

Amy Frigaard

Troy Desirello

Period 2

Emery Pope

United States Army

10 years of service

### Emery Pope

Wars can only be won by the great men and women who fight them. When the world was at war, many great men gave their lives and sacrificed all they had to serve and protect their country. Those who served are truly American Heroes. Emery Pope was one, amongst many, of the brave hearted men who joined the war effort and risked their lives to protect the nation.

Emery Pope was born on a small family farm in Vermont. He grew up as the youngest in his family of six, with two older sisters and an older brother that he looked up to. In 1936 he registered for the National Guard at the age of eighteen. His older brother, who enlisted years before, was what influenced Pope to join the service. Emery Pope served in World War II from October of 1942 until July of 1945.

Pope signed up for the service and wasn't drafted, so he didn't have to attend boot camp like the "draftees" were required to. When he got to where he was stationed the lack of training became an issue. During drills his captain called for the soldiers to fall into formation but he didn't know where to go. When his captain asked what he was doing out in the open all by his lonesome, Pope was frozen and didn't know how to respond. The captain then ordered him to

“find his hole and fill it.” Any other soldier would have gotten in trouble in that situation, but Pope had an advantage over everyone else because his captain was an old friend of his fathers.

Most of Pope’s time was spent traveling between roughly eight islands throughout the Pacific. His ship held around four thousand crew members who carried out abandon ship drills every single day. At times they were around nine hundred miles from the nearest stretch of land. Pope wasn't in fear of the fact that he was a great distance from land, he was more fearful of the thought of his ship being sunk. He held many different jobs throughout his service time and one of those was being a mechanic which was “one of the best jobs in the regiment.” A job he was tasked with was to transport supplies to and from the ship and island. One day he was ordered to bring someone ashore with him. He was supposed to take the man to the airstrip on the island. This confused Pope since the airstrip was incredibly minuscule. When he looked up at the man the first thing he saw were five stars on his chest, then realized it was Admiral Nimitz himself. Admiral Nimitz was the Commander in Chief of the entire United States Pacific Fleet. Pope was more than honored to take the Admiral to shore and he has yet to forget this experience, even about 70 years later.

Pope also experienced a lot of fighting both on shore and on the boats. His first night on one of the islands that had been declared to be safe, there were many Japanese bombers that flew overhead for a couple days. He was so overwhelmed from the experience of battle that there was a man walking towards him and he didn’t know whether or not he was a friend or foe. Pope shot at the men and missed most of his shots except one, which landed directly in the head. Pope witnessed multiple explosions of planes and people. But even with all of the fighting and gore he and other soldiers still managed to have fun and lighten the mood. One night they got a package

containing videos, so they set up a projector screen in between two “coconut trees” and sat on all the trucks to watch until they were told to get off of the trucks. There were also many pranks played throughout the different tents having to do with raw eggs and coffee grounds. On one night the entire ship got lemon meringue pie for a special occasion.

Emery Pope was done with his service time in the end of July of 1945. When he got home he was able to surprise one of his sisters who wasn't expecting him at the shop where she worked. He then worked the old sawmill that his brother bought for four years. He met his wife on a blind date. After they got married they had three kids, two girls and a boy. They lived happily together for sixty three years until one day he lost the love of his life to a stroke. Soon after, his daughter moved him out to southern California but the other two kids are spread out across the country.

Emery Pope still cannot fathom his whole experience serving the United States of America during World War II. Everything a soldier has to do and see is unimaginable and most likely unforgettable. This country would be something completely different without the selfless, brave men like Emery Pope who chose a long time ago to fight for the freedom of this country and others who were fighting for the same thing.