

ROCKY MOUNTAIN MUSEUM OF MILITARY HISTORY

MEMORIAL DAY SALUTE

To 24 Brave Men of Sigma Chi Fraternity

The Sigma Chi fraternity at the University of Montana contributed disproportionately to the World War II war effort. Its ranks were decimated by early enlistments and the draft. Twenty four of the fraternity brothers did not return after V-E and V-J days in 1945.

The accompanying pictures on this page show the dates of birth and death, home town and branch of service. Look closely at the faces. They bear mute testimony to the hopes and dreams cut down in the prime of life.

Following are short remembrances by those who personally knew them over a half-century ago.

Ty Robinson remembers...



Robinson in 1938

Bill Holt played half back on the Sigma Chi intramural team. I was an end for Phi Delta Theta. I remember Holt as a quiet, likeable guy who would take a lot of punishment during those pad-less Clover Bowl classics. Holt was a houseboy at Kappa Alpha Theta, where I was courting my future bride, Jean Fritz. Most of the Thetas were in love with Holt.

Jay Ottman remembers...



Ottman in 1943

Bud Emswiler taught boxing at the University. Jack Hall (later a paratrooper and Missoula lawyer) and Jay Ottman were in his class. Emswiler set up a tournament and brought in two ringers from South Dakota, both Golden Gloves boxing champions. He asked Ottman and Hall to fight them. Ottman learned the South Dakotans were ringers and refused to fight. Emswiler gave Ottman an "F". Hall needed the grade and did fight. Ottman remembers that after the first 15 seconds Hall didn't know where he was.

Barbara Koessler remembers...



Koessler in 1942

My brother, Norman Streit, was killed in the Battle of the Bulge on Christmas Day, 1944 and is buried in Leige, Belgium. All he ever wanted in life was to be in the insurance business with my Dad.

Paul Chumrau remembers...



Chumrau in 1938

Walter Fitzmaurice was from my home town of Anaconda. He was a great half-back in high school and was recruited by the Grizzly football coach. I remember he married Edna Marie Kelly of Anaconda. She was my high school date to an "A" Club dance at the old Montana Hotel. Walter was one of the nicest guys I ever knew.

Bob Fletcher remembers...



Fletcher in 1933

Dana Bradford and I graduated together in the spring of '41. We left the Sigma Chi house together and went to Grand Central Terminal, Los Angeles, for flight training. We checked out in BT-14's and got our commissions and wings. Dana was a happy-go-lucky guy who was always pleasant to be around. He left Los Angeles for Texas to train in B-25 bombers. A few months later he was killed in a training accident.

Gardner Brownlee remembers...



Brownlee in 1940

Stanley Koch was the older brother of my law partner in Hamilton, Tom Koch. Stanley was an avid photographer who was very proud of his work. I recall discussing his photographic work with him. On D-Day in June, 1944, Stanley was serving as the skipper on a boat carrying the infantry men to the Normandy beach. His boat took a direct hit from the German artillery. That direct hit destroyed the boat and virtually everything in it.

Warren Harris remembers...



Harris in 1940

Don Tilzey and I grew up together on Plymouth Street and went through Paxson grade school, Missoula County High, and the University together. He died flying a P-38 in California in 1943. One day at the Sigma Chi house Don and I went into the pantry to filch some pie. We stepped over something in the shadows and went back to look. It was the Sigma Chi cook, Ernie, who had just shot himself. He must not have liked cooking for us.

Sherman Lohn remembers...



Lohn in 1941

Jack Brazelton was a small, handsome man who lived life to the fullest. He enjoyed parties, enjoyed sociability, and enjoyed all types of fraternity social life. Lohn remembers that Brazelton joined ROTC so that he could wear the uniform and impress the girls on campus during the parades on the oval. He was a gregarious person who knew most everyone on the campus and was well liked by everyone he met. He never thought when he first joined ROTC that he would someday be fighting in the Italian mud during winter, 1944.

Dave McNally remembers...



McNally in 1969

The nationally famous Baltimore Orioles pitcher, Dave McNally, never knew his father. Dave was born in 1942. James McNally, a 1932 University of Montana graduate, shipped out to the Pacific and ultimately lost his life during a Japanese bombing raid on Okinawa. Dave inherited his father's athletic abilities. James McNally was an outstanding boxer in Butte and played guard for the Grizzly football team.

Sam Roberts remembers...



Roberts in 1939

Bob Felt, my fraternity brother, was the most fearless man I ever knew. Because of this he was an excellent boxer and football player. Everyone respected him. One time a group of us were walking across the Higgins bridge. A huge guy was intimidating those around him. Bob walked up to him, said something, and the big guy was just overwhelmed by Bob's fearlessness.



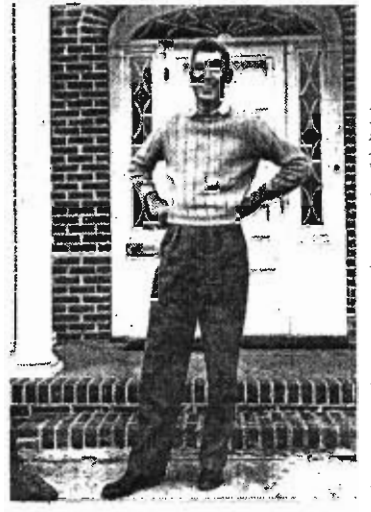
James H. Blair '34
Born Forsyth, Montana, March 27, 1912
Forsyth High School
U.S. Army
Killed in Action in Philippines May '42
"All Honor To His Name"



Robert S. Felt '41
Born Missoula, Aug 17, 1915
St. Thomas Military Academy (St. Paul)
U.S. Navy
Killed in action in South Pacific
June 1944
"All Honor To His Name"



Randall R. Jarvis '37
Born Stevensville, July 4, 1916
Stevensville High School
U.S. Marine Corps
Died at Okhaya, California
March 1945
"All Honor To His Name"



Richard T. Smiley '43
Born Bozeman, April 23, 1921
Gallatin County High School
U.S. Army
Killed in action in Germany
February 16, 1945
"All Honor To His Name"



Dana Bradford '41
Born Logan, Montana, Dec 11, 1917
Townsend High School
Army Air Corps
Killed in Bomber crash in Texas
March 11, 1942
"All Honor To His Name"



Walter P. Fitzmaurice '41
Born Anaconda, November 11, 1917
Anaconda High School
Army Air Corps
Killed in plane crash in Oregon
August 16, 1943
"All Honor To His Name"



Stanley H. Koch '36
Born Missoula, February 9, 1915
Missoula County High School
U.S. Navy
Killed in action in Normandy
June 1944
"All Honor To His Name"



Malcolm H. Stotts '35
Born Smithton, Missouri, Oct 25, 1912
Commerce High School
U.S. Army
Killed in action in France
November 16, 1943
"All Honor To His Name"



Jack M. Brazelton '42
Born Helena, July 9, 1920
Helena High School
U.S. Army
Killed in action in Italy
February 29, 1944
"All Honor To His Name"



Kenneth E. Faxon '34
Born Billings, November 13, 1910
Billings High School
Army Air Corps
Killed in plane crash in Florida
March 28, 1943
"All Honor To His Name"



John W. Marsh '38
Born Fort Morgan, Colorado, April 2, 1916
Mills High School
U.S. Army
Killed in action in France
July 16, 1944
"All Honor To His Name"



Norman V. Streit '41
Born Missoula, February 9, 1915
Missoula County High School
U.S. Army
Killed in action in Belgium
December 28, 1944
"All Honor To His Name"



George J. Dignan '40
Born Glasgow, Montana, February 12, 1916
Glasgow High School
Naval Air Corps
Killed in action in Pacific (two times)
February 21, 1945
"All Honor To His Name"



Delbert W. Halsey '39
Born Billings, Montana, Dec. 8, 1919
Billings High School
Naval Air Corps
Killed in Battle of Midway
June 4, 1942
"All Honor To His Name"



James A. Mc Nally '32
Born Butte, Dec 8, 1908
Butte High School
U.S. Army
Killed in Action in South Pacific
June 22, 1945
"All Honor To His Name"



D. Franklin Chalkil '31
Born Missoula, February 8, 1909
Missoula County High School
U.S. Army
Killed in action in Burma
February 1, 1945
"All Honor To His Name"



George Dykstra '42
Born Helena, August 10, 1919
Helena High School
Naval Air Corps
Killed in plane crash near Corsica
July 27, 1945
"All Honor To His Name"



William M. Holt '39
Born Great Falls, September 19, 1917
Great Falls High School
Naval Air Corps
Killed in action in South Pacific
August 1944
"All Honor To His Name"



William Quintance '43
Born Fort Benton, October 4, 1912
Jefferson County High School
Army Air Corps
Killed over Germany
Feb 22, 1944
"All Honor To His Name"



Donald C. Tilzey '43
Born Lewisville, April 17, 1920
Lewisville High School
Army Air Corps
Killed in a plane crash at Murco, Calif.
November 16, 1943
"All Honor To His Name"



Lionel "Bud" Emswiler '45
Born Helena, Montana, August 3, 1925
Helena High School
Army Air Corps
Killed in crash near Sicily
April 27, 1945
"All Honor To His Name"



H. Clark Irvine '42
Born Stevensville, Oct 19, 1919
Stevensville High School
U.S. Navy
Killed in action in South Pacific
June 6, 1944
"All Honor To His Name"



Thomas F. Sharp '34
Born Fort Benton, October 4, 1912
Jefferson County High School
U.S. Navy
Missing in Submarine near Tokyo
since June 6, 1944
"All Honor To His Name"



Sidney F. Wharton '38
Born Douglas, Arizona, Jan 6, 1918
Crescent High School
Army Air Corps
Killed in action in South Pacific
May 3, 1945
"All Honor To His Name"