

VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II

BETHEL **THE**
OXFORD **CITIZEN**
COUNTY

1944 NEWS—LOCAL MEN AND WOMEN IN WORLD WAR II MILITARY SERVICE

Part 1 of Bethel's 1944 story begins with a November 11th dedication of an Honor Roll naming 233 men and women from Bethel and Mason serving in World War II. [Newry—21 serving in 1944.](#)

The weekly Citizens printed excerpts of letters home from the men and women on military duty. Parents contributed news items to Editor Carl Brown who frequently devoted a front page column just to personal updates from those in military service wherever they were. These weekly columns were headed with an American flag.

In 1944 the Bethel Citizen was a more comprehensive news source for residents of Bethel and the surrounding towns that it is in 2011.

Scanning the Citizen of the 1940's war years, a reader would find a variety of state and national news that covered events and policy information now carried on television, the Internet and regional daily newspapers and, therefore, not seen in local weeklies.

Part 2 of 1944 summarizes the non-military events of that year.



Honor Roll Dedicated—November 11, 1944 **233 Bethel and Mason Men and Women Honored**

The Honor Roll which was erected this fall beside the soldiers monument was dedicated Saturday afternoon, November 11, 1944, with the following program.

Selection—Gould Academy Band
Invocation—Rev. William Penner
Vocal Solo—Elwood f. Ireland
Dedicatory Address—Herbert R. Bean of Old Orchard Beach
Star Spangled Banner, Audience led by Elwood f. Ireland
Benediction—Rev John J. Foster

Names on the Honor Roll include men and women of Bethel and Mason serving in the armed forces.

ARMY

Levi Baker, Earl Beane, Arthur Bennett, Leroy Bennett, Laurence Bartlett, Robert Billings, Kenneth Brooks, Donald Brown, Hugh Brown, Merton Brown, Norris Brown, Vernon Brown, Robert Browne, James Bryant, Russell, Burriss, Paul Carter, Stanley Carter, Lloyd Chapin, Milan Chapin, M.D., Winona Chapin, R.N., Robert Chapman, Cecil Conrad, Donald Chretien, Clayton Crockett, Alton Cross, Donald Cross, Stuart Cross, Fred Currier, Stanley Gallant, Ernest Gallant, Guy Gibbs, Arthur Gilbert, Gardiner Gorman, Norman Hale, Bradley Hall, Edward Holt, Raymond Holt, Francis Holt, Sidney Howe, Royden Keddy, Robert Lowe, Roderick McMillan, Olin Morgan, Robert Moore, George Parsons, Ernest Perkins, Edward Robertson, Nadine Atwood, WAC, Lendon Collins, Earlon Whittemore, Willard Bean, Harold Tibbetts, Freeman Stevens, Archie Stevens, Horace Tibbetts, Richard Hinckley, Everett Chase, Freeman Merrill,

Ernest Angevine, Tracey Dorey, Shurwin Bennett, Joseph Cote, Gilman Hutchinson, Fred McKenzie, Robert Morrill, Everett Cole, Albert Wheeler, Edward Wheeler, Elton Coolidge, William Tibbetts, George Brown, Lee Hutchins, Donald Kimball, George Schools, Joseph Merrick, Herbert Cairns, Leslie Johnson, Rodney Chase, Harold Rolfe, Herman Lizotte, Elwood Ireland, Jr., Avery Angevine, Henry Robertson, Winfield Robertson, Herschel Ryerson, James Ryerson, Albion Smith, Carlos Smith, Edward Swan, Murray Thurston, Martin Therriault, Floyd Thurston, Homer Tibbetts, Frank Trimback, Clayton, Bane, Harris Tyler, Lawrence Tyler, Harry Vashaw, Rodney Wentzell, Henry Westleigh, Chester Wheeler, Harry Wilson, M. D., Harold Young, Richard Young, Augustus Kennaugh, Philip Daye, Linwood Machia, Robert McCrea, Charles Raimy, Freeland Clark, William Von Zintl. Rodney Eames, Wilfred Baker, Roland Hatfield, Robert Greenleaf, Bruce Bailey, Bruce Scarborough, Albert Kimball, Wallace Saunders, Addison Saunders, Edmond Vachon, Shirley Chase, Robert Annis, Gerald Walker, Frank Swan, Rudolphe Belanger, Isaac Dyer 2nd, Thomas Kennaugh, Alfred Taylor, Donald Kimball,

NAVY

Charles Anderson, Harold Anderson, Edward Bean, Raymond Bartlett, Alonzo Chapman, Paul Chapman, Edgar Coolidge, Jack Gill, Donald Holt, Kenneth Lovejoy, Guy Parker, Jr., Raymond Saunders, Homer Smith, Jr., Harold Chapman, Robert Perry, Clarence Morgan, Eva Ladd (Wave), Roderick Hawthorne, Luther Tripp, Kathleen Wight, R. N., Mellen Kimball, Lillian Leighton (Wave), Phyllis Davis, R.N., John Twaddle, M.D.,

Navy continued Cleveland Lovejoy, Gerard Williams, Minta Williams (Wave), Maynard Austin, Warren Bean, Richard Sweetser, Robert Kellogg, Lincoln Merrill, Rebecca Bailey (Wave), Harold Marshall, Clayton Sweatt, Richard Kirk, Susan Lovejoy (Wave), Ellen Peabody (Wave), Richard Peabody Edgar Rainey, Earlon Paine, Edward Hanscom, Bernard Bartlett, Dean Farrar, Edward Casey, William Robertson, Richard Marshall, Richard Bryant, Arthur Chayer, Richard Lyon, Donald Stanley, Dana Enman, Albert Buck, Robert Keenan.

MARINES

Dana Brooks, Shirley Gilbert, Donald Luxton, Kenneth Saunders, Dale Thurston, Trafton Bartlett, George Luxton, Howard Grover, Laurice Morrill.

AIR FORCE

Stanley Allen, Romeo Baker, Sidney Dyke, Eugene Burns, John King, Robert King, Alfred Lovejoy, Frank Parsons, Wallace Morgan (Para.) Lawrence Perry, Elmer Ryerson, Charles Smith, Gardner Smith, Parker Brown, Howard Thurston, Charles Lowe, Hugh Scarborough, Stanley Davis, Ray Mills, Francis Berry, Ray Mills, Dwight Morrill, Christino Onofrio, Ernest Grover, Ethlyn McMillan (WAC), Ernest Brown, Irving Brown, Charles Chapin, Harold Merrill, Stanley Merrill, Arthur Gibbs, Louis Kellogg, Ashby Tibbetts, R.C.A.F., Robert Kirk, Elaine Warren (WAC), Richard Bean, Irving Cummings, Paul Stearns, Fillmore Clough

Note: Archie Stevens and Freeman Stevens were listed twice in the Army honor roll (maybe due to reenlistment?)

Total of 233 in military service: 131 Army, 54 Navy, 9 Marines and 39 Air Force

1944 Bethel Military Service News

WEST BETHEL BOY FLIES P-47 AGAINST NAZIS

March 30, 1944

An Eighth AAF Fighter Station, England. Lieutenant Lawrence B. Perry of West Bethel, Maine, is now flying a P47 Thunderbolt fighter plane as a member of a group based somewhere in England. Lt. Perry takes part in the protective escort missions covering the AAF's bombers while they blast Germany's war production centers.

Lt. Perry who has named his Thunderbolt fighter plane "Cloud Hopper" is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph L. Perry of West Bethel.

A graduate of Gould Academy, Perry entered the Army in 1941, a year later was accepted as an Air Cadet and beginning flight instruction at Jackson, Miss. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in the AAF in 1943 after completing advanced courses.

BROTHERS IN ARMY-NAVY MEET ON EASTER IN NEW CALEDONIA

April 20, 1944

Easter Sunday was a happy day for Bill and Henry Robertson when they met for the first time in three years in New Caledonia.

A letter received by their mother, Sadye Robertson, tells the story. William entered the Navy last year and is now Seaman Second Class (Radio Man). Henry entered the Army in 1940 and was stationed at Schofield Barracks when the U. S. entered the war. The letter"

After coming back from the radio shack and lying in my bunk waiting for chow time when I heard someone asking for me in the next tent. I has started to get off my bunk but almost fell back into it in surprise—Henry and Harold Young stepped into the tent.



February 24, 1944—The Citizen

Wilfred Coolidge was recently promoted to Seaman 1-c in the Navy.

Noël Bachelder of the U.S. Navy is at his home at Locke for a short time.

Erland Whittemore, who is stationed at Camp Keyes, Augusta, was at his home over the week end.

Staff Sgt. Leroy Ryerson, stationed somewhere in England has received his stripes for three years service. He was the first boy to be drafted from West Paris.

Richard Brown who is in the Coast Guard Artillery at Camp Pendleton, Virginia is having a ten day furlough at the home of his parents Mr. and Mrs. Ira Brown at Hanover.

March 16, 1944

Mr. and Mrs. S. T. Tripp of North Newry have received word that their son, Cpl Roy C. Tripp, who is in England has been promoted to Sergeant.

November 30 1944 Y1c Arthur Chayer took part in the fall invasion of South France.

December 14, 1944 Pvt. Avery Angevine of Camp Swift, S. C., came Friday for a 12 day furlough with his family.

Harold Anderson S 2/c and his brother Charles E. Anderson R T 1-c met recently for a short while at Honolulu.

Lt. H. E. Lawrence is stationed at the Mason

General Hospital, Brentwood, L. I.

Corp. Gardiner Smith is now stationed at the Homer Station in Chico, California.

“Billy” Daye Given Purple Heart in Posthumous Award

November 2, 1944

Mr. and Mrs. Philip W. Daye received a letter from the Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson regarding their son Private Philip W. Daye who was killed in action at Myitkinia, Burma July 1st.

The Daye family also received a letter of sympathy from Private Daye’s commanding officer Charles N. Hunter, Colonel Infantry.

BRUCE SCARBOROUGH IN HOLLAND

November 16, 1944

Mrs. Myron Scarborough of Bethel who is now teaching at Shadehill, S.D., recently received a letter from her son Bruce Scarborough who is serving in an artillery unit in Holland.

From his letter: Just finished cleaning the gun— We pitched our tents in a man’s backyard and the people let us use their living room for a visiting room— the woman who washed my uniform—well she sent me some apple pie and a couple of baked apples.

Right down the street there is a family that has four sons in the German army, two of them in the SS troops. Another letter: The other day I took a couple pair of shoes down to a cobbler to get some taps sewed on the and he wouldn’t take any money at all.

GERMAN GOVERNMENT REPORTS DEATH OF LT. LAWRENCE PERRY

December 7, 1944

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Perry of West Bethel received the following telegram on December

4: “Report now received from the German Government through International Red Cross states your son, First Lieutenant Lawrence B. Perry who was previously reported missing in action was killed in action on six June over France.

Lt. Perry was born in Bethel Nov. 3, 1919. He had been employed in the A & P Store, Lord’s Garage and Bryant’s Market.

On May 28, 1943 he received his commission of Second Lieutenant and his “Wings” at his graduation at Craig Field in Selma, Alabama.

He went overseas to a Fighter Plane Base in England in November 1943.

November 16, 1944

Corporal Dale Cook Thurston, USMC, married Miss Madeline Delores Sise of Lewiston at the Trinity Episcopal Church of Lewiston on November 14. Rev. Norman L. Kellett performed the ceremony.

Lt. Howard Thurston is an instructor at a Navigation School at Ellington Field, Houston, Texas.

Pvt. D. Raymond Swan of Camp Hood, Texas is on leave at his home at Locke Mills.

Cpl Merton Brown returned Tuesday to New York after enjoying a furlough with relatives.

Bethel Citizen December 7, 1944

Lt Allan Stephen Chase, who has been home on a short leave with his parents Mr. and Mrs. Alden Chase of Bryant Pond returned to Moultrie, Ga.

Pvt. Otis Evans, Fort Knox Kentucky visited relatives and friends here while on furlough recently.

Donald Brown, U.S. Paratroop Corps from Fort Benning, Ga., is spending a short furlough with relative and friends at Bryant Pond.

Christino Onofrio who’s somewhere in Eng-

land has been promoted to Sergeant.

Pfc. Ernest Grover is at home from Colorado where he is training for a pilot in the Army Air Forces. He was called here by the death of his father.

Pvt. William Tibbetts of Fort Sill, Oklahoma has been spending a 12 day furlough with his mother Mrs. Louisa Tibbetts, at Gilead. He left Thursday for his new post at Jackson, S.C.

Donald R. Stanley has been transferred from Sampson, N.Y., to San Diego, California. He will attend a fire control maintenance school.

Bethel Officer’s Plane and Crew



The Citizen, September 28, 1944

“Special Delivery” treatment was given recently at a 12th AAF B-26 Marauder base to an anonymous request. Former members of the 42nd “Rainbow” Division requested that some bombs be dropped for them on German targets. Veterans of World War I, they were known only as “Three Star Hennessey and the boys” and a “Don”.

A top-ranking pilot-bombardier-navigator team went to work and fixed the bombs. Left to right, they are: Capt. Roy W. Tapp from 901 Isabella Avenue, Houston, Texas, Capt Russell E. Robbins from Pelahatchie, Miss., and **1st Lieut. Howard F. Thurston** from Vernon St., Bethel, Maine.

The next mission they led was to soften up southern Europe for the D-Day in southern France. Captain Robbins piloted the Marauder, Lieutenant Thurston handled the navigation and Captain Tapp dropped the bombs on target.

August 3, 1944

Nathaniel E Burns of Bethel has been promoted to Private First Class from the rank of Private according to an announcement from his headquarters in Italy. Pvt. Burns who has been a member of the United States Army Air Force since June 24, 1942, is the son of Mrs. M. M. Newton of Bethel.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Stearns of West Paris received a wire Tuesday from their daughter Lt. Ruth Stearns, A. N. C. at Letterman's Hospital, San Francisco of arrival from the South Pacific, where she has been two and a half years.

Pvt. Robert W. Kirk is now stationed at an airport in Connecticut.

Pfc. Stanley G. Farrar of Bryant Pond is in Sick Bay at U. S. Naval Frontier Base, Portland, Maine.

Pfc. Kenneth Saunders, USMC, of Santa Ana, Calif., is spending a short furlough with his family.

Sgt. Arthur Gibbs of Smoky Hill Army Air Field, Kansas, is spending a short furlough with his family.

Mrs. Earlyn Wheeler has received word that her husband, Earlyn Wheeler, Carpenters Mate 1-c of the Seabees has arrived in the Admiralty Islands. His brother Edward is stationed in New Guinea in the same region of the South Pacific.

Lt. Parker T. Brown has arrived in Southern Italy flying his B-24 bomber via French Morocco.

Harold Chapman returned to duty in the Navy Wednesday after a visit at his home here.

Word has been received that Cpl. Robert Moore, who has been stationed in Ireland for some time, has arrived in New York.

Pvt. Bradley Hall arrived home today on furlough from Camp Breckenridge, Ky.

Private George H. Currier, son of Mrs. Maude Chapman of Bethel, has been cited by his regiment of the 26th "Texas" Infantry Division and awarded the Combat Infantry Badge for actual participation in combat with the enemy while serving on the Fifth Army Front in Italy.

June 8, 1944 Bethel Citizen printed news of the invasion of France.

D-DAY MONDAY

During Monday night many thousands of allied troops landed on the northern coast of France from Cherbourg to Le Havre. In many cases there was little resistance on the beachheads and early reports indicated that casualties were less than expected.

Four thousand warships and many thousands of smaller craft took part in the movement of seaborne troops, while 11,000 planes were active in surprise attack which placed large numbers of paratroops at inland points.

Later reports tell that the fortified town of Caen, five miles inland, has been captured by the Allies, and the important Caen-Bayeux highway cut.

World War II veterans attend Memorial Day 2010 observance in Bethel



Bethel Citizen, August 3, 1944

Newry Has 21 in the Service

With a population of about 180 the town of Newry has 21 people serving the country's armed forces, which seems to be a larger proportion than some other towns. Credit for the following information about the town's service folks goes to Mrs. Frank Bennett of North Newry who has contacted the various families and gathered the facts.

Samuel T. Smith, Chief Warrant office U.S. Navy is without doubt the dean of service men from the town of Newry.

He first enlisted in the Navy in 1906 and served continuously on active duty up to and through World War I. In 1925 at own request he was placed on an inactive duty status. In 1936 Mr. Smith was retired having completed 30 years service.

The day following Pearl Harbor Mr. Smith at once offered his services to the Navy once more, but because of having but a short before suffered broken feet and ankles, he was not accepted. Determined not to be stopped by this handicap Mr. Smith again entered the veterans' hospital and after eight weeks intensive treatment, again presented himself for service This time he was accepted, and immediately ordered to duty as a Communications Officer at the Naval Torpedo Station, Newport, R.I., and will probably remain at this station for the war's duration.

Mr. Smith recently passed his 60th birthday, and this combined with his long service and the first to enter the service from Newry in our present war, surely give him first place at the head of our Newry boys and girls now entered in all branches of the service.

Earl Lane, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Lane, North Newry, joined the Armored Forces, U S

Army on September 10, 1941.

He spent two months at Fort Devens, going from there to Fort Knox, Ky. He was trained in tanks and the Commandoes while there. He signed up for combat service in February 1943, and was sent to Camp Campbell. From there he was shipped out. He landed in Africa in March 1943, going on active duty in July and he was with the Yanks in Sicily driving a tank. He was in a hospital in North Africa 32 days, the cause not known.

He went to Italy in the late fall of 1943 and was sent back to the hospital with pneumonia in April 1944. He has been there ever since, due to a weak lung. He will not go back to the front for some time. His rating is T-5

Cpl. Royal A. Reynolds of Newry has been home on a short visit. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Reynolds. He was inducted into the Army July 27, 1943. He graduated as a mechanic in the Air Force at Keesler Field, Miss., then went to Tyndall Field, Fla., to take an aerial gunner course. Since graduating there he has gone to California for more training as a gunner.

Pfc. Richard Bennett, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Bennett of North Newry, was inducted in the Army in January 1943 and was assigned to an antiaircraft unit. He received his training at Camp Stewart, Ga., and Shreveport, La. In October 1943 he was shipped to the Pacific area and has served with his unit in New Caledonia, New Hebrides, the Russell Islands, and is now stationed in the Solomon Islands.

Cpl. Tech. Rodney H. Hanscom, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Hanscom of Newry is serving in the Ordnance Corps in England. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Dec. 26, 1941. He

received his training at Fort Devens, Mass., Camp Lee, Va., Holabird Motor Base, Baltimore, Md., Atlanta Motor Base, Atlanta, Ga., and Camp Kilmer, N.J. He went overseas in August 1942.

Pfc. Carl R. Nowlin, son of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Nowlin of Newry, is serving with the Armored Force in Italy. He was inducted Jan. 7, 1942, and received his training with the Infantry at Camp Croft, S.C. He was later transferred to the Armored Force at Fort Knox, Ky. He has been overseas 16 months, and served seven months in North Africa before being sent to Italy.

Three sons of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Powers of Newry are serving in the Army.

Tech. Sgt. Rexford A. Powers received basic training at Fort Know in the Armored Division, then transferred to Camp Campbell where he is now.

Pfc. Warren M. Powers received basic training at Miami Beach, Fla., and was in the Army Air Force, transferred to Keesler Field, Miss., graduating there as a mechanic Dec 9. From there he went to school at Ypsilanti, Mich., and is now at Salt Lake City.

Pfc. Bernard L. Powers entered the Army Transportation Corps Nov. 5, 1943 and received basic training at New Orleans. He later transferred to New Mexico for further training.

Sgt. Roy C. Tripp, son of Mr. and Mrs. S. T. Tripp of North Newry, as far as known is in England with the Eighth Air Force ground crew. He enlisted June 1, 1942. From Fort Devens he was sent to Miami, Fla., then to Cha-

nute Field, Ill., where he received his diploma as welder Sept 24. He then transferred to Sacramento and Alameda, Calif., and from there to Ogden, Utah, and San Bernardino, Calif. He was given his first and only furlough from there but was recalled to California, remaining about a month when he was sent to New York and overseas, arriving in England June 1, 1943. He likes England very much but he likes New England much better.

Lt. Ina L. Bean enlisted in the Army Nurses Corps Nov 5, 1942. From Fort Devens, Mass., she went to Africa arriving Jan 15, 1943, then to Italy Dec 23 of that year. Lt. Bean was married to Captain William A. Carey March 29, 1944, and at this writing is still serving somewhere in Italy.

Pvt. Pauline O. Bean enlisted in the Women's Army Corps at Portland July 12, 1944. She is at Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., receiving her basic training.

Cpl. Alfred J. Richard enlisted in the service Oct. 17, 1940. He received his training at Fort Ethan Allen, Vt., Fort Benning, Ga., Camp Blanding, Fla. He was shipped overseas the first of August 1942, and took part in the invasion of North Africa and Sicily. He is now in France.

Omer A. Richard Seaman 1/c entered the Navy March 1, 1943. He received his boot training in Newport, R. I., and went overseas for the invasion of Sicily. He came back on leave and went overseas in the Pacific. He was home on liberty in January after his ship was torpedoed twice. He then had five invasion stars. He is a gunner on a light cruiser and is still in the Southwest Pacific.

Pfc. Leonard W. Richard, who entered the service March 25, 1942, received his training at Salt Lake City, Utah, Texas and Camp Pine-dale, Fresno, Calif. He is a Surgical Technician in the Medical Corps. He was home in January and is expected home again on furlough in September.

Maurice A. Richard F 2/c is the fourth son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Richard of North Newry to enter the service. He enlisted in the Navy Feb. 22 and received his boot training at Sampson, N.Y. He is on a destroyer and was shipped overseas in May 1944. He is somewhere in the invasion area.

SSgt. Willard A. Wight, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred W. Wight of Newry entered the service April 16, 1941. From Fort Devens he went to Camp Croft, S.C., where he received training as an instructor. Since then he has remained at Camp Croft, serving in that capacity.

George L. Wight Seaman 2/c, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred W. Wight of Newry, entered the service Nov. 11, 1943. He was sent to Camp Perry, Va., where he received training as a Seebee. After a short stay at Camp Thomas, R.I., he was shipped overseas in March and has been stationed in Corsica.

Pl. Emery L. Vail entered the service in April 1942, and was sent to Fort McClellan, Ala., for infantry training, then was transferred to Drew Field, Tampa, Fla., in the Signal Corps as a part of the Air Force. From there he was sent to Port Arthur College, Port Arthur, Texas, then back to Drew Field, where he was stationed until he was sent across.

Richard E. Blake, S C 1-c entered the Navy October, 1942. He received his basic training

at Newport, R. I. Other training was received at Portsmouth, Va., and Norfolk, Va. He was assigned to a Navy transport, April 1943, and has made several trips across the Atlantic. He is now over across taking part in the invasion of France.

Geneva Lane, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Lane of North Newry, joined the U.S. Cadet Corps Feb. 8, 1944. She is training at the Maine General Hospital, Portland, Maine. She is a graduate of Gould Academy in the class of 1943.

Added: Earl Sherman Williamson, Jr., completed grade school at the Sunday River School and graduated from Gould Academy in the class of 1940. He served in the Philippines during the war as a Navy Seebee.