

## WWII Veterans continued with the “S” letter of the alphabet

By Dave Kusel

Last week we featured Gene Strathman in detail to impress upon everyone that we are looking for as many pictures, documents and information as we can find so we can digitize that information and preserve it in both the Manning Veterans’ history book and also in the Manning Historical database.

Now we continue with more of the Veterans’ whose last names start with S.

### #524 Otto Strecker (1 picture, very little information)



*Otto Strecker - photo from the late Walter Boock who first contacted me in 2003 by e-mail from California and shared Manning information and pictures with me.*

Walter never lived in Manning but had a lot of Manning connections through the Peters family in Manning...also with ties to the Hinz, Hagedorn, and Thede families of the area. Walter shared pictures as best he could by e-mail at the age of 88. Sadly he died in 2004 so I was unable to gather more information and pictures from him. Walter was the son of Herman and Elsa (Peters) Boock of Flandreau, South Dakota.

Otto Strecker is the son of Dora (Peters) Strecker. When Otto was a young man he would come to Manning in the summers and stay with his aunt and uncle, Jurgen and Anna (Peters) Hinz.

Otto married Maxine Becker who also has Manning connections. Maxine is a niece of Therese (Thede) Detlefsen. Therese is the mother of Max Detlefsen of Manning.

Otto's second wife, Margaret, was the widow of Albert Boock...he was the son of Fred and Margarthea Boock.

**The only military information I have for Otto is that he was serving in North Africa September 10, 1943.**



*Dorathea (Peters) Strecker, Anna (Peters) Hinz and Jurgen Hinz. Dorathea & Anna were sisters. Anna & Jurgen's children were: Edna Kaspersen, Luella Gruhn, Edward Hinz, Eldora Hofvander, Walter, and Florence Genzen.*



*Herbert Boock - photo from the late Walter Boock - they were probably cousins, but I'm not sure other than they are related.*

Things get confusing with the Boock name and I don't have the family figured out exactly. There was another Walter Boock who was the son of John Boock of Templeton. I don't think they are related to Walter Boock of Flandreau or Herbert (above) whose picture came from Walter. Herbert was the son of Fred and Margaretha (Peters) Boock, who also originated in Flandreau, but moved to Manning where he graduated in 1933.

Now we begin with the Struve family name. Some of them were related and others were not. If I don't have the parents' names listed for some of these Struves, hopefully a relative will contact me and help with this family information.

### #525 Donald E. Struve (1 picture, 5 newspaper articles, brief write-up)



Donald was the son of Peter and Else Struve. He married Dorothy Pahde, the daughter of Herman and Alma Pahde.

Donald was inducted into the Army Air Corps in 1942. He trained at Will Rogers field, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He served with the 321st service group of the 1749th Ordnance Supply and Maintenance Company in the South Pacific including the islands of New Caledonia and New Hebrides. Corporal Struve was discharged in 1945.

#### 1944 newspaper article: Donald Struve writes from South Pacific

Corporal Donald E. Struve writes from the South Pacific after a silence of quite a few weeks, due to another long boat ride. He was able to tell he had been in New Caledonia and then in the New Hebrides.

#### Following is a part of his letter:

"I won't be able to write very often because we are very very busy. We don't like our new location but guess there are some that are worse. "Sorry I can't answer all your questions but the censor won't allow it, but guess I can tell you about some of the things we have, like the enormous land crabs as large as saucers, their legs stretch out a lot further, and they have big pincers just like a craw-dad.

A funny thing about them is that instead of running straight they go sideways. They have races across our tents all night. Once in awhile one gets a hold of a sock in his pincers and rocks on it for" a long time. The other night one of them, was on my foot locker and had it half way open. It seems as though he had my cigarettes out and was looking for a match.

"Another thing we have here is centipedes, as long as six inches, and thick as a pencil. We chased wild chickens in a jeep one day--- if your think pheasants are fast you ought to see these. We tried to find where they roost at night but never have. Their plumage is just beautiful. We have lots of parrots, some are pure white, others red and some are beautiful green.

Our mascot, a black dog, chased wild boars which are plentiful also rats galore. We have scorpions whose sting is very painful.

Donald is with the 321st service group of the 1749 Ordnance Supply and Maintenance Co. of the Air Corps.

### #526 Emil “Butsy” Struve (1 picture, no military information)



This is the only military picture I have of Emil. I found it in the Homemakers Club scrapbook - unfortunately the original photo is very blurry. This photo was taken at 417 Elm Street, the home of Henry & Lillian (Struve) Brandt.

The Homemakers members would send small packages of non-perishable items and notes of encouragement to the various WWII service men who were connected to club members.

Like a lot of pictures I have of people and families, many of them came from non-family or distant family members. This is true with most of the pictures I have of Emil.

The following pictures came from Ellen (Hoffman) Coleman, Cynthia (Peters) Genzen, and one from Roy Struve, who was Emil's nephew.

The lack of family members and Veterans themselves coming forward with military pictures and information is one of the major reasons why publishing the Manning book is taking many years longer than I had hoped or anticipated.



*Roy Struve with his Uncle Emil Struve on right*

Before Roy passed away he shared his military pictures and information with me. Even though he is the nephew of Emil, they are not that far apart in age because Emil was the youngest in the Struve family and Roy's dad was much older.

Roy was just released from the Army when this picture was taken and he visited Emil who had been in the hospital, I think because of wounds he received previously during his WWII service.

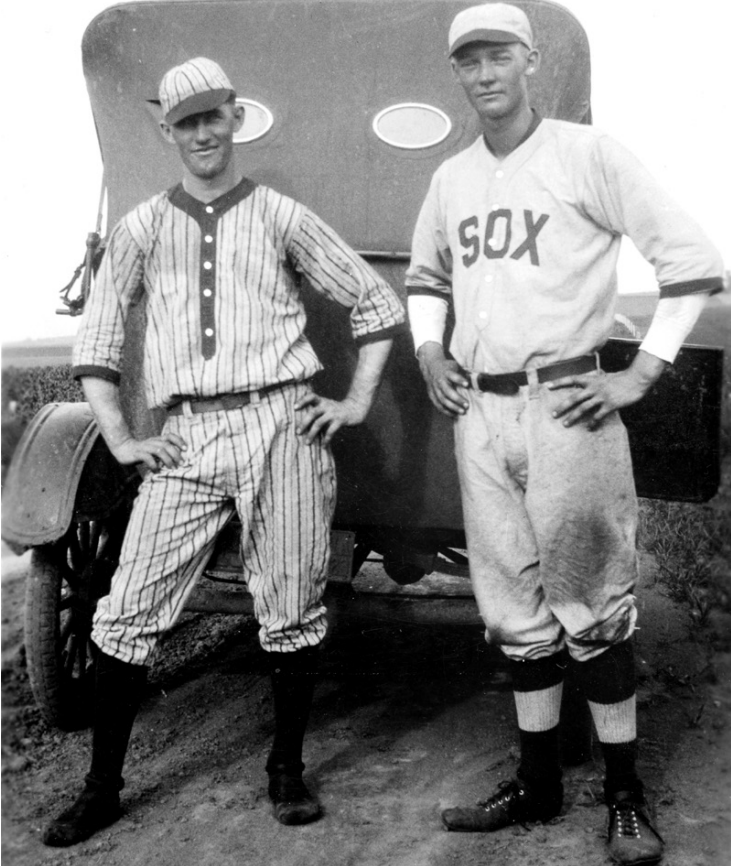
Emil was a brother to George H. Struve who was Roy's dad. This photo was taken by Clarence Edmunds, husband of Ruby Struve (Roy's sister), while out in California.

Some family connections Roy told me: Merlin Nulle's mother was Leona Nulle who was George H. Struve's first wife - she previously had two children: Leona and Gladys who had moved out to California. Leona died and then George remarried and they had Ruby, Ruth, and Roy. So Merlin's mother and Gladys were half-sisters to Roy.



*Lillian (Struve) Brandt, Emil “Butsy” Struve - photo from Ellen (Coleman) Hoffman*

Note the crutch - Butsy ran a pitch fork through his foot while working. His mother, Margaret (Joens) Struve, got fresh cow pee and green manure and placed it on the injured foot.



*George Peters and Emil Struve - from Cynthia (Peters) Genzen*

### #527 Gerald Struve (no pictures, 2 newspaper articles, no military biography)

The only information I have for Gerald is from two letters he wrote that were partially published in the Monitor during WWII. I have a picture of Gerald's dad but no other information as to his mother's name or background.

**1943 Gerald Struve at Colorado Springs** Pfc. Gerald Struve writes that he has been traveling around quite a little and has missed the Monitor. He is located at Petersen Field, Colorado, now and states he will be looking forward to the "Soldier's Column."

He is now taking his overseas training. In the past he graduated from Airplane Mechanics School at Seymour Johnson, North Carolina, and was eliminated from Aerial Gunner School at Buckingham Field, Ft. Meyers, Florida.

He waited two weeks in Tampa for reclassification and is now at Peterson Field. He will take four weeks of training and then be assigned to a photo squadron to service and repair planes on the line.

He sends greetings to all his Manning friends and Good luck to the boys.

**1944 Gerald Struve In Italy** Gerald Struve, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Struve writes that he is now in Italy, feeling fine and settled in his new location in tents with gas stoves and lamps. One day the Red Cross came out to the camp and they were treated to doughnuts and coffee.

He also states of Charles Elias and Charles Rogers being there. He sends his regards to all his Manning relatives and friends.



*George, John, and Herman - sons of Claus Struve*

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