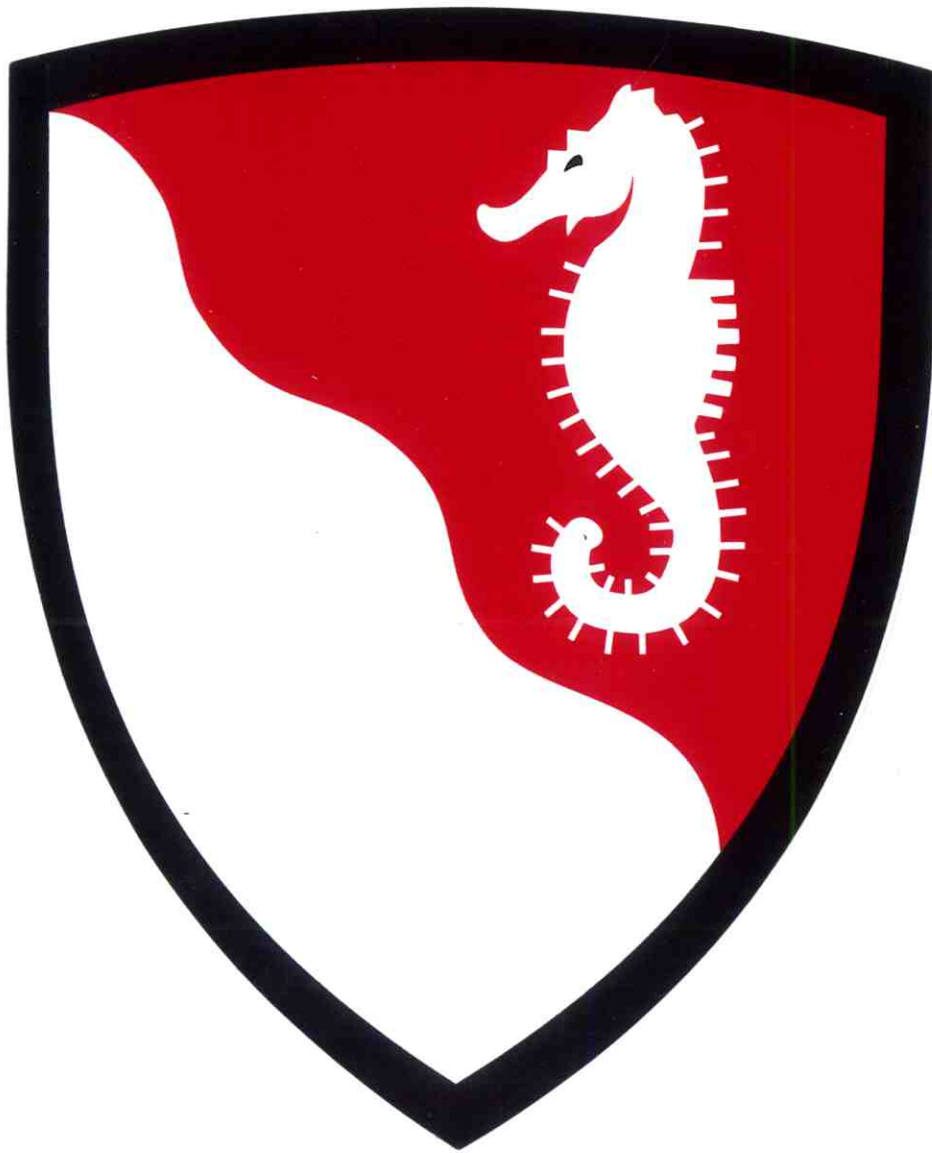


WORLD WAR II

as seen by
John T. Fallon II



36th ENGINEER
COMBAT REGIMENT

THIS WAS MY WAR

I JOIN THE ARMY

It is hard to believe that the big wigs in Washington didn't know that we were going to have a war, certainly the Fallons knew it. Probably everybody who read a paper in Philadelphia in 1941 knew it, the papers, and we had four of them, were filled with maps of American installations in the Pacific and showing distances from Japan. Just one week before it happened I told my father very strongly that the Japanese were going to attack Dutch Harbor Alaska, which all the maps showed was the closest to Japan.

Well I was off by a thousand miles or so because it was Pearl Harbor, Hawaii but I remember the day and the date, the Eagles were playing the Washington Redskins. While I don't remember the score, the Eagles were expected to lose because they had been fooling around with a two quarterback system, and neither was a bona fide star. The radio program was interrupted by the announcement and I guess the world has not been the same since.

We had been assured by FDR that no American boy was going to be sent to fight in a foreign war, all the while we were sending Destroyers and munitions to England in the fight against Germany. At the time I was not too enamored of the English anyway because of my very Irish heritage and I thought it would be a good idea to get rid of the British Royalty. But America at war stirred something in me and I began thinking I should serve somehow, somewhere. At the time I was not yet eligible for the draft and I kept it to myself for a while but soon I told mother and dad that I had to join but I didn't know in what capacity.

My sister Middy wanted me to go in the Marines but I didn't like their uniforms for some reason and one day one of the papers ran a full page ad asking for volunteers to join the Engineer Amphibian Command which was forming in Cape Cod Massachusetts.. It listed all the qualifications they were looking for and I had no experience with boats of any kind but they

