

WORLD WAR II

7 December 1941 – 2 September 1945

Grover A. Abrams

Private, United States Army

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland



Ralph E. Adams

Private First Class, United States Army

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland



Phillip G. Adkins

Private First Class, United States Army

Entered the Service from Wango, Maryland
Was fatally wounded in France on 12 June 1944



Milton George Austin

Seaman, First Class, United States Navy

Service # 6025906

United States Naval Reserve



Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland, in September 1942. On March 10, 1943, a German submarine, U-185, attacked convoy KG123, torpedoing US Tanker Virginia Sinclair and freighter James Sprunt. A submarine chaser, SC742, was able to rescue all but seven of the Virginia Sinclair's complement. The crew on the freighter James Sprunt was not as fortunate. The James Sprunt, laden with general cargo and explosives, "disintegrated", killing all hands including 44 Merchant Marine sailors and 25 members of a Naval Armed Guard. At the age of 22, Seaman First Class "Dinky" Austin was on his "first sea trip" as a member of the gun crew on the merchant ship, James Sprunt. Another sailor on board the ship was Petty Officer Third Class C. A. Wilkinson, Jr. from Newton, North Carolina; "Dinky" and "junior" were good friends according to Mrs. Mabel (Austin) Long. The James Sprunt was on a voyage to Karachi.

In an interview with the wife of Seaman First Class Austin, Mrs. Mabel (Austin) Long stated that the Department of the Navy notified her in March 1943 via telegram that her husband was reported "missing in the performance of his duty in the service of his country." It would be almost a year before Mrs. (Austin) Long received a letter from the Department of the Navy confirming her husband's death. The letter stated, "While full details may not be furnished at this time, by reason of military security, it may be stated that your husband was a member of a gun crew serving aboard a merchant vessel that was lost March 10, 1943. In view of the circumstances surrounding the loss of the ship, and the practical impossibility of any personnel having survived the destruction, the Secretary of the Navy has held that the evidence justifies the conclusion that your husband met his death March 10."

An article that appeared in the Salisbury Times [March 1943] reported that "Dinky" was the son of Mrs. Viola Mae Austin, Church Street, Salisbury, Maryland, and the late Elias Austin. He was born at Mount Vernon [Somerset County] on November 14, 1920. The Austin's were married on December 24, 1941, and lived on Lincoln Avenue in Salisbury. Following basic training at Great Lakes in September 1942, "Dinky" was stationed in New Orleans, and prior to his "first sea trip" was stationed in Charleston, South Carolina. Mrs. Mabel (Austin) Long visited with her husband in February 1943, just prior to his shipping out on the James Sprunt.

Prior to enlisting in the Navy, "Dinky" was employed by J. Ryland Taylor, printer; he also worked for C. B. Hill, a Salisbury Boulevard service station operator. He was a member of the Bethesda Men's Bible Class. According to the Salisbury Times article in March 1943, "surviving Austin, besides his wife and mother, are his brothers and sisters: Mrs. Mildred Briddell, Mrs. Lydia Cook, Boyd Austin, Willie Austin, all of Salisbury; Harry Austin, U.S. Army in Alaska; Lloyd Austin, Wilmington; Mrs. Iris Chatham, Siloam; Martin Austin, Wilmington; and Mrs. Mary Barrall, Baltimore.

Date of Death is listed by the American Battle Monuments Commission as 10 March 1943. Seaman First Class Austin received the Purple Heart. Tablets of the Missing at East Coast Memorial, New York City, New York

James T. Bailey

Private First Class, United States Army

Service # 33378939

333rd Field Artillery Battalion

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland

Died: 18 December 1945

Tablets of the Missing at Ardennes American Cemetery, Neupre, Belgium

Awards: Purple Heart



Brenton W. Baker

Technical Sergeant, United States Army Air Forces

Service # 33205519

565th Bomber Squadron, 389th Bomber Group, Heavy

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland

Was reported missing over Germany, and later confirmed as Killed in Action. The Date of Death is listed as 20 June 1944 by the American Battle Monuments Commission.

Tablets of the Missing at Cambridge American Cemetery, Cambridge, England

Awards: Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Purple Heart



Woodrow J. Beasley

Staff Sergeant, United States Army

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland



James R. Belote

Private, United States Army

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland

Was killed in France on 4 August 1944



Glen Lee Bennett

Private, United States Army

Entered the Service from Mardela Springs, Maryland

Glen was the third son of William and Minnie Bennett to enter the military. He entered the Army in March, 1943, and was sent to Camp Joseph D. Robinson, Arkansas. In May, only two months after enlisting, he contracted spinal meningitis and died, at age twenty. His brother Elton was in the Navy and his brother Herman was stationed in Hawaii at the time.



Richard Jay Bertin

Boatswain's Mate, First Class, United States Navy

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland

Bertin was wounded in December 1944 and was later reported Killed in Action.



Edward Francis Booth, Jr.

Aviation Machinist's Mate, First Class, United States Navy



Service # 2581990

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland

Edward Booth was reported missing and presumed dead after his plane crashed in the Canal Zone. The Date of Death is listed as 28 November 1943 by the American Battle Monuments Commission. He was 23 at the time. Tablets of the Missing at West Coast Memorial, Presidio, California

George Edward Bozman

Private First Class, United States Army

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland

The War Department notified Mrs. Nancy "Nannie" Bozman on 25 May 1943 that her son George had "been killed in a motor vehicle accident somewhere in the Pacific area." The family later found out that George was killed on Guadalcanal. George had been in the Army almost two years. Prior to entering the Army, he was employed by the Manhattan Shirt Company. He was inducted 16 June 1941.



Francis Laird Brown, Jr.

2nd Lieutenant, United States Army

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland



James E. Campbell

Private, United States Army

Service # 33373741

507th Parachute Infantry Regiment

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland

The Date of Death was 18 June 1944, according to the American Battle Monuments Commission. James is buried in the Normandy American Cemetery, Colleville-sur-Mer, France.

Awards: Purple Heart



Gay Canfield

Corporal, United States Army

Entered the Service from Wicomico County, Maryland



Harry Edison Christner

Sergeant, United States Army

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland



Howard Franklin Clark

Lieutenant Junior Grade, United States Navy

Service # 0-081239

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland

Date of Death was reported as 9 May 1943, by the American Battle Monuments Commission.

Tablets of the Missing at Manila American Cemetery, Manila, Philippines

Awards: Distinguished Flying Cross Knight



William W. Collins

Private First Class, United States Army

1st Armored Division

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland

The Collins brothers Jim (Navy), Oliver (Army), and William "Bill" (Army) all served in the military in the Second World War. Bill went into the Army at age 18 in 1942. He was sent to the European theatre with the 1st Armored Division and was in the invasion of North Africa, Sicily, Anzio, and Salerno, Italy. Bill was killed on 5 May 1945. He was awarded the Purple Heart posthumously.



Arthur Paulette Crisp

Technical Sergeant, United States Army

Service # 13001441

175th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland

In March 1944, Crisp was in England and wrote home, "I am having the fun of my life. A lovely bed, breakfast in bed, consisting of 2 sunny side eggs, toast, bacon and tea. Now who could ask for anything more." Later that year T/Sgt Crisp was part of the invasion, and was killed in action in Europe on 12 August 1944. He is buried at Brittany American Cemetery, St. James, France.

Awards: Bronze Star, Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster



John Gilmore Cropper

Staff Sergeant, United States Army

Entered the Service from Wicomico County, Maryland

Cropper was a young married 22 year-old when he was drafted on 2 September 1941. After Fort Meade he was sent to Camp Wheeler, Georgia and then to Ft. Benning, Georgia. When the war began in the Pacific he was in combat on Guam and in the Philippines. Cropper was killed in action in Leyte on 27 December 1944.



Wayne Edward Cummings

Aviation Ordnanceman, Second Class, United States Navy

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland



Robert Day

Private First Class, United States Army

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland



Lloyd Franklin Dennis

Radarman, Third Class, United States Navy

Entered the Service from Delmar, Maryland

Brothers Alton, Mitchell, and Lloyd all served in the Second World War.

Both Alton and Mitchell entered the Army in 1942, were sent to the European theater, and were discharged in 1945. Lloyd served in the Pacific from 1943 until 1945.



Olen H. Dennis

Private First Class, United States Army

Entered the Service from Willards, Maryland

Olen was killed in the Pacific in 1944.

Awards: Bronze Star (posthumously)



Floyd W. Deshields

Warrant Officer, Junior Grade, United States Army

Entered the Service from Wicomico County, Maryland



Harry Edward Dolbey, Jr.

Corporal, United States Army

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland



Clarence M. Doyle

Private, United States Army

Entered the Service from Wicomico County, Maryland



Earl Dryden

Private First Class, United States Army

Service # 33898998

315th Infantry Regiment, 79th Infantry Division

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland

According to the American Battle Monuments Commission, Earl was killed on 24 March 1945. He is buried at Netherlands American Cemetery, Margraten, Netherlands.

Awards: Silver Star, Purple Heart



Harold E. Dutton

Private First Class, United States Army

Entered the Service from Delmar, Maryland



Ernest L. Esham

Staff Sergeant, United States Army

Service # 20342687

115th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division

Entered the Service from Fruitland, Maryland

Esham was serving in Europe when he was killed in France on 6 June 1944. He is buried at Normandy American Cemetery, Colleville-sur-Mer, France.

Awards: Purple Heart



Elwood F. Evans

Technician Fifth Class, United States Army

Service # 33553466

1992nd Engineer Fire Fighting Platoon

Entered the Service from Hebron, Maryland

According to the American Battle Monuments Commission, Elwood was killed on 19 May 1945. He is buried at Sicily-Rome American Cemetery, Nettuno, Italy.



Elton W. Farlow

Corporal, United States Army

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland



Hugh P. Freeman

Sergeant, United States Army

Service # 33061052

309th Infantry Regiment, 78th Infantry Division

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland

Sergeant Freeman is buried at Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery, Henri-Chapelle, Belgium

Awards: Purple Heart



Samuel Wesley Freeny

Lieutenant Colonel, United States Marine Corps

Entered the Marine Corps from Hebron, Maryland

Sam Freeny, born in 1896, was inducted into the Marines at St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland in 1917, just as the nation was entering the First World War. He served in Cuba and Haiti in that war and stayed in the Marines after World War I ended. In 1939, he was sent to Shanghai as Commander of the Marine Garrison there. Then in 1941, on the eve of America's entry into World War II, he was transferred to the Philippines. As Japan launched its attack on Bataan, he was wounded and made a Prisoner of War in April 1942. From Corregidor in 1944, he was put on a POW ship leaving the Philippines. It was sunk by a United States submarine. He was rescued but remained a Prisoner of War of the Japanese until he was killed by them on 24 December 1944. A picture of Lt. Col. Freeny hangs today at St. John's College in Annapolis, where he was an excellent baseball player.



Rolland E. Galusha

Private First Class, United States Army

Service # 33009483

121st Engineer Combat Battalion, 29th Infantry Division

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland

According to the American Battle Monuments Commission, Pfc. Galusha died 6 August 1943. He is buried at the Cambridge American Cemetery, Cambridge, England



Vernon L. German

Second Lieutenant, United States Army

Service # 01326277

345th Infantry Regiment, 87th Infantry Division

Entered the Service from Wicomico County, Maryland

2nd Lt. German died on 23 December 1944. He is buried in the Luxembourg American Cemetery, Luxembourg City, Luxembourg

Awards: Purple Heart



Wilbur H. Goslee

Private First Class, United States Army

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland



Taylor Ward Graham

Corporal, United States Marine Corps

Entered the Service from Tyaskin, Maryland

Taylor Graham was a proof reader in the editorial department of the Salisbury Times before entering the Marine Corps. He was sent to the Pacific theater with the 2nd Marine Division and was in both the Tarawa and Saipan invasions and was wounded twice. Graham was killed on Okinawa on 14 May 1945. He was only 21 years old.

On 8 January 2008, Cadet Brandon Wojcik of the Wicomico Composite Squadron (Civil Air Patrol), placed a "Wreaths Across America" wreath on the grave of Cpl. Taylor.



Henry J. Gully

Private, United States Army

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland

Gully was 23 when he was Killed in Action in Europe in 1944.



William Stanley Hartman

Corporal, United States Army

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland

William Hartman enlisted in Company I and left Salisbury when the unit was federalized, then transferred from the 29th Division to the paratroopers, 82nd Airborne Division, in June 1942. He served in the North African and Sicilian campaigns and then the Normandy invasion. In January 1944, he was wounded while jumping into Italy and was awarded the Purple Heart. After a long period of hospitalization the twenty-five year old returned to his unit. He was wounded again while making a jump in Holland on 20 September 1944, the day British tank troops and American airborne troops fought a bitter 24-hour battle for the Nijmegen bridge.. He died a few days later.



Howard E. Hastings

Private First Class, United States Army

Entered the Service from Delmar, Maryland



Richard Beverly Hitch

Electrician's Mate, First Class, United States Navy

Service # 2582276

Entered the Service from Allen, Maryland

According to the American Battle Monuments Commission, Hitch died 12 January 1946. Tablets of the Missing at Honolulu Memorial, Honolulu, Hawaii

Awards: Bronze Star, Purple Heart



William Dashiell Hopkins

Signalman, Third Class, United States Navy

Entered the Service from Tyaskin, Maryland

Billy was killed by an exploding shell of a trench mortar in July 1942, five days before his 23rd birthday. He was buried in Iceland.



Lewis James Howard, Jr.

Seaman, First Class, United States Navy (Reserve)

Service # 6021181

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland

According to the American Battle Monuments Commission, Howard died on 8 February 1944. Tablets of the Missing at Cambridge American Cemetery, Cambridge, England

Awards: Purple Heart



Charles L. Jackson, Jr.

Private First Class, United States Army

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland

"Jack" Jackson served in the 366th Infantry Regiment. He and his best buddy George H. Long were both killed in action.



Edward L. Johnson

Private First Class, United States Army

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland
Johnson was inducted on 5 October 1942 and was assigned to the 80th Division. After training at Camps Lee and Forest, he was sent to England and on to the European theater. He fought in France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany. He was killed in action in Luxembourg in January 1945, three months before his 24th birthday.



George Kerekesh

Sergeant, United States Army

Entered the Service from Delmar, Maryland

The following information is from an article written by Brice Stump, Staff Writer, The Daily Times, Thursday, December 7, 2006. Three of four brothers of Anna Cugler returned home from World War 11; sadly, George Kerekesh did not. So many thousands of miles away, Anna said she didn't experience front-line horrors of war, but the pain the war caused her and her family has lasted after more than 65 years.

"I didn't know anything about the Japanese, but I learned to hate them. They captured my brother, George Kerekesh, in the Philippines. He was in the Bataan Death March and he died there. He was about 21," she said through tears. She keeps his military photo on the mantel behind her favorite chair in the living room. Her other three brothers, who also volunteered during the war, returned home.

"It was hard on a lot of women around here. Their men were in the armed forces and they were here raising their families alone and working. And all of us worried, worried all the time about those boys," she said.

"My Uncle Joe was in the Army and he was in the Philippines where George was. He found his dog tags over a grave in a prisoner of war camp, and he wrote my mother and told her. They brought my brother's body back. He is buried in Delmar. A lady said to my mother, 'How do you know that's your son?' My mom said, 'If he's not my son, he is somebody's son.'"



Curtis Perryman King

Master Sergeant, United States Marine Corps

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland
The Master Sergeant served at Pearl Harbor and was killed in the Pacific theater.



Scott J. Lankford

Private, United States Army

Service # 33908806

273rd Infantry Regiment, 69th Infantry Division

Entered the Service from Sharptown, Maryland

Allen, Mark, and Scott, the sons of Atley and Mabel Lankford, all served their country in the war. Allen recalls, I could hardly wait to get into the service and enlisted in the Navy on 29 June 1942... Friends (in those days) told you "Don't go, you may not come back." And the reply was "I don't have to come back, but I do have to go." Mark joined the Marines and served in the Pacific. Scott, the youngest brother, went in the Army in August 1944. After basic training he was sent to England and then on to France. He fought in Belgium and in Germany where he was killed on 22 February 1945, six weeks before his 19th birthday.

Scott is buried at Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery, Henri-Chapelle, Belgium

Awards: Purple Heart



Alton J. Latchum

Private First Class, United States Army

Entered the Service from Parsonsburg, Maryland
Alton Latchum was a young husband and father of two children when he was drafted on 13 January 1944. He was assigned to a postal unit and sent to the Pacific. Alton was awarded three Battle Stars for action in the New Guinea Campaign, the Luzon Campaign, and the Southern Philippines Campaign. In Luzon, Latchum became ill and in October 1945, died somewhat suddenly from this illness. He was twenty-seven at the time.



William H. Layfield

Private First Class, United States Army

Entered the Service from Wicomico County, Maryland



Calvert Arthur Lecates

Seaman, First Class, United States Navy

Entered the Service from Delmar, Maryland

Eighteen year old Lecates went in the Navy on 13 December 1945. After boot camp he was assigned to the USS Genessee AOG8 and later to the USS Gaspenee. He was awarded the Purple Heart. Lecates was killed in action at Pearl Harbor on 30 December 1946.



George Henry Lewis

Private First Class, United States Army

Service # 20342719

115th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland

According to the American Battle Monuments Commission, Pfc. Lewis died on 7 September 1944. He is buried at Brittany American Cemetery, St. James, France.

Awards: Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster



George H. Long

Private First Class, United States Army

Service # 33388196

366th Infantry Regiment

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland

George "Buster" Long served in the Army and was assigned to the 366th Infantry Regiment, Company F. He was sent to the European theater; on 26 December 1944, while serving in Italy he was reported missing in action. Later, Long was declared killed in action. He served with his best buddy, Charles L. "Jack" Jackson, Jr. who was also killed in action.

Pfc. Long is buried in Florence American Cemetery, Florence, Italy.

Awards: Purple Heart



Johnnie C. Long

Private First Class, United States Army

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland



Howard J. Malone

Staff Sergeant, United States Army

Entered the Service from Wicomico County, Maryland



Robert Roscoe Malone

First Lieutenant, United States Marine Corps

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland

Malone was killed on Okinawa in May 1945.



William Mack Martino

Master, American Merchant Marines

Entered the Service from Wicomico County, Maryland



Ralph Cordrey of Sharptown provided the following information.

The following is a translation of the log of U-332 signed by Kapitanleutnant Johannes Leibe:

13 Mar 42 0500 hrs 26-00 deg N; 72-00 deg W. Shadow at 30 degrees true with dimmed side lights. Made out as a sailing vessel and a four masted schooner. An artillery attack seemed to be too unfavorable because of prevailing swell. Torpedo fired at 75 degree angle between U-boat commander's line of sight to the target ship, enemy speed 2 knots, and estimated distance 500 meters. Torpedo can be tracked by strong phosphorescence of the sea and runs past below the jib boom. Torpedo fired from tube 1 at 75 degree angle between U-boat commander's line of sight to the target, enemy speed 1 knot, hit under the third mast after 55 seconds (=800 meters). Very heavy, pine tree-like explosive cloud with black head. With the collapse of the cloud after a few seconds nothing more can be seen. On the way to the place of the sinking, the biting smell of burned-off powder was noticed, so that a cargo of that kind was assumed. Size of the schooner about 1000 gross registered tons. A second explosion is to be heard, presumably the detonation of the first torpedo, in self-destructing, at the end of its run. No observations.

The on-scene report of Kapitanleutnant Leibe suggests that the "salt" carried by the Albert F. Paul was likely raw material for use in making explosives.

Official word of Martino's disappearance was not obtained until well after the end of World War II.

United States account of the tragedy:

Captain William Mack Martino was the Master of the SV Albert F. Paul, a four masted schooner built at Milford, DE. The ship was owned by the C.C. Paul Company of Baltimore, Maryland. Carrying a load of sail to Baltimore, she was sunk near the Turks Island in the Caribbean on March 13, 1942 by the German U-boat U-332. All crew members were lost. The ships compliment included:

Master William Mack Martino

Mate Douglas Peck

Seaman James Bagley

Seaman John Carlson

Seaman John Christopher

Seaman Gideon Lindequist

Seaman Hugo Tokke

Edmund Lee Massey

Private, United States Army



Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland

William James Massey, and his two sons, William Henry and Edmund, all served in World War II. The father, William James was a career man with the Coast Guard, and during the war he was assigned to the area beach patrol. He joined the Coast Guard in 1917 and was forced to retire due to heart disease on 1 October 1944. William Henry, his son, joined in early 1942 and served with the Army Signal Corps in India. After the War he joined the Maryland State Police and made Lieutenant with them.

When Edmund was drafted in 1944, he was married with two children, one seven and one a year and a half. He reported for duty in August and was assigned to the 80th Infantry Division with Patton's 3rd Army. In December he qualified for OCS, but if he went he would not be able to go home for Christmas. If he chose to go home for the holidays, when he returned he would be sent immediately overseas. He chose to go home for Christmas. In January 1945 he left for overseas, but his family didn't know where. Somehow, his daughter remembers, "he smuggled a letter off the ship via a British sailor who mailed it to us. He told us he had been sent from Boston and was on his way to Scotland." Massey became part of the invasion forces a few weeks later, and was part of the massive replacements needed in the Battle of the Bulge. On 26 February 1945, four days before his wedding anniversary and two days before his 29th birthday, he was killed in Biersdorf, Germany by an artillery mortar shell. A letter to Massey's sister from an Army Chaplain explained the details of his death: "A Company...moved off into an attack one half mile north of Biersdorf, Germany. Your brother, with other members of his squad were cut off from their Company by enemy mortar and small arms fire. They stayed in their position and continued to fire upon the enemy. As a result of the squad being fired upon by enemy mortars, your brother was killed in action... At first he was buried in Luxembourg, but his body was returned home for final interment in Salisbury in August 1948."

William C. Messick

Messman, American Merchant Marines

Entered the Service from Wicomico County, Maryland



Ralph Charles McCain

Aviation Radioman, Third Class, United States Navy

Service # 2584604

Entered the Service from Delmar, Maryland

According to the American Battle Monuments Commission, McCain died on 25 August 1944.
Tablets of the Missing at Honolulu Memorial, Honolulu, Hawaii



Oland G. Mills

Private First Class, United States Army

Entered the Service from Hebron, Maryland



Thomas W. Mitchell, Jr.

Private, United States Army

Entered the Service from Wicomico County, Maryland



Marion Moore

Pharmacist's Mate, Third Class, United States Navy

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland



Norman W. Morris

Private First Class, United States Army

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland
Morris was killed in the D Day landing on Normandy



Stanley W. Morris

Private First Class, United States Army

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland



Carlton L. Mumford

Private, United States Army

Entered the Service from Wicomico County, Maryland



William C. Mumford, Jr.

Staff Sergeant, United States Army

Entered the Service from Vienna, Maryland



Harry Neill

Private, United States Army

Service # 33733144

357th Infantry Regiment, 90th Infantry Division

Entered the Service from Delmar, Maryland

Harry was killed in France on 6 August 1944. He was only twenty-three at the time of his death.

Private Neill is buried at Brittany American Cemetery, St. James, France.

Awards: Purple Heart



Philip John Neptin

Private, United States Army

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland



Walter Purnell Nock, Jr.

Ensign, United States Navy

Service # 0-165396

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland

Ensign Nock died 9 August 1942.

Tablets of the Missing at Manila American Cemetery, Manila, Philippines

Awards: Purple Heart



Julius Nutter

Steward's Mate, Second Class, United States Navy

Entered the Service from Nanticoke, Maryland



Thurman Franklin Parker

Private First Class, United States Army

Entered the Service from Wicomico County, Maryland



William Vaughn Parker

Corporal, United States Army

Entered the Service from Parsonsburg, Maryland

Parker served in the 802nd Tank Destroyers Battalion after being sent overseas in 1942.

He was killed in action in Belgium in 1944, and was awarded the Purple Heart posthumously.



Willis Alfred Parker

Aviation Radioman, First Class, United States Navy

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland



Andrew B. Perdue

Private First Class, United States Army

Entered the Service from Parsonsburg, Maryland



Harold D. Perry

Private, United States Army

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland



Samuel Howard Poulson

Aviation Ordnanceman, Second Class, United States Navy

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland



James R. Powell

Quartermaster, Third Class, United States Navy

Entered the Service from Wicomico County, Maryland



Otho T. Powell

Private, United States Army

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland



Albert G. Price

Private First Class, United States Army

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland



John Thomas Price

Second Lieutenant, United States Army Air Corps

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland

Price was the co-pilot on a Superfortress and was shot down during a night incendiary raid on Tokyo on 13 April 1944. He was 22 at the time. At first he was held in Kempi Interrogation Center in Tokyo, but on 10 May was moved to Yoyage Army prison in Tokyo with 61 other American airmen. Tragically, American planes fire bombed the city, including the prison camp, on 26 May 1945, and all the Americans were killed in the raid. Their bodies were buried in the prison yard, but later moved to the American Military Cemetery at Yokohama. Price's parents were told of the details of the raid by General Amos W. Woodcock who was on the investigation team at the end of the war.



William E. Rapp

Private First Class, United States Army

Service # 33908793

232nd Infantry Regiment, 42nd Infantry Division

Entered the Service from Riverton, Maryland

Pfc Rapp is buried at Lorraine American Cemetery, St. Avold, France

Awards: Purple Heart



Robert Eugene Rencher

Technical Sergeant, United States Army

Service # 33381561

141st Infantry Regiment, 36th Infantry Division

Entered the Service from Bivalve, Maryland

Rencher entered the Army in 1942, and was sent to the European theatre. He was with the 5th Army in the North African campaign and the Italian campaign, and was killed in action on 29 May 1944. He left behind a sixteen month old daughter he had never seen. Tablets of the Missing at Sicily-Rome American Cemetery, Nettuno, Italy

Awards: Bronze Star, Purple Heart



Herbert L. Ruark, Jr.

Private First Class, United States Army

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland



Ralph L. Ruark

Sergeant, United States Army

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland



Elmer G. Schantz

Second Lieutenant, United States Army

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland



Clifford H. Smith

Staff Sergeant, United States Army Air Forces

Service # 33718333

4th Bomber Squadron, 34th Bomber Group, Heavy

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland

Clifford Smith was a tail gunner on a B-24 Liberator. He was awarded the Air Medal for "Meritorious achievement...coolness, courage, and skill" during bombing attacks on the Nazi war making installation in August 1944. Smith was killed in action on 24 August 1944.

Tablets of the Missing at Cambridge American Cemetery, Cambridge, England

Awards: Air Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, Purple Heart



Edwin F. Smith

Private First Class, United States Army

Entered the Service from Siloam, Maryland

Smith was killed in France on 7 August 1944.



Albert G. Smullen

Private First Class, United States Army

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland



David L. Somervell

First Lieutenant, United States Army Air Forces

Service # 0-672989

70th Bomber Squadron, 42nd Bomber Group, Medium

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland

David Somervell was inducted on 16 May 1941, in the Army and assigned to an Ordnance outfit. After the United States entered the war, he transferred to the Army Air Corps, 13th Air Force, in July 1942. He earned his wings in February 1943, in Texas and was sent overseas to the Pacific in July 1943. Between then and the end of the year he flew 35 missions as bombardier and navigator on a medium bomber. On 1 January 1944, he was promoted to First Lieutenant. Two weeks later, on a mission over Rabaul, he was reported missing and later reported Killed in Action. He was not yet twenty-six at the time.

Tablets of the Missing at Manila American Cemetery, Manila, Philippines.

Awards: Air Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, Purple Heart



Harley Alphonso Speare, Jr.

Staff Sergeant, United States Army Air Forces

Service # 13113507

389th Bomber Squadron, 312th Bomber Group, Light

Entered the Service from Sharptown, Maryland

Joseph Ward Speare, Private First Class, United States Army, Sharptown and Harley were brothers. Ward was drafted in April 1945, and took his basic at Camp Gordon, Georgia. When news came of Harley's death he was discharged. Harley enlisted in the Air Corps in September 1942. In November he graduated from the Army Air Forces Flexible Gunnery School in Florida. He was promoted to Sergeant upon graduation and was sent to the Pacific theatre where he was the tail gunner on a bomber. He arrived in New Guinea in March 1943. In January 1944, his plane was making a bombing raid over New Guinea and went down. He was declared Killed in Action in 27 January 1946, but Harley's remains were never found in the jungles where he died.

Tablets of the Missing at Manila American Cemetery, Manila, Philippines.

Awards: Air Medal, Purple Heart

The following was written in Memory of SSgt Harley A. Spear, Jr., United States Army Air Corps, by John E. Goslee, December 6, 1994, and is proudly displayed at American Legion Post 218, Sharptown, MD.

Harley A. Spear was born August 21, 1921, the youngest son of Harley and Viola Spear of Sharptown, MD. He attended school at the old Sharptown Elementary and High School, located on the same street that he lived on all of his civilian life. As a small boy he liked to run around and make believe he was flying an airplane. He had an inventive mind and enjoyed building things with his Gilbert Erector sets and became a mechanic at Joe Morgan's Garage before finishing school. He enjoyed playing softball and soccer. In 1938, he helped to lead his graduating class to the County championship for soccer.

As a young boy he followed in his father's and brother's footsteps as a musician. He played trumpet in the Sharptown Fireman's Band and his favorite song was "Home on the Range". Harley was in the unit until it was disbanded because of World War II. Harley graduated from high school in 1938. He worked for a while at the E.I. DuPont Co. in Seaford, DE. During that time he purchased his first car, a 1939 maroon two door Ford. You could see him polishing it at every opportunity. His father drove it for many years.

When World War II started, Harley went to work for the Glenn L. Martin Aircraft Co. in Baltimore, Maryland. On August 21, 1942, on his 21st birthday, he joined the United States Army Air Corps. Following boot camp, Harley became a gunner and later a gunnery instructor, receiving his first stripes in the process. He volunteered for combat duty and was assigned to the 389th Bomber Squadron of the 312th Bomb Group attached to the Fifth Air Force. That unit was equipped with the Douglass A-20 Attack Bomber that was at that time the fastest of its type in the U.S. arsenal. The unit would be operating from bases on the island of New Guinea in the South Pacific. On one of the unit's earliest missions, the bombing of a Japanese airfield on the island's northeast coast, violent storms forced the mission to be aborted and the 12 planes of Harley's squadron turned back. While flying back to base through the worsening weather three of the squadron's planes were lost and Harley's was one of them.

After much searching in the following weeks, the Army gave up, but on August 31, 1983, Harley's A-20, Ser. No. G-10-42-54085 was found in the mountain jungle of New Guinea. The remains of the pilot, 2nd Lt. Henry I. Miars of Hubbard, Texas, were found on board, but no trace of Harley was ever found. It was suspected that he may have jumped out since his chute was missing. An old native remembered burying the body of an American soldier, but it had been so long he could not remember where the grave was. Also, in this remote region the jungle growth can cover something in a matter of days. There is a possibility that Harley could have been captured, but this is doubtful because the jungle there was so dense, and there were no reports of enemy activity in or near the area.

Harley's father accepted the fact that his son wasn't coming back, but Harley's mother never did and always believed he would walk through the door someday. She died just before Harley's plane was found in 1983. His mother and father are buried in Taylor's Cemetery beside an empty grave marked with a monument dedicated to the memory of Staff Sergeant Harley A. Spear, U.S.A.A.C. May God Bless them all.



Donald Grant Taylor

Private First Class, United States Army

88th Blue Devil Division

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland

The following information was provided by the brother of Donald Grant Taylor, Oscar Taylor, in May 2008.

My brother, Donald Grant Taylor, is listed on the memorial and was killed in WWII. He was the 7th child (I am the 8th and only surviving sibling) of Granville and Annie Taylor. He was born January 28, 1923, in Salisbury. He was not married and had no children. In 1943 he and I took the entrance exam together – I went to Army Air Force and he went infantry. After basic training, he went overseas to Italy with the 88th Blue Devil Division which was made up entirely of draftees. He went through the campaign and was then killed in the fall of 1944 (as best I can recall) north of Rome, from an explosion of a land mine. He died on the operating table. He received the Silver Star by killing or capturing 58 German soldiers while using a mortar (possibly German) with no gun sight. The 88th was disbanded after the war ended.



Herbert Taylor

Private, United States Army

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland



John H. Taylor

Private First Class, United States Army

Entered the Service from Wicomico County, Maryland



James Edward Thomas

Private, United States Army

Service # 33850275

121st Infantry Regiment, 8th Infantry Division

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland

Thomas was killed on 6 December 1944. He is buried at Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery, Henri-Chapelle, Belgium.

Awards: Purple Heart



Paul E. Tingle

Private First Class, United States Army

Entered the Service from Delmar, Maryland



George Washington Townsend, Jr.

Seaman, First Class, United States Navy

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland



Edward F. Truitt

Private, United States Army

Entered the Service from Hebron, Maryland

Edward Truitt was only 19 years old when he was killed in Germany, April 1945.



James R. Truitt

Sergeant, United States Army

Service # 20342809

115th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division

Entered the Service from Delmar, Maryland

Truitt was 19 when he was wounded in France on 11 July 1944. He died from his wounds on 4 August 1944. He is buried at Cambridge American Cemetery, Cambridge, England.

Awards: Purple Heart



Alden L. Tyrrell

Private, United States Army

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland



Bertram L. Ware

Sergeant, United States Army

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland

Bertram Ware went into the Army at age 18, in November 1943.

He was assigned to the 30th Bomb Squadron, 19th Bomb Group, as left gunner and electrical specialist on a B-29. He was transferred to the Pacific theatre and flew out of Guam Island Air Base. On 16 April 1945, he was shot down while flying a bombing mission over Kawasaki, Japan, and was taken prisoner. He was held in Yoyage Prison Camp and died there in May 1945 when American bombers were fire bombing the city. Among his personal effects sent home to his parents was a dollar bill autographed by war correspondent Ernie Pyle, a friend of Ware's.

Awards: Purple Heart



Lacy R. Westfall

Second Lieutenant, United States Army

Entered the Service from Wicomico County, Maryland



Wallace Randolph White

Private First Class, United States Army

Entered the Service from Parsonsburg, Maryland



Alvin K. Wilkins

Private, United States Army

Service # 33949160

309th Infantry Regiment, 78th Infantry Division

Entered the Service from Pittsville, Maryland

Wilkins was killed in Europe 16 March 1945. He is buried at Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery, Henri-Chapelle, Belgium.

Awards: Purple Heart



Benton Maurice Wilkins

Private, United States Army

Entered the Service from Willards, Maryland



Louis Wendell Williams

Private First Class, United States Army

Entered the Service from Delmar, Maryland



Charles Levin Young

Seaman, Second Class, United States Navy

Service # 2584484

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland

Seaman Young died 11 July 1944. Tablets of the Missing at Sicily-Rome American Cemetery, Nettuno, Italy.

Awards: Purple Heart



Charles Martin Zulick

Captain, United States Marine Corps

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland



