

The Axis and the Allies

The Second World War was an all-out war between two alliances, which engulfed the whole world.

The Allies included the United Kingdom, France, Canada, the USSR, the Netherlands, Belgium, the United States and China.

The Axis Powers were Germany, Italy and Japan. Ultimately, the Allies won the war.

Timeline of the Second World War (1939-1945)

September 1, 1939: Germany's invasion of Poland marked the official start of the 2nd World War (previously, on 13 March 1938, Germany had annexed Austria (known as the *Anschluss*) and in March 1939 they also invaded parts of Poland and Czechoslovakia).

September 3, 1939: The United Kingdom and France declared war on Germany.

May 10, 1940: Germany invaded Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and France (Belgium remained occupied until the liberation in September 1944 - and was partly re-invaded during the Ardennes Offensive (Battle of the Bulge) from December 1944 to January 1945).

December 7, 1941: Japan attacked the American naval base at Pearl Harbor (Hawaii).

December 8, 1941: President Roosevelt signed a declaration of war against Japan, the ally of Germany and Italy.

June 6, 1944: D-Day - American, Canadian and British soldiers landed in massive numbers in Normandy. Start of the Liberation.

May 8, 1945: Liberation of Europe.

August 6, 1945: The US dropped an atom bomb on Hiroshima (and another on 9 August 1945 on Nagasaki).

September 2, 1945: Japan capitulated and signed the official Instrument of Surrender.

You are welcome to come and view the Parramore exhibition cabinets in Hoegaarden Town Hall.

The family of G.F. Parramore left his medals and other distinctions to the local authority of Hoegaarden on condition that they were put on display. They include the famous *Purple Heart* medal. This American military decoration is awarded by the President of the United States to those wounded or killed while serving in the U.S. military.



Hoegaarden

<http://www.gemeentehoegaarden.be/>

Gemeenteplein 1

3320 Hoegaarden

Mon - Fri: 9.00 - 12.00

Parramore Committee

p/a (c/o) Confrérie der V Notabele Geslachten van Hoegaarden,

Lelielaan 34, B3191 Hever (Belgium)

THE WAR MEMORIAL IN HAUTHEM at HOEGAARDEN in honour of GEORGE FISHER PARRAMORE III (*9-11-1921- +1-12-1943)

**DIED IN HOEGAARDEN DURING THE
LIBERATION OF EUROPE**



The memorial was built in memory of and homage to Staff-Sergeant G. F. Parramore, who died in battle on 1 December 1943, close to the memorial stone. It stands as a symbol for all the victims of the aerial battles by the Allied forces who died between Sint-Truiden and Leuven, as well as across the whole of Europe during the Second World War.

Since 1989, a memorial ceremony has been held annually under the auspices of the *Parramore Committee*, the *Confrérie der V Geslachten Van Hoegaarden* (*Noble Fraternity of Hoegaarden*), in cooperation with the local authority of Hoegaarden and in the presence of a representative of the US Embassy.

The Parramore ceremony takes place every year on the last Saturday of November at 3 p.m. at the monument (Steenweg Oorbeek-Meldert).

Everyone is welcome!

Heroes of the Second World War

Who was George F. Parramore?

He was born in Cheriton, Virginia on November 9, 1921, the eldest of five children. After graduating in 1940, he joined the USAAF, the American Army Air Force in 1942, where he trained as an airplane mechanic and later as a gunner aboard bomber aircraft.



This photo dating from May 1943 was taken during a short leave with his family before he flew to Europe for deployment in the Second World War. He was a Staff-Sergeant in the 566th Bomber Squadron, stationed at Hethel Airfield in England. He took part in

various missions over occupied Europe and Germany. He also received the 'Distinguished Flying Cross' for his part in the bombing of the Ploëtsi oil refineries in Romania.



During his final mission on December 1, 1943, George Parramore was a gunner on a Consolidated B-24 Liberator bomber.



The aim of the mission was to destroy the steelworks at Solingen in the Ruhr area of Germany, which had highly effective

air defenses. According to the flight plan, the squadron was due to fly to the target over the Netherlands, and fly back over occupied Belgium. The bombs were to be dropped between noon and 12.30 GMT.

The flight went well until after the attack, where during the return journey, the formation was attacked by German fighter aircraft between Düsseldorf and Aachen. The plane was forced to drop out of the formation and the pilot decided to fly 'solo' on the way back to base. Unfortunately, the plane again came under attack by German fighters from the then-German air force base at Brustem (Sint-Truiden). The plane would never make it back to England.

At 10,000 feet, the pilot finally gave the order to bale out of the stricken plane and let it ditch. G.F. Parramore, already seriously wounded at the time, helped his fellow crew members into their parachute gear before preparing for his own jump. During his jump, he collided with one of the stabilizers, which caused part of his parachute to open prematurely. He crashed to the ground in Hauthem. The bomber itself crashed between Opvelp and Bevekom, exploding on impact.

The B-24 Liberator, the most widely used American warplane in WW2 was produced by Consolidated Aircraft Corporation of San Diego, California. It was a heavy four-engined bomber, which could carry over 5,800 kg (approx. 12800 pounds) of bombs. Its maximum speed was 482 km/h (300 mph) at a height of 30,000 feet. The plane was 20.47m long, 33.5m wide and 4.48m high (67x110x18 feet) With a 12-strong crew, the plane weighed 32,296 kg (71,200 pounds).



The memorial ready to be unveiled on 2 September 1989.



In the presence of George Parramore's 2 brothers and his sister, together with Honorary Ambassador G. Puttevils, Chair of the original Parramore Committee (left) and Mayor R. Kerrijn (right).

Research only started in 1987, spurred on by Hubert Van Nerum (*Noble Fraternity of Hoegaarden*), to discover the identity of the young serviceman who fell to the ground in Hauthem on 1 December 1943. The search lasted a year.



Our thanks to all those who helped in the research, particular the initiator, Nick Van Eeckhaute and to Jo Verbeke (+)

G.F. Parramore is buried in Neuville-en-Condroz (near Liège)