

## **Our Gang in World War II**

**This exhibit will become a permanent part of our website. It can be seen in person from November 2, 2008 through November 2009.**

**The United States officially entered WWII on December 7, 1941. It would be a war that would affect everyone. Among the many who served was "Our Gang," Greek Jews from the NYC area, most of whom were sons of recent immigrants**

**There were those who were wounded in battle. Both Ralph Battino and Joseph Lafazan would receive the Purple Heart.**

**There were those who were taken as prisoners of war, including Isaac (Pat) Nachmias of 279 Broome Street, captured during the Battle of the Bulge and imprisoned in Stalag IVB until May of 1945.**

**And, finally, there were those who did not return. Hyman Barash died on Omaha Beach on D-Day during the landing at Normandy. Both Nissim Attas and Abraham Matza died during the Battle of the Bulge. Herbert Nachman, son of past Sisterhood President Rae Nachman, was shot down over Germany. Both Arthur Rubenstein and Hymie Atun were lost in the Pacific.**

**This exhibit is dedicated to "Our Gang," Greek-Jews, most sons of immigrants from Ioannina, many from the Lower East Side, who proudly fought to defend their country. Jews by faith, Americans by nationality, Greeks by ethnicity, they would make us all proud.**

**The title for this exhibit was taken from a series of newsletters written in 1944 and 1945. "Our Gang," written by Mildred Barouch (later to become Mildred Coffina), was intended to inform family and friends of what was happening during the war.**

**The actual exhibit includes photos and artifacts. We were pleasantly overwhelmed by the response to this exhibit and by the enthusiastic participation of the Greek Jewish community.**

**Our apologies to those whose stories were not included. It is not too late. Send us your photos of Greek Jews who served in the United States Armed Forces during WWII and we will include them on our website.**

**Our thanks to the following individuals for their help in researching information for this exhibit: David Bellel, David Colchamiro, Marvin Marcus and Andrew Marcus. Special thanks to Jesse Colchamiro for help in installation.**

**Finally, thanks to those who contributed photos, uniforms, medals and other World War II memorabilia, without which this exhibit would have been impossible.**

## Honor Roll of "Our Gang"

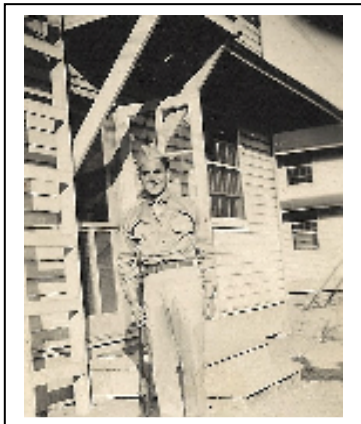
**Joseph Attas**



**Nissim Attas at Allen Street Park**  
Nissim would die at the Battle of the Bulge on January 23, 1945. He was 19.  
Nissim lived at 275 Broome.



**Hyman Atun**  
Hyman was shot down in the Pacific 9/15/1944  
His body was never recovered. He was 24.  
Hyman's family lived at 299 Broome. They were from Trikala.



**Joe Askinazi**



**Jack Askinazi**



**Morris Askinazi**



**Sol and Marvin Barouch**



**Hy Barouch**



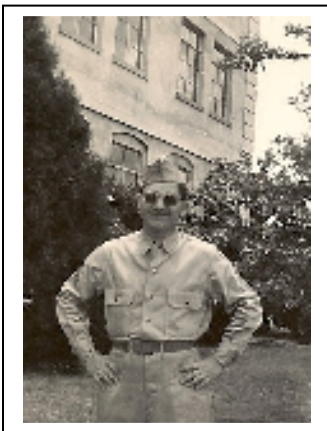
**Abraham Battino**



**Manny & Minnie Battino**



**Ralph Battino**



**Manny Cantos**



**Albert Capon**



**Phillip Camhi**



**Jacob Cohen**



**Jack Cohen**



**Isaac Cohen**



**Irving Coffina**



**Leon Asser Colchamiro**



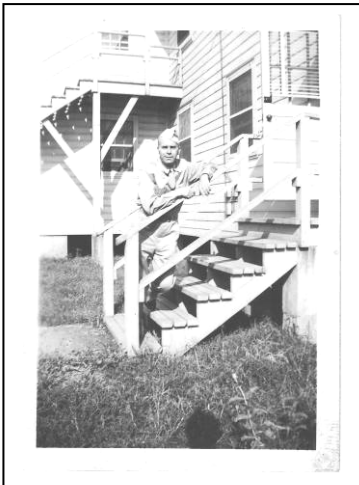
**John Justin (Colchamiro)**



**Meyer Coffino**



**Ralph Coffina**



**Milton Coffman (Coffina)**



**"Mo" Coffino**





**Murry Corito**



**Hy Eliasof**



**Murray Eskononts**

**Sam Eskononts**



**Milton Ganis**



**Sam Ganis**

**Jesse Ganis**



**Leo Ganis**

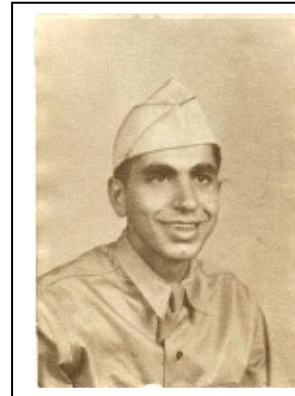




**Hy Genee**



**Ben Gessula**



**Albert  
Hametz**

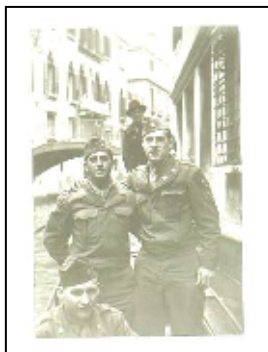


**Isaac Hametz**



**All three Hametz brothers were born in Greece, coming to the United States in 1928. Demonstrating their love for their new country, they would all serve in the United States Armed Forces during WWII.**

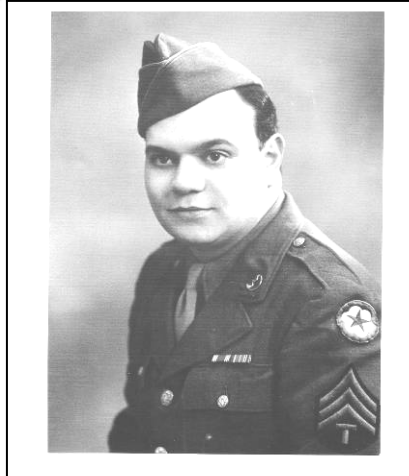
**Ovadia Hametz**



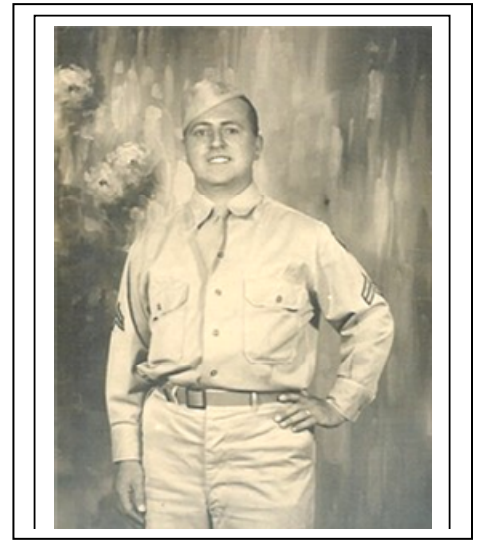
**Morris (Jack) Jacobs**



**Joseph Lafazan**



**Morris Jeuda**



**Jack Kaplan**



**Jack Jeuda**



**Louie Levy & Benny Cohen**



**Louie Levy &  
Shirlee Paganetti**



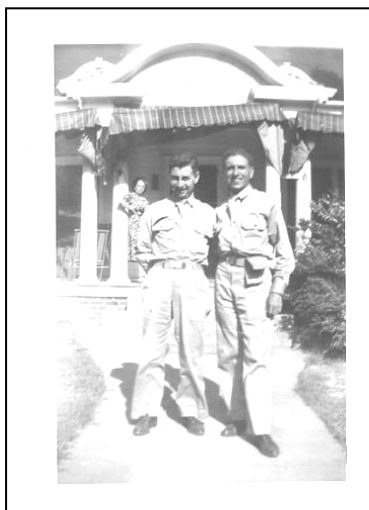
**Aaron Matza**



**Manny Levy**



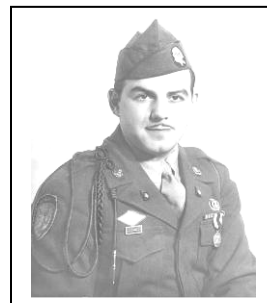
**Mac & Cathy Marshall**



**Matty Matsil & Friend**



**Jesse Matza**



**Ralph Matza**



**Hy Matza**



**Meyer Mione**



**Max Mordechai**





**Isaac (Pat) Nachmias**

MUHLBRUCK, Sgt. WILLIAM H.; Mrs. Catherine C. Muhlenbruck, Hicksville.  
MURRAY, 3d Lt. JAMES W.; Mrs. Lillian M. Murray, 435 80th St., Brooklyn.  
MURRAY, S/Sgt. PETER; Mrs. Mary A. Murray, 222 Jefferson St., Brooklyn.  
**NACHMIAS, T/S ISAAC; Mrs. Beadie Nachmias, 279 Broome St., New York.**  
~~NEWBORN, Pfc. EDWARD; Mrs. Dora Newman, 806 Crown St., Brooklyn.~~  
NIECHNIEDOWICZ, T/Sgt. JOHN; Mrs. Felicia Niechmedowicz, 66-40 Jay Ave., Maspeth.

**Herbert Nachman**

**Herbert Nachman was a Flight Officer and was killed in action on a mission over Germany on 12/30/1944. Herbert was 20. His mother, Rae Nachman, was President of the Sisterhood of Janina when he died.**

**Isaac (Pat) Nachmias was a POW, captured by the Germans at the Battle of the Bulge. The family lived at 279 Broome.**



**Nat Nachmias**



**Herman Negrin**



**Morris Negrin and Martin Levy**



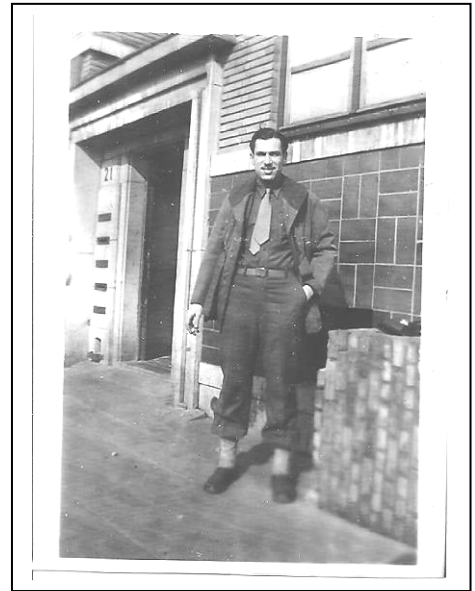
**Max Negrin**



**Morris Negrin**



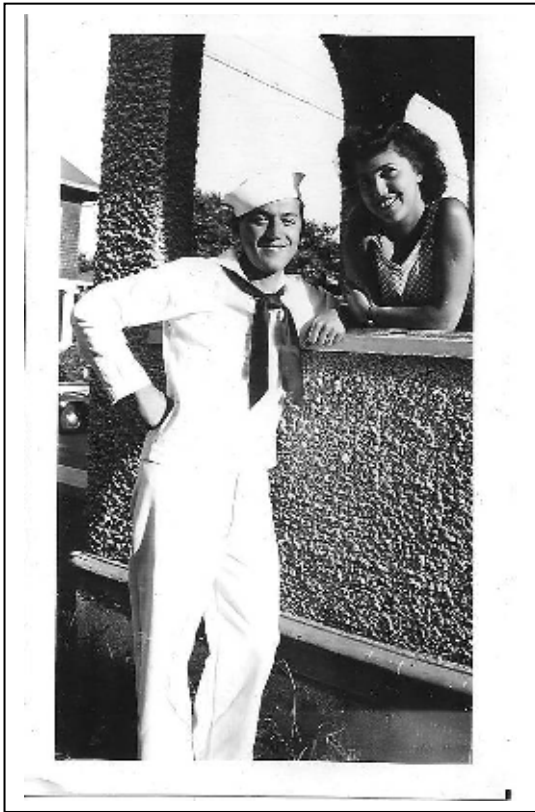
**Murray Negrin**



**Under Allen Street  
El: July 1942**



**Carole Lurie saluting her uncle Arthur Rubenstein  
(David Family) before he went overseas.  
Arthur would be shot down by friendly fire in the Pacific.  
His body was never recovered.**



**Sam Negrin and Diana Ganis Negrin**



**Murray Solomon**



**Gabriel Sabat**



**Joseph Sabba**



**Samuel Solomon & son Stephen**



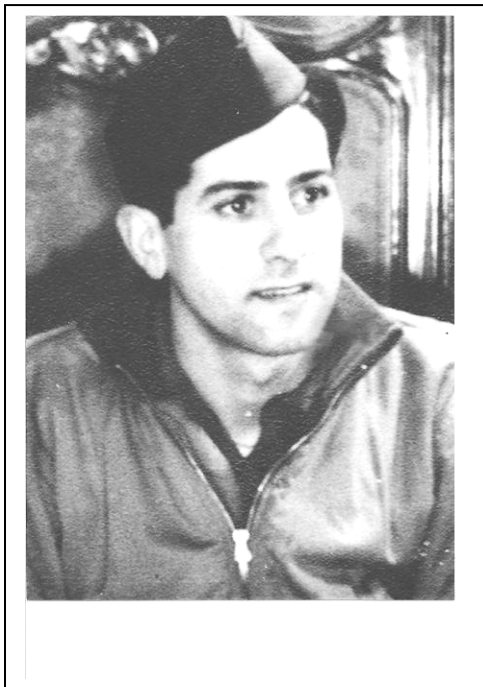
**Rebecca Moses Varon**



**Meyer Yomtov**



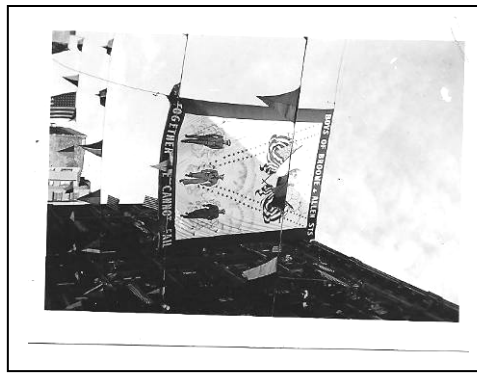
**Meyer Yomtov  
saying goodbye to  
family**



**Eli Zagha**



**4/2/1942: Central Park  
Engagement of Bea Sabba and Eli Zagha**



**Photos taken on July 22, 1942 on Broome Street in front of Kehila Kedosha Janina.  
(Courtesy of Ben Gessula)**



**Hy Barouch visits cousin Ed Bakola (home on leave from Italy) and joins Bakola family for dinner in Hollywood California at the Florentine Gardens ("Where Stars and Beauty Reign") in 1945.**



**Ushers at the wedding of Annette Levy and Danny Chamow.  
1943**

**This on-line exhibit was created in memory of Manny Levy who died shortly after contributing his video interview.**

**Others who make up the Kehila Kedosha Janina exhibit but whose photos were unable to appear here: Morris Yomtov, Johnnie Johanes, and Max Varon.**