

I can still remember sleeping in the old “Wellsback” building at the New York Shipbuilding Corp, of Camden NJ prior to the commissioning of the USS South Dakota BB-57.

After my transfer from the BB57 in New York on Feb of 1943, I continued my navy career on a “sub-chaser 1000 in gulf of Mexico and Atlantic escorting convoys and a further transfer to the USS Stokes AKA 68 in invasions of Iwo Jima and Okinawa with occupation of Japan.

Then back to the good old USA to be assigned to a LST-509 on the east coast. Finished my 6th year enlistment back where I started, at the Philadelphia Ship yard.

Donald C. Guelich  
Plankowner