

In Our Hearts Forever

Notre Dame and Its Servicemen Who Died in World War II

JOHN P. HICKEY JR. • DAVID G. SIM



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*Armory & Veterans Memorial:
Johnson County, Iowa*

RICHARD EARL CARBERRY, s.s. '31

Oct. 15, 1904—Jan. 26, 1945

Place of birth: Panora, Iowa

Home of record: Ames, Iowa

Chaplain (Captain), U.S. Army

45th Infantry Regiment, Philippine Scouts

Awards: Two Silver Stars, two Bronze Stars,
Purple Heart, Prisoner of War Medal

Place of death: South China Sea

Cause of death: Reported dead while held by the Japanese as a prisoner of war.

Memorial: Remains not recovered. Reported to have been buried at sea. Memorialized in the Walls of the Missing, Manila American Cemetery and Memorial, Manila, Philippines. There is also a memorial to Father Carberry at the Ames Municipal Cemetery, Ames, Iowa.

“Chaplain Capt. Richard E. Carberry, graduate student in 1931, died on Jan. 26, 1945 on a Jap P.O.W. transport en route to Maji from Tacawo.

According to Chaplain John E. Duffy, '23, who administered the last rites to Father Dick, he died of starvation, malnutrition, exposure and neglect.

He was one of eight priests who died as a result of such inhuman treatment accorded prisoners of war being transported to Maji. He had survived the bombing and sinking of a transport in Subic Bay and escaped the bombing of another ship in Tacawo Bay on Jan. 9.” (Feb. 1946, *Notre Dame Alumnus*, p. 10)

“Richard Carberry was ‘the fighting priest’ of Bataan who never fired a shot. He valiantly served the men in his care, and is credited with helping many survive the Battles of Corregidor & Bataan, as well as the Bataan Death March and the horrors of the Davao POW Camp. Father Richard

was also key in the only successful group escape from a Japanese POW camp. He was awarded a Silver Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, two Bronze Stars, and a Purple Heart.

Richard was born in Guthrie County, Iowa, and after the rigors of farm life, went on to Columbia College in Dubuque, where he starred as a halfback. Carberry had a calling to become a priest, and was assigned to a parish in Multnomah, Oregon.

Before WWII began, he joined the army and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, stationed in the Philippines. The war then came to him, with the Japanese attacking Pearl Harbor and then the Philippines.

Father Richard and others were trapped on the island of Corregidor and were then marched inland 100 miles in what became known as the Bataan Death March. Around 70,000 members of the U.S. Armed Forces and Filipino citizens made the march. 18,000 died on the trip. Father Richard ministered to many, gave mass, and offered last rites.

After a year on Davao, four Americans prepared an escape and believed Father Richard would be key in the attempt. The leader of the escape plan; Army Air Force Major Sam Grashio, said Carberry was perfect 'a courageous... personable man... who was young, strong and athletic.' Father Richard agreed to the escape plan and gave very important information on villages and the countryside.' Grashio added, 'Having a priest within this Catholic country could prove a great attribute.' However, on the day of the escape, Father Richard opted out. He believed his duty was to stay with the sick and dying and administer aid.

Eventually, after suffering through nearly two more years in Japanese prison camps, he would survive the bombing of the POW transport Oryoku Maru by U.S. planes, only to die in late January 1, 1945 while enroute to Japan aboard another Hell Ship, the Brazil Maru, from malaria and complications from a chest wound. Father Richard was buried in the South China Sea.

Regarding Richard's actions in the Battle of Bataan, Major General Richard Wainwright stated in his citation: 'His fearless action in traversing the entire length of a convoy which was under intense enemy fire, Captain Carberry showed utter disregard for his own safety and gave aid to the wounded and raised the morale and efficiency of the entire command.'

Years later an old letter written while imprisoned somehow made its way to his sister Rozella back in Iowa. It said, 'I look forward to seeing you again and all the family...and the green rolling hills of Guthrie County...'"

**(Johnson County Iowa Armory & Veterans Memorial:
www.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/memorial-bio-richard-e-carberry)**



Findagrave.com memorial

HERSHEL GEORGE HORTON, ex. '43

Nov. 15, 1913—Dec. 12, 1942

Place of birth: Illinois

Home of record: Aurora, Illinois

First Lieutenant, U.S. Army

126th Infantry Regiment, 32nd Infantry
Division

Award: Purple Heart

Place of death: New Guinea

Cause of death: Killed in action

Buried: Spring Lake Cemetery, Aurora, Illinois

“First Lieut. Hershel G. Horton, ex.'43, 29 years old, serving with the Army in the Southwest Pacific, was killed in action on Dec. 2. Only recently he had been cited by General Douglas MacArthur for "nerve and endurance in risky missions involving the leading of ration parties to outlying American forces in the jungles of New Guinea."

Hershel was the son of Mr. and Mrs. George A . Horton of Aurora, Ill, but he had worked and resided in South Bend for some years. He was employed by the Roach-Appleton Manufacturing Company and was a member of the Indiana National Guard. He was called into active Army service in April, 1941, later attending the Officers' Candidate School at Fort Benning, Ga. He saw duty in Australia before he was transferred to New Guinea.” (Feb. 1943 *Notre Dame Alumnus*, p. 34)

“The Order of the Purple Heart has been awarded posthumously to First Lieut. Hershel G. Horton, ex. '43, Aurora, Ill., who was killed in action on Dec. 2 during a battle in New Guinea. Hershel was one of 367 American soldiers who were surrounded for three weeks by Japanese on Sanananda Road in Papua. They beat off all attacks and eventually aided in smashing the Japs who surrounded them. It is believed that Hershel was killed in this action.” (Apr. 1943 *Notre Dame Alumnus*, p. 4)

The following article appeared on page six of the April 1944 *Notre Dame Alumnus*:

“Hershel Horton’s Last Letter

Wrote It as He Lay Dying in New Guinea

The final message to his family of 1st Lt. Hershel G. Horton, ex. ’43 , is now well known across the nation: it has been in print innumerable times, has been quoted in sermons and speeches and is preserved in the Congressional Record, But since Hershel was a Notre Dame man, the ALUMNUS wants his message to appear here too so that it will for uncounted years remain here to be read by Notre Dame men in their own publication.

As he lay dying in the jungles of New Guinea, Hershel, 29 years old, wrote the message to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George A. Horton, Jr., Aurora, Ill., and to his sister. Already cited for bravery and meritorious service by General Douglas MacArthur, he had led a ration mission from Sananada to Sopuda. His party of 367 men found themselves trapped between two powerful Japanese forces. For 21 days the unit battled against the heavy odds, 100 of them dying, but the Japs were repelled and the Americans went on to Sopuda. Later they learned they had slain 2,200 Japs in the engagement.

At Sopuda the soldiers again met the Japs. After this battle, Horton went into the jungle for the identification discs of the American fallen, and it was while he was on this mission of mercy that he was fatally shot. At least five men were killed, and many others were wounded, in attempts to rescue him. Lt. Col. John R. Murphy, Kansas City, Mo., received the personal effects of Hershel, and he is the writer of the first letter.

WAR DEPARTMENT
ARMY SERVICE FORCES
KANSAS CITY QUARTER MASTER DEPOT
601 HARDESTY AVENUE
KANSAS CTTY 1, MISSOURI

JRM:ep
October 30, 1943

IN REPLY REFER TO: 13123
Mr. George A. Horton, Jr.
906 Talma Street
Aurora, Illinois

Dear Mr. Horton :

It is with deep distress that I write you. Today, there has come into my possession a most tragic letter written by your son immediately prior to his death. It will cause you heartache and grief, but at the same time will give you even greater pride in being the father of a son who could face death as he did.

I send this letter to you, the father, because with you must rest the decision of whether Mrs. Horton and your daughter shall see it and read it. Please do not let Mrs. Horton feel that I have any desire to conceal or hide this letter... I simply feel that such a letter might be too shocking for many a mother to receive.

This communication has been a difficult one for me to write. I hope you understand and appreciate my feelings.

To you and your family I extend every sympathy.

Very sincerely yours,

JOHN R. MURPHY
Lt. Col. Q.M.C.
Effects Quartermaster”

Hershel wrote the following note in his prayer book:

NEW GUINEA SWAMP

Terrible battle on Thanksgiving Day—lost six men, and six wounded. November 29th the 20th day on the trail—19 straight days with wet sore feet. Received new socks yesterday. The tops of all the brush over my head has been shot away by Jap Machine Guns. I have laid here three days now. Sunday, Nov. 29, 1942, 8th day under fire, still holding out.

(Hershel's last letter, written in his notebook and kept in his prayer book.)

New Guinea, Dec. 11, 1942

Dearly Beloved, My dear sweet Father, Mother and Sister:

About 9:00 A.M. I came out on a mercy patrol to pick up dog tags etc. of our dead. This was the morning of Tuesday December 1, 1942.

I was trying to turn over the body of Captain Keast, a friend of mine, when I was shot two or three times in my right leg and hip. Lt. Ellis, Sgt. Young and Pvt. Merle Christian were with me. I yelled that I was shot. I was in front of all but Merle, they ran for shelter. I dragged myself for a Jap grass shanty about twelve yards to the rear of where I was shot.

Sgt. Young said he would send help as soon as possible. Possible never came evidently because I laid there unattended in any way without food or water or medical care. Two days of semi-deliriousness and then I called Captain Shirley's name, Ellis, Help, Etc. Finally Lt. Gibbs and one of his men from the Anti Tank Co. came to me. Their medic also came up. The Medic gave me my first drink of water in three days, but he had no food to offer. The medic bandaged me temporarily. Lt. Gibbs promised me aid, but I never saw him again. The Medic came back and gave me water, but a man helping him got shot there and that scared him away. Life from then on was a terrible nightmare. The hot burning sun, the delirious nights. No one came near me from then on, but I did dig a water hole in four days time which was wonderful to me; although it was polluted by all the rotting bodies within 12 ft and 14 ft of me. Then two or three rescue parties from my company came out, but they never could find me. On two or three occasions they nearly got to me when the Japs or a rainstorm made it impossible. The Japs are living within 15 yds. of me. I see them every day.

I have tried to make splints and crawl or walk out, but I just can't make it. Today, (as nearly as I can judge, Dec. 11) I man

aged to stand, but I could go no farther. A Jap shot me in the shoulder and neck as I weakly sat there and I thought my time had come, but no, I sit and lay here in this terrible place, wondering not why God has forsaken me; but rather why He is making me suffer this terrible end? It is true I understand life and its reasons now, but why should He send it to this terrible grave with me? Why not let me live and tell others? I am not afraid to die although I have nearly lost my faith a couple of days here. I have a pistol here, but I could not kill myself; I still have faith in the Lord. I think He must be giving me the supreme test. I now know how Christ felt on the cross.

I have imagined hearing several other rescue parties, but one's imagination grows as his body shrivels.

I have had no food of any kind since that morning I was shot. My right hip is broken and my right leg, both compound fractures; else I could have been out of here in those first couple of days, wounds or no wounds.

My live has been food [sic], but I am so young and have so many things undone that a man of 29 should do.

We may never know God's purpose in striking me down like this, but He must have one. I can still truthfully say that I have never killed another man, although I have been ordered to order others to.

I wonder how long a man can go on like this? I shall continue to pray for a miracle of rescue. I want to commend Lt. Ellis for his wonderful efforts and heroism in attempt to rescue me under the Jap treachery.

God bless you My loved ones. Keep the faith, don't worry. I shall see you all again some day. I prepare to meet My Maker.

Love,
Hershel



Findagrave.com memorial

**JOSEPH PATRICK
MCCAFFERY, ex. '32**

Aug. 20, 1906—Nov. 1, 1943

Place of birth: Chester, Pennsylvania

Home of record: Chester, Pennsylvania

**Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine
Corps**

2nd Marine Raider Battalion, V Amphibious Corps (VAC)

Awards: Navy Cross, Silver Star, Purple Heart

Place of death: Bougainville Island, North Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea

Cause of death: Killed in action

Buried: Saint Michael's Roman Catholic Cemetery, Chester, Pennsylvania

“The University has only recently learned that Lt. Col. Joseph McCaffery, ex. '32, Chester, Pa., brother of the late Lt. Col. Hugh McCaffery, '27, was one of those killed in the heroic Marine action on Guadalcanal. For his part in the campaign Joe was awarded the Navy Cross posthumously.” (Aug. 1944 *Notre Dame Alumnus*, p. 15)

Silver Star Citation

“General Orders: Commander South Pacific:

Serial 3382 (September 2, 1944)

Action Date: December 1942 & January 1943

Service: Marine Corps

Rank: Lieutenant Colonel

Company: Commanding Officer

Battalion: 1st Battalion

Regiment: 8th Marines (Reinforced)

Division: 2d Marine Division

Awarded for actions during the World War II. The President of the United States of America takes pride in presenting the Silver Star (Posthumously) to Lieutenant Colonel Joseph P. McCaffery, United States Marine Corps, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity as Commanding Officer of the First Battalion, Eighth Marines, Reinforced, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, in December 1942, and January 1943.

By his expert tactical ability and sound judgment in directing the active patrolling and limited attack operations during the holding phase of the activities on the island in December, Lieutenant Colonel McCaffery enabled his men to capture the strategic high ground on the left flank of our forces and to reduce the enemy's strength materially.

Courageous and indomitable in the face of fierce hostile resistance, he personally led his battalion in the final enveloping attack to the west which resulted in the capture of strong Japanese positions, large quantities of weapons and ammunition and the destruction of more than six hundred enemy troops.

Lieutenant Colonel McCaffery's inspiring leadership and valiant devotion to duty under extremely difficult conditions contributed substantially to the success of our forces in driving the Japanese from this important area and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.” (**Findagrave.com memorial no. 92741011**)

Navy Cross Citation

“McCaffery, Joseph P.
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
2d Marine Raider Battalion, V Amphibious Corps
Date of Action: November 1, 1943

Citation: The Navy Cross is presented to Joseph P. McCaffery, Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps, for extraordinary heroism while in command of the Second Marine Raider Battalion in action against enemy Japanese forces during the landing attack of the Third Marine Division (Reinforced), in the Cape Torokina Area, Bougainville Island, British Solomon Islands, on November 1, 1943.

When the initial assault wave under his command landed out of position and became momentarily confused, Lieutenant Colonel McCaffery, realizing the danger of immobilization by enemy fire, immediately organized his command, fearlessly exposing himself to heavy fire from mortars and auto-

Requiescant in Pace

matic weapons while proceeding from unit to unit in order to direct the disposition of his troops for maximum effectiveness.

Initiating a daring attack, Lieutenant Colonel McCaffery personally led his men against Japanese positions until he was mortally wounded. His valiant and inspiring leadership was largely responsible for the success of the attack and his exemplary conduct throughout was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

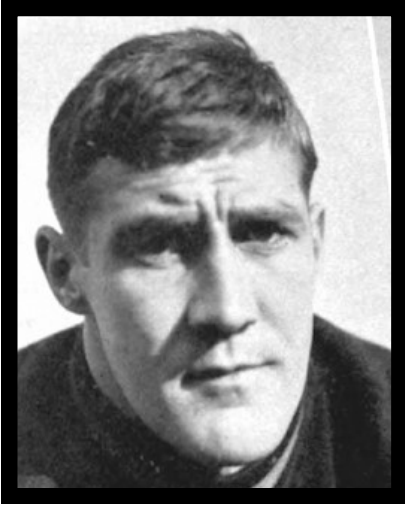
He gallantly gave his life for his country.

GENERAL ORDERS: Authority - Board of Awards - Serial 6727 (February 16, 1944) (**Findagrave.com memorial no. 92741011**)

[Note: Joseph McCaffery's brother, Hugh, also attended Notre Dame and also died in the service of the country. His story is on page 286.]



A U.S. Army “mule skinner” attached to the Mars Task Force, fording a river in Burma in November 1944. This task force consisted of three regiments organized to hinder Japanese tactical operations and bypass the Burma Road, then under Japanese control. Opening ground access to China was necessary to deliver military supplies to our ally, the Chinese Army.



1942 Dome, p. 208

GEORGE EDWARD MURPHY, '43

Nov. 26, 1920—May 15, 1945

Place of birth: Portage, Indiana

Home of record: South Bend, Indiana

First Lieutenant, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve

Company D, 2nd Battalion, 29th Marine
Infantry Regiment, 6th Marine Division

Award: Purple Heart

Place of death: Okinawa, Japan

Cause of death: Killed in action

Buried: Riverview Cemetery, South Bend, Indiana

“Lt. George E. Murphy, '43 South Bend, captain of the 1942 football team, was killed on Okinawa on May 15 while fighting with the Sixth Marine division.

Commissioned in June, 1943, at Parris Island, S. C., George was stationed at Parris Island as an instructor until July, 1944, when he was transferred to the West Coast. He went overseas on July 29, the day after his daughter was born in South Bend, and continued his training at Pacific bases.

Graduated from Central High School in South Bend, George ‘made the team’ at right end in his sophomore year, 1940, and continued through three years of spectacular competition. He was the first South Bend boy in 33 years to be elected captain of a Notre Dame football team.

Surviving George are his wife, the former Mary Miles of South Bend, his parents, a sister and a brother, John, '38, Endicott, N. Y., also a former football player at Notre Dame.” (June 1945 *Notre Dame Alumnus*, p. 14)

The following story appeared in newspapers around the country. This version was written by Sgt. Harold T. Bolan of Dayton Ohio, a Marine Corps combat correspondent formerly of the Dayton News. This is how the story

was published on page 18 of the Mansfield, Wisconsin *News-Herald* on 19 June, 1945:

“Irish George’ Met Death on Okinawa

Former Notre Dame Football Captain Carries on Tradition

Okinawa—(AP)—The lieutenant typified ‘the Fighting Irish’ when he met death on Sugar Loaf Hill.

During his years at Notre Dame University, where he captained the football team in 1942, the name ‘Irish George’ was given Marine First Lt. George E. Murphy of South Bend, Ind.

The lieutenant’s platoon of the Six Division’s 29th Regiment, was one of the first ordered onto bitterly contested Sugar Loaf.

He maneuvered his men more than halfway up the hill, where they pitched grenade after grenade over the crest to Japs on the reverse slope.

But there were too many Japs, too well emplaced. Murphy’s men couldn’t reach the summit. Casualties were mounting. Finally, the former star end ordered withdrawal. As the able-bodied walked off, the lieutenant helped evacuate the wounded.

After his second trip to the aid station, when he carried back in his arms a wounded machine gunner, Murphy sat down to catch his breath. A mortar shell landed within a few feet of him.

‘Irish George’ staggered to his feet, aimed over the hill, and emptied his pistol in the direction of the enemy. Then he fell dead.”

The following story appeared in the “Jim Costin Says” column appeared on page two of section two in the May 24, 1945, issue of the *South Bend Tribune*:

“Lieut. George Murphy

On last Monday evening the following paragraph appeared in this column:

“Lieut. George Murphy of South Bend, captain and end on the 1942 Notre Dame football team, is in the thick of the fighting with the Sixth marines.”

There was a tragic error in that paragraph, about which none of us knew at the time, because George Murphy had been killed in action six days before the little item appeared here.

You find it just a little bit rugged to try to write something about a kid you knew so well, but here was a South Bend boy who had made his mark in the tough going of varsity football at Notre Dame and who came out of it one of the best liked players ever to wear the Irish colors. This was attested to by the fact that he had been elected captain of the team in 1942, his senior year—the first South Bend boy in 33 years to receive that honor, the late Howard (Cap) Edwards having been the captain of the 1909 team. George Murphy had starred at end for the Central High school team previous to his graduation in 1939. Then he entered Notre Dame and speedily won his spurs on the varsity squad, first under Elmer Layden and, in 1941–42, under Frank Leahy.

“Captain-elect George Murphy goes in at end. Coach Leahy gives last-minute instructions.”

(1942 Dome p. 201)



He played brilliantly on the 1941 team, Notre Dame’s first unbeaten squad in 11 years, and was rewarded by his teammates with the 1942 captaincy. He entered the marine corps the following spring and won his commission as a second lieutenant.

Two monogram men of that Notre Dame team have now given their lives in the Pacific fighting. Besides Lieut. Murphy, Ensign Herky Bereolos, a guard, was killed in action when his navy plane crashed just off shore as Herky was completing his first combat mission a year ago.”

[Note: In addition to Herky Bereolos (page 22), another teammate on the 1942 squad was killed in action during World War II—2nd Lt. Francis M. “Frank” Cusick (page 87).]



Naval History and Heritage Command
NH 106421

JOHN JOSEPH PARLE, '43

Jan. 26, 1920—July 17, 1943

Place of birth: Omaha, Nebraska

Home of record: Omaha, Nebraska

Ensign, U.S. Naval Reserve

Assigned to LST-375

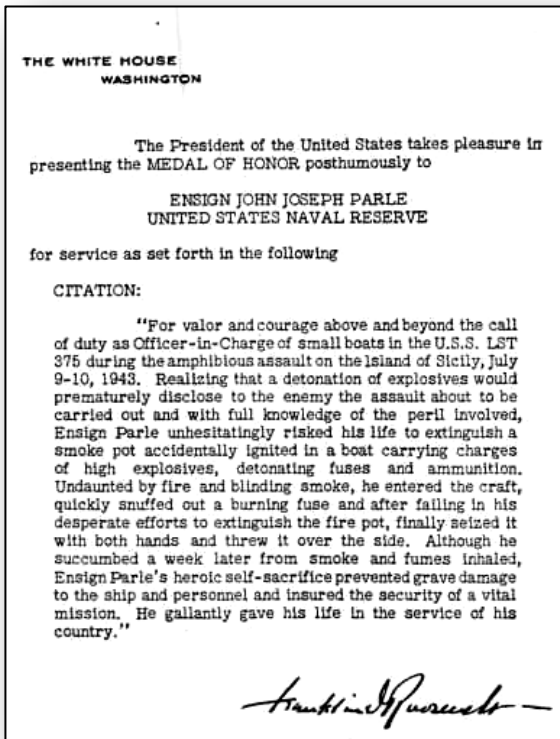
Awards: Medal of Honor, Purple Heart

Place of death: Sicily, Italy

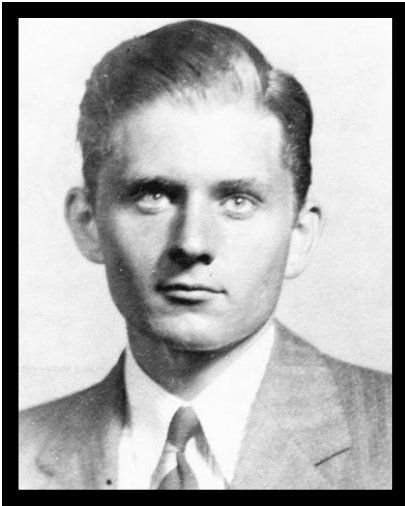
Cause of death: Killed in action

Buried: Holy Sepulchre Cemetery,
Omaha, Nebraska

John Parle, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Vincent Parle of Omaha, Nebraska, graduated from Notre Dame Midshipmen School and was commissioned on January 28, 1943. John did not appear in the *Notre Dame Alumnus* magazine or on the Honor Roll of the June 1947 commencement program.



The Medal of Honor was awarded Ensign John Joseph Parle, U.S. Naval Reserve, for valor and courage above and beyond the call of duty. A graduate of the Navy Reserve Midshipmen's School at Notre Dame, Ensign Parle died in the service of his country during the assault on Sicily in July, 1943. His was the only Naval Medal of Honor awarded during the Battle of the Atlantic.



HonorStates.org

GEORGE ANDERSON WOLF JR., ex. '39

Dec. 1, 1917—Dec. 7, 1941

Place of birth: Altoona Beach,
Pennsylvania

Home of record: Hollidaysburg,
Pennsylvania

Ensign, U.S. Naval Reserve

USS *Arizona* (BB-39)

Award: Purple Heart

Place of death: Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

Cause of death: Declared dead while missing in action

Memorial: Courts of the Missing, Court 2, Honolulu Memorial Cemetery
of the Pacific, Punchbowl Crater, Honolulu, Hawaii

The following article appeared on page one of the Altoona Pennsylvania
Tribune on Dec.13, 1941:

“Geo. Wolf, Jr., Lost In Action At Hawaii

The message “lost in action” was received in Blair county yesterday for the third time since World War II started Sunday with the announcement that Mr. and Mrs. George A. Wolf, Sr., of Ant Hills had word from the navy department of the death of their son, Ensign George A. Wolf, Jr. in the Pacific.

The young Altoona naval officer was attached to the Pacific fleet and had been located at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.

Rear Admiral C. W. Nimitz , chief of the bureau of navigation, wired Mr. and Mrs. Wolf as follow: “The navy department deeply regrets to inform you that you son, Ensign George A. Wolf, Jr., United States naval reserve was lost in action in the performance of his duty and in the service of his country. The department extends to you its sincerest sympathy in your great loss.” It is believed, according to the telegram, that the young man’s body has not been recovered.

The death of Ensign Wolf climaxes a naval career which began in September

1940, when he was accepted as a midshipman in the naval reserve and was sent to the United States Naval academy at Annapolis, Md., from where he was graduated May 15, 1941 with the commission of ensign.

Born in Altoona,, December 1, 1917, he was the son of George Anderson an Dorothea Prendergast Wolf. In his early youth he attended Waldron academy in Philadelphia and then was enrolled at St. Johns parochial school in Altoona.

He was graduated in 1935 with honors from the Altoona Catholic High school after which he attended Notre Dame university for one year. He then transferred to Georgetown university where he was graduated from the school of foreign service in 1939.

He then became associate in business with his father and uncle Herbert T. Wolf in the Wolf Furniture company, continuing in this work for one and one half years. With the emergency came a call for naval reserves, he was assigned to the naval academy at Annapolis. . . .”

[Note: George A. Wolf did not appear in a ‘Notre Dame Alumnus memorial biography until 1947.]

The World War II East Coast Memorial is located in Battery Park in Manhattan, New York City. There are no remains buried here; it is solely a memorial to over 4,600 American sailors, coast guardsmen, merchant mariners, soldiers, and airmen who lost their lives in the western waters of the Atlantic Ocean while engaged in combat in World War II.



The central feature is a plaza with eight nineteen-foot tall granite pylons on which are engraved the identities of the deceased. On the east side of the plaza is an eighteen-foot bronze eagle poised over an ocean wave. The long axis of the memorial is oriented to the Statue of Liberty, visible from the memorial site.



The East Coast Memorial was dedicated by President John F. Kennedy on May 23, 1963.

Preface

On December 7, 1941, just after 8:00 a.m. local time, 353 fighter and bomber aircraft of the Imperial Japanese Navy attacked the U.S. Pacific Fleet at anchor in the Pearl Harbor naval base at Oahu, Hawaii.

Ten Japanese Nakajima B5N2 torpedo bombers, carrying 800-kilogram armor-piercing bombs, targeted the battleship USS *Arizona*, scoring four direct hits. The last of the four bombs penetrated the armored deck near the magazines in the forward section of the ship. Seconds later, those magazines detonated in a cataclysmic explosion, effectively tearing the ship in half and igniting fires that burned for two days.

Of the 1,512 crewmen on board that morning, 1,177 were killed. On board the *Arizona* was Ensign George A. Wolf Jr., who was declared missing when the ship went down. Ensign Wolf, a non-graduate member of the class of 1939, was the first official Notre Dame casualty of World War II.

Battles would rage in the Pacific and in Europe for nearly four long years, but not all the carnage was outside the United States. On Sunday, August 5, a B-29 crashed near El Paso, Texas, killing seven crew members, including Lieutenant Robert E. (Eugene) Schoo, a 23-year-old pilot-engineer from Louisville, Kentucky, who was scheduled to leave for the Pacific Theater just days later. He had attended Notre Dame as a member of the class of 1943 before leaving school to enlist in the service.

Lieutenant Schoo was the last student from the University to perish before the Empire of Japan surrendered on September 2, 1945, bringing an end to that devastating war.

In between the deaths of Wolf and Schoo, this book recognizes another 328 members of the Notre Dame family—including graduates and students—who died while in military service.

These were both combat and non-combat deaths—including a few resulting from friendly fire. They served as officers and enlisted men in every branch of the military, in all theaters of operation; many received military honors and awards for their service and their extraordinary courage. More than a few were held as prisoners of war; some died during the ordeal. Some went missing and were declared dead, and their remains were never found.

While all 331 memorialized in this book attended the University of Notre Dame, not all graduated; many left to enlist in the service. Included in the roll call of our losses are two summer school attendees and one graduate student.

Their experiences were as diverse and as heroic as the men themselves, but several in here stand out for uncommon valor:

- Navy Ensign John J. Parle heroically prevented the detonation of explosives, which would have destroyed his ship and revealed its position to the enemy. Parle died of injuries from his actions and was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.
- Army Captain (Reverend) Richard Carberry, a survivor of the Bataan Death March, died from wounds as a POW on an enemy transport in the South China Sea in January 1945. He earned the Silver Star and two Bronze Stars.
- Army Air Forces Captain Francis Farrell, a liaison pilot for the 3rd Armored Division, was killed in action when his plane crashed in December 1944 near Stolberg, Germany. He was awarded the Silver Star and Distinguished Flying Cross.
- Marine Corps Lieutenant Colonel Joseph P. McCaffery was awarded the Navy Cross and Silver Star when he was killed on Bougainville in November 1943.
- Army First Lieutenant Newton Mathews was missing in action on the Bataan Peninsula in the Philippines in January 1942. He earned the Silver Star and Bronze Star.
- Army First Lieutenant George O'Connor was killed in action in December 1944 while leading an attack on the Leyte peninsula, Philippines. For his bravery, he was awarded the Silver Star and Bronze Star.

One of the most poignant stories was of Army First Lieutenant Hershel G. Horton, who was killed in action by Japanese gunshot wounds in a New Guinea swamp on December 12, 1942. As he lay dying, he wrote a message of farewell to his parents and sister and placed it in his Bible, which was recovered with his body. The contents of his message spread across the nation. It appeared in multiple newspapers, was quoted in sermons and speeches, and was preserved in the U.S. Congressional Record. It tells the last days of a man who contributed and suffered much, who was brave beyond his years, and who died too young.

Writing this book was personal for the authors. During our growing-up years, the adults in our lives—parents, relatives, teachers and others—having

been shaped in the crucible of world war, passed their lessons-learned and their extraordinary experiences to us.

John Hickey's father, John, '44, '47, enrolled in the Navy's first V-12 program on July 1, 1943, and served in the wartime Navy until 1946. In a 1943 Notre Dame varsity baseball team photograph, he is pictured sitting next to Matthew "Dick" Grant, an ungraduated member of the class of 1944. Army Sgt. Grant was killed in action in France that year. After his discharge, John returned to South Bend in September 1946 with Mary—his wife of two weeks. He needed to complete the courses required for him to attend Harvard Business School. During the second semester, John took a marriage course from the chaplain of all newly enrolled veterans—Father Ted Hesburgh. When Mary Hickey attended the June 1947, commencement exercises, she was seven months pregnant with their first child—coauthor John Jr.

David Sim's stepfather, Henry R. Berry, was a U.S. Army infantry officer in combat from North Africa through the invasion of Italy; landing in Anzio and receiving the Bronze Star, as well as a Purple Heart for artillery shrapnel wounds suffered during the battle for Monte Casino. David's father-in-law, Alfred J. Kaiser, was a 1945 graduate of the Navy's V-12 program at Notre Dame and commissioned an ensign. David himself retired after twenty years of commissioned service in the Regular Army.

In 1942, as war devastated much of the world, the *Notre Dame Alumnus* magazine began publishing the names of those members of the University's family who perished in the conflict. While the *Alumnus* served as the primary source for this book, it was incomplete and occasionally inaccurate. Our goal in creating this book was to provide one source that tells the stories of all recorded members of the Notre Dame family who died in World War II. Our research cross-checked other media, campus and national periodicals, government publications, and military records.

To provide context for the stories of the fallen, we also touch on the incredible changes the University underwent during the 1940s. In here are details on how the Navy came to Notre Dame's rescue during the war years.

Personal interviews with alumni who served in our military during the war add detail and texture to these pages. We also found rich sources of information on the internet—websites managing databases of facts and figures, war stories posted by participants, anecdotes, and varied ephemera important to defining those years. The University archives provided access to business records, contracts, correspondence, and historical photographs from the war years.

In here, also, we note cemeteries and memorials across the globe, where fallen heroes have found their final resting places; images of USO camp shows

depicting our military taking a break from the fighting; advertisements from Gilbert's Men's Shop selling officers' uniforms; and announcements from recruiting stations encouraging young men to enlist. There are descriptions of key battles; background on the Selective Service and Training Act, the first peacetime conscription in this country's history; and General George S. Patton's Christmas message to members of the Third United States Army.

The authors have also relied heavily on the contributions of many who generously provided content and encouragement, keeping the project moving forward and enriching its pages. Bob Gibbons '69, a gifted writer in his own right, has a keen eye for storytelling and ensured that our renditions of these men's experiences did them justice. The University of Notre Dame Archives—especially Senior Archivist for Photographs Elizabeth Hogan '99 and Archives Specialist Joseph Smith—assisted us greatly in finding sources, photographs, and documents. Bill Wade '69, with his experience in publishing, and John Nesbitt '69, assisted with marketing and website development. And a heart-felt thanks to the authors' wives, Kathleen and Suellen, who encouraged us to bring the project to completion. We could not have done this without your assistance.

While we have attempted to include all those Notre Dame men who died in service to their country, we recognize there are almost certainly more students and alumni whose deaths would have met the criteria for inclusion in this book but are not noted because the University was not informed of their passing.

Whatever the actual number, this fact remains: Notre Dame men served their country well, and through their selfless service, honored themselves and their University. Eighty-one years after the end of World War II, this volume honors these 331 Notre Dame members of the "Greatest Generation" for their service and their sacrifice. For them and the more than 405,000 U.S. servicemen killed and 670,000 wounded during World War II—including those Domers who remain unrecognized—we salute you.

Introduction

The University's June 1947 commencement program included a list titled "Honor Roll: Service Dead in World War II."

In this, the first post-war Commencement, the University of Notre Dame considers it both a duty and an honor to pause and pay prayerful tribute to their three hundred and twenty-nine sons who gave their lives "for God, Country, Notre Dame" in World War II. May their brave souls rest in everlasting peace.

Subsequent changes to this Honor Roll increased the total to 331 service dead. Of the 331 honored in these pages, 230 were officers, 99 were enlisted men, one was an American Red Cross field director, and one was a civilian attached to the military.

Students' affiliations with the University in the 1947 commencement list and the *Notre Dame Alumnus* magazine were identified by those who graduated with their class ('44, for example) and those in the same class who left school before receiving a degree (ex. '44).

Highest Ranking Officers

President Franklin D. Roosevelt, commander-in-chief of the armed forces, appeared on the Honor Roll by virtue of receiving an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Notre Dame in 1935. His inclusion on the Honor Roll caused some controversy among veteran alumni. After FDR, the highest-ranking officers by service branch were:

US Army: Colonel Robert Riordan, '24, died in December 1946 from a tropical disease while serving in the Philippines. He was the highest-ranking Notre Dame grad to die in the war. He had been a registrar and associate professor of economics at the University before being called to active duty early in 1941.

US Navy: Lieutenant Commander Wells W. Carroll, ex. '17, was missing in action when the aircraft carrier USS *Liscome Bay* was torpedoed near the Gilbert Islands in November 1943. Lieutenant Commander Paul F. Nagle, ex. '22, (USNAR) died in October 1945 when the plane he was flying went missing at sea during a flight from Oahu.

US Marine Corps: Only one pair of brothers were included on our casualty list. Lieutenant Colonel Joseph P. McCaffery, ex. '32, was killed by machine gun fire while leading his men on Bougainville in November 1943. His

brother, US Army Air Forces Lieutenant Colonel Hugh F. McCaffery, '27, died in Bishop, California, while piloting a B-18 on December 12, 1941.

Prisoners of War

Eight Notre Dame men died while held captive by the enemy—five while held by the Japanese, two by the Germans, and one by the Italians. Each was posthumously awarded the Prisoner of War Medal:

Japanese Prisoners of War: All five prisoners of the Japanese Imperial Forces were captured on the Bataan peninsula or Corregidor.

- Private James B. Bassett, ex. '43, (USAAF), was captured at Corregidor, and died of malaria in July 1943 at a POW camp in Luzon Province, Philippines.
- Captain (Reverend) Richard E. Carberry, ss. '37, (USA), a survivor of the Bataan Death March, died of wounds on a Japanese transport ship in the South China Sea in January 1945.
- Private Robert E. Flynn, ex. '43, (USAAF), died of malaria in a POW camp in Luzon Province, Philippines, in June 1942.
- Ensign John C. Metcalf, '37, (USNR), was captured in Luzon Province, Philippines, and reported believed killed on a Japanese transport destroyed by US aircraft in December 1944.
- Second Lieutenant Jacob P. Sevcik, ex. '33, (USA), died of cerebral malaria in a Japanese POW camp in May 1942, shortly after the fall of Bataan.

German Prisoners of War:

- First Lieutenant William M. Fox, '38, (USAAF), died of wounds in a German POW camp hospital in February 1944 after flak hit his dive bomber over Italy.
- Second Lieutenant John J. May, ex. '44, (USA), died in December 1944 during a Allied bombing of rail yards next to his POW camp.

Italian Prisoner of War: Second Lieutenant Richard J. Carroll, '37, (USAAF), captured in North Africa in January 1943, died in a submarine headed to Italy when the US Navy sank it.

Notre Dame Athletes

Nine varsity football players lost their lives during World War II: Harold Borer (a member of the 1938 team), Hercules Bereolos (1939-41), Jack

Chevigny (1926-28), Tom Creevy (1942), Frank Cusick (1942), Jack McGinnis (1942), and George Murphy (1940-42). Two of the most well-known were:

- First Lieutenant John “Jack” Chevigny, ’31, (USMCR), a halfback on Rockne’s 1926-28 teams, was killed in action in February 1945 on Iwo Jima. He had scored the winning touchdown against Army in the “Win-one-for-the-Gipper” game in Yankee Stadium on November 10, 1928.
- First Lieutenant George Murphy, ’43, (USMCR), the captain of Notre Dame’s 1942 football team, was killed in action on Okinawa in May 1945. On Christmas Eve 1944, Murphy had played in the Mosquito Bowl on Guadalcanal with other college football stars in a game between the Marine’s 4th and 29th Regiments of the 6th Marine Division.

Ten others on the Honor Roll of service deaths practiced as freshmen but did not have the opportunity to play on the varsity team when their military service intervened: George Birmingham, Robert Callahan, Louis Curran, Ted Dorosh, Norb Ellrott, Allen Elward, Vince Harrington, Wayne Johnston, Martin O’Reilly, and Howard Petschel.

Chaplains

The Honor Roll includes three chaplains:

- Captain (Reverend) Carberry, noted above as having died while a POW,
- Captain (Reverend) Aquinas T. Colgan, O. Carm., ss. ’36, (USA) was killed in action by enemy fire on North Mindanao in the Philippines in May 1945.
- First Lieutenant (Reverend) Francis X. Flaherty, C.S.V., ’34 (USA) died after an accidental injury on July 19, 1943.

In the Popular Culture

US Navy Seaman First Class Robert Kennedy, ex. ’47, died when a Japanese submarine torpedoed his ship, the heavy cruiser USS *Indianapolis* in the Philippine Sea on July 30, 1945. The ship was returning from delivering the Little Boy atomic bomb to Tinian Island. Those who did not die when the ship sank, faced the peril of sharks attacking the men while they awaited rescue. Actor Robert Shaw made the *Indianapolis*’s story famous in the 1975 film *Jaws*.

Each of the casualties memorialized in this book came to their service by different paths, yet all were united by their ultimate sacrifice. All remain in our hearts forever. *Requiescant in pace.*