



MARITIME PATROL AND RECONNAISSANCE FORCE HALL OF HONOR

AOC Carl Edward Creamer

United States Navy (Ret.)

On 03 September 1940, *Carl Edward Creamer* joined the U.S. Navy in Twin Falls, Idaho. As a Seaman Apprentice he attended Boot Camp and Ordnance "A" School in San Diego, California. He received orders to Patrol Squadron 41 (VP-41) of Seattle, WA in March of 1941. VP-41 soon received PBY Catalina aircraft and deployed to Dutch Harbor, Alaska. While on patrol in June of 1942, AOM3 Creamer's PBY-5A and crew were shot down by Japanese fighters. He was one of three survivors of the nine-man crew. They continued to stay afloat in the Bering Sea for four hours, where they were picked up by the Japanese cruiser Takao, and taken as prisoners of war to Ofuna, Japan. (His father, Forrest Creamer, had been a Prisoner of War of the Germans in WWI.)

In March of 1953, he was bestowed the honor of Temporary Presidential Appointment to Gunner, Warrant Officer Pay Grade One. He transferred to USS Cabot CVL 28, Philadelphia Naval Ship Yard where he acted as the Aircraft Ordnance and Training Officer. At VP-41's 50th and final squadron reunion in 1999, he met and shook the hand of the Japanese Zero pilot that shot him and the crew of his PBY-5A from the sky June 3, 1942.

His duty stations include; NAS Sand Point, Seattle Washington, Fleet Composite Squadron Five, NAS Moffet, California, Heavy Attack Squadron Unit One, Norfolk, Fleet Aircraft Squadron fifty-one, Attack squadron 106 and 196, and Fleet Reserve.

He continued to volunteer to speak at ceremonies and recognitions of Ex-Prisoners of War and MIA's. AOC Carl Edward Creamer has two sons; both retired U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officers. He and they share a combined U.S. Navy affiliation of 66 years between 1940 and 1995.

There have been books written about his capture and interment in Japan.

"We Stole to Live," by Joseph Rust Brown

"The Thousand-Mile War: WWII in the Aleutians," by Brian Garfield

"War Comes to Alaska: The Dutch Harbor Attack," by Norman Rouke