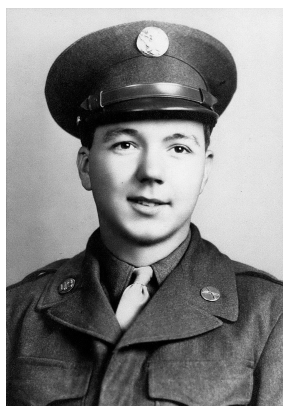


## **A Tale of Five Brothers in WW II: The Ebert Family**

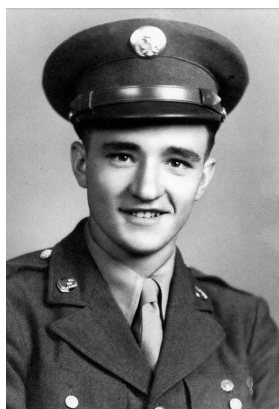
By Bob Mogray

This is a story about WHS member Molly Hill's family. Molly was one of a family of twelve that included her parents, John and Norma (Grimes) Ebert, as well as ten children. There were five brothers and five sisters. This would be considered a huge family by current standards. It was the involvement of the five brothers in World War II that this story is about. This twelve-member Ebert family originally lived at 5128 Albright Road in what is now the house of John Haak. The names of the children were: Winifred Virginia (Winnie), Vivian Rose, Evelyn Ann, Kenneth Jay, Gordon Walter, Ellsworth George, Wilfred Harlow (Bill), Harland Ray, Geraldine June, and Malora Jean (Molly).

Oddly, all five brothers ended up serving in the military at the same time. This was something that was usually not allowed. Usually at least one brother was left home to help out with the family. Luckily, all five survived the war and made it home afterward. The following are brief summaries of the five brothers' lives from the youngest to the oldest:



Harland Ebert - He was the youngest of the Ebert brothers and was born on January 3, 1927. He is the only surviving Ebert brother as of this article. He lives in Macedon, New York, and has two children: sons Gary and Tom. Harland served in the U.S Army in Germany during WW II. He was sent home in 1945 only to re-enlist. He then served as a switchboard operator in Germany and was discharged in 1946. After the war Harland worked at the Rochester Steel Treating Company.



Wilfred (Bill) Ebert - Born on April 26, 1925, he also served in the U.S. Army in Germany in WW II. He was a farmer before the war and after the war he worked a short time at the Webster Basket Factory. Bill passed away a few years after the war on July 12, 1948.



Ellsworth Ebert - He was born on March 18, 1923, and served in the U.S. Navy in WW II. He was serving in Hawaii when he got appendicitis and was unable to ship out to Japan. It is interesting to note that the man who was his replacement while he was in the hospital was killed in Japan. After the war, Ellsworth had three sons and a daughter. Their names are Randy, Ricky, John, and Cheri. For a number of years he was a pipe-fitter at Eastman Kodak Company in Rochester, New York. Ellsworth Ebert only recently passed away on May 29, 2009.



Gordon Ebert - Gordon was born on December 7, 1920, and served in the U.S. Army in Italy in WW II. He was a corporal and was a mechanic in the service. After the war he had two daughters, Mary and Betsy, as well as a son, David. He worked at Sears for awhile and then went into business for himself, owning and operating a gas station. Later, he also worked at the Penfield school bus garage. Gordon passed away on May 30, 2007.



Kenneth Ebert - Ken was born on April 20, 1917, and was an officer in the U.S. Army, serving in North Africa and Germany. He was considered an excellent mechanic and soon was the head of the motor pool. His first wife was Susie and he had a daughter, Eletha. Later he married Francis and had two stepsons, Sam and Harold. He had a very friendly personality and owned a repair shop on Paddy Lane Road in Ontario, New York. Ken passed away on April 19, 2005.

WHS member Molly Hill, part of the Ebert family, was born in Lincoln and attended Lincoln school there too. She started working at Kodak as a mail messenger girl and then became a secretary. She met her husband, Larry, in high school and they were married on March 19, 1949. Larry was employed at the Hungerford Smith Company and later at Eastman Kodak Company in the film emulsion department. Molly and Larry have a son Kevin. A daughter, Vickie, passed away on February 9, 2008.



Top row L to R: Harland Ebert, Kenneth Ebert, Winifred Ebert, Wilfred Ebert, Ellsworth Ebert, Gordon Ebert.

Bottom row L to R: Malora (Molly) Ebert, Vivian Ebert, Norma Ebert, John Ebert, Evelyn Ebert, Geraldine Ebert.

*Many thanks to Molly and Larry Hill for providing photos and information used in this article.*

**The Ebert family photo, taken in August of 1941. This is the last photo of the family before the five brothers went off to serve in World War II.**