

The Free Newsletter of the
314th Infantry Association of WWII
314usa.org

By Joseph Piekunka, Webmaster, Board Member

July 2021

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1. 2021 Reunion Registration Is Now Open

Registration for the 2021 joint reunion of the 314th & 315th Infantry associations of WWII is now open! The dates and location are as previously announced, October 21-24, at the Charleston/Mt. Pleasant Double Tree hotel.

Reunion registration and hotel reservations are separate – registering for one does not register you for the other. To register for the reunion, please follow this link <http://314usa.org/free-newsletter>. The proposed itinerary is also posted at our site.

The registration form gives contact info to make your hotel reservation. Registration fees and annual dues should be sent to the address listed – the 314th will receive 314th dues via the 315th and their registration service provider. The registration due date is September 22, 2021.

2. Bringing Together the 314/315th, Navy & Coast Guard

What Does the 79th ID, US Navy and USCG Have in Common? The short answer is the commissioning of a brand-new naval destroyer, the USS Quintin Walsh. It is named after Lt. Commander Quintin Walsh, USCG. He lead a US Navy Seabee unit along side our GI's in the 79th, as they took Cherbourg, the division's first major objective during the war. Walsh was instrumental as the only officer present to negotiate with the Germans on the surrender of the forts near to docks and the release of a group of captured US paratroopers. Our association has been approached regarding being part of the ship's commissioning. We will have an update on this development at our October reunion. As more information becomes available, we will also relay it to you via this newsletter and our website.

3. Your Dad's War Stories

Henry Epstein's Unpleasant Encounter – by Harriet Epstein, 314th member

I learned many years ago that there are basically two kinds of war veterans – A. those that find talking about their experiences therapeutic, and B. those who prefer to move on and not talk or think about

it again. My husband Henry was a type B. his entire post-war life. The only exception was one story he told over and over again. Maybe he told it to you at least once. It's the only story I have to tell.

As the 314th was making its way across France, Henry frequently found himself taking what shelter and rest he could by lying down in a hedgerow, which I gather was a sort of a ditch beside a road with tall plants behind it. On one such occasion, he woke up to the feel of something traveling around on his body. Fortunately, it was not the enemy, a snake, a rabid dog, or any of other scary possibilities. It was nothing but a cute little mouse. Henry would have taken his rifle and shot the poor critter if he could have, but he knew that would notify the enemy of his location, so he just had to suffer until the mouse went away.

Do you have a war story your WWII veteran told you? Please keep it short and email it to: contactus@314usa.org Longer stories would be posted at our website with a short reference in our newsletter.

4. Remembering Peter Wisnoski of the 315th/WWII

Peter Wisnoski, who attended our first joint reunion at Fort Dix, 2019, passed peacefully on June 12, 2021. He spoke very eloquently to the troops at Fort Dix during the reunion during a question-and-answer session on his WWII experience. He will be missed but he will not be forgotten.

We are thankful to the 1-315th Infantry Regiment at Fort Dix for sending an Honor Guard to his funeral. His obituary is at <https://www.hooperfuneralchapel.com/obituary/Peter-Wisnosky>

Resources

314th Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/314thInfantryAssociation/>
315th Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/315thinfantryregimentwwii/>
Friends of the 79th <https://www.facebook.com/groups/301455523233899/>
79th Div. of WWII <https://www.facebook.com/79thInfantryDivisionWWII/>