

Peter Nadzeika Sr.

January 5, 1919 – January 1, 1996

World War II

VA



**U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs**

National Cemetery
Administration



**Department
of History**

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Peter Nadzeika Sr. (January 5, 1919–January 1, 1996)

By Geena Tropea and Sarah Schneider

Early Life: Childhood in New Jersey as a First-Generation American

Peter Nadzeika was born a first-generation American citizen in Newark, NJ, on January 5, 1919.¹ His parents, Zenon or Zeno and Eva Nadzeika, immigrated to the United States from Lithuania, a part of the Russian Empire.² His mother, Eva Nadzeika, immigrated in 1906 and his father immigrated to New York in 1910.³ Eva Nadzeika was one of almost 60,000 Lithuanians who left the country from 1905 to 1907, and many more emigrated until 1914, when World War I began in Europe.⁴ Economic hardship and the 1905 Russian Revolution were the main forces that pushed Lithuanians out of the country.⁵ Russian policies in Lithuania led to political upheaval and revolts by peasants that were met with “harsh military action, arrests, and widespread deportations to Siberia,” and as a result, Lithuanians fled.⁶ Lithuanians also corresponded with recent immigrants to the United States and heard about economic opportunities and political freedoms available to them there, which further fueled Lithuanian immigration to the United States.⁷

Peter Nadzeika’s older brothers Frank and John were born in New York City, but Peter was born in Newark, NJ, a city that had a “moderately sized” Lithuanian community.⁸ The Nadzeika family eventually settled in Parsippany, NJ, where they owned a farm.⁹ A photograph of two of the Nadzeika brothers, seen here, shows Peter posing with John in front of the family’s farmhouse.¹⁰ As Nadzeika was growing up in the 1930s, farmers throughout the country felt the impact of the Great Depression as prices for agricultural goods suddenly declined.¹¹ However, truck farms in New Jersey like the Nadzeika family’s sold goods to “nearby urban centers” and so they were better off than farmers in other states.¹² Funds from the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) and other New Deal programs provided aid to New Jersey residents in order to ameliorate hunger and unemployment, and it is possible that the Nadzeika family benefitted from these measures.¹³ By 1940, Nadzeika’s father was a bartender, most likely in the tavern that was added onto the family’s property in order to generate additional income.¹⁴

Frank Nadzeika was working as a farmer in 1940, and because farms were an essential resource during times of war, Frank was exempt from serving in World War II under Selective

Service Classification II-A for necessary civilian occupations.¹⁵ John, however, became a Merchant Marine radioman, and Peter enlisted in the US Army on March 7, 1941, at the age of twenty-two.¹⁶ Before the war, Peter worked in textile manufacturing and most likely on his family's farm.¹⁷ When he enlisted he was a single, unmarried man and had completed four years of high school.¹⁸

Service: The Persian Gulf Command during World War II

Nadzeika joined the Army as a Private and eventually became a Technician Fourth Grade (T/4) Warrant Officer for the 870th Ordnance Heavy Automotive Maintenance Company.¹⁹ Nadzeika's company in the Army was part of the Persian Gulf Command, which supported Soviet troops during World War II by bringing supplies to them through Iran.²⁰ According to Joel Sayre's written account of the Persian Gulf Command, "four and a half million long tons of everything a fighting people needs, from arms and food and clothing and medicines to the equipment for an entire Ford plant," was delivered across Iran to the Russian Army.²¹ Sayre describes the hard work necessary to manufacture vehicles in the sweltering Iranian heat and transport supplies across vast distances, thereby demonstrating the importance and difficulty of work done by Nadzeika's company.²² Work in the Persian Gulf Command was so secretive that the soldiers did not know where they were going to be sent and they could not tell their loved ones where they were in their letters home.²³

Post-Service: Occupation, Family, and Florida

Nadzeika was wounded during the war and according to the Nadzeika family he "carried shrapnel in his leg for the rest of his life."²⁴ After the war he may have worked in his family's tavern in New Jersey.²⁵ In 1975 Nadzeika moved to New Port Richey, FL.²⁶ He had two sons, Peter Nadzeika, Jr., and Michael Nadzeika, and at the time of his death had five grandchildren.²⁷ Nadzeika's obituary in the *Tampa Tribune* mentions his service, alluding to its importance in his life by stating that he "was a retired tavern owner, Catholic and a veteran of World War II, serving in the US Army."²⁸ Nadzeika lived in New Port Richey for the remainder of his life. He died on January 1, 1996, just shy of his seventy-seventh birthday.²⁹ A memorial marker at Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, Florida recognizes Nadzeika for his service.³⁰

Endnotes

- 1 "United States Social Security Death Index," database, *Familysearch.org* (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed May 29, 2017), entry for Peter Nadzeika.; "1940 United States Federal Census," database, *Ancestry.com* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed May 30, 2017), entry for Peter Nadzeika.
- 2 "1930 United States Federal Census," database, *FamilySearch.org*, (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed March 30, 2017), entry for Zenon Nadzeika, Parsippany, Morris, New Jersey.; "1940 United States Federal Census," database, *Ancestry.com* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed May 30, 2017), entry for Zeno Nadzeika.
- 3 Ibid.; "New York Passenger Arrival Lists (Ellis Island), 1892-1924," database, *Familysearch.org* (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed May 29, 2017), entry for Zenon Nadziejka.
- 4 Elliott Robert Barkan, ed., *Immigrants in American History: Arrival, Adaptation, and Integration*, Volume 1 (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2013), 488.
- 5 Ibid.
- 6 Ibid.
- 7 Ibid.
- 8 Ibid., 492.; "1940 United States Federal Census," database, *Ancestry.com* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed May 30, 2017), entries for Frank, John, and Peter Nadzeika.
- 9 "1930 United States Federal Census," database, *Familysearch.org*, (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed March 30, 2017), entry for Zenon Nadzeika, Parsippany, Morris, New Jersey.
- 10 Morris County Historical Society, *The Nadzeika Family*, Courtesy of Kimberly Smith.
- 11 Maxine N. Lurie and Richard Veit, eds., *New Jersey: A History of the Garden State* (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2012), 236.
- 12 Ibid., 241.
- 13 Ibid., 241-242.
- 14 "1940 United States Federal Census," database, *Ancestry.com* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed May 30, 2017), entry for Zeno Nadzeika.; Morris County Historical Society, *The Nadzeika Family*, Courtesy of Kimberly Smith.
- 15 "1940 United States Federal Census," database, *Ancestry.com* (<https://www.swarthmore.edu/library/peace/conscientiousobjection/MilitaryClassifications.htm>).
- 16 Morris County Historical Society, *The Nadzeika Family*, "The Nadzeika Brothers," Courtesy of Kimberly Smith.; "Obituaries...John Nadzeika, owned tavern," *Daily Record*, January 11, 1995, page A8, *Newspapers.com*, https://www.newspapers.com/clip/9926118/peter_nadzeikas_brother/; "United States World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946," database, *FamilySearch.org* (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed May 29, 2017), entry for Peter Nadzeika.

17 "United States World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946," database, FamilySearch.org (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed May 29, 2017), entry for Peter Nadzeika.; "1930 United States Federal Census," database, *Familysearch.org*, (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed March 30, 2017), entry for Zenon Nadzeika, Parsippany, Morris, New Jersey.

18 Ibid.

19 Ibid.; Morris County Historical Society, *The Nadzeika Family*, "The Nadzeika Brothers," Courtesy of Kimberly Smith.

20 Morris County Historical Society, *The Nadzeika Family*, "The Nadzeika Brothers," Courtesy of Kimberly Smith.

21 Joel Sayre, *Persian Gulf Command: Some Marvels on the Road to Kazvin* (New York: Random House, 1945), 7.

22 Ibid., 9-13, 79-80.

23 Lieutenant Colonel Danny M. Johnson, "The Persian Gulf Command and the Lend-Lease Mission to the Soviet Union during World War II," *Army Historical Foundation*, June 28, 2016, accessed April 10, 2017 <https://armyhistory.org/the-persian-gulf-command-and-the-lend-lease-mission-to-the-soviet-union-during-world-war-ii/>.; Morris County Historical Society, *The Nadzeika Family*, "The Nadzeika Brothers," Courtesy of Kimberly Smith.

24 Morris County Historical Society, *The Nadzeika Family*, "The Nadzeika Brothers," Courtesy of Kimberly Smith.

25 Ibid.

26 "Obituaries...Peter Nadzeika Sr." *The Tampa Tribune*, January 2, 1996, GenealogyBank.com.

27 Ibid.

28 Ibid.

29 "Florida Death Index, 1877-1998," database, *Familysearch.org* (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed May 30, 2017), entry for Peter Nadzeika, Pasco, Florida.

30 "Find A Grave Index," database, *Familysearch.org* (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed May 29, 2017), entry for Peter Nadzeika.

State: New Jersey
County: Monmouth

Incorporated into: Monmouth
City: Freehold

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
POPULATION SCHEDULE

Enumeration District No. 1458
Supervisor's District No. 1
Date: Jan 23, 1909

HOUSEHOLD OR GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS	NAME	RELATION	SEX	RACE	COLOR	AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY	MARRIED	SINGLE	MOTHER	FATHER	LANGUAGE	ETHNICITY	OCCUPATION AND SERVICE	EDUCATION	REMARKS
214 214	Rockaway Neck Road														
1	John J. Adams	Head	M	W	W	38	1	1			English				
2	Elizabeth Adams	Wife	F	W	W	36	1	1							
3	John J. Adams	Head	M	W	W	14									
4	Elizabeth Adams	Wife	F	W	W	12									
5	John J. Adams	Head	M	W	W	11									
6	Elizabeth Adams	Wife	F	W	W	9									
7	John J. Adams	Head	M	W	W	8									
8	Elizabeth Adams	Wife	F	W	W	7									
9	John J. Adams	Head	M	W	W	6									
10	Elizabeth Adams	Wife	F	W	W	5									
11	John J. Adams	Head	M	W	W	4									
12	Elizabeth Adams	Wife	F	W	W	3									
13	John J. Adams	Head	M	W	W	2									
14	Elizabeth Adams	Wife	F	W	W	1									
15	John J. Adams	Head	M	W	W	1									
16	Elizabeth Adams	Wife	F	W	W	1									
17	John J. Adams	Head	M	W	W	1									
18	Elizabeth Adams	Wife	F	W	W	1									
19	John J. Adams	Head	M	W	W	1									
20	Elizabeth Adams	Wife	F	W	W	1									
21	John J. Adams	Head	M	W	W	1									
22	Elizabeth Adams	Wife	F	W	W	1									
23	John J. Adams	Head	M	W	W	1									
24	Elizabeth Adams	Wife	F	W	W	1									
25	John J. Adams	Head	M	W	W	1									
26	Elizabeth Adams	Wife	F	W	W	1									
27	John J. Adams	Head	M	W	W	1									
28	Elizabeth Adams	Wife	F	W	W	1									
29	John J. Adams	Head	M	W	W	1									
30	Elizabeth Adams	Wife	F	W	W	1									

Name: Don Jones Mentor City
 Country: Marina Department of Education, Bureau of Curriculum Development
 Institution: Marina High School Department of Education, Bureau of Curriculum Development
 Title: Teacher Department of Education, Bureau of Curriculum Development
 Date: May 19 1968 Department of Education, Bureau of Curriculum Development

Lesson No.	Lesson Title	Objectives	Materials	Activities	Assessment	Evaluation Schedule														
						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
1	Introduction																			
2	Basic Concepts																			
3	Advanced Topics																			
4	Application																			
5	Summary																			

QUESTIONS
 1. What are the main objectives of this course?
 2. How should the material be presented?
 3. What are the major concepts?
 4. How should the student be evaluated?
 5. What are the major activities?
 6. How should the student be motivated?
 7. What are the major materials?
 8. How should the student be prepared?
 9. What are the major assessment methods?
 10. How should the student be encouraged?

RECORD OF ALIENS HELD FOR SPECIAL INQUIRY.

No. 82

S.S. Main, U.S.I. arrived 12.8.10, 190, M., from

Table with columns: NAMES, MANIFEST, CAUSE OF DETENTION, INSPECTOR, ACTIONS OF THE BOARDS OF SPECIAL INQUIRY (Exp., Res., Adm.), DEPARTMENTAL AND EXECUTIVE ORDERS, DEPORTED (Date, Ship), MEALS (Breakfast, Dinner, Supper).