

## Ensign Jacob Gunnlaugson

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Born: 12/13/1911  
on Island

Died:

Period of Service: WW II  
Merchant Marine  
Sources: Cemetery 013 29,  
B 10, JG, *Observer*  
interview

Like many Islanders, Jake Gunnlaugson sailed on the ore boats plying the Great Lakes. They became the transport boats during WWII. Jake was in the Naval Reserves and enlisted in the Merchant Marine when the war was in full bloom. He went to Officer's Training School at Fort Trumbull, New London, CT, and from there began transporting everything from troops to ammunition mainly on the West Coast. Jake said the Liberty ships could get into places where bigger ships could not. They travelled in convoys and were protected though enemy submarines were always in the vicinity. He remembers sadly all the dead young men lying on the beach. "They never had a chance." He also felt sorry for the troops in the hold in the tropical heat. They went through "a lot of typhoons."

Stationed on *Henry V. Alvarado*, and *US Chief Charlot*, both Liberty ships. He joined American Legion Post 402 in 1990.

Peter Gunnlaugsson was his father who was married to Sarah Einarsdottir. Jacob married June Jessen on 8/10/1933. Their children were John Keith born 1/25/1934; and Mary Gay born 12/5/1939. "Both my children married nice people" They have seven grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren, and 1 great, great grandchild. "They are all good people."

