

as you were

At Canisius we have been taught that, no man can serve his country, who fails to serve his God. Therefore, when in a short time we shall be called upon to actively serve our country, we are determined that we shall not fail. We will serve our God and we will serve our country with every ounce of our courage to make sure that this maelstrom of savagery now rampant, shall not blight the lives and hearts of man — ever again.

Joseph E. Driscoll '43



"You at Canisius College should be aware of and proud to have such a true hero among the ranks of your graduates!"

— Robert R. "Duke" Maynard

The 60th anniversary of the Allied powers' landing at Normandy Beach on D-Day brought forth yet another memoir of courage and selfless devotion by a son of Canisius College.

Robert R. "Duke" Maynard of Bristol, CT appeared on my doorstep in 2000 inquiring about **Joseph E. Driscoll '43**, who was killed while on active duty in Normandy on July 27, 1944. I gave Maynard copies of the *Azucur* pages with Driscoll's senior class portrait (he was president of his class) and an eerily prescient letter written to the Senior Class in which Driscoll reminded members of the class that they were about to combat the "maelstrom of savagery now rampant" and that they would be expected to "serve our God and our country with every ounce of our courage."

This much we knew, plus the fact that Driscoll was counted as one of 64 Canisius graduates to lose his life in World War II. Duke Maynard has now filled in the gaps.

Early in the morning of July 27, 1944, Maynard and Driscoll, both infantry scouts, were in the fields east of Normandy, doing advance work for the Allied forces as they began the

push toward Paris. The day before had been very eventful for Maynard and Driscoll as about a dozen German troops had surrendered to them in the field. They were proceeding in their reconnaissance as fast as they could walk when Maynard felt something hit him. He fell to the ground, knocking out his front teeth. He had been struck in the throat by enemy fire and was spurting blood. Within seconds, Driscoll was at his side using first Maynard's aid kit and then his own to bind Maynard's wound. He pulled Maynard to safer ground and turned to seek medical help. As he stood, he cried out, "I've been hit. I've been hit." Maynard never saw him hit the ground. He lapsed in and out of consciousness for a long period until medical help arrived. When the medics arrived they told him Driscoll had been killed.

A very grateful Duke Maynard has lived for 60 years with this vivid memory of Driscoll's noble act of courage. He wrote to me last year, "You at Canisius College should be aware of and proud to have such a true hero among the ranks of your graduates." Amen, Duke Maynard. *Requiescas in Pace*, Joseph E. Driscoll '43.

— John J. Hurley '78