

APR. 1945

# THE WORLD WAR II TIMES

**D-DAY REMEMBERED**  
by DONA TAYLOR

**BIG BAND DAYS**  
by WARREN DURHAM

Special Issue \$2.00



RUZZIE GREEN

**Sheraton's Big 5-0**

**Dorothy Lamour's road**





May, 1989

## Thoughts from a Royal 440

Elbert Watson

### Washington, take a bow

Have you been to Washington lately?

I have, twice since March, the first time I have spent any time in our nation's capital in four years.

Like you, I watch television news, read newspapers, and listen to the radio. What I was seeing and hearing suggested that I'd better prepare for Washington — like carrying heavy artillery pieces.

But Washington is many faces in a crowd. I found a great host of people who work unselfishly each day to memorialize the past and invigorate the present.

These extraordinary folks are the true Washingtonians — albeit most of them live in Virginia or Maryland. On behalf of the Times I am glad to salute them.

There's Colonel Tom Garrigan with the "Battle of Normandy Museum Committee." We spent two hours talking about this great project, Notre Dame football, and sports in general. The Committee works out of small quarters with a spirited group of volunteers. Yep, I joined and now have a Normandy lapel pin to show off.

Getting acquainted with Carmella LaSpada is like running wind spints, which are longer possible with me. "No Greater Love" is both a project and cause for this dynamic young woman. Though the organization primarily deals with human tragedy, Ms. LaSpada radiates positive energy — one of the reasons for her success.

Colonel Duke Wolf heads up the "Armored Services Memorial Foundation." This fine retired officer came out of West Point at the tail end of World War II, and went on to serve ably in Korea and Vietnam. I spent hours one afternoon with him at the National Arboretum, sniffing shrubs and looking at trees brought there from many parts of the world.

One of the most ambitious projects I have ever seen is headed by Brigadier General Wilma Vaught, Executive Director of "Women in Military Service to America Memorial." General Vaught took me on a tour of the site at the old entrance to Arlington National Cemetery. When completed, this \$20 million memorial with honor America's women who have served our country's military interests since the Revolution.

Sally Stewart, Public Support Associate at the American Red Cross, gave freely of her time to acquaint me with that organization's work during World War II. A highlight of my time spent at Headquarters was the opportunity to examine hundreds of war photos. Photo Supervisor Elizabeth Hooks also took time to familiarize me with the collection.

Down at the Marine Corps Historical Museum at the Navy Yard, I met with Brigadier General Edwin Simmons and members of his staff: Colonel Brooke Nihart, Colonel Jim Leon, and Bob Struder. General Simmons and I share a common interest in the life and times of Abraham Lincoln. Many members of his professional staff have witnessed America's military history first hand.

These outstanding Americans are representative of many others who are the real Washington. We look forward to supporting their interests, as we work together to foster a spirit of genuine patriotism for the "land of the free, and the home of the brave."

## Beachhead '89

It suddenly struck us a few months ago that the 50th anniversary of World War II is upon us. Yep, Hitler's armies blitzkrieged Poland in a dawn attack on September 1, 1939. Most folks date that as the official start of World War II.

History lessons aside, there is a plethora of events which grew out of World War II which should be commemorated or celebrated. After all, people more knowledgeable than us told us it was the war above all wars which changed the course of history; made us a world power; and eliminated a host of bad guys in the Pacific and Europe.

Think of the other things which came out of the war: scientific advancement; social change; sophisticated technology; democratic reform, and the list goes on.

One would conclude that a war — terrible though it was — which produced so much in our favor, would be touted at the national level as we approach this 50th anniversary period. Not so! The voice at the top speaks

with deafening silence. How awesome! No proclamations! No resolutions! No commissions!

This is in marked contrast to what took place with Civil War observances. Fifty years after the Battle of Gettysburg, for instance, venerable veterans of the Blue and Gray were gathering on that hallowed ground to commemorate the moment they locked arms in mortal combat. And years before the Civil War Centennial of the 1960's, a national commission had been set-up and numerous state commissions were working on projects and programs.

Fifty years or 100 years, who cares? It's time to honor those who gave so much and asked so little in return. The veterans were gone by the time of the Civil War Centennial. Thank God millions of World War II veterans are still around.

Elsewhere in this issue is a form to fill out if you favor a "BIG 5-0 National Observance." Don't procrastinate. Borrow a quarter for a stamp and get it off to us forthwith. It's getting late for D-Day.

Be part of the first wave which goes ashore on "BEACHHEAD '89."

### Saluting the entertainers

#### THE COCKPIT®



**CLOTHING FOR ADVENTURE!** The Cockpit® Catalogue offers the world's largest selection of Avirex™ Leather and Sheepskin Bomber Jackets, Nylon and Cotton Flight Jackets, Flight Suits, Khaki Trousers, Shorts, and Shirts, RAF Bolts and Gloves, Hi-Tech Aviation T-Shirts, Mil. Spec. Garments, Aviation Gifts, Accessories, Etc. Experience the quality of Flight Jackets chosen by Military and civilian pilots for more than fifty years! For fast & easy mail order shopping send \$3.00, for a year of color catalogues. In N.Y. visit The Cockpit® Store in SOHO at 595 Broadway, 212-925-5455. In L.A. visit our new Cockpit store at 9609 Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills, 213-274-6900.

THE COCKPIT®, Box WWT, 33-00 47th Ave. Long Island City, N.Y. 11101.

### Our Cover

An American G.I. buses his favorite girl, a scene repeated millions of times as our men marched away to or returned from war. It was one of the high mementos during a world gone mad.

Cover reprinted from May 30, 1942, issue of *The Saturday Evening Post*, with permission from the Curtis Publishing Company, ©1942.

### World War II Times Vol. 4, No. 3

Founded December 7, 1985  
Published bi-monthly by Traveler Enterprises

Elbert L. Watson, Publisher  
Feature Editor, Don Sandstrom  
Advertising, William Sare  
Pictures, Bob Doepers

REGULAR CONTRIBUTORS: Wendell Phillippi (MG Ret.), Jim Shelton (Col. C.A.F.), Kathy Warnes, Harry Horsman, Dan Levin, William McLaughlin, and William Rooney.

PUBLICATIONS BOARD: Dr. George Geib, Lt. Col. Robert E. Currie, Joe Higgs, J.R. Brown, Dr. Steve Ewing, Jerry Sargent, Patricia Novak, R. "Smockey Joe" Silva, Jim Bryan, and Robert Silvers.  
Editorial Offices at 1010 East 86th Street, Suite 61-J, Indianapolis, Indiana 46240.  
SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO THE WORLD WAR II TIMES, P.O. BOX 40163, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46240, (317) 848-9361.

ADVERTISING: 1010 East 86th Street, Suite 61-J, Indianapolis, Indiana 46240.

The TIMES is a national journal which depicts the military and social history of the World War II era. American servicemen and servicewomen are the central subjects of each issue. We welcome your stories and photographs.



**I**t was 1:26 A.M., June 6, 1944, when the lanky young paratrooper slammed to earth in Normandy. Sam Gibbons, now a U.S. Congressman from Florida, was entering combat for the first time. It was also the first combat for his unit. The 101st Airborne Division.

Captain Gibbons, jumping with the "Screaming Eagles" 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, had descended through a hail of tracers and now lay within 75 yards of a German position, whose occupants were engaged in firing at the American planes passing overhead.

Lying on his back, he wriggled his feet and toes to be sure nothing was broken from his hard landing. His slender 165 pound body was heavily laden with invasion gear.

Like the other paratroopers, Gibbons wore a special jumper's uniform of heavy cotton with large pockets crammed full. He carried a .30 caliber carbine with 100 rounds of ammunition, as well as a .45 caliber pistol with 30 rounds. A 10 inch knife was strapped to his calf, and a British made antitank mine was in a leg pocket.

In addition, he carried a switch blade jump knife, which he would use to cut himself free from the parachute harness, a compass, flashlight, hand grenades, a first aid kit with two morphine doses, an entrenching tool, and an equipment bag with raincoat, blanket, toilet articles and six K-ration meals.

Over all this was a "Mae West" life preserver, and over that was his parachute harness with a reserve parachute strapped across his chest. Among other items unique to the parachuting invaders was an "escape kit" consisting of a very small compass, a small hacksaw blade, a map of France printed on silk, and \$300 worth of well-used French currency.

The kit was in a flat four by six inch waterproof envelope which Gibbons wore inside his sock just above the top of his jump boot.

A few hours before enplaning, the paratroopers were issued one last surprise item of equipment. Small metal "crickets," of the type found in Crackerjack boxes, were given to all jumpers for use in distinguishing friend from foe in the dark.

To "top off" all this, the 101st soldiers had shaved their heads because the surgeon had advised that stitching up head wounds would be much easier that way.

But Gibbons carried with him something that was not unique to the other troopers. Orders called for all to carry their gas masks, but Gibbons, presuming correctly that the German defenders would hardly be fool enough to use poison gas in their own rear areas, discarded his mask and in its carrier were two cans of Schlitz beer!!!

Thus laden, Gibbons lay quietly to insure he had not been detected by the nearby Germans. Unable to loosen the leg buckles of his parachute harness, he cut the harness off with



On D-Day Sam Gibbons jumped with the "Screaming Eagles."

## **Beering down on D-Day**

**Col. Thomas Garrigan (Ret.)**

his switchblade and slipped silently into the darkness in search of his fellow troopers.

Even before landing, he had determined he was far from the assigned drop zone. From the air he had recognized enough landmarks to realize that he was landing only a mile or so south of Ste. Mere Eglise,

objective of the 82nd Airborne Division instead of near his own unit's objective of the Douve river bridges nearly six miles away.

Striking out alone, Gibbons was soon to encounter another 101st trooper, using his "cricket" for identification. Moving on in the direction of the 101st objective, he collected a

dozen or so "Screaming Eagles," though it would be 30 hours, many miles, and several fire fights before he encountered anyone of the 16 other troopers who had been on his plane.

By the time daylight came, Gibbons' group had been joined with several others which included another captain and a lieutenant.

Near the village of Blosville, about halfway between Ste. Mere Eglise and the 101st objective, he and the other two officers held a "council" to discuss the best way to move in daylight to get maximum speed while avoiding detection as much as possible.

Gibbons adjourned the "council" by producing, undoubtedly to the surprise of the others, two cans of genuine American beer! After they had shared the beer, the men decided to leave the empty cans in the middle of the road as a monument of the first cans of Schlitz to be imported into France.

Later that day, after accumulating still more people ranging from glider pilots to some German prisoners, Gibbons chanced to pass again by the spot where he had left the cans and found they were gone.

Somewhere, probably a German intelligence officer was studying these objects (which at that time would have been virtually unheard of in Europe), and wondering what sort of foe they were facing who dropped from the sky, shaved their heads, and put beer in cans!!!

Today Sam Gibbons sits in the Congress of the United States as Chairman of the Trade Subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee. In that position he is known as a staunch advocate of free trade among nations and the lifting of export-import barriers.

This should come as no surprise, since 45 years ago he was the first person to import American canned beer into France.!



Gibbons is a U.S. Congressman from Florida.



**C**armella LaSpada, a diminutive woman in size, packs a heavy punch with her super abundance of energy.

And 99% of that energy is directed toward her top project, "No Greater Love," the organization she founded in 1971 to work with families and children of those who died in service to our country.

While working in the White House as a special-projects aide, LaSpada saw first-hand the devastating effect the loss of husbands and fathers serving in Vietnam had on their bereaved families, particularly children.

With missionary zeal, she convinced athletes and celebrities to help her organize "No Greater Love" into a major humanitarian organization, through thousands of hours of volunteer work.

Today, the group's programs, like LaSpada's energy, are endless, sponsoring more than 20 annual events, many of them in Arlington National Cemetery. These programs deal with a variety of concerns affecting Americans:

- ★ War correspondents who died in the line of duty.

- ★ Hostages taken in Iran and Lebanon.

- ★ Americans murdered by terrorists throughout the world.

- ★ Sailors killed in the Persian Gulf.

- ★ Space shuttle crew of Challenger.

John Knipple, who lost a son by a terrorist bomb in Beirut, said of LaSpada: "Events, even the most tragic ones, are very quickly forgotten by the country, but the families never forget. Carmella's expression of caring cannot be fully understood until you have the tragic need."

At an annual ceremony held on POW/MIA Day, children of MIA's come to Arlington to place Forget-Me-Nots at the Memorial Tree.

"No Greater Love" maintains two other memorials at Arlington: a Meditation Bench honoring Americans who gave their lives during the Korean War, and a Memorial Tree and Stone honoring journalists who died covering wars.

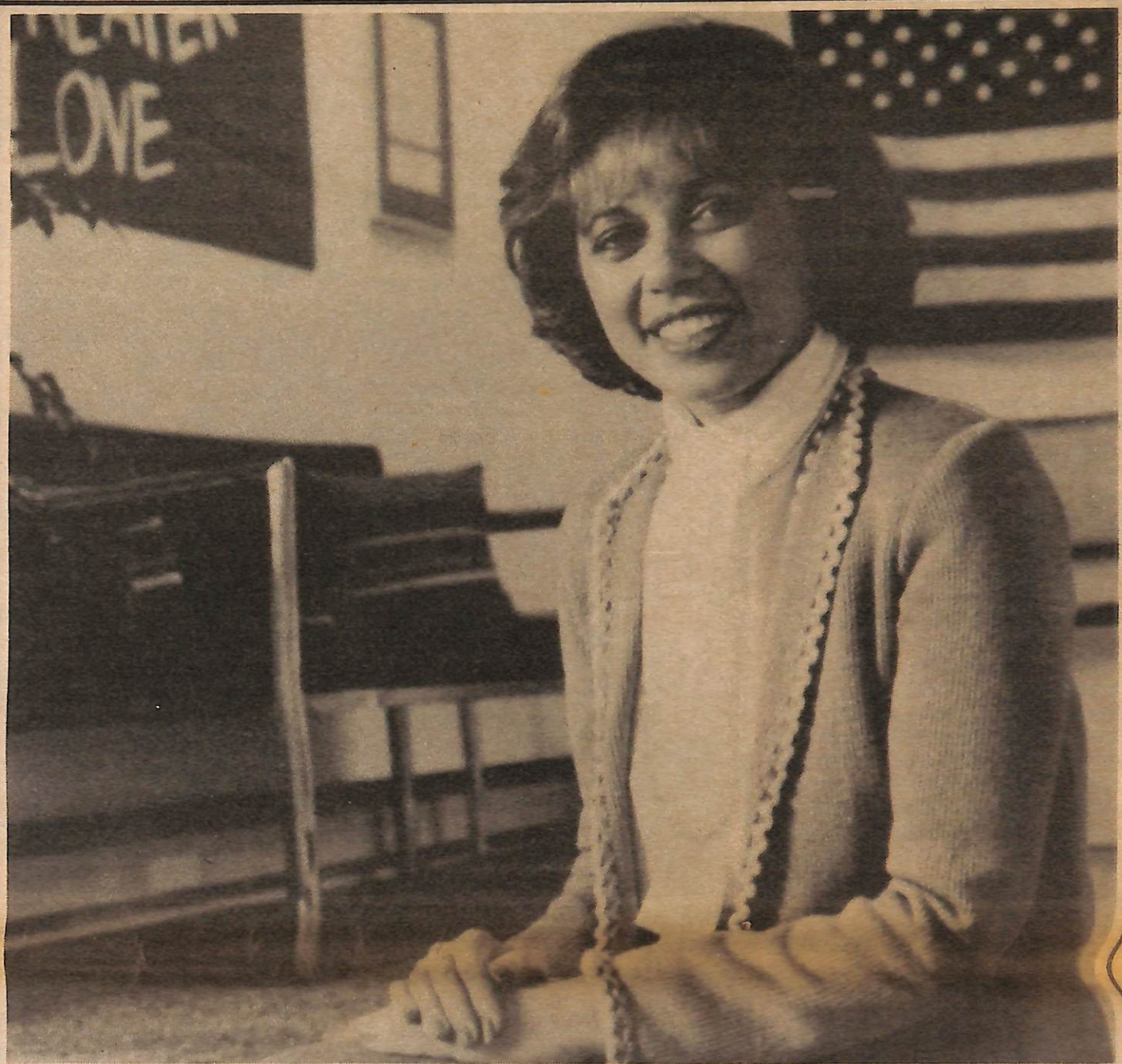
One of the organization's most ambitious projects has international implications: to encourage children throughout the world to commit themselves to peace. Thus far over 600,000 youngsters from 100 countries have signed the pledge.

The name "No Greater Love" comes from John 3:15 in the Bible: "No greater love than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." However, the group has no religious affiliation; the phrase is used because it effectively defines the group's purpose.

The approach of the 50th anniversary of World War II brings new opportunities to "No Greater Love," LaSpada believes.

"It will be a time of remembrance," she notes.

"And where remembrance is involved, there will be "No Greater Love."



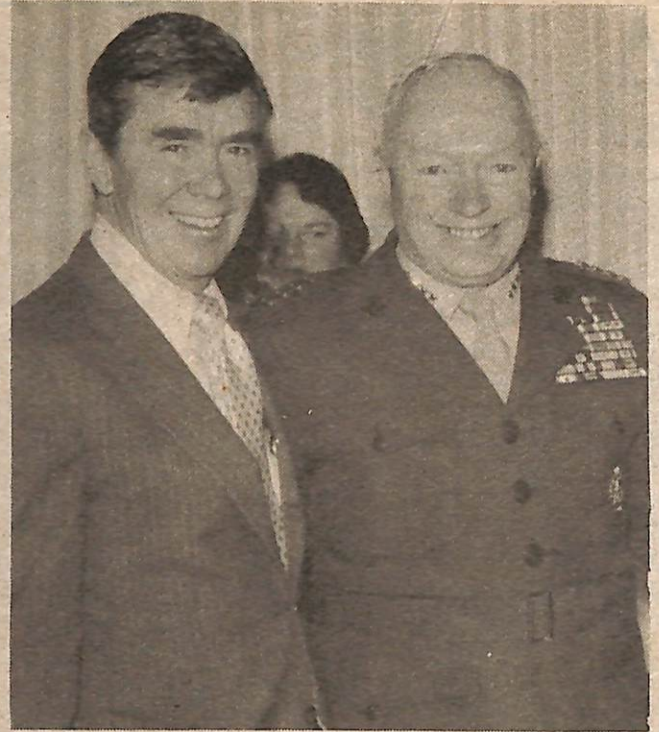
Carmella LaSpada's vision and dedication brought "No Greater Love" into existence.

# No Greater Love



Children are an important concern of "No Greater Love." Youngsters are holding photos of hostages.





Seen at a recent function are Ambassador Bruce Langen, former hostage in Iran and General A.M. Gray, Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps.

On Father's Day the organization places a remembrance at Vietnam Veterans Memorial

## "The Lines On His Face"

*Back some forty long years earlier,  
When the world was badly torn by war,  
He was ready to fight for his country,  
And was imbued with "Esprit de Corps".*

*The Air Corps needed men to fly,  
To be the long arm to hit the foe,  
He bravely said, "I'm ready and willing,  
Just give me a plane and off I'll go".*

*The wild blue yonder was his domain,  
To be a great warrior his chosen destiny,  
Challenging the enemy in far-flung skies,  
His silver wings a glorious sight to see.*

*His old face now bearing many creases,  
And thinning hair turned gray and white,  
Look closely under those sad, tired eyes,  
You can strangely still see a ghostly sight.*

*Under the eyes see the two fine curved arches,  
On the faces of they who fought the war on high,  
It's the faint imprint of the snug oxygen mask,  
From long months of combat in the freezing sky.*

*When skies resounded with a terrible clamor,  
As men and planes locked in deadly war,  
And the victors came home in glorious triumph,  
To contemplate anew all they'd fought for.*

*There were many who fell and gave their all,  
And are remembered only now and then,  
In solemn tribute they were toasted briefly,  
But as years pass they are all but forgotten.*

By Don R. Hayes  
414th Bombardment Squadron  
97th Bombardment Group



Children of a State Department official killed by a terrorist bomb place wreath in Arlington.



**A**re you weary of hearing World War II veterans saying the all too familiar, "I can't believe its been 45 years ago." Such exclamations usually are in reference to some "person, place, or thing," as some event brings memory to mind.

It's that way with me. I add another dimension, however, when I hear a familiar old song. A song that dates back to the "Big War" and what memories come along with it. That's right — the big bands and entertainers of the 1930's, 40's, and 50's!

Those talented performers did more than just keep the home front happy. They hit the road. Mostly through the good offices of the U.S.O. (United Service Organization), they showed up in every World War II operations theatre — at any time — any place! Many times under very strenuous conditions — or outright danger.

The most well known of those hardy troups was the Bob Hope group with Frances Langford, Patty Thomas, and Jerry Colona. All told, they traveled over a million miles entertaining U.S. and Allied troops.

I saw them at Leyte shortly after the 1944 liberation landings in the Philippines. Hope, without script or big production, put on a very funny show. With his familiar golf club "cane" and big smile, he worked easily with the songs of Langford and the "pop eyed" gags and falls of Colona.

Miss Langford knew the delicate border line of showing her cute figure, and "going too far" with a crowd of over 2,000 lovestarved service men. And Patty Thomas's scanty costume always wowed the men.

I know. I was there.

The Hope show lasted about two hours. Then the entertainers did a second show for another group immediately afterward.

A "big band" on the USO was usually reduced to about 10 pieces from the customary 20. All of the music (and I mean all) was upbeat and lighthearted.

Gales of laughter was always assured when an unsuspecting soldier, sailor, or marine was caught "off guard" and brought to the stage — most often to be "pawed over" by one of the female vocalists to some romantic tune.

At Manila, in the summer of 1945, I was able to see a USO show in a badly damaged former Army Air Corp's hangar at Clark Field. It was a loud and funny variety show, emceed by a singer who later gained fame on the Don McNeel "Breakfast Club" — Johnny Desmond.

I was a radio man aboard an APD in the Pacific. An APD, in case you wonder, was a destroyer escort size craft, but with "added" four landing craft. It was a ship used for many purposes, but much too small to host a USO show.

We often escorted the "big ships," like a battle wagon or aircraft carrier. The "big ships" were sometimes kind to us smaller ones. Once we were



Comedian Jerry Colona brought smiles to the girls as well as the troops.

# Fun at the front

## Jerry Sargent

treated to a USO show on the flight deck of the USS Enterprise ("The Big E") in the Guam harbor.

In the distance, we saw rows of B-29s parked on the runways of the huge air base. Their missions over Japan were over! We felt lighthearted and the show was great. It featured stars from radio's "Your Hit Parade" and tunes like "I'll Be Seeing You,"

"I'll Walk Alone," and "Strings of Pearls."

But it wasn't all overseas. In New York City, the USO Club was one of my favorite stops — on leave. We were provided everything from tickets to Broadway shows to home style dinner with a host family.

Did I ever see Dorothy Lamour? Oh yes, on the Philippine Island of

Somar, and in 1945, just after VJ Day, when our ship, the USS Tollberg, returned to "the islands" from the occupation of Japan, at Kobe and Osaka.

Question? Yes, those girls really were that pretty. We guys fell in love with all of them — and have carried that unfulfilled crush to this very day.

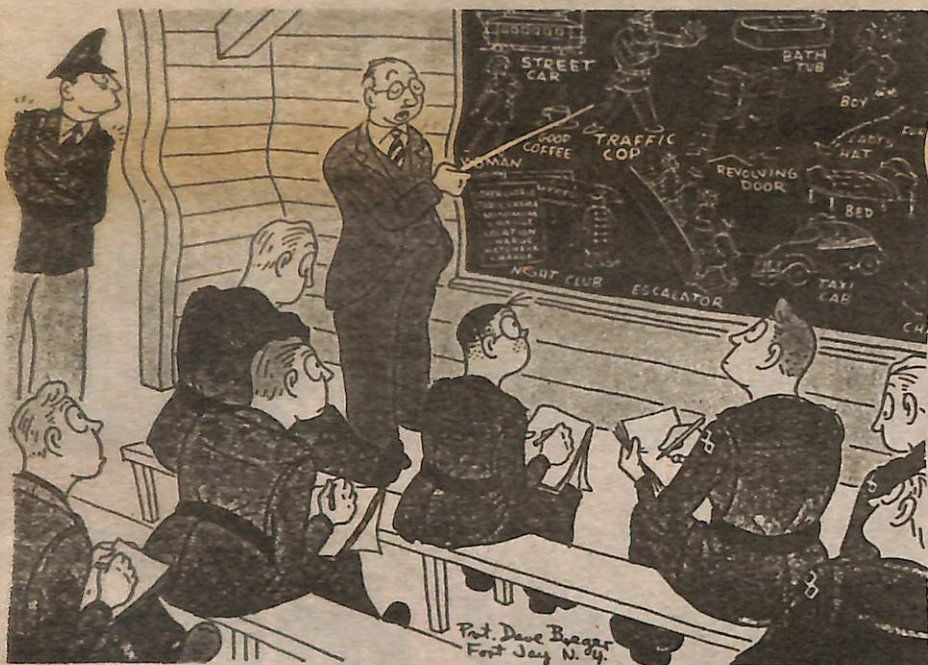




"Two light cruisers—look like twin-sister ships of the Grable class, launched about 1924, overall length about 5' 3", power-driven by streamlined Dietrichs, speed about 1½ knots, coming sou'east, on the alert for a convoy—full speed ahead, mate!"

Saturday Evening Post

PRIVATE BREGER



"It's our class in Civilian Hazards—for men going on furlough."



Betty Hutton belts out a lively tune for her boys in blue.

**Male Call**

by Milton Caniff, creator of "Terry and the Pirates"



IT'S LIKE DIS, MCGOOLTY, DAT NEW DOLL MOVED IN HERE—AN' WE GOTTA KNOW HER NAME AN' HOW SHE FEELS ABOUT GO-JERGS!

YEAH, MCGOOLTY YOU GOT THE ONLY INNOCENT PAN IN THE OUTFIT—IT'S UP T' YOU—FOR THE GOOD OF THE SERVICE!

YOU GUYS NEVER ASK ME TO GO ALONG WHEN YOU'RE SURE! —BUT I'LL DO IT!



HELLO, GENERAL, WHAT IS THIS, THE WOLF PATROL ON A HIKE?

AH—LADY, SINCE YOU LIVE SO CLOSE TO AN ARMY POST, WE GOTTA KNOW YOUR NAME AN' SERIAL NUM— GEE I MEAN, THE ARMY WANTS THE DOPE—I MEAN—

**Long Overdue—Must Be Considered Lost**



...HOW'S MCGOOLTY DOIN'Z?

WH—WHY, THE BABE IS TAKIN' HIS HAND AN' LEADIN' HIM INTA THE HOUSE!



1/31/43



**I**'m no war hero," Fred Heckman says convincingly.

But many people who know Fred in Indianapolis would disagree.

His sense of patriotism, devotion to family values, and tireless community service make Fred a household name to regular listeners of Indy's powerful radio voice, WIBC.

A man of boundless energy, Fred came to Indianapolis in 1958 to head the station's news division. He was selected from among 200 applicants.

"And I'm still in the same spot after 31 years," he says with a slight chuckle.

Well, hardly! During that time Fred has worked tirelessly for community projects and veteran programs.

One might call him Indy's Civic Cheerleader.

WIBC staffer Jim Shelton ("Ask the Colonel") says Heckman has few peers in the community: "Fred literally is a fellow who is always there when community needs call. He doesn't have to seek headlines in order to be known."

In addition to handling a staff of news professionals, Fred does a feature "My Town Indy," which airs daily at 8:00 A.M. The feature, which Fred conceived in 1967, is sprinkled with humor or pathos, depending on the subject matter.

Recently, "My Town Indy" told of a courageous Catholic priest, Father Thomas Scecina, who was a chaplain during World War II. Captured at Corregidor in 1942, Chaplain Scecina continued his ministerial functions while imprisoned by the Japanese.

In 1944, a group of prisoners was scheduled to ship out to another camp; Chaplain Scecina volunteered to accompany them. Tragically, the unmarked vessel was torpedoed by one of our submarines, taking Scecina and his fellow prisoners to their deaths.

"That was one of the saddest "Indy" stories I have used," Fred says. "But it was a tribute to a great, though largely unheralded, individual who left a special mark on this community."

That special mark is Scecina Memorial High School which preserves the brave Chaplain's name, and sends a host of outstanding young people into the world.

Fred's mobility is rooted in his early years. Born in Iron Mountain, Michigan, he moved 29 times by the time he was 16 years old because of his father's profession as a purchasing agent.

He claims such places as New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland, and Arizona as "home," to name a few.

Fred was a freshman at the University of Arizona when Pearl Harbor shocked the nation. When he heard President Roosevelt's radio address the next day, December 8, 1941, to Congress, he wanted to drop out of school and join the service. His parents insisted he complete his



Fred Heckman, top, third from left, takes pride in his family.

# Heck (of a) man

**Elbert Watson**

freshman year.

His poor vision problem slowed things down, but did not dissuade Fred from finding his military niche. A waiver got him into the Coast Guard in June 1942. Fortunately, for his future profession, he was assigned to radio school.

Fred first served on the Coast Guard cutter Conant, a converted fishing trawler whose armament dated from World War I.

"If a German sub armed with pea shooters had spotted us, I guess we would have gon down under the first volley," he smiles.

Most of Heckman's service was aboard the USS Merrill (DE 392) as one of eight radio operators. The hardy ship ran convoys on the Mediterranean.

With the war against Germany over in the spring of 1945, the Merrill tied up at Bayonne, New Jersey, and took on torpedoes and mounted anti-aircraft to prepare for Pacific action.

"I was somewhere in the middle of the Pacific when the war finally ended," Heckman reflects, trying to remember exactly where he was. "Now do you understand why I'm no

war hero?"

Actually, Fred had some high moments during the conflict. One night at New York City's Hotel Commodore, he was preparing to pay a rather hefty food bill when up stepped the famous movie actor Pat O'Brien.

"I'll pay that, sailor," O'Brien said emphatically.

The courtesy was a small thing which O'Brien and many other Americans did for their servicemen during the war.

But an indelible impression was left on Fred's mind. Years later he spot-



ted O'Brien dining at Indy's Claypool Hotel. "I'll pay that bill, Mr. O'Brien," he ordered. And he did.

Heckman moved around after the war, first at WGAY, Silver Springs, Maryland, then up to WTUX, Wilmington, Delaware. There he met Barbara Wilson at the Wilmington Drama League. They were married and today have a family consisting of five children and seven grandchildren.

During the Korean War, Fred saw service aboard the USS Bryce Cannon, the flagship of Admiral Ammons in the Sea of Japan.

Heckman's honors are too numerous to list, but a brief rundown of citations include the following organizations: Salvation Army, American Red Cross, American Legion, USO, Indianapolis Press Club, Indiana Army National Guard, and Boy Scout and Girl Scout Councils.

Presently, Fred has another responsibility, that of Civilian Aide for the 4th U.S. Army to the Secretary of the Army. In that role he serves as a liaison to express concerns of civilians and soldiers to the Secretary of the Army at a high level meeting in Washington each year.

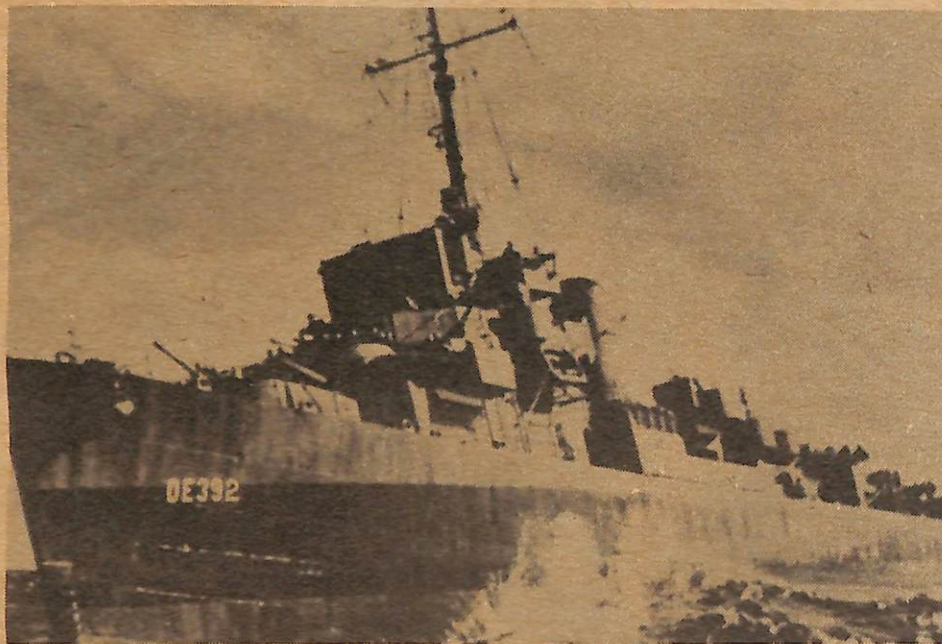
"For an old Navy apprentice seaman," Fred beams, "it is quite a feeling to find myself seated next to medal bedecked generals and high government leaders."

Fred Heckman has served his coun-

Dear Fred Heckman,

Thank you for broadcasting a story about Father Thomas Seccina in your series "My Town Indy." I really enjoyed knowing more about the namesake of my school. The whole school listened to it on the P.A. system this morning.

Sincerely,  
Anne Lindeman



Heckman's ship, the USS Merrill, plies waters of the Atlantic.



Heckman after the war.

But he's no hero, he says.

With all his gadding about, Heckman apparently never took time to read the definition of "hero" in Webster's Dictionary.

It says: "A man admired for his achievements and qualities."

What about that, Fred Heckman, Apprentice Seaman out of World War II?

try since "something" tugged at his patriotic heart strings back on December 8, 1941. His parents, church, and scouting activities all played a role in giving him the "right stuff" inside.

Cast bronze B-26  
One-tenth scale  
6½ feet wing span  
Chris Scala, Sculptor  
Casting by Bronzart Foundry  
Photography by Robert Willmann



## B-26 MARTIN MARAUDER MEMORIAL

### Wright Patterson Air Force Base

THE B-26  
MARTIN MARAUDER MEMORIAL  
COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE



First casting presented to the 397th Bomb Group Association at the Rededication of this monument, September 1988.

The B-26 Memorial Commemorative Plaque: Limited First Edition, Signed, Numbered Cast Bronze, Mounted on Solid Oak, Approximately 10" x 12" overall, Chris Scala, Sculptor

A Limited Edition of this B-26 Memorial Commemorative Plaque is available.

WE SALUTE THE  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
397th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION  
MARTIN MARIETTA  
AND ALL OTHER B-26 GROUPS  
FOR THEN, AND NOW  
FOR THEIR SPONSORSHIP OF THIS  
NEW NATIONAL MONUMENT AT  
WRIGHT PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE

397th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION  
9th AIR FORCE

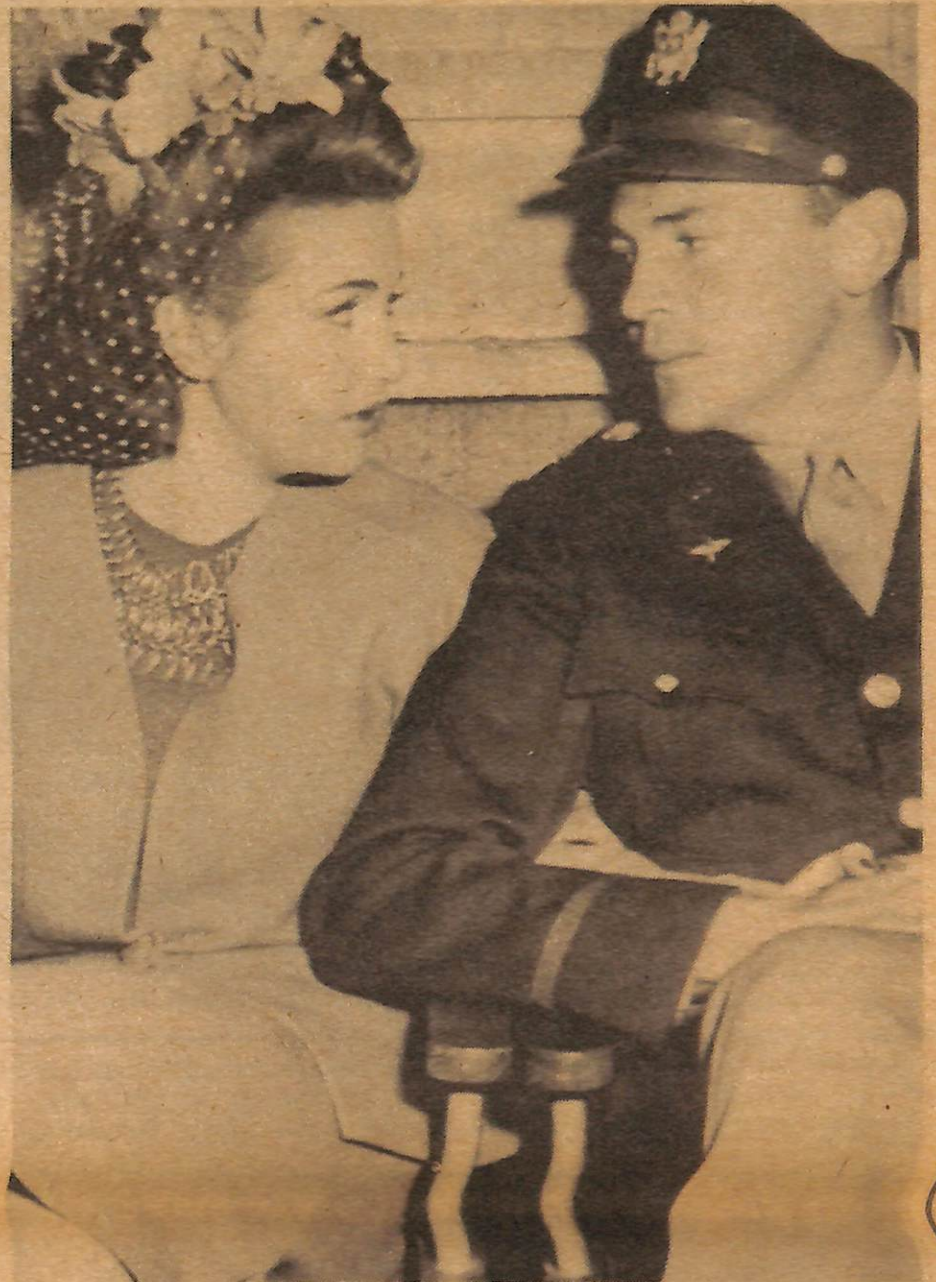
**Inquiries welcome concerning your special project, monument, or sculpture**

**Contact Chris Scala - 1805 Hammerlin Ave., Orlando, FL 32803, (407) 647-2731.**





Defense workers backed Dorothy Lamour's War Bond effort.



Dorothy's "Bill", the great love of her heart.

Paramount Pictures

The American pin-up girl was one of the social phenomena of World War II. For years young American males had been fascinated with female movie stars as representing the ultimate in desirable womanhood. To many of those fellows, now in uniform spending bleak hours in the barracks, "the girl back home" was their favorite pin-up.

So important was the pin-up to military morale, *Life* magazine photographed and published some of the most famous shots ever made. Carole Landis, Rita Hayworth, Chili Williams, Betty Grable, and Jane Russell were only a handful of the beauties who frequently graced *Life's* pages.

In late 1942, the magazine undertook an ambitious project — an intensive survey of military posts to determine the top pin-up. Dorothy Lamour, who was already famous for her "Road" shows with Bob Hope and Bing Crosby, won hands down by a 3 to 1 margin.

Grable may have had the most famous pin-up picture, but Dorothy got beyond the zany part of the G.I.'s fantasizing into his heart. The boys

# Dorothy's Road Work

## Elbert Watson

really loved Dorothy.

There was much more to Dorothy Lamour's part in the war effort than her feminine allure to love starved G.I.'s. In her autobiography, she tells of her "love affair" with the Hawaiian Islands after she and her mother visited there in 1940.

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor profoundly affected Dorothy. Her birthday was December 10 and a group of friends had prepared a small dinner party for her. While she waited to be picked up, she began to cry over what the Japanese had done to her

friends in Hawaii.

Realizing that tears weren't the answer, she gave way to common sense and decided to use her name to sell war bonds. By the next morning she was on the phone to Henry Morgenthau, the Secretary of the Treasury, who loved the idea and told her to start packing.

Miss Lamour's first stop was New York City College where she sold \$10,000 worth of savings stamps in one afternoon to a group of college kids short on cash. Then she headed across New England, a section she thought

would be staid and humorless. Instead, she found warm, enthusiastic responses at all stops and her war bond chest began to swell.

Dorothy used unique tactics to raise money; she would only accept cash for her autograph. It worked! During the first nine days she sold over \$30 million in stamps and bonds.

This outstanding success prompted Morgenthau to send her all over the country. By the end of 1943, she had sold \$300 million cash sales.

When she was not on the road selling war bonds, Dorothy was visiting and entertaining the men in military hospitals. "The appreciation you receive from these brave men stays with you the rest of your life," she recently wrote.

There was another very important reason for her to support the war effort. While dining with friends one evening, Bill Howard, an Air Force lieutenant, walked up to the table to greet one of the other diners. Dorothy looked up: "There stood the most beautiful man I had ever seen, in or out of motion pictures."

It was love at first sight in true Hollywood style and they were married April 7, 1943. What was different,



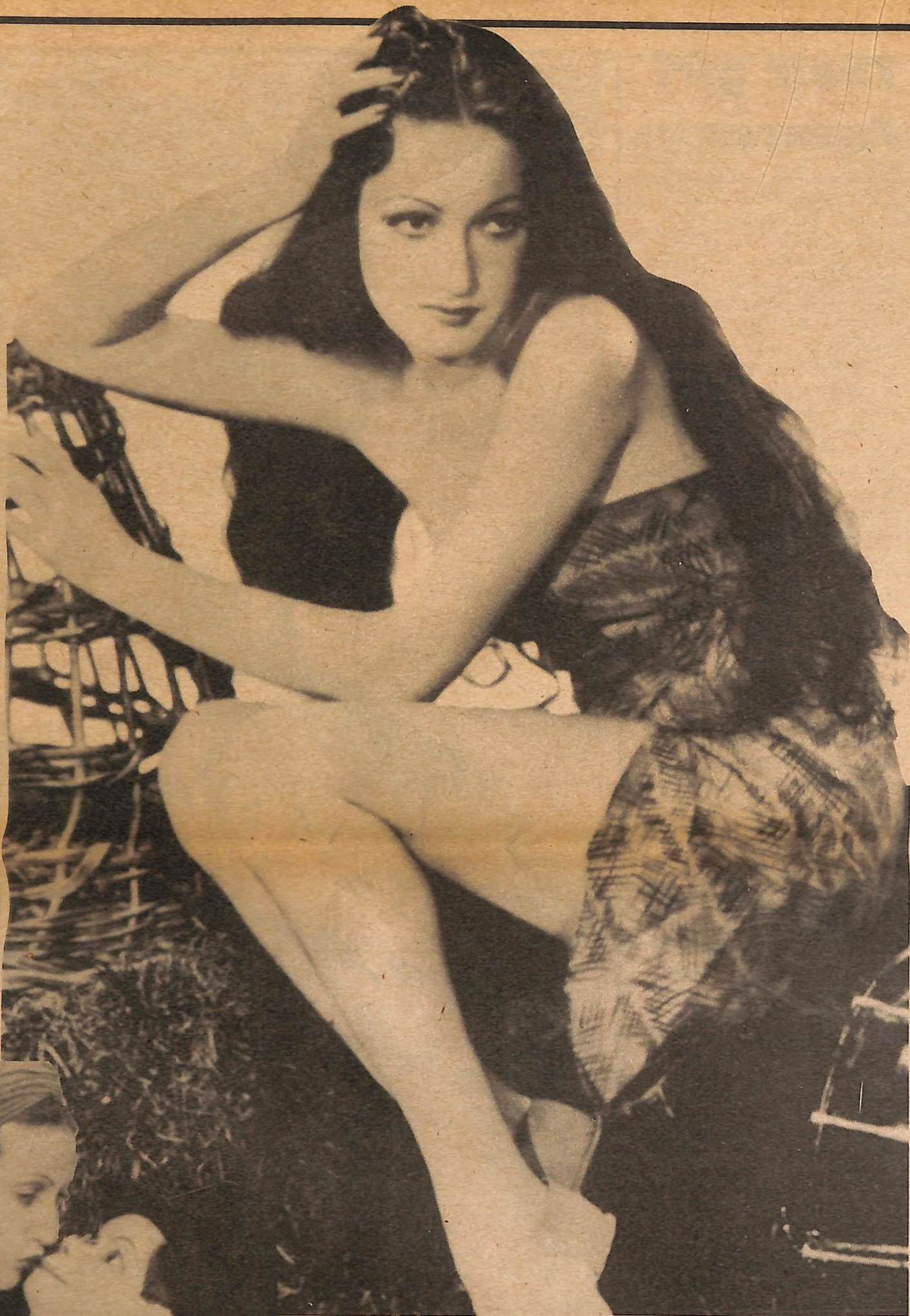




was the marriage was certainly made in Heaven. They were married 35 years until his death in 1978. She still misses him terribly.

Today Dorothy Lamour continues to lead an active life: dinner theatre circuit; playing in revival of shows; and television appearances. Recently she was one of the hosts for the PBS program "Entertaining the Troops," which showed film clips of U.S.O. shows at home and overseas during World War II.

True to her Hollywood background, Dorothy Lamour is still on the road.



Charlie McCarthy under the Lamour spell.

Dorothy's sarong was her trademark, but the war gave her a mission.

Paramount Pictures

## Know more about Dorothy

Dorothy Lamour: My side of the Road: Prentice-Hall, Inc. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, 07632. In addition to telling her movie story, Miss Lamour gives valuable insights into the social history of World War II

through the eyes of a proven entertainer.

The book is well indexed and gives a short statement about all her motion pictures.



# Their girl

## Frances

Petite, talented, and blessed with a smile as broad as the Pacific — that's Frances Langford, the girl adored by G.I.s the world over.

A bundle of feminine energy, Frances could sing, dance, and had a flair for comedy. She was the perfect foil for Bob Hope on his weekly radio program, "The Pep-sodent Show."

Like other great entertainers of World War II era, Miss Langford carries rich memories of the men on the fighting fronts. Traveling almost one million miles with Hope's troupe, she was able to share some of the hardships faced by the men.

"They were the finest and bravest of men," she recalls. "There was never and will never be an audience as appreciative as these fine men. They made us all feel needed, wanted and loved. There is nothing more important than this."

Along with Hope and Langford, the troupe usually consisted of comedian Jerry Colona, dancer Patty Thomas, guitarist Tony Romano, and gag-writer Barney Dean. They kept G.I.s spirits up touring from 1941 to 1946, covering bases in the South Pacific, England, Africa, and after D-Day, in Italy and Germany.

They had a close shave off the coast of Australia on a flight from Brisbane to Sydney. Hope was at the controls when one prop started to flutter and an engine conked out. The pilot grabbed the controls and yelled: "Jettison everything aboard!"

"Nobody wanted to throw away anything," Frances says. "I hid my costume which was about the size of a bathing suit, in my clothes." Thomas tied her pair of tap shoes around her neck.

The aircraft skipped in the water 50 feet before hitting a sandbar and coming to a halt. That's what saved them from a possible fatality.

Occasionally Frances took the controls. "The pilots loved Frances," Hope recently recalled during an interview for a PBS show. "I always knew when she was flying. The plane would start to tilt

and I would yell, 'Frances, get out of there.'"

The troupe sometimes hopped from one Pacific Island to another in a fleet of Piper Cubs, one passenger to a plane and landed on narrow roads in lieu of an airstrip. On a make-shift stage they would go immediately into their song and dance show before an enthusiastic crowd

of G.I.s.

Those moments became shared experiences for the entertainers and their audiences. For Hope it was the "most emotional part of my life."

Frances Langford found the experience that and much more: "We knew just what they were going through, the loneliness, the hardships, the

losses of comrades in battle, the fear and sickness and all of the discomforts.

"We were proud to go through anything just to know and let others know what wonderful men we had fighting for all of us."

The Times salutes Frances Langford, special girl to the boys who loved her in those distant years of their own greatness.





## WORLD WAR II ROUNDTABLES PRESENT BEACHHEAD 1989

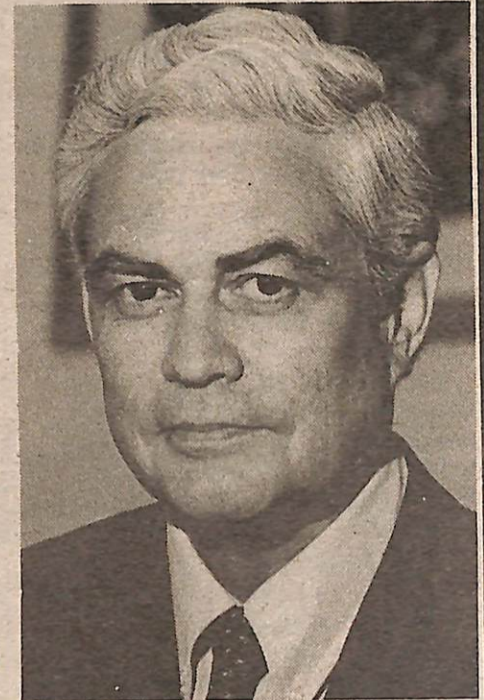


**Brig. General Wilma Vaught**  
(USAF, Ret.)

Sheraton Washington Hotel  
2660 Woodley Road at Connecticut Ave.  
Washington, D.C. 20008

June 9, 1989

- 8:00 a.m. ENLISTMENT (dog tags issued) Sheraton Conference Lobby
- 9:30 a.m. FIRST WAVE, Elbert Watson, publisher World War II Times, presiding, "God Bless America"; Presentation of Colors, Armed Forces Color Guard, U.S. Army, Military District of Washington; Pledge of Allegiance, Sterling Gossett
- 9:45 a.m. "D-Day, June 6, 1944," Major Charles Kirkpatrick, Center for Military History
- 11:00 a.m. "In Search of History: the Yamamoto Mission," George T. Chandler, Dr. Jerry Kelley, and Eugene Monihan, Second Yamamoto Mission Association.
- NOON CHOW (on your own)
- 1:30 p.m. SECOND WAVE, Elbert Watson, presiding "War Correspondents: A Tribute," Robert Sherrod, correspondent and author
- 2:30 p.m. "We also Served: Women in the Military," Brig. General Wilma Vaught (Ret.), Executive Director, Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation
- 3:45 p.m. "Island Hopping the Pacific," Brig. General Edwin Simmons (Ret.), Director Marine Corps Historical Center
- 4:45 p.m. Memorial Service, Lt. Colonel John K. Kottingham, Chaplain U.S. Army, Military District of Washington.
- 5:00 p.m. CLOSING REMARKS, Elbert Watson



**Brig. General Edwin Simmons**  
(USMC, Ret.)

World War II Times  
1010 East 86th St., Suite 61J  
Indianapolis, IN 46240



"Unless the rules have changed, he plays a pretty rough game of checkers!"

**W. D. GRISSOM SR.**  
Military Medals And Antiques

P.O. Box 12001 - Suite 216  
Chula Vista, California 92012 USA  
(619) 482-1739

Mail Order Only

## COMIC CARNIVAL

6265 N. Carrollton Avenue Indianapolis, Indiana 46220 (317) 253-8882

**GOOD TO SEE  
YOU AGAIN  
GENERAL!**



### MALE CALL

MILTON CANIFF'S COMPLETE WW II STRIP FOR SERVICEMEN. FEATURING MISS LACE (OF COURSE), PLUS A FOREWARD BY BILL MAULDIN. SOFTCOVER.

\$11<sup>95</sup> + \$1<sup>75</sup> POSTAGE & HANDLING

TELEPHONE ORDERS WELCOME. SEND CHECK, MONEY ORDER, VISA OR MASTERCARD (INDIANA RESIDENTS PLEASE INCLUDE 5% INDIANA STATE SALES TAX).



**D**an Ross of Chevy Chase, Maryland has a lot of things on his mind these days.

His law firm which specializes in government contracts is one of the most prestigious in the Washington D.C. area.

His business interests include ownership of four Sheraton Hotels in Northern Virginia.

But despite his material success, Ross has other things to think about these days as the years since he was a Marine in World War II stretch out before him.

He vividly remembers that morning on Okinawa in 1945 when he peered through the early mists toward a steep ridge and saw his fellow Marines scaling the slopes to secure their position.

"That scene is etched forever on my mind," Ross reflects, his voice dropping to a quiet whisper.

"Our lines flowed forward and upward while our flags flapped resolutely in the breeze. Men were cut down like grass along the front lines, but others rushed into the gaps. No Marine wavered. I'll never forget that moment."

Born in a Western Pennsylvania coal mining town, Ross experienced tough times growing up.

"That was a difficult period," he recalls. "But we were no different than many other families caught in the Depression. Dad worked long and hard in the coal mines to provide a livelihood. We were survivors."

His athletic prowess on the high school football team opened an important door for Ross. Signed to a football scholarship at Washington's George Washington University, he played guard for the 1941 and 1942 teams.

On December 7, 1941, the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor sent shock waves across the country. Every American who remembers that day knows exactly what he or she was doing when the announcement was made.

Ross was high atop Griffith Stadium watching the Washington Redskins grind out a victory over the Philadelphia Eagles, 20-14.

"Suddenly, as though by an invisible signal, I saw military officers get up and leave the stadium," he remembers. "No public announcement was made but I knew something was wrong."

Ross was one of 60,000 young men who were selected for the Navy's V-12 program, and given a chance to continue their academic work while training to become officers. Assigned to Penn State University, he was starting guard on the 1943 football team under Coach Bob Higgins.

At Camp LeJeune, Parris Island, Ross received full officers training as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Marine Corps. "I loved the Marines from Day 1," he says. "Serving with those guys was like playing football on Saturday afternoon. Their winning instinct suited my competitive nature."

Ross's 5th Regiment landed in the



Dan Ross and two Japanese officers at Longfong, China — a study in contrasts.

# Always grateful

Elbert Watson



Proud Marine Dan Ross poses for camera in Peking, China.

Russell Islands in 1944 to train with the 1st Marine Division, whose great Pacific War service dated back to Guadalcanal in 1942.

Under Colonel John H. Griebel, the 5th Marines helped secure Okinawa's east coast at Katchin Peninsula in April 1945. Though resistance was weak, the leathernecks were too tired to eat by evening because of their strenuous hiking since early morning over rugged hill country.

The 5th Marines were in contact with the enemy almost daily for one month. Ross led a crack rifle platoon with K Company 3rd Battalion which included several Texans who had shown their mettle at Pelilu.

After the Okinawa campaign, the 5th Marines went into training for its next assignment which every man knew was invasion of Japan just around the corner.

"We really didn't worry much about it," Ross recalls. "We were a winning outfit. I guess you could say we thought ourselves invincible. "Later, I was laying in my bunk one night when the bombing of Hiroshima was announced, we knew the war was winding down.

After Okinawa the 5th Marines shipped out to China, landing at Tsingtao and moving through Tientsin on to Peking. Ross's platoon was dispatch-



ed to guard a telephone repeater station between Peking and Tientsin, a located in the town of Longfong, a Chinese town occupied by enemy troops weeks after the Japanese surrender that August.

Since they didn't pose any danger, no one had taken the time to go over and confiscate their arms.

Ross and some of his fellow Marines, however, thought it would be interesting to check out the enemy face to face.

"It was hard to imagine this Japanese unit, still unsundered, as being our enemy. They were respectful and courteous to a fault. I couldn't believe it, given what we had gone through at Okinawa."

Like other young veterans, Dan Ross began putting his life back together immediately after the war. His first job was with the Internal Revenue Service in Washington.

During the Korean War he was called back into the Marines and assigned to Procurement. During that time he got interested in government contracts, the field in which he has specialized since entering the law in 1954.

Ross' business ventures began seriously in 1963 when he invested in the Silver Spring (Maryland) Sheraton. Today he owns the following hotels: Sheraton Reston (1973); Sheraton National (1974); Sheraton Crystal (1983); and the Sheraton Premiere (1986) together with his several large multi-stored office buildings!

So what does Dan Ross think about on a typical spring morning as he sits in his handsome office overlooking Chevy Chase?

Like any person who was part of a great moment of history, he regularly reflects on the experiences which formed his character as a young man.

"Yes, I have thought many times," he muses, "where would I be today had not the Marines brought their influence to bear on me back then. They made me reach down to my inner resources during the war."

"To this day, I try to carry out the Marine slogan "Semper Fi" — always faithful.

"And I'll always be grateful."



5th Marines arrive in Peking. Star indicates Ross.

## Sheraton Honors Salutes WWII Veterans



Ross, right, discusses 50th anniversary program with Bill Masciangelo, left, and Harry Noble, 3rd Marine Division.



Ross took this picture of his rifle platoon on Okinawa.

**For information on Sheraton's June 9 Big 5-0 program, call Bill Masciangelo, Director of Sheraton Military Markets, 800 537-7882. Or contact Elbert Watson, c/o World War II Times, 1010-East 86th St., Suite 61-J, Indianapolis, IN 46240, 317/848-9361.**



ON VIDEOCASSETTE  
**THE  
 EAGLE'S NEST**



**HITLER'S SECRET CENTER OF POWER**

**A** lofty view of Hitler's empire is afforded by this four-part feature, which focuses on the Nazi leader's mountain retreat in the Bavarian Alps. A candid look at Hitler and his chief lieutenants, seen through home movies of his entourage, rare archival footage, and unique contemporary interviews with Albert Speer and other survivors, is framed in the perspective of the whole tragedy of the Third Reich through supplemental excerpts from Nazi propaganda films and dramatic newsreel sequences.



**PART I. THE EARLY YEARS:** A review of Hitler's early manhood, his 14-year struggle for political control of Germany, and the first years of his rule includes unusual scenes of the construction of his imposing Alpine chalet at Berchtesgaden. Nazi deputies Joseph Goebbels and Martin Bormann are also featured, as well as the Hitler Youth organization. B&W/Color, 60 minutes, #R235, \$29.95

**PART II. EUROPE FACES THE REICH:** Home movies of the Hermann Göring family round out the story of daily life at Hitler's mountain headquarters, the Berghof, during the last pre-war years of tense diplomatic maneuvering. Interviews with surviving members of the Führer's inner circle illuminate the lives of SS leader Heinrich Himmler and Hitler's mistress Eva Braun. B&W/Color, 60 minutes, #R236, \$29.95.

**PART III. THE SECOND WORLD WAR:** Skillfully-edited battle footage from the War's early years describes the German conquests of Poland, Denmark, Norway, the Low Countries, and France. A behind-the-scenes look at the Battle of Britain and the abortive peace mission of Nazi deputy Rudolf Hess to England is provided by eyewitness accounts. B&W/Color, 60 minutes, #R237, \$29.95



**PART IV. THE END OF THE REICH:** The chronology of the last years of the War, including the Allied landings in Normandy, the destruction of German cities from the air, and the final battle of Berlin, focuses on Hitler's personality and moods. Scenes unusual for World War II documentaries, including the destruction of the Führer's mountain home and a postwar interview with Nazi Luftwaffe chief Göring, add a rare human dimension to one of history's most-fascinating subjects. B&W/Color, 60 minutes, #R238, \$29.95.

Please send me the following videocassettes from THE EAGLE'S NEST series @ \$29.95 each:

- VOLUME I, The Early Years, #R235
- VOLUME II, Europe Faces the Reich, #R236
- VOLUME III, The Second World War, #R237
- VOLUME IV, The End of the Reich, #R238

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ Cassettes @ \$29.95 each; Total \_\_\_\_\_

Available in VHS format Only	SPECIAL OFFER—Buy all four cassettes in THE EAGLE'S NEST series and pay only \$109.00 a savings of \$20.00! (including shipping).
	<input type="checkbox"/> Check here and enter amount: _____
SHIPPING AND HANDLING \$3.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> My check is enclosed. Charge my: <input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard	
TOTAL ENCLOSED (Illinois residents add 7% sales tax)	
NAME _____	PHONE NUMBER _____
ADDRESS _____	
CITY _____	STATE _____ ZIP _____
ACCOUNT NUMBER (VISA & MASTERCARD ONLY)	
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE _____ EXPIRATION DATE _____	
PHONE ORDERS CALL 312-436-8051 MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: INTERNATIONAL HISTORIC FILMS, INC. Box 29035, Chicago, Illinois 60629	

**THESE ARE  
 YOUR  
 TIMES**

Be my guest,  
 General.



**Save  
 now**



Sign me up! Enclosed is \$11.50 for 6 issues, or \$21.50 for 12 issues.

Name (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Give a gift**

Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**As a gift from:**

Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Send to 1010 East 86th St., Suite 61-J, Indianapolis, IN 46240





# World War II

**we're still  
raising the flag.**

# Yes

***Let's have a national observance of  
the 50th Anniversary of World War  
II. Put me down for the First Wave.***

**Can you help? How?**

Mail To: Elbert Watson  
World War II Times  
1010 East 86th St., Suite 61J  
Indianapolis, IN 46240

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

W.W. II Vet? \_\_\_\_\_ History buff? \_\_\_\_\_