

The Veterans of Deupree House



**HONORING
ALL WHO
SERVED**

VETERANS DAY

“It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died.
Rather we should thank God such men lived”

— George S. Patton

World War II - 1939-1945
Korean War - 1950-1953
Viet Nam Conflict - 1955-1975



Deupree House

A letter home after D-Day

June 7th, 1944

No. _____

Jack J. Hanlon
VESATAC
CENSORS STAMP

Mrs. Harry M Hanlon
Symmes Ave.
North Bend
OHIO

LT. J. J. HANLON 0422020
SENDER'S NAME
57240 B. So. APO # 140
SENDER'S ADDRESS
1. PM NEW YORK, N.Y.
June 7, 1944
DATE

Dear Mother and Dad: England

I suppose you have been wondering how I came through the great D-day. We were a pretty tired bunch of fellows last nite but I did manage a short letter to Mattie. We (my crew) all came out in fine shape, after a stopover at an emergency field had my trouble fixed and returned home. It was a great sight to see, more boats than a person could count. We got right in on the very first of it and it was certainly a busy place around our spot of business. We did get what we went after and that made me feel pretty good. They seem to be doing all right over there now but the weather is still making it awfully rough on the boys with wings. If we can get in our blows without too much sacrifice we will try our damndest to hit them. We are already bombing from a ~~low~~ level, that is way below our usual. Well, there isn't much else to say, I am fine and expect to keep right that way. Keep praying for us all and so till a wonderful day. Your loving son
Write -- all of you. *Jack*

V - MAIL





The Deupree House Crew

Andress, Frank
Austin, Arnold
Bartlett, Robert A.
Bayless, David
Beckman, Mark
Bigham, Margaret
Breiel, Wilson
Burkman, Ken
Campbell, David
Cavaliere, Chet
Cors, Captian L. Barry
Davis, Pierson
Dinsmore, Wiley
Faught, Walter S.
Fix, John "Jack" C.
Giesel, Roger G. M.D.
Ginsburg, Marshall
Gottschalk, Captian Dr. Jack
Gunnell, Dorothy
Harris, Albert E.
Hawley, Donald
Hopple, John
Jergens, Andrew
Keating, William J.
Koehler, Fred
Macaulay, Robert "Wally"
Magee, Jay

Matthews, Pierce
Matthews, Robert "Bob"
Maxwell, Elizabeth
Maxwell, Jim
McCormick, Robert
McOwen, Thomas B.
Muntz, Ernest G.
Nau, Robert
Nebergall, Jack
Nielsen, Eric C.
Ottenjohn, Thomas H.
Paulsen, Dick
Plattner, John W.
Raible, Earl
Risinger, Captain Robert E., USN, Ret.
Robertson, Robbie
Rohde, William "Bill"
Rowe, William "Bill" C.
Sarran, Wallace "Ted"
Schmidt, John "Jack" E.
Schreiner, Albert W. III, M.D.
Smith, Roger D.
Victor, William "Bill"
Wham, William B.
Williams, Jack
Wilson, Robert E.
Zwicky, John



Frank Address

WWII - 1944 - 1946

Frank was in the US Navy V-12 program to educate Naval Pilots. He had the rank of Midshipman. Frank attended Bethany College, Franklin, Marshall College, and University of Pennsylvania for engineering.

After the war ended, was sent to San Francisco in the peacetime.

Song requests:

Sentimental Journey



Arnold Austin

Korean-1951 - 1955

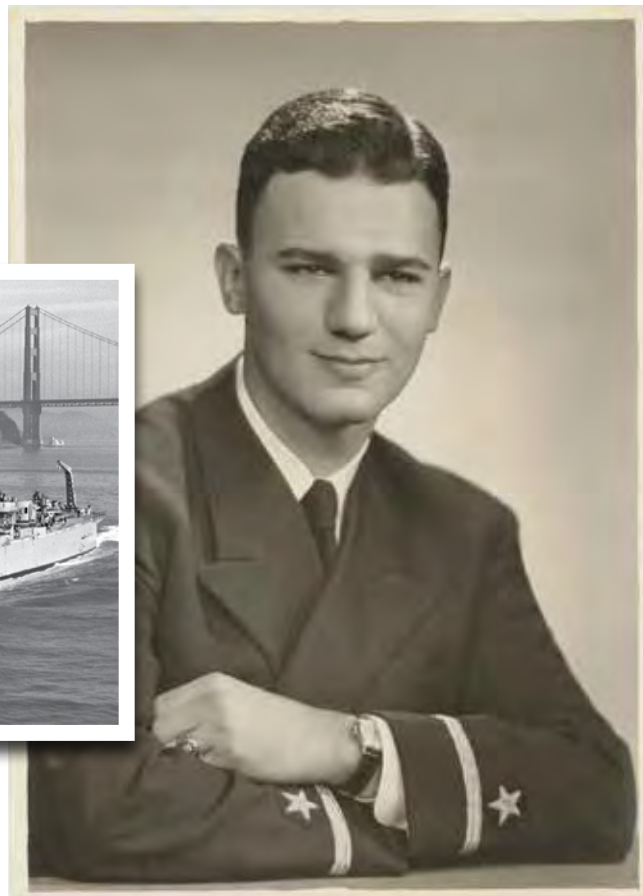
Arnie served on the USS Bremerton,
a heavy cruiser, with the 7th fleet in Korea.

Was transferred to a landing ship medium (LSM)
as executive officer in 1953

Had one year in the Naval Reserves before resigning my commission
as a Lieutenant.

Song requests:

Take the A Train
I Only Have Eyes for You



St. John Bain

WWII-1944 - 1946

Navy, Petty Officer 2nd Class

- Inducted into the Eddy Program which trained men to service Radar and Sonar equipment.
- Saint enlisted when he graduated from the Woodberry Forest School at 17. He was the only person in the Eddy program who had not been to college. He was stationed at the Great Lakes Training Station.
- My memory says he then went to Washington to a research center. Then aboard a ship sailing to Green Cover Springs, Florida to decommission that ship and then out of the Navy and on to University of Virginia and MIT.
- When in the Eddy program there was a weekly test. If he failed he would be on a ship to the Pacific. "Strong motivation to do well."



Robert Bartlett

WWII-1943 - 1946

Served in European Theater

Army specialized training program in Citadel, S.C. 04/43-06/44

100th Infantry Division (Fort Bragg) 07/44-08/45

Went overseas Oct. 1944,

Went into battle Nov. 1, 1944 France/Germany. In combat 6 mo.
as part of 4th Army.

Army sponsored college in Biarritz, France, 08/45-03/46

War ended in Europe

Returned home 04/46



David Bayless

Korean - 1956 - 1958

- U.S.N. Sept. '56 to Sept. '58
- No U.S. military active duty at the time.
- Oct. '56 to Sept. '58, Medical Officer, Armed Forces
- Examining Station, New Orleans
- Spent my days examining recruits and draftees.
- My wife and first son were with me.
- I am proud to have served, however I had absolute appreciation and sincere thanks for all those who were actually in a war situation, especially those who did not come home.



Mark Beckman

Korean -1956 - 1959



Attended flight school and flew 250 hours.

Assigned to radar training and flew 30 hours in set-up exercises for pilots training for using airborne radar.

Song request:

Air Force Anthem



Margarat Bigham

WWII-1940 - 1942



Peg on left

Served: June 1940-1942 in the WAAF, Royal Air Force

No. 10 Fighter Group/Rudloc Manor,
Operations Room

Plotting air craft flying over their sector.

Tracking the weather- wind direction, board etc, etc. current.

Song Requests:

The White Cliffs of Dover
Maresy-Doetsy Dotes



Wilson Breiel

WWII - 1943 - 1946

Entered service at age 17 and was assigned to NROTC at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York as apprentice seaman.

Commissioned February 1946 as Ensign and assigned to duty aboard light cruiser USS Montpelier as engineering officer.

Served in Atlantic Theater until discharge following the end of the war with Japan.



Ken Burkman

Korean -1949 - 1954



1945-1949 in the Academy.

1949-1954 U.S. Coast Guard (active service.)

1955-1964 Active Reserve.



David Campbell

WWII + - 1940 - 1970

- Joined US Army Air Corps (USAAC) in 1940
- Became a qualified fighter pilot flying P-40 aircraft in 1942 (at age 19)
- In 1943 flew a P-40 from US Navy Aircraft Carrier in North Africa. Flew 61 combat missions involving bomber escort, air to air combat, and ground strafing missions. In air combat, shot down 2 German aircraft.
- Returned to U.S. on his 21st birthday.
- 1944-1945 taught fighter combat tactics to US, Turkish, Mexican and Brazilian pilots.
- 1946-1949 in occupied Japan, flew in VJ celebration, with over 500 allied aircraft over Tokyo.
- In 1947 qualified to fly his first jet aircraft (P-80)
- 1950-1952 taught US and students from 5 different NATO countries how to fly jet aircraft.
- 1953-1956 on exchange assignment with the RAF, teaching RAF pilots how to fly jet aircraft.
- He and his wife were guests of the RAF at the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth and later invited to Buckingham Palace for a Garden Party and to meet the new queen.
- 1956-1957 Fighter interceptor pilot in Air Defense Command. Attended USAF Command & Staff College and the RCAF War College.
- 1958-1963 Assigned to USAF headquarters.
- 1964-1966 USAF Air Attache office in Pakistan; traveled extensively to India, Bangladesh, Burma, Nepal, Afghanistan, Iran, and Egypt. Flew the American Ambassador in Pakistan to various in-country locations as required.
- 1966-1970 Staff officer in Strike Command (now Central Command), Tampa, FL. In conjunction with the Dept. of State, wrote military plan to evacuate/defend American citizens as required by problems developing in their particular country. Traveled extensively throughout Ethiopia along with 2 senior officers from the JCS to evaluate Emperor Haile Sellasie's request for military assistance and to make recommendations to the President of the US.
- In 1969, was fortunate enough to fly an F-4 aircraft a little over Mach 2. (With tailwind I was about 1500 MPH while over the Gulf of Mexico.)
- Retired from the USAF in 1970 after 30 years of service.

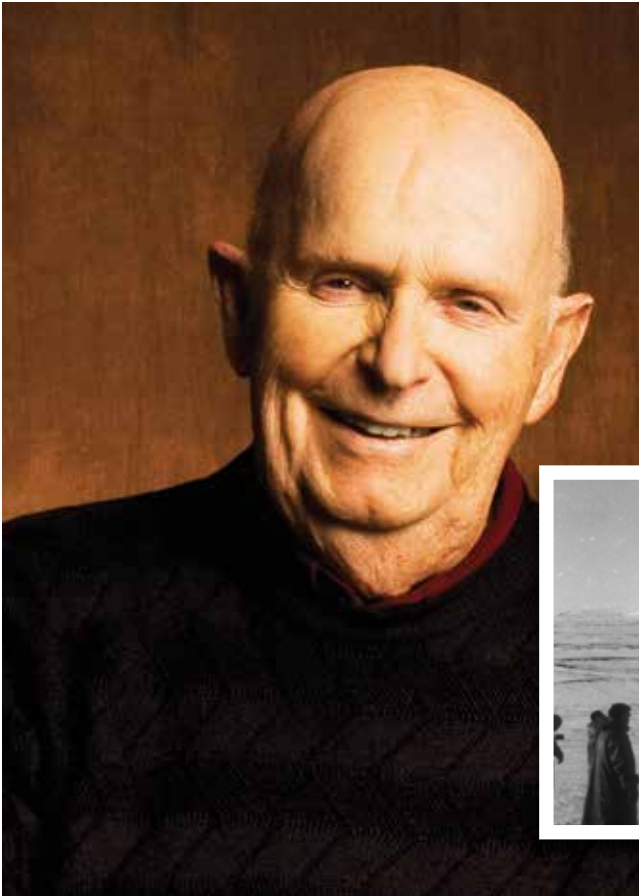
Awards and Decorations:

- USAF Command Pilot
- Honorary Pilot in British Royal Air Force
- Honorary Pilot in Belgian Royal Air Force
- Rated as a Skilled Fighter Interceptor Pilot
- The Distinguished Flying Cross
- USAF Meritorious Service Medal
- US Army Good Conduct Medal
- Eleven Air Metals
- Presidential Unit Citation



Chet Cavaliere

WWII-1943 - 1945



Trained as Morse Code and voice radio operator.

From Dec. 1943 to Aug. 1945 at a weather base on Baffin Island (south of the Arctic Circle) transmitting weather reports for use by Ferry Pilots taking B-17 bombers to England.

Base consisted of 30 G.I.'s and a tribe of Eskimos.

Song Request:

I'll Be Seeing You



Captain Barry Cors

Korean - 1954 - 1957

Went on active duty at the end of the (active) Korean conflict, as a Lieutenant, separated as a Captain. Stationed at Moses Lake Air Force Base, Washington, with the 8th Troop Carrier Squadron. A navigator on a C-124 globemaster, carrying troops and equipment.

Many missions to the DEW Line (Distant Early Warning Line) in Alaska, with heavy construction machinery as cargo. Due to security, could not use electronic navigation equipment which would disclose location of classified sites. Most missions were navigated by dead reckoning, since foul weather obliterated land and sky. Landed and took off on frozen sea ice.

Temporary assignments (TDY) to Pacific Islands and Japan. Also served as a loadmaster and Squadron Adjutant (administrative officer).

While in Training Command, owned a light aircraft and was a licensed pilot.

Song Request:

U.S. Air Force song



Pierson Davis

WWII, Korean -1942 - 1953

Pacific Theater Dec. 5, 1943-Feb. 5, 1946.

Army Active Reserve 4/3/1950-4/3/1953

- 6+ months in combat zone Lae, Papau, New Guinea
- Forces were bombed but no ground action.
- 5+ months in combat zone in Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea
- Came under sniper fire, but that was all.
- Served in the Corps of Engineers- mostly as a surveyor.
- Was on the way to Okinawa for the invasion, kept supply lines open.

After the war, while in the Philippines, an interpreter showed him a creek filled with the bones of men, women, and children the Japanese had machine gunned and left to fall into the creek. There were close to 100 yards of bones filling the creek bed.



Wiley Dinsmore

1956 - 1958

Stationed at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma

Wiley was an Artillery Officer and taught gunnery.



Walter Faught

WWII - 1945 - 1946



1	Wish Me Luck	Gracie Fields	2:58
2	Love Is the Sweetest Thing		3:18
3	A Nightingale Song in Berkeley Square	Anne Shelton	3:12
4	When I'm Cleaning Windows		2:52
5	The White Cliffs of Dover	Vera Lynn	3:15
6	Run Rabbit Run	Flanagan & Allen	2:46
7	Adolf		3:00
8	Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy	The Andrews Sisters	2:40
9	Whispering Grass (Don't Tell the Trees)		2:44
10	Kiss Me Goodnight, Sergeant Major	Arthur Askey	2:56
11	Perfidia	Ray Eberle	3:19
12	There'll Always Be an England	Joe Loss	3:03
13	Lili Marlene	Anne Shelton	2:49
14	We Must All Stick Together		3:06
15	Yours [Quéreme Mucho]	Bob Eberly	3:14
16	It's a Pair of Wings for Me	Nat Gonella	2:47
17	I, Yi, Yi, Yi, Yi (I Like You Very Much)	Carmen Miranda	2:14
18	Begin the Beguine	Artie Shaw & His Orchestra	3:12
19	Amapola Lacalle	Bob Eberly	3:24
20	Obey Your Air Raid Warden	Tony Pastor	2:32
21	The Home-Coming Waltz	Ivy Benson	3:12



Jack Fix

WWII - 1942 - 1946

When his draft arrived in late 1941, he chose to enlist in the Navy. In less than five months and as a recent graduate of the Sonar Sound School in Key West, was assigned to the U.S.S. PC-566 (Honesdale) for anti-sub patrol in the Gulf of Mexico. On a bright sunny day, while on bridge duty, witnessed a torpedo go by and sink the passenger liner Robert E. Lee. He immediately picked up the sound of subs.

They made a severe depth run but never found success. 70 years later, Robert Ballard did a TV show and found the sunken Uboat and concluded that the PC-566 had sunk the U-166 (the only sub ever sunk in the Gulf of Mexico).

- Skipper of PC-566.
- Received medal of Valor.



Roger Giesel, M.D.

Korean -1955 - 1957

"I'm proud to have served with the U.S. Army from 1955-1957, during the Korean War. I had been deferred 10-12 years after high school graduation for education- for college and medical school.

Became a Doctor, a Captain, in the U.S. Army Medical Corps 1955-1957. Was assigned to the 5th General Hospital in Stuttgart, Germany for two years. Worked as a Pediatrician at this hospital for thousands of military dependent's children.

Received concurrent travel, a perk no longer offered. My wife and son, Roger, traveled with me to Germany in December 1955.

We lived for two years in Field Officer Quarters behind the largest PX in Europe. We had a full-time Czechoslovakian refugee maid living on the third floor. The US Army brought my big Oldsmobile to Germany, sold us gasoline at \$0.14 a gallon at PXs all over Germany.

We used 60 days Leave in these two years to travel all over Europe. I was fortunate to have a safe assignment and did not suffer much during my two years in the military. I am proud to have served but it was not always this easy; I had many military field experiences during this time."



Marshall Ginsburg

Korean - 1958 - 1960

Division Psychiatrist, 1st Cavalry Division, Korea



Captain Dr. Jack Gottschalk

Korean-1955 - 1957

U.S. Army Dental Corp – 82nd Airborne

No active duty abroad.

Stationed in Fayetteville, N.C for 2 years.

Oral surgery – great learning experience.

Song Request:

Count Basie



Dorothy Gunnell

WWII - 1942 - 1945

Royal Canadian Air Force, Womens' Division

Sent to Dayton, OH as a procurement officer, procuring airplane parts. Was in a building that was similar to a "United Nations" gathering. Each country had a floor with people like Dorothy working to obtain supplies for their own military.



Al Harris

Korean -1955 - 1957

Quartermaster corps – Research and Development.

Never left the U.S.A.

Never fired a shot after basic training.

Still happy to have served and feel it was worthwhile.

Most extended assignment was as a cross-country ski instructor in field evaluation of new insulated combat boots.



Donald Hawley

Korean- 1950 - 1952

- U.S. Naval Station in Newport, Rhode Island
- Naval Hospital in Newport, Rhode Island



John Hopple

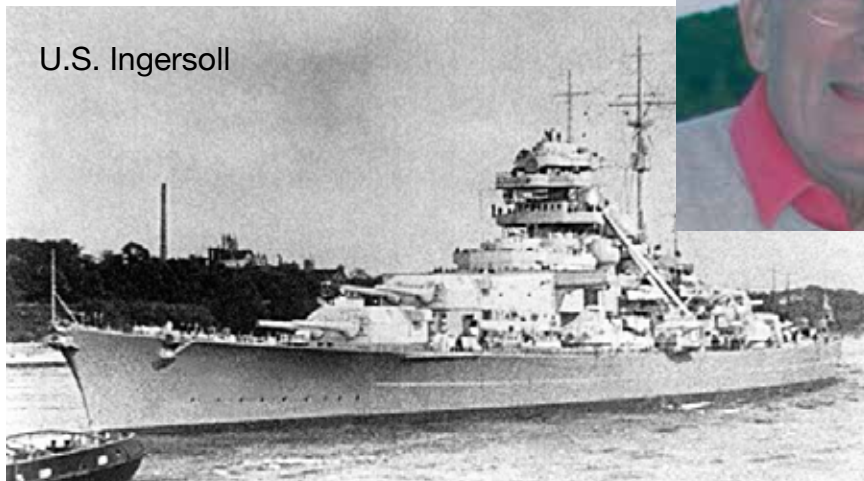
Korean -1953 - 1955

- Korean Service Medal and China Service Medal
- Task Force engagement in Formosa

He patrolled the Formosa straits as part of the 7th fleet. His ship was the U.S. Ingersoll—a destroyer. The 7th fleet was the largest fleet in peace time. He spent time on the U.S. Oriskany—a U.S. Carrier transported from the Ingersoll by “chair” and returned by helicopter because of heavy seas. He was a lieutenant (J6). He circumnavigated the globe.

Song Request:

Navy Hymm



Summers Hunter

WWII - 1943 - 1947

British Army, Royal Corps of Signals

Brigade of Lambs (all 210+) landed in France June 16.

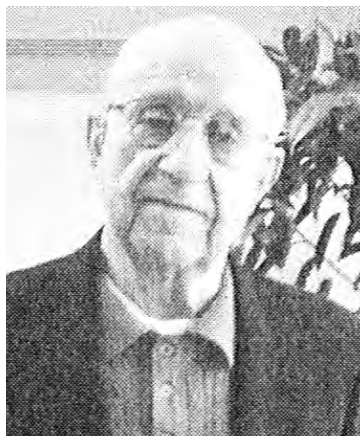
As a radio operator, worked between Brigade HQ and Brigade Tactical HQ.

Saw a lot of action attached to a candrain Division on the German border.

Was sent to India to the 104th Landing Brigade of the 201st Indian Division.

Headed for Japan but at the last moment, was removed and sent to the Malayan Peninsula to the Royal Air Force at newly "acquired" airfield at Butterworth – across from Penang. 14-15 months there, then back to the U.K.

Jan. 1958, I arrived in New York and here I am!!"



Andrew MacAoidh Jergens

1959 - 1965

U.S. Army Ordnance Corps

Dates of Service: February 27, 1959 to January 16, 1961 (active duty)

January 16, 1961 to January 31, 1965 (reserve to discharge)

I got my draft notice from President Eisenhower. I did my basic training at Fort Ord, California. I was assigned to Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland where I was an Officer Personnel Specialist. I maintained Garrison Officers' pay records and other personnel records.

I was the Aberdeen Soldier of the Month for August 1960 and therefore orderly to the Secretary of the Army (Wilbur Brucker) at his annual conference with defense contractors. I also took part in guard duty at a fireworks explosion in nearby Havre De Grace.

I was awarded the Army Good Conduct Medal and the National Defense Service Medal for my 16 days active duty in 1961.



Pictured with Wilbur M. Brucker,
Secretary of the Army.



Bill Keating

WWII-1945 - 1946

Later served as 1st Lieutenant Judge Advocate General
for the U.S. Air Force Reserve



Fred Koehler

Korean - 1952 - 1960

Served during Korean Conflict.

Stationed in Japan for 2 years.



Wally Macaulay

WWII-1943 - 1946

Army Combat Engineer, 1943-1946

Served in reserves until 1953

"I was a college student studying for an exam when my roommate shouted 'They have bombed Pearl Harbor!' My life was changed forever. I joined the ROTC and was called to active duty in 1943.

After a year of training for the invasion of Japan, my unit, the 1298 Combat Engineer Battalion, sailed on July 30, 1945. On August 6, 1945 Hiroshima was bombed and August 9, Nagasaki. War over!

On September 25, 1945 we landed in Nagasaki and spent three months rebuilding roads and bridges, unaware of the hidden dangers from Residual Radiation. We had a first-hand witness to the awesome power of Atomic weapons.

Never Again!"



Jay Magee

WWII - 1941 - 1946

Enlisted the day after Pearl Harbor.

Basic training was at Parris Island, South Carolina, before shipping out to New Zealand with the 1st Marine Division, 1st Battalion, C Company – “the Old Breed.” Mission was to prepare for the invasion of Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands.

Fought in the battle of Guadalcanal for 5 months, battling the Japanese and diseases such as Malaria and Jungle Rot.

On 12/28/1942, Company was shipped to Australia, for 6 months of preparation for the Battle of New Britain. Target was a critical Japanese Base and supply depot located on the North end of New Britain. Many soldiers contracted diseases while he remained healthy, and thus available for more missions.

Fought in the battle of Gloucester on the Island of New Britain. Company was assigned to protect the PT boats and tenders, which were located away from HQ. One of the boats was rumored to be carrying the future President Kennedy. While on the island, was called back to HQ by the General. Unsure of what the General wanted, there was no room for argument as the General sent his personal pilot and a small plane to pick him up. Nothing was explained regarding the General's request. Forced to make a wet landing in the Pacific due to Mechanical issues, leaving them in a difficult situation, compounded by the fact the pilot could not swim. Was able to get the pilot to hold on to something floating at the crash site before starting to swim to shore. Could see the island from the crash and after making it to shore, made contact with an islander who swam out to save the pilot. Made it safely, but all his gear, save for his knife, went to the bottom of the Pacific. Command located them and sent a boat to pick them up the following day. Eventually made it back to his company, but never spoke to the General and to this day, has no idea why he was wanted at the base.

Moved to a tiny island consisting only of sand, rocks, and trees; Pavuvu in the Russell Islands. This became the new HQ where they trained for their next mission, another invasion on the island of Peleliu.

After boarding the transport ship for the invasion, received orders to gather gear and get off the boat.

For him, the war was over.



front right

Pierce Matthews

WWII-1943 - 1945

Was drafted to the U.S. Army Air Force in 1943, spent basic training in Miami Beach, Florida. Left U.S. on 2/4/1944 on the Queen Elizabeth for England. In England, was assigned to the 1813 Ordinance Battalion as an aircraft armorer for a P-47 fighter group.

Landed on Omaha beach on D-Day-plus-six with the 366th Fighter group.

On 11/13/1944 was transferred to the 21st weather squadron and promoted to the rank of Corporal with a rank of Weather Observer. Operated a mobile weather station attached to general Patton's headquarters. Traveled across Europe, mainly through France, Belgium and Germany. Trapped in the Battle of the Bulge but was able to escape unharmed. Received the EAME theater service medal with six bronze stars and a victory medal.

Left Europe on 11/21/1945 for the U.S. on the S.S. Madawaska Victory. Honorably discharged 12-10-1945.

Copy of diary:

2/4/44: Left New York for England
2/8/44: Arrived in Glasgow, Scotland
3/21/44: Chorley, England
4/19/44: Bamber Bridge, England
4/27/44: Christchurch, England (assigned to 1813 Ordinance Battalion, 366 Fighter Group)
6/12/44: Omaha Beach, France (D-Day plus 6)
7/4/44: Pickaville, Normandy, France
8/12/44: Paris, France
8/13/44: St. Dizier, France
11/13/44: Chantilly, France (assigned to the 21st Weather Battalion)
11/20/44: Nancy, France
1/8/45: Luxembourg City, Luxembourg
3/30/45: Ider Oberstien, Germany
4/5/45: Frankfort, Germany
4/12/45: Bad Hersfeld, Germany
4/24/45: Erlanger, Germany
6/10/45: Nice, France (furlough)
7/1/45: Potsdam, Germany Big 4 Conference)
8/4/45: Berlin, Germany (Tempelhoff Airdrome)
10/4/45: Bad Kissingen, Germany
10/22/45: Kassel, Germany
11/10/45: Stuttgart, Germany
11/21/45: LeHavre, France
12/10/45: Indian Town Gap,
PA (Discharged)



Bob Matthews

WWII - 1943 - 1946

He remained in the service for 30 months, until receiving an Honorable Discharge in 1946.

His assignments were at the University of Vermont, Flight Engineer Training in Mississippi for B-24 Bombers, factory training on propellers, maintaining a propeller shop and flight line maintenance for P-47 fighter squadron.

All of the 30 months of service were spent in the U.S.



Elizabeth "Bette" Maxwell

Korean - 1952 - 1955

Air Force - MATS (Military Air Transport Service) Stewardess.
MATS service area - Europe, Japan, Alaska
Aircraft - C-54, C-97, C-124

While a stewardess based in Washington State, Bette met and married Bob Kramer, a Air Force Loadmaster. Thus, Bette, the Uath native, came to Cincinnati where they raised their family.



Jim Maxwell

Korean - 1947 - 1955

Midshipman: 1947 - 1951 Harvard & Columbia
LTJG USN: 1952 -1955

Sea duty, all services after 1951 commissioning paymaster
and supply officer.

USS Skagit (AKA -105) 1953 san Diego
USS Charles R. Ware (DD-865) 1953 - 55 Newport, R.I.

Korean Service Ribbon with Battle Star
U.S. and Mediterranean Service



Bob McCormick

Korean -1944 - 1946

Joined the 1st Marine Division in the Solomon Islands as a replacement.

Participated in the Okinawa campaign.

Participated in the occupation of North China after the Japanese surrendered

Song request:

I'll Be Seeing You



Tom McOwen

Korean - 1968 - 1970

Served as Captain of US Army, 1968-1970 (Active Duty).
Reserves until August 1982

As probably the youngest veteran here at Deupree, my service was long after WWII or even Korea, but during the Vietnam era. In December of 1967 I received my draft notice and like my father (who served on active duty in WWI then came back to serve in WWII, and again was in the reserves during Korea) joined the US Army. After basic training and Officer's Candidate School, I was sent as a young Lieutenant not to Vietnam but the other "hot spot" at the time, the Korean Demilitarization Zone (DMZ). Due to the threat of invasion from the North, the Army would not pay for spouses to accompany their husband so my resourceful wife volunteered as a nurse for the Presbyterian Mission Board and worked in the International Clinic at the major hospital in Seoul.

The Korean DMZ is a 4 km wide strip on the border between North and South Korea roughly following the 38th parallel. My job as an Army Corp of Engineer Officer was to "reinforce" with concrete the hastily installed wooden bunkers in the American guard posts located on mountain tops in the DMZ. This was necessary due to the nightly "firefights" our infantry would encounter with North Korean soldiers who crossed the border to the south. As you can't see in the photo due to the clouds, North Korea was just several hundred feet away. During my time there the North Koreans had installed giant loud speakers along the border and would broadcast to the American troops propaganda including reciting various soldier's personal data. I found out several years later that while I was working in these guard posts, the North Koreans were directly below me digging tunnels in preparation for an invasion into the south.

Yes it was cold. Due to the combat conditions we could only ride in totally open vehicles and would encounter wind chill temperatures of -65 degrees F.

Technically we are still at war with North Korea as we only have an armistice in place.



Ernest Muntz

WWII-1942 - 1946

1942-1946 with USAAC/USAAF/USAF

1946-1975 USAF Reserves

Enlisted in 1942

Commissioned 2nd Lieutenant 11/1944

Served as communication/Cryptographic Security Officer
11/1944-06/1946 in Philippine Islands and Okinawa.

1946-1975 served in USAF Active Reserve

Detachments (1951-1961)University of Rochester,
University of Mississippi, and Memphis State University.

Also served with USAF Academy (Colorado Springs, CO) 1961-1975.

Retired in 1975 after achieve rank of Colonel.



Robert Nau

WWII - 1944 - 1946

US Army 164 Infantry Regiment - America Division, Staff Sergeant

We entered combat on the islands of Cebu and Negros in the Philippines with the America Division May - June 1945.

On September 1 we left Cebu on our way to the Tasakawya Airbase in Japan. We arrived in Tokyo harbor September 2 and were the first infantry division to arrive four hours after the armistice was signed on the battleship Missouri. There were approximately 300 American and Allied ships in the harbor. It was an awesome sight and tears were shed.

We were aware the Japanese may still resist as we walked on to Japanese soil with our safety off prepared to fight. They did not.

I was awarded the Bronze battle star medal for the occupation of Japan.



Jack Nebergall

WWII - 1942 - 1946

Fought the Japanese in the West Pacific Ocean theater. Had several close encounters:

- Japanese bombing at Subic Bay Airport
- Japanese infantry & artillery barrage at Ormoc Bay
- Japanese infantry confrontation at Mindoro, Philippines (13–16 December 1944)
- Japanese infantry confrontation at Luzon, Philippines (9 January – 15 August 1945)

In latter two instances, Japanese infantry killed two men within feet of him.

Had an interesting trip overseas to New Guinea, as his boat zig-zaged continuously and constantly all across the Pacific before an airplane took him from New Guinea to Luzon (Leyte Gulf.)



Eric Nielsen

WWII-1943 - 1946

Graduated college and enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Force in 1943.

Sent to Boca Raton and helped turn a fine hotel into army barracks.

Sent to Cadet School in Grand Rapids, MI.

Became a 2nd Lieutenant and was shortly sent to Honolulu, then to Christmas Island with the coconuts and gooney birds, as an operations officer.

Then sent to Saipen as an operations officer seeing planes in and out. Approached one plane and was met by an officer with a machine gun, who said "Not this plane, Lieutenant!" (Later learned that the plane carried half of the atomic bomb and was on its way to Tinian to meet a navy ship carrying the other half. The bomb was assembled on Tinian before being dropped on Hiroshima Aug. 6, 1945.)

Before returning to the states, was sent around the Pacific, in Japan I was in a rickshaw coming home from dinner, separated from our group, no one spoke English and I didn't speak Japanese, but I saw many hotels before finding the right one.

I was discharged as a Captain in California in 1946. It was then back home and into the lithographing business.



Tom Ottenjohn

Korean - 1952 - 1954

State-side service during the Korean War.



Dick Paulsen

Korean -1951 - 1954

Gunnery officer in the Atlantic Theater. No battle or near battles.
Was exclusively on destroyers (a rough ride.)

In late 1954, we gave our ship to the Japanese as part of our Mutual Defense Assistance Program. Was one of 8 officers to stay on-board to assist the Japanese (for about 2 weeks), after which he was released from active duty.

He then moved from Milwaukee to Cincinnati (a good move).

Charleston, S.C. was his home base, a very nice place to be in the early 50's. We thought a lot about our buddies in the thick of the deadly Korean War. We were just lucky, I guess, and visited most all of Europe, the Mediterranean area, and the Caribbean points of interest. You can get to many places on a destroyer, over a three year stretch.

Song request:

Hey There



Jack Plattner

WWII - 1943 - 1945

After completing my freshman year at Northwestern and celebrating my 18th birthday, I entered the Army from Evanston, Illinois in May of 1943. First assignment was 17 weeks of basic training at Fort [then Camp] Hood, Texas, as a replacement anti-tank gunner. It was very hot!

Then to Camp VanDorn, Mississippi where I joined the 63rd Infantry Division. When checkin in after a short leave, I became a Medic, [litter bearer!] assigned to the 1st Battalion Aid Station, 253rd Regiment. After a short period the Division left New York for Marseilles, France- a 14-day voyage in convoy. We went by box car and truck to a position along the Rhine replacing a unit sent to the Battle of the Bulge. Then moved to a position along the Saar River, bordering Germany. After some time, we crossed the river into Germany moving north. During this time, on February 16, 1945, I received the Bronze Star Medal for "heroic achievement" treating and evacuating casualties. The Division continued through the Saarland and crossed the Rhine and entered Heidelberg, an open city.

From Heidelberg we moved south-east and crossed the Danube at Günzburg. During this period, I received a second Bronze Star [Oak Leaf Cluster] for carrying twenty-nine casualties under fire.

The Germans were defeated at this point and we went by truck on the Autobahn to Hilttenfingen, a small village where 4000 German prisoners surrendered to us [about 125]! We left there and went by truck North to Wertheim and Tauberbischofsheim where we went into Occupation.

As a part of rearranging divisions to send high-point men home first, I left the 63rd division and went to the 36th division in Goeppingen, a pleasant town near Stuttgart. In September of 1945, I was moved again to the 3rd Division in Kassel. Central Kassel was completely devastated- the whole central city nothing but a 20-foot pile of bricks and debris. During this time I was able to visit Paris and spend seven days in Britain.

The Army established two Univeristy centers staffed by US faculty members. I applied while in Kassel and was accepted at the American University at Biarritz, a French resort on the Bay of Biscay. I took three for-credit courses there, including typing- probably the most useful of any.

From Biarritz, I returned to the U.S. and in September returned to Northwestern.

These years were a wonderful experience that I would not want to repeat!"



Earl Raible

WWII-1942 - 1946

U.S. Air Corps -Ground Crew



Captain Robert Risinger

1958 - 1987

Joined the Navy Reserve in high school in Huntington, IN.

Applied to the Naval Academy in 1954 and after graduation was assigned to Navy Supply School in Athens, GA and served on the USS Barton DD722, home-ported in Norfolk, VA.

Served in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations at the Pentagon.

Served for two years at the Naval Air Station in Atsugi, Japan where his son Timothy was born.

Selected to attend Post-Grad. School in Monterey, CA, graduating with a Master of Science degree.

Responsible for Weapon System Project Development reports to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for R&D, in the Office of the Chief of Naval Material, in Washington, D.C.

Later served 2 years aboard the USS Regulas AF 57 in San Francisco Bay, supplying ships at sea off the coast of Vietnam.

Witnessed the burning of Alcatraz by American Indians while at a cocktail party.

Served the Oakland, CA Army base, overseeing the loading of merchant vessels destined to Vietnam.

Returned to Washington D.C. and was promoted to Commander of Military Traffic Management Command, then later transferred to the Naval Air Station Cubi Point, Philippines for two years.

Was promoted to Captain and returned to Washington D.C., responsible for the development of the five year defense plan budget for the Defense Logistic Agency.

After three years, returned to MTMC as Chief of Operations until retirement in 1987.

Enjoyed every aspect of the Navy and proud to have served, coming into contact with exceptional friends and associates throughout his career.

Awards/Citations:

- Defense Superior Service Medal
- Meritorious Service Medal
- Joint Service Commendation Medal
- Navy Commendation Medal



Robbie Robertson

WWII-1942 - 1945

Joined the Navy Reserve in high school in Huntington, IN.

I began my career in Texas and then moved to Europe. My European service includes service in: England, Normandy, La Harve, Belgium, Colmar, Germany and Austria. During this time I was a Corporal in the 12th Armored Division.

Of the many experiences I had two are memorable.

- I was part of the team that captured the bridge across the Danube.
- Most poignant was my role in the liberation of the Landsberg Concentration Camp in Bavaria.



Bill Rohde

Korean - 1951 - 1953

Unit training in Oklahoma and Louisville, KY. Received orders for deployment to Japan- Hokaido, for combat training.

Was a lieutenant preparing for combat training.

Transferred from Hokaido to Korea for more combat training. Set up HQ in Korea for future combat. Was relieved of duty upon returning to the U.S.

Upon returning home, met his 8-month old daughter for the first time.

Song Requests:

Sentimental Journal
Moonlight Serenade
Paper Doll



Bill Rowe

WWII-1944 - 1946

Entered Service at NYNY; then 10 weeks of recruit training/boot camp; at U.S. NTC Bainbridge, M.D. 19 weeks Radioman School in Bainbridge, M.D., then 7 weeks pre-comm training in Norfolk, VA

Assigned to U.S.S. Gearing (DD-710) Destroyer at Brooklyn Navy Yard. Ship commissioned May 3, 1945, shortly thereafter the war in Europe ended.

Ship proceeded to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba on shakedown cruise.

Ship returned to Brooklyn Navy Yard to install new equipment to better combat Japanese Kamikaze attacks at Okinawa, which were devastating the destroyer screen.

Ship was in Norfolk, VA as the war in the Pacific ended.

Ship was reassigned to Atlantic Fleet.

Rest of service was spent in training exercises up and down the East Coast, Gulf of Mexico, and the Caribbean.

Song Request:

Moonlight Serenade



Ted Sarran

Korean - 1951 - 1963

Lieutenant/Commander.

Naval Aviator.

Flew 12 different types of aircraft.

Jet Fighter Pilot aboard the aircraft carrier USS Wasp in the South China Sea as part of the famous Task Force 77.

Flew missions over North and South Korea.

Had over 100 carrier landings (50 at night) and carried the Mark 8 Nuclear Weapon.

Last assignment was a gunnery instructor

Requested song,

Memories



Jack Schmidt

Korean -1953 - 1955

1st Lieutenant.
Supply officer Lockbourne AFB (SAC)



Bill Schreiner, M.D.

Korean - 1953 - 1955

U.S. Army Medical Corp

Chief of internal medicine, 21st station Hospital
in Busan, Korea

Medical consultant to third republic of Kong Hospital,

Chief of Gastroenterology, Tokyo Army Hospital, Tokyo, Japan



Roger Smith

1959 - 1962

Army Medical Corps stationed in Germany during peacetime.



Bill Victor

WWII - 1943 - 1946

1949-1979 U.S. Army Reserves
1943-1944 Engineering Education and Training

Assigned to the 103rd Infantry Division in 03/1944 for training at Camp Howze, TX

Aug. 1944, Division equipped for combat and embarked from New York City

Oct. 1944, arrived in Marseilles, France – assigned as a Private First Class (PFC)
60 mm Mortar Gunner

Nov. 1944, combat in Southern France and up the Rhine River valley into the Vosges Mountains to the German Border, then North to the Battle of the Bulge.

Jan. 1945, back to the border and attacked Sessenheim, France unsuccessfully, several buddies died or were captured, only 35 were left in company. Were replenished with fresh recruits, then back to the Line. As the Germans retreated, we pursued them across Germany, crossing the Rhine at Speyer. Continued through Germany to Landsberg (where Hitler wrote Mein Kampf while in prison) and liberated a concentration camp there. Continued pursuing the Germans through Austria to Innsbruck, then south through the Brenner Pass to Italy. When Germany Surrendered on May 8, they returned to Austria for the Occupation through the summer of 1945, where they were retrained for the invasion of Japan.

When the war ended in September of 1945, they waited 5 months for transportation back to the U.S. Spent Christmas Eve in Stuttgart, Germany, then shipped home.

Discharged as a Sergeant in charge of the Mortar Squad.
College – ROTC commission – 2nd Lieutenant

While in the Reserves, worked in telecommunications with the Bell System so switched to the Signal Corps. Attended weekly meetings in Cincinnati and 2-week active duty annually somewhere in the U.S.

During the Cold War – 2nd Lieutenant to Lieutenant Colonel in the Strategic Communication Command. In case of war, my mobilization assignment was Ft. Huachuca, AZ

Awards/Citations:

- Bronze Star for over 100 days in combat
- Purple Heart in France for a minor shrapnel wound
- 2 Battle Stars for the Vosges Mountains and the Battle of the Bulge

Requested Song:

Boogie Woogie Bugle
Boy of Company B



Bill Victor con't.

Awards/Citations:

- Bronze Star for over 100 days in combat
- Purple Heart in France for a minor shrapnel wound
- 2 Battle Stars for the Vosges Mountains and the Battle of the Bulge



Requested Song: *Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy of Company B*



The Time I Knowingly Ate Horsemeat

Bill Victor, Sgt. US Army, Ret.

In early November 1944, my rifle company, "L", 411th Infantry Reg't attacked the small town of Barr in Alsace-Lorraine (Eastern France). After securing the town we were subject to sniper fire from the surrounding forest.

We were told to seek shelter for the night and we would continue east toward the Rhine River the next morning. The house we took over was occupied by a grandmother and two small children, about 8-10 years old. We assured them they were safe with us, and we asked them to move to the basement for the night. We would be on guard all night, and we would move out in the morning. With our limited German and French and their lack of English, sign language worked and they understood we weren't the "beasts" Himmel had portrayed of all Americans.

Every movement during the night prompted enemy fire, so we knew the German Army had not gone far.

In the morning all were safe, we said goodbye and cautiously moved to the assembly area to start Easy on the main road to continue the attack.

Almost as soon as we started down the road in the usual column of twos on both sides of the road we were surprised to see a four horse team galloping towards us. It was a wagon mounted 88m gun, with four German soldiers aboard, as surprised as we were by the confrontation.

We scattered, hit the ground, and started firing. The first casualties were the four horses. The four soldiers were quickly captured and we waited for the rest of them to arrive. No one came!

After a long wait we were ordered back to Barr to await further orders. My squad went back to the house we had just left. We explained to "Grandma" what had happened. She understood "dead horses," smiled, and haltingly asked permission to recruit her neighbors to salvage "that fresh meat." Within less than an hour she had a group with knives and saws busy butchering those horses and carrying the meat back to their homes in wheelbarrows.

We stayed another night in her home after feasting on a pot roast dinner with potatoes and carrots from her cellar. It was the first fresh meat we had eaten since we boarded the ship.

I wrote my Mother a letter telling her the whole story. I told her it was almost compared with her Sunday pot roast, but was definitely "the best horse meat I knowingly ate."

John Zwicky

Korean -1954 - 1956

Basic training at Fort Dix, NJ.

Sent to the Signal Corp School in Fort Monmouth, NJ and trained in radio and radar equipment operation. After completion of the 6 month course, was permanently assigned to the school to assist in the teaching of the systems to other recruits.

Also assigned to Honor Guard.

Served a short assignment in Louisiana, but predominantly in NJ.

Requested Song:

Lullaby of Birdland



William B. Wham

WWII - 1943 - 1946



- Volunteered for the Navy V-7 College Training Program while a student at the University of Illinois and enlisted on April 26, 1942.

- Reported for midshipman's school at Northwestern University in Chicago, Illinois in September 1943.

- Commissioned as an ensign on December 22, 1943, and after additional amphibious training, departed the continental US bound

for the Pacific Theater of Operations.

- Served 20 months in operations on or along the coast of New Guinea, responsibilities rising eventually to Officer in Charge of Landing Craft Tank (LTC) vessels in LTC Flotilla 8, attached to the 7th Fleet.

- At the end of hostilities, returned to the states for duty at the amphibious training base at Coronado, California, where he served as Executive Officer of LTC Group 111 (12 ships).

- Later served as Communications Officer aboard the high speed transport USS Walter X. Young APD-131.

- Earned the Combat Action Ribbon (retroactively authorized by 1999 Act of Congress), American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with 2 Bronze Battle Stars, and the WWII Victory Medal.

- Honorably released to inactive duty as a lieutenant (junior grade) on June 24, 1946 at the Naval Personnel Separation Center in Los Angeles, California.



Jack Williams

WWII-1943 - 1946

While still in college in November of 1942 I signed up to be an Air Corps meteorologist to start training at the University of Michigan in March of 1943. My orders never came through the mail, so I was sent to basic training in Atlantic City during the summer. In September I joined the Army Specialized Training Corps (ASTP) and studied at the Brooklyn Polytech Institute until January of 1944. Then I was sent to the Infantry 75th Division, which at that time was in Texas, on maneuvers. In April the Division started basic training at Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky.

Now trained for combat in September the Division was shipped to England where we marched daily in Wales to keep fit and bide our time. In November we sailed across the Channel on the Leopoldville to France (incidentally on the ship's next trip across the Channel it was torpedoed suffering a great loss of soldier's lives). From Le Havre we went to Holland to join the First Army. I was a private assigned to a mortar squad.

On December 16th the Battle of the Bulge started and we were trucked down to Grandmenil, Belgium arriving on December 24th to defend against a German Tank Platoon. Fortunately that afternoon an American soldier disabled the lead tank and the remaining German tanks were blocked. The German Infantry hadn't yet arrived so we set up our defenses. It was at that point I understood what real fear was with all of the enemy tanks around. Our Division was able to defend our position that week. The snow was heavy and we often were so near the front that we had to sleep in our overcoats without sleeping bags.

A week later we relieved the 82nd Airborne Division, then started the attack to reclaim the territory that was lost. Our objective was the city of St. Vith. The Germans set up machine guns that we had to capture, and we lost a lot of our friends in the process. By this time I had become a corporal.

After the Bulge we were immediately sent south to join the 7th Army and recapture Alsace-Lorraine. Here we fought on flat land with no snow. We captured a small town every other day. Again each town was defended and we continued to lose soldiers. By the time we arrived at the Rhine River I had been promoted to Staff Sergeant.



Jack Williams con't.

We were then sent in 40/8 freight cars back to Holland to rejoin our original 1st Army. While there the Division sent me to a new Officers Training School in Fontainebleau, France (Napoleon's former barracks). After a month training all of our class became 2nd lieutenants. By this time the 75th Division had crossed the Rhine River and the fighting had stopped in that area. I was assigned back to F Company in the 289th Infantry Regiment.

Unfortunately for me, because I had become an officer, I didn't have enough points to come right home, so during the following year in France I had various assignments. First it was as cadre in a redeployment camp. The next assignment was in Rhimes, France to supervise former combat infantry soldiers who didn't seem to like to take orders from Quartermaster Officers. The third and last assignment, lasting about five months, was as a commander of a German Prisoner of War Camp.

In June of 1946 my time came up, and I finally came home in the old USSR Victory boat. In retrospect I realized how lucky I was not to have been wounded like so many men all around me.



Bob Wilson

WWII - 1942 - 1945

Enlisted. Served basic training in Stinson Field, San Antonio, TX.

Shipped to Asiatic-Pacific theater via New Calidonia Nuemea, Guadalcanal, Biak and Philippines.

Citations:

- 2 Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medals
- Good Conduct Medal
- American Campaign Medal
- WWII Victory Medal
- Navy letter of Commendation

While in Guadalcanal, contracted Dengue fever.
Served 33 months in the Pacific.



Requested Song:

Moonlite Serenade





Thanks to all who served.



Deupree House