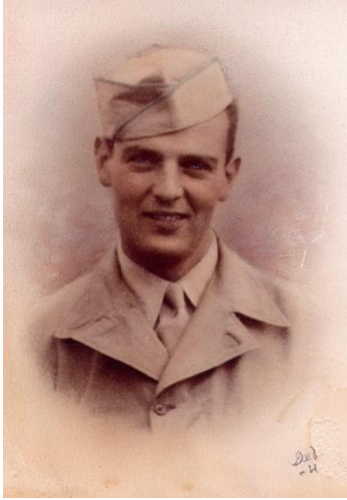


## U.S. Army Sergeant Joseph P. Peters *Died June 8<sup>th</sup>, 1944*



Joseph (Joe) Peters was raised in Pleasanton and lived on Division Street with his mother Anna Peters. After his graduation from Amador Valley High School Joe was employed at the J.E. Bairos “My Store” located in downtown Pleasanton.

It is not clear when Joe entered the U.S. Army but he trained for two years as a combat engineer. Joe was assigned to the 121<sup>st</sup> Engineer Combat Battalion, which was permanently assigned to the 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. Permanent combat engineers moved inland with the unit, supported it in combat and provided counter-obstacle, counter-mobility, mine-clearing, bridge-building, demolition, and construction support, as needed.



According to a letter Joe sent home, while in England on March 3, 1944, he was training a group of men, when a big staff car drove up, and General Ike Eisenhower, with a number of staff officers, walked up, and the General said in a most friendly manner, “Hello,



Sergeant, how are you?” Joe wrote they talked about other things, but he could not say what they were. Joe also wrote just before the Normandy invasion “I expect to be in the thick of it.”



Two platoons of 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry’s Company B, accompanied by the battalion commander, and all of the 121<sup>st</sup> are recognized as the first American forces to land on Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944, with the balance of the Battalion following shortly thereafter, as part of the Normandy Invasion on D-Day. The time of the landing was 07:10, June 6, 1944, in advance of the 116th Infantry Combat Team. The 121<sup>st</sup> suffered great losses of personnel and equipment. Joe was wounded in action during the invasion of the Normandy Coast, and succumbed to the wounds on June 8, 1944. He was buried with his comrades on Omaha Beach on the Normandy Coast until after the war when he was brought home and laid to rest in the Golden Gate Cemetery at San Bruno.

On July 3, 1967 the City of Pleasanton passed resolution 67-123 designating a new street through the central business district as “*Peters Avenue*.” The said street was named in honor of Sergeant Joe Peters, who died in World War II at Normandy, France, on D-Day.