

May, 25th 2015:

PETER SBORDONE

On behalf of the Village of Piermont -
Welcome residents, honored guests and Gold Star families to our
Memorial Day commemoration.

This Memorial Day, we turn our attention to PFC Peter Sbordone, who left his job at the paper mill and enlisted in autumn of 1942. PFC Sbordone joined the 27th Infantry Battalion, 9th Armored Division, and began training in the Mojave Desert of California. His battalion thought they'd be sent to North Africa, but their task lay ahead in the freezing cold forests of northern Europe.

After training, PFC Sbordone and the 9th Armored shipped off from New York to England. Their first assignment was to participate in Operation Fortitude - the ploy mounted by the Allies to deceive the Germans about the real landing site for the invasion of Normandy. The 9th was positioned and performed maneuvers on the British coastline opposite of the German defenses in Pas-de-Calais. This was used to make the Germans believe that an allied invasion of Pas-de-Calais was imminent and the ruse was so successful that the German high command concentrated their reserves away from the Normandy coast. In honor of their participation in this deception, the 9th was officially nicknamed the "Phantom Division."

The 9th Armored Division finally made their crossing after D-Day and landed in France in late September 1944. In the weeks preceding their arrival, the US Army and Allies had fought brutal campaigns in the hedgerows of Northern France, breaking through the German lines, and pursued the disintegrating German Army into Holland, Belgium, and Luxembourg. In making their rapid advance the US and Allied armies far outstretched their supply lines, which enabled the German armies to re-

organize and re-form an effective defense along the western German border – protected by the extensive Siegfried Line. Combat late in the fall of 1944 developed into a grinding battle of attrition amidst worsening weather conditions on Germany's western front.

PFC Sbordone and the 9th Armored were attached to the VIII Corps of the First U.S. Army, located in the Ardennes Region of Belgium and Luxembourg. The 6th Panzer Army was preparing for the beginning of the brutal German counter-offensive, the battle of the Bulge, which would commence throughout the following months. The 9th Armored Division would see its severest actions at St. Vith, Echternach, and Bastogne, and would be a key component of securing the Remagen Bridgehead over the Rhine and lead in the crossing into Germany.

Before these epic battle began, on November 7th, 1944 while on patrol along the Our river near FelsLuxembourg, PFC Peter Sbordone was killed in action.

Today we remember the sacrifice of Peter and the Sbordone family. We, their extended Piermont family, honor this sacrifice and, through this annual ceremony, ensure Peter's efforts will not be forgotten. In remembrance of him, we express our gratitude by naming this stretch of Piermont Avenue after PFC Peter J. Sbordone.

Keep PFC Peter Sbordone and all of our fallen soldiers in your thoughts and prayers - it is in their honor that we gather this day. Also, keep in mind that these sacrifices are not only distant history - since we gathered here last Memorial Day, 44 men & women gave the ultimate sacrifice of their lives in the service of our country. Families of these soldiers, and communities like our own, are facing the raw, recent loss of their native sons and daughters today.

I ask you to keep in mind all of our men and women who are serving our country. As we enjoy this beautiful day in Piermont, away from our own labors, let it not be far from our thoughts that these soldiers continue to stand guard for us on foreign soil, in harm's way.

May God bless them, keep them safe, and ensure they return home soon.