



**NAME: Archie Ross**

**BRANCH OF SERVICE: Royal Navy**

**SERVED FROM: 1940      TO: March, 1946**

**THEATRE OF WAR: Africa, Italy and Pacific**

I enlisted in February, 1940 and was assigned to HMS Victory in Portsmouth, England. I was drafted to a battleship which was in Liverpool, being refitted. After doing our trials in August, 1940 we went to North Africa and West Africa to immobilize the French Fleet. There was much damage to both sides during this operation. We then went to Malta for supplies, then on to Alexandria, Egypt where we were on patrol duty.

Early in 1941 there was a naval battle at Cape Matapas, against the Italian Navy. The Italians took heavy losses and were inactive for a long time. At this time things were not going too well for the Allies. Greece fell and the island of Crete was invaded. There was fierce fighting and we received a direct hit on our 15 inch gun mount. Our fleet lost two destroyers. We had to return to Alexandria into dry dock for repairs. The fleet then went on patrol along the African coast where we were torpedoed by a German submarine. Another torpedo hit the magazine and the ship went down in four minutes with heavy losses.

I took passage with an army troopship to Capetown, South Africa where I picked up a Dutch ship back to Liverpool and then back to my home base at Portsmouth. I then joined the anti-aircraft cruiser HMS Sirius. Our first action was in a Malta bound convoy in August, 1942. We sustained heavy losses to both the Royal Navy ships and the Merchant Marine arriving with only two transport ships and a tanker with aviation fuel for the Air Force.