

Hank Moshano given a hero's welcome *From page 1*

Hank remained on the island for eight or nine months and was working testing some of the first radar equipment.

"It (the equipment) was a great big bank of bamboo and guide poles and looked like a big clothes hanger. There were dials in front of us with blips showing directions and distance. They eventually scrapped the experiment."

Hank's unit was reassigned in 1944 and they began working on landings, with guns when they received word to get ready. They thought they'd be deployed to Sipan or go ashore another island.

On July 13 the new order came - to return to Guam - and retake the island.

"That was a toughie," Hank continued. "There were problems with the landings because of a reef, the heavy surf, and because of the high cliffs. I went ashore with the rest of the unit; my buddy Kushma went to the reef (where military personnel were trying to cut through the reef with munitions).

The battle for the Orate Peninsula was a bloody one. Every time there were allied landings, the Japanese military would hit them with mortars.

"We did get through and did get 90mm guns ashore. Our orders were to go to the Apra Harbor to this projection of land that gave us a perfect vantage point of the enemy (about 4,500 yards across the harbor). I watched through binoculars and could see the Japs trying to move a big gun into a cave just below the cliff.

Hank was a member of E (Easy) Battalion (about 30 men) who arrived at their vantage point at about 4 p.m. It was just past dusk when they finished putting their guns together. The first shot hit the top of the Japanese cliff, the next one was just to the left of the enemies location, the next one was a bit to the right... and the last shot was right in the middle of the cliff!

"We probably saved a lot of lives that day," Hank said proudly. "From then on it was shelling, shelling and shelling. At one time the pile of spent shells was probably 20-25 feet high. It was a good set up. We could do whatever was needed to help the infantry."

The most difficult experience for Hank was watching as Army Infantry personnel tried to take a difficult hill. Actually they were two hills, one lower ridge where the enemy was located in a ravine below and then a higher hill. Tanks tried to get up the first hill to clear the ravine, but would get pulled sideways on lava gravel. Hank watched three tanks try to get over the hill. Each attempt failed as the tanks were mortared by Japanese military. The soldiers from within tried to escape and were killed instantly by the enemy.

"The third tank almost made it, but it started to slide sideways. The first guy (to escape) was burning and was hit; the second guy was hit; and the third guy was hit and jumped into the brush."

On a chance coincidence, five years later (1948), Hank stopped at a gas station in Kendall, NY and met a man who was limping and had a deformed arm. Hank asked him if the injuries were from the war. The guy told him yes, he was hurt in the battle of Guam in a tank attack.

"I told him let me finish the story... he was the third guy to jump from that last tank," Hank said with teary eyes. "I thought he had died."

Battles raged on Guam from July 1944 until August 10 when Guam was declared secured. Hank and his fellow soldiers had a few days to catch up on sleep. He re-

membered resting in his tent when a soldier came in and told them to get their sea bags ready they were going home. In another coincidence the man was a friend he knew from high school.

"Ten days later we flew back to Pearl Harbor to go home. This was the first fur- lough I had since joining the Marines.

"In the meantime, the two bombs were dropped on Japan. When we arrived back in San Francisco we were sent by a transport train east. We were as far as Lincoln, Nebraska when the war was declared over.

"There wasn't the communication back then that there is today. I couldn't call home to let them know. When I arrived home, I got off the train in Cohocton... no one was there to meet me. It didn't bother me. I walked home and they were glad to see me. My brother came home. He had served in Italy and North Africa. Word got around and we finally celebrated.

"I thought, nobody gives a damn what I did, that time was over... but I did feel kind of left out; maybe unappreciated?"

Hank had a dream, however, and wanted to go to college; no one from his family had ever gone to college. His former high school principal came to see him and set up appointments at Alfred and Brockport College and even took him there.

Hank enrolled at Brockport State College in a new Physical Education program, and graduated after only 2½ years. He met his wife June at Brockport. They were married in August, the same month that he graduated and also landed his first job at Kendall High School. One year later he took another job at Belmont Central School where he taught Phys Ed for 11 years, and became the Athletics Director there.

Two children were born: Paul and Mary. Hank studied and received his Master Degree and was working on his Doctoral Degree in Education Administration. At this point Hank had become an Elementary Principal. He was approached about a 'great job' in Wayne County.

"I didn't want to go there. We had just built a new home and we were happy," he shared. "I met District Principal Tom Armstrong. He was just a wonderful man. He told me that Ontario looks like a pretty rural community right now, but was growing into a bedroom community. He told me that the school district was heading for big things."

The Moshano family moved to Ontario. His wife was hired as an Elementary Teacher; Hank became the Elementary School Principal. Within three years the Board of Education asked him to accept the high school position, which he did for two years. The district had become large enough to become a superintendency and he was offered the Curriculum Coordinator position.

"While doing that, Freewill Elementary School was being built. I was involved head and shoulders with that project. I hired and in-service trained them. This was going to be a very different kind of school in teaching/instruction without text books. I thoroughly enjoyed that!

"At about that time Walworth schools were shutting down, there were not enough students. When I left there was a new high school, a completely different Middle School and we had done the grade school over on Ridge Road, closed part of the Walworth School, and built Freewill School.

"In 1980 I was asked to become the



Honor Flight Sponsor and son Paul Moshano accompanied his dad, Hank on the trip to Washington DC to visit the World War II Memorial, Korean War Memorial, Vietnam Memorial and Arlington Cemetery.

superintendent. I never expected to be offered that job. I stayed for one year to help straighten things out. I had already tendered my resignation but stayed that one year. I retired in 1981."

Hank concluded that his years in the Marines took care of his early manhood years. Even though he hadn't received the welcome home when he returned, the trip with Honor Flight has been absolutely fantastic. "It was just amazing. Everyone said thank you and you knew they meant it by looking in the faces how much they appreciated what we had

done.

At the formal program where the Honor Flight veterans were recognized Honor Flight of Rochester leader Richard Stewart said what everyone was thinking.

"Our gratitude is heartfelt and we will not forget your achievements and accomplishments defending our freedoms. It takes a special person to put on a uniform and serve. By your sacrifice and service you set the foundation of what it means to be an American. Your sacrifice endures!

"Welcome Home and God Bless!"

WEBSTER HEARING CENTER



One of Western New York's Most Respected Hearing Centers

94% Long Term Satisfaction

Walk-ins welcome - Bring us your problems & questions



Entry Level Digital Hearing Aids Starting at \$900

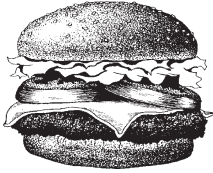
680 Ridge Road, Webster, NY 14580 787-0660

We're not satisfied until you are!

ORBAKER'S Drive-In 4793 Rt. 104, Williamson

It's Ice Cream Time Again!

Try our famous Cheeseburger 33 Flavors of hard ice cream, sundaes, splits and homemade milkshakes



Mon. - Thurs. 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. • Call in your food order & pickup 315-589-9701  
Fri. - Sat. 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.  
Sun. 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
www.orbakers.com

SEASON SPECIAL Summer Salad Plate - Choice of 3 Macaroni salad, potato salad, cole slaw, tuna salad or cottage cheese

Take our coupons for a ride!

COUPON



Buy one Get one FREE

Ice Cream Cone Hard or Soft

Orbaker's - Williamson Valid Thru Oct. 3, 2014

COUPON

Buy one - Get one

FREE

Zweigle's Best HOT DOG Red or White

Orbaker's - Williamson Valid Thru Oct. 3, 2014



Dependable • Residential & Commercial Trash & Recyclable Service

Roll-offs available 8 cu. yd. - 40 cu.yd.



Please call 315-594-6434 for more info.

