

## M/Sgt Daniel Clarence Meader

Born 9/12/1920 in  
Haddonfield, NJ.

Died: 7/21/2005  
Racine, WI

Period of Service: WW II  
Marines  
Source: Cemetery 325, JG,  
son Ross Meader

Originally scheduled to go to Gunnery School in Norfolk, VA, his paperwork got mixed up with another sergeant similarly named who was scheduled to go to Metalsmith School in Chicago. Rather than redo the paperwork the men were simply sent to the other man's destination. This mixup caused a series of other events in Dan's life. Clarice Hagen from an Island family was studying nursing at St. Luke's Hospital in Chicago, and just wanted to "meet someone in a uniform." Her friend was dating a Marine, and fixed her up with Daniel on a blind date September 2, 1941, for a day at Riverview Amusement Park in Chicago. Dan had only been on one other blind date which was with a girl who had indulged in a bit too much garlic, and he was apprehensive of the blind date idea, but picked Clarice up after bolstering himself with a root beer at a corner drugstore. "It was love at first sight," according to Dan, and he kissed her on the third trip through the 'Tunnel of Love' as the crowd waiting at the end of the ride applauded.

On November 3, 1941, two months after the blind date, Dan asked Clarice to marry him. On November 8, Clarice got her ring. But then Dan was sent back to Quantico Marine Base, and a month later the Japs bombed Pearl Harbor. Dan's outfit had shipped out so he spent time working in metalsmith while waiting for another outfit to ship out with. Clarice continued her nursing studies. But they made plans to marry on November, 14, 1942. He was denied a pass by his master sergeant, but got his commanding officer to give him a 72 hour pass as long as he came back "with a marriage license as proof." He had to take a long train ride to Chicago, arriving at 11:00 AM, where a nervous Clarice was waiting. They rushed to the license bureau where they found, at 11:50, that their blood tests were incomplete. The hospital was six blocks away, the bureau closed at 12:30 since it was Saturday, and the race was on. An empty cab happened to show up, they jumped in for a dash to the hospital, got their blood tests, and found another cab for the race to the license bureau, where a big line had now formed. Time had about run out when a voice from a side door yelled out, "Soldier, do you plan to get married today?" Dan said, "Well, I hope so." And they were led to a back office where he filled out the necessary paperwork for them.

Since Clarice would be kicked out of nurse's training if they found out she was married she had to make all the arrangements in secret. The minister said he would leave the lights on in the church since the ceremony was to take place at 7PM. Her cousin Bennett Hagen and his wife Phyllis were to stand up for them. But they got to the wrong church because it also had its lights on. They quickly got to the right church, and without an organist they walked down the aisle, though a little time was needed for bandaging up the little daughter of the minister who had cut her finger. Somehow the secret got out, when a notice of marriage was printed in a Chicago newspaper and word got back to the Island. The newly married couple had to call their somewhat upset parents. Daniel still had to take the long train ride back to base with his marriage certificate in hand. The honeymoon had to wait. Clarice completed nurses training in March, 1943, and put her ring on her finger which she had been wearing around her

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neck. She returned to the Island to recuperate from a spot of TB that had been found in her lung. She got to Quantico where she and Dan lived for a year before a series of transfers took them to North Carolina, California, Texas, Camp Pendleton, and eventually to Nagasaki as part of the occupation forces. While there, he was taking some men to the hospital in his jeep when a big truck forced them off the road and the jeep rolled over him in a rice paddy. Those in the rice paddies tried to move him but his men prevented them and he was taken to the Sasebo Hospita where he was put in a full body cast which he wore for nine months. Once he was wheeled down a hill to the movie theatre in a race to beat the guys going there in wheel chairs. Dan said the movie wasn't nearly as exciting.

He was finally discharged and the couple went to the Island where Christmas was held for them even though it was June . He worked on the dock on the Island while finishing recuperating from his injury. He then went to the Baronian School of Watchmaking under the GI Bill, returned to Racine where he apprenticed at a jewelry store, and eventually bought his own store.

They had four children: Daniel Christopher born 11/1/1948; Ross William born 8/6/1950; Kim Adrian born 7/25/1952; and Pam Adair born 4/6/1958.



Dan Meader USMC WW II and Clarice Meader