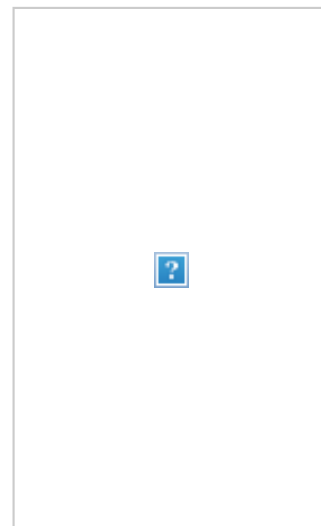


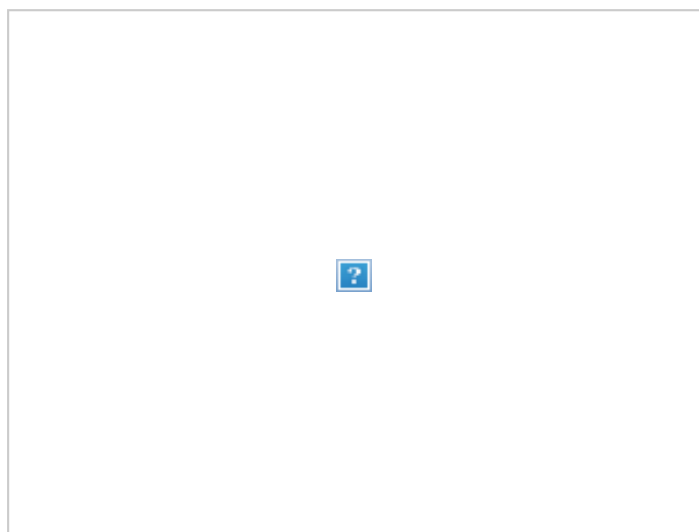
Navy Log Memories

The United States Navy Memorial Foundation

Russell Granata 196797



Russ Granata is how I'm called. I was born and raised in Rochester NY and was just a youngster still at home with my parents when the Japanese attacked the United States Navy at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. In no time, some of my friends and I were in the local Navy Recruiting Office trying to volunteer - but first we would have to get parental permission because we were underage; so we were handed "permission" papers which our parent (s) or guardian (s) would have to sign, and we were told to return after we had the required signature(s). Well, that's exactly what I was able to do, and soon I was in boot camp in Newport, Rhode Island [I was later told that Sampson, which would have been closer, was not able to handle us at that time]. That winter weather was freezing, and I can remember being disciplined in boot camp for talking while in line. I was yanked out of that line and had my nice warm woolen watch cap snatched from my head until I returned with a can full of cigarette butts, which of course was no small task in that snow and ice! With my close-cropped bootcamp haircut I was no hot-head, so you know I scurried like a rabbit, and of course I really got to know that military base! I also felt then and I feel to this very day, that punishments should fit infractions. Many recruits perceived boot camp as little more than traditionally condoned hazing.



My first significant duty station after boot camp was Mayport Florida Section Base where I experienced my first sea duty which was Atlantic anti-submarine warfare. It was during this time, that some of us gunners were requesting other duty, and I put in a request for either submarine or armed guard duty. Eventually, orders arrived for me to report to the Brooklyn Navy Yard Armed Guard Gunnery School. After qualifying, I was suddenly awakened shortly after midnight one black pre-dawn morning and ordered to pack

my seabag. In that starless night, I was motor launched with some other sailors to the side of a cargo-ship from where I had to board by climbing up a rope ladder. I was an Armed Guard member of the US Navy Gun Crew aboard the cargo ship SS Governor John Lind. After dawn when we were on the high seas beyond New York Harbor, our destination was announced over the ship's loud speaker: Iceland. We would be zig-zagging in a convoy with other vessels and accompanied on the horizon by British Corvettes instead of American destroyers. "Submarine Alley" was what they were calling this. Some action occurred without known casualties, and I enjoyed visiting Iceland.

It was during North Atlantic sea-duty that I became quite interested in the duties of the Signalman attached to our gun crew. I watched him work. This culminated in his tutoring me during his off-hours and by the time we returned to the American east coast, I was a trained Naval Signalman. Then, as the need for more Signalmen for the new aircraft carrier USS San Jacinto CVL 30 was presented, I requested to take the US Navy Signalman examination, and passed it with high scores. With this I became a Petty Officer 3rd Class, Signalman, up from Seaman 1st Class Gunner; later advancing to SM2. This was part of my adventures aboard the USS San Jacinto CVL 30 which fought the Japanese in the Pacific so much that it accumulated seven battle stars and was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation. She became quite a formidable warship in Asiatic Pacific campaigns against Japanese forces. The USS San Jacinto CVL 30 was never sunk during the Second World War. It endured storms, torpedoes, a typhoon, and Kamikaze suicide Japanese air attacks, resulting in casualties received as well as inflicted; and it's worth repeating that our performance record qualified us to be awarded The Presidential Unit Citation. My NAVPERS 553 (Rev. 6.45) states in item 34. REMARKS [and I quote]: Good Conduct Medal, Point System, Victory Medal, American Campaign [Medal], Asiatic Pacific [Medal] 3 Stars, European African Mid East [Medal], Philippine Liberation [Medal] 2 Stars.

USS San Jacinto CVL-30



Although I also served during the Second World War aboard the USS Julius A. Raven APD 110, it was CVL 30 which left the biggest impression on me during my youth. I wanted adventure, and that's what I got aboard the aircraft carrier USS San Jacinto CVL 30 and lived to tell my grandchildren about it.

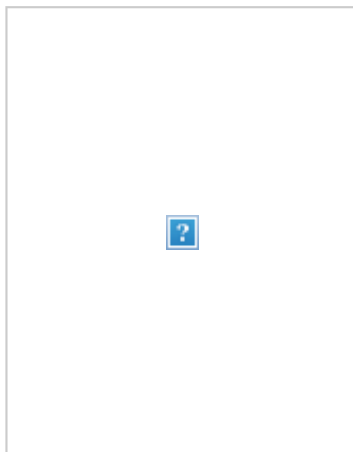
Long after that war, in a short printed biographical sketch, appeared these words:

"Russ Granata is an experienced lecturer, translator, writer, and publisher. A

six-times decorated US Navy veteran of the Second World War, he volunteered as a teenager to avenge Pearl Harbor, fought the Japanese in Asiatic-Pacific Campaigns aboard the aircraft carrier USS San Jacinto CVL 30, whose most renowned shipmate and wartime pilot George Herbert Walker Bush was to become the most recent, if not the last President of the United States to have fought in the Second World War.



George Bush in WWII



President George Herbert Walker Bush and Russ Granata at a USS San Jacinto CVL-30 reunion in Texas at the Bush Presidential Memorial Library

Russ Granata now presents President George Herbert Walker Bush at the age of 70, freefalling with parachutist Joe Jennings!

[Click Here](#)

Russ Granata graduated from the University of California from where he holds a Bachelor Degree and is also a graduate of the University of Southern California from where he holds a Masters Degree."

It was Second World War duty aboard CVL30 which led to settling in California because after my aircraft carrier docked at San Diego and shore liberty was had, it was vowed that if I made it through the war, I would make California my home. And so it came to be; with children and grandchildren in this post-war zoo. HELP!