

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

By David Kusel

This first Veteran, Lee Tipton, is an example of family connections that qualify him for inclusion in the Manning Veterans' history book. He married a Manning girl, Margaret Brandhorst. Margaret's uncle, Henry Brandorst, served during WWI. So although Lee never lived in Manning we are including him through his Manning family connections.

Margaret was interested in Manning history - from time to time she would write me and send me some of the Brandhorst history to scan. I always hoped to get more pictures and information from her but then time ran out when she died in 2011.

#541 Lee Tipton (no pictures, brief write-up)

Lee was born on September 16, 1919, in rural Conesville, Iowa, the son of Roy and Lura Tipton.

Lee joined the Army and then served in the Pacific Theater in World War II in the 13th Jungle Air Force. Despite grueling conditions, he learned to manage facilities and personnel. He was awarded eight major battle stars, including Guadalcanal.

After the war, he managed businesses in Cedar Rapids and Des Moines.

Notes from Lee's wife, Margaret (Brandhorst):

World War II was upon us and so was the fever to marry as soon as possible. Lee Tipton, who was my college boyfriend, and I married in July, 1942. Then I had to give up a top Dietetic Internship, because the program did not allow interns to be married.

Lee was drafted and was sent to the South Pacific Theater, part of the 13th Jungle Air Force. While Lee was serving in the war, I joined some of my Iowa State professors at the Kaiser Ship Building Company in Portland, Oregon. The U.S. needed ships for the war, and with men away at service, Kaiser needed women to build the ships. Yet woman had responsibilities for their children, so Kaiser established day care centers for the children. I worked at the preschool in nutrition, under the guidance of a famed child nutritionist, Miriam Lowenberg. It was a wonderful experience working with the best known professional of day care centers.

After World War II ended, Lee came home, physically unscathed, and finished college at Iowa State University, with a degree in agricultural economics. He was immediately employed, managing the Sears Farm store.

Lee passed away in Denver, Colorado, in 2009 and Margaret in Parker, Colorado, in 2011.

#542 Merlene Thompson (no pictures, brief write-up)

When I started gathering military names, information, and pictures using my web pages in 1996, I wish would have originally made specific computer data folders for each name when I found them. Merlene is one person who I have listed as a Veteran but I don't remember or can't find any proof, as such.

Today, I always make a specific computer database folder for anyone who provides me with information and I include e-mails and other contact information in that specific folder.

My hopes are always that a relative will find these articles and the Manning Veterans' web page I maintain and will come forward and confirm that he was a Veteran and provide pictures and more information.

#543 Tommy Thompson (no pictures, 1 Monitor article)

Mr. and Mrs. John Frahm received a message Tuesday from their daughter, Marian, who lives in Long Beach, California, that she had received notice from the government that her husband, Tommy Thompson, a bomber pilot, was reported missing in action over Germany. Lt. Thompson received his flight training at Hobbs, New Mexico, Lincoln, Nebraska, and Rapid City, South Dakota. They were married April 20 in New Mexico.

Manning Monitor article 1945 Expecting Navy Discharge Soon

Mrs. Tommy Thompson has received word from her husband, who is stationed at Norfolk, Virginia, with the navy, that he will receive an honorable discharge from service at Norfolk. Mrs. Thompson and daughter, Sharon, have been making their home with Mrs. Thompson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Dietz, here in Manning.

#544 Joseph M. Trecker (no pictures, 3 Monitor articles formal write-up)**Based in Marianas April 11, 1945.**

Dear Sirs: Received the Monitor yesterday for the first time. To express my gratitude for having news from home by saying how much I appreciated it would hardly be enough. If there is something I can do to show my thanks I will gladly comply.

As you know, I am based here in the Marianas Islands and have pulled quite a few missions to Tokyo to date. About what I experienced and saw I cannot tell in this letter but the papers have carried a fair account.

The temperature here is moderate and after getting used to it, you really like it. We are still living in tents but have huts under construction so it won't be long.

With best regards to all my friends and once again a million thanks for sending the paper. Yours truly, Joe J. Trecker.

From the Veteran section of the Templeton Centennial book: S/Sgt. Joseph J. Trecker

Joseph J. Trecker enlisted in the United States Army Air Force on July 16, 1943, and served with the crew on a B-29 Bomber as a left blister gunner in the 1st Bombardment Squadron, 9th Bombardment Group, 313th Bombardment Wing of the 20th Army Air Force.

This crew was stationed at Tinian, Marianas, and flew 35 Combat Missions, 500 Combat Hours and 100,000 miles. He was discharged October 19, 1945, at the Army Air Force Separation Center, Santa Ana, California, and was awarded The Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, the Good Conduct Medal and the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Medal with one Bronze Star.

Joe passed away May 18, 1980.

#545 Hugo J. Ullerich (no pictures, or other information)

Again, another name of a Veteran in my database that I have no supporting information that he was a Veteran. There were a lot of Ullerichs in the Manning area. Hopefully someone will come forward and help with Hugo.

#546 Anthony Venner (no pictures, only information from his obituary)

After Tony passed away in 2002 I remember visiting with his sons, Gene and Ron, about getting some pictures and information from them about their dad. I was going to follow up but as I just discovered in my database, that never happened.

This is why it is imperative that anyone who I had approached in the past about getting pictures and information from them need to come forward now. It becomes next to impossible to remember every contact I made in the past and what was said at the time.

As soon as I get a chance I'll contact the Venner boys to find a time to get some pictures and information about Tony's service.

Tony's obituary provides this basic information in the second column...

On August 26, 1942, Tony entered the United States Army at Camp Dodge, Iowa. He served in the South Pacific, the Philippines and New Guinea. Tony attained the rank of corporal before being honorably discharged on January 6, 1946, at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas.

#547 Frank Ludwig August Vetter (no pictures, only information from his tombstone) Private in the US Army

Son of August and Minnie (Noelck) Vetter. Siblings were Louis, Frank, Alice Young, Esther Peters, and Martha Vetter.



1915 Washington No. 1 country school: 1 Otto Grundmeier, 2 Eugene Osborne, 3 Dorothy Herman, 4 Mary Osborne, 5 Emma Rose, 6 Hannah Rose, 7 Emma Reinke, 8 Louise (Branning) Dierenfeld, 9 Leona Petersohn, 10 Florence A. Stang - teacher, 11 Viola Eischeid, 12 Alvin Grundmeier, 13 Elsie Reinke, 14 Marcellus Grundmeier, 15 Frank Vetter, 16 Emilia (Branning) Vetter, 17 Walt Branning, 18 Paul Vetter, 19 Francis Grundmeier, 20 Leo Petersohn

#548 Harvey Vetter (no pictures, no information)

Harvey's name is listed on the Manning Memorial Day Veterans' Roll of Honor list.

I have no other information about him.

#549 Louis Vetter (no pictures, no information)

I have no reference information about Louis that proves he was a Veteran other than he is in my military database of names.

As you have been reading through this week's article, I hope you have noticed how the lack of military pictures makes it more difficult to tell the story about each Veteran.

I'm constantly writing about how many people and families have been throwing away their old pictures. I think this point can be driven home quite well when you see all of the names of these Veterans but there are no pictures in which to honor them.

Why so many people and families do not see the importance of preserving those old pictures is beyond my comprehension.

#550 Paul E. Vetter (several pictures, quite a bit of information, an interview and formal write-up)

I had the honor to visit with Paul on a number of occasions. I knew him for many years and enjoyed visiting with him. I won't show all of the information and pictures I have for him but will give you some samples. More of his information and pictures will be used in the final version that will be featured in the Manning Veterans' history book.



Paul Vetter with his cousin, Vernon Noelck

Arcadia Service News Pvt. Vernon Noelck of Arcadia and Pfc. Paul Vetter of Manning, cousins, were honored at a picnic Sunday noon in the Carroll Park.



While each Purple Heart is basically the same - I could use a graphic sample image from the Internet, but I feel it is important to scan each Veteran's medals. We won't be showing every Veteran's medals in their stories in the Veterans' book but from time to time we will. When we do I want to use a scan of their actual Medal - in this case this is a scan of Paul's medal.

Serial Number 37658650; Enlisted Camp Dodge January 28, 1943

Paul Vetter began his active duty in the Army on February 4, 1943, when he was 34 years old. He trained at Fort Dodge, Texas, and San Francisco, California, and went on maneuvers in Louisiana.

In May 1944 he was shipped overseas and landed in New Guinea with the 32nd Division. He was wounded in the leg while fighting against the Japanese on the Island of Luzon, Philippines, on March 29, 1945. Paul recalls: "We were marching up a hillside under fire which took about three hours to get to the top. When we were at the top of the hill, my job was to cover the other troops as they went around the hillside. This is when I was shot in the leg by a Japanese machine gun. I didn't even realize I was shot until it was time to go down the hill."

Pfc. Vetter received his medical discharge from Camp Carson, Colorado in 1945. He received the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Campaign Ribbon, Good Conduct Ribbon, Purple Heart, three battle stars, two overseas bars, Combat Infantrymen Badge and Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one star.



Back Row: Orland Joens, Merlin Struve; Middle Row: Harold Reinke, Roger Eich, Harry "Bony" Hargens, Elmer "Burley" Joens, Carl Rostermundt; Front Row: Melvin "Toots" Grimm, Gene Strathman, Dean Noble, Paul Vetter.

They all initially reported to Camp Dodge, Iowa.

In 1999, Jon Vogel, who was a Sophomore at Manning, interviewed Paul about his service and then wrote about his story for his world history project. When I work on the final version of Paul's story, I'll feature parts of Jon's interview.

Here is how Jon began his story about Paul:

This is a story about a man that fought for America during the Second World War. He fought in some of the worst battles in the Pacific against the Japanese. He spent all his time during the war on islands trying to free them from the Japanese control.

#551 Leroy D. Vinke (1 picture, no information, 1 Monitor article) MOMM1 US Navy etched in his tombstone at the Manning Cemetery

The image above is a scan I made from a facsimile copy provided to me by a family member. While it seems like I'm ungrateful - when I receive copies like this, the quality of the scanned image is very poor. When there is damage on the original and hence the copy, it is really not worth my time to digitally touch them up. You can see two cracks in this picture and damage on the left side. A copy gives this washed out affect and the face is more grainy.

The Manning Veterans' book will be very unique so I want to use the best scanned imagery that I can get.

I'm hoping that people will understand this when I request only original pictures to scan.

While something is better than nothing, I think our Veterans deserve better than a "copy" used in the book.

Information about the Veteran

Another problem I have is that when I ask for pictures, I'm also looking for military information but people either fail to look or they have nothing about their Veteran.

A Veterans' book with just pictures of Veterans wouldn't be very informative. Just like a book with only text wouldn't be informative. I hope by continuing to write about various Veterans and what we are looking for that people will help out more.

Manning Monitor article 1944

Dear Sirs: Just a line to let you know that my address has been changed and that I am in good health. I want to thank you for the paper; for it surely is good to read the home news. And I also thank the Legion boys for what they are doing and want to say hello to all the home folks and all my buddies.

LeRoy D. Vinke.

#552 Harold Voege (no pictures, some basic information)

Harold Voege, son of Otto and Alfrida Voege, was inducted into the Army August 27, 1945, at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and received his basic training at Little Rock, Arkansas. Later Harold received training at the Infantry Replacement Training Center at Fort Robinson Arkansas.

Harold left for his overseas duty April 7, 1946, and served as a surgical technician at the 98th General Hospital in Munich, Germany. His overseas duty ended December 13, 1946, and he returned to the United States. He received his honorable discharge at the Army Separation Center at Fort Sheridan, Illinois January 27, 1947.

WWII continues next week with the Vollmer family.