

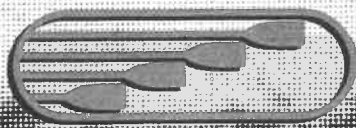




CAPTAIN SIDNEY A. SALOMON

Captain Sidney A. Salomon is inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame for his outstanding heroism and exemplary leadership during the D-Day invasion of Normandy and the Battle of Hurtgen Forest. As one of the original volunteers for the Second Ranger Battalion, then ranger Salomon, a Lieutenant at the time was assigned as Platoon Leader of Second Platoon, C Company, and it was in that role that he participated in the Ranger assault at Point et Raz de la Percee on 6 June 1944. The first Ranger to step off his landing craft, he led his unit on a mission to capture a fortified, elevated enemy position that could disrupt the landing at Omaha Beach. Fighting through brutal mortar and automatic weapon fire, Ranger Salomon was wounded as he crossed one hundred yards of heavily defended beach. He unified the eight remaining members of his platoon and began the ascent of seventy foot cliffs. In a fierce battle, he personally led the clearing of a trench network and its defensive positions. Refusing evacuation for his wound, he provided exemplary leadership in the days following the assault and during the Rangers advance inland. For his courage and leadership, he was awarded the Silver Star, French Croix de Guerre-Chevalier, and Legion of Merit. On 8 June 1944, he was assigned by LTC Rudder to command B Company, 2nd Ranger Battalion, which he did as the company fought its way across Europe. Receiving a battlefield promotion to Captain, he led B Company on a deep advance into the heavily wooded, enemy controlled Hurtgen Forest. Ordered to take an important tactical position and hold it at all costs, B Company succeeded despite heavy casualties from incessant artillery and mortar barrages. Without concern for his personal safety, Captain Salomon moved from foxhole to foxhole, bringing supplies and encouragement to his Rangers. Braving intense fire, he moved alone to make contact with an adjacent unit and then returned to his unit. Wounded by a direct hit on his command post, Captain Salomon rendered first aid and helped evacuate other wounded before being treated himself. Cited for gallantry and leadership, he was awarded a second Silver Star. For his service, he was also awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster, and European Theater of Operation Medal with five battle stars and bronze arrowhead. Sidney Salomon continued his service to the Rangers as President of the Northeast Chapter, and then National President, of the World War II Ranger Battalions Association.

INSIDE: Patty Ponce on Massage Therapy



USRowing

January 1999

Cover Story

Sid Salomon: An American Hero

A Look Back at 1998
The Year in Review

Back from the Brink
Lianne Nelson—USRowing's Female
Athlete of the Year

2683

PHILADELPHIA, PA





Sid Salomon:

An American Hero

Story by Loren Mooney



If Steven Spielberg

were to make a movie about the life of 1998 J single sculls national champion Sid Salomon, he would do well to recycle the opening D-Day invasion scene from Saving Private Ryan. That scene should begin Salomon's story not only because he was an officer in the company of Army Rangers depicted in Private Ryan, but also because the best movies start with the pivotal moment in a character's life, the one event that influences those that follow it.



Tom Hanks could even keep his leading role, for Hanks' *Private Ryan* character, Captain John Miller, is a fictionalized composite of men like Salomon who led their soldiers across Omaha Beach and up the cliffs on D-Day. Much like the all-American Captain Miller, Salomon was tall and strong, a star soldier with an everyman life back in the States. He was a paper-packaging salesman.

But Salomon's story has a sporting sub-plot. Salomon began rowing in 1934 with the Nereid Rowing Club in Belleville, N.J., near his hometown of Newark. He made it to the 1940 Olympic Trials where he finished third in double sculls, barely missing the alternate's spot. "The Olympics were supposed to be in Finland, but we already knew they were canceled because of the war," said Salomon. He promptly quit rowing to pursue his sales career. "Sports were different then; there wasn't the emphasis on them that there is today. I was happy to have a job. I didn't have time for rowing."

So the sport faded in his wake. When the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, he enlisted in the army and volunteered for a newly formed commando-like fighting force, the Rangers. With a single exception, it was 42 years before Salomon picked up oars again in 1982.





Salomon, now 85, is a gregarious and gritty fixture in masters rowing across the country. He has won eight national masters titles and has competed in 11 FISA World Masters Championships since he began rowing for the second time. What brought him back to rowing? Well, the truest answer is an old friend, but that friend wouldn't have found Salomon if not for what took place on the overcast morning of June 6, 1944, on the coast of Normandy, France, at Omaha Beach.

"I was a first lieutenant, the platoon leader, so I was right in the front of our landing craft, and when the platform went down, I jumped off first," Salomon said. "The tide was coming in and the boat was surging ahead; our men were jumping off, alternating one to the left and one to the right." Salomon got his feet set in the chest-deep water and noticed that his sergeant, who had jumped second, had been shot and was drifting under the landing ramp. "I dragged him out and up onto the beach and said, 'Sergeant, that's all I can do now. An aid man will get to you.'"

A few steps later, Salomon was hit with mortar fire and took some shrapnel in his back. "I was laying there thinking, 'Oh, I'm dead,'" he said. "Then all of a sudden, sand started kicking up in my face and I realized it was a machine gun and he was getting an aim on me, and I'm alive." Salomon picked himself up and sprinted across the beach to the base of the cliffs.

There, with the Germans firing machine guns and throwing grenades from the top of the cliffs, an aid man removed most of the shrapnel from Salomon's back while he looked back across the beach where he'd just given himself up for dead.

"I saw the bodies lying there and I saw others crawling, obviously seriously wounded, just trying to crawl to where we were," he said. "But I couldn't do anything about it. I was in charge of my men and I had other things to do."

For Salomon, the morning was filled with paradoxical senses—utter confusion and unequivocal clarity, warp speed mixed with a feeling of interminableness. "Really, it was a shorter time than it takes me to explain it," Salomon said. "Maybe three-quarters of an hour." By the time Salomon's company had secured the cliff, only nine of the original 37 men in the landing craft had reached the top, and of those nine, seven, like Salomon, had been wounded. According to the official army history, C Company of the Second Ranger battalion "was probably the first assault unit to reach the high ground."



"The Olympics were supposed to be in Finland, but we already knew they were canceled because of the war;" ... "Sports were different then; there wasn't the emphasis on them that there is today. I was happy to have a job. I didn't have time for rowing."

Sid Salomon



"The caller said 'Is this Sid Salomon of the Nereid Boat Club?'... 'I thought it was somebody pulling my leg because I didn't recognize the voice.'"

Sid Salomon

"That's why Stephen Ambrose, (*Private Ryan* technical director and author of the best-selling book *D-Day*) recommended that our Company be used in the movie," said Salomon. But when the action stops, the similarities between the movie and Salomon's experiences end. "The invasion part was very true to life, just excellent. But, the rest; it's a picture. It's Hollywood-style," he said. "Not once did the characters stop to eat or get a re-supply of ammunition. They just walked along, not concerned with finding mines

at all. We were looking for mines every step of the way."

In Salomon's real life story, he was promoted to Captain and received a silver star and purple heart, all for his role in the D-Day invasion. His company battled across Europe for the rest of the war, encountering heavy enemy fire in a number of places, among them the Hurtgen Forest in western Germany, which is chronicled in Ambrose's recent book, *Citizen Soldier*.

When the war was over, Salomon returned to New Jersey, proposed to and married his pre-war girlfriend, Jocelyn, and resumed his career in sales. Once, in 1946 at the behest of old rowing buddies, Salomon jumped into a club eight for a match race. He worked and raised his four children with Jocelyn. They settled near Philadelphia, in Doylestown, Penn. Jocelyn died of cancer in 1974.

Salomon kept in touch with his fellow Rangers and remained active in the Rangers Association. He met Presidents Reagan and Clinton in Normandy at commemorative ceremonies, and every fifth or tenth year anniversary of D-Day he became something of a celebrity in Philly-area newspapers. He had retired early and was living alone in 1982 when he received a phone call one weekend.

"The caller said 'Is this Sid Salomon of the Nereid Boat Club?'" Salomon said. "I thought it was somebody pulling my leg because I didn't recognize the voice." It was Frank Shepardson, a longtime member of the Malta Boat Club in Philadelphia, who had raced against Salomon in the 1930s. Shepardson had read an article in his local paper about Salomon's D-Day experience. "He said he was calling every Sid Salomon in the book until he found me, and he got me on the second call."

Shepardson invited Salomon to a party that evening at the club on the Schuylkill River's boathouse row. At the gathering, Malta members talked Salomon into joining them in a quad the next morning. It only took a few strokes for Salomon to know he'd found his place. Salomon has been a member of Malta ever since and still drives an hour each way from his house in Doylestown to the boathouse to row three times a week.

"I suppose without that publicity, Frank never would have called," said Salomon, who is currently cross-training by swimming and using his rowing machine until, weather permitting, he can get back on the water. "I've lived a charmed life. That's a fact. Right away I got enthusiastic about rowing. I'm still enthusiastic about it." —

Loren Mooney is the Associate Editor at *Outdoor Explorer*, which will debut in April.



Over There...

...man took a sentimental journey to France, National Park, the English Association, the corps of volunteers, the English Commandos. The five years ago was in Normandy, the speaker for one of the chamber's Rent-a-Room with him on his summer tour and was the speaker with the grandchild in connection with the D-Day. He laid a wreath at the Abbey in London in a service for the dean of the cathedral. As a footnote, the battle at Normandy has been changed to parades from the French nation monuments in the States.

Sid Salomon, Oarsman

Prior to World War II, Sid was a world-class oarsman a Nereid Boat Club in northern New Jersey and an Olympic hopeful. WWII changed those plans. In the years following WWII, Sid returned to the sport of rowing, but not until the passing of his beloved wife, Jocelyn. In 1985 he was a crew member in an American eight-oared crew that averaged 60 years of age. The crew won a gold medal in the Masters World Championships that year, in Toronto, and later became known as the Golden Eight.

As well as being a member of that crew for many years, Sid also won numerous gold medals in small boats. He pursued his rowing career with the same passion, drive, and leadership that he exhibited as a WWII Ranger. In his adopted Philadelphia, he is a legend on Boat House Row. A member of Malta Boat Club, he epitomized character and acquired rowing friends around the world. His Golden Eight crew members proudly remember him as their role model and friend forever. Sid Salomon, an American rowing icon.



Masters World Champion, Sweden, 1987

Sid Salomon, Ranger

To World War II Rangers, the cliffs of Normandy, on June 6, 1944, and Hurtgen Forest Hill 400 in the Battle of the Bulge, Nov / Dec, 1944, were representative of the fiercest battles fought in Europe. Some consider both missions suicidal. In both battles-as well as others in their trek across France, Belgium and Germany-Sid Salomon and his 2nd Bn Rangers prevailed, despite experiencing significant casualties. Sid received the Silver Star and Purple Heart in both battles as well as the French Croix de Guerre. His 2nd Ranger Bn received a Presidential Unit Citation.

President Ronald Reagan, in a speech given on June 6, 1984, the 40th anniversary of D-Day, at Pointe du Hoc, Omaha Beach, France, cited the Ranger units for valor. Sid was invited to sit on the presentation platform a few feet from President Reagan and chatted with him. Ten years later, he was invited to the White House to meet with President Clinton prior to the June 6, 1994, memorial ceremonies at Pointe du Hoc. Again, he sat among the attending dignitaries on the presentation platform. Capt. Sidney Salomon, an American military hero.

Sidney A. Salomon Award

Awarded to the Winner of the Most Senior Single Scull Event

**Head of the Schuylkill Regatta
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**



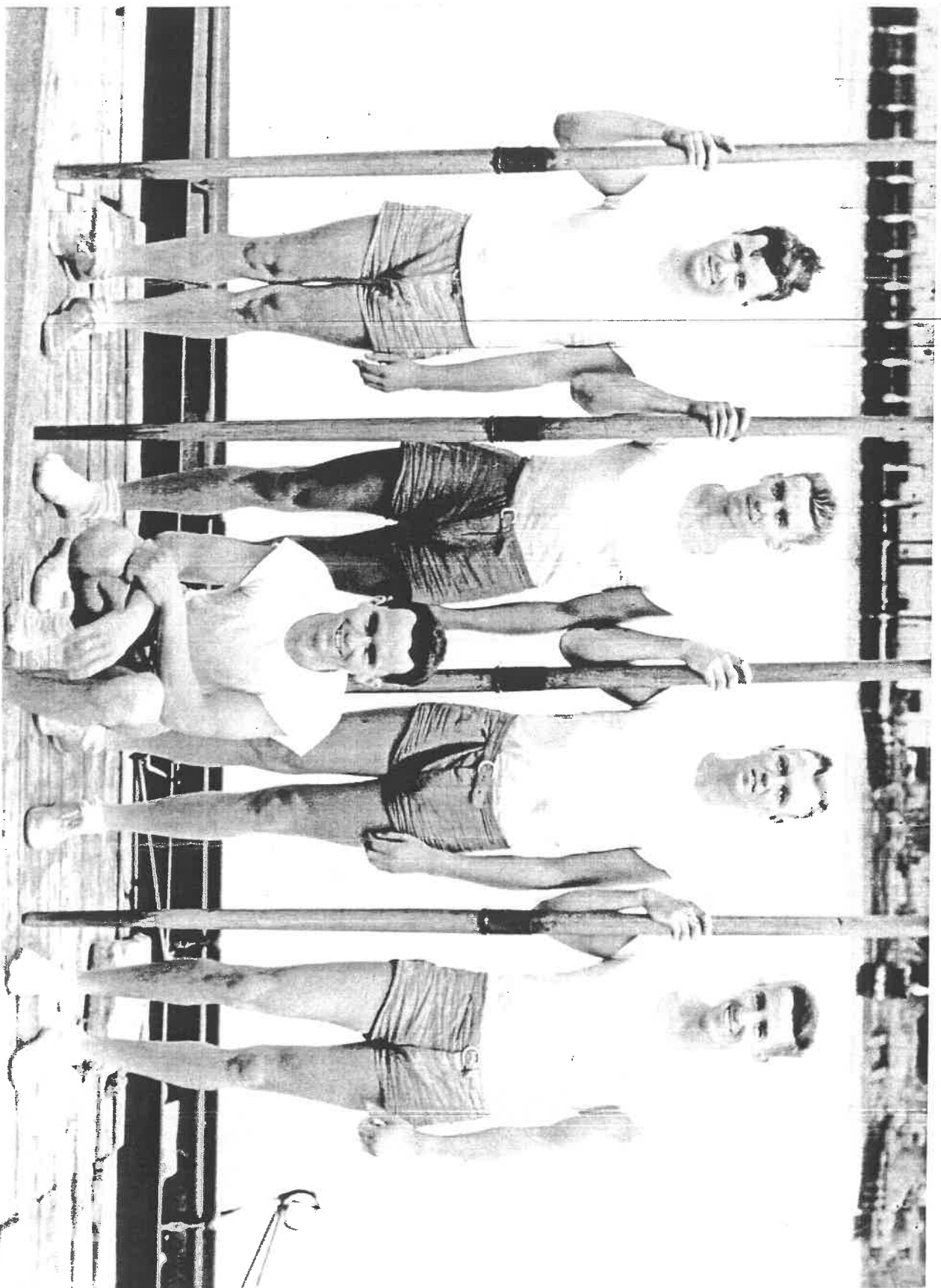
1913 - 2004

**Capt. Sidney A. Salomon
Co. C, 2nd Ranger Bn
Omaha Beach
Normandy
D-Day, June 6, 1944**



Rangers Lead the Way

Sponsored by his children Karla, Peter, Jill



R. LANE
1

S. SALONOV
2

C. HAGERT
3
Cox.

V. COOKE
4



National Single Sculling Champion
Topeka, Kansas 1998

9 19 '98

1 April 1943—23 October 1945



2nd Ranger Battalion of World War II...

Normandy
Northern France
Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe

Presidential Unit Citation
French Croix de Guerre

SID SALOMON-1913-2004

"The Golden Eight, a group of Philadelphia master oarsmen, who competes internationally, mourns the passing of its most esteemed member, Sidney A. Salomon. Rowing with the crew over many years, Sid accumulated numerous international and national championship gold medals in the eight-oared crew as well as the single shell. He epitomized excellence in the crew, displaying the same tenacity in rowing competition that characterized him in military combat. It would take a book to reveal how his crew feels about him. Suffice it to say that his passing creates a vacuum in their lives as well as in the crew".

The Golden Eight



George Braceland, 90, Tom Dowd, 76, Joe Sweeny, 68, Don Schnorr, 76, Jack Sholl, 79, Sid Salomon, 90, John Kieffer, 83, Joe Harris, 75. Sitting is our coxswain

October 2003
photo courtesy Jack Sholl

SID SALOMON-In the words of his crew *written by Jack Sholl*

Mark his majestic fabric, he's a temple sacred by birth and created by hands divine. They are not our words, but the words of Abigail Adams referring to an early American icon. But, those words also apply to another current American icon, Sid Salomon, our esteemed crew mate.

Today, all of American rowing weeps for Sid Salomon, but tears of sorrow yield to smiles of joy. Joy for the wonderful life that Sid lived and joy that you and I experienced in knowing him. Those of us who knew him very well would agree that capsulating his life would be extremely difficult. Suffice it to say that Sid Salomon radiated life itself. When we reflect on his life, we think of the words of a George Bernard Shaw character, who said "Life is no brief candle to me, rather, it is a flaming torch that I have hold of for a short while and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it off to future generations." We believe passionately, that Sid intuitively embraced that philosophy. We, more than others, know how brightly his flame burned. We, the Golden Eight, accept that torch from Sid and pledge to keep it burning as brightly as possible. We realize, in the twilight of our lives, that it is never too late to adopt a role model, and we have adopted you as ours. But, acceptance of that flaming torch is not without challenge, because grasping his majestic fabric may exceed our reach.

When we tried to describe Sid to colleagues who never knew him, we described him as the most gentle man we have ever known. A man whom we've never heard use profanity, or engage in negative talk about other human beings. A man who was quietly reserved, causing us to wonder admiringly about the disconnect between Sid, the gentle man and Sid and the heroic warrior at Normandy. Is this the man who twice shed his blood on European soil to preserve our freedom? Did the term "Gentleman" originate with him?



Our competitive eight-oared rowing crew, Sid's Golden Eight, has a motto, or slogan, "Friends Forever". Sid was immensely proud of the Golden Eight crew and we were even prouder of him. Proud to sit in the same rowing shell with him, proud to pull an oar in the same cause with him, and proud to be called "friend" by him.

Mindful that "forever" transcends life itself, we bid farewell to our dear friend and crew mate, Sid Salomon, simply by saying:

*Ranger, fellow oarsman,
we are Friends Forever...*

*photo courtesy Jack Sholl
(Note the USA on Sid's socks...)*

LIBERTY BELL

Story and photo courtesy Jack Scholl (friend and rowing mate of Sid Salomon)

I am on the Let Freedom Ring Committee at the Sons of the Revolution. We conduct a National Bell Ringing Ceremony on the 4th of July at the Liberty Bell. Several young descendants of signers of the Declaration of Independence ceremoniously tap the Liberty Bell 13 times. Across America, over 13,000 bells in Churches, schools, fire houses, city halls, navy ships and army installations ring their bells 13 times at exactly the time the Liberty Bell is tapped. Well, my duty on the Let Freedom Ring Committee, is to recruit Bell Ringers. I have been focusing on navy ships, such as the USS Hornet, the USS Constellation, etc. asking them to ring the ships bell 13 times on the 4th of July at 2:00 pm Philadelphia time. The U.S. Navy embraces the program.

Back in February, I was stationed at the Liberty Bell while volunteering at Independence National Historical park. A French company came by to measure and photograph the Liberty Bell prior to casting an exact replica of it in France. They will dedicate it on D-Day, June 6, 2004. Eventually, it will be placed in the American cemetery at Normandy. The French and I exchanged business cards and then e-mail. Then, my low wattage idea light bulb turned on. Why not ask the French to ring the Normandy Liberty Bell 13 times on the 4th of July at the same time our Liberty Bell is tapped in Philadelphia (8:00 pm in Normandy). The French enthusiastically agreed. They came back to Philadelphia last week for two press reviews, then held a press review in France. Our Governor, Ed Rendell, will mention the Normandy Bell as part of his talk, before thousands, at the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia on July 4. The Normandy Bell is now getting international coverage.



I feel good about this because, due to fate, I happened to be at our Liberty Bell when the French were there. Otherwise, that Bell would not be rung in France on the 4th of July. My rowing partner, Sid Salomon, would enjoy this story and would be at Normandy, if alive. His spirit will be there.

Since Rangers have an identity with Normandy and some will be there on June 6th, please feel at liberty to use any part of this story in the Program Book. I guess the bottom line is that France really has not forgotten what American troops did for them back in 1944, despite the deteriorating relationship between our two countries today. The dual bell ringing is symbolic of two great Republics holding hands through the world's best known icon of liberty, the Liberty Bell, while remembering those who paid the ultimate price for liberty, the dead at Normandy.

SID SALOMON-50th D-day Anniversary, Normandy



Ranger Career Summary: Sidney A. Salomon

Sidney A. Salomon volunteered for service in the U.S. Army on March 9, 1942. After completion of Basic Training at Fort Benning, Georgia, he was promoted to Private First Class and assigned to a lead cadre charged with opening and establishing the new installation at Camp Rucker, Alabama. He served in the 48th General Hospital at Camp Rucker and was promoted to Corporal on September 3, 1942. During his tour of duty at Camp Rucker, he applied for and was accepted into Officer Candidate training and requested service in the infantry. He attended the Officer Candidate Course at the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia from September 7, 1942 to December 3, 1942, on which date he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. Initial assignments that followed were in Infantry Replacement Training at Camp Croft, SC (1942) and the 100th Infantry Division at Ft. Jackson, SC (1943).

Aware of the exploits of the First Ranger Infantry Battalion in northern Africa, he learned in 1943 that the Second Ranger Infantry Battalion was being activated. He quickly volunteered for that unit and was one of the first volunteers to be interviewed by then Captain James Rudder. Accepted into the Rangers, he trained with the Battalion at Camp Forrest, TN and also at the Navy Scouts & Raiders School, Ft. Pierce, FL (1943). When the Battalion deployed to England in November 1943, he was promoted to First Lieutenant. In addition to his training in England with the Battalion, he was one of twelve Rangers selected for special training with the British for raids on islands off the coast of France. He also attended the Intelligence School in London (1944).

As platoon leader of the Second Platoon, C Company, Second Ranger Infantry Battalion, 1LT Salomon led his troops in the June 6, 1944 D-Day assault on Normandy. The mission of the First and Second Platoons was to conduct an amphibious assault on the beach at Point et Raz de la Percee on the western flank of Dog Green Beach. After crossing the beach, they were to ascend the cliffs at that point, and capture a fortified Norman farmhouse, automatic weapon position and heavy mortar emplacement, which, from their commanding position atop the cliffs, had the potential of directing controlling fire against troops landing on Omaha Beach. True to his personal standard ("When I lead my men, I *lead* my men."), 1LT Salomon was the first Ranger to step off of Landing Craft 1038 at 0625 (prior to H-Hour of the main invasion).

The Rangers met immediately with heavy mortar and automatic weapon fire and began to suffer numerous casualties. Just after exiting the boat and seeing that a Ranger NCO had been hit and was pinned under the landing craft ramp, 1LT Salomon rescued the man and pulled him several yards onto the beach. Wounded himself by a mortar round during his traverse of the heavily defended

beach and still facing withering defensive fire, 1LT Salomon unified the eight remaining Rangers of his platoon and began the assault up the cliffs. Reaching the top of the cliff, the Rangers came unexpectedly under friendly fire from a naval vessel that did not think the Rangers would be able to complete the climb. LT Salomon quickly displayed an orange panel on the side of the cliff to signal the Navy to stop the bombardment. During a fierce two-hour battle, he led his troops in the completion of their assigned mission. He personally led the clearing of the trench network and its defensive positions. For this action he was awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart. The citation for the Silver Star reads in part:

For gallantry in action on the coast near Pointe du Hoe, France, 6 June 1944. Although wounded in the right shoulder as he landed with his company onto the enemy-held shore, First Lieutenant Salamon (sic), a platoon leader, crossed the beach in the face of intense fire, rallied his men at the base of the cliff and covered with fire those who were scaling the heights. Following up the cliff with the remainder of his men, he moved out single-handed, silencing two enemy soldiers and capturing another, so that a patrol behind him could occupy a position. Refusing to be evacuated because of his wound, First Lieutenant Salamon, continued to lead his men in an outstanding manner for several succeeding days. His courage and leadership were significant factors in driving the enemy from their positions covering some two-thousand yards of beach upon which allied troops were landing.

On D-Day plus one, he led his platoon in a consolidation effort as C Company joined Companies A and B beyond Vierville sur Mer. On the following day, June 8, 1LT Salomon was assigned by the battalion commander, LTC James Rudder, to take command of B Company, Second Ranger Infantry Battalion. He received a battlefield promotion to Captain on 21 October 1944. Ranger Salomon fought throughout the remainder of the European campaign, leading his unit across France, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Ardennes, the Rhineland, and central Europe.

He commanded his unit in the especially desperate battle of the Hurtgen Forest. On 14 November 1944, he led his unit to take up a defensive position in the northern part of Germeter, Germany and held the position under heavy enemy artillery fire for five days until relieved. On 20 November, he was ordered to lead B Company on an advance into the Hurtgen Forest with a mission to hold their ground at all costs in order to offer protection to a nearby regiment. Of all Allied units at the time, B Company made the deepest penetration into the rugged, heavily wooded, German-controlled forest. Taking up tenuous positions in the forest, B Company was subjected to an incessant barrage of artillery and mortar fire, and its casualties were very heavy. Yet the Rangers under Captain Salomon did not yield an inch. It was during that battle on Thanksgiving Day, 22

November, that Captain Salomon received his second Purple Heart and second Silver Star. The citation for the latter award reads in part:

For gallantry in action on 22 November 1944, near Germeter, Germany. While his Company, which was holding the flank of its Battalion position, was kept confined in individual shelters by continuous heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire, Captain Salomon, without regard for his safety, personally visited each man's foxhole to bring food and needed supplies as well as words of encouragement to this men. When a patrol sent out to establish contact with an adjacent unit was turned back by heavy enemy fire, Captain Salomon braved the intense fire alone as he successfully reached the adjacent unit and returned to his position. During the hours of darkness, when a direct hit was scored on his Command Post, Captain Salomon, though wounded by the blast of the enemy shell, rendered first aid to other wounded and helped evacuate them before being treated himself. The gallant actions and leadership of Captain Salomon throughout this day reflect great credit upon himself; they were in keeping with highest traditions of the United States Army.

B Company was relieved, and Captain Salomon and his Rangers moved their casualties out of the forest on makeshift litters. But a few days later, the remaining members of the decimated company would be sent on another important mission. Near the town of Kleinhau, B Company was ordered to take up a defensive position in support of the daring, yet successful, Ranger assault on Hill 400. History shows that Ranger accomplishments in the Hurtgen Forest not only contributed to the accomplishment of the assigned objective at the time, which was to control the area and open the way for the assault across the Roer, they also limited enemy capabilities for the upcoming German offensive in the Ardennes.

Captain Salomon shares with the other Rangers of his Battalion a Presidential Unit Citation. In addition to the Silver Star with Oak Leaf Cluster and Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster, he was awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge and the European Theater of Operation medal with five battle stars (Normandy, Ardennes, Rhineland, Northern France and Central Europe) and a bronze arrowhead for the Normandy invasion. He also received a Croix de Guerre-Chevalier, Legion of Merit and a number of additional French decorations including the Liberation Medal of the City of Paris and a 50th Anniversary Médaille Du Jubilé.

He served in the Army Reserve until 1 April 1953, at which time he was honorably discharged from service.

Sidney Salomon's service to the Rangers continued until the moment of his passing. He was a proud member of the Ranger Battalions Association of World

War II. He served as the President of Northeast Chapter of the Association and went on to serve as National President from 1977 to 1979. A distinguished and courteous gentleman and a great representative of the Ranger Battalions, he was selected in 1984 to greet President and Mrs. Reagan on Normandy for the dedication of the Ranger Memorial during the fortieth anniversary of D-Day. He was again selected to be the official greeter for the 50th anniversary of the battle and personally welcomed President and Mrs. Clinton. Additionally, for the fiftieth anniversary of the victory in Europe, he was chosen to make joint remarks with MG Fred Gordon, commander of the Washington Military District.

As President of the Ranger Battalions Association, he visited chapter functions as often as possible, and it was with great pride and a deep spirit of camaraderie that he joined his fellow D-Day Rangers in attending ceremonies at Normandy every 5 years beginning in 1979. He often attended annual Ranger reunions and served as a host of the 1979 reunion in Philadelphia. He was continually in demand by many schools and local organizations for his moving speeches about his WW II experiences, especially his duty with the Rangers. He gladly and unselfishly responded, not only for talks in public settings, but also to individuals, ranging from students to active duty military officers, who requested information and counsel.

Through his numerous interviews with authors, journalists and historians, as well as his appearances in numerous documentaries, he became an important and noteworthy historical source regarding the Second Battalion Rangers. In 1991, he personally compiled and authored a detailed account of that battalion's operations in the later part of 1944. Entitled *2nd U.S. Ranger Infantry Battalion: Germeter-Vossenach-Hurtgen-Bergstein-Hill 400 Germany*, the book was published in 1991.

Sidney A. Salomon passed away on January 21, 2004. His remains are interred at Arlington National Cemetery.

Biography: Sidney A. Salomon

Sidney A. Salomon was born in Newark, New Jersey on November 3, 1913. He was the son of Sidney and Dorothea Salomon and had two brothers, Harold and Henry. After graduating from Barringer High School in Newark, he went on to earn a Bachelor of Commercial Science from New York University in 1937. After college, he began a sales career, but that career was put on hold with the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Sid enlisted in the U.S. Army and served on active duty from March, 1942 until January, 1946 and then in the Army Reserve until his honorable discharge on 1 April 1953. His term of service was one of honor and distinction. (See Tab B above.)

In 1946, he married Jocelyn Jungman. The couple had four children: Karla, Henry, Peter, and Jill. There are five grandchildren: Colin and Brian Dadd, Geoffrey and Eric Mosse, and Paul Salomon. There is one great grandchild, Kadin Dadd. The Salomon family lived in Yonkers and Buffalo, New York, and in Belleville, Audubon, and Westfield, New Jersey.

Returning from active duty, Sid resumed his sales career with Marathon Paper Company, which became American Can Company. He would work for American Can Company for over 30 years, rising to the position of regional sales manager. Retiring in 1972, he and Jocelyn found a new home in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, where he resided until his death in 2004. Jocelyn passed away in 1974.

In addition to his remarkable career in business, Sid Salomon enjoyed an extraordinary career as a rower. In 1934, he began rowing for the Nereid Boat Club in Belleville, New Jersey. In this, his early rowing career, he won a gold medal in every year of competition. He competed in the 1940 U.S. Olympic Trials and was to be named as an alternate to 1940 U.S. Olympic Rowing Team. The 1940 Olympics were scheduled to take place in Finland, but those games were cancelled due to the onset of World War II. It is often joked among his friends that Sid was so mad at Hitler for the cancellation of the Olympics that he joined the Rangers.

Sid left competitive rowing in 1940 to devote himself to work, military service and family. With retirement and the passing of his wife, Sid resumed rowing in 1982, joining the Malta Boat Club in Philadelphia, PA. He was determined to return to a high level of competition and, remarkably, was rowing in world-class competitions within two years. His achievements in the sport have been outstanding. Known to his friends as the "Iron Man," he competed in the single shell, double shell, four-oared and eight-oared events. Competing around the globe, he amazingly won over 50 gold medals, including 18 U.S. Masters titles and 26 World Master Championships. He continued to compete at regional, national, and international levels well into his eighties. He rowed three times a week and cross-trained by swimming, speed walking, and stationary bike. He gave up rowing only one month prior to his 90th birthday.

Sid was a vibrant and active member of the community. He served as a volunteer Boy Scout Leader and volunteer softball coach. He was active in the Presbyterian Church. In addition to his ongoing membership in the U.S. Rowing Association,

he was a familiar figure at the Central Bucks (PA) YMCA, where he did his cross-training. As noted in Tab B above, he was very active as a member of the WW II Ranger Battalions Association, serving as President of Northeast Chapter of that Association and then as its National President.

Proposed Citation

CAPTAIN SIDNEY A. SALOMON

Captain Sidney A. Salomon is inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame for his outstanding heroism and exemplary leadership during the D-Day invasion of Normandy and the Battle of Hurtgen Forest.

As one of the original volunteers for the Second Ranger Infantry Battalion, Lieutenant Salomon was assigned as platoon leader of Second Platoon, C Company, and it was in that role that he participated in the Ranger assault at Point et Raz de la Percee on 6 June 1944. The first Ranger to step off his landing craft, he led his unit on a mission to capture a fortified, elevated enemy position that could disrupt the landing at Omaha Beach. Fighting through brutal mortar and automatic weapon fire, Ranger Salomon was wounded as he crossed 100 yards of heavily defended beach. He unified the eight remaining members of his platoon and began the ascent of 70-foot cliffs. In a fierce battle, he personally led the clearing of a trench network and its defensive positions. Refusing evacuation for his wound, he provided exemplary leadership in the days following the assault and during the Ranger advance inland. For his courage and leadership, he was awarded the Silver Star, French Croix de Guerre—Chevalier and Legion of Merit.

On 8 June 1944, he was assigned by LTC Rudder to command B Company, 2nd Ranger Battalion, which he did as the company fought its way across Europe. Receiving a battlefield commission to Captain, he led B Company on a deep advance into the heavily wooded, enemy controlled Hurtgen Forest. Ordered to take an important tactical position and hold it at all costs, B Company succeeded despite heavy casualties from incessant artillery and mortar barrages. Without concern for his personal safety, Captain Salomon moved from foxhole to foxhole, bringing supplies and encouragement to his Rangers. Braving intense fire, he moved alone to make contact with an adjacent unit and then returned to his unit. Wounded by a direct hit on his command post, Captain Salomon rendered first aid and helped evacuate other wounded before being treated himself. Cited for gallantry and leadership, he was awarded a second Silver Star. For his service, he was also awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster, and European Theater of Operation Medal with five battle stars and bronze arrowhead.

Sidney Salomon continued his service to the Rangers as President of the Northeast Chapter, and then National President, of the WW II Ranger Battalions Association. And, through numerous interviews and his book, *2nd U.S. Ranger Infantry Battalion: Germeter-Vossenach-Hurtgen-Bergstein-Hill 400 Germany*, he provided important historical information on the 2nd Battalion's campaigns.

RANGERS LEAD THE WAY!

Sid Salomon, Oarsman

Prior to World War II, Sid was a world-class oarsman a Nereid Boat Club in northern New Jersey and an Olympic hopeful. WWII changed those plans. In the years following WWII, Sid returned to the sport of rowing, but not until the passing of his beloved wife, Jocelyn. In 1985 he was a crew member in an American eight-oared crew that averaged 60 years of age. The crew won a gold medal in the Masters World Championships that year, in Toronto, and later became known as the Golden Eight.

As well as being a member of that crew for many years, Sid also won numerous gold medals in small boats. He pursued his rowing career with the same passion, drive, and leadership that he exhibited as a WWII Ranger. In his adopted Philadelphia, he is a legend on Boat House Row. A member of Malta Boat Club, he epitomized character and acquired rowing friends around the world. His Golden Eight crew members proudly remember him as their role model and friend forever. Sid Salomon, an American rowing icon.



Masters World Champion, Sweden, 1987

Sid Salomon, Ranger

To World War II Rangers, the cliffs of Normandy, on June 6, 1944, and Hurtgen Forest Hill 400 in the Battle of the Bulge, Nov / Dec, 1944, were representative of the fiercest battles fought in Europe. Some consider both missions suicidal. In both battles-as well as others in their trek across France, Belgium and Germany-Sid Salomon and his 2nd Bn Rangers prevailed, despite experiencing significant casualties. Sid received the Silver Star and Purple Heart in both battles as well as the French Croix de Guerre. His 2nd Ranger Bn received a Presidential Unit Citation. President Ronald Reagan, in a speech given on June 6, 1984, the 40th anniversary of D-Day, at Pointe du Hoc, Omaha Beach, France, cited the Ranger units for valor. Sid was invited to sit on the presentation platform a few feet from President Reagan and chatted with him. Ten years later, he was invited to the White House to meet with President Clinton prior to the June 6, 1994, memorial ceremonies at Pointe du Hoc. Again, he sat among the attending dignitaries on the presentation platform. Capt. Sidney Salomon, an American military hero.

Sidney A. Salomon Award

Awarded to the Winner of the Most Senior Single Scull Event

**Head of the Schuylkill Regatta
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**



1913 - 2004

**Capt. Sidney A. Salomon
Co. C, 2nd Ranger Bn
Omaha Beach
Normandy
D-Day, June 6, 1944**



Rangers Lead the Way

Sponsored by his children Karla, Peter, Jill



Braceland

Dowd

Sweeney

Schnorr

Sholl

Kieffer

Salomon

Harris

Katy Wood

Golden Flight Oct 2003