

# Medal of Honor recipients from Harvard University



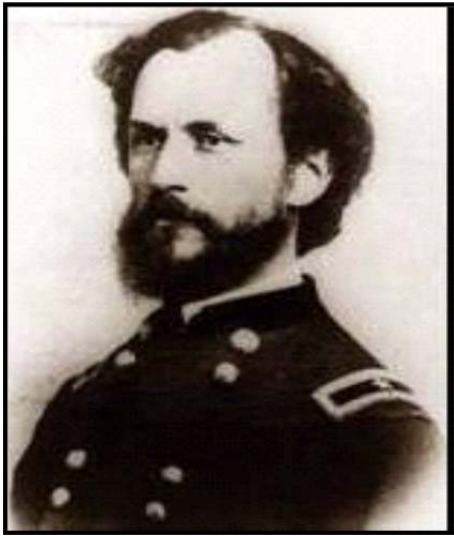
26 April 2018

Harvard graduates have a proud but often untold history of duty, honor and country through their military service to our country. The recipients of the Medal of Honor, of course, merit the highest honor and respect. With a bit of research, Captain Mawn, Chairman of the [Advocates for Harvard ROTC](#), discovered that Harvard had the highest number of Medal of Honor recipients among its alumni (i.e. 18) of any university in the world, except for the US Military Academy at West Point with 83 and the US Naval Academy at Annapolis with 73. Second among civilian universities with Medal of Honor alumni are the University of Washington and Texas A&M with 8 recipients among its graduates. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> tier of universities with 7 Medal of Honor alumni are: Virginia Tech, Virginia Military Institute, all of which have a Corps of Cadets and are located in the South which proudly fosters a long tradition of military service to our country. A limited but illustrative sample of the Medal of Honor count at other universities include: Princeton (5), Dartmouth (3), Holy Cross (3) Columbia (1), Notre Dame (1), Rutgers (1), The Citadel (1) & the US Air Force Academy (1). While not a contest for the Medal of Honor, all Harvard alumni should be very proud of Harvard's premier position of Medal of Honor alumni among all civilian universities in the world. Harvard should pro actively reinvigorate its noble tradition of educating patriots who serve our country in the armed forces with great distinction. The highest British award for valor is the Victoria Cross which is the equivalent of the Medal of Honor. However to the best of our knowledge, the Victoria Cross has never been awarded to a Harvard Alumnus.

Among the 18 Medal of Honor recipients from Harvard are 5 lawyers, 4 businessmen, 3 career military officers, 2 medical doctors, 2 politicians and 2 in their 20's who were killed in action. This pantheon of Harvard heroes includes 8 Army generals, a flag officer from the USMC, Navy & USAF, 4 field grade Army officers, a Marine 2nd Lt. and an Army staff sergeant. Harvard warriors who were awarded the Medal of Honor fought in every major US conflict since the Civil War and included the only other father & son recipients besides General Douglas Macarthur and his father who were West Point graduates. 8 of the Harvard recipients were in the Union Army during the Civil War. 2 Harvard recipients served near the end of the 19th century (i.e. General Leonard Wood USA (HMS- 1884) from the Indian Wars & President Teddy Roosevelt (H-1880) who was colonel in the US Volunteers and commanding officer of the Rough Riders in Cuba during the Spanish American War). A Marine from Harvard College was awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroics in combat at Vera Cruz, Mexico in 1914 as was a Naval officer in 1916 who was deployed in the Caribbean Sea. During WWI, 2 Harvard graduates in the Army merited the Medal of Honor while serving as Commanding Officers of the 2 Lost Battalions trapped behind enemy line in the Argonne Forest of France. Harvard recipients from WWII included: Army brigadier general Teddy Roosevelt II (H-1909) who had already received a DSC during WWI and was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his leadership as the senior flag officer on Utah Beach during the Normandy Invasion of Europe on 6 June 1944. In addition, Pierpont Morgan Hamilton (H-1920), a former WWI pilot, earned the Medal of Honor as wounded POW during WWII for convincing an enemy Vichy French general to surrender his division before an allied invasion in North Africa in 1942 (note: General Hamilton was the grandson of JP Morgan and the great, great grandson of Alexander Hamilton). A Marine 2nd Lieutenant during the Korean War and an Army staff sergeant in Vietnam were both killed in action and posthumously earned the Medal of Honor after jumping on grenades to save their platoon mates.

May the **Long Crimson Line** of military service continue to protect our freedom as well as foster the related leadership skills to better serve our country as well as Harvard University. A brief summary of the 18 men of Harvard who received the Medal of Honor follows.

**1. Major General Manning Ferguson Force US Army (Ohio Volunteers) – Harvard College (1845); HLS (1848)**



**Major General Manning Ferguson Force USA**

- Born in Washington, D.C. in 1824 as the grandson of William Force, who was a veteran of the Revolutionary War
- At Harvard, Manning was a member of the A.D. Club
- Awarded Medal of Honor for bravery during Major General Sherman's Georgia campaign in capturing and successfully defending Leggett's Hill at Atlanta, Ga. on 22 July 1864
- His Medal of Honor citation reads: "*Charged upon the works, and after their capture defended his position against assaults of the enemy until he was severely wounded*".
- During this battle, a bullet smashed into his face below his eye and exited his skull. He was sent home to die but he recovered and returned to active duty.
- MG Force later took part in Sherman's March to the Sea later in Carolina campaigns. He also fought at Fort Shiloh, Tennessee, Grant's Mississippi Vicksburg campaign and the Battle of Raymond
- Following the Civil War, MG Force returned to his law practice and was later a Law Professor at Cincinnati Law and later elected a judge in the Superior Court
- Major General Force died in 1899 at age 75

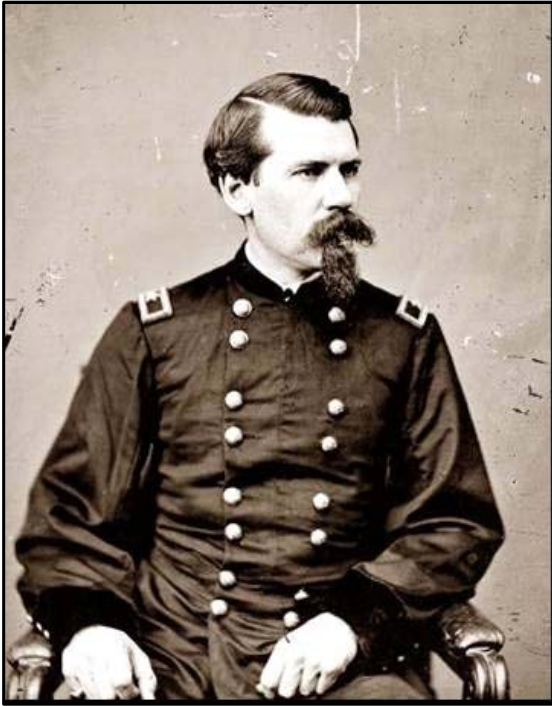
**2. Brigadier General Charles E. Phelps US Army (7<sup>th</sup> Maryland Infantry)–Harvard Law School (1853)**



**Brigadier General Charles E. Phelps USA**

- Born in Guilford, Vermont in 1833
- Graduated from Princeton in 1852 and Harvard Law School in the following year
- Place and date: At Laurel Hill, & Spotsylvania, Va., 8 May 1864.
- His horse was killed under him at the battle of the Wilderness in 1864
- While leading a charge on the "crater" at Spotsylvania (VA), he was wounded and taken prisoner. However, he was later rescued by General Sheridan's Cavalry.
- The Medal of Honor citation for his actions in Spotsylvania (aka Laurel Hill) in 1864 reads: "*Rode to the head of the assaulting column, then much broken by severe losses and faltering under the close fire of artillery, placed himself conspicuously in front of the troops, and gallantly rallied and led them to within a few feet of the enemy's works, where he was severely wounded and captured*".
- After his discharge from activity duty, he was a lawyer and a Law professor at Maryland University Law School until he was elected to 2 terms as a US congressman from Maryland
- Later he was a Judge of the Maryland Supreme Court
- Author of "Falstaff and Equity" in 1901
- Brigadier General Phelps died in 1908 at age 75

**3. Brigadier General Horace Porter US Army (Army of Potomac) – Harvard Lawrence Scientific School (1857)**



**Brigadier General Horace Porter USA**

- Born in Huntington, PA in 1837 as the son of the governor of Pennsylvania and grandson of a Continental Army officer
- Graduated 3<sup>rd</sup> in his class at West Point in 1860
- For bravery during the battle of Chickamauga, his Medal of Honor citation reads: *"While acting as a volunteer aide, at a critical moment when the lines were broken, rallied enough fugitives to hold the ground under heavy fire long enough to effect the escape of wagon trains and batteries"*.
- He also fought at Fort Pulaski, Antietam, Chattanooga and the Battle of the Wilderness and served as Aide de camp to General Ulysses S. Grant from 1864 to 1869
- As President Grant's personal secretary, he refused a \$500,000 bribe from Jay Gould, a Wall Street financier
- He resigned from the Army in 1873 and became vice president of the Pullman Place Car company
- President of the Union League Club in NYC from 1893 to 1897 and was major force in the construction of Grant's Tomb
- Appointed ambassador to France from 1899 to 1905 received the Legion of Honor from the French government
- At his own expense, he conducted the successful search for the body of John Paul Jones who had died in Paris in 1792
- General Porter died in New York City in 1921 at age 84

**4. Major Richard J. Curran US Army (33<sup>rd</sup> NY Infantry)– Harvard Medical School (1859)**



**Major Richard J. Curran USA**

- Born in Ennis, County Clare, Ireland in 1834
- Regimental Assistant Surgeon who helped raise 2 companies of volunteers from up state New York
- After a forced march to Antietam in Maryland, his regiment was immediately put into action and he was the only medical officer present. Over 313 in his brigade were killed or wounded in the initial charge into a valley. Hundreds of wounded were unable to reach the safety of the field hospital.
- Many times Major Curran was told to seek safety but instead remained on the battlefield far into the night tending to the wounded & dying while exposed to shell and shot firing overhead. His only fear was that his make shift straw stack hospital would catch fire.
- For bravery on 17 September 1862 during the battle of Antietam, his Medal of Honor citation reads: *"Voluntarily exposed himself to great danger by going to the fighting line there succoring the wounded and helpless and conducting them to the field hospital"*.
- After the Civil War, Major Curran opened up a drug store in Rochester, NY where he later served as mayor.
- Major Curran died in Rochester, NY in 1915 at age 81



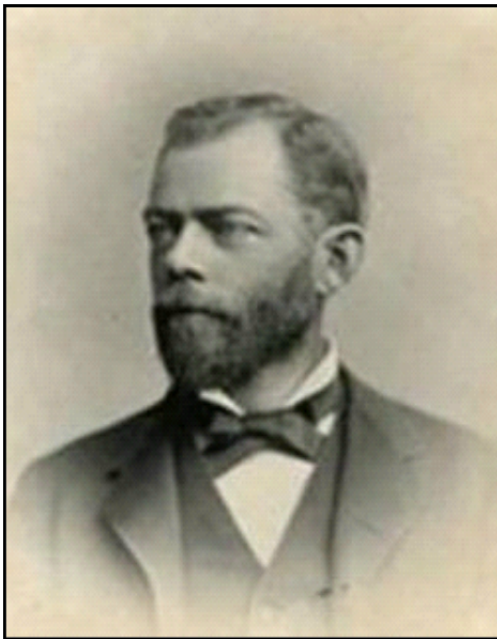
**5. Major General Henry S. Huidekoper US Army (150<sup>th</sup> PA Infantry)– Harvard College (1862); AM (1872)**



**Major General Henry S. Huidekoper USA**

- Born in Meadville, Pennsylvania in 1839
- For bravery during the battle of Gettysburg, his Medal of Honor citation reads: *"While engaged in repelling an attack of the enemy, received a severe wound of the right arm, but instead of retiring remained at the front in command of the regiment."*
- Col. Huidekoper was wounded twice and lost his right arm was, thus, compelled to resign from the Army
- He was appointed major general of the PA National Guard in 1870 and led the suppression of the Great Railroad Strike of 1877.
- Author of "Manual of Service" in 1879
- He later was the postmaster of Philadelphia from 1880 to 1886 and subsequently worked for the Metropolitan Telephone & Telegraph Co, and Bell Telephone until his retirement in 1913
- He was an overseer of Harvard College (1889 to 1910)
- Major General Huidekoper died in Philadelphia in 1918 at age 79

**6. Brigadier General Hazard Stevens US Army (3<sup>rd</sup> Div., 9<sup>th</sup> Corps) – Harvard College (1865)**



**Brigadier General Hazard Stevens**

- Born in Newport , Rhode Island in 1842
- His Medal of Honor citation reads: *Gallantly led a party that assaulted and captured the fort* (i.e. Ft. Huger, VA)
- Fought at the second battle of Bull Run, Pope's Campaign, the Battle of the Wilderness, Fredericksburg, James River Campaign, Petersburg and Richmond
- Brevetted to Brigadier General for his heroism at Petersburg and became the youngest brigadier general in the U.S. Army at age 23
- After the war, he served in as a representative in the Massachusetts legislature
- He later ran unsuccessfully for the US congress.
- He was one of the first two men to climb Mt. Rainier, the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest peak in the U.S.
- Brigadier General Hazard died in 1918 at age 76

**7. General Henry W. Lawton US Army – Harvard Law School (1866)**



- Born in Maumee, Ohio in 1843
- Awarded Medal of Honor for heroic leadership during Major General Sherman's Georgia campaign in 1864
- His Medal of Honor citation reads: "*Led a charge of skirmishers against the enemy's rifle pits and stubbornly and successfully resisted 2 determined attacks of the enemy to retake the works*".
- Veteran of 22 major Civil War engagements
- Returned to Army after Harvard and led the campaign resulting in the surrender of Geronimo
- Commanded first US Army troop ashore in Cuba during the Spanish America War
- 2<sup>nd</sup> in command in the Philippines during the Philippine insurrection
- He was killed by a sniper bullet in the Philippines in 1899 when he was 56

**General Henry W. Lawson USA**

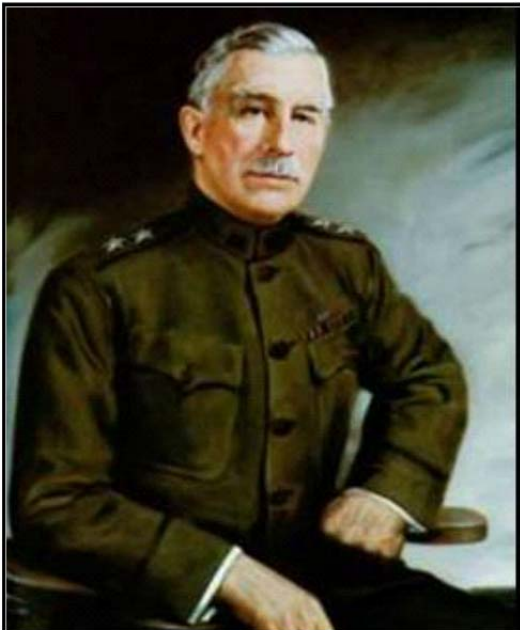
**8. Brigadier General Wilmon W. Blackmar USA – Harvard Law School (1867)**



- Born in Bristol (PA) in 1841
- Enlisted in 1862 as a private with 15th Pennsylvania Cavalry.
- Rapidly promoted through all the non-commissioned grades to 1st Sergeant until his commissioning as 2nd Lt. in the 1st West Virginia Cavalry in 1864.
- For his valor at the battle of Five Forks, General Custer promoted him to Captain
- His Medal of Honor citation reads: "*The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Lieutenant Wilmon Whilldin Blackmar, US Army, for extraordinary heroism on 1 April 1865, while serving with Company H, 1st West Virginia Cavalry, in action at Five Forks, Virginia. At a critical stage of the battle, without orders, he led a successful advance upon the enemy.*"
- Served on active duty both in the Eastern and Western armies and participated in 22 battles including: Antietam, Stone River, Chickamauga, Wauhatchie, Chattanooga, the Shenandoah Campaign of 1864, and the final fighting from Dinwiddie Court House to Appomattox.
- Judge Advocate General of Massachusetts with a Brigadier General rank (1873-1883)
- Elected as Commander-in-Chief of the GAR in 1904 and died a year later at the age of 64.

**Brigadier General Wilmon W. Blackmar USA**

## 9. General Leonard Wood US Army – (Army Chief of Staff) Harvard Medical School (1884)



General Leonard Wood USA

- Born in Winchester, New Hampshire in 1860
- Awarded the Medal of Honor for carrying dispatches over 100 miles of hostile territory during the Apache campaign in the summer of 1886. His Medal of Honor citation reads: *"Voluntarily carried dispatches through a region infested with hostile Indians, making a journey of 70 miles in one night and walking 30 miles the next day. Also for several weeks, while in close pursuit of Geronimo's band and constantly expecting an encounter, commanded a detachment of Infantry, which was then without an officer, and to the command of which he was assigned upon his own request"*.
- Assumed command of US Volunteer Mounted Cavalry (i.e. Rough Riders) during the Spanish American War with Theodore Roosevelt as his executive officer.
- 1902 deployed to the Philippines as commander of East
- Appointed by President Taft in 1910 as the only Medical Officer as Chief of Staff of the Army
- Started the forerunner of ROTC with President Roosevelt which President Wilson disapproved and demoted him as a result
- During WWI, CO 89<sup>th</sup> Division Camp Funston (KA), including 3 months in France in 1918 on special duty & awarded the Distinguished Service Medal
- Retired from the army in 1921 and was appointed governor General for the Philippines
- General Wood died in 1927 at age 67

## 10. Colonel Theodore Roosevelt US Army (Volunteer Mounted Cavalry) [26<sup>th</sup> US President] – Harvard College (1880)



Colonel Theodore Roosevelt US Army Volunteers

- Born in New York, New York in 1858
- Member of the Porcellian Club at Harvard
- Awarded **Medal of Honor** for acts of bravery in 1898 while leading a charge up and capturing San Juan Hill in Cuba during the Spanish American War.
- His Medal of Honor citation reads: *"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Lt. Colonel Theodore Roosevelt distinguished himself by acts of bravery on 1 July, 1898, near Santiago de Cuba, Republic of Cuba, while leading a daring charge up San Juan Hill. Lieutenant Colonel Roosevelt, in total disregard for his personal safety, and accompanied by only four or five men, led a desperate and gallant charge up San Juan Hill, encouraging his troops to continue the assault through withering enemy fire over open countryside. Facing the enemy's heavy fire, he displayed extraordinary bravery throughout the charge, and was the first to reach the enemy trenches, where he quickly killed one of the enemy with his pistol, allowing his men to continue the assault. His leadership and valor turned the tide in the Battle for San Juan Hill. Lieutenant Colonel Roosevelt's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army."*
- Assistant Secretary of the Navy before resigning to join the Rough Riders as the executive officer under General Wood.
- Elected Governor of New York in 1898
- As Vice President, assumed the Presidency of USA upon President McKinley's death in 1901 and reelected in 1904
- Awarded Nobel Peace prize for mediation of the Russo-Japanese War and died in 1919 at age 61



# **11. Brigadier General Walter Hill US Marine Corps – Harvard College (1904)**



**Brigadier General Walter Hill USMC**

- Born in Haverhill, Massachusetts in 1881
- Educated at the Noble & Greenough School prior to Harvard College
- Commissioned in 1904, he served in Cuba, China & the Philippines
- Medal of Honor for action at Vera Cruz, Mexico on April 1914
- His Medal of Honor citation reads: "*For distinguished conduct in battle, engagements of Vera Cruz, 21 and 22 April 1914. Capt. Hill was in both days' fighting at the head of his company, and was eminent and conspicuous in his conduct, leading his men with skill and courage*".
- As a major in World War I, he sailed for France in January 1918 and served with both the 7<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery(1<sup>st</sup> Division of the AEF) & the 91<sup>st</sup> battery of the Royal Garrison Artillery (British Expeditionary Force)
- His WWI engagements were: Ansauville sector & the Somme defensive
- In the fall of 1918, he returned to the US to organize the 10<sup>th</sup> Regiment Artillery of the USMC
- In November 1918, he again faced combat in the Haiti with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Brigade
- In the 1920, he participated in more combat in the Dominican Republic which was followed by a more peaceful tour in the US Virgin Islands
- He retired as a Brigadier General in 1938 but was recalled to active duty at the USMC HQ in Virginia during World War II
- In 1946, he retired from the military for a second time
- He died in New York city in 1955 at the age of 73

# **12. Major George G. McMurtry US Army (308th Infantry, 77th Division) – Harvard College (1899)**



**Major George McMurtry US Army**

- Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1876
- Captain McMurtry had interrupted his Harvard education by volunteering for the Rough Riders during the Spanish American War and participated in the battle for San Juan Hill under Col. Teddy Roosevelt. After leaving the Rough Riders, he graduated from Harvard and became a NYC stock broker until he was called to active duty during World War I.
- After his attendance at Officers' Training Camp in Plattsburg, N.Y., he was commissioned as a 1<sup>st</sup>Lt. (Infantry) in August 1917. He sailed for France in April 1918 and was wounded on 2 occasions.
- Awarded the **Medal of Honor** as Commanding officer 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion, 308 Infantry, 77<sup>th</sup> Division at Argonne forest in 1918 (i.e. one of the famous 2 "Lost Battalions"). Major McMurtry was awarded the **Legion d'Honneur** & the **Croix de Guerre**. His combat engagements included: Baccarat sector, Aisne-Oise and the Meuse- Argonne offensives. During this latter battle, he was wounded by a German grenade which shattered his knee cap.
- He returned to the United States in April 1919 and was discharged May 1919
- In 1958, he died at age 82 after earning a fortune as Wall Street lawyer.

- His Medal of Honor citation reads: "*For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy at Charlerai in the Forest d' Argonne, France for 2-8 October 1918. Captain McMurtry commanded a battalion which was cut off and surrounded by the enemy, and although wounded in the knee by shrapnel on 4 October and suffering great pain, he continued throughout the entire period to encourage his officers and men with a resistless optimism that contributed largely toward preventing panic and disorder among the troops who were, without food, cut off from communications with our lines. On 4 October during a heavy barrage, he personally directed and supervised the moving of the wounded to shelter before himself seeking shelter. On 6 October, he was again wounded in the shoulder by a German grenade, but continued personally to organize and direct the defense against the German attack on the position until the attack was defeated. He continued to direct and command his troops, refusing relief, and personally led his men out of the position after assistance arrived, before permitting himself to be taken to the hospital on 8 October. During this period, the successful defense of the position was due largely to his efforts.*"

### **13. Lt. Colonel Charles W. Whittlesey US Army (308th Infantry, 77th Division) – Harvard Law School (1908)**



- Born in Florence, Wisconsin in 1884
- After attending Officers' Training Camp in Plattsburg, N.Y. in August 1917 he was commissioned a Captain (Infantry) & sailed for France in April 1918
- Awarded Medal of Honor as Commanding officer 1<sup>st</sup> battalion, 308<sup>th</sup> Infantry in the Argonne forest in 1918 (i.e. one of the famous 2 "Lost Battalions")
- He was completely surrounded by Germans for over 5 days but refused to surrender and held the line. Only 200 out of 700 men in these 2 battalions were able to walk out of the battle area on their own accord. His heroics were depicted in the 2001 movie, "The Lost Battalions" in which Lt. Col. Whittlesey was played by the actor, Ricky Schroder.
- His combat engagements included: Baccarat sector, Aisne-Oise (Vesle River) and the Meuse-Argonne offensives and was also awarded the **Croix de Guerre**
- He returned to United States in November 1918 and discharged the next month
- After the war, Mr. Whittlesey returned to his law practice on Wall Street. He made many public appearances as a war hero but unfortunately died in 1921 at age 37 due to post-traumatic stress disorder.

#### **Lt. Colonel Charles Whittlesey USA**

- His Medal of Honor citation reads: *"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action with the enemy northeast of Binarviue in the Argonne Forest, France from 2 to 7 October 1918. Although cut off for five days from the remainder of his division, Major Whittlesey maintained his position which he had reached under orders received for an advance and held his command consisting originally of 463 officers and men of the 308<sup>th</sup> Infantry and of Company K, of the 307<sup>th</sup> Infantry, together in the face of superior numbers of the enemy during the five days. Major Whittlesey and his command were thus cut off and no rations or other supplies reached him in spite of the determined efforts which were made by his division. On the fourth day, Major Whittlesey received from the enemy a written proposition to surrender, which he treated with contempt, although he was at that time out of rations and had suffered a loss of about 50 per cent of killed and wounded of his command and was surrounded by the enemy."*

### **14. Rear Admiral Claud A. Jones US Navy (USS Memphis) – Harvard Graduate School of Applied Science (1913)**



- Born in Fire Creek, West Virginia in 1885.
- Graduated from the Naval Academy in 1906
- Served on battleships *USS Indiana* & *USS New Jersey* over the next 3 years
- Between 1909 and 1915, assigned to the training ship *USS Severn*, the cruiser *US North Carolina*, & battleships *USS Ohio*, *USS New York* & *USS North Dakota*.
- Awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroism while serving as Chief Engineer on *USS Memphis* which was wrecked by a tsunami off Santo Domingo City in August 29, 1916.
- During the World War I, he was at the Brooklyn Navy Yard and the Engineering Officer of the *USS Tennessee*,
- Most of his remaining service was in engineering billets ashore and afloat, with a tour of duty as assistant naval attaché at London.
- For his exceptionally meritorious service in the Bureau of Ships during World War II, he was awarded the Legion of Merit.

Admiral Jones died in Charleston, West Virginia in 1948 at age 62.

#### **Rear Admiral Claude Jones USN**

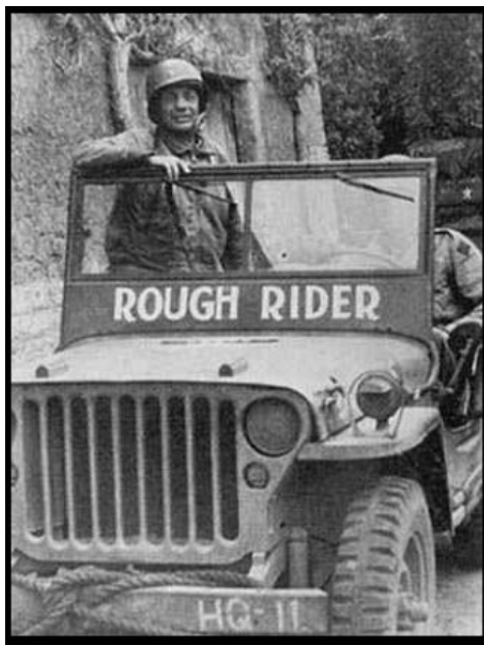
- His Medal of Honor citation reads: *"For extraordinary heroism in the line of his profession as a senior engineer officer on board the U.S.S. Memphis, at a time when the vessel was suffering total destruction from a hurricane while anchored off Santo Domingo City, August 29, 1916. Lt. Jones did everything possible to get the engines and boilers ready, and if the element that burst upon the vessel had delayed for a few minutes, the engines would have saved the vessel. With boilers and steam pipes bursting about him in clouds of scalding steam, with thousands of tons of water coming down upon him and in almost complete darkness, Lt. Jones nobly remained at his post as long as the engines would turn over, exhibiting the most supreme unselfish heroism which inspired the officers and men who were with him. When the boilers exploded, Lt. Jones, accompanied by 2 of his shipmates, rushed into the fire rooms and drove the men there out, dragging some, carrying others to the engine room, where there was air to be breathed instead of steam. Lt. Jones action on this occasion was above and beyond the call of duty."*



**15. Brig Gen. Theodore Roosevelt II US Army (WWI: 26<sup>th</sup> Infantry; WWII: 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry)–Harvard College (1909)**



**Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt II**



**Brg. Gen. T. Roosevelt II in Normandy, France -1944**

- Born in Oyster Bay, N.Y. in 1887
- Member of the Porcellian Club at Harvard
- After training in Plattsburg, (NY), he was called to active duty on May 1917 and sailed for France in June 1918
- Assigned to 1<sup>st</sup> battalion, 26<sup>th</sup> Infantry 1<sup>st</sup> division
- Gassed and wounded both in May and July 1918
- In October 1918, named CO 26<sup>th</sup> Infantry
- WWI combat engagements included: Cantigny, Marne-Aisne, Noyon-Montdidier defensive and Meuse-Argonne offensives.
- His younger brother, Quentin was an Army aviator **killed in action** during WWI
- During world War I, he was awarded the **Distinguished Cross, Legion d'Honneur** & the **Croix de Guerre**
- From November 1918 to March 1919, served as part of the Occupation Army until his return to United States
- Promoted to Colonel releaser & from active duty- March 1919.
- One of the key founder of the American Legion
- Between World War I & II, was in the steel business, carpet sales and investment banking before being appointed to Assistant Secretary of the Navy under President Harding
- He later was governor of Puerto Rico and subsequently appointed as the Governor General of the Philippines
- He led he regiment into action in both North Africa where he received his 2<sup>nd</sup> **Croix de Guerre**
- He saw action in Sicily, Sardinia and the Italian mainland
- Awarded the **Medal of Honor** for his crucial leadership asa the Utah Beach on D Day, 6 June 1944
- His Medal of Honor citation reads: "*For gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call duty on 6 June 1944, in France. After 2 verbal requests accompany the leading assault elements in the Normandy invasion had been denied, BG Roosevelt's written request for this mission was approved and he landed with the first wave of the forces assaulting the enemy-held beaches. He repeatedly led groups from the beach, over the seawall and established them inland. His valor, courage, and presence in the very front of the attack and his complete unconcern at being under heavy fire inspired the troops to heights of enthusiasm and self-sacrifice. Although the enemy had the beach under constant direct fire, Brig. Gen. Roosevelt moved from one locality to another, rallying men around him, directed and personally led them against the enemy. Under his seasoned, precise, calm, and unflinching leadership, assault troops reduced beach strong points and rapidly moved inland with minimum casualties. He thus contributed substantially to the successful establishment of the beachhead in France.*"
- He died in 1944 of a heart attack in France one month after D-Day at age 57.

**16. Major General Pierpont M. Hamilton US Air Force (CINCEUR: USAF) – Harvard College (1920); AM (1946)**



- Born in the Tuxedo Park, New York in 1898 as the great, great grandson of Alexander Hamilton and grandson of John Pierpont Morgan
- Commissioned as an aviator in the US Army Signal Corps in May 1918 & served as an instructor pilot in Ellington Field, Texas during World War I.
- After his discharge, he completed his undergraduate studies at Harvard and where he also received his MA.
- He then became an international banker in France for several years before returning to the US in 1938 as of President of Dufay Color Inc.
- He was voluntarily recalled to active duty in March 1942 and helped plan the ill fated Dieppe Raid while serving on the staff of General Lord Louis Mountbatten
- Participated in Operation Torch, the Allied invasion of French North Africa where he volunteered to act as an interpreter on a mission to meet with the French commander near Port Lyautey, French Morocco to broker a cease fire. After landing on the beach under hostile fire, Hamilton and Col. Demas Craw USA approached the French HQ in a light truck. They came under machine gun fire when Craw was killed & Hamilton was wounded and captured but succeeded in persuading the French to surrender.

**Major General P. M. Hamilton USAF**

- His Medal of Honor citation reads: *"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action above and beyond the call of duty. On 8 November 1942, near Port Lyautey, French Morocco, Lt. Col. Hamilton volunteered to accompany Col. Demas Craw on a dangerous mission to the French commander, designed to bring about a cessation of hostilities. Driven away from the mouth of the Sebou River by heavy shelling from all sides, the landing boat was finally beached at Mehdiya Plage despite continuous machinegun fire from 3 low-flying hostile planes. Driven in a light truck toward French headquarters, this courageous mission encountered intermittent firing, and as it neared Port Lyautey a heavy burst of machinegun fire was delivered upon the truck from pointblank range, killing Col. Craw instantly. Although captured immediately after this incident, Lt. Col. Hamilton completed the mission"*.
- He was subsequently Operations & Intel officer for HQ North Africa Tactical AF and then released from active duty in November 1945. However, Gen. Hamilton but was recalled in 1947 and later appointed the Commander US Air Forces – Europe in 1951. .
- General Hamilton before retiring in 1952 and died at age 83 in Los Angeles in 1982.

**17. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Sherrod E. Skinner US Marine Corps (2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 11<sup>th</sup> Reg, 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division)– Harvard College(1951)**



- Born in Hartford, Connecticut in 1929 but raised in Lansing, Michigan as the son of a General Motors Vice President
- Awarded Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry at the risk of his own life as an artillery forward observer in Korea
- He was killed in action in Korea in 1952 at age 23 when he threw himself on an enemy grenade to save the lives of the men in his company.
- His twin brother, David, also is a Harvard graduate and a Marine officer
- His Medal of Honor citation reads: *"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as an artillery forward observer of Battery F, in action against enemy aggressor forces on the night of 26 October 1952. When his observation post in an extremely critical and vital sector of the main line of resistance was subjected to a sudden and fanatical attack by hostile forces."*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Sherrod Skinner**

- *"Supported by a devastating barrage of artillery and mortar fire which completely severed communication lines connecting the outpost with friendly firing batteries, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Skinner, in a determined effort to hold his position, immediately organized and directed the surviving personnel in the defense of the outpost, continuing to call down fire on the enemy by means of radio alone until his equipment became damaged beyond repair. Undaunted by the intense hostile barrage and the rapidly-closing attackers, he twice left the protection of his bunker in order to direct accurate machine gun fire and to replenish the depleted supply of ammunition and grenades. Although painfully wounded on each occasion, he steadfastly refused medical aid until the rest of the men received treatment. As the ground attack reached its climax, he gallantly directed the final defense until the meager supply of ammunition exhausted and the position overrun. During the 3 hours that the outpost was occupied by the enemy, several grenades were thrown into the bunker which served as protection for 2d Lt. Skinner and his remaining comrades. Realizing that there was no chance for other than passive resistance, he directed his men to feign death even though the hostile troops entered the bunker and searched their persons. Later, when an enemy grenade was thrown between him and 2 other survivors, he immediately threw himself on the deadly missile in an effort to protect the others, absorbing the full force of the explosion and sacrificing his life for his comrades. By his indomitable fighting spirit, superb leadership, and great personal valor in the face of tremendous odds, 2d Lt. Skinner served to inspire his fellow marines in their heroic stand against the enemy and upheld the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country."*

**18. Staff Sgt. Robert Murray US Army [196<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 23<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division] – Harvard Business School(1970)**



- Born in the Bronx, New York in 1946.
- He was killed in action when he threw himself on an enemy grenade to save the lives of the men in his squad.
- S/Sgt. Murray was killed in action in Hiep Duc, Vietnam in 1970 at age 24.
- His Medal of Honor citation reads: "*S/Sgt. Murray distinguished himself while serving as a squad leader with Company B. S/Sgt. Murray's squad was searching for an enemy mortar that had been threatening friendly positions when a member of the squad tripped an enemy grenade rigged as a booby trap. Realizing that he had activated the enemy booby trap, the soldier shouted for everybody to take cover. Instantly assessing the danger to the men of his squad, S/Sgt. Murray unhesitatingly and with complete disregard for his own safety, threw himself on the grenade absorbing the full and fatal impact of the explosion. By his gallant action and self sacrifice, he prevented the death or injury of the other members of his squad. S/Sgt. Murray's extraordinary courage and gallantry, at the cost of his life above and beyond the call of duty, are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him, his unit, and the U.S. Army*".

**Staff Sergeant Robert C. Murray USA**

The following quote below captures the essence of the sacrifice of the above Harvard warriors:

**“So nigh is grandeur to our dust**

**So near to God is man**

**When duty whispers low, thou must.**

**The youth replies I can”**

Ralph Waldo Emerson – Harvard College (1821)



Paul E. Mawn  
Captain USN (Ret.)  
Chairman – Advocates for Harvard ROTC

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