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The mission of the Manchester Historical Society is to collect, preserve, interpret and present the story of Manchester through the research collection, exhibitions, programs, and publications.

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Front Row Left to Right: John West, Elphrege Tetreault, Henry Barstovich, Al Oulette, Bill Whalen, Eber "Monk" Sessions, Don Powers
Back Row Left to Right: Phil Kelleher, Don Hayes, Roy Bentley, Charlie Hosley, Joe Harrington, Herbert Bell, Jim Lyon, Bill LaMontagne

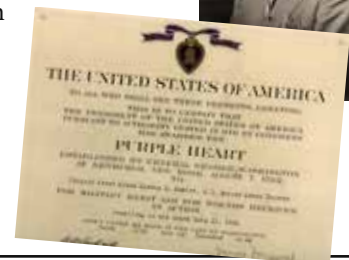
A Brief History of the VFW Manchester Post 6471

EXCERPTED FROM BILL WEST'S POST ON THE VFW WEBSITE, FEBRUARY 2011.

Our local Post has its beginnings in the desires of a group of World War II veterans who wished to establish an organized veterans group upon their return to Vermont. The group gathered in a variety of establishments around Manchester, with a notable officers induction ceremony in 1946 at Burr and Burton Seminary. With an original charter signed by 71 men, the VFW group continued to meet where they could find space. This desire for a permanent home became a priority for the members and their Ladies Auxiliary worked with the veterans to raise funds for the club. Lyn Bourn was the first commander of Post 6471. All members were united in brotherhood and patriotism.

The post was named for two local men who died in war. James P. Harned of the US Air Force, BBS class of 1940, died of malaria in 1942 while in a prisoner of war camp in the Philippines. Harvey Klapp Fowler of the US Marines, BBS class of 1935, was killed by mortar fire on Guam in 1944. The founding members chose these two men to honor by calling it the Harned-Fowler Post 6471, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

The property was purchased in 1948 for \$2,500 with Trustees Howard Ambrose, Fabio Zandy, and Art Sessions signing the deed. *(continued on back page)*



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In The Ration Board, painted in 1944, Norman Rockwell included himself (far left) and actual members of Manchester's board. Standing: Jesse Harrington. Back seated: Roger Wilcox, Will Griffith, Otto Bennett. Standing right: Anna Gormley. Seated front from right: James McCooey; Mrs. Reginald Reed, Clarence Hosley and Leo Cullinen.

Manchester at Sea

Norman Rockwell painted this view of the ration board in Manchester, Vermont, for the *Saturday Evening Post* in 1944. In addition to himself, he included portraits of people he knew in Arlington and Manchester. During World War II, the government introduced rationing to

allocate supplies fairly, especially of important commodities like gasoline and sugar. The local ration board, composed of volunteers, had the responsibility to hear appeals from community members who needed an adjustment to what their ration coupons allowed.



Chief Motor Machinists Mate First Class Don Powers served aboard sub-chaser PC 1173 (later named the USS Andalusia) during World War II. In August 1944, PC 1173 was assigned to Task Force 84 for the invasion of southern France. In February 1944, her base was changed to northern Italy for convoy and escort duty between Leghorn [Italy] and Marseilles, France. The ship and crew received one battle star for their wartime service during the invasion of southern France.



September 15, 1944

To the editor:

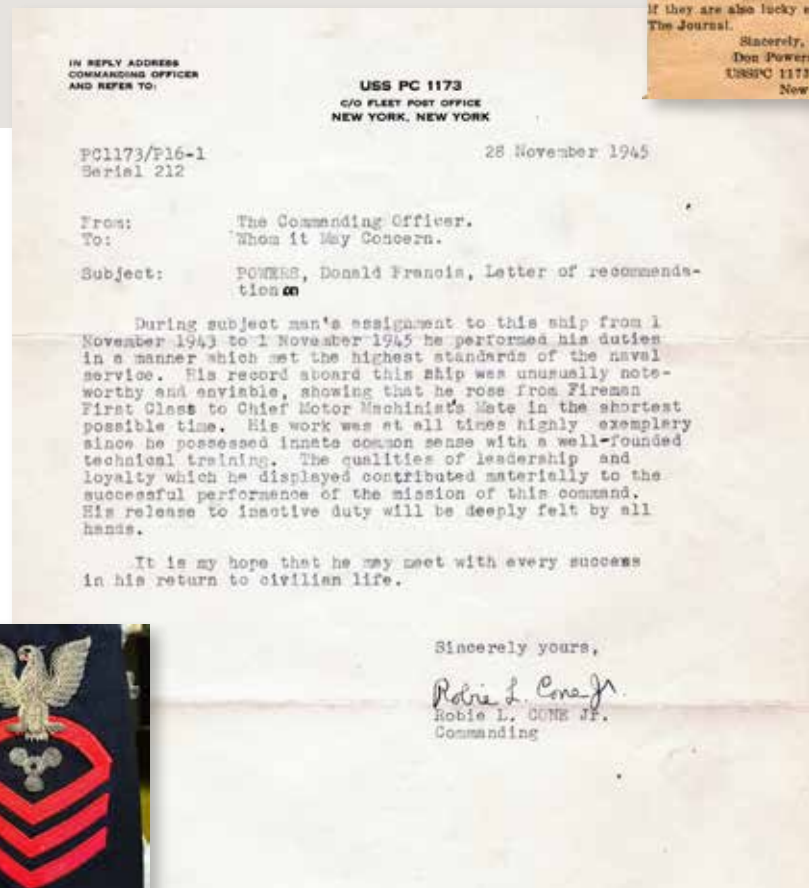
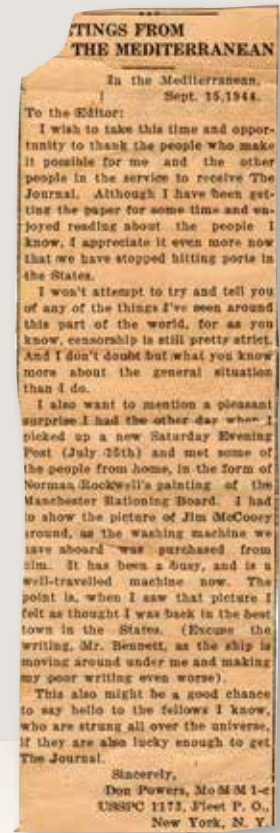
I wish to take this time and opportunity to thank the people who make it possible for me and the other people in the service to receive the Journal. Although I have been getting the paper for some time and enjoyed reading about the people I know, I appreciate it even more now that we have stopped hitting ports in the States.

I won't attempt to try and tell you of any of the things I've seen around this part of the world, for as you know, censorship is still pretty strict. And I don't doubt but what you know more about the general situation than I do.

I also want to mention a pleasant surprise I had the other day when I picked up a new Saturday Evening Post (July 15th) and met some of the people from home, in the form of Norman Rockwell's painting of the Manchester Rationing Board. I had to show the picture of Jim McCooley around, as the washing machine we have aboard was purchased from him. It has been a busy, and is a well-traveled machine now. The point is, when I saw that picture I felt as though I was back in the best town in the States. (Excuse the writing, Mr. Bennett, as the ship is moving around under me and making my poor writing even worse).

This also might be a good chance to say hello to the fellows I know, who are strung all over the universe, if they are also lucky enough to get The Journal.

Sincerely,
Don Powers, MoMM1-c
ISSPC 1173, Fleet P.O.
New York, N.Y.



Don's son, Mike Powers, has recently donated his uniforms as well as photographs and personal papers to MHS, some of which are illustrated here.



Shawn Harrington Hired as Part-Time Curator



Shawn Harrington has been an invaluable MHS volunteer for the past few years, and has worked tirelessly to share many photos and stories about Manchester on the MHS Facebook page and Instagram page. We are thrilled that he has agreed to become our first part-time employee as curator of the collection.

Shawn has already scanned over 50,000 images and documents in our collection and is now in the process of adding them to Past Perfect, our software program that will encompass the entire

collection and eventually be searchable online. He is also an enthusiastic MHS representative in the community, answering questions and giving talks about the history of Manchester and the Mountains, working with students, and planning programs.

The generous support we have received from loyal donors over the past two years has given us the ability to take this first important step toward becoming a historical society that is an exciting part of the community. With Shawn's help, we will be bringing you much more of Manchester's history in the years to come.

You can reach Shawn by phone at 802.549.4582 and by e-mail: info@manchesterhistoricalsocietyvt.org. He is also in the MHS office at the Manchester Community Library on

continued from front page

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Club members painted, renovated, and fundraised to make the former shoe repair shop an acceptable new clubhouse. A 1953 addition was named for Vernon King, who died in the Korean Conflict. As membership increased, the group worked to enlarge and improve its building, adding space in 1964 and 1966.

The building has played host to many notables over the years. Festivities and ceremonies here, including Loyalty Day parades, have added to the strong sense of community in town. Community service hours and funds donated to a multitude of worthy causes are hallmarks of the Post's membership efforts. Veterans and their families are always welcome, and can find support and assistance from the membership.



MHS has been partnering with GNAT-TV, our local television station, and in addition to the NEWS PROJECT video <http://gnat-tv.org/news-project-holding-past-12-12-16/> you can now view two short videos about our collection in their TIME STAMP section: <http://gnat-tv.org/timestamp-fowler-musket-01-30-17/> and <http://gnat-tv.org/time-stamp-eqx/>



You can find more information about our local history at: <https://www.strattonmagazine.com/history/public-servants-of-the-past/>