

**Genesee News, Nov. 6, 1964**

### **Forty-Seven Years Ago Genesee Men Answered First Draft Call**

On Saturday, July 21, 1917, The Genesee News printed an Extra. It was small as far as newspaper Extras run, just a three-inch by five-inch sheet, but it carried news that would leave an everlasting mark on the people involved. That Extra carried the names of nineteen young men from this area who were called by the first draft of World War I.

Accompanying this story, written forty-seven years later, is an almost exact duplicate of the that Extra. Many of the men named in the first draft call are now gone. A few remain to recall the events that followed when they were asked to "Make the World Safe for Democracy."

Not all the boys on this first draft were called into active service. Some had exemptions at home, others had physical disabilities which kept them from answering the call. But others went and fought in this first great war. Among those who went, fought, and were lucky enough to return was Lew Jain, now a farmer out on the Rimrock section.

Mr. Jain recalls that he and another Genesee veteran, now deceased, Joseph P. Anderson, were taken from Moscow to Fort Lewis, Washington and given two to three weeks of training. From there they were sent to Camp Mills, Long Island, New York and assigned to Co. C., Oregon National Guard, to bring that outfit up to strength.

The two were shipped overseas and spent some time guarding shipping docks in France. These comparatively safe days weren't to last, and early in 1918 Jain was assigned to the Third Division while Anderson was sent to the 32<sup>nd</sup> division.

To this generation names and places such as Chateau-Thierry, Belle Woods, Verdun, Meuse Argonne forests, and many others are merely names remembered mostly near Armistice Day. But to the men who fought here, who first learned horrors of war, and who watched friends die, these names will burn brightly and forever in memories.

For men like Lew Jain it would be impossible to forget fifty-eight days of steady combat in Northern France without relief, of walking the battlefields of Verdun and seeing the corpses and bones of friend and foe alike strewn across the landscape. It is also hard to forget that in a short period of time in 1918, over 600 men were used to keep Jain's company of 104 men at full strength.

## **Veteran's Day Wednesday**

Forty-six years later, America again prepares to observe the signing of the peace treaty which ended World War I. It's not Armistice Day any more. In honor of the young men who fought and died in all our wars November 11 is called Veterans Day.

Unfortunately November 11 has lost its meaning for many Americans, but for those young men who fought in World War I, November 11 has a very special significance. For Lew Jain, November 11, 1964, will be a far cry from the November 11, 1918 when he heard of the German surrender in a hospital in Vichy, France. For the veterans of World War I, November 11 is more than a date or a holiday, it is a constant, ever-lasting reminder of the struggle, sacrifice, and suffering. It was for us that this sacrifice was made.....we must never, ever forget that.

Ed's Note: We are grateful to **Mr. Henry Lorang** who brought us this copy of the Genesee News Extra of 1917. **It must be one of the few remaining in existance. Even the News doesn't have a copy.**

# EXTRA

## GENESEE NEWS

Genesee, Idaho, Saturday, July 21-1917

Following is a list of the names of Genesee boys drawn in the selective draft at Washington, D. C., yesterday (Friday) and last night.

This list will probably cover all the Genesee boys to be drawn in the first draft as only 129 are required from Latah county and the number of names drawn will be just 258:

- No. 6—Clarence Lewis Flomer.
- No. 23—Walter Carlquist.
- No. 62—Samuel L. Matson.
- No. 75—Samuel R. Lange.
- No. 77—Lewis G. Jain.
- No. 85—Milton G. Rader.
- No. 91—Ben Olson Ostlid.
- No. 93—John Eikum.
- No. 94—Oscar Olson.
- No. 108—Elja Lloyd Corbin.
- No. 132—Anton J. Kambitch.
- No. 150—Jos. P. Anderson.
- No. 153—Dallas Rogers.
- No. 196—Russell A. Peterson.
- No. 207—Ludwick J. Burger.
- No. 220—Theo. W. Cole.
- No. 228—Walter O. Sheldon.
- No. 238—Nels. O. Burquist.
- No. 244—J. W. Brigham.

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