



# DANIEL SIMPSON

POST630

112N. MAIN ST. ELBURN IL 60119

2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER 2019



## FROM SENIOR VICE:



It is no secret that national, for the past year, has been touting the American Legion's upcoming 100th Anniversary. We have been privy to articles in the Legion magazine describing the history of the organization as well as the personal accounts of Legionaries during their time in service. For me, the most resonating suggestion to recognize the 100 years of helping veterans was to get in touch with the history of your own post. As a newer member of 3 years it was a perfect fit. I was trying to learn more about our own post anyway but where do I start? How do I do such a project? I can barely put together a newsletter, there is no way I can do a historical project on the post I barely know.

Prior to joining the post I was an electrical contractor and I was called often to the post for service work. Well it should be no surprise I spent my share of time in the building's attic. It wasn't till I was a member that I took notice of a pile of cardboard boxes in the attic I had crawled past many times before. I decided I was finally going to see what was in those boxes. Styrofoam cups, Christmas decorations, remnants of projects past, bank statements. What? A little more digging revealed bank statements, receipts, membership cards, communications from the 30's! My interest is peaked; something to go along with the stories from the "Old Timers". What other bits of history can I find? Boxes in the basement, inside the old safe, tucked away under the stairs revealed more bits of history. I found more of the same, but this time 50's and 60's with meeting minutes. Then the real prize, the meeting minutes from January 1922 – September 1943! Bingo!

During this time, I had also been researching anything American Legion related in the archives of the local paper, The Elburn Herald. This alone provided days of reading. Now what to do with all this info? We enlisted the help of Amy Girmscheid at the local library to help us preserve some of our finds. As it turns out she is a history major and has a personal interest in the history of our post seeing as her uncle is a member of the post. Since the people working on this project are volunteering their time, it is still an ongoing project and we will keep you updated on the results.

Until then, I would like to share with you some of the history of Post 630 as recorded in official meeting minutes and newspaper articles. I can't promise a concise or chronological report detailing the complete history but I still think the minutes alone can give us an idea of what it was like in a new organization and the steps they took to get us where we are now. Over the next few newsletters I will share entries and summaries of what I find. I hope you enjoy it as much as I have.

Dan Kolzow

## Post Officers

Commander: Mark Krebs  
Vice Commander: Dan Kolzow  
Jr. Vice Commander: Chris Mulvihill  
Adjutant: Norbert Lund  
Sergeant at Arms: Lloyd Damask  
Chaplin: Jim Elgar  
Interim Finance: Dan Kolzow  
Judge Advocate/  
Parliamentarian: Paul Gardner  
Post Service Officer: Norm Welker

## Contact Us



American Legion Post 630  
112 N. Main Street / Elburn IL 60119  
630-365-6530 / elburnpost630@gmail.com

## Just for Laughs



### **Worse Punishment?**

An Air Force cargo plane was preparing for departure from Thule Air Base in Greenland. They were waiting for the truck to arrive to pump out the aircraft's sewage holding tank.

The Aircraft Commander was in a hurry, the truck was late in arriving, and the Airman performing the job was extremely slow in getting the tank

pumped out.

When the commander berated the Airman for his slowness and promised punishment, the Airman responded: "Sir, I have no stripes, it is 20 below zero, I'm stationed in Greenland, and I am pumping sewage out of airplanes. Just what are you going to do to punish me?"

### **Korean War Congressional Gold Medal**

U.S. House of Representatives Bill (HR 5222) now has 28 backers in the House. All Congressmen from Cook County are on board.

HR 5222 provides all Korean War Veterans with the nation's highest civilian award, the Congressional Gold Medal. It will be awarded to Veterans from 16 supporting countries as well.

At the MCL National Convention in Buffalo, NY, a resolution was passed for the MCL to become the first National Veterans Organization to support HR 5222.

Let's get HR 5222 reintroduced in the next Congressional Session. Ask your Congressman to support the Veterans of the "Forgotten War" in receiving this award, now, rather than later.

- William Gee
- Claud Henderson



## POST 630

It's your post! Success depends on YOU! Occasionally, we all need to step back and analyze why we joined the Legion. Have I done everything I can to further the cause? Do I like what I see? Do I even know what's going on? Our post is almost 100 years old! Think about that. For almost 100 years the members of this post believed in the mission and goals of the American Legion. They worked constantly to improve life for veterans and the community. By holding events and fundraisers, we can fund veteran programs desperately in need of funds as well as helping our own community by donating to or supporting other community groups programs. They also built the building we call home. A place for not only the community to gather but also a place for all veterans, of all conflicts, to call their own. A safe place, to socialize with fellow veterans with similar experiences. Are you ready to pick up the torch and keep moving forward? Or are you willing to let this post fade away on your watch?

Membership is currently at 120. Only an average of 15 people show up to a meeting. Of those 15 only a handful can implement the ideas into action. The Elburn area is poised for growth in population and with it will come veterans. There is an opportunity to increase our membership but only if this post gives them a good reason to join. **MAKE TIME** to attend a meeting. **MAKE TIME** to help at an event. **MAKE TIME** to find out how you can help. **MAKE TIME** to share your ideas. **MAKE TIME** to send a letter, an e-mail, a phone call, a personal appearance. That's all it takes to get started. It all begins and ends with **YOU!**

## POST HISTORY

The following are actual letters from future charter members of Post 630 submitted to The Elburn Herald. Spelling and grammar appears as printed in the paper. Take note of the names in the Honor Roll. Apparently multiple sets of brothers were being called to serve. In a separate article, it was noted that every eligible and able bodied man in the area, willingly signed up for the selected draft. Patriotism was at an all-time high.

It was very common for the men to either write directly to the town via the paper or the family would release a personal letter for publication. Not all the men had time to write letters. Jay Reeves was in an Engineer Battalion and wrote often. Knut Johnson was in the Infantry went over the top three times! I could only find one letter published. But one of Knut's grandchildren gave a copy of Knut's war time field diary to the post. Not all families shared letters with the town. What was apparent was that the guys tried to keep in touch with each other while they were over there and even relayed some news they found out to the folks back home.

# THE GREAT WAR

September 20 1917

## FIRST SELECTED ARMY TO CAMP GRANT TODAY

### Elburn Sends Nine Boys – Goodbyes Said at Geneva

Eighty-eight "men" of the selected draft—to represent central Kane county in the National Army, were honored with a notable demonstration Geneva yesterday afternoon. Of this number Elburn furnishes nine stalwart young men, as follows: Mathew Hannon, Jay Reeves, Sylvester Hoyt, Knut Johnson, Iner Johnson, Newton Washburn, Frank Richmond, Adolph Dieterich and Sven Magnussen. After the boys had been registered at the court house they were escorted to the city hall, where they listened to a grand address by -Senator Kessinger. After the address each of the soldier boys was given two pairs of home-knit sox, a sweater and a comfort kit. This morning at nine o'clock these same eighty-eight boys for the select army were given a big "send-off" at Geneva, from where they departed at 9:30 for Camp Grant, Rockford for training.

### CORP'L W. JAY REEVES WRITES FROM FRANCE

#### He is Busy and Well—Reports the American Boys Nay Soon Give the Huns Great Surprise!

Somewhere in France, Feb 17, 1918.

Editor of The Elburn Herald It being only 6:45, I will have time to write a few lines before the boys begin coming back from town I am in

charge of quarters and have to see that the boys are in bed at 10 o'clock and that they don't make any noise after that time. I have to put down the names of those who are not in at 10, and hand them in to the top sergeant. You see I am just like a nurse—I have to put the boys to bed and see that they are all tucked in.

The corporals and sergeants have to work over here just the same as the privates The folks back home ought to see us in our uniforms They are blue overalls, jackets and hats to match. I have overalls, but no jacket or hat, there were not enough to go around. I When we get back we will be at able to hold jobs ranging from the pick and shovel to the presidency of a railroad. I have used the pick and shovel with the boys since we have been here. I am also straw boss of the gang. We work every day no matter what kind of weather it is. Uncle Sam's engineers are busy every day getting little things in first class shape.

There has not been any snow on the ground for a month. The sun has shone every day and it has been warm up to the last three or four days. It is beginning to warm up again and in a few days we can throw away our coats again. Adolph is not in this camp with me. He is in a camp about five miles from here. He is well and enjoying life. I have not been sick a day or missed a day's work. We get good

food three times a day and sit down to tables and eat off of real dishes. There is no washing mess kits.

I wish you could see the way the people live and do things in this part of the country. Oxen are the motive power and the wagons are only about three and one-half feet track. The oxen can pull very heavy loads, but they are very, very slow.

The farmers live in hamlets of four or five places. They do not waste a single thing. We do not see any young men. The French think we are too young to be in the army. The Americans do not show their ages as the French do.

We went over to the Canadian camp last Saturday evening to attend an entertainment. There are a great many Americans in their army. The entertainment consisted of music and boxing. There is one American in their camp who is a first class boxer and a fine specimen of American man hood. He is from Washington, D C. The girls would all go wild over him. The Americans are finer looking men than the Canadians.

This is a strange country. The boys as young as six years of age smoke cigarettes. Watch the Americans this spring and summer and you will see something that will open your eyes and make you all proud of your soldier boys. As it is 8 o'clock I will close, for this time, and go back to the quarters to see that the boys are tucked in.

My best regards to you and all of the folks of Elburn and vicinity.

CORP JAY REEVES Co. C, 503 Engrs ,

American Expeditionary Forces in France, via New York

## **Knut Johnson Writes - He Is In Hospital In France**

Somewhere in France, Oct. 24, '18

Dear Brother and Family. I suppose you think I never will write to you again, but honest, I could not help it as- we were in the line for the last 42'days, and while there one has little or no chance to write. I have received several letters from you (ineligible) which I am thankful.

I am writing this letter in a hospital where I have been for a cold and stomach trouble caused from smelling too much gas. Nothing serious tho. Since I wrote you last I have passed thru new experiences, have gone over the top three times and am still here. It will be something to always remember, some of the memories good, some bad. You can't realize how it feels to lay there, ready to go and the barrage is going on.

Perhaps you saw the war exposition in Chicago That was only a little imitation- -with blank shells, while with us it is the real stuff— with lots of shrapnel flying. You know we follow the barrage, which travels about ten yards a minute, which is pretty slow. Sometime they have a machine gun barrage also. The Germans are pretty good at their machine guns at a distance, but when you get close to them they cry for mercy. Sometime they get it and sometimes they don't. Another fellow and I got a machine gun and seven men and their pistols. I got a dandy one and hope I can carry it

home with me. I got a few belts, and wanted to send you one but never got a chance. I was going to send you some helmets but they are SO common we are tired of them. My, I would like to see the girls, they used to like me. Say, Mabelle you made me homesick when you wrote of canning, for I haven't had anything sweet for a dog's age.

### **November 7th. '**

I am still at the hospital resting, but hope to get back to my company soon. I tell you it is a lot nicer here than at the front. Here we have a roof over our head, and a good bed, with plenty of blankets, while at the front we have nothing but a shell hole and no blankets. I have an inkling I will be home before the flowers bloom and I sure hope so. Just think, it is nearly eight months since I saw you last and I am afraid the girls won't know me when I get back. Hope this finds you all well. Lots of love to all, Knut.

### **November 28 1918**

#### **Maple Park Department - Interesting News From Our Neighboring Village**

#### **VIRGIL TOWNSHIP'S SOLDIERS ROLL OF HONOR**

James Moore, Michael Moore, Emil Maghifichi, Walter Christenson, Kenneth Brown, Oliver Kenyon, Frank Schultz, Walter O'Brien, Paul O'Brien, Martin O'Brien, Joseph Conway, Ralph Norman, Clarence Cusson, Oscar Ahlin, Mathew Leonard, Hjamler Holmberg, Albert Schoo,

George Greenholz, Ever Holberg, Harry George, Levi Hansen, George Bennet, Fred Wahlberg, Arthur Beverly, Harry Parson, Paul Pauls, John Strobal, William Strobal, Knute L. Johnson, Einer F. Johnson, W. E. Doyle, James Simons, Chris Hansen, Oscar Olsen, Axel Olson, John Berkes, Thompson Quigley, C. C. Crisler, Peter Yagen, Joseph Yagen, Nicholas Yagen, Arthur Read, Dan Simpson, Peter Nix, Miles Lainphiear, Roy Gramley, Ralph Peterson, Matt Sauber, Leslie Perkins, Geo. B. Smith, Elmer Christenson, Henry Peterson, Joseph Smoger, Frank Smoger, A. Morganell, Alois Welter, Arthur Johnson, Bonza C Harvey, Wm. J Sauber, W M. Richardson, Elmer Petterson, William Berens, Frank Handchin, Tony Heyob, John Clyne, Miss Rose Clyne, Alfred J. Cofey, W C. Root, E. W. Mumford

#### **Corp. Oscar Ahlin in French Hospital Wounded in the Shoulder**

October 18th Corp. Oscar Ahlin wrote from France that he was in a hospital there suffering from a wound in his shoulder caused by shrapnel. He received this injury October 4th. This letter was received Monday by A T Ahlin, a brother, at Maple Park. Oscar expects the wound will keep him in the hospital a full six weeks. He is in Co. D 129th. Robert Coddington of Sugar Grove is also of the same, and is in a hospital suffering from wounds received in one of the recent big battles. Dan Simpson, who was recently killed in battle in France, was with Co D, 129th.

# Post Calendar

(Holiday / Notable Day / Post 630 Event / Other)

- 2<sup>nd</sup>) U.S. enters WWI 1917
- 4<sup>th</sup>) Queen of Hearts Drawing/ Bld. Comm. Meeting  
Blood Drive
- 6<sup>th</sup>) Start of WWI 1917/ End of Persian Gulf war 1991
- 8<sup>th</sup>) Post Meeting
- 10<sup>th</sup>) American Legion Aux. Birthday 1919
- 11<sup>th</sup>) Queen of Hearts Drawing, Bld. Comm. Meeting
- 18<sup>th</sup>) Queen of Hearts Drawing
- 21<sup>st</sup>) **Easter Sunday**
- 25<sup>th</sup>) Queen of Hearts Drawing
- 26<sup>th</sup>) DRAW DOWN!!!

## APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

## MAY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

- 1<sup>st</sup>) End of Operation Iraqi Freedom 2003
- 2<sup>nd</sup>) Queen of Hearts Drawing
- 4<sup>th</sup>) Wine Tasting Event
- 7<sup>th</sup>) End of Vietnam War 1975
- 8<sup>th</sup>) VE Day 1945
- 9<sup>th</sup>) Queen of Hearts Drawing, Building Comm. Meeting
- 13<sup>th</sup>) Post Meeting
- 16<sup>th</sup>) Queen of Hearts Drawing
- 18<sup>th</sup>) Lund Rental/ **Armed Forces Day**
- 23<sup>rd</sup>) Queen of Hearts Drawing
- 27<sup>th</sup>) **Memorial Day**
- 30<sup>th</sup>) Queen of Hearts Drawing

## JUNE

	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
6 <sup>th</sup> ) Queen of Hearts Drawing, Building Comm. Meeting D-Day 1945							1
10 <sup>th</sup> ) Post Meeting					6	7	8
13 <sup>th</sup> ) Queen of Hearts Drawing	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14 <sup>th</sup> ) <b>Flag Day</b> / Flag Burning Ceremony	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
20 <sup>th</sup> ) Queen of Hearts Drawing	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
25 <sup>th</sup> ) Start of Korean War 1950	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
27 <sup>th</sup> ) Queen of Hearts Drawing/Blood Drive	30						

**COMING SOON!!**



American Legion Post 630  
Annual Drawdown and Raffle Event



April 26<sup>th</sup> 2019 Doors Open @ 6pm

Must be 21 to attend

\$20 per ticket (includes free dinner) Limited to 425 tickets  
Cash Bar, Meat Raffles and 50/50 raffles throughout the night.  
Special Cash Prize Drawing (must be Present to win)

Prizes:

(winners need not be present to win)

1<sup>st</sup> ticket drawn- \$100

Every 10<sup>th</sup> ticket drawn -\$20 (except 100<sup>th</sup>, 200<sup>th</sup>, 300<sup>th</sup> & 400<sup>th</sup>)

100<sup>th</sup>, 200<sup>th</sup>, 300<sup>th</sup>, & 400<sup>th</sup> are \$100

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*\*SAVE THE DATE\**

*Class  
in a  
Glass*

*Wine Tasting Event*

SATURDAY  
May 4, 2019

TICKETS \$20 IN  
ADVANCE

AT THE AMERICAN LEGION  
112 N MAIN ST. ELBURN, IL 60119

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED AT  
American Legion Post #630  
112 N Main St.  
Elburn, IL 60119

Geneva Wine Cellars  
227 S 3rd St.  
Geneva, IL 60134

or by calling  
630-365-6655

SPONSORED BY  
*American Legion Post #630  
& The Elburn Community Center*

American Legion  
P.O. Box 774  
Elburn IL 60119

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The following Businesses have recently donated time and material to better the post  
**Support Those That Support the Legion!**

**GARY JOHNSTON  
PLASTERING & DRYWALL INC.  
630-466-7045  
JOHNSTONDRYWALL.COM**

***Screw it!*** 

**G**

- New Construction
- Remodels Using BuildClean Air Purification System
- Decorative Ceilings
- Drywall Repairs
- Drop Ceilings



**THE  
HOME  
DEPOT**