



12-1981

164th Infantry News: December 1981

164th Infantry Association

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

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

Recommended Citation

164th Infantry Association, "164th Infantry News: December 1981" (1981). *164th Infantry Regiment Publications*. 95.

<https://commons.und.edu/infantry-documents/95>

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

Sp Col
D
169.31
164th
ANS



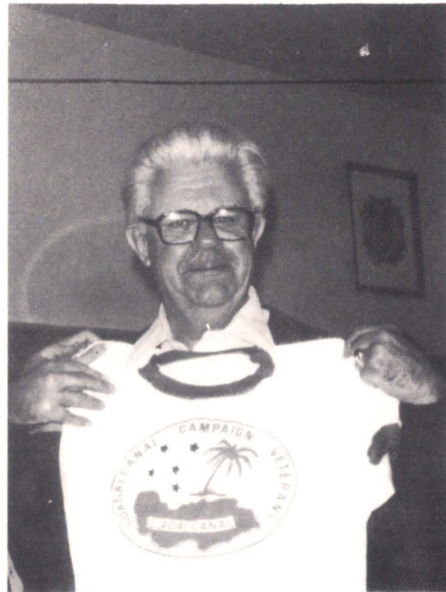
The 164th INFANTRY News

Vol. 11 Number 4

1981 is our 36 Ass'n Yr.



December, 1981



What's Pete Grant got? Hey, looks alright, Pete. We're glad to run it.

1982 Reunion To Be Held In St. Paul

August 31, 1981

RE: 164TH INFANTRY — NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
Dear Officers and Members:

On behalf of the Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce and the Saint Paul Convention, Exhibition and Tourism Commission, I would like to cordially welcome the 164th INFANTRY NATIONAL ASSOCIATION to the Saint Paul area.

Saint Paul, the capital city of Minnesota, has a wide variety of recreational cultural, educational, and historical activities going on at all times. In addition; you will find special housing and meeting facilities in an overall safe, progressive city.

If we can be of any further assistance to your convention, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
ROBERT HAUGEN
President

Editor Reflects On 1981 Reunion Held Oct. 16, 17, & 18 In Minot

The 1981 164th Infantry Association Reunion is upon us, and judging from the general comradeship apparent among those present, and meeting that first evening appears to be that this reunion, here at Minot, N.D., is going to be one very memorable get-together. Apparently our summation was correct for there were 214 registered, i.e. 89 couples and 35 singles.

1981 Reunion A Success

Dec. 13, 1981
Dear Keith,

The 1981 Reunion is now history and what fun it was! The many meetings and preparations seemed to take up a lot of time but it was all worth it when our long time friends and new ones, too, came for the reunion. The registration book showed that we had 89 couples and 35 singles registered for the reunion but we had about 235 people at our Saturday night banquet including guests.

Our friends in the business community and the clubs supported us so that we finished in the black and a check will be sent to the secretary for deposit along with the final financial statement. Some of our advertisers told us that they were happy to be a part of the reunion as they remembered what the 164th Infantry had done for the country.

We would like to thank all those who helped with the reunion and also thank those who attended to help make the affair as enjoyable as it was. Some of the committee traveled many miles each month to attend the meetings. Now we feel we have many new friends to share our experiences with. Thank you too, Keith, for coming to many of our meetings and giving us your help and advice and taking pictures. We look forward to seeing all of you again soon.

Yours very truly,
G.M. Christensen
Chairman

Friday, the 16 Oct. 81, was a time for registration and the general mixer that serves to let any and all renew old acquaintances. There appears to be many new faces to the reunion this year and of course many, many regulars to this once a year gala event. Remember it is 40 years since 1941 and many of you left for that year of training.

Saturday, 17 Oct. 1981, up, up, up and at 'em. Well may be it was only one up and at 'em or possibly come on get up, it's late and memorial service is scheduled for 9:30 A.M. at the American Legion Club wherein president Erwin Ventsch will call the meeting to order. The color guard was through the courtesy of the American Legion Post No. 26 of Minot, N.D. The speaker at the service was Col. Carl Munding, Station Chaplain, Minot Air Force Base. Taps were rendered by the Centurion Drum and Bugle Corps.

Would you believe that the Portable Public address system would and did, (in the face and presence of that stalwart group of bright eyed individuals) dare to not perform properly? Well, after a short session and some well placed words (under their breaths) power was gotten to the unit and it did a fine job of carrying the speakers voices for the rest of the meeting.

The invocation was given by Chaplain Elliot Aandahl, a welcoming speech by Mr. Chet Rieten, Mayor of Minot, was well received. Mr. Robert E. Hennessy, Dept. Commander of the North Dakota American Legion spoke on National Defense and Mr. Buzzew, Past Department commander and representing the DAV, spoke on the employment of Disabled American Veterans. General business was covered and completed during the session. The new president, Mr. Donald Van Slyke was introduced by President Erwin A. Ventsch wherein he extended an invitation to all members to attend the 1982 Reunion at St. Paul, Minn.

(Con't on page 3)

Letters . . .

Oct. 11, 1981

Dear Sir:

Just a few lines to let you know we are ok here in Arizona. We enjoy it here more now that it's finally cooled off. This was reported to have been one of the hottest summers in years.

We were up in North Dakota and Minnesota where the weather was wet and cool. We were in Valley City in July for the Co "G" reunion. We had a real good time, also had two other reunions last summer which were a "High School" and then a "Railway Postal Clerks" reunion. We enjoyed them all very much.

On our way back to Arizona, we stopped and spent an evening and afternoon with Mrs. Melvin Pursley who was also in Co "G". We also spent a week in Estes Park, Colorado. We were gone six weeks.

Being retired and etc., we can't afford two trips home. Where is the regular reunion? Hope all is well with you great people of my part of the state; call & come see us when you're down our way. Ray Sawyer was down to see me, of course I was in the hospital at the time and had a cancerous prostate operated on. All appears to be ok now. Hello to all.

With regards,
Don Oster
Mesa, Arizona

October 19, 1981

Dear Mr. Parsons:

Here are the names of the trio that performed the Fijian Folk Song on Saturday Evening. Al Tiffany, tenor; Bob Demke, second tenor and Joseph Hegstad, Bass. We appreciated your most kind and exciting response and hope you all had a good time in Minot.

With Warmest Regards,
Dr. Joseph M. Hegstad, Director
Heritage Singers
Minot State College
Minot, ND 58701

The 164th Infantry News

OFFICE: 610 Ave B West
Bismarck, ND 58501

Official Publication, 164th Infantry
Association of the United States
Published Quarterly

KEITH P. PARSONS
Editor

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to 164th Inf.
Assn.

Box 1111, Bismarck, ND 58502

WHO

GETS CREDIT FOR LOWER
TAXES AND CONTROLLED
EXPENSE?

WHO CARES?

THE OPPORTUNITY EXISTS
FOR WHO!

THE QUESTION:

WHO'S FOR FIRST?

FIRST IS THE TAXPAYER!

SO, FIRST SHOULD BE WHO.

WHO VOTED FOR WHO?



7 Oct. 81

Dear Keith:

Just got my copy of the 164th Infantry Association News. Always nice to get. Enclosed is check for \$10.00 for dues and the rest for the News. Sorry, I can't make the get together in Minot this year, but plan on being in St. Paul next year. Say hello to all the fellows and I would like to wish them all well.

Best Regards,
Don L. Hoffman
Jamestown, ND 58401

I want to thank Vern S. Tittsworth of Miles City, MT, for the nice group of pictures he turned over to the Historian at this years reunion at Minot. Thanks a lot, Vern.

Keith Parsons
Editor

8 Oct. '81

Dear Friends:

I am enclosing a check in the amount of \$50.00 for a life membership. I was in the Regimental Recon Platoon and this summer had a visit from a "Jolting" Joe LaFourtiase, my old Platoon Leader, Joe, and I spent a lot of time together in Fiji and a lot of patrols on Bougainville. Joe was here from Anchorage, Alaska to attend "I" company's reunion at Wahpeton, ND. Joe is retired from the V.A. and is doing fine. Just thought some of you would like to hear of Joe's whereabouts.

Sincerely,
Douglas Burtell

29 Nov. 1981

The 164th Infantry Association:

We only arrived home a short time ago, after over a month on the road touring the rest of the country, so this is the first chance we had to write. Sending this letter, we had promised ourselves would be given top priority as soon as we reached home. We both had such a wonderful time at this year's reunion that it is hard to find the deserving words of praise that are due. Dr. Christensen and the rest of the committee, and everyone else who had a hand in its preparation, let alone all the friendly and gracious people that it was our pleasure to come in contact with.

It was without a doubt, the highlight of our trip, and barring any unforeseen circumstances, we definitely plan to be amongst those present at next year's reunion.

Regards to all,
Joe & Ada Donnelly
Babylon, NY

12/9/81

Dear Sirs:

I am a junior in Highland High School. I must thank all of the men of the 164th Infantry for a job well done. I'm reading a book called **The History of World War Two**. I'm sure the marines were glad to see all of you on Guadalcanal. Colonel B.E. Moore sounds like a fine leader. I would like to know more about your unit, where it went after Guadalcanal, how many unit citations it earned, how many men were lost, etc. Thank you so very much for your time and cooperation.

P.S. Welcome home boys, a job well done.

Sincerely,
Michael Willis

Well how about it fellas anyone want to tackle this one? The address is:

Michael Willis
493 Fresno Place
Magnolia, NJ 08049

Notice:

The 1982 activities committee chairman is Tim J. Sullivan and Co-chairman will be Joe Iven. They will be working with our President Don Van Slyke for a joyous 1982 and a fine reunion. We'll see you all in St. Paul, MN, in '82.

To Mr. & Mrs. William Pautzke:

Our thanks to all for showing us a good time at the 164th reunion in Minot.

Thanks again,
Willy & Lois Hall

Letters . . .

4 Oct. 1981

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is my check for \$5.00 for a subscription and membership in the 164th Infantry Association.

I joined the 164th at Camp Claiborn, Louisiana in May, 1941 and went through the chiggers and maneuvers with them. Finally, when the Japs attacked Pearl Harbor we were headed for the Philippines but Corrigodor fell and we ended up on a train with all the shades drawn in L.A. until orders sent us on to Fort Funston. I remember the first train car out of Louisiana, it had chicken manure all over it. To sleep I crawled under a seat in that train car, (such old train cars had seats high enough so you could do that) so I could get some sleep. Along the way, before we reached Los Angeles, they got us into a better train car. At Fort Funston we did guard duty, but lived in the Cow Palace. The guys would sneak off to Frisco at times but all managed to get back ok.

On Christmas Day we left for Umattilla Ordinance in Oregon and I remember the snow on the surrounding mountains out of Frisco. We arrived around 4:00 A.M., cleared barracks and then boarded trucks for Pendelton, Oregon. At Pendelton, we did guard duty at an air base and I never froze so much in all my life. I'd crawl into bed, after guard duty at night with my coat, shoes and cap on and still freeze as we lived in army tents with a drip, drip type oil stove. Some guys souped up the oil to get it to run faster with the results of a couple of tents being burnt down. They then moved us into barracks. Later we were trucked to Boise, Idaho for more guard duty where we all enjoyed this much better. I remember we got Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever shots and that night I swelled up as did others from the shots. The Doc gave us an adrenalin shot the next morning and the swelling went down fast. On the 8th of March we left Boise for Fort Funston again and by the 18th of March we were aboard the S.S. President Coolidge headed for Australia. We stopped about 3 days in Australia loading onto three smaller ships. I remember the Australian girls all had rings water makes as they only washed so far due to a water shortage. The latrines uptown were on a corner, down steps and were a V-shaped trough slanting on an angle.

The smaller ship we were on headed for New Caledonia and was used to haul mules and cattle. The cockroaches were all over and when we lined up for mess

through the Javanese quarters it stunk so I used to hold my breath as long as I could. The food was lousy, but the bread was baked fresh. I recall I was on guard around the table where the fresh bread was stacked and hungry friends came and took a loaf, we guards just turned our backs to the action as the bread was the only good food available.

We landed in New Caledonia and did more training. On 13 Oct. we landed on Guadalcanal and I luckily lived through that bloody mess and was evacuated from the canal where I ended up in the 31st Station Hospital. After 3 months there I transferred into that Unit wherein I received valuable experience working in the emergency room and finally as the colonel's secretary. I spent 3 years overseas and after 4 years, 4 months and 4 days in the service I received my discharge. I then went to college on the G.I. Bill and graduated from the University of North Dakota receiving my B.S.C. Including my army experience, I then spent 29 years in the Hospital Field, 27 years as a hospital administrator. I am now retired and live at Victor, MT. Thought you would enjoy reading a little of what some of the Company "B" boys did. Do you know where Rudolph Pence is? We used to be in the same tent.

Of Co. "B" 164th Inf. Reg.
U.R. Powers
37027940

Thanks Mr. Powers for sharing a small portion of your memories and especially in that you gave us some of your time in writing the above letter.
Editor

13 Nov. 81
Hi Keith —

We lost another of our old buddies. Enclosed is the obituary of Earl L. French. I'm getting some work done on the enlistments, history, etc. of the Co. & past members. It's going to take some time I can see now. We will hurry it along, though.

Stop in when you are in our town next and we'll have a cup of coffee.

Bye,
Jerry Wilder

Notice:

Who knows "Lyle Walker"? We need his address, his dues have been paid, but we don't have an address to send him his paper, etc. To anyone knowing his address, will you please forward same to The 164th Infantry Association News, Box 1111, Bismarck, ND 58502.

Thanks alot,
Editor

Enclosed is check for \$10.00 for dues and donation for the good of the order.

Kenneth Gulmon

Sorry, I am so late with my 1981 dues. I look forward to receiving each issue of the "News". Keep up the excellent work.

Sincerely,
Donald DeLap

10/18/81

Dear Keith:

Now that the reunion is drawing to a close, one must give much credit to Dr. George Christensen for his planning, organizing and being able to put together a most successful reunion. To Carl Gorke for his ever concern of the welfare of the members and to all of the committee members who worked so hard to make it a success.

I know for one, I will miss the duties I had, the association with my fellow workers, which was a pleasure. I would guess, Keith, that this will be the final collection of dues for me, of which I am enclosing.

Thanks so much for all of the help we received from you and will be looking forward to our next visit.

As ever,
Leonard Kretschmar
Minot, ND

Oct. 27, 1981

Dear Mr. Parsons:

I thought I better let you know of my husband's passing. I know there were many members who knew Chet Lahren.

Chet was a very active member for the V.F.W. & a hospital worker-volunteer at the V.A.

Yours truly,
Mrs. Chester Lahren

The Last Roll Call

It has been reported that the following named members of the 164th Infantry have answered the LAST ROLL CALL since our last issue:

Max Eigen	12 June 81	St. Louis Park, MN
Wayne T. Jennings	23 Sept. 81	Miami, FL
Chester L. Lahren	5 Oct. 81	Fargo, ND
Earl L. French	5 Nov. 81	Williston, ND

Letters . . .

10 Dec. 1981

Dear Secretary,

I have not been receiving the 164th paper (newsletter) that you print 2 or 3 times a year. I plan to retire in June & would like to attend the reunion next year. Is it still going to be in October? What are the dates & where.?

Forty years have gone by in a hurry. I was a member of the 3rd Battalion Headquarters and was among the last group to come home in Aug. of 1945. I have many memories of our experiences and hope to meet many of the men of the 164th.

Sincerely,

Allen Brown

Well, Mr. Brown, here are some answers to some of your questions. 1st — In checking your joining up date, this will be the first paper coming your way. 2nd — Yes, it will be in Oct. 82. dates not set yet. And it will be in St. Paul, MN.

With respect,
Your Editor

Nov. 8, 1981

Dear Sirs:

I attended my first reunion of the 164th in Minot in Oct. We sure had a wonderful time while there and I met quite a few wonderful people.

I took along some T-shirts I had made up for the reunion. I didn't sell them all, but sold a few. I made a profit of \$50, which I am sending to your Association; I know you'll put it to good use.

We hope to make it to the next one in St. Paul. Thank you all for the wonderful time we had.

Sincerely,

Mr. & Mrs. Felix Laframboise
560 Grand Ave.
West Trenton, NJ 08628

NOTICE PLEASE

This is your paper and it needs your support. It needs your stories, letters, and pictures to make it as good and readable as you desire. When sending in stories or photos of news interest, please identify all photos. Black and white glossy prints seem to reproduce best. Color prints may be used to a lesser degree of clarity if they are sharp photos. Photos used will be returned to sender when requested.

Thank you respectfully,

KEITH P. PARSONS
Editor

Reunion . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

The new slate of officers for the new year are: President, Mr. Donald Van Slyke, St. Paul, MN; Vice President, Mr. William Tillotson, Bismarck, ND; Secretary/Treasurer, Herbert J. Mack, Bismarck, ND; Editor/Historian, Keith P. Parsons, Bismarck, ND.

To date we at the paper have not received a picture of our new president, but are still hoping for one in the near future. So in that absence we have included some of him in varied poses during the reunion activities, i.e. the picture on the top left is one of our President Don Van Slyke, St. Paul, MN; the top right picture, left to right, is the Hon. Ernest M. Sands, Lt. Gov. of ND; Dr. George M. Christensen; Past Pres. Erwin A. Ventsch; Pres. Donald Van Slyke.

The third picture, i.e. 2nd row left, is of BG Raymond J. Bohn of the Adjutant Generals Office telling the group of the National Guard history status, that of its being researched and to be produced by departments of the NDSU in conjunction with the Adjutant Generals Office, thusly providing information on the history of the North Dakota National Guard to include the 164th Infantry. The next picture, 2nd row right depicts the fact that some can still concentrate and keep balance and control of demanding situations.

Oct. 27, 1981

Dear George and Betty,

Hope the address is right. Just a note to thank you for a great time while we were in Minot.

We had a good trip home. Give our regards to the rest of the gang.

Sincerely,

Bob & Eileen Corcoran
5919 "L" Street
Lincoln, NE 68510

The third row left is one of the very capable Heritage Singers who performed so superbly and by all means I want to express a sincere thank you to them for their fine performance and a special thank you to the trio (consisting of Al Tiffany, Tenor; Bob Demke, Second Tenor; and Joseph Hegstad, Bass) who sang the Fijian Folk Song, (ISA LEI) Fijian Farewell which was written & arranged by Lieut. A.W. Caten, Bandmaster of the Fiji Defense Forces, Suva. Other entertainment was by a drum and bugle corp unit that performed at the evening banquet, as apparent by the picture, left side, 4th down.

Other pictures are left lower side is one of the banquet Saturday evening. Right side 3rd down is one of the ladies luncheon held at the Holiday Inn. The fourth down is one of the new regimental colors loaned to the association by the Adjutant Generals Office. It was decreed by a motion that the old colors be donated to the National Guard Museum and the last picture on the right is one taken at the memorial service held on Saturday morning at the American Legion Club.

One may well visualize the comradeship and good feelings enjoyed by many of the members that attended the reunion at Minot, ND, 16, 17 & 18 Oct. 1981. It was so very apparent that the participants enjoyed this reunion very, very much to those of us who were in attendance and it is also reflected in the many letters to the editor. A special thanks goes to the hard-working committee who worked so hard to produce one-of-a-kind 164th Inf. Assoc. Reunion, the results of their efforts were reflected in the faces of members who partook of the Sunday Morning Brunch at the VFW Club. Cheers belong to Dr. George Christensen and his faithful committees who have been listed in previous papers.

—Editor

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

Name _____

Unit Served With and Dates _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code No. _____

DUES FOR 1981 — \$5.00, includes subscription to 164th News,

Send to: Secretary 164th Infantry, Box 1111, Bismarck, North Dakota 58502

REUNION 1981



MINOT ND

Letters . . .

October 23, 1981

Dear Sir:

First of all I want to thank you for the complimentary copy of 164th news and I enjoyed it immensely.

After starting out with the old 206th Infantry of St. Paul, and being Federalized with the 216th Coast Artillery AA and then being converted to the 774th AAA Gun BN, I finally wound up with the 164th in the Philippines and on to Japan with my outfit, Company "L". A lot of us came back to the States together and I was discharged at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin on the 30th of November, 1945.

I used to receive letters from some of the gang from different parts of the country, but they stopped coming as the years went by.

I still miss some of the gang that I was with while I was with the 164th, in the Philippines & Japan.

I joined the V.F.W. when I got home to keep in contact with some of the gang around the country and wound up as Commander of the oldest post in the State and 3rd oldest in the nation. M.M. Carlton Post #5.

To cut this short, I'm enclosing my 1982 dues for membership in this fine organization and hope to hear from you soon.

I received a phone call from one of the boys the other night that was at the reunion at Minot and he informed me that there is a branch right here in St. Paul. I was happy to hear from him.

Again, thanks for the newsletter and hope to hear from you SOON.

Sincerely,
Verne R. Tester
842 Randolph Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota

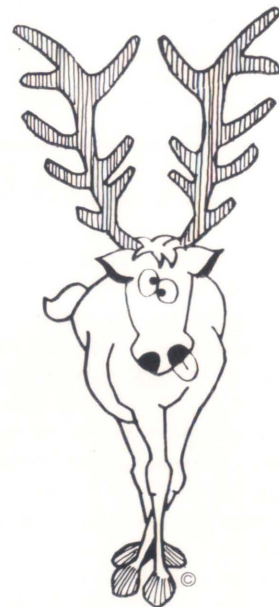
Hi,

Enclosed is a check for one year subscription and membership.

In the donation column was John Tuff, Captain of M Co. Would like to hear from him or anyone in M Co.

I remain,
John B. Van Eendenburg (Poogie)
2 Railroad Ave. PO 51
Wanaque, N.J. 07465-0051

Happy Holidays



The 164th Infantry News

Box 1111
BISMARCK, N.D. 58502