

War Era Story Project 2012

Submitted by: Mary Ann Logar

Current home town: Lorain

Age: 79

Sunday, December 7, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt was on the radio broadcasting, "the Japs Bombed Pearl Harbor." The lives of many people were changed. I was only eight and a half years old and remember many things.

My brother, Dominic Galanic, entered the U.S. Army, January 1941. His basic training took place at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, and he was part of The Ohio 37th Infantry Division. He was stationed in various countries of the southwest Pacific. During this time, he came down with malaria.

My second brother, Nick Galanic, enlisted in the U.S. Navy on May 3, 1943. He received his basic training at Great Lakes, Illinois. He was on the Destroyer Escort *Fechteler* when it was hit by a torpedo and sank. He suffered a back injury and was in a body cast receiving medical care at the Naval Hospital in South Carolina. He was presented with The Purple Heart.

Communication was done by V-Mail. Letters were written on a large form and, along the way, it was put on micro-film.

When my sister, Amalia Galyanich, better known as Nellie, enlisted in the WAAC'S (Women's Army Auxiliary Corps) on December 12, 1942, it was accepted by the family. In the late 1930s, she lived in New York, then came back to Akron, Ohio from where she enlisted. On July 3, 1943 this branch of the service became the WAC'S (Women's Army Corps) and was preparing to go abroad. At this time, she requested a discharge, which was granted July 7, 1943. She returned to Lorain, OH and got a job at National Tube Co. to help the war effort.

Having two brothers in the military was very hard for me to cope with. My classmates were either the first or second born in their families and here I was the youngest of five. They couldn't understand what I was going through. Counselors weren't heard of, so I had no one to turn to.

Each person in the family was issued ration stamp booklets. There were stamps for gasoline, shoes, meat, sugar, butter, coffee and potatoes. Oleo came in a strong, clear plastic bag, and had to be squeezed until there were no lumps. There was a yellow capsule in it that had to be broken and squeezed again to distribute the coloring.

My parents had a plaque hanging in the window with three blue stars to designate there were three family members in the military. Some had gold stars to show a family member had died serving his country.

In school, War Bond Stamps were sold at 25 cents each. When you accumulated \$18.75, you were able to purchase a \$25.00 War Bond. Keeping it for 10 years, you could cash it in for face value. Cashing it in for a shorter length of time, you would receive less.



No. _____
 From _____
 To _____
 LORAIN OHIO
 REPT. POOL DIRECTORY
 APO 545
 FOREMASTER NEW YORK N.Y.
 SEPT 13 1944
 (CENSOR'S STAMP)

DEAR MOTHER
 JUST A FEW LINES TO LET YOU KNOW I STILL OK AND DOING FINE TO
 MOTHER THIS ABOVE IS MY NEW ADDRESS SO USE IT WHEN YOU WRITE
 TO ME NEXT TIME LET THE BEST KNOW ABOUT IT TO
 I SENT SOME MANSY HOME SO WHEN YOU GET IT SPEND IT FOR YOU
 A FRESDINET FROM ME IT NOT MUCH
 I AM SOME WHERE IN FRANCE NOW AND DOING FINE
 HAVENT GOT YOUR BOX YET WILL GET IT SOME DAY I HOPE SO TO
 WELL HOW HANSON BECAME ALRIGHT TO DRIVING THE CAR
 AROUND THE TOWN WELL AFTER IT OVER I GET HOME SOME
 TIME TO THEN WE WILL ALL BE TO GREENER AG IN TO
 BUD AND IS FAMILY ALRIGHT TO AND GERT AND KRANERS
 WHICH I WILL WRITE LATER TO THEM MARY AND JIM WILL
 WITH YOU TO WELL HAVENT MUCH TO SAY NOW SO I THING
 WELL SAY HELLO TO EVERY BODY A SOLONG WILL WRITE
 MORE LATER AND SOON USE THE ADDRESS ABOVE WHEN
 YOU WRITE TO ME I SEND SOME MONEY HOME NEXT MOUTH
 SO I WILL CROSED NOW SOLONG
 YOUR SON
 LOVE
 CARL

V-MAIL

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
 PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300

WAR & NAVY
 DEPARTMENTS
 V-MAIL SERVICE
 OFFICIAL BUSINESS

POSTAL SERVICE
 APR 20
 6 00 PM
 1945

LORAIN OHIO
 SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 3