

War Era Story Project 2012

Submitted by: Gilda Volpini Reed

Current home town: Not given

Age: 89

I am pushing 90 years old and well remember lots of war stories. I have every letter that my sweetheart (husband) wrote to me, as well as all the ones I wrote to him, stashed in a hard plastic container atop my cupboard. (Sure, they're mushy!) In one of my letters, I mentioned briefly how unique and beautiful it would be to have my wedding gown made from a nylon parachute. So, to surprise me, he packed one in his duffle bag. But he made one big mistake; he proudly bragged to all his buddies about my big "surprise." The surprise was on him, as someone stole the parachute while he slept. I was so happy and grateful that he came back safe and sound (as I prayed for his safe return every day) that i wore my store-bought gown and I still have it.

While stationed in England, my fiancé' managed to locate a three-piece, beautiful silver cutlery set (knife, fork and spoon), approximately 12 inches in length. We proudly used these on our wedding day to cut the wedding cake and other servings. When our two sons were married, they each used the cutlery for their wedding cake and other servings. My granddaughter is getting married this upcoming year, and you guessed it, she will carry on the tradition. We will soon be polishing the silverware again and hope to keep it going on and on and that they will know that grandpap brought it back from England during world war II.

My husband passed away at the age of 55.