HB 1092 OLGEIRSON

Staff Sgt Miles O, Shelley, Company F, 164th Infantry Regiment

The premier infantry regiment of the North Dakota National Guard is truly legendary.

When the First North Dakota Infantry was called to service in the Spanish American War, serving in the Philippines in 1899, nine soldiers earned the Medal of Honor.

In addition, Battalion Commander John Fraine, future state legislator and Lieutenant Governor, and Battalion Commander Frank White, future state legislator, governor, and US Treasurer, earned brevet promotions for bravery and were later awarded the Silver Star.

The flag carried by the Regiment during that war was adopted in 1911 as the flag of the State of North Dakota.

When 1st North Dakota was federalized in 1917 for WW1, it was renamed the 164th Infantry Regiment and served in France. [As a replacement regiment, meaning that soldiers were transferred to, and fought with, other front-line units. Numerous North Dakota soldiers were cited for bravery. Lt Herman Brocopp, later assistant adjutant general, earned the Distinguished Service Cross for his calm leadership under fire.

Young Miles Shelley joined Company F, 164th Infantry, in Carrington, in 1938. He was 18 years old and probably joined for the dollar a drill and a new pair of boots like many boys did. The history of the Regiment was well known. By that time, the buildings at Fraine Barracks and the streets at Camp Grafton were named for Guardsmen who had earned the wartime respect of their peers.

The 164th was called for a year of training in 1941. During the training maneuvers, older veterans told stories these heroes to instill pride and esprit de corps within the unit.

When war was declared, President Franklin Roosevelt distributed letters stating "You are a soldier of the United States Army. You have embarked for distant places where the war is being fought. Upon the outcome depends the freedom of your lives; the freedom of the lives of those you love --- your fellow citizens – your people.

As the soldiers of the 164th Infantry Regiment, North Dakota National Guard, sailed to Guadalcanal, they knew that they would be the first US Army unit to offensively engage the enemy – in either theater. Worries about their families back home, the fear of the unknown, the legacy of the unit, and the expectations of a President must have seemed a heavy burden.

Different people carry that type of burden in different ways. Miles Shelley carried it with finesse. He was a natural leader, concerned for his men, and had the instinct to take control within the chaos of battle.

His legacy is summarized very well by those who served with him. They wrote

Staff Sergeant Miles O Shelley, Carrington, ND, was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart – the first and last ones posthumously—as a small reward for the countless heroic deeds he performed on Guadalcanal and Bougainville. With many of his most heroic acts unrecorded, Miles sacrificed his life on Bougainville in May, 1944, so that the rest of the platoon might withdraw unharmed, by calling in artillery on top of him when he lay helpless and out of reach. "Shelley Field" on Bougainville is named for Shelley."

In 1992, the ND Adjutant General hosted a trip to Guadalcanal for the 50th Anniversary of the unit actions there. I heard their stories of the battle on Guadalcanal that earned the everlasting respect from the Marines they reinforced. Later, as Editor of the 164th Infantry News, I met many more soldiers of the 164th, collected their stories, and talked with their families. The more I got to know them, the more magnificent I knew they were.

The 164th infantry Regiment can be called legendary, but it was composed of individual soldiers whose actions made it so. There are no original North Dakota National Guardsmen from the 164th Infantry remaining on this earth. It has been almost 81 years since Staff Sgt Miles Shelley sacrificed his life to save others. Through his actions, he created his own legacy, while representing his unit, his state, and his country well.

Naming the Staff Sergeant Miles Shelley WWII Bridge would honor his individual legacy of heroism as well as perpetuate the memory of the Legendary 164th Infantry Regiment.

MILES O. SHELLEY, KIA



On Guadalcanal, 15-16 Dec 42, Miles Shelley earned a Bronze Star for providing the intelligence needed to destroy machinegun positions.

On Bougainville, 18 Jan 44, he earned a Silver Star for rescuing a comrade under heavy fire and administering first aid.

On Bougainville, 1 Apr 44, he gave his life by drawing enemy fire to himself to allow the remainder of the patrol to retreat to safety and call for artillery.

He was a first cousin and best friend of 1st Sgt John Paulson, Co F, who – some 65 years after the war – was still awed by Shelley's courage and mourned 'every day'.

"When it happened.... I was just a few members back of him when he was hit; he was lead scout and had just broke over a small hill when some entrenched Japs opened fire on him; pinning him down. He yelled to lay down a heavy barrage, the Japs then shot Miles again, no more word of him after that. We couldn't advance any more due to their position, so we backed off and sent in artillery fire. What a great person he was."

---Loren Ellis. Co F, Bloomer, WI

I. AWARDS (POSTHIPIOUS) OF THE DISTINGUIS CHOSS:

By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved 9 July 1918 (Bull 43, MD, 1918), a Distinguished-Service Cross is posthurously awarded by the Corranding General, United States army Forces in the South Pacific Area, to the following-named emlisted mans:

MYLOS O. SHELLEY, (20711126), Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Americal Division, United States Army, for extraordinary beroism at Bongainville, Solomon Islands, on I April 1944. Despite the imminence of contacting dugin enemy on higher ground favorable to them, and despite not being a member of the leading platoon, Serment Shelley coursecously volunteered to be lead scout rather than endanger a less experienced men. In this capacity he led his company up a steep hill and discovered the hostile position. Thile report ing to the platoon leader he was fired upon. Instead of smeking cover, he immediately charred the enemy alone and unsided, and was seriously wounded. He lay unable to move but continued heroicalle to call out exact directions for artillery fire in the face of close-range rifle, machine-gum and morter fire. Completely willing to secrifice his own life for those of his comrades, he urged them to leave him behind and withdraw, for an artillery comcentration was about to start in the area where he lay. Immediately thereafter, Sergeant Shelley was killed by an enemy fire Burst. Following the withdrawal a devestating barrage was laid down by the artillery. Sergeent Shelley's exemplary courage and great sacrifice were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States. Next of Kins Mr. Coop Shelley, Father, Carrington, North Dekots.

US Highway 2 within ND is



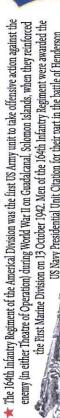
The 164th Infantry Memorial Highway

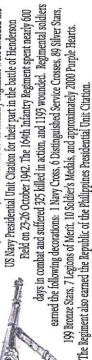
Authorized by the North Dakota 48th Legislative Assembly to honor the members of

The 164th Infantry Regiment, North Dakota Army National Guard

Combat Infantry Badge The most coveted award an

infantryman can receive.







approved for the 164th Infantry Regiment on 11 January 1933. The blue shield is for Infantry with the Spanish castle taken from the Campaign Medal representing service in the Spanish. IE SUIS PRET means "I Am Ready" The distinctive unit insignia was originally from the Philippine Island flag. The sun in the base, from the 41st Division shoulder sleeve American War. The Philippine Insurrection service is indicated by the three mullets (stars) nsignia, denotes World War I service with that Division



ns of then named lettery from companied an eithe scruting reconstituence letter, 16 footh Dalacius were sciented for cleard. One bitascan wrote that "foung's Konia" seere always not of the main column, the scoots bore the forms of the ad-Trace, reconcultating and maintaining contact with the enemy.
The Scouts disturemed that the lineaguess had not an important hindy on the Rowning the river below as unfortable, the 22 Scouts reduced for his figure of our fore flames, despite effect.

Scraits radded for helige and put out the Banca, deepite direct, the fives according to age, and the blood of Banca Co. Tournent describions was examined the blood of Banca Co. that 1 fet to the west excellent of Banca (2) According to the con-centration at 1 and 16 bigs 1 (98). Seen some west from the Hert Worth Balch school ye.















Lineage and History of the 164th

- The 164th can trace its lineage to 1885 when the Regiment was organized as the First Dakota Infantry
- Mustered on 20 May 1898 as the First North Dakota Volunteer Infantry for the Spanish American War and
- The First North Dakota Infantry Regiment was called into federal service on 18 June 1916 for service on the Mexican Border.
 - Redesignated the 164th Infantry Regiment on 4 October 1917, it was assigned to the 41st Division for service in World War I, as a replacement Division in the European Theatre of Operations
 - 1941-1945 World War II 🛸
- Ordered to federal service on 16 January 1951 for service for the Korean War, and was assigned to Pt. Rucker, AL, as a training regiment. Individuals transferred to other units for service in Korean Theatre of Operations
 - "Disbanded" and reorganized into Engineer Units in 1955.

Campaign Participation Predit.



War with Spain – Manila Philippine Insurrection – Manila, Laguna de Bay, San Isidro

Vorld War II – Guadalcanal, Northern Solomons, Leyte, Southern Philippines