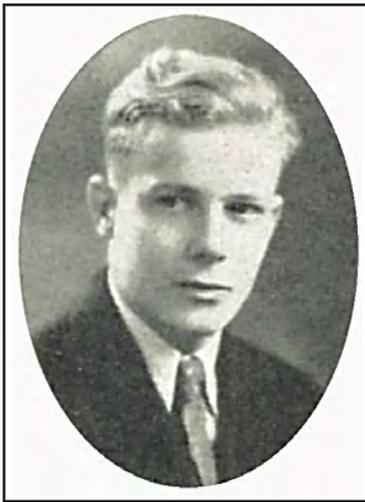


To Honor Our Local Veterans and Those We Lost in World War II

Valley City is a small city in North Dakota, and the county seat of Barnes County. The population in 1940 prior to World War II was 5,917 with Barnes at 17,814 (and little has changed since) but the voluntary response to aid in war efforts for the nation at that time embraced the entire population of the small communities in this area, and the sacrifices made affected all because of how close-knit these rural neighborhoods become. We dedicate this application for consideration of the honor to be named an American World War II Heritage City to our local veterans who gave their all -

The Barnes County Historical Society



Notable First Losses

From the first day of World War II, Valley City was directly involved with the loss of its first son, G. Winston Hammerud - a victim of the attack that instigated the war with Japan. Great confusion and hopes rose for his survival and were eventually dashed as the reality of war hit home for this little community nestled in the peaceful Sheyenne River valley of North Dakota far from Pearl Harbor.

George Winston Hammerud (shown left), son of George H. and Rachel Hammerud, graduated from Valley City in 1932 and worked at the local radio station, KOVC, where he was trained as a radio announcer. He enlisted in the US Navy in April 1940, reporting for duty in San Diego before he was stationed in Pearl Harbor where he served as a radio signal man on the battleship USS Arizona.

The first part of November, 1941, Mrs. Hammerud received a letter saying he was enroute to Long Beach and would spend Thanksgiving with his brother in San Diego; he expected to get a furlough to see his parents in January. The Arizona never reached California, however, since it was ordered back to Pearl Harbor.

Hammerud is buried or memorialized at Tablets of the Missing at the Honolulu Memorial, Hawaii. He received the Purple Heart.

On that same fateful day, **Vernon Jerome Eidsvig**, Seaman First Class on the USS Utah stationed in Pearl Harbor, was declared a casualty of World War II. Raised in Kathryn (Barnes County, ND), Vernon was the son of Norwegian immigrants John Albert and Reidun Eidsvig.

Eidsvig is buried or memorialized at Tablets of the Missing at the Honolulu Memorial, Hawaii. He received the Purple Heart.

First Lieutenant Clarence Edward Van Ray (right) was serving with MacArthur's forces in the Philippines in early 1942 when his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Martin V. Van Ray of Valley City, were notified by the U.S. War Department that their son was missing and perhaps a prisoner of the Japanese following the fall of Corregidor of the Philippine Islands on May 6, 1942. He was held as a POW for nearly three years and suffered through the Bataan Death March only to die of acute colitis aboard the Japanese Hell Ship, Brazil Maru, in January of 1945. It was reported he was buried at sea.

Van Ray is memorialized on the Walls of the Missing at the Manila American Cemetery in the Philippines. He received the honors of the Silver Star and the Purple Heart.



We Remember Our Local Veterans Who Gave Their All in World War II

- Louis A. Allard • Bill Baldwin • Benjamin Barnard • Bernard S. Bennison • Ervin D. Bergan •
- Willard Brandt • Merrill C. Brimer • Melvin G. Busche • Orville E. Carman • William M. Carney •
- Orville M. Chilson • Guy A. Combs, Jr. • James Cunningham • Leland I. Cunningham •
- Erling N. Dahl • Freddie A. Dickhoff • James A. Diemert • Glen T. Elliott • Blair Flegal •
- Harold L. Frostad • David H. Gassmann • Donald J. Gibson • Milton L. Graalum • Warren C. Gray •
- George W. Hammerud • Woodrow W. Hamilton • Howard I. Hansen • Derald C. Holland •
- Leslie G. Hull • Leonard Hurley • Willard R. Johnson • Jordan E. Keister • Edwin Kienzle •
- Russell M. Kinzer • Leonard B. Kjelland • Ward H. Knable • Frank S. Koehn • Louis Larson •
- Lawrence J. Lavey • Earl H. Leland • Robert C. Lindner • Wallace E. Loken • Henry A. Lovaas •
- Kenneth Maier • Wayne P. Maresh • Gordon L. Martilla • Henry J. McClafin • Roland D. McKay •
- Floyd R. Miller • Martin J. Millner • Gerhardt P. Moen • Melvin Monson • Everett L. Murray •
- Harold Myrhow • David L. Mythaler • Arthur K. Nelson • Leslie Neuman • George A. Nielson •
- James Noonan • Kenneth R. Olson • Glenn Opdahl • Thomas Pegg • Leo J. Peyton • Lester R. Pfaff •
- Robert B. Pfusch • Harvey J. Phillips • Robert P. Ployhar • Mervin E. Radke • Russell Raykjalin •
- Quinten Robel • Clarence Rue • Kermit P. Rufsvold • Ervin E. Sherman • Eldred Stafney •
- George H. Stephenson • Palmer Swenson • Donald A. Syverson • Wilbert A. Teigen •
- Toivo T. Toumie • Clarence E. Van Ray • Paul Wallin • Eugene K. Wicks • Oral M. Winson •
- Clarence T. Workman • Stanley G. Workman • Lawrence A. Yanish • Orvel P. Zdeb •



Valley City Honors Veterans Every Memorial Day

*Memorial Day Observance,
NewsDakota.com, May 24, 2024*

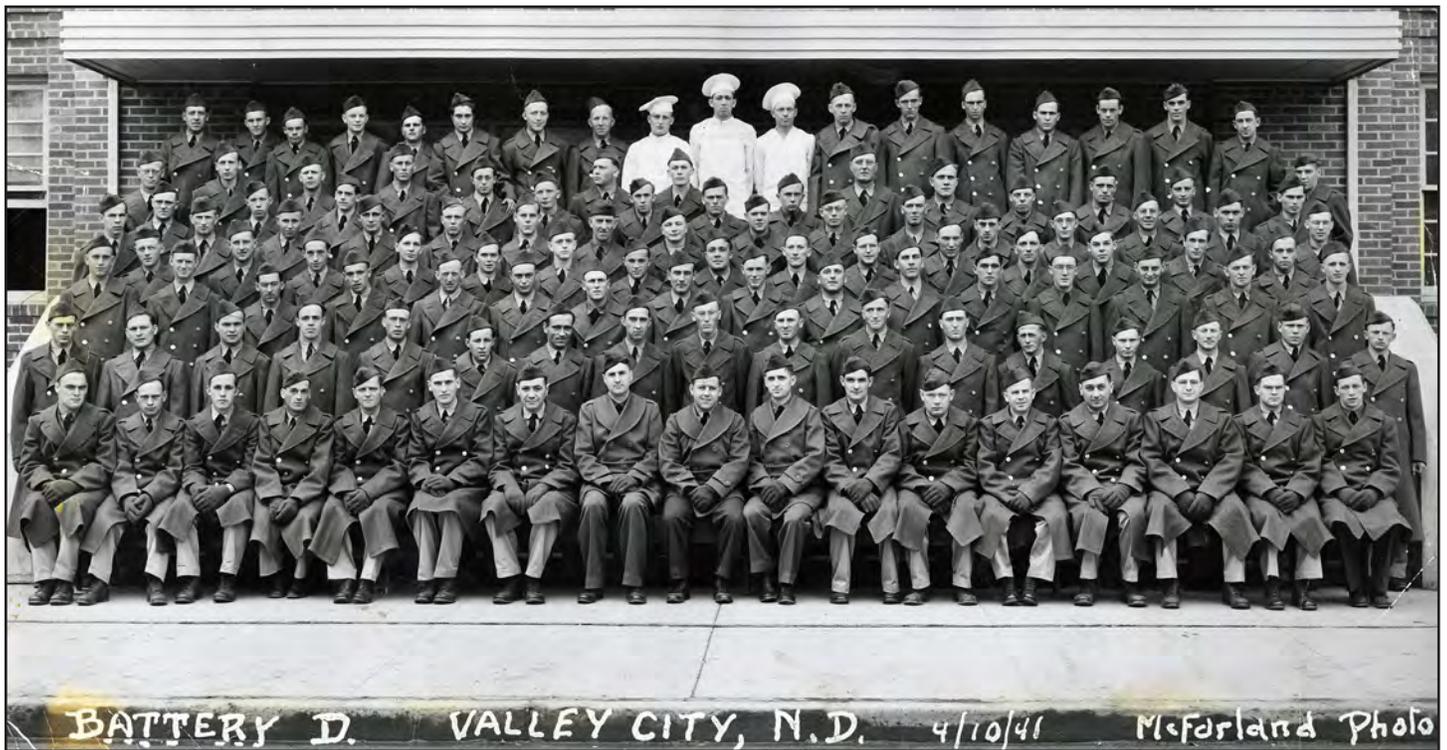
Memorial Day is for honoring military personnel who paid the ultimate sacrifice while serving in the United States Armed Forces.

Several veteran organizations will conduct Military Honors consisting of wreath placement, prayer, gun salute, and taps.

The Honor Guard will be visiting six area cemeteries and conclude with Honors at the Valley City Eagles Club.

After rendering Military Honors, a performance consisting of Patriotic music will be conducted by the Valley City Community Band along with Valley City High School band members. Attendees are then invited for lunch.

(Left) Photo of Honor Guard by the Valley City Times Record



The 188th/957th Field Artillery Battalions and Battery 'D' of Valley City take on Germany

The 188th Field Artillery Battalion was headquartered in Bismarck, North Dakota, with its "D" Battery stationed in Valley City, ND. Activated in April 1941 for what was supposed to be a year of duty, the unit reported to basic training in Fort Warren, Wyoming. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941, the battalion was sent to Fort Lewis in Washington state where the winter training on Yakima Ridge would prove to be invaluable preparation for the brutal winter conditions they would face at the Battle of Ardennes between Belgium and Luxembourg – also known as the Battle of the Bulge - years later. It was in Washington that the battalion was divided up into the 188th and its 'sister' battalion, the 957th, with many members of the Valley City unit assigned to the latter.

The Artillery Battalions departed for the European Theater of Operations aboard the HMS Britannic, arriving in Liverpool Harbor on December 15, 1943. From there they prepared for battle and set out in an LST (Landing Ship, Tank) into the choppy waters of the English Channel on D-Day Plus Six (June 12, 1944). They landed on Utah Beach on June 13 and established their first firing position southwest of St. Mere Eglise on June 14th. Once the Cherbourg Peninsula was secured, the unit moved forward to St. Lo where they met brutal German artillery pounding which they matched blow for blow until achieving a breakthrough. The unit also took part in the closing of the baited trap at Falaise Gap as well as "the Mons Incident."

From The Fargo Forum, August 15, 1945: "The former National Guard unit landed in France only a few days after D-Day, and within a few hours had its big guns blazing at the Nazis. Attached at first to airborne outfits, the group went through several battles on the Cherbourg peninsula and on through the St. Lo breakthrough. Much of the time, the artillery unit found itself in the front lines (and) had to adopt infantry methods of fighting along with its big guns. As it swung into the battle of Belgium, it had the unusual opportunity of capturing 258 of the enemy at Mons. They continued across Belgium, went on to breach the Siegfried line and participated in the siege of Aachen."

The 957th continued into Duren, Germany, where they were received by an all-out German counteroffensive in the Belgian Ardennes and on into the Battle of the Bulge. It was the last major German offensive campaign on the Western Front.

The Forum article continued - "Last December was the blackest part of the history of the 188th -



A collection of photographs donated to the Barnes County Museum reflects the camaraderie of the Battery D Motor Section of the 188th - "A bunch of real buddies."

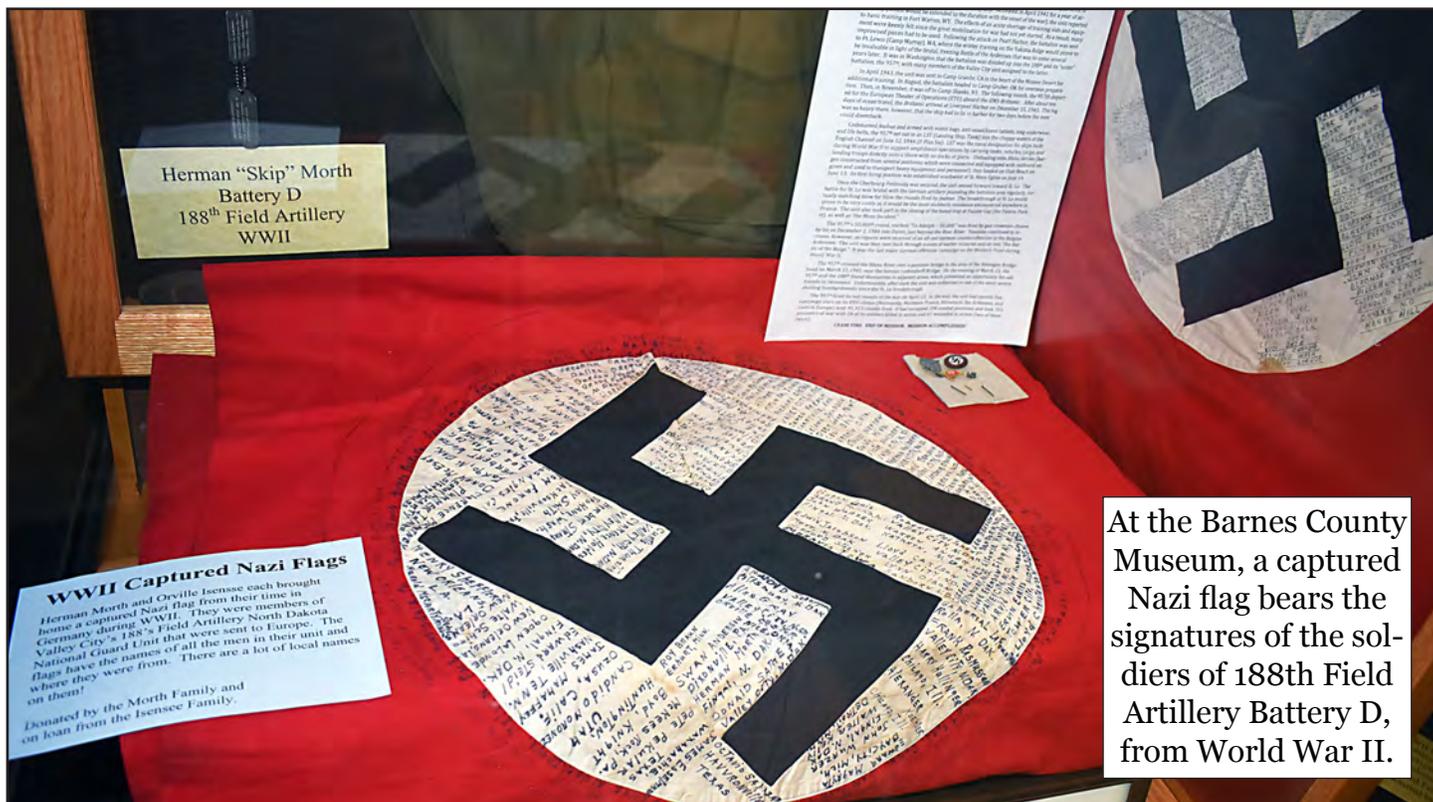


the battle of the bulge. Christmas day was the worst, and the fighting raged for several days after. But the enemy was shattered and the battalion had hung up an impressive record.

"In one day," the story read, "the big guns had poured out 2,430 rounds of 96-pound shells on 80 different missions. That exceeded any previous record by 1,100 rounds."

The battalion crossed the Rhine River on March 15, 1945, near the now famous Ludendorff Bridge. On March 21, the 957th and the 188th found themselves in adjacent areas, allowing old friends to reconnect. Unfortunately, overnight the units were subjected to one of the most severe shelling bombardments since the St. Lo breakthrough.

The artillery battalion fired its last rounds on April 23rd of 1945. In the end, the unit had earned five campaign stars on its ETO ribbon (Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, the Ardennes, and Central Europe) with 91,313 rounds fired. It had occupied 104 combat positions and took 501 prisoners of war with 24 of its soldiers killed in action and 61 wounded in action (two of them twice).



Herman "Skip" Morth
Battery D
188th Field Artillery
WWII

WWII Captured Nazi Flags
Herman Morth and Orville Isensee each brought home a captured Nazi flag from their time in Germany during WWII. They were members of the Valley Guard Unit that were sent to Europe. The National Guard Unit of all the men in their unit and flags have the names of all the men in their unit and where they were from. There are a lot of local names on them!
Donated by the Morth Family and on loan from the Isensee Family.

At the Barnes County Museum, a captured Nazi flag bears the signatures of the soldiers of 188th Field Artillery Battery D, from World War II.



Valley City's Company G Infantry in WWII

The Valley City, North Dakota's National Guard was first organized in March of 1884 as Company G, Dakota Militia, Dakota Territory. The unit was first called to active duty in May 1898 to serve in the Spanish American War. Company G was also activated for duty on the Mexican border campaign from June 1916-February 1917 from which they were sent on active duty for the first World War where the troops served from March 1917-February 1919. But the company's biggest call to action would come with the start of World War II.

What follows is a timeline of excerpts from newspaper articles on Company G and the 164th Infantry with whom they served with honor -

Valley City Times Record (VCTR) newspaper, February 10, 1941: Company G Mobilized Today for Year of Active Federal Training; 1,500 Officers and Men in North Dakota leave February 25th for Camp Claiborne. 112 Men (of Company G) reported for roll call.

VCTR February 21, 1941: "Valley City turned out en masse last night to stage a farewell part for Company G and Battery D and it was a brilliant affair. Climax to the military ball was the grand march, thrilling to the spectators but also causing wistfulness among many. The laughing, light-hearted young marching men with their "best girl" on their arm were in high spirits. This was a picnic for them. But their departure will leave a big hole in this community, in its business, social and family life, and heartaches and regrets are obvious. There are the consoling features, however. The local lads are not going off to war next Wednesday. They are not going to be in the trenches in the next few months. Uncle Sam has a nice little camp picked out for them in Louisiana. He will see that they get plenty to eat, plenty of fresh air and good exercise. They will be gone a year, certainly, but a year goes speedily by. This community will give them a cheering send-off next week, but they cheers will be doubles when they are welcomed back again next year. Good luck, Company G!"

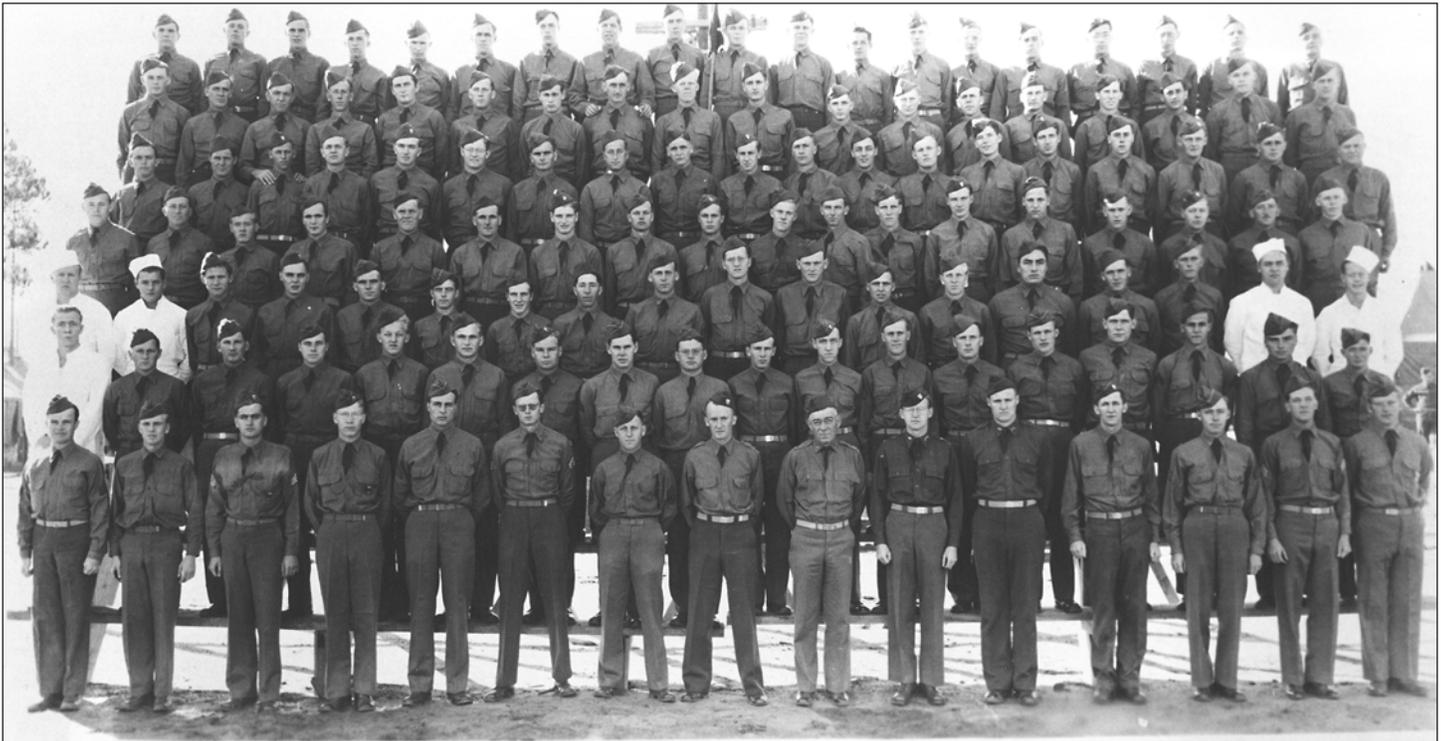
VCTR November 29, 1941: COMPANY G GETS Thanksgiving Fill By Cpl. Tom Carlson

Camp Claiborne, La., NOV. 24 —Thanksgiving has come and gone by, and the company's collective belt is gradually worming its way down to the time-worn groove. This Uncle 'Sammy' of ours opened his coffers and spread a table, the magnitude of which will not soon be forgotten. Everything typical of the season was there, from the opening grape juice cocktail to the coffee and cigars about the middle of the afternoon.

Our mess-tables are constructed on the same order as the picnic tables in the Valley City parks. Two members of G company have been selected for a new division ordered to Division Umpire School which starts today. Lieutenant Forrest Stimson was also selected to attend this school, but it will be nothing new to him as he acted in the capacity of umpire during the fall maneuvers.

VCTR December 8, 1941. (By the Associated Press): The congress of the United States declared war today against Japan, which was already smashing by air and sea against American outposts in the Pacific. The senate vote was 182-0, the house 388-1.

VCTR December 26, 1941: A paramount question in this community, one which affects so many families in Valley City and Barnes County is "What is going to happen to Company G and Battery D?" The



COMPANY G, 164TH INFANTRY, 34TH DIVISION, CAMP CLAIBORNE, LA NOVEMBER 1, 1941

Top Row, No. 1. (L to R): R. Dahl, M. Dahl, R. Busche, T. Lynch, W. Colberg, E. Moske, L. Welander, M. Schuler, D. Robinson, H. Leehan, P. Grant, G. Jantzen, L. Rector, R. Newman, C. Lofthus, M. Rivard, R. Schaffer, S. Nitschke, A. Sygulla.
Row No. 2.: A. Offerdahl, A. Olson, P. Heinzman, H. Schwehr, R. Caspers, H. Klang, L. Erle, E. Jensen, R. Wallin, R. Rapp, O. Stockeland, E. Olson, E. Erickson, B. Walker, B. Neuner, E. Haykel, M. Pederson, F. Herman.
Row No. 3.: D. Oster, L. Peterson, L. Good, M. Hallen, B. Glatt, C. Dvorak, C. Persson, L. Lockner, M. Busche, H. Lampinen, E. Holzemer, F. Keller, W. Eberhardt, W. Emanuel, G. Greb, H. Sather, W. Winkler, M. Simpkins, C. Kulseth.
Row No. 4.: B. Johnson, E. Murray, J. Coddling, B. Chanley, R. Ludwig, J. Wambach, R. Thone, E. Schmidt, M. Larson, R. Buck, J. Jackson, D. Mettler, D. Syverson, E. Puhr, C. Odegaard, G. Hemnes, H. Diemert, L. Olson.
Row No. 5.: G. Stephenson, E. Kramer, R. Cozort, W. Carney, F. Moriarty, V. Olson, D. DuBois, R. Linster, B. McKay, T. Carlson, L. Torgerson, E. Drader, P. Kessler, C. Thompson, E. Schwaderer, M. Aune, J. Jungnitsch, L. Brendmoen.
Row No. 6.: E.R. Olson, D. Nielsen, K. Hanson, W. Pfaff, H. Phillips, C. Kingston, G. Dwyer, K. Olson, B. Wagner, M. Conlon, K. Keyes, J. Orth, T. Nugent, C. Hedstrom, L. Nelson, A. Overby, R. Gesellchen, L. Peyton.
Row No. 7.: A. Chapman, L. Carr, N. Emery, L. McHattie, J. Landdeck, R. Carter, 1st Sgt. W. Anundson, 1st Lt. V. McConnell, Capt. C. McDonald, 1st Lt. R. Baird, 2nd Lt. F. Stimson, F. Burchill, L. Pfaff, A. Lane, V. Messner.
Absentees: 2nd Lt. E. Agnew, St. Sgt. R. Carney, M. Olson, V. Anundson, W. Griffin, W. Hauff, H. Kjelland, K. McDonough, T. Mikkelson, H. Olson, C. Tait, I. Thompson, W. Welander, H. Burd, A. Kjelland, D. Lack, L. Offerdahl., J. Parmeter, R. Stowell, H. Wagner, H. Bjerketvedt, G. Flando, A. Haugen, J. Kleiv, R. McCaskey, J. Mitzel, S. Nelson, G. Olson, W. Swennes, J. Tix.

infantrymen are now at San Francisco and the artillery is at Fort Lewis, Wash., but where they are going from there is a question causing plenty of anxiety to local folks. A recent possible answer, quite authentic too, is that Company G will be used for guard duty in western United States. They would be posted on strategic bridges so numerous in the mountain districts and extending as far east as Glendive, Mont. This supposition should bring considerable relief to many who fear that the company will soon be transferred to the Philippine war zone. It has been rumored that the recent war maneuvers in hot, swampy Louisiana was just the workout needed to put the 34th Division in condition for Far East warfare. Military authorities discount this theory, however, as high officials have stated unofficially that the American soldier needs at least two year's training before shipment across seas would be even considered. Let's hope this is true, and that Company G will not yet be called upon to join MacArthur's forces on the Luzon front. We have yet heard anything further regarding Battery D.

VCTR December 29, 1941: **COMPANY G WILL LOCATE AT HELENA**

Company G will soon be located at Helena, Mont., for guard duty, according to word received last evening by Mrs. Cliff McDonald from Captain McDonald. Company G is expected to reach Helena in about a week, and mail will reach the local soldiers by addressing the 164th Infantry, Helena, Montana.

VCTR January 23, 1942: "Tracy Avenue in Valley City is only a block long in the residential district but boasts a war record second to none in the state. At least nine young men in that neighborhood are serving Uncle Sam. Richard McCosh is in a Boeing aircraft plant. Conrad Knutson is in the Navy. Worth Emanuel, Buzzie DuBois and Bob and Bill Carney are with Company G. Bud Kolstoe is in the aviation corps. And living at the end of Tracy Avenue are Everett and Jimmy Allensworth who are in the Army and Navy."

VCTR April 9, 1942: 36,853 Troops face Death or Surrender as Bataan Falls

Company G has landed with the 164th Infantry of North Dakota in Australia. This report was confirmed today by a cablegram received by Mrs. J. McDonald from her husband Lieut. Col. McDonald,

The Valley City National Guardsmen were mustered into service in February, 1941, and left in March for Camp Claiborne, under the command of Captain Cliff McDonald. Last fall they were transferred to California, and then to Montana for patrol duty before returning to the west coast again.

Apparently, they reached Australia yesterday or earlier this week, and will now be fighting under General Douglas MacArthur.

VCTR August 4, 1942: V.C. Soldiers at New Caledonia Plan Hot Reception for Hirohito's Men - Sgt. Don Nielsen Writes Interesting Letter to Home Folks

The Valley City soldiers stationed with the American armed forces on New Caledonia are cooking up a hot reception for Hirohito and his yellow warriors if they attempt to invade that part of the globe, writes Sergeant Don Nielsen in an informative letter to this office. Don is the son of Mr. and Mrs. N. M. Nielsen and is a member of Company G of the 164th Infantry. His letter follows:

"Dear Phil: Thought I'd drop a few lines to let the Valley City people know where Company G finally settled down. Well here goes— Our boat trip to Australia was swell. We had a grand boat as well as perfect traveling weather. We had a swimming pool at our disposal on the boat as well as plenty of room for other activities. The regimental band furnished music during the supper hour each day so in that way the food the less edible. Ha! On the whole though, the food, bathing and sleeping facilities were far better than expected. We had quite a Father Neptune ceremony the day we crossed the equator. Both officers and enlisted men took part and it turned out rather entertaining for being put on by a bunch of dough-boys."

VCTR December 1, 1942: Corporal Melvin G. Busche, 26, killed in action in the Southwest Pacific on October 26, is the first Valley City Soldier to die in action in the present war. He was stationed with Company G on Guadalcanal when his death was reported to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Busche of Valley City. A brother, Reinhart, is still with Company G.

VCTR December 28, 1942: Second Valley City Youth Killed in action on Guadalcanal Island - Bill Carney Joins Melvin Busche in making supreme sacrifice.

VCTR Jan 25, 1943: North Dakota soldiers were among the first army units to land on Guadalcanal to fight side by side with the American marines and many of them are still writing a blazing chapter in the Solomon Islands epic.

VCTR February 8, 1943: Two Valley City soldiers are among recent casualties in the Solomons area. Lester Pfaff, 23, is missing in action and Eugene Thompson, 22, was wounded.

VCTR Feb, 9, 1943: Japanese Give Up Guadalcanal Battle in Evacuating Island Americans Win Major Base in Solomons as Enemy Resistance Ends

From the April 25, 1943 Fargo Forum:

DEATH TOLL OF 164TH INFANTRY ON GUADALCANAL IS 145

(Fifth and last in a series of articles on the 164th ND Infantry on Guadalcanal, based on information received

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

Unit Left For Camp Nearly Five Years Ago

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

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

Army man, took over command on New Caledonia.

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

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

Guadalcanal was invaded by marines on Aug. 7, 1942, and the 164th infantry joined the Leathernecks Oct. 13. It was no "soft" landing in the wake of marine successes. Within five hours after the North Dakotans had hit the shore, they were veterans—had

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

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

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

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

Then, in February, 1945, came the announcement that the American division, including the 164th, had landed in the Philippines—

SOLDIERS OF 164TH GET LEAD BAPTISM

1st Platoon of Company G, 2d
Battalion, is 'Introduced'
to Guadalcanal Foes

GRIM EXPLOITS RELATED

Japanese Tricks and Snipers
Outmatched by Yankee
Resourcefulness

*This is the third of a series of
articles on the Guadalcanal experi-
ences of the 164th Infantry, Ameri-
cal Division, United States Army.*

By **FOSTER HAILEY**

Special Correspondent, THE NEW YORK TIMES.

A PACIFIC BASE, April 27—

The first unit of the 164th In-
fantry to come to actual grips with
the Japanese on Guadalcanal was
the First Platoon of Company G of
the Second Battalion, which was
sent up early the night of Oct. 23
to reinforce the Seventh Marines
at the start of the "Battle of Coffin
Corner."

"As I recall it," said Staff Ser-
geant Arthur Chapman, of 1521
Como Avenue, Minneapolis. "We
were alerted about 7 o'clock that
night and sent over to strengthen
the Marines."

from Lieut. Col Samuel Baglien of Hillsboro, executive officer of the regiment.) By Gifford Herron

Buried in the earth of Guadalcanal, where they wrote history with their blood, are the bodies of 15 soldiers of the 164th North Dakota Infantry, who died like heroes in their gallant fight which played such a substantial role in wresting that south Pacific jungle island from the Japs. Another 257 men out of the former North Dakota National Guard regiment will carry the rest of their lives the scars from wounds received in that bitter Guadalcanal fight.

COMPANY G, VALLEY CITY, WOUNDED IN ACTION – Corp Maurice J. Aune, Pfc Keith D. Karr, Pvt Ray A. Maika, Pvt Marvin R. Schultz, Pvt Edward J. Kline, Pvt Oscar Russa, First Lieut Edgar T. Agnew, Pfc Russel C. Rapp, Pvt Virgil M. Johnson, Sgt Sam N. Tachka, Corp Wallace J. Pfaff, Pfc Bill F. Marsiglia, Pvt Roman J. Caspers, Pvt William H. Staack, Pfc Carl J. Kulseth.

From the May 27, 1943 New York Times (reprinted in the Fargo Forum June 10, 1943): SOLDIERS OF 164TH GET LEAD BAPTISM

1st Platoon of Company G, 2d Battalion, is 'Introduced' to Guadalcanal Foes Grim Exploits Related

Japanese Trick and Snipers Outmatched by Yankee Resourcefulness

By Foster Bailey, Special Correspondence, the New York Times

A Pacific Base, April 27 – The first unit of the 164th Infantry to come to actual grips with the Japanese on Guadalcanal was the First platoon of Company G of the Second Battalion, which was sent up early the night of Oct. 23 to reinforce the Seventh Marines at the start of the "Battle of Coffin Corner."

(From the VCTR - One of the most revealing of war stories to come out of the Guadalcanal campaign is written by the foreign correspondent of the New York Times, Foster Hailey, and is especially interesting to this community because it tells about Valley City boys and their achievements. Among the spokesmen are Lieut. Northridge, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Northridge, Sr.; Capt. Veon M. McConnel, former Valley City high school instructor; Sergeant Arthur Chapman, formerly of the local Penney and S&L stores; and Corporal Arne Kjelland, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Kjelland of Green Township (Barnes County). The biggest hero of Company G, as disclosed by Mr. Hailey's article, was Roland Dahl, who is credited with killing at least 100 Japs. Roland is the son of Mr. And Mrs. August Dahl (of Valley City). Dahl is employed at the Valley City power plant.)

VCTR March 17, 1943: 164th Infantry Leaves Guadalcanal for New "Pleasant Surroundings"
Valley City soldiers enjoying well deserved rest, writes Lt. Col. Northridge

VCTR March 25, 1943: Valley City Welcome These Two Heroes-First Home from Guadalcanal - Harry Burd and John Orth

VCTR December 1, 1943: First Mention of Bougainville
New Landings on Bougainville Aim to Crush Out Last Resistance

VCTR January 28, 1944: By Phil Mark - "Back to the war front, it may interest you to know that Battery D is now overseas, having landed in England. When those big invasion guns start firing, you will know that the VC artillery unit is on the job. Understand that Company G is back in action again and is now on Bougainville. Bet those seasoned vets will give a good account of themselves again. Many of the Bat D. units are now seeing service elsewhere and some are in Italy."

“.....One of the immediate problems now claiming civic attention, is what to do with returning discharged veterans. Yes, there are some coming home right along. They’re glad to be home, smile and shake your hand, but they also have a faraway look in their eye which makes it evident that they are not adjusting themselves to home conditions again too easily. It means also that we can’t wait until the war is over before we put our post war plan, if any, into operation. I know a case of a college student here, a discharged veteran, who was having hard sledding, until his situation attracted special attention. Those kinds of cases we will have to look out for. This war may be over before we know it and we must be prepared for any emergency. That’s why postwar planning is becoming so widespread. Nearing the end of the column so will sign off until another week.”

VCTR March 25, 1944: When Co. G. Returns

It may be wishful thinking to reflect on the hilarious day when Co. G. comes marching home, but the thought is stimulated by a poem written by an anonymous author who was inspired some 45 years ago when Valley City’s first Company G was in the Philippines in the Spanish American War. By a strange quirk of fate, the 1944 Company G is also in the South Pacific. From the yellowing pages of the Old North Dakota Patriot, published by G.B Vollandigham, we find the poem, “When Co. G Comes Marching Home.” It was turned over to this desk by that old-timer Ross G. Wills, of the original Company G who has treasured it all these years. Ross took part in the 28 days of engagements and skirmishes that led to the capture of Manila on August 12, 1898. “I was never injured but was plenty scared,” he says. The poem, with the ring of that familiar song, When Johnny Comes Marching Home Hurrah, follows:

When Co. G comes marching back home again
hurrah hurrah!
And also returns our Major Black,
Hurrah hurrah
We’ll tune the piano an’ wax the floor
An’ hang gay festoons about the door
And “Rack” will play without a score
When Co. G. returns
The Girls all clothed in brilliant dress, hurrah hurrah
Will pick the lad that they love best,
Hurrah hurrah
An’ all the boys without a tear,
Will eagerly inquire, you need not fear
About this little-----of-----
When Co. G. returns
Then they will settle down you’ll see,
Hurrah hurrah
And some of them hook up- maybe
Hurrah hurrah
An’ if there’s a war in-say 20 years
It is conceded by sages and seers
Co. G. will furnish volunteers-or we’re mistaken
When Co. G. Returns

VCTR June 3, 1944: Jive and Classics Emanating from Fox Holes of VC men on Bougainville

With the Americal Division at Bougainville-There’s “Jam,” “Jive” and classical music emanating from the foxholes and dugouts of Valley City infantrymen these days even though they may be on the front lines at Bougainville.

The Valley City men have received a portable phonograph, complete with the most popular tunes of the Hit Parade and Broadway shows, a present from the Valley City Civic and Commerce association

and the American Legion. The present is one which is really appreciated by the fighting jungle soldiers from North Dakota who pass the gift from fox hole to fox hole along the Empress Augusta Bay perimeter, so that different soldiers have the use of the phonograph and records each night.

VCTR June 3, 1944: The B-29

The big B-29s have at last gone into action! The bombing of Japan by Super-Fortress recalls the visit of Sgt. Leland Kleppe in Valley City about a month ago. The former STC student was not giving away any military secrets, but he did intimate that the super ships were undergoing trials but when and where he did not know. He did say, however, that he had already been assigned to one, and may be with the American raiders today.

VCTR May 11, 1945: 1000 In 164th UP For DISCHARGE

Possibility of up to 1000 original members of North Dakota's 164th Infantry regiment will be eligible for discharge was foreseen today following the army's announcement Thursday temporarily fixing a minimum score of 85 points as a requisite for discharge from service.

Brig. General Herbert L. Edwards, adjutant general for North Dakota, said the strength of the regiment on January 15, 1942 was 1,614.

Losses to date- through death and discharges- total 599, Gen. Edwards said.

This leaves a balance of 1,015 who still are in the armed forces.

Gen. Edwards pointed out, however, that all these men probably are not with the 164th, since many have been transferred to other units. He also said a number of the original members of the regiment were sent back to the United States only after a few months overseas and may not possess sufficient points to get a discharge.

General Edwards cautioned relatives and friends of men in North Dakota's two national guard units- the 164th infantry and the 188th field artillery,- against "any undue optimism for the immediate return of those men."

Although original members of the 164th who have stayed with the unit have enough points with time in service, time overseas and battle stars to meet the 85 point minimum for discharge now, General Edwards said that it was no guarantee that the men are going to be coming home in a month or two.

August 14, 1945: JAPAN QUILTS!

Mayor's Proclamation

We have just heard the message from the President of the United States, for which we have been waiting, and praying since December 7, 1941. This marks the end of the Second World War. It also means victory for the allied world over Japan and the complete suppression of the instigators of murder and destruction. The full meaning of this day to the many homes in our city, state and nation, and throughout the world, cannot be accurately spoken or written, but it is known and felt by everyone.

It is true that this is a day of rejoicing over the successful close of such a tremendous and destructive hostilities, but that rejoicing must necessarily be an expression that is really a Thanksgiving. Besides being glad and joyful over this day, we also primarily are deeply thankful that we need not carry on further at such a tremendous loss of life and property.

The day is such that it demands and merits recognition by the people of our city. This recognition can most fittingly be given by pausing in our daily work and duties and giving thought to the change which this day will make in our lives and the future world, and by our giving expression to those thought and feeling in such a way that will best portray the day's true meaning.

Therefore, as Mayor of the City of Valley City, I hereby proclaim this day of victory, known as V-J Day, or the day of our victory over Japan and her forces, a day for special recognition and observance by the people of Valley City, with proper services and ceremonies in churches and schools, and that there shall be, except in cases of necessity of furnishing supplies for the harvest, a cessation of all business, with all offices, shops, stores and places of recreation and amusement closed Wednesday, August 15.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 14th day of August, 1945.
Curtis Olson - Mayor of the City of Valley City

Excerpts from the Fargo Forum June 20, 1999 "The 20th Century in Review" special edition with highlights of the ND 164th: ND SOLDIERS READY FOR ANY FIGHT

Historian credits hard work ethic for getting troops through battles - By Steven P. Wagner

"... The Pacific campaign ...Members of the 164th became known as "jungle fighters" in the US media, named for the terrain in which they fought. The infantry was also given the nickname "The 164th Marines" for their bitter fight against the Japanese in the battle of Henderson Field and the Battle of the Matanikau on the island, and became the first US Army unit to take offensive actions during World War II. During the first five days of the 164th's landing at Guadalcanal, 117 men were killed. During the battle for Henderson Field, an estimated 1,700 Japanese were killed, while the 164th suffered 26 killed and 52 wounded. The 164th continued with other battles and patrols through February 1943, and the unit saw 147 men lose their lives. The regiment received the Navy's Presidential Unit Citation.

The 164th left Guadalcanal then moved on to Bougainville, part of the Solomon Islands, where it served until November 1944."

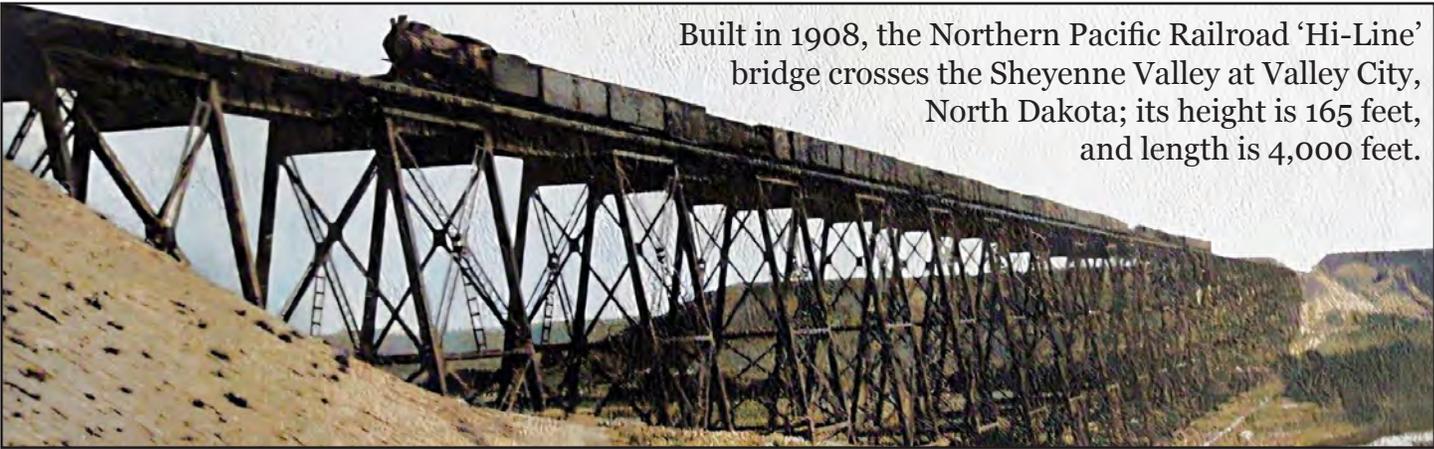
Company G would see action in the Korean Conflict from 1950-1953 before the unit was renamed in 1955 as the 141st Engineer Combat Battalion, headquartered in Valley City. In 2004, the 141st served with distinction in Operation Iraqi Freedom, assigned to Task Force Trailblazer; four of its members were killed in action. Another transformation came in 2008 when the 141st colors were retired and the Valley City National Guard unit became the 231st Brigade Support Battalion.

US Highway 2 within ND declared 'The 164 Infantry Memorial Highway'

Authorized by the North Dakota 48th legislative Assembly to honor members of the 164th Infantry Regiment, North Dakota Army National Guard

The signage on the right (located in the Veterans Memorial Park in Valley City, ND) reads in part: The 164th Infantry Regiment of the 'Americal' Division was the first US Army unit to take offensive action against the enemy (in either Theatre of Operation) during World War II on Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, when they reinforced the First Marine Division on 13 October 1942. Men of the 164th Infantry Regiment were awarded the US Navy Presidential Unit Citation for their part in the battle of Henderson Field on 23-26 October 1942. The 164th Infantry Regiment spent nearly 600 days in combat and suffered 325 killed in action, and 1193 wounded. Regimental soldiers earned the following decorations: 1 Navy Cross, 6 Distinguished Service Crosses, 89 Silver Stars, 199 Bronze Stars, 7 Legions of Merit, 10 Soldier's Medals, and approximately 2000 Purple Hearts. The regiment also earned the Republic of the Philippines Presidential Unit Citation.

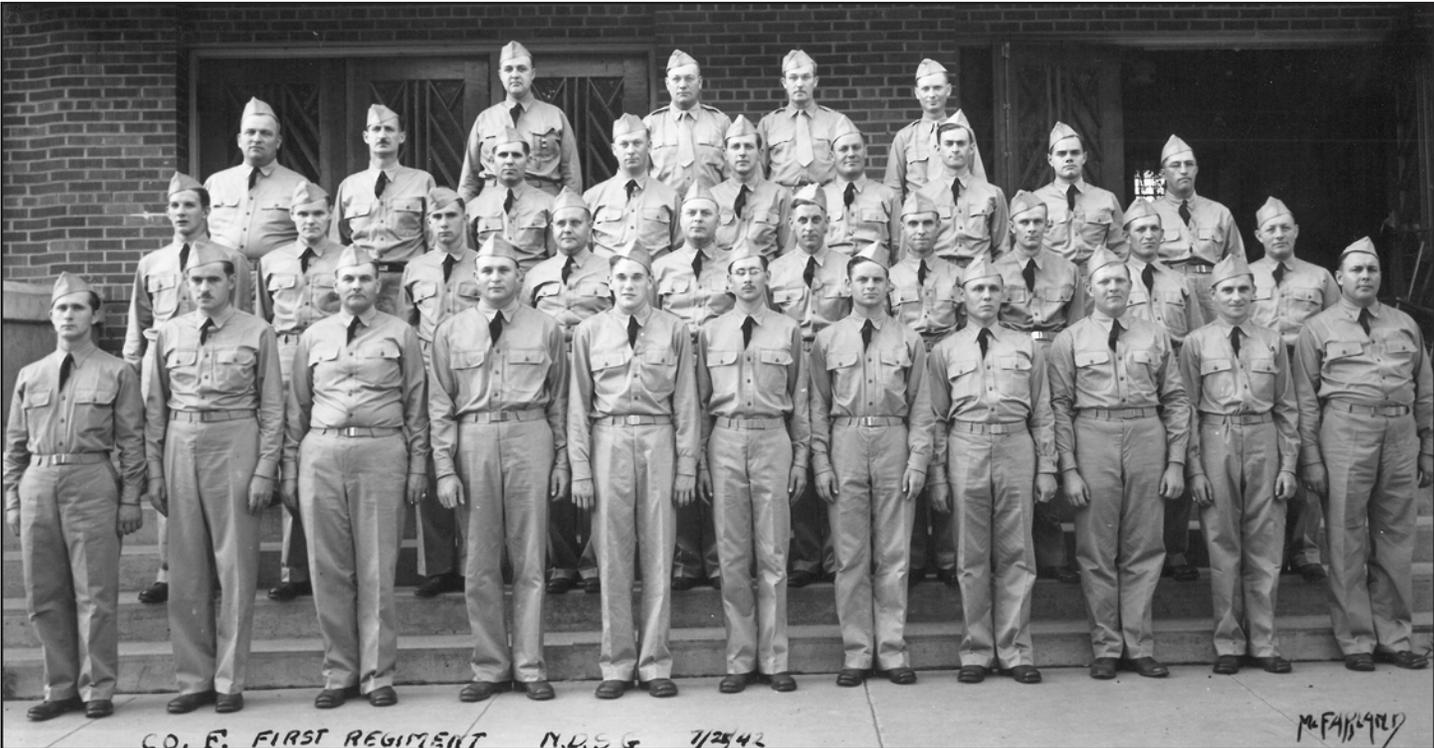




Built in 1908, the Northern Pacific Railroad 'Hi-Line' bridge crosses the Sheyenne Valley at Valley City, North Dakota; its height is 165 feet, and length is 4,000 feet.

Valley City Volunteer Home Guard is First Unit Formed in the State of North Dakota

The Valley City community actively contributed to the war effort in several important aspects. One day after war was declared against Japan, North Dakota Governor John Moses and state officials started organizing a state guard and the guarding of critical infrastructure. More than 3,000 North Dakota guardsmen were in federal service with the 34th Infantry division and 188th Field Artillery, which left the state without military protection (VCTR a, 12/11/41). Forty men volunteered to guard the Hi-Line bridge in Valley City starting December 9th. "Mayor Fredrickson quickly summoned Post Commander A. D. Ottinger, the Civilian Defense Committee of the Legion, G. W. Lybeck, chairman, the National Defense Committee, Tom Brown, chairman, together with other Legionnaires, Veterans of Foreign Wars, city and railroad officials to meet at the city hall late yesterday afternoon to organize...guard for the Hi-Line bridge" (VCTR, 12/9/41). This bridge is a major rail-bridge spanning the Sheyenne River in Valley City. It is the longest such bridge in North Dakota and since it "was of vital importance in moving supplies and men, it was closely guarded during both World Wars to prevent sabotage" (ND Tourism). Local volunteers from the American Legion, VFW, city and railroad personnel along with veterans guarded the bridge until Company F of the ND State Guard was organized. Volunteers brought their own shotguns for guard duty and warm winter clothes. Nothing had been provided for them. Guards were



C. E. FIRST REGIMENT N.D.S.G. 7/25/42

McFalls 9/11

stationed at points most vulnerable to sabotage (VCTR, 12/9/41). The important contributions made by these volunteers were not lost on the Northern Pacific Railroad Company. Special detective with the railroad, H. P. Cysewski, praised them for their efficiency and thoroughness: "Valley City had the finest volunteer defense guard for a strategic point of any city in the state" he said (VCTR b, 12/11/41).

Valley City volunteers formed the first Home Guard unit in the state of North Dakota in the aftermath of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. On Dec. 11th, Governor John Moses announced 14 companies to be organized across the state. Within 12 hours, 74 men from the Valley City area had signed for Company F with the North Dakota Home Guard. "This community is believed to be the first in the state to organize such a company" (VCTR, 12/13/41). Valley City men eagerly volunteered for service with the Home and State Guards, and even raised funds for their own equipment and outfitting in the absence of state funds.

Since North Dakota's biannual legislature had not appropriated funds for state guards' units as it adjourned in spring '41, the community in Valley City joined together in raising funds for Company F. Although the War Department supplied the unit with old surplus uniforms, everything else had to be funded locally. In April '42, the community organized a benefit dance for Company F. The local commanding officer, Captain Tom C. Brown, "pointed out that many and sundry needs will arise for materials and equipment and the benefit dance is designed to provide this" (VCTR, 4/23/42). Thus, this community enthusiastically volunteered for duty locally once the US joined the war effort. The contributions of these men, women, and children are important aspects of our application designating Valley City as North Dakota's World War II Heritage City.

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Valley City's volunteer Home Guard Company F march down a Valley City street in the early 1940s.

Herman Stern and Clifford J. Klein: WWII Heroes of Barnes County

The two most notable men of Barnes County during WWII were Herman Stern and Clifford J. Klein. Herman Stern, an immigrant from Germany, was a businessman in Valley City for over 70 years, however, he is most notably known for his aid in the escape of over 175 European Jews during WWII. Stern is locally known as Barnes County's Oscar Schindler. Clifford J. Klein had recently graduated from college in 1942 when he was virtually kidnapped by the U.S. government and sworn to utter secrecy under the Espionage Act and sent to Oak Ridge, Tennessee as a chemist to work on the Manhattan Project.



Display of Stern memorabilia at the Barnes County Museum.

Herman Stern (1887 - 1980)

Herman Stern was born in Oberbrechen, Germany in 1887 as the youngest of eight children. His father, Samuel Stern, was a farmer, rancher, and meat inspector, yet the family lived in poverty. In fact, four-year-old Herman's job was to harvest loose grains that had fallen off of the passing wagons. He learned to garden at an early age, and then advanced to farm and cattle chores while working side jobs in the village.

Herman then spent the next two years of his life as an apprentice of Herr Kaufman, a well-known tailor in Mainz, Germany. Living in an attic with two other apprentices, Stern grew tired of his life in Mainz and dreamed of a life in America, especially after Morris Straus, a nephew of Herman's mother, visited Germany and offered Herman a job in North Dakota.

Once Herman arrived in New York, he was met by Mrs. Straus's brother, who gave him sixteen dollars and sent him on a two-day train ride to Casselton, ND. The year was 1903 and Herman Stern was just sixteen years old.

Stern began working in his cousin's store as soon as he arrived in Casselton, ND. It was then decided to open a second Straus store in Valley City. Stern moved to Valley City to manage the store in 1907. Soon work had improved the store so much that Straus decided to open up a second store in Valley City, North Dakota in 1907 and Stern took control of the store in 1910.

Towards the end of the WWI, the devastation led to the creation of American relief efforts, which sent

food, medicine, and supplies. Great Britain's blockade on Germany exacerbated the slew of starvation within the country, prompting more relief organizations to form. Stern chaired one of these organizations, known as the American-Jewish Relief Committee, and helped to raise relief funds for the German people to recover in the mid 1920s.

In 1929, Stern received another letter, this time from his niece Klara, asking to bring her to America as she could not find work in Germany. Due to the Depression, Stern was not financially able to assist Klara, however, after Adolf Hitler was appointed chancellor in 1933, conditions worsened for the Jewish people in Germany. With the help of North Dakota Senator Gerald Nye and Governor William Langer, Stern was able to acquire a visa for Klara, his niece, in December of that year. He was not able to acquire a visa for Erich, his nephew, until 1935. The two refugees lived with the Stern family while Klara attended Valley City Teachers College and Erich worked at Stern's store. This began Stern's work to help families flee Germany and legally obtain citizenship of the US.

Julius Stern was one of the next requests for assistance to flee Germany. Stern again helped his nephew come to America.

After that, word quickly spread throughout friends and family of Herman Stern in Germany and the visa requests poured in. The difficulty of obtaining visas during this time was immense. Herman had to personally vouch for every person he brought over, promising that they would become productive citizens and would not rely on the states' funding for welfare. He also had to ensure they would have employment upon arriving in America and find sponsors to help bring them over. Stern called on business acquaintances throughout the Midwest and New York to sponsor and co-sponsor a number of the immigration requests. By 1938, Stern helped relocate roughly one hundred German immigrants to the US. Senator Gerald Nye of North Dakota was the most helpful acquaintance in these transactions, as he had an upper hand in the State Department, thus helped to acquire visas.

As Herman learned more about the Anti-Semitism and Hitler's plans for the German Jews, he began to work on bringing his three remaining brothers to America: Adolf, Julius, and Moses. He was able to secure visas for Adolf and his wife in November of 1941, however, Pearl Harbor was bombed two weeks later, thus ending any chances of visas and immigration for Moses, Julius, and Julius's wife. Tragically, these three were murdered in concentration camps during the war.

In that same year, Stern was still operating in his efforts to rescue European Jews of German



ancestry. Michael Stern, with his brother, parents, and grandparents, was rescued by Herman in 1941. Michael recalls that he was "born in France and we left France after a year and a half of the German occupation, we were smuggled out of France. I was six years old... If it wasn't for Herman Stern, there would be no Michael Stern." Michael said that if they had not been smuggled out, they would have been rounded up by the Nazis and French collaborators, where they would have been transported to death camps. Michael's story is just one of the many lives touched by Herman Stern.

The exact count on Stern's list is unknown. He credited himself of having brought about 125 immigrants to America, though it is possible that not all of those made it to America.

(Left) This large plaque is a memorial for Herman Stern and is located in Valley City's Veterans Park.

Another source credits Stern with saving the lives of nearly 170 German Jews, while others claim that it could be anywhere from 175-200. Herman felt as though his coming to America was “just an accident,” but that he and Adeline had a “responsibility to make it possible for other people to continue to live and have an opportunity to enjoy this great country of ours, which was so good to us.” Regardless of exact numbers, his effort to save Jews from Nazi Germany was incredibly heroic.

On March 13, 2014, Herman Stern became the 40th recipient of the Theodore Roosevelt Rough Rider Award (now part of his display at the Barnes County Museum). In addition to this state recognition, Stern’s rescue efforts were featured in a major exhibit, “Against The Odds,” at the Museum of Jewish Heritage, New York City, 2013-15. Locally, he is known as our Mr. Schindler of Valley City.



Clifford J. Klein (1921 - 2007)

Dr. Clifford John Klein was born on October 24, 1921 in Worthington, Iowa, but was raised in Eckelson, ND by his parents George and Anna Klein. After graduating from Eckelson High School, he attended Jamestown College, where he studied medicine and chemistry. Klein graduated in 1942, then went on to look for employment because he could not get into medical school as it had been taken over by a navy program. Klein applied to many companies and was accepted by E.L. du Pont Company in Delaware, and was sent to Alabama for his first assignment under Du Pont.

Klein worked in Alabama for a year before becoming tired of his job, so he decided to quit and join the Air Force. One week before joining the Air Force he was called to his office and was asked if he wanted to go to Chicago. Klein said “no.” His boss then asked again, “Would you like to go to Chicago?” Again, Klein said “no.” His boss then said, “Well, you’re leaving next Thursday, a week from today.” Klein protested, arguing that was the day he was to leave to be inducted into the Air Guard, to which his boss said, “You have nothing to worry about, they’ve already taken care of that.” With that, Klein was virtually kidnapped by the United States Army to work for a top secret government project - The Manhattan Project.

Klein was sent to Oak Ridge, where he began his research on the atom bomb and the principles of nuclear fission. Before he was sent to Oak Ridge, Klein was sent to Chicago, where he worked at the

University of Chicago in the Jones Laboratory. “This is where we did the separation of plutonium from uranium... It consisted of chemical runs in one-gallon beakers.”

The graphite rods would be inserted between the uranium to cause a reaction. In searching for a reaction, more and more graphite was added to the experiment until eventually, the chemical activity from the graphite piles was measured and reached a critical point on the graph. In two months, the job was completed, and the research was then relocated to Oak Ridge.

The research and experiments at Oak Ridge posed significant challenges. Because of the dangerous materials they had to work with, everyone at the communities was trained in safety and precautionary methods for handling the materials. Klein recalled only once that they had to “throw a guy in the showers after an accident.” Klein himself had one spill while working with radioactive iodine. He was going from the lab table to the storage chamber when the stopper came out of the container. Klein suffered burns of the nostrils and eyes, however, the physicians at Oak Ridge checked him out and declared him fit for work still.

Klein explained that, “My group was involved in the physics, that is or whether the thing was possible or not,” but in the summer of 1944, all the researchers of the secret communities came together to test the final product in the desert south of Albuquerque. The atom bomb was proven a success, and its capabilities would soon be proven great and devastating to the Japanese people. Klein stated that “the bomb used at Nagasaki was about twice as powerful, if that’s the right word... The device at Nagasaki released about twice as much as the one used at Hiroshima.” According to Klein, the bomb dropped at Nagasaki used about 20,000 tons of TNT, whereas the one at Hiroshima used about 10,000 tons.

Although Klein was far from the front lines of the war and never saw a war-torn Europe or Asian Pacific, his work on the Manhattan Project was crucial to the war effort. Although catastrophic to the Japanese cities of Nagasaki and Hiroshima, it was because of Klein and the Manhattan Project that the war in Japan came to an abrupt end. Klein worked tirelessly on the research of the atom bomb for at least six days every week, however, he always said that his hardest job throughout the entirety of his time in Tennessee was teaching the monkey how to light the fuse on the test bombs.

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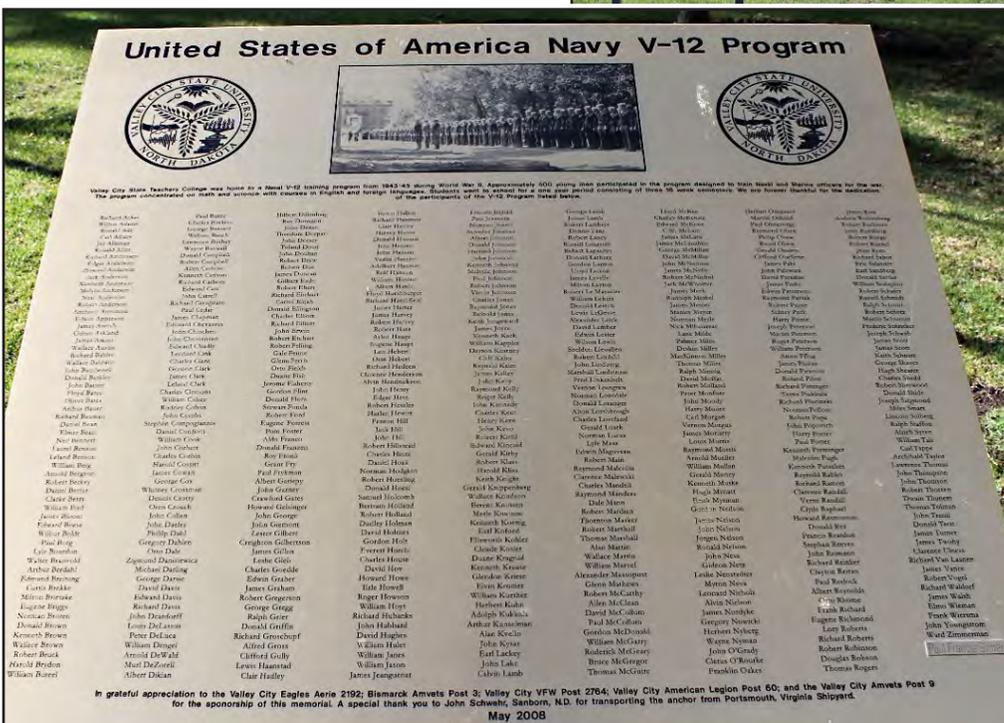
Valley City State University Hosts U.S. Navy's V-12 Program

The V-12 was a United States Navy program to train officers. The program started on July 1, 1943, with 131 colleges and universities. To support the war effort, Valley City State University contracted with the Navy to serve as a place to train Naval Officers. The V-12 Program began on the campus on July 1, 1943. The first group of 233 men reported to duty on the Campus. Every four months, the recruits were then transferred to Midshipman School or other advanced training. Recruits came from over fifteen states from California to New York. Over the next two years, 532 men had gone through the program. The primary purpose of this program was to train men for deck officers. Here they were taught Seamanship and Damage Control.

The program was terminated in November, 1945. At the completion of the program, Commanding officer, Lieutenant C.W. McLain, USNR, reported that -"All men trained here have made a very real contribution toward the successful termination of the war. It is to be hoped that the men who will be leaving at the close of this, our last term, will in the future make a real contribution toward the maintenance of peace."

During the two years of the V-12 program, the sailors followed Navy routine complete with Navy discipline. The women's dormitories were turned into barracks. The men participated in all aspects of college life, including sports: basketball, baseball, and wrestling. The battalion band performed each Saturday for review.

To commemorate the contribution of the V-12 program in the war effort, the Navy has given the university an anchor. This has been a formal celebration of this on June 28, 2003. There is also a plaque next to the anchor with a list of all the men who went through the program. This serves as a reminder to all those who walk on our campus.



(Above and left)
The US Navy gave a commemorative anchor at a formal celebration on June 28, 2003, with a plaque that lists the names of those that went through the V-12 Program during World War II; they are featured in a prominent place on the Valley City State University campus. A similar anchor, donated at the same time, can be found in Valley City's Veterans Memorial Park.

The Barnes County Historical Museum features numerous displays honoring the local women who participated in war.



Valley City/Barnes County Women in World War II

Harriet Zetterberg Margolies

Harriet was a graduate of Valley City High School and attended Valley City State Teachers College. She studied law at the University of Wisconsin and upon completion of her studies there, she received a scholarship to Yale. In 1943, she was an attorney in the Office of the General Counsel of Board of Economic Warfare in Washington D.C. and was, a year later, sent to work at their office in the American Embassy in London. She remained in this position until September of 1945, when she was transferred to work with the prosecution staff at the War Crimes Trial in Neurenberg, Germany. Her job was to sift through the letters and documents of Hans Frank, Governor of Nazi-Occupied Poland, searching for evidence of his crimes against humanity. However, being a woman, she was unable to present her findings to the judge and jury. Instead, a male colleague had to do the presentation of her findings.

The trials were the high point in Harriet's legal career. Upon returning to the United States, she continued with her legal career for a time before giving it up to focus on being a wife and mother and eventually, to take on the role as the wife of an ambassador (her husband served as an ambassador to the Congo).



Harriet Zetterberg (bottom left) participated at the infamous Nuerenberg Trials in Germany.

Cadet Nurse Corps at Valley City's Mercy Hospital

In June of 1943, Congress approved the Bolton Nurse Training Act which aimed to address the nursing shortage. The Act had two parts: the first was to pay nursing schools to improve/accelerate nursing training and secondly, to pay nursing students to take nurses training. Those entering the program had to pledge to potentially serve in the military or as a civilian nurse until the end of the war. In August of 1943, Mercy Hospital had already filed an application to take part in the inaugural program. According to the article in the Valley City Times-Record, cadet nurses would: receive a monthly stipend; scholarships that would cover tuition and fees; senior cadet nurses would be given the opportunity to be assigned to special training; they would receive recognition as a valued war-worker; and for those en-

rolled as cadet nurses at least 90 days before the end of the war, the continuation of federal aid to complete their training. Not listed in the article, is the fact that cadet nurses would be provided with uniforms (a gray and white seersucker summer uniform and a gray wool winter uniform. Both complete with hats, insignia, and patches) Mercy Hospital graduated a total of 58 Cadet Nurses spanning from 1944 to 1948 and had only one cadet nurse, Helen Moffatt Halle (Class of 1944), join the military (as an army nurse).

(Right) Mercy Hospital Class of 1947



A Barnes County Museum display honors the local nurses who served during both World Wars.

Valley City State Teachers College Hosts Women in Training

Valley City State Teachers College (VCSTC), like many colleges during WWII, was a hub for wartime activity. Many of its Alumni found themselves in service to our country or in a war-time job, and many of its students found themselves taking war jobs when they weren't in school. As for the women who joined the military, college-educated women were attractive prospects and the target of recruiters. The college found themselves as host to Mercy Hospital student nurses while they took science classes. Due to the V-12 program, a handful of women trained as Naval Civilian stenographers. These women, after training, were sent off to Washington D.C. to work with the Navy Department. Also, because of the V-12 program, Navy WAVES were stationed at the college to take over clerk-typist duties. These WAVES were originally stationed at Wahpeton State School of Science and when the Navy School was decommissioned, they went to other V-12 units throughout the state. Four were sent to VCSTC to "handle payroll and supply accounts, as well as other navy program connected expenses." There were a



handful of servicewomen who attended VCSTC after the war on the GI Bill.

Total Count of Valley City State Teachers College Grads/Attendees in wartime service:

24 WACS, 36 WAVES; 4 USMC Women's Reserves; 6 US Coast Guard SPARS; 6 Army Nurses;
7 American Red Cross Workers; 14 Cadet Nurses; 14 Government Girls; 62 Rosie the Riveters;
15 Homefront Misc (other war jobs); 2 USO Works

191 Total (total includes women who attended/graduated from the college before or around 1940s;
VCSTC teachers who served/worked; Servicewomen who attended VCSTC on GI Bill)



Elizabeth Haagensen Gates (left), originally from Jamestown, ND, attended the Valley City State Teachers College, graduating in 1935. In 1942, she was one of the first three North Dakota women to enlist in the WAAC (Women's Auxiliary Army Corps). After finishing her basic training at Fort Des Moines, IA, she was assigned to the staff of Oveta Culp Hobby at WAAC headquarters in Washington D.C. She was one of the first 16 women in US Army history to attend the famous Army Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Upon graduating from the Command and General Staff School, she was assigned to the staff of General H.H. Arnold, Army Air Forces chief, in Washington D.C. as an Intelligence Briefer. In this role, she was part of a fact-finding group responsible for getting up-to-date information enemy positions/advancements and reporting them to General's Kenney and Arnold, as well as the President. This allowed her to travel back and forth between the European and Pacific theaters of war. Honorably Discharged from service in 1945.



Rella Sanden Miller (left) was originally from Wyndemere, ND. She graduated from Valley City State Teachers College in 1935. She enlisted in the Navy WAVES at Minneapolis, MN on October 8th, 1942; She served as a procurement/recruitment officer in Iowa. Upon completion of her recruiting duty, she was transferred to Lake Union Naval Training School in Seattle, Washington, where she served as a mathematics instructor. It was during this time, she became the first WAVE Chief Petty Officer on the Pacific Coast. Honorably discharged from service at Seattle, WA on September 17th, 1945, with the rank of SPC.

Colonel Gilman Mudgett, Granddaddy of the WAC

Gilman Mudgett (right) was a native of Valley City, ND. He was a cavalry officer with twenty years of experience in the regular army when in early 1942, he was called in for a special job in Washington D.C. From January to May of 1942, he was assigned as a pre-planner for the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps. His role was to establish and guide the corps. When planning had slowed down, he was given strict orders "to build a fire under WAAC planning." He was not awarded a medal or any award for his work, but he was given the honorary title of "Granddaddy of the WAC."



Singer Peggy Lee

Originally from Wimbledon (Barnes County, ND), Norma Deloris Egstrom - aka Peggy Lee - got her big break singing at KOVC in Valley City. This led to other singing jobs that eventually landed her with a gig singing with Benny Goodman and his orchestra from 1941 to 1943. They performed at various military camps and bases all over the United States as part of the USO tours. Her ensuing fame as a singer (coined by Tony Bennet as 'the female Frank Sinatra'), song writer, and actress didn't stop her from flying out of Hollywood for a one-night guest performance in Jamestown, ND, for the first reunion of the North Dakota 164th Infantry following the war.

WWII Women in Agriculture

As men went off to fight or work in defense industries, women found themselves filling the shoes of men – in male-dominated jobs in factories and other jobs including agriculture. In some states, the Women's land army was used to combat the shortage of labor in the fields. However, in North Dakota, the Women's Land Army never took hold, but for a very good reason. It was common in North Dakota to see women helping on the farm even before the war– whether they helped with the harvest by driving tractor or truck or helping to shock wheat. During WWII, with a shortage of labor, women took to the fields in even larger numbers. These women weren't just the women living on farms, it also included women holding down jobs and living in the city. They had many nicknames – shockerettes, farmerettes, kernels. Despite the nicknames and the attention, they received in the media, these women were just trying to help in the war effort.



A Barnes County Museum display honors the local women's homefront efforts in agriculture.

Rose Busche

In September of 1943, the men of Company C of the 817th Tank Destroyer Battalion were stationed in the Valley City area to help with the harvest. They held a contest to choose the nation's first Wheat Queen. Their choice was Rose Busche (shown left accepting the Wheat Queen trophy), an aircraft factory worker, who recently returned to the city. She was dressed in an outfit and crown made of wheat. Rose Busche, later, would go on to take training at VC-STC with the V-12 unit as a naval civilian stenographer. She, along with her sister, worked as clerk-typists for the Navy Department in Washington D.C.

Valley City Times Record newspaper - September 7, 1943

Rose Busche of VC is Crowned Wheat Queen

The nation's first wheat queen was crowned here Saturday night when the gala event was performed by the men of Company C of the 817th Tank Destroyer Battalion stationed here. From a bevy of 14 beauties Miss Rose Busche of Valley City was chosen the outstanding one by the men of the company to be crowned.

Following the crowning ceremony the queen was escorted to the dance floor of the auditorium by Col. Canlett and Sgt. Powers and she was introduced to the guests present.

Miss Rose Busche is the daughter of Mrs. Mildred Busche. Miss Busche who had been working in an air-craft factory at Burbank, Calif., recently returned to the city. She also has two sisters who are employed in aircraft factories and has two brothers who are with the armed forces. One of her brothers, Melvin G. Busche was killed in action early this year.



Community Comes Together to Aid the War Efforts Abroad



HISTORIC CANNONS FROM THREE WARS - METAL SALVAGE DRIVE. July 17, 1942.

Valley City Cannons to Become Scrap Iron for Uncle Sam

Valley City Times-Record, July 18, 1942 - Valley City made an unusual contribution to the scrap iron effort by turning over its three historic cannons to the Barnes County salvage committee. Lined up in front of the Armory above are the three relics, along with (representatives of) sponsoring organizations, the W. R. C. (Women's Relief Corps), American Legion, city and park officials, Company F and the city band. Commanding officers of the Home Guard in the foreground are Sgt. Hubert Embertson, Second Lieutenant John Ward, Captain Thomas Brown and First Lieutenant Amos Rood. A Spanish American gun is at the left, a Civil War cannon in the center and a captured German gun of the First World War at the right.

Mrs. Nix and Mrs. Clark 'In Scrap' By Salvaging 39 Old Cannon Balls

Valley City Times-Record, October 16, 1942 - The admonition to "Get in the Scrap to beat the Jap" was taken to mean just what it said by two patriotic members of the Women's Relief Corps, Mrs. Herman Nix and Mrs. Louis Clark. John S. Dumser, commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, issued an order to gather in the cannons and cannon balls to be used for scrap, for he said - "This may be our last shot for victory."

In compliance with this order, Mrs. Nix and Mrs. Clark armed themselves with a couple of crowbars and drove out to the G.A.R. plot in Woodbine cemetery in a truck and loaded it with 39 cannon balls. The balls were set in cement and were in the ground to a considerable depth and it was no easy task to get them out. Each ball weighed 50 pounds. They made two trips to the junk dealer, sold the balls, and the money will be used in the war effort.

The "Boys in Blue" would be very proud of these loyal W.R.C. members who cheerfully accepted a hard, manual job.



Valley City Mill Gets War Contract

The Ward County Independent, August 12, 1943 - Henry Bjerke, manager of the Russell-Miller company, recently received word that the mill has been awarded a war contract calling for the manufacture of 3,300 tons of granalko grits. The entire facilities of the mill will be converted to the manufacture of the grits, starting immediately. It is expected the order will be filled in two or three months.

Fulfillment of the contract will require 185,000 bushels of wheat. It is purchased from the Commodity Credit Corporation at rates set by the government. The product turned out by the mill will be shipped to distilleries in the east where it will be converted into alcohol which will be used in the manufacture of synthetic rubber and high explosives.



Telephone Girls Do Their Bit

Valley City Times-Record, October 10, 1943

- These smiling farmerettes are operators in the Bell Telephone office in Valley City and did their bit by assisting in the shocking this fall. The camera man caught them in action in a field near Valley City. Left to right are Charlotte Bauder, Iva Dell Brush, Delores Brown, Peggy Heiling and Alice Lee McQueen. The picture also made the October front page cover of The Northwestern Bell monthly telephone magazine.



War Bond Patriots

Valley City Times-Record, July 7, 1942 - Hail to the Valley City Commandos, the Valley City employers and employees who cooperated 100 percent in staging the 'Retailers For Victory' campaign here Wednesday. The parade was exceptionally fine. Nearly ten blocks long, the marchers paraded gaily through the streets with flags flying and slogans telling their own story. This is the spirit which wins wars. Valley City staged a similar parade for the NRA back in Roosevelt' first administration and both were remarkable for the fine participation.





The Sisters of Mary of the Presentation are Religious Sisters who first came together to serve the people who had suffered persecution after the French Revolution. They are an International Religious Community founded in 1828 in Broons, France.

At the beginning of the 20th Century, due to religious persecution, many of the Sisters were forced to leave France. The Sisters went to Belgium, Canada, Guernsey, and the United States. In 1903, several Sisters settled in Wild Rice, ND and began a primary school. That same year, several Sisters settled in Spring Valley, Illinois and opened a hospital. They would soon spread out through other communities in North Dakota, including Valley City.

1939 WWII

In 1939, France and all Europe braced for war. Hitler had invaded Vienna, Slovakia, Austria, Hungary, Poland, and the Czech Republic. Portions of the Motherhouse were occupied by the French army, and a wing of the Motherhouse was converted into a military hospital. The role of the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation during World War II was to be very different than in the last world war. Almost at the outset, the Sisters all across Europe found themselves subject to Nazi occupation. Under the close scrutiny of the Nazis the Sisters carried out acts of service in whatever situation they found themselves.

1940 Germans Advance

In May 1940 Germany invaded Holland and Belgium forcing those countries to surrender. In spite of the danger, the Sisters' stayed at their clinic in Belgium to care for the sick and wounded. On May 17, 1940 the French army began to retreat as the German army overran Northern France. SMP History Volume IV – "It was the downfall with all its horrors. Throughout all parts of France soldiers retreated in confusion, under gunshots and shrapnel. As the German armies marched in to take over, they forced the people in the area around Paris to flee, causing great confusion and panic. Our Sisters in Amiens, Beauvais, and Offemont went through a perilous exodus."

1940 Motherhouse Occupied

At the Motherhouse, 150 refugees were given shelter, and soon after the wounded began to arrive. Food became scarce as the occupation forces cut off supplies lines and confiscated goods. On June 19, 1940 German soldiers arrived announcing that they would be taking possession of the "hospital" the following day. The Sisters flew into action hiding supplies and furnishings they thought the Germans would take. A section of the Motherhouse was occupied by Nazi officers, including the greatly feared S. S. German Military Police. The officers parked military vehicles on the lawn and stacked ammunition in the storehouse. The German soldiers brought wounded prisoners to the Sisters which they cared for along with the remaining wounded French soldiers. Despite the fear and disruption, the Sisters continued the liturgical year as they were able and occasionally the German soldiers would join in the religious celebrations. Later that year, the S.S. officers demanded occupation of the entire Motherhouse. Despite knowing full well what often happens to people who resist the S.S., Mother Marie Bastile refused. The S.S. officers argued with Mother Marie Bastile but, after a much heated dialogue, the S.S. relented.

1940 Prisoners of War

In April, 1941, seven Sisters of Mary of the Presentation (U.S.) were arrested by the Nazis because they were from an Allied country, and held captive in Vittel, France. The internment center was a group of hotels which had been confiscated by the Nazis. The whole area was encircled with fences of barbed wire and patrolled by guards. They were housed along with Sisters from 150 different religious orders. While in captivity, the Sisters continued in prayer and celebration as best they could. After nearly two years, they were released as part of a prisoner exchange. In December, 1940 Nazi officers arrested four SMP Sisters (3 Canadian, 1 British). The Sisters were held at the notorious Vauban Fortress (Frontstalag 142) female internment camp in Besançon, France. At the camp they endured starvation, along with thousands of other women, including 600 women religious. Due to poor sanitation and starvation, 30%

of the captives at Vauban Fortress lost their lives. The Sisters set up a chapel and acted as nurses to their fellow captives. After four months they were transferred to internment centers with better living conditions. All four Sisters survived, though one of the Sisters was clinging to life. It took months for her to regain her strength. The Canadian Sisters were soon released, however the British Sister would be held at another internment center until October, 1943.

1940 Evacuation of Guernsey

On the Island of Guernsey, the government announced that, cut off from supply lines, the island had only six months of provisions. The decision was made to evacuate the children to England. A few of the Sisters were given charge of evacuating the students under their care. The evacuation of the island was done so hastily that accommodations in England had not been secured. Generous families took the refugees in temporarily, but these arrangements were precarious. The Sisters fought for and secured two buildings large enough to house their students. These would be the only Sisters of Mary of the Presentation in Europe to be outside of German occupation during the war.

1940 Occupation of Guernsey

In 1940, shortly after the students were evacuated, the German army occupied Guernsey. The Sisters who stayed at the convent hid their possessions knowing that the Nazis would seize any supplies or valuable furnishings. To prevent the house from being confiscated the Sisters and government of Guernsey turned the convent to a retirement home, hoping the Nazis would think twice before evicting the elderly. The plan worked for a time but in 1942 Nazi seized the convent. The Sisters found housing for their former patients with another convent, while the Sisters themselves took up residence in a building in the farmyard. The Sisters lived under the threat of deportation, Hitler had ordered that everyone not born on the Channel Islands was to be imprisoned in German camps. This order was not carried out fully and yet 2,300 civilians were deported to Germany during the war. On the Sisters' property surrounding the convent eight bunkers were built housing four enormous cannons pointing at the ocean in preparation for an Allied invasion that never came. With no supplies coming to the island, food became scarce. The German soldiers stole from the locals, when this was running dry they planted gardens, breaking up floors and furniture to make fire to cook their meager meals. The situation was so dire that near the end of the war the German soldiers stationed on Guernsey raided France in search of food. In the end, everyone was starving, soldiers and locals alike.

1942 Caring for War Refugees

In 1942, the strain on the Motherhouse's resources increased when the Sisters took in all the students from a nearby boarding school whose property had been confiscated by the Nazis. In June of 1944, the Sisters in Caen, France fed and sheltered refugees and emergency worker volunteers. In that month 70% of the city was destroyed. Sisters in Champigny, France fled with other refugees to Correze, hiding in grain bins and sheds along the way. Once there, they offered their time at a orphanage. Sisters in Maasmechelen, Belgium found themselves suddenly overrun with refugees seeking shelter and medical care. With the help of the Red Cross and Allied soldiers, the Sisters provided food, shelter, and treatment until the refugees were able to return home.

1944 Bombardment of St. Malo

In 1944, the Sisters in St. Malo, France took shelter in cellars. The city above was a mass of ruins. In the cellars, the Sisters prepared meals for over 300 refugees sheltering with them. Of the 865 buildings in St. Malo, only 182 were still standing when the Allies took the city in August, 1944. Mother St. Maxine writes, "Cries of distress and ominous sounds could be heard when the bombs fell on their designated target. To keep up the morale of the people here at the moment was our most urgent act of mercy."

1944 Liberation of Guernsey

On the island of Guernsey the Germans surrendered peaceably when the Allies troops landed. Before the German soldiers were returned to Germany by the Allies, as prisoners of war they were instructed to clean out the convent of all they used. Nonetheless, when the Sisters again took possession they found it in an unbelievable state. They viewed their hardships as little compared to the joy of peace restored. Very soon, the Sisters received back their elderly residents. From then on, the Sisters in Guernsey de-

voted themselves to the new ministry of caring for the elderly.

1944 The Motherhouse Reclaimed

In August 1944, the Allies landed on the coast of Northwest France. The German soldiers left the Motherhouse the day before the Allies arrived. The Sisters immediately returned the Motherhouse to being a fully functioning hospital and began treating wounded citizens and soldiers.

1944-1945 End of WWII

SMP History Volume IV – “On August 3, machine guns crackled over our heads; the Germans blew up bridges and public buildings, railway stations, post offices... The next day the American troops with help from the French Resistance marched into the city, everyone was decked out in the colors of the flags of the French, Americans, English. There was an explosive ovation from the crowd.” On January 1947, Mother Marie Basile was awarded the Bronze Metal of Recognition by the French Ministry of the Interior for extraordinary service in the face of suffering and sickness during the war. Upon receiving the award Mother Marie said, “Whenever a need arises that requires care, the community and the Sisters will always be at your disposal.” SMP History Volume IV – “With the end of hostilities came the return of all those snatched from their families and their country, to be reunited to their loved ones. The liberation of victims from the concentration camps provoked unbelievable shock. People were made aware of what “deportation” really meant. The second World War had been a disaster both on the human and material side with its crimes against humanity and its consequences.”

The Sisters of Mary of the Presentation continued to grow and flourish in Europe and North America. In the 1950’s the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation started five missions in Cameroon, Africa where the Sisters provide education and healthcare to the poor. In the United States, the Sisters expanded their health care ministry over the years – eventually growing into SMP Health, consisting of four hospitals and five nursing homes.

In 1965 the Sisters constructed Maryvale, the U.S. Regional House of Sisters of Mary of the Presentation. Maryvale is located near Valley City, North Dakota. At Maryvale, the Sisters provide retirement care for their elderly and host spiritual retreats.

In 2022, the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation gifted Maryvale for continued use as a retreat center to a new non-profit entity incorporated under the umbrella of the Diocese of Fargo. With the gifting of Maryvale, and the additional gift of an endowment, The Sisters of Mary of the Presentation have assured that Maryvale is positioned to continue to serve as a place of rest and spiritual reflection far into the future.

The Sisters of Mary of the Presentation Retreat Center near Valley City, ND



Valley City Sculptor's Gift a Focal Point for Norway's World War II Anti-Nazi Protests

“On April 9, 1940, Germany invaded Norway and set up an occupational government, first by Nazi officials from Germany and later by a puppet regime made up of Norwegian Nazi collaborators. Despite many executions and other severe repercussions for noncompliance, many Norwegians continued to resist the Nazi dictates.

“During Germany’s occupation of Norway in World War II, the Lincoln bust, (in Oslo’s Frogner Park), became the site of silent anti-Nazi protests. Each July 4, beginning in 1940 and until the war ended in 1945, Norwegians turned out by the thousands to gather around the statue with their heads bowed in silence.”

The bust along with the inscription of Lincoln’s words in his Gettysburg Address, “Government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth,” served as an inspiration for the oppressed Norwegians. Lincoln’s bust was a gift from the citizens of North Dakota, and it was presented to Norway on July 4, 1914. It was given to mark the 100-year celebration of Norway’s independence from Denmark.” (From the February 6, 2021 Fargo Forum’s columnist Curt Eriksmoen.)

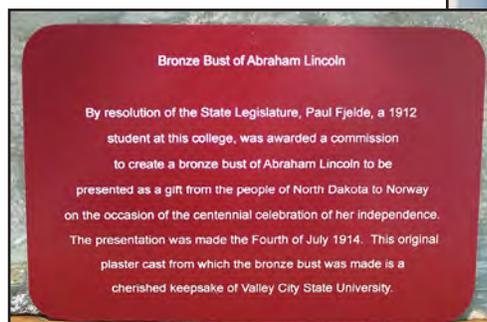
The sculptor, Paul Fjelde, chosen for this honor had Valley City ties, spending part of his young life helping his widowed mother who moved there with her four children to run a boarding house. When Paul’s artistic talents emerged (not a surprise as his father, Jacob Fjelde, was an acclaimed sculptor before his untimely death), he was enrolled in the State Teachers College (now Valley City State University) for a time before moving to Chicago to work in Lorado Taft’s studio at the Chicago Arts Institute for five years. North Dakota gave a young Fjelde his first commission, that of making a bust of Lincoln to be presented to Norway. N.D. Governor Hanna took the finished bust to Norway and made the presentation in Oslo.

Paul Fjelde made a replica of the Lincoln bust and donated it to the State Teachers College; it now resides on a pedestal in VCSU’s Allen Library against a backdrop of windows and sky. Fjelde returned to Valley City in 1914 and continued with commissions for a time before continuing his art studies in Copenhagen and Paris. He would become a professor of art at Pratt Institute in New York. Fjelde was the first recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award at VCSU.

Still today, on the Fourth of July, Norwegians gather around Fjelde’s bust of Lincoln to reflect on what the statue symbolized during the dark days of World War II.

It is the only statue in Frogner Park created by an American sculptor.

(Right) The replica of Norway’s gift from North Dakota, a bust of Abraham Lincoln by alumnus Paul Fjelde, is still on display at Valley City State University.



Valley City Veterans Memorial Park Honors Our Local Veterans of War Campaigns

The Veterans Memorial Park was dedicated in the summer of 2004 after more than a year of planning and moving and building. The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) bought the land located in the center of Valley City along Central and Main from the BNSF railroad when the tracks through town were removed. The memorial monuments from the City Auditorium were moved to the park at that time. One memorial has the names of those local heroes who died in action during the Spanish American War, World War I, and the Korean and Vietnam Conflicts; the other memorial (shown right) has the names of those who died serving their country during World War II. Lights have been placed to shine on the American, state and POW flags, and there are two howitzer guns, donated by the National Guard, out front. There is also a 3,000-lb. anchor, a USAF rocket, and a 104C jet airplane mounted on a pedestal. A picnic shelter is available for visitors.

The park is used for many special occasions and has in the past hosted summer concerts by the 188th Army Band of the North Dakota National Guard.

