

COL. ROBERT R. MCCORMICK AND THE AMERICAN LEGION

I like to stir up the animals. Col. Robert R. McCormick¹

HISTORY AS A TAPESTRY

History is a fabric with a weft of people and organizations and a warp of time. Most histories are written with the warp of chronology most visible. This history is a tapestry with the people and organizations the primary visible threads and time somewhat hidden. This tapestry covers the interval from the end of the Great War, November 11, 1918, to the writing of this document and some of the people and organizations that led to the American Legion Department of Illinois First Division Cantigny Post 556 and Medill-Tribune, later renamed Colonel Robert R. McCormick Post 348, now consolidated with Post 556.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ

- **Colonel Robert Rutherford McCormick** — Owner and editor of the Chicago Tribune, soldier, politician, a founder of the American Legion, supporter of a number of veterans' organizations, and creator of Cantigny Park, Wheaton, Illinois. During the Great War, a.k.a. WW1, he served in the First Infantry Division.
- **Chicago Tribune** — "World's Greatest Newspaper" The Colonel and his cousin Joseph Medill Patterson assumed the leadership of the paper from the Colonel's grandfather, Joseph Medill, in 1910. In 1919, Joseph Medill Patterson left the Chicago Tribune to found the New York Daily News. The newspaper started WGN radio and TV.
- **Brigadier General Theodore "Ted" Roosevelt III** — Eldest son of President Theodore Roosevelt, a major founder of the American Legion, WW1 & WW2 soldier, Medal of Honor awardee for his part in the Normandy landings.
- **First Infantry Division**² — A.k.a. the Big Red One. It is the oldest continuously serving division in the regular United States Army. It has seen continuous service since its organization in 1917. It participated in the battles of Cantigny, Soissons, St. Mihiel and the Argonne Forest (which lent its name to Argonne National Laboratory). The colonel served in this division as commander of the "Hamilton's Own" 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery.³
- **American Legion** —
 - **Paris Caucus (March 15-17, 1919)** — Decided that a state-side caucus was need for greater participation and set rules under which the St. Louis Caucus would operate (significantly, there is "no rank in the Legion").

¹ Richard Norton Smith, *The Colonel*, Northwestern University Press, Evanston, Illinois, 1997. ISBN 978-0-8101-2039-6.

² <http://www.riley.army.mil/AboutUs/History.aspx> The History of the 1st Infantry Division

³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_Hamilton Formed in 1775, it is the oldest serving Army unit. Captain Alexander Hamilton was 1st Secretary of the Treasury and founder of the Coast Guard.

- **St. Louis, Missouri, Caucus (May 8-10, 1919)** — Insufficient time for organization resulted considerable disorganization. It did adopt a draft program written by the Advance Committee as a preliminary constitution for the Legion.
- **Founding Convention (November 10-12, 1919, Minneapolis, Minnesota)**
- **American Legion Department of Illinois** — The State level organization
- **American Legion District 2** — The original District of Posts 348 and 556.
- **American Legion District 11** — The current District of Post 556.
- **American Legion Medill-Tribune Post 348** — Chartered in 1928, Colonel Robert R. McCormick was its first commander for two years. Its members were restricted to being present or formerly employees of the Chicago Tribune. After the Colonel's death, it was renamed Colonel Robert Rutherford McCormick. In 2012, due to insufficient members, it was consolidated into American Legion Cantigny Post 556.
- **American Legion First Division Cantigny Post 556** — Chartered in 1928, its members were initially restricted to having served in the First Infantry Division. Because of the membership restriction, many of its members were also members of the Society of the First Infantry Division. In the early 2000s, the membership restrict was dropped. The Post operates under the shortened name of Cantigny Post 556.
- **Society of the First Infantry Division** — Membership in the Society of the First Infantry Division is open to all individuals who at any time honorably served or are serving in units assigned or attached to, or in support of, the 1st Infantry Division at any time since its organization. Upon the death of a member, his or her heirs are entitled to his or her right of membership.⁴

CHRONOLOGY OF MAJOR EVENTS

- 1918 May 28-31 — Battle of Cantigny, France
- 1918 Nov 11 — Armistice ending the Great War
- 1918 Aug 22 — The Colonel departure from France.
- 1918 Dec 31 — The Colonel's discharge from active duty.
- 1919 Feb 19 — "The Roosevelt dinner" that sparked the planning for the Paris Caucus.
- 1919 Mar 14 — Stars and Stripes article announcing the Paris Caucus
- 1919 May 8-10 — St. Louis Caucus
- 1919 Nov 10-12 — First National Convention of the American Legion
- 1928 Dec 7 — Chartering of Posts 348 and 556.
- 1955 Apr 1 — The death of the Colonel.
- 1956 June 4 — Post 348 applied for a change of name from "Medill-Tribune"
- 1956 July 23 — Post 348 rechartered as "Colonel Robert R. McCormick"
- 1957 Apr 27 — The memorial service for the Colonel. The Posts 348 and 556 among others participated.
- 2008 July 1 — Reassignment of Post 556 from 2nd District to 11th District.

⁴ <https://www.1stid.org/types.php>

THE FORMATION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AFTER THE GREAT WAR

Stars and Stripes, March 14, 1919, page 4 (See clipping on page 25):

VETERANS ALL

The air these days is crowded with suggestions for the forming of a veterans' association to preserve the American comradeship of the war, to inherit the task and the glory of the G.A.R. Tomorrow a caucus will open in Paris to plan, tentatively, an organization to perpetuate "the relationships formed in the military service." If such an organization is to thrive and serve America, it will be tied to no creed or party. It will grind no axes. It will forget the distinctions of rank which the Army happened to require for its job in hand; for, of course, times have greatly changed since the days when the society of the Cincinnati and the Loyal Legion were "formed for officers only and the descendants of officers.

Rather will it try to carry back into civilian life something of the shoulder-to-shoulder spirit of a citizen army, drawn from all social classes, all geographical sections of the people that sent it forth—a citizen army in which the scholar divided corned willy with the unlettered, in which the millionaire buttoned shelter-halves with the laborer, in which the descendants of the Mayflower company buddied with the later immigrants.

Naturally, it will, for a time, look back through the softening mists of memory on these days of camp and bivouac, and yet, if its chief stock in trade is reminiscence, if it looks only backward, than will the germ of death be in its fiber at its very birth, and its days will be short in the land.⁵

CAPSULE HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN LEGION⁶

A group of twenty officers who served in the American Expeditionary Forces (A.E.F.) in France in World War I is credited with planning the Legion. A.E.F. Headquarters asked these officers to suggest ideas on how to improve troop morale. One officer, Lieu-

⁵ <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/sgpsasquery.html> Search term "organization", the date of March 14, 1919 and page 4. A copy is present in the appendices.

See Colonel Robert R. McCormick's remarks on veterans organizations on page 21.

The G.A.R. is the Grand Army of the Republic, a fraternal organization for Union Civil War veterans.

The United Confederate Veterans is a similar organization for Confederate Civil War veterans.

The Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, (MOLLUS), or simply as the Loyal Legion is a United States patriotic order, organized April 15, 1865, by officers of the Army, Navy, or Marine Corps of the United States who "had aided in maintaining the honor, integrity, and supremacy of the national movement" during the American Civil War.

The Society of the Cincinnati is the nation's oldest patriotic organization, founded in 1783 by officers of the Continental Army and their French counterparts who served together in the American Revolution.

⁶ http://www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/pog_09.pdf Page 166

tenant Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., proposed an organization of veterans. In February 1919, this group formed a temporary committee and selected several hundred officers who had the confidence and respect of the whole army.⁷

When the first organization meeting took place in Paris in March 15-17, 1919, about 1,000 officers and enlisted men attended. The meeting, known as the Paris Caucus, adopted a temporary constitution and the name *The American Legion*. It also elected an executive committee to complete the organization's work. It considered each soldier of the A.E.F. a member of the Legion. The executive committee named a subcommittee to organize veterans at home in the U.S. The majority report of the Committee on Convention recommended that 11 am on November 11, 1919 — one year to the hour after the termination of hostilities in World War I — be selected as the date and time for the convocation of a national convention.⁸ Col. Robert R. McCormick already had returned to Chicago and the Tribune by the time of the Paris Caucus.

The Legion held a second organizing caucus in St. Louis, Missouri, in May 8-10, 1919. It completed the constitution and made plans for a permanent organization. It set up temporary headquarters in New York City, and began its relief, employment, and Americanism programs. Although Chicago made a strong fight to get this convention, because of Legonnaires' opinions of Chicago's Americanism, Minneapolis was selected.⁹

Both Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. and Col. Robert R. McCormick were at this caucus.¹⁰



⁷ Wheat, George Seay, *Story of the American Legion*, G P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1919, page 60f. This picture is of Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. in 1919. "Roosevelt was instrumental in the forming of the American Legion in 1919 following his valiant service in the United States Army during World War I. He later served as Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Governor of Puerto Rico (1929-32), Governor-General of the Philippines (1932-33), Chairman of the Board of American Express Company, Vice-President at Doubleday Books. Returning to the Army in 1940, he led the first wave of troops at Utah Beach during the Normandy landings in 1944, earning the Medal of Honor for his command. He died in France 36 days later, holding the rank of Brigadier General." Quotation from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodore_Roosevelt,_Jr.

⁸ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Legion In fact, the first American Legion National Convention was held in Minneapolis, MN, November 10-12, 1919.

⁹ <http://archives.chicagotribune.com/1919/05/10/page/1/article/chicago-loses-convention-of-war-veterans> (See clipping on page **Error! Bookmark not defined.**)

¹⁰ Roosevelt's presence is well documented in the minutes and histories. McCormick was not initially selected to be an Illinois representative. Because of transportation issues, many of the representatives were not able to attend. McCormick was. His presence and representative status are documented by a Chicago Tribune article and by certificates issued by Department of Illinois and National organizations.

Congress granted the Legion a national charter in September 1919. The first National Convention, held in Minneapolis November 10-12, 1919, adopted a permanent constitution and elected officers to head the organization. It was attended by 684 delegates from around the United States. Theodore Roosevelt did attend; Col. Robert R. McCormick apparently did not attend.

COL. ROBERT R. MCCORMICK

From "First Over There: The Attack on Cantigny, America's First Battle of World War I":¹¹



Major Robert McCormick had military experience in the Illinois National Guard, 1st Cavalry Regiment, which he had joined June 21, 1916, two days after the it was Federalized to patrol the United States — Mexican border.¹² He was the commander of the 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment of the 1st Division in France, early 1918. McCormick was the head of the Chicago Tribune, and not only volunteered for duty himself (he was already commissioned through the Illinois National Guard)--he promised to keep the position open for any Tribune employees who volunteered. By all accounts, he led his men bravely and employed his 155-mm guns brilliantly, seeing action in America's first battle at Cantigny, and by war's end he earned the Distinguished Service Medal and was promoted to Colonel, a title he preferred the rest of his life. He supported the American Legion with many articles published in the Chicago Tribune, from small column fillers of various post events to columns in support of major items. The Speedway Hospital, dedicated as the Edward Hines Jr. Veterans Hospital.¹³ The consolidation and founding of the Veterans Bureau, the forerunner of the Department of Veterans Affairs.¹⁴ He noticeably reduced his day-to-day involvement with the American Legion according to some reports.¹⁵ He renamed his Illinois estate "Cantigny" for the battle, hosted First infantry Division reunions there annually, and on his death in 1955, his will left his land

¹¹ Matthew J. Davenport, *First Over There: The Attack on Cantigny, America's First Battle of World War I*, Thomas Dunne Books, May 12, 2015, ISBN 9781466860278. Copyright 2013.

The photograph is from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_R._McCormick.

His service record as provided by the US Army is in the appendices.

¹² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_R._McCormick#Military

¹³ <http://archives.chicagotribune.com/1921/11/07/page/3/article/foch-comforts-disabled-yanks-and-offers-aid> Marshal Foch of France, the American Legion National Commander Hanford MacNider and Senator [Joseph] Medill McCormick, the Colonel's brother, attended. American Legion, Illinois, 2nd District, including Posts 348 and 556 supported acquisition of this hospital by the Veteran's Bureau.

¹⁴ http://www.va.gov/about_va/vahistory.asp

¹⁵ Littlewood, Thomas B., *Soldiers Back Home*, Southern Illinois University, 2004. ISBN 080932587X. pg 22.

and much of his fortune to the preservation of the history of his beloved "Fighting First", the Robert R. McCormick Charitable Trust and designated Cantigny as a public space for education and recreation.¹⁶ Today, the Robert R. McCormick museum (his mansion), the Army's First Division Museum and McCormick Research Center are located at Cantigny Park, Illinois.¹⁷

CHICAGO TRIBUNE, APRIL 27, 1957, PAGE 10:
SET MEMORIAL RITE TODAY FOR R. R. M'CORMICK
BY JOHN H. THOMPSON¹⁸

Veterans of the 1st division, in which he served World War I, will honor the late Col. Robert R. McCormick at memorial services this afternoon on the Cantigny farm estate of the former Tribune editor and Publisher.

The services, starting at 2 p. m., are being held in connection with the annual meeting of the midwest chapter of the Society of the 1st Division in the Congress hotel. Members will leave the hotel by motorcade at 1 p. m.

Open to Public

Allan Anderson, 865 W. Nelson st., chapter president, announced that the services are also open to the public. Cantigny farm, named for the first "all-American" attack in World War I lies on the south side of rd. [U. S. 301, west. of Wheaton city limits.

The services, to be held at the McCormick monument where Col. McCormick is buried, will be recorded and broadcast by WGN at 9:05 p.m. today. It will include selections from Col. Mc. Cormick's favorite operas and operetta* which were formerly heard on the Chicago Theater of the Air program.

The services will be attended by 50 members of the cadet staff of the Chicago public high school reserve officers training corps, which Col. McCormick helped establish.

Legion Color Guards

Other participants include color guards of the Col. Robert R. McCormick and Cantigny posts of the American Legion, a 5th Army rifle squad and bugler, and Boy and Cub Scout units. Col. Thomas R. Gowenlock [ret.] , who served with Col McCormick in the 1st division in France, will deliver a eulogy. Col. William J. Reiss, 5th Army chaplain, will read a memorial prayer. After the services, mem-

¹⁶ <http://www.mccormickfoundation.org/cantigny>

¹⁷ <http://www.cantigny.org/museums/robert-r-mccormick-museum/the-museum>
<http://www.firstdivisionmuseum.org/>
<http://www.firstdivisionmuseum.org/research/default.aspx>

¹⁸ <http://archives.chicagotribune.com/1957/04/27/page/10/article/set-memorial-rite-today-for-r-mccormick/index.html>

bers of the society will inspect the building¹⁹ being converted into a permanent museum for the 1st division on the grounds of Cantigny farm.
The Founding Caucuses of the American Legion

AMERICAN LEGION POST 556, DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

There have been two American Legion Department of Illinois Posts numbered 556. The first was Stevenson-Lewis founded in Bloomington, Illinois, March 16, 1920. Apparently it failed, as the second Post 556, First Division Cantigny was founded December 7, 1928, in Chicago, Illinois. Its charter application was submitted the day before.²⁰



Initial annual dues in 1929 were \$5, the equivalent of about \$69 in 2015. The dues were reduced to \$3 in 1935, the equivalent of \$51 in 2015. The Post gained an Auxiliary in 1935. In 1948 or 1949, dues returned to \$5, the equivalent of \$49 in 2015. In 1953, the American Legion apparently moved to a July 1 to June 30 year. In the 1954 and 1955, the meeting time and place of the post varied monthly and were set at the previous meeting. Apparently, the Post Auxiliary terminated about 1971. The move of the Post apparently occurred during John F. Votaw's time as Commander as he moved to Wheaton during that time. From 1972 on, only the commanders' names were supplied in the copies of Department of Illinois records from which the data below were extracted.

First Division Cantigny Post 556 changed from Department of Illinois 1st Division, 2nd District to 2nd Division, 11th District July 1, 2008 as most of its members live in and the post home is in DuPage County, Illinois. Apparently the Post dropped its "industrial" aspect of having only First Division members at this time also. Today, it has members from all five military services and would welcome WW2 merchant marine members.²¹ It has grown from 15 members in 1984 to almost 275 in 2015.

¹⁹ Formerly, this building had been his stable and, presently (2015), is the Visitors Center. A new building for the First Division Museum was dedicated in 1992.

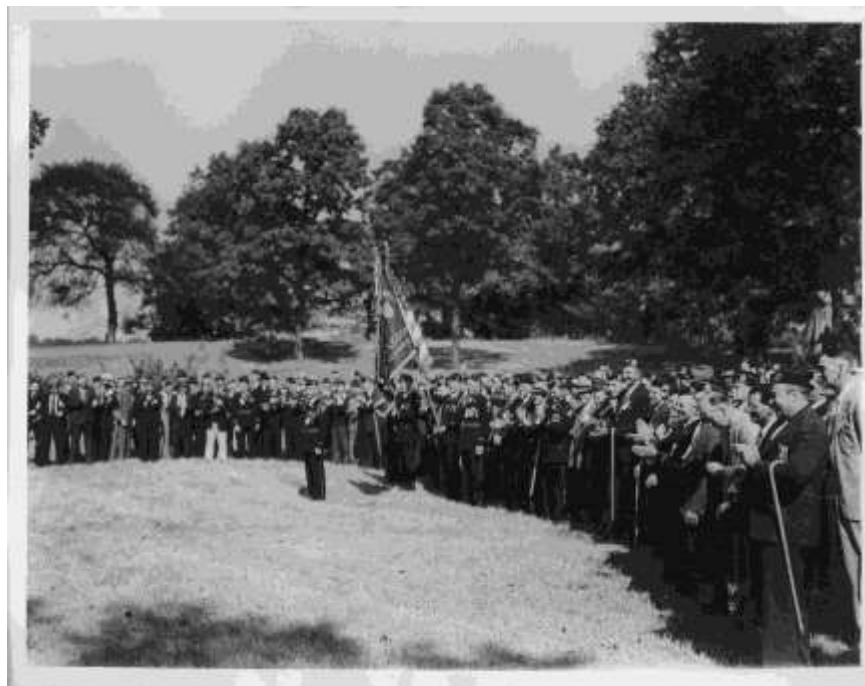
²⁰ American Legion Department of Illinois, private communications, copies of records related to Posts 348 and 556, including charters, officers and executive committee meeting minutes.

²¹ <http://www.legion.org/documents/pdf/mbrapp.pdf> Membership application form.



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Post 556 at the April 27, 1957, memorial service.



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This picture is of Post 556. The word "Legion" and the First Division patch on the post flag clearly identifies the group.

²² <http://www.firstdivisionmuseum.org/research/> The First Division Museum at Cantigny Research Center. Apr 27, 1957, memorial service.

²³ Ibid. 1988.31 Box 178 Patrick. Although this was taken at the Annual Picnic, note the heavy presence of Legionnaires.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 348, DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

There have been two American Legion Department of Illinois Posts numbered 348. Perry Post 348 applied for a charter February 25, 1922. The charter was granted March 6, 1922. The Perry Post 348 had a membership of 17 in 1925. Apparently, it failed, as a second Post 348, Medill-Tribune was founded December 7, 1928, at the Tribune Tower, 439 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL with 174 members. Col. Robert R. McCormick was the Commander for the first two years. Its tight association with the Chicago Tribune is evident by the number of years in which the meeting location or of its officers was given as the Tribune Tower. It gained an Auxiliary in 1952. It was incorporated April 3, 1959. It applied for a new charter as the Colonel Robert R. McCormick Post 348 June 4, 1956. The application was approved July 23, 1956. April 12, 2014, Colonel Robert R. McCormick Post 348 was consolidated with First Division Cantigny Post 556 by the Department of Illinois.

Unfortunately, almost all Post 348 records and equipment was lost during a work action at the Chicago Tribune in 1985. From Department of Illinois records, the Colonel was the post commander its first two years. If ever he had moved his membership to Post 556, then those records are now lost.



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Col. Robert R. McCormick Post 348 Honor Guard at his bier.

²⁴ <http://www.firstdivisionmuseum.org/research/> The First Division Museum at Cantigny Research Center. Post 348 Honor Guard at the Colonel's burial.

SOCIETY OF THE FIRST INFANTRY DIVISION CANTIGNY CHAPTER

The Society of the First Infantry Division Cantigny Chapter, a.k.a. Midwest Chapter, collaborated with the American Legion First Division Cantigny Post 556. The Chapter encouraged its members to also join the American Legion and both 556 and 348 benefited thereby. Cantigny Park supplied organizational support to both groups and the 745th Tank Battalion Association.²⁵ Many were members of multiple groups. When the chapter was inactivated by William Kania, one of the last active members of the chapter, many of the remaining members became members of the American Legion Post 556.²⁶

A short item in the Chicago Tribune shows the intimate relationship between the American Legion Posts and the Society of the First Infantry Division Cantigny chapter: "First Division Cantigny Post 556 and its auxiliary will hold an annual basket picnic today in Lincoln Park, near Clark and Center streets. All members and families of the First Division are invited."²⁷



September 26, 1939, a reunion of about 500 members of the First Infantry Division started with a picnic and ended with a banquet at Hotel Sherman in Chicago.²⁸ Some of the speakers were Brig. Gen. Karl Truesdell, commander of Fort Sheridan; Brig. Gen. Beverly Brown, Col. Thomas Gowenlock, Gen Charles Pelot Summerall²⁹ and Col. R. R. McCormick. "Fully two-thirds of the men present were wounded, gassed, or otherwise injured in battle. Several of the guests were disabled veterans from Hines hospital who had been there for 20 years." General Summerall was reelected president of the Society of First Division at the reunion. "William Ryder[Reiter See left], commander of [First Division] Cantigny post of the American Legion, with luncheon served at picnic for veterans of the famous 1st division..." gave remarks on the Neutrality Act of 1939.³⁰ [William Reiter, Post 556 Commander is pictured to the left at the picnic at Cantigny farm, the picture is from the Chicago Tribune article. The picture on the next page is from the same issue of the Chicago Tribune. The aforementioned picnic was at Cantigny Farm, the present day Cantigny Park and Golf.]



²⁵ Andrew Wood, private communications

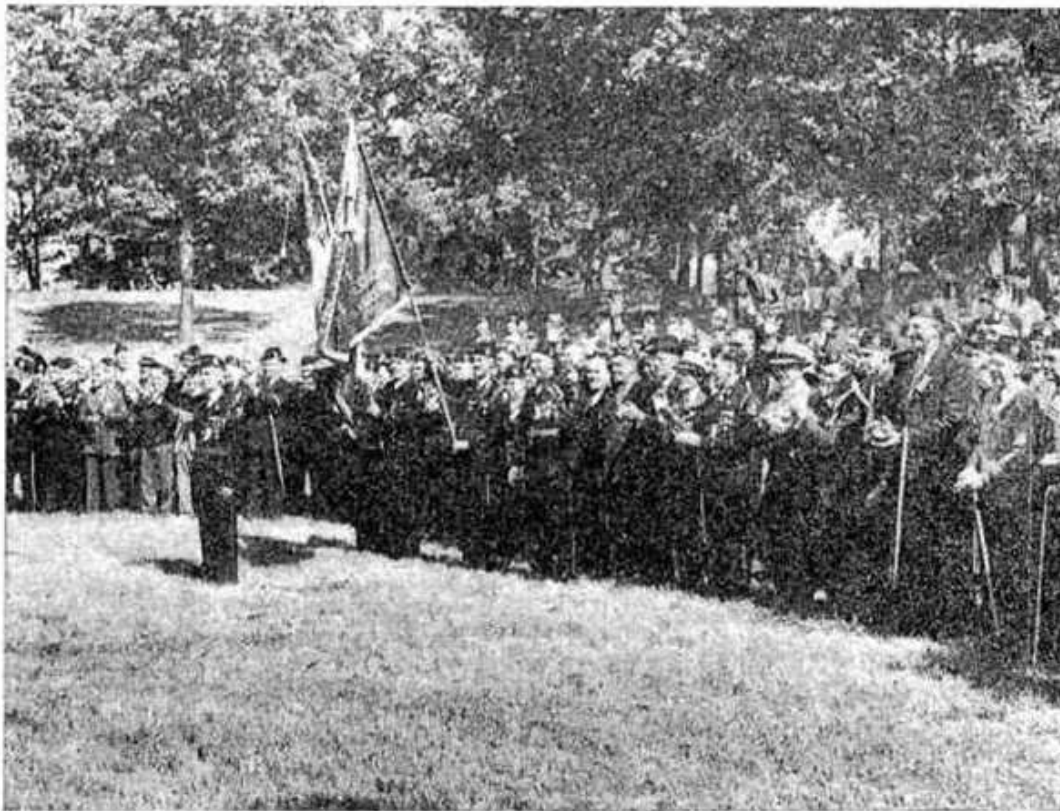
²⁶ William Kania, private communications

²⁷ <http://archives.chicagotribune.com/1932/07/17/page/57/article/choose-champs-today-at-outing-of-hyde-park-v>

²⁸ <http://archives.chicagotribune.com/1939/09/26/page/4/article/1st-division-vets-roar-support-of-neutrality-law/index.html>

²⁹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Pelot_Summerall

³⁰ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neutrality_Acts_of_1930s



(TRIBUNE Photo.)

Veterans of the 1st division saluting officers yesterday at Cantigny farm, near Wheaton when they were the guests of Col. R. R. McCormick at annual picnic. Maj. Gen. Frank Parker, retired, former division commander, spoke. (Story on page 4.)

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Society of the 1st Infantry Division

³¹ September 26, 1939, Chicago Tribune, page 30 (back page) lower right corner.

Cantigny Post Luncheon.

The Armistice day meeting and buffet luncheon of Cantigny post will be held Tuesday evening at the Hotel Sherman. Two hundred members who served in the 1st division in the World war will attend with their guests. Speakers will include: Col. John T. Rhett, head of the ROTC in the 6th corps area; Lieut. Roger Quincy White, public relations officer of the 9th naval district, and Capt. William F. Waugh, Legionnaire and Chicago attorney.

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Society of First Division Dinner

(Story in adjoining column.)



(TRIBUNE Photo.)

Attending the annual dinner of the Society of the First Division World War I, last night in Hotel Sherman, were, left to right Herman A. Dorf, Col. Robert R. McCormick, Lt. Gen. Charles P. Summerall, Col. Thomas R. Gowenlock, and Maj. Gen. Frank Parker.

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VETERANS OF 1ST DIVISION HOLD REUNION SEPT. 17

Members of the Society of the 1st Division will assemble in Chicago Sept. 17, the day before the opening of the American Legion convention for their annual reunion.

A feature of the reunion will be a picnic given for 1st division veterans by Col. Robert R. McCormick, editor and publisher of THE TRIBUNE at Cantigny farm, near Wheaton. In addition to being host at the picnic, Col. McCormick also will provide free transportation by special train over the Chicago, Aurora and Elgin line, leaving the Quincy station at 9:30 a. m. and returning to Chicago at 5 p. m.

While the veterans are at Cantigny farm their wives will be entertained by the auxiliary of Cantigny post, American Legion, at tea in Hotel Sherman. The annual dinner of the society will be at 7 p. m. in the Sherman and will be addressed by Gen. Charles P. Summerall, Maj. Gen. Frank Parker, former commanders, and Col. McCormick.

Sgt. Herman Dorf, 1430 N. Dearborn pkwy., is taking reservation for the picnic and the dinner.

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³² <http://archives.chicagotribune.com/1941/11/09/page/157/article/north-side-recalls-toll-of-war> November 9, 1941, Chicago Tribune, section 3, page 1, right column

³³ September 18, 1944, Chicago Tribune, page 5

³⁴ <http://archives.chicagotribune.com/1944/07/21/page/13/article/veterans-of-1st-division-hold-reunion-sept-17> July 21, 1944, Chicago Tribune, page 13, near bottom middle of page

APPENDENCIES

CHICAGO LOSES ENEMY PLACES CONVENTION OF VICTORS' BILL WAR VETERANS AT 45 BILLION

Thompson Blamed
by Spokesmen of
the Legion.

Berlin Begins to
Talk of Turning
Pact Down.

BY FREDERICK A. SMITH.

St. Louis, Mo., May 9.—[Special.]—

Chicago made a valiant and dramatic fight today to win the honor of entering the first national convention of the American legion.

Chicago delegates took the floor and urged the proposition, advanced by other delegations, that, because of the result of the recent mayoralty election in Chicago, Chicago was not a desirable place for a gathering of the veterans of the world war.

But Chicago lost. Although the special committee, selected to name a place and time for the first convention, unanimously recommended Chicago in its report to the caucus, they voted differently.

Minneapolis Is Chosen.

Chicago received only 139 out of a total of 1,079 votes on the first ballot. Then, with profuse apologies to the soldiers of Illinois, and to the mothers of the 250,000 men who went to war from that state, the caucus, by a vote of 1,040 to 140, eliminated Chicago, and Minneapolis was chosen. The date will be Nov. 10, 11, and 12.

BERLIN, Thursday, May 8.—[By the Associated Press.]—The people, though fairly stricken dumb by the peace terms, are now recovering sufficiently to declare that Germany cannot and will not sign the compact, no matter what comes.

Strikes are increasing and bolshevism and the Spartacan uprising of the last two months have, if anything, made Germany immune to possible horrors which are to be anticipated if they are again plunged into war, according to the best opinion here.

There exists a small group of Germans, chiefly conservatives, who prefer to see the entente occupy the whole country than to have it bolshevized, but they are in the dwindling minority.

No Hasty Decision.

Reports from the Versailles correspondents emphasize the feeling of amazement and excitement which prevailed in reading of the terms of the peace treaty. All the correspondents agree that no hasty decision will be reached. A fortnight is allowed the Germans for an answer, and this time will be used for careful consideration of the demands and the preparation of counter suggestions, the correspondents say.

There is much speculation in Berlin as to whether the terms represent maximum demands which may be induced or whether they are minimum and irreducible.

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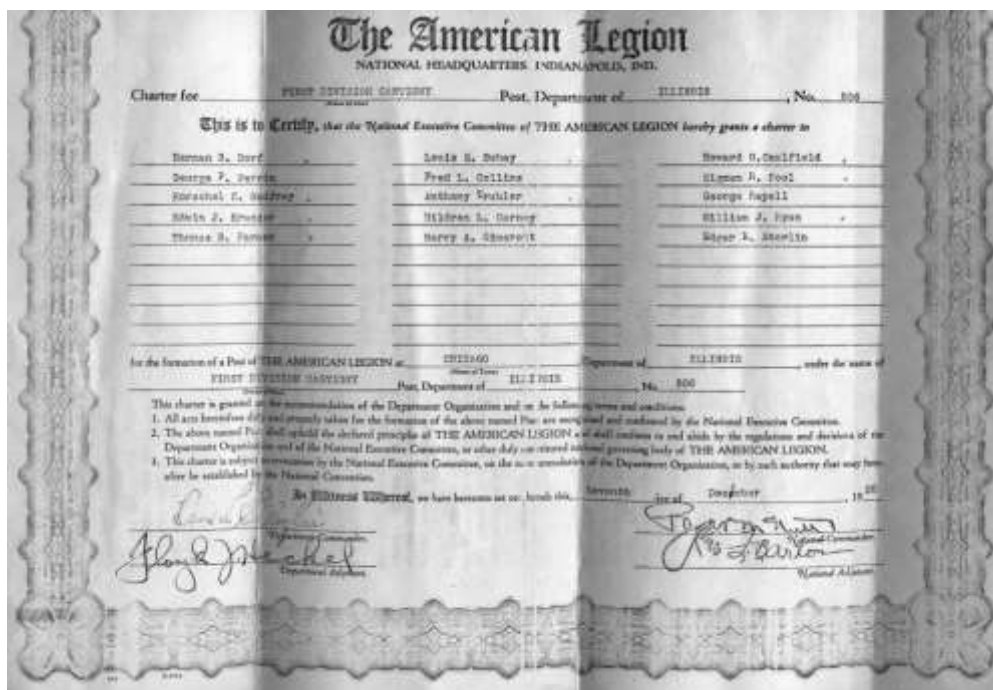
Left and right columns on the front page of the May 10, 1919 Chicago Tribune
\$45 billion in 1919 is about \$608 Billion in 2015, omens of WW2

³⁵ <http://archives.chicagotribune.com/1919/05/10/page/1/>



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CHARTER OF FIRST DIVISION CANTIGNY POST 556, DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS



These documents were found in the collections of the McCormick Reference Center by Allan Sharka, the previous Post Historian.

The following letter explains how the copy of the charter became part of the collection as Max Ottenfeld contributed much of his artifacts from his military service and veterans organizations memberships to the Cantigny Reference Center.

³⁶ <http://www.firstdivisionmuseum.org/research/> The First Division Museum at Cantigny Research Center. Identified only as "Parker, Summerall and McCormick, 1930s"

May 8, 1973

Mr. Max Ottenfeld
Commander, 1st Division Cantigny Post
American Legion
3236 West Warner
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Max:

You stated that you had no record of the charter of the 1st Division Cantigny, or who the charter members were. I found a copy of the charter among my papers. However, it was so old that I felt that by shipping it thru the mail, it might disintegrate.

I thought it best to make xerox copy and forward same to you for your information.

You will notice I have put a pencil mark behind certain names. These people have joined the great spirit army whose footfalls cause no sound, but in the memory of men, their souls go marching on.

Those who do not have a pencil mark behind the names, I have no knowledge of their whereabouts, have not heard from them for years, but I imagine some of them may be still living, including myself.

When the Post was organized, I was elected the First Commander, Herman Dorf was Vice Commander, and Thomas Farmer, Adjutant. I appointed each member a committee of one on the Membership Committee, and from then on, the Post grew until at one time we had a membership of approximately 150 members. Some of the members, including Herman Dorf, Herschel Godfrey, Ed Krueger and Tommy Farmer and myself donated our time and money in order to get the Post on its feet, advanced money to run affairs, etc., and needless to say, each affair was quite successful.

I assume it may be helpful for you to get this information.


- H. L. Garney
239 Cornell Av.
Palatine, Ill. 60067

HLC:hh
encl

First Division Cantigny Post No. 556

American Legion Dept. of Illinois

OFFICERS

HERMAN R. DORF - - - - - Commander
 CARTER McNAMEE - - - - - Adjutant
 ELMER E. FORTNEY - - - - - Sr. Vice Commander
 MAX M. PRZYBORSKI - - - - - Jr. Vice Commander
 GEORGE A. GRANT - - - - - Finance Officer
 HERSCHEL C. GODFREY - - - - - Sergeant-at-Arms
 LOUIS GOLDBERG - - - - - Asst. Sergeant-at-Arms
 JOHN W. McCLAIN - - - - - Judge Advocate
 F. L. LOTHROP - - - - - Chaplain
 EDWARD SCHULTZ - - - - - Service Officer

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³⁷ <http://www.firstdivisionmuseum.org/research/> The McCormick Research Center in the First Division Museum. Found with Ottenfield donated records. "First annual Dance and Entertainment 1st Division Cantigny Post No. 556, American Legion Department of Illinois, Saturday Evening, October 5th, 1929, Hotel Sherman".

The reassignment from Division 1, District 2, to Division 2, District 11

Cantigny First Division Foundation
First Division Museum
Colonel Robert R. McCormick Research Center
Cantigny Military History Series

1st51 Winfield Road
Wheaton, IL 60187-6053
630 260 8185 Telephone
630 260 9299 Facsimile
Info@FirstDivisionMuseum.org
www.FirstDivisionMuseum.org

*More approved by
D.E.C. Action 9.13.08
JSH*



July 1, 2008

Commander Myron D. Kirby
American Legion State Headquarters
2720 E. Lincoln St.
Bloomington, IL 61704

Dear Commander Kirby:

First Division Cantigny Post 556 requests re-assignment from District 2 to District 11.

This post was founded by Colonel Robert R. McCormick in March, 1930. We believe we were assigned to District 2 because of McCormick's prominent role in Chicago as owner and publisher of the *Chicago Tribune*. However, we are physically located at Cantigny Park (McCormick's former estate), in Wheaton, within DuPage County. It is very difficult for us to collaborate with posts in metropolitan Chicago because of our physical separation. We believe assignment to District 11 would put us in the same district as our neighboring posts.

This matter was discussed in our general membership meeting on January 26, 2008. The members voted for the change by a margin of 23 for and none opposed; the remaining members did not respond to multiple attempts to determine their preferences.

We would like the change to become effective as soon as possible in the 2009 Legion year.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Paul H. Herbert
Commander
Cantigny First Division Post 556

COMMANDERS AND ADJUTANTS OF FIRST DIVISION CANTIGNY POST 556

Year	Commander	Adjutant
1929	H.L. Carney	Thomas B. Farmer
1930	Herman R. Dorf	Carter McNamee
1931	Max M. Przyborski	Henry Miller
1932	James R. Paul	Gerry E. Patrick
1933	Herschel C. Godfrey	H.L. Carney
1934	Revere Anda	V.S. Baldwin
1935	Jack A. Schaffer	V.S. Baldwin
1936	Frank Long	G.E. Patrick
1937	Henry F. Miller	Max M. Przyborski
1938	Thure E. Flood	E.J. Krueger
1939	William R. Reiter	John Chmelik
1940	Glen Petersen	H.L. Carney
1941	Louis Goldberg	H.L. Carney
1942	Max Ottenfield ³⁸	H.L. Carney
1943	Chester Nearing	Herman R. Dorf
1944	Anthony Truhler	Frank R. Long
1945	Charles A. McCarthy	Max Ottenfield
1946	Albert Margowsky	Max Ottenfield
1947	LeRoy H. Tenney	Max Ottenfield
1948	John T. Chmelik	Max Ottenfield
1949	Carl A. Erlandson	Max Ottenfield
1950	John L. MacPherson	Max Ottenfield
1951-2	Alex G. Jawny	Max Ottenfield
1953	Max Ottenfield	Alex G. Jawny
1954	John T. Chmelik	Max Ottenfield
1955	Jack Bold	Max Ottenfield
1956	John T. Chmelik	Max Ottenfield
1957-8	Chester Nearing	Max Ottenfield
1959-62	Alex G. Jawny	Max Ottenfield
1963-5	Chester Nearing	Max Ottenfield
1966-71	Alex G. Jawny	Max Ottenfield
1972-90	Alex G. Jawny ³⁹	

³⁸ <http://www.firstdivisionmuseum.org/research/holdings/significant.aspx> "An all-encompassing view of a soldier's life during the Great War, Private Max Ottenfeld of Headquarters Company 18th Infantry Regiment amassed a significant collection of photographs and papers documenting his training and hospitalization during the war and occupation, activities with the American Legion (Cantigny post) and Sunrise Masonic Lodge, and letters written between November 23, 1917 and June 25, 1918."

³⁹ http://articles.chicagotribune.com/1998-01-28/news/9801280254_1_shift-bulge-tank Alexander G. Jawny, a retired printer for the Chicago Tribune who in World War II fought the effects of a severe head

Year	Commander	Adjutant
1991-2	Max Ottenfield ⁴⁰	
1993-2005	John F. Votaw ⁴¹	
2006-	Paul Herbert ⁴²	

COMMANDERS AND ADJUTANTS OF MEDILL-TRIBUNE/COL. ROBERT R. MCCORMICK
POST 348

Year	Commander	Adjutant
1929	Col. Robert R. McCormick	Edward F. Classen Sr.
1930	Col. Robert R. McCormick	William J. Trischler
1931	J. E. Wilkins	John J. Boland
1932	Hugh Banks	Frank B. Waitkus
1933	Joseph M. Hughes	Frank B. Waitkus
1934	C. S. Hogarth	Hugh C. Long
1935	Frank A. Nessinger	Hugh C. Long
1936	James E. Goulding	Harry E. Beattie
1937	W. Calhoun	Ed. Kloud
1938	Benjamin H. Meek	Hugh C. Long
1939	John J. Boland	Joseph F. Strand
1940	Robert C. Baird	Sam H. Hatfield

wound and took out a German tank with a bazooka during the Battle of the Bulge, died Sunday at Edward Hines Veterans Affairs Hospital in Hines. He was 85.

⁴⁰ http://articles.chicagotribune.com/1992-03-16/news/9201240711_1_postal-service-wheaton-world-war-i-veteran Max Ottenfeld, 92, a World War I veteran who was decorated with the Purple Heart and the Silver Star Medal, died Sunday in Hines Veterans Administration Hospital, Maywood. Mr. Ottenfeld, who worked for the U.S. Postal Service for 39 years after the war, was a private in the 18th Infantry Regiment of the 1st Division in France. Mr. Ottenfeld was a resident of Chicago's Northwest Side. He also was chaplain of his local chapter of First Division Museum at Cantigny in Wheaton.

⁴¹ <http://www.usma1961.org/61Votaw.htm> Dr. Votaw directed the First Division Museum at Cantigny and the collocated Colonel Robert R. McCormick Research Center from 1986 to 2005. He was the general editor of the Cantigny Military History Series of books dealing with American military history and events related to the history of the 1st Infantry Division of the US Army. As the Historian for the Society of the 1st Infantry Division, Dr. Votaw supervised the publication of the Society newspaper, The Bridgehead Sentinel, and advised the historical activities of the Society. He retired at the end of 2005....

⁴² http://www.firstdivisionmuseum.org/about/staff/paul_herbert.aspx Dr. Paul H. Herbert is the Executive Director of the First Division Museum at Cantigny. A 1972 West Point graduate, he holds a Ph. D. in History from the Ohio State University and is a graduate of the US Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. A retired Colonel, United States Army, Dr. Herbert held a variety of operational assignments, including command of the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry, and service on the Joint Staff in Washington, DC. He has been Professor of Military Studies at the National War College, Washington, DC; Senior Fellow, George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, Garmisch, Germany; and Assistant Professor of History, United States Military Academy, West Point, New York. He is the author of Deciding What Has to be Done: General William E. Depuy and the Writing of Field Manual 100-5, Operations, 1976, and has written several articles and lectured frequently on national security and military history and affairs. Dr. Herbert is a member of the American Historical Association; the Chicago Council on Global Affairs; the Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society; the International Institute for Strategic Studies; and the Society for Military History.

Year	Commander	Adjutant
1941	Frank Prohaska	Daniel B. Martin
1942	Sam H. Hatfield	Sandy Williams
1943	Edward F. Classen Sr	Dan Martin
1944	N. B. Husting	Frank W. Fitzgerald
1945	Cecil Wright	Albert Grenier
1946	Gerry E. Patrick	Clyde White
1947	Daniel T. Bresnahan	None
1948	George J. Chiles	Gerry E. Patrick
1949	Hermann H. Lindemann	Edward F. Idss
1950	Hugh C. Long	Edward H. Barrett
1951	Elston G. Bradfield	Edward H. Barrett
1952	Edward Morgan	Elston G. Bradfield
1953	Theodore J. Kiesz	Michael M. Wren
1954	George D. Anderson	David W. Mendenhall
1955	Joseph J. Donovan	David W. Mendenhall
1956	Albert R. Madsen	David W. Mendenhall
1957	James P. Quinlan	Hugh C. Long
1958	Thomas R. Chambers	John P. Kelly
1959	Charles Roth	John P. Kelly
1960	John C. Fischer	James P. Quinlan
1961	Charles Howard Yates	Gerry F. Kloud
1962	Joseph L. Hart	Gerry E. Patrick
1963	Richard Pekla	Gerry E. Patrick
1964	Bruce C. Todd	Gerry E. Patrick
1965	Anthony V. Blazeovich	Charles Howard Yates
1966	Henry J. Kelty	Gerry E. Patrick
1967	Harold C. Mayerle	James P. Quinlan
1968	Spencer M. Johnson	Gerry E. Patrick
1969	Kenneth W. Sieger	Richard Poklacki
1970	No record	No record
1971	George J. Nessinger	Richard Poklacki
1972	Calvin A. Urspring	
1973	John C. Gromley	
1974	LeRoy McHugh	
1975	Frank K. Jason	
1976	Evelyn B. Fraser	
1977	Evelyn B. Fraser	
1978	Charles R. Petersen	
1979	John J. Sheehan	
1980	Dominick Masi	
1981	James Larson	
1982	A. Robert Graef	
1983	Albert J. Goossens	
1984-1985	Anthony J. Zaffard	

Year	Commander	Adjutant
1986-2013	Richard Poklacki	

COL. ROBERT R. MCCORMICK'S REMARKS ON VETERANS' ORGANIZATIONS⁴³

[Following is an address last night by Col. Robert B. McCormick, editor and publisher of The Chicago Tribune on the Chicago Theater of the Air over radio station WGN and the Mutual Broadcasting system.]

BY COL. ROBERT R. MCCORMICK

This day, April 6, Army day, at a time when millions of our veterans are returning to civilian life, I should like to observe a significant American anniversary and to talk of American veterans' organizations.

The Society of the Cincinnati was the first organization of American veterans. The society was founded on May 13, 1783, by Gen. Henry Knox at Baron von Steuben's headquarters at Fishkill, N. Y., at a time when the British still held New York City. Gen. Washington was elected the first president general of the Cincinnati. Despite controversy within the society and criticism from without, Washington retained the insignia of the president general and received and signed official Cincinnati documents as long as he lived.

Benevolent and patriotic as the purposes of the society were, 'it fell into disfavor because its membership was confined exclusively to officers of the Revolutionary army to descend thru their eldest sons and eventually to collateral descendants: This hereditary principle, looked on as an attempt to found an American aristocracy, proved from the first a limiting and at the last a fatal impediment.

The Society of the Cincinnati ceased to have more than a formal existence by about 1900. For have subsequent revivals succeeded in making it little more than a memory.

The National Association of Veterans of the Mexican war failed to attain a truly national status for other reasons. Most Mexican war veterans were southerners or westerners. Small in numbers, sectional in membership, Mexican war veterans as such exerted no lasting influence on American life.

The first great rank and file veterans' association was, of course, the Grand Army of the Republic, this year and this day observing the 80th anniversary of its founding.

The G. A. R. 's scheme of organization seems to have been suggested by the familiar corps and army organizations of the federal armies in the Civil war.

Post No. 1 of the Grand Army of the Republic was established at Decatur, Ill., on April 6, 1866—just 80 years ago tonight, In November of the same year at Indianapolis, Ind., the first national convention of the Grand Army of the Republic was held. Two years later, Gen. John A. Logan, the second national commander, designated May 30 as Memorial day.

Patriotic, nonpartisan, benevolent—open to all Union veterans on equal terms—the G. A. R., numbering some 400,000 members, reached the height of its influence during the 1890s.

As I speak to you tonight, only about 100 Civil war veterans survive—only three, I am told, in Chicago. *They and their comrades*, living and dead, well deserve the nation's gratitude and honor.

⁴³ <http://archives.chicagotribune.com/1946/04/07/page/18/article/veterans-organizations>

The Women's Relief corps, the first great ladies' auxiliary made up of the women folk of the Grand Army, began in 1883. The sons and daughters of Union veterans had their own organizations shortly afterward.

Inevitably, the veterans of the south came together. The United Confederate Veterans organized in New Orleans in 1889. The United Daughters of the Confederacy began in 1894, The United Sons in 1896.

The Sons of the American Revolution was organized in 1889. The Daughters of the American Revolution, organized in 1890, undertook programs of education dealing with tradition, patriotism, and citizenship.

The Veterans of Indian Wars of the United States dates from 1896 and adheres to the exclusive membership idea of the Cincinnati.

The war against Spain gave rise to a number of societies. The Spanish-American War Veterans, organized in 1899, failed to survive, but the earlier United Spanish War Veterans, dating from Cuba in 1898, combined with Veterans of the Philippines in 1904 to form the Spanish War Veterans, which approached the Grand Army of the Republic in pattern and purpose. The Naval and Military Order of the Spanish War, however, is a hereditary body.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars, organized in 1913, was formed by a merger of the American Veterans of Foreign Service, begun in 1899, and the Army of the Philippines. The Veterans of Foreign Wars has enjoyed a wholesome growth since World War I.

The Disabled American Veterans and Military Order of the Purple Heart are specialized organizations of World War I and II wounded. The Order of the Purple Heart was originated by Washington and reinstituted during World War I. These societies of wounded veterans are concerned with problems of rehabilitation and adjustment. In many instances their members are also members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars or of the American Legion.

The first person to think of the American Legion, as far as I know, was Col. Milton Foreman of Illinois, who, in July of 1918 at the camp of Valdahon in France, mentioned that he had been a volunteer in the Spanish-American war, but as he had not left the country, he had not been eligible for membership in an organization of men who had been to Cuba and Puerto Rico. He said that there would be an organization of men who had been to France, but that soldiers who had not come overseas would not be eligible,

I observed that the two cases were hardly parallel. The armies in Cuba and Puerto Rico were small enough to be a club, but that in this war we had over a million men overseas and perhaps as many more who would not get over. It would be unwise to have them in antagonistic organizations.

I had come home before the meeting was held in Paris in the spring of 1919 which organized and named the Legion.

It is a pleasure to remind our listeners that one of the moving spirits behind the first meeting was Theodore Roosevelt Jr. Subsequent meetings in St. Louis and Minneapolis in May and November of 1919 saw the Legion's formal organization. Both organization and constitution were devised to avoid the exclusiveness of the Cincinnati and the necessary sectionalism of previous Union and Confederate associations.

The original objective of the Legion was to prevent communism. The bolshevik revolution was erupting in all of its bloodshed at that time. There had been mutinies in the British army. Our own army in Archangel⁴⁴ was bitter at its mistreatment. Its members never joined the Legion, but formed an organization of their own called the Polar Bears,

⁴⁴ <http://archives.chicagotribune.com/1941/10/05/page/2/article/new-archangel-plans-bring-up-fiasco-of-1918> AEF Sent to Russia Still Is a Mystery

The Reds had organized the strike in Gary. A plot was being pursued actively to bolshevize the United States. If such an event had been possible, the American Legion stopped it. While it is too early, perhaps, to predict what affiliations the veterans of World War II will make, it is certain that young veterans will join organizations of their own choosing. I would not interpose my counsel.

Yet on this Army day, this 80th anniversary of the founding of the G. A. R., let all of us who are veterans remember that our veterans' organizations have been those open to all veterans alike on equal terms. They are those in which the rank and file of ex-service men have found opportunity to serve American ideals in peace as they have served them in war. It is neither exclusiveness nor narrow interests, it is neither war time rank nor peace time descent, it is zeal and devotion which qualify every veteran and his family to preserve and maintain the Republic.

COL. MCCORMICK: A PROFILE⁴⁵

In the news columns we have reprinted brief extracts from a few of the hundreds of editorials written [by] Col. McCormick. Here, altho we do not accept all the judgments expressed, we publish at much greater length the editorial from the Kansas City Star, by Roy Roberts, the Star's editor, who served with the Colonel for many years on the board of the Associated Press.

A figure who already had become a legend in lifetime passes from the American scene and American journalism in the death of Col. Robert R. McCormick, publisher for years of the powerful CHICAGO TRIBUNE and head of the great Tribune empire.

The manifold holdings included ownership of the New York Daily News, with its millions of subscribers, a top-flight syndicate producing and distributing features and comics the world over, a news service, television and radio stations, a huge woodland empire in itself up in Canada [larger in holdings than some states], newsprint mills, several small cities built around the big plant, huge power dams, fleets of steamers. All that is just a sketchy picture of the McCormick empire.

"The Colonel" was its boss, let there be no mistakes about that. A fabulous empire, a fabulous man who more than any other individual built it, almost the last of the great individualists who in years gone past built America. One of the most controversial figures in American politics and American newspaperdom, a patriot almost to the point of super-patriotism, unbending in views, scorning compromise with the changing times; unpredictable to the end. Such was the Colonel. A "he" man if there ever was one.

It was strange coincidence that two such top-flight publishers as Joseph Pulitzer of the P.-D. at St. Louis and Col. McCormick of the Tribune empire should die almost within 24 hours of each other. They were the extremes, as far apart in thinking, in personalities, in concept of their powerful papers, as the north and south poles. Pulitzer, consistently liberal; Col. McCormick, the extreme conservative. About the only thing they had in common was that both were born and bred to the newspaper field out of newspaper families. Both served with passion their profession.

With the powerful, wide flung Tribune empire to operate from, Col. McCormick was not just a national but a world figure. Violently hated because of, the extreme stands he took,

⁴⁵ <http://archives.chicagotribune.com/1955/04/03/page/20/article/col-mccormick-a-profile/>

equally vehemently respected, if not loved, for his courage, forthrightly speaking out on every subject under the sun from simplified spelling to varied facets of international policy, the Colonel was one of the most picturesque and discussed figures in American life for decades. The times may have moved on ahead of his of government, his economic thinking, his world concept, But unbending, unyielding, he stood to the end in his faith, the flag of the McCormick creed still flying.

The Colonel inspired so much awe or distance, even from his long time associates, few really knew the man. In some respects he was a lone figure. He probably unbent more with his old associates on the Associated Press board of which he was a working member for many, many years. They got a glimpse of the lovable side of an otherwise austere character. Over the years the writer heard only two men address him as "Bert"—one was his farmer cousin, Joe Patterson, the other, Kent Cooper, the genius who contributed so much to making the A. P. the dominant world news service. Always it the "Colonel." Anyone slapping him on the back or putting an arm around him was beyond even imagination. He didn't encourage familiarity. He wouldn't have understood it. He was the type who dressed for dinner every night, even if alone. But locked up inside was a very human individual to whom friendship and sentiment meant a lot.

THE TRIBUNE was the Colonel's first and great love. All the rest of the empire was entirely secondary. The slogan, "The World's Greatest Newspaper," the call letters for their radio, W-G-N, suggested exactly the way McCormick felt about it. It might have smacked of conceit from anyone else, such calm assumption. But not from the Colonel. To him it was beyond question or cavil. It was his paper. He said what he thought. He didn't care a whoop whether it was popular or not. He was right; the other side was always wrong.

From Tribune Tower over the years came a steady flow of McCormick to his great audience, always interesting. He delighted in tearing his foes apart in such vivid language as "In Which We Skin a Skunk," which was the heading over one editorial. They used to say many took THE TRIBUNE because they hated it and took it just to get mad every day; others admired it just as violently, But they read It. The Colonel was never dull. A patrician, an aristocrat, bred to the purple, the Colonel didn't care whether he was popular or not. What he did was always in a big way the greatest.

Chicago may have had mixed emotions on the subject of the Colonel, but the Colonel was "theirs"—a fabulous character. His distinguished newspaper lineage meant much to him, more than plaudits of the populace.

Educated in private schools, part of the time in England, the background was perfect for an internationalist. McCormick was the opposite. He was the most intense nationalist the country had. But further, a man born to wealth, he literally abhorred New York, Wall Street, international bankers, the Ivy league collegiates, and every part of such "ilk." Chicagoland, he called it. It was first, last, always in his thoughts—aggressively for the middle west, anything linked up to Chicago. Almost up to his death he was hopping into his plane and flying to Europe, to Asia, to the far away spots, wherever some interest might appeal. But to the end he was a fanatic "middle westerner." A most amazing contradiction in background and the man himself.

With political tides running strong toward liberalism and internationalism in recent years, McCormick became more and more conservative and nationalistic. MacArthur, the late Bob Taft, were his heroes in '52, not Eisenhower, even tho the Colonel was probably prouder of his army record and military knowledge than any other personal thing. He never made up with Ike even when he went to the White House. Yet, those he praised he would not hesitate to rap over the knuckles at times.

Col. McCormick was so often the storm center of highly controversial public issues that few gave thought to the other side of him—the successful operator and builder of a vast business structure. He made many, many contributions to the advancement of American newspaperdom. He was always pioneering, as in wire photo or color printing. He would take huge risks if he believed in a move, and they paid off, such as the creation of his great Canadian newsprint and power industry. .

THE TRIBUNE was strong when he took over, but the Colonel built the empire. Last year it did more than 250 million dollars⁴⁶ in business; all told. That was the side of this amazing character who long will be legendary In the annals of American newspaperdom.

In some sense, this article is the founding document of the American Legion. It describes what the service people wanted to achieve.

“Service people” because all services were to be included, both men and women (as the service people wanted to include the nurses that cared for the wounded and dying).

⁴⁶ The equivalent of \$2.2 billion in 2015.

4

The Stars and Stripes

The official publication of the American Expeditionary Forces; authorized by the Commander-in-Chief, A.E.F.

Written, edited and published every week by and for the soldiers of the A.E.F.

Entered as second class matter at United States Army Post Office, Paris, France.

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THE STARS AND STRIPES, G-2-D, A.E.F., 32 Rue Taitbout, Paris, France. Telephone, Gutenberg, 12-95.

FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 1919.

VETERANS ALL

The air these days is crowded with suggestions for the forming of a veterans' association to preserve the American comradeship of the war, to inherit the task and the glory of the G.A.R. Tomorrow a caucus will open in Paris to plan, tentatively, an organization to perpetuate "the relationships formed in the military service."

If such an organization is to thrive and serve America, it will be tied to no creed or party. It will grind no axes. It will forget the distinctions of rank which the Army happened to require for its job in hand; for, of course, times have greatly changed since the days when the society of the Cincinnati and the Loyal Legion were formed for officers only and the descendants of officers.

Rather will it try to carry back into civilian life something of the shoulder-to-shoulder spirit of a citizen army, drawn from all social classes, all geographical sections of the people that sent it forth—a citizen army in which the scholar divided corned willy with the unlettered, in which the millionaire buttoned shelter-halves with the laborer, in which the descendants of the Mayflower company buddied with the later immigrants.

Naturally, it will, for a time, look back through the softening mists of memory on these days of camp and bivouac, and yet, if its chief stock in trade is reminiscence, if it looks only backward, then will the germ of death be in its fiber at its very birth, and its days will be short in the land.

The only veterans' association worth forming will be one that speaks to all the millions of America's youth that were enlisted to fight once more the age-long fight for freedom and, as they melt back into the body of American citizenship, calls on them to fight that fight all the days of their lives.

THE AMERICAN LEGION CONSTITUTION PREAMBLE

"For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a 100-percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the great wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness."



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The Paris Caucus March 1919



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The St. Louis Caucus, May 8-10, 1919. This photograph was taken the first day.

⁴⁷ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Paris_Caucus-March1919.jpg

⁴⁸ Wheat, George Seay, *Story of the American Legion*, G P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1919, frontispiece.



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Cantigny Post 556 is today a vibrant, active post.



The Check! This represents most but not all that the post raised for MSHV in 2014-2015.

⁵⁰ <http://www.firstdivisionmuseum.org/research/> The First Division Museum at Cantigny Research Center. It has many records of Col. Robert Rutherford McCormick, First Infantry Division US Army, Society of the First Infantry Division and the two American Legion Post with which the Colonel was closely associated: Medill-Tribune later Col. Robert Rutherford McCormick Post 348 and First division Cantigny Post 556, both of the Department of Illinois.

⁵¹ Post Annual Picnic Jun 26, 2015 from Post's Facebook page, Cantigny Picnic Pavilion.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ILLINOIS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
1301 N. MACARTHUR BOULEVARD
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62702-2317

June 22, 2015

NGIL-IMD-ASB

Randolph Herber
PO Box 1
Winfield, IL 60190

Sir,

Per your request on service for Robert R. McCormick:

Appointed Major, First Regiment Cavalry, ILNG, August 23, 1915. He reported for Mexican Border duty June 19, 1916 and was mustered into Federal service June 27, 1916 at Springfield, IL as a Major, Field and Staff, First Cavalry; mustered out of Federal service November 17, 1916 at Fort Sheridan, IL and reverted to the ILNG status. Reassignment took place from the First Regiment Cavalry to Second Regiment Field Artillery, June 9, 1917.

He reported for WW1 on June 13, 1917, Federal service same date. From Major to Lieutenant Colonel on June 17, 1918. Appointed Colonel on September 5, 1918. Served with 122d Field Artillery, 61st Field Artillery. Served overseas until August 22, 1918. Honorably discharged for "Convenience of the Government" on December 31, 1918.

We do not retain hard copies; all of our files are digital. This may lead to poor quality documents and is beyond our control.

Should you require additional assistance, please contact the undersigned at 217-761-1747. Should you require medical documentation, please contact the National Personnel Records Center at 314-801-0800.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "B. J. Smith", written over a horizontal line.

BARBARA J. SMITH
1SG, ILARNG
Privacy Act Officer

he discussed this problem with his board of directors briefly and at length. His objective was to make sure that The Tribune and its properties continued under management which had grown up with him, had been

Chicago Daily Tribune

Friday, April 11, 1915
Part I—Page 2

...trained by him, and had his attention.

Details of the Calcutta place for the management of the Tribune will be announced after the arrival of the steamer at Calcutta. The Tribune will be managed by the Calcutta office, and the Tribune will be managed by the Calcutta office.

Col. Robert R. McCormick was a figure at the life.

He fought as a soldier for his country in France, and at home he fought to preserve the principles of the Tribune and to protect the hard won liberties of the American people.

Through his career he fought a never tiring battle for freedom of the press.

He was born in Chicago in 1860, to a wedding of 1848. His father, which was known as the Tribune, and he spent his boyhood in the city's north side, but he for some time before he went to the Tribune office in Chicago.

His father, Robert McCormick, was a figure at the life.

He fought as a soldier for his country in France, and at home he fought to preserve the principles of the Tribune and to protect the hard won liberties of the American people.

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Quake Rocks Philippines; 16 Dead, Many Homeless

MARINA, April 11 (Friday).—A severe earthquake struck the southern Philippine today, sending thousands fleeing from their homes in the province of Iloilo and killing at least 16 persons.

The quake happened a series of other shocks that lasted several minutes and caused many homes to be destroyed.

The Philippine Red Cross said 16 persons were killed and many others were injured.

The quake was felt in the city of Manila, and in the provinces of Iloilo, Cebu, and Mindanao.

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Map of the Philippines showing the location of the earthquake.

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DETROIT GIRL, 7, MISSING A WEEK. IS FOUND SLAIN

DETROIT, Mich., (Friday).—A 7-year-old girl, who had been missing for a week, was found dead in a ditch near her home today.

The girl, who was named Mary, was found by a passerby who called the police.

The police are investigating the case, and are looking for the person who killed the girl.

The girl was found in a ditch near her home, and her body was badly injured.

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Notre Dame Blast Kills Instructor; Four Escape

Notre Dame, Ind., (Friday).—An explosion in a lecture hall at the University of Notre Dame today killed a French instructor and injured four others.

The explosion occurred in a lecture hall, and the instructor was killed.

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NAVY KEEPS 2 BOATS ON HAND FOR KOREA'S USE

Washington, March 30 (Friday).—The Navy Department today announced that it had ordered two more boats to be kept on hand for the use of the Korean government.

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HAVEN'T HEARD END OF BLASTS AT IRIE-NEELY

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STEVENS

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