

I SERVED ABOARD THE USS SOUTH DAKOTA FOR 3 YEARS FROM 2/20/42 THRU 4/45 IN THE NAVIGATION DIVISION. I DID MY 3 YEARS ON THE BRIDGE IN THE CONNING TOWER ON THE WHEEL. I DID MY 4 HOURS ON 80FF ON THE WHEEL. MY BATTLE STATION WAS ON THE WHEEL AND ALL THE FUELING WHILE AT SEA.

I WENT ABOARD AT 17 YEARS OLD. I WAS ONE OF THE HELMSMEN AT THE BATTLE OF SANTA CRUZ ISLAND WHEN CAPTAIN GATCH WAS HIT AND BADLY WOUNDED BY SHRAPNEL. THE SHRAPNEL SEVERED HIS MAIN ARTERY IN HIS NECK AND ALL THE LIGIMENTS TO HIS ARM. HE NEVER RECOVERED THE USE OF THAT ARM.

CHIEF QUARtermaster ZIGLER AND FIRST CLASS QUARtermaster NOVAK PULLED HIM FROM THE CATWALK. EACH ONE HELD AN END OF THE BLOOD VESSEL UNTIL THE SHIPS SURGEON ARRIVED TO CLAMP THEM OFF. THESE TWO SAILORS WERE GIVEN THE CREDIT FOR SAVING HIS LIFE.

CLINTON COULBOURN