



I SHALL NEVER FORGET THAT SUNDAY OF DEC. 7th, 1941, THERE WERE OTIS, ARTHUR, ART, JONNIE ERNIE, JOE, AND SEVERAL OTHER LADS, WE' ALL WERE AT THE DUTCH MILL THAT SUNDAY, PLAYING PINOCHLE AND DRINKING BEER, ALL WERE HAPPY WE HAD NO CARES EXCEPT JUST HOW FAR EACH WERE IN THE DOG HOUSE, AND WHEN WE EXPECTED TO GET OUT OF SAME.

OUR KIDDING OF EACH OTHER, OUR LAUGHTER STOPPED VERY SUDDEN, IT STOPPED AS IF OUR LIVES ~~HAD~~ WERE NO MORE. BECAUSE OVER THE RADIO CAME SCREAMING WORDS THAT COULD NOT BE, OUR LAUGHTER DIED AWAY AS WE PLACED OUR HALF FILLED GLASSES OF BEER UPON THE BAR, THERE WAS NO MORE KIDDING OF EACH OTHER, WE JUST LOOKED AT EACH OTHER WITH AN EXPRESSION OF QUESTION, . . . IT CAN'T BE, WE SAID, HOW DARE THEY, THEY WOULD NOT HAVE THE NERVE, . WE LISTENED CLOSER: HOPING AGAINST HOPE THAT THERE WAS A MISTAKE, BUT OVER AGAIN IT CAME, " PEARL HARBOR IS BEING ATTACKED BY JAPAN" AS THE NEWS FLASHES CAME OVER THE AIR WE ALL DISCUSSED WITH DEATHLY FEELINGS OF WAR, THE FACT THAT OUR BELOVED UNITED STATES HAD BEEN SAVAGELY, AND WITHOUT WARNING BEEN ATTACKED. THIS MENT "WAR"

I DONT RIGHTFULLY KNOW HOW MY FRIENDS FELT ABOUT ALL THIS, BUT WITHIN ME BURNED WITH HATE. ISN'T IT TRUE IF THOSE LICE WOULD ATTACK PEARL HARBOR, AND WITHOUT WARNING, WOULDN'T THEY ALSO ATTACK, KILL, RAPE, DESTROY AMERICANS IN AMERICA ?.

THE DAYS WENT INTO WEEKS AND WEEKS INTO MONTHS, EACH HOUR BRINGING TO THE UNITED STATES THE HORRORS OF WAR, BECAUSE WE HAD BEEN AT WAR SINCE DEC. 8th 1941. EACH NEWS FLASH TOLD US OF OUR LOSSES, OF THE DESPERATE SITUATION OUR COUNTRY WAS IN, MY MIND AND HEART WERE ALWAYS FILLED WITH THE SAFTY OF MY WIFE, CHILDREN AND OF MY COUNTRY AND IT'S FUTURE.

IN THE EARLY MONTHS OF 1942, OUR NATION WAS IN DEED IN A DESPERATE SITUATION, IT'S CALL FOR MEN WAS GREAT, OVER THE RADIO, IN THE PAPERS, ON THE MOVIE SCREENS, WERE CALLS FOR MEN TO DEFEND THEIR BELOVED UNITED STATES AND THEIR FAMILIES, BECAUSE WE WERE NOT ONLY AT WAR WITH JAPAN, BUT WITH GERMANY AND ITALY ALSO. HAD NOT WE BEEN ATTACKED BY AN UNGODLY NATION, WAS IT NOT TRUE THAT GERMANY WALKED THRU ALL EUROPE KILLING, RAPING, DESTROYING, HAD NOT ITALY JOINED GERMANY BY STABBING FRANCE IN THE BACK WHEN SHE WAS DOWN ON HER KNEES?? SURE IT WAS TRUE. WHAT OF MY FAMILY OF MY HOME, ARE THEY TO SUFFER, WHAT OF THEIR FUTURE ?? WHAT AM I DOING ABOUT IT ?? YES WHAT AM I DOING ABOUT IT?? ALWAYS IT WAS IN MY MIND, WHAT WILL THE FUTURE BRING TO MY WIFE AND CHILDREN???

VERY DEEP IN MY HEART WAS THAT FEELING THAT I MUST GO TO WAR, ISN'T IT SO THAT MEN WHO LOVE, FIGHT FOR THEIR LOVE, HASN'T SINCE THESE UNITED STATES BEGAN, MEN HAS FOUGHT AND DIED THAT IT MAY LIVE ??

THE DOMINEERING INSTINCT OF MAN TO FIGHT FOR THAT AND THOSE HE LOVES WAS INDEED TOO MUCH FOR ME SO I PREPARED TO ENLIST IN THE NAVY, THAT BRANCH OF THE SERVICE THAT MY FATHER HAD SERVED BEFORE ME AND THE FACT THAT IT WAS A FIGHTING OUTFIT.

SO ON NOV. 16th 1942 I ENLISTED INTO THE UNITED STATES NAVY AS AN ELECTRICIAN'S MATE FIRST CLASS. SO MANY PEOPLE CONDEMMED ME FOR MY ACTIONS BUT AT THIS WRITING (APRIL 18th 1945) I KNOW I DID THE RIGHT THING, ALSO IT HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO THE SURFACE THE REASONS THOSE PEOPLE CONDEMMED ME, IT WAS BECAUSE THEY HAD NO FEELINGS FOR THEIR COUNTRY AND WHAT IT STOOD FOR, SOMETIMES I BELIEVE THEY TOO FRIGHTENED TO FIGHT FOR THE THINGS AND THOSE THEY LOVED. YES I BELIEVE THEY WERE AFRAID

LET SOMEONE ELSE FIGHT MY FIGHT WHILE I MAKE ALL THE MONEY WHILE HERE IN THE STATES SAFE AND SECURE, IT IS MY FIRM BELIEF THAT THOSE WHO CONDEMMED ME THE MOST NOW WISHED THEY HAD JOINED WHEN I DID,

ON NOV. 20th, 1942 AT 4 PM. I WAS PUT IN CHARGE OF A DRAFT OF MEN , SHOVING OFF FOR THE U.S.N.T.S NORFOLK VA. VIA THE OLD BAY LINE STEAM BOAT LINE, WE LEFT BALTO. AT 6.30 PM. THIS DAY.

WE ARIEVED IN THAT TRAINING STATION ON THE MORNING OF NOV. 21st. WERE ASSIGNED TO A PLATOO N #643 I WAS MADE RECRUIT CHIEF PETTY OFFICER BY THE PLATOON COMMANDER MR. J.P HAGAN. ALTHO AS GREEN AS ANY OTHER MEMBER OF THE PLATOON IT WAS MY JOB TO TRAIN THE MEN . I AM VERY HAPPY TO SAY WEHAD A GOOD PLATOON AND I WAS COMPLEMENTED ON MY HANDLING OF THE SAID PLATOON, WE WERE "HONOR PLATOON" OUR TWELVE WEEK TRAINING PERIOD OVER WE WERE SENT HOME ON A NINE DAY LEAVE. I LIVED EVERY MINUTE OF IT TOO BECAUSE I KNEW THAT WHEN IT WAS OVER I'D BE SENT TO SEA. I WAS PREPARED TO GO THE FIGHTING FRONT BUT IT WAS INDEED HARD FOR ME LEAVE BECAUSE OF THE CONDITION OF MY DARLING WIFE WE WERE EXPECTING A BABY,,

AFTER MY LEAVE WAS OVER I RETURNED TO THE TRAINING STATION WHERE I WAS PUT IN CHARGE OF A UNIT OF NINETY MEN, WE STAYED AT SAID STATION FOR A WEEK THEN SHOVED OFF FOR LIDO BEACH LONG ISLAND NEW YORK. ON THE WAY THERE I WAS IN CHARGE OF THE DRAFT OF FORTY EIGHT PETTY OFFICERS. WE TRAINED THERE FOR A WEEK IN COMMANDO FIGHTINGS

IT WAS MARCH 4th, 1943 THAT WE SHOVED OFF FOR DUTY OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES, FROM THAT DATE, MARCH THE 4th, 1943 AND ON TO SEPT. 18th 1944 I HAVE KEPT AN ACURATE ACCOUNT OF MY DOINGS DURING MY TOUR OF DUTY.

THE SAME ARE AS FOLLOWINGS

JULY 25th. CONTINUED.

AS I WAS PULLING INTO OUR HARBOR WHO SHOULD BE STANDING ON THE DOCK BUT DOC. PHILLIPS, WELL! WHEN HE SAW THE CONDITION OF MY BURNT LEGS THAT LOOKED A PAIR OF RED FLANNAL DRAWERS FROM THE SUN ALTHO I FELT NOTHING BECAUSE I HAD SUCH A LOAD ON.. DOC. BEGAN TO GIVE ME HELL FOR LETTING MY LEGS GET BURNT SO BAD. OH! DID HE GIVE ME HELL, AND SENT ME TO SICK BAY FOR TREATMENT, AFTER WHICH I PASSED OUT AND THEY PUT ME TO BED .....

JULY 26th.

BOY! DO I FEEL TERRIBLE?. FROM DRINKING THAT LOUSY STUFF YESTERDAY, IT SURE DID KNOCK ME FOR A LOOP. AND DO MY LEGS FEEL BAD AND STIFF, BELEIVE ME I AM OFF THAT STUFF , WILL WAIT UNTILL I AM BACK IN THE STATES TO DO MY DRINKING.. THE CAPTAIN CALLED ME INTO HIS OFFICE I THOUGHT AT FIRST HE WAS GOING TO GIVE ME HELL BECAUSE OF YESTERDAYS DOINGS BUT HE ONLY ASKED ME IF I FOUND A BEACH ON WHICH TO SWIM, HE TOLD ME THAT TENEZ WANTED MY GENERATORS, OUR BASE IS ABOUT TO FOL UP. GUESS WE WILL SHOVE OFF FOR ITALY, FRANCE AND POSSIBLE TO THE STATES, THE CAPTAIN TOLD ME THAT WHEREVER HE WENT HE WAS GOING TO TAKE ME. PACKED MY LARGEST GENERATOR LOADED SAME ON A TRUCK AND SENT SAME TO TENEZ.....

JULY 27th.

WASHED MY CLOTHES THIS DAY AND WHAT A WAS WILL IRON THEM TOMORROW, FEELING PRETTY GOOD, GAVE THE BOYS A SHOW " THE LAW OF THE TROPIC'S.. NO MAIL.....

JULY 28th.

IRONED ALL MY CLOTHS, TWO SETS OF WHITES ONE SET OF KAHKI, SHIRTS, SHORTS AND JERSEYS.. NO WORK TO DO JUST SIT AROUND AND LOAF, OF COURSE I MUST SEE TO IT THAT THE BASE IS RUNNED ELECTRICALLY OK.. GAVE THE SAME SHOW THAT WAS SHOWN LAST NIGHT.. STILL NO MAIL FROM, GEE I'D LIKE TO GET SOME LETTERS IT SURE WOULD BOOST MY MORAL.....

JULY 29th.

HAD A MESSENGER WAKE ME THIS AM AT 0325 TO HEAR THE PRESIDENTS SPEECH, 0325 HERE ITS 2130 AT HOME , SOMEHOW I FELT THAT MY DARLING WAS LISTENING TO THE SPEECH ALSO, WE ARE SIX HOURS AHEAD OF BALTIMORE TIME..GEE! BUT THIS INACTIVITY IS KILLING ME, ALTHO

APRIL 5th. 1944. CONTINUED.

GEE' I WISH I COULD GO HOME IF ONLY FOR ONE DAY I MISS EVERYTHING SO VERY MUCH...STILL WORKING ON L.S.T'S IT IS NOW 2400 AND WILL BE ON DUTY UNTIL 0700 TOMORROW... TODAY ALL LEAVE WAS STOPPED GUESS LIBERTIES WILL BE NEXT, INVASION MUST BE SOON.....

APRIL

APRIL 6,7 & 8th.1944.

AM AT THIS WRITING WAITING TO GO ON DUTY, I'LL BEGIN AT 1845 AND WILL BE ON DUTY UNTIL 0700 TOMORROW... I FEEL SO DAMN BLUE, I COULD YELL, I AM HUNGRY, LONESOME, I MISS ALL SO VERY MUCH, I'D GIVE ANYTHING IF I COULD GET HOME FOR A FEW DAYS TO SEE SEE MY FAMILY , MY SON THAT I HAVE NEVER SEEN.. OH' HELL WHAT IS THE USE TO WRITE ANYMORE.. IT IS NOW 2000 AND I AM IN THE HOLE OF L.S.T # 175 IN THE GENERATOR ROOM BEHIND THE PANAL BOARD ALL WIRES, BUSS BARS ARE EXPOSED ONE SLIP AND I'D BE A PIECE OF FRIED BACON OR I'D BLOW THE WHOLE DAMN BOARD UP, SO I MUST BE CAREFUL IN ANY EVENT.. WILL BE ON DUTY UNTIL 0700 BOY' HAVE I GOT THE BLUES BAD, SEEMS THE ONLY TIME I AM HAPPY IS WHEN I AM DRUNK, I GET DRUNK EVERYTIME I GO ASHORE, I SPENT FAR TOO MUCH MONEY I KNOW BUT I NEED MONEY TO BUY LIQUOR AND I NEED DRINK TO MAKE ME HAPPY.....

APRIL 9,10,11,12 & 13th.1944..

DURING THE ABOVE DAYS & NIGHTS WE HAVE BEEN WORKING LIKE HELL TO COMPLETE THE MOUNTINGS OF GUNS ETC. ABOARD THE L.S.T'S .. WE FINISHED THE JOB ON THE 12th. AND WE WERE COMMENTED BY THE ADMIRAL FOR A JOB "WELL DONE"... WE WERE ORDERED TO GET READY TO MOVE... IT IS NOW THE 14th. ALL MY GEAR HAS BEEN PACKED AND IT IS ON IT'S WAY TO THE TRAINS WE ARE STANDING BY TO SHOVE OFF AT 2000, WE ARE TO BOARD TRAINS AT HELENSBURG AND WILL SHOVE OFF FROM THERE TO OUR BASE IN LONDON.. I LAST SAW MA. RAMSAY ON THE 12th. , I STAYED WITH THE FAMILY FROM 1430 TO 1700 WE JUST SAT AND TALKED MOSTLY ABOUT MY DARLINGS WHEN I PUT MY PEA COAT ON TO LEAVE THEY ALL STARTED TO CRY, AND IT MADE ME FEEL VERY BAD AND TEARS CAME TO MY EYES ALSO BUT I DID NOT MAKE A SOUND, THESE PEOPLE ARE SO VERY GOOD, ALL HAD TREATED ME FINE, J JUST AS IF I WERE A SON AND BROTHER, I ENJOYED THE TIMES I SPENT THERE, THE ONLY HOME I HAVE KNOWN SINCE I LEFT THE STATES



JULY 21st.1944 CONTINUED.

THE DIRT AND SMOKE FILLED THE AIR, I WAS STUNNED, I SHOOK MY HEAD CLEAR AFTER I FOUND THAT I WAS NOT BLEEDING AND RAN TO MY GENERATOR AND TOOK SAME TO THE SCENE, ALONG SIDE THE TWO STORY BUILDING WAS ONE OF OUR AIR RAID SHELTERS AND IN SAME WAS THIRTY OF OUR LADS, WE TOOK ALL OUT AND ALL WERE BADLY WOUNDED, A CIVILIAN COUPLE THAT LIVE IN THE BLDG MENTIONED WERE TAKEN OUT OF THEIR SMALL SHELTER, THE WOMAN HAD BOTH LEGS CRUSHED OFF, MAN'S HEAD BATTERED IN, NONE OF OUR LADS WERE KILLED BUT THERE ARE SOME THAT ARE NOT EXPECTED TO LIVE ALL WERE TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL... WE CLEARED THE DEBRIS AWAY AND STOOD BY THE REST OF THE NIGHT AND ALL DURING THE DAY.. THE C.P.O QUARTERS WERE WRECKED WALLS BLOWN OUT ROOF OFF.. GOD' I TRULY THANK YOU FOR WATCHING OVER ME PLEASE CONTINUE TO DO SO.. MY UNIFORM WAS RUINED, THE PICTURES THAT I HAD HAD JUST TAKEN WAS RUINED BY FLYING GLASS, I SQUARED AWAY MY GEAR THE BEST I COULD... AT 0800 ANOTHER BUZZBOMB DROPPED JUST TWO FEET OUTSIDE OUR BASE WALL OR ABOUT ONE HUNDRED YARDS FROM WHERE THE FIRST ONE FELL THIS AM. . THIS TIME I WAS IN THE SHELTER... THE BOMB BLEW A WHOLE BLOCK OF HOMES TO HELL KILLING TWENTY PEOPLE, NEVER DID FIND OUT HOW MANY WERE WOUNDED...MY NERVES ARE NOW PRETTY GOOD BECAUSE AFTER THAT SECOND BOMB I WENT TO THE WARRANT'S QUARTERS AND GOT A GUART OF WHISKY OFF MY WARRANT OFFICER AND MAXWELL AND I DRANK SAME.. I HAVE SEEN SO MUCH DEATH AND MANGLED BODIES, SAW WOMEN AND CHILDREN CRY BECAUSE OF THEIR DEAD LOVED ONES, THEIR RUINED HOMES.. GOD' WHAT SIGHTS.. I AM SO THANKFUL THAT MY DARLING WIFE AND CHILDREN ARE SAFE AND SECURE, I KNOW THAT NO BOMBS WILL REACH THEM, THAT THEY WILL NOT BE HOMELESS, THAT THEY WILL SLEEP TONIGHT WITHOUT FEAR AND EVEN IF IT COST MY LIFE THEY WILL NEVER FEAR.....

JULY 22.23 & 24.1944.

HAVE BEEN DEAD DRUNK THESE LAST DAYS AND NIGHTS, BOMBS STILL FALLING... OUT EVERYNITE AT BOMBED OUT AREAS, HELPING THE RESCUE SQUADS, DIGGING OUT BODIES, HELPING THE WOUNDED, GOTTA GET TIGHT IT HELPS MY NERVES... AS A MATTER OF FACT FROM THE CAPTAIN DOWN TO THE MESS BOYS ARE TIGHT TWENTY EIGHT HOURS EVERY TWENTY FOUR HOUR DAY.....

GOTTA GET TIGHT AND STAY THAT WAY OR I(LL  
GO GO NUTS



JULY 22, 23 & 24th. 1944 CONTINUED.

WE HAD TO REMOVE 250 MEN AND 11 CHIEFS TO NEW QUARTERS BECAUSE THE FLY BOMB HAS WRECKED OUR BASE, WE MOVED TO AN OLD SCHOOL IN BLACKHEATH PARK... NO AIR RAID SHELTERS HERE.. TRYING TO PROTECT OUR LADS AND OURSELVES THE BEST WE CAN

JULY 25th. ON TO AND INCLUDING AUG. 2nd. 1944.

SLEEPY, SO TIRED.. WORK.. BLOOD.. GUTS.. DEATH.. A BOMB FELL LAST FRIDAY AT 1000 IT WAS ONE OF THOSE GLIDER BASTARDS, PEOPLE HAD NO WARNING THEY WERE OUT SHOPING, OUT OF THE CLEAR SKY IT CAME KILLING THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN HUNDREDS WOUNDED IN THAT MARKET PLACE OF LEWISHAM, I HAVE FOR THE LAST FOUR NIGHTS BEEN OUT TO LEWISHAM WITH MY PORTABLE GENERATOR, GIVING LIGHTS FOR THE RESCUE SQUADS AND HELPING THEM GET THE BODIES FROM THE DEBRIS... GOD! WHAT SIGHTS, DIGGING ALWAYS DIGGING, OUT BODIES OR PARTS OF BODIES, WHILE OVERHEAD FLIES THOSE DREADED BOMBS NEVER KNOWING WHEN ONE WILL CUT OFF AND DROP ON US. I HAVE HAD LOTS OF CLOSE ONES.. I'D MUCH RATHER BE BACK THERE IN ON THE BEACH FIGHTING

THAN GO THRU WITH WHAT I AM GOING THRU WITH NOW, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO FIGHT BACK AT THESE DAMN THINGS, THERE IS NO LIFE UP THERE TO KILL AND MY 20mm WOULD HAVE NO EFFECT ON THEM... AT ANOTHER BOMB SCENE AT PLUMBSTEAD A BOMB DESTROYED TWO HUNDRED TWO STORY HOMES I PULLED OUT TWENTY ONE DEAD AND ONE HUNDRED AND FIVE WOUNDED SOME VERY BAD... SAW WOMEN AND CHILDREN CRYING, MEN GRITTING THEIR TEETH BECAUSE ALL THEY HAD LEFT IN THIS WORLD WAS THE CLOTHES ON THEIR BACKS, SAW MEN AND WOMEN STAND AROUND WITH BROKEN HEARTS, CRYING AS THEY WATCHED US DIG FOR ONE OF THEIR LOVED ONES YES THIS WAR IS HELL.. I TRULY HOPE THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA NEVER HAVE TO EXPERIENCE WHAT THESE PEOPLE ARE GOING THRU... BECAUSE OF THE FACT THAT NO ENEMY HAS DROPPED A BOMB OR FOUGHT ON U.S SOIL IN OVER A HUNDRED YEARS, I WONDER IF THE PEOPLE COULD TAKE LIKE THESE PEOPLE. YES! I WONDER... WAS SENT BACK TO LIVE AT THE BASE BECAUSE I WAS NEEDED TO OPERATE THE GENERATOR... HAD A GOOD NIGHTS SLEEP LAST NITE IN MY NEW AIR RAID SHELTER.. DID NOT TAKE MY UNIT OUT LAST NIGHT... RIGGS TELLS ME THAT I TALKED IN MY SLEEP ALL NIGHT ABOUT MY GENERATOR, SHOUTING ORDERS IN REGARDS TO GETTING BODIES OUT OF THE RUINS, SAVING ALL THE PEOPLE THATS POSSIBLE... I DO REMEMBER JUMPING OUT SACK AT 0600 WHEN THE MAA BLEW THE WHISTLE TO WAKE US