



JACK AND JUNE SMITH

I AM JACK D. SMITH. BORN IN PLASTERCO, TEXAS, MARCH 29, 1922. JAMES ARTHUR SMITH AND LELA MARGARET ADAMS WERE MY PARENTS. THERE WERE TWO LAKES IN OUR AREA AND I LEARNED TO SWIM UNDERWATER BEFORE I COULD SWIM ON TOP. WE HAD A BIG SWING AND I WOULD DIVE OFF OF IT AND SWIM TO SHALLOW WATER. SO AS A KID GROWING UP I DID A LOT OF SWIMMING AND WAS A GOOD SWIMMER. I JOINED THE NAVY JUNE 19TH, 1940 IN DALLAS, TEXAS. MY NAVY SERIAL NUMBER WAS 356-30-69. I WENT THROUGH BOOT CAMP IN SAN DIEGO, CALIF. IN BOOT CAMP I EARNED ENOUGH MONEY TO GO ON BOOT LEAVE BY WASHING OTHER RECRUITS CLOTHES. WHEN I RETURNED FROM BOOT LEAVE ALL OF MY COMPANY WAS ASSIGNED VERY QUICK EXCEPT ME. WHEN A NAME JOHN SMITH CAME UP I WENT UP AND ASK. THEY FOUND OUT HE WENT ON MY ASSIGNMENT BEFORE I RETURNED FROM LEAVE. HE WENT TO THE NORTH HAMPTON. I HAVE OFTENED WONDEREED IF HE MADE IT THROUGH THE WAR. I WAS SENT OUT ON HIS ASSIGNMENT. I RODE THE USS PECOS TO PEARL HARBOR IN SEPTEMBER OF 1940 AND WAS ASSIGNED TO THE U.S.S. PORTLAND FOR A SHORT TIME. I TRANSFERED TO THE U.S.S. HOUSTON CA 30 IN NOVEMBER 1940 AND WENT TO THE ASIATIC FLEET. I WAS ASSIGNED TO THE THIRD DIVISION. MY BATTLE STATION WAS FIRST IN THE POWDER CIRCLE (SECOND DECK ABOVE WATER LINE) AND THEN I WAS SENT DOWN TO THE AFTER HANDLING ROOM (BELOW THE THIRD DECK AND BELOW THE WATER LINE). AT ONE TIME I WAS A CANDIDATE FOR THE TRANSFER HOIST IN THE NUMBER THREE TURRET. THE FACT I WAS NOT IN EITHER OF THESE STATIONS TURNED OUT TO BE VERY LUCKY FOR ME. WHEN THE 8 INCH TURRET NUMBER 3 WAS SET ON FIRE BY THE BOMB FEBRUARY 4, 1942, EVERYONE IN THOSE STATIONS WERE KILLED.

WE SPENT TIME IN MANILA, PHILLIPINES AND THE SOUTHERN ISLANDS. LIBERTY WAS GOOD AND OUR \$36.00 PER MONTH ALLOWED US TO ENJOY SOME LIBERTIES. I HAD A

\$10.00 ALLOTMENT TAKEN OUT EACH MONTH, SO I WAS POOR. I MADE SEAMAN 1ST CLASS IN JULY, 1942 AND WENT TO \$54.00 PER MONTH. I INCREASED MY ALLOTMENT TO \$20.00

A MONTH. I WAS STILL POOR, BUT IT KEPT ME OUT OF TROUBLE.

WE WERE IN THE CAVITY NAVY YARD AND A WEEK BEFORE THE WAR AND WE GOT UNDERWAY WITH ONE FIRE ROOM DOWN AND WENT THE HARBOR OF LLILO, IN THE PHILLIPINES. THE WAR STARTED FOR US ON DECEMBER 8, 1941. WE GOT UNDERWAY JUST BEFORE DARK AND THE JAPS BOMBED THE HARBOR JUST AFTER WE LEFT.

WE RAN INTO SOME JAPS BEFORE MIDNIGHT BUT THEY WENT ONE WAY AND WE WENT ANOTHER. WE MET OUR AUXILLARY VESSELS AND HEADED FOR BALAPIAN, BORNEO. THE LANGLEY STARTED SHOOTING ONE AFTERNOON AND IT WAS DISCOVERED SHE WAS SHOOTING AT A PLANET. WE WENT INTO BALAPIAN, BORNEO, FUELED UP THEN WENT TO SURABAJA, JAVA. THEN WE PROCEEDED TO DARWIN, AUSTRALIA THROUGH BALLY STRAITS.

ON LIBERTY IN DARWIN, AUSTRALIA, I PASSED OUT AT THE ARMY BASE AND THEY CARRIED ME BACK IN A TRUCK. I LOST MY SHOES BUT GOT THE LAST PAIR MY SIZE ABOARD THE SHIP. MY DIVISION OFFICER WAS O.D. (OFFICER ON DECK) AND DID NOT PUT ME ON REPORT.

WE WENT DOWN BETWEEN NEW GUINEA AND AUSTRALIA AND PICKED UP A CONVOY WE TOOK TO JAVA. THE 131ST FIELD ARTILLERY WAS ON ONE OF THE SHIPS. THE GROUP WAS CAPTURED ON JAVA WHEN THE DUTCH CAPITULATED. WE WERE MIXED WITH THEM IN BATAVIA. THEY HAD MONEY AND ALL OF THEIR CLOTHES. I HAD TEN DOLLARS AND I BOUGHT A BLANKET FROM ONE OF THEM WITH IT. THEY ISSUED US TEN DOLLARS ALSO. WE WENT BACK TO DARWIN AND THEN MET THE LIGHT CRUISER U.S.S. BOISE AND SOME OTHER SHIPS. WE WERE GOING TO RAID BALAPIAN, BORNEO. THIS WAS ON SOME ISLAND. WE WENT UP A NARROW CHANNEL TO THE PLACE. I THINK THE BOISE HAD RIPPED OUT HER BOTTOM ON A REEF AND SHE OFF LOADED 5" AMMUNITION TO US. (I COULD HAVE THE

SEQUENCE OF THESE FACTS OUT OF ORDER.) ON FEBRUARY 3, WE WERE ANCHORED WITH THE GROUP OF SHIPS AND THE JAP BOMBERS WENT OVER US. THEY DID NOT DROP ANY BOMBS. THEY WERE HEADED FOR JAVA. WE GOT UNDERWAY AND THE NEXT DAY THEY CAME BACK AND FOUND US. IT HAS BEEN SAID THE LAST BOMB DROPPED ON US WAS BY A JAP THAT WAS NOT FOLLOWING ORDERS. IT WAS A 500 LB ARMOR PIERCING BOMB. IT WENT THROUGH THE AFTER LOOKOUT TEARING A HUNK OUT A SAILOR IN MY DIVISION'S SHOULDER. IT ENTERED ONE LEG OF THE TRIPOD HOLDING UP THE MAIN MAST AND SPLIT IT FOR 12 FEET OR MORE, ACTIVATING THE DELAYED ACTION AND EXPLODED THREE FEET ABOVE THE DECK ALONG SIDE MY TURRET. THE TURRET NUMBER 3 WAS LOADED AND TRAINED OUT TO PORT TO REPEL TORPEDO PLANES. IT SET FIRE TO THE POWDER TRAIN AND ONLY TEN OF US SURVIVED. A REPAIR PARTY WAS DIRECTLY UNDER THE EXPLOSION AND IT BLEW A HOLE IN THE DECK AND KILLED ALL OF THEM. IT WAS THE AFTER REPAIR PARTY. OUR JUNIOR DIVISION OFFICER, MR. NELSON, HAD BEEN ORDERED TO COME TO THE BRIDGE A FEW MINUTES EARLIER TO WATCH FOR TORPEDO PLANES, SO HIS LIFE WAS SPARED. MY BATTLE STATION WAS IN THE AFTER HANDLING

ROOM. THE POWDER WAS TAKEN OUT OF THE MAGAZINE IN A TURN DEVICE IN THE DOGGED DOOR AND WE CAUGHT IT AND PUT IT ON A SHELF THAT WAS PART OF THE DOOR TO THE HOIST. THERE WERE TWELVE BAGS IN THE HOIST AND THREE LYING ON THIS SHELF. WHEN THE HOIST STARTED IT TRANSFERRED THREE BAGS AT A TIME, SO WE WERE ABLE TO KEEP THE HOIST FULL. I HAD THE REPAIR PHONES ON AND I MANNED THE HOIST. DIRECTLY BEHIND ME ABOVE MY HEAD WERE TWO VALVES. ONE FLOODED THE MAGAZINE

AND ONE TURNED ON WATER TO SPRINKLE THE HOIST. THERE WERE PINS THAT PREVENTED EITHER FROM BEING TURNED ON. THEY HAD TO BE REMOVED BEFORE THEY COULD BE TURNED ON. I ASKED C. J. KUNKE, THE MAN IN CHARGE, IF I HAD TO REMOVE THE PINS TO TURN THE VALVES ON. HE SAID "NO. JUST HIT THEM." IN THE NAVY AT THAT TIME YOU DID NOT QUESTION YOUR SENIORS. SO I MADE UP MY MIND IF I NEEDED TO TURN IT ON I WOULD TRY HIS WAY FIRST AND THEN DO IT MY WAY AND TAKE OUT THE PINS. I THOUGHT WE MIGHT BE IN THE DARK SO I IMAGINED TURNING AROUND AND DOING THE JOB IN THE DARK. WHEN THE BOMB EXPLODED, (IF IT HAD NOT BEEN ACTIVATED BY THE TRIPOD IT SPLIT IT WOULD HAVE ENDED UP IN THE MAGAZINE) THE LIGHTS WENT OUT. KUNKE TURNED ON A BATTLE LANTERN AND I SAW SMOKE COMING OUT OF THE HOIST. I KICKED THE FLASH DOOR RELEASE SO IT WOULD CLOSE, TURNED AROUND AND HIT THE

SPRINKLER VALVE. NOTHING HAPPENED. I REMOVED PIN, HIT IT AGAIN, AND OUT CAME WATER. I REPORTED FIRE IN D411M OVER THE REPAIR PHONES (SCARING THE HELL OUT OF THE WHOLE SHIP.) WE DUMPED THE THREE EXPOSED BAGS IN THE WATER TANK. WE GOT OUR MEN OUT OF THE MAGAZINE (THEY WERE DOGGED IN AND COULD NOT OPEN IT FROM THE INSIDE.) WE WERE NOT TRAINED IN WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY BUT WE DID WHAT HAD TO BE DONE AND WE THEN ABANDONED THE STATION. I SHOULD HAVE REPORTED WHAT WE DID. I DID LATER WHEN I RELIEVED A PERSON ON THE REPAIR PHONES AT ANOTHER STATION. THEY WERE WONDERING IF THE MAGAZINE HAD BEEN FLOODED. C. J. KUNKE DID THAT. BUT OUR TRAINING SHOULD HAVE COVERED EMERGENCIES. WHEN WE CAME UP ON THE SECOND DECK THE DEAD REPAIR PARTY WAS PLAIN TO SEE. I WENT INTO THE MIXTURE OF BODIES LOOKING FOR SOME ONE ALIVE. THEY WERE ALL DEAD. I TOUCHED A LIVE ELECTRIC WIRE AND MADE ME JUMP. A SAILOR

THAT WAS A MESS COOK WAS LYING ON THE PEACOCK LOCKER ON THE STARBOARD SIDE. HE WAS DEAD. NO LARGE WOUNDS. HAD A LOT OF LITTLE RED SPOTS ALL OVER HIS UNDERSHIRT SHIRT.

WE CARRIED BLOODY, BURNED, AND MANGLED BODIES AFT FROM THE HOLE BLOWN IN THE DECK TO THE FANTAIL WHERE THEY WERE LAID OUT. 48 MEN. ONLY TEN OF MY DIVISION SURVIVED. A HOIST HAD BEEN RIGGED TO BRING THEM ON THE MAIN DECK.

WE THEN HAD A BUCKET BRIGADE TO EMPTY BLOODY WATER FROM THE INSIDE OF THE SHIP. THE COOKS SERVED BLOODY CORN BEEF SANDWICHES FOR SUPPER. NO ONE QUESTIONED ME OR ANY ONE ELSE WHAT HAPPENED IN THE TURRET. TO MY KNOWLEDGE NO ONE OUR DIVISION WAS COMPLEMENTED FOR THE ACTIONS TAKEN THAT DAY. JOHN RANGER WAS A VERY BRAVE MAN AND WAS GIVEN A SILVER STAR FOR TAKING A FIRE HOSE INSIDE THE NUMBER 3

TURRET.

I TOLD JOHN IF WE HAD NOT STOPPED THE FIRE BEFORE IT ARRIVED AT THE MAGAZINE HE WOULD HAVE BEEN THE FIRST NAVY ASTRONAUT. SO TO MY KNOWLEDGE JOHN WAS THE ONLY ONE RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE THAT DAY. AND HE DID DESERVE IT. OUR JUNIOR DIVISION OFFICER (LORD NELSON) WAS SO SHOOK UP HE IGNORED ME BRINGING BACK TWO BOTTLES OF SOUTH AFRICAN BRANDY IN MY SOCKS ONE NIGHT. AND HE BELIEVED IN PUTTING MEN ON REPORT.

IN TJILATJAP, JAVA THEY MADE COFFINS OUT OF WOOD AND PUT THE BODIES IN THEM. MY DIVISION SURVIVORS WERE THE HONOR GUARD TO FOLLOW THE FLAT BED PICK UP WITH THE BODIES TO THE CEMETARY. THE FUNERAL MARCH WAS PLAYED ALL THE WAY AND IT WAS A QUIET A FEW MILES. THE BODIES SMELLED HORRIBLE AND WE WERE DIRECTLY BEHIND THE TRUCKS. THE CEMETERY WAS BY THE BAY AND THE GRAVES WERE SHALLOW. THE TIDE HAD WATER IN THE BOTTOM OF THE GRAVES. THE SAILORS PUTTING THE

CASKETE IN THE GRAVE BECAME MUDDY. WE WERE AT PRESENT ARMS A LONG TIME AND SOME OF OUR HONOR GUARD STARTED PASSING OUT. I HAD TWO RIFLES LEANING ON ME AS I HELD

PRESENT ARMS. THERE WERE 48 SAILORS FROM THE HOUSTON AND I THINK 10 FROM THE MARBLE HEAD. WE HAD ABOUT 50 WOUNDED AND THEY WERE LEFT IN JAVA. IT TOOK A LONG TIME. THEY HAD JEWISH, CATHOLIC, AND PROSTANT CERMONIES. WHEN IT WAS OVER WE FIRED 3 VOLLEYS. THE 3RD DIVISION SUVIVORS WERE

THE ONLY ONES THAT HAD BLANK AMMUNITION AND FIRED. WE MARCHED BACK TO THE SHIP TO A LIVELY BAND. ONE THING THAT MADE ME ANGRY IS ONE OF OUR LIEUTANATS JG SAID THAT IT WAS REALLY GOING OVER. THERE WERE DUTCH PRESENT. I DID NOT REALIZE WE WERE DOING THIS TO MAKE AN IMPRESSION ON THEM. I THOUGHT WE WERE HONORING OUR SHIPMATES. WE STAYED IN TITILIJAP, JAVA SEVERAL DAYS. LIBERTY WAS GOING TO A PLACE AND EATING CHICKEN BARBERCUED AND BUYING BOTTLES OF SOUTH AFRICAN BRANDY AND SMUGGLING THEM BACK ABOARD. I CAME BACK WITH TWO BOTTLES IN MY SOCKS AND NELSON OUR JR. DIVISION OFFICER WAS O. D AND HE ACTED LIKE HE DID NOT SEE THEM.

WE WENT BACK TO DARWIN, AUSTRALIA AND TRIED TO TAKE A CONVOY OF 4 SHIPS FULL OF SOLDIERS TO TIMOR. THE FIRST DAY OF ACTION WAS A JAP 4 ENGINE FLYING BOAT CIRCLED US ALL DAY. FINALLY MAKING A RUN ON THE SHIP AT ABOUT 6,000 FT. THE GUNNERY OFFICER CHANGED THE CONTROL FROM FWD RANGE FINDER TO AFTER. THEY WERE ALL OUT ON DECK WATCHING SO THE AA GUNS HAD TO USE LOCAL CONTROL. WE THOUGHT WE WOULD SHOOT IT DOWN AND WERE DISSAPOINTED. A P40 FIGHTER PLANE CAME OVER THE SHIP BEHIND THE JAP PLANE AND THERE WAS SMOKE ON THE HORIZEN IN

THE DIRECTION THEY WENT. THE P40 DID NOT RETURN AND THE JAPS QUESTIONED SOME OF US IN PRISON CAMP BECAUSE THE FLYING BOAT ALSO DID NOT RETURN.

A LARGE GROUP OF JAP BOMBERS CAME BACK THE NEXT DAY. NOT SURE OF THE AMOUNT. I LAY ON THE FANTAIL, {THE AFTER DECK} AND WATCHED ONE RUN. IT APPEARED TO ME ONE

GROUP WAS FIGHTER PLANES. THEY CAME IN THREE DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS. THE CAPTIAN IT WAS SAID HAD A QUARTER MASTER WITH A SEXTANT SO HE WOULD KNOW WHEN THEY HAD

TO DROP THE BOMBS THEN TAKE HIS EVASIVE ACTION. WE WERE GOING THE OTHER WAY WHEN THIS STICK HIT NOT TOO FAR FROM US. THE CAPTIAN SAID THEY WOULD NEVER HIT HIM AGAIN AFTER 4 FEB. I DO NOT KNOW HOW MANY DROPS THEY MADE BUT THE CAPTIAN PUT OUR SHIP IN FRONT OF THE BOMBERS EVERY TIME THEY MADE A RUN AND NO TRANSPORT WAS HIT. ONE MERCHANT MARINE WAS KILLED FROM SCHRAPNEL ON ONE OF THE TRANSPORTS.

WE RECEIVED ORDERS TO TAKE THE TRANSPORTS BACK INTO DARWIN. WHEN WE ARRIVED WE SENT THE TRANSPORTS IN THE HARBOR AND THEN WE ENTERED. WE RECEIVED A STANDING OVIATION FROM THE TROOPS. WE GOT UNDER WAY AND THE NEXT DAY CARRIER PLANES DEVASTATED THE HARBOR. WE WENT BACK TO TITILIJAP, JAVA AND THEN THROUGH SUNDRA STRAITS TO BATAVIA, JAVA. WE WERE JOINED BY THE EXETER, PERTH, DUYTER, AND JAVA. AND WE HAD THREE ENGLISH, TWO DUTCH, AND FOUR AMERICAN DESTROYERS. OURS WERE FOUR

STACKERS. THE JAPS WOULD COME OVER EVERY DAY BOMBING JAVA. THE DUTCH WENT ASHORE AND WE STAYED ON THE SHIP. WE MADE RUNS AT NIGHT LOOKING FOR THE JAP CONVOY. ON THE THIRD DAY WE STAYED OUT AND WERE BOMBED BY OBSERVATION PLANES OFF OF A JAP SHIP. AS WE WERE ENTERING THE HARBOR THE JAP'S WERE SIGHTED AND WE REVERSED COURSE AND WENT OUT TO HAVE THE JAVA SEA BATTLE. THE JAVA SEA BATTLE LASTED FROM 4 PM IN THE AFTERNOON

TIL 12 P.M. THE CRUISERS OPENED UP AT ABOUT 30,000 YARDS. THE JAPS HAD THEIR DESTROYERS MAKE A TORPEDO ATTACK. A DUTCH DESTROYER TOOK A FISH

HEADED FOR US. THE EXETER TOOK A HIT AND IT HAD TO RETIRE TO SURIBIA, JAVA. AND WAS SUNK A FEW DAYS LATER. WE TOOK TWO HITS. WE FIRED A LOT OF ROUNDS AND STARTED CARRYING SHELL FROM NUMBER 3 TURRET SHELL DECK TO NUMBER 2. I WAS ORDERED TO ROUNDUP 3RD DIVISION SURVIVORS AND HAVE THEM REPORT AND RELIEVE

THE CREW ON THE SHELL DECK IN THE NUMBER 2 TURRET. WHEN I ARRIVED THEY DID NOT NEED ME. I HAD FOUND ENOUGH TO DO THE JOB. WHEN DARKNESS ARRIVED THE JAP SPOTTER PLANES WERE DROPPING FLARES ON US. JUST BEFORE MIDNIGHT WE WERE IN A TORPEDO ATTACK. THE DUYTER IN FRONT OF US AND THE JAVA IN BACK WERE BOTH HIT. THAT LEFT THE PERTH AND US. WE HEADED FOR BATAVIA, JAVA AT HIGH SPEED. OUR 4 STACKERS ESCAPED THROUGH BALLIE STRAITS

WE ARRIVED IN BATIVIA, JAVA THE NEXT AFTERNOON. A JAP SPOT PLANE TRIED TO BOMB US AND WE NEARLY SHOT DOWN OUR OWN SOC THAT LANDED RIGHT AFTER THE INCIDENT. WE WERE NOT GIVEN ANY FUEL. WE WERE LOW ON AMMUNITION AND FUEL. WE LEFT OUT TO GO THROUGH SUNDRA STAITTS AND BACK TO AUSTRALIA. THE DUTCH REPORTED NO JAPS

IN THE VICINITY. WE RAN INTO THE JAPS LANDING AROUND 11 PM. THE  
PERTH LASTED ABOUT 30 MINUTES. WE LASTED TIL AFTER MIDNIGHT. WE  
SHOT AT ANY THING WE SAW. I WAS HOLDING A FIVE-INCH STAR SHELL  
IN THE MESS HALL WHEN A TORPEDO STRUCK UNDER ME IN THE AFTER  
ENGINE ROOM. NEVER HEARD SO MUCH NOISE IN MY LIFE. ALL WERE  
INSTANTLY KILL IN THE ENGINE ROOM. SLOWING US DOWN SO THE JAPS  
MOVED IN AND WERE POURING IN SHELL POINT BLANK. ABANDON SHIP WAS  
GIVEN. I DID NOT HAVE A LIFE JACKET AND THERE WAS NONE IN THE  
LIFE JACKET LOCKER. THEY

HOLLORED BACK TO YOUR STATIONS AND I WENT IN OUR  
COMPARTMENT GOT A DRINK OF WATER AND AN OLD MOTH EATEN LIFE  
JACKET WITH OUT ALL OF THE TIES WAS ON THE SCUTTLEBUT (DRINKING  
FOUNTAIN). I PUT IT ON. I HAD NEVER WORE ONE BECAUSE I FELT  
THAT IF I DID IT WOULD MAKE SAILORS THINK OUR SHIP WOULD BE SUNK.  
ALL OF A SUDDEN I

REALIZED I WAS ALONE. I WENT UP ON THE STARBOARD SIDE AND  
BACK BESIDE TURRET NUMBER THREE. THE JAPS WERE ON THE PORT SIDE,  
SEARCH LIGHTS ON AND POURING IN SHELL POINT BLANK.

I STAYED A LITTLE WHILE AND THEN WENT OVER TO THE PORT SIDE AND DOVE IN HEAD FIRST. WHEN I CAME UP I TOOK OFF MY WHITE HAT WATCHING IT SINK. TOOK OFF MY SHOES AND WATCHED THEM SINK. I GOT THE LAST PAIR OF SHOES MY SIZE ON THE SHIP. IT WOULD BE THE LAST PAIR I WOULD HAVE FOR 3 ½ YEARS. I SWAM AWAY FROM THE SHIP TO A LARGE LIFE RATH. THERE WERE A LOT OF SAILORS ON IT AND WE WERE IN THE LINE OF FIRE. THE SHELL'S WERE CLIPPING THE TOP OF THE WAVES AND THE SOUND RAN THROUGHT YOUR BODY. WE TRIED TO PULL TOGETHER AND ROW THE RAFT OUT OF THE LINE OF FIRE. WHEN WE COULD NOT WORK TOGETHER TO DO THIS I SAW A MOUNTAIN IN THE DISTANCE WITH THE MOON BEHIND IT. I THOUGHT IT WAS SUMATRA NOT JAVA SO I STARTED SWIMMING FOR IT. I WAS ALL BY MY SELF AND I SWAM SEVERAL HOURS AND A SWIMMER WITH NO LIFE JACKET CAME BY AND ASK IF I WAS O.K. I THINK IT WAS ENSIGN SMITH WHO DIED SHORTLY AFTER WE WERE RELEASED FROM PRISON CAMP. I TOLD HIM I WAS AND HE SWAM OFF. SOMETHING STRUCK MY LEFT ARM AND I THOUGHT SHARKS BUT GUESS IT WAS A JELLY FISH. I HAD STREAKS ON THE ARM.

I COULD SEE A LINE OF SHIPS COMING IN AND I COULD FEEL THE PULL OF THE PROPELLARS. I SWAM BETWEEN TWO OF THEM. I COULD HEAR VOICES ON THE DECK I THINK THEY SAW ME. I COULD HEAR THE SURF BREAKING ON THE BEACH WHEN A BOAT WENT BY OUT OF SIGHT. THEN ONE CAME BY CLOSE AND I YELLED AHOY. THEY

STOPPED AND PULLED ME IN. WHEN THEY REALIZED I WAS AN AMERICAN ONE STRUCK ME. I FOUGHT BACK AND BROKE FREE AND DOVE BACK INTO THE WATER. I REMOVING MY LIFE JACKET AND TRIED TO SWIM UNDER WATER AND GET AWAY FROM THEM. IT WAS THEN I

REALIZED HOW EXHAUSTED I WAS. THEY WERE TRYING TO HOOK ME WITH A BOAT HOOK

AND HAD A 30 CALIBER MACHINE GUN WAS TRAINED ON ME. I DECIDED MY ONLY CHANCE

TO LIVE WAS TO GO BACK IN. THIS TIME THEY WERE NICE AND NO MORE ROUGH STUFF.

THEY TOOK ME TO SEVERAL SHIPS AND FINALLY TO THE COMMAND SHIP. WE PASSES SEVERAL TRANSPORTS BEACHED AND ON THEIR SIDE WITH BIG HOLES SHOWING. A WHITE PERSON WAS ON THE GANG WAY AND SAID OH AN AMERICAN. DON'T KNOW WHO OR WHAT HE WAS. WAS TAKEN TO THE BRIDGE. COULD HEAR RADIO COMMUNICATION. THEY QUESTIONED ME. ASK HOW MANY SUBS WERE IN OUR AREA. I TOLD THEM I DID NOT KNOW. COULD BE 50 OR MORE.

I TOLD THEM I WAS BELOW DECK AND DID NOT KNOW WHAT HAPPENED IN THE BATTLE. THEY TOOK ME BELOW AND PUT TWO GUARDS WITH DRAWN BAYONETS ON THEIR RIFLES. I WAS SO TIRED I WENT TO SLEEP. DON'T KOW HOW LONG I WAS ON THIS SHIP. WE HAD AN AIR RAID. A BOMB WAS DROPPED CLOSE TO THE SHIP. AND AUSTRALIAN SAILOR WAS BROUGHT

IN. HE HAD BEEN IN THE WATER WHEN A TORPEDO WENT OFF AND HIS INSIDES WERE TORN UP. THEY DID NOT GIVE HIM MEDICAL TREATMENT. HE DIED IN A FEW DAYS.

I WAS TAKEN TO A SHIP AND PUT IN THE CARGO HOLE WITH ABOUT 20 OTHER PRISONERS. HERE WE LEARNED TO EAT RICE. A BUCKET OF RICE AND A BIG CAN OF SARDINES WAS GIVEN TO US ONCE A DAY. THE SARDINES WERE SPLIT UP THE BEST THAT THEY COULD AND YOU COVERED IT WITH RICE. ATE DOWN TO IT AND IF THERE WAS RICE STILL YOU COVERED IT WITH MORE RICE. WHEN THERE WAS NO MORE RICE YOU ATE THE SARDINE. NO ONE CAME INTO THE HOLE WITH US BUT THEY LOOKED IN AND OBSERVED.

NOT SURE ABOUT TIME BUT WE WERE LOADED UP AND TAKEN ASHORE. WE WERE RINGED BY MACHINE GUNS AND A PAPER WAS GIVEN TO US SAYING ALL WOULD BE KILLED

IF ANY OF US TRIED TO ESCAPE. WE WERE LOADED ON TRUCKS AND TAKEN TO SERANG, JAVA. MY GROUP WAS FIRST TAKEN TO A PRISON AND THERE WAS NO ROOM SO THEY

TOOK US TO A THEATER. THERE WERE A LOT OF PRISONERS IN THE PLACE. SOME JAVANESE. THE FLOOR WAS IN SEVERAL STAIR STEP LEVELS AND HAD TWO BALCONIES. IN EACH BALCONY THERE WAS A MACHINE GUNS. THERE WERE WOUNDED ON THE STAGE. OUR

WATER HAD TO BE BOILED AND CAME FROM A CHINESE GROCERY STORE A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY. ONE MEAL A DAY AT FIRST CONSISTED OF A BOWL OF RICE WITH A LITTLE SEA WEED ON IT. LATER A SECOND MEAL WAS A SMALL LOAF OF BREAD. I FOUND A TIN CAN THAT WAS MY DRINKING VESSEL. WE GOT OUR DRINKING WATER FROM A CHINESE GROCERY STORE. THEY HAD A WELL IN THE BACK OF THE STORE. IF I COULD GET ON THE WATER DETAIL THERE WERE SACKS OF CORN IN THE ROOM THE WELL WAS IN. AND I WAS ABLE TO STEAL SOME OF IT AND BOIL IT AND THAT GAVE ME SOME EXTRA FOOD.

ONE JAP OFFICER HAD A 25 AUTOMATIC AND WOULD THROW A SHELL IN THE CHAMBER AND GO AROUND STICKING IT IN YOUR FACE AND ANGERLY SHOUT IN JAPANESE. HE HAD HIS FINGER ON THE TRIGGER AND IT WAS VERY UNCOMFORTABLE WHEN IT WAS YOUR TURN FOR HIM.

WE HAD ONE MAN DIE IN THE TIME WE WERE THERE WHICH WAS ABOUT SIX WEEKS. A MARINE WAS NAMED HILL. BOWL MOVEMENTS WERE SELDOM. I DID NOT HAVE ONE FOR 18 DAYS. SOME WENT 30 DAYS. WE LEARNED WHAT BEATINGS WERE. IT WAS COLD AT NIGHT AND WE HAD ONLY WHAT WE HAD ON THE CONCRETE FLOOR. A LOT OF DISEASES STARTED. DYSENTERY. WE HAD A PIT DUG OUT ON THE SIDE THAT WAS THE TOILET. IT RAINED A LOT SO IT WAS FULL OF WATER, CRAP, PISS, AND MAGGETS.

WE WERE TAKEN DOWN TO A STREAM SOME TIMES FOR A BATH. BIG TERDS OF SHIT WOULD FLOAT BY. THE JAVANESE USED IT AS A SEWER.

ONE TIME THEY BROUGHT IN FRESH MEAT AND IT WAS TOUGH BUT WE ROASTED IT ON THE FIRE. IF YOU HAD NO DRINKING CONTAINER WHEN THE BOILED WATER WAS READY YOU HAD TO WAIT AND BORROW ONE AFTER THE OWNER HAD HIS DRINK.



ONE DAY A KINDNESS WAS SHOWN TO ME. I WAS VERY HUNGRY AND A JAP GUARD CAME OUT AFTER THEY FINISHED HE TOOK ME IN AND HAD ME SET ON THE FLOOR AND I

WAS GIVEN THEIR SCRAPS LIKE A DOG. IT WAS AN ACT OF KINDNESS AND I WAS HUNGRY. AND I WILL NEVER FORGET IT. IT MAY HAVE HELPED ME SURVIVE THE THEATOR.

I THINK WE WERE ABOUT SIX WEEKS IN SERANG. WE WERE PUT ON OPEN TRUCKS AND IN THE VERY HOT SUN. PORTER A MUSICIAN FIRST CLASS HAD DISENTARY HE CAME DOWN WITH THE NIGHT BEFORE AND HE FELL IN THE BENJO PIT. NO WAY TO CLEAN HIM UP AND HE HAD MAGGETS AND CRAP ALL OVER HIM. AND HE SURVIVED THE WAR. IT TOOK MOST OF THE DAY TO ARRIVE AT THE BICYCLE CAMP IN BATIVIA, JAVA. WE WERE PUT IN BUILDINGS THAT WAS BUILT FOR THE DUTCH ARMY. THEY ONLY TOOK A FEW OUT FOR WORKING PARTIES. THE JAP PATROLS WOULD COME THROUGH SOME BUT THEY DID NOT BEAT US VERY MUCH. IT WAS A SPACIOUS CAMP AND IT SURE WAS A LOT BETTER THEN WHERE WE HAD BEEN. SERANG WAS AS BAD AS ANY PLACE FOR POW'S. THERE WAS AUSTRALIAN'S AND AMERICANS IN THE CAMP. THE 131ST FIELD ARTILLERY CAME IS A FEW WEEKS LATER AND THEY HAD MONEY AND CLOTHES. I HAD TEN DOLLARS AND BOUGHT ME A BLANKET OFF OF ONE OF THE SOLGERS. THEY ALSO ISSUED US TEN DOLLARS. THEY HAD ALL KINDS OF SPORT EQUIPMENT. WE MADE TENNIS RACKETS OUT OF WOOD AND THEY HAD VOLLEY BALLS. A LOT OF US HAD NEVER PLAYED VOLLEY BALL BUT WE HAD TOURNIMENTS. OUR NAVY TEAM WAS THE CHAMPS. EVEN THE JAP OFFICERS CAME TO WATCH THE BIG GAMES. THE ARMY MONEY SUPPLIMENTED OUR FOOD AND THOSE OF US IN THE NAVY RECOVERED FROM THE EARLY PART OF CAPTIVATY IN SERANG. BURMA WAS TO BE A LOT WORSE BUT THAT EARLY PART GOT OUR FEET WET. WE WERE ASK TO SIGN A PAPER SAYING WE WOULD NOT TRY TO ESCAPE OR THEY COULD KILL US. WE REFUSED.

THEY HEADERED ALL OF THE PRISONERS INTO A LARGE AREA AND SAID WE WOULD BE THERE TIL WE SIGNED. THE SENIOR OFFICER COLONEL THORP ORDERED US TO SIGN

SAYING DURESS EXWMPTEED US FROM BREAKING OUR WORD IF WE DID TRY. WE WERE ALLWAYS A LONG WAY FROM OUR

FRIENDS AND OUR SKIN COLOR WOULD HAVE GIVEN US AWAY. SOME PRISONERS IN BURMA FOUND THIS OUT BY LOOSING THEIR LIVES. THEY BROUGHT THEM BACK SICK AND HAD THEM DIG THEIR GRAVES AND SHOT THEM IN THE HEAD.

SOME TIME IN THE LATTER PART OF THE YEAR OUR GROUP WAS SPLIT UP AND ONE PART WAS SENT AWAY. THEY WENT TO SINGAPORE AND THEN TO BURMA. WE WENT TO SINGAPORE ON A DIRTY CROWDED JAP TRANSPORT. CAN'T REMEMBER HOW MANY DAYS THE TRIP WAS. WE WERE GLAD WHEN WE REACHED SINGAPORE MALAYA. THERE WE WERE IN CHANGIE. NICE TWO STORY BUILDINGS. THE JAPS VERY SELDON CAME INTO THE P.O.W AREA. THE INDIAN TROOP'S THAT HAD CHANGED SIDES AND GONE OVER TO THE JAP SIDE PATROLED THE INSIDE OF THE CAMP. THE FOOD COULD HAVE BEEN BETTER. BRUTALITY WAS NOT MISSED. THE ENGLISH RAN THE CAMP AND THEY IN MY ESTIMATION LIVED A LITTLE TOO HIGH. THEY WANTED THEIR SERVANTS AND THEY TRIED TO COURT MARSHEL SOME

OF OUR MEN. WE WERE ISSUED A PAIR OF ENGLISH SHOES FOR BURMA AND THE FIRST TIME MINE GOT WET ONE SOUL WAS MADE OF PAPER AND I HAD NOT MORE SHOES. XMAS WE WERE ISSUED A FIFTH OF WHISKEY TO TEN MEN. TASTED GOOD BUT THAT WAS ALL IT WAS A TASTE. WE CAUGHT A MONKEY BUT THE LOOK IT HAD IN ITS EYES SHOWING FRIGHT WE COULD NOT KILL IT SO WE TURNED IT LOOSE. WE WERE HUNGRY BUT NOT THAT HUNGRY. WE WERE GIVEN AN HONOR BY THE SCOTCH. THEY PLAYED A BAG PIPE WHEN WE WERE TO LEAVE FOR BURMA. SOME TIME IN JANUARY WE WERE LOADED ON A TRAIN. LITTLE BOX CARS AND

WE WERE SO CROWDED YOU COULD NOT LIE DOWN TIL YOU PASSED OUT. NOT ENOUGH STOPS FOR FOOD. THEY WERE TOO FAR APART AND THE LENGTH OF TIME TO RELIEVE THE BOWLES AND KIDNEYS MADE IT VERY UNCOMFORTABLE. I HAD FOUND A PIG BRISSEL TOOTH BRUSHG AND A LITTLE BENT UP TEA POT WITH A LID THAT ALLOWED ME TO BOIL WATER IF WE HAD WATER AND A FIRE. I THINK THE TEA POT SAVED MY LIFE. EVERY TIME WE TRAVELED A LOT OF PRISONERS CAME DOWN WITH DISENTARY. I NEVER HAD IT. DAYS LATER WE ARRIVED IN PENANG, MALIA. WE WERE PUT ON A 2 SHIP AND AN ARMED TUG WAS WITH US TO PREVENT US FROM TAKING OVER THE SHIPS. OUR SHIP HAD AUSTRALIANS AND AMERICANS. THE OTHER SHIP HAD DUTCH AND JAP SOLGERS. CROWDED AS USUAL. POOR FOOD, WATER, AND WE HAD TO GO ON DECK TO RELIEVE OUR SELVE. YOU HAD TO GET PERMISSION TO GO ON DECK. NO HATCH COVER BUT IT WAS VERY HOT. IT TOOK SEVERAL DAYS TO MAKE BURMA. WE HAD OUR FIRST SIGHT OF LIBERATORS. 6 OF THEM. TWO OF THEM MADE 3 RUNS ON OUR SHIP. WE COULD WATCH THEM AND SEE WHEN THE BOMBS WERE DROPPED. THEY HIT US ONE TIME STARTING A FIRE BUT WE DID NOT SINK. THE OTHER SHIP WAS SUNK. BUT ONLY 40 DUTCHMAN WERE LOST. A FIELD ARTILLERY GUN WAS ON THE BOW OF OUR SHIP AND THE AMMUNITION EXPLOYDED AND KILLED SOME JAPS. I THOUGHT THEY WERE STRAFING US ON THE BOMB RUN. THEY WERE ONLY ABOUT 6000 FEET FROM THE OCEAN.

WE HAVE HAD THE PLEASURE OF MEETING THE CREW OF THE PLANE THAT HIT US AND THE PILOT OF THE ONE THAT MISSED US. THEY WERE NOT SURE HOW WE WOULD REACT. WE TOLD THEM THEY HAD SOME ONE BELOW PRAYING FOR TWO THINGS. THEIR AIM WAS BAD WHEN THEY DROPPED THE BOMBS IF WE WERE ON THE TARGET AND THAT THEY

MAKE IT HOME SAFELY. WE STOOD UP THE ONE THAT MISSED US IN DALLAS, TEXAS A FEW YEARS AGO AND THANKED HIM FOR DOING SUCH A BAD JOB THAT DAY. HE WENT ON AND FLEW IN B 29 IN THE PACIFIC

HE IS A VERY NICE PERSON.

OUR DESTINATION WAS RANGOON, BURMA. THE BOMBING CHANGED OUR DESTINATION. WE PICKED UP SUVIVORS OF THE SUNKEN SHIP AND THEN WE WERE REALLY

OVERCROWDED. I GAVE AWAY EVERY THING I HAD TO SUVIVORS EXCEPT WHAT I HAD ON.

IT WAS A VERY JUMPY SHIP THE REST OF THE VOYAGE. A JAP OFFICER JUMPED OVERBOARD THINKING THERE WAS ANOTHER AIR RAID. THAT NIGHT WE PASSED THROUGH ANOTHER CONVOY THAT WAS BOMBED THAT

DAY. THEY HAD SUNK MOST OF THOSE SHIPS. THESE PLANES WERE OUT OF INDIA AND THEY HAD A LONG FLIGHT TO FIND JAP SHIPPING.

THE SUPPLY LINES WERE LONG AND THEY WERE SHORT OF A LOT OF THINGS. AND THEY WERE VERY BRAVE AMERICANS.

WHEN WE WERE TAKEN OFF THE SHIP IN MOLEMALIN, BURMA WE WERE HELD IN A LEPOR PRISON A FEW DAYS. AGAIN POOR FOOD AND WE HAD JUST COME OUT OF VERY HOT CLIMATE OUR BLOOD WAS THIN AND AT NIGHT WE NEARLY FROZE. I FOUND OUT SOME PRISONERS WERE GRABBING THE CLOTHING WE GAVE TO SURVIVORS AND A LOT OF SELLING WAS GOING ON. I GOT INTO THE BUSINESS AND SOLD OTHERS THINGS AND GOT SOME MONEY TO BUY ME SOME THINGS I NEEDED. I WAS CARRYING A CANVAS FOR MR. NELSON AND RED EBAUGH (HIS BROTHER DIED THE NIGHT THE SHIP WAS SUNK) WAS FREEZING SO WE SLEPT TOGETHER UNDER THE CANVAS. WE WERE STILL COLD BUT IT WAS BETTER THAN JUST ONE BLANKET. HE WAS A VERY NICE PERSON SO WE STARTED SHARING THINGS. I HAD SOME MONEY AND WAS ABLE TO BUY SUGAR AND TOBACCO. WE STAYED THERE SEVERAL DAYS AND THEN MOVED TO THE FIRST CONSTRUCTION CAMP. IT WAS SEVENTEEN KILO CAMP. THIS DISTANCE WAS FROM MOLEMALIN BURMA WHERE THE RAILROAD STARTED BUILDING FROM.

OUR HOME WAS A BAMBOO HUT. A DIRT FLOOR PASSAGE WAY DOWN THE MIDDLE. RAISED FLOOR OUT OF BAMBOO ON EACH SIDE. THE ROOF LEAKED IN RAINEY WEATHER THAT WAS TO COME. ONE WATER WELL THAT ALLOWED US ONE CANTEEN OF WATER A DAY. NO TOILET, NO LIGHTS EXCEPT A FIRE. I CAME DOWN WITH EAR INFEDCTION AND HAD TO USE A ROCK TO HOLD ON MY EARS TIL THE ABSCESS BROKE. THEY VERY PAINFUL, WE HAD NO PAIN KILLERS. FOOD WAS RICE AND SOME TYPE OF GREENS. WE NEVER HAD ENOUGH FOOD. WOKE AT DAWN, SO CALLED BREAKFAST AND THEN OUT TO WORK. THEY MEASURED OFF TWO METERS PER MAN INCLUCING ONE FOR OUR OFFICER IN CHARGE. WE DID NOT ALLOW HIM TO WORK. WE DID HIS. WEARING G STRINGS. WE BURNED AND BLISTERED DAY AFTER DAY. IT TOOK A MONTH FOR US TO TAN AND GET ACCUSTOM TO THE CLIMATE. THE ONE CANTEEN OF WATER WAS NOT ENOUGH. YOUR MOUTH WAS DRY AND FULL OF COTTON. YOU WERE THIRSTY FOR WATER ALL DAY AND NIGHT. I DO NOT MENTION BEATINGS BUT THEY WERE A PART OF THE DAY AND NIGHT. I DO NOT THINK ANY ONE EXCAPED THEM. THEY HIT YOU ON THE SIDE OF THE FACE AND SPLIT YOUR LIPS. INFECTION FROM BROKEN SKIN WAS A DANGER. THEY WOULD POKE A BAYNET AT YOUR FACE AND EYES. I DO NOT KNOW IF THEY WERE DOING IT ONLY TO SCARE YOU BUT AN EYE WITH A BAYNET STUCK IN IS NOT A PRETTY THOUGHT. STAND A PRISONER UP IN FRONT OF THE GUARD HOUSE AND GO OUT AND BEAR ON HIM EVER SO OFTEN. USE FIST, BAMBOO POLE, OR A RIFLE BUTT. IT WAS A HELL OF A WAY TO LIVE. HUNGER, BRUTILITY, NO MEDICAL SUPPLIES, DISEASES WE CAN'T EVEN MENTION, NO BATHING OR TOILET PHYSICILITIES EXCEPT THE OUTSIDE. NO EATING GEAR, WE DID HAVE MOSQUETIOE NETS AND PLENTY OF MOSQUETOUS. YOU WORKED TIL THE WORK ASSIGNED WAS FINISHED. ROCK OR SOFT DIRT SAME AMOUT. COULD SHOVEL IT OR CARRY IT UP A 20' EMBANKMENT. SAME AMOUT. OUR TOOL A SACK BETWEEN TWO GUYS ON A BAMBOO POLE, SHOVE, AND A PICK. TIMBERS TO SUPPORT BRIDGES WERE DRIVEN BY A LARGE

GROUP OF PRISONERS PULLING UP A WEIGHT AND ALLOWING IT DROP. THE BIG TIMBERS WERE CARRIED OUT OF THE FOREST ON MEN'S SHOULDER.

NOT SURE OF TIME IN ANY CAMP. THEY WERE ABOUT 5 KILOMETERS APART. THE PRISONERS WORKED HALF WAY FROM THEIR CAMP. DIG A CUT, FILL A LOW PLACE, AND BUILD A BRIDGE IN BETWEEN. BEATINGS. DISEASES, LONG HOURS OF WORK. WE WERE SCHEDULED TO WORK NINE DAYS AND HAVE THE TENTH DAY OFF. BUT THEY SEEM TO ALLWAYS HAVE WORK ON THE TENTH DAY. AND THEN THEY STARTED WORKING PART OF THE NIGHT AFTER THE DAY'S WORK. THEY ISSUED NOTHING. NO TOOTH BRUSH, NO EATING EQUIPMENT, NO MEDICAL SUPPLIES, NO DECENT HOUSING, DIRT FLOORS, LEAKEY ROOFS, YET OUR GOVERNMENT COMPLAINS ABOUT GOVERNMENTS TREATING THEIR CITIZENS AND THEY EXEMPED THE JAPS FOR PAYING US FOR THE WAY THEY TREATED US.

OUR NEXT CAMP WAS 85 KILO. I KNOW A KILO IS WEIGHT BUT I USE IT AS DISTANCE. THINGS LIKE WATER WERE A LITTLE BETTER. THERE WAS A STREAM RUNNING THROUGH THE CAMP FOR BATHING. THE RAINEY SEASON HAD NOT STARTED SO THE LEAKEY ROOF WAS SOMETHING WE STILL WERE NOT AWARE OF. THE ONE BAD THING AT 85 KILO. THERE WAS A ROCK QUARRY ACROSS THE ROAD. WE LEARNED TO GET OUT IN THE OPEN WHEN THEY YELLED FIRE IN THE HOLE. YOU COULD HAVE A CHANCE TO DODGE THE BIG ROCKS THAT CAME INTO OUR CAMP. WE HAD SOME HIT WHILE STILL IN THE HUTS. THE ROCKS CAME THROUGHT THE ROOF. ONE DIFFERENT EVENT AT 85. A CHARGE DID NOT GO OFF AND THE JAP WENT UP TO CHECK IT. IT THEN DID EXPLOYDE. HE WAS PUT ON TOP OF A PILE OF LOGS AND WHEN THE FIRE COOLED THEY WENT IN AND PUT SOME ASHES IN A BOX AND SENT IT BACK TO JAPAN. WONDER WHAT KIND OF TIMBER THE ASHES THEY SENT WERE FROM.

OUR NEXT MOVE WAS TO 80KILO CAMP. SAME HORRIBLE CONDITIONS ABOUT FOOD, BRUTILITY,

AND WORKING CONDITIONS. THE ONLY ADDED THING WAS THE RAINEY SEASON WAS STARTING. I RECEIVE ONE OF THE WORST BEATING THAT TURNED OUT TO BE SOMETHING THAT HELPED ME SURVIVE. WE WERE DIGGING A HOLE AND ONLY THE PICK OR SHOVEL

COULD WORK AT ONE TIME. OUR GUARD SAID THE ONE NOT WORKING COULD SET DOWN. A JAP GUARD ON TOP OF THE FILL SAW ME SETTING DOWN AS AN OFFICER WAS COMING ON THE SITE. HE CALLED ME UP ON TOP OF THE FILL. OUR GUARD TOLD HIM SOMETHING (I THINK IT WAS I HAD PERMISSION TO SET) BUT THE GUARDS IGNORED IT. HE STOOD ON A MOUND OF DIRT THAT PUT HIS SHOULDERS ACROSS FROM MY FACE AND IN JAP TOLD ME WHAT HE THOUGHT OF ME AND BEAT THE HELL OUT OF ME. WHILE I WAS BEING WORKED OVER MY THOUGHT WAS NOT TO UTTER A SOUND AND NOT TO GO DOWN UNLESS I WAS UNCONSCIS. WE FELT THIS WAS THE ONLY WAY WE COULD FIGHT BACK. WE WERE PREPATING TO MOVE TO 100 KILO CAMP AND MR. STIVERS (ONE OF THE PILOTS) PUT ME ON THE ADVANCE PARTY TO GET AWAY FROM THE JAP. SOME GUARDS WHEN THEY STARTED BEATING ON A PRISONER THEY WOULD KEEP IT UP. I WAS CHOSEN BY THE COOK IN CHARGE TO WORK IN THE KITCHEN DETAIL. SO WHEN THE RAINEY SEASON STARTD I DID NOT HAVE TO GO OUT ON THE RAILROAD. OUR ILLNESS GOT WORSE WHILE WE WERE IN 80 KILO CAMP.

DYSENTERY, MALARIA, BERIBERI, SCURVY, MALNUTRITION, ANXIETY, PELLAGRA, DEPRESSION, COLERA, TROPICAL ULCERS, ELEPHANTITIOUS, AND GOD KNOW WHAT ELSE. BEATING INCREASED. THE JAPS EVERY SO OFTEN WERE ALLOWED TO GO TO A HOUSE OF PROSTITUTION. THEY WERE GIVEN SOME SAKI AND SOME NOOKIE AND WHEN THEY CAME BACK THEY BEAT UP SOME OF US TO FINISH THE RECREATION. WHEN THE WORKING PARTY FELL OUT THEN JAPS THE REQUIRED THE SICK TO COME OUT AND THEY PICKED SOME OF THEM TO ALSO GO TO WORK. DURING THE MOVE TO 100 KILO THE MEN WERE MADE TO WALK CARRYING ALL OF THE THINGS THEY OWNED.

IT WAS WET AND SOME COULD NOT MAKE IT. THE JAP'S FINALLY GOT A TRUCK AND CARRIED THESE MEN. AS USUAL AFTER A MOVE THE EXERTION AGGERVATED THEIR ILLNESS AND CAUSE SOME TO DIE FROM THE ILLNESS THEY HAD. JUST LIKE THE REST THE TRAIN AND WALKING TRIPS MEN BECAME SO THIRSTY THEY DRANK UNBOILED WATER WHEN THE COULD NOT GET BOILED AND DISEASE GREW.

MY JOB WAS TO DRAW WATER OUT OF A WELL WITH THE WATER TABLE ABOUT 20 FEET DOWN WITH A BUCKET AND ON A ROPE. FILL A ½ DRUM, CARRY IT WITH ANOTHER MAN ON A TWO MAN SUPPORT. BOIL IT FOR AT LEAST TEN MINUTES, GET UP EVERY OTHER MORNING EARLY AND START THE FIRES FOR THE COOKS. ASSIST THE COOKS ANY WAY THEY NEED ME. CARRY THE FOOD OUT ON THE RAIL ROAD AT NOON AND SERVE THE FOOD. SERVE IT IN THE MORNING AND NIGHT. I WAS GOOD AT GUESSING HOW MUCH TO GIVE EACH MAN AND IF I WAS HAVING TOO MUCH LEFT OVER I COULD INCREASE IT WITH OUT GETTING CAUGHT. YOU DID NOT WANT TO RUN OUT BUT YOU DID NOT WANT MUCH LEFT. AND IF THEY HAD THOUGHT ONE GOT MORE THAN THE OTHER YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN IN TROUBLE.

ONE OF THE FIGHTS I GOT IN WITH A SOLGER I WAS PUZZLED TIL I FOUND OUT THE REASON. HE PICKED THE FIGHT AND WAS LAYING FOR THE EXCUSE TO DO IT. ME AND W.G.REID WAS IN THE KITCHEN ONE DAY AND THIS MAN AND HIS FRIEND WERE TALKING TO THE SGT. IN CHARGE AND STEALING A CUP OF SUGAR. REED TOLD ON THEM AND THEY THOUGHT IT WAS I. THE EXCUSE WAS I WAS TOLD TO NOT ALLOW ANY ONE TO USE A TABLE TO EAT ON AND WHEN I ASK HIM TO MOVE HE SAID (FUCK YOU) AND I SAID YOU TRY IT. HE WAS LOOSING THE BATTLE AND HE DECIDED TO WRASSEL ME TO THE GROUND. IT WAS BROKE UP AND I WAS GLAD. IF THE JAP'S CAUGHT YOU FIGHTING WHAT THEY DID WAS NOT NICE.

(BIG FOOT WAS HIS NICK NAME). ANOTHER WAS WITH A MEXICAN HE WAS DRINKING UNBOILED WATER AND I TOLD HIM NOT TOO AND WE HAD A LITTLE SCUFFEL. NEVER UNDERSTOOD THAT FIGHT. NO ONE WAS HURT.

HALF OF THE CAMP WAS BED RIDDEN. I STARTED MAKING POTS AND PISS CONTAINERS OUT OF BAMBOO. THEY TOOK MOST OF THE WORKING MEN BACK AND WE WERE MOSTLY JUST A SICK CAMP. PUTTING 10 TO 12 MEN IN THE GRAVE A DAY. JAPS WOULD NOT EVEN GO IN THE SICK HUT IT SMELLED SO BAD. I CAME DOWN WITH SOME TROPICAL ULCERS ON MY HANDS AND ONE BAD ONE ON MY LEG. I HAD MALARIA ABOUT EVERY MONTH. I COULD TELL WHEN IT WAS COMING. I WOULD FEEL REAL GOOD THAT MORNING AND THEN IN THE AFTERNOON I WOULD COME DOWN WITH FEVER AND CHILLS. I LEARNED TO DRINK A LOT OF HOT WATER. TAKE

NY QUIENINE. WRAP IN MY BLANKET AND SHAKE AND FINALLY AFTER SEVERAL HOURS I WOULD BREAK MY FEVER AND THEN I WAS WEAK FOR ABOUT A WEEK. THE BAD ULCER ON MY LEG I SOAKED IT WITH HOT WATER AND DUG OUT THE INFECTION WITH A BAMBOO STICK. IT WAS ABOUT 2 INCHES AROUND AND ABOUT ONE INCH DEEP WHEN I GOT RID OF THE WHITE HARD BOTTOM AND GOT NICE RED MEAT ALL OVER THE INSIDE OF THE SORE. I HAD DIREA BUT NO BLOOD SO IT WAS NOT DISENTARY. WE HAD A COLORA OUT BREAK IN 105 KILO CAMP. WE HAD A FEW DIE FROM COLORA BUT WE WORKED HARD BOILING THE WATER AND COOKING THE FOOD. AND WE ESCAPED A BIT LOSS OF LIFE FROM THAT. IT KILLED QUICK AND A LOT OF PEOPLE. RED EBAUGH MY FRIEND DIED. HE WAS BEATEN AND HIT IN THE HEAD WHERE THE TUMOR HAD BEEN REMOVED AND NO PLATE WAS PUT IN HIS HEAD TO PROTECT IT. (THAT PLACE WOULD PUMP LIKE A HEART WHEN HE HAD THE SPELLS. I SAT UP WITH HIM THE NIGHT BEFORE. HE WOULD HAVE CONVULSIONS ONE AFTER THE OTHER. THEY TOLD ME TO PUT A STICK IN HIS MOUTH SO HE WOULD NOT BITE AND SWALLOW HIS TONGUE AND TO SLAP HIS FACE. THE SLAP DID NOP GOOD. I DO NOT REMEMBER HOW MANY HE HAD THAT NIGHT. BUT I

DID NOT GET MUCH SLEEP. HE WENT IN TO THE SO CALLED HOSPITAL THE NEXT DAY AND WAS UNCONSCIOUS FOR ALONG TIME. HE CAME TOO AFTER A FEW WEEKS AND WAS OK FOR A SHORT TIME. THEN IT HAPPENED AGAIN AND HE PASSED AWAY.

WITH THE ROADS IMPASSABLE THE FEW TRUCKS THEY GOT IN TO BRING SUPPLIES HAD MEAT IN BOXES THAT WAS FULL OF MAGGETS. THE COOKS WASHES IT AND COOKED IT. NATIVES HAD DIED AND THEIR ANIMALS WERE IN THE FOREST. THEY WERE BROUGHT IN WHEN FOUND AND KILLED. THE 50 JAP GUARDS TOOK HALF AND THE PRISIONERS THAT STARTED OUT AS 2000 TOOK THE OTHER HALF. GREEN LEAF VEGATABLES WERE FOUND IN THE FOREST AND THE COOKS DID THE BEST THEY COULD. SOME RICE CAME IN THAT HAD SAND IN IT AND WASHING IT DID NOT REMOVE THE SAND. WE HAD ONE DIE OF APPENDITICIOUS WE THINK AS A RESULT OF THE SAND IN THE RICE.

FINALLY THE RAILROAD WAS FINISHED. WE WERE LOADED ON A FLAT CAR WITH SIDES AND IT TOOK SEVERAL DAYS AND NIGHTS TO REACH A CAMP JUST OUTSIDE OF BANCOCK, SIAM. IT WAS ON A RIVER CLOSE TOO THE BRIDGE OF THE RIVER KIWI THAT MADE THE RAILROAD FAMOUS. IN THE LAST MONTHS WE HAD BOMBERS COME OVER AT NIGHT AND IT BECAME MORE FREQUENT.

THIS WAS SORT OF A HOSPITAL CAMP. NO WORK. CHIEF BLARE AND A THIRD CLASS COOK DIED THAT I KNOW OF. SEVERAL OF US WENT TO SEE CHIEF BLAIR BUT HE WOULD NOT EVEN TALK TO US. WE CARRIED THE 3RD CLASS COOK'S BODY A LONG WAY TO BURY HIM.. HE HAD BERI BERI AND FOUR OF US HAD HIM ON A PLATFORM ABOVE US. I WAS IN THE BACK AND HE WAS DRIPPING ALL OF THE WAY. I DO NOT KNOW WHO BURIED CHIEF BLAIR.

THIS CAMP WAS A LOT BETTER. NO WORKING PARTIES AND WE WERE GIVEN ONE FRESH FISH WHOLE. WHAT A DIFFERENCE IN IT AND A PIECE OF DRIED FISH. I ATE IT ALL INCLUDING THE EYES.

ANOTHER TRAIN RIDE ENDING IN NONPING, CAMBOYDIA. AFTER SEVERAL DAYS IN ANOTHER SMALL OVER CROWDED BOX CAR. WE

WOKE UP ONE MORNING THE TRAIN HAD STOPPED. WE WERE IN A RAILROAD YARD. SOME OF US WERE USED TO CARRY OUR SUPPLIES DOWN TO THE RIVER. IT WAS A LONG WALK. AND WE WALKED BACK AND THEN

ALL OF US WALKED TO THE RIVER.

BY THIS TIME A LARGE CROWD OF WHITE FRENCH HAD GATHERED. WHAT A SIGHT. THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WHITE LADIES. WE HAD NOT HAD THIS PRIVILEGE FOR A LONG TIME. WE WERE LOADED ON A RIVER BOAT. SO MANY OF US SOME HAD TO BE ON DECK FOR THE OVERNIGHT RIDE TO SAGION. IT WAS AN OVERNIGHT RIDE AND IT RAINED THAT NIGHT. THOSE ON DECK ENDED UP WET. WE ARRIVED IN SAIGON, INDOCHINA THE NEXT MORNING AND OUR CAMP WAS JUST ACROSS THE ROAD FROM THE DOCKS. THERE WERE ENGLISH PRISONERS IN THE CAMP. OUR BUILDINGS WERE WOOD EXCEPT FOR OUR BUILDING. IT WAS MASONRY. IT HAD BEEN A JAIL. WE STARTED WORKING ON THE DOCKS, REFRINERY, AIRPORT, AND ALL OVER SAIGON. WE HAD NOT BEEN YHERE A WEEK TIL WE HAD A NIGHT BOMBING RAID THAT LAID A STICK OF BOMBS JUST OUTSIDE THE CAMP ALONG SIDE OUR BUILDING. THE BATH HERE WE HAD A BIG CEMENT CONTAINER IN THE YARD THAT HAS WATER IN IT. A LOT OF US WERE INFECTED WITH BED BUGS AND LICE. FROM THESE I CAME DOWN WITH SCABIES. IT WAS SORES WOULD BREAK OUT ON YOUR BODY AND WHEN YOU SWEATED AT NIGHT IT ITCHED. TO CURE THIS THEY HAD A BIG DRUM OF WATER OVER A FIRE. IT HAD SOME KIND OF A SOLUTION IN IT. YOU GOT IN AND SOAKED.

ONE OF MY MALARIA ATTACK WOULD NOT GO AWAY. I STARTED HAVING DIEAREA AND RUNNING A FEVER. THIS WENT ON A WEEK. AND I JUST COULD NOT GET OVER IT. I WAS TURNED INTO THE HOSPITAL AND MY SPACE WAS ON THE BACK. I LOOKED OUT ON THE SIDE AND SAW A BODY WRAPED IN A MATT. I KNEW WHOES PLACE I HAD TAKEN. WHEN I CAME TOO I WAS ON THE ISLE AND MY CHEST WAS VERY SORE.

I HAD CAME DOWN WITH PHNEMONIA AND NEARLY DIED. THE FRENCH HAD SMUGGLED IN SOME SULFA TABLETS AND THEY GAVE ME TWO I WAS TOLD. THERE WAS TWO AIR RAIDS DURING THE TIME I WAS UNCONSCIOUS. THE FIRST ONE THEY CARRIED ME OUT TO A TRENCH. IT NEARLY KILLED ME. THE NEXT ONE THEY LEFT ME IN THE HUT.

THEY GAVE ME SOME BREAD SLICES FRIED IN DEEP FAT. I WAS SO WEAK WHEN I WAS DISCHARGED TO KEEP ME OFF OF THE WORKING PARTIES THEY ASSIGNED ME TO WORK

WITH A GROUP THAT MADE AND SOLD GOODIES IN THE CAMP. WE FRIED EGGES AND MADE OTHER THINGS AND SOLD THEM TO THE PRISONERS. IT WAS A LOT BETTER THAN WORKING ON THE OUTSIDE. THEY STARTD A HOSPITAL CAMP AND WE WERE TRANSFERED TO IT. AND I STAYED ON THE SAME JOB.

WE STARTED HAVING A LOT MORE BOMBING RAIDS. THEY ALLOWED US TO BUILD AN AIR RAID SHELTERS. THE AA GUN SCHRAPNEL WAS THE BAD THING. LARGE CHUNCKS OF METAL HURT SOME OF OUT PEOPLE. IN THE SO CALLED CANTEEN GROUP I WAS IN WE HAD THREE DUTCHMEN AND ME. I DID ALL OF THE DIRTY WORK. WE MADE COFFEE AND WENT AROUND SELLING IT. THE ONE WITH ME NEVER LET ME COLLECT THE MONEY. SO I COUNTED THE CUPS AND THE MONEY HE TURNED IN AND

HE GOT RELIEVED. I STARTED COUNTING WHAT WE SOLD AND WHAT WE TURNED IN AND THE OTHER TWO GOT RELIEVED AND I BECAME THE BOSS.

ONE THING THAT HAPPENED I WILL NEVER FORGET. A DUTCH MEDICAL ORDERLY WOULD COME UP AND GRAB SOMETHING OFF OF THE TRAY AND TELL MY MAN HE WOULD PAY FOR IT LATER. SO ONE DAY I WENT OVER TO THEIR SPECIAL MESS HALL AND DEMANDED HE PAY. I WAS PREPARED TO BEAT THE HELL OUT OF HIM IF HE DID NOT PAY. THE DUTCH HAD A BIG SEPERATION IN SPECIAL PEOPLE. ONE DAY HE CAME UP TO ME AND I SHOULD NOT HAVE DONE WHAT I DID BUT I DID. HE WAS JEWISH AND I COULD SOME TIMES GET A LITTLE PORK AND PUT IT IN THE MIXTURE WE MADE EGGE OMELETS OUT OF. HE GRABBED ONE AND STARTED EATING THEN SAW THE FAT PORK. I NEVER HAD ANY MORE TROUBLE OUT OF HIM.

I WAS PUT ON A DISCHARGE PARTY TO GO BACK TO WORK SO I MADE SOME RICE BALLS AND TOOK IT TO THE JAP SARGENT. THE BRIBE WORKED. AND THEN I DID SOMETHING WERY STUPID. I GOT IN A POKER GAME AND HAD A SUCKER HAND. I THINK IT WAS CROOKED BUT I LOST MY CANTEEN MONEY. TWO POW CAME UP AND GAVE ME MONEY TO REPLACE MY LOSS WITH. ELDRIGE L. RAYBURN AND HUGH FAULK WERE THE TWO. IT IS A KINDNESS I WILL NEVER FORGET. THEY JUST CAME UP AND DID IT. FAULK'S

WIFE DID NOT UNDERSTAND WHEN SHE BOUGHT THE BIRD HOUSE I PUT I IN THE SILENT AUCTION I GAVE HER HE MONEY BACK WHEN I FOUND OUT SHE BOUGHT IT. AND THE NEXT YEAR I BROUGHT A PRESENT FOR RAYBURN'S WIFE. WE HAD A LOT OF KINDNESS SHOWN IN PRISON CAMP THAT WAS NOT BROADCAST. IN BURMA WHILE I WAS WATER BOY I MADE PANCAKES OUT OF RICE AND SOLD THEM FOR TEN CENTS EACH. SOME OF THE OFFICERS BOUGHT THEM. WHEN CANTEEN SUPPLIES CAME IN I PAID FOR PRISONERS IN MY GROUP THAT COULD NOT PAY FOR THE AMOUNT THEY WERE ENTITLED TOO. NEEDLESS TO SAY I WAS ON THE NEXT DISCHARGE GROUP. BUT MY HEALTH WAS NOW GOOD ENOUGH TO GO OUT ON WORKING PARTIES. I DO NOT MENTION THE BEATINGS BUT THEY WERE PART OF THE DAY. WORKING PARTIES WOULD BE SEARCHED WHEN THEY RETURNED AND THOSE CAUGHT WERE BEATEN. I NOW THINK WE WERE ALLOWED TO STEAL BECAUSE THE GUARDS WERE STEALING A LOT MORE AND THEY WERE PUTTING THE BLAME ON US.

IN THE EARLY PART OF 1945 WE HAD THE BEST DAY OF OUR LIVES IN PRISON CAMP. EIGHT OCLOCK IN THE MORNING AMERICAN CARRIER PLANES CAME OVER AND STARTED AT THE AIRPORT. A FEW JAP PLANES TRIED TO TAKE OFF AND WERE SHOT DOWN VERY QUICKLY. THEN THE PLANES LEISURELY CAME OVER TO THE DOCKS AND STARTED DIVING DOWN ALL MORNING OVER US. WE WERE JUST ACROSS THE ROAD AND WE HAD BEEN ALLOWED TO BUILD AIR RAID SHELTERS IN THE SWAMP BACK OF OUR PRISION CAMP. THE FIGHTER PLANES STRAFFED, THE DIVE BOMBERS AND TORPEDO PLANES BOMBED. THEY HAD A LOT OF FIRES GOING ON THE SHIPS. WE SAW ONE PLANE SHOT TO PIECES DIRECTLY OVER US. THE WINGS JUST CRUMBLLED AND THEN THE TAIL AND JUST THE FUSELAGE WAS TUMBLING DOWN. THAT AFTER NOON ONE PULLED UP OVER US ON FIRE AND THE PILOT BAILED OUT. THEN ONE STALLED OVER US. KEPT FLYING, STALLED AGAIN, THEN CAME BACK BLYING VERY SLOWELY. DID A SNAP ROLL AND THREW HIS THREE BOMBS OUT UP SIDE DOWN NEAR AN A. A. GUN. THEN CAME BACK OVER US PICKING UP SPEED AND LEFT. WE FOUND



OUT AFTER THE WAR HE HAD HALF OF HIS HEAD BLOWN OFF AND ONE OF HIS SHIPMATES FOUND HIM AND TOOK HIM BACK TO THE CARRIER. JOHN BARTZ WAS ON A STATION WHERE HE WAS AT AFTER THE WAR AND WAS ABLE TO TELL HIM WHAT WE SAW

HAPPEN TO HIM. CARRIER PILOTS ARE SOMETHING ELSE. WITH A SINGLE ENGINE THEY TAKE OFF FOR COMBAT FROM A FIELD THAT IS MOVING AND FLY OVER AN UNFRIENDLY LARGE OCEAN. I TAKE MY HAT OFF TO THEM THEY ARE VERY BRAVE MEN.

WE WERE HAVING A LOT OF B 24 BOMBERS IN LARGE GROUPS COME OVER. A B 216 CAME OVER THE REFINERY WITH THE 75 MILLIAMPERE GUN IN THE NOSE SPOUTING FIRE. WE HAD BEEN ALLOWED TO RUN JUST BEFORE IT CAME OVER AND WE WERE IN A GROUP OF TREE'S JUST ON THE SIDE OF THE REFINERY. AND IT WENT DIRECTLY OVER US. WHAT A SOUND. A B 25 MADE A RUN OVER THE SAME PLACE ONE DAY AND AGAIN WE WERE GETTING LOW AS WE COULD WHEN IT WENT OVER. IT HAD A LOT OF 50 CALIBER MACHINE GUNS IN THE NOSE. THE B 26 SOUNDED LIKE A TRUCK WITH A LOAD OF BARRELS GOING UP A HILL AND ALL OF THE BARRELS ROLLED OFF AND BACK DOWN THE HILL. SOME OF THE PRISONERS SAID THEY SAW A HOSPITAL SHIP UNLOAD OIL AT THE REFINERY. A BOMBING RAID HAD DESTROYED SOME OF THE TANKS AND WE COVERED UP THE REST WITH DIRT. THEY HAD A SMALL FIRE BURNING IN A DAMAGED TANK AND WHEN A BOMBING RAID CAME THEY RELEASED OIL AND LET THE FIRE BUILD UP AND SMOKE.

SINGLE LIBERATORS WOULD COME IN LOW AND START STRAFFING AND DROPPING BOMBS. I WAS READING A BOOK ONE DAY ABOUT THE BOMBING IN ENGLAND ONE DAY. I WAS ON THE TOP LAYER IN MY BUNK AND ALL OF A SUDDEN THE BOMBING BECAME REAL. I FLIPPED DOWN TO THE CEMENT DECK AND LAY FLAT, THE PLANE WENT BY AND I GOT UP TO RUN AND IT CAME BACK. DOWN ON THE FLOOR I WENT AGAIN. THERE WAS SAND ON THE FLOOR AND I INJURED MYSELF WITH THE FIRST FALL FROM THE TOP LAYER OF BUNKS. AND THE SAND SCRAPPED MY SKIN OFF. THEY OPEN THE GATES AND WE WERE ALLOWED TO GO TO THE AIR RAID SHELTERS. WHEN I CAME BACK I COULD HARDLY WALK.

WE HAD SEVERAL AMUSING INCIDENTS HAPPEN. A PERSON WAS BATHING OUTSIDE AND A GARBAGE PIT WAS NEXT TO WHERE HE WAS STANDING. HE DROVE IN TO THE

GARBAGE PIT AND WHEN THE PLANE WENT BY HE GOT OUT HOPPING NO ONE SAW HIM AND WAS BATHING AGAIN SAYING HE WOULD NEVER DO THAT AGAIN AND BACK COMES THE PLANE SHOOTING. HE WENT BACK INTO THE GARBAGE PIT. PLANE WENT BY AND BACK BATHING HOPING NO ONE SAW HIM. THE LOCAL WATER LEVEL IN THE GROUND WOULD KEEP WATER IN THE GARBAGE PITS ALL OF THE TIMES.

ALFRED R. NEITSCH ONE OF OUR SAILORS GOT CAUGHT. THE TOILETS WERE A CONCRETE FLOOR WITH A HOLE IN IT. A BUCKET WAS UNDER THE HOLE. HE PULLED THE BUCKET OUT AND CRAWLED IN THE COMPARTMENT. HE WAS SEEN SO HIS NAME WAS PUT ON THE COMPARTMENT.

THIS BRINGS ONE MORE THING TO MIND. DEMO ALBERS A SECOND CLASS STORE KEEPER THE NIGHT WE WERE SUNK KEPT COMPLAINING HE WAS WOUNDED ON THE RAFT HE WAS ON. WHEN DAY LIGHT CAME THEY

COULD FIND NO WOUND. SO IN THE BIYCYCLE CAMP THEY STOOD HIM UP IN FRONT OF ALL OF US AND PRESENTED HIM WITH A PURPLE HEART. IT WAS QUIET A MEDAL. I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO DESCRIBE IT. THIS IS NO WAY BE DISHONORING THESE MEN. THEY WERE AS HONORABLE AS THE REST OF MY WONDERFUL SHIPMATES. AND THIS IS SOME OF THE THINGS THAT HAPPENED ON THE AMUSING SIDE THAT MADE US LAUGH. BIG AIR RAIDS CONTINUED TO BECOME MORE NUMERIOUS.

IN MARCH OF 1945 THE JAPS TOOK OVER THE FRENCH ARMY AND PUT THEM IN PRISON CAMP. WE HEARD THERE WAS SUPPOSE TO BE A REBELLION BY THE FRENCH AND WE WERE TO BE IN ON IT. BUT THE JAPS JUMPED FIRST. WE HEARD SHOOTING ALL NIGHT AND OUR CAMP HAD EXTRA GUARDS AROUND IT.

SOME TIME BEFORE THE MIDDLE OF THE YEAR A LOT OF US WERE PUT ON A TRAIN AND ANOTHER HORRIBLE TRAIN RIDE. BUT THIS TIME IT WAS AT NIGHT. DURING THE DAY YOU LAY BACK OUT IN THE BUSHES ALONG SIDE THE RAILS AND A LIBERATOR WOULD COME BY STRAFFING AND DROPPING BOMBS. A LOT OF BRIDGES WERE BOMBED OUT SO YOU WALKED BETWEEN THOSE THAT NO TRAIN WAS IN THAT AREA. SAME OLD CROWDED BOX CARS, LONG WAY BETWEEN FOOD STOPS AND RELIEF STOPS.

WE ENDED UP IN DALAT. IT WAS IN THE MOUNTAINS AND WHERE THE FRENCH WENT TO GET AWAY FROM THE HEAT. A LOT OF BIG HOUSES AND IT WAS COLD. WE WERE THERE TO DIG TUNNELS UNDER THE HOUSES. THEY HAD THE TUNNELS SHORED BUT THEY HAD US WORK OUT BEYOND THE SHORING AND IT WOULD SOME TIME CAVE IN AND IT WAS VERY DANGEROUS.

A GUARD HAD SOME OF US ON A WORKING PARTY AND WE WENT THROUGH AN ORANGE ORCHARD. THE GUARD SAID WE COULD TAKE SOME ORANGES. I TOOK AS MANY AS I COULD AND WE ATE ALL OF THE ORANGE. PEELING, SEED AND FRUIT. WE HAD NOT HAD ANY FRUIT SINCE CAPTIVITY. IT WAS GOOD.

WE WENT BACK DOWN THE MOUNTAIN AND HEADED IN THE DIRECTION OF HANO. THE RAIL ROAD STATION AT THE JUNCTION OF THE MAIN LINE HAD BEEN DESTROYED BY BOMBS. MORE WALKING IN BETWEEN BLOWN OUT BRIDGES AT NIGHT AND WATCHING LIBERATORS GO BY IN THE DAY TIME LAYING OUT IN THE BUSHES.

OUR NEXT JOB WAS WHERE A BIG BRIDGE HAD BEEN BLOWN UP AND WE CARRIED STUFF ACROSS AT NIGHT. THE BOMBER WOULD COME IN THE DAY AND CIRCLE AROUND OUR PLACE WE WERE HELD. YOU KEPT WAITING FOR THE BOMBS TO DROP. THEY WOULD SHOOT AT ANY THING THAT MOVED.

IN THE LAST PLACE WE WERE AT AN AIR FIELD WAS NEXT TO US. THE AIRPLANES MADE THEIR FINAL APPROACH OVER OUR BUILDING. ONE MORNING A FIGHTER PLANE TOOK OFF AND THE ENGINE SPUTTERED AFTER IR WAS OFF OF THE GROUND. THE PILOT CIRCLED THE FIELD SEVERAL TIMES AND THE ENGINE SEEMED TO BE RUNNING GOOD SO HE CAME IF TO LAND. AS HE BANKED TO GO ON FINAL APPROACH THE ENGINE DIED AND HE WAS SO LOADED THE OLANE WENT INTO THE GROUND. HE MUST

HAVE HAD A BIG LOAD OF BOMBS, SHELL, AND GAS. HE BURNED AND THERE WAS MANY EXPLOSIONS.

SOME TIME IN JULY 1945 WE STARTED BACK FOR SAIGON. SAME HORRIBLE CONDITIONS TRAVELING WALKING AND RIDING. WE SPENT ONE DAY IN A TUNNEL. THEY COOKED SOME RICE FOR US BUT WE HAD NOTHING ELSE TO EAT WITH IT AND I GOT SICK FROM JUST THE RICE.

WHEN WE ARRIVED BACK IN OUR PRISON CAMP IN SAIGON THE ATMOSPHERE SEEM TO HAVE CHANGED. THEY PUT US TO WORK BUILDING PILL BOXES FACING INTO OUR CAMP. WE WERE MADE TO GET UP EVERY HOUR OF THE NIGHT FOR TINKO {MUSTER} THE GUARDS WERE SUPPOSE TO COME AND COUNT US BUT SOME TIME THEY DID NOT SHOW. A GUARD CAME IN AND TOLD J. L. SMITH AND I THAT THE JAPS WERE GOING TO GO IN THE PILL BOXES AND SET OFF TWO MINES LOCATED IN EACH CORNER OF THE CAMP AND KILL THE REST OF US. WE DID NOT SAY ANYTHING TO ANY BODY ABOUT THIS FEARING THE WAR WAS ABOUT OVER AND THAT IT MIGHT CAUSE SOME TO GO CRAZY. THEY HAD MADE US TEAR OFF THE SIDES OF THE BUILDINGS. WE NOW HAVE COPIES OF THAT ORDER AND IT WAS TO BE CARRIED OUT ABOUT AUGUST 21ST, 1945. THANK GOD FOR THE ATOM BOMBS. IT SAVED OUR LIVES.

ON ABOUT THE 9TH OF AUGUST 1945 WORD CAME IN ABOUT THE ATOM BOMB. THEY STOPPED ALL OUT SIDE WORKING PARTIES EXCEPT A FEW. ON ABOUT THE TENTH A BLACK LIBERATOR COME OVER SAIGON AND FLEW AROUND ABOUT TEN THOUSAND FEET. THEY DID NOT SHOOT AT IT AND IT MADE US THINK THE WAR WAS OVER. IT STARTED DROPPING LEAFLETS AND THEN THEY STARTED SHOOTING AT IT. WE THOUGH IT IS NOT OVER. THAT NIGHT WE GOT ONE OF THE LEAFLETS AND IT SAID THE WAR WAS OVER. THEY TOOK US OUT AND STARTED TEARING DOWN THE PILL BOXES. THEY STARTED ISSUING US THINGS THE RED CROSS HAS SENT IN. THEY REPLACED OUR GUARDS WITH JAP SOLDIERS. THEY HAD A CHIN THAT HUNG DOWN TO THEIR KNEES. THE ATTITUDE CHANGED. WE WERE TOLD TO GET READY TO MOVE. IT WAS TO A NICE TWO STORY FRENCH CAMP AND WAS IT NICE.

THE FIRST NIGHT I STOLE A COUPLE OF CHICKENS OUT OF THE JAP'S CHICKEN COP AND DRESSED THEM AND WE COOKED THEM. THE JAP SARGENT CAME BY AND CAUGHT US AND SAID NOTHING. THE NEXT DAY SOME OF US WENT OVER THE BACK FENCE. THE JAP GUARD TOLD US TO GO BACK AND WE SAID WE WOULD COME BACK SOON. HE POINTED HIS RIFLE AT US AND WE JUST KEPT GOING. HE DID NOT SHOOT.

WE MET A FRENCH MAN AND HE TOOK US TO A HOUSE OF PLEASURE. I THING THEY WERE AVIALABLE BUT WE DID NOT MAKE ANY EFFORT TO HAVE SEX. HE THEN TOOK US TO HIS HOME WHERE THERE WERE SEVERAL FAMILIES IN ONE APARTMENT. WE MOVED IN WITH THEM. WE HAD DANCES AND THERE WAS A GOOD LOOKING LADY I WAS ENJOYING AND SOME ONE TOOK ME ASIDE AND TOLD ME SHE WAS ONLY 14 YEARS OLD. WE WOULD STAY OUT A FEW DAYS THEN WE WOULD GO BACK IN TO FIND OUT WHEN WE WERE GOING TO BE TAKEN OUT.

THE CONFLICT STARTED WITH THE JAP'S SURRENDER. WE TALKED TO SOME NATIVES ONE NIGHT. HE TOOK US TO HIS HOME. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN OF WHAT AMERICA WOULD THINK OF THEM WANTING THEIR COUNTRY TO BE FREE. I EXPRESSED MY FEELINGS THAT OUR COUNTRY ALLWAYS

SUPPORTED CIRIZENS THAT WANTED THEIR COUNTRY TO BE FREE. AND I FEEL IF OUR GOVERNMENT LIVED UP TO THAT POLICY WE WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN IN THE CONFLICT WE HAD IN VIET NAM. IT WAS A MISTAKE AND NOW I THINK IT IS BEING REALIZED.

ONE NIGHT EIGHT OF US ESCORTED A FRENCH OFFICER THAT HAD BEEN PARACHUTED INTO THE CITY ON A SCOUTING EXPERIDITION. WE WERE ALLOWED TO TRAVEL BY BOTH SIDES AND NO ONE TRIED TO HURT US AT ALL.

THEY FLEW IN 8 PLANES AND THE NIGHT BEFORE WE LEFT WE HAD A PARTY. WE HAD BROUGHT IN ABOUT 2000 FRENCH WOMEN AND CHILDREN INTO OUR CAMP FOR THEIR SAFE KEEPING. AND SOME OF US STAYED WITH THE FAMILIES OF THE FRENCH WE HAD BEEN VISITING. WE WERE TALKING TO THE PILOTS AT THE PARTY AND WE TOLD THEM WE WONDERED HOW IT LOOKED DIVING DOWN AND ZOOMING AROUND LIKE THE PLANES WE HAD SAW DURING OUR CAPTIVITY. THESE WERE THE COMBAT CARGO PILOTS THAT WORKED BURMA. THE PLANE I WAS IN MUST HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE PILOTS. WE TOOK OFF AND THE PILOT BANKED AND COME BACK DOWN THE RUN WAY AT HIGH SPEED. THEN HE WENT OVER AND FLEW DOWN THE RIVER BELOW THE DOCKS. HE GAVE US A VERY GOOD SHOW AND WE LOVED IT. THERE WAS C RATIONS ON THE PLANE SO WE STARTED WITH BREAKFAST, DINNER, AND SUPPER AND THEN REPEATED IT.

WE LANDED AT BANCOCK THAILAND FOR LUNCH. WHEN HE TOOK OFF HE DID THE SAME THING. THE PLANE HAD NO DOOR AND I WAS STANDING IN THE DOOR. WE WERE NOT VERY FAR OFF OF THE RUNWAY. WE LANDED AT RANGOON, BURMA AFTER FLYING BACK OVER THE RAILROAD WE HAD BUILT IN 1943. THEY BACKED UP AND AMBULANCE TO OUR PLANE AND LOADED US I IT AND DROVE A SHORT DISTANCE AND PUT US ON AN AMBULANCE PLANE WITH A BEAUTIFUL NURSE. I GOT TO FEELING BAD AND THAT NURSE PUT ME IN A BED. CHECKED ME OVER. GAVE US SOME FRESH MILK AND I THOUGHT I HAD DIED AND GONE TO HEAVEN. I SOON GOT TO FEEL BETTER. WE LANDED IN CALCUTTA, INDIA.

WE WERE PUT IN A CONVOY OF AMBULANCES AND TAKEN ON A LONG JOURNEY TO THE ARMY HOSPITAL. SOME OF THE THINGS THE DRIVERS DID I AM ASHAMED OF AND I AM SURE IT DID NOT GIVE US A GOOD REPUTATION. THEY WOULD START CROWDING AN INDIAN DRIVING A CART PULLED BY AN OXYON. AND THE NEXT ONE WOULD PUSH HIM OVER MORE. AND SOME HIT THEM. I AM ASHAMED I WATCH IT NOT REALIZING THESE KIND OF THINGS DID NOT SELL US TO THE COUNTRIES WE WERE IN. WE ARRIVED AT THE HOSPITAL AND THEY MET US WITH A HOT COCO COLA. THEY ALL TRIED TO BE NICE AND WE SURE APPRECIATED IT.

WE WERE ISSUED 600 DOLLARS IN INDIAN MONEY. WE WERE GRANTED LIBERTY TIL MID NIGHT. BOOZE WAS NOT AVIALABLE EXCEPT SOME HORROBLE INDIAN BOOZE. WE DRANK IT. A LOT OF US DID NOT COME IN AT MIDNIGHT AND SOME WERE PUT ON REPORT. THEY WERE TAKEN TO CAPTIANS MASK AND SLAPPED ON THE WRIST. SO WE IN ORDER TO NOT UP SET THEM JUST DID NOT APPLY FOR LIBERTY. IT WAS AN OPEN GATE SO WE JUST WENT.

WE WERE DRESSED IN KAKIES SO THE SHORE PATROL JUST TRIED TO PROTECT US. WE WENT INTO RESTRICTED AREA AS WE DID NOT KNOW THE DIFFERENCE. I BOUGHT SOME WHITES AND GOT THEM SO DIRTY ONE NIGHT

I WASHED THEM IN THE SHOWER BEFORE I SENT THEM TO THE LAUNDRY. THEY EXZAMINED US AND I THINK IN ABOUT TEN DAYS WE FLEW ACROSS INDIA TO KARACHI. PAKASTAN. WE WERE THERE A DAY OR SO AND WAS PUT ON A C 54 THAT HELD 27 PEOPLE. WE WOULD FLY ABOUT 6 HOUR FLIGHTS. THERE WERE A FEW OTHER THAN EX PRISIONERS ON THE PLANE AND SOME WERE BEING BUMPED. WE THOUGHT WE MIGHT BE BUT WE WERE TOLD THE ONLY ON THAT COULD BUMP US WAS THE PRESIDENT AND HE HAD HIS OWN PLANE. WE LANDED AT CARIO, EGYPT AND WHEN WE TOOK OFF ABOUT EIGHT PM THE MOON WAS SHINING AND THE PILOT CIRCLED THE PRIMIDS. WE LANDED AT CASABLANK AND WAS PUT IN THE HOTEL THAT THE PRESIDENT STAYED IN WHEN THEY HAD THE BIG MEETING. WE GOT A BATH AND TOOK OFF ABOUT 4 PM FOR THE AZORES. WE LANDED THERE AT ABOUT 8 PM. HAD A MEAL AND TOOK OFF FOR NEW FERULAN. IT WAS AN OVER NIGHT FLIGHT ACROSS THE ATLANTIC. WE ARRIVED IN NEW FERULAN AROUND 7 A. M. AND IT WAS COLD. WE WERE ALL DRESSED IN KAKIES AND HAD NO COAT. WE RIDE ON A COLD BUS TO THE MESS HALL; AND THEN BACK TO THE PLANE HEADED FOR NEW YORK CITY.

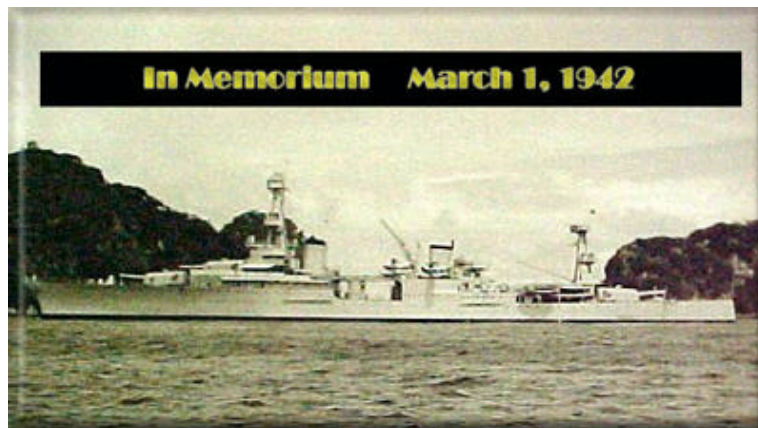
WE ARRIVED IN NEW YORK ABOUT ONE OCLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON. NO ONE KNEW WE WERE COMING AND NO ONE MET US. WE WAITED SEVERAL HOURS BEFORE A BUS CAME FOR US. A TWO ENGINE AIR PLANE A C 47 HAD STARTED LANDING AS WE TOOK OFF IN THE AZORES, NEW FERLAND, AND NOW NEW YORK. IT HAD SOME NURSES THAT WERE CAPTURED BY THE GERMANS FOR FEW WEEKS AND THEY WERE EXCITED ABOUT THEIR ADVENTURE. WE WERE ON THE SAME BUS HEADED FOR AN ARMY HOSPITAL. ONE OF THEM WAS SETTING WITH ONE OF OUR PEOPLE AND SHE WAS SO EXCITED TELLING HIM ABOUT THEIR ADVENTURE. SHE FINALLY ASKED WHERE HE HAD BEEN. HE TOLD HER AND SHE SEEMED EMBARRESED WHEN SHE FOUND OUT HOW LONG HE HAD BEEN A PRISONER. WE CERTAINLY DID NOT WANT TO HURT ANY ONE'S FEELING. WE WERE SO HAPPY TO BE HOME.

I HAD LEFT SAN DIEGO, CALIF. THE FIRST PART OF SEPTEMBER 1940 AND RETURNED TO NEW YORK IN LATE SEPTEMBER 1945. IT WAS A LITTLE OVER FIVE YEARS. THEY ALLOWED US TO MAKE A PHONE CALL HOME WHEN WE ARRIVED AT THE ARMY HOSPITAL. I FORGET HOW I HAD MY MOTHERS PHONE NUMBER BUT SHE ANSWERED THE PHONE. I DID NOT RECOGNIZE HER VOICE AT FIRST. THE NEXT DAY WE WERE TAKEN TO THE NAVY HOSPITAL AND THE MEDICAL ORDELY AND THE BUS DRIVER STOPPED AT A BAR AND BOUGHT US A DRINK. WE WERE ISSUED SOME MONEY, UNIFORMS, AND STARTED A LOT OF PHYSICAL EXZAMS. THE FIRST NIGHT WE DID NOT GET LEBERTY BUT THE SECOND DAY ABOUT NOON WE WENT ON OUR FIRST LIBERTY. I RODE A SUBWAY TO DOWN TOWN NEW YORK AND JUST WALKED AROUND FOR A WHILE. ABOUT 7 OCLOCK I ENDED UP AT THE AQUARIUM. IT WAS A BAR AND A DANCE HALL. HAD A COLORED BAND (CAB CALLAWAY) AND I STARTED DANCING WITH DIFFERENT GIRLS. I ENDED UP WITH 4 GIRLS AT A TABLE AND WAS BUYING THEM DRINKS. ONE OF THE GIRLS WAS VERY NICE AND I MADE A DATE TO MEET HER THERE THE NEXT NIGHT. I COULD GET TICKETS FOR BROADWAY SHOWS AND AFTER IT WAS OVER WE WENT TO SOME NICE HOTELS AND DANCED TO LIVE BANDS.

TO GO ON 90 DAYS LEAVE I NEEDED TWO STOOLS FOR WORMS AND I COULD GO. SO ONE MORNING I CAME BACK AND PASSED ONE SMALL MOVEMENT, CUT IT IN TWO PIECES AND BY NOON I WAS ON MY WAY. I RODE THE SUBWAY ALL AFTERNOON TO FLOYD BENNET FIELD. WE TOOK OFF AT 5 P. M. AND LANDED IN WASHINGTON. THEN MADE SEVERAL STOPS AND A T 7 A. M. WE LANDED AT AMARILLIO, TEXAS. I GOT OFF AND STARTED

HITCH HIKING. I WAS PICKED UP BY A CAR LOAD OF DOCTORS AND NURSES AND THEY KNEW DR. LUMPKIN. HE WAS THE ARMY DOCTOR THAT DIED IN 80 KILO CAMP. I WAS ABLE TO TELL THEM SOMETHING ABOUT HIS DEATH. WHEN I GOT TO TULIA, TEXAS A SIGN ON A CREAMERY SAID HUTCHIBS'S. MY UNCLE WHEN I WAS SMALL WORKED FOR HIM ON HIS RANCH. I WALKED IN AND HE ADDRESSED ME BY NAME AND SAID JIM WAS OUT AT THE RANCH AND HE TOOK ME OUT THERE. I WAS A SMALL KID WHEN I HAD SEEN HIM LAST SO I WONDERED HOW HE KNEW ME. UNCLE JIM WAS IN LOS ANGELES, CALIF. WHEN I LEFT. AS SOON AS MR HUTCHINS LEFT JIM PUT ME IN THE CAR AND DROVE ME TO ROTAN TEXAS. I HAD BEEN GONE A LITTLE OVER FIVE YEARS AND IT WAS GOOD TO RETURN HOME.

CHANGING MY NAME TO SOME OTHER SHIP MATE MEANS THIS DESCRIPTION WOULD TELL THE EXPERIENCES OF A LOT OF MY SHIP MATES. I HAVE NOT TRIED TO TELL OF THE HORRIBLE CONDITIONS WE LIVED UNDER. ALL OF MY SHIPMATES WERE HEROES. THEY LIVED UNDER CONDITIONS AS BAD OR WORSE THAN ANY ONE ELSE HAS SUFFERED. THEY DID A JOB OF SACRIFICE AS MANY OF OUR CITIZENS HAVE DONE IN THE PAST. AND I HOPE THE HISTORY BOOKS WILL SHOW THIS. I AM PROUD TO HAVE BEEN A MEMBER OF THE USS HOUSON C A 30. I HAVE TRIED TO USE THE EXPERIENCES I LIVED UNDER TO MAKE ME A BETTER CITIZEN AND DO SOMETHING TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE FOR ALL. JACK D SMITH e mail [jdsjunel@cox.net](mailto:jdsjunel@cox.net)



USS HOUSTON CA30 SUNK MARCH 1, 1942 SUNDRA STRAITS



BURMA POW'



BURMA POW'S