



The Star



Issue #110

"We Speak Their Names"

Fall - 2023

The Story of *White Death*

Compiled from media reports by Kristin Holmes



PVT Henry Irving Tannenbaum, subject of the famous photo *White Death*, was born March 1, 1916, in New York. He died January 11, 1945, in Ottré, Arrondissement de Bastogne, Luxembourg, Belgium. Tannenbaum was the father of AWON's Sam Tannenbaum.

On February 14, 1944, Henry Irving Tannenbaum of Brooklyn, NY, was drafted into the Army. Known for his intellect and his idealism, he was a graduate of Brooklyn College in New York City, where he was President of the Classical Club. He worked for the government in the Office of Price Administration.

Private Tannenbaum left his young son Samuel and his wife Bertha in Brooklyn, and after training at Fort Meade, Maryland, he was sent on a troop ship to England with the 331st Infantry Regiment, 83rd division, Company F, Second Battalion. While in England, Henry conducted religious services for soldiers of the Jewish faith; prior to his enlistment, he'd taught Sunday School at a temple in Washington, D.C. He was sent to France in August of 1944 and by October of that year, was fighting in Luxembourg as part of the Luxembourg Campaign.

Michelantonio Vaccaro, called Tony, was born in Greensburg, PA, on December 20, 1922, to Italian immigrant parents. After his parents' deaths, he was raised in Italy by his paternal grandmother. With the outbreak of World War II, Vaccaro moved back to the United States in order to escape military service in Italy, but was drafted into the US Army in 1943, only a few months after graduating from high school. An accomplished photographer, Vaccaro sought assignment with the Army Signal Corps, but was rejected due to his youth. Vaccaro claims to have replied, "Sir, I am old enough for this gun and not old enough for this camera?" The Signal Corps recruiting officer replied, "That's pretty funny, but you still are too young for us."

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President's Message

by Walt Linne

Happy New Year! May we have a blessed and healthy 2024!

The primary theme of AWON's Board of Directors continues to be The Future of AWON, and I want to thank Ann Mix, our Founder, the Board Members, and our Extracurricular Volunteers, particularly Barry Barr-Finch, Barbara George and Gloria Layne for continuing their work in this arena. Most of all, we thank our active members for their ongoing support of the American WWII Orphans Network.

We have been reaching out and supporting our associate organizations (Gold Star Memorial Monument Foundation, Vietnam Sons and Daughters in Touch - SDIT, Tragedy Assistance Programs for Survivors - TAPS, American Battle Monument Commission – ABMC, Margraten Adoption Committee, Normandy Memory Project and the Wreaths Across America Program.) And we continue to enhance our communication skills by calling and sending out past due reminders to our members with good success. Special thanks to the Communications Committee for their hard work.

AWON Members were in proud attendance at the recent dedication of the Liberation Pavilion and the Gold Star Memorial Monument at the National WWII Museum in New Orleans. Please see the full story on Pages 8-9 for the details.

ALERT! 2024 AWON National Conference – We need a decision from our AWON siblings! I am requesting your feedback regarding a national conference, possibly September 2024. Potential sites are Tucson or San Antonio, but we remain open to alternate suggestions. The chief concern is our age possibly limiting our ability to travel. Please indicate 1) If you will attend 2) How many might be in your party? 3) If you prefer one of the above sites or prefer another site. 4) Finally, would you be willing to host and/or assist in helping with the conference? Please feel free to send your thoughts and answers to wlinne@iupui.edu or 317-697-4697. Thank you.

In Their Memory - Never Forgotten.



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WWII Photographer Corporal Tony Vaccaro

Instead, Vaccaro was sent to Europe as a private in the 83th Infantry, where he eventually reached the rank of corporal. It was here that Tony Vaccaro and Henry Tannenbaum met one another, while both fighting with the 83rd in France, Luxembourg, and Belgium.

While Private Tannenbaum served in a rifle platoon, Vaccaro's usual position as a scout provided him with the opportunity to take photographs with the Argus C camera - purchased secondhand for \$47.50 - he'd taken into combat, despite orders not to do so. He was told if his commanding officers saw him with the camera, it would be destroyed. Tony believed it was because the Army wanted to present a polished face to the public; if real combat photos had been made public, it might frighten off potential enlistees.

Vaccaro processed his own film each night in camp. He hid the developer chemical in another soldier's helmet and the fixer chemical in his own. Tony hung the wet negatives on tree branches to dry and then sent them home to his sisters for safekeeping. This resulted in a lot of chemical spills, streaked photos, and lost shots, but somehow during his 272 days at war, Tony Vaccaro managed to produce thousands of

images that provided a unique soldier's-eye view of wartime. He was in a position that few others, even his fellow military photographers, were in, that of the lowly footsoldier stationed on the front lines. Among those thousands of photos, Tony Vaccaro revealed not only the tragic stories of the war but also the reasons why the war had been fought - the joy and appreciation of the citizens at the moment of their liberation.

Henry Tannenbaum was wounded in the Hurtgen Forest during the Luxembourg Campaign and awarded the Purple Heart, but returned to service on December 6, 1944. Private Tannenbaum's platoon fought in France, Luxembourg, and Belgium. He and his fellow soldiers were clearing the enemy-held west bank of the Roer River when the Ardennes Counteroffensive - what most refer to as the Battle of the Bulge - began.

The platoon entered the fray on December 27, 1944, and were at first effective in limiting the enemy's movements, with few casualties. But on January 11, 1945, their luck ran out. A raiding party of four tanks and twenty soldiers were ambushed by the 5th SS Panzer Army in Ottré, Belgium. Virtually all platoon members, Henry Tannenbaum included, were killed in action. Only Platoon Sergeant Harry Shoemaker survived the ordeal, playing dead while the Germans executed men around him.

When Sergeant Shoemaker finally managed to return to regimental headquarters, the first person he encountered was the sentry - Corporal Tony Vaccaro. He shared with Vaccaro the grisly details of the massacre at Ottré. The two men returned to the site the next morning. The carnage was horrific, with most of the soldiers' remains twisted from writhing in pain when they died. Some of the corpses had been run over by tanks and others were shot at point blank range instead of being taken prisoner.

In the midst of all the carnage, something caught Vaccaro's eye.

...White Death, continued pg. 4

...White Death, can't from pg. 3

One figure looked peaceful and untouched by the panic and agony around him, his body held straight as if at rest. A young man, face down in the snow, with his arms, knees, and face buried.

Tony Vaccaro pulled out his camera and photographed the man. Vaccaro and Shoemaker then chipped away at the Soldier's frozen dog tags to learn the soldier was a man they both knew, Henry Tannenbaum. Tony later said, "When I first took this photo of a GI dead in the snow, I was not aware of who he was. What I did was to chip the snow away and look for his right arm, because in those days (on) the right arm, we carried our dog tags. He was Pvt. Henry Irving Tannenbaum. He was one of the soldiers who fought there, just like me. We fought in the snow. He was my friend."

When he first saw the developed photo, using an abandoned newsroom to process his prints, Tony Vaccaro was mesmerized by the image. Henry seemed to float on a sea of white. While he originally called the image "Death in the Snow," Tony later settled on a name that he felt was nobler, better suited to honor the sacrifice that Henry Tannenbaum had made. He entitled the photograph *White Death: Photo Requiem for a dead soldier, Private Henry I. Tannenbaum*. While the scene was of course heartbreaking, Tony's artist's eye couldn't help but find the image beautiful, similar to a piece of heartbreaking music, and wanted the name to capture that feeling. The photograph *White Death* has been in traveling exhibits throughout Europe for more than fifty years and was selected as the Photograph of the Century by Germany's *ZEIT Magazine*.

Tony Vaccaro described his photo this way: "I knew this was an opportunity for an abstract image, an homage to unknown dead soldiers of all nations." Henry Tannenbaum was buried in Henri-Chapelle Cemetery in Belgium. His body was eventually exhumed and returned to New York in 1948 to be interred at Mount Hebron Cemetery, in Flushing, Queens, NY. His widow, Bertha, was unable to withstand the blow of her



Above: The iconic photo *White Death: Photo Requiem for a dead soldier, Private Henry I. Tannenbaum*, taken by Corporal Tony Vaccaro after the Ottré Massacre.

husband's loss. Samuel, Henry's son, was only 2 ½ at the time of his father's death, but his struggles were far from over. "The bullet that killed my father also destroyed my mother's mind and ended my childhood," he later wrote.

Bertha Tannenbaum was eventually committed to a state hospital and died in 1983. Sam was forced to raise himself from a young age, obtaining a War-Orphan's scholarship, and graduating from Brooklyn College. He knew next to nothing about his father, not even that the two of them had attended both the same high school and college. All the records from his father's military service, and the memorabilia from his parents' lives together, were lost during his mother's illness.



The Tannenbaum Family, L-R: Sam, Bertha, and Henry Tannenbaum. Livingston Manor, NY, July 1944.

...White Death, con't from pg 4

When the 83rd Infantry Division redeployed after VE Day, Tony stayed behind in Europe to document the death and destruction left in WWII's wake. In the decades that followed, Tony would go on to become a renowned commercial photographer for magazines such as *Look*, *Life*, and *Flair*. He photographed celebrities, including John F. Kennedy, Frank Lloyd Wright, and Sophia Loren. Meanwhile, Tony's photograph of Private Henry Tannenbaum circulated the world, winning multiple awards. *White Death* became one of the best known images of the Battle of the Bulge, reprinted countless times as a wordless summation of the costs of war. Despite his success, Tony Vaccaro always wondered what had happened to Henry's family.

While Tony's star was rising, Sam Tannenbaum developed a career as a fundraiser and grant writer for non-profit organizations, cancer societies, and schools. Sam married and had a daughter of his own, but the desire to fill that void in his life continued – he continued to wonder about the man who was his father. He didn't even know where and how his father had been killed.

Throughout the 1980s and early '90s, Sam tried to piece together his father's wartime service, identifying his unit and location. This path led him to Ann Mix, and he became one of AWON's First Founders. Later, Sam wrote a chapter about his father - including an image of *White Death* - for AWON's book *Lost in the Victory - Reflections of American War Orphans of World War II*.

At the time Sam joined AWON, he had no idea that his father was the subject of such an iconic photograph. His fellow orphans encouraged him to continue researching. In 1996, through AWON, Sam met with several people from Luxembourg who wanted to meet the children of their liberators. Among them was Jim Schlitz, a retired fireman who directed Sam to Tony Vaccaro's book of photographs of the 331st Regiment. Sam realized that the photographer, Tony Vaccaro, was a surviving member of his father's unit, though he



Sam Tannenbaum with his copy of the acclaimed photograph *White Death*, given to him by photographer Tony Vaccaro when they met. Photo courtesy of XVIII Airborne Corps & Fort Liberty Group.

did not know of the connection between his father and the famous photographer at that time.

Sam got in touch with Tony, then living in New York City. Once Sam identified himself as Henry Tannenbaum's son, Tony told him that he'd been looking for him for 50 years. Upon visiting Tony and his family in 1997, Sam received a professional print of the photograph, *White Death* - which still hangs in the Tannenbaum home. Sam said, "Tony's greatest joy, beside meeting my wife Rachel and our daughter Lisa, was taking a picture of my father's grave in New York with an American Flag next to it. For Tony, that picture brought him closure after more than fifty years."



Above: Sam Tannenbaum and his family at the grave of his father, Private Henry I. Tannenbaum, KIA January 11, 1944, Ottré, Belgium.

...White Death, continued pg. 6

Sam and Tony eventually traveled together to that field in Belgium where Henry Tannenbaum and his platoon had been killed. A farmer told them that despite the area looking very different than it had during the war, they'd come to the right place. To their surprise, the field was being used to grow Christmas trees - "Tannenbaum" means evergreen tree in German. As Tony later wrote in the book *Entering Germany*, where one Tannenbaum had fallen, there was now a forest of Tannenbaums.

On June 22, 2002, grateful Belgian citizens erected a memorial to Private Henry Tannenbaum near where he was killed. It reads:

WE REMEMBER
PT HENRY I. [IRVING] TANNENBAUM,
NEW YORK
83RD INF. DIV., 331 INF. REG., 2ND Bn.,

F-COMPANY
KILLED IN ACTION NEAR OTTRÉ
JANUARY 11TH, 1945,
AND THE BRAVE SOLDIERS OF THE 83RD US-
INFANTRY DIVISION IN MEMORY OF THE
BELGIAN COMBATANTS AND VICTIMS OF THE
2ND WORLD WAR
1940 – 1945

U.S. VETERANS FRIENDS LUXEMBOURG -
COMMUNE DE VIELSALM



Above: The plaque honoring Henry Tannenbaum, near the site where he was killed in Belgium.
Photo courtesy of Bel-Memorial.org



Above: The grateful Belgians still lay wreaths at the memorial to Pvt. Henry Tannenbaum, as can be seen from this Covid-era photo taken Jan. 10, 2021. Photo courtesy of Bel-Memorial.org

Sam Tannenbaum told the group XVIII Airborne Corps & Fort Liberty that his father is a symbol of something much greater than one man. "He represents the best in this world. He represents the best in this country. These men represent the United States coming together to rescue the world from evil. Remember, Europe was wiped out. Belgium surrendered. This was a time when the entire country fought together. That's something we can learn from today. People are certainly divided today, but we can come together to honor these men and the values for which they fought."

Although Tony Vaccaro went on to photograph thousands of famous celebrities over the years, he considered *White Death* to be his best picture. *White Death* was featured in the 2016 Emmy-nominated HBO documentary *Underfire: The Untold Story of PFC Tony Vaccaro*. In 2020, at the age of 98, Tony Vaccaro told writer Mary Koik, with the American Battlefield Trust's magazine *Hallowed Ground*:



Be sure to follow AWON on Facebook for the latest updates about ongoing activities and exciting new projects!

"I consider my best wartime photo to be of a single dead man in the snow with his rifle. That's a frightening picture; to me it has the message that we should play with children, not with guns. I took that picture, believe it or not, because he was beautiful. When I saw that, I went close and I actually felt his arm because, you never know if something is still alive. I took the bayonet and chopped away the ice to find out when was he killed. Two, three minutes ago? An hour ago? A day ago? I didn't know. And his arm was frozen, so he had died, perhaps, a few hours earlier, before it began to snow.

I'm always happy when wars end. Mankind doesn't need them."

In January 2020 Sam Tannenbaum and his wife, Rachel, joined four 83rd descendant families together with European members of the 83rd ID Association and hundreds of Belgian citizens to see a reenactment of *White Death* to Commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Liberation of Bihain and Surrounding Villages. Since the time of this address, both Tony Vaccaro and Rachel Tannenbaum have passed away, adding even more poignancy to that moment.

Sam wrote, "There is a monument in the village of Ottré that names my father among others and I was asked to speak on January 11, 2020, about the plaque on it. I call this my Ottré address."

Three score and fifteen years ago my father Private Henry I. Tannenbaum fought on this continent and liberated this nation, Belgium. We come here today to remember his ultimate sacrifice on this very field, part of the Battle of the Bulge. My father is not the only one we come to honor now. He is joined by several other entities.

The 83rd Infantry Division is one of only eight infantry divisions that fought in the Battle of the Bulge AND liberated a concentration camp. If you are a descendant of the 83rd please take a step forward and be recognized. Thank you for your ancestor's service.

Belgian Combatants were the first casualties during the brief period between invasion and surrender. Later, they were casualties as part of the "Piron Brigade." Some casualties came from the Belgian Congo. Others were casualties of German units that fought on the Russian front. If you were a Belgian soldier, please take a step forward and be recognized. If you are the descendant of a Belgian soldier, please do the same.

Belgian civilians from Vielsalm suffered and died during the Battle of the Bulge. Some are part of the Resistance, others became noncombatant casualties because of German bombardments. If you are from Vielsalm or a descendant of a Vielsalm civilian please step forward to be recognized. Those not from Vielsalm but proud Flemish or Walloon speakers welcome and please step forward.

U.S. Veterans' Friends, Luxembourg - This watch reminds me of my Luxembourgish "brother," Jim Schiltz, who found Tony Vaccaro that took the photo "White Death" that led to creating the monument near this killing field. If you are from Luxembourg or any other nation, please step forward and be recognized.

Finally, it has been said that Grief is just Love with no place to go. Today I do not feel Grief for the death of my father, but Love in this place. Thank you all.



Tannenbaum Tribute

The new MeWe ListServ



ALL AWON members in good standing are invited to participate in AWON's Mewe page!

Check it out!
<https://mewe.com/>

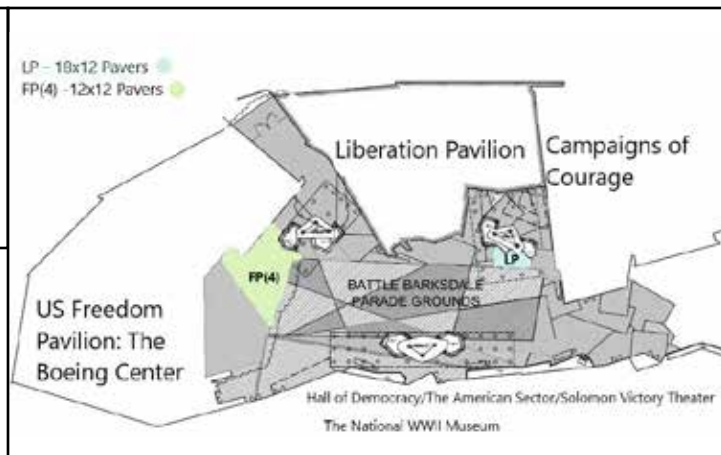
AWON Members Attend Dedications at the National WWII Museum, New Orleans

By Walt Linne

AWON Members were in attendance as the new Liberation Pavilion and the Gold Star Memorial Monument on the National WWII Museum's Colonel Barksdale Parade Ground were dedicated on November 1-3, 2023. The ribbon cutting was held Nov. 3. AWON's Memorial Paver honoring our fathers is located on the parade ground in front of the Liberation Pavilion.

Dr. Sharon Estill Taylor - a National WWII Museum Trustee, Gretchen Wronka, her son Joe and her grandsons Casper and Liam, Barbara Kelly, and AWON President Walt Linne were all in attendance. In addition, Diana Moore of the SDIT (Sons and Daughters In Touch) was also present.

Nancy Bachant and her sister Janet were scheduled to attend but had to cancel at the last minute. The third Bachant triplet sister, Karen, was also unable to attend the event. Nancy, Karen, and Janet's father Herbert Bachant's picture (featured on the opposite page) is in the entrance of the Liberation Pavillion, as a reminder of the cost of war. Nancy wrote, "We were very honored to have a picture of our father and us in a permanent gallery display! Also, his portrait (below) is in the gallery of KIA soldiers. Thank you National WWII Museum, and curator Kimberly Guise."



The dedications started with our National Anthem sung by the Victory Belles. You may recall that the Victory Belles performed at our national conference in New Orleans. The dedication presenters were the Honorable John Bel Edwards, Governor of Louisiana; Stephen J. Watson, CEO and Museum President; Chad Graham, President and CEO, Woody Williams Foundation, and grandson of Woody Williams (WWII Medal of Honor recipient and Founder of the WW Foundation). Then, actor Tom Hanks and our very own Dr. Taylor spoke.

At the conclusion of the dedications, "God Bless America" was sung by the 82nd Airborne Division All-American, the same group that made it to the finals of *America's Got Talent*. At the same time, the Louisiana National Guard flew over the Barksdale Parade Ground. Following that stunning display came the sounding of TAPS by the Marine Force Reserve Band - something that always brings tears to the eye.

Both dedications at the National WWII Museum were very moving and inspirational. I would encourage everyone to visit the National WWII Museum - it's a wonderful experience.

In Our Father's Memory – Walt Linne.

Upper Right - a map displaying the location of the Liberation Pavilion, and the Barksdale Parade grounds, where AWON's memorial paver is located.

Left - PFC Herbert Bachant, AWON father to Janet, Karen, and Nancy Bachant, is featured in a permanent gallery display in the Liberation Pavilion.



Above: Officials from The National WWII Museum, the State of Louisiana, and special guests attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Nov. 3, 2023, Grand Opening of the Museum's final permanent exhibit hall, Liberation Pavilion. (Photo courtesy of the National WWII Museum.)

Below - A photo of PFC Herbert Bachant and his triplet daughters, featured permanently at the entrance to the Liberation Pavillion of the National WWII Museum, an exhibit dedicated to displaying the costs of war.

It is only fitting that the Bachant photo is used to illustrate the experience of war orphans.



Corporal Herbert Bachant holds a photo of his wife and triplet daughters in April 1944. He learned of their arrival in an article in *The Star and Stripes* while training in England. Five months later, he was killed near Rennes, France.

WAR ORPHANS

Many of the 183,000 American children who received survivors benefits from the US government after the war never met their fathers. Grieving spouses carried on raising families, but it was often too painful to share memories with children of fathers they knew only from photographs. War orphans carried a lifetime of loss within, and some would never receive the answers they wanted or the comfort they needed.

Looking for Back Issues of *The Star*?

The *Star* can be found online here:

<https://www.awon.org/past-issues-1>

You can buy back issues from the AWON Bookstore:

<https://www.awon.org/bookstore>

AWON Meetups!

One of the most exciting kinds of AWON Meetups are when we hear about a new member!

Arthur Chotin sent us the following photo:

"Phyllis Louis, her husband Henry and my wife (Betsy) and I recently had lunch with a new member (Judy Ullrich) and her husband Bill. Judy's father was killed on Iwo Jima. She only learned of AWON recently and has joined."

From bottom left: Arthur Chotin, Betsy Chotin, Bill Ullrich, Judy Ullrich, Phyllis Louis, Henry Louis.



A Letter to *The Star's* Editor:

The article you wrote about the flag raising (*Issue 109 of The Star*) was outstanding for someone who is not a Marine Corps historian.

I have been a Marine Corps history buff from about the age of 7, years before I went into the Corps. Have been a history buff since and am very familiar with the flag raising. Terrific article for persons not familiar with the flag raising.

Rich Basile

Editor's Reply: I'm so happy you enjoyed it! The more research I did, the more interesting information I discovered. It is such an amazing and tragic story - I was honored to be able to write it. - KH

Wreaths Across America 2023 UPDATE -



Visit <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/> for more info.

During this year's National Wreaths Across America observance on December 16, 2023, more than three million dedicated volunteers placed three million veterans' wreaths at 4,225 participating locations across the country and at American overseas cemeteries. More than 500 new locations have been added to the WAA program since last year!

At Arlington National Cemetery, where the Wreaths Across America program was begun, 260,000 veterans' wreaths were placed by more than 30,000 volunteers.

Volunteers remembered our nation's heroes as they said their names aloud, honoring over three million veterans this year. Each headstone represents a life of service, and each of those volunteers proudly say each servicemember's name out loud in a small gesture of gratitude for the freedoms Americans enjoy.

Most exciting of all, a third of the WAA's volunteers this past year were children. As Karen Worcester, WAA executive director said, "What I love most about this day, and this mission, is that it is so much more than just the placement of a wreath. The wreath is the catalyst, it brings together communities - families and strangers -- to learn about those who have served and sacrificed."

She continued, "We have more than three million volunteers across the country and a third of them are children. This mission and the events happening today provide the opportunity to teach kids about what freedom is."



AWON Member Nancy Sue Johnson shared this photo of her father John R. Brown's grave at Fort Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis, MN, bedecked for the 2023 holiday season.

The core mission of the WAA is to *Remember, Honor, Teach*. In all they do, WAA strives to fulfill one or more of these core values:

Remember the fallen, Honor those who serve and their families, and Teach the next generation about the value of freedom.

Gloria Layne shared the following story and the photo below about her meeting with WAA founder Merrill Worcester:

I went to the Wreaths Across America convoy stop in Holmdel, NJ, on Wednesday. How exciting to see the tractor trailers of wreaths, meeting some of the volunteers, and then meeting Merrill Worcester, the founder of WAA. I had an opportunity to introduce him to those around me and told him about AWON and our support.

Stay tuned in 2024 for more about how you can help WAA accomplish their mission once again!

Past AWON President Gloria Layne shared this photo of her meetup with WAA founder Merrill Worcester. Check out that awesome WAA sweatshirt! The WAA website has lots of merchandise available: <https://donate.wreathscrossamerica.org/show-my-support/apparel> Proceeds go towards supporting



WAA's cause - Remember, Honor, Teach.

A String of Pearls

by Jan Powers

Janice Crandell Powers, daughter of 1st. Lt. Leonard J Crandell, sent us a beautiful poem from her upcoming book *Girls in White Dresses*, an anthology of stories gathered and tales spun with the fabrics of our lives.



Some of you may remember the Crandell Family's story from Issue 98 of *The Star*, and also from Jan's book, *Pieces of Us*, available from the AWON bookstore:

<https://www.awon.org/bookstore>

Stay tuned for the release of Jan's latest book, *Girls in White Dresses*, in 2024.

“A String of Pearls”

by Jan Powers

Number one on the radio in 1942
Recorded by Glenn Miller's orchestra
Playing every Saturday night
at the Inglaterra Ballroom
They decided it could be their song

The music played, filling the space
until there was no room left
for thoughts of goodbye
No room for thinking about tomorrow
Just holding tight, then letting go

So they danced, always moving
in and out of each other's arms and lives
She with her own string of pearls,
glowing, sliding around her neck
He with new silver wings on his chest

The music ended and the war began
The soldier did not come home
Glenn Miller did not come home
The pearls found a new home
She didn't dance again for a long time



Jan also sent us this beautiful picture above:

I thought this image was so lovely and would be so perfect for the end of one year and the beginning of the next... These two little girls are taking flowers to my father's grave (at Margraten) in the Netherlands.

The quote reads: Each for his own memorial,
Earned praise that will never die, And with it,
The grandest of all sepulchres, Not that in which,
His mortal bones are laid, But a home,
In the minds of men.

AWON Members -

Is your father buried in a national cemetery? Check out the Veterans Legacy Memorial (VLM)! VLM is an online memorial space managed by the National Cemetery Administration (NCA).

NCA manages over 150 national cemeteries to honor our Nation's veterans, and memorializes more than 3.7 million veterans interred in those cemeteries in a digital memorial, providing a VLM profile page for each veteran, to which personal touches like photos and tributes can be added.

Find out more by visiting their homepage at:

<https://www.vlm.cem.va.gov/>

War Games

by Kristin Holmes

As children, we looked forward to the holidays to see what new exciting toy we would receive. One of my favorite presents growing up was board games; before the invention of video games my friends and I would spend hours sitting around the dining room table trying to get to Boardwalk first or unravel the mystery of who killed Mr. Boddy in Clue. Little did I know that the board games I loved as a child had played a very important role in winning World War Two!

Under the War Production Act, toys and games were considered "unnecessary goods" and were not high priorities for manufacturers. Some companies stopped making games all together, turning instead to producing war goods. Others continued making games, just fewer of them. Metal, in particular, was in short supply, so many companies produced games with cardboard pieces or wooden rather than metal ones - sadly, few of these games have survived to the present day. Even the iconic Monopoly metal pieces were replaced by compressed sawdust tokens that quickly disintegrated.

Families did play games as a pastime during the war years, as it was a cheap pleasure that everyone enjoyed. In addition to playing games that they already owned or that had been produced prior to the war, parlor games like charades that took no equipment but could be played by large groups of people together were especially popular. Cards skyrocketed in popularity because they were portable and made of paper that could be easily produced and obtained without using goods that were needed for the war efforts. In Britain, they even created a special card game for children who

had to flee London called "Vacuation", featuring an array of archetypical people children might meet in the process of being evacuated due to the Blitz. This child's game even featured special cards like air raid warnings and gas masks.

Little did the folks on the homefront know that while they played games to pass the time till their loved ones overseas could return, those very same games were helping Allied troops to stay alive!

Playing cards were used to train both soldiers and non-combatants to spot aircraft by silhouette and markings at a glance, to quickly discern friend from foe. What seemed like little more than a fun game called "War Planes" was actually an intensive form of visual



Above: "War Planes", card decks that helped with plane identification through familiarization.

Below Left: "Vacuation", a children's card game based around the Blitz evacuees.

Below Right: Playing cards packaged with hidden escape maps were distributed in Christmas packages to POWs.



...War Games, cont'd from previous page

training, predating the famous "Most Wanted" playing cards of the Persian Gulf War by a half-century.

Being able to ID enemy aircraft wasn't much help to prisoners of war. Luckily American military intelligence, with the assistance of the United States Playing Card Company and Bicycle Cards, produced decks of cards for distribution to POWs that contained a clandestine map. The cards came in two layers, with a part of a map hidden between them. When submerged in water, the layers could be peeled apart to reveal the map sections. These special decks were distributed to the POWs at Christmastime courtesy of the Red Cross in care packages - the Red Cross packages always had a deck of playing cards included, so the guards were none the wiser. It is believed that the cards aided in over 300 escape attempts and at least 32 people did in fact reach safety with the help of the cards. Because this smuggling was in violation of the Geneva Convention, details about the cards, who used them, and how they were implemented remains a mystery.

A little more is known about a special game of Monopoly created for a similar purpose. Beginning in the late 1930's, British Secret Service agents began to work with the Waddingham Company - printers and makers of stamps, stationary, and various games - to produce a phony Monopoly game loaded with items meant to aid in escapes. A tiny red dot in the "Free Parking" space, designed to look like a printing error, alerted the POWs to the presence of the escape items.

While no photos survive of these amazing games because the recipients of the games quickly destroyed the evidence, these bespoke Monopoly sets contained small compasses, sturdy metal files, real money tucked in amongst the brightly colored paper, and silk maps tailored to the geographic location of the prison camp. The silk was not only more durable than paper maps - so durable in fact that every British flyer took off with a Waddington's silk map tucked into the heel of his boot - but silk was also meant to eliminate the rustling noise that a paper map would make.

...War Games, continued on pg. 14

A Letter to *The Star's* Editor:

Dear Editor,

The newsletter this issue published "Orphan's Poem" (*Editor's note: this poem was written by Susan Roodenberg Perko, daughter of Major William Henry Roodenberg, and appeared in issue 108 of **The Star**. - KH*)

Wow, did that hit me hard. I was almost three when the telegram came. Yet I still remember where I was (had an Army cot in my grandmother's attic) and the screaming that seems to go on forever. My mother never really recovered. That's a long story, but I was lucky enough to receive a letter addressed to me from my father on my first birthday. I cannot remember him though.

Thank you so very much, you are such an important part of our stories.

Your Gold Star Son
William (Bill) Rueckert Sargent

(Editor's Note - Thank you so much, it's my pleasure! We also received this wonderful letter from Bill, that his father wrote to him on his first birthday. - KH)

The Desert Training
Center, California
1 December 1942

To my boy on his first birthday:

This eventful year you have quickly grown from an infant into one grand, little boy, and I'm certainly proud of you, Billy.

It is time that you and I should be getting well acquainted, because we have some years of grand companionship to look forward to. I can't begin to tell you, boy, how sorry I am that I can't be with you on this day to help you celebrate--this is really one of the biggest days of your life. But your Uncle Sam (I'll tell you much about him later) is in a terrible pickle, and he has a lot of jobs to be done. I'm doing my best to help him out way out here in California. Even though I'm a whole continent away and writing in an army tent by candle-light, my thoughts are all yours this day.

Your birthday present is a War Bond enclosed in this letter. You may think it's a fine thing to give a young man of your age--it isn't even a new bill that you can crumple up, toss around, and have fun with! But it is yours, boy, to do with whatever you like! I may as well let you in on a secret right now--I really plan to give you quite a few presents like this one; I want you to learn what to do with this stuff we men call money. If I am the kind of Dad a fine guy like you deserves, you will soon know how to use it wisely.

While I am away, you are the man of the family, you know; so take good care of that wonderful mother of yours. I'll bet that you have fallen pretty much in love with her already (it certainly didn't take me long when I first met her). Remember, though, that since I saw her first, my claims have a considerable priority over yours; but I'm well satisfied that she can return both your love and mine in ample quantities. We're going to have an easy time smoothing over difficulties, aren't we, young fellow?

Well, boy, I'll close this first letter to you with two wishes--one for a happy birthday to you, and the other that we may celebrate all the many more to come together, you, your mother, and I.

Your Dad

One difference between the US card decks and the British Monopoly sets was the involvement (or lack thereof) of the Red Cross. The Brits were afraid that using Red Cross to distribute these games in their relief packages - in violation of the Geneva Convention - could endanger aid workers and also jeopardize the continuation of the Red Cross relief packages that the POWs relied upon. So in order to protect the good name of the Red Cross, the intelligence agencies actually invented delightfully British-sounding faux organizations, like the Licensed Victuallers Prisoner Relief Fund to distribute the Monopoly games. No escape items were ever sent in Red Cross packages by the Brits.

Though it is not known how many POWs were able to escape thanks to these cleverly packaged games, it is reasonable to believe that at least some of the 1000+ British war camp escapees were assisted by the scheme.

The British also used the love of games to help recruit people for intelligence work. Most famously, the iconic newspaper *The Telegraph* held what appeared to be an innocent crossword puzzle contest in January of 1942. They claimed it was because they'd received complaints that their crosswords were too easy, but it was actually a ruse. Eventually, 25 people were brought in to *The Telegraph's* newsroom and given a crossword that involved several anagrams, to be solved within 12 minutes. Only five of the participants were able to solve the challenge, and after some investigation into their backgrounds, these five people were contacted by the War Office regarding "a matter of national importance".

After their recruitment, they were tasked with unlocking the complex codes of the famous 'Enigma' machine, alongside the "Father of Computer Science" Alan Turing. (These events are portrayed in the Oscar-winning movie *The Imitation Game*.) If you'd like to give the puzzle a whirl yourself, you can find it on page 15.

The Germans also used games during the war. But they focused more on indoctrination. They created a full line of games and toys designed to surround German youths with propaganda from the time they were born. There were, of course, similar games and toys created by Allied nations as well.

Scholars have studied the few remaining Nazi board games extensively, and have noted a trend from the early days of the regime, where the focus was on triumph and victory, to eventual despair and paranoia - hunting for double agents and coal thieves - once it was clear that they were facing defeat.

Next time you sit down at the table with friends or family to enjoy a hand of cards or to solve a crossword, take a moment to remember that in wartime, even the most humble of everyday items can end up playing an important role in the outcome.



A German children's game, loosely translated as "We're Going Up Against England," from the early days of the war, when a German victory seemed possible.

AWON 2023 EOM Account Totals					
Treasurer Report as of 12/31/2023					
	General (Wreath)	Conference	Book Source	Money Market	Comment
JANUARY	\$24,843.19 (\$7,981.26)	\$1,553.53	\$416.38	\$48,078.92	Note: The General Fund includes (Wreath Fund) deposits.
FEBRUARY	\$22,710.95 (\$8,056.26)	\$1,553.53	\$1,409.58	\$48,079.29	
MARCH	\$22,710.95 (\$8,258.26)	\$1,533.53	\$1,409.58	\$48,079.69	
APRIL	\$23,875.89 (\$8,916.26)	\$1,533.53	\$1,418.24	\$48,080.09	
MAY	\$24,294.25 (\$9,386.26)	\$1,533.53	\$1,399.74	\$48,080.50	Wreath Debit \$420.40
JUNE	\$24,479.63 (\$9,700.59)	\$1,533.53	\$1,399.74	\$48,088.44	
JULY	\$23,303.38 (\$9,280.19)	\$1,533.53	\$1,399.74	\$48,231.73	
AUGUST	\$22,836.83 (\$9,889.59)	\$1,533.53	\$1,399.74	\$48,387.63	
SEPTEMBER	\$21,687.90 (\$9,899.59)	\$1,553.53	\$1,399.74	\$48,538.99	
OCTOBER	\$21,417.95 (\$9,909.59)	\$1,553.53	\$1,399.74	\$48,695.89	
NOVEMBER	\$19,844.55 (\$9,944.59)	\$1,553.53	\$1,419.74	\$48,848.21	
DECEMBER	\$20,645.38 (\$10,064.59)	\$1,553.53	\$1,424.89	\$49,006.11	

Right - the crossword that British intelligence used to recruit codebreakers in WWII. Here's a hint to demonstrate what you're up against - 22 across is "Impale" ("Imp Ale", "I'm Pale") Too clever! Answers can be found on page 21. Puzzle courtesy of The Telegraph and AlaricStephen.com

Help Wanted!!

An AWON membership chairperson and volunteers to assist the chair!

Part of AWON'S mission is to find the other 100,000+ war orphans out there.

We need your help!

In AWON's database we have over 5,000 names, but not all are active dues-paying members.

We need to reach out to those members who have lapsed, and to find more of our long lost orphan siblings and their descendants, who do not know us yet. Time is of the essence.

Can you help? Please message Barry Barr-Finch:

barrfinch1@gmail.com

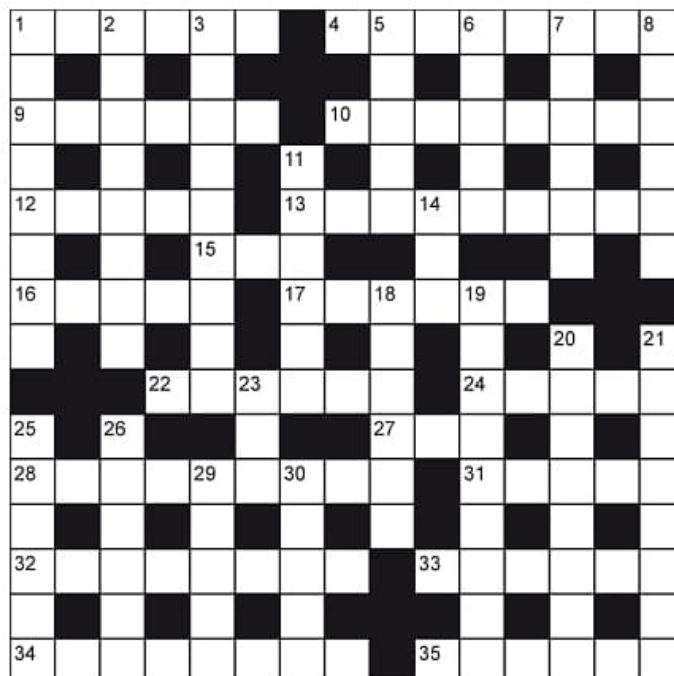
or Judi Kramer:

ladybug5@juno.com

for more information about how you can get involved!!

TELEGRAPH CROSSWORD 5,062

13 JANUARY 1942



Across

- 1 A stage company (6)
- 4 The direct route preferred by the Roundheads (5,3)
- 9 One of the ever-greens (6)
- 10 Scented (8)
- 12 Course with an apt finish (5)
- 13 Much that could be got from a timber merchant (5,4)
- 15 We have nothing and are in debt (3)
- 16 Pretend (5)
- 17 Is this town ready for a flood? (6)
- 22 The little fellow has some beer; it makes me lose colour, I say (6)
- 24 Fashion of a famous French family (5)
- 27 Tree (3)
- 28 One might of course use this tool to core an apple (6,3)
- 31 Once used for unofficial currency (5)
- 32 Those well brought up help these over stiles (4,4)
- 33 A sport in a hurry (6)
- 34 Is the workshop that turns out this part of a motor a hush-hush affair? (8)
- 35 An illumination functioning (6)

Down

- 1 Official instruction not to forget the servants (8)
- 2 Said to be a remedy for a burn (5,3)
- 3 Kind of alias (9)
- 5 A disagreeable company (5)
- 6 Debtors may have to this money for their debts unless of course their creditors do it to the debts (5)
- 7 Boat that should be able to suit anyone (6)
- 8 Gear (6)
- 11 Business with the end in sight (6)
- 14 The right sort of woman to start a dame school (3)
- 18 "The war" (anag.) (6)
- 19 When hammering take care not to hit this (5,4)
- 20 Making sound as a bell (8)
- 21 Half a fortnight of old (8)
- 23 Bird, dish or coin (3)
- 25 This sign of the Zodiac has no connection with the Fishes (6)
- 26 A preservative of teeth (6)
- 29 Famous sculptor (5)
- 30 This part of the locomotive engine would sound familiar to the golfer (5)

Free Entrance to America's National Parks for Gold Star Families - LIFETIME PASS

Summer is coming soon, so we are re-running our feature on the special Lifetime Pass the National Park Service is issuing for Gold Star Families. If you haven't gotten yours yet, be sure to pick one up!

On Veterans Day 2022, the National Park Service unveiled a lifetime pass providing free entrance to national parks for veterans and Gold Star families. The Interagency Military Lifetime Pass waives entrance fees for the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and standard amenity recreation fees for the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sites for current military service members and their dependents, veterans, and Gold Star Families.

“This is a small token of appreciation for veterans who have bravely dedicated their lives to defending our freedom. This pass conveys our immense gratitude and respect for those who have given so much,” said National Park Service Director Chuck Sams. “As a veteran, I know firsthand the many sacrifices that members of the Armed Forces and their families have made in service to our country, and I am thrilled that Gold Star Families and military veterans can now enjoy lifetime access to national parks and other public lands.”

NPS Lifetime Military Passes offer free access to more than 2,000 federal recreation areas, including national parks and forests, and this will be extended to Gold Star Families to thank them for their sacrifice, acknowledge their support of our country, and to encourage them to explore recreational opportunities on their public lands and waters.

The lifetime pass will be eligible to all veterans who have served in the US Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserves, and can provide proof of service in the form of an unexpired Department of Defense identification card, veteran health identification card, veteran ID card, or veteran designation on a state-



issued U.S. driver's license or ID.

Eligibility is also granted to Gold Star families, defined as any next-of-kin to a member of the Armed Forces who lost their life in war, terrorist attack or military operation while serving with the Armed Forces. Gold Star Family members can download and print a voucher to present to park staff to get a pass.

If you or a loved one is a current U.S. military member, or a dependent of a current US Military member, NPS offers a free annual military pass in lieu of the lifetime pass.

Accessible sites are spread out across more than 400 million acres of public lands, including Yosemite, Grand Canyon, Arches and Mount Rushmore National Memorial. There is a list of sites covered by the pass here: <https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/pickup-pass-locations.htm>

The waiver fee does not cover extended amenity or user fees for activities such as camping, transportation, special recreation permits or special tours. But it does cover all occupants of a single, private non-commercial vehicle OR the voucher-holder and three persons (16 and older) where per person fees are charged. The voucher is non-transferrable and void if altered.

As Gold Star children, AWON members can obtain a Gold Star pass by downloading the Gold Star Voucher from the Internet, and printing and filling out the Voucher. Or, you can use the voucher on the opposite page. After your voucher is filled out, present it to park staff to receive your lifetime pass - no need to mail it!



GOLD STAR FAMILY Free Access Voucher



**Present this voucher upon arrival, or fold here and leave
this side up on your dashboard at unstaffed sites**

Print this page!

Keep it in a safe place until you are ready to use.

Please read and check box.

☐

I hereby affirm that I am an eligible next of kin (NOK) of a member of the United States Armed Forces who lost his or her life in a qualifying situation, such as war, an international terrorist attack or a military operation outside of the United States while serving in the United States Armed Forces, as identified in sections 3.2 (Qualifying Situations) and 3.3 (Eligible NOK) of Department of Defense Instruction 1348.36.

Print Your First and last Name:

Sign your name below:

Federal law at 18 USC 1001 makes it a crime in any matter within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of the United States for any person knowingly and willfully to falsify, conceal, or cover up by any trick, scheme, or device a material fact; to make any materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation; or to make or use any false writing or document knowing that it contains a material false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or entry. Violations of 18 U.S.C. 1001 are punishable by fines of up to \$10,000, imprisonment of up to five years, or both.

Know Before You Go

With this voucher, entrance fees for the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and standard amenity recreation fees for Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Forest Service sites will be waived for Gold Star Families.

- ★ Valid for qualified holder of the voucher and occupants of a single, private non-commercial vehicle OR holder of the voucher and three persons (16 and older) where per person fees are charged.
- ★ Void if altered
- ★ Non-Transferable
- ★ Valid photo ID required
- ★ Representations of the voucher are prohibited; must show physical voucher.
- ★ The voucher does not cover expanded amenity fees, such as parking fees, camping, special recreation permits, tours, etc. May not cover organized groups or concession operated facilities or activities. Check with the site ahead of time to find out.

Call for Tributes!

Add a Tribute to the AWON Website! This could be one of the most long-lasting and satisfying ways to remember your Father, Grandfather, Brother, or Uncle. Just be a current AWON Member!

Here's How: 1. Have a look at our website's **TRIBUTE** section at www.awon.org (click "Our Fathers") to see what others have done; 2. Check the web page on "How to prepare a Father Tribute" – (at www.awon.org/check5.html); then 3. Scan (or have a Kinko's scan) your best picture of your loved one in uniform; 4. Collect your thoughts, memories, and service record of your loved one; 5. Send your JPG-formatted image and between 500 and 1,100 words to our Tribute Stager, Nancy Sue Johnson. Her E-Mail address is . . . janceysue@gmail.com. If you need her snailmail address, just call Nancy Sue at 406/529-2315.

Don't let another day go by. AWON is honored to help you honor your Father or loved one! . . . a Tribute page is yours for the asking.



As we enter AWON's FOURTH decade, we here at The Star want to urge every AWON member, Orphan and Descendant alike, to share with us the story of your family's loss and your personal journey of self-discovery. Don't hesitate - contribute! Our editors will do the work, we just need to hear from YOU! Submit today!

AWON Orphan Members and Descendants!
We want to share your family's story!
Please contribute to The Star today!

As the years pass, we will need more and more grandchildren and great-grandchildren to become active, participating AWON members to keep the memories of our Fathers, Grandfathers, and Great-Grandfathers alive and never forgotten. Grandchildren and great-grandchildren also bring their own totally unique perspective to AWON that we would love to share.

Grandkids, great-grandkids, even great-greats, consider joining AWON and be sure to contribute to THE STAR! - we want to hear from you! Remember -Your stories matter!

Friends of the World War II National Memorial Conference Series Continues into 2024!

Be sure not to miss the Friends of the World War II National Memorial Conference Series!

On the third Saturday of each month, the Friends of the WWII National Memorial have an educational conference via a webcast. The purpose is to provide educational info about WWII and the people it affected. If you want to take part in the livestream, you must go to their website to register. It's free and easy, just use this link:

<https://www.wwiimemorialfriends.org/events-video-archive>

In the event you cannot make the live webcast, no worries. The conferences are archived, and are accessible online indefinitely. Older videos can be accessed easily at the Friends website here <https://www.wwiimemorialfriends.org/> or by searching "events video archive" in the Friends' website search box, with the magnifying glass. To watch the videos, be sure you click on the POINT of the "play" arrow rather than in the middle. The video doesn't always play if you click the center of the arrow.

In 2023, AWON members Carol Rajner LaBounty and Norm Burkey participated in the web cast, alongside many other interesting presentations. Madeline Teremy gave a presentation about her father at the end of 2022. Members Sam Tannenbaum, Arthur Chotin, Bob Meek, Bob Holliday, Sandra Lane Walker, Janice Powers, Gerry Morenski, Nancy Kragh and others have also participated. If you are interested in taking part, get in touch with Friends liason Holly Rotondi hrotondi@wwiimemorialfriends.org And don't worry if you're not technically minded, epic computer skills are not required to take part. These events are filmed and edited by professional videographers who will help you every step of the way - no need to be an expert. Looking forward to seeing YOUR story someday!



Above - Holiday decorations on the Henri-Chapelle resting place of PFC Elmer Heath, father to Nancy Heath Lawson and Helen Heath Vernon.

Right - The Manila American Cemetery grave of PFC John J. Tofil, father to Trudy Wentsler, decorated for the remembrance of his death on Dec. 19, 1944.



Brothers SSgt Ralph Crandell and 1st LT Leonard Crandell (father to Jan Crandell Powers), both killed in March, 1945, were remembered by ornaments on the Fallen Heroes Tree of Honor this holiday season.

As Seen on Social Media...

We've had some stunning photos shared by AWON members on social media recently - here are just a few.

***AWON Wishes to Thank Our New and
Renewing Members from the past year!***

Thanks to each and every AWON Member who helps keep our mission alive!

Jerry Pinkerton	Norma Hamilton	Geri Ann DeMicco
Cliff Marks	Sam Tannenbaum	Ann Gray
Glennis Wasmer	Rosalend Grabowski	Charli Greenlees
Lois Ciccone	Jean Erich	John Fringer
Norm Burkey	Jane Nelson	William McElvain
Charles Farris	Lucretia Anne Spence	Philippe DeHand
Nancy Sue Johnson	Nicole Aure	Kristie Clark
Bonnie Hellums	Barbara Bienkowski	Cary Zehner
Brian Elder	Diana Wood	Diane Richardson
Katherine Elder	Don Berube	Jennie Sauer
Kathleen Mayerski	Marie Fowley	Carol LaBounty
Madeline Teremy	Sean Nolan	Judi Kramer
Alys (Toddy) McAllister	Linda Chauvin	Régine Villers
Monica Fleisch	Judy Ullrich	Mary Alice Renner
Arthur Chotin	Roberta Nolan	Carol Verbeek
Paula Baker	David Kaufman	Tom Wiedmeyer
James Boese	Kay Sandhoff	Shirley Santini
Barry Barr-Finch	Betty Bailey	Eric Rosen
Frank Burtnett	Ann O'Connor	Paul Gambill
Barbara Bremer	Richard Basile	John Polgar
Jacqueline Poslusny	Regena Lemon	Ruby Wolens
Carla Sue Holcomb	Phyllis Louis	Maxine Olsen
Sandra Walker	Susan Perko	Tommy Morris
Clydene Despain	JoAnne Montague	Susan Chadd
Billy Winters	Felicity Hallanan	Valerie Flynn
Ed Peters	Linda Porter	Bonnie Johnson
Larry Graber	Brian Hope	Maggie Fenstermacher
Antonetta Bell	Patricia Morrison	William Dorsey
John Elder	Lawrence Smelser	Joan Ostby
Janie McPherson	Barbara Ferguson	Phyllis Fish
Mark Mulder	Joe Farris	Theodore Krismann
Janice Harwell	John Linne	Karen Wisner
Judith Jantz	Penny Pinkerton Bernstein	Robert Wilkinson
Maryalyce Lupher	Ken Underwood	Betsy Belvin
Fred Lubinger	Alice Irving	Ruth Joyce
Roberta Thomas	Richard Haney	Jennifer Horan

...Renewing Members, con't from previous page...
 MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO SUPPORT AWON!!
 We couldn't do it without you!!

Barbara Vanaulen
 Doris Portley
 Penny LeGrand
 Jocelyn McComb
 Stephen Cardillo
 Steven Telecky
 Betty Birdwell
 Norma Brubaker
 Lucian Talley
 William Wilson
 Karl Rosazza
 Judith Markland
 Carol Donahue
 Diana Clark
 Zudora Keele
 Brian Ryder
 Judy Bezjak
 Rolla Harding
 John Phelan
 Michael Park
 Evelyn Sheppard
 Robert Holliday
 Mary-Anne Collins
 Carroll Kiene
 Teresa Heberling
 Dan Denning
 Susan Schwartz
 James E. Barnes
 Helen Vernon
 Michael Lipp
 Walter Johnston
 Nick Mott
 Diane Lassitter
 Sandra MacDuffee
 Nellie Vass
 Roxanna Wedel

The Star Guidelines for Submitting Material

We want to tell your story and your family's story. We accept submissions both electronically and via US mail. If you have an article or picture and aren't sure how to submit it, that's ok. Message *The Star* and we will work with you.

500-1000 words or 1 page is a good guideline, but we publish longer pieces too.

Preference is given to material written by, for, and about AWON members and families, but we do occasionally run general interest or educational articles with a WWII theme.

Authors retain copyright to published original writing. Permission to reprint should be obtained from the author by contacting the editor.

Kristin Holmes, Editor
PO Box 242, Creston WA
99117 (509) 279-5241
atomicsagebrush@gmail.com

Feedback for 2024 AWON Convention Needed!

It's getting to be AWON convention time again! We need your input!

AWON siblings...the BOD is requesting your feedback in regards to AWON hosting a national conference in the fall of 2024 - probably September.

Because our last convention was on the East Coast, we'd like to have this convention on the West Coast. Potential sites discussed are Tucson or San Antonio, but we are open to alternate suggestions.

We need to hear from YOU! Let us know the following things, ASAP:

- 1) If you will attend**
- 2) How many might be in your party?**
- 3) Do you have a preference as to site?**
- 4) Would you be willing to host and/or assist in helping with the conference?**

Please send your thoughts to wlinne@iupui.edu or call Walt Linne at 317-697-4697. Thank you!!

The Telegraph's Codebreaker Crossword answers - from page 15

ANSWERS ACROSS: 1 TROUPE, 4 SHORT CUT, 9 PRIVET, 10 AROMATIC, 12 TREND, 13 GREAT DEAL, 15 OWE, 16 FEIGN, 17 NEWARK, 22 IMPALE, 24 GUISE, 27 ASH, 28 CENTRE BIT, 31 TOKEN, 32 LAME DOGS, 33 RACING, 34 SILENCER, 35 ALIGHT.

DOWN: 1 TIPSTAFF, 2 OLIVE OIL, 3 PSEUDONYM, 5 HORDE, 6 REMIT, 7 CUTTER, 8 TACKLE, 11 AGENDA, 14 ADA, 18 WREATH, 19 RIGHT NAIL, 20 TINKLING, 21 SENNIGHT, 23 PIE, 25 SCALES, 26 ENAMEL, 29 RODIN, 30 BOGIE.



**Sondra Braddy
Davis**
**April 7, 1942 -
April 18, 2020**

Sondra Braddy Davis, 78 years old, passed away in April of 2020 in Oxford, Mississippi.

Mrs. Davis worked as a paralegal for many years, and then for the University of Mississippi as the Sports Information Secretary. From there she went to the Law School where she was secretary for the Dean of Law School. She was an active member of North Oxford Baptist Church. She was with AWON to remember her father, SSGT Lester Braddy.

Survivors include her husband, Reed Davis, son, Richie (Hope), daughters DeLisa Davis and Katrina Davis Cousar (Jeff), grandchildren Morgan Davis Foshee, Trenton Davis, Zachary Cousar, Presley Cousar and Reece Cousar, as well as two great-grandsons, Rhett Foshee and Zayne Cousar.

Dale Moyer

**Nov. 11, 1938-
Feb. 23, 2023**



Dale W. Moyer, 84, of Souderton, Pennsylvania, passed in February 2023. He was survived by his wife of 58 years Mary Jane (Rufe) Moyer, sons, Michael D. Moyer (Cora) of Lansdale, and Mark D. Moyer of Philadelphia; granddaughter, Allison Moyer; and a large extended family.

Dale owned and operated Dale Moyer's Barber Shop in Hatfield, PA for 60 years, retiring in 2018. He was a proud veteran of the US Army and longtime member of Grace Lutheran Church in Hatfield, where he served as Council President.

Dale was a charter member of the Hatfield Historical Society and past president of the Hatfield Chamber of Commerce. He was also an associate member of the Hatfield Fire Company. He was with AWON to remember his father, PVT Walter Moyer, Jr.



Rodney Clawson

**October 9, 1942
- March 15, 2022**

Rodney Elroy Clawson, 79, of Sandy, UT died peacefully in his home, surrounded by family, on Tuesday, March 15, 2022, after experiencing kidney failure. Rodney was with AWON to remember his father SSGT Harry Allen Clawson, a paratrooper.

Rodney was preceded in death by his son, Jeremy Andrew Clawson. Survivors include his wife, Aneta Marion Clawson; and children, Sonja Smith (Monte) of Sandy, UT, Casey Clawson, of Wichita, KS, Daniel Clawson (Teri) of Layton, UT, Becky Clawson of Sandy, UT, and Machee Clawson of Sandy, UT; nine grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Memorial donations can be made to the LDS Missionary Fund.

**Rachel
Tannenbaum**

**Sep. 3, 1942 -
April 11, 2023**



Friend of AWON and wife of First Founder Sam Tannenbaum passed away in April from pancreatic cancer. A native of Hartford, Connecticut, Rachel resided in Poincara, Florida, at the time of her death.

Rachel was well-known and well-loved in AWON due to her charming nature and devotion to her husband Sam and their family. In her work with the Jewish Vocational Service she was a respected colleague, mentor and friend. AWON's Darlene Mott described her as a vibrant, compassionate, wonderful, beautiful lady - if you ever met her, you were blessed. Rachel and Sam came to AWON to remember Sam's father, PVT Henry Irving Tannenbaum.

Membership



This is a ☐ New Membership
☐ Renewal
☐ Family Membership
☐ Database Registration Only

About You:

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Home Phone _____
 Mobilephone _____
 E-Mail _____
 If you're renewing, skip to the Dues Section
 Your Relationship to Serviceman _____
 Your Date of Birth _____
 How did you hear about AWON _____

About your WWII Service Member:

Last Name _____
 First Name _____ M.I. _____
 Birthdate _____
 Hometown & State _____
 Military Unit _____
 Rank _____ Service Number _____
 Date of Death _____ Place _____
 Burial Location _____
 Wife's Maiden Name _____
 Additional information on your WWII Service Member's
 Military Service, Death, or Burial. _____

Please send your check:

Payable to AWON, include it with this form and send it to:

AWON Treasurer
5745 Lee Road
Indianapolis, Indiana 46216

Membership Types:

- ☐ **Orphan Member:** Any son or daughter of a member of the US Armed Forces, Coast Guard, or Merchant Marine who was killed, remains missing in action, or who died in the line of duty, or who later died of wounds or injuries sustained during WWII.
- ☐ **Family Member:** Other relations who are not a son or daughter.
- ☐ **Supporting Member:** Other individuals with an interest in WWII, who wish to support us and participate in our outreach activities and programs.

Membership Dues:

Basic Orphan Member Dues are \$25 a year – starting when we receive your check. This includes your AWON Membership Card, a Web Tribute for your father, a physical or E-version of our quarterly newsletter, **The Star**, a personal account on the AWON online List-serv, and an account on the AWON Facebook Page.

Family Member Dues are \$10 a year – includes an E-version of **The Star**, and \$25 a year – includes a printed version.

Supporting Member Dues are \$50 a year – includes either version of **The Star**.

Membership Dues Levels:

Please circle your Dues Level below:

	1 Year	2 Years	3 Years
Orphan	\$25	\$48	\$70
Family (E-Star Version)	\$10	\$20	\$30
Family (Printed Star Version)	\$25	\$48	\$70
Supporting	\$50	\$96	\$140
Gold Star (Increased Donation)	\$100	\$192	\$280

Donation Considerations:

Memorial Day Wreath Fund \$ _____
 General Operations & Outreach \$ _____
 Total Dues & Donations Enclosed \$ _____



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The Star

"Breaking Down the Wall of Silence"

AWON Headquarters
5745 Lee Road
Indianapolis, IN 46216
www.awon.org



AWON Mission

To locate and bring together sons and daughters of those who died or are missing as a result of American involvement in World War II, honor the service and sacrifice of our fathers and provide information and support to these people who were orphaned by the war.

AWON Directory

Address Corrections

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Archives OPEN POSITION

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Open Position

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