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Denis Mailhot Scrapbook 'Service to God & Service to Country'

Denis Mailhot MPS

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'Service to God & Service to Country'

*A Franco-American Memoir
of the sons and daughters*

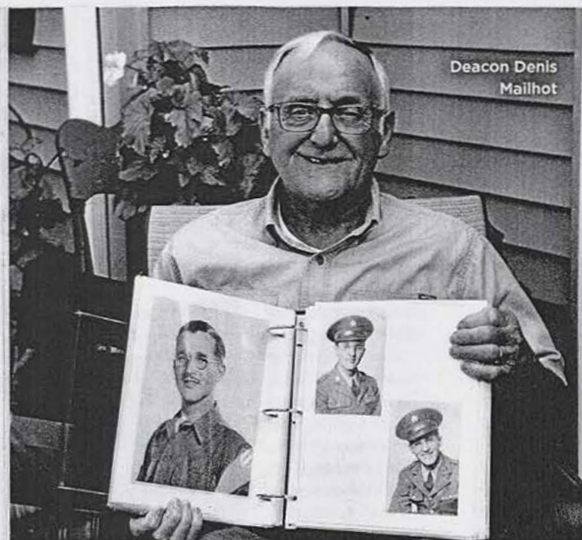
*of
Wilfrid S. Mailhot Sr.
and
Alphonse Dutil*

*Serving God and Country
throughout
WWI - WWII & Viet Nam Wars*

*A Tribute highlighting the life of PFC Eliséé A. Dutil,
KIA, February 1944, in Germany*

by Deacon Denis Mailhot, MPS

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FEATURE STORY

served in WWI, to uncles who served in WWII, to his own service in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War.

"I decided to put them in a logical order — WWI, WWII, Vietnam — and the biggest piece of it was Elisée," he says. "Almost that entire second book was Elisée."

The photos and postcards, many written in cursive French, paint a picture of service, sacrifice, and faith. In a postcard to his parents shortly before he shipped overseas in January 1943, Elisée writes, "God, he had hardship, so why do we think we would not have a little hardship [too]?"

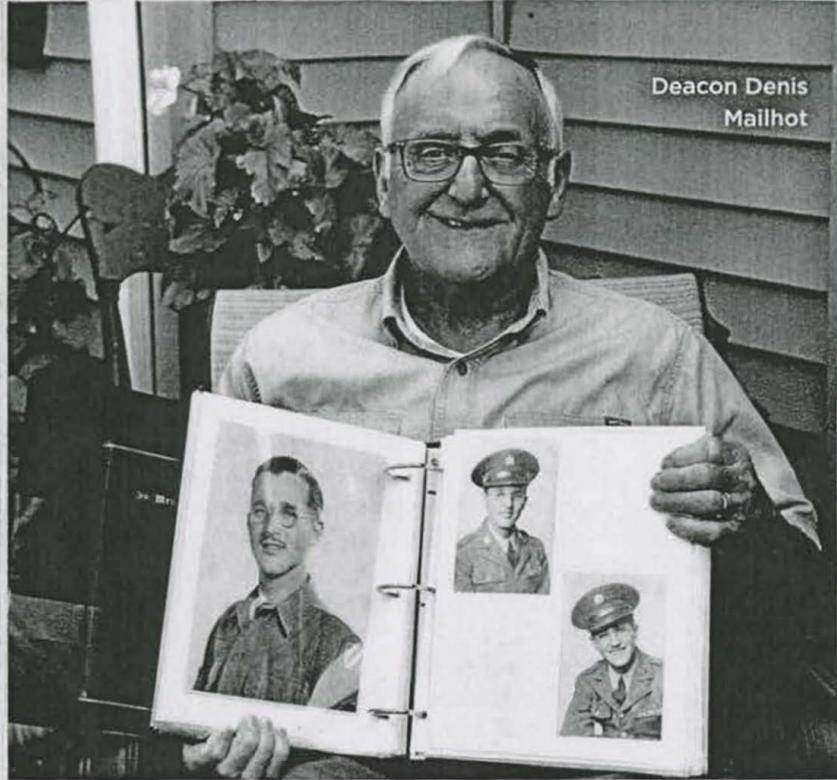
Elisée was sworn into the U.S. Army on June 9, 1942, at age 22. Born November 24, 1919, he attended St. Peter School in Lewiston and then Lewiston High School. He was active at Saints Peter & Paul Parish (now part of Prince of Peace Parish), singing in the choir and with a male choral society. He also belonged to two fraternal organizations: the Société des Défenseurs du Saint Nom de Jésus (Society for the Defenders of the Holy Name of Jesus) and the Cadets of the Catholic Order of Foresters.

"He was involved in his faith. He never missed Mass ever. If there was a chaplain doing a Mass during the war,

he was there. I'm sure," says Deacon Mailhot.

A gift of faith.





Deacon Denis Mailhot

A gift of faith FROM A WWII FOXHOLE

“A little metal crucifix as plain as it can be, but only God in heaven knows how dear it is to me.”

So begins a poem penned by a soldier more than 75 years ago, a sign of the faith he carried with him from the neighborhoods of Lewiston to the battlefields of WWII.

“I have it always with me, in every step I take, at evening when I slumber, at morning when I awake,” the poem continues.

Entitled “The Crucifix,” the poem was written by Private First Class Elisée Dutil on the beachhead of Anzio-Nettuno, Italy, in 1944. It is one of many treasures preserved by his nephew Deacon Denis Mailhot, who serves at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Auburn.

“I decided to take on this project because, for years, my mother and my aunts on the Mailhot side had meticulously kept all these pictures and postcards and photos and newspaper clippings,” he says. “Once I saw all this, I said, ‘I have to put it together. I have to do this right.’”

Deacon Mailhot began organizing the collection in 2019, but when the coronavirus struck, it gave him the time he needed to immerse himself in the project. The result was two large binders full of mementos and messages capturing his family’s history of military service, from a great uncle who

served in WWI, to uncles who served in WWII, to his own service in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War.

“I decided to put them in a logical order — WWI, WWII, Vietnam — and the biggest piece of it was Elisée,” he says. “Almost that entire second book was Elisée.”

The photos and postcards, many written in cursive French, paint a picture of service, sacrifice, and faith. In a postcard to his parents shortly before he shipped overseas in January 1943, Elisée writes, “God, he had hardship, so why do we think we would not have a little hardship [too]?”

Elisée was sworn into the U.S. Army on June 9, 1942, at age 22. Born November 24, 1919, he attended St. Peter School in Lewiston and then Lewiston High School. He was active at Saints Peter & Paul Parish (now part of Prince of Peace Parish), singing in the choir and with a male choral society. He also belonged to two fraternal organizations: the Société des Défenseurs du Saint Nom de Jésus (Society for the Defenders of the Holy Name of Jesus) and the Cadets of the Catholic Order of Foresters.

“He was involved in his faith. He never missed Mass ever. If there was a chaplain doing a Mass during the war, he was there, I’m sure,” says Deacon Mailhot.

Elisée was a member of the 7th Infantry Regiment of the 3rd Infantry Division, one of the few divisions to fight in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, France, and Germany during the war. During the invasion of Sicily, Elisée was injured in the leg, for which he was awarded the Purple Heart. He then fought at Anzio-Nettuno, a battle critical in the liberation of Rome. It was there, in a foxhole, that he began writing “The Crucifix.” Elisée dedicated the poem to his brothers in arms, urging them to also keep Christ close to their hearts.

The poem’s dedication reads, “Please soldiers, don’t forget to say every day and night, ‘My Good Lord, I offer Thee this day, or night, all I shall do or think or say, uniting it with what was done on earth by Jesus Christ, Thy Son.’”

“Elisée writes ‘The Crucifix,’ gives it to his men, so they will keep their Catholic faith, their Christian faith, strong in the worst situation that any human being could ever be put in,” says Deacon Mailhot.

“There is no selfishness in that. He’s trying to evangelize his men, the men in the foxholes in 1944. He is writing this dedication hoping they’ll remember their faith. He was concerned that if something happened to them, that they would go to heaven.”



Private First Class Elisée Dutil

*Jesus, My only strength, P.F.C. Elisée A. Dutil
Pray for me Sept 14, 43. 7th Inf. Div.
My dearest Family,
I just a few words to
let you all know, that I
am feeling fine, also I
hope this war will soon
end soon, because I am
anxious to see you all.
I am glad to hear, that you are
feeling fine. I got some good
news, and I am always
thinking about you.*

It was at Anzio-Nettuno that Elisée was wounded again, this time more seriously. He was evacuated to a hospital in North Africa where, his faith unshaken, he completed the poem. A faded, typed copy states: "I started in my foxhole and I finished in the hospital."



PFC Elisée Dutil with his parents, siblings, and sister-in-law

"These pages are what he typed on a typewriter during the war," Deacon Mailhot says, pointing to pages in the binder. "It is my hope and prayer that copies of Elisée's prayer found their way into the hands of all the soldiers 'in the foxholes' he served with, especially those who passed away into the loving and eternal embrace of God."

Elisée rejoined the 3rd Infantry Division in France, as it began the push toward Germany's

Siegfried Line. He would not, however, live to see the end of the war. He was killed in action near Zweibrücken, Germany, on March 18, 1945, less than two months before Germany surrendered.

"He paid a great price that we as a free people might continue to enjoy all those things that make life worth living. By that, he showed his intense love for us: 'Greater love than this no man hath, that a man lay down his life for his friends.' Not only our nation but our very civilization is deeply indebted to him," Lt. Col. Ralph J. Smith, a division chaplain, wrote to Elisée's father.

"These guys were the greatest generation. The only reason, I believe, that the United States of America is still here today is that generation," says Deacon Mailhot. "They sacrificed their lives."

Just weeks before his own death, Elisée received word that his mother had passed away. Deacon Mailhot says the family often said she went to get her son to end his suffering.

Originally buried in a cemetery in France, Elisée's father paid to have his son's body returned home. He is now buried in the family plot at St. Peter's Cemetery in Lewiston. It is not known whether his crucifix lies with him.

Although Elisée died before Deacon Mailhot was born, he says his uncle's faith and poem were inspirations to him as he discerned his vocation to the permanent diaconate.

"Elisée truly imitated Christ throughout much of his too brief life," he says.

Elisée's poem also inspired others beyond the battlefields. Father Mitchell Koprowski, a chaplain who told Deacon Mailhot he was with Elisée at Anzio-Nettuno when he wrote the poem, later shared it with Carmelite Nuns in North Dakota.

My Crucifix | By PFC Elisée A. Dutil

A little metal crucifix,
As plain as it can be,
But only God in Heaven knows
How dear it is to me.

I have it always with me,
In every step I take,
In evening when I slumber,
In morning when I awake.

In bright or cloudy weather,
In sunshine or in rain,
In happiness or in sorrow,
In pleasure or in pain.

It helps me in my struggles.
It reproves me when I sin.
Its look of gentle patience
Rebukes the strife within.

In days of pain and anguish,
The greatest help I knew
Was to hold the little crucifix
Until I calmer grew.

And looking at the figure,
Which hung in patience there,
I saw the dreadful torture
Which He and love did bear.

His feet are nailed together.
His loving arms outspread.
And blood is dripping slowly down
From His thorn-crowned Head.

And how then could I murmur,
Or bitterly complain,
When love for me induced Him
To undergo such pain?

So when the time approaches
That I shall have to die,
I hope that little crucifix
Will close beside me lie;

That the Holy Name of Jesus
May be the last that I shall say,
And kissing that dear crucifix
My soul may pass away.

Dedication

For the Men in the Foxholes

"Men, please don't forget, read this prayer every moment of the day, and also don't forget to say your Act of Contrition perfect, every day and night. Say also, soldiers, five times, Our Father, Hail Mary, and a Glory Be, etc. for the Holy Father and the Church.

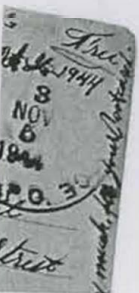
Please soldiers don't forget to say every day and night, 'My Good Lord, I offer Thee this day, or night, all I shall do or think or say, uniting it with what was done on earth by Jesus Christ Thy Son.' I wish you soldiers the best of luck and pray God will bless and protect you always."

"The sisters thought it was so wonderful that they took that prayer and made a prayer card. They distributed that in the religious order for decades," says Deacon Mailhot.

As we mark the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII, Deacon Mailhot says he hopes Elisée's story leads readers to reflect upon the sacrifices made by so many, who put others before themselves.

"It was my hope that PFC Elisée A. Dutil's prayer serves to inspire all of us that we are never alone, even during the COVID-19 pandemic, so that we may unite as one community, one state, and one nation under God," he says.

Deacon Mailhot says the Franco-American Collection at the University of Southern Maine plans to digitize and preserve the material he put together. He expressed gratitude to Doris Belisle-Bonneau, a board member of the collection, and to students in Seth Goodwin's French class at Edward Little High School in Auburn for helping to translate some of the articles and postcards from French into English. ■





Unit 1000

5/22/98

97 years old

5-22-1901

1-14-1999

Louis Sampson US Navy

Service to God & Service to Country

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Oral interview for Denis Mailhot

Name: Denis Wilfrid Mailhot

Age: 71

Place of Birth: Lewiston, Maine, St. Mary's General Hospital

Name of father: Wilfrid Seriasse Noel Mailhot

His date of birth: December 24, 1912 'Noel' (we'd always celebrate his birthday Christmas eve)

Where he was born: Lewiston, Maine

Was the father the first generation in the US? No

Name of Mother: Leona Alice (Dutil) Mailhot

Her date of birth: September 15, 1912

Where she was born: Lewiston, Maine

Was the mother the first generation in the US? Yes

Is there a family tree and if so may we have copy? Yes

Personal

Where did you grow up? My parents, older sister, Sue and I lived at my grandfather Dutil eight unit newly constructed apartment building on 141 Bartlett Street, until I was 3 years old and then we moved when my parents purchased a 2 unit apartment building on 29 Tampa Street, both in Lewiston, Maine

Was it French –speaking community? Yes

Did your parents speak French? Yes

What was it like growing up in that context? I attended Catholic school from kindergarten through high school; St. Peter's School and St. Dominic High School. In Catholic school, French class was a required during all 12 years in school. My parents spoke French at home and expected the children to also speak French. All the neighborhood families were French and French speaking. Although I did not appreciate it at the time, speaking French became a blessing when I began my banking career of 38 years as I became to 'go-to' person for bank tellers and loan officers when a French speaking customer arrived or called from Canada as most employees by then did not speak French, which I believe was because the language was not spoken at home.

What was your family life like? Family life had many highs and lows. My father worked at the Pepperell Mill on Lisbon Street all his working life until retirement. His weekly pay provided for only the bare necessities. The upstairs unit apartment house on Tampa Street provided the rent money for the mortgage, taxes, and household expenses.

My father served in Europe during WWII. He worked in Paris with the military post office. Upon returning home with his postal experience, he applied on several occasions for employment at the Lewiston Post Office and was not offered a position. He finally came to realization that positions were being offered to men returning from the war who had 'political family connections' in order to gain employment. This negative and 'deceitful, dishonest and devious' experience as my father rightfully labeled it, was never forgotten by my father his entire life because his Mailhot family was not prominent enough to have the "political connections," especially when he'd later discover that many men were being hired who had not served in the military at all during WWII.

My mother was able to stay home while the 3 children were growing up until the 3 of us were all in school at St. Peter's. She then became a 3rd grade teacher at St. Peter's school which was perfect as we'd all leave together every day walking that 1 mile back and forth to school from Tampa Street to Blake Street. We'd also all have the summer off with my mother at home. My mother took care of the household, even when working at the school. She did all 3 daily meals, prepared the school lunches, cleaned the house, washed the laundry, mended the clothes, paid the bills, collected the upstairs rent (and ironed, something lost in today's society). She did all of this while taking care of her older parents, walking back and forth to Bartlett Street sometimes daily as they became more and more elderly.

Relationship to grandparents, parents, siblings? My relationships with my parents were typical of Franco-Catholic families at that time. I was too young to ever know my father's parents, Wilfrid Mailhot Sr. and Suzanne (Doucette-her maiden name). I only recall them as a small 4-year old.

My grandmother Mailhot died at a young age, in her mid-fifties, probable due to having 10 children (2 died at birth), and raising eight as a stay at home mom on Bartlett Street doing 100% of the household work 24/7. I recall the stories that in those days, mothers would walk to the local market on Walnut and Pine streets once or twice a day to make the meals. She'd even make the meals for all her grown children as they departed for the shoe shops and mills early each morning. I also found it interesting that adult working children would turn over their weekly pay checks to their mothers and receive a small weekly stipend to spend for the week. That was the way Franco-families could provide for their families with mothers remaining at home.

My grandmother Dutil had a very similar life and experiences, raising a large family at home with her husband gone all day running a very large Bobbin Factory that supplied the bobbins to all the local shoe shops and mills. In fact, she once became so overwhelmed that she was had a nervous break-down and was temporarily institutionalized. She also died in her mid-fifties.

Grandfathers were a different story. My grandfather Mailhot was a laborer at the Lewiston Public Works as well as a Lewiston fireman. I heard many stories about him while growing up, especially since he was a small man, only about 5 feet tall and slim, would be the one who climb down a ladder into the storm drains and fill be buckets with 'stuff' that was lifted up. Quite different from today's industrial vacuum trucks.

Grandfather Dutil was a very successful businessman. After completing the 8th grade in Canada, he was sent to live with his older brother in Vermont, then with his brother in New Hampshire, finally moving to Lewiston. With a Mr. Cloutier (father of Dr. Wilfred Cloutier who was the primary surgeon at St. Mary's Hospital for several decades), he started a Bobbin Factory that was so successful that he retired at the age of 55 and built a 8 unit apartment building on Bartlett Street when he resided until his death at the age of 99½ years old.

Like my mother who passed at the age of 97, he never lost his sharp mind and knowledge. In fact, when he was at St. Mary's Nursing home near his death, he told me, "you know grandson, I'm really 100 years old as I was in my mother's womb for 9 months." In his nineties, he'd talk with me about sports, his working days and even the Viet-Nam war, which he'd say was all about oil reserves in the area, which I believe he was right-on.

Relationship with siblings. My sister Suzanne died at 50 years old after a long illness fighting depression. She always kept to herself growing up at home. She married, had 3 children and divorced with the 3 children being young. I spent many hours helping my mother helping my sister as she had a very difficult time raising 3 young children as a single mom. I'd often drive my mother to Bangor, where Sue lived, every weekend to help my sister with chores. I do regret that I did not talk with my sister more often to learn more about her illness, which I suspect I finally understood after she passed.

My brother, Claude and I were close and remain close today. He was my younger brother by about 6 years and I was the big brother who took care of him to free up my mother, especially during the summer.

Educational

What is your educational history?

- Loyola University of New Orleans, Loyola Institute for Ministry Extension Program, Master's Degree in Pastoral Ministry, 1999.
- University of Oklahoma, American Banking Association National Compliance School, 1989.
- University of Wisconsin, Bank Administration Institute, Graduate School of Banking, 1987.
- University of Maine Augusta, Bachelor Degree in Business Administration, 1985.
- Andover Institute of Business, Portland, Maine, associate degree in computer science, 1970.
- St. Dominic's Regional High School, 1966.
- SS Peter & Paul School, 1954-1962

Where did you go to school as a child? SS Peter & Paul, Bates Street, Lewiston

What about middle school? SS Peter & Paul, Bates Street, Lewiston

High school? St. Dominic High School, Bartlett St., Lewiston

{In Catholic schools back in my school days, we stayed with the same classmates throughout Grades K-12} forming life-long bonding with many classmates, even to this day.

Professional history

What did you decide to do after high school?

I had no plans on what to do after high school not being motivated during that time. In fact, since I had not achieved grades that were needed to go onto college, I was told by the school counselor to 'go work in the shoe shops or mills like many of my Franco counterparts.' I later concluded that even in 1966, if you were from a poor Franco family, menial work in shoe shops and mills were the best options, especially being French and poor. My first job after high school was in a shoe shop called 'Arno Mocassin.' I was a tack-puller. The environment was extremely face-paced, dirty, dusty, and very hot. You worked hard, no breaks, only 30 minutes for lunch, were treated with little-to-no respect by the non-French owners and foremen, and arrived home exhausted. Although I excelled pulling tacks, I lasted only 2½ days, handing my tac-puller tool to the foreman, walking out after Wednesday lunch saying to him; "here, if you can do a better job, go right ahead." There had to be more to life than working in such deplorable conditions, I thought to myself?

I later was employed at a shoe box making factory on Commercial Street in Lewiston that provided the boxes for most shoe shops in Maine. I was in shipping and receiving and began to excel in that position until I was drafted in 1969 during the Viet Nam War, which proved to be a blessing in disguised as I would develop skills and confidence in my abilities to succeed after my four year discharge from the US Navy.

What influenced you to do that?

My time in the Navy proved pivotal in what I was to accomplish during my life. I succeeded in Navy schools, received many commendations for outstanding work and work ethic from my superiors. It was in the Navy that I realized a self-awareness that I possessed a natural ability and skills for administrative, organizational and management that would later translate in an outstanding 37 year career in the financial services and banking industry. It was also in the Navy that my passion for Social Justice began to develop. At the end of my enlistment, I entered college at the University of Maine-August for earning a business degree (which took 11 years of night school to complete while working full time at the bank).

Describe your education

What were challenges? My K-12 schooling in Catholic Schools provided excellent educational opportunities, however, student help from teachers and counselors were lacking, especially if you were not in the top student category and also played sports and/or heavily involved in other activities.

AVERY

*Deacon Denis W. Mailhot, MPS
'Service to God & Service to Country'*

Introduction

I wish to say 'merci,' thank you and acknowledge the contributions of the individuals for their help and able assistance during the preparation of this historical military journey, a snapshot in our Franco American families who shared, and continue to share love of God and the love of country.

Seth Goodwin, French teacher at Edward Little High School in Auburn. Seth solicited the assistance of his French IV Group of seniors in translating several documents written during WWII from French to English. The assignment Seth gave his students provided an historical perspective of what happened to many young men similar in age back in the 1940's who found themselves graduating from high school one sunny summer day in May and coming under enemy fire in WWII a few weeks later in Europe.

French translations, written in flowing 'Cursive' handwriting, was also accomplished with the assistance of the "French-Canadian Descendants Group" as well as Doris Bonneau who provided excellent 'decoding' skills and mastery of the French language written in 'long-hand Cursive handwriting.'

As I mention in the opening paragraphs that follow, it was time during the COVID-19 Pandemic to begin this project. So what was actually behind my encouragement to begin? I discovered an awesome 2014 Franco-American Memoir, "We Were Not Spoiled," authored by Lucille Verreault Ledoux and her son, Denis Ledoux. Inside the front cover was the autograph of Denis Ledoux with an inscription that read, "I hope you write your stories." How could I resist such a direct invitation?

As I read the book, it was a mirror of the lives of my mother and father, aunts and uncles et mes grands-pères et grands-mères, les Dutil et Mailhot, large families primarily working in mills and shoe shops, with their roots as immigrants from Canada, living 'downtown' in 8 units apartment houses on Blake, Bartlett, Pierce, Walnut, Howe.

A majority of these Franco-American families attended Catholic Schools in Lewiston (and Auburn) with the Dominican Sisters, Sisters of St. Joseph and Brothers of the Sacred Heart (as I did), as active parishioners St. Peter & Paul Church (now a basilica). It was also my Franco-American story as a baby-boomer born in 1948. My 'call to arms' to document the military history of the Dutil and Mailhot families was on page 138 in 'We Were Not Spoiled' with Lucille's remark, "While we could see that the war was winding down, it was far from being over." "Every Time the newspaper came out, it seemed there was a picture of another local man who had been killed." Wow!

As I looked at the treasure of photos, postcards, and memorabilia that I had accumulated for years from my parents and aunts, the photo of PFC Eliséé A. Dutil, my mother Leona's baby brother, killed-in-action in Germany in 1944 was the impetus to move forward with this long delayed project. It was now time to become acquainted with the uncle that I'd never met. We would now share our stories on the 75th Anniversary of the End of WWII—less we forget.

Merci Lucille and Denis, Seth and Doris, ELHS French students and others for assisting with my journey through WWI, WWII and Viet Nam, never to forget the Dutil and Mailhot families who understood the true meaning of "Service to God & Service to Country"



*Diacre Denis Mailhot, MPS
July 8, 2020*

Deacon Denis W. Mailhot, MPS
'Service to God & Service to Country'

75th Anniversary of World War II

On June 6, 1944, more than 160,000 Allied troops landed along a 50-mile stretch of heavily-fortified French coastline, to fight Nazi Germany on the beaches of Normandy, France. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower called the operation a crusade in which, "we will accept nothing less than full victory." More than 5,000 Ships and 13,000 aircraft supported the D-Day invasion, and by day's end, the Allies gained a foot-hold in Continental Europe. The cost in lives on D-Day was high. More than 9,000 Allied Soldiers were killed or wounded, but their sacrifice allowed more than 100,000 Soldiers to begin the slow, hard slog across Europe, to defeat Adolf Hitler's crack troops.

September 2, 2020 marked the 75th Commemoration of the end of World War II; a war that took the lives of over 405,000 U.S. military personnel, including Catholic priests, Protestant ministers and Jewish rabbis who served as Chaplains as well as the many clergy who perished in concentration camps.

The "Mighty Mo," which now rests on the hallowed waters of Pearl Harbor, is a reminder of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in restoring peace to the world, and a somber reminder of men and women who served, died and those who never returned home, listed in history as 'MIA.'

As a veteran who served in the U.S. Navy during the Viet Nam War era, I'd been putting off a project for years to assemble an historical outline of my grandfathers, Wilfrid S. Mailhot Sr. and Alphonse Dutil, whose sons served during WWII as well as other family veterans from WWI, WWII and Viet Nam.

I'm forever grateful to my dear mother, Leona (Dutil) Mailhot, who had set aside a bounty of military documents as well as Sun Journal clippings and photos of family veterans such as my dad, Wilfrid Mailhot, Jr. as well as her brothers Raymond Dutil, and Eliséé Dutil who was killed in action in 1944. Many original military documents were carefully archived by both Mailhot and Dutil families, especially by my aunt Solange 'Sally' Mailhot documenting her brothers, Wilfrid Jr., Donat and Albert Mailhot, who served in WWII. Families were also rewarded with dozens of WWII photos taken in Europe during wartime, especially my father's abundance of photos, each with written captions, during his time in Paris, France from mid-1944 to late 1946.

I began to organize this treasure of information in early 2019. However, beginning in February 2020, faced with the onset of the *coronavirus pandemic*, with social distancing, closing of churches, limited access to stores, shops, unable to visit my children and grandchildren, and the “stay-at-home” directives, it was now the right time to complete the history of the Mailhot and Dutil sons and daughters called to serve their country.

Stories and photos, along with family memories, began to take shape in two large binders that would preserve the family history of several wars, allowing my children and grandchildren to appreciate the lives and sacrifices of their Franco-American ancestors now 75 years of distant memories.

Memoires

Taking this walk through the history of my father and mother, grandfathers and grandmothers, uncles and aunts, provided the inspiration and motivation to also share my story of how I was called to serve during Viet Nam and how that event led me to answer the Lord’s call to a religious vocation, receiving the Sacrament of Holy Orders as an ordained Deacon in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland on September 29, 2001.

The memoirs that follow are being shared for the first time. I hope, that like me, readers will come to appreciate the sacrifices that were made by so many Lewiston-Auburn Franco families, not only in my home town of Lewiston, Maine, but by all families whose fathers and mothers, grandfathers and grandmothers, sons and daughters served in times of war, away from home often for several years, wounded, killed or listed as MIA.

Biography & Chronicles

I was born on December 13, 1948 in Lewiston, Maine, receiving the Sacraments of Baptism, 1st Communion, Confirmation and Marriage at SS Peter & Paul Parish (Basilica), my home parish. I’m blessed to have been baptized on December 25th, a celebration I share with Jesus each Christmas Day. Leaving SS Peter & Paul after walking down the aisle with Jeanne M. Turgeon, the love of my life, now for 44 wonderful years and counting, we moved and purchased a home in Auburn.

We registered at nearby Sacred Heart Church, where we remain actively involved in parish life. We’ve been blessed with three wonderful children, Renee, Nicole and Joseph, along with 13 beautiful grandchildren, our *joie de vie!*

I received my schooling and 12 years of Catholic religious instruction at St. Peter's School and St. Dominic High School. I am indebted to my teachers, the Brothers of the Sacred Heart and Dominican Sisters whom I've admired and respected.

It was during these formative years that my Catholic foundation was nurtured. One of my fondest memories were the years with the school's boys' choir, '*Les Petit Chanteurs de Lewiston,*' under the direction of Brother Norbert and renowned Canadian organist Mr. Bernard Piché. The magnificent organ at SS Peters & Paul's upper church, and the English, French and Latin songs we sang during Lent, Easter and Advent seasons, especially at the Christmas Midnight Mass in the upper church with 2,500+ plus worshippers, contributed to my love of the liturgy, the Holy Eucharist and Catholic Church, nurturing a beginning and desire to serve others.

My faith continued to grow during my time serving in the U.S. Navy, often with challenges of attending Mass with conflicting work schedules. In my final year in the Navy, I consider myself quite fortunate to have served as Chaplain's Yeoman aboard an aircraft carrier. I managed the Chaplain Office, assisting two Navy Captains; Catholic priest and Protestant minister. I was in effect a 'lay pastoral associate,' responsible for staff assignments, scheduling and administration, along with daily preparations for the daily protestant service and Catholic Mass.

Banking Career

After returning home from the Navy in 1972 to begin evening classes at the University of Maine-Augusta Campus, I began a 37 year banking career at Fleet Bank of Maine, beginning at Northeast Bank of Lewiston/Auburn (formerly Northeast Bancshares Association). During that time, I held positions of Senior Vice President and Community Reinvestment Act Officer for the Maine and New Hampshire Northern New England Regions as well as AVP Internal Auditor, VP Compliance Officer and VP Operations Center Manager. Later at Community Credit Union, I assisted with Facility and Security matters and managed the Collection Department.

I retired from banking as Mortgage Loan Workout Officer at Mechanics Savings Bank, and Maine Family Credit Union as Collection Manager, all excellent community banks.

My career in the financial service industry focused on collaboration with Maine and New Hampshire regional and statewide social service and housing agencies, community action committees, minority organizations such as the NAACP and Native Americans.

Teamwork, cooperation and relationships developed into fulfilling work with community and economic development government entities, assisting low-income individuals, families and non-profits in achieving affordable housing, social and economic justice, with the goal of helping people and groups become self-sufficient.

I'm humbled to have been recognized by several organizations during my career;

- ✚ U.S. Small Business Administration's "1996 Maine Minority Small Business Advocate of the Year,"
- ✚ Maine Bar Foundation's "Governor's Special Recognition Award for leadership in establishing Maine's Interest on Lawyer's Trust Accounts (IOLTA) Program,"
- ✚ City of Portland's "Key to the City" recipient,
- ✚ Portland NAACP Chapter's "1997 Martin Luther King Jr. Award in recognition of personal support of the black community and promotion of equal opportunity in Maine," and
- ✚ Native American initiatives by providing loans and assistance with housing, economic development and financial training workshops in Maine and New Hampshire.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish (Sacred Heart Church)

Serving as the Immaculate Heart of Mary's Parish Social Ministry and Outreach Coordinator, I facilitated helping families with food insecurity, housing and fuel assistance, a natural extension and continuation of my work during my banking career, especially helping others to discover Christ in their lives, surely the most important aspect I bring to ministry, amplified during the years I served as a volunteer 9th grade religious education teacher.

My 'life' experiences formed a mindset to live a life of holiness, centered in the love of God, Jesus and Mary, with the Holy Eucharist as my foundation, always sensitive in everything asked of me, answering the Lord's call to "*who is my neighbor.*"

Over the years, past parish involvement included; 9th grade Catechist, Finance Council member, RENEW Core Team Leader, Chair, Parish Council and Worship & Spirituality Committee, and serving on Family, Church Life and Religious Education Commissions.

Current parish responsibilities include; Homebound/Shut-ins, Healthcare Institutions coordinator, Parish Social Ministry & Outreach Program Director, Pastoral Council and member of Knight of Columbus, 4th Degree Andy Valley Chapter #2173 and 3rd Degree member of Auburn Council #8742.

Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland, Maine

Past work in the diocese included serving on the Forum for Public Reasoning, Communications and Guest House Planning Committees, Steering Committee for Small Christian Communities (RENEW), and Diocesan Pastoral Council, as vice chair.

Current involvement includes on-call assignments as Catholic Hospital Chaplain, Bishop EMCEE and Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest as well as a member of the Diocese Deacon Advisory Board. I participate with Domestic Violence & Abuse and Respect Life initiatives and the Maine Right to Life Committee.

As I reflected on my past and looked to the future, my parish and Diocese involvement, banking career, community development efforts and civic activities as well as the demands of raising a family, all contributed in preparing me for something special—God’s gift of a religious vocation serving as an ordained Permanent Deacon in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland, a ministry of service and charity centered in the Lord’s call to serve, and not to be served, and with that, everything I’d do would flow from God’s love.

Viet Nam – Ordination

Pretty bizarre listing ‘Viet Nam’ and ‘ordination’ on the same line, however, there was a very specific connection and path that led me to answer the Lord’s call to a religious vocation, a call that was present early during high school, a call to a religious vocation.

Friends and family don’t know that I once spent part of a summer during high school in 1965 at the Brothers of the Sacred Heart Religious Center in Pascoag Rhode Island discerning a vocation as a religious brother.

I would have loved to teach in Catholic schools, wearing the order’s long black cassock and large Crucifix. Unfortunately, when I discovered that the African continent could be a likely teaching assignment for decades; I met with the Religious Superior and hopped on a Greyhound Bus back home to finish high school at St. Dom’s in 1966. For a teen that hadn’t been out of Maine, Africa seemed a scary place and way too far away from Maine.

After working in an Auburn shoe factory for 2½ days and a box making factory in Lewiston for a couple a years, I received a letter from President M. Richard Nixon on July 1969, informing me that I had been selected “drafted” into military service, ordered to report to Portland Maine for a physical, and to U.S. Army for basic training, all of this happening in 30 days.

Well, I wasn't going to run to Canada, although my French-Canadian roots would have served me well. I had friends and classmates already serving in Viet Nam and the call to serve my country, although during a difficult and seemingly endless and meaningless war, I choose to honor the call to duty and serve as my Mailhot and Dutil relatives had done.

Of course, I passed my physical with flying colors. I ran around Lewiston/Auburn seeking other military branches to enlist, thus avoiding the Monopoly Game's 'do not pass go, go directly to Viet Nam,' card.

I thought about joining the Marines, 'not a good fit for me.' The National Guard's, '2-year enlistment waiting period put a stop to that option.' Next, the Air Force, again, a 2-year enlistment waiting period.' Running out of time I chanced upon the U.S. Navy recruiting office.

The Navy recruiter indicated that he was interested; however, a 2-year enlistment waiting time was also the norm. Yikes! But wait, said the Navy recruiter, if I would agree to sign a 6-year enlistment contract, I could enlist right away. "Six years away from home or Viet Nam?" I said to the recruiter, I'll be back in 30 minutes and walked up the street to *SS Peter & Paul church (now our basilica), kneeling before the Blessed Sacrament* asking for help.

Returning to the recruitment office, I said, "Yes Sir" accepting the six year offer, signed the contract on August 12, 1969, and off I went the following week to Great Lakes Illinois for Navy Boot Camp. I spent 16 weeks of Navy boot camp training, and attending Mass on weekends as best as I could.

During the first week, aptitude tests were administered to all recruits. At the conclusion of training, I was called to the office to learn about my test results, my knees knocking and my heart beating way too fast. The interviewer indicated that I had received a real high grade of 137; however, a minimum grade of 140 was needed to enter a 2-year school for training as a communication technician (the reason why a 6-year enlistment had been required versus a 4-year commitment).

The interviewer mentioned that it might be difficult if I'd start the classes and then find out mid-stream that it would be too difficult to complete. I immediately said, "So what are my options?" He indicated that the Navy could tear-up my 6-year contract for a 4-year enlistment period. OKAY WITH ME!" I replied with *restrained* joy! I would instead go to a four month school in Pensacola Florida—wow I thought to myself—with more *restrained* joy.

I enjoyed Pensacola. A Chief Petty Officer was our class instructor. I'd see him occasionally at Sunday Mass (I was one of those rare sailors who actually attended Mass). One day after Mass, the Chief took me aside and said, "I don't usually tell this to anyone, but as a faithful Catholic seaman, if you finish your schooling in the top 3 of the class, you'll get to choose your next duty station!" And so, without hesitation, I applied myself in the classroom and behold, final test results showed I was 3rd in the class of 28.

A Navy officer provided a book of duty stations, listed alphabetically and said, "go ahead turn the pages and pick your duty station (*remember this is all happening in the middle of the Viet Nam war in 1969*). Azores, Aleutian Islands, small ships like the USS Pueblo or other small boats, Adak Alaska, etc. None of these options seemed appealing. I finally turned the last page and discovered with amazement 'Winter Harbor, Maine, Cutler Station,' on the last line. I said to the interviewer, "is this a misprint?" No, it's a Naval Security Station in MAINE.

"OKAY" I remarked, with even greater *restrained* joy, I'm off to Winter Harbor, Maine. Before departing, I took time to say 'thank you' to the Chief Petty Officer and my class instructor that I had met at Mass. I also took time to kneel before the Blessed Sacrament in the Pensacola Chapel saying thank you to the Holy Spirit for this gift.

Arriving in Maine, I wished that I hadn't sold my old 1963 Ford Fairlane 500 before leaving for boot camp. I enjoyed Winter Harbor and the opportunity to go home every other week, dropped off in Lewiston at the turnpike exit '13' by a fellow unit sailor who drove on to Connecticut for his 3-day home visit. He'd pick me up on his way back to Winter Harbor. The Cutler assignment gave me the opportunity to attend Mass at St. Margaret Chapel in Winter Harbor as well as home at SS Peter & Paul on a fairly regular basis.

After a 'much too short' one-year tour of duty in Winter Harbor, I was assigned to Naval Station Keflavik, Iceland. Iceland was awesome, with its two seasons; 6 months of summer with the highest temperate of 62° and constant daylight, and 6 months of winter with snow falling sideways with low temperatures nearing -30° on occasion in a constant darkness. While in Iceland, I volunteered to fly with the P3 Squadron as a military observer on 10 hour recognizance flights cruising in the North Atlantic doing that 'cold war' stuff near the Russian border.

On weekends, I'd walk to Mass and became friendly with a Master Chief Petty Officer who was my shift commander. He routinely attended Mass with his wife and children. He'd invite me over to his family's base housing to celebrate Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas family dinners.

After 11 months in Iceland, he advised my group that as the Viet Nam war was now winding-down, many of us would be reassigned to a ship for the duration of our enlistment, which in my case was for 12 more months.

I had remained a 'land-based sailor' for three years and had hoped to complete my service in Iceland. The Master Chief came to me after a work shift and said, "You're a good Catholic boy from Maine. I'll put in a good word for your next assignment, just be ready to depart at a moment's notice in the next few weeks." Two weeks later I received my orders to depart, going to a ship docked at the Norfolk, Virginia Naval Base. Off I went, a bit naïve, on a new journey from Iceland to Norfolk Virginia.

Arriving in Norfolk, I hailed a cab and told the driver to take me to the "U.S.S. John F. Kennedy, CVA67." I later discovered that she was set to sail on a Mediterranean "MED" Cruise, which allowed me to visit Palma de Mallorca Spain (Spanish Riviera), Venice, Italy, Cannes, France and Monaco during the Grand-Prix race. Wow, remarked the cab driver, "the 'JFK,' she's a brand spanking new aircraft carrier, you're lucky son." Arriving at the ship's dock, looking up in amazement at its massive size, up the gang plank I went.

I was escorted to the ship's Personnel Office, handed my orders to the clerk who remarked, "It's our new Chaplain's Yeoman!" What an assignment I thought to myself! I reported to two Chaplains, both Captains, one a Catholic priest and the other a Protestant minister. I oversaw daily set up of Catholic Mass as well as protestant services. I also managed the ship's lounge and library and received calls from ship's crew members to schedule appointments with Chaplains for medical, family, or other types of emergency leaves. I would become the 'Radar O'Reilly' of the Chaplain's office.

I was released from active duty on June 14, 1973, arrived home, and began a banking career also starting my college studies at the University of Maine's Augusta, obtaining my BA degree after 11 years (really!) of night school.

It was many years after being discharged that I finally realized that throughout my military service, it was being faithful to my Catholic faith and upbringing by a wonderful French-Catholic mother, that the Holy Spirit was the One who had led me away from the dangers of Viet Nam, guiding me to Pensacola, Winter Harbor, Iceland, and finally as Chaplain Yeoman on the USS John F. Kennedy, safe assignments during a time of war with perhaps something else that the Lord had in mind for me.

Call to the Diaconate

In 1994 I was encouraged by my Auburn pastor, Fr. Conrad, to submit an application for acceptance in a class of permanent deacons in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland, Maine. Realizing the seriousness of a call to a religious vocation, and its implications to my life and family, I asked him for time to discern and pray before delivering the application. After all, the call to serve as an ordained deacon would demand my total giving of self to the will of God. After several weeks of prayer, I finally decided to submit the application. Although feeling that I had discerned God's will, the 'doubting Thomas' in me wished to ask the Holy Spirit, one more time, for guidance. It was necessary for me to know that the diaconate was not something that I wanted, but something God had chosen for me.

On my way to deliver the application to my pastor, I paused at the rectory door, and as 'doubting Thomas' in the scriptures, I decided instead to enter the church to ask the Holy Spirit for guidance one last time. It was the 1st Friday of the month, the evening of exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, where I had spent many quiet hours alone with Jesus, asking for His guidance with that lingering call to a religious vocation.

At the precise moment I entered the rear of the church, the cantor began the Holy Hour by singing; *"Here I am Lord. It is I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart."*

Humbly thanking the Holy Spirit for that divine 'zap' message, there would be no more hesitation; the Lord was saying "Come after me." It was at that moment that I understood what the sense of being called by Christ to a religious vocation was all about. Yes, God was calling me. I had listened, discerned and responded in faith, trusting that Christ would remain by my side throughout the uncertain times ahead.

On September 29, 2001, I was ordained by Bishop Joseph Gerry, a permanent deacon in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland, Maine where I continue to serve, focused on a deacon's charism of 'service and charity,' as Parish Social Ministry and Outreach Coordinator.

* * * * *

PFC Eliseé Dutil

“The Crucifix”

PFC Eliséé Dutil and "The Crucifix"

In preparing this historical military history of the Mailhot and Dutil families, my connection with my mother's baby brother and the uncle whom I'd never met, PFC Eliséé Dutil would become a life changing event.

The similarities we shared from our family roots on Bartlett Street and upbringings at the Basilica in Lewiston were inspiring as well as emotional.

Eliséé's beginnings on Bartlett Street and his strong Catholic faith, nurtured at SS Peter & Paul Parish made the 75 years that separated us seem unimportant as I began to appreciate his short and much too brief life, a life filled with many accomplishments, especially discovering a beautiful *poem-inspired prayer* he wrote from a foxhole which he called "*My Crucifix*," written on the Anzio-Nettuno beachhead in 1944, the prayer that became my encouragement to pursue a calling later in life to a religious vocation of an ordained deacon in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland.

It is most fitting that I focused and concluded this historical military journey with the prayer, "*My Crucifix*," surely divinely inspired, along with the personal message that PFC Eliséé Dutil wrote and dedicated to his brothers-in-harm, near the end of his life.

"For the Men in the Foxholes"

*"Men, please don't forget, read this prayer every moment of the day,
and also don't forget to say your Act of Contrition
perfect, every day and night.*

*Say also, soldiers, five times, Our Father, Hail Mary, and a Glory be etc.
for the Holy Father and the Church.*

*Please soldiers don't forget to say every day and night,
'My Good Lord, I offer Thee this day, or night,'
all I shall do or think or say,*

uniting it with what was done on earth by Jesus Christ Thy Son.

*I wish you soldiers the best of luck,
and pray God will bless and protect you always."*

Author: Pfc. Eliséé A. Dutil, better known as "Frenchie," Regt'l Hq. 7th
Infantry, U.S. Army

“My Crucifix”

*A little crucifix,
As plain as it can be,
But only God in Heaven knows
How dear it is to me.*

*I have it always with me,
In every step I take;
At evening when I slumber,
At morning when I awake.*

*In bright or cloudy weather,
In sunshine or in rain:
In happiness or sorrow,
In pleasure or in pain.*

*It helps me in my struggles,
It reproves me when I sin;
Its look of gentle patience
Rebukes the strife within.*

*In days of pain and anguish,
The greatest Help I knew
Was to hold that little crucifix
Until I calmer grew;*

*And looking on that Figure,
Which hung in patience there,
I saw the dreadful torture
Which He, in Love, did bear.*

*His feet are nailed together,
His loving arms outspread,
And blood is dropping slowly down
From His thorn-crowned Head.*

*And how could I then murmur,
Or bitterly complain,
When love for me induced Him
To undergo such pain?*

*So when the time approaches
That I shall have to die,
I hope that little crucifix
Will close besides me lie;*

*That the Holy Name of Jesus
May be the last that I shall say,
And kissing that dear crucifix
My soul may pass away.*

†

Eliséé A. Dutil

During 2020, especially on Memorial Day and Veteran's Day, we celebrated the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, remembering all the brave men and brave women who *died for our freedom, our children's freedom and the world's freedom.*

It is my hope and prayer that copies of Eliséé prayer found its way into the hands of all the soldiers 'in the foxholes' he served with, especially those who passed away into the loving and eternal embrace of God.

Since the end of WWII, my mother, Leona, traded Christmas cards each December with the Catholic Priest Chaplain who had served in the same unit and become a friend with Eliséé. After my mother passed, another Christmas card arrived from the Chaplain who had not heard of her death. I decided to mail him a final Christmas card alerting him that mom had passed away a few weeks before Christmas. And to my joy and surprise, I received the following hand-written note from 'Fr. Mike:'

"Dear Denis, Leona Mailhot, a sister to Eliséé Dutil, may she rest in peace. I was on the Anzio Beachhead that Eliséé wrote that beautiful poem. The good Sisters from North Dakota {Carmelite Nuns, Carmel of Mary, Wahpeton, North Dakota}, informed about the poem, prepared a Holy Prayer Card with the "Prayer to Jesus Crucified" Ecclesiastical Approbation on the back side and the "My Crucifix" prayer on the inside, along with Eliséé A. Dutil's name as its author. I've been retired for 21 years and do offer my daily Masses for all of us, the living and the dead. I'm the oldest priest in my diocese."

I later researched Fr. Mike's priestly ministry and discovered his obituary that included: "Rev. Mitchell J. "Fr. Mike" Koprowski, 97, died Dec. 14, 2010, in his home after a long illness. *He served in the US Army as a Chaplain during World War II from 1943 to 1946, with the Third Infantry Division and was at the Anzio beachhead during the invasion of Southern France.*" I could not have asked for a better confirmation of exactly when and where my uncle, Eliseé wrote that beautiful poem and prayer.

September 2, 2020 marked the 75th Commemoration of the end of World War II. On 2020 Memorial Day, it was my hope that PFC *Eliseé A. Dutil's* prayer serves to inspire all of us that we are never alone, even during the COVID-19 pandemic, so that we may unite as one community, one state and one nation under God to work as one, collectively, to defeat this new adversary as we did 75 years ago, as one nation, when Eliseé wrote that prayer on the Anzio beachhead dedicated to the brave men and women and their families that we are now forever indebted.

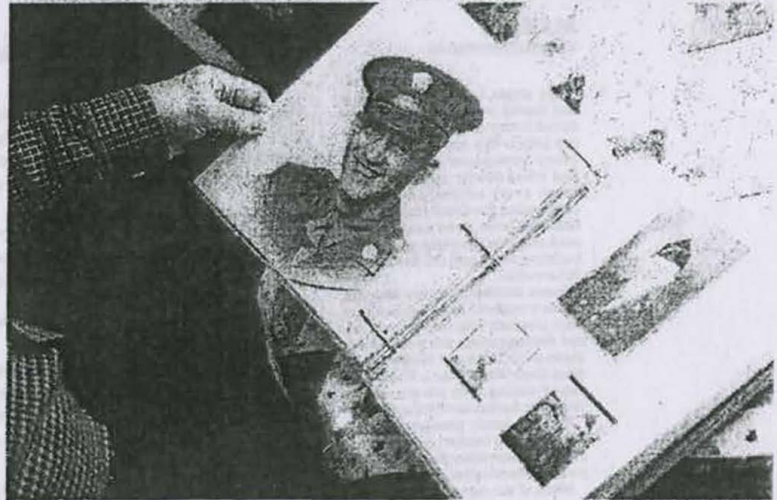
Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower called the D-Day operation a crusade in which, "we will accept nothing less than full victory." As we strive to defeat another world-wide enemy, the *coronavirus*, may we safeguard our families and friends while being mindful, respectful and considerate of the needs and struggles of everyone around us until success is attained and the virus is defeated, and the world discovers the lasting *Peace, Paix, Paz, Salam, Mir, Héping, Pace, Pax*, offered to all from the heart of Jesus Christ, and this will then be the 'full victory' for all of humanity.

My dear uncle, PFC Eliseé A. Dutil, a much belated 'may your soul rest in peace,' Your nephew, Deacon Denis Wilfrid Mailhot, MPS

The Lewiston-Auburn Veterans Council dedicated the 32nd monument on Memorial Day 2020 at the Veterans Memorial Park located on the corner of Main and Lincoln Streets, Lewiston, Maine. The monuments serve as an inspirational testament to men and women who have served our country within all branches of the U.S. military. The 32nd monument is inscribed: "Elisee A. Dutil, US Army (USA) WWII" side A, left column, 33 down. Less we forget!

MONDAY, MAY 25, 2020 » SUNJOURNAL.COM

POSTCARDS FROM THE FRONT LINES



DARYN SLOVER/SUN JOURNAL
 Denis Mailhot of Auburn turns to a picture of his father, Wilfrid Mailhot Jr., while looking through albums he put together of family who fought during World War I and World War II.

Denis Mailhot compiled a history from postcards and letters written in Europe during World War II



Denis Mailhot of Auburn has done extensive research on Elisee Dutil, the "uncle that I never met."

BY STEVE SHERLACK
 SUN JOURNAL

Elisee Dutil sent postcards home to his family in Lewiston as often as he could during his nearly three years of service in Europe during World War II.

Written in cursive French, the postcards reveal the life of an American soldier on the front lines.

Dutil saw his first action in the North Africa campaign. His division took part in the invasion of Sicily.

He was on the beachhead at Anzio, Italy. Once Rome was captured, he shifted to southern France and marched toward Germany.

Dutil, who was wounded on three separate occasions and received the Purple Heart with Gold Clusters, was fatally wounded at Zweibrücken, Germany, where Allied troops finally smashed past the famed Siegfried Line.

He died March 18, 1945, less than two months before Germany surrendered.

See MAILHOT Page A4

POSTCARDS FROM THE FRONT LINES

MAILHOT

SUN JOURNAL • MONDAY, MAY 25, 2020

Continued from Page A1

His sister Leona (Dutil) Mailhot saved every postcard. She saved every photograph and every letter. She cut out and saved every newspaper clipping. She and other family members even saved every military document concerning the Dutil and Mailhot families, who lived next door to each other in the same apartment building at 141 and 148 Bartlett St. in Lewiston.

Denis Mailhot, Leona's son and Elisee's nephew, has compiled that vast treasure into two huge binders documenting the service records of his Dutil and Mailhot relatives from World War I, World War II and ending with his service in the Navy during the Vietnam War.

"This is really precious," Mailhot, a retired banker, said. "When I started assembling this stuff I had no idea how detailed it was."

Much of the second binder focuses on his uncle Elisee Dutil. Born in Lewiston in 1919, Elisee was raised on Bartlett Street, attended St. Peter's School, worked at Bates Manufacturing and worshipped up the street at SS Peter and Paul Parish, now the basilica. The Catholic church was an important part of his family's life. He belonged to the church choir and a French male choral society.

At age 22 in 1942, he enlisted in the Army. One newspaper clipping shows Elisee with other recruits in front of the post office.

"They would take the picture in front of the post office, then get on the bus and away they went," Mailhot said. "The guys got on the bus and had no idea what's going to happen for the next two to three years."

After training at Fort Meade in Maryland, Elisee arrived in England by ship in January 1943. He was soon deployed to North Africa. He was wounded the first time during the invasion of Sicily. He suffered a second wound in early 1944 during the Battle of Anzio on the coast of Italy.

While on the benchhood at Anzio, Elisee wrote a 40-line poem, "My Crucifix," and dedicated it to the men in the foxholes.

Many years later, the Rev. Mike Koprowski, who was the Army chaplain for the Third Infantry Division, confirmed to Mailhot in a letter that he was in one of the foxholes on Anzio beach when Elisee wrote the poem. He added that the poem was later printed on a prayer card with Elisee's name as author.

It was the existence of that poem and family's strong Catholic upbringing that sparked Denis Mailhot's passion to become an ordained deacon.

"My Crucifix"

By Elisee A. Dutil

A little crucifix,
As plain as I can be,
But only God in Heaven knows
How dear it is to me.

I have it always with me,
In every step I take,
At evening when I slumber,
At morning when I awake.

In bright or cloudy weather,
In sunshine or in rain
In happiness or sorrow,
In pleasure or in pain.

It helps me in my struggles,
It reproves me when I sin,
Its look of gentle patience
Rebukes the sinner within.

In days of pain and anguish,
The greatest help I knew
Was to hold that little crucifix
Until I calmly grew,

And looking on that figure,
Which hung in patience there,
I saw the dreadful torture
Which He, in love, did bear.

His feet are nailed together,
His loving arms outspread,
And blood is drooping slowly
Down
From His thorn-crowned head.

And how could I then murmur,
Or bitterly complain,
When love for me induced Him
To undergo such pain?

So when the time approaches
That I shall have to die,
I hope that little crucifix
Will close beside me here;

From the Holy name of Jesus
May be the fact that I shall say
And kissing that dear crucifix
My soul may pass away.

Message from the Division Commander

Major Gen. John W. O'Daniel

On this Memorial Day of 1945, the Third Division remembers you for the contribution you have made to America and all it stands for in the last of your loved ones.

These things are hard to understand, but in a war such as this one where the gain to be had was so great and the destruction of the evil force so necessary, great sacrifice was inevitable.

We who are living know that the success of the Division and our own very existence is due mainly to those who unselfishly gave their lives in battle. This realization will be with us always.

Now that the German Army is destroyed, you can well feel proud that through your great contribution, our nation may live as intended, in freedom and goodness.

As Division Commander of the Third Division, I speak from the bottom of my heart for all of us when I say: be of good cheer and be proud that this sacrifice makes it possible for our country to be great and free forever.

While in Italy, Elisee ran into his cousin and next-door neighbor Donat Mailhot. There are a couple of photos in the binder of that brief reunion.

Elisee then accompanied the Third Infantry Division to southern France to begin the final push into Germany. During a fierce battle after crossing the German border near Zweibrucken, shrapnel from an artillery shell struck near

Elisee's position, wounding him for a third time. He never recovered from those serious wounds.

Family lore says his mother, Odile, who had died in Lewiston a month earlier, had seen Elisee suffer enough.

"Because he was wounded three times," Mailhot said, "it was always said that she came back to get her son."

Elisee was originally buried in

France. A year later, his father, Alphonse, paid to have his body exhumed and sent back home to be buried at the family plot at St. Peter's Cemetery. His name is included on the new granite stone placed in Veterans' Memorial Park in Lewiston.

In addition to Elisee's story, told in letters, postcards, pictures and documents, the two binders compiled by Mailhot contain the biography of his grandfathers, Wilfrid Mailhot and Alphonse Dutil, in World War I and their sons, including Elisee and Denis' father, Wilfrid Mailhot Jr., who all fought in World War II.

All of the photos are documented and a series of photos show a pictorial history of Paris in the mid-1940s. The original documents include the actual letter informing his relatives of Elisee's death.

"My mother died 12 years ago," Mailhot said. "I dug out all the stuff that she had saved. That's when I decided that this has to be recorded. I want my children and my grandchildren to go through this one day."

The biggest challenge was deciphering the postcards, written in cursive French with lines squeezed together to fit as much as possible on them. Mailhot reached out to the University of Southern Maine Franco-American Collection in Lewiston and a French teacher at Edward Little High School.

"It was difficult. They were hard to read," said Doris Belisle-Bonneau, a board member of the Franco collection. "When you read them aloud it was interesting picking up the phonetic expressions. The themes consisted of belonging and family. That kind of sadness of being so far away."

Seth Goodwin had his French IV class at Edward Little High School in Auburn picked away at the project for a couple of months trying to translate the postcards and newspaper clippings from the Le Messager, a French newspaper based in Lewiston. The 13 students worked in teams to decipher the various writings.

The students, not much younger than Elisee was when he went to war, were touched by all that he went through overseas, "learning about the combat experience and the many tours that he did, putting his life on hold for his country," Goodwin said.

The USM Franco-American Collection plans to digitize the two binders for their archives.

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Postcards from the front lines sent home to Lewiston family reveal World War II history

SJ [sunjournal.com/2020/05/24/postcards-from-the-front-lines/](https://www.sunjournal.com/2020/05/24/postcards-from-the-front-lines/)

By Steve SherlockSun Journal

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He died March 18, 1945, less than two months before Germany surrendered.

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At age 22 in 1942, he enlisted in the Army. One newspaper clipping shows Elisee with other recruits in front of the post office.

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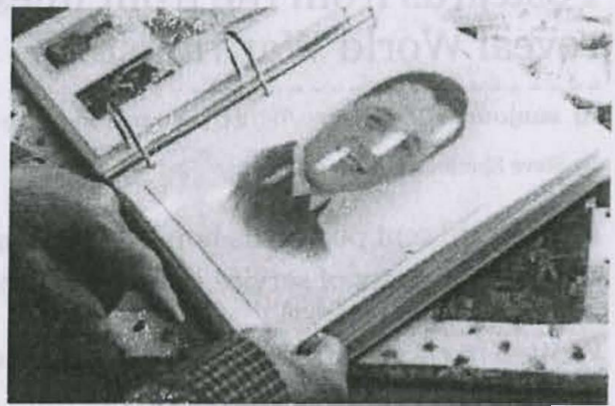
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Denis Mailhot believes that this is Elisee Dutil's high school picture. *Daryn Slover/Sun Journal*
Buy this Photo



Denis Mailhot of Auburn turns to a picture of his father, Wilfrid Mailhot Jr., while looking through albums that he put together of family that fought during the two World Wars. *Daryn Slover/Sun Journal* Buy this Photo

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Elisee Dutil, back center underneath the blue arrow, stood in front of the U.S. Post Office on Ash Street in Lewiston with other draftees before getting on the bus and heading into the U.S. Army on June 9, 1942. *Daryn Slover/Sun Journal Buy this Photo*

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By Elisee A. Dutil

A little crucifix,

As plain as it can be,

But only God in Heaven knows

How dear it is to me.

I have it always with me,

In every step I take;

At evening when I slumber,

At morning when I awake.

In bright or cloudy weather,

In sunshine or in rain:

In happiness or sorrow,

In pleasure or in pain.



Denis Mailhot looks through the albums that document his family’s military history. *Daryn Slover/Sun Journal Buy this Photo*

*It helps me in my struggles,
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His feet are nailed together,
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And blood is dropping slowly down
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And how could I then murmur,
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*Say also, soldiers, five times,
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all I shall do or think or say,
uniting it with what was done on earth by Jesus Christ Thy Son.*

*I wish you soldiers the best of luck,
and
pray God will bless and protect you always”*

Author: Pfc. Eliséé A. Dutil, better known as “Frenchie,”
Regt'l Hq. 7th Infantry, U.S. Army

That the Holy Name of Jesus

May be the last that I shall say,

And kissing that dear crucifix

My soul may pass away.

Message from the Division Commander

Maj. Gen. John W. O'Daniel

On this Memorial Day of 1945, the Third Division remembers you for the contribution you have made to America and all it stands for in the lost of your loved ones.

These things are hard to understand, but in a war such as this one where the gain to be had was so great and the destruction of the evil force so necessary, great sacrifice was inevitable.

We who are living know that the success of the Division and our own very existence is due mainly to those who unselfishly gave their lives in battle. This realization will be with us always.

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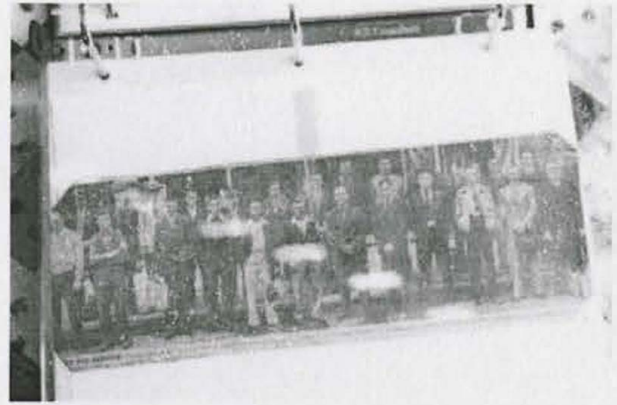
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Daryn Slover/Sun Journal

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Author: Pfc. Eliséé A. Dutil, better known as “Frenchie,”
Regt’l Hq. 7th Infantry, U.S. Army

AVERY

WORLD
WAR
I

WWI - U.S. Army

Adelard Dutil

Brother of Alphonse Dutil (Denis Mailhot's grandfather and Leona Dutil-Mailhot's (Denis mother) father). Adelard was Leona's uncle. Adelard is the father of Madge Dutil-Gardner and Don Dutil (worked at the Bates Mill office)



Ultra-Pro Ultra

PLASTICUM
Ultraviolet-Resistant
Acid-Resistant, Etc.

Ultra-Pro

Ultra-Pro



ARONDEAU

LYON



Couvent de St. Joseph,
St. Hyacinthe, Que.

Bonne Année et
Affectueux
Souvenir



(M)
767



ARCHIL JUNG

LEST YOU FORGET

Bidart, Haïme. Aret 3/1919.
 Mademoiselle Mido Côté.
 Je reviens de votre séjour à la Côte. Je me fais le plaisir et le devoir
 de vous écrire ces quelques mots. Après
 avoir fait ma relation avec les parents
 je suis allé à avoir pris conseil auprès de
 mes parents et de personnes plus âgées
 que moi. J'ai décidé de continuer avec
 les études classiques en septembre prochain.
 Je prie Dieu que le succès vous soit
 donné et il vous plait de bien vouloir m'en
 mander si au cas vous avez des vues sur moi pour
 l'avenir. Tout fait d'espérer que vous resterez
 avec moi quand à moi je le suis et resterais toujours.
 De plus je prie le bon maître de vous tenir au courant
 de ce que je fais. Je suis présent et futur. Veuillez
 agréer mes respects et sentiments les plus
 affectueux. Votre très respectueux, Alphonse Berger



Aditand
 MADE IN FRANCE

CARTES POSTALES
 Adresse
 Adressé



MADE IN FRANCE

AVERY

Section III

**WORLD
WAR
II**

AVERY

Section IV

Donat Mailhot

**WWII – U.S. Army - Donat G. Mailhot
(Wilfrid Mailhot Jr.'s brother and Denis Mailhot's uncle)**



**Donat and fellow soldiers,
'Monte' & 'Pavaloski'**



**Donat G. Mailhot
Italy, January 18, 1944**



**Donat and friend near
barracks**



**Donat and Elisee Dutil
meeting in Italy, July 1944**

Buon
Natale



Ultra-pro Ultra

PERMANENTI
U.S. Patent No. 2,147,800
and Dec. 11, 1939

Ultra-pro

Ultra-Pro

Ultra-Pro

Donat

Gifts and Post
Cards for Christmas
and the
New Year

July Dec. 1944

Stamp
in
place

Mittente
Gitta
Via

F241

Donat + Bill

Donat Mailhot
Postal Det 1

VIA AIA - II Molo.
Pfc. Donat Mailhot 31116597
Co. B 310 Engr. Bn.
A.P.O. 85 Co. Post. N.Y. N.Y.

Hi Bill
Here is a card of venese
I was there yesterday it a
place for the millionaire
and the sucker, and these
daigo try to make sucker
out of everybody. Here two
boys are leaving tomorrow
on point, I expect my turn
pretty soon. This country
here is just no good.

Donat May 29 1945

FREE

31398257

Pvt. Wilfrid Mailhot

Det. E. 1 st. Base Post
Office

A.P.O. 640
U.S. Army

11th B. Co. Det. E.

Postal Det - D.

F241

Donat Mailhot
Postal

Postcard, dated November 20, 1943; postmarked November 22, 1943

From: Donat G. Mailhot, D012, Ordinance, Company Airforce, A.P.O. 528, c/o Postmaster, New York, N.Y.

To: Wilfrid Mailhot, Jr., (Denis Mailhot's father) Company E, 242nd Infantry, A.P.O. 411, 42nd Division, Camp Gruber, Oklahoma.

"Italy, Nov. 20, 1943. I am fine, but the infantry up front are having a hard time, its' been raining for a week, and the men and the mules are up in the mud to their neck." Donat (Wilfrid's brother).



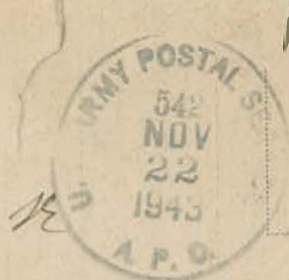
Postmaster General
Department of War
Washington, D.C.

Postmaster
A.P.O. 528
New York, N.Y.

Italy - Nov. 20, 1943

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infantry up front are
having a hard time
it's been raining for
a week, and the men
and the mules are up
in the mud to their neck.
Donat

NOTANTE

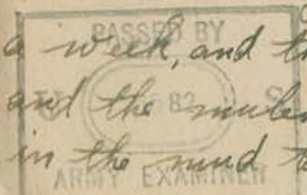


FREE

Post. #

Wilfrid Mailhot Sr.
Co. E
Hq. Co. 242 Infantry
A.P.O. 411 - 42nd Division
Camp. Gruber Transf.
Co. E 242nd

Oklahoma 12-13-43 #4



AV 5714

Section V

Albert Mailhot

WWII – U.S. Army - Albert Mailhot

(Wilfrid Mailhot Jr.'s brother and Denis Mailhot's uncle)



**Standing in front of home entrance, 143 Bartlett Street, Lewiston, Maine
on leave after Boot Camp - 1942**



**Albert Mailhot standing in
Front of 143 Bartlett, Lewiston
(Mailhot family lived on 2nd floor
apartment for 87 years)
{Albert is Wilfrid's & Donat's
brother}**

**Albert Mailhot in front of 143 Bartlett St.
with oldest sibling, Alexina Mailhot who
later on married Eugene Hamann.**





SEPARATION QUALIFICATION RECORD

SAVE THIS FORM. IT WILL NOT BE REPLACED IF LOST

This record of job assignments and special training received in the Army is furnished to the soldier when he leaves the service. In its preparation, information is taken from available Army records and supplemented by personal interview. The information about civilian education and work experience is based on the individual's own statements. The veteran may present this document to former employers, prospective employers, representatives of schools or colleges, or use it in any other way that may prove beneficial to him.

1. LAST NAME—FIRST NAME—MIDDLE INITIAL			MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL ASSIGNMENTS		
MAILHOT ALBERT A			10. MONTHS	11. GRADE	12. MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY
2. ARMY SERIAL No.	3. GRADE	4. SOCIAL SECURITY No.	2	Pvt	Basic Military Training (521)
31 101 209	Sgt		42	Sgt	Baker (617)
5. PERMANENT MAILING ADDRESS (Street, City, County, State)					
153 Bartlett Lewiston, Maine					
6. DATE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE		7. DATE OF SEPARATION		8. DATE OF BIRTH	
7 Apr 1942		15 Dec 1945		7 Oct 1911	
9. PLACE OF SEPARATION					
AAFRS #4, AAB, Santa Ana, Calif.					

SUMMARY OF MILITARY OCCUPATIONS

13. TITLE—DESCRIPTION—RELATED CIVILIAN OCCUPATION
<p><u>BAKER:</u></p> <p>General baking in camp bakeries. Weighs ingredients, mixes dough. Baking of pies, cakes, and bread. Ordered supplies. Kept records.</p>

MILITARY EDUCATION

14. NAME OR TYPE OF SCHOOL—COURSE OR CURRICULUM—DURATION—DESCRIPTION

CIVILIAN EDUCATION

15. HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED

8th Grade

16. DEGREES OR DIPLOMAS

17. YEAR LEFT SCHOOL

1927

OTHER TRAINING OR SCHOOLING

20. COURSE—NAME AND ADDRESS OF SCHOOL—DATE

21. DURATION

NYA Training School
1937 (machinist)

2 months

18. NAME AND ADDRESS OF LAST SCHOOL ATTENDED

Lewiston Grammar School
Lewiston, Maine

19. MAJOR COURSES OF STUDY

General

CIVILIAN OCCUPATIONS

22. TITLE—NAME AND ADDRESS OF EMPLOYER—INCLUSIVE DATES—DESCRIPTION

BAKER:

For 6 years (1936-1942), worked for F. R. LePages Bakery, Lewiston, Maine. Doughnut baker. Weighed ingredients, mixed dough and used doughnut cutter to cut doughnuts. Cooked doughnuts. Did general bakery work. Baking bread, cakes, and rolls.

LINING CUTTER:

For 2 years (1934-1936), worked for Cushnan-Hollis Co, Auburn, Maine. Both hand and machine cutter. Cut entire lining for womens shoes.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

23. REMARKS

24. SIGNATURE OF PERSON BEING SEPARATED

Albert A. Maillet

25. SIGNATURE OF SEPARATION CLASSIFICATION OFFICER

S. H. Shultz

26. NAME OF OFFICER (Typed or Stamped)

S. H. SHULTZ, 1st Lt., AC

ENLISTED RECORD AND REPORT OF SEPARATION HONORABLE DISCHARGE

1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE INITIAL Mailhot Albert A			2. ARMY SERIAL NO. 31 101 209		3. GRADE SGT AC		4. ARM OR SERVICE AUS		
6. ORGANIZATION 1040th AAF Base Unit			7. DATE OF SEPARATION 15 Dec 45		8. PLACE OF SEPARATION AAF Separation Base Santa Ana Calif				
9. PERMANENT ADDRESS FOR MAILING PURPOSES (Androscoggin Co) 153 Bartlett St Lewiston Me					10. DATE OF BIRTH 7 Oct 11		11. PLACE OF BIRTH Lewiston Me		
12. ADDRESS FROM WHICH EMPLOYMENT WILL BE SOUGHT See 9					13. COLOR EYES Hazel		14. COLOR HAIR Brown		
16. RACE X WHITE		19. MARITAL STATUS X SINGLE		20. U.S. CITIZEN XX YES		15. HEIGHT 5'11"		17. NO. DEPEND. None	
18. RACE X NEGRO		19. MARITAL STATUS X OTHER (specify)		20. U.S. CITIZEN XX NO		21. CIVILIAN OCCUPATION AND NO. Baker 4-01.400			

MILITARY HISTORY

22. DATE OF INDUCTION 7 Apr 42		23. DATE OF ENLISTMENT 7 Apr 42		24. DATE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE 7 Apr 42		25. PLACE OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE Portland Me	
SELECTIVE SERVICE DATA X YES		27. LOCAL R.S. BOARD NO. 2		28. COUNTY AND STATE Androscoggin Me		29. HOME ADDRESS AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE See 9	
30. MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY AND NO. Baker 017				31. MILITARY QUALIFICATION AND DATE (i.e., Infantry, aviation and marksmanship badges, etc.) None			
32. BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS None							
33. DECORATIONS AND CITATIONS American Theater Ribbon Good Conduct Medal Victory Medal							
34. WOUNDS RECEIVED IN ACTION None							
35. LATEST IMMUNIZATION DATES				36. SERVICE OUTSIDE CONTINENTAL U.S. AND RETURN			
SMALLPOX 14 Aug 45		TYPHOID 21 Nov 44		TETANUS 5 Jul 44		DATE OF DEPARTURE None	
				OTHER (specify) YFever 18 Sep 44 Cholera 14 Aug 45		DESTINATION None	
				38. HIGHEST GRADE HELD SGT		DATE OF ARRIVAL None	
37. CONTINENTAL SERVICE YEARS MONTHS DAYS 3 8 9		FOREIGN SERVICE YEARS MONTHS DAYS 0 0 0					
39. PRIOR SERVICE None							
40. REASON AND AUTHORITY FOR SEPARATION AR 615-365 Ltr HQ AAF SUBJ: AAF Separation Bases dtd 6 Sep 45 and Ltr WDGP SUBJ: Disch of Surplus Enl Pers in 201 dtd 22 Sep 45							
41. SERVICE SCHOOLS ATTENDED None						42. EDUCATION (Years) Grammar High School College 8 0 0	


PAY DATA

43. LONGEVITY FOR PAY PURPOSES YEARS MONTHS DAYS 3 8 9			44. MUSTERING OUT PAY TOTAL THIS PAYMENT \$ 200. \$ 100.		45. SOLDIER DEPOSITS None		46. TRAVEL PAY \$ 170.85		47. TOTAL AMOUNT, NAME OF DISBURSING OFFICER \$306.65 J. A. MILTON LT. COL. AC.	
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INSURANCE NOTICE

IMPORTANT IF PREMIUM IS NOT PAID WHEN DUE OR WITHIN THIRTY-ONE DAYS THEREAFTER, INSURANCE WILL LAPSE. MAKE CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO THE TREASURER OF THE U. S. AND FORWARD TO COLLECTIONS SUBDIVISION, VETERANS ADMINISTRATION, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

48. KIND OF INSURANCE Nat. Serv. U.S. Govt. None X			49. HOW PAID Allotment Direct to V. A. X		50. Effective Date of Allotment Discontinuance 30 Dec 1945		51. Date of Next Premium Due (One month after 50) 30 Jan 1945		52. PREMIUM DUE EACH MONTH \$ 3.65		53. INTENTION OF VETERAN TO Continue Continue Only Discontinue X		
---	--	--	---	--	--	--	---	--	--	--	---	--	--

 RIGHT THUMB PRINT	54.		55. REMARKS (This space for completion of above items or entry of other items specified in W. D. Directives) Lapel Button Issued Adjusted Service Rating Score 41 (2 Sep 45)								
	56. SIGNATURE OF PERSON BEING SEPARATED Albert A. Mailhot					57. PERSONNEL OFFICER (Type name, grade and organization - signature) L E GLOVER 1st Lt AC 1040th AAF HI					



Honorable Discharge

This is to certify that

ALBERT A MAILHOT 31 101 209 SERGEANT

1040th ARMY AIR FORCE BASE UNIT

Army of the United States

*is hereby Honorably Discharged from the military
service of the United States of America.*

*This certificate is awarded as a testimonial of Honest
and Faithful Service to this country.*

Given at AAF SEPARATION BASE
SANTA ANA CALIFORNIA

Date 15 DECEMBER 1945

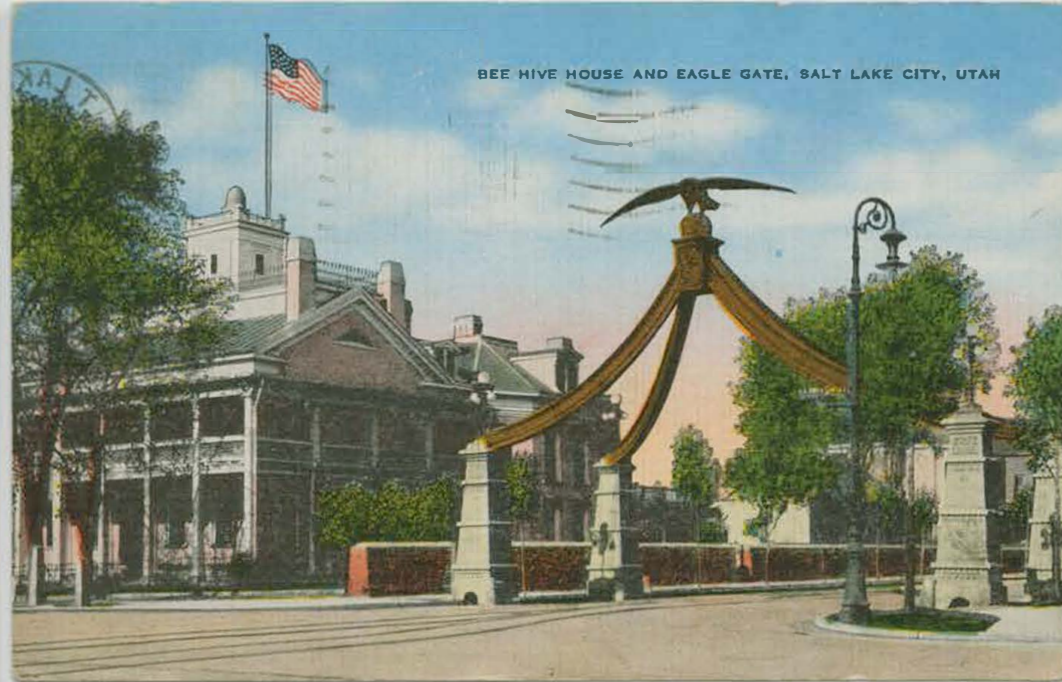
Frederic S Hanson

FREDERIC S HANSON
MAJOR AIR CORPS

OPEN AIR FISH MARKET ON OCEAN FRONT, NEWPORT BEACH, CALIFORNIA—49



BEE HIVE HOUSE AND EAGLE GATE, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH



633 Mt. San Jacinto from Devil's Garden, California



7A-H3825

134—Dogwood in Bloom, Atlanta, Ga.



© PHOTOGRAPH BY EDGAR ORR

OB-H1292

9/14/45
Eagle Gate—established at the entrance to Brigham Young's estate—is preserved as a marker of that day in which he ruled unopposed over the destiny of Utah. The Lion and Beehive houses are all that remain of those structures which once crowded that terraced plot where centered the community activities of early days.

Dear Jeana,
How are you? and how is Bill? I don't know how you and Lin get on. So far as I am all right and I feel fine, and your Texas, how is he? and Del? It is like I said, I can't stay out here. I am staying out. As usual. About my
Jeniston Wain
141 Bartlett St.
Jeniston Wain

31101209
O.R.D.
Post Card
PLACE ONE CENT STAMP HERE

5/8/44
ATLANTA — The Dogwood City
Thousands of Dogwood Trees line Atlanta's streets and make the city a veritable garden in the Spring.
Dear Jeana,
I don't know how you and Bill get on. So far as I am all right and I feel fine, and your Texas, how is he? and Del? It is like I said, I can't stay out here. I am staying out. As usual. About my
Jeniston Wain
141 Bartlett St.
Jeniston Wain

31101209
O.R.D.
Post Card
PLACE ONE CENT STAMP HERE

Dec. 1st 1945
Dear Jeana,
I just wrote Bill that I will be home for Christmas and for good, I hope he doesn't feel too bad about it, but I guess that he himself will be home for Christmas anyway, at least I hope so, well I'll see you later, about
Jeniston Wain
141 Bartlett St.
Jeniston Wain

31101209
O.R.D.
Post Card
PLACE ONE CENT STAMP HERE

DEC. 5, 1945
Dear Bill,
Just a word to let you know that I will start processing my discharge, next Monday the 19, the next morning I write to you will be home. I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a quick return home, will so waiting for you.
Your
Jeniston Wain

31101209
O.R.D.
Post Card
PLACE ONE CENT STAMP HERE

PRO Ultra PRO
1.1

PLATINUM
Lenses
and Elements
of Domestic Origin

Ultra PRO



PALACE OF FINE ARTS, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.---26

606 THE PANCOAST HOTEL, MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA



9-2261

PRO Ultra PRO

Oct. 25 1945

of Albert Wainwright - 31101207

Built in 1915 as a part of the Panama Pacific International Exposition, this is the only building remaining to recall this famous San Francisco Fair. It is one of the finest pieces of architecture in the country.

18805
59 W. 104th St. S.H.A.R.
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.
EDWARD R. STERNBERG, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.
CAMPBELL IN U.S.A. BY E.C. KROPP CO. MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. 26 P.M.

PLACE STAMP HERE
ARMY AIR BASE
K C

POST CARD

Dear Leona:
I just finished writing to Bert and I told him that you were a very good and nice girl and waiting for him, I hope that you don't mind I was. And thank for the nice letter that you send me it was very nice and sweet of you.
Albert

Miss Leona Dutil
142 Bartlett St.
Lewiston Maine

Mr. Leona

POST CARD

FREE

I thank you very much for your Christmas card it was swell of you to think of me. Over here it is swell and I am all right and I hope you are too. Miami is a nice place but I am
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P.R.C. Albert Wainwright
5767th T.S.S. (S.F.)
Miami Beach Fla.

PLACE ONE CENT STAMP HERE

Miss Leona Dutil
141 Bartlett St.
Lewiston Maine

MIAMI, FLA. FEB 3 8:50PM 1943

BONDS AND SAVINGS
BUY U.S. SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS

THIS SPACE FOR WRITING MESSAGES

AVERY

Section VI

Wilfrid S. Mailhot

Denis Mailhot's father

Wilfrid was born and raised in Lewiston. He lived at 143 Bartlett St., Lewiston, Maine with his father, Wilfrid Sr. (LFD) and mother Suzanne (homemaker) and siblings, brothers; Willie, Donat, Albert and Fernand Mailhot, sisters: Alexina Hamann, Blanche Cloutier, Marie Anne Rancourt (husband KIA WWII) Solange Mailhot, and Yvette Mailhot. After WWII, Wilfrid Jr. married Leona A. Dutil who lived at 141 Bartlett St. Lewiston. They purchased a home on 29 Tampa St, next to the former 'Lewiston Lumber Co.' They had three children; Suzanne (named after her grandmother Mailhot), Denis and Claude.

"Bill" as he was called, worked most of his life at the Pepperell Mill until his retirement (Lewiston "The Bleachery" & Dye Works). Pepperell provided finishing operations for associated Lewiston mills.

He was drafted in the Army late in WWII and spent nearly all his active duty in Paris, France:

- ❖ August 24, 1943 – Drafted into the Army
- ❖ March 4, 1944 – Came home on furlough
- ❖ March 9, 1944 – engaged to Leona Dutil
- ❖ March 12, 1944 – When back to Camp Philippy
- ❖ March 31, 1944 – Received a postcard with A.P.O. 79 c/o Post Office in New York



MONDAY, MAY 25, 2020 • SUNJOURNAL.COM

POSTCARDS FROM THE FRONT LINES



DARYN SLOVER/SUN JOURNAL

Denis Mailhot of Auburn turns to a picture of his father, Wilfrid Mailhot Jr., while looking through albums he put together of family who fought during World War I and World War II.

Denis Mailhot compiled a history from postcards and letters written in Europe during World War II



Denis Mailhot of Auburn has done extensive research on Elisee Dutil, the "uncle that I never met."

BY STEVE SHERLOCK
SUN JOURNAL

Elisee Dutil sent postcards home to his family in Lewiston as often as he could during his nearly three years of service in Europe during World War II.

Written in cursive French, the postcards reveal the life of an American soldier on the front lines.

Dutil saw his first action in the North Africa campaign. His division took part in the invasion of Sic-

ily. He was on the beachhead at Anzio, Italy. Once Rome was captured, he shifted to southern France and marched toward Germany.

Dutil, who was wounded on three separate occasions and received the Purple Heart with Gold Clusters, was fatally wounded at Zweibrücken, Germany, where Allied troops finally smashed past the famed Siegfried Line.

He died March 18, 1945, less than two months before Germany surrendered.

See MAILHOT Page A4

MAILHOT

Continued from Page A1

His sister Leona (Dutil) Mailhot saved every postcard. She saved every photograph and every letter. She cut out and saved every newspaper clipping. She and other family members even saved every military document concerning the Dutil and Mailhot families, who lived next door to each other in the same apartment building at 141 and 143 Bartlett St. in Lewiston.

Denis Mailhot, Leona's son and Elisee's nephew, has compiled that vast treasure into two huge binders documenting the service records of his Dutil and Mailhot relatives from World War I, World War II and ending with his service in the Navy during the Vietnam War.

"This is really precious," Mailhot, a retired banker, said. "When I started assembling this stuff I had no idea how detailed it was."

Much of the second binder focuses on his uncle Elisee Dutil. Born in Lewiston in 1919, Elisee was raised on Bartlett Street, attended St. Peter's School, worked at Bates Manufacturing and worshiped up the street at SS Peter and Paul Parish, now the basilica. The Catholic church was an important part of his family's life. He belonged to the church choir and a French male choral society.

At age 22 in 1942, he enlisted in the Army. On a newspaper clipping shows Elisee with other recruits in front of the post office.

"They would take the picture in front of the post office, then get on the bus and away they went," Mailhot said. "The guys got on the bus and had no idea what's going to happen for the next two to three years."

After training at Fort Meade in Maryland, Elisee arrived in England by ship in January 1943. He was soon deployed to North Africa. He was wounded the first time during the invasion of Sicily. He suffered a second wound in early 1944 during the Battle of Anzio on the coast of Italy.

While on the benchhead at Anzio, Elisee wrote a 40-line poem/prayer, "My Crucifix," and dedicated it to the men in the foxholes.

Many years later, the Rev. Mike Koprowski, who was the Army chaplain for the Third Infantry Division, confirmed to Mailhot in a letter that he was in one of the foxholes on Anzin beach when Elisee wrote the poem. He added that the poem was later printed on a prayer card with Elisee's name as author.

It was the existence of that poem and family's strong Catholic upbringing that sparked Denis Mailhot's passion to become an ordained deacon.

"My Crucifix"

By Elisee A. Dutil

A little crucifix, As plain as it can be, But only God in Heaven knows How dear it is to me	And looking on that Figure, Which hung in patience there, I saw the dreadful torture Which He, in Love, did bear.
I have it always with me, In every sleep I take, At evening when I slumber, At morning when I awake.	His feet are nailed together, His loving arms outspread, And blood is dropping slowly Down From His thorn-crowned Head.
In bright or cloudy weather, In sunshine or in rain, In happiness or sorrow, In pleasure or in pain.	And how could I then murmur, Or bitterly complain, When love for me induced Him To undergo such pain?
It helps me in my struggles, It reproves me when I sin, Its look of gentle patience Rebuked the strife within	So when the time approaches That I shall have to die, I hope that little crucifix Will close beside me lie,
In days of pain and anguish, The greatest Help I knew Was to hold that little crucifix Until I calmer grew,	That the Holy Name of Jesus May be the last that I shall say, And kissing that dear crucifix My soul may pass away

Message from the Division Commander

Maj. Gen. John W. O'Daniel

On this Memorial Day of 1945, the Third Division remembers you for the contribution you have made to America and all it stands for in the loss of your loved ones.

These things are hard to understand, but in a war such as this one where the gain to be had was so great and the destruction of the evil force so necessary, great sacrifice was inevitable.

We who are living know that the success of the Division and our own very existence is due mainly to those who unselfishly gave their lives in battle. This realization will be with us always.

Now that the German Army is destroyed, you can well feel proud that through your great contribution, our nation may live as intended, in freedom and goodness.

As Division Commander of the Third Division, I speak from the bottom of my heart for all of us when I say be of good cheer and be ever proud that his sacrifice makes it possible for our country to be great and free forever.

While in Italy, Elisee ran into his cousin and next-door neighbor Donut Mailhot. There are a couple of photos in the binder of that brief reunion.

Elisee then accompanied the Third Infantry Division to southern France to begin the final push into Germany. During a flanking battle after crossing the German border near Zweibrücken, shrapnel from an artillery shell struck near

Elisee's position, wounding him for a third time. He never recovered from those serious wounds.

Family lore says his mother, Odile, who had died in Lewiston a month earlier, had seen Elisee suffer enough.

"Because he was wounded three times," Mailhot said, "it was always said that she came back to get her son."

Elisee was originally buried in

France. A year later, his father, Alphonse, paid to have his body exhumed and sent back home to be buried at the family plot at St. Peter's Cemetery. His name is included on the new granite stone placed in Veterans' Memorial Park in Lewiston.

In addition to Elisee's story, told in letters, postcards, pictures and documents, the two binders compiled by Mailhot contain the history of his grandfathers, Wilfrid Mailhot and Alphonse Dutil, in World War I and their sons, including Elisee and Denis' father, Wilfrid Mailhot Jr., who all fought in World War II.

All of the photos are documented and a series of photos show a pictorial history of Paris in the mid-1940s. The original documents include the actual letter informing his relatives of Elisee's death.

"My mother died 12 years ago," Mailhot said. "I dug out all the stuff that she had saved. That's when I decided that this has to be recorded. I want my children and my grandchildren to go through this one day."

The biggest challenge was deciphering the postcards, written in cursive French with lines squeezed together to fit as much as possible on them. Mailhot reached out to the University of Southern Maine Franco-American Collection in Lewiston and a French teacher at Edward Little High School.

"It was difficult. They were hard to read," said Doris Belsie-Bonneau, a board member of the Franco-American collection. "When you read them aloud it was interesting picking up the phonetic expressions. The themes consisted of belonging and family. That kind of sadness of being so far away."

Seth Goodwin and his French IV class at Edward Little High School in Auburn picked away at the project for a couple of months trying to translate the postcards and newspaper clippings from the *Le Messager*, a French newspaper based in Lewiston. The 13 students worked in teams to decipher the various writings.

The students, not much younger than Elisee was when he went to war, were touched by all that he went through overseas, "learning about the combat experience and the many hours that he did, putting his life on hold for his country," Goodwin said.

The USM Franco-American Collection plans to digitize the two binders for their archives.

"What's unique about this is the written language," Belsie-Bonneau said. "The writing of these is atypical. It was a heartfelt effort to communicate. The people who received these cards could feel the angst and the loneliness."

POSTCARDS FROM THE FRONT LINES

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“My Crucifix”

BY ELISEE A. DUTIL

A little crucifix, As plain as it can be, But
only God in Heaven knows How dear it is
to me.

I have it always with me, In every step I
take; At evening when I slumber, At
morning when I awake.

In bright or cloudy weather, In sunshine or
in rain: In happiness or sorrow, In pleasure
or in pain.

It helps me in my struggles, It reproves me
when I sin; Its look of gentle patience Rebukes the strife within.

In days of pain and anguish, The greatest Help I knew Was to hold that little crucifix
Until I calmer grew;

And looking on that Figure, Which hung in patience there, I saw the dreadful torture
Which He, in Love, did bear.

His feet are nailed together, His loving arms outspread, And blood is dropping slowly
down From His thorn-crowned Head.

And how could I then murmur, Or bitterly complain, When love for me induced Him
To undergo such pain?

So when the time approaches That I shall have to die, I hope that little crucifix Will
close beside me lie;

That the Holy Name of Jesus May be the last that I shall say, And kissing that dear
crucifix My soul may pass away.

Message from the Division Commander

Maj. Gen. John W. O'Daniel

contribution you have made to America and all it stands for in the lost of your loved ones.

These things are hard to understand, but in a war such as this one where the gain to be had was so great and the destruction of the evil force so necessary, great sacrifice was inevitable.

We who are living know that the success of the Division and our own very existence is due mainly to those who unselfishly gave their lives in battle. This realization will be with us always.

Now that the German Army is destroyed, you can well feel proud that through your great contribution, our nation may live as intended, in freedom and goodness.

As Division Commander of the Third Division, I speak from the bottom of my heart for all of us when I say be of good cheer and be ever proud that his sacrifice makes it possible for our country to be great and free forever.





WORLD WAR II SERVICE METAL

INSCRIBED

“United States of America 1941 – 1945”

“Freedom from Fear and Want”

“Freedom of Speech and Religion”



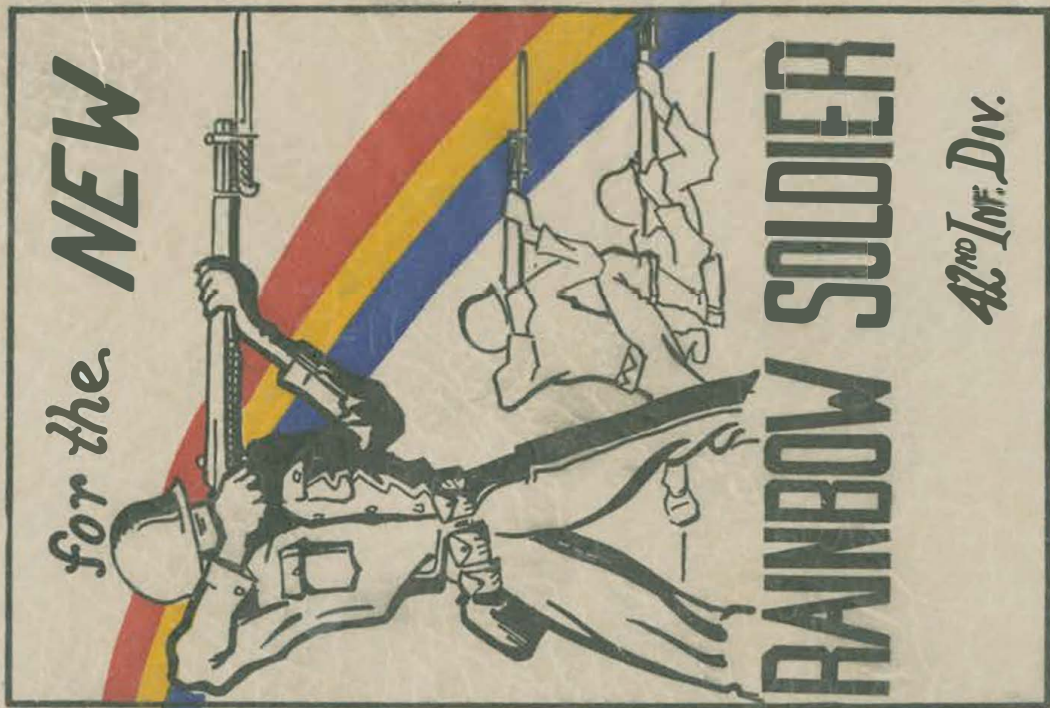
SOLDIER OF THE RAINBOW

“For the NEW Rainbow Soldier – 42nd Infantry Division”

Brigadier General Harry J. Collins, Division Commander

Wilfrid Mailhot’s Boot-Camp Training Manual

AVERY[®]
PV119G



SERVICE PRAYER BOOK

"For Catholic Soldiers, Sailors and Marines"

Published by

The National Headquarters of the Holy Name Society

141 East 65th Street, New York City

Copyright 1941

**† Francis J. Spellman, D.D. Archbishop of New York
Military Vicar**

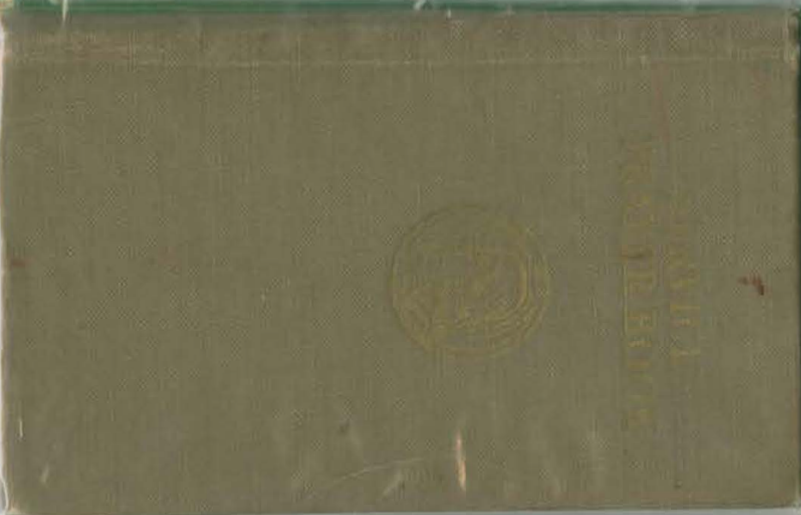
Imprimatur

**† Samuel A. Stritch, Archiepiscopus Chicagiensis,
3 Setem., 1941**

Wilfrid Mailhot

L2-A9113P

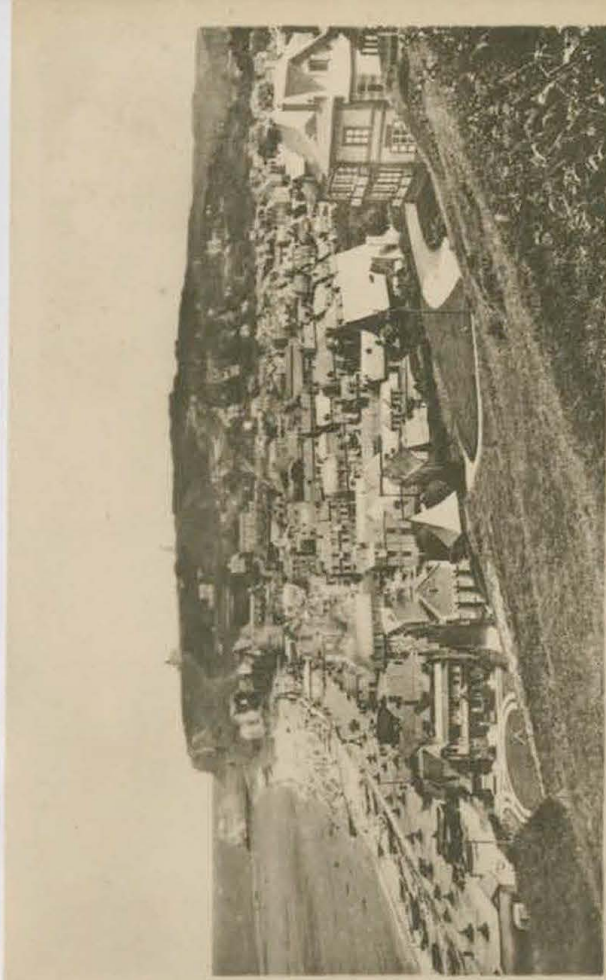
Associated



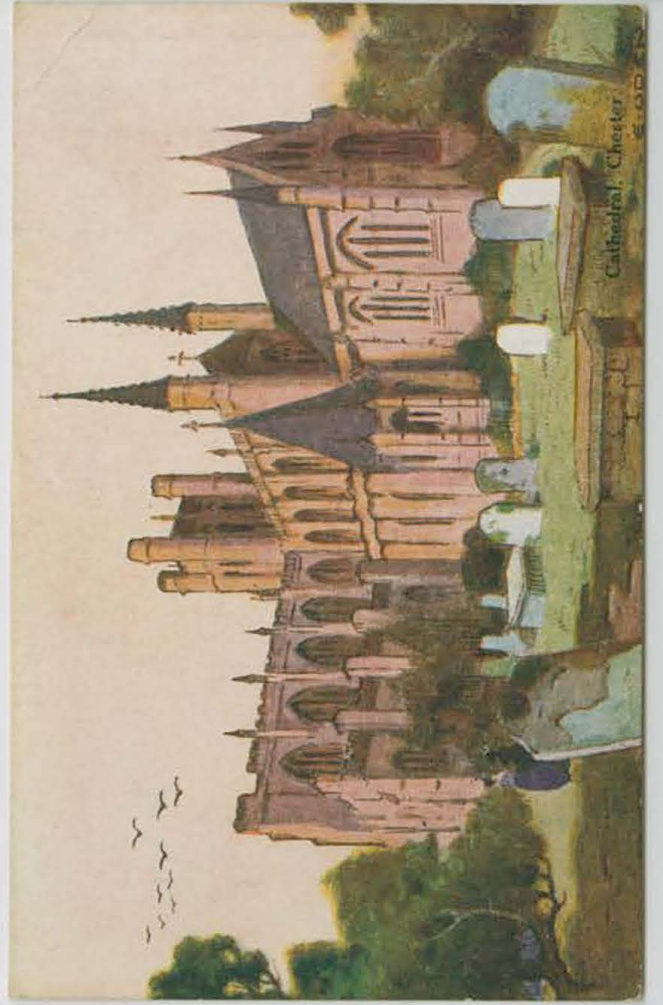
Wilfrid S. Mailhot, Jr.

“England”

PRO Ultra PRO



LL.64 ETRETAT. -- Panorama de la ville. -- General view



Cathedral, Chester

Phillipson & Golder, Ltd., Booksellers and Stationers, Chester.

the people staying
in this grand
mansion would
they don't know how
this modern world
looks like if you
call it modern for
one modern talk
Berkeley in Australia

CORRESPONDENCE

POST CARD

British Manufacture Throughout.

ADDRESS

Take good care
of yourself
Don't receive
Bill

This is where I'm at
Current Street France
I'm here only for a few
days until they find some
place to stay in. It
a French summer resort
of nice but the Germans
did quite a bit of damage

June 15, 1945
Melburn

© DES ARTS PHOTOMECHANIQUES - STRASBOURG-SCHILTIGHEIM



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and Queen Mary

THE STATE APARTMENTS,
WINDSOR CASTLE. Set D

TUCK'S POST CARD

GARTE

Van Dyck Room (and view).—As the
name indicates, all the pictures in this
room (with the exception of two) are by
this master. It also contains specimens of
English furniture of the seventeenth century of
exceptional beauty. This includes a pair of
Cabinets made for Queen Henrietta Maria—two
Silver Tables and Mirrors, one of which was
presented to King Charles II and the other to
William III by the City of London, and two
Writing Tables, signed and dated by Kneller,
1702.

To-night last evening
when you bring
my love I'm lonely
for you don't know
how to love me
Bill D

THE WORLD'S
FIRST
POSTAGE
FREE
MAIL
FOR
AMERICA
ON
NOV 7
FREE

1411
100
100

1411 Bond St Street
Forreston Maine
Nov 4 1944

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and Queen Mary

THE STATE APARTMENTS,
WINDSOR CASTLE. Set A

TUCK'S POST CARD

GARTE

Ante Throne Room.—This room and
the Throne Room were originally of the
same size, but Wyattville reduced the room
to its present size to enlarge the Throne
Room. The large picture is "The Meeting of
Isaac and Rebecca," painted by Francesco
Zaccarello.

ISAAC and he
they here in the
year 10 B.C. can
you imagine how
far behind they
are in time here

Jenna
Bill

THE WORLD'S
FIRST
POSTAGE
FREE
MAIL
FOR
AMERICA
ON
NOV 7
FREE



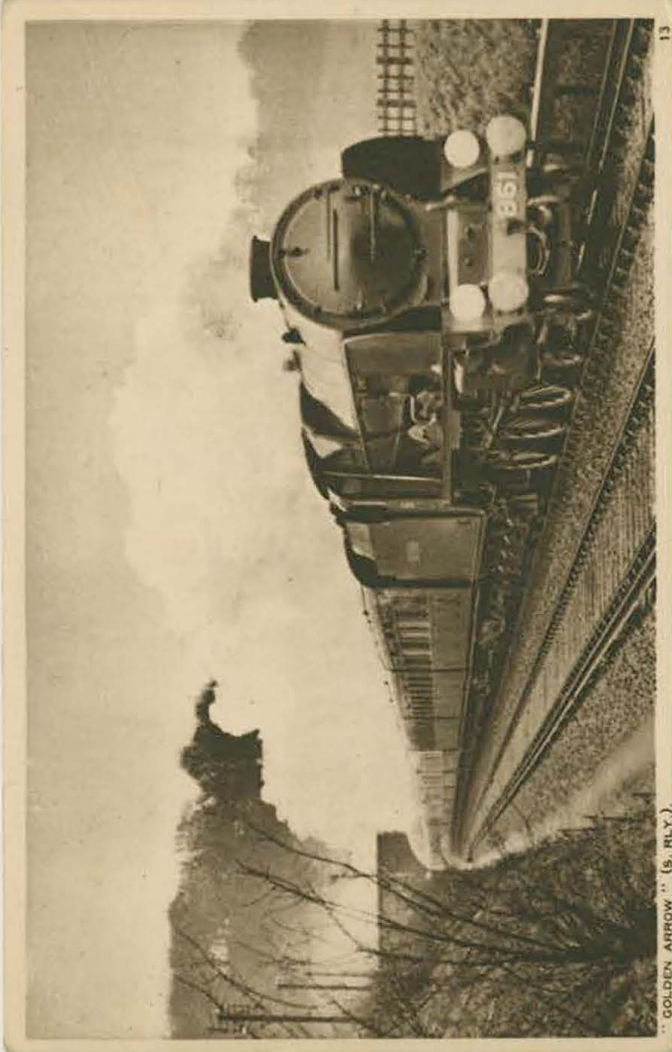
Ultra Pro
PRO Ultra PRO

ULTRA PRO
U.S. PATENT OFFICE
AND FOREIGN OFFICES

Ultra PRO



Chester-Cathedral, Sculpture, Religious Contention.



"GOLDEN ARROW" (S. RLY.)

13



ANCIENT SCULPTURE, Old St. CHAD'S, SHREWSBURY. CC534



WYLE COP, SHREWSBURY

214

PRO Ultra-PRO

POST CARD

FOR CORRESPONDENCE

"This is a time for everyone to stand together and hold firm!"—The Prime Minister.

FOR ADDRESS

the Southern rail-
way and I go by
the London Midway
and Scottish railway
sometimes

Leona from
Bill

Oct. 20 1944

Copyright Publication by Photochrom Co. Ltd., Royal Tunbridge Wells
All British Production

"GOLDEN ARROW"

The "Golden Arrow" is the Southern Railway's world-famed continental express. It leaves Victoria Station daily at 11 a.m. and arrives at Dover at 12.55 p.m. The train is the English portion of a fast continental service which covers the 288 miles from London to Paris in 6 1/2 hours.

POST CARD

This Space may be used for Communication. The Address only to be written here

when I saw the scene
of culture on the church
I was wondering what
they were thinking 1000
years ago when they
made this its quite
a piece of work for
what it's good for

Leona
from
Bill

MADE IN GERMANY
A 1116
Half penny
Stamp

POST CARD

FOR CORRESPONDENCE

"This is a time for everyone to stand to-gether and hold firm."
The Prime Minister.

FOR ADDRESS

wish to come
I reserved a
place for you

Leona
from
Bill

Oct. 24 1944

Printed in
Gt. Britain

"Princess" Series, R.M. & S. Ltd.'s

I will and visited these
shops on this business
streets there are call
shops everyone has
a bicycle and its a
national sport here. I'm
hoping to go to London
again soon if you

Oct. 20. 1944
Adams and Eve check.
what do you say.

you can see by
the picture that
when I tell you of
old buildings here
I mean just that
maybe that is
Adams and Eve check.
Bill

ADDRESS ONLY

FOR CORRESPONDENCE

POST

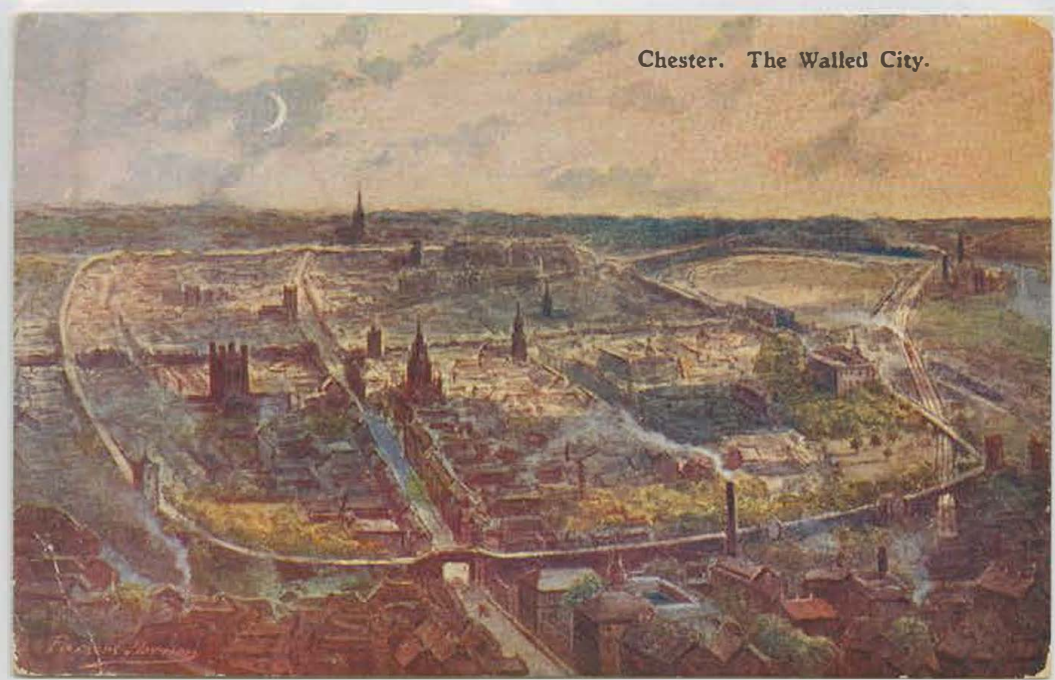
CARD

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PUBLISHED BY WALTER BOOTH, BRADFORD.

Ultra PRO

PLATINUM
U.S. MADE IN IMPORTED
FINE LITHOGRAPHIC PAPER

Ultra PRO
PRO Ultra PRO



Chester. The Walled City.



The Cathedral
Canterbury

Anna Craft

MAIL ORDER
ADD. 11111111

099. 1111

POST

CORRESPONDENCE



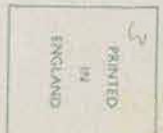
CARD

ADDRESS

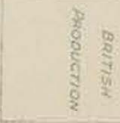
I walk on the walls
of this city of quiet
a place and plenty
of lovely girls looking
but the night one I
could not find why
that you come

Apr 5 1944

From
Bill



Post Card



A. VIVIAN MANSELL & CO. LTD. THE ART PUBLISHERS LONDON.
Copyright. Printed in England. Series 2123 - Set 2

The Cathedral. The historic result of nearly a
thousand years of craftsmanship and religious zeal.
Thomas Becket, the saintly Precentor and St.
Thomas Becket, the saintly Precentor and St.
other glories remain in this wonderful treasure
house of "The Mother of England."

How would you
like to come to
Worce with me in
this little church
most serenity

From
Bill

Post Card

CORRESPONDENCE

ADDRESS



COPYRIGHT, PRINTED & PUBLISHED BY J. SALMON LTD., SEVENOAKS

In a planter garden
like this our hearts
will walk to-getter
soon to-getter a day
in the near future
I love you Darling

"We shall continue steadfast in faith
and duty till our task is done."
The Prime Minister.

4148
Sutton Coldfield
Warwickshire County Eng.
May 21, 1944

From
Bill

TUCKER'S POST CARD

CARTE

POSTALE

(FOR ADDRESS ONLY)



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Printed in England
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Specially produced by gracious permission of His Late Majesty King George V
and Queen Mary

Queen's Presence Chamber - The
walling of this room is painted by Verro,
and represents Queen Catherine of Brans,
and sealed under a canopy spread by
time and supported by zephyrs. It contains
also four of the seven tapestry panels rep-
resenting the Story of Esther and Mordecai.
These panels were made and signed by Cosette
or Audran.

The King's palace
sheds more like
a museum than
a home to me
what do you think

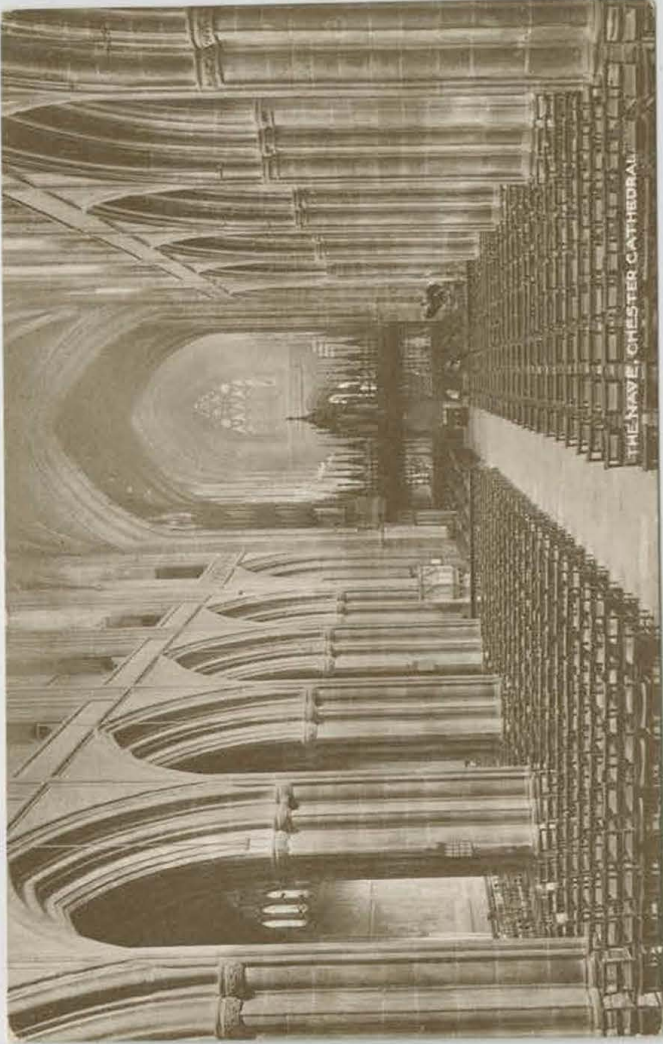
Apr 3 1944

From Alice Smith
Bill

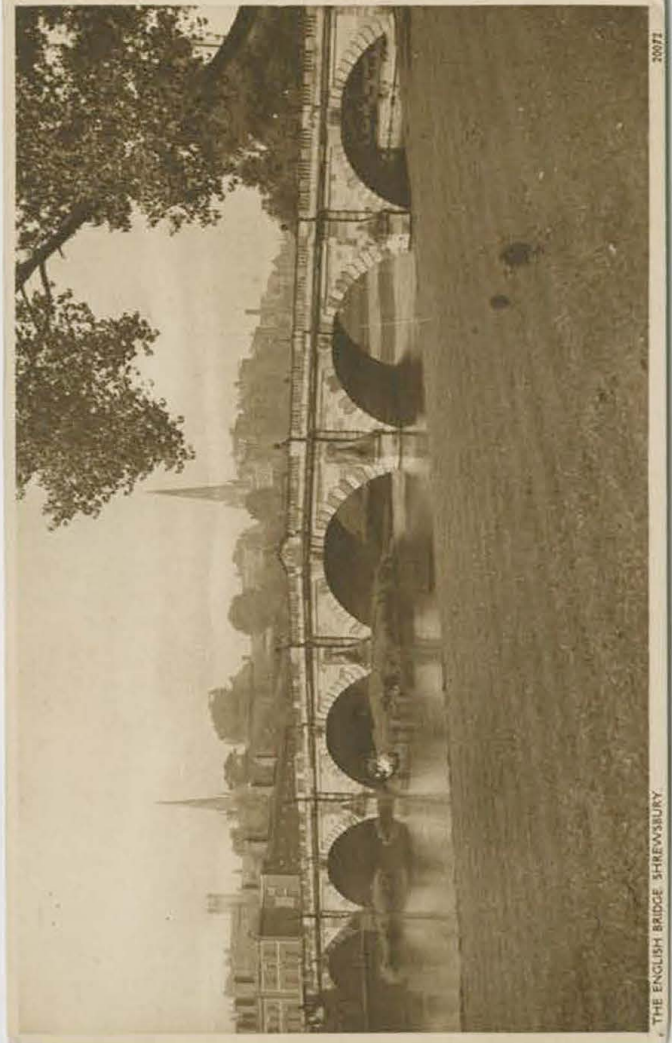
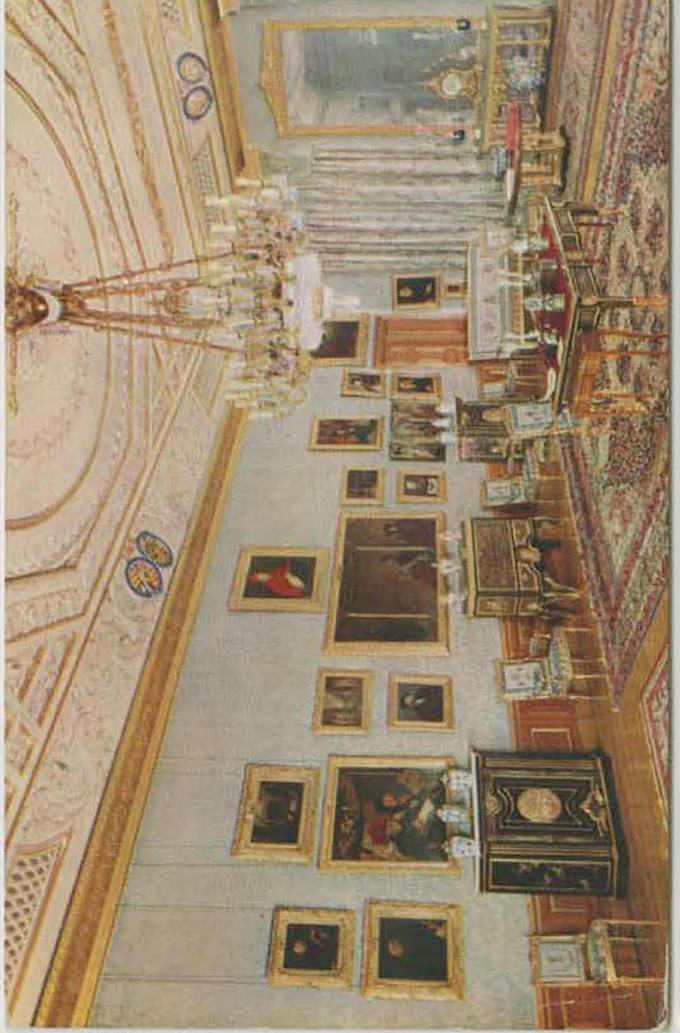
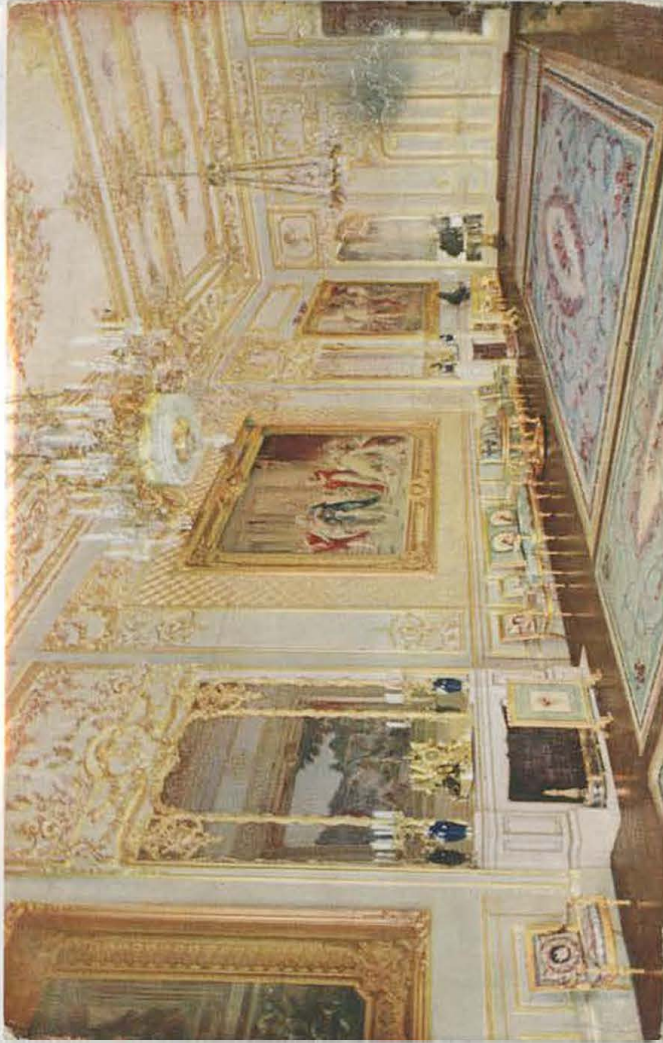
Ultra-Pro-Elite

FLUOROPOLYMER

Ultra-Pro



THE NAVE, CHESTER CATHEDRAL



THE ENGLISH BRIDGE SHREWSBURY

20071

POST CARD

For Correspondence

For Address



British Manufacture Throughout.

This is where the architect state the plan to build St Peter & Paul church and they forget that each person here has his own chair so there is no argument for more room for those with fat.

Leona from Bill

63941

Nov 5 1944

TUCK'S POST CARD

CARTE

POSTALE



THE STATE APARTMENTS, WINDSOR CASTLE. Set G

Raphael Tuck & Sons, Ltd. Official "Oilette" Postcard. Specially produced by gracious permission of His Late Majesty King George VI and Queen Mary

Grand Reception Room.—In this room the guests are received when State Banquets, etc., are held in St. George's Hall or the Waterloo Gallery. The decoration of this room (in the style of Louis XV) was executed by Wyattville for King George IV.

Hello Leona.

The French call their wife ma Bourgeoise & call your my Darling someone with do you like best. I'm taking you

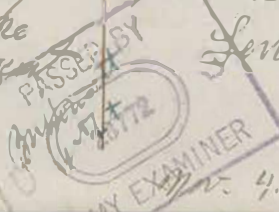
Bill



31398257
82nd St
A.P.O. 209



To Miss Leona Dutil
141 Bartlett Street
Senliston Maine



Nov 4 1944

TUCK'S POST CARD

CARTE

POSTALE



31398257

Picture Gallery.—So called, owing to the majority of the pictures in the room being masterpieces of great value, affording a unique instance of four Holbeins seen together on the same wall. This room is used generally as the King's Writing Room when the suite is occupied.

I wouldn't like so large rooms in my house cause you'll be too far from me I'll have to have some rather skater to find you ok.

Bill

At Windsor Castle
82nd St General Hospital
A.P.O. 209 New York

To Miss Leona Dutil
141 Bartlett Street
Senliston Maine

Nov 21 1944

POST CARD

FOR CORRESPONDENCE

FOR ADDRESS

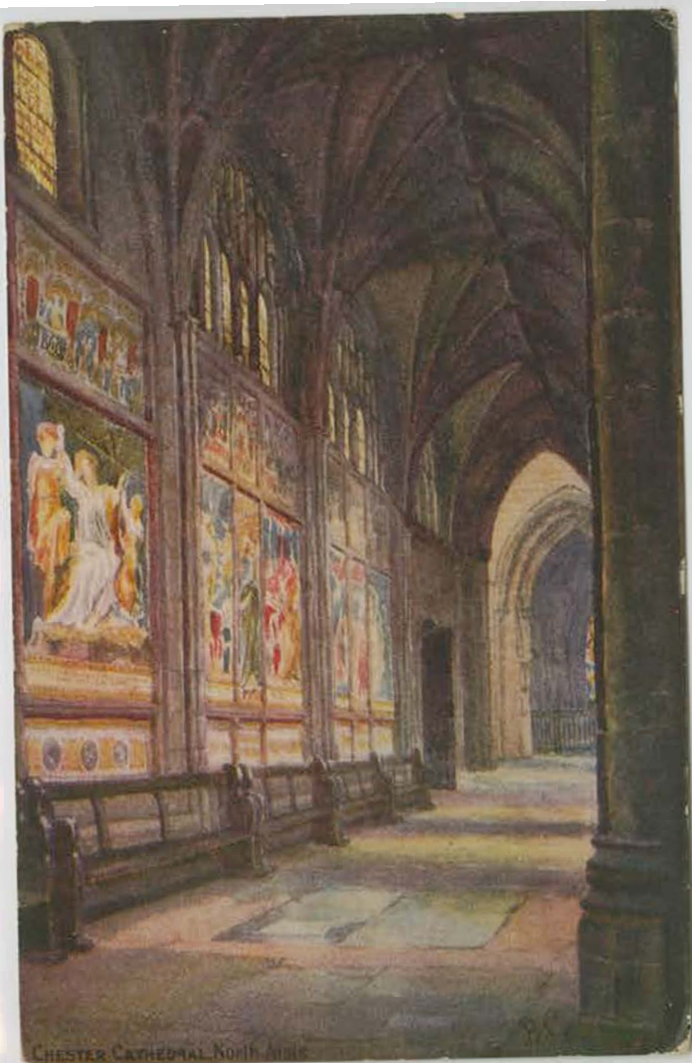
"We have to gain the Victory.
That is our task."

The Prime Minister

I walk across the bridge into the city and visited the church where you can see it was pretty and full of people
Leona from Bill

Oct. 24. 1944

Printed in Gt. Britain



CHESTER CATHEDRAL NORTH CHOIR



SHREWSBURY SCHOOL, "SIR PHILIP SIDNEY"

P. 914



HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE VI
AND HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH



The Screen
Chester Cathedral

54

Hello Leona
 Hope you are fine and
 courageous. I visited the
 Cathedral last week
 it was very nice with me
 you were with me
 if this story could only
 end, but I lost hope.
 I am fine and lonely
 for you its so hard
 all the way say your
 chin my until victory
 your Bill

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO 200 THE
 POSTAL FREE
 31
 NOV 6
 1944
 A.P.

To
 Miss Leona A. Dutil
 141 Bortlett Street
 Lewiston Maine
 PASSED BY ARMY
 U.S. ARMY EXAMINER

POST CARD
 FOR CORRESPONDENCE
 REAL PHOTOGRAPH (COPYRIGHT)
 PUBLISHED BY WALTER SCOTT BRADFORD.

The man in the
 picture his steel
 uniform wouldn't
 protect him in
 this war it is not
 heavy armor enough
 in our days of what
 we call modern warfare

Leona from
 Bill
 Oct. 20. 1944

POST CARD
 BRITISH MANUFACTURE
 "Copyright."
 Address to be written here

This Space for Communication
 No 2055.

When we had a nice
 day of sunshine and
 a Autumn wind
 and the chard was
 popping on my hand
 when walking my goat
 up I could only through
 one or a little ways of

from
 Bill

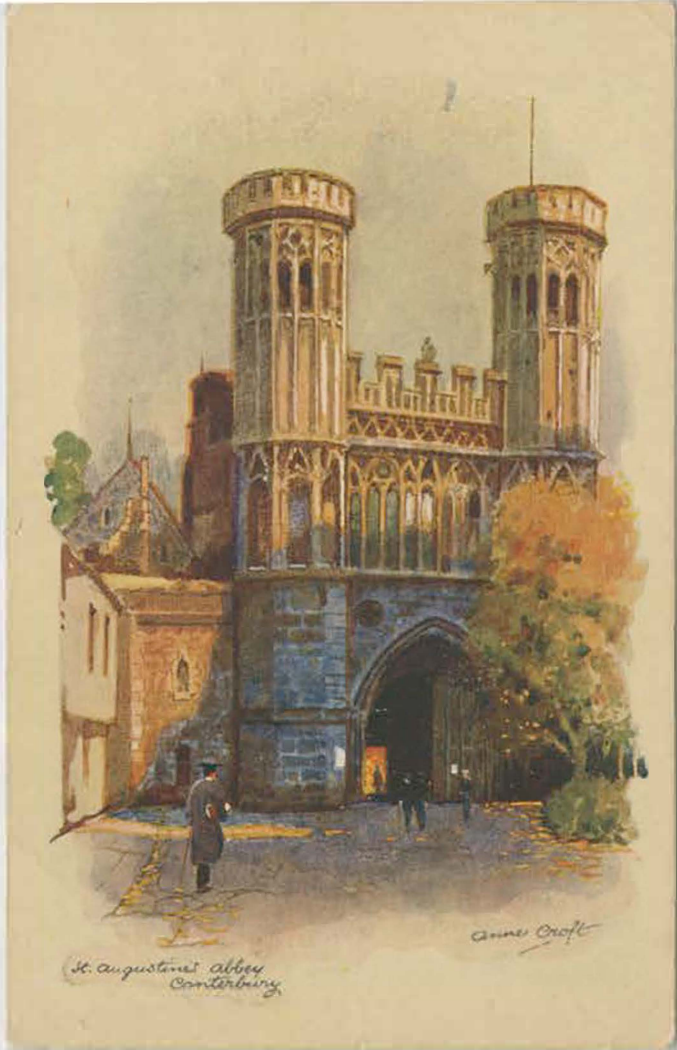
POST CARD
 For Correspondence.

when I walk through
 this corridor I was
 afraid the roof
 would fall on my
 head it so high
 its small clouds in
 there too

British Manufacture Throughout

Leona from
 Bill

THE BRITISH
 MANUFACTURE



POST

FOR CORRESPONDENCE

CARD

ADDRESS ONLY

I attend mass in
this Chapel last Sunday
Oct. 20, 1944 it was
very pleasant but I
didn't like the seat and
the kneeling position
I found myself in oh
the inside assembly that
of our Church home

but it's frightful
to go in alone when
there's no one else

Leona from
Bill

Oct. 24, 1944

Wife in
Birmingham
England
1945

POST

FOR CORRESPONDENCE

CARD

ADDRESS ONLY

Leona

When I open the
door I thought it
was going to fall
on me and inside
it so dim and old
that it gave me
the shivers and I look
all around me to
make sure I was safe

in there all by
myself I wish
you were here
to visit those
places with me

Oct. 20, 1944

Bill

Apr. 16, 1944

Post Card

The
VIVIAN
MANSELL
SERIES

St. Augustine's Abbey. On this site Ebbelbert
worshipped his pagan gods. The spot where
the stone was buried here. Anglo-Saxon
kings ravaged each other in bestowing lands and
treasure on this great monastery.

Wells Somerset

I hope you are fine
and carefree. I'm
fine and still in love
with you. Keep your
chin up, and maybe
in 100 years we'll be
together again ok.

Leona

A Vivian Mansell & Co. Ltd. Fine Art Publishers, London.

ARMY POSTAL SERVICE
209
NOV
19 1944
S. U. A. P. O.

To Miss Leona A. Rickett
141 Bardwell Street
Leicester Maine

1119-500-1119
KO-ORIN-5KO

WINDMILL PHOTO
TRADE MARK



POST CARD.

This space may be used for communication.

The ADDRESS only to be written here.

Made in Germany.
Published by The Novelty Post Card Co., Liverpool.



Post Card



*I Love You
My Leona
Dearest
Love Bill*

A VIVIAN MANSELL & CO. LTD., FINE ART PUBLISHERS, LONDON.
Printed in England. No. 2147



Post Card



*Leona
I kiss you every
morning a million
times with all
My heart
Love Bill*

A VIVIAN MANSELL & CO. LTD., FINE ART PUBLISHERS, LONDON.
Printed in England. No. 2147



Post Card



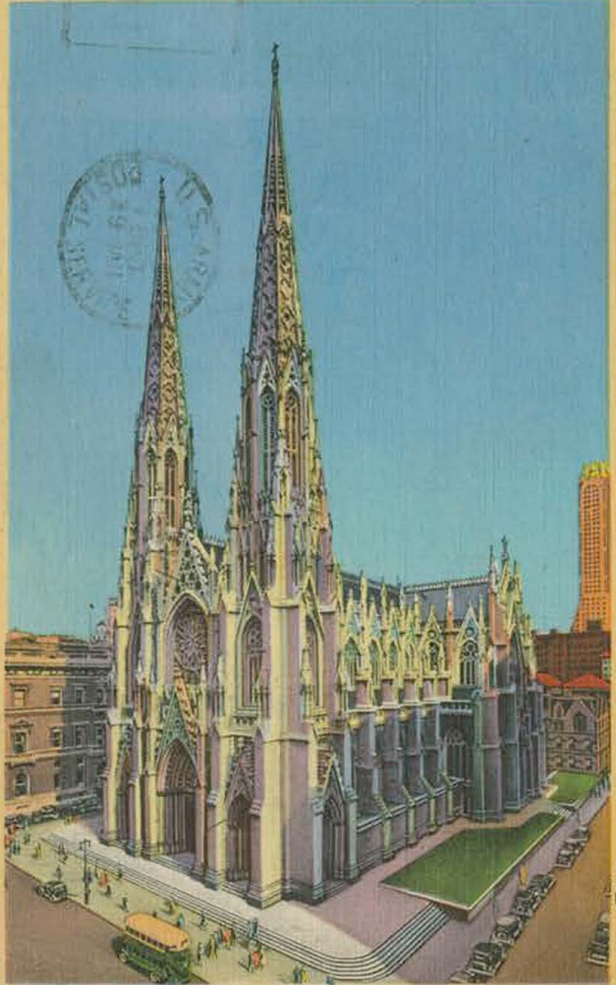
*I dream of my
sweet Leona last
night and we
were married in
my dream it's now
so beautiful
your Bill*

A VIVIAN MANSELL & CO. LTD., FINE ART PUBLISHERS, LONDON.
Printed in England. No. 2147



Wilfrid S. Mailhot, Jr.

*"U.S. Army General Hospital"
New York, New York*



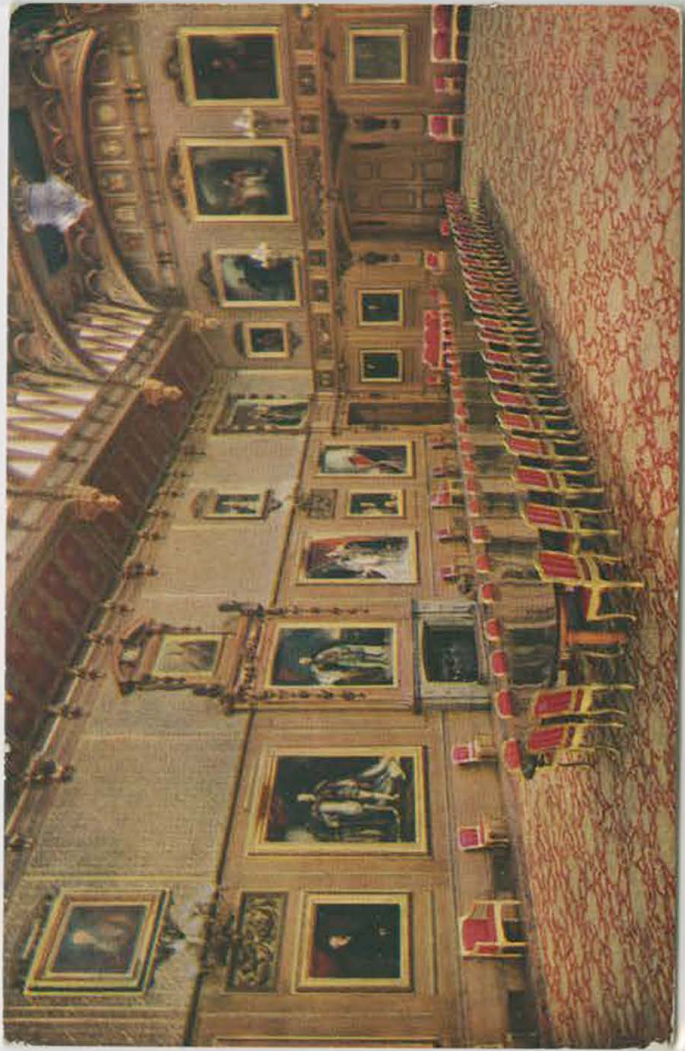
00714-ye



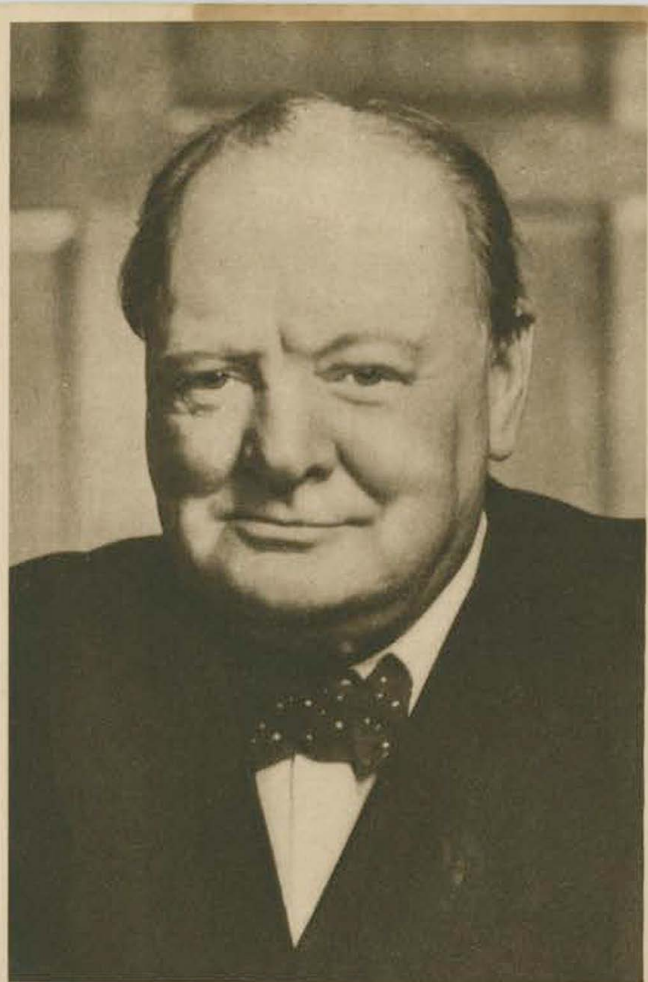
HOTEL CHESTERFIELD - 49th Near BROADWAY, NEW YORK CITY



Longpont la rivière St. François.—Along St. Francis River, Sherbrooke, P.Q.—15.



Ultra-Pro Ultra



THE PRIME MINISTER
PHOTOGRAPHED IN CANADA



Cathedral (West Door), Chester.

G. ODEN



OLD ORCHARD STREET FROM THE PIER AND AMUSEMENT CENTER. OLD ORCHARD BEACH, MAINE 9

Wilfrid S. Mailhot, Jr.

"Camp Phillip Kansas"

Ultra-PRO
Ultra-PRO
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ULTRA-PRO
ULTRA-PRO

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Ultra-PRO

Santa Fe Avenue, Salina, Kansas



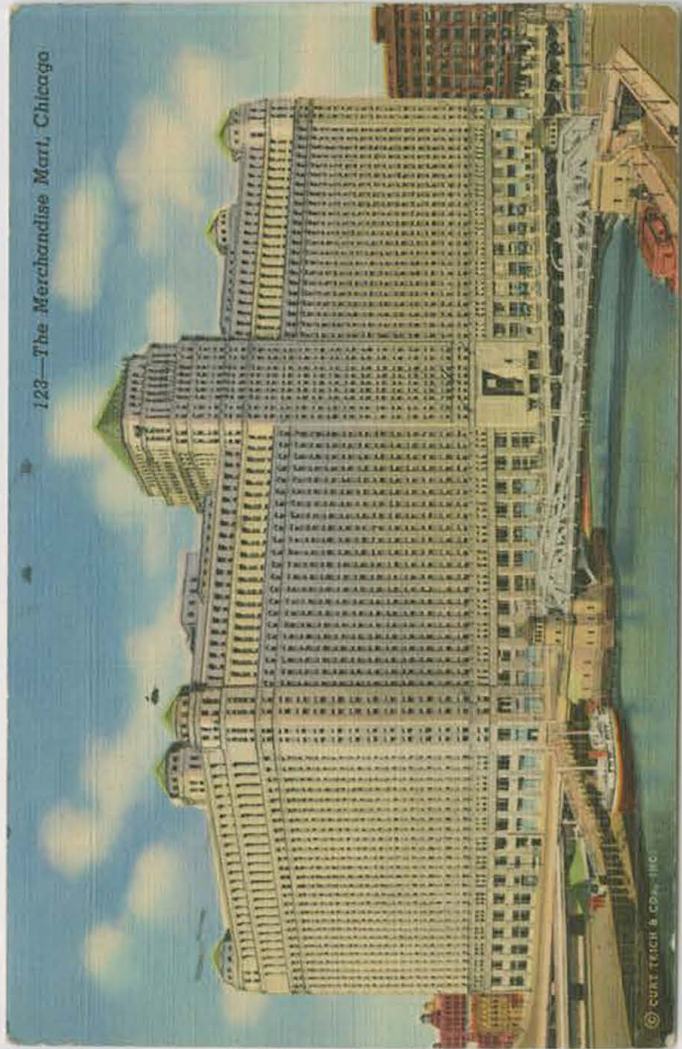
7A367-N

37 Union Station and Sky Line, Kansas City, Mo.



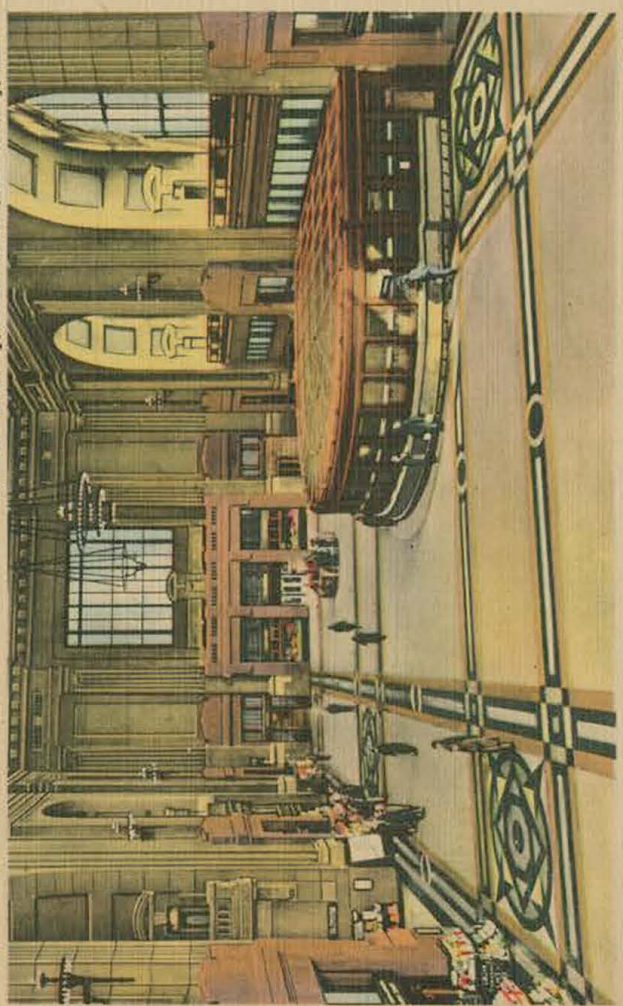
7A-10733

123—The Merchandise Mart, Chicago



© CURT TEICH & CO., INC.

107—Grand Lobby, Union Station, Kansas City, Mo.



2B-H-231

RO LEMO PRO
PRO-PRO

Bonjour a toi
Je manieit de savoir
autre bien gros. Je
que vous savit tout
saurageux. et on boit
sante Je vous remerci
de tout mon coeur de tout
que vous avez fait pour
moi durant mon voyage
vous seroit rien, pour
tantquer bien vite je
Bill

Out Wilfrid Mailhot
Co # 3133rd APO 79
Camp Phillips Kansas
31398257

PLACE
ONE CENT
STAMP
HERE

POST CARD

Mrs. Mrs. Alphonse Dutil
141 Bartlett Street
Lewiston Maine

GENUINE CURTAIN-CHICAGO "C.T. ART-COLOR-TONE" POST CARD (R&C) (S&P) (OFF.)

Hello Lena
I've been walking
up and down the
for the other side
very nice. Wish you
were here to visit
with me. I'm fine
hope you are too
your father my best
regards. Keep your
up until visiting
Bill

Out Wilfrid Mailhot
Co # 3133rd APO 79
Camp Phillips Kansas
31398257

PLACE
ONE CENT
STAMP
HERE

POST CARD

Miss Lena Dutil
141 Bartlett St
Lewiston Me.

GENUINE CURTAIN-CHICAGO "C.T. ART-COLOR-TONE" POST CARD (R&C) (S&P) (OFF.)

Hotels-20075
The Hersey
RESTAURANTS
Hello Ma Belle
je meuche dans
bell station a Kansas
est bien beau grand
dome que tu soit
avec moi. mais cest
la chee quesse comme
tu est grand bien sain
de toi. Bye Bill

Out Wilfrid Mailhot
Co # 3133rd APO 79
Camp Phillips Kansas
31398257

PLACE
ONE CENT
STAMP
HERE

POST CARD

Mrs Lena A Dutil
141 Bartlett Street
Lewiston Maine

GENUINE CURTAIN-CHICAGO "C.T. ART-COLOR-TONE" POST CARD (R&C) (S&P) (OFF.)

13/44 THE MERCHANDISE MART
CHICAGO
World's largest business building, located
on north bank of Chicago River between
Wells and Orleans Streets. Total cost
\$30,000,000.
just a few words before
I have here just to say
Hello and Good Luck
Keep smiling always
I ansious to read your
letters
Bill

Out Wilfrid Mailhot
Co # 3133rd APO 79
Camp Phillips Kansas
31398257

PLACE
ONE CENT
STAMP
HERE

POST CARD

Miss Lena Dutil
141 Bartlett St
Lewiston
Me

GENUINE CURTAIN-CHICAGO "C.T. ART-COLOR-TONE" POST CARD (R&C) (S&P) (OFF.)

Wilfrid S. Mailhot, Jr.

“Camp Gruber, Oklahoma”

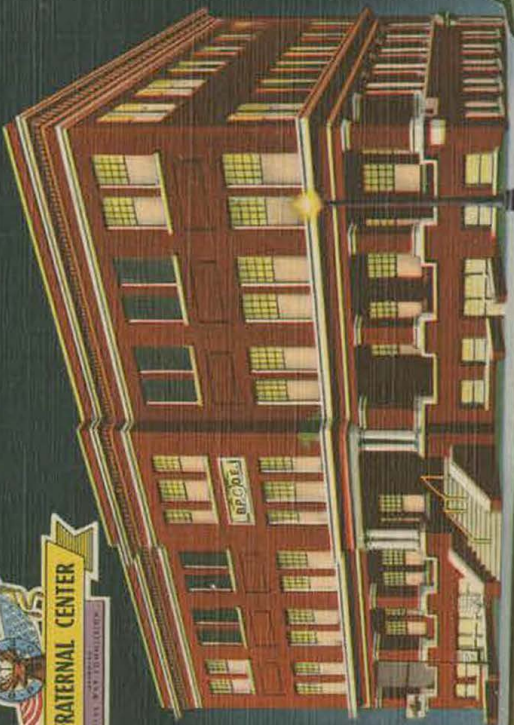
The outbreak of the Second World War in Europe in September 1939 prompted President Franklin D. Roosevelt to declare a limited national emergency on September 8 and step up military preparedness efforts. By June 1940 Congressional measures had augmented the federal budget for construction of arms and munitions plants, coastal defenses, and military training camps and expansion of existing bases. In 1939 the nation's armed forces numbered only 200,000, but plans for a six-million-man army had been made.

Camp Gruber is an Oklahoma Army National Guard (OKARNG) training facility used for Training of OKARNG soldiers. It covers a total of 87 square miles (230 km²). The base is named after Brigadier General Edmund L. Gruber, a noted artillery officer and the original composer of the U.S. Field Artillery March, the source for the Army's official song, "The Army Goes Rolling Along". Camp Gruber is located near Braggs, Oklahoma in the Cookson Hills, about 14 miles (23 km) southeast of Muskogee, Oklahoma.^{[2][3]}

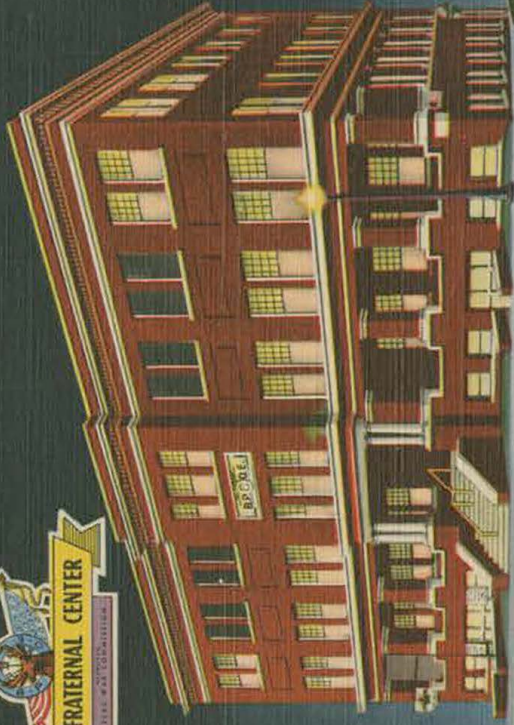
Ultra-pro

PLASTICUM
1-800-888-8888
11/15/11

Ultra-pro



B.P.O.E. ELKS No. 946
TULSA, OKLAHOMA



B.P.O.E. ELKS No. 946
TULSA, OKLAHOMA



11/9/13
B.P.O.E. ELKS 946
Boulder & Third Streets
TULSA, OKLAHOMA

Boulder & Third Streets
TULSA, OKLAHOMA

Bill wrote comment that
he just happens to be
in the neighborhood
of them maybe more
my folks to all for me
you know all my best
suggested. I'm doing good
things. I'm returning to visit
the city of Tulsa & I'll tell
you more about my trip
when I have a chance to
write you long Bill

NOV 11 1913
S.N. OMAHA
ST. LOUIS, MO.

POSTCARD



Miss Lena Dickett
1411 Bawtett Street
Lawson Lane

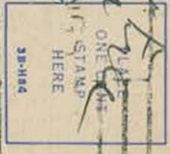
11/9/13
B.P.O.E. ELKS 946
Boulder & Third Streets
TULSA, OKLAHOMA

Boulder & Third Streets
TULSA, OKLAHOMA

Bill's my home, sending
this to you I'm passing a part
of my leisure time and being
entertained by my nice people
I'm having a swell trip here
in a beautiful city and with
very nice people. I'm in the
neighborhood that you see on the
other side of the card I had
a good night stay in a much
more quiet house. I'll tell
you more about it later
when you write with me
bye bye Bill

NOV 11 1913
S.N. OMAHA
ST. LOUIS, MO.

POSTCARD



Miss Lena Dickett
1411 Bawtett St
Lawson Lane



Wilfrid S. Mailhot, Jr.

“France”

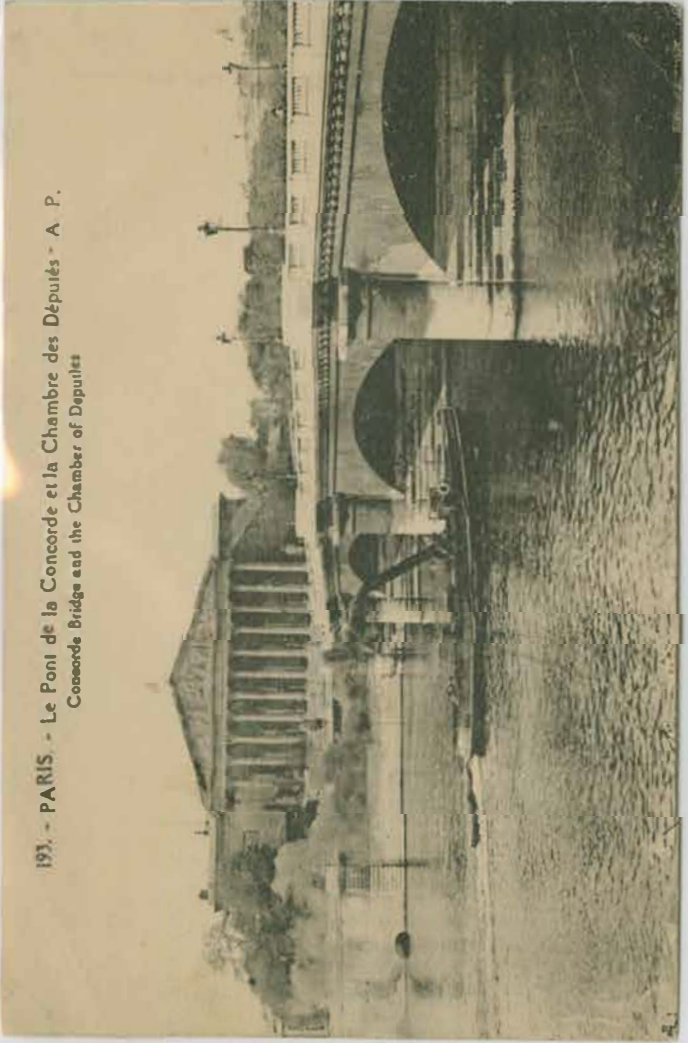
PRO Ultra PRO

PLATINUM
U.S. Patent No. 2,412,122
Made in U.S.A.



(Conçu par l'architecte Louis REY, Descatoire et Petit, sculpteur).

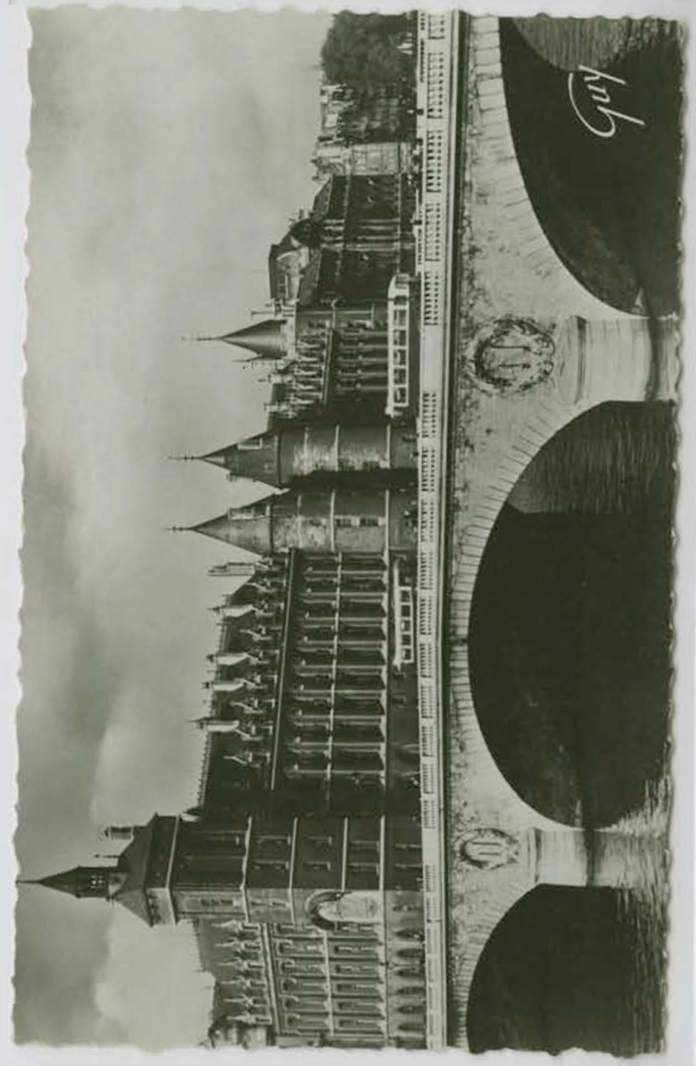
ETRETAT. — " A ceux qui les premiers ont osé " Monument Nungesser et Coli



1931. - PARIS - Le Pont de la Concorde et la Chambre des Députés - A. P.
Concorde Bridge and the Chamber of Deputies



LL.64 ETRETAT. — Panorama de la ville. — General view



Guy

PARIS ET SES MERVEILLES
345 Palais de Justice
et la Conciergerie (X. V. r.)

Here for 7 hours in
this building & we
listened to the trial
of Marshal Petain
of France

per Aug. 5, 1945

Éditions d'Art GUY, 30, r. Ste Croix-la-Bratonnerie, Paris
Publication Française — Reproduit ou Interdit

France
Germany
Dill

the monument built
in remembrance
of the first pilot
that atony to cross
the Atlantic before
Lindbergh and died
the German destroyed
it cause they were
jealous of it

— DES ARTS PHOTOMÉCANIQUES — STRASBOURG-SCHILTIGHEIM —

29

thus is the village
where I'm a parent
since 15, 1945 in
Germany, France
in Hotel de St-Denis
one of the four
and of the bench.

— DES ARTS PHOTOMÉCANIQUES — STRASBOURG-SCHILTIGHEIM —

CARTE POSTALE

PAPEGHIN, PARIS-TOURS



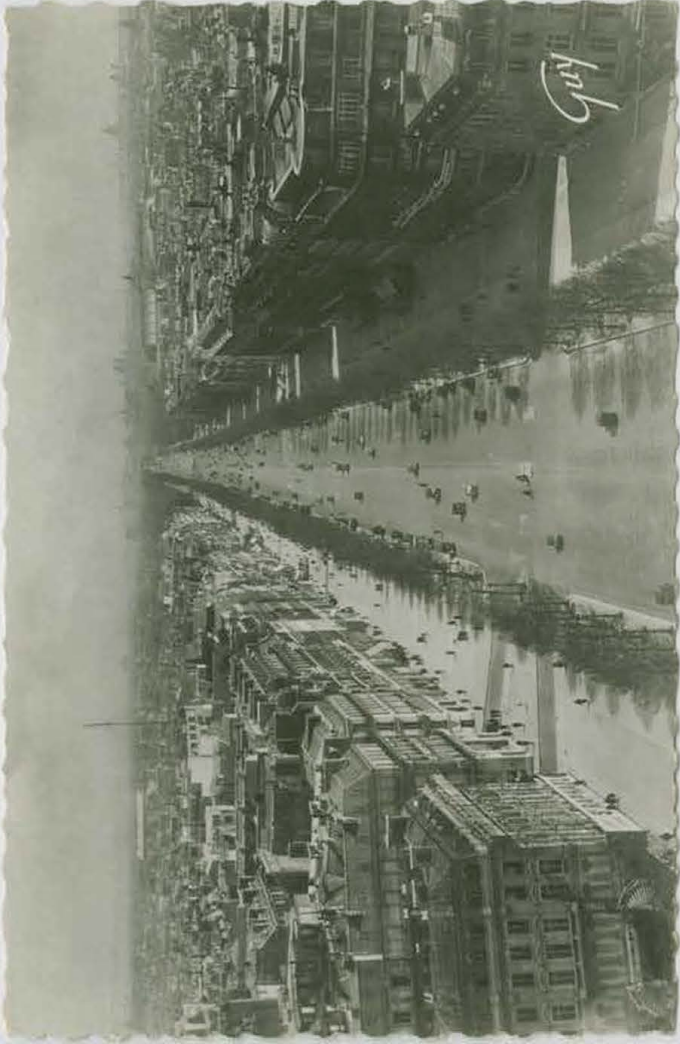
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PRO Ultra Pro

PLENUM
Ultra Pro
3000 Series
3000 Series

Ultra Pro



Traversier—Québec-Lévis "Louis Joliette," Québec-Lévis Ferry, "S.S. Louis Joliette"—78.



PARIS ET SES MERVEILLES

362 L'Avenue des Champs Élysées
vue de l'arc de triomphe de l'Étoile

Would you like to take
a little walk for a
few hours on the
semi street sidewalks
in Paris dear, come
over I'm waiting
Bill

Editions d'Art (S.A.), 38, r. Ste-Cx-de-la-Breit, Lucette, Paris
Fabrication Française — Reproduit en Italie

Leona

from
Bill

Paris France

Oct. 26 1945

POST CARD

Mardi

Bien cher épouse
à cher enfant par
sur le bateau on
trouvait à l'heure
on mes souvenirs on
mes sur le haut
on s'amusait non
on va être voir
Bernadette si un
par exemple
bon tout ça

Y
1945
10

MADE IN CANADA

Gianna Dutil
141 Bartlett
Leicester Me



LES JOLIS COINS DE PARIS

67 Dôme des Invalides

Mansard, arch. (1871)

Le Tombeau de Napoléon 1^{er} (1841)

Photo et Imp. PATHE, 9, av. Marguerite, Boulogne-s-Seine
Rep. int. - Fab. Franç. - Vue tirée avec objectif Sox Balinor



Paris - Basilique du Sacré-Coeur



Paris - La Tour Eiffel

I went into the night
to see to have a look
of Paris, its so bright

I WAS AFRAID AH
I HOPE YOU CAN COME
TOO SOME DAY. I M
FINE AND ENJOYING
MY TRIP GOOD

WILFRID
AUG. 3. 1945

MRS. M. RANECOURT

Reprod. interdite. - Imprimé en France.

Paris Oct 25. 1948

PARIS - The Sacred-Heart Basilic.



Hello Dear

I spend all day Sunday
visiting this beautiful
place on the other side

I could see all over Paris
from the highest hill
it is built upon it
make me think of Loretto
St Joseph in Montreal
wish you were with me
here to see it Bill

FREE

Miss. Lena A. Dutil

141 Bartlett St

Lewiston

Maine

U. S. A.

Reproduction interdite - Fabrication Française

2520
Véritable Photo

PARIS ET SES MERVEILLES
Église de la Madeleine (1806)

At Christmas dear
Bill be at mid-night
mass in this large
church De La Madeleine
in Paris France wish
you were with me
here we'll go to-gather
be careyeous darling

829

BILL

Ed. d'Art. & GUY, 8, rue Ste-Croix-de-la-Bretonnerie, Paris
Fabrication française - Reproduction interdite

Miss. Lona Dutil
141 Bartlett St.
Lewiston

Maine

PARIS... EN FLANANT

Dear Place de l'Opéra

Like to come to the
Opera in Paris the
Grand Opera house
here is one of my
favarate roaming
place looking around
and gazing on the
mademaisels of Paris ah.

I. B. C. 1529

Bill

Les Éditions d'Art "WON", Paris, 15, Rue Marrel
Reproduction interdite - Fabrication Française 5210

Lona
Jean
Bill

Nov 28. 1945



Ultra-Pro-Ultra



This picture taken
in Eiffel tower
Paris France
Mar. 1, 1945

3675

Eiffel tower there was
no ammunition and foggy

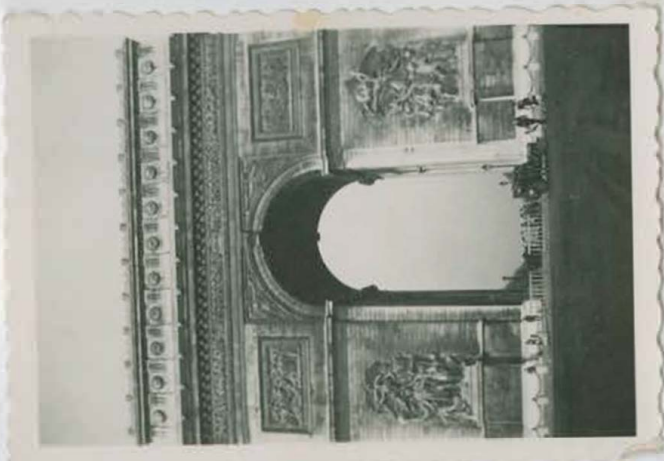
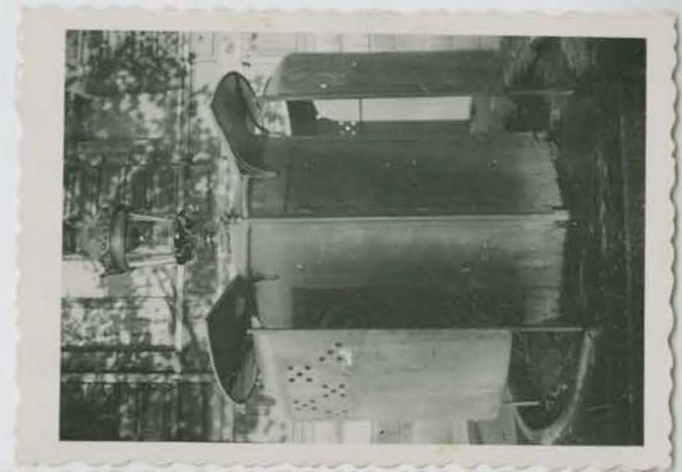
14

I wish I could show the
lady some of my own
artistic work. picture
taken in front Sacre Coeur
& Marie National
Paris

French policeman near
L'Opera

I took my glass off
in this one

Ultra PRO Ultra



you can see all a girl's affairs
like this one on meat all
street corners in Paris it's
intended for men only
and they think like hell

The doorway of the
Court Office the M. O.
is hardly a coffee shop

The Swiss man's
my friend

The soldier that was
with me to take his picture
in the tower

General Maypole
French General

16

14

14



Ultra Pro



fountains in Parc
De Luxembourg

Arc De triomphe

Épée tombée (over)
A forget to include
83 the top of it

this bull head is all
gold plated very nice

another wild affair
from the zoo

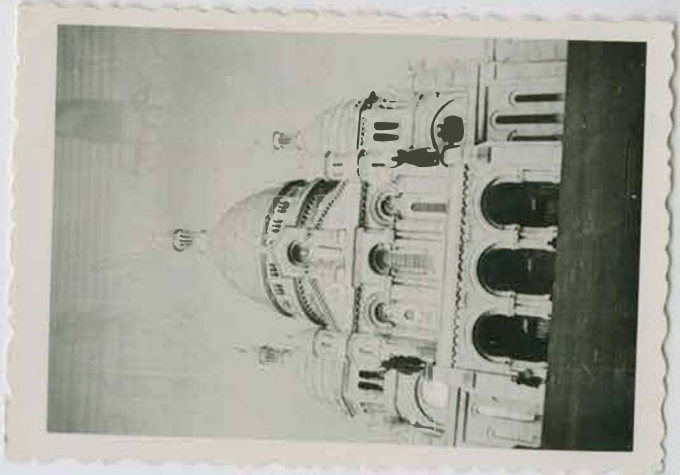
Lion in his cage

HIPPOPOTAMOUS
he was so hairy he wanted
to eat the camera ah

Ultra-PRO

ULTRA-PRO

ULTRA-PRO



Lansme de Montfermeil
Paris

14
Picture taken from
Ely tower

14
French soldier picture
taken at the zoo

83
Cathedral deau' veur
Montmartre Paris France

Paris
cut on the street

83
Cathedral deau' veur
Montmartre Paris France



Ultra-pro



This is me a little fat skin
Musée de l'Homme

Dear Mr. and Mrs.
Paris

Musée de l'Homme
Paris

Hotel Lutetia
Paris

Ultra-pro

Ultra-pro

Ultra-pro

Ultra-pro



Your book here, its not
my fault if they dont
own their statue in this
country. Paris

Fountain at Concord
Paris 69

Monument at Etel
93
Chary Elysee
Paris

see what pretty girls there is
here at
Machino Theater
Paris

Ultra Pro
Ultra Pro Ultra



The huge fountain at
Catherine
Paris

"Abreu" my study
Paris

that was me ask.

The small Ave. de triomphe
in Concord park behind are
the museum and ~~source~~
Park and the buildings of
~~source~~ & mean source
Paris

street of Boulevard Mouton
Paris

Ultra-Pro
Ultra-Pro Ultra



Arc De Triomphe Paris

Temple of the unknown soldier
under Arc De Triomphe
and the eternal fire burning
Paris

Pyramide Theatre Paris

Notre Dame Des Champs
Montfarnesse Paris

Ultra-Pro Ultra



Stamp Spaces
Paris

Avenue des Stamp Spaces
near Marignan Theater
Paris

Cathedral Machine front
view
Paris

Paris

Ultra-Pro-Elliptica
36-Ultra-3000



Montparnasse on the theater
you can see the streets here
are paved with wooden blocks

Paris

Hotel de Paris
Remond Cornet
93
Paris

Paris

Statue at Concord

69

Ultra-Pro Ultra



entrance to the Green House
taken from a wide view from
another street
Paris

Paris
11 B. P. Mess Hall

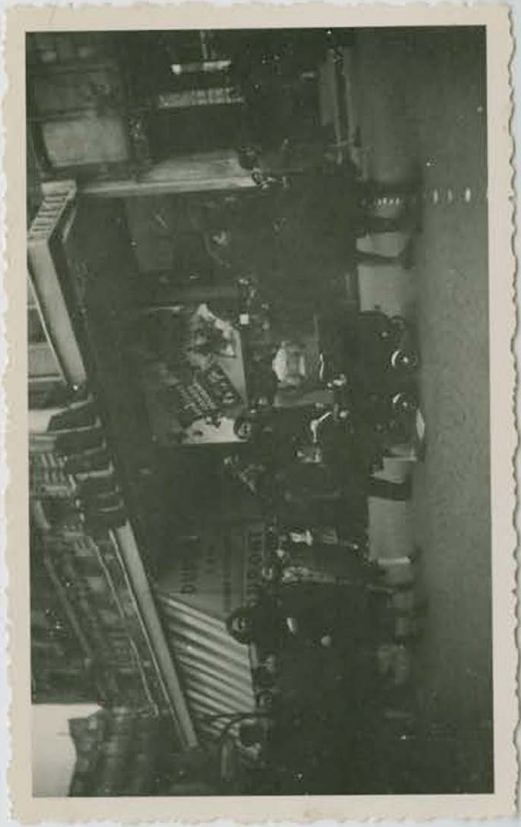
93
Stone Street
Paris

show case on the sidewalk
Paris

Ultra-pro

ULTRA-PRO
ULTRA-PRO
ULTRA-PRO

Ultra-pro



Water supply in the
Boor

11

Dupont Montparnasse
Paris

Catherine Place
Paris

Long Grande

11

Ultimate
Ultra-Pro
Ultra-Pro

Ultimate
Ultra-Pro
Ultra-Pro

Ultimate
Ultra-Pro
Ultra-Pro



93
Pyrrhus attack by Lino
Lucius (P) -
Lino -

The part in Lucius (P) -
Lino -

Chief shaping stone Lino -

93
Stone about Lino
Lino -

Ultra-Probrite

ULTRA-PROBRITE
KODAK SAFETY FILM

ULTRA-PROBRITE



the Opera house front view
Paris

the Opera house
Paris

Gare De Lyon Paris

Quillon de Elysee Paris



Ultra-PRO

Ultra-PRO

11th Base Post Office
Saxe Montfermeuse
Paris

Big Hotel at
Place de l'Opera
Paris

Part of Boulevard Montfermeuse
Paris France

American Consulate Building
Paris



23105111

Ultra-Pro



Wilfred Maithel's

Paris France

W

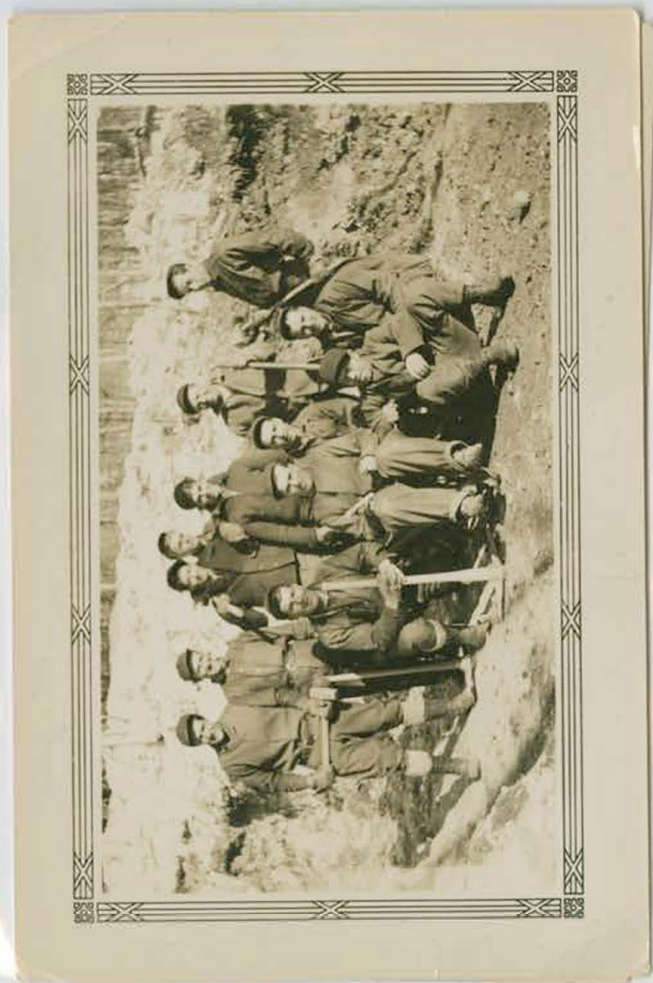
Paris France Sept. 1 1945

Wilfred



the entrance of the big
got near the De Lyon
Paris France Mar. 1, 1945
a fountain you can see
the water going up in the
air and coming out from
under the LYON

Ultra-Pro



getting ready for church on
Sunday in the chicken's shoes,
We stood for an instant



Wilfred
Paris France Sept. 1 1945

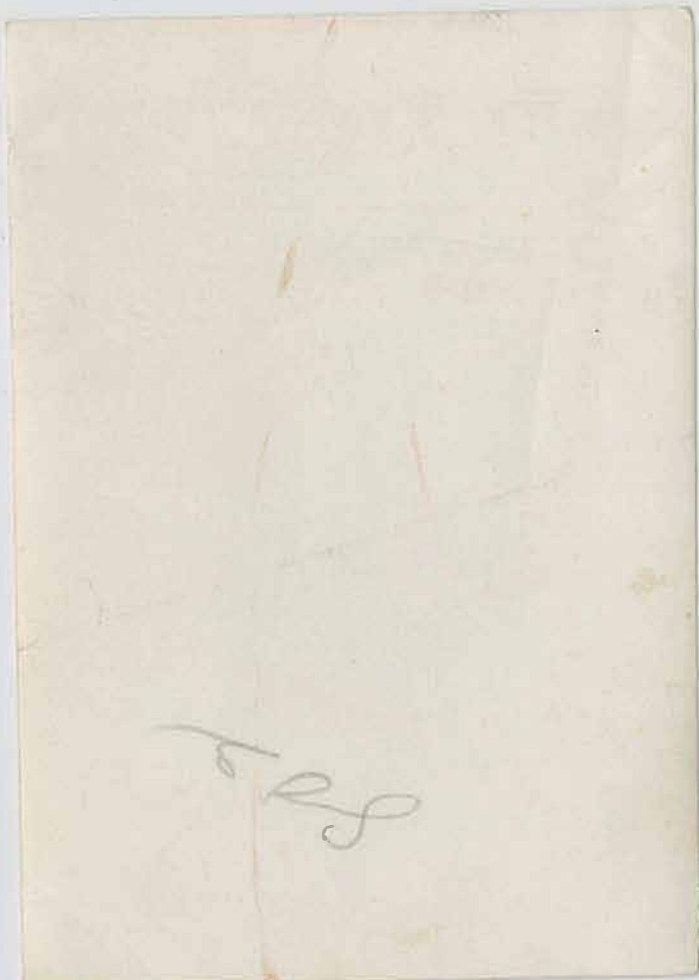


Wilfrid S. Mailhot, Jr.

“Family & Misc.”

Kodak Ultra





HELO-BO-CLIPPER
© 1940-1950

CLIPPING
1940-1950

HELO-BO-CLIPPER
© 1940-1950



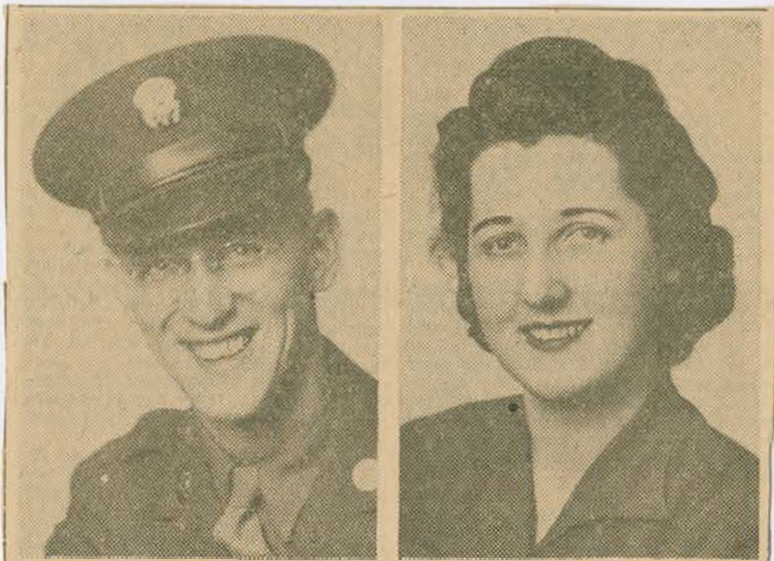
Bill, father Willard, Yvette, Solange, Alexina

Bill and Alphonse



Bill and father

Bill and father



Photos by LaFlamme.

ENGAGED—Miss Leona Dutil and Private Wilfrid S. Mailhot whose engagement is being announced today.

To Pvt. Wilfrid S. Mailhot Leona Dutil Engaged

Mr. and Mrs. Alphonse Dutil of 141 Bartlett Street, Lewiston, announce the engagement of their daughter, Leona, to Pvt. Wilfrid S. Mailhot, son of Wilfrid S. Mailhot, of 153 Bartlett Street, Lewiston.

Miss Dutil was graduated from St. Peter's School and Lewiston High School. She is employed at the office of the Central Distributors Inc. of Oxford Street, Lewiston. She

is a member of the Art Patronage Club and the GIM Club.

Private Mailhot attended St. Peter's School and was graduated from Robert Business College. Before entering the service in August 1943 he was employed at the South Portland Shipyard. He is now overseas.

No date has been set for the wedding.

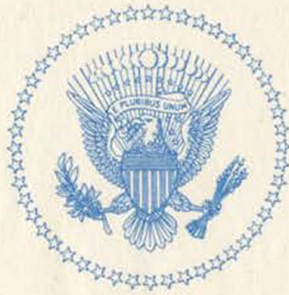


Mlle LEONA DUTIL



M. WILFRID-S. MAILHOT

M. et Mme Alphonse Dutil, de 141 rue Bartlett, annoncent les fiançailles de leur fille, Léona, au soldat Wilfrid S. Mailhot Jr, fils de M. Wilfrid Mailhot, de 153 rue Bartlett. Mlle Dutil a été diplômée de la Lewiston High et du cours supérieur de l'école St-Pierre. Elle fait partie du Patronage des Beaux-Arts et du G. I. M. Club. Elle est employée au bureau de Central Distributors Inc., rue Oxford. Le soldat Mailhot a fait ses études à l'école St-Pierre et a été diplômé du collège commercial Robert. Avant son départ pour l'armée, au mois 1943, il travaillait aux chantiers maritimes de South Portland. Il est présentement au Camp Phillips, Kansas, dans l'infanterie. La date du mariage n'a pas été fixée.



WILFRID S. MAILHOT JR

To you who answered the call of your country and served in its Armed Forces to bring about the total defeat of the enemy, I extend the heartfelt thanks of a grateful Nation. As one of the Nation's finest, you undertook the most severe task one can be called upon to perform. Because you demonstrated the fortitude, resourcefulness and calm judgment necessary to carry out that task, we now look to you for leadership and example in further exalting our country in peace.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be "Dwight D. Eisenhower".

THE WHITE HOUSE



*The United States of America
honors the memory of*

WILFRID S. MAILHOT

*This certificate is awarded by a grateful
nation in recognition of devoted and
selfless consecration to the service
of our country in the Armed Forces
of the United States.*

Lyndon B. Johnson
President of the United States

Army of the United States



Honorable Discharge

This is to certify that

WILFRID S MAILHOT JR 31 398 257 TECHNICIAN FIFTH GRADE

Company I 313th Infantry Regiment

Army of the United States

*is hereby Honorably Discharged from the military
service of the United States of America.*

*This certificate is awarded as a testimonial of Honest
and Faithful Service to this country.*

Given at Separation Center
Fort Devens Mass

Date 31 March 1946

E H Worth

E H WORTH
MAJOR AC

**ENLISTED RECORD AND REPORT OF SEPARATION
HONORABLE DISCHARGE**

1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE INITIAL MAILHOT, WILFRID S JR			2. ARMY SERIAL NO. 31 398 257		3. GRADE Tec 5	4. ARM OR SERVICE Inf	5. COMPONENT AUS		
6. ORGANIZATION Company I 313th Infantry Regiment			7. DATE OF SEPARATION 31 Mar 46		8. PLACE OF SEPARATION Sep Center Ft Devens Mass				
9. PERMANENT ADDRESS FOR MAILING PURPOSES Androscoggin 153 Bartlett St Lewiston Me					10. DATE OF BIRTH 25 Dec 12		11. PLACE OF BIRTH Lewiston Me		
12. ADDRESS FROM WHICH EMPLOYMENT WILL BE SOUGHT See 9					13. COLOR EYES Blue	14. COLOR HAIR Blk Brn	15. HEIGHT 5-8	16. WEIGHT 145 LBS.	17. NO. DEPEND. 0
18. RACE X	NEURO	OTHER (specify)	19. MARITAL STATUS X		SINGLE	MARRIED	OTHER (specify)	20. U. S. CITIZEN X	
WHITE	NEURO	OTHER (specify)	SINGLE	MARRIED	OTHER (specify)	YES	NO	21. CIVILIAN OCCUPATION AND NO. Ship Fitter 5-17.230	

MILITARY HISTORY

22. DATE OF INDUCTION 3 Aug 43		23. DATE OF ENLISTMENT 24 Aug 43		24. DATE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE 24 Aug 43		25. PLACE OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE Portland Me						
SELECTIVE SERVICE DATA X		26. REGISTERED X	YES	NO	27. LOCAL S.S. BOARD NO. 2		28. COUNTY AND STATE Androscoggin Me		29. HOME ADDRESS AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE See 9			
30. MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY AND NO. Postal Clerk 056					31. MILITARY QUALIFICATION AND DATE (i.e., infantry, aviation and marksmanship badges, etc.) SS Rifle Combat Infantryman Badge							
32. BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS Normandy												
33. DECORATIONS AND CITATIONS Good Conduct Medal Victory Medal European African Middle Eastern Theater Campaign Ribbon												
34. WOUNDS RECEIVED IN ACTION none												
35. LATEST IMMUNIZATION DATES					36. SERVICE OUTSIDE CONTINENTAL U. S. AND RETURN							
SMALLPOX 2 Sep 43	TYPHOID 14 Mar 46		TETANUS 5 Dec 44		OTHER (specify) Typ 28 Dec 45			DATE OF DEPARTURE 7 Apr 44		DESTINATION ETO	DATE OF ARRIVAL 16 Apr 44	
37. TOTAL LENGTH OF SERVICE					38. HIGHEST GRADE HELD							
CONTINENTAL SERVICE			FOREIGN SERVICE			Tec 5			18 Mar 46		U S	26 Mar 46
YEARS 0	MONTHS 7	DAYS 18	YEARS 1	MONTHS 11	DAYS 20							
39. PRIOR SERVICE none												
40. REASON AND AUTHORITY FOR SEPARATION CONV OF THE GOV'T AR 615-365 RR1-1 DEMOBILIZATION												
41. SERVICE SCHOOLS ATTENDED none												
42. EDUCATION (Years) Grammar 8 High School 3 1/2 College 0												

PAY DATA


43. LONGEVITY FOR PAY PURPOSES			44. MUSTERING OUT PAY		45. SOLDIER DEPOSITS	46. TRAVEL PAY	47. TOTAL AMOUNT, NAME OF DISBURSING OFFICER				
YEARS 2	MONTHS 7	DAYS 29	TOTAL \$ 300	THIS PAYMENT \$ 100		\$ 9.20	189.44	Vou 38721	Mar 46		

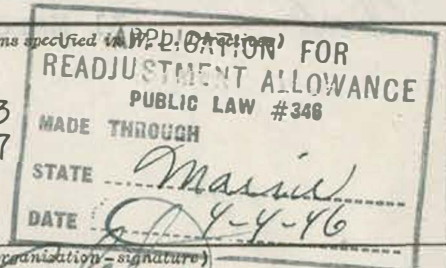
INSURANCE NOTICE

E A NYQUIST Major FD

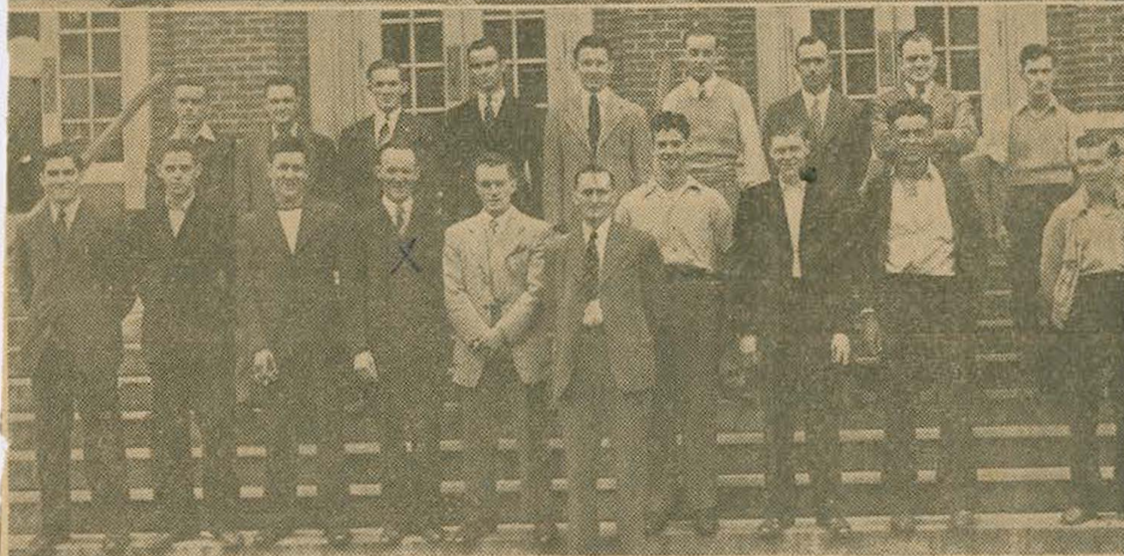
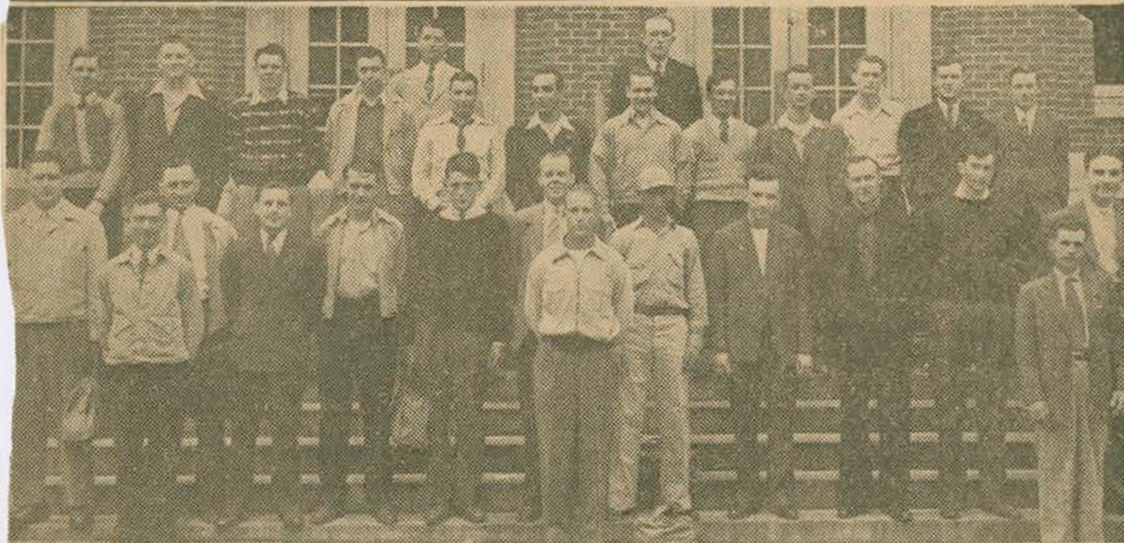
IMPORTANT IF PREMIUM IS NOT PAID WHEN DUE OR WITHIN THIRTY-ONE DAYS THEREAFTER INSURANCE WILL LAPSE. MAKE CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO THE TREASURER OF THE U. S. AND FORWARD TO COLLECTIONS SUBDIVISION, VETERANS ADMINISTRATION, WASHINGTON, 25, D. C.

48. KIND OF INSURANCE		49. HOW PAID		50. Effective Date of Allotment Discontinuance		51. Date of Next Premium Due (One month after 50)		52. PREMIUM DUE EACH MONTH		53. INTENTION OF VETERAN TO			
Nat. Serv. X	U.S. Govt.	None	Allotment X	Direct to V. A.	31 Mar 46		30 Apr 46		\$ 7.20		Continue X	Continue Only	Discontinue

54. 	55. REMARKS (This space for completion of above items or entry of other items specified in Application) Issued Lapel Button ERC 3 Aug 43 to 23 Aug 43 ASR Score 2 Sept 45										
56. SIGNATURE OF PERSON BEING SEPARATED <i>Mailhot Wilfrid S Jr</i>	57. PERSONNEL OFFICER (Type name, grade and organization - signature) <i>M L Carleton</i> M L CARLETON 1ST LT AC										



TUESDAY, AUGUST 24, 1943



BOARDS ONE AND TWO—The two Lewiston Boards sent selectees Tuesday morning to Devens, with a total of 48 men leaving. The top photo is of Board 1 and the men are: (Front row, left to right) Leonard E. Bilodeau, Romeo L. Michaud, Sewall C. Strout, Lionel Jacques, Clinton E. Knowlton, Lewis A. Hunnewell, Edward A. Harkins, Louis P. Michaud, Robert J. Begin, Lorenzo E. Rouillard, Armand W. Bouchard, Robert R. Ruel, Francis J. Gilbert, Romeo T. Begin. Acting Corporal Norman E. Whitten is standing in front. Second row: Ernest S. Pelletier, Linn E. Joy, Merle S. Wilbur, Raymond P. Rush, Albert P. Cote, Arthur J. Paraskevacos, William P. Hodsdon, George A.

Larchian, Bertrand Leveque, Guy E. Fitzsimmons, Louis P. Delisle, Everett G. Leonard. Back row: Joseph A. Poulin, Wesley H. Reynolds.

Normand J. Bertrand was acting corporal for the group from Board Two, and he is shown in the lower photo standing in front of the selectees. From left to right: Dominique P. Turmenne, Rudolphe Roderigue, Wilfred S. Mailhot, Marcel E. Moore, Harry E. Nadeau, Patrick M. Dube, Omer R. Champagne, Lionel Voisine, Armand W. Bouchard, Conrad A. Rivard, George L. Poisson, Wilfred L. Mercier, Maurice Lagasse, Robert L. Turcotte, Harry L. Strout, Leon J. Therriault, George J. Gaudreau.

LIONEL DUCHARME
ROGER M DUCHARME
RICHARD M DUCHARME
RICHARD I SABINE

USA WWII
USA PT
USA PT
USMC PT

ALBERT A MAILHOT
WILFRID S MAILHOT JR

USA WWII
USA WWII

DONAT G MAILHOT
DENIS W MAILHOT

USA WWII
USA WWII

AUGUSTIN C RANCOURT
ROGER A RANCOURT
GEORGE A BURGESS

USA V
USA WWII
USA V
USA WWII

PAUL A CYR

USA V

LUCIEN W DUMONT

USAF K

ROSAIRE G DUQUETTE

USA WWII

AVERTIX

WWII – U.S. Army

Raymond Dutil

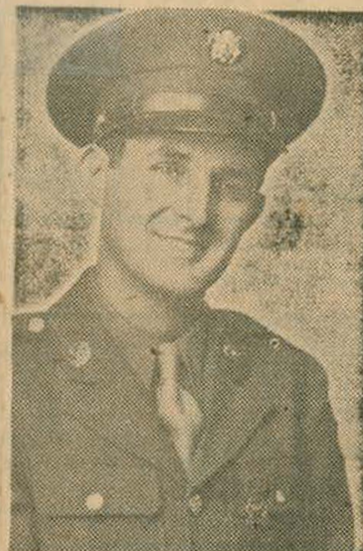
Ray is Denis Mailhot's uncle and his mother Leona's brother. He married Rita Cloutier who was Dr. Wilfrid Cloutier's sister. (Dr. Cloutier was a St. Mary Hospital surgeon for decades)



Ray & Rita



Mlle RITA CLOUTIER



M. RAYMOND-A. DUTIL

M. et Mme Amédée Cloutier, de 19 avenue Libby, annoncent les fiançailles de leur fille, Rita, au soldat Raymond-A. Dutil, fils de M. et Mme Alphonse Dutil, de 141 rue Bartlett. Mlle Cloutier a été diplômée de la Lewiston High en 1942 et est présentement employée au bureau de l'agence Thomas C. White. Elle fait partie du Foyer Musical. Le soldat Dutil a fait ses études aux écoles locales. Il était membre de l'Orphéon et du club Montagnard. Avant son entrée dans le service il était employé à la division locale de la Peppereil Mfg. Co. Il est présentement stationné au Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky. La date du mariage n'a pas été fixée.



Ray in front
of Bartlett st
home (Across from
141 Bartlett)



Ray, Grace and
Alphonse



Ray, Grace & Leona

Ultra-Pro
174-000-1174



Ray and
future spouse
Rita Cloutier

209

Ray with
sisters Leona
and Grace

P

Ray and
Sister Leona

209

Ray Dutil

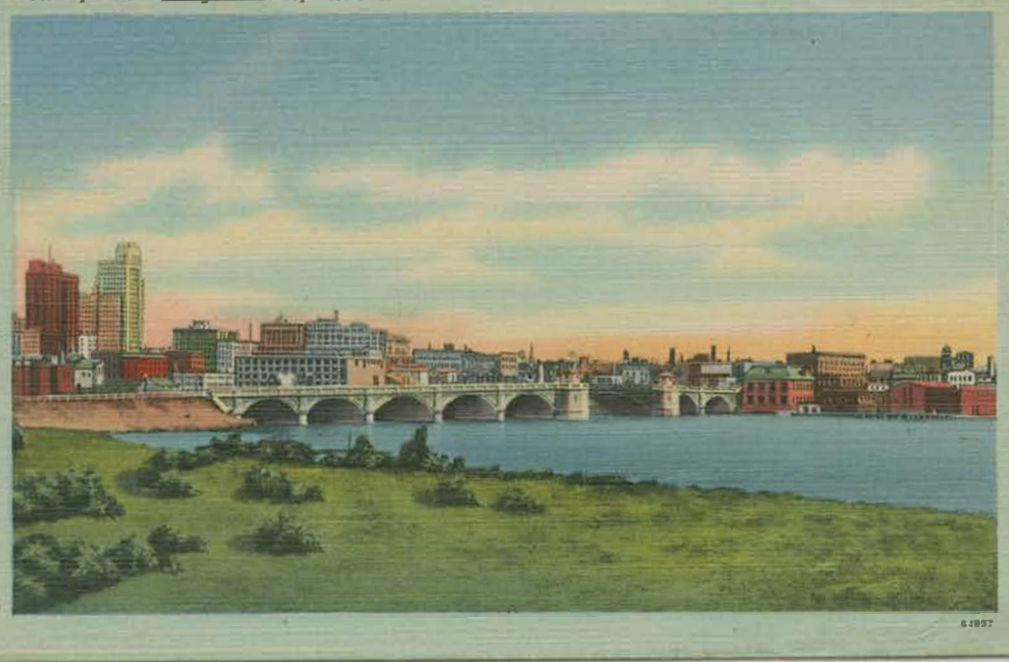
209

Ultra-PRO

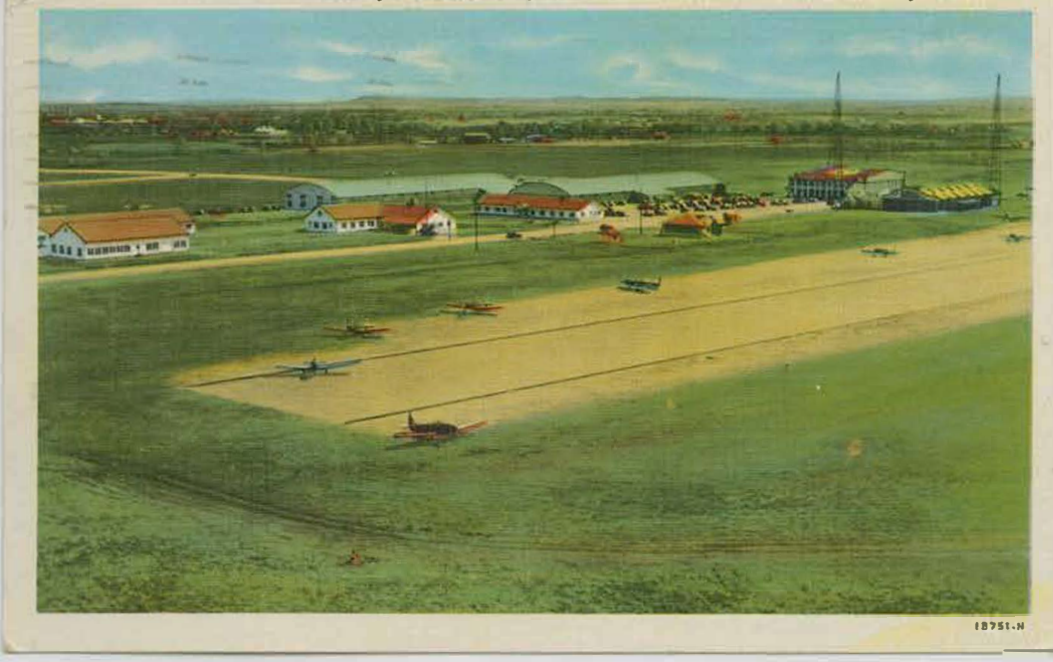
POSTER/SLIDE
U.S. MADE IN U.S.A.
And Divisions: PERU

Ultra-PRO

Cherry Street Bridge and Skyline, Toledo, Ohio

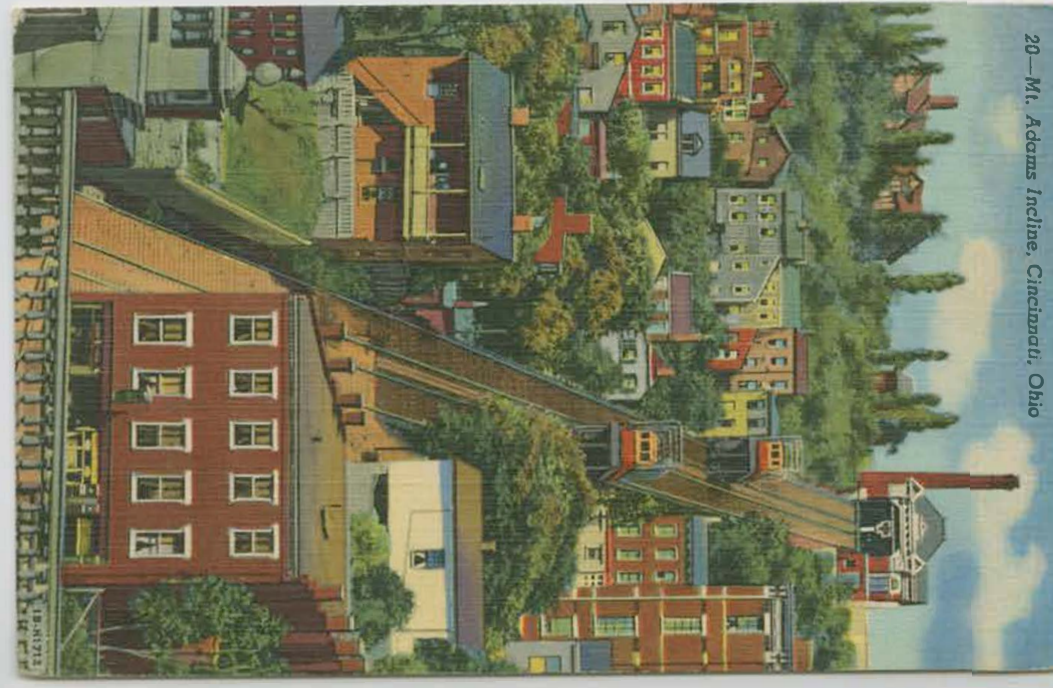
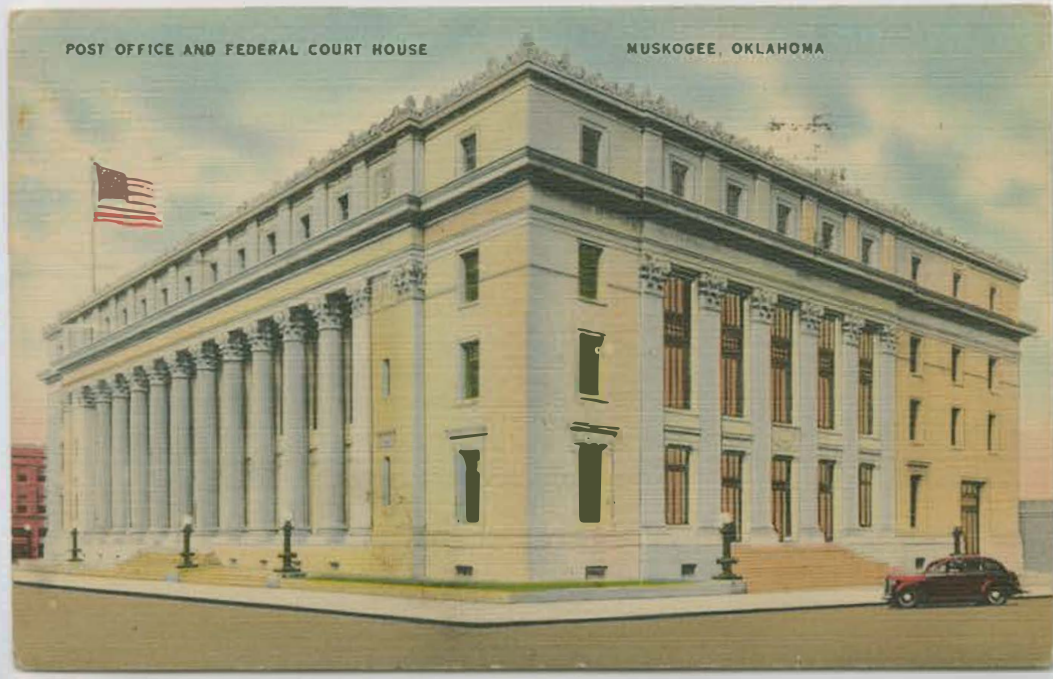


Muskogee Division of Spartan School of Aeronautics, Inc., Muskogee, Okla.



POST OFFICE AND FEDERAL COURT HOUSE

MUSKOGEE, OKLAHOMA



20—Mt. Adams Incline, Cincinnati, Ohio

PRO-PRO

Nov 4, 1942

Ships taxiing down to take off. They're headed out for practice fields, which are used to relieve the traffic burden here on Hatbox Field. Most of them have gone and the traffic you see is rather light. Traffic patterns are flown with teamwork and precision. Timing, anticipation, and relative speed sense besides precision and co-ordination make for good traffic flying. By the time these boys graduate their work in traffic is close to perfection.

Oct. Raymond Dutil
Company "A"
D BN
1942
POST CARD

Hello Bill:
How are you. I have received your sweet letter and I thank you very much. Tonight it rained all night so we did not go in the wood. We had dinner on our camp. Tomorrow night we are going in the wood for a night's problem. For now I am fine. I am very busy I write letters & tonight I will write you tonight

Mr. Bill Marshall
153 Bartlett St
Lewiston, Maine
your friend
R. Kops

MESKOGEE
NOV 5
1942

PLACE ONE CENT STAMP HERE

POST CARD

April 3, 1942
Oct. Raymond Dutil
Company "A"
D BN
1942

THIS SPACE FOR WRITING MESSAGES
Chers Parents:
Ca va? mon ami. Esou
Je vais, elle avoue. Et j'ai
en de la lassitude la
journées sur le P.
Il fait vraiment beau
et chaud ici. Je en
une carte de Leonas et
une lettre de Rita. C'est
Je suis bien occupé. J'ai
une lettre de Pier
fort de peur de traverser
votre mer. J'ai un
de votre service. Ça j'ai
clous de vos services. Je

PLACE ONE CENT STAMP HERE
MADE IN U.S.A.
POST CARD

Mr. Mrs. Alphonse Dutil
143 Bartlett St
Lewiston, Maine

143 Bartlett St
Lewiston, Maine
Mr. Mrs. Alphonse Dutil
POST CARD

CINCINNATI
OHI
JUL 12
1942

PLACE ONE CENT STAMP HERE

Nov 5 Oct. Raymond Dutil
Company "A"
D BN
1942

THIS SPACE FOR WRITING MESSAGES
Dear Papa:
I received your letter dated Nov 1. How is everybody? fine & hope
for me I am in good shape
waiting to go on a trip
in the wood. We have supper
at 5 after we are going to
have two walks like Sunday night
& nibbles and back for 11 o'clock
Today I received a letter from
Pier. I write a letter
to Pier Sunday. Did you
cycle ashland received answer
from me. Demansia a la main

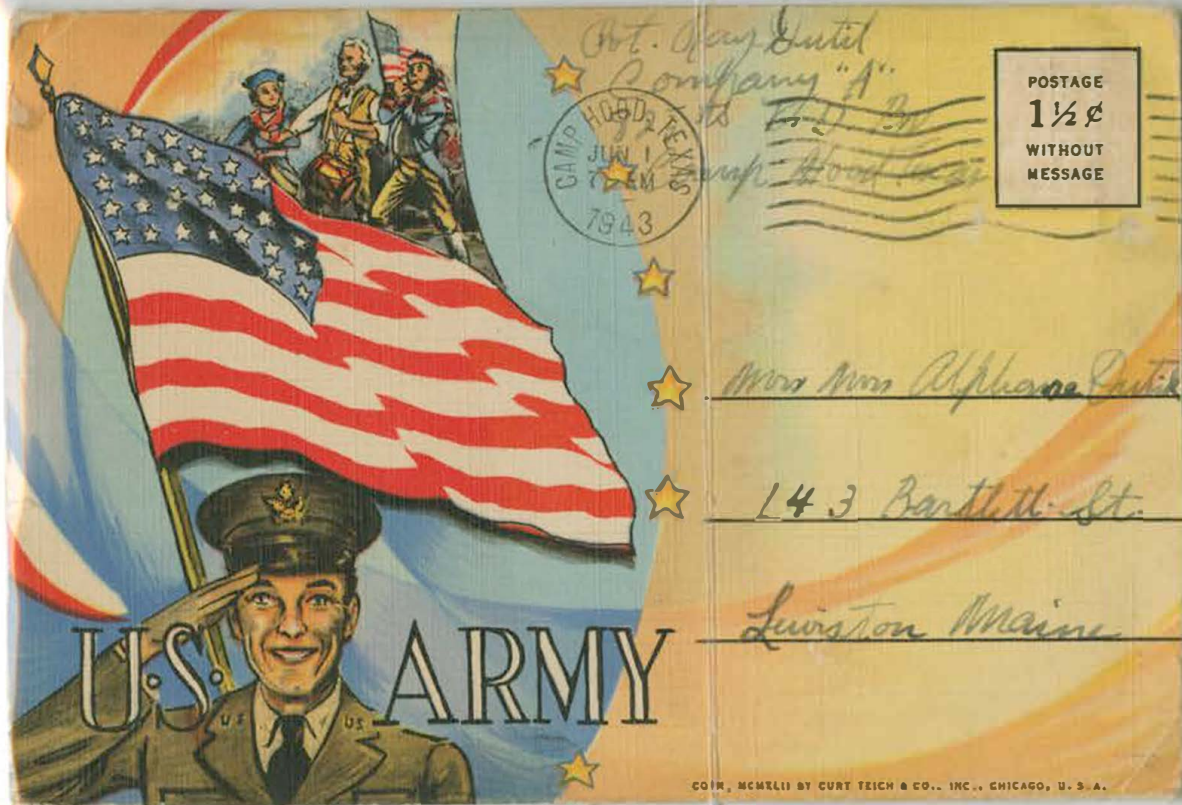
Mr. & Mrs. Alphonse Dutil
143 Bartlett St
Lewiston, Maine

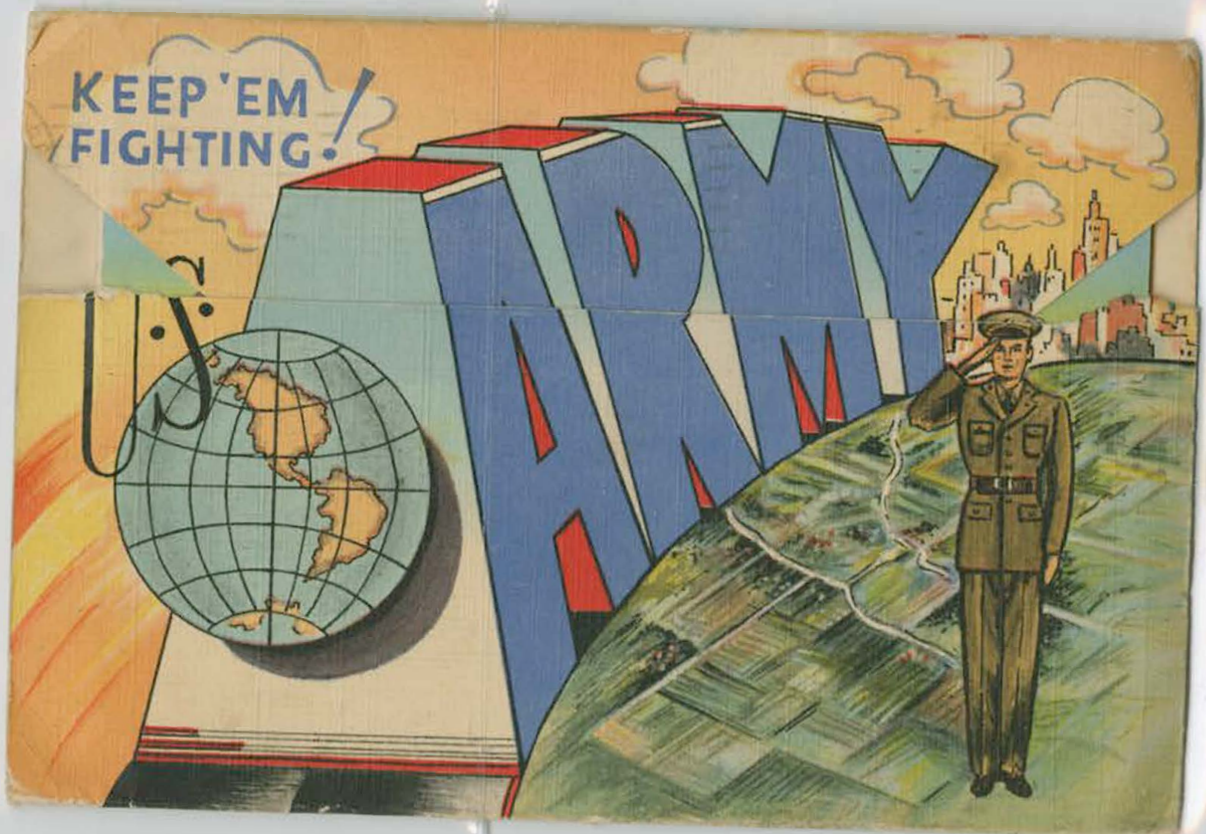
NOV 6
1942

PLACE ONE CENT STAMP HERE

POST CARD

de Pier
de Kops





AVERY

WWII – U.S. NAVY

**Seaman First Class
Romeo Gerard Turgeon**



Romeo & Muriel (spouse)

Honorable Discharge



from the

United States Navy

This is to certify that

Romeo Gerard TURG' NO

Seaman, First Class

is Honorably Discharged from the United States Naval Air Station
Norfolk, Virginia *and from the Naval Service of the United States*

this 4th *day of* October 1945

This certificate is awarded as a Testimonial of Fidelity and Obedience.

G. L. Compo *cab*

G. L. Compo
Captain, U. S. Navy,
Commanding.

10-4-45: US Naval Reserve Honorable Discharge and Honorable Service Lapel Buttons and Honorable Discharge Emblems issued this date from the US Naval Air Station, Norfolk, Virginia.

M. W. Githens
M. W. GITHENS, Lt(jg) USNR
Civil Readjustment Officer

Enlisted as _____ (Rate) _____ (Date)
At _____ for _____ years
Born _____ at _____ (Date)
Qualifications _____
Ratings held _____
Certificates _____
Trade schools completed _____
Special duties for which qualified _____
Service (vessels and stations served on) or (served satisfactorily on active duty from _____ to _____)

Rating at discharge _____ { Acting Permanent } (Service Number)
Character of service excellent. Final average _____
_____, U. S. N.
and Executive Officer.

Height Five ft seven in. Weight 159 lbs. Eyes Blue
Hair Dark brown Complexion ruddy
Personal marks, etc., S. left thumb, O.S. left knee, 1" S. by 1/2" left ankle,



Tat. Heart and dagger right forearm. 3 1/2" over left eye
Is physically qualified for discharge. Requires neither treatment nor hospitalization.
I certify that this is the actual print of the right index finger of the man herein mentioned.
W. Eisenbaum
_____, U. S. N.
and Medical Officer.

Monthly rate of pay when discharged _____
I hereby certify that the within named man has been furnished travel allowance at the rate of _____ cents per mile from _____ and paid \$ _____ (Amount) in _____ months _____ days.
Total net service for pay purposes _____ years _____ months _____ days.

_____, U. S. N.
(Signature of man.) and Disbursing Officer.

entries previously made here on now covered by NavPers 553, "Notice of Separation"

NOTICE OF SEPARATION

AVERTIS

WWII – U.S. Marine Corp.

Raymond Violette

**Romeo Turgeon's brother-in-law and Muriel Turgeon's brother;
Jeanne Turgeon-Mailhot's uncle**

