

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

Marblehead Biography

Robert Douglas Page

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

Robert Douglas Page was born on 23 Mar 1920 Santa Clara, Santa Clara County, CA to Reginald Rix Page (1893-1981), an oil field worker and then fruit farmer in California, and finally a janitor at the University of Washington in Seattle, and Vernice Marcia Gibson (1892-1958), a homemaker. His parents married in 1917 and were from Santa Clara County, CA. Robert had a younger sister named Virginia Yvonne who worked at the Mare Island Navy Base during WWII where she met and married Kenneth Raymond Huffman.

Robert enlisted in the Navy on 9 DEC 1938 in San Francisco, CA. He was issued S# 3759235 did his basic training at Naval Training School, San Diego, CA.

Initially, Robert joined heavy cruiser *USS Northampton (CA-26)* on 8 APR 1939 as an Apprentice Seaman (AS), but this was only a temporary assignment with some initial shipboard training. The following day he was promoted to Seaman 2nd Class (S2c).



USS Northampton
Source: Wikipedia



USS Sicard
Source: Wikipedia

Robert was aboard *Northampton* a little more than a month before transferring on 13 MAY 1939 to *USS Sicard (DM-21)*, a Clemson Class Destroyer commissioned in 1920 and converted to a Tracy Class Light Minelayer in 1937. Robert remained aboard *USS Sicard (DM-21)* for seven months transferring on 13 DEC 1939 to veteran Asiatic Fleet transport ship *USS Henderson (AP-1)* for further transfer to the Asiatic Station for duty.

His first two ships mentioned above saw action early in WWII. *Sicard* was moored in Pearl Harbor when the Japanese attacked on 7 DEC 1942. Lightly armed, she returned anti-aircraft fire and sustained no damage or casualties. *Northampton* was at sea with Admiral William Halsey, Jr. in the *USS Enterprise* during the Japanese attack. Along with the *USS Salt Lake City*, *Northampton* struck Japanese positions at Wotje Atoll in early FEB 1942 damaging facilities ashore and sinking two enemy vessels. Unfortunately, at the end of 1942, *Northampton* was sunk by two Japanese torpedoes during the [Battle of Tassafaronga](#).

Robert saw none of that action, of course. The transport ship *Henderson* had deposited him in Shanghai, China where on 18 JAN 1940 he joined the [USS Marblehead \(CL-12\)](#), affectionately referred to as *Marby* by her crew. He would remain aboard *Marby* for nearly 4 ½ years. The events of that period, which include the bombing of the ship on 4 FEB 1942, its subsequent escape to New York, and *Marby's* wartime exploits in the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea, many of which Robert was party to, are more fully described in [Marby's own biography](#) and in the book [Where Away – A Modern Odyssey](#).



USS Shannon
Source: Wikipedia

In mid-44, in the run up to Operation Dragoon, the invasion of Southern France, on 1 JUL 1944 Robert, by then a Baker Second Class (Bkr2c), transferred off *Marby* to the Naval Training School, Norfolk, VA. He joined the *USS Shannon (DM-25)* on the date of her commissioning, 8 SEP 1944. He remained aboard *Shannon* for slightly more than a year transferring off on 17 NOV 1945.

The war was over by that time, but Robert continued to serve. Subsequent ships included the *USS Saint Croix (APA-231)* and the *USS Shangri La (CV-11)*, the latter of which he served on until at least 1 NOV 1947, after which his military record is unclear except for one record showing him enlisting in the U.S. Army on 7 Nov 1956 and serving until 17 Jun 1976.



USS Shangri-la
Source: Wikipedia



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Robert appears to have been married to a woman named Ann when in his 20s or 30s, but apparently she died, or they divorced. On 11 FEB 1961, in Los Angeles, CA, Robert married once more, this time to a Sally Ann Selleck in Los Angeles. They divorced on 31 AUG 1970. Robert was 56 years old when he married Ida Mae Orr in Bozeman, Gallatin County, MT, on 1 OCT 1976. Ida had previously been married to Kenneth McCarty. Robert does not appear to have had any children by these marriages.

Robert died at age 82 on 6 AUG 2002 in Great Falls, Cascade County, MT. Ida Mae, who was born in nearby Belt, MT on 31 May 1918, passed away on 28 FEB 2010 in Great Falls. They are buried side by side in

Sunset Hills Cemetery in Bozeman, MT.



Ida Mae Orr
Source: Ancestry.com
member glwaugh

Robert Douglas Page is listed on page 244
of the book [Where Away – A Modern Odyssey](#).

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

Biography by Steve Wade, son of Frank V. Wade, BM2c, USS Marblehead 1939-1945, with contributions from Ancestry.com members Bella7114 and glwaugh, and 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.