



American Campaign
Asiatic-Pacific Campaign
World War II Victory
Medals



USS Edward C. Daly (DE-17)



EM Rating

Warren Benjamin Backenstoe
Electrician's Mate 1/C U.S. Navy
31 August 1942 – 28 November 1945

Warren was born on 5 September 1921 on the family farm in Minesite in Lower Macungie Township, Pennsylvania. He attended grades 1-8 at Hartzel's School in Minesite, and in 1940 he graduated from Allentown High School in Allentown, Pennsylvania. In September 1940, Warren enrolled in Troy Business College in Troy, New York. He completed one year there, going to night school while working as an Accountant for Borden Company in Troy. He enlisted in the Navy as a Seaman Recruit in August 1942. He attended recruit training at Newport, Rhode Island, followed by 16 weeks advanced training at Electrical School in Newport for the Electrician's Mate (EM) rating. He was then sent to Naval Base Norfolk, Virginia, for two weeks special electrical training for destroyer escorts. Warren then reported aboard destroyer escort *USS Edward C. Daly (DE-17)* which was under construction at Mare Island, California. She was commissioned on 3 April 1943, and assigned to the Pacific Fleet. She sailed from San Diego on 22 May 1943 and arrived at her home port at Honolulu, Hawaii, on 28 May. She was then assigned convoy escort duty between Pearl Harbor and the west coast. In August 1943, *USS Edward C. Daly* sailed for Western Pacific waters around Ellis and Gilbert Islands, with stops at Fiji, Samoa, Funafuti, and the Christmas Atoll. In late October 1943, she returned to Mare Island for repairs. While there, Warren took leave and married **Veronica Ernestine Irish** (born 11 December 1921) of Lake George, New York, on 2 November 1943 in San Francisco. Twenty-five days later, *USS Edward C. Daly* got underway for Alaskan waters, escorting a convoy of 40 merchant ships from Seattle, Washington, to the Aleutian Islands. On the way they encountered heavy seas that broke over half of the merchant ships in two, sending them to the bottom. After reaching Alaska, *USS Edward C. Daly* was assigned weather-reporting duties and plane guard duties for rescue of downed pilots in waters between the Aleutians and Japan for U.S. planes flying the great circle route from Attu, Alaska, to strike at the Japanese naval base at Paramushiro in the Kuril Islands. On 19 January 1945, *USS Edward C. Daly* was recalled to Mare Island for drydock overhaul. After completing overhaul, she sailed for Eniwetok, Iwo Jima, Saipan, and the Philippines where she was assigned air-sea rescue patrol duty for downed planes. She continued this patrol in waters between Iwo Jima and Saipan after the war for planes supporting the occupation of Japan. Her last sea escort duty was to accompany the *USS Pennsylvania (BB-38)*, a battleship which had been seriously damaged by a Japanese aerial torpedo off Okinawa on 12 August 1945, back to Honolulu. She then returned to Guam where Warren and other crew members were replaced. Warren returned by troop ship to San Francisco on 19 October 1945. He was discharged as an EM 1/C on 28 October 1945 in Shoemaker, California. He returned to Minesite and then enrolled in Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, graduating in 1949 with a Bachelor of Science Degree with a major in Accounting. He then went to work for Lehigh Portland Cement Company for 37 years as a Market Analyst, first in Allentown (1950-1952), then in New York City (1952-1957), and again in Allentown (1957-1987) after which he retired. Warren and Veronica lived in Allentown until 1960, when they bought an old house in Hereford Township, Berks County. They lived there until 2002, when they moved to Wernersville, Pennsylvania. Warren's parents were **Clarence Berden Backenstoe** (25 November 1900 – 28 July 1982) and **Minerva Eva Mae Litzenberger** (27 July 1902 – 7 July 1973).