

# A Sailor's Story

By Charles A. Foegen, USN, Anne Foegen, Viola Foegen &  
Charles J. Foegen

Dedicated With All My Love  
To my parents, Charles and Anne Foegen

## Forward

I put this book together from my father's "5 Year Diary", which I was very excited to discover. I soon found that he had only written in between June and October 1941, his first year of service. I have added documents from his USN service records, which I obtained in 2003 (thanks to the federal records center) and letters from his mom and new bride, which are also from his service records file. Fortunately, I soon discovered his book, "My Life In the Service", another type of blank book that is dated April 9 to April 28, 1942. That small record really helped to fill in some more blanks. The "dates to remember" note my mom wrote shows the breadth of her love then, and she remained in love with him during her last ten years she lived without him.

I put this book together to try to learn more about my Dad's years in the service. He never brought up his years he served. Some of the following explains why, especially in clues I derive from the letters I'm including here.

I feel bad having never shown any interest to ever want to discuss WWII with my Dad. I guess I feel guilty, because he did defend his country and future family (I was born ten years after his enlistment in 1941). I was a conscientious objector during the Vietnam War and did not serve. My Dad defended my right to protest that war and to refuse being drafted, and he wrote a long letter to my draft board explaining why I was not suitable for military duty. This book is the least I can do some sixty years later.

*Charles J Foege*  
*September 7, 2004*

NRB Form No. 24 (Revised)

This application blank will be forwarded for file with papers in the Bureau in cases of men accepted for enlistment.

### APPLICATION FOR ENLISTMENT

12th Congressional District, County of (none) State of Missouri  
(This information to be supplied by Recruiter)  
 Last school grade completed: 10th Grade St. Louis, Missouri  
(Place)  
 Reason for enlistment: training  
 Language qualifications: english January 15, 1941  
(Date)  
 What is your trade? Paper cutter

I desire to submit my application for an enlistment of 4 years in the United States Navy, and declare that I am of good habits and character in all respects; that I have never deserted from the U. S. Navy, Marine Corps, Army, Coast Guard or Civilian Conservation Corps. Having been informed that any false statements made by me would bar me from enlisting, I certify that the following statements are correct:

Name in full: Charles Archie Poege, Jr.  
(First) (Middle) (Last)  
 Date of birth: January 5, 1916 Place of birth: St. Louis, Mo.  
(Month) (Day) (Year) (City and State)

What is your race? White U.S. If you were born in foreign territory, how did you acquire citizenship?  
 Are you now a U. S. citizen? yes

Have you anyone solely or partially dependent upon you for support? no

Are you married? no Have you ever been married? no  
(Yes or No) (Yes or no)

Home Address: 5650 Acme Avenue St. Louis Missouri  
(Street No.) (Name of Street) (City or Town) (State)

Former address: 2325 Warren St. Louis, Mo. Length of time lived at residence 1 yr.

Former address: \_\_\_\_\_ Length of time lived at residence \_\_\_\_\_

Where was your father born? St. Louis, Mo. Where was your mother born? St. Louis, Mo.

Is your father living? yes Is your mother living? yes  
(Yes or no) (Yes or no)

Are your parents divorced? no Separated? no Have you a stepfather? no stepmother? no  
(Yes or No) (Yes or No) (Yes or no) (Yes or no)

Name and relationship of next of kin or legal guardian: Viola Frances Poege  
(First name)

Mother Home address of next of kin or legal guardian: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Relationship)

5650 Acme Avenue St. Louis (none) Missouri  
(Street No.) (Name of Street) (City or Town) (County) (State)

Do you drink intoxicating liquors? yes If so, to what extent? moderately  
(Yes or No)

Have you ever been arrested or in the custody of police? no If so, for what? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been in a reform school, jail, or penitentiary, or have you ever been convicted of any crime?  
no

Have you ever served in the U. S. Navy, Marine Corps, Army or Coast Guard? no

If so, how long? \_\_\_\_\_ What is the date of your last discharge? \_\_\_\_\_

Character of discharge: \_\_\_\_\_ Are you now or have you been a member of the National Guard, Naval Militia, Naval Reserve, or Marine Corps Reserve, or Civilian Conservation Corps? no

If so, what company or unit? \_\_\_\_\_ Produce discharge no

(Applicant sign full name here) Charles Archie Poege Jr

Accepted: yes Cause of rejection: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: January 15, 1941 CHERBY  
 Captain (E-0) U.S.N.R.  
 Comdr. 6th Navy Res. Area  
Officer-in-Charge

(Over)

NAVAL RESERVE  
REQUISITION FOR CLOTHING AND SMALL STORES

No. 15-41  
27 JAN 1941

QND 6th NR Area USNR St. Louis, Missouri Jan-15-1941

I certify that the following data are correct and that the articles enumerated in column "Quantity required" are necessary for drills and training purposes of the reservist mentioned below and that he is in a status entitling him to a clothing gratuity.

For FOEGE, Charles Archie, Jr. 411-22-55 AS-Y-1-USNR

Commandr, 38th Div, 6th NR Area, foot of Ferry St. St. Louis, Mo.

Date of last enlistment or enrollment January 15, 1941. Value of gratuitous issues previously received during present enlistment or enrollment, \$ none

Enlisted Jan 15, 1941, for FOUR full years. G. F. SCHWARTZ Captain (D-2) U.S.N.R. Commanding Officer, 6th Nav. Res. Area

Give serial numbers of all previous unfilled requisitions against this reservist's gratuity

DESCRIPTION OF ARTICLES	A	B	C	D
	Size desired	Quantity required	Unit price	Extension
BELTS, black, woven (ab).....				
BRAID, branch mark, blue, <del>xxx</del> , white (b).....	x x x x	3 yds.		09
CAP RIBBONS:				
U. S. Navy (b).....	x x x x			
U. S. N. R. Aviation Base (b).....	x x x x			
CAPS (see reverse side):				
C. P. O. and C. & S., combination, complete (a).....				
Cloth (b).....				
Watch (b).....	x x x x			
CLOTHES STOPS (b).....		2		20
COATS, blue serge (attach measurement blank) (b).....	x x x x			
COAT AND TROUSERS, blue serge (attach measurement blank) (a).....	x x x x			
COAT, TROUSERS, AND WAISTCOAT, blue serge (attach measurement blank) (a).....	x x x x			
COATS, white, drill, Navy (attach measurement blank) (a).....	x x x x			
COATS, white, C. P. O. (a).....	x x x x			
DEVICES, C. & S. (a).....	x x x x			
GLOVES, wooden (see reverse side) (ab).....	11	1 pr		55
HATS, white (see reverse side) (b).....	7 1/2	3		1.20
JACKETS, mess attendants' (b).....				
JENSERS (see reverse side) (b).....				
JUMPERS (see reverse side):				
Blue, items checked (✓) have been eliminated	33	1		6.75
do, avoid over issue of gratuity allowance.	38	1		4.50
Dimes checked (X) have been eliminated, as				
complete allowance of these items has been	38	2		2.20
waived. All checked items will be supplied	4	1 pr		.70
upon receipt of money order covering value.				
MARKS, distinguishing and specialty (ab).....				
Blue (insert name of mark).....	x x x x			
White (insert name of mark).....	x x x x			
NECKRIBBONS (b).....		1		90
NECKTIES, bow, C. & S. (a).....	x x x x			
NECKTIES, four-in-hand, C. P. O. (a).....	x x x x			
OVERCOATS (see reverse side) (ab).....	38	1		13.00
RAINCOATS (see reverse side) (ab).....	38	1		4.50
RATING BADGES, blue (insert rating:.....) (ab).....	x x x x			
..... (ab).....	x x x x			
..... (ab).....	x x x x			
..... (ab).....	x x x x			
..... (a).....				
..... (ab).....	10 1/2	1 pr		3.40
..... (b).....	x x x x			
..... (ab).....	30	2		9.50
..... (ab).....	30	2		2.20
..... (ab).....	34	4		.80
..... (a).....	x x x x			
TOTAL VALUE.....				45.79 ✓



officers' cooks and stewards. (b) For other enlisted ratings.  
were shipped by PARCEL POST  
MAR 7 1941, 19.....  
(Activity making shipment)

**INSTRUCTIONS**

This form is to be used for all requirements for articles of clothing and small stores under the uniform gratuity for chief petty officers, officers' cooks and stewards, and all other enlisted ratings for members of the Naval Reserve. Requisitions for such articles as coats, blue and white; overcoats; raincoats; trousers, blue and white; and waistcoats, blue, for chief petty officers and officers' cooks and stewards, must be accompanied by measurement blanks procured upon application to the Naval Clothing Depot, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Prepare form in quadruplicate (original and three carbon copies). For Naval Reserve, other than Class V-3 and Class V-5, the original and first two carbon copies will be forwarded to the activity authorized to make issue (art. 1431-10, Bureau of Supplies and Accounts Manual and Supplies and Accounts Memoranda). For Naval Reserve of Class V-3 and Class V-5, the original and first two carbon copies will be forwarded to the Bureau of Navigation. The third carbon copy will be retained for the files of the organization.

Insert in column A "size desired", and in column B "number required."  
**DO NOT** make any entries in columns C and D.

INFORMATION CONCERNING SIZES, ETC., OF

**CAPS: C. P. O. and C. & S., and Cloth.**

Order by SIZES—6½, 6¾, 6¾, 6¾, 7, 7¼, 7¼, 7¾, 7¾, 7¾.

**GLOVES.**

Order by SIZES—10, 10½, 11.

**HATS, White.**

Order by SIZES—6¾, 6¾, 6¾, 6¾, 7, 7¼, 7¼, 7¾, 7¾, 7¾.

**JERSEYS.**

Order by SIZES.....	32	34	36
Actual chest measurements of these sizes are....	29	31	33

**JUMPERS: Blue, dress; Blue, undress; Dungaree; White, dress; White, undress.**

Order by SIZES—the sizes of all jumpers, except blue, dress, blue undress.

Actual chest measurements of jumpers, blue, dress, blue undress.....				
Jumpers, blue, dress, and undress, SIZE....	34	36	38	40
Chest measurement.....	37	39	41	43
Jumpers, dungaree, SIZE.....	36	38	40	42
Chest measurement.....	39	41	43	45

**LEGGINGS.**

Order by SIZES.....	1	2	3	4			
Corresponding calf measurements are....	13	13½	13¾	14½	15½	16½	17

**OVERCOATS.**

Order by SIZES—32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44. Chief petty officers and cooks and stewards must attach measurement blanks.

**RAINCOATS.**

Order by SIZES—32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44. Chief petty officers and cooks and stewards must attach measurement blanks.

**RATING BADGES.—SERVICE STRIPES.**

If "gold" or "silver" rating badges or "gold" service stripes are desired, strike out "blue" and insert "gold" or "silver."

**SHIRTS, flannel, C. P. O.**

Order by neck SIZES.....	14	14½	15	15½	16	16½	17	17½	18
Actual chest measurements are....	42	43	44	45	46	48	50	52	54

**SHOES, high or low.**

Order by SIZES—5, 5½, 6, 6½, 7, 7½, 8, 8½, 9, 9½, 10, 10½, 11, and by WIDTHS—A, B, C, D, E, F. (See opposite side.)

**TROUSERS: Blue; Dungaree; White.**

Order by WAIST SIZES....	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	38	40
Leg measurements are....	30	31	31	33	33	33	33	33	33	32

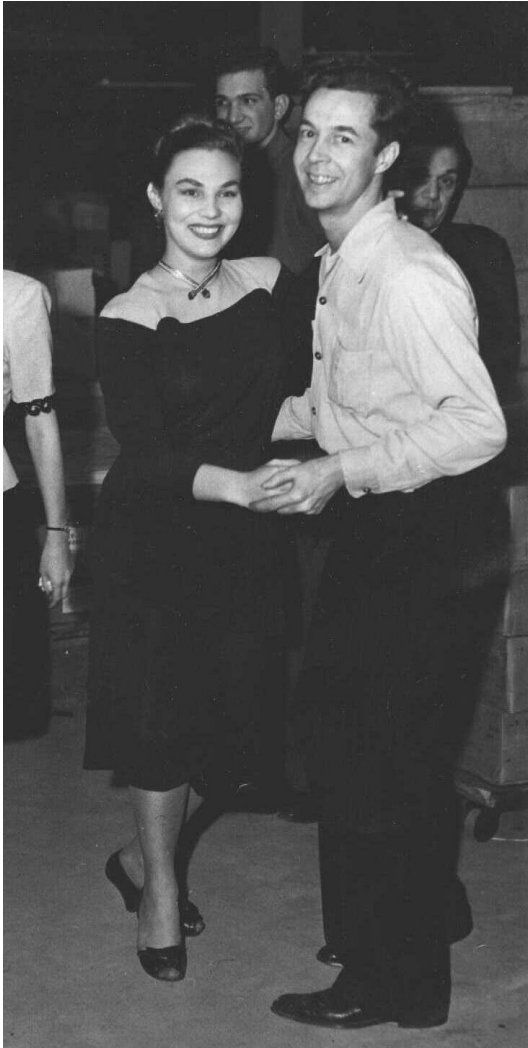
**UNDERSHIRTS, Cotton.**

Order by SIZES—32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44.



## June 16, 1941

I went to Roseland. Admission: 1 pk of cigarettes. Very good time. Danced with hostess. She complimented my dancing. I played ping pong afterwards.



June 17

I had the duty tonight. I watched some men make screen armory in the #4 hold. Nothing interesting.

June 18

Last night in New York, leaving tomorrow. I went to Roseland. Found out that singer with Dick Rogers Band is from St. Louis. Had nice time. Back to sleep at 1.

June 19

260 soldiers came aboard. We sailed at 10:30. When we pulled out I really felt low. Thought of Anne & Mom a long time. We circled and checked instruments all day.

June 20

Still heading east. Since the soldiers came on board the chow is better. We are in a convoy, with 4 ships and 3 destroyers. The tug had a little motor trouble. I was given charge of the gear locker.

June 21

Now heading N.N.E. Not much doing. Sea still calm but 4 soldiers were seasick. Heard rumor that one of the yardmen were found in lifeboat no. 3. Don't believe it. Mail is to be censored.

June 22

Sunday a day of rest, so I rested all day. No watch. A storm came up and broke up the Movies. We had to take down screen in wind and rain.

June 23

Geo. Ackerman has been in his dress blues the last two nights, expecting to have liberty. We pull into harbor tomorrow. They had "Sandy was a lady." so I went to bed. We ...

June 24

I woke up this morning and we were in a harbor. A town called Argentinia. A navy seaplane base. The bay is surrounded by desolate rocks projecting almost straight up.

June 25

I made liberty in town. Rained like hell about 15 Natives and the rest of the people were workers building the base. Rains here 9 days out of ten. It is cold enough for sox. About 900 miles to go.



June 26

We were issued rough weather clothes. Very nice weather. About 55 in sun. Cold in wind. I just about froze at movies "East Side of

Heaven". Went on a working party to the Albemarle, seaplane tender. Very nice ship. No mail aboard yet.

June 27

I cleaned Paymasters' supply office all morning. I went to sick bay and got vaccinated for small pox. Saw the movie "Career," with Anne Shirley (good picture).

June 28

Weather fine. We pulled along side of the tanker Sapilo and refueled. All week were at anchor. Saturday comes so we fuel instead of liberty. Captain's inspection. Vaccination ain't taken.

June 29

Mail from Mom. Liberty from 09:00 to 16:00. Rain all day. Walked to Placentia 4 ½ miles and back. Spent afternoon in Marine Canteen. Feeling pretty good.

June 30

We pulled out for G. at 14:00. Only one ship was added to convoy, the Sapilo; tanker. Battle condition #3 was started! Guns partially manned. We're on watch 4 off 8. Ship is rolling much.

July 1

No pay today. One sailor got sick. We holy stoned sundeck all day. Got 12 to 4 watch tonight. Very nice weather. They fired 3" guns in morning. One broke down. I want to go home.

July 2

Pay day. I left \$7 in. I had the helm tonight and Iron Mike failed. I had to steer by magnetic compass in a storm. Whew. Work. I was complimented. I stood 3 watches.



## FIRST U.S. TROOPS LAND IN GREENLAND TO PREPARE MAIN ARMY AND AIR BASE

On these pages LIFE presents the first pictures that have come out of Greenland since the U. S. announced its Arctic protectorate on April 11. For three months after incorporation of Greenland into the U. S. defense system, Hitler might easily have occupied it for his own ends. It was not till June 19 that the first sizable convoy left U. S. shores for the north. Two Army transports put out of New York, were joined at sea by two Coast Guard cutters, three destroyers, a tanker, an ocean-going tug. On June 23 they dropped anchor in the harbor of Argentinia, Newfoundland. The

convoy stayed there a week, then set its course again to the northward.

On July 6 the flotilla, which for several days skirted Greenland's grim coastline suddenly cut toward the mouth of a great fjord. For another day the ships steamed up between huge rock walls till at the head they hove to at the spot chosen for the U. S. Army for its first Greenland base. Betwixt July 7 and 28 troops and seamen labored unceasingly to unload supplies and provisions. On the 29th the last of the equipment was discharged, the base established



July 3

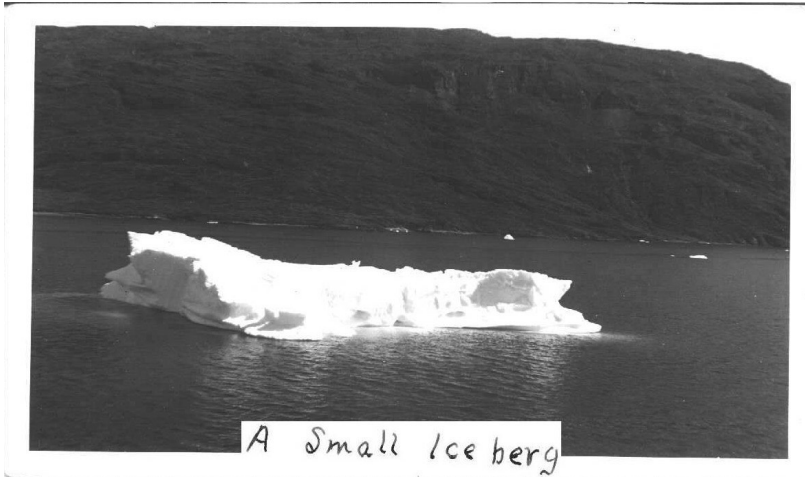
Really rough. I feel kind of weak in the belly. Lots of soldiers & sailors are sick. It's raining very hard. Only one watch today.

July 4

Boy this is really a day. Everyone is sick or won't admit it. I held every thing so far. The waves are washing over the decks. We can't even see the Raritanox Comanche between the waves.

July 5

We sighted Greenland and picked up the counsel & pilot at 11:30 at night, sun is still up. Water is calm and we are on our course again. Fairly warm.



July 6  
We steamed up a real narrow channel about 40 miles. Ice pans and small bergs all around. Before we got in channel I

counted over 100 bergs.

July 7

I sent 2 letters and four p.cards back to states (Mom & Anne, Russ & Russ, Dick, Bill), via the destroyers. Cleaned up the deck. Not much to write about. Warm here.

July 8

This place is surrounded by high peaks & there is a glacier visible in the distance. There is a large field for an airport. Only flat place I seen.

July 9

I went ashore and tried to walk to that glacier 3 hrs. and I still didn't make it. Met the Capt. & Executive on shore. Came back in their boat. On report - 1 ½ hrs over leave.

July 10

It rained most of the day. Knocked off from side cleaning. Wonder when we will unload in earnest. An iceberg almost crushed the army pontoons. Got Haircut.

July 11

I went before most. 5 days liberty restricted probation. If I don't get off that side cleaning soon I will go nuts. I'm crabby as hell. Rumor is 3 days in N.Y. than Bermuda.

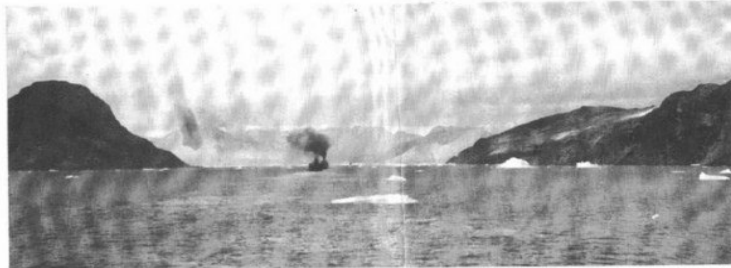


July 12

They got me out of bed at 12 midnight. The Sapilo was dragging her anchor. On watch until 3. Manned lines of Raritan alone. Rained all day.

July 13

Played cards all day. Didn't do so good. Absolutely nothing to do. Weather a little damp. All mountains around covered with snow. All white.



Up Tunngliarfik Fjord, Alaska, in November, steams the units of U. S. Army's first Arctic convoy. The rocky straits that frame from either side of the fjord are 200-300 feet with ledges, irregularly spotted with white snow. Only in a few sheltered crevasses stand junipers now. Twenty miles in, at the head of the fjord, is America's new Greenland base.

July 14

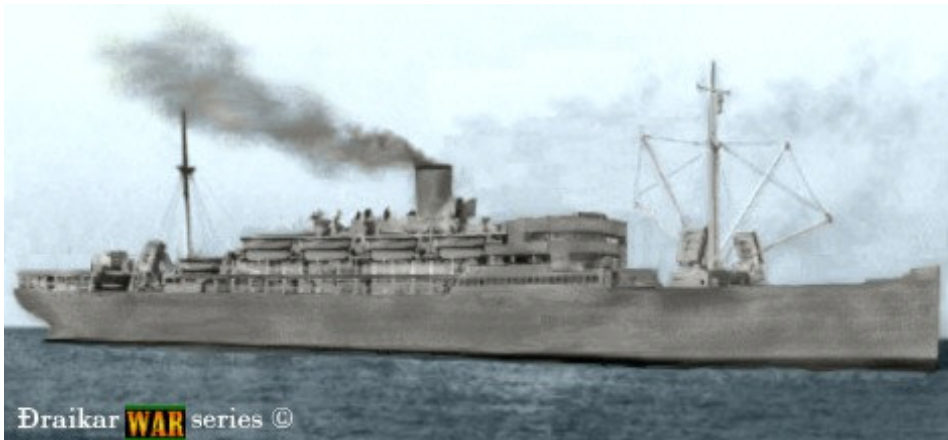
Weather is warm. Payday is tomorrow. Pay number is NR-6-61. Have \$25 due. Unloading is progressing slow but sure.

July 15

I drew 7 dollars pay. Balance. \$18. In the afternoon I was in the chain locker. We tiered 135 fathoms of chain. This was really work.

July 16

I was given charge of 4 men to paint a boat and renew the lines. I ran the winch on No 3 hold for about an hour. Time is really passing slow.



*This was my Dad's ship, the U.S.S. Munargo.*

July 17

Still painting boat. Also fixing hurricane deck. Weather is warm but wind is cold.

July 18

It rained all day today. Very little work done. The "Commanche" left for states with mail.

July 19

A full days work today in rain. Spent all night thinking of home and Ann. Every one is down in dumps tonite.

July 22

Still painting side on bow. Same old long sticks with brush on end. I don't trust those guys tending my lines.

July 23

Still painting. Got a half a day off. Went ashore just to get off of ship. I rode in a jeep - a small car, V8 powered. Bumpy. Whew.

July 24

I was supposed to take it easy on painting but got the Bow anyway. I'm mad. This painting is getting me down. All there is to talking about is painting.

July 25

Painted half a day and went ashore. Really good liberty. Four guys and I went up the mountain via water. I took a shower under a waterfall. Bet no one has ever walked that stream. Nude.

July 26

A Panama ship "Nora" came in loaded way down. No mail. Heard that soldiers were to leave ship by Wed. Maybe we'll leave soon.

July 27

The U.S.A.T. Siboney, and destroyer Greer came in. They brought mail for soldiers but none for us. This the 2<sup>nd</sup> time this has happened.

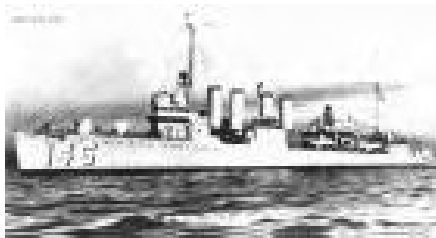
July 28

We finished side painting today I hope. Greer left. Nothing much else to say. Rumor on leaving still persist. Our mail is to be in N.Y.  
*Dad is on far right.*

July 29

The Cheateau Theirry left this morn. We had turkey & ice cream for supper. The "C.G. Modac" came and left. Wind blew up and carried away gas tanks and boats.

*The Greer*



July 30

A little calmer today but still not so good. I bought a pair of pants from Richards \$3.00 I think we leave Friday Soldiers leave tomorrow morn.

July 31

Soldiers didn't leave today. Weather is bad. No pay till the 5<sup>th</sup> in N.Y. Secured for sea.

August 1

We unloaded soldiers and supplies until 11:00 then weighed anchor. Left. Just before chow I shot the cookies. More sick now than ever before.



Waiting troops aboard the Army transport *Chateau Thierry* watch other units in their flotilla—two patrol boats, an oil tanker, a transport—leave to off the U.S. base at Iqaluit's head.



A wooden barge is put over the side. In absence of docks, floating cranes, other landing facilities, it was necessary to discharge convoy's supplies and equipment in two barges like this.

August 2

Streaming as before speed 15 knots wet weather. N.Y. is our destination. The chow is really good and all you want. I feel pretty good today.

August 3

Belly Isle straits. Newfoundland. We hit very lumpy water today but no one seems to be sick. It is a side list and has no travel. Gun watch is secured. Making good time.

August 4

Still making good time. We hit fog every night but we don't cut speed any. Doing lots of painting & cleaning. Cigarettes are .50 a carton.

August 5

Not much doing. Making good time. Draw \$41 pay. 5" gun was fired. Thirty cal. machine guns fired. 4 men were hit by fragments when bullet hit wall.

August 6

N.Y. at 3:50 T.P. Oakes won the \$200. Made liberty & went to coney. Still no mail. I made a half a load early and then didn't drink any more.

August 7

Sure is good to be back in States. I have dut today. We are tied up a Erie Basin Brooklyn. About a mile from the Army Port.

August 8

I went to Roseland. Before I went I phoned Ann & Mom. That was the best six dollars I ever spent. We all were really happy.

August 9

Went to Coney in afternoon for swim. Met Geo. Fors at Times Square. And we went to Central Park. We had a good time just bumming.

August 10

Spent nite & morn at Kenmore Hall 23 & Lex. Saw a show in the afternoon then then went to Penn Station to see if Ann was coming in. but no

August 11

Derby & I went to Arcadia. Met girl from Pittsburg had fair time. I made arrangements for Ann to stay at St. George hotel. Sent telegram.



August 12

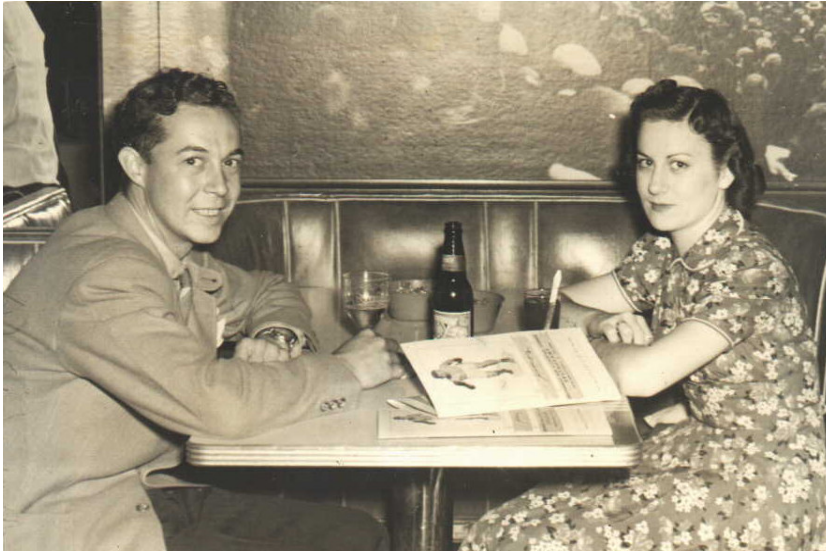
Ann called twice today she is at 1140 Vice Ave Bronx (Adrian). I saw her at 6:00. I couldn't say hardly a word & just couldn't wait to kiss her. Went to "Y" dance with Vally & Gerton.

August 13

I had the duty but Mr. Giles arranged my getting off. Ann & I went to Roseland. I had a wonderful time. Can't believe it's true yet. She sure looks good.

August 15

Have liberty till 8:00 Mon. Don Alfred is standing my watch.



August 16

I took Ann to Coney Island. She would ride on any of the rides. She sure is good to have

around. Don't see how I did without her. I love her more than ever.

August 17



We went to Rockaway Beach. Had a wonderful time. Water was too cool to swim in. We stopped by Times Square on the way home for ice cream.

*(Actual souvenirs from their date above.)*

August 18

We went to the "Paramount" and saw the "Ink Spots" (in sailor suit). This time is passing so fast. It is just like I'd never been away from Ann.

August 19

Duty tonight. I wrote Mom after I got off duty. I felt ashamed of myself for not doing so sooner. I haven't even had time to sleep.

August 20

We went to the Arcadia. We had a good time but both of us were tired. Anne went to see the Statue of Liberty.

August 21

Took test for S 1/C. Tonight was the last with Anne. We went to Astor Roof and saw Will Bradley. We sat in kitchen until it was time for me to leave. I was sissy.

August 22

Cleaned & painted all day. We have duty tonight. I saw Anne going down stairs to train & caught her. I was sure tempted to go back with her.

August 23

About 250 soldiers came aboard at 10:00 Under weight about 12:00 calibrated compass until about 4:00. Soldiers are the 41<sup>st</sup> Recon. Squadron Sea Calm.

August 24

Very fine weather. Chow is spotty first very good then very bad. I am standing wheel watches. Our speed is 14K. We are painting.

August 25

We're still painting. And weather was calm until nite when it started to blow. Soldiers go to airport 240 miles from St. Johns.

August 26

I have passed my S 1/C exam. I must wait until I have enough time in before it is effective. It is still windy. We dock tomorrow.

August 27

It got foggy about 5:00 and we missed St. John's. Some navigators. Finally docked at 11:00. Very small harbor neck but big after you get in. Big guns on cliffs and Sub nets in entrance. Liberty.

August 28

Duty today. Continued painting. Painting since we left N.Y. writing letters to be mailed when I get back to states.

August 29

Left for New York today Soldiers of the 21<sup>st</sup> recon. Squad came aboard. We almost ran into the cliffs in the harbor. Calm sea.

August 30

Painting continues Sea is still calm Food gets worse as soon as soldiers get aboard.

August 31

Sea calm. Painting continues. We may get in tomorrow night.

September 1

S. calm. We cut down speed and will tie to pier 3 at 10:00 tomorrow.

September 2

Tied at 11:00 Liberty at 4:00 Started for Roseland and wound up at Paramount to see Tommy Dorsey. Back to ship early.

September 3

Duty tonight very little information on where we're going. Nora is at next Pier. Cheateau Thiery dead ahead. Painting yet.

September 4

Liberty is a 48. Derby and I went to Roseland. Pretty good time. We stayed at hotel by Madison Square Garden, Garden Apt Hotel.

September 5

Went to Strand and saw Sammy Kaye and Dive Bomber. Went to Miget Auto Races. Back to the ship broke I don't know where money went this payday.

September 6

Duty today and tomorrow. Slept all day except for watch.

September 7

Very dull on watches. Slept all day today too. I feel dopey. Still broke.

September 8

Wanted to go to the Bronx to see Adrian's but I went to Columbus Circle Roller Rink. Pretty good time. Back about 12:00.

September 9

Duty today. Had 12:00 to 16:00 watch. I've been hitting my watches pretty good.

September 10

Derby and I went to Slone House "Y" to a dance. Very nice time. Heas \$5.00 that we are making liberty on.

September 11

Derby & I started for a dance in Flatbush but there was none. We went to Marti Grau at Coney. I almost had my jumper filled with confetti.

September 12

Duty tonight. We are going to Newfoundland & B.W. Greenland also a place called Crystal. No one seems to know of it.

September 13

Special payday. \$10. Due and drawn. We went to Sloan house dance. Nice time. Stayed there overnight. We went to Diamond Jim's after dance.

September 14

We went to Burlesque (Republic) in afternoon. In the night we went to Roseland and had a very good time. Slept at Sloan house.

September 15

Got back to ship and it was loaded for Newf. We were to leave at noon. Orders cancelled. Soldiers came aboard. Duty tonight.

September 16

Left for Newf. At 11:30. Weather fine, practically no cargo. Beer & a few provisions. Missed watches.

September 17

Weather windy. No rain. Sea rough. Radley sick already. Poor guy has never missed a trip.

September 18

Still rough. Nothing much else of any consequence.

September 19

Waves breaking over well deck. Really cold. Got soaked a couple of times.

September 20

Arrived at St. Johns about 8:00 Liberty started at 13:00. Left ship about 4:00 to look for a dance. No luck. Spent night eating ice cream.

September 21

Left ship about 5:00 and looked for dance. No luck. Just bummed around. Liberty expires at 10:00 Early reville in morning.

September 22

Left for States about 7:00. Storms are predicted about Wed. Hurricane coming up coast of States. More soldiers from Gander lake.

September 23

Missed watches yesterday. Sea very calm. Not much wind.

September 24

Sea calm. No wind. Radley hasn't been sick yet so it is really calm. Payday tomorrow \$15.00 due.

September 25 through October 18, 1941

(no entries in diary)

October 19

Unloading continues. No 3 hold is empty only about half of the #1 and the icebox left.

October 20

Left Greenland about 10:30 Rumor: we are to fuel a ship and then head for states. 4:00 reville to complete loading of big lighter. Really cold.

October 21, 1941 -- (last entry in diary)

Everyone put in for leave today.

- *5 year diary ends* -

### *“My Life In the Service”*

*“It is my intention to keep this diary secret until after the war and then go over it with Anne.” CAF*

April 9, 1942  
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

Last night I saw my first ship sink. About 3 o'clock in the morning Fred Radley woke me up and then I heard a traffic explosion. I ran over to the door and a ship about 100 yards astern of us was blazing furiously from its after well deck. Every little while another explosion would cause us to quake a little and felt a little scared. It was ammunition that was burning. Bullets were firing continually exploding. It sounded like the 4<sup>th</sup> of July on Acme Ave, only noisier. We were feverishly trying to get upstream so we could get out of danger and it was really

dangerous there. A limey corvette pulled close to the ship and started shelling it. I guess they pumped about 20 or 25 shells in all. They then pulled past us. As they passed they advised us to "abandon ship" (remembering Dunkurke). We could see the ship settle lower and lower finally when the deck aft was almost awash, she listed a way over to starboard. She was still burning more and more, if that is possible. She started sinking lower and lower and then finally she started taking water over the gunwales. It didn't take any time at all then. When the water reached the flames there was a terrific cloud of steam and and then pitch blackness. The corvette played her searchlight on the stricken hulk and with a rolling motion she was nearly sunk. Her bow was still buoyant and hung to the surface protruding about 4 or 5 fee above the water. She finally gave up the ghost and disappeared. The next morning the only trace of her was foremost, with the signal halyard still flying backer, the danger flag. We were all very much impressed and I hope that I am never on a ship that is afire at sea. – Before she sank we had pulled out of danger. The next day someone recalled that during the last war an ammunition ship caught afire and blew up. It took almost half of the town with it. There is still part of a ships anchor 2 or 3 miles inland where it was blown. I have tried to give you my impressions and reactions to the sad and yet fascinating picture. I hope my description has been adequate. – Chas.

April 10, 1942

Tonight a can dropped three depth charges but whether they got the sub or not, I don't know.

April 22, 1942

Today we left Iceland for Greenock, Scotland. It is now twenty to midnight and it is still light. At least we will be able to see subs or aircraft before time when or if they attack. This is by far the most dangerous water we have ever been in. The limey soldiers as a whole seem to be a pretty nice lot. Not nearly as cocky as those in N.Y.C. We have some survivors aboard from a sunken ship. It was one of the 20 that left Norway against German orders. Thirteen of them were sunk. 11 by aircraft and 2 by torpedoes. Some of them kids are not even of age. Two of them say they are fifteen but I think they lie (one of them had never seen a drinking fountain). That's all tonight. -- Chas.



April 25, 1942  
Greenock, Scotland

Well, I finally made it all the way across the ocean. We arrived in Greenock Scotland. I made liberty and went to Glasgow by bus. One of the colored fellows fell into the river (Clyde) while we were going over the side (on a Jacobs ladder) to get aboard the liberty boat. I got in Glasgow just in time to get two glasses of beer (not bad) and then the "pubs" closed at 9:30 sharp.

I went to "Lenards", a penny arcade. I found out where all the old "one arm bandits" go, Scotland. After bumming around in a total blackout, I finally talked Joe Good into going to the "Locarno" a dance place. By the time we got there, it had just closed. We went in anyway and it was a very nice place. (a cross between "the Paragon" and "Casa Loma"). I'll have to there next time I get liberty. We got on a streetcar that was supposed to take us someplace to sleep and wound up in the suburbs. Mary Hill. The motorman said he would take us home with him and after he turned his car into the station (car barn) we went home with him. Matt Luke is probably the most generous guy I have ever met. His wife was very nice and most considerate. She cooked us supper and we sat around the fireplace and talked until about 1:45. He has four kids, evacuated to a farm out in the country. He sent five out there but one boy was killed by a Lorry (truck). I left them 55 packs of cigarettes and they were really appreciated. At 4:30 in the morning he got us up to go to St. Enoch's station to catch our bus back to Greenock. His wife got up and fired us ham and eggs for breakfast (both of them are scarce and rationed). I believe this is the most hospitable couple I have ever met. He rolled R's, but there was nothing "Scotch" about him. Lots of the fellows spent the night sleeping in jail, the only place available. - Chas.

April 28, 1942

Tomorrow we will get aboard a whole bunch of civilian passengers. I am afraid this is going to mean much more work for me as C.P.O. Mess Cook. Perhaps we will get underway. I surely hope so. Glasgow is nice and I can have a good time here, but Brooklyn is where my heart is these days. I love and want to be with my wife. -- Chas.

Mom's notes:

Dates to Remember

Dec. 22, 1940. we met at Casa Loma.

Dec. 29, 1940. our first date; we  
went to Max + Sid's.

Jan. 16, 1941. we met again.

Jan. 25, 1941. second date and  
continuous dates thereafter.

Feb. 22, 1941. the proposal after an  
evening at Bob's.

April 13, 1941. Easter. I received my ring.  
we went visiting and  
to Casa Loma.

April 23, 1941. He left for the navy.

May 30, 31, + June 1 he was home.

Aug. 8. he called me and asked  
me to come to N. Y.

Aug. 12-22 we spent together.

Sept. 25, 1941 he called me at Helen's  
from N. Y.

Nov. 14 to 21 he was in St. Louis.

Nov. 16, 1941 Jan. + Pauline gave me  
a shower.

Nov. 20, 1941 we were married at  
Christ Church Cathedral at  
2:00 P.M.

Nov. 21, 1941 we left for N. Y. together.

Dec. 13, 1941 celebrated at Billy Rose's.

Dec. 16, 1941 he left and I went home.

Jan. 3, 1942 he called me at home.

Jan. 5, 1942 he asked me to come.

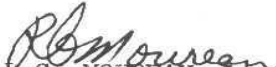
Name \_\_\_\_\_ (Name in full, surname to the left.)  
No. 411 22 55 Rate Slc V-6 (A. A. / P. A.)  
Date reported 6/4/41  
Ship or Station U.S.S. MUNARGO  
From RECSHIP AT NEW YORK

August 1, 1942:

Appointed: Ship's Cook Third Class.  
Article 1275, USNR read and appointment accepted.

Auth: BuPers C/L 92-42.

FCEGE is qualified in all respects for this advancement in accordance with the requirements of BuPers Manual and current instructions.

  
R.C. MOUREAU, Lt. Cdr. USN  
Executive Officer, By direction  
of Commanding Officer.

Date transferred \_\_\_\_\_

To \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature and rank of Commanding Officer.

Date received \_\_\_\_\_

Ship or Station \_\_\_\_\_  
From \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature and rank of Commanding Officer. 6-0111

C. O. Order No. 894-46

411 22 55 FOEGE, Charles Archie J.  
(SERVICE NUMBER) (SURNAME) (FIRST NAME) (MIDDLE NAME)

SC1c USN  RET  USNR  V-1 USN (I)   
(RATING) (CLASS)

U.S. Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Fla.  
(SHIP OR STATION)

Enlisted on 15 Jan. 41 and is this date, 24 Aug. 45  
(DATE) (DATE)

1. Discharged with HON. DISC. EXP. ENL.  
CHARACTER OF AND REASON FOR DISCHARGE

ALNAV # 196-43  
(at expiration of enlistment )

2. Transferred to Fleet Reserve   
(CLASS)  
(at other than expiration of enlistment ) and (is ) (is NOT ) immediately released from active duty.

3. Released from active duty .

Completed 4 years service on 14 Jan 45  
(NUMBER) (DATE)  
 If enlistment NOT extended, or extended only 1 year, net time served in enlistment and extension if any. 4 7 10  
(YRS.) (MOS.) (DAYS)

If enlistment extended 2 or more years, net time served in extension only.                       
(YRS.) (MOS.) (DAYS)

Time (was ) (was NOT ) lost during this enlistment or extension because of AWOL, AOL, or NPDI.

Permission (was ) (was NOT ) granted to make up time lost.

Other Service (Act 6-16-42)                       
(YRS.) (MOS.) (DAYS)

Net Service completed on date of last discharge. 4 7 10  
(YRS.) (MOS.) (DAYS)

Naval Service to include date of last discharge.                       
(YRS.) (MOS.) (DAYS)

Medals Awarded: Recommended for the European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal.

Accepted for enlistment at  Inducted at  St. Louis, Mo.  
 Ordered to Active duty from  St. Louis, Mo.  
(PLACE)

Discharged or transferred to Fleet Reserve at US NAS., Pensacola, Fla.  
(PLACE)

The above named individual (is ) (is NOT ) recommended for reenlistment.

The above named individual (is ) (is NOT ) recommended for Good Conduct Medal.

Payment of Discharge Gratuity (is ) (is NOT ) directed. at Request  
 Due at Discharge \$ 25.25  
 Personal Funds \$         
 Gratuity Credited \$         
A. E. TRYGGVAD, Lt. (jg) USN.

By Direction (NAME AND SIGNATURE) Officer (See Art. 2025(2) N.R.)  
(All sections which do not apply to this order shall be lined out before signature is affixed).

To be entered by the Disbursing Officer:

Travel Allowance \$ 37.30

**PART 1 - FOR SERVICE RECORD**

These letters from my mom and my grandmother were included with my Dad's Naval Records. Quite a surprise.

Anne Foeger

SEP 9 11 03 AM '46

Out

P. K. March

THE ALL OF NAVAL PERSONNEL  
NAVY DEPARTMENT  
RECEIVED 3, 1944

3  
Navy

My dear Mr. President,  
I hardly know how to begin  
a letter to you, but my heart is so  
heavy from all that the Navy has  
done to my husband that I  
simply must tell you about it.

PM 2 46

First of all, my husband,  
Charles A. Foeger, Jr., enlisted in  
the Naval Reserve in January 1941  
and went on active duty April  
23, 1941. He was to serve only one  
year active duty, but then the war  
started, and, naturally, he had  
to remain. He served on the U. S. S.  
Munargo (A. P. 20) as Army Transport,  
for 29½ months covering over  
120,000 miles. He made 29 Ports  
of Call in 17 different countries  
reaching from above the Arctic  
circle in Greenland to New  
Calidonia. This shows that he

FINISHED FILED  
SEP 11 1946

has had continuous sea duty and was entitled to a little shore duty.

When the meargo was put out of Commission on October 18, 1943 he was given 30 days leave and then he reported back to the Receiving Ship in New York. From there he was sent to Norfolk, Va. with an assignment to go to school at the Minecraft Training Center and then he was to be re-assigned to New Construction by the Commanding Officer. The day after his arrival in Norfolk, he was sent to the y. m. S. 352 for duty because the cook on that ship was ill. He went willingly and did the best work he knew how thinking that he would still be allowed to have his schooling afterward. When this cook was again well, he came back to the y. m. S. 352 and really wanted to again be on it, but the Captain wouldn't take him back.

FINISHED FILE PERS 630

and said my husband had now been assigned to this ship for permanent duty and this other fellow would have to go take my husband's place. This fellow had already been sitting around Norfolk since last May and my husband had been on the "go" constantly. Why wasn't this job taken back?

This all happened the beginning of December and on December 14 this ship left Norfolk and my husband is now on duty somewhere in England. He tried his best to get shore duty and a little rest (which he needed badly) and sent the original of the enclosed letter to the Captain of his ship and from there it was forwarded to the Commanding Officer at Norfolk. BUPERS Letter of June 7, 1943 states that anyone with 18 months of sea duty is entitled to shore duty. We certainly thought my husband should be given some shore duty after 29½ months of sea duty, but



was told that "we'd only have to put another man in your place, and we see no reason for doing that; you will have to remain." I think a little consideration should be given to a person's state of mind when he has been on the "go" constantly for such a long time and he should not be forced on and on without a little rest. Others after being on duty for so long, get at least six months in the States, but, no, not my husband! There are also others who have been at shore stations for one and two years and would like to go on Sea Duty. Why aren't they rotated?

What I can't understand is why he wasn't given the schooling he was assigned to. He has never had a chance to go to school and would really like to go. I do wish you could check up in some way and find out the reason that he wasn't given his original assignment.



He is now on duty in England as I have stated before with no knowledge whatsoever as to when he will be able to come back to the States again. I am terribly worried over the state of his health, because he was in a terrible frame of mind when he left Norfolk. His letters are always the same; he is so terribly homesick and dissatisfied that I am afraid something may happen.

He is a ship's cook second class and the only cook on the ship. He has to do the work of a cook and Baker and Stripper and should be given the rank of First Class Cook for all he has to do. I cannot understand why he hasn't been advanced.

Won't you please, Sir, check on his case and let me know why he wasn't given at least six months of shore duty to rest

FINISHED P.L.S. 1930

his nerves, or else why he wasn't given his original assignment?

You probably get letters like this everyday and get tired reading them, but this is a very important matter to me as it involves my husband's health and state of mind. He means everything in this world to me and I certainly don't want anything to happen to him. I do think you will agree that he has been doing his share in this war.

I would greatly appreciate any thing you could do for him.

With all sincerity, I remain,

Mrs. Charles A. Forge, Jr.  
2730 Sulphur Avenue  
St. Louis 9, Missouri

FINISHED FILE PERS 687

VIOLA FOEGE

Charles A. Foegen SGL/c  
U.S.S. Y.M.S. #352  
c/o Fleet Post Office,  
New York  
The boy's address and rating

Jan 8, 1945

Mr. Cochran

Dear Sir;

I am writing you this letter in regards to my son who is in the Navy Jan 15th 4 years in all that time he has had over seas duty he was called with the 36 or 35 naval division for duty on April 25, 1941 & never had a bit of training & never went to any school for him to learn his rating he learned it the hard way aboard ship he is ships cook l/c now here is my trouble. Charles Foegen is 29 yrs old, Jan 5th & I believe from his letters he is just about ready to crack so in my humble way Im asking you how can we avert it he is very bitter at the whole thing & is telling us in our letter so, he is aboard a mine sweeper working out of England or there abouts he was entitled to 6 mo state side duty last Dec 1943. & was transferred from the Munargo, when it was decommissioned & sent to Norfolk for his assignment he was sent to a base there & in 2 days he was asked to help on a boat for a sailor who was ill with a cold & in 2 days he was shipped away in the other boy's place after this boy had waited since the May before for the sweeper to leave now he thinks he was doubled cross and every letter we get he is getting worst not like my boy to complain but he blessed us and tells us over and over how he loves us in my letter of Dec 26 he tells me he dont know how long he can stand it he was going to see some fights but was ordered to make doughnuts for breakfast he wouldn't mind but no one gets up for breakfast and they complain if he makes them one way he feels like his work is unappreciated and he is so disgusted with things he don't know where to turn next he say I cant stand this much more and in other letters he say jail would be better than this and I dont believe he hashad a mark agains him as he has been a good boy all of his life. I guess this boring to you but Im trying to tell you shy I think he is cracking. I wrote to you about 3½ years ago he wanted to transferred at that time to a photography school as that was his hobby and printing is his trade and they made a cook out of him so he surely misplaced but he is the only cook for 30 men and 4 officers and he cooks day in and day out at night too the way he tells us also he stated that he worked Xmas eve until 4 in the morning on an emergency call and then had to get up and fix breakfast and cook his Xmas dinner so something is wrong some where dont you think and the night of the 26th he had to stay aboard and make doughnuts so what can we do to keep this boy from breaking he never complained before but he says he wants me to know just what they expect him to do.

Now I dont want to make it harder for this boy and I am not doing this because I'M think he is better than any other boy because I have another boy who is a Naval Officer Lt. (jg) an Navy flyer so I know the Navy. but where as who can I turn to have some one look into this boy record and try and help him before he cracks and goes to asylum because of his letters he

seems to me to be headed for. Please help and advice me in regards to this please and I'll try and bear with the reply you send to me in his behalf. I remain,

/s/ MRS. CHARLES FOEGE  
5650 Acme Ave.  
St. Louis 26, Mo.



Viola &  
Charles T.  
Foeg, 1943

*Your truly  
November  
1943*



BUMKD RP NGB  
E-FOEGE, Charles Archie Jr.  
1/5/16

2 March 1945

Honorable John J. Cochran  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Cochran:

This is in further reply to your letter dated 10 January 1945 in the interest of Charles Archie Foege Jr., Ship's Cook First Class, U. S. Naval Reserve.

The report of a complete physical examination dated 21 February 1945 in the case of Foege has been received by this Bureau. A review of this report shows that he was examined and found physically qualified for all the duties of his rate at sea or on foreign service, with no physical defects noted. With particular reference to Foege's nervous and mental condition, the report of a neuropsychiatric consultation dated 21 February 1945, and performed at the U. S. Naval Hospital, Brooklyn, New York, was negative.

It is hoped the above-submitted information will relieve Mrs. Foege of any undue anxiety which she may have experienced concerning the present physical and mental condition of her son.

Sincerely yours,

ROSS T. McINTIRE  
Vice Admiral (MC)  
Surgeon General, U. S. Navy

C. O. Order No. 894-46

22 55 FOERGE, Charles Archie Jr.  
(SERVICE NUMBER) (SURNAME) (FIRST NAME) (MIDDLE NAME)

USN  RET  USNR  V-1 USN   
(CLASS)

Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Fla.  
(SHIP OR STATION)

on 15 Jan. 41 and is this date, 24 Aug. 45  
(DATE) (DATE)

discharged with HON. DISC. EXP. ENL.  
(CHARACTER OF AND REASON FOR DISCHARGE)

NAV # 196-45  
(CLASS)

referred to Fleet Reserve  (at expiration of enlistment )  
(CLASS)

or, upon expiration of enlistment  and (is ) (is NOT ) immediately  
(CLASS)

referred from active duty .

**CAPTAIN'S COMMENDATION**

Served aboard this vessel with credit during Invasion of France, Baie de la Seine area from 6 June to 19 June 1944, from 4 July to 9 July 1944, from 2 August to 15 August under enemy action, and subsequently along the French coast. Performed duties "In Accord With The Best Traditions of The United States Naval Service."

*J. T. Myles*  
**J. T. MYLES,**  
 By direction.

Date Transferred \_\_\_\_\_

To \_\_\_\_\_

Signature and Rank of Commanding Officer \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received Aboard: \_\_\_\_\_

Inducted  (is NOT ) on 14 Jan 45  
(NUMBER) (DATE)

Enlistment NOT extended, or extended only 1 year, the service in enlistment and extension if any. 4 7 10  
(YRS.) (MOS.) (DAYS)

Enlistment extended 2 or more years, time served in extension only. \_\_\_\_\_  
(YRS.) (MOS.) (DAYS)

was  (was NOT ) lost during this enlistment or extension because of AWOL, AOL, or TPOI.

Enlistment (was ) (was NOT ) granted to make up time lost.

Service (Act 6-16-42) \_\_\_\_\_  
(YRS.) (MOS.) (DAYS)

Service completed on date of last discharge. 4 7 10  
(YRS.) (MOS.) (DAYS)

Service to include date of last discharge. \_\_\_\_\_  
(YRS.) (MOS.) (DAYS)

Awarded: **Recommended for the European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal.**

Inducted for enlistment at  St. Louis, Mo. and to Active duty from  St. Louis, Mo.  
(PLACE)

Referred or transferred to Fleet Reserve at US NAS., Pensacola, Fla.  
(PLACE)

Have named individual (is  (is NOT ) recommended for reenlistment.  
 Have named individual (is  (is NOT ) recommended for Good Conduct Medal.

Amount of Discharge Gratuity \_\_\_\_\_ Due at Discharge \$ 25.25  
 (is NOT ) directed. Personal Funds \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gratuity Credited \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**E. TRYGSTAD, Lt. (jg) USN.**  
(NAME AND SIGNATURE)

**Direction** (NAME AND SIGNATURE)  
 Officer (Use Act 2025(2) NR 1 sections which do not apply to this order shall be lined out before signature is affixed).

Authorized by 3730  
**ART 1 - FOR SERVICE RECORD**

SUMMARY OF SERVICE

Vessel or Station	From—	To—	Rate
7Batt. 6th. MR Area	15 Jan. 41	24 April 41	AS
Receiving Ship New York	24 April 41	4 June 44	AS
USS MONARGO	4 June 44	18 Oct. 43	S2c; S1c; SC
RS New York	18 Oct. 43	20 Nov. 43	SC2c
MCTC, Little Creek, Va.	20 Nov. 43	23 Nov. 43	SC2c
USS YMS 352	23 Nov. 43	23 March 45	SC1c
US NAS., Pensacola, Fla.	25 March 45	24 Aug. 45	SC1c

Permanent address after discharge 2730 Sulphur Ave., St. Louis, Mo. *A. E. Trygstad*

Final average in all marks upon discharge 3.49 **A. E. TRYGSTAD, Lt. (jg) USN.**  
(SIGNATURE AND RANK OF COMMANDING OFFICER)



This was more of my Dad's and Mom's type of boat. Not at all like a minesweeper!



And they lived ...



HAPPILY EVERY AFTER.





