

This Week in Saratoga County History - Waterford WWII Veterans Welcomed Home

Submitted by Russ Vandervoort, June 25,2020



From The Times Record, Troy, New York, Monday evening June 24, 1946:

The village and town of Waterford who sent off to WWII 711 of its young men and women, welcomed them back home yesterday, with a long and colorful parade, block party, dancing, and refreshments.

An estimated 4,000 residents lined the parade route from Northside down Broad Street to Veterans Memorial Monument beside the Hudson River. By far the feature of the parade was the final section headed by Col. Gerald W. O'Connor, Grand Marshal, and about 600 of the returned servicemen and women. Marching with Col. O'Connor was a color guard and directly behind then a detachment of 30 former Marines. Following the Marines were 150 Navy men and at the rear the largest unit, 400 Army Veterans. Marching in uniform in these units was practically all of the village's veterans.

Near the head of the parade was a detachment of Co. B 2nd Regiment, New York Guard of Cohoes, Captained by James Cain. Also present in force were the Fire Departments of Cohoes and Waterford, each of which paraded their trucks. Fire Chief James H. Golden, headed the Cohoes delegation and Joseph Hartnett marched at the head of the Waterford Companies.

Brigadier General Ogden J. Ross formerly with the 105th infantry and well known in Waterford, reviewed the troops. Beside the Hudson River at Waterford's Veterans Park the parade ended and the crowd gathered. A program began with the playing of the National Anthem by Kirkland's Band, an invocation by Father Simpson and a declaration by Mayor Walsh stating;

"This is a great day in the history of Waterford!"

He also spoke on behalf and in honor of those who did not return as Col. O'Connor deposited a wreath at the Veteran's Monument in the park. The park ceremony was followed immediately by the block party held at Knickerbockers Firehouse on Pearl St. where most of the veterans were present for dancing, refreshments, and social.