

I went into the service in 1942. I joined the Navy in Shreveport, Louisiana. I did enlist; I wasn't drafted. I lived on a 100 acre farm in Louisiana and would not have had to go but I felt like I had to go anyway and serve.



VP-61
My crew at Attu 1994
Top left, Meir, Ordnance
Taylor, Radioman, Boleslaw
Antonio Lada, 2nd. Mech.
Bottom-Left, Skinner 1st.
Radioman, La., Brasher,
1st. Mech, Mississippi

I chose the Navy because it ... being inland I haven't seen too much water, so I thought as the saying goes, "Join the Navy and see the world".

I went in in 1942 and got out in October of 1945. I served in three different squadrons VP-45, VP-61 and VP-62 all in the Aleutians; three different tours of duty, 18 months all together.

My first commanding officer of VP-45 was C. J. Amme. And the Skipper of VP-61 was Captain Smith and he was killed on a landing in Kodiak coming from the States. The plane was pretty loaded. The first landing they didn't make it - the first attempt - so they came around to land again and couldn't make it. They crashed into Womans Mountain in Kodiak. Several members of the crew were killed in that crash.