



Richard Anton Zborowski

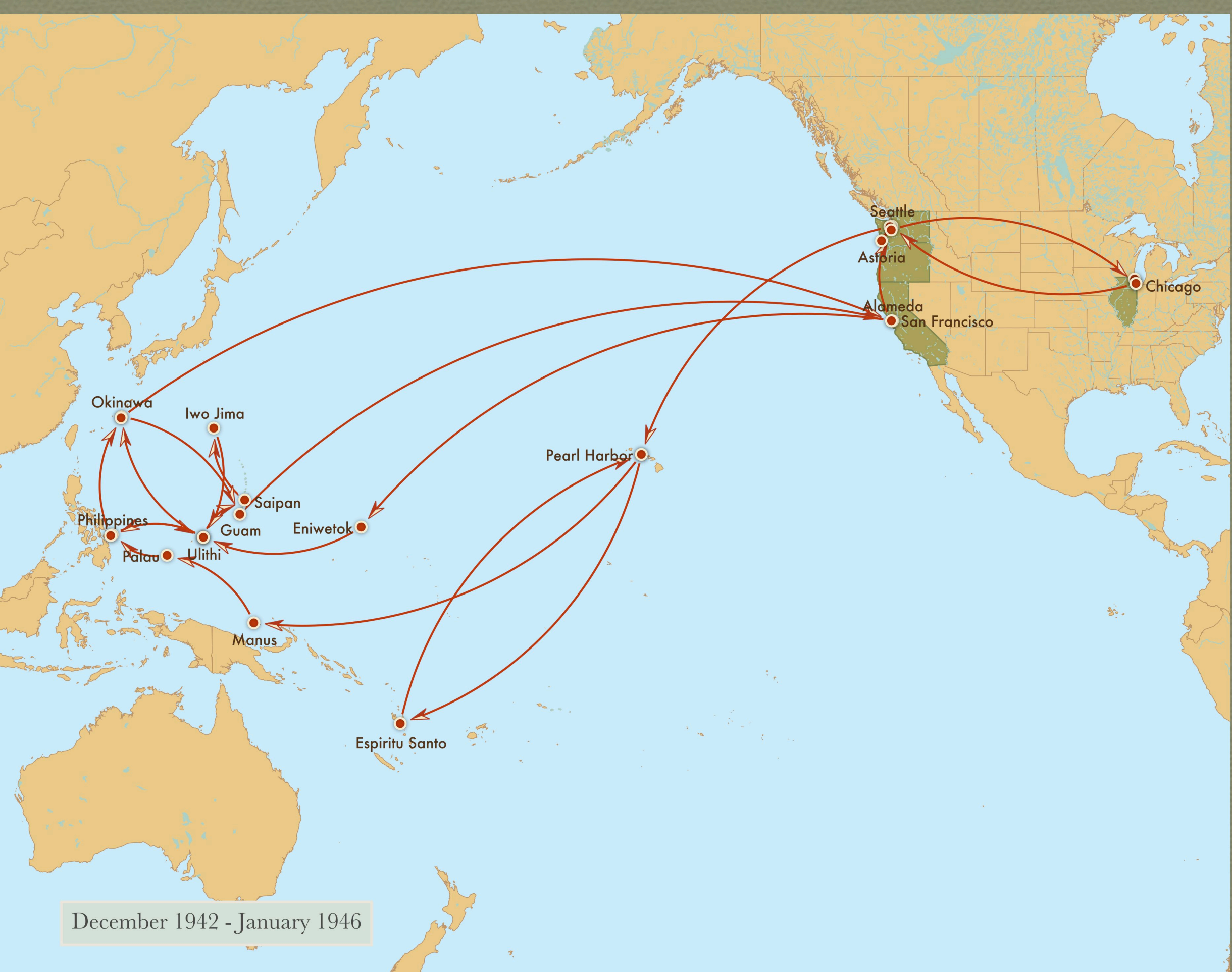
Aviation Boatswain's Mate 1/C
USS Rudyerd Bay CVE-81
United States Naval Reserve
12 December 1942 - 28 January 1946



**Our Debt to the heroic men
and valiant women in the
service of our country can
never be repaid. They have
earned our undying
gratitude. America will
never forget their sacrifices.**

President Harry S. Truman





December 1942 - January 1946



Navy Recruiting Center

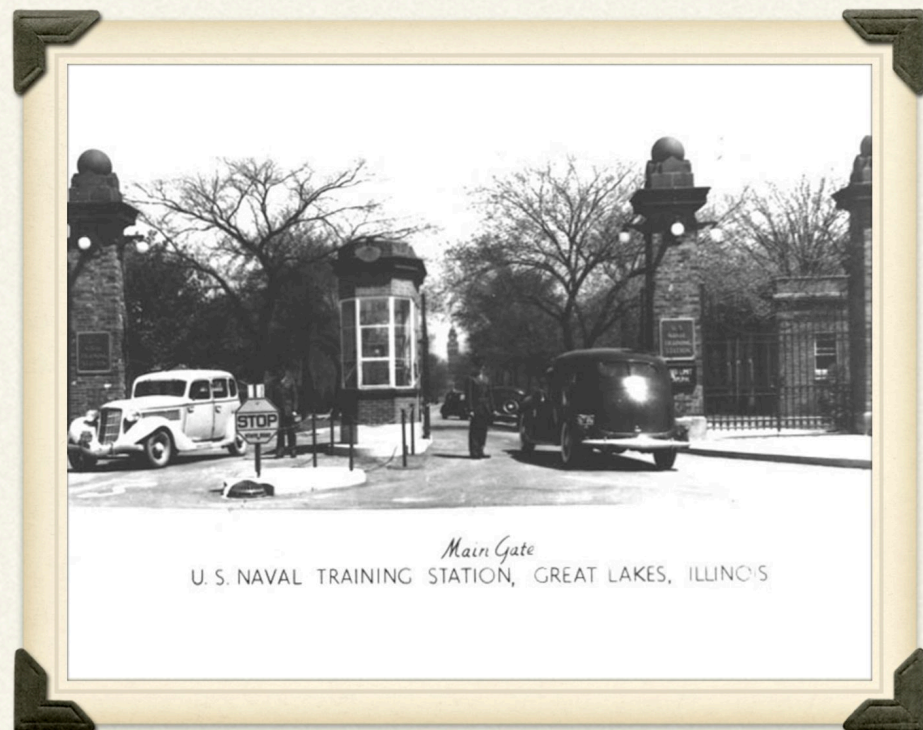
Chicago, Illinois
12 December 1942

Naval Training Station

Great Lakes, Illinois
24 December 1942 - 25 March 1943
Completed recruit training on 3 March 1943.

Naval Air Technical Training Center

Navy Pier
Chicago, Illinois
25 March 1943 - 17 September 1943
Aviation Machinist Mate School, 26 April 1943 - 17 September 1943
Completed Aviation Machinist Mate 3/C training.



Left: Naval Training Station, Great Lakes, Illinois
Right: Naval Air Technical Training Center at Navy Pier in 1943



USS Wolverine (IX-64)

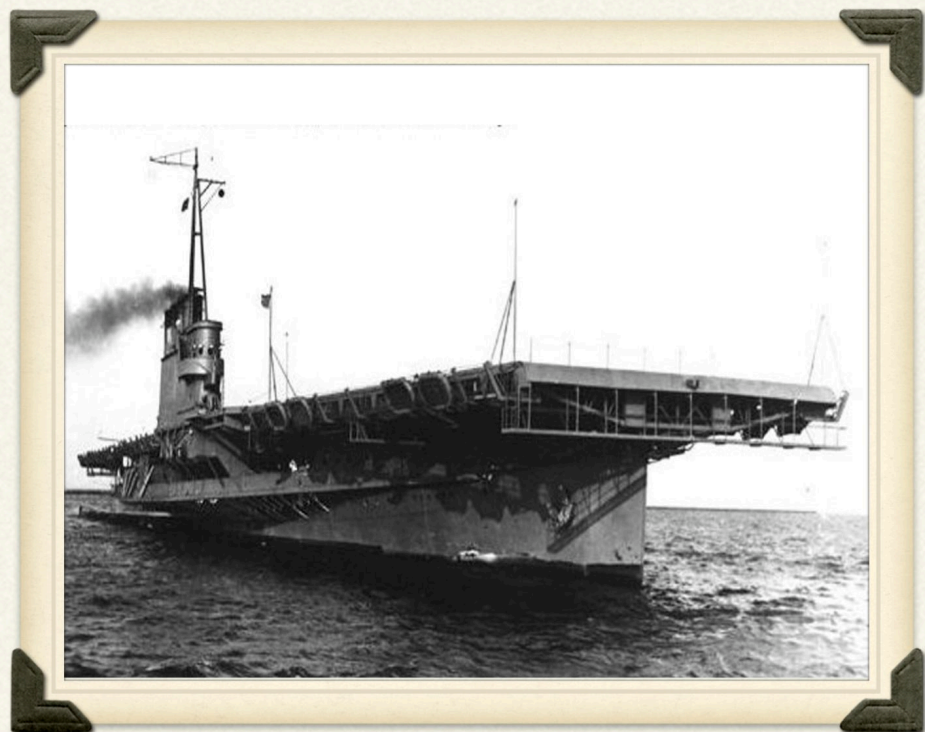
Lake Michigan

18 September 1943 - 2 October 1943

Transferred to Naval Air Station, Seattle, Washington.

USS Wolverine was a freshwater aircraft carrier in Lake Michigan during WWII . It was converted from a coal-burning paddlewheel steamer and used for training naval aviators in basic carrier operations including take-offs and landings. The ship was also used to train deck crew and landing officers.

Richard served two weeks temporary duty aboard the USS Wolverine and received instruction in arresting gear and flight deck procedures.



USS Wolverine (IX-64) in Lake Michigan.



Naval Air Station

Seattle, Washington

5 October 1943 - 8 November 1943

Transferred to Naval Air Station, Astoria, Oregon.

Naval Air Station

Astoria, Oregon

9 November 1943 - 3 February 1944

Transferred to Puget Sound Navy Yard, Bremerton, Washington.

Completed Aviation Machinist Mate 2/C training 15 December 1943.

Puget Sound Navy Yard

Bremerton, Washington

3 February 1944 - 22 February 1944

Transferred to the USS Rudyerd Bay (CVE-81).



Left: Naval Air Station, Seattle, Washington
Right: Puget Sound Navy Yard, Bremerton, Washington



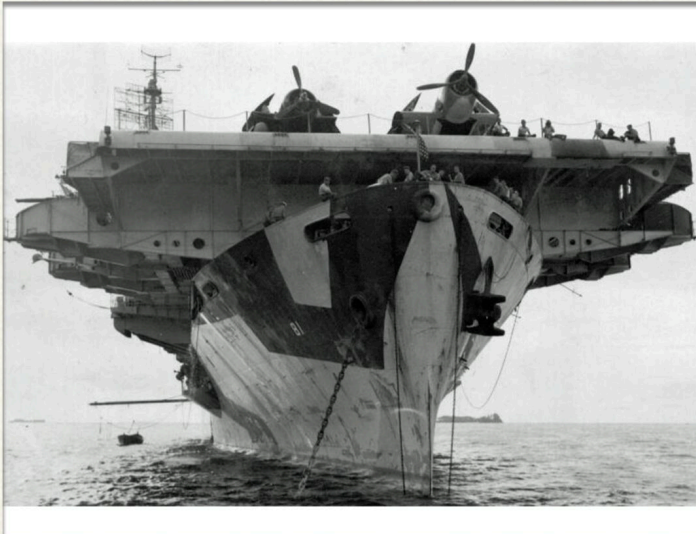
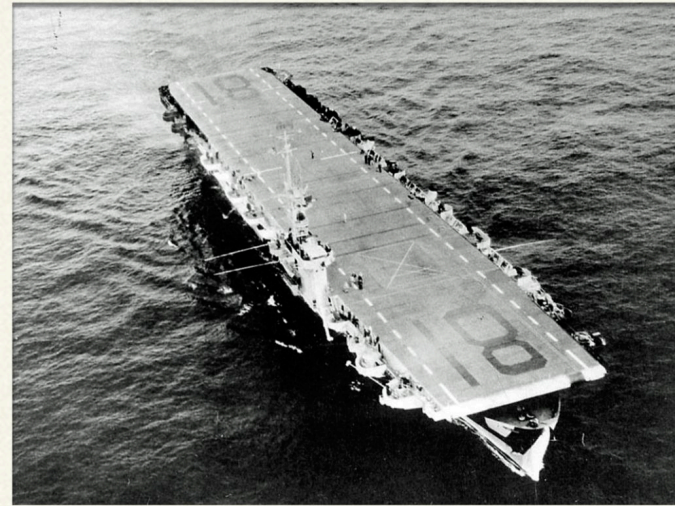
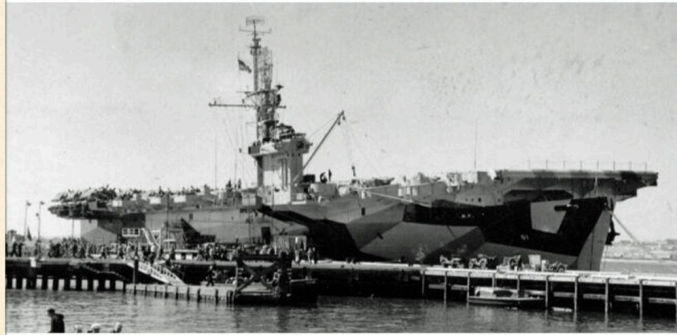
USS Rudyerd Bay (CVE-81)

25 February 1944 - 21 October 1945

The USS Rudyerd Bay was a Casablanca-class escort carrier commissioned by the Navy on 25 February 1944 with Captain C.S. Smiley in command.

Escort carriers, also called "jeep carriers", were small and slow aircraft carriers typically half the length and one-third the displacement of the larger fleet carriers. In the Pacific theater they escorted landing ships and troop carriers providing air cover and flying the first wave of attacks on beach fortifications during amphibious landing operations. They also transported aircraft and spare parts from the U.S. to remote island airstrips.

Richard was an Aviation Machinist Mate (AMM) aboard the USS Rudyerd Bay. His duties as an AMM were to fix and maintain the engines of the aircraft aboard the ship. On 20 August 1945 he became an Aviation Boatswain's Mate and was the supervisor of a flight deck crew in charge of refueling planes and maintaining the planes' gasoline systems.



USS Rudyerd Bay (CVE-81)

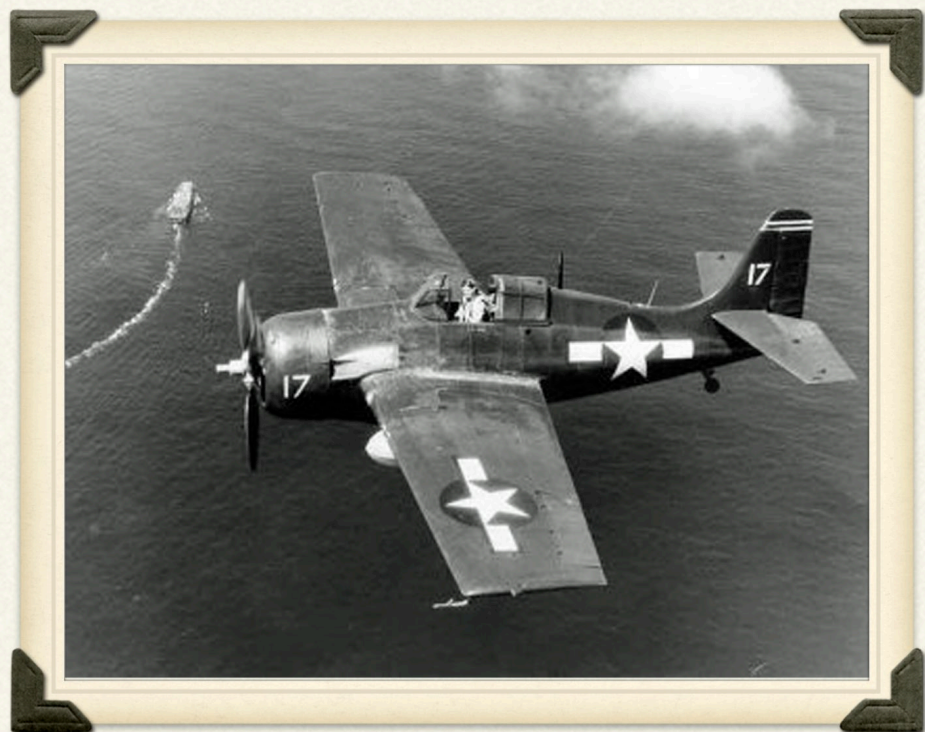


USS Rudyerd Bay (CVE-81)

The USS Rudyerd Bay was 512 feet long and the flight deck was 108 feet wide. It had one catapult and could carry 28 planes and 860 crewmen. During the war it carried a mix of FM-2 Wildcats and TBF/TBM Avengers.

The FM-2 Wildcat was a single seat fighter built by the Eastern Aircraft Division of General Motors. It had four 50 caliber machine guns and was often fitted with rockets. The Wildcat flew combat air patrol to protect the fleet as well as attack ground and sea targets.

The TBF/TBM Avenger had a crew of 3 consisting of a pilot, gunner and radioman/gunner. The TBF Avenger was built by Grumman and the TBM Avenger was built by the Eastern Aircraft Division of General Motors. It had four 50 caliber machine guns and was often fitted with rockets, bombs and torpedoes. The Avenger attacked ground and sea targets.



Left: FM-2 Wildcat
Right: TBF Avenger



Pearl Harbor - Espiritu Santo - Manus

25 February 1944 - 31 August 1944

The USS Rudyerd Bay left Bremerton Washington on 25 February 1944 and conducted shakedown exercises off California before heading to Pearl Harbor.

From April 1944 to May 1944 the USS Rudyerd bay ferried planes to Espiritu Santo. Espiritu Santo is the largest island in the nation of Vanuatu and was used by Allied forces as a military supply and support base, naval harbor and airfield.

On 18 July 1944 Richard was transferred to Naval Base Hospital #8 at Pearl Harbor for a severe ear infection. He was discharged 27 July 1944 and returned to duty aboard the USS Rudyerd Bay on 18 August 1944.

On 31 August 1944 the USS Rudyerd Bay arrived at Manus Island off the coast of New Guinea. Manus Island is the largest island in the Admiralty Islands and served as an important base for operations in New Guinea and the Philippines.



Left: Pearl Harbor
Top Right: Naval Receiving Station, Manus Island
Bottom Right: Naval Air Transport Service Facilities, Espiritu Santo



Palau - Philippines

September 1944 - 22 January 1945

In September and October of 1944 the USS Rudyerd Bay supported the Palau campaign. Palau is an island nation 500 miles East of the Philippines. Palau was thought to be the crossroads in the western Pacific. Taking Palau would cut off Japanese forces and secure airstrips on Peleliu and Angaur that were a threat to the invasion of the Philippines.

In October the USS Rudyerd Bay supported the Philippines campaign as airstrikes began on the island of Leyte. On 18 October 1944 she took aboard wounded sailors from the USS Houston, which had been torpedoed during the battle of Formosa. With the wounded sailors aboard the USS Rudyerd Bay headed for the Ulithi Atoll. On 29 November 1944 she left Ulithi and resumed support in the Philippine Sea. On 10 January 1945 she shifted to the South China Sea to support the Lingayen Gulf assault on Luzon and strikes against shipping from Indochina to Formosa. On 22 January 1945 the USS Rudyerd Bay once again headed for Ulithi.



Left: Assault on Peleliu
 Right: Map Showing the Philippine and Palau campaign theaters

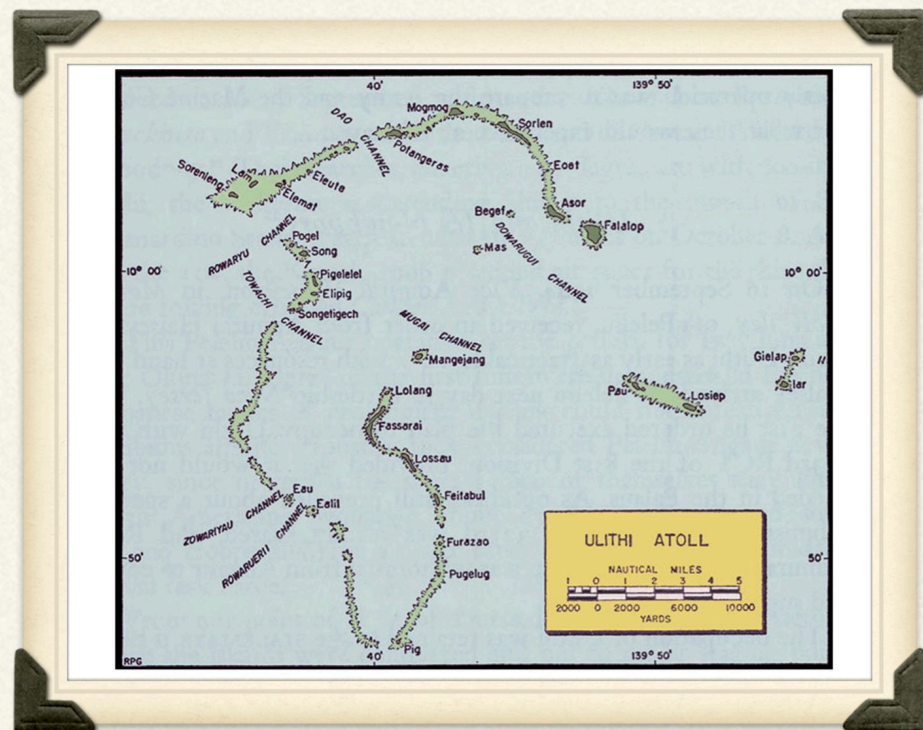


Ulithi Atoll

24 January 1945 - 10 February 1945

Ulithi is a volcanic atoll 850 miles east of the Philippines. It's 20 miles long and 10 miles across enclosing a vast lagoon that could hold 700 ships. The lagoon had an average depth of 80 to 100 feet and was the only such anchorage for 800 miles. Ulithi was transformed into a floating base that had thousands of men, repair ships, floating dry docks, supply ships, and an airstrip. At its peak Ulithi was the biggest and most active naval base in the world and had 617 ships in the lagoon.

On 10 February 1945 the USS Rudyerd Bay left Ulithi for Saipan.



Left: Map of Ulithi Atoll
 Right: Ulithi Atoll lagoon



Saipan - Iwo Jima

12 February 1945 - 8 March 1945

The USS Rudyerd Bay arrived in Saipan on 12 February to prepare for the assault on Iwo Jima. Iwo Jima would provide the U.S. a landing and refueling site for B-29 bombers and long range fighter plane escorts on missions to and from Japan. Iwo Jima was designated a crucial emergency landing point for the B-29s carrying the atomic bombs destined for Japan. By taking Iwo Jima the B-29s carrying the atomic bombs would not be picked up by Japanese radar or attacked by the Japanese fighter planes stationed there.

From 16 February to 18 February the USS Rudyerd Bay provided air cover for troop transport ships on the way to Iwo Jima. On 18 February she was stationed on the Eastern side of Iwo Jima and flew close air support missions over the island and anti submarine patrols. On 21 February and 23 February the USS Rudyerd Bay came under attack from Japanese planes. A fighter group of P-51 Mustangs arrived at Iwo Jima on 6 March and took over close air support missions. On 8 March the USS Rudyerd Bay left Iwo Jima for Ulithi.



Left: TBM Avenger flying over Iwo Jima
Top Right: Map showing Iwo Jima
Bottom Right: Flag raising on Mt. Suribachi

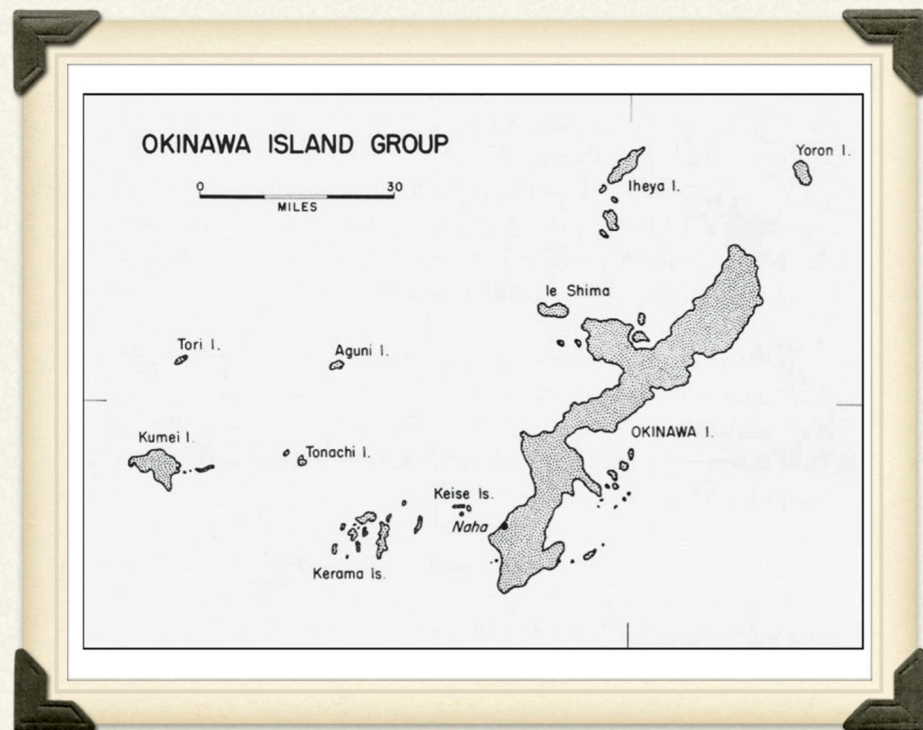


Ulithi - Okinawa

11 March 1945 - 20 May 1945

The USS Rudyerd Bay was stationed at the Ulithi Atoll from 11 March to 20 March. On 21 March they set sail for the Ryukyu Islands to support the Okinawa campaign. The Okinawa campaign was the largest amphibious assault in the Pacific War. The US planned to use Okinawa as an air base for the invasion of the Japanese mainland. Between 1 April and 26 May the Japanese launched 7 major kamikaze attacks, involving more than 1,500 planes, on U.S. Navy ships.

On 25 March the USS Rudyerd Bay was stationed 60 miles south of Okinawa and began daily support missions for ground troops on Okinawa and Kerama Islands. On 3 April she came under attack from Japanese Planes. From 17 April to 27 April the USS Rudyerd Bay shifted to providing air support for the logistic support ships. On 27 April she returned to support missions for ground troops on Okinawa. On 8 May the USS Rudyerd Bay returned to air support for the logistic support ships until 20 May when she left the Ryukyu Islands for Guam.



Left: Map showing Okinawa and Kerama Islands
Right: Okinawa beachhead with support ships in the background



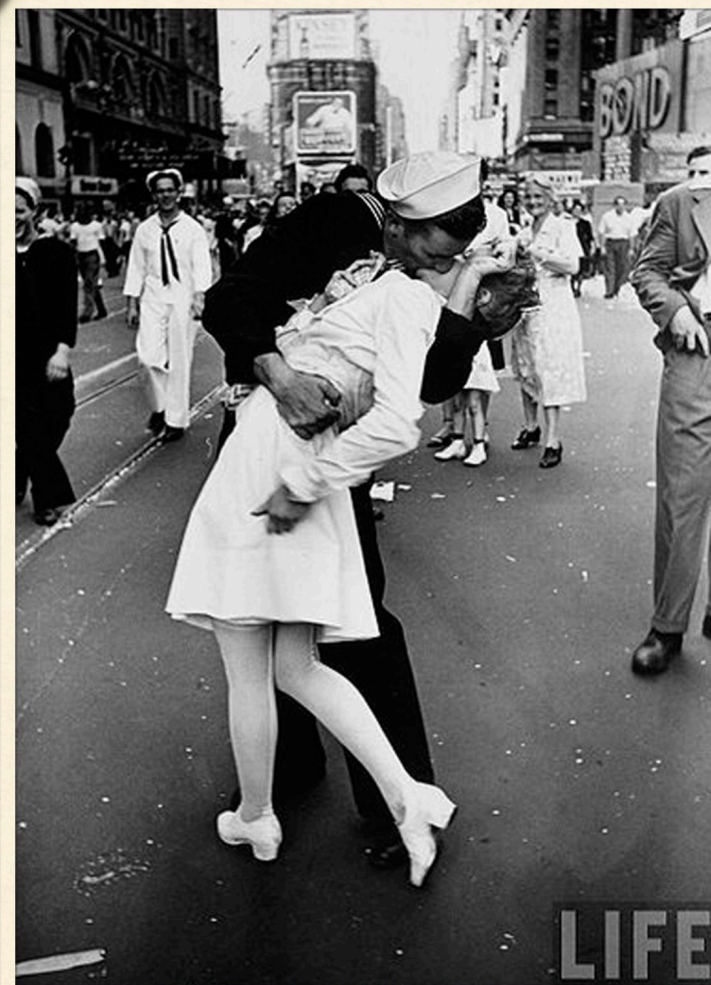
**Guam - California - Eniwetok - Ulithi - Philippines -
Okinawa - California**

23 May 1945 - 8 October 1945

The USS Rudyerd Bay arrived in Guam on 23 May and picked up passengers for transport back to Naval Air Station Alameda in California. At the end of July the ship had completed a shipyard overhaul and was reassigned to plane ferry duty. On 1 August the USS Rudyerd Bay left Alameda for the Marshall Islands.

On 14 August Japan surrendered and the USS Rudyerd Bay continued on to Eniwetok to discharge cargo and passengers. She then proceeded to Ulithi, the Philippines and Okinawa before returning to California.

On 8 October the USS Rudyerd Bay arrived in San Francisco to undergo repairs and be converted to carry troops. Richard left the USS Rudyerd bay on 21 October 1945 and was stationed at Treasure Island Naval Station.



Left: 14 August 1945 - Japan signing the Instrument of Surrender aboard the USS Missouri
Right: 14 August 1945 - Alfred Eisenstaedt's famous picture "V-J Day Kiss" from Life Magazine



Treasure Island Naval Station

San Francisco, California
21 October 1945 - 25 October 1945

Richard was transferred from Treasure Island and arrived in Tacoma Washington on 29 October 1945. He stayed in Tacoma until 23 December 1945 then was transferred to Chicago. He arrived at the U.S. Naval Reserve Armory in Chicago Illinois on 25 December 1945. On 25 January he was transferred to the U.S. Navy Separation Center at Great Lakes Illinois.

Richard Anton Zborowski was discharged from United States Naval Service on 28 January 1946.



Medals



RICHARD ANTON ZBOROWSKI
AVIATION BOATSWAIN'S MATE 1/C
USS RUDYERD BAY CVE-81
UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE
12 DEC 1942 - 28 JAN 1946





Navy Good Conduct



American Campaign



Navy Combat Action Ribbon



Navy Unit Commendation



Philippine Presidential Unit Citation



Aviation Boatswain's Mate 1st Class



Asiatic Pacific Campaign



WWII Victory



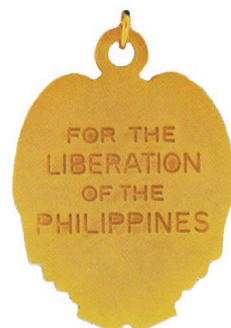
Petty Officer 1st Class



Ruptured Duck Patch



Philippine Liberation



Honorable Service Lapel Pin



Honorable Discharge Lapel Pin

Navy Good Conduct Medal

Awarded to enlisted personnel of the United States Navy and Naval Reserve for creditable, above average professional performance, military behavior, leadership, military appearance and adaptability based on good conduct and faithful service for three-year periods of continuous active service.

- Awarded for active service in the United States Naval Reserve (12 December 1942 – 28 January 1946).

American Campaign Medal

Awarded to individuals who served in the American Theater of Operations from 7 December 1941 to 2 March 1946.

- Awarded for thirty consecutive days outside the continental United States (Pearl Harbor - Hawaii).

Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal

Awarded to individuals who served thirty consecutive days within the Asiatic-Pacific Theater from 7 December 1941 to 2 March 1946.

- Silver star represents 5 battle stars.
 - Battle star for Western Caroline Islands Campaign - Palau (September 1944 – October 1944).
 - Battle star for Philippines Campaign – Leyte (October 1944 – 10 January 1945).
 - Battle star for Philippines Campaign – Luzon (10 January 1945 – 22 January 1945).
 - Battle star for Iwo Jima Campaign (18 February 1945 – 8 March 1945).
 - Battle star for Okinawa Campaign (25 March 1945 – 20 May 1945).

WWII Victory Medal - Awarded to all members of the Armed Forces who served at least one day of service from 7 December 1941 to 31 December 1946.

Philippine Liberation Medal

Awarded to individuals for service in the liberation of the Philippine Islands from 17 October 1944 to 3 September 1945.

- Awarded for service in the Philippine Campaigns of Leyte and Luzon.
- Bronze star for thirty consecutive days in Philippine waters and participation in the initial landing operation on Leyte.

Navy Combat Action Ribbon – Awarded for active participation in ground or surface combat subsequent to December 6, 1941.

Navy Unit Commendation - Awarded to units which distinguish themselves by outstanding heroism in action against the enemy.

- Awarded to Task Group 52.2 for service during the Iwo Jima Campaign.
- “All Hands on the CVE’s are to be congratulated on the continuous and precise support given the ground troops by the Naval Air Arm during this operation.” – James Forrestal, United States Secretary of the Navy

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation - Awarded to individuals for services resulting in the liberation of the Philippines.

Petty Officer 1st Class Insignia – Awarded Petty Officer 1st Class on 1 September 1945.

Aviation Boatswain’s Mate 1st Class Patch – Became an Aviation Boatswain’s Mate on 20 August 1945.

Ruptured Duck Patch – A Patch worn on the uniform of returning veterans.

Honorable Service Lapel Pin – Awarded to military service members who were discharged under honorable conditions during WWII.

Honorable Discharge Lapel Pin – Awarded to Naval personnel who are entitled to an honorable discharge and completed their enlistment.

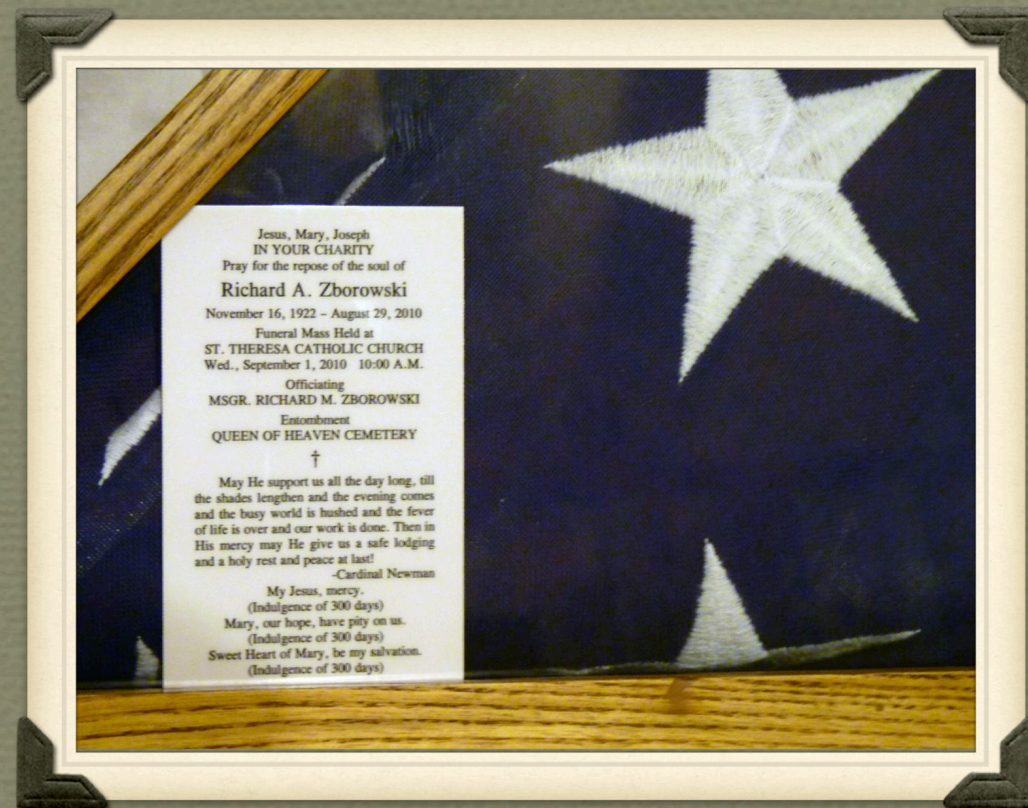




Left: Aviation Machinists's Mate 2/C shoulder patch
Right: Ribbon bar and China India Burma Patch



Funeral Mass for
Richard A. Zborowski
November 16, 1922 - August 29, 2010
Funeral Mass Held at
ST. THERESA CATHOLIC CHURCH
Wed., September 1, 2010 10:00 A.M.
Officiating
MSGR. RICHARD M. ZBOROWSKI
Entombment
QUEEN OF HEAVEN CEMETERY
†
May He support us all the day long, till
the shades lengthen and the evening comes
and the busy world is hushed and the fever
of life is over and our work is done. Then in
His mercy may He give us a safe lodging
and a holy rest and peace at last!
-Cardinal Newman
My Jesus, mercy.
(Indulgence of 300 days)
Mary, our hope, have pity on us.
(Indulgence of 300 days)
Sweet Heart of Mary, be my salvation.
(Indulgence of 300 days)



Jesus, Mary, Joseph
IN YOUR CHARITY
Pray for the repose of the soul of
Richard A. Zborowski
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Created by Greg Hertz - 2010



