

ROBERT KNUTSON



Robert Carlyle Knutson was drafted into the US Navy on 25 April 1944. He was sent to the Naval Training Station at Farragut Idaho for Boot Camp reporting on 28 April. for 8 weeks. Upon completion of Boot Camp on 16 June 1944 Robert stayed at Farragut to train as an Electrician's Mate until 3 November. From 3 November until 15 November Bob continued with training and preparation for duty at Farragut Idaho. On 16 November 1944 Bob went on leave. He reported for duty at Receiving Station Shoemaker California on 23 November 1944. He stayed there in a "holding pattern" before leaving the United States for the Pacific Theater. On 9 March 1945 Bob joined the crew of the USS Endymion at Leyte in the Philippine Islands which was working in diving operations and repairing of landing craft. They stayed here until 25 March 1945. Here the men earned the Philippine Liberation Ribbon for service to the Philippines.





The Endymion then joined Task Unit 51.14.3 for the invasion of Okinawa and served notably repairing battle and weather damaged ships including destroyers, landing crafts, and patrol vessels. On 28 April 1945 the ship was hit by a shrapnel burst and 15 of the crew were wounded. Robert stayed safe during this attack. On 10 May 1945 they started for Buckner Bay and were met with frequent suicide bomber attacks. They continued to serve without interruption despite the attacks.

On 7 June 1945 they joined Task Unit 31.29.29 and headed for Saipan and then on to Pearl Harbor. On 21 June they came under attack and were torpedoed. The Japanese HIJMS submarine I-36 attempted to launch two Kaitens at them but they malfunctioned. Kaitens are manned suicide torpedoes used by the Japanese Navy. With the malfunctions of the Kaitens the Japanese commander launched four conventional torpedoes, but they detonated prematurely and caused slight damage to the Endymion wounding 11 and damaging the steering gear. The Endymion assumed a slight list but managed to pick up speed and escape from the

Japanese. Once again Robert managed to steer clear of injury during this attack. They went into Eniwetok Harbor and underwent temporary repairs. After the repairs they made way for Pearl Harbor where they continued to repair the ship and prepared to return to the United States. They arrived in Astoria Oregon on 9 November 1945.



Kaiten Kamikazee Submarine

Robert was assigned to the 19th Fleet, a Pacific Theater Reserve Fleet in Portland Oregon. Bob's son said that his father told him that Oregon was the coldest place he had ever been. Bob transferred to the Naval Receiving Station in Seattle Washington where he was discharged as an Electrician's Mate 2nd Class on 4 November 1946.



SUMMARY OF SERVICE

Station or Station	From	To	Rate
USMC FARRAGUT IDASH	28 April 1944	16 June 1944	AS
USMC FARRAGUT IDASH	17 June 1944	3 November 1944	O2c
USMC FARRAGUT IDASH	3 November 1944	15 November 1944	P1c
R/S Shoremaker Calif.	23 November 1944	26 December 1944	P1c
ENDYMION			
U.S.S. ENDYMION (ARL-9)	9 March 1945	1 November 1945	P1c
U.S.S. ENDYMION (ARL-9)	1 November 1945	6 June 1945	EM3c

Find errors in all records upon discharge