



Freedom's Voice

The Monthly Newsletter of the
Military History Center

112 N. Main ST
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
<http://www.okmhc.org/>



“Promoting Patriotism through the Preservation of Military History”

Volume 5, Number 5

May 2017

Memorial Day

United States Armed Services Days of Observance

The month of May has three significant Armed Services Days of Observance. The most important is Memorial Day on May 29. Others are VE Day on May 8 and National Maritime Day on May 22.

Flag Day and Book Signing – June 10

Saturday, June 10 will be a special day at the MHC. Because Flag Day falls on Wednesday this year, a work day for most people, the MHC will hold its annual Flag Day commemoration on Saturday, June 10.

The day's events will begin with a book signing in the Vietnam War section of the Museum from 11:00 to 1:00. Authors, Charles Sasser and Robert Maras, will be talking about, and selling and signing, copies of their recently released book: *Blood in the Hills, The Story of Khe Sanh, the Most Savage Fight of the Vietnam War*. The book relates the experiences of Mr. Maras, then a PFC in the Marine Corps and participant in the Khe Sanh hill fighting.

The Flag Day commemoration will begin at 1:30 on the MHC's Memorial Flag Plaza. The guest speaker will be Mr. Kevin McDugle, Oklahoma House of Representatives, District Twelve and a Marine Corps veteran of Somalia, Bosnia and Saudi Arabia.

Please set aside time on June 10 for these special events. You won't want to miss them.



**“Here rests in honored glory an American soldier
known but to God”**



“The living have the cause of the dead in trust”.

Osman White, World War II
Australian War Correspondent

History Classic Golf Tournament

On Friday, May 5, the Military History Center and Museum Broken Arrow held their second annual, joint History Classic Golf Tournament fund raiser. It was a perfect golf day with almost cloudless skies, little or no wind, low humidity, with the temperature in the low seventies. Participation was excellent. We are most appreciative of the support of all golfers and sponsors and for the hospitality of Battle Creek Golf Club.



Ben Chavez, Dillon Wasson, BG James Wasson, Dale Wells



Tom Mullen, Dean Carlson, BG Tom Mancino, Bob Eva



Adam Hanson, Emily Austin, Mandi Garcia, Mario Gallegos

Broken Arrow Rooster Days Parade



MHC Board Secretary Peter Plank driving, WWII veteran Frank Rie-singer holding his grandson in the passenger seat and MHC Docent Mitch Reed in the rear seat on the left



Sam Hoch "piloting" the MHC model airplane



The MHC parade float



On April 1, 1945, when the 1st Marine "The Old Breed" Division landed on Okinawa, PFC Albert Earnest Schwab was a flamethrower operator in Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment. When his unit was pinned down by heavy machine gun fire on May 7, Schwab scaled the ridge from which the gun was firing and disposed of it and its crew with his flamethrower. Almost immediately, a second machine gun opened fire inflicting more casualties on his fellow marines. Although he had not had time to replenish his supply of flamethrower fuel, PFC Schwab unhesitatingly advanced on the second gun and succeeded in eliminating it, as a final burst from the machine gun delivered fatal wounds to him.

For his selfless actions above and beyond the call of duty, PFC Schwab was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. Rear Admiral J. J. "Jocko" Clark, Commander of the Naval Air Basic Training Command, Naval Air Station, Corpus Christi, Texas, presented PFC Schwab's Medal of Honor to his three-year-old son, Steven Albert Schwab, at Boulder Park (now Veterans Park) in Tulsa on Memorial Day, May 30, 1946.

Albert Earnest Schwab was born July 17, 1920, in Washington, DC. His family moved to Tulsa when he was six weeks old. Schwab graduated from Central High School in 1937. He entered the University of Tulsa, but left after one semester to work for an oil company. He entered the Marine Corps on May 12, 1944. After basic training and a ten-day leave, Schwab was sent to the 2nd Training Battalion at Camp Pendleton, California. He was transferred to the 13th Replacement Draft, and on November 12, was shipped to the central Pacific.

PFC Schwab's body was returned to the United States, where it was buried with full military honors at Memorial Park Cemetery in Tulsa, on February 27, 1949. Honors given to the young hero include the Marine Corps' Camp Schwab on Okinawa named for him, American Legion Post 555, Midway City, California renamed in his honor in 2001 and Tulsa's Marine Corps League Detachment 857 named for him.

On June 3, 2011, a statue of PFC Albert E. Schwab, created by David Nunneley of Broken Arrow, was unveiled at Tulsa International Airport. PFC Schwab's family has made a permanent loan of his Medal of Honor to the Tulsa Historical Society, where it's displayed.



PFC Albert E. Schwab Memorial – Tulsa International Airport



Ms. Jo Ann Carlson Berry, sister of PFC Albert E. Schwab, (the little girl depicted in the Memorial) displays his Medal of Honor at Tulsa Historical Society.

Museum Hours and Admission Fee

Tuesday – Friday: 10:00 – 4:00; Saturday: 10:00 – 2:00
Closed Sunday and Monday and major Federal holidays

Adults – \$5.00
Members and Children under 18 – Free

For more information, call (918) 794-2712

www.okmhc.org



Joseph James Clark was born on November 12, 1893, in a log cabin by a creek near Pryor in Indian Territory. Clark began his distinguished naval career as a midshipman in May 1913, when he entered the United States Naval Academy. While at the Academy he was given the nickname “Jocko.” He graduated in 1917 in the accelerated class of 1918. He was the first American Indian (Cherokee) to graduate from the Naval Academy.

Newly commissioned Ensign Clark was assigned his first combat duty as a deck officer aboard the armored cruiser, USS *North Carolina*, on convoy duty in the Atlantic. In 1921, Clark was assigned his first command, the destroyer, USS *Brooks*. On March 25, 1925, Clark earned his pilot's wings at Pensacola, Naval Air Station, Florida. He became a strong advocate, and an accomplished specialist, of naval air.

In May 1941, Commander Clark was assigned to the aircraft carrier, USS *Yorktown*, as executive officer. While aboard *Yorktown*, on January 2, 1942, he was promoted to Captain. Clark later commanded an aircraft carrier, the second-named *Yorktown*. (The first *Yorktown* on which Clark served was sunk at the Battle of Midway, in June 1942.)

On April 13, 1944, Fast Carrier Task Force 58, commanded by Vice Admiral Marc Mitscher, was ordered to provide support for General Douglas MacArthur's planned landing at Hollandia and Aitape on the northwest coast of New Guinea by launching air strikes against Japanese installations in the Caroline Islands. The Task force was divided into three groups, and Captain Clark was given command of Task Group 58.1. Clark's next combat assignment was the assault on Saipan, Tinian and Guam in the Marianas, where his Task Force participated in the Battle of the Philippine Sea. That was followed in 1945 with Task Force 58's participation in the battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

Admiral Jocko Clark continued his illustrious career in the Navy until he retired as a four-star admiral, in December 1953. He died at St. Albans Naval Hospital, New York on July 13, 1971. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

On May 9, 1980, the United States Navy accepted delivery of its newest guided missile frigate, USS *Clark*, named for Admiral Clark. USS *Clark* remained in service until March 14, 2000, when she was decommissioned.



On October 8, 1918, Harold Leo Turner was a Corporal in Co. F, 142nd Infantry Regiment, 36th Infantry Division (Texas-Oklahoma National Guard in World War I). Near St. Etienne, France, with his platoon blocked by a powerful German machine gun position, “Cpl. Turner rushed forward with fixed bayonet and charged the position alone, capturing the strongpoint with a complement of fifty Germans and one machinegun. His remarkable display of courage and fearlessness was instrumental in destroying the strongpoint, the fire from which had blocked the advance of his company.” For his heroic actions above and beyond the call of duty, CPL Turner received the Medal of Honor on May 3, 1919.

Harold Leo Turner was born on May 5, 1898, at Aurora, Missouri. He entered the Army at Seminole, Oklahoma, where he was living at the time. CPL Turner died on March 12, 1938, and is buried in Little Cemetery at Seminole.

Turner and Samuel M. Sampler, featured in last month's newsletter, were in the same regiment, but different companies. Both received Medals of Honor for similar heroic actions in the same battle, Mont Blanc Ridge, on the same day – October 8, 1918 – during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive

Support the Military History Center

We believe the MHC provides a valuable service to the local community, especially to veterans and students, by “Promoting Patriotism through the Preservation of Military History”. We invite you to join us in promoting patriotism and recognizing the sacrifices made by our veterans to keep America free.

For more information, please contact the Military History Center at (918) 794-2712 to learn how you can be a supporter, or click on the link below to go to the MHC website at www.okmhc.org/donate/.

Monetary donations, as well as gifts in kind, are tax deductible, subject to IRS regulations.

A Young Marine Goes to War



PVT William T. Morgan – 1942

William T. “Billy” Morgan was born at Bushyhead (Rogers County), Oklahoma, on December 24, 1924. He was a graduate of Bushyhead High School. After graduation, he worked in Tulsa for a short time before enlisting in the Marine Corps at Oklahoma City, in September 1942.

By early 1943, he was assigned to Co. B, 1st Battalion, 18th Marine Regiment. The 18th was a composite regiment of battalions with different tasks. The 1st Battalion was an engineer battalion. The 18th was attached to the 2nd Marine “The Silent Second” Division from September 1942 until August 1944, when the regiment was deactivated.

The 2nd Division first saw action in the Guadalcanal Campaign, but Morgan was still in basic training when the Guadalcanal operation began. In January 1943, the 2nd Division was relieved from the Guadalcanal operation and sent to Wellington, New Zealand for rest, recuperation, resupply and replacements. That would have been when Morgan joined the 18th Regiment. While in New Zealand, the 2nd Division planned and trained for their next battle, Tarawa. Two weeks, or so, before leaving New Zealand, the Division received its flamethrowers. Whether Morgan was assigned the job as a flamethrower operator or volunteered is unknowable. In any case, the flamethrower operators had no time for training in New Zealand. They learned how to operate the devices from the sterns of the troopships on the way to Tarawa. The 2nd Division began embarking from New Zealand, on November 1, 1943.

Tarawa is a triangular shaped coral atoll less than eighty miles north of the equator, within the Gilbert Islands, a British colony in 1943. The most important island in the atoll is Betio (bay she ō’), about a mile and a half long and about a half-mile wide at its widest point, less than one square mile. The Japanese occupied Tarawa Atoll and other islands in the Gilberts in early 1942. They established their headquarters, an all-weather landing strip and strong defenses on and around Betio. It was garrisoned with 4,000 elite Japanese marines. As was typical of Japanese hubris, they believed the island was impregnable. The Japanese commander on Betio boasted that the Americans couldn’t take the island with a million men in 500 years. Eight-

een thousand United States Marines took it in seventy-six hours, although with invaluable help from naval gunnery and naval air support. Mop-up required several more days.

Tarawa was the first Allied offensive land battle in the Central Pacific Theater. The Marines began landing on Betio early Saturday morning, November 20, 1943. What many believed would be a walk-through, because of the intensive naval and air bombardment, became a vicious three-day battle, the bloodiest in Marine Corps history up to that time. Morgan reported (most likely in a letter home) that he was involved in the destruction of twenty-three Japanese pillboxes (fortified bunkers). The Marine engineers used explosives and flamethrowers to complete the destruction. These were the two methods commonly used to destroy pillboxes, often in combination.



Two flamethrower operators attacking a Japanese pillbox on Betio

The 2nd Division marines re-boarded their troop transports on December 4 and headed for Hawaii for another round of rest, recuperation, resupply and replacements. They would have little of the first two, as they would be preparing for their next battle. They were sent to a new camp – Camp Tarawa – still under construction when they arrived on the big island of Hawaii. This time the 2nd Division’s mission was Saipan and then Tinian, the heart of Japan’s inner defense ring.

Marines of the 1st Battalion, 18th Regiment were tasked with loading large LSTs (Landing Ships, Tank) with everything necessary for the upcoming beach assaults and the battle to wrest the islands from the Japanese. This included vehicles, tanks, amtracs (amphibious tracked landing vehicles) and artillery, ammunition for every type of weapon assigned to the 2nd Division, gasoline, including highly flammable 100 octane aviation gasoline, food, medical supplies and so on.

Altogether, there were thirty-four LSTs to be loaded. They were moored closely together in Pearl Harbor’s West Loch. At 3:08 p.m. on Sunday, May 21, 1944, an explosion rocked the deck of LST 353. A chain reaction of explosions immediately followed. Over the next twenty-four hours, six LSTs sank, and several more were severely damaged. In all, 163 men were

killed and 396 wounded. Among the bodies that could not be found after it was all over was PFC Billy Morgan's. He was just nineteen years old.

The West Loch Disaster, as it came to be called, was classified so the Japanese might not become aware of the preparations for the Marianas Islands operation. The government being the government, it remained classified until 1962. Billy Morgan's family was notified that he was missing at sea and presumed dead.¹

His name is inscribed on the Tablets in the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Honolulu. He was posthumously awarded a Purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon, Navy Presidential Unit Citation, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic/Pacific Campaign Medal with one Battle Star and World War II Victory Medal.

Admiral Kelly Turner convened a board of inquiry, which determined that a mortar round had been "mishandled" by Army personnel on LST 353, initiating the disaster. The 27th Infantry Division (New York National Guard) would also participate in the battle for Saipan. Some of their men were loading LSTs assigned to their Division. "Mishandled" suggests carelessness. Since there were no survivors on that LST, no one knows exactly what happened. It's just as likely that someone accidentally, not carelessly, dropped a mortar round. In any case, the result was disastrous.



With LSTs on fire in the background, Marine Corps amtracs, fully loaded with fuel and ammunition, await to be loaded



Navy fire boats fighting the West Loch fire

We are grateful to Billy Morgan's niece, Ms. Julia Couch of Tulsa, who donated his framed photograph to the MHC. With the meager information she had about her uncle, we were able to research his story and learn something about the young hero's time in the Marine Corps and the true nature of his death.

Click on the link to view Navy film of the West Loch Disaster: <https://archive.org/details/NPC-4194>

This Month's Featured Exhibit



This month's featured exhibit showcases various World War II communications equipment. On the right is a fully operational World War II Signal Corps BD-96 field switchboard. On the display stand in front of the switchboard is a World War II TA-312 P/T field telephone. The telephone was usually connected to the switchboard with WD-1 wire. It was battery powered and very reliable. (Items donated by Don Hughes)

On the right side on the top shelf of the display case is a World War II Hallicrafter S-20 Sky Champion radio with headset. It is a single conversion, eight-tube general coverage receiver that covers 540Hz to 44MHz in four bands. The radio was completely restored to working condition by Andy Anderson, a noted Tulsa ham radio enthusiast. (Donated by Donnie Anderson) The World War II EE-8 field telephone on the top shelf was donated by Marjorie Breidenbach. On the left side of the middle shelf is a 1944 Army Signal Corps crystal set donated by Ted Gardner.

Displayed on the left side of the bottom shelf are three radios taken from downed Japanese aircraft. There are several other objects of interest in the exhibit, including a Signal Corps F-358-Q receiver, a chest microphone, field telegraph key, reproductions of two World War II photographs above the display case showing the Hallicrafter radio in operation and other communications items.

¹ Billy Morgan's family never knew the true circumstances of his death until we researched it and informed them.

Merrill's Marauders



Lt. William Z. Duncan (left) and another American serviceman hired a Burmese man to take them by canoe to scrounge for food while they were serving in Burma during World War II.

Merrill's Marauders, named for their first commander, Brigadier General Frank Merrill, were officially the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), code-named, Unit Galahad. The Marauders were conceived, organized and trained as a long-range penetration, special operations, jungle warfare unit. Its purpose was to penetrate into Burma behind Japanese lines to disrupt their communications and logistics and to aid in recapturing the important Burmese town of Myitkyina (*mitch chin a*), which the Marauders shortened to "Mitch".

The Marauders began operations with 2,997 men, of whom 250 remained in India as a rear echelon operations and support unit. The long-range penetration force was a regiment, organized into three battalions. They began their movement into Burma in February 1944. They traveled light. Their heaviest weapons were 60 mm mortars, bazookas (shoulder fired rocket launchers) and .30 caliber machine guns. They used mules to transport the heavier weapons, ammunition, extra food and medical supplies. The mules served a dual purpose. When they were no longer needed for transportation, they became food. While in Burma, the Marauders were usually outnumbered by units from the crack Japanese 18th Division, but they always inflicted many more casualties than they suffered. The Marauders were guided by native Kachin scouts and used mobility and surprise. They harassed supply and communication lines, shot up patrols, blew up bridges and assaulted Japanese rear areas, in one case cutting off the Japanese rearguard at Maing-kwan.



Marauders taking a break along a trail near Nhpum Ga, Burma

On May 17, the Marauders, with only about 1,300 remaining, along with two Chinese regiments, attacked the airfield at Myitkyina. The attack completely surprised the Japanese, who had no idea their enemy was nearby in such force. The airfield was captured, but the attack force was too small to root out the Japanese from the heavily defended town. In this, their final mission, the Marauders suffered 272 killed and 955 wounded. 980 men had already been evacuated for wounds, illness and disease. Some of these men later died from their wounds as well as cerebral malaria, amoebic dysentery, and/or scrub typhus. During their operations, under some of the most forbidding terrain and conditions on earth, the Marauders participated in five major battles and thirty minor ones. Only 200 Marauders were evacuated from Myitkyina under their own power. One of them was 1st Lt. William Z. Duncan.

Duncan was born on August 20, 1920, in a tent near Wetumka, Oklahoma, where his parents, "wildcatters", were drilling for oil. Duncan was proud of his birth circumstances and said he was six years-old before he ever lived in a house. "If you guys hadn't lived in a tent the first six years of your life, you haven't experienced anything," he used to tell his four boys, said son, Jim Duncan. William Duncan was an educator. He began teaching in Tahlequah while still attending Northeastern State College. World War II interrupted his education. He didn't receive his bachelor's degree until 1946. He received his master's degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1951.

Duncan spent forty-four years as an educator, retiring from Tulsa Public Schools in 1986 as principal of McKinley Elementary School. To his students, he was "Burma Bill". William Z. Duncan died on November 12, 2008. He is buried in Greenlawn Cemetery at Checotah, Oklahoma.

During a February 2007 interview with the *Tulsa World*, Duncan told the interviewer: "I was only afraid one time – when they shot at me – and I stayed afraid until I went home." He went on to tell the interviewer that the Japanese were not the only danger: "The campaign took the men into remote areas and brought them face-to-face with Bengal tigers, monkeys, snakes (Burmese pythons) big enough to swallow a pig, schools of piranhas and the occasional head hunter, who would decapitate people and shrink their heads."

For his service in Burma, LT Duncan received a Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Ribbon with two battle stars and Combat Infantryman's Badge.



William Duncan viewing his World War II photo album with his son, Bill



PFC Norman T. Hixenbaugh – 1943

Norman “Bud” Hixenbaugh was born at McKeesport, Pennsylvania, on February 7, 1923. He was inducted into the U.S. Army, on February 27, 1943. He was trained as a medic and departed from the United States for India on April 23, 1944. There, he was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 5307th Composite Unit (Merrill’s Marauders).

He went with the Marauders into Burma where he was wounded by shrapnel. When he was evacuated to hospital at Kunming, China, he was also afflicted with malaria and two forms of dysentery. While in Burma, he witnessed the death of his best friend, who was killed by friendly fire from aerial bombardment. Hixenbaugh was still at Kunming when the war ended. He made his way into India, where he managed to associate himself with an engineer unit and returned to the United States aboard ship via the Suez Canal. He ended the war as a Sergeant with a Purple Heart, CBI Theater Service Medal with four battle stars, and other decorations. SGT Hixenbaugh was discharged from the Army, on December 23, 1945.

He eventually became employed in the aero-space industry. In 1962, he was transferred to Tulsa with North American Aviation (now Boeing) to work on various components of NASA spacecraft. Shortly after arriving in Tulsa, he met and married Annette. Norman Hixenbaugh retired in 1989. He died on November 14, 1994. (Photos and biographical information are courtesy of Annette Hixenbaugh.)




5307th Composite Unit (Provisional)

On August 10, 1944, the surviving Marauders were consolidated into the 475th Infantry, which continued service in northern Burma until February 1945. On June 21, 1954, the 475th Infantry was re-designated the 75th Infantry, thus Merrill's Marauders is the lineal ancestor of the 75th Infantry Regiment, from which descended the 75th Ranger Regiment, today's Army Ranger regiment.

VE Day – May 8, 1945



VE Day celebration in Times Square

Victory in Europe Day, or simply VE Day, marks the end of World War II in Europe – May 8, 1945. World War II was the largest and costliest war in history, both materially and in human lives. It began in Europe on September 1, 1939, with the German invasion of Poland. The United States officially entered the war on December 7, 1941, when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. Current opinion among most historians of the war suggests that up to seventy-five million people died as the result of the war. The exact number can never be known. American war dead was approximately 407,000 – including 6,456 Oklahomans, among them, Marine Corps PFCs Albert Ernest Schwab and William T. Morgan.



Statue of Liberty darkened during the war, was re-lit on VE Day

National Maritime Day



SS *Jeremiah O'Brien* is one of two remaining fully functional Liberty ships of the 2,710 built and launched during World War II. *Jeremiah O'Brien* is the last unaltered Liberty ship and remains historically accurate. She is also the last surviving ship of the Normandy D-Day armada. *Jeremiah O'Brien* is moored at Pier 45, Fisherman's Wharf at San Francisco, as the National Liberty Ship Memorial.

Oklahoma Merchant Mariner

In World War II, Merchant Marine seaman Kenneth Jerry Pride had ships shot out from under him twice, once in the Atlantic and once in the Pacific, and was a prisoner of war for three years of both Germany and Japan.

Pride was born on January 2, 1922, at Altamonte, Kansas. His family moved to Seminole, Oklahoma, where his father worked in an oil field. His father died when Pride was eleven years old, and his family struggled to survive. The young boy was on the streets of Seminole by age fourteen working at odd jobs to help his family. He joined the Civilian Conservation Corps at age eighteen, where he was paid \$30 a month. He later accepted an offer to train for seamanship, which led to his entry into the Merchant Marine in 1941.

In 1942, Pride shipped out on the Merchant Marine vessel, *American Leader*, to the Persian Gulf where the crew unloaded military cargo for the Russians and then loaded rubber, latex and other goods for the return trip to the United States. On September 10, 1942, when *American Leader* was three days out of Cape Town, South Africa, she was confronted in the Atlantic by the German surface raider, *Michel*. German surface raiders were gunships disguised as freighters. "We got shelled and torpedoed by the German raider. They sunk (*sic*) us about 10 p.m.", Pride recalled of *American Leader's* sinking. According to most accounts, eleven of the fifty-eight crew members aboard *American Leader* were killed. *Michel* returned two hours after the sinking to pick up Pride and the other forty-six survivors.

The German ship then went south around the tip of South America into the Pacific, where Pride and the others were transferred to a German supply ship and taken to Java, the

principal island of Japanese occupied Indonesia. There, the Germans turned their prisoners over to the Japanese.

Over time, Pride and the other POWs were moved to various locations. On June 10, 1944, he was aboard the Japanese freighter, *Tamahoka Maru*, headed for Japan. The ship was one of the Japanese freighters known as "hell ships." The Japanese stuffed as many prisoners as they could into the ships and refused to mark them as POW ships. *Tamahoka Maru* was torpedoed off Nagasaki by USS *Tang*, whose commander had no idea the Japanese freighter was carrying POWs. 560 of the 772 POWs on board perished. Pride survived because of a twist of fate. Pride said that before the attack, he and a buddy were in the cargo space below deck when two Dutchmen on top asked if anyone would trade deck spots with them. Pride and his buddy obliged and went topside. "Everybody down in the hull was killed. They just didn't have a chance. A torpedo went right into the hull," Pride said. Pride's buddy was also killed. Pride and the other survivors were plucked out of the water by the Japanese. On a postcard received by a sister, Pride wrote: "I am now a prisoner in Japan. My health is OK." At one point, the Pride family was told that he was presumably dead. Pride kept the death notice among his wartime memorabilia. He and the other POWs were released after Japan surrendered.

When he finally made it to San Francisco on a Navy transport in 1945, Pride said he and two of his buddies were given \$5 each, a change of clothes and some ration coupons. He was told he would have to make it from San Francisco to Oklahoma on his own. Pride noted that the U.S. government at that time didn't classify the World War II Merchant Marine as a full partner of the U.S. armed forces, and the merchant mariners weren't entitled to mustering-out pay despite what they had been through. "They essentially put that gangplank down and waved us boys goodbye," he said. While Pride and his two buddies were standing on a San Francisco street, a car pulled up and a woman asked: "Are you boys seamen?" "We told her we were," Pride said, "and she said come with me, and I will take you out of here, and she was from the USO." The woman contacted U.S. Lines, the mariners' employer in New York. The firm purchased train tickets for the trio to New York, where they received three years' back pay.

Pride located to Tulsa and later moved to Broken Arrow. He worked for American Airlines for thirty-five years, retiring in 1980. Seaman Pride died on December 18, 2006. He is buried in Floral Haven Memorial Gardens in Broken Arrow. (No photograph of Seaman Pride was found.)

Editor: Kenneth Pride's story is excerpted from an interview by Rob Martindale, Tulsa *World Senior Writer* – published February 28, 2005.



“Lest We Forget”



Netherlands American Cemetery and Memorial – Margraten, Netherlands

Netherlands American Cemetery and Memorial lies in the village of Margraten, located six miles east of Maastricht. It contains 8,301 graves of men who fell in Operation Market-Garden and other fighting during the liberation of the Netherlands, and elsewhere. Among the interred is Major General Maurice Rose (Colorado), commander of 3rd Armored Division, killed near Paderborn, Germany, on March 30, 1945. General Rose was reconnoitering his front when his jeep unexpectedly encountered a German unit, also scouting the area. He was the highest ranking American killed by enemy action in the European Theater. The Wall of the Missing is engraved with the names of 1,722 men whose bodies had not been recovered when the cemetery was constructed. Rosettes have been placed by the names of those that have since been recovered and identified.

Unique to the cemetery is its connection with the Dutch people. Since 1945, members of the local community have adopted the grave sites of the fallen. They bring flowers to the cemetery and research the lives of the service members as a way to honor their sacrifice. The Foundation for Adopting Graves at the American Cemetery Margraten manages the program.

Freedom is not free.



THANK YOU