

Coquille

GAYLON S. WALKER - U.S. ARMY Feb. 11, 1941 to April 9, 1946

Army Infantry. Served in the Philippines - was a prisoner of war. The fall of the Philippines, prisoner of war for 3 1/2 years. *The American & Filipino soldiers were marched 65 miles to a train for an internment camp. Marched in columns of 4 in the heat without water or food. Only 54,000 reached the train, 40% died at camp O'Donnell in the next 3 months.



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WILLIAM T. AKINS U.S. ARMY AIR FORCE 21 Nov. 1945 to 24 Dec. 1946

Military Policeman. Served in Newfoundland. Remembers cleaning up bases, dumped barrels of poison gas and radiated materials in the ocean. Some were weighed down, others turned water white, some was brown & blended in. Sunk barges needed to transport drums, shovels, brooms, wheelbarrows used to clean up had to be sunk. We were

ordered not to discuss this and if asked we were to say we were on a secret mission. Many fish and birds washed up on the beach.

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ELLIS MERCER - U.S. ARMY AIR FORCE 17 July 1943 to 1974

Celestial navigator & Training Officer. Served in the USA and Italy - Air Cadet to Lt. Col. During the bombing of an oil refinery in Austria the B-24 lost an engine. We couldn't keep up with the formation so I charted a course to the island of VIS (Marshal Tito headquarters). By the time we were on the final approach to the airport we lost our fourth, and last, engine. We were able to land in the mud near the airport runway.



CHARLES MILLER - U.S. ARMY 106TH CAVALRY 24 Aug. 1942 to 15 Oct. 1945

Sgt. - Exp. Rifleman T Sgt. Served in France, the Normandy Invasion to Berlin. Basic 43 to Pacific and Alaska, 3 Feb. 1943; brought back, went on to Europe, 16 April, 1944; 5 stars (major battles), 3 campaigns, 5 medals. Trapped in the Battle of the Bulge. It was too foggy for planes to assist. We had orders to burn if necessary, brushy field, but in open. We were being shelled. Returned for bonus. Lacked 3 days of being in Oregon for a year - not eligible for Oregon Vet benefits.



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KENNETH BLAIR - U.S. ARMY 3 Dec. 1941 to 7 Aug. 1945

S/Sgt., Platoon Sgt., Clearing Co., 71st Medical Battalion. Served in the Hawaiian Islands, Makin, Kwajalein, Manus, Leyte and Okinawa. One of the first med. units to be armed as the Japanese were making it a priority to attack the med. units, bayonet patients, shoot med. troops so we were armed in order to protect ourselves and patients. We protected ourselves from snipers who hid in the coconut trees and fired on us as we were got out of foxholes of a morning.



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PETER THOMAS WOLFE JR. U.S. ARMY 12 Feb. 1942 to Feb., 1946

Lt. in the Army Infantry. Served in the Aleutian & European Theaters. Earned 7 overseas stripes. Joined regiment at Kodiak, Alaska, moved to Amchitka to hold that island while Kiska was readied for defense, as an advanced air base. Returned to U.S. in March, 1944, moved to Kansas, then Baltimore for shipment to England in June, 1944. Crossed English Channel with SHAEF units to Versailles. Duties: Liaison, censorship, inspection of buildings and troops, payment of troops, training, fighting weather.



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The Sacrifices That Were
Made By
These Men & Women.
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and
Remember
Those Lost.



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