



Mark Herwig

WWII SOUTH DAKOTA PHEASANT SANDWICHES

Enjoy this historic meal and remember our veterans

A Minnesota farm boy gets on a Chicago-Milwaukee train in the dark of night the winter of 1943, heading to the west coast where he will board a crowded troop ship to join the fight against the fanatical, but crumbling Germans, Italians or Japanese. He's away from home for the first time and is tired, scared and hungry. Later, the train pulls into the station at Aberdeen, South Dakota.

He gets out with hundreds of other young men for a stretch. Then, he notices a line gathering. He joins the line and soon a hearty pheasant salad sandwich is handed to him along with other homemade goodies such as pie, cookies, milk and coffee to wash it all down.

This actual scenario played out many times at the Aberdeen train station from August 1943 to March

1946 when 586,000 servicemen and women were fed — mostly donated food — by local volunteers from 40 area communities.

At first, ham sandwiches were served until local farmers began donating pheasants. Pheasant hunts were later organized and the Chicago-Milwaukee Railroad transported the birds to what became known as The Aberdeen Pheasant Canteen.

Even Supreme Allied Commander, and later president, Dwight D. Eisenhower was served at the canteen. In a touching gesture, a table was always set for the soldiers who never came back, killed either in Europe or Asia.

Here's the recipe for the Pheasant Sandwiches. I made this and it is great!

— Editor Mark Herwig

{ Pheasant Sandwiches }

- 3 cups finely chopped cooked pheasant meat
- 2 hard-boiled eggs, finely chopped
- 2 grated carrots
- ½ medium-sized onion, chopped
- ½ cup finely chopped celery
- 2 tsp sweet pickle relish
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Mayonnaise or salad dressing to taste and to hold it all together, chill.
- Spread on sandwich bread or bun
- (I used garlic salt and put honey mustard on the sandwich for more flavor.)

As you enjoy this historic delight, think of the men and women who died and suffered to defeat tyranny and provide the freedom and prosperity we have today. ✈