

WWII Veterans continues with the "W" letter of the alphabet

I hope the readers of this article took the time to go through Clarence Pfundheller's four-page military article that I posted last week.

If you haven't done so, please go to the archived section of the Manning Exchange where it is linked now. When I found out about Clarence being a guest speaker at the upcoming annual VFW Pearl Harbor banquet in Manning and that he was Iowa's last living Pearl Harbor survivor, I immediately decided to drop most of my other projects and drive to Audubon over a four-week period to get his story and pictures.

Being a WWII Veteran, I knew he had to be in his middle to upper 90s and at that age, as we all know, health can change overnight.

BUT never in my wildest dreams could I imagine that Clarence would die in a car accident, shortly before the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Several other newspapers and history seeking organizations had interviewed Clarence about his Pearl Harbor experiences, but from what I could tell none of them made a more in-depth story about his life.

When I work with a Veteran I like to get a broad spectrum of information about them. One of the reasons why I do this is I want the Manning Veterans' history book to be really special!

Based on all of the community history books I've seen, they all feature the Veterans in their community basically with just one picture and follow the name, rank, and serial number simplistic format.

I want the Manning Veterans' book to go way beyond this more simplistic story-line and include some basic family background which will connect and delineate the various family names that are the same. At the same time I will attempt to connect dads, grandfathers, children, grandchildren, etc. who are Veterans so the reader will be able to easily figure out in each individual story what military era other relatives can be found.

Communicating this project to family members and Veterans

My biggest challenge is finding ways to reach out and find family members, descendants, and relatives of the over 1000 Manning Veterans. For 20 years I have been promoting the Manning Veterans' project on my web pages and for 10 years in the Manning Monitor.

The resistance I meet sometimes is basic indifference about preserving the Veteran history of the Manning area.

Some family members express that the name of their Veteran is on the Manning Memorial wall and that is good enough.

Others, unfortunately failed to find a way to ask the Veteran in their family about his/her service when they were living so now they have little if any information to provide. Rather than tell me this, I am left wondering who I should contact and if I should contact them.

To those family members who have living Veterans in their family, don't ASSUME that he/she doesn't want to talk about their service - **HAVE you EVER ASKED?** I use to believe that some Veterans (especially those who saw combat) want to forget difficult experiences and therefore never want to talk about any military experiences they have.

After interviewing a number of combat Veterans, they are telling me that they basically never talked about their military service to family members because they didn't think they were interested - they never asked.

Now I'm not making this a simplistic situation...each Veteran and their family will have many other variables as to why the military service never came up but if you think it is solely because your Veteran family member wants to forget everything and will not answer questions - **YOU WILL, in all probability BE WRONG!!!**

Just read Clarence Pfundheller's comments about this topic on the fourth page of his story. Clarence is the one who really hit it home for me that most combat Veterans will share some of their military story - **IF they are asked.**

So my suggestion is to simply, and in a delicate way, sit down with the Veteran in your family and start asking them questions about their service.

Another possibility for not wanting to share their military story is with Veterans who were not in combat or during a time of war. Some of them may feel guilty about those Veterans who died or were wounded. These non-combat Veterans may suggest that they didn't do anything important so their story is not necessary - completely to the contrary and the fact that the Manning Veterans' history book is about the collective history of over 1000 individuals who served, no matter if they fought in war or were stationed stateside during peace time - we want everyone's military story.

Hopefully you'll start getting information and then ask them to talk about their pictures - in essence get captions for their pictures - names, dates, locations, events, etc.

Then contact me so we can begin the digitizing process of their information so it can be used in the Manning Veterans' history book.

What doesn't get used in the book will be preserved in the Manning Historical database I'm building.

The TIME is NOW - please don't wait!!!

I'm glad I didn't wait with Clarence Pfundheller.

Now we return to the WWII alphabetical listing.

PLEASE note the number we are on (553).
IF FIVE HUNDRED + WWII Veterans in the Manning area doesn't inspire you to first, make sure the WWII Veteran in your family is included in my database, and second, to make sure you get as many pictures and information to me to digitize and use in the Manning Veterans' book - then I don't know what else would move you to come forward.

Now 553 does NOT include all of the other eras of military events, there are the Civil War, WWI, Korea, Vietnam and all of the other Veterans in between - before and after.

Manning has one War of 1812 Veteran - he is buried in the Manning Cemetery.

#553 Kenneth J. Walters (no pictures or information)

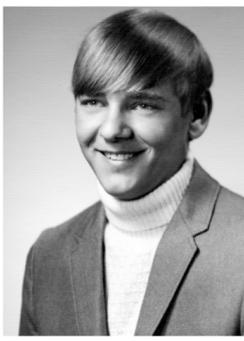
Tombstone information Kenneth J. Walters 1927 - 1968 Iowa Corporal US Army

Kenneth was married to Wilma Kintz. Their children are Vicky Cadwell, David, Steve, Tom, and Larry.

After Wilma graduated from high school in 1941, she worked in Fort Crook, Nebraska, for the war effort during WWII. While at Fort Crook, an Italian prisoner of war hand drew a picture of Wilma, which the family still has today.



Vicky with her father, Kenneth Walters

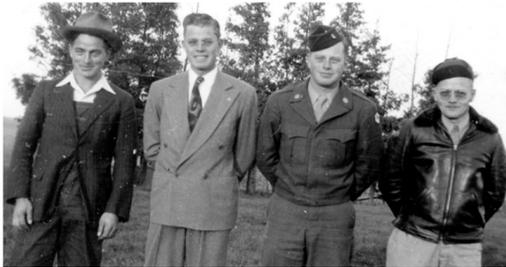


Above left: Steve Walters, above: Tom Walters, left: Larry Walters, no pictures of David Walters.

I'm presently in contact with Vicky to get the hand-drawn portrait of her mother and also pictures and any other information the family can find about Kenneth.

This takes time to coordinate, gather the information, digitize material, and then begin a draft military story.

#554 Delmar Warren (no military pictures, rough layout and time line)



Warren brothers: Max, Delmar, Lawrence (in uniform), William

The Warren family is an example where extended family connections qualify so they can be featured in the Manning area Veterans' book.

While we don't want to be exclusive, because of the nature of other surrounding towns that have their own history books, we simply can't include everyone in the Manning book - there wouldn't be enough room or time to edit all of the information.

The Warren family has lots of connections to Manning. Delmar's daughter-in-law's dad was Bud Barnes from Manning. Lawrence is buried in the Manning Cemetery. His wife was Doris Musfeldt and her brother, Arnold Musfeldt, was KIA during WWII. So we want to make sure this and other families with similar situations have all of the extended military connections included.

Delmar Warren's son, Delmar II, married Jean Barnes (daughter of Bud Barnes WWII). Delmar was a brother to Lawrence Warren - also WWII

Rough outline of military service:

Delmar served in the USMC from May 4, 1943 to February 1, 1946

Began active duty May 17, 1943

Basic training at the 3rd Recruit Training Battalion in San Diego May 20, 1943

Rank: PFC as field lineman in communications - Telephone Company Signal Battalion at San Diego October 15, 1943

Writing orders in 3rd Casual Company MCRD at San Diego July 10, 1943

Transferred to Signal Battalion August 4, 1943

Transferred to Field Signal Battalion at Oceanside October 22, 1943

Transferred to Casual Company in San Francisco December 1943, enroute to Pacific

December 9, 1943 boarded the USS James B. Francis and headed to Hawaii, arrived December 20, 1943

Boarded the USS Panay and headed to Wake Island

Served with the 6th Defense Battalion at Midway January 8, 1944

Defense of Midway from January 18, 1944 to April 9, 1945

April 14, 1945 - Transit center

Boarded the USS Kalinin Bay CVE-68 and headed to San Diego October 30 to November 7, 1945

December 4, 1945 assigned to Marine Barracks USN Training Center

Temporary promotion to Corporal January 31, 1946

Next to Bainbridge, Maryland

February 1, 1946 discharged as Corporal at M.B., N.T.C. district separation company, Bainbridge, Maryland

#555 Lawrence Warren (several pictures and quite a bit of information)



As with many Veterans, at this point in time I don't have a detailed and finalized military write-up for Lawrence. My goal now is to show samples of pictures and basic information to encourage other families and Veterans to come forward.

Right: some of Lawrence's military patches.

Lawrence was a tail-ender WWII Veteran. The war had ended but he participated in the military occupation of Japan and served in that area including Okinawa.

Rough time-line:

Received his induction papers August 23, 1946

Basic training at Aberdeen, Maryland proving ground from September 6, 1946 through November 30, 1946

Took the train to San Francisco where he boarded the USS General A.W. Brewster and headed to Okinawa

Stationed in Kyoto, Japan

Discharged in Oakland, California May 9, 1947

Headed to Salt Lake City and then to Omaha.



Prepare in Duplicate

Local Board No. 1 72
Audubon County 009
AUG 23 1946 001
Court House
Audubon, Iowa
(Local Board Date Please Write Clearly)

August 23, 1946
(Date of reporting)

ORDER TO REPORT FOR INDUCTION

The President of the United States,

To Lawrence (First name) LaVorne (Middle name) Warren (Last name)

Order No. 11142

GREETING:

Having submitted yourself to a local board composed of your neighbors for the purpose of determining your availability for training and service in the land or naval forces of the United States, you are hereby notified that you have now been selected for training and service therein.

You will, therefore, report to the local board named above at Audubon, Iowa (Place of reporting)

at 1:30 P. M., on the 3 day of September, 1946

This local board will furnish transportation to an induction station. You will there be examined, and, if accepted for training and service, you will then be inducted into the land or naval force.

Persons reporting to the induction station in some instances may be rejected for physical or other reasons. It is well to keep this in mind in arranging your affairs, to prevent any undue hardship if you are rejected at the induction station. If you are employed, you should advise your employer of this notice and of the possibility that you may not be accepted at the induction station. Your employer can then be prepared to replace you if you are accepted, or to continue your employment if you are rejected.

Willful failure to report promptly to this local board at the hour and on the day named in this notice is a violation of the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940, as amended, and subjects the violator to fine and imprisonment.

If you are so far removed from your own local board that reporting in compliance with this order will be a serious hardship and you desire to report to a local board in the area of which you are now located, go immediately to that local board and make written request for transfer of your delivery for induction, taking this order with you.

Chas. H. Morrow
Member of Local Board

Order to report for induction #11142 Audubon September 23, 1946



ALL ABOARD.—The U. S. transport General W. A. Brewster sails today from Pier 45C bearing replacement troops, 147 civilian workers, and 86 service dependents to Yokohama, Manila and Okinawa.

While newspaper clippings generally won't be used in the Manning Veterans' book, I want to show some of them in these articles to emphasize how important it is for people to look for and bring forward items like this. These articles can provide simple information about the Veteran and/or confirm certain facts. The caption and short article that was included with the picture confirms that Lawrence did board the General Brewster in San Francisco and the destination was confirmed.

Corresponding article:

Transport Leaving for Orient:

The Army transport, General A.W. Brewster was to sail this afternoon from Pier 45-C for Okinawa, Yokohama, and Manila, carrying replacement troops, 147 civilian workers 86 service dependents. There were no arrivals reported today.

In this article we find specific information that the Brewster left from Pier 45-C. While this is not all that important for Lawrence Warren's military story, it provides details if needed.

PERMANENT PASS (CLASS A)

Warren, Lawrence L. 37899715 Pvt
(LAST NAME) (FIRST NAME) (M.I.) (ASN) (GRADE)

Hq Co I Corps Kyoto 301
(ORGANIZATION) (LOCATION) (APO)

THE ABOVE NAMED SOLDIER IS AUTHORIZED TO BE ABSENT FROM DUTY WITH HIS ORGANIZATION BETWEEN THE HOURS 1700 AND 2300 AND SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS IN THE KYOTO AREA ONLY.

Joseph B. Holmes
Joseph B. Holmes
Hq Co I Corps
SIGNATURE OF COMMANDING OFFICER

This pass also confirms Lawrence being stationed in Kyoto, Japan. It is a unique pass that is probably one of very few still left from that era. The information gives you an idea of how the soldier had to conduct himself.

IN ACCEPTING THIS PASS I AM AWARE I MUST BE IN MY ASSIGNED BILLET BY 2300 NIGHTLY.

I REALIZE IN ACCEPTING THIS PASS THAT IT IS A PRIVILEGE AND ANY CONDUCT UNBECOMING OF A SOLDIER OF U.S. ARMY WILL RESULT IN FORFEITURE OF SAME.

Lawrence L. Warren
SIGNATURE