



USS Barnes (CVE-20)



USS George Clymer (APA-27)



USS General Ernst (AP-133)

Walter William Toth
Sergeant U.S. Marine Corps
23 July 1942 – 19 October 1945

Walter was born on 20 November 1924 in Allentown, Pennsylvania, where he attended grades 1-8 at Roosevelt School and 9th grade at Central Junior High School. He graduated from Allentown High School in 1942. Walter enlisted and was inducted in the Marine Corps in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on 23 July 1942. He underwent recruit training at Parris Island, South Carolina, and in September 1942 was ordered to Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, North Carolina, where he spent two months awaiting reassignment to Jacksonville Naval Air Station in Florida, where he attended Aviation Machinist's Mate School. In May 1943 he reported to El Centro Marine Air Station in California, where he performed maintenance on Marine Corps F4U fighter aircraft until February 1944. He then was assigned to 1st Marine Air Wing, Marine Air Group 12, Service Maintenance Squadron 12, and left Treasure Island, California, aboard Carrier Escort *USS Barnes (CVE-20)* for New Hebrides. He arrived at Efate Island in February 1944, and two months later was transported aboard Attack Transport *USS George Clymer (APA-27)* to an airbase on Emirau Island, a staging point for air attacks on the Japanese at Rabaul. In January 1945, Walter sailed aboard Liberty Ship *Jack London*, arriving a month later at Leyte and Samar Harbor and disembarked at Mindoro Island in the Philippines where he participated in the invasion of Mindoro. He was then transported aboard Tank Landing Ship (*LST-753*) to Zamboanga on Mindanao Island where he also participated in the invasion of Mindanao. While serving with Squadron 12 in the South Pacific, Walter continued to overhaul engines for F4Us. In May 1945 Walter flew to Manus in the Admiralty Islands by DC-3 aircraft where he embarked on Troop Transport *USS General O.H. Ernst (AP-133)* for return to Treasure Island the same month. He was then assigned to Headquarters Squadron, Marine Air Group 53, in Eagle Mountain Lake, Texas, until his discharge there on 19 October 1945. Walter returned to Allentown and went to work for Bethlehem Steel Company in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, as a Power House Helper. The following month he entered Muhlenberg College in Allentown and, while working part time for Koch Brothers Clothiers in Allentown as a Salesman, earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics in June 1949. Walter married **Mary Ertl** (born 29 October 1925) on 28 August 1948 in Northampton, Pennsylvania. Mary had served in the Cadet Nurse Corps from September 1944 to June 1947 at Elizabeth General Hospital & Dispensary at Elizabeth, New Jersey. After graduating from Muhlenberg, Walter left Koch Brothers to start a 42-year career with Lehigh Structural Steel Company and its subsidiary companies in Allentown. He worked for the company from September 1949 to April 1991, successively, in the Billing Department; the Drafting Department; as Systems Administrator, Controller; Treasurer; and ultimately Vice President for Finance and Treasurer. After graduating from Muhlenberg, Walter and Mary lived in Northampton. In November 1952, they moved to Allentown until May 1994, when they relocated to and settled in Lower Macungie Township, Pennsylvania. During the period September 1971 to December 1973, Walter attended evening classes in Accounting, Economics, and Business Law at Moravian College in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Walter became active in civic and charitable organizations, serving as a former president of both the Allentown and Alton Park Lions Clubs; a member of the Allentown Lions Club; past member of the Board and Endowment Foundation of the Association for the Blind; Treasurer and Trustee for the former Kift-Mullen Foundation; and former Director of Lehigh-Lancaster, Inc., of Lancaster, South Carolina. Walter and Mary had two children; **Sandra Marie** and **Richard William**. Walter's parents, both of whom emigrated from Heiligen Kreuz, Austria, in 1921, were **Frank Toth** (25 August 1898 – 7 May 1973) and **Theresa Fiedler** (11 February 1899 – 3 January 1969). Walter's brother, **Harold Francis Toth**, served in the Army during World War II.