

Profiles Sound and Town Report May 11, 2007



Cpl. Edward Berggren, U.S. Army

85 Myrtle Boulevard, Town of Mamaroneck

Born in Larchmont, Cpl. Berggren lived here all his life and graduated from Mamaroneck High School. While stationed at Keesler Field in Biloxi, Mississippi, Berggren was killed on Sunday, October 7, 1945, when the car in which he was a passenger crashed through the guard rail on an open bridge and plunged into the waters of the Chef Menteur River, 30 miles east of New Orleans. He was scheduled to be discharged from the Army the week following his death. He was 38 years old.

Cpl. Berggren had been a member of the Weaver Street Fire Department and had been employed by the Westchester Lighting Company and the Sanborn Map Company before entering the service in June of 1942.



Second Lt. Vincent L. Stouter, U.S. Army Air Corps

1 Locust Terrace, Dillon Park, Town of Mamaroneck

Lt. Stouter graduated from Mamaroneck High School Class in 1939. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps in January of 1943. On April 22, 1944, he and three others were killed when a bombardier training plane crashed at Midland Army Air Field in Texas. Lt. Stouter had been trained to pilot the Martin B-26 Marauder the previous December. He was 22 years old.

Before joining the service, Lt. Stouter worked in the mailing room of the Daily News and was assistant manager of the White Plains and Brooklyn stores for S. S. Kresge.

**THE RICHARD M. KEMPER PARK'S
PROFILES IN COURAGE**

Although many of the names on the monument in the Richard M. Kemper Park honor those who lost their lives in the midst of battle, there are also names of those who lost their lives off the battlefields. Some died before the United States entered the war; some after it ended. Nevertheless, these men had joined the military as part of the overall war effort and their sacrifice was equally important to the community. In June of 1941, the same month his sister, Eleanor, was married, Cpl. Mervin Ash King of 21 Monroe Avenue in Larchmont suddenly died after an operation for a gastric ailment at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Cpl. King had been a stockbroker for the family firm until he joined the Army in January of 1941. He was 28 years old. Cpl. Berggren was killed in an automobile accident outside New Orleans after the war was over.

Other names on the monument represent those who died stateside while training to become pilots. Lt. Stouter was killed while training to pilot the B-26 Marauder (also known as the "Widowmaker") and Lt. George H. Walker was training to become a fighter pilot of the P-40 in the 324th Fighter Group when his plane crashed at Richmond Air Base near Richmond, Virginia, on April 5, 1944. A graduate of the Dwight School, Lt. Walker had enlisted during his sophomore year at Brown University and was only 21 years old when he was killed.

Adolph and Helen Kemper had lost their only son in Normandy on August 6, 1944. They felt it was important to have a memorial to those from the community who lost their lives while serving their country, whether the result of a tragic accident or the result of enemy gunfire. In 1945 and 1946, they bought three parcels of commercial property and created a World War II Memorial Park, The Memorial Park was donated to the Mamaroneck School District on May 25, 1947, and to commemorate its 60th anniversary the Sound and Town Report is printing the profiles of the 99 individuals honored there.