

Alvin C. Lopinot

U.S. Navy LST-895 (Landing ship Tank)



Alvin C. Lopinot
U.S. Navy
Invasion Of Okinawa

I am a native of Belleville, Illinois and was born September 10, 1922. On February 17, 1942, I was inducted into the U. S. Navy at Peoria, Illinois. After 8 weeks of boot camp at Great lakes, I trained for another 6 weeks as a Hospital Corpsman followed by 9 months at Chicago Navy Pier. Next, I was sent to Portsmouth, Virginia Naval Station for 3 more months of medical training and another 3 months of amphibious training at Camp Bradford, Virginia.

In December, 1944, I was assigned to LST 895 (Landing Ship Tank). The ship was 328 feet long and carried 8 to 10 officers and about 100 enlisted men. We sailed down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to New Orleans. Then we sailed to Peal Harbor, Guam and Okinawa. I was involved in one of the bloodiest battles of the South Pacific. The battle for Okinawa began on April 1, 1945 and was in full swing when LST 895 arrived on April 27. Con-

siderable time was spent at General Quarters manning guns and other stations because of suicide boats and kamikaze planes in the area. Okinawa was taken and the battle ended on June 22 after 82 days. LST 895 then headed in a convoy for the invasion of Iheha Shima about 40 miles north of Okinawa. The first wave of Marines went ashore at 10:45 a.m. on June 3rd. My ship shuttled back and forth to Okinawa and then headed for the Philippines in a convoy of 35 LST's.

While we were at sea the United States dropped the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in early August, 1945. Japan surrendered on August 15 and signed the formal surrender September 2, 1945. Our ship shuttled supplies and personnel between the Philippines, Okinawa, Yokohama, Saipan and Guam. I spent 15 months on LST 895. My ship performed occupation duty in the Far East until med-September, 1945. It was decommissioned on August 17, 1946.

I received an honorable discharge from the Navy at St. Louis, Missouri with the rank of Pharmacist Mate First Class (PhM1/C). This photo was taken at Great Lakes in 1943. My children ordered an engraved brick and it is already in place at the WW II Illinois Veterans Memorial. Thank you all for the work you are doing to honor WW II veterans. It is greatly appreciated.

Al Lopinot
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