

City of Torrington
Purple Heart City
Dedication Ceremony
May 19, 2018



"Your sacrifice will not be forgotten"



Private Carmen J. Ammirato
U.S. Army
180th Infantry Regiment
45th Division

Private Carmen J. Ammirato served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He was a member in the 180th Infantry Regiment of the 45th Division. As a member of the 180th Infantry Regiment, Private Ammirato arrived in North Africa in June of 1943.

He fought in the Sicilian Campaign, the mountains of Southern Italy and the Anzio Beachhead in May of 1944.

The 180th Infantry Regiment proceeded to liberate Rome, secure Southern France and support the fall of Munich, Germany. The Purple Heart was awarded to Private Ammirato for "military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death on May 27, 1944."

In recognition for the ultimate sacrifice Private Ammirato and many others made at Anzio, General Mark Clark said the following on Memorial Day 1944 in Anzio, Italy: "With Gods help, we shall carry on the task which they began".

Private Ammirato was one of four Ammirato brothers who were in World War II at the same time. Joe, Dominic and Augie also served and returned safely to Torrington after World War II ended.



Domenic Arsego
Wounded August 1944 in Metz, France



Addo E. Bonetti

Addo E. Bonetti, Corporal
US Marines Marine Expeditionary Forces WWII Pacific

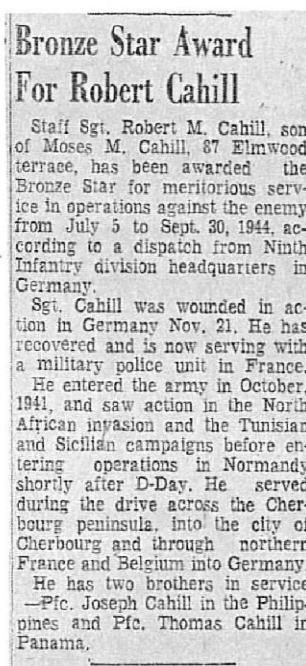
Corporal (non-commissioned officer), Browning
Automatic Rifleman, Pacific Theater of Operations

Participated in the Battles and Campaigns of Iwo Jima, serving 26 months and was stationed overseas for 21 of those months. He was wounded in action against the enemy on March 12, 1945.

Awards and Decorations: The Purple Heart Medal, Marine Good Conduct Medal, Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal with Combat Star, Combat Action Ribbon, Sharpshooter Rifle Badge, World War II Victory Medal, Connecticut Wartime Service Medal



Robert M. Cahill

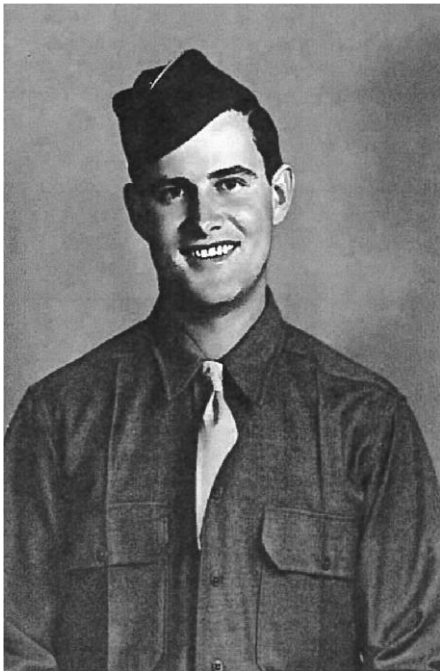




Leo Cattey



During the invasion of Normandy, my father, Leo Cattey, was one of the three people who survived from his platoon of a 100 men. He said when they got to the town where the Germans had occupied there were pots of food still on the stove. Many men took various things like wine etc. My father said he just took all the ammunition that he could carry.



Carl M. Chepiga

Induction date
Discharge Date

11/30/1942
12/14/1945

Campaigns
Division in New Guinea, Philippine Islands/Luzon

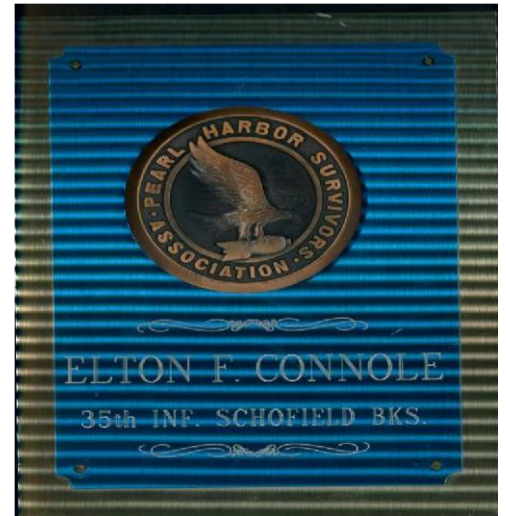
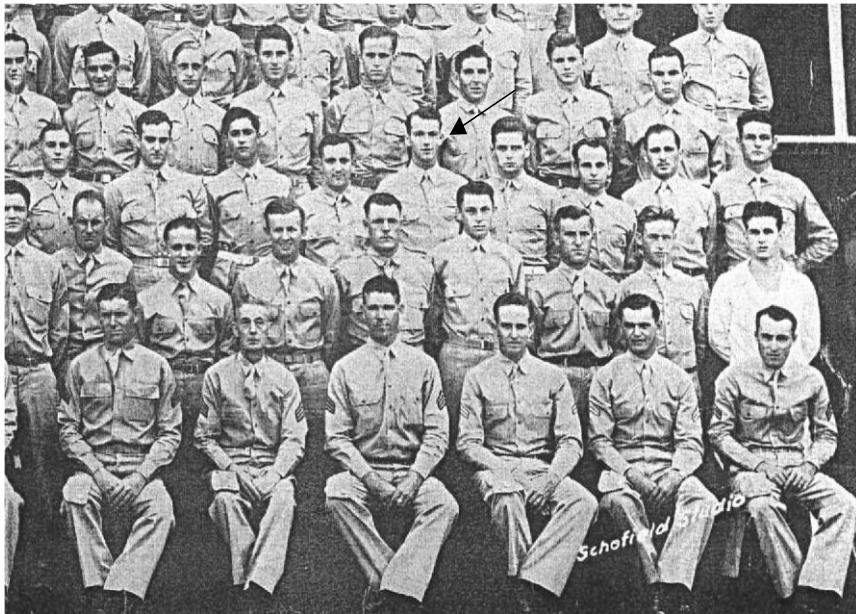
6th Army/Infantry

Wounded

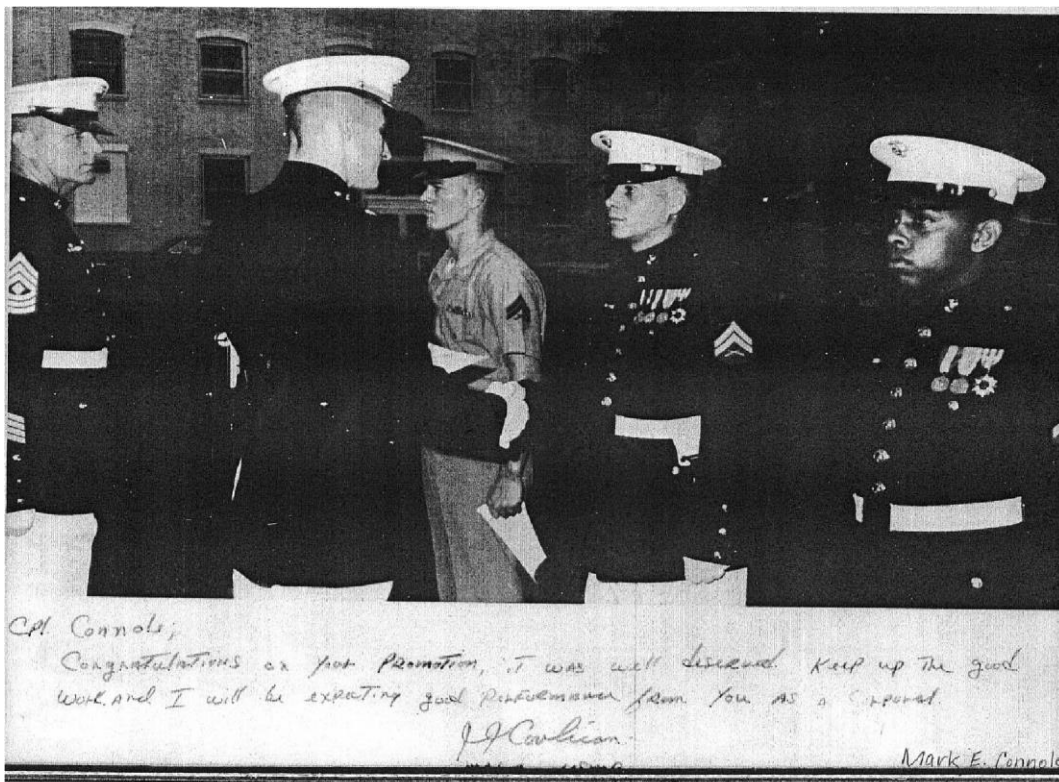
March 29, 1945.

Purple Heart received in Battle of Luzon

Decorations/Citations as listed on Discharge: Good Conduct Medal
Purple Heart GO 9 Hq227 Sta Hosp 45
Philippine Liberation Ribbon
Bronze Star Medal GO 50 Hq6th Inf Division 45
Asiatic Pacific Theater Campaign Ribbon with Bronze
Service Arrowhead Victory Medal



Elton F. Connole
35th Infantry, Schofield Barracks,
Hawaii
Pearl Harbor Survivor



Mark E. Connole

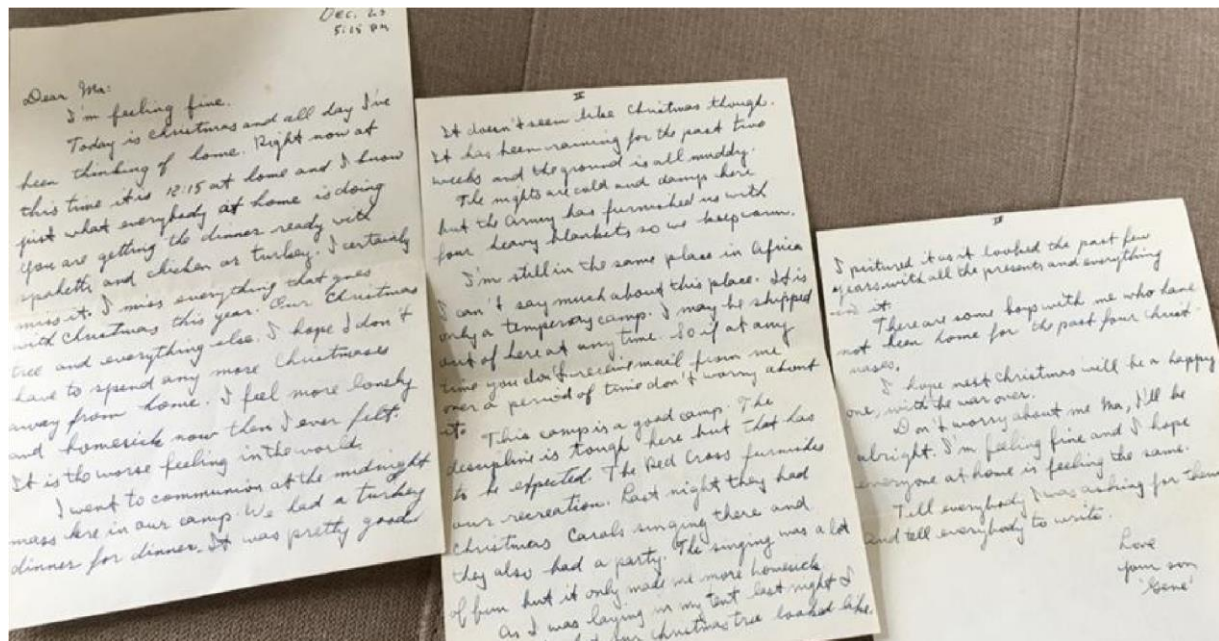


Conner graduated from Torrington H.S. class of 2006. He entered the army in 2010. On April 25, 2012 two weeks before he was scheduled to come home, his long range reconnaissance team came under fire by enemy combatants, in a complex ambush. Conner sustained shrapnel wounds and a broken leg. Others in his unit were also injured, but thankfully no deaths! He and his battle buddies received purple heart commendations at Ft. Hood, TX.

Specialist Conner Daley Charlie Co. 2/38 504 BFSB



Eugene F. Diorio
PFC
Company D 34th
Division
168th Inf. Regimen



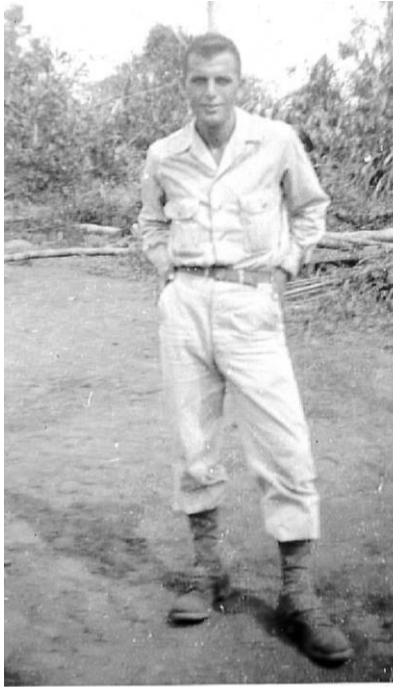


LCPL Frederick J. Falk Jr.

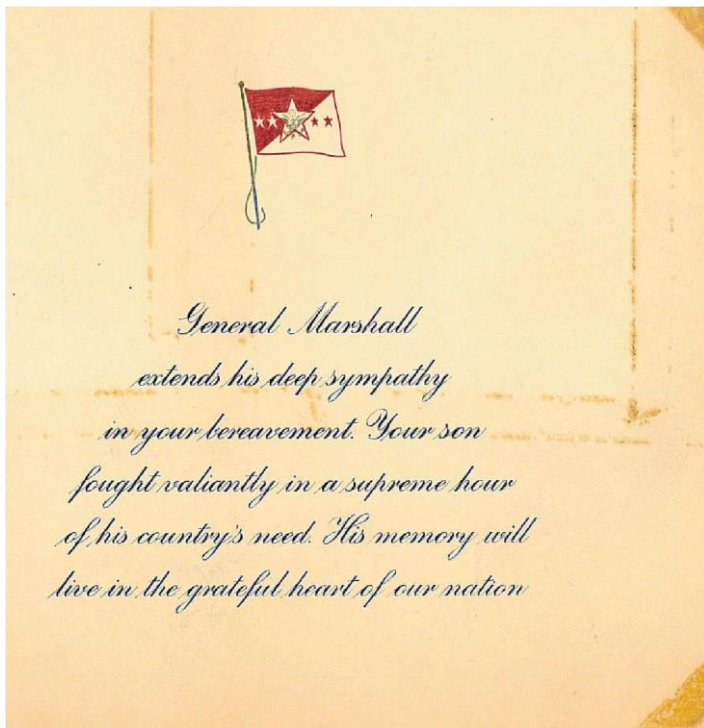
Enlisted in the US Marine Corps shortly after his graduation from OWTS in 1966. Arrived in Vietnam in 1967, serving as a Grenadier with Co I, 3rd Bn, 1st Marines, 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade. Killed 26 Jan 68 during Operation Saline in a Company assault on the village of Lam Xuan in Quang Tri Province while trying to aid a seriously wounded Marine in an exposed position. In addition to the Purple Heart, he was also awarded the Silver Star for conspicuous gallantry.



Angelo V. Gerardi

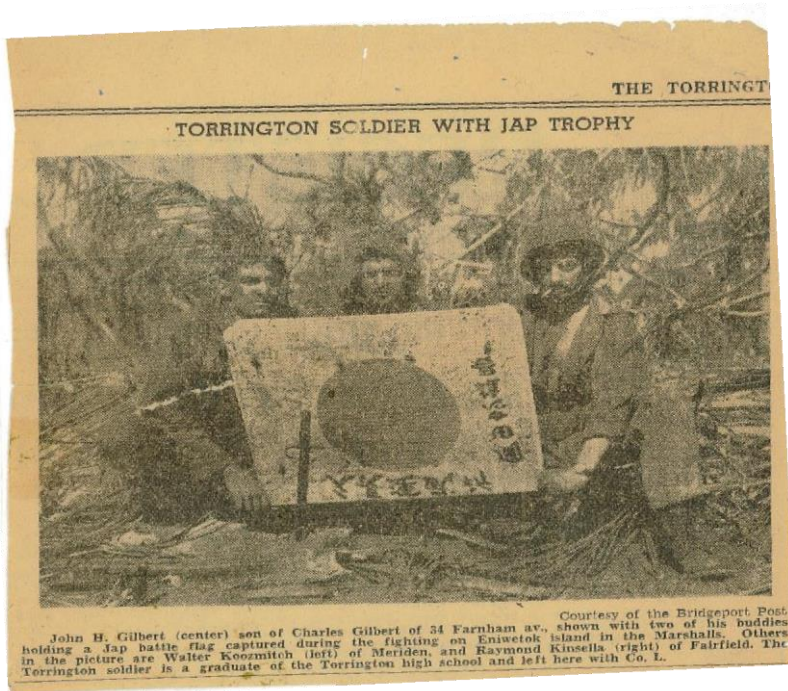


Michael Gerardi



**AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION
 European Region
 92380 GARCHES - FRANCE**

**William Gerardi
 Buried at Lorraine American Cemetery
 St. Amand France**



John H. Gilbert
Torrington Register
April 4, 1944



Joseph A. Godenzi
PFC U.S. Army Infantry

I was drafted into the Army in February of 1968. I took my basic training at Ft. Dix, NJ and my AIT training at Ft. Polk, LA. I arrived in Vietnam in July of 1968. I was part of the 4th Infantry Division based in Pleiku in the central highlands. Within a week of arriving we were moved south along the Cambodian border. For the next 2 months we ran LRRP missions in and out of Cambodia watching the Ho Chi Minh Trail, the main supply trail for the North Vietnam's Army. There were constant fire fights daily. On Sept. 25, 1968 the NVA attacked our camp. I was hit early with our own artillery which shredded my back. Later after my Sargent was killed in the hole with me, a grenade was tossed into our bunker. It blew off most of my right hand and severely injured my foot. Later in the battle, a tree was blown up and fell onto my chest, pinning me and breaking many ribs and collapsing one of my lungs. I was medivac out and spent the next 2 weeks in a coma. I survived and spent next 2 years in hospitals recouping.



QUILT OF VALOR UNVEILED



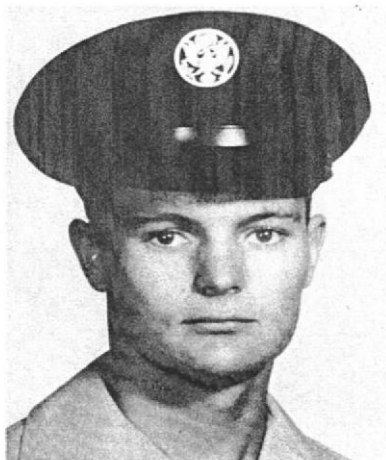
Vietnam War veteran Jonathan Grohs and Alice Szalay, both of Torrington, hold the Quilt of Honor that was awarded to Grohs during the Seabee Veterans of America Post 1 meeting Thursday at the Knights of Columbus in Torrington.

Vietnam vet had earned the Purple Heart

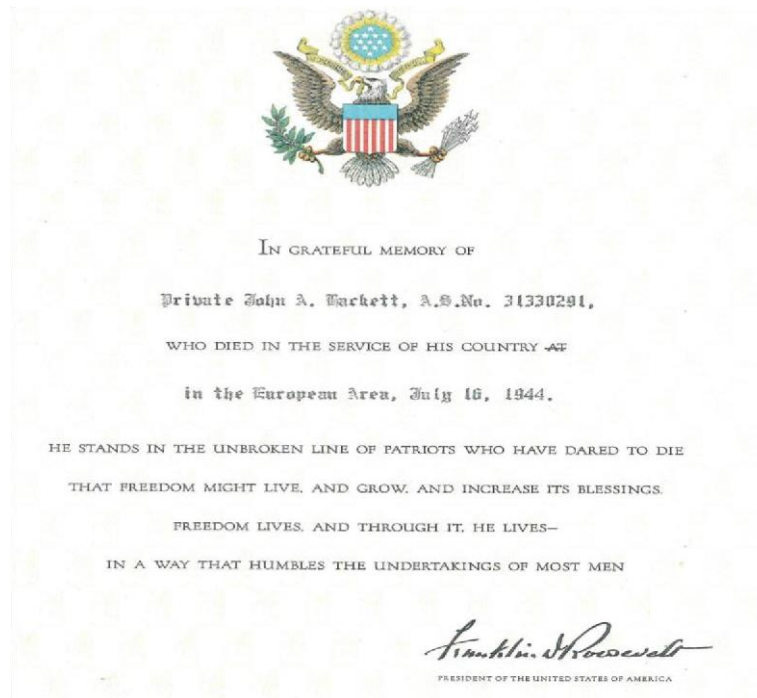
Jonathan P. Grohs, Navy Seabee

Andre R. Guillet

Air Commando, Combat Controller



MIA Vietnam, 1966



Private John A. Hackett



Adam Kinosh, former Marine Gunny Sergeant and Purple Heart Recipient,
author of a chapter in *Heart of a Veteran*

Posthumous Award For Sgt. L. J. Kocsis

Staff Sgt. Louis J. Kocsis of Torrington, who lost his life during world war two, was honored posthumously during a ceremony conducted by the Connecticut Air National Guard at Brainard field in Hartford last night.

His mother, Mrs. Mary Szabo, 104 Scoville street, was presented with the Air Medal and one Oak Leaf cluster, which were awarded the sergeant for meritorious services in action. The presentation was by Col. William L. Travis, regular army instructor for the Air National Guard, who represented the war department.

Sgt. Kocsis was reported missing in action in the Mediterranean theater Mar. 18, 1945, and the war department officially listed him as dead about a year later.



Staff Sgt. Louis J. Kocsis



George A. Kozlak

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
TORRINGTON MEMORIAL POST #9086

Veteran of the Month

A Tribute To
World War II Army Private First Class
GEORGE A. KOZLAK
March 1994 Veteran of the Month
His flag was flown at Coe Park from
March 12, 1994 to April 9, 1994

P.F.C. George A. Kozlak entered the U.S. Army in April, 1943 as a volunteer and was assigned to the 102nd Infantry at Camp Croft, South Carolina for basic training - home on furlough for 10 days then to Camp Howze in Texas where he shipped out for overseas duty. He served in the European African Middle Eastern campaign serving in North Africa and Italy.

He was born December 12, 1924 in Torrington, CT, son of John and Mary Zamkovsky Kozlak. He attended Sacred Heart School and two years at Torrington High School. Before entering the service he was employed at Union Hardware.

P.F.C. Kozlak was killed in action January 19, 1944 while on a mission to patrol the south west side of the Rapido River in Italy according to information received by his parents from the war department. They were notified in March of 1944 of his death.

The report stated that P.F.C. Kozlak was one of the first volunteers for this mission and was helping to carry a boat down the river where one of his companions stepped on a mine.

The purple heart was awarded posthumously to P.F.C. George A. Kozlak.

P.F.C. Kozlak's body was brought back to Torrington with a military funeral held Sacred Heart Church as was buried at Old St. Francis Cemetery in the family plot.

Present survivors are Mrs. Ann Lenart, Mrs. Helen Rulli, Mrs. Mary Brady, Mrs. Margaret Rosati and Mrs. Dorothy Pukas, and a sister Katherine Sohocki who passed away November 12, 1993 and several nieces and nephews.

ATTEST: *Salvatore Sharp* *April 9, 1994*
DATE

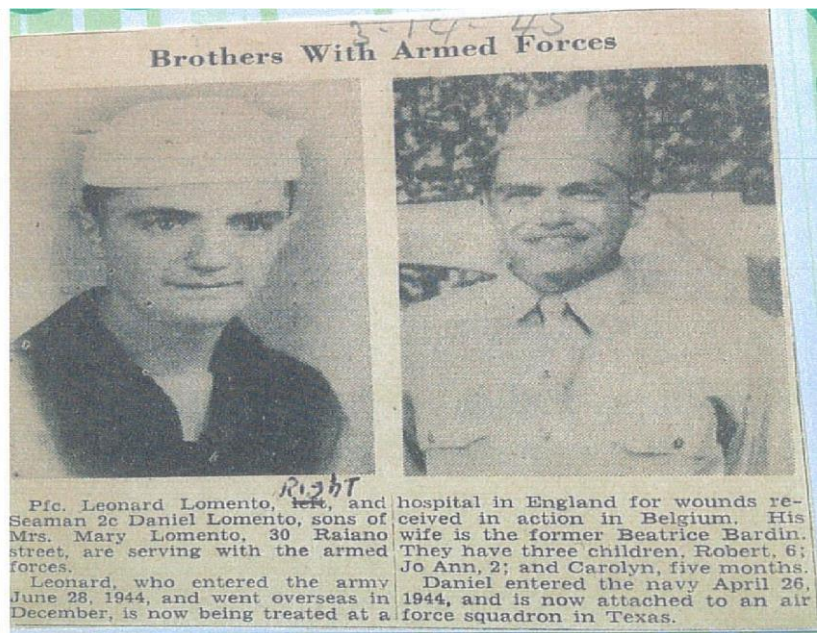
David Lent

David Lent enlisted in the Marine Corps at the beginning of WWII. He completed training at Parris Island, SC, and had further training at Camp Lejeune, NC. His training was in the use of 75 mm artillery. He rose to the rank of Sergeant with a gun crew of 3 other Marines. Mr. Lent was wounded in the battle of Saipan, which cost the 4th Marine Division 5,981 casualties and left the survivors in need of rest and reorganization. They would have little time for either, however, since the Division had already been scheduled to conduct another amphibious assault on the island of Tinian on July 24, 1944. Mr. Lent missed Tinian due to a direct hit on his howitzer crew on Saipan. He was hit in the right shoulder by the fuse of the Japanese round, leaving him severely wounded and he was sent to Hawaii aboard the Hospital Ship, Hope.

The 4th Marine Division fought in four Pacific battles, Roi-Namur, Saipan, Tinian, and Iwo Jima.



Daniel Lomento





Leonard Lomento

Leonard Lomento was fighting with the U.S. Army during the Battle of the Bulge when he was hit by Nazi machine-gun fire and left behind for dead. “We’d seen German paratroopers, dressed in white winter gear, landing in the Ardennes Forest in January of 1945. “We moved forward, but we did so at 5 a.m. We weren’t supposed to go until 6 am, when we’d have reinforcements.” That was when the young infantry riflemen with Baker Co. of the 18th Infantry of the 1st Infantry Division, known as the Big Red One, were suddenly sprayed by German machine guns. The men to his right were killed immediately, and as he dodged behind a tree he was wounded in his hip. The reinforcements arrived and knocked out the machine gunners but left the dead behind, including Lomento. Then, as Lomento told the story, a fellow soldier, whom he remembered was Harry Kinion of Kentucky, came yelling and hollering “I thought this Army was all for one and one for all!” Kinion hoisted Lomento over his shoulder and carried him back to a former German officer’s dugout so he could get aid.



Frank G. Lomento, Jr.
Spec. 4 Co. A 2nd BN Mech. 22nd Infantry
4th Infantry Division
Viet Nam 1966-1967
Wounded: November 22, 1966
Awards: The Purple Heart and Combat
Infantry Badges.

Frank G. Lomento, Jr.
U.S. Army



Eugene W. Luciano

Eugene was born on April 20, 1916 and passed away on Wednesday, February 17, 2010.

Eugene was a resident of Torrington, Connecticut.

He served his country with the United States Army during World War II where he was a T/Sgt. NCO Squad Leader, Company "C", 10th Armored Infantry Battalion, 4th Armored Division, European Theater Operations. Inducted during July of 1941, he participated in the battles and campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland and Central Europe. Honorably discharged during October of 1945, his awards and decorations included the Bronze Star medal for heroic action against the enemy, two Military Order of the Purple Heart Medals, the European, African and Middle Eastern Campaign with 4 combat stars, the American Defense Medal, American Theater Campaign Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Distinguished Unit badge, Combat Infantryman Badge, marksman Rifle Badge, 2nd Class Gunners Badge and the World War II Victory Medal.



Edward J. Lubauskas

My father, Edward J. Lubauskas served in the Navy during World War II from June 1, 1943 to January 20, 1946 in the Pacific Ocean, in which he was part of the Battle of Midway. My parents told the story that he was critically injured as a gunner when a Kamikaze hit the ship in his area. He stayed at his gun while others ran. Those that ran were killed. He lived, but was critically injured and lived with shrapnel and an injured spine for the rest of his life.

Technical Sergeant Edward Patrick McGrath
60th Infantry Regiment 9th Infantry Division – Army
Born Jan. 28, 1919 Died Sept. 19, 1977



Edward P. McGrath

The 9th went from North Africa (Tunisia), to Sicily, then to England to train troops.

On June 14, 1944 the 9th was in Normandy, France (Picuaville). On August 5th, 1944 Edward was wounded at St. Lo. He was shot in the leg and had to remain, wounded, in a trench for a few days. Medics/help could not reach him because of the on-going battle. By the time help reached him, gangrene had set in. (This was the second time he was wounded. The first grazed his head).

He spent almost a year in a hospital in England. First, they were trying to heal the infection (save his leg from amputation) with large doses of penicillin. Then there was surgery to remove the bullet that was lodged in his leg.

He then was sent to the USA about July 1945. Admitted to a hospital in Greensboro, NC for more surgery on his leg (the scar would welt up and cause pain...surgeons sewed it up better). He was in this hospital for a month. (He walked with a slight limp and there was a lot of scarring on his leg).

He was honorably discharged October 5, 1945 (discharged from the hospital and from the Army)

Received Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster (wounded twice – Oak Leaf Cluster).

Nebiolo is Veteran of the Month

TORRINGTON – Memorial Post 9086, Veterans of Foreign Wars, will pay tribute to World War II Veteran T/4 Grade Alfred M. Nebiolo at its monthly Veteran of the Month service at Coe Memorial Park Saturday at 10 a.m. The post conducts services on the second Saturday of each month in which the deceased veteran's flag is flown in his honor.

Nebiolo was born in Torrington on Jan. 1, 1920, son of Secondo and Egidio (Sarocco) Nebiolo. He attended Southwest elementary school and the old trade school as an apprentice draftsman. His civilian occupation was as a senior design engineer, employed by General Time Corp. and also at Waring Products until his retirement.



T/4 Grade Alfred M. Nebiolo

He entered the service on Oct. 9, 1941, and was honorably discharged on Nov. 6, 1945. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion Headquarters Co., 63rd Infantry Regiment. His military occupational spe-

cialty was a radio operator high speed. His battles and campaigns were in New Guinea and Luzon. His decorations and citations included the Good Conduct Medal, Victory Medal, American Defense Service Medal, Asiatic Pacific Theater Campaign Ribbon with Bronze Service Arrowhead and the American Theater Campaign Ribbon. He also received the Purple Heart when wounded and recuperated in the 105th General Hospital in New Guinea.

He married Evelyn Toth Nebiolo (now deceased) on Feb. 12, 1949, in St. Francis Church, Torrington. He was a communicant of St. Francis Church.

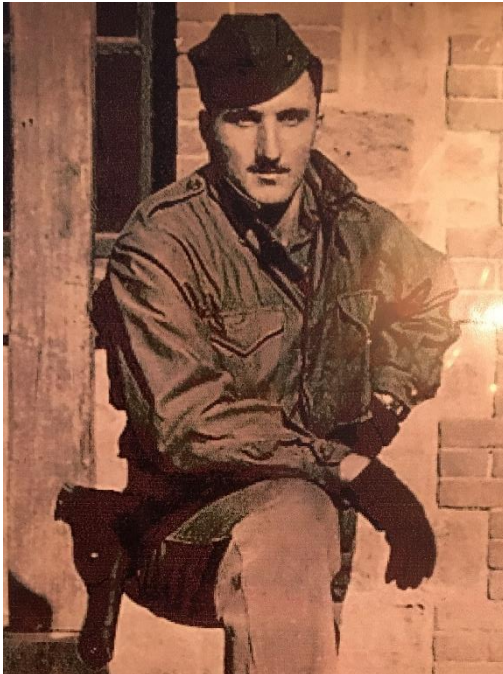
He passed away on July 30, 1991, at the age of 71 and is buried in the Old St. Francis Cemetery.

His survivors include three sons, Dennis of Torrington, Philip of Milford and Thomas of Lehigh Acres, Fla.; a daughter, Corinne Silano of Torrington; a brother, Eugene of Southington; a sister, Enis Lovoallo of Torrington; and six grandchildren.

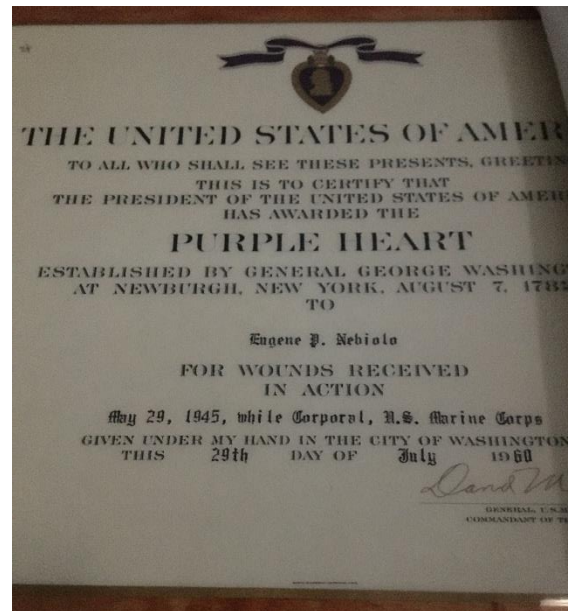
He was an avid Boston Red Sox fan and an avid supporter of the Torrington High School Red Raiders. He lived his life through hard work and integrity and was very patriotic about his country and loved everything that the American flag represented.

Anyone wishing to honor a deceased veteran may call coordinator Lefty Silano at 489-1607 or write to him at 22 Cook St., Torrington. Honorings are scheduled on a first come basis, and honorees need not be a resident of Torrington.

Alfred M. Nebiolo



Eugene Nebiolo



John Pardus

HEADQUARTERS 165TH INFANTRY REGIMENT
United States Army
APO 34

22 May 1945

Mrs. Alvira Pardus
34 Brighwood Ave.
Torrington, Conn.

Dear Mrs. Pardus:

It is my painful duty to inform you of the death of your husband, Private John J. Pardus, 31381546, who was killed in action on 29 May 1945. I know the grief and anxiety you must have suffered since that fateful day when he was reported missing in action and it is my sincere desire that you may gain peace and understanding from the following information.

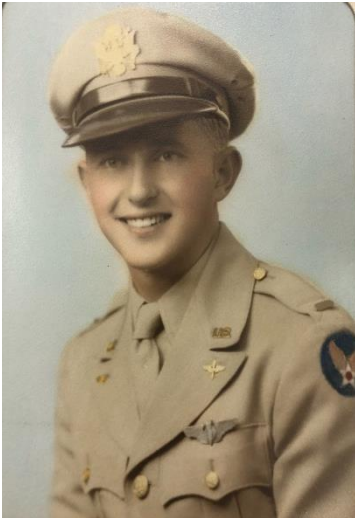
On the 29th of May 1945, Company F was attacking enemy held territory in an attempt to break through the last remnants of the German defense line and liberate Rome. The enemy was very determined that this should not happen and their resistance was terrific. Company F advanced about 1,500 yards but their flank protection was held up and the enemy succeeded in cutting them off on all sides. The exact details of what took place during those few hours is not known but when relief finally came, the company had suffered heavy casualties and many men were missing. Not knowing whether they had been killed or captured they were reported as simply missing in action until more definite information could be obtained. Just recently we received a report that his body had been recovered from a battlefield grave and reinterred in an established American Military Cemetery.

Religious services were conducted in keeping with John's faith and he was laid to rest in a beautiful and well-kept cemetery in Southern Italy. His grave is marked with a plain white cross bearing his name and home address. The flag of the country he so valiantly served flies daily over this last resting place of our fallen comrades.

I know your grief is overwhelming but it was through the sacrifice of men such as John that we were able to crush the horrible machine which had engulfed all of Europe. The clouds have passed and we have at last come into the sunshine. Let us hope and pray that Peace shall be eternal throughout the world.

The Effects Quartermaster, Army Effects Bureau, Kansas City 34 Depot, Kansas City 1, Missouri, is the only Army agency which is able to furnish you any information or inventories concerning the disposition of John's personal effects. Therefore, it is suggested that any inquiries you may have be addressed to that agency as personnel overseas are unable to supply this information.

Sincerely yours,
Alvin I. Colbus
ALVIN I. COLBUS, 1st Lt. Inf.,
Personnel Officer



Clement Plaskiewicz

Clement Plaskiewicz entered the service in Feb. 1943. After receiving pre-flight training he was appointed flight officer in Maxwell Field, AL, and was awarded silver bombardier wings. He was stationed in Walla Walla WA in Sept. 1944, then was sent overseas in Oct. 1944 through 1945. He trained with the same group of 10 and they were sent on 2 successful missions from England. The night before their 3rd mission, Clem was told at the briefing by Col. Shower that they were taking him off his crew and reassigning him to a new crew. Clem argued that he had trained with his original crew, practiced and flew all the time with them and it was unfair to take him off now. He was told "Orders are orders – you're dismissed." On Dec. 29th the fog was very thick and they were sure the mission would be cancelled, but it was not. After boarding the second plane he walked from the bombardier station, checked that the wheels were up and locked. He then turned to head to the front of the aircraft. The next thing he remembers was lying on the ground. Along with other injuries, he could barely see because he had a bloody mass over one eye from a head wound, his boots, gloves and watch were gone. Only four got out alive from the crash. Clem's original crew had also crashed with no survivors.



Patrick F. Quinn

CLASS OF SERVICE		WESTERN UNION		SYMBOLS	
This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.		A. N. WILLIAMS PRESIDENT		DL - Day Letter NL - Night Letter LC - Deferred Cable NLT - Cable Night Letter Slip Radiogram	
The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination.					
NAU35 42 GOVT=WASHINGTON DC 18 241A					
MRS MARY B QUINN					
=67 HIGH ST TORRINGTON CONN=					
THE SECRETARY OF WAR DESIRES ME TO EXPRESS HIS DEEP REGRET THAT YOUR SON S/SG QUINN PATRICK F HAS BEEN MISSING IN ACTION IN GERMANY SINCE 27 MAR 45 IF FURTHER DETAILS OR OTHER INFORMATION ARE RECEIVED YOU WILL BE PROMPTLY NOTIFIED=					
J A ULIO THE ADJUTANT GENERAL					
27 45 S/SG=					
THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE					



Anthony M. Regis

WESTERN UNION
A. N. WILLIAMS
1945 FEB 15 PM 7

CLASS OF SERVICE
This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

1501 SYMBOLS
DL=Day Letter
NL=Night Letter
J=Deferred Cable
NY=Night Letter
R=Deferred Telegram

NAU151 27 GOVT=WUX WASHINGTON DC 15 740P
MRS IRENE T REGIS=1
117 RED MOUNT AVE TORRINGTON CONN=

REGRET TO INFORM YOU YOUR HUSBAND PRIVATE ANTHONY M REGIS WAS SLIGHTLY WOUNDED IN ACTION ONE FEBRUARY IN BELGIUM MAIL ADDRESS FOLLOWS DIRECT FROM HOSPITAL WITH DETAILS= J A ULJO THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

4272 US Army Hospital Plant
176th General Hospital
APO 562 New York, N. Y., % POSTMASTER

Mrs Regis:
DEAR _____: 15 March 1945

I am pleased to inform you that on _____ (Date) your
Husband Pvt Anthony M. Regis, 31472182
(Relationship) (Grade, name, Army serial number)
was * Making normal improvement

Diagnosis Wounds, right shoulder, left forearm

* Enter present status as—
Making normal improvement.
Convalescing.
† Must be written in nontechnical language.

Very truly yours,
MARVIN O. LARSON, Lt Col, MC
Commanding Officer

W. D., A. G. O. Form 234
9 November 1944

16-42106-1 GPO



Joseph J. Roman
SSGT, Squad Ldr, NCO
US Army
WWII Combat
Europe

After graduating THS, Joseph J. Roman was drafted into the Army in July of 1943. He had Infantry Combat training at Fort McClellan, AL, and was then shipped to North Africa. Joe was later assigned to the famous 3rd Infantry Division. This division suffered the most casualties of any other divisions during WW II. Members of this division received 39 Medals of Honor, including the most decorated soldier Audi Murphy, with who Joe served. This division is also the U.S. Army's official Ceremonial Unit, notables included Pres. Eisenhower & General of the Army George C. Marshall. His infantry made 4 amphibian landings which took them from North Africa, to Sicily, France, Germany, and Austria. Joe was hospitalized for poisoning in Italy, being wounded in France, and for frozen feet in Germany and France. During the push from Anzio, Italy to Rome, the 3rd sustained 995 Casualties while capturing Cisterna DiLatoria. This operation is believed to be the most suffering encountered during one 24 hour period in WW II. The 3rd Division was the first combat division to enter Rome. Joe was in the first wave of assault boats to land on the beaches of Southern France and was involved in the capture of many known towns, cities, and forests including Anzio and Rome, Italy, Monteliman and Besacon, France, Frigid Vosges Mts. Nuremburg, Augsburg, Munich, Salzaburg. The division also captured Hitler's summer home in Bertisgardei, Austria.



Anthony Russo

Torrington Man, Lost On Leyte, Returns

(By Special Correspondent)

Naugatuck, Dec. 6—Pvt. Anthony Russo, 23, of Torrington, brother of Samuel Russo, Hill St., Naugatuck, was a member of a medical unit which was lost in the jungles of Leyte recently but finally managed to find its way back to camp, it was learned Wednesday.

Pvt. Russo's unit was carrying two wounded Yanks on litters and while en route to their camp they lost their Filipino guide in the darkness.

They wandered for several hours but when dawn broke, they ascertained their whereabouts and reached camp safely with their human cargo.

Pvt. Russo has been in the Army almost two years and has been overseas since June, 1943. He is the son of Ralph Russo, Torrington, and was employed at the Fitzgerald Mfg. Co., Torrington, prior to entering the service.



Joseph Sievel

A lifelong resident of Torrington growing up on Highland Avenue and eventually building his house and raising his family on Johnson Street in Torrington, our father Joe was in the Navy during World War II. He served on the USS PHAON, an ARB 3, commissioned at the Tampa Florida Shipbuilding Company yard on August 5, 1943. On June 24th, 1944, while offshore from the island of Saipan, one of the Mariana Islands in the South Pacific, the USS Phaon was the target of an air raid by Jap "Betties" and was struck on the starboard side. While damage to the ship was considered not to be very serious, two crew members were killed and eleven others were injured with shrapnel wounds. Our father was hit by shrapnel to his shoulder and back for which he received his Purple Heart. He passed away on April 9th, 1973.



David M. Soliani

David graduated from Lewis Mills High School in 2009 and left for the USMC on July 5, 2009.

He has been deployed twice to Afghanistan with 3/6 (third Battalion, sixth Marines) and once with Force RECON on a MEU (Marine Expeditionary Unit) and the USS Kearsarge to the middle east. He was injured by an IED on June 9, 2010 and received a Purple Heart.

He was honorably discharged after 8 years of duty and leaves on June 10, 2018 for the Navy to become a SARC Medic, which is a specialized combat medic.

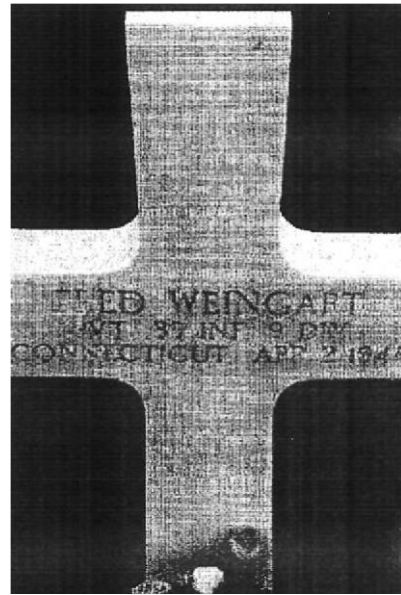


Henry Van Tassel

Henry Van Tassel enlisted in the Army October 6, 1942. While leading a patrol in Central Europe in 1945, they approached a German garrison to clear the building. As they were working their way up to the garrison, Mr. Van Tassel pulled the pin on a hand grenade, threw it and when he turned to run back for cover a German officer shot him from the second floor window. The bullet went completely through his neck and lodged in his left shoulder. There was so much blood and he was unconscious when the medics came through to get the wounded that they initially did not pick him up. It was only later when someone was walking by and saw him move that he was taken to the hospital.

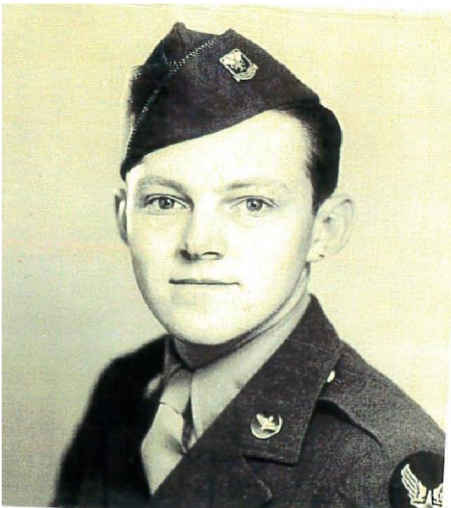


Fred Weingart Army Shot Down Over Germany, and Died at the Age of 23



Primo Zanderigo

I enlisted to serve my country with the US Air Force in March 1943, prior to being drafted, which allowed you to select the branch of service. I attended the Motor Transportation Camp in Lee VA Boot Camp in Florida then sent to England with an occupation as a truck driver. Due to the mass casualties in Germany, I was transferred to the Infantry with the US Army and served under General Patten in the Battle of the Bulge where at 20 years old I was wounded when the building I was in was blown up and I sustained burns to my neck. I was flown to a hospital in Paris and will never forget the medic who put me on that flight, John Maffucci, also from Torrington. I was grateful that in addition to my burn wounds being treated, my feet, suffering from trench foot, finally received medical attention. I returned to my infantry in Germany. The war had ended, General Patten addressed the soldiers at a ceremony I attended, and I then returned home on an aircraft carrier that had been transformed into a troop transport ship. Awards include Purple Heart Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Victory Medal, European African Middle Eastern Theater Campaign Ribbon, Motor Vehicle Driver Award, Sharpshooter Carbine Combat Infantryman Badge.



Edward J. Zeiner

DURING WWII I WAS SERVING IN EUROPE WITH THE 90th. INFANTRY DIVISION (AS A COMBAT INFANTRYMAN). I WAS IN A SMALL TOWN OF HABSHIED, GERMANY & MY OUTFIT WAS UNDER HEAVY FIRE BY THE ENEMY. ON THE EARLYMORNING OF FEBRUARY 7, 1945 MY SQUAD WAS IN A BARN ATTACHED TO A HOUSE WHEN A MORTAR STRUCK THIS BARN & WENT THROUGH THE ROOF HITTING THE BEAM WHICH FELL & HIT THIS WRITER IN THE LEFT SHOULDER. THE BLAST CAUSED ME TO ELEVATE SOME SEVERAL INCHES FROM THE FLOORING. THE CONDITIONRESULTED IN MY BEING HIT WITH SHRAPNEL. WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MEN OF MY SQUAD IS UNKNOWN I NEVER FOUND OUT. MEDICS APPARENTLY TOOK ME TO A FIELD HOSPITAL & EVENTUALLY TO A HOSPITAL-TRAIN WHICH WENT TO A HOSPITAL IN BELGUIM. I WAS IN A SEMI CONSCIOUS CONDITION & DID NOT KNOW JUST WHAT WAS HAPPENED TO ME. THERE WAS AN ARMY NURSE ABOARD THE TRAIN (FROM MY HOMETOWN & WHO KNEW ME, HER FATHER WAS MY CHURCH MINISTER & I KNEW THE FAMILY. IF SHE WAS STILL ALIVE, SHE WOULD CONFIRM MY PHYSICAL CONDITION THEN. (JUST ONE OF THOSE FACTORS)).

VETERAN COMBAT WOUNDED



Gold Star Families

