

Maynard World War II Honor Roll

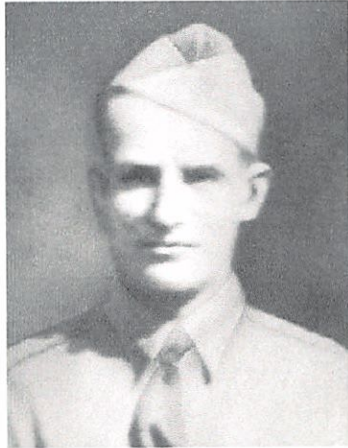
Compiled by Andrew Mitzcavitch

**Results of research concerning those citizens of
Maynard who gave the ultimate sacrifice in service of
their country**

World War II Heroes



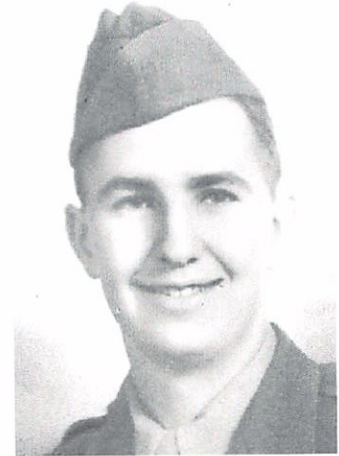
Arcisz



Callahan



Carson



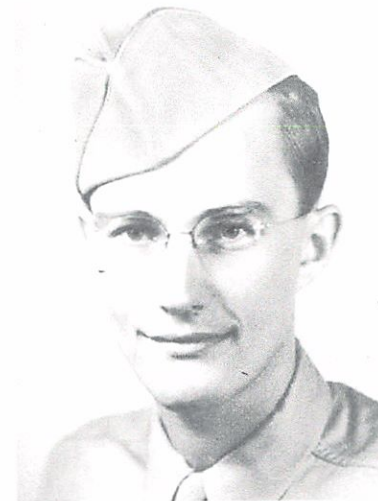
Chernack



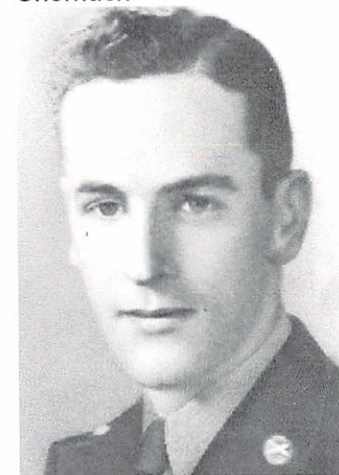
Chodnicki



Crotty



Doel



Donahue

World War II Heroes



Girdziewski



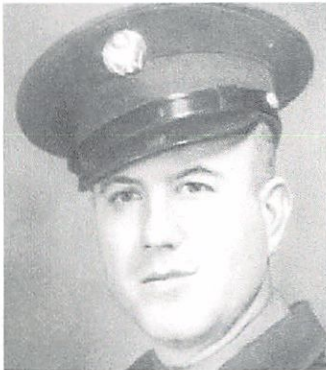
Greeno



Hanna



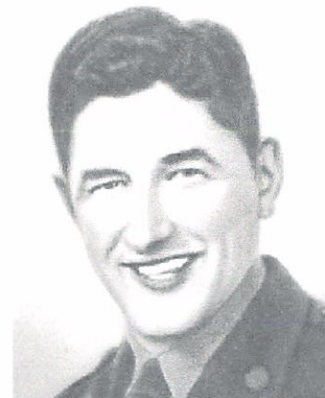
Jokinen



Kodzis



Labowitz



Lalli



Lanigan

World War II Heroes



Leard



Linkiewicz



Lioja



Novick



OToole



Palmer



Popienuck



Riley

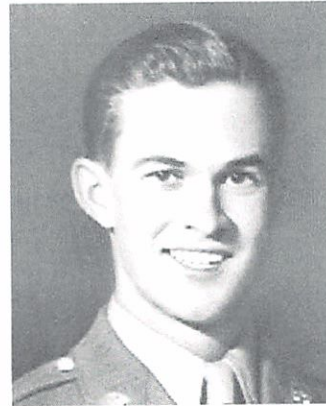
World War II Heroes



Scaccotti



Spence



Tobin



Tomy



Veleno



Waluck



Wattu



Whitney

Maynard World War II Heroes

Arcisz, John J.



John J. Arcisz
PM2
United States Navy Reserve
Born: Oct 26, 1920
Died: Feb 18, 1945

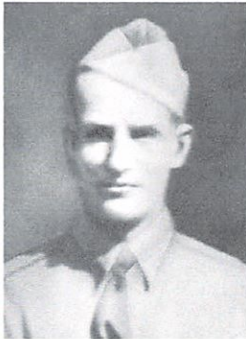


What We Know

The three Arcisz brothers, Bruno of the Marines, Joe of the Army , and John of the Navy, were all home together on leave in September 1944. This was the first known instance of three brothers being home at the same time in Maynard.

John was killed during a Japanese air attack upon his Destroyer Escort USS Blessman near Iwo Jima, the day before the Marines went ashore. John was buried at sea and memorialized in the Punchbowl, Hawaii.

Callahan, William F.



William F. Callahan
Private
United State Army Air
Corps
Born: 1908
Died: Jul 27, 1943



What We Know

Bill was 35 years old and only in the service for 12 days. He died at Army Camp in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Carson, Chester G.



Chester G. Carson
Private United States Army
L Company, 377th Infantry
95th Division
Born: Aug 27, 1917
Died: Nov 28, 1944



What We Know

Chester's regiment crossed into Germany on the 28th of November. He died near Saarbrücken, Germany. He was 27 years old.

Chester's wife received the news from the War Department on Tuesday, December 12, 1944. He had been born in Newton and lived in Sudbury for many years. Besides his wife, he leave a 16 month old baby girl, a sister, and two brothers. He was the 18th casualty from Maynard.

Chernak, Alexander



Alexander Chernack
S/Sgt United States Army
Air Corps
744th Bomb Squadron
456th Bomb Group
15th Air Force
Born: Jan 7, 1924
Died: Apr 25, 1944



What We Know

Alex was a tail gunner aboard a B-24 Liberator with the 15th Air Force. He joined in February of 1943 and graduated from armament school, Lowry Field, Colorado in May 1943.

In Alex's last letter home, at 63 Glendale Street, dated 4-23-44, he stated they were kept very busy. An earlier letter had said that he had shot down his first German fighter. He was awarded an Oak Leaf Cluster on his Air Medal for Meritorious Achievement in the line of duty over enemy territory.

Alex's last mission was a bombing run over Turino, Italy. The plane was heavily damaged and left the formation on the return trip, before crashing into the sea. Only three of the ten crewmen survived.

Alex had been listed as missing in action on May 15th, but a new telegram dated August 5th, indicated that he was now listed as killed in action.

Chodnicky, Edward J



Edward J. Chodnicky
Sgt United States Army
310th Infantry
78th Division
Born: 1920
Died: April 14, 1945



What We Know

Military reports for the 78th Division dated April 14th, indicated their units had reached positions west of Bursched on the left and entered Wermelskirchen in the center, and reached the heights overlooking Lennep on the right. Edward was killed in action in Ruhr, Germany and buried in the Netherlands (G-17-27).

Edward lived at 84 Summer Hill Road, Serial Number 31453736.

Crotty, Edmund J.



Edmund J. Crotty
Private United States Army
F Company 141st Infantry
36th Division
Born:
Died: Jan 16, 1944

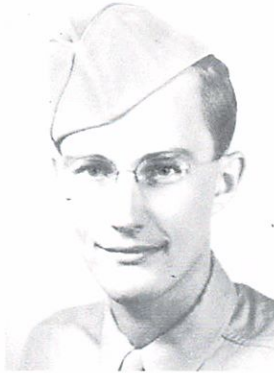


What We Know

Edmund was killed in action at the Rapido River, Italy where he is buried. His brother Leo was told that a German "88" shell blew him to bits. His sister was told he died in an assault crossing the river.

Records indicate Edmund had a Bronze Star and Purple Heart medal. A marker is in the American World War II Military "Sicily-Rome Cemetery" at Nettuno. *Italy*

Doel, Gordon T.



Gordon T. Doel
PFC United States Army
A Company, 18th Infantry
1st Division
Born: 1924
Died: Jan 24, 1945



What We Know

Gordon lived at 251 Main Street and was inducted into the service at Fort Devens in May 1944. Platoon Sgt Jim Gillespie (Gainesville, Georgia), thinks that Gordon was in the 3rd squad of his platoon. He was killed by a tree burst as they searched the woods for German parachutists on December 19th. He recalls Gordon as a fine young man, always willing to do his duty.

Death date given by Massachusetts Adjutant General's office, Boston.

Donahue, Edward



Edward Donahue
Sgt United States Army
14th Infantry, 71st Division
Born:
Died: Sept 2, 1945

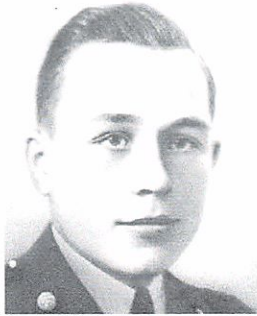


What We Know

Edward lived at 2 Douglas Avenue. His classmate Joseph Boothroyd had been told that Sgt Donahue reportedly had been killed in a jeep accident in Germany.

Information from the Massachusetts Adjutant General's office indicated that he died a non-battle death, the result of an accidental gunshot wound. He is buried in Lorraine, France. D-5-34

Girdziewski, John F.



John F. Girdziewski
Private United States Army
Air Corps

48th Materiel Squadron
5th Air Base Group
27th Bomb Group
5th Air Force

Born: February 5, 1919
Died: May 27, 1942



What We Know

John joined the draft and was sent to Fort McKinley in the Philippines on November 20, 1941. John was originally listed as POW then MIA. He was captured May 5, 1942, presumed Bataan "death march" participant, as he was not listed as a prisoner held at the O'Donnell or Cabana prisons. Reportedly, John died of dysentery, then was buried along a hillside that washed away during the monsoon season. His name is memorialized at the American National Cemetery in Manila. He was buried in Tayabus, Philippine Islands.

Information received from the 5th Army Air Corps historian indicated that the A-24s (Navy version was SBD, Dauntless Dive Bomber) aircraft assigned to the 5th Air Base Group were aboard the USS Miges.

The USS Miges was one of eight transports awaiting escort from Hawaii. These ships were at Pearl Harbor on December 7th. The ships with their cargo were then diverted to Brisbane, Australia after the bombing. Before being captured, the airmen in the Philippines fought as infantry with the 2nd Battalion, a unit made up of Air Corp personnel.

Greeno, Jerry G.



Jerry Genaro Greeno
Private United States Army
D Battery, 68th Coast
Artillery Battalion
Anti-Aircraft Division
5th Army
Born: Apr 25, 1917
Died: Feb 17, 1944



What We Know

An action report indicated that just before midnight on February 16th, the Germans had driven a two mile wide wedge between the 179th and 157th Infantry of the 45th Division. Three German regiments supported by sixty tanks were threatening the entire Anzio, Italy beachhead.

The Allies scrambled to plug the gap with hastily redeployed 90-MM anti-aircraft guns, naval gunfire, and units of the 1st Armored Division. American units at Anzio suffered heavy losses while defending their positions on the 16th through 18th of February.

Private Greeno had seen service in Africa and had been in the Army less than three years. He is the third casualty from Harrison Street. Jerry had worked at the American Woolen Company before volunteering for service. Two brothers are currently stationed in Alabama and Puerto Rico.

Hanna, Raymond J.



Raymond J. Hanna
Private United States Army
HQ Company, 1st Battalion
179th Infantry
45th Division
Born:
Died: Oct 16, 1943



What We Know

A letter received by Raymond's sister Mary, now in the possession of his niece, stated that Raymond had suffered severe shrapnel wounds to his legs at San Lorenzello, Italy on October 15, 1943. Ray died of these wounds the next day at an aid station in Avallino. Ray is buried in an American cemetery (J-11-38), seventeen miles North of Salerno, Italy.

The Maynard Enterprise, dated Thursday, November 18, 1943, ran a headline stating that Private Hanna had died in Africa, as a result of wounds received during the invasion of Sicily. War time news was notorious for being inaccurate.

Raymond lived with his family on Harrison Street prior to volunteering for service, February 15, 1942. He had been in the Army less than two years. He had worked at the Assabet Woolen Mills and Maplecrest Dairy.

Jokinen, Reino



Reino Jokinen
S/Sgt United States Army
15th Armored Infantry
5th Armored Division
Born:
Died: Dec 21, 1944



What We Know

Reino entered the service on February 24, 1942.

His unit was fighting along the northern rim of the Battle of the Bulge, which started on December 16, 1944. According to a report by his nephew, Reino was killed by a tree burst and his body was identified by the small wood carvings in his pockets. (He was a wood whittler).

Reino is buried in Margraten, Netherlands (E-7-3).

Kodzis, Bronislaw F.



Bronislaw F. Kodzis
Private United States Army
G Company, 121st Infantry
8th Division
Born: May 16, 1916
Died: July 18, 1944



What We Know

Bronislaw had lived at 4 Burnside Street with his mother and three siblings. He was 28 years old, inducted into the Army in July 16, 1942.

His last furlough was October 12, 1943, after which he headed overseas. Bronislaw's last letter was dated 15 July, three days before his death. He stated that he had many a narrow escape, but had not been hurt yet. He was killed in action near St. Lo, France.

He had been employed at the Assabet Mills. His brother Stanley was a member of a ground crew at an Air Station in Florida. The Maynard Enterprise dated, August 10, 1944, stated that he was the eleventh man from Maynard to die while in service to his country.

Labowicz Jr., Vincent P



Vincent P. Labowicz, Jr.
Lieutenant
United States Army
D Company, 116th Infantry
29th Division
Born: Jul 26, 1917
Died: June 6, 1944



What We Know

Vincent was 27 years old and had been overseas for two years.

Battle plans as of May 1944 listed Dog Company, 116th Infantry to be in the fifth landing wave at Omaha beach on D-Day.

A Sgt Slaughter of D Company recalled LT Labowicz as a damn fine officer. He thinks that Vincent made ashore but was killed by machine gun fire on the beach. Sgt Slaughter stated that the long ride in from the troop ships had most everybody seasick and throwing up. He lay in the water for more than thirty minutes before attempting to run across the beach to the sea wall. He accidentally discharged his weapon, which then became jammed. When he removed his jacket to clean his weapons, he was shocked to see that his jacket was in shreds, yet he was not wounded. He was killed in action in Normandy, France.

Lalli, Alfred J.



Alfred J. Lalli
T3 United States Army
52nd Armored Infantry
Battalion
9th Armored Division
Born: Nov 16, 1918
Died: Jan 24, 1945



What We Know

The 52nd Armored Infantry Battalion received a Distinguished Unit Citation for action at Bastogne, December 18-27, 1944. The 9th Armored Division seized the Ludendorf Bridge at Remagen.

Lanigan, Thomas F.



Thomas F. Lanigan
Private United States Army
182nd Infantry Americal
Division
Born: 1911
Died: Nov 28, 1942



Co F

What We Know

Tom was 31 years old and graduated from Maynard High School class of 1931.

Tom was a company cook. Per consensus of a number of Company F veterans, Tom was sent up on line by the Company Commander. He was killed by a heavy mortar or artillery round while in the front lines.

Leard, Aubrey W.



Aubrey W. Leard
PFC United States Army
L Company, 377th Infantry
95th Division
Born: Nov 12, 1912
Died: Nov 16, 1944

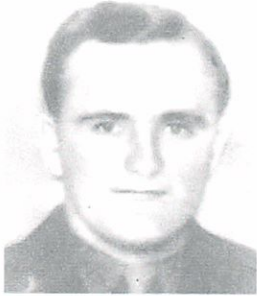


What We Know

Aubrey had been in the service for nine months. He had a nine day furlough in May, and another short one in July, before heading overseas. He was 32 years old and died near Metz, France.

Aubrey is survived by his wife, mother, and step-father, who lived on Main Street. He also has three brothers and one sister. He was born in Nashua, New Hampshire and employed at Hudson Worsted Company, prior to entering the Army.

Linkiewicz, Charles



Charles Linkiewicz
PFC United States Army
311th Infantry, 78th Division
Born: Sep 25, 1919
Died: April 8, 1945



What We Know

Charles is buried in the family plot at the Polish cemetery, Lowell, Massachusetts.

Early information was that he, along with Alex Popienuck, were being transferred from Camp Niantic, Connecticut to advanced Military Police training at Brasher Falls, New York, sometime in April 1943.

Sources indicated that Charles was not originally from Maynard, but had been living with his sister Ann Nowick on Harriman Court, prior to joining the Army in 1942. Address of record was Maynard. Ann is also buried in Lowell.

I visited the site on December 6, 1997, as Charles was the last person for which I need information. My project is completed after three years of searching.

Loija, Raymond A.



Raymond A. Loija
T/Sgt US Army Air Corps
334th Bomb Squadron
95th Bomb Group
8th Air Force
Born:
Died: Dec 29, 1943



What We Know

Ray entered the service in June 1942. He flew the B-17 Flying Fortress as a Radio Operator.

He came home for a short furlough to Harrison Street in April 1943, before going back to duty at the Army Air Field in Salina, Kansas. He was 32 years old.

Information from his sister indicated that she was told their B-17 crew crashed in Ryhle, North Wales, England, while going on leave. Newspaper articles suggested that possibly their heavily damaged aircraft crashed on return from a bombing mission.

Ray is survived by his mother, a brother at Pearl Harbor, and two married sisters. He is buried in Cambridge, England. D-5-13

Novick, Frank J.



Frank J. Novick
Private United States Army
12th Engineer Combat
Battalion
8th Division
Born: 1921
Died: Aug 9, 1944



What We Know

Frank was 23 years old and had been in the Army for two and a half years. His parents, who lived at 13 Florida Road, had last heard from him on July 23rd.

Frank was originally listed as missing in action on July 26th. His parents received word from the War Department on Sunday, September 24, 1944, that he had been killed in action as a result of significant wounds.

Besides his parents, he leaves six sisters, and two brothers. He worked at Hood Rubber in Watertown before entering the Army.

Born in Normandy France C-15-21

O'Toole, William J.



William J. O'Toole
Private United States Army
D Company, 121st Infantry,
8th Division
Born:
Died: Sep 16, 1944



What We Know

Bill enlisted in December 18, 1943. He enjoyed his first furlough with his wife and children on Sudbury Street in May 1944. He then returned to duty in Alabama.

Bill had been overseas a short seven weeks. News of his death was received, Monday morning, October 2, 1944. On that same afternoon, his wife received his last letter, written on the date of their 13th wedding anniversary. He was killed in action near Brest, and is buried in Brittany, France (G-13-3).

He was believed to be the first "family" man from Maynard to be killed, leaving his wife, son, and daughter. Other survivors included his parents, five sisters, and three brothers.

Before entering the Army, Bill worked as an organizer for the Textile Workers Union of America (CIO). He came to Maynard at an early age from Newfoundland and attended local schools.

Palmer, William F.



William F. Palmer
PFC United States Army
F Company, 182nd Infantry
Americal Division
Born: 1919
Died: Nov 21, 1942



What We Know

Bill had been in the Army almost two years, having joined in March 1941. In the last letter to his mother, dated October 30, 1942, he indicated that he would take her to England after the war.

A letter from the Company Commander reported that he was killed while his Company was attacking the enemy at Guadalcanal. A squad leader had recalled that Bill was one the extreme left flank of the First Platoon. During a counter attack by F Company, Bill was killed instantly, and Larry Murphy, who was beside Bill, died of wounds that night.

Popienuck, Peter



Peter Popienuck
Private United States Army
C Troop
121st Cavalry
Reconnaissance Squadron
106th Cavalry Group
Born:
Died: Apr 1, 1945



What We Know

The 106th Cavalry Group was attached to the 15th Corps, 7th Army during the period October 44 to May 1945, except for a two week period in January when the 121st Corps became operational. Peter is buried in St. Avold, Lorraine, France (K-13-25).

After the war, the Popienuck family received a letter from an individual who lived in the state of New York. This man claimed that he had refused to act as point man on a reconnaissance mission and Peter had volunteered to take his place. In advance of his squad, Peter was shot by a sniper and killed instantly. This man has felt guilty and would attempt to drown his shame each April first.

Riley Jr., Frank J.



Frank J. Riley Jr.
S/Sgt United States Army
Air Corps
723rd Bomb Squadron
450th Bomb Group
15th Air Force
Born: 1923
Died: May 30, 1944



What We Know

Frank was born in 1923 with his parents at 9 Vernon Street. He reported for duty at Fort Devens, February 1943.

He was a B-24 radio operator overseas with the 15th Air Force less than two months. On a bombing mission over Austria, the plane was badly damaged. Most of the ten man crew bailed out over the Adriatic Sea. It was reported that Frank continued to send distress signals just prior to the crash. No one was reported as rescued. His brother Robert is in the United States Navy.

mission over Italy

Scacciotti, John J.



John J. Scaccotti
S/Sgt United States Army
181st Infantry
26th Division
Born:
Died: May 6, 1942



What We Know

John died at Camp Edwards on Cape Cod of bronchial pneumonia following an operation and several weeks illness.

The 181st Infantry was broken up and used to fill other units such as the 182nd, which left New Caledonia for action on Guadalcanal in November 1942.

John is survived by his mother who lives at 26 Roosevelt Street, two brothers and two sisters. Before entering the service with the Hudson Anti-tank Company of the National Guard, John worked in the machine shop at Assabet Mills. He was born and raised in Maynard and educated in the local schools.

He is the first to die while serving his country in World War II.

Spence, Frank B.



Frank Brady Spence
ARM3
United States Navy Reserve
Born: July 2, 1925
Died: June 29, 1945

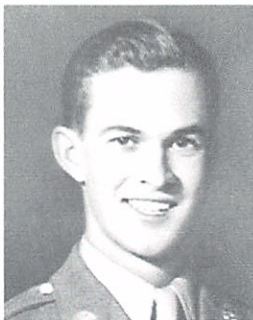


What We Know

Frank was lost at sea. He was trapped in a plane that upon landing approach, the damaged aircraft missed the carrier and crashed into the sea. The pilot was saved, but rescuers could not get to Frank.

His name is memorialized in Manila. The carrier was the USS Bennington, his aircraft was the Dive Bomber SB2C Helldiver. The action took place near Lyte Gulf, Philippines.

Tobin, James M.



James M. Tobin
Private
United States Army Air
Corps
2505th Base Unit
Born: Dec 3, 1923
Died: Sept 9, 1944



What We Know

James was recently married on Jun 11, 1944. He died at a midwest training camp of appendicitis.

Tomyl, Stanley



Stanley Tomyl
PFC United States Army
L Company, 17th Infantry
7th Division
Born:
Died: Jan 1, 1945



What We Know

A letter from a Company Commander indicated that Stanley's patrol had been ambushed. He sacrificed himself by drawing enemy fire away from his group until they gained control of the situation, and killed all of the enemy.

Stanley was awarded a Silver Star and Purple Heart. He is buried in Manila (A-9-167) and died in Leyte, Philippines.

Utkewicz Jr., John W.

Picture not
available

John W. Utkewicz Jr.
Corporal
United States Army Air
Corps
523rd Fighter Squadron
27th Fighter Group
12th Air Force
Born:
Died: Sep 11, 1944



What We Know

John was a radio communications technician. Information was gathered from registers concerning servicemen buried overseas, viewed in Hawaii.

While moving from southern France to a location west of Lyon, the B-25 crashed into a mountain, killing the pilot and 14 others, including John.

The French people of the nearby village have set up a memorial and have a ceremony each year on September 11th to honor the Americans that died in the crash. John is buried near Rhone, France (C-4-25).

Veleno, John N.



John N. Veleno
PFC United States Army
A Company, 12th Infantry
4th Division
Born: 1910
Died: Aug 9, 1944



What We Know

John enlisted in February 1941 at Fort Devens. He was home on a short furlough, visiting his parents at 2 Colbert Avenue in August 1943. He then returned to Fort Benning, GA, having served for three and a half years. He was 34 years old.

John was wounded on June 7, 1944, the second day of the Normandy invasion. He was hospitalized, recovered, and returned to combat duty. He was killed in action near Mortain, France and was awarded the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster.

The family received notification from the War Department shortly before the 31st of August 1944 issue of the Maynard Enterprise was run. PFC Veleno was reported as the 12th man to die from Maynard. John is survived by his parents, two brothers, three sisters, and a son John N. Jr.

The Maynard Enterprise dated, Thursday, July 27, 1944 reported that Private Nicholas A. Veleno (John's brother), previously listed as missing in action, was now thought to be a prisoner of war in Germany. Numerous locals claimed to have heard via a short wave broadcast, that someone stated that he was Nicholas Veleno of 13 Glendale Street, Maynard, Massachusetts, and that he was now a prisoner of war in Germany. His health was good, and the food was good.

John is buried in Brittany, France (H-13-17).

Waluck, Adolfe



Adolfe Waluck
S/Sgt United States Army
Air Corps
563rd Bomb Squadron
388th Bomb Group
8th Air Force
Born: 1916
Died: Apr 9, 1944



What We Know

Adolfe was a B-17 right waist gunner who died on a mission over Germay. He is buried in Ardennes, Belguim (B-24-17). He was 28 years old. After a bombing run over Germany, he was shot down over Denmark. His body washed ashore and was orginally buried in Denmark until after the war.

Adolfe lived with his mother at 3 Harriman Court. He had spent two tours of duty with the Marine Corps.

Adolfe had been recording his bombing missions on a one dollar bill. The last entry was dated March 28th. I have a copy of that dollar bill.

Orginally listed as missing in action, word was received just prior to the August 31st printing of the Maynard Enterprise that the German Government, through the International Red Cross, reported that he was killed on April 9th.

Wattu, Eino O.



Eino O. Wattu
S/Sgt United States Army
350th Infantry
88th Division
Born: Dec 17, 1920
Died: Apr 17, 1945



What We Know

In October 1943, Eino was at home on Tremont Street, on furlough from Fort Sam Houston, Texas, visiting friends and relatives.

During July 1944, somewhere in Italy, Eino met his brother PFC Adolph, whom he hadn't seen in two years. They were able to reminisce for a day and night.

The 88th was operating near Bologna, and had seized Furcoli before attacking Mount Monterumici. On April 15th at 2300, Company L moved out to attack the ridge, and over the next two days sustained heavy casualties. Three companies were wiped out to the last man. Of the original L Company that trained in Texas, according to the Company 'mailman', only six survived the war. They took Mount Monterumici summit on April 17th.

See letter from Hardol Enger, Bothell, Washington. Eino died in the arms of his close friend S/Sgt Henry Lahti, of a massive head wound from shrapnel. Henry grieved so for his friend that he was pulled from the line due to battle fatigue. Eino and Henry had a favorite song, "*Will the Circle Be Unbroken*". They often sang it together. They were called the "two Finns". I spoke to Henry's widow in New York, and she told me that they had made a number of trips to Maynard, visiting Eino's grave and his family.

Whitney, George A.



George A. Whitney
Sgt United States Army Air
Corps
533rd Bomb Squadron
381st Bomb Group
8th Air Force
Born:
Died: Jan 11, 1944



What We Know

George entered the service at Fort Devens in October 1942. He graduated from Armament School Lowry Field, Colorado, in April 1943. He was a Tail Gunner aboard the B-17 Flying Fortress.

He had a brief furlough at his home on Acton Street in May 1943, then reported to the 304th Bomb Squadron at Drew Field, Tampa, Florida.

George was MIA over Germany, and buried in the Netherlands.

George's father Deane, was the first World War II veteran to join the American Legion after being discharged upon reaching age 38.