

Harold Shugar



One of our exciting Vet stories comes from Harold Shugar of Tarboro. He was a graduate of the Citadel and served as an officer in the Navy in WWII on an anti-submarine corvette. He later observed the Atom Bomb tests at Bikini atoll. His adventures continued as he served with Israel in the War of Independence in 1947 as a member of the Haganah. He fought with the people of Israel against the Arabs in Jerusalem with a gun crew manning an 81 mm mortar. Harold said that this was their heavy artillery and they used this to support attacks by the Jewish Forces. Later the UN voted to approve statehood for Israel and the Israelis found out that Harold was a naval officer and offered him a job. He relates:

“After the siege, the Israelis heard that I had been an American Naval Officer and requested me to join. I was curious and joined up. I was appointed gunnery officer of the “Eilat”. We shelled the Arab positions; one of the first offensive actions by a Jewish Navy since the days of King Solomon. It was interesting seeing the detonations. Off of Tel Aviv, an Egyptian Spitfire strafed us resulting in killed and wounded. When general quarters sounded, I stationed myself atop the pilothouse to direct the fire, and was totally exposed. During the strafing, bullets were hitting all around me, crew manning the two machine guns vanished. I still have a paint chip in a leg. After the first run, I descended to the bridge and manned the 20 mm gun from which the gunner had been killed. He was the single Christian on the ship. When the aircraft came around for a second run (a bad mistake on his part) I had him in my sights and knew that he was mine. Pulling the trigger, nothing happened. I could not get the gun operational, much to my everlasting disappointment. I later found a bullet from the aircraft in the magazine which had disabled the gun.”

Harold has a bunch of these stories and loves to tell them. He does have a Revelation that he likes to say like the Prophets of Old:

Curiosity and longevity in wartime don't go well together

Harold B Shugar lives in West Palm Beach Florida