



★ **MY LIFE
IN THE
SERVICE**

THE DIARY OF

Nicholas Joseph Rodi - So. M. 3rd U.S.N.

283-72-74

Lisbon, Ohio

**A
REMINGTON-MORSE
PUBLICATION**

666 Lake Shore Drive
Chicago



IDENTIFICATION



Name Nicholas Joseph Rodi
Rank Sr. M. 3/c Serial Number 283-72-74
Unit U.S.S. Erie

Stationed at Stmo. Bay, Cuba
Religion Catholic

Date of Birth Oct. 24, 1923 Weight 150
Color White Color of Hair Black
Height 5' 4" Color of Eyes Brown

Birthmarks or Other Distinguishing Features _____

NEAREST RELATIVE OR FRIEND

Name Mrs. Joseph Rodi
Address 225 Maple St.
City Lisbon State Ohio

MY PHOTOGRAPH, taken _____

Where

When



SERVICE

TRANSFERS AND

RECORD



CHANGES IN RANK



Entered U.S.N.T.S.
Newport, R.I. on
May 7, 1942
Left U.S.N.T.S. on
June 29, 1942.
Arrived at Key West,
Fla. to attend
Sound School on 1st
of July.
Left So. School for
Panama for F.T. to
U.S.S. Erie on about
Aug 11, 1942. Was sent
back to Rec. Sta. in
Key West for F.T. to Erie
by ship.
Left Key West for
transportation to
Balboa, C.Z. for

trans transfer to Erie
Boarded P.Y. 15 for
transportation on 24th
of Aug.
Arrived at Balboa
about the 7, Sept.
Boarded and reported
for duty aboard Erie
on ~~the~~ Sept 7, 1942.
Accompanying me was
a fellow student from
So. School, John Rogers
Rated So. M 3/4 Aug 1, 1942



MY BUDDIES

IN THE SERVICE

- ★ Name and Nickname • Where I Met Him • What I Liked and Disliked About Him • What We Did • Home Address • Picture

★ MY BUDDIES ★



Allick Meyer - U.S.N. - Mansfield, Ohio
 Bob McLaughlin - U.S.N. " "
 " " U.S.N. Sebring, Ohio
 "Mickey" Wellsville, Ohio
 Alton Wright - USN Columbus, Ohio
 Joe Perry - USN Paris, Ohio
 Art Sours - USN Akron, Ohio
 "Pete" Pielak - " Toledo, Ohio
 "Jay" McKinley - " Columbus, Ohio
 "Poke" Blount - " Detroit, Mich.
 Dick Rose - " Cin. Ohio
 "Lee" Jenkins - " Georgia
 "Blucky" Louma R.M. 7c - Cleve.
 Alton Leatch - R.M. 7c S. Dakota
 Alton Gallagher R.M. 7c - Wheelock, Ohio
 Plumera - C.R.M. - Oregon
 Carpenter - " Portsmouth, Ohio
 Eddie E. Cuzan - USMC - REC N.Y.
 Joe Rogers - " Corp.



★ ★ MY BUDDIES IN THE SERVICE



Fulcher - U.S.M.C. - Cap. Florida
 Snyder - " PFC - Mass. Ohio
 Wille - " REC. Young. Ohio
 Zucconi - U.S.M.C. Corp. ?
 Begett " Sarg.
 Acroft " "
 de Burdano ^{OSN} _{DM. 4c} Alliance Ohio
 Jones - USN - GM - 2c
 Johns - F. 3c - Washington
 Fred Martin USN - Sarg. Ala.
 "Mechie" - RM 2c - USN - S. Carolina
 "Red" Heron - Ser. - Florida
 Bill Orlando - S 1c -
 Montanari - S 1c - Conn.
 Starr - USMC -
 Rybickis - USN - S 1c N.Y., N.Y.
 Shmitt - ARM 4c
 Weyfield - CPM -
 Begett - GM - 2c - Tenn.

Smith - Sig. 4c - USN Va.
 Usowitch - USMC - PFC -
 "Sig" Sheppard - CBM -
 Johnny Brand - F 1c - USN - Ala.
 Baldwin - " N.Y.
 Holly - Yno. 4c USN - Geo.
 "Butch" Pate - S.K. 1c -
 Honeywell (Housko) - CCS. USN.
 Crum. USMC - PFC
 Joe Caraciola - PY 15 USN - Conn.
 Alanish - Cox USN - Alaska
 "Velly" Williams - Ph. M 1c
 "Mickey" Moolin - USA - Weller. Ohio



★ OFFICERS ★



OFFICERS

I H A V E M E T

- ★ Name and Address • His Rank • Home Address • His Picture if Possible • What I and Others Liked and Disliked About Him

Capt. A.R. Mack - U.S.S. Erie
Lt. Com. Louder " "
" " Rose " "
1st Lt. Elliot * " "
Com. Sweeney (Exec) * " "
Peterson - Aviator * " "
Capt. Witherspoon U.S.M.C. " "
" Lavi * " "

"7 uppy" - Ship's Mast - U.S.S. Erie



★ CIVILIANS



Miss Jeanie Irish - Cleve.
Betty Undermyer - Cleve
Margie Miller - Dayton

CIVILIANS

I HAVE MET WHILE IN THE SERVICE

- ★ Name • Address • Picture • Phone Number • How and Why Our Acquaintance Started • General Comment and Things to Remember

THE FOLLOWING PAGES CONTAIN THE DIARY OF MY LIFE IN THE SERVICE

This simple record of my daily experiences and thoughts has given me pleasure in the writing of it. If for any reason it leaves my possession, I would like to have it forwarded to:

Name Miss Margie Mead

Address _____

City _____ State _____



May 3, 1942

Entered "Boot Camp" U.S.N.T.S. Newport RI
Left. " June 29, 1942

August July 1, 1942 - Arrived Key West,
Fla. to attend Sound School.

Aug 1, 1942 - Graduated from So. Sch. &
was made So. M. 1/c.

I spent a few weeks in Rec. Sta. in
Key West awaiting for further trans-
portation to Balboa, C. Z. to
board U.S.S. Eric for duty.

Aug 29, 1942 - Boarded P.Y. 15 for
transportation to Balboa. The trip
was my first on the sea. I enjoyed
it very much.

Sept 7, 1942 - Arrived in Balboa.
Reported to Comdr 15 Naval Dist.
About 4:00 P.M. Reported on board
Eric for duty. The ship was
in "overhaul" at the time.

I was placed in "C"
div. where I met

All actual heroes are essential men,
And all men possible heroes.

-E. B. Browning



fellows I was to work with. I liked the ship from the very beginning.

Later on I made a few liberties in Panama City. I liked the place a lot.

We were given a change of duty. We were on War Patrol or convoy duty between Stms. Bay & Trinidad. We convoyed many ships to and from Trinidad.

My first time ashore in Trinidad I didn't like it. Still it was better than Stms. We made our second trip to Trinidad on about the last of Oct. We anchored out and were there about ten days.

~~Oct~~ Nov, 10, 1942. We were escorting a fairly large convoy to Stms. Reports of subs were being given

America is the only place where man is full-grown!
—O. W. Holmes

all the way. Most of the crew seemed to expect some trouble on the way.

Nov. 12, 1942 - We were passing the island of Curacao. At about 5:30 PM (17:30) we were hit by a torpedo.

Ship was in flames. We were hit on 5th. quarter in officer's wardroom. The ship was beached and the crew abandoned ship. Capt. Mark was the last to leave. About 8:30 we were taken to an Army Camp and fed and billeted. Five officers and one enlisted man killed. A few other casualties. The Red Cross helped us immensely.

Stayed in the camp for a couple of days. Nov. 15, I attended a Catholic church, Mt. Carmel in Curacao D.V.I.

Just Nov. 17, left Curacao by plane. In about 3 hrs (11:00) arrived

Every man thinks meanly of himself for not having been a soldier.—Samuel Johnson

in it too. We were put up in the
Marine Barracks there.

Just 17, we were issued a few small
stores, having lost everything on the
ship.

Wed. 18, Didn't do much today. Made
out claim chits. Also received
mail. I rec'd. 12 letters and a
lovely card and some presents
from Margie. I was so happy
because of the mail. Mother +
Gabriel also sent me presents.
One of the presents Margie sent
me is this diary I am writing
in now. It is so getting late so
I will take a shower + go to bed.

Nov. 19, 1941 - Not much happened
today. No Mail. Drove our blues +
pea coat. Wrote a letter to Margaret
and to Mom.



Righteousness exalteth a nation.

—Proverbs XIV: 34

Nov. 20- Took my blues to the tailor
today. No mail. Had inspection.
Nothing unusual today.

Nov. 21-

Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the
inhabitants thereof.—Inscription on the Liberty Bell

THE FOLKS BACK HOME



Name

Address

City

State

Name

Address

City

State

Name

Address

City

State

Name

Address

City

State

Name

Address

City

State

Freedom exists only where the people take care of the government.—*Woodrow Wilson*



DATES TO REMEMBER



BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES AND SPECIAL OCCASIONS I
WANT TO REMEMBER BY SENDING A GREETING OR GIFT

Date Dec. 20,
Name _____
Occasion Eng. to Margie

Date Jan 17
Name Rose
Occasion Birthday

Date June 12, 1941
Name _____
Occasion Mar Margie

Date Nov. 12, 1941
Name U.S.S. Essex
Occasion Torpedoed & Broken ^{up}

Date May 4
Name Margie
Occasion Birthday

Date _____
Name _____
Occasion _____

Date July 9,
Name Phil
Occasion Birthday

Date _____
Name _____
Occasion _____

Date Jan 7,
Name Mon
Occasion Birthday

Date _____
Name _____
Occasion _____

Date _____
Name _____
Occasion _____

Date _____
Name _____
Occasion _____

Date _____
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Occasion _____

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Occasion _____

Date _____
Name _____
Occasion _____



GIFTS

I HAVE RECEIVED
For Which I Want to
Express Appreciation

Box, Book, Candy, Pic.
Gift
Nov. 18, 1942
When Received
Margie
From Whom

Box of Candy
Gift
Nov. 18, 1942
When Received
Mom + Dad
From Whom

Box of Candy
Gift
Nov. 18, 1942
When Received
Patricia
From Whom

Carton of Canele
Gift
About Nov. 8
When Received
Dad
From Whom

Pictures
Gift
Nov. 18, 1942
When Received
Joan + June
From Whom

Gift
When Received
From Whom

Gift
When Received
From Whom

Gift
When Received
From Whom

Gift
When Received
From Whom

Gift
When Received
From Whom

GIFTS I HAVE RECEIVED

Gift
When Received
From Whom

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PLACES I HAVE BEEN



DATE, DESCRIPTION, AND MY IMPRESSIONS OF
PLACES I WANT TO REMEMBER HAVING VISITED

Key West, Fla - Not so hot
Panama - Pretty good
Yuma - "crowdy"
Trinidad - Not bad
Cruces - Not bad

PLACES I HAVE BEEN





AUTOGRAPHS

Have Each of Your Buddies Write a Verse,
Sentiment, or Characteristic Com-
ment . . . and Sign His Name



Signature _____

Signature _____

MY DISCHARGE

FROM THE SERVICE

DATE _____

PLACE _____

RANK _____

COMMENT _____

