

COVER PAGE FOR

1. NAME OF VETERAN	MR. SAM APPLEBAUM
2. TOWN OF RESIDENCE WHEN ENTERING THE MILITARY	SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
3. BRANCH OF THE SERVICE	UNITED STATES ARMY
4. TITLE OR NAME OF WAR OR CONFLICT	WORLD WAR II
5. ENLISTED DISCHARGED	SEPTEMBER, 1942
6. DATE OF BIRTH	
7. DATE OF DEATH	NOT APPLICABLE
8. PLACE OF DEATH	NOT APPLICABLE
9. TOWN OF RESIDENCE	SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

I JOINED THE ARMY IN SEPTEMBER OF 1942 AT FT. DEVENS, A SUBURB OF BOSTON. AFTER BASIC TRAINING, I WENT TO FT. MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY. THIS WAS THE TRAINING CENTER OF THE MILITARY SIGNAL CORPS. AFTER A YEAR OF INTENSIVE TRAINING WHICH INCLUDED REPAIR AND OPERATION OF AIRCRAFT ELECTRONICS, IFF, RADAR, etc. , I NOW STARTED TO MOVE HALF WAY AROUND THE WORLD.

I FIRST WENT TO AN AIRPORT IN MACON, GEORGIA. I THEN WENT BY TRAIN ACROSS THE WHOLE COUNTRY TO SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA. FROM THERE, I TOOK A B 24 AIRCRAFT TO HICKAM FIELD, HAWAII. IN HAWAII, I COULD STILL SEE DAMAGE THAT WAS DONE TO THE BUILDINGS DURING THE PEARL HARBOR ATTACK.

FROM THIS LOCATION, IT WAS ISLAND HOPS TO CHRISTMAS ISLAND, EASTER ISLAND, FIJI AND SAMOA. FROM THERE I TRAVELED BY LIBERTY SHIPS TO ZAMBOANGA, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS. IT WAS HERE THAT I OPERATED DIESEL ELECTRONIC GENERATORS FOR THE CAMP.

I THEN WENT TO BOUGAINVILLE AND GUADALCANAL. THIS IS WHERE MOST OF THE ACTION TOOK PLACE. I WAS STATIONED IN RADIO TRUCKS. SOME WERE ABOVE GROUND AND SOME WERE UNDERGROUND. THESE TRUCKS TRACKED THE INCOMING AIRCRAFT AND I HAD TO IDENTIFY THEM AS FRIEND OR FOE. THUS IFF.

MANY TIMES, I SPOKE TO PILOTS WHO WERE LOST AND GUIDED THEM IN. OTHER TIMES, THEY WERE ENEMY AIRCRAFT AND I SET OFF THE ALARM.

I REMEMBER ONE INCIDENT WHERE I GOT FOOLISH WITH MY BROWNING SUB MACHINE GUN, AND SHOT OFF 4 ROUNDS INTO THE CEILING BEFORE I COULD TAKE MY FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER. THIS COST ME A WEEK OF KITCHEN DUTY, PEELING POTATOES AND WASHING DISHES. ANOTHER TIME, I WENT TO LUNCH IN THE MESS HALL AND WHEN I RETURNED, THE TRUCK I HAD BEEN IN WAS DESTROYED BY A JAPANESE BOMB.

AFTER LEAVING THE SOLOMON ISLANDS AREA, WE PROCEEDED TO JAPAN ON LST SHIPS. ON THE FIRST BOAT THAT I WAS ON, I TRIED TO HEAT UP SOME WATER WITH A SPECIAL HEATER I MADE. IT WORKED, BUT THE GADGET I MADE TOUCHED THE SIDE OF MY ALUMINUM CUP AND I BLEW OUT ALL THE LIGHTS ON ONE SIDE OF THE SHIP.

Hdq. Aircraft Control Sqd. Mobile
13AC+W group Prov.
APO 503 40 PM
San Francisco, Cal



Aboard LST # 53
Somewhere near
OKINAWA
Sept. 11, 1945

UNITED STATES ARMY



Dear Mother,

Last Thursday we left Batangas. On the way out we passed the great fortress of Corregidor and Bataan Peninsula. The weather was a little rough. Saturday we saw a string of small islands which led to Formosa.

Saturday night at 9:30 we were told to get our life belts and take all our personal equipment downstairs. It was then we found out there was a typhoon directly behind us. Well the ship put on flank speed and we almost beat it out. I say this because even though we weren't directly in the typhoon, that the ship bounced around like a cork. Waves 30ft high were breaking over the top of the ship and lashing the sides. Well we thought we passed the danger point but we found

us and come back, (2)

about this time (Monday) the ship directly in front of us was struck by a mine. It was hit on the starboard side. The report was secret because we don't think anyone was hurt in the initial blast. Its bottom tank deck was filled with 10 feet of water, but she'll stay up. A destroyer pulled up next to it and in this rough water transferred 200 army personnel. The navy is going to sail the ship back to Okinawa. In the meantime the seas are still rough and the waves are still rocking the ship. We are about 5 days from there now and we hope to make it soon.

I will sign off now and write again soon.

(3)

Aboard LST 53
200 miles east of the southern
tip of Kyushu Japan.

Sept 12-13, 1945

Yesterday and today the weather was fine the sea was calm and the sun was shining.

On the 12th (yesterday), our ship encountered some trouble.

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we were going along smoothly when all of a sudden we

UNITED STATES ARMY

stopped and started to float while the rest of the convoy continued. However in 20 minutes we fixed the trouble which was in the steering gear and we caught up with the convoy.

The destroyer which escorted the mined ship is now back after conducting ~~the mined~~ it safely back to Okinawa.

Aboard LST 53

Sagami Bay, Japan

The weather is very windy and cool this morning, in fact we were ordered to put on shirts. At noon the first bit of Japan was sighted. As I write this letter it is now two o'clock and more land has come into view.

In fact we are now at the entrance of Paraga straits. Once we enter it will be 100 miles by water to Tokio. We expect to be there this evening. Our ship has

As I look up into the skies I see a B-29 ~~fly~~ flying overhead. Everything is peaceful. We are now in Tokyo bay but miles from the city. We have dropped anchor for the night and will start off in the morning.

Yokohama, Japan

Sept 16 11 PM

This morning we were sailing into Yokohama the air is slightly hazy but I can see great factories lining the shores. There are large smokestacks and great storage tanks. From a distance it can be seen that they are greatly damaged.

After going through a breakwater and a submarine net we docked at 3 PM in a Yokohama shipyard.

The place is a mess twisted rails and rubble all over the place.

The first thing I saw reminded me of home. There were railroad trains and trolleys tooting in the distance

I saw a few gaps but they were

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merley kids picking
up rubbish. UNITED STATES ARMY

They look exactly as the pictures describe them.
I must rest now as we leave 4 a.m.

TOKYO, JAPAN

We left Yokohama in a truck convoy for
Takashima Airfield 60 miles from here.
It was a 6 hour ride. I really saw
Japan on this trip and I know now
why they quit the war. Beautiful
buildings and many small homes
were blown to bits. It was very good
bombing as many of the buildings hit were
machine shops. As I rode along I saw
the people. They are white, or very much so,
and the little children would salute every
truck that went by. Most of the girls
and women are plain.

When we reached the hangars
they were occupied by Jap planes, so we
pushed them aside and went to sleep
for the night. This morning I packed

up and came to Tokyo. We are the first soldiers in this section. I'm stationed in the second largest building in Tokyo. It is the Kudaug Military Academy, only 20 yards from the Imperial Palace, of Tokyo where the Emperor ~~lives~~ lives. There is a moat which completely surrounds the palace and is 50 feet wide. Most of the shrines and temples are off limits but I won't go around visiting yet.

My first job today was to repair the sound system of the hotel which I did with the help of a Jap. I didn't understand a word he said, but by drawing diagrams I finally located the trouble.

I'll write again in 3 days as I am very busy.

Your loving son,
Sam