

Veteran

(continued from page 1)

looked like the 4th of July. It was bedlam. Then it was an inferno. The sky was full of planes and there was flack all over."

Later it would be reported that 183 Japanese planes, armed with torpedoes, attacked Pearl Harbor during the first wave at 7:55 a.m. Nine planes were shot down. One of the torpedoes hit the Raleigh.

"The planes were flying only 40 or 50 feet above our heads," said Walters. "One of the pilots actually waved at us as he flew by. Then our ship's radio officer ran to the radio room to issue a 090. The message was, 'all ships on this station. The Japanese are attacking Pearl Harbor. This is not a drill.' We then looked over toward the Ford Island airstrip only 100 yards away. We had been on alert so the planes had been tied up all together to guard against sabotage. The planes and the airstrip were badly blown up."

The irony of what happened to the Raleigh, the Utah, and several other light cruisers that morning was that the enemy planes had expected to find aircraft carriers (the Lexington, the Enterprise and others) docked in those particular berths. But the carriers had already gone out. Their return to Pearl had been delayed by heavy seas. The cruisers were temporarily in the locations where the carriers were supposed to be. The carrier, Enterprise, was unharmed and able to launch its planes to provide help at Pearl Harbor. The other important target that was fortunately missed were the oil fields which supplied all the fuel for the ships and planes.

"The Raleigh was one of the first ships hit," said Walters. "The torpedo hit us at mid-ship. The hole was so big you could drive a truck through it. We quickly ran over to the 3-inch guns on deck and began shooting at the planes, but very soon we were running out of shells."

Walters also recalls that "the Raleigh was already tilted about 30 to 40 degrees. Several of us went down two decks to get more shells. We were so severely damaged that we were afraid we would capsize. Orders were given to jettison all topside weights and the two anchors overboard to try to level us out. We did all this work by sheer manpower. The Utah next to us did capsize. We could hear a loud tapping noise,



Quentin and Betty Walters, in a photo taken in 1944.

"Brave is something you are when you have to be. Now brave is what the kids in Vietnam were."

Quentin "Cap" Walters
Pearl Harbor veteran

and soon one man was rescued by cutting a hole in the hull. Pontoons were then secured to our port quarter to keep us upright. We were safe for the moment."

It would later be reported that a second wave of Japanese planes attacked Pearl Harbor at 8:40 a.m. The 171 planes were armed with bombs this time, and 20 of those planes were shot down.

"We returned fire again with our 3-inch guns and hit five planes," Walters said. "We were ready where we hadn't been the first time. Then one of their bombs hit us. It went through the ship and finally detonated in the mud on the bottom of the harbor about 50 feet away. We had more than our hands full, but we also saw a smoking plane do a direct dive into the Curtis."

The battleships were docked two abreast on the other side of the harbor near Ford Island. "Much to our horror," said Cap, "we saw a bomb hit the Arizona. A huge fireball rose over 100 feet high. The sea was burning with oil. Then the unthinkable happened. The Arizona sank. It suffered the worst blow of the attack that day killing almost 1,200 men. The site is now a memorial honoring them."

"We slept topside after that day," said Cap. "Below deck was

flooded with oil and water. In a couple of days, they patched us up at the Pearl Harbor Navy Yard. Then we went to the Mare Island Navy Yard in the states and were fitted with new guns and new radar. Then the Raleigh became part of a fleet sent to the Aleutians to help drive the enemy from American soil." It was decommissioned in November 1945.

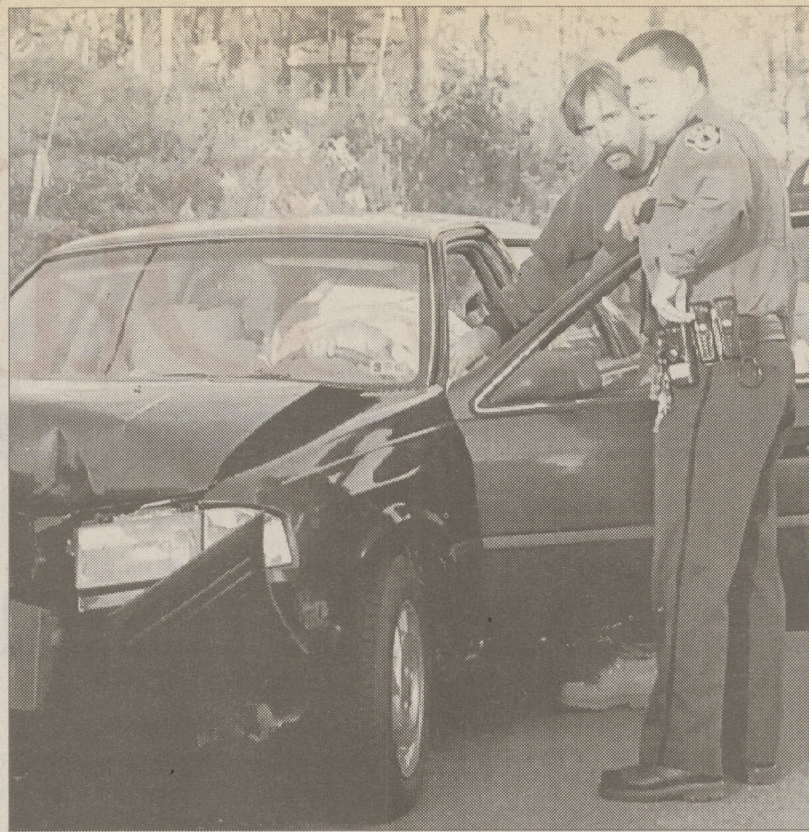
Walters was asked if he would mind sharing some details about his personal life during those years. He immediately smiled. "I met my wife Betty in New York City where she was working. She was from back home in Nanticoke. We were married in 1944 and were together for one month when I went to the Philippines. I didn't see her again until the war was over. We have been married for 56 years."

When asked what it was like when the war was declared over, Walters responded, "it was like a big holiday. Ships fired small guns and flares. But it took me a couple of weeks to get a transport home. I was anxious to get back to the states and my family. I had signed up for six years, and the time was already up and then some. I was a chief radioman at the time of my discharge. After I returned home, I went back to Bucknell to complete my education. I graduated in 1948."

Then Walters smiled again and said, "you know my grandson recently graduated from flight school at Pensacola. We're very proud of him."

Walters is modest about his bravery and patriotism. "Brave is something you are when you have to be," he said. "Now brave is what the kids in Vietnam were. At least at Pearl, we had good food on the ship and a dry place to sleep. Those boys had jungles and swamps and agent orange. That was a terrible war. And at least we knew that the country was behind us 100 percent."

Veterans Day is Saturday, Nov. 11. The television and newspaper ads would have us believe that it's a day to get in on the sales at the new car dealerships, the furniture warehouses, or the department stores at the mall. But before we leave with checkbook in hand, please take a moment to call a friend or relative who serves or has served in the military. Let's thank them for their sacrifice. It preserves our freedom every day. Then we can set about doing whatever we want with the rest of day — just because we can.



Woman dies after accident

Marie Brokenshire, of West Center Hill Rd., Dallas, died of a heart attack after she was taken to Wilkes-Barre Memorial Hospital after being in an accident while on her way home Monday afternoon. She was driving on West Center Hill Rd. when she approached a construction trailer that was parked beside the roadway. Her car ran directly into the rear of the trailer, pinning her in the vehicle until paramedics and ambulance personnel could extract her. In photo, Patrolman William Norris, of the Dallas Borough Police Dept., waited for ambulance personnel to arrive on the scene.

POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Appalachian style band to entertain at Chicory House

Appalachian style string band music will enliven this month's New England style contra dance in Shavertown. Music will be provided by the Philadelphia area band "Hobo Pie," an old time string band with a distinctive Appalachian and southern style. Annapolis Maryland area caller Greg Frock will be teaching and calling the figures. The Chicory House and the Folklore Society will cosponsor the dance on Saturday, Nov. 11, starting at 8 p.m. at St. Therese's Church, Pioneer Ave., Shavertown.

The roots of contra dancing can be traced to the Celtic tradition of gigs and reels. Dances always have live music and a caller. "Hobo Pie" consists of Carl Baron, on fiddle, banjo, and banjo-guitar, Barbara Johnson playing guitar, mandolin, fiddle, banjo-guitar, and uke, and Ray Frick on banjo and banjo-uke. Bob Woodcock plays autoharp, guitar, mandolin and banjo.

Dancers may come without prior experience or a partner. The Chicory House is an all-volunteer non-profit coffeehouse, sponsoring folk music and dance. Admission to the dance is \$6 for adults and \$15 for families. Dancers are asked to wear soft-soled shoes and may bring a snack to share at intermission. Further information is available at 333-4007.

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

The following property transfers were recorded at the Luzerne County Courthouse for the week of Oct. 27 - Nov. 2, 2000.

Richard C. Angelicola, et ux, to Elena Zhodishky, Unit 609, Newberry Est., Dallas Twp., \$68,000.

Robert Allegar Stair, to Kurt J. Manganella, et ux, Forty Second Street, Dallas Twp., \$130,000.

Thomas J. Bozek, Jr. et ux per atty., to Steve Rule et ux, 354 Warden Place Rd., Dallas Twp., \$67,000.

Harry W. Rinehimer, et al, to Newark Legg, et ux, Lot 1, Overbrook Road, Dallas Twp., \$95,000.

Ronald R. Shiner, et ux, to Thomas Wignot, et ux, Lot 10C Grandview Est., Dallas Twp., \$151,000.

Firt Union Nat'l Bank Trustee, to John G. Frank, et ux, 193 A Lewis Ave., Harveys Lake Bor., \$30,000.

Elizabeth A. Morrisey estate, to Mary Cook, pt. Lot 129 Warden Place, Harveys Lake Bor., \$23,000.

Commonwealth Bank per tax claim, to Adrienne Rigez, Woodlawn Ave., Harveys Lake Bor., \$826.

Ralph E. Dula, et ux to Linda Marie King, Lot 44, Lakeview Terrace, Harveys Lake Bor., \$18,000.

Beatrice Gates, per tax claim to Christine Ziomek, see deed, Jackson Twp., \$3,800.

Robert J. Adams, Jr. et ux, to Nancy Pesavento, .468 acre, Jackson Twp., \$136,000.

Phillip Weaver, to Gregory A. Timonte, Lot 30, Jackson Twp., \$126,500.

Della A. Tompson, per tax claim to Jerry Kane, Pioneer Ave., Kingston Twp., \$1,304.

Leo Latona, et ux, to Gary A. Nevestad, et ux, Lot 17A Sunrise Estates, Kingston Twp., \$185,000.

Angelina R. Vecchio, estate, to Marion WilWilcox et al, see deed, Kingston Twp., \$160,000.

Stuart Otten, et al, to Christian Brucher, et ux, see deed, Lake Twp., \$28,500.

Dana Barry Edwards, to Donald R. Traver, et ux, see deed, Lake Twp., \$90,500.

Dana Barry Edwards, to Donald R. Traver, 6.223 acres, Lake Twp., \$24,000.

Karen Leinbach, to David Ratchford, et al, Lot 158.59 Lake Rest, Lehmn Twp., \$18,500.

Loren Moss, Jr. to Lawrence D. Reed, et ux, 8 Grassy Pond Road, Ross Twp., \$26,500.

Bernardine Botsko, to Neil G. Paternoster, et ux, Lot 20, 21, Ross Twp., \$72,000.

John and Ann Tirpak celebrate 50th

Mr. and Mrs. John J. Tirpak, 44 Orchard Street, Exeter, observed their 50th wedding anniversary on November 4. They were married in St. John the Baptist Church, Pittston, by Rev. Louis Morines, a cousin of Mrs. Tirpak.

Mrs. Tirpak is the former Ann Simalchik, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Charles Simalchik of Pittston. Mr. Tirpak is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Michael Tirpak of Exeter.

The couple has five children, including Mrs. Janet Marley of Dallas, and are the grandparents of seven grandchildren including Christine and Patrick Marley.

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