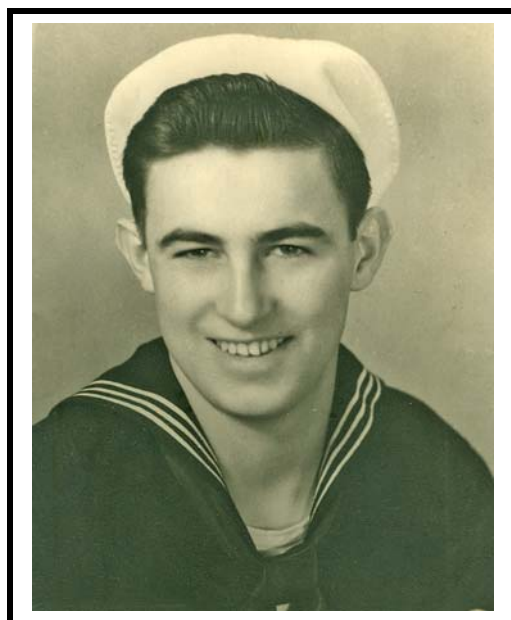




USS Finch (DE-328)



USS Los Angeles (CA-135)



**Arthur Darius Stoneback Jr.
Machinist Mate 3/C U.S. Navy
7 February 1944 – 5 June 1946**



LST-315



Arthur (foreground of left line) watching German prisoners entering the tank deck of *LST-315* to be taken back to England



Arthur was born on 30 January 1927 in Mountainville, Pennsylvania, in Lehigh County. He attended grades 1-8 at Wilson School in Allentown, Pennsylvania, and graduated from Allentown High School in 1944. He enlisted in the Navy in Allentown as a Seaman Recruit on 7 February 1944. He was sent to U.S. Naval Training Command at Sampson, New York, for five weeks recruit training, after which he sailed on the *Queen Mary* to Londonderry, Ireland, where he reported aboard Landing Ship Tank *LST-315* on 10 May 1944. Arthur was assigned to the engine room as a Deck Hand. On 6 June 1944, *LST-315* was part of the armada of over 5000 ships that participated in the invasion of Normandy. After D-Day she made another 24 trips ferrying additional troops, equipment, and supplies from England to Utah and Omaha Beaches, Normandy. Arthur left *LST-315* on 20 December 1944. After a 30-day leave he was sent to Fort Pierce, Florida, an amphibious training base, where he was assigned as an Engineer for the Diesel engine on a Landing Craft (LCVP). His next assignment was at Point Loma, California, where he underwent radar training for six weeks before reporting aboard Heavy Cruiser *USS Los Angeles (CA-135)* in Los Angeles, California, on 1 December 1945. *USS Los Angeles* was homeported in Hong Kong, and left Los Angeles for operations in the Western Pacific. While Arthur served aboard *USS Los Angeles*, he was responsible for the ship's steam heat and hydraulics, and worked in the ship's machine shop. *USS Los Angeles* was a flagship, and visited ports in China while he was aboard. Arthur left *USS Los Angeles* and boarded Destroyer Escort *USS Finch (DD-328)* in Hong Kong in early April 1946 for return to the States for discharge. On the way, *USS Finch* stopped at many ports, transited the Suez Canal, and continued on to Charleston, South Carolina, where Arthur debarked. He then went to Bainbridge, Maryland, where he was discharged on 5 June 1946 as a Machinist Mate 3/C. He was awarded the American Campaign, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign, European-African Middle Eastern Campaign, World War II Victory, and China Service Medals. After his discharge, Arthur initially returned to live in Allentown, and later lived in several places in Pennsylvania including Harrisburg, Scranton, Bethlehem, Allentown, and Lower Macungie Township before moving to Ft. Meyers, Florida, in January 1995, where he became active in church choirs and painting for Habitat for Humanity. In February 1948, Arthur went to work for Bell Telephone Company in the Allentown area until March 1982, when he joined AT&T Corporation as Manager, Customer Service, in Basking Ridge, New Jersey, until his retirement in June 1984. Arthur married twice: first **Marilyn Faye Necker** (8 Feb 1929 – Apr 1981) on 14 August 1948 and **Norma Lee Dale** (born 19 October 1931) on 25 June 1982. Arthur and Marilyn had two children: **Thomas Arthur**, and **Donna Lynn**. Arthur's parents were **Arthur Darius Stoneback Sr.** (19 March 1895 – 20 June 1972), who served in the Army during World War I, and **Estelle Alverta Neiser** (1 October 1902 – 20 November 1980). Arthur Jr.'s brother, **William Arthur Stoneback**, served in the Army during World War II.