

1944

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• **ARNOLD ALBRECHT**, a member of the 147th Field Artillery Unit, S.D. National Guard (Charlie Battery) since 1934, was rotated out in 1944 (leaving Kiriwina Island) and was at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina training troops to use six inch Howitzers.

• **GENE ALEXANDER** was a replacement in Company E, 168th Infantry Regiment, 34th Infantry Division (the "Red Bull"), U.S. 5th Army. He left aboard the *Queen Mary* in the fall of 1944 and landed in Leghorn, Italy, where the replacement depo was located.

• **DON ANDERSON** was working on the family farm near Trent. In March of 1945, Don and his friend, Ordell Johnson, enlisted in the Navy. Don was later assigned duty at the Aleutian Islands in Alaska.

• **ERNEST AUNE** was married and working his own farm near Irene and trucking for others in November of 1944. He was drafted into the Army in June of 1945, and assigned to operate heavy equipment at his base in Virginia.

• **FREELAN AUNE**, who was drafted into the Navy in January of 1945, was working at the family farm near Volin. He would later be assigned to the U.S.S. *Wyoming*.

• **WAYNE BARHAM**, who was in the 9th Marines, was back at the Philadelphia Naval Hospital recuperating from his injuries. He had landed on Guam and been wounded three times. (Wayne, who is in the VA Home, has not been interviewed, although he was contacted via phone to confirm these facts that are found in his book.)

• **SALLY BART**, a member of the Women's Army Corps, was stationed in Sutton Coldfield, a suburb of Birmingham, England, where she organized the mail to and from GIs in the entire European Theater.

• **JIM BAUER** was in the Army Air Corps. He was at Goodfellow Field located at San Angelo, Texas, where he was receiving advanced training to fly P-40s.

• **BOB BAUMER** was at home working on the family farm near Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, in November 1944. He joined in April 1945 and was assigned to the 793rd Military Police, U.S. 3rd Army. His guard duty was at Nuremberg during the infamous Nazi trials.

• **JIM BLACK** had been assigned to the U.S.S. *Silver-sides*, a submarine. He was stationed in Guam to patrol the Pacific in support of air raids. If a pilot bailed out of a plane, then submarines may assist in picking him up.

• **FRED BRANAUGH** was living and working in Armour. He enlisted in February 1945, was assigned to the 6th Division

("Red Stars" Division), U.S. 10th Army and then sent to Korea for occupation duty.

• **BILL BRANSON** was at Ft. Robinson, Arkansas, at boot camp. He would soon be a replacement in Company G, 309th Regiment, 78th Infantry Division ("the Lightning"), U.S. 1st Army, which fought through the Ruhr on its way across the Rhine at Remagen.

• **GENE BULIAN** was at Camp Fannin near Tyler, Texas. He would soon be a replacement in Company B, 345th Regiment, 87th Infantry (the "Golden Acorn"), U.S. 3rd Army, which fought through Lorraine on its way across the Rhine at Oppenheim.

• **ELMO CHRISTENSEN**, who had served in the Coast Guard since 1940, was at Ano Nuevo Island, south of San Francisco. His duty was to spot Japanese planes, ships, etc. and to protect the Home-land.

• **PAL CHRISTENSEN** was attending Yankton High School in November 1944. He enlisted in 1945, was assigned to the U.S.S. *Lavaca*, and reported to the Naval Air Transport Service, which were the first planes to be flown into Japan to pick up prisoners of war.

• **JOHN CIMPL** was in the Navy in the Philippines, one of the many men who joined General MacArthur on his "return." His ship, *LSM 318*, delivered men on Dec. 7 to the south of Ormoc, on the west side of Leyte. As they departed, the ship was struck by a kamikaze and John was injured.

• **JIM COPE** was attending Washington & Lee High School in Virginia at the time but he was about to go to boot camp at Great Lakes, Illinois. He joined the Navy at age 17 after he was advised that he had special aptitude for operating radar.

• **KEN CUSTIS** was a battery commander at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, where his unit developed new battle techniques. As a member of the U.S. 10th Army, he was later sent to the Battle of Okinawa.

• **BILL DAYHUFF** was waiting in San Francisco to be shipped overseas in November 1944. He was assigned to the 1st Company, 382nd Regiment, 96th Infantry Division ("Deadeye Division"), U.S. 10th Army, which fought at the Battle of Okinawa.

• **VERN ELLINGSON** got his gold Navy wings on July 29, 1944. In November, he was in Jacksonville, Florida, where he was in dive bombing school.

• **ARTHUR GIGGEE**, who repaired motor vehicles, was with the 540th Engineer Combat Group, U.S. 7th Army as it advanced through the Rhone River Valley as a part of the southern invasion of France. In November, he was in the Alsace Lorraine area of France, although he had already been in North Africa, Sicily and Anzio.

• **GLENN GROSSHUESCH**

was assigned to the Armed Guard Division, which manned the weapons on merchant ships. His ship at the time, the U.S.S. *Tyler*, traveled with supplies from Kwajalein Atoll, and other small islands, to San Francisco.

• **LEE GROSSHUESCH** instantly enlisted after Pearl Harbor. He was assigned to the 439th Fighter Squadron and flew a P-47 and P-51. In November, he was stationed in New Guinea and flying missions in that area and south of the Philippines. He is credited with 8 aerial kills and the solo destruction of a Japanese destroyer. (Lee, who lives in Hawaii, has not been interviewed, although his brother provided a lot of this information.)

• **LOYD HAARBERG**, who had already completed radio and gunnery schools in the Navy, was stationed in Florida. At the time, he was waiting to be assigned to a B-24 bomber crew and, after the War, was assigned to a PBV-Catalina crew.

• **KEN HAGEN** was working for neighbor farmers and at the family farm northwest of Volin. He was drafted into the Army in January 1945, attended high speed, manual, radio operator school and then was assigned to the teletype room for the 17th Signal Battalion, U.S. 4th Army Headquarters located at Ft. Sam Houston.

• **WARREN HATCH** was drafted into the Navy in the Fall of 1943. He was assigned to the U.S.S. *Silver Cloud* (converted from a beat-up banana boat) delivering fuel oil to ships near Eniwetok, Manus Island and New Guinea; he was in the signal corp, which used semaphore to communicate between ships. He contracted rheumatic fever and was recuperating in Corona, California.

• **DALE HAUG**, who was a member of 195th AAA AW Battalion, 2nd Armored Division ("Hell on Wheels"), U.S. 1st Army, had landed on Utah Beach on D+1 and in September participated in Operation Market Garden, the Allied attempt to quickly end the War by crossing the Netherlands. Right before Thanksgiving, he was injured and sent to recuperate in Scotland.

• **JOSEPH HEJL** was working on the family farm near Lesterville. He was drafted into the Army in January 1945, and later served in the U.S. 8th Army as a switchboard operator in Manila as part of the Philippine Occupation.

• **KEN HENSELER**, who was a Navy medic who had been assigned to the 1st Marine Division ("The Blue Diamond"), was at the Battle of Peleliu, an island located in the Mariana Island chain. He later participated in the Battle of Okinawa.

• **CLIFF HICKS**, also a member of the 147th Field Artillery Unit since 1939, had returned from Kiriwina Island,

East of New Guinea, in 1944. He was at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma.

• **VERNE HULL** was near Maastricht, Netherlands. He was a replacement loader in a bulldozer tank as part of the 2nd Battalion, 67th Armored Regiment, 2nd Armored Division ("Hell on Wheels"), U.S. 9th Army. His first campaign was on Nov. 16.

• **ROY JELSMA** was at Springfield High School in November 1944. He was drafted the following May and assigned to occupation duty at Kyushu, Japan, under the 24th Division, U.S. 8th Army.

• **CARL JOHNSON** was a member of the flight crew on a B-17 in the 8th Air Force, a part of the United States Army. During this time, he was flying missions from England over Germany.

• **ED JOHNSON** was at Gold Beach on D-Day, June 6, 1944. He was aboard LST 261, which was loaded with tanks, and continued to make an additional 52 trips to and from England to deliver equipment, and on the return trip to England they would deliver prisoners of war and injured soldiers.

• **BILL "STRETCH" KERR** was at basic training at Camp Robinson near Little Rock, Arkansas. He was soon assigned as a replacement in I Company, 3rd Battalion, 119th Infantry Regiment, 30th Infantry Division ("Old Hickory"), U.S. 9th Army, which fought across Germany. Kerr's Division had the most Army casualties in the European Theater.

• **BERNIE KLINE** was at Camp Roberts, California for infantry training. On Jan. 1, 1945, he would board the *Queen Elizabeth*, join the 63rd Division ("Blood and Fire"), U.S. 7th Army as a replacement and participate in the Battle of the Bulge.

• **WAYNE KNUTSON** was living at home in rural Roberts County in November 1944. He was about to join the Merchant Marine and, during his first trip to deliver goods to Hawaii, the War ended. He enlisted in the Army in August 1945 and was assigned to the U.S. 10th Army which served in the Korean Occupation.

• **BOB KOLBERG** was working at the family farm near Gayville. He was drafted on March 30, 1945, and later stationed at Naval Pacific Headquarters at Pearl Harbor.

• **LEROY KUESTER-MEYER**, a Navy man, was aboard *LST 527* when it landed on Gold Beach on D-Day, June 6, 1944. During the subsequent many months, that ship made an additional 44 trips between England and LeHavre, France.

• **MARVIN "BUD" LACROIX** was in the 242nd Engineers, 77th Division

("Statute of Liberty"), U.S. 6th Army, at Ormoc on Leyte in the Philippines; he delivered troops to and from the area in support of the northern battles. He was briefly in Kyoto as part of the Japanese Occupation and visited Hiroshima. Lacroix's Division had the most Army casualties in the Pacific Theater.

• **CLIFFORD "KIP" LARSON**, a member of the 550th Glider Infantry Battalion (a "Bolt from the Blue"), U.S. 7th Army, landed in a glider during the invasion of southern France. His unit advanced to the mountains at the western base of the Alps. In November, his unit pulled out of the Alps on their way to Nice, France.

• **BILL LYNCH** was located at the 7th station hospital in Livorno, Italy. As a replacement in the 3rd Division ("Rock of the Marne"), U.S. 5th Army, he participated in both the Anzio Landing, where he originally damaged his feet, and Operation Dragoon, the invasion of Southern France. Lynch's Division had the most days of Army combat in the European Theater.

• **BEN MAZOUREK** was drafted into the Navy in 1944. His ship pulled away from Manus Island, which is located to the north of New Guinea, on Nov. 10, 1944. One mile ahead of them, the *USS Hood* exploded. His ship was called to general quarters because of the possibility of Japanese submarines.

• **MARK MILLER**, who was a member of the 3566th Army Signal Corps Detached, was either on the USS *Argentina* on his way to Naples, Italy, or had already arrived. Thereafter, he was shipped out to Oran and Fez, North Africa, to erect radio towers for plane to land radio communication.

• **DON MODERERGER** was on a ship taking him from Finchhaven, New Guinea to San Francisco. He was also a member of the 147th Field Artillery Unit, had been on the island of Noemfoor in July 1944 during that invasion.

• **BOB MOORE** joined the Navy at age 17. His first trip on the U.S.S. *General A.E. Anderson* was to Bombay, India to pick up troops. They left in September and returned in December 1944.

• **RALPH MORMAN** was working on the family farm and for other farmers in the Irene area. He was drafted into the Army in January 1945, shipped to Okinawa, and, after the War, he was stationed in occupation duty with the U.S. 10th Army in Korea.

• **JAKE NAMMINGA** was working on the family farm near Springfield, but he was soon drafted in early 1945. His Army service was with the

25th Division, U.S. 8th Army, which was stationed at Yokohama, Japan.

• **DALE OARE**, who was in 1st Battalion, 6th Regiment ("The Fighting 6th Marines"), 2nd Marine Division ("The Silent Second"), had already been at the Battles of Saipan and Tarawa, had recently returned from the Battle of Tinian and was back on Saipan for training. Ultimately, his unit was being prepared for Okinawa.

• **ORVIN OIEN**, who landed on Utah Beach on D+2, was responsible for vehicle repairs, including Jeeps, 2 1/2-ton GMCs and Dodge weapons carriers. In November, his unit — Battery B, 343rd Field Artillery Battalion, 90th division ("Tough Hombres"), US 3rd Army — was in combat with their leader, General Patton, as they had made a surprise attack at Metz, France.

• **DON OSWALD**, at age 17, enlisted into the Navy (and not the Army because he didn't want to walk all of the time) in early 1945. Prior to that time, he was attending Yankton High School. He was stationed near Tsingtao, China, and his duty was to weld and to repair small landing craft, evidently to prepare for the Japanese Invasion.

• **RAY PRAVECEK** was working on the family farm near Tyndall in November. He would soon be drafted into the Army and go to Yokohama, Japan for occupation duty with the U.S. 8th Army.

• **ED PUGH**, who was assigned to Squadron 18 of several PT boats, was patrolling around Halmahera, an island controlled by the Japanese, to prevent enemy incursion onto Morotai, an island controlled by the Allies.

• **MERLYN PUGH** enlisted in the Navy and was an aviation machinist's mate who serviced single engine bombers. He was stationed at Pasco, Washington, at the time.

• **HARRIET RANDALL** enlisted in the Women's Army Air Corp in February of 1942. She was assigned to WAAC Detachment at LAPE located at Long Beach, California, where she eventually assisted in decoding messages from the Pacific Theater.

• **BROOKS RANNEY**, who landed on Omaha Beach on July 9, 1944, was the battalion surgeon for the 181st Heavy Ponton Engineers and he was attached to the U.S. 1st Army at the Belgium-German border. They would be pushed back mid-December during the Battle of the Ardennes a/k/a Battle of the Bulge.

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RTEC Announces Class Dates for Knitting, Tatting, Welding & More!

Class A CDL Training:

Mitchell Technical Institute will be returning to help SD residents obtain their Class A CDL. Classroom (CDL prep) portion of the class will be held from **8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Nov. 24 & 25, 2014**. Driving times for those completing the entire course (CDL prep + driving hours) will be scheduled with the instructor. Note: The classroom portion of this training satisfies requirements for NE residents working to obtain their NE Class A CDL. Contact RTEC for complete details! Hurry! Must be registered for course by Friday, Nov. 14th.

Knitting Without Needles Class:

Learn how to make a trendy infinity scarf for yourself or for someone special in this "just for fun" class from **9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 22, 2014**. You'll discover how to knit using your arms instead of needles. No previous knitting experience is required, making it ideal for anyone (age 13+) who would like to explore a new crafting technique. Cost is \$21.20 (includes tax). Note: Participants should bring a scissors and two skeins of yarn - either #5 chunky or #6 extra chunky - in their favorite color/colors. Call and sign up today!

Needle Tatting for Beginners:

Discover the art of needle tatting in this unique two-part "just for fun" class coming to RTEC on **Nov. 21 & 22, 2014**. You'll spend two hours learning the basics from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Friday, have a chance to go home and practice and then return for the final part of the class from 9:30-11:30 a.m. on Saturday morning. After mastering basics, you'll be ready to tat lovely edgings, doilies and more. Note: Thread and #10 tatting needles will be provided. However, participants are asked to bring a scissors, a small (#6) crochet hook and a little bit of patience. Cost is \$40.00 (includes tax). Reserve your spot today!

AWS Certification/Upgrade Welding Classes:

Applications are currently being accepted for the AWS Certification/Upgrade Welding course set to begin on **Jan. 6, 2015**. It will be a 48-hour night class held from 4-8 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays and will run through Feb. 12, 2015. Contact RTEC today to learn about possible funding assistance. Cost is \$1,400 plus tax.

Welding Basics Class:

Want to prepare yourself for a career that's in high demand? Learn the basics of welding in the next 48-hour course scheduled to begin **Jan. 5, 2015**. Classes will be held from 4-8 p.m. on Mondays & Wednesdays through Feb. 16, 2015. Cost is \$1,400 plus tax. Contact RTEC today and see if you might be eligible for funding assistance.

Winter Hobby Welding:

Learn the basics of different types of welding so you can create unique welded projects. Make something for your yard or household or even create a keepsake for a loved one in honor of a special occasion or milestone. Hobby class will be held from **7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. on three Saturdays - Jan. 17, 24 & 31, 2015**. Perfect for amateurs, artists and hobbyists! Cost is \$137.80 (includes tax). Sign up today!

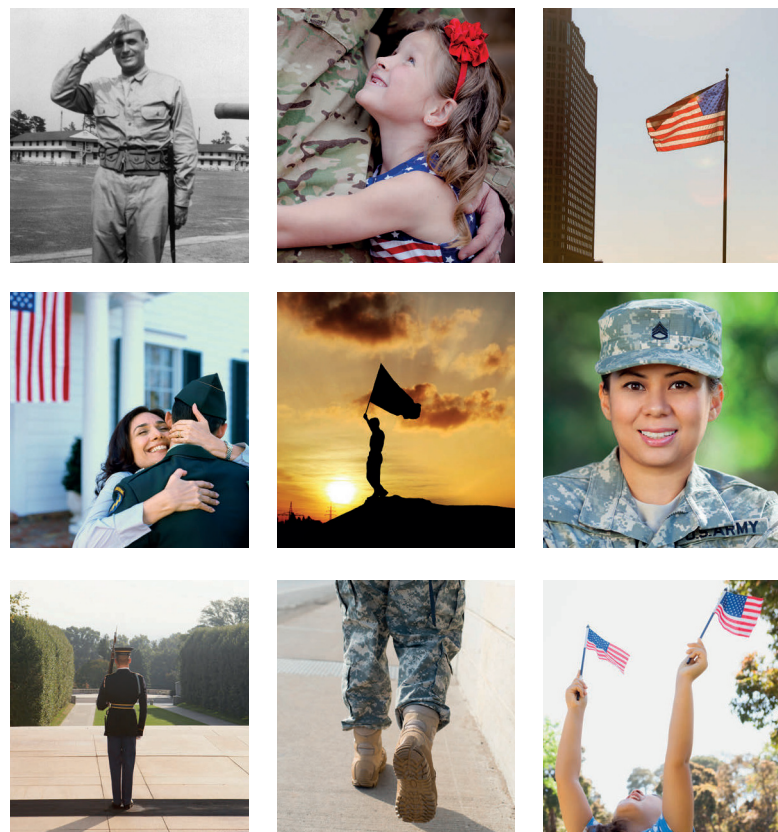
Class sizes are limited! Please contact RTEC and register today!



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Our country is the land of the free,



because it's the home of the brave.

On November 11, Midcontinent® is honoring our nation's veterans.

We hold special gratitude for coworkers having served, currently serving, or with family or friends serving. We salute each of you, and want you to know that your sacrifices are not forgotten.

Thank you.

