

**BRIEF HISTORY OF GREG SHOREY'S WW II SERVICE IN THE U.S. NAVY -- 10/12/2019 ( After 75 yrs. recalls are often vague, exact dates unsure & some details lost )**

With the start of WW II all able bodied men, beginning at age 18, were subject to the Draft & presumed service in the Army, unless you pre-enlisted in another branch of the service; which I did in the U.S. Navy. When my draft call arrived, Spring of 1943, I reported to the Navy Fargo barracks in Boston & assigned to 'boot camp' training at Newport R.I. After completing this basic training, I was assigned to Little Creek, Va. for amphibious support & gunnery training as Armed Guard gun crew on U.S. Merchant Marine operated & secured cargo supply ships that were outfitted with (old) 4.50 or 3.50 deck guns in one aft turret & bridge mounted 20 MM anti-aircraft guns. As part of a Navy gun crew, I served on several such ships, including emergency built Liberty ships, on escorted convoys in the sub invested South & North Atlantic. By early 1944, I earned my BM/2C rating. (usually one Boatswains-mate per 15-25 Gunners-mate rated crews, with a Navy officer in charge).

My next location, was on supply runs to N. Africa & Sicily. Then following, our ship carried on deck, two LCVP landing craft & other supplies in support of the Anzio, Italy landings. As history notes, this operation took 100's of lives. In all the confusion and heavy losses, I ended up piloting an LCVP & had an unexpected 'swim', as a Nazi- 88 landed at the barge nose . Following a brief on shore recovery, while guarding a work detail of Nazi prisoners, I was assigned to another similarly equipped supply ship and Armed Guard gun crew involved in the Southern France landings at Toulon.

Before my Mediterranean duty I had applied for Navy Pre-flight school, as a means of securing a Commission. But, being assigned to different supply ships & landing supports I was difficult to locate.

I was fortunately 'spotted' by my former commanding officer, while in Toulon harbor. The Navy sent me home for a brief 'survivor' leave. Very late Fall 1944 I was assigned to pre-flight accelerated schooling at Monmouth College, Ill., along other fleet transfers and then to pre-flight training at St. Mary's Calf. As an Aviation Cadet (midshipman), I had just completed my training and had been accepted at Line Officers school at the Great Lakes, Ill. Navy base, when the war ended. We were given options: A) Secure my commission & muster out at the Navy's 'convenience'; B) Upon commissioning, commit to reserve officers duty; subject to recall. C ) The option I elected was based on my enlisted duty "points", determined by length of service & combat – battle zone duty,

I could be immediately honorably discharged well before year-end 1945.

After an "exciting" late Fall trip from Oakland, Calf. on a troop train full of (not too sober) Marines returning from 2 years in the South Pacific & frequent drop-offs, I arrived back in Boston to be honorably discharged with MANY others. In processing 100's each day, there was no formal awards ceremony, as all were eager to just get home. My discharge papers awarded me the following citations: ( metals to be obtained later on my own) : American Theater with one (1) 'Battle Star'; European Theater with four (4) 'Battle stars'; Asiatic Theater; Naval Combat Expedition metal; U.S. Navy Commendation citation; Purple Heart; WW II Victory Service & Commemorative metals. With their 'ribbon', each metal in miniature are appropriately framed for save keeping.