



For This Edition, The **PRESS & DAKOTAN** Asked Members of The Public To Submit Their Thoughts And Recollections About Their Military Service Or About Family Members Who Served. We Present Those Responses Here.

Lewis Van Osdel

Submitted By James L. Van Osdel

Several men, of more than moderate means, were discussing the merits of a particular rifle and the soldier who used it to hit his target almost a mile away.

I countered that the soldier, with several years training, was using a \$5,000 weapon. I related the story of a Yankton County farm boy who joined the National Guard in early 1940 for tuition assistance while taking pre-med courses at Yankton College.

He and his compatriots of the 147th Field Artillery of Yankton found themselves in New Guinea several months later, helping defend neighboring Australia from the encroaching Japanese military in the Far East.

One day he observed, from his concealed vantage point as field artillery spotter, American troops urgently attempting a retreat from Japanese forces.

The spotter, with just several months of part time training, used his binoculars and slide rule to derive firing coordinates which he called to the Yankton unit.

Back in their positions, the 147th volunteers used these coordinates to affix firing order for their howitzers. These men, including Don Modereger and Arnold Albrecht, are still living in Yankton.

Sometime during the hot, dusty days of the early Fifties, a car bearing Missouri license plates came down our farm driveway seven miles east of Yankton. The visitor said he was looking for a Mr. Lewis Van Osdel. I asked if he was looking for my late grandfather or my father's younger brother who was in Army medical school in Denver.

He said he was looking for the Van Osdel that was in the war in New Guinea. I escorted him into our home where Mom brought the coffee pot and cookie jar to the kitchen table. Dad asked why he wanted to see "Lewie".

"I was among a group retreating from the attack of the (enemy) in New Guinea. We thought we were goners. Then this artillery barrage opened up, dropping fire just behind us, helping us to escape. I swore if I lived through the day, I would find that artillery spotter and thank him."

It was my Uncle Lewis Van Osdel who called coordinates to his compatriots of the 147th and helped save the day for the American forces, including our Missouri visitor.

I do not believe that our Missouri visitor ever got to Denver to personally thank "Lewie". But "Lewie" saved the day for many other soldiers. My "Uncle Lewie" and his oldest son, Lew, also a medical doctor, both served in separate "MASH" unit hospitals in Viet Nam at the same time.

My uncle, Lewis Van Osdel, later became very well known on the West Coast as an orthopedic surgeon, specializing in reconstruction of the hand. My cousin, Lew, is a psychiatrist.

Whenever West Coast GIs were admitted to a hospital with extensive damage to their hand/s, x-rays were sent to Portland for consultation on repair of the injury by Col. Lewis Van Osdel, a Yankton county farm boy who could hit a very important target from considerable distance, with a little help from his friends from the 147th Field Artillery.



This image was submitted by Orvin Oien of Gayville showing the liberation of the Mauthausen-Gusen concentration camp in Austria. It was liberated by the 90th Infantry Division, of which Oien was a member.

And some of us wonder why, after an excursion around the world, there is no mention, no plaque honoring volunteers of the 147th Field Artillery unit in any park or veteran plaza in Yankton County.

"Lest We Forget"

Robert Nysveen

I am Robert Nysveen and the older son of Iver Nysveen. My dad was in the South Pacific during WWII. My turn came on (4th) Nov. 1963 with the Air Force. I did all the usual things a 17 year young man wanted to do for our country, to keep it safe and free. I went to basic training at San Antonio, Texas. Next to Wichita Falls, Texas for more training. Then off to Nashville, Tenn., for training on the C-130A cargo aircraft as a mechanic. Then volunteered for Vietnam. I was sent to Naha, Okinawa and Vietnam. I was a sergeant and crew chief mechanic on a C-130A aircraft. We would fly to several places all over Nam. We would haul anything from bodies, ammo (ammunition?) of all kinds, fuel bladders, food and a lot more, landing on temporary (runways) or slid cargo just feet off the runway. It might be dirt-metal-blacktop. We mainly supported I-Corps marines in the northern part of South Vietnam. We were shot at a lot from the ground, small and large fire trying to shoot us down. The Marines and Army troops called our C-130A a mortar magnet, when parked on the ground. I did my part and proud of it. My missions in Nam are too many to name and the memories will (always) be with me. I was no hero I just did my job. God Bless America.



Charles and Connie (Nysveen) Kendall

Connie Nysveen

"Army Wife"

I, Constance (Connie) Nysveen married Charles Kendall in Yankton September 27, 1942. On November 11, 1942, he was inducted into the Army. He was in many different camps throughout the East Coast. It was difficult to know how long he would be located at one camp so I could go to him. In 1943 while stationed in Fort Dix, N.J., he found me a room in Trenton, N.J., at a private home but he said to be sure to bring the marriage license along. He had the privilege to live off-post and usually weekends. In 1944 our usual togetherness was one day to 5 months. I arrived one day and the next day he was transferred. I travelled to Crewe, Va. from Pennsylvania by train. I waited for Charles at the depot, but sat in the wrong section. I was asked to sit in the white section, first experience. After a month I travelled to Manassquan, N.J. He was stationed at Camp Edison, Sea Girt, N.J. The next day a hurricane blew in. We celebrated our first Christmas together while stationed there, Dec. 1944. In 1945 he was shipped overseas to Europe and I went home to South Dakota.

Memories — Memories.

Iver I. Nysveen

Iver I. Nysveen was from Centerville, South Dakota. He entered into the Army December 2, 1941 and was originally sent to Fort Knox, Kentucky, for basic training. From there he was sent to Camp Chaffee in Arkansas in 1942 where he met and married Alice Lloyd of Van Buren, Arkansas. He was Staff Sergeant over the motor pool. Afterwards, he went to Camp Edwards, Massachusetts, to Division Ordinance School, Flint Section for diesel engines, G. M. series No. 71. Then he went back to Camp Chaffee and worked in the motor pool. Later he was sent to Fort Ord, California, at Monterey. From there he was sent to Australia and put diesel engines in landing barges. Next, he went to the Philippines and assembled bull dozers, where he remained for 3 years. After returning home, he was discharged October 25, 1945 from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas with an honorable discharge as a Tech Sergeant. On returning home, he worked in Sioux City, Iowa for Missouri Valley Machinery and then Alberts Caterpillar in Tulsa, Okla. He then retired in 1965 but continued to work for Kennie Richardson Coal Mine in Henryetta, Okla. as a diesel mechanic for 10 years.

Harold Nysveen (Dad)

Harold Nysveen entered the Army September 4th 1942 and was sent to Florida for training as a radio operator. He arrived in North



Harold (left) and Larry Nysveen

Africa by troop ship in late 1942. When it was discovered he was raised on a farm and was mechanically inclined, he was transferred to the 12th Air Force (Army Air Corps) to work on motors. He spent most of his service in northern Italy and was discharged as a T-Sergeant at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin on September 9, 1945.

Larry Nysveen (Son of Harold)

Larry Nysveen entered the Army on July 17th 1967. Before boarding a bus for induction, his father, Harold (WWII Veteran) told him to find one good buddy and stick with him. Then after a firm handshake, he said, "I would go for you if I could."

Training took place at Fort Leonard Wood as a combat engineer. Service in Vietnam was from December 1967 to February 1970 with the 497th Combat Engineers, 18th Engineering Brigade. He also served with the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment in Nuremberg, Germany 1977-1980. He retired with 23 years combined active and reserve service.

Cornelius Landman

Cornelius (Red) Landman, from the Rosebud, S. D. area, was inducted into the service April 28 1944 at Fort Snelling, Minn. He was in the 3rd Army. He trained at different army bases till he was sent overseas to N. Africa. From there they landed in Italy and walked and fought their way into Germany. His troop helped liberate the prison camp at Buchenwald, Germany.

He received the European, African and Middle Eastern campaign medals, the Good Conduct medal and the World War II Victory Medal. He received his discharge April 13, 1946.

His Dad passed away. His mother and two sisters moved to Sioux Falls. That's where he came when he left the service. He got a job at a service station, servicing cars, and later at a truck stop servicing trucks. He helped his brother-in-law with his auctioneering business.

He met and married Hazel Nysveen. They had two children, James and Julie.

P.F.C Cornelius "Red" Landman died February 21, 1981.



Marvin LaCroix

Marvin LaCroix

Submitted By Laurie A. LaCroix, Yankton

At the young age of 18, Marvin LeRoy LaCroix, "Bud," was drafted into the United States Army knowing he would soon face the harsh and devastating conditions of World War II.

After 13 arduous weeks of combat training at Ft. Knox, Kentucky, he became a 242nd engineer attached to the 77th Infantry Division and was sent to Ft. Ord, California. There he learned bridge building and to process ammunition for the front line soldiers.

He first saw action at Guam then was deployed to the Philippines where his unit was ambushed, killing many of his military friends. Marvin survived with bullet wounds for which he received a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star



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