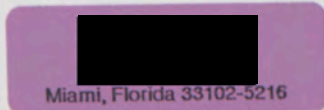




*Retired Educator and
Award-winning Writer*

Miami, FL 33102-5216

TV 2/9



Feb. 1, 2, 000

To the attention of Brian Lamb,

My husband and myself retired to San Jose, Costa Rica in 1983. This is not what this letter is about.

This is a letter about my husband, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] to whom I have been married to for fifty two years.

My husband was a merchant seaman during World War 11 and most of his duty was spent in the Pacific Area. He started as a wiper in the Engine Room ((the lowest rank in the Black Gang as the engine room was lovingly called) and before he left the M.M. he held the rank of Chief Engineer. He was all of twenty-four years old.

From time to time he would relate to me some of his experiences on T-2 tankers and Liberty ships. Some tales were in the hair raising catagory, some very funny and some very sad. I finally got him to sit down and talk to me and I compiled his adventures into a book I call "A few Moments in Time." I had the book self published 1997, here in Costa Rica and believe me, the language difficulty (the small company only spoke Spanish and my book is in English made the task very difficult. It was finally done at a cost of

\$50.00 per book. It contains 186 pages not counting photographs, important documents and postage stamps that detailed the entire war. It is truly a work of love on my part. He was and is an amazing man.

I became very concerned about the status of the role that the Merchant seamen played in the war after reading Mr. Brokaw's book entitled "The Greatest Generation" and realized that not one merchant seaman had his story told in his book. I wrote and inquired of Mr. Brokaw as to why no mention had been made. I will let his answer speak for itself in my collection of items I have enclosed for your perusal.

I have included in my collection of papers a statement by President Eisenhower as to his opinion as to what part the Merchant Marine played in World War 11. I have also sent a short paragraph of John Chestara who feels as strongly as I do that many men outside of the mainstream were left out of the stories that should be told to put the History of World War 11 in the correct perspective.

My next encounter with the bias I feel the seamen have suffered, came with the program shown on C-Span - can't remember the date - of the opening of the National D-Day

Museum in New Orleans, La. and introduced by Stephen Ambrose with a huge inventory of service men from all services except the Merchant Seamen. I wrote a letter to Mr. Ambrose and I have included a copy. Unfortunately I can not include his answer, because he never had the courtesy to respond to my letter.

The main purpose for this letter and I would be very happy to send one or two chapters if you would care to read them, and you could determine for yourself whether they should be classified as "forgotten men. They were the men the Army, Navy, and the Marine Corps are ^{bt} _^ indeded to for the men and material and food supplies that these ships brought to the fighting area and were instrumental in determining the outcome of World War 11.

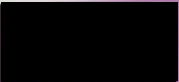
I think better than any other channel that C-Span would do a tremendous job of having seamen themselves come on your show and relate and tell their stories about their participation in the war and be asked questions that many of your listeners would love to ask. Please give it some seerious thought-you would be doing a branch of the service that has long been neglected become a part of the WHOLE STORY that should be told.

I use a state side address because the mail here in Costa Rica needs a lot to be desired.

I watch C-Span every chance I get but unfortunately they (our television network only deems it necessary to show it only on Saturdays and Sundays... sometimes!.I love C-Span.

I would very much like to hear from you whether the idea is favorable to your thinking or not.Thank you so much for your courtesy in reading my letter.

The merchant seamen have been treated as far as History is concerned very very badly.They deserve more.


Miami, Florida 33102-3216

Thank you,

Phone
Area code ~~504~~