World War II 1941 to 1945

Warren H. Stevens

BORN: January 11th 1922
DIED: June 19, 1944

CAUSE OF DEATH: Killed in Action
Body Recovered
WHERE: European Theater Operation, Utah Beach, France

BRANCH: US Army Infantry
RANK: Private 7th Grade E-2
OUTFIT OR UNIT: 22nd Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, Normandy France.
Service Number 32528230

CEMETERY OR MEMORIAL: Reinterred 1947-1950, Normandy American Cemetery,
Coleville-sur-Mer, France.
Plot G, Row 19, Grave 35.

LAST RESIDENCE: 29 Muriel Street, Freeport, Long Island, NY
RELIGION: Unknown
OCCUPATION: Unknown
ATTENDED FREEPORT SCHOOLS: Unknown

NAME APPEARS ON LIBRARY MEMORIAL PLAQUE: Yes
NAME APPEARS ON AMERICAN LEGION MONUMENT: Yes
NOTES: Stevens was awarded the Purple Heart. He died at the age of 22.
Sources:
World War II 1941 to 1945

McKinley Blaine Taylor Jr.

BORN: April 18, 1920 Omaha, NE
DIED: September 1, 1942

CAUSE OF DEATH: Killed in Action
Body Recovered
WHERE: Pacific Theater Operation, Solomon Islands

BRANCH: US Marine Corps
RANK: Private 7th, Grade E-1

OUTFIT OR UNIT: First Marine Division, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands
Service Number 351458

CEMETERY OR MEMORIAL: Reinterred 03/11/1948, Long Island National Cemetery, Farmingdale, NY
Section H, Site 7901

LAST RESIDENCE: 24 Nassau Street, Freeport, Long Island, NY
RELIGION: Unknown
OCCUPATION: Unknown

ATTENDED FREEPORT SCHOOLS: Graduated Baldwin High School in 1939

NAME APPEARS ON LIBRARY MEMORIAL PLAQUE: Yes
NAME APPEARS ON AMERICAN LEGION MONUMENT: Yes

NOTES: Taylor was awarded the Purple Heart. He died at age 22. He was originally interred in the Solomon Islands. Taylor’s last letter stated “I have seen action. I’m going to come through okay”. He had two dates of death. Archives had 09/01/1942 and Headstone had 10/05/1942. It was believed that he was reported Killed In Action 09/01/1942 and was not found until 10/05/1942.
World War II 1941 to 1945

Arthur Evans Temple

BORN: October 17, 1916 New York, NY

DIED: June 11, 1943-Plane failed to return to base.

CAUSE OF DEATH: Missing in Action/Killed in Action
Body Not Recovered

WHERE: North Atlantic Theater Operation, Mid Ocean

BRANCH: US Navy Pilot

RANK: Aviation Pilot, 1st Class AP1C, Enlisted 10/17/1939.

OUTFIT OR UNIT: Lost somewhere in the North Atlantic chasing German U-Boats.
Service Number 2232025

CEMETERY OR MEMORIAL: East Coast Memorial, Battery Park, New York, NY.

LAST RESIDENCE: 56 North Main Street, Freeport, Long Island, NY.

RELIGION: Unknown

OCCUPATION: Unknown

ATTENDED FREEPORT SCHOOLS: Unknown

NAME APPEARS ON LIBRARY MEMORIAL PLAQUE: Yes

NAME APPEARS ON AMERICAN LEGION MONUMENT: Yes

NOTES: Temple was awarded the Purple Heart. He died at the age of 27. He was married. The attached newspaper clipping states that he joined the Navy in 1934 and was stationed at Pensacola Navel Air Station for three years. The enlistment date 10/17/1939 is most likely an re-enlistment date.
Sources:

“Bomber Trainee.” [Copies of Local Newspaper Clippings from WWII, Freeport Memorial Library].
Bomber Trainee

ARThUR EVANS TEMPLE

Temple, 25, a former Freeport resident, who joined the U. S. navy in 1934, was stationed at Pensacola Naval Air station for three years and was designated aviation pilot in July. He was transferred to the naval air station at Banana River, Fla., for advanced training in Martin bombers, where he now is stationed. Temple was married to the former Miss Dorothy C. Brawe of North Merrick in 1937, and she and their children, Carol and Arthur, Jr., are visiting relatives in North Merrick.
World War II 1941 to 1945

Bayard Douglas Tewksbury

BORN: November 20, 1920
DIED: April 13, 1945
CAUSE OF DEATH: Died Non Battle-Heart Attack
Body Recovered
WHERE: American Theater Operation, Cortland, AL
BRANCH: US Army Air Force
RANK: Second Lieutenant 0-1
OUTFIT OR UNIT: US Army Air Force Training Command, 446th Army Air Force Unit, Cortland Army Air Force Base, AL. Service Number 0-838001
CEMETERY OR MEMORIAL: Interred 04/20/1945, Long Island National Cemetery, Farmingdale, NY Section D, Site 997
LAST RESIDENCE: 48 Pearsall Avenue, Freeport, Long Island, NY.
RELIGION: Unknown
OCCUPATION: Unknown
ATTENDED FREEPORT SCHOOLS: Graduated Freeport High School in 1937
NAME APPEARS ON LIBRARY MEMORIAL PLAQUE: Yes
NAME APPEARS ON AMERICAN LEGION MONUMENT: Yes
NOTES: Tewksbury died at the age of 24. He noted his home town as Greene County, NY.
World War II 1941 to 1945

Edgar Lee Theuman

BORN: April 26, 1915
DIED: July 19, 1944

CAUSE OF DEATH: Killed in Action
Body Recovered
WHERE: Pacific Theater Operation, Saipan Island, Mariana Islands

BRANCH: US Army Infantry
RANK: Sergeant 4th Grade E-5

OUTFIT OR UNIT: 27th Infantry Division landed on Saipan, Mariana Islands on June 15, 1944. Service Number 32015509.

CEMETERY OR MEMORIAL: Reinterred 06/15/1948, Long Island National Cemetery, Farmingdale, NY
Section H, Site 8132

LAST RESIDENCE: 9 Ray Street, Freeport, Long Island, NY.
RELIGION: Unknown
OCCUPATION: Unknown
ATTENDED FREEPORT SCHOOLS: Unknown

NAME APPEARS ON LIBRARY MEMORIAL PLAQUE: Yes
NAME APPEARS ON AMERICAN LEGION MONUMENT: Yes

NOTES: Theuman was awarded the Purple Heart. He died at the age of 29. He was originally interred on Saipan Mariana Islands.
Mieczyslaw Tyszkowski

BORN: Unknown
DIED: January 18, 1942

CAUSE OF DEATH: Missing in Action/Killed in Action
   Body not Recovered
WHERE: American Theater Operation, North Atlantic

BRANCH: US Merchant Marine
RANK: Boatswain’s Mate E-4, Deck Hand

OUTFIT OR UNIT: Merchant Ship Freighter USS Frances Salman sunk by German U Boat. Merchant Marines did not have Service Numbers.

CEMETERY OR MEMORIAL: American Merchant Marine Memorial, Wiggins Park, Camden, NJ

LAST RESIDENCE: 147 North Main Street, Freeport, Long Island, NY.
RELIGION: Unknown
OCCUPATION: Unknown
ATTENDED FREEPORT SCHOOLS: Unknown

NAME APPEARS ON LIBRARY MEMORIAL PLAQUE: No
NAME APPEARS ON AMERICAN LEGION MONUMENT: No

NOTES: Tyszkowski’s death was confirmed from German records. In 1988, members of the Merchant Marines who served on ocean-going merchant ships between Dec. 7, 1941, and Aug. 15, 1945, were granted veteran status. German records say U-boat U-522, under the command of Erich Kopp sank the ship of the coast of Gibraltar.
World War II 1941 to 1945

John J. Vetter

BORN: November 6th 1921
DIED: September 19, 1944
CAUSE OF DEATH: Killed in Action
Body Recovered
WHERE: European Theater Operation, Belgium
BRANCH: US Army Gliders
RANK: Private First Class 6th Grade E-3
OUTFIT OR UNIT: Battery B 321 Glider Field Artillery Battalion, 101st Airborne Division, Service Number 32638178
CEMETERY OR MEMORIAL: Reinterred 1947-1950, Ardennes American Cemetery, Neupre, Belgium
Plot D, Row 26, Grave 19
LAST RESIDENCE: 346 South Bayview Ave, Freeport, Long Island, NY
RELIGION: Unknown
OCCUPATION: Unknown
ATTENDED FREEPORT SCHOOLS: Unknown
NAME APPEARS ON LIBRARY MEMORIAL PLAQUE: Yes
NAME APPEARS ON AMERICAN LEGION MONUMENT: Yes
NOTES: Vetter was awarded the Purple Heart.
Sources:
John C. Viebrock

BORN:       July 21, 1917
DIED:       December 22, 1944
CAUSE OF DEATH:  Killed in Action
                Body Recovered
WHERE:       European Theater Operation, Henri-Chapelli, France
BRANCH:      US Army Infantry
RANK:        First Lieutenant 0-2
OUTFIT OR UNIT:  Battle of the Bulge. Originally buried in Belgium. Probably a
                Company Commander. Service Number 1321684
                Company K 3rd Battalion 26th Infantry Regiment 1st Infantry
                Division US 1st Army
CEMETERY OR MEMORIAL:  Reinterred 04/16/1948, Long Island National Cemetery,
                        Farmingdale, NY
                        Section H, Site 8749
LAST RESIDENCE:  South Main Street, Freeport, Long Island, NY.
                 48 South Long Beach, Freeport, Long Island, NY
RELIGION:    Unknown
OCCUPATION:  Unknown
ATTENDED FREEPORT SCHOOLS:  Unknown
NAME APPEARS ON LIBRARY MEMORIAL PLAQUE:  Yes
NAME APPEARS ON AMERICAN LEGION MONUMENT:  Yes
NOTES: Viebrock was awarded the Purple Heart. He died at the age of 27. His basic
       training took place at Camp Croft, Spartanburg, SC. He spent two years of special
       service training at Camp Shelby, MS. He was originally interred in
       Henri-Chapelli, France.
Sources:

“Latest War Casualties Reported by the Army: Killed European Area NEW YORK.”
World War II 1941 to 1945

Walter J. Wascher Jr.

BORN: July 7th 1918 Sheboygan, WI
DIED: December 13, 1943, Training Accident.
CAUSE OF DEATH: Died non Battle-Aircraft Accident 
Body Recovered
WHERE: American Theater Operation, Rosebud, SD
BRANCH: US Army Air Force
RANK: Second Lieutenant 0-1 Pilot
OUTFIT OR UNIT: 398th Bomber Squadron, 602nd Bomber Group, 2nd Air Force, B17 
Pilot. Service Number 0-689419

CEMETERY OR MEMORIAL: Long Island National Cemetery, Farmingdale, NY 
Section D, Site 937A
LAST RESIDENCE: 68 Lexington Avenue, Freeport, Long Island, NY.
RELIGION: Catholic
OCCUPATION: Unknown
ATTENDED FREEPORT SCHOOLS: Unknown
NAME APPEARS ON LIBRARY MEMORIAL PLAQUE: Yes
NAME APPEARS ON AMERICAN LEGION MONUMENT: Yes
NOTES: Wascher died at the age of 25.
Harold C. Wilson Jr.

BORN: approx. 1924 Freeport, NY

DIED: November 15, 1944/May 9, 1945

CAUSE OF DEATH: Missing in Action/Killed in Action
Body not Recovered

WHERE: European Theater Operation, Metz, France

BRANCH: US Army Infantry

RANK: Private First Class, 6th Grade E-3

OUTFIT OR UNIT: 377 Infantry Regiment, 95th Infantry Division, US 3rd Army
General Patton. Crossed Moselle River into Germany.
Service Number 32985029.

CEMETERY OR MEMORIAL: Luxembourg American Cemetery, Luxembourg City,
Luxembourg.
“Tablets of the Missing”

LAST RESIDENCE: 89 North Bergen Place, Freeport, Long Island, NY.

RELIGION: Presbyterian

OCCUPATION: Unknown

ATTENDED FREEPORT SCHOOLS: Graduated Freeport High School in 1941

NAME APPEARS ON LIBRARY MEMORIAL PLAQUE: Yes

NAME APPEARS ON AMERICAN LEGION MONUMENT: Yes

NOTES: Wilson was awarded 2 Bronze Stars and the Purple Heart. He died at the age of 21 when killed in a landing barge that he was Coxon of, ferrying American Troops across the Moselle River from Southeastern France into Germany.
Sources:

“Gaines Missing Since April 15.” [Copies of Local Newspaper Clippings from WWII, Freeport Memorial Library].
GAINES MISSING SINCE APRIL 15

Flight Officer Fails To Return From Mission Over Germany

A fighter pilot, Flight Officer Thurston L. Gaines, Jr., has been missing in action since April 15, when he failed to return from a strafing raid on targets in Southern Germany, the war department has informed his wife in Freeport.

Missing In Action
Flight Officer Thurston L. Gaines, Jr., husband of Mrs. Thurston L. Gaines, Jr., of 29 Lillian avenue, Freeport.

P-51 Pilot Missing
Flight Officer Gaines, pilot of a P-51 Mustang, was serving with the 15th army air force based in Italy, when he failed to return from a strafing mission on targets in Southern Germany.

The Nassau airman, a veteran of about 35 combat missions, had been awarded the Air Medal with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster for his meritorious achievement in aerial combat in the European theatre of operations.

A graduate of Freeport High school, Gaines attended Howard University, Washington, D. C., before his entry into the service.

HAROLD C. WILSON, JR.

Private First Class Wilson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold C. Wilson, Sr., of 89 North Bergen place, Freeport, lost his life in battle at Metz, France, on November 20, 1944. He was previously missing in action. A graduate of Freeport High school, the young soldier joined the army in June, 1943, and was ordered to the European theater last August.
About the Soldiers’ Project, Regina G. Feeney

In 2005, the Freeport Memorial Library received a grant to digitize its historical collection of local newspapers. This $23,000 gift made electronically accessible and fully searchable six newspapers dating from 1895 to 1921. One of the first questions this project helped answer was, “Who was Henry Theodore Mohr?” A stone and bronze plaque bearing his name has rested on the lawn of the Library for more than 70 years. The newspaper project uncovered the story of a Freeport volunteer fireman who was the first Freeporter to die in combat during WWI and who became the namesake of the local VFW. Articles from the early 1920s chronicle the fundraising efforts to construct the Library and a WWI memorial. A movement to combine these two initiatives began to emerge. Some members of the American Legion and family members of those who died during The Great War were very much against the combination library and war memorial. The father of another fallen soldier Theodore deKruijff wrote a letter to the Nassau County Review in which he said, “In a few years the so-called memorial will simply be a ‘public library’ and will not be known by any other name.” I began to wonder if there was something to Mr. deKruijff’s prediction. Did Freeporters know that the Library was the first War Memorial Library in New York State? Did we know anything about the names of 140 soldiers on bronze tablets in the Library?

Using the newspapers and other Library and Historical Society resources I began researching Freeport’s soldiers from the Civil War to WWI. In 2008, I received a call from former Freeporter Don Schultz who was in the Army during the Korean War. Living in Jacksonville, FL, Don called and told me of his memories about the WWII Honor Roll outside the Library. I told Don, about my project and he took on the monumental task of researching Freeporters who died in WWII, as well as the Korean and Vietnam wars. Since 2008, Don has enlisted over 40 volunteers throughout the US and overseas to help research the soldiers’ biographies and document their final resting places. We have uncovered a soldier buried without a headstone, soldiers with broken or unreadable markers, and soldiers and a nurse whose names were omitted from the original memorials. Information about Freeport’s fallen can be found online at: http://freeportlibrary.info/freeport-history. If you have any additional information about any of these heroes, please contact the Freeport Memorial Library at frreference@freeportlibrary.info.