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October - December

Correspondence 1947

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## 12/30/1947 Letter from V.F.W. Normand Dionne Post 2299

J. Dennis Bruno

*V.F.W. Normand Dionne Post 2299*

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John Dennis Bruno,  
Commdr.

Michael McDonald,  
Sr. Vice Commdr.

Robert J. Blanchette,  
Jr. Vice Commdr.

Maurice E. Lizotte,  
Quartermaster

Elwood F. Ross,  
Adjutant

Craig O'Connell,  
Chaplain

Dr. Paul E. Chevalier,  
Surgeon

Patrick F. Malia,  
Advocate

Raymond R. Duprez,  
Repatriation Officer

# NORMAND DIONNE POST 2299

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

P. O. BOX 289 - LEWISTON, MAINE

POST QUARTERS

ELLARD BUILDING

178 LISBON STREET

LEWISTON, MAINE

TEL. 4772-M



30 December 1947.

Hon. Louis P. Gagne,  
Mayor, City of  
Lewiston, Maine.

Dear Sir:

Your attention is hereby directed to a complaint registered with this organization concerning the program of World War II dead reburial as set-up by the Mayor, City of Lewiston.

Marcel V. Fortin, an employee in the Dye House section, Pepperel Division, Lewiston, was penalized with loss of pay for attending the funeral of T/3 Joseph L.F. Leblanc, recently returned to this city for reburial under the War Department's plan.

Inasmuch as, all other employers have wholeheartedly cooperated with the Mayor's plan it is, indeed, distressing to learn that other members of our World War II Burial Detachment employed at the above plant have also experienced opposition and a general uncooperative spirit as concerns their being able to assist in giving proper military rites to our returning hero dead. Naturally, these men do not wish to have their names divulged for obvious reasons which might cause them further repercussions where they work.

It is the belief that higher officials of Pepperel would see that all means are taken for highest respect for Lewiston's war dead. However, there seems to be a snag down lower in the line, either caused by prejudice or misunderstanding which has caused the situation.

I can give you my fullest assurance that Pepperel has not been overburdened and may I inform you that several other employers, much smaller and far less able financially, are foregoing much more inconvenience to keep faith with those who died. I am certain that a tactful approach by you would immediately remedy the condition.

Very truly yours,

*John Dennis Bruno*  
Commander Post 2299  
V.F.W. Lewiston

JDB:HS