



West Seneca Answers the Call to Arms Residents in World War II



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: O'BRIEN

MATTHEW T.

Address: 23 DWYER STREET

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Unit / Squadron:

COMPANY "L", GROUP 9, 3RD REGIMENT, 3466TH ORDNANCE COMPANY, 195TH ORDNANCE BATTALION

Medals / Citations:

EUROPEAN-AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN CAMPAIGN MEDAL 2 BATTLE STARS

WORLD WAR II VICTORY MEDAL

Theater of Operations / Assignment:

EUROPEAN THEATER

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Matthew T. O'Brien was sworn into the Navy at 8:10am on Tuesday, 27 July 1943 at the Fire Hall Located at Indian Church Road and Union Road in the hamlet of Gardenville

Base Assignments:

Camp Reynolds, Pennsylvania - Formerly known as Camp Shenango, Camp Reynolds was a World War II Military Personnel Replacement Depot located on what is now Transfer, Pennsylvania in Northwestern Pennsylvania / The mission of the camp was to receive, process, and forward both officers and enlisted men

Miscellaneous:

The U.S. Army Ordnance Corps mission was to support the development, production, acquisition, and sustainment of weapon systems, ammunition, missiles, electronics, and ground mobility material during World War II to provide combat power to the U.S. Army

The European-African-Middle Eastern (EAME) Campaign Medal was a military award of the United States Armed Forces which was first created on 6 November 1942 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt / The medal was intended to recognize those military service members who had performed military duty in the European Theater (to include North Africa and the Middle East) and was awarded for any service performed between 7 December 1941 and 2 March 1946 / The European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal was awarded as a service ribbon throughout the entire Second World War

Battle (Combat) Stars were presented to military personnel who were engaged in specific battles in combat under circumstances involving grave danger of death or serious bodily injury from enemy action



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The World War II Victory Medal was first issued as a service ribbon referred to as the "Victory Ribbon" / By 1946, a full medal had been established which was referred to as the World War II Victory Medal / The medal commemorates military service during World War II and is awarded to any member of the United States military, including members of the armed forces of the Government of the Philippine Islands, who served on active duty, or as a reservist, between 7 December 1941 and 31 December 1946

Name: OETINGER

ROY

G.

Address:

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PVT

Unit / Squadron:

COMPANY "A", 30TH BATTALION, 8TH REGIMENT, P.P.C. (PATROL CRAFT - CONTROL)

Medals / Citations:

Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Private

Base Assignments:

Fort McClellan, Alabama - Fort McClellan, originally Camp McClellan, was a United States Army post located adjacent to the city of Anniston, Alabama / During World War II, it was one of the largest U.S. Army installations, training an estimated half-million troops / Camp was named in honor of Major General George B. McClellan, General-in-Chief of the United States Army 1861-1862, and Governor of New Jersey 1878-1881

Miscellaneous:

Army Patrol Craft were communications ships in the South West Pacific theater of World War II that provided radio relay services and acted as command posts for forward elements ashore



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: OFINOWICZ

MICHAEL

Address: 2424 TRANSIT ROAD

Service Branch:

Rank:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Michael Ofinowicz was sworn into military service at 8:10am on Tuesday, 27 July 1943 at the Fire Hall Located at Indian Church Road and Union Road in the hamlet of Gardenville

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: OHRT

RAYMOND

W.

Address:

Service Branch: ARMY - AIR FORCE

Rank:

Unit / Squadron:

1ST TROOP CARRIER COMMAND

Medals / Citations:

Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Raymond W. Ohrt was 41 years of age when he enlisted / The age bracket for enlisting in the service dropped from 44 to 38 years old and Ohrt enlisted two days later / He was called "Pop" while stationed in Miami, Florida

Base Assignments:

Miami, Florida - From 1942 to 1945 Miami Beach played a significant role in WWII / Nearly 500,000 men, including matinee-idol Clark Gable, took over 300 hotels and buildings for housing and training headquarters under the Army Air Forces Technical Training Command / By the time the war ended, one-fourth of all Army Air Force officers and one-fifth of the Air Corps' enlisted men had been trained in "the most beautiful boot camp in America" - Miami Beach

Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma - The field is named in honor of comedian and legendary cowboy Will Rogers, an Oklahoma native, and holds the distinction of being named after a person who died in an airplane crash / Rogers died in 1935 with aviator Wiley Post when their small airplane crashed in northern Alaska / During World War II, Will Rogers Field was a major training facility for the United States Army Air Forces; many fighter and bomber units were activated and received initial training there

Greeley, Colorado - Greeley housed a Prisoner-of-War camp comprised of German and Austrian prisoners

Bowman Field, Kentucky - Field was named for Abram H. Bowman, who was drawn to aviation by the interest generated during World War I / During World War II the facility became known as "Air Base City" when a bomber squadron moved in and more than 1,600 recruits underwent basic training in a three-month period / The United States Army Air Forces' school for flight surgeons, medical technicians, and flight nurses also called Bowman Field home

Miscellaneous:

The primary mission of the 1st Troop Carrier Command was theater troop and logistics transport training / Equipped largely with C-47 Skytrain and later C-46 Commando aircraft, its units acted as a specialized training



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organization in the United States during the first part of World War II / With the activation of the I Troop Carrier Command, the Army Air Forces established the troop carrier mission as one of the four combat missions of the Army Air Forces - bombardment, pursuit or fighter, reconnaissance and troop carrier / Twenty-eight troop carrier groups were activated for training and combat service overseas / In 1944 four additional groups, designated "combat cargo groups," were activated with a similar mission but with fewer support personnel and crews not trained for paratroop operations / Troop carrier squadrons were formed for assignment to three composite ("air commando") groups in the war against Japan / Two were established to support British special troops in Burma and the third assigned to the Fifth Air Force in the Southwest Pacific.



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: OLIVADOTI
BARNARD

Address: 5 DOSTER PLACE

Service Branch: NAVY **Rank:** A.M. 1/C

Unit / Squadron:
USS HORNET (CV-8), DIVISION V-5

Medals / Citations:

Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Aviation Metalsmith First-Class

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

An Aviation Metalsmith repaired and maintained airplanes and aircraft parts other than engines and ordnance

USS Hornet CV-8, the seventh ship to carry the name Hornet, was a Yorktown-class aircraft carrier / The Doolittle Raid on Tokyo was launched from the USS Hornet and participated in the Battle of Midway / The Hornet aided in sinking the heavy cruiser Mikuma and badly damaging the heavy cruiser Mogami / During the Battle of Santa Cruz, the USS Hornet was struck by three bombs and two torpedoes / On fire and dead in the water, Hornet's crew began a massive damage control operation / In an effort to save Hornet, the carrier was taken under tow by the heavy cruiser USS Northampton / Only making five knots, the two ships came under attack from Japanese aircraft and Hornet was hit by another torpedo / Unable to save the carrier, Captain Charles P. Mason ordered the crew to abandon ship / The USS Hornet was commissioned on 20 October 1941 and struck on 13 January 1943



West Seneca Answers the Call to Arms Residents in World War II



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: OLIVATE

BERNARD

Address:

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: A.M. 1/C

Unit / Squadron:

PATROL SQUAD 55, PATROL SQUAD 74, C.A.S.U. 6 (CARRIER AIRCRAFT SERVICE UNIT)

USS HORNET

USS BUNKER HILL

Medals / Citations:

EUROPEAN-AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN CAMPAIGN MEDAL

1 BATTLE STAR

AMERICAN CAMPAIGN MEDAL

AMERICAN DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

WORLD WAR II VICTORY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

Theater of Operations / Assignment:

PACIFIC THEATER

Service Notes:

Aviation Metalsmith First-Class

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

An Aviation Metalsmith repaired and maintained airplanes and aircraft parts other than engines and ordnance

The USS Hornet (CV-8) a Yorktown-class aircraft carrier / During World War II in the Pacific Theater, she launched the Doolittle Raid on Tokyo and participated in the Battle of Midway and the Buin-Faisi-Tonolai Raid / In the Solomon Islands campaign she was involved in the capture and defense of Guadalcanal and the Battle of the Santa Cruz Islands where on 26 October 1942, she was irreparably damaged and sunk / Hornet was in service for a year and six days and was the last US fleet carrier ever sunk by enemy fire / For these actions, she was awarded four service stars, a citation for the Doolittle Raid in 1995, and her Torpedo Squadron 8 received a Presidential Unit Citation for extraordinary heroism for the Battle of Midway / The USS Hornet was commissioned on 20 October 1941 and struck on 13 January 1943

USS Bunker Hill (CV/CVA/CVS-17, AVT-9) was one of 24 Essex-class aircraft carriers built during World War II and named for the Battle of Bunker Hill / The Bunker Hill served in several campaigns in the Pacific Theater of Operations, including the Battle of the Philippine Sea, the Battle of Iwo Jima, and the battle for Okinawa / She earned eleven battle stars and a Presidential Unit Citation / She was badly damaged in May 1945 by Japanese kamikaze attacks, with the loss of hundreds of her crew, becoming one of the most heavily damaged carriers to



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survive the war / Commissioned on 24 May 1943 and decommissioned on 9 January 1947

The European-African-Middle Eastern (EAME) Campaign Medal was a military award of the United States Armed Forces which was first created on 6 November 1942 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt / The medal was intended to recognize those military service members who had performed military duty in the European Theater (to include North Africa and the Middle East) and was awarded for any service performed between 7 December 1941 and 2 March 1946 / The European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal was awarded as a service ribbon throughout the entire Second World War

Battle (Combat) Stars were presented to military personnel who were engaged in specific battles in combat under circumstances involving grave danger of death or serious bodily injury from enemy action

The American Campaign Medal/Ribbon (also known as the (ATO) American Theater of Operations Ribbon) was a military award of the United States Armed Forces which was first created on November 6, 1942 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt / The ribbon was intended to recognize those military service members who had performed military duty in the American Theater of Operations during World War II / The requirements for the American Campaign Ribbon were for service within the American Theater between 7 December 1941 and 2 March 1946 / The American Campaign Medal was issued as a service ribbon only for the entirety of the Second World War, and was only made a full-sized medal in 1947

The American Defense Service Medal (also referred to as the Pre-Pearl Harbor Ribbon) was a military award of the United States Armed Forces intended to recognize those military service members who had performed military duty between 8 September 1939 and 7 December 1941

The World War II Victory Medal was first issued as a service ribbon referred to as the "Victory Ribbon" / By 1946, a full medal had been established which was referred to as the World War II Victory Medal / The medal commemorates military service during World War II and is awarded to any member of the United States military, including members of the armed forces of the Government of the Philippine Islands, who served on active duty, or as a reservist, between 7 December 1941 and 31 December 1946

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The Navy Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The medal is awarded to any active-duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **OLSCHKE**

F.

H.

Address:

Service Branch:

Rank:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

(NO OTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE)



West Seneca Answers the Call to Arms Residents in World War II



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **OLSON**

WALTER

A.

Address: 3395 CLINTON STREET

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: A.S.

Unit / Squadron:

NAVAL V-12-A

Medals / Citations:

Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Apprentice Seaman

Base Assignments:

University of Rochester (Rochester, New York) - The V-12 Navy College Training Program was designed to supplement the force of commissioned officers in the United States Navy during World War II.

Miscellaneous:

An Apprentice Seaman was knowledgeable in naval drill duties, knots, steering and signaling / Also stood watch and handled gunnery duties

The purpose of the V-12 Navy College Training Program was to grant bachelor's degrees to future officers drawn from both the U.S. Navy and the Marine Corps / Once they completed their baccalaureate program, the next step toward obtaining a Navy commission was to attend a U.S. Naval Reserve Midshipmen's School where the future officer was required to complete the V-7 program, a short course of four months, including one month spent in indoctrination school / Graduates from the midshipmen schools were commissioned as ensigns in the U.S. Naval Reserve and the majority entered into active duty with the U.S. fleet / The V-12 Navy College Training Program was initiated in 1943 to meet both the immediate and long-range needs for commissioned officers to man ships, fly planes and command troops called to duty in World War II / Between 1 July 1943, and 30 June 1946, more than 125,000 men were enrolled in the V-12 program in 131 colleges and universities in the United States



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **O'NEIL**

B.

W.

Address:

Service Branch:

Rank:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

(NO OTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE)



West Seneca Answers the Call to Arms Residents in World War II



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **ORLANDO**
CARMEN

Address:

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Unit / Squadron:

106TH FIELD ARTILLERY SERVICE COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

ASIATIC-PACIFIC CAMPAIGN RIBBON

AMERICAN DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT - CARBINE

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

Theater of Operations / Assignment:

PACIFIC THEATER

Service Notes:

Private First-Class

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

The Field Artillery is the branch of the army whose mission is to support the infantry by artillery fire, destroying, neutralizing or suppressing the enemy elements that threaten land forces / Increased mobility; fire direction centers, which enhanced their firepower; aerial observation; and radio communications increased the efficiency and accuracy to support ground forces

The Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Ribbon (Medal) was a military awarded to any member of the United States Military who served in the Pacific Theater from 1941 to 1945

The American Defense Service Medal (also referred to as the Pre-Pearl Harbor Ribbon) was a military award of the United States Armed Forces intended to recognize those military service members who had performed military duty between 8 September 1939 and 7 December 1941

A Marksmanship Badge is a military badge of the United States Armed Forces presented to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course or high placement in an official marksmanship competition. The U.S. Military's Marksmanship Qualification Badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): Expert, Sharpshooter, and Marksman

The M1 carbine was a lightweight, easy to use .30 carbine semi-automatic carbine that was a standard firearm for the U.S. military during World War II / The M1 carbine gained generally high praise for its small size, light



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weight and firepower, especially by those troops who were unable to use a full-size rifle as their primary weapon / A total of over 6.1 million M1 carbines of various models was manufactured, making it the most produced small arm for the American military during World War II

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The Navy Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The medal is awarded to any active-duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **ORTMAN**

CHARLES J.

Address: 54 FLOHR AVENUE

Service Branch: ARMY - AIR FORCE **Rank:** SGT

Unit / Squadron:

6TH AIRDROME SQUADRON, 9TH TACTICAL AIR FORCE

Medals / Citations:

EUROPEAN-AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN CAMPAIGN MEDAL	4 BATTLE STARS
WORLD WAR II VICTORY MEDAL	MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: MARKSMAN
GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL	

Theater of Operations / Assignment:

EUROPEAN THEATER

Service Notes:

Sergeant Charles J. Ortman served in England, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany, earning 4 Battle Stars for combat action

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

The 6th Airdrome trained soldiers in aircraft and engine repair, radio maintenance and photo lab work

The 9th Tactical Air Force transferred to England in October, 1943 and participated in the Normandy Beach invasion and the rest of the European continent until the VE-Day

The European-African-Middle Eastern (EAME) Campaign Medal was a military award of the United States Armed Forces which was first created on 6 November 1942 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt / The medal was intended to recognize those military service members who had performed military duty in the European Theater (to include North Africa and the Middle East) and was awarded for any service performed between 7 December 1941 and 2 March 1946 / The European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal was awarded as a service ribbon throughout the entire Second World War. Bronze service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

Battle (Combat) Stars were presented to military personnel who were engaged in specific battles in combat under circumstances involving grave danger of death or serious bodily injury from enemy action

The World War II Victory Medal was first issued as a service ribbon referred to as the "Victory Ribbon" / By 1946,



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a full medal had been established which was referred to as the World War II Victory Medal / The medal commemorates military service during World War II and is awarded to any member of the United States military, including members of the armed forces of the Government of the Philippine Islands, who served on active duty, or as a reservist, between 7 December 1941 and 31 December 1946

A Marksmanship Badge is a military badge of the United States Armed Forces presented to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course or high placement in an official marksmanship competition / The U.S. Military's Marksmanship Qualification Badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): Expert, Sharpshooter, and Marksman

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **ORTMAN**

EDWARD

C.

Address:

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PVT

Unit / Squadron:

COMPANY "D", 105TH BATTALION, 76TH REGIMENT, I.R.T.C. (INFANTRY REPLACEMENT TRAINING CENTER)

Medals / Citations:

Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Private

Base Assignments:

Camp J. T. Robinson, Arkansas - Camp Joseph T. Robinson, located in North Little Rock, was originally established as Camp Pike in 1917, named for General Zebulon Montgomery Pike, famed U.S. Army officer and explorer, who was killed in action 27 Apr 1813, during the War of 1812 / Renamed for U.S. Senator Joseph Taylor Robinson of Arkansas in 1937 / With the start of World War II, the post took on a new role as a replacement training center / Initially, there were two centers, one for basic training and the other for medics / In 1944, the two were combined into the Infantry Replacement Training Center (IRTC) / In addition to its role in training soldiers, Camp Robinson also housed a large German prisoner of war facility, with a capacity of 4,000 prisoners

Miscellaneous:

Infantry refers to soldiers moving and fighting on foot, armed with hand weapons such as rifles, machine guns, grenades, mortars, etc.

At an Infantry Replacement Training Center (I.R.T.C.), new recruits received an intensive 17 week training course prior to be sent into combat / Replacements were trained in preparation for the effort to retake Europe from Nazi Germany



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **ORTMAN**

ROBERT J.

Address: 54 FLOHR AVENUE

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPL

Unit / Squadron:

1879TH ENGINEERING BATTALION, HEADQUARTERS SUPPLY COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

ASIATIC-PACIFIC CAMPAIGN RIBBON

Theater of Operations / Assignment:

PACIFIC THEATER

Service Notes:

Corporal

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Engineering Battalions performed many engineering tasks, including demolitions, obstacle emplacement, fortification, and light bridge building / Engineer general service regiments and battalions performed construction, repair, and maintenance duties of all kinds behind the front lines / When needed, combat engineers also could act as infantry

The Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Ribbon (Medal) was a military awarded to any member of the United States Military who served in the Pacific Theater from 1941 to 1945



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Name: **OSGOOD**

EDMOND

R.

Address:

Service Branch:

Rank:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

(NO OTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE)



West Seneca Answers the Call to Arms Residents in World War II



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **OSGOOD**

RAYMOND

W.

Address:

Service Branch:

Rank:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

(NO OTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE)



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: OTT

ALFRED

M.

Address:

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PVT

Unit / Squadron:

83RD GENERAL HOSPITAL, ARMY MEDICAL DETACHMENT

92ND SIGNAL BATTALION, COMPANY "A"

Medals / Citations:

EUROPEAN-AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN CAMPAIGN MEDAL

AMERICAN CAMPAIGN MEDAL

WORLD WAR II VICTORY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

Theater of Operations / Assignment:

NORTH AFRICAN THEATER / EUROPEAN THEATER

Service Notes:

Private

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

In the years from 30 June 1943 to 30 June 1945 the Medical Department trained 189 General Hospitals, 74 Field Hospitals and 61 Station Hospitals for overseas service / In 1945, when the peak of overseas shipments occurred, the War Department sent 81 General, 35 Field, and 8 Station Hospitals to the various Theaters of Operations (European, African and Asiatic-Pacific) / By May 1945, when the peak in Hospital beds overseas was reached, there were 335,000 fixed beds and about 87,000 mobile beds in all Theaters

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The American Campaign Medal/Ribbon (also known as the (ATO) American Theater of Operations Ribbon) was a military award of the United States Armed Forces which was first created on November 6, 1942 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt / The ribbon was intended to recognize those military service members who had performed military duty in the American Theater of Operations during World War II / The requirements for the American Campaign Ribbon were for service within the American Theater between 7 December 1941 and 2



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March 1946 / The American Campaign Medal was issued as a service ribbon only for the entirety of the Second World War, and was only made a full-sized medal in 1947

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The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The Navy Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The medal is awarded to any active-duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: OTTEN

ALBERT

W.

Address: 83 EDSON STREET

Service Branch: MERCHANT MARINE **Rank:** ENSIGN

Unit / Squadron:

U. S. MARITIME BASE

Medals / Citations:

Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Ensign

Base Assignments:

St. Petersburg, Florida - Thousands of pilots and seaman received their training at facilities located in St. Petersburg

Miscellaneous:

All Ensigns became branch officers or division officers in their first operational assignments, responsible for leading a group of petty officers and enlisted men in one of the ship's, squadrons, team's or other organization's branches and divisions (for example, engineering, navigation, communications, sensors or weapons aboard a warship, or similar functions in the operations, aircraft maintenance, administrative or safety/NATOPS departments in a flying squadron) while at the same time receiving on-the-job training in leadership, naval systems, programs, and policies from higher-ranking officers and from senior enlisted men and women in the Chief Petty Officer rates

In 1938, when a second World War was imminent, President Franklin D. Roosevelt realized that winning the war would require many ships to carry war supplies to the fronts / He ordered mass-production of Liberty ships and established the U.S. Maritime Service (USMS) to train the men needed to operate these ships / The Liberty ships, a vast new fleet for the war effort, were built in a national "Virtual Shipyard" that harnessed skills, resources, and facilities all across America. From 1941 to 1945, the United States increased its shipbuilding capacity by more than 1,200% and produced over 2,700 Liberty Ships, 800 Victory Vessels, 320 T-2 Tankers, and various other commercial and naval auxiliary vessels for a total of 5,200 ships constructed for the period