

Military officer honored at department's dedication

Sarah Gray
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

Captain Ralph Amato, a 1938 University graduate and World War II soldier, was remembered Monday as the Department of Military Science dedicated a memorabilia-filled lounge in his honor; Jan. 9 marked the 50th year anniversary of Amato's death in 1945 during World War II.

Amato was no different than many other college students of the 1930s, or even students of today. He was born in Portland and graduated from Franklin High School. After graduation, he enrolled in the University where he became a three star letterman on the varsity baseball team and a member of Sigma Chi.

While in college, Amato joined both the Reserve Officers Training Corps and its honorary fraternity, Scabbard and Blade. After rising to cadet captain, he graduated and was commissioned on May 27, 1938, as a second lieutenant.

In 1940, Amato was stationed in the 45th Infantry in the Philippine Islands, where he was later promoted to first lieutenant. In December 1941, two weeks after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Amato was promoted to captain. He received the Silver Star, the nation's third highest award, in early 1942 for heroism during a surprise attack. However, the 45th Infantry surrendered in April 1942 and became a prisoner of war of the Japanese.

Amato was killed in action during an air attack on Jan. 9, 1945. His remains were returned to the United States in 1949. On July 12 of that same year, he was laid to rest in Lincoln Memorial Cemetery in Portland.

Amato's sister, Marguerite Thomas of San Francisco, compiled several photos, certificates and other tokens of her brother's life and donated them to the University's Department of Military Science. The items are currently on display in the Department's newly dedicated lounge.

University Provost John Moseley spoke during the dedication, and students Tim



NATALIE MONTGOMERY/ Emerald

Nick Bass, an ROTC cadet, was a speaker at the dedication ceremony held for Ralph Amato, a 1938 University alumnus.

Farrell and Rebecca Lattin played "Taps" at the conclusion of the ceremony.

Bob Bennett, head of the speaker's bureau at the Defense Education Committee of Lane County, attended the dedication and found it interesting how similar the situations from Amato's time and now (the 1990s) are and how important it is for the ROTC to recruit soldiers for unexpected wars.

"We're normally at peacetime, but the

potential for war is always there," Bennett said. "If the wrong guys get in charge, the ROTC has soldiers ready to go. That's how it was for Amato."

"No one suspected war, but troops were still prepared just in case," Bennett said. "Amato was one of them."

Commander Nick Bass, who plans to graduate from the University in June and continue serving in the Army, spoke dur-

ing the ceremony. He said that from Amato's memorabilia and letters, he believed Amato to be a regular guy who did not think much about sacrificing his life for his country.

"It's something all soldiers have to think about, but when you're sent all over the world, you realize that that's what we're here to do — defend our country. The focus is loyalty, duty and honor, not death," Bass said.

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Possible suicide results in police investigation

Joe Harwood
Oregon Daily Emerald

Eugene police are investigating an apparent suicide in Skinner's Butte Park after a passerby noticed a man hanging from a tree Tuesday morning.

Police and firefighter-medics responded to the scene at 10:41 a.m. after the passerby alerted parks workers of a man hanging from a tree above the rock columns near the Skinner's Butte cross, according to Capt. Tim Birr of the Eugene Department of Public Safety.

The man, who police believe to be Richard M. Dulany, a 42-year-old transient from Pennsylvania, was pronounced dead at the scene and detectives responded to investigate.

Detectives found two handwritten notes in Dulany's pocket.

One gave his name and said "You may use any or all of my body parts for donations or science."

The second contained the phrase "A loop may become a noose when one of its parts can be straightened."

"While the note didn't give any tacit information on motive, it appears to be a suicide note," said Birr.

Dulany was cited and released Jan. 5 for criminal trespass after a University employee found him in the women's bathroom on the second floor of Oregon Hall, according to a Eugene police report.

The incident remains under investigation and police plan to confirm Dulany's identity via fingerprint records.

BRIEFS

The Department of Biology will hold an open house today from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. for science students.

The event will be held in the Atrium of Willamette Hall. Career and campus information will be available for a wide variety of interests.

Tatyana Tolstaya, a noted contemporary Russian author and an incumbent of the Majorie Lindholm Endowed

Professorship in Russian, will present the first of three lectures on literary topics tonight at 7:30.

The lecture, entitled "Nostalgia for the Past," will be held in the Gerlinger Alumni Lounge.

The second and third lectures will be on Jan. 18 and 25 at 7:30 p.m.

For more information, call the Russian and East European Studies Center at 346-4078.

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