

1945

WWII Newspaper Articles; 1945

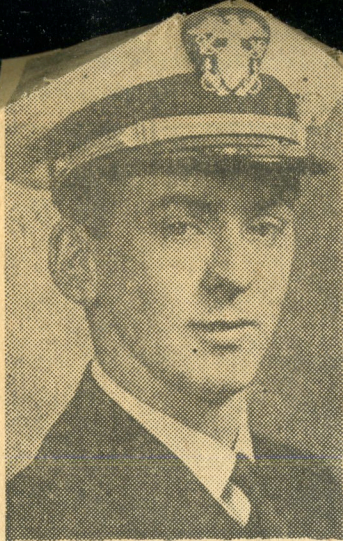
First Baptist Church of Niagara Falls

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LIEUTENANT (JG) ELTON S. GAMBLE was one of four men from the crew of the Submarine Croaker awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy in the Pacific. The presentation was made June 23 by Captain E. H. Bryant, U. S. Navy, at Submarine Repair Unit, Navy 137. His citation reads:

"For meritorious service in action in the performance of his duties as officer-of-the-deck in a United States submarine during a war patrol of that vessel. His skillful navigating assisted his commanding officer considerably in attacks which resulted in sinking enemy vessels totalling more than 15,000 tons and damaging more than 10,000 tons. His calm manner and devotion to duty contributed directly to the success of his vessel. His conduct throughout was an inspiration to the officers and men in his ship and in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

Lieutenant Gamble was graduated from Niagara Falls high school and Alfred university. He enlisted April 3, 1942, while still in college, and has been on active service for the last 15 months. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Gamble, of 8 B street.



KILLED IN ACTION—James B. Lovett, Jr., 24, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Lovett, of 120 Sixty-ninth street, was killed in action in Germany on February 2. He was a member of the 325th Glider Infantry unit.

Born in Niagara Falls, Ont., he attended the public schools of this city and was a member of the Pierce avenue Presbyterian church. He saw service at Camp McCoy, Wis., and at Fort Meade, Md., before leaving for overseas service in June, 1944. He is a former Gazette carrier.

Surviving, besides his parents, are four brothers, Dennis, a pharmacist's mate with the navy in the South Pacific; William, a gunner's mate with the navy and also in the South Pacific; Ernest, a staff sergeant in the New York Guard, and Fred, of Newark, N. Y., and by four sisters, Mrs. Stan Gallagher, Mrs. Frank Merritt, of Niagara Falls, Ont., and Mrs. Charles Hayes and Beatrice Lovett of this city.

GALLANT 44TH DIVISION DUE IN NEW YORK TODAY

Niagara Falls Men Are
Aboard Gigantic Troop-
ship Queen Elizabeth.

NEW YORK, July 20 (AP).—The Gallant 44th Infantry Division which battled through France into the heart of Hitler's fortress Europe arrives en masse today from France aboard the Giant Queen Elizabeth, largest ship in the world.

As the 14,766 soldiers with the orange-and-blue shoulder insignia of their division file down the Queen's four gangplanks, it will be the first time an entire army division has debarked in the United States from one ship.

Troops of the 44th will be among 31,455 American soldiers arriving in New York today aboard six vessels—the largest number of GI's to debark here in a single day. More than 34,000 troops arrived here July 11, but many were Canadians.

Other ships due are the Monticello, Le Jeune, Bret Harte, Nish-maha, Frances Y. Slinger and Marine Panther.

A thunderous welcome awaited the men of the 44th, most of them from New York and New Jersey, who captured more than 44,000 prisoners in their 203 days of combat with the Seventh army.

86th Division Is Being Sent to Pacific Area

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 17 (AP)—The 86th "Black Hawk" Division, first combat outfit returned to the U. S. from Europe, is being sent to the Pacific, army officials announced today.

The division, which sailed for Europe in February, 1945, and saw 42 days of combat in the final days of the German war, is leaving all high point men, eligible for discharge, in the United States.

The 86th now is at a west coast port, the War department disclosed.

The War department release stated: "The 86th is one of several divisions which are going to the Pacific at the request of General MacArthur, made after the surrender of Japan, and are urgently needed for his necessities in connection with occupation and disarmament of Japan.

"The manner in which the army is meeting its moral obligations to men with long and arduous service is well demonstrated in the 86th Division."

Before returning to the U. S. the division was screened to eliminate all men with 85 points or more. After 30-day furloughs at home, the division was reassembled at Camp Gruber, Okla., and was screened again. This led to transfer of enlisted men with scores considerably lower than 85, and men over 38 years old. The only exceptions were volunteers.

Object of the screening is to see

44th Division

(Continued from Page One)

fell to the 44th, which also captured the first Nazi division commander to be taken on the western front.

Throw Back Germans

In its two fiercest battles, which began Thanksgiving Day and New Year's Day, cooks and clerks rushed into the battleline to help turn the tide. In both engagements, the 44th threw back vastly superior German forces.

The division originally was composed of New York and New Jersey National Guard units.

The 44th smashed across the Rhine river after six vain attempts, having crossed the Saar river previously. The division helped breach the Maginot line and reduced the previously impregnable fortress of Simserhof, near Bitch.

Perhaps the greatest achievement of the 44th was throwing back a larger force of Germans in the mountains north of Schalbeck, France, last November. It was in that engagement that a single battalion was credited with saving the entire division as an effective fighting force and won a presidential unit citation.

Then on New Year's Day, 1945, three Nazi divisions tried to throw back the 44th from its stand on the threshold of Germany in the Sarreguemines area, in an attempt to cut off Allied forces in the mountains and on the plains of Alsace.

All-Out Attack

For ten days the division stood against the all-out attack. It continued to hold, and maintained its position there until March 15 as other units passed on through for the final assault on Germany. Infantrymen were in continuous combat for 144 days.

Before going overseas, the division spent two years of training and maneuvers and two years of Fort Lewis, Washington, guarding the security of the Pacific northwest.

Its members have won 13 Distinguished Service Crosses, 277 Silver Stars, 1,749 Bronze Stars and a large number of Purple Hearts. Battlefield commissions were won by 180 officers.

Falls Units in 44th

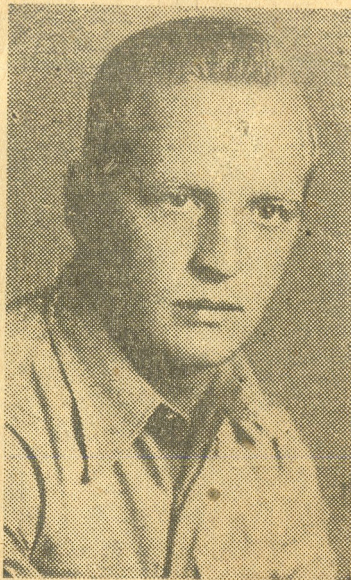
When the National Guard was called out in the fall of 1940 by President Roosevelt for a year's training Falls units of the 174th Infantry, New York National Guard, joined the other organizations of the 44th Division at Fort Dix, N. J. Later the division went to the Pacific coast for guard duty. During that period many Falls men transferred to other units. Later the division was sent to Europe.

Niagara Falls men listed as aboard the Queen Elizabeth are:

Pfc. Joseph Lacovitti, 1638 South avenue; Sergeant William B. Wozlewic, 3105 Portland street; T/5 Edward A. James, 1024 Niagara avenue; Corporal Paschal R. Yacoots, 496 Twenty-third street; Private George A. Lacey, 3301 Portland street; Pfc. Allen J. Waigel, 2225 Thirteenth street; T/5 Peter Kuchy, 1016 Niagara avenue; Pfc. Bernard J. Curyto, 2050 Welch avenue; T/5 Thomas L. Waddington, 1332 Linwood avenue; Private Richard W. Saltman, 4646 Terrace drive.

Lockport men listed as aboard the giant liner are:

Second Lieutenant Peter P. Correll, 318 Chestnut street; Staff Ser-



MISSING IN ACTION — Private Melvin Anderson, 24, son of Mrs. Helen Anderson and the late Wilbert Anderson, of 1137 Michigan avenue, has been reported missing in action in Germany since November 23. A student at the University of Rochester at the time of his enlistment in June, 1940, Private Anderson was soon assigned to Hawaii, where he received instruction as a radio technician at the university of Hawaii. He later served in Australia, the Solomon Islands, England, France, Belgium and in Germany, where he is reported missing. He was serving with an infantry division. Another son, Private Leonard John Anderson, is stationed in Camp Kilmer, New Jersey.

Staff Sergeant Frederick Darby has arrived at his home to spend a short furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Darby, of 1816½ Whitney avenue. He is the youngest of three brothers, all of whom are in the armed forces. He completed extensive training in this country and was sent to the China-India theater with the first group of B-29 Super Fortresses. Flying 61 missions, he is the holder of the Presidential Unit Citation, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf clusters and the Pacific theater campaign with four battle participation stars.

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Russel at 20 Veteran Pilot

MALABANG, P. I., (By Mail)—
pilots call Marine dive-
pilot Second Lieutenant
D. Russel "Junior" but the
Falls pilot doesn't mind.
The youngest man in a squad-
ron of the First Marine Air Wing
has been with the dive-bombing
unit since it hit
the Philippines
early this year. He
won't be 21 until
August but by
that time he'll be
a veteran pilot.
He already has
more than 45
combat strikes to
his credit and his
skill is growing
daily.

His unit landed
on Luzon at Lin-
ayen Gulf short-
ly after the Luzon
operation started.

Several Marine

quadrans were based near the

original landing place, their assign-

ed task was to clear the road to

Manila for the ground troops.

While much of their dive-bomb-

ing and strafing was done ahead

of the advancing ground forces, they

had also been assigned the task of

keeping the left flank of the ad-

vance secure.

Marines took over the task of

keeping the Japs in the hills and

succeeded. Flight after flight went

out to keep the few roads leading

out of the hills onto the plains

secure.

They cleared the roads of Jap

trucks and hit continually at troop's

concentrations. The effectiveness

of their work is shown by the fact

that the army was able to continue

on and reach Manila on schedule.

After Manila fell, Russell's squad-

ron was assigned to this operation

and landed here, at Malabang on

Mindanao, on D-Day. A Jap air

strip was converted to Marine use

and within a few days the pilots

were flying their Curtis Helldivers

out over Davao and hitting other

Jap forces on this island.

In the Philippines campaign the

squadron has flown more than 2,000

sorties and dropped more than 1,-

00 tons of bombs.

The Marine is the son of Lieuten-

ant (jg) and Mrs. W. B. Russell, of

Northville, N. Y. His father has

been on duty in both the Aleutian

area and Atlantic since the start

of war.

Russell was graduated from Ni-

agara Falls high school in 1942 and

enlisted in October of that year.

He completed flight training at

Corpus Christi, Tex., in April, 1944.



Maurice Russell

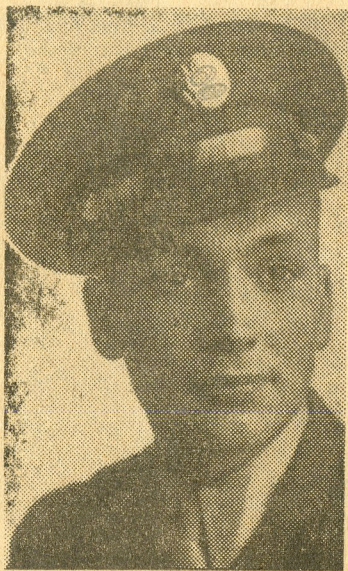


ENTERS RED CROSS WORK

—Miss Ruth Jane Hyde, daughter of Mrs. T. B. Hyde, of Cleveland avenue, will report November 20 in Washington, D. C., where she will take the specialized course given to those who have been accepted in Recreation work by the American Red Cross.

Miss Hyde, a graduate of the Niagara Falls high school, is exceptionally well qualified for her new work. She is a graduate of Cornell university, where she was member of the Pi Beta Phi national sorority. In her Senior year she spent at Detroit, Mich., where she attended specialized courses at Merrill-Palmer training school.

Miss Hyde has been the field secretary of the Girl Scouts with the city as the headquarters. While in that city she was active in the organizing of several chapters of Beta Sigma Phi, an international sorority.



WOUNDED—Private First Class Ralph W. Beals, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph W. Beals, of 8611 Bollier avenue, has been seriously wounded in action in France, according to word received by his parents. He suffered his wounds while serving in the 26th (Yankee) division of the Third army on November 11.

A graduate of the Niagara Falls high school and a student at Alfred university's School of Engineering when he entered the army in August, 1943, Private Beals completed his basic training at Fort Benning, Ga., and was then assigned to the Army Specialized Training Program at Northeastern university, Boston, Mass. He later trained at Fort Jackson, S. C., before going overseas in August, 1944.

John M. Dillon, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Dillon, 426 Fourth street has been promoted to the rank of captain at Pine Camp, N. Y., where he is stationed. Captain Dillon who entered the service July 1, 1941, was graduated from Niagara Falls high school and Niagara university. He was promoted to first lieutenant in March, 1943, and has served at army installations in Virginia. At his present post Captain Dillon is commanding officer of the station complement and post provost marshal. He and his wife make their home in Black River, N. Y.

Private First Class Louis R. Witt,
of 1121 Garrett avenue, is now con-
valescing at Lowell general hospital,
Fort Devens, Mass. During the
last ten months he has seen service
in Germany and France. He has
been awarded the Purple Heart,
the Combat Infantryman's Badge
and the ETO ribbon with two
Battle Stars.

Justly proud of their three-star service flag are Mr. and Mrs. James B. Lovett, of 120 Sixty-ninth street

Pharmacist's Mate First Class Dennis Lovett is now with the navy at Norfolk, Va. After enlisting September 15, 1942, he received training at Baltimore Navy Yard, Md., and Portsmouth, Va. He is a former employe of the Union Carbide corporation and a graduate of Niagara Falls high school.

His brother, Private James B. Lovett, Jr., is serving with the infantry in England. Entering the service December 26, 1942, after graduating from Niagara Falls high school, he was trained at Camp McCoy, Wis.

The third of the trio, William Lovett, has seen action in two battles in the South Pacific since he joined the Seabees in September, 1942. He is a graduate of Niagara Falls high school and a former CCC instructor. His wife, Theda, resides in Olympia, Wash., where the sailor received his training.



W. Lovett

Another brother, Ernest Lovett, is a staff sergeant in the State Guard.

Technical Sergeant Kenneth Bovanizer, son of Mrs. Cora Bovanizer, of Michigan avenue, and husband of Mrs. Marjorie Evans Bovanizer, 552 Third street, was recently promoted to his present rank at Stewart Field, Newburgh, N. Y. Until March of this year he was a prisoner of war in Europe. Technical Sergeant Bovanizer, a radio operator and gunner, was reported missing in action after a raid on Peenemunde on his ninth mission in August, 1944. Prior to his entrance into the armed forces he was an employe of the Kimberly Clark company, this city.

Board 583 Calls 45 Into Service

Wed.
Sep. 2

A group of 45 Niagara Falls young men, called to the colors through the operation of Selective Service Board 583 at the Gaskill Junior high school, left for service in the nation's armed forces this morning.

In the group were: Martin Lally, Harold J. Taylor, Wallace V. Moll, Nyal M. Cathcart, Jesse D. Massar, Albert J. Forcucci, Ronald Whitmire, Peter A. LaMarca, Roy W. Roswel, Alfred Barr, Fred E. Woods, Samuel L. Beatty, Warren L. Hartburg, Clair R. Bradley, Karl J. Kalinna, Ernest Longhine, Jack T. Sweatman, Billie Henderson, Robert G. Hinman, Martin Shimmel, Howard Catlin, John L. Hilliard and Robert L. Woodring.

Also: Laverne Payne, Albert McQuire, Leslie Beehler, Amin Aswad, John F. Sweeney, Thomas Etopio, Robert A. Pettit, Roy W. Watson, Richard S. Saltzman, Frank J. Vaccarella, Gordon D. Sylvester, Davis J. Lewis, Harry N. Penman, Leroy W. Furry, Robert E. Kelly, Harold M. Slusser, Robert W. Bonner, Peter M. Wilson, Robert J. Miller, O. Z. Starks, Edwin V. Breman and James M. Steer.

Baptism of fire is an experience that few soldiers ever forget and the men of the 398th Infantry regiment of the 100th Century division have special reason never to forget theirs. They went into action for the first time on one of the toughest sectors of the long Sixth Army front in eastern France. A member of the 398th regiment is Private Louis R. Witt, of 1121 Garrett avenue, this city. Another is Private Michael J. Farruzzam, of 287 Clinton street, Lockport.

FALLS SOLDIER IS AMONG FIRST TO ENTER BITCHE

PFC Louis Witt Is Member
of Platoon Which Cap-
tures Nazi Bastion.

BY ROBERT VERMILLION

United Press War Correspondent

WITH U. S. SEVENTH ARMY
IN BITCHE, France, March 16 (U.P.)

—This Maginot bulwark was held
by an assaulting force tonight for
the first time in its 200 years as
a fortress city.

It fell virtually without resistance
to troops of the 100th Division after
the Germans pulled out, leaving
only 58 men behind to guard their
largest bastion protecting the Reich
frontier.

Not even the citadel, which was
built by Louis XV atop a hill in
the center of the city and which
withstood all attacks for 200 years,
was defended by the Germans.

Men of the 100th Division hailed
the victory over "Bitche and the
sons of Bitche in her" as their
greatest achievement since the Sev-
enth Army began its offensive.

They had assaulted Bitche last
December in bitter fighting but
were forced to discontinue by the

FALLS SOLDIER

(Continued on Page Two)

Falls Soldier

(Continued from Page One)

folding of the Seventh Army's right flank during the Germans' counter-offensive.

Since then they had been lying before the city awaiting the moment to strike again.

An American patrol led by Sergeant Lloyd Cain, of Switz City, Ind., entered the city early this morning. Other elements of the division followed closely and quickly cleaned the small rear guard from cellars.

The actual capture may be claimed by the Third Platoon of I Company of the Second Battalion of the 398th Regiment, led by Second Lieutenant James E. Byrd, of Poplarville, Miss. It followed Cain's patrol down a main road from the east and surprised the rear guard which had been expecting an attack from the west.

All of the Germans gave up without a fight.

The rest of E Company, led by Captain T. H. Garahan, of Brooklyn, N. Y., followed and moved up to the citadel, taking a few German stragglers on the way.

The citadel, surrounded by moats, had been modernized by the French for the Maginot Line. It was equipped with elevating turrets, shelters and storehouses and its works burrow 14 stories underground.

Bitche had been under air and artillery bombardment since last November but the fortress had been little damaged.

German cots still were made up in cubicles of the concrete and

floors were littered with weapons and ammunition but booby-trap-wise doughboys left them untouched.

Byrd's platoon included only 25 per cent of the men who took part in the original assault in December. These included: Sergeant Clarence Halberg, of Glidden, Wis.; Private First Class Louis Witt, of Niagara Falls, N. Y.; Private First Class Stanley Ostrow, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Private First Class Clarence Nichols, Oak Hills, W. Va., and Private First Class Phillip Weikert, of Rochester, N. Y.

Private First Class Louis R. Witt, mentioned above, is 22 and a son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis R. Witt, Sr., of 1121 Garrett avenue. His father is principal of the South Junior high school. He is a graduate of the Niagara Falls high school and attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, N. Y., and Mechanics' Institute, Rochester, N. Y. He was inducted into the service December 29, 1943, and trained at Fort Bragg and Fort Benning, Georgia. He went overseas in October, 1944, from Fort Benning and is a member of the 100th Division, 398th Infantry, of the Seventh Army.

Box 601, Care of Gazette.

CAMBRIA CENTER—9.4 acres, all bu-
ings in good condition; running water
in house. 20 minutes drive from Lock-
port, Buffalo or Niagara Falls. Priced
to sell. H. E. Stevens, Wilson. Tel
Wilson 3031.

MADE OF ALL VILLAGES AND

Second Lieutenant Charles P. Stowell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard E. Stowell, 2447 Cleveland avenue, has reported to Randolph Field for transition training in B-29 super-bombers preparatory to combat assignment.

First Lieutenant Sidney S. Bruce Jr., of this city, is the commanding officer of a cannon company with the famous Japanese - American 442nd Combat team of the Seventh Army which is now serving in France. He is the son of Sidney S. Bruce, Sr., of 2232 Linwood avenue, and the husband of Mrs. Donny Bruce, of 501 Woodrow avenue, High Point, N. C. A veteran of seven months overseas service, he is entitled to wear three battle stars on his European theater of operations campaign ribbon.

