

Cpl. Eli Roffwarg (32800965) – 58th Station Complement Squadron

Station 146 Seething once produced a news publication known as Seething Digest, featuring articles about the men of Seething. Boasting the "World's Smallest Circulation – 2 copies – Published Weekly by Public Relations Office," the publication would reprint clippings sent from home and display them in the Officers' and Aero Clubs.

One edition of Seething Digest highlighted Cpl. Eli Roffwarg, a talented artist and actor from the 58th Station Complement Squadron. Roffwarg had created over 200 pastel portraits of fellow servicemen, from Privates to Colonels, and was even commissioned for a General's portrait. He was even commissioned to do a portrait of a General. The picture on the right shows Eli alongside Colonels Mason and Judy after completing their portraits.



(Seething Digest)

But who was Eli Roffwarg?



(Jacob)

Elias Roffwarg, born on April 26, 1923, in Brooklyn, New York, was the son of Jacob (b. 1886) and Betty (b. 1897) Roffwarg. He had two brothers, Irving (b. 1917) and Albert (b. 1919), and a sister named Sheila (b. 1931).

His father, Jacob was born on 13th December 1886 in Zitomir, Volin, Russia. Betty was born on 18th May 1897 in Romania. Jacob immigrated to the U.S on 16th January 1910 from Bremen, Germany. He met and married Betty Kanner on 14th January 1917 in Manhattan, New York. They went on to have Irving and Albert.

By 1920, the family lived in Kings, New York with a live-in servant named Victoria Shmil from Austria. Jacob became an American citizen on April 29th, 1926, at Brooklyn and worked as a silk merchant.

In 1930, the Roffwarg family still resided in Kings, New York. Tragically, Betty passed away on November 15, 1936, leaving Jacob with their four children and her mother, Celia Kanner. In 1938, Jacob had to foreclose on his home.

During 1942-43 Jacob saw all three of his sons enlist into the American Army, leaving him and Sheila behind. Jacob eventually passed away on February 26th, 1954.

[S/Sgt Irving G. (32991526) was born on December 26th, 1917. He married Lorraine (b. 1919) before being drafted on October 16th, 1942. Back then, he was employed by Oscar Hayman Fabric. He enlisted on the July 27th, 1943 in New York City. His occupation was noted as a Salesman. He was released on January 25th, 1946. Irving passed away on July 22nd, 2003, in Palm Beach, Florida. Lorraine passed away on February 19th, 2011.]



(Irving)

[Albert David (12071497) was born on June 10th, 1919. He was drafted on October 16th, 1940, while working for Duplex Fabrics Inc. He enlisted at Fort Totten, New York on February 11th, 1942. His occupation was noted as a semiskilled occupation in the fabrication of textile products. He Married to Mildred and blessed with three children, Albert passed away in Boynton Beach, Florida on June 13th, 201, and rests at Flushing Queens County.]

[Shelia and Arthur Driben married in Queens, New York in 1953 and had three children - two daughters Liza, and Betsy, and a son. Sadly, Sheila passed away on October 27th, 2013.]

Eli pursued his education at Brooklyn College before earning his degree from Pratt Institute School of Fine and Applied Arts. On June 30th, 1942, he was drafted and later enlisted on February 11th, 1943 in New York City. His occupation was noted as a semiskilled occupation in the fabrication of textile products. He was assigned to 58th Station Complement Squadron, who arrived at Seething in September 1943 to join the RAF servicemen stationed there, to prepare the newly constructed base, ready for the arrival in November 1943 of the men and aircraft of the 448th Bomb Group. He was assigned to work in the Chemical Warfare Service.

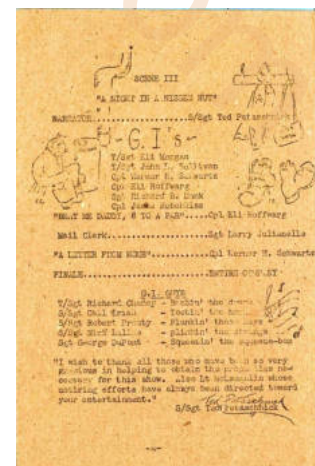
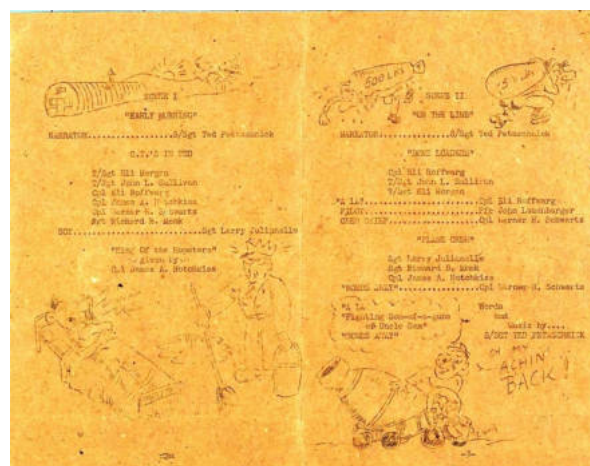
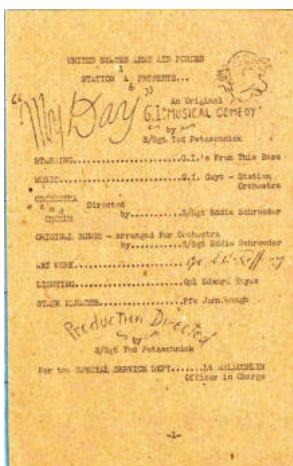


L to R, TS F Praett, Alabama PFC C Lyles, N Carolina Lt E Brindley, Massachusetts
CPL E Roffwarg, Brooklyn Pvt A Devito, Brooklyn
(Brindley)

While stationed at Seething Airfield, Eli participated in Station 146 Theatre and contributed to two successful G.I. shows - the musical comedy "My Day" and "Liberator Cavalcade," taking on roles as a featured vocalist and character actor. He also created artwork for "My Day" which was written, produced, and directed by aircraft mechanic S/Sgt Ted Petaschnick.



L to R, Carl Lyles, N. Carolina; Anthony DeVito, Brooklyn; Eli Roffwarg, Brooklyn;
Frank Praett, Alabama, Lt. Eugene Brindley, Massachusetts.
(Brindley)



(My Day programme - 2nd Air Division library)

Following the war, Eli married Irma Jean Taub on December 29th, 1946, and together they had three daughters: Betty (b.1948), Lori (b.1951), and Shelly (b.1950). The family settled down in Stratford, Connecticut, where Eli became involved with the Centre Stage Players of the Jewish Community alongside his sister Sheila and her husband Arte for several years.

Irma dedicated many years to serving as president for ORT - a Jewish educational network that offers access to under-resourced communities' educational programs.

Eli went on to become an interior designer, delivering talks for ORT and conducting classes with a local university. In February 1962, he partnered with his brother-in-law Arte to establish Interiors Inc., but unfortunately, they dissolved the company by July 1973. However, by 1990, Sheila and Arte became the owners of Interiors Inc.

Eli sadly departed this world on December 13th, 1996. Later, Irma found love with Rafael and together they cherished their married life until her untimely demise on July 12th, 2003.



Eli drawing a comrade



Eugene Brindley



Franklin Copp

