

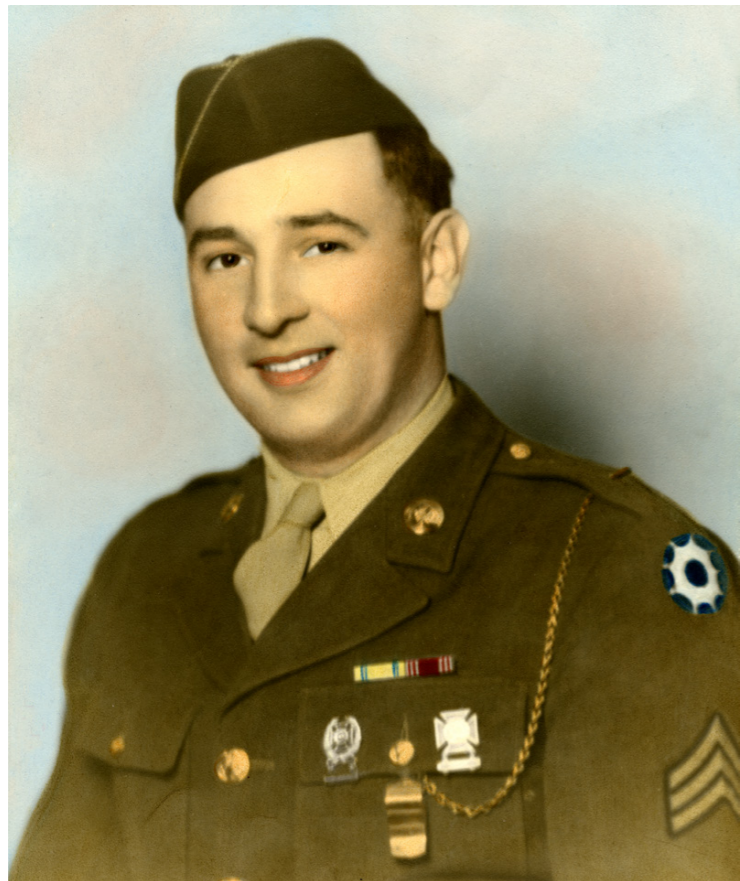
WWII Veterans continued with the "T" letter of the alphabet

By David Kusel

For this Veteran, it was a fluke one day in 2013 when I was told that the footlocker of Max Timmerman was donated to the Manning Heritage Park. I immediately went to the park and found out where it was. I brought it home and when I opened it I was ecstatic to see so many items in the top shelf, BUT when I removed the shelf I saw what did not surprise me...mold on a number of the items. I proceeded to take those items out into the sunlight and used some denatured alcohol to clean off the mold.

So many times I find out about Manning history being thrown away and sadly I also run into deterioration and mold like this. It is another example and reason why I need to get those historical things scanned digitally so they will be preserved long after the original items fall apart or get thrown away.

#540 Max D. Timmerman (several pictures, 5 newspaper articles, no formal write-up at this point)



Max Timmerman, Sergeant in the Military Police

Up until the time I found out about this footlocker I didn't have any military pictures of Max and very little information. I had a number of civilian pictures of Max from the Warren Timmerman collection that Roger Hinz inherited.

Even though this picture and many other items were right here in Manning, if I was not given the heads up about this trunk I probably would have never found out about it...it would have simply been stored in a closet at the park and in due time the mold would have probably ruined most of the items.

I am constantly begging people and putting the word out, bringing my requests to anyone I can reach about preserving what is still left of Manning history. Sadly, this effort is going mostly on deaf ears.

All I can do is to continue using my web pages and writing military articles like these weekly features to bring my concerns and preservation projects to everyone's attention.



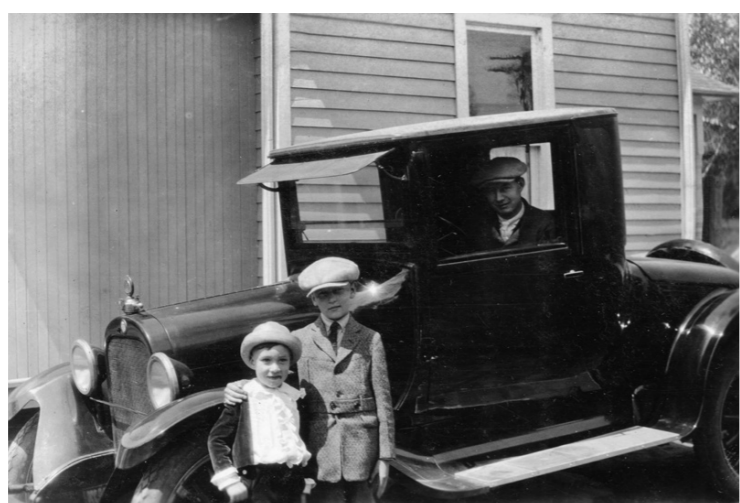
Top tray of trunk and mold visible on the uniform and leather case



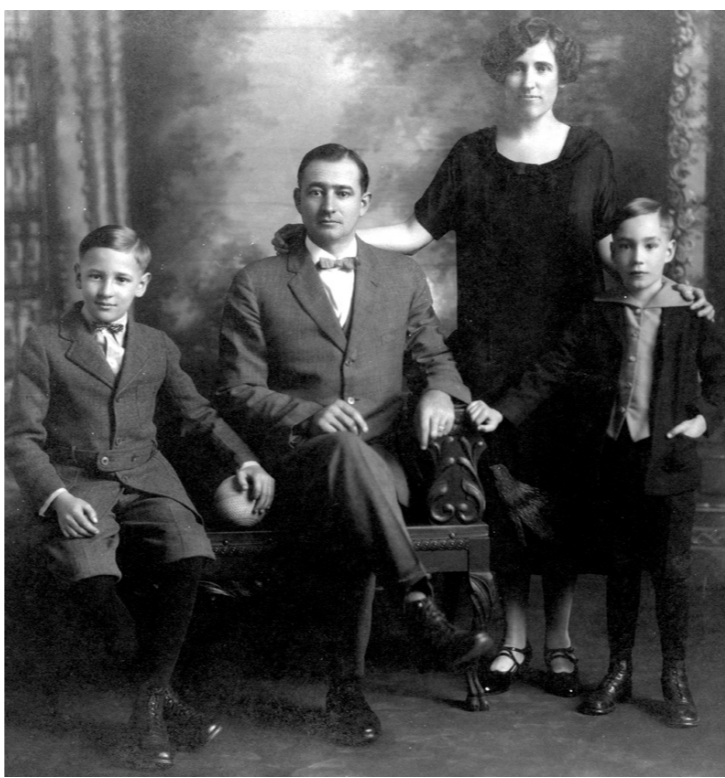
As you can see, it is a very large trunk.



Max D. Timmerman's signature



Warren & Max Timmerman with their Uncle Fred Timmerman



Max, Henry, Annette (Hinz), and Warren Timmerman

As I stated at the beginning of this article, I don't have any formal biography for Max. I have a lot of information and pieces of the puzzle and will have to take that information and put it into story form when I start the actual layout of the Veterans' book in the future. So for now I'll show some of those bits and pieces of information and items about Max's service.

First Local Draftees Leave For Army Camp 1941

Mr. George Bald and Max Timmerman boarded a train Wednesday morning for Fort Crook, Nebraska, the first in this community to be called in the draft. George has been working for the Farmers Union and until recently Max had been employed at the Central Food Market.

They, like all the other draftees will be subject to a year's military training, either at Fort Crook or they will be transferred to another military camp. Although George and Max are the first to go from Manning, there are several others that have a comparatively low draft number and are expecting to be called any time.

When asked his opinion about being drafted. Mr. Bald stated that he wasn't overly enthused about going - he thought that he could make the best of it.



Max Timmerman uniform



We know very little about this picture. Until I found a V.J. Day newspaper from the United Kingdom in Max's footlocker, I was not sure if he was stationed overseas...but from that newspaper, this picture, and official form from Southampton I now know Max was in the England & Scotland area sometime during WWII.

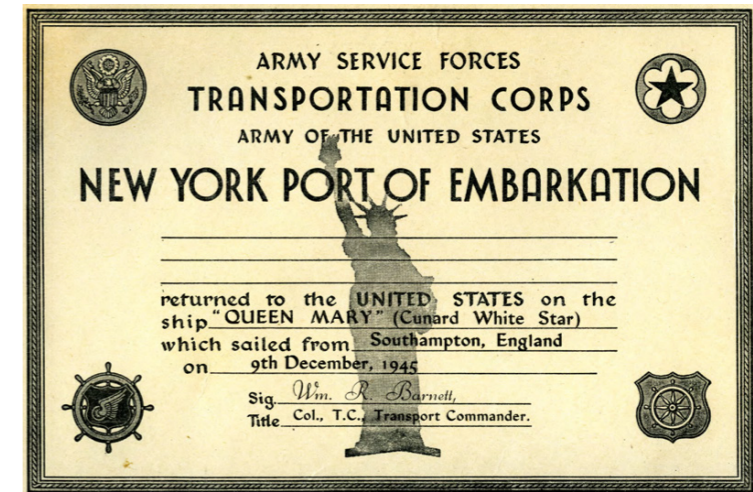


Above: knapsack from the Red Cross
Left: Max MP whistle

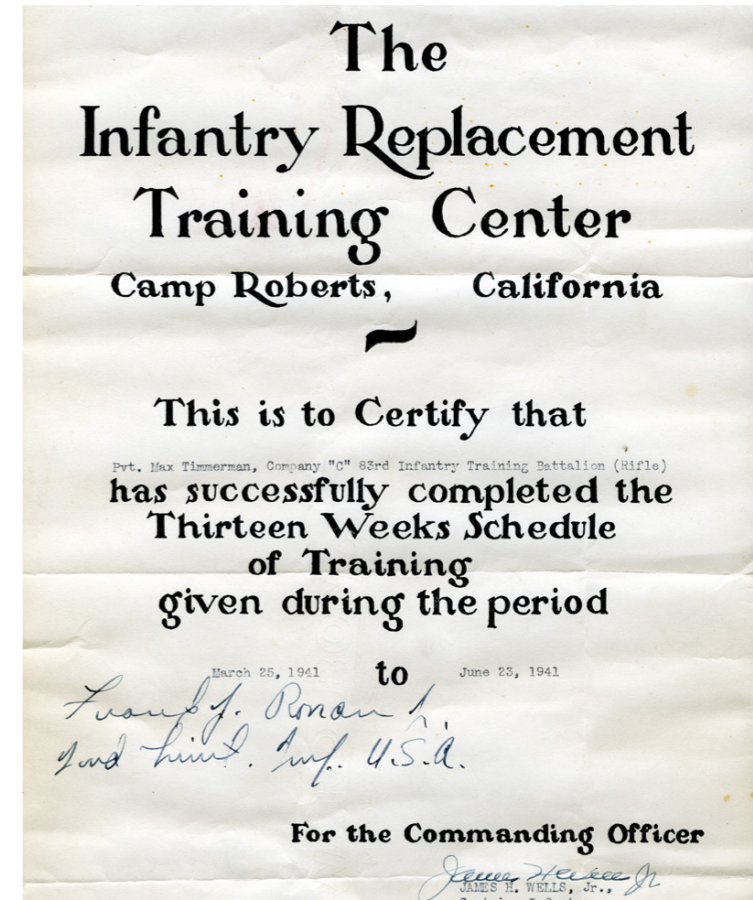
Another subject I constantly write about is that I need to go through people's history. If they pick and choose and only bring me a few things they think I might want - more than likely they will miss many items that would help me write about the history of a specific Veteran and also would scan if I was able to inspect the items they have.

This next document is a perfect example. It states that Max returned home from overseas at Southampton, England. The previous picture of Max in a Scottish costume led me to believe that Max must have been overseas but until I found this and one other document...I did not know for sure that Max was indeed overseas during WWII.

So please bring the military information to me so I can go through those things myself. Like I have for over 20 years, I take good care of things I borrow and then promptly return them. If I can't get things scanned right away I tell that person.



Max Timmerman returned to the U.S. on the Queen Mary from Southampton to the port of New York on December 9, 1945.



From this certificate I know that Max trained at Camp Rogers, California, from March 25, 1941 to June 23, 1941, with Company C 83rd Infantry Training Battalion (Rifle).



Max's brush and grooming kit



Some of Max's medals and patches



WWII continues next week with Lee Tipton.