

Rice Sr., Leonard E.

## In Harbor Four Days Under Fire

1944

Forced to remain on board ship off Italy by a heavy concentration of enemy air raids is an experience that will always be remembered by Private First Class Leonard E. Rice Sr., of 709 East Fifth Street, who has returned to the United States after serving with the American forces in Africa and Italy.

"The word 'scared' can't describe how I felt," Private Rice said.

"I knew the ship's cargo. Enemy bombs, small cannon fire and machine gun bullets sprayed from planes were falling all around us. The raiders hit the ship next to us and it went down, and I was scared out of my skin, figuring our ship was next."

After four days in the harbor Private Rice's outfit landed on the beach and unloaded its materiel.

"Boy, it sure was good to feel land again," the Bethlehemite related.

Private Rice, who was trained as an antiaircraft artilleryman at Fort Bliss, Texas, under Army Ground Forces, was with the combat anti-aircraft unit that protected the American forces leaving the Naples harbor for the Anzio beach landing. It also participated in the crossing of the Volturno River.

During his furlough Private Rice will visit his wife, Jeanette and his son, Leonard Jr.

July 3, 1944