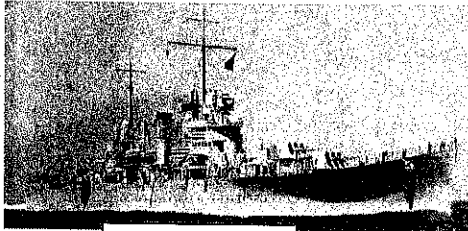


Dewey Bengry Tippett

Aviation Ordnance man First Class, U. S. Navy, WWII

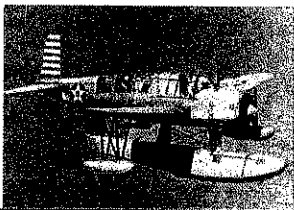
Dewey Bengry Tippett was born in Ishpeming, Michigan on January 24, 1921, where he became a lifelong resident after his military service, marrying Ellen Korpi Tippett and raising four children.



USS Boise CL 47

In June of 1940, at the age of 18, he joined the U.S. Navy. After completing "boot Camp", as Seaman 1st class he was assigned to the light cruiser U.S.S. Boise (CL-47) stationed in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. He was aboard the Boise while the ship was patrolling with the Asiatic Fleet in the Philippines when the attack on Pearl Harbor took place in December of 1941.

Subsequently Dewey was reassigned from the deck division to the air group as an Aviation Ordnanceman aboard the Boise. Aviation ordnancemen are aircraft armament (weapons) specialists in charge of storing, servicing, inspecting and handling of all types of weapons and ammunition carried on Navy aircraft. In this role he served as an air combat crewman on one of the four (4), Vought OS2U Kingfisher observation aircraft carried aboard the ship.



Vought Kingfisher OS2U

The Kingfisher had a crew of two, and its mission was primarily observation duty but also participated in occasional bombing operations. The aircraft were launched from the ship by catapult, and recovery took place by crane, after it would land in the water alongside the Boise. Dewey participated in several enemy observation flights during his tenure as well as several bombing sorties while aboard the Boise. He eventually accumulated a total of 112.2 flight hours.

Dewey and his shipmates participated in 10 campaigns in the S.W. Pacific, including the battle of Cape Esperance in October, 1942, during the Guadalcanal Campaign. The Boise was responsible for sinking 6 Japanese combat ships in that short 30-minute battle. The Boise was severely damaged by Japanese shelling, with the loss of 107 crewmembers during the battle. The Boise managed to recover and continue on to the Philadelphia Naval shipyard for repairs.

Upon completion of repairs the Boise was assigned to serve in the European – African theater where it assisted in the invasion of Italy in 1943 prior to returning to the S. W. Pacific. Dewey was honorably discharged from active duty in June of 1946 as an Aviation Ordnance man 1st class but continued to serve in the Naval Reserves until February of 1952. Dewey passed away on December 11, 2011, just 4 days after the 70th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.



Dewey Bengry Tippett

DEWEY BENGRY TIPPETT

Ishpeming, Michigan

Aviation Ordnanceman 1st Class

USS Boise CL 47

US NAVY World War II