



Parkman Paragraphs

Memorial Day 2015 Edition

2015 Parkman Salute to

Richard Komandt

2015 Memorial Day Special Edition

Parkman Paragraphs

Created by Cory Anderson

Parkman Paragraphs is published in Spring and Fall of each year.
This limited edition issue is printed specifically for the 2015 Memorial Day Parade.
An electronic .pdf version can be found on the Parkman website under the Paragraphs link.

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We wish to thank all of our Active Duty and Veterans throughout all eras of our country's existence for all of the sacrifices that they have made to give us our freedoms and continue to make our country a safe place to live. May our future generations understand these sacrifices from our Veterans and appreciate the quality of life created for them.

On behalf of the Parkman Trustees and the Parkman Chamber of Commerce

Special Thanks for the support of
Pastor William Coley of the Parkman Congregational Church

Geauga County Sheriff Department

Middlefield VFW Post 9678

Parkman Volunteer Fire and Rescue Team

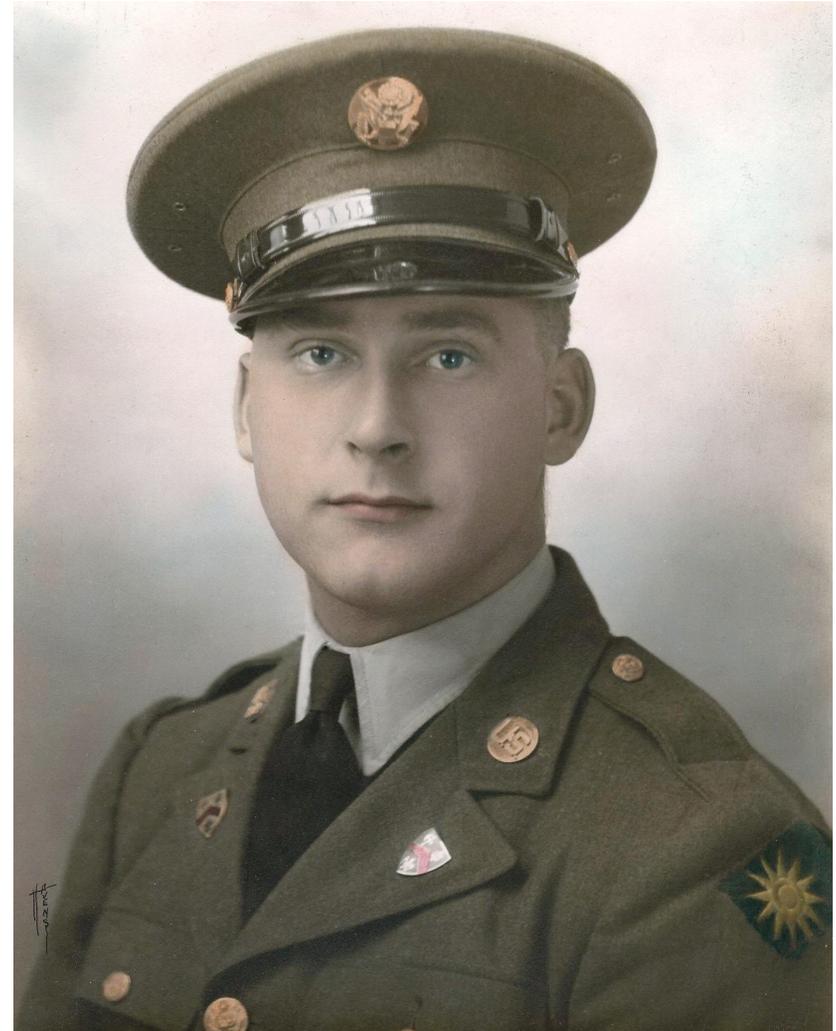
Cardinal Marching Band

Parkman Boy Scout and Cub Scout Troops #76

and the various participants who helped to make our
Parkman Memorial Day Parade a success.

**Best wishes to everyone for a fun and safe summer and don't forget to give
THANKS to a Veteran.**

Don't forget to check out the Parkman Website for the many summer and fall events this 2015.



Community Website: <http://www.ParkmanOhio.com>
Newsletter E-mail: ParkmanOhio@gmail.com





Richard Laverne (Dutch) Komandt

Richard Komandt, or “Dutch” as he was known by his family, friends and coworkers was a life-long resident of Parkman. He was born December 31, 1917 to Albert and Ruby (Ohl) Komandt. Dutch grew up one of nine children. Brothers included, Ralph, Albert Jr. (June), Delbert and Harvey. Edith, Ardith, Joanne and Hazel were all sisters. Dutch attended Parkman High School, graduating in 1936.

After graduation, Dutch was employed at the Johnson Rubber Company in Middlefield. There he was a tube machine operator, producing rubber stripping. He also did set-up on the machines and some minor repair work. His employment at Johnson Rubber lasted for five years, until he left for military service.

Inducted into the Army on June 18, 1941, Dutch was stationed in California while completing basic training as a combat infantryman and specialty training as a Radio Operator High Speed 766 in the 184th Infantry. Once his basic training was over and deployment overseas was imminent, he decided it was time to get married. Before leaving for the service, Dutch had met Florence (Peggy) Dale through his cousin, Katherine (Ohl) Adams. Peggy was the nanny to Katherine’s daughter’s Sherry and Janice. Dutch called Peggy and ask her to come to California and be married. Peggy made the trip by train to California and they married May 21, 1943 in Salinas, California. Peggy remained in California until Dutch’s departure overseas in July of that year. For the next 2 years, 2 months and 28 days, Dutch served as a radio operator in the Southern Philippines, Eastern Mandates, Ryukyus and the Aleutian Islands.

Before leaving, he devised a code that he would use in his letter home telling where he was stationed. The first letter Peggy received coded that he was in the Aleutian Islands. All the letters that followed had the coded message removed and Peggy was uncertain from that time forward where Dutch was stationed. The Japanese on Okinawa had a wealth of artillery. Shelling continued day and night. On May 4, 1945, an artillery shell hit the tent with 15 radio operators inside. Several men were killed, all were injured in some way. Dutch was hit with shrapnel in the arm, but continued to send radio messages out to the front line troops. For his combat wounds, he received the Purple Heart. Along with a Purple Heart, Dutch received the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon W/4 Bronze Star, American Defense Service Medal, and Philippines Liberation Ribbon W/2 Bronze Star . After two years of overseas duty, Dutch arrived back in the States on October 8, 1945. He was honorably discharged from military service on October 16, 1945.

After his military service, Dutch returned to Parkman with his wife Peggy and began construction on their first home located on Church Street. Dutch returned to his job at Johnson Rubber and worked into the position of Shop Foreman and eventually was assigned to the engineering department. The following summer, their son Lon was born. In his early years after returning home, he enjoyed motorcycle riding, baseball and gardening. He and Peggy were active members at the Parkman Congregational Church and Dutch also belonged to the Masonic Lodge.

In December, 1954 , a daughter Sue Lynn was born. Both son, Lon and daughter, Sue attended Parkman Elementary School and graduated from Cardinal High School. Today Lon resides in Bristolville and Sue in Austintown, Ohio.

In 1962, Dutch surprised Peggy with the purchase of a piece of land on Old State Road in Parkman Township. When he took the family to see the site of their new home, all Peggy could think about was “what did he get us into here” The lot needed to be cleared of brush and stones and looked nothing like a new home lot. But Dutch had a vision. And he was going to build a new, bigger home for the family. Construction on the Old State Road house began in 1963 and Dutch spend every weekend and extra hour he could find building this new home. With the help of his father and brother in law, the family moved into their new home on Thanksgiving Day 1963.

Dutch was left handed, or at least his left hand was his dominate hand. Actually he was ambidextrous. He could use both hands to do many different tasks. When he was building the Old State Road home, he built in many left-handed features. Two in particular were in the bathroom. The bath tub did not have a drain at the faucet end of the tub. Our drain was at the opposite end. His thinking was when washing out the tub you always had to use a cup to rinse the bottom end of the tub. But if the drain was on the opposite end, the water would flow the length of the tub to the drain. You could splash the water as it ran to the bottom of the tub. No cup needed. Another oddity was our hot water knob was on the right in the shower. Why you ask? Because if it was on the right you did not have to reach through the running hot water to turn it off.

Tinkering or fixing things was a hobby to Dutch. If you were ever in our basement you know there was quite an extensive array of tools. Work benches were huge, full of drawers, and pegs, and cubby holes to hold more tools. There were drill presses, grinders, lathes, saws and all the hand tools you could image.

He loved to fix just about anything that needed fixed. And he was good at it. If the broken item needed a new part, he would fabricate one to work. One of the “crazy” Sunday activities he and the kids would do was go to the junk yard and walk around to see what he could find. People always threw items away that could be fixed. Dutch would look for thrown away items that he could take home and tinker with. One item that came home was an upright vacuum cleaner. Dutch fixed it, and it was now the vacuum we used to sweep out our cars.

Within a couple years of finishing building his dream home, Dutch was diagnosed with cancer. He would receive radiation treatments several times over the next six years, before his death August 10, 1971. Burial was in Parkman Overlook Cemetery along with other members of the Komandt family. Today he is still survived by Peggy Komandt who lives in Warren, Ohio and his son and daughter. Dutch has three grandchildren, Leslie Komandt and Stephanie and Aaron Ford.

