BENNY JOSEPH KUBIAK

US ARMY 1942-1946

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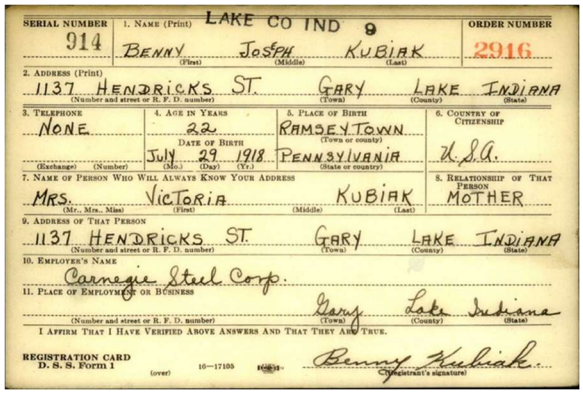
Benny Joseph Kubiak was born 29-Jul 1918 Ramsey Town, Clearfield, Pennsylvania. His parents were Leo Kubiak (1891-1973) and Victoria Kalinowiz Kubiak (1882-1982). Benny and his siblings were the first generation born in the United States. His parents were born in Poland. Benny had three brothers: Leo, Walter, and Joseph and one sister: Victoria. His enlistment records state he had completed grammar school. According to the Federal Census, in 1930 the family lived at 1131 Jennings Street in Gary IN. At the time, Benny was 12 years old.

Benny registered for the draft 16-Oct 1940 in Indiana. His listed employer was Carnegie Steel Corp. When he registered, he was 22 years old and living in Gary IN at 1137 Henricks Street. Benny enlisted 9-Nov 1942 at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indiana. His service number was 35710907. The Army listed his Civilian Occupation as: Semiskilled occupations in mechanical treatment of metals (rolling, stamping, forging, pressing, etc.).



SERIAL NUMBER 914 | 1. NAME (Print) LAKE CO IND 9 — BENNY (First) JOSEPH (Middle) KUBIAK (Last) | ORDER NUMBER 2916

2. ADDRESS (Print) 1137 HENDRICKS ST. (Number and street or R. F. D. number) GARY (Town) LAKE (County) INDIANA (State)

3. TELEPHONE NONE (Exchange) (Number) | 4. AGE IN YEARS 22 — DATE OF BIRTH July (Mo.) 29 (Day) 1918 (Yr.) | 5. PLACE OF BIRTH RAMSEY TOWN (Town or county) PENNSYLVANIA (State or country) | 6. COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP U.S.A.

7. NAME OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS MRS. (Mr., Mrs., Miss) VICTORIA (First) KUBIAK (Middle) (Last) | 8. RELATIONSHIP OF THAT PERSON MOTHER

9. ADDRESS OF THAT PERSON 1137 HENDRICKS ST. (Number and street or R. F. D. number) GARY (Town) LAKE (County) INDIANA (State)

10. EMPLOYER'S NAME Carnegie Steel Corp.

11. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS Gary (Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) Lake (County) Indiana (State)

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.

REGISTRATION CARD D. S. S. Form 1 (over) 16—17105 — Benny Kubiak (Registrant's signature)

Former Neighbors Form Quartet to Plague Adolf

Here's a quartet that won't sound good to the axis, whether the members sing or not.

It consists of the three Kubiak brothers, Leo, Walter and Benny, and their pal, Clyde Barnes. The brothers, ages 22, 18 and 24, respectively, are the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Kubiak, Sr., of 1137 Hendricks. Barnes is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Barnes of Valparaiso.

In days gone by the four, formerly neighbors in Tolleston, played and studied together while attending Sacred-Heart school. Now they hunt the axis rats—together at least in spirit.

The youngest, Walter, is in the marine corps and is now training at San Diego. He formerly attended Tolleston high school and worked, later, for the American Bridge company.

Leo, who has been in the marines for more than a year, is in that place which is housing an ever-increasing number of Americans—"somewhere overseas."

Benny Kubiak and Clyde Barnes are both in the army. Benny has been in since November and is now stationed at Fort Casey, Wash. He was employed in Gary works before his induction.

Barnes, who has been in the army for nearly a year, is now stationed at Jefferson Barracks, Mo., near St. Louis.

All of the boys are privates.

Leo Walter Benny Barnes

All four brothers served during World War II. Additionally Benny, along with his brothers Leo and Joseph and friend Clyde Barnes, sang in a local quartet. A newspaper article at the time noted that the members of the quartet were going to "Plague Adolf".

Benny would serve in Alaska and in the Pacific Theater. In Alaska Benny served in the U.S. Army Alaska Defense Command (Patch on right shoulder) and the 6th Army Division (Patch on right shoulder).

Alaska Defense Command

The Alaska Defense Command (ADC) was a military formation of the United States Army. It was established on 4-Feb 1941 and responsible for coordinating the defense of the Alaska Territory of the United States. The first commanding general of ADC was Brigadier General Simon Bolivar Buckner, Jr. Until 1 November 1943, Alaska Defense Command was under the jurisdiction of the Western Defense Command, headquartered at the Presidio of San Francisco. ADC was dissolved on 31-Oct 1943 and replaced by the Alaskan Department, still commanded by now Lieutenant General Buckner but now reporting directly back to the War Department in Washington, D.C.

The Alaskan bases included:

- Ladd Field was a major military installation in Alaska during World War II.
- Adak Army Base and Naval Operating Base was located on Adak Island.
- Attu Battlefield and Bases were located on Attu Island.
- Fort Glenn was located on Umnak Island.
- Dutch Harbor Naval Operating Base and Fort Mears U.S. Army were located near Unalaska Island.

In May 1942, the Japanese began near-simultaneous campaigns against Midway and the Aleutians, thus beginning the Aleutian Islands campaign. The Japanese invaded Alaska on 3-Jun 1942 when Japanese carrier-based planes bombed Dutch Harbor, a U.S. Naval Air Station and Then on June 6th Japanese forces landed on Kiska Island and the next day on Attu Island. It was the first time that the continental United States was invaded and occupied by a foreign power.

A force consisting of 1,140 infantry soldiers took control of the island and captured Attu's population, which consisted of 45 Aleuts (Indigenous people). The 42 Aleut inhabitants who survived the Japanese invasion were taken to a prison camp near Otaru, Hokkaido. Sixteen of them died while they were imprisoned. Benny was inducted into the Army in November 1942.

On 11-May 1943 U.S. forces landed on Attu and began an uphill battle to retake the island. After nineteen days of fighting, the beleaguered Japanese soldiers launched a final banzai charge in an attempt to break through the American line.

After serving in Alaska, Benny was sent to the South Pacific.

The 6th Army Division in the Pacific

The Division moved to Hawaii in July and August 1943 to assume defensive positions on Oahu and for jungle warfare training. It moved to Milne Bay, New Guinea, 31-Jan 1944, and trained until early June 1944. The Division first saw combat in the Toem-Wakde area of Dutch New Guinea, engaging in active patrolling 14-18 June, after taking up positions 6-14 June. Moving west of Toem, it fought a bloody battle with the enemy at Lone Tree Hill, 21-30 June, and secured the Maffin Bay area by 12 July.

After a brief rest, the Division made an assault landing at Sansapor, 30 July, on the Vogelkop Peninsula. The 6th secured the coast from Cape Waimak to the Mega River and garrisoned the area until December 1944.

The Division landed at Lingayen Gulf, Luzon, on D-day, 9 January 1945, and pursued the Japanese into the Cabanatuan Hills, 17-21 January, capturing Munoz, 7 February. It then drove northeast to Digalan Bay and Baler Bay, 13 February, isolating enemy forces in southern Luzon. The 1st Infantry Regiment operated on Bataan, 14-21 February, cutting the peninsula from Abucay to Bagac. The Division shifted to the Shimbu Line northeast of Manila, 24 February, took Mount Mataba, 17 April, Mount Pacawagan, 29 April, Bolog, 29 June, Lane's Ridge of Mount Santo Domingo, 10 July, and Kiangan, 12 July. The 6th remained in the Cagayan Valley and the Cordilleras Mountains until VJ-day, then moved to occupy Korea.

Beny was discharged 11-Feb 1946. Benny later married Evelyn Cassady of Danville Illinois.

Benny Kubiak was awarded the following medals and commendations:

- Combat Infantry Badge
- Good Conduct Medal
- Asiatic Pacific Campaign Ribbon
- European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal
- American Campaign Medal
- World War II Victory Medal
- American Defense Medal
- Philippine Liberation Medal

The 1950 Federal Census records show Benny and Evelyn, and their two-year-old son Benny T., living at 1137 Jennings Street in Gary IN. He returned to the steel industry and his occupation was listed as “Open Hearth Handler Supervisor.”

He died 8-Jul 1990 in Hobart, Lake, IN. They were living on Blake Road in Portage IN at the time. He is buried at Chapel Lawn Cemetery in Schererville IN.