

Philip Botterbusch
WWII Mt Wolf Veteran

Phil left for Fort Meade, MD the day after high school graduation. He was transported from Fort Meade to Camp Shelby, MS to join the 69th Division for boot camp and training as a radio operator. After completing boot camp, Phil was transferred to California to join a newly formed group known as a JASCO UNIT (Joint Assault Signal Company). Here he was trained to make landing assaults by doing approximately 30 practice landings.

Having completed his landing assault training, Phil shipped out of San Francisco on July 28, 1944 and arrived in Oahu in the Hawaiian Islands on September 7, 1944. From there he was sent to Manus Island where he soon departed for Leyte in the Philippine Islands. He landed on Leyte on October 20, 1944. From Leyte, he departed for New Guinea bound for the invasion of Luzon. After securing Luzon, he was sent back to Leyte in order to prepare for an amphibious landing on Okinawa. In April of 1945, Phil participated in the battle of Okinawa, which was the last big battle of the War in the Pacific.

While serving in the Pacific, Phil was awarded the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with 2 bronze battle stars and the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with 4 bronze battle stars. A few years ago, he was also presented the Battle of Okinawa Medal in Memorial Day ceremonies in York, PA. While serving in the Pacific, Phil holds the distinction of capturing a Japanese soldier without using any weapon except a monkey wrench.

After securing Okinawa, he left to return to the United States on December 9 1945. He arrived in San Francisco on Christmas Day. He disembarked from his troop ship on December 27th and arrived at Fort Indiantown Gap on January 4, 1946. He was honorably discharged on January 7, 1946.

Phil is a Life Member of Susquehanna Post 2493 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, located in Mount Wolf, PA.