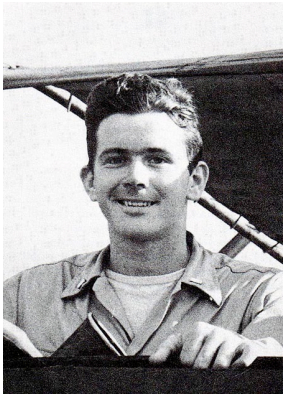
John C. "Jack" Crandall

Professor, Chair, Vice President
History
(1957-1985)

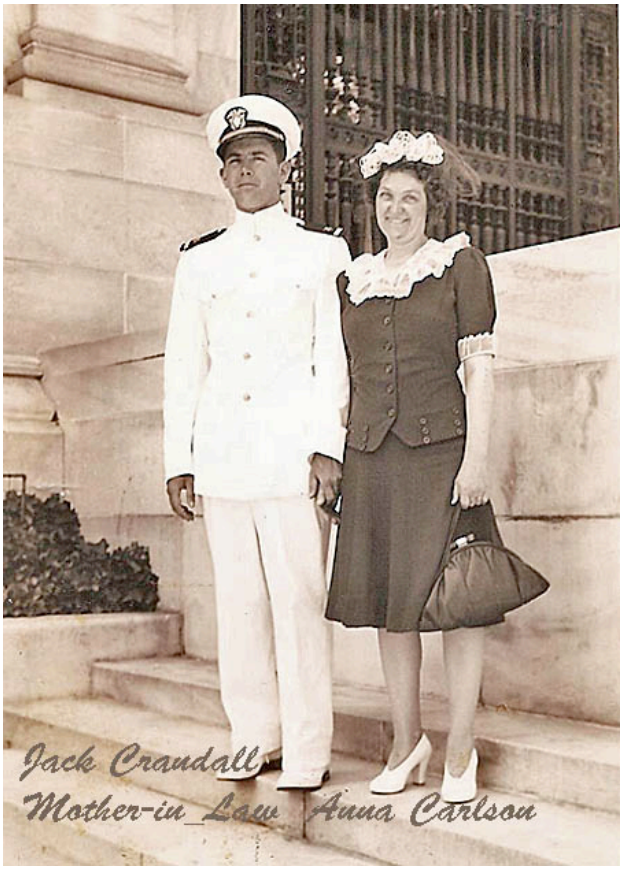


U. S. Navy
WWII
January 29, 1942 – December 1945

When Jack Crandall arrived in Norfolk to report for duty the place was just stopping-off place so it was not well maintained. In some litter he discovered a Time magazine and on the cover of it was a dead U. S. Marine washed up on a beach at Buna, New Guinea. This depressed him even though he did not yet know that Buna was to be his first combat duty destination. "As the production of naval officers had outrun the ship production" [My Life in Review: Have I Been Lucky or What" by John C. Crandall Ph.D., Peace Corps Press, 1997, as will be all quotes herein.], he spent most of his time waiting around for assignment and listening to lectures, mostly about amphibious ships. Then he moved on to "refresher" courses at the Solomons Island Base near the tip of Western Maryland's peninsula. From there he went to communications school at Camp Bradford, Virginia where Jill was able to join him for a while. According to Jack's story (referenced above), the waiting period ended in June 1943. Jack was picked to be part of a core crew on an LCI(L), Landing Craft Infantry Large, and went to a shipyard in New Jersey to ready and commission LCI 430 on which he served as Executive Officer. For the next few weeks they tested the ship and the crew in Chesapeake Bay.



Finally, on September 9, 1943 LCI 430 set sail on a tactical route arriving in Brisbane, Australia on November 19, 1943. Shortly thereafter LCI 430 reported for active duty off Buna with the Seventh Amphibious Force and for the next eight months participated, under the leadership of Vice



Admiral Daniel E. Barbey, in General MacArthur's "hedge-hopping, island-hopping campaign on and off the New Guinea coast.

LCI 430 was also involved preparations for and engagement in the Battle for Leyte Gulf in which a powerful Japanese Southern Force of battleships, cruisers and destroyers headed for San Pedro Bay was destroyed. One of Jack's stories is about LCI 430's miraculous retrieval of a soldier who had fallen overboard from a ship in the front of its column while they were moving towards Leyte Gulf. Jack's story includes: enduring a typhoon at sea; surviving an attack on LCI 430 by a kamikaze; observing many aerial battles and cheering when our pilots scored a "kill"; transporting soldiers to the beaches against mines and enemy fire; and observing and covering up from the explosions of ordinance around them and on the beaches.

For more information about the war time experiences of the late John C. Crandall, emeritus Professor and Vice President for Educational Services, check out his book referenced above and used to create this document, from the 's Drake Memorial Library where you will also find stories about Jack's experiences in his multiple roles at the College and even a reminder about the terrible Blizzard of 1966, among other events in his life.

