

## War Era Story Project 2012

Submitted by: Marie Ciano

Current home town: Fairborn, Ohio

Age: 89

On December 7, 1941, my boyfriend, Belfiore (Bud) Ciano, and I were attending the wedding reception of a relative of mine. It had been a joyous day and a lovely evening spent with relatives and friends. Bud was in the National Guard and had been on duty for about a year. My cousin's fiancé left the party to purchase a *New York Daily News* and was shocked to read the headline, which read, "Japanese Bomb Pearl Harbor." He came back to the reception to tell our family the terrible news.

As we were leaving, we heard loud speakers advising all military personnel to report to their bases immediately. Bud and I drove home, informed his family of the bombing and phoned his buddies to get into uniform and meet at his home in an hour to return to Fort Dix, New Jersey, where they were stationed. They were all enlisted men in the 101st Military Police Battalion, Company C.

Bud took me home and, of course, it was a sad parting. I had no idea if or when I would see him again. I gave him his Christmas present then because I wanted to be sure he had a memento to keep from me. I had given him a wrist watch. Our farewell was tearful with many hugs and kisses and we promised to be faithful to one another; and then he was gone.

Needless to say, at work the next day, I was sad and teary, not getting much done. My boss sent me home at lunch time and told me to take the next day off. I walked home in a daze, but when I entered the house, I could hear voices from the kitchen. I went in to tell my mom I was home. To my surprise, there sat Bud. I could not move or talk. I just looked at the man I loved with a smile on my face and a Thanksgiving prayer on my lips. Bud and his company did not ship out right away because the battalion had no orders ready. His training would be delayed a little longer. At that point, we embraced and kissed and I believe it was the moment we both knew we were destined to be together.

Two days later, the National Guard was federalized, and the young men became regular army. Sergeant Bud Ciano served a year and a half in the military police. At that time, he took the test to become a pilot in the U.S. Army Air Corps. He spent ten months training and was commissioned a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. on December 14, 1942. He married his sweetheart, Marie Ferrara, on December 20, 1942. We were together for 67 years!

Today, I am 89 years young and proud to say I am a military spouse. I am also the widow of Major B. N. Ciano and mother of five Air Force brats!



National Guard, 1939



Lt. Bud Ciano



Bud & Marie Ciano 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – 1992 – Wright Patterson AFB Chappel