



# West Seneca Answers the Call to Arms Residents in World War II



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **YAGER**

**JAMES R.**

**Address:** 92 WILDWOOD AVENUE

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** PVT

**Unit / Squadron:**

COMPANY "D", 197TH BATTALION, 61ST REGIMENT, I.R.T.C. (INFANTRY REPLACEMENT TRAINING CENTER)

**Medals / Citations:**

**Theater of Operations / Assignment:**

**Service Notes:**

Private

**Base Assignments:**

Camp Blanding (Jacksonville, Florida) - Camp named in honor of Lieutenant General Albert H. Blanding who commanded the 2nd Florida Infantry during the Mexican Border Service in 1916 and 1917 / Camp Blanding served as an infantry replacement training center, an induction center, a German prisoner-of-war (POW) compound, and a separation center

**Miscellaneous:**

At an Infantry Replacement Training Center (I.R.T.C.), new recruits received an intensive 17 week training course prior to be sent into combat / Replacements were trained in preparation for the effort to retake Europe from Nazi Germany



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**Name:** **YATES**

**ARTHUR**

**Address:**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** CAPT

**Unit / Squadron:**

BRANCH PRISONER OF WAR CAMP

**Medals / Citations:**

**Theater of Operations / Assignment:**

**Service Notes:**

Captain

**Base Assignments:**

Aberdeen, Idaho

**Miscellaneous:**

In the United States, at the end of World War II, there were 175 Branch Camps serving 511 Area Camps containing over 425,000 prisoners of war (mostly German) / The camps were located all over the US but were mostly in the South because of the higher expense of heating the barracks in other areas / Eventually, every state (with the exceptions of Nevada, North Dakota, and Vermont) had POW camps

POWs would set up an army-style branch camp to plant and harvest crops for the local farmers / They would be transported from camp to the field in a truck and normally guarded by the farmer

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**Name:** **YATES**

**DONALD**

**Address:**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SGT

**Unit / Squadron:**

COMPANY "I", 155TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

**Medals / Citations:**

ASIATIC-PACIFIC CAMPAIGN RIBBON

**Theater of Operations / Assignment:**

PACIFIC THEATER

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

In World War II the 155th Infantry Regiment fought with the 31st Infantry Division in the Pacific Theater

Infantry refers to soldiers moving and fighting on foot, armed with hand weapons such as rifles, machine guns, grenades, mortars, etc.

The Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Ribbon (Medal) was a military awarded to any member of the United States Military who served in the Pacific Theater from 1941 to 1945



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**Name:** **YATES**

**LAWRENCE A.**

**Address:**

**Service Branch:** ARMY - AIR FORCE      **Rank:** S/SGT

**Unit / Squadron:**

329TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON, 93RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP

**Medals / Citations:**

EUROPEAN-AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN CAMPAIGN MEDAL      PURPLE HEART  
BRONZE STAR      DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS  
AIR MEDAL

**Theater of Operations / Assignment:**

EUROPEAN THEATER

**Service Notes:**

Staff Sergeant Lawrence A. Yates was an Aerial Gunner with the 329th Bombardment Squadron stationed in England / During a bombing raid on the Ploesti oil refineries in Romania, SSgt Yates was shot down on 1 August 1943 and held as a Prisoner of War (POW)

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Crew members of the five bomb groups assigned to the low-level Ploesti Oil raid on the 1 August 1943 were advised to leave behind letters to loved ones, to be mailed "in the event" / After a wrong turn upset mission choreography, 176 B-24s were set upon by 200 German fighters, then hammered by one of the heaviest anti-aircraft emplacements in the world; 54 bombers were lost, 440 fliers killed, and 220 captured or missing / Though 40 percent of the refinery's capacity was destroyed, German and Romanian engineers, using thousands of slave laborers, repaired the damage within weeks

The 329th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy / B-24 Liberator) was activated on 1 March 1942 and assigned to England in September 1942 / The 329th engaged in long-ranger strategic bombardment operations over Occupied Europe / Deployed to Egypt in December 1942; operating from airfields in Libya and Tunisia / Raided enemy military and industrial targets in Italy and in the southern Balkans, including the Nazi-controlled oilfields at Ploesti, Romania, receiving a Distinguished Unit Citation for its gallantry in that raid / The squadron also flew tactical bombing raids against Afrika Korps defensive positions in Tunisia; supporting British Eighth Army forces in their advance to Tunis, in September and October 1943 / The 329th Bombardment Squadron returned to England and resumed long-range strategic bombardment raids on Occupied Europe and Nazi Germany, attacking enemy military and industrial targets as part of the United States' air offensive / The squadron was one of the



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most highly decorated units in the Eighth Air Force, continuing offensive attacks until the German capitulation in May 1945

A bombardment group or bomb group was a group of bomber aircraft the United States Army Air Forces (USAAF) during World War II / It was the equivalent of an infantry regiment in the Army Ground Forces / A bombardment group was the key tactical control and administrative organization for bombers in all theaters of operation / U.S. bomb groups were numbered and classified into four types: Very Heavy (VH), Heavy (H), Medium (M), and Light (L) / Groups which combined bombers of differing categories into a single administrative organization were designated "Composite" groups

The European-African-Middle Eastern (EAME) Campaign Medal was a military award of the United States Armed Forces which was first created on 6 November 1942 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt / The medal was intended to recognize those military service members who had performed military duty in the European Theater (to include North Africa and the Middle East) and was awarded for any service performed between 7 December 1941 and 2 March 1946 / The European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal was awarded as a service ribbon throughout the entire Second World War

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

The Bronze Star Medal is the fourth-highest individual military award and the ninth-highest by order of precedence in the US Military / It may be awarded for acts of heroism, acts of merit, or meritorious service in a combat zone

The Distinguished Flying Cross is a military decoration awarded to any officer or enlisted member of the United States Armed Forces who distinguishes himself or herself in support of operations by "heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight, subsequent to November 11, 1918

The Air Medal is awarded to anyone who, while serving in any capacity in or with the Armed Forces of the United States, and has distinguished themselves by meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight / Subsequent awards are annotated with the traditional oak leaf clusters



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**Name:** YATES

WARREN

**Address:**

**Service Branch:** ARMY - AIR FORCE

**Rank:** CPL

**Unit / Squadron:**

10TH A.D.G. (AIRCRAFT DELIVERY GROUP) SUPPLY SQUADRON

**Medals / Citations:**

EUROPEAN-AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN CAMPAIGN MEDAL

**Theater of Operations / Assignment:**

EUROPEAN THEATER

**Service Notes:**

Corporal

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

The European-African-Middle Eastern (EAME) Campaign Medal was a military award of the United States Armed Forces which was first created on 6 November 1942 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt / The medal was intended to recognize those military service members who had performed military duty in the European Theater (to include North Africa and the Middle East) and was awarded for any service performed between 7 December 1941 and 2 March 1946 / The European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal was awarded as a service ribbon throughout the entire Second World War

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** YECKER

GEORGE

J.

*Address:*

*Service Branch:*

*Rank:*

*Unit / Squadron:*

*Medals / Citations:*

*Theater of Operations / Assignment:*

*Service Notes:*

*Base Assignments:*

*Miscellaneous:*

(NO OTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE)

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# West Seneca Answers the Call to Arms Residents in World War II



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** YECKER

VINCENT

L.

**Address:** 53 WICHITA ROAD

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** T/5

**Unit / Squadron:**

BATTERY "D", 66TH F.A. BATTALION (FIELD ARTILLERY), 4TH ARMORED DIVISION

**Medals / Citations:**

EUROPEAN-AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN CAMPAIGN MEDAL    PURPLE HEART

**Theater of Operations / Assignment:**

EUROPEAN THEATER

**Service Notes:**

Tecnician Fifth-Class (Corporal) Vincent L. Yecker was Killed in Action (KIA) on 1 August 1944

Corporal Vincent L. Yecker is buried in the Normandy American Cemetery (Colleville-sur-Mer, France)

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Vincent L. Yecker was employed as a hotel manager prior to enlisting in the Army on 17 February 1942

The Field Artillery is the branch of the army whose mission is to support the infantry by artillery fire, destroying, neutralizing or suppressing the enemy elements that threaten land forces / Increased mobility; fire direction centers, which enhanced their firepower; aerial observation; and radio communications increased the efficiency and accuracy to support ground forces

The European-African-Middle Eastern (EAME) Campaign Medal was a military award of the United States Armed Forces which was first created on 6 November 1942 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt / The medal was intended to recognize those military service members who had performed military duty in the European Theater (to include North Africa and the Middle East) and was awarded for any service performed between 7 December 1941 and 2 March 1946 / The European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal was awarded as a service ribbon throughout the entire Second World War

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**Name:** YOUNG

ALBERT

G.

**Address:** 1781 ORCHARD PARK ROAD

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** R.M. 3/C

**Unit / Squadron:**

USS NATCHEZ (PF-2)

**Medals / Citations:**

EUROPEAN-AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN CAMPAIGN MEDAL

**Theater of Operations / Assignment:**

ATLANTIC THEATER

**Service Notes:**

Radioman Third-Class

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

A Radioman was responsible for transmitting and receiving radio signals, and processing all forms of telecommunications through various transmission media aboard ships, aircraft and at shore facilities / Responsible for the proper handling and destruction of classified material / Radiomen were also responsible for periodic maintenance of the communications equipment, to include transmitters, receivers and antennas

The USS Natchez (PG-102/PF-2) was a patrol frigate acquired by the U.S. Navy from the British Royal Navy during World War II / She was used for anti-submarine patrol work during the war / The Natchez was armed with three 3"/50 dual purpose gun mounts, two twin 40 mm gun mounts, nine 20 mm gun mounts, two depth charge racks, eight depth charge projectors, and one Hedgehog depth charge projector / Acquired from British Navy on 20 July 1942 and decommissioned on 11 October 1945

The European-African-Middle Eastern (EAME) Campaign Medal was a military award of the United States Armed Forces which was first created on 6 November 1942 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt / The medal was intended to recognize those military service members who had performed military duty in the European Theater (to include North Africa and the Middle East) and was awarded for any service performed between 7 December 1941 and 2 March 1946 / The European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal was awarded as a service ribbon throughout the entire Second World War



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**Name:** YOUNG

CLAYTON

W.

**Address:** 3388 CLINTON STREET

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** CPL

**Unit / Squadron:**

BATTERY "A", 597TH F.A. BATTALION (FIELD ARTILLERY), 547TH FIELD ARTILLERY, 9TH ARMY

**Medals / Citations:**

EUROPEAN-AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN CAMPAIGN MEDAL      2 BATTLE STARS

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT - RIFLE      GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

**Theater of Operations / Assignment:**

EUROPEAN THEATER

**Service Notes:**

Corporal Clayton W. Young was assigned to the Field Artillery Regimental Command (F.A.R.T.C.) / Cpl Young earned 2 Battle Stars for combat action in Europe

**Base Assignments:**

Fort Bragg, North Carolina - In 1918, Congress established Camp Bragg, an Army field artillery site named for the Confederate General Braxton Bragg / Camp Bragg became a permanent Army post renamed Fort Bragg / Various units trained at Fort Bragg during World War II, including the 9th Infantry Division, 2nd Armored Division, 82nd Airborne Division, 100th Infantry Division, and various field artillery groups

**Miscellaneous:**

The Field Artillery is the branch of the army whose mission is to support the infantry by artillery fire, destroying, neutralizing or suppressing the enemy elements that threaten land forces / Increased mobility; fire direction centers, which enhanced their firepower; aerial observation; and radio communications increased the efficiency and accuracy to support ground forces

The European-African-Middle Eastern (EAME) Campaign Medal was a military award of the United States Armed Forces which was first created on 6 November 1942 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt / The medal was intended to recognize those military service members who had performed military duty in the European Theater (to include North Africa and the Middle East) and was awarded for any service performed between 7 December 1941 and 2 March 1946 / The European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal was awarded as a service ribbon throughout the entire Second World War

Battle (Combat) Stars were presented to military personnel who were engaged in specific battles in combat under circumstances involving grave danger of death or serious bodily injury from enemy action



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A Marksmanship Badge is a military badge of the United States Armed Forces presented to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course or high placement in an official marksmanship competition / The U.S. Military's Marksmanship Qualification Badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): Expert, Sharpshooter, and Marksman

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The Navy Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The medal is awarded to any active-duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses

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**Name:** **YOUNG**

**EDWARD C.**

**Address:** 98 BURCH AVENUE

**Service Branch:** ARMY - AIR FORCE **Rank:** AV/S

**Unit / Squadron:**

SQUADRON "C-1", N.A.A.C.

**Medals / Citations:**

**Theater of Operations / Assignment:**

**Service Notes:**

Aviation Specialist

**Base Assignments:**

Nashville, Tennessee - The War Department ordered the construction of a Bombardment Air Base near Nashville on Dec. 22, 1941 / Air strips were built to train crews for B-17 and B-24 bombers

**Miscellaneous:**

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**Name:** **YOUNG**

**JACK**

**Address:** 3388 CLINTON STREET

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

FLEET MARINE FORCE

**Medals / Citations:**

**Theater of Operations / Assignment:**

**Service Notes:**

**Base Assignments:**

U.S. Naval Hospital (New River, North Carolina)

**Miscellaneous:**

The Fleet Marine Force consisted of both combative naval fleets and Marine Corps' forces components that would entirely make up the Fleet Marine Forces on the Pacific and Atlantic coasts / While it serves directly under the Marine Corps organization, the FMF personnel, Marines and Sailors, are subject to the operational control of naval fleet commanders while the Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC) retained administrative and training control



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**Name:** **YOUNG**

**JAMES R.**

**Address:** 1781 ORCHARD PARK ROAD

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** S. 1/C

**Unit / Squadron:**

USS WILKES (DD-441)

**Medals / Citations:**

ASIATIC-PACIFIC CAMPAIGN RIBBON

**Theater of Operations / Assignment:**

PACIFIC THEATER

**Service Notes:**

Seaman First-Class

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Seamen served as members of damage control or emergency and security alert teams / They participated in Navy ceremonies and took part in underway replenishment (transferring supplies from ship to ship at sea), and they worked with qualified personnel to gain job training and experience / A Seaman was knowledgeable in naval drill duties, knots, steering and signaling / Also stood watch and handled gunnery duties

The USS Wilkes (DD-441) USS Wilkes (DD-441), was a Gleaves-class destroyer named for Charles Wilkes, who was an American naval officer and explorer / The Wilkes served in both the Atlantic and Pacific campaigns / In 1942, while stationed in the Atlantic, she participated in the Naval Battle of Casablanca, North Africa / During the Pacific campaign, the Wilkes contributed fire support and served in the antisubmarine screen during the invasion of Wakde Island, New Guinea on 17 May 1944 / During July 1944, the Wilkes participated in the landings at Noemfoor Island and Cape Sansapor in Dutch New Guinea / The Wilkes earned 9 battle stars for her World War II service / Commissioned on 22 April 1941 and decommissioned on 4 March 1946

The Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Ribbon (Medal) was a military awarded to any member of the United States Military who served in the Pacific Theater from 1941 to 1945



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**Name:** **YOUNG**

**RICHARD**

**R.**

**Address:**

**TERRACE BOULEVARD**

**Service Branch:** MERCHANT MARINE **Rank:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

SS MICHAEL PUPIN (HULL #1554)

**Medals / Citations:**

**Theater of Operations / Assignment:**

ATLANTIC THEATER

**Service Notes:**

Richard R. Young served on the SS Michael Pupin which was attacked by German forces near the Republic of Trinidad, an island lying off the coast of northeastern Venezuela

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Organized in 1910 as the Isthmian Steamship Co, the shipping company was a wholly owned British subsidiary of U.S. Steel Products Export Co. / The name, Isthmian, was chosen in honor of the Panama Canal / In 1914, the steamship company came under the ownership of the United States Steel Products Co. / During World War II, the Isthmian Company acted as general agent for 132 U.S. War Shipping Administration vessels which made 872 voyages, carrying 50% of all supplies to the Red Sea and Persian Gulf / These ships were instrumental in setting the stage for the turning point of the European theater at El Alemain in 1942 / By the end of the war 15 of the original 27 vessels were lost to enemy action while 2, loaned to the Russians and returned, were found badly used and unfit for further service

In time of war or national emergency, the U.S. Merchant Marine becomes vital to national security as a "fourth arm of defense" / Merchant ships bore the brunt of delivering military troops, supplies and equipment overseas to our forces and allies operating as an auxiliary unit to the Navy

The Liberty ships, a vast new fleet for the war effort, was built in a national "Virtual Shipyard" that harnessed skills, resources, and facilities all across America / From 1941 to 1945, the United States increased its shipbuilding capacity by more than 1,200% and produced over 2,700 Liberty Ships, 800 Victory Vessels, 320 T-2 Tankers, and various other commercial and naval auxiliary vessels for a total of 5,200 ships constructed for the period



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**Name:** **YOXTHIMER**

**C.**

**R.**

**Address:**

**Service Branch:** ARMY - AIR FORCE

**Rank:** PVT

**Unit / Squadron:**

1380TH BASE UNIT, SQUADRON "D", A.T.C. (AIR TRAFFIC COMMAND), N.O.L.D.

**Medals / Citations:**

**Theater of Operations / Assignment:**

**Service Notes:**

Private

**Base Assignments:**

Presque Isle Army Air Field (Presque Isle, Maine) - The Presque Isle Airport was constructed in 1930 by the Civilian Conservation Corps as a commercial airport and appropriated by the federal government in 1941, establishing Presque Isle Army Airfield for planes bound to and from Great Britain / The original mission of Presque Isle was the delivery of Lend-Lease aircraft to Great Britain and as an Embarkation point for overseas movement of Army Air Forces personnel and equipment / At the height of base activity during World War II, more aircraft flights flew from Presque Isle to Europe than from any other American base / In July 1944, the mission of Presque Isle AAF was changed to that of a port of debarkation and caring for casualties from the front in France / Presque Isle AAF was deactivated on 20 September 1945 / Reactivated on 12 January 1948 and renamed Presque Isle Air Force Base

**Miscellaneous:**

The Air Traffic Control (ATC) was a service provided by ground-based controllers who directed aircraft on the ground and in the air