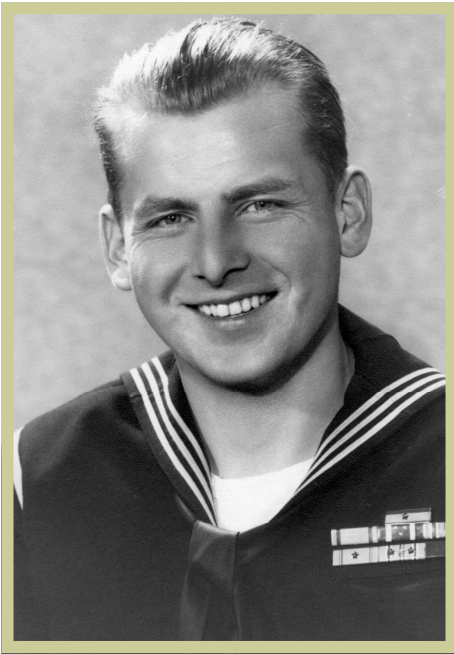


Joseph W. Scheretz Jr.

U.S. Navy
USS Houston



Joseph W. Schertz, Jr.
US Navy
USS Houston

Joseph W. Schertz, Jr. of Oak Park Illinois entered the US Navy in August 1941. He was a member of the crew of the USS Houston. In March 1942, the Houston was involved in the Battle of the Java Sea and was sunk in Sunda Strait. Joe swam through the strong current of the Sunda Straights and came ashore in Java where he was captured by the Japanese army in Java. Joe spent 3 1/2 years as a POW at camps including Serang, Batavia Bicycle camp, and Changi Prison Camp in Singapore. He was among the prisoners who were forced into slave labor by the Japanese to build the Bridge over the River Kwai for the Burma Railway (also called the Burma Death railway). He was liberated by the Allied forces in September, 1945.

Submitted by:
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Worthington, OH
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