

OCTOBER 2022

VETERAN OF THE MONTH



JAMES VINCENT MORGIA

I never graduated because of the war with Japan and Germany. Our R.O.T.C. group started its fall semester but were inducted into the army as corporals and shipped to Camp Wheeler, Georgia for basic training. After 16 weeks or so, I and my UConn buddies were sent to Fort Benning Georgia, Officers' Candidate School for the infantry. It was also known as O.C.S.

It was really intense training with weapons, drilling, hiking, tactics, leadership, obstacle courses, live ammunition training and maneuvers. About half of our class didn't make it. I received my second lieutenants commission on May 4, 1944.

On graduation from Fort Benning, Ga., I was ordered to report to Camp Claiborne, Louisiana and assigned to E Company, Second Battalion, 334th Infantry Regiment of the 84th division. I became a weapons platoon leader and also assigned to be the mess officer for the company. I was busy. Throughout the summer in hot and humid Louisiana country I was part of the preparation for going overseas to a combat area. In September I was on a ship bound for Southampton, Seaport in England. After a two week stay in Winchester town, I was ferried across the channel to Omaha Beach staging area for movement to the Siegfried.

James earned a Bronze Star for superior services as E Company Executive Officer on the battlefield in late 1944.

James Vincent Morgia earned a Silver Star for services as temporary E Company, 334th 84th Division Commander to overcome German aggression of the Belgium Town of Beho, January 22, 1945.

James re-enlisted in the Army Reserve in 1946 and was promoted to the rank of Captain.