

By Julia Kennedy Sholette

My oldest brother John J. Kennedy ("Buddy" to us), in World War II was sent from North Africa to be in the landing at Anzio. He was a medic, and told us that there were three hospital ships.

During the wait on the 'beach' to go forward (they were there 10 months), many time he served Mass for Padre Pio! He also came to hear their confessions! Most of the young men who helped to serve Mass were from Catholic grade schools and high schools. Buddy went to Resurrection of our Lord and North Catholic!

I was quite young when he was there, 12 or so (in the 1940's, 12 was young!). When he came home and told us his war stories – the ride to Rome after Anzio, the many, many friends he lost, and the priest Padre Pio, we would listen in wonder and pray our "thanks" that he made it home to us. In these later years after I knew of and prayed to Padre Pio, I asked about the "gloves." Yes, Buddy said that he DID wear gloves.