



A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS

SECOND SECTION



First North Dakota woman parachutist

Barbara Richau, Golden Valley

By KATE JOHNSON

A roof over her head, food in her tummy, and clothes on her back. These are reasons Barbara Richau, Golden Valley, said joining up with the United States military wasn't such a bad deal.

After Barbara graduated high school she was unsure of what she wanted to do next. All she knew for certain was that she didn't want to be in school anymore.

She thought the next best option was to sign up for the military. Out of the options they had at the time, Barbara knew she wanted to be able to pick the job she was going to do — which wasn't something every sign-up sheet offered. Having never even flown in a plane before Barbara signed her name under "parachute rigger."

In 1974 she entered into parachute rigger training.

"I had never flown in a plane until I went to basic training. Now I'm going to jump out of them," she said with a laugh at the memory.

After already going through physical training she entered into jump school training, for which she was sent to Fort Benning, Ga.

"It was dark when I first arrived at Fort Benning. There were flashing red lights coming from the 250 parachute tower and I thought to myself, 'What the hell did I get myself into?'" Barbara said with a laugh.

The tower with flashing red lights was what hoisted Barbara and the other parachute riggers in training up in their open parachutes. Once they reached the top they would be released and learned how to control the parachute to get to the bottom.

However, that isn't what they started their training with. Everywhere they went at jump school they ran. The first part of jump school was learning how to exit the planes properly. There was a 34 ft. mock-up tower that they were hooked to by a harness, with which they would exit the mock up.

The second week was tower week, when they were hoisted up 250 ft. with an open parachute. Three of them could hang at the top together, waiting for it to be released.

The heights didn't seem to bother

Barbara and her other squad mates — as they dangled from their parachutes, Barbara said they would visit and laugh as they waited for their open chute to be released.

Barbara had never stepped on a plane before, let alone dangle 250 feet from the ground. However, she said she wasn't scared and never let any fear have control.

"The fear was always there -- you gave it a lot of respect, but it never came to the forefront," said Barbara.

Once they were released, their officer would be instructing them from the ground on what to do.

The third phase of training was jumping out of an airplane to fully become "airborne." Anyone who was not airborne was referred to as a "leg," which Barbara said no one wanted to be a "grimy leg."

On her and her squad's first trip up, their officers told them they would fall asleep. She said they didn't believe them and thought there wasn't a chance they would fall unconscious while anticipating the jump out of an airplane. But sure enough, they did, due to exhaustion from what they had gone through in training up until that point.

Once they reached the desired altitude, the officer asked for a volunteer. Barbara said she realized quickly that you don't volunteer for anything; however, she said the words "I'll go," and stepped toward the door.

With adrenaline coursing through her veins, the door opened. And just as she was about to let herself fall out of her very first plane her officer stopped her. She was unsure why, but this meant she had to psych herself up again for the next time.

Barbara was the first North Dakota military woman to jump out of a plane and be a parachutist.

Barbara said she will never forget that feeling of exiting a plane, and how the best jumps were the ones she would walk right off the back end of the plane.

However, there were times where she would have to exit the plane through the door on the side of the aircraft, which she said felt like it was sucking you out.

Once they completed five jumps they were no longer called a "leg" and were officially "airborne."



BARBARA RICHAU

Barbara Richau, Golden Valley, served as a parachute rigger from 1974-1976.

After completing jump school, she was then sent to rigger school — which was learning how to repair, inspect, and patch parachutes. These weren't just parachutes soldiers wore, these were parachutes used to drop rations, jeeps, and any other items they needed in areas where ground access wasn't an option.

Barbara said some of the parachutes weighed up to 400 pounds. On parachutes that large there would have to be a squad of riggers used to inspect them. Barbara's main job was initial inspection and final inspection. She inspected the parachutes for any holes or tears, which, if she did find anything wrong with the chute, it would be sent off for repair. Once the chute went through repair, she would inspect it again before it went out the door.

Barbara had a large lighted table she rolled the parachutes out onto, hooking the top corner to one side and stretching it out to hook the bottom end to the other. The parachutes were made out of nylon, which she said if they rubbed together at all they would burn.

To pack them they would fold the sections together and make sure there was air in there so that when it was released from the bag it came out smoothly.



Barbara Richau was the first North Dakota woman to jump out of an airplane and become "airborne." She said these were posed pictures which they could make whatever face they wanted to.

Barbara spent 17 months at Fort Bragg, N.C., a place that would be the home to many cherished memories and friends who left lasting impressions.

One her ninth jump, Barbara severely sprained her ankle.

"I didn't know you could see stars in broad daylight," she said.

They had been taught that when they get close the ground they tuck their elbows and fall onto the soft part of your body, which is your side. It was this jump that brought Barbara's fear to the forefront, which shook her enough to fear the jumps.

After two years as a parachute rigger, Barbara was ready for something different. She headed back to North Dakota, which took three days because of a blizzard. She enrolled in university using the GI Bill and gained her Class A driver's license, then worked for Dakota Westmoreland until she retired.

Barbara still refers to those days as some of the best of her life.

"I was 18 years old. I was being taken care of, I had food, I had clothes, I had a roof, steady work — it was pretty good," she said.

If given the chance, she said she would do it all again in a heartbeat.



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LARRY FAST

Larry Fast served in the Army as a Spec 5 Air Craft Mechanic from 1967 to 1969. He served 1 year in the Vietnam War.



TROY FAST

Troy Fast; Lance Corporal Infantry served in the Marine Corp. from 1991-1995. He was based in Hawaii and Okinawa, Japan



WILBERT HARSCH

Wilbert Harsch served in the US Army from 1963 to 1965 and National Guard in 1976 E4; Headquarters and Headquarters Battery 14th Artillery at Furth, Germany



LAUREN TANDBERG

Lauren Tandberg, former AVS employee, served in Vietnam 1969-1970 with the 11th Armored Cavalry, Blackhorse.



LEWIS VIGEN JR.

Petty Officer 1st Class Lewis Cody Vigen Jr. served from May 1999 to July 2009. Nuclear Physicist :Submarines, SS BN 735-USS Pennsylvania.



SOLOMON C DRATH

Solomon C Drath, Korean War 50-52 Served with 123rd Infantry, 2nd Indian head Division. He received the Service Combat Medal with 4 bronze stars and the United Nations Service Medal.



Colonel James Olson was recently named 68th Troop Command commander.

Olson named Troop Commander

Soldiers of the Bismarck-based 68th Troop Command welcomed a new commander to the unit Sept. 17 during a change of command ceremony at the Raymond J. Bohn Armory.

Col. James Olson assumed duties as the 68th Troop Command commander from Col. Scott Fontaine, who has served in the position since 2015. Fontaine retired after more than 28 years of service with the North Dakota Army National Guard.

Olson enlisted in the North Dakota Guard in 1986. He was commissioned through the Reserve Officer Training Corps at North Dakota State University and has served in several leadership roles as an engineer officer in the 142nd Engineer Battalion. His most recent assignments include deputy commander of the 141st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade and commander of the 136th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion.

Olson has deployed for overseas missions three times. In 2000, he served in support of Operation Joint Guardian in Kosovo as a general construction platoon leader with the 142nd Engineer Battalion. He again served overseas with the unit in 2003 in Iraq as the battalion plans officer in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Olson returned to Kosovo in 2009 for a peacekeeping mission there as the future operations officer for Multinational Task Force East.

Olson said his vision as 68th Troop Command commander is making sure the organization allows soldiers to get necessary training and be positioned within the National Guard to be successful.

Olson holds a bachelor of science in business administration degree from North Dakota State University, a master of business administration from the University of Mary and is a 2016 graduate of U.S. Army War College with a degree in strategic studies.

A native of Turtle Lake, Olson lives in Bismarck with his wife, Kathryn. They have two children, Kayla and Jack.



ROBERT NELSON

Robert Nelson – US Navy 1959-1963. US Naval Academy (Annapolis) Graduate 1963. Served US Air Force 1963-1969



WARREN WIEDRICH

Warren Wiedrich served in the US Navy from 1986 to 1992.



MASON WIEDRICH

Mason Wiedrich is serving in the US Air Force. He joined in 2016 to Present



WAYNE DELABARRE

Wayne DeLaBarre served in the Army as a Spec 4 in the Supply Unit from 1967 to 1969. He served 1 year in the Vietnam War.



LONNIE DELABARRE

Lonnie DeLaBarre served in the Army as a Spec 4 in the Supply Unit from 1965 to 1967. He served 1 year in the Vietnam War.



ROLLAND DELABARRE

Rolland DeLaBarre served in the Army. Rolland served in WWII. 1942 captured by Japanese 6 weeks after being deployed; prisoner until end of war.

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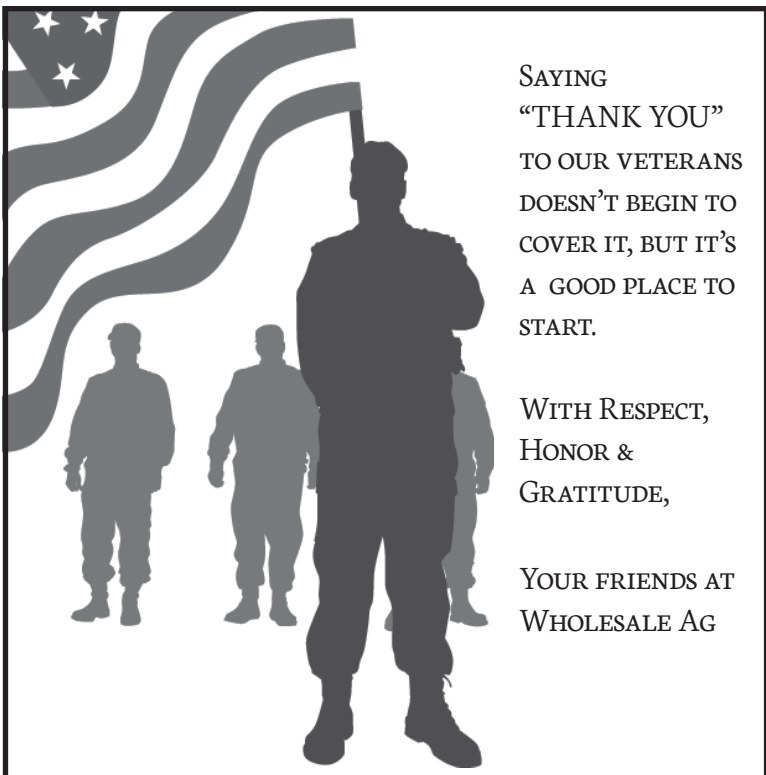
Faces from the First War

By DANIEL ARENS

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Although World War I seems like a distant past, it holds a prominent place in our nation's history. The armistice that ended that war is commemorated every Nov. 11 with the celebration of Veteran's Day.

One hundred years ago, the first great and devastating European war of the 20th century raged across the Atlantic, and by the start of 1917 the United States was also being drawn into the conflict.

This special BHG Newspaper tab, released each year around Veteran's Day, honors the 100th anniversary of American involvement in the war in 1917. And it also honors the 99th anniversary of the peace that ended that conflict: the Armistice of 1918, signed Nov. 11.

Rural Mercer County in North Dakota was not aloof from the global war that spanned the world at that time. And, although none of these early North Dakota veterans are still alive, members of some of their families still living in the area can share their reminiscences of those before them who served their county in the Great War.

Although the United States was only involved in the war for about a year, roughly 4.7 million soldiers from the nation served in that war effort (according to <http://www.scottmanning.com/content/world-war-i-troop-statistics/>). Among the Mercer County natives who found themselves suddenly overseas in this effort were Albin Alderin and Ludwig Gutknecht.

Alderin was a native of Deapolis, an old town (that no longer exists) just to the east of Stanton. His great-nephew Gerald Alderin recalled his own memories of Albin's service.

"He told us kids a lot of stuff," Gerald recalled. "He was basically our primary babysitter at that point in life."

Albin served in the Meuse-Argonne offensive during his time overseas. "He got gassed over in Ardennes, and his health never was quite right after that," Gerald said.

Inducted into the United States Army on May 25, 1918 in Stanton, Albin served with various companies throughout his near-year in the war service. He was discharged on April 17 of 1919 as a private from Camp Dodge in Iowa.

It's not only memories that Gerald carries with him of his great-uncle. In his house east of Stanton, Gerald has collected a variety of memorabilia from American history, including many personal items from family members who served.

Among Gerald's possessions is the uniform that Albin wore while he was in the service. Complete with his medical kit and gas mask, this historical treasure provides a full look at what a World War I Army uniform looked like.

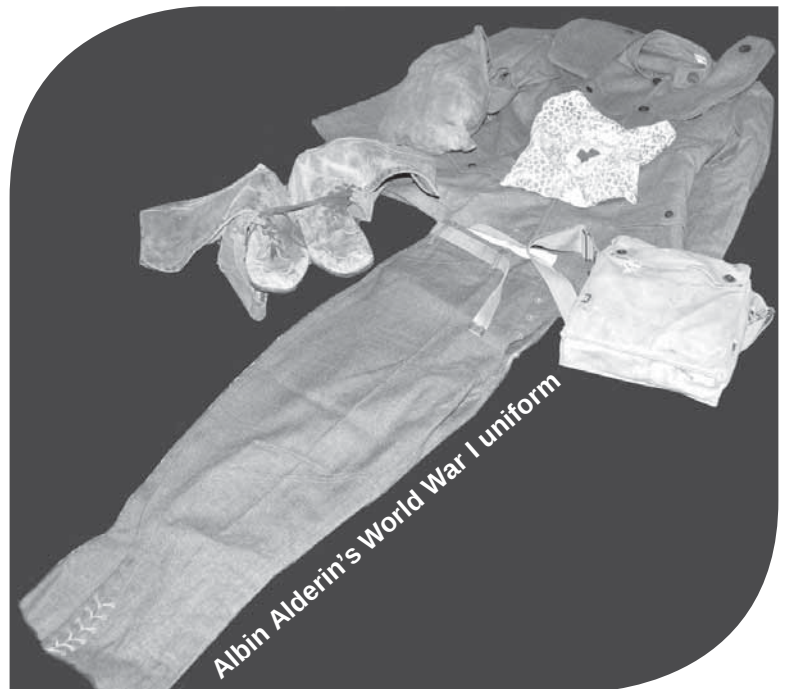
Besides the uniform, Gerald also holds several pins that Albin wore from the service. Albin's old gun-powder case is labeled "Verdun" after the famous battle.

Gerald said that Dave Danielson was another World War I veteran who lived with his family while he was growing up. According to a "Remember When" photo in the Hazen Star, Dave and his brother Adolph fought in Verdun, one of the most famous locations from the war.

Like Albin, Dave served in the U.S. Army, while Adolph was in the Marines. Dave was inducted on Sept. 18 of 1917, serving overseas



Deapolis farm boys and brothers Adolf, left, and Dave Danielson return home from fighting at Verdun, France, during World War I. Adolf served in the US Marine Corps and Dave served in the US Army. With the Danielsons is their "booty"; a rifle, artillery casings, German helmet and other remembrances. Photo submitted by Joan (Alderin) Suess, Jackson, Calif.



from August 1918 to March 1919. Also like Albin, Dave was discharged from Camp Dodge.

Adolph, on the other hand, joined the U.S. Marine Corps, enlisting with U.S. Navy in Minneapolis, Minn. in March of 1918. He was released from active duty in New York City in early January of 1919, and was discharged on Sept. 30, 1921.

Many other local residents served 100 years ago in the Great War, including a Hazen resident, Ludwig Gutknecht. To his nephew Melvin, Ludwig was always "Louis".

Melvin (or Mel) noted that Louis was not born in the United States, but hailed originally from Russia. Ludwig was born in the town of Arzis, although he had moved to the U.S. by the time of the First World War.

"As far as I know, he lived in Hazen his entire life after that," Mel said.

Like Albin and Dave Danielson, he received his induction in Stanton and was initially sent to (and later discharged from) Camp Dodge. Unlike Albin and the Danielson brothers, Louis was not a farmer, but worked as a stationary engineer.

"There was a flour mill out by Krem," Mel recalled. "Louis was in charge of the mill." Krem was one of several small towns in Mercer County that is now long gone; Krem itself was located north of Hazen.

One of Mel's memories of his uncle was helping to dig the basement for his house when he himself was only 12 years old. That meant, in those days, digging by hand.

Mel recalled the bravery needed for Louis and other "Germans from Russia" who came to the area around the turn of the century.

"There was nothing here, you know," he said. "No doctors, no nurses." His own ancestors slept in an overturned wagon during the winter months.

"That would have been darn cold," Mel noted wryly.

This article provides only a brief snapshot into the lives of a few of Mercer County's many World War I veterans. As we consider the bravery and sacrifices of these men, and multiply that to the many other veterans local and throughout our country, we find ourselves overwhelmed in awe and gratitude for their service and courage.

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REMEMBERING OUR VETERANS

Brothers Meet In Vietnam



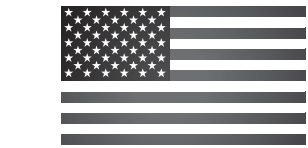
DARYL BYKONEN

Army 1971 & 1972

Vietnam War.... the brothers spent 43 days together in same fire base in Vietnam.

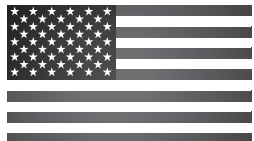
DARREN BYKONEN

U.S. Army 1970 & 1971



EMMANUEL HINSZ

US Army 1918 - 1919



ELDOR W. HINSZ

US Navy 1952 - 1955

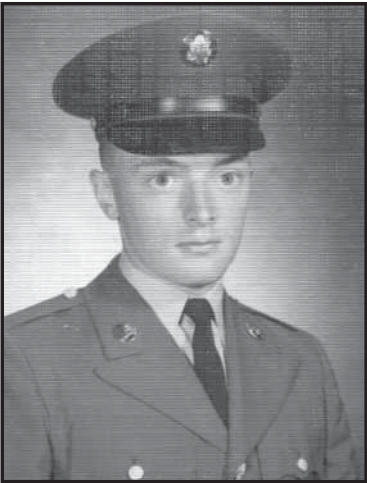


CLIFFORD HINSZ

US Marine Corp. 1955 - 1958

TERRY LEE SPEAR

Terry Lee Spear served from 1969 to 1971. He served in the Vietnam War. Honorable Discharge. Father of Deanna Frantsen.



BOBBY NEUBERGER

Bobby Neuberger served in the US Army: 7th Battalion 8 Artillery and 2nd Field Force. 1968-1969: Served for 427 days (19 months and 1 day in the service, 14 months and one day in Vietnam). Stationed in Bien Hoa, Ben Luc, and Xuan Loc.



MELVIN P. BECKLER

Melvin P. Beckler served in the U.S. Air Force: Active May 31 1955 to Feb. 18 1959; Standby Reserve Feb. 19 1959 to May 30 1963. Air Training Command Airman First Class (E-4). Crew Chief: T-33A Shooting Star Jet Aircraft Trainer.

A hero to nurses and a savior of soldiers

By JOSEPH T. STUART

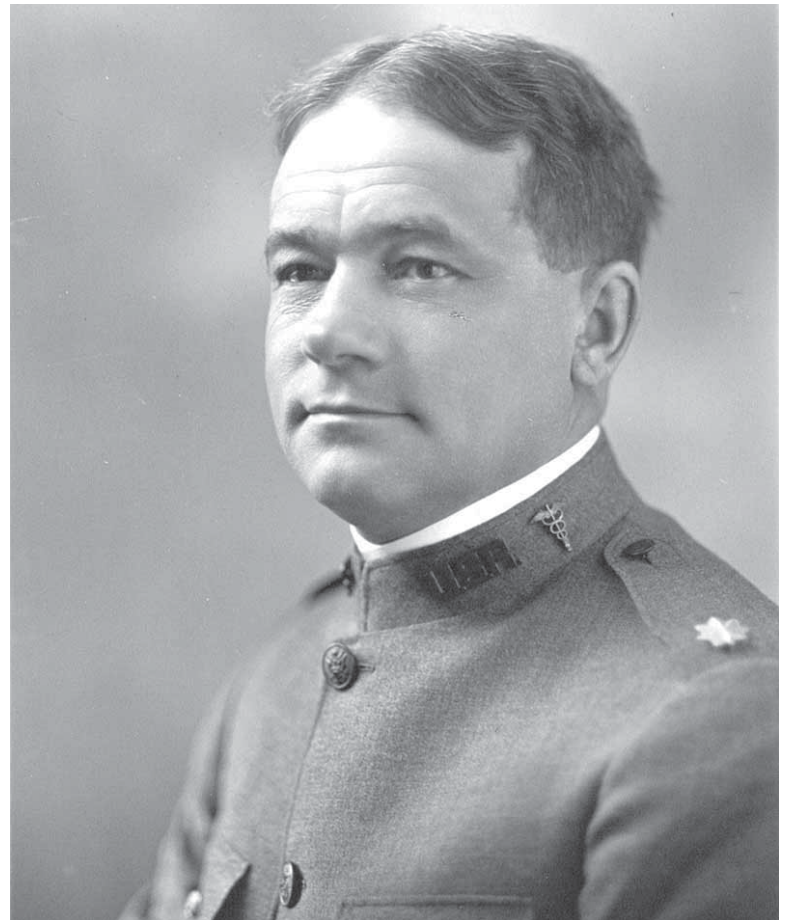
Although the U.S. did not enter the Great War until 1917, a number of Bismarck residents left to serve in the conflict before then, fighting alongside British troops or as nurses with Canadian forces. The story of Dr. E.P. Quain is particularly fascinating because he witnessed both the beginning and the end of the conflict.

A cultured gentleman born in Sweden, Quain arrived in Bismarck in 1899 and three years later started the renowned Quain and Ramstad Clinic – now Sanford Clinic. Some of the North Dakota nurses who served in the war received through Quain’s clinic, said one, “a most wonderful training, one that any nurse would prize.” A nurse from the eastern U.S. told Wanda Dreger, a Bismarck nurse, that “If he is one of your surgeons from your hospital, I am envious of you.”

As soon as the U.S. declared war, Quain went to Washington to offer his services. Returning to Bismarck, he organized a mobile surgical section with volunteer Bismarck nurses under his command and equipped largely by local organizations. Connected to a base hospital in France, Quain – a hero to the nurses – led his unit to the front lines of battle.

One nurse who served with him remembered thousands of patients passing through the hospital and the front so near she could hear the continuous roaring of guns. “Yet there was a feeling of satisfaction to those who flung themselves into the work of binding the wounds and alleviating suffering humanity as nobly as did those nurses,” she wrote.

Three years before, Quain had toured medical clinics throughout Europe and found himself stuck in London as the war broke out in the summer of 1914. In an interview upon finally returning home to Bismarck in September, he told of fellow Americans fleeing the Continent to London to escape the conflict. The Londoners treated the forlorn American travelers with great kindness, opening hotels for



CREDIT: State Historical Society of ND
Dr. Eric Quain as a young physician in 1904 and as a lieutenant colonel in 1917. Quain went on to help found Bismarck’s Quain and Ramstad Clinic, now Sanford.

them. Dr. Quain witnessed the huge crowds of people cheering in the streets at the outbreak of war, unaware of the years of misery ahead.

In his 1914 interview, Quain told the Bismarck Tribune of the high type of civilization achieved by Germany. “Their cities are beautiful, with clean streets, fine buildings, great, airy parks, and their hospital buildings are models. Germany was making wonderful progress industrially, everybody was happy, busy, prosperous. Now, in Germany, and over all Europe, this prosperity has given way to terrible uncertainty, business establishments are ruined, homes are wrecked, thousands and tens of thousands of widows and orphans must appeal to a nation already

strained in every fibre.”

Europe stood at the height of prosperity and global dominance in 1914. The period before the war has been remembered as the Golden Age, the Gilded Age, or the Belle Epoque. It was an era of peace, prosperity, and artistic and technological innovation.

However, the seemingly endless slaughter of the Great War destroyed the faith of Europeans in their own values. It ended an age and Dr. Quain saw it happen – both at the outbreak and at the exhausted end in the Armistice of 1918, as his surgical section worked to clean up the mess.

--- Joseph T. Stuart, Ph.D., is associate professor of history at the University of Mary in Bismarck.

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The footsteps of a brother

Men follow path of Washburn Vietnam veteran

By ALYSSA MEIER

Just shy of fifty years after Washburn veteran Clay Carr was injured in the Vietnam War, his brother and a brother in arms traveled across the globe to the scene of the conflict to retrace the young soldier's steps.

In March 2016, a little less than five years after Clay's death, his brother and a longtime friend packed their bags and took a trip to the other side of the world. Clay's older brother, Ken Carr, and close friend and fellow veteran, Don Kost, decided to visit the country after Clay's death and learn what they could during a week-long adventure.

"We wanted to see where Clay had been, and Don wanted to see how the country had changed since he'd been there," Ken said.

Ken had heard stories of Vietnam from his brother and Don, who served in the army during the war. But what the men found upon arriving was a starkly different scene than the images in their head of a war-torn country.

"I was surprised to see what Vietnam looked like now," Don said. "The cities are like cities in the United States, just prosperous."

But, Ken said, during their journey, the men uncovered ominous reminders hidden in plain sight.

"Our hotel was smack dab in the middle of where Clay was at," Ken said.

Ken said a cafe around the corner from the men's hotel contained photos from around the time of the Tet Offensive, which Clay took part in. When they found out the photographer was on site, the pair asked him about the Military Assistance Command-Vietnam (MACV) compound, which had been referenced in books about the Tet Offensive.

"I asked if he could point out the MACV compound, and he points about a half a block away and there it was," Ken said.

While exploring more of Hue, the men stumbled upon another reminder of Clay's service, right in the midst of a tourist destination.

"The area where they medevaced Clay out was right next to where we took a boat tour," Ken said. "We



A collection of mementos are laid out on wife Elaine Carr's table. Items include the American flag given to Clay's family, books, Clay's uniform cap, his obituary, Clay's two Purple Hearts and rifle expert badge, a Marine Corps recruit guide, a 2010 issue of the Leader-News about Clay raising the flag at Target field, photos and a bound book documents from his service. (Alyssa Meier)

were standing right there."

Vietnam 1967-68

Clay had entered the Marines at 18 years old, just after finishing his freshman year at Dickinson State University. Ken said his brother, who never felt like school was a good fit for him, opted to join the military in June of 1967. Ken said Clay departed for Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton as a lanky boy, but was unrecognizable just several weeks later.

"He went in this tall string bean, 6'3" and 165 pounds. He came back just massive," Ken said. "I always remember his hands. His fingers were just sausages."

Clay was sent to Vietnam in December of 1967, just after his 19th birthday. On Jan. 31, 1968, his platoon moved into Hue as part of the Tet Offensive campaign. Eight days later, Clay was wounded when his grenade pouch was hit during combat, sending shrapnel into his back. Ken said Clay spent three days in the hospital, but was quickly back out on the front lines.

"He talks about it being a minor thing, but I remember the scars on his back -- big chunks of meat missing," Ken said. "But they were so short-handed when Tet Offensive

hit, that if you could walk, you were carrying a rifle."

A few short days after returning to combat, Clay was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade, leaving him critically wounded in both legs. Clay's wife, Elaine Carr of Washburn, said her husband recounted to her the moment just before he was injured.

"He was up in front, and said he could hear the bullets coming up on him from behind," Elaine said. "He told me 'I zigged when I should have zagged,' and down he went."

Clay was medevaced out of Hue and transported to a hospital in Guam before heading back to an Air Force base in California. His family back in North Dakota was notified soon after that Clay was being moved to a Naval hospital in Washington, but then, Ken said, his brother vanished.

"We lost track of him. We didn't know where he was," Ken said.

Ken said the Washington hospital reported that Clay had never arrived, and for two days, the family sat waiting for word of his whereabouts, fearing for the worst. Finally, they received help from a phone operator who was determined to track Clay down.

"The phone operator there said 'Stay with me,' to my sister, Carol. 'If he is in the States, we'll find him,'" Ken said.

After several hours anxiously waiting on the phone, the operator found Clay at an Army Medical

Center in Washington.

"He was going to be flown to the Naval hospital, but his kidneys failed and they had to touch down at the Tacoma Air Force Base," Ken said. "They thought he was going to die, so they had to take a detour."

Elaine said that gangrene had spread throughout Clay's injured limbs, and it was taking a toll on his body. Ken said nurses told his family that they didn't think Clay would make it, but after amputating his right leg, Clay started to recover.

"As big and tough as he was, he pulled through," Ken said. "He went back down to Oakland and went through rehab down there."

Life after Vietnam

Clay received two Purple Hearts for his injuries suffered during combat, and was honorably discharged on Dec. 31, 1968. He returned to Washburn to work as a bookkeeper for Hoffman Motors before serving as the City Auditor from 1978 to 1994, a lifestyle, Ken said, that likely hadn't been what Clay expected.

"I remember him telling me that he would have made a career of the Marine Corps if he had not gotten hurt," Ken said. "He loved it, and he would have been great at it."

Clay spent much of his time after the service reading about the Tet Offensive, Hue and much of the Vietnam war, marking up the pages of books with his own memories and accounts of the war.

"He bought this book and had

it just filled with things he knew about or that pertained to him, and he made different little notes about things," Elaine said.

Over the years, those books would be shared among Clay, Ken, Don, and another Washburn local and longtime friend, Dewey Oster. The books were just part of a vast collection of Clay's personal collection of Vietnam mementos, some of which came home with him from the war.

"He kept every single letter he ever got," Elaine said, showing a rubber-banded stack of faded envelopes. "They meant so much to him, so he kept them all."

After Clay died, Elaine gave the letters back to Clay's friends and family members.

"When we had our 50th class reunion last year, our classmates that had sent cards and letters, I gave them back to them," Elaine said. "And they were so amazed that he held onto them all these years."

Clay, who was part of the Twins Platoon, was honored in 2010 when he was asked to raise the United States flag during the 50th Anniversary of the Minnesota Twins Baseball organization.

"He was so humbled and so excited, but he didn't want anyone to know," Elaine said. "He didn't want to seem like he was bragging."

And like many important events throughout Clay's life, his brother and friends were right there by his side. Don and Dewey, who had been the best man in Clay's wedding, traveled to Minneapolis to witness Clay raising the flag.

"They were all so proud of him," Elaine said.

The group of four men, who knew each other since elementary school, stayed close throughout college, military service and retirement.

"He was a year younger than me and Don, but we were inseparable," Ken said. "Us four just teamed up together and did everything together."

And after Clay's death, the men continue to keep him close, even if it means traveling halfway around the world.

"Going to Vietnam fulfilled something I needed to do, something I needed to see," Ken said. "Just to walk those streets and be where Clay was."

Don said he thought Clay would have been happy to see his friends visiting Vietnam and learning more about the history of the country and about the war that changed his life.

"I think he would have thought it was a good idea," Don said. "I think he would have liked it."



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Veterans serve as they honor

By ALLAN TINKER

The Turtle Lake American Legion, in conjunction with Mercer veterans, serve their community in many ways. Among these have been recognizing the veterans of the Vietnam era, many who served in direct military support but outside of Vietnam.

Among the services they continue, is respect for veterans and their families through many projects, the latest of these related to flag display and proper disposal of unserviceable flags.

The most recent action was a flag disposal service for the students and staff of Turtle Lake-Mercer School outside the school on October 13. The Legion demonstrated the proper rituals for the disposal, including verification that the flags were, indeed, no longer usable in their present condition. Clyde Nelson, Don Sondrol, Valerie Guenther, Marvin Anseth, Jim Blotter, Val Bott, Doug Hanson, Ray Murray, Harley Halvorson and Tom Lindelien took part in the service.

Nelson was also instrumental in a flag project to encourage people to display flags and to display them properly on their own property, either for special occasions or on a daily basis. Turtle Lake American Legion has decided to offer flags free of charge to Turtle Lake and Mercer residents who agree to display the flags according to the proper etiquette.

Legionnaire Clyde Nelson stated that it would be nice to see a flag flying on every street in both towns.

The flags are embroidered nylon fabric and 3 by 5 feet-long. The poles and lighting (for night display) are up to the displayer. The flags will come with the brochure that explains flag etiquette.

Nelson noted that the nylon flags, depending upon the weather, if displayed 24-hours a day will last a year or more.

Nelson explained that often people simply do not know what is proper for display of the American

flag and this is the Legion's attempt to help with proper display for those who would like to do so.

Nelson asked people to call him if further questions or for help in obtaining a flag pole. They have a good site with reasonably priced poles for reference.

Nelson's telephone number is 701-448-2568.

Don Sondrol was also instrumental in initiating the award of Vietnam era pins in two services at the Turtle Lake Legion hall during regular Legion meetings.

If gratitude could be silver, appreciation covered with diamonds and their homes lined with gold, the Vietnam veterans that were recognized on Friday, November 11, in Turtle Lake and at other meetings, would be no richer in value in the public's eyes than they are now.

The crowd filled the American Legion Hall from 5 p.m. until well past 9 p.m. They gathered to say thank you, to honor those who served, and to enjoy the Legions pancake and sausage meal. The basket for free-will donations was heaped with dollar bills of all denominations, lending financial support to the strong club that forms the glue that keeps veterans well served in the community.

On hand to help with the ceremonies were Goodrich Legion Commander Kenneth Korschak and Veterans Service officer James Paulus. The two, helped by Turtle Lake Legion member Don Sondrol, went through the list of 55 names submitted, with 41 attending for the award.

Those on the list who served between November 1, 1955 and May 15, 1975, were not all "in country" on the record. This designation indicated those who were in Vietnam at some portion of their service time. Others served stateside or in other locations in support duty to their general branch of service.

Regardless of when they served, as Korschak noted in his speech, they were not warmly welcomed home from this war's duty. The

present effort is an attempt to remedy the good hearts of the soldiers remaining and to honor those who have since died.

The names collected from Don Sondrol are, in collected order, with the years of service, if provided:

Russell E. Stadler, 1953 to 1955; Merlyn Skaley; Gaylen Nelson, Ray Murray, 1970-1971; Marv Anseth, 1968-1971; Jim Blotter, 1956-1961; Ernest Schock; Lean Guenther, 1964-1972; Doug Hanson, 1961-1964; Doran Helper, 1970-1972; Gene Nerby; Cruse Bentz, 19-62 to 1965; Jim Britton, 1965-1968; Vikki Neff Tolbert, 1974-1978; Don Sondrol, 1954-1957; Clayne Abrahamson, 1954-1957; Jerry Baker, 1955-1969; Andy Maizo (sp?); Harley Halvorson, 1972-1975; Chester Faudskar, 1961-1965; Les Reiser; Les Petryszyn, 1965-1967; Clyde Nelson, 1962-1965; Ray Olson, 1967-1969; Ray Iverson, 1973-1975; Allen Hetzler, 1967-1969; George Gilfus, 1953-1955; Paul Gondiger, 1971-1974; Wayne Landsiedel, 1957-1962; George Klemetsrud, 1970-1979; James Rask, 1971-1978; Allan Laib, 1960-1964; Wyatt Eisenbraun; Cliff Alexander, 1967-1970; Ruth Johnson, 1973-1977; Stanley Tomlinson, 1958-1960; John Larson, 1956-1963; Brian Tinker, 1965-1969; Bob Ball; Larry Dziuk, 1959-1963; Carmen Anderson, 1957-1958; Art Varney; Steve Gilbert; Val Bott, 1960-1964; Curtis Kohler, 1969-1970; Del Gullickson; Max Iverson; Keith Bundy, 1972-1974; Reed Johnson, 1966-1969; Randy Anderson, 19963-1982; Ray Kovaenko, 1954-1962; Glen Weible, 1970-1972; Orvin Ravnaas, 1965-1967; Archie Reinhart, 1966-1969; and Bruce Kochoer, 1966-1965.

With the election of officers and Vietnam-era recognition ceremonies, the March 7 birthday meeting of the Turtle Lake American Legion Post 133 was an eventful night. The start of the meeting, with a meatball supper and birthday cake, was a small part of the veteran's efforts to remind the nation and their com-



From left, Turtle Lake Veteran Archie Reinhart, Goodrich Veteran and Service officer James Paulus, Goodrich legion Post Commander Kenneth Korschak, read the proclamation and information regarding the symbolism of the lapel pin presented to 41 veterans on Veteran's Day. Legion Commander Jim Britton is back right.



Surrounded in back by Turtle Lake-Mercer School students, Turtle Lake Legion member Clyde Nelson demonstrated the proper way to dispose of an unserviceable flag.

munity of those who have served our country in any branch of the military, during peace times or war.

The cake was baked and decorated by Aileen Erdmann and the meal served by the Legion Auxiliary.

Five Vietnam-era veterans received commemorative pins at the

March 7 meeting of the Turtle Lake American Legion Post 133. They are Ernest Schock, Turtle Lake; Gordon L Cermak, McClusky; Daryl Bykonen, Underwood; Gary Anderson and Craig Lakoduk, Turtle Lake. All but Cermak served "in country."

Flag Etiquette

The Legion website has complete information available on flag etiquette, also.

The following is abridged excerpts from that site.

"Title 4, United States Code, Chapter 1, as adopted by the National Flag Conference, Washington, D.C., June 14-15, 1923, and revised and endorsed by the Second National Flag Conference, Washington, D.C., every new presidential term, gives the code of ethics and display for the American Flag.

"The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag should be rendered by standing at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart.

"When not in uniform, men should remove any non-religious headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart.

"Persons in uniform should remain silent, face the flag, and render the military salute. Members of the Armed Forces not in uniform and veterans may render the military salute in the manner provided for persons in uniform.

"Existing rules and customs pertaining to the display and use of the flag of the United States of America is established for the use of such civilians or civilian groups or organizations.

"It is the universal custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on a stationary flag staff in the open. The flag may be displayed twenty-four

hours a day, if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness.

"The flag should be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously.

"The flag should not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement, except when an all-weather flag is displayed.

"The flag, when carried in a procession with another flag or flags, should be either on the marching right; that is, the flag's own right, or, if there is a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line.

"The flag should not be displayed on a float in a parade except from a staff, or as provided in subsection (i) of this section.

"When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right, that is, to the observer's left.

"When displayed in a window, the flag should be displayed same way, with the union or blue field to the left of the observer in the street.

"No disrespect should be shown to the flag of the United States of America; the flag should not be dipped to any person or thing. Regimental colors, State flags, and organization or institutional flags are to be dipped as a mark of honor.

"The flag should never be displayed with the union down, except as a signal of dire distress in instances of extreme danger to life

FLAG

Continued on page 10

VETERANS DAY

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To enlist was a natural act

By KATE JOHNSON

According to Steve Blaisdell, Beulah, enlisting in the Navy was a natural act. He followed in the footsteps of his five brothers before him who all served in the Navy and Air Force.

As military recruiters came around his high school in 1965, Steve was already signed up to enlist in the Navy. Ten days after graduation he was sent off to training in Great Lakes, Minn. It was there he was granted what he desired to do: Naval Aviation.

He started his training in naval aviation stations in Florida. From there he moved to Tennessee for a second round of schooling. During training the men learned to do many things, but one Steve recalled was jumping from a platform into the water, while detaching a parachute.

"As you're entering the water you have to be releasing the disconnects on there and throwing it off. And then you dive as deep as you can into the pool and swim away as far as you can then you come up," explained Steve, who mentioned he was one of the lucky ones who only had to do the exercise once.

Once his school was complete Steve was sent off to Europe to climb aboard the U.S.S. Independence CVA 62 in 1966. The ship would be Steve's home and family for the next four years of his life. Four years that would become defining and leave life-long impressions in his memory.

"I was in D2 division, which is in charge of launching and recovery of air craft," said Steve. He explained that he was a green shirt, and the color of shirt you wore determined what department you worked in. For example: Fuel, electronics, moving the planes, etc.

Steve was a part of three cruises, one of which lasted 13 months, five months longer than a typical cruise. They were supposed to be relieved

by the U.S.S. Saratoga; however, the Saratoga was needed to aide a carrier in the States, which forced the carrier Steve was aboard to stay at its post.

"That was a long tour," Steve recalled.

After it was over, they were sent to Virginia to be docked in the shipyard and be checked out before they were then sent back out for another cruise.

Steve reflected on times that are long-lasting. One was being anchored at Istanbul, Turkey.

"Istanbul loved it when the sailors came, because they got a lot of money," said Steve.

During a demonstration for nuclear weapons a fight had broken out, causing one of the ships Liberty launched to sink. Once everyone made it back to the carrier, Steve said they pulled up the anchor and left.

"We were on the ship and ready to do whatever it was we needed," said Steve.

Another experience was during one of his deck launches, which he explained is when the planes are in close quarters of him and the crew during take-off and landing -- as if you were standing by your house and the plane was landing in the street.

During a deck launch of a RA-5C, one of its engines went out.

"When one engine goes out the other has to take over, and what happens is it spirals before the pilot can get a hold of it," explained Steve, "they only have one chance to hit the ejection."

However, according to Steve, the pilot mis-timed the ejection and both men were shot into the water and killed.

Steve explained the take-off and landing procedures, and how, during take-off, a plane would want to be going with the wind, but meanwhile, during landing, a plane would be coming against the wind.



Steve today in his home in Beulah amongst his veteran memorabilia.

Often times Soviet ships would cut in front during the recovery of an American aircraft, forcing the plane to turn and that pilot and his plane to pull up and go back around. Steve explained this was a tactic used by the Soviet ships to make that pilot to be wasting more fuel, since they were coming to land they were already potentially low.

Steve's last unforgettable experience was during the recovery of a F4 Phantom, which he said blew a few hundred yards from their carrier.

"He was in trouble, I won't say anything more," said Steve.

Still, after decades of being retired from the Navy, Steve says there are still things he won't talk about, knowing that most things are pertained to be classified.

"There was times, the last cruise I was on, I saw where we were



Steve standing on the U.S.S. Independence in 1967. Behind him is a radar device to see what is approaching.

going the next day which was considered classified," explained Steve, "So I had a secret clearance."

He mentioned that any piece of paper you saw in that room could be considered classified.

"You learn that you don't talk about things," said Steve.

He said how on some cruises, even the admiral may not know where their destination is until the morning after they have already set off into open water.

It was in 1969 that Steve was honorably discharged from the Navy and, like three of his brothers, he used the GI Bill to get an education. This is how Steve became a millwright. Starting his work in Minnesota in 1983, he was hired

on at Dakota Gasification Company which is where he stayed until he retired in 2006.

Steve discussed the military was in his family's blood, coming from his mother's and father's sides. Not only his brothers were enlisted, but cousins all sharing that natural act and that there is an importance to military and the time spent in it.

Steve recalled a crab apple tree his mother had outside their home, which for some years she always had three yellow ribbons hanging from it, to symbolize her three sons who were currently enlisted.

When it came to overcoming

TO ENLIST

Continued on page 9

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THOMAS METZ
SGT. Thomas Metz served from 1970 to 1972. He served overseas in Vietnam from 1970-71. National Guards from 1981-2003



LESTER ZIETZ
Lester Zietz of Underwood. He served active Army in Korea from 52-54 and reserves until 1960.



IRWIN WIEGER
Irwin (Tudor) Wieger served from 1943 to 1945. Company L 324 Infantry Regiment, 44th Division, 7th Army

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JARED SHERVEN
Jared Sherven served in the US Army National Guard for almost 14 1/2 years of active service. Still currently serving.



HOPE TRANA
Hope Trana served in the Army National Guard for 15 years.



JASON HUSHKA
Jason Hushka served in the US Navy from 1992 to 1996, and 2 years inactive reserve. He was in radio communications and served on the ship USS Lewis B Puller - FFC-23.

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JOHN KRIZAN
John Krizan served in the US Air Force; Sargent - 334th Technical Fighter Squadron from 1966 to 1970. Served in Korea, Okinawa and Southeast Asia.



GARY W. KIENZLE
Corporal Gary W. Kienzle served the US Army from 1966 to 1968. He went on to a year long tour in the Central Highlands of Vietnam. He was in the artillery battery for his entire stay.



JASON CLARK
Jason Clark had 13 years USAF, and 8 years at Minot AFB, 4 years at Elmendorf AK AFB. Deployed 8 times.

VETERANS DAY

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JOSHUA P. WOLFF
Joshua P. Wolff is from Golden Valley. He served in the US Army National Guard from 2001 to 2012.



KENT STROH
Kent Stroh served in the US Navy from 1973 to 1979. Machinist Mate, 1st Class



JOSEPH KLEIN
Joseph Klein served in the US Army, 101 Airborne from 1967 to 1969.

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CREDIT: State Historical Society of ND
With strong popular support for the war, Minot businessmen Jim Scofield and Julius Weinrebe dressed as Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson for an April 6, 1918 parade in Minot.

TO ENLIST

Continued from page 7

whatever fear, Steve said you just didn't have it because it was something you had to do and that needed to be done, like running over the catwalk that had the crashing waves below and only a mesh wiring to catch you if you fell.

"You're using those catwalks all the time, so you just do what you got to do," said Steve.

During his 50-year class reunion, Steve said the Veterans' Organization gave members of his class Wounded Warrior blankets. He said

one of his classmates cried because it was the first time anyone has ever given him anything for his years of service.

Steve holds his time in the Navy with pride and gets its importance to his life.

"All I can say is, it took the boy and made him a man in 4 years," said Steve.

The time he spent on that ship, with those men, and gaining those experiences is something he will never forget.



CREDIT: State Historical Society of ND
A rousing concert by the Second North Dakota Regiment Band -- musicians from Harvey directed by Harold Bachman -- stirred patriotic enthusiasm at a 1917 concert at the Belle Mehus Auditorium in Bismarck, which had been completed earlier that year.

America Goes to War

By TOM ISERN

The night before North Dakota troops shipped out in 1917, they got a rousing send-off into the grand adventure and unknown peril of the Great War. Citizens gathered in Bismarck's Belle Mehus Auditorium, completed just that January. A rousing concert by the Second North Dakota Regiment Band -- musicians from Harvey directed by Harold Bachman -- stirred patriotic enthusiasm. Bachman's band was a great favorite; people said those boys could play anything.

They were equally confident their boys could handle any situation and defeat the German enemy. Nevertheless, there was a dissonant undertone. The appearance and remarks of Gov. Lynn Frazier drew criticism. His faction of the Republican Party, the Nonpartisan League, had been less than full-voiced in support of the war, and Frazier could not resist warning against "profiteering" by opportunistic capitalists.

The United States entered the Great War with mixed motives but a great deal of enthusiasm. The zeal of North Dakotans for war matched that of the nation at large, suppressing divisions and dissent.

Triggering the catastrophic war was the act of a young Serbian nationalist, Gavrilo Princip. On June 28, 1914, he shot to death the heir to the Austria-Hungarian throne, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, and his wife, Sophie, the Duchess of Hohenberg. That inflamed rivalries between Austria-Hungary and Russia, leading to ultimatums, the involvement of allies of the antagonists, and swiftly, in the words of historian Barbara Tuchman, the "guns of August."

After Great Britain entered the conflict because of German violation of Belgian neutrality, essentially all of Europe was at war: the Allies, comprising France, Britain, Belgium, Italy, Serbia, and Russia (which dropped out after the Bolshevik Revolution) opposing the Central Powers, comprising

Austria-Hungary, Germany, Bulgaria, and Turkey.

President Wilson issued a proclamation of neutrality calling on Americans to remain "impartial in thought as well as in action." Most Americans agreed, hoping to stay on the sidelines of what shaped up as a bloody, costly war of mass armies and fearful armaments. Neutrality became difficult, however, as the war dragged on.

In the first place, Americans were never "impartial in thought." Ties of language, culture, and history made them sympathetic to Britain and France. In North Dakota (with its large population of Germans from Russia) and elsewhere in America, substantial minorities sympathized with Germany and spoke fondly of Kaiser Bill (one North Dakota farmer naming a prize bull after him), but they were minorities. Britain organized skillful propaganda campaigns, depicting Germans as "Huns" committing terrible atrocities, to keep Americans siding with the Allies.

The issue of neutral rights, especially rights to trade with nations at war, was an ongoing aggravation as Germany sought to quarantine its enemies against the receipt of arms and even the essential goods of life. The longer the war continued, the more severe and violent became the German quarantine, relying on submarines, U-boats, for enforcement. This led to considerable loss of life as submarines torpedoed Allied and, eventually, American vessels plying the Atlantic.

Most famously, a submarine sank the British liner Lusitania. More than 1,200 died, including some 120 Americans. North Dakotans took satisfaction reading of the heroism of Park River physician Andrew Foss, a passenger who saved victims bobbing at sea, but the nation was outraged. Urgent diplomacy managed to keep the United States out of war for a while. President Wilson was re-elected in 1916 with the slogan, "He kept us out of war."

In the end, German heavy-hand-

edness provoked America to war. Exhibit A: the Zimmerman Note. In January 1917 German Foreign Minister Arthur Zimmermann cabled the German minister in Mexico with an astonishing, calculated scheme -- that if the U.S. entered the war, Mexico should declare war against the United States in order to win back territory lost in 1848. British intelligence decoded the note. Newspapers screamed headlines of German perfidy. The disclosure resonated with North Dakotans because their own national guardsmen recently had protected the Mexican border.

The Zimmerman Note's impact was the greater because January 31, in a high-stakes risk, Germany began unrestricted submarine warfare, meaning submarines were authorized to sink American vessels. When they commenced doing so, President Wilson called for war, and Congress declared it April 4, 1917.

"There are, it may be, many months of fiery trial and sacrifice ahead of us," the president intoned. "It is a fearful thing to lead this great peaceful people into war, into the most terrible and disastrous of all wars, civilization itself seeming to be in the balance. But the right is more precious than peace, and we shall fight for the things which we have always carried nearest our hearts—for democracy, for the right of those who submit to authority to have a voice in their own governments, for the rights and liberties of small nations, for a universal dominion of right by such a concert of free peoples as shall bring peace and safety to all nations and make the world itself at last free."

Wilson struck an idealistic tone that inspired action. North Dakotans therefore joined a monumental war effort that turned the tide in favor of the Allies and defeated Germany.

Tom Isern is a Great Plains historian and professor of history at North Dakota State University in Fargo.

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CURTIS C. YUNKER

Curtis C. Yunker of Washburn. Korean War. Basic training in 1951 at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, then Airborne (paratrooper) training at Fort Benning, Georgia. Stationed at Camp Chickamauga on Japanese island of Kyushu as well as Korea. Honorable discharge as a corporal in 1954.



JAMES WYNE

I joined the US Air Force after graduating from high school and served from 1960 to 1981. The attached photo was taken in Thailand in the late 60's during the Vietnam war. We moved here to Garrison after my retirement.

FLAG

Continued from page 6

or property.

“The flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, the floor, water, or merchandise.

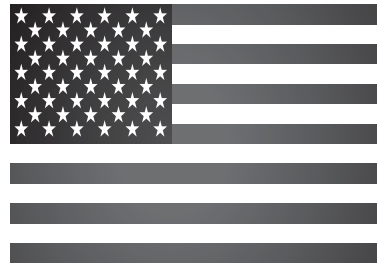
“The flag should never be carried flat or horizontally, but always aloft and free.

“The flag should never be used as wearing apparel, bedding, or drapery. It should never be festooned, drawn back, nor up, in folds, but always allowed to fall free.

“The flag should never be fastened, displayed, used, or stored in such a manner as to permit it to be easily torn, soiled, or damaged in any way.

“The flag should never be used as a covering for a ceiling.

“The flag should never be used for advertising purposes in any manner whatsoever. It should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions or handkerchiefs and the like, printed or otherwise impressed on paper napkin or boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and discard. Advertising signs



should not be fastened to a staff or halyard from which the flag is flown.

“No part of the flag should ever be used as a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, firemen, policemen, and members of patriotic organizations. The flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living thing. Therefore, the lapel flag pin being a replica, should be worn on the left lapel near the heart.

“The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.”



EDWARD J. KLAIN

Edward J. Klain served in the Navy from 1952 - 1956. Korea/ Arabia.



JEROME H. WOLFF

Jerome H. Wolff resides in Golden Valley and served in the US Navy from 1967 - 1971



FRED RATH

Fred Rath served in the U.S. Army from 1951-1953.

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 Darrel proudly served his country in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War, where he received a Bronze Star.



EARL W CHASE

Earl W Chase was in the National Guard in the 164 Infantry. He was sent to Guadalcanal. After being wounded there and recovered; he was reassigned to Europe and fought in the Battle of the Bulge.



RYAN HAGEN

SSG Ryan Hagen enlisted in the U.S. Army in 2010. SSG Hagen is a member of the 82nd Airborne Division and is based at Fort Bragg, NC. Among the specialty schools he has completed is Jump Master training. He is on his 3rd deployment, currently serving in Afghanistan.



DARREL STEPHENS

Darrel Dale Stephens enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1950 and was a commissary man for most of his service. He was stationed aboard the ship U.S.S. Missouri.

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DAVID W. VARTY

1939 - 2016
 David W. Varty served in the U.S. Army from 1958 to 1964 in N.C and Germany.



FERDINAND BOEHLER

Ferdinand Boehler served in the US Army as a Medical Aide in WWII from June 1942 - April 1944.



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Great War witnesses startling birth of new deities

By JOSEPH T. STUART

It de-secularized the state and, instead of religion, made politics the highest expression of human values. The mobilization of entire societies during the Great War dramatically increased expectations for state involvement in the lives of people. Powerful political religions that claimed absolute adherence arose out of the political vacuum left behind by the collapse of four empires in Russia, Italy, Germany, and Turkey.

For example, through the Russian Revolution, Lenin rose to power in Russia. He created a brutal regime that posed as the ultimate arbiter of value and meaning – killing or exiling dissenters. “The war has left throughout Europe a mood of disillusionment and despair which calls aloud for a new religion,” the British agnostic philosopher Bertrand Russell wrote after touring Russia in 1920. “Bolshevism has supplied the new religion.”

Mussolini and his followers also derived meaning and purpose from their wartime experience. In 1932 he wrote that fascism is a “spiritual attitude” and the fascist state a “spiritual society” outside of which no values exist. “Thus understood, Fascism is totalitarian, and the Fascist state – a synthesis and a unit inclusive of all values – interprets, develops, and potentiates the whole life of a people,” he noted.

In Germany, Adolf Hitler resolved to go into politics as a continuation of his wartime experience of unified national purpose. Hitler believed that a people needed a common faith. Writing to him in 1926, Josef Goebbels, future minister of propaganda, wrote, “You gave a name to the suffering of an entire generation who were yearning for real men, for meaningful tasks. ... What you uttered is the catechism of a new political credo amid the desperation of a collapsing, godless world. ... A god gave you the strength to voice our suffering.” Nazism de-secularized the state by



CREDIT: State Historical Society of ND
Medics were kept busy on the battlefield in this WWI era.

giving it the ultimate spiritual meaning. It joined church and state, so to speak, into one, powerful force.

In this way, the Great War witnessed one of the most startling births of new deities in the history of the world – those of Class (Communism), State (Fascism), and Race (Nazism) for which people killed.

These new European deities inspired parallel political-religious movements around the world – such as nationalism in Turkey and the backlash seen today as Islamic terrorism tries to restore the Caliphate after it disappeared there immediately after the Great War.

China is another example. To inspire Chinese nationalism, western-educated Sun Yat-sen, founder of the Republic of China, appealed in 1921 to American President Wilson’s idea of the “self-determination of nations. But a rival movement would ultimately take over China in 1949 – the Chinese Communist Party, directly inspired by the Russian Revolution of 1917. The Chinese Communist political religion reached its height under Mao Zedong and his Cultural Revolution, complete with rituals, morality, a sacred text, the deification of Mao, and the inculcation of a sense of profound belonging and undivided allegiance. The Great War paved the way to that totalitarian transformation of the world’s most populous country.

In the U.S., the war helped clarify America’s political faith. University of North Dakota student William Greenleaf wrote at war’s end

about America as “the composite of the world’s best ideals, the promise of the world’s future.” Progressive clergy gave the upheaval a transcendent meaning by interpreting it as a total war for righteousness. America, as the world’s political messiah, would make the world “safe for democracy,” as President Wilson put it. Ever since, most American presidents have shared his redemptive goals in foreign policy.

In France, a nationalist movement supported Catholicism as the state religion and gained immense prestige, despite its eventual condemnation by the Vatican. Socialism, in the form of the Labour Party, was the real draw in Britain after the Great War. One British historian noted in 1932 that socialism elicited religious emotion through its appeal to social salvation. “The type of man who a century ago would have been a revivalist or even the founder of a new sect, today devotes himself to social and political propaganda. And this gives Socialism a spiritual power which the older political parties did not possess...”

In all these ways, the Great War created a tremendous impetus toward the de-secularization of the state, towards making politics the source of all values. That alone justifies the characterization of the Great War as the “original sin” of the Twentieth Century.

Joseph T. Stuart, Ph.D., is associate professor of history at the University of Mary in Bismarck.



CREDIT: State Historical Society of ND
A poster for the British Parliamentary Recruiting Committee encouraged young men to join the war effort.



CREDIT: State Historical Society of ND
The Young Women’s Christian Association implored women to “Make ready for greater service: in a WWI era recruiting poster.

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