

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

Thanks for sharing the document, Steve. You hadn't 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 communicationsdangerous 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 Ie 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 dad's 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.*