



☆☆☆

**WORLD WAR II VETERANS DISCUSSION GROUP  
HAGAMAN MEMORIAL LIBRARY 203-468-3890  
227 MAIN ST. EAST HAVEN, CT 06512**

# January 2014

**Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 29th at 2:00 pm in the Hagaman Library DeMayo Community Room.**

This month, we have historian and long time amateur storyteller **Arnie Pritchard** who will share with us a treasure of hand-written letters from World War II. A few years ago Arnie inherited the Army footlocker of his Father, Tony Pritchard. The locker turned out to contain hundreds of letters and other documents from his father's service and from his two years working for the postwar U.N. displaced persons program.



Arnie Pritchard



Tony Pritchard  
in World War II

The letters are vivid, thoughtful, and insightful. From a small selection of the letters Arnie has created a story focusing on his father's time in the front lines in Europe in 1944-45. The story portrays a young man encountering a world wider, more varied, and much more brutal than anything he had ever known. He had to cope with raw fear, with his role as a leader, and with doubts about himself and others. In writing home, he often struggled to convey his experiences to those who remained in the world he had lived in before Pearl Harbor. He struggled particularly with balancing his intense desire to have his parents understand what he was going through with his desire not to scare the daylights out of them.

## **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

**Carl Timmreck 1/1  
Jill Cete 1/6  
Lillian Scalia 1/17  
William Jackson 1/18  
Santo Tutino 1/18  
Pat Baker 1/23  
Mary Ann Anderson 1/24**



**In Memory of Marty Nobile  
Born: March 10, 1924  
United States Army  
Purple Heart, Bronze Star**

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

### **The Nazis Had Plans to Invade Ireland**

Early in World War II, German war chiefs were busy devising *Unternehmen Grün* or Operation Green: Nazi Germany's planned invasion of Ireland. The plan would have



seen the 4th and 7th infantry divisions of the German army being deployed to Ireland. The German 4th army corps in particular had a brutal reputation in battle, having inflicted many civilian casualties as they secured the Polish corridor to Warsaw during the invasion of Poland in 1939. Their advance, had the 4th and 7th been deployed to Ireland, would have been rapid—up to 60 miles a day, and their brutality would have been beyond doubt. A total of 50,000 German troops were allocated for the Irish invasion, initially to land on Ireland's southeast coast where they expected to be met with only token resistance, and then to aeri-ally bomb targets throughout the Irish Free State as it was then known. The Irish would have been completely unable to handle the onslaught from the invading German forces—the poorly equipped Irish army had only 7,600 regulars and 11,000 reserves and was incapable of mounting large-scale maneuvers. Many Irish army companies at the time travelled by bicycle! When Winston Churchill got wind of the German scheme, he drafted detailed plans for a counter-attack to be launched from Northern Ireland. In the end, Ireland's neutrality was respected and they emerged largely unscathed from the war, but had the invasion taken place, there could well have been large-scale casualties.

[Source: irishcentral.com](http://Source: irishcentral.com)

We'd like to thank Doug McGinley, manager at Stop & Shop for providing one of the large roll-up plat- ters for the Christmas Party.



**GEM OF THE MONTH:**

*"A true friend never gets in your way, unless you happen to be going down."*

2013



C P  
H A  
R R  
I T  
S Y  
T  
M  
A  
S



*Kevin and Fawn performed a Burns & Allen Christmas skit*



*Captain Jim Morgia sang for us*



**For 30 years, Darleen Hood (above) wore this silver POW/MIA bracelet with Col. McGouldrick's name on it.**

**Hagaman Employee Has Ties to Vietnam War MIA New Haven Airman**

Darleen Hood, Head of Circulation at the Hagaman Library, has felt a real connection with MIA Air Force Col. Francis J. McGouldrick, Jr. of New Haven. She and other members of her family wore POW/MIA bracelets in support of missing U.S. Service personnel. Darleen tells her story: "Thirty years ago, I wanted an MIA/POW bracelet, but there were none left. After a few weeks my mother said a neighbor had one for me. When I saw the date he went missing in 1968, it happened to be my birthday, December 13th, so I remembered him every year. This past December 13th, 2013, I came to work on my birthday, stamped the newspaper and noticed the headlines in the paper, the remains of the soldier named on my bracelet, Air Force Col. Francis J. McGouldrick Jr. of New Haven, had been found and were to be buried with full military honors in Arlington Cemetery on my birthday. I got goosebumps when I heard about it." Darleen plans to give the bracelet to the surviving member of McGouldrick's family. Col. McGouldrick went missing in Vietnam in 1968 at the age of 39 when his B-57E aircraft crashed on a mission over Laos.