

## Scarborough at 350: Linking the Past to the Present

**BY ELAINE  
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This continued from May 1942 to November 1943, then the company left to go overseas.

Naturally, during this time most year-round residents became acquainted with these young servicemen. My father, Walter Frederick, loaned them his clam diggers, his skates, and sometimes his tools. My mother baked treats for one young man. We didn't have sugar—it had long since been rationed—so the young soldier brought her the required amount of that scarce commodity and she provided everything else. The soldier was so appreciative, as were the men in the hut with whom he shared his homemade brownies, that my mom felt well paid for her effort. When the soldiers left, we knew and they knew that some would never return. One of those young soldiers returned after the war and later became my husband.

A group of young field artillery soldiers built and manned a tower on Prouts Neck that remained standing until 2005 when it was destroyed to make room for a new summer cottage.

During World War II, nearly every man not in uniform built Liberty Ships at the shipyard on the waterfront in South Portland. It was a time of big change for our neighborhood. Before the war, men had done odd jobs all winter and prayed for enough work to keep their families warm and fed until the summer tourist season provided more regular employment. While the jobs at the shipyard provided families with more income, times were stressful, since every family had someone fighting the war.

**BY KENNETH DOLLOFF  
AND MARK DYER**

*Kenneth Dolloff and Mark Dyer recorded the memories of World War II veteran Walter A. Jordan, among many others:*

### **Veteran Walter A. Jordan**

Walter A. Jordan was one of several Scarborough High School students to leave school before graduation to fight in World War II. At seventeen, the high school junior enlisted in the U.S. Navy with his parents' permission.

He was aboard the USS *Franklin* when the aircraft carrier came under attack on March 19, 1945, about fifty miles off Japan. With the flight deck full of bomb-laden fighters and bombers preparing for takeoff, a lone Japanese bomber flew at the *Franklin* at water level to avoid detection by radar and dropped two bombs directly onto the carrier's deck. At the time, Jordan was on the flight deck, with his back to the plane. He never saw the plane or the bombs fall.

The first bomb exploded topside; the second went through two decks into the mess hall full of sailors at breakfast and exploded. The force of the blast blew Jordan off the flight deck onto the side gun mounts, where he



**Walter A. Jordan during WWII**