

Weisenberg, Robert A.

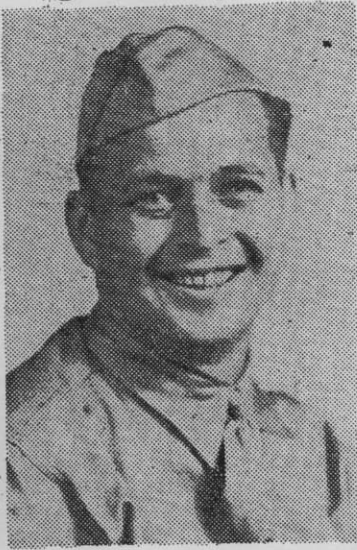
First Selectees Left City Five Years Ago Today



ROBERT A. WEISENBERG



ELMER E. BIRO



HENRY S. NITKOWSKI

Men In First Draft Back In Civil Life

First Five Chosen Left This City November 29, 1940

By 'SKIP' MOONEY

Just five years ago today—November 29, 1940—five men from Bethlehem left the Union Station to join Uncle Sam's peace-time Army, but little did anyone at that time realize that these men would, in time, have to fight a war before they could come home.

At that time, the young men of the United States, were being conscripted into the peace-time Army for a year's training. However, the Japs are to blame for making those boys sweat out four or more years of Army training.

At the railroad station that brisk November day, Mayor Robert Pfeifle said to the selectees: "After you complete your year's training and come back to Bethlehem you will help us in making America a stronger and greater republic."

Those five boys have come back—but not after a year's training. They fought a war, and they won a war, and now they have returned to civilian life hoping that the peace will also be won.



CARSON W. REINHARD



FRANK J. PENCZ

The men who left five years ago today from Local Draft Board No. 1 were Robert A. Weisenberg, Elmer E. Biro, and Henry S. Nitkowski. Those who entered the military from Local Board No. 2 included Carson W. Reinhard and Frank J. Pencz. No men left from Local Board No. 3.

Cheers and tears marked the departure of the volunteers, and the Mayor, following his farewell address, presented each of the men with a fountain pen, engraved with the name of the registrant. William Hutchinson, representing the First Defenders presented a carton of cigarettes to each of the departing men. They left the Union Station on the 10:08 a. m. train for the induction station at Wilkes-Barre.

While many residents of Bethlehem were gathered at the Union Station to give the local volunteers a joyous send-off, the citizenry of other nearby communities did the same to their selectees.

AT NAZARETH

In the headquarters of the Harold V. Knecht Post No. 415, Nazareth, Colonel W. R. Coyle, of this city, addressed two selectees and told them to "keep your yees and ears open and your mouth shut for the first 48 hours." The Nazareth draftees were Allen Thomas Lilly, Nazareth R. 3, and Victor Warminsky, Miller Heights.

This quota left at 10:59 a. m. from the Pennico Service Station on South Main Street. The trip was made by bus, with a scheduled stop at Tamaqua for lunch.

AT BANGOR

John A. Capobianco, 825 Pennsylvania Avenue, Bangor, and William F. Frutchey, Bangor R. 2 constituted the quota from County Board No. 1. They left for Wilkes-Barre at 8 a. m. from the Board headquarters.

A farewell party was held for the two volunteers the previous night at the E. H. Evans Post, where over a hundred persons gathered to bid bon voyage to the two men.

AT EASTON

Two men volunteered their services from Easton, and another volunteered from Northampton County Board No. 4. The Easton men were Archie L. Moore, of 206 South Union Street, who was chosen by Board No. 1 of Easton, and John W. Maloney, of 31 South 14th Street, chosen from Board No. 2 in Easton. Allen Myer, of Main Street, West Easton, was the first man to leave from County Board No. 4.

All three men left on the 9:40 a. m. train for Wilkes-Barre following elaborate farewell ceremonies at City Hall in Easton.

And this was the case all over the United States. Men were leaving every day to enter Uncle Sam's peace time Army for a year's training, but the sneak attack at Pearl Harbor by the Japs forced the men to remain in the Army and lick the Nips.

These men, and millions of others from all parts of this country, were the ones who fought so bravely to preserve the democracy of the U. S. A.

Nov 29, 1945