



March 4, 2017

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## World War II Stories

Chad Guttau introduced our speaker, Richard Miller. Richard discussed the history of his late father, George Miller, particularly his military service in France and Germany during World War II. Richard has spent over 200 hours researching his father's military service including his military record in the National Archives in Washington, DC. He and his son, Jonathan, went to Europe to see first-hand where Mr. Miller fought.

Fortunately, Richard's father wrote a life story which included his war-time experiences. While still in France and Germany after the war, Private Miller obtained a camera and took pictures of historical landmarks as well as cities and property destroyed by the war. Several items of war memorabilia were sent home at this time, too. Richard showed many of his father's pictures including one of Zeppelin Field in Nuremberg where Hitler held Nazi party rallies.



Richard began with a picture of five young draftees standing together awaiting departure by train from Council Bluffs to boot camp. In the picture were his father from a farm in Silver City and four young men from the nearby Mineola community. Richard's father was stationed at

several boot camps in the southern United States and then in March 1944 was shipped overseas to England where he was stationed for a year. D-Day, June 6, 1944, was the largest military invasion by sea in history. The massive Allied military force set out from England by sea and invaded German-occupied France. It was going to overthrow Nazi Germany and its leader Adolf Hitler. The Nazis had taken over nearly the whole of Europe. The Allied forces landed on the beaches of Normandy and started to break through the German army's defenses. Private Miller shipped to Utah Beach 28 days after D-Day. He was in the 4<sup>th</sup> Division 22<sup>nd</sup> Regiment.

Richard's father fought in three of the worst battles of the war: Hedge Row Battles of Normandy, Hurtgen Forest (33,000 casualties) and Battle of the Bulge under General Patton. Research of the battles describes the inconceivable danger and conditions which the soldiers confronted and realizes the incredible courage and sacrifice of those who served. The Allied Forces were successful in defeating Germany. World War II in Europe ended with the unconditional surrender of Germany in May 1945; Private Miller was discharged on Sep 14, 1945 having received the Bronze Star citation for valor at the Siegfried Line and the Purple Heart for injury at the Siegfried Line. The entire 22<sup>nd</sup> Regiment received the Unit Citation for Outstanding Valor at the Hedge Row Battles and Hurtgen Forest.

## Meeting Minutes

President Kirk Vorthmann called the Mar 4, 2017 meeting of the Treynor Optimist Club to order at 8:00 am in the Legion Room of the Treynor Community Center. Ten members and one guest were present.

The meeting began with humor from Chad Guttau and Bill Vorthmann. Kirk led the Pledge of Allegiance; and Ken Graham offered the prayer.

Ann Vorthmann reported on the Optimist Regional Zone meeting attended by Kirk Vorthmann, Ann

Vorthmann and Bill Vorthmann. George Volz of the Riverside Optimists and current Lieutenant Governor of our Zone has requested to be replaced.

Jim Clausen won the 50/50 drawing and Dee Guttau was not present to receive the attendance prize. For bragging rights, several members contributed to the youth fund in celebration of the Treynor Girls' Basketball Team defeating Van Meter for a trip to the State Tournament in Des Moines. Gary Guttau contributed to the youth fund for Gary Funkhouser receiving the outstanding fan State Sportsmanship Award. Gary Funkhouser provided a run-down of the week's school activities; and reported that Anika Vohls is home. Gary Funkhouser also shared a photograph of the five Optimist Essay contestants: 1<sup>st</sup> Kyle Wesley; 2<sup>nd</sup> tie Jett Keller/Amanda Driver; 3<sup>rd</sup> tie Luke Clausen/McKayla Olsen. Kyle's essay

will be sent to the Iowa District Optimist contest for possible \$2,500 prize.

The Pops Concert, which is also a fundraiser for the Music Department, will be Tuesday evening March 14 beginning at 5:30 with a lasagna dinner \$10, entertainment beginning at 6:00 pm and a silent auction. The Club will sponsor a silent auction basket. Ann Vorthmann will make the basket.

School is dismissing at 1:00 on Wednesday afternoon, March 8. The Junior Optimists will be sorting cans at the Can Kennel immediately after the dismissal. The next can sorting will be March 22 at 3:30.

Chad Guttau announced that Stephanie Kenealy will speak about her art studio at next week's meeting.

The meeting was adjourned with the Optimist Creed. .

#### **Calendar**

- Mar 21 – Pruning Party at the Elementary School
- Mar 22 – Can sorting for JOI Club, 3:30 p.m.
- Apr 12 – Mulch Madness with the Master Gardeners

#### **Birthdays**

- Mar 2 – Ward Chambers
- Mar 11 – Kenneth Graham
- Mar 20 – Jon Jacobsen
- Apr 20 – Steve Chambers
- Apr 25 – Irvin Saar
- Apr 28 - Gene Seran

#### **Anniversaries**

- Mar 4 – Gene & Erika Seran
- Mar 8 – Keith & Georgia Denton
- Apr 7 – Jim & Diane Clausen

#### **Speakers**

##### **Programs**

- March - Chad Guttau
- April - Gary Funkhouser
- May -
- June - Jim Clausen
- July - First two weeks open  
Last two – Jerry Hempel
- August - First two weeks open  
Last weeks – Bob Mantell
- September - Ken Graham
- October - Gary Guttau
- November - Mick Guttau
- December –