

William T. Inio

Beginnings of a diary  
documenting when he left the  
U.S. to go to Europe with the  
442nd 5/2/1944



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- Left Newport news Port of Embarkation May 2, 1944. Yes, it was one hot day - We had to wear wool O.D.s and steel helmets, full field packs. On top of that I had to carry my Duffle bag + record chest. yes it was disappointing..
- We boarded the Liberty Ship "Levi Woodbury". after our names were checked off we were assigned to our Bunka - What a stuffy hatch.
- When the boat left, it was a deep feeling to depart from the U.S.A. Some of us with tears in our eyes - wondering whether if we will be able to see our homes again, and our loved ones.
- We spent 21 one days aboard the ship - For the 1<sup>ST</sup> few day it was quite rocky and many were sea sick. The waves even washed the deck, but we tried to keep occupied by playing cards, read, and a hobby was started by a medical officer of making rings out of coins - I made a couple of them. We had boxing matches once a week, and nightly we either had a program or Bingo or horse Race. Fortunately as usual I lost. One night the officers put a program, one night we had a sing fest, one night a program by the Hawaii boys. Yes, it became a pleasant voyage towards the end.
- On May 15 our convoy split up we 3 ships went our own way, we had destroyed escorting us one to a ship for protection against submarine attacks. This all led us to quite a conjecture. We were still wondering where our destination will be? On the 18<sup>th</sup> day we saw B25-PBY's circling us, so we knew we were nearing land.
- On May 21<sup>ST</sup> we sighted land around 1100 - What a beautiful sight. Just to see mother nature's soil.

- Around 1400 we were quite close to land and we saw through our field glasses houses and what was on land - yes it was all exciting. To the left of us we saw the Rock of Gibraltar.
- We approached the mediterranean straits - since I lived in Oakland it felt like coming through the golden gate. It certainly did remind me of home. We saw the town of Tunisia - from the distance it was surprisingly a beautiful city. Africa was on the right of us and Spain to the left of us.
- Still we didn't know where our destination was but rumors were flying that we were to debark at Oran Africa.
- One thing we knew that we were coming close to danger and the enemy, a few times they dropped depth charges.
- That nite before we hit land we were all restless and couldn't sleep.
- Previously in this booklet I forgot to mention that we had to wear our life jackets and rifle belts with our canteens with water just incase.
- We also had boat drill quite regularly my station was by the <sup>row</sup> ladder on the starboard side. It was all very tiring after the 3rd & 4th time - we were supposed to be the fastest in getting position to abandoning ship.
- On the 22nd we approached the port city of Oran, Algeria. from this distance we thought a modern and beautiful city.