

## Charles W. (Buzz) McDonald

Born 2/20/1922 on  
Island

Died: 2004

Period of Service: WW II  
Marine Corps  
Source: Cemetery 462, B10  
F 2a Monument, JG, Am  
*Leaion Scrapbook – box 17*

Drafted June 7, 1944 in Milwaukee.

Discharged May 3, 1946 Great Lakes, IL

Trained at Parris Island, SC. Platoon 30 5<sup>th</sup> BT Recruit Depot.

Stationed in Philadelphia, Norfolk, VA, Portsmouth, VA, and aboard *USS Oklahoma City* (CL91)

Served in the Pacific theater supporting occupation of Okinawa, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fleet operations in Japan

Sailed from Philadelphia, arriving Yokohama 8/30/1945.

Joined American Legion Post 402 in 1946.

He was Leland McDonald's brother. Parents were Dennis Bryan McDonald and Marie Christiansen (married 10/20/1917).

Married Jeannette Keating 8/18/1951 in Fond Du Lac.

He said he "was born in an upstairs room in my grandparents' home in Jackson Harbor. When my grandmother brought my big sister, Evelyn, up to see me, she asked, 'is that my Buzzer? That's how I got the nickname 'Buzz'." He started high school in 1936 in the lower part of the Detroit Harbor school. They had only one teacher, so when we were Freshmen and Sophmores the courses were taught in alternate years. Roland Koyen was my teacher the first two years, and Joe Jentz, the last two years. There was a tuition of \$50 a year, because it was a self-supporting school. I enjoyed the plays they had each year."

After graduation, he went sailing on the Great Lakes as a wheelsman, before being drafted into the Marine Corps. He was assigned to the *USS Oklahoma*. He said, "I was lucky to get this duty, because most of my group was sent to Iwo Jima.... We were the first American troops to land in Japan before the surrender was signed. We were taken on a tour of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, where we saw firsthand the destruction the atomic bomb caused."