

### Coast Guardsman Ivan Plumley Tells Of Ship Wreck And Fire On D-Day

Coast Guardsman Ivan W. Plumley, here recently on leave to visit his father, B. F. Plumley, told of exciting incidents of D-Day invasion battle in which his LCI boat was smashed and fired by enemy shells; how some of the crew were finally rescued and many other bits about that big fight on invasion day. Plumley was accompanied on his visit to Birmingham by his wife, Mrs. Ruth Plumley of Far Lawn, New Jersey. His mother, Mrs. Mabel Plumley, resides in Nashville, Tennessee.



Ivan Plumley

"I was a member of the crew of an LCI (Landing Craft Infantry) boat of the late Coast Guard type. We had been sent to Britain after the Salerno operations and were at an English invasion port when D-Day came," said the Coast Guardsman.

"After the long suspense of months and frequent air raids we all felt relieved when we pushed off for the big invasion at 6:00 a. m. on June 6th. Our orders were to hit the coast of France at our assigned point at H-Hour plus 70 and to land our 200 troops at all costs. The channel was rough and the night moonless. I was at the helm from 8:00 o'clock to 12:00, then having four hours off I slept for three and one-half hours. Returning to duty I was again at the helm from 4:00 o'clock a. m. to 6:00 at which time I took my beaching position at gunner of gun No. 2. Our zero-hour was 7:40 and we were right on the minute.

**Hit by Misses and Shell**

"At four or five miles off Normandy it looked as if the coast was fairly clear, but as we went in shore we began to encounter obstacles both above and below

water and soon discovered that the demolition squad preceding us had failed to get in. The beach was studded with hundreds of angular and jagged obstructions and sown with mines. We approached as near as we could under a hail of machine gun and rifle fire from the enemy on shore and tried to land some of our troops, but the water was too deep and the breakers running too high for many of them to make shore with their heavy equipment. Our Commander then decided to try another point several hundred yards down the beach. As we backed off and

turned, the bow of our boat hit a mine, but water-tight compartments kept us afloat and we were able to proceed. We went on down the beach and went in again, and although the fire from shore was more intensive at this point, we were able to get in closer than we had before. Just as we were lowering our ramps and preparing to land our remaining troops, German 88 mm. guns on the bluff above us got our range and the first shell struck us amidships. It didn't explode on contact but crashed through the deck and exploded in our fuel tanks. Flames shot fifty to sixty feet into the air, and when a second shell hit us just forward of the first one, our skipper gave the order to abandon ship.

#### Raked by Gun Fire

"Machine gun and rifle fire was taking a heavy toll of soldiers and crew and many of the survivors were badly burned by the leaping flames. We were all completely dressed for possible gas attack, which made it necessary to take time to shed some of our equipment before going over the side. I took off my anti-gas gloves, threw off my gas-mask attachment, and on first impulse decided to make my way to the lower deck by the nearest hoochy-hatch and proceed aft. The forward part of our boat was becoming an inferno of flames, and when the course I had at first chosen would have afforded more protection from the hail of lead from above, I feared I might be trapped in the flames that were rapidly moving astern, so I made my way some distance aft before descending to the lower deck. Many had already gone over the side and some of the soldiers were trying to make their way ashore. For a few moments I debated whether to take the plunge at once or to proceed further astern and stay aboard as long as possible as some had decided to do. I chose the former alternative, and after discarding my helmet and some other equipment, jumped over the side.

"Quite high waves were rolling, the water was calm and the tide was rising. This section of the Normandy coast has a 20-foot tide which rises at the rate of one foot in about ten minutes. With an excess of clothing still on and due to the old and flattened condition of my life belt and the fact that I am a poor swimmer, I found it difficult to keep afloat and several times in the heavy surf I swallowed salt water. Seeing another member of our crew clinging to a life hanging over the side of the ship, I made my way to it and hung for a time, but due to the pitching and tossing about it seemed that with the pull of our combined weights the line might be jerked loose, so I let go and worked my way to the stern of the boat. Here I found two soldiers mounted on the anchor guard and as there was room for another I managed to get up with them. I had been in the water about twenty minutes.

#### Rescue Ship Arrives

"In our position on the anchor guard we were quite well protected from the enemy machine gun and rifle fire which continued without abatement, but our position was as well as those on the deck above German 88 might hit the ship astern and blow up the magazine. This didn't happen, however, and the enemy evidently turned his attention to other targets. After a sign which indicated the burning condition on our ship, pulled in in the face of terrific fire from shore and picked up about twenty-five of us, all our equipment. Following us into the channel, as soon as we were out of range of machine gun and rifle fire, we were transferred to a sub-chaser. Those of us who had been in the cold water were shivering and our teeth chattering. Another of the survivors, having a half bottle of brandy in his possession, generously shared it with me, and later we were served hot coffee by members of the sub-chaser's crew.

"The sub-chaser took us still further out and placed us aboard a Coast Guard boat commonly known as an 81-Footer, which does rescue and patrol work. This was the roughest going boat I was ever on. We were crowded into close quarters, and though I had won the final round with the sea-sickness in the Mediterranean area this severe rocking in "the cradle of the deep" proved too much for my ballast of sea-water, brandy and coffee. The boat proceeded on outward and about ten miles off shore we were taken aboard a large troop ship. On this ship we received the best of care, were relieved of our wet clothing, given hot showers, warm blankets, and a chance to sleep. The next morning we awakened in the same invasion port from which we had gone out on our mission. Later we were airlifted by other surviving members of our crew who had been picked up by the British.

#### Shore Guns Silenced

Afterwards we were taken through official channels that night after our rescue. Two American destroyers were ordered to proceed close to shore and slug it out with the German battery that had sunk our ship. This they accomplished, but only after several hours of night and their not without loss, no straggle was the concrete gun emplacement.

"I do not tell this story of my experiences without thoughts and memories of extreme sorrow for those of our crew and the soldiers on our ship who didn't return. Shipmates who fell at their post of duty or were buried or drowned, soldiers who were victims of gunfire or flame, or who tried to get ashore and lost. Neither can I close without a tribute to the infantrymen with whose fighting spirit and devotion to duty I became well acquainted during three major landing operations.

"Plumley, 33 years of age, is listed in the Coast Guards in Somerset, 1944. A 42 was assigned to sea duty in February, 1943.

I'm two years old, thank you  
Krogers Country Club Milk  
sure helps you grow!

Ann Latham, once an incubator baby, weighed 2-lb. 8-oz. Her first milk was Krogers Country Club. Ann still thrives on this easily digested milk. It's also ideal for cooking and coffee.

Extra Vitamin D. Added At No Extra Cost

4 35c

Try It Today!

This week at KROGER'S! POINT FREE

## VEAL SALE

Square Cut Shoulder . . . . . lb. **25c**

For Pocket Roast . . . . . lb. **19c**

Kroger's Fresh, Tender Beef  
**CHUCK ROAST** . . . . . lb. **26c**

Kroger's Delicious  
**BOILING BEEF** . . . . . lb. **19c**

Hickory Smoked, Sugar Cured  
**BACON** . . . . . lb. **29c**

Narrow and Lean—Any Size Piece

**FISH VALUES**

Ocean Perch	FILLET'S	lb.	30c
Atlantic Cod	FILLET'S	lb.	34c
Tasty Haddock	FILLET'S	lb.	35c
Fancy Silver Salmon		lb.	39c
Prize Halibut		lb.	33c
Delicious Mackerel	FILLET'S	lb.	33c

Beef Liver . . . . . lb. 36c  
Pork Sausage . . . . . lb. 45c  
Wiener's . . . . . lb. 39c  
Ring Bologna . . . . . lb. 33c  
Bologna . . . . . lb. 29c  
Mild Cheese . . . . . lb. 34c  
Swiss Cheese . . . . . lb. 43c

Kroger's Fresh, Thiren Enriched **CLOCK BREAD** . . . 3 20-oz. loaves **25c**

Buy Them Now for Canning—Fruit  
**JARS** doz. **60c** pts. doz. **50c**

Kroger's Country Club Cake and Pastry  
**FLOUR** . . . 5 lb. pkgs. **24c**

Kroger's Embassy Brand Smooth, Creamy  
**PEANUT BUTTER** . 2 lb. jar **39c**

Kroger's Fresh, Crisp Soda  
**CRACKERS** . . . . . lb. pkgs. **17c**

Van Camp's Delicious  
**PORK & BEANS** . . . . . No. 2 can **13c**

Now! Giant Size Jar! Famous  
**LIBBY'S** DILL PICKLES . . . . . 105-oz. jar **60c**

May Garden Brand  
**BLACK TEA** . . . 1-lb. pkg. **23c**

Paragon Albacore Brand White Meat  
**TUNA FISH** . . . . . 7-oz. can **39c**

Campbell's Delicious  
**Vegetable Soup** . . . 10-oz. can **12c**

Country Club CIDER  
**VINEGAR** . . . . . qt. **16c**

8 Varieties—Kraft's Famous  
**JAR CHEESE** . . . . . 4-oz. jar **17c**

Stella Brand Cheese  
**GORGONZOLA** . . . . . lb. **51c**

Kraft's Pimento Cheese  
**VELVEETA** . . . . . 8-oz. pkg. **20c**

M-Chief Vitamin Enriched  
**MARGARINE** . . . . . lb. **17c**

KROGER'S FRESH, FAMOUS  
**HOT-DATED COFFEE**

**FRENCH BRAND** . . . . . lb. **27c**

**SPOTLIGHT** . . . . . 3 lb. bag **59c**

★ COUNTRY CLUB . . . . . Vacuum Pack **32c** ★

Assorted Strained  
**CLAPP'S** BABY FOODS . . . 2 cans **13c**

Pure, Mild  
**IVORY SOAP** . . . 3 large bars **29c**

Swift, Economical Soap Powder  
**OXYDOL** . . . . . large pkg. **23c**

The White Napha Soap  
**P & G SOAP** . . . 3 bars **14c**

Deluxe Size, 11c Bar—Mild Soap  
**SWEETHEART** . . . 2 bars **13c**

Bo-Peep Brand Household  
**AMMONIA** . . . . . qt. **25c**

Wm. P. Ritz  
**RITZ Crackers** . . . . . 2c **21c**

Famous ROMAN  
**CLEANSER** . . . . . 2 oz. **15c**

PLAY THE FAVORITE

Wear *Shon* HATS

Ask any man who's been around, to name his favorite hat. Ten to one he'll say "Shon's". They are America's most popular hats.

**\$5.00** up

**Dickinson's**

Wabek Building  
FINE APPAREL FOR GENTLEMEN

**DEKALB**  
STANDS FOR  
**EASY HUSKING**

**MELVIN FIEBELKORN**  
R.F.D. No. 4  
BIRMINGHAM

Can Now! Top of the Crop  
**MICHIGAN ELBERTA PEACHES** 48 to 50-Lb. Bushel **3.49**

Famous Italian Blue  
**PRUNE PLUMS** 1/2 bushel 26-28 lbs. **3.29**

All Purpose White Cooking Potatoes  
**WHITE COBBLERS** 15-lb. peck **63c**

Fine Flavor—Packed in 10-lb. Mesh Bags—Michigan  
**YELLOW ONIONS** . . . . . bag **45c**

California Mountain Grown  
**BARTLETT PEARS** . . . . . 2 lbs. **29c**

Practically Seedless—Juicy  
**GALIF. ORANGES** . . . 5 lbs. **57c**

"Candy" Sweet Potatoes  
**RED YAMS** . . . . . 3 lbs. **28c**

Cooking, Baking, All Purpose  
**GREENING APPLES** . 3 lbs. **27c**

Finest Sweet Rattn!  
**CANTALOUPE'S** . . . . 2 lbs. **17c**

**KROGER'S SELF-SERVICE SUPER MARKETS**

Prices in this ad effective Thurs., Fri., Sat., Sept. 7, 8, 9. Stock of all items subject to our ability to make delivery under wartime conditions.

(Want Ads Will Do It)