



John Harvey Schaffer
Seaman U.S. Navy
31 July 1944 – 19 May 1948

John was born on 27 July 1927 in Chestnut Hill, Pennsylvania, in Lehigh County. He attended 1st grade at a one-room schoolhouse in Limeport, Pennsylvania, after which his family moved to Allentown, Pennsylvania, in 1933 and John continued his education there by attending grades 2-8 at Cleveland and Washington Elementary Schools, and grades 9-11 at Central High School. He left school in 1943 to work in the Shipping Department of the Blossom Shirt Factory in Allentown until entering the Navy on 31 July 1944 as a Seaman Recruit. He was then assigned to Naval Training Center, Sampson, New York, where he underwent recruit training and training as a Gunner's Mate before assignment to Attack Transport *USS Benson (AP-129)* in 1944. He served aboard *USS Benson* as a 20mm Gunner from 1944 to November 1945 in support of the Philippines, Okinawa, and Iwo Jima Campaigns and, after the end of the War, transporting released American Prisoners of War from the European Theater back to New York and from Marseilles, France, to the Philippine Islands for further transport back to the States. In November 1945, he transferred to Tank Landing Ship (*LST-1029*), serving aboard as a 20mm and 40mm Gunner in support of Occupation Forces in the Western Pacific, including the Philippines, Okinawa, Japan, and China until April 1946. He then was assigned to Landing Ship Medium *LSM-341* as a 20mm, 40mm, and 50mm Gunner while supporting the Occupation Forces in Korea. He served aboard *LSM-341* until April 1948, when he was assigned to Treasure Island Naval Base, San Francisco, California, for discharge as a Seaman 1/C. John returned to Allentown and went to work there for Western Electric Company as a Machinist until 1955, and then for Mack Truck Company as a Machinist and Assembly Man for 33 years from 1955 until 1987. John married **Jeanette Geris** (7 December 1930 – 8 June 1988) on 15 April 1949 in Blue Church in Lower Milford Township, Pennsylvania. They lived in Allentown until 1957, when they moved to Limeport. They had three children: **Jane Ann**, **John Thomas**, and **Jean**. John and Jeanette were later divorced. John married **Nancy Mae Morgan** (born 10 July 1936) in Allentown on 21 August 1987. John and Nancy then made their home on Trexlertown Road in Lower Macungie Township, Pennsylvania, where they settled. John's parents were **John Levine Schaffer** (August 1908 – January 1962) and **Evelyn S. Woodhead** (29 September 1909 – March 1996).



USS Benson (AP-129)



Tank Landing Ship



LSM-341