



# NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 523 • Ardsley, New York 10502

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## THE ARDSLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROUDLY PRESENTS WWII VETERANS

By Theresa DiStefano

It is now 67 years since America called out to its citizens to defend its liberty, democracy and freedom after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. America's president, Franklin D. Roosevelt, asked Americans to set forth into foreign countries and foreign territories to stop the enemy.

And, along with other American citizens, Ardsley sent forth 306 of her citizens to defend the American way. When the war was over, fourteen did not return home. (\* See page 9). The others came home. In essence, along with the other WWII veterans, "They won the war. They saved the world." (Tom Brokaw). Thereafter, some Ardsley WWII veterans remained in Ardsley. Others started new beginnings elsewhere.

Now, 67 years later, Ardsley proudly has 26 WWII veterans living in her township and close surrounding areas. Some of these WWII veterans are part of Ardsley's American Legion Post #458. Some of these WWII veterans are native Ardsley citizens and others are WWII veterans who came to live in Ardsley and close surrounding areas following their WWII service.

The WWII veterans who are part of Ardsley American Legion Post #458 meet once a month. The Post has been in existence since August 1921, following WWI. Over this time period, it has served and continues to serve its community and veterans. Currently, the Post's membership consists of WWII, Korean and Vietnam era veterans.

The Ardsley Historical Society is proud to introduce all of these WWII heroes, whose information can be found on the following pages.

## JOE BASTERI



**U.S. Army, European Theater:** France, England, and Wales

**Citations:** The Service Medal; WWII Victory Medal; Two Bronze Stars; The Croix de Guerre due to his participation in Normandy and Northern France.

**Quote:** “War is devastating and horrible.”

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## PETER BLASCO



**U.S. Army Corps:** Radar operator, mobile stations

**European Theater:** Throughout Europe

**Citation:** Purple Heart

**Quote:** “Our radar units helped track and rescue downed planes over the English Channel.”

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## JOHN BOSTONIAN, JR.



**U.S. Army:** 472nd Quartermaster Truck Regiment, Co. G.

**Pacific Theater:** Northeast India, Assam province where China, Burma, and Indian border meet at the foot of the Himalayas

**Citations:** Presidential Unit Citation and Good Conduct Medal

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## SAL CORCIONE



**U.S. Army:** 88<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, 351<sup>st</sup> Regiment, Headquarters Company

**Pacific Theater:** North Africa and Italy

**Quote:** “I served with a great bunch of guys, especially some Native Americans from Oklahoma in recon.”

## ADAM JAMES DAMASCUS



**U.S. Army:** Radio operator, 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division,  
115<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, A,B,C Companies

**European Theater:** England, France, Belgium, Holland, Germany

**Citations:** Purple Heart; Unit Citation; The Croix De Guerre with  
Silver Star; The French Legion of Honor; and Combat Infantry Badge

**Quote:** “They teach you combat, but you only really know  
combat when in combat.”

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## RUDY DUALSKY



**U.S. Army Air Corps:** 15<sup>th</sup> Air Force, 454<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group

**European Theater:** Italy, Austria, Rumania, France and  
Yugoslavia. Flew 34 missions.

**Citations:** European Theater Army of Occupation Medal; WWII  
Victory Medal; Presidential Unit Citation; Silver Air Crew Wings;  
Good Conduct Medal

**Quote:** “My Service time was the best 2 years, 11 months, and  
8 days of my life.”

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## HERBERT W. ENGEL



**U. S. Army:** Engineer

**Pacific Theater:** Army of Occupation, Japan

**Citations:** WWII Victory Medal; Army of Occupation Japan Medal

**Quote:** “The opportunity to serve in Japan has made a lasting  
impression in my life.”

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## MARTY ENGLEMAN



**U.S. Army:** 79<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division - Sergeant

**European Theater:** Glasgow, England, France, Germany

**Citations:** Battle Campaign Ribbons for the Rhineland and  
Central Europe

**Quote:** Marty remembers with great laughter how, in the middle of  
war, he marched for two days in mud to see the great General Patton.  
Unfortunately, Patton never showed up.

## BILL FOSS



**U.S. Navy:** U.S.S. Harp, Destroyer

**South Pacific Theater:** Philippines, Borneo and Okinawa

**Citations:** Combat Bars for the Philippines, Borneo and Okinawa

**Quote:** "I was happy with my assignment because I wanted sea duty."

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## NORMAN GOODFARB



**U.S. Army:** Combat Engineer Division

**European Theater:** France

**Citation:** Combat Infantry Badge

**Quote:** "I still have deep sadness for my buddies who did not survive."

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## JOHN GROTH



**U.S. Navy:** M.M. 2<sup>nd</sup> Class - Machinist

**South Pacific Theater:** Marshall Islands and Marine Islands, Saipan

**Citations:** Purple Heart Medal; American Theater Medal; Victory Medal; Asiatic Pacific Medal

**Quote:** "I am no hero. My fellow mates who went down never to return are the only true heroes."

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## WILLIAM GROTH



**U.S. Navy:** Electrical Installations

**Pacific Theater:** Philippine Islands, Leyte Gulf

**Quote:** "The war experience was a most adventurous time in my life. It taught me to face life's challenges as they develop and to accentuate the positives of life."

**DOROTHY W. KAUFMAN**

**U.S. Navy:** WAVE - Yeoman (Quartermaster)

**Stateside:** Sampson Naval Training Center, Geneva, New York

**Quote:** "I wanted to do my part and was able to do so. I am proud to have been part of the war effort."

**JOHN J. LOMBARDO**

**U.S. Army:** 404<sup>th</sup> Engineer Division - Tech 4 Sergeant

**South Pacific Theater:** Tonga Island (Discovered by Captain Cook)

**Citations:** Asiatic-Pacific Medal; Good Conduct Medal;  
American Defense Service Medal

**Quote:** "I was proud to serve my country."

**ALFRED LONGOBARDI**

**U.S. Navy:** Seaman First Class, U.S.S. Paul S. Baker, Destroyer Escort

**Pacific Theater:** Pearl Harbor, Saipan  
(After the war, he returned home to become an N.Y.P.D. captain.)

**Citations:** Good Conduct Medal; WWII Victory Medal;  
American Theater Medal; Asiatic Pacific Medal

**Quote:** "The war was a good learning experience."

**NICK MACRI**

**U.S. Army:** 81<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division - Platoon Sergeant/Machine Gunner

**South Pacific Theater:** Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Tulagi, Peleliu,  
Angaur, Ulithi Islands, Philippines, Leyte, Army of Occupation, Japan

**Citations:** Combat Infantry Badge; Bronze Star; Commendation Medal;  
Good Conduct Medal; Asiatic Pacific Medal; Philippines Liberation  
Medal; Philippines Presidential Unit Citation; Army of Occupation  
Japan Medal; WWII Victory Medal; American Campaign Medal;  
Combat Action Ribbon, Expert Shooter: Carbine, Pistol, Machine Gun,  
Mortar, Bayonet, Grenade, Sharp Shooter, Rifle

**Quote:** "War is hell when you see your buddies wounded or killed.  
The sacrifice is so great."

**HOWARD MATELLI**

**U.S. Army:** Infantry 42<sup>nd</sup> Rainbow Division - Pfc. Rifleman and Medical Technician

**European Theater:** France, Austria

**Citations:** Army of Occupation Medal; World War II Victory Medal

**Quote:** "Being in the Infantry, I was eager and proud to be part of the war effort during World War II."

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**JOHN O'KEEFE**

**U.S. Navy:** Naval Intelligence - Yeoman 1<sup>st</sup> Class, U.S.S. Miami (Light Cruiser)

**South Pacific Theater**

**Quote:** "I enjoyed my time in the Service very much."

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**JOHN PALERMO**

**U.S. Army:** 81<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division - Rifleman

**South Pacific Theater:** Philippine Islands, The Island of Angur in Palau Islands groups, Japan

**Citations:** Asiatic-Pacific Service Medal; Good Conduct Medal; Philippines Liberation Ribbon; World War II Victory Medal

**Quote:** "I remember the great guys who did not come back. I pray to the Almighty that there be no other wars."

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**BOB PHILLIPS**

**U.S. Navy:** Chief Petty Officer. Trained at Sampson, New York. U.S.S. William Seiberling, Destroyer Escort

**Pacific Theater:** Battle of the Philippine Islands, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, and Japan

**Citations:** Four Battle Stars

**Quote:** "I was happy to survive."

**JOHN PINGERA**

**U.S. Army:** 172<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery, 7<sup>th</sup> Corps

**Pacific Theater:** Alaska, Aleutian Islands

**European Theater:** Landed in Normandy on Utah Beach, served in France and Belgium

**Citations:** Asiatic Pacific Medal; World War II Victory Medal, Good Conduct Medal

**Quote:** “Do not start wars. World War II was an unforgettable experience for my generation. We were old before our time.”

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**RUSS PURDY**

**U.S. Army:** 614<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineer Division - Sergeant

**European Theater:** France, Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg Italy, Germany

**Citations:** Good Conduct Medal; American Occupation Medal; Victory in Europe Medal

**Quote:** “I enjoyed working as an engineer operating heavy equipment and cranes.”

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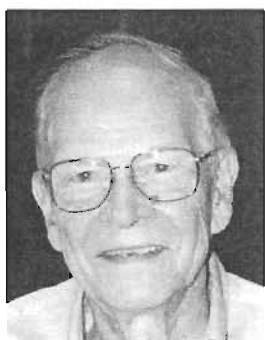
**ALDO RICCI**

**U.S. Army:** Anti-aircraft Gunner

**Pacific Theater:** Iceland

**Quote:** “I remember many of my friends who were wounded or who had lost their lives. I feel lucky having survived the war.”

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**WILLIAM J. RUDY**

**U.S. Army Air Corps:** 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force, Navigator of B-17 Flying Fortress - First Lieutenant

**European Theater:** England, Germany - Flew 35 missions

**Citations:** Air Medal with 6 Clusters

**Quote:** “Reflecting on my experience, the most single, most helpful ingredient for me and those I flew with was youth.”

**SALLY E. SEITZ**

**U.S. Navy:** Ensign, Navy Nurse

**South Pacific Theater:** Stateside: California

**Quote:** "I enjoyed my tour so much, I would go back tomorrow."

**BILL (WILLIAM) F. SCHROPP, JR.**

**U.S. Army:** 187<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineer Battalion

**Southwest Pacific Theater:** New Guinea, Luzon, Philippines, and Japan

**Citations:** Purple Heart Medal; American Service Medal; Asiatic Pacific Service Medal; Philippines Liberation Ribbon with Bronze Star; World War II Victory Medal; Good Conduct Medal, Pacific Theater

**Quote:** "War made me aware of the many people in the war and how they also survived while war was happening in their country. I also remember with great delight the opportunity that was given me to meet fellow soldiers from all over the U.S."

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

The last Monday in May brings Memorial Day, and many of us will be on vacation or at a backyard barbecue. It is also a time when Americans, young and old, will be reminded of the cruelties of war and the cost of freedom. Grave sites worldwide, with small American flags waving in the breeze, attest to the dedication of American GIs over the years. Memorial Day is not a day for politics, and not just for remembering, but a day for learning.

At the ceremony at Ardsley, the names called off are mostly graduates of Ardsley High School classes of 1939, '40, and '41. They answered the call of their country, went overseas to fight in a world war and paid the ultimate price.

Veterans and citizens will fulfill the promise of remembering these patriots and others with a moment of silence and a bugler playing taps.

If you are in town, please find a ceremony or parade and take a moment to remember those who sacrificed everything for our liberty, which we sometimes take for granted. While you are there, find a World War II veteran (now in their golden years), and shake his or her hand. A simple "Thank you for your service" will do wonders for you both.

—Veterans of American Legion Post #458,  
Ardsley, New York (*Rivertowns Enterprise*,  
2008/*The Journal News*, 2008)



**“IT IS, I BELIEVE, THE GREATEST GENERATION ANY SOCIETY HAS EVER PRODUCED. THEY CAME OF AGE DURING THE GREAT DEPRESSION AND WWII AND WENT ON TO BUILD AMERICA—MEN AND WOMEN WHOSE EVERYDAY LIVES OF DUTY, HONOR, ACHIEVEMENT AND COURAGE GAVE US THE WORLD WE HAVE TODAY.”**

**-TOM BROKAW**



The focus of Ardsley’s annual Memorial Day service is to honor and remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. Below are Ardsley’s fourteen young men who did not return home after World War II.

**Fred C. Baker  
Robert Bunch, Jr.  
Angelo Delmerico  
Charles Duryea  
Daniel R. Geis  
George Hauptman  
Robert L. Kakerbeck**

**Gordon Kreutz  
David Longmuir  
Edward T. Lynn  
Thomas F. Mack, Jr.  
James B. Mackenzie  
Howard Secor  
Kenneth Wood**

***AN INTERESTING FACT:***

Did you know that “Taps” has words? Here they are:

(1)

Day is done  
Gone the sun  
From the lakes  
From the hills  
From the sky  
All is well  
Safely Rest  
God is nigh

(2)

Fading light  
Dims the sight  
And a star  
Gems the sky  
Gleaming bright  
From afar  
Drawing nigh  
Falls the night

(3)

Thanks and praise  
For our days  
‘Neath the sun  
‘Neath the stars  
‘Neath the sky  
As we go  
This we know  
God is nigh

If there are any other World War II veterans who are not included in this Newsletter, please contact The Ardsley Historical Society and we will gladly arrange to have you included in our next Newsletter.

Also, if you are a veteran interested in joining the American Legion Post #458 in Ardsley, please contact the Village Hall.

**Many thanks to:**

Ardsley, N.Y., *“The War Years: 1941-1945,”* by Fred N. Arone and Patricia Arone  
All Ardsley American Legion Post #458 members who shared important information.



**Current members of Ardsley American Legion Post #458 - Memorial Day 2008**  
**Photo courtesy of Steve Wittenberg**

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