

August

2017

Chin



Strap


THE MARYLAND REGION

29TH DIVISION ASSOCIATION

To perpetuate the friendships we cherish; to keep alive the spirit that never knew defeat; to glorify our dead; and to further keep before our country the record of the 29th Division in all the wars; we associate ourselves in an organization known as the 29th Division Association, Inc.

Alsace – 25 Jul 1918 – Sep 23, 1918 – WW I

Meuse – Argonne 8 Oct 1918 – 29 Oct 1918 WW I

 Normandy 6 Jun 1944 – WW II

Normandy – 6 Jun – 24 Jul 1944 – WW II

Northern France – 25 Jul – 14 Sep, 1944 WW II

Central Europe – 22 Mar – 8 May 1945 – WW II

Rhineland – 15 Sep 1944 – 21 Mar 1945 WW II

Iraqi Governance - 2004 - 2005 - Iraqi War

National Resolution - 2005 - 2007 - Iraqi War

Iraqi Surge - 2007 - 2008 - Iraqi War

Consolidation I - 2001 - 2006 - Afghanistan War

Consolidation II - 2006 - Present - Afghanistan War



29th Division Deployment

This month's update is bittersweet. We are in the closing days of our time here in Kuwait, and it has been a pleasure and a privilege to command the Soldiers of Task Force Spartan. They have overcome challenges most could not have imagined only a few short months ago. The time has passed quickly as we have kept ourselves busy.

I know those same months have felt like an eternity for everyone at home.

We've worked right up to the wire. I have spoken to the division as a whole and to our brigades, but I'd like to take a moment to highlight the efforts of our liaison officers, LNOs. These Soldiers were asked to take on a very unique assignment, one that isn't readily defined. They have represented me as the commander, and the division as a whole. They have built relationships with our partners and enabled us to communicate effectively despite cultural differences. Our brigade LNOs have also been a huge help in coordinating efforts by, with, and through their respective brigades. Thank you all!

Our replacements from the 35th Infantry Division are off to a good start. As we speak, we are conducting our "left seat-right seat ride". This is the process we use to provide perspective and insight into the lessons we have learned during our time here. It's no small task considering all we have done since we arrived. We have trained them on nearly 1,000 tasks to set conditions for the 35th to succeed!

The process is complete for some and those Soldiers are already back at Fort Bliss working through the demobilization process.

We are finalizing the plans for our Yellow Ribbon events scheduled for September 16-17 and additional details will be published as soon as they are available.

Thank you for all of the support you've given us during this deployment! We're looking forward to seeing you all soon!

"29 Let's Go!"

Blake C. Ortner
Major General, USA
Commanding

LIMESTONE POST 1-72

NO MEETING IN AUGUST. At a recent meeting of the Post executive committee we decided to bow to the demands of summer and skip the August meeting. The next Post meeting will be Monday 18 September.

Reminder: There are still slots available for General Shuey's exciting trip to Normandy 23 to 29 September. See the Spring 2017 issue of the Twenty Niner Newsletter for details or call Anna Davis of the 116th Infantry Regiment Foundation at 540-248-0778. Currently, we have six members of Post 1-72 signed up for this latest invasion of Omaha Beach.

Houston Matney, Commander



Post 2 Florida West

Someone had made the comparison one day that our Summer's here in Florida are similar to what the Northeast and Midwest experience during a deep, long Winter. Naturally, we are not dealing with snowdrifts, blizzards and icy sidewalks (Thank God!) , but we do have our terminal headaches here. One is the never ending heat and rain....they call it "The Rainy Season", it should really be called "The Laughing Season", because it's the handyman and the contractor who is laughing all the way to the bank! I must apologize to many of you who receive my paper-in-the-mail letter that routinely comes to your mailbox monthly. For the past month I have been dealing with a devastating ceiling cave in that destroyed some furniture and carpeting in my condo/ apartment. Paperwork and some computer components were heavily damaged. Luckily my landlord is paying for the repairs to the roof, carpet and ceiling. I am responsible for painting and replacing what I lost, which isn't all that much, thankfully. Therefore I must apologize for the delay of "getting the word out" to you all. I have always been amazed at how Taylor Thomas kept up with it all! I am trying hard, but lacking in some areas. I should be up and running soon, but I appreciate your patience with the snails pace of my efforts recently.

We are all preparing to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the formation of the 29th Division. The actual date of formation was on July 29, 1917. Activities and proud recognition of this event will be held at our National Reunion celebrated at The Hunt Valley Inn, Baltimore, Maryland on October 12-15. Having been to a few reunions in the past as a member and now as a post commander makes me feel very proud and equally humbled to be part of such a strong tradition. Post commanders and officers have been urged to inform the public of this exciting event and to solicit donations to help fund the 99th National Reunion Program of the 29th Division Association. I am hereby calling for donations, above and beyond your normal dues payments (which are outstanding for some of you, by the way!) to help us have a wonderful time in Baltimore, Maryland and highlight our involvement with the greatest unit in this man's United States Army! Additionally, if you are a business owner or want to highlight your place of work by sponsoring the program, please send me a business card with your logo or name and I will see if we can add it to our sponsors page. I am eternally grateful for your love of the 29th and our brave warriors who salute our Red, White & Blue here and abroad. I am looking forward to a very memorable event this coming Fall. My contact information for dues and donations is found below.

Lastly, having had this misfortune of almost losing my home to the elements here in Florida, I am pushing my chest out and forging ahead, not losing sight of my responsibility to serve you in the best way possible as your commander. My strength in this effort has waned a bit this past month after feeling the loss of our good friend in Robert M. Bricker (HQ 227th FA). I will truly miss his vibrant and joyful banter with our lunch crowd. I loved getting to know him during my past four years down here. I know his spirit will help us carry on. The winds of change sometimes will pull us down, but we all have to be ready to face them head on.

Sean Patrick Malloy
Commander

Florida West Post 2 29th Division Association

Post 48—Jerome L Day

Greetings Comrades,

Members of the Jerome L. Day Post 48 welcomes Comrade Russell Blizzard to Post 48. Comrade Blizzard served with the Maryland Army National Guard and the Arkansas National Guard with a total of 42 years and retired as a Chief Warrant Officer. Many of our MDANG veterans will remember Comrade Blizzard during his time with the Maryland Guard.

The Jerome L Day Post 48 will host a fundraising event of an old time Corn Roast on Sunday, August 20th from 1pm to 5 pm at the American Legion, Westminster. Menu to include all you can eat delicious sweet corn, hot dogs and hamburgers along with several side dishes. Cost, \$15.00 per person. Your support for this fundraising event is appreciated. Contact Junior Fisher 443-821-1720 or Richard Stem 410-804-7699 for additional information.

On Saturday, August 26, 2017, Post 48 is planning to take a bus trip to the 29th Division Museum at the Fifth Regiment Armory, Baltimore, MD. Family and guests are invited, providing there are available seating on the bus. Leaving the American Legion, Westminster at 10am and plan to return around 1pm. Call Richard Stem 410-804-7699 to confirm seating and for additional information.

I will keep you informed of upcoming events at the monthly meetings and by means of the Chin Strap.

Post 48 next gathering will be on Thursday, July 27th 2017 and August 31, 2017 at the American Legion in Westminster. Dinner @ 6:30 pm and business meeting @ 7:00 pm. All comrades and their guests are invited to attend.

As always, I can be contacted by calling 240-367-6110 or E-mail, fm32@erols.com.

In Comradeship,
Frank M. Rauschenberg,
Commander, Post 48

**Post 110 Larkspur**

Right now, Larkspur Post is going through our summer recess. There are no meetings in July or August.

The June meeting was held at Skip and Nadine's house as usual. It was well attended and the BBQ was enjoyed by all.

We are eagerly awaiting the return of the Division HQ from Kuwait and Jordan and the return of over a dozen members of the Post. Our prayers and thoughts have been with you.

We are considering placing a plaque at the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford for the 224th FA. Please let me know your thoughts - it will take \$15,000 to place the plaque.

PNC David Ginsburg
Commander
Larkspur Post 110

NEW ENGLAND POST 93

Greetings to our Members!

Summer 2017 is a hot one!

Early in June I am always thinking of the 29th Infantry Division landing on Omaha Beach and the cemeteries full of men in their youth who did not make it out off the Beach or out of Normandy. I have had the great honor of being on the beach many times with veterans of this division. Please take time to think about what happened on Omaha and in Normandy, Brittany and Germany. And then, pass your knowledge to your children and grandchildren. July brings the 4th with family and fireworks. This August, I'll be moving to a new home in a new state and I'm hoping for a smooth transition. I'll let you know more after the move.

This past May 20th we had a catered luncheon in Andover, Ma. At Ironstone Farms, which is directed by one of our post members. Thank you, DeeDee O'Brien, for being a great host. DeeDee had the ROTC from nearby Lowell High School come and do a presentation at the beginning of our luncheon. They also Posted our Colors.

One of our members drove from NYC for the day to tell us about her documentary project called: **SUNKEN ROADS: Seventy Years After D-Day**. Charlotte Juergens is a recent Yale graduate and went to Normandy with our group in 2014. She interviewed our WWII veterans as well as French citizens while there. Her preview was a highlight of the luncheon. You can find more information about her documentary in the next 29er. Please check her out at: www.sunkenroads.com.

Our Post voted to make a \$500. donation towards the completion of Sunken Roads. We also made a small donation to the ROTC program at Lowell High School.

More highlights included Morley Piper, WWII veteran of the 115th IR and Walter Carter, son of Dr Norval Carter, KIA June 17, 1944, speaking personally about two WWII veterans that we lost this past year. Morley spoke about Don Van Roosen, 115th Infantry Regiment. Walter spoke about our past Adjutant, Norman Grossman, 116th Infantry Regiment. Their presence will be sorely missed.

If you didn't make our last luncheon, please try to make the next one! It is scheduled for **September 24** in **Plymouth MA**. The cost will be \$25. Veterans will be Gratis. Please let me know if you are interested by email or phone. More information to follow.

Frances Sherr-Davino, Commander
fsd104@icloud.com. or 774.266.3471

**Post 88**

Greetings from the Eastern Shore !

Our Post held a luncheon meeting at Kay's Restaurant / Cambridge Airport / Dorchester County on June 14th. Attendance included 52 members and Ladies of the Post. A briefing included a Remembrance of D-Day, The Army's Birthday, and a Salute to the Flag Day.

A special presentation was made to Tom Price and his wife for their generous contribution and donation to the Sergeant Horseman Collection from World War I. The Collection will be the showpiece for the entrance of the new Easton Readiness Center in Easton, MD.

In addition, Post 88 will have their Annual Crab Feast at the Cambridge VFW in Cambridge on October 7th

Bernie Liswell
Commander
Post 88

Post 94

We are hoping to see Post 94 members at the convention in October. This will be our 99th annual convention and 100th anniversary of the formation of the 29th Division. Please make an effort to attend.

Post 94 is in the midst of attempting to collect dues for 2017. 82.4% of our members have paid. However, we still have 23 members that we have not heard from.

Those members are: C. Babcock; B. Borosky; J. Buterbaugh; H. Carpenter; N. Duncan; G. Flanagan; R. Gritton; K. Jones; J. Kramer; D. Lane; R. Lotts; J.T. McCandless; J. Palmer; J. Panno; E. Shriver; J. Smith; W. Stewart; V. Swift; E. Twining; D. Walls; J. Williams; J. Wilroy and R. Wolak.

If your name is in the list above, please submit your dues at this time to William Mund, 441 Chalfonte Drive, Baltimore, MD 21228-4017. Make check payable to Post 94, 29th Div Assoc.

William Mund
Finance Officer

**Post 78—Cresap's Rifles**

Sorry for the lack of a report in June. With a lot of things going on, I just missed the deadline to get the thing in.

I wanted to report that we had a good turnout to put the flags on the graves of deceased 29ers in Frederick County. Past Post Commander Dave Houck made me aware that he had 21 people show up at Mt Olivet Cemetery on May 20th to help with the flags. Giving credit where credit is due, I must admit that only 10 of these were post members. Many of the remainder were children and grandchildren of Dave and Buck Lockard. No matter. We thank them for their efforts and are indebted to them for their help.



In addition to those at Mt Olivet Cemetery, several others had gone out into the county during the week and place flags at many of the smaller county cemeteries. Shown in the picture at the left is Fred Pitts, brother of Post 78 Chaplain Ron Pitts and Post 78 member Mike Long. Fred and Mike took care of 6-8 cemeteries outside of Frederick City. In addition, Greg LaCoste and wife Joanne, Mike Frushour and

daughter Nicole, John Sexton and wife Melody all visited outlying cemeteries. Also, our good friend Frank Rauschenberg, Commander of Post 48 gave us a hand by taking care of placing 21 flags in cemeteries in Emmitsburg and Thurmont. Thanks Frank for your help.

Post 78 recruited a new member last month. George Easterday, who had been an early member of Company A 1-115th Inf. and the 115th Medical Detachment many years ago became a member of Post 78. George resides with his wife Sara in the Damascus area but spends a lot of time in Frederick. Post 78 has had 4 members assigned to Post Everlasting in the first six months of 2017.

PNC John E. Wilcox, Jr. - Adjutant

Maryland Region Commander's Report

Remember St. Lo! I'd like to begin my brief message with a reminder of what the Division was doing in July of 1944. After the June 6th D-Day invasion assault the Division fought continuously for the next 45 days attacking through the Normandy hedgerow countryside and small villages with the assignment to attack and take the heavily defended city of St. Lo. The 45 day period of continuous fighting culminated with the successful attack and occupation by the 29th of St. Lo on July 19, 1944. Today, as we enjoy these summer days please think about the soldiers who served, sacrificed, were wounded, and who successfully carried our US, Division, and Regimental colors through war as a symbol of Freedom!

Since our last Chin Strap, I had the opportunity to visit Arlington National Cemetery on June 10th with the 29th Division Association bus trip for the laying of the 29th Division Association wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. It is a very emotional and somber experience to view the changing of the guard at the tomb and the laying of the wreath. It reminds us of the price of our Freedom. National Commander Bob Wisch did us all proud performing the ceremony. I was pleasantly surprised by the large numbers of high school, college, and young adults visiting Arlington in groups and with their families. In the midst of all of the ominous and terrible events occurring in our world (and our Country) today that dominate the news there is a much larger mostly unheard voice in support of the values and principles our Flag and Country stand for as a Nation and with God's blessings.

I also attended the Eastern Shore Post 88 regular meeting on June 14th and the 29th Division Association Executive Committee meeting on June 22.

Enjoy and be safe in your summer activities!

"29 Let's Go!"

Bob Jones

MD Region Commander



Chin Strap Supporters

We have received financial support for the Chin Strap from the following individuals in the last month. Thanks to those of you who have helped by providing your monetary support as well as the kind words. Both are deeply appreciated. Please continue to contribute so we may continue to provide you a quality newsletter.

All Donations are greatly appreciated. Checks for contributions to the Chin Strap should be made payable to the:

Maryland Region—29th Division Association.

Contributions should be mailed to the Editor at: **1226 Allview Drive, Hampstead, MD 21074**

Brian Becker — **IN HONOR OF THE MOLLY FILBY GROUP AT POST 78**

Ralph A. Thompson—Fairfax VA—**In Memory of PFC Harry R Grouch D-Day Survivor 91st Division**

Anonymous—**In Memory of COL John F Kutcher Sr & Lt Col Vincent Dacre**

Ed Page—Norwood MA—Post 93—**In Memory & Honor of Thomas Power L 116 Rgmt KIA St Lo 1944 and Norm Grossman L 116 Rgmt WIA St Lo 1944**

BG Arthur W Pulket—Bel Air MD— **In Memory of Col John F Kutcher Sr and Chaplain Reverend Donald L Turley**

2 Aug — Post 85 —VFW Northeast MD —10:00 am
 2 Aug —Post 64—Roanoker Restaurant, Roanoke VA—11:30 am
 9 Aug — Post 78 —Talley Recreation Center—7:00 pm
 9 Aug —Post 58—Dundalk NG Readiness Center —6:00 pm
 17 Aug —Post 729—Parlor House Restaurant, Waynesboro —8:00 am
 31 Aug —Post 48—American Legion, Westminster—6:30pm
 13 Sep — Post 110— Pikesville NCO Club —11:00 am
 18 Sep —Post 1 - 72—Schaefer Dining Room 5th Reg—- 11:00 am
 7 Oct —Post 88— Cambridge VFW Post 7460 - Family Picnic and Crab Feast



Spiritual Corner

If

Many are familiar with the great poem by Rudyard Kipling title "IF". However, think about these 'ifs'.

If a stamped letter can go across country or ocean;
 If radio can bring news and music;
 If an email can travel thousands of miles in moments;
 If TV can bring us live coverage from around the world;
 Then why cannot we believe in the power of prayer?

Jeremiah 33:3 is heaven's hotline. God says "call ye upon me and I will show you great and mighty things of which ye are unaware." Jesus says "ask and it shall be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and the way shall be opened unto you."

—John Schildt




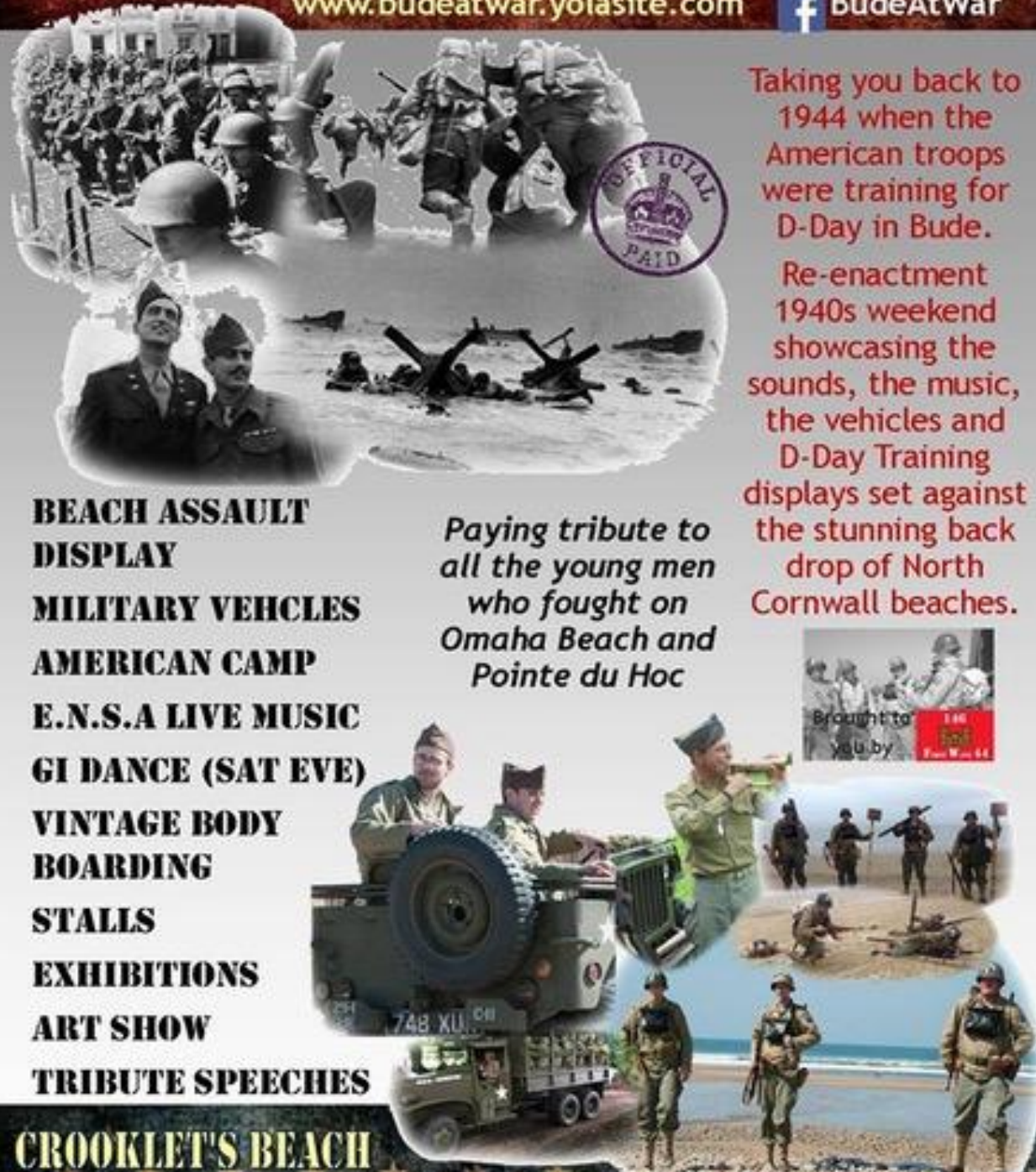
The Chin Strap is published for and about the Maryland Region, 29th Division Association and its members. Comments may be forwarded to Charles Boblitz, Editor at 1226 Allview Drive, Hampstead, MD 21074, or at Boblitz@icloud.com. Deadline for copy is the 10th of each month for the following month's issue.

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SAT 16 / SUN 17 SEP 2017

Some of our Association members who live in Cornwall and Devon in the UK are involved in events that keep the history alive. They are members of a Group called First Wave 1944. —Fran Sherr- Davino