from February 1944 to February 1946. Participated in Central Europe Campaign, Ardennes (cared for wounded in the Battle of the Bulge), Colmar Pocket, and Rhineland Campaign. Her awards include the Belgian Knight of the Order of the Crown (for Battle of the Bulge service).

**Drews, John.** Technical Sergeant, First Army. Enlisted 1942; served as supply sergeant in an ammunition supply depot.


**Hostler, Charles W.** Office of Strategic Services (OSS) X2 “double cross” unit, an allied counterespionage/deception operation. Landed on Utah Beach on the afternoon of June 6, 1944 with the mission “to take control” of French civilian agents who were conspiring with the Germans by telegraphing military information to them. Hostler and his United States and British colleagues forced over 40 of these agents to turn coat and send their spymasters false reports on Allied troops. Hostler’s work in France was so sensitive that the Central Intelligence Agency did not declassify the circumstances of his World War II service until 1990. After retiring as an Air Force colonel in 1963, Hostler worked in the private sector. President George H. W. Bush appointed him United States Ambassador to Bahrain, where he served from 1989 to 1993.

**Kanaya, Jimmie.** 2nd Lieutenant, 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team. A native of Washington, he enlisted in the Regular Army in April 1941 and received a battlefield commission in September 1944. In October 1944, then 2nd Lieutenant Kanaya was captured by the Germans in the Vosges Mountains between Bruyeres and Biffontaine, France. Sent to Oflag 64 in Poland, he escaped three times, and was recaptured twice before successfully traveling 390 miles on foot to reach Allied lines and freedom. Retired as a colonel in September 1964. Awarded the Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal with two oak leaf clusters and Purple Heart.

**Kuhar, Joseph J.** 33rd Special Services Company. Kuhar served in Ardennes campaign (Battle of the Bulge); died August 2004, aged 87.

**LeBeau, Marcella R.** 1st Lieutenant, Army Nurse Corps. Born in 1919 into the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Marcella Ryan LeBeau’s Lakota name is Wigmuke Waste Win (Pretty Rainbow Woman). She joined the Army as a nurse in April 1943 and, after D-Day, served in France and Belgium, first with the 76th General Hospital (where she treated D-Day casualties) and later on the front lines with the 108th General Hospital (where she nursed soldiers wounded in the Battle of the Bulge). In February 1946, she was discharged from the Army and returned home to South Dakota. She married, raised 8 children and worked in the nursing profession for a total of 31 years. Awarded the American and ETO Campaign Medals, and World War II Victory Medal. A photograph of Lieutenant LeBeau receiving her Legion of Honor is at Figure 8.

**Marsh, Theo.** Private First Class, 431st Quartermaster Truck Company A cook, Marsh served in Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe. His awards include the Good Conduct Medal, American and ETO Campaign medals (the latter with five bronze stars), and World War II Victory medal.
McGee, Charles. Major, 33rd Fighter Group (Tuskegee Airmen); completed 136 missions as a pilot and had at least one “kill.” Awarded Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross with 2 oak leaf clusters, and Air Medal with 25 oak leaf clusters.

McGovern, George S. Born and raised in South Dakota, McGovern piloted a B-24 Liberator bomber in World War II, and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism while participating in aerial flight; Stephen Ambrose subsequently featured McGovern’s wartime exploits in his book, The Wild Blue. After returning from the European Theater of Operations, McGovern earned a PhD in history and taught at Dakota Wesleyan University before entering politics in 1956 as a Congressman. In the 1960s, then Senator McGovern emerged as outspoken critic of the Vietnam War, but, when he ran as a Democrat against Richard Nixon in the 1972 presidential election, McGovern’s message was rejected by the voters. He suffered a 60% to 38% defeat in the popular vote (and lost 520 to 17 in the Electoral College). Although McGovern was re-elected to the Senate in 1974, he lost in 1980 in the Republican sweep that has come to be known as the “Reagan Revolution.” A photograph of Senator McGovern receiving his Legion of Honor is at Figure 9.

Figure 9: Former Senator George McGovern receives his Legion of Honor. During World War II, McGovern flew missions over France as a B-24 pilot.


Morisi, Joseph L. Technical Sergeant, 121st Engineer Combat Battalion, 29th Infantry Division. A radioman, Morisi served in the Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, and Central Europe (Czechoslovakia). Awarded the Bronze Star Medal with oak leaf cluster, Army Commendation Medal, ETO Campaign medal with 5 stars and arrowhead (for D-Day), World War II Victory Medal, French Fourragere (for D-Day) and Belgian Fourragere (for Battles of Mons and Bulge). One of only two men out of the original 219 men in Company C, 26th Infantry, who hit Omaha Beach and went through five campaigns without missing one day of service, or being killed, captured or wounded.

Morisetti, Rocco J. Staff Sergeant, 26th Infantry Regiment. Enlisted 1943; landed on Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944; participated in Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardenne, Central Europe (Czechoslovakia). Awarded the Bronze Star Medal with oak leaf cluster, Army Commendation Medal, ETO Campaign medal with 5 stars and arrowhead (for D-Day), World War II Victory Medal, French Fourragere (for D-Day) and Belgian Fourragere (for Battles of Mons and Bulge). One of only two men out of the original 219 men in Company C, 26th Infantry, who hit Omaha Beach and went through five campaigns without missing one day of service, or being killed, captured or wounded.

Paparella, Julia B. Lieutenant, Army Nurse Corps. Served with 5th General Hospital in France and England; landed on Omaha Beach at D-Day plus 30. Retired as a colonel, US Army Reserve.

Pasciak, Walter. Sergeant, 80th Infantry Division. Landed in Normandy in late July or early August 1944. Pasciak’s awards include the Silver Star and Bronze Star Medal.

Europe campaigns. Awards include the Good Conduct Medal, ETO Campaign Medal with five bronze stars, and World War II Victory Medal. Honorably discharged November 1945.

Stearns, Lawrence M. 83rd Infantry Regiment; part of the second wave to land on Normandy beaches. Stearns awards include the Purple Heart. He died August 2004, aged 82.

Uranga, Charlie V., Sergeant, 29th Infantry Division. Born Alpine, Texas in 1921; drafted into Army in 1943. Landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day; fought in France, Germany, Belgium and Holland; participated in the Battle of Bulge.

Van Cook, Arthur F., Lieutenant, 111th Field Artillery Battalion, 29th Infantry Division; served as artillery liaison officer and forward observer with 116th Infantry Regiment and 5th Ranger Battalion. For his gallantry on September 2, 1944, while attached to a platoon of 23 Rangers attacking a German fortified position near, Van Cook received the Silver Star medal. His citation reads:

Although serving as liaison to the 5th Ranger Battalion, Lt. Van Cook volunteered to accompany the platoon as a forward observer. On their approach to Brest, a superior enemy force counterattacked. Enemy small arms fire, automatic weapons and mortar fire were fierce. Lt. Van Cook, immediately realizing the gravity of the situation and without regard for his own personal safety, went forward to the leading elements and attempted to furnish artillery fire to the hard-pressed platoon. His position was threatened and it was necessary for him to abandon his SCR 610 radio and withdraw. He fired 5 rounds into the radio and then began withdrawing with the platoon, firing his pistol to assist in covering the platoon and his own party. After firing all his pistol ammunition, he secured an M1 rifle from a wounded Ranger and continued firing. Upon establishment of a defensive line, he immediately sought out an O[bservation] P[ost] and from it delivered effective artillery fire, breaking up a second counterattack and materially aided in holding some valuable ground gained earlier in the day. Lt. Van Cook’s extraordinary...