

Researching My Father and the War

By Richard A. Yehle



WW II Enlistment at age 31

Casimir C. Yehle was born 23 October 1910 in St. Joseph, Buchanan, Missouri. When he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in December 1941, he was 31 years old. When he was discharged in September 1945, he was about to turn 35. Because of his age, he was assigned duties in support units.

Fortunately for this researcher, a variety of documents and photographs were made available when his sister (my aunt) died in 2000. This article traces some of those documents, interface with several current government organizations and what was obtained. All of this information was put into a Personal-Research Report as discussed in *The BCG Genealogical Standards Manual: Appendix C*.¹

(Photo to left: Casimir C. Yehle and Lois Krause, circa 1945)

Casimir as a Child

Casimir C. Yehle was born 23 October 1910 in St. Joseph, Buchanan, Missouri. Casimir (“Cassie”) lived with his parents and younger sister in Argentina from 1915-1921. Ellis Island passenger records show that Casimir T. Yehle (father), Marie Agnes Yehle (mother), Casimir C. Yehle and Marie Isabel Yehle (sister, “Sis”) returned via the S.S. Vauban from Buenos Aires, Argentina on 16 December 1921. All are residents of 727 S 15th Street, St. Joseph, Buchanan, Missouri.

Mid-way through the years in Argentina, the family apparently returned to the U.S. for a visit. This time, however, they came via New Orleans.



New Orleans Passenger Lists, 1820-1945 Record

Name: Casimir T Yehle

Arrival Date: 2 Oct 1918 **Age:** 37 **Gender:** Male

Port of Departure: Cristobal, Canal Zone

Ship Name: Abangarez

Port of Arrival: New Orleans, Louisiana

National Archives' Series Number: T905_68

List of United States Citizens

Departed Cristobal, Canal Zone 27 Sept. 1918

The actual ship images can sometimes be found by following links found on certain web pages (e.g. ancestry.com). In this case I was able to identify the ship: Abangarez (see image above).

¹ Board for Certification of Genealogists, *The BCG Genealogical Standards Manager* (Orem, Utah: Ancestry Publishing, 2000.

Education before Enlistment

Casimir's military enlistment record shows that he completed eight years of grammar school, two years of high school and five years of college. The *Application for Federal Employment* indicates that he completed twelve years of school, but did not graduate, and three years of college. In 1927, he completed the *Palmer Method of Business Writing* and in 1928 the *Advanced Course, Palmer Method of Business Writing*.² The *Application for Federal Employment* also indicates that he took three years of night classes from Mills Academy of Art in commercial art and advertising and one year of "Elementary Electrical Engineering" from the International Correspondence Schools.

During the War

Casimir enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps on December 23, 1941 and served until the end of the war, receiving an Honorable Discharge on 21 September 1945. After returning to the states at the end of the war and prior to his discharge, he married Lois M. Krause on 17 April 1945, as documented on their Marriage Certificate.

During the war Casimir was a Staff Sergeant, Administrative Specialist, with the 56 Army Airways Communications Group, U.S. Army Air Corps. Casimir attended service schools at Air Corps Technical School, Scott Field, Illinois.³ He notes skills of "Radio Operator", Radio Mechanic" and "Tower Operator" in question 42 of the *Application for Federal Employment* completed for potential federal employment. He also notes a six month Radio School, 6 month, diploma, in footnotes on page 4 of same document.⁴

Actual separation from the AAF occurred at the AAF Separation Base, Miami Beach, Florida on 21 September 1945. When he returned to St. Paul, he was living at 606 Dayton Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota, where his parents now lived.

Casimir was listed as Catholic in military records.

During the war, he received three Bronze Stars, European African Middle Eastern Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and a Lapel Button. He participated in the Tunisian, Sicilian, and Naples-Foggia Campaigns.⁵

² The Palmer Method of Business Writing was used in U.S. public schools for many years. This method included Palmer's four essentials to good handwriting: legibility, ease, rapidity, and endurance. He recognized the need for individual expression in one's handwriting strokes in a statement he made about his penmanship classes. "Pupils practicing from these lessons acquire the general style of the copies, but, at the same time there is left to them the possibility of developing their own individuality." - http://www.hawaii.rr.com/leisure/reviews/handwriting/1999-11_changes.htm

³ During World War II Scott Field's main mission was to train radio operator-mechanics. By June 1945, Scott Field had trained 77,370 technicians who went on to be responsible for vital command and control communication throughout the Air Force. <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/aviation/sco.htm>

⁴ See Appendix Section 8, *Application for Federal Employment (Post Discharge)*.

⁵ See Appendix Section 12, *WW II Campaigns*, at end of document for description of each campaign.

Following the War

Following separation from the military, Casimir was employed effective 26 Sept 1945 for an unknown length of time with the Emporium in St. Paul, Ramey, Minnesota as indicated by communication with the military (e.g. insurance) and the *Application for Federal Employment* in the Appendix, Section 8.

My birth certificate shows that Casimir was employed as a bookkeeper with Hatley-Morrill Tire Company. Casimir was shown to have been in California for the past 1 year and 4 months (thus arriving approx. March 1947). Current address is shown as 645-6th Avenue, Sacramento California.

The 1965 Sacramento City Directory shows Casimir C. Yehle (wife = Lois) living at 4909 Cabrillo Way. His occupation is listed as salesman Foremost Dairies. Foremost Dairies was located at 214 19th Street. He was employed as a retail dairy delivery driver on a set route. In fact, Casimir, now nicknamed "Jack", and Lois moved to the Cabrillo Way address in the early 1950's. The Foremost Dairies building is now part of Blue Diamond Almond complex. Upon Casimir's death, he had worked at Foremost Dairies for approximately 20 years.

Casimir died on 5 April 1971 in Sacramento, Sacramento, California. The immediate cause of death was Abdominal Carcinomatosis, Metastatic (14 months) due to Adenocarcinoma of Sigmoid Colon (26 months). The death was registered with Sacramento County Health Department, 8 April 1971, signed by Local and Deputy Registrar. Local Registration District and Certificate Number 3400

He is buried at Sacramento Memorial Lawn (Soldier's Plot), 6100 Stockton Blvd, Sacramento, Sacramento, California.⁶

Technical Badges



I used www.google.com to obtain specific information concerning various WW II campaigns and Technician Badges. Military and award records were requested from the National Personnel Records Center. Those records, where available, are documented in Appendix Section 4, *Honorable Discharge* and Section 7, *Military Awards*. The Radio Operator and Radio Mechanic badges were not available.

Ancestry.com databases provided information contained in Appendix, Section 2, *WW II Enlistment Records*, and the Appendix, Section 1, *Social Security Death Index*.

⁶ See Appendix Section 10, *Photographs*.