



## Joseph Martin Westhues

**Dates of service:** January 1 1945 to February 12, 1946

**Rank & role:** Fireman, First Class, SV6USNR

**Unit:** Served on USS New Orleans

**Medals received:** Possible purple heart - he was wounded but was only off duty for a short time.

**Familial link to William & Theresa:** 3rd generation through Wm G & Emma

### **Notable actions/deployments/stories:**

1945 Pacific deployment; Hawaii, Marshall Islands, Okinawa, Layte, Subic Bay, Manilla Bay, Korea, China, Japan, Guam

### **Other:**

Joe kept a diary for 1945. The New Orleans was pretty much all over the Pacific-- Hawaii, Marshall Islands, Okinawa,

(Cont'd)

Leyte Gulf, Subic Bay, Manilla, Korea, China, Japan and Guam--during 1945. They arrived at Okinawa on April 23, 1945 and spent 59 days on the firing line. Some days they were so tired that it was with great effort to put one foot in front of the other. He told of planes being shot down as close of 100 yards off their ship as well as ships being hit all around them.

In July they had liberty on Grande Island. Grande Isle was torn up, 61 miles from Manilla and the Bay was full of sunken Japanese ships and some American ships as well.

He also made a note that on July 27--70 Sailors and 80 New Orleans Marines left for the West Indies to inspect a Japanese Hospital ship thought to be carrying ammo. When they went aboard they found 1682 Japanese. Those that had bandages on were fake. They found 88mm shells. All boxes marked 'supplies' were filled with ammunition. The name of the ship was Tackibana Marie. Almost a floating arsenal. The ship was to take the Japanese infantry garrison to Singapore. New Orleans Marines arrived back August 22.

In late August to early October they were in Korea and China looking for mines in the Yellow Sea. Found many mines. Arrived at San Francisco on December 8, 1945 for repairs. On December 18, 1945 they were underway for Guam. His diary ends on December 31.

I had heard of some of these events over the years but when it involves someone you know especially one of your family members it means more and becomes more real.

# Joseph Martin Westhues

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after February 17, 1897 and on or before December 31, 1921)

SERIAL NUMBER T. 352 I. NAME (Print) JOSEPH MARTIN WESTHUES ORDER NUMBER T. 10,097

2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) R.F.D. #1 GLASGOW, HOWARD, MISSOURI  
(Number and street) (Town, township, village, or city) (County) (State)

3. MAILING ADDRESS 625 N. TOPEKA WICHITA, KANSAS  
(Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same insert word same)

4. TELEPHONE Glasgow, Missouri 5. AGE IN YEARS 20 6. PLACE OF BIRTH Glasgow  
(Exchange) (Number) (Date of Birth) (Town or city) (County) (State or country)

7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WOULD KNOW YOUR ADDRESS W. G. Westhues, R.F.D. 1, Glasgow, Missouri  
(Exchange) (Number) (Date) (Town or city) (County) (State or country)

8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS Beuchercraft

9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS RR 4 Wichita Sedg. Co. Kansas  
(Number and street or R.F.D. number) (Town) (County) (State)

I ASSEVERATE THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.

D. S. S. FORM 1 (Revised 1-1-42) ☆ GPO 16-21639-2 J. M. Westhues  
(Signature)

