

# BRANT & FARNHAM BASEBALL



## FARNHAM BASEBALL TEAM 1908

**Front Row** - Nick Leone (7),  
George Mohart (1),  
Charles Barone (8)  
**Second Row** - Nick (Gilsoe) (4),  
Fred Wasmund (9),  
Charles Blend (Mgr.),  
Clive Schwert (3),  
Ed Mohart (2),  
**Third Row** - Harry Nerthling (3),  
Charles Nordblum (3),  
Mark Crawford (1).  
Not pictured - Jim Pizzolanti,  
Manager



**Brant Bombers  
Buffalo Evening News  
Hardball Team  
played at Brant Town Park  
from 1968 or 1971**

**L-R Back Row:** John Gomoka, Ron Burgess, Wayne Falk (23), Gary Mirusso, Lenny Pero (6), Peter Gugino, Joey Morgano (18), Don Rice (Coach), David Taylor (30)  
**L-R 2nd row standing:** Tom Cervola (19), Vince Fininzio Sr. (13), Tom Gerace (15), Joe Giambrone (24)  
**L-R Front Row, kneeling:** Tom Fininzio (27), Floyd Puffer (12), Alex Fininzio (21), \_\_\_\_\_ Ciminesi (holding bat), John Chiavetta (44), David Chiavetta (16), Doug Giglia (17).

*Photo submitted by Sandy and Vince Fininzio Sr.*

# BRANT & FARNHAM BASEBALL



1998: From left, top row: Wayne Falk, David Pero, Brian Richards, William Hill, Vince Fininzio Sr., Lou Catalano, John "Hector" Wilson, Stan Starzanowicz, Jeff Renaldo.

From left, front row: Vince Fininzio Jr., Joe Paternostro, Jeff Lipowicz, John Adimy.

*Brant Softball Champs shown with trophy.*

*Photos Submitted by Sandy and Vince Fininzio Sr.*



## Brant Volunteer Fire Department 1998 Softball Champs

### 2006 Brant Volunteer Firemen Softball Team

2006: From left, front row: Tony Puntillo, Wayne Falk, Jeff Renaldo, John (Hector) Wilson, Tommy Whelan, David Pero.

From left, standing: Billy Hill, Jason Seneca, Clint Nephew, John Adimey, William (Tater) Hill, Coach Vince Fininzio Sr., Vince Fininzio Jr., Joe Hill.



# BRANT & FARNHAM BASEBALL



**Farnham School Girls Softball Team 1950**  
 Back, left to right: Mr. Castle, Pat Dickinson, Marcia Smith, Joyce Cureo, \_\_\_  
 Front, left to right: \_\_\_, \_\_\_, \_\_\_, Geri Cureo



**Farnham School Baseball Team c. May 1952**

*Farnham School baseball photos  
 submitted by Joyce Cureo*

## Centennial of the Town of Brant 1839-1939

On Sunday, September 3rd, at Brant Park, the celebration included an "OLD TIMER'S BASEBALL GAME" from 1-2 PM, as well as a Ball Game at 3:15-5:15 PM.

## Quarto- Sequennial Celebration of the Town of Brant 1839-1964

BASEBALL GAME, Old Timers vs. Youth of the Town at 3 PM on Sunday, September 6, 1964 at Brant Recreation Area, Brant-Farnham Rd. (formerly Brant Labor Camp).



**MARION FRICANO**  
 PHILADELPHIA ATHLETICS, AMERICAN LEAGUE

*Handwritten signatures: Chucks, Peaky, Hooper, Hanson, Marion, Fricano*

### "Pi" Schwert

In 1869 the first hotel was built in Farnham by Pius Schwert. 'Pi' was born in Angola, NY, played baseball for the NY Yankees, served in the US Navy during WWI and became a United States Congressman.



### Marion J. Fricano

Born to Mr. and Mrs. John Fricano in Brant, N. Y. on July 15, 1923, after six years in Eden where the Fricano family moved in 1929, the year 1935 brought the "Athlete-to-Be" to North Collins. Always an athlete, his natural ability found him lettering in soccer, basketball and baseball at North Collins High School from where he graduated in 1942. Due to the absence of a baseball team at Cortland State Teachers, his athletic pursuits found him out for and making the Freshman Basketball Team and the Varsity Soccer Squad. Interrupted by Navy Service during which he served in the Amphibious Forces in the Pacific Theatre during World War II, Marion returned to Cortland State to be graduated in 1949 with a Bachelor of Science Degree, Physical Education major. Marion's Professional Baseball career began with his signing of a Professional Baseball Contract in the Brooklyn Dodger Chain on June 30, 1947, being assigned to the Johnstown, Penna. farm team. Concentrating equal efforts toward the completion of college and the maintaining of a professional baseball status allowed him little time for anything other than pitching either a baseball or into his studies at Cortland. Throughout his baseball career, the off season months have found him working for his Masters Degree at the University of Buffalo where he hopes to complete his studies in the near future.

# BRANT & FARNHAM BASEBALL

## BASEBALL in FARNHAM



Sam Militello, right field (9)

Baseball has been a favorite game of the Farnham Firemen for years. In the thirties the games were played on an athletic field acquired during the term of Mayor Mark Crawford. The field was located behind the Village Hall and reached via the N.Y.C.R.R., now Conrail, tunnel.

The team belonged to the Lake Shore Baseball League sponsored by the *Buffalo Evening News*. Russell Everhart was an officer of the League and Frank Ralabate was on its Board of Managers. At this time the Baseball team was called the Farnham-Brant Baseball team. For years it was an outstanding team. It held the lead against teams from Angola, Silver Creek, Eden, Collins Center, North Collins and Forestville.

Players circa 1937, 1938, 1939 were Sam Cureo, Sam Muscarella (pitcher), Mike Pizzolanti, Charles and Harold Wasmund, Sam (Butch) Militello, Angelo Ralabate, William Graci, Harold Galbraith, Frank Ralabate, Frank Militello, John and Steve Rauker and Howard Nordblum.

Today (1992) the Farnham Fireman no longer have a hardball team, however they do have a softball team which plays its games at the Brant Town Park. Members of the 1992 Softball Team are Frank Zeffiro, Ellsworth and Allen Nolan, Fred Ball, Amy Hamm, Phil (Harold), Mike and Mark Green, Carl Militello, Floyd Puffer, Dave Russell, Dave

Militello, Kevin Davis and Peter Chiavetta.

This softball team also has had many successful seasons. In 1988 it won the championship of the North Collins Tournament held on July 4th, 1988. In the same year it was the Divisional champs of the Erie County Volunteer Firemen's Soft-Ball Association. In 1990 the team placed third in Division 1 of the E.C.P.F.S.A.



Sam "Red" Cureo  
1936

Written by Dr. Anna Martorana for the  
1892-1992 Farnham Centennial Book



Sam "Red" Cureo  
1955



William Hill (Photo submitted by Sandy & Vince Finizio Sr.)

Brant Beach: "There was a very nice bandstand where concerts were given ...but the biggest events were the baseball games. There were bleachers on both sides of the diamond which were backed with cheering supporters for the town's teams. One of the greatest of thrills was to see one of Brant's heavy hitters drive a ball high over the bank. One of the favorites of this area was Sam "Red" Cureo, an outstanding hitter and catcher. Baseball has always been a favorite activity for the residents of Brant."

*From Town of Brant 1839-1989 Sesquicentennial Book*

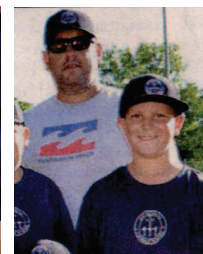


1991  
Rusty Lemke,  
age 11

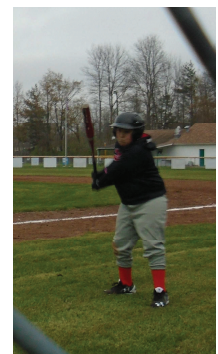
## The Next Generation



Anthony Nance



Bill "Tater" and  
son Brady Hill.



2015 Shane Friend  
plays for  
Evans Youth Baseball.

2015 Two Brant boys, Brady Hill and Anthony Nance, play for Southtowns Catholic JV Baseball Team. Bill "Tater" Hill is one of the coaches.

MILITARY

**HONORING ALL OUR BRANT AND FARNHAM VETERANS  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE**

Amaya, Cordaro	Burgstrom, Pershing	Falk, Sherman	Holmes, Ed
Anderson, Edward	Busch, Christopher	Falzone, Charles	Holmes (Steele), Gayle
Andolina, Carrie	Busch, Edward L	Falzone, Joseph	Hooper, Thomas F
Arrigo Jr., Charles	Bush, Chester	Fricano, Joseph	Hosler Sr., Ralph
Arrigo, Russell	Caber, Terry	Fricano, Kevin	Hoth, William C
Ashbacker, Roy	Carr, Glenn S	Fricano, Marion	Houghton, Dennis
Austin, Donald	Carr, Guy D	Fuller, Samuel	Igielinski, Marian
Barefoot, Ray	Caruso, Joseph	Fullone, Anthony	Inglut, John
Barone, Vincent	Case, Fred	Galbraith, Harold	Jones, George
Barone, Vincent A	Castle, George	George Jr., James V	Judson, Herbert
Barreca, Larry L	Chambers, George	George, Patricia	Juhl, Charles Jr
Basehart, Earl J	Chaney, Glenn	Gerace, Samuel	Kaczmarek, Robert
Battaglia, Albert J	Chapin, Elias	Giambrone, Frank	Kaczmarek, Scott
Battaglia, Ronald R	Chiavetta, Carl S	Giariatano, Angelo	Kaczmarek, Todd
Battaglia, Russell	Chido, Joseph	Gielow, Arthur	Kamens, Frederick A
Battaglia, Russell A	Chido, Richard	Goldsmith, Herber L	Kennedy, Willard
Battaglia, Salvatore +	Ciminesi, Joseph	Graci, Michael A +	Kennedy, William
Battaglia, William	Ciminesi, Samuel	Graci, William	Kensy, John
Beach, Carl	Clark, Greg	Granica, Judd	Kibler, Daniel +
Bearns, Harold B.	Clark, Howard C	Grannelli, Clayton J	Kibler, Lawrence
Berns, David	Clark, Jessica	Gregory, Edgar	Kinderman, Martin A
Berns (Barne),	Clark, Russell	Grennel, Lawrence	Kirwan, Robert A
Rosemary	Cole, Howard T	Grennel, Stephen	Knight, Paul
Beuzenburg, Earl	Conklin, Carlton	Grennell, Robert L	Koch, Chester
Beyers, Lawrence	Conklin, Henry E	Griffith, Edward	Koch, Franklin
Blanchard Sr.,	Conklin, Lyle	Grunder, Robert	Koch, Newton
Charles R	Conklin, Ronald	<i>(Grundkovski)</i>	Koch, Raymond +
Bliss, Anthony H	Cook, Arthur C	Grunder, Rodger	Koepka, Grant N
Bliss, Gary R	Crampton, Lynn	<i>(Grundkvski)</i>	Kreger, Claude M
Bliss, Robert L	Crawford, Maurice	Grundkovski, Max	Krtanjek, Michael
Bliss, Robert S	Crouse, Courtney	Gugino, Anthony	Krtanjek, Valentine
Bowman, Thomas	Cureo, Charles	Gugino, Frank	Kusior, Daniel
Brant, Robert	Cureo, Joseph	Gugino, Thomas	Kusior Jr., Stanley
Briggs, David I +	Dabrowski, Bronslaus	Guleno, Joseph	LaDuca, Joseph
Briggs, Harold	Dickinson, Albert	Hainer, Harlan	LaPiana, Charles
Briggs, Howard	Dickinson, Edward C	Hainer, Walter	LaPiana, Joseph
Briggs, John	DiMarco, James	Hammond, Milford	LaPiana, Paul
Briggs, Lawrence P	Dimartino, Luigo	Hammond, Stanley G	Lawrence, Stephen P
Briggs, Walter H	Dispence, Vincent	Hammond, Vern	Lemke, Ronald
Briggs, William	Dispence, William P	Hanmann, Henry J	Leone, George
Brinkman, Ernest	Ditcher, Kenneth	Hanmann, Herman	Lima, Sam
Brinkman, Stanley	Dunkel, Raymond	Heller, Laverne	Littere Sr., Daniel
Browning, Rob	Durwar, Gordon	Hesser, George	Lomando, Anthony
Brunelli, Lee	Ellis, Anthony	Hoisington, Richard	Lomando, James
Bruno, Primo	Ellis, Joe	Holmes, Clint	Lomando, Joseph

MILITARY

**HONORING ALL OUR BRANT AND FARNHAM VETERANS  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE**

Lomando, Samuel	Muscato, Tony C	Ralabate, Angelo	Totaro, Carl S
Lomanto, James	Nelson, Arthur	Ralabate, Samuel	Totaro, Franklyn S
Long, William F	Noethling, Arnold	Rall, Norton Walter	Trask, Kenneth
Losi, Albert W	Nordblum, Howard +	Rauker, John	Tripi, Anthony
Luongo, Nicholas	Nordblum, Louis L	Rauker, Steve	Tripi, Joseph
Mac, Thomas	Nordblum, Richard	Reed, George	Turnbull, Helen M
MacDowell, Lawrence	Nytz, John	Ross, Neil	Turnbull Jr., Robert
MacDowell, Warren	Nytz, Leonard	Rubeck, Albert D	Vacanti, Charles
Maiden, John	Nytz, Raymond	Rubeck, Donald	Valucca, Joseph
Mazur, Leonard P	Odell, Clarence	Rubeck, Wallace	VanWie, Tom
McAuley, Michael	O'Donnell, Bernard	Rusin Sr., Edward W	Vaticano Jr., Bart
McGraw, John Joseph	O'Donnell, John T	Rusin, Stanley	Vaticano, Bartola
McIntyre, Chauncey W	Orlando, Nicholas	Russell, Robert	Villa, Anthony
McNett, Andrew	Orlando, Paul	Russell, William	Villa, Nicholas J
Meli, Angelo L	Orton Jr., Clayton	Ruun, Edward	Voss, Herman A.E.
Meller, Walter	Panzica, Alphonso	Sabio, Daniel	Walker, Burt S
Merta, Diane (Taylor)	Panzica, Ronald	Sabio, Thomas	Walker, Dale
Militello, Angelo	Paternostro, Angelo	Schifano, Angelo L	Wallace, Lester E
Militello, Anthony	Paternostro, Anthony	Schneider, George	Walsh, Joseph
Militello Sr, Christian	Paternostro, Charles	Schrader, Alfred W	Walters, Lynn E
Militello, Frank	Paternostro, Charles	Schrader, Donald	Washburn, Donald B
Militello, Joseph	(Chuck)	Schrader, Edward C +	Wasmund, Charles
Militello, Michael	Paul, Clarence L	Schrader, Theodore	Wasmund, David
Militello, Richard	Paul, Frederick J	Schwartz, Clifford	Wasmund, Harold
Miller, Harry	Paul, Herbert S	Schwartz, Gary	Wasmund, Richard
Mineno, Frank	Paulucci, Joseph	Seiler, Paul	Wasmund, Raymond
Mingle, Jay	Paulucci, Lucian	Shannon, Robert	Wasmund, Roy
Minor, Charles	Paulucci, Samuel	Sicurella, Alfonso	Waters, John Wesley
Mirusso, Anthony J	Perello, Joseph	Sicurella, Joseph	Wheelock, Alton
Mirusso, Anthony T	Pingitore, Anthony	Sisson, Howell F	White, Maggie
Mirusso, James	Pingitore, August	Smith, Frank	Whiting, Roger Lee
Monteleone, Thomas	Pingitore, Frank	Smith, Louis J	Williams, Reid A
Morley, Kenneth W	Pingitore, Joseph	Snyder, James	Winters, Louis
Muffoletto, James	Pingitore, Samuel	Spratz, Nicholas	Winters Jr., Frederick
Muffoletto, Joseph	Pitrotto, Jacob	Staebell, James E	Winters, Roger L
Murphy, Dennis	Poehopin, Donald	Stearns, James	Wittmeyer, Jerry
Muscarella, Donald	Porter, C. J	Stearns, Woodrow	Wolfgram, William W
Muscarella, Peter	Powenski, Matthew T	Steuhring, Edward +	Wood, Arthur
Muscarella, Peter J	Prince, Harry J	Swan, Walter J	Woods, Stacie
Muscarella, Salvatore	Pruett, David	Taylor, Kevin D	Wooster, Wheelock W
Muscato, Frank J	Puffer, Bertha	Taylor, Steven M	Young, Louis
Muscato, Frank V	Puffer, Richard	Thomas, Dan	Zeffiro, Anthony
Muscato, Joseph	Pultz, Harry F	Timmerman, Herman T	Zeffiro Sr., Frank
Muscato, Russell	Pys, Fred J	Tinklepaugh, Bruce M	Zeffiro, Vincent

“...greater love hath no man than that he lay down his life for his friends”

**Pvt. Edward C. Schrader**

Member of a mechanized cavalry reconnaissance squadron, Pvt. Edward C. Schrader, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Schrader of Farnham, was killed in France Sept. 20. He attended Silver Creek School and was employed by the original Laminated Patent Barrel Co. Inc. of Angola before he entered the service March 19, 1943. Besides his parents, he is survived by a sister, Miss Evelyn Schrader.

From the 1943 Newspaper:  
*Brant* -

**PURPLE HEART  
AWARDED SOLDIER  
WOUNDED IN ACTION**

Shot in both legs and the right shoulder, Private First Class Anthony A. Tripi, 23 of the Brant Angola Road, Brant, has been awarded the Purple Heart while serving in North Africa. "I'm getting along fine now," Private Tripi wrote his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Tripi, in a heavily-censored letter which did not reveal any details about the action in which he was injured. He is now out of the hospital and at a replacement center.

Private Tripi attended the Brant School and Angola High School before enlisting in the Army a year and half ago. He was born in Brant, where his parents have operated a fruit and vegetable farm for 28 years. He has a brother, Corporal Joseph Tripi, 21, stationed at MacDill Field, Fla., and a sister, Miss Christine Tripi.

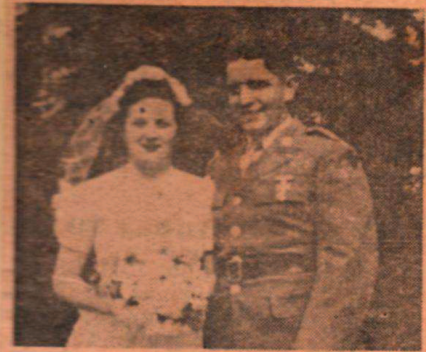
**On December 7, 1941, our whole world was to change with the bombing of Pearl Harbor by the Japanese. We were now to fight a major war on two fronts. Our men responded with valor and the recruiting offices were filled with volunteers. Subsequent drafts took a great number of our men to fight at places with strange sounding names all over the world. Seven young men from Brant-Farnham were killed in this conflict. They were Lt. Edward Steuhring, Raymond Koch, Sam Battaglia, Michael Graci, Daniel Kibler, Howard Nordlum and Ed Schraeder.**

*Fred W. Brinkman  
Town of Brant  
Sesquicentennial Book*



Edward Steuhring  
on Navy Ship 1938 or 1939  
Edward was a Radio Operator  
He lost his life at sea  
while serving our country in 1942.  
He was 28 years old.

**KILLED IN ACTION**



Pfc. Howard Nordblum and his wife (nee Dorothy Walker) of Farnham who was killed in action at Luzon on January 19, 1945. Pvt. Nordblum had been in the service since Jan. 9, 1941. He was married to Miss Walker, who is daughter of the Post Mistress of Farnham, on June 21, 1943.

**FARNHAM RECORD**

The death of Pfc. Nordblum brings the total number of Farnham boys who died in service to seven, which is something of a record for a community of 400 people.

These are listed as Lieut. Raymond Koch, airforce; Radio Operator Ed. Steuhring, merchant marine; Pvt. Sam. Battaglia in the infantry; Pfc. Ed. Schraeder who was killed in France, mechanized cavalry; Pfc. Horward Nordblum; Corp. Michael Graci who was killed Oct. 25, 1944 in Leyte; and Pfc. Daniel Kibler who died while in service.

*Tuesday June 1, 1948*

**Bodies of 2 Soldiers  
Arrive Here Today**

...The Body of Private First Class Salvatore J. Battaglia...will arrive at North Collins depot at 6 P.M. Prayers will be said in the Castellino Funeral Home, Farnham, at 9 A.M. Thursday. Funeral services will be from St. Anthony's Church at 9:30 A.M. Burial will be in St. Anthony's Cemetery, Farnham.

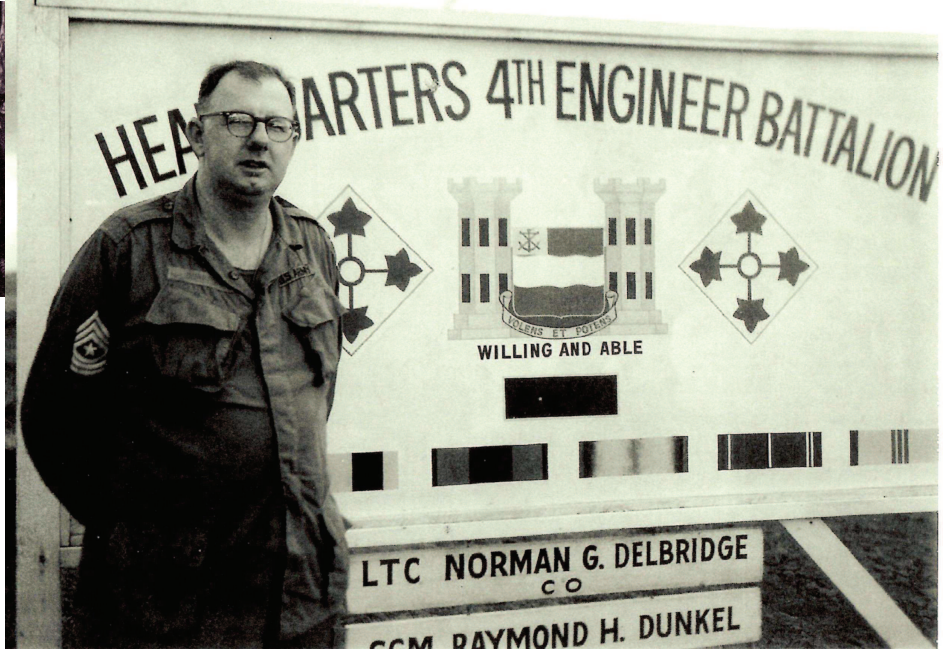
Note: (The 2nd soldier was from Buffalo, NY)

MILITARY

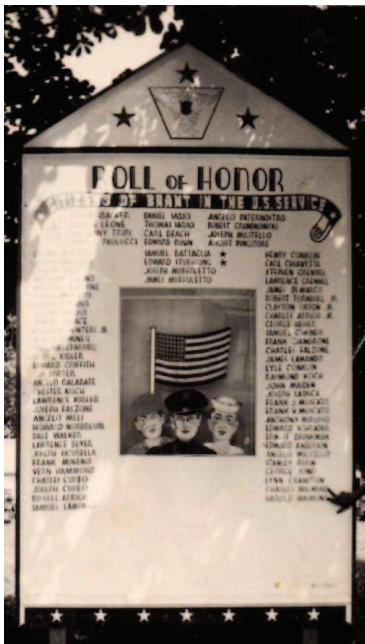
HONORING ALL OUR BRANT AND FARNHAM VETERANS - THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE



Sergeant Major Dunkel in the 4th Engineer Battalion Tactical Operations Center



Sergeant Major Dunkel standing at the 4th Engineer Battalion sign (March 1967)  
 Sergeant Major Raymond H. Dunkel 4<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion (Inf. Div.)  
 Republic of Vietnam July 1966 – July 1967



People are wondering ....  
 WHATEVER BECAME of the WWII sign that used to be on one of the Four Corners in Brant? Does anyone have information regarding its whereabouts? Please let us know!

*Note: Pages 20 and 21 contain an on-going listing of our service men and women. If we have omitted anyone, living or deceased, please accept our sincere apologies; it was not intentional. Please contact us so that we may update our files accordingly. Last update: May 27, 2016*

During March 1966 while serving as Sergeant Major of the 547<sup>th</sup> Engineer (C) Battalion, stationed at Kelley Barracks, Darmstadt, Germany I received orders to report the Fourth Infantry Division located at Fort Lewis, Washington. My tour of being completed I was under the impression that this change of station was a routine move. I departed Germany with my family in April sailing on the USNS General Darby from Bremerhaven, Germany landing in New York City 10 days later. After a 30 day leave I reported to LTC Gerhard Schultz Commanding Officer of the 4<sup>th</sup> Engineer Bn (Inf Div) at Fort Lewis, WA. LTC Schultz informed me that the Battalion was making preparations to deploy to Southeast Asia (Vietnam). Early the morning of July 6, 1966 the Battalion less Co B and Co E (Bridge Co) started its journey to Vietnam. Co B would move by air with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Advance Party and Co E would sail during August.

We flew from SEATAC (Seattle/Tacoma International Airport) to San Francisco International Airport. From the airport we moved to Oakland Army Base where we boarded the USNS General W. H. Gordon which would take us to Vietnam. We sailed from Oakland that afternoon for San Diego, CA where 1000 Marines boarded who were bound for DaNang, VN. The cruise to DaNang was uneventful with the exception of the intensive heat. Disembarking the Marines at DaNang the Gordon proceeded overnight along the coast to Quinon, Vn. (July 26, 1966), where we disembarked for our flight to Pleiku in the Central Highlands. Upon landing in Pleiku we were trucked to an immense open field in the lee of a mountain referred to as Dragon Mountain. The camp was later named Camp Enari in memory of Lt. Mark Enari who was KIA. This was our base of operations for the next year. Attached are a few pictures that provide a glimpse of some of the 4<sup>th</sup> Engineers activities.

*To see the photo album Ray has donated to the Historical Society, please visit the Brant Summer Festival on June 17-19th, 2016. Or plan a visit to the Historical Society located in the Brant Town Hall!*

Sources : Verbal and written family stories ~ Roll of Honor "Citizens of Brant in the US Service" sign ~ Erie County's Service Roster, published 1919 WWI Servicemen ~ 1989 Town of Brant Sesquicentennial Book ~ EC Veterans Service Agency, List of Veterans buried in Town of Brant ~ Cemetery Veterans Listing, Holy Cross, Farnham, NY ~ Cemetery Veterans Listing, St Anthony's, Farnham, NY ~ Revolutionary War Soldiers Evans Journal 7/29/1977





The inscription reads as follows:

**IN HONOR  
AND  
MEMORY  
OF  
THE MEN  
AND  
WOMEN  
OF THE  
VILLAGE  
OF  
FARNHAM  
WHO  
HAVE  
SERVED  
THE  
NATION  
DURING  
WAR  
AND  
PEACE**

*Dedicated  
November 11, 2006*

**Veterans Memorial Dedication held in Farnham**

After years of planning and designing, the Village of Farnham Veteran's Memorial is now a reality. Attending the dedication of the park on Veteran's Day Saturday, Nov. 11, 2006 was retired Command Sergeant Major of the US Army Ray Dunkel who conceptualized the stone as part of his involvement in the park planning committee. Also present was Mayor and US Army Veteran Terry Caber; Father James Fliss of St. Anthony's Church in Farnham, who read the Invocation, Benediction and blessed the Memorial Stone; Angola Trustee Bill Houston, who was the Master of Ceremonies. Members of VFW Post 5798 and American Legion 928, the Farnham Fire Department Color Guard and Legislator Bob Reynolds and Bonnie Lockwood from Assemblyman Jack Quinn's office. Robert Shannon (Veteran of US Navy) of the Fire Department played Taps for the ceremony. This article from *The Sun*, dated November 16, 2006.

Thanks to member item funds obtained through the efforts of New York State Assemblyman Jack Quinn III and work done by Turnbull Nursery and the Veteran's Memorial Committee.



**Memorial Day Services at the Farnham, NY Veterans Park, May 2010**