
U.S. Navy Service of

Allen Johnson, WWII

July 20, 1942

Voluntarily enlisted

Basic training &
Diesel mechanic schools

February 1943

Atlantic Theater
Landing Ship Tank US LST-337



Awarded 3 Bronze Stars for:

July 1943

Invasion of Sicily, Italy

September 1943

Salerno Landings, Italy

June 1944

D-Day Omaha Beach,
Normandy, France

December 2, 1944

US LST-337 retired from service

Spring 1945

Pacific Theater
Submarine Chaser USS PC-466



January 3, 1945

Married Helen Bennett while
home between deployments

September 2, 1945

Present at Tokyo Bay
for Japanese surrender

October 21, 1945

Honorable discharge



U.S. Navy Service of Allen Johnson, WWII

- U.S. enters WWII 12/8/1941, after bombing at Pearl Harbor
- Voluntarily enlisted in the U.S. Navy on 7/20/42 in Chicago, IL, at age 20.

Naval Training and Rating

- Boot Camp: U.S. Naval Training Station, Great Lakes, IL
- Diesel Schools: University of Missouri and Detroit Naval Training School
- Specialty: MOMM2 (Mechanist's Mate, Motor, Second Class), trained to operate, maintain, and repair diesel propulsion systems

Overseas Stations in the United Kingdom:

- USNAB Falmouth, England
- USNAB Milford Haven, Wales – advanced base support and staging for convoy and amphibious operations

Landing Ship Tank US LST-337 (February 1943 - December 1944)

- Amphibious vessel featuring a bow door and ramp that delivered tanks, vehicles, and troops directly onto beaches under fire. Also became a makeshift hospital ferrying the wounded back to England.
 - Engine room crews could not see the battle directly but felt shell impact through the hull
 - Engine noise was constant, and ear protection was minimal
 - Service on the front lines meant enduring long stretches of tension, interrupted by bursts of intense danger
 - Long watches (often 4 hours on, 8 hours off) rotated between machinery operation, maintenance, troubleshooting, and improvising repairs with limited spare parts
 - Hot, cramped berthing compartments shared with dozens of other enlisted men
 - Meals were quick, and showers were rare—especially before or after landings
- **Awards & Major Battles**
 - Amphibious Force Insignia
 - American Area Campaign Ribbon
 - European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Ribbon with 3 Bronze Stars for:
 - *Invasion of Sicily, Italy (July 1943)
 - Kept engines running steadily while maneuvering under enemy air attack
 - Assisted with damage control when ship took fire
 - *Salerno Landings, Italy (September 1943)
 - Worked in the engine room during bombardment; risk of fire, flooding, or loss of propulsion was constant
 - The ship suffered 90 casualties; assisted in helping the wounded afterward
 - *D-Day, Omaha Beach, Normandy, France (June 1944)
 - Endured intense naval bombardment and return fire from German coastal defenses

Transfer from Atlantic to Pacific Theater (between September and December 1944)

- Traveled by troopship from England to U.S. East Coast
- Cross-country troop train to Shoemaker, CA. Time at home, married Helen Bennett January 3, 1945.
- Ship transport across the Pacific via Hawaii and the Philippines to Tokyo Bay, Japan
- Germany surrendered 5/7/1945, Victory in Europe Day

Patrol Craft USS PC-466 Submarine Chaser (late 1944 - June 1945)

- Operated close to the enemy, with constant threat of sudden torpedo or gunfire
- Rapid acceleration during depth charge runs caused the ship to shudder violently
- Engine rooms were even hotter and more cramped than on an LST, with constant vibration
- Smaller crew (~65 men) meant more responsibility per sailor, with sudden battle stations calls common
- Liberty (time ashore) was rare; most time was spent at sea on patrols
- Present in Tokyo Bay for the Japanese surrender on 9/2/1945, ensuring navigational control

Honorable discharge 10/21/1945, at Shoemaker, CA, completing 3 years, 3 months, and 2 days of service

World Wars I & II Grandfathers

Imagine adding all the brothers, uncles, nephews, and cousins....



WWII Army
John Mason Custer Jr
1918-1988

Grandfather



WWII Navy
Dates of Service 7/20/1942 - 10/21/1945
Allen Johnson
1922-1998

Grandfather

WWI Navy
John Mason Custer Sr
1894-1936

Great-grandfather

Civil War

2nd great-grandfather

Son
George Hugh Custer
1869-1945
Calvary

3rd great-grandfathers

Anothony Bennett
1830-1899

Father
John Custer, Sr
1848-1917
Plus 11 years additional service

Frederick Church
1823-1896

4th great-grandfathers

Andrew Erickson
1799-1864
Killed in Battle

Grandfather
Abraham Custer, Sr
1805-1861
Killed in Battle of
Fredericksburg along
with son Abraham Jr.

Grandfather
Hugh Mason
1817-1868
Calvary

War of 1812

4th great-grandfather

John Church, MD
1791-1846

5th great-grandfather

Lewis Norton
1790-1874

Lt Aaron Paddock
1773-1860

Corp Zebulon Wallace
1787-1759

7th great-grandfather

Lt. Miles Merwin
1720-1786

Revolutionary War

Chester Benjamin
1752-1830

5th great-grandfathers

Johann Matsinger
1754-1806

Son
John Custer, Sr
1759-1824

Pvt Richard Maxwell
1776-1850

Son
Caleb Barton Jr
1750-1812
Killed in Battle

Father
Paul Custer
1738-1800

6th great-grandfathers

Son
David Paddock Jr
1734-1794

John Purviance III
1743-1823

Lexington Minute Men
John Billings
1725-1813

James Carothers III
1737-1813

Samuel Erickson Sr
1732-1788

Son
Stephen Norton Jr
1756-1843

Father
Caleb Barton Sr
1725-1819

7th great-grandfather

Father
Capt Stephen Norton Sr
1724-1808

Father
David Paddock Sr
1705-1772

Stephen Baker Jr
1735-1825

Jonas Frost
1725-1805