

CITY OF GLOUCESTER, MA VETERAN MEMORIALS

NAME: World War II Memorial

LOCATION: Western Avenue, Essex Avenue & Kent Circle
at McKinnon Triangle

CAMPAIGN: World War II

TYPE: Memorial Stone

DATE DEDICTED: July 4, 2006

INSPRIPTION: Numerous inscriptions on following pages

IN HONOR OF: Over 5000 men and women who served and over 100 who gave their lives in World War II

INSCRIPTIONS ON PLAQUES LEADING TO MEMORIAL

WHERE THEY FOUGHT

THIS MEMORIAL RECORDS ONLY A FEW OF AMERICA'S MAJOR BATTLES OF WORLD WAR II. REMARKABLE AS THEY ARE THOSE ACTIONS CANNOT OVERSHADOW THE VALIANT EFFORTS AND OTHER FIGHTING UNITS, LARGE AND SMALL, WORKING FOR COMMON GOALS IN EACH THEATER. EVEN THE STALKING SUBMARINE, THE SINGLE PLATOON IN FOXHOLES, THE UNDERWATER SWIMMER, THE DAUNTLESS MINESWEEPER, AND DEFENDERS OF REMOTE OUTPOSTS MUST NOT BE FORGOTTEN.

MAY VIEWERS HERE BE INSPIRED TO READ FURTHER OF ACTS OF COURAGE AND SACRIFICE.

GLOUCESTER ARCHIVES CONTAIN NAMES OF OVER 5000 MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED AND OVER 100 WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES.

THE PRESIDENTS'S MESSAGE

"TO YOU WHO ANSWERED THE CALL OF YOUR COUNTRY AND SERVED IN ITS ARMED FORCES TO BRING ABOUT TOTAL DEFEAT OF THE ENEMY, I EXTEND THE HEARTFELT THANKS OF A GRATEFUL NATION. AS ONE OF THE NATION'S FINEST, YOU UNDERTOOK THE MOST SEVERE TASK ONE WHO CAN BE CALLED UPON TO PERFORM. BECAUSE YOU DEMONSTRATED THE FORTITUDE, RESOURCEFULNESS AND CALM JUDGEMENT NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THAT TASK, WE NOT LOOK TO YOU FOR LEADERSHIP AND EXAMPLE IN FURTHER EXALTING OUR COUNTRY IN PEACE."

-PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN

INSCRIPTIONS ON PLAQUES ON THE SIX SIDES OF THE MEMORIAL

GLOUCESTER
REMEMBERS

1941 - WORLD WAR II - 1945

THE PEOPLE OF
GLOUCESTER PROUDLY
DEDICATE THIS MEMORIAL
TO OUR CITIZENS WHO SERVED
AND SACRIFICED IN THAT MOST
DEVASTATING WAR. THEY
VALIANTLY FACED THE PERILS
OF BATTLE TO RESTORE
FREEDOM AROUND THE GLOBE.

DEDICATED JULY 4, 2006

A PRESIDENT'S VISION
APRIL, 1945

“TO ALL AMERICANS WHO
DEDICATE THEMSELVES TO
THE MAKING OF AN ABIDING
PEACE, I SAY: THE ONLY LIMIT
OF OUR TOMORROW WILL BE
OUR DOUBTS OF TODAY.”

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

FROM HIS ADDRESS PLANNED
FOR APRIL 13, 1945
HE DIED APRIL 12, THREE WEEKS
BEFORE WAR'S END IN EUROPE.

ENDURING CHALLENGE

STUDENTS AND PASSERS-BY
ARE CHALLENGED TO LEARN
OF ONGOING STRUGGLES
FOR LIBERTY AND EQUALITY.
BY SPREADING HOPE AND
UNDERSTANDING, YOU WILL
HELP REDUCE TENSIONS THAT
LEAD TO WAR. WHAT BETTER
WAY TO HONOR SACRIFICES
MADE IN WAR THAN TO WORK
FOR LASTING PEACE.

SCOPE OF THE WAR

TWO DECADES AFTER WORLD
WAR I, UNRELIEVED STRESSES
BROUGHT WORLD WAR II TO ALL
CONTINENTS.

MORE THAN 400,000 AMERICANS
DIED. TWICE THAT NUMBER WERE
WOUNDED.

MILLIONS OF CIVILIANS
PERISHED IN CITIES LAID WASTE,
AS WAR'S HORRORS REACHED
NEW HEIGHTS.

UNITED SUPPORT OF WORLD WAR II

WE HAIL THE UNITY OF SPIRIT
OF FAMILIES AT HOME WHO
BOLSTERED MORALE AND
GRIEVED OVER LOSSES.
IN FACTORIES, ON FARMS AND
AT SEA, THEY PRODUCED AND
DELIVERED THE MATERIALS TO
DEFEAT THE FORCES OF TYRANNY.

LEGACY OF VETERANS
OF WORLD WAR II

IN DEDICATING THEMSELVES,
TO THE DEFENSE OF LIBERTY,
GLOUCESTER SONS AND
DAUGHTERS ADDED LUSTER
TO A TRADITION BEGUN ON
THESE SHORES IN 1775.

THEIRS WAS A REMARKABLE
EXAMPLE OF SELFLESS RESPONSE.
GLOUCESTER HAD
DOUBLE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE
OF NUMBERS IN SERVICE.

INSCRIPTIONS ON PLAQUES SURROUNDING THE MEMORIAL

AFRICAN-EUROPEAN-MIDDLE EAST THEATER

1941-1945

THE ATLANTIC: GERMAN SUBMARINES TOOK
HEAVY TOLL OF EARLY U.S. WAR SHIPMENTS
TO ALLIES. WITH ADVANCED IN ANTI-
SUBMARINE WARFARE, U.S. REGAINED
CONTROL OF THE SEA LANES IN 1943.

NOVEMBER 1942-MAY 1943

NORTH AFRICA: UNTESTED U.S. TROOPS LANDED
IN MONOCCO, WHILE OTHERS LEFT ENGLAND
FOR ALGERIA. ALL FACED AXIS ENEMY FOR THE
FIRST TIME. IN MAY 1943, THOSE AXIS FORCES
CURRENDERED 275,000 TROOPS. ALLIES
ADVANCED A STEP TOWARDS BERLIN.

JULY-AUGUST 1943

SICILY: FROM AFRICA, U.S. AND BRITISH
TROOPS LANDED ON SICILY, AND OVERCAME
MAJOR STRONGHOLDS IN 38 DAYS.

AFRICAN-EUROPEAN-MIDDLE EAST
THEATER

SEPTEMBER 1943 – MAY 1945

ITALY: U.S FORCES LANDED AT SALERNO, AS ALLIES INVADED THE ITALIAN MAINLAND. THEIR ENDLESS SIEGE NORTHWARD DIVERTED AXIS STRENGTH FROM FRANCE. TWO DAYS BEFORE NORMANDY LANDING AMERICANS CAPTURED ROME. ARDUOUS CAMPAIGN TO PO VALLEY CONTINUED UNTIL ALL AXIS FORCES IN ITALY SURRENDERED ON MAY 2, 1945.

JUNE 6, 1944

NORMANDY: ON D-DAY U.S. AND ALLIES BEGAN GREATEST AMPHIBIOUS AND PARATROOP OPERATION OF ALL TIME. IT LED TO LIBERATION OF FRANCE AND FALL OF BERLIN.

DECEMBER 1944 – JANUARY 1945

THE BULGE (THE ARDENNES): LAST GERMAN DRIVE FAILED. COST 77,000 LIVES, "SECOND ONLY TO MEUSE-ARGONNE OF WORLD WAR I AS THE WORST BLOOD BATH IN OUR HISTORY."
...FROM AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD MONUMENT ON BASTOGNE.

AFRICAN-EUROPEAN-MIDDLE EAST
THEATER

FEBRUARY 1945

THE RHINE: AS ALLIES DROVE GERMANS FROM
THE RHINE, NAZIS DESTROYED BRIDGES.
INTREPID AMERICANS SEIZED REMAGEN
BRIDGE BECOMING THE FIRST INVADING
ARMY TO CROSS THE RHINE SINCE NAPOLEON.
THE WAY WAS OPEN TO BERLIN.

1942-1945

ALLIED STRATEGIC BOMBING: U.S. AND
BRITISH BOMBERS FACED HORRIFIC
RESISTANCE FROM GERMANS UNTIL 1944
WHEN LONG RANGE FIGHTER ESCORTS
GAINED CONTROL OF THE AIR. AFTER
NORMANDY, INDUSTRIAL TARGETS HAD
PRIORITY, AND BOMBERS HAD A VITAL
ROLE IN VICTORY.

VICTORY IN EUROPE CAME ON MAY 8, 1945.

ASIATIC-PACIFIC THEATER

FEBRUARY – MARCH 1945

IWO JIMA: MARINES CAPTURED BASE FOR
FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, SUFFERED HEAVY LOSSES

MARCH – MAY 1945

OKINAWA: HEAVIEST U.S. VESSEL LOSSES IN
PACIFIC. FORETOLD IMMENSE COSTS OF
INVADING JAPAN.

AUGUST 6-9, 1945

HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI: FIRST NUCLEAR
WEAPONS USED IN COMBAT LEVELED
HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI.

1941 – 1945

SUBMARINE WARFARE: U.S. SUBMARINES
CAUSED 60 PERCENT OF JAPAN'S CARGO
SHIPS LOSSES AND 30 PERCENT OF WARSHIP
LOSSES.

AUGUST 14, 1945

JAPAN ACCEPTED SURRENDER TERMS

ASIATIC-PACIFIC THEATER

DECEMBER 7, 1941

PEARL HARBOR: JAPANESE SURPRISE
ATTACK SANK MAJOR UNITS OF U.S FLEET.
U.S. DECLARED WAR.

DECEMBER 1941 – MAY 1942

CORREGIDOR: U.S. AND PHILIPPINE TROOPS
UNDER SIEGE SURRENDERED, FOLLOWED BY
BATAAN DEATH MARCH.

MAY 1942

CORAL SEA: FIRST BATTLE EVER BETWEEN
AIRCRAFT CARRIERS. ENDED JAPAN'S
THREAT TO AUSTRALIA.

JUNE 1942

MIDWAY ISLAND: U.S. NAVAL AIR VICTORY
TURNED TIDE OF PACIFIC WAR.

AUGUST 1942 – JANUARY 1943

GUADALCANAL, SOLOMON ISLANDS:
ESTABLISHED U.S. OFFENSIVE IN PACIFIC

ASIATIC-PACIFIC THEATER

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NEW GUINEA & BISMARCK ISLANDS: U.S &
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SUPPORT AIR STRIKES ON JAPAN

OCTOBER 23 – 26, 1944

LEYTE GULF: FOUR DISTINCT ACTIONS.
LARGEST NAVAL BATTLE OF ALL TIME.
REDUCED JAPANESE TO SUICIDE MISSIONS.





FOR FREEDOM ABOVE

GLoucester Patriot
1945
By the people of Gloucester, Mass., to the brave men and women who served our country during World War II.

GLOUCESTER REMEMBERS
1941 - WORLD WAR II - 1945
THE PEOPLE OF
GLOUCESTER
REMEMBER THE ABUNDANT
SACRIFICES OF OUR CITIZENS WHO SERVED
OUR COUNTRY DURING THIS
DIFFICULT AND DANGEROUS PERIOD OF
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