

The New

MANFRED NEWS

Volume 15, Issue 2

December 2023

A Warm Welcome to Manfred!

The New Manfred News is a history periodical published by
Manfred History and Preservation, Inc. (MHP, Inc.)

130 S Lake Ave, Manfred ND 58341

The 2024 MHP, Inc. Board of Directors:

Cheryl Ryan-Chair, Pam Norstedt-Sec., Richard Melchert-Treas.,

Perry Anderson, Rose Anderson, Verna Bowers, Pat Lenz,

Jamie Schindler, Audrey Solheim

Wanda Melchert-Museum Director

Military History of Manfred

Factors Leading to World War II

It is with honor, to dedicate this issue to soldiers serving in WWII and people who served on the home front in WWII. Following World War I, many countries had pacifist sentiments and shied away from acknowledging the rise of Italy, Germany, and Japan who had aspirations beyond their borders, and the Soviet Union having its part in this, too.

- The Treaty of Versailles in 1919 ending WWI, placing full blame for that war on Germany and Austria-Hungary.
- Benito Mussolini's Fascist Party in 1922 turned Italy into a totalitarian state. Italy invaded Ethiopia in 1935.
- Fascism was embraced by the National Socialist German Workers Party (Nazis) under their leader, Adolf Hitler.
- Germany took occupation of Czechoslovakia in 1938. Josef Stalin worried this could happen to the Soviet Union.
- Unrest was going on in Spain with the Spanish Civil War fought there from 1936-1939.
- Japan invaded China in 1937.

World War II 1939-1945

1939

September 1, 1939, is considered the start of WWII when Germany invaded Poland. Britain and France declared war on Germany and Germany declared war on them. Both Germany and the Soviet Union murdered thousands of Polish patriots. Germany imprisoned thousands of Jews in concentration camps. The Soviet Union invaded Finland.

1940

Germany invaded its European neighbors: Belgium, the Netherlands, France, Denmark, Norway, Luxembourg, and Romania. Germany, Italy, and Japan signed a joint military and economic agreement. Italy invaded Egypt. The Soviet Union took over part of Romania and had influence in the Baltic States, later annexing them. The United States began its draft.

1941

Italy fell, but then Germany entered Italy and Yugoslavia. Germany invaded the Soviet Union. The Soviets joined the Allies. Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7th. The United States declared war on Japan. Japan invaded Burma, Hong Kong, and the Philippines. On December 11th, Germany and the United States declared war on each other.

1942

First U.S. troops arrived in Britain in January 1942. Japan captured Singapore, Borneo, and Sumatra. The Allies started gaining ground with the Battle of Midway. Germany captured Libya, but the Allies started making gains in Africa.

1943

On the European front, the Soviet counterattacks at Stalingrad became German's first major defeat. Italy fell to the Allied forces but then German invaded there. In the Pacific, Allied forces gained territory in New Guinea. Winston Churchill and Josef Stalin met in Iran to discuss the invasion of France.

1944

American troops played a big role in battles taking place in France. Italy was liberated. The Soviets' counterattack pushed the Germans back to Warsaw, Poland. In the Pacific, Japan gained more territory in China. The Allies fought back by taking Saipan and invading the Philippines.

1945

Adolf Hitler committed suicide April 30th and Germany surrendered May 7th. The concentration camps were liberated. The war in the Pacific continued but the Allies made significant progress. Japan surrendered, September 2, shortly after the second atomic bomb was dropped.

GENERAL FUND & NEWSLETTER

Rose Anderson in memory of Karen Beutler
Ordean Ebel
Cindy Ehni
Jon E. Fehr
Fessenden Thrift Shop
Merl and Kathleen Paaverud
Keith Ranum
Merlin and Laurie Schwartz
Bruce and Betty Lou Wahl

DESIGNATED DONATIONS

Orin J. Melby for Comfort Station
Richard and Wanda Melchert for
Everlasting Fund In Memory of
Zelda Melby and Karen Beutler
Clyde and Carol Moldenhauer for
Everlasting Fund
John Quie for Manfred School in memory of
his mother Lorraine Quie, known as Lorraine
Roland Jenny when she taught at Manfred

In Memory

Zelda V. (Rudel) Melby

November 9, 1925 – October 9, 2023

Wife of Orlie Melby, the son of Oscar and
Bertha Melby, grandson of Knud and Guri Melby

Charles L. Brown

December 13, 1934 – June 11, 2023

Supporter of the Manfred projects

Donna E. (Georgeson) Brown

September 1, 1934 – October 18, 2023

Supporter of the Manfred projects

Tim Rogelstad

July 26, 1963 – October 26, 2023

Son of Joe and Dorthea (Solheim) Rogelstad

John Strauss

February 24, 1945 – October 29, 2023

Son of Joseph and Ida Strauss

Schon Canelis

c 1955 – November 18, 2023

Assisted with Manfred's Collections in 2023,
greatly enjoying her time working in this way

Margaret (Anderson) Thorson

October 9, 1924 - November 21, 2023

Daughter of Perry and Lilly (Rodne) Anderson,
granddaughter of P. B. and Anna (Johnson)
Anderson

Karen J. (Rodne) Beutler

February 14, 1953 – November 28, 2023

Daughter of Berger and Olive Rodne, grand-
daughter of Ole L. and Anna (Lunde) Rodne

Please let us know of loved ones who have passed

Great News! Manfred's website
is active at www.manfrednd.com.
If you find this unsuccessful, try the
link on Manfred's Facebook page.

Help identify these farmsteads

These farmsteads from the Manfred area remain unidentified. Please contact
asolheim@bis.midco.net if any of these images match your historic family photos.

1



2



3



4



5



World War II – The Home Front

World War II put a heavy burden on US supplies of basic materials like food, shoes, metal, paper, and rubber. The federal government took steps to conserve crucial supplies including establishing a rationing system. Like for WWI, the people of the U.S. during WWII stepped up to the plate to help with war efforts. Because of the great need of supplies for the war effort, many adjustments were made in all sectors of the U.S. The following were many ways the people on the home front helped with the war effort:

- **Farm Program and Food Production** Goals were established for what the farmers of each county were asked to produce, included 90% of their planting had to be wheat.
- **Victory Gardens** Americans were urged to plant “victory gardens” and can their own vegetables to help free up more factory-processed foods for use by the military.
- **Salvage for Victory** This campaign was launched January 10, 1942. It asked that all Americans do their part in supporting the new war effort by collecting, saving, conserving, and recycling materials that could be repurposed for military uses.
- **Scrap Rubber Campaign** The campaign was held, June 15-June 30, 1942, because the Japanese had cut off about 92 percent of the U.S. rubber supply. No new tires could be purchased, and existing tires had to be patched or have the treads replaced. In addition to collecting all the old rubber, the public was asked to reduce their driving speed to save on their tires. The speed on highways was 35 MPH.
- **Scrap Metal Harvest** Inaugurated July 13, 1942, the National Scrap Harvest was a thorough combing of the entire state for scrap metals of all kinds, assisted by the farm implement industry together with farmers. For the second scrap metal campaign in 1944, Sam Rogness was the representative for Manfred.
- **Red Cross Chapters** During WWII, the Red Cross were fully active like in WWI. An example: volunteer knitters making articles for the soldiers. Manfred School served as the meeting place for the Red Cross.
- **WPA (Work Progress Administration)** For WWII, WPA workers were immediately reassigned from their WPA projects to work as farm laborers to help grow and harvest crops.
- **Dairy Farms** Potential service candidates were returned by the Selective Service of men who had experience in dairy to work on dairy farms.
- **Women For Essential Jobs** Women were recruited to the war industries such as sheet metal workers, machinists, and radio mechanics. National Youth Administration was designated to give training to young people in these essential fields or were recruited to work on farms.
- **Community Organized Blackout Tests** The fire chiefs of each town in the county were appointed Air Raid Wardens to oversee successful practice blackouts for a 20-minute period. Every building and every light were to be blacked out for both town and country. All traffic was to get off the roads or pull to the side and cut off their lights for the 20-minute period. Railroads could operate but were expected to dim all lights not absolutely necessary for safe operation of trains.
- **Rationing** In February 1942, sugar rationing began as sugar was needed for the manufacture of alcohol. Other essential products were also set up with ration books of stamps required for making purchases.
- **Lumber Industry** Men were needed for lumbering and pulpwood jobs. When the harvest season ended, the farm laborers were recruited to the lumber industry.
- **Ammunition saved for farmers** Farmers used ammunition to help protect their crops and livestock. No ammunition was available for amusement purposes.
- **Ban on Excess** Examples: Fabric ban on 2-trouser suits, trousers with pleats, vests with double breasted suits; Phonograph records had to be produced with less shellac until later in the war when supplies increased.

World War II – The Soldiers

Soldiers from the Manfred Area

Listed on the following pages are those known to have served as soldiers from the Manfred area during WWII. One cannot begin to comprehend what the soldiers experienced in defending freedom at a time when there was great aggression during the 1930s and 1940s in many parts of the world. George Ravnaas died in the line of duty, making the ultimate sacrifice; but many others suffered physical and mental challenges that remained with them the remainder of their lives. The impact for them and their families was profound in many cases. Even so, these young men and women had been willing and ready to serve their country. In the Manfred Museum, there is a military exhibit with artifacts, featuring a few of the soldiers' stories.

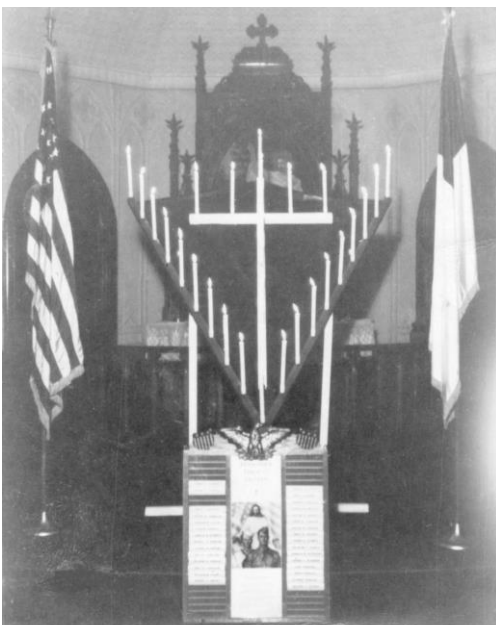
Candle Lighting Service

An important source of names of WWII soldiers was the Candle Lighting Service held in 1944 at Vang Lutheran Church, that would have been likewise held at many other churches. For those who were included in this candle lighting service, there is a reference note after the soldiers' listings on the succeeding pages .

In 1944, Vang Church received a plaque containing the names of thirty soldiers in military service at the time of this candle lighting service. The plaque was set at the front of a frame that formed a cross at the center, flanked by framing in the shape of 'V' for Victory. Candle holders with candles were spaced on these frames. Each candle represented a soldier. As each candle was lit, a soldier's name was spoken, and a prayer given for that soldier. Throughout the service, appropriate songs were sung by the congregation and special musical numbers rendered. Former Pastor Langseth gave a sermonette. The concluding part of the service was when a member of each family came forward to receive the candle designated for their soldier.

Dedication of Flags

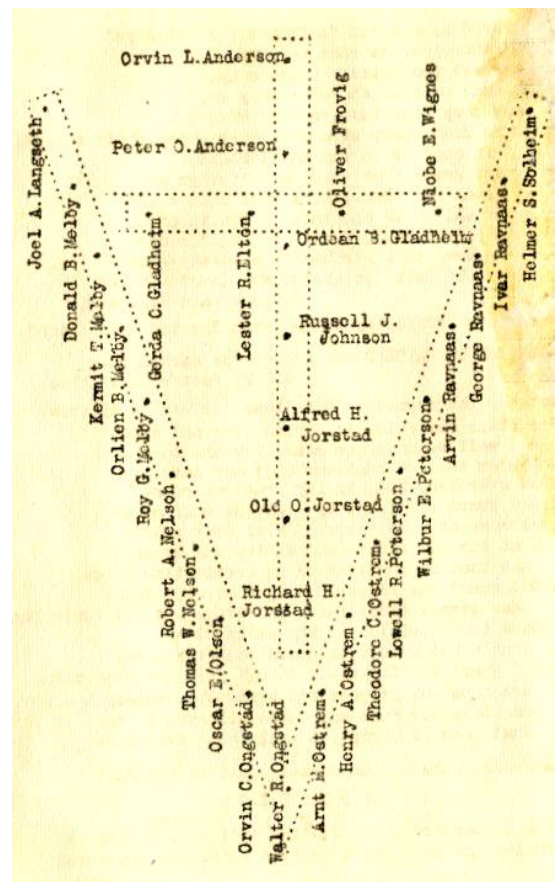
It was during this service that the United States Flag and the Christian Flag were installed and dedicated at Vang. Annie Solheim read the dedication of the United States Flag and Mildred Ongstad read the dedication of the Christian Flag. These flags on their flag poles have continued standing in the chancel since 1944, nearly 80 years.



Thirty names of soldiers listed in the program graph at right are at the position of the candle lite in their honor at left



The plaque was placed in front under the cross and V for Victory traveling frame. The plaque is presently part of an exhibit in the pastor's study of Vang Church



World War II – Soldiers from Manfred Township

Orvin L. Anderson

October 27, 1917 – November 26, 1985

US ARMY - Oversees

Son of Olaf and Caroline (Melby) Anderson; Married Lila Hirschhorn;

Children: Nancy, Becky, and Ginger

After WWII: Residents of Hillsboro ND before moving to CA

Honor Roll-1944 Vang Candle Lighting Service



Orvin L. Anderson

Peter O. Anderson

July 11, 1926 – July 12, 2022

CPL Squadron A, 427th US ARMY AIR FORCE stationed in New Mexico, Mississippi, Texas-Airplane mechanic for B-29s and B-25s

Son of P.B. and Anna (Johnson) Anderson; Married Rose Alley,

Children: Perry, Lila, Laura, John, and Peter

After WWII: Lifelong Manfred resident, farmer, and mailcarrier

Honor Roll-1944 Vang Candle Lighting Service



Peter O. Anderson

Marvin Bieber

November 29, 1922 – October 2, 2017

US NAVY – South Pacific

Son of Frank J. Bieber and Bessie Sommer; Married June C. Olson;

Children: Ronald, Carol, Patricia, and Mark

Worked for CCC before the war and as postmaster with US Postal Service after war

Mathew Orris Bieber

February 18, 1919 – About 1999

PFC US ARMY stationed at Camp Clairborne, Louisiana

Son of Mathew and Jerret Bieber; Married Ethelyn Itskin

After WWII: Rural mail carrier in Oregon

Margaret Christensen (Ongstad)

April 25, 1921 – June 26, 1997

PFC US ARMY WAC (Women's Army Corp) Europe and Africa

After WWII: Married Herbert Ongstad of Manfred and farmed; Son: William



Margaret Christensen
(Ongstad)

Joel Ekrem

April 2, 1915 – January 1977

TEC A US ARMY

Son of Severin and Agnes (Jacobson) Ekrem

After WWII: Farmed with brother Sverre

Sverre Ekrem

June 6, 1917 – May 1, 1982

PFC US ARMY

Son of Severin and Agnes (Jacobson) Ekrem

After WWII: Farmed in Manfred area with brother Joel

World War II – Soldiers from Manfred Township

Lester R. Elton

January 1914 – May 16, 1971

US ARMY

Adopted son of Magnus and Anna (Braaten) Elton

Honor Roll-1944 Vang Candle Lighting Service

Oliver Frovig

November 13, 1916 – December 18, 1992

209th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION Radio/Signal state-side

Son of Ole and Ida Frovig, Married Helen Winter; No children

After WWII: Career in PA with Railway Express

Honor Roll-1944 Vang Candle Lighting Service



Oliver Frovig

Gerda Gladheim (Birky)

August 14, 1921 – May 5, 1961

PVT US ARMY WAC assigned to Air Force in England and North Africa

Daughter of Ole and Clara Gladheim; Married Henry Birky;

Children: Kathryn and Linda

Honor Roll-1944 Vang Candle Lighting Service



Gerda Gladheim
(Birky)

Ordean B. Gladheim

February 7, 1926 – May 1, 2003

US NAVY

Son of Ole and Clara Gladheim; Married Kathryn Strauss;

Children: Linda, Diane, Marla, and Daryl

After WWII: Lived at Butte ND and later Vancouver WA

Honor Roll-1944 Vang Candle Lighting Service



Ordean B. Gladheim

Mattias 'Matt' Jenny

September 26, 1914 – August 19, 1981

SGT US ARMY overseas, Purple Heart

Son of Michael Ferdinan Jenny; Married Agnes Krueger;

Children: Nancy and Michael

After WWII: Farmed and worked for city of Fessenden and John Deere Implement



Russell J. Johnson

Russell J. Johnson

November 24, 1912 – April 19, 2012

US ARMY – 1934-1935 and 1941-1945

Son of John A. and Malena Johnson; Married Mary E. Phippen;

Children: John, Russell, Terry, and Charles

After WWII: Farmed before moving to Washington, wrote of his Manfred memories

Honor Roll-1944 Vang Candle Lighting Service

Alfred H. Jorstad

1906 or 1907 – Died before 1985

US Military

Son of Thomas and Ragndi (Olsdatter) Jorstad

Honor Roll-1944 Vang Candle Lighting Service

World War II – Soldiers from Manfred Township

Ole O. Jorstad

April 5, 1906 – April 28, 1977

PVT US ARMY

Son of Nels and Gunhild (Reistad) Jorstad

After WWII: Farmed near Manfred and a good mechanic

Honor Roll-1944 Vang Candle Lighting Service

Richard H. Jorstad

October 24, 1907 – August 18, 1955

TEC 5 CAC

Son of Nels and Gunhild (Reistad) Jorstad

Honor Roll-1944 Vang Candle Lighting Service



Fred Koenig

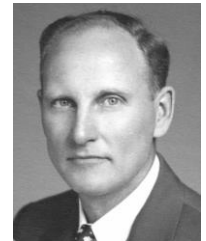
Fred Koenig

March 19, 1918 – December 13, 1991

US ARMY – Missouri 1941-1945

Son of Jacob and Fredericka Koenig; Married Marlys Hagen;

Children: Shirley, Frances, and Connie; After WWII: Lifelong farmer and Manfred resident



Joel A. Langseth

Joel A. Langseth

May 1, 1909 – August 4, 1997

US ARMY, served twice between 1936 and 1945

Son of Johnan and Anna (Clauson) Langseth; Married Borghild C. Samson;

Daughter: Barbara

After WWII: Worked for Gamble Agency and for US Postal Service

Honor Roll-1944 Vang Candle Lighting Service



Floyd Lindbo

Floyd Lindbo

February 11, 1923 – January 3, 2020

US ARMY AIR CORP

Son of Fred and Anna (Ongstad) Lindbo; Married Cecile Yetts;

Children: Larry, Darrel, and Jeffrey; After WWII: Career in US Post Office



Donald B. Melby

Donald B. Melby

February 20, 1924 – April 11, 2002

US ARMY

Son of Martin and Alma Haugen Melby; Married Margaret Eidbo;

Children: Mark, Louise, Constance, Rolf, and David

Honor Roll-1944 Vang Candle Lighting Service

Kermit Melby

March 7, 1916 – September 1992

PVT US Army

Son of Martin and Alma (Haugen) Melby; Married Lillian Elton;

Children: Curtis, Virgil, Garlet, Jeanne, and Laurie

After WWII: Rural mail carrier for Manfred



Kermit Melby

World War II – Soldiers from Manfred Township

Orlien B. Melby

January 2, 1924 – November 17, 2014

US ARMY - European Theatre

Son of Oscar and Bertha (Nordtorp) Melby; Married Zelda Rudel; Daughter: Sandra

After WWII: Farmed, men's clothing store, ASCS office

Honor Roll-1944 Vang Candle Lighting Service



Orlien B. Melby

Roy G. Melby

June 23, 1916 – August 2, 1989

CORP. US ARMY – Chaplain's Assistant, member of 188th Field Artillery Band

Son of Oscar and Bertha (Nordtorp) Melby; Married Gertrude Helling;

Children: Brenda and Orin

After WWII: Worked before and after the war for Bismarck Wholesale Grocery Company

Honor Roll-1944 Vang Candle Lighting Service



Roy G. Melby

Selmer E. Natland

June 23, 1900 – January 15, 1969

PVT 631 TECH SCH CO AAF

Son of Lars and Tomaine (Erfjord) Natland



Lorraine Nelson
(Sommerfeld)

Lorraine Nelson (Sommerfeld)

July 28, 1923 – July 31, 2011

US NAVY

Daughter of Chester and Julianna (Wohl) Nelson; Married Fred Sommerfeld;

Children: Nancy and Susan

Before war worked in retail and for a bank and after WWII used talent in writing, teacher

Robert A. Nelson

November 7, 1924 – June 27, 1985

US ARMY

Son of Albert J. and Rose (Arndt) Nelson; Married Clare Neuenschwander;

Children: Tom, Terry, James, Kathleen, and Steven

Honor Roll-1944 Vang Candle Lighting Service



Robert A. Nelson

Thomas W. Nelson

July 11, 1921 – July 11, 2006

US Army

Son of Albert J. and Rose (Arndt) Nelson; Married Rosemarie Long

Honor Roll-1944 Vang Candle Lighting Service



Oscar E. Olsen

Oscar E. Olsen

December 26, 1921 – August 3, 1988

PEC US ARMY

Son of Halvor and Martha (Rogness) Olsen

Honor Roll-1944 Vang Candle Lighting Service

World War II – Soldiers from Manfred Township

Duane Ongstad

April 21, 1927 – February 20, 2023

MAM3 US NAVY

Son of Oscar and Christine Ongstad; Married Mary McClure;

Children: Chris, Lynn, and Thomas

After WWII: Settled in Florida



Duane Ongstad

Mildred Ongstad (Solberg)

April 18, 1909 – May 9, 1998

CORP US Women's Army Corps

Daughter of Sofus and Rena (Asleson) Ongstad; Married Pastor A. B. Solberg

After WWII: Wells County Deputy Superintendent of Schools, and later Superintendent



Mildred Ongstad
(Solberg)

Orvin C. Ongstad

February 8, 1921 – April 16, 2017

US MILITARY

Son of Oscar and Christine Ongstad; Married Pat Wolf;

Children: Lane, Richard, Clifford, and Brian

After WWII: Moved to California

Honor Roll-1944 Vang Candle Lighting Service



Orvin C. Ongstad

Walter R. Ongstad

June 21, 1923 – November 5, 2000

US Army Air Force – American and Pacific Theaters

Son of Oscar and Christine Ongstad; Married Astrid Braaten;

Children: Curtis and Vicki

After WWII: ND Job Service and Job Corp

Honor Roll-1944 Vang Candle Lighting Service



Walter R. Ongstad

Arnt Ostrem

April 20, 1916 – May 16, 2010

CORP US ARMY - cook at Mitchell Field, New York.

Son of Even and Kjersti Heen Ostrem; Married Phyllis Biever;

Children: David, Gerald, and James

After WWII: Worked in an auto body shop

Honor Roll-1944 Vang Candle Lighting Service



Arnt Ostrem

Henry A. 'Hank' Ostrem

December 3, 1909 – August 27, 1996

SGT US ARMY - overseas

Son of Even and Kjersti (Heen) Ostrem; Married June Nelson; Son: Larry

After WWII: Barber, bartender, plant superintendent for G.J. Aigner Co

Honor Roll-1944 Vang Candle Lighting Service



Henry A. Ostrem

World War II – Soldiers from Manfred Township

Theodore C. 'Ted' Ostrem

July 26, 1911 – June 9, 2000

US ARMY 168th REGIMENT North Africa, Italy

Son of Even and Kjersti (Heen) Ostrem

Worked for CCC before WWII and in manufacturing after WWII

Honor Roll-1944 Vang Candle Lighting Service



Theodore Ostrem

Lowell R. Peterson

May 29, 1926 – April 23, 1987

RNE US NAVY

Son of Rudolph and Nora (Rogness) Peterson; Married Loretta Vanackeren;

Children: Kathleen, Debbie, and Kelly

Honor Roll-1944 Vang Candle Lighting Service



Lowell Peterson

Wilbur E. Peterson

March 5, 1926 – August 6, 2010

US ARMY AIR CORPS – gunner on B-29 Bomber

Son of William and Ella (Hedahl) Peterson (Ella died when Wilbur was a baby)

Raised by his aunt and uncle Marie and Jens Renden; Married Mary Smith;

Children: Mark, David, John, Paul, and Diane

Honor Roll-1944 Vang Candle Lighting Service



Wilbur Peterson

Arvin Ravnaas

January 9, 1919 – February 17, 2005

US ARMY - Pacific Arena

Son of Ingvald and Olida (Berve) Ravnaas; Married Helen Olenberg; Son: Gary

Honor Roll-1944 Vang Candle Lighting Service



Arvin Ravnaas

George Ravnaas

April 8, 1924 – July 28, 1944

US MARINES - Pacific Arena, wounded in action July 27th and died July 28th

Son of Ingvald and Olida (Berve) Ravnaas

Honor Roll-1944 Vang Candle Lighting Service



George Ravnaas

Ivar Ravnaas

February 6, 1912 – April 14, 1986

TEC 4 US ARMY - Africa and Italy

Son of Ingvald and Olida (Berve) Ravnaas

After WWII: Farmed near Manfred

Honor Roll-1944 Vang Candle Lighting Service



Ivar Ravnaas

World War II – Soldiers from Manfred Township

Clarence B. Solheim

1916-1984

PFC US ARMY - France, Purple Heart

Son of Severt S and Bertha (Ramsfield) Solheim; Married Cora Carlson; No children

After WWII: Tacoma WA at a factory



Clarence B. Solheim

Helmer S. Solheim

September 9, 1901 – November 23, 1969

US ARMY

Son of Severt S. and Bertha (Ramsfield) Solheim; Married Annie Onstad; Daughter: Audrey

Before war fireman on threshing rig, painter and after war Solheim Station in Manfred

Honor Roll-1944 Vang Candle Lighting Service



Helmer S. Solheim

Fred Sommerfeld

April 4, 1926 – January 22, 2020

US ARMY - China-Burma-India Theater CO 1 475th Infantry

Married Lorraine Nelson; Children: Nancy and Susan

After WWII: Served as Depot Agent at Manfred



Fred Sommerfeld

Alvin Springer

June 29, 1920 – June 9, 2004

US MARINES – overseas

Son of Jacob Springer and Katherine Mehlhoff; Married Helen Bendickson;

Children: James, Ronald, and Bruce



Niobe E Wignes

Niobe E. Wignes

NAVY NURSE CORPS – San Diego CA

Daughter of Mr./Mrs. Carl Wignes; Married Mr. Mitchell

Honor Roll-1944 Vang Candle Lighting Service

Wells County Free Press News Entries from WWII

May 15, 1941

A farewell party was given Fred Koenig at the Fred and Walter Koenig home, as Fred will leave soon to join the Army.

November 13, 1941

Orvin Anderson arrived home from Camp Claiborne for a 15-day furlough. He will visit his brothers and other friends and relatives.

August 20, 1942

Ivar Ravnaas left Tuesday for the army. This makes three sons of Mr. and Mrs. Ingvald Ravnaas to be in the armed forces, Arvin being in New Caledonia and George in the Marines. We wish these boys the very best of good luck.

April 22, 1943

Word has been received from Walter Ongstad who is in a camp in Texas that he is taking a course in telegraphy.

September 21, 1944

Word has been received by Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Springer that their son, Alvin Springer, who is in the Marines arrived in California last week and will be home shortly. He has been overseas the past two years.

The Close of World War II

The sounds of war finally fell silent in 1945. The battles of this global war had been many and fierce. It is estimated that around 80 million soldiers and civilians died as a result. The aggression was brought to an end.

Italy Mussolini's Fascist Italy came to an end in 1943, but Germany then took over Italy.

Germany

- Though there were many successful allied battles, D Day (Disembark Day) June 6, 1944 was a turning point when allied forces launched a combined naval, air, and land assault on Nazi-occupied France called Operation Overlord. The people of the USA realized the war was being won, as noted in the following Wells County Free Press news entry June 8, 1944: "In Fessenden, D-Day was noted by the ringing of church bells at an early morning hour. In the evening, services were held at several local churches."
- Hitler's Germany surrendered May 8, 1945 – known as V. E. Day (Victory in Europe Day) and was the official end of World War II in Europe (Eastern Front). Also known as Victory Over Fascism Day, Liberation Day, or Victory Day.

Japan

- The Battle of Midway, June 3-6, 1942, was a turning point in the Pacific, strongly in favor of the Allies. After Germany surrendered May 8, 1945, the Allied Forces were able to reassign their manpower to the war in the Western Front.
- After the only two atomic bombs in history were dropped on Japan, Japan formally surrendered September 2, 1945, called V. J. Day (Victory Over Japan Day).
- In 1947, a new constitution for Japan was established and Japan renounced war.

G.I. Facts

- Originally, GI stood for "Galvanized Iron", the primary material used to make military items. However, as the military grew and evolved over time, GI took on multiple meanings, including "Government Issue", "General Issue", and even "Ground Infantry". The prevalence of the term led soldiers in World War II to start referring to themselves as GIs.
- "Serviceman's Readjustment Act", also known as the G.I. Bill, was signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on June 22, 1944, providing World War II veterans with funds for college education, unemployment insurance, and housing. It put higher education within the reach of the veterans of WWII, as well as later military conflicts.

The Ending of World War II and Aftermath

- After Germany was defeated, some soldiers were reassigned to fight Japan, and some remained in Europe to help with the cleanup and stabilization after the war there. Soldiers returning home, during 1944 through 1946, were often able to resume the work they had done before the war. At home, the rationing begun in 1942 continued as late as 1947 when supplies were catching up after the war.
- Both WWI and WWII, created major changes for people's lives in the United States. A few thoughts:
 - For the use of English, in 1918 during WWI, Vang Church members voted to start holding services in English which had only been in Norwegian prior to that time. At first, just a few services a year were held in English. By the time of WWII, the services were entirely in English.
 - The two wars pulled young people from their communities, especially WWII. Leaving for military service or to work in defense plants out west, many young adults eventually relocated permanently.