



THE SHIP THAT WON WORLD WAR II

CAPTAIN JIM

This is a true account of a race to reach Cairo, Egypt between Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, the Desert Fox, and a Second Lieutenant of the US Army, Jim Hudson. It started on July 15, 1942, only seven months after the United States received a devastating attack at Pearl Harbor. Rommel had just taken Tobruk, Libya, forcing the British 8th Army to retreat back to El Alamein, Egypt, and Jim boarded the first troopship from New York City for Africa to start the long trail back to victory. This is the account of that historic fact told by the Official Photographer aboard that ship, The Pasteur, with 5,000 other GI's.

But was there more to it than just another boatload of soldiers and airmen to an overseas post? Could they play a key role in stopping Rommel and turning the tide of victory to the Allied Armies? Or could they have been the pivotal piece of the gigantic puzzle that allowed the Allies to achieve total victory in World War II? And who won the race to Cairo?

This shows pictures and tells the feelings, fears, hopes, and activities of 5000 GI's on a troopship from July 15, 1942, until August 16, 1942, enroute to a strange country being invaded by a mighty German Army that had already conquered all of North Africa. And just how important was this first troopship of Americans to the war against Germany going directly into the battle? Had that ship been sunk, in this the month of the heaviest sinking of Allied shipping in the war, the US 9th Air Force would have been crippled and probably not activated, for this contingent had the ground component of that unit just about to be formed. Rommel would have certainly taken the Suez Canal and from there, nothing to stop him from occupying the entire Middle East including Iraq and Iran, the entry point for Allied supplies to the USSR. Without those supplies, Stalin admitted that they could not have stopped the German invasion of East Europe. The book tells the consequences of that loss.