORLD WAR II VICTORY MEDAL