



**Staff Sgt. Solomon Blechman, USMC**

530 Palmer Avenue, Village of Mamaroneck

Age: 23

Mamaroneck Class of 1938

Union College Class of 1942

Third Division

Sgt. Blechman, a Marine Corps combat correspondent, was fatally wounded as he hit the beach with the Third Division on Guam on July 21, 1944. Evacuated to a hospital ship, he tragically died the same day and was buried at sea.

Awards: Purple Heart

Sgt. Blechman is listed on the Tablets of the Missing at Honolulu Memorial, Honolulu, Hawaii.



PVT. GEORGE W. McELROY, Jr

**Pvt. George W. McElroy, Jr., U.S. Army**

75 Briarcliff Road, Larchmont

Approximate Age: 19

Attended St. Augustine Academy, Larchmont, and Mamaroneck High School

305<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 77<sup>th</sup> Division

Pvt. McElroy joined the Army in September of 1943 while still a student at Mamaroneck High School. He was killed in action on Guam on August 2, 1944. In May of 1948, his body was returned to the United States for a final service and burial at the military cemetery in Farmingdale, Long Island.

**The Richard M. Kemper Park's  
Profiles in Courage**

On July 21, 1944, U.S. Forces invaded Guam as part of the "island hopping" strategy used in the Pacific Theatre. Guam was the second of the Mariana Islands to be invaded. The first, Saipan, had been invaded on June 15, 1944, and 21 year old Marine Pfc. Lawrence Wollenberg, MHS Class of 1941, was killed during the beachhead landing. Located only 1200 miles from Tokyo, the Marianas provided airfields from which the B-29 bombers could attack Japan. As a matter of fact, Tinian, the third island to be invaded (on July 24, 1944), provided the airfield from which the "Enola Gay" flew to drop the atomic bomb "Little Boy" on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945.

Both the U.S. Marine Corps and the U.S. Army were involved in all three invasions and Sgt. Blechman and Pvt. McElroy represented this cooperation. Similarly, in May of 1945, the Mamaroneck School District and the Adolph Kemper family cooperated to create a World War II Memorial Park that was dedicated on May 27, 1947. With their own monies, the Kemper family purchased three parcels of commercial property and created a Memorial Park with pathways, granite benches, landscaping and a granite monument that lists the 99 individuals who lost their lives in World War II. The Park was named after Richard M. Kemper, who was killed in Normandy on August 6, 1944. This Memorial Park was donated to the Mamaroneck School District and, in return, the Mamaroneck School District promised to protect and maintain the Memorial Park in perpetuity.

To help commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the World War II Memorial Park, The Sound and Town Report will be printing profiles of "Our 99" during the next year.