

Elmer Townsend

U.S. Navy
USS Maryland



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Elmer Townsend joined the United States Navy at the age of 18 and served for 19 months during World War II. He was sent to San Diego, California and then assigned to the USS Maryland. Elmer achieved the rank of Seaman 1/C and received the Asiatic Pacific Medal and the WW II Victory Medal.

While stationed at Pearl Harbor, Elmer remembers waking in the morning and seeing the USS Arizona in the harbor with more than 1100 men who had been trapped in her hull during the Japanese attack on December 7, 1941.

Elmer Townsend
Auburn, Illinois