



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Commander's Message</i>	2
<i>Contributions</i>	3
<i>Taps</i>	4
<i>1/116 Training Award</i>	13
<i>99th Convention</i>	27
<i>Minutes</i>	34
<i>Normandy Allies</i>	36

99th Annual Convention & Reunion honors the 100th Anniversary of the 29th Division



Veterans participating in the Calvados toast. From left to right: Roy Baker, D/115, Post 729; Walter Heline, A/224, Post 110; Leonard Jindra, F/115, Post 94; Norman Duncan, E/116, Post 94; John Fowler, B/104, Post 94; Robert Tawes, L/115, Post 88 and Steve Melnikoff, C/175, Post 1-72.

THE TWENTY-NINER

Vol. 61, No. 3

Autumn / Winter 2017

The *Twenty-Niner* is published three times a year by the 29th Division Association Inc. The views expressed in this publication are the views of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the 29th Division Association, its officers or members.

© Copyright 2017

The 29th Division Association Inc.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the written prior permission of the 29th Division Association Inc.

This was a special one for the venerable 29th Division Association. Over 100 years ago in April 1917 the US Army mobilized the brand new 29th Division for service in World War I. Since that time, the 29th has served almost continuously as a military organization supporting America's goals both domestically and overseas.

On 12 October through 15 October over 130 attendees gathered at the Delta Hotel by Marriott

in Hunt Valley, MD just a few miles north of Baltimore for this historic convention and reunion. Each attendee was greeted warmly and received a 29th Division gift bag that contained among other items a jar of sand collected at Omaha Beach; a fitting memento for this singular event.

After an evening of gathering and reminiscing in the hospitality suite, over 50 attendees gathered

(Continued on page 18)

29th CAB Soldiers, military sealift command team up for deck landing qualifications

ARABIAN GULF – As two HH-60M Black Hawk helicopters lift off from Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, they fly beyond the limits of Kuwait City and out to sea where they meet up with the USNS Choctaw County, T-EPF-2. As the pilots spot the ship's wake trail in the gulf, they follow it as they carefully await instructions for a safe landing on the deck.

HH-60M medevac helicopter pilots from Company B, 1st Assault Helicopter Battalion,

147th Aviation Regiment, Task Force Wraith and Company C, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 149th Aviation Regiment, Task Force Rough Riders, both belonging to the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade, conducted deck landing qualifications with the U.S. Merchant Mariners in the Arabian Gulf, Sept. 5, 2017.

"We have been given a great opportunity to work with the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Merchant Marine services in order to

perform these deck landing qualifications," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Aaron Williams. "It promotes joint operations between different branches and also provides us with training outside of our normal operations."

The DLQs involved five consecutive landings within the lines on the deck of the Choctaw County during the day and five during the evening. The pilots must negoti-

(Continued on page 28)

Meet your new National Commander: Grant L. Hayden

Dear Comrades of the 29th Division Association, It is an honor to have your trust and confidence in my being elected as your National Commander. This privilege is not taken lightly and I will do my best in maintaining the high standards set by Past National Commanders.

The recent completion of the DVD on the history of the 29th Division was a monumental task completed by PNC Ginsburg and several other members of the association. It was debuted at our convention in Hunt Valley and was a roaring success. It is now scheduled for presentation at various events over the next couple of months. Distribution is also programmed for all the posts, placed on our Website, and on YouTube. I cannot say enough on the benefits of the DVD on getting out the story of the 29th Division, and assist in gaining new members.

The 100th Convention is scheduled to be conducted 11-14 October 2018 in Roanoke, Virginia. A visit and wreath laying ceremony is planned at the D-



Day Memorial. The wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is set for 16 June 2018, 12:15 PM. A luncheon will take place at the Spates Community center immediately following the ceremony.

During my tenure as your National Commander, I will concentrate on membership, Public Affairs, Communications, and updating our website. Any suggestions and recommendations are appreciated.

Again, thank you for the privilege and honor of being the Commander of the 29th Division Association. "29 Let's Go!"

Grant L. Hayden
National Commander
29th Division Association

The 29th Division Association's new National Commander was born in 1949 in Dundalk, Maryland. He enlisted in the Maryland Army National Guard in 1970 at the Glen Burnie Armory and was assigned to Co A 2nd Bn 175th Infantry. In 1975, SP4 Hayden entered the full-time force as an Administrative Supply Technician for CSC 2nd Bn 175th located at the Dundalk Armory. He transferred to HHC 1-175th Infantry

in 1976 as fulltime Administrative Technician at the Fifth Regiment Armory.

He entered the OCS program, graduating in 1977, as a 2nd Lieutenant. Assigned as Training Technician (G3) HQ 2nd Bn 175th Infantry, Dundalk, MD. In 1983, Captain Hayden was transferred to HQ 1-115th Infantry, as Fulltime Executive Officer. He then was transferred to HQ 3rd Brigade as S1 to support the activation of the 29th Infantry Division (L).

In the ensuing years, he held many positions as Executive Officer 1297th CSB, commander 1297th CSB, Troop Command Commander, State G3, Acting MDARNG Commander. An overseas tour as the team Chief Military Liaison Team – Estonia.

In 2006, he was hired as Deputy for the Army National Guard Operations Office, at the Army National Guard Readiness Center, Arlington, VA. During this period, he was promoted to Brigadier General and assigned as Assistant Division Commander, 29th Infantry Division.

In 2007, he was promoted to Commander, 29th Infantry Division. During this assignment, he was placed on active duty to act as special assistant to the Director of the Army National Guard to help fill a vacancy left by the departing Deputy Director. In 2010, MG Hayden retired from the Military with 40 continuous years of military service. He retired from the National Guard civil servant program working as Program Manager for the Civil Support Team program in 2012.

National Commander Hayden graduated from Calvert Hall College in 1968. Received a Bachelor's degree from Liberty University, and a Master's Degree for the Army War College.

National Commander Hayden presently lives with his wife Barbara in Kingsville, Maryland. Hobbies include; travelling with his motorhome, and working on old cars.

THE TWENTY-NINER

Vol. 61, No. 3

Autumn/Winter 2017

The known office of this publication is:

The 29th Division Association, Inc.

The *Twenty-Niner* is published by:

The 29th Division Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 46734

Windsor Mill, MD 21244-0634

Third Class postage paid at Baltimore, MD

Editor/Publisher — William S. Mund, Jr.

443-529-4233

duster197329@gmail.com

Asst. Editor/Publisher — Frank Armiger

410-591-9977

farmiger@gmail.com

Editor *Emeritus* — Donald McKee

301-593-4591

mckee175@netscape.com

© Copyright 2017

The 29th Division Association, Inc.

Donations to the *Twenty-Niner*

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our membership for their generosity in contributing to the *Twenty-Niner* for this Autumn/Winter issue. From July 1, 2017, through November 1, 2017, these donations totaled \$872.00. Note our cut-off time. If your contributions did not reach our National Executive Director by November 1, 2017 then it will not be listed until the next issue.

Donation checks must be made payable to the 29th Division Association.

Baker, Roy R., Post 729, D/115, Waynesboro, PA
Cayce, Walter L., Post 110, SVC/224, Stewartstown, PA

In memory of his wife Mary Lou Cayce

Florida West Post #2, Sarasota, FL

In memory of Robert Bricker, Post 2, HQ/227FA

Lane, Dale, Post 94, Son, Indianapolis, IN

Duncan, Norman, Post 94, E/116, Ashburn, VA

Hobbs, Mary S., Post 64, Widow, Cloverdale, VA

In memory of her husband Mills Hubert Hobbs, Jr., F/115

Lantern Post 729, Waynesboro, PA

Larkspur Post 110

In memory of Dr. Hal Baumgarten, B/116

In memory of Frank DeBaecke, Associate

In memory of James Drumwright, 29SIG

In memory of Charles Tine, HQ/110FA

In memory of Earl Tweed, L/115

In memory of Paul Wareheim, HQ/224FA

Levin, Agnes M., Post 64, Widow, Roanoke, VA

In memory of her husband Allen S. Levin

Moon, Diane C., Widow, Winter Park, FL

In memory of her husband Ray E. Moon, F/115

Phoebus, Richard, Post 78, B/1/175, The Villages, FL

Roser, Robert H. Jr., Post 78, Son, Stafford, VA

In memory of 1LT Robert H. Roser, HHC&B/1/175

Rowland, Helena, West Palm Beach, FL

In memory of her uncle Stanley Kumor, CAN/116

Smith, Mary, Widow, Perry Hall, MD

Christmas Greetings

***In memory of her husband PNC Richard "Dick" Smith
and PNC John F. "Jack" Kutcher, Sr.***

Williams, Roscoe, Post 2, Associate, Prattville, AL

French Legion of Honor Recipients

The Editorial Staff of the *Twenty-Niner* and the entire membership of the 29th Division Association congratulates the following veteran who has been awarded the French Legion of Honor. We commend the government of the Republic of France for their noble effort to honor this United States veteran for the courage and sacrifice that he displayed during these most perilous years in the history of mankind.

Waitzman, Morton, B.

HHC/115th Infantry

Atlanta, Georgia

Post 94

Legion of Honor Recipients

In recognition of the French government's noble effort to award the Legion of Honor to veterans who participated in the liberation of France during the Second World War, the editorial staff of the *Twenty-Niner* wishes to publish the names of those recipients in the upcoming issues.

29th Division veterans who have received this award must submit the following information to the address listed below:

Name:

Unit served in:

Current address (City and State):

Post number:

Date award was received:

William S. Mund, Jr.

441 Chalfonte Drive

Baltimore, MD 21228

duster197329@gmail.com

Note: If you've already submitted your name and it has been published, please do not submit it again.

**Be sure to check out our
new and improved website at:
www.29thdivisionassociation.com**

TAPS

The following list shows names of known 29ers and their ladies or family members who died and their deaths reported from July 1, 2017 through October 31, 2017. We are indeed saddened and mourn their passing. We extend our deepest sympathy and love to their families and loved ones. We pray that they and all of our earlier deceased 29ers and ladies may rest in peace. Amen.

LAST ROLL CALL

DeBaecke, Frank Jr., Post 110, Assoc., Philadelphia, PA 7/14/17
 Elower, Donald L., Post 78, Assoc., Thurmont, MD 8/17/17
 Lockhart, James L., Sr., Post 85, B/115, North East, MD 10/3/17
 Lombino, Angelo, Post 2, K/175, Sarasota, FL 7/17/17
 McCarthy, PNC Don, Post 93, HQ/1/116, N. Smithfield, RI 7/31/17
 Moody, Frank E., Post 94, G/176, Hagerstown, MD 9/14/17
 Owens, Lester N., Post 88, HQ/115, Pittsville, MD 6/26/17
 Pedigo, Norman, Post 64, Associate, Bedford, VA 2/15/17
 Proud, Robert D., Post 1-72, F/2/175, Baltimore, MD 8/23/17
 Tweed, Earl E., Post 110, L/115, Dallas, TX 8/16/17
 Whiteford, Roger S., III, Post 1-72, Son, Towson, MD 7/13/17

LADIES

Brown, Jean, Wife, Towson, MD 7/11/17
 McEwin, Peggy, Widow, Chambersburg, PA 3/30/17
 Nasti, Florence, Widow, Lynnfield, MA 11/20/16

Donation Notice

Donation checks for the *Twenty-Niner* must be made payable to the

29th Division Association

Our bank is no longer accepting checks made payable to the *Twenty-Niner Sustaining Fund*. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Notice to our Readers

Current copyright laws prevent the Editorial Staff of the *Twenty-Niner* from reprinting any articles and/or photographs that have already been published in other publications such as newspapers or magazines. Please do not submit these articles for publication in the *Twenty-Niner*.

LEST WE FORGET

It was decided long ago, that as long as two 29ers survive, we shall remember and honor our comrades and ladies who have passed to the great beyond.

You have just read a list of 11 comrades and 3 ladies who have died and whose deaths were reported to us since our last publication.

We ask survivors, friends, Post and Region Officers to forward information, as complete as possible, on the deceased to the National Executive Director, so that we can include them in the next issue of "The Twenty-Niner" and in the National Reunion Memorial Service. This will only be possible with your help.

Reverend John Schildt,
 National Chaplain
 P.O. Box 145,
 Sharpsburg, MD. 21782-0145
 Telephone 301-432-0087

William S. Mund, Jr.
 National Executive Director
 441 Chalfonte Drive,
 Baltimore, MD, 21228-4017
 Telephone 443-529-4233
 E-mail: duster197329@gmail.com

Attention!

Post Adjutants & Finance Officers

New member information should be forwarded to National Headquarters as soon as possible. Some posts send the information weeks and in some cases months later.

This results in the new member not receiving the latest issues of the *Chin Strap* and *Twenty-Niner* to which they are entitled. Email this information to Will Mund at duster197329@gmail.com or by telephone to 443-529-4233. To delay their addition to the mailing lists is a disservice to our new member.

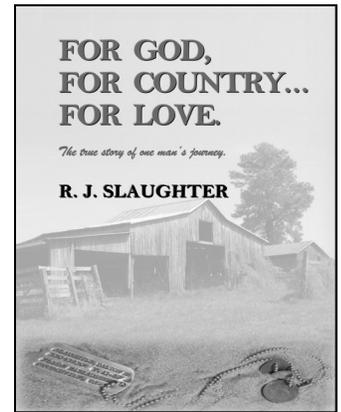
Email addresses are an important tool in lowering the cost of sending the *Chin Strap*. We will now be mailing over 900 of them. With the increasing prices of printing, envelopes and postage, the costs will continue to rise. We are now emailing the *Chin Strap* to around 800 members. We feel we can increase that number and ask all posts to canvas their members for email addresses.

If any member gets a printed copy and would like to get it electronically, email Executive Director Will Mund at duster197329@gmail.com and you will get it quicker and help us reduce costs.

Remember: Do not delay sending in new member information.

We have the pleasure in enclosing extract 4 from Robbie Slaughter's biographical novel, *For God, For Country ... For Love* - available from the 29th Division Association - all proceeds to the association.

We continue Dalton Slaughter's personal story with him leading his diminished squad south towards Couvains, Normandy. Progress is slow, the front line just 15 miles from the beach. Dalton is now considered an old hand - his company, B 116th Regiment, lost 111 of their 193 men on Omaha and casualties are mounting as US forces encounter resolute resistance.



For God, For Country ... For Love

Chapter 41 The Advance to Bretel

16th to 19th June.

The stone blocks at the base of the Couvains Church steeple were split and broken; the fresh faces to be weathered and subdued, from their almost white grey appearance to the dull grey that time ensured. The accumulation of masonry lay as a symbol of the damage that four years of German occupation had caused; not just to buildings but also to the hearts and souls of the French people. The disfigured church of Couvains, like the community of almost 200 habitants, would have to be rebuilt, but for the moment created an air of insecurity rather than that of protection. It reminded the passing soldiers of the transience of possession in conflict; whether of life, health, belongings or land. For though the town had been liberated, it could just as easily be recaptured and no one, particularly the local people, would underestimate the strength and resolve of the enemy. Success for the Allies was hanging in the balance, just three miles from St. Lo, yet stalled was the advance. Having arrived in Couvains on the 13th June, B Company remained within a few hundred yards of the small town for three nights. The reason was obvious to the infantrymen; foot patrols would return with repetitive confirmation - the way ahead was strongly defended.

The German resistance at the River Elle and the approach to Couvains had further delayed the US advance. The enemy had given themselves the extra time they needed to establish a stronger defensive line just north of St. Lo, along the high ground running east to west, north of the St. Lo to Bayeux Road. The clever, slow and well planned withdrawal across Calvados had proved lethal to the US forces. But unbeknown to the B Company boys, the next thousand yards would be even worse. The enemy would bring them to a grinding halt in front of the high ground,

which rising to 600 feet, became known to the Allies as the 'Martinville Ridge'.

Withdrawing German troops joined the growing forces there, the big field guns amassed, machine gun and mortar emplacements dug in, ranges measured and tactics devised. German High Command was convinced that the Allies would pursue for a truce if the advance stalled and casualties were excessive.

By 14th June all three battalions of the 116th had advanced the seventeen miles from the coast, but the remaining few miles to St. Lo would in comparison seem like one hundred. The town of some ten thousand people was strategically vital, for both sides. Taking it would mean that German supply routes to the west would be severed and the Allies could finally break out of the Calvados region. Then the road east would be open and eastward lay Paris and beyond that, the Fatherland.

On the night of the 15th June, the day earmarked in the invasion planning for St. Lo to fall, General Gerhardt, Commander of the 29th Infantry Division informed his regiments of their targets for the next day. The 116th was to take the high ground near St. André de -l'Epine, right on the Martinville Ridge. A redoubtable task and it compounded the men's belief that Gerhardt volunteered their services too willingly for the more difficult assignments.

Gerhardt was rumoured to be the only divisional commander leading a corps with one division on the line, one in the hospital and the other in the cemetery. It was certainly true that Gerhardt believed in hammering a position until it broke, but no one, not even Gerhardt knew what the 116th was taking on.

The men roused early, grabbed some cold breakfast and sat on their raincoats to separate their backsides from the dew covered soil. Dalton had a new friend he declared, for as he removed his belongings he discovered a frog in the corner of his foxhole. He had befriended many a frog in his childhood. They were common around the swamps and more than once he had squelched



Dalton Slaughter at age 23

one under his bare foot when running out into the yard. "Hiding from the French," someone said as Dalton released it from the depths of his foxhole.

By full light the men picked up their belongings and moved away from what had been their home for three days; the familiar latrine hole, the pieces of wood that had sheltered their foxholes from the elements and the trees and bushes that had become the furniture of their temporary home. Dalton, Clayton and Allbritton led their squads through the positions held by 3rd Battalion, and then on through apple orchards and pasture land to well beyond the town's border. With the terrain falling away to their left down to the Ruisseau de Branche, B Company pushed south towards La Blotrie, the land slowly but steadily rising. The apple trees were ideally placed here, for the sloping land provided good drainage and the cold air on frosty early spring nights would slip harmlessly into the Ruisseau valley.

On familiar ground close to Couvains, a scout was sent forward to check out the situation and three or four fields were traversed without incident. Now level with a large orchard to their right, the scout advanced to the next hedgerow, looked over, checked and indicated that again all was well. Slaughter and Clayton's squads were nearest the break in the bank but Harrelson waved men from 1st Platoon through. Obediently a squad of soldiers broke from cover, pushed into the next field and edged their way along, following the staff sergeant across. The rest of the men peered through the hedgerow roots, anticipation filling every cavity of their bodies. Enemy contact was evident in the distance on both flanks, for the US line pushed south over a wide front and B Company knew that soon they too would be under fire. Dalton watched as the crumpled and dirty uniforms were carried across the stones and grass of the field by fragile flesh. The staff sergeant had advanced perhaps thirty yards when machine gun fire ripped through the squad.

Those that could, crawled back under the covering fire of the men behind them. A medic bravely responded to the needs of the others and brandishing his insignia as clearly as he could, stepped out into the open. The German machine gun team were either being compassionate or had made a quick retreat, for the medic was left to do his job. With now clear evidence of enemy presence, heavy Brownings and mortars were set up and used to pound the German line. Then under suppressive covering fire, the men, firing from the hip, ran across the field and on reaching the hedgerow, threw grenades over and sprayed the field beyond with rifle fire. The gun crew and any other German infantry had long melted away. They had probably picked up their MG42 immediately after firing and moved back to the next prepared position.

Allbritton pulled back foliage from the empty German emplacement to reveal a firing trench, foxholes and slits cut into the hedgerow bank. It was so well camouflaged within its natural terrain that the scout hadn't even realised it was there. The slits enabled fire to be directed at both flanks as well as to the front. An excellent vantage point, covering a wide stretch of front line; likely just a few men had stalled the whole company for what must have been an hour. Unlike an American squad, the focus and priority of a German squad was their machine gun, the MG42. The riflemen dug the positions for it, covered its transfer between positions and whilst it engaged the enemy ensured it

was continually supplied with ammo. Often the squad would quickly move their MG42 between positions on the same front line, creating the impression that the line was more heavily defended than it actually was.

In amongst the discarded ammunition boxes and spent cartridges were cards with sketches and numbering indicating ranges. "Ominous," Clayton muttered as he went over to Stern to show him. Stern immediately went over to show Harrelson and within seconds Dalton found himself running back to the cover of the previous hedgerow. In a few further seconds, mortars started to land on the hastily vacated German position. Like professional chess players, the enemy were predicting the movements and responses of their green opponents. Their retreat was a measured one, not forced. They had prepared well for the newcomers, strangers to these parts and pastimes. It took a while for D Company to set up, locate and range the incoming fire. As soon as they did, the Germans ceased fire and no doubt moved again. Then after several scouts went over to make absolutely sure they could retrace their steps, Harrelson finally moved the men back to the first German emplacement.

It was Sergeant Sorrow who spotted it, now being passed and missed by inches as brown mud covered boots pressed into the soil around it. If the teller mine went off, he was done for; they were all done for. He was an old hand and on their first day in Normandy had seen what the thing could do to a Sherman and its crew. Sorrow was frozen, staring at the metal of the teller showing above the surface. There was so much movement around it and so much noise and exchanges between the men that he felt powerless to gain their attention. It was one of the other sergeants who noticed Sorrow's stance and throwing out his arms, shouted at everyone to stand still before marking the position of the mine; no one had to be told twice to stay away. It was a miracle that the device had not been tripped, for this was their second visit to the hedgerow.

The US line pulled into the orchard on B Company's right flank. The enemy responded and mortars started to fall amongst the fruit trees. A terrific explosion threw branches and body bits into the air above the tree line, followed by the rip rip of machine gun fire, rifle fire and then lots of shouting. The front line was spontaneously coming to life in one part and dying down in another as though a wave of conflict was being flicked along a taught rope.

Sorrow's fortunate discovery really unsettled the men. On running across the next field, many found themselves paying more attention to where their feet were landing, than to where they were firing. But the distraction was soon forgotten, for there were many other more likely ways of dying.

The Germans were intent on taking advantage of every twist and turn of the terrain and made the going slow. Their emplacements were extremely difficult to find and approach and were rarely neutralised. With far fewer men, they withdrew quickly and suffered few casualties, due in part to the reticence of the GIs to take advantage of any lull, in case it was a trap. The lieutenants and squad leaders found it increasingly difficult to lead the men across the fields and through the interconnecting hedgerows; hedgerows which ran at confusing angles from and to tracks, streams and ditches.

Sometime in the late afternoon and probably no more than 1,000 yards from where they had started that morning, Dalton looked round to see the grubby, tired faces of his squad. They huddled together for comfort, another mortar bombardment had finished and for a few seconds there was quiet, no orders, no movement; a few seconds to absorb information, rather than just react to it. Realisation of thirst and hunger filtered through, for no food or drink had passed their lips for over ten, perhaps eleven hours. Every inch of ground had been nervously traversed. With mines, snipers, concealed machine guns and all the other hardware that had been thrown at them, the last thing on their minds had been sustenance. If enemy weaponry hadn't been bad enough, Dalton was convinced that men were sometimes being hit by friendly fire. A bullet hit one of his squad in the hamstring, breaking the femur. Unless the soldier had decided to turn back, a wise decision for any sane man, then the bullet must have come from the US line.

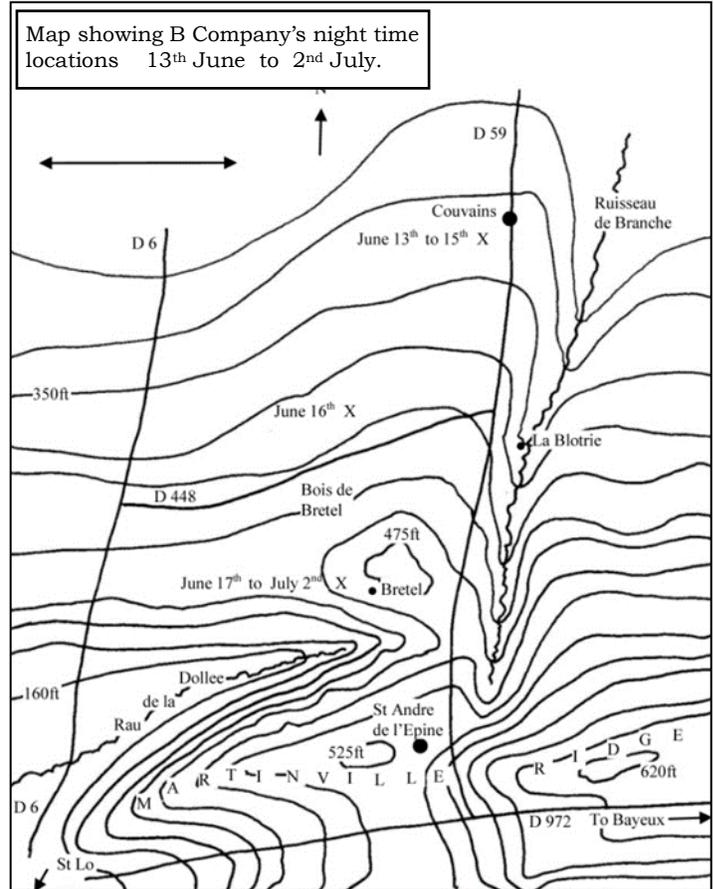
In the few seconds respite, men swigged down water from their canteens; Richmond Bell had a bullet hole in his and shared Sorrow's. A bullet had also hit his cartridge belt, exploded a clip and shredded the belt. Bell, Dalton considered, was not just clever but also had luck on his side. Many of the squad had cuts or small wounds that till now they hadn't realised they had sustained, but there would be no nursing of them.

The mortars had come from the stream bed where a gully cut west from the Ruisseau Valley. Down and out of sight, the mortars were used to their maximum advantage, travelling in their pronounced parabolic trajectory up over the lip of the gully to fall on the hard pressed GIs. Then using the gully for concealment, the mortar teams slipped south into the fields below the Martinville Ridge.

The faces of Dalton's squad would have been pitiful in any situation - tired, hungry and 'shit scared' and they now had a day's battle grime to enhance the look. Perhaps their mommas would still have recognised them, but they were permanently changed in all other respects.

Five hours later at dusk, B Company had swung west from La Blotrie and as the crow flies, had moved little more than 1,800 yards from Couvains. They now occupied the gentle upper slope of a rounded hill top, at some 480 feet at its highest and just above the hamlet of Bretel. In the gloom of a long day drawing to a close, they could see the Martinville Ridge rising up ahead of them. Their target, the town of St. André de l'Épine still lay 1,000 yards away, nestled between the two highest points of the ridge, both significantly higher than their position. Dalton and a couple of squad members stood guard, whilst the rest of the squad dug in. Now eighteen hours since they had eaten, arms and backs were weakening and the foxholes too shallow. "Keep digging," Dalton said, taking an entrenching tool and lending a hand to Shorty, one of his squad members. Almost twenty B Company men had been wounded, at least five of them very seriously but Shorty was still hanging in there. The men dug in behind the hedgerow which followed the contour of the hill in an east west direction. It offered the best protection there was.

The land sloped southward away from the men, with fields, hedgerows and clusters of trees and gradually dropped 140 feet to a stream bed, the Rau de la Dollée. Beyond the stream the



land rose again towards heights of between 500 and 600 feet. On the other side of the heavily fortified Martinville Ridge lay the town of St. Lo and the important road to Bayeux. Staring through the dying light at the formidable obstacle ahead, the men knew that the 17th June was going to be even more difficult than the dreadful day that was drawing to a close.

The digging-in finished sometime after dark, around 11.30 p.m. Watch routines had been sorted and a few men were taking their first mouthfuls of cold C rations when the company was told to withdraw from their hillside position. The front line needed realignment and 1st Battalion's position was considered to be out on a limb and vulnerable. Thus under the cover of darkness, they were ordered back across the D448 to a position about 500 yards north of Bois du Bretel, the Wood of Bretel. Here the exhausted men dug-in again. The withdrawal had been a wise decision, for around three o'clock in the morning the Germans mounted a counter attack. With the enemy moving up the Ruisseau Valley on their left flank and from Les Forges on their right flank, 1st Battalion would have been isolated and likely attacked from all sides. By luck or judgement, the line held against the counterattack and the enemy withdrew. But there was a lot of movement and no one rested.

Dalton managed to grab a couple of mouthfuls of food before first light of the 17th. The day started like the 16th with the expectation of another advance but it soon became very different. Perhaps ten minutes after the first rays of light struggled through the cloud to the east, the wretched men were subjected to a murderous mortar bombardment. Soldiers dived back into their muddy holes and pulled themselves down, for the shells fired from the edge of Bois De Bretel were well aimed. Falling with pin point

accuracy, some landed directly in foxholes. Two of Clayton's guys sheltering in the same hole took a direct hit; what was left of them was indistinguishable. Many others were hit. Blood, skin and body parts were thrown out from the emaciated bodies. Fleishy bits fell into surrounding foxholes and to a man, all uniforms were spattered with the blood of a buddy. When the shelling stopped, perhaps five or more men lay dead and double that number seriously wounded. After return fire from American artillery units, the Germans were forced to retreat and the 1st Battalion were mustered for an advance; pushing south, back towards the slopes from where they had withdrawn the night before. The move was surprisingly easy, for the enemy had likely withdrawn across the Rau de la Dollée. Dalton reached the hedge and found the foxhole he had dug in the dusk of the 16th. It wasn't long before he was wishing he had dug it even deeper. Their position with the land falling away from them to the Dollée and the Martinville Ridge rising up beyond, left the men terribly vulnerable. German spotters on the ridge immediately ordered an artillery battery into action and with prepared ranges, the field guns wrought havoc on the company. The heavy artillery shells threw out horrific quantities of shrapnel; some large enough to sever a torso.

One of Allbritton's squad had his back ripped open by shrapnel, exposing much of his spine. Vertebrae and discs were shattered and the poor guy frantically tried to move his legs whilst his foxhole became a bath of his own blood. A man in Dalton's squad sat up in his foxhole, shells falling around him, looking down at his severed legs. To hear the distraught men pleading and screaming was sickening even to those who had heard it so many times before.

The 17th was a horrid day. At the end of it, thirteen B Company soldiers lay dead and twenty others were wounded. Injuries were horrific and men flinched at the state of their buddies. The folks back home had little idea of what their sons were going through. There were many parents who prayed every night for their boys, asking God to bring them safely back home. Then when the letter arrived telling them he was 'wounded in action', they prayed their boy would soon be whole again. When it said 'killed in action', they prayed that the end had been quick, that their boy did not suffer.

The US line on the 17th June moved no further than that murderous hedgerow. On the 18th June there was no progress. The enemy's defence was solid, they were not intending to budge and US casualties were unsustainable. On the 18th June, the day shrapnel hit Dalton, General Bradley ordered the offensive stopped. That night, B Company and the remnants of Dalton's squad reoccupied their old foxholes on the slopes above Bretel, within hearing distance of enemy movements.

During the three day push towards St. André de-l'Epine, B Company suffered fifty-six casualties. Four of the six officers were wounded, including Varadian; the last remaining officer of the original eight landing on D-Day. Captain Harrelson was amongst those hit on the 17th, terminating his three day command of the company. First Lieutenant Stern and 2nd Lieutenant Van De Vort were also wounded but unlike the others, Stern returned immediately to the front line. On the 19th June, B Company received their fourth, though only third official Commander

of the campaign, not a captain this time, but 1st Lieutenant George E. Davolt.

Two pieces of shrapnel from a mortar shell had hit Dalton during one of the bombardments suffered by the company on June 18th. Only of a size slightly larger than match sticks, yet they felt like thick hot needles being pressed into his flesh; one in the back of his right arm above the elbow and the other in his right hip. Dalton moved back from the line to get attention and felt lucky that a quick trip to the field dressing station was all the attention he needed. Back beyond the carnage, he passed a damaged barn, its door and frame leaning at a precarious angle. Inside the gloom an older man lay dead on the floor. Momentarily a young woman, perhaps his daughter, stepped into view; a glimpse of dark hair, of brown eyes, the radiance of youth and clothes hanging limp against her feminine form. On seeing the soldier, she stepped back and was gone, but her image lingered long in Dalton's mind and gave meaning to an otherwise meaningless and brutal day.

Chapter 42 News from Home

20th to 23rd June.

Later on the morning of the 20th June, Dalton returned from patrol and was immediately summoned by the lieutenant.

"Get yourself back to the CP (company command post) and grab some transport to the field hospital. Chaplain wants a word with you." The lieutenant turned away, then, as though with an afterthought, turned back, looked straight at Dalton and quietly said, "Some news from home." The look on his face and the way he said it told Dalton that he must prepare, for the news wasn't good.

Moving away from the front line, carrying kit and rifle, Dalton felt his heart turn cold. Panic gripped him, his worst fears surfaced. He thought of his momma, his fingers were numb. Thought of Daddy then of Robbie, he didn't see the ground. He thought of Hetty, and he was blind to his surroundings, passed no one and nothing. Had Hetty lost the baby? No, they wouldn't call him back for a miscarriage surely, no it had to be a death, the death of someone close like a, a brother ... a parent or, or a wife.

Everything became a blur, yet he somehow found his way through the rubble of Couvains. Could Robbie have been killed in combat? Daddy was a picture of health when he last saw him and Momma too, the image of her standing in the yard when he left as vivid now as it had been when the trees first closed her from his view. Her last letter had given no hint of illness. It couldn't be Momma. It couldn't be Hetty either, fit and full of energy. Pregnant or not, Hetty always bounced from one place to another, no stopping her, ran instead of walked, no not Hetty. And she can't have lost the baby, too far pregnant and too well. Dalton's mind was in turmoil, his senses absorbed, numbed with anxiety; he wanted desperately to get back and hear the news, to stop the misery of speculation. He started to run, then slowed for he suddenly didn't want to hear the news, he wanted to turn back, return to the front line with thoughts of Hetty and home as they had always been.

From the CP he jumped in a medic's jeep heading back to the

field hospital. There were two stretchers tied across the hood and the men they carried looked in bad shape. One of their buddies had tripped a bouncing Betty, an anti-personnel mine which when tripped, would spring up to waist height before exploding. They had been walking behind and had caught some of the blast. One had his eyes covered and his facial wounds were changing the temporary bandages to a pale red colour. Their predicament became only a temporary distraction and the few miles took all too long and yet not long enough.

In the few seconds it took the lieutenant to utter those words, 'news from home', Dalton's image of home was torn to shreds. His rock that made the harsh realism of war sufferable, was sinking into the abyss of human frailty.

The news could wait he told himself, yet he jumped off the jeep and ran across to the array of tents in search of the Chaplain. It was not the same man who had known Hetty, for Dalton had seen him beneath the cliffs of Omaha. Dalton found him and together they walked away from the tents and vehicles to benches laid out behind the field kitchens. An uncomfortable silence ensued until they had walked far enough away from everyone. Finally, there in the midst of the Normandy countryside, 4,000 miles from home, Dalton sorrowfully learnt of his momma's death. She had passed away on 27th May, ten days before the beach landings. Even before he had taken his first step on French soil, she had been laid to rest in the graveyard of Wares Church.

Disbelief engulfed him and as he stared into emptiness, Wares became as vivid in his mind as if he had just closed his eyes after staring at it. His mother walked there, she was laying flowers at a small unmarked grave, whilst a child, a young boy was playing in the long grass. Seeing his mother's sombre face, the boy ran to her, stood by her side and reached up to hold her hand for the comfort it gave. Dalton and his mother walked on, passing the gravestones; their colours, their texture and the family names so vivid in his memory. Then his eyes fell upon his mother's grave and he was alone. Dalton started to cry and then he sobbed, and the Chaplain could do nothing more than leave him to his grief.

Dalton was given three days away from the front line as a form of compassionate respite from combat. On one of those, he found his way to the damaged church of Couvains, where the regimental chaplain held a service. Bob Sales and a bunch of other B Company guys attended, relieved from the front for 24 hours, a front line which had become static. The men spoke the Lord's Prayer as though God himself was physically and visibly present at the altar and as they spoke, Sales recalled that 'before the war perhaps twenty men in the company knew the 23rd Psalm, yet within a few days of combat, there weren't twenty who didn't know it.'

When Dalton arrived back to the company, Allbritton and Clayton gave him knowing looks. They were the only close buddies Dalton had left and he thanked God for them.

Clayton pulled him to one side and with a cheeky smile slipped him a drink of Calvados.

"In the Chaplain's words, we need uplifting," Clayton said with a squeeze of his arm. "Compliments of an old man who wanted to thank us for his freedom."

Not the ordinary forty percent alcohol, this was the fifty percent variety that a farmer might stow away on the back of his wagon

'for emergencies!' As only a genuine Norman would say, 'it contained the true spirit of the apple'.

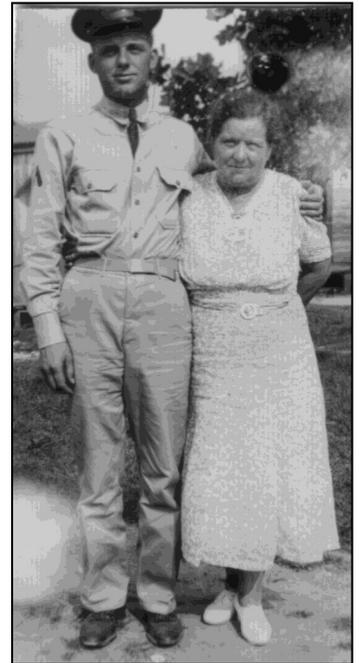
In the late evening a light rain started to fall from the Normandy sky - harmless stuff, just wet. Clayton always seemed to find something to cover his fox-hole no matter the location. With the town buildings close by, his cover this night appeared rain proof and even shell proof. Dalton scabbled by as Clayton was putting the finishing touches to his design, smoke from his cigarette escaping through the slats of wood.

"I haven't lost a man since you've been gone," Clayton said, "some squad leaders are just careless."

"And some are just bloody lucky," Dalton retorted and tried to demolish Clayton's elaborate roof with a thrust of his boot.

"Bloody lucky, you've been around those Limeys too much!" Clayton retorted and threw a clump of earth which caught Dalton on the back-side.

Dalton smiled to himself, for if mud was the only thing to hit him before morning he would wake a relieved man. Sliding down into his own foxhole, Dalton pulled his raincoat over himself just as the droplets of rain became heavier. The shower only lasted a few minutes before easing off and stopping altogether, the sky clearing and the temperature dropping in tune with the appearance of stars. As the patter of rain waned so the sounds of night time activity re-emerged. Not that of man, for both sides were now quiet; but the insect life that was there before, was there now and would still be there when the soldiers were gone and the war had become a distant memory. In the uncanny stillness and with tears running down his face, Dalton pulled his raincoat up to his chin the way his momma used to do with the blankets when he was little. "Good night Momma," he said towards the night sky and knew in his heart that she was in safe hands.



Dalton with his mother in 1941.

Chapter 43 Men Dig Their Own Graves

24th June to 2nd July.

The excessive losses incurred in reaching the slopes of the 'Martinville Ridge' had forced Bradley to stop the thrust south, but he could not remove the infantrymen from the constant danger in which they were now placed. The period following the 18th June was called the 'static period', though not by the men in B Company. On a daily and nightly basis the enemy shelled their position, snipers were an incessant threat and daily patrols, small arms fire, mines and booby traps added to the casualty figures.

On the 20th June when Dalton heard the news from home, he was also officially made Sergeant. When he arrived back at the

front line on the 23rd with his 'new' rank and without a momma, his foxhole had been strengthened and dug even deeper by the few old buddies he had left. Although the slopes above Bretel left them highly exposed, their position did not change between the 17th June and the 7th July.

The situation thus developed into a 1st World War stalemate, with each side bombarding the other and patrols creeping forward to test the strength and location of the enemy. The storm of 18th and 19th June had wrecked the Mulberry artificial harbour on Omaha Beach and this left the US artillery short of ammunition. It wouldn't be until the port of Cherbourg was captured, that supplies would arrive in the quantities needed. To compound the problems of the infantrymen, the bad weather was not only making life on and in the ground miserable, it was also leaving them bereft of air support.

From being in reserve on the 10th June and up to Dalton's 25th Birthday on 30th June, B Company suffered another 117 casualties. Making a total of 228 casualties since D-Day when 193 enlisted men and officers had landed on Omaha. Dalton's birthday passed without thought or mention, it was unimportant; to survive another day was all that preoccupied him and he gave thanks at each new morning's light. Perhaps Lieutenant Davolt found out it had been Dalton's birthday, for on the 1st July he said he was going to promote the wiry, old hand and D-Day veteran to Staff Sergeant. But the order would never be put into effect and what did rank matter when a man is on the brink of death. The promotion passed both Davolt and Dalton by and was lost in the mud of the Normandy field. Davolt was killed on the 2nd July; he had been B Company's Commander for thirteen days.

Over the course of this so called static period, the terrain was transformed into a bare, wretched landscape with up rooted trees, shell craters, vehicle tracks, ruts and mud patches over which lay broken equipment, discarded ration boxes and other personal items, shallow latrine holes and blood stains. The hedgerows were torn and stunted with gaping holes where shells had burst through. The dog rose, black thorn and holly growing in among the prickly hawthorn normally acted as a roadway for wildlife; the common dormouse, bank vole and others using it to conceal their daily routines from predators such as the kestrel and tawny owl. But the wildlife and birdsong were gone; the hedgerows now only concealed the weary infantryman. The men played their parts, predator prey, prey predator, the roles ill defined and continually interchanging to create insecurity and even paranoia. Cat and mouse, kill or be killed. Indecision, impulse, a lapse of concentration, tiredness or accidentally leaving cover and you were as dead as the humus in the soil. Thus like the twitchy wood mouse forever in fear of being eaten, the infantryman stood guard, or lay in his hole in the ground, in constant fear of being consumed by the war he pursued.

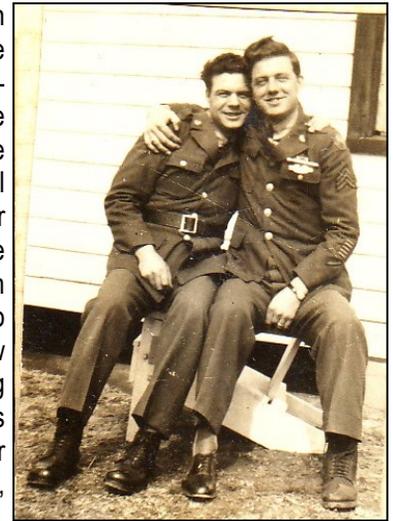
Pounded not just by 88s and mortars, 1st Battalion's positions suffered the onslaught of the big guns, the block-busting 105mm and the dreaded 150mm artillery pieces. The shell from a 105mm gun weighed over 30 pounds yet it could be fired from over 6 miles away. But in comparison, the 150mm was an infantryman's nightmare, exceeded only by the 170mm. The shell from a 150mm gun weighed 95 pounds yet it left the muzzle at 3,000 feet per second and could reach distances of almost 18 miles.

When it landed, it created an explosion which shook the ground like a powerful earthquake. For a man in the open, its concussion alone could kill at 30 feet. In lull periods, men improved their foxholes, making them more elaborate, digging them deeper and taking them into and under the hedgerow embankments. They dug down the sides, placed slats of wood, tree branches or metal bars across the top, anything they could find to support a couple of feet or more of soil. Leaving just the

last eighteen inches open, they would slide down into their 'burrows' and during a bombardment draw material across the opening, sliding to the more protected end of their entombments.

The night of the 1st July drew in and as yet there had been no bombardment. The mid-summer solstice had only just passed and the short six hour night had made no noticeable inroad on the long hours of daylight. The poor weather elongated dawn and dusk and the rain soaked the ground. Water seeping into foxholes made sleeping uncomfortable, but it was essential to snatch what sleep they could between guard duty and the regular bombardments. Dalton lay on the shelter half of his pup tent, lapping it partly around him for good measure. He couldn't recall which buddy had had the other half of the tent, for the tent had never been and would never be erected; it would have been suicide to have slept above ground. With the enemy so close, he laid his rifle with bayonet attached down one side of him and knife down the other, remaining alert for fear of the enemy scaling the hedge above him. With an overall length in excess of three feet, seven inches without the bayonet and over nine pounds in weight, the Garand M1 rifle was not the easiest weapon to wield if a German came over the hedge; the combat knife therefore added some reassurance. It was at times like these that Dalton would have liked a revolver. Small, light and needing just one hand to operate, they were ideal for close confrontations. It seemed that every German infantryman possessed one; for although originally intended for Officers, the versatile self-loading 'pistole' had spread down the ranks. The pistole 38 or 08, the renowned Luger, had now become part of the uniform and imparted an air of superiority. On crawling through hedgerows, guarding prisoners or hiding against an approaching enemy, the advantage it gave seemed immense. Dalton looked up at the edge where the hawthorn leaves touched the dark night sky and hoped the view would remain that way. Lacking a pistol, his hand lay against the cold sharp steel of his knife and he took false comfort from it, for it was no match for the Luger.

Dalton might relax a little once the point watch had been set, then sounds and movements would seem so much quieter and his hole in the ground so much more comfortable. Under the cover of darkness and armed with a field telephone, two privates



Dalton, right, with his youngest and closest brother, Robbie, in 1945.

would crawl out and dig-in to the field some yards out from the line. It was their responsibility to forewarn of a surprise attack and engage the enemy if possible. One of the Non Coms, usually a squad leader or his assistant, would be assigned to communicate with them. Fortunately the point watch of the 1st July was not Dalton's responsibility and in a few minutes he would hopefully be able to grab some sleep before the German artillery opened up. Dalton knew that the most recent replacement men would not relax all night and they would start the next day at a further disadvantage. He felt sorry for these men, whom he rarely got to know. They joined without close friends, were lonely, insecure and immediately thrust into the front line against German Veterans. The ever diminishing '42 contingent of men continued to support each other, they didn't need to converse, a look, grin or grimace communicated all, for they had lounged at the same bars and slept under the same canvas through the years of training. But now conversation had reduced to grunts, groans and gripes and it wasn't conducive to the building of new friendships. Twenty or so new men might arrive and within a week, two thirds of them had been killed or wounded. If a soldier lasted more than a week he was considered to be an 'old hand'. Dalton lost two new replacement men the day he was LWA and struggled to remember their names.

The point watch never made it over the hedge, for after 11p.m. the big 150mm German field guns started to pound 1st Battalion's position again. Inside Dalton's deep foxhole it was completely black, the earth shuddered with each hit and sent soil falling in on him, sliding down between the wooden stumps he had used to support his roof. Midnight passed and still the bombardment continued, salvo after salvo, some so close that his ears were left ringing and his brain numbed. A closer hit shook his whole body, his brain felt as though it had been knocked from side to side, he was left dizzy yet had nothing to focus upon. So much soil tumbled in that he thought he might be buried alive, his hearing had gone, he shouted but couldn't hear himself, panic gripped him, he started to flail his arms upward tearing his skin on the stumps of his roof. Then another shell hit some distance away, he heard the explosion, he got a grip of himself and lay still, safer to remain partially buried than to be out in the open. Dalton twisted round onto his stomach to allow the loose soil to fall off his face. With one hand clasping Hetty's coins on his dog tag, he squeezed his eyes tightly closed and tried to think of the woman who made his life worth living. Still the shells came in. Wounded men could not be attended to and through the night dead men started to decay in the damp earth, swelling and oozing foul smelling liquids. The huge shells sounded like they were beating the air as they screeched seemingly straight for Dalton's foxhole. Some foxholes received direct hits and body fluids and parts were spread over the tortured landscape. Living men quaked, prayed and clung to the earth. When light started to creep in through the cracks as dawn approached, there came with it the hope that soon the shelling would stop, but it didn't. It continued incessantly through the early morning hours, past five, six and then seven o'clock. Eight hours of shelling and so it continued; instilling a deep depression and desperation amongst the men. Dalton felt that he could stand it no more, yet on it went and alive he remained, despite believing that the next, then the next or the next shell would kill him. Between explosions men could be heard shouting for help, or calling to buddies, but no one answered them. Dalton passed his

calls of nature where he lay. A man maddened by the terror, ran from his foxhole and was cut down by shrapnel. Another soldier killed himself with a bullet to the head. Others cried uncontrollably and continued to shake long after the shelling finally ceased. When it did, Dalton was too frightened to move, lest it start again. But the silence, broken only by the ringing in his ears, stretched on through the seconds, slowly amounting to minutes and was uncanny, unnatural, threatening. He imagined German infantry running at that very moment towards him, guns about to blaze and a grenade thrown into his hole. The thought drove him scrabbling out into the open, the light hurt his eyes, he was stiff, numb and dazed; yet he stood, crouched amongst the carnage and checked for the assault. But there was nothing, just the intransigence of the Martinville Ridge still bearing down upon them in the mid-morning sunlight.

Men started to crawl into the light from the safety of their holes and take in their transformed surroundings, changed as if they had been transported to a different section of front line. Dalton looked across at the foxholes of his platoon and the sight caused despair to well up within him and flood his stoicism. Leaning against the hedgerow bank he allowed himself to slump slowly to the earth and drop his head back against the soil. Clayton's foxhole was gone, completely obliterated.

To be continued in the Spring 2018 edition

1-149th Infantry KYARNG becomes third maneuver battalion of the 116th

Artemus, KY — Kentucky Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry based out of London, Kentucky, conducted a patching ceremony to mark their new affiliation with the Virginia National Guard's Staunton-based 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team at the Command Sgt. Maj. Harold L. Disney Training Center Oct. 15, 2017, in Artemus, Kentucky.

"On behalf of Col. Scott Smith, I welcome the 1-149th Infantry Battalion to the brigade," said Lt. Col. Joseph DiNonno, the joint operations officer of the Virginia National Guard. "We look forward to training alongside the Mountain Warriors in the future." DiNonno most recently served as the 116th IBCT executive officer and represented Col. Scott Smith, commander of the 116th, at the patching ceremony. Smith recently returned from the U.S. Virgin Islands where elements of the 116th were the mission command headquarters for hurricane relief operations.

The 1-149 will become the third infantry maneuver battalion for the brigade. The 116th IBCT Soldiers are part of the 29th Infantry Division, and wear the "blue and gray" patch.

"We've been working on this new partnership for over two years and now it is official, said Lt. Col. Eddie Simpson, 1-149th Battalion Commander. "The infantry battalion in Kentucky has a new home as part of an infantry brigade combat team which will improve our access to training and resources in preparation for whatever missions lie ahead for the Mountain Warriors."

By Stephen D. Martin, Kentucky National Guard

The amazing case of PVT Martin Papula, of K Company, 115th Infantry

A 29er from Company K, 115th Infantry, named Pvt. Martin Papula from Luzerne, PA (near Wilkes-Barre), pulled off one of the most amazing deceptions in the history of the US Army in World War II.

During the heavy fighting in the high range of hills east of the village of Percy, Normandy, in the first two days of August 1944, Papula was listed as missing in action. Involved in a major shift of direction eastward toward the 29th Division's main objective of Vire, the 115th had little time to investigate Papula's case. With his status still a mystery, the 115th dropped Papula from its rolls on August 30. A year later, in August 1945, the Adjutant General's office of the US Army declared Papula "killed in action," without having located a trace of his body, and reported its finding of death to his family in Pennsylvania.

In preparation for moving US soldiers who had been killed in action into permanent European cemeteries (or transferring their bodies home to the US), US Army Graves Registration personnel made a careful search of the Percy area, specifically near the village of Montabot, where Company K, 115th, had been heavily engaged on August 2, 1944.

For months, French citizens of the area professed no knowledge of isolated burials of US troops... However, in April 1947, a Montabot gendarme reported that a quarrel between two local citizens hinted that a young American male was employed by a local business.

US Army military police investigated and promptly found Pvt. Papula. "Private Papula knows his name, serial number, and organization, and can clearly give those details in English," a report noted, "but apparently he has lost most of his ability to speak English and now thinks in French. His French is so convincing that he could pass anywhere as a French peasant. Under interrogation, he was able to recall names of baseball players and other celebrities."

Papula claimed memory loss, declaring "that he had no recollection of leaving his unit and that, by the time he recovered his memory, he did not dare to report himself to American or French military authorities, fearing he would be tried as a deserter."

Papula worked for nearly three years as a laborer in the Percy - Montabot area, and all local citizens said his work and conduct were "excellent."

Papula was indeed charged with desertion and placed in confinement. The story made it into stateside newspapers although Private Papula's fate after his arrest is unknown. In all likelihood, he was court-martialed and sentenced to several years at hard labor in a federal penitentiary.

Imagine the surprise of Papula's mother, Hannah, when she learned in April 1947 that her son was still alive. She had been told by the War Department two years previously that her son was dead and would be listed on the wall of the missing at an American Military Cemetery in Normandy.

Papula was a D-Day veteran who had landed on Omaha Beach on the morning of June 6 with Company K, commanded by Capt. Louis Hille.

29th Division Morning Reports now on website

Summaries from tens of thousands "morning reports" from the 29th Division during a key period in World War II are now available on the 29th Division Association website through the efforts of the Maryland Museum of Military History and veteran Ralph Windler.

The museum obtained from the US Army Personnel Records Branch in St. Louis every single 29th Division morning report (essentially a daily record of every company within the division) from D-Day through V-E Day, which spans the period from June 1, 1944 to May 31, 1945.

These records were originally recorded by company clerks, sometimes under duress, on roughly 4x8 inch multi-page forms. Some records had been lost. Others were extremely difficult to read due to degradation.

Windler, a 29th Division World War II veteran, asked the museum to print out the morning reports so that he could catalogue and index them in an Excel spreadsheet.

Windler read and transcribed each report line item into a spreadsheet that now has over 122,500 entries and is available at www.29thDivisionAssociation.com.

A caveat that this record of events of the 29th Division should not be considered a definitive history. At each stage (company clerk, microfiche conversion and transcription to spreadsheet) errors can and certainly did occur.

Windler has donated paper and electronic versions of all the morning reports to the Maryland Museum of Military History at the Fifth Regiment Armory in Baltimore, MD.

By Neil Ungerleider, Webmaster, Post 93

NEC II

Thursday, 25 January 2018

Pikesville, Maryland

at the

**Pikesville Military Reservation
NCO Club**

The meeting will commence promptly at 0930 hours. Get there early to enjoy coffee, donuts & bagels with your esteemed comrades. A noon meal (Lunch) will be provided.

Cost is \$15

Checks made payable to: 29th Division Association, for \$15 and mailed no later than 18 January 2018.

to:

**William Mund
441 Chalfonte Drive**

Lynchburg-based infantry battalion receives second national training readiness award

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Virginia National Guard's Lynchburg-based 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team was recognized as the most combat-ready Army National Guard battalion in the country with the Walter T. Kerwin, Jr., Readiness Award Oct. 9, 2017, at the Association of the United States Army Guard and Reserve Breakfast in Washington, D.C. Gen. Robert B. Abrams, commander of U.S. Army Forces Command, presented the award to Maj. Scott A. Nivens, the battalion executive officer, and Command Sgt. Maj. Irving N. Reed, Jr., the battalion command sergeant major. Lt. Col. Christopher J. Samulski, commander of the battalion, was not able to attend because of his deployment with the 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team to the U.S. Virgin Islands where Soldiers of the 116th are assisting with hurricane recovery operations. The El Paso, Texas-based 900th Quartermaster Company received the award for the U.S. Army Reserve.

"What is common between these two units is that they sustained readiness while either on an operational deployment or during a series of exercises, and sustained readiness creates a culture of being ready all the time, not just episodically," Abrams said. "The 116th and the 900th Quartermaster Company's tremendous efforts are deserving to be recognized. This is the level of readiness we need across the entire Army, and these units are leading the way."

AUSA, along with the National Guard Association of the United States and Reserve Officers Association, presents the Kerwin Award each year to the most outstanding Army National Guard and Army Reserve units. The Chief of National Guard Bureau selects the Army National Guard winner. Evaluation criteria for the Kerwin include the areas of assigned personnel strength, percentage of personnel qualified in their duty position, attendance at monthly drill weekends and annual training, individual weapons qualification scores and physical fitness test scores. Battalions also must have an effective maintenance program for all units and must achieve readiness objectives as outlined by U.S. Forces Command.

"The award speaks to commitment to service to our country, and that they are all in," said Lt. Gen. Timothy J. Kadavy, director of the Army National Guard. "It is a tremendous organization that has served in Virginia and served overseas in Qatar, and they are who the National Guard is and what they are about. It shows what you can achieve. When you focus on it, apply the resources and have a strategy, you can achieve the required readiness at the time and at the level required."

The battalion served on federal active duty conducting security operations in Qatar from May 2016 to April 2017, and they also conducted multiple domestic operations response missions in 2016 assisting citizens of Virginia during times of hazardous weather.

For the 2016 training year, the battalion had 99 percent annual training attendance, more than 98 percent drill attendance, 100 percent duty military occupational speciality qualification rate, 93

percent Army Physical Fitness Test pass rate and 100 percent weapons qualification rate.

In September 2017, the battalion received the Major General Milton A. Reckord Trophy for training excellence at the National Guard Association of the United States General Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. NGAUS presents the Reckord Trophy each year to the Army National Guard battalion that achieves the highest state of readiness in the country. The command team for the Bedford-based Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment also accepted the Pershing Plaque for marksmanship excellence as the Army National Guard unit attaining the highest figure of merit during annual qualification firing with assigned individual weapons.

"This award illustrates a solid training program, planned by outstanding leaders and executed by terrific Soldiers," said Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia, about the Reckord Trophy. "It shows that the units in the Virginia National Guard know what right looks like, and we can compete at the national level. Most importantly, it shows that we are trained and ready to accomplish our state and federal mission, and it sets an example for commitment to high standards that every unit should follow."

For the Reckord Trophy, the battalion must have demonstrated superior performance in the areas of personnel strength, retention, duty MOS qualification, individual and crew-served weapons qualification, the Army Physical Fitness Test, drill weekend attendance and annual training attendance. The battalion, along with its organic units, must have demonstrated a commitment to the welfare of its members and their families and to its communities during the training year for which being nominated.

"It was an honor to command such an outstanding unit and to accept the Reckord Trophy on behalf of the officers, NCOs and Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment," Samulski said. Their continuous hard work and steadfast focus on training has once again made this battalion one of the best in the Army National Guard."

Earlier this year, several 1st Battalion units were recognized for training excellence:

The Christiansburg-based Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment was recognized as the recipient of the Eisenhower Trophy as the top company-level unit in the Virginia Army National Guard. The award is presented to the unit that ranks the highest in areas of assigned personnel strength, percentage of personnel qualified in their duty position, attendance at monthly drill weekends and annual training, individual weapons qualification scores and physical fitness test scores.

Alpha Company received the state-level National Guard Pershing Trophy and Certificate of Victory for achieving the highest marksmanship scores in the Virginia Army National Guard in annual qualification with assigned individual weapons.

(Continued on page 14)



Gen. Robert B. Abrams, commander of U.S. Army Forces Command, presents the Walter T. Kerwin, Jr., Readiness Award to Maj. Scott A. Nivens, the 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment executive officer, and Command Sgt. Maj. Irving N. Reed, Jr., the battalion command sergeant major, Oct. 9, 2017, at the Association of the United States Army Guard and Reserve Breakfast in Washington, D.C. Joining the award presentation were (from left to right) Maj. Gen. Blake C. Ortner, commander of the 29th Infantry Division, and Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald L. Smith, Jr., the 29th Infantry Division command sergeant major. (U.S. National Guard photo by Cotton Puryear)

The Lexington-based Bravo Company, Charlie Company and the Lynchburg-based Headquarters Company also received the Virginia Army National Guard Excellence in Training and Superior Unit awards.

To earn the Superior Unit Award, a unit must maintain an assigned strength of 95 percent of authorized each month of the training year for which being nominated, maintain monthly drill attendance of 95 percent, attain annual training attendance of 95 percent, have 95 percent of all assigned personnel qualify with their assigned weapon and have 90 percent of all assigned personnel pass the Army Physical Fitness Test.

To earn the Excellence in Training Award, a unit must have 90 percent of all personnel qualified in their military occupational specialty, have 95 percent of all personnel present for annual training or receive constructive credit for AT attendance, maintain monthly drill attendance of 90 percent, have 95 percent of all assigned personnel qualify with their assigned weapon, have 95 percent of all crews qualify on their assigned crew-served weapons, have 90 percent of all assigned personnel pass the Army Physical Fitness Test and pass the Organizational Inspection Program in all training categories.

The Kerwin award was named for retired Gen. Walter T. Kerwin, Jr., who served as the first commander of United States Forces Command and also as Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army from 1974 to 1978. Kerwin was a strong advocate of the "One Army," or "Total Army," concept that recognized the impor-

tant role of the National Guard and U. S. Army Reserve. The plans and programs he set in motion resulted in a significant improvement in the readiness of reserve components.

Milton A. Reckord commanded the 115th Infantry Regiment of the 29th Infantry Division during World War I and was appointed Adjutant General of the Maryland National Guard in 1920. In 1934, while still serving as Maryland's Adjutant General, he assumed command of the 29th Infantry Division. After World War II, Reckord returned to his post as the Adjutant General of Maryland and continued to serve as Adjutant General until his retirement in 1966. During the years between the First and Second World War, Reckord was a leading advocate for increasing the role of the National Guard in the United States' national defensive strategy. In 1933, he authored legislation that permanently gave National Guard personnel status as both state and federal troops.

The battalion also received the Kerwin Award in 2013 and in 2004 when it had the unit designation 2nd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment.

The Gate City-based 1030th Transportation Battalion, 329th Regional Support Group was recognized with the Kerwin Award for the 2009 training year.

The Winchester-based 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team was recognized with both the Reckord Trophy and Kerwin Award during training year 2007.

By Cotton Puryear, VAARNG, Public Affairs

Recent tour of the Normandy Battlefields; from Omaha Beach to Saint Lo

Although I have been to Normandy on two previous occasions, they were both while I was still in uniform and they were official functions which were constrained by schedules and formality. A long time comrade of mine owns several small businesses, one of which is a guided tour business in which he focuses on the wartime events of the 116th Infantry Regiment of the 29th Infantry Division.

Ted Shuey, BG Retired, has been personally studying the 116th Regiment's historic assault of Omaha Beach, D-Day, 6 June 1944 since the early 90's and has published three noteworthy documents out of his research. He has spent countless days in France making friends among the local populace in those areas where the Division fought, suffered, and ultimately accomplished their mission of the defeat of Nazi Germany. As a result of his efforts, he had uncovered a treasure trove of information known only to the warfighter on the ground, and in some instances to the local French citizens who were inextricably caught up in the contest of survival. Ted has not only put much of this into the text and extraordinary images of his publications, but he is so articulate in his sharing of the detailed accounts of battle as we, the tour group, stood on the ground as he relates in great detail, event after event, after event.

Ted was assisted by Jimmy Kilbourne, a VMI graduate (84 as I recall) and retired LTC in the 29th Division (who is in training to guide future tours) and by Margaret and John (Jean), French citizens who acted both as interpreters and navigation advisors in finding some of the more obscure events and monuments which played, at the tactical level, and important part in the performance of the 29th Division. Margaret is a NJ native who speaks English, French, and German so she was most helpful at the language barrier.

A brief overview of the 29th Division and the makeup of the tour group:

The 29th Division of WWII was made up of National Guard units from Maryland and Virginia. I will confine this primarily to the large maneuver units which was the 116th Regiment of Virginia, the 115th Regiment of MD, and the 175th regiment of MD.

The tour group for this trip (23-29 Sept 2017) was 10, not including aforementioned guides. It included people from Maryland and from Virginia; it also included a brother and two sisters from Florida who were there due to a family link wherein their Father was severely wounded in a carefully laid Wehrmacht MG-42 beaten zone as the 29th maneuver unit was en-route to Saint Lo. This was a special stop for the tour as the family laid flowers on the remote and largely unknown marker of this event. I think it is safe to say that there are scores of such markers from 6-June 44 until 8-May 45. The group traveled distributed among 3 Mercedes Benz vans, driven by Ted, Jimmy, and Jean. Hundreds of KM was put on each van, I am guessing 400-500 minimum and most all of this was on very narrow asphalt roadways not more than 10 feet wide.

What I cannot cover very well is the absolutely humbling feeling that I got every time I stood in a German strong point and looked out the firing ports or just gazed down range in shocked awe at their fields of fire and knowing that on D-Day, that field of fire was nothing less than a target rich environment of American

(and British and Canadian and other allies) men and equipment.

I offer that there were 4 categories of soldiers who landed on Omaha Beach, 6 JUN 44 as follows:

1. Those who died there
2. Those who were wounded there (severity varied greatly)
3. Those who survived the landing but became KIA or WIA in later actions thus terminating the war for them
4. Those who survived the landing and the remainder of the war.

Then there were those countless soldiers who joined the fight inland, post-D-Day, as replacements. I can tell you that the 29th Division was more than 100% replaced, as an item of headcount, even though there were many individuals who landed on the first wave and were still present for duty on 8 May 45. There was a time when the Regiment would hold an annual "Muster" and it would be attended by scores of D-Day veterans. They were a pleasure to spend time with. Father time has cut deeply into this base of soldiers. God Bless them all.

The most impressive reality which consumed me relative to the unbelievable tenacity and fighting spirit of the American soldier in the assault of Fortress Europe centered around the formidable and cleverly thought-out German strongpoints (Widerstandnest or WN) which were identified and numbered by the designation WN-60, WN-61, etc. On the eastern end (left flank of 29ID) was WN-60 and these ran consecutively to the western flank to WN-73. The WN typically contained a major caliber gun ranging in sizes to include 50mm AT weapons, 88mm AA weapons, 105mm howitzers, 152mm howitzers, and 155mm naval guns. More typically, these were in batteries of 4. Some of these were actually an installed tank turret and others were simply a field or naval piece adapted to the task. They were also of mixed country of origin. Rommel was not choosy; if it was big and powerful, and he was short of his preference (which I believe was 88mm), he would install what was available. In addition to these major caliber guns, the terrain was heavily populated by machine guns and mortars, German Infantry, and panzerfausts (Anti-Tank weapon). The venerable MG-42, at the time, was the highest rate of fire weapon on the planet; up to 1500 rounds per minute. It sounded more like a chain saw than a machine gun.

The other impressive fact of life was the blending and orienting fields of fire into the landscape. The WNs were steel reinforced concrete structures with walls and ceilings measured in meters; typically 1.5 – 2 meters thick. The major caliber weapons were not oriented to fire out to sea, 90 degrees to the coast line. No, they had a field of fire up or down the beach and there was typically a concrete wall which both protected the WN from direct "frontal" fire and also assisted in shielding the muzzle blast from detection directly out front. With this orientation the WN would place flanking fire on assault forces and equipment. The assaulting forces would be oriented on what is in front of them and not what may be miles away on their flank. At the same time, an adjacent or neighboring WN would be oriented also for flanking fire and could protect the neighbor WN from frontal assault via its flanking fire. Just imagine this scheme of mutual protective fires from protected positions and interlocking fires over large ex-



Group photo of tour attendees at Omaha Beach.

panses of beach and water, over the complete span of all of the Assault Beaches; Omaha, Utah, Gold, Juno, and Sword. To ensure that I do not leave question in this list of beaches and have someone wonder "Where is Pointe Du Hoe?": it is in fact Charlie Beach, located between Utah and Omaha Beaches.

As if the above was the only challenge to the assault force, now add to this the low tide distance from dismount to some effective cover from direct and indirect fire. I think I read somewhere that on Omaha beach only 6 water craft actually landed at the planned point. Everybody else was not only completely soaked with water, but were disoriented and without leadership to make decisions and take effective actions. The beach was densely populated with obstacles against landing craft, and the typical distance over open sand for a soldier loaded with 60-100 pounds (not counting the water they soaked up) was 300 yards. There were no bomb or naval gun craters on the beach for the soldier to use as temporary refuge as he made his way inland. The only craters I observed were up on the top of Pointe Du Hoe. These were made by a combination of bombing runs by both the 6th and 9th Army Air Corps beginning several months in advance of the D-Day landing. These are tremendous craters estimated at 15+ ft deep and 25+ ft diameter. Rommel had installed 4 million mines and 500 thousand obstacles. He planned to install 50-100 million mines on his Atlantic wall.

Our group spent 3 nights in a hotel basically at the Vierville Draw. Every morning was breakfast on the hotel which if you have traveled in Europe you know that their breakfast is good but not your normal American breakfast. Evening meal, Dinner, was also part of the tour package but lunch was on the road and we just stopped where ever was convenient and each party treated themselves. Our second full day after breakfast, we met to go through the schedule for the day. Weather caused some adjust-

ment, but we struck off to Pointe Du Hoe and the story of Colonel Rudder and the 2nd Rangers that scaled those cliffs. We drove from the hotel down the coast road, which the 116th followed to relieve the beleaguered Rangers.

From there, we continued on the coast road to Grand Camp, stopping to visit the monument recognizing the attack by Frank Peregoy (116th) that earned him the Medal of Honor. We continued to Carentan where the Airborne played such an important part, then to the Utah Beach Museum. We went to the farm where Dick Winters led an airborne detail in the destruction of a battery of German guns threatening the landings. Here again as in many instances, Ted's well developed contacts in the countryside gave us a grand advantage as we were essentially special guests of the landowner (and prosperous farmer) who took us on a foot march while he discussed the details of what occurred on his family property. Again, his courtyard configuration of home and outbuildings were 1000 year old relics.

As the day winds down, we found ourselves in Ste Marie Eglise, visiting the famous Church and the Airborne Museum located there. The town has a mannequin in parachute hung on one corner of the church just like in the movie except that they have put him on the wrong corner. If he were on the historically correct corner, he would not be in convenient view to the general public. We enjoyed dinner out that night before heading back to the hotel for our third and final night on the coast. It will be another busy day, but I think all were amazed at all we saw and learned regarding the Americans on D-Day. We all had questions and most often when a question would be asked, it would inevitably trigger the guides to recall some related event so there was constant back and forth as we drove from one point of interest to another.

After the third night at the Casino, full Day Three began with

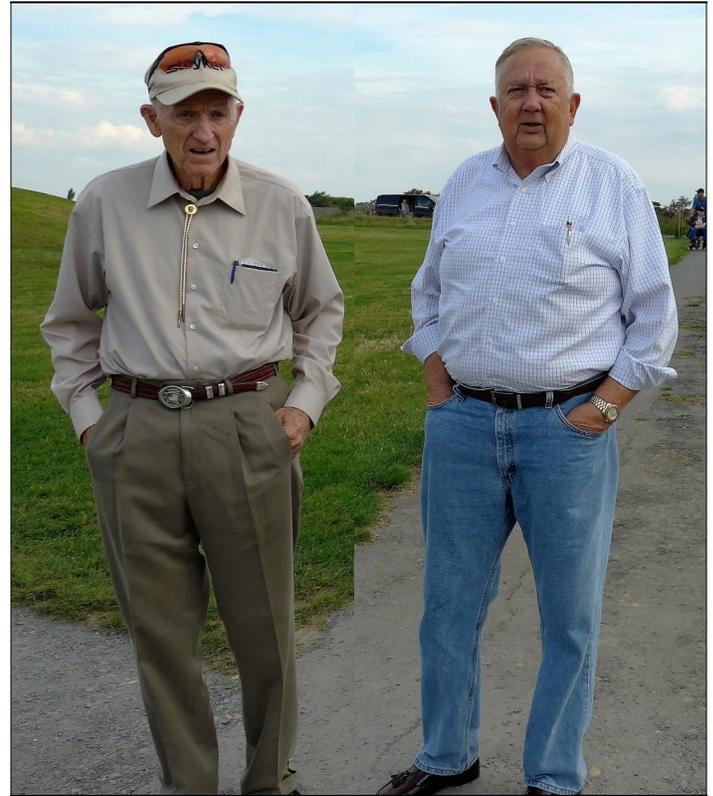
our checking out and heading south to the German Cemetery. From here, we followed the route of the 29th Division as it advanced to St. Lo. Arriving there, we visited a number of sites related to the Division taking the city and allowing General George Patton to unleash his Third Army attack known as "Operation Cobra." We had lunch in St. Lo, had a fine presentation by a local Frenchman (Michael Yannaghas) who was an associate of Ted's, before heading back to Paris late in the afternoon. This presentation was done in what was a Church of some kind built over a thousand years ago, had been heavily damaged during the battle for Saint Lo but fully restored as a building but is not currently used as a religious building, rather, is used as a point of interest and a discussion of WWII. They have a very clever 3-D terrain model with embedded lights which are turned on and off by the presenter as he discussed opposing force movements and actions and outcomes.

I mentioned somewhere above, a draw. This is a terrain feature which is essentially a very small valley that carves a small sloped area from high ground down to beach level. There are not very many of these draws on the Normandy coast and even then, all of them are not open but are forested or overgrown and not at all compatible for traffic in terms of slope. Even fewer of them are actually a roadway. These features then were very important as they offered a logistic multiplier once conquered.

One evening, and I cannot swear which one it was, Ted announced that we were going to visit a cemetery and that there was to be a flag lowering event and that I was invited to participate in the folding of the flag. I shared this description with a few friends and one came back to suggest that I write the whole trip up in some detail and share it. So this is it; this is the whole trip, and I will add next the original flag lowering description to make it complete.

I had the unique opportunity to lower and fold the US Flag at a Military Cemetery. This was completely unexpected and unrehearsed. One of our guides knew the Cemetery Director and had mentioned that our group included a former commander of the 29th Infantry Division and so they were excited that I assist them in the Flag ceremony. The Cemetery Director had already selected a WWII veteran (a Navy veteran of the Pacific Campaign), based on the ball cap he was wearing, to assist them. It so happened that I had met the Vet earlier in the week at some other favored spot. He was in a wheel chair, travelling with several members of his family. So the flag was lowered to Taps by a Cemetery security guard and handed to the folding party and I did the folding. Fortunately I have folded a few flags and the process went like I was a robot and ended with a very appropriate tail to tuck in to the field of stars. The Vet and I spent the next 30 minutes posing for photos by the audience; and with the audience.

Another feature of the tour is one that is centered on the little appreciated aspect of warfare generally known as logistics. How does one logistically support such a massive undertaking when there are no ports under control of the assaulting force? The allied forces conceived the answer to this question, constructed the necessary material, towed it all into place off the coast of Nor-



MG (Ret) Carroll Childers, (left) and BG (Ret) Ted Shuey.

mandy, and had it operating successfully until a terrific storm disrupted it. You will visit a museum which has scale models of what were known as Mulberrys, or artificial harbors, (lots of piece-parts; massive undertaking) and the system is explained in great detail. Two Mulberrys were put in place; one in the American sector and one in the British sector.

In closing, I will add that I am not an agent of BG Shuey's but if you have an interest in the historic event known as D-Day, you will never find a better way to spend a week of immersive learning than via the program operated by Ted. We flew out of Dulles International on the evening of 23 Sept and arrived in Paris about dawn on 24 Sept. Time delta between DC and Paris is 6 hours. A Jet Stream of up to 132MPH creates a headwind on the return trip. The tour time frame was set for a return about noon on 29 Sept, allowing one full day (28 Sept) in Paris. Being the country boy that I am, I opted to pay a fee to take a flight out on 28 Sept and skip the big city shopping spree.

Of course everyone got a small sample of Omaha Sand from the beach and some also selected a "shingle" from the eastern limit of the Omaha Beach. There was once shingle (a small oval shaped, nearly flat smooth rock which the channel somehow produces and deposits on the beach) bed several yards wide and some unknown depth, along all of Omaha Beach (and perhaps Utah also, I cannot swear to this) but after the war, it was almost entirely all processed into road bed material to re-road the countryside. Over the past few years, the sea has begun to replenish this resource. Seems to be doing a good job.

*Article by Carroll D. Childers. Major General (Ret)
15th CG of the 29th Infantry Division 1996-1999*

99th Annual Convention & Reunion honors the 100th Anniversary of the 29th Division

(Continued from page 1)

ered for a bus trip to the Fifth Regiment Armory for a tour of the Maryland Museum of Military History followed by lunch, shopping and sightseeing at Harbor Place in downtown Baltimore. Joe Balkoski, National Historian, greeted the group in the Reckord Lounge and provided an overview of the recently refurbished museum and the new World War I display.

Joe and recently appointed MNG Command Historian, 1LT Mary Lyons, led the group through the various museum rooms pointing out some of the recently restored items such as the Civil War tin-types and Alfred Wordsworth Thompson's 1876 painting of General Smallwood leaving Annapolis with the Maryland Line to join the Continental Army in the American Revolution. The World War I and World War II rooms were particular favorites where many unique, and in some cases rare artifacts impressed the conventioners.

Another highlight of the tour occurred in the museum library where Joe discussed the various unique research resources. As an example, he selected the World War II guest book of the 29th Division that included the signatures of Dwight Eisenhower, Omar Bradley and in his inimitable style, Bernard Montgomery, who required several lines for his signature as Field Marshal.

The tour ended outside of the armory at the World War II monument to the 29th Division that was dedicated 33 years ago on 6 June 1984, the fortieth anniversary of the D-Day landings. Many of those gathered took the opportunity to have their picture taken standing next to this magnificently crafted monument.

That evening we all gathered for a delicious buffet dinner (overall, the food and service throughout the weekend were very good) and the premiere of a new video on the history of the 29th Infantry Division. Inspired by Frank Rauschenberg, Post #48 Commander, PNC and current Post #110 Commander David Ginsburg along with NH Joe Balkoski began production of the video over a year ago. Frank's vision was to share the history and accomplishments of the vaunted 29th Division with as wide an audience as possible so that all generations would understand and appreciate the extensive service of the division over the past 100 years. All in attendance were very impressed with the quality of the video and Cameron Reeve and Gino Moscati must be recognized for their substantial contribution to its production.

The video is approximately 30 minutes long and begins with cell phone footage from inside a Humvee somewhere in Iraq when the team comes under small arms fire. The rat-a-tat of the firing and the rapid response of the troops inside immediately catch the attention of the viewers. In this opening scene we meet CSM Tom Thompson who as a modern day member of the MNG has been deployed to the Middle East multiple times as part of the current 29th Division. CSM Thompson recounted this experience and noted that as he looked at his watch the date was 6 June - quite an irony.

With that connection established we next meet Steve Melnikoff who served in Company C of the 175th Infantry and landed on Omaha Beach on D+1. Steve vividly recalls his service in Europe from his wounding on Hill 108, the capture of Brest, the crossing of the Ruhr River and capture of Julich, Germany and the final occupation of Bremen. His memory was so sharp that you might have thought he just returned.

Throughout the video there are newsreel footage, photographs

and paintings, as well as Joe Balkoski's narration tracing the 29th Division back to its roots in the Revolutionary War as the Maryland Line/400 who saved the day at the Battle of Long Island. It is here that we meet BG (ret) Ted Shuey former assistant commander, 29th Division (L) and commander, 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry. Ted brings the Blue and the Gray together, as units from the Confederate army (the Stonewall Brigade) and Union army are combined to form the 29th Division in 1917 for World War I adopting the Blue/Gray yin yang as the division patch representing a reunion of former enemies.

After watching the video and appreciating the high quality production, I can only say, "move over Ken Burns!"

On Saturday Commander Robert Wisch presided over the business meeting reporting on significant events and efforts of the past year. The highlight of the meeting was the election of new officers headed by the new National Commander Grant Hayden, SRVC and former commander of the 29th Infantry Division.

That night we all gathered for the marquee event of the weekend: the Blue and Gray Ball featuring a plated dinner and dancing to the 1940's big band era sound of *Ain't Misbehavin'* provided by our own Lee Hofman. Commander Wisch kicked off the festivities with a champagne toast that we partook in souvenir 29th Division fluted glasses. In addition there were souvenir placemats for all that featured the whimsical cartoons of the World War II 29th Division drawn by the Baltimore Sun's Richard "Moco" Yardley.

There was a very poignant moment after dinner. Commander Wisch recognized Major Thomas Howie's daughter, Sally, who was seated at the podium. Commander Wisch read a letter that her father wrote to her when he was in England training for the D-Day invasion that touched the hearts of everyone present. Howie forever would become known as the "Major of St. Lo" where he was killed in action, never seeing his beloved daughter again.

On a lighter note Commander Wisch shared his newly minted song "29 Let's Go" which he dedicated to the soldiers of the 29th Division.

We were honored to have as the guest speaker for the evening MG Blake Ortner, current commander of the 29th Division. MG Ortner spoke about the rich history of the division and its high level of preparedness today as it deployed in 2016 to Jordan where members of the 29th assumed command of the military's joint operations center there to support Operation Inherent Resolve. It was apparent that the 29th is in very good hands with MG Ortner at the helm.

The highlight of the evening featured our World War II veterans. They gathered on dance floor after dinner for a special toast featuring Calvados, the apple cider brandy that was so popular in Normandy. Raising their glasses in a memorable toast were Roy Baker - D/115, Norman Duncan - E/116, John Fowler - B/104, Leonard Jindra - F/115, Walter Heline - A/224, Steve Melnikoff - C/175 and Robert Tawes - L/115. The cameras were flashing as everyone captured this very special moment.

The convention ended on Sunday with a memorial service led by National Chaplain, Reverend John W. Schildt. It was a poignant service recalling those who passed during the last year.

We will reconvene next year in Roanoke, VA for the 100th Annual Convention and Reunion, 11 October through 14 October 2018.

Robert Roser: Surprising *Twenty-Niner* Internet Discov-

Recently *The Twenty-Niner* received a letter from Robert H. Roser, Jr., a member of Post 78/Cresap's Rifles. Robert is the son of 1LT Robert H. Roser, Sr. who served in Headquarters, First Battalion & B Companies of the 175th Infantry during World War II. Robert Sr. was an active member of the 29th Division Association and passed away in 2000 at the age of 80.

As Robert recounts in his letter, his son was Googling his grandfather's name when he came across the following website: <http://www.usmilitariaforum.com/forums/index.php?/topic/16661-normandy-dug-up-grouping-hill-108-st-lo/page-18>. At the site he discovered a very interesting posting on 8 March 2013:

"I add this picture of the new addition in the collection. This dog tag was found a few months ago at St Renan, North of Brest, by a collector friend of mine. Needless to say I've been looking to it for a long time and today we finally made a trade so the tag is home. Other stuff displayed around are for the exhibit, most are related to 29th Division, except the religious medal and PH ribbon.



According to Morning Reports, 1LT Robert H. Roser landed as 2nd Lt, HHC 1/175th. He was later transferred to B Co as Platoon leader. WIA July 17th near St Lô, returning to unit in August during the battle for Vire. At Brest he was promoted Commanding Officer on Sept 1st, but was badly wounded the same day. The 1/175 was then fighting for Hill

103 at Plouzane. LT Roser never returned to duty. Hope I'll be able to find a period photo of him."

One can only imagine his reaction when he noticed that the picture included his grandfather's dog tag.

On 12 November 2016, Robert posted three pictures of his father as requested by the original poster named "Yannick." He provided one of his father in his later years at a 29th Division Association Convention, another as a Corporal in the 26th Infantry Regiment/1st Division before he was sent to OCS and then joined the 29th Division, and finally, one with Robert Jr's mother in 1942.

Robert further indicates in his letter to *The Twenty-Niner*:

"My father received three purple hearts. The one not mentioned here (in the posting) was received on Aug 31 during another assault on the German lines. He had placed a piece of plywood with a map overlay inside his shirt which stopped some shrapnel, though he still had some until his death. His third purple heart on 1 Sept was from a short American mortar round. He was shot through the face by the shrapnel. He said a French priest found him and did an emergency tracheotomy on him in the field.

The poster said the dog tags were found at St. Renan. I wonder if that was a field hospital location as it is north of Brest and Plouzane is east of Brest.

Interesting that Yannick placed a Lutheran chaplain's badge in



the mix. My father considered himself a "Protestant" without the further designation but told me once he was baptized in a Lutheran church.

I have tried on several occasions to find "Yannick". The name can be Breton or Flemish. I did find a man with that name who does 29th Division re-enacting events but he has not answered my inquiries."

The editorial staff of *The Twenty-Niner* greatly appreciates Robert's sharing this information with us and ultimately with the Association. We will be eternally grateful for the sacrifices that his father and others made to save the world from the despotism of the Nazis. We are also grateful to our many friends in Europe for perpetuating the memories of these brave young men who helped to free their countries.

Article by Frank Armiger, Post 110
Assistant Editor

Attention

Veterans who served in France 1944

Veterans who helped liberate France could receive medal — U.S. veterans who helped in the liberation of France during World War II could be eligible to receive the French Legion of Honor Medal in the future.

This medal was previously only issued to WWI vets. Those applying must have written documentation, which is normally a copy of his/her military separation order, DD-214, and other official orders, which verifies their military history during combat. Members of the Army, Army Air Corps, Navy and Coast Guard who participated in one of the four major campaigns in the liberation of France (Normandy, Southern France, Northern France and the Ardennes) are eligible for this French award.

Any previous military awards such as the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, etc., would indicate meritorious actions during combat operations.

Copies of these documents should be forwarded with the request for consideration for the French Legion of Honor to the Defense Attaché, Embassy of France, 4101 Reservoir Road NW, Washington, DC 20007.

These French medals must be approved by the Legion of Honor Committee in Paris, France, after appropriate review. Approximately 100 French Legion of Honor Medals will be awarded each year in the U.S. at the home of each veteran or at public ceremony during a patriotic holiday.

These arrangements will be made after the awardees have been notified. To find out more, contact the French Defense Attaché at

Donald A. McCarthy

26 January 1924 — 1 August 2017

Past National Commander — 1995 - 1996

Past National Commander Donald A. McCarthy of North Smithfield, Rhode Island, formerly of Warwick, passed away on Tuesday, August 1, 2017 at Landmark Medical Center in Woonsocket. He was the beloved husband of 70 years of Elaine M. (O'Shea) McCarthy. Born in Boston, Donald was a son of the late William A. and Doris M. (McArdle) McCarthy.

Donald was employed as a Communications Manager for the former New England Telephone Company at the Newport Naval Base as well as Quonset and Davisville bases and later was a Communications Manager for Amtrak. He was also the owner and operator of Atlantic Marble Restoration for ten years.

During World War II, Donald honorably served in the 1st Battalion, 116th Regiment, 29th Infantry Division of the US Army. He was the Commander of the 29th Division Association from 1995-96 and made 14 visits to Normandy. On July 24, 2014, he was awarded the French Foreign Legion of Honor in Normandy.



Donald was a communicant of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Warwick. He was also a member of the Board of Directors at Save the Bay and a member of the Providence Rotary and the Providence Chamber of Commerce. Prior to residing in RI, Donald lived in Needham, MA where he was active in St. Joseph's Church and the Knights of Columbus. Donald was also a resident of Bristol, RI from 1962 – 1977 and an active communicant of St. Mary Parish.

In addition to his beloved wife, Donald is survived by four loving sons: Donald A. McCarthy, Jr. (Denise) of Portsmouth, RI, James I. McCarthy (Janet) of Charlestown, RI, Raymond M. McCarthy of No. Kingstown, RI and William A. McCarthy (Emily) of Exeter, RI;

ten grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

His funeral was held on Monday, August 7, 2017 at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 596 Jefferson Blvd., Warwick. Full military honors were bestowed immediately following the Mass and burial took place in Belmont Cemetery, Belmont, MA.

NEC II

Thursday, 25 January 2018 — Pikesville, Maryland

at the

Pikesville Military Reservation — NCO Club

The meeting will commence promptly at 0930 hours.

Get there early to enjoy coffee, donuts & bagels with your esteemed comrades.

A noon meal (Lunch) will be provided.

Cost is \$15

Checks made payable to: 29th Division Association, for \$15 and mailed no later than 18 January 2018.

to:

William Mund

441 Chalfonte Drive

Baltimore, MD 21228-4017

DRAWING D-DAY

An Artist's Journey Through War — Part Five

By Ugo Giannini

with Maxine Giannini

Chapter Fourteen

1989-1993

Return to H-Hour

The Contemporary Works

Why? Why?

In 1993, January 30--the day before Ugo died--he cried out: "Get me my bullet. For God's sakes let me die like a man!" Pete and Helen were there, and we tried to calm him down, the ravings of a sick man, so out of context. Mark, on the other hand, knew where the bullet was and was ready to help Ugo with his plan. It was in those moments, that Ugo revealed his true state of mind; a facet that had lain dormant since he brought that bullet back from the war in 1945.

The men of the 29th Division whom I had met, carried with them some indelible memories etched into their psyches, never to be forgotten. There was a fatalistic, superstitious view of life and death--"Your number's up--There's an Angel guarding you--The Joker's appeared." They had a sense of an otherworldly destiny. For Ugo: The bullet. The one with his name on it--it missed him, for all his time in battle. Now he would take it home. If he could keep it--he'd survive, and this he did. And on that day, January 30, 1993 he knew--there was no more time. Death called to him, and he responded, but at the very last gasp at least he could die as a soldier--as a man--by the bullet; which was to him "ate" or fate.

He once said to me in those last days, "Morphine is for old ladies." Pretty funny--but I missed the point, the essence of his thinking and feeling. The guy was a soldier, a warrior, a man, and an artist.

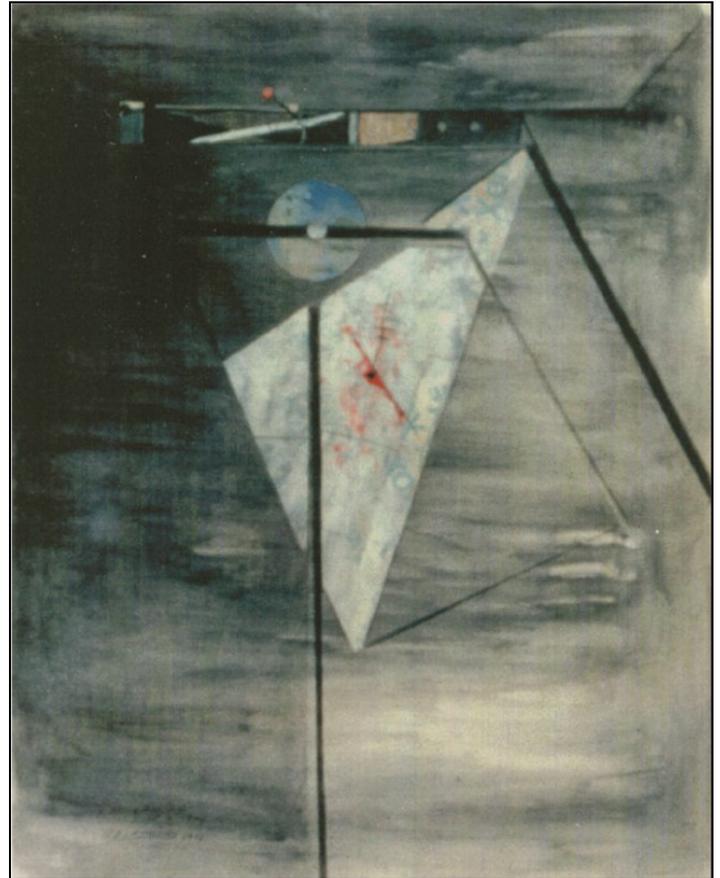
It is in this context that one must decipher these contemporary works. Just as the very first drawings were made on Omaha in 1944, under completely impossible conditions--so were the last works made in 1992.

With oxygen being pumped into his lungs, no breath left. Once again, impossible to conceive of the courage he needed to create this final tribute to the 29th Division, the 116th Regiment.; Ugo's comrades in arms.

Ugo's hands creating and completing the full circle of his epiphany--in war.

Agony at Vierville

In June of 1984, Ugo was asked to give a lecture by his dear friend Francois Haymann. This was to be a presentation for the ROTC of Verona, New Jersey. Ugo began reading and researching. He read and reread *The Longest Day* by Cornelius Ryan and *Overlord* by Max Hastings. Many passages were underlined or triple checked. "Yet although the defenders (Germans) possessed the capability to maul the American landing on Omaha seriously, to impede and to disorganize it, they lacked the power to halt it



absolutely. Despite the near total destruction of the first wave" of invaders landing on the western flank below Vierville--despite the casualties and the terror inflicted upon thousands of green troops, a great many men survived to reach the sea wall alive--enough, finally, to swamp the vastly outnumbered German defenders." Forty years after D Day Ugo began to relive these events.

This extraordinary work was completed in 1986. Agony at Vierville, the images of war, now abstract. A cross covering the globe; a nail, representing the Crucifixion; the strip of land, torn and covered in blood are all part of the symbolism signifying Vierville on June 6th. The subdued and sorrowful colors speak of what occurred that terrible morning, June 6, 1944.

Obstacle: Seawall H-Hour D-Day

Ugo created this work in 1986, forty-two years after the invasion of Normandy. A lifetime had been lived in the interim: studies at the Art Student's League and with Fernand Léger in Paris; his subsequent marriage and children. Twenty-five years of teaching at Caldwell College for women, (later to change to coed status) nearly complete silence about World War II. Like almost all of the

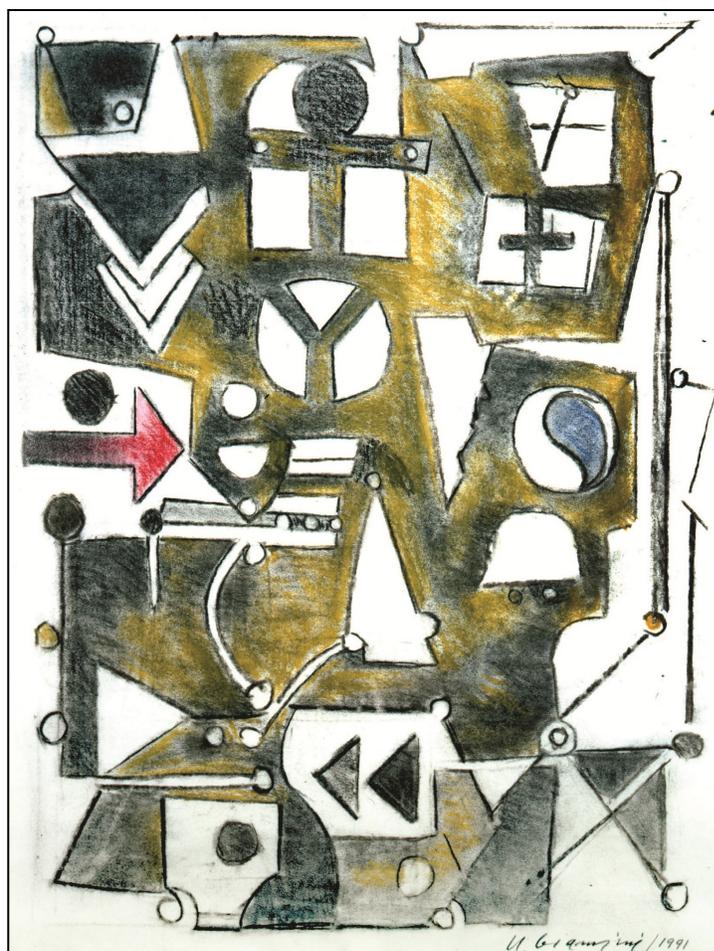


fibrosis, created a monument: Obstacle, Sea Wall. The surface of the dark water is slashed by a diagonal; the experience, which had no memorial, now captured in a monumental painting by a lowly private.

Metal Cross for SGT X.

In the summer of 1992 the war works were framed. Specific titles were selected for them, and in some instances dates were indicated. For this work, Metal Cross for Sgt. X, the date: 6/7/44. A place: Isigny. Who was the Sergeant? Once more, the symbols depict the battle scene. The stripes for the Sergeant, the arrows for the battle, the Yin and Yang symbol was the 29th Division's insignia, the German helmet, the German cross as well as the cross for the fallen men.

In the book Maryland in WWII Volume One was this description: "On the narrow coastal strip near Grandcamp a group of Germans in a strategic position pinned down the 116th's men despite strenuous efforts to jar loose the enemy with rifles, gre-



Veterans of WWII the memories of their service lay buried deep within them. Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944 changed Ugo and his comrades completely. But there were no words, no memorials in the United States, no way to appease the pain of what each man had experienced.

In 1944 the Generals of Hitler were in disagreement about how to counter what they knew was about to happen; the invasion of Fortress Europe by the Americans and their allies. Rommel, known as the Desert Fox was convinced that the invasion would occur in Normandy. He systematically fortified the beaches at a frantic pace. There were thousands of mines. "Numerous obstacles had been laid under water - some of these were stakes carrying an antitank mine at the tip, others were concrete tetrahedrons, equipped with either steel blades or antitank mines- Up to May 13 a total of 517,000 foreshore obstacles were laid, of which 31,000 were armed with mines." Rommel felt that the invading force had to be dislodged from the beach in 48 hours, or the war was over. As the Generals laid plans, Omar Bradley sent the 29th Division, 116 Regiment into the first wave. These men had never seen battle before. They were referred to by the Generals as un-blooded troops. What followed was true chaos. But after the initial slaughter, and panic, each remaining soldier picked himself up and made his way off the beach, and fought his way, an inch at a time through Normandy.

Rommel, shortly after his defeat in Normandy, was forced to commit suicide by Hitler. By 1986 Bradley was dead; the men of the 116th had died or were dying. Ugo, diagnosed with pulmonary

nades, tank and bazooka fire. Then Technical Sergeant Frank D. Peregorey of Charlottesville, Va., with hand grenade, rifle and bayonet killed eight Nazis, captured three others and destroyed the machine gun nest, which had delayed the 116th's advance. Grandcamp fell. Sgt. Peregorey was killed in action six days later. Isigny was seized two days later on the 9th."

Requiem St. Lo

Normandy, France July 18, 1944

St. Lo, a vital communications center had to be taken. Between the troops of the 29th Division and the town were some seven miles of checkerboard fields and orchards edged with man made

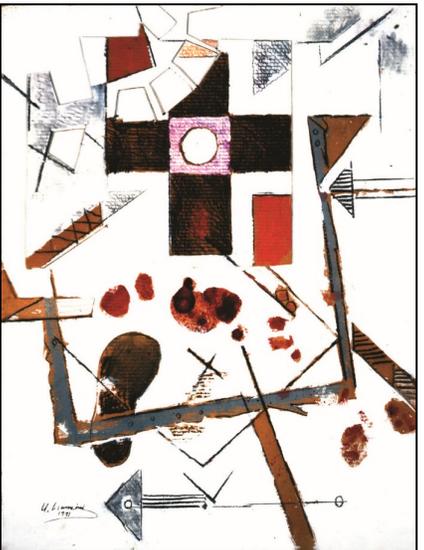
fences of brambles piled four to seven feet high. These were called hedgerows. They dated back to Caesar's time. The pre-invasion training had not prepared the men for this serious situation. The Germans took shelter to set up gun positions and snipers' nests so that each 100 yards was covered by enemy fire. On July 18, 1944 a special group of motorized 29th units occupied St. Lo. Lo after severe house-to-house fighting. After six weeks of con-

tinuous fighting the 29th had formed the cutting edge from the beaches of Normandy to St. Lo.

stripes, the yin-yang symbol of the 29th division--they contain the full experience of the war, just as the notes and symbols in a musical score contain within them the full sound of a symphony."

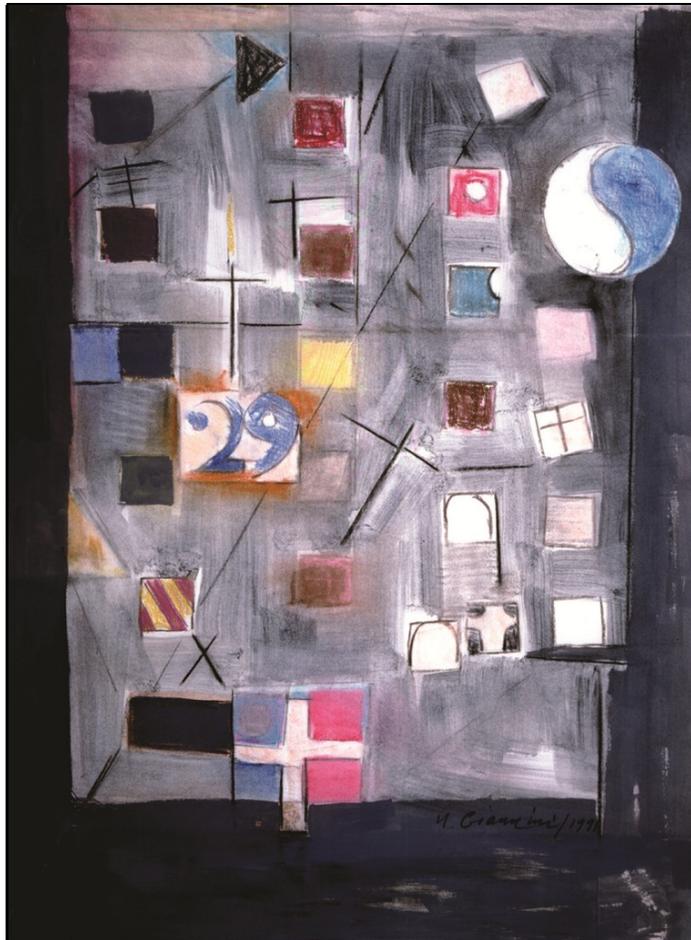
Omaha Beach, D-Day is a work that creates a deep and somber mood. It helps to know the history of the 29th Division. But without knowing any of the details of the Normandy Invasion, one knows that this work

stands for those men lost in battle. The cross, to symbolize the suffering, to dignify the agony of all men, the arrows, for landing, the x's for the obstacles that ensnared so many, even before landing, the imprint of an actual soldier's boot, the blood stains to tell of Bloody Omaha, unite to create an elegy which will last beyond the death of the 29th Division's Infantry soldiers.



The 29th

The Yin Yang sign was the insignia of the 29th Division. Maj. General Charles H. Gerhardt led this Division. A Division consists of about 14,000 men. The Division was divided into three regiments, 115th, 116th and 175th. Each Regiment consisted of 3,119 men. It was said of General Gerhardt that he had a regiment on

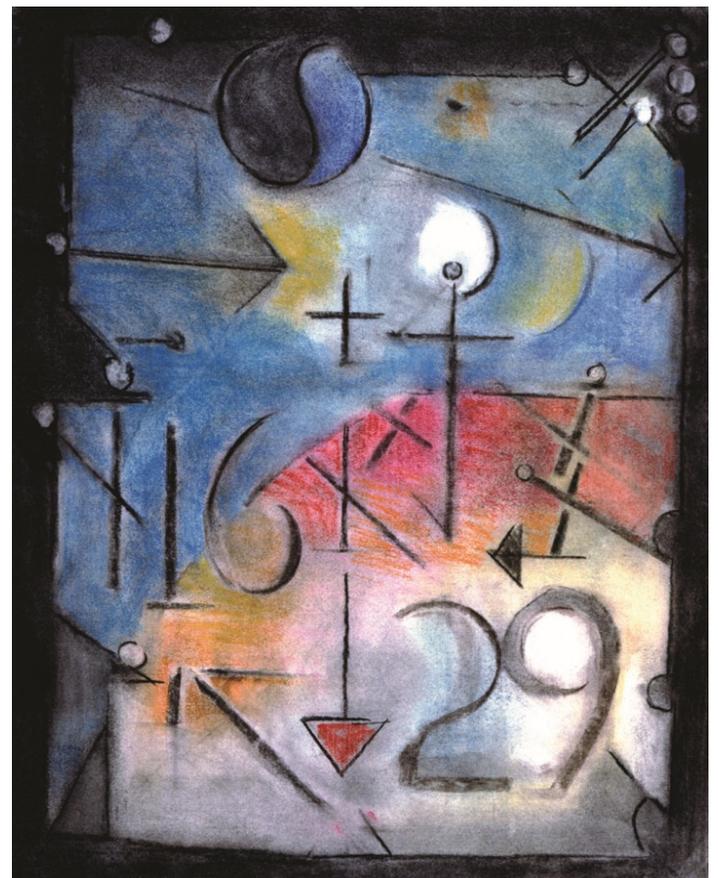


tinuous fighting the 29th had formed the cutting edge from the beaches of Normandy to St. Lo.

In 1991 forty-seven years after the battle for St. Lo, Giannini created the Requiem for St. Lo; delicate and muted grays and gray blues, dusty blacks. The Yin and Yang symbol of the 29th Division, the crosses for suffering and death, the German Cross, the gravestones scattered almost randomly across the picture plane unite to create a haunting composition. One doesn't send an artist into battle for naught.

Omaha Beach, D-Day

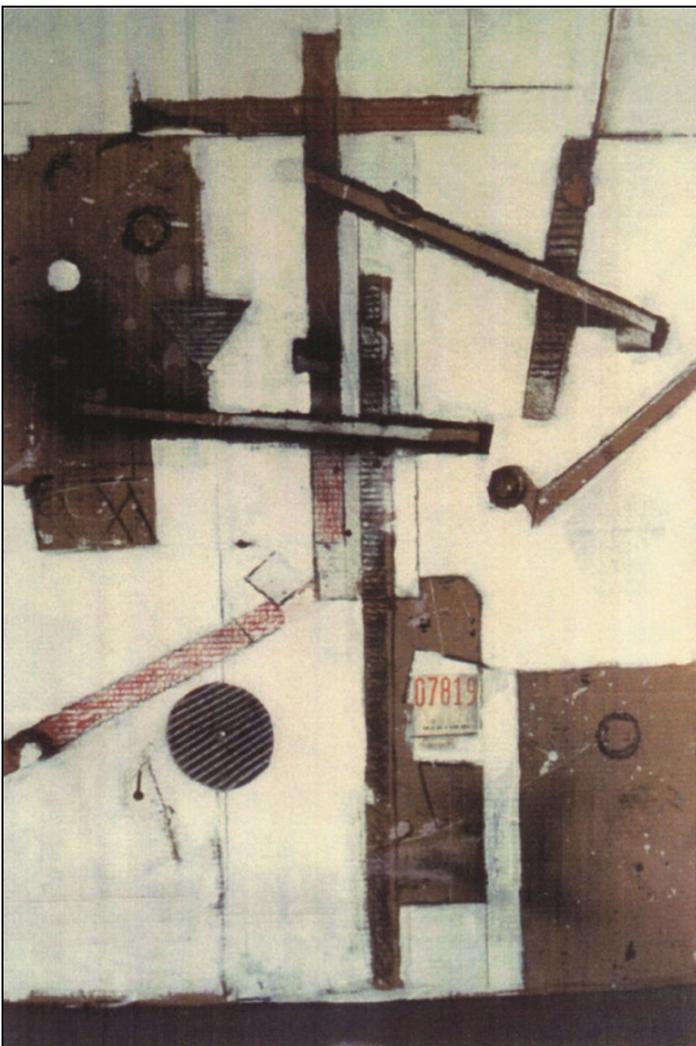
Petra ten Doesschate Chu, an art historian, wrote of Ugo's late works: "In 1986, feeling the first symptoms of the illness that would cause his death in 1993, he started a series of monumental works commemorating the Normandy offensive. Was it an homage to his former friends who never lived the full life he had lived, himself? Or else a final reckoning with an event that would still haunt his feverish brain during the last days of his life. Agony at Vierville, Metal Cross for Sgt. X, Hinge Crucifix,-works that combine drawing in various media with collage, are the distilled essence of Ugo's war experience. Chronicles written in symbolic signs--numbers (116, 29) letters (H Hr), arrows, crosses, flags, Uniform



the battlefield, a regiment in the hospital, and a regiment killed in action. This was not quite accurate, as by the end of the war, the Division had been replaced by one hundred forty percent. (More than 20,000.) In the month of June 1944, the total killed in action were 1,154 men. 2,834 were wounded, 133 injured, 565 missing, and the total was 4,685. On June 6, 1944, June 7, 1944 there were 771 men killed or wounded in action, from the 116th Regiment. The 116th Regiment landed in the first assault on Omaha Beach. In this pastel the arrows represent points of landings, the Cross for death and suffering, the red of the bloody shore. Ugo created this composition when he was seventy-two, knowing full well that his life was ending. His hands created a memorial for those comrades who lived and died, on that day, and for those who lived and died in his heart and memory.

Ruins

Ruins represent the devastation that war leaves behind. Each time a battle ensues, each time a counter attack occurs, all living things are in peril; the civilian population, the animals, the plants, the houses, the churches, the monuments, the museums, all the treasures of the living are decimated. The language of war tries to obfuscate what actually happens; in the case of civilian casualties or unintended bombing of your own forces, the words used were "collateral damage." Cities pounded into rubble, civilians hiding in cellars, unintended victims.

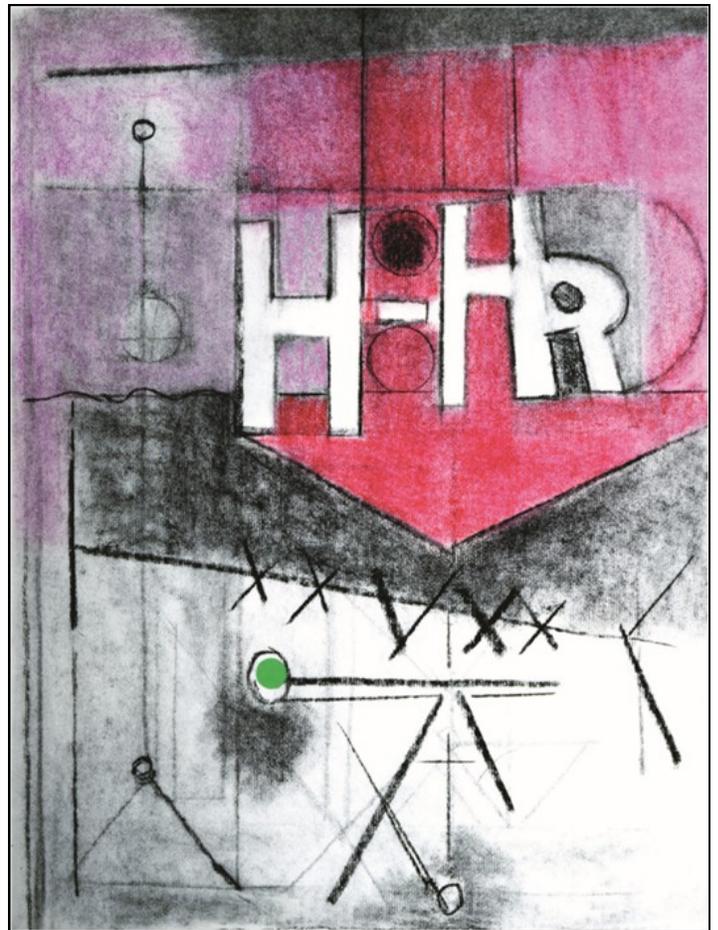


In 1997, I visited a French farmhouse in Moyon where the American forces and the Germans had engaged in battle. The family hid in the cellar for days; when they were able to emerge the house was gone, the soldiers dead around them, and to this day they still find arms, mines, shells, as they continue to plow their fields.

Ruins smolders. It illustrates a planet no longer inhabitable: barren, stark, dead.

H-Hour

In H-Hour we see an arrow, red; the invading force, the red of battle. The Xs indicating the obstacles. These were placed by the enemy to prevent boats from landing. The dot of Green, for Dog Green, the code for the sector in which the 116th Regiment was to land. This was one of the last works done by Ugo. He was on oxygen, and after October 5th, 1992 was not able to walk downstairs to the first floor. His studio was a large bedroom on the second floor of his home, and as long as he had any strength he



continued to create these works. He created sketches for an entire series, entitled OMAHA. H-Hour symbolizes the artist struggling with the immensity of the initial landing in Normandy, the chaos and destruction experienced by each man, enemy and ally alike. It also refers to Ugo's understanding of his own mortality, his own struggle with death, his own personal H-Hour.

Giannini's Book

I gets on with life, what's done is done, dead is dead. The living must go on. But, wake up in the middle of the night crying. Psychologists talk of "closure," one like Marley's Ghost, you came to

haunt me. You rattled your chains from another place, another time. "The war is not my concern," I said.

"Humanity is your concern" was your cry—till I shook.

Yes, you haunted me. There were too many unexplained coincidences. The car that cut in front of me at Kennedy Airport with the license plate UGO, as I left to attend the 50th Anniversary of D-Day. Your drawings would be exhibited in Paris and on Omaha Beach. The name "DRUMMOND" that came to me while I was traveling on the bus to visit the American cemetery in Coleville-sur-Mer. Drummond's grave was there. He was a fellow M. P. I found out in 1999 from Rex Potts that you, Drummond, and Rex were the last three to jump from your boat, Drummond was on your right, and was killed in the water, within minutes of that jump. I laid flowers at his grave in 1994. I was with a French Major who was in the French Reenactment Army, he dressed as an American M.P., and we became friends.

The second time I returned to France, in 1997, I traveled to Brest. I was traveling with a group of 29ers. Once again we followed the route of the war, Omaha, Issigny, St. Lo, Vire, Brest. We stayed in a dreary hotel in Brest. I met Joseph Balkoski, the historian who wrote *Beyond the Beachhead, The 29th Infantry Division in Normandy*. I showed him the photographs of your drawings—he told me he knew your work, he had seen many, many of your drawings. They were in the archives of the armory in Baltimore, Maryland. I met him there a few months later.

We went into an old, musty conference room. I was in the process of writing this book and had conceived the format of each chapter consisting of one month, beginning with H-Hour, June, July, August, and on until the end of the war, May 1945. On the shelves of the archive were huge bound books. These were the After Action Reports of the 29th Division. Each volume was titled: H-Hour, June, July, August, etc. For each report of the 116th Regiment or the Military Police Platoon there was a cover drawing, H-Hour, June, July, August Astonishingly, they had been drawn by you!

I am, as you stated, "shakened." There was no way that I would have discovered these drawings, nor would anyone other than I know absolutely which drawings in the archives were done by you.

Sometimes I think that you were like one of those ancient Gods who came to earth to mate with a mortal. To make certain that the epic tale of war would be told truly.

As you lay dying you looked at your hands—to see the stigmata—yes, you were crucified—by that ghastly disease. Like

Christ, you left disciples. For how else could this story be told? I'm the vessel through whom you wrote your book.

Here. Here is the book that "Giannini" wrote. I place it on your grave. Let me rest now, for I have loved you. "I love thee with the breath, smiles, tears, of all my life!—and if God choose, I shall but love thee better after death."

In 2003, we cleared the studio, completely. There, between two enormous boards of plywood, was your last work. Hidden. Four feet by five feet, an immense structure of crosses. Like Mozart's Requiem Mass, this last work is a final Requiem, Omaha Beach, D-Day, June 6, 1944.

Acknowledgements

In his last abstract war paintings. Then in researching and creating a book that thought I was totally alone; first in discovering Ugo's letters and drawings and could contain his work; that there was no one to thank. However, without a wonderful support system, this book would not have come into existence.

My profound thanks to David Lamb who said yes, he would publish the book. To Fiona Hallowell who was able to take the mass of material and streamline it into a coherent, lucid, elegantly written book. To Liz Driesbach, the art director who envisioned the space in which Ugo's prose and art could live.

My thank you to Micki Wesson who supported me emotionally and financially. To Simon

Lipsicar who believed in the genius of Ugo's work. To Joseph Balkoski who knew the historical importance of Ugo's writings and art. Thank you to Dr. William A. McIntosh for exhibiting Ugo's drawings at the first Monument called Overlord in Virginia. To Jeff Fulgham of the Overlord Monument who continued to exhibit Ugo's work. To the Maire of Vire, Jean Yves Cousin for his constant appreciation of Ugo's talent. Thank you Petra Chu for her brilliant writing about Ugo. To the many museums that have exhibited Ugo's war drawings. To Headquarters in Hamburg who exhibited Ugo's images for the 50th Anniversary of D-Day, June 6, 1994. To Howard and Joe Rehs of Rehs Galleries for exhibiting Ugo's works.

To my many friends who always said WOW when they viewed the book.

And lastly, my dear daughter Laura, and my son Mark who watched my struggle, and continued to believe it was worth it. And to Karen, and Antonio, the boy who calls me Meema.

This concludes our presentation of "Drawing D-Day". I thank Maxine Giannini for allowing us to publish this work.
William S. Mund, Jr., Editor



*A word from the Editor/Executive Director:***Another D-Day imposter, post dues collection and DVD**

We just concluded our 99th convention last month. This year's event was a special one as it commemorated the 100th anniversary of the formation of the 29th Division. Seven WWII 29th veterans were able to attend this event.

PNC Robert Wisch was responsible for putting on a great convention. For the first time since I have become involved, we had a military ball along with a 20-piece orchestra.

A special note of thanks is given to Lee Hofmann of Post 1-72 for providing the luxury of the orchestra. He also did a great job of running the Hospitality Room with help from Jean Insley.

Five of our seven attending veterans were recipients of our voucher program. I would like to thank Textron; the Veterans Corps, 5th Regiment Infantry; Post 94 and the Maryland Region of the 29th Division Association for providing these vouchers.

Next year's convention will occur in Roanoke, Virginia, 11-14 October 2018. Information about this event will be published in the next several issues.

Several years ago, I wrote about how we identified a D-Day imposter lurking within our ranks. At that time, I noted that there were still more imposters out there.

I'm sorry to say that we have identified another imposter and fraud about a month before the convention. This man has been deceiving everyone since about 1994. He claimed to have landed on D-Day as an officer in the 29th and wounded at St. Lo.

His name never appears in the 29th Division Morning Reports, nor in the After Action Reports of the regiment he claimed to be in. Further research indicated he was discharged as an enlisted man from an Anti-Aircraft Gun Battalion.

So, he never landed on D-Day, never was an officer or in the 29th and was never wounded.

He has been wearing the Purple Heart and other decorations which he

never received. This is called "Stolen Valor". In certain cases, "Stolen Valor" is a federal crime.

This man did serve in Europe during the war and should have been happy with being part of the "Greatest Generation". Yet, he was not happy with that and had to deceive everyone about his wartime service. Now, he has become the "Worst" of the "Greatest Generation".

During my research, I asked this man several times if he could provide me with a copy of his discharge/separation document. He politely refused on all occasions, stating the final time that his discharge document was not "easily accessible" but that he would send it to me once he accessed it.

Finally, I told him I did not need to see his discharge as I had all the official army documentation that I needed to prove that he was a total fraud and never in the 29th. Once I presented these documents to him, he confessed.

Again, I'm sure there are more "D-Day and Beyond Imposters" out there. Also, there are young people out there who listen to every word these imposters say. If you say something that doesn't sound right, they can easily check and find out the truth. The "Freedom of Information Act" allows them to do this.

Imposters beware! Remember this; your official army documentation is not "your" documentation. It is the army's documentation on "you". Nowadays, it's easily accessible.

I would like to hear from some of our WWII veterans on how they feel about frauds, imposters and "Stolen Valor."

Some posts are still having some problems with the dues collection process. Post commanders must realize that the collection of and transmitting per capita dues to the headquarters is of paramount importance. If dues are not paid, those members will be dropped.

We need to get our younger members active in our association. Our younger

members have been around the latest technology (i.e. computers, etc.) for a long time and don't have the hang ups that most of us older members suffer from.

It's a new day and age and has been for some time now, yet our association on the whole struggles with the technology that is available and common now in the 21st century. "Qualified" in this day and age usually means "computer literacy."

Posts must be prepared in case their membership/finance officer should suddenly go down with an illness or resign.

Think about going "outside the association" to get someone to fill this position if you don't have anyone currently on your roster who is qualified.

Many of us belong to other organizations (e.g. American Legion, etc.). Maybe there's someone there qualified whom you could enlist as an associate member.

Please remember that "Associate" members may hold any office in the association except that of the National Commander. That distinction is reserved only for members who have served honorably in the 29th Division. This is covered in the association by Laws.

I must mention the "Documentary" DVD that was produced by PNC David Ginsburg over the past 6-8 months. This video was debuted after the Friday night buffet dinner at the convention.

In addition to PNC Ginsburg, Joe Balkoski; CSM Tommie Thompson; Ted Shuey; and Steve Melnikoff all contributed significantly to its production. The technical side of the production was handled by Cameron Reeve and Gino Moscati.

I don't want to go into it any further as it has been written about on several other pages in this edition.

However, it was a job well done and we all owe those individuals our gratitude for their effort in making it happen.

WILLIAM S. MUND, JR.
Editor / Executive Director

99th Annual Reunion & Convention 12-15 October 2017



Photo by Frank Armiger, Post 110

On Friday, 13 October 2017, the convention attendees traveled by bus to the Fifth Regiment Armory. They were given a briefing by National Historian Joe Balkoski in the Reckord Lounge before they toured the museum.



Photo by Houston Matney, Post 1-72

Lee Hofmann, third from left, was responsible for providing the 20-piece orchestra, *Ain't Misbehavin'* that entertained us at the military ball following the banquet on the night of 14 October 2017.

National Officers - Elected and Appointed for 2017 - 2018

Elected Officers

National Commander: Grant Hayden
 Senior Vice Commander: J. David Leighton
 Junior Vice Commander: Pete Hinz
 Finance Officer: Robert "Bob" Jones
 Chaplain: Reverend John Schildt
 Welfare Officer: J. Brian Becker
 Service Officer: Walter Carter
 Historian: Joseph Balkoski
 Judge Advocate: Houston Matney
 Surgeon: Dr. Howard Bond
 Sergeant-at-Arms: Randall Beamer
 Southern Region Vice Commander: J. David Leighton
 Maryland Region Vice Commander: Robert "Bob" Jones
 At-Large Region Vice Commander: Edward Tolzman



Appointed Officers

National Adjutant: Valerie Simmers
 National Executive Director: William S. Mund, Jr.
 Assistant to the National Executive Director: PNC Robert Moscatti
 National Property Officer: Franklin Shilow
 Editor/Publisher *The Twenty-Niner*: William S. Mund, Jr.
 Assistant Editor/Publisher *The Twenty-Niner*: Frank A. Armiger
 National Parliamentarian: Thomas Insley

29th CAB Soldiers, military sealift command team up for deck landing qualifications

(Continued from page 1)

ate the deck landing onto a ship moving at twelve knots with a surface area barely larger than the aircraft itself.

"The capability allows us to be able to get medical supplies or casualties to and from each other to meet the needs of a given mission," said Spc. Alix Ross, a flight medic with Task Force Rough Rider. "It's a great experience."

For Williams, one of the pilots, the experience was sentimental as well.

"The training held a special meaning for me," said Williams, since his father belongs to the Choctaw Nation out of Durant, Oklahoma.

The crew of the Choctaw County gave some of the helicopter crew members a brief tour of the ship after they safely landed on the vessel.

"I hope to get a chance to do it again sometime," said Williams.



The 29th CAB, an Army National Guard brigade, provides aviation assets, partnership training, operational and logistical support to Operation Spartan Shield in Kuwait while simultaneously supporting Operation Inherent Resolve, the campaign to defeat ISIS in Iraq and Syria.

Article by SSG Isolda Reyes

Post Commander's Workshop

The 29th Documentary — *A Video History of the 29th Infantry Division*

The 4th Annual Post Commander's Workshop was held at the Convention in Hunt Valley on Saturday, October 14th. It immediately followed the business meeting as per custom.

It was well attended, with 12 of the 14 active posts in attendance, and over 25 attendees in total.

There was a lot of buzz at the Workshop, with the post officers anxious to use the Documentary (the proper term for the DVD) on the 29th Infantry Division to recruit and tell the story of the Blue and the Gray.

Among the topics brought up by the posts was the website and how it can help the posts, 29th Let's Go! A Video History of the 29th Infantry Division -and how to use it, and the future of the Morning Reports.

The Website — Neil Ungerleider of Post 93 has been the webmaster for many years. He urged the posts to let him know how the website could be used to aid the posts. Posts were encouraged to send updated officer lists, contact people, and post events on a regular basis.

The Morning Reports — National Historian Joseph Balkoski, Post 110, brought up the Morning

Reports and how many people contact the Association and the Archives in search of information on their loved ones. Joe brought up the issue that the people that created the morning reports do not want to host them anymore and the Association should consider hosting the site. Neil indicated it would be very easy for him to host the Morning Reports on the Association website, and within one week, they were ported over to the website and now reside with the 29th Division Association online.

Collecting Dues — Collecting dues is always one of the painful exercises for both the posts themselves and for William Mund as the National Executive Director. Everyone brainstormed how to make this easier and Will indicated it is now okay for members of any post to pay their dues through the Association website, and William will distribute them to the appropriate post. Please take advantage of this gesture.

The Documentary — the plans for the Documentary was

discussed in detail. The plan is to do a number of premieres with the initial one being at the Friday night dinner of the Convention. It was followed with a presentation to the Maryland Senior Leader's Conference at Warfield Air National Guard base, hosted by MG Linda Singh, the Maryland TAG.

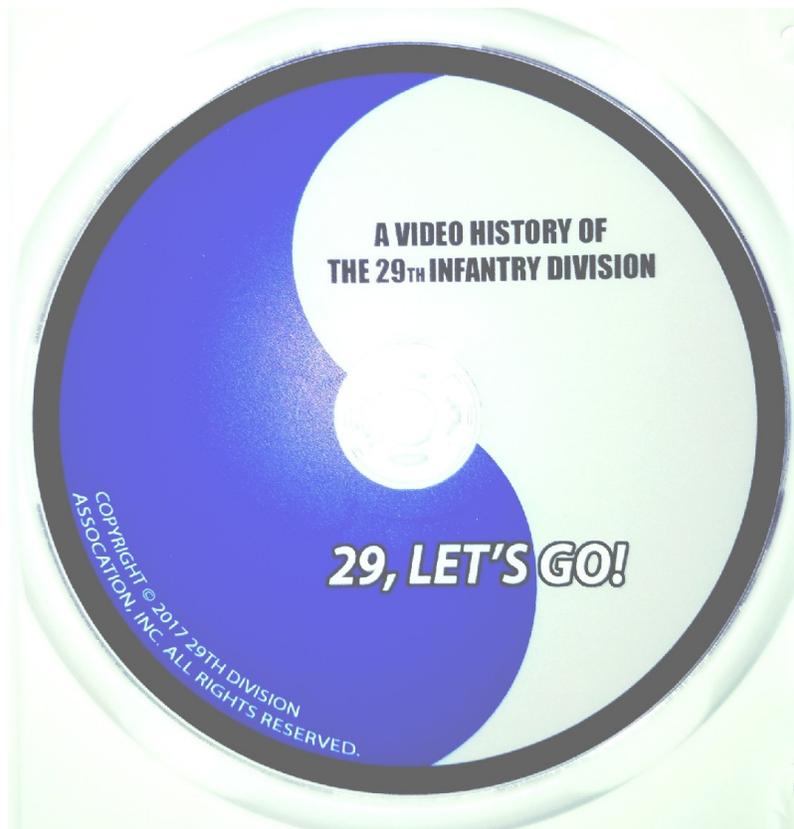
One of the most important premieres happened on November 5th, when the DVD premiered to the 200 senior most leaders of the 29th Infantry Division, recently returned from their mission against ISIS. MG Ortner introduced it and it was well received by the attendees. On November 11th, it will be shown during the World War I Symposium of the 116th Muster.

Each post will receive 3 copies of the Documentary for them to aid in recruiting and help tell the story of the 29th in all the wars. Posts will compile a list of those units, retirement homes, libraries, and schools they would like a copy sent to. Posts can then choose whether we sent them those copies to distribute, or whether they would like the copy shipped directly to the applicable school or retirement home.

We have met with Maryland Public Television, who is considering broadcasting the documentary, and down the road will make contact with the Military and the History Channel as well as Virginia Public Television. It will be made available on YouTube at some point in the future, to tell the story to thousands of people who have probably never heard of the 29th Division or the Association.

The Workshop seemed to be a great success — there was a lot more exciting than normal this year as posts are excited to use the Documentary to recruit and help tell the story of the Division. As always, we are looking for ways that National can help the posts recruit, facilitate collecting dues, and get information out.

Please do not ever hesitate to contact us if have any ideas or issues that you need help resolving.



Attendees at our 99th Annual Reunion & Convention

Armiger, Frank & Susan	Jones, Bob & Helena
Baker, Roy & Jo Ann Elliot	Kahl, Bruce & Bonnie
Balkoski, Joe	Kilbourne, Jimmy & Sheila
Banik, Jeff & Christine Nichols	King, Bill & Juanita
Beamer, Randall	Knight, Thomas
Becker, Brian & Gail	Krauss, Mike
Bennett, Mark	Lane, Dale & Margi
Bilo, William C.	Lane, John, Shirley
Bond, Howard	Langley, Joseph
Bowers, Kim & Michele	Leighton, David & Ann Jackson
Boyle, Dan & Doris Kozlowski	Lewis, Kent
Boyle, Joe & Sally Ruan	Linthicum, George & Dorothy
Buchanan, Ray & Susan	Liswell, Bernie & Yvonne
Bullock, Bill	Matney, Houston & Patricia Einstein
Byrne, Tom	Melnikoff, Steven & Steve Jr.
Cayce, Walter	Moscatti, PNC Bob, Bob Jr., Sue
Connolly, Harry & Janice	Mund, William
Coover, Rosemary & Thomas	Nolley, Edmond
DeHaven, William	Ortner, Blake, Kristin & Erika
Donahoe, Richard	Parker, Tom & Ginny
Duncan, Norman & Neutie Fudge	Pulket, Dennis & Denise
Faries, George B.	Raymond, Richard & Dianne
Edmundson, Margaret	Recker, Robert & Patricia
Finn, Robert	Schildt, John
Foreman, Charles	Sherburne, Douglas
Fowler, John & Marietta	Sherr-Davino, Fran
Garrison, Jay & Blonnie	Shilow, Frank
Ginsburg, Dave & Amy Colton	Simmers, Valerie
Halterman, James H.	Snyder, Richard
Harvey, William F.	Stem, Richard
Hayden, Grant & Barbara	Swilling, Bill
Held, Jr. William & Lisa	Tanczyn, Michael
Heline, Walter & Joanna	Tawes Robert M. & Bonnie
Heline, Douglas, Phyllis, Walter	Tawes, Robert
Hess, Randy & Janice	Tolzman, Ed
Hinz, Pete	Ungerleider, Neil
Hofmann, Roland	Vaccarino, John & Betty
Insley, Tom & Jean	Wilcox, John & Chris
Jebson, Sally & Julia Godeck	Wimbrow, Peter & Judy Whalan
Jindra, Leonard	Wisch, Robert & Linda
Jindra, Diane & Stephen Trachtulec	Zang, PNC Joe & Shirley

Sunday Memorial Service

Every year at our Memorial Service on Sunday morning, we honor those who have departed us during the past year. Listed below are the names of all the deceased since our last Annual Reunion and Convention in 2016.

Baber, James A., III	Lastner, Leroy D.	Vernillo, Michael T.
Baumgarten, Dr. Harold	Lombino, Angelo	Walsh, William D. Jr.
Berlin, Homer P.	McAllister, Francis A.	Wareheim, Paul E., Jr.
Boyer, Thomas B.	McCarthy, PNC Donald A.	Warnken, Frederick J.
Brashears, Jesse H. Jr.	McWilliams, Robert H.	Whitaker, Allan B. Jr.
Bricker, Robert M.	Melander, William E., Jr.	Whiteford, Roger S., III
Burgesser, Harold L.	Moon, Raymond E.	Wilch, William A.
Cardi, Alphonse R.	Myers, William,	Witmer, Roy W.
DeBaecke, Frank Jr.	Paulsgrove, Larry Leo	Wright, Frank M.
Delawder, Harry E.	Pedigo, Norman	Ladies
Dillon, Lewis Frank.	Proud, Robert D.	Becker, Thelma M.
Drumwright, James H. Jr.	Pusey, Wessels S.	Brown, Jean
Elower, Donald L.	Redding, Daniel H.	Cadwalader, Phyllis
Fretterd, James F.	Robertson, Donald J.	Cayce, MaryLou
Garrison, Cecil, L.	Schaefer, Gordon L.	Clayton, Jane
Giese, Charles N.	Shankle, Terry R.	Cottrill, Rhea
Groff, Henry A.	Spencer, Larry W.	Duran, Ruth A.
Grossman, Norman, F.	Talbott, Frank J. Jr.	Leidy, Thelma
Harlan, Kenneth R. Jr.	Testerman, Gerald B.	McEwin, Peggy
Heinlein, John J.	Thevenet, Alan	Nasti, Florence
Hoffman, David R.	Tine, Charles	
Hudson, W. Alvin	Tucker, Leslie G.	
Kuntz, John L.	Tweed, Earl E.	
Kutcher, PNC John F. Sr.	Van Roosen, PNC Donald	



Saturday Night Banquet & Military Ball



Post 88 Commander, Bernie Liswell with his friend MG Gerhardt.



MG (Ret) Joseph H. Langley



Chris & PNC John Wilcox of Post 78

Photos on this page by: Houston Matney, Post 1-72 and William Mund, Post 94.



PNC Robert "Bob" Wisch presenting J. Brian Becker with a plaque recognizing his many years of service and dedication to duty as National Finance Officer (2004-2017) of the 29th Division Association.



Major General Blake Ortner,
Commanding General,
29th Division.



Dorothy & George Linthicum, Linda & PNC Robert "Bob" Wisch.



National Senior Vice Commander J. David Leighton
& Ann Jackson.



Photos on this page by: Bill Bullock, Post 110; Houston Matney,
Post 1-72, and William Mund, Post 94.

Minutes

of the Business Meeting
held on 14 October 2017 at the
Delta by Marriott Baltimore Hunt Valley, Maryland

National Commander Robert Wisch called the meeting to order at 0900 hours. Commander Wisch led the attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the opening prayer that was offered by Chaplain Reverend John Schildt. The group then recited the 29th Division Association Preamble.

Commander Wisch began by asking the Past National Commanders to stand and be recognized. NC Wisch then asked for the roll call by Adjutant Valerie Simmers. It was noted that a quorum was present.

The Minutes of the previous meeting (NEC III, 22 June 2017) had been published and were distributed in the Summer 2017 edition of the *Twenty-Niner*. As there were no corrections or amendments, these minutes were approved as published.

Officer's Report

National Commander – Robert Wisch reported on the significant events and efforts of the past year. He thanked each Post he was able to visit for their hospitality. He also recognized Peter Hinz as the candidate for Junior Vice Commander for the next year.

Senior Vice Commander – Grant Hayden deferred to later in the agenda for his remarks.

Junior Vice Commander / Southern Region Commander – David Leighton spoke of the events and accomplishments of the Southern Region and Virginia. He also spoke of the issues with Post 116 and their efforts to resolve those issues.

Maryland Region Commander – Robert “Bob” Jones said what an honor it is to be the Maryland Region Commander. He spoke of it as a learning process gained from the many PNCs that are a part of the Region meetings.

At-Large Region Commander – Edward Tolzman had no report.

National Executive Director – William Mund talked about his duties as Executive Director, and the Souvenir Program Book for the Convention.

Membership – William Mund reported on his duties as Membership Chairman for the last year. He went over the status of the association membership as of 1 October 2017. We are pretty close to last year's total. NC Wisch thanked William Mund as Executive Director for all of the things he does.

Finance – J. Brian Becker has copies of the Finance Report on hand for those who would like them.

Chaplain – Reverend John Schildt thanked Joe Balkoski and PNC David Ginsburg for the great job on the DVD. Rev. Schildt has been the Chaplain for 30 years when he started as a stand-in speaker in 1987. Reunions are a glad and sad event. Glad to see those you haven't seen in a while and sad knowing those who have answered the last roll call.

Service – Walter Carter not present, no report.

Surgeon – Dr. Howard Bond not present, no report.

Welfare – Frank Rauschenberg not present, no report.

Historian – Joseph Balkoski had no report.

Sergeant-at-Arms – Randall Beamer had no report.

Property – Franklin Shilow had no report.

Parliamentarian – Thomas Insley had no report.

Judge Advocate – Houston Matney had no report.

Committee Reports

2018 National Convention – Senior Vice Commander Grant Hayden stated that the 2018 convention will be held from 11-14 October 2018 at the Holiday Inn, Roanoke Valley. Rooms will be \$107 a night. Friday's trip will be to the D-Day Memorial. Saturday will have the Business meetings and Banquet. Sunday will have the Memorial Service and NEC I meeting. There is a restaurant on site and shuttle service to and from the airport. There are many things to do in the area. We will be responsible for the Hospitality Room. Cash bar at both the Buffet and Dinner. Cost of meals not included in room cost. He is working to get discounted meals.

2019 National Convention – Junior Vice Commander Leighton is still looking into a location. He was looking towards Roanoke, so has had to switch gears.

Budget Committee – NFO Brian Becker thanked Bob Jones who has looked at the Budget along with NFO Becker. The budget was presented and a motion was made by PNC King and seconded by Leighton to accept the budget. Motion was passed.

Grants Committee consisting of NFO Becker, Bob Jones, PNC Robert Recker, JRVC David Leighton and PNC David Ginsburg was established after receiving a bequest from PNC Cook. They set up a charter and have a form to apply for grants. The purpose of the grant request needs to honor and support our Preamble. The request must be from a 501c organization. A motion was made to approve the Grants Committee Charter and was seconded and approved.

Futures Committee/DVD – PNC David Ginsburg handed out packets that had information on the DVDs. He talked about how the futures committee is working to get the 29th Division more exposure. With the 29th Division actually acting as a Division and troops deploying and returning, we should be reaching out to these soldiers to recruit and get additional members into the Association. Pay Pal has been a success at getting members. The “Traveling Display” is being used as we intended it to. The Post Commander Workshop later today will be focused on improving the website and how we can use the DVD. The handouts have the preliminary designs of the DVD and cover. On the inside cover will be an application. The handout also has suggestions for the use of the DVD and the potential costs of duplication. A motion was made by George Linthicum with a second by PNC Recker to set aside \$5,000 for the cost of production. After some discussion, a call to vote was made and the motion was approved.

Nominating Committee – Executive Director William Mund read the names of the individuals who have been recommended for appointment and nominated for the elected offices. The election will occur later in the meeting.

Special Reports

2019 Trip to France – Fran Sherr-Davino daughter of Melvin Sherr is planning the 75th Anniversary of D-Day for the 29th Division Association. PNC Bob Finn is assisting. The trip is currently in the preliminary plans. It will be 12 days with the first 2 days in Paris and 8 full days in the same hotel in Normandy. There are 12 stops where we will lay flowers. She would like \$3,000 for the flowers.

NFO Becker recommended they use the Grant Committee to get those funds. They also provide small gifts to the Mayors of the towns. With the 75th Anniversary this will most likely be the last big visit with WW II Veterans present. The cost of the tour is estimated at \$3,600 +airfare. The dates are planned leaving the states on 29 May and arriving in Normandy 1 June. All dates are tentative. There were currently 30 rooms set aside a year ago and that was all that remained at that time. More information will be coming. See Fran if you want more information for now.

Normandy Allies – Executive Director William Mund read correspondence from NSO William Carter about the Normandy Allies trips this year.

The Twenty-Niner Newsletter - Editor Mund introduced Frank Armiger of Post 110 who has been recommended for appointment as Assistant Editor/Publisher of the *Twenty-Niner*. Mr. Armiger briefly described his experience and background. Comrade Richard Raymond of Post 64 recommended that Editor Mund be recognized for his work on the *Twenty-Niner*.

Old Business

2018 Arlington Wreath laying – SRVC Grant Hayden stated the date of the wreath laying is Saturday, 16 June 2018. A bus will be available. There was discussion for the location of a luncheon. SRVC Hayden will work with a restaurant to work out lunch.

Other Old Business – NH Joe Balkoski brought forward a request for the museum at the Fifth Regiment Armory to sell 29th Division Association items at the gift shop and all profits returned to the Association. PNC Ginsburg made a motion to allow museums to be able to sell 29th Division Association items. This will include the museums in Staunton and Bedford. This motion was seconded by Becker and then approved.

New Business

2018 NEC meeting dates and locations – SRVC Grant Hayden noted the dates of the NEC II is 25 January 2018 at either the Weinberg Center or the NCO Club in Pikesville. The NEC III will be 28 June 2018 at Ft Belvoir in Virginia. This would be in the 29th Division Headquarters possibly in the basement.

Election of Officers 2017-2018 – Commander Wisch asked if there were any other nominations from the floor for any of the positions. After Commander Wisch repeated this request three times for any other nominations from the floor. A motion to close the nominations

was then offered by PNC King and seconded by PNC Finn. Motion was passed. A further motion was made by PNC King and seconded by PNC Zang to elect the officers by acclamation. A single vote was offered by the Adjutant to elect all candidates. This motion was also passed and the officers were elected.

Those elected were: Commander, Grant Hayden; Senior Vice Commander, J. David Leighton; Junior Vice Commander, Pete Hinz; Maryland Region National Vice Commander, Robert Jones; Southern Region National Vice Commander, J. David Leighton; At-Large Region Vice Commander, Edward Tolzman; Finance Officer, Robert Jones; Chaplain, John Schildt; Service Officer, Walter Carter; Welfare Officer, J. Brian Becker; Surgeon, Dr. Howard Bond; Historian, Joe Balkoski; Judge Advocate, Houston Matney; and Sergeant-at-Arms, Randall Beamer.

Installation of Officers – Executive Director William Mund then conducted the installation of elected officers for 2017-2018

Deaths, Sick & Distressed

Jay Garrison spoke with Don McKee. He is doing well and thought he might be at this convention. PNC King commented on the condition of Arden Earll and Chuck Neighbor. PNC Ginsburg mentioned that PNC Bob Moscati would be at the dinner tonight. PNC Dooley was absent due to illness.

Good of the Association

Post Commander's Workshop will be at 1430. PNC Wilcox and Executive Director Mund presented PNC Wisch with outgoing awards. Mund also presented J. Brian Becker with an award for his time as NFO.

Closing Ceremony and Adjournment

With no further business, Commander Wisch began the closing ceremonies. A closing prayer was offered by Chaplain Schildt along with a final salute to the colors.

The meeting was adjourned at 1156 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

VALERIE E. SIMMERS
Adjutant

Minutes

*of the NEC I Meeting
held on 15 October 2017 at the
Delta by Marriott Baltimore Hunt Valley, Maryland*

The NEC I meeting was called to order at 1045 at Delta by Marriott Baltimore Hunt Valley, Hunt Valley, MD., following the Memorial Service by Commander Grant Hayden.

Commander Hayden appointed the following officers for the year 2017-2018: National Executive Director, William S. Mund, Jr.; Assistant to the National Executive Director, PNC Robert Moscati; National Property Officer, Franklin Shilow; Editor/Publisher "The 29er", William S. Mund, Jr.; Assistant Editor/Publisher "The 29er", Frank Armiger; National Parliamentarian, Thomas Insley; National Adjutant, Valerie Simmers; and Editor "The 29er" "Emeritus", Donald McKee.

A motion was made to approve these appointments and was seconded. Motion was passed and all appointees were approved.

Commander Hayden then discussed where he would like to emphasize his focus for the coming year.

A motion to close the meeting was made and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 1105.

Respectfully submitted,

VALERIE E. SIMMERS
Adjutant

Normandy Allies International Experience: July 15-28, 2018

Registration period: October 1, 2017 - March 5, 2018

Space is limited and subject to availability

The International Experience is a journey not for the ordinary tourist but for those who wish to learn in greater depth about Normandy, past and present. The days are intensive and rich with meaning as we walk the beaches, explore the hedgerows, and talk with historians and eyewitnesses.

Phase I: British and Canadian Sectors

We explore the World War II British and Canadian sectors. Our visits include: Caen Peace Memorial, Juno Beach, Abbaye d'Ardenne, Pegasus Bridge and glider landing area, Arranches Circular Theater and Mulberry Museum, Longues s/mer German Battery, Bayeux British Cemetery, and more...

Phase II: American Sector

Our journey takes us from Omaha Beach and Utah Beach through the hedgerow country to Saint-Lô. Historians and Normans who lived through the landings and the liberation share their experiences with us.

Our visits include: Omaha Beach and the Normandy American Military Cemetery at Colleville s/mer, Brittany American Cemetery at St. James, Pointe du Hoc, Utah Beach and Museum, Graignes, La Fièvre, Sainte-Mère-Eglise and the Airborne Museum, Saint-Lô and bocage areas, Lebec Cider Farm, LaCambe Cemetery, Chateau Colombières and the marshes, rue Captain Carter, Wall of Remembrance, Trevières... and more....

*Throughout our time in Normandy, we lodge in the charming town of Bayeux at the Hotel Churchill. Immersing ourselves in French heritage— visits to the Bayeux Tapestry and Cathedral, Mont St. Michel...
...evenings open to enjoy the culture and cuisine...*

Land Package Rates: \$2995/per person double occupancy Single supplement: \$735

Registration period: October 1, 2017 - March 5, 2018

Space is limited and subject to availability.

Participants under 19 years old must be accompanied by parent, guardian, or school staff

Students and Teachers: Travel Grants are available.

Contact Marsha Smith, Program Director:

normandyallies@verizon.net PO Box 1332 Pittsford NY 14534 585-748-2357

**Be sure to check out our new and improved
website at: www.29thdivisionassociation.com**

"He will always be my hero" - Dedication at the Wall of Remembrance

On July 25th Normandy Allies returned to the Wall of Remembrance to dedicate a plaque in honor of 29th Division veteran Carl Cooley. The day was sunny and cool, the rains held off as the group gathered, Normans and Americans as one united in honoring and remembering. Denis Lesage directed the ceremony as Normandy Allies students unveiled the plaque. The national anthems of both countries resounded through the country side as students raised the flags and accompanied Denis Lesage for the wreath-laying. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the members of the Wall of Remembrance Society welcomed the group behind the wall for the customary convivial glass and brioche as they had for the May/June group.

Glen Cooley, Carl Cooley's son, donated the plaque in his father's honor. Glen had participated with Normandy Allies in 2015 and during the trip he was guided to the place where his father was taken as a POW by the Germans. Glen gathered dirt from that site to carry home, and he also carried home a dream of honoring his father with a plaque on the Wall of Remembrance.

Glen wrote inspiringly of his father, and Marsha Smith read Glen's message to the gathering of Americans and French:

"My father was born in Vernon Parish [west central Louisiana] on July 19, 1918. He was the third of eight children. His father worked at a sawmill town [Slagle] until it closed in 1933. They raised cotton, corn, cows, and various other vegetables on their farm. He was only able to go to the eighth grade because he had to come home and help raise the rest of the family during the great depression.

In 1942 his oldest brother, Ray was drafted. Since Ray did not want to go by himself, he persuaded my father to volunteer for the army. He trained at Camp Claiborne where the 82th Airborne was formed. In the spring of 1944, he along with many others was shipped to England to get ready for the D-Day invasion.

He was in Company A of the 115th of the 29th Infantry Division. In fighting between Saint-Lô and Vire [close to Percy], his Company A was over ran by Germans with many killed but my father along with 19 others survived. He wound up in many different prison camps with his last in the Czech Republic.

When he found out [through a German guard] that Hitler in April of 1945 had ordered the German Army to kill all POWs, he and two others escaped on a night road march. After a week or so [with the help of two Polish farm workers], he was reunited with American forces.

He had married my mother [Mildred] in 1943. I was born in September of 1944 while he was a prisoner. He came home in 1945 and raised nine of us children. He always stressed getting an education. All of us finished high school and seven out of nine received college degrees.

He always believed in his country and said our country would be fine unless we got the wrong leaders. He had seen firsthand what happened to the Germans because of Hitler. I remember a few things that he said that stuck with

me in life. He said several times to me, "Son I do not want to ever be locked up again." Even though things got tough in my growing up [I was the oldest of nine children], he never gave up. He always said, "You have got to try."

I cannot imagine how hard those nine months in that prison camp must have been. He saw men die, beaten and starved [he only weighed 97 pounds when liberated] but he never gave up. Therefore, in my life, my theme has always been "never give up." He died in 1994 at the age of 74. He was and will always be my Hero. "

"Thanks Daddy"

We are grateful to Denis Lesage and all the members of the Wall of Remembrance Society for creating and maintaining this Wall of Remembrance in Saint Jean de Savigny.

Military Family Support Center

MFSC stands for Military Family Support Center. It is a tax deductible charity that was started back in the early 80's by 3 NCO's & their wives who carried hot coffee, ham biscuits, juice, etc. to the Armory in the early mornings.

This was free of charge before the drills & or FTX's. They also did it prior to leaving for AT. They created "Welcome Home" receptions. They included running errands, baby sitting, providing transportation, etc. while the men were at camp.

These three couples also set up phone trees to help one another while the men were away. They became an organization. For a time, it was known as the Readiness Group. This included all wives that wanted to participate. Next they organized Christmas celebrations. Over the years this has grown to where we service all branches of the military. Not just National Guard.

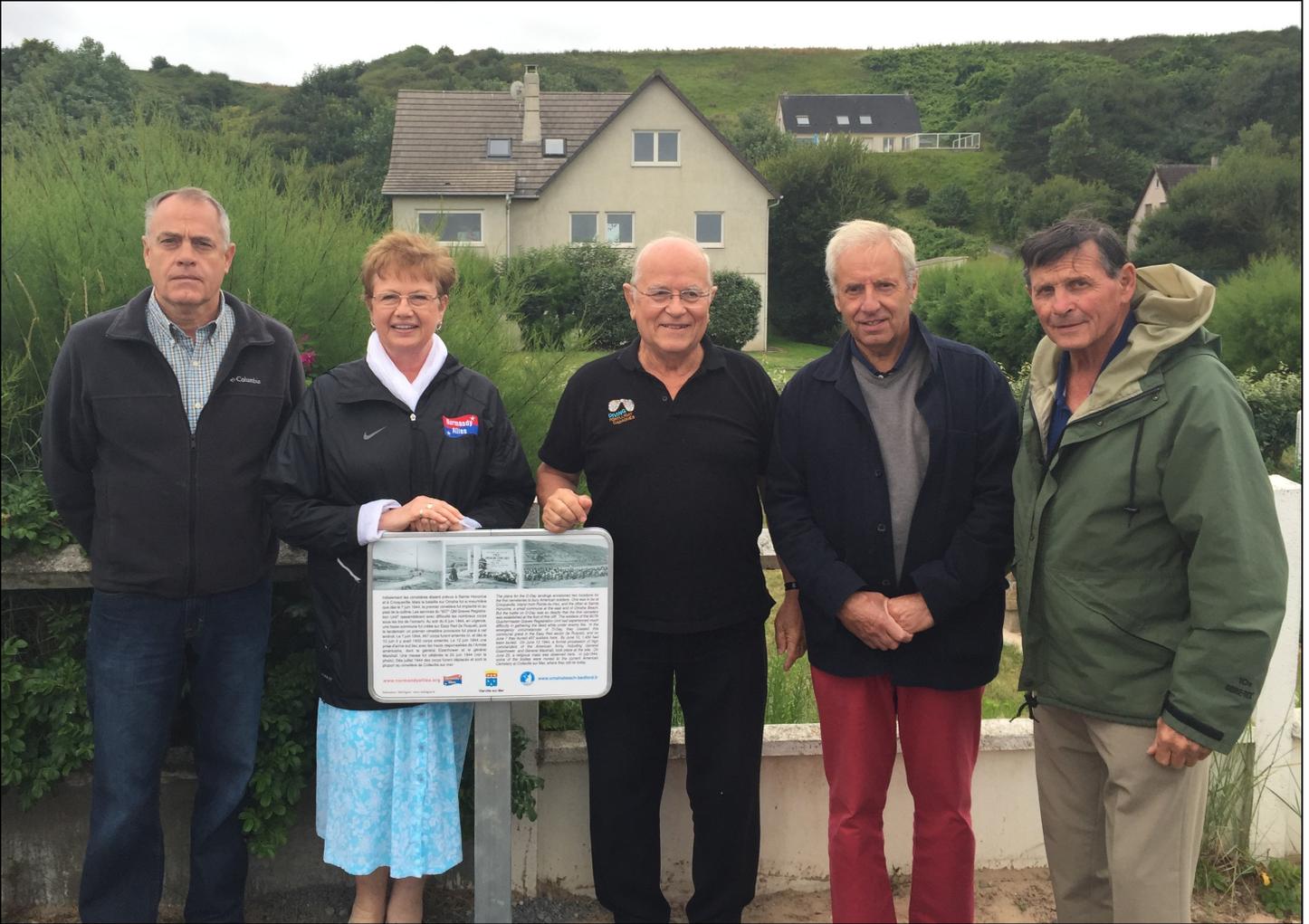
If a military family needs assistance & the person has been deployed or has just returned (within 6 months) we feed, help shelter, find jobs etc. Two of the founders belong to Post 64 and are avid supporters. We do not receive any funding from the military services because they believe they have their own help for these people; however, there is not a single military base within 250 to 300 miles of us in S.W. Virginia to provide this help. Our National Guard units keep being deployed because they are the best!!!

WE WILL SUPPORT OUR PEOPLE!!

I saw this write up as an opportunity to expose this to other people & let them get ideas. That is the reason I sent it to you. If three N.C.O. couples can do it, there are thousands of others who can do the same.

Thank You,

PNC Bill King, Post 64



New Stele Commemorates 1st Cemetery on Omaha Beach

On a warm, sunny afternoon in July 2016 Odile and Philippe Josse, president of the Omaha Beach/Bedford VA Association, invited Normandy Allies team leaders Marsha Smith, Peter Combee, and Charles Frick to their home overlooking Omaha Beach. There, Philippe spoke of his desire to establish an additional and more visible marker for the site of the first American cemetery on Omaha Beach. Marsha, Pete, and Charlie confirmed the need for this and spoke of the challenge of finding the site even when the visitors know where the monument is located. Time has altered the landscape so that the existing monument is now below street level.

Over the following year, Philippe spearheaded the many facets of this effort with government leaders, local

citizens, historians, archivists, and marker designers. Normandy Allies provided some financial support as well as historical editing by Peter Combee and translation by Walter Carter.

On a cold, windy morning in July 2017 our Normandy Allies group saw the new stele and congratulated the Association for its efforts in this very beneficial addition to the site. Peter, Marsha, Philippe, Mayor Antoine deBellaigue of Vierville s/mer and Charlie paused to mark the moment in this photo above. The Omaha Beach/Bedford Association will be adding floral landscaping at a later date.

*Originally published in Normandy Allies' Amitié.
Reprinted with permission.*

**Be sure to check out our
new and improved website at:
www.29thdivisionassociation.com**

29th Division Association Supplies Available

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>POSTAGE & HANDLING</u>	<u>MAILED</u>
Book—Ever Forward 116th Inf. History (soft cover)	\$17.90	\$5.75	\$23.65
Book—29 Let's Go—29th Division History	\$29.00	FREE	\$29.00
Book—Beyond the Beachhead (Joseph Balkoski)	\$19.90	\$5.75	\$25.65
Book—115th Infantry in WWII	\$25.00	\$5.75	\$30.75
Book—Omaha Beach and Beyond (The Long March of Sgt. Slaughter)	\$25.00	\$5.75	\$30.75
Book—From Beachhead to Brittany (Joseph Balkoski)	\$28.00	\$5.75	\$33.75
Book—From Brittany to the Reich (Joseph Balkoski)	\$27.00	\$5.75	\$32.75
Book—Our Tortured Souls (Joseph Balkoski)	\$27.00	\$5.75	\$32.75
Book—The Last Roll Call (Joseph Balkoski)	\$25.00	\$5.75	\$30.75
Book—Fields of War, Battle of Normandy (Robert Mueller)	\$19.95	\$5.75	\$25.70
Book—Drawing D-Day (Ugo & Maxine Giannini) (soft cover)	\$43.00	\$5.95	\$48.95
Book—For God, For Country ... For Love. (R.J. Slaughter)	\$20.00	\$5.75	\$25.75
29th Division Association Note Pads (5 1/2 x 8 1/2)	\$1.00	\$1.30	\$2.30
29th Division Association Note Pads (4 1/4 x 5 1/2)	\$1.35	\$0.70	\$2.05
Crest—115th Infantry Regiment	\$5.50	\$1.10	\$6.60
Crest—116th Infantry Regiment	\$5.50	\$1.10	\$6.60
Crest—175th Infantry Regiment	\$5.50	\$1.10	\$6.60
Decal (specify inside or outside)	\$0.50	\$0.50	\$1.00
Labels, gummed w/29th logo (sheet of 50)	\$1.00	\$0.50	\$1.50
Clear Plastic key ring w/29th Association logo	\$1.50	\$1.00	\$2.50
Lapel pin	\$3.95	\$1.10	\$5.05
Lapel pin, past post commander	\$5.00	\$1.10	\$6.10
Ladies pendant	\$6.00	\$1.10	\$7.10
Medallion (for plaques)	\$6.00	\$1.10	\$7.10
Plaque, wood 29th Division Association Logo	\$10.00	\$1.75	\$11.75
Plaque, wood replica of Omaha Beach Memorial	\$10.00	\$1.75	\$11.75
29th Division Association pocket patch	\$6.00	\$1.10	\$7.10
Pocket patch holder	\$3.00	\$1.10	\$4.10
Shoulder patch, 29th ID	\$3.50	\$0.50	\$4.00
Jacket, coach, navy with logo in S, M, L, XL, 2XL	\$28.00	\$5.75	\$33.75
Golf Shirt, embroidered 100% cotton pullover (royal blue, white, gray—L, XL, 2XL)	\$23.00	\$5.75	\$28.75
29th Division Official Association Necktie	\$20.00	\$2.00	\$22.00
29th Association Dress Hat (state size)	\$38.00	\$5.75	\$43.75
Hat, Baseball w/29th logo (embroidered)	\$15.00	\$2.60	\$17.60
Hat, Baseball w/29th logo (embroidered/Summer mesh)	\$12.00	\$2.60	\$14.60
29th Division Cemetery flags on wooden staff 12" X 19"	\$5.00	\$3.00	\$8.00

Checks should be made payable to the **29th Division Association** & mailed with orders to: **National Property Officer, 29th Division Association, 403 Caledonia Avenue Baltimore, MD 21227- 4707**, Phone — 410-242-1820. You can now buy 29th merchandise using a credit card, debit card, or "PayPal". **Minimum order on credit, debit & "PayPal" is \$15.00.** Just go to the new updated website at www.29thdivisionassociation.com and click on "Merchandise" and it will walk you through how to order merchandise using electronic payment.

29th Division Association
P.O. Box 47634
Windsor Mill, MD 21244-0634

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 1262
Baltimore, MD

Address Service Requested

Association Membership

Applications and payments can be completed online or mailed to our National Headquarters address below. If you do not choose a post, one will be assigned for you based on your current or former unit or your home address. Dues vary from post to post but a check for \$12.00 made payable to the 29th Division Association will suffice. You may also make application and pay dues at our National web site: www.29thdivisionassociation.com.

National Headquarters
29th Division Association
P.O. Box 47634
Windsor Mill, MD 21244-0634

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| MD Post 1-72 | Baltimore, MD |
| FL Post 2 | Sarasota, FL |
| VA Post 5 | Norfolk, VA |
| MD Post 48 | Westminster, MD |
| MD Post 58 | Dundalk, MD |
| VA Post 64 | Roanoke, VA |
| MD Post 78 | Frederick, MD |
| MD Post 85 | Northeastern MD |
| MD Post 88 | Eastern Shore, DE & MD |
| NE Post 93 | New England |
| MD Post 94 | Silver Spring, MD |
| MD Post 110 | Pikesville, MD |
| VA Post 116 | Staunton, VA |
| PA Post 175 | Pennsylvania |
| MD Post 729 | Waynesboro, PA |

You Can Help Our Association Grow

Support your Post and the Association. Be on the alert for prospective new members and tell them about our Association. Give prospects an application and encourage them to enroll.



"29 Let's Go!"

Application for Membership in
29TH DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.

Please Print

Applicant _____

E-mail Address (if available) _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip+4 _____

I was a member of ____ Company ____ Battery ____ Regiment

29th Division WWII _____ NG _____ 29th Inf Div _____

*GWOT _____ Children/Grandchildren _____

Phone Number _____

I hereby apply for membership in the 29th Division Association, Inc.
and herewith transmit \$ _____ as annual membership dues

In _____ Post No. _____
which includes the National dues and one year subscription to the
official publication of the 29th Division Association, Inc. "The
Twenty-Niner." which is published three times per year.

*GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

Applicant's Signature _____