



12-1995

## 164th Infantry News: December 1995

164th Infantry Association

[How does access to this work benefit you? Let us know!](#)

Follow this and additional works at: <https://commons.und.edu/infantry-documents>



Part of the [Military History Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

164th Infantry Association, "164th Infantry News: December 1995" (1995). *164th Infantry Regiment Publications*. 41.

<https://commons.und.edu/infantry-documents/41>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Elwyn B. Robinson Department of Special Collections at UND Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in 164th Infantry Regiment Publications by an authorized administrator of UND Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact [und.common@library.und.edu](mailto:und.common@library.und.edu).



# The 164<sup>th</sup> INFANTRY News

Vol. 33 No. 3

1995 is our 49th ass'n yr

December, 1995

## Annual Business Meeting

The annual business meeting of the 164th Infantry Association of the United States was called to order by President Milton Kane at 10:00 AM 30 Sep 95 at the Doublewood Inn, Fargo, ND.

### Officers Present:

Milton Kane, President  
Don Robinson, News Editor  
Frank Weisgerber, Sec/Treas

The colors were posted by North Dakota Air Guard personnel. The pledge of allegiance was rendered by all present led by the President. The Mayor of Fargo, Bruce Furness, welcomed all attendees to the city of Fargo to enjoy a happy reunion.

The minutes of the 1994 business meeting were published in the Dec 1994 News issue and were adopted by voice vote. The financial report was presented by the Secretary Treasurer and approved by voice vote. The following committees were appointed by the President with the Chairman submitting recommendations as follows:

### Time & Place

Harry Dolyniuk, Chairman

### 1996 Reunion

Bismarck, ND 11-13 Oct 96

### 1997 Reunion

Minot, ND

Month of Sep 97 dates to be set by Vice President Christensen dependent on other events in that city during the month of Sep.

Nominations - Bernie Wagner, Chairman

President - Neyl McClure

Vice President - George Christensen

Editor/Historian - Don Robinson

Sect/Treas - Frank Weisgerber

Resolutions - George Christensen

To go on record to support the use of the atomic bomb, WWII and to support the constitutional amendment to punish desecrators of the national flag.

The President called for any old business, there being none, he called for new business.

Don Robinson showed a flag honoring the Guadalcanal veterans, donated by H.O. McAdow, who requested it be given to the VFW Post in Bismarck, ND, for permanent display.

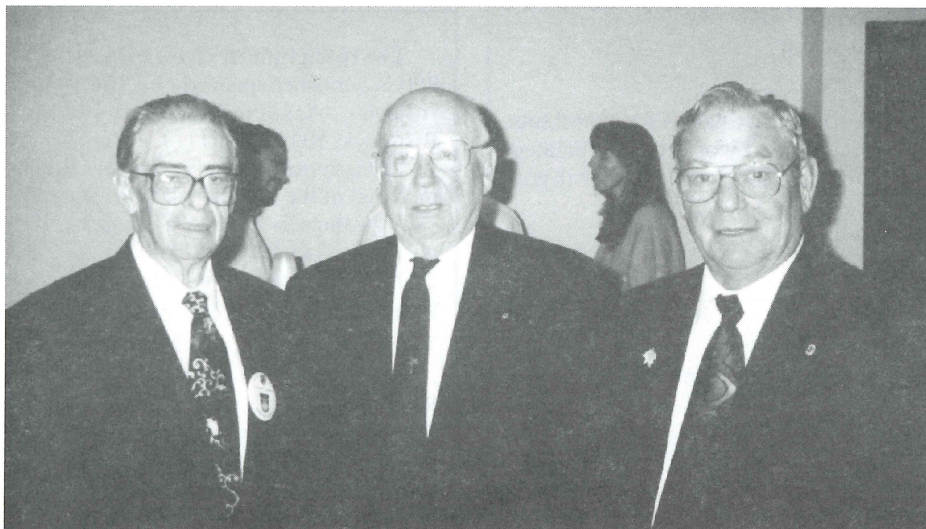
Hetty Walker, wife of Chuck Walker and Mayor of Pembina, presented a pitch on the "State Wall" project to be constructed by the city honoring Pembina as

the oldest and first city in the State of North Dakota. The Mayor asked the Association purchase eight bricks honoring the 164th Infantry Regiment with printing on the bricks, at a cost of \$30.00 per brick. Motion by Ray Maxson to approve the cost, seconded and passed. Jim Fenelon made a motion to add the 164th Regimental Crest to the bricks with Walt Johnsen to assist the Mayor in the design. A max of \$500.00 from the Association was voted on and passed.

Don Oster gave a presentation on a wrist watch with the regimental crest on the face and will furnish the Association with name, address of the maker, and the cost. Will publish this info in the News.

Vic Powers gave a spirited speech on the Fighting 164th poem by Ira Keeney and made a motion to make a permanent plaque of the poem to be displayed in the ND Veterans Cemetery. After considerable debate the President appointed Ralph Gaugler as Chairman of a committee to study the feasibility of locating the plaque in the Adm Bldg of the Cemetery. Chairman to submit recommendations at next Reunion.

The President made a motion to honor the North Dakota Army and Air National Guard for their support of the Reunion. Passed by voice vote. Motion to adjourn by Bernie Wagner, seconded by Tony Beer, with meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM 30 Sep 1995.



Walter Johnsen, Waly Johnson, Committeeman; Milt Kane, President. Thanks guys for a great time and a very enjoyable reunion. Editor

## For the 164th Inf News

1995 Raffle Ticket winners:

*Bill Hagen  
Moorhead, MN  
Elmo Heffernan  
Missoula, MT  
Russ Landgren  
St. Paul, MN*

# LETTERS ...

Co. D, 164th Inf., WWII, American Division held a big 25-year reunion June 24, 25, and 26, 1966, in Rugby, ND. Each person received a booklet that contained a tremendous amount of informative material. Thought this short history of Co. D would be interesting to Veterans.

Gene managed to "sneak in" a Hawkeye 916 camera and took pictures on Guadalcanal and other places — they may not be usable, but will send them anyway.

Gene and I just celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary Oct. 1, and he reached 80 years on October 7. He doesn't remember too well, but the guys will recognize themselves — excuse any errors in "where and who."

Do you have any extra copies of the June 1995 164th Newsletter — would like two if you have them.

Will you also please return the pictures. I'm his wife and secretary, Evelyn Hager Hill.

THANKS SO MUCH!  
E.H.H.

Dear Frank

I am a little late in paying my dues. My loving wife of 48 years has arthritis in her feet and ankles and in a wheelchair a lot of the time and I am in no shape to drive long hours so we did not make it to Fargo.

Good health. My world stops when I get the 164th Infantry News, until I have read it in its entirety.

Loran R. Hardgrave  
PO Box 36  
French Village MO 63036

## Minutes of the Executive Council Meeting

The Executive Council of the 164th Infantry Association convened at Bismarck, ND 3 Nov 1995.

### Members Present:

- Neyl McClure - President
- George Christensen  
Vice President
- Ben Glatt - Past President
- Don Robinson - Editor of News
- Frank Weisgerber - Sec/Treas

The request of the Co K Chapter, 164th Infantry Association for monies from CD #61230 was the first order of business.

After appropriate discussion, the Council voted unanimously for a non-

favorable consideration of the request. This decision was based on the present bank account of the Association, which is at a precarious low balance.

Since 1988, the Association has subsidized each annual reunion, donated to the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery and financed the 164th Infantry Memorial located at the Cemetery. Projections of the future financial picture of the Association is a cause of concern and contributed to this unfavorable decision.

FRANK WEISGERBER  
Recorder

cc: Co K. Ray Summers

October 23, 1995

The 164th Infantry Association recently held their 49th Annual Convention in Fargo. This regiment was overseas from March 1942 until the occupation of Japan in August 1945. They had 600 days of combat as they served in islands in the South Pacific.

As they gathered on Friday evening handshakes and hugs were many and sincere—many of them meeting for the first time in many years.

Saturday morning—their first order of business was to hold a memorial service to honor their fallen comrades. As the season veterans gathered it was surely obvious that the steps are slower—the eyes and ears that were so sharp and alert have dimmed. Hearts and minds however are still as loyal and dedicated to their country and each other as they were 50 years ago when they fought valiantly side by side for our freedom.

Rev Jerry Salvesson gave a very stirring and inspiring message. Many shook their heads trying to understand when he made the point that there is a fine for burning garbage but burning the flag has no repercussion—at least for now.

As Mitch Olson walked about singing "God Bless the U.S.A.", he shook the hands of the veterans and the room was filled with emotional reverence—patriotism—teary eyes and personal memories.

A moment in time—but a memory of an era that required and demanded the ultimate unselfish sacrifice that we could all survive.

A reminder for those of us who remember and the generations that have followed—lest we forget.

Written by Donna Hoff  
widow of Robert Hoff  
Regiment HQ Co 164

September 8, 1995

To Members of the 164th Infantry Association

In reviewing the roster of the 164th Infantry I observed that there were several sets of brothers serving in the same company or in the regiment. I would be appreciated if you would complete the attached form, including rank and serial number if you remember them. This should be an interesting statistic.

(Cut on dotted line and mail to address listed below)

My brother \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name) (Rank) (Serial Number)

and I served in the 164th Infantry Regiment at the same time in WWII.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name) (Rank) (Serial Number)

MAIL TO:  
164th Infantry Association, Box 1111, Bismarck, ND 58502

The 164th Infantry News, USPS 699-800 is published quarterly by The 164th Infantry Association, Box 1111, Bismarck, ND 58502-1111.

Subscription price of \$6.00 per year is included in the membership fee. Second class postage is paid at Bismarck, ND post office zip code 58501-9996.

1994-95 Association Officers are:  
President ..... Milt Kane, Fargo, ND  
Vice President ..... Neyl McClure,  
Bismarck, ND  
Sec./Treas. .... Frank Weisgerber  
Bismarck, ND  
Editor ..... Don Robinson  
164th Infantry News Bismarck, ND

POSTMASTER: Address changes should be sent to 164th Infantry Association, PO Box 1111, Bismarck, ND 58502.

# RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the publicity that is given by some individuals and organizations regarding the ending of World War II is inaccurate,  
 AND WHEREAS, the United States would have sacrificed a million more service people if the country of Japan would have been invaded instead of using the atomic bomb,  
 AND WHEREAS, Japan had threatened that if an invasion would take place, all Prisoners of War would have been be-headed,  
 AND WHEREAS, over 7,000 people were killed or wounded at the unexpected attack on Pearl Harbor,  
 AND WHEREAS, all allied prisoners of war in the hands of the Japanese were mistreated,  
 NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that all possible publicity be given a favorable treatment so the general public can understand the decision of dropping of the atomic bombs best to ending to World War II.  
 Milt Kane,  
 President

# RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the veterans and families of the 164th members are having the 49th annual convention in Fargo, and  
 WHEREAS, the committee has done an excellent and commendable program of planning and making arrangements,  
 NOW, THEREFORE, by it resolved that the 164th Infantry Association wished to thank and commend the committee for their efforts.  
 Milt Kane,  
 President

# LETTERS ...

October 9, 1995  
 Dear Frank,  
 Enclosed is my check for 1996 dues.  
 We really enjoyed the reunion. I got to visit with John Gregory from Co. H. Hadn't seen John since Japan in 1945.  
 The Memorial service was very touching. Thanks to all the members who worked so hard to make the 49th Reunion such a success. I might add the food was great.  
 Yours in Comradeship  
 Joe D. Feeler, Reg. Cmdr.  
 ADVA Far West  
 Regional Chapter  
 2923 Truman NE  
 Albuquerque, NM 87110-3033

October 19, 1995

Gentlemen,  
 I received my copy of the history and casualty list of the 164. It sure is a nice job.  
 I served with E Co 2nd Battalion as platoon leader of the 3rd platoon under Charles Walker and later Capt. Kingston. I have nothing but praise for both of these men.  
 I have one negative observation of the book. On page 11 the dates 25 and 26 April 1945 it states the 1st and 3rd Battalions landed on Negros Island. By golly "E" Co of the Second Battalion took part in this operation. I sure as hell remember wading ashore off an L.C.1. and Capt. Walker was our C.O. You may like to check with him about this as he is very active in your organization.  
 I'm not writing to offend anyone; I just want the record to be correct.  
 Sincerely,  
 William A. Byers  
 1st Lt. retired from the service  
 12118 Greencastle Pike  
 Hagerstown, MD 21740

October 19, 1995

Dear Comrade Bill,  
 Just to inform you and your comrades of the 164th Inf Regiment. I have the following insignia:  
 American Made  
 164th Inf Regt Pocket Patches \$5.00 ea  
 164th Inf Regt Crest \$5.00  
 Americal Div Shoulder Patch \$3.50  
 Americal Div Crest Insignia \$3.50  
 I have all divisional crests and patches, ??? and corps patches.  
 Sincerely yours in comradeship  
 Jim Carroll  
 245th Artillery  
 4 Cedar St.  
 Lynbrook, NY 11563  
 516-887-3938

*Received a quite lengthy letter from member Herbert Meidinger of Kansas City regarding burial at the Vets Cemetery south of Mandan. Printed herein find the exact qualifications and directions for burial there. Glad you asked Herb.*  
 Editor

8 September 1995

Subj: Qualifications for interment in ND Veterans Cemetery  
 To: Vane P. George, Jr.

Thank you for your inquire about the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery.  
 It is not required that you have an application on file at the cemetery. However, it would be advantageous for you to have a copy of your DD Form 214 or discharge order so that at the appropriate time the funeral director would have access to them. These documents must verify that you received an "Honorable", "Under Honorable Conditions" or "General" Discharge from your last period of service with the Armed Forces of the United States.

At the appropriate time the funeral director must coordinate with us as to the exact day and time that the service is requested. The notification process is quire simple. The next of kin contacts the funeral home that the ND Veterans Cemetery is to be used for interment. The funeral home director will then contact us to complete the arrangements. As in National Cemeteries, only one plot would be used for both the veteran and the spouse. The veteran's inscription would be engraved on the front side of the marker and the spouse's inscription on the back side of the marker.

There are no costs to the veteran for the plot or the light gray granite upright marker. If a spouse is to be interred there is a \$150 fee for a full casket burial.

If you have any questions, please contact me. Phone: 701/224-5111.  
 TERENCE L. THILMONY  
 North Dakota Veterans Cemetery  
 PO Box 5511  
 Bismarck, ND 58506-5511

## Last Roll Call

Joe D. Feeler, Albuquerque, NM .....	November 23, 1995
Wilber Kelly, Dickinson, ND .....	November 30, 1995
Herman Gerszewski, Grand Forks, ND .....	December 6, 1995
Magnus Olson, Columbus, ND .....	October 25, 1995
Howard "Cliff" Holter, Minot, ND .....	November 24, 1995
Elgin Loe, Minneapolis, MN .....	Date Unknown
Harland Gunkel, Moorhead, MN .....	Date Unknown
Kenneth Hogfoss, Mayville, ND .....	Date Unknown

# OBITUARIES ...

## Magnus Olson

April 12, 1905-Oct. 25, 1995

COLUMBUS — Magnus- Olson, 90, longtime Columbus resident, died Wednesday, Oct. 25, 1995, in a Crosby hospital.

He was born April 12, 1905, in Hillside Township, rural Dunseith, to Charles and Olivia Olson. He attended rural school in the Dunseith-area and later attended North Dakota State University, Fargo, where he studied mechanics. He worked in the automobile service business in Dunseith and Rolette. He served in the 164th Infantry Division during 1 World War II in the South Pacific. He returned to North Dakota after his discharge.

He married Minnie Runningen on April 16, 1944. They lived in Columbus where he owned and operated a service station until 1973 when he retired. He also served as city auditor in Columbus for a time.

He was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Columbus, at life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and a member of the 164th Infantry Association.

Survivors: wife; son, Kent, Burlington; two grandchildren; sister, Laura Potratz, Perth. Funeral: Monday at 11 a.m. in Trinity Lutheran Church, Columbus.

Burial: Grand View Cemetery, rural Columbus.

Visitation: Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. in Stakston-Martin Funeral Home, Crosby. Herman Gerszewski

## Herman Gerszewski

Herman Gerszewski, 74, 1106 Campbell Drive, died Monday, Dec 4, 1995, in Valley ElderCare.

Herman V. Gerszewski was born April 5, 1921 in Grand Forks, the son of Aloysius and Mary Ann (Stefonowicz) Gerszewski. He attended Grand Forks schools and graduated from the North Dakota State School of Science, Wahpeton.

He served with the U.S. Army and was an electrician in Grand Forks until he retired in 1984. He married Virginia Hartje July 2, 1947. She died Nov. 25, 1992. He married Luaine Pierce Brenna April 23, 1994, in Grand Forks.

He is survived by his wife: daughters, Gelene (Mrs. Blair) Hemminger, Gwinner, N.D., Teresa (Mrs. Cy Mitchell) Gerszewski, Champlin, Minn., Fay (Mrs. Ron) Desmarais, Grand Forks, and Julie (Mrs. John) Lacrosse, Buxton, N.D.; sons

## MEMORIAL SERVICE 9:00 A.M. 30 SEPTEMBER 1995

OPENING REMARKS .....	MILTON KANE PRES. 164TH INF. ASSOC.
COLOR GUARD .....	ND AIR NATIONAL GUARD
LIGHTING THE CANDLES	
PRAYER .....	REV. JERRY SALVESON CHAPLAIN
SONG .....	"HOW GREAT THOU ART" MITCH OLSON
MESSAGE .....	REV. JERRY SALVESON PAST NATIONAL CHAPLAIN OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
SONG .....	"GOD BLESS THE USA" MITCH OLSON PAST COMMANDER OF FARGO LEGION POST
BENEDICTION .....	REV. JERRY SALVESON
SONG .....	GOD BLESS AMERICA" MITCH OLSON AND 164 INFANTRY MEMBERS
TAPS .....	BRIAN BERG BUGLER

Vincent, Mound, Minn., Dan, Bart and Brad, all of Grand Forks, and John Fisher, Minn.; 21 grandchildren; one great grandchild, stepdaughters, Carlean Schildberger, East Grand Forks, Dorothy (Mrs. Dale) Fish, Sioux City, Iowa, Alett (Mrs. Harold) Boyd, Virginia Beach, Va., Kimberly Torgerson and Tammy (Mrs. Tracy) Amundson, both of Grand Forks; a stepson, Leon Pierce, Grand Forks; 15 step-grandchildren; nine step-great-grandchildren; brothers, Tony, Mountain View, Calif, Ambrose, Cambria, Calif., Ted, Richmond, Calif., and Eugene Graham, Pasadina, Calif, sisters, Connie Christenson, Woodville, Wash., Helen Calhoun, Everett, Wash., Carmen Olin, Huntington Beach, Calif., and Ann Mortrud, Grand Forks.

He was preceded in death by brothers, Leonard, Gerald and Adolph; and sisters Genivieve, Agatha and Regina.

• Services: 10 a.m. Wednesday in St. Michael's Catholic Church, Grand Forks.

• Visitation: 5 to 8 p.m., with a 7:30 p.m. prayer service, today in Stennes Funeral Home, East Grand Forks.

• Burial Sunnywood Gardens Cemetery, Grand Forks. 12-5-95

## Joe D. Feeler

Date of Birth  
Sunday, November 16, 1924

Date of Death  
Thursday, November 23, 1995

Services  
French Mortuary - University Blvd. Chapel  
Monday, November 27, 1995  
10:30 a.m.

Eulogy  
Various Friends & Fellow Vets

Pallbearers  
Dick Stansbury  
Art Cordova  
Floyd Elder  
Jack W. Page  
Leo Bressan  
Jack Elston  
Sam Otis

Honorary Pallbearers  
Far West Chapter Veterans Americal  
Division  
Interment  
Santa Fe National Cemetery  
Santa Fe, New Mexico

# Howard Cliff Holter

Aug. 7, 1919—Nov. 24, 1995

Howard "Cliff" Holter, 76, 3212-7th St. SW, died Friday, Nov. 24, 1995, in his home of natural causes.

He was born Aug. 7, 1919, in Stanley to John and Julia Holter. He was raised and educated in Stanley and graduated from Stanley High School in 1937. He worked for various farmers before entering the U.S. Army in April 1941 and was stationed in the Guadalcanal, Northern Solomon Islands and the Southern Philippine Islands as a heavy machine gun section leader with the 164th Infantry during World War II. He was discharged with the rank of staff sergeant in August 1945, and returned to Stanley where he worked for various farmers. He married Irene Steen on Jan. 9, 1949, in Stanley and they lived in Stanley for a time before moving to New England for a year. He then moved back to Stanley where he worked for REA before moving to Minot in 1960. He worked for various electrical contractors in Minot and on several construction sites in North Dakota and Minnesota as an electrician. He retired in 1982 and continued to live in Minot.

He was a member of Bethany Lutheran Church, VFW Post 753, and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 714, all of Minot.

Survivors: wife; sons, Dean, Bremerton, Wash., and Rodney, Hartland, Wis; six grandchildren; brothers, Alvin, Grand Forks, and Jerry, Rogue River, Ore.

Funeral: Tuesday at 1 p.m. in Bethany Lutheran Church, Minot.

Burial: North Dakota Veteran's Cemetery, Mandan.

Visitation: Today from 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Thompson Larson Funeral Home, Minot.

---

## LETTERS ...

---

October 1, 1995

Dear Frank:

Some time ago true combat stories were solicited for the Newsletter.

This is a true, humorous account of a rifle platoon's four days of what amounted to baby-sitting a very important drunk during the Leyte invasion. It wasn't funny at the time. Now I laugh about it. I have written it as factually as I could. I had to leave out some of the crazy demands the VIP made while he was an unwelcome guest of my platoon while we were under fire.

If you can use it, find, if not, no problem.

Sincerely,

Don Hoppe

"E" Co. 164th

6139 Melita Road

Santa Rosa, CA 95409-5726

Dear Frank:

Here is a humorous combat area story that worked out just fine for one infantry rifle platoon I was in which was attached to the 7th Division before I was assigned to the 164th "E" Co.

Day One of the Leyte invasion, an inebriated older portly full bird colonel of Finance was on-loaded by mistake into my rifle platoon's landing craft along with his personal gear and a few crates of 10 and 1 rations and two trunk size metal containers. As a young platoon sergeant, I didn't question this at the time. If the army wanted a full bird to go in with us and get his ass shot off, we could care less.

Day Two we were past Dulag near the airstrip. We were dug in. The arrogant

pompous service-demanding drunk was still with us. He sat on one large metal container with his feet on the other. Each time a Jap plane flew over, he would put a cocked 45 to his head. I finally asked him if he was all right. He babbled to me that he had all of the invasion script and plans. As it was the third day of us being shot at, shelled, strafed and bombed by the Japs, I didn't think it was much of a secret. It seemed like none of the company officers or the Signal Corps officers wanted to get involved with this full bird. I was told they were trying to clear up my problem, as they put it.

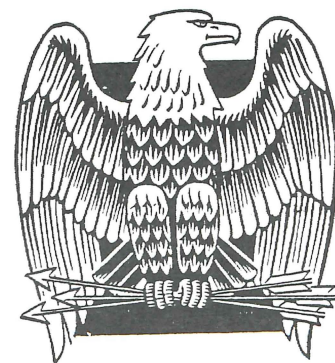
Day Three we were providing perimeter defense around several 7th Division Signal Corps communication trucks. I asked a Signal Corps 2nd Lieutenant to get through to Tacloban and see if someone could get this bird out of our hair.

Day Four an Alligator brought in some supplies and we loaded the bird and his gear and two metal containers onto the Alligator. I was told he indeed had all the invasion script and had been missing. After the Alligator left, the 3rd squad found a case of whiskey and 10 and 1 rations that somehow had not been on-loaded with the big bird.

Our new found 10 and 1 rations tasted much better as we had something to wash them down with for the next day or so. I asked the men to do away with the crude sign which said "General MacArthur's Headquarters" and to stop saluting and pointing at the bomb crater the bird had occupied.

Don E. Hoppe

"E" Co. 164th



# LETTERS ...

10/06/95

Dear Don,

It was wonderful to take in the reunion again and see old friends. I felt sorry for those who couldn't attend.

I thought your memorial service was beautiful and once more we are reminded that we will all be on that role call in the future.

Thank you for letting me make my presentation at the business meeting. For those who were not there, here is the scoop: 1997 will be the big year for Pembina. We will be celebrating our bicentennial, our 200th year on record. We are the oldest town in North Dakota and want everyone to be a part of this event.

Pembina is building a "NORTH DAKOTA STATE WALL" of bricks purchased by cities, clubs, locals and individuals. Part of this wall will now have a section just for the 164th Infantry, as was decided at the annual business meeting. In addition, Walter Johnson is designing the 164 crest to be inserted into the wall. It will be surrounded by bricks with your name, or in memory of a loved one.

To date, over 20 members of the regiment have purchased a brick to be inserted with the 164 grouping. If you would like to be included, send \$30 to the Pembina Bicentennial Committee, c/o: Hetty Walker, Box 525, Pembina, ND 58271.

I wish to thank the members of the 164th Infantry for participating!

Sincerely,  
Hetty Walker-Major  
City of Pembina, ND

## New Members

Patricia (Kenneth) Goodrich,  
Audubon, MN.

Robert G. Rives, Greensboro, NC

O.N. Legaard, Ridgeway, MO

Cecil H. Hayes, State Road, NC

## Contributions to the Memorial Fund

Don Johnson, \$200.00

Elroy Kessler, \$25.00

## 1996 Membership Dues

For all those members who have done so, 1996 annual membership dues may be paid when you receive the Dec Newsletter. Save us some postage and pay up before we have to send you a notice.

For your information, I called the offices of both Senator Dorgan and Senator Conrad with regards to the Flag Protection Amendment as we were urged to do at the Fargo Reunion.

I received a response from Senator Dorgan and I am enclosing a copy of that response along with a copy of my response to the Senator.

I think these Senators need a few more jolts. How about a letter from the Association to them and let them know in no uncertain terms as to where the Association stand on this issue?

Douglas B. Campbell  
PO Box 286  
Mayville, ND 58257



Senator Dorgan

The excessive rhetoric and verbiage does not serve any useful purpose.

A mere statute will be ignored and disregarded, you ought to know that. An air tight amendment with truth and very strict penalties is what is needed.

It is high time to stop coddling those who desecrate the American Flag. It's up to you people in Congress to do the necessary and put a halt to these despicable acts without further delay. You've already let too much time go by.

Senator, you and your fellow senators should "get with it". Get Tough.

DB Campbell  
Member of  
164th Infantry Assoc.

## It was a wonderful moment in time for the 164th Infantry

The 164th Infantry Association recently held their 49th annual convention in Fargo. This regiment was overseas from March of 1942 until the occupation of Japan in August 1945. They had 600 days of combat as they served in islands in the South Pacific.

As they gathered, handshakes and hugs were many and sincere - many of them meeting for the first time in many years.

Their first order of business was to hold a memorial service to honor fallen comrades. As these veterans gathered it was obvious that the steps that once tramped the swamps of Guadalcanal are slower - the eyes and ears that were so sharp and alert have dimmed. Hearts and minds however are still as loyal and dedicated to their country and each other as they were 50 years ago when they fought side by side for our freedom.

The Rev. Jerry Salveson gave a very stirring and inspiring message. Many shook their heads trying to understand when he

made the point that there is a fine for burning garbage, but burning the flag has no repercussion - at least for now.

As Mitch Olson walked about singing "God Bless the USA" he shook the hands of the veterans and the room was filled with emotional reverence - patriotism, teary eyes and personal memories.

A moment in time, but a memory of an era that required and demanded the ultimate in unselfish sacrifice, that we could all survive.

A reminder for those of us who remember and the generations that have followed - lest we forget.

Forum Oct. 30, 1995  
Donna Hoff  
Fargo

Dear Doug:

Thanks for contacting me to let me know of your support for a constitutional amendment to protect the American flag.

Let me begin by saying that I fully support, have voted for, and will vote again for any attempt to try and enact legislation that would make flag burning illegal. The problem we have had is that the Supreme Court has indicated that past attempts to make flag burning illegal are unconstitutional. I strongly disagree with the Supreme Court opinion, and I want us to try again to pass a statute that would allow us to prohibit flag burning and that would pass constitutional muster. In fact, I have cosponsored a bill with Senators McConnell and Bennett which would achieve those goals.

However, while I do support statutes to make flag burning illegal, I have not supported efforts to amend the Constitution on this matter. I believe that trying to change the Constitution and effectively alter the Bill of Rights is a very unwise course. If one writes in the Constitution a prohibition regarding flag burning, what about Bible burning, or other issues? I just don't want to begin changing the Constitution that way.

As you may know, a flag desecration constitutional amendment recently passed the House of Representatives, and the Senate is expected to debate this issue in the upcoming months. Please know that I'll be keeping your views in mind when this legislation is considered by the Senate. Thanks again for contacting me, and please keep in touch.

Sincerely  
Byron L. Dorgan  
U. S. Senator



# V-J Day

During the 50th Anniversary of World War II it seems to me as if we were the losers, and the Japanese were the winners. Almost every policy made in this country is made to protect the Japanese. They seem to have a way with politicians. Our last two Presidents, after leaving office, went to Japan and were paid millions for so called speaking engagements. I wonder, would Harry Truman, or Roosevelt have done such a thing?

Foreign competition has almost destroyed our industry, while they protect their markets, and decimate our industry, and our leaders do not seem to have the will to stop it. Money seems to dominate our way of life, and we have forgotten traditional values.

Revisionists in this country have set about to destroy religious, educational, and family values. Many states do not celebrate V-J Day. Rhode Island has already changed the name to Victory Day and there is a move afoot to down-grade its significance so as not to offend our former enemies. "Let's Remember Pearl Harbor" has almost been forgotten. Because of the perceived guilt on the part of some Americans and the wish not to hurt the feelings of the Japanese, we are made to feel that we are to blame for ending the war in such an abrupt manner.

Of course, the Revisionists, reporters, and newscasters are not old enough to have lived through the 1930's and 1940's, or to have experienced the atrocities of the Axis nations. I am sorry to see the single-minded accomplishments of winning that war diminished. For many of us, it was a major experience of our lives and forever changed us. As the noble generation that won that Victory, we should be proud of our ability to endure the hardships placed upon us and not be criticized by the hindsight of more recent generations. I remember as a young man as the last few civil war veterans were passing on, how we honored them, and respected them, and how we stood at our desk in school, head bowed in prayer November 11th in honor of the World War I veterans. Nothing like that going on today. Sadly as our ranks are being thinned, that victory's true meaning is being lost by Revisionists whose agenda is to rewrite history. Along those lines both high school and college text books are slanting the way World War II is presented to our grandchildren so the deeds of that generation are becoming suspect within our life time. If they can make us feel bad about the history of this century, imagine what little still be taught to future generations about our founding fathers. Today

we have a President who avoided service to his country when it called. Is time running out for America? I hope not, but we must be aware of what is going on and make our voices heard. It was V-J Day from the beginning, it has always been V-J Day, and as far as I am concerned it will be V-J Day the day I die.

Editor Joe Jackson



## FINANCIAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 1995

End of FY 1994 Balance		\$4082.00
<b>INCOME:</b>		
Dues, donations, misc	5066.00	
Interest, DCs	301.00	
Interest, Ck Acct	<u>226.00</u>	
	5593.00	5593.00
Transfer of Memorial Fund monies	5472.00	<u>5472.00</u>
Total		15147.00
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>		
Printing - News	3408.00	
Postage	523.00	
Administration	1306.00	
Misc	802.00	
1994 Reunion	<u>3500.00</u>	
	9539.00	<u>9539.00</u>
Checking Acct Balance		5608.00
Certificates of Deposit		<u>20272.00</u>
Total Net Worth		25880.00*

I certify that the above financial report for the 164th Infantry Association of the United States is true and correct for the Fiscal year ending 30 Sep 1995 (cut off date 15 Sep 95) due to Sep date of Reunion.

FRANK WEISGERBER  
Sec/Treas

\*The above net worth total does not show the 5000.00 paid to the Fargo Reunion Committee for final expenses.

### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP and/or ANNUAL RENEWAL 164TH INFANTRY ASSOCIATION of the UNITED STATES

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Served With and Dates \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code No. \_\_\_\_\_

**DUES FOR 1996 — \$10.00 which includes \$6.00 subscription to 164th News. Send to Secretary 164th Infantry, Box 1111, Bismarck, North Dakota 58502.**



# WE MEET AGAIN

By Walter T. Johnsen  
Special to The Forum

## 400 members from 25 states to gather for 164th Infantry Association meeting

164th Infantry Association  
49th Reunion  
Fargo, North Dakota  
September 29, 30 and October 1, 1995

*A monument honoring North Dakota's 164th Infantry Regiment, which gained fame in World War II fighting in the Pacific Theater, was dedicated September 24, 1994, at the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery located at Fort Lincoln, south of Mandan.*

A North Dakota military unit that dates back to territorial days and served with special distinction in World War II will gather in Fargo for its 49th reunion Friday through Sunday.

The 164th Infantry Association will meet at the Doublewood Inn in Fargo and 400 members from 25 states are expected to attend.

Registration will begin at 2 p.m. Friday. A social hour will begin at 5 p.m. and a dance will be held from 8 to 11 p.m.

Activities will continue Saturday with a breakfast at 7 a.m., and a memorial service at 9 a.m. The group's business meeting

will begin at 10 a.m., with a luncheon at noon.

The gathering will end Sunday with a buffet brunch from 7:30 to 10 a.m.

The 164th Infantry, a North Dakota army National Guard Unit, served in all wars from 1883 to 1955.

Members of the unit and friends have erected a monument at Fort Lincoln's Veterans' Cemetery near Mandan, ND. The monument consists of two 9-foot by 5-foot granite panels which form an open book. The monument was dedicated Sept. 24, 1994.

The unit achieved special distinction during World War II. It was called to active duty in February 1941, 10 months before Pearl Harbor was bombed. Three thousand enlisted men and officers served 4 1/2 to 5 years. That included 216 officers and enlisted men from Fargo.

When the unit landed on Guadalcanal Oct. 13, 1942, it became the first U.S. Army unit to take offensive in the war.

Nearly a third of the 550 U.S. soldiers killed in that battle were North Dakotans. The 164th also suffered 257 wounded. By

the end of the war, the 164th had seen 600 days of jungle combat and had suffered 325 killed in action and 1,193 wounded — a 50 percent casualty rate.

The 164th Infantry was training in the Philippines for the invasion of Japan when the war ended. The regiment was then sent to Japan to guard and occupy special areas.

Most of the North Dakota soldiers from the 164th Infantry were home for Christmas for the first time in four years in 1945.

Milt Kane from Fargo is president of the 164th Infantry Association. Neyl McClure, Bismarck, is vice president. The 50th reunion of the 164th Infantry Association will be in Bismarck in the fall of 1996.



---

## The 164th Infantry News

Box 1111  
BISMARCK, N.D. 58502

USPS 699 - 800
2ND CLASS
P A I D
BISMARCK, ND
58502

ALVIN TOLLEFSRUD  
PO BOX 256  
MAYVILLE, ND 58257