Russell S. Wallin

Professor
Biological Sciences
(1945-1977)



WWII
U. S. Army

We are researching more information about Russell Wallin's military service but are thankful for the leads provided by his son-in-law, Norman Maw, who is married to his daughter, Sue:

"At the time Russell served in the army his home was in Babylon, New York where he was teaching before, and perhaps after, his time in the army. I know his daughter, Sue, was born in 1945 in Bay Shore and by the fall they were living on Monroe Avenue in Brockport." Norm also believes that some of his military service was in Rockford, Illinois. If that is accurate it is likely that he was at Camp Grant that, according to Wikipedia was one of the largest infantry training camps during World War I and then reopened for induction processing during World War II:

"In October 1940 Camp Grant was re-activated as an induction center, being transferred by Illinois back to the federal government. Physical exams and medical training post for draftees was the main focus, although a fair number of personnel went through Camp Grant for their Army basic training. It is estimated that 100,000 medical corpsmen were trained at the camp. During the war Camp Grant also served as a POW detention center, employing upwards of 6,000 civilians, boosting Rockford's economy. It is estimated there were 2,500 POWs in the camp. After the war Camp Grant also served as a separation center for returning GIs."

[As of August 9, 2015, I am wondering if Russell's military record, which I have just learned can be obtained (see: http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/) will show that he was trained to be a corpsman. It would certainly fit as a precursor of his career in civilian life. Hopefully we'll be able to make that determination.] {Bud Meade}

Norm did share some additional information that included a copy of the citation Russell received from the College at a College-Community Recognition event held on May 13, 1978 following his retirement. The citation has been retyped and edited slightly (punctuation), and photos I previously had in my possession have been edited and added.

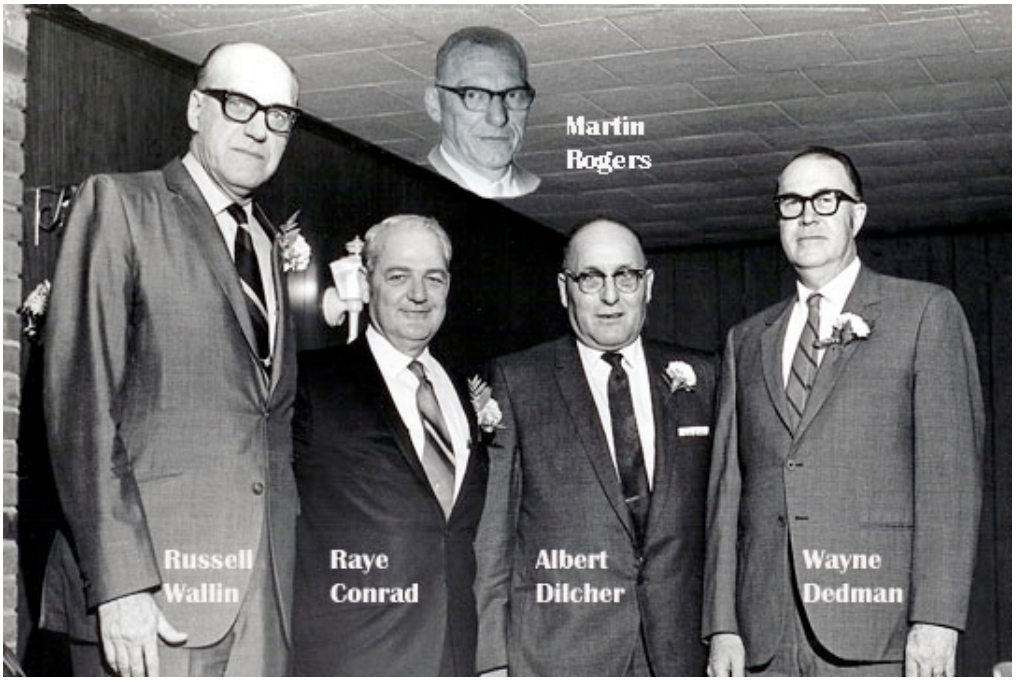
It makes and interesting addition to his military story and we hope to discover more on that "front" soon.

State University College at Brockport

CITATION FOR DR. RUSSELL WALLIN FOR SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS

Brockport College Community Recognition Night May 13, 1978

RUSSELL WALLIN – You and Wayne Dedman are the last of the "'45 Colts." Just as the Colt 45 was a significant factor in American history in the conquest of the west, so have the '45 colts—Wallin, Dedman, Conrad, and Rogers—been decisive in Brockport's



history. In the fall of '45 four frisky and fresh young collegiate colts came charging along the banks of the Canal to a struggling frontier settlement of barely 300 students—almost all fillies—with a staff of 42 and a science and math department of four. And your lanky, towering presence, Russ, reflecting your Green Mountain Vermont background where you had gone to college and had taught, was immediately felt, as you quickly became "the master of all the surveys" in the biological sciences. You were not only a factor in the College's growth and expansion but grew along with it, acquiring your doctor's degree and competing a post-doctoral project in radiation biology at the University of Rochester School of Medicine, and presiding as leader of the biological branch of the Science Department for twenty years.



Among your many notable achievements: authoring a publication on Science for Children for the State Education Department; writing a series of published laboratory manuals in General Biology, Botany, Zoology, and Radiation Biology; directing Science Institutes for Secondary and Elementary Teachers and pioneering in closed circuit television. You and John Syrocki blazed a bright trail into the electronic age with the first TV course in Human Biology that produced impressive results described in Science Education, a journal of the National Association for Research in Science Teaching.

When the erstwhile frontier institution to which you had come had advanced in size and curricular sophistication to permit a high degree of specialization, you became the Lord of the Flies—cultured fruit flies in the genetics lab. Occasionally, those cultured or not-so-cultured flies strayed from the bottles creating a situation in nearby offices that might be best described as "frenetic genetics."



One of your colleagues has said, "I think that, in the study of genetics, Russ must have found out more good things about DNA than he's willing to tell—it's certainly working for him." In any event, you brought some tall genes to Brockport as a "45 colt" and have made tall contributions to her institutional heredity. You have always been the exemplary gentleman, teacher/scholar, congenial colleague, and benign mentor deeply devoted to your students. You have had an eugenic effect, Russ Wallin, and you have earned a retirement marked by longevity and quality to match your productive career.

Will you please come forward to receive your certificate of recognition and appreciation from President Brown?