

# MEMORIES OF WORLD WAR II



## PATRIOTS AND THEIR STORIES

How the relatives of those in Weston today met the challenge of World War II at home and overseas.

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GARAVEL **Jeep** NORWALK

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# Memories of World War II

## The Patriots and Their Stories

1. Yeoman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Robert "Pop" Johns US Naval Reserve, Pacific

Yeoman Johns embarked from San Diego CA, April 29 for Pearl Harbor on LST #124 as part of LST Division #27. He was involved in the Marine landings on the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Okinawa. He returned home to Weston in January 1946.

*-- Contributed by his daughter, Judy Stripp*

2. Seaman First Class Julius Klein US Naval Reserve, Pacific

Seaman Klein was a baker on board the USS Darke, the vessel used for the landings of the 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Division on the islands of Iwo Jima, Saipan, Okinawa, and Leyte.

*-- Contributed by his daughter, Mickey Silverman*

3. Ensign Keith Brooks US Naval Reserve, Pacific

Following graduation at Duke University, Brooks joined the Navy as an Apprentice Seaman. He was sent to the Navy Supply School at Harvard and graduated as an Ensign, US Naval Reserve. Ensign Brooks was then assigned to the US military government on Okinawa.

*-- Contributed by himself*

4. Vice Admiral Charles "Soc" McMorris US Navy, Pacific

In 1941 Captain McMorris was on the staff of the Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Fleet in operations against the Japanese in the South Pacific. In 1942 he attained the rank of Admiral and commanded Cruiser Task Force 8, operating in the North Pacific. He was then promoted to the rank of Vice Admiral in September 1943. In August 1948, Vice Admiral McMorris was appointed Commander of the Fourth Naval District and naval base at Pearl Harbor.

*-- Contributed by his nephew, Jim McMorris*

5. Ensign Harold Mathews US Naval Reserve, Pacific

In July 1943, Harold Mathews, who had been a Naval ROTC cadet at the University of Minnesota, was called to active duty in February 1944. Soon he was assigned to the aircraft carrier USS Bunker Hill, which immediately got involved in the battle of the Philippine Sea. On April 11, 1945, while the Bunker Hill was supporting the invasion of Okinawa, Japanese air craft attacked and inflicted major bomb damage on the carrier. For heroism during the battle, Ensign Mathews was awarded the Bronze Star. In his citation for the medal the Secretary of the Navy wrote:

*Ensign Mathews assumed charge of a group of men caught in the after messing compartment. As the space filled with smoke, and after evacuating them to the fantail, returned to his post at Repair 3 where he continued to direct damage control*

.../

*operations. His professional skill, courage and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the US Naval Service.*

After the war Mathews completed university and in 1948 joined one of the first commercial TV stations in the country. He moved on to become a prominent advertising executive, winning awards at the Cannes Film Festival, the Venice Film Festival and the American Film Festival in New York.

*-- Contributed by himself*

6. Ensign Lowell Hedberg US Naval Reserve, Pacific

Serving on the destroyer escort USS Haynesworth, Ensign Hedberg was assigned as a radar and sonar officer. He also served as the ship's Chaplain.

*-- Contributed by his wife, Jody Hedberg, and his grand-daughter, Holly DeBarger*

7. First Lieutenant Robert Richter US Army, Pacific

Lieutenant Richter fought with the 37<sup>th</sup> Division in campaigns on the islands of Guadalcanal, Bougainville and the Philippines. He survived three full years of the war but died, along with some thousand other Americans, during the infantry advance into the city of Manila that lasted from January through August, 1945.

*-- Contributed by his son, Scott Richter*

8. Maj. Gen. Walter A. Wood Jr. US Army, Pacific

Major General Walter A. Wood Jr. was born in Honesdale, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Johns Hopkins University with a degree in Engineering in 1917 and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the US Army Corps of Engineers. He remained in the Army following WWI and served in the Philippines, Hawaii, and the US, leading to an assignment in 1938 to the War Department Requirements Division in Washington, D. C.

In 1945, General Wood was assigned to temporary duty at Headquarters, Army Forces Western Pacific. During this assignment the Japanese surrendered and General Wood's organization was tasked with arranging the surrender of all Japanese forces in the Philippine Islands, numbering some 30,000 troops and at least two general officers in Luzon alone. General Wood is shown here with other leading Allied officers presiding at this formal ceremony.

In a letter written at the time to his nephew, present Weston resident Dick Troxell, General Wood said:

*... we have been directed to act for MacArthur in negotiating the surrender of all Japs in the P. I. Everything is set for a formal ceremony with Yamashita (the head man) at Baguio except the old boy is way up in the hills of Luzon with about 30,000 others and is delaying and temporizing. We can't do much until the general surrender terms are signed in Tokyo then if he doesn't turn in his suit we'll have to go get him... I guess right now it's like arranging a wedding without the bride being sure she'll be there.*

General Wood retired from the Army in 1946 and was appointed by the United Nations as Director, American Division, International Refugee Organization. He directed worldwide efforts to resettle millions of refugees rendered homeless by the Second world War. "He repopulated Australia and every other place that needed people," said his son, Walter A. Wood III (Colonel, USA Ret.) General Wood died in 1957 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

*-- Contributed by Dick Troxell*

9. Petty Officer Milton Gray Jr. US Navy Reserve, Pacific

Petty Officer Gray completed his military duty as a security officer during the occupation of the Japanese naval base at Yokosuka, Japan.

-- *Contributed by himself*

10. Ensign James R. Kelly US Naval Reserve, Pacific

Ensign Kelly was the junior officer of the deck on the destroyer USS Nicholas in September 1945, the ship that brought the Japanese emissaries out to the battleship USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay for the signing of the formal surrender documents on September 2, 1945. By that time over 100,000 American military personnel had perished in the war.

-- *Contributed by his daughter Sheila Crowe*

11. Sergeant Leonard Meyer US Army, Pacific

Sergeant Meyer applied his technical training at M.I.T. to become an expert camouflage designer while attached to an army unit in Guam.

-- *Contributed by his brother, Karl Meyer*

12. Technical Sergeant William Rylander U.S. Army, Pacific

As a member of the Army's 90<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Sergeant Rylander took part in the major artillery campaign launched against the Japanese on the Philippine island of Luzon. He and his battery were involved in a remarkable 165 consecutive days of combat.

-- *Contributed by daughter, Lisa Deorio*

13. The Capone brothers: Private Anthony M. Capone US Army, Pacific

Private Capone boarded a troopship and headed for Europe but the ship was redirected through the Panama Canal and on to the Philippines where it was announced that he would become a medic and was immediately assigned to a MASH unit, deep in the jungle. Even though the war was over, they were looking for Japanese troops that refused to surrender. After the war he returned to Columbia University, finishing with a doctorate in Education. He was ultimately a school principal and superintendent.

Seaman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Tony J. Capone US Naval Reserve, Pacific 1945

Seaman Tony Capone was involved in the landings at Iwo Jima. He was asked by his Commanding officer what it was that he did in civilian life. Tony was an accomplished artist so he said he was a painter. With that the officer announced that he could begin by repainting the designation numbers and name of his ship, the USS Luzon. After the war, Tony attended Pratt Art College, worked as an advertising agency art director, started his own advertising company, and was finally commissioned to be the Official Artist of the Navy. He represented the Navy and the Coast Guard, painting scenes around the world. He was eventually buried at sea in a Coast Guard service off Long Island.

-- *Contributed by Seaman Tony Capone's daughter, Andrea Russo*

14. Private Glenn Morrow US Army Corps of Engineers, Pacific

Private Morrow, a member of the medical corps, was part of a unit assigned to sweep the Admiralty Islands for Japanese soldiers who did not know the war was over. In the process he provided daily medical services to the native population of the islands.

*-- Contributed by his daughter, Christina Morrow*

15. Master Sergeant John W. Stripp US Army, Pacific

Master Sergeant Stripp began his military training with a New York National Guard unit in Plattsburg N.Y. moving on to Camp Upton N.Y. and then on to Ft. McClelland in Alabama for the "Louisiana Maneuvers". He was then transferred to California and shipped out to the Pacific as a member of the 104<sup>th</sup> Artillery, 27<sup>th</sup> Division for what was supposed to be a one year deployment. Instead, he came home four years later, having fought on the Pacific Islands of Makin, Eniwetok, Saipan and Okinawa. He was awarded the Bronze Star for valor.

*-- Contributed by his son, John Stripp*

16. Staff Sergeant Mario DiPasquale US Army, Pacific

Mario DiPasquale was drafted in March 1945 at the age of eighteen. After rigorous basic training, he was sent to California in preparation for the ground invasion of Japan. As a Staff Sargeant he drilled and trained his men for this goal, realizing that many might perish. The invasion plan was diverted due to the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the subsequent surrender of Japan. So instead he was sent to Korea as part of the first occupational forces to get the Japanese soldiers out, occupiers of that country for forty years. He was responsible for supplying and maintaining provisions for our troops there. After a year of service Mario came back to the United States to be honorably discharged at the end of 1946.

*-- Contributed by his son, Jess DiPasquale*

17. Chief Boatswain's Mate Herbert Dickman US Navy, Pacific

Chief Dickman was a member of the Construction Battalion of the US Naval Construction Forces (popularly known as the "Seabees"), serving throughout the Pacific.

*-- Contributed by his grandson, David Muller*

18. Sergeant Dudley Bauerlein US Army, Pacific

Sergeant Dudley Bauerlein, left, pictured here with his brother Edward (see #23), was a machine gunner as well as a combat medic who participated in the battle for New Guinea. In 1945 he was on a beach in Leyte waiting to be shipped out of the Philippines with a group of other service people. When his last name was called out another man stepped forward with him at the same time. Remarkably, the other man turned out to be his half-brother Edward, who had been a Jesuit teacher at a boy's school in Manila and had been interned for four years in the infamous Santiago Internment Camp in Manila, so gaunt and stick-thin after suffering years of starvation and squalor that Dudley did not recognize him until his name was called. Today, Dudley is 96 and lives in Winter Park, Florida. He recently traveled to Washington, DC with other World War II survivors as a guest of the Honor Flight Network.

*-- Contributed by his son, Larry Bauerlein*

19. Sergeant William Smith US Army, Pacific

Sergeant Smith served with the "Special Troops" Unit on Okinawa. Smith lived in Georgetown and returned there to live with his wife for the rest of his life.

-- *Contributed by his niece, Nancy King*

20. Livingston Pope Noell, Jr. US Army Medical Corps, Pacific

Pope volunteered for the Army Medical Corps on December 8, 1941, the day after Pearl Harbor. His wife Sue also enlisted as a Field Nurse. While awaiting his commission, Noell witnessed his friend, Daniel Lee, the class Salutatorian of Vanderbilt Medical School who had enlisted as a Flight Surgeon, being escorted from the clinic by two men in army fatigues because his ancestors were from Japan. The men said they were taking Daniel and the rest of the "Japs" in the States to "where they couldn't cause any harm."

In March 1942 Pope was stationed on the Island of Luzon, in the Philippines, helping to resist the Japanese invasion, and working long shifts among a shortage of doctors, tending the numerous sick and wounded in one of bloodiest battles of the war. The Japanese Navy had surrounded the peninsula and cut off all medical and other supplies. There even wasn't enough food to go around.

A month later the US surrendered the island, and he along with some 80 – 90 thousand American and Filipino soldiers and were rounded up like cattle and forced to walk in what became known as the Bataan Death March. For ten days and sixty miles, the men went without food while drinking only polluted water on the roadside to stay alive. Heat, malaria, sunstroke, dysentery, starvation, dehydration and pure exhaustion plagued them. Those who could not keep up were beaten and others shot. In the end about one thousand Americans and nine thousand Filipinos died; Pope was devastated that he could not use his medical training to help them.

Pope was held a Japanese POW for 34 months. During this time he became the personal physician, English instructor, companion, and occasional punching bag to LT. Minoru Sasaki at Cabanatuan. Eighty members of the US Army and Pope were put to work under LT. Sasaki collecting scrap metal left from the Battle of Bataan for the Japanese war effort. Upon liberation, Pope was sent to a hospital in Manila to recuperate and regain his strength. His story was published in the *Saturday Evening Post*. Sadly, his wife Sue did not survive her own imprisonment in a Japanese camp.

-- *Contributed by Julia Wyant, niece of Pope Noell Jr. and her son Luke Simboli*

21. Sergeant Phillip Baumgarten US Army, Pacific

Sergeant Baumgarten, a paratrooper, wrote the following poem in his diary:

*I'm sending you this parachute, and a little poem "to boot".*

*It's made of silk and strong as steel the part it plays in war is very real.*

*Men who jump it have nerve of iron and of course are not afraid of dying.*

*Into the plane with many others, Irish, Italians, Polish. In arms your brothers.*

*Then the motors throb, the plane gains speed she's off the ground but no one takes heed. For their thoughts are on different things, maybe home, their dear ones or what the next hour brings.*

-- *Contributed by his niece, Harriet Heller*

22. Chief Petty Officer Joseph Failla US Navy, Pacific

Chief Petty Officer Failla joined the Navy as an aviator in 1942, right after his graduation from high school. Although he had volunteered earlier, the Navy recruiting officer had made Joe and his football buddies finish their senior year before joining up. Chief Failla flew reconnaissance and search and rescue missions in the South Pacific. His aviator's flight log book records his last mission as follows: "October 1945 – Day 17 – searched and found seven survivors – last flight with VPB – 15" .

-- *Contributed by his son, Thomas Failla*

23. Edward Bauerlein Missionary, Philippines

Edward, brother of Dudley Bauerlein (#18) had trained as a Jesuit Brother and departed for the Philippines in 1928. In the Santiago Prison he was kept in a 16 x 16-foot cell with twenty-five other inmates. Every meal – if food was available at all – consisted of a saucer of rice, fish and vegetable juice. His weight went down from 175 lbs. to 95 lbs. He was liberated on February 23, 1945 and flown to Leyte where he met his brother. Once back in the US he made his way to the Jesuit novitiate St. Andrew on Hudson (now the Culinary Institute of America).

-- *Contributed by his nephew, Larry Bauerlein*

24. Second Lieutenant Roy Spies US Army, Japan

After graduating from Provost Marshal School, Lieutenant Spies was assigned to Nara, Japan, where he was second in command of the Military Police unit originally charged with keeping order in that sacred shrine city. The company also moved to other locations in Japan where the MP services were needed.

-- *Contributed by himself*

25. Petty Officer Second Class Leonard N. Weisinger US Navy

Radioman Weisinger was born in Pohorlawitz, Romania and immigrated to the United States. He was inducted into the US Navy and attended the US Naval Training Station in Sampson, NY. He also attended "Radioman School" at the US Naval Training Center in Bainbridge, Maryland in April, 1944 and served in the Navy until October, 1945. Among the stations Weisinger served were: NRS NY, NY; NTS Sampson, NY; NTS Bainbridge, MD; RS Annex, NOB Norfolk, VA; USS Stockdale- RS NYK; RS Navy 128; and PSC Lido Beach, Long Island, NY.

-- *Contributed by his daughter, Penny Pearlman*

26. Private Frank Tricamo US Army, Europe

Private Tricamo immigrated to the United States in 1940 and was drafted in 1942 and fought in Europe. For the wounds he suffered in battle he was awarded the Purple Heart, the medal whose history stretches back to the days of George Washington and the American Revolution.

-- *Contributed by his son, Andrew Cummings*

27. Private Russell Kensler US Army . Europe

Private Kensler was assigned to a tank unit and was captured by the Germans in December 1944 during the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium.

*-- Contributed by Dave Coprio*

28. Lieutenant Colonel Rufus S. Charlton US Army Air Forces, Europe

Rufus Charlton entered the Army Air Forces on April 30, 1942 at age 25 and completed his navigation training on October 7, 1945. He served in the 303<sup>rd</sup> Bombardment Group (H), informally dubbed "Hell's Angel's". The Group participated in a record 364 combat bombing missions. Lt. Col. Charlton was a Master Navigator and crew member on B-17's, B-29's, B-47's and B-52's. He served ten years in the B-52 Program. His war record included thirty B-17 combat missions to Germany as Radar Operator, bombing through overcast skies. For his service he received the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Air Force Commendation Medal – B-47 Program.

*-- Contributed by his grandniece, Lisa Ryan*

29. Lt. Col. Robert "Rosie" Rosenthal Army Air Forces, Europe

Lieutenant Colonel Rosenthal was a member of the 8<sup>th</sup> Army Air Force and Commander of its 350<sup>th</sup> and 418<sup>th</sup> Bomber Squadron. The much-decorated Rosenthal had already flown fifty-three missions and experienced three crack-ups on Flying Fortresses when, on February 3, 1945, he was forced to parachute from his flak-ridden plane on a bombing run near Berlin. He luckily landed just behind the Russian lines along the Oder River and was soon embraced by the soldiers there. "The Russians do not seem to be able to do enough for their comrades in arms," reported the wire services. (Russia was our indispensable ally at the time.) He was transported to Moscow and wined and dined. "I must have drunk 2,000,000 gallons of vodka" Rosenthal told reporters, "I could well have done without it but I drank cheerfully in the interests of American-Soviet relations." His citations were numerous and among the highest awards given: Purple Heart (1944 & 1945), Distinguished Service Cross (1945), Silver Star (1944, twice), Distinguished Flying Cross (1944, twice), Air Medal Oak Leaf Clusters (eight over the years 1943-1945), the French Croix de Guerre (1945), and the British Distinguished Flying Cross (1946).

*-- Contributed by his son, Dan Rosenthal*

30. Staff Sergeant Pierre Peyreigne US Army Air Forces, Europe

Staff Sergeant Peyreigne had come to Weston from France as a French-speaking schoolboy. When he became eighteen he enlisted in the Army Air Forces. During the war he flew the B-17 nicknamed "Ice Cold Katy" as a member of the 401<sup>st</sup> Bomb Group. He flew 32 missions over France and Germany and recalled that whenever he was flying over France he felt "he had family down there".

*-- Contributed by his daughter Betsy Peyreigne*



31. Private 1<sup>st</sup> Class Lincoln Kirstein US Army, Europe

Kirstein was the prime mover behind the founding of the School of American Ballet in 1934, formed expressly to bring the famed dancer George Balanchine to the US. The troupe soon became the resident company of the Metropolitan Opera.

Kirstein enlisted in the Army in 1943 and was assigned to the US Arts and Monuments Commission in 1944, stationed in London. He was then transferred to a unit in France known as "Monuments", devoted to rescuing and preserving European art that had been looted by the Germans. In 1945 he was promoted into General Patton's 3<sup>rd</sup> Army and assigned to Germany, where he became personally involved in retrieving looted art works from the Altaussee Salt Mines near Munich – one of the places that was part of the story told in the 2014 movie "The Monuments Men." Altogether this small corps of men and women saved 60,000 works of art. Private Kirstein was discharged from the Army in September 1945.

After the war, he, together with Balanchine, formed a new ballet company that evolved into the New York City Ballet in 1948. Kirstein would serve as its General Director from 1946 to 1989. He also moved to Weston, attracted by the famed patroness of the arts Alice Delamar and Balanchine, who had already moved here as one of Delamar's beneficiaries. Kirstein also became known as a writer, art connoisseur, and philanthropist.

-- *Contributed by the Town of Weston*

32. Corporal Saul Toobert US Army, Europe

Corporal Toobert served as a member of a tank battalion in the 13<sup>th</sup> Armored (Black Cat) Division and fought with General Patton's Third Army through France, Belgium, and into Germany. After the war he received a Ph.D. from the University of Oregon, where he remained on the faculty for the next 25 years as a professor of counseling psychology.

-- *Contributed by Dan Burstein*

33. Staff Sergeant Douglas B. Leigh Jr. US Army, Europe

Staff Sergeant Leigh was a radio operator as well as an accomplished artist who portrayed the dramatic scenes of war he was involved in as a member of the 78<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. He was awarded the Bronze Star medal on April 5, 1945 for "meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy during the period 13 December 1944 to March 1945 in Germany." His citation noted that "throughout this entire period Staff Sergeant Leigh had been in constant duty as communications sergeant. In offensive operations he maintained an uninterrupted and effective communications network for his company. On numerous occasions he was on reconnaissance patrols. His devotion to duty and inspiring example are in accordance with the highest military traditions".

-- *Contributed by his daughter, Diane, and son, Douglas*

34. Private First Class George Van Vliet US Army, Europe

Private Van Vliet was a warrior and a skilled artist. As a Technician 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, 2816 Engineers, he would fly aerial surveillance behind enemy lines and then fly back to England to construct topographical maps for General Patton's army to follow as they

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advanced into Germany. As an artist, Private Van Vliet captured on canvas many scenes of the men, ships and equipment that told the visual story of the war in Europe. In 1946, he began work as a graphic designer for the United Nations Department of Public Information. His early assignments included designing the first UN Christmas card, the first children's poster and a travelling "The Road to Peace" exhibit that was introduced at the Brooklyn Museum by Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt in 1947. His most important project was the design of the flag of the United Nations, which exists to this day.

-- Contributed by his daughter Melania Van Vliet

35. Private 1<sup>st</sup> Class Bayard Dodge Jr. US Army, Europe

Bayard Dodge was born and raised in Beirut, Syria (now Lebanon) where his father was President of the American University of Beirut. He attended Deerfield Academy, graduating in 1944. He was accepted at Princeton University but instead enlisted in the US Army Infantry and assigned to Company 'A' of the 411th Infantry Regiment of the 103<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division headquartered in Texas and known as the "Cactus Division."

The Division landed near Marseilles, France October 20, 1944 and made its way inland first by train and then by march into the Vosges theatre south of Nancy on November 9. An engagement at Saulcy was Dodge's first taste of battle. On November 22, 1944 Bayard was killed along with seven of his comrades outside the tiny village of Saulcy-sur-Meurthe, in the Vosges Mountains of northeastern France. For his valor, he was awarded the Purple Heart and Silver Star medals. The citation reads:

*During the daylight hours of 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 1944, in the vicinity of Souley, France, Private Dodge and his squad were pinned to the ground by intense hostile automatic weapon fire. Private Dodge, with utter disregard for his life, courageously inched his way forward to within ten yards of an enemy weapon only to fall mortally wounded. His valiant action so inspired his comrades that they immediately carried on and overran the hostile position to gain the objective. Private Dodge's outstanding gallantry was in accordance with the highest tradition of the military service.*

Dodge's parents did not learn of his death for almost two months. He is buried in the American Military Cemetery at Epinal, France, 30 miles from where he was killed.

-- Contributed by his family

36. Sergeant First Class Henry R. Loomis, Radioman US Army, Europe

Sergeant Henry R. Loomis was born in Paris, France where he lived with his brother, French mother and American father until they escaped Nazi occupied France in 1941. Henry returned to France with the US Army as a radioman, landing in Normandy on D-Day with the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. He also fought in the battles of the Ardennes (northeastern France) and the Bulge (Belgium). He was also with the forces that entered Central Europe.

On December 3, 1944, as part of Company D, 87<sup>th</sup> Chemical Battalion, an enemy grenade landed in Henry's foxhole. He leaped for the grenade, threw it out, but unfortunately it hit a branch. It fell back exploding, wounding an officer and an enlisted man. Henry aided the wounded officer, carrying him to the rear while under enemy fire. Realizing that he had left his radio and worried that its capture would give the enemy valuable information, he returned back under heavy fire to retrieve it and, with the aid of the enlisted man, and still engaged in a firefight, helped the officer get to a place where he could receive medical attention. Loomis was awarded a Silver Star Medal, the military's third-highest decoration for valor in combat.

-- Contributed by his daughter, Margaret Beldenhagen

37. Staff Sergeant Charles Maggio US Army Photographic Corps, Europe  
What has been captured on film about WW II by the US Army is largely the work of the US Army Photographic Corps. Charles Maggio joined the Corps in 1942 at age 25 from a laboratory technician job in New York. During his service he managed Army laboratories in London, Paris, and Nuremberg that produced photographs of Army life at Normandy, the battles in France, the bridges across the Rhine, and the concentration camps in Germany. He also captured the gathering of Nazi leadership during the trials at Nuremberg.  
*-- Contributed by his son, James Maggio*
38. Lieutenant Ted Feldman US Army, Europe  
Lieutenant Feldman served in Europe with the "D" company, 175<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, arriving home on the Queen Mary in September 1945.  
*-- Contributed by Ellen Strauss*
39. Sergeant Aladar Ando US Army, Europe  
Sergeant Ando was a "tanker" with the 8<sup>th</sup> Army who fought in the Battle of the Bulge under General George Patton, commander of the US 3<sup>rd</sup> Army.  
*-- Contributed by his son, Bruce Ando*
40. Technical Sergeant Harold Longman US Army Air Forces, Europe  
Sergeant Longman, a radioman and gunner in the 387<sup>th</sup> Squadron in the 340<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group, is shown flying a B-25 Mitchell bomber on one of the dozens of missions he flew over North Africa and Italy.  
*-- Contributed by his daughter, Norbie Longman*
41. Captain Robert R. Buss US Army, Europe  
Captain Buss was involved in various radar projects at M.I.T. and was later assigned to Italy to work on systems designed to neutralize the hitherto effectiveness of German radar systems.  
*-- Contributed by his daughter, Jennifer Barron*
42. Private First Class David R. Wilson US Army  
Shortly after joining the Army and assigned to the 89<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Battalion, David Randolph Wilson Sr. was asked where he was from. Wilson replied that he was from New York City, to which the sergeant replied: "Fine, you'll be the General's driver". After the war Wilson worked for a time as a limousine driver but spent the rest of his career as a track man with the New York Transit Authority.  
*-- Contributed by his son, Bernard Wilson*

43. PFC Warren Stanton US Army Air Forces, The Home Front

PFC Stanton was in the Princeton Class of 1947 but was drafted into the Army Air Forces on April 13, 1944, thereby never finishing his first year there. His basic training was in Wichita, Kansas and he was then transferred to San Marcos, Texas as an on-the-line trainee, putting gas and oil into AT-7 aircraft and the like while waiting to get into pre-flight school. After being informed that he might never be assigned to that school, he was transferred to the San Antonio Aviation Cadet Center -- but not as a cadet. He was assigned instead to the Medical Corps and posted to a clinic on the base. After that he was transferred to Ellington Field, Houston, Texas, and worked there at hospital headquarters as a clerk. After VJ Day, having served 18 ½ months, he returned to Princeton—this time completing his studies as part of the Class of '49.

-- Contributed by Warren and Shirley Stanton

44. Sergeant Kenneth Edgar US Army Air Forces, Europe

Sergeant Kenneth Edgar (far right) was a Ground Support Machinist with the 387<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group, stationed at an airfield in France. An entry in his diary dated December 21, 1944 about the Battle of Bulge gives one an idea of how concerned the military was with the German offensive:

*For the first time, I think, a lot of us are apprehensive. We have just been told that the German counter offensive has brought enemy troops within 60 miles of us. We may be given a 6 hour notice to evacuate. We are to travel light taking just an extra set of fatigues, extra pair of socks and a couple of blankets plus gun, ammo, canteen and steel helmet. The planes will fly out with their crew chiefs and top specialists. Those that can't take off will be destroyed. We will travel by truck or foot or however possible. There is a guard on every plane and defense platoons out guarding the field. We carry our guns and wear helmets everywhere. I never saw such nervous tension displayed.*

-- Contributed by his son, Ken Edgar

45. Corporal William Donald Hope Sr. US Army, Europe

Corporal Hope was drafted into the Army in 1943 and sent to Europe, where he took part in the Battle of the Bulge, the last major battle of World War II (December 16, 1944 to January 25, 1945). He was a Jeep driver whose job was fixing them and getting supplies to the soldiers. They had to scramble for proper guns as they were not really equipped for battle. At one point he had been given an assignment to head in the direction away from Bastogne but the Germans had turned the signs so the soldiers would head in the wrong direction. Hope thus wound up in the battle zone anyway.

His nephew, Brendan Paul, recounts this story: "He was in the last jeep of his battalion along with a buddy nicknamed Crazy Bill. His buddy said, "Hey, look at that"! It was a German tank crossing over the road right in front of them, but either the German soldiers did not see the jeep or decided it was not worth turning to fire at them, so they kept driving away. I guess it was destined for "Pop-Pop" to produce three kids."

-- Contributed by his nephew, Brendan Paul

46. Lieutenant Thomas Murray US Army Air Forces. Europe

Lt. Murray joined the US Army Air Force (USAAF) right out of Dartmouth College at age 18. Trained as a navigator/bombardier for B-17s, he joined the 92<sup>nd</sup> Bomb Group and flew in 31 missions over Germany and France. Two of them took place on D-Day, June 6, 1944, one to hit the rail yards at Caen, the other to target German artillery locations on the beaches. For his service he received the Air Medal and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

-- *Contributed by Thomas Murray*

47. Second Lieutenant Jackson G. Pollock Royal Canadian Artillery. Europe

A member of the 5<sup>th</sup> Battery of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Infantry Division, Lieutenant Pollock landed in Normandy on the third day of the D-Day invasion, fighting at Caen and Falaise. The Division then fought through the fierce battles for the Port of Antwerp and from there went on to liberate Holland. Lieutenant Pollock remained in Germany eighteen months after the end of the war to help with the reconstruction.

-- *Contributed by his son, John Pollock*

48. Captain Richard J. Lomuscio US Army. Europe

Captain Lomuscio joined the Army following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. He served overseas in France and Germany and was the Battalion Dental Surgeon in Nuremberg, Germany.

-- *Contributed by his son, James Lomuscio*

49. Lieutenant Colonel Herman Charles Weber US Army Air Forces. Europe. 1941

Herman Charles Weber was one of five children born to Bruno and Agnes Weber, German immigrants who came to the US before World War I via Ellis Island. He grew up speaking both German and English fluently, making him a valuable asset in the war against Germany. After enlisting in the US Army Air Force in 1941 he quickly rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. As the Allied forces prepared for D-Day, Herman was assigned to General Eisenhower's staff in London. My father never spoke of his role during the war but years later my mother told me he worked on the Enigma Project, the project to break the German encryption codes. I can only assume he was sworn to silence. He married Nora Obey, a British citizen, in December, 1945 and later settled in Swampscott, MA where they lived for more than 25 years.

-- *Contributed by his son, David Weber*

50. Staff Sergeant Frank Clark US Army Air Forces. Europe

Sergeant Clark was the flight photographer for the 15<sup>th</sup> Air Force in Europe.

-- *Contributed by Bruce Ando*

51. Sergeant Charles Pokorny US Army, Europe

Sergeant Pokorny was part of a convoy headed to Omaha Beach on D-Day – the day after he had married his English bride, Elsie Bright. Tragically, a German E-boat torpedoed his LST (Landing Ship Tank) as well as a second one carrying the rest of his Company. Four of his officers and 112 men were killed but he survived by swimming to a British life boat. The soldiers regrouped in England and Pokorny was awarded a Bronze Star. A month later he was back at sea and this time successfully landed at Omaha Beach with other troops from the First Army sent to complete the European campaign.

*-- Contributed by his son, John Pokorny*

52. Douglas C. Ewen US Army, Europe

Douglas C. Ewen, a native of Aberdeen, Scotland but a naturalized American citizen, was 37 when he enlisted on July 28, 1942. As a skilled carpenter, Ewen was tasked with building barracks for the Red Cross as well as for officers and enlisted men. As part of the European campaign he was in the second wave at D-Day and then followed General George C. Patton's Third Army through France and up to Belgium, where he fought in the Battle of the Bulge, the last major German offensive campaign of World War II. Leg problems sent him back to the US to convalesce. While en route from France to England, Ewen's plane was attacked by Germans. He survived but suffered a nose injury – one that looked like the stitched side of a football for the remainder of his life.

*-- Contributed by his grand-daughter, Susan Moran*

53. Sergeant Henry P. Dart, Jr. US Army, Europe & the Pacific

Sergeant Dart was called into service in February 1943, and assigned to the 346<sup>th</sup> Medical Detachment 87<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division as a surgical technician. He arrived in Europe on the Queen Elizabeth in late 1944 and went on to Metz, where he was assigned to the Third Army. He saw his first combat duty on December 11 near the French and German border. His Company then traveled north for the Bulge as part of General Patton's Third Army, making the 100-mile trip in the snow and freezing temperatures, sitting in open trucks with inadequate clothing to ward off the cold. The Company succeeded in capturing the key town of Tillet in January 1945 but at the heavy price of 57 casualties and with Dart suffering severe hearing loss due to an exploding mine. They then crossed the Rhine River on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1945. Of all the horrors Dart saw as a Sergeant Medic he could never forget the atrocity he witnessed in one of the concentration camps.

In July 1945 Henry embarked on a Navy ship PA 245 for Manila and en route the crew learned that the atom bombs had been dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. After a relaxing stay in Manila the ship sailed to Kobe, Japan's largest naval base, where he observed the horrors of the post-atomic bomb survivors. At the end of the year he returned home via Tacoma, Washington, where he kissed the ground and then headed straight to the nearest restaurant to order a T-bone steak and a quart of milk. By February 1946 Henry was back at Iona College under the GI bill.

*-- Contributed by his daughter-in-law, Chris Dart*

54. Colonel Harold Roy Low US Army, Europe

Colonel Low was a 1936 graduate of West Point who was assigned to the US Army Quartermaster Corps. Stationed on Iceland and later in France, he was responsible for keeping the supplies flowing forward to the troops and stations in Europe.

*-- Contributed by his daughter, Val Peroni*

55. Wren Officer Marion Goustin British Royal Navy

Officer Goustin joined the Royal Navy at age 18 as a non-commissioned officer assigned as a teleprinter operator. She was commissioned at age 21 and then assigned to the sensitive task of processing incoming messages. While stationed at Plymouth England, she met Prince Phillip -- now His Royal Highness, consort to Queen Elizabeth--while the prince was on duty.

*-- Contributed by herself*

56. Sergeant Robert Edgar US Army Air Forces, Europe

Sergeant Robert Edgar was a radio operator in the 387<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group. One of his diary entries reads:

*Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1944 – 50<sup>th</sup> mission – I flew the mission with Popham. We flew squadron lead and ours was #4 ship. We were briefed for a freight yards at Vienna at 30,000 feet. We flew through the soup till we couldn't see the other squadrons and then the leader told us to turn back. We made a turn but still couldn't find the group. We finally got our squadron pretty well together, joined up with the 97<sup>th</sup> group, we evolved off to their right and flew up to Vienna with them.*

*The clouds were solid below us so our carpet was able to really work. A heck of a lot of flack was below and in back of us. A few batteries had us though and were plunking*

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*them between us and the group. It came in two or three spurts and it seemed to not last too long. The trip back was dull – the landing was a good one and so I finished me 50<sup>th</sup> – I'm pretty lucky.*

*-- Contributed by his nephew, Ken Edgar*

57. Sergeant Al Anderson US Army, Pacific, 1945

Sergeant Anderson joined the Army at age eighteen and was assigned to training in the tank corps. In June 1945 he embarked with others from the Eighth Army on the troop ship USS Admiral Benson, which had taken part in numerous amphibious landings in the Southwest Pacific. Anderson was assigned to teach courses on tank and heavy equipment maintenance. He returned home in 1946.

*--Contributed by Bruce Ando*

58. Crewman Graham Noell US Navy, Europe

Graham Noell, brother of Pope Noell (see #20) was a US Navy crewmember who participated in transporting thousands of GIs, American and Allied, to ports all over Western Europe. On June 6,1944 he found himself on board the US heavy cruiser Tuscaloosa off the coast of Devonshire, England, headed toward Normandy on the gray, choppy waters of the English Channel. His role along with two other men was to lower the

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raft attached to the ship's bow and load it with weapons and supplies for the landing on Utah Beach. At 300 feet from shore, the raft was lowered and the three men began swimming it directly behind the cover of the 4<sup>th</sup> Amphibious Division's lander with the goal of hooking the raft to it. Graham believes it was either an act of God or just darn luck that led him to the task of swimming the raft to shore. His shipmates were not as lucky. The Tuscaloosa hit a mine about 100 feet from shore. Both British and American comrades on the ship drowned or were machine gunned as they attempted to reach the beach.

-- *Contributed by Julia Wyant, niece of Graham Noell, and her son Luke Simboli*

59. Photo Journalist George Silk Combat Photographer

In 1939 George Silk was hired as a combat photographer for the Australian Ministry of Information covering the Middle East, North Africa, Greece and New Guinea. He was captured by Rommel's forces in Libya, but escaped. He was hired by *Life* magazine in 1943 as a war correspondent in the Pacific, Japan and China. He was also with U.S. forces in the Battle of the Bulge and was wounded by a grenade during a river crossing in Germany. He was named magazine photographer of the year four times by the National Press Photographer's Association.

-- *Contributed by Georgiana Silk*

60. Ensign Richard Adler US Naval Reserve, Central America

Ensign Adler served in the Panama Canal Zone on submarine patrol. Upon returning home he became a well-known songwriter, composer, lyricist and philanthropist and was a major part of the team that produced the Broadway hits, "Pajama Game" and "Dammed Yankees".

-- *Contributed by his wife, Susan Ivory*

61. Major Thomas Murray O'Neil US Army, the Home Front

Major O'Neil had been on the reserve officer's list in the ROTC while attending Boston University. He was commissioned a second lieutenant upon joining the Army at Fort Devens, Massachusetts and in less than two years advanced to the rank of Major. He was later stationed at the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Aberdeen, Maryland in the ordnance department, which provided a critical service by supplying Army combat units with weapons and ammunition.

-- *Contributed by his daughter, Ellen O'Neill McCormick*

62. First Lieutenant Robert Turner US Army Air Forces, United States

First Lt. Turner joined the US Army soon after Pearl Harbor and became a radio operating mechanic. He was then attached to a radar unit, flying on B-17 bombers around America to test new radar bombing systems that were being developed by M.I.T. Shortly after the war Mr. Turner worked at Sikorsky and became an active volunteer in Weston town government. He became chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission in 1967 and then served as code enforcement officer from 1998 to 2009. He and his Hope wife continue to live in Weston. His oral history can be found on-line and in the Society's archives.

-- *Contributed by himself*



63. Private Andrew Ference US Army, Texas

Private Ference served in the Headquarter Company of the 1850<sup>th</sup> Service Unit at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas.

-- *Contributed by his son, Gene Ference*

64. Private Adolpha Duda Allied Polish Army, Europe

Private Duda, a soldier in the allied Polish Army, served in Poland, Italy, and France during the War.

-- *Contributed by his daughter, Christine Lomuscio*

65. Lieutenant B.G. Achar Royal Indian Army, South Asia

Lieutenant Achar was an army doctor who saw action with the allied Indian Army in Burma, Siam (now Thailand) and Nepal. In 1945 he emigrated to the United States and became a surgeon in the Veterans Administration system. Dr. Achar would later become Chief of Surgery at the Englewood Hospital in New Jersey.

-- *Contributed by his son, John Achar*

66. Flight Officer Kenneth Nathenson US Army Air Forces

Flight Officer Kenneth Nathenson was 23 when he entered active duty on July 2, 1943. First stationed in South Carolina at Winthrop College, he was subsequently sent to Las Vegas, Nevada to train as a gunner, then to San Marcos, Texas for navigator training, and then Carlsbad, New Mexico for more advanced training. He was released after the war on June, 1945. While at Winthrop he met and soon married Miriam Brickle, who graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1944. After the war the couple settled in Chicago and raised four children.

-- *Contributed by their daughter, Gayle Clayton*

67. Lieuwe de Haas Dutch Citizen, Indonesia

When the Japanese invaded the Dutch East Indies in 1942 they placed six-year old Lie de Haas, his 11 year old brother, his mother and 12,500 others in the Tjiding concentration camp in Jakarta. During this same period, Lieuwe's father, a captain in the Dutch Colonial Army, was captured and transported to Vietnam as a slave laborer, digging trenches and repairing airfield runways. Spending the next 3 ½ years life in a prison camp was extremely harsh. Finally, in September 1945, the British Army liberated the Dutch East Indies and in the process reunited the family. In 1946, with all of their personal possessions gone, they were able to leave Bangkok, Thailand for Holland on board the ship "Nieuw Holland" to begin a new life.

-- *Contributed by himself*

67-B: Photograph of his mother.

68. Henry E. Barelle US Army Air Corps, Pacific

Henry E. Barrelle served as a tail gunner on a B-29 but most of his active service saw him ferrying planes to and from Hawaii. He was quartered at Hickam Field and flew in and out of Hickam and Rogers Fields. Henry and his wife lived in Georgetown/Redding prior to the war, then purchased their home in Weston afterward.

-- *Contributed by his daughter, Lynn Barelle*

69. Herbert M. Day US Army Air Forces, Pacific

Herbert Day graduated from Dayton Regional High School in Springfield, NJ and went on to serve the Army Air Forces in the China, Burma and India theaters. After the war he attended and graduated from Rutgers University College of Agriculture in 1950. He went to work as a research agronomist and was later employed by Stauffer Chemical Co. For 30 years he was a volunteer for the Boy Scouts and served ten years as chairman of Weston's Troop 7, for which he was given the Silver Bear Award, the highest honor for an adult volunteer. He was an avid beekeeper and served as a member of the Backyard Beekeepers board. Herbert also served for seven years as president of the Weston Historical Society in its formative years and was the founding editor of the its newsletter, *The Chronicle*.

70. Captain Thomas F. Whalen Jr. U.S. Army, Europe

Captain Whalen MD joined the 52<sup>nd</sup> Medical Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment and served in North Africa, Italy (at Anzio, Salerno and Montecassino), and then France and Germany. He served under generals George Patton, Mark Clark, and Omar Bradley. As a battlefield army doctor he treated and saved many lives, but saw many others die. After Europe was liberated he served as Commandant of several POW hospitals in Germany. He was known for saying, "If you want to find out how the war is going, just ask the sergeants".

-- *Contributed by his daughter, Pat Glass*

71. Mvr. de Haas Dutch citizen, Indonesia

Mrs. de Haas, the mother of Lieuwe de Haas (#67), lived with her husband and their two sons in Jakarta but when the Japanese invaded Indonesia she and her two sons were placed in a prison camp. She and the children survived the experience and they were reunited with Captain de Haas after the war. She is the woman in the far distance.

-- *Contributed by her son, Lieuwe de Haas*

72. Edward J. Moskal US Army Air Forces, Europe

Edward J. Moskal enlisted in the US Army Air Forces on August 27, 1943 with aspirations to become a fighter pilot. He completed the basic training to become a pilot in San Antonio, Texas in August 1944, but given the shortage of navigators, Edward was encouraged to shift his focus and thus enrolled in navigation school at Selman Field in Monroe, Louisiana. Edward completed his training in December 1944 and initially served as a navigator on a

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B-24 Liberator bomber. Given his proficiency at this skill, he ultimately became a navigation instructor for new military cadets. Moskal was honorably discharged from the US Army Air Forces on April 18, 1946 and returned to work as an electrical engineer at Bell Labs, where he was employed until his retirement in 1982 when he retired. His son Eric and family have lived in Weston since 2003.

-- *Contributed by his son, Eric Moskal and his daughter-in-law, Lisa Cicale Moskal*

73. Captain Frederic Winans Horner US Navy, the Atlantic

Captain Horner sailed on US navy gunboats and sub chasers in the North and South Atlantic as well as the Caribbean to protect the maritime convoys sailing to Europe from German submarine attacks.

-- *Contributed by his son, Neil Horner*

74. Electrician's Mate 1<sup>st</sup> Class James Delmar Jamieson US Naval Reserve, Europe, Pacific  
Audrey Varian Thompson, USO Performer

Electrician's Mate Jamieson was 18 years old when he served on the troopship USS General Harvey Taylor, transporting troops to Europe and the islands in the Pacific. While on home leave during a trip to Yonkers for repairs in October 1945, he visited the local USO and there met volunteer singer Audrey Varian Thompson. The volunteers were not allowed to fraternize with the visiting sailors but Jim and Audrey decided they would visit a tavern around the corner and that began the romance of a lifetime. After Jim shipped out again, letters were exchanged and in February 1946, when he returns to Yonkers, the romance continued. In March 1946, with Jim back in port in San Francisco, Audrey came to visit him and in June 1946 they married and lived happily after Jim's discharge in December 1946.

-- *Contributed by their son, James Jamieson*

75. Private Glenn Ivory US Army  
Aviation Chief Radioman Gail Ivory US Naval Reserve

This photo show the twin brothers Glenn and Gail while on a 30-day home leave in June 1945. Gail served on the USS Lexington in Pearl Harbor and then was assigned to an advanced carrier group patrolling in Africa, the Mediterranean and Southern France.

-- *Contributed by Susan Ivory*

76. Ruth Wien Home Front

Ruth Wien worked as a Red Cross volunteer in New York City during the War. A photo of her appeared in *Newsweek*.

-- *Contributed by her son, M.J. Van Vliet*

Murray Horowitz was as a radio operator in Alaska and the Aleutian Islands, serving as part of the Army Airways Communications System (AACS). In 2001 he wrote about his days in the US Army Air Corps to his grandson Andrew, a Weston school students whose class was celebrating Veteran's Day:

*I volunteered in the U.S. Army during World War II. I knew I'd be drafted. I was 20 or so, unmarried, no children, etc. I prepared for the day of joining the Army by getting a Ham license, that is having a knowledge of the Morse Code and of the way a radio works.*

*Once I passed the test and got the license, I volunteered for the Army. Within days, I was assigned to the Sacramento Air Base in California. From there after a few months, I was assigned to Anchorage Air Base in Alaska. From Anchorage, I went to the Aleutian Island of Adak. It was a no-man's land there. Adak was a tundra-covered mud pie in the North Pacific. The climate was horrible; the tedium unbearable. I found female friends in the seals. While in Adak, I was given a rest and recreation furlough in a hotel perched high on Mount McKinley. There, I learned to ski.*

*What did I do in the Army? I communicated in Morse Code with different air bases and with U.S. Army planes flying in and out of airports, sending messages to pilots and receiving messages about flight plans, etc. Towards the end of the war, I was in communications by Morse Code with the Russians, receiving weather reports, etc. Knowing the weather was important to us. If the weather was good, we could choose to bomb Japan, our enemy during the war.*

*The name of my outfit was: Army Airways Communications System (AACS), part of the Air Corps. I was in the Army for three years from when I was 21 to 24.*

*-- Contributed by his daughter, Rose Horowitz*