

**A COLLECTION OF RHYMES AND POEMS  
BY JACK D. SMITH, USS HOUSTON (CA-30) SURVIVOR.**

More about the USS Houston and the Asiatic Fleet at [www.usshouston.org](http://www.usshouston.org)

**CLEMENT D. (BUTCH) BURROUGHS**

HERE IS TO A GENTLEMAN DOCTOR THAT I BARLEY KNEW  
FOR HE WAS AN OFFICER DOCTOR AND I WAS A SEAMAN TWO  
NOW REALLY THAT DON'T MATTER BECAUSE WE WERE ON THE SAME SHIP  
NOW HE JOINS THE OTHERS THAT HAVE MADE THEIR LAST TRIP

IMAGINE BEING A DOCTOR WITH A HUNDRED WOUNDED MEN  
I WONDER HOW THEY KNEW WHERE TO START OR HOW TO BEGIN  
BUT WE KNEW THAT OUR MEDICAL STAFF WAS SECOND TO NONE  
AND ALL OF THEM STARTED AND TOOK CARE OF EVERY ONE

SO JEAN THIS IS A LITTLE POEM TO GIVE PRAISE TO YOUR MAN  
WE HOPE THE HAPPINESS AND JOYS YOU SHARED UNDER THE WEDDING BAND  
WILL COMFORT AND KEEP YOU AND GIVE YOU STRENGTH TO AIM FOR THE LIGHT AHEAD  
AND MAKE FOR YOU A GOOD LIFE ONCE THE SORROWS YOU HAVE SHED

SO MAY THE LOVE YOU SHARED GIVE YOU COMFORT EVERY DAY  
AND MAY THE THOUGHTS OF HIM HELP YOU FIND THE WAY  
AND IF THERE IS ANYTHING ANY OF HIS SHIPMATES CAN DO  
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS CALL AND WE WILL BE THERE FOR YOU

**JACK SMITH**

**DORSEY**

DORSEY WHEN I HEAR THIS I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY  
WHEN YOU TELL ME YOUR LOVELY WIFE HAS PASSED AWAY  
I KNOW YOU WERE MARRIED FOR MANY YEARS  
AND HER PASSING AWAY IS CAUSE FOR SHEDDING TEARS

WE WISH WE COULD DIG DOWN AND SAY THE RIGHT WORDS  
THAT WOULD GIVE YOU COMFORT FROM WHAT WE JUST HEARD  
BUT WE KNOW THAT ONLY TIME WILL HEAL THE HURT  
AND ALL OF US FRIENDS HOPE WE CAN OFFER THOUGHTS THAT WILL WORK

TO ALLOW YOU TO FACE EACH INCOMMING DAY  
REMEMBERING ALL THE HELP THAT SHE SENT YOUR WAY  
LET THE JOYS YOU SHARED IN YOUR LIFE TOGETHER  
GIVE YOU THE STRENGTH TO FACE YOUR FUTURE STORMY WEATHER

AND REMEMBER THAT ALL OF YOUR FRIENDS  
SEND OUR LOVE AND THOUGHTS WE HOPE WILL HELP YOU MEND  
AND NEVER FORGET THAT ALL OF US ARE THERE  
IF THE TROUBLES YOU CARRY YOU NEED SOME HELP TO BARE

MAY OUR LOVE AND THOUGHTS GIVE YOU COMFORT  
*JACK AND JUNE SMITH AND ALL YOUR SHIP MATES*

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**CLAUDE WILLIAM "BILL" LATTIN**

NOW THIS SAILOR WAS IN RADIO  
THEY SEND AND RECEIVED ALL THE MESSAGES  
THAT TOLD US WHERE TO GO  
THEY KNEW HOW TO UNCODE THE MESSAGES THAT CAME IN  
AND CODE UP ALL MESSAGES THAT THE  
CAPTAIN SENT NO MATTER WHEN

THERE WAS ALWAYS SOME ONE IN THE RADIO SHACK  
THEY WERE THE FIRST ONE TO KNOW WHAT ORDERS CAME BACK  
BUT THEY WOULD NEVER TELL A SOUL  
THE CAPTAIN WAS THE ONE TO TELL US WHAT WAS OUR GOAL

NOW WE DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO BILL THAT NIGHT  
WHEN WE WERE SUNK BY THE JAP'S IN THE FIGHT  
BUT I WILL BET WHAT EVER HE DID  
HIS FAMILY CAN BE MIGHTY PROUD OF THAT KID

HE LIKE EIGHT HUNDRED MORE  
GAVE HIS LIFE FOR THE RIGHTS ALL AMERICANS ADORE  
AND TO HIS FAMILY THAT SOME WE NOW KNOW  
YOU CAN BE PROUD OF THAT BROTHER THAT YOU LOST LONG AGO

I AS ONE OF THE THREE HUNDRED AND SIXTY EIGHT  
DON'T KNOW WHY I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO HAVE  
NOT SUFFER THE SAME FATE  
BUT ALL OF THOSE THAT WERE LOST ON THAT NIGHT  
DID A LOT OF FIGHTING BEFORE THEY  
PERISHED IN THE FIGHT

SO TO ALL OF THE FAMILIES OF OUR  
MEN THAT PERISHED THAT NIGHT  
YOU CAN BE PROUD OF THE MEN YOU SENT TO FIGHT  
WE WERE OUT NUMBERED AND WE KNEW WE COULD NOT WIN  
BUT OUR COUNTRY NEEDED TIME AND  
TO GIVE IT SOME LIVES HAD TO END

AMERICA THANKS YOU FOR YOUR PRECIOUS GIFT  
WITH OUT IT OUR WAY OF LIFE  
WOULD BE WITH OUT A LIFT  
THERE IS SOME THAT HAVE TO ANSWER THE CALL  
AND WHEN NEEDED SOME AMERICANS  
HAVE ALL WAYS GIVEN ALL

Jack Smith

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**EARL C. HUMPHREY**

THIS MAN HAS BEEN WHERE ONLY A FEW MEN HAVE BEEN  
THANK GOD WHERE HE TRAVELED HE WAS WITH A LOT OF FRIENDS  
HE TOOK EVERY THINGS THE JAPS COULD HAND OUT  
AND IN THE END IT WAS THEM THAT GOT THE CLOUT

HE LEFT HIS SHIP JUST BEFORE IT WENT DOWN  
AS ALL OF THOSE JAP SHELLS WERE COMING IN BOUND  
HE DOVE INTO THE WARM WATER AND SWAM AWAY  
AND IN THE COMING DAYS THERE WAS A LOT OF HELL TO PAY

THE SHIP LOST ABOUT EIGHT HUNDRED BRAVE MEN THAT DAY  
THERE WERE ABOUT THREE HUNDRED AND SIXTY EIGHT GOT AWAY  
AND IN BURMA THEY LOST A LOT MORE  
AND TWO HUNDRED TWENTY NINE RETURNED TO HOME SHORE

IT WAS THREE AND ONE HALF YEARS IN THAT PRISON CAMP  
AND EARL DID HIS PART TO NOT LIGHT THE MISERY LAMP  
WE ARE GLAD HE MADE IT HOME AND TOOK MARINE AS HIS BRIDE  
AND WE KNOW SHE WORKED HARD TO MAKE HIS MISERY SUBSIDE

SO MARINE HE COULD HAVE LEFT A LONG TIME AGO  
SO REMEMER THE PLEASURE YOU TWO ENJOYED SO  
WE SEND OUR LOVE AND THOUGHTS AND HOPE IT HELP EASE YOUR MIND  
AND ALL OF HIS SHIPMATES ARE AVIALABLE WITH HELP OF ANY KIND  
MAY OUR THOUGHTS HELP EASE THE PAIN  
JACK AND JUNE SMITH AND ALL HOUSTON FAMILY

**IRA BAILEY**

IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I THOUGHT OF THIS MAN  
AND WHEN I DO ALL OF MY THOUGHTS ARE GRAND  
HE WAS A KIND AND GENTLE SOUL  
YOU COULD TELL THE PARENTS HE CAME FROM DESERVED A POT OF GOLD

I KNEW THIS MAN A YEAR OR TWO  
AND WHEN HE WAS LOST OUR DIVISION REALLY FELT BLUE  
I MARCHED BEHIND THE TRUCK THAT TOOK HIM AWAY  
WE BURIED ABOUT FIFTY SAILORS ON THAT SAD DAY

THERE WAS ONLY TEN OF US IN THE THIRD DIVISION WHO WERE LEFT ALIVE  
ON FEBRUARY 4<sup>TH</sup> WHEN THE JAP PLANES LEFT AFTER THE BOMB ARRIVED  
IT EXPLODED ABOUT THREE FEET ABOVE THE DECK  
AND SET FIRE TO THE POWER IN THE TURRET THAT CAUSED QUIET A WRECK

WE STOPPED THE FIRE BEFORE IT CAME IN THE HANDLING ROOM  
IF IT HAD GOTTON TO THE MAGIZINE IT WOULD HAVE CAUSED QUIET A BOOM  
THE STERN WOULD HAVE BEEN PARTED AND GONE BELOW  
AND THEN THE HOUSTON WOULD HAVE BEEN NO MORE

IRA BAILEY WAS AN OUTSTANDING MAN  
I AM PROUD THAT I SERVED WITH HIM WHEN WE FOUGHT JAPAN  
HE WAS ONE OF A WONDERFUL CREW  
YOU CAN BE PROUD OF THIS MAN AS I DO

I HOPE I CAN SAY SOME WORDS THAT WILL EASE YOUR PAIN  
I WILL ALLWAYS REMEMBER THE GRAVE WHERE THEY WERE LAIN  
IT IS A SHAME SOME ONE ALLWAYS HAS TO GO  
AND LOVED ONES HAVE TO SUFFER A LOT OF PAIN WE KNOW  
JUNE AND I SEND OUR LOVE AND THOUGHTS TO THE FAMILIES OF OUR SHIP MATES.  
MAY WE IN SOME WAY EASE THE PAIN

JACK AND JUNE SMITH

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**H ROBERT CHARLES**

NOW CHARLES WAS A MARINE ON OUR SHIP  
HE DOVE INTO THE WATER BEFORE THE MAIN DECK DIPPED  
HE SWAM THROUGH THOSE SHELL THAT WAS CLIPPING THE WAVES  
AND HE SURE HOPPED THAT THE FUTURE WOULD HOLD BETTER DAYS

NOW HE LEARNED TO EAT RICE WHEN HE COULD FIND SOME  
HE PROBLY STARRED UP THE BARREL OF THAT JAPS 25 GUN  
THAT FIRST SIX WEEKS LASTED A LONG TIME  
NONE OF US THOUGHT OUR LIFE WAS WORTH MORE THAN A DIME

WELL WE MADE IT BACK AFTER 3 ½ YEARS  
AND MARRY M HAS TAKEN AWAY ALL OF CHARLES'S FEARS  
NOW WE KNOW WHAT KEPT US GOING IN THOSE DAYS  
IT WAS TO LIVE WITH OUR BEAUTIFUL LADIES THAT NOW DESERVE OUR PRAISE

NOW CHARLES WE ARE SORRY TO HEAR  
THAT THE DOCTORS HAD TO WORK ON YOU SOME MORE THIS YEAR  
BUT WE SURE HOPE THEY DONE IT UP RIGHT  
AND NEXT AUGUST YOU WILL BE THERE FEELING JUST RIGHT

JACK SMITH

**JERRY RANGER**

JERRY TO ME YOU LOOK JUST LIKE YOUR DAD  
BUT WHEN I LOOK AT YOUR FACE I ALSO SEE YOUR MOTHER  
AND THAT MAKES ME GLAD  
WHEN YOU PICKED YOUR PARENTS YOU GOT AN A  
AND THE GRADE YOU GOT FROM THEM  
WAS THE SAME I HEARD THEM SAY

NOW WE ONLY WERE AROUND YOU JUST THAT ONE TIME  
BUT THE RELATIONSHIP WE SAW YOU HAD  
WITH YOUR MOTHER WAS DEVINE  
WE KNOW YOU BEING THERE TO HELP WITH THE LOSS OF YOUR DAD  
REALLY HELPED YOUR MOTHER TO REMOVE THE SAD

NOW I HAVE SAID WHAT I THOUGHT OF YOUR DAD  
HE WAS ONE OF A KIND AND THAT WAS NOT BAD  
NOW YOUR MOTHER IS A LADY DELIGHT  
I'LL BET THAT IS THE ONE TIME YOUR DAD LOST IN A FIGHT

SO WE WISH TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY  
ALL OF THE GOOD THINGS THERE CAN BE  
AND WE HAVE A SPECIAL PLACE IN OUR HEARTS  
FOR ALL OF THE RANGERS  
AND THE PEOPLE THEY DID START

OUR LOVE AND BEST WISHES JACK AND JUNE SMITH

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**JAMES PATRICK GORE**

JAMES JOINED THE NAVY TO SEE THE WORLD  
HE EVEN THOUGHT HE COULD FIND A GOOD LOOKING GIRL  
BUT WHEN HE GOT TO THE ASIATIC SIDE  
HE FOUND THAT WAS NO WHERE TO FIND A BRIDE

NOW WHEN THE WAR STARTED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT  
HE KNEW HE WAS ON A SHIP THAT WAS READY TO FIGHT  
NOW WHEN IT HEADED TO THE EAST INDIES  
JAP PLANES STARTED COMING THICK AS FLEAS

NOW THEY HIT OUR SHIP WITH ONE BIG BOMB  
AND HIS SHIP LOST A LOT OF MEN TO THAT SON-OF-A GUN  
WELL THEY BURRIED THEIR MEN IN A GRAVE BESIDE THE SEA  
AND SENT THE WOUNDED ASHORE TO NO MORE TO SEE

NOW HIS SHIP TRIED TO TAKE SOME SHIPS TO TIMOR  
BUT FIFTY PLANES DID BOMB THEM AS BEFORE  
THIS TIME THEY DID NOT GET A HIT  
THE CAPTAIN KNEW WHERE THE BOMBS WOULD LIT

NOW WHEN THE SHIP WAS SUNK OLD GORE MADE THE SHORE  
HE HAD NEVER SWAM THAT FAR BEFORE  
AND HE DID NOT KNOW HOW LONG IT WOULD BE  
BEFORE HE WOULD SEE HIS LOVED ONES THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SEA

NOW ON THE WAY TO BURMA THE BOMBS AGAIN STARTED TO RAIN  
SIX BIG BOMBERS WITH AN AMERICAN NAME  
THEY DID NOT KNOW THEIR COUNTRY MEN WERE BELOW  
AND HE DAM NEAR AGAIN HAD TO SWIM FOR THE SHORE

WELL GORE MADE IT TO BURMA AND SPENT A WHOLE YEAR  
AND THE MANY MEN DYING MADE HIM FILL WITH FEAR  
HE HAD NO FOOD OR MEDICINE TO KEEP HIS BODY STRONG  
AND HIS SHIPMATES NUMBERS KEPT SHRINKING AS THE DAYS KEPT COMING ON

NOW IN 44 HE WENT TO SAIGON ON THE WAY TO JAPAN  
BUT JAP SHIPS WERE BEING SUNK AS ONLY SUB'S CAN  
SO GORE WENT TO WORK ALL OVER SAIGON TOWN  
AND THE PEOPLE WERE NICE AND SLIPPED HIM FOOD WHEN THEY WERE AROUND

WELL IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE THE BOMBERS WERE BACK  
AND IN EARLY 45 THE CARRIER PLANES REALLY PUT ON AN ACT  
THEY WENT TO WORK A LITTLE BEFORE EIGHT  
AND SUNK ALL THE SHIPS IN THE RIVER THE JAP'S USED TO HAUL FREIGHT

WELL THEY HAD HIM BUILD PILL BOXES THAT FACED IN TO THE CAMP  
AND HE DECIDED IT WAS US WHO WAS GOING TO LOOSE THE OIL THAT LIGHTED THE LAMP  
AND ONE DAY A JAP GUARD TOLD JACK AND J.L.  
THAT THERE WAS TWO MINES IN THE CORNER THAT IF EMPLOYED WOULD SEND US ALL TO HELL

WELL IN THE SECOND WEEK OF AUGUST THEY TOOK THE PRISONERS OUTSIDE  
AND HAD THEM TEAR DOWN THOSE PILL BOXES IN WHICH IF THEY HAD USED THEM ALL PRISONERS WOULD HAVE DIED  
THEY STARTED GIVING THE PRISONERS ALL KIND OF THINGS  
AND MOVED THEM TO A GOOD CAMP THAT MADE THEIR HEART SING

WELL IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE THEY FLEW IN SOME PLANES  
THAT TOOK ALL PRISONERS TO CALCUTTA WHERE THEY STARTED DOING WONDERFUL THINGS  
THEN THEY FLEW TO NEW YORK AND EVEEY ONE GOT TO MAKE A CALL  
TO THEIR LOVED ONES THEY HAD WONDERED IF THEY WOULD EVER SEE ATOL

WELL EVERY ONE GOT NINETY DAYS LEAVE  
YOU CAN'T IMAGINE HOW MUCH ALL WERE PLEASED  
TO FEEL FREE AND GO WHERE THEY WANT TO GO  
AND NO GUARD WITH A CLUB THAT COULD AT ANY TIME GIVE YOU A BLOW

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**JOSEPHINE**

WHEN YOU GAVE YOUR LOVE TO THIS SAILOR BOY  
YOU MADE HIS FUTURE FULL OF LOVE AND JOY  
YOU EASED HIS MIND THAT WAS ALL UPSET  
WITH THE BURMA RAILROAD HE WAS TRYING TO FORGET

ALL OF YOU LOVELY LADIES WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND  
THE THRILL YOU GAVE US WHEN YOU LET US TAKE YOUR HAND  
ALL OF US HOUSTON BOYS WERE ONE HELL OF A MESS  
AND YOU EASED OUR MINDS AND MADE OUR LIFE BLESSED

JOSEPHINE A LOT OF US HAVE LADIES LIKE YOU  
THAT HAVE WORKED VERY HARD TO PULL US THROUGH  
AND ALL OF US SAILORS WANTS YOU LADIES TO KNOW  
WITH OUT YOU LADIES OUR LIVES WOULD HAVE BEEN A NO GO

SO GO TO YOUR REST WITH A SMILE ON YOUR FACE  
YOU HELPED RAY FIND THE WAY BACK INTO THE HUMAN RACE  
AND THE JOYS YOU SHARED AND THE LIVES YOU LED  
WILL BE REMEMBERED BY HIM TIL THE TIME HE IS DEAD

SO SLEEP ON MY LOVELY LADY  
RAY WILL KEEP LIVING TIL THE TIME HIS BODY IS READY  
THEN HE WILL LAY DOWN WITH A SMILE ON HIS FACE  
KNOWING THAT HIS NEXT STOP WILL BE AT JOSEPHINE'S PLACE

RAY MAY THE THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS  
OF ALL OF YOUR SHIPMATES  
AND THE MEMORY OF YOUR LOVELY BRIDE  
GIVE YOU COMFORT AND HELP YOU INTO THE LIGHT  
OUT OF THE DARKNES CAUSED BY  
THE LOSS OF YOUR BEAUTIFUL LADY

JACK SMITH

**June and John Bartz**

JOHN AND JUNE LIVE IN SAN DIEGO TOWN  
THEY GO TO LAUGHFTON AND THROW THEIR MONEY AROUND  
THEY WOULD DO A LOT BETTER IF THEY STAYED AT HOME  
LET US TEACH THEM ROUNDS AND SQUARES THEN THEY WOULD NEVER WANT TO ROAM

NOW WHEN YOU GOT MONEY LIKE JUNE AND JOHN DO  
IT MAKES YOU FLUSTRATED AND YOU FEEL BLUE  
YOU SAVE ALL THE RECIPTS TO SHOW THE MONEY YOU HAVE SPEND  
AND HOPE IT IS ENOUGH TO KEEP THE IRS FROM PRISON BEING SENT

NOW JOHN SPENT TIME IN A FAR OFF LAND  
HE RODE HIS SHIP TIL IT WAS SANK BY JAPAN  
HE WORKED HARD ON THE BURMA RAIL ROAD  
AND WHEN IT WAS FINISHED ON IT OUT OF BURMA HE RODE

HE WENT TO SAIGON IN 1944  
WATCHED CARRIER PLANES WHILE THEY SANK SHIPS GALORE  
HELPED BUILD PILL BOXES THAT FACED IN  
THANK GOD THE WAR WAS OVER BEFORE THE JAPS DID US IN

WELL JOHN I CAN SAY YOU ARE A LUCKY GUY  
FINDING THAT LADY THAT IS THE APPLE OF YOUR EYE  
WE HOPE YOU HAVE MANY MORE YEARS TO GO  
MAY YOUR HEALTH STAY GOOD AND YOUR LOVE LIFE GLOW

OUR BEST TO YOU JACK AND JUNE SMITH

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**JUNE THESE ROSES ARE JUST FOR YOU**

THEY GROW MORE BEAUTIFUL AS YOU TOO DO  
Your tender touch that lights a fire  
Lights and kindles for you my desire

We have had fifty five years and man and wife  
The most wonderful thing for me that happened in my life  
I hope I have given to you  
All that you need to make your life full too

I think hard ships you have in life  
Can strengthen the love between man and wife  
I think it makes you appreciate all that you have in life  
And makes you know how lucky you are to have the lady that is your wife

So here we are in our golden days  
And I hope there are a lot more on the way  
But if we run out of time  
What we have had is better than gold in a mine

So let us arise and face each day  
Showing our love in every way  
We all have such a short time on earth  
So let us enjoy every day for what it is worth

JACK SMITH

**Leonard W (DUTCH) KOOPER**

DUTCH IS THE NAVY MAN  
ALL SAILORS SHOULD LOOK JUST LIKE HE CAN  
AN OLD FOUR STACKER SHOULD HAVE BEEN HIS SHIP  
THINK OF HOW MUCH PAINT OLD DUTCH WOULD HAVE CHIPPED

NOW DUTCH REMEMBERS ALL OF OUR SPECIAL DATES  
HE SENDS US CARDS AND THEY ARE NEVER LATE  
HE HAS ADAPTED ALL OF THE SUVIVORS AND THEIR FAMILIES  
HE DOES NICE THINGS FOR ALL OCASIOMS THAT REALLY PLEASES

SO WE SHOULD REMEMBER ALL THE NICE THINGS HE DOES  
HE ADDS TO THE MEMORY OF THINGS THAT WAS  
THANK YOU DUTCH FOR all the nice things you do  
From all of your ship mates we send our love to you

From jack and June and all of the crew  
We thank you Dutch for all that you do

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**LEON AND MARGUERITE ROGERS  
ARE A LOVELY PAIR**

THEY LIVE IN LA JOLLA WHERE THEY GET THE FRESH AIR  
THE CAPTIAN WAS ON A FAMOUS SHIP IN 1942  
IT WAS SUNK BY THE JAPS AND HE ENDED UP AS A PRISIONER TOO

HE WAS IN JAVA FOR A LITTLE WHILE  
AND WHEN HE WENT THROUGH SINGAPORE HE DID NOT SMILE  
HE RODE THE TRAIN HALF WAY TO BANCOCK  
THEN PUT ON A SHIP THAT WAS LOADED WITH PRISIONERS TOO THE TOP

NOW HALF WAY TO BURMA ON A BRIGHT SUNNY DAY  
SIX LIBERATORS FOUND THE TWO JAP SHIPS on THE way  
ONE WAS SUNK AND ROGERS SHIP WAS HIT  
AND NOW THE SHIP WAS SO FULL THERE WAS NO PLACE TO SIT

WELL HE HELPED BUILD THE RAIL ROAD IN FOURTY THREE  
AND HIS SHIP MATES DIED ABOUT ONE IN THREE  
HE HAD A BAD ULCER ON HIS LEG that was showing the bone  
He was so lucky with that leg HE LASTED TWO years and made it home

NOW CAPTAIN WE ARE SURE GLAD YOU ARE STILL HERE  
THEY ALL MISSED YOU AT THE LOST BATTILION LAST YEAR  
WE SEND YOU OUR BEST AND WE JUST HAVE TO SAY  
WE WOULD ALL SERVE WITH YOU ANY OLD DAY

SO TAKE CARE OF YOUR SELF AND DO WHAT YOU CAN  
NO MORE BEING FED IN THE STOMACH BY A NEEDLE MAN  
CUT UP YOUR STEAK WITH A KNIFE AND EAT IT WITH A FORK IN THE OLD RIGHT HAND  
STAY IN THERE AND LIVE AS LONG AS YOU CAN  
OUR BEST TO YOU BOTH

JACK AND JUNE SMITH

**LEETA AND FRANK**

NOW FRANK WAS A HERO OF THE FIELD ARTILLERY  
HE BUILT A RAILROAD IN BURMA IN FOURTY THREE  
AND WHEN LEETA SAW THIS MAN WHEN HE GOT HOME  
SHE KNEW SHE WAS GOING TO TIE HIM UP SO BY HIS SELF HE WOULD NO LONGER ROAM

NOW FRANK WORKED FOR OIL COMPANIES ALL OVER THE WORLD  
HE TOOK HIS FAMILY WITH HIM WHEN WHERE HE WORKED WAS WITH OUT PERIL  
NOW THESE TWO WORK FOR OUR AUGUST RENUION in Texas every year  
With out them SOME work would NOT be DONE we fear

SO JUNE AND I WANT TO THANK YOU TWO  
WE THINK OUR RENUION WOULD MISS ALL YOU DO  
YOU TWO ALL WAYS HAVE SUCH A WARM WELCOME FOR ALL THAT COME  
SO WE APPRECIATE YOU AND THE WORKERS THAT MAKES THINGS RUN

JACK AND JUNE SMITH



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**LESLIE AND MIKE  
I SEND BACK THESE BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS TO YOU**

I THINK THEY REPRESENT THE BEAUTY OF THE TWO OF YOU  
YOU MAKE JUNE AND I VERY PROUD OF WHAT WE DO  
TO THINK WE WERE ABLE TO HELP YOU UNDERSTAND MORE  
ABOUT YOUR UNCLE WHO WAS A HERO TRUE

WHEN THE JAPS HIT PEARL HARBOR AND SUNK THE AMERICAN FLEET  
THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT THAT WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO WITH THE JAPS COMPETE  
SO OUR NATION HAD NO OTHER CHOICE BUT TO LET US BE THE BAIT  
AND I DON'T THINK THAT ANY ONE THOUGHT THAT WE COULD EVER ESCAPE

Your uncle was just one man in the Asiatic fleet  
And his ship was destined the whole Jap fleet to meet  
They cut us down to two in the java sea  
And two days later our end was destined to be

He as about eight hundred more was destined to never reach the shore  
They knew what they were fighting for  
They gave their lives as many Americans have did in the past  
Oh god it would be wonderful if they were to be the last

But we know that is never to be  
Some one will always try to defeat our country as it be  
And we will need a lot more like bill  
Or our country will die by a dictators will

So it is Christmas and I send this poem to you  
I hope it will help you to understand what people like your uncle had to do  
We send our thoughts and love to you  
May you have a merry Christmas with all of your family too

*Jack and June smith*

**LLOYD V WILLEY**

DECEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup> 86 YEARS AGO  
THAT IS WHEN A KID NAMED WILLEY CAME ON THE SHOW  
THEY DID NOT KNOW THAT THE FUTURE WOULD HOLD  
HIM GOING TO WAR WHERE THERE WOULD BE DOUBT ABOUT HIM GETTING OLD

HE BECAME A SEA GOING MARINE  
HE WENT TO SEA ON A HEAVY CRUESER TO DO HIS THING  
HE DID'T KNOW THAT THE SHIP HE WAS ON  
WHEN THE WAR STARTED IT WOULD NOT LAST LONG

SO WHEN THEY SUNK HIS SHIP AND HE HAD TO SWIM FOR THE SHORE  
IT WOULD BE THREE AND ONE HALF YEARS BEFORE HE WOULD BE HOME ONCE MORE  
HE WOULD BUILD A BIG RAIL ROAD IN BURMA WHERE IN THE JUNGLE THERE WOULD BE  
A GRAVE OF A PRISIONERS FOR EVERY CROSS TIE LAID BY HE

WELL AFTER THREE AND ONE HALF YEARS WILLIE MADE IT HOME  
WHERE HE MET A GOOD LOOKING GAL THAT TO HER HIS HEART WOULD BELONG  
THEY HAD SOME GOOD LOOKING KIDS TO MAKE THEIR FAMILY COMPLETE  
AND THOSE BAD MEMORIES LLOYD HAD STARTED TO DEplete

SO NOW HE IS EIGHTY SIX AND HAVING THE TIME OF HIS LIFE  
HE STILL HAS THAT GOOD LOOKING GIRL DORTHY FOR HIS WIFE  
THEY HAVE A LOT OF GRANDKIDS TO MAKE THEIR LIFE COMPLETE  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY LLOYD KNOWING YOU HAS BEEN A TREAT

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**MC MASTERS SAMUEL T**

WHEN MC, SCHRAM, AND GANS STARTED TELLING TALES  
EVERY ONE STOPPED AND LISTEN WHILE THEIR EYES GOT AS BIG AS PALES  
THESE GUYS HAD BEEN IN CHINA A LONG TIME  
AND THEY MADE LIKE A SAILOR LIVING IN CHINA HAD FOUND LIFE DEVINE

THEY TOLD ABOUT LIBERTIES IN SHANGHAI  
MADE US YOUNG SAILORS WANT TO GO THERE OR CRY  
WHEN YOU ARE DRAWING THIRTY SIX BUCK A MONTH  
THEY SAID IN CHINA IT WOULD BUY YENS A BUNCH

THEY TOLD ABOUT LIFE ON THE OLD RIVER YANGSEE  
THEY HAD A CHINA MAN DO ALL THEIR WORK IF IT NEEDED BE  
HE WASHED THEIR CLOTHES AND SCRUBBED THE DECK  
WHILE THEY WERE ASHORE IN A BAR HUGGING A GOOD LOOKING GIRL BY NECK

OLD MC COULD ALL WAYS HOLD HIS OWN  
HE WAS A MAN THAT I AM PROUD TO HAVE KNOWN  
AND YOU KIDS CAN BE VERY PROUD OF YOUR DAD  
AND WE ARE GLAD HE SURVIVED OR LIFE YOU WOULD NOT HAVE HAD

NOW WHEN I THINK BACK ON THIS WONDERFUL MAN  
I SEE HIM IN THE SHADOWS BEING A MODEL FOR OF US YOUNGER SAILOR FANS  
THOSE THREE OLD BOYS SURE DID A LOT  
TO HELP US YOUNG SAILORS TAKE ALL THE JAPS BEATING WE  
DID GOT

SO IT IS WITH GOOD MEMORIES I THINK OF ALL THREE  
WITH OUT THEM HERE I MIGHT NOT BE  
SO THEY LIKE ALL OF THE OTHER HOUSTON CREW  
DID MORE THAN WHEN NEEDED AS ALL AMERICANS ALLWAYS DO

JACK SMITH

**NOW IN A BAMBO HUT IN 100 KILO CAMP IN 1943**

WE GATHERED TO WATCH DR EPSTEIN MAKE TWO MEN AMPUTEES  
THE BAMBOO TABLE SAT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE HUT ON THE OLD DIRT FLOOR  
WE ALL HOPED REMOVING THEIR LEG WOULD LET THESE MEN LIVE TO BE OLD MORE

THE DOCTOR HAD CHOLOROFORM TO PUT BOTH MEN TO SLEEP  
THEN HE PUT ON A TOURNIQUET SO THE BLOOD IT WOULD NOT LEAK  
THEN THEY CUT THE FLESH THROUGH ALL THE WAY TO THE BONE  
AND TOOK A SAW AND SOON THE BOTTOM PART WAS NO LONGER ON

THEY TOOK A RASP AND ROUNDED THE END TIL IT LOOKED ROUND JUST LIKE A BALL  
AND THEN THEY SEWED IT UP AND IT BLED VERY LITTLE AT ALL  
THEY TOOK THE CUT OFF PIECE AND BURIED IT OUTSIDE IN A HOLE  
OH GOD WE HOPE THIS DOES THE TRICK AND LET BOTH MEN GROW OLD

BUT THIS WAS NOT TO BE FOR THE NEXT DAY BOTH MEN PASSED AWAY  
AND WE TRIED TO GIVE COMFORT TO OUR DOCTOR WHO HAD DID HIS BEST WE KNOW THAT DAY  
NOW THIS IS JUST BEEN ONE THING THAT HAS COME BACK IN MY MIND  
I WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND HOW THOSE BASTARDS CAN BE FORGIVEN BY MANKIND

JACK SMITH

**A COLLECTION OF RHYMES AND POEMS  
BY JACK D. SMITH, USS HOUSTON (CA-30) SURVIVOR.**

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**MY LOVELY BRIDE**

NOW HERE IS TO THE MOST BEAUTIFUL LADY I KNOW  
IT IS FIFTY FIVE YEARS AS MY BRIDE I HAVE TO SHOW  
WE STARTED OUT WITH VERY LITTLE DOUGH  
BUT THAT DID NOT HURT IT HELPED OUR LOVE TO GROW

NOW THE FIRST THING WE HAD TO DRIVE WAS A FOURTY TWO CHEVROLET  
WE COULD PUT ALL WE OWNED IN THE BACK AND CARRY IT THAT WAY  
ONE DAY WE STARTED DOWN A LONG SLICK HILL  
WE SLIPPED AND SPUN TIL WE ENDED UP AND DID THE DITCH FILL

WE HAVE TWO BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN AND THE SIX GRAND KIDS THAT WE HAVE HELPED RAISE  
THEY ARE THREE BOYS AND THREE GIRLS AND THEY ALL DESERVE A LOT OF PHRASE  
OUR OLDEST GRANDAUGHTER HAS ONE LITTLE GIRL  
HER NAME IS KATELYN AND SHE SURE IS A PEARL

WELL THERE ARE DAM FEW THAT ARE AS LUCKY AS ME  
TO HAVE THIS BEAUTIFUL FAMILY AND HEALTHY THEY ALL BE  
OUR SON AND HIS WIFE ARE BOTH M.D.'S  
DEPUTY SHERIFF'S OUR SON-IN-LAW AND DAUGHTER BE

NOW OUR TWO OLDEST GRANDSON'S WENT TO COLLEGE AT CHICO AND WAISTED THEIR TIME  
MAJORED IN GIRLS AND FUN AND DID NOT IMPROVE THEIR MIND  
BUT NOW THEY BOTH SEEM TO BE ON THE ROAD  
EVEN JEFF IS STARTING TO CARRY MOST OF HIS LOAD

WELL THEY ALL HAVE GIVEN US A THRILL  
AND THEY MAKE OUR LIFE WORTH LIVING STILL  
THERE IS NOTHING THAT CAN MAKE YOU FEEL GOOD LIKE WE DO  
UNLESS YOU HAVE A FAMILY THAT REALLY COMES THROUGH

SO JUNE AND I FEEL GOOD IN OUR MIND  
WE WILL ADMIT THERE WAS WORRY SOME TIME  
SOME THINGS HAPPENED THAT MADE YOU WONDER  
BUT AS FAR AS WE KNOW NO KIDS HAVE REALLY MADE A BLUNDER

SO WE WILL JUST THANK OUR LUCKY STARS  
AND KEEP GIVING LOVE TO ALL THAT ARE OUR'S  
AND WHEN WE HAVE TO LAY DOWN AND GO TO SLEEP  
WE WILL FEEL LIKE WE PRODUCED A FAMILY THAT WAS WORTHY OF THEIR KEEP

JACK SMITH

***MORE TO FOLLOW***