# USS LSM(R)-192 and John H. Mays – Navy Service Overview

Thanks for sharing the document, Steve. You hadnt sent this one before, so this is our first look at it. Here's what I can gather from your father's Notice of Separation from U.S. Naval Service, dated March 9, 1946:

Summary of Service: John H. Mays

- Service Number: 337 98 78

- Date of Enlistment: April 14, 1944

- Place of Enlistment: St. Louis, Missouri

- Date of Separation: March 9, 1946

- Rate at Discharge: S1c (Seaman First Class)

- Component: USNR (United States Naval Reserve)

#### Training and Service Details

- Naval Training: Naval Training Station, Farragut, Idaho; Radio School, Farragut
- Vessel: USS LSM(R)-192 Landing Ship Medium (Rocket), amphibious assault fire support vessel
- Special Qualifications: Radio Operator

### Honors & Awards:

- American Area Campaign Medal
- Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal
- World War II Victory Medal

The USS LSM(R)-192 was a rocket-equipped amphibious assault ship. As a radio operator, your dad was likely among the first to land, setting up critical communications dangerous work indeed.

## About the LSM(R)-192:

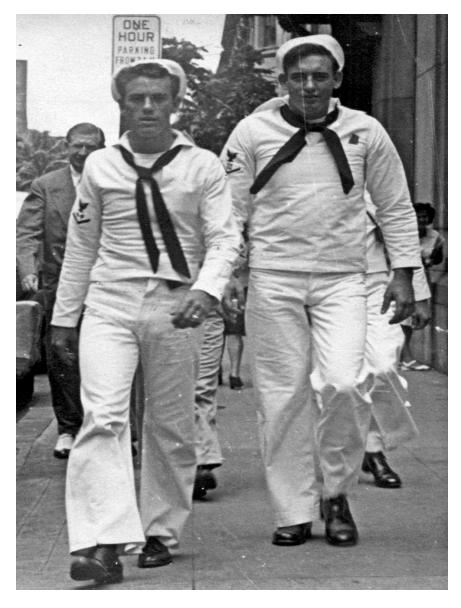
- The LSM(R)-192 belonged to the LSM(R)-188 classdesigned for close-in fire support for amphibious operations.
- Equipped with: 75 four-rail Mk. 36 rocket launchers, 30 six-rail Mk. 30 rocket launchers, 5"/38 gun, 40mm and 20mm AA guns.
- Served in the Pacific, including at Okinawa and le Shima. Participated in nighttime bombardment missions.
- Risky assignments included radar picket duty, despite being poorly equipped for anti-aircraft defense.
- The ship earned one battle star for World War II service.

Your dads role was essential and exposed him to frontline risks. As a radio operator, he coordinated communications during landing and fire support operationspossibly under fire.

### Additional Resources:

- U.S. Naval Academy Archives (WWII Ship Action Reports)
- Books: The U.S. Navys Interim LSM(R)s in World War II (Ron Mackay Jr.), 90 Day Naval Wonder (James M. Stewart)
- Photos and info: NavSource Naval History website (LSM(R)-192 section)
- Veteran communities: LSM-LSMR Association, Facebook WWII naval history groups

You can explore ship action reports, personal narratives, or contact veterans groups to learn more about your fathers service.



John H. Mays (left) in service dress whites, likely on liberty during WWII.



John H. Mays (center with bottle), celebrating with shipmates and friends in dress blues.