

Robert Edwin Reynolds - (MoMM1) - D.O.B. March 17, 1923, Mason City, IA

Dec 13, 1940

Having dropped out of High School - Bob joins Navy in Long Beach, CA at 17 yrs old and is sent to boot camp in San Diego, CA. His enlistment contract describes him at 5ft 7.5in tall, 157 lbs, blue eyes, light brown hair and ruddy complexion. His rate is Apprentice Seaman. In Boot camp he receives instruction in military regimentation, gas mask usage, weapons including the 30 caliber machine gun, and basic seamanship. He is also rated a "qualified" swimmer.

March 1, 1941

Bob completes boot camp and reports to **Great Lakes**, IL to attend Metalsmith School basic course.

March 29, 1941

Transferred to Navy Service School at Ford Motor Co., **Rogue Naval Training School**, Dearborn, MI for specialized instruction in sheet-metal working. This school was a collaboration wherein Ford Motor Co. schooled Navy recruits in manufacturing plant shops as machinists, electricians, radiomen, sheet-metal workers and other skilled trades. In addition to skilled trades, the sailors were also given extensive swimming instruction.

May 4, 1941

Bob is advanced in rate from AS (Apprentice Seaman) to Seaman 2nd Class (S2c)

June 27, 1941

Graduates 32 in class of 33 - returns to San Diego for assignment to **USS Rigel (AP7)** which is in Pearl Harbor

July 3-8, 1941

Transits to Pearl Harbor on **USS Wharton (AP-7)**

July 25, 1941

Reports aboard **USS Rigel (AR-11)** Auxiliary Repair Ship named for brightest star in Orion constellation, at coal dock in Pearl Harbor entrance. His rate is changed from Seaman 2nd (a deck rating) to Fireman 3rd (an engineering rating)

Sept 10, 1941

USS Rigel moved to pier #13 with hammerhead crane for removal of boilers & addition of deck armaments

Dec. 1, 1941

Advanced to rate F2c

Dec. 7, 1941

Japanese attack Pearl Harbor - **USS Rigel** is 300 yds. directly across from Battleship Row. Bombs land so close USS Rigel is lifted out of water. Rigel crew, including Bob, assist with rescues in burning oil & cutting hulls of overturned ships. Bob is 18 yrs. old. **(see Pearl Harbor narrative)**

March 20, 1942

Transferred to Norfolk, VA for instruction in special landing boats

May 12, 1942

Arrives in Norfolk VA for instruction in special landing boats

May 20, 1942

Reports aboard **USS Thomas Stone (AP-59)** (formerly the SS President Van Buren) in Norfolk

June 5, 1942

Temporary assignment to **Higgins Industries Boat Operators and Marine Engine Maintenance School**, New Orleans, LA - Received instruction in boat engines, boat repair & boat maintenance

Sept. 18, 1942

Returns to Norfolk receiving station - **USS Thomas Stone** departs with troops for Europe - reassigned to Receiving Station, Norfolk, VA

January 22, 1943

Captain's Mast - Drunk & Unfit for Duty while serving with boat crew - warned, restored to duty

February 16, 1943

Transferred to **Camp Bradford, VA** for amphibious assault boat training & repair

April 28, 1943

Captain's Mast disciplinary hearing - lying on bunk at 1100 - 16 hrs. extra duty

May 10, 1943

Captain's Mast disciplinary hearing - late for duty - 16 hrs. extra duty

Sept. 1, 1943

Transferred to amphibious training base **Ft. Pierce, FL**. Trained in weapons, first aid, communications & beach assault tactics

Oct. 10 1943

Assigned to the **6th Naval Beach Battalion** at Ft. Pierce, FL. Promoted to rate MoMM2.

Naval Beach Battalions had 4 skill sets: Medical, Demolition, Communications & Mechanics.

Trained to manage beach area during Amphibious. Assaults and port management immediately thereafter.

Supplies brought in – wounded taken out.

Oct. 28, 1943

Captain's Mast disciplinary hearing this day - AWOL from 1200 to 1350 (1hr. 50 min.) on Oct. 28th

Confined to brig for 5 days Bread & Water by C.O. "E.C. Carusi", LtCdr

December, 1943

Sixth Naval Beach Battalion sails for Europe - Bob on SS Mauritania - others on Queen Mary
SS Mauritania rammed by oiler in NY harbor, repaired & set sail next day

January 1944

6th Naval Beach Battalion arrives in Wales, U.K. - continues assault training

March 25, 1944

6th Naval Beach battalion arrives at US Naval Amphibious Assault Base 415, Salcombe, Devon UK

April 14, 1944

Bob extends enlistment - assigned to USNAAB Plymouth, Devon, England - staging & training for assault in Salcombe UK

May 19, 1944

Transferred to **US Naval Advanced Amphibious Base #11**, Poole, Dorset, UK

May 28, 1944

Assigned to **USS Dorothea L. Dix (AP-67)** for invasion: Ship has 24 landing craft on deck & Ernest Hemingway also on board - Departs Portsmouth June 5th for Normandy with Temporary Transport Div. 97

June 6, 1944

6th Naval Beach Battalion lands in first waves at Omaha Beach Easy Red assigned as follows:

- * 1st Infantry (Big Red One)
- * 5th Engineer Special Brigade
- * 37th Engineer Combat Battalion
- * 16th Regimental Combat Team
- *6th Naval Beach Battalion

Bob disembarks USS Dorothea L. Dix (APA-67) - lands at H + 1 hour (7:30) on Omaha Beach D-day. (6thNBB had 3 Companies A,B,C - each Co. had 3 platoons: A-1,2,3, B-4,5,6 - C-7,8,9. Platoon Leader was the Beachmaster.) Bob is part of Salvage Group 4 and lands on the Easy Red Sector of Omaha Beach. He is wearing an army uniform and helmet and carrying a rifle.

6th Naval Beach Battalion remains on Omaha beach managing incoming troops/supplies & thousands of outgoing wounded. Bob is 21 yrs. old

June 27, 1944

Some members 6th Naval Beach Battalion return to England on **LST-59**

July 16, 1944

Bob is re-Assigned to **US Naval Advanced Amphibious Base #11** - Poole, Dorset, England but remained on Omaha beach conducting Salvage operations with Salvage Group 4 - Photo

Sept. 1, 1944

Bob's Unit returns from Omaha Beach, assigned to **USNAAB #416** Dartmouth, Devon, UK – Repair Division. Works in shops repairing barges and other damaged craft - living quarters in Royal Navy College, Dartmouth.

April 1 1945

Advanced in rate to MoMM1c - continues working in repair shops

April 25, 1945

Transferred to **USNARB Vicarage**, Plymouth, UK, assigned to "**Drew 4, Unit E-6(A)**" (Drews were units ready to establish overseas harbor facilities) – Drew Unit sailed to Oostende Belgium

Early May 1945

Bob's Unit travels by truck from Belgium through the Netherlands to Bremerhaven Germany a journey which takes 28 days. They stop in Bremen Germany on route.

Germany Surrenders May 8th

May 13, 1945

Drew 4 recommissioned June 1 as **USN Advanced Base Bremerhaven, Germany** which consisted of an advance base to manage activity in Germany's ports & rivers, a salvage group, a Construction Battalion Unit, and a fifty-bed dispensary. The Europa was not there when they arrived.

August 28, 1945

Bob transits back to US on liberty ship **SS Calvin Coolidge**

Japan Surrenders Sept. 12th

Sept. 14, 1945

60 days leave upon return to New York. Bob returns to home town, Mason City, IA Meets Lois Moffett (future wife) in Iowa while on leave.

Nov. 24, 1945

Reports to USN Receiving San Francisco, CA

Dec. 8, 1945

Reports aboard **USS Eldorado (AGC-11)**

Flagship for Amphibious Command Pacific Fleet – in San Francisco –

Depart S.F. Dec. 9 arrives **Pearl Harbor** Dec. 16th

Dept. P.H Dec 28, arrive San Diego Jan 3

Numerous trips between San Diego, San Francisco & Pearl Harbor

August 1946

USS Eldorado arrives in San Diego

Bob off on 30 days leave, Bob marries Lois Moffett in Nashua, IA

Returns to USS Eldorado, base housing, remain in San Diego until Eldorado leaves for Philadelphia -

Bob transfers to San Francisco awaiting discharge from active service

Jan. 19 to Feb 7th 1947

Transferred to **USS Rolette (AKA-99)** in San Francisco Reserve Fleet for temporary duty prior to discharge

April 14, 1947

Discharged from active duty

Returns to Iowa

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