



7-2019

164th Infantry News: July 2019

164th Infantry Association

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THE 164TH INFANTRY NEWS

Volume 60, No. 1

July, 2019



DOCUMENTING TWO SPECIAL EVENTS



North Dakota World War II Victory Celebration



70th Anniversary
of the end of
World War II:
1945- 2015

Event: 15 October 2015

*Page 35
Victory Roll Call Page 63*

164th Infantry 75th Anniversary of Guadalcanal Landing



75th Anniversary
of the 164th Infantry
Guadalcanal Landing
13 October 1942

Event: 12 October 2017

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Victory in WWII: Encouragement from the President

WWII VICTORY

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TO MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY EXPEDITIONARY
FORCES:

You are a soldier of the United States Army.

You have embarked for distant places where
the war is being fought.

Upon the outcome depends the freedom of your
lives: the freedom of the lives of those you love—
your fellow-citizens—your people.

Never were the enemies of freedom more
tyrannical, more arrogant, more brutal.

Yours is a God-fearing, proud, courageous
people, which, throughout its history, has put its
freedom under God before all other purposes.

We who stay at home have our duties to
perform—duties owed in many parts to you. You will
be supported by the whole force and power of this
Nation. The victory you win will be a victory of all
the people—common to them all.

You bear with you the hope, the confidence,
the gratitude and the prayers of your family, your
fellow-citizens, and your President—

Franklin D. Roosevelt

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Lt. Col. Robert K. Hall

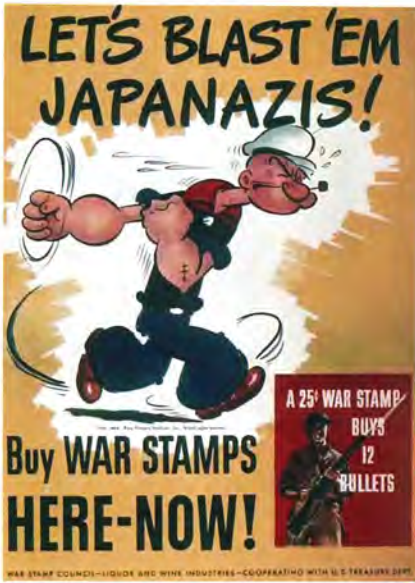
This undated letter from President Roosevelt obviously intended to inspire, encourage, and embolden the new military structure that would tackle tyrants on both ends of the earth.

This letter was found in the Robert K. Hall collection. An internet search found other letters written to Army personnel but none to other services. There was no postmark so the letters may have been delivered through command

channels, either at home station or during training at Camp Claiborne.

Victory in WWII: War Bonds

WWII HOMEFRONT



On 1 May 1941, the first Series "E" U.S. Savings Bond was sold to President Franklin D. Roosevelt by the Secretary of the Treasury. On 3 January 1946, the last proceeds from the Victory Bond campaign were deposited to the Treasury.

The War Finance Committees, in charge of the loan drives, sold a total of \$185.7 billion of securities. This incredible mass selling achievement (for financing a war) has not been matched, before or since. By the end of World War II, over 85 million Americans had invested in War Bonds --- a number unequalled by any other country.

The War Finance Committee oversaw the sale of bonds. The Committee's first duty was to determine whether the government would pay for advertising or seek space contributions in magazines & newspapers.

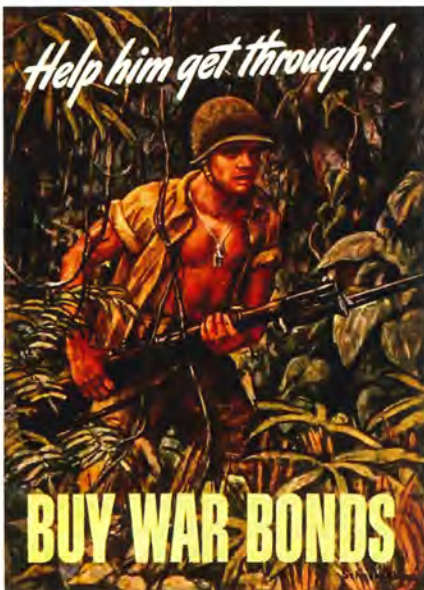
When an estimation of the cost of a nationwide, multi-media campaign for a year reached \$4 million, the Committee elected to solicit space donations for bond advertisements. This decision proved highly successful. Over a quarter of a billion dollars of advertising was donated in the first three years of the Defense Savings Program.

After one month alone, over 90% of Americans polled were aware of the Payroll Savings Plan part of the campaign, leading one advertising executive to note that "no promotional campaign, commercial or governmental, has ever spread its basic message so broadly, so quickly."

The war bond campaign was a unique fusion of nationalism and consumerism. Seeking to stir the conscience of Americans, it invoked both their financial and moral stake in the war. The sale of war bonds provided a way in which patriotic attitudes and the spirit of sacrifice could be expressed, and became the primary way those on the home-front contributed to the national defense/war effort.

One observer noted, "It was a program that instead of seeking to eradicate differences...would make them a source of strength and unity by finding a common cause in which all could work for the financial security of themselves and of their country."

While the initial goal of the war bond campaign was to finance the war, the positive impact on the morale of home-front Americans was perhaps its greatest accomplishment.



WAR BONDS



Victory in WWII: Women at Home



American women played important roles during World War II, both at home and in uniform. Not only did they give their sons, husbands, fathers, and brothers to the war effort, they gave their time, energy, and some even gave their lives.

Reluctant to enter the war when it erupted in 1939, the US quickly committed itself to total war after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. That commitment included utilizing all of America's assets—women included. The Axis powers, on the other hand, were slow to employ women in their war industries. Hitler derided Americans as degenerate for putting their women to work. The role of German women, he said, was to be good wives and mothers and to have more babies for the Third Reich.

When the war began, quickie marriages became the norm, as teenagers married their sweethearts before their men went overseas. As the men fought abroad, women on the Home Front worked in defense plants and volunteered for war-related organizations, in addition to managing their households. In New Orleans, as the demand for public transportation grew, women even became streetcar "conductorettes" for the first time. When men left, women "became proficient cooks and housekeepers, managed the finances, learned to fix the car, worked in a defense plant, and wrote letters to their soldier husbands that were consistently upbeat." (Ambrose, D-Day) Rosie the Riveter helped assure that the Allies would have the war materials they needed to defeat the Axis.

At the war's end, even though a majority of women surveyed reported wanted to keep their jobs, many were forced out by men returning home and by the downturn in demand for war materials. Women veterans encountered roadblocks when they tried to take advantage of benefit programs for veterans, like the G.I. Bill. The nation that needed their help in a time of crisis, it seems, was not yet ready for the greater social equality that would slowly come in the decades to follow.

<http://www.nationalww2museum.org>



Longing won't bring him back sooner...

GET A WAR JOB!

SEE YOUR U. S. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE



**DIXON, ILLINOIS ORDNANCE PLANT WORKER
MRS. VESTA STOUT:
THE MOTHER OF DUCT TAPE**

Yes, guys, your honored Duck Tape was invented by a woman!

Her Navy son said ammo arrived in poor condition & damaged due to paper packaging & tape. After making no headway with factory staff, she wrote to Pres. Roosevelt, who took her seriously & tasked Johnson & Johnson to produce the tape she invented.

www.kilmerhouse.com/2012/06/the-woman-who-invented-duct-tape/

Victory in WWII: Women at War



Nearly 350,000 American women served in uniform, both at home and abroad, volunteering for the newly formed Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAACs, later renamed the Women's Army Corps), Navy Women's Reserve (WAVES), Marine Corps Women's Reserve, Coast Guard Women's Reserve (SPARS), Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs), Army Nurses Corps, and Navy Nurse Corps.

General Eisenhower felt that he could not win the war without the aid of the women in uniform. "The contribution of the women of America, whether on the farm or in the factory or in uniform, to D-Day was a *sine qua non* [absolutely essential element] of the invasion effort."

Women in uniform took office and clerical jobs in the armed forces in order to free men to fight. They also drove trucks, repaired airplanes, worked as laboratory technicians, rigged parachutes, served as radio operators, analyzed photographs, flew military aircraft across the country, test-flew newly repaired planes, and even trained anti-aircraft artillery gunners by acting as flying targets.

Some women served near the front lines in the Army Nurse Corps, where 16 were killed as a result of direct enemy fire. Sixty-eight American service women were captured as POWs in the Philippines. More than 1,600 nurses were decorated for bravery under fire and meritorious service, and 565 WACs in the Pacific Theater won combat decorations. Nurses were in Normandy on D-plus-four.



Victory in WWII: America at War



US Military Personnel (1939-1945)

	Army	Navy	Marines	Coast Guard	Total
1939	189,839	125,202	19,432		334,473
1940	269,023	160,997	28,345		458,365
1941	1,462,315	284,427	54,359		1,801,101
1942	3,075,608	640,570	142,613	56,716*	3,915,507
1943	6,994,472	1,741,750	308,523	151,167	9,195,912
1944	7,994,750	2,981,365	475,604	171,749	11,623,468
1945	8,267,958	3,380,817	474,680	85,783	12,209,238

African American	901,896
Puerto Rican	51,438*
Japanese American	33,000
American Indian	20,000
Chinese American	13,311
Filipino American	11,506
Hawaiian	1,320

Profile of US Servicemen (1941-1945)

38.8% (6,332,000) of U.S. servicemen and all servicewomen were volunteers

61.2% (11,535,000) were draftees

Average duration of service: 33 months

Overseas service: 73% served overseas, with an average of 16 months abroad

Combat survivability (out of 1,000): 8.6 were killed in action, 3 died from other causes, and 17.7 received non-fatal combat wounds

Non-combat jobs: 38.8% of enlisted personnel had rear echelon assignments—administrative, support, or manual labor.

Average base pay: enlisted—\$71.33 per month; officer—\$203.50 per month

Women in the Military	WWII
Army (WAC)	150,000
Navy (WAVES)	100,000
Coast Guard (SPARS)	10,000
Marine Corps Reserve	23,000
Army Nurse Corps	60,000
Navy Nurse Corps	14,000
Airforce Service Pilots (WASP)	1,074



Merchant Marine Casualties	
Died as POWs	37
Dead	5,662
Missing/Presumed Dead	4,780
Killed at Sea	845

Casualties WWII	Killed	Wounded
Army & Air Force	318,274	565,861
Navy	62,614	37,778
Marines	24,511	68,207
Coast Guard	1,917	Unknown
TOTAL	407,316	671,278



www.nationalww2museum.org

Victory in WWII: War Production

WWII HOMEFRONT

Aircraft Production (all types)							
	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
United States	2,141	6,068	19,433	47,836	85,898	96,318	46,001
Britain	7,940	15,049	20,094	23,672	26,263	26,461	12,070
Soviet Union	10,382	10,565	15,737	25,436	34,900	40,300	20,900
Germany	8,295	10,862	12,401	15,409	24,807	40,593	7,540
Japan	4,467	4,768	5,088	8,861	16,693	28,180	8,263

Tank Production	
United States	60,973
Soviet Union	54,500
Britain	23,202
Germany	19,926
Italy	4,600
Japan	2,464

US Military Production Totals	
Battleships	10
Aircraft Carriers	27
Escort Carriers	110
Submarines	211
Cruisers/Destroyers/Escorts	907
Rail Road Locomotives	7,500
Guns and Howitzers	41,000
Landing Craft	82,000
Tanks & Armored Vehicles	100,000
Ships of All Type	124,000
Aircraft	310,000
Steel Production (tons)	434,000
2 1/2-ton Trucks	806,073
Vehicles of All Types	2,400,000
Rifles and Carbines	12,500,000
Yards of Cotton Textiles	36,000,000,000
Rounds of Ammunition	41,000,000,000

"I need not repeat the figures. Facts speak for themselves.... These men could not have been armed and equipped as they are had it not been for the miracle of production here at home. The production which has flowed from the country to all the battlefronts of the world has been due to the efforts of American business, American labor, and American farmers, working together as a patriotic team."

--President Franklin D. Roosevelt,

Navy Day Speech, October 27, 1944

Raising an armed force was just part of America's war effort. That force had to be supplied with the uniforms, guns, tanks, ships, warplanes, and other weapons and equipment needed to fight. With its vast human and material resources, the United States had the potential to supply both itself and its allies. But first the American economy had to be converted to war production.

The war production effort brought immense changes to American life. As millions of men and women entered the service and production boomed, unemployment virtually disappeared. The need for labor opened up new opportunities for women and African Americans and other minorities. Millions of Americans left home to take jobs in war plants that sprang up around the nation. Economic output skyrocketed.



More at:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_production_during_World_War_II
<http://www.world-war-2.info/statistics/>
<http://www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/groups/179.html>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eQ3YZ4foFHk>
<http://www.usautoindustryworldwartwo.com/>

Victory in WWII: Rationing/Recycling



SAVE YOUR CANS
Help pass the Ammunition

Save
WASTE PAPER



**Get in the
SCRAP**



ies need
GS
R
oduction

America needs your SCRAP RUBBER

A Gas Mask requires 1.11 pounds of rubber	A Life Raft requires 17 to 100 pounds of rubber
A Scout Car requires 305 pounds of rubber	A Heavy Bomber requires 1,825 pounds of rubber



During the war years, Americans got their first taste of recycling. They were encouraged to salvage their tin cans, bottles, odd bits of rubber, waste paper, nylon and silk, (to make parachutes), scrap metal of any type, and even fats and oils left over from cooking, with which to make explosives. Scrap metal drives



WAR INDUSTRY NEEDS WATER
PROTECT PRODUCTION USE IT WISELY

were held all over the country, and even the farmers were encouraged by the John Deere Company to 'Sink a Sub From Your Farm': Bring in Your Scrap. Clothing was collected to make rags for cleaning machinery and decks of our navy ships.

A large part of the war propoganda effort, demanded sacrifice in terms of daily activities - saving left over waste fats for use in explosives, saving tin cans for metal to be recycled into military material, eating leftovers, recycling paper, growing vegetables and canning them for later home use, saving gasoline by driving cars slower and less often. The national speed limit was lowered to 35 mph! Appeals directly to women became a major element in poster propoganda, from asking women to enlist in the armed forces to encouraging housewives to conserve all home resources.

EAT LESS BREAD

The government fought price fixing and black marketing with rationing. All Americans needed to share in the burdens of shortages equally. Not to share in sacrifices for Victory was an unpatriotic act, and often was reported.

www.intheirwords.org/the_home_front_experience/the_war_effort/scrap_drives (excerpt)

Victory in WWII: Propaganda

WWII HOMEFRONT



Commercial advertising usually takes the positive note in normal times . . . But these are not normal times; this is not even a normal war; it's hell's ideal of human catastrophe [sic], so menace and fear motives are a definite part of publicity programs, including the visual.
 --Statement on Current Information Objective, Office of Facts & Figures



Words are ammunition. Each word an American utters either helps or hurts the war effort. He must stop rumors. He must challenge the cynic and the appeaser. He must not speak recklessly. He must remember that the enemy is listening.
 --Government Information Manual for the Motion Picture Industry Office of War Information

Guns, tanks, and bombs were the principal weapons of World War II, but there were other, more subtle forms of warfare as well. Words, posters, and films waged a constant battle for the hearts and minds of the American citizenry just as surely as military weapons engaged the enemy. Persuading the American public became a wartime industry, almost as important as the manufacturing of bullets and planes. The Government launched an aggressive propaganda campaign with clearly articulated goals and strategies to galvanize public support, and it recruited some of the nation's foremost intellectuals, artists, and filmmakers to wage the war on that front.



Public relations specialists advised the U.S. Government that the most effective war posters were the ones that appealed to the emotions. The posters shown here played on the public's fear of the enemy. The images depict Americans in imminent danger-their backs against the wall, living in the shadow of Axis domination.
archives.gov/exhibits/powers_of_persuasion/warning/warning.html



The Government tried to identify the most effective poster style. One commissioned study concluded that the best posters were those that made a direct, emotional appeal and presented realistic pictures in photographic detail. The study found that symbolic or humorous posters attracted less attention, made a less favorable impression, and did not inspire enthusiasm. Nevertheless, many symbolic and humorous posters were judged to be outstanding in national poster competitions during the war.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY 1944 - 2019



**SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE**

Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force!

You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you. In company with our brave Allies and brothers-in-arms on other Fronts, you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of Nazi tyranny over the oppressed peoples of Europe, and security for ourselves in a free world.

Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle-hardened. He will fight savagely.

But this is the year 1944! Much has happened since the Nazi triumphs of 1940-41. The United Nations have inflicted upon the Germans great defeats, in open battle, man-to-man. Our air offensive has seriously reduced their strength in the air and their capacity to wage war on the ground. Our Home Fronts have given us an overwhelming superiority in weapons and munitions of war, and placed at our disposal great reserves of trained fighting men. The tide has turned! The free men of the world are marching together to Victory!

I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full Victory!

Good Luck! And let us all beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking.



Dwight D. Eisenhower

By June 1944, the 164th had been in the South Pacific for 28 months!
“D-Day? Yeah, we heard about it on Armed Forces Radio. For us, it was just another day of fighting in the jungle.”

--Geo. Isenberg, Co F

Outcome uncertain:

Eisenhower's handwritten note... in case the outcome had been different:
“Our landing in the Cherbourg-- have over hours failed to gain a satisfactory foot hold and I have withdrawn the troops. My decision to attack at this time and place was based upon the best information available.

The troops, the air and the Navy did all that Bravery and devotion to duty could do. If any blame or fault attaches to the attempt, it is mine alone.”

See the original at the website below.
archives.gov/exhibits/american_originals_iv/images/d_day/eisenhower_note.html



Despite being 97, Tom Rice climbed once more into the bone-rattling fuselage of a C-47 and, while flying over the Normandy fields where he first saw action, leaped into the unknown. In 1944, with the 101st Airborne, he landed safely but a bullet hit his parachute, for “the worst jump” he’d ever had. This one? “It felt great!!”



WWII Veterans: US Presidents & The Queen!

The Queen is now the only living head of state to have served in World War II



Harry S Truman
President 1945-1953
US Army WW1
NG/USAR 1905-1953
Colonel, CINC WWII



Dwight D Eisenhower
President 1953-1961
US Army 1915-1969
(Excepting 1953-1961)
Supreme Allied Cdr



John F Kennedy
President 1961-1963
US Navy WWII
Lt (O-3)



President Johnson never met The Queen

Lyndon B Johnson
President 1963-1969
US Navy WWII
Cdr (O-5)



Richard M Nixon
President 1969-1974
US Navy 1942-1945
Lt Cdr (O-4)



Gerald R Ford
President 1974-1977
US Navy 1942-46
Lt Cdr (O-4)



James E Carter
President 1977-1981
US Navy 1946-53
Lt (O-3)



Ronald Reagan
President 1981-1989
US Army 1942-45
CPT (O-3)



George H W Bush
President 1989-1993
US Navy 1942-45
Lt JG (O-2)



Princess Elizabeth joined the Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1945, and trained as a mechanic and driver. She is the only female member of the royal family to have entered the armed forces and she is now the only living head of state to have served in World War II.

Amazing Reign

Elizabeth became Queen at the age of 25 and her reign has spanned that of 13 US Presidents! The "Queen of England" is the Head of State of the United Kingdom and 15 other Commonwealths.

Who's next? Well, under common law, the crown is inherited by "male-preference cognatic primogeniture". Statutes also come into play, but either way, Prince Charles is the heir-apparent



Just FYI



William J Clinton President 1993-2001 No military service
George W Bush President 2001-2009 Air Nat'l Guard, 1LT
Barack H Obama President 2009-2017 No military service
Donald J Trump President 2017- No military service

164TH INFANTRY ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



THIS WILL BE **BIG!!!**

“75TH ANNIVERSARY GUADALCANAL LANDING”

GUADALCANAL 1942-1943

Friday 13 October 2017 – Reunion Banquet
Saturday 14 October 2017—Historical Displays

Basic Schedule (subject to minor changes):

Friday, 13 October 2017 Ramada Inn, 1400 E Interchange Ave, Bismarck
1400-1700 Reunion Sign in/ Visit – Registration **REQUIRED** for meals, etc.
1700 Short Business & Information meeting
1730 Photos & “Who’s Here?” Introductions of Members & Guests
1800 Memorial Service & Banquet

Saturday, 14 October 2017 Bismarck State College Energy Center – Top Floor
0900-1700 75th Anniversary Historical Display – Free & Open to the Public
Transportation & meals on your own. 1200 Schafer St, Bismarck.

Exhibitor: Greg Heinz
164th Infantry WWII Unit Photos, equipment, uniforms, memorabilia, diaries
Small area dedicated to 164th WWI & Korean War era displays
Other WWII U.S. equipment, uniforms, documents, books

Exhibitor: Col (ret) Al Schuldt
Japanese WWII equipment, uniforms, flags, documents, references, swords

1300-1330 **Open Chat with the Guadalcanal Guys (Hosted, Media Invited)**
1330-1400 **75th Anniversary Recognition Program – all 164 introduced!**
1400-1500 **Band Concert – 188th Army National Guard Band**
1700 **Exhibits Close**
1800 Reunion gathering for supper if enough interest.

Sunday, 15 October 2017
0600-1000 Complimentary breakfast for reunion attendees staying at Ramada

Questions: Ben blkemp@bis.midco.net, Shirley Editor164thInfantryNews@hotmail.com

164th Infantry Units Mobilized for World War II

Regimental Headquarters Bismarck
 Regimental Headquarters Company Fargo
 Regimental Service Company Devils Lake
 Regimental Anti Tank Company Harvey
 Regimental Band Lisbon
 Regimental Medical Detachment Bottineau
 Headquarters, First Battalion Bismarck
 Headquarters Detachment, First Battalion Cavalier
 Company A, First Battalion Bismarck
 Company B, First Battalion Fargo
 Company C, First Battalion Grafton
 Company D, First Battalion Rugby

Headquarters, Second Battalion Fargo
 Headquarters Detachment, Second Battalion. Cando
 Company E, Second Battalion Williston
 Company F, Second Battalion Carrington
 Company G, Second Battalion Valley City
 Company H, Second Battalion Jamestown
 Headquarters, Third Battalion Williston
 Headquarters Detachment, Third Battalion.. Edgeley
 Company I, Third Battalion Wahpeton
 Company K, Third Battalion Dickinson
 Company L, Third Battalion Hillsboro
 Company M, Third Battalion Grand Forks

WWII Numbers

Strength At time of Mobilization:	105 Officers	1734 Enlisted	=	1839 Aggregate
Additions at Camp Claiborne thru the draft		Unknown		
Additions at Ft Ord prior to shipping overseas		Unknown		
Boarding Strength for Guadalcanal*				2837 Aggregate
USS Zeilin 83 Off 1564 Enl = 1647 (1 st & 3 rd Bns)**				
USS McCawley = 1190				
Losses at Guadalcanal (147 KIA, 360 WIA, 853 med)***				-1360
Losses for reassignment, officer school, training		Unknown		
Losses volunteers for Merrill's Marauders (ND only; others unknown)				-23
Replacements at Fiji****				+1088
Replacements thereafter		Unknown		

*Guadalcanal by Frank; **Zeilin Log; *** Baglien's Diary; ****Citizens as Soldiers



At Right, the WWII travel log of a typical ND Guardsman, showing departure and arrival dates at various locations. This one belonged to Mel Bork, Headquarters, 3rd Battalion, Edgeley, ND.

JOINED N. G.	1938	
Inducted into fed. Ser.		Feb. 10, 1941
Left Edgeley, N. D.		Feb. 25, 1941
Ar. Camp Claiborne	Mar. 1, 1941	
Left Camp Claiborne	Dec. 1 st , 1941	
Ar. Cow Place - Frisco	Dec. 16, 1941	
Left Cow Place	Dec. 24, 1941	
Ar U.O.D. Hermiston, Or	Dec. 26, 1941	
Left U.O.D. "	Mar. 7, 1942	
Ar Fort Ord	Mar. 10, 1942	
Left Fort Ord	Mar. 13, 1942	
A Frisco	Mar. 18, 1942	
Left Frisco	Mar. 19, 1942	
Aboard Pre. Coolidge		
Ar Australia	Apr. 8, 1942	
Left Melbourne	Apr. 12, 1942	
(Aboard Maitzucker)		
Ar New Caledonia	Apr. 19, 1942	
Left New Caledonia	Oct. 9, 1942	
(aboard Zielin)		
Ar Guadalcanal	Act. 13, 1942	
Left Guadalcanal	Mar. 1, 1943	
(aboard Fuller)		
Ar Fiji	Mar. 6, 1943	
(aboard Crescent City)		
Left Fiji	Dec. 19, 1943	
Ar Bougainville	Dec. 25, 1943	
Left Bougainville	Jan. 8, 1945	
Ar Leyte, P.I.	Jan 25, 1945	
Left Leyte (LST)	Apr. 9 th , 1945	
Ar Cebu	Apr. 10, 1945	
Ar Bohol	Apr. 11, 1945	
Left Bohol	Apr. 28, 1945	
Ar Cebu	Apr. 29, 1945	
Left Cebu	May 12, 1945	
Ar Mindinau	May 13, 1945	
Left Mindinau	June 17, 1945	
Ar Cebu	June 18, 1945	
Left Cebu	July 10, 1945	
Ar Leyte	July 11, 1945	
Left Leyte	July 22, 1945	
Ar L.A.S.F.	Aug. 22, 1945	
Discharged-Fort Lewis	Aug. 26, 1945	

Artwork by Doug Burtell, Reg't Intel & Recon Platoon



MAN! WHERE ARE WE GOING ON THAT BIG BOAT?

GUADALCANAL



Excerpt from **GUADALCANAL**

by Charles R. Anderson

A US Army Center of Military History Publication

GUADALCANAL 1942-1943

On 13 October, the 164th Infantry [Regiment], the first Army unit on Guadalcanal, came ashore to reinforce the Marines and took a 6,600-yard sector at the east end of the American perimeter. Commanded by Col. Bryant E. Moore, the 164th had come through the South Pacific ferry route in January to New Caledonia. There, the 164th [North Dakota Army National Guard] joined the 182d Infantry [Massachusetts Army National Guard] and 132d Infantry [Illinois Army National Guard] Regiments, in addition to artillery, engineer, and other support units, to form a new division called the "Americal," a name derived from the words America and New Caledonia. Until the Americal commander, Maj. Gen. Alexander M. Patch, and other units of the division arrived [on 18 Nov 42 and after], the 164th would fight with the Marines.

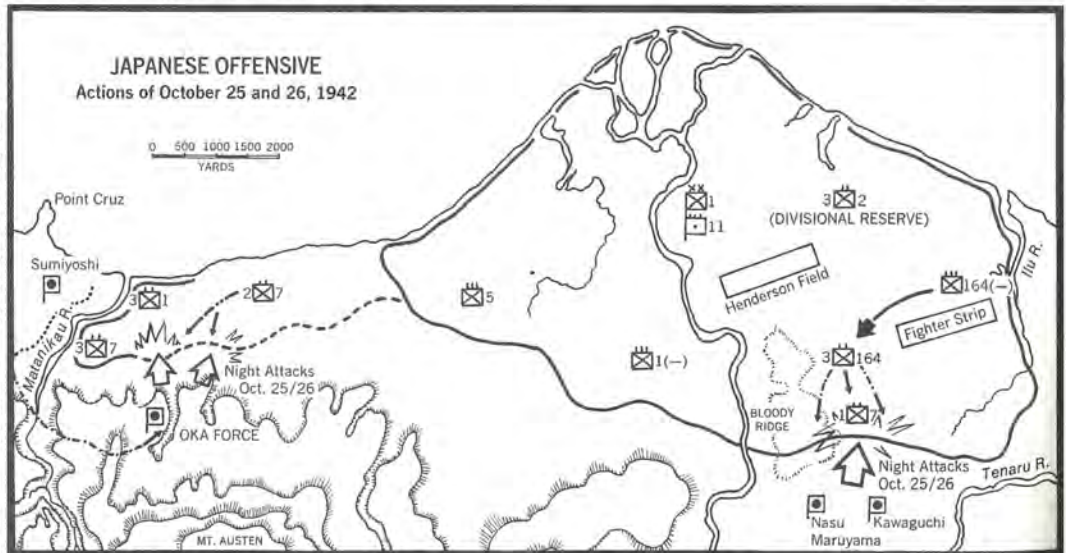
The newest American unit on Guadalcanal, the 164th moved into the southeast corner of the perimeter. On the night of 23 October, Moore and his troops heard the Japanese begin their attempt to retake the Lunga Point airfield, renamed Henderson Field by the marines. Two nights later the Japanese hit the 164th, running out of the dark jungles yelling "Banzai," throwing grenades, and firing every weapon they could carry. Despite armor, artillery, air, and naval support, the Japanese could achieve no more than temporary breakthroughs at isolated points. The men of the 164th put up a much stiffer defense than the Japanese expected of a green unit, and with the Marines repulsed the enemy with heavy losses while losing 26 killed, 52 wounded, and 4 missing. Once the enemy attack failed, Vandegrift had four experienced regiments manning a secure line.

General Vandegrift now moved into the second phase of his operations on Guadalcanal: pushing out his perimeter far enough so that Japanese artillery could not reach Henderson Field, and overrunning the 17th [enemy] Army headquarters at Kokumbona, nine miles west of the airfield. On the morning of 1 November, following naval, air, and field artillery fire, Marine units began the attack both east and west.

On [November] 4th, the Army's 1st Battalion, 164th Infantry, joined the western attack, while the 2d and 3d Battalions, 164th, moved to the eastern front. The Army battalions assisted in a major victory during 9-12 November when they trapped against the sea 1,500 enemy troops who had just landed at Koli Point. Soldiers and Marines killed half the enemy force in a two day fight; the rest escaped into the jungle toward Mount Austen, six miles southwest of Henderson Field.

Vandegrift suddenly stopped his attacks in mid-November when he learned the Japanese would soon attempt a major reinforcement via the "Tokyo Express," the almost nightly run of supply-laden destroyers to the island. As expected, the enemy transports came, bearing the 38th Division for General Hyakutake. In the four-day naval Battle of Guadalcanal, the U.S. Navy so seriously damaged the task force that the enemy never again tried a large-unit reinforcement. Only 4,000 troops, of 10,000, reached land, and the 38th Division had to function as a large but underequipped regiment. **The attack toward Kokumbona resumed on 18 November with the 164th Infantry**, two battalions of the newly arrived 182d Infantry, and a Marine regiment. After advancing only one mile against strong opposition, the attack stalled on the 25th. **The 164th Infantry alone lost 117 killed and 625 wounded or sick.** Rather than continue the costly push into the jungle, American commanders decided to await reinforcements.

But rather than receiving reinforcements, the Americans lost effective combat units in December. Vandegrift's battle-hardened but disease-wracked 1st Marine Division boarded ships for a much-deserved reconstitution, leaving General Patch in command of all American units on the island. Despite this temporary reduction, Patch wanted to mount a limited offensive before the enemy strengthened positions any further.



Excerpt from **GUADALCANAL** Continued....

GUADALCANAL 1942-1943

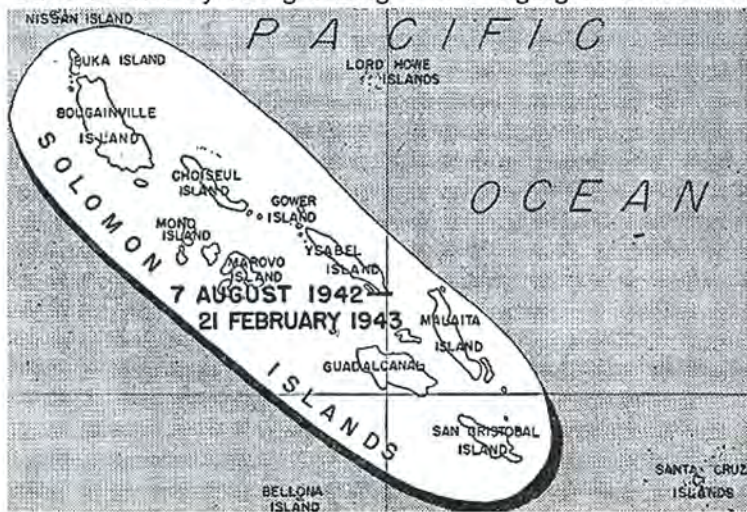
The 132d thrashed through the jungle for five more days before locating the main enemy stronghold, called the Gifu position after a Japanese prefecture. Inside the Gifu, five hundred troops manned over forty log-reinforced bunkers arranged in a horseshoe on the west side of Mount Austen. During the last ten days of 1942, the 132d hammered Gifu repeatedly, making little progress at a cost of 34 killed and 279 other casualties, mostly sick. Finally, on 1-2 January 1943, the 1st and 3d Battalions attacked from the north while the 2d Battalion swung around and attacked from the south to overrun most of the Gifu stronghold and secure the west slopes of Mount Austen. Now the Americans could move against Kokumbona without fear of enemy observation or fire from the rear. In the 22-day battle for Mount Austen the 132d Infantry had killed between 400 and 500 Japanese but in the process lost 112 killed and 268 wounded.

During the last weeks of 1942 and the first weeks of 1943 the Americans strengthened their toehold on Guadalcanal by reorganizing and bringing in fresh troops. On 2 January General Harmon activated a new headquarters, XIV Corps, and assigned General Patch to its command. The 25th Infantry Division and the rest of the 2d Marine Division joined the Americal Division on the island to fill out a three-division corps in preparation for a January offensive. Patch now planned to destroy the Japanese on Guadalcanal rather than simply to push them farther away from the Henderson Field perimeter. With the newly arrived units, he could expect to make more progress than in the previous two months. Japanese troop strength on the island had peaked at 30,000 in November, but then fell to about 25,000 in December. With supplies from the Tokyo Express steadily falling and malaria casualties rising, General Hyakutake had no choice but to scale down his objectives.

Victory on Guadalcanal brought important strategic gains to the Americans and their Pacific allies but at high cost. Combined with the American-Australian victory at Buna on New Guinea, success in the Solomons turned back the Japanese drive toward Australia and staked out a strong base from which to continue attacks against Japanese forces, especially those at Rabaul, the enemy's main base in the South Pacific. Most important for future operations in the Pacific, the Americans had stopped reacting to Japanese thrusts and taken the initiative themselves. These gains cost the Americans 1,592 killed in action and 4,183 wounded, with thousands more disabled for varying periods by disease. Entering the campaign after the amphibious phase, the two Army divisions lost 550 killed and 1,289 wounded. For the Japanese, losses were even more traumatic: 14,800 killed in battle, another 9,000 dead from disease, and about 1,000 taken prisoner. On Guadalcanal General Hyakutake's troops gave American fighting men a chilling introduction to the character of the Japanese soldier: willing to fight to the death rather than surrender. Both navies lost twenty-four ships during the campaign but with a smaller industrial base to replace them, Japanese losses were more significant. Even more costly to Japan was the loss of over six hundred aircraft and pilots.

FROM: <http://www.army.mil/cmh-pg/brochures/72-8/72-8.htm> (maps are from other sources)

This brochure was prepared in the U.S. Army Center of Military History by Charles R. Anderson, who said, "I hope this absorbing account of that period will enhance your appreciation of American achievements during World War II". For sale by the U.S. Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents, Mail Stop: SSOP, Washington, DC 20402-9328 ISBN 0-16-038104-5



The Significance of Guadalcanal

[Lt. Gen. Sinishi] Tanaka, [Chief of Military Operations], wrote: "There is no question that Japan's doom was sealed with the closing of the struggle for Guadalcanal."

Admiral Mitsumasa Yonai, Navy Minister, stated that: "When we had to retreat [from Guadalcanal] taking the whole situation. I felt that there was no further chance of success."

After the Japanese surrender, an interrogator asked: "At what stage in the war did you feel you swung against you?" Kurita answered "I."

From: *The Campaign for Guadalcanal* by Jack Coggins, 1972
Battle Sketch on previous page from same source
Note: Adm Takao Kurita directed the bombardment of Henderson Field on Guadalcanal during October 1942

Guadalcanal Glossary

Henderson Field: Lunga Point airfield was renamed for Marine pilot Maj Lofton Henderson, who was killed leading an air attack against Yamamoto at Midway.

Edson's "Bloody" Ridge: S of Henderson Fld, was named for Marine LtCol Merritt Edson after the battle 12-14Sep42

"Washing Machine Charlie" & "Louie the Louse: nicknames of the chugging floatplanes that would drop nuisance bombs and flares

"Pistol Pete" was the name given to the irritating long range guns that would pound rounds to the beach from the higher jungle areas.

1st Lt. Harry Vadnie

Veteran of Guadalcanal – One Man’s Story

- ANN VADNIE Special to the Tribune



Photo by
Tom Stromme
Bismarck Tribune

World War II veteran Harry Vadnie served in the 164th Infantry Regiment with many other North Dakotans. Vadnie, a Bismarck native, was in the critical battle of Guadalcanal and was awarded the Bronze Star along with the entire 164th Infantry Regiment.

Infantryman Harry Vadnie's one-year induction was to end in February 1942, but the bombing of Pearl Harbor changed that. Instead, the Bismarck native was sent to fight at Guadalcanal.

“Island hopping, jungle combat ... sometimes it seems like it never happened. Then again, sometimes it seems to have been only yesterday. I am proud to have been with the 164th Infantry, and I think that our state was thankful to us for serving,” said Vadnie of his service in Company A, 1st Battalion, 164th

Infantry Regiment.

Vadnie, who joined the North Dakota National Guard on Oct. 10, 1939, was activated for federal service on Feb. 10, 1941. By March, the regiment was filled to its required 2,400 men and the men left to train at Camp Claiborne, La.

One day later, as part of the 164th, Vadnie was sent to protect the West Coast from possible further Japanese attacks. His unit spent three months guarding dams, bridges, electrical installations and ammunition depots.

While continuing to train, the infantrymen heard rumors they were headed to the Philippines. In late January 1942, the 164th became part of Task Force 6814, and, by March, they shipped to “destinations unknown.”

“We hopped on trains and traveled to a port where about 2,000 of us piled on to the (converted luxury liner) SS President Coolidge,” Vadnie said. “Thirty days later we ended up in Melbourne, Australia. We got on some freighters and landed in New Caledonia to defend that island. We trained and worked very hard getting into shape. I thought we were a pretty ‘salty’ group already. However, looking back I can see that we might have been ‘salty,’ but not really trained at all for the ugly, ferocious jungle fighting that faced us.”

Task Force 6814 was renamed the Americal Division — American Troops in New Caledonia and the regiment, which was attached to the 1st Marine Division, was ordered to leave for Guadalcanal on Oct. 8, 1942.

“On October 13, we hit the beach on Guadalcanal,” Vadnie said. “The 164th’s motto (in French) is: ‘Je Suit Pret’ which means ‘I Am Ready!’ That was questionable. We were the first, which is not always where you want to be. But, by trial and error and lots of guts, we performed better than anyone expected us to do. I was growing up fast for a 19-year-old who, up until then, had not witnessed anything more violent than a school-ground fist fight.”

From October through December 1942, troop duties included protecting Henderson Field, named in honor of U.S. Marine Corps Major Lofton Henderson, the first Marine aviator killed during the Battle of Midway.



Vadnie – One Man’s Story (continued)...



“Anyone who lived through Guadalcanal can attest to the unpleasant realities of war,” said Vadnie, who earned the combat infantryman's badge. “During the battle in Guadalcanal in particular, the 1st Marine Division, with our outfit attached, the Navy

and the Navy Air Corps clawed out a victory under odds you can't imagine.”

Vadnie remembers that on Dec. 7, 1942, the American artillery kept up a steady barrage all day to mark the anniversary of Pearl Harbor.

“It was great in many ways,” Vadnie said of serving with others from North Dakota. “We were people with the same background, news from home to exchange, being with lifelong buddies and even having our parish priest (Father Tom Tracy) with us. But, there were disadvantages, too. Whenever one of those high school buddies was killed or maimed, it was tough. If it wasn't for my quickly acquired faith, things might have been worse. It's hard to see anyone go down, but, when they are lifelong friends and neighbors, it is very hard to shake.”



Tents on Guadalcanal

“Anyone who lived through Guadalcanal can attest to the unpleasant realities of war. [We]... clawed out a victory under odds you can't imagine.”

Malaria hit the troops hard as they spread out to other nearby islands to look for Japanese activity. During a break, the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions held decoration ceremonies. The Bronze Star was awarded to the men in the 164th, including Vadnie.

Vadnie attributed his survival to the "luck of the Irish. "My luck became especially clear to me after I read the 164th Infantry World War II record. Our regiment, the 164th, accounted for 600 combat days rotating approximately 5,000 members. We suffered 375 men killed in action and 1,193 men wounded in action. To come through that unscathed, I had to have been lucky," said Vadnie, who was sent to officer training at Fort Benning, Ga., a year before the end of World War II.

By early October 1945, Vadnie was back in Bismarck, getting ready to marry his high school sweetheart, Mary Logan. Two of Vadnie's 164th Infantry buddies hitch-hiked 3,000 miles from California to attend the wedding.

The 164th was inactivated Nov. 24, 1945. On June 10, 1946, they were relieved from assignment to the Americal Division. Eventually, the 164th was reorganized and federally recognized on May 1, 1947.

Vadnie and his wife, Mary, welcomed their first child, Michael, in November 1948. Then, the 164th was ordered to federal service Jan. 16, 1951, for the Korean War.

“When our unit was called back for the Korean War, I was very lucky for a final time,” said Vadnie. “Because I had enough overseas time in World War II, I stayed and fought the Korean War at Fort Custer, Mich.”

Vadnie was teaching at the Infantry School in Michigan, when a second child, Ann, was born in June 1951. By January 1952, Vadnie was released and returned to civilian life. He lived with his young family in Mankato, MN, before eventually returning to his hometown of Bismarck.



Much needed R&R in Fiji after fighting on Guadalcanal.

Editor's note: Harry wasn't feeling well enough to attend the 75th event. He passed away 26 September 2018 at the age of 96.

THE FARGO FORUM—

145 Dead of N. D. 164th Infantry Lie On Guadalcanal

Unit Left For Camp Nearly Five Years Ago

It was nearly five years ago . . . a snowy February morning in 1941 . . . when families first bid goodbye to the first three companies of the North Dakota 164th infantry leaving for "a year's national defense training." But before that year was ended, the country was at war and the 164th left the States for Australia and New Caledonia.

As a regiment of the famed Americal division much has happened to the North Dakota men since those early days of war when America's fate hung by a slender thread.

One hundred and forty-five men lie today on Guadalcanal where the 164th infantry fought side by side with U. S. marines to turn the tide in the first offensive action of the war against the enemy.



Moore
overseas, and in September, 1942, Col. Bryant E. Moore, regular



Sarles

army man, took over command on New Caledonia.

Lt. Col. Samuel Baglien of Hillsboro was executive officer, serving until reporting back to the United States in February, 1943. He was replaced by Lt. Col. Ben Northridge of Valley City.

Capt. Patrick V. McGurran of Cavalier retained his post as regimental adjutant. Other regimental officers at that time were 1st Lt. LaRoy Baird of Dickinson, intelligence officer; Maj. William Smith, Bismarck, plans and training officer; Capt. Paul G. Hedstrom, Bismarck, supply officer; Capt. John R. Erickson, Bismarck, personnel adjutant; Capt. Donald V. Staley, Fargo, special service officer; 1st Lt. Tom Conlon, Bismarck, munitions officer, who replaced Capt. R. Newgard of Hillsboro, killed by a "dud" naval shell, and 1st Lt. Eloy Dygve, Fargo, communications officer.

* * *

Guadalcanal was invaded by marines on Aug. 7, 1942, and the 164th infantry joined the Leathernecks Oct. 13. It was no "soft" landing in the wake of marine successes. Within five hours after the North Dakotans had hit the shore, they were veterans—had received their baptism of fire—and had seen the first of their number, Cpl. Kenneth S. Foubert of Grand Forks, killed by a Jap bomb.

Twelve days later, the 164th met its first great battle test at Lunga Point. For three days the enemy threw wave after wave of fanatical fighters into the attack. At the end, the North Dakotans were still in their positions, had buried 1,700 enemy dead, and received the commendations of the marines on Guadalcanal and Maj. Gen. Alexander Vandergriff.

But November turned out to be the darkest month for the men on Guadalcanal. The regiment suffered its heaviest casualties in

that month—killed, wounded and sickness, mostly sickness.

It was estimated that more men were evacuated from the island with disease than the total of killed and wounded. They took a greater toll of the Japanese, however, weakened the enemy positions, and turned the tide in the battle for the island.

From then on, the 164th got a rest from the worst on Guadalcanal, returning to the front briefly in February. On Feb. 9, 1943, Japanese resistance ceased, and the men found satisfaction in knowing that their fighting had played a substantial part in the victory. The North Dakotans had killed an estimated 3,000 Japs, took eight prisoners—they learned the trickery of the enemy.

The regiment went to the Fiji islands, after the victory on Guadalcanal, for a well earned rest period. But before another year was through they were back in action, this time landing on Bougainville Christmas day. They fought there and stayed there until the Australians moved in in the fall for mopping up operations.

Then, in February, 1945, came the announcement that the Americal division, including the 164th, had landed in the Philippines—the regiment's third major engagement in the Pacific. They invaded several islands in the archipelago, fighting the Japs up to the very end.

The North Dakota element of the 164th has changed somewhat by now, some men being moved to other units, some eligible for discharge under the point system after V-E day. It was the original 164th, however, that wrote the most heroic pages in the regiment's history and some still remain in the group to honor North Dakota.

Truly, the story of the 164th North Dakota infantry is the story of the long struggle against the Japanese and the achievements of these men played a great part in blazing the path to Tokyo.

164th Infantry WWII Awards, Decorations, Badges, Citations, Patches, & Pins



Combat Infantryman Badge



Combat Medical Badge



Navy Presidential Unit Citation ~ Philippine Presidential Unit Citation



Decorations & Service Medals*, in order of Precedence

Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Soldier's Medal, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal, American Defense Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal (up to 4 bronze service stars + assault landing device), World War II Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Medal with Japan clasp, Philippine Liberation Medal (with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster)

*eligibility for service medals is based on location &/or time period requirements for each award

Decorations awarded to 164 Members during WWII

- 6 Distinguished Service Crosses**
- 1 Navy Cross**
- 89 Silver Stars**
- 7 Legion of Merit**
- 10 Soldiers Medals**
- 199 Bronze Stars**
- 2000 (Approx) Purple Hearts**

Post-war authorization for award of the Bronze Star Medal

Award may be made to each member of the Armed Forces of the United States who, after 6 Dec 1941, has been cited in orders or awarded a certificate for exemplary conduct in ground combat against an armed enemy between 7 Dec 1941 and 2 Sep 1945, inclusive, or whose meritorious achievement has been otherwise confirmed by documents executed prior to 1 July 1947. For this purpose, an award of the Combat Infantryman Badge or Combat Medical Badge is considered as a citation in orders.



Distinctive Unit Insignia (Unit Crest)

Worn on Uniform Lapels
Je Suis Pret = I Am Ready



Shoulder Sleeve Insignia

Left Shoulder

Unit of assignment:
Americal Division

Right Shoulder

Wartime Service:
1st Marine Division



Honorable Service Lapel Button

Worn on left lapel
of Civilian Clothing

Military Service records and replacement medals are available to service members or Next of Kin.
Instructions and forms are available at vetrecs.archives.gov

Importance of Advertising

Members of the 164th infantry Regiment hailed from almost every small town and farm in ND. There are probably only 2 or 3 degrees of separation from anyone in the state to someone who served in the 164th. While few members of the Regiment remain, there is a lot of "164 family" still all across the state. Because of the significance of the 75th Anniversary event – the final event to be hosted by the 164th Infantry Regiment – it was important to advertise the event well. It paid off with "standing room only".



**164th Infantry Regiment
75th Anniversary of Landing
at Guadalcanal**
Historic Display - Open House
Sat, Oct 14, 2017 9am-5pm Free
Chat with Guadalcanal Guys 1pm
Program 1:30pm. Military Band Concert 2pm.
Bismarck State College Energy Center
Email: Editor164thInfantryNews@hotmail.com
Phone/Text: 701-989-2924

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Statewide Advertising. (NDNA)
Above, the black & white ad that went into all Newspapers Statewide 3 weeks in advance of the event. And the pop-up ad that readers saw when accessing a statewide newspaper on-line.

The Bismarck Tribune

**164th INFANTRY ASSOCIATION
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**
HOSTS
**"75th ANNIVERSARY
GUADALCANAL LANDING"**
GUADALCANAL 1942-1943

The 164th Infantry regiment, North Dakota Army National Guard, was the first US Army unit to offensively engage the enemy in WWII when it reinforced the Marines at Guadalcanal 13 October 1942
Saturday, October 14, 2017 • 9 am to 5 pm
75th Anniversary Historical Display
Free & Open to the Public
**Bismarck State College Energy Center – Top Floor
1200 Schafer St, Bismarck**
9:00 am Exhibits Open, Top Floor, BSC Energy Center
1:00 pm Media/Public Conversation with Guadalcanal Veterans
1:30 pm 75th Anniversary Recognition Program – 164th Infantry WWII soldiers introduced!
2:00 pm Band Concert – 188th Army National Guard Band
5:00 pm Exhibits Close

For more info, Email:
Editor164thInfantryNews@hotmail.com
or call **701-989-2924**
Thanks to exhibitors Greg Heinz (US WWII, WWI, Korea) & Al Scholdt (Japanese items)
164th Infantry WWII Unit Photos, equipment, uniforms, memorabilia, diaries



**164th INFANTRY ASSOCIATION
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**
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GUADALCANAL 1942-1943
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75th Anniversary Historical Display
Free & Open to the Public
editor164thinfantrynews@hotmail.com
This will be BIG!! MORE INFO

Event city Advertising: Tribune Top, the ad placed in the Tribune 3 times within the 2 weeks prior. Above, the digital ad that popped up when accessing the Tribune on-line. It had a link to additional info. Below, the banner ad that appeared on the bottom of the front page of prior Sunday and day-of newspapers.

The Bismarck Tribune

30 September 2017 (Excerpt)
A reunion of men from North Dakota's famed 164th Infantry Regiment will be held 75 years after the World War II event that made them famous.

If you go
What: Event commemorates North Dakota's 164th Infantry Regiment landing and battle at Guadalcanal
When: Oct. 14
Where: Energy Center at Bismarck State College
Who will be there:

- Richard Stevens: Then a National Guard private, now a 95-year-old retired Army colonel, Stevens is the last living member of Company M, 3rd Battalion, 164th Infantry
- Louis Hanson: A farmer from the Jamestown area assigned to Company E, which helped defend the area that became known as Coffin Corner. Hanson is the last living Co E veteran of Guadalcanal. Both men will tell the tales at the hosted Chat with the Guadalcanal Guys at 1 p.m., Oct. 14.

- Other soldiers expected to attend are Dennis Ferk, Harry Vadnie and Aloysius Moszer from Bismarck's Company A; Doug Burtell, of Bowman, who served in the Headquarters Intelligence and Reconnaissance section; and Ralph Oehlke, Enderlin, who joined the 164th Band but transferred to the Anti-Tank Company for the duration the war. At least two veterans who joined the regiment later in the war also plan to be at the event.



'Historic' Memorial Prayer

Written by Chaplain (Col) Donald W Hill, ND Army National Guard, in 1992. It was read by acting Chaplain Lt. Col. (ret) Tony Beer at the 164th Infantry Memorial Service at Skyline Ridge Memorial, Honiara, Guadalcanal, October, 1992, on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the landing.

ND Army National Guard Command Sergeant Major Alan Grinsteiner was honored to read the prayer to open the 75th Anniversary Recognition Program.

Let us pray:

Lord, today we take time to honor and remember the 50th Anniversary –now the 75th Anniversary– of Guadalcanal and the veterans who served there, as well as the other veterans of World War II and of all our veterans in other conflicts and wars.

You strengthened them in their faith as they fought for the freedoms of the world and the peace that followed.

Their personal sacrifices are known to you, our God, as well as their prayers and worship offered upon the battlefields that brought victories.

Lives were lost in these quests for freedom, Lord, and returned to You -- we pause and remember our fallen comrades.

We thank you, Lord, for all of our men and women in the armed forces. Bless our leaders and our country that we serve. Praise and glory to You, our God, who makes our service the response to the call for world-wide harmony and peace for the human condition in our time and for all times to come!

Amen.

GUADALCANAL 1942-1943



1992 Trip L-R: Alvin Tollefsrud, Jim Cecil, John Landowski, Chuck Walker, Norman Samson, Bob Carr, Harold Aarhus, Ray Conlon, George Christenson, Tony Beer, Jim Fenelon, Don Robinson (w/US Flag), Sgt Brian Berg (w/Trumpet), Art Anderson, David Vouza (son of local war hero Sgt Maj Jacob Vouza), Dennis Ferk, Ray Patton (w/164 flag), Tony Hannel (w/ND flag), Ken Schauss, Ralph Gaugler, Bill Tillotson, Gail Landes, Red Cherrey, Ed Sinkbeil, Ray Sinkbeil, John Holt, Vern Tittsworth, Elmo Olson, & Bernie Wagner. Also on the trip were then-ND Adjutant General Maj Gen Alexander P. Macdonald; former ND Adj Gen & WWII veteran Maj Gen C. Emerson Murry; Dr. (Col) Wm. M. Buckingham who was a lab tech on Guadalcanal 1943; Col Terry Robinson, then Cdr of the 164th Engr Gp; Lt Col Bruce Conard, National Guard Bureau historian; State Command Sgt Maj Loren D. Ford; Sgt Danny Knoll, videographer. Photo by Maj Shirley J. Olgeirson, PAO.



**164th Infantry Association
of the United States of America
PO Box 1111
Bismarck, ND 58502-1111**



Contact:

Shirley J. Olgeirson, Cell 701-989-2924
email Editor164thInfantryAssociation@hotmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

164th Infantry Public Celebration - 75th Anniversary of Landing at Guadalcanal

The last reunion of North Dakota's famed 164th Infantry Regiment will be held exactly seventy-five years to the day of the World War II event that made them famous.

An open house for the public will take place all day Saturday, October 14th, on the upper floor of the Energy Center at Bismarck State College. The display area will open at 9 am and continue until 5 pm. Collections of 164th Infantry uniforms, journals, photos, memorabilia, military equipment, and reference materials be available for viewing.

On October 13, 1942, the 164th Infantry landed on Guadalcanal to become the first US Army unit to offensively engage the enemy – in either theatre – when it reinforced the 1st Marine Division against the Japanese in World War II. The Oct. 14 event will commemorate the rich history of the 164th Infantry Regiment and highlight its service in World War II.

A special time to chat with the 164th veterans of Guadalcanal, Bougainville, and the Philippines campaigns is scheduled at 1 p.m. in the second floor theater at the Energy Center. Dr. Larry Skogen, president of Bismarck State College, will host the interactive event to discuss the battles and will also field questions from the audience.

A short program will take place in the third floor display area prior to a 2 p.m. band concert by the North Dakota Army National Guard's 188th Army Band. The lineage of the 188th Band is directly connected to the 164th Infantry Band. Both the concert band and the exceptional jazz band will entertain with patriotic tunes and WWII era swing.

The entire event on Oct. 14 is free and open to the public. Inquiries may be addressed to Editor164thInfantryNews@hotmail.com or 701-989-2924. The Oct. 13 reunion of the 164th Infantry Association is for members and family and pre-registration is required.

Landing at Guadalcanal October 13, 1942

Seventy-five years ago, Company M, Grand Forks, lost their first soldier on that very first day on Guadalcanal, as the enemy navy welcomed the newcomers with 14-inch rounds that rocked the earth and made toothpicks out of 60-foot-tall palm trees. The shelling was horrific. Louis J Hanson, a farmer from the Jamestown area assigned to Company E noted, "I didn't think any of us would get out alive."

After only twelve days on the steamy tropical island, the regiment was thrust into intense fighting against waves of Japanese on the nights of Oct. 24-25

Richard Stevens recalls trudging along the muddy slope of Edson's Ridge, Guadalcanal, to reinforce the Marines on the thin line that separated the Japanese from the airfield they desperately wanted. Then a National Guard private, now a 95-year-old retired Army colonel, Stevens is the last living member of Company M, 3rd Battalion, 164th Infantry Regiment.

Guadalcanal Page 2 of 2

Originally from Lawrence, Kansas, Stevens acknowledges that a simple twist of fate caused his transfer from Company M, 137th Infantry, Kansas Army National Guard, to the sister company in the 164th just prior to the North Dakota Regiment's departure for the South Pacific in March, 1942.

Another twist of fate brought Stevens' 3rd Battalion directly into the fight alongside the Marines during the Second Battle for Henderson Field. Hanson's Company E was 'next door' helping defend the area that became known as Coffin Corner. Hanson is the last living Co E veteran of Guadalcanal.

Both men will tell the tales at the hosted Chat with the Guadalcanal Guys at 1p.m., Oct.14. Other Soldiers expected to attend are Dennis Ferk, Harry Vadnie, and Aloysius Moszer from Bismarck's Company A; Doug Burtell, Bowman, who served in the Headquarters Intelligence and Reconnaissance section; and Ralph Oehlke, Enderlin, who joined the 164th Band but transferred to the Anti-Tank Company for the duration the war. At least two veterans who joined the regiment later in the war also plan to be at the event.

It's history now. The coveted airfield on Guadalcanal remained in allied hands, thanks in good part to the actions of the 164th. Capt Al Wiest, who had transferred from Jamestown's Company H to command Company M, would tell the story for the rest of his life about Chesty Puller's famous comment overheard in the 7th Marine Regiment's headquarters tent after the battle. "Those farm boys can fight, I can tell you that much!" said Puller, who earned the Navy Cross for that battle, as did Jamestown's Lt. Col. Robert K. Hall, commander of the 164th 3rd battalion. The Regiment earned the trust of the Marines and was awarded the Navy Presidential Unit Citation.

How important was Guadalcanal? Rear Admiral Raizo Tanaka, one of the greatest tactical commanders of destroyer forces in the Japanese Navy, said "There is no question that Japan's doom was sealed with the closing of the struggle for Guadalcanal".


--30--

Contacts:

Shirley J. Olgeirson, Cell 701-989-2924, email Editor164thInfantryAssociation@hotmail.com
Vern Fetch, President 164th Infantry Association 527-1426
Ben Kemp, 164th Infantry Reunion Coordinator 400-6136

The regiment mobilized 1710 men from the communities of Fargo, Devils Lake, Harvey, Lisbon, Bottineau, Bismarck, Cavalier, Grafton, Rugby, Cando, Williston, Carrington, Valley City, Jamestown, Edgeley, Dickinson, and Wahpeton. Draftees and others were assigned to bring the unit up to strength, and about 2000 replacements came and went during 600 days of combat.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 
1. Excel File contains (1) a tab listing all National Guard soldiers mobilized with the 164th, sorted by county and town (2) a separate tab for each company/town (3) soldiers Killed in action at Guadalcanal (4) All 164 casualties during WWII
 2. Event Poster "This will be Big!"



NOTE: YOU CAN EMAIL FOR A COPY OF THE COMPLETE 1941 MOBILIZATION ROSTER!
Editor164thInfantryNews@hotmail.com

EVENT SCHEDULE on 14 October 2017:

9:00 am Exhibits Open, Top Floor, BSC Energy Center
1:00 pm Media/Public Conversation with Guadalcanal Veterans (2nd Floor Theater)
Just prior to Concert: 75th Anniversary Recognition Program – 164 WWII introduced!
2:00 pm Band Concert – 188th Army National Guard Band
5:00 pm Exhibits Close

Congressional Record

Proceedings and Debates of the U.S. Congress

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 164TH REGIMENT LANDING ON GUADALCANAL

(Senate - October 05, 2017)

Senator John Hoeven

<https://www.congress.gov/congressional-record/2017/10/05/senate-section> [Page S6356]



Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, 75 years ago, on October 13, 1942, the men of the 164th Infantry Regiment, North Dakota Army National Guard, landed on Guadalcanal to make history as the first U.S. Army unit to offensively engage the enemy in either theatre during World War II.

The soldiers, supplies, and the rifles they carried were welcomed by the beleaguered First Marine Division that had been fighting on the island since August. The prize was the strategic airfield captured by the marines and coveted by both Allies and the enemy as a key location to champion air and naval superiority in that area of the South Pacific.

On Guadalcanal for only 12 days, the trained but untested soldiers were thrust into the second battle for Henderson Field on the night of October 24. The 3rd Battalion trudged up muddy slopes to fight shoulder to shoulder with Lt. Col. Chesty Puller's marines as waves of Japanese threatened the thin line protecting the airfield. The next day, having proved its mettle, the 164th Infantry remained in charge of that line as the marines moved to an adjacent location. The Japanese attacked the 164th sector on the night of October 26, incorrectly believing the new Army troops could not hold the line. The 164th held firm at the location that became known as the Battle of Coffin Corner, earning the respect of the marines in the form of a Navy Presidential Unit Citation.

The lineage of the 164th Infantry Regiment carries significant history as North Dakota National Guard infantrymen were called to serve in the Spanish American War, the Philippine Insurrection, Mexican Border Incident, World War I, World War II, and the Korean war. The regiment ceased to exist in 1955, its companies reorganized to engineer units, but the esprit de corps of the combat soldiers has remained intact.

On the 75th anniversary, to the day, of the regiment's landing at Guadalcanal, the 164th Infantry Association will hold its last annual reunion, ending a tradition that began in 1945. On Saturday, October 14, the 164th Association will host a public event to recognize the service and heritage of the unit that was so important to the history of the North Dakota Army National Guard, the State of North Dakota, and the United States of America. Eight veterans of Guadalcanal will attend this event, ages 94 to 98, and they will represent all members of the regiment, living or remembered, as this important chapter of North Dakota military history ends.



The Bismarck Tribune EDITORIAL

Oct 5, 2017

World War II veterans Louis Hanson, left, 95, of Bismarck, and Dennis Ferk, 93, from New Mexico, talk about a lighter moment in their service with the North Dakota Army National Guard's 164th Infantry Regiment at a 2014 reunion in Mandan. The pair fought in the harrowing battle of Guadalcanal against the Japanese in the south Pacific in 1942.

Photo by Mike McCleary, Tribune bismarcktribune.com/opinion/editorial/event-offers-rare-chance-to-hear-vets/article_ed21630d-aaa3-5581-ad6e-6db11a91daf9.html

Event offers rare chance to hear vets “...respect and admiration hasn't dimmed in 75 years...”

Later this month, North Dakotans will have what will likely be one of the last opportunities to meet and listen to veterans of Guadalcanal. This is a chance to hear from men who participated in one of early, key battles of World War II.

This isn't just an event for history buffs. Anyone interested in the role our small state played on the world stage will find this interesting. The event is from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 14 at the National Energy Center of Excellence at Bismarck State College.

The 164th Infantry Regiment from North Dakota landed on Guadalcanal on Oct. 13, 1942, to assist the Marines who had been battling the Japanese. The regiment entered a horrible battleground and were greeted by skepticism by the hardened Marines. It didn't take long for the North Dakota Army soldiers to win the respect of the Marines.

Within five days of landing the regiment had endured eight prolonged bombing attacks, several strafings and shelling from land and enemy warships. An Assoc. Press dispatch told of their ordeal.

“One ghastly, horrible night late in October, both the second and third battalions fought in a pouring rain and the North Dakota men often met attacking Japanese with the cold steel of bayonets.”

The regiment would serve with distinction on Guadalcanal and help secure an early victory for the U.S. They went on to fight in the Bougainville and the Philippines campaigns.

The 164th Infantry of the North Dakota National Guard was called up in 1941 to fight in the Pacific Theater, according to Tribune files. There were 1,723 soldiers in the regiment. During the war the 164th lost 325 men and had 1,193 wounded. The unit earned one Navy Cross, six Distinguished Service Crosses, 89 Silver Stars, 199 Bronze Stars, 1,200 Purple Hearts, six Legions of Merit and 10 soldiers' medals.

By the time the 164th was disbanded in November 1945 it had become famous for its service. They earned their fame the hard way.

Seventy-two years after the end of World War II they deserve to be remembered. The Oct. 14 event offers an opportunity to honor them and hear the stories as only they can tell them.

At 1 p.m. in the second-floor theater there will be a chance to chat with the veterans. Larry Skogen, Bismarck State College president, will conduct the interactive session to discuss the battles and take questions from the audience. A short program will take place in the third-floor display area prior to a 2 p.m. band concert by the North Dakota Army National Guard's 188th Army Band.

Expected to attend are Richard Stevens, who was a National Guard private and is now a 95-year-old retired Army colonel; Louis Hanson, a farmer from the Jamestown area assigned to Company E, which helped defend the area that became known as Coffin Corner; Dennis Ferk, Harry Vadnie and Aloysius Moszer from Bismarck's Company A; Doug Burtell, Bowman; and Ralph Oehlke, Enderlin, who joined the 164th Band but transferred to the Anti-Tank Company for the duration the war.

The AP dispatch mentioned earlier also said: “Mention this regiment to anyone in the South Pacific and you'll get return comment of respect and admiration.”

That respect and admiration hasn't dimmed in the 75 years since they landed on Guadalcanal. The Oct. 14 event is free and open to the public. It should be worth everyone's time.

72nd Annual --& Final-- WWII Reunion



John & Paul Oehlke flank their dad, Ralph; Louis J Hanson & daughter Diana Herner; Dennis Ferk & traveling companion Gilbert Martinez; SGM (ret) Joseph A Castagneto; Melanie Rosalez, granddaughter of Ben J Rosalez; Tom Stevens & dad COL (ret) Richard Stevens.



**72nd
Annual
Reunion**



**164th Infantry Association
of the United States of America**

13 October 1942

13 October 2017

75
GUADALCANAL 1942-1943

**Memorial Service & Banquet
Bismarck, North Dakota
13 October 2017**



Final Memorial Service & Banquet

72nd Annual Reunion ~ 13 October 2017

- | | |
|--|--|
| Welcome | Vern Fetch, President
164 th Infantry Association |
| Pledge of Allegiance | |
| Invocation | Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Dave Johnson
ND National Guard State Chaplain |
| Light Memorial Candles | |
| Last Roll Call | Names of Deceased Veterans
of the 164 th Infantry Regiment & Ring Bell |
| Extinguish Candles ~ Taps | |
| Introduction of Reunion Committee | Vern Fetch, President
Bennet J. Kemp, Secretary/Treasurer
Shirley J. Olgeirson, Editor, 164 News |
| Introduction of Guests | MG Alan Dohrmann, The Adjutant General
BG Robert Fode, Army Commander
CSM Brad Heim, State Command Sgt Major |
| Remarks | Maj Gen Alan Dohrmann
The Adjutant General, ND National Guard |
| Meal Blessing | Chaplain Johnson |
| Review of next day's activities & Group Photos | |

64th Annual --& Final-- Korean Era Reunion



Top: CW4 (ret) Ervin J. Barta, Co K; CW4 (ret) Bennett J. Kemp, Co K, & Lorraine; COL (ret) Vern Fetch, Svc Co, & Margaret; Lt Col (ret) Milton Kane, Co G, & Janice; Donald J. Evenson, Co M; COL (ret) John Jacobsen



Above: Maj Gen Al Dohrmann, Adjutant General; Gerald Skogley, Hqs Co; Erv Barta; Don Evenson; Bruce Hagen, Co A; Milt Kane; Ben Kemp; Vern Fetch; State Command Sgt Major Brad Heim

Reunion: Family & Friends



L-R: [WWII family unless noted by a (K)] LeeAnn Tillotson, spouse; Tom Wilder, son of Jerry, Co E; Steve Tillotson, son of Bill, Co A & K; Tara Heth, granddaughter Wallace Robertson, Co I; Daniel Sauerwein, great nephew Roy Iverson, Co M; Jeffrey Burckhard, son of Tony, Co F; Barry Robertson, son of Wallace, Co I; Dora Vasquez-Hellner, daughter Isiais Vasquez, Co I; Jackie Robertson, spouse; Denise Cossette McCollum, daughter of Pete Cossette, Reg't Hqs; Curt Trullinger, nephew Arnold Kline, Co I; Gail Trullinger, daughter Ira Keeney, Co I; Mary Helland, daughter Richard Wolf, Co I (K); Tom Helland, nephew Arnold Kline, Co I; Karen Shellum Win & Brian Shellum, children of Alford, Co I; Mary Wiest Simpkins, daughter Al Wiest, Co H & M; Larry Skogen, son of Clifford, Hqs Co (K); Mary Drain, daughter Bill Tucker, Co M; Frank Kennedy, Mary Jo Boelke, Kirk Kennedy, Kerri Osowski, 4 children of Joseph Kennedy, Co C; Tony Drain, spouse; Richard Wiest, son of Al, Co H & M. Inset: Mary Jo & Alice Gaugler, daughter & widow of Ralph, Co K.

Chat with the Guadalcanal Guys



Standing Room Only

After 260 chairs in the theater filled up, folks stood along the wall and in doorways. The overflow classroom with live video was filled to the gills as well.



Photo by
Mike McCleary
Bismarck Tribune

The **Chat with the Guadalcanal Guys** was dramatic, funny, charming, tearful, and engaging. The Chat was hosted by Bismarck State College President Larry Skogen (top photo L), son of Lieutenant Clifford Skogen who mobilized with the 164th Infantry during the Korean War.

The Guys L-R: Richard Stevens, Co M; Louis J. Hanson, Co E; Dennis Ferk, Co A; Ralph Oehlke, Anti-Tank Co; Douglas Burtell, Intell & Recon

The Audiovisual Staff at Bismarck State College was kind enough to spend their Saturday "taping" the event and later produced a video that is available on youtube, for free, at <https://youtu.be/cErVzDO4200> or on DVD along with the WWI Victory Celebration Program (both programs on one DVD) for a reproduction mailing fee of \$10 from 164th Infantry Association, PO Box 1111, Bismarck, ND 58502.

Recognition Program



The 164th Infantry WWII Veterans received a standing ovation from the packed crowd after each was introduced and reported to Maj Gen Al Dohrmann, Adjutant General, to receive a North Dakota National Guard challenge coin.



Left to Right:
 Sgt Maj (ret) Joseph Castagneto, Alabama
 Benjamin J. Rosalez, California
 Maj Gen Dohrmann
 Louis J Hanson, Bismarck, ND
 Col (ret) Richard Stevens, Kentucky
 Ralph Oehlke, Enderlin, ND
 Band escort Staff Sgt Aaron Bedford
 Dennis Ferk, New Mexico
 Douglas Burtell, Bowman, ND
 Band escort Staff Sgt Justin Reed

Special THANKS to Lt Col Davina French and CW5 Theresia Hersch-Fode for support and assistance during event planning & execution.

164th Infantry Association of the United States of America
 75th Anniversary of Guadalcanal Landing
 Open House Military Display – 14 October 2017
 Bismarck State College Energy Center
 (Held in conjunction with the 72nd & Final Annual Reunion 13 October 2017)



9am-5pm Military Display Open House – 4th Floor
 Exhibitors Greg Heinz & Alan Schuldt
 Book Sale // “164th Family” Sign-in & Nametags
 Back issues of the *News* // Research station
 1pm Hosted Chat with Guadalcanal Veterans
 3rd Floor Theater - Overflow Room 345
 (Taped for youtube, cable access TV, DVD)
 2pm Recognition Program & Band Concert – 4th Floor
 164 WWII Veterans recognized
 Douglas Burtell – Reg’t Hqs – Guadalcanal
 Dennis Ferk – Co A – Guadalcanal
 Louis Hanson – Co E - Guadalcanal
 Ralph Oehlke – Band & AntiTank Co – ‘Canal
 Richard Stevens – Co M – Guadalcanal
 Joseph Castagneto – Co A – Bougainville
 Ben Rosalez – Co C – Southern Philippines
 164 Korean War Era Veterans Introduced
 Concert - 188th Army Band, Fargo
 After Concert – Visit with the Veterans – 4th Floor
 5pm Exhibits Close

Did we mention ‘This would be BIG!’?



After the Bismarck Tribune’s Editorial tribute (page 25), we *knew* this would be BIG! We kept adding more chairs in the assembly area. Good thing, too, as every seat was filled, standing room only.



The venue at Bismarck State College was perfect, and perfectly wonderful. When Larry Skogen, College President (& host of the Chat), was asked if he’d ever thought the Energy Center would be converted into a Dance Floor, a Jungle, & a Museum all in one day, he marveled at all the activity.



Exhibitors Col (ret) Al Schuldt (Japanese items) & Greg Heinz (American & 164 items) outdid themselves for a 1 day event. Most full time museums would be jealous of the professional display, and the quality & number of photos, uniforms, weapons, flags, & memorabilia. THIS WAS BIG!



Left, large 164 posters lined the stairwell as “164 Family” Mary Drain & Dennis Clarys greet visitors to the event.

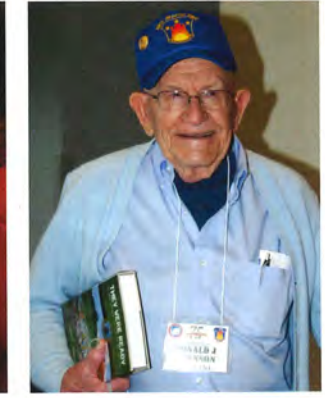
Pictured with the jeep are helpers Robert Olgeirson (Editor’s brother). And Mike Knudson who, with wife Ann, worked registration, sold books, took pics, etc.

Maj Gen Dohrmann personally delivered the 164 WWII jeep from Fraine Barracks early that morning. The jeep has been cared for by each Adjutant General since the 1990’s (or so).

Did we mention 'This would be BIG'?



Left, Sgt Mat (ret) Joe Castagneto is escorted by Command Sgt Major Alan Grinsteiner. Below, The Amazing, Excellent 188th Army Band The Book is still a bestseller as Tom Wilder (son of Jerry, Co E WWII) and Don Evenson, Co M (Korea) can tell you. David Hapip stands next to his dad Walter's Co E uniform as part of Greg Heinz's display. Ervin J Barta, shows his sister his Company K (Korea) photo. Exhibitor Greg is in the background. Exhibitor Al Schuldt holds Japanese flag. Ben J Rosalez, Co C (WWII) joined the 164th on Cebu. And the Patriot Guard is never very far away. There's Norm! COL (ret) Richard Stevens tells a story. Robert Amstrup & sister display their dad Robert's bracelet from Guadalcanal. Robert's wife Cathy points to the senior Amstrup in the Co D WWII photo



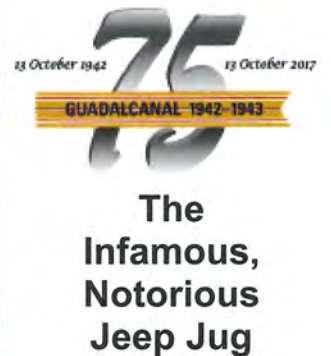
This was BIG. Je Suis Pret!



The Patriot Guard, as always, was at the airport to greet each veteran who flew in for the event. Here, it's Col (ret) Richard Stevens' turn. Top right, Dennis Ferk and traveling companion Gilbert Martinez stopped at the World War Memorial Building, which was Company A's armory before and after WWII. Dennis is standing just a foot or two away from his location in the 1941 departure photo he's holding.



Above, the 3 daughters of Ray Conlon, Co C, work take their shifts: Pat & Barb at the reception table & Mary at the book sale/reference/research table in the back. "164 Family" from around the state was encouraged to register to get stick-on nametags so they could identify and talk to each other. There's a LOT of family out there and it was fun to meet them. Most of the Association Members worked at the tables during the day and their efforts were much appreciated by the planning committee of three. At right, the 164th Infantry Association officers, reunion committee, and event organizers: Col (ret) Vern Fetch, President; Lt Col (ret) Shirley J. Olgeirson, Editor; CW4 (ret) Bennett J. Kemp, Sec/Treas.



The infamous, notorious Jeep Jug was brought to the event by Ira Keeney's daughter, Gail Trullinger, 2nd from left. The pre-war trophy was carried through the South Pacific by the boys of Company I. L-R: Curt Trullinger (nephew Arnold Kline), Gail, Mary Helland (daughter of Dick Wolf, Korea); Tom Helland (nephew Arnold Kline).

188th ARMY BAND NORTH DAKOTA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

75th Anniversary of the
164th Infantry Landing at Guadalcanal

13 October 1942

13 October 2017

75
GUADALCANAL 1942-1943

Saturday, October 14th, 2017
National Energy Center of Excellence
Bismarck State College



A Great Band! Now. And Then.

Ralph "Pooky" Oehlke and CW2 James Landman, commander of the 188th Army Band, hold a WWII photo of the 164th Infantry Band mailed from California by Charles "Hooky" Bell, who wasn't able to attend the event. Hooky & Pooky are both in the WWII photo. Note the Band guidon sports the Guadalcanal streamer.

Below, the band program for the 75th Anniversary event.

188th Army Band Concert Band

CW2 James Landman, Conductor

The Silver Quill	Sammy Nestico/Dale Harpham
The Star Spangled Banner	Francis Scott Key, <i>arr.</i> John Stafford Smith
Salute to the Sultan	Carl Lawrence
Rushmore	Alfred Reed
Bright Lights	Robert Sheldon
The Red Covered Bridge	Robert Sheldon
Armed Forces Medley	<i>arr.</i> Lewis J. Buckley
Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy	Don Raye/Hughie Prince
SFC Kate Naujokas, SSG Lynne Krug, SSG Kacie Beach <i>Vocalists</i>	
The Flickertail	James D. Ployhar
Isa Lei	Traditional
CW2 James Landman, SSG Tim Knabe, SGT Steve Fraase, SGT Paul Barta <i>Vocalists</i>	

188th Army Band Jazz Band

SGT Josh Peterson, Director

Selected from the following:

The American Patrol	<i>arr.</i> Art Dedrick
In The Mood	Joe Garland
Jersey Bounce	<i>arr.</i> Bob Lowden
Jumpin' at the Woodside	<i>arr.</i> Sammy Nestico
Mack the Knife	<i>arr.</i> Bob Lowden
A String of Pearls	Jerry Gray
Woodchopper's Ball	<i>arr.</i> Glenn Osser
Switch in Time	Sammy Nestico
Tuxedo Junction	<i>arr.</i> John Edmondson
I'll Be Seeing You	<i>arr.</i> Bob Curnow
SSG Lynne Krug <i>Vocalist</i>	
They Can't Take That Away From Me	<i>arr.</i> Dave Wolpe
SSG Kacie Beach <i>Vocalist</i>	

188th Army Band Personnel

CW2 James Landman, Commander and Bandmaster
1SG Jeffrey Pflingsten, Senior Enlisted Bandmember

Flute	Euphonium
SGT Rachel Dahlen	SGT Michael Koshney
<i>Eden Prairie, MN</i>	<i>Fargo, ND</i>
SGT Kade Edwards Pahl	SGT Kevin Krug*
<i>Jamestown, ND</i>	<i>Walcott, ND</i>
SGT Mandy Smallbeck	SPC Samantha Lewis
<i>Grafton, ND</i>	<i>Manvel, ND</i>
Clarinet	SPC Benjamin Helfrich*
SFC Jennifer Schwind	<i>Berthold, ND</i>
<i>Fargo, ND</i>	Trumpet
SSG Toni Deberg	1SG Jeffrey Pflingsten*
<i>Fargo, ND</i>	<i>Fargo, ND</i>
SGT Josh Peterson*	SSG Timothy Knabe*
<i>Gilbert, MN</i>	<i>Grand Forks, ND</i>
SPC Cherie Frenzel	SPC Andrew Bergan*
<i>Mandan, ND</i>	<i>Aberdeen, SD</i>
SPC Taryn Stoen	SPC Samuel Kroll*
<i>Fargo, ND</i>	<i>Bismarck, ND</i>
Saxophone	Tuba
SFC DeAnn Fyllum*	SSG Terence Benton*
<i>Bismarck, ND</i>	<i>Fargo, ND</i>
SSG Lynne Krug*	SGT Nathan Johnson
<i>Walcott, ND</i>	<i>Valley City, ND</i>
SGT Paul Barta*	Percussion
<i>Grand Forks, ND</i>	SSG Justen Reed
SPC Sadie Cochrane*	<i>Fargo, ND</i>
<i>Grand Forks, ND</i>	SSG Aaron Bedford*
Horn	<i>Alexandria, MN</i>
SFC Kate Naujokas	SSG Kacie Beach*
<i>Fargo, ND</i>	<i>Plymouth, MN</i>
SGT Steven Fraase	SGT Troy Johnson
<i>Enderlin, ND</i>	<i>Hazen, ND</i>
SPC Amanda Zakeri	SGT Leah Entzel*
<i>Harwood, ND</i>	<i>Park River, ND</i>
Trombone	SPC David Hathaway*
SFC Brian Tucker*	<i>Mandan, ND</i>
<i>Barrett, MN</i>	SPC Anthony Spooner
SSG Brent Rider*	<i>Bismarck, ND</i>
<i>Fargo, ND</i>	

* Denotes Soldier is performing in both the Concert and Jazz Bands.

THE NORTH DAKOTA WWII VICTORY CELEBRATION PROGRAM WAS HOSTED BY THE 164TH INFANTRY ASSOCIATION 15 OCTOBER 2015 IN THE WORLD WAR MEMORIAL BUILDING, BISMARCK, WHERE COMPANY A DRILLED BEFORE AND AFTER THE WAR!

News Dispatches
From Europe and the Far East are subject to censorship at the source.

THE BISMARCK TRIBUNE
North Dakota's Oldest Newspaper
ESTABLISHED 1878
BISMARCK, N. D., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1941
PRICE FIVE CENTS

The Weather:
Snow, warmer ton
low tonight 5 at
coldest Wednesday

Bismarck Guardsmen Leave Tonight for Year in Arm



DIDJA KNOW? THE LAST BIG ND WWII CELEBRATION WAS HOSTED BY THE ND NATIONAL GUARD & THE 164TH INFANTRY ASSOCIATION 1 AUGUST 1992 AT CAMP GRAFTON FOR THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 164TH GUADALCANAL LANDING.

THERE WERE OVER 3500 NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIERS & AIRMEN ON PARADE, REVIEW BY THE GOVERNOR & 164TH INFANTRY SPECIAL STAFF, FLYOVERS BY F-16 FIGHTERS AND UH-1 & OH-58 HELICOPTERS, A 19-GUN SALUTE TO GOVERNOR GEORGE SINNER, SPEECHES (OF COURSE), REFRESHMENTS, & EXHIBITS.

ALL WWII VETERANS WERE INVITED.



AT RIGHT, 1992: BLUE FOR 164 INFANTRY, RED FOR NDARNG WWII FIELD ARTILLERY UNITS & OTHER ND WWII VETERANS

ND WWII VICTORY CELEBRATION

70th Anniversary of War's End

**Program
& USO-style
Victory
Dance**



★ **OCTOBER 10, 2015** ★

World War Memorial Building, Bismarck
2 p.m. Program ~ Dance Follows til 5 pm

Featuring the Exceptional 188th Army National Guard Jazz Band

Free Event ~ Open to the Public

(WWII veterans: RSVP/register for special seating)

WWII Veterans:

to RSVP for the Victory Celebration Program & USO Dance

AND register for the 2015 ND WWII Victory Roll Call*

(*the roster of living WWII veterans in ND on the 70th Anniversary of WWII)

please contact us by mail, email, or phone.

ND WWII Victory Celebration

Box 1111, Bismarck, ND 58502

Victory Hotline 701-xxx-xxxx (Leave message for callback)

Email: ndwwiivictorycelebration@outlook.com

Website: ndwwiivictoryceleb.wix.com/victory



ND WWII VICTORY CELEBRATION

PO BOX 1111, BISMARCK, ND 58502-1111

Email: ndwwiivictorycelebration@outlook.com

Website: www.ndwwiivictoryceleb.wix.com/victory

PRE-EVENT
NEWS RELEASE

6 September 2015

For Immediate Release: [Sent to all ND editors & broadcasters courtesy of the ND Newspaper Association]

A Quest: Finding WWII Veterans in North Dakota

Over seven decades ago, young North Dakotans left farms, schools, and the comfort of home to defend freedom in multiple locations around the globe. They saved the world, then came home to rebuild their lives.

Many of them have now lost the battle with time and we mourn each loss, but right now there is a quest to locate all WWII veterans still living in North Dakota for the Victory Roll Call, an historic roster or census to mark the 70th Anniversary of the end of the war.

This is not an easy task. The North Dakota 'Red Book' is a register of those who entered service from 1941-1945, but there is no listing of those who are still living in the state, or those who moved into or out of ND in the last 70 years.

According to Jerome Tweton's research on the NDStudies.org website, 58,509 men and 1,570 women from North Dakota served during the worldwide conflict. The Veterans Administration estimates that, as of September 2015, there are approximately 1,860 veterans over the age of 85 in the state.

The Census Office at the North Dakota Department of Commerce has used this estimate as well as county level demographics to estimate the number of WWII veterans that may be residing in each county. This number will be helpful as county newspapers, historical societies, veterans service organizations, and families take up the challenge to inform and assist the WWII veterans register for the Victory Roll Call.

The Roll Call will include those who served in the Army, Army Air Force, Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard, as well as those in the Merchant Marines and Cadet Nurse Corps. Special section will include those who entered service from North Dakota and are now living elsewhere, and citizens with significant Homefront duties such as "Rosies", or supervisors of bond sales, recycling centers, or civil defense. Written stories are welcome and will be added to the archives at the State Historical Society.

Governor Dalrymple declared "North Dakota WWII Victory Celebration" period to begin V-J Day, September 2, 2015, to commemorate the official end of WWII, and continue through November 11 in honor of Veterans Day. In addition the goal of creating the Victory Roll Call, all those who served in World War II are invited to a Victory Program and USO style dance will be held at the World War Memorial Building in Bismarck on October 10th. That event is free and open to the public.

More Information at Website: www.ndwwiivictoryceleb.wix.com/victory

Mail: ND WWII Victory Celebration, PO Box 1111, Bismarck, ND 58502-1111

Phone: Victory Hotline 701-xxx-xxxx and leave contact information for a return phone call.

30

For More Information: Lt. Col. (ret) Shirley J. Olgeirson, Email: ndwwiivictorycelebration@outlook.com

Attached: WWII Veteran Estimated Population by County

~~~~~  
70th Anniversary of Victory in World War II ~

"A Single Generation of Men Determined the Fate of all Mankind..."

# Victory roster aims to preserve names of North Dakota World War II veterans

By [bjaco](#) 10 September 2015

Photos by Eric Hylden/Grand Forks Herald



WWII veterans Jerry Joyce, left, and Jim Corbit are assisted by Jill Holwerda, left, and Erica Claus-Numsali filling out questionnaires during a workshop Wednesday at the Grand Forks Historical Society. The veterans were registering for the ND Victory Roll Call, a historic roster of WWII veterans living in ND during the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII.

Raymond Spicer enlisted in World War II at the Grand Forks Post Office in 1942.

On Wednesday (9 Sep 2015), Grand Forks area World War II vets registered for the North Dakota Victory Roll Call at a workshop at the Grand Forks County Historical Society.

The Victory Roll Call is an effort to create a roster of WWII veterans who live in North Dakota as the number of veterans still living dwindles. The roster is being created to mark the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II.

About 60,000 men & women from North Dakota served in the military during World War II.

Shirley J. Olgeirson, organizer for the roll call, said there are an estimated 200 World War II veterans left in Grand Forks and 2,000 in North Dakota. "We hope to get all of the World War II veterans in North Dakota to be registered."

Written stories and journals are also encouraged to be donated. Olgeirson said the roster and any documents donated will be placed in the state archives in Bismarck.

Wayne Rowe will donate a journal he kept as a signal radar operator in the European theater, and Reginald Urness already donated one of his uniform shirts.

The veterans joked with each other while taking a group photo during the workshop, playfully arguing whether captains or generals should get to sit for the photo.

The men were happy to tell their stories.

Urness, 88, served in Germany as part of the occupation troops. He returned to Germany 20 years after World War II ended to where he was stationed, and an army major gave him a tour of his old barracks and the church he attended on base. "It was very emotional to go back there, but I'm so glad I did," Urness said.

Even across the Atlantic Ocean, Urness had a connection to his hometown, Leeds, N.D. When he arrived in Europe, he had to register his name in a book. A U.S. combat soldier, Louie Stuberg, who was also from Leeds, saw Urness' name and tracked him down when they both returned to North Dakota. The two became lifelong friends. In fact, Stuberg's grandson works on Urness' farm.

Wayne Rowe, 93, served as a radar technician, starting with the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium. He helped modify the radar on U.S. weapons to better track "buzz bombs." Rowe, originally from Cavalier, went to Belgium, France & Germany as a radar technician, and stayed on as an occupation soldier.

While Urness and Rowe served in the European theater, Gerry Joyce, 91, served stateside. "Most people don't realize that both coasts (of the U.S.) were heavily guarded," Joyce said. He was sent around the U.S. to help protect naval bases, such as Fort Lauderdale and Port Everglades in Florida. While serving, Joyce said he was exposed to unfamiliar customs in the U.S., such as "Southern slang" and segregation in the south. "I was fortunate that I didn't go overseas, but I sure got an education," he said.

Meanwhile, Jim Corbit, 90, served in the navy in the South Pacific. His ship was mostly in the Guadalcanal, and it was his job to keep a ship home to 860 soldiers clean. Corbit said he had a top bunk, which was good so he wasn't squished by people in beds above him, but it also meant he had to wipe off asbestos on his bed every night that had fallen from overhead pipes.

The Victory Roll Call of North Dakota veterans and their stories is part of a bigger celebration for the end of World War II. A victory celebration program and USO-style dance will be held Oct. 10 in Bismarck. For more information, visit [ndwwivictoryceleb.wix.com/victory](http://ndwwivictoryceleb.wix.com/victory).



Reg Urness, with his wife, Roselynn, recounts his memories of WWII during a workshop Wednesday at the Grand Forks County Historical Society.



**“A single generation of men  
determined the fate  
of all mankind....”**

*---Unknown*

164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Association  
of the United States of America  
ND WWII Victory Celebration Committee  
PO Box 1111  
Bismarck, ND 58502-1111

**NEWS RELEASE SENT TO ALL  
ND MEDIA COURTESY OF ND  
NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

### **The 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Association to host Victory Program and Dance for all World War II veterans**

North Dakota's famed 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment is hosting the North Dakota World War II Victory Program and USO-style dance to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of the war. The October 10<sup>th</sup> event in Bismarck is being held in conjunction with the 70<sup>th</sup> Annual reunion of the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Association.

All who served in World War II, including Merchant Marines, Cadet Nurses, & “Rosies” are invited to attend, and are asked to RSVP to receive special seating and identification. That's as easy as phoning the Victory Hotline, 701-333-xxxx and leaving call back information.

The event will be held in the World War Memorial Building, 215 6<sup>th</sup> St, Bismarck, which was the National Guard Armory and home to Company A of the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry in 1941 when the unit was mobilized.

The 188<sup>th</sup> Army National Guard Band, Fargo, will perform for the program and dance. The lineage of the band is directly connected to the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Band that mobilized from Lisbon for WWII and was later relocated to Fargo.

The Program will start at 2 pm on Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>. The Victory Dance will be held from 3-5 pm.

The entire event is free and open to the public. “It's an opportunity to meet and thank the champions living among us,” said Victory Celebration organizer Shirley Olgeirson, Bismarck. “They did this one little thing 70 years ago -- they saved the world!”

Governor Dalrymple proclaimed the time period between September 2 (V-J Day) and Veterans Day to be a time to celebrate and honor North Dakota's heroes of World War II. In addition to the Victory Celebration and Dance, all WWII veterans are invited to register for the Victory Roll Call to receive a letter of appreciation from the governor.

Only about 100 of the estimated 1,800 WWII veterans in the state have signed up for the Victory Roll Call. About 60 of those intend to come to the Program and Dance. Their ages range from 88 to 102.

Continued.....

The 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry (continued)

The bond of war is strong among those who served in the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment. “A seventieth reunion rivals that of the more famous national reunions of Doolittle’s Raiders and the Band of Brothers groups that held their final reunions about a year ago”, said Vern Fetch, current president of the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Association that hosts the annual reunion.

The entire state was affected by the mobilization of the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry. The regiment had about 1700 men located in 17 communities throughout North Dakota. Those locations were Fargo, Devils Lake, Harvey, Lisbon, Bottineau, Bismarck, Cavalier, Grafton, Rugby, Cando, Williston, Carrington, Valley City, Jamestown, Edgeley, Dickinson, and Wahpeton.

In October, 1942, the regiment made history as the first US Army unit to offensively engage the enemy, in either theater, when they reinforced the Marines at Guadalcanal. The newly issued M1 Garand rifles outshined the bolt action Springfield 1903 used by the Maines as waves of Japanese assaulted the perimeter of strategic airfield on the island. The Regiment earned the Navy Presidential Unit Citation for that Battle.

At least four veterans of the battle of Guadalcanal are expected to attend. Louis J. Hanson from Jamestown, now Bismarck, served in Company E. Doug Burtell, Bowman, was assigned to the regiment’s intelligence and reconnaissance platoon. Gerald “Sandy” Sanderson, Rugby, was a medic in the Bottineau unit. Col (ret) Richard Stevens, Louisville, KY, was one of twelve troops transferred from the Kansas National Guard to fill vacancies in Company M, 164<sup>th</sup>, just before the regiment boarded the USS Coolidge in San Francisco for the trip overseas.

The 164<sup>th</sup> then participated in campaigns Bougainville in 1944, and Leyte, Cebu, Bohol, Mindanao in 1945, earning 4 bronze ‘battle’ stars on the Asiatic Pacific Campaign ribbon and serving over 600 days in contact with the enemy. The Regiment was slated to spearhead the invasion of Japan as part of Operation Olympic when the war ended.

An estimated 2000 replacements from every state in the nation transferred in an out of the Regiment during the 3 years of battle. Many of them came to reunions over the years, but there are more who were unaware of the existence of the continuing activities of the 164<sup>th</sup>. Last year, Casper Inzerillo, New Hyde Park, NY, saw a notice in the VFW magazine. Just a few days ago, Sandi Lowe who works at Disneyland struck up a conversation with Nick Pisciotta, Perris, CA, because he was wearing a WWII patch. Both were surprised to find that he was a member of her dad’s old unit, the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry.

The first reunion was held in Fargo by a few guys from Company B who got together shortly after returning from the South Pacific in late 1945. Current members are proud that their 70<sup>th</sup> Annual reunion will celebrate everyone’s victory.

Victory Hotline: 701-333-xxxx

Email: [ndwwiivictorycelebration@outlook.com](mailto:ndwwiivictorycelebration@outlook.com)

Website: [ndwwiivictoryceleb.wix.com/victory](http://ndwwiivictoryceleb.wix.com/victory)

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Contacts:

Shirley J. Olgeirson, Cell 701-xxx-xxxx, [ndwwiivictory@ndwwiivictory.com](mailto:ndwwiivictory@ndwwiivictory.com)  
Vern Fetch, President 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Association, 701-xxx-xxxx  
Ben Kemp, 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Reunion Coordinator, 701-xxx-xxxx

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NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



## “Everyone is Invited!”

# 164th Infantry extends invitation to Victory Celebration

by BRETT WILLIAMSON, *Bismarck Tribune* 9 Oct 2015



Louis J. Hanson, 96, Bismarck, a veteran of WWII's Battle of Guadalcanal, will attend the 164th Infantry Association's USO-style Victory Program and Dance.

Louis J. Hanson, 96, of Bismarck, shared the field of battle with many heroes during World War II's Battle of Guadalcanal. He served as an infantryman in the 164th's E Company during the legendary conflict.

On Saturday, he will attend the 164th Infantry Association's USO-style Victory Program and Dance for all WWII veterans. This event is in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the end of the war and the 70th reunion of the 164th.

"When we landed on Guadalcanal of Oct. 13 of '42, I really thought the world was coming to an end," Hanson said. "We got baptized: They bombed us from the air and shelled us from the sea. The shelling from the sea was really hard on a person. You would see a flash, like a red ball of fire, the shells would land and make a hole 12 feet deep."

During the engagement, Marines moved the battlefield to prepare for the Japanese counter-attack and left E company to cover the flank. The Japanese bypassed the Marines' front and attacked the exposed E company.

"The Japanese were landing three to our one on the island," Hanson said. "We were in that battle for about four days. Afterward, they took the mountains, and we had to go clear them out of there."

Hanson and the 164th fought for the island alongside the Marines until April 1, 1943. The battle of Guadalcanal was the first major offensive against Japan. "We were all like brothers," Hanson said. "When we would lose one, it was like losing a brother."

The Victory Program & Dance will start at 2 p.m. at the World War Memorial Building, 215 6th St., with WWII veterans leading the celebration with the Pledge of Allegiance and "God Bless America."

"We will introduce each registered veteran by name, so it's important for them to call in to tell us they are coming," said Shirley J. Olgeirson, event organizer. "They will receive a button that identifies them as veterans, a flag, a coin from the Patriot Guard, and a photo station will be available to take family photos. The Salvation Army is doing what they've done since WWI--they will be serving doughnuts. It's like the old-style USO dance."

The 188th Army National Guard Band, Fargo, will provide the music. The band will perform from 3 to 5 p.m. with vocalists.

"These [WWII] men and women were 17, 18, 19 years old 70 years ago when they were called to serve their country," Olgeirson said. "If they had not gone and done what they needed to do at that time, we would all be living entirely different lives. They essentially saved the world and created the world we live in. Our celebration theme is 'one generation of men determined the fate of all mankind.' We owe these people for the lives we lead today."

About 100 of the estimated 1,800 WWII veterans in the state have signed up for the Victory [Celebration and Dance].

The entire event is free and open to the public. All who served in WWII, including Merchant Marines, Cadet Nurses and "Rosies," are invited to attend and are asked to RSVP to receive special seating and identification. To RSVP, call the Victory Hotline at 701-xxx-xxxx.

[https://bismarcktribune.com/news/local/th-infantry-extends-invitation-to-victory-celebration/article\\_d7947f88-239d-5c25-b48c-c798252c80fc.html](https://bismarcktribune.com/news/local/th-infantry-extends-invitation-to-victory-celebration/article_d7947f88-239d-5c25-b48c-c798252c80fc.html)

# Special Invitations: Why not? Gloria DeHaven & Tony Bennett



**NORTH DAKOTA  
WWII VICTORY CELEBRATION**  
PO BOX 1111  
BISMARCK, ND 58502-1111  
Email: [NDWWIIVictoryCelebration@outlook.com](mailto:NDWWIIVictoryCelebration@outlook.com)  
Website: [ndwwwivictorycelebration.wix.com/victory](http://ndwwwivictorycelebration.wix.com/victory)

Ms. Gloria M. DeHaven  
9232 Sunnyfield  
Las Vegas, ND 89134

Ms. DeHaven:

I would like to invite you to a 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the end of WWII. The host organization is the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry, and as you can see in the attached story, you have had a 71 year connection to the unit. Your birthday is celebrated each year in Connecticut and North Dakota, in honor of a WWII artist who idolized your image.

The estimated 2000 WWII veterans in North Dakota are being invited to a World War II Victory Celebration Program and USO-style Dance at 2 pm, 10 October 2015, at the World War Memorial Building, Bismarck. We hope 50-200 WWII veterans will be able to attend. The event is free and open to the public.

After a short program, the North Dakota Army National Guard Jazz Band will perform for the USO-style dance. As in days past, the Salvation Army will serve donuts and coffee, and the Red Cross is taking charge of the registration table.

With just over 700,000 people, North Dakota is like one big "home town". The event will not be fancy, but we hope to make it a special day for each WWII veteran who is able to attend.

Thank you for the support and encouragement you offered to WWII service members through USO shows, patriotic movies, and (of course) pin-up photos.

Shirley J. Olseirson, Lt. Col. (ret)  
ND WWII Victory Celebration Committee  
[ndwwwivictorycelebration@outlook.com](mailto:ndwwwivictorycelebration@outlook.com)  
Cell phone 701-220-4088

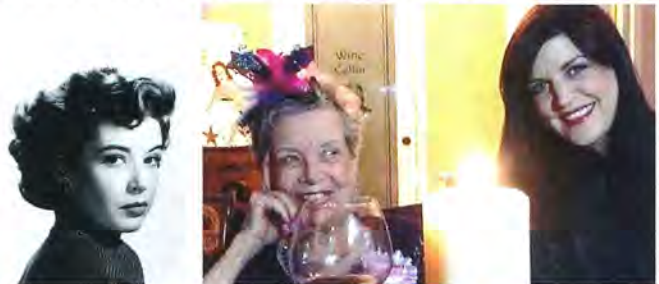
70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Victory in World War II

"A Single Generation of Men Determined the Fate of all Mankind..."



**Tony Bennett** appears, by far, to be the most active WWII veteran in the entertainment business. So, on a whim, I (Editor, 164 Infantry News) decided to extend an invitation to the North Dakota WWII Victory Celebration. I got as far as talking to the Administrative Assistant to Mr. Bennett's manager, who said she would make sure he received the invitation. I was hoping for a response, but none was received. His schedule indicated that he was performing in Arizona the night before our event, making it difficult to attend. But wouldn't that have been something? Our ND Army National Guard jazz band would've been able to support him!  
Cpl Anthony Dominick Benedetto served as an infantryman in the European Theater in 1945. Years later, Bob Hope recognized his singing talent, took him on tour, and gave him the stage name Tony Bennett.

**Gloria DeHaven**, WWII pinup girl & actress. Having just seen "Two Girls & a Sailor", 164 Infantry Soldiers wrote to request a photo while they were at Bougainville. The studio sent signed photos, which sparked an annual celebration of her birthday by 164 soldier Emil Blomstran. Emil's wife still hosts a birthday celebration in Connecticut, and Editor, 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry News, hosts one in North Dakota. Gloria didn't respond to the invitation, but her granddaughter found the post on the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry News Facebook and sent this photo of herself with Grandma Gloria on Gloria's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday July 23, 2015. She passed 30Jul16



**NORTH DAKOTA  
WWII VICTORY CELEBRATION**  
PO BOX 1111  
BISMARCK, ND 58502-1111  
Email: [NDWWIIVictoryCelebration@outlook.com](mailto:NDWWIIVictoryCelebration@outlook.com)  
Website: [ndwwwivictorycelebration.wix.com/victory](http://ndwwwivictorycelebration.wix.com/victory)

Cpl Anthony D. Benedetto  
420 West 14<sup>th</sup> St, Ste 6NW  
New York, NY 10014

Mr. Bennett:

I would like to invite you to a 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the end of WWII.

The estimated 2000 WWII veterans in North Dakota are being invited to a World War II Victory Celebration Program and USO-style Dance at 2 pm, 10 October 2015, at the World War Memorial Building in Bismarck, ND. We hope 50-250 will be able to attend. The event is free and open to the public.

After a short program, the North Dakota Army National Guard Jazz Band will perform for the USO-style dance. As in days past, the Salvation Army will serve donuts and coffee, and the Red Cross is taking charge of the registration table.

Why? After seeing your art book on a coffee table at a friend's house, I set out to find a CD of your songs. My first find was "Playing With My Friends", and I was hooked. I then read your bio and discovered that you are likely the most active famous WWII veteran in the United States. At the very least, you should know that your service during that time of great turmoil is appreciated.

I asked the USO if they would sponsor your travel to our event; they responded that they support events for those currently serving, not for those who have served.

With just over 700,000 people, North Dakota is like one big "home town". The event will not be fancy, but we hope to make it a special day for each WWII veteran who is able to attend. You would be most welcome to join us. (I can't dance, don't ask me!)

Thank you for your part in saving the world.

Shirley J. Olseirson, Lieutenant Colonel, USA Retired  
ND WWII Victory Celebration Committee  
[ndwwwivictorycelebration@outlook.com](mailto:ndwwwivictorycelebration@outlook.com)  
Cell phone 701-220-4088

70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Victory in World War II

"A Single Generation of Men Determined the Fate of all Mankind..."

# WWII Victory: West Fargo veteran recalls serving with 164th Infantry

By [Helmut Schmidt](#), The Fargo Forum, on Oct 6, 2015



Melvin Bork looks at a photo of himself from when he was serving in the Army's 164th Infantry while his wife of 50 years, Dorothy, looks on. Photo Carrie Snyder

WEST FARGO -- Melvin Bork was part of the 164th Infantry Regiment from "the beginning to the end" as it fought in World War II.

He joined the 164th in 1938, while he was a junior in high school. "They were begging for people to join" the North Dakota National Guard, Bork said. The regiment had 1,700 men pulled from 17 North Dakota communities.

Some of those men will be celebrating their 70th annual reunion Oct. 10 in Bismarck in conjunction with a North Dakota World War II Victory Program marking 70 years since the war ended.

The 164th was federalized in February 1941. The guardsmen were supposed to get a year of training in Louisiana, but that got cut short after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7.

Bork wasn't a line soldier, but that didn't matter much during the Battle of Guadalcanal, where in October 1942 the 164th became the first Army unit to go on the offensive in WWII, reinforcing the Marines as they wrested the strategic island from the Japanese.

As a member of the headquarters detachment for the 3rd Battalion, Bork started many of his days getting food, water and ammunition to front-line troops, sometimes making several trips a day. At times, he would take a spot on the line to give another soldier a break. Sniper fire was always a danger.

His unit was at Henderson Field. "The Japanese built that. They were trying to save it," said Bork. "That was a big battle for us."

Bork talks of the South Pacific heat and getting malaria, but otherwise holds his memories close.

"The things I remember, I hate to talk about," Bork said, sitting in the living room of his apartment at Sheyenne Crossings in West Fargo with Dorothy, his wife of 50 years.

Bork did tell Minnesota State University Moorhead professor and historian Terry Shoptaugh, now retired, of an incident that occurred while he escorted Lt. Col. Robert Hall on one of his "personal reconnaissance walks. In Shoptaugh's book "They Were Ready: The 164th Infantry in the Pacific War, 1942-1945," Bork said Hall came upon a Japanese sniper who had been flushed from his hiding place and wounded. When the sniper reached for his knife, Hall shot the man dead and told Bork, "Search him for papers and catch up with me."

Bork said the fighting was less intense when the 164th fought in the Bougainville campaign. "It was more quiet. The Japanese wanted to fight there, too, but they didn't last long."

The 164th fought several other actions to secure islands in the drive toward the Japanese homeland. It was to be part of the invasion of Japan when the war ended.

All veterans, including merchant mariners, cadet nurses, and defense industry and homefront security are invited to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the end of the war. The 164th also received about 2,000 replacements from throughout the U.S. during the war. They are also welcome to attend.

The celebration and 164th reunion are being held at the World War Memorial Building in Bismarck, 215 6th St. The program starts at 2 p.m., with a USO-style dance from 3 to 5 p.m. All who served in the war are asked to RSVP to receive special seating and identification. To do so, telephone the Victory Hotline at (701) 333-xxxx. The event is also free and open to the public, said organizer Shirley Olgeirson. "It's an opportunity to meet and thank the champions living among us."

Bork is a bit wistful about this reunion. He relies on a wheelchair now and doesn't plan to go. It's been two years since he last went to a reunion of the 164th. Now, all of his old Army buddies are gone,

But he doesn't regret joining the fight. "I was glad to be part of it. A rough life, but glad to be part of it," Bork said.

Editor's Note: Melvin has passed; Dorothy still lives in West Fargo.



# Governor's ND WWII Victory Celebration Proclamation



— State of —  
**North Dakota**  
*Office of the Governor*

Jack Dalrymple  
*Governor*

PROCLAMATION  
**NORTH DAKOTA 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD WAR II VICTORY CELEBRATION**  
SEPTEMBER 2-NOVEMBER 11, 2015  
**NORTH DAKOTA 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD WAR II VICTORY**  
**RECOGNITION DAY**  
OCTOBER 10, 2015

WHEREAS, the year 2015 marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II (WWII); and

WHEREAS, 16 million men and women served in the U.S. military during WWII; and

WHEREAS, 58,709 men and 1,570 women from North Dakota served in the U.S. military, with 1,939 of those men and women making the ultimate sacrifice, and hundreds more being wounded in combat; and


WHEREAS, North Dakotans remained united on the homefront, leading the nation in war bond sales, food production and recycling for the war effort; and

WHEREAS, the North Dakota WWII Victory Celebration period will begin on September 2, 2015, to commemorate the official end of WWII, and will continue through November 11, 2015, in honor of Veterans Day; and

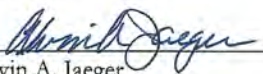
WHEREAS, all WWII veterans are invited to a Victory Celebration Program at the World War Memorial Building in Bismarck on October 10, 2015, in conjunction with the 70<sup>th</sup> annual reunion of North Dakota's 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment; and

WHEREAS, North Dakotans are encouraged to identify the estimated 2,000 living heroes of WWII for the 2015 North Dakota WWII Victory Census, and recognize their service at local events and through newspaper and media coverage from September 2-November 11, 2015.

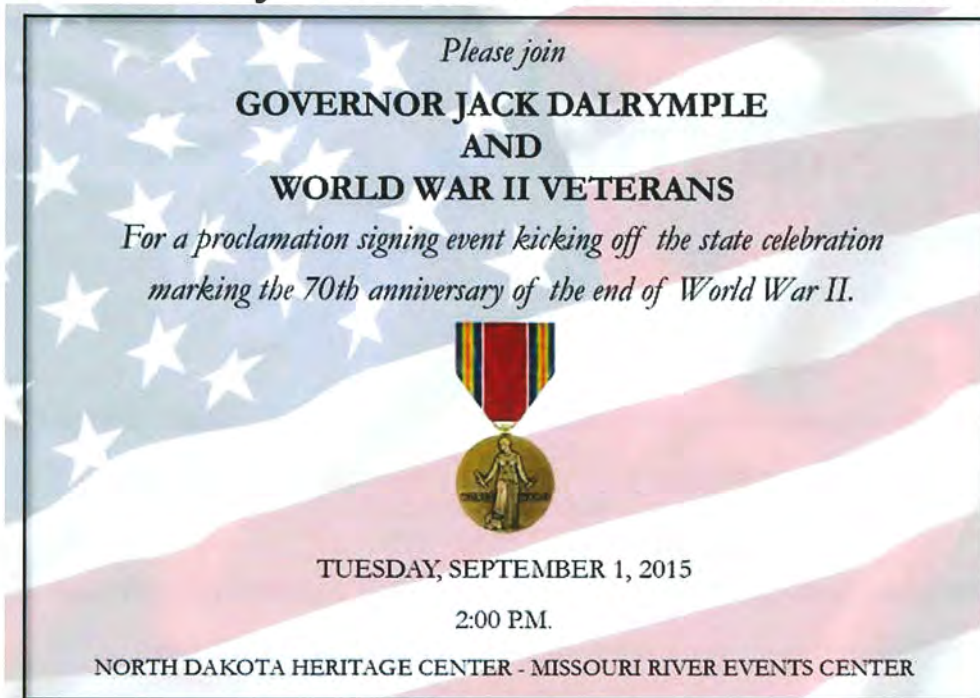
**NOW, THEREFORE**, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim September 2-November 11, 2015, **NORTH DAKOTA 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD WAR II VICTORY CELEBRATION**, and October 10, 2015, **NORTH DAKOTA 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD WAR II VICTORY RECOGNITION DAY** in the state of North Dakota.

  
Jack Dalrymple  
Governor

ATTEST:

  
Alvin A. Jaeger  
Secretary of State

# ND WWII Victory Celebration Proclamation Signing



## ND WWII Victory Celebration Proclamation Signing, September 1, 2015

Above L-R: Maj Gen David Sprynczynatyk; Lilian Wilson (British Army Air Force), Bismarck; Dr. Herbert Wilson, Army Air Force, Bismarck; Gloria Fuhrer, US Navy, Bismarck; First Lady Betsy and Governor Jack Dalrymple; Secretary of State Al Jaeger; Don Wunderlich, US Navy, Voltaire, ND; Louis J. Hanson, US Army, Jamestown now Bismarck; Lloyd Boldt, US Navy, Bismarck; Vern Lykken, US Army Air Force, Grafton now Bismarck; Eddie Kramer, US Navy; seated Leo Voll, 102 years old, US Army, Bismarck; seated Alick Dvirnak, US Army, Killdeer now Bismarck. Also present were Jeanne Danielson Wulf, Cadet Nurse Corps, Cole Harbor now Bismarck; Lorena Terry Nelson, US Coast Guard, Bismarck; Claribel Misslin, US Army Nurse, Garrison now Bismarck; Harold Edwards, US Navy, Garrison, ND; Norman Graf, US Army, Bismarck; Harold Bach, US Army Air Force, Bismarck. Photo by Poppy Mills

# ND WWII Victory Celebration Proclamation Signing



Above: Secretary of State Alvin Jaeger signs the ND WWII Victory Celebration proclamation.

Top: Col (ret) Vern Fetch, President of the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Association is the Master of Ceremonies. Dr. Herbert Wilson, WWII Army Air Corps, chats with Gov. Dalrymple

2<sup>nd</sup> row: Vern Lykken talked about his time in the Army Air Corps. His diary is posted at [facebook.com/vern.lykken](https://www.facebook.com/vern.lykken). Ed Kramer and his daughter take a look at a poster honoring the famous Sullivan Brothers. A number of female veterans attended.

3<sup>rd</sup> row: 102 year old Leo Voll gets interviewed by the local TV station. The Patriot Guard was there to escort the WWII veterans and give out their special 70 year coin. Then-Adjutant General David A. Sprynczynatyk thanked WWII veterans as well as those who served on the homefront.



— State of —  
**North Dakota**

*Office of the Governor*

**Jack Dalrymple**  
*Governor*

**N** EWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 1, 2015

Contact: Jody Link, 701.328.xxxx  
or Shirley J. Olgeirson, 701.220.xxxx

**DALRYMPLE KICKS OFF STATE'S 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
OBSERVANCE OF THE END OF WORLD WAR II**  
**Governor Signs Proclamation Declaring Victory Celebration to Honor  
North Dakota's WWII Veterans**

BISMARCK, N.D. – Gov. Jack Dalrymple, along with North Dakota's World War II (WWII) veterans, kicked off today the state's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary observance of the end of WWII by signing a proclamation declaring a victory celebration to honor North Dakota's heroes who served in the war. The proclamation was signed during a ceremony at the North Dakota Heritage Center in Bismarck.

The program included remarks from Dalrymple; Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, North Dakota Adjutant General; Vern Fetch, president of the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Association; and WWII veterans who shared their personal experiences from the war. Additional WWII veterans in attendance were also recognized for their service.

"North Dakota has a long, rich legacy of patriotism and military service, and the Second World War was no exception," said Dalrymple. "More than 60,000 North Dakota men and women served in the U.S. military during World War II, contributing to the historic victory of the Allied Forces. They helped our nation march to victory, defeating tyranny, preserving freedom and changing the course of history."

Dalrymple's proclamation declares the "North Dakota WWII Victory Celebration" period to begin Sept. 2, to commemorate the official end of WWII, and continue through Nov. 11, in honor of Veterans Day. During that period, activities and events have been planned to honor and thank the state's WWII veterans for their service and sacrifice.

The goal for North Dakota's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary observance is to locate and thank all living WWII veterans in the state. This historic roster will include all WWII veterans from the Army, Army Air Corps, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard, as well as those who served in the Merchant Marines, Nurse Cadet Corps and anyone who participated in home front activities such as "Rosies" or those who supervised bond sales, recycling centers or civil defense.

-MORE-

In addition, a WWII Victory Celebration program and USO-style dance will be held Oct. 10 beginning at 2 p.m. at the World War Memorial Building in Bismarck to honor North Dakota's WWII veterans. The public is welcome to attend.

Beginning Sept. 2 and continuing through Veterans Day, individuals, organizations and communities across the state are encouraged to recognize their local WWII veterans through various activities, including interviews in their hometown media, victory celebrations and recognition opportunities.

For more information about the North Dakota WWII Victory Celebration, visit the website:

[www.ndwwiivictoryceleb.wix.com/victory](http://www.ndwwiivictoryceleb.wix.com/victory)

To register for the historic roster and RSVP for the Victory Program & Dance, please contact:

Email: [NDWWIIVictoryCelebration@outlook.com](mailto:NDWWIIVictoryCelebration@outlook.com)

Mail: ND WWII Victory Celebration, PO Box 1111, Bismarck, ND 58502-1111

Phone: Victory Hotline 701-333-xxxx and leave contact information for a return phone call.

# Governor kicks off ND World War II Victory Celebration

September 01, 2015 4:45 pm • By Karee Magee, The Bismarck Tribune



"I don't regret what I've done, but, going through it again, I doubt I'd be in favor of it." -- Harold Bach, 95-year-old Army veteran, Regent

Gov. Jack Dalrymple kicked off the state's 70th anniversary observance of the end of World War II Tuesday by declaring a victory celebration to honor North Dakota's heroes.

The victory celebration will begin today, as Sept. 2 is the official end of World War II, to Nov. 11, Veteran's Day, and include events and activities, according to Dalrymple.

"We owe a debt of gratitude to all that served in World War II," Dalrymple said. "They risked their lives at every turn, but North Dakota heroes fought valiantly beside our allies, ordinary people performing extraordinary tasks."

About 60,000 men and women in North Dakota served during World War II, and 164th Infantry Regiment of the North Dakota National Guard were the first to offensively engage the enemy at Guadalcanal.

"The stakes were high," Dalrymple said. "Young men and women fighting in countries they'd only read about in textbooks. Yet, they went carrying the fate of humanity on their shoulders. That's who we're honoring today."

The two-month anniversary celebration will include a Victory Celebration on Oct. 10 at the World War Memorial Building.

There will be an introduction of all veterans present, entertainment by a group of sisters singing 1940s-era songs like those of the Andrews Sisters and a USO-style dance with a jazz band.

The public will be able to visit and take photos with the veterans after the ceremony. The [WWII Victory Committee] will be putting together a roster of World War II veterans living in the state for the North Dakota Heritage Center's archives.

Veterans are encouraged to register, and they will receive a letter of appreciation from Dalrymple.

Harold Bach, a 95-year-old army veteran from Regent, said these events show that Americans still support their veterans.

"It almost puts a chill down your back," he said. "It shows that they appreciate what we've done for them." Bach, a runner in the senior olympics, served in World War II for more than four years and traveled from North Africa to Sicily and into Italy. He said he's glad people are appreciative of what he's done because he wouldn't want to do it again.

"I don't regret what I've done, but, going through it again, I doubt I'd be in favor of it," he said.

He does have some fond memories of that time, including finding his brother digging foxholes in Africa.

"It's almost unbelievable," Bach said. "I was already getting homesick at that time. We just couldn't get over the fact that neither of us knew the other was in Africa."

Bach and his brother were able to meet once more during their time overseas in Rome.

The anniversary celebration events will include the 164th Infantry Association's 70th annual reunion from October 9-11 & Veteran's Day events on November 11.

The World War II Victory Celebration will begin at 2 p.m. October 10 and the USO Dance will be from 3 to 5 p.m.

For more information about the celebration's events, contact [NDWWIIVictoryCelebration@outlook.com](mailto:NDWWIIVictoryCelebration@outlook.com).



"We were ready to keep the world safe for democracy" -- Herbert Wilson, retired physician, Bismarck, flew 31 missions as a bombardier & gunner on a B-24 Liberator and married an English bride who was serving in the British air corps.



# 70<sup>th</sup> Annual "WWII Victory" Reunion



164<sup>th</sup> Infantry WWII veterans and their family members pose for a photo after the reunion banquet. **Standing:** Dennis Ferk, Co A; Louis J. Hanson, Co E; Ralph Oehlke, AT; Doug Burtell's granddaughter, Doug Burtell, Reg't Hqs Intell & Recon; Col (ret) Richard Stevens, Co M; Jim Morrison, H2; Reginald Urness, ETO WWII, Hqs 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, Korea; Orville Erickson, ATO WWII, Co B Korea; Sgt Maj (Ret) Joe Castagneto, Co A. **Sitting:** Denise Ferk (Dennis's daughter), Glenn & Diane Herner (Louis's daughter); John Oehlke (Ralph's son); Betty Miller (Doug Burtell), Mildred Morrison (Jim's Wife) & son Larry Morrison; Roselynn Urness (Reginald's wife); Mary Lou Drain (Bill Tucker's daughter, Co M).

## 164<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL REUNION "VICTORY REUNION"

9-10-11 October 2015

Baymont Inn & Suites, Mandan, ND

(Formerly the Seven Seas Motel, Mandan, ND)  
Phone /01-663-7401 or 800-337-4303

www.baymontinns.com

Block of Rooms Reserved \$104+tax ~ Mention 164 Infantry Reunion

Basic Schedule (subject to minor changes):

#### Friday, 9 October 2015

1300-1900 Registration & Historical Displays  
1800 Supper (Potato Bar)  
1900-2100 "Who's Here?" Introductions of Members & Guests

#### Saturday, 10 October 2015

0700-0930 Complimentary Hot Breakfast for hotel guests. \$6 for others.  
0800-0930 Late Registration  
0930-1130 Business meeting (write to President Vern if you have an opinion and cannot be present for the meeting)  
—Continuation of Annual Reunion or Smaller Annual Gathering;  
—Continuation of the News (based on existing funds);  
—Continuation of Annual Raffle to support the News;  
—Election of Officers (Pres, Vice Pres, Sec, Treas)  
1200-1245 Buffet Lunch (turkey with trimmings)  
1300 I travel to "WWII Victory Celebration" in Bismarck\*  
1400 Program at World War Memorial Building – Open to the Public  
1500-1700 USU-Style Dance – Open to the Public  
\*Transportation provided from motel to World War Memorial Building & return  
Shuttle buses leave every half hour for hotel. Last buses depart 1700.  
1800 Memorial Service (Baymont Inn)  
1900 Banquet (stuffed pork loin, baked potato, vegetable, salad, dessert)

#### Sunday, 11 October 2015 Breakfast Buffet /Departure

0700-1000 Complimentary Hot Breakfast for hotel guests. \$6 for others.

Questions: Reunion Coordinator Ben Kemp PO Box 1111, Bismarck, ND  
bkemp@bis.midco.net 701-400-6136



## 164<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL REUNION 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF WWII VICTORY "VICTORY REUNION" 9-10-11 OCTOBER 2015



**VETERANS, BRING YOUR FAMILY!  
FAMILIES, BRING YOUR VETERAN!**

Registration fee \$20. Look for Packet in mid-July  
\$20 banquet only. This is 'at cost'. Please sign up in advance for meal count.  
Registration fee pays for Friday supper, Saturday Lunch & Banquet, Coffee. At cost.  
Complimentary Hot Breakfast for hotel guests only. \$8 for others (get ticket from Ben).  
Gas station next door; Walmart within 1/4 mile

Raffle tickets 3/10 for three \$154 prizes

This is a great way to support the 164<sup>th</sup> Association and *The 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry News*  
Look for the ticket book with the registration packet. Drawing at the Reunion Banquet.  
Need not be present to win (but we hope you are).

Airlines serving Bismarck

Delta 800-221-1212 United 800-241-5522 American 800-433-7300 (New!)  
Frontier 800-432-1359 Allegiant /02-505-8888

Transportation: If you're arriving by air, let us know -- /01-400-6136

Baymont Inn Shuttle: /01-663-7401 (free) Taxi 9000: /01-223-8000 (taxi fare)

**THE NORTH DAKOTA WWII VICTORY CELEBRATION  
PROGRAM WILL BE HELD IN THE WORLD WAR  
MEMORIAL BUILDING, WHERE COMPANY A DRILLED  
BEFORE AND AFTER THE WAR!**



# WWII heroes reunite for Victory Celebration

October 10, 2015 4:14 pm by BRETT WILLIAMSON Bismarck Tribune

Bismarck's World War Memorial Building filled the downtown streets with music as the 188th Army National Guard Band provided the score for the 164th Infantry Association's victory celebration and dance.



Short dance video at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=qQxukJyGfKo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qQxukJyGfKo)  
Courtesy of the Bismarck Tribune.

Harold Edwards, 88, retired Navy, and his wife, Marjorie, primed the dance floor by cutting a rug to Glen Miller's "In the Mood." The couple's moves had the spectators wooting and clapping along as the two proved that soul trumps ages.

"We have been together for 64 years," Marjorie said, "We've been dancing together since high school. Back then, we danced for our entertainment."

This year the 164th extended the invitation to all WWII veterans. More than 120 WWII veterans came from across the country to attend the celebration.

Dennis Ferk, of Santa Fe, N.M., served in

the 164th A company. Ferk remembers when the World War Memorial Building was the home of the 164th. "We use to train right here in this building before we went to New Caledonia," Ferk said. "The Marines were losing so many men in the battle, so the Navy asked if the regiment would reinforce the Marines, which we did." The 164th Infantry Regiment was the first U.S. Army unit on Guadalcanal.

"We lost a lot of men and so did the Marines," Ferk said. "The Japanese never broke through and we drove them off the island."

During the battle of Guadalcanal, Ferk earned his Purple Heart when an explosion took the vision from his left eye. Ferk returned to the United States to finish his enlistment by doing weapon demonstrations for the public.

"We demonstrated all the weapons that a platoon would use," Ferk said. "People had to buy war bonds to see the demonstration."

Each of the WWII veterans [was] recognized one by one with a victory roll call. Each veteran stood to their feet when called. The men would render a salute, while others would wave to the spectators, [or raise the flag each was given when they arrived]. Some of the veterans disregarded their walkers or wheelchairs to stand for what could be their final order.

Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, D-N.D., and Rep. Kevin Cramer, R-N.D., attended the event and paid tribute to the heroes of WWII. "We will not let the country forget your sacrifice," Heitkamp said. "If we let this



TSgt Dennis Ferk stands on the drill floor of the World War Memorial Building where he trained with Company A, 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry, before the unit mobilized in 1941.

country forget your sacrifice, we are

## Bismarck Guardsmen Leave Tonight for Year in Army



jeopardizing our future freedom. I will continue to tell the stories. Every person who serves in office will continue to tell the stories of your sacrifice and honor your sacrifice by making sure that the next generation stands ready to fight for the freedom that you fought for."

The dance was held in classic USO Style. Doughnuts and hot dogs were served as couples took to the dance floor and old friends were reunited to tell the tales of [their adventures during] the war.

# WWII Victory Program

## North Dakota World War II Victory Celebration

Program & Dance – 10 October 2015

On the occasion of the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the End of World War II – 1945-2015

Master of Ceremonies --Brig Gen Alan Dohrmann  
Deputy Adjutant General, ND National Guard

National Anthem – 188th Army Band

Pledge of Allegiance – Robert “Bob” Bain  
US Army WWII, Bismarck

Opening Prayer – Chaplain (Lt. Col.) David Johnson  
State Chaplain, ND National Guard

164<sup>th</sup> Infantry 70<sup>th</sup> Reunion – Col (ret) Vern Fetch  
President, 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Association

“Salute to the Sultan” – 188th Army Band  
164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regimental March

Brief Timeline of WWII – Wayne Paulson  
Department Commander, ND Veterans of Foreign Wars

Comments –Ron Rauschenberger  
Chief of Staff, Governor Jack Dalrymple

“Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy” – The Beseler Sisters  
Mandan, ND

Comments – Honorable Heidi Heitkamp  
United States Senator from North Dakota

“God Bless America” – Stanley Wright  
US Army WWII, Stanley, ND  
Accompanied by daughter, Cheri Wright Lovas

Comments Congressman Kevin Cramer  
United States Representative from North Dakota

Letter from Senator John Hoeven – Read by MC

Glenn Miller’s “In the Mood” – 188<sup>th</sup> Jazz Band  
Demonstration Dancers:  
Harold Edwards, US Navy WWII  
& wife Marjorie, Garrison, ND  
Delvin Owen, US Navy WWII, Park River, ND  
& daughter Karen Tescher, Bismarck, ND

Recognition of WWII Veterans in Attendance  
– Douglas Friez, Victory Roll Call

Service Songs – 188th Army Band  
Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard

70th Anniversary Commemorative Photo

Closing Comments –Lt. Col. (ret) Shirley J. Olgeirson  
ND WWII Victory Celebration

“Stars & Stripes Forever” – 188th Army Band

*Victory Dance Follows until 5 pm*



Harold & Marjorie  
Edwards, Garrison



Delvin Owen, Park  
River & daughter  
Karen Tescher



The Beseler Sisters, Mandan, ND  
Alice Delzer, Janice Santanen,

Photos by Spc Brandi Schmidt &  
Sgt (ret) Ann G. Knudson



Stanley Wright  
from Stanley, ND



BG Dohrmann



Bob Bain



Chaplain Johnson



Vern Fetch



Wayne Paulson



**North Dakota**  
**World War II**  
**★ Victory Roll Call ★**

An historic roster/census of WWII veterans living in ND on the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of World War II.

The goal: To locate & thank the estimated 1800 WWII veterans in North Dakota as well as ND WWII veterans now living elsewhere. Each veteran receives a letter of appreciation from Governor Dalrymple. The roster will be placed in the State Historical Society Archives to document this milestone in history.

Registration continues for the 2015 ND WWII Victory Roll Call

**ND WWII Victory Roll Call**

Box 1111, Bismarck, ND 58502  
 701-333-2064 (Leave message for callback)  
 Email: [ndwwiivictorycelebration@outlook.com](mailto:ndwwiivictorycelebration@outlook.com)  
 Website: [ndwwiivictoryceleb.wix.com/victory](http://ndwwiivictoryceleb.wix.com/victory)

**North Dakota**  
**World War II**  
**Victory Celebration**

**70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
**Victory in World War II**

**“A SINGLE**  
**GENERATION OF**  
**MEN DETERMINED**  
**THE FATE OF**  
**ALL MANKIND...”**

—UNKNOWN



R. Rauschenberger



US Sen. Heitkamp



US Rep. Cramer



Doug Friesz



Shirley J Olgeirson

# ND WWII VICTORY CELEBRATION



The 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Association hosted World War II Veterans from all

# ATION -15 OCTOBER 2015



Photo by Layn Mudder

across North Dakota at the World War Memorial Building, Bismarck.

November 2015 <http://www.ndliving.com/content/wwii-victory-celebration>

As thoughts and thanks are directed to military veterans this Nov. 11, special activities have already been conducted this year, in special tribute to the fading, but not forgotten, veterans of World War II.

A genuine World War II service atmosphere returned to the World War Memorial Building in Bismarck.

On a glorious October Saturday, the 164th Infantry Association hosted a

victory celebration in recognition of the 70th anniversary of the successful end of World War II. Nearly 120 World War II veterans – accompanied by family and friends – attended, several in dress uniforms they were issued during World War II service. The 188th Army National Guard Band provided vintage wartime dance music, and World War II USO canteen-style service of donuts, coffee and hotdogs was provided.

North Dakota U.S. Sen. Heidi Heitkamp and U.S. Rep. Kevin Cramer attended the event. “We will not let the country forget your sacrifice,” Heitkamp said. Gov. Jack Dalrymple, who was represented at the event, previously issued a Gubernatorial Proclamation designating Sept. 2 to Nov. 11, 2015, as the “North Dakota 70th Anniversary of World War II Victory Celebration.”

Nearly 59,000 North Dakota men and women served in the U.S. military during World War II; 1,939 died in World War II military service, hundreds more were wounded in combat.



## **THE 164<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY ASSOCIATION EXTENDS A BIG “THANK YOU” TO ALL THE PEOPLE & ORGANIZATIONS WHO HELPED HONOR OUR ND WWII HEROES.**

Governor Dalrymple & staff ~ The Patriot Guard

North Dakota National Guard, including the exceptional 188<sup>th</sup> Army Band  
National Guard Retirees, spouses, & NG Federal Retirees who did EVERYTHING behind the scenes  
(double checked Victory Roll Call rosters & mailings, prepared nametags, decorated, greeted.....)

The Retirees of the 116<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment – Victory Hotline & data sheets

All speakers, dignitaries, & entertainers who were part of the Victory Celebration Program

Team Red, White, & Blue ~ Citizen Volunteers ~ Family & Friends

Bismarck City Commission: Total support

Bismarck Parks & Recreation ~ World War Memorial Building & Staff

Police Department: Street Closing & Traffic Control ~ Parking Authority: No Cost Parking Ramp

Bismarck Traffic Engineer: Guidance, advice, and total support

VFW Post 1326 – Donation for flags for each WWII veteran

AMVETS Post 9 – Donation for ribbons & buttons ~ Dakota Awards for making them

Dan’s Supervalu – Discounted Donuts ~ Cashwise - Gift Certificate for Hotdogs, Condiments, Coffee

North Dakota Veteran Coordinating Council ~ ND Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs

ND Veterans Administration ~ County Veterans Service Officers

North Dakota Newspaper Association & All ND news media for coverage before, during, & after

The Bismarck Tribune for exceptional coverage ~ KFYP-TV ~ KX12 TV

Layn Mudder Photography – the Centerfold photograph ~ Garry Redmann Photography

Brett Miller Photography – all the official portrait photos ~ Jon Haugen Videography – youtube

Photos: Ann Knudson, Brandi Schmidt, Poppy Mills ~ Research: Verena Schauer

Greg Heinz – Displays ~ Al Schuldt ~ Salvation Army ~ American Red Cross

Arrowhead Cleaners – Cleaning The Big Grand US Flag ~ Specialized Cleaners - Food Kitchen

## GODWINKS\* AND OTHER DEVINE ASSISTANCE



**The Patriot Guard** was consulted before deciding to attempt the Victory Celebration, as it could not have been done without their support. From the first inkling of the idea, to folding the last chair when it was over, the Patriot Guard had our backs.

A Godwink? When asked to donate the donuts for the event, Dan's Supervalu offered a substantial discount, but the bill would still be almost \$500. Where's THAT gonna come from? That same day, Ride Captain Rob called & we went on a 'reconn' of the World War Memorial Building. He showed me the special coins the Patriot Guard had made for the WWII veterans and... without any knowledge of the donut dilemma ...handed me a check for \$500!! Donuts--done deal!

After the Bismarck City Commission approved the closing of the street and the no-cost use of the Parking Ramp, the Patriot Guard coordinated the details with the Bismarck PD, the city engineer, and the parking authority to acquire the safety gear and take control of the street during the event. They greeted the 164<sup>th</sup> soldiers who flew into the Bismarck airport and provided motorcycle escort for the vans coming from the reunion location to the World War Memorial. They directed traffic, helped with parking, presented coins to the WWII veterans as they arrived, and provided escorts.

The Patriot Guard is absolutely AWESOME!

\*Godwink; an event often identified as coincidence, so ashtonishing that is seen as a sign of divine intervention.

**The Glorious Gigantic US Flag** is so big that it once broke the flagpole at **Camp Grafton**. An updraft during folding once lifted the corner soldier off the ground. It's Big! Even though it had been stored in its specially constructed triangular carrying case, it had been affected by mold and humidity and needed some TLC. **Jerry Woodcox at Arrowhead Cleaners** was consulted about this 'mission impossible', and he chose to accept it. When I picked up the flag, the guy who brought it out to the car seemed proud that he had been one of 4 employees who worked for hours to clean it by hand. I didn't ask, but it's probably too big for the machines. **Cost? Jerry said, "Absolutely nothing!"**

Then, after seeing the size of the flag and knowing that we wanted to prominently display it on the wall, the manager at the WW Memorial Building must've said 60 times, "I don't know how we're going to get it up there." Neither did we. But with some thoughts from Mike Knudson and a big save by Terry Mauch (both Guard spouses), it was done! You can see a time lapse of the setup on the Victory Video for free on youtube or buy a DVD (page 103). The Flag is 20'x40'; each stripe 19"; each star 12.5".

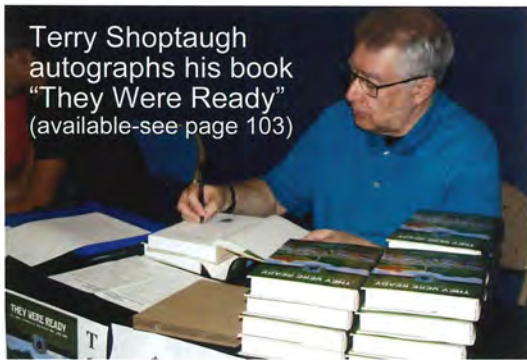


**Victory Hotline:** If you called the Victory Hotline to register for the Victory Roll Call, chances are you talked to one of these folks, all retirees of the Guard's 116<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment, informally 'mobilized' for the event.

**Guard Retirees:** The Victory Gals were 'mobilized', too, and helped with everything from double checking rosters, assembling nametags, decorating, mailing, etc. THANK YOU!

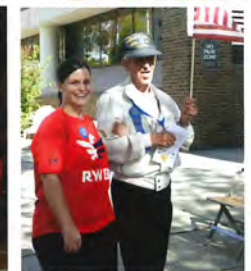


# THE NORTH DAKOTA WWII VICTORY CELEBRATION



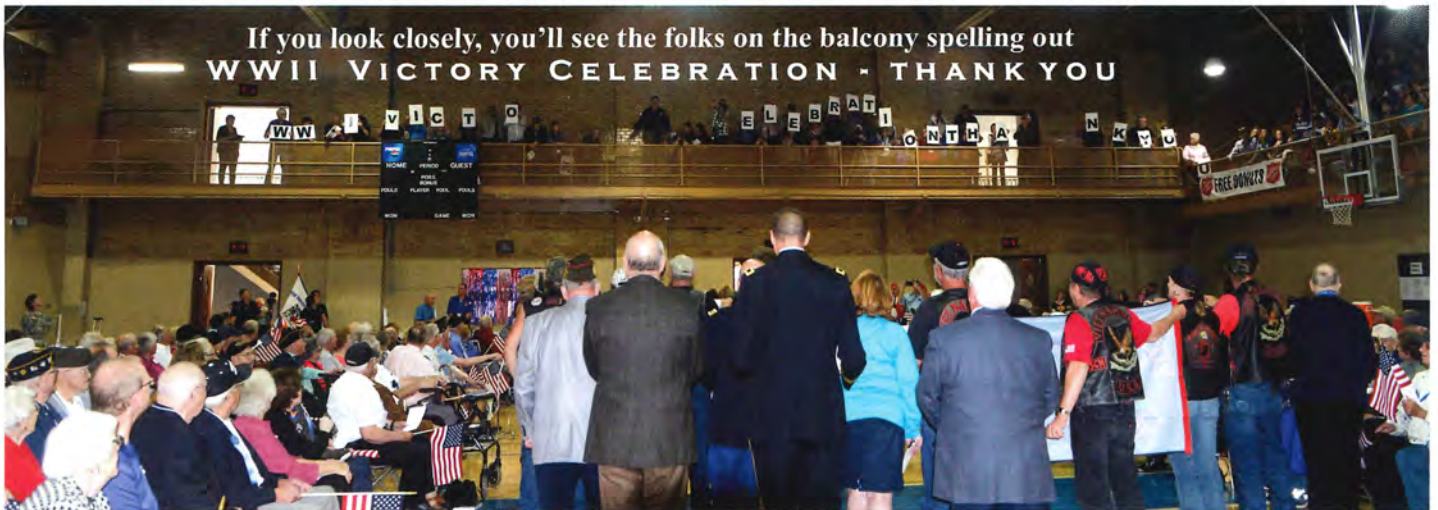
Terry Shoptaugh autographs his book "They Were Ready" (available-see page 103)

Top: The registration table with Red Cross; some of the Victory Gals (the National Guard retirees who helped with EVERYTHING); and Team Red, White, & Blue. Above: A veteran gets a Victory Ribbon & nametag from Connie Peterson; Victory Gal Decorators Donna Martel, Bev Eng, Carolyn Eli, & Sandi Ranum; citizen volunteers Jeannie Metzger & Linda Olgeirson hand out programs; Vicky Friez stands by to make last minute entries to the Victory Roll Call. Below: Jon Haugen videotaped the entire event & produced a video available on DVD (pg 103). Brett Miller took and edited all the portrait photographs. Greg Heinz set up WWII uniform displays. The Marines showed up in camouflage. Bottom: Gail & Jim Sperry interviewed day-of registrants. Patriot Guard and Team RWB members greet and escort WWII veterans and their guests.



**SPECIAL ORDERS: THE WWII VETERANS AND GUESTS SHOULD FEEL LIKE KINGS AND QUEENS FOR THE DAY. MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!**

# THE NORTH DAKOTA WWII VICTORY CELEBRATION



If you look closely, you'll see the folks on the balcony spelling out  
WWII VICTORY CELEBRATION - THANK YOU



Top: The folks up in the balcony were asked to flip their cards when asked to do so right before Layn Mudder snapped the centerfold photo (pg 52-53). The cards spelled out "WWII Victory Celebration – Thank You"

Left: Each WWII veteran present was introduced by name and service. Merchant Seaman Paul Shannon made the most out of the fact he was the only Coast Guardsman present.

Below, a WWII veteran and spouse get their gear at the registration table: A nametag, Victory button & ribbon, and a US Flag. Event organizer Shirley shares a laugh with John Lorenz, Dickinson, who brought his WWII Navy photo. There was a long line at the hot dog kitchen provided by Specialized Cleaning. Thanks to Phil Ehli for being head grillmaster. Bottom: the crowd stood as Stanley Wright sang "God Bless America". Harlan & Gladys Hanson from Milton, ND, enjoyed the big band music played by the 188<sup>th</sup> Band during the Victory Dance after the program.



## Let's do this WWII-Style!



Your **RED CROSS** is at his side

## AMERICAN RED CROSS

The Bismarck Chapter of the American Red Cross worked at the registration table and brought the display items above. Clara Barton founded the American Red Cross in 1881. With the outbreak of the **Great War**, the Red Cross staffed hospitals & ambulance



companies and recruited 20,000 registered nurses to serve the military; additional nurses combated the influenza epidemic. **During the Second World War**, the Red Cross enrolled more than 104,000 nurses for military service, prepared 27 million packages for American and Allied prisoners of war, and shipped over 300,000 tons of supplies overseas. At the military's request, the Red Cross also initiated a national blood program that collected 13.3 million pints of blood for use by the armed forces.



## SALVATION ARMY

### 2017 Celebrated 100 Years of the "Donut Lassies"

Pictured at right, the Bismarck Salvation Army Staff served donuts, in honor of the Donut Lassies who served the sweet treats to soldiers on the front lines during World War I.

The Salvation Army, established in London in

1865, has been supporting those in need without discrimination for more than 135 years in the U.S. More at [www.salvationarmyusa.org](http://www.salvationarmyusa.org)



## UNITED SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

There is no local USO. A request to USO national produced no result: They couldn't provide funding, food, nor entertainment; not even a banner for the dance. But a local Bismarck business, **Specialized Cleaning & Restoration**, came through by donating the use of their food trailer for USO-style free hotdogs after the **Victory Program**. Local volunteers operated the kitchen and it proved popular, judging from the long line.

About the USO: Just prior to America's involvement in World War II in 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt sought to unite several service associations into one organization to lift the morale of our military and nourish support on the home front.

Those entities – the Salvation Army, Young Men's Christian Association, Young Women's Christian Association, National Catholic Community Services, National Travelers Aid Association, & National Jewish Welfare Board – became the United Service Organizations or, the USO.



# Something Special: Ward County

The Ward County Veterans Service Office helped spread the word about the Victory Celebration, then requested the photos of the county attendees and created the marvelous poster pictured below. In addition, Eloise Ogden at the Minot Daily News provided excellent coverage that resulted in 43 registrants for the Victory Roll Call and great attendance at the event.



PHOTO TAKEN BY LAYN MUGGER

## Minot Daily News : War ended 70 years ago

Oct 6, 2015

BISMARCK Organizers of the North Dakota World War II Victory Celebration set for Saturday in Bismarck are hoping for a good-sized number of veterans from throughout the state to turn out for the event.

Shirley Olgeirson, an organizer of the Victory Celebration, said as of Monday, 135 World War II veterans had registered for the celebration. She said 19 veterans from Ward County have registered out of the 166 World War II veterans residing in this county.

There are an estimated 1,869 veterans of World War II in North Dakota, Olgeirson said. According to the NDStudies.org website, 58,509 men and 1,570 women from North Dakota served during World War II.

The Victory Celebration is being done in observance of the 70th anniversary of the war's end and is hosted by ND's 164th Infantry Regiment. It is also being done in conjunction with the 164th's 70th annual reunion.

The celebration includes a program at 2 p.m. followed by a Victory Dance until 5 p.m. The events are free and open to the public, and being held in the World War Memorial Building at 215-6th St. N., Bismarck. Complimentary parking is available in a ramp across the street from Sixth Street. Victory Celebration organizers encourage veterans to pre-register for the Victory Celebration for special seating, identification as well as for recognition at the event. All World War II veterans who have preregistered will be recognized. To register for the program and dance, call the Victory Hotline at 701-333-xxxx (leave a message for a return call), email [ndwwiiivictorycelebration@outlook.com](mailto:ndwwiiivictorycelebration@outlook.com) or write: ND WWII Victory Celebration, Box 1111, Bismarck, 58502.



**NORTH DAKOTA  
WWII VICTORY CELEBRATION  
PO BOX 1111  
BISMARCK, ND 58502-1111  
[NDWWIIVICTORYCELEBRATION@OUTLOOK.COM](mailto:NDWWIIVICTORYCELEBRATION@OUTLOOK.COM)**

EXAMPLE NEWS RELEASE THAT  
WENT OUT TO EACH COUNTY &  
CITY NEWSPAPER AFTER EVENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Griggs County Man Attends WWII Victory Celebration

Elmer Gronneberg, Cooperstown, attended the North Dakota WWII Victory Program & Dance in October in Bismarck. His wife, Gloris, two daughters and a niece accompanied him to the celebration. A crowd of over 650 attended the event, including 120 WWII veterans from across the state, who entertained the crowd with talent from within their own ranks. The 188<sup>th</sup> Army Band, Fargo, played patriotic concert band music as well as Glenn Miller's "In the Mood" as two WWII sailors in uniform and their partners demonstrated dance moves from the 1940's. A short YouTube video of the dance is available courtesy of the Bismarck Tribune at <http://youtu.be/qQxukJyGfKo>

Technician 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Elmer O. Gronneberg, 95, Cooperstown, served in First Army Anti-Aircraft units in the European Theater from 1942-1945. He fired 40 mm antiaircraft guns as well as M2 "Quad 50" .50 caliber machines mounted in sets of four.

Gronneberg is also enrolled in the Victory Roll Call, a roster of World War II veterans who are currently living in North Dakota on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of their Victory in WWII. Those who entered service from North Dakota and are now living elsewhere are also invited to register.

There are an estimated 1,869 WWII veterans in ND, according to Veterans Administration records. Further calculations by the ND Census Office provide an approximate number of WWII Veterans per county. Many have not yet registered for the Victory Roll Call.

Of the estimated 13 WWII Veterans in **Griggs County**, only Gronneberg has registered for the Victory Roll Call. There are an estimated 14 WWII veterans in **Steele County**, but none are registered. Are the VA and ND Census estimates that far off, or are there more WWII veterans out there?

**Trail County** is a bit better with 10% of the estimated 40 WWII veterans registered.

Sergeant Vernon P. Carlson, 90, Mayville, served as an Artillery Specialist in the US Army's 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in the Asiatic Pacific Theater from December 1944 – November 1946, during which time the Division participated in the invasion of Okinawa and Occupation duties in Korea and Japan.

Private First Class Rollan A. Knudson, 91, Portland, served in the US Army Air Force from November 1945-November 1946 as a small weapons instructor at the Air Corps Training Center, San Antonio, TX.

Private First Class Harris O. Woell, 92, Mayville, served in the US Army during the Occupation of Japan Pacific Theater, from January 1945-November 1946.

**~ Documenting the ND WWII Victory – Post Celebration Publicity ~**

Technician 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Walter A. Rindy, 98, Mayville, served as a mechanic in the US Army's 211<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company in the Philippines, New Guinea, Leyte, Luzon, and Japan from October 1942-October 1945. He stated he will never forget the day they were sailing home from Yokohama, Japan, and passed by the USS *Missouri*. He watched the Japanese Emperor's boat pull up to the *Missouri*, and saw the procession proceed to the top deck to sign the Peace Treaty with General MacArthur. He remembers the Allied Forces put every plane in the air and said the sky was black at times. Rindy will be 99 on January 24<sup>th</sup>.

The goal for North Dakota's 70th anniversary observance is to locate and thank all living WWII veterans in the state or who entered service from ND and now reside elsewhere. This historic roster will include all WWII veterans from the Army, Army Air Corps, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard, as well as those who served in the Merchant Marines, Nurse Cadet Corps, and anyone who participated in home front activities such as "Rosies" or those who supervised bond sales, recycling centers, or civil defense.

The Victory Roll Call roster will become an historic document on file at the ND Historical Society archives. Written stories or journals are welcome. All who register will receive a letter of appreciation from Governor Dalrymple.

"The weight of the world was literally on their shoulders," said organizer Shirley Olgeirson. "The 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their victory is a good time to say 'Thanks!'"

Registration will continue until the end of this year. WWII veterans or their family representative may download a simple questionnaire at the website [www.ndwwiivictoryceleb.wix.com/victory](http://www.ndwwiivictoryceleb.wix.com/victory); write to Victory Roll Call, PO Box 1111, Bismarck, ND 58502; email [ndwwiivictorycelebration@outlook.com](mailto:ndwwiivictorycelebration@outlook.com); or phone the Victory Hotline to leave call back information at 701-333-2064.

--30--

Contact: Shirley J. Olgeirson, [ndwwiivictorycelebration@outlook.com](mailto:ndwwiivictorycelebration@outlook.com),  
cell (not for publication) 701-xxx-xxxx

Attached Photos:



The ND WWII Victory Program & Dance was held in the World War Memorial Building, Bismarck, on October 10<sup>th</sup>. Photo by Layn Mudder

Elmer Gronneberg and wife Gloris.



Contacts:  
Elmer Gronneberg 701-786-7868 [elmer@midco.net](mailto:elmer@midco.net)  
Vernon Carlson 701-786-7868 [vernon@midco.net](mailto:vernon@midco.net)  
Rollan Knuds 701-786-7868 [rollan@midco.net](mailto:rollan@midco.net)  
Walter Rindy 701-786-7868 [walter@midco.net](mailto:walter@midco.net)  
Harris Woell 786-786-7868 (Home)

**EXAMPLE NEWS RELEASE THAT  
WENT OUT TO EACH COUNTY &  
CITY NEWSPAPER AFTER EVENT  
Tailored for each location**

# The Cavalier Chronicle

e 131 Number 15 Cavalier, North Dakota Wednes

**THANKS,  
ND NEWS!**

## North Dakota WWII Veterans Victory Celebration



Alfred Byron, Sr., Cavalier, and his family recently attended the North Dakota WWII Victory program and dance in Bismarck. Alfred can be seen sitting in a wheelchair, red shirt, in the front row, just right of the blue circle. Alfred is also enrolled in the Victory Roll Call, which is an attempt to locate and thank all

World War II veterans who are currently living in North Dakota on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of their victory in WWII. According to the ND Census office, there may be as many as 60 WWII veterans residing in Pembina County. Only 12 have registered so far.

a full for a t. Pembina Victory Ro. to help other.

**THE HERALD** Serving Slope Hettinger County  
**Mott men enrolled in ND WWII Victory Roll Call**  
 November 27, 2015

According to further calculations by the ND Census Office, there may be as many as 14 WWII veterans residing in Hettinger County. Only two have registered so far. Technician 4th Grade (Sergeant) Henry "Red" Watson, Mott, served in the US Army Infantry in the 88th Black Hawk Division which fought through Germany from March-June 1945. The Division was aboard ship in the Leyte Gulf awaiting the invasion of Japan when the war ended. Watson will be celebrating his 96th birthday on Dec. 12th. Sergeant Lynn Dill, Mott, served in the US Army Army of Occupation in Japan. Dill's 89th birthday

**The Forum**  
 of Fargo-Moorhead

**Daily News**  
 Wahpeton, ND and Breckenridge, Minn.

**DEVILS LAKE JOURNAL**

**The Jamestown Sun**  
 Veterans attend victory program, dance  
 By Sun Staff on Dec 15, 2015 at 7:36 a.m.

John Gross, Napoleon, Harold Krueger, Wishek, and Alex Steinwand, Ellendale, attended the North Dakota World War II Victory Program & Dance last month in Bismarck. More than 650 attended the event, including 120 World War II veterans from across the state, who entertained the crowd with talent from within their own ranks. The 188th Army Band, Fargo, played patriotic concert band music as well as Glenn Miller's "In the Mood" as two WWII sailors in uniform and their partners demonstrated dance moves from the 1940s.

**WALSH COUNTY PRESS**



**Minot Daily News**

**TIMES RECORD**

**Grand Forks Herald**



★ **North Dakota World War II** ★  
**Victory Roll Call**

An historic roster/census of WWII veterans living in ND on the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of WWII

To Register for the 2015 ND WWII Victory Roll Call, please contact us by mail, email, or phone.

**ND WWII Victory Celebration**

Box 1111, Bismarck, ND 58502

Victory Hotline 701-xxx-xxxx (Leave message for callback)

Email: [ndwiiivictorycelebration@outlook.com](mailto:ndwiiivictorycelebration@outlook.com)

Website: <http://ndwiiivictoryceleb.wix.com/victory>





U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

# America's Wars

**Office of Public Affairs**  
**Washington, DC 20420**  
**(202) 461-7600**

**American Revolution (1775-1783)**

|                           |         |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Total U.S. Servicemembers | 217,000 |
| Battle Deaths             | 4,435   |
| Non-mortal Woundings      | 6,188   |

**War of 1812 (1812-1815)**

|                           |         |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Total U.S. Servicemembers | 286,730 |
| Battle Deaths             | 2,260   |
| Non-mortal Woundings      | 4,505   |

**Indian Wars (approx. 1817-1898)**

|                                    |         |
|------------------------------------|---------|
| Total U.S. Servicemembers (VA est) | 106,000 |
| Battle Deaths (VA estimate)        | 1,000   |

**Mexican War (1846-1848)**

|                           |        |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Total U.S. Servicemembers | 78,718 |
| Battle Deaths             | 1,733  |
| Other Deaths (In Theater) | 11,550 |
| Non-mortal Woundings      | 4,152  |

**Civil War (1861-1865)**

|                                        |           |
|----------------------------------------|-----------|
| Total U.S. Servicemembers (Union)      | 2,213,363 |
| Battle Deaths (Union)                  | 140,414   |
| Other Deaths (In Theater) (Union)      | 224,097   |
| Non-mortal Woundings (Union)           | 281,881   |
| Total Service members (Conf.)          | 1,050,000 |
| Battle Deaths (Confederate)            | 74,524    |
| Other Deaths (In Theater)(Confederate) | 59,297    |
| Non-mortal Woundings (Confederate)     | Unknown   |

**Spanish-American War (1898-1902)**

|                                       |         |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide) | 306,760 |
| Battle Deaths                         | 385     |
| Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater) | 2,061   |
| Non-mortal Woundings                  | 1,662   |

**World War I (1917-1918)**

|                                       |           |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide) | 4,734,991 |
| Battle Deaths                         | 53,402    |
| Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater) | 63,114    |
| Non-mortal Woundings                  | 204,002   |

**World War II (1941-1945)**

|                                       |            |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide) | 16,112,566 |
| Battle Deaths                         | 291,557    |
| Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater) | 113,842    |
| Non-mortal Woundings                  | 670,846    |
| Living Veterans                       | 1,711,000  |

**Korean War (1950-1953)**

|                                       |           |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide) | 5,720,000 |
| Total Serving (In Theater)            | 1,789,000 |
| Battle Deaths                         | 33,739    |
| Other Deaths (In Theater)             | 2,835     |
| Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater) | 17,672    |
| Non-mortal Woundings                  | 103,284   |
| Living Veterans                       | 2,275,000 |

**Vietnam War (1964-1975)**

|                                       |           |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide) | 8,744,000 |
| Deployed to Southeast Asia            | 3,403,000 |
| Battle Deaths                         | 47,434    |
| Other Deaths (In Theater)             | 10,786    |
| Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater) | 32,000    |
| Non-mortal Woundings                  | 153,303   |
| Living Veterans                       | 7,391,000 |

**Desert Shield/Desert Storm (1990-91) Total U.S.**

|                                       |           |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Servicemembers (Worldwide)            | 2,322,000 |
| Deployed to Gulf                      | 694,550   |
| Battle Deaths                         | 148       |
| Other Deaths (In Theater)             | 235       |
| Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater) | 1,565     |
| Non-mortal Woundings                  | 467       |
| Living Veterans                       | 2,244,583 |

**America's Wars Total (1775 -1991)**

|                                          |            |
|------------------------------------------|------------|
| U.S. Military Service during Wartime     | 41,892,128 |
| Battle Deaths                            | 651,031    |
| Other Deaths (In Theater)                | 308,800    |
| Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)    | 230,254    |
| Non-mortal Woundings                     | 1,430,290  |
| Living War Veterans                      | 16,962,000 |
| Living Veterans (Periods of War & Peace) | 23,234,000 |

**Global War on Terror (Oct 2001 -)**

The Global War on Terror (GWOT), including Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), are ongoing conflicts. For the most current GWOT statistics  
<https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/dcas/pages/casualties.xhtml>

VA estimates the number of living World War II U.S. veterans:\*

|                 |                 |                 |                 |                |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 9/30/21 223,727 | 9/30/22 177,734 | 9/30/23 141,416 | 9/30/24 112,692 | 9/30/25 89,934 |
| 9/30/26 71,878  | 9/30/27 57,531  | 9/30/28 46,116  | 9/30/29 37,017  | 9/30/30 29,757 |
| 9/30/31 23,955  | 9/30/32 19,311  | 9/30/33 15,589  | 9/30/34 12,601  | 9/30/35 10,200 |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <h1 style="margin: 0;">WORLD WAR II VETERANS</h1> <h2 style="margin: 0;">IN NORTH DAKOTA</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">ESTIMATED POPULATION*</h3> <h4 style="margin: 0;">AS OF SEPTEMBER 2015</h4> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

| County                   | Est WWII Vets | County               | Est WWII Vets |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Adams County, ND         | 14            | McLean County, ND    | 36            |
| Barnes County, ND        | 46            | Mercer County, ND    | 14            |
| Benson County, ND        | 7             | Morton County, ND    | 75            |
| Billings County, ND      | 1             | Mountrail County, ND | 8             |
| Bottineau County, ND     | 21            | Nelson County, ND    | 28            |
| Bowman County, ND        | 18            | Oliver County, ND    | 6             |
| Burke County, ND         | 8             | Pembina County, ND   | 60            |
| Burleigh County, ND      | 201           | Pierce County, ND    | 30            |
| Cass County, ND          | 208           | Ramsey County, ND    | 57            |
| Cavalier County, ND      | 22            | Ransom County, ND    | 36            |
| Dickey County, ND        | 35            | Renville County, ND  | 12            |
| Divide County, ND        | 17            | Richland County, ND  | 41            |
| Dunn County, ND          | 10            | Rolette County, ND   | 8             |
| Eddy County, ND          | 12            | Sargent County, ND   | 14            |
| Emmons County, ND        | 30            | Sheridan County, ND  | 6             |
| Foster County, ND        | 18            | Sioux County, ND     | 1             |
| Golden Valley County, ND | 11            | Slope County, ND     | 1             |
| Grand Forks County, ND   | 129           | Stark County, ND     | 90            |
| Grant County, ND         | 13            | Steele County, ND    | 14            |
| Griggs County, ND        | 10            | Stutsman County, ND  | 53            |
| Hettinger County, ND     | 14            | Towner County, ND    | 9             |
| Kidder County, ND        | 4             | Traill County, ND    | 40            |
| LaMoure County, ND       | 20            | Walsh County, ND     | 50            |
| Logan County, ND         | 11            | Ward County, ND      | 166           |
| McHenry County, ND       | 20            | Wells County, ND     | 19            |
| McIntosh County, ND      | 23            | Williams County, ND  | 57            |
| McKenzie County, ND      | 13            | <b>ND</b>            | <b>1,869</b>  |

\*These numbers are based on Veterans Administration (VA) estimate of WWII veterans in ND over the age of 85 as of September 2015, then extrapolated from county-level demographics as calculated by the Census Office at the North Dakota Department of Commerce.

The numbers were an “estimate of an estimate” only, for planning purposes. You can see the enrollment numbers on the Victory Roll Call pages.



State of  
**North Dakota**  
*Office of the Governor*

Jack Dalrymple  
*Governor*

September 30, 2015

Loren Berwald  
712 16th Street NE  
Watford City, ND 58854

Dear Loren,

LETTER SENT BY GOVERNOR  
DALRYMPLE TO ALL WWII  
VETERANS WHO REGISTERED  
FOR THE VICTORY ROLL CALL.  
HE TOOK THE TIME TO  
PERSONALLY SIGN EACH LETTER

As Governor, it is my privilege to recognize you for your exemplary and courageous service to this state and nation during World War II. As our country marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the war's end, we pause to honor the heroes who so valiantly defended our homeland and changed the course of history – heroes like you.

The stakes were extremely high as our nation plunged into war, and millions of Americans left their families, their communities and their lives to stop the spread of tyranny and persecution. They proudly and honorably served this great country, carrying the fate of mankind on their shoulders.

In June 1944, before the D-day invasion at Normandy, General Dwight D. Eisenhower sent a message to the soldiers, sailors and airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force illustrating the gravity of what they were about to do. He wrote, "You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you."

More than 60,000 North Dakota men and women served in the U.S. military during World War II. Throughout all theaters and campaigns, North Dakota's heroes fought bravely alongside our Allies and took part in several of the war's most pivotal battles. As one of those patriots, you contributed to the historic victory of the Allied Forces, driven by your love of freedom and country, and guided by your North Dakota ideals and heritage.

Because of the gravity of the sacrifice and significance of the victory, we owe you and all of our World War II veterans a debt of gratitude for preserving the precious liberties of this great nation and for quite literally saving the world. In the words of British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, "Never was so much owed by so many to so few."

On behalf of the people of North Dakota, thank you for your outstanding service to our state and nation during World War II and for the integral role you played in helping to stop the spread of tyranny and preserve peace and freedom for us all.

Sincerely,

Jack Dalrymple  
Governor

# Victory Roll Call

## Roster of North Dakota's living veterans on the occasion of the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of World War II - 2015

**Names in Red** are veterans who attended the Victory Celebration in Bismarck on 15 October 2015. The great majority stopped for a photo that is included with their profiles.

**Most Names in Blue** are WWII veterans who did not attend the Celebration. Most registered for the Victory Roll Call, but a few were located after registration closed through newspaper or TV coverage, or other events.

### **Adams County: estimated 14 WWII veterans, 2 Registered**

**Private First Class Richard Ketterling** 89, Hettinger, served in the US Army from June 1944-December 1945, volunteering for training as an Army paratrooper, serving in the Philippines and Occupied Japan,

**Fire Controlman Jack Rafferty**, Hettinger, manned several different guns on the USS *Ross*, a Fletcher Class destroyer, that participated in the capture of Saipan and Peleliu before striking mines off Dinagat Island. The ship also survived a kamikaze crash and a typhoon.

### **Barnes County estimated 46 veterans, 4 enrolled.**

**Warren C. "Tony" Griffin**, 93, Valley City, served with Company G, 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment in the Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Leyte, and Southern Philippines campaigns, coming home in June 1945. He again mobilized with Co G for the Korean War, stayed on active duty, served in Vietnam, and retired as a Command Sergeant Major.

**Sergeant Vernon L. Huseby**, 95, Valley City, served in the 6<sup>th</sup> US Army Air Force from May 1942 – October 1945. He was assigned to the 6th Air Corps with administrative clerk duty in Panama.

**Private First Class James T. Nelson**, 90, Valley City, served in the US Marine Corps from March 1944 – July 1946. He was assigned to the 2d Marine Division, 8th Regiment, in the Pacific Theater as a Rifleman and Machine Gunner. He walked through Nagasaki one month after bomb with no future side effects.

**Sergeant Arnold E. Postovit**, 94, Tioga, served in the US Army from July 1940 – August 1945. He was assigned to the 7th Regiment, 3rd Division, in North Africa, Sicily, and Italy. He was a **Prisoner-of-War (POW)** from February 1944 to April 1945 in Stalag II 2B.

### **Benson County: 7 Estimated WWII veterans, 2 Registered**

**Corporal Sylvester S. Hoffner**, Esmond, served in the United States Marines from January 1942 – January 1948, in motor maintenance/transport at Hawaii.

**Private First Class Henry S. Pfeifer**, 94, Esmond, served in the Military Police from December 1942 to November 1945, patrolling the shores of Belgium and Germany.

### **Billings County: estimated 1 WWII veteran, 0 registered**

~~~~~  
70th Anniversary of World War II Victory 1945-2015

Bottineau County: Possible 21 WWII veterans, 8 registered

Seaman 2nd Class Adrien P. Belcourt, 89, Maxbass, served in the US Navy from 9 February 1944 – 21 February 1946 as a gunner on a 5” gun on the battleship *USS New Jersey* at Guam and Tokyo Bay after surrender. Served 13 straight months on the water.

Technician 5th Grade Edwin H. Klebe, 90, Willow City, served in the US Army from April 1945 - December 1946 with Company C, 3rd Combat Engineers, 24th Division, 8th Army, Pacific Theater. Unit was scheduled to invade Japan; instead, it Occupied Japan.

Sergeant Marvin W. Hanson, 90, Bottineau & Willow City, served in the US Army from February 1945 - November 1946 served in Company A, 800th Military Police Battalion in the Pacific & Japan.

Corporal Howard T. Holten, 93, Bottineau, served in the US Army Air Corps from December 1942 – December 1945, assigned to the 367th Squadron, European Theater, as a jeep and truck driver.

Hilmar Berg, 98, Bottineau, served in the US Army in the Asiatic Pacific Theater from February 1942 to October 1945.



Hamilton

Petty Officer First Class James Hamilton, 90, Bottineau, served as a US Navy Electrician from 1943-1945 and again from 1947-1952 in the Pacific Theater.

Coxswain Lyle Lunde, 93, Bottineau, served in the US Navy from March 1941 to December 1946. He sailed the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Seas.



Lunde

Bridge Signalman 2d Class Neil Norris, 90, Westhope, served in the US Navy on the attack transport *USS American Legion* in the Philippines, Mindanao, and Guam from Oct 1943 to April 1946. The ship carried 5000-6000 troops and landing craft. Signal school was 4 months and “just like learning ABC’s with lights,” says Norris.

Bowman County: Estimated 18 WWII veterans, 2 registered

Douglas Burtell, Bowman, served in the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Section of the 164th Infantry Regiment. His artwork is on the front covers of many issues of *The 164th Infantry News* and the 164th Infantry Monument at the ND Veterans Cemetery.



Gunner’s Mate Martin J. Rolfsnes, 96, Bowman, started service the US Navy in 1941 as a 30 caliber machinegunner on a Navy divebomber in the South Pacific. He served through 1947, separating with the rank of Ensign.

Burke County: estimated 8 WWII Veterans, 2 registered.

Staff Sergeant Howard E. Corey, Jr., 94, Bowbells, served in the US Army from June 1941 – September 1945, fighting with the 160th Infantry Regiment, 40th Division, in the Philippines and Luzon.

Electrician’s Mate 3rd Class Leland A. Schweyen, 87, served in the US Navy from 28 December 1945 to 1 November 1947, assigned on *USS Paricutin* in Guam and Saipan in 1946, and on *USS Gen Mann*, 1947. Duties included transporting Japanese prisoners.

Burleigh County: estimated 201 WWII Veterans, 56 registered.

Corporal Harold L. Bach, 95, Bismarck, served September 1941 – Oct 1945 in the US Army Air Force with the 791st Co, 8th Air Force (European Theater). Harold delivered bombs and ammunition. [Harold & Evelyn]



Bach

Corporal Robert D. "Bob" Bain, 90, Bismarck, served from 1943 – 1946 with the 89th Division in Germany, France, Luxembourg, and Czechoslovakia Campaigns. His story is in a book entitled *Cobbers in WWII*. Bob led the Pledge of Allegiance during the WWII Victory Celebration. [Bob & Gladys]



Bain

Private First Class Henry I. Benz, Bismarck, drove an Army ambulance in the US after the war.



Boeckel

Specialist 4th Class Robert R. Boeckel, 89, Bismarck, served from December 1945 – June 1947 in the US Army with the 11th Airborne Division in the Pacific Theater as a medical clerk. Robert made 7 jumps in Japan as a paratrooper.

Machinist Mate 3rd Class Lloyd Boldt, 89, Bismarck, served from June 1944 – June 1946 in the US Navy Seabees (engineers) in the Philippine Islands.



Boldt

Ivan F. Bormann, Bismarck, enlisted in South Dakota and served in the US Navy.



Bruschwein

Captain Harold F. Bruschwein, 99, Bismarck, served from July 1939 – December 1944 in the US Army with Company A, 1st Battalion, 27th Regiment, 25th Division, in the Pacific Theater as an Infantry Company Commander. Harold was at Pearl Harbor during the attack on 7 December 1941.

Lynn (Bud) Culver, 97, Bismarck, served from March 1944 – November 1945 in the US Army Air Force. He mentioned that he had 3 brothers and a sister in the military.

Pharmacy Mate – First Class Roy V. Dittus, 95, Bismarck, served from October 1942 – October 1945 in the US Navy in the Pacific Theater.

Dr. Phillip Dahl, 88, served in the Naval Air Corps. Upon return home, he completed his medical degree and was one of the founders of Mid-Dakota Clinic in Bismarck.

Staff Sergeant Stanley Dolbinski, 91, Bismarck, served from 1942 to 1945 in the 20th Air Force, stationed in India and the Marshall Islands as a Radar Countermeasure Specialist.

Private First Class Alick Dvirnak, 97, Bismarck, served from May 1941 – September 1943 in the US Army, Company G, 20th Infantry, 6th Infantry Division, training troops for overseas deployment.

Private First Class Marvin W. Dykema, 89, Bismarck, served from December 1944 – November 1946 with Company B, 41st Infantry in the Philippines. He landed in Hiroshima after the bombing and served as an MP (Military Police officer) during the Occupation.

~~~~~“  
A Single Generation of Men Determined the Fate of all Mankind...”

**Burleigh County (continued)**

**Warrant Officer One Orville James. Erickson**, 88, Bismarck, served in the US Army from July 1945 – January 1946. The war ended while he was in basic training. Orville joined the ND National Guard and was activated in January 1951 with Company B, 164th Infantry, serving in Korea from January – August 1952.



Erickson

**Pharmacy Mate Gloria I. Fuhrer**, 90, Bismarck, served in US Navy in California.

**Technician 3rd Grade Floyd B. Fuller**, 95, Bismarck, served in the US Army in the European Theater from August 1942 – October 1945 as a Medical Corpsman.

**Private First Class Allen Grady**, Bismarck, served from 1944 – 1946 in the US Army 58th Regiment in the Pacific Theater.



Graf

**Technician 4th Grade Norman Graf**, 89, Bismarck, served in the US Army 4025th Signal Service Group in the Pacific Theater as a Lineman from April 1945 – December 1946.

**Louis J. Hanson**, 93, Bismarck (formerly Jamestown), was drafted, but wound up serving with North Dakota's 164th Infantry, Company E, fighting in the Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Leyte, and Southern Philippines campaigns, coming home in August 1945.



Hanson



Heilman

**Private First Class John J. Heilman**, 94, Bismarck, served in the US Army from October 1942 – November 1945 with the 91st Infantry Division Band in the European Theater.

**Technician 5th Grade Harold H. Hepper**, 92, Bismarck, served in the US Army from November 1943 – November 1945 in the European Theater. Harold served in 5 campaigns as a frontline Medical Corpsman.



Hepper



Herr

**Corporal Edwin Herr**, 91, Bismarck, served in the US Army Air Force with assignment with the 623rd Air Control Flight Squadron in the Pacific Theater.

**Sergeant Sebastian "Buckshot" Hoffner**, 91, Bismarck, served in the US Army European Theater from July 1943 – February 1946. Buckshot's duties were in logistics.

**Motor Machinist Mate 3rd Class Lyle B. Huwe**, 90, Bismarck, served in the US Navy from January 1944 – April 1946 on the aircraft carrier *USS Nassau* (CVE 16), operating diesel engines in the Pacific Theater.



Huwe

**Staff Sergeant Harold J. Joos**, 93, Bismarck, served as a personnel clerk in the US Army Air Force 475th Fighter Group, 5th Air Force "Satan's Angels", Pacific Theater, December 1942 – November 1945.

## Burleigh County (continued)

**Radioman 2nd Class Ervin A. Jose**, 98, Bismarck, served in the US Navy as a Radar Operator from May 1943 – October 1945. Erwin was on a super destroyer in the South Pacific during the Battle of Tinian.



Jose

**Technical Sergeant Robert E. Keim**, 89, Bismarck, served in the US Army from February 1945 – December 1946 as Chief Clerk to the Quartermaster, Western Pacific Base Command in Saipan/Marianas Islands.



Kuntz

**Private Sebastian (Sy) Kuntz**, 101, Bismarck, served in the US Army from March 1944 – October 1944, in basic training for artillery. *He was the 2<sup>nd</sup> oldest attendee at the WWII Victory Celebration.*

**Private First Class Raymond C. Larson**, 93, Bismarck, served in the US Army from December 1942 – October 1945, guarding downed airplanes with the 1227th Military Police in the European Theater.

**Staff Sergeant Vernon K. Lykken**, 92, Bismarck, served in the US Army Air Corps from November 1943 – November 1945 with the 8th Air Force 95th Bomb Group, 412th Squadron as a ball gunner. His WWII memoirs are posted on his facebook page! *[In the photo with Vern are his daughter, Master Sgt (ret) Pam Miller, who helped with the Victory Celebration planning and acquired the hotdog stand for the event! Vern's grandson, Staff Sgt Brett Miller, took all the official photos (except this one).]*



Lykken

**Technical Sergeant Raymond A. Markel**, 94, Bismarck, served in the US Army from March 1944 – May 1946 in the European Theater.



Mather

**Engineer 2nd Class Russell R. Mather**, 88, Bismarck, enlisted in the Navy at age 17 and served as a gunners mate the *USS Henderson*, a Gearing class destroyer in the South Pacific from August 1945 – September 1946.

**Nurse Cadet Claribel Misslin**, Bismarck, served as an US Army Nurse Cadet from January 1942 – June 1945 at Schick General US Hospital in Clinton, Iowa.

**Private First Class Aloysius J. Moszer**, 96, Bismarck, mobilized with the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, ND National Guard, in February 1941. The regiment landed at Guadalcanal 13 Oct 1942, then Bougainville, Leyte, Southern Philippines. He came home June 1945.

**Lieutenant Junior Grade Lorena Terry (Nelson)**, Bismarck, served in the US Coast Guard in the American Theater from 1943 – 1945. Lorena was in the Pay and Supply Division.

**Archie Rasmusson**, Bismarck, served in the US Air Force in Minnesota.

**Private Lawrence Reiswig**, 97, Bismarck, served in the US Army from 25 April 1941 -30 September 1945. Assigned in England and Ireland with the 10<sup>th</sup> Station Army Hospital.

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A Single Generation of Men Determined the Fate of all Mankind...”

Burleigh County (continued)

Sergeant First Class Harry Renschler, 88, Bismarck, served in the US Army Infantry from July 1945 – January 1947 with 60th Regiment, 9th Division, in Europe. He joined the ND National Guard and was mobilized with the 164th Infantry in 1951, serving in Korea with the 10th Field Artillery, 3rd Division.



Renschler

Second Lieutenant Robert Ritterbush, 89, Bismarck, served in the US Navy from July 1944 – July 1946. He also served in the US Air Force January 1952 – June 1953.

Technician 5th Class John K. Roethler, 87, Bismarck, served in the US Army from October 1946 – May 1948 in the message center, Headquarters Company, 21st Infantry, Operations Forces, Japan.

Technical Sergeant John Romanick, 94, Bismarck, served in the Army Air Corps from 12 November 1942 – 9 May 1946 in the 306 Bomb Squad in the European Theater. John also served stateside during the Korean War.

Private First Class Arthur Schaible, 96, Bismarck, served in the US Army from April 1941 – July 1945 in the African Middle Eastern Theater.

Seaman 1st Class Francis A. Schall, 89, Bismarck, served with the US Navy from November 1944 – August 1946 as a truck driver and mail carrier in Subic Bay, Luzon, Philippines.

Private Michael Schepper, 90, Bismarck, served in the US Army from October 1944 – January 1947 in the 32d Infantry in the Philippines Campaigns and Japanese Occupation.

Technician 5th Grade Bernard P. Schumacher, 89, Bismarck, served in the US Army from March 1945 – October 1946 as a truck driver in a Heavy Truck Company, 9th Infantry in the Pacific Theater.

Private First Class Leo J. Senger, 89, Bismarck, served in the US Army from April 1945 – December 1946 in the European Theater.



Shannon

Merchant Seaman Paul Shannon, 88, Bismarck, served from October 1944 – April 1945 on an ammunition ship with the US Coast Guard in the Pacific Theater. *He was the only Coast Guardsman in attendance at the Victory Celebration!*

Sharkey



Sergeant Forrest S. Sharkey, 89, Bismarck, served with the US Army as an Intelligence non-commissioned officer from September 1944 – November 1946 in the Marshall Islands and New Guinea in the Pacific Theater. He also served in Korea from October 1950 to December 1951.

Technician 5th Grade Fred J. Sommerfeld, 89, Bismarck, served in the US Army from July 1944 – July 1946 with the 475th Infantry in the China, Burma, India theater. His duties included being part of a Liaison Team.

Burleigh County (continued)

Private First Class Matt Sturn, 89, Bismarck, served in the US Army from November 1944 – November 1946 in the Pacific Theater.



Sturn

Technician 3rd Grade Lonny R. Tachenko, 100, Bismarck, served in the US Army from July 1941 to December 1945 as a corpsman with the 325th Medical Battalion. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge.



Tachenko

Corporal William Ternes, 94, Bismarck, served as a Military Policeman with the US Army Air Corps from December 1942 – December 1945 in the European Theater. Served in the Battle of the Bulge.



Ternes



Vadnie

Second Lieutenant Harry Vadnie, 93, mobilized with the 164th Infantry Regiment, ND National Guard in February 1941, landing on Guadalcanal 13 October 1942 and serving in the South Pacific until October 1945.

Seaman First Class John Wagner, 89, Bismarck, ND served in the US Navy from June 1944 – June 1946 in the American Theater as an Aviation Radio Operator on a Grumman TBS “Avenger” Torpedo Bomber



Wagner

Private First Class Robert R. Welch, 97, Bismarck, served in the US Army from March 1944 – January 1946 in the European Theater.



Wilson & Osborne-Wilson

Technical Sergeant Herbert Wilson, 94, Bismarck, served with the US Army Air Corps from September 1942 – August 1945. He was assigned to the 506th, 44th Bomb Group, in England. Married Lillian Osbourne after the war. (photo right)

Lilian Osbourne Wilson, 93, Bismarck, served from 1940 – August 1945 in the Women’s Auxiliary, British Army Air Corps, United Kingdom. She worked as a plotter with the 11th Group Fighter Command, Uxbridge.

Cadet Joanne (Danielson) Wulf, Bismarck, served as a Nurse Cadet. She was still in training when the war ended.

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Cass County. Of the estimated 208 WWII Veterans in 12 registered for the Victory Roll Call and another 8 were located through newspaper articles.



Radioman 3rd Class Richard D. Anderson, 93, Arthur, served in the Navy from April 1943 to June 1946 on the USS *Clamp* in the Pacific Theater during the Iwo Jima and Okinawa invasions. The *Clamp* was a rescue and salvage ship whose task was to come to the aid of stricken vessels.

Donald D. Blanchard, 89, Moorhead, served as a coxswain in the Navy from March 1944 to May 1946 on the tank landing ship LST 700, 7th Fleet, in the Pacific. LST 700 landed troops on Leyte and Luzon, then went on to Occupation duties and service in China in the far east.

Seaman First Class George T. Bogan, 88, Fargo, served in the US Navy from May 1945 to July 1946 on heavy cruiser USS *Baltimore* which received 9 battle stars for service in the Pacific then participated in Operation Magic Carpet to bring troops home to the US and naval occupation duties in Japan.

Sergeant Melvin P. Bork, 95, West Fargo, mobilized with the 164th Infantry 3rd Battalion Headquarters Company, Edgeley, in 1941, landing on Guadalcanal 13 October 1942, returning home in 1945 after campaigns on Bougainville, Leyte, and Southern Philippines.

Glenn A. Bowhall, 88, South Fargo, served in the US Navy in the Pacific Theater.

Sergeant James J. Caroline, 90, Fargo, served in the US Army infantry from February 1944 – 9 February 1946, participating in the invasion of Okinawa.

Corporal Marvin P. Hildre, 97, Fargo, served in the Marines from 15 April 1942 – 19 April 1946, at such places as Guadalcanal, New Guinea, Peleliu, and Cape Gloucester.

Private First Class James C. Hillestad, 95, Fargo, served in the US Army from February 1942 – 15 January 1946. First trained in artillery, then in radar, served in India and Burma.

Corporal Oscar H. Kostad, 94, Fargo, served in the Army Air Force from January 1943 – December 1945 with the 335th Signal Company in England and France.

Sergeant Edward G. Marek, 91, Casselton, served in the Army Air Force from January 1946 to January 1949 as an Electrician in the European Theater and Alaska.

Technician 5th Grade Henry Leintz, 94, Fargo, served in the US Army from October 1942 – October 1945 in the 748th Tank Battalion, landing at Normandy on D-Day,

Private First Class Conrad D. Newgren, 90, Fargo, served in the US Army from September 1943 to February 1946 in the 3rd Infantry Division. He is believed to be the last surviving service member to have served shoulder to shoulder with Audie Murphy.

Quartermaster 3rd Class John D. Odland, 89, Fargo, served in the US Navy from June 1944 – June 1946, transporting troops to the invasion of Okinawa.

Cass County (continued)

Petty Officer 2nd Class Glenn A. Paulson, 90, West Fargo, served in the US Navy from June 1943 to March 1946 in the Asiatic Pacific Theater as a Radio Operator on the USS *Anaqua*. The ship's primary function was to lay/maintain steel anti-torpedo & anti-submarine nets around ships at anchor.

Private First Class Tom Selleys, Fargo, served in the US Army from 1940-1944 in the 145th Infantry in the Northern Solomons and Philippines. He fired the 81 mm mortar and Browning Automatic Rifle.

Nurse Cadet Mayvis Marie (Costain) Solberg, 100, Fargo, trained at Bethesda Hospital, St Paul, MN, during the war. She was admitted into the Nurse Cadet Corps on 14 March 1944 and graduated on 28 March 1947.

Yeoman 1st Class Vernon A. Useldinger, 89, Fargo, served in the US Navy from 26 June 1944 – 5 June 1946 on an aircraft carrier that helped secure Okinawa, Borneo, and Japan. He served from 5 September 1950 – 28 June 1952 in waters of Korea and the Far East.

Private First Class Leonard L. Votava, 88, Fargo, served in the US Army from April 1945 to December 1946 guarding Japanese prisoners-of-war at Fort DeRussy (Waikiki Beach area), Hawaii.

Gunner's Mate 3rd Class Harvey H. Wheeler, 91, Casselton, served in the US Navy from 10 June 1943 - 29 July 1946, assigned to *USS Change*, an admiral class minesweeper in the Pacific Theater.

Sergeant Gwendolyn R. (Prindiville) Young, 95, Rutland (sometimes Mesa, AZ), enlisted in the Army in 1944 after hearing tales from her brother, Dennis, serving with the 164th Infantry at Guadalcanal. She was a stenographer in Gen Eisenhower's Allied Command Hqs in Algiers, Africa.

Cavalier County: Estimated 22 WWII veterans, 4 registered.

Carpenter's Mate 3rd Class Russell A. Dunford, 89, Milton, served in the US Navy Seabees (CBMU 619) from 3 June 1944- 9 June 1946 in the Pacific Theater.



Corporal Harlan Hanson, Milton, 91, served as an artilleryman with the 116th Field Artillery Battalion, 31st Division, in the Pacific Theater. He served in the Army from 1944-1946.

Petty Officer 1st Class Ronald Olson, Langdon, joined the Navy in 1942, served as a fire control officer on the seaplane tender USS *Orca* from 1944-46 sailing "all through the South Pacific" including New Guinea, Australia, Philippines, and Okinawa.

Eldina Radcliff, now from Fargo lists her hometown newspaper in Cavalier County. She was enrolled in the Cadet Nurse Corps at the University hospital in Minneapolis, graduating in 1948.

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**Dickey County: estimated 35 WWII Veterans, 3 registered**



Steinwand

**Boatswain's Mate 1<sup>st</sup> Class Alexander A. Steinwand**, 94, was in the US Navy from 1942-1948. He served on the cargo transport USS *Regulus* and transport USS *Osage* in Asiatic Pacific waters.

**Major John P. Wheelihan**, Ellendale, served on Ascension Island and Italy with the 15<sup>th</sup> Air Force, as a pilot and test pilot for B25 Mitchell medium bombers and P39 Bell Aircobra fighter aircraft.

**Corporal Christ Wolff**, 92, Ellendale, served in the Army from 13 January 1944 to 2 May 1946 stringing commo wire for the 409th Field Artillery in the Philippines.

**Divide County: estimated 17 WWII veterans, 4 registered**

**Technican 4<sup>th</sup> Grade John W. Benter**, Crosby, 90, served from July 1943 to January 1946 "hauling 105mm artillery rounds" with the Army's 260<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalions.

**Sergeant Albert J. Dhuyvetter**, 91, Crosby, joined the Army as an infantryman in March 1945, then trained as a teletype operator and switched to the Army Air Force. He was on his way to the Philippines when the Japanese surrendered; he performed Occupation Duties until November 1946.

**Electricians Mate 1<sup>st</sup> Class John T. Ebreck**, 98, Crosby. After working in the CCC for 2 years, he served in the US Navy from 24 February 1942 – 16 December 1945 aboard an LST, ferrying troop tanks and heavy equipment to staging areas in Australia and New Guinea.

**Technician 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Earl Hubert Johnson**, 90, Crosby, served in the US Army from 28 April 1944-1 June 1946 as a medic in Company C, 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division Medical Battalion in Northern Italy and Austrian border. The unit was bound for Japan via New York when Japan surrendered.

**Dunn County: Estimated 10 WWII veterans, 1 registered**

**Petty Officer Three James W. Dank**, 88, Killdeer, served in the US Navy on Guam in the Asiatic Pacific Theater from November 1944 to May 1946 as a Motor Machinist.

**Emmons County: Estimated 30 WWII veterans, 3 registered**



Renschler

Schmidt

**Seaman Third Class Theodore S. Renschler**, 91, Hazelton, served in the US Navy from March 1944-May 1946 as a Seabee (construction specialist). He was stationed in Hawaii and helped with the rebuilding of Pearl Harbor.

**First Lieutenant Edward E. Schmidt**, 91, Hazelton, was a Bombadier in the US Army Air Corps in the European African Middle Eastern Theater from December 1942-December 1945.

**Petty Officer Second Class Eddie W. Kramer**, 88, Strasburg, served in the US Navy in the Asiatic Pacific Theater from March 1943 to December 1946. He served aboard the USS *Missouri* as a Cook/Carpenter, and was present on the ship when the Japanese signed the Instrument of Surrender. He wasn't able to attend the big event, but was present on September 1<sup>st</sup> when Governor Dalrymple signed the Proclamation announcing the ND WWII Victory Celebration Event and Roll Call.

**Foster County, 18 estimated WWII veterans, 1 registered.**

**Seaman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Roland “Pete” Peterson**, 89, Carrington, served in the US Navy on Auxiliary Motor Minesweeper (AM) 313 in the Pacific Theater from April 1944 to September 1945. His daughter said that he broke a hip awhile back, but he was ready to dance the jitterbug at the Victory Dance – it was true!



R. Peterson

**Golden Valley County: estimated 11 WWII veterans, 0 Registered**

**Grand Forks County, Estimated 129 WWII Veterans, 20 have registered**

**Technician 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Reginald G. Urness**, 88, Grand Forks, served as a tank commander with the 11<sup>th</sup> Constabulary Regiment as part of the Occupation Forces, Germany. After the war, he joined the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, ND National Guard, and was called up during the Korean War as a company First Sergeant at Camp Rucker, AL



Urness



Mutch

**Private First Class Duane O. Mutch**, 90, Larimore, served in the Army with the 353<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Regiment, which landed in France in 1944 and fought through Belgium and Germany, including the Battle of the Bulge. He was elected to the ND House of Representatives from 2002-2006.

**Staff Sergeant Bennie Nowek**, 95, Larimore, served from 1942-1946 as a cook in the 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Corps Air Wing in the central Pacific Theater.



Nowek

**Boatswain’s Mate 3<sup>rd</sup> Class James T. Corbit**, 91, Grand Forks, served on escort carrier USS *Munda* in the South Pacific March 1944 – March 1946, sailing into Tokyo Bay after the war was over.

**Seaman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Edwin W. Fuhrer**, 89, Grand Forks, served in the Navy from 1944-1946 as an armed guard and gunner on the USS *John W. Brown*, one of only two Liberty Ships still operating.

**Private First Class Orlin T. Jore**, 91, Larimore, Served in the Marines in the Pacific Theater from 29 September 1943 – 3 February 1946. He had the opportunity go on an Honor Flight.

**Seaman Roy R. Ghidert**, 88, Grand Forks, served on the heavy cruiser USS *Chicago* and the light cruiser USS *Vicksburg* in the Pacific at Iwo Jima, Okinawa, and Tokyo. He was a range finder and sight setter for the 8 inch guns.

**Donald G. Herbeck**, 90, Grand Forks, fired .50 calibre machineguns in an Anti-Tank Company assigned to the Army’s 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, which landed in France on 12 June 1944 and progressed across Europe. He was on a ship to the States when the bombs were dropped.

**Ensign F.D. “Bud” Holland, Jr.**, 91, Grand Forks, served in the Navy from 1942 to 1946 on the high speed minesweeper USS *Quick* in North Pacific waters surrounding Japan and Korea.

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Grand Forks County (Continued)

Corporal Gordon W. Johnson, 93, Grand Forks, served in the Army from April 1943 to November 1945 in an anti-tank squad within the 14th Armored Division, which landed in Marseilles and spent the winter of 1944 in the Alps and along the Rhine, fighting through the Rhineland and Central Europe campaigns, then liberating concentration camps.

Technician 5th Grade Francis Gerald "Gerry" Joyce, 91, Grand Forks, served stateside from 1943-1945 as an assistant battery clerk and field radio operator in the Army Coastal Artillery that guarded America's shores. Three of his brothers also served during WWII and one got an exemption to farm, also an important wartime industry.

Technician 5th Grade Warren C. Loberg, 91, served from 1943-1945 as a tank commander and gunner with the 113th Mechanized Cavalry, which served as the mechanized cavalry group for the U.S. XIX Corps, fighting in Normandy, the Netherlands and the conquest of Germany.

Sergeant Kenneth R. Roche, 90, Grand Forks, served from 1944-1946 with the 11th Armored Division in Patton's Third Army. The Division fought through the Battle of the Bulge, Rhineland, Ardennes, and Central Europe Campaigns into Austria and was the first 3rd Army unit to meet up with the Russian armies.

Staff Sergeant M. Wayne Rowe, 93, Grand Forks, (also from Cavalier) served as a radar technician in the 253rd Signal Radar Maintenance Unit "shooting down buzz bombs" in Belgium, France, and Germany. Radar was very new, and says Rowe, "Back then, I was probably as tech savvy as anyone in the Army, but now my great-grandkids have me beat. "

Private First Class Kenneth Wayne Spaeth, 92, Grand Forks, was a rifleman & sharpshooter with Company L, 29th Infantry Regiment, joining the unit in December 1944, about the time it was tasked with security duty for the "Red Ball Express" supply train for Patton's armored invasion thru Germany.

Corporal Raymond E. Spicer, 92, Grand Forks, served from 1942-1945 in the 12th Defense Battalion, 1st Marine Division, firing 40 mm antiaircraft guns in the Solomons and New Britain. He landed on Orange Beach, Pelelieu, where the 1st Marines sustained 6500 casualties during the month it took to take the island.. "If that is what hell is like," says Spicer, "I don't want to go there."

First Lieutenant C. Francis Swanke, 101, Grand Forks, served from 1942-1945 in the US Army, as a map reader or intelligence officer in the Pacific Theater. He caught the attention of General MacArthur, who personally had him transferred to strategic duties with the Army Air Force.

Sergeant Ernie J. Johnson, 96, Northwood, served in the US Army from September 1942 – November 1945. He was assigned to the 903d anti-aircraft automatic weapons (AAW) as a fire control operator on 40mm guns in the Panama Canal.

First Lieutenant Anna Hoffmann Walker, 94, Grand Forks, served in the Army Nurse Corps at hospitals in Newton Abbot, England, and Glasgow, Scotland. She recalls caring for patients after the Battle of the Bulge and liberated American prisoners of war.

Grant County: Estimated 13 WWII veterans, 3 registered

Fireman First Class Raymond A. Vetter, 91, Elgin, served in the US Navy from March 1945 to July 1946 in the Asiatic Pacific Theater. He was stationed at the Marshall Islands. Corps in the European African Middle Eastern Theater from December 1942-December 1945.

Technical Sergeant Delbert A. Wells, 89, Carson, served in the Army from 11 December 1944 and was deployed to Hawaii, Pacific Theater, separating on 21 August 1946.

Sergeant Ervin Wutzke, 89, Elgin, served in the US Army from March 1945 to November 1946 in the Pacific Theater with the 77th Infantry Division. He was shipped to Japan on the transport USS *General William Weigel* for Occupation duty and returned on the victory ship aptly named SS *American Victory*. Mr. Wutzke attended the Victory Celebration but did not stop at the photo station.

Griggs County: Estimated 10 WWII Veterans, 3 registered.



Gronneberg

Technician 5th Grade Elmer O. Gronneberg, 95, Cooperstown, served in First Army Anti-Aircraft units in the European Theater from 1942-1945. He fired 40 mm antiaircraft guns as well as M2 "Quad 50" .50 caliber machines mounted in sets of four. [Elmer & Gloris]

Corporal Merton K. Ueland, 90, Cooperstown, served in the US Army Air Corps from April 1946 through September 1947. He served in the Pacific Theater at Kimpo Air Base, Korea, as a power man. His memoires are located at www.Koreanwar-educator.org.

Technician 5th Grade Albert Eslinger, 89, Hannaford, served in the US Army from January 1945 through August 1946 in the Asiatic Pacific Theater. He was an Automatic Weapons Crewman with Battery A, 865th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion. Had 7 brothers who all served in the military.

Hettinger County: estimated 14 WWII Veterans, 3 registered:

Sergeant Lynn Dill, 88, Mott, served in the US Army Infantry from May 1945 to December 1946 as part of the Army of Occupation in Japan.

Technician 3rd Grade Leonard R. Thompson, 97, Regent, served in the US Army from December 1942-December 1945 as a diesel mechanic in the engineer corps in Burma, Pacific Theater.

Technician 4th Grade (Sergeant) Henry "Red" Watson, 95, Mott, served in the US Army Infantry in the 86th Black Hawk Division which fought through Germany from March-June 1945. The Division was aboard ship in the Leyte Gulf awaiting the invasion of Japan when the war ended.

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**Kidder County: Estimated 4 WWII veterans, 4 registered: 100% Attendance!!!**

Gertz



**Staff Sergeant Melvin Gertz**, 98, Steele, served in the US Army from March 1941 to March 1945 with the 358<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 90<sup>th</sup> Division, which landed on Utah Beach on D-Day and fought its way through France. Gertz received a Purple Heart.

**Private First Class Ralph Schroeder**, 89, Steele, was a radio operator in the Army Air Force. Serving from October 1943 to July 1946, provided commo for the PBY Catalina aircraft performing Air Sea Rescue duties in the Caribbean.

Schroeder



from October 1943 to July 1946, provided commo for the PBY Catalina aircraft performing Air Sea Rescue duties in the Caribbean.

Shipley



**Sergeant Charles O. Shipley**, 95, Steele, was a field lineman in the Signal Company of the US Army's 91<sup>st</sup> Division in Italy. The unit history describes linemen "working waist-deep in snow repairing lines under shell fire." He also served earned the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal. [Photo: Charles & Tillie]

Zerr



**Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Fred Zerr**, 90, Tuttle, served in the US Navy from January 1944 – April 1946. He was assigned to the submarine service and worked in the engine room.

**LaMoure County: 20 estimated WWII Veterans, 3 registered.**

**Staff Sergeant Albert Dohn**, LaMoure, served in the Army from March 1944 to December 1946 as a field mechanic and driver in the Pacific Theater during the Occupation of Japan.

**Private Orris W. Kipp**, 93, Edgeley, volunteered (was not drafted) for the US Army on 27 September 1943. He was separated for a physical disability/injury on 28 October 1943.

**Sergeant Joseph Schlosser**, 90, Edgeley, served in the Marines from December 1945 to November 1947 rounding up Japanese stragglers and flushing them out of underground tunnels. As a 'BAR man', he carried the Browning Automatic Rifle, a light tactical machinegun. He recalls a priest jumping into his foxhole and gave a Catholic service "right there".

**Logan County: estimated 11 WWII Veterans, 1 registered.**

Gross



**Private First Class John J. Gross**, 91, was born in Napoleon and still resides in Napoleon. He served as a US Army Infantryman from March 1945 to November 1946 in the Philippines and guarded enemy prisoners of war during the Occupation of Japan. He attended the Victory Celebration.

**McHenry County: Possible 20 WWII veterans, 7 registered**

Brodell



Deibert

**Private First Class Lloyd A. Brodell**, 89, Velva, served in the US Army Signal Corps from April 1945 to April 1946 as a Communications Lineman in the European Theater - Germany. Sergeant Brodell also mobilized with the 231st Engineer Battalion, ND National Guard, during the Korean War and volunteered to go to Korea in 1951.

**Technician 5<sup>th</sup> Grade John Deibert**, 94, Velva, served as a reconnaissance car crewman in the

US Army's Troop C, 81<sup>st</sup> Cavalry, from October 1942 to July 1945 in the European African Middle Eastern Theater.



Pister



**Private First Class Frank Pister**, 89, Kief, served in the Philippines and Japan as a Tank Crewman with the 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment, 25th Division, from February 1945 to July 1946.

**Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Donald Wunderlich**, 89, Voltaire, served in the US Navy on destroyer USS *Wadleigh* as a sonar operator from May 1944 to June 1946 in the Asiatic

Pacific Theater near Okinawa and Occupied Japan. Donald attended the Victory Celebration but didn't stop at the photo station for an official photo.



**Major (ret) Warren G. Allen**, 94, Deering, served as a medical administrative officer in stateside hospitals in the US Army Air Force from 1943 to 1946. He remained in the Army Reserve in the Medical Service Corps until 1980.

**Fire Controlman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Willard O. Eisemann**, Deering, served in the US Navy from 25 May 1944 – 16 July 1946 on the troop transport ship *Ile de France*, which ferried American and Canadian troops home. Remained in the Navy Reserve until July 1954.

**Technician 5th Grade Gayland H. Thompson**, 89, Towner, served in the US Army from November 1944-April 1946. He served as a truck driver and demolition expert with the 836th Engineers, 23rd Infantry Division, during the Philippine Liberation Campaign.

**McIntosh County: 23 Estimated WWII veterans, 1 registered**

Krueger



**Harold A. Krueger**, 91, Wishek, originally from the Kulm & Fredonia area, served in the Marines 3<sup>rd</sup> Amphibious Corps Signal Battalion from 1942-1945 "island hopping in the South Pacific to places like Okinawa and Peleliu." He reentered the Marines in 1946 to 1956, earning the rank of Master Gunnery Sergeant (E-9). He served as a Secret Service Agent during the Nixon administration.

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McKenzie County: 13 estimated WWII veterans, 4 registered

Private Loren H. Berwald, Watford City, served stateside in the US Army in 1946, training in infantry tactics with Company A, 51st Battalion, Infantry Replacement Training Center.

Technician 4th Grade Donald C. Diederich, 92, Watford City, served in the US Army from 7 May 1943 – 23 January 1946 as a winch operator on shore and ship with the 503rd Port Battalion in New Guinea, Luzon, Southern Philippines. He saved soldiers and sensitive materials after a kamikaze hit the ship he was on.



Hayden

Petty Officer 3rd Class George L. Hayden, Sr, 90, Watford City, served in the Navy from December 1943 to May 1946. He was assigned as a torpedoman on the USS *Ling*, a 311 foot diesel-electric submarine, which was commissioned June 1945, too late for wartime service. The sub is now a museum ship in New Jersey.

Private John D. Kirkland, Watford City, served in the Army from April 1945 to December 1946 with the 351st Infantry Regiment, 88th Division, which was assigned Occupation duty in Italy guarding the Morgan Line until a peace treaty was signed.

McLean County: Estimated 36 WWII veterans, 8 registered.



Barland

Leroy F. Barland, Washburn, served in the US Navy from May 1944- January 1946 in the Atlantic Ocean aboard the USS *LCT189*, an amphibious assault craft for landing tanks on beachheads, and the tank landing ship USS *Atchison County* which landed troops and supplies at Normandy. [Leroy & daughter Margaret]

the Occupation in the Pacific Theater from January 1945. [Marvin & June]

Private First Class Marvin H. Boots, 92, Washburn, served as a baker and cook in the US Army 24th Infantry Division during



Boots



Edwards

Seaman First Class Harold R. Edwards, 89, Garrison, served in the US Navy Asiatic Pacific Theater from January 1945 to July 1946. He was a deckhand aboard the USS *Blackhawk* (AD-9) which operated as a tender and repair ship. [Harold & Marjorie] *To check out their dance moves during the demonstration dance at the Celebration, google "ND WWII Victory youtube" or order the DVD of the celebration.*

Seaman First Class Robert J. O'Shea, 89, Turtle Lake, served in US Navy "fighting German subs in the North Atlantic" aboard the escort carrier USS *Croatan* from January 1945-March 1946.



Plesuk

Seaman First Class Russell Plesuk, 95, Butte, served in the US Navy European Theater aboard the USS *LST 287* (Tank Landing Ship) from July 1943-November 1945. He landed troops on Juno and Sword Beaches on the second wave, and participated in 57 missions from England to Normandy to deliver troops, equipment, tanks, and trucks. [Russell & Ethyl]

McLean County (continued)

Rensch



First Lieutenant Harold J. Rensch, 92, Garrison, was based in England in the 8th US Army Air Force from December 1942-October 1945. He was a Bomber Pilot flying the Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress (Heavy Bomber Aircraft). Lt. Rensch was shot down over Germany in December 1944 and was a Prisoner of War for 9 months. [Harold and son David]

Private First Class Harold R. Ulich, Garrison, served in the US Marine Corps (5th and 2nd Divisions) in the Pacific Theater and Japan from November 1944-June 1946 as a Machine Gunner and Rifleman.

Ulich



Wiese



Seaman First Class Jack L. Wiese 88, Washburn, served in the US Navy in the Asiatic Pacific Theater from January 1945-June 1946. He served on Naval Base Subic Bay in the Philippines as a crewman on a landing craft. [Jack & Alice]

Lieutenant Raymond G. Wicklander, 94, Washburn, trained on the Stearman N2S biplane and Brewster Buffalo fighter, finally flying the Helldiver with Navy Air Group 19, striking Guam, Palau, Bonins, Kazans, Iwo Jima, Peleliu, and Philippines. When kamikazes struck the USS *Lexington*, he was one of 146 wounded; 46 died. Earned rank of Lieutenant Commander in the Navy Reserve.

Mercer County: Estimated 6 WWII veterans, 0 registered.

Morton County: Estimated 75 WWII veterans, 13 registered.

Buck



Technician Three Walter R. Buck, 98, Mandan, served in the US Army (151st Field Artillery, 34th Division) European African Middle Eastern Theater from April 1941-July 1945.

Corporal Anton A. Hatzenbuhler, 94, Mandan, served in the US Army in the American Theater from July 1942 – January 1946.

Technician 4th Grade John A. Hatzenbuhler, 96, Mandan, served in the US Army in the European African Middle Eastern Theater from March 1942 – October 1945.

Private First Class Mathias Hatzenbuhler, 89, Mandan, served in the Asiatic Pacific Theater from April 1945 – November 1946.

Anton



John



Mathias



“A Single Generation of Men Determined the Fate of all Mankind...”

Morton County (continued)

Kramer



Technical Sergeant Leo Kramer, 89, Mandan, served with the US Army Air Force from October 1945 – 1952, spending his service time in Korea and the B29 base at Knute Field, Illinois.

Fireman 1st Class Raymond F. Leonhard, 89, Mandan, served in the US Navy from April 1944 – July 1946 on the *USS Orestes* (motor/torpedo boat tender) in the New Guinea, Philippines, Japan area, surviving a Kamikaze attack.

Leonhard



Private First Class Franklin J. Masad, 95, Mandan, served in the US Army from November 1940 – October 1943 assigned as a Tank Driver with the 2d Infantry Division, Camp Maxey, Texas.

Muggli



Chief Petty Officer Alexander "Alex" J. Muggli, 98, Glen Ullin, served with the US Navy on Treasure Island (San Francisco) as an Electrician's Mate and a Radio/Electrics Instructor from September 1942 – February 1946.

Fire Controlman 1st Class Kenneth C. O'Neill, 91, Fort Rice, served with the US Navy in the Pacific Theater from October 1942 – January 1946 assigned on the *USS Samuel S. Miles* (DE183, Cannon-Class Destroyer).

Petty Officer 1st Class Owen E. O'Neill, 93, Mandan, served with the US Navy as an Electrician's Mate 1st Class in the Pacific Theater from September 1942 – December 1945 on the *USS Pompon* (SS 267 – GATO class submarine).

Lars Oyness, 95, Bismarck (born Plaza, ND), entered the US Army 7 March 1945 and served stateside as a radio operator before separating at Ft Benning, GA, on 16 December 1946.

Morton County (Continued)

Seaman 2nd Class Victor Schlaht, 93, Mandan, served with the US Navy from 1945-1946. .

Private First Class Leo W. Voll, 102, Mandan, served in the US Army Asiatic Pacific Theater assigned to the 17th Infantry, 7th Division, from December 1940 – October 1945 in Supply Operations as a carpenter. *PFC Voll had the distinction of being the oldest veteran to attend the ND World War II Victory Celebration!*

Voll



Mountrail County: 8 estimated WWII veterans, 5 registered

Private First Class Neil V. Bohmbach, 89, New Town, served in the US Army from February 1945 to May 1947 as a truck driver on New Caledonia, a major staging area in the South Pacific.

Seaman 2nd Class Mervel R. Hall, 89, New Town, served in the US Navy from 16 February 1945 through 7 October 1947, assigned in the Pacific theater.

Staff Sergeant Clifford R. Halverson, 95, White Earth, served in the CCCs in 1937-41, and the US Army from December 1942 – November 1945 in 95th Infantry Division, Patton's 3rd Army in the European Theater. He was one of the Ironmen of Metz, France, and also fought in Germany.

Sergeant Kenneth O. Lystad, 96, Stanley, was a National Guard medic with the 164th Infantry, activated in 1941 and served in the Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Leyte, and Southern Philippines campaigns, arriving home July 1945. Five years later, First Lieutenant Lystad mobilized with the 164th for the Korean War, serving stateside.



Sergeant Stanley Wright from Stanley, ND, served from 1946-1947 in the Headquarters Company, 17th Infantry Regiment, in post-WWII Korea, which had been an 'annexed dependency' of Japan. He worked in communications, and also as an entertainer. *Stanley, in his Ike jacket wowed the crowd with a vocal solo of 'God Bless America' as the Victory Celebration Program, and everyone stood to join him in the last verse.* [Stanley & daughters Joey Schulte and Cheri Lovas]

Nelson County: Estimated 28 WWII veterans, 3 registered.



Seaman First Class Dale O. Peterson, 88, Lakota, was a Yeoman Stenographer from July 1943 to March 1946, serving on the light antiaircraft cruisers USS *San Diego* and USS *San Juan*. The first earned 18 battle stars and was selected to be the first victorious ship into Tokyo Bay, and the latter liberated Allied prisoners of war from Japanese camps in August 1945 and participated in "Operation Magic Carpet" to bring troops home from the South Pacific. [Dale & Nadine]

Technician 4th Grade Thomas L. Brooks, 94, Klotten, wasn't drafted into the Army of the United States – he joined the Regular Army on his own volition in March 1942, and served in the South Pacific until November 1945. Note: Soldiers with Army serial numbers starting with 1 were volunteers; those with 20 were National Guard; and 3 meant they were selected by the draft.

Motor Machinist Mate 3rd Class Leslie V. Ferry, 88, Lakota, served as a Heavy Equipment Mechanic in the US Navy at the Naval Operations Base on Guam in the Marianas Island chain from April 1945 to July 1946. After the war, he used the G.I. Bill for training in auto mechanics, machining, and welding, eventually teaching those skills at Lake Region Community College.

Oliver County: Estimated 6 WWII veterans, 0 registered.

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**Pembina County: Estimated 60 WWII veterans, 22 registered**

**Staff Sergeant Orville T. Bernhoft**, 97, Mountain, served in the 291<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment, 75<sup>th</sup> Division, in the Ardennes and Rhineland campaigns from 1943 to January 1946. His brother, Alvin, was killed on Cebu, Philippines, while serving with Co E, 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment.

Byron Family



**Alfred Byron**, Sr, 90, Cavalier, was an infantryman in the Army's 17th Infantry, 7th Division, serving in the South Pacific in the Philippines and Okinawa.

**Fireman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Donald Bates**, Drayton, served in the Navy from 12Dec44-9Jul46.

**Larry Charbonneau**, Pembina, served in the Air Force from 1946-1952, 3<sup>rd</sup> Air Division, London.

**Private First Class Larry J. Dumas**, 95, from Walhalla and Mountain, served as an MP patrolling the shores looking for submarines in China, Burma, India, Ceylon areas from 1942 to November 1945.

**Corporal Marion Erickson Enerson**, 92, Cavalier, served as a Radio Transmitter Technologist in the Army Air Force from 1944-46 in Colorado Springs,

**First Lieutenant Luella M. Hodgson Farrow**, 92, Mountain and Cavalier, was a Registered Nurse in the Army Nurse Corps from April 1945 to January 1947. She served in the 71<sup>st</sup> Station Hospital in Hawaii, Saipan, & Korea. She had been trained in surgery but dealt more with tropical diseases.

**Nurse Cadets May Morrison Gunderson**, 89; and **Grace Gunderson**, 90, Mountain, were registered in the Cadet Nurse Corps, graduating after the war was over.

**Seaman Garnet Horsley**, Neche, served US Navy Nov 1944-Feb-1946 on the cruiser USS *Helena*.

**Sergeant James Karas**, 92, Pembina, served as a reconnaissance sergeant in the Field Artillery and Tank Destroyer units in the European Theater. He was injured in 1944.

**Seaman 1<sup>st</sup> Class James Lembke**, Neche, served in the Navy from 28 Jan 44 – 7 May 46.

**Captain Charles W. Lewis**, Cavalier, 98, served in the Signal Corps from the 1941-1945. He recalls that the tanks arrived in the Pacific with no radios and the signal boys had to install them. He served in New Guinea, Tara Island, Rabul, Leyte, arriving home to parents just before Christmas, 1945.

**Techician 5<sup>th</sup> Class John "Neil" McGillivray**, 88, Cavalier, served as an orderly at Fitsimmons Medical Hospital from 1946-48. He served 8 months in a skin graft ward, then transferred to pre/post-operative ward. "Post op was easier," he said, "because you did not get so attached to the patients."

**Private First Class Walter Paton Millar**, 95, Walhalla, was the first man ever to become a Marine before becoming a citizen. Born in Canada, but living in ND, he wrote to Sec of War Knox and ND Senator Nye to obtain a waiver. Served in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division in Bougainville, Iwo Jima, & Guam.

**Nurse Cadet Norma Johnson Nason**, 90, Mountain, registered in the Cadet Nurse Corps, graduating after the war was over.

**Pembina County (continued)**

**Gunner's Mate 1<sup>st</sup> Class Stanley L. Ouhl**, Cavalier, Served in the Navy from 1943-1946 on the battleship *USS New York* and the *USS Heminger*, a Cannon-class destroyer.

**Vincent Rambeck**, rural Hensel, served in the Army's 14<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 71<sup>st</sup> Division, on the Sigfried Line, 1944-45, then Army of Occupation in 1946. He guarded German POWs at Dachau and saw Field Marshall Kesselring on trial at Nuremberg.

**Fireman Robert Saframek**, Wisconsin, now Walhalla, served on the *USS Juneau* during WWII and the *USS New Jersey* during the Korean War.

**Seaman First Class Donald E. Sellheim**, 91, Cavalier, served from 1944-46 as an aviation ordnanceman in a US Navy Carrier Air Service Unit at Alameda, Calif.

**First Lieutenant Ruth Miller Shephard**, Crystal, served as an Army Nurse in England and France from 1942-1946. "I wanted to do something important," she said.

**Tech Sgt Earl Thorson**, Cavalier, served US Army on Saipan & Guam guarding Japanese prisoners.

**Seaman Bert Warner**, Pembina, served in the Navy from 30Mar44 – 27Jan46 in the Pacific Theater

**Pierce County: Estimated 30 WWII veterans, 6 registered**



**Technician Sergeant 4<sup>th</sup> Class Frederick Duane Baillie**, 89, Rugby, served in the Philippines with the 81<sup>st</sup> Infantry Special Troops Medical Detachment, and occupation duty with the 8<sup>th</sup> Army in Honshu and Yokohama, Japan, from January 1945 to November 1946. Corporal Baillie also served in the US Army in Korea from 1950-51.

**Technician 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Eusabius Burgard**, 92, Rugby, served in the Asiatic Pacific Theater and Japan from March 1945 to November 1946 as a combat engineer.

**Seaman First Class Donald J. Diepolder**, 89, Rugby, served in the US Navy from May 1944 to May 1946. He served in the Asiatic Pacific Theater with Division 1 on the *USS Flint* which was an ammunition ship that was credited with shooting down 9 Japanese warplanes in the Pacific Theater.

**Private Gerald Sanderson**, 96, Rugby, was a medic with the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, North Dakota Army National Guard. He served on Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Leyte, and Southern Philippines Campaigns from February 1941 to August 1945 in the 164<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Americal Division.

**Sergeant George T. Sattler**, 90, Rugby, served from December 1944 to December 1946 in the Philippines as a supply sergeant with the 384<sup>th</sup> Medical Dispensary, 6<sup>th</sup> Army.

**Private First Class Gabriel Scheet**, 88, Rugby, served in the US Army from November 1945 – April 1947. He was assigned to the Signal Corps in the American Theater as a radio operator.

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Ramsey County: 57 WWII Veterans Estimated, 4 registered

Private First Class Charles W. "Bill" Anderson, 91, Webster, served as a medical corpsman with the 131st Evacuation Hospital in the European Theater from April 1944 to December 1946. Veteran of the Battle of the Bulge

Cadet Nurse Margery (Miller) Anderson, Devils Lake, was one of 28 Cadet Nurses that entered training June 1943 at Trinity Hospital, Minot. The class graduated in 1946 after the war was over

Private First Class Richard D. "Bill" Anderson, 91, Devils Lake, served in the US Army from June 1944- March 1946, with Company C, 327th Glider Infantry, 101st Airborne Division in Italy, France, and the Battle of the Bulge.

Corporal Julius Senger, 90, Devils Lake, was drafted in December 1944 and somehow got assigned to his hometown unit, Service Company, 164th Infantry, in the Southern Philippines. He performed Occupation duties in Japan until November 1946.

Ransom County: estimated 36 WWII Veterans, 3 registered.

Private First Class Edwin H. Bjerke, 93, Lisbon, served in the Army from March 1944 -February 1946, with the 687th Field Artillery Battalion in the Rhineland to assist the Communications Officer with commo and fire missions. After the Germans surrendered, his job was to help guard one of Hitler's Palaces.

Marine Gunnery Sergeant Lyle Bjone, 94, Enderlin, fought on 6 or 7 islands in the South Pacific, and saw an aerial view of the battle on Iwo Jima from an aircraft dropping supplies.

Second Lieutenant Ralph Oehlke, 93, Enderlin, served in the Band and Anti-Tank Company with the 164th Infantry Regiment at Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Leyte, and Southern Philippines. He had just graduated from Officer Candidate School when the war ended.

Renville County: estimated 12 WWII Veterans, 2 registered.

Fire Controlman Third Class Trygve T.K. Knutson, 91, Sherwood, served in the US Navy from June 1943-March 1946 in the Marshall Islands, Philippines, Marianas, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. He served aboard the USS *Samuel S Miles*, a destroyer escort which provided escort services against submarine and air attacks for Navy vessels and convoys.

Sergeant First Class Finn J. Hellebust, 96, Tolley, was in the US Army from February 1942 to October 1945, serving in the Aleutian Islands and then as a Drill Instructor at Fort Sam Houston.

Richland County: Estimated 41 WWII Veterans, 12 registered

Technician 5th Grade Ralph R. Bladow, 90, Hankinson, served in the US Army from April 1944 through December 1946. He served as a Radio Operator in the Headquarters & Headquarters Company, 34th Infantry Regiment in the Pacific Theater.

Corporal Reuben M. Brownlee, 91, Wahpeton, served in the US Army from 29 November 1945 – 9 June 1947 in France, Germany, & Austria in the 5th Infantry Regiment, 7th Division. He guarded German war criminals, including members of the Schutzstaffel or "SS".

Richland County (Continued)

Private Elmer R. Buckhaus, 93, Hankinson, trained in infantry tactics from March to September 1945 at the US Army Infantry Replacement Training Center at Camp Fannin, TX.

Staff Sergeant Harold J. Diederick, 94, Wahpeton, entered the Army at Ft Snelling of 2 February 1943 and served in the European Theater, separating at Camp McCoy on 16 March 1946

Leona Fischer, Hankinson, Navy 1944-46, Anacosta Naval Station, Wash, DC

Private First Class Stanley Jaeger, Hankinson, joined the Army in 1944. Landed on Utah Beach. Taken Prisoner, separated in 1946.

Nicholas J. Lingen, 95, Hankinson, served in the 8th US Army Air Force from January 1942-September 1945. He experienced the bombing of Britain, invasion of Normandy Beach, & Battle of the Bulge. He was stationed at Supreme Headquarters, London, and worked as a mechanic for General Eisenhower.

Albert Allen Materi, Wahpeton (& Bismarck), joined the Army in 1946; served in Japan through 1948.

Navy Aviation Ordnanceman Third Class Neal Nelson, Hankinson, served at Sand Point Naval Air Station, Washington, from September 1944-July 1946 as an Air Crewman.

Technician 5th Grade Philip A. Herding, 90, Hankinson, served in the US Army's 99th Field Artillery, 1st Cavalry Division, in the Asiatic Pacific Theater from January 1945-December 1946. He was stationed near Tokyo with duties that included Cannoneer, Light Artillery Truck Driver, and Mechanic.

Private Arnold A. Pankow, 90, Hankinson, entered the Army 28 November 1945 and served in the American Theater until 2 July 1946.

Private First Class Margaret E. Starr, 94, served in the Army Air Corps from 30 May 1944 – 14 Dec 1945. Born in Elbowoods, ND, she resided and worked in Bismarck before moving to Wahpeton.

Technical Sergeant Jerome Hipp, 94, born in Hankinson, residing in Breckenridge, served with Wahpeton's Company I, 164th Infantry Regiment at Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Leyte, and Southern Philippines from February 1941- August 1945. Pictured Jerome Hipp and Leslie Aldrich. (164 photo)



Staff Sergeant Leslie Aldrich, 94, Breckenridge, also served in Company I, 164th Infantry, at Guadalcanal. He was then offered the opportunity to volunteer for "just one campaign" and then he could go home. Merrill's Marauders marched through the Himalayas into the Burmese jungle behind Japanese lines. He returned home the summer of 1945, about the same time as some of the 164th guys.



Second Lieutenant James Beaton, Pelican Rapids, was assigned to the Intelligence "S2" Section of Headquarters, 164th Infantry Regiment, Fargo. After the fight at Guadalcanal, he transferred to XIV Corps, went to Officer Candidate School in the US, and wound up in Germany with the 1st Army, coming home October 1945. Beaton attended the 70th Annual reunion of the 164th Infantry Association on October 10th In Bismarck. Pictured with son, Don. (164 photo)

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**Rollette County: Possible 8 WWII veterans, 4 registered**

**Machinist Mate 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Floyd A. Dion**, 89, joined the US Navy on 30 April 45 and served until 2 August 1946 on auxiliary ship *USS H.P. Burnett IX104* with the 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet in the South Pacific.

**Private First Class Robert D. Pollman**, 91, Rolette, served in the US Army from August 1945-January 1947, with the 3160th Signal Service Battalion in the European Theater as a Lineman. On ship crossing to Germany, saw a box of chicken marked Rugby, ND, processing plant.

**Staff Sergeant Rudolph T. Ryyth**, 95, served in the US Army from February 1942-12 November 1945, first in the Aleutian Islands (Pacific Theater) for 2 years, then to France and Germany (European Theater).

**Technician 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Fred W. Schindler III**, 89, rural Rolla, served in the US Army in the Pacific Theater from 10 December 1943 – 7 March 1946.

**Sargent County: 14 Estimated WWII veterans, 1 registered**

**Technican 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Donald Clifford Olson**, 89, Forman, ND, served in the US Army from 20 June 1944 – 11 June 1946 as a halftrack driver and “foot infantry” with Company B, 60<sup>th</sup> Armored Battalion, 9<sup>th</sup> Armored Divison, in the European Theater. Served under Generals Hodges and Patton.

**Sheridan County: Possible 6 WWII veterans, 1 registered**

**Lieutenant Junior Grade Marvin E. Kissee**, 93, McClusky, served in the US Navy in the Pacific near Okinawa from July 1943-1946 as a Load Officer aboard the *USS Scribner*, a high-speed transport ship. He rejoined in 1952-1956, serving as a communications officer on the stores ship *USS Graffias* which received 4 campaign stars during the Korean War. [Marvin & Mildred]



**Sioux County: Estimated 1 WWII veteran, 0 registered**

**Slope County: estimated 1 WWII veteran, 0 registered**

**Stark County: estimated 90 WWII Veterans, 2 registered.**

**Third Class Motor Machinist John Paul Lorenz**, 93, served in the Navy from 1942-1946, stationed on the destroyer *USS Beale*, which traveled through the Panama Canal onto Hawaii, then spent 7 months supporting MacArthur’s conquest of New Guinea in ‘43; escorted the task force to the Leyte Gulf in ‘44; sailed to Okinawa as part of the Southern Task Force in ‘45, and landed at Nagasaki as part of the occupation forces. Lorenz was also a qualified salvage diver and deep sea diver. [John & Alice Lorenz].



**Shipfitter Third Class James R Fritz**, 89, Dickinson, formerly Belfield & Beach, served in the Navy from 1944-1946. He worked at Bremerton, WA, on aircraft carrier *USS Saratoga* damaged by the Japanese. Later, assigned to escort carriers *USS White Plains* & *USS Suwannee* which escorted *USS Yorktown* out of Puget Sound. “I found out later that the *Yorktown* was carrying an atomic bomb that was to be tested at the Bikini Atol,” said Fritz. “And that the *USS Saratoga*, one of the last rivet ships in the fleet, was deemed no longer needed for naval service and was sunk as part of that test.”

**Steele County: estimated 14 WWII veterans, 0 registered.**

**Stutsman County: estimated 53 WWII veterans, 6 registered**

**US Army Private Charles R. Downing**, 89, Jamestown, performed clerical duties in the United States from 1945-1947.

**Ernest F. Hubacker**, 100, Jamestown, was originally from Michigan when he joined the CCC. He served in the US Army from 1942-1945, first working with the Horse Cavalry at Ft Reno, Okla, then was assigned to the 475<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, which was part of the MARS Task Force in the China/Burma/India Campaign.

**Staff Sergeant Russell W. Krueger**, 96, Jamestown, served in the US Army Air Corps from December 1941 -November 1945 as an airplane mechanic with the 211th Base Operations, servicing planes used for training stateside.

**Private Robert J. Sarbaum**, 91, Jamestown, served as a US Army Military Policeman in the American Theater from March 1946 to May 1947.

**Yeoman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Johanna A. (Bata) Somsen**, 92, Jamestown, served as a secretary/typist in the US Navy Waves from July 1945 to August 1946 and Navy Reserve until 1949. On July 9<sup>th</sup> 1945, she on the Soo railroad at Kensal and headed for basic training at USS Hunter Women's Reserve Training Center at Bronx, NY, then to Washington, DC, to work at the Bureau of Naval Personnel. "The Naval experience was worth a million".

**Staff Sergeant Roy Werner**, 97, Jamestown, served in the US Army Air Corps from April 1942-October 1945. He was an airplane mechanic with the 18th Fighter Squadron, 11th Air Force, during the Aleutian Campaign.

**Towner County: Estimated 9 WWII veterans, 1 registered.**

**Corporal Edward M. Koshney**, 91, Cando, served in the US Army in the European African Middle Eastern Theater from 1943-1946. He was a Radio Operator for Headquarters Company, 9<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion, 20<sup>th</sup> Armored Division.

**Trail County: estimated 40 WWII veterans, 4 registered.**

**Sergeant Vernon P. Carlson**, 90, Mayville, served as an Artillery Specialist in the US Army's 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in the Asiatic Pacific Theater from December 1944 – November 1946, during which time the Division participated in the invasion of Okinawa and Occupation duties in Korea and Japan.

**Private First Class Rollan A. Knudson**, 91, Portland, served from November 1945-November 1946 as a small weapons instructor at the US Army Air Corps Training Center, San Antonio.

**Technician 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Walter A. Rindy**, 98, Mayville, served as a mechanic in the US Army's 211<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company in the Philippines, New Guinea, Leyte, Luzon, & Japan from October 1942-October 1945. He would never forget the day they were sailing home from Yokohama, Japan, and watched the Japanese Emperor's boat pull up to the USS *Missouri*, and saw the procession proceed to the top deck to sign the Peace Treaty with General MacArthur. He remembers the Allied Forces put every plane in the air and said the sky was black at times with all the planes flying over.

**Private First Class Harris O. Woell**, 92, Mayville, served in the US Army in the Pacific Theater and during the Occupation of Japan, from January 1945-November 1946.

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Walsh County: Estimated 50 WWII Veterans, 13 enrolled.

Laddie Bata, Park River, served as a US Army machinegunner in the 2nd Infantry Division during the Ardennes and Central Europe campaigns and Army of Occupation, 1944-1946.

Merlyn "Murphy" Callahan, Grafton, served on the fleet oiler USS *Ashtabula* and aircraft carrier USS *Monterey* in the Pacific.

Anselma Rose Clemetson, Park River, served in the US Navy in at the Naval Department, Washington, D.C, from 1942-1945.

Joseph K. Espelien, Park River, "built bridges and destroyed bridges" with the US Army's 165th Combat Engineer Battalion which landed on Omaha Beach and fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

Sonarman 2nd Class Floyd Gemmill, 89, Fordville, served in the US Coast Guard on—who knew?—the USS *Grand Forks*, a frigate that patrolled off the coast of California from 1944-1946, guarding the coastline on the alert for enemy aircraft and ships.

James Haug, Edinburg, served as a Merchant Marines engine room maintenance man in the North Atlantic Ocean in 1944-45.

Joe Holm, 90, rural Edinburg, served with the US Army from 21 February 1945 to 9 December 1946 with the 1st Field Artillery Battalion, 6th Infantry Division in 1945 in the Philippines and Army of Occupation in Korea.

Corporal Charles Hoenke, Grafton, served from 1944-46 in the 6th Marine Division on Okinawa, Guam, and 6 months in China after the war.

First Lieutenant Apalona T. Schaetzel Kiser, Park River, served as in the US Army Nurse Corps on Okinawa and Korea from April 1945 to August 1946.

Seaman 2nd Class Leonard A. Misialek, Grafton, served as an oil man on the heavy cruiser USS *Louisville* in the Battle of Surigao Strait, Leyte, Philippines, and Okinawa in 1944-1945.

Roy Myhre, Park River, served in the 335th Bombardment Squadron, US Army Air Force, in Europe through 1945.



Owen

Lieutenant Junior Grade Delvin Owen, 92, Park River, flew PBV and PBM (patrol bomber) seaplanes in the Pacific Theater, and tested various fighter planes such as the F6F. *Delvin and daughter, Karen Tescher, danced to a Glenn Miller tune as part of the Celebration program. Google "ND WWII Victory youtube" or order the DVD of the celebration.*

Private First Class Frank Votava, Grafton, served in Company C, 164th Infantry Regiment, ND National Guard. He served as a mortarman at Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Leyte, & Southern Philippines, coming home August 1945. He invented a night light device for the 60mm mortar, in the jungles of Bougainville, using a C-ration can, flashlight bulb, 30 calibre shell, telephone wire, all held in place by melted toothbrush plastic, and using a nail as a soldering iron. He never got credit for it, but it looks suspiciously like the M51 Instrument light later used by the Army.

Ward County: 166 estimated WWII Veterans, 43 enrolled

Corporal Walter Bachmeier, Minot, served in the US Marine Corps in the Samoan Islands, Hawaii, Guadalcanal, and Bougainville from June 1942-June 1946 as a Squad Leader of a Mortar Squad.



Behrens

Quartermaster Third Class Walter R. Behrens, 89, Minot, served in the US Navy from December 1944-August 1946, Pacific Theater, assigned to the destroyer USS *Begor* as helmsman, navigator, & gunner. During one battle, he was knocked unconscious when a Japanese kamikaze crashed into the forward gun placement, taking both him and the gun over the side of the ship into the ocean.



Bergeson

Sergeant Melvyn L. Bergeson, 89, Minot, served in the US Army Air Force from February 1945-October 1948 in Alaska and as part of the Occupation Force in Japan.
[Melvyn & Lucile]

Cadet Nurse Betty Jane Anderson Bergman, Minot, was one of 28 Cadet Nurses that entered training June 1943 at Trinity Hospital, Minot. The class graduated in 1946 after the war was over, but it was estimated that in 1945, student nurses were providing 80% of the country's nursing care in more than 1000 civilian hospitals.

Yeoman Third Class Darrell R. Bernsdorf, 89, Minot, served stateside at the Naval Radio Station, 12th Naval District, San Francisco, from July 1944-July 1946 in the personnel field.

Lieutenant Colonel Francis S. Bodine, 95, Minot, served in the 8th US Army Air Force in the European Theater from March 1941 – July 1957 as a Pilot who flew B-24 Liberator Heavy Bombers out of England. He retired after serving his country for 20 years.

Paul A Bodine, 91, Minot, was a pilot in the US Army Air Force from October 1942-October 1945. He was in special training for the invasion of Japan when the atomic bomb was dropped. "That ended all training at once!" he said.

First Lieutenant M. Janette Bodine Warlick, 93, Minot, served stateside as an Army Nurse from March 1945-December 1946.

Private First Class William J. Bossert, 90, Minot, served in the US Army from November 1943-February 1946, as an ammunition handler for howitzers and small arms, with 126th Field Artillery and 31st Infantry "Dixie" Division in New Guinea, Morotai, Mindanao.

First Lieutenant Raymond S. Curtis, Minot, served on 9 Army Posts, 1 Navy Base, 1 city, and as a platoon leader with Company B, 110th Infantry Regiment, 28th Division, in the Central Europe Rhineland campaign. He was set to be sent to the Pacific as an inspector general at war's end.



Christensen

Corporal Walter Christensen, 89, Kenmare, served in the Pacific Theater from November 1944-November 1946 in the US Army's 11th Airborne Division, which invaded Luzon in January 1945, liberated Manila in March, and occupied southern Japan in August.

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### Ward County (Continued)

**First Lieutenant Kenneth D. Clark**, 93, Minot, mobilized with the Anti-Tank Company, 188<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, ND National Guard, in 1941. After an Army reorganization, he served as a platoon commander with 817<sup>th</sup> Tank Destroyer Battalion which landed on Utah Beach in August 1944. He also served from September 1950-May 1952. Earned rank of Major.



Clark

**Nurse Cadet Lillian Hendrickson Dagner**, Minot, was one of 28 Cadet Nurses that entered training June 1943 at Trinity Hospital, Minot. The class graduated in 1946 after the war was over. Lillian has kept track of her class and provided the names of other surviving Minot Nurse Cadets in this listing.

**Technician Fifth Grade Joseph Dobrovolny**, 93, Minot, served in the US Army from November 1942-January 1946 in the 124<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Artillery where he used a 90mm gun to shoot at German Buzz Bombs. As an Electrician/Truck Driver he moved around to protect supply lines in Belgium, Holland, French coast.



Dobrovolny



Dostert

**Technician Fifth Grade Edwin F. Dostert**, 89, Burlington, served in the US Army from June 1944-May 1946 as a Rifleman/Military Policeman in the 124<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment (special). The 124<sup>th</sup> was part of Mars Task Force with the mission of clearing Northern Burma of Japanese forces and opening the Burma Road for truck traffic to China.

**Petty Officer Two Ferdinand L. "Fred" Ehr**, 93, Minot, served from January 1943 to March 1946 as a meat cutter and cook in the US Navy's 83<sup>rd</sup> Seabees in Samar, Leyte, Luzon, Okinawa, and China when the war was over.

**Ensign William L. Gimble**, 92, Minot, served from 1942-1945 in the Merchant Marines sailing on the *USS Oliver Kelly* "in and out of Australia" to locales in the South Pacific. He was commissioned at New London, Connecticut.

**Technician Fifth Grade Doran M. Glasoe**, 88, Minot, served in the Army from July 1945 to December 1946.



Gruenberg

**Staff Sergeant Fred. H. Gruenberg**, 95, Minot, served from December 1941 to November 1945 in the 303<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group, 8<sup>th</sup> US Army Air Force. The "Hell's Angels" B17s flew more than 300 combat missions, more than any other group.

**Private First Class Wendell Hanson**, Minot, served in Germany from 1944 to 1946 as a company clerk within the US Army's 10<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 5<sup>th</sup> Division.

**Private First Class Warren I. Helstedt**, Minot, served from 1944-1946 on Luzon, Philippines, in the Army's Company F, 126<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 32<sup>nd</sup> "Red Arrow" Division. He earned a Bronze Star and the Combat Infantry Badge.



Helstedt

Ward County (Continued)

**Private First Class James C. Histad**, 95, Kenmare, served from February 1942 to January 1946 as a radio operator in the 558<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion (Air Warning) in India.

**Sergeant Gottlieb "GG" Henne**, 88, Minot, served in the Pacific Theater Army of Occupation from March 1946 – April 1947 with the 209<sup>th</sup> Military Police. He served as escort for 8<sup>th</sup> Army Commander.



Histad

**Corporal Albert J. Hochsprung**, 89, Minot, served from 1944 to 1946 as a mechanic in the Army as part of the Occupation Forces in Japan. Two Japanese swords and a rifle were stolen from his home during the Minot flood, then returned in the middle of the night.

**Sonarman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Melvin W. Jensrud**, 92, Minot, from 7 December 1943 to 4 June 1946 in the US Navy as one of a crew of 50 on PC (Patrol Craft) 486. His job was to watch for enemy ships to ensure they didn't approach Hawaii. He enjoyed listening to whales and porpoises communicate.



Larson

**Electrician's Mate 3rd Class William K. Larson**, 90, Minot, served in the US Navy from May 1944 – June 1946 as an Electrician's Mate in the SeaBees Maintenance Unit 620 during the Iwo Jima Campaign.

**Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class (now Dr.) Leroy H. Lindekugel**, 92, Minot, served in the US Navy from October 1942 to October 1945 in the Pacific Theater on submarine patrol. Attended Victory Celebration program, but did not stop at the photo station.

**Technician 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Leonard M. Lund**, 92, Minot, served from 1943 to 1946 in the European Theater (Italy) with the 15<sup>th</sup> Army Air Force as a reporter for *Stars and Stripes*.

**Private First Class Lawrence J. Mahoney**, 89, Douglas, served from 1944-1946 in the 10<sup>th</sup> Amphibious Tractor Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Division, as a tractor driver and rifleman. His unit was training on Maui awaiting the invasion of Japan when the war ended.

**Staff Sergeant Leo P. Makelky**, 91, Minot, served from April 1943 to October 1945 in the Army Air Force as a gunner on B17s flying out of Horham, England.



Makelky

**John "Jack" Munsch**, 93, Minot, served from September 1943 – December 1945 with quartermaster duties.



Olson &  
Olson

**Staff Sergeant James D. Olson**, 90, Minot, served in the Army from September 1943 to April 1946 in the Pacific Theater as a radioman and landing craft operator.

**Audrey Olson**, 88, Minot, began Cadet Nurse Training in 1945 and graduated as a registered nurse in 1948. She is the spouse of James Olson.

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A Single Generation of Men Determined the Fate of all Mankind...”

Ward County (Continued)



Rasmusson

Boatswains Mate 2nd Class Lloyd J. Peterson, 91, Carpio, served on the attack freighter *USS Southhampton* in the South Pacific. He was crushed between the amphibious landing craft he crewed and the big ship, bleeding internally, given up for dead, waking up in the ship's morgue, and--not recalling any of that--reported for duty the next morning.

Petty Officer First Class Winston D. Rasmusson, 88, served in the Navy from May 1945 to October 1946 at Corona Naval Hospital, San Diego, as a pharmacist's mate.



Corporal Evron G. Rostad, 89 Minot, served in the Army as a tank gunner in the 787th Tank Battalion in France, Germany, and Austria. He says he has no story to tell: "I am trying to forget."



Fireman First Class Wilbert W. Schmidt, 92, Minot, served in the US Navy from October 1944 – July 1946 in the Pacific Theater.

Technician 5th Grade Theodore Schweyen, Sr, 89, Berthold, served in the Army from September 1944 to July 1946, first in Iran with the Persian Gulf Command (yes, in WWII) and then with the 3175th Signal Service Company in Egypt, with duties as telegraph operator and transmitter attendant.

Technician 5th Grade William B. Siebert, 91, Minot, served in the US Army from 27 February 1945 – 18 December 1946. He served with the 56th Medical Corps in the Philippines, then was assigned to an Infantry unit as a Warehouse Supervisor on Luzon during the Occupation.

Staff Sergeant Richard L. Stanley, 87, Minot, served in the US Army from July 1946 – May 1948 as a Teletype writer and maintenance worker with the Headquarters Message Center stateside. He served again from September 1951- May 1952.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Harold Stroklund, 91, Minot, served as a Ships Welder in the US Navy in the Pacific Theater from April 1944 to January 1946 on the evacuation transport *USS Tryon* which was a "floating Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH)".



Private First Class Lane B. Sundsbak, 90, Minot, served as an Army Infantryman with the 81st Infantry "Wildcat" Division from December 1944 to November 1946, performing mop up operations on Leyte Island, Philippines, then Occupational duty in Japan. He was raised on a farm near Des Lacs.

Corporal Odin Tranby, 89, Berthold, served as paratrooper, supply sergeant, and MP, with Company I, 3rd Battalion, 188th Parachute Infantry, 11th Airborne Division. He crossed the Pacific twice, once dodging Japanese submarines, once pounding ice off the ship in the Aleutians.

Helen Henry Trowbridge, Minot, enrolled as in the Cadet Nurse Corps in 1944 and graduated in 1947. She trained in Mercy Hospitals in Williston and Devils Lake.

Ward County (Continued)

Fireman 1st Class Benjamin C. Tollefson, 88, Minot, served in the United States Navy from 7 May 1945 to 10 June 1946.

Seaman First Class James A. White, 87, Minot, served in the US Navy from March 1945 – February 1949 assigned as a deck sailor & trigger man for 5 inch guns with Division 3, Fantail Unit on the *USS Commencement Bay*. The 1000 man escort carrier was heading for Japan when the war ended so he served at the Tacoma shipyards.

Wells County: Possible 19 WWII veterans, 2 registered

Cadet Nurse Lorraine Anderson Brye, Harvey, served in the Cadet Nurse Corps at Trinity Hospital, Minot, from June 1943 to June 1946. Her class of 28 Cadets graduated in 1946.

Technician 5th Grade Ted. C. Heitzman, 93, Harvey, served stateside in the US Army from 15 June 1945 – 5 May 47. He attended Anti Aircraft Artillery School and was assigned there as a clerk typist after the war.

Williams County: estimated 57 WWII Veterans, 4 registered

Seaman 2nd Class Douglas A. McEvers, 90, Williston, served in the US Navy from May 1944 – December 1945. He was in basic training to work in Aviation Ordnance but was injured during training and spent 10 months in a military hospital in Norman, OK.



Hickel

Technician 4th Grade Donald J. Hickel, 89, Ray, joined the Army infantry in June 1945. He served as a postal clerk at the 24th Base Post Office in Frankfurt, Germany, until November 1946. Pictured Don & Lillian Hickel.

Corporal Kenneth G. Hickel, 92, Williston, served as a commo specialist, 2nd Marine Division, from December 1942 to January 1946 on Tarawa, Saipan, Tinian, and Okinawa. The 2nd Marines were the first occupation forces into Nagasaki, arriving 25 days after the bomb was dropped.

Lillian Finnesgard Stromme, 91, Williston, was one of 28 Cadet Nurses that entered training June 1943 at Trinity Hospital, Minot. The class graduated in 1946 after the war was over, but it was estimated that in 1945, these student nurses were providing 80% of the country's nursing care in more than 1000 civilian hospitals.

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**OUT OF STATERS (Entered Service from ND, now living out of state)**

**Sergeant Lawrence Aasen**, 92, Westport, CT (Hillsboro, ND), served from May 1943-January 1946 as a cryptographer in France for the Glider infantry regiment of the 13<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division.

**Corporal Alvin Ahmann**, Sioux Falls, SD (Minot), 92, served in the Army Air Corps from December 1942-October 1945, participating in the Napels-Foggis, Rome-Arno, Northern France, Southern France, Rhineland Battle of the Bulge), and Central European campaigns.

**Irene Olson Andrist**, 91, Eagan, MN (Milner, ND), trained in the Nurse Cadet Corps at St. Lukes, Fargo, from September 1942 – May 1945.

**Yeoman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Frank C. Beilage**, 92, Clearwater, FL (Dickinson, ND), served in the US Navy as a clerk in Italy from 18 January 1942 – 17 February 1946.

**Technician 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Joseph A. Bingert**, 95, Lakewood, CO, (Hebron, ND) served in the Signal Corps in McArthur's Headquarters in New Guinea, Philippines, Leyte. Also served on commo skip supporting the *USS Missouri*.

**Orville George Erickson**, 94, Mesa, AZ (Galesburg & Fargo, ND) served in the Merchant Marines, where he learned the electrician trade, weathered storms, and escaped submarine attacks.

**Radarman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class James P. Farstad**, 92, Malta, MT (Ryder, ND) served in the US Navy from 30 May 1944 – 3 February 1946 on Patrol Torpedo (PT) Boat 319 in the Philippines.

**Ships Fitter 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Arnold E. Fiedler**, 94, Dousman, WI (Butte, ND) Served on the *USS Mullany*, a Fletcher class destroyer, in the Aleutians, Leyte Gulf, Iwo Jima. Hit by kamikaze 6 April 1945 While guarding Okinawa invasion force, crew forced to abandon ship.

**Sergeant Harland B. Glasoe**, 88, Castle Rock, CO (Landa, ND), served in the Army from 25 August 1943 to 20 April 1946 in the European Theater.

**Fireman Second Class Gene R. Hallam**, 89, Marysville, WA, (Mott, ND) served in the US Navy from 28 September 1944 to 5 July 1946 in the Pacific Theater.

**Radarman 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Lester S. Hjelmstad**, 93, Englewood, CO (Ryder, ND) served in the US Navy from 13 November 1943 – 5 June 1946 on the *USS Hancock*, an Essex-class aircraft carrier that earned 4 battle stars in the Pacific. Hjelmstad watched the treaty signing from his ship.

**Corporal Vernon S. Julson**, 88, Key West, FL (Voltaire, ND) served in the Army Air Corps from March 1946-August 1947. He was at B29 mechanic with the 899<sup>th</sup> Air Engineer Squadron and often flew with the crew to test airplanes at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa.

**Fireman Second Class LaVern Francis Larson**, 89, Sioux Falls, SD (Souris & Bottineau, ND) served in the US Navy from July 1943 to February 1945 on *USS Admiralty Islands*, a Casablanca-class escort aircraft carrier, launching & delivering aircraft to Guam, Okinawa, & Saipan.

**Harry A. Lindbo**, 99, Tacoma, WA, (Belfield, ND) joined the CCC on the west coast, then the Army Air Corps. He served in the Signal Corps and built radar towers on Tongareva (Cook Islands).

## OUT OF STATERS (Continued)

**Flight Officer John H Martin**, 94, Wasco, CA, (Forbes, ND) Served in the Army Air Corps from 4 Feb 1943 – 24 October 1945.

**Corporal Wesley J. McCoy**, 91, Edina, MN (Larimore, ND) served as a demolitions man (also bazooka & flame thrower) from 7 June 1944- 25 July 1946 in Headquarters Company, 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division during the battle on Okinawa. His unit was sent to Peking, China, to deter Russia.

**Technical Sergeant Paul G. Metzger**, 92, Ronan, MT (Hebron, ND), served from 16 May 1944-3 June 1946 as a Medic in the 71<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, liberating the Gunskirchen Lager concentration camp in Austria just days before the war in Europe ended.

**Chief Petty Officer William E. Moody**, 91, Sweet Home, OR (Antler, ND) served 20 years in the US Navy from 1942-1962. During WWII, he started in the Atlantic on small escort carrier *USS Bogue* CVE 9 through the Panama Canal to Guam, Adak, and Operation Magic Carpet. The *Bogue* sank 11 German and 2 Japanese submarines making her the most successful anti-submarine carrier in WWII.

**Sergeant Clarence E. Nickel**, 98 St. Helen's, OR,(Gardena, ND) joined the US Army on 31 March 1942 and served with the 90<sup>th</sup> Division in the American Theater until 20 October 1943,

**Seaman Arthur Rempfer**, Galt, CA (Dickey County, ND) served in the US Navy in 1944.

**Technician 4<sup>th</sup> Class Alice (Monson) Rohan**, 94, Meridian, ID (Lakota, ND) served in the US Army from March 1943 – January 1946. Trained as a radio operator, then worked for almost 3 years as a Japanese Intercept Radio Code Operator at Petaluma, CA.

**Damage Control Worker Third Class William K. Schultz**, 90, Billings, MT (Glen Ullin, ND) served in the US Navy Seabees in the Pacific Theater from 24 May 1943 to 21 February 1946. Served as a mosquito abatement controller on New Caledonia (malaria prevention). His brother, Donald, US Navy, was a prisoner of the Japanese for over 3 years. Brother Roger served in Korea. Their father, Herman, served in World War I.

**Neva Stenbak**, 91, Bremerton, WA, served as a Rosie from 1942 – 1945 in the American Theater. Neva was a Mechanic for B24's and B25's wiring the cockpit to the tail gunner.

**First Lieutenant Gerald O. Sveen**, 91, Bemidji, MN (Bottineau, ND) served in the US Army Air Force from May 1943 – January 1946. He was assigned to the 740th Bomb Squad, 455th Bomb Group, 15th Air Corps as a Navigator on B24 bombers. Gerald also served from 1951 – 1953 as a dentist for the paratroopers.

**Machinist Mate 1<sup>st</sup> Class Otto M. Thortenson**, Monona, IA (Brinsmade, ND) served in the US Navy from June 1942 – June 1945 as a diesel mechanic on seaplane tender USS Matadora and sub chaser SC 1297, sailing the Atlantic seas to places like Trinidad and Newfoundland.

**Staff Sergeant Leo Unser**, 95, Mesa, AZ, served in the US Army from 1942 – 1945 as a "First Scout" in the Pacific Theater. He was born in Strasburg, ND, and now spends time in warmer climates. His son in law lives in Napoleon, ND, and signed Leo up for the Victory Roll Call.

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A Single Generation of Men Determined the Fate of all Mankind...”

OUT OF STATERS (Continued)

Staff Sergeant Stanley Vachel, 93, Watertown, SD (Ross, ND) served in the US Army Air Force from October 1942 – March 1946 as a flight engineer on B-24's and B-29's, seeing Guam, Tinian, and Okinawa in the South Pacific.

Seaman Hans C. Walker, Jr., 89, Arlington, VA, joined the Navy on 22 December 1944 and served as a Hospital Corpsman at Shoemaker Naval Hospital, Camp Shoemaker, CA, until 1 July 1946. Walker earned a law degree from UND in 1960.

Three brothers from Esmond, ND, entered the service from North Dakota, but now reside on the west coast. **Conrad J. Zimmerman**, 89, Yakima, WA, and **Elias Zimmerman**, 90, Vancouver, WA, both held the Navy rank of Seaman First Class and served in the Pacific from 1944-1945. Private First Class **Estagen Zimmerman**, 92, Portland, OR, served in the Army's 378th Infantry Regiment, 95th Division, from 1943-1945, reenlisted 1947-1950.

Out of state members of the class 28 Cadet Nurses that entered training June 1943 at Trinity Hospital, Minot. The class graduated in 1946 after the war was over, but it was estimated that in 1945, student nurses were providing 80% of the country's nursing care in more than 1000 civilian hospitals. .

Cadet Nurse Betty Beatrice Giddings Charging, Tahlequah, OK

Cadet Nurse Rebecca Janke Cooper, Daly City, CA

Cadet Nurse Carol Larson Amundson, Sidney, MT

Cadet Nurse Muriel Brodahl Jensen, Louisville, CO

Cadet Nurse Beatrice Helmers Stevenson, Anacortes, WA

Cadet Nurse Virginia Phillippe Eide, Park, AZ

Cadet Nurse Helga Dahl Haugen, Sidney, MT

Cadet Nurse Veline Overholt Fairburn, San Antonio, TX

Didn't hear about the ND Victory Roll Call?

It was intended to document all WWII veterans, nurse cadets, or merchant marines living in ND at the time of the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII (2015). If you or a loved one fit that category, you can still fill out a service record to be included in the Victory Roll Call Roster, which will be stored in the archives at the State Historical Society.

Email ndwwiivictorycelebration@outlook.com

Or write to WWII Victory Celebration, PO Box 1111, Bismarck 58502

ALSO

The National WWII Memorial has a WWII Registry of Remembrances for anyone who helped with the war, either a veteran or an American on the home front. Registration is free.

Register at www.wwiimemorial.com

Or write to

WWII Memorial Processing Center, PO Box 77, Holbrook, NY 11741

**164 Infantry North Dakotans living Out of State as of October 2015
All are veterans of Guadalcanal**

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|----|-----------------------------------|
| CHARLES T BELL | NEWPORT BEACH | CA | Band |
| VERNON W BOGNER | TIGARD | OR | Hqs 3 rd Bn |
| LAWRENCE E BOISEN | HAUSER | ID | Co K |
| EARL J BORSHEIM | ROSHOLT | SD | Co L |
| OREIN G DE LAP | TAMPA | FL | Med Det |
| FLOYD D DEMARAY | EL DORADO HILLS | CA | Co H |
| WALTER E ENSMINGER | GRANTS PASS | OR | Hqs, 3 rd Bn |
| JAMES V FENELON | EDEN PRAIRIE | MN | Service Co |
| ROBERT L FORD | BREA | CA | Co A & Co H |
| PETER H GRANT | EAU CLAIRE | WI | Co G & Co E |
| GEORGE R HAMER (COL) | MELBOURNE | FL | Co H |
| KENNETH O LYSTAD | STANLEY | ND | Med Det |
| MARVIN MAUCH | GLENWOOD | MN | |
| RAYMOND F SINKBEIL | MEDICINE LODGE | KS | Rgt Hqs & Hqs, 2 nd Bn |
| HENRY A VIOLETT | Inman | SC | Co D |
| WILLIAM P. WELANDER | Salem | OR | Hqs, 3 rd Bn |
| DENNIS R FERK | SANTA FE | NM | Co A |



Dennis Ferk was the only 164 out-of-Stater to travel to the WWII Victory Celebration in 2015

**164 Infantry North Dakotans living in ND
also listed with their respective counties in the Victory Roll Call.
All are Veterans of Guadalcanal**

| | | | |
|------------|-----------|--------------|----------------------------------|
| LESLIE | ALDRICH | BRECKENRIDGE | MN Co I (Wahpeton) |
| JAMES | BEATON | WEST FARGO | ND Regt Hq |
| MELVIN P | BORK | WEST FARGO | ND Hqs, 3 rd Bn |
| DOUGLAS P | BURTELL | BOWMAN | ND Regt Hq |
| WARREN C | GRIFFIN | VALLEY CITY | ND Co G |
| LOUIS J. | HANSON | BISMARCK | ND Hqs 2 nd Bn & Co E |
| JEROME P | HIPP | BRECKENRIDGE | MN Co I (Wahpeton) |
| ALOYSIUS J | MOSZER | Bismarck | ND Co A |
| RALPH H | OEHLKE | ENDERLIN | ND Band & Anti-Tank Co |
| GERALD | SANDERSON | Rugby | ND Med Det |
| JULIUS | SENGER | DEVILS LAKE | ND Service Co |
| HARRY R | VADNIE | BISMARCK | ND Co A |
| FRANK S | VOTAVA | GRAFTON | ND Co C |

~~~~~“  
A Single Generation of Men Determined the Fate of all Mankind...”

# Enduring Legacy: 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry



The 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Association of the United States of America  
 ...Held annual reunions from 1945 (to 2017)  
 ...Printed *The 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry News* since 1958  
 ...Published the book "They Were Ready" in 2010  
 ...Hosted the ND WWII Victory Celebration in 2015  
 ...Celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Guadalcanal Landing in 2017



**The 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Memorial Highway**  
 US Highway 2 through North Dakota is dedicated to the 164<sup>th</sup>. Interpretive panels at rest stops explain the rich history of the Regiment from 1883-1955.

**The 164<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Regional Training Institute**  
 at Camp Grafton, trains military engineers from across the nation. Unit personnel wear the 164 Crest.



**The Regimental Crest** shows the history: Castle from Spanish American War, mullets from the Philippine Insurrection, sunburst from 41<sup>st</sup> Division in WWI, on a field of infantry blue. Je Suis Pret means "I Am Ready"

The **shoulder sleeve insignia for the North Dakota National Guard**, created in 1951, is a shield of infantry blue with arrows signifying the 3 native american tribes of North Dakota. The **shoulder sleeve insignia for the 141<sup>st</sup> maneuver enhancement brigade** (which carries the lineage of the 1<sup>st</sup> Dakota Infantry/164<sup>th</sup> Infantry) shows the elements of the 164<sup>th</sup> crest on a field of infantry blue, with the addition of "southern cross" constellation to signify WWII service with the Americal Division in the South Pacific. The 188<sup>th</sup> Army Band, 164<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, & other ND units also retain lineage of the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry based on unit location & other factors.



**The 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Memorial at the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery** south of Mandan shows the unit locations, history, and a dedication to departed comrades: "You are Honored"

**"Ready Room"** at Williston State College dedicated to Company E, 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry, Williston

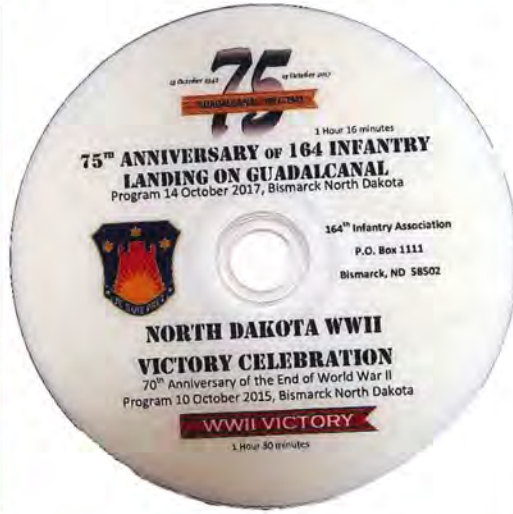
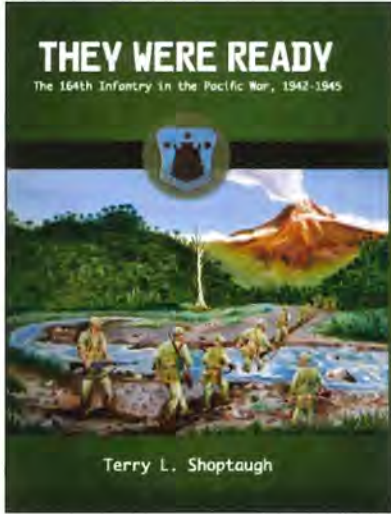


**164th Infantry Archives:** The University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, hosts the 164<sup>th</sup> infantry archives, allowing supervised research for generations to come. Your editor can assist your donation of historic materials, photos, orders, letters, & memorabilia.



**North Dakota State Flag.** State Law says that the North Dakota State Flag "must conform in all respects to the color, form, size, and device" with the regimental colors carried by the 1<sup>st</sup> North Dakota Infantry during the Philippine Insurrection. (Where seven 1<sup>st</sup> ND soldiers earned the Medal of Honor). The law specifies that the words "North Dakota" shall replace the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry notation on the red banner. The 1<sup>st</sup> ND Infantry Regiment was renamed 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment during a nationwide renumbering system just prior to World War I. At left, the reverse of the original flag carried in the Philippines. Photo: State Historical Society of North Dakota

# 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Sales Page



**DVD \$10**  
**INCLUDES BOTH**  
**NDWWII VICTORY**  
**AND 75<sup>th</sup>**  
**GUADALCANAL**  
**LANDING**

**NOTE: THESE PROGRAMS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FOR FREE ON YOUTUBE:**

Google: chat Guadalcanal 164 bsc  
[youtube.com/watch?v=cErzvDO4200](https://youtube.com/watch?v=cErzvDO4200)

Google: nd wwii victory 164 youtube  
[youtube.com/watch?v=C-uVZskiy\\_c](https://youtube.com/watch?v=C-uVZskiy_c)

**THE 164<sup>th</sup> INFANTRY NEWS**  
 Vol. 41, No. 1 Targeting 164th History... October 2007

**Sixty-Five Years Since Guadalcanal**

On 13 October 1942, a band of 164 boys from North Dakota landed on the beach at Guadalcanal to become the first U.S. Army unit to offensively engage the enemy – in either theatre – during World War II.

The 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, North Dakota Army National Guard, spearheaded by Army doctors as well as *Infantry Squad* members from other states, reinforced the Marine Division in the defense of the sector of air that became known as Henderson Field.

**GUADALCANAL 1942-1943**

**THE 164<sup>th</sup> INFANTRY NEWS**  
 Vol. 41, No. 3 Following 164th History... October 2007

**Sixty-Five Years Since Bougainville**

On 13 October 1942, the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment landed on the beach at Guadalcanal to become the first U.S. Army unit to offensively engage the enemy – in either theatre – during World War II.

After the decisive victory on Guadalcanal, the American Division moved to the Fijian Islands for training, rest, and recovery from March to November 1943.

On 25 Nov 43, the alert went to the American Division. Again, the 164<sup>th</sup> was the first American unit scheduled to make a landing. The experienced jungle fighters of the 164<sup>th</sup> landed at Empress Augusta Bay, Bougainville, Christmas Day 1943.

**NORTHERN SOLOMONS 1943-1944**

**THE 164<sup>th</sup> INFANTRY NEWS**  
 Vol. 41, No. 2 65 Years Since D-Day July 2007

**Still on Bougainville - 1944**

For the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, the 1944 fighting was a year spanning muddy mountain tops and g with the challenges of dwelling in the jungle. The following pages in one soldier's memories of "Life on Bougainville".

**NORTHERN SOLOMONS 1943-1944**

**THE 164<sup>th</sup> INFANTRY NEWS**  
 Vol. 41, No. 1 65 Years Since... March 2007

**Life on Bougainville**

to Bougainville for "top up" activity in December, 1943, the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment spent a year spanning muddy mountain tops and g with the challenges of dwelling in the jungle. The following pages in one soldier's memories of "Life on Bougainville".

**NORTHERN SOLOMONS 1943-1944**

**THE 164<sup>th</sup> INFANTRY NEWS**  
 Vol. 41, No. 2 Timelines of History... October 2007

**Sixty-Five Years Since... Leyte, Philippines**

Timeline: On 13 October 1942, the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment landed at Guadalcanal, to reinforce the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine and became the first U.S. Army unit to offensively engage the enemy – in either theatre – during World War II.

After the decisive victory on Guadalcanal, the American Division moved to the Fijian Islands for training, rest, & recovery in March, 1943.

Assigned for action in November, 1943, the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry was the first unit from the American Division to land at Bougainville on Christmas Day, 1943, fighting there through 1944.

They embarked 4 January 1944 on convoys that would take them to new battles on the Philippine Islands. On 21 January 1944, the 164<sup>th</sup> landed at Leyte, the first step in the so-called "mopping up" actions that would extend to the Negro Oriental, Bond, and Cebu.

**LEYTE 1944-1945**

**THE 164<sup>th</sup> INFANTRY NEWS**  
 Vol. 41, No. 1 Timelines of History... March 2007

**Sixty-Five Years Since... Cebu, Philippines**

Timeline: On 13 October 1942, the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment reinforced the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine at Guadalcanal, to become the first U.S. Army unit to offensively engage the enemy – in either theatre.

After the decisive victory, the American Division moved to the Fijian Islands for training, rest, & recovery in March, 1943.

The 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry was the first American unit to land on Bougainville, arriving on Christmas Day, 1943.

On 21 January 1944, the 164<sup>th</sup> landed at Leyte, the first step in the so-called "mopping up" actions.

Called out of 8<sup>th</sup> Army Reserve by the American Division, the 164<sup>th</sup> landed near Cebu City on 10 April 1944 to join the 122<sup>nd</sup> and 124<sup>th</sup> in their quest to root the enemy out of their mountain hideouts.

**SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES 1945**

**THE 164<sup>th</sup> INFANTRY NEWS**  
 Vol. 41, No. 2 Timelines of History... July 2007

**Sixty-Five Years Since... Negros Oriental**

Timeline: On 13 October 1942, the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment reinforced the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine at Guadalcanal, to become the first U.S. Army unit to offensively engage the enemy – in either theatre.

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**SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES 1945**

**THE 164<sup>th</sup> INFANTRY NEWS**  
 Vol. 41, No. 2 65 Years Since D-Day July 2007

**Sixty-Five Years Since... VICTORY**

With shaved pates and painted foreheads, these men of Company F celebrated VICTORY in the South Pacific!

**JAPAN SURRENDERS**  
 V-J Day To Be Proclaimed When Terms Are Signed

Hiroshima 8 August 1945 Nagasaki 9 August 1945 Surrender 15 August 1945 V-J Day 2 September 1945 Emperor's Speech 8 September 1945 Signing USA Instrument

**THE 164<sup>th</sup> INFANTRY NEWS**  
 Vol. 41, No. 1 65 Years Since... March 2007

**Sixty-Five Years Since... OCCUPATION**

The 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment was the first Army unit to offensively engage the Japanese at Guadalcanal on 13 October 1942. Three years later, ready to invade with Allied forces, the Regiment was instead among the first Army units into a peaceful Occupied Japan, landing near Yokohama 8 September 1945 to guard airfields, secure equipment, an "engage" the country in a much different way.

**THE 164<sup>th</sup> INFANTRY NEWS**  
 Vol. 41, No. 2 Sixty Years Since... KOREA July 2007

**47<sup>th</sup> Viking INFANTRY DIVISION**

In 1951, one thousand three hundred fifty-eight soldiers & officers of the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment were called to active duty with the 47<sup>th</sup> Division for the Korean War.

The unit served as a training regiment at Camp Rucker, Ala, with individuals placed from its ranks to deploy as replacements in units stationed in the Korean Theater of Operations.

**CAMP RUCKER, ALABAMA**



Free 12x18" 164th Memorial Highway poster with order. This tells the history & lineage of the regiment

**NOTICE:** Only one more issue of the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry News will be printed, probably in the October 2019 time period. Please send stories & photos **by 31 August 2019** for inclusion. If you have a story pending, please email your Editor as a reminder and to review the edited story. The goal is still to document as much as possible, so please get your items in print. All gathered photos, documents, journals, etc, will eventually be turned over to the 164<sup>th</sup> Archives at UND. Contact Editor if you have any materials to archive for future researchers.

**BOOKS \$5 + \$3.50 MAILING**  
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**DVD \$10 (BOTH PROGRAMS)**

Mail Checks & Correspondence to  
**164 Infantry Association**  
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**701-989-2924** (tracphone, no voicemail, keep trying)





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There is one more issue planned during 2019, then the books of the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Association will be closed.

**Submit stories right now.**

The "164<sup>th</sup> Infantry News" Facebook page will remain operational for postings.

Email [Editor164thInfantryNews@hotmail.com](mailto:Editor164thInfantryNews@hotmail.com) will remain operational for research and correspondence.

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**DVD: Victory Celebration & 75<sup>th</sup> Anniv**  
**Book Sale: "They Were Ready"**

**Je Suis Pret!**



## Significant History

On 13 October 1942, the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment became the first U.S. Army WWII unit to offensively engage the enemy, in either theater, when it landed on the shores of Guadalcanal to reinforce the 1<sup>st</sup> Marines.

The 164<sup>th</sup> earned the Navy Presidential Unit Citation & was nicknamed the '164<sup>th</sup> Marines'

The Regiment fought through the Solomons and Philippines and was preparing to invade Japan when the atomic bombs ended the war.

