

War Era Story Project 2012

Submitted by: Donald McKillop
Current home town: Oxford, Ohio
Age: 91

Day of Infamy (FDR), 12-7-41- Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor (Hawaii)
Drafted- August 10, 1942, sent to Camp Grant, IL
Attended Army Clerk School (took typing at Middletown High School, hence my assignment)

I was scheduled to go to Camp Carson, Colo., but the sergeant knew my parents lived only nine miles from Camp Attabery, IN, so he arranged for me to be sent there. I arrived there on a Saturday morning, saw my family for a few hours and then was sent to Ft. Jackson, SC and attached to the 11th station hospital, who were sent to India for the duration of war. In the meantime, I applied for and was accepted for officer candidate school, so I was attached unassigned to station hospital, Ft. Jackson.

I did all kinds of odd duties until January 1944, when all the 1A soldiers were re-assigned. I was sent to Camp Johnson, FL, and was charged with the duty of checking the Harbor Craft Companies' completion of training schedules. I found the 338th Harbor Craft Co. had the best record and was ready to ship out. Another scheduler and I went to see the captain and asked to be assigned and he accepted us.

In late May, 1944m we were shipped out to Liverpool, England. I went out on a French liner without submarine protection because the liner was fast enough that it would outrun any German Sub. I arrived on June 6, 1944, D-Day. On August 14, 1944, I went over the side of a British Freighter onto Omaha Beach at St. Vaast, LA Hague. With my clerk's title, I became the harbor master, scheduling barges and awaiting ships for unloading.

Our harbor craft left and went up the Seine to Rouen, France, where we docked, and since I had no boat duties, I was available for anything I could find so I lived and clerked for the Red Cross. For a short time I was assigned to a POW Camp, but with no real duties I left and went back to the boat, which was assigned to take barges back and forth hauling misc. goods. At night, we docked and did the town.

Later, I was assigned to MTL (had two bunks, stove, etc) with duty to roam the river. With a pump on board, we serviced barges that had taken on water. I had many interesting times since many of the locals picnicked on the bank.

Finally, we were trucked to Antwerp. Then the decision came for the captain to stay in Antwerp while the other two companies returned to the states for leave and then to the Asian Conflict. We were happy with his decision; the Japanese surrendered before the two other companies shipped out, thus making them discharged.

I think it is interesting that I landed on two historic dates. June 6, 1944 and August 15, 1944. On D-Day I landed in Liverpool, England, and on Aug. 15, 1944, I landed on the beach in Normandy. Talk about

being in the right place at the right time! At last, we returned to the states in January, 1946. For this service, the GI bill gave me the ability to attend and graduate from Miami University of Ohio, plus \$200 a month, and marry my wife of 66 years, Peggy.