



Tyndall Area Veterans Memorial

Honoring Area Veterans
1861-2001

Tyndall, SD 57066
Dedicated: November 11, 2001



978.3
Kin



They are all heroes

When Tyndall became the county seat of Bon Homme County in 1896, thirty-one years after the Civil War ended, residents surely believed their country would never again be drawn into such a horrible conflict. Two years later, in 1898, local men were to serve in the Spanish-American War (in Cuba and the Philippines). To commemorate the end of that war and all wars, the Bon Homme County Board of Commissioners erected the striking flag tower standing today on courthouse grounds.

Only 19 years later, in 1917, the United States again entered war, this time in Europe to help end a conflict that had been escalating for several years. Hundreds of Dakotans served in that "Last Great War," many returning with wounds to their body and spirit they would always carry--others never to return.

Peace was not to last. Following the bombing by Japan of Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941, the United States was again thrust into war, its forces flung far and wide from North Africa and the European Theater to the Pacific and many places between. Thousands of Dakota youths took up arms, and women also, in a surge of patriotism that remains with them still.

More conflicts have followed: the inconclusive and unpopular Korean and Vietnam Wars and most recently the Persian Gulf War, all of which involved many local men and women.

Freedom is a fragile precious commodity. It has been paid for dearly by nearly 1,200 of our local men and women who were willing to do their duty when called, even die if necessary. This memorial book is dedicated to those hundreds. They are all heroes.

It is hoped that this book will also be a teaching tool for our youth--that they may be inspired to preserve the freedom their local heroes fought so bravely for.

TYNDALL VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK DEDICATION

Sunday, November 11, 2001

Officer of the Day Lt. Col. ANG Bill L. Van Gerpen

Welcome by Tyndall Councilman Don Rothschild

Distribution of flags and Pledge of Allegiance by Tyndall Junior Girl Scouts & Cub Scouts

Special music by Bon Homme High School Band and Kathy and Maureen Koenig

Introduction of State Legion and VFW Commanders Vernon Sip and Kenneth Jorgenson

History of the memorial by Planning Committee Member Clark Mola, Maj. (USAR), Ret.

Comments by Tyndall native WW II veteran John Cole

Prayer of dedication by Fr. John Rasmussen

"Taps" by Kevin McLouth and Matt Kaul

(Posting of our country's colors, raising of the flag, placement of wreaths, gun salute, benediction and retirement of the colors by members of Legion Post 2 and VFW Post 6894 and their Auxiliaries)

Tyndall Area Veterans Memorial

*Honoring Area Veterans
1861-2001*



**American Legion Pike-Wagner Post 2
VFW Simek-Ptak Post 6895
and Their Auxiliaries**

Tyndall, SD 57066
Summer 2001

"To those who served, wherever their
ashes may lie, Known or Unknown."

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Inside front cover:
They are all heroes

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Taps

Compiled and edited by
Maxine Schuurmans Kinsley

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Tyndall, SD

How Tyndall's Veterans Memorial Park came about

It was fitting that the Tyndall Legion and VFW posts conceived the idea of constructing a veterans memorial on the 56th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1997.

From the first, the memberships contemplated a monument large enough to include the names of area men and women who had served in all wars from the Civil War to the present. Also to be included were those who had or were currently serving in either the regular branches of the military or National Guard. In particular the memorial would honor veterans who had given their lives as well as those who became prisoners of war while serving to keep their country a land of freedom. A daunting project!

To promote interest and to seek names of local veterans, the campaign began with a single page bulletin picturing a typical memorial. Local businessmen and

VFW Commander Charlie Skorpik gave impetus to the project by personally soliciting funds locally and in neighboring towns.

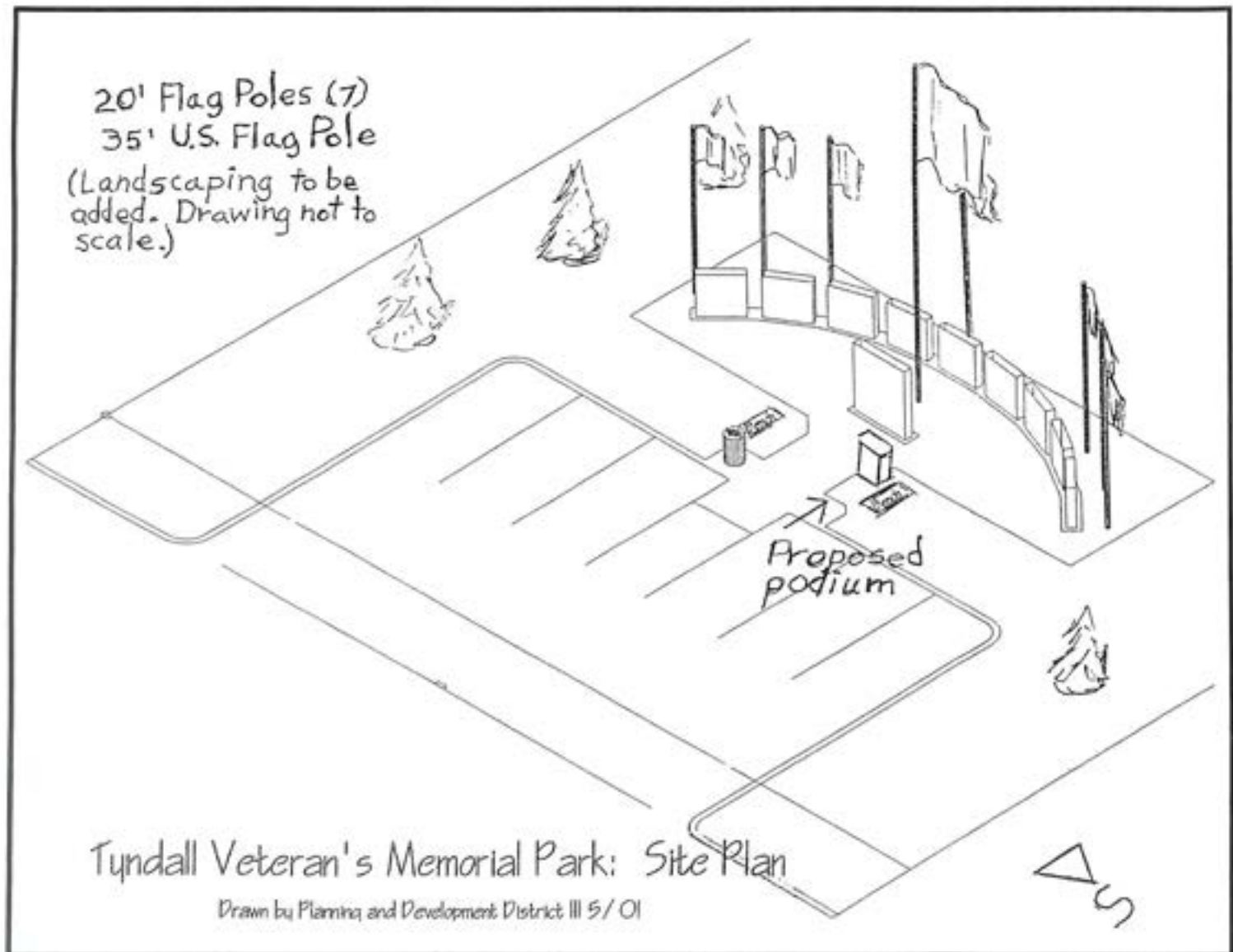
In Fall 1998, by which time he had raised \$12,000, Charlie was instrumental in forming a veterans memorial planning committee which was charged with choosing a design, formulating a fund-raising plan

cont. on page 3

Charles F. Skorpik, Commander of VFW Post 6895 in 1997, gave impetus to the veterans memorial from its beginning.



Below, Planning and Development District III provided the final layout drawing in May 2001.



Veterans Memorial Planning Committee members include from left, Ladimir Slama; Alfred Novotny; Clark Mola; Robert Hajek, treasurer; Gordon McCann; LaVern McFarland and LeRoy Philippi, president. Not pictured is Richard Beringer, Bon Homme County Veterans Service Officer.



and selecting a building site. During the next several months several locations were considered including the Bon Homme County Courthouse grounds, the Tyndall City Park and the Shady Rest Motel corner. However on November 1, 1999, with the concurrence of the VFW and Legion memberships, the selection process concluded with the purchase of a 109' wide x 304' parcel located on South Main Street just north of the Dairy Queen.

Following membership approval, the planning committee began the search for veterans' names to be inscribed on the monument stones, meanwhile setting a fundraising goal of \$60,000. In February 2000 over 700 letters including a conceptual illustration of the memorial were mailed to area veterans and businesses soliciting donations for the project. Ladies from the two auxiliaries helping with that mailing project and another in June 2001 included Lornie McCann, Lassie Miller, Darlene Tycz, Marjorie Novotny, Joan Lee, Audrey Hajek, Arda Hoffman, Dorothy Taplett and Mabel Winningham.

In December 2000 the planning committee selected Luken Memorials Inc., Yankton, to provide the monuments. In Spring 2001, the group approved a layout drawing of the project, and local contractors Vince Efta (concrete and general), Dave Schenkel (dirt) and

Gene Marvin (electric) began work in July. Rusty Williams assisted Efta with backhoe work, and Fejfar Plumbing was on schedule for plumbing.

Meanwhile, the committee recruited local historian Maxine Schuurmans Kinsley to compile and edit a memorial book which would include histories of the two posts, names of those to be inscribed on the memorial, photos and stories.

The planning committee expresses its appreciation to several whose assistance has moved the project along. Gary LaCompte, John Lee and Richard Hermanek helped survey the site and provide technical assistance to the contractors. We also commended original finance committee member Gene Koenig for his advice and support. The City of Tyndall has provided utility assistance and ground maintenance.

In closing, the committee thanks all who have given their time, support and contributions to make this memorial possible. Nearly 1,200 names of area veterans tell a powerful story. "The rest is history."

--Veterans Memorial Planning Committee
President LeRoy Philippi, Treasurer Robert Hajek,
Veterans Service Officer Richard Beringer,
Gordon McCann, LaVern McFarland,
Clark Mola, Alfred Novotny, Ladimir Slama

Veterans who died in the service of their country



Pvt Lester R Arneson

b. 8/18/21 Springfield to Matt and Emma Schmoll Arneson; Avon Class of 1940; entered Army 8/20/42; 47th Inf Reg; KIA 8/9/43 Sicily; bur. International Cemetery, Nettuno, Italy. Purple Heart, 2 Battle Stars. (see related story p. 37)



Tec/4 Wenceslaus Bares

b. 4/3/18 Tabor to Mr/Mrs Anton Bares, Sr; entered Army 1937; re-enlisted 5/16/42 US Army Cav; mortally wounded with 1st Army, Germany; d. 12/9/44; bur. St. Wenceslaus, Tabor. Purple Heart, Silver Star.



Lt Peter H Monfore

b. 8/10/27 Springfield to Howland and Gertrude Monfore; attended Tyndall and Sioux Falls schools; West Point 1950; commanded "L" Co 23rd Inf Reg, 2 Inf Div, Korea; d. 9/19/51 Heartbreak Ridge; bur. 4/26/52 Springfield. (see related story p. 40)



S/Sgt Lloyd Nedved

b. 11/7/18 Tyndall to Charles J and Antonia Pechous Nedved; attended THS and Yankton; entered Army 6/19/41; wounded June 1944 New Guinea; mortally wounded Luzon Philippines recovering wounded; d. 1/27/45 Luzon; bur. US AF Cemetery, Manila; reinterred Czech Natl, Tyndall. Purple Heart, Silver Star.



Smn 2nd C1 Clifford Petrik

b. 1/10/26 to Louis and Anna Kloucek Petrik; THS Class of 1944; USNR; d. 12/6/43 at sea of lumbar pneumonia; bur. St Leo, Tyndall.



Pvt Stillman Pike

b. 1896 Tyndall to Henry A and Mary Ann Pike; d. 2/3/19 in France of pneumonia; ceremonial funeral held at Courthouse 6/3/21; bur. Tyndall Cemetery, Tyndall Legion Post bears his name.



PFC Charles Simek

b. 3/13/07 Tyndall to Mr/Mrs Martin Simek; entered Army with brother John 3/26/42; sailed together to England Mar 1944; KIA Normandy 6/22/44; bur. Normandy. Tyndall VFW bears his name.



PFC Stephen John Srstka

b. 4/20/24 Tyndall to Stephen L and Emma Srstka; THS Class of 1942; speech band, football; entered Marine Corps Reserves Los Angeles 3/23/43; wounded 6/15/44 initial landing Saipan w/2nd Armed Amph Bn; d. that day on hospital ship; bur. at sea Saipan. Purple Heart, Bronze Star. (see related story p. 35)

Veterans who died in the service of their country



Pvt Ernest Hladik

b. 8/4/14 Omaha to Mr/Mrs Ernest Hladik Sr, grad Southern Normal 1938; was vocalist, athlete, teacher; entered Marines 4/6/44; KIA 3/10/45 Iwo Jima with 5th Marine Div; bur. St Wenceslaus, Tabor.



T/Sgt Fred C Lang

b. 10/31/19 Tyndall to Mr/Mrs Fred Lang; THS Class of 1939; with 338 Inf 85 Div; KIA 9/14/44 Southern Italy; bur. Florence American Cemetery, Florence, Italy. Purple Heart, Silver Star. (see related story p. 34)



2nd Lt Marcel W Novotny

b. 1/2/18 Tabor to Mr/Mrs VJ Novotny; Tabor HS; entered Army 3/27/42; 100th Div 7th Army; KIA 4/18/45 Germany; bur. Germany, then St Avold Cemetery, France; reinterred St Wenceslaus, Tabor. Bronze Star, Silver Star w/Oak Leaf Clusters. (see related story p. 37)



Pvt Rudolph Pavel

b. 6/21/95 Tyndall to Joseph and Frances Pavel; entered Army Oct 1917 with brother Frank; Co C 102 MG Bn; wounded 2nd Battle of Marne; KIA 10/12/18 on Front in sight of Frank; bur. 9/18/21 Czech Presby Cemetery alongside Frank who died at home 9/15/19. (see related story p. 34)



Cpt Edward Plihal

b. 6/5/21 Tyndall to Mr/Mrs Joseph Plihal Sr; THS Class of 1939; ROTC 2nd Lt 1942 at SD State College; entered service June 1942; d. 4/14/43 meningitis Camp Hood, TX where he was instructor in tank destroyer school; bur. Czech Natl, Tyndall.



Maj John A Ptak

b. 12/4/18 Tyndall to Mr/Mrs Frank B Ptak; THS Class of 1936; scholar and athlete, also at USD; entered Marine Corps July 1940; ROTC 2nd Lt Feb 1941; saw action at Guadalcanal Efate, New Hebrides, Bougainville, Solomons; KIA 8/1/44 Guam; bur. St Leo, Tyndall. VFW Post bears his name.



S/Sgt Jacob Stolz, Jr

b. to Mr/Mrs. Jacob Stolz Sr; farmer, husband, father; entered service 11/6/42; sent directly to S. Pacific; said to have been with Gen McArthur's forces New Guinea; KIA 10/20/44 Leyte Philippines, age 29; last resided in Monanga, ND with wife, two daughters.



Pvt James Elton Wagner

b. 6/9/20 Tyndall to Mr/Mrs Morris Wagner, THS Class of 1938; athlete, student body pres; entered Army Sept 1941; on Bataan at surrender Apr 1942; Death March; d. 4/3/44 beri-beri at Japanese prison camp, Formosa. Legion Post bears his name.

Veterans who died in the service of their country, continued



Lt Donald C Reynolds

b. 5/15/18 NE to Ray and Mae Flammig Reynolds; grad Central HS Omaha; ROTC; Creighton 1940; Italy Sept 1943 w/Co I 15th Reg 3rd Inf Div 5th Army; d. 2/2/44 Anzio beachhead; bur. St Leo, Tyndall. "...The duty of protecting his family and his land always will be man's highest duty." (from a letter written 2/11/43 to his mother)

John Mudder

b. 1899; 39th Reg CAC; d. 1918 flu at Fort Warden, Wash; bur. in Mudder plot Tyndall Cemetery.

Joseph Obr

Son of Vaclav and Josefa Obr, Co I 5th ETR USA; d. 10/2/18 pneumonia at Camp Upton, Long Island; bur. Czech Presby Cemetery.

Veterans who were prisoners of war



Sgt James Balvin

b. 8/5/21 Tyndall to Joseph and Jane Tierney Balvin; THS Class of 1939; entered Air Force 10/6/41; waist gunner B-17s; reported POW 8/18/43 after bombing mission Germany, wounded, hospitalized; returned home from Sweden in prisoner exchange Sept 1944; bur. California; Purple Heart.



Sgt Frank L Base

Son of Mrs VJ Base; THS Class of 1937; SD State College 1 yr; entered service Dec 1941; pharmacist med unit Manila; with Gen McArthur; interned by Japanese in Philippine military prison camp No. 1 three years shortly after fall of Bataan. Bronze Star. (see related story p. 39)



T/Sgt Byron J Burns

b. Son of Mr/Mrs Jasper J Burns; THS Class of 1938; entered AF 9/28/42; aerial gunner England; downed over Germany 1943; POW 2 years; disch 5/6/45 from Hot Springs Rest Camp. Purple Heart, numerous honors.



Pvt Anthony Chastka

b. Tyndall to Anton and Emma Chastka; THS Class of 1940; sent to Europe w/Co I 335 Inf 84th Div; taken POW 11/29/44 near Cologne; several months in Stalag IIA and walking around N. Germany; freed by Canadian Reg. (see related story p. 40)



PFC Wilbur Kiehlbaugh

b. 1924 Tyndall to Dr. Henry and Lena Kiehlbaugh; THS 1942; with Med Corps of Inf, France from Oct 1944; taken POW 12/18/44, one of 10 left of 180; marched continuously in snow and cold suffering from malnutrition; returned June 1945; d. 1973; bur. Tyndall Cemetery. Purple Heart.



Lt Allen E Sutera

b. 11/29/17 to Joseph and Marie Sutera; THS Class of 1934; scholar, athlete, also at Yankton College; entered Army Air Corps 10/5/42; pilot on B-24; failed to return 6/16/44 from 41st mission over Austria; POW one year at Stalag Luft III, Sagan, Germany; disch 12/13/45; d. 6/22/92 Bella Vista, Ark, bur. there. ETO w/3 Battle Stars, 4 Oak Leaf Clusters.

Veterans who were prisoners of war



Col Wilbur Berry

b. 1/16/10 Tyndall to Dr. Sherman G and Nettie Barber Berry; THS Class of 1927; Creighton Med School; Sternberg in Manila; taken prisoner Apr 1942; Bataan Death March; interned Philippines, finally Honshu, Japan, March 1944; liberated 9/4/45; hospitalized one year; ret. 1965; d. 11/27/80; bur. Golden Gate Natl Cemetery, San Bruno, CA. (see related story p. 36)



2nd Lt Maurice Fridrich

b. 12/27/21 to Arthur and Mattie Hovorka Fridrich; THS Class of 1939; entered AF when war began; navigator on B-17 with 8th AF 94th Bomb Gr, England; downed over central Germany on 7th mission; captured 10 days later; POW 22 months at Stalag Luft I; liberated by Russians; d. 1/18/01 Riverside, CA; bur. Riverside Natl Cemetery. (see related story p. 39)



Eugene R Vavruska

b. 10/5/30 Tyndall to Adolph and Anna Vavruska; entered US Marines 2/26/52; taken POW on Korean front 10/6/52; freed 25 lbs. lighter from Little Frisco Camp in prisoner exchange 8/23/53; welcomed home to Tyndall 9/10/53 with homecoming parade; disch 2/25/54.

Tyndall's First Veterans Group Grierson Post No. 78

Grierson Post No. 78 of the Grand Army of the Republic organized Oct 4, 1884, in Tyndall with 14 members. The post reached its largest membership in 1893 with 36.

In 1898 the post established a one-acre burial site adjacent to the M.E. Cemetery, one-half mile west of Tyndall. January 31, 1907, Cmdr Wm Abbott and Adj F A Morgan signed a deed turning that site over to the newly-formed Tyndall Cemetery Association for \$1 but with stipulations that a monument to GAR veterans be built and that Memorial Day always be observed.

The tall obelisk which is located in the center of the original GAR cemetery contains the following inscription: (on the north) "1861-1865 Erected AD 1907 by Grierson Post No. 78 Dept. of South Dakota Grand Army of the Republic; (east) "This stone is sacred to the memory of all Soldiers, Sailors and Marines who served in the States 1861-1865 Wherever their ashes may lie Known or Unknown; (south, by Tyndall's Chapter of the Womens Relief Corps) "Oft as the year Returns We wreath with flowers Their funeral urns. Grierson W.R.C. No. 42."



Grierson Post No. 78 Commanders

1884 - W H Sanborn
1885 - T H Wellock
1886 - John R Petrie
1889 - David Gross
1890 - W H McDonald
1891 - W H McDonald
1892 - R N Stout
1893 - John H Dawson
1894 - N H Hopkins
1895 - C W Reynolds
1896 - B H Woods
1897 - Conrad Eymmer
1898 - William Abbott
1899 - William Abbott
1900 - D W Rapalee
1901 - C W Reynolds
1902 - William Abbott
(last records)

"Logan's Orders"



John A Logan, Civil War general and Cmdr of the GAR, was said to be the creator of Memorial Day. The first paragraph of "Logan's Orders" issued 5/5/1868, begins as follows: "The 30th day of May 1868 is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country..."

History of American Legion Pike Wagner Post No. 2, Tyndall, SD

Charter Members Pike Post. No. 2

Cmdr: Dr. E H Boon
Vice Cmdr: Nick Zieser
Post Adj: C C Puckett
Treas: Joseph Schanel
Post Hist: Alex Geist

Bambas, Anton J
Bednar, Adolph
Bouza, John J
Burns, William
Butler, F R
Davey, Charles
Dvoracek, Adolph V
Fara, John
Fridrich, J H
Glasner, Jack B
Goodness, Cyrus G
Hajek, Frank
Halsey, John L
Hansen, William F
Henzlik, Joe
Hird, Geo W
Hisek, Joseph
Horky, William
Hughes, Walter J
Kiehlbauch, Leo O
Kreber, George H
Lower, Albert
Lubbers, George B
Matuska, Henry
Metzger, Ed
Moravec, Norbert
Moravec, Robert
Panka, James J
Peterson, Lloyd J
Reichert, Fred
Schanel, George
Smith, Leo
Srstka, Leo
Srstka, Stephen
Stanicek, James
Turnbull, Charles
Vavruska, J M
Walliser, Ernest E
Weisser, Paul F
Zandhuisen, John
Zeiser, Fred

History

June 11, 1919, a number of World War I veterans met on the lawn of the Tyndall Carnegie Library to organize a Legion post. Dr. E. H. Boon acted as temporary chairman and C. C. Puckett as temporary secretary. The group hoped to become the first chartered post in the state; however, because they sent in their charter by mail rather than deliver it to Omaha with a personal delegation as Vermillion did, they became Post No. 2 instead of No. 1. The charter was applied for and received October 18, 1919.

Early meetings were held on the library lawn during the summer and fall of 1919, then in the "Rest Room" meeting room in the library basement. In May 1921 when L.F. Chladek was mayor, the City of Tyndall was bonded for \$50,000 for the erection of an auditorium. The building contract was let early in 1922 and by January 1922 the Legion was able to move into their new rooms, complete with piano and furniture purchased with \$1,500 they had raised from minstrel shows and dances. At that time, 147 were members. Pool tables and athletic equipment were purchased, a Legion band and orchestra and football and basketball teams were organized. The post won the loving cup for four years in athletics in the Bon Homme County ex-servicemen's meets.

One-half century later, the original "Legion" Auditorium is gone, having been replaced by a community center, and the Legion post now shares clubroom space with the Tyndall VFW in a building built for that purpose on Main (old Pearl) Street.

Post No. 2 has remained active over the years, focusing especially on youth activities and community service. As long as there were boys who wished to play, the Legion sponsored Junior Legion baseball. Sending high school boys to Boys State annually and awarding 8th and 12th grade good citizenship scholarships have been ongoing activities, as have conducting Memorial Day services, furnishing a color guard for area parades and providing a firing squad for buddy funerals.

Last Man's Club

At the organization of the Last Man's Club November 19, 1934, it was decided to include all past Commanders into the club. Membership to the club would be closed when the first past Commander died.

The club met once per year to renew their allegiance to the American Legion and to perpetuate the comradeship of the past Commanders. These meetings were to continue until all had answered the roll call up yonder to the Last Man.

Harry Kiestra died August 11, 1936, thus closing the membership. However, it was decided at a special meeting October 16, 1945, by the remaining seven past Commanders in the community to consider opening up membership to all World War I veterans who had been or would be Post Commanders. This consideration was approved by a unanimous vote.



Tyndall Auditorium, built 1922, \$25,000; demolished 1989, \$12,425.



LAST MAN'S CLUB'S FIRST 14 COMMANDERS: from left to right, 1919-20 Dr. E H Boon, 1921 Lloyd Peterson, 1922 John Flamming, 1923 Louis C Eads, 1924 Paul F Weisser, 1925 Michael F Schmitt, 1926 Allan A Bryan, 1927 Albert Kirwin, 1928 George V Schanel, 1929 Leslie V Ausman, 1930 Walter B Mulligan, 1931 Cyrus C Puckett, 1932 Anton J Bambas, 1933 Ray A Ferguson.

Post Commanders

1934 - Harry Kiestra	1963 - Milo Novak
1935 - John O Thompson	1964 - Howard Burnham
1936 - Cecil M Dennis	1965 - Peter Becvar
1937 - Axel L Johnson	1966 - J A Plihal
1938 - Walter R Bussey	1967 - Ervin Vellek
1939 - Tom Plumb	1968 - James Jorgensen
1940 - Edward J Hughes	1969 - Dee Watson
1941 - John L Lee	1970-71 - J A Plihal
1942 - Lawrence H Kreber	1972 - Joe Fuchs
1943 - Wm. J Flamming	1973 - Gideon Mueller
1944 - Joe Hisek	1974 - Harold Hoffman
1945 - James C Vicek	1975 - Charles Skorpik
1946 - George R Britton	1976 - Larry Svanda
1947 - William Bambas	1977 - LeRoy Sorenson
Last Man Club closed	1978 - James Berka
1948 - Thomas Ptak	1979-80 - Harold Hoffman
1949 - Bernard Post	1981-82 - Dennis Plihal
1950 - Glenn Duncan	1983-84 - James Koenig
1951 - John F Lee	1985-86 - James Kniffen
1952 - Robert Hajek	1987-90 - Ladimir Slama
1953 - Eugene Koenig	1991 - Harold Hoffman
1954 - Joe Dobesh	1992-93 - Carl Waller
1955 - Richard Hicks	1994 - Ladimir Slama
1956 - William Bambas	1995 - Mary Schenkel, Ladimir Slama
1957 - Joe Sykora	1996 - James Koenig
1958 - Ray Post	1997 - Carl Waller
1959 - Andrew Palsma	1998 - Gerald Hofmann
1960 - Leo Bambas	1999 - Clark Mola
1961 - Harold Guy	2000 - Clark Mola, Gerald Hofmann
1962 - Cliff Schweitzer	2001 - Gerald Hofmann

Reward Offered!

"A reward of \$500 will be paid by the American Legion for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons who stole the machine gun, sword and bayonet from the Tyndall Auditorium on or about November 29, 1985..."

The sheriff's crime report noted that the four legs of the folding sled mount of the WWI German 7.92 Spandau Mauser appeared to have been cut with a hacksaw. Locals are still pondering when and how the familiar landmark could have been removed from its concrete pedestal without anyone noticing.

Junior Legion baseball

Tyndall fielded a good Junior Legion baseball team Summer 1941, "one of the best," surviving members say. Coach "Fuzzy" Heil and his players advanced to state at Pierre but were defeated in the first game. On that team were pitcher "Posch" Drapeau (a recruit from Greenwood whom George Beringer Sr. boarded in his cafe), catcher George "Dud" Slavik; first base, Jerome Marek; second base, Jim Schneider; short stop Jerry Novotny; third base, Gordon McCann; outfield, Morris Schuurmans, Arnie Pudwill and Lou Janele, all of whom would shortly be entering the service.

History of VFW Simek-Ptak Post No. 6895, Tyndall, SD

Thirty-nine veterans of World War II met May 1, 1946, for the purpose of organizing a Veterans of Foreign Wars post in Tyndall. A charter was issued and on June 4, 1946, 97 veterans were mustered in by Chuck Truesdell of the Ernest Bowyer Post No. 791 of Yankton. The post chose the name of Simek-Ptak in honor of veterans Charles Simek and John Ptak, local men who lost their lives in service during WW II.

The post built a clubhouse one-half block east of Main (Pearl) Street where they met for meetings and social gatherings. In the late-1980s they cooperated with the Legion post to build a joint facility on Main Street which they also share with both auxiliaries.

VFW members have long taken pride in community service. Among their activities are helping to foster patriotism, especially in youth, and providing medical equipment for loan without cost to those in need. The post takes part in Memorial Day services, these days held in the local high school gym, attends military funerals and marches in area parades. Another activity of which the unit is proud is sponsorship of the Teener baseball program.



Lt Ray E Post, 1st commander of Post No. 6895, (see photo), was commissioned in Sept 1943. He served 13 months in the North Atlantic as gunnery officer in command of Navy crews on cargo ships. On his return to Tyndall he resumed his law practice.

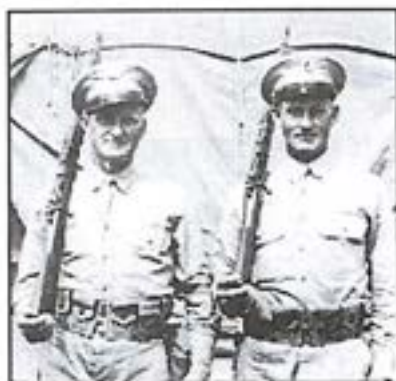
Mission of the VFW today:

"As long as there is a veteran anywhere who needs a pill, an education, a roof over his head, a meal or his widow or orphans need any of these things, especially those who cannot provide them for themselves, our mission is not complete."

Daryl Halling, State Cmdr
VFW, Dept. of SD

VFW Charter Members: Ray Post, Cmdr; Wm F Plumb, Adj; Charles F Skorpik, QM; Charles L Cokely, Senior Cmdr

Bambas, Anton J	Hajek, Gordon F	Lubbers, Walter E	Schmitt, Mike F
Bambas Frank A	Haki, Earl A	Mammel, Willard P	Schmoll, Emil R
Bambas, Raymond W	Hamberger, Ray W	Marek, Henry J	Scoblic, Leon T
Bangert, Carl W	Hasek, Donald J	Marek, Jerome H	Simek, Albert G
Becvar, Peter C	Hasek, James	Matuska, Raymond H	Simek, John A
Beringer, George R	Hasenflug, Edward	Maus, John J	Simek, Raymond A
Bouska, Robert F	Herman, Raymond R	McCollum, Lawrence C	Slade, Robert V
Broz, Alois A	Hermanek, Jerry A	Mejstrik, Charles W	Souhrada, Adolph
Broz, Charles E	Hinzman, Rollie	Michel, Thomas L	Starr, Merle E
Buchholz, Emil	Hisek, James C	Miller, Daryl	Staska, Adolph
Buechler, Ron	Hisek, Leo J	Miller, Minard	Stibral, Edwin C
Cacek, Richard R	Holupka John M	Mudder, Dick E	Stolz, Edwin
Carda, Ray E	Hovorka, Cleadues N	Oorlog, George B	Swain, Joseph W
Cimpl, John A	Hovorka, Lester D	Petrik, William C	Travnicek, Raymond J
Cole, Hilary P	Hovorka, Lloyd E	Peschl, Frank	Vacek, Edward L
Colgan, Donald J	Hovorka, Willard R	Pesek, Donald F	Vellek, Charles J
Dobesh, Louis E	Johnson, Axel L	Ptak, LaVern A	Vellek, William G
Dobesh, Rudolph R	Kilker, Roland L	Ptak, Thomas K	Wacker, Albert E
Dvoracek, Adolph V	Kludt, David C	Raabe, Harold H	Win, Roger C
Engel, John A	Kniffen, Charles E	Rehurek, Frank V	Winter, Rueben C
Fridrich, Arthur J	Kreber, Lawrence L	Rehurek, Jos. V Jr	Wright, Wallace E
Fuchs, Lumier J	Kreber, Wallace N	Reidinger, Albert A	Wurtz, William E
Grimme, Ernest E	Lee, John L	Schema, Ernest A	Wysuph, Donald W
Grimme, Fred L			



Charles Simek, KIA

"First 'Killed in Action' casualty from Tyndall is Charles Simek in France."

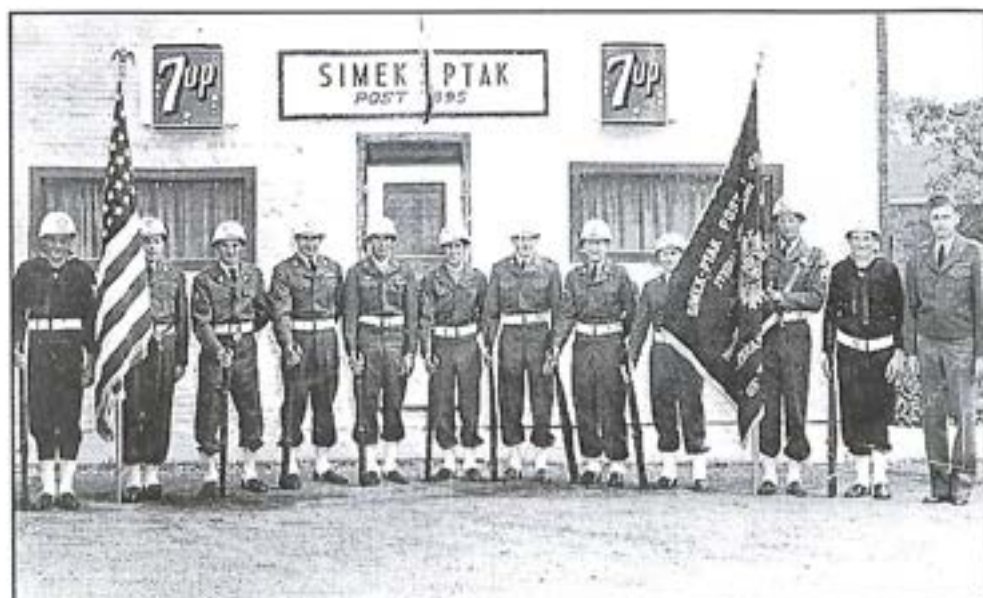
Tyndall Tribune, Aug. 3, 1944

Charley Simek and his brother John entered the service together and were never separated until D-Day. John was wounded and hospitalized in England before returning to action, but Charley died on the Normandy front June 22.

Tyndall's 1963 VFW Teeners were State Champs



Back row, from left, Coach Charles Post, Ken Winningham, Jim Schuurmans, Ken Taplett, Ron Schneider, Greg Panka, Joe Hovorka, Mark Szymanski, Don Hajek; middle, Glenn Winningham, Don Hinzman, Mark Mennis, Mike Whalen, LeRoy Hisek, Roger Hisek, Denny Duncan, Bernie Schuurmans, and front, batboy Bob Eggers.



Post Commanders

1946 - Ray E Post
 1947 - Charles L Cokely
 1948 - John J Maus
 1949 - Charles E Broz
 1950 - Arthur J Fridrich
 1951 - Lloyd E Hovorka
 1952 - Alois A Broz
 1953 - Julius Schmidt
 1954 - Robert F Bouska
 1955 - Albert C Wacker
 1956 - William R Hoch
 1957 - Albert A Reidinger
 1958 - John M Holupka
 1959 - Felix Petrik
 1960 - Lawrence H Kreber
 1961 - Cleadues N Hovorka
 1962 - Larry Hamilton
 1963 - George W Hisek
 1964 - Leonard W Sutera
 1965 - Norman E Mikolash
 1966 - Roy L Humpal
 1967 - Raymond W Bambas
 1968 - Joseph A Zelenka
 1969 - Gideon E Mueller
 1970 - Leonard M Hisek
 1971 - Harold H Grimme
 1972 - Alvin J Hovorka
 1973-74 - Robert Ruman
 1975 - Donald W Wysuph
 1976 - Thomas K Ptak
 1977-78 - Joseph E Kostal
 1979-80 - Dennis A Hovorka
 1981-82 - Wayne Slama
 1983-84 - Edward Humpal
 1985-86 - Robert Rothschadl
 1987-88 - Dennis A Hovorka
 1989-91 - Richard Hovorka
 1992-93 - Wayne Slama
 1994-95 - Leslie Bohlmann
 1996-97 - Dennis A Hovorka
 1998-99 - Charles F Skorpik
 2000-01 - Gary LaCompte
 2002 - Jerry Lupton

VFW FIRING SQUAD: (Pre-1973, in front of original clubhouse): from left, Wayne Sutera, Al Reidinger, George Hisek, Norman Mikolash, Cleadues Hovorka, Jim Hisek, Alvin Dvorak, Alfred Novotny, Arnie Gall, Laddie Horacek, Roy Humpal and Charles Cokely.

History of American Legion Auxiliary Pike Wagner Post No. 2, Tyndall, SD

Charter applied for April 13, 1921; signed May 18, 1922

Charter Members

Bollinger, Celia
Boon, Emma
Brooks, Elizabeth Eldora
Davis, Eveleen Olive
Dvoracek, Albina
Eads, Laura Elizabeth
Flamming, Elma C
Glasner, Cora M
Gleason, Sadie
Hack, Susanna
Hagarty, Helen Clara
Henzlik, Josephine
Jones, Lena
Kiehlbaugh, Ella
Kirwin, Catherine
Kirwan, Miss Kathryn
Krause, Elizabeth
Marks, Amy
Marks, Mary J
McCormick, Rose
McNeil, Sarah
Metzger, Mary
Metzger, Nettie
Perkins, Isabel
Peters, Elizabeth
Peterson, Emma
Pike, Mary Ann
Proutek, Anna
Ribble, Grace
Robinson, Zoa
Ryan, Ann
Ryan, Nell
Slaaen, Esther
Slater, Maude Mae
Srstka, Gabriella M
Srstka, Mary R
Taplett, Emily
Thompson, Lena
Vaughn, Myrtle
Wagner, Alice
Wagner, Clara
Wagner, Frances
Weisser, Blanche
Weisser, Kathryn
Weisser, Magdalena

Forty-five women became charter members of an auxiliary to Pike Post No. 2 three years after the men's post was founded. Mary Ann Pike (see insert photo), postmistress, editor and mother of Stillman Pike was first president. In 1946, like the Legion, the auxiliary added the name "Wagner" in honor of a local soldier who died in World War II.

For many years the unit met in the lower level "Rest Room" of the public library. There they held social events and planned various fundraising activities to provide service and support for veterans, their families and the community. The unit continues to promote patriotism in schools by sponsoring writing contests and since 1947, selecting Junior girls to attend Girls State. Countless poppies have been sold on selected days in the spring, regardless of the weather. Members attend fellow-members' funerals and conduct final prayers, and some march as color bearers in area parades. The "Apples for the Teachers" project is a welcome treat at Bon Homme schools each fall. Before Christmas a committee purchases and delivers gifts to veterans living at the Human Services Center in Yankton.

Today, the unit is challenged to maintain its membership as the World War II population ages, but the spirit of loyalty and patriotism remains. Of note are two long-serving unit secretaries whose loyalty embodies that spirit. Gabriella Srstka was honored in 1963 for 24 years as secretary while recent secretary Helen Vavruska has capably filled the office for 27 years.



Past Unit Presidents

(Unfortunately, several books of minutes have been lost; therefore, the following list is incomplete)

1922 - Mary Ann Pike	1965-67 - Calina Marvin
1934 - Zoa Robinson	1968 - Evelyn Fuchs
1935 - Antonia (Toni) Hajek	1970-71 - Marie Hermanek
1936-37 - Ann Schmidt	1972 - Evelyn Fuchs
1938 - Ann Ryan	1973-74 - Lorraine Rehurek
Mid 1940s - Gertrude Monfore	1975-81 - Evelyn Fuchs
1946-47 - Evaryldis Base	1982-85 - Mary Plihal
1948-49 - Helen Scoblic	1986-88 - Arda Hoffman
1954 - Kathryn Peschl	1989-90 - Calina Marvin
1955-57 - Marie Hermanek	1991-95 - Arda Hoffman
1958 - Helen Hagarty	1996-2000 - Cindy Sanders
1962-64 - Helen Vavruska	2001 - Lorraine Rehurek

History of VFW Auxiliary Simek-Ptak Post No. 6895 Tyndall, SD

Organized December 17, 1951

Eleven local women met in December 1951 to organize an auxiliary to VFW Post No. 6895 and to elect officers. On December 17 a contingent from Yankton's Ernest Bowyer VFW Auxiliary came to install officers.

First president Agnes Maus, now 86, remembers when the fledgling unit pitched in to sell sandwiches and pie in the auditorium basement during dances and public affairs to raise money. In those days, she said, the "girls" used to practice "floor work" drills at every meeting, which were at first held in the VFW club. For lack of room, they moved to the library basement. Maus muses that now few even remember the drill.

The days of serving bountiful men's stags with ribs first browned on the range top in the auditorium basement kitchen, served with ham, dumplings, kraut, etc., from a steam table, all heaped on china plates which had to be washed, are gone. However, the unit continues to serve lunches at Las Vegas nights for the benefit of Teener baseball and hold bake sales to raise funds for other projects. The sale of poppies, now held in the fall, remains an important fundraiser with proceeds going for veterans rehab projects.

A primary goal of the unit is to assist in hospital work for veterans. Another is encouraging patriotic youth activities which promote Americanism and respect for the flag. The color bearers take part in area parades and Memorial Day programs, showing by example their devotion to their country.



Agnes Maus, left, confesses that she often knew where her husband Mach Mate 1st CI John Maus was on the Asiatic/Pacific seas because he would tell his location by code in his letters.

Charter Members

(* current members)

Arneson, Emma
Bambas, Doris, Trustee
Base, Sylvia, Chaplain
Bouska, Della
Cap, Rose
Dobesh, Agnes
Hauck, Mildred
* Hermanek, Marie, Guard, Musician
* Hisek, Marie, Colors
* Hisek, Meta
* Hisek, Tillie
* Hoch, Vera
Holupka, Audrey, Colors
Hovorka, Albina, Trustee
Humpal, Mildred, Historian
* Laird, Betty
Mammel, Mary, Treasurer
* Maus, Agnes, President
Mennis, Margery, Conductress
Nelson, Elsie, Secretary
* Nelson, Mary
* Novotny, Marjory
Petrik, Mabel
* Petrik, Shirley
Peschl, Kathryn, Colors
* Ptak, Ouida, Senior Vice President
* Schmidt, Linda, Colors
Skorpik, Elsie, Trustee
Sternhagen, Marjorie, Patriotic Instructor
* Swain, Florence
* Taplett, Dorothy
* Wurtz, Loretta, Junior Vice President

Unit Presidents

1951-52 - Agnes Maus
1953 - Ouida Ptak
1954 - Loretta Wurtz
1955 - Margie Hovorka
1956 - Meta Hisek
1957 - Audrey Holupka
1958 - Shirley Petrik
1959 - Sharleen Hovorka
1960 - Marie Hermanek

1961-62 - Irene Hovorka
1963-64 - Helen Swatek
1965-68 - Marie Hermanek
1969-70 - Evelyn Mueller
1971-73 - Helen Swatek
1974-76 - Jean Wortmann
1977-79 - Loretta Wurtz
1980-2001 - Darlene Tycz

The Civil War (1861-1865)

History

Foes:

Union (Northern States), Blue, vs. Confederacy (Southern seceded states), Gray.

Causes:

Sectional rivalry; moral indignation aroused by fear of extending slavery into new territories; disagreement over Federal Control and States Rights; election of Abraham Lincoln; secession of South Carolina followed by six states.

Chronology:

1861: Apr 12, Confed Gen P G T Beauregard orders fire on Fed troops at Ft Sumter, SC; July 21, First Battle of Bull Run is won by Confederacy, now 11 states strong, first of string of victories.

1862: Pres Lincoln drafts Emancipation Proclamation.

1863: Disastrous Gettysburg Campaign in Penn.

1864: Gen Sherman's March through Georgia to the sea.

1865: Apr 9, Lee surrenders to Grant at Appomattox; Apr 15: Pres Lincoln assassinated.

Results:

Union is saved; slavery is abolished; seceded states are readmitted; 3,295,482 Americans have served; 42,244 battle deaths in worst 20 battles.

Sources: *Concise Columbia Encyc*, 3rd ed, c1994;
VFW Magazine, Mar 2001

Civil War Veterans (Names are followed by cemetery abbreviations as follows: Tyndall Cemetery - TynC; St Leo Catholic - StL; Bon Homme National - BHNat.)

Abbott, Wm (TynC)
Bicknell, H C (TynC)
Cole, Bartholmew (StL)
Cole, Timothy (StL)
Daly, James P (StL)
Daub, Joseph (StL)
Dwyer, Patrick (StL)
Eymer, Conrad (TynC)
Farrell, Robert (TynC)
Harry, William (TynC)
Hill, T M (TynC)
James, Amos (TynC)
Kniffin, Robert (TynC)
Loesel, George (StL)
Markley, Frank (TynC)
Morgan, Fredrich (StL)

Reynolds, Cyrus C (TynC)
Schaffer, August (TynC)
Schaffer, George (TynC)
Schaffhausen, Peter (StL)
Schneider, John C (TynC)
Sharon, J C (TynC)
Slater, William (BHNat)
Spraker, George (TynC)
Trumbo, George (TynC)
Uhrmann, George (StL)
Utle, James (TynC)
Valentine, John (TynC)
Wagner, Benjamin J (TynC)
Wells, Fred (TynC)
Williams, Joseph (TynC)



PRES. LINCOLN'S TOMB, Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, Ill, **Cpt Benjamin J. Wagner**, 7th from left leaning on cane. (donor Elizabeth Gurden, great granddaughter)

Cpt. Benjamin Wagner

Cpt Benjamin Rice Wagner, b 1830, married Elizabeth Hitt 1862, was wounded in Civil War and carried the wound the rest of his life; because of injury, was placed in charge of rebel prisoners. On trip South for exchange of prisoners, he heard an audible whisper calling, "Ben, Ben, don't you know me?" It was his starved emaciated brother Nehemiah. Cpt Ben, a large man, lifted his brother and carried him to home and health. In 1874 Cpt Wagner and sons, Howard and Walter (for whom Wagner is named) moved to Bon Homme County, where he was active in public service and farming. He and his wife are both buried in Tyndall Cemetery.

The Spanish-American War (1898)

Veterans: (all three are buried in Tyndall Cemetery)

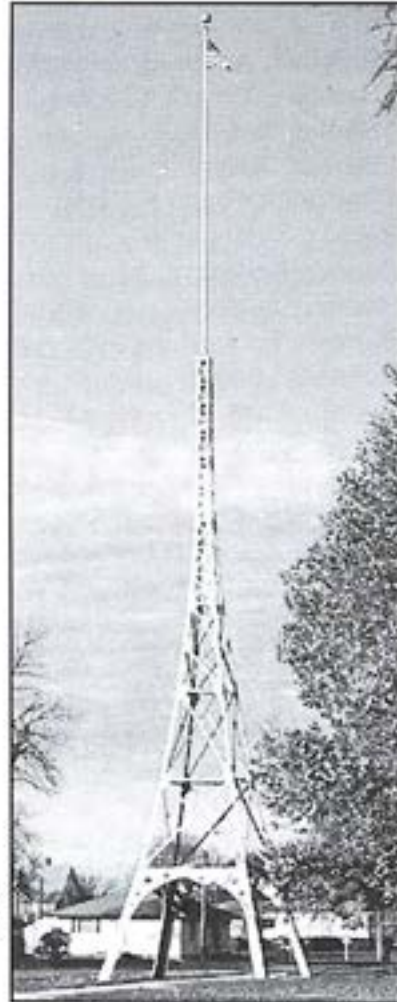
Lewis F Barber

Osmer D Fees

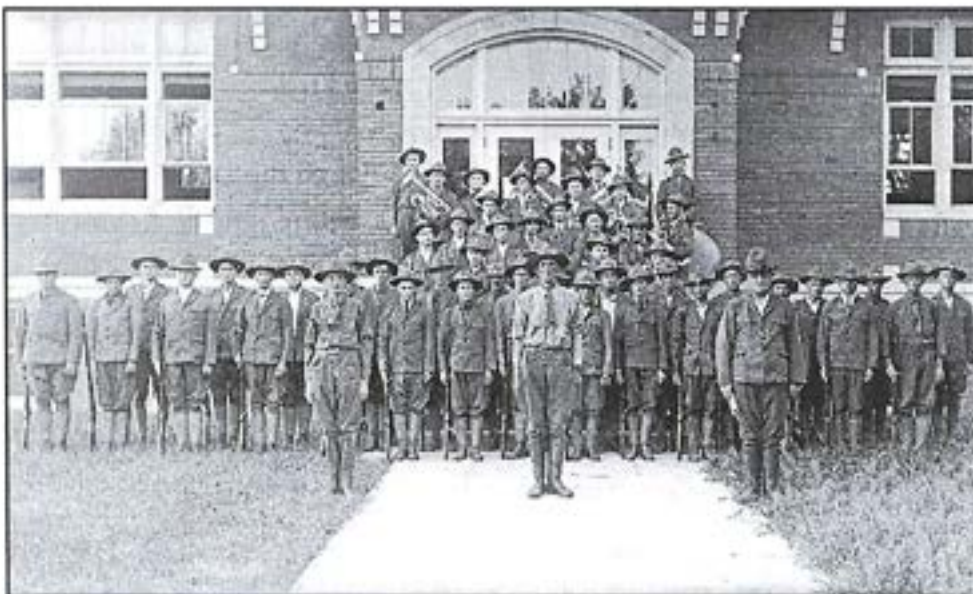
Jerman Nedland



Lewis Fayette Barber, b. Sept 1872, Bon Homme DT to David (DVM) and Anna Barber, 1st Reg of SD, Inf in Philippine Island; also in Cuba and Puerto Rico, Purple Heart



In 1898, Bon Homme County allowed \$200 for a 100' **flag tower** to be built on courthouse grounds, likely as a Spanish-American War memorial.



Home Guard of Tyndall (here in formation on library lawn) was organized early in WW I to protect civilians.

History

Foes:

Spain vs. the United States.

Causes:

Cuban patriots demand independence from Spain; guerilla warfare causes heavy losses of US investments; US recognizes Cuban importance to projected Panama Canal.

Chronology: (All 1898)

Feb 15: Sinking of *USS Maine* in Havana Harbor.

Apr 24: Responding to US demand to withdraw from Cuba, Spain declares war on US.

May 1: Commodore Dewey defeats Spanish fleet in Manila Harbor in Philippines.

May 28: US establishes blockade of Santiago de Cuba; 4 days later Spanish fleet is destroyed in escape attempt.

July 1: US troops, including Rough Riders under Theodore Roosevelt, engage in heavy fighting at El Canay and San Juan Hill.

July 17: Santiago is captured, effectively ending war.

Aug 12: Armistice is signed followed Dec 10 by Treaty of Paris.

Results:

Cuba remains under US tutelage; Puerto Rico, Guam are ceded to US, Philippines are surrendered to US for \$20 million, precipitating Philippines War (Feb 1899-July 1902).

Sources: *Concise Columbia Encyc*, 3rd ed, c1994;
VFW Magazine, Apr 2001

World War I (1914-1918)

History

Foes:

Allies (France, Britain, Russia, US) vs. Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey).

Causes:

June 28, 1914: Archduke Francis Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary is assassinated by Serbian. Austria-Hungary retaliates by declaring war on Serbia. Others follow quickly. On Western Front, Germany approaches English Channel after smashing through Belgium to Paris. Major battles of Marne, Ypres with grueling trench warfare and poison gas attacks inflict huge casualties on Allies in 1916 at Verdun and in Somme Offensive. Germany succeeds on Eastern Front against Russia while Austria is tied up in Italy. Sinking of *Lusitania* May 7, 1915, by German sub threatens US neutrality.

Chronology:

June 1917: Gen Pershing leads American Expeditionary Force at Chateau-Thierry.

Mar 1918: New Soviet government signs Treaty of Brest-Litovsk with Central Powers; Germans are stopped short of Paris in 2nd Battle of Marne; an Allied counteroffensive succeeds; disintegrating Turkish and Austro-Hungarian empires surrender, as does Bulgaria.

Nov 11, 1918: A chastened Germany signs armistice.

Results:

"Last Great War" was one of bloodiest in history, but not a single decisive battle was waged. Sixty-five million served, ten million were killed, double that number wounded.

Source: *Concise Columbia Encyc*, 3rd ed, c1994

World War I Veterans (The names of departed buddies whose names are called Memorial Day, marked by asterisks, are followed by their burial sites: Tyndall Cemetery - TynC; St Leo Catholic - StL; Czechs National - CzN; Czech Presbyterian - CzPr; St Vincent Catholic - StV.)

- * Bambas, Anton (Sheeney) (CzN)
- * Bambas, William (StL)
- * Bame, Emil (StL)
- * Barber, Joseph E (TynC)
- * Bartunek, Frank P (CzN)
- Becvar, Matthias W
- Bednar, Adolph
- Bednar, John
- Benesh, Edward J
- Benesh, Lewis C
- Berndt, John
- Boese, John A
- Boon, Eugene H
- Bouza, John J
- * Britton, George (TynC)
- * Britton, Orrie (TynC)
- Burns, William
- Bussey, Walter R
- Butler, F R
- * Carda, Frank J (StL)
- * Cassidy, John (StL)
- Cerney, Joseph J
- * Cole, Bart M (StL)
- * Colgan, James (TynC)
- Cooley, George H (TynC)
- * Crha, James (StL)
- Davey, Charles
- * Dufek, Frank (TynC)
- * Dvoracek, Adolph V (StL)
- * Eads, Louis (TynC)
- Fara, John B (CzPr)
- Ferguson, Roy W
- * Flamming, Charles G (StL)
- * Flamming, John W (TynC)
- * Flamming, William J (TynC)
- Foss, Jarle
- * Fridrich, Edward (CzN)
- * Fridrich, Henry (CzN)
- * Fridrich, Joseph (CzN)
- * Fridrich, Joseph H (CzPr)
- Geist, Alex
- Glasner, Jack B
- * Gleason, Leo (StL)
- Goodness, Cyrus G
- * Grimme, George (TynC)
- * Hack, John N (StL)
- * Hajek, Frank (CzN)
- * Hakl, Steven (CzN)
- Halsey, John L
- * Hamberger, John (StL)
- Hansen, William F
- * Harrison, Arthur (TynC)
- Hasek, Adolph
- Hasek, James (CzPr)
- Heil, Jacob D
- Henzlik, Joseph
- Hicks, Evans



AMERICAN TROOPS in Paris July 4, 1918, from a card donated by Mrs. Frank Bartunek.

"HE HAS NO MASTER--THE U.S. MARINE" WW I Marine Sylvester Petrik brought home a "Devil Dog" card and seven inch statuette in 1918.

Hird, George W
 * Hisek, Joseph (CzN)
 * Hopkins, Lloyd (StL)
 Horky, William E
 * Huber, George (StL)
 * Hughes, Edward J (StV)
 Hughes, Walter J
 * Johnson, Axel (TynC)
 * Kadlec, Joseph (StL)
 Kiehlbauch, Leo O
 * Kiestra, Harry (TynC)
 * Knoll, Carl (TynC)
 * Knoll, Case (TynC)
 Kostal, Frank J
 Kreber, George H (StL)
 * Kreber, Lawrence H (StL)
 * Kriz, Albert (CzN)
 Kucera, Josef
 Kudrna, John W (& WW II)
 * Lee, John L (StL)
 Lower, Albert
 * Lubbers, George B (TynC)
 Lumm, Charles W (BHNat)
 * Marek, Emil (TynC)
 Marsalek, Frank
 * Martin, A E (TynC)
 * Matejousky, Frank (TynC)
 Matuska, George J
 Matuska, Henry
 Matuska, Joseph
 * Matuska, Louis (CzN)
 * Maxwell, Edward (StL)
 * Mejstrik, Charles W (CzN)
 Merkwon, Thomas A
 * Metzger, F E (Ed) (TynC)
 * Metzger, Roy (TynC)
 * Meyer, George E (TynC)
 Monfore, Howland
 * Moravec, Norbert (CzN)
 * Moravec, Robert (CzN)
 Morgan, Charles H
 * Mudder, John (TynC)

* Musilek, Henry (CzN)
 * Nelson, Jesse (TynC)
 Obr, Joseph (CzPr)
 * O'Donnell, Leroy (StL)
 Panka, James J
 * Pavel, Adolph (TynC)
 Pavel, Frank (CzPr)
 Pavel, Rudolph (CzPr)
 * Peterka, Frank (CzN)
 Peterson, Lloyd J
 Petrik Sylvester (CzPr)
 * Pike, Stillman (TynC)
 * Plihal, Frank (CzN)
 * Plumb, Thomas A (TynC)
 * Pompey, Joseph (StL)
 Puckett, Cyrus C
 * Pyper, George (TynC)
 Raabe, Albert
 Rehurek, Joseph R (CzPr)
 Reichert, Fred
 * Reynolds, Thurston (TynC)
 * Robinson, Leon A (TynC)
 * Ryan, Edward (StL)
 * Schanel, George (StL)
 * Schanel, Joseph (StL)
 * Schmitt, Mike F (StL)
 * Schmoll, Jacob (TynC)
 Sedlacek, Adolph T
 * Sedlacek, Thomas A (TynC)
 * Serr, Leon E (TynC)
 * Sharon, Ray E (TynC)
 * Simek, Albert G (StL)
 * Simek, Frank (CzN)
 Simon, Joseph
 * Slater, William (StL)
 * Sloane, J R (TynC)
 Smith, Leo T
 * Smith, Ralph (TynC)
 Souhrada, John
 * Srstka, Leo S (CzN)
 Srstka, Stephen L
 Stanicek, James

Svanda, Joseph J (CzPr)
 * Szymanski, Joseph (TynC)
 * Thompson, Dewey (TynC)
 * Thompson, Harry W (TynC)
 Travnicek, William (CzPr)
 Turnbull, Charles
 Uken, Emil J
 * VanKirk, Earl (TynC)
 Vavruska, Joseph M (CzPr)
 * Vellek, Joseph G (StL)
 * Vellek, Stanley (CzN)
 Vilhauer, Albert
 Vicek, James C
 * Vogel, Edward (TynC)
 Wagner, Morris J
 Walliser, Ernest E
 * Weisser, August (TynC)
 Weisser, P F
 * Weiff, Charles (CzN)
 * Wheeler, Frank (TynC)
 * Youngworth, Carl L (TynC)
 Zandhuisen, John
 * Zekander, Harold (TynC)
 * Zelenka, Anton (StL)
 Zieser, Fred A
 * Zieser, Nick G (StL)



WW I VETERAN FRANK SIMEK identified his buddies on a card sent to sister Tilda as, "Albert, me, Vogel, Becvar, Hasek, Vavruska."

June 3, 1921, Stillman Pike's remains were transported to Tyndall Cemetery on a caisson drawn by six black horses.



World War II (1941-45)

History

Foes:

Allies (Great Britain, US, Soviet Union) vs Axis Powers (Germany, Japan, Italy).

Causes:

Benito Mussolini, dictator of Italy, conquers Ethiopia in 1936; in 1938, Munich Pact sacrifices Czechoslovakia to Germany.

Chronology:

1939: Germany invades Poland; France and Britain declare war on Germany.

1940: Germany occupies Norway and Denmark; sweeps through Low Countries to English Channel; France surrenders June 22; Battle of Britain rages Aug-Oct; Axis land operations continue in North Africa; Greece and Yugoslavia are occupied.

June 22, 1941: Germany invades Soviet Union; Dec 7, Japan attacks Pearl Harbor, bringing US into war.

1942: Japan conquers Philippines, many islands, all of Southeast Asia; Mar 11, Gen Douglas MacArthur leaves Philippines for Australia, vowing "I shall return," (he does, nearly three years later); Germany reaches Stalingrad and the Caucasus; Gen Rommel seems about to take Cairo; German subs severely damage Allied shipping; Allies rally as British Gen Montgomery routs Rommel in North Africa; US troops land in Algeria; Allies conquer Sicily and South Italy.

In the Pacific, Japanese bombard Corregidor, force surrender in May of 10,000 US and Philippine troops; troops captured on Bataan undergo brutal death march to prison camp; US wins naval battles of Coral Sea and Midway, lands on Guadalcanal, begins island-hopping strategy.

1943: Italy surrenders in Sept; Germans surrender at Stalingrad followed by Soviet offensive in Poland, Hungary, Balkans.

1944: German submarine fleet is virtually destroyed; Germans resist stubbornly in North Italy, especially Cassino, Anzio; Gen George Patton, Cmdr of 3rd Army, spearheads liberation of France and (1945) defeat of Germany; final Allied campaign begins June 6, 1944, with Normandy landing, in Aug in South France, liberating Belgium and France, advancing into Netherlands, Germany; heavy allied bombing destroys German industrial centers; Germans stage last-ditch counterattack in Ardennes.

1945: Marines take Iwo Jima Feb-Mar at great cost; Russians conquer East Germany to Oder R; Western allies break through Siegfried Line Mar 7, cross Rhine, overrun West Germany. In Apr, Hitler commits suicide; May 7, Germany surrenders; Soviet Union declares war on Japan; US forces retake Corregidor; in Aug, Pres. Truman orders atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Japan surrenders Aug 14.

Source: *Concise Columbia Encyc*, 3rd ed, c1994

World War II Veterans

(The names of departed buddies whose names are called Memorial Day, marked by asterisks, are followed by their burial sites: Tyndall Cemetery - TynC; St Leo Catholic - StL; Czechs National - CzN; Czech Presbyterian - CzPr; St Vincent Catholic - StV; St Wenceslaus Cath - StW; Overseas - For.)

Abbott, Kenneth
Arneson, Clarence A
* Arneson, Lester (For)
Baker, Rachel S
Balvin, Francis
Balvin, Hayes
Balvin, James
Balvin, John A
Balvin, Lawrence W
Bambas, Bernie J
Bambas, Frank A
Bambas, James
Bambas, Raymond W
Bame, Edward J
Bame, Robert L
Bame, Stephen
Bangert, Carl W
Barber, Roland
Barber, Samuel (John)
* Bardwell, Loy W (CzN)
Bares, Wenceslaus (StW)
Base, Frank L
* Base, Joseph J (StL)
* Base, Lionel (Laddie) (CzN)
Bauder, Charles
Bauder, Julius E
Bechtold, Raymond W
Becker, Curtis A
* Becvar Andrew C (StL)
Becvar, Joseph V
Becvar, Laddie R
* Becvar, Peter C (StL)
Beedle, Orleen (Marjorie)
* Benesh, Ed (TynC)
* Beringer, George R (StL)
Beringer, Leslie
* Berka, Frank F (StL)
Berka, Lela M
Berndt, Roy R
Berry, Wilbur C
Blachnik, Robert W
Boese, Dwain V

Bohac, Charles
 Boismier, Eileen Schuett
 Boska, Joseph J
 * Bouska, Ralph (CzN)
 Bouska, Robert F
 Bouska, Wm (Bill)
 * Broz, Alois A (CzN)
 Broz, Charles E
 Broz, Emil R
 Bruna, Frank J
 * Buchholz, Emil (TynC)
 Buechler, Ron
 Burnham, Howard W
 Burns, Byron J
 Bussey, George E
 Bussey, Howard E
 Bussey, Lewis F
 Bussey, Raymond W
 Bussey, Warren G
 Cacek, Richard R
 Carda, Daniel J
 * Carda, Edward A (StL)
 Carda, Joseph F
 Carda, Ray E
 Carda, Steven L
 Cash, Lewis F
 Chastka, Anthony
 Chastka, Harold
 Chastka, Ralph J
 Cihak, Frank C
 Cimpl, John
 Cimpl, Laddie
 Cimpl, Leonard J
 * Cokely, Charles L (TynC)
 Cokeley, Martin W
 Cole, Cletus
 Cole, Firmin
 Cole, Hilary P
 Cole, John M
 Cole, Leo T
 Cole, Nester E

* Cole, Robert P (StL)
 Cole, Vitalis I
 Colgan, Dale
 Colgan, Donald J
 Colgan, Gilfred G
 Cooley, George H
 * Curl, Howard C (TynC)
 Curl, Stuart
 * Davis, Harold G (TynC)
 Den Ouden, Frank
 DeRoos, Robert C
 * Deurmier, Leo (TynC)
 Dirks, Robert E
 Dirks, Ruth L
 Dobesh, Joseph J
 Dobesh, Louis E
 Dobesh, Rudolph R
 Duncan, Glenn E
 Dvoracek, Clarence G
 Dvorak, Mary Udlinek
 * Dwyer, Ray (TynC)
 Engel, John A
 * Evers, Ernest E (TynC)
 * Ferguson, Grant (TynC)
 Foley, Robert J
 Fridrich, Alvin W
 Fridrich, Arthur J
 Fridrich, Leroy E
 Fridrich, Maurice
 Fryda, Charles J
 Fryda, Dale E
 Fryda, Donald J
 Fryda, Lewis R
 * Fuchs, Joe L (StL)
 * Gemar, Elmer E (StL)
 Gleason, Dennis L
 Gleason, Donald W
 Gleason, Eugene R
 * Gleason, Francis R (StL)

Gleason, Leroy
 * Gleason, Minor (StL)
 * Gleason, Patrick J (StL)
 Grail, Edward M
 Grail, John G
 Gramkow, Luvern B
 Gramkow, Norman F
 * Grandy, Bill (TynC)
 * Grimme, Ernest E (TynC)
 Grimme, Eugene M
 Grimme, Fred
 Grimme, Harold H
 * Grimme, Walter E (TynC)
 Guy, Harold E
 * Hack, Edward T (StL)
 Hagarty, Patrick J
 Hajek, Gordon F
 Hajek, Joseph S
 Hajek, Leonard
 Hajek, Robert E
 Hajek, T John
 Haki, Earl A
 Haki, Edward
 Halla, Robert
 Hamberger, Lawrence
 Hamberger, Ray W
 * Hamilton, Larry (StL)
 Hasek, Donald J
 * Hasenpflug, Edward (TynC)
 Hayward, James M
 Henry, Nelson G
 Herman, Raymond R
 * Hermanek, Jerry (CzN)
 Hicks, Richard H
 * Hinzman, Lawrence (StL)
 Hinzman, Rollie
 Hisek, Frank J
 Hisek, James C, Jr.
 Hisek, Leo J

Tribune news...Nov 1945: Pete Becvar Jr, newly discharged after three years in Hawaiian Islands, was in such a hurry to get home from Sioux Falls to see his 2 1/2 year old son for the first time that he bought a truck there and drove it to Tyndall.

"HEAVY BOMBARDMENT CREWS of B-24s trained together, flew together, stuck together."
 ...John Lee



World War II continued . . .



OFFICERS, NURSES AND SEAMEN salute on board a hospital ship, 1945. (courtesy photo)

Tribune news...

June 1945: **Pvt Arnold M Pudwill** is now serving w/70th general hospital of Peninsular base section - the nearest to 5th Army front lines (Italy)...many admissions are German casualties of Rome-Arno campaign.

Tribune news...

July 1945: Recently discharged **Tech 3rd Gr Bernie J Bambas** served as med tech in Euro-African-Middle East theaters, was wounded 1/15/44, returned to 135th Inf Med Det. He has earned 5 overseas service bars and 123 points.

Tribune news...

July 1945: **Charles Vellek** returned home after 32 months of service, all but four overseas, serving with medics at General Hospital in Hawaiian Dept.

Tribune news...

Feb 1946: **Glenn E Duncan**, DVM, major in army med corps stationed 4 years at Memphis, Tenn, selected Tyndall to set up practice while on terminal leave.

Tribune news...

Nov 1945: **PVT Ernest Vellek** is recovering from five surgeries for meningitis contracted while stationed at Camp Hood, TX.

Hisek, Leonard M
Hladik, Ernest (StW)
Hlavac, Charles
Hoch, Francis E
Hoch, Lambert E
Hoch, William R
Holec, Emil
Holupka, Frank J
Holupka, Joe J
* Holupka, John M (TynC)
Hornstra, Fred C
* Hovorka, Alvin J (CzN)
Hovorka, Cleadues N
Hovorka, Lester D
* Hovorka, Lloyd E (StL)
Hovorka, Willard R
Hughes, Edward
* Humpal, Roy L (StL)
Ishmael, Lotis
Janele, Melvin (Lou)
Johnson, Don W
Johnson, Martin
Jordan, Loyd
Joslyn, Wayne
Kalda, Donald C
* Karolevitz, Albin (TynC)
* Kelley, Woodrow (TynC)
Kellogg, Walter L
Kidder, Jack
Kiehlbach, Leo J
* Kiehlbaugh, Wilbur (TynC)
Kilker, Robert L
Kilker, Ronald L
Klima, Carl
Kloucek, Thomas P
Kniffen, Charles E

Kniffen, Virgil F
Koenig, Gene
Kokesh, Donald
Kortan, Dorance F
Kostel, Laddie E
Kostlan, Edward S
Kotalik, William J
* Kranz, Walter O (TynC)
Krcil, Henry J
Kreber, Lawrence L
Kreber, Wallace N
Kreeger, Roy W
Kriz, William D
Krol, John
* Kryger, Carl (TynC)
Kubal, George A
Kucera, Emil C
Kucera, Laddie F
* Kucera, Leonard J (CzN)
Kucera, William G
Kuzela, Frank W
* Laird, Donald B (TynC)
* Lang, Fred C (For)
Lang, Harold
Lang, Horace J
Lange, Leonard
Leary, Charles M
Lee, John F
Lee, Robert E
Leheska, Norman
Lehman, Willard H
Lehr, John G. (Jack)
Lehr, Patricia A
Leyden, Merle E
Lorenz, Virgil
Losing, Harry

* Lowry, Lewis (TynC)
 Lubbers, Paul
 * Lubbers, Walter E (CzN)
 Luke, Norris
 Mace, Wayne C
 Mammel, Willard P
 Manis, Joseph C
 * Mann, William (TynC)
 * Marek, Henry J (StL)
 Marek, Jerome H
 Marek, Laddie
 Marek, Raymond R
 Martin, Burnell
 Maruska, Raymond V
 Maruska, Roy
 Marvin, Leslie E
 Matuska, Elmer
 Matuska, Frank E
 Matuska, Ivan
 Matuska, Raymond H
 Matuska, William
 Maus, Frank
 * Maus, John J (StL)
 Mazourek, Edward
 McCann, Gordon C
 McCann, Vernon W
 McCann, William R
 McCollum, Lawrence C
 McKenna, Ancil
 McKenna, Ralph
 McKenna, Robert
 McParland, Roger E
 Mehlhaff, Clarence V
 Meisel, Donald T
 Meisel, Helen Bambas (CzN)
 *Meisel, Mel (CzN)
 Mercier, James W
 Meyer, Dale K

Michel, Thomas L
 Miller, Daryl
 Miller, Gerald C
 Miller, Minard
 Minow, James W (Wally)
 Moravec, Maynard L
 * Mudder, Dick E (StL)
 * Mudder, Helmuth (TynC)
 * Mueller, Gideon (TynC)
 Muller, James F
 Murphy, Hylan T
 Murphy, Robert
 * Naff, William F (StL)
 * Navratil, John (TynC)
 Nedland, Eugene
 * Nedved, Lloyd (CzN)
 Nelson, Floyd W
 Nelson, Lowell R
 Nepodal, Benjamin E
 Nepodal, Ernest W (TynC)
 Nepodal, Frank V
 Novak, Charles H
 Novak, Joseph A
 Novak, Joseph F
 Novak, Milo E
 Novak, Ray
 * Novak, Wesley J (StL)
 Novotny, Alfred J
 Novotny, Gilbert A
 Novotny, Jerome D
 Novotny, Marcel W (StW)
 Novotny Wesley R
 O'Grady, Leo F
 Oorlog, George B
 Page, Charles W
 Page, Scott D
 Palsma, Andrew
 Parson, Glen

Military Cemeteries Overseas

By the end of the WW II, several hundred temporary cemeteries had been established by the American Graves Registration Service, US Army. From 1947-54 that service repatriated remains of 171,000 (61% of recovered bodies). Remaining were given final interment in 14 foreign sites selected in 1947. All were on the continent except one in Cambridge, England and one near Manila, Philippines. Others maintained by Dept of Army are in Honolulu, Puerto Rico and Sitka, Alaska. Locations reflect the progress of military operations.

The following four are where Tyndall area men are buried.

	Number buried	MIAs listed
Florence, Italy	4,402	1,409
Nettuno, Italy	7,862	3,094
Manila	17,182	36,279
Normandy	9,386	1,557

Source: *American Battle Monuments Commission 1964*



VISITS GRAVE--In Sept 1989, Lornie McCann was able to visit the grave of her brother **Fred Lang** in the beautiful American Veterans Cemetery near Florence, Italy. He was KIA near there in Sept 1944.

World War II continued . . .

Tribune news...

Aug 1945: As tractor commander of 788th Amph Trac Bn **Cletus Szymanski** participated in assault landings on Leyte and Okinawa. When his tractor was reassigned to another crew, he and a buddy formed a two-man public service corporation providing laundry service for the entire company!

Tribune news...

Apr 1946: Interested boxers among Airborne School personnel were urged to try out for TAB's ring squad. Leading the field of potential wealth is **Cpl M E Novak**, former lightweight Golden Gloves boxer in Sioux City, Ia.

DON PESEK relaxes in a gondola in Venice, Italy in 1944



* Pavlish, Milo J (CzN)
 Pechous, Sanford J
 * Permann, Gideon R (StL)
 Peschl, Frank
 Pesek, Donald F
 Pesek, Edward J
 Pesek, John J
 Petersen, Roy H
 Peterson, Axel
 * Petrik, Clifford (StL)
 Petrik, Felix
 Petrik, Vernon F
 * Petrik, William C (StL)
 Pinkley, Ruth Sutera
 * Plihal, Edward (CzN)
 * Plihal, Joseph A (CzN)
 Plumb, Merle T
 Plumb, William F
 Pokorny, Robert
 Pompey, Everett
 Pool, John
 * Post, Bernard J (StL)
 * Post, Ed (StL)
 Post, Kenneth C
 * Post, Ray E (StL)
 Potter, Ronald F
 Pravecek, Raymond R
 Pringle, John J
 Proks, Wesley
 * Ptak, John (StL)
 Ptak, Lavern A
 Ptak, Lloyd W
 Ptak, Ray J
 Ptak, Thomas K
 Pudwill, Arnold M
 Pudwill, Vernon
 * Raabe, Harold H (TynC)
 Raabe, Robert L

Raabe, Willard
 Rada, George A, Jr.
 * Rada, William (StL)
 * Ranek, Charles J (StL)
 Rector, Claude A
 Redmer, Richard E
 * Rehurek, Calvin A (TynC)
 Rehurek, Frank V
 Rehurek, Joseph V, Jr.
 Rehurek, Mabel T Baker
 Reidinger, Albert A
 * Reynolds, Donald C (StL)
 Rezac, Lawrence W
 Robinson, George
 Robinson, Tom
 * Rokusek, Wilbert (TynC)
 Rothschadl, Anton
 * Rowan, Cyril (StL)
 Rueb, Ardel R
 Rueb, Daryl B
 Rueb, Rayburn R
 Ruman, Edward
 * Ruman, Robert F (CzN)
 Ryan, Joseph J
 Ryan, Thomas
 * Rysavy, Edward (StL)
 * Rysavy, John F (StL)
 Rysavy, Roy B
 Schaffhausen, Darold D
 * Schaffhausen, Steven J (TynC)
 Scheffel, Alfred G
 Scheffel, Alvin R
 Scheffel, Lloyd G
 Schema, Ernest A
 Schmidt, Jacob
 Schmoll, Elmer W (Tug)
 Schmoll, Emil R
 Schmoll, Otto

Schneider, Adolph J
 Schneider, Donald A
 Schneider, Eldon E
 Schneider, Elmer J
 Schneider, James B
 Schneider, Laddie W
 Schneider, Steven F
 Schneider, William E
 Schuch, Edward
 Schuch, Joseph E
 Schuett, Norman J
 Schuurmans, Morris
 * Schuurmans, Virgil W (StL)
 Schweitzer, Donald C
 Scoblic, Leon T
 Scoblic, Robert F
 Sears, William
 Sedlacek, Edward J
 Sedlacek, Ernest
 * Sedlacek, Orvin F (CzN)
 Sejnoha, Adolph J
 Serr, Hubert H
 Serr, Irene R
 Serr, Joseph K
 Settje, Harold V, Sr
 Shaffer, Robert
 Simek, Albert T
 * Simek, Charles (For)
 Simek, Clarence L
 * Simek, Frank J (CzN)
 * Simek, Fred (CzN)
 Simek, Harry

* Simek, John A (CzN)
 Simek, Ralph
 Simek, Raymond A
 Simonson, Gene
 * Sip, Arthur (CzN)
 * Skorpik, Charles F (CzN)
 * Slaba, Edward (CzN)
 Slade, Robert V
 Slama, Adolph
 Slama, Emil
 Slama, Frank
 Slater, Donald
 Slater, William, Jr.
 Slavik, George J
 * Smith, Albert R (TynC)
 Smith, Dale
 Smith, Ray W
 Snell, Verlaine D
 Souhrada, Adolph J
 Srstka, Stephen John (at sea)
 Starr, Merle E
 Starr, Russell L
 Staska, Adolph
 Sternhagen, Joe
 * Sternhagen, Leo (StL)
 Stibral, Edwin C
 Stolz, Edwin
 Stolz, Jacob, Jr.
 Stolz, William
 Stverak, Charles W
 Stverak, Joseph
 Stverak, Rudolph C
 Sutera, Allen
 Sutera, Eugene J
 Sutera, Wilbur F
 Svanda, Elmer W
 * Swain, Joseph W (StL)

* Sykora, Joseph J (StL)
 Szymanski, Cletus
 Taplett, Herman
 * Taplett, Howard F (StL)
 Taplett, John H
 Taplett, Robert D
 Teply, Frank C
 Thompson, Dale
 Thompson, Don
 * Thompson, Harry (TynC)
 Thompson, Robert S
 Travnicek, Joseph
 * Travnicek, Raymond J (StL)
 Trevillyan, Jacques F
 Udlinek, Anton
 Uherka, Adolph
 Vacek, Edward L
 Van Haitsma, Donald
 Van Haitsma, Earl
 * Vavruska, Ernest E (StL)
 * Vellek, Charles J (CzN)
 Vellek, Ernest A
 * Vellek, Raymond J (TynC)
 Vellek, Robert W
 * Vellek, William G (StL)
 Vogt, Arthur E
 Voracek, Roy
 * Wacker, Albert E (StL)
 * Wagner, Clarence F (CzN)
 * Wagner, James E (For)
 Walkes, Clayton V

Welfl, Lovell E (Bud)
 Whalen, Morris
 Win, Roger C
 Winckler, George J
 Winckler, Robert
 Winningham, Arnold W
 Winter, Rueben G
 Wood, J B
 Wright, Glen F
 Wright, Roger A
 * Wright, Wallace E (StL)
 Wurtz, William E
 Wynia, Donald D
 * Wysuph Donald W (StL)
 Wysuph, Leroy
 Zapletal, Adolph
 * Zapletal, Ernest (CzN)
 * Zapletal, George (CzN)
 * Zapletal, Joseph (CzN)
 Zapletal Robert
 * Zapletal, Rudolph (CzN)
 Zelenka, Anton J
 * Zelenka, Joseph A (StL)
 * Zilla, Joseph (StL)
 Zitka, Charles E
 Zitka, Joseph C

Tribune news...

Aug 1945: **Cpt Thomas Ptak** of the 99th Div 395th Inf, 1st Army was mentioned in *Life Magazine* Apr 16 1945. "Cpt Ptak fought with the 99th until after the Ruhr pocket was cleared, crossing the Remagen Bridge Mar 11 on foot under heavy enemy artillery fire." His division, honored for its heroic exploits and magnitude of its engagements, was first to reach west bank of the Rhine.

Tribune news...

Apr 1946: **PFC Merle Starr** is now recovering stateside from rifle injuries in Germany. His unit was 104th Inf "Timberwolf" Div. He wears ETO Ribbon w/two battle stars, Purple Heart, others.

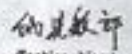
A COPY of Japanese surrender of Ryukyus Islands, Sept 2, 1945.

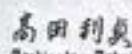
Headquarters Sixth Army
 2 September 1945

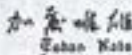
Surrender


The undersigned Japanese Commanders, in conforming with the general order issued by the American Japanese Government at Yokohama, on 2 September 1945, hereby formally render unconditional surrender of the islands in the Ryukyus within the following boundaries:

30° North 126° East, thence 24° North 127° East, thence 24° North 131° East, thence 25° North 131° East, thence 30° North 131° 30' East, thence to point of origin.


 Hashino Nomi
 Lieutenant General
 Commander Japanese Forces
 Sakishima Gunto


 Takahashi Takahito
 Major General
 Commander Japanese Army Forces
 Amami Gunto


 Takahashi Katsuo
 Rear Admiral
 Commander Japanese Navy Forces
 Amami Gunto

Accepted: 
 J. W. Gillis
 General, United States Army
 Kamakura

Korean War (1950-1953) and Korean Era (to 1961)

The Korean War 1950-1953

Foes:

North Korea (Democratic People's Republic under Communist rule) vs South Korea (Republic of Korea).

Causes:

At the end of WW II, Korea is divided into Soviet (North Korea) and US (South Korea) zones of occupation. In 1948, rival governments are established. When North Korea invades South Korea, UN authorizes member nations to aid South Korea. Gen Douglas MacArthur commands UN forces until 1951 when he is replaced by Gen Matthew B Ridgway.

Chronology:

June 27, 1950: Pres Truman sends US forces; Chinese Communist forces join North Korean army; fighting begins around 38th Parallel.

1951: Negotiations for cease-fire begin at Panmunjon.

July 27, 1953: Cease-fire achieved; armistice is signed.

Results:

Inconclusive; hostilities continue for decades; however communism is contained in Asia. Price: 37,000 US killed, 8,000 MIAs.

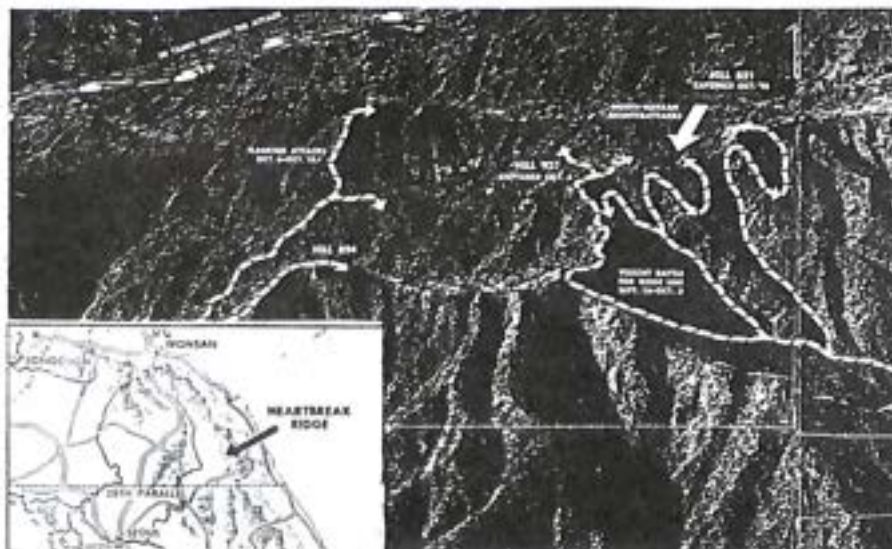
Sources: *Concise Columbia Encyc*, 3rd ed, c1994; *VFW Magazine*

"THIS IS HEARTBREAK RIDGE" said *Life Magazine* in late 1951, describing the 30-day battle fought in the rugged terrain along the east coast of Korea that took the lives of so many, including that of Pete Monfore.

Korean War Veterans (The names of departed buddies whose names are called Memorial Day, marked by asterisks, are followed by their burial sites: Tyndall Cemetery - TynC; St Leo Catholic - StL; Czechs National - CzN.)

Alford, Keith W
 Alford, William W
 Arneson, Donald E
 Arneson, Frank A
 Bambas, Charles D
 * Bambas, Leo J (StL)
 Bambas, Marvin G
 Bares, Charles S
 Becvar, John W
 Becvar, Oscar J
 Beringer, John L
 Beringer, Richard D
 Berndt, Arthur, Jr
 Berndt, George, Sr
 * Berndt, Stanley C (StL)
 Berry, Robert N
 Blaha, Elmer M
 Bohlmann, Leslie E
 Bussey, Robert F
 Cahoy, Edward
 Campbell, Charles P
 * Cap, Irvin (TynC)
 Carda, Charles F
 Carda, Clarence C
 Carda, Stanley J
 Clark, James M
 Clark, Myrl J
 Darcy, John E
 Delzer, Melvin
 Dunn, Clyde H
 Dvoracek, Donnley R
 Dvorak, Alvin S

* Ekern, Richard (StL)
 Engel, Fred E
 Engelbrecht, Donald T
 Engelbrecht, Warren J
 Ferguson, Richard W
 * Flamming, Jon D (TynC)
 Foley, Robert H
 * Gall, Arnold E (TynC)
 * Gall, Leonard D (StL)
 Giedd, Donald G
 Giedd, Irvin D
 Gleason, Earl R
 Gramkow, Lester R
 * Grimme, Leo (TynC)
 Hajek, Howard H
 * Hakl, Bernard (TynC)
 Hamberger, John D
 Hanson, Merlin
 Hasek, Bernard A
 Herman, Elmer
 Herman, Ronald
 Hermanek, Richard A
 Hersman Joseph A
 * Hersman, Robert J (StL)
 Hille, Lawrence C
 Hinker, Robert J
 Hisek, Edward L
 Hisek, George W
 Hlavac, Robert J
 Hoch, Robert C
 Hoffman, Harold
 Holzbauer, Aloysius A



Horacek, Ben
 Horacek, Laddie L
 Hovorka, James F
 Hovorka, John
 Hovorka, Norma
 Hovorka, Richard D
 Huber, Leonard G
 Johnson, Dale B
 Kelley, Dennis W
 Kelley, John R
 Klasi, Ray
 * Kniffen, David J (StL)
 Kniffen, James N
 Kniffen, Louis M
 Kocmick, James V
 Kocmick, Leland T
 Kocmick, Norman
 Koenig, Donald D
 Kortan, Emanuel L
 Kortan, Robert D
 Kostal, Raymond M
 Kreber, James P
 Kreber, Robert J
 Kreber, Ronald P
 Kreeger, Willie J
 Kucera, James
 Kuzela, Laddie
 Lange, Leland E
 Langley, Richard R
 Lehr, Larry R
 Leyden, James E
 Mann, Leland V
 Mann, Melvin E
 Matuska, Melvin
 McFarland, LaVern R
 Merkwon, Emil J
 Mikolash, Bernard H
 * Mikolash, Norman E (StL)
 Monfore, Peter H
 Monfore, Robert
 Murphy, Douglas E
 Nepodal, Roland J
 Neuharth, Edward R
 Nohava, George M, Jr
 Novak, Charles M

Novak, James
 Novotny, Leo J
 Obr, Joseph E
 O'Grady, Raymond L
 Olson, Bill
 Paul, Don L
 Paul, Vernon E
 Pavel, Raymond
 Pavel, Romain
 * Peterka, Edward J (CzN)
 Petrik, Norman D
 Philippi, Harvey L
 Pletka, Bernard J
 Pletka, John F
 Pletka, Robert E
 Pravecek, Lawrence D
 Ptak, Richard D
 Ptak, William
 Rehurek, Lawrence H
 Rehurek, Leroy F
 Rehurek, Raymond J
 * Rothschadl, Ernie (Butch) (StL)
 Rothschadl, Harvey R
 Rothschadl, Leonard
 Rueb, Allen A
 Schelske, Marvin D
 Schelske, Willard
 Schmidt, Julius
 Schmoll, Owen J
 Schneider, DuWayne
 Schneider, Edward F
 Schuch, George
 Schuch, Stanley J
 Schuch, Steven J
 Schuurmans, Darrel D
 Schuurmans, Wayne
 * Simek, Duane M (CzN)
 Simek, Melvin T
 Slade, James E
 Snell, Harold
 Slama, Ladimir D
 Sorenson, LeRoy R
 Souhrada, Alfred
 Souhrada, George E

Srstka, Frank Merritt
 Stepka, Ray
 Sternhagen, Edward
 Stewart, Dale A
 Stolz, Ernest F
 Stolz, Harvey
 Sutera, Daniel L
 Sutera, Leonard W
 Svanda, Doran L
 Svanda, Wilbur E
 * Swatek, Ernest (StL)
 Sykora, Edward
 Sykora, Ralph C
 Thaler, Joseph (Gene)
 Travnicek, Willard
 Trevillyan, Terry T
 * Tycz, Charles J, Jr (StL)
 Tycz, Robert J
 Uken, William E
 Varilek, Stanley J
 Varilek, William J
 Vavruska, Eugene R
 Vellek, Charles W
 Vellek, Ervin
 Vellek, Robert S
 Vilhauer, Darwin L
 Vladyka, Jean
 Waller, Carl
 Walloch, Arnold J
 Welfl, Norman
 Williams, Norman E
 Williams, Roger
 Winckler, Arthur O
 Winckler, Karl G
 Winckler, Melvin
 Witt, Daryl M
 Wittmeier, Robert L
 Wolff, John G, Jr
 Wortmann, Jerry
 Wurtz, Lyle D
 Wyatt, Ronald L
 Wynia, Delmer D
 Wysuph, Robert D
 Zwanziger, Mervyn

Korean Era experiences

Tribune news... May 1, 1952: **Cpl Dale A Stewart**, heavy equipment operator, is currently serving with the 116th Engr Combat Bn, an Idaho National Guard unit which arrived in Korea Feb 1951. This unit is supporting X Corps on the muddy Korean front. Stewart, who left the US Dec 1951, operates a large caterpillar tractor.

Tribune news... May 1, 1952: **Cpl Melvin Simek and Lt Robert Pokorny** unexpectedly met while shopping in the main PX at Camp Kokura. Simek writes that Pokorny, a medical officer attached to a battalion aid station, hopes to leave Korea in May. Simek is a mortician in the laboratory at Camp Kokura.

S/Sgt Darrel Schuurmans learned first hand about continuous summer daylight and winter darkness while stationed at an air installation site on Fire Island in Cook Inlet, Alaska in 1951-52. In charge of maintenance, he remembers clearing the air strip of icebergs which washed up during high tide and using tunnels to get around the 3x5 mile porkchop-shaped site.

Vietnam War (1954-1975) - Vietnam Era (1961-1990)

The Vietnam War 1954-1975

Foes:

North Vietnamese Communist-led guerrillas (Viet Cong) vs. South Vietnam Nationalist government.

Causes:

Following France's defeat in French Indo-China War (1946-54), Geneva Conference, 1954, divides Vietnam into North Vietnam and South Vietnam.

Chronology:

1961: US supplies support troops to South Vietnam.

1964: Following Tonkin Gulf Resolution, war quickly escalates.

1968: Tet Offensive is major defeat for Viet Cong; however, opposition to war increases in US as 550,000 American troops by now have been involved.

1969: Pres Nixon orders increased bombing and begins troop withdrawal.

1973: Cease-fire agreement signed in Paris allows US troops to withdraw.

1975: War finally ends with Communist rout of South Vietnam Army, leading to reunification 1976.

Results:

Inconclusive. US ends economic embargo in exchange for Vietnam's aid in search for missing American servicemen.

Sources: *Concise Columbia Encyc*, 3rd ed, c1994; *VFW Magazine*

ENGINEERS clearing for airport construction in Vietnam fight land mines as well as terrain. --Robert Monfore photo

Bailey, Lewis J
Ballard, Robert J
Balvin, Alan D
Bares, Gary A
Bares, Joseph E
Bares, Raymond J
Bartlett, Roger D
Base, Gery J
Bauder, Marvin A
Becvar, Dennis P
Becvar, William
Beringer, Dennis G
Beringer, Mark A
* Beringer, Robert J (StL)
Beringer, Thomas J
Berka, Emil F
Berka, James A
Berndt, Loren L
Bochman, Merlon N
Boska, Joseph R
Bower, LeRoy R
Branough, Richard L
Cahoy, Ray
Carda, Jeffery
Carda, Kevin C
Chester, Larry K
Colgan, Ray N
Colgan, Robert L
Conrad, Gale L
Crews, William
Cuka, Arthur J
Damkoehler, JoAnn Grimme
DeLange, Paul O
DeRoos, David D
Dvoracek, Bruce A
Eben, Anthony R

Gall, Maynard L
Gall, Terry L
Giedd, Todd M
Gough, Robert J
Haberman, Ernest J
Hajek, David
Hajek, Jerry
Hamilton, Colin T
Hamilton, Larice D
Hamilton, Russel D
Henderson, Roger L
Herman, Dennis D
Herman, Richard R
Herman, William W
Hinzman, Donald D
Hisek, Ronald L
Hlavac, James R
Hofmann, Gerald W
Hora, Donald R
Hora, Rodger W
Horacek, Charles R
Hornstra, John R
Hovorka, Dennis A
Hovorka, Joseph J
Humpal, Edward E
* Humpal, Larry D (StL)
Humpal Ronald G
Jaeger, George R
Jilek, Dennis D
Jilek, Jerome J
Johnson, Douglas H
Jordan, Dennis L
Kaul, Terry H
Kloucek, David T
Knoll, Billy G
Knoll, Bobby D



*Those of us who survived
will always remember."*

Koebel, Daniel B
 Koenig, James E
 Koenig, Shelly E
 Koenig, Thomas R
 Kostal, Joseph E
 Kotalik, Marvin L
 Kreber, Edward F
 Kreber, Wayne J
 Kubel, Daniel D
 LaCompte, Gary
 Langley, Donald G
 Lukkes, LeWayne
 Lupton, Jerry L
 Mace, Rodney J
 Mann, Terry J
 McCann, James L
 Mejstrik, Daniel J
 Mejstrik, James C
 Melmer, David W
 Menninger, Gus
 Mennis, Clayton L
 Mennis, Mark R
 Mennis, Richard A
 Merkwani, John A
 Merkwani, Richard J
 Misar, Elmer S
 Mola, Clark M
 Mudder, Gary
 Mudder, George C
 Nelson, Deborah
 Novotny, Ted A
 O'Grady, Robert W
 O'Grady, Terry
 O'Grady, Virgil
 Ogren, Jack
 Ogren, Joel
 Pavel, Douglas
 Pavlish, Raymond A
 Permann, Robert C
 Petrik, Gary L
 Petrik, Thomas F
 Philippi, Leroy C
 Philippi, Patrick M
 Plavec, Joseph F
 Post, John B
 Potter, James W
 Pravecek, Carl R
 Raabe, Betty L
 Rehurek, Larry D
 Rehurek, Ronald E
 Rolston, Paul F
 Rothschadl, John C
 Rothschadl, Richard L
 Rothschadl, Robert L

Rueb, Rodger H
 Sanders, Dennis C
 Schenkel, Mary Ann Berka
 Schuch, Bernard
 Schuch, Charles
 Schuch, James J
 Schuch, Joseph S
 Schuurmans, James A
 Sedlacek, Joseph W
 Sedlacek, Thomas A
 Sestak, Gary A
 Settje, Harold V, Jr
 Silvernail, Kenneth L
 Simek, Myron J
 Simek, Wallace W
 * Slama, Wayne E (StL)
 Stahl, Sandra K Schmidt
 Staples, Jerome
 Staples, Milo D
 Starr, Earl, Jr
 Stemper, LeRoy L
 Sternhagen, John L, Jr
 Svanda, Richard A
 Swain, Jane A
 Swain, John J
 Swanson, Roger W
 Szymanski, Mark C
 Taplett, James H
 Taplett, Kenneth J
 Tjeerdsma, Calvin L
 Travnicek, Larry J
 Van Gerpen, Bill L
 Van Winkle, Kenneth R
 Varilek, Wenceslaus F
 Vavruska, Edward E
 Vavruska, Ernie R
 Vellek, Craig A
 Vellek, Lloyd A
 Wagner, Ronald R
 Winckler, Daniel R
 Winckler, Myron M
 Winckler, Wayne L
 Winningham, Glenn R
 Winningham, Kenneth L
 Winningham, Sheryl Lee
 Witt, Kenneth E
 Wittmeier, Larry L
 Wyatt, Daniel
 Wynia, Vern
 Zwanziger, Monty
 Zwanziger, Murray D

A different kind of war...



Clark Mola, THS 1961, earned an honor awarded to few, the Distinguished Flying Cross, for "heroism while participating in aerial flight in the Republic of Vietnam April 5, 1968," during combat operations in the Hue area. Mola was helicopter pilot for Command and Control Group Co C 1st Bn 501st Inf which in contact with a reinforced North Vietnamese unit had sustained 11 wounded.

Proceeding to the battle area and ignoring intense enemy fire in the landing zone area, W/O Mola landed without damage each of three trips. "His skillful piloting contributed immeasurably to the successful evacuation, enabling the unit to continue its mission without further loss of life."

Persian Gulf War - Desert Shield - Operation Desert Storm (1991)

History

Foes:

Coalition of US, Britain, Egypt, France, Saudi Arabia, others vs. Iraq.

Events leading to war:

Aug 1990: Iraq invades, annexes Kuwait; UN calls for Iraq to withdraw; embargoes trade.

Chronology:

Jan 1991: massive air attack on Iraqi radar station; *USS Louisville* launches cruise missiles; ground unit engages Iraqis; Battle of Khafji begins.

Feb: US Special Forces infiltrate Iraq; ground attack begins in Kuwait and Iraq; Iraqi Scud missile explosion in Dhahran kills 28; battles of 73 Easting, Norfolk, Medina Ridge precede cease fire; troops begin returning stateside.

Apr 6: War formally ends. US casualties are 146 KIA, 235 non-hostile deaths, 467 wounded, 20 POWs (all released); peak US strength 541,425.

Results:

Ten years later Saddam Hussein remains firmly in power.

Gen H Norman Schwarzkopf...

"The loss of these gallant warriors tears at our hearts...but, I would tell you that casualties of that order of magnitude, considering the job that's been done...is almost miraculous."

Sources: *Concise Columbia Encyc.*, 3rd ed, c1994; *VFW Magazine*

SCHUURMANS BROTHERS WO4 James, THS 1967, and Lt Col Thomas, THS 1979, share a moment during Operation Desert Storm. Both were MEDEVAC helicopter pilots with the NE Army National Guard.

Persian Gulf Veterans

Bauder, Scott L
Beringer, Jean Mikolash
Berndt, Gary
Berndt, George, Jr
Berndt, Terry
Broz, Kevin
Dougherty, Patricia Slama
Foley, Gregory S
Gall, Gregory S
Gall, Jeffrey A
Grimme, Perry R
Hisek, Jeanne M
Hisek, LeRoy (Lefty)
Hlavac, Bennett J
Kostal, Jimmy J
Kostal, Scott L
Kreber, Charles J
Kreber, Scott M
Kreber, Thomas C
Nelson, Greg L
Novak, John E
Ortman, Kay Wittmeier
Rothschadl, Dennis
Rothschadl, Michael J
Rothschadl, Patrick K
Schmoll, Perry P
Sestak, Ryan G
Settje, Shari
Sorenson, Eric R
Sorenson, Peter A
Stoebner, Mark
Van Osdel, Anessa Mola
Weber, Joni T

National Guard and Reserves

* Bares, Laddie (StL)
Beck, Harvey
Beringer, Kenneth J
Blaha, Michael
Blaha, Paul
Burtz, Steven M
Cuka, Robert
Edwards, Ernie T
Fridrich, Harvey
Gemar, Elmer E
Gramkow, Lenny
Grimme, Larry
Hill, Duane J
Hisek, Randy G
Holy, James
Humpal, John
Koupal, Fred D
Mann, James E
McCann, Richard F
Meyer, Larry
Mikolash, Mark J
Mudder, Melvin
Mudloff, Donald
Mueller, Gerald
Nedved, Jerome A
Peschl, J T (Tom)
Plihal, Dennis
Pravecek, Virgil
Rodenberg, John M
Rothschadl, Don
Schneider, Francis D (Bud)
Schuurmans, Bernie
Serr, Maynard L
Sternhagen, Allen L



National Guard and Reserves

Sutera, James E
Svanda, Larry
Svanda, Roger D
Teply, Donald J
Vacknitz, Allen H
Vavruska, Lawrence John
Weber, Scott
Winckler, Kenneth

Now serving and others

Auch, David
Carda, Chad
Carda, Chip
Cassidy, Sean P
Cuka, James J
Fischer, Terry
Flamming, Steven W
Hofer, Amy J
Hovorka, Heidi M
Jerke, Gary
Nelson, Linda M
Petrik, Raymond L
Schenkel, Michael Alan
Schuurmans, Thomas E



Persian Gulf memories

Anessa Mola Van Osdel's 730th Med Co SD National Guard based at Vermillion was activated Nov 1990 and very shortly entered Desert Shield in Saudi Arabia. They first supplied med support for the 2nd ACR (Armored Cav Reg) in Iraq and Kuwait. In April, the unit set up treatment areas for injured Iraqi soldiers and refugees (see photo at left). The 730th returned May 1991.



A Saudi experience...(excerpt) "We knew the air war had begun," **Sgt Jean Beringer** recalled as the gas alarm and din of aircraft awakened her in mid-Jan 1991. An RN at 8th Evac Hospital near Dhahran, she began helping patients don their MOPP suits. The hospital handled 650 inpatients, 177 enemy POWs and 15,000 outpatients the five months Beringer served there.

Springfield Army National Guard (1956-1994)

The Springfield Unit of the SD Army National Guard was organized Oct 29, 1956 as Co D 137th Engr Bn with 31 men signing the initial morning report. Shortly after, 60 men, many of them Tyndall area WW II veterans, reported under the command of Cpt Robert P Monfore and Plt Leader Lt Elmer E Gemar. In 1958, when Joe Foss was governor, an armory was constructed at Southern State Teachers College in Springfield as a joint facility.

The unit underwent reorganization and redesignation as 153rd Co D Jan 4, 1968 with Cpt Elmer Gemar as commander along with five officers and 137 enlisted men. Besides its role in maintaining national defense, the local unit assisted with many Bon Homme Co and South Dakota projects, using its unique engineering skills. In 1989 the 153rd received the prestigious national Itschner Award for Outstanding Service. Unexpectedly, in early June 1994, Major Gen Harold J Sykora, Adj Gen SD National Guard, sent word that the Springfield unit was to be deactivated, its 83 members to be given

the opportunity to retire or be absorbed into other units. This occurred in Jan 1994, much to the dismay of many area men and women who had been loyal members and supporters of the unit.



CPT ELMER E GEMAR, second from right, commanded the Springfield unit July 1957-June 1970. In WW II he served in Europe as Motor Transport Officer, earned EAME Theater Ribbon with 4 Bronze Stars.

Families served in numbers

Top left, S/Sgt **James C.**, US Army, 4/22/41-11/12/45; 591st Engr Boat Regt ETO; North Africa, Algeria, Tunisia (18 mo), Italy (19 mo); pre-Pearl Harbor Spearhead, 4 battle stars.

Top center, **Frank J.**, US Army 2/12/42-12/29/45; 469th Antiaircraft Air Automatic Weapons Bn; New Guinea, Southern Philippines Leyte; Philippines Liberation Ribbon with 2 battle stars, Bronze Arrowhead; died July 2001.

Top right, **Leo**, US Army 9/3/42-2/11/46; 1915th Engr Aviation Bn; Asiatic Pacific Theater.

Bottom left, **Leonard**, US Army 2/19/43-12/29/45; 754th Tank Bn; New Caledonia, Battle of Bismarck Archipelago, Northern Solomons, Luzon; Purple Heart; Philippines Liberation Ribbon; Bronze Star.

Bottom center, **George**, US Air Force, Airman 1st Cl 4/17/51-4/16/55; 68th Field Maintenance Sqdn, 19th Bomb Wing.

Bottom right, **Edward Lewis**, US Navy 1/5/51-11/4/54; assigned to *USS Pine Island*; National Defense Service Medal, China Service Medal; died 6/18/99.

The James Hisek Family: six sons of James, Sr. and Emma Mraz Hisek served their country, four in WW II and two in the Korean War. (Awards are not all listed.)



The Novotny Family: Five sons of Mr. and Mrs. Vaclav Novotny, who lived northwest of Tyndall, joined the service, three in WW II and two in Korea. One, **Marcel**, did not return. (See photo p. 5 & story p. 37)



Top left, **Wes**, US Navy, Radarman 3rd Cl, home on leave in 1943, was owner of Novotny Greenhouse, Yankton.

Top right, **Gilbert**, US Army, ETO, Co E 363 Inf; Purple Heart, CIB, three Battle Stars.

Bottom center, **Alfred**, THS 1945, US Army, served 1946-47 in Korea guarding 38th parallel (here in Pochon, 1946).

Bottom right, **Leo**, THS 1950, US Army Transportation Corps in Korea.

Far left, brothers-in-law **Wes Novotny**, right, and **Bill Bouska**, THS 1938, roughing it.

Hiseks serve from WW I to Desert Storm...



Left, "Uncle Joe" Hisek trains at Camp Funston, KS, 1918.

Right, Lee "Lefty" Hisek, US AFR, participated in Desert Storm with 730th Med Co, SD National Guard. One of THS's talented athletes, he died of cancer, age 46, 6/30/95.



Note: There are a number of Hisek children and grandchildren who have been or are currently serving who are not listed here.



Lester, US Navy Motor Mach 3rd CI, died 1980.

The Hovorka Family: Six sons of Ambrose and Emilia Hovorka of near Tabor served their country, five in WW II and the youngest, Richard, in Korea. All shared a love of farming and of Bohemian music, particularly on the accordion.



Left, Cleadues; center, Willard, died 1997; right, Lloyd (see story p. 39), died 1988.



Above, Richard has been very active in local and state Legion offices including State Commander 1992-93.



Alvin, died 1997.



Carrying on...

Left, Airman Amy Hofer, US Navy, granddaughter of Cleadues Hovorka, currently in Guam; center, James J Cuka, great-grandson of Ambrose Hovorka, US Marines, 1996; right, Airman Heidi Hovorka, granddaughter of Willard Hovorka.

Six sons bring honor

Six sons of John A. and Mary Benesh Cole, respected Tyndall farmers, reaped the benefits of their parents' foresight in sending them as youths in the 30s to Citizens Military Training Camp. The three month summer program qualified them as commissioned officers in the reserves and may have helped them survive the long years of WW II. Mrs. Cole was honored as the third mother in the nation to have five officer sons in that war. All continued until retirement in active or reserve careers.



Cletus Cole, THS 1928, entered the Army in May 1942 and at discharge 1946 was Lt Col. He served with the Amph Tractor Bn in the Pacific, and made three landings participating in combat at Saipan and Tinian. Among awards earned was the Bronze Arrowhead for assault landing June 15, 1944, in the Marianas. Deceased.



Vitalis Cole, THS 1930, as 2nd Lt in 1934 directed a black CCC in MO; taught rural schools four years; was called to active service May 1941; assigned to the new Ft. Leonard, MO; after transfer to Air Force and intensive flight training, flew over 500 hours in anti-sub patrol in Panama; was re-assigned to China as air-ground support to Chinese Army recovering Burma Rd; reenlisted 1946, served in Alaska, Pentagon, before retiring as Lt Col in 1961 and teaching ROTC at South Dakota State.



Firmin Cole, THS 1932, was needed on the farm and was last to enlist. "He wasn't going to be left behind," his brother Hilary said. Firmin served in England in Army Ordnance, repairing tanks used in the African campaign and preparing them for the D-Day landing.



Nester Cole, THS 1933, entered the Air Force as 2nd Lt in May 1939, commanded units in Panama (brother Vic was in one); tallied 10,000 hours in 13 types of aircraft before ending a distinguished career as Colonel Nov 1959. He recalled crash landing a B-18 in Central America while on anti-sub patrol and being rescued by Vic and crew; successfully deadstick landing after catching his own ricocheted bullet in his belly while piloting a P-51. Duty assignments after war included Texas, California, Arizona, Okinawa. Deceased.



John Cole, THS 1934, entered the Army USAR Inf Aug 25, 1940, as 2nd Lt. A pioneer in parachuting, he was in Latin America before WW II; went directly to Pacific Theater; made first combat jump in New Guinea; contracted malaria, later became instructor at Fort Benning. His final assignment before discharge as Lt Col in 1959 was with (Res) 5th US Army Hq.



Hilary Cole, THS 1938, soloed two months after joining the Air Force in 1941; was commissioned May 1942; flew 65 missions from England as A-20 flight leader of 9th AF "Famous 416th," bombing strategic sites, making D-Day run. He earned Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal w/12 Bronze Oak Clusters. After retiring as Lt Col 1949, he joined National Guard at Sioux Falls, was recalled in 1951 and sent to jet school.

Nepodal brothers serve

T/5 Tech 5th Gr **Ernest W.**, (top left), eldest of four sons of Victor and Amelia Nepodal, entered the Army in Feb 1942, age 22; was stationed in New Guinea as Army vehicle mechanic; disch May 1946; d. 8/22/95.

Petty Off 2nd CI **Frank V.**, (top right), AMM2/C, THS 1941, enlisted Feb 1942, served until May 1946 in Hawaii and Calif; d. 12/27/88.

T/4 Tech 4th Gr **Benjamin E.**, (bottom left), THS 1945, entered Army Oct 1945; was in Korean occupation; played tuba in Army band; disch May 1947.

Cpl **Roland J.**, (bottom right), THS 1947, enlisted Oct 1949; transferred Oct 1950 to ERC 8210 MP POW PROC Co, Korea; earned Korean Service Medal with three Bronze Stars; disch Nov 1951; life member of VFW.



Petrik roll call...

US Marine Cpl Sylvester Petrik (Purple Heart) and brother August served in WW I; in WW II, brother Bill, son Vernon, sons-in-law Cletus Szymanski, Virgil Schuurmans, John Balvin; in Korean era son Norman; in Vietnam era grandsons Mark Szymanski, Jim Schuurmans, Mike Balvin and in Persian Gulf era, grandsons Jim, Bernie and Tom Schuurmans.



Hajek roll call...

Tribune 7/18/42... "They put me on KP this morning again... There are too many pots and pans... also too many potatoes to peel!" PFC Gordon Hajek, Camp Forrest TN (ETO 31 mo, Co B 2833 Engr Bn CE, Arrowhead, 7 Battle Stars; disch Aug 1945.

Frank Hajek, US Army WW I; WW II: brother John (Pacific Theater), sons Gordon, Bob, Leonard, sons-in-law Frank DenOuden, Ray Hamberger; Vietnam era: grandsons David and Jerry Hajek.

Below left, Gordon (right) with Jim Hisek (left) and Walt Gall in Naples; below right, Bob and Leonard Hajek, June 1945.



In Memory of Rudolph Pavel

Tyndall Tribune Dec 12, 1918:
(excerpts)

On Sunday afternoon a memorial service under the auspices of the Red Cross was held in the Opera House* in honor of Rudolph Pavel, the first soldier from this community to be killed in action...

The Home Guards were out in uniform, lending a military atmosphere to the meeting.

Pavel was born on the farm near this city...was a faithful member of the Bohemian Presbyterian Church and truly a Christian soldier.

In the fierce struggle of Oct 12 when the Americans were storming strong hill and forest positions, Rudolph received his mortal wound. His brother Frank saw him fall. Rudolph was hurried to a hospital where his case proved hopeless and he died after a few days.

* The Opera House, once the former Tyndall Public School, still stands today as the former ZCBJ Lodge Hall.

Tyndall friends **Charles Mejstrik**, left, and **Anton "Sheeny" Bambas** in France, WW I.



Fred C Lang KIA

T/Sgt Fred Christ Lang, son of Mr and Mrs Fred Lang, THS Class of 1939, died in battle Sept 14, 1944, age 24, father of two, one he had never seen. He was sent overseas at Christmas time, 1943; wounded May 14, 1944, from a hit by a mine sweeper in southern Italy and again early in August and died on a rugged slope of the North Appenine Mts. in Italy during the struggle to break through the heavily fortified Gothic (Green) Line.

When both platoon leaders became disabled, Sgt Lang assumed leadership of two leading platoons of the 338th Inf Reg, 85th "Custer" Div, 5th Army, in a desperate attempt to scale the unprotected bare crags of Monte Altuzzo. After aggressively repelling counterattacks but disabled by a malfunctioning radio, Lang sent messengers to the command post below requesting desperately needed ammunition and support. Finally descending himself and while he and the commanding officer lay stretched out on the ground, he was struck in the head by a rifle bullet, thus becoming one of nearly 300 casualties the 338th suffered in the five-day battle to take and hold Altuzzo.

For gallantry in action with Lt Gen Mark W Clark's 5th Army, he was posthumously awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart.

Col Joseph A Pihhal began a 30-year military career in ROTC at SD State College where he excelled in track and football as he had at THS (Class of 1930) and later in pro football. Although a graduate engineer, the only slot in the military was infantry, finally Signal Corp. After the Air Force became a separate entity, he transferred; served as Signal Officer of IX Air Force Tact Depot, Omaha Beach; served in Berlin Air Lift and Occupation Army in Germany before retiring Jan 1, 1964. A modest man, only his numerous medals tell a story he would not. After 11 years at USD-S at Springfield teaching electronics, he died Nov 5, 1988.



PFC Julis Bauder, 3/27/42-10/24/45, served with Co C 64th ARMD Inf Bn, later MP Platoon 90th Inf Div in Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland, European-African-Middle Eastern theaters, earning the Bronze Star Meritorious and Bronze Arrowhead.

Major John A Ptak KIA

John "Katy" Ptak began his military career as one of three top-ranking ROTC cadets at USD where he also excelled in basketball and track. Following his commission as 2nd Lt Feb 1941, he served with the 1st Marine Div in Iceland 8 1/2 months.

Jan 23, 1943, as Company Officer of Co "E" and Bn, 9th Marines, he embarked for SW Pacific. In Oct he was named commanding officer at Camp Tetere, Guadalcanal and participated in landings at Efate, New Hebrides. In Jan 1944 he joined Hq Co, 1st Bn 3rd Marines and as Bn Exec Officer of Coconut Grove, Tetere, Guadalcanal British Solomon Islands, he saw action in some of the toughest Marine drives. He met his untimely death on Guam Island, Marianas Aug 1, 1944.



Best friends in THS (and at USD), Howard Taplett (1939), Robert Taplett (1936), Ray Ptak (1940) and John Ptak (1936).

Noncombat horror story with a happy ending!

Early in his military training, T/Sgt Joe Fuchs attended the private Curtiss Wright Aeronautical Univ in Chicago, one of 400 cadets in a 4 1/2 month course to become crew chiefs or head mechanics at Army Air Corps flying fields. His training served him well at an 8th AF base 20 miles from the English Channel as Flight Test Engineer on combat-weary B-24 bombers in need of repair.

June 7, 1944, he was assigned to fly on one which had been stripped to transport men

and supplies to Belgium. Most on-board soldiers had not flown before and knew only they were to fill in where infantry was needed. Shortly after takeoff, one tugged on Joe's leg at his elevated position on the flight deck, stating that gas was pouring all over. Joe jumped down with flashlight and tool kit to discover and tighten a loose gas line clamp connecting one wing tank to another. "No Smoking!" Joe counseled emphatically. Plane and cargo unloaded successfully in Belgium and returned safely.



Fuchs served with the 844th Air Engr Sqd 418th Air Service Group, 8th Army Air Force 1942-45 in England, France and Belgium.

Stephen John "Huck" Srstka KIA

Stephen Srstka began active duty in the South Pacific with the 2nd Armored Amph Bn, 2nd Marine Div, April 10, 1944. He was wounded June 15, 1944, in the initial landing on Saipan. When his amphibian was disabled by enemy shell fire, he voluntarily assumed duties as loader of another amphibian in his sector whose crew had suffered extremely heavy losses. His cool determination and bravery were an inspiration to his comrades, meriting him the Bronze Star medal.

THS classmates remember him for his speaking abilities (including Boys State Supreme Court), his Boy Scout work and his skill on the football field.

"It was something to see..."

"San Juan Assists in the Liberation of POWs."

"Yesterday (29 Aug 1945) several members of the ship's company had the rare privilege of seeing one of the most beautiful sights that man has the honor to see. To state the fact, 'Several hundred POWs (1,300) were liberated from the Tokyo area yesterday,' is a masterpiece of understatement. These men were given freedom. That was the magic of it, the precious thing that this war has been fought for..."

"...It was something to see, that oddly clothed cheering crowd proudly holding aloft the secretly made flags of the US, Great Britain and Dutch...those four years of waiting, wanting, starvation and imminent touch of ever-pending death was gone in a flash--really gone...no more stealing food, cigarettes, any little comfort that was so highly treasured..."

"There was a strange bond between them. They were a little worried about being separated from the members of that strange little society...They will miss that mass ingenuity of their little band of freedom loving souls."

--Cpt. Ralph Berry after assisting in transferring ill POWs from Omari Prison Camp to the hospital ship *USS Benevolence*.

Cpt Ralph Berry, left, and Col Wilbur Berry, following their father in medicine, made the military their careers.

Berry Brothers continue medical tradition

Col Wilbur C Berry, MD, US Army and brother CPT Ralph B Berry, MD, US Navy, were born to long-time Tyndall doctor Sherman G and Nettie Barber Berry. Wilbur (THS 1927) and Ralph (THS 1928) both attended USD and Creighton Med School, graduating there in 1935 after working as railroad bums to help pay their way. Both had distinguished careers in the military, retiring in 1965, Wilbur to San Francisco and Ralph to Hawaii.

When WW II began, Wilbur was stationed in the Philippines with Gen Jonathan Wright at Corregidor, working in Hospital "2" located in a tunnel. When Corregidor surrendered Apr 9, 1942, the troops became part of the Bataan Death March from Mariveles to San Fernando 65 miles away. In all, 76,000 American and Filipino POWs were bound, beaten or killed by their Japanese captors. Only 56,000 survived but thousands more died from malnutrition and disease.

Wilbur was incarcerated in several camps in the Philippines before being transported to Japan on one of the death ships (used as protection for Japanese warships - sadly many were sunk by US forces). Near starvation existed to the point where cockroaches were considered a luxury for their protein. After liberation Sept 4, 1945, from Honshu, Wilbur returned highly decorated to a hero's welcome in San Francisco, where he was reunited with his wife and daughters Peggy (Sutherlin, who contributed this story) and Patsy.

When WW II began, Ralph was stationed at Naval Air Station, San Diego. In 1944, he joined the *USS San Juan* as Senior Med Officer assigned to the first relief party ashore off Tokyo to rescue allied POWs. Also highly decorated, he received commendations for having participated in five major campaigns on board *USS San Juan* for work in evacuation of POWs and for work during Korean War.



2nd Lt Marcel Novotny KIA

Marcel Novotny endured seven months of heavy action in France and Germany, beginning immediately after his arrival in Oct 1944. Promoted to 2nd Lt on the battlefield, he received a Bronze Star for gallantry in the six week Vosges Mts Campaign in Eastern France, particularly for his leadership in the successful attack and containment of the enemy-held town of Lemberg.

Novotny earned the Silver Star in Jan 1945 for his gallantry through continuing fire which

resulted in securing the objective against counterattack. Later, in April, on the day he died, he again exhibited his aggressive style of leadership in the vicinity of Bielstein Germany by personally advancing forward of his men to draw fire, thereby enabling the platoon to complete its defensive positions and eventually repulse the attack. His wife Catherine, whose letters provided this information, received an Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star, awarded posthumously.



Japanese descend a broom-painted white plane with Red Cross emblem in a surrender ceremony in the Pacific, 1945. (donor, Leo Hisek)

The Barber-Berry connection...

David W. and Anna Barber, residents of Bon Homme Village, had five sons. Louis F (photo pg. 15) served in the Spanish-American War and Joseph C in WW I with the Med Det 7th Inf. Joseph (photo at right) never recovered from gas poisoning incurred at Meuse Argonne.

John S. Barber, THS 1942, son of Samuel Barber, DVM, served in the Navy in WW II, attending radio school with high school friends Wilbur Sutera and Robert Hajek.



Lester R Arneson KIA

Lester Arneson had no opportunity for a furlough after induction in the Army in 1942. He participated in the Oran North African campaign with the 47th Inf Reg until its conclusion. A truck driver, he was transferred to the foot troops just before the invasion of Sicily where he died in his buddy Erwen Thoreson's arms Aug 9, 1943, at 9 a.m. Excerpts of a poem written in Lester's memory by PFC Thoreson follow.

Battle days were dreary
as I looked death in the face
'twas then Christ came into
my heart
to fill that hollow place

I had a loving buddy
who was a gruesome sight.
He was blown to bits beside me
in the top heat of the fight.

I did the best to aid him
as I stroked his childish brow.
He just closed his eyes and
murmured,
"Buddy, am I hurt bad now?"

It was then I felt His presence
as I said a little prayer
to God up in his heaven
for my Buddy dying there...

Jake Stolz KIA

S/Sgt Jake Stolz Jr died Oct 27, 1944, on Leyte Island while getting off of a boat for action.



A Pearl Harbor story



Loyd and Stella Jordan

Loyd and Stella Jordan will always remember Dec 7, 1941. On their Hawaiian honeymoon, he was just off guard duty and in breakfast line at the Immigration Center in Honolulu and she at military housing at Schofield Barracks.

Stella and Loyd were married Nov 12, the day she arrived in Hawaii after an uncomfortable five-day voyage. He soon returned to his barracks and she began work in child care and as maid for a major's wife, living in a small bungalow nearby.

The Jordans both saw planes overhead, unusual on Sunday. Soon realization hit, soldiers scrambled to duty amid the smoke and confusion and women and children hurried by bus to a school shelter. Military families were evacuated Christmas Day and it was to be four years before the couple was reunited.

Loyd's unit, the 25th Inf began island-hopping, including the fiery hell hole of Guadalcanal. He was wounded on Georgia, hospitalized in New Zealand, but returned to duty.

The Jordans farmed near Tyndall while their children Dennis (1964) and Linda (1968) attended THS.

Charles Skorpik, US Navy

Charles entered the Navy Jan 1942 and after boot camp was assigned to and remained on the newly commissioned *USS South Dakota*. This most decorated US battleship was involved in battles at Guadalcanal, where it took 44 hits; the Philippines and Marshall Islands; at the British naval base Scapa Flow in the North Atlantic where with sister ship *USS Alabama* it circled the Arctic Circle north of Norway for six months pursuing and destroying German battleships.

Skorpik remembered "the ship was on the go all the time," that the limited food supply often contained insects, that a watch-repair hobby helped fill long hours. Considering himself lucky, however, he had switched from search rescue to fire fighter just two days before a bomb killed his replacement along with 14 others of the rescue squadron.

Up until his death, Charles delighted in attending reunions at the *USS South Dakota* Memorial in Sioux Falls reliving memories with former crew members.



Lloyd Hovorka's Bronze Star arrives 40 years late

Soon after Lloyd Hovorka left his farm near Tyndall in 1943, he began to experience hazardous wartime conditions in many unfamiliar places in a four year one month two day odyssey. As member of the 2nd Inf 7th Div US Army, his military career took him island hopping in some of the toughest fighting in WW II. Along with driving caterpillar on road jobs, his main job turned out to be transporting supplies, ammunition and the wounded by truck and jeep.

From the cold rugged island of Attu, Aleutians, his unit went to Ryukyu, a small island, like Attu heavily fortified, which took five days to secure. "There wasn't a coconut tree left standing," he recalled, "but Leyte was the toughest." During the final assault Easter morning 1945 on the beaches of Okinawa, he delivered a load of ammunition in darkness through areas crawling with Japanese. Lloyd returned to Spokane Oct 1945 with \$300 in his pocket and so glad to get home, he hitchhiked the last 30 miles. It was 40 years later, however, before he received the Bronze Star "for meritorious achievement...in the Asian-Pacific Theater of Operations."

Fridrich suspects "fresh eggs for breakfast!"

Fresh eggs for breakfast Oct 14, 1943, alerted the B-17 crew that something was up. Briefing explained to joined crews of the 94th Bomb Group in England what to do if captured during the second bombing of a ball-bearing plant in Schweinfurt.

Maurice Fridrich was about to depart on his 7th and last mission with the 10-man crew of "Spare Parts." After German fighters and ground fire crippled the plane, the pilot gave the order to bail out and Fridrich, after his first-ever parachute jump during which he lost his sheepskin boots, began a 10-day 120-mile hike toward the Rhine River. Hiding by day and without food, he finally appropriated a bicycle but was captured almost within sight of safety.

At Stalag Luft I, his Slavic language background helped secure duty with Russian guards who were issued rifles not only to prevent prisoners from leaving but also to prevent starving people, many who were former slaves of the Germans, from entering. German guards and citizenry had left for fear of marauding Mongolian Russians in the countryside who had no fear as they themselves were cannon fodder.

Early in May evacuation through Barth to a nearby airfield began. Space for freed prisoners had to be guarded from Germans who also wished to flee. For three days B-17s with motors running landed and loaded evacuees, delivering them to Rheims, France, then to Camp Lucky Strike, a tent city for recovered allied military personnel, and eventually home.

---from memories written by Maurice Fridrich

Frank Base writes home

"We wear our helmets and light suntan uniforms which have a neat appearance. I look like Frank Buck," Base writes to his family from Luzon Nov 30, 1941, where he was serving with a med detachment prior to capture and imprisonment by the Japanese.

"We have been issued helmets, gas masks, war paraphernalia...to be ready in a minute's notice...Even if it comes to war, you can figure I am safe because my job is not dangerous or hazardous."

147th FA Bat E (Yankton)

In late Nov 1940 orders were cut for SD's National Guard to mobilize and report for full time duty. The unit embarked on the *USS Holbrook*, and after a stop in Hawaii, left Dec 1, 1941, for Australia, the first Americans to visit. On full war alert, they affectionately became known as the "Bushwhackers." The unit "island-hopped" in the South Pacific, gaining many honors and much respect. (Other locals in the unit included Alois Broz, Charles Cokely, Norman Schuett, others?).

Donald "Butch" Colgan writes...

(from Australia to *Tyndall Tribune*, thanking the Legion for sending records to play)

While sympathizing with news of boys "who are having things sort of rough, things here (Australia) have always been interesting if not enjoyable." He suggests that by piecing information together in an article by Ring Lardner in *Newsweek*, hometowners might get a good picture of what has happened to us..." He went so far as to say they were the first American veterans of this war.

Butch enlisted in 147th Fld Art in 1940, had 5 years service, Purple Heart w/Oak Leaf Cluster, seven overseas stripes.

Cpt. Leon Scoblic writes ...

(to his aunt Mrs. FM Scoblic Nov 27, 1941, from the US Army Transport *Willard A Holbrook*)

"There are 240 men down here below the water level in a room 40x60x10...we don't have any fresh air...bunks are stacked four high, top one against the ceiling and bottom one six inches off the floor. We can see lights of Honolulu...When we leave here we will travel in convoy...only eight knots an hour, due to a slow freighter which will be with us."

Scoblic was a member of the 147th, and like most, spent five Christmases away.

Trevillyan in Korean waters...

Jacques Trevillyan, THS 1945, Annapolis 1950, (photo below), served his first assignment on the heavy cruiser *USS Rochester* off the coast of Korea, in the plotting room for the ship's "8" guns. "As far as seeing everything with my own eyes, I might as well have tied up at Lake Tyndall!" he wrote to a friend. Although a close call damaged the portside amidships, the *Rochester* continued to provide fire support to Robert Taplett's Marine unit during the Inchon invasion and later supported the evacuation of the Marines from the Chosin Reservoir. Of Taplett, "the Marines regard him 'as one of the true heroes in the Corps,' mighty high praise since the Marines have never been short of heroes."



Peter Monfore KIA

Peter Monfore was an unabashed Christian soldier, reading his Bible daily, leading his men in prayers, constantly bringing hope and encouragement to the men of "L" (Love) Co. He died in Korea Sept 19, 1951, from a bullet to his heart on Heartbreak Hill No. 851, a short time after writing his brother Bob, "Somehow I feel that the Lord wants me to stay over here...Why, I don't know but I know I'll be in his will."

Pete wrote of extreme cold in Nov 1950, water freezing in the canteen cup while brushing teeth, ROKs freezing to death in foxholes and how he slept out in a sleeping bag to experiment with different ways to keep warm. The following summer, however, he wrote of the havoc constant rain created, keeping their "holes" wet and how he built a bunk off the ground to keep out of the water.

Monfore had already earned one Purple Heart and the prestigious French Croix de Guerre for leadership in rescuing an encircled French battalion. He was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

Pete, who lived with his parents and siblings in Tyndall in the early 1940s, graduated from West Point in 1950. He not only was an honor student but also for two years Eastern Intercollegiate light heavyweight boxing champion. Pete was the son of Gertrude and Howland Monfore, WW I veteran who himself had earned four battle ribbons in France.

Brother Robert, Springfield HS 1946, attended OCS School in 1947, became a paratrooper with the Airborne Div, served three tours in Korea, one before, one during and one in 1968-70, as well as duty in Vietnam. He retired from the Army in 1973 as Colonel after 27 1/2 years in the service.

Anthony Chastka POW writes...

(Excerpts) "The military portion of my life is a little difficult to remember but..." (edited) drafted in 1943, sent to Texas to 86th Div; entered ASTP to train as engineer; returned to Army as PVT in Co I 335th Inf 84th Div; landed in Europe July 1944 with 335th; moved toward front near Aachen, Germany; lived foxhole lives, moved at night; in October the few of us who survived disastrous campaign in point position toward Cologne surrendered; were moved in boxcars to Stalag IIA north of Berlin; walked around North Germany several months to avoid Russian army; sent to Danish border for medical treatment April 1945; freed May 3 by Canadians; were treated well, invited to lunch with them as Russian officers arrived on motorcycles; traveled through France home.

Taplett family has military tradition...



Cruel winter in Korea...

Col Robert Taplett's 3rd Bn, 5th Marine Reg had a mission. It was to clear a road along the Chosin Reservoir so that Allied Forces, outnumbered 5-1 by the Chinese, could retreat without being annihilated. The cruelest winter in a century with 40 degrees below zero common was the worst enemy. Insufficient warming tents, frostbitten noses and ears, rubberized boots filled with frozen perspiration, short rations (frozen pineapple juice and Tootsie Rolls) and constant combat Nov 27-

Dec caused enormous casualties. Of roughly 1,300 men, 326 remained effective.

Some considered the situation a result of a blunder by Gen Douglas MacArthur, who had disregarded China's threat of intervention and sent his men across the 38th parallel in a race to the Yalu River border.

A fellow survivor spoke glowingly of Taplett's leadership. Unafraid to question orders he thought were wrong, he nevertheless earned the Navy Cross and two Silver Stars.

In an article published in *USA Today* June 23, 2000, the retired Marine (1960), who suffers nerve damage resulting from frostbite, said, "I hope and pray the North Korean leadership is sincere because the people there have suffered enough."

In WW II Taplett (THS 1936) spent 31 months on the *USS Salt Lake City* in the Pacific and two years on Guam.



Lt Howard Taplett, THS 1939, right, (here with brother Bob in Guam, 1945) served 21 months in 1st Marine Corps, Okinawa, China, Pacific.



Brother John, THS 1930, US Navy Specialist 1st CI, RPS, Kodiak, AK in 1945.

The next generation...

Kenneth J Taplett, Commander US Navy Ret, THS 1967, left, and James H Taplett, Commander US Navy Ret, THS 1971, right, are sons of Howard and Dorothy Taplett.

Ken graduated 1971 from Annapolis, Jim 1976. Ken's training focused on nuclear power, and before retiring 1992, he served on several ships and earned numerous awards including the Vietnam Service Medal.

Before

Jim's retirement in 1998, his many sea duties included service in the Northern Pacific, Lebanon Crisis, Persian Gulf and Desert Shield. Various awards include Kuwait Liberation Medal.



Lt Col Patrick Hagarty, THS 1942, brother-in-law, US Marines, Pacific Theater, Navy Dept, ret. 1966 after 24 years.



Leonard Lange, kneeling left, stacks 4.2" heavy mortar which fired explosive, gas and smoke shells, somewhere in France.

A D-Day story...

Leonard Lange entered the Army 5/7/42. Assigned to 81st Chemical Mortar Bn, D Co, extensive training preceded a nerve-wracking 5-day sail to England on the unescorted *Queen Elizabeth* and eight more months of assault training near Ilfracombe North Devon England. His Bn, now attached to 1st Inf, spent 96 hours in the English Channel before landing on Omaha Beach. One week later after continuous bloody action Leonard's company had cleared the way for the 175th Inf through Moon-Sun-Elle.

The 81st was one of six US outfits honored for outstanding gallantry on D-Day. Lange's awards included Bronze Service Arrowhead, many others.



Cassidy stresses persistence...

Lt Col Sean Cassidy, 354th Fighter Wing Maintenance Sqn Commander, Eielson AFB, Alaska, recently counseled college graduates including local airmen to "set their sights on a goal and persist in pursuing it to the maximum extent possible." Such advice is not unusual, but he included a "tongue in cheek" request to persist especially in "blowing away the Pacific Air Force's Inspector General during the August Combat Employment Readiness Inspection!" Cassidy is married to the former Terri Mikolash.

Slavik experiences "suicide fleet"...

RM 2/c George Slavik, THS 1942, learned firsthand about the "Jap Suicide Fleet." Shortly after Christmas 1944, his LST, along with others making up a tractor group, made their way into Lingayan Gulf, Luzon, after practicing for the real invasion of Leyte. Among the many small crafts in the area, the lookout paid little attention to a flimsy plywood boat pulling



alongside until the Japanese crew of three or four were able to drop several depth bombs. The craft did not get away but the LST lost one, counted 48 wounded and suffered heavy damage. The ship managed to reach shore and after some repair, limped back stateside to the repair yards. Slavik, left, surveying the damaged bulkhead, was recommended for the Commendation Ribbon for rescuing bodies and for fire fighting. He also received a Navy award for heroic action after his minesweeper, the *USS Spectacle*, was hit by a Japanese suicide plane off Okinawa, May 1945. (from *Flood Tide*, Vol 4 No 15, Aug 15, 1945)

Van Gerpen wears many hats...

Lt Col Bill Van Gerpen, who grew up in rural Avon and graduated from USD-S, has since 1982 served as chaplain both in the US AFR and as Wing Chaplain of the 185th Fighter Wing, Sioux City, IA. In this capacity he trains mobilized personnel in religious customs and culture of foreign countries, and counsels military families experiencing medical and personal crises. Upcoming duties include, besides serving both as pastor of Tyndall Baptist Church and as SD State Representative, he will lead a national defense seminar in Washington DC assigned to develop strategy for responding to international crises. During his Air Force career he traveled to Germany where his assignment earned him "Best Officer and Airmen Evaluation Program," and "Best Personnel Office in the Air Force, 1976."

Women did their part...



Ruth Sutera Pinkley loved the Navy

"I loved the Navy life; had lots of fun," Pinkley says of her years in the WAVES. On an adventurous 1945 day, she went downtown LA (she was working at Douglas Aircraft-El Segundo as riveter and inspector) and joined up. After boot camp in New York, she was sent to Brown Field, San Diego, where she met a sailor from Flat River, MO to whom she has been married for 55 years. Pinkley worked in transportation, dispatching vehicles to Navy personnel, laughing that if she didn't like the officer, she might assign him to a carryall (heavy duty) instead of a car!

Ruth, THS 1940, daughter of Frank and Emma Vavruska Sutera, had five brothers in the service, all THS gradu-

ates: **Wilbur**, 1943, Navy; **Eugene**, 1945, Army; **Wayne**, 1949, Navy; **James**, 1952, National Guard; **Dan**, 1957, Korean Era.

Bakers forsake beauty for service...

Sisters **Mabel**, left, and **Rachel Baker**, right, left their beauty shop in Tyndall for California and service in the WAVES. Both loved their new lives, Mabel as hospital apprentice seaman PMH3c in Corona, CA and Rachel as SK 3rd CI in Oakland. Before returning to Tyndall and marriage to Frank V. Rehurek, Mabel stated, "Everything is so well taken care of and we have so many opportunities."



Nurses played a role...

Lt **Patricia Ann Lehr**, THS 1941, served 14 months in Army Nurse Corps, eight of them in Calcutta India. Disch. 3/46, she resumed nursing in Sioux City. **2nd Lt. Helen Bambas Cole (Meisel)**, left, THS 1935, daughter of Mr/Mrs Rudolph Janele, was one of nine Army nurses receiving certificates 11/23/45 in neuropsychiatric nursing at Vaughan General Hospital, Hines, IL.

SD's first WAC

Orleen (Marjorie) Beedle, THS 1942, was one of six in the first contingent of WACs formed Oct 21, 1943, in SD, praised as pioneers in the former all-male military.



War plants provided an opportunity to serve...

When the US was drawn into WW II and men went off to war, war plants depended upon women. Three Slama sisters, **Elsie** (Charlie Skorpik) front left; **Viola** (Don Pesek) back left; **Evelyn** (Ed Stibral) back right and **Irene Vavruska** (Ray Herman) moved to Omaha to work on B-29s in the sprawling brand-new Martin Bomber Plant. Already there was Libby Pavlish, who had completed a five-week course in aircraft training. Elsie bent brackets (and lost her arm to the elbow in a press machine) while Viola and a partner checked radio lines from front to back.

A friend, **Mabel Sutera**, worked at Firestone Rubber Co in Los Angeles, CA where employees installed many layers of rubberized material over airplane gas tanks to make them bulletproof. She also worked as inspector in the sheet metal division of the cavernous Douglas Aircraft Plant, El Segundo.

THS Conference Champs 1942

Nearly all would soon be in the armed forces. Standing, left to right, Supt Fred Plachy, ?, Norris "Oookie" Luke, Jim Schneider, ?, Lou Janele, Charlie Zitka, George Beringer, Arnie Pudwill, Paul Lubbers, Milo Mehlhaff, **Coach Ernie Hladik KIA**; seated, center, Pete Szymanski, Tom Kloucek, John Lee, Jack Lehr, Jacques Trevillyan, Murray Kniffen; front, Don Kniffen, ?, Bob Monfore, ?, ?, ?, **Pete Monfore KIA**, Eugene Buechler.



Navy buddies **Ed Hisek**, THS 1949, and **George Novava**, THS 1950, pause during training.

Tribune news... Aug 1945

Lt Dale and **Lt Don Lee**, USNR, sons of Mr/Mrs Wm Henry Thompson, Tyndall, saw much action as bomber pilots flying from carriers, Don with Bombing Sqd 37 in July 1943 in the Gilbert and Marshall Islands and on Truk and Saipan and Dale with Navy Air Group 17 of famed Task Force 58 which in 1945 heavily damaged enemy planes and shipping near Japan and in the Pacific.

Buddies before, during and after...



New recruits at Tonapah, NV: **Steve Shaffhausen**, **Herb Olson**, **Ernest Grimme**, **Leo Hisek** and **Roger Bowen**.



Elmer John Schneider, 802nd Aviation Engr Bn, spent most of the war in the Aleutians creating roads and runways, "...not too bad," he claimed.

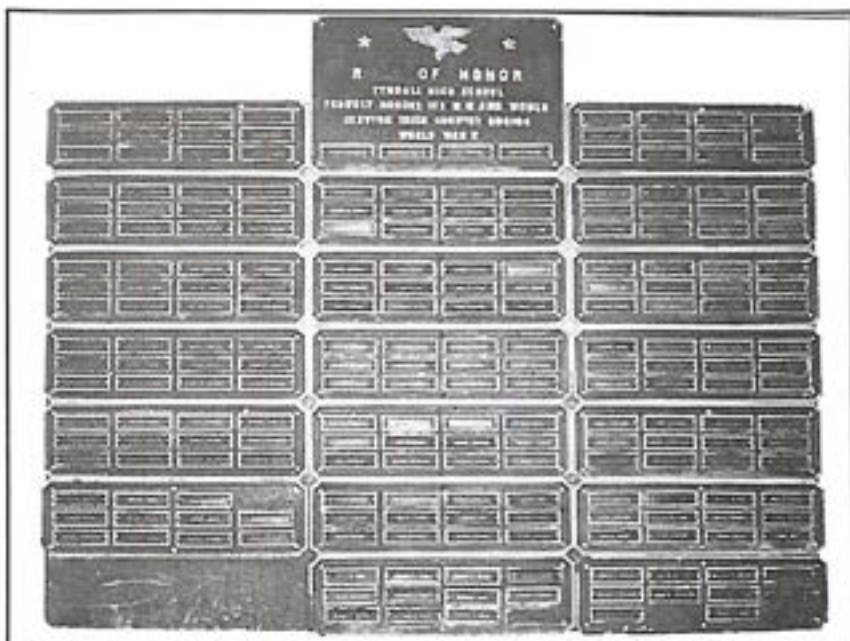


Laddie Schneider, left, and buddy are proud of the shelter they created on Okinawa in 1945 which survived a hurricane clocked at 140 mph.



Sharing memories on a rooftop in Occupied Tokyo are **John Lee**, nose-gunner on a B-24, **Bud Weiff** and **LeRoy Wysuph**.

Buddies...



Governor Janklow praises...

"No state sent a greater percentage of its people off to war than SD," Gov Janklow said Aug 26, 1995, at the State Fair in Huron. "...one-fifth of its men and 1,250 women. We learned the names of GI Joe and Rosie the Riveter; we had men and women united against a common enemy who threatened us...and when a nation is united, we know it can't be defeated."

At left, the THS WW II Roll of Honor still hangs in the original high school foyer.

Six Zapletal brothers...

All in the Army in WW II, not one received a scratch! Cpt Frank in Japan; Sgt Rudolph, Philippines; T-4 Adolph, New Guinea; Sgt Ernest, Calif; PFC Joseph, youngest, LaHavre, France; T-5 George, wardmaster in prison camp for Korean and Italian prisoners. Five are now interred in the Czechs National Cemetery, Tyndall.



When Korean POW **Eugene Vavruska** returned to a hero's welcome, his family was there: from left, parents, Adolph and Anna, sister Marjorie (Sternhagen), brother **Ernie**, WW II and wife Helen and their twin sons, **Ernie Jr.** and **Eddie**, Vietnam era.



Joe Plihal, Jr., oldest in the family, clowns around with brother **Eddie**, the youngest, about 1940. While Joe made a career out of the military, Ed died in the early days of WW II.



High school buddies (Class of 1943), **SK 2/c Gordon McCann** and **PFC Merle Plumb**, 3rd Marine Div D Batt Artillery, enjoy a reunion on Guam. First stationed in Guadalcanal, Plumb participated in invasions of Guam and Iwo Jima. McCann's sea duties included campaigns in Tarawa (in the Gilberts), the Marshalls and Mariana Islands and under kamikaze attack in Okinawa.

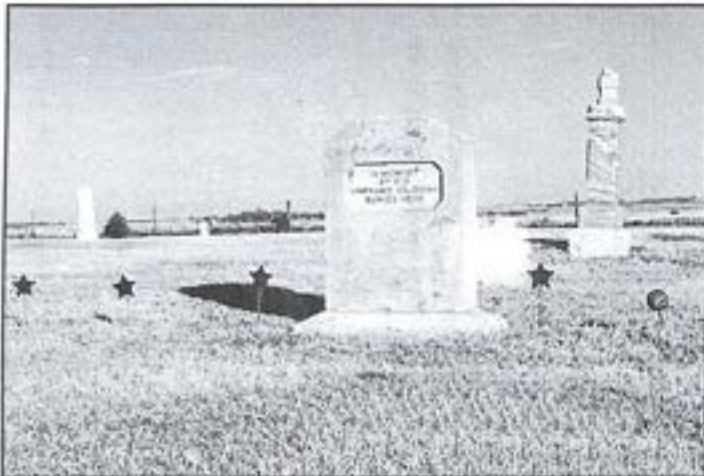
Military notes from history...

Old Military Road

The first military to appear in Bon Homme County were soldiers from Ft. Randall who protected supply trains and travelers on the Old Military Road which stretched 160 miles west from Sioux City to the fort. The trail passed east-west about four miles south of Tyndall.

Dakota Cavalry

In 1862, the US Secretary of War authorized Dakota Cavalry Units A and B in Bon Homme County Dakota Territory in response to the Sioux Indian War in Minnesota. Many male citizens living in or near Bon Homme Village joined either "A" under Nelson Miner or "B" under Wm Tripp. Most eventually left the area, but one, Wm W Warford remained in Bon Homme and is buried in the Bon Homme National Cemetery. Close by lies GAR soldier J Delaney whom Warford is said to have killed in a barroom brawl in the village in 1862.

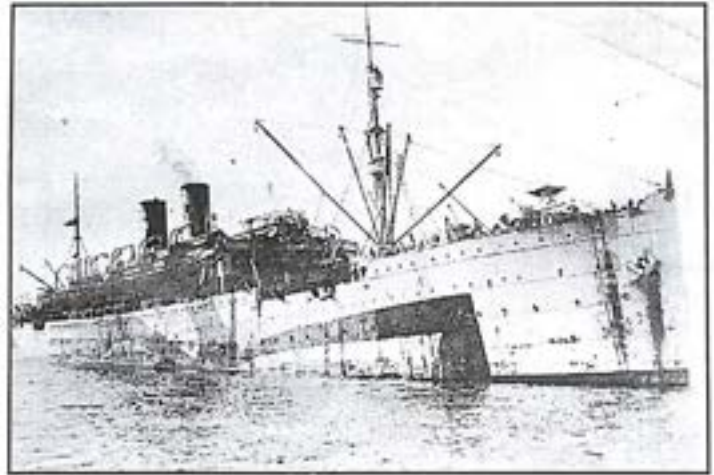


Bon Homme National Cemetery

Custer's 7th Cavalry

Six troops from Gen George Custer's Cavalry died along Snatch Creek two miles north of Bon Homme in April 1873 (at the oxbow alongside Highway 52) while Custer waited for high water to recede. In 1893 the remains were exhumed and reinterred in Bon Homme Cemetery. A monument there simply states "In Memory of Six Unknown Soldiers Buried Here."

GAR veteran **John Valentine**, who is buried in Tyndall Cemetery, lived for many years in a small house in north Tyndall which the city had condemned as "unfit for human occupancy!"



US troops may have crossed the Atlantic in 1917 in slow troop ships like the *USS AEOLUS* captured on a picture belonging to WW I veteran John Berndt.

One-time Tyndall barber **John E Souhrada**, husband of Lois Glenn (THS 1925), enlisted in 1914 in the army then based in the Philippines. He was a charter member of the 31st Inf which served in Siberia in WW I.



Happy Tyndall citizens celebrated WW I Armistice Day by parading down Pearl Street under a hanging effigy of Germany's Kaiser.

Bon Homme Co bombing range

Tribune news...May 1946: Landowners whose land is included in the bombing range east of Springfield have received notice this week that the range will be vacated by the Army May 10, 1946, at midnight."

We thank those whose support made the memorial possible

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Marion J Campbell
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Kevin Carda
Peggy Carda
Leonard Cimpl
Tim Cokeley
Firmin and Evelyn Cole
Hilary Cole
John Cole
Donald Colgan
Gilfred Colgan
Delton Dockendorf
Ernest T Edwards
Carol Elliston, Daniel Cuka
for Adolph Souhrada

Marjorie Estabrook
Elaine Fathke and Janine Hudson
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Eugene M Grimme
Harold E Guy
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Duane J Hill
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 Ladies Auxiliary
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 Robert F. Bouska

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 Charles F Skorpik
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 Eugene Koenig
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 Virginia Plihal
 Simek-Ptak VFW Post 6895

Special Donations

Evelyn FuchsPurchase and installation of Air Force flag and flag pole
 Ray PtakOne share class B Berkshire Hathaway stock (value \$2,250)
 Arnold J WallochTwo loads of gravel
 Schenkel Trucking & Demolition\$200 off bill
 Tabor Plumbing, Electric & ConstructionDonated labor
 Luken Memorials, Inc., YanktonTwo granite benches for memorial
 Planning and Development District IIIAssistance with layout drawings, material
 and labor for solicitation letters
 Printing Specialists, YanktonMaterials, layout, printing, labor for business
 and veterans' families letters
 Nova Services, YanktonPrepared bulk mailing for contribution letters
 Joe KostalTrees for landscaping
 Dave Kneiff Tree Service, YanktonReduced charge for moving trees

The Memorial Planning Committee gratefully acknowledges the many hours of research and computer time Maxine Schuurmans Kinsley has expended in the production of this book. Her interest in local history and love of country have helped us reflect well our purpose of honoring in print the veterans whose sacrifices have made possible the freedom we all enjoy.



American Legion Pike-Wagner Post 2 2001-2002

Commander: Gerald Hofmann
 First Vice Commander: Ladimir Slama
 Second Vice Commander: Carl Waller
 Post Adjutant: Leonard Hajek
 Finance Officer: Eugene Koenig
 Chaplain: James Kniffen
 Sgt at Arms: Dennis Plihal

Americanism Officer: Robert Hajek
 Service Officer: Harold Hoffman
 Children's Officer: LeRoy Sorenson
 VAVS Officer: James Koenig
 Membership Officer: Ray Bares
 Employment Officer: John Lee
 Legislature: Glenn Duncan
 Flag Officer: Ervin Vellek

(The number following each name indicates continuous years of membership.)

Arneson, Clarence 56	LaCompte, Gary W 23	Schuermans, Darrel D 11
Ballard, Robert J 13	Leary, Charles M 6	Schuermans, James A 9
Balvin, Alan O 3	Lee, John F 56	Schuermans, Wayne 45
Balvin, Hayes 11	Leheska, Norman 34	Schaffhausen, Darold 56
Bares, Raymond J 16	Lehr, Larry R 18	Slama, Ladimir D 49
Base, Gery J 28	Losing, Harry 56	Schelske, Marvin D 2
Bauder, Marvin 31	Mace, Rodney J 5	Slavik, George 55
Beringer, Richard D 27	Mace, Wayne C 55	Sorenson, LeRoy R 27
Bouska, Robert F 56	Mammel, Willard P 56	Souhrada, Adolph 56
Burnham, Howard W 56	McCann, Gordon C 32	Stolz, Ernest F 11
Colgan, Gilfred G 56	Menninger, Gus 9	Svanda, Elmer W 38
Dobesh, J J 56	Mercier, James W 5	Svanda, Larry G 35
Duncan, Glenn E 56	Mola, Clark M 3	Svanda, Wilbur E 49
Ferguson, Richard W 13	Nelson, Lowell R 56	Swanson, Roger W 17
Foley, R J 49	Novotny, Alfred J 24	Szymanski, Cletus 21
Gough, Robert J 24	Ogren, Jack R 19	Van Gerpen, Bill L 13
Guy, Harold E 56	Paul, Don L 35	Varilek, William J 47
Hajek, Gordon F 56	Pavel, Raymond	Vavruska, Edward E 30
Hajek, Leonard L 18	Peschl, Frank 56	Vavruska, Eugene 49
Hajek, Robert E 56	Pesek, Edward J 52	Vellek, Craig A 10
Hayward, James M 13	Petersen, Roy H 53	Vellek, Ervin 45
Hill, Duane J 35	Philippi, Leroy 16	Wagner, Ronald R 31
Hinker, Robert J 12	Plihal, Dennis 30	Waller, Carl J 27
Hoch, William R 56	Post, John B 17	Wesche, Philip O 26
Hoffman, Harold 48	Pravecsek, Raymond R 23	Wyatt, Ronald 2
Hofmann, Gerald W 5	Pringle, John J 9	Wynia, Donald 48
Holzbauer, Aloysius A 4	Ptak, Richard D 35	
Hovorka, James F 35	Ptak, Thomas K 56	
Huber, Leonard G 35	Rehurek, Joseph V, Jr 11	
Jaeger, George R 11	Rehurek, Ronald F 26	
Johnson, Don W 56	Reidinger, Albert A 56	
Kniffen, James N 27	Rolston, Paul F 12	
Koenig, Eugene L 56	Rothschadl, Donald L 33	
Koenig, James E 31	Rothschadl, Harvey R 35	
Koenig, Thomas R 11	Rueb, Rodger H 5	
Koupal, Fred D 11	Sanders, Dennis C 13	
Krcil, Henry J 11	Schmidt, Julius 12	

**VFW Simek-Ptak Post 6895
2001-2002**

Commander: Jerry Lupton
Senior Vice Commander: Stanley Schuch
Junior Vice Commander: Robert Rothschadl
Quartermaster: Ed Humpal
Adjutant: Joe Kostal
Surgeon: John Lee

Chaplain: Carl Waller
Advocate: Rodney Mace
One-year Trustee: George Hisek
Two-year Trustee: Charles Horacek
Three-year Trustee: Gordon McCann

Bambas, Bernie J
Bambas, Charles D
Bares, Charles S
Becvar, Laddie R
Beringer, Jean A
Berka, Emil F
Bohlmann, Leslie E
Boska, Joseph R
Bouska, Robert F
Burnham, Howard W
Cahoy, Edward
Cahoy, Ray
Cassidy, Sean P
Colgan, Gilfred G
Dvoracek, Bruce A
Ferguson, Richard W
Fischer, Terry L
Gall, Gregory S
Gough, Robert J
Gramkow, Lester A
Grimme, Fred L
Grimme, Harold H
Guy, Harold E
Haberman, Ernest J
Hajek, Gordon F
Hajek, Howard H
Hamilton, Colin T
Hamilton, Russel D
Hasek, Bernard A
Hayward, James M
Henry, Nelson G
Herman, Raymond R
Hermanek, Richard A
Hisek, George W
Hisek, James C, Jr
Hisek, Jeanne M
Hisek, Leo J
Hisek, Leonard M

Hoch, William R
Horacek, Charles R
Horacek, Laddie L
Hovorka, Cleadues
Hovorka, Dennis A
Hovorka, Joseph
Hovorka, Richard D
Humpal, Edward E
Koenig, James E
Kostal, Joseph E
Kreber, Robert J
LaCompte, Gary
Lee, John F
Lukkes, LeWayne
Lupton, Jerry L
Mace, Rodney J
Mammel, Willard P
McCann, Gordon C
McFarland, Lavern
Nelson, Lowell R
Nichelson, Howard W
Nohava, George M, Jr
Novotny, Alfred J
Peschl, Frank
Peseck, Edward J
Petrik, Felix
Ptak, Thomas K
Rehurek, Joe V
Rothschadl, John C
Rothschadl, Robert L
Schelske, Marvin
Schmidt, Julius
Schneider, Elmer J
Schneider, Laddie W
Schuch, Stanley
Schuurmans, Darrel D
Schuurmans, James A
Sedlacek, Thomas A

Simek, Melvin T
Souhrada, Adolph J
Souhrada, George G
Stepka, Raymond J
Sutera, Leonard W
Svanda, Elmer W
Sykora, Edward
Szymanski, Cletus
Tjeerdsma, Cal
Varilek, Stanley J
Vavruska, Edward E
Vavruska, Eugene R
Waller, Carl
Winckler, Wayne
Wolff, John G, Jr
Wurtz, William E
Wynia, Vern

Tyndall American Legion Auxiliary to Pike-Wagner Post 2 2001-2002

President: Lorraine Rehurek
First Vice President: Lornie McCann
Second Vice President: Alvina Wynia
Secretary: Valerie Wesche

Treasurer: Audrey Hajek
Chaplain: Margaret Kniffen
Historian: Lorraine Rehurek
Parliamentarian: Arda Hoffman

Bambas, Doris
* Bartunek, Lillian
* Bauder, Viola
Becvar, Hattie
Beringer, Jean
* Burnham, Evelyn
* Crha, Albina
Ferguson, Betty
Finck, Vivian
Fixemer, Sally
Foley, Phyllis
* Fuchs, Evelyn
* Gleason, Gertrude
Haberman, Maxine
Hajek, Audrey
Hamberger, Laura
Hasek, Judy M
Herman, Irene
Hermanek, Marie
* Hoffman, Arda
Kniffen, Margaret
* Koenig, Agnes
Koenig, Kathleen
Lee, Joan
Mace, Phyllis
Maus, Agnes
McCann, Lenora
* Mikolash, Eleanor
Miller, Vlasta
Nelson, Mary
* Pech, Blanche
Pesek, Adeline
* Petersen, Gladys
* Post, Edith
Post, Erma
Ptak, Ouida
* Raysby, Candy
* Rehurek, Lorraine
Rehurek, Mabel

* Sanders, Cindy
* Schuurmans, Arlo
Schuurmans, Irene
* Schweitzer, Alberta
Sedlacek, Mildred
Slama, Betty
Sykora, Julia
Van Gerpen, Karen
Varilek, Patricia
* Vavruska, Helen
Vavruska, Shirley
Vellek, Carol
Vellek, Delores
Wagner, Janet
* Waller, Elsie
Wesche, Valerie
Winningham, Mabel
Wortmann, Jeanne
Wynia, Alvina

*Life member

Current president Lorraine Rehurek (below) has just completed serving two terms as District Auxiliary President.



**Tyndall VFW Auxiliary to Simek-Ptak Post 6895
2001-2002**

President: Darlene Tycz
 Senior Vice President: Dorothy Walkes
 Junior Vice President: Evelyn Fuchs
 Treasurer: Agnes Maus
 Secretary: Vlasta Miller

Chaplain: Mary Hovorka
 Conductress: Margie Hovorka
 Historian: Sharleen Hovorka
 Musicians: Eleanor Mikolash and
 Marie Hermanek

Auch, Joanie
 Becvar, Hattie
 Becvar, Leona
 Beringer, Jean
 * Blaha, Dottee
 Bohlmann, Donna
 Bowers, Barbara
 Branaugh, Debbie
 Carda, Janis
 Davis, Elizabeth
 Ferguson, Betty
 Fuchs, Evelyn
 Giedd, Verna
 Gleason, Gertrude
 Gorman, Delores
 Grimme, Mary
 Habermann, Maxine
 Hamilton, Marcielle
 Hamilton, Margaret
 Hasek, Judy
 Hauck, Carol Gall
 Hawkins, Mary
 Henry, Mabel
 Herman, Mildred
 Hermanek, Marie
 Hisek, Cheryl
 Hisek, Jeanne
 Hisek, Marie
 Hisek, Meta
 Hisek, Tillie
 Hisek, Vickie
 Hinzman, Leona
 Hoch, Vera
 Horacek, Carol
 Hovorka, Connie
 Hovorka, Helen
 Hovorka, Margie
 Hovorka, Mary

Hovorka, Sharleen
 Huber, Jolane
 Johnson, Sheryl
 Kelley, Audrey
 Kostal, Pat
 Laird, Betty
 Lettau, Mrs Fred
 Mammel, Mary
 Maus, Agnes
 McCann, Lornie
 McFarland, Marcie
 Mikolash, Eleanor
 Miller, Vlasta
 Mudder, Iola
 Mueller, Evelyn
 Mudder, Annette
 Nelson, Mary
 Nepodal, Virginia
 Novotny, Marjorie
 O'Donnell, Michaelleen
 Olson, Helen
 Peck, Barbara
 Pesek, Viola
 Petrik, Shirley
 Ptak, Ouida
 Rokusek, Evelyn
 Schaeffer, Louise
 Schmidt, Linda
 Schneider, Magdeline
 Schuurmans, Audrey
 Sedlacek, Clara
 Sutera, Shirley
 Swain, Florence
 Swatek, Helen
 Taplett, Dorothy
 Tycz, Darlene
 Walkes, Dorothy
 Woods, Shirley

Wurtz, Loretta
 Wortmann, Jeanne

*Life member

**The following have served as
District Auxiliary Presidents:**

Iola Kornder Mudder
 Dottee Blaha
 Margie Hovorka



**Current president Darlene
Tycz has served in that office
since 1980.**

Parting Thoughts

The editor trusts that this memorial book will be well received, even with its inevitable omissions and mistakes. Thanks are due to Bon Homme County Veterans Officer Rich Beringer for his aid in compiling veterans lists, and especially to Bob Hajek for his many hours arranging, checking over and over and finalizing lists of 1,173 veterans and more than 600 donors.

It may be of interest to know how the names appearing on the memorial were selected. Those automatically included were the following:

- 1) All known Civil War and Spanish American War veterans buried in Tyndall Cemetery and St. Leo Catholic Cemetery;
- 2) All known WW I veterans in Tyndall Cemetery, St. Leo Cemetery, Czechs National Cemetery and Czech Presbyterian Cemetery;
- 3) All charter members and current members of American Legion Pike-Wagner Post 2 and VFW Simek-Ptak Post 6895;
- 4) Tyndall High School graduates listed on the WW II Roll of Honor plaque still located in the school's original foyer;
- 5) Nineteen known Tyndall area veterans who died in service during declared wars; and
- 6) Nine known Tyndall area veterans who were prisoners of war.

The planning committee then mailed 700 letters to known service men and women (or known family members) who had at one time or still have Tyndall area roots. The addressees were invited to submit names of veterans they wished included with a suggested donation of \$50 per name to share the cost of inscription and building of the monuments.

Rather than risk placing veterans in a wrong category on the monument itself, the committee has chosen to list all names alphabetically. However, in this memorial book, names are listed by conflict with every effort to be correct. Because of space limitations, veterans (particularly career men) are listed in only one category even though their service time spanned many years. The intent remains to honor each equally for his or her service to the United States of America.

Because of good response to an invitation extended in the *Tyndall Tribune* in March 2001, several pages are devoted to stories and photos (heavily edited to fit limited space). Another source was WW II scrapbooks, one from the Legion Auxiliary files and another from Ruth Sutera Pinkley, which provided interesting clippings that had been printed mostly in the *Tyndall Tribune* in the mid-40s.

--Maxine Schuurmans Kinsley, editor



We would leave you with a thought. A fact of war is that after cease-fire, many veterans remain unaccounted for. According to the Geneva Conferences, humane treatment and return of POWs is prescribed. One wonders what has become of the thousands of veterans still being held in foreign lands and what could and should be done on their behalves.

--from information provided by James Koenig



Taps

During the Civil War in 1862 near Harrison's Landing in Virginia, a Union Army officer heard the moans of a severely wounded soldier lying on a field which separated him and his men from the Confederate Army. Not knowing whether the stricken man was Blue or Gray, Captain Robert Ellicombe nevertheless decided to try to bring him back for medical attention. He succeeded after crawling on his stomach in the dark through gunfire only to discover that the soldier, who did not survive, was dressed in gray. When he saw the face, however, he recognized his own son, who while studying music in the South, had enlisted in the army without telling his father.

Heartbroken, the father asked for a full military burial for his son, but his request was only partially granted. Instead of a funeral dirge to be played by an Army band, he was allowed only one musician. He chose a bugler, whom he asked to play a series of musical notes he had found in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform. Thus, the haunting melody we know as "Taps" that has since been played at military funerals was born.



Taps

Day is done, gone the sun
From the lake, from the hill, from the sky.
All is well, safely rest, bed is nigh.
Fading light dims the sight
And a star gems the sky, gleaming bright from afar,
Drawing nigh falls the night.
Thanks and praise for our days
'neath the sun, 'neath the stars, 'neath the sky,
As we go, this we know, God is nigh.

Ordering Information

Copies of the Tyndall Area Veterans Memorial Book are available by mail for \$12.50 each (including postage and handling). Make checks payable to Tyndall Veterans Memorial and send order to the following address:

**Veterans Service Officer
PO Box 483.S
Bon Homme County
Tyndall, SD 57066-4083**

