



116th IBCT HQs, and 2-224 Aviation to deploy to Kosovo

RICHMOND, VA – The Virginia National Guard's Staunton-based 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Headquarters will mobilize for federal active duty in early January 2022 to take responsibility for the NATO-led Kosovo Force Regional Command-East, and the Sandston-based 2nd Battalion, 224th Aviation Regiment, 29th Infantry Division will mobilize as their aviation task force according to an announcements made Aug. 13 and 23, 2021, by Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia. NATO KFOR troops conduct peace support operations contributing to a safe and secure environment for all people in Kosovo while healthy political dialogue continues between Kosovo and Serbia.

"The 116th IBCT Headquarters has time and again been given the toughest assignments, and they are staffed with some of the most experienced and capable leaders and Soldiers in the Virginia National Guard," Williams

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Gettysburg provides excellent location for our 102nd Annual Reunion and Convention

The 102nd Annual Reunion and Convention presented several challenges. Of greatest concern was attendance at the Convention, as registration numbers have been declining over the years and the COVID-19 pandemic had already caused the postponement of the 102nd from 2020 to 2021.

From that standpoint, the Convention was a great success. Despite a late summer COVID surge in southwest Virginia that kept most of the Staunton and Roanoke members from attending, paid registration was higher than that in previous years.

There were two "avenues of approach" taken to solve the problem. The first was to increase efforts to "advertise" the convention – to make sure people knew the convention was being held and what was planned; and to convince people to attend. Second, make the convention exciting, different and appealing to all.

Once the pandemic settled down quite a bit (delta variant notwithstanding) and holding the convention in 2021 became a reasonably good decision, it was paramount to convince people that the convention was going to happen and that it was one they would not want to miss. In numerous National Executive Council (NEC) meetings over the past several years, it was generally agreed that good use of social media, promoted by the Futures Committee, was important.



Pete Hinz and Brandon Cole, laying the wreath at the Maryland Monument on Friday, October 29.

The Association has a website and Facebook page. But a quick assessment of both identified that the Facebook Page was underutilized (3 posts in the first 3 or 4 months of the year) and that the website lacked contemporary functionality (most importantly to facilitate convention planning, on-line registration was essential).

Efforts to add to the webpage functionality were redoubled and the Association retained

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TF Spartan, 29th ID stand up TF Freedom, moves 5,000 Afghans through Kuwait

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – On a particularly hazy mid-September day in Kuwait, Maj. Gen. John Rhodes, commanding general of Task Force Spartan and the National Guard's Virginia-based 29th Infantry Division, stood near a camp on a military base in Kuwait. Empty tents lined the desert in

front of him. This was his Soldiers' doing.

Days earlier, this patch of land was bustling with travel-weary Afghans who arrived from Kabul. Curious children – not fully aware of their own circumstances – darted to and fro, and played soccer with Ameri-

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Meet our new commander:

Ted Shuey

It is my distinct honor to have the opportunity to serve as your National Commander for the coming year. Past National Commander Hinz has done a remarkable job of keeping the Association moving forward despite the challenges he was forced to deal with during the Covid outbreak.

Sadly, many Post and Regional meetings had to be cancelled, as well as the 2020 National meeting. PNC Hinz persisted through this difficult period and concluded his command with an extremely successful 2021 Conference held recently in Gettysburg. It is my goal to take the reins from this highpoint and continue moving forward to revitalize the Association. I will initially focus on a number of goals leading up to and including the 2022 Annual Conference.

The Division has gone through momentous changes over the last thirty-seven years since reactivation in 1985. We have moved from the initial "light" organization to become one of the current very large



and capable divisions in the National force structure. The 29th remains one of eight National Guard divisions. An outline of the current 29th Division will follow in this issue of the "Twenty-Niner."

My first major goal is to make next year's 2022 Association Conference, our 104th, a memorable event focused on generating comradery and renewing friendships. In many ways, it will be similar to previous annual gatherings, but it will also serve as a "reunion" focused on bringing together thirty-seven years of Division leadership. I will be personally asking each of the former Commanders to participate, along with their CSMs and as many members of their staff as possible. The National Conference will reunite former Twenty-Niners and allow them to share their stories of building today's Blue and Gray Division.

Next year's conference will also provide the opportunity to welcome home members of the current 29th Division Headquarters, serving today in Operation Spartan Shield based in Kuwait. We will look forward to the Division Commander briefing the conference on the Headquarters deployment experiences. He will obviously begin with supporting the Allied withdrawal from Afghanistan in August shortly after unfurling the colors. In addition, I'm sure there will be a number of other stories arising from their Spartan Shield deployment. So, the next conference of the 29th Division Association will be centered at Ft. Belvoir where we will learn about the latest chapter of "29 Let's Go!"

Meeting on our Headquarter's installation and in Northern Virginia will provide numerous opportunities for special tours of the WWI, WWII, Korean War, and Viet

Nam Memorials, perhaps even a visit to the Pentagon and Arlington National Cemetery. Attendees will have the opportunity to visit Mount Vernon and other local historical sites on and around Ft. Belvoir. The highlight will be a function at the new National Museum of the U. S. Army now open on Post. We are looking for affordable housing on and off the installation, but for now, mark your calendars for 6-9 October 2022.

During the year ahead, I intend to connect with all of the units now a part of today's 29th Division organization. They come from eleven states, and it is important to have them feel a part of and participate in the 29th Division Association. To begin the initiative, this and future issues of the "Twenty Niner" will start telling the story of the proud history these units bring to the 29th Division. The first article in this Fall Issue presents the story of the famous 30th Division, now the 30th ABCT, and their historic stand at Mortain, France during the Operation Cobra American breakout of 1944. Look for more such stories on the new 29th Division organization units.

We will continue to focus the Association on remembering the one hundred and four years of service to our Country. This will include educational opportunities provided through tours to 29th Division WWI and WWII battlefields in France. In addition, we will be looking to create a WWI Memorial near the Molleville Farm north of Verdun where the Division participated in the Meuse-Argonne Campaign that ended the war. We are also working to tell our Omaha Beach story in an existing museum there as part of the fast approaching 80th Anniversary. We will build membership in the 29th Division Association as we grow our educational programs.

Let me close by encouraging you to continue your membership in the Association and participate in local Post activities throughout the coming year. If you are not a member, consider joining and helping us grow. As one of the only remaining National Guard Divisions in the force structure, it is critical we tell the 29th Division story and keep alive the legacy of "29 Let's Go!"

Ted Shuey
National Commander
29th Division Association

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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. Note our cut-off date. If your contribution did not reach our National Executive Director by 1 November 2021, then it will not be listed until the next issue. Donation checks must be made payable to the **29th Division Association** and mailed to: **5 Shore Drive, North East, MD, 21901-3327**. *Special contributions made to support our recent convention are also listed.*

Beck, Raymond, Post 88, Associate, Woolford, MD

In memory of CSM Roger Haller

Brumberger, Kathleen, Post 1-72, Daughter, Marana, AZ

In memory of William C. Doyle, C/175

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

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ShIPLEY, Frederick, Post 88, B/175, Houston, TX

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Ungerleider, Neil, Post 93, Son, Boxford, MA

In memory of PNC Al Ungerleider

Veteran Corps, Baltimore, MD

In memory of Alice Shilow

In memory of 1SG Michael N. Gilden

In memory of MSG Samuel R. Lhamon, Sr.

Weatherholt, John, Post 1-72, 136/CSH, Summerfield, FL

Wilcox, Christina, Post 78, Widow, Frederick, MD

TAPS

The following list shows names of known 29ers and their ladies or family members who died and their deaths reported from 1 July 2021 through 1 November 2021. 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

Brooks, Robert M., Post 88, Associate, Church Creek, MD 9/16/21

Chick, Woodrow W., Post 5, B/111, Norfolk, VA 3/20/21

Dent, Gavin, Post 64, Grandson, Roanoke, VA 10/24/21

Gilden, Michael, Post 1-72, Associate, Baltimore, MD 9/14/21

Glock, Raymond, Post 1-72, L/115, Baltimore, MD 11/23/20

Hackett, Patrick, F., Post 1-72, B/2/175, Sykesville, MD 5/7/20

Hall, Harold B., Post 94, G/175, Morton, IL 9/15/21

Harter, Wilbur, R., Post 85, Associate, Elkton, MD 11/10/21

Kint, Robert R., Post 729, 729/ORD, Waynesboro, PA 10/5/21

Lhamon, Samuel, Post 1-72, HHC/29ID(L), Pasadena, MD 10/3/21

Marie, Bernard, Post 64, Associate, Roanoke, VA 11/5/21

May, Lloyd A., Post 729, A/115, Hagerstown, MD 6/15/21

Poffenberger, Richard B., Post 729, B/115, Hagerstown, MD 6/26/21

Potts, Maurice Orville, Post 85, E/115, Elkton, MD 11/6/21

Rush, J. Warner, Post 94, Associate, Waretown, NJ 11/5/21

Schulman, Israel R., Post 2, C/115, Palm City, FL 4/22/21

Scruton, Ralph J., Post 729, 729Maint, Greencastle, PA 10/29/21

Sieling, Anne, Post 110, Daughter, Annapolis, MD 5/14/20

Smith, Gregory A., Post 94, Associate, Fairport, NY 8/9/21

Trzaskos, John J., Post 29, E/115, Rensselaer, NY 10/3/21

Walker, James A., Post 29, C&D/115, Plymouth, MI 9/17/21

Zarachowicz, Joe J., Post 110, 29/DISCOM, Baltimore, MD 12/18/20

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 our comrades 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.

Valerie Simmers

National Executive Director

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

Norfolk-based 1-111th Field Artillery mobilized for duty in the Middle East

RICHMOND, VA – The Virginia Army National Guard's Norfolk-based 1st Battalion, 111th Field Artillery Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team will mobilize for federal active duty in late Fall 2021 according to an announcement made Aug. 30, 2021, by Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia. Approximately 330 Soldiers will deploy to the Central Command area of operations in the Middle East to provide personnel and site protection using the Counter-Rocket, Artillery and Mortar System, or C-RAM.

The C-RAM was developed to protect people and installations from attack by enemy rockets, artillery and mortar fire. C-RAM capable units intercept and destroy those threats mid-flight. The C-RAM is several sub-systems working together to identify, track, engage and destroy incoming rockets, artillery and mortar threats.

"While C-RAM is not a traditional field artillery mission, I know the Soldiers of 1-111th have proven themselves smart, adaptable and resilient," Williams said. "I have no doubt they will master the weapons system and be ready to accomplish their mission when they arrive in the Middle East.

Williams said the VNG is on pace to mobilize the most Soldiers and Airmen since 2007, and the 29th Infantry Division will mobilize the most Soldiers since World War II with troops deploying from units in Virginia, Maryland and Kentucky.

The Soldiers will begin federal active duty in late Fall 2021, spend two months training on the C-RAM, then deploy to multiple locations in the Middle East. The full mobilization is expected to last about 12 months.

"This is definitely a unique deployment," said Lt. Col. Donald Bailey, commander of the 1-111th. "Although C-RAM capabilities exist outside the mission of the field artillery, our Soldiers remain excited about the opportunity to learn about, train for and support this vital protection mission."

Bailey explained operational missions such as the C-RAM build readiness and enhance our capability to rapidly respond to disasters and emergencies in the commonwealth.

"I have every confidence this Battalion will prove itself ready and perform with distinction in support of U.S. Central Command's priorities," he said. "After an unprecedented period of response to domestic emergencies, including the extended deployment of over 300 Soldiers to the U.S. Capitol to perform security missions in support of federal authorities, I want to extend a special thanks to our families and employers for their continued support and remarkable sacrifice as we transition to pre-mobilization training activities and prepare for the deployment."

While Soldiers from the 1-111th have previously mobilized for overseas duty, this is the first time the battalion headquarters and all three batteries have deployed since World War II.

The following units will be mobilized:

- Norfolk-based Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 111th Field Artillery Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team
- Hanover-based Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 111th Field Artillery

- Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team
- Norfolk-based Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 111th Field Artillery Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team
- Hampton-based Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 111th Field Artillery Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team
- Norfolk-based Foxtrot Company, 429th Brigade Support Battalion, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

Current and planned VNG federal active duty mobilizations:

- Approximately 500 Virginia and Maryland National Guard Soldiers assigned to the Fort Belvoir-based 29th Infantry Division are currently on federal active duty in the Central Command Area of Operations as Task Force Spartan to provide leadership, command, control and in-depth staff analysis for Operation Spartan Shield.
- Approximately 80 Soldiers assigned to the Virginia Beach-based 329th Regional Support Group are scheduled for mobilization in Fall 2021 to the Central Command Area of Operations under the operational control of Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve serving as the base operating support-integrator for multiple installations.
- Approximately 1,000 Virginia and Kentucky National Guard Soldiers assigned to Lynchburg-based 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team are scheduled to mobilize in Fall 2021 to provide a security force in support of Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa.
- Approximately 100 VNG Soldiers assigned to the Staunton-based 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Headquarters will mobilize for federal active duty in early January 2022 to take responsibility for the NATO-led Kosovo Force Regional Command-East for the 30th rotation of U.S. military forces.
- Approximately 140 VNG Soldiers assigned to the Sandston-based 2nd Battalion, 224th Aviation Regiment, 29th Infantry Division will mobilize to serve as KFOR 30's aviation task force providing aerial troop movement and medical evacuation.

By Cotton Puryear, Virginia National Guard PAO

116th HQs to deploy with 2-224 Aviation

(Continued from page 1)

said. "Whether it was duty in Iraq, Afghanistan, the U.S. Virgin Islands or most recently assisting civilian law enforcement with security operations at the 59th Presidential Inauguration, they can always be counted on to accomplish the mission with results exceeding the standard. I have tremendous confidence in their ability to be a valuable partner in the NATO-led Kosovo Force and to help maintain safety and security for all people in their area of operations."

Williams said aviation support for troop movement and medical evacuation is a critical element for the NATO mission in Kosovo, and the 116th IBCT Headquarters is fortunate to have an experienced team of aviators and maintainers who are also their fellow Virginians.

"The 2-224th has deployed overseas multiple times as well as supported the Commonwealth of Virginia in multiple hazardous weather situations, and I have every confidence they will continue their outstanding record of mission success in Kosovo," he said.

It will be the 30th rotation of U.S. military forces based at Camp Bondsteel in Kosovo.

By Cotton Puryear, Virginia National Guard PAO

A Day at Brest

By Francis E. Thomas
Colonel, Retired

Francis E. Thomas, took his basic training in the anti-aircraft artillery branch. He had various assignments all preparing for overseas duty but the Army chose to forego all of that just before shipping out for Africa and he got assigned to the infantry (where the action was, if one wanted action!). His next stop was England and then into Normandy to join the 175th Infantry, 29th Division by mid-July 1944 where he ended up as a replacement in a rifle platoon of B Company.

After being hit near Brest and spending several weeks in a U.K. hospital, he rejoined his outfit in late October just in time for the push to the Roer River. He went on until the Elbe River and finally got home on points in January 1946.

He soon joined the Louisiana National Guard and got back with an AAA outfit. He was chosen for OCS and then went through several training schools. He rose through the ranks, had two years of active duty again and finally retired from the Guard in 1983 as a colonel. During all this time he also had a civilian occupation with a Texas company and later full time with the Louisiana Army National Guard.

When the gray-pink dawn broke on Thursday, 14 September 1944, we attempted to count our casualties after a long night of intermittent shelling of our positions in the immediate vicinity of Fort Keranroux by German artillery. It had finally let up.

An ancient French fort, complete with high thick walls, located on the outskirts of the City of Brest, France Fort Keranroux, a formidable defensive position event by 1944 standards, was further substantially strengthened in depth by the Germans with the addition of modern day pill boxes, direct fire artillery, automatic weapons, mines, and other defensive weaponry.

The shelling during the night of 13 September caused considerable casualties in our unit, several of which were brand new replacements. Two of them, privates Thomas Marullo, and John Spendolini, whom I had only met the previous day, were dug in about 75 feet from my position on the crest of an extremely large bomb crater. It had been caused by a British blockbuster bomb in an attempt to destroy the German submarine "pens" at Brest. Both Thomas and John received direct shell hits on their fox-holes and were instantly killed during that long arduous night.

After wolfing down a "K" ration, we jumped off at 0600 in what I seem to recall was a coordinated flanking attack on the "naval butts"—a large man-made mound previously constructed by the French military as a backdrop for rifle ranges. As with Fort Keranroux, which was in the immediate vicinity, it too was "developed" by the Germans into a strong defensive position.

Moving across several fields, hedgerows, and sunken road—which, at the time, seemed to be the only things that

made up our world in the Normandy and Brittany countryside)—the attack got well underway. In a short while we started to receive intense machine gun and mortar fire from our left front. Several of our platoon members were hit by the fire and went down. Making a dash for an unusually low hedgerow which I figured would afford some protection, and also allow me to possibly see where the machine gun fire was coming from. I was hit in the upper left arm. The impact spun me around and I found myself on the ground looking up at the gray sky. Needless to say, I was scared as hell and had no idea of exactly what had happened. I knew I was hit but did not know how badly.

For months every one of us spoke of getting hit—if it would happen, when it would happen, and of course, how it would happen? We all realized that the odds of getting wounded (or worse) increased the longer you stayed on line. You constantly thought about that moment you would catch a round or piece of shrapnel with your name on it. The only thing you could do to put it out of your mind was to fight like you were trained to do—and of course pray a lot.

Turning over, I tried to move my arm but found it useless. At the same time, to my consternation, I discovered that my M-1 rifle apparently had a round go through the front hand guard splintering the wood but more importantly tearing away part of the gas cylinder rendering the weapon inoperable. An infantryman—even a wounded one), without a weapon is like a fish out of water. It's a helpless, naked feeling.

The German machine gunner continued to fire long bursts extremely low to the ground which caused a great deal of rico-

chets about the area. All the while our 29ers were firing in the general direction of where they thought the machine gun might be located and at the same time calling for our weapons platoon people to bring our machine guns and mortar forward.

I tried to get to my first aid pouch but could not reach it as it was on the left, rear side of my cartridge belt and tangled up in my suspenders. I realized that the round apparently had not severed an artery because there wasn't a great deal of blood, and the pain was at least bearable.

I still could not use or even move my arm to any extent, however still scared and somewhat confused, I joined two other nearby wounded 29ers in calling for our medic. I could see one of the wounded men laying on his back in an exposed area about 40-50 feet to my left front. He appeared to have been hit in the chest as he was clutching it and coughing a lot between his calls for help.

I shouted to him to save his breath by not calling for the medic as I was doing enough hollering for both of us. He either did not hear me or was too upset to care because he kept calling as best he could. I could not identify him even though I could see him pretty well. The other wounded man crawled out of the line of fire to a ditch or depression in the ground and I never did find out what happened to him.

Within a few minutes one of our medics arrived—I believe his name was Stone—and immediately went to work on this wounded man. As he started to cut the man's harness and shirt away, the yet unlocated machine gun fired another burst. One round slammed into our medic's face directly at the bridge of his nose, smashing his glasses and killing him instantly. The

wounded man was hit several more times and was also killed. Because the low hedgerow directly to my front gave me some protection from the machine gun fire, I was forced to remain in my position for an undetermined amount of time with the two dead 29ers nearby.

The medic was in a kneeling position supported from behind by a hedgerow with the scissors still in his hand. While I turned my head and looked in another direction, I could not get this depressing scene out of my mind and can still see it vividly even after all these years. I was so shaken and upset by this particular action that I considered throwing several grenades in the direction I thought the machine gun fire was coming from. I determined it would have been futile because I would have had to throw them from a lying position and would have been lucky to get them far enough so the shrapnel wouldn't hit me and other 29ers.

Also, I had no way of knowing if our other squads or platoons were maneuvering around and behind yet other hedgerows to get closer to the machine to knock it out.

I have never understood what provoked that German gunner to deliberately fire at our medic. Surely he could see him. This sort of thing was not done intentionally during those days, and in several instances I remember seeing our, and at times, their medical personnel moving about rather freely in exposed areas taking care of the wounded.

Our medic was clearly identified by large red crosses on his helmet, red cross arm bands on each arm, and each of his two first aid pouches had large red crosses painted on them. He, of course, carried no weapons of any kind.

At this point, I was sure that the next gunners burst would certainly hit me with at least 2 or 3 rounds even though I was afforded protection by the low hedgerow. During several of the previous bursts he fired in our direction, I could hear a few rounds thump into the hedgerow directly in front of me.

I have always been thankful for that French peasant, who, a few hundred years prior to 14 September 1944, decided to pile a line of stones and soil along his field to mark his property. I'm sure it had never been put to the better use!

In a short time, a 60mm mortar was brought up by a couple of weapons platoon

people and hastily set up not more than 20 feet from where I was. They waited.

The machine gun fired again—higher than he had been firing and to the right. Our weapons platoon people immediately fired 5 or 6 quick mortar rounds. I do not even remember them "adjusting". The only things they were doing were bitching and blaming one another for not bringing more mortar rounds.

Besides being a couple of clowns, they had to have been 60mm mortar experts because as I heard the first of the rounds exploding, (apparently on the German's positions). I also heard the shouts of "Kamarad, Kamarad"!

Looking over the hedgerow I saw eight Germans scrambling towards us hands held high over their heads. (I was later told that they been dug in well camouflaged positions next to a small farm house and hay stack). From this point on, the machine gun firing stopped.

It was ironic to see that one of the Germans was a medic—complete with the white "over vest" with large red crosses on the front and back as all their medical personnel wore.

The Germans were briefly interrogated by one of the 29ers who spoke some German. They were asked which ones were firing the machine gun. After seeing our dead medic and the man he had started to help, they were so scared they could hardly talk.

They all denied being the ones having had anything to do with the incident and indicated that the machine gunners had taken off to the rear with a couple of their wounded when the mortar rounds exploded on their positions.

They made the quick decision to surrender as they figured more mortar rounds were on the way. Our platoon sergeant immediately put their medic to work attending to our wounded, while one of our 29ers took off my first aid pouch and tied it around my upper arm as a pressure point.

When several of our men moved up to where we were and saw our dead medic and the man he had started to help, they seemed to go into shock.

Someone had the good sense to cover them with shelter halves. Looking back these many years, I've always wondered why we didn't kill the entire group of Germans including their medic on the spot. No one would have questioned this action at the time—and no one was around

to remind us of the "Rules of War", "Treatment of POW's", etc.

Frankly, none of us were even concerned about these things during that particular morning. All we were thinking about was the way our medic and other comrade were killed. It was a dastardly act.

During this "bogged down" period, which seemed like an eternity, I saw a slim, tall lieutenant whom I had seen on a couple of occasions, sort of staggering around aimlessly, apparently looking for medical assistance. I could not see what other wounds he might have had, but his entire face and both hands were "peppered" as if he were hit with bird shot.

This possibly could have been caused by mortar shell fragments, however, it seemed to me at the time that his wounds would have been somewhat more severe. I remember he was identified as Lieutenant Johnson, who was an artillery forward observer and was told later that he had died as result of his wounds, caused by a mortar shell fired from the same German strong-point. I suppose his wounds were more severe than I had realized at the time.

Since I was a non-stretcher or "walking wounded" case, our platoon sergeant asked me to take the seven German prisoners to the rear on my way to the aid station. Their medic was still being utilized to assist our more seriously wounded.

Since my M-1 was no longer able to be used, I grabbed an MP40 machine pistol from one of the prisoners. It could be carried by use of its sling and operated with one hand. Just as I took the weapon, both the sergeant and I realized simultaneously that all of the Germans were still fully armed with machine pistols, extra ammunition magazines, potato masher grenades, and "commander type" knives. We immediately ordered them to shed all of the weapons and equipment.

Something else I had not realized before this moment—all the seven prisoners, and I suppose their medic as well, were "fallschirmjagers"—paratroopers—from the 2nd Parachute Division which we knew were assigned the main defensive role in the Brest area.

I hastened off to the rear area with the seven prisoners walking in front of me. I had never fired the MP40 before, but knew how it operated—(like a Thompson sub-machine gun or M-3 "grease gun"), and also noticed that its former owner had

taped three 30 round magazines together—so I figured even with my bad arm I could fire one magazine and hit at least a few of them should they break and run.

I would still have 60 rounds left for any other contingency. This should have been of little concern as they were still quite upset and seemed extremely remorseful about the earlier action. They kept trying to tell me that they were sorry about what had happened and that they had no part in it.

At any rate, I supposed they were somehow glad to have been spared and treated as POW's. The war was over for them. They apparently had seen a lot of action based on their badges and had all served on the eastern front, (Russia), and two of the also in the Baltic. When we arrived at the aid station, I turned them over to other 29ers, along with the information about how our medic and the wounded man were killed. I was glad to get rid of my wards.

The aid station had been hastily set up in a hedgerow-surrounded field consisting of little more than several wounded on stretchers and several more sitting against a hedgerow like rice birds on a barbed wire fence. A couple of them looked as if they had actually run into the barbed wire fenced. I joined this group.

A medic came over, slit my shirt sleeve, sprinkled sulfa powder on the wound, and tightly bandaged my arm. He pointed me in the direction of the Collecting Co. (C/104 Med Bn), about half a mile to the rear. Three of us lost no time hustling away from there as artillery shells started whining overhead—both outgoing and incoming.

The Collecting Station was not a great deal different from the other except for more wounded, more medics and a couple of ambulances. It was here that I got my initial shot of morphine which took care of the pain but also made me really drowsy. While waiting around I remember seeing quite a few wounded and wondered what we had run into.

It was not until several years later that I fully realized what sort of day it had been.

The official record of battle casualties for the 175th Infantry Regiment for the 14th of September 1944 was 25 killed in action, 85 wounded in action and 3 missing in action. The regiment suffered more casualties on this particular day than any other during the

listed time frame of 24 August to 19 September 1944. (Brest was captured on 19 September 1944).

Medical personnel tied a "tag" on me as they did all wounded. All sorts of information were included on it such as location, date, time, what sort of wound, blood type, etc. After this, they carried me to a waiting ambulance on a stretcher to further evacuation. By this time the morphine had taken effect to a degree where I could no longer walk.

(There is an unusual, and I think interesting bit of nostalgia about this "tag". During a tour of duty as a captain with the Army in 1961-1962, I went by the personnel records section in the Pentagon and pulled my file looking for personal information, and there in the file was the same dirty sweat-stained, frayed tag with some of the string still on it that the medic tied on me 18 years earlier!—I supposed the thing is still in the file.)

As I was put in the ambulance, I gave the MP40, which I had continued to carry up to this time, to the driver. He was happy to get the weapon as a souvenir, however, not as happy as I was because I had just been told that I had what was known in those days as a "million dollar wound"—not bad enough to be permanently disabled, but serious enough to get you a short respite in England before rejoining your unit. This same medic also told me that in all probability I would be England by nightfall. He was right.

A wounded officer was put in the same ambulance as we headed for the Clearing Station (D Co/104 Med Bn). I did not recognize him because he was as grimy and "beat-up" as I was, but when he introduced himself as Lieutenant Colonel Roger Whiteford, I immediately realized he was our battalion commander! This was the second time he had been wounded—the first was at Hill 108, near St. Lo, Normandy, in mid-June. He was one hell of a fine commander and a great compassionate individual.

We bumped along and talked of home and the war until each of us in turn, would doze off because of morphine and plain exhaustion. We were carried off in different directions when we got to the Clearing Station and I never saw the Colonel again, even after returning to my outfit in early November.

More morphine seemed to be the order of the day after being brought to an "operating tent." A doctor removed the round from my arm which somewhat sur-

prised me. I had no idea the round was still in my arm and realized then how lucky I was, Apparently, I had been hit by a round which had ricocheted. Had it not struck the ground first, it no double would have gone through my arm and into, or through my chest from the left side. I kept it for years as a good luck charm.

I was loaded into an ambulance one more time—with three other GI's for another long and bumpy ride to an airstrip where a couple of C-47 hospital planes were waiting. We slept through most of the flight to England except for a short period when the flight suited nurses woke several of us to take a look out of the windows. Looking out of our side we saw three R.A.F. Spitfires cavorting around, probably returning from some sort of boondoggle mission over France. I remember thinking of how they were typical "show-offs", but damn glad they were R.A.F. and not some fanatic Luftwaffe pilots like the machine gunner who fired on medical personnel. In a few minutes, they wagged their wings at us and were gone.

After being brought to a hospital in Yeoville, Somerset—(By now it was dusk) —and cleaned up, I figured I would have my first night's sleep in a bed for quite some time. No sooner had I dropped into deep sleep when I was abruptly awakened by my first shot of penicillin to my rear end! From that moment on it was a shot in the behind every four or six hours, for two months.

The next morning, I looked over to the bed next to mine and saw Sergeant Vernon Jett, an old 175th, 29er from Baltimore. He had been hit several times on 14 September also. I remember that one round took off a couple fingers, a second shattered his elbow, and a third went through his shoulder. We became "bed neighbors", however, after a short while he was evacuated to the states for further treatment and reconstruction of his elbow.

I suppose as World War II veterans get older, we all remember particular times, places, events and certain people a bit more than others. While there are many times, places, events and people I remember very well during my service with the 29th Division—14th of September 1944 stands out as a very particular day—at a very particular place and time; and the faces of my comrades of the 29th Division both living and dead from that day seem a little clearer.

29th Division WWI Monument in Consenvoye

Following up on the article in the Summer edition of "The Twenty-Niner," I was in France and met with Consenvoye Mayor Andre Dormios and the town council.

The community is extremely pleased that the 29th Division Association has re-energized the effort to place a monument in the town in recognition of the Doughboy's Meuse-Argonne attack there starting on 8 October 1918. The space originally offered to the Association in 1930 has been

turned into a small park, located directly across from the Mairie. It contains a fountain with benches around it. It is a nice quiet space in the center of the small town and there is still adequate room there to add a monument.

Another option, which the town prefers, would be as you cross the Meuse River into the town roughly fifty yards from the park site. It would become an American WWI Monument, but also serve as a "Welcome to Historical Consenvoye" marker.

There are numerous options of not only where, but what to construct. For example, the 28th and 35th Divisions recently did a monument in Bethincourt, dedicated on 28 September 2018, on the 100th Anniversary. This was a village near the Argonne Forest in the Aire River Valley which was their first day objective of the Offensive.

In addition to the 29th Division attack in the area along the Meuse River, the 33rd and 79th Divisions crossed the deep water at Consenvoye. Perhaps a Statue/Monument there could be a joint effort if our funding becomes an issue. The town historian is closely linked to the 79th Division and ABMC, and is anxious to assist in any way.

There are numerous other site possibilities, such as the nearby Molleville Farm where our 29th Division attacked as part of the third phase of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. During their initial major combat following their 1917 organization, their courage and sacrifice here set the stage for the later motto, "Twenty-Nine, Let's Go!"

While the D-Day landings and advance to St Lo in WWII will always highlight the Division's legacy, we need to remember the organization's tradition began on the heights above the Meuse River in October, 1918. The open farm area brings to mind "Picket's Charge," but uphill! The casualty rate there equaled our D-Day losses!!



Consenvoye Town Hall



Bethincourt Monument



Meuse River site

The ravine and rolling hills of Molleville Farm have changed little since WWI. The Germans held the high ground and covered it with thirty-five machinegun positions. They had excellent observation of any advance into the "Valley of Death," covering it with multiple indirect fire systems positioned to respond to any advance.

The principal owner of Molleville Farm is a retired Gendarme from Paris. His son and their family live in the farmhouse destroyed by the Meuse-Argonne Offensive.

Let us dedicate the year ahead to continuing the tradition we inherited and working to preserve it in another part of France with a marker to keep the 29th Division's WWI story alive. Lest We Forget!

We look forward to input from all of the 29th Association members and its Posts.

Please plan to earmark a portion of your 2022 support for a "29th Division WWI Monument" in France.



Current farmers along with the author on the left.

Article by NC Ted Shuey



Existing park site.

(Continued from page 1)

a veteran-owned media production company (with affinity for the 29th Division and the Maryland National Guard). In addition to producing excellent media products for emailing and Facebook posts, the company also provided direction and assistance for an overall social media strategy for the conference and helped identify a social media company to develop and execute a tactical social media plan for the conference and for near-term marketing of the Association in general.

Everyone should have had the opportunity to see and hear the media products that were based on in-person interviews with Steve Melnikoff (WWII 29er), Rosemary Coover (family of a WWII 29er), MAJ Jenkins (currently serving 29er), and your truly, National Commander and (retired 29er). If you haven't seen them, seek them out!

I am firmly convinced that the time, effort, and resources put into the social media campaign directly contributed to the very good turnout for the Convention!

So how was the convention different, exciting, and appealing to all?

Association executive staff arrived as early as Monday, the 25th, to begin on-site preparations for the Reunion. By Thursday morning, most events and logistical details were firmly in place and ready.

The scheduled events for the Reunion began Thursday night with one of the Convention's highlights, an almost overbooked visit to the Gettysburg Battlefield Visitor Center for an after-hours visit to the Cyclorama. Instead of the expected short introductory talk followed by a private "viewing" of the Cyclorama experience, expectations were significantly surpassed with a thorough lecture that included the technology and design of cycloramas, the history of cycloramas in general, and the history of Gettysburg Cyclorama specifically (one of four originally produced and the only one remaining).

Subsequent to the presentation, tour members received a "behind the curtain" tour of the cyclorama, going past the observation deck down into the works of the Cyclorama, close enough to touch (but we didn't) the painting and the diorama at its front.



Left to right: SPC Jessica Tang, SPC Evan Woody, SSG Charla Owens and SSG Patricia Kupec, entertaining prior to the Saturday evening banquet.



The Maryland Military Band performs "The 29th - A Musical Historical Narrative." at the Buffet dinner on Friday evening.

We were very fortunate to have Chris Brennaman, coauthor of *The Gettysburg Cyclorama: The Turning Point of the Civil War on Canvas* as our lead guide and presenter.

The Hospitality Suite, always a mainstay of Conventions, opened Thursday evening and continued on for excellent, almost continuous service until late Saturday evening.

Friday opened with a 2-bus tour of the entire battlefield led by Licensed Battlefield Guides (LBGs) Chris Army and Bill Trelease that included the iconic sites of Little Round Top, the Wheatfield, Devil's Den, Pickett's Charge, the Eternal Peace Light and McPherson's Farm. Although the rain picked up as the tour proceeded, veteran guides, Chris and Bill, were unfazed and adapted to the circumstances. We were able to disembark from the buses to see the "lay of the land" and hear the many anecdotal stories that the guides shared throughout.

It was only at the "High Watermark of the Confederacy" where Union troops held against Pickett's Charge that we stayed onboard and were treated to some fascinating stories about such heroes as Alonzo Cushing, 22 year-old battery commander, who finally received the much deserved Medal of Honor in November 2014.

At our end, the buses arrived at the Maryland Monument, a statue of two Maryland soldiers, one Union and one Confederate aiding each other on the battlefield, for a wreath-laying ceremony that included accompaniment from the 29th Division's Band Fife & Drum Corps and a very moving rendition of Taps performed by the Band Director, SFC Richard A. Carr, Jr. Despite the driving rain and near-gale force winds, the ceremony was completed.

Friday afternoon was busy and hectic. A party of attendees boarded a bus for a "pour tour" of three wineries in the country side of Gettysburg in Adams County Tastings were held and some attendees were spotted with shopping treasures. Meanwhile, in two salons at the Wyndham, we held a series of well-attended breakout sessions:

- Bill Ward provided a history and information lecture, which included several weapons, about the M1 Garand (M1 Rifle), the .30-06 caliber semi-automatic battle rifle that was the standard U.S. service rifle during World War II.
- Rosemary Coover led a very well received and much appreciated group discussion and sharing session for Children of 29ers.



Elected National officers for 2021-2022 being installed by PNC David Ginsburg at the Business Meeting on Saturday, October 30.

- PNC David Ginsburg delivered an “Idiot’s Guide to the 29th Division” which explained Division history, structure/ organization, and terminology designed for the non-military attendees.
- Steve Melnikoff, after very brief introductory remarks, conducted a question and answer session that included his WWII time in the 29th in Europe, as well as what times were like as he grew up before he became a 29er.
- Chris Army, one of the guides from the earlier battlefield tour, provided a history of Camp Colt. It was located in principally in the fields crossed by Pickett’s Charge and was used to conduct Tank Corps recruit training prior to World War I deployment. Future SHAEF Commander, Dwight David Eisenhower was in command and so loved the area that he lived there after his presidency.
- And finally, breakouts for the staff and Post Commanders of the Maryland and Southern Regions closed the afternoon sessions.

Friday evening featured the buffet banquet dinner, which was followed by the presentation of an original production, “The 29th - A Musical Historical Narrative.” The production featured an overview of the 29th and its ancestral units through the major wars of the United States accompanied by characteristic military music of each period. The music was provided by the Maryland Military Band, led by MSgt(r) Jari Villanueva and Mike Gibbons, Director Emeritus of the Babe Ruth Birthplace and Museum, provided the narration. Keep your eyes and ears peeled for results of the video/audio recording of the performance!

Saturday morning opened with the serious portion of the Convention, the National Association Business Meeting. The agenda was crisply implemented to complete the meeting by the lunch hour. In addition to reports and discussion of several issues (see minutes in this issue), nominations and elections were held and the new officers were sworn in. A motion to fund a 29th Memorial in the National Cemetery in Sarasota, FL was passed. And a motion passed to grant emeritus status to Joseph Balkoski as Association Historian and to Reverend John Schildt as Association Chaplain. The newly elected National Commander, BG(r) Ted Shuey provided his vision for his term and for the 2022 Reunion and Convention.

For those attendees that could/did not attend the Business Meeting, a battlefield tour of Longstreet’s Attack on the second day of Gettysburg was led by award winning author and LBG, Jim



National Commander Ted Shuey and Past National Commander Pete Hinz holding the National Charter after the installation.

Hessler. The tour featured (better weather than Friday) an in-depth interpretation of the massive Confederate attack on Day 2 and particular attention to General Daniel Sickles' controversial move to the Peach Orchard.

A memorable part of this tour was Jim telling the story of Dan Sickles who lived a very checkered life. He was a Tammany Hall Democrat elected to the US House of Representatives prior to the war. As he himself was having an affair, he discovered that his young wife was having one as well. When he discovered that he was cuckolded, he approached her lover in Lafayette Square across the street from the White House and shot him dead. Unfortunately for Sickles, he had just murdered a famous and influential man, Philip Barton Key, US Attorney for the District of Columbia and son of Francis Scott Key of Star Spangled Banner fame.

The subsequent trial received national notoriety and lived on in the annals of jurisprudence. Sickles' "dream team" argued that he committed the heinous murder while he was under extreme duress. He was found not guilty by reason of insanity, the first successful use of this defense tactic!

By limiting the Business Meeting to half a day, that freed the afternoon for yet another opportunity to take advantage of the great history so near with an opening lecture and subsequent battlefield tour (both led by Jim Hessler) of Culp's Hill sector of the battlefield that is undergoing rehabilitation by the National Park Service (NPS) to appear as it did when Confederate troops from Maryland and Virginia fought against US troops from Maryland on Day 2 and 3 of the battle.

Jim was at his best again and related the story of the 2nd Maryland Battalion CSA that fought on this ground. On the march to Gettysburg they had adopted a stray dog that they named Grace. As they charged the Union lines on July 2, Grace joined them in battle but was completely confused and angry when she saw so many of her masters lying in the field. She nudged them but they often did not respond. Unfortunately, Grace also was killed and even Union General Kane saw fit to provide her a proper burial, saying that "she was the only Christian-minded being on either side."



Past National Commanders, from left to right, Grant Hayden, J. David Leighton, Joe Zang, David Ginsburg and Pete Hinz post for a group photo.

A busy and eventful Saturday culminated in the Banquet Dinner. After yet another excellent meal prepared and served by the Wyndham staff, attendees were treated to a presentation of "Rosie the Riveter" performed by Mary Ann Jung.

The closing of the 102nd Annual Reunion and Convention began on Sunday with the Memorial Service, held by National Commander Ted Shuey, to remember those Association members who have passed away since the last Convention. The final event of this memorable weekend was the National Executive Council's (NEC's) 2021-2022 Meeting #1.

But before this description of the 102nd Annual Reunion and Convention ends, recognition should be extended to Tom Knight, National Finance Officer, and his wife Donna, who worked tirelessly throughout the Convention to operate the Association Store. Tom's vision of transitioning to the on-line store on the web page was in great evidence as significant numbers of old stock were sold to reduce the Association's on-hand inventory, while a computer was readily available for anyone wishing to order from the on-line store.

And lastly, when one has a question, is looking for someone to chat with, or has a few minutes to spare, they inevitably end up at the Registration Table. Located in the sumptuous lobby of the Wyndham, where a team of rotating volunteers led by Will Mund were on hand to ensure everyone processed in properly, received the materials they needed, and got answers and information to make their Convention experience a great one.

I thank everyone who attended this year's Reunion/Convention, everyone who helped make it a success, and especially the members of the Convention Committee (Ted Shuey, Dick Snyder, Valerie Simmers, Will Mund, Frank Armiger, Tom Knight, Howard Bond, and Rosemary Coover) – Thank You!

29 Let's Go!

BG(r) Peter Hinz
Past National Commander



Mary Jung, as "Rosie the Riveter" with PNC David Ginsburg of Post 110 and Rosemary Coover of Post 1-72 as Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt.



Leonard Jindra, Post 94, WWII 29er, F/115.



Calvados Toast, Ted Shuey, Pete Hinz and Steve Melnikoff.



Rev. Morris Bennett of Post 64 conducting the Memorial Service.



Licensed Battlefield Guide, Bill Trelease.



Houston Matney and Hugh Sproul



PNC Joe Zang and his wife, Shirley.

National Officers - Elected and Appointed for 2021- 2022

Elected Officers

National Commander: Ted Shuey
 Senior Vice Commander: Dick Snyder
 Junior Vice Commander: Jimmy Kilbourne
 Finance Officer: Tom Knight
 Chaplain: Joel Jenkins
 Welfare Officer: J. Brian Becker
 Service Officer: Bill Bullock
 Historian: Dr. Edmund "Rick" Potter
 Judge Advocate: Houston Matney
 Surgeon: Dr. Howard Bond
 Sergeant-at-Arms: Michael Gilkerson
 Futures Committee Chairperson: PNC David Ginsburg
 Southern Region Vice Commander: Richard Carr
 Maryland Region Vice Commander: Bernie Liswell
 At-Large Region Vice Commander: Valerie Simmers



Appointed Officers

National Adjutant: Charles "Buddy" Faulconer
 National Executive Director: Frank Armiger
 Assistant to the National Executive Director: William S. Mund, Jr.
 National Property Officer: Franklin Shilow
 Editor/Publisher *The Twenty-Niner*: William S. Mund, Jr.
 Assistant Editor/Publisher *The Twenty-Niner*: Frank Armiger
 National Parliamentarian: Vacant
 Chaplain *Emeritus*: Reverend John Schildt
 Historian *Emeritus*: Joe Balkoski

Attendees at our 102nd Annual Reunion & Convention

Armiger, Frank & Susan
Ballinger, Robert
Banik, Jeff & Christine Nichols
Becker, Brian & Gail
Bennett, Morris & Ann
Benson, Wilmer & Carol
Bilo, William C. & Diane
Black, Jon
Bond, Howard & June
Boyle, Daniel
Carr, Richard & Denise
Carrick, Amy
Cole, Brandon
Cole, Cliff & Monica
Coover, Rosemary & Tom
Davis, Milt & Elizabeth
DeHaven, William
Fortunato, Michael
Garrison, Jay & Blonnie
Gerstenlauer, David
Ginsburg, David & Amy
Hayden, Grant
Held, Luba
Held, William
Hinz, Pete & Lynda
Hobbs, Bernard & Dawn
Jindra, Diana & Steve Trachulec
Jindra, Leonard
Kearney, Susan
Kilbourne, Jimmy
Knight, Tom & Donna
Krauss, Michael
Kupec, Patricia
Lane, Dale & Margi
Leighton, David & Ann
Linthicum, George & Dorothy
Liswell, Bernie & Yvonne
Malloy, Sean
Matney, Houston
McCurdy, Richard & Sandra
Meadows, Charles & Barbara
Melnikoff, Steve
Mund, William
Myers, Tammy
Nathan, John & Robert
Norris, Lisa
Ortner, Blake
Owens, Charla
Parker, Virginia
Pitts, Ronald & Elaine
Polaski, James
Raymond, Richard & Dianne
Rich, George
Rinaldi, Paul
Roush, Bruce & Carolyn
Shilow, Frank
Shuey, Ted
Simmers, Valerie & Ken
Sink, Karolyn
Snyder, Dick & Lois
Smith, Tim & Kathy
Sproul, Hugh & Anne Frank
Tang, Jessica
Willits, Sue
Woody, Evan
Zang, Joe & Shirley

Sunday Memorial Service

This year at our Memorial Service on Sunday morning, we honored those who departed since our last Annual Reunion and Convention in 2019. Listed below are their names. We pray that they may rest in peace.

Agee, Ivy C.
 Anderson, McKenny
 Bell, Richmond R.
 Bernstein, Stanley
 Bogia, Richard A.
 Bolinger, Calvin A.
 Bowen, Richard W.
 Brooks, Robert M.
 Browning, Gordon
 Carmack, Marion, D. Jr.
 Chalk, Francis "Buzz"
 Chick, Woodrow W.
 Christians, Russell
 Coffin, Robert H. Sr.
 Cogan, Gene
 Colcord, Herbert N.
 Cook, Robert M.
 Crosby, Samuel
 DeFazio, Cosmo
 Delk, Thomas E.
 Dent, Gavin
 Dickerson, John Q.
 Earll, Arden
 Eder, John, J.
 Eldredge, Robert
 Elzey, Allen M.
 Estey, Edward A.
 Etzler, Richard V.
 Ford, Richard J.
 Forney, Walter K.
 Foxwell, Richard D.
 Frick, Charles
 Gaudino, John J.
 Gilden, Michael
 Glock, Raymond
 Gomez, Raymond
 Grier, Thomas, E.
 Grymes, Herbert L. Jr.
 Hackett, Patrick F.
 Hall, Harold B.
 Harbaugh, Leon G.
 Haynes, Roger

Heffner, Edward W.
 Held, William Sr.
 Heline, Walter
 Herrick, LeRoy W.
 Hill, Theodore E.
 Hurley, James M.
 Hurley, Ronald
 Kemp, Sherry E.
 Kennedy, John M. Sr.
 Kessler, John C., Jr.
 Kint, Robert R.
 Kresman, William H.
 Kussman, John C.
 Lenhart, Glenn Jr.
 Lhamon, Samuel
 Lonas, Bernard J.
 Main, Mark
 Mansberger, Arlie
 Marini, Carman S.
 Marshall, Bobby L.
 Marziale, Louis F.
 Maupin, Charles A.
 May, Lloyd A.
 McDonough, Donna
 McIntire, Stanley E.
 McKee, PNC Donald
 Meylor, Thomas E.
 Mohr, Raymond T.
 Moscati, PNC Joe
 Murrman, John E.
 O'Toole, Anthony
 Paradiso, Salvatore
 Parker, Thomas A.
 Paul, Edith
 Pavone, Philip A.
 Payne, Larry D.
 Pickett, Russell, L.
 Pinson, William C.
 Poffenberger, Richard B.
 Porter, Freeman M.
 Powell, Harold G.
 Pridmore, Walter R.

Pryor, Phillip M.
 Quattro, Cosmos D.
 Reinhardt, Anthony E.
 Reter, Calvin L.
 Ridge, Albert E.
 Robinson, Russell
 Rothwell, Ralph K.
 Russo, Ralph
 Rzepkowski, Walter
 Schera, Simone, "Sam"
 Schulman, Israel R.
 Seghetti, Leo J.
 Seldon, Wendell L.
 Sherman, Albert L.
 Sliger, Ira T. Jr.
 Smith, Gregory A.
 Spicer, William
 Stevenson, Donald
 Stockman, Richard E.
 Thompson, Buford, D.
 Trzaskos, John J.
 Tyler, Allen L.
 Vickers, Walter
 Wachter, Barb L.
 Walker, James, A.
 Walters, John L.
 Warren, James M.
 Wilcox, PNC John E. Jr.
 Winters, PNC Paul N.
 Wolf, William D., Sr.
 Zigler, Harold C.
 Zimmerman, Charles E.

Ladies

Agnew, Alberta
 Crosby, Carolyn
 McCarthy, Elaine
 Shilow, Alice
 Steimel, Judith K.
 Vaccarino, Mary E., "Betty"

(Continued from page 1)

can Soldiers. Buses rumbled, hissed, and kicked up dust as they traveled the unpaved roads, carrying with them approximately 5,000 evacuees. Yet, because of his Soldiers who collectively poured in thousands of work hours, the base was quiet again. In just two weeks, TFS Soldiers turned the world's most vulnerable people into those who could see a glimmer of hope.

By late July, as the world awaited word on the fate of Afghan interpreters and their families, TFS Soldiers quietly planned. Although they did not know how many, if any at all, would end up coming through their area of operation, eight TFS Soldiers based in Jordan flew to Kuwait to conduct a site survey for what would be called "Freedom Village," the sprawling compound designed to welcome and house evacuees as they awaited processing.

Officers and senior non-commissioned officers comprised the delegation, and although most of them had spent their entire careers planning for war, they took their new task of building a miniature city with gusto.

"We hit the ground within 24 hours of getting the warning order," said Sgt. 1st Class Gavin McClung, the Protection Cell non-commissioned officer and one of the original eight who arrived from Jordan. "From that time on, we sprinted."

The team also benefited from the National Guard's West Virginia-based 111th Engineer Brigade, which had been working on moving the dirt and flattening the ground for Freedom Village. The miniature city included bedspaces, showers, bathrooms, a cultural center, and medical screening and supply tents.

Still facing uncertainties and without knowing how many evacuees would need temporary housing, the team went on with their plans. Then, there came a change. Rather than housing evacuees, the area would instead be used for American service members redeploying from Afghanistan. Just as quickly as they had planned to house Afghans, the team scrapped that plan and instead began building for thousands of battle-wearied service members.

"We went from building 10-person rooms to building open bays, because the needs of civilians and Soldiers are different," McClung said. "We had to pull back on a lot of what we would have considered amenities that families needed, to building something for Soldiers instead."

As the landscape of Freedom Village began to change, so did the situation in Afghanistan. As the Taliban closed on Kabul, tens of thousands of at-risk Afghans flooded the airport, looking for a way out of the country and to a safer, more secure future. When the Department of State announced the official evacuations of Special Immigrant Visa Afghans, the team had to change their plans again. This time, they knew who they were planning for and the approximate number of civilians Freedom Village needed to accommodate.

"We had operated under a particular course of action for about ten days, and in 24 hours, we shifted course again because we were told the Kuwaiti government had agreed to help us – that this was a humanitarian mission," McClung said.

With concrete numbers to work from, the team – now officially known as Task Force Freedom – worked with subunits under TFS to anticipate every logistical need in the movement of some 5,000 people.

"It took a lot of planning, because displaced civilians have different access and needs than Department of Defense personnel," McClung said. "They couldn't go everywhere on base, so there were logistics of transportation and meal services to consider."

While the Army's systems of checks-and-balances are best for producing optimal results, those same systems may not necessarily be the best when speed is key. Displaced evacuees on Air Force-operated flights were coming by the hundreds, and the team needed to act right away.

"Logistically, we faced a lot of hurdles because people were coming and they needed to be housed and fed," McClung said. "To our leadership's credit, they understood that. They didn't quibble on whether we were authorized to do something by finding where it was written. They just told us to do it."

As evacuees poured in, the team realized it quickly needed more space. Although it had planned to house about 5,000 people, many of the spaces still needed to be cleared by engineer Soldiers and tents needed to be set up.

The team shifted again to meet mission requirements by using an already-built facility on another part of the base originally used to quarantine Soldiers during the COVID-19 epidemic.

"Again, we had to do it in 24 hours because the evacuees were either coming or already on the ground," said 1st Lt. John Rivera, Task Force Freedom tactical operations center officer-in-charge. "Even though we were adjusting as the situation changed, we knew it was going to work because we started with a solid plan."

By the end of the operation, more than 800 Soldiers had worked under Task Force Freedom to assist about 5,000 at-risk evacuees.

REFLECTIONS

When situations are constantly changing, when they don't have the time to even sleep or stop the mission to eat, when the lives of thousands of innocent people depend on them, Soldiers don't have the luxury to stop to think about the impact of their work.

As their mission wound down, McClung and Rivera sat together in a dusty room at the unit's tactical operations center to reflect on what the mission meant to them.

"You see these children – these innocent, displaced children. They are hungry, they had been sitting out on the tarmac in Kabul for a week. To see them come in, you just want to help them as much as you can," McClung said, adding that the Soldiers immediately went to the base's Post Exchange and spent several thousands of dollars to buy necessity items for the evacuees.

Rivera, on his first deployment, also recalled that he just wanted to help. He said he will most remember this mission because of the people he met.

On the last day Freedom Village was opened, as the last displaced Afghans boarded the bus to the airport for flights to America, Soldiers lined up on both sides to say goodbye with a round of applause. Although it was the end of a short, intense two weeks, it was also a beginning for many.

For two mothers, it was the beginning because they gave birth during their stay at Freedom Village. For about 5,000 evacuees, it was a new beginning because during a sweltering summer in 2021 – with the entire world watching and as they were called to lend a hand – Soldiers from the 29th Infantry Division said, "Let's Go!"

By Sgt. Marc Loi, 29th Infantry Division

The FoG — Friends of the Guard

Another update on the efforts by the VANG Historical Foundation's volunteer group, the "Friends of the Guard." From January 2021 to the end of August 2021 this group of hard-working military veterans and retirees have put in more than 800 hours of labor on these projects.



One of the most recent acquisitions by the VANG for restoration and display at the Joint Force Headquarters: an M4A3E8 Sherman tank. This "Easy Eight" Sherman is serial number 1438 out of the approximately 5,400 produced.



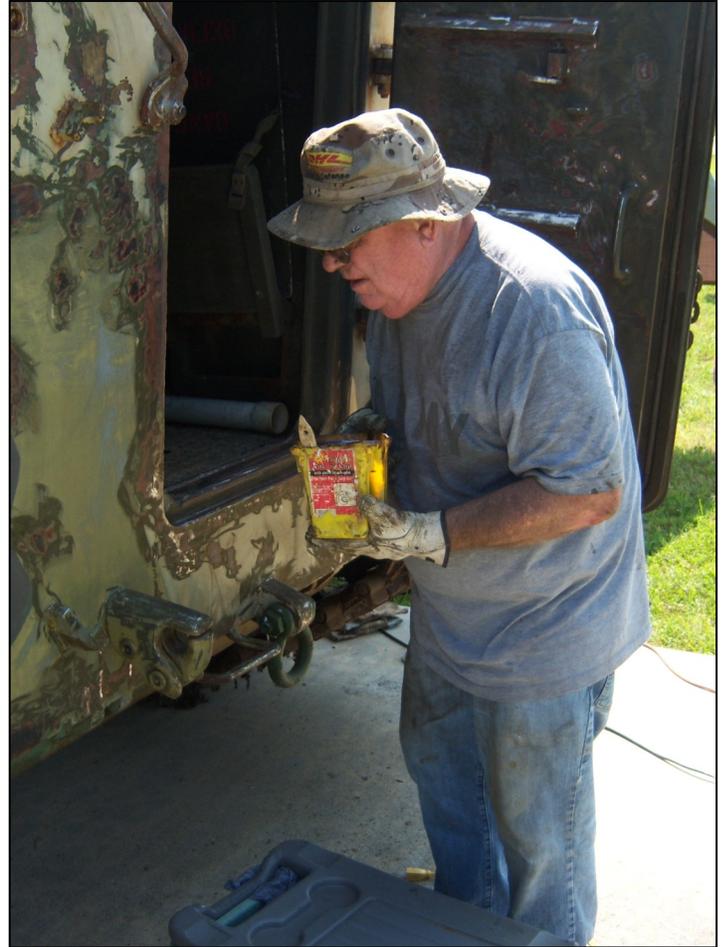
Inside the driver's hatch, some of the instrument panels are in fairly good condition with still legible instructions for starting and shutting down the engine.



Another addition to the JFHQ display pad is this M84 4.2 Mortar Track. This vehicle had previously been on display at the Charlottesville Army. As can be seen, the volunteers have started the long process of removing the rust and old camo paint in order to restore it to an early 1960s appearance.



A companion piece for the French WWI 75mm cannon restored by the volunteers earlier and now on display on the drill floor. This 1918-dated horse-drawn caisson has been modified to carry all of the various tools and repair parts needed by a 75mm battery.



COL (ret) James Ebertowski applies rust converter to the ramp at the rear of the M84 and the inside of the hatch in the ramp. The Track will require significant cleaning to get rid of all of the peeling paint and accumulated dirt inside the area where the crew would fire the mortar.

Leave no one behind

It should come as no surprise that America has been leading all other nations in its pursuit to repatriate the fallen soldiers of previous wars. It is one of the reasons why I am so proud to be an American. When all else fails those within the military service community are largely used as a beacon of unity and purpose. It is for this reason that the "Leave no one behind" philosophy carries so much weight. No one deserves to be forgotten, but a nation's warriors deserve a special place in the pages of History.

That being said, why do we so often forget? Admittedly, I knew almost nothing about the 29th before I moved to Virginia. My life and time in service were all served west of the Mississippi. We, like you, hold on to military traditions and unit affiliations, but I have never seen such overt attempts to keep a unit alive in the present memory. Your icons and emblems adorn a great number of structures and roadways. But even that did not provide the rich history that I am accustomed to. This, I got through Stories Behind the Stars, a digital memorialization and repatriation effort.

Here, I became intimately aware of the price that Virginia and the greater 29th ID paid for their participation liberating the free world with our allies during WW2. This is why I joined the association, to ensure that this history would never be forgotten. Since I started my position, I quickly realized, how much has already been lost. If there is any hope of recovering and preserving this information, I have to have your help.

We need people willing to be a part of this repatriation effort. When is the next opportunity you will have to take part in bringing our warriors home? We have simple tasks like finding photos of the fallen, campaign awareness personnel, and various writing positions. We have over 1,000 team members from over a dozen countries involved. Our number of active participants are up around 100% since the Memorial Day season, but still somehow, large swathes of the east coast are underrepresented, the 29th is absolutely underrepresented.

We partnered with the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, VA to complete the 2,502 names that they recognize as the fallen from that event. How many does the 29th recognize? Who better to write this story than those that still carry on the traditions of these brave heroes? How do we get the entire 29th involved in repatriating these soldiers? Why shouldn't one be showcased in each of our publications from now on?

These are the questions that I pose to our members. I believe that organizations like this are founded on the principal of remembrance, but it seems that the wider number of veterans associations are forgetting and doing very little to change this. Let's stand together and raise the bar on how a veteran's organization engages in this space. Help elevate the 29th ID's legacy! I am ashamed that I knew so little until I moved here. Your story needs to be heard, and the fallen members of the 29th deserve to be ones to tell it.

So, you know who is standing beside you in this effort, my name is Scott Rayl, I am a medically-retired former SFC with time in both the active component and the National Guard. It's a miracle how long I lasted, as I have broken most of my body in the name of service. You wouldn't know it, as I have had a blessed recovery, and the signs of my pain are internal. I joined in December of 1997 as an 11X, which you might know that used to mean 11M.

I spent my first four years at Ft. Hood and Korea with a brief 10 month lay over in Bosnia. Like a foolish lower enlisted man, I thought I would join the National Guard and go to school, six months after 9/11. What a dope! As you can imagine, I was immediately scooped up and deployed. This fantasy of going to school would play itself out a couple more times, until people in the unit asked me to stop enrolling, as we were all guaranteed another deployment when I did.

My time was spent in the Guard largely between the 45th INF of Oklahoma and the 300th MI in Utah. While attending the Defense Language Institute in California, I learned about the American Battle Monuments Commission, and that became my sole occupational ambition. Until I found the Stories Behind the Stars, where I was given the position of ETO Special Projects Director, French Communication Liaison, unofficial leader of TF Oklahoma, and an ambiguous ambassadorship from one of our organizational friends in Europe.

The founder of my organization Don Milne is establishing himself as the civilian that created one of the more prolific military appreciation projects that I have ever seen. I was actually intending to recruit him when we first met. He was living in Utah when he got started building these profiles for the fallen. As COVID began to take effect, he lost his position and started doing this fulltime. After he completed his goals, the organization grew with him from a part time personal project to a state wide initiative. After completing the state of Utah, COVID was still in effect, so he decided to repatriate the memories of every fallen American in WW2.

This is where we are today, setting up teams in every state, working on building other teams in different countries and for major units. We are a non-profit initiative, meaning that we do not have a full 501c3, and we don't want it. The difference is we have a date that we decided will be our end date, the 80th anniversary of WW2. We have a fiscal sponsor that takes our donations and disperses them to us, but I'm not here looking for money. If you feel like donating, I'm sure your local chapter of the 29th would love your support. I'm looking for some 29ers to help me insert the voices of our heroes into the mainstream. If this interests you, please reach out.

Scott A. Rayl,
ETO Special Projects Director
French Communication Liaison
Richmond, VA (UTC-5)
(+1) 405-550-9530
Storiesbehindthestars.org



National Guard Division Realignment

During the recent U. S. Army division realignment, the 29th Division was selected as one of only eight National Guard Divisions to remain in the force. In addition, there are now ten active-duty divisions, bringing the Army total to only eighteen.

Under the new concept, the 29th Division will assist in training and readiness for the units now assigned to the "Blue and Gray." It is a rather impressive list of organizations from eleven states.

Each has a proud military heritage and is postured to meet the challenges facing the Army of the future. The new 29th Division is composed of the following:

Structure 29th Infantry Division

The 29th Infantry Division exercises training and readiness oversight of the following units, which are not organic: there is a division headquarters battalion, an armored brigade combat team, two infantry brigade combat teams, a combat aviation brigade, a field artillery brigade, a maneuver enhancement brigade, and a division sustainment brigade.

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
|  | 29th Infantry Division Headquarters & Headquarters Battalion
Headquarters & Support Company, Fort Belvoir, Virginia (VA NG)
Company A (Operations), Fort Belvoir, Virginia (VA NG)
Company B (Intel & Sustainment), Annapolis, MD (MD NG)
Company C (Signal), Cheltenham, Maryland (MD NG) |  | 1st Squadron, 153rd Cavalry Regiment |
|  | 29th Infantry Division Band (VA NG) |  | 1st Battalion, 124th Infantry Regiment |
|  | 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT) (NC NG)
Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) |  | 2nd Battalion, 124th Infantry Regiment |
|  | 1st Squadron, 150th Cavalry Regiment (WV NG) |  | 1st Battalion, 167th Infantry Regiment (AL NG) |
|  | 1st Battalion, 252nd Armor Regiment (NC NG) |  | 2nd Battalion, 116th FAR |
|  | 4th Battalion, 118th Infantry Regiment (SC NG) |  | 753rd BEB |
|  | 1st Battalion, 120th Infantry Regiment (NC NG) |  | 53rd BSB |
|  | 1st Battalion, 113th Field Artillery Regiment (FAR) (NC NG) |  | 116th IBCT (VA NG) |
|  | 236th Brigade Engineer Battalion (BEB) |  | HHC |
|  | 230th Brigade Support Battalion (BSB) (NC NG) |  | 2nd Squadron, 183rd Cavalry Regiment |
|  | 53rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) (FL NG)
HHC |  | 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment |
| | |  | 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment |
| | |  | 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry Regiment (KY NG) |
| | |  | 1st Battalion, 111th FAR |
| | |  | 229th BEB |
| | |  | 429th BSB |
| | |  | Combat Aviation Brigade, 29th Infantry Division (MD NG) |
| | |  | 1st Battalion, 285th Aviation Regiment (AZ NG) |
| | |  | 2d Battalion, 224th Aviation Regiment (VA NG) |
| | |  | 8th Battalion, 229th Aviation Regiment (USAR) |
| | |  | 1st Battalion, 111th Aviation Regiment (FL NG) |
| | |  | 142nd Field Artillery Brigade |
| | |  | Headquarters & Headquarters Battery (HHB) (Fayetteville, AR) |
| | |  | 1st Battalion, 142nd FAR (Harrison, Arkansas) |
| | |  | 2nd Battalion, 142nd FAR (Fort Smith, Arkansas) |
| | |  | 217th BSB (Booneville, Arkansas) |
| | | | Battery F, 142nd FAR (Fayetteville, Arkansas) |
| | | | 142d Signal Company (Fayetteville, Arkansas) |
| | | | 226th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade |
| | | | 29th Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade |

Historic “Old Hickory”, the 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT)

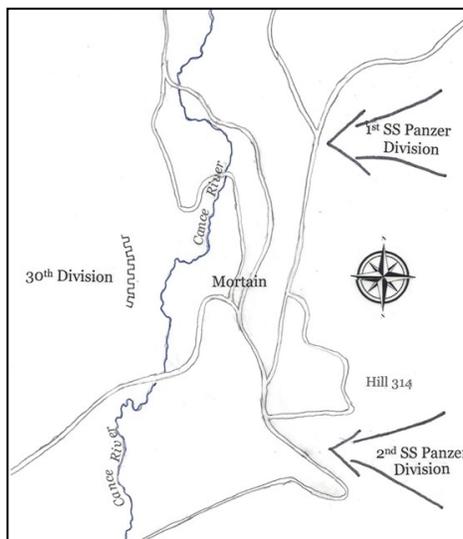
Editor's note: This is the first in a series of articles by National Commander Ted Shuey about the historic units that have now become an integral part of the 29th Division.

One of the most amazing American defensive stands during WWII was conducted by the 30th Infantry Division “Old Hickory,” 8-14 August 1944. Particularly noteworthy, was the success of its 2nd Battalion, 120th Infantry Regiment. On the evening of 7 August, climbing to the heights of Hill 314 overlooking the French village of Mortain, the 700 members of the battalion dug in to defend the dominant position. The hilltop allowed observation as far west as the island of Mont- Saint-Michel and its historic Abbey, only 43 kilometers, or 26 miles, away.

The recent German failures in Normandy and the First Army success of “Operation Cobra,” Adolph Hitler knew something had to be done to stop the advancing Allies. Field Marshall Gunther von Kluge, now in command of German Army West (OKW), informed the Fuhrer that a collapse in the west was imminent and recommended an immediate withdrawal. The Fuhrer refused the advice and instead ordered a desperate counterattack designated “Operation Luttich.” The Panzer led attack would be focused on reaching the coast and the road junction of Avranches. If successful, the XLVII Panzer Corps attack, would split the American forces and halt General George Patton’s rapid Third Army advance deep into France as it swept south toward LeMans.

Operation Cobra had begun on 25 July with a concentrated bombing campaign to break the German lines in the western part of the Cotentin peninsula, anchored on the French coast. The bombing resulted in serious “Friendly Fire” casualties because of heavy cloud cover. The 30th Division, in the VII Corps lead south, suffered the worse, with over 500 soldiers killed or wounded. Still, they resumed their advance on a one-mile front over rugged terrain.

Reaching the area of Mortain on 6 August, they relieved the 1st Infantry Division, taking up positions around the town and the high ground above. The “Big Red One” reported it was “all quiet” as they departed and the 2/120th ascended the hill above the town. Settling in for a quiet night, they had no idea that the German Operation Luttich was headed their way. Through the darkness though, the soldiers of Old Hickory began hearing the all-too familiar sound of advanc-



Operation Luttich advance, 7 August 1944

ing enemy armor. Soon forward Panzer infantry elements were moving into Mortain.

The main German advance struck the town the following day as the 2nd SS Panzer Division (*Das Reich*) moved through Mortain and south while the 1st SS Panzer Division (*Liebsstandarte SS Adolph Hitler*) skirted Hill 314 to the north. Soon the hill and American defenders were surrounded. Their situation resulted in later reference to them as the “Lost Battalion.” Both German advances though, would soon be disrupted by the balance of the 30th Division positioned west of the town blocking the high-speed access routes to Avranches. In addition, as the morning fog began to lift, Allied aircraft launched effective attacks against the German armor formations.

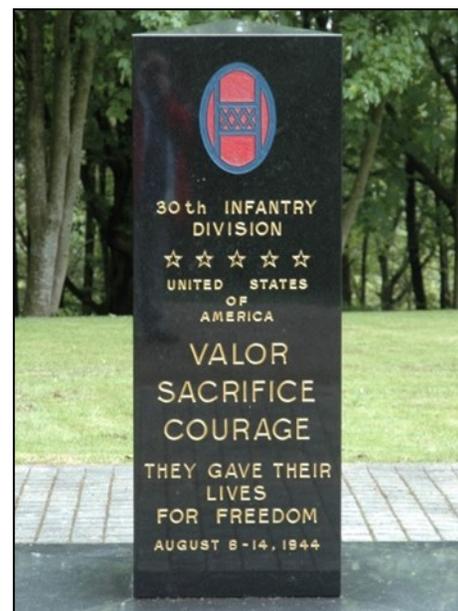
With German momentum stopped, their determination to take Hill 314 became even stronger. They quickly realized that if they could take the high ground, they would have eyes on the entire American forces advancing to the east and south. The position had to be taken to provide the supporting artillery fire necessary in order to resume their attack. The 2nd Battalion defenders were equally determined to hold the position and continued bringing effective indirect fire and air support against the Germans. Heavy casualties resulted in Captain Reynold C. Erichson quickly becoming the senior officer on the hill. For the next five days he would lead the fight to hold the position. With no conventional means to support the surrounded unit on the heights, Old Hickory’s 230 Field Artillery Battalion came up with an ingenious solution. They emptied artillery smoke canisters, stuffed them with medical supplies and radio

batteries and fired them onto the hilltop. This effort helped save soldier lives and keep Forward Observer radios pouring effective fires on the stalled German Panzer Divisions.

When elements of the 35th Division finally reached Hill 314 on 12 August, they found CPT Erichson and three hundred survivors of the 2nd Battalion. Over half of the battalion had been either killed or wounded, a high price to pay, but one that clearly contributed to the end of the German Army in Normandy. The remnants of their entire Seventh Army began withdrawing east, but too late. General Patton had gotten behind them and would link with British Commander Montgomery to create the “Falaise Pocket” on 19 August. This ended the war for over 50,000 German soldiers taken prisoner, with thousands more killed and wounded, plus the massive losses of heavy equipment. Less than a week later, Paris fell. The 30th would forever be known as the “Rock of Mortain” and validated their lineage, “Old Hickory” could bend but would never break.

The spirit lives today in the 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team. Their tradition of excellence and service continued through multiple deployments as part of America’s War on Terrorism. For example, in February 2004, mobilized to serve in Operation Iraqi Freedom, they became the first National Guard Brigade Combat Team to deploy to war since the Korean War. Most recently, they completed a command tour of Operation Spartan Shield based in Kuwait. Headquartered in neighboring North Carolina, today, the 30th ABCT is a critical component of the 29th Division.

“29 Let’s Go!”



30th Division Statue atop Hill 314

Book Review:**D-Day General:** *How Dutch Cota saved Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944.*

Noel Mehlo, who has been the lead researcher involved in the application to upgrade the DSC to the MOH for Norman “Dutch” Cota, has used the research data and assembled it into a factual and highly detailed account of what occurred on the 29th Division sector of Omaha Beach. Noel has entitled his work *D-Day General: How Dutch Cota Saved Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944.*

To be transparent and not make claims counter to history we must keep in mind that two Divisions invaded Omaha Beach on 6 June; the 1st Infantry and the 29th Infantry. Then, BG Cota was the Assistant Division Commander who landed 56 minutes after the initial wave landed. His influence on the Omaha Beach landing, beyond coordination with the Big Red One, was on the 29ID.

This upgraded research work is now a published book and may be of interest to members, and/or family members of the 29th Infantry Division and/or its Association. The effort to upgrade the DSC to the MOH continues and is a separate effort which must undergo an assessment IAW Army Regulations by ARBA (Army Review Boards Agency). This link <https://www.amazon.com/D-Day-General-Dutch-Saved-Omaha/dp/0811739651> will provide additional detail for those who seek additional information.

Carroll Childers
Major General (Ret)

Bodmin museum seeks artifacts for a display to honor the 29th

Bodmin Keep, a military museum in Cornwall, UK, is interested in establishing a permanent display to honor the presence of the **29th Infantry in Bodmin** from May 1943 until the Invasion in June 1944. Recently the museum has developed their World War II collections and hopes to enhance these further with a specific focus on the 29th Infantry.

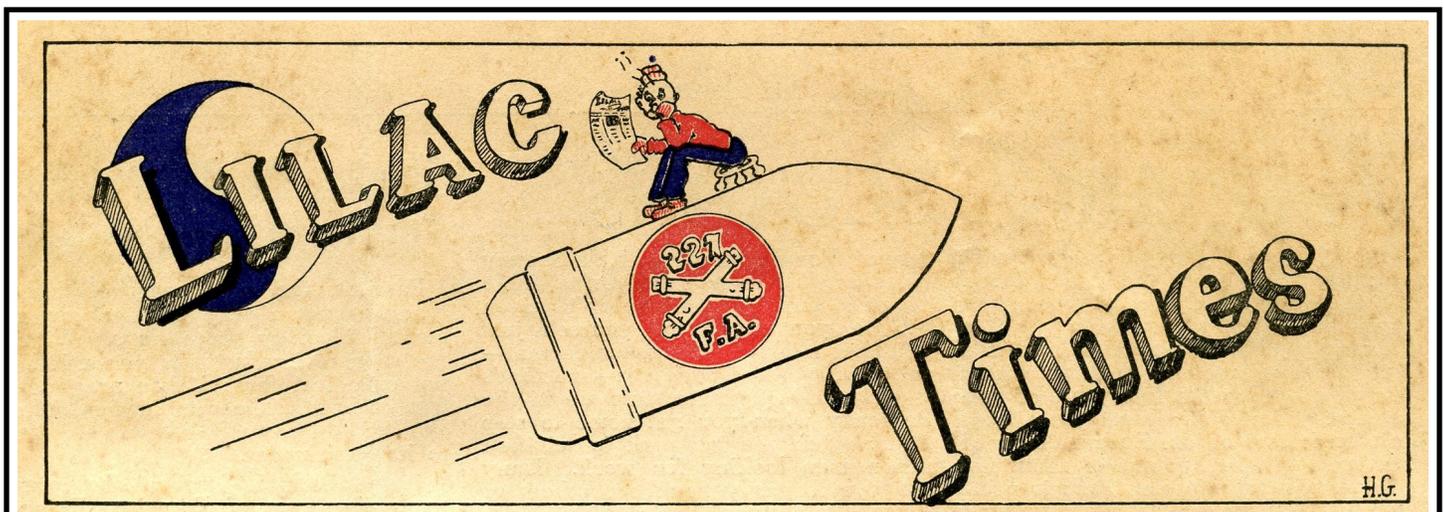
As part of their World War II projects during the summer of 2021, I was contacted by a summer intern, Charlotte Marchant, when she learned my father was a 29er stationed in Bodmin where he met my mother, an English nurse. I worked virtually with Charlotte and the museum’s director, Mary Godwin, the culmination resulted in a presentation done via Zoom about my parents’ story entitled “Young Love in Wartime Bodmin.”

As a retired English teacher, trained archivist, and the proud daughter of a 29er, I can think of no better way to honor my father and the 29th Infantry than to assist Bodmin Keep in further developing a permanent memorial. I am hoping to collect any appropriate artifacts (photos, stories, military articles etc.) that people might be willing to share as part of this very worthy project. The Museum is a fully-accredited non-profit and stands today where over 2000 men of the 29th lived while in Bodmin.

Please contact Susan Kearney via email: sekearney@comcast.net or 609-781-0236.

The museum can be found at www.bodminkeep.org

Susan Kearney



The Lilac Times was printed in Brake, Germany.

“Lilac” was the call sign for the 227th Field Artillery Bn — 155mm howitzers.

An article from that publication will appear in our Spring 2022 edition.

Minutes

of the Business Meeting on 30 October 2021
at the Gettysburg Wyndham, Gettysburg, PA

National Commander Pete Hinz called the National Business Meeting to order at 0906 hours. NC Hinz led the attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the opening prayer offered by Morris Bennett of Post 64. The group then recited the 29th Division Association Preamble. Commander Hinz began by welcoming all to this year's convention and thanking everyone for their attendance. It was especially important in light of the cancellation in 2020 to keep the momentum of the Association going at this difficult time.

Commander Hinz then asked Adjutant Frank Armiger for the roll call. It was noted that a quorum was present. The minutes of the previous meeting (NEC III, on 17 June 2021) were published and distributed in the summer edition of the *Twenty-Niner*. There were no revisions to the minutes and therefore, the minutes were accepted as published.

Correspondence: There was no correspondence.

Officer's Reports

National Commander: Commander Hinz indicated that it has been a difficult past two years and expressed deep appreciation to those who continued to support the posts and national. However, during this time period we were able to implement online convention registration, and increase our social media presence targeting future membership through Facebook and eventually Instagram. The Association also engaged a social meeting company for three months (September – November) and statistics showed a dramatic increase in activity on our Facebook page. We will evaluate the results to determine whether to continue this initiative. As the Memorial Service on Sunday will show, the Association lost many comrades over the past two years. Also, Commander Hinz expressed serious regrets to the Kings at the loss of their grandson in a tragic automobile accident.

National Senior Vice Commander: NSVC Shuey expressed his gratitude to Commander Hinz for bringing the convention to all of us today after a one year hiatus.

National Junior Vice Commander: NJVC Dick Snyder echoed NSCV Shuey's compliments and welcomed everyone to Pennsylvania.

Southern Region Vice Commander: No report.

Maryland Region National Vice Commander: Will Mund provided the report for VC Liswell. COVID 19 affected the meeting schedule this past year with initial cancellations. The next 4 meetings were then held by Zoom and had good attendance. In September the Maryland Region held its first face to face meeting at the Fifth Regiment Armory and the next is scheduled for 8 November.

At-Large Region National Vice Commander: PNC Ginsburg recognized the Post 2 folks who are working on the 29th Division monument in Sarasota, Florida.

National Finance Officer: Tom Knight reviewed the finance report going over the balances in each account. He indicated that overall our investments have performed very well with some fluctuations in the past several months. The detailed reports are available for those who would like to see them. NFO Knight then reviewed the 2022 operating budget presenting actuals and budgeted amounts for the fiscal year that began on 1 September 2021. Of note, the Online store has reduced inventory requirements and consequently the budget amount is lower than the previous fiscal year. We have excess inventory in the national property supplies, especially books that are available at the convention. PNC Ginsburg indicated that a major risk exists at the post finance officer level. They are hard to replace and we are losing them. We should consider Membership and Finance reviewing the structure of financial management and potentially integrating some functions to improve the process. PNC Hayden suggested that we implement the capability to renew memberships on the Association website using electronic payments that appeal to younger members. This type of process is now employed by the American Legion for example. Brian Becker conducted an audit of the Association accounts for the period 1 September, 2020 through 31 August 2021 and submitted his report on 28 September 2021. Based on the audit hereported that the Financial Report presented fairly and

accurately the financial position of the Association at that time.

National Executive Director: NED Simmers had no report.

Assistant National Executive Director: Will Mund reported that the Association was only 3% down in overall paid dues as compared to this time last year. He then proceeded to review the current status of paid dues by post. The total percentage of paid dues is 75.8%.

Editor, *The Twenty-Niner*: Editor Mund reduced the number of pages because there are no recently written stories from WWII veterans. He plans to go back and retype articles from the past to include in the upcoming issues and plans to have at least one WWII 29th Division story in every issue. The PAO VAARNG has provided a lot of useful information including photos for the *Twenty-Niner*. They only ask that we provide credit to them for the material that we use.

Surgeon: Dr. Howard Bond reported that this has been a very tough year and a half and believes that everyone should be vaccinated. The vaccine is safe and effective and please feel free to contact him on this topic. Also, he urged that everyone get a flu shot as well and talk to their primary care physician about vaccinations.

Welfare: Brian Becker cited the following concerns: Please keep PNC Bill King and his family in your prayers at the loss of a grandson. Ernie Snyder contacted Brian to let him know that his wife, Martha, had an automobile accident that precluded they're coming to the convention.

Bob Wisch recently had a cancer removed from his right ear and is currently undergoing extensive radiation therapy. Elsewhere, Fran Sherr-Davino had recent back surgery. PNC Ginsburg saw Bob Moscati on his birthday in May and he is unable to travel. He suggested that we record officers like PNC Moscati, Wisch and Dooley as excused instead of absent when they are unable to travel to a meeting. Brian Becker continues to send cards when he is aware that a card is needed. NFO Knight will coordinate with PC Carr on sending flowers to PNC King's grandson's funeral. Brian Becker also remembered the loss of Frank Shilow's wife Alice and Gil Crosby's wife Carolyn this past year.

Sergeant-at-Arms: Randall Beamer had to resign due to health concerns. No report.

Judge Advocate: Houston Matney had no report.

Reports were not rendered by the Chaplain; Service Officer; Property Officer; Historian and Parliamentarian.

Committee Reports

2022 National Convention: SVC Shuey reported that he is looking at holding the 2022 convention at Fort Belvoir. The Division will be back from deployment and we could possibly do a pass and review with a band or some other type of drill. His goal is to reduce costs to attendees possibly by attaining corporate sponsorships for the reunion/convention. His target weekend is 6-9 October when the Division HQs has weekend drill. It is hoped that a wreath laying event will occur at Arlington National Cemetery during the convention.

Futures Committee/Association Website: PNC Ginsburg reported that there will be a big outreach to 29th CAB throughout the year to get them involved in the Association. Also, the committee is planning on adding 20 minutes to the current video to include all of current units and their deployments, to include the 116th, and the 29th CAB.

Awards/Grants Committee: The committee approved the Post 2 request for funds as included in the budget presented by NFO Knight earlier in the meeting. A motion to approve the budget was made and passed by voice vote.

Nominating Committee: SVC Shuey announced the nomination for positions for the upcoming year. National Commander – Ted Shuey; Senior National Vice Commander – Dick Snyder; Junior National Vice Commander – Jimmy Kilbourne. National Commander for: At-Large Region– Valerie Simmers; Maryland Region – Bernie Liswell; Southern Region – Richard Carr. Finance Officer – Tom Knight; Chaplain – Joel Jenkins; Welfare Officer – Brian Beck-

er; Service Officer – Bill Bullock; Judge Advocate – Houston Matney; Historian – Rick Potter; Surgeon – Dr. Howard Bond; Futures Committee Chair – David Ginsburg; and Sergeant-at-Arms – Michael Gilkerson.

The officers to be appointed are: National Adjutant – Charles Faulconer; National Executive Director – Frank Armiger; Assistant to the National Executive Director – Will Mund; Editor of *The Twenty-Niner* – Will Mund; Asst. Editor of *The Twenty-Niner* – Frank Armiger; National Property Officer – Frank Shilow; Parliamentarian – Open

Old Business

Army Museum Unit Tribute Program: We continue to participating in the unit recognition program at the Army Museum but Commander Hinz believes that further consideration is necessary and will pass this initiative to incoming Commander Shuey to evaluate for 2022.

Other Old Business: We have agreed to create a separate organization that would be a 501 c (3) under the auspices of the Association that could be used for fundraising. This effort will accelerate in 2022 as we seek to obtain sponsorships.

New Business

Election of Officers 2021 – 2022: A motion was made and approved to accept the slate of elected and appointed officers as presented by SVC Ted Shuey. PNC Ginsburg conducted the installation of the new 29th Division Association officers and new National Commander Ted Shuey. NED Simmers presented the Past National Commander's plaque to PNC Pete Hinz. Will Mund presented the Past Maryland Region Commander plaque to Dr. Howard Bond.

Other New Business: The Association needs to consider a WWI monument in France near Consenvoye. NC Shuey will follow up and prepare an article for the *29er*. Commander Hinz and Adjutant Armiger met with Susan Kearney, a WWII daughter, who is working with a museum in England where the 29th Division trained prior to D-Day. We plan to follow up with Susan from both the Association and Maryland Military Historical Society perspectives to help support the museum in England with artifacts and archives. PNC Ginsburg made a motion to name Rev. John Schildt, Chaplain Emeritus and Joseph Balkoski, Historian Emeritus. Both have served the Association for over four decades with little compensation for their vital efforts. The motion was seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote. PNC Ginsburg further moved that the Chaplain Emeritus and Historian Emeritus be

fully compensated for their expenses when attending a future reunion/convention. The motion was seconded and approved by a unanimous voice vote. The Parliamentarian is currently not an official position. Since there is a need for this position, PNC Ginsburg made a motion to revise the by-laws to include the Parliamentarian position appointed by the National Commander. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. PNC Hinz moved that we fund the repair and cleaning of the current Association flag or, if it cannot be located, procure a new flag. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Deaths, Sick and Distressed

Franklin Shilow's wife Alice passed away on 15 June 2021.

Good of the Association

Baltimore County signed the letter of intent to take over the Pikesville Military Reservation from the State of Maryland and will then turn it over to the Pikesville Armory Foundation of which the Association is represented. NFO Knight reported that Gene Pulket and Bruce Kahl are both involved in the Mid-Atlantic Relief Fund and the National Guard Association and purchased ads for both in the souvenir program. They also provided a donation to the association. Aliceanna Collective filmed the band performance on Friday evening and will provide a high quality video to the Association for our usage. PC Carr recommended that we assure that all copyrights are addressed before any distribution. PNC Hinz will follow up with band leader Jari Villanueva. Brian Becker said that the Association should recognize PNC Hinz for providing an outstanding performance by the military band on Friday evening. Rosie the Riveter will appear after the dinner on Saturday evening and the fife and drum corps will perform as people gather. Steve Melnikoff's daughter, Amy Carrick, recorded his entire presentation on Friday and will make it available to the Association.

Closing Ceremony and Adjournment

Morris Bennet provided a short closing prayer. NC Hinz led the salute to the colors and adjourned the meeting at 1037 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANK ARMIGER
Adjutant

Minutes

of NEC 1 on 31 October 2021
at the Gettysburg Wyndham, Gettysburg, PA

Commander Ted Shuey held the NEC I meeting with the newly installed 29th Division Association officers immediately after the Memorial Service on Sunday, 31 October.

He shared his vision for the upcoming year citing the following:

Improving communications through the use of a communications tree that links the Commander, the Vice Commanders and others on the National Executive Committee with the posts.

Holding monthly Zoom meetings that include the Commander, Finance Officer, Executive Director and others on the NEC to improve operations.

Planning to hold NEC II in mid-January in Staunton, VA with the business meeting and NEC I at Ft. Belvoir.

Focusing on membership, especially younger members, by reducing or eliminating dues (especially for active 29ers) and creating posts with the new 29th Division units across the south. Leveraging young 29ers like musician Jessica Tang to bring her contemporaries on board.

Revising the meeting agenda to streamline NECs by having reports sent to the Adjutant ahead of the meeting for distribution to the attendees for review.

Inviting the previous 29th Division commanders to the 2022 Convention to participate and share their leadership insights.

Establishing awards for the Posts to recognize exemplary performance and stressing unity of the Posts at the National level.

Seeking diversity in race and gender through a targeted recruitment plan.

Following up on the 29th Division plaque at the WWII Museum to assure that the Division is properly recognized.

Raising money for the annual convention by setting up a 501 c (3) for charitable contributions from corporate sponsorships. PNC Ginsburg can recommend an attorney to help with the process. Also, MG Ortnor has expertise in this area.

Using Zoom wherever practical to foster communications across the entire Association.

Seeking Congressional support for the organization to leverage any initiatives that might be favorable to our Association and other veterans' organizations.

Planning for the next generation: WWII children as a focal point for cohesion and leadership in the future.

Concentrating on the retention of current members by providing a reason for them to stay in the Association.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANK ARMIGER
Adjutant

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North East, MD 21901-3327

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Baltimore, MD



JOIN THE 29TH DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.



The Association is open to anyone who wants to keep the history and spirit of the 29th alive - soldiers who served in the 29th, currently serving soldiers, families of those who served, and anyone who wants to keep the 29th alive.

Full Name: _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Postal Address: _____
(Number and Street) (City, State, Zip, Country)

E-Mail Address: _____ Telephone Number: _____

Did you serve in the 29th? Please indicate what unit you served in: _____

Post (optional) – please indicate if you have a preference on what Post you are assigned to: _____

I want to join the 29th Division Association and help keep the history of the 29th Division alive. The \$12 dues includes the National Membership, the monthly *Chin Strap* and the *Twenty-Niner* newsletter three times a year.

29th Division 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, 5 Shore Drive, North East, MD 21901-3327

MD Post 1-72	Baltimore, MD	VA Post 64	Roanoke, VA	MD Post 94	Silver Spring, MD
FL Post 2	Sarasota, FL	MD Post 78	Frederick, MD	MD Post 110	Pikesville, MD
VA Post 5	Norfolk, VA	MD Post 85	North East, MD	VA Post 116	Staunton, VA
VA Post 29	Richmond, VA	MD Post 88	Eastern Shore, DE & MD	PA Post 175	Pennsylvania
MD Post 48	Westminster, MD	NE Post 93	New England	MD Post 729	Waynesboro, PA