



NEWSLETTER

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THE ARDSLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROUDLY PRESENTS WWII VETERANS

By Theresa DiStefano

It is now 67 years since America called out to its citizens to defend its liberty, democracy and freedom after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. America's president, Franklin D. Roosevelt, asked Americans to set forth into foreign countries and foreign territories to stop the enemy.

And, along with other American citizens, Ardsley sent forth 306 of her citizens to defend the American way. When the war was over, fourteen did not return home. (* See page 9). The others came home. In essence, along with the other WWII veterans, "They won the war. They saved the world." (Tom Brokaw). Thereafter, some Ardsley WWII veterans remained in Ardsley. Others started new beginnings elsewhere.

Now, 67 years later, Ardsley proudly has 26 WWII veterans living in her township and close surrounding areas. Some of these WWII veterans are part of Ardsley's American Legion Post #458. Some of these WWII veterans are native Ardsley citizens and others are WWII veterans who came to live in Ardsley and close surrounding areas following their WWII service.

The WWII veterans who are part of Ardsley American Legion Post #458 meet once a month. The Post has been in existence since August 1921, following WWI. Over this time period, it has served and continues to serve its community and veterans. Currently, the Post's membership consists of WWII, Korean and Vietnam era veterans.

The Ardsley Historical Society is proud to introduce all of these WWII heroes, whose information can be found on the following pages.

JOE BASTERI



U.S. Army, European Theater: France, England, and Wales

Citations: The Service Medal; WWII Victory Medal; Two Bronze Stars; The Croix de Guerre due to his participation in Normandy and Northern France.

Quote: "War is devastating and horrible."

PETER BLASCO



U.S. Army Corps: Radar operator, mobile stations

European Theater: Throughout Europe

Citation: Purple Heart

Quote: "Our radar units helped track and rescue downed planes over the English Channel."

JOHN BOSTONIAN, JR.



U.S. Army: 472nd Quartermaster Truck Regiment, Co. G.

Pacific Theater: Northeast India, Assam province where China, Burma, and Indian border meet at the foot of the Himalayas

Citations: Presidential Unit Citation and Good Conduct Medal

SAL CORCIONE



U.S. Army: 88th Infantry Division, 351st Regiment, Headquarters Company

Pacific Theater: North Africa and Italy

Quote: "I served with a great bunch of guys, especially some Native Americans from Oklahoma in recon."

ADAM JAMES DAMASCUS

U.S. Army: Radio operator, 29th Infantry Division,
115th Infantry Regiment, 1st Battalion, A,B,C Companies

European Theater: England, France, Belgium, Holland, Germany

Citations: Purple Heart; Unit Citation; The Croix De Guerre with Silver Star; The French Legion of Honor; and Combat Infantry Badge

Quote: “They teach you combat, but you only really know combat when in combat.”

RUDY DUALSKY

U.S. Army Air Corps: 15th Air Force, 454th Bomb Group

European Theater: Italy, Austria, Rumania, France and Yugoslavia. Flew 34 missions.

Citations: European Theater Army of Occupation Medal; WWII Victory Medal; Presidential Unit Citation; Silver Air Crew Wings; Good Conduct Medal

Quote: “My Service time was the best 2 years, 11 months, and 8 days of my life.”

HERBERT W. ENGEL

U. S. Army: Engineer

Pacific Theater: Army of Occupation, Japan

Citations: WWII Victory Medal; Army of Occupation Japan Medal

Quote: “The opportunity to serve in Japan has made a lasting impression in my life.”

MARTY ENGLEMAN

U.S. Army: 79th Infantry Division - Sergeant

European Theater: Glasgow, England, France, Germany

Citations: Battle Campaign Ribbons for the Rhineland and Central Europe

Quote: Marty remembers with great laughter how, in the middle of war, he marched for two days in mud to see the great General Patton. Unfortunately, Patton never showed up.

BILL FOSS



U.S. Navy: U.S.S. Harp, Destroyer

South Pacific Theater: Philippines, Borneo and Okinawa

Citations: Combat Bars for the Philippines, Borneo and Okinawa

Quote: "I was happy with my assignment because I wanted sea duty."

NORMAN GOODFARB



U.S. Army: Combat Engineer Division

European Theater: France

Citation: Combat Infantry Badge

Quote: "I still have deep sadness for my buddies who did not survive."

JOHN GROTH



U.S. Navy: M.M. 2nd Class - Machinist

South Pacific Theater: Marshall Islands and Marine Islands, Saipan

Citations: Purple Heart Medal; American Theater Medal; Victory Medal; Asiatic Pacific Medal

Quote: "I am no hero. My fellow mates who went down never to return are the only true heroes."

WILLIAM GROTH



U.S. Navy: Electrical Installations

Pacific Theater: Philippine Islands, Leyte Gulf

Quote: "The war experience was a most adventurous time in my life. It taught me to face life's challenges as they develop and to accentuate the positives of life."

DOROTHY W. KAUFMAN

U.S. Navy: WAVE - Yeoman (Quartermaster)

Stateside: Sampson Naval Training Center, Geneva, New York

Quote: "I wanted to do my part and was able to do so. I am proud to have been part of the war effort."

JOHN J. LOMBARDO

U.S. Army: 404th Engineer Division - Tech 4 Sergeant

South Pacific Theater: Tonga Island (Discovered by Captain Cook)

Citations: Asiatic-Pacific Medal; Good Conduct Medal;
American Defense Service Medal

Quote: "I was proud to serve my country."

ALFRED LONGOBARDI

U.S. Navy: Seaman First Class, U.S.S. Paul S. Baker, Destroyer Escort

Pacific Theater: Pearl Harbor, Saipan
(After the war, he returned home to become an N.Y.P.D. captain.)

Citations: Good Conduct Medal; WWII Victory Medal;
American Theater Medal; Asiatic Pacific Medal

Quote: "The war was a good learning experience."

NICK MACRI

U.S. Army: 81st Infantry Division - Platoon Sergeant/Machine Gunner

South Pacific Theater: Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Tulagi, Peleliu,
Angaur, Ulithi Islands, Philippines, Leyte, Army of Occupation, Japan

Citations: Combat Infantry Badge; Bronze Star; Commendation Medal;
Good Conduct Medal; Asiatic Pacific Medal; Philippines Liberation
Medal; Philippines Presidential Unit Citation; Army of Occupation
Japan Medal; WWII Victory Medal; American Campaign Medal;
Combat Action Ribbon, Expert Shooter: Carbine, Pistol, Machine Gun,
Mortar, Bayonet, Grenade, Sharp Shooter, Rifle

Quote: "War is hell when you see your buddies wounded or killed.
The sacrifice is so great."

HOWARD MATELLI

U.S. Army: Infantry 42nd Rainbow Division - Pfc. Rifleman and Medical Technician

European Theater: France, Austria

Citations: Army of Occupation Medal; World War II Victory Medal

Quote: "Being in the Infantry, I was eager and proud to be part of the war effort during World War II."

JOHN O'KEEFE

U.S. Navy: Naval Intelligence - Yeoman 1st Class, U.S.S. Miami (Light Cruiser)

South Pacific Theater

Quote: "I enjoyed my time in the Service very much."

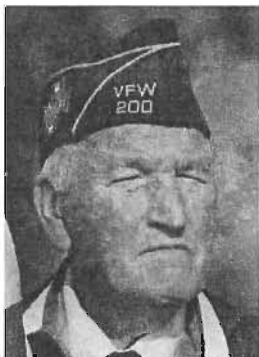
JOHN PALERMO

U.S. Army: 81st Infantry Division - Rifleman

South Pacific Theater: Philippine Islands, The Island of Angur in Palau Islands groups, Japan

Citations: Asiatic-Pacific Service Medal; Good Conduct Medal; Philippines Liberation Ribbon; World War II Victory Medal

Quote: "I remember the great guys who did not come back. I pray to the Almighty that there be no other wars."

BOB PHILLIPS

U.S. Navy: Chief Petty Officer. Trained at Sampson, New York. U.S.S. William Seiberling, Destroyer Escort

Pacific Theater: Battle of the Philippine Islands, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, and Japan

Citations: Four Battle Stars

Quote: "I was happy to survive."

JOHN PINGERA

U.S. Army: 172nd Field Artillery, 7th Corps

Pacific Theater: Alaska, Aleutian Islands

European Theater: Landed in Normandy on Utah Beach, served in France and Belgium

Citations: Asiatic Pacific Medal; World War II Victory Medal, Good Conduct Medal

Quote: "Do not start wars. World War II was an unforgettable experience for my generation. We were old before our time."

RUSS PURDY

U.S. Army: 614th Combat Engineer Division - Sergeant

European Theater: France, Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg Italy, Germany

Citations: Good Conduct Medal; American Occupation Medal; Victory in Europe Medal

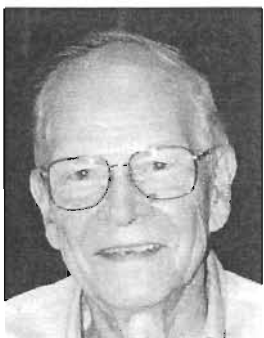
Quote: "I enjoyed working as an engineer operating heavy equipment and cranes."

ALDO RICCI

U.S. Army: Anti-aircraft Gunner

Pacific Theater: Iceland

Quote: "I remember many of my friends who were wounded or who had lost their lives. I feel lucky having survived the war."

WILLIAM J. RUDY

U.S. Army Air Corps: 8th Air Force, Navigator of B-17 Flying Fortress - First Lieutenant

European Theater: England, Germany - Flew 35 missions

Citations: Air Medal with 6 Clusters

Quote: "Reflecting on my experience, the most single, most helpful ingredient for me and those I flew with was youth."

SALLY E. SEITZ

U.S. Navy: Ensign, Navy Nurse

South Pacific Theater: Stateside: California

Quote: "I enjoyed my tour so much, I would go back tomorrow."

BILL (WILLIAM) F. SCHROPP, JR.

U.S. Army: 187th Combat Engineer Battalion

Southwest Pacific Theater: New Guinea, Luzon, Philippines, and Japan

Citations: Purple Heart Medal; American Service Medal; Asiatic Pacific Service Medal; Philippines Liberation Ribbon with Bronze Star; World War II Victory Medal; Good Conduct Medal, Pacific Theater

Quote: "War made me aware of the many people in the war and how they also survived while war was happening in their country. I also remember with great delight the opportunity that was given me to meet fellow soldiers from all over the U.S."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The last Monday in May brings Memorial Day, and many of us will be on vacation or at a backyard barbecue. It is also a time when Americans, young and old, will be reminded of the cruelties of war and the cost of freedom. Grave sites worldwide, with small American flags waving in the breeze, attest to the dedication of American GIs over the years. Memorial Day is not a day for politics, and not just for remembering, but a day for learning.

At the ceremony at Ardsley, the names called off are mostly graduates of Ardsley High School classes of 1939, '40, and '41. They answered the call of their country, went overseas to fight in a world war and paid the ultimate price.

Veterans and citizens will fulfill the promise of remembering these patriots and others with a moment of silence and a bugler playing taps.

If you are in town, please find a ceremony or parade and take a moment to remember those who sacrificed everything for our liberty, which we sometimes take for granted. While you are there, find a World War II veteran (now in their golden years), and shake his or her hand. A simple "Thank you for your service" will do wonders for you both.

—Veterans of American Legion Post #458,
Ardsley, New York (*Rivertowns Enterprise*,
2008/*The Journal News*, 2008)

“IT IS, I BELIEVE, THE GREATEST GENERATION ANY SOCIETY HAS EVER PRODUCED. THEY CAME OF AGE DURING THE GREAT DEPRESSION AND WWII AND WENT ON TO BUILD AMERICA—MEN AND WOMEN WHOSE EVERYDAY LIVES OF DUTY, HONOR, ACHIEVEMENT AND COURAGE GAVE US THE WORLD WE HAVE TODAY.”

-TOM BROKAW



The focus of Ardsley’s annual Memorial Day service is to honor and remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. Below are Ardsley’s fourteen young men who did not return home after World War II.

**Fred C. Baker
Robert Bunch, Jr.
Angelo Delmerico
Charles Duryea
Daniel R. Geis
George Hauptman
Robert L. Kakerbeck**

**Gordon Kreutz
David Longmuir
Edward T. Lynn
Thomas F. Mack, Jr.
James B. Mackenzie
Howard Secor
Kenneth Wood**

AN INTERESTING FACT:

Did you know that “Taps” has words? Here they are:

(1)

Day is done
Gone the sun
From the lakes
From the hills
From the sky
All is well
Safely Rest
God is nigh

(2)

Fading light
Dims the sight
And a star
Gems the sky
Gleaming bright
From afar
Drawing nigh
Falls the night

(3)

Thanks and praise
For our days
‘Neath the sun
‘Neath the stars
‘Neath the sky
As we go
This we know
God is nigh

If there are any other World War II veterans who are not included in this Newsletter, please contact The Ardsley Historical Society and we will gladly arrange to have you included in our next Newsletter.

Also, if you are a veteran interested in joining the American Legion Post #458 in Ardsley, please contact the Village Hall.

Many thanks to:

Ardsley, N.Y., *“The War Years: 1941-1945,”* by Fred N. Arone and Patricia Arone
All Ardsley American Legion Post #458 members who shared important information.



Current members of Ardsley American Legion Post #458 - Memorial Day 2008
Photo courtesy of Steve Wittenberg

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