

Clarence H. Renfro

U.S. Navy
USS Dixie



Clarence Henry Renfro
U.S. Navy
WWII

Clarence Renfro was born January 15, 1922 at Williamsville, Illinois, the son of Thomas J. and Marie Bozarth Renfro. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy on October 15, 1941 in St. Louis, Missouri. Clarence served in the Pacific Theater of Operations in six campaigns. As Coxswain, his first ship was the USS Dixie, stationed at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. He then served aboard the USS Monssen and on the USS Rochambeau during World War II.

The USS Dixie was at Pearl Harbor during the Japanese attack on December 7, 1941. The Dixie tended destroyers and other ships of the Pacific fleet. The Dixie was present at the battle for the Solomon Islands in November 1942 and at the battle for Okinawa.

Clarence served on the USS Monssen, which was commissioned in March 1941 and assigned to escort the aircraft carrier, USS Hornet in April 1942. The Monssen was in the Doolittle Raid in April 1942

and the Hornet was lost in battle. The Monssen went on to serve in the battle of Midway in June 1942 and in the campaign to hold Guadalcanal. The ship was attacked by Japanese destroyer gunfire, abandoned, burned and sank at sea.

Clarence Renfro was next assigned to the USS Rochambeau, a battle ship in the US Navy fleet based at Tulagi in the Solomon Islands. President John F. Kennedy arrived there on the Rochambeau in April 1943 and took command of PT 109.

Clarence Henry Renfro was discharged from the Navy on September 12, 1944 at Great Lakes, Illinois receiving an honorable discharge. He married Helen Glynn on June 5, 1948. They had 2 sons, Lawrence and Jerry and a daughter, Jo Ann. He and his family lived in Springfield until his death on October 31, 1964. He is buried at Camp Butler National Cemetery near Springfield.

Clarence Henry Renfro
Springfield, Illinois
Submitted by his daughter
Jo Ann Oetken