

To Roseville Golden K Kiwanis, May 21, 2019 – from Dick Bernard re Vets for Peace

Veterans for Peace (VFP): <https://vfpchapter27.org/>; <https://www.veteransforpeace.org/>

VFP Memorial Day at MN Vietnam Memorial, Capitol Mall: 9:30 a.m. Monday May 27

Video from May, 2014, VFP Memorial Day: <https://www.globalsolutionsmn.org/peacemakers>

*

Other

“The World Is My Country” <https://www.theworldismycountry.com/> premiered in Minneapolis April 2017

(Global Solutions MN) TPT is planning to schedule it for September 2019. Watch their schedule At website see the third “short” in the “trailer” section, which is directly Minnesota related.

Thought on International Peace Garden (ND/Manitoba) <https://outsidethewalls.org/blog/> Jul 23, 2009

U.S. Peace Memorial Foundation: <https://www.uspeacememorial.org/>

Prepared by Dick Bernard
March, 2016

**The Human Cost of War*
For the United States
War Deaths in various times**

Battle and Other Deaths for Wars prior to 9-11-01**

498,333 Civil War, Confederate and Union
2,446 Spanish-American War
116,708 World War I
407,316 World War II
36,916 Korean
58,193 Vietnam
299 Persian Gulf

TOTAL WAR RELATED DEATHS IN 20TH CENTURY

Conservative Estimate: far in excess of 100,000,000
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_wars_and_anthropogenic_disasters_by_death_toll

American Deaths in Wars Post 9-11-01***

Year	Afghanistan	Iraq	Total	Cumulative
2001	12		12	
2002	49		49	
2003	48	486	534	
2004	52	849	901	
2005	99	846	945	
2006	98	823	921	Afgh Iraq Total
2007	117	904	1021	<u>2001 through 2008</u>
2008	155	314	469	630 + 4222 = 4852
				<u>2009**** (transition year Bush/Obama)</u>
2009	317	149	466	317 + 149 = 466
2010	499	60	559	
2011	418	54	472	
2012	310	1	311	
2013	127		127	
2014	55	3	58	
2015	22	6	28	<u>2010 through 2016</u>
2016 (Mar)	3		3	1434 + 124 = 1558



Dick Bernard

6905 Romeo Road
Woodbury, MN 55125-2421
651-334-5744
dick_bernard@me.com
www.chez-nous.net
www.peacesites.org

www.outsidethewalls.org/blog

www.AMillionCopies.info

Individually and together, we can!

* - This data includes **only** American deaths as defined by the sources of data. It does not include other military or civilian deaths, traumatic injuries, including PTSD, disruptions like refugees, and other costs of war. The human and other costs to people in other countries affected by these and other wars have been far greater than to the United States, but consistent and reasonably verifiable data is harder to find. War has consequences...

** Source of Data: World Almanac for 2007 page 135

*** Sources: icasualties.org; Iraqbodycount.org;
<http://watson.brown.edu/costsofwar/costs/human/military>

**** The differentiation in 2001-2016 is the transition year, 2009, between the Bush and Obama administrations. Most of 2001-16, U.S. Congress was controlled by Republicans.

Minneapolis Star Tribune
 Sat.
 Aug 6, 2005

60 years after A-bomb

WWII remembered in letters

By Dick Bernard

"Hurrah, the old war is over!"

With these exultant words in August 1945, Grandma Rosa Busch, writing at the farm near Berlin, N.D., began her letter to her son, and my uncle, Navy Lt. George W. Busch.

As she wrote her "Hurrah," the deck officer of the USS Woodworth, George Busch's home for the preceding three years, recorded that the ship was "underway with Task Unit 38.3.9 consisting of 4 heavy units and 6 escorts."

Later, the deck log for Sept. 11, 1945, reported that the ship had anchored a few hours earlier in Tokyo Bay. Indeed, "the old war [was] over."

The USS Woodworth docked in Portland, Ore., on Oct. 20, 1945, and Uncle George began his return to civilian life.

One Navy man who didn't return was my Uncle Frank Bernard, brother-in-law of Rosa's daughter, Esther. Frank went down with the USS Arizona Dec. 7, 1941, one of the first of hundreds of thousands of U.S. casualties in World War II and one of perhaps 50 million total casualties.

Uncle George and Aunt Jean, his wife, wrote hundreds of letters to each other from 1941 to 1945, and they saved every one.

On Aug. 6, 1945, the first atomic bomb exploded over Hiroshima, Japan. Three days later, though thousands of miles apart, the two wrote almost identical words.

Aunt Jean, from near Grand Forks, N.D.: "The news that excited everyone is Russia's declaration of war on Japan. Surely Japan will crumble now under the combined pressure, new atomic bomb and repeated attacks."

Uncle George, from somewhere in the Pacific: "Good news! Good news! Comrade Joe came through with a declaration of war against Japan. That should step up VJ day considerably. This plus the new bomb might even convince the Japs that the struggle is futile. Surely they can't be ignorant enough to believe that they can whip the world."

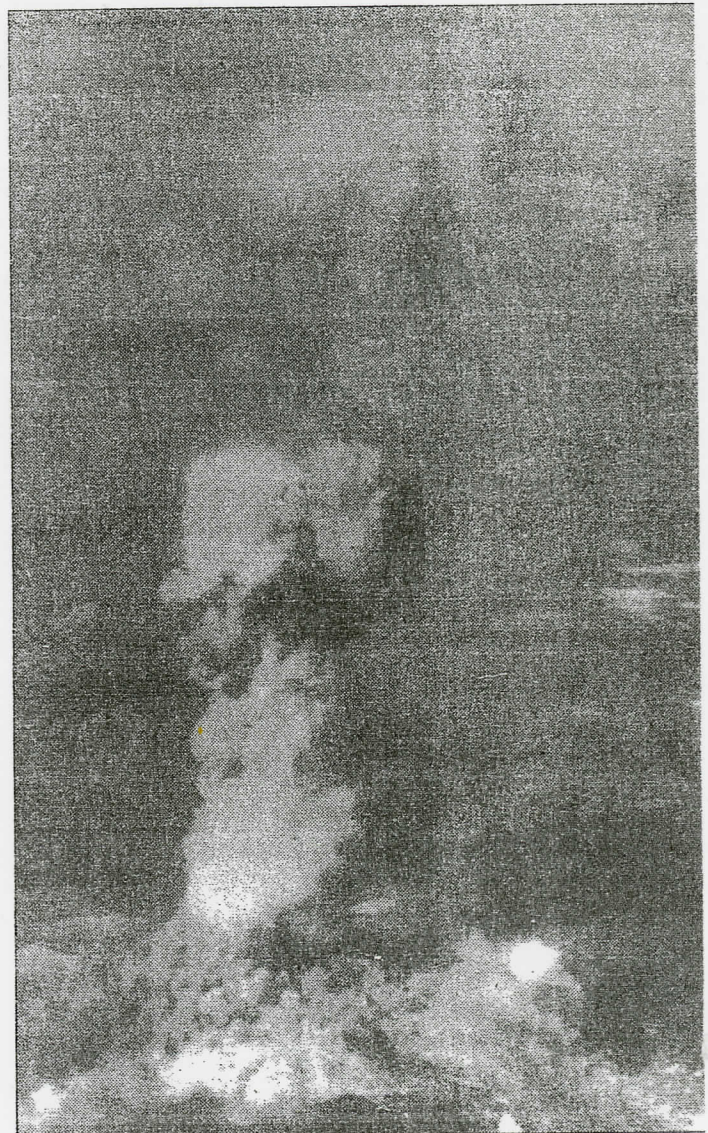
With Jean's Aug. 9 letter came an unidentified newspaper clipping, probably from the previous day's Grand Forks Herald. "1st Test Made in Desert" read the headline, and the story told of the July 1945 test of a new extremely powerful bomb "in New Mexico's desert" near Alamogordo.

The U.S. War Department, quoted in the article, said: "A revolutionary weapon designed to change war as we know it, or which may even be the instrumentality to end all wars was set off with an impact which signaled man's entrance into a new physical world."

In none of the many letters from George's family or from George himself is there evidence that anyone really knew the incredible destructive power, or even the human consequences for innocent "Japs," of the bomb they were cheering. Neither could they know how history would assess the War Department's optimistic prediction that the atom bomb would bring freedom from future war.

In all of their letters was evidence of the polarities of war: To them, the war was very personal, in the person of their brother, their son, their nephew, their neighbor; those on the other side were simply "the Japs."

In her Aug. 26 letter, right af-



An atomic bomb exploding over Japan in 1945: At the time experts predicted that the weapon would change war as we know it.

ter she wrote "Hurrah, the old war is over," Grandma Rosa, as saintly a person as I'll likely ever know, told her son then steaming toward Japan, "I went rite to my statue and lit a candle and prayed."

History doesn't record the subject of her prayer.

Neither does history record what happened at the grotto in the farmyard of the ancestral home in Germany — a grotto built by our German relatives in gratitude that four sons returned safely from the war that had all but destroyed their country.

Those four sons, I'm told, never talked about what they did in the war. They give silent

witness to Reichmarshall Hermann Goering's oft-quoted statement, as he talked with psychiatrist Gustave Gilbert in his cell at Nuremberg in 1946:

"Why, of course, the people don't want war," Goering shrugged. "Why would some poor slob on a farm want to risk his life in a war when the best that he can get out of it is to come back to his farm in one piece. It is the leaders of the country who determine the policy and it is always a simple matter to drag the people along."

When will we ever learn?

Dick Bernard lives in Woodbury.

*My God, Henry
Bernards, Cousin*

*There were seven
brothers in the
military - 4 in
U.S. 3 in Canadian
Leo was the 7th*

**Likely from a 1943
Winnipeg Newspaper.**

St. Boniface Boy Killed In Africa

Word has been received by Mr. and Mrs. Elere Collette, 279 Provencher ave., that their son, Pte. Donat J. Collette, was killed in action in the North African battle area Aug. 7. Another son, Pte. Richard J. Collette, was recently listed as wounded.

The two brothers were together and were serving in the American army.

Born at Elizabeth, Man., and educated there and at St. Boniface schools, the brothers joined about the same time in the United States.

There are four other sons on service: Sgt. Wilbert and Pte. Jean Paul, American army; Anthony, R.C.N.V.R.; Tom, Canadian army.

Three other brothers: Rodolph, Pat and Leo, live in Winnipeg. A sister, Therese, is at home.

Pte. Donat Collette Is Killed in Action

Private Donat Collette, 27, formerly of Morris, Man., was killed in action, Aug. 7, while serving with a United States infantry unit in the North African area, which includes Sicily, according to official word



PTE. DONAT COLLETTE

received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alire Collette, now residing at 279 Provencher avenue. His brother Private Richard J. Collette, 25, serving with the same unit, was wounded in action, according to an announcement from the U.S. war department, Washington, Tuesday.

Donat and Richard are two of six brothers who are with the armed forces. Of the other brothers, John and Wilbert are both with the American army in the United States; Tony is with the navy in H.M.C.S. Chippawa, and Thomas is



SGT. WILBERT COLLETTE



PTE. 1st CLASS J. P. COLLETTE



PTE. THOMAS COLLETTE



ORD. SMN. TONY COLLETTE

four of six sons of Mr. and Mrs. A. Collette, 279 Provencher avenue, St. Boniface, who have served in the armed forces. One son, Private Don, 27, was killed in action August 7 in the North African campaign and another son, Private Richard J. 25, was seriously wounded August 3 in the same campaign. Private Don who was with headquarters company, 3rd battalion, 15th infantry, United States army, was in the armed forces for four years. Private Richard was in the same battalion as his brother Don and has been in the U.S. army for four years. Sergeant Wilbert, 32, is with the U.S. army signal corps and is stationed at Camp Adair, near Portland, Oregon. He is a cook and has been two years in the service. Private First Class John Paul, 22, is with quartermaster signal corps, U.S. army. He has been one year in the armed forces and is at Camp Adair. Private Thomas, 20, is with the Royal Canadian Artillery. He enlisted four months ago and is now at Montreal. Ordinary Seaman Tony, 21, R.C.N.V.R. is in training at H.M.C.S. Chippawa. He enlisted six months ago.



PTE. RICHARD COLLETTE

with the army in Canada. They have three brothers here, Leo, 19; Bertrand street; Pat, 389 Travers avenue; and Rudolph, 136 Goule street; and one sister, Terry, a home.

The brothers were all born and educated at Morris, Man., where their father operated a farm for many years, before moving in 1931 to St. Norbert, and later to St. Boniface.

Richard attended St. Boniface college, 1934-1935, taking an active part in hockey. He was recently promoted to first-class private. He and Donat went overseas last November

Thanksgiving/
Christmas 1982

"Lord
help me
to remember
that nothing is going
to happen to me
today
that you and I together
can't handle."

For me, this short prayer speaks of
friendship - the need we all have for
others. I'm privileged to know you. I
wish to you and yours the very best in
the coming months and years.

I am struck, this sunny Sunday morning
(November 21), at the riches I have add-
ed to my own life this past year. Not
in money (since I'm at this moment unem-
ployed) but rather in new experiences,
new opportunities, new risks, new friends.
I am truly excited about the future.

My "thanksgiving" this year is spoken
below. I give thanks for opportunities
to learn, to grow, to change. I'd like
to share my thanks with you.

I am thankful for the opportunity just
one week ago today to be with many others
at the Vietnam Memorial in Washington,
D.C. It was a place to reflect on my
own attitudes about war and peace and
caring for others. A sombre yet wonder-
ful experience. My company that day was
primarily Vietnam survivors or friends
and families of casualties. I cried
there. My hope is that we as a country
can work very hard for peace. So that
another Vietnam never happens. I give
thanks that we live in a country where
we can speak out without fear.

I'm thankful also to have heard Dr.
Helen Caldicott speak on "The Madness of
Nuclear War" on November 6. Thankful
too for being able to see a film on the
horrors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Even
more thankful to be able to find and talk
with persons who survived the horror of
Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941, including
some sailors who were on the USS Arizona
- my Uncle Franks tomb - that fateful
day. Thankful to be able to tell you
about my feelings. Hoping that our to-
morrow will be filled with peace.

I'm thankful finally for the courage
to take risks. This year has been a
time of risk taking for me. Scary, but
terrific. The below litany, from Riv-
erside Methodist Church in Park Rapids,
MN, on Oct. 17, 1982, says well how I
feel:

"To laugh is to risk appearing the foo-
To weep is to risk appearing senti-
mental. To reach out for another is to
risk involvement. To expose feelings is
to risk exposing your true self. To
place your ideas, your dreams before a
crowd is to risk their loss. To love is
to risk not being loved in return.

To live is to risk dying. To hope is
to risk despair. To try is to risk
failure. To serve God is to risk danger
and martyrdom.

But risks must be taken, because the
greatest hazard in life is to risk
nothing.

The person who risks nothing, does
nothing, has nothing and is nothing.
They may avoid suffering and sorrow, but
they cannot learn, feel, change, grow,
love, live. Chained by their certitudes
they are a slave, they have forfeited
their freedom.

Only a person who risks is free."
In hope for freedom,



" Let
there
Be Peace on Earth

And
Let it begin
With
Me " a hymn