



**NAVAL ORDER OF THE UNITED STATES
NEW YORK COMMANDERY**

**Monday, 01 APRIL 2019
Reception at 11:30am - Luncheon at Noon**

**Racquet & Tennis Club
370 Park Avenue (at 52nd Street)
New York City**

“We Called Ourselves Rocketboatmen”

By William H. Palmer Jr

We Called Ourselves Rocketboatmen: The Untold Stories of the Top-Secret LSC(S) Rocket Boat Missions of World War II at Sicily, Normandy (Omaha and Utah Beaches), and Southern France.

D-Day, June 6, 1944 - a day never to be forgotten. More than 156,000 troops crossed the English Channel from England to Normandy, making it the largest seaborne invasion in history. Leading the pre-invasion ashore were the brave, but little known, rocketboatmen, as they called themselves. Their job, as the first close up Naval offense, was to soften up the German beach defenses with 48 rockets, machine gunnery, and smoke screening, preparing the way for the LCVF infantrymen.

Through private diary entries and firsthand accounts, many read here for the first time, the unfolding of the earliest events leading up to the invasion is told in vivid and unforgettable detail. In choppy seas, oftentimes like sitting ducks in the water, these young men manned their landing craft approached the beaches at exactly 6:00 A.M. - half an hour before H - hour - unleashed their barrage of forty-eight rockets, twelve boats at Omaha, twelve at Utah Beach, lighting up the coastline like a Fourth of July grand finale. Several boats actually beached at Omaha and Utah under shell and bombardment and crossfire sustaining casualties, eliminating German coastline pill boxes.

William H. Palmer Jr lives in Washingtonville NY.

Finally our LCS(S) Rocket Boat Stories are told! Yogi Berra, Seaman; 2c

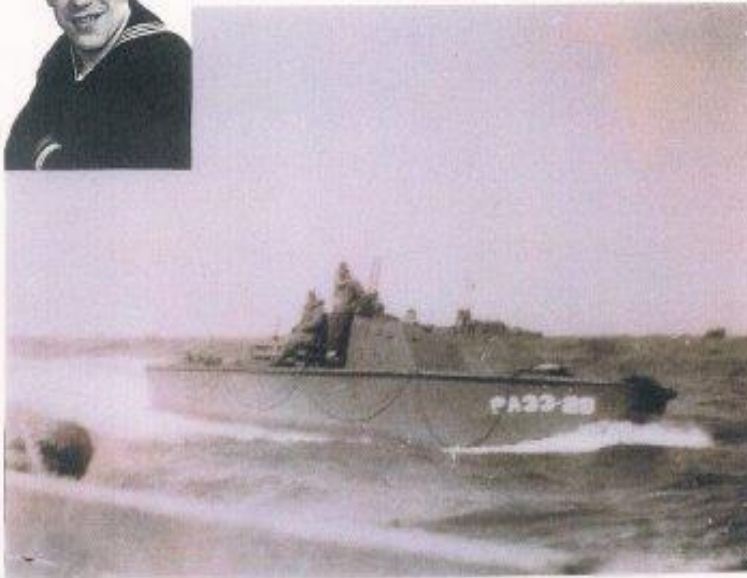
We Called Ourselves Rocketboatmen

The Untold Stories of the Top-Secret LSC(S) Rocket Boat Missions of World War II
at Sicily, Normandy (Omaha and Utah Beaches), and Southern France



with **Yogi Berra!** Pgs. 69-71

This is one of our USS Bayfield Rocket Boat at Normandy, Yogi Berra S2c



By William Hi. Palmer Jr.

Ensign Albert M. Low
whose LCS(S) Rocket Boat
Mission Preceded 1st Wave
of troops at Utah Beach
Purple Heart/Silver Star;
Invasion of Southern France



New Top Secret LCS(S) Rocket Boat – from Attack Transport U.S.S. Bayfield PA33

Seaman sitting on 24 Rockets port side behind gunner with twin 50 cal. Picture taken of LCS(S) Rocket Boat while patrolling off Omaha Beach, circa June 8th, 1944 by Ensign William H. Palmer of Task Force K; Dispatch Boats of Force "O"; Omaha Beach.

"ROCKET BOAT OFFICERS OF OMAHA AND UTAH BEACHES"

LCS(S) Rocket Boat Officers whose mission preceded 1st Wave at Omaha Beach

Ensigns, Robert Cannon, Herman Vorel, Edwin Lemkin, Nicholas Zuras

Ensign Lemuel C. Laney
LCS(S) Mission Preceded
1st wave at Utah Beach



Ensign William H. Palmer
USS Ancon – D-Day
Flagship of Omaha Beach
Communications – Force "O"
Whose naval orders, Crew lists,
boat pics made this story possible

