

U.S.S. Marblehead (CL-12)

Marblehead Biography William Franklin Anders

If you have a photo of William Franklin Anders to contribute, please contact spwade@gmail.com

William was born on 19 APR 1921 in Detroit, Wayne County, MI to Maxwell Anders (1891-1949), a laborer in the construction industry who parents immigrated from Germany, and Emma M. Jones (1898-1978), a homemaker from Pennsylvania. The 4th-born of six children, William's siblings were: Maxwell W. (1916-1988), Darcus Rosemarie (1917-1996), Gladys Geraldine (1919-1992), Joseph Jordan (1927-2006), and Margaret Gloria Anne (1929-1978).

William appears to have worked as a maintenance man for a theatre company prior in 1939 but was unemployed as of the census taken on 14 APR 1940 which showed him as having an 8th grade education. He enlisted in the Navy on 9 SEP 1940 at Detroit and was issued service # 3115022. He was then shipped off to boot camp at the Great Lakes Naval Training School on the shores of Lake Michigan just north of Chicago. Following boot camp, he was transferred to the battleship *USS West Virginia (BB 48)* as an Apprentice Seaman (AS) on 15 NOV 1940 while the ship was at its home port, Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii. During his time aboard *West Virginia*, William advanced through the ranks rather quickly:

- 9 JAN 1941 promoted from AS to Seaman 2nd class (S2c)
- 8 MAR 1941 advanced from S2c to Fireman 3rd class (F3c)

On 21 AUG 1941 William transferred to the transport ship *USS Henderson* at Pearl Harbor for further forwarding to Asiatic Station, Manila for duty. Henderson departed Pearl Harbor for Guam the following day. After visiting, Guam, and Zamboanga, and Tu Tu Bay in the Southern Philippines, the *Henderson* reached Manila where, on 14 SEP 1941, William transferred to the *USS Marblehead (CL 12)*, which was affectionately referred to as *Marby* by her crew. While aboard, William continued to advance in grade – on 1 NOV 1941 promoted from F3c to Fireman 2nd class (F2c).

William would serve 2 ¼ years on *Marby*. The events of that period, which include the bombing of the ship on 4 FEB 1942, its subsequent escape to New York, and its wartime exploits in the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea, many of which William was involved with, are more fully described in [Marby's own biography](#) and in the book [Where Away – A Modern Odyssey](#).

Other than the trauma of seeing friends aboard the ship die or suffer badly from burns, William appears to have come through the action off Java unscathed, though the depth and duration of battle trauma is seldom clear. On 15 OCT 1942, her five-and-a-half-month overhaul complete, *Marby* sailed out of New York to rejoin the war effort, but William was no longer aboard.

On 29 DEC 1943, William was received aboard the *USS Bates (DE 68)* from a Naval Receiving Station at Hart's Island, NY. *Bates* was a Buckley-class destroyer escort that was named in honor of Ensign Edward M. Bates (1919-1941), who was killed aboard USS *Arizona* in the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. *Bates* reported to the Atlantic Fleet, and escorted convoys to and from the British Isles until MAY 1944, as part of Escort Division 19. She completed three round-trip crossings by MAY 1944.

On 31 MAY 1944 she arrived at Plymouth, England, in preparation for the invasion of Normandy. From 6 - 12 JUN 43, she provided fire support off the Normandy coast and she rescued 163 survivors of the destroyer *Meredith (DD-726)* which struck a mine and sank.¹

On 9 JAN 1944, William was transferred from the *Bates* to the Naval Receiving Station and he does not appear in ship muster rolls again. It is unclear when William was discharged from the Navy, but on 28 SEP 1947, William married Betty Jane Harrington (1929-1994), in Redford, MI, a Charter Township and

If you have a wedding or other photo of William and Betty Jane to contribute, please contact spwade@gmail.com

¹ [Wikipedia](#)



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suburb of Detroit which was so-named because of a nearby ford across the Rouge River which was used by Indians and settlers alike.

Betty Jane was born on 6 JAN 1929 in Detroit, MI to Arthur Irving Harrington (1890–1980), a maintenance man in an automobile factory, and homemaker Elizabeth B Frazer (1894–). Both parents were originally from New York. Betty Jane was the 4th-born of seven children. Her siblings were: Marguerite (1916-), Arthur Carlton (1918-1973), Richard (1924-), Homer A (1931-), Jean Ellen (1933-) and Joanne (1937-1994).

It is unclear what William did after WWII however, given his training as a Fireman in the Navy, he should have been able to land a job in the automobile and ancillary industries in the Detroit area.

William appears to have died on 31 DEC 1995 in Grayling, Crawford County, Michigan. Betty Jane passed away on 14 MAR 1996 in Caro, Tuscola County, Michigan, USA. It is unclear how many children the couple may have had.

William Franklin Anders is listed on page 234 of the book [Where Away – A Modern Odyssey](#).

Don't forget to read in [Marby's own biography](#).

Biography by Steve Wade, son of Frank V. Wade, BM2c, USS Marblehead 1939-1945, with help from the records of Ancestry.com, Wikipedia.com, Newspapers.com, and other Internet sources.

Corrections, additions and photos are welcomed by email to spwade@gmail.com.