

NAME **Louis Gallic**
 Proposed by **Sal Cannizzaro**
 Seconded by **Charles Yeager**
 Elected **9/19/56**



Resigned _____ Re-instated _____
 Suspended _____ Deceased **5/30/1998**

Business Address _____

Phone _____

Residence Address _____

Phone _____

S.F.

Occupation _____

Real Est. Sales _____

SK2-9229

Age **94**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 1998

San Francisco Chronicle

Louis Gallic

A memorial service for Louis Gallic, a longtime San Francisco real estate broker, will be held Saturday in San Francisco. Mr. Gallic died Saturday at the age of 94.

The son of a traveling businessman, he grew up at various locations throughout Europe.

When Mr. Gallic was in his 30s, he traveled to the United States from France as a crew member on the French luxury liner Normandie. While the ship was moored at a Hudson River pier in New York City in 1942, the vessel was badly damaged by a fire.

Gallic's family said the U.S. government then offered the crew the opportunity to join the Army and become citizens. Mr. Gallic accepted.

After training in South Carolina and Florida, Mr. Gallic was part of the Allied forces that landed on the beaches of Normandy on June 6, 1944. On July 9, 1944, he was shot while on a patrol in an inland area of the country. He crawled into a ditch, where he was found by a German patrol and shot two more times, once in the neck.

Mr. Gallic survived the ordeal, crawling back to safety in Allied territory. He was later awarded a

silver star and two purple hearts. After the war, he was a United Nations relief worker in France for several years.

In 1947, he migrated to California, where he worked as a restaurant manager in Apple Valley, a high desert town north of Los Angeles.

In 1951, he moved to San Francisco and enrolled at Golden Gate College, where he majored in accounting. He graduated in 1954 with a degree in accounting and went to work for Heyman Brothers, a real estate company.

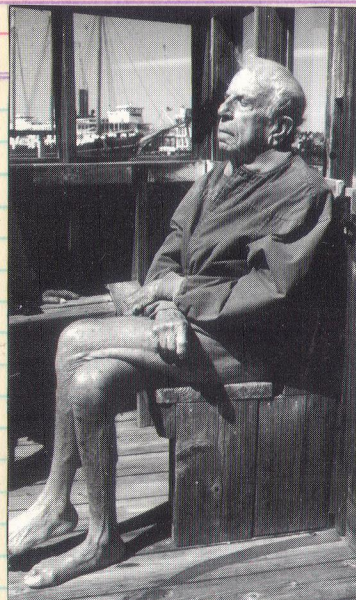
In the late 1950s, he opened his own real estate firm, Louis Gallic Co. on Geary Boulevard. He worked until earlier this year, when he broke his hip in a fall at his home.

He is survived by his wife, Mineko, of San Francisco, and a son, Gordon, of Eugene, Ore.

In the 1950s, he joined the Dolphin Club and swam daily in the bay until the day before he broke his hip on February 24.

The service will be held Saturday at 1 p.m. at the Dolphin Club, 502 Jefferson St. in San Francisco. That will be 54 years to the day after his D-Day landing in France.

— Susan Sward



Historic Water Craft: Lou Gallic



GALLIC, Louis — April 21, 1904 — May 30, 1998.
 Loving husband of Mineko and father of Gordon.
 A celebration of life will be held Saturday, June 6, 1PM at the Dolphin Club 502 Jefferson St., SF. Contributions to California Pacific Medical Center Foundation, 3700 California St., SF CA 94118.
 HALSTED N. GRAY - CAREW & ENGLISH

EBITS CREDITS BALANCE DATE EX

assessments MISCL.

1.25 7.50

JAN - JUNE

JULY - AUG. SE

NOV. DE

- JUNE

- DEC.

- JUNE

- DEC.

- JUNE

- DEC.

- JUNE

ESSME

- DEC.

- JUNE

ESSME

For 1

- SCOT

- DEC.

ES - 1

Mar

- JUNE

- SCOT

DR

73

Mar 73

June 73

Dec 77

Aug 1974

Dec 74

Aug 75

Mar 75

Aug 1976

Mar 76

Aug 77

Mar 77

42

84

100

108

125

6/22

1/1

12/26

12/30

12/30

84

108

108

132

-

-

-

-

-

Lou Gallic was well into his nineties when pneumonia put a halt to his daily trips into the surf. One winter afternoon in the sauna, he recalled the story of his landing at Normandy. Because he was a native, and the only French speaker in his company, the sergeant said to him when they hit the beach: "After you

Lou." His next step dropped him into water over his head, and with more than 80 pounds of gear; it took him some time to get back to the surface. In the meanwhile, a machine gun had opened up and killed everyone else in his landing craft. The story was told without emphasis. Merely: this is what happened to me.

LOU GALLIC A Dolphin Legend

by Chris Kelley

Legend surrounds us at the Club—a single look at the walls in the Staib or Sancimino rooms confirm the stories members tell in the warm haven of the sauna or in the sunshine just outside the weight room. The stories told seem distant and fantastic, embellished by the storyteller to keep an audience more entertained, amused, or rapt. When it comes to the legend of Louis Gallic, however, the facts go beyond any poetic license a Dolphin tale teller could take.

The story begins not in the era of the comparatively bloodless political and social conflict of today, but in an era of submarine nets just outside the Golden Gate, regular blackout alerts and rationing. In Europe and Asia, genocide and a brutal struggle over the destiny of those who survived dominated. The degree of suffering is the same in any age, but the sheer scale of it in those times makes it singular.

A month and three days after D-Day (June 6, 1944), Allied forces were pushing the Germans back through the open fields, hedgerows and small towns of northeastern France. The Germans, though tired and desperate, were fighting a spirited rear-guard action. It was during this time that Gallic's legend began. The eldest corporal in his unit, he had landed in Normandy with fellow members of the 9th U.S. Army, 30th division, 120th regiment.

Now moving into the St. Lo area, his unit continued to press forward. The combat report, by Major General L.S. Hobbs, follows:

"Technician Gallic, assigned to the headquarters of an infantry battalion, was acting as guide for the leading elements of his company's column during an advance. He had moved some distance ahead of the column when he was confronted by an enemy sentry. Technician Gallic immediately demanded the sentry's surrender, and upon his refusal, shot and wounded the German. After the column had moved ahead about fifty yards an enemy machine pistol opened fire from behind a fence and severely wounded Technician Gallic in both legs. At this point other enemy weapons opened fire and due to the intensity of the fire the column withdrew leaving Technician Gallic in a ditch alongside the road."

"Shortly afterwards some German

troops came out of a nearby house and laid mines in the road between him and friendly territory, and in spite of being wounded, Technician Gallic closely observed this procedure. Suddenly one of the enemy soldiers detected that he was still alive and brutally fired two shots at him point blank, hitting him in the neck. When the Germans had moved farther down the road, Technician Gallic painfully pulled himself to the top of a hedgerow and dropped over into an adjacent field. Eluding pursuit, he proceeded through enemy groups of soldiers through three fields and contacted friendly units. Although his wounds were becoming more painful, he refused to be evacuated until he had given complete information regarding the activities of the enemy."

Quiet and unassuming when asked about his combat experiences, he shrugged off his actions of July 9, 1944: "I did the same as anyone would have in that situation." The actions Gallic took upon his return home would need similar understatement.

Flown back to England immediately after his heroism in France, he was sent to a specialized hospital in Washington, D.C. Most of the senior physicians there recommended that Lou's most severely wounded leg be amputated, but a young doctor from Colorado saved the leg and oversaw

(Continued on page 8)



LOU GALLIC

continued from page 6

Lou's recovery. Lou was then decorated with the Silver Star, several other



Dolphin Legends: Lou, Mineko, and Cecco

citations, and was honorably discharged from the Army. The hero briefly returned to St. Lo area as an official for the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.

He then returned to New York, where he met his first wife, Dorothy. Looking through the newspapers of different cities for career opportunities, he noted that the Los Angeles Times was the thickest. Concluding that such a volume of information meant there was more career potential there, he and Dorothy journeyed to the City of Angels. His theory proved not far from the truth.

He began working as a restaurant manager in Apple Valley, north of Los Angeles. Their son, Gordon, was born shortly thereafter in 1947. The determination he had shown in war carried over to civilian life, and his boss was impressed. Lou had other plans, however, wishing to gain a college degree. His boss tried to keep him at the firm with an offer of a raise, but the future Dolphin would not be swayed. He enrolled in the accounting program at

Golden Gate University in San Francisco.

These were difficult yet successful years. Lou worked as a bookkeeper for the White House department store at night, taking his classes by day. The family was aided in part by an Army pension. With equal parts of effort and G.I. bill dollars, Lou graduated in 1954 and began working for Heyman Brothers Real Estate as a salesman. His rise in the firm was rapid, though there were underlings there who disliked reporting to a boss with a

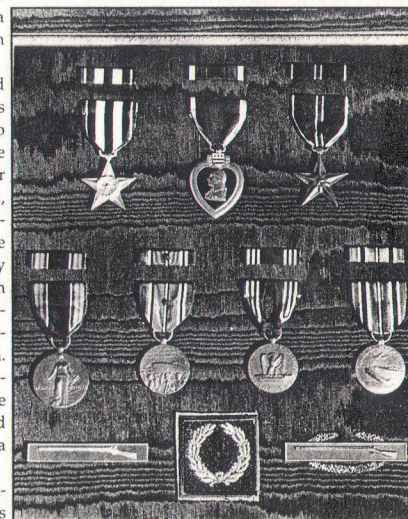
thick, "un-American" French accent.

An avid ice skater and regatta sailor for much of his life, Lou's interest turned to swimming, and he joined the Dolphin Club in September of 1956. Shortly afterward, he began another new venture—his own real estate firm. Louis Gallic Company was formed in 1957. The firm was integral to the development of some of the first housing in Foster City, California. Though his business demanded long hours, he made swimming in the cove and spending time at the Club a priority.

Watershed events continued into the autumn of his years. He was in a life-threatening car accident in 1965 and was divorced from Dorothy before the decade was over. Shortly afterward he met Mineko, a very happy acci-

dent. "We just walked into each other's life one day," she recounts. The two shared some of the most joyful years of their lives together. She accompanied Lou to the club for his daily swim for the last 25 years, regardless of mood or weather. She recently was by his side as he fought through to another success, recovering from hip replacement surgery and then pneumonia. However, at the age of 94, the man's unquenchable spirit moved from this world to the next.

Lou Gallic's story and spirit continue to inspire here and now. Succeeding under fire from a desperate enemy, creating a good life for himself and his family, building and maintaining a successful business, he remains a legend for this and future ages. As long as there is a Dolphin to remember and tell others, this remarkable man and his story will remain bright and vibrant.



Gallic's Medals, left to right, first row: Silver Star, Purple Heart, Bronze Star; second row: World War II Service, European Theater of Operations with Battle Star, Good Conduct Medal, American Campaign; third row: Infantry Medal, Unit Citation for Division Regiment, and Combat Infantry Medal.