

MEANTIME, THE ARMY CALLED ME TO REPORT IN NOVEMBER. THE MARINES WOULD NOT TAKE ME BEFORE JANUARY 1943. SO I LEFT FOR THE ARMY DECEMBER 4, 1942. I LEFT IRWIN STATION THAT NIGHT. WENT TO NEW CUMBERLAND, PA. WAS THERE SEVERAL DAYS GETTING SHOTS, CLOTHES, ETC. I LEFT THERE BY TRAIN NOT KNOWING A DESTINATION. I ENDED UP IN CENTERVILLE MISSISSIPPI CAMP VAN DORN. WHAT I LEFT AT HOME WAS A GOOD FAMILY AND A 1937 CHRYSLER. IT WAS THE THIRD CAR THAT I HAD. THE FIRST WAS A '32 CHEVY IT WOULD NOT RUN SO I TRADED IT BACK IN ON A 1935 PLYMOUTH. WHEN IT WAS PAID OFF, I GOT THE CHRYSLER. WHEN I GOT IN THE CAMP, I HAD NO IDEA WHAT KIND OF AN OUTFIT I WAS IN. WHILE BEING INTERVIEWED, I WAS ASKED IF I KNEW ANYTHING ABOUT FIRST AID I SAID NOT MUCH, I WAS PUT IN THE MEDICS. LATER I FIGURED THAT SINCE I HAD 118 POINTS OF AN I.O. TEST OUT OF A POSSIBLE 150 I WAS SMART ENOUGH TO BE A MEDIC. ONE JUST NEEDED 115 POINTS TO QUALIFY FOR OFFICER TRAINING. ANYWAY THE UNIT I WAS IN WAS THE 99TH INFANTRY DIVISION 395TH REGIMENT MEDICAL DETACHMENT. SINCE THIS CAMP WAS NEW, WE HAD TO DO A LOT OF LANDSCAPING. BESIDES OUR REGULAR TRAINING. WE HAD DOCTORS TEACHING US THE MEDICAL TRAINING. AFTER THAT, WE HAD ALL THE INFANTRY TRAINING EXCEPT RIFLES. MEDICS WERE NOT ALLOWED TO CARRY FIREARMS. I WAS REALLY HOMESICK. THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT I WAS EVER AWAY FROM HOME. AFTER ~~OUR~~ BASIC TRAINING WAS COMPLETED, I GOT A TEN DAY FURLOUGH.

THE FIRST DAY I WAS HOME, I WENT TO THE WESTINGHOUSE PLANT TO PICK UP DORIE. I HAD NEVER DATED HER. WE DID WRITE LETTERS. TO START FROM THE BEGINNING, I ONLY DATED GIRLS ON A SMALL SCALE. BOB EVES AND MIKE CHOPICH AND I RAN TOGETHER. THEY HAD REGULAR GIRL FRIENDS. WE WOULD GO TO THE STANLEY THEATER SATURDAY NIGHTS. THEY HAD A MOVIE AND LIVE BANDS. I THINK WE SAW ALL THE BIG BANDS OF THE 1940S. THEN WE WOULD STOP OFF AT THE MORGUE IN PITTSBURGH. THEN TO THE FAMOUS ISALYS FOR A SNACK. I WAS VERY BASHFUL AND BACKWARD. AT THIS TIME. THE REASON I WENT TO PICK UP DORIE IS THAT SHE USE TO FLIRT WITH ME DURING THIS TIME. I NEVER DATED HER THOUGH. I GOT BRAVER AFTER BEING IN THE ARMY. I THINK WE DATED ALMOST EVERY NIGHT OF THAT FURLOUGH. I KNEW THAT SHE WAS FOR ME. THE NEXT TIME I CAME HOME WAS FOR CHRISTMAS 1943. I OFFERED HER AN ENGAGEMENT RING. SHE ACCEPTED IT THEN WE HAD TO TELL HER DAD AND MOTHER. I NEVER THOUGHT HE APPRECIATED THE MOVE. DUE TO ME BEING A SOLDIER.

AFTER GOING BACK TO CAMP FROM THE FIRST FURLOUGH, WE DID EXTENSIVE TRAINING. THE FAMOUS LOUISIANA MANEUVERS. WE BECAME REAL SOLDIERS. WE TRAINED AS MEDICS CARING FOR PRETEND INJURIES. I WAS TRAINED AS A SURGICAL, MEDICAL AND DENTAL TECHNICIAN. I DID NOT LIKE THE DENTAL PART. WE LIVED IN THE WOODS AND SWAMPS FOR THREE MONTHS. WOOD TICKS, JIGGERS, ARMIDILLOS, WATER MOCCASSIONS, AND CORAL SNAKES. WE EVEN HAD A QUARTET. THE FIRST SGT. HAD A GUITAR. I SANG HIGH TENOR. AFTER LEAVING THIS TRAINING, WE TRANSFERRED TO A CAMP MAXEY IN PARIS TEXAS. THIS WAS A REAL NICE CAMP. ALONG THE WAY, I KEPT EARNING STRIPES. I WAS SUPPLY SGT. IN THAT CAMP. IT WAS MY DUTY TO SEE THAT ALL THE MEDICS WERE WELL OUTFITTED AND

EQUIPPED.

MY ARMY STORY IS SOMETHING ELSE

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