

World War II

A sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on December 7, 1941 was the beginning of the United State's involvement in World War II. Many young men were drafted and many men and women enlisted. The following is a list of men and women who resided in Livingston when they left for service.

Augustine, Robert	Homeier, Clifford	Papa, Mike
Augustine, Steven	Hunecke, R. Jr.	Pavlotich, John
Bacca, John	Jones, Russell	Pedrotti, Rudy
Beres, Julian	Karnosky, Anton	Pelizzaro, Henry
Best, Charles Durward	Karnosky, Benedict	Pelizzaro, Onelio
Best, Riley	Karnosky, Stanley	Pelko, Frank
Bononi, Alfred	Karnosky, Thomas	Philippe, Arthur
Bononi, Elio "Bob"	King, John	Plovich, Pete
Bononi, Fiavo	King, Theodore	Pollett, Ronald
Boston, Anton	Komaneky, Cyril	Prevedel, Frank
Boston, John	Komaneky, Raymond	Pyle, George
Boston, Steve "Daff"	Komaneky, Tommy	Rami, Armando "Modo"
Bowles, Evelyn	Kostadin, Joseph	Rehlek, John
Bowles, Frank	Kovaly, Nicholas Sr.	Rehlek, Joseph
Bowles, Ira Jr.	Krek, Gus	Rizzi, Anton
Buffington, Norrigan	Kreuter, Olin	Ruzevich, John
Chalovich, Charles	Kucinick, Joseph	Ruzevich, Pete
Chalovich, John Sr.	Kucinick, Michael	Sandrin, Eugene
Chalovich, Steve	Kuttin, Anton Jr.	Sattovia, Adolph
Chulka, Robert	Kuttin, George	Scanavino, John
Coalson, Arthur Jr.	Larcker, Bruno	Scanzoni, Francis
Colcun, Steve	Larcker, Frank	Schuette, Elmer
Covi, Dario	Lesicko, Edward	Schuette, Otto
Della Riva, Silvius	Lesicko, Frank	Seganfredo, Geno
Dobrinich, Pete	Lesicko, Joseph	Seganfredo, John
Evans, George	Lipolsky, John	Sievers, Adolph
Falk, August	Lovejoy, Leonard	Sievers, William
Farhat, Ali	Majeski, William	Slifka, Frank
Fech, Elmer	Margaritis, Tommy	Slifka, Harry Sr.
Fech, George	Matesa, Peter Sr.	Spudich, Joseph "Denny"
Fech, John	Mihalic, Frances "Glick"	Spudich, Peter
Fech, Stephen	Mihalic, Steven	Spudich, Stephen
France, Elmer,	Minkanic, John	Spudich, Thomas Sr.
Genczo, Francis	Minkanic, Mike	Tsupros, James
Genczo, Steve	Mitchelar, Earl	Tsupros, Marion "Grit"
Gorenz, John	Moggio, Louis	Urban, John "Jocko"
Grega, George	Moggio, Raymond	Urekar, John
Grega, John	Ocepek, Anton	Voyles, W. Norman
Grega, Joseph	Ocepek, Joseph	Warlock, Edward
Grega, Mike	Ondes, Charles	Warlock, Elmer
Grega, Robert	Ondes, Clarence	Widmer, Charles
Hainaut, Charles	Ondes, Melvin	Zarr, John
Hainaut, Jules		



The Victory Board which listed all of the residents sent to serve our country during World War II. Pictured in front is Lana Bertoldi of Williamson.

World War II Happenings

- January 21, 1942 -- A letter was received from Warren Van Hooser, Warrant, U. S. Army thanking the American Legion Auxiliary for the Christmas boxes and gifts of money received during Christmas of 1941 from the Auxiliary.
- January 22, 1942 -- Saturday evening, Livingston High School held a basketball game for the Mile-O-Dimes Campaign. The public school team won from the freshmen. Members of the Fire Department beat the Lion's Club and Livingston Independents beat the Wood River Independents team. Next week there will be an "overall" dance at the Klavora Hall for the Mile-O-Dimes.
- January 29, 1942 -- For the benefit of the men in the U.S. Armed Services, the USO staged a "Books for Victory" campaign. One hundred-four novels and fifty Westerns plus other magazines of interest were collected. A meeting at village hall was held Thursday evening to form a sewing club to sew and knit various articles for the soldier's and their families.
- January 30, 1942 -- Saturday evening the American Legion sponsored an old time dance, the proceeds were to be used for some service to the boys now in the Armed Forces.
- March 5, 1942 -- Local people are urged to prepare Victory Gardens. It is advised that gardeners plant the simplest of vegetables, such as lettuce, Swiss chard, tomatoes, carrots, turnips, potatoes, collards and beans of all kinds. Everyone was urged to can everything they could because the tin supply had to be used for the war. The slogan was to be; "Grow all you can and can all you grow."
- July 2, 1942 -- The local Red Cross Chapter has turned in a number of articles to headquarters that were completed recently. The items included - fifteen children's robes, fifteen boy's sweaters and fifteen men's sweaters.
- July 9, 1942 -- Persons using the V-Mail sheets are to read the instructions on each sheet and write the letters and addresses as directed by the postmaster. The postmaster states that his supply will be handed

out until exhausted, at no charge and there will be only 3 sheets per person. As soon as possible the government will see to it that the sheets will be on sale at all places where stationery is available. Soldiers will receive their copy free of charge and civilians will pay .03 cents for regular and .06 cents for airmail service. By using these it will be possible to send 150,000 letters at a time and they can fit into twenty-two gunnysacks and be ferried on a convoy or bomber ferry. These sheets have a space for a message to the person in the Armed Forces and can be folded uniformly by following the instructions on the sheet.

In the *Staunton Star-Times* Newspaper this week there is an advertisement stressing the need to salvage all kinds of junk, such as scrap iron, steel, aluminum, copper, brass, old rubber, rags, manila, rope and Burien bags, etc. It is very important that every bit of such material that is not being used should be gathered and sold to a dealer, who in return can ship it to the proper place for conversion into articles needed to equip our Armed Forces. Every one can help the effort. The appeal is being made in every community in the United States to do our patriotic duty to cooperate fully in the drive. War production is going on at a high level, but the need for scrap metal is imperative. Six million additional tons of scrap steel was needed to maintain the full rate of production of tanks, guns, ships and other necessary implements of war. The rubber supply is also critical. Other essential metals needed are brass, copper, zinc, tin, lead and aluminum in large quantities.

October 15, 1942 -- The American Legion and Legion Auxiliary will combine forces and sponsor a card party. Funds will be used to send boxes to the boys in service.

Pfc. Smith mentions that he is receiving the local paper and enjoys reading about his pals at home and abroad. Kenten states that he received his training at Camp Rucker, Alabama, but was changed over to an amphibious force. His company consists of 43 men from the Navy. He talks of beach landings on the Atlantic. Every man is going to a special school to know just what to do when the time comes. Last, he thanks everyone again for the paper and to tell his pals "hello" for him and he is waiting for the day when he can get the old bar room quartet together at Struck's again.

March 18, 1943 -- A large number from here will go to Edwardsville Friday afternoon where they will give blood to the Red Cross blood bank.

April 1, 1943 -- In the recent drive for funds for the Red Cross war relief almost \$400,000.00 had been turned in with several of the workers yet to report.

May 6, 1943 --The Williamson public school, of which Albert Graiff is principal, during the past several weeks made an excellent record in the sale of war bonds and stamps. Schools through out the country have been engaged in a campaign to sell war bonds and stamps. The purpose is to sell enough to purchase 10,000 Jeeps for the army to use. The Illinois quota is 773 and the total bond and stamp sale in the Williamson School over and beyond the payroll deduction of the men working at No. 2 mine was \$2,904.45. Of this amount \$2,725 was in bonds, \$129.45 in stamps and \$50.00 in stamps converted into bonds. One of the eighth grade pupils, Bernice Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Smith, sold \$1700.00 worth of bonds. The total amount was enough to purchase three "Jeeps". The spirit of the Williamson School children should be highly commended. Bond sales were going on in Livingston school at the same time.

July 1, 1943 -- An honor roll memorial is being erected on the vacant lot across from city hall which will carry names of the boys from this vicinity serving in the Armed Forces. The village is erecting the memorial, and the lot will be decorated with flowers and shrubbery.

October 21, 1943 -- The public school has been in session only half time this week owing to the registration for Ration Book number 4.

March 2, 1944 --All eating-places and taverns have been notified that prices of all food and drinks served in their places for immediate consumption have been frozen as of the period from April 4 to April 10, 1944. They will be violating the law to charge more. The order applies to all restaurants, hotels, taverns, bars, cafes, clubs, delicatessens, soda fountains, boarding houses or other places selling food or drinks. Prices for all items must be filed with the Office of Price Administration. A menu of each day during this period, if available, should be filed. A printed list will suffice if the menu cannot be sent.

May 11, 1944 -- On Friday a special Army and Navy service will be held at the Livingston Lutheran mission

at 7:00 p.m. wit Rev. Karl Weinreich in charge dedicating the service to the men and women now serving in the Armed Forces of our country. Family and friends as well as the general public are invited to attend this service. Two special features on the program are a display of the Army and Navy Commission's material and the rendition of a sacred number by the Sunday School children. The sermon topic will be; "Lord, Teach us to Pray." The offering is designated for our Army and Navy Commission.

August 31, 1944 -- Steve Colcun was born in Livingston on August 9, 1917. He attended Livingston Public Schools. In 1938 he enlisted in the U. S. Coast Guard and was called on his 21st. birthday. He served the enlistment of three years being stationed on the Coast Guard Cutter USS Campbell in foreign countries. He was employed at the St. Louis ordinance plant as a rigger. He enlisted in the Navy and was called on May 8, 1941. He was assigned to the Sea Bees. After his training period he received a 15-day leave, which he spent with his parents in Livingston. On March 6, 1943 he was sent to the southwest Pacific where he served for 18 months. In a letter home he expressed hope that he would soon be able to return to the states. On August 7, 1944, Steve Colcun's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Colcun Sr. received word that their son, Steve Colcun, MM-2c, USNR, was killed in action somewhere in the southwest Pacific while in the performance of his duties. He died just two days before his 27th birthday and was buried at the place of his death. As well as his parents, six sisters survive Steve Colcun, Mrs. Marie Pres-topic of Chicago, Anna and Johanna Colcun of St. Louis, Mrs. William Kemberger of Cleveland, Ohio and Susan Colcun of Livingston and one brother Joseph Colcun of Livingston.

November 2, 1944 -- Mr. and Mrs. John Evans of Livingston, last week received the sad news their son, Pfc. George David Evans, had been killed in action in Germany on October 5, 1944. The message came from the War Department. George Evans was born in Livingston on July 23, 1916. He was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith by the late Rev. J. G. R. Kleinhans. He graduated from the Livingston High School and later was employed by the International Harvester Company in Chicago. He entered the Army on July 26, 1942 and received his training with the Corp of Engineers. He served 12 months in this country and 14 months overseas. He was with the first Army of invasion in France and moved with them through Belgium and into Germany. Pfc. George Evans is survived by his parents; two sisters, Misses Dorothy and Eileen Evans of Chicago, Il, two brothers; Edward and Robert Evans of Livingston.

January 20, 1945 -- On Saturday evening a group of citizens of this community representing the village council, the local schools and the various business and professional men, met for the purpose of organizing a post war planning committee. A.W. Perne was elected Chairman; Steve Komaneky, Vice Chairman, and H. A. Malench, Secretary. This meeting was called at the request of the State Post-War Planning Commission to make preparations for the various kinds of civic projects to assure work for those who may be jobless after the war. Several much needed improvements were discussed and committees were selected to secure data pertinent to such projects. Another meeting will be held at the call of the chairman as soon as certain information can be obtained which is vital to the major project anticipated. The aid of every loyal citizen of this community is solicited to make the work of the planning committee as effective as possible.

January 25, 1945 -- The War Production Board order, which was issued recently in order to save scarce fuels affect various business places and prohibits the use of all unnecessary illumination, such as advertising signs, outdoor display lighting, excessive white way lighting, etc. The purpose of the order is to cut down on the use of electricity, thus saving the coal and other fuels used in generating the electrical energy. The uses prohibited under paragraph (c) are; outdoor advertising and outdoor promotional lighting; outdoor display lighting except where necessary for the conduct of outdoor establishments; outdoor decorative and outdoor ornamental lighting; show-window lighting except where necessary for interior illumination; marquee lighting in excess of 80 watts for each marquee; white way street lighting in excess of the amount determined by local public authority to be necessary for public safety; outdoor sign lighting with limited specified exceptions. All local people affected by the order are expected to comply fully. Violations of the order are subject to severe penalty.

April 27, 1945 -- The Red Cross Chapter meets every third Tuesday of each month beginning at 7:30 o'clock. Anyone interested in sewing or knitting please attend. At the last meeting, Mrs. Joseph Healey, Chair-

man of the Camp and Hospital Committee asked for as many homemade cookies as anyone would care to contribute to the May cookie drive of the chapter. The cookies should be sent to her home not later than Wednesday, May 2, so she can forward them to hospitals. Mrs. Walter Gvozdo reported that ladies were needed to help in the sewing of the kit bags. A total of 101 have been completed, but 55 more are to be made. Those wishing to sew for this project are asked to see Mrs. Gvozdo. Mrs. Jennie Jones, chairman of the Knitting Committee, reported that 11 sweaters were completed and more yarn is being sent out. Mrs. Josie Lovejoy, chairman of the Home Nursing Committee reported that she had an attendance of 22 at the afternoon home nursing class. Anyone interested in attending an evening class should contact Mrs. Lovejoy.

May 10, 1945 -- Mrs. Maria Bononi of Livingston received word Sunday that her son, Pfc. Fiavo Bononi, was killed in action on December 17, 1944, in Luxemburg, Germany. He was reported missing-in-action in January of this year. Pfc. Bononi was with a tank division and entered the service on February 14, 1942. His wife, Esther, and one son Richard Alfred survive him; both reside in Jefferson City, Mo. His Mother; six sisters, Miss Corinne Bononi and Mrs. Dima Libbra of Livingston, and Misses Lena and Alveria Bononi, Mrs. Erma Spotti and Mrs. Nora Faletto of St. Louis, and two brothers, Elio Bononi, CQM, of the Coast Guard, and Pfc. Alfred Bononi of the Air Corps stationed in Waco, Texas also survive him. Two years ago his father Alfred Bononi passed away. Fiavo Bononi attended the Hazel Dell School and the Livingston High School. He was employed in St. Louis at the time of his entrance into the Armed Forces.

June 18, 1945 -- The home nursing class of the local Red Cross Chapter graduated on Friday evening. The class included, Mrs. Josie Lovejoy, Mrs. Isabel Voyles, Mrs. Irene France, Mrs. John Kopuster, Mrs. Daisy Hicks, Mrs. Violet Smerk, Mrs. Ann Smerk, Mrs. Eunice Salters, Mrs. Anna Loeh, Misses Rhoda and Roberta Brandt, Mrs. Erma Edmiston, Mrs. Loris Benardin, Mrs. Mary Healey, Mrs. Julia Gvozdo, Mrs. Dima Libbra and Mrs. Marjorie Kuketz. The class met at the home of Irene France and cake and coffee was served. Mrs. Buckles, the nurse and instructor was presented with a gift.

November 22, 1945 -- Mrs. Joseph Healey Sr. Camp and Hospital chairman of the Red Cross Chapter is making a drive for Christmas Cards to be sent to the various hospitals for use by the boys who are patients there. Anyone wishing to give a few cards should leave them with Mrs. Healey before December 1st.

February 3, 1946 -- A meeting of the Livingston Red Cross Chapter was held Friday afternoon at the City Hall with Mrs. Valerie Perne presiding. All those who are willing to assist in the work in the different departments were asked to get in touch with the department they are interested in helping with. Mrs. Joseph Healey Sr., is chairman of the camp and hospital unit, which bakes the cookies, fill bingo bags and makes various bags to be given to the hospital patients; Mrs. Matt Jones is the chairman of the knitting and sewing department and anyone wishing to sew or knit should contact her as soon as possible. Anyone desiring to enroll in the home nursing class should call Mrs. Leslie Lovejoy. If interested in Junior Red Cross work, contact Miss Sophia Moggio. Mrs. John Kopuster is the chairman of the Home Service department. Another meeting will be held Feb. 12, Monday at 7:30 p.m. at the Club Hall to make plans for the War Fund Drive, which will be held soon. H. A. Malench and Frank Wray are in charge of the drive. Everyone is urged to attend this meeting.

February 21, 1946 -- The annual Red Cross Fund Drive will start in Livingston some time in March. H. A. Malench has been appointed as chairman for the drive. A meeting will be held at the City Hall next Tuesday evening for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year. The public is urged to attend this meeting.

June 20, 1946 -- At the regular meeting of the local Red Cross chapter, it was decided to send cookies to the hospital at Scott Field. Twelve pounds were sent to that place for the enjoyment of the patients there.

Note: All information on World War II happenings was found in the *Staunton Star-Times*.

Rationing

The United States Department of Price Administration, OPA, administered rationing during World War II.

Rationing Boards were established in each county and were known as War Price and Rationing Boards. Larger cities had a local ration office that was operated by local volunteer workers who filled applications and cared for many problems for those who were applying for their rationing needs.

“War Ration Books” with stamps of different colors, numbers and necessary codes were issued to every person in the United States. Families received books for each family member. Specific stamps for each rationed item were used on established and announced dates. Some of the items rationed were processed foods (blue stamp), meats and fats (red stamp), sugar, gasoline, tires, fuel oil, shoes (airplane stamp), stoves, etc., as announced by the OPA.

Special ration grants were granted to coal miners due to nutrition needs for their occupation. Extra grants were given during canning season for garden foods.

Anyone selling major staple goods – meats, soaps, etc. – were required to adhere to established “ceiling prices,” which were posted in their stores. Stores could not price or sell at prices above the “ceiling price list” as there were many shortages of the above items. Supply and demand practices could not be used on these items.

Car owners reported the serial number and make of the five tires they owned for their car. If you needed a tire, you had to prove to the Ration Board your real need.

There were four sets of ration books issued during the rationing period or duration of rationing. Other designated ration stamps were for sugar (numbered), coffee (numbered), spare (numbered) to be used when a new rationed item appeared on the shortage list. There were also emergency use stamps – a green stamp with a torch, lettered and numbered; a blue stamp with wheat, lettered and numbered, and a Ration stamp, numbered with an Army tank. “A,” “B,” and “C” stamps that were also numbered were used for gas rationing. You were advised the number, amount, and dates that the stamps could be used.

Newspapers, radio and cards posted in stores gave the information regarding the designated stamps and the “points” each stamp was worth. At the stores each rationed item was marked with the number of “points” you had to pay with your stamps.

Above and right are pictured a ration book.