



National D-Day Memorial to Commemorate 70th Anniversary of D-Day

Nearly seventy years ago, our World War II veterans gave the gift of freedom and hope to a world held captive by fear and despair. Even now, almost seven decades later, these men and women have another gift to offer: the stories of their lives, of ordinary people rising to extraordinary events.

Many have never spoken of their war experiences since they came home. Yet all have a story to tell, a story that in less than five years will be lost forever. Just as D-Day (better known as "Operation Overlord") marked the largest land, air, and sea assault in human history, the 70th anniversary of D-Day will mark the last large gathering of World War II veterans in this life.

To that end, the National D-Day Memorial will present a three day commemoration featuring special ceremonies, reunion tents, oral histories, World War II era concerts and gatherings – all designed to allow veterans the opportunity to share their stories with the public at large, have them recorded for posterity, and receive the thanks of a grateful nation.

National D-Day Memorial Foundation staff, volunteers, and the board of directors are busy preparing for the 70th anniversary. The official commemoration begins on Friday, June 6 at 11AM with a special ceremony featuring guest speakers, dignitaries, patriotic music by the 29th Division Band, laying of wreaths by D-Day



units, a flyover, and recognition of D-Day veterans. A number of dignitaries are expected to attend.

Other activities throughout the afternoon include a USO show at 2pm with the unforgettable "Frank Sinatra" (portrayed by James Anthony) who will give a stirring performance to those in attendance. There will be a veteran's reunion tent where veterans can connect with one another and share stories with the general public.

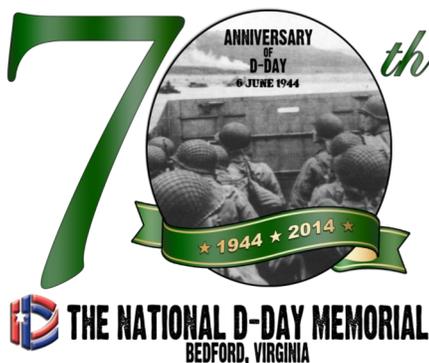
Oral history stations will be set up throughout the Memorial collecting stories from those who took part in the historic invasion. There will also be dozens of living historians on site dressed in period attire showing the various elements of British, Canadian, and American units who served during the invasion.

On the evening of June 6, the public is invited to the Memorial for an outdoor movie night with a 1940s theme. The outdoor Canteen will offer the best of period refreshments and the featured film will be "Casablanca." More activities follow on June 7 when the community of Bedford hosts a 1940s parade. Antique cars, bands, veterans, and living historians will parade through town paying tribute to those who served.

The Memorial will continue its commemorative activities on the evening of June 7 with a performance by the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra. Weekend events wrap up on Sunday, June 8 at 11AM with a field chapel service authentic to 1944.

To commemorate this special anniversary, the National D-Day Memorial will

(Continued on page 33)



Message from our Commander — John F. “Jack” Kutcher, Sr.

How the time flies! It's hard to believe that it has been five months since our last Reunion in Virginia Beach. It was then that I assumed command of your Association, and I've been on a whirlwind schedule ever since. I am pleased to report that the immediate Past Commander, Joseph H. Zang, blazed a trail that was easy to follow, and I can assure you that I will do my very best to uphold the history and traditions of the 29th Infantry Division and this Association. The current Command Group and staff of the Association are likewise motivated and truly dedicated to those purposes.

By the time you read this, the Association will have already conducted the second National Executive Committee (NEC II) Meeting on 16 January 2014 at the Weinberg Center near Reisterstown, MD, and well on the way toward planning for NEC III on 19 June 2014.

Since being elected National Commander I have represented the Association at numerous meetings, deployment ceremonies, welcome home celebrations and other special events. Although all were very important functions, none of those are held so dear for me as the opportunity to address the gathering of veterans, their families and friends at the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Virginia (*see photo inset*) this past Veterans Day. I expect that in my mind that experience will only be trumped by the privilege of placing a ceremonial wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery on Sunday,



18 May 2014. Additional information on that event is provided elsewhere in this newsletter.

The number one challenge the Association is facing is the recruitment of new members. You may recall that during Commander Zang's tenure, the Futures Committee (chaired by Junior Vice-Commander David Ginsburg) developed the Embedded Program.

This program assigns designated members of the Association to specific units and armories for the purpose of educating unit members on the history and lineage of their units, with primary focus on those units that have or had some affiliation with the 29th Infantry Division and its associated units. The ultimate goal of the program is to recruit more current (and younger) soldiers into the Association. The implementation of this program is continuing, and along with other recruiting tools, is beginning to show signs of bearing fruit. During the National Executive Committee Meeting on 16 January 2014, the Membership Chairman PNC Robert Moscati able to report a slight uptick in 2013 End Strength, the first after seven years of continuous decline.

I am also pleased to report that the “Friends of the Medal of Honor Grove” organization has taken positive steps to repair, upgrade and maintain certain facilities within the Grove at Valley Forge. The Association, in keeping with the words and spirit of our Preamble, provided financial assistance for these projects. If you are traveling in the vicinity, you may want to stop and visit the Grove.

Looking forward, the rest of my term as National Commander will be equally busy. In addition to the Wreath Laying Ceremony in May, I will be traveling to Normandy for the 70th Anniversary of D-Day Observances. We will participate in no less than ten ceremonies in towns liberated by the 29th Division, including ceremonies at the National Guard Memorial on Omaha Beach and the American Cemetery at Colleville sur Mer on 6 June. The Tour is being organized by Post #93 Commander Frances Sherr-Davino. Fifty-five travelers will make the trip, including six WWII/D-Day veterans. Approximately 25 soldiers from the current 29th Division will also participate.

The final jewel in my tour as National Commander will be the 96th Annual Reunion of this Association. It will be conducted 16-19 October 2014 in Ocean City, Maryland. Your Reunion Committee has selected the Clarion Resort Fontainebleu Hotel at 10100 Coastal Highway as our venue, and is working hard to ensure that everything is in place for you to relax and enjoy. In addition to the Annual Business Meeting, the excellent dinners, and the ever-popular Hospitality Room, on Friday we are planning a short bus ride down the Delmarva Peninsula to visit NASA's Space Flight Facility at Wallops Island, Virginia.

My fellow 29'ers – this Reunion is for you! It affords an excellent opportunity for everyone to renew old friendships and start new ones. I encourage each and every one of you to take advantage of this opportunity and participate fully in all aspects of the Reunion. Additional information and the hotel registration form are provided elsewhere in this newsletter. I hope to see all y'all in Ocean City!

THE TWENTY-NINER

Vol. 58, No. 1
Spring 2014

The known office of this publication is:
The 29th Division Association, Inc.

The *Twenty-Niner* is published by:
The 29th Division Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 1546, Frederick, MD 21702-1546

Third Class postage paid at Baltimore, MD

Editor/Publisher — William S. Mund, Jr.
441 Chalfonte Dr., Baltimore, MD 21228-4017
443-529-4233 — wmundjr@yahoo.com

Editor Emeritus — Donald McKee
305 Northwest Dr., Silver Spring, MD 20901-1227
301-593-4591 — mckee175@netscape.com

National Executive Director — John E. Wilcox, Jr.
7045 Basswood Rd., Frederick, MD 21703
301-695-9558 — twoniner1@comcast.net

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

© Copyright 2014 — The 29th Division Association Inc.

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

Contributions to the *Twenty-Niner Sustaining Fund*

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our membership for their generosity in contributing to the *Twenty-Niner Sustaining Fund* for this Spring issue. From October 15, 2013 through February 10, 2014, these donations totaled \$4,081.70. **Note our cut-off time. If your contributions did not reach our National Executive Director by February 10, 2014 then it will not be listed until the next issue.** We thank you all and bless you.

Adelman, Nessie, Post 3 - Assoc. - Toronto, ON, Canada
Adler, Eric, Post 94 - Son - Wappinger Falls, NY
Alberti, Louis A., Post 94 - HQ-1-115th Inf. - Frederick, MD
Bak, Robert S., Post 3 - Assoc. - Thornhill, ON, Canada
Baumbach, Jeffrey V., Post 94 - Son - Brick, NJ
Becker, Robert, Post 94 - Son - Pleasant Hill, CA
Bedecarre, Thomas H., Post 94 - Assoc. - Woodside, CA
Berch, Isadore, Post 2 - B-115th Inf. - Buena Park, CA
Bourdeau, Mary Ellen Donohue, Post 94 - Daughter - Glen Falls, NY

In Memory of my Dad, Oscar F. Donohue, I-115th Inf WWII

Britt, Hillar L., Post 94 - L-115th Inf. - Satellite Beach, FL
Burke, Donald & Clare, Shrewsbury, MA

In Memory of Milton A. Burke - K-116th Inf. WW II

Burkert, Perry L., Post 94 - Son - Sinking Spring, PA
Byrne, Thomas, Post 93 - Assoc. - Wellesley, MA
Cogan, Gene, Post 2 - B-115th Inf., Avilla, IN
Connor, Dolores, Post 94 - Assoc. - Charleston, WV
Cundiff, Lester B., Post 64 - Band - 116th Inf. - Roanoke, VA
Cundy, Donald C., Post 94 - Son - Dearborn, MI

In Memory of my Dad, Harry L. Cundy - HHC-3-175th Inf

Dabbs, Anthony, Post 94 - Assoc. - Beltsville, MD
Damascus, Dr. James A., Post 1 - Son - Pound Ridge, NY
DeLuca, Russell, Post 94 - K-116th Inf. - Columbia, MD
DeLuca, Russell, Post 94 - K-116th Inf. - Columbia, MD
Dennis, Larry A., Post 94 - Assoc. - Bartlesville, OK

In Honor of Major Robert W. Stewart - 121st Combat Engineers WW II

DiPrizo, Anthony - Medford, MA

In Memory of Milton A. Burke - K-116th Inf. WW II

Dow, Connie Bergstein, Post 94 - Daughter - Cincinnati, OH
Doyle, Fred, Post 64 - 116th Inf. (L) - Lynchburg, VA
Dryer, Louis A., Post 29 - HQ-1-115th Inf. - Concord, CA
Dugue, Arlette & Andre, Post 94 - Assoc. - France
Fernandez, Robert, Post 94 - Assoc. - White Plains, NY
Fiore, George M., Post 94-E-175th Inf. - Long Island City, NY
Fiore, George M., Post 94-E-175th Inf. - Long Island City, NY
Fournier, Normand, Post 94 - Son - Millis, MA
Gardner, Earl, Post 3 - Assoc. - Thornhill, ON, Canada
Garrison, Cecil L., Post 94 - D-104th Med. WW II - Falls Church, VA
Geoghegan, John, Post 94 - Assoc. - Woodside, CA
Geoghegan, Marge, Post 94 - Assoc. - Pittsboro, NC
Geoghegan, Mike, Post 94 - Assoc. - Chocowinity, NC
Geoghegan, Peter, Post 94 - Assoc. - Bridgeport, CT
Ginsburg, NJVC David, Post 110 - A-2-110th FA - Owings Mills, MD

Golding, Gordon, Post 94 - Son - Paris, France
Green, Colleen, Post 94 - Daughter - Simms, MT
Greenshields, John M., Post 3 - Assoc. - London, ON, Canada
Griffin, Kenneth W., Post 94 - G-115th Inf. WW II - Frankfort, NY
Gritton, Raymond A., Post 94 - 81st ChMrt. - Burtonsville, MD
Gritton, Raymond A., Post 94 - 81st ChMrt. - Burtonsville, MD
Gutknecht, Kay Marie, Post 94 - Daughter - San Jose, CA
Hall, Harold B., Post 94 - G-175th Inf. WW II - Morton, IL
Hankins, PNC Glenwood, Post 116 - H-116th Inf. - Martinsville, VA
Harper, David B., Post 94 - Assoc. - Bountiful, UT
Hayes, Steven A. - Post 94 - Assoc. - Upper Marlboro, MD
Heeter, Eugene C., Post 94 - K-175th Inf. WW II - Roll Meadows, IL
Hewitt, John P. Post 94 - SVC-115th Inf. - WW II - Silver Spring, MD

In Memory of Frank L. Hewitt, WWI, & 7 Sons, U.S. Army WWII & Korea and all members of Post 94

Imbornone, Theresa - Medford, MA

In Memory of Milton A. Burke

Jebson, Sally Howie, Post 94 - Daughter - Culpepper, VA
Joiner, Tommie J., Post 94 - 175th Inf. - Batesville, MS

In Memory of Tommie Lynn Joiner - Post 94 - Son

Jones, Charles B., Post 94 - Assoc. - Upper Marlboro, MD
Kelly, J. Edward, Post 94 - Assoc. - Franklin, TN
Kennedy, Dr. Alis, PHD, Post 3 - Assoc. - Woodbridge, On, Canada
Kern, Charles E., Post 94 - Assoc. - Washington, DC
Kern, Matthew, Post 94 - Assoc. - Asheville, NC
Knight, III, James S., Post 94 - Son - Mt. Pleasant, SC
Koniak, Ryan, Post 94 - 29th ID (NG) - Alexandria, VA
Kruhm, Fred N., Post 94 - C-121st Eng (NG) - Burtonsville, MD
Kussman, John C., Post 94 - L-115th Inf. WW II - Centerville, OH
Lane, Dale S., Post 94 - Son - Indianapolis, IN
Langville, Richard S. - Post 94 - C-116th Inf. (L) - Springfield, VA
Larkspur Post 110 - Pikesville, MD

In Memory of Glenn Shoemaker - HD-2-110th FA

In Memory of Joseph Fischaber - A-2-110th FA WW II

In Memory of Thomas McDavid - HQ-2-110th FA

In Memory of Jack Wimbley - HQ-2-110th FA

Lighstone, CPT Mort, Post 3 - Assoc. - North York, ON, Canada
Linthicum, George E., Post 72 - C-175th Inf. - Timonium, MD

In Memory of Nelson Horan - C-175th Inf. - WW II

Long, Janet W., Post 94 - 729th FSB - Boston, VA
Lucas, Elona K., Post 94 - Daughter - Merrimack, NH
Martin, Arthur & Shirley - Belle Mead, NJ

In Memory Of BG Alvin Ungerleider

Maupin, Charles A., Post 94 - HQ-3-175th Inf. WW II - Columbus, GA
McCumsey, Sylvester, Jr., Post 64 - C-116th Inf. (L) - Keswick, VA
McEvoy, Claus C., Post 1 - Son - Daly City, CA
Melander, Jr., William E., Post 94 - SVC-115th Inf. WW II - North Babylon, NY

Miles, Earl E., Post 2 - A-1-115th Inf. - Dinuba, CA

Moore, Arthur J., Jr., Post 1 - F-115th Inf. - Houston, TX

Mozgai, John, Post 94 - G-116th Inf. WW II - Edison, NJ

Neighbors, Chris, Post 64 - Son - Herndon, VA

O'Donnell, H. D., Post 64 - 116th Inf (L) - Harrisonburg, VA

Piper, Samuel M., Post 94 - HQ-1-115th Inf. (L) - Falls Church, VA

Piper, Samuel M., Post 94 - HQ-1-115th Inf. (L) - Falls Church, VA

(Continued on page 30)

TAPS

The following list shows names of known 29ers and their ladies or family members who died and their deaths reported from Oct 16, 2013 through Feb 15, 2014. 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

Angell, Douglas J, A/1-115, Westminster Md, 11/21/13
 Auld, Charles, Post 94, Associate, Nashville Il, 10/24/13
 Baker, George M, Post 64, C/116, Harrisonburg Va, 12/4/ 13
 Bangs, E. Donald, HQ/1-115, Lutherville Md, 1/9/14
 Barnes, John J, Post 29, A/116, Ballston Spa NY, 5/4/13
 Bell, Ned W, A/115, Frederick Md, 9/15/13
 Brown, Dale M, Post 78, HQ/29ID, Hilliard Oh, 10/14/13
 Burke, Milton A, Post 93,K, 116, Andover Ma, 1/5/14
 Corkran, John M, Post 48, A/175, Pasadena Md, 12/10/13
 Deater, Harry R, Post 78, A/115, Frederick Md, 11/22/13
 Dettmer, Gilbert S, Post 110, Svc/110FA, Reisterstown Md, 1/21/14
 Fischhaber, Joseph G, Post 110, A/110FA, Jackson Ms, 9/3/13
 Grubbs, Ken Jr, Post 64, HQ/3/116, Atlanta Ga, Dt Unk
 Hobbs, Mills H. Jr, Post 64, A/115, Cloverdale, Va, 2/18/14
 Horan, Nelson L, Post 72, C/175, Parkville Md, 11/7/13
 Horst, John H, Post 48, A/110FA, Westminster Md, 1/10/14
 Joiner, Tommy Lynn, Post 94, Son, Benton Ms, 11/22/13
 Knight, George L, A/2-175, Hagerstown Md, 12/7/13
 Lindeman, Charles M, Post 110, C/111FA, Hershey Pa, 1/20/13
 McAllister, Robert, Post 88, 1-115, Delmar De, 11/12/13
 McCauley, James A, Post 85, E/115, Chestertown Md, 8/13
 Meyer, Ernest H, Post 93, F/175, Cary NC, 2/2/13
 Oliver, Freddie L, Post 64, HQ/116, Blacksburg Va, 12/23/13
 Perhai, Kenneth J, Post 2, USN/DDAY, Sarasota Fl, 12/6/13
 Shoemaker, Glenn, Post 110, HQ/110FA, Bethany Bch De, 11/16/13
 Showers, Norman, Post 78, Associate, Frederick Md, 10/8/13
 Shriver, John V, Post 94, Associate, Pittsburgh Pa, 5/9/13
 Smith, Orville, Post 78, Med/175, Thurmont Md, 11/5/13
 Smith, William L, Post 72, E/121Eng, Andersonville Tn, 2/4/14
 Stokes, Robert M, Post 88, 29Discom, Myrtle Bch SC, 1/19/14
 Swank, John D, Post 72, HQ/1-115, Baltimore Md, 9/21/13
 Troxell, Richard, Post 78, A/1-115, Frederick Md, 12/9/13
 Walker, Malvin E, Post 64, HQ/3-115, Estes Pk Co, 10/25/13
 Walters, Voyle M, Post 64, I/116, Swanton Oh, 12/5/13
 Weaver, Walter H, Post 48, A/2-110FA, Taneytown Md, Dt Unk
 Wheeler, Walter H. III, Post 72, A/116, Abingdon Md, 10/31/13
 Wills, Hugu E., Post 64, HQ/116, McKinney, Tx, 2/14/14
 Wingfield, Pride, Post 64, A/116, Bedford Va, 10/17/13
 Wishard, Kenneth E, Post 729, B/729Ord, Waynesboro Pa, 8/23/13

LADIES

Baines, Kitty, Widow, Ft Myers Fl. Dt Unk
 Blatt, Irene, Widow, Coopersburg Pa, 6/7/13
 Gorinski, Betty L, Widow, Greenburg Pa, 5/28/12
 Grymes, Patricia, Wife, Towson Md, 12/11/13
 Swilling, Louise, Widow, Ashville NC, 9/13/13

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 39 comrades and 5 ladies who have died and whose death was reported to us since our last publication. This includes 4 comrades who were not members of our association but were members of our 29th family. This is how it should be. We ask survivors, friends, Post and Regional Officers to forward information, as complete as possible, on the deceased to the National Executive Director so that we can include them in the next issue of *The Twenty-Niner* and in the National Reunion Memorial Service. This will only be possible with your help.

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

John E. Wilcox Jr., National Executive Director
 7045 Basswood Road, Frederick Md. 21703-7137
 Telephone 301-695-9558

Robert W. Moscati, Asst. to the Nat. Exec. Dir.
 1910 Calais Ct., Baltimore Md. 21244-1707
 Telephone 410-944-1639
 E-Mail: Rmoscati@msn.com

Legion of Honor Recipients

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

29th Division veterans who have received this award must submit the following information:

Name:
 Unit served in:
 Current address (City and State):
 Post number:
 Date award was received:

Please submit this information to the address listed below:

William S. Mund, Jr.
 441 Chalfonte Drive
 Baltimore, MD 21228
wmundjr@yahoo.com

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

Some Reminiscences of World War II - Part 2

By Frank D. Bergstein, 115th Infantry Regiment

AIRCRAFT, LARGE & SMALL, GERMAN & AMERICAN

The huge operation at Omaha Beach, which had been converted into a major port, was obviously a magnet for German bombers and fighter-bombers. Fortunately, the Allies had almost complete control of the air by this point in the war; the beach was well defended also by anti-aircraft guns and barrage balloons. So, there weren't too many air attacks. However, occasionally some German pilot would make a run at it.

They would use tactics similar to those used against port towns in England toward the latter part of the war, after they had lost air superiority. One or two planes would come in low over the sea to avoid radar, about three to five miles away from the town, circle low around the land until they were opposite the town, and then come roaring through town with their machine guns blazing and perhaps dropping a bomb or two. Then, still going low and wide open, they would head out to sea and over the channel, and high tail it for home.

One day, about D-Day plus three or four days, I was walking across a field—I guess we were a couple of miles in from the beach at the time—when a German ME-109, apparently after just such a hit-and-run attack against Omaha Beach, came very low and fast right over the field I was in. I looked up quickly just as the pilot looked down, and even though he had goggles on, our eyes met and locked for a fraction of a second.

It was the weirdest feeling, looking the German pilot right in the eye. I guess we were only 25 or 30 yards apart. I could definitely see his face and just how he looked. Of course, he wasn't interested in me, and it all happened so fast that I couldn't do anything about him—certainly not with just a carbine in my hands.

Another episode with a plane took place a week or so later and involved an American P-47 fighter-bomber. I can't remember why, but I was riding in the back of a Jeep, with the driver and Lt. Col. Smith, our Regimental Executive Officer, in front. We were riding along a little lane, parallel and about 200 yards from the front line. Typically, the lane had hedgerows on both sides of it and little ditches on both sides between the road and the hedgerows.

All of a sudden, we were being strafed from the rear by a P-47 that came up behind us, then right over us (probably the same one we'd spotted earlier). The Jeep driver headed right for the ditch, and Lt. Col. Smith and I jumped out of the Jeep as the driver headed for the ditch. Our first instinct was to get up

against the hedgerow as fast as possible. The Colonel was my least favorite officer on the staff, and he was stocky with an ample rear end. At the same time as I was jumping to save my life, I couldn't help from laughing—seeing him with his big butt flying through the air into the little ditch.

Seriously, this kind of thing happened so often—American airplanes strafing American troops—that there were rumors that the Germans had captured some of our fighter planes and were using them against us. It's possible, but the other factor was that those fighters, flying around 400 miles per hour, and with the front lines only 100 or so yards apart, could easily mistake the exact position of the two sides. Just pushing the machine gun triggers a matter of one or two seconds earlier or later could mean the difference of shooting at us or at them.

Some of these American strafing and bombing incidents against Yank troops were very serious. Once, a flight of American fighter-bombers hit our battalion at 6:00 AM, just as we were crossing a road that was the coordinating line of departure for an attack. To all intents and purposes, they broke up the attack.

Another old acquaintance of ours was "Bed-Check Charlie." Even though the German planes showed themselves less and less as the war proceeded and the Allies gained complete air supremacy during daylight hours, they always sent up a plane or two at night to look over the battlefield and take pictures. They would usually drop a phosphorus flare and photograph the battlefield. I'm sure it wasn't always the same plane, but it always sounded the same. And, of course, "bed check" is what the sergeant does at night to see if everyone is accounted for. So this plane was called "Bed-Check Charlie," and we actually got sort of attached to him.

Speaking of being attached to planes, I must mention the love we all had for our cub artillery spotter planes. Each one of our artillery batteries had one of these to fly over the battlefield and direct friendly artillery fire.

Normally, our friendly artillery fire was more concentrated and of greater volume than the Germans. However, especially in the first two or three weeks after D-Day, this wasn't the case. The Germans were firing five or more rounds to our one. This was because of the supply problems on the beach.

However, if the Germans were shelling us and one of these little cub planes rose, they would immediately reduce or stop



firing. This was particularly true at dawn. They might have been shelling us all night, but when the spotter cub rose at dawn, they would curtail the shelling right away. So, we loved these brave boys.

Every so often, the Germans would fire machine guns at these planes, and often the planes would dive down to hide behind trees. We would all be concerned that the planes had been shot down (as they occasionally were), but if the planes emerged shortly after, we would all cheer.

VIRE

In the latter part of August 1944, the Allied Forces had almost encircled a large portion of the German Army and pinned them up against the sea in an area around Falaise, France. However, the Germany Army extricated itself through a gap due, many believe, to the lateness of the British and Canadian forces in arriving. Hence, the battle was known as the Falaise Gap. Although the bulk of the Germany Army did escape, it was still a notable Allied victory as the Nazis lost an enormous amount of material, including tanks, and a lot of troops as well.

The 29th Division's last part of this action took place around Vire, France, where we were involved in some bitter fighting. As always, there was humor as well as danger.

One night when I arrived late in our area of responsibility, I was guided to a building in the dark. I felt my way and groped around until I found a place to lie down. As always, we were very tired. So I fell right to sleep. When I awoke, I looked up to see a cow's udder right above me. It seems I had spent the night in a cow's stall, sleeping right under the cow!

The next day, a not-funny-at-all incident happened. I was walking along on the reverse side of the big hill from the front line when suddenly I was struck in the middle of my back with great force. I was knocked down and, I believe, knocked out. They say you never hear the one that hits you, and I didn't hear this at all. When I recovered a little bit, I felt around my back, expecting blood and maybe a hole. But all seemed to be okay. I got to my knees and then stood up. My back hurt, but that was all. About three feet from me, a fragment of shell was lying, still smoking hot and smelling of cordite. It was about three inches in diameter. All I could figure out was that it must have hit me flat and not edgewise, or else I think it would have penetrated, considering how hard it hit me. I was OK and didn't even report it.

Years later, when I had my first back operation, Dr. Perlman asked me if I had ever been hit hard on my back as I had some smashed nerves.

The next day and night, the Germans started a vicious counterattack, which resulted in each of our battalions as well as the regimental headquarters being cut off from each other. I was ordered to try to get through to division headquarters to report the situation.

As we pulled out in our Jeep from the field we were in onto the dirt road, we came under German machine gun fire—high, thank goodness. Then, as we started down the dusty road, we heard a rumbling behind us. Suddenly the dust cleared a little and, pointed right at our back, was a big tank gun (with a muzzle blast device on the end of it, like all the German tank guns had, but only the newer American ones). We were all about to jump out

of the Jeep when suddenly the dust cleared and behind the tank gun was an American tank!

As we proceeded up the road, we came to a crossroad, which appeared to be under observed German artillery fire as there were several knocked-out Jeeps. We got through okay and got to division headquarters. On the way back, the situation at the crossroads appeared to be worse. So we parked the Jeep 100 yards or so short of the crossroad. A couple of other men had asked to ride with us back to our regiment. So they and I went on foot to the crossroad. As soon as we approached the crossing, we came under shellfire. I took off down a path and the shells followed me. I ducked into an empty, abandoned farmhouse and the next shell hit the roof of the house. Looking quickly around, I decided the fireplace offered the best protection. The Germans must have decided I went up the path because the next shells walked up the path. I left the house shortly after and reclaimed my Jeep. We got back to our regiment a little later.

BREST AND BRITTANY

After we had landed on Omaha Beach and fought for 91 days with only two days of rest, we were told we were to be sent back to Brittany, which had been captured in a lightning thrust by General Patton's Third Army after the fall of St. Lo. However, the German troops there had retreated into St. Malo, St. Nazuire, and mainly into Brest; and they were being contained in these enclaves by a thin screen of American troops.

All kinds of rumors swept through the 29th, mainly to the effect that we had been fighting so long and hard that, after taking Brest, we would depart from there and sail back to the States. At any event, the mood of the troops was cheerful, and lots of signs appeared on the Jeeps, "Brest or Bust," etc.

After the hell that was Normandy, Brittany was like a breath of fresh air. It had been captured so quickly that there were few signs of battle. Most of the towns we passed through were untouched, and there were well-dressed girls standing alongside the roads throwing flowers at us.

Unfortunately, our pleasure was short-lived as the capture of the city fortress of Brest turned out to be a bloody affair. It was defended fanatically by the 2nd S.S. Paratroop Division, commanded by General Von Ramke, and that whole bunch were dedicated Nazis.

DIVISION HQS AT BREST AND THE COASTAL GUNS

At this time, I was acting as a liaison officer at regiment. The campaign to capture Brest had started and I was sent back to division headquarters. I can't recall my exact mission, but whatever I was supposed to find out wouldn't be available until the next morning.

So, I figured here was a chance to get a relatively safe night's sleep. So, I went to the kitchen truck and retrieved my bedroll, which contained my shelter-half, my blanket and some toilet articles. Apparently, other liaison officers had the same idea because there were several pup tents already pitched when I got there. They were all lined up along a stout-looking hedgerow. I found another officer looking for a tent partner and we pitched our tent along the same row.

When the French had set up the defenses for Brest, they had

expected any attack to come from the sea. So, they had emplaced some very large shore batteries facing toward the ocean. When the Germans were getting ready for our attack, which was coming from the land, they had removed these huge guns from their emplaced positions and aimed them inland.

It so happened that the very night I was to spend at division headquarters, the sergeant-major of the division (he was the most senior sergeant in the division and was attached to division headquarters) was being driven in a division staff car, and they had gotten mixed up and driven right into the German lines. So, he was captured along with a complete set of division maps showing, among other things, the exact location of division headquarters and all the regimental headquarters.

That night the Germans decided to shell all those positions with regular artillery and also with these huge shore guns. The shells from the shore guns sounded like railroad trains flying through the air. They dug huge holes when they landed but, because of their velocity, they really weren't any more dangerous than regular artillery shells.

But, about midnight, shells started falling right around the hedgerow where we had pitched our tents. So much for a good night's sleep! I woke up, but my tent mate slept on. I had a heck of a time waking him. In fact, I had to drag him, still sleeping, out of the tent and up against the base of the hedgerow, where we spent the rest of the night.

It's a good thing we did, because the next morning we saw that our tent had been completely riddled with shrapnel! Later, we learned that three or four of the officers who had pitched their tents along the line with ours had been badly wounded.

GRENADE IN THE SNOW

During the winter of 1944-45, while we were in a static position at the Roer River, the division was involved in an active training program, particularly since we received quite a few inexperienced rifle recruits.

There was a totally abandoned village, partly destroyed, about five miles behind our positions. Our engineers converted this little village into an assault-training course. Each of the junior officers had to take his turn at running this training course for a day when there were no other important duties.

As I mentioned, it was winter. The temperature stayed between 15°-25°F, most of the time, and there was almost always five to six inches of snow on the ground during this period.

At the course, a soldier was given a certain amount of armament and equipment and had to move through the village where, at various points, incidents took place operated by the engineers. The trainee was supposed to make the appropriate response, depending upon the nature of the incident. For example, if there was a sniper firing from a roof, he was supposed to fire his M-1 rifle at the sniper. Or, if a dummy soldier jumped out of a house door, he was supposed to bayonet him. There were about five or six of these actions and, all in all, it was pretty good training.

The first event was a machine gun firing from an open basement of a destroyed house. The proper response was to fire a rifle grenade at this basement, which was about 40-50 yards from the starting point of the course. Each trainee was issued a rifle grenade.

I'll digress a moment and say a word about the rifle grenade. Everyone knows what an American hand grenade looks like. It's about the size of a hardball baseball, but it's egg-shaped and segmented. It's a powerful weapon and the Germans had a lot of respect for it. When it detonates and the fragments fly off in all directions, it has a killing radius of 15 yards. So, the rifle grenade was introduced. It consisted of a yoke-like affair you put over the muzzle of your rifle. Into the yoke, you place a hand grenade and then you put a special blank cartridge in the chamber of the rifle.

To activate a hand grenade, you had to place the grenade into your hand so that your palm held down the firing arm, then pull out the pin. When you threw the grenade, the firing arm would fly up and then the grenade would detonate in five seconds. In the case of the rifle grenade, after you had placed it in the special yoke, you pulled the pin. After you fired your rifle, upon the explosion of the blank cartridge, the grenade was launched and the firing arm would activate.

The rifle grenade arrangement enabled you to shoot the grenade around 50-60 yards—about twice as far as you could throw it—and with more accuracy.

I was starting a young soldier through the course this particular day. He seemed okay, but he was quite nervous. When we were ready, the machine gun fired in the open basement. He looked confused, so I told him the proper reaction was to prepare, arm, and fire his rifle grenade into that basement.

He started off OK by putting the special yoke onto the muzzle of his rifle. Then I thought he had put the hand grenade into the yoke properly and pulled the pin. But, next the grenade fell out of the yoke right between us! The pin had been pulled and, when it fell, the firing arm activated.

We only had five seconds to do something! And, he sat there frozen! I yelled, "Down!" and pushed him from the sitting position he was in to flat on the ground. We were both right next to that grenade—with a killing radius of 15 yards. It exploded as soon as I had pushed him prone and got myself down. Fragments scored both of our helmets and ruined his M-1 rifle. But, miraculously, neither of us was hit and all I can figure was that the snow somehow muffled some of the effects of the blast. I had trouble explaining to the supply sergeant how my young soldier had ruined a perfectly good M-1 rifle.

CROSSING THE ROER RIVER

During December 1944 through January 1945, the 29th Division was in a defensive position along the west bank of the Roer River and across the river from the town of Julich. The Roer River generally defines the west boundary of the large flat plain known as the Rhineland, the Rhine River comprising the boundary on the east—100 or more miles away.

The reason we were in a defensive position, which is contrary to all American infantry doctrine, was because of the German offensive just south of us—referred to as the Battle of the Bulge. We were on the north corner of the Bulge and holding that corner. At the same time, we were in constant training and preparation to attack across the Roer River and across the Rhineland. River crossings are traditionally one of the toughest jobs an infantry unit can face—next to attacking and securing a fortified

beach—as in D-Day. While the Roer, at the time, was not very deep or wide (we could wade across it in places), it was still a major problem for tanks and vehicles to cross. In addition, on the opposite bank, while there was about 200 yards of flat terrain, a very large, steep hill arose from that flood plane up to the level of the Rhineland plain. The hill was heavily mined; there were numerous pillboxes dug into the top of the hill so that it resembled, unfortunately, Omaha Beach. Our battalion, the 2nd Battalion of the 115th Infantry Regiment, was to cross the river and secure the hill across from us as part of the very large army effort to cross the river and attack to the east.

The three days and four nights it took us to accomplish our mission was among the most event-filled, most dangerous and hardest physically of any in my life, equaling just about, the efforts of Omaha Beach and the Normandy fighting. I had been transferred to the 2nd Battalion, commanded by Colonel Alfred Warfield (same name almost as Albert Warfield, the colonel who was killed in that Normandy ambush while commanding the same 2nd Battalion) as S-2 Intelligence Officer. While Colonel Warfield was a little cold to me at first, we soon became friends, and he used me a lot in the river crossing and all the rest of the war.

A day or two before the attack, Colonel Warfield sent Lt. Henne, our Battalion S-1 and me down to a little farmhouse right by the edge of the river to scout it out as a possible forward command post. It was always a little hairy going down that close to the river during daylight hours. We were inside the farmhouse when we suddenly heard a loud, unfamiliar sound. Infantrymen develop very sensitive ears, especially sounds that are different than regular combat noises. We both looked up just in time to see a German fighter plane speeding up the river. It was a twin jet aircraft. It was the first jet aircraft we ever saw. We learned later it was a Messerschmidt jet. This was before the British or Americans had any jet planes.

The night before the actual crossing, Colonel Warfield told me about a minefield on our side of the river through which one of our companies would have to pass. He wanted me to locate it, the way through it, and then meet G Company to guide them through the minefield later on that night. Also, I was to go down to the point at the river where the companies were to cross, then lead a scout from each company down to that crossing point.

The crossing was really to be a major effort. Because we had been in a static position for several months, both army and corps artillery were able to get into firing position. In addition, of course, our division artillery would support the crossing together with the regimental cannon companies and the tanks. However, the Germans still controlled the dam at the headwaters of the Roer River, and the day before the crossing they opened the floodgates. By the time we were ready to cross the river, the river had changed from a calm stream into a real hard-charging river. It was also wider and deeper, and had backed up, as I found out later—to my regret—into small creeks and particularly into an irrigation canal across from our area.

The night before the crossing, I went up to the minefield at dusk and guided the company through it. Then later, I took the guides from the companies down to the point at the riverbank



Buck Private Frank Bergstein arriving at Lunken Airport, Cincinnati, Ohio, on a three day pass is met by his parents, Simon and Edna Mae Bergstein.

Photo courtesy of the Bergstein Family.

where our crossing was to be made. When I finally got back to battalion headquarters, I was pooped and wanted to get a few hours sleep. But Colonel Warfield awakened me shortly after I lay down and said, "The artillery barrage is going to start soon. It's going to be one of the biggest of the whole war. Let's go up on the roof and watch it." What could I say? It was a fantastic sight.

The crossing was supposed to be under the cover of smoke, laid down by a special corps mortar battalion. They deployed the smoke about noon the day of the crossing, but as luck would have it, the wind shifted and blew the smoke back into our area. This, plus the fact that the river was so wild, delayed the time of the crossing.

It turned out that our little battalion headquarters farmhouse had actually been the house of a resident paper mill manager (paper mill yet), and there was a small paper mill nearby where two of our companies had assembled prior to crossing the river. I went over to the mill, which was only 50 yards or so from the house, prior to the smoke barrage. When I came out of the mill, the smoke was very heavy, and you couldn't see anything. While I stood in the little courtyard of the mill, a bunch of German mortar shells landed in the courtyard. None of the shells hit me, but the shell fragments bounced off the stone wall of the courtyard, and the stone fragments were flying everywhere. My face got dozens of real small cuts—like razor cuts—from the stone fragments.

After the barrage ended, I tried to walk back to the farmhouse headquarters 30-50 yards away, but the smoke was so dense that I couldn't follow the path. I got back there by crawling on my hands and knees and feeling the path with my hands.

The place where we were to cross the river (and where I had

taken the scouts earlier) turned out to be mined. Mines disabled several of the trucks, used to carry the boats on which the engineers were to paddle us across the river. The disabled trucks blocked the path to the rest of the trucks. All of this delayed our crossing and it was late in the afternoon before we were paddled across. (We had to be ferried over as the river was too deep and the current much too swift to ford the river.) Also, it was February and plenty cold—about 15°-25°F.

Outside of having to step into the river on the far bank, we were congratulating ourselves on having made a dry crossing; but we hadn't advanced more than about 25 yards when we came to that darn little canal. It had been empty on all our aerial photographs but was now full of water. So we had to walk across it, and the freezing water was up to our chins. That night all my clothes froze solid! We didn't get any sleep that night either, as we were under German artillery fire and preparing to attack up that steep hill. We did set up our battalion headquarters in a small farmhouse.

The next morning we successfully captured the hill, although we suffered some casualties. I was sent up the hill to check on the location of the two companies that were on top. One had located itself in and around a pillbox and the other about 200 yards east of the pillbox in a farmhouse.

About 1,000 yards to the front of the companies, over the flat Rhineland plain, were two little towns, which were called twin towns, named Mersh and Pattern. Germans occupied these twin towns. After I had checked in with the company at the pillbox, I started toward the farmhouse. The whole side of the hill was mined and marked with the standard "*Achtung Minen*" signs. So I couldn't stay below the crest of the hill for cover. In addition, the Germans had dug a trench along the crest, which was full of water and trash and crap, and I didn't want to wade through that. So, I had to jog along the crest of the hill even though I knew that the enemy in Mersh/Pattern could see me. They started shooting artillery shells at me as I ran. I think they were 75MM guns. But I made it to the farmhouse and ducked in the basement where the other company was. After spending about 20 minutes checking with them as to their situation, I started back across the hilltop, and again the Krauts fired artillery at me. It was quite an honor (?) to have artillery barrage all your own!

The Germans were firing quite a few "Screaming Mimis" at us. These are rockets fired from rocket-launchers set on the back of special trucks and fired in clusters of six. They have sirens attached to the shells and they really sound scary when coming towards you. Until you get used to them, these "Screaming Mimis" all sound like they're coming right into your hip pocket. When I got back from the hill, I was standing next to a small brick wall at the back of our little farmhouse CP. There was a small rear basement potato cellar at the back of the house (the back was facing the hill and, accordingly, was facing the enemy). Just then a cluster of "Mimis" came toward the house. I ignored them for a time until one really sounded like it was coming right at me. I tried to raise the door to the potato cellar where Lt. Henne and another officer were, but I didn't realize until too late that I was pulling the side of the door; this door opened from the end. At any rate, the rocket hit the brick wall right opposite my head,

knocked the wall over and destroyed it. It blew my helmet off my head, my gloves off my hands, and even the canteen off my belt, and buried them all in the rubble of the wall.

I realized that I wasn't hurt and finally got the door open and jumped into the cellar. Lt. Henne said, "We never thought we'd see you alive again," and I said, "Give me a cigarette." For the next two days I was without a helmet or gloves; one really feels undressed without a helmet after all those months of combat.

Shortly thereafter I had to go back up the hill to see how the two forward companies were doing. When I got to the company in the farmhouse, they told me they had seen signs of activity from Mersh/Pattern. Sure enough, while I was watching with the company commander, two German tanks emerged from Mersh and started toward the crest of the hill around 1,000 yards away, and a like distance, roughly, from us. They had come about half way towards us when some American artillery shells landed around them. I don't know who called for the artillery barrage. But, it convinced the tanks to turn around and go back into town. That decision was good for us because all we had were rifles and a couple of bazookas.

A little later, three American fighter planes carried out a dive-bombing attack on Mersh/Pattern. We had a ringside seat at the farmhouse. They would circle around lazily, then peel off one-at-a-time and dive down upon the town. They were taking their time as there didn't seem to be any "ack-ack" fire from the towns. When that show was over, I ran back along the top of the ridge again and returned down the hill to battalion CP.

On the third day, we received word that we were to be relieved by another division. When their advance party arrived, I had to take one of their battalion officers up to our forward companies and run the ridge again. On our way back from the forward farmhouse, this other officer yelled "Down." I looked back after we both hit the ground and asked what was wrong since I hadn't heard any shells. He said, "A tracer bullet from our right rear—the outskirts of Julich—passed right between you and me."

After we had been relieved by this battalion, we proceeded into Julich and went into the old citadel. The cellar was deep with very thick concrete walls. I got my first night's sleep in three days and it really felt good, after having my clothes freeze on me and my helmet blown off, to get some rest!

MUNCHEN-GLADBACH

Munchen-Gladbach, a city of around 500,000, lies in the center of the Rhineland. It has an area about the size of Cincinnati. It was the largest German city taken up to that time.

When we approached it, for once the 2nd Battalion was in division reserve, which meant that we might not be used. The battalion CP was located in a little farmhouse in a town about four miles from the city. Meanwhile, the attack on the city was proceeding.

We hadn't been called, and about 6:00 PM, Colonel Warfield said, "I know what's going to happen. They will order us to move in after dark, and we won't know where anything is." So, he ordered me to go into the city to find out, if I could, what the situation was.

I went in with a driver and a sniper guard—a GI with a rifle in the back of the Jeep—a few minutes after 6:00 PM. It took us

awhile to enter the city because the road was full of bomb craters. So, by the time we got there, it was just starting to get dark. It was eerie, riding around in the large city—no shooting, no lights, nobody in sight—and the marks of a modest but not heavy battle having taken place, a knocked out tank or two. I guess all the civilians had taken to their basements. Finally, we spotted a GI. He was from the 1st Battalion and had been posted at a street corner to guide in the kitchen trucks for that battalion.

I went in and talked with the staff that told me all they knew is that they occupied this one square block and they had buttoned up for the night. They were not in contact with division headquarters and didn't know what the overall situation was.

When I left there, it was almost dark. We hadn't gone more than a block when I saw a string of Teller mines which were on a string and had been pulled across the road. I yelled, "Stop," to the Jeep driver and he hit the brakes. We stopped with one of our front wheels over one of the mines, but not quite touching it. And, these Teller mines were real bad news.

I decided to return to the 1st Battalion and report this because it was a little different from regular enemy action. This was sabotage since we had already captured this area. They said they would report it as soon as they had communications established with regimental or division headquarters. By the time I left there again, it was pitch black.

So we drove and drove for several hours heading generally in a northern direction in the pitch black, mysteriously quiet city. It was a situation that concentrated your mind wonderfully since we didn't know if someone was going to take a shot at us in the dark or if we might run over another mine. Finally, around 11:00 PM, we spotted another GI. It turned out that he was stationed there watching for 3rd Battalion support vehicles. We went into the 3rd Battalion Headquarters. Thank goodness they knew the situation, where they were, and what the overall picture was. They told me that they were in touch by radio with division headquarters and that the division had completed its mission of taking the city and that even the whole corps objective had been reached. It was obvious that the 2nd Battalion would not be called on that night. So, we headed back—as near as we could figure it—towards the way we had come.

By the time we found the road back towards our little town, it was after midnight, and we finally pulled into battalion headquarters around 12:30 AM. I walked in and the staff was sitting around having a bull session and drinking schnapps. I saluted the colonel and reported that we would not be called upon that night, whereupon they all broke out laughing. I asked what was so funny. They told me that word had come in by radio to that effect just as I was leaving, and that they had even sent a man out to try to catch me, but he was too late. Whereupon, they all started laughing again. All I could say was, "You bastards!"

DISPLACED PERSONS AT BECKUM

In our rapid move across the Rhineland, we overran a town named Beckum. In peacetime, I suppose it had a population of 15,000-20,000. It appeared to be a marketing center for a quite large area of the Rhineland. There must have been thousands of slave laborers working the farms around there: Russians, Ukrainians, French, Dutch, Poles and Italians, while they weren't techni-

cally slave laborers—being allies of the Germans—to all intents and purposes, were. All these people were listed under the name of DPs (Displaced Persons).

When the Allied Forces overran an area, these newly freed people usually swarmed toward towns and cities. Such was the case when we took over Beckum. There was not only a huge influx of DPs into the town, but there was also chaos, i.e., looting, shooting and milling around. Colonel Warfield, very tired from the rapid advance of the past few days, said to me, "Frank, this looks to me like a situation to be handled by intelligence. Do whatever you can and get whatever you need to try to straighten out this mess. Meanwhile, I'm going to bed."

Like many towns, Beckum had one main road running through its center—in this case East-West. My first thought was to try to get all the German civilians on one side and all the DPs on the other side. That alone would cut down on some of the shooting that was going on. Then I thought, if I could get the various nationalities into their own enclaves on their side of the road, that would further calm things down. (There was plenty of shooting going on between, for example, the Russians and the Ukrainians.) But to accomplish this wasn't going to be easy. For one thing, there was lots of confusion; then there were the language difficulties.

I remembered that division headquarters had a sound truck and I requested and received permission to use it for a while. I had taken a map of the town and marked areas for the Germans south of the main road and areas for the DPs north of the road, blocked off by nationalities. When the truck arrived, we tried to find out using English, sign language and whatever, who the senior military officer was of each nationality. When we had these men, I explained what the plan was.

Then we drove through each congregation of the different nationalities telling them in their native language where to congregate, etc. I had them tell the DPs that we were trying to get them food, milk for the nursing mothers, etc. It was quite moving, catching the expressions on the faces of the DPs when they heard these announcements made in their native tongues over the loud speaker. Many of them had been prisoners (slaves) for many years, and I'm sure that all they had heard were orders in German. In any event, they looked up in joyous wonder both at the language and the message that we wanted to help.

Getting these people to their proper sectors took time and effort. There continued to be incidents of shooting and looting for a while. Many of the Germans, of course, were reluctant to leave their homes north of the road and go to the south side. One *fräulein* came to me on her hands and knees saying that her family had lived in their house for hundreds of years. I told her to look at the DPs who had been made slaves by the Nazis and forced to move thousands of miles from their houses. She hadn't thought about that. Then I told her that she better get cracking or I'd shoot her.

Four Dutchmen came to me and they spoke perfect English. They said there were only eight Dutch among all the DPs. They had found a disabled truck and one of their number was a mechanic. They asked me if they could leave Beckum and head for Holland if they could get the truck going. I admired their attitude

and initiative. I don't know whether I had the authority to give them permission to go, but I told them to go ahead.

So finally after around 48 straight hours during which I had no rest, things started to shape up. I went back to our battalion headquarters to report the progress and the situation to Colonel Warfield. Having by this time some knowledge as to how things proceed in the army and especially in wartime, I imagine you can guess what I learned at the CP. You're right! I was told that we had orders to move right out. So we did, and I never found out what happened at Beckum after our hard work to organize things. It might well have returned to the mess it was when we had arrived several days before.

A COUPLE OF GERMAN SURRENDERING INCIDENTS

The German resistance, as we moved across the Rhineland, was spotty—in some cases slight, in others very stiff. It was quite fierce at a town called Titz (that's Titz, men). Remember Brest or Bust. Our battalion captured it in a night attack with some hard fighting and quite a few casualties.

We had been moving rapidly and fighting intermittently, with very little chance for any hot meals. We were to go into regimental reserve after capturing Titz, so the kitchen trucks came into town in the morning to serve us a hot breakfast.

Two or three German soldiers, who apparently had been overlooked in the door-to-door fighting, had holed up in some basement. When they saw and heard the chow lines forming, they must have decided that was a good time to surrender. So they emerged from a basement with their mess gear in hand and fell into the chow line!

They appeared quite put out when they were disarmed and sent to the prisoner-of-war cage without breakfast.

Later, up near the Elbe River, which was our furthest penetration eastward, and when the German resistance had practically collapsed, I was moving slowly along a road in a Jeep with a driver when suddenly a Kraut soldier jumped from behind a bush beside the road and surrendered to me. I covered him with my carbine and had him sit on the hood and dropped him off at the division POW compound.

APPROACHING THE ELBE RIVER

As we approached the Elbe River, which was our farthest eastward advance, we overran two interesting locations. The first was a large V-1 factory about three miles square in area. It was completely camouflaged from the air. Even the railroad line that ran from the main railroad several miles away was camouflaged all the way to the factory. It appeared that the camouflage had been effective as there was no sign that either the factory itself or the rail siding had ever been bombed.

The factory itself was made up of a number of small buildings all connected by narrow gauge railroad tracks with small rail cars on them, capable of being pushed manually. It appeared that the V-1s, which are like flying bombs and which did so much damage to London, were manufactured and assembled here by being moved from building to building.

One thing we couldn't figure out though. There were a number of finished V-1s in the final assembly building. And these seemed to be larger than the usual V-1 flying bombs. In addition, they had cockpits capable of holding a pilot and co-pilot, whereas

the standard V-1s were unmanned and pre-targeted. We wondered if maybe they weren't building these for the Kamikaze pilots in Japan.

We also captured what appeared to be a storage depot for the German Marine Corps. We weren't even aware that the German Navy had a Marine Corps. But we "liberated" a bunch of material, including some very fine binoculars—one of which I have at home.

BREMEN & BREMENHAVEN

When the war was drawing to a close, the powers-that-be decided who was to occupy which part of Germany. The United States was allotted basically Bavaria. However, since Bavaria is land-locked, the United States was also granted an enclave around Bremen and Bremenhaven—the port city for Bremen—to serve as a port for receiving supplies, etc., from the United States.

The British had captured Bremen toward the very end of the war. It was a terribly war-damaged city and was full of displaced persons, mostly Russians. The British had just started the monumental job of setting up DP Camps and getting the city settled, when the decision was made to turn the enclave over to the United States. The 29th Division was assigned the job of taking over from the British and operating the enclave.

We arrived in Bremen in June, a little before V-E Day. The city was really battle-scarred. Due to its proximity to the ocean, it had not been possible to build any underground air raid shelters. So the Germans had built thick concrete towers for the populace to enter during Allied air raids, and they also served as anti-aircraft locations with their "ack-ack" guns on top of the towers. One could stand in what had been the heart of the downtown in this large city, and these very thick concrete towers were all that was left standing. Everything else had been leveled. The 2nd Battalion was lucky. We were stationed in what had been a very nice suburban section of the city, and which had not been too heavily bombed. The 2nd Battalion Headquarters was stationed in a house that had been owned by a patent attorney. I discovered this by some papers I found in a desk in the study.

Our battalion had about three or four DP Camps, each with 5,000 or so DPs under our jurisdiction. As I recall, three were entirely Russian and one was Polish. There was still a lot of shooting, especially at night. We suspected, but couldn't prove, that our Polish DPs were doing a good bit of the shooting, but we couldn't figure out where they hid their guns during the daytime. Finally, we caught on to their secret. There was a little lake in their camp. When they finished their escapades at night, they would coat their weapons with heavy grease and put them in the lake.

We had a policy of trying to find the senior military officers among the DPs at each camp and putting them in charge of the camps under our jurisdiction. One time, at one of the Russian camps, when Colonel Warfield and I were talking through interpreters to the senior officers, a Russian came up and said that he should be in charge of the camp. He claimed that he belonged to the secret police and was actually senior to the Russian colonel we had placed in charge. He was sort of a pest; we told him to beat it. He then proceeded to write my and Colonel Warfield's

names in his little black book. We might still be on some list in Russia.

We had barbed wire around the group of houses we occupied. When V-E Day was declared, we were sitting inside the barbed wire enclosure, while the Germans were wandering around the city freely. A bit of irony there!

WITH THE 69TH AT THE ODER RIVER & A FARMHOUSE

After we had been in Bremen for a month or so, those of us who had the most points (one received points for length of overseas service, number of campaigns such as D-Day, Normandy, etc., in which you had fought) were to be sent home. There was a parade ceremony honoring us "high pointers," and then we were sent to join the 69th Division. This division had not seen much, if any, action, having arrived late in the European Theater of Operations (ETO). Accordingly, they were scheduled to go to the Far Eastern Theater—the war there was still going on. However, they were to go to the states on their way to the Far East. The plan apparently was for us to be assigned to them until they reached the states; then we were supposed to be detached.

When we joined them, they were on the Oder River, right across the river from the Russians. Almost every night, some Russians would get drunk and come riding on a motorcycle across the bridge between us. They would fire their weapons into the air as they crossed the bridge. So far as I know, no one was injured by this activity. But they were also child-like in their love of red-colored things. Some American GIs who had cheap watches would take off the crystals, paint the faces red, and sell them to the Russians for a high price. (The Russians seemed to have a lot of money.)

After I was there about 10 days, the whole division, along with the rest of the American troops along the front, withdrew about 100 miles back into Germany. Heads of government of course had decided this. While it didn't seem to bother the 69th men, it didn't seem right to us 29ers that had been taught to never retreat.

We moved back into Germany to a real isolated farm area. At this point, I was the battalion plans and training officer for a battalion of the 69th Division. We were headquartered in a farmhouse with a couple of other farmhouses nearby—and nothing else for miles around. The farmhouse didn't have running water. There was just about nothing to do. There were very few duties. Our mail hadn't caught up with us. There was nothing to read in the farmhouse except one German bible. And we 29ers were suffering from the terrific restlessness that came from the sudden shock of the war being over. So, we started drinking pretty heavily. Personally, I have never drunk like we did in that farmhouse before, or since.

The *fraulein* who brought in a bowl of hot water to me each morning for washing and shaving, also brought in a full water glass size tumbler of schnapps. I drank it neat while I shaved. Major Rich, the Battalion Commander, noticed that regiment and division never came down for inspection in the evening, always in the morning. So he finally had a notice posted in the dining room, which served as the CP, that "No one stationed at this battalion headquarters will get drunk before noon, Major Rich, Commanding."

About three weeks after we arrived, I received an order to report to Frankfurt, Germany, for permanent assignment to the military government. I didn't know what it was all about. At this point, I just wanted to go back to the states. Frankfurt was about 100 miles from where we were. So the next day a Jeep driver and I took off.

Frankfurt was a large city—very badly damaged by the war. I had a heck of a time finding the office I was to report to among all the rubble. First, we went out to the I. G. Farben Chemical Company Headquarters, which was the headquarters of the whole ETO—and which mysteriously was totally intact and untouched by bombing. They sent us back into the city.

Finally, I found the office. It seems my name had come up in a search for an officer to assist in the rehabilitation of Germany industry because I had been in production work before entering the service. The colonel I spoke to was very nice. He said, examining my record, "You have been overseas a long time already and have had a year of combat. You don't want to stay here, do you?" I guess he thought I had volunteered for the job. He said he would see what he could do about revoking the order. He was gone for a while, but returned with new orders, sending me back to the 69th.

Shortly thereafter, all of the 29ers received orders transferring us to Marseilles, France. So, we didn't get to go with the 69th Division—another army SNAFU. On top of that, while Marseilles was a big embarkation port for troops going back to the states, we were assigned to the permanent cadre who operated the camps where the troops going home were temporarily stationed.

Marseilles was about a three-day train ride from our station in Germany. Every morning, the train would stop so that we could get hot water to fill our helmets so we could shave. On the second day en route, when we stopped, there were some issues of *Stars & Stripes*, with headlines about the atomic bomb and the surrender of the Japanese. There had been quite a bit of discussion about veterans such as we 29th Division men, having to go to the Far East. So everyone was very excited by the news that the war was really over; a great cheer went up.

CONCLUSION

A few days after I got home, after my discharge from Indian-town Gap, Pennsylvania, some lady called me and said she was checking for some local publication. Then she said, "You weren't in the service, were you?" After that momentary blind rage that all combat men seem to have when asked a question like that, I calmed down and told her, "No, I had a job in a defense plant all through the war."

Many years later my older son David, who was then around six or seven years old, asked me, "Daddy, which team were you on in the Civil War?"

And, so it goes.

Should I have called these memoirs, *From Brest to Titz?*

© Copyright 2010 Frank D. Bergstein

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

Gen. Ungerleider memorial unveiling in Carbondale, PA

**By Tom Flannery
Staff Writer**

When city native and American hero Gen. Alvin Ungerleider died three years ago at age 89, his extraordinary life was memorialized in remarks which were entered into the Congressional Record in Washington, D.C.

Then, in 2012, city officials issued a proclamation marking April 16 as Gen. Alvin Ungerleider Day in Carbondale as a way of honoring one of the most accomplished citizens in the history of the Pioneer City.

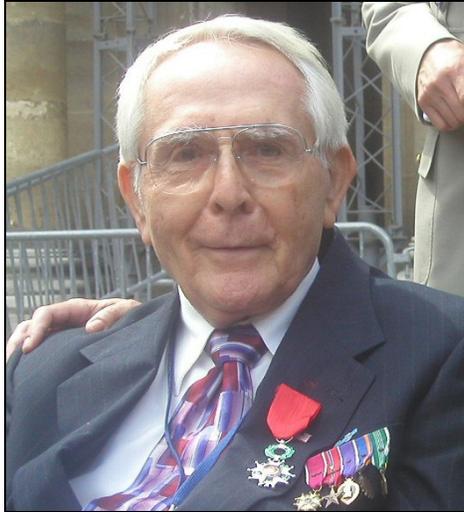
All the while, Atty. Benjamin Schnessel was leading an effort to create a lasting memorial to Gen. Ungerleider here in his hometown. He has been working on the project with his fellow committee members, including Carbondale Historical Society president Dr. S. Robert Powell, City Clerk Michele Bannon, former city newsman Jerry Palko, and Michael Delfino, a classmate of Ungerleider's at Benjamin Franklin High School.

Last summer, sculptor John Leon of Cincinnati, Ohio, was selected to create the memorial — a black granite obelisk, with a size-and-a-half bust in bronze of Gen. Ungerleider in uniform.

In addition, most of the money had been raised through private donations at that time to fund it, so City Council approved its placement in Memorial Park. Schnessel said it will be located either on the right side or the left side of the WW2 monument at the front of the park, where it will stand "at eye-level close to the sidewalk," he noted.

"That way, people standing on the sidewalk will be able to read the inscription without any problem," he offered.

He stated that there will also be a short bio of the general engraved on the base, with Monuments By Parise doing the base of the piece as well as the engraving.



Last week, Schnessel told the *Carbondale News* that the monument is nearing completion, and a ceremony has been scheduled in Memorial Park for its unveiling.

"We're going to be doing it on the last Saturday in July," he related. "The ceremony is set for noon on Saturday, July 26."

"There will be people coming to this event from all across the United States as well as from Israel," he added, explaining that many of Ungerleider's family members are planning to attend as well as others who were friends or acquaintances of the late general or his family when they lived in Carbondale.

Schnessel said the completion of the monument, and its placement in Memorial Park, represents "the culmination of a longtime dream of the Ungerleider family."

"They're very excited about this and really looking forward to coming to Carbondale for the ceremony," he offered, "and they're thrilled that Alvin is going to be honored this way in his hometown."

In the remarks entered into the U.S. Congressional Record and in the Carbondale City official proclamation, Gen. Ungerleider was remembered for being

drafted into military service right out of high school in Nov. of 1942; for taking part in D-Day, the Invasion of Normandy which changed the course of World War II and of world history (Ungerleider landed on Omaha Beach that day and was wounded twice in the opening days of the invasion); for being among the troops who liberated the Nazi concentration camps about a year later (at which time Ungerleider, a Jew himself, was able to minister to the survivors); for being a highly-decorated American hero who received three Legion of Merit awards, the Four Chaplains Award, two Bronze Stars for bravery and meritorious service, and a Purple Heart; for being one of only 99 Americans to be awarded the French Legion of Honor for his role in D-Day and the eventual liberation of France; for remaining in the United States Army for several more decades and making a career of military service, ultimately rising to the rank of Brigadier General; for being recognized by the Secretary of the Army as well as by the NAACP for establishing innovative Equal Opportunity programs during his peacetime career; and for being personally chosen by Pres. Bill Clinton to accompany him in a wreath-laying ceremony at Normandy for the 50th anniversary of D-Day in 1994, among other accomplishments.

This article is reprinted with the permission of the Carbondale News, of Carbondale, Pennsylvania.

Editor's Note: All "Twenty-Niners" and interested parties are invited to attend this event and the reception that will follow at 12 noon on Saturday, 26 July 2014, in Memorial Park, Carbondale, PA.

For RSVP's or questions, please contact Ruth Ungerleider at bgung29@verizon.net.

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

The continuing story of the National Executive Director

By the time this issue of the 29er gets to our readers, we will hopefully be through the coldest and worst part of Winter. I can truthfully say the only time I like Winter is when I can sit inside in the warmth and watch the snowflakes fall. My wife, and many other people feel that Winter is one of the most beautiful seasons and I can't disagree, as long as the aforementioned requirement is met. Even then, I get overly concerned for the people who have to be out in the sub-freezing temperatures or really bad snowstorms, especially if they are part of my family.

A number of interesting things have transpired since my column in the last issue. However, there were two that stand out in my mind.

As I had mentioned in my earlier column, I chaired, under the expert guidance of our previous National Commander Joe Zang, the National Convention of the 29th Division Association that was held in Virginia Beach, Virginia in October 2013. With a huge amount of blood, sweat and tears that went into this event, it paid off in the end through the many complimentary remarks and pats on the back from those in attendance. I'm so glad that most everyone I spoke with had something good to say about the convention.

I offered my special thanks to Amanda Mason and Erin Sanford of the sales staff at the Holiday Inn and Suites, North Beach in Virginia Beach for the great cooperation and attention we received while there. They were easy to deal with and very helpful when it came to meeting our needs.

PNC Dick Smith played a valuable role in helping select and arrange for the boat tour and the delicious lunch that followed at the beautiful Freemason Abbey Restaurant in Norfolk. My unending thanks to Dick for working with me on these projects. I think we all know the great job that Bob Wisch did with the Hospitality Room. Bob had me concerned early on and I tried to keep him on a financial lease, but he came through with probably one of the best operations we've seen in awhile and did it on budget. I certainly can't forget the outstanding job that PNC Bob Moscati always does with the registration. This is one of those unforgiving and thankless jobs that takes a truly dedicated individual such as we have in Bob. I understand he's already signed on for next year's convention.

Our National Finance Officer, Brian Becker, National Property Officer Franklin Shilow and our National Adjutant Will Mund, who never fails to publish a fantastic Souvenir Program Book must not be overlooked for their part in making the whole event the success that it was. I shouldn't mention names for something as important as this, it seems I always end up forgetting someone. So just in case I've done that, please forgive me and know that I thank you and bless you for your help.

I think the second most important thing for me was the Veterans Day Ceremony that was held at the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Virginia. (See photo inset). PNC Joe Zang and I had made a trip to Bedford a couple months earlier to speak with some folks and lay plans for assisting with the 70th Anniversary ceremony to be held this year on June 6, 2014. While there, we had the opportunity to meet and speak with the Mrs. April Cheek-Messier, the young lady who had recently been appointed to the position of President of the National D-Day Memorial Foundation. During our conversation, April asked both National Commander Zang and me if we would come to Bedford for the Veterans Day ceremony as speakers on the

program agenda. Commander Zang declined the offer stating that by November, he would no longer be the National Commander. I did agree to this assignment as I felt it was quite an honor. However, I later contacted Jack Kutcher, our current National Commander and upon learning that he would also be in attendance, offered to allow him my spot on the agenda.

After speaking with Mrs. Cheek-Messier, Commander Kutcher was told that both he and I would be given time to speak. This opportunity was probably one of the highlights of my life.

To give this proper recognition you must first know my feelings about the National D-Day Memorial. I first fell in love with the whole concept of a national memorial to honor those who served during D-Day back when I first learned about it in 1998. My first official visit to the site that was later to become the National D-Day Memorial was when the National Convention in October 1998 was held in Roanoke, VA and the Memorial Service was held in a tent on the future site of the memorial. Later my wife and I checked to see how construction was going when we visited on June 6, 2000 while on a trip traveling to Alabama.

Then on June 6, 2001, the Memorial was officially dedicated and opened to the public and we were there to help celebrate along with the roughly 20,000 other visitors. Since that time, I have made no less than 10 to 12 additional trips. Bedford is roughly 250 miles and about a 5 hours drive from my home in Maryland. Three of these trips have been motor coach tours coordinated by my wife and me and sponsored by Post 78 in Frederick. One of my major wishes is that I lived closer and could spend more time there. Let this article be a reminder to mark your calendar to attend the 70th Anniversary on June 6th at this beautiful Memorial. I plan to be there and hope to see a large group of Blue and Gray caps of the 29th.

The next major item on my agenda is participation in the Futures Committee. The Autumn/Winter issue of the 29er contained a very definitive description of the Futures Committee and the goals they hope to accomplish. When PNC Joe Zang initially appointed the members of this committee, I requested to be allowed to serve as an ad hoc member. Since that time, my role has taken on that of a full-time committee member for which I thank Mr. David Ginsburg, the committee chairman. This is another busy group with objectives including but not limited to: bringing the Association into the future by helping reduce the declining membership, establishing more direct contact with National Guard units and provide an education on unit lineage and connection to the 29th Division. Mr. Ginsburg has done an excellent job as chairman and plans to be able to meet many of the established goals in the near future.

So I am glad that the freezing temperatures and the snowstorms are gone for another season and we can look forward to some bright, sunny and hopefully warm Spring days. I look forward to my travel back down to the National D-Day Memorial in June and to any assistance I can offer them in meeting their goals. I also look forward to working with Southern Region Commander Bill King and the issuance of charters to several potential new posts in the Southern Region.

See you next time.

PNC/NED John E. Wilcox



Wall of Remembrance receives 29th Division Flag



Denis Lesage, President of the Wall of Remembrance Association, and Gilbert Bataille, Mayor of Saint-Jean-de-Savigny, present the flag of the 29th Division to Michel Quesnel, a French veteran.

As reported in the journal, *Ouest-France*, the November 11, 2013 commemoration was marked by a particularly solemn moment this year at the Wall of Remembrance in Saint-Jean-de-Savigny, a monument erected in memory of American soldiers of the 29th Division. The flag of the 29th Division, donated by SGM Charles Frick in the name of Normandy Allies, was handed to the

French veterans of Saint-Clair-sur-Elle. This gift was the initiative of the Wall of Remembrance Association, and from now on it will fly by the side of the French flag in all ceremonies. This is a particularly strong symbol now that we are just a few months away from the 70th anniversary of D-Day. *(translation by Michael Yannaghas)*

From the Landing Beaches to Saint-Lô: Commemorate the 70th Anniversary with Normandy Allies July 13-26, 2014

Our journey begins in Bayeux, where we explore the World War II British and Canadian sectors. Visits include: Caen Memorial to the Peace, Juno Beach, Abbaye d'Ardenne, Pegasus Bridge, Arromanches Circular Theater and Mulberry Museum, Longues s/mer Battery, Bayeux Tapestry and Cathedral, British Cemetery and more...

We move on to Grandcamp-Maisy and the American sector as our journey takes us from Omaha Beach and Utah Beach through the hedgerow country to Saint-Lô. Historians and Normans who lived through the landings and the liberation share their experiences with us. Visits include: Pointe du Hoc, Omaha Beach & the Normandy American Military Cemetery, Utah Beach, Graignes, La Fièvre & Amfreville, Sainte-Mère-Eglise & the Airborne Museum, Saint-Lô & bocage areas, LaCambe Cemetery, Chateau Colombières & the marshes, rue Captain Carter, Wall of Remembrance, Trevières... and more....

Our journey culminates with an afternoon in Paris, lunch along the Champs Elysées, a visit to the Eiffel Tower and then home — with lasting memories!

Travel Grants available for students and teachers

Contact: Marsha Smith, Normandy Allies, PO Box 1332 Pittsford NY 14534

normandyallies@verizon.net 585-748-2357

Embedded program and new website launched to grow membership

The Future's Committee has been working very hard since the last issue of the *29er* on 2 main efforts centered around recruiting – The Embedded Program and the update of the website.

To refresh everyone's memory, the main goal of the Futures Committee is to create initiatives to combat the downward spiral of membership in the Association and recruit new members.

We are trying to recruit new members through 3 main channels – currently serving troops in the Maryland and Virginia National Guard with ties to the 29th Division, former members of the 29th Division across the country who may not even know of the existence of the Association, and family members of former 29ers.

The Embedded Program is up and running and we now have 19 Association members embedded into 28 units and armories across MD and VA. 90% of units in MD are covered by our Embedded Contacts and Virginia is currently covered with contacts at the 1/116th Inf, 3/116th Inf, 116th Inf Regiment and the 111th FA.

It will take a while for the Embedded Contacts to truly reach all of the troops. It is envisioned it will happen in phases. The first phase, where most of the Contacts currently are, is recruiting the unit's full timers. The 2nd phase is recruiting the unit's commanders, both NCO and commissioned. The 3rd phase is getting to the troops themselves and educating them on their unit history, and the Association. That is the point at which we have the best chance to really grow the Association through currently serving troops.

Most importantly, through the new website, we have the means for people to go to one place and be able to join the Association in a few easy clicks and less than 5 minutes of their time.

For many years the Association had a very capable website designed and run by John Wilcox. As our recruiting needs have evolved, we needed the website to evolve as well.

The new site, still at www.29thdivisionassociation.com, is up

and running. The first thing you will notice is it is very graphical in nature. The 3 pictures on the homepage (*see photo inset*) illustrate what the Association and the 29th are all about – our WWII heritage with the famous drawing of the landings on Omaha Beach, the return of 29th troops from the GWOT, and the laying of the wreath at Arlington by Association officers. It demonstrates the past that made our Division great, the honorable service to our country continuing by units currently serving in or having lineage to the 29th, and the paying of honors to those that have served and gave their lives.

There is a copy of our fine newsletter, the *29er*, that anyone can read and so become even more interested in joining the Association.

On the Membership Page is the requirements for membership, a membership form **t h e y c a n** download and either email in or mail in, and a link for them to be able to instantly pay their membership fees with credit card, debit card or PayPal.

There will be detailed histories of the regiments of the 29th. Most

of those will be up and running by the time of this publication. There is a page on the 29th Division itself and another on the 29th In World War II.

The purpose of these are twofold – to educate people on the glorious history of our Division, and to help people researching these units or their families' service and find the Association itself so they will then want to become members.

By the end of this, there will be a dozen or more units histories on the website.

Both the website and the Embedded Program will continue to grow and evolve. The Committee will keep looking for ways to help the Posts grow.

*Submitted by JRVC David Ginsburg,
Chairman, Futures Committee*

Welcome to the 29th Division Association

"29, Let's go!"

[MEMBERSHIP](#)

[ABOUT THE 29TH DIVISION](#)

[POST LOCATIONS](#)

[MERCHANDISE](#)

[FUTURE EVENTS](#)

[NATIONAL CONVENTION](#)

[MONUMENTS AND MEMORIALS](#)

[NORMANDY ALLIES](#)

[LINKS](#)

[29TH INFANTRY DIVISION MUSEUM \(coming soon\)](#)

[29TH INFANTRY DIVISION ARCHIVES \(coming soon\)](#)

[ASSOCIATION RESOURCES](#)

Sample copy of our newsletter -
The 29er - published 3 times a year



[DOWNLOAD A COPY](#)

GET A FREE .PDF READER [HERE](#)



Welcome to the 29th Division Association

The 29th Division Association is an organization dedicated to keeping the 29th Infantry Division and its spirit alive. A large family of veterans, current soldiers, and their families and descendants continue to share and embrace the glorious history of the beloved 29th Division, resolving to "perpetuate the friendships we cherish and keep alive the spirit that never knew defeat."

The 29th Infantry Division is one of America's most illustrious military units. It participated in the U.S. Army's supreme operation of both World Wars, first in the great Meuse-Argonne offensive in 1918, and later in Operation Overlord, the celebrated D-Day invasion in 1944. Before that, the militia units comprising the 29th Division had performed valorous service in all of America's wars, from the renowned "Maryland 400" at the Battle of Long Island in 1776 to the "Stonewall Brigade" in the Civil War.

The division is best known for landing on Omaha Beach on D-Day during World War II. It captured St. Lo during the Normandy Campaign and then fought through France, Holland and Germany until VE Day in 1945.

Aside from a 17-year hiatus between 1968 and 1985, the 29th Division has existed continuously since 1917 as a component of the National Guard. Its nick-name, the "Blue and Gray Division," derives from the lineage of its constituent militia regiments, which fought on opposite sides during the Civil War.

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



Doc's Corner Presents: Colonel (Doctor) William N. Bernhard

To misquote General Douglas McArthur, "Old soldiers never die, but some NEVER fade away." A prime example of this is the legendary life of Colonel (Dr.) William N. Bernhard.

First, a little past history, William Bernhard was born and raised in Philadelphia, attending Kent School in Connecticut. Trinity College, also in Connecticut, was the starting point of his military career when he joined the United States Marine Corps Reserve as a member of the platoon leader school. Unfortunately he suffered a significant knee injury and after 180 days and was discharged.

He followed in his father's footsteps, his father being a pathologist, and during WW II, served overseas for many years as a flight surgeon in the Army Air Corps.

Upon graduation from college in 1953, he joined the Berry plan, and entering Hahnemann Medical School now part of Drexel University] graduating in 1957. A rotating internship was also served at Hahnemann and subsequently an Anesthesia residency at Dartmouth until 1960. As a result of the Berry Plan commitment, active duty was served in the Navy, later becoming Chief of Anesthesia at USNH Chelsea (Boston.) Upon discharge in 1963, he entered private practice of Anesthesia in Vermont, New Jersey and Maryland. As Dr. Bernhard enjoyed academic lifestyle in 1971, he became Chief of Anesthesia and Respiratory therapy in the Jersey City Medical center in New York City. Subsequently, he was the Associate Professor of Anesthesia at NYU Medical Center-NYC and Bellevue. 1988 brought him to Baltimore to the R A Cowley Shock Trauma Center as Chief of Anesthesia where he served until 1998.

While during the positions listed above, Dr. Bernhard joined the USAR in 1979, at first in the First US Army Augmentation Detachment with many deployments in Honduras, Korea, Canada, Ft. Drum, Vermont Army National Guard Mountain Warfare School, and NWTC Alaska, among other detachments.

In 1989 Dr. Bernhard joined the Maryland Army National Guard serving for 10 years as a Flight surgeon with the 1/158 Cav and the AVN BDE, retiring (again) in November 1998.

Other interim assignments or activations took him to duty with the 365th Medical Evacuation Hospital, 77 USARCOM. In 1991 promotion to Chief of Anesthesia, Combined USAF [Scott AFB] and the USAR Hospital in Oman. Flying Air Force Medevac missions on C-130's were routine. March 2001 found him reassigned to the 800th MP BDE - Camp 301, Hofra-el-Betin, Saudi Arabia providing care for 15,000 Iraqi POWs.

After this duty, he was compelled to return to the MDARNG to resume his first love being a flight surgeon, and won his wings as

a Master Flight Surgeon in 1992, serving as Regional Flight Surgeon, USAAMA.

Deployment to Aviano AFB, Italy, followed being attached to the MDANG (A-10's), (AGAIN) retiring from the MDARNG in November 1998.

However, he continued to serve as the contract flight surgeon from 1999 to the present time working with the MDARNG Flight Surgeon's Office 29th Aviation BDE.

During this time in 2003, he also had a short tour in President Karzai's protection detail in Afghanistan. Also served with the BCT MSARNG (2006) and with 41st BCT ORARNG being the 201 Corps Surgeon.

In 2007, he volunteered for another BOG as the flight surgeon with aerospace medical privileges. He was assigned to the Katerbach Clinic (Ansbach), Germany, and was extended 4 times, retiring again in January 2010, only to be recalled in March 2010 and being sent to Hohenfels, Germany.

It was in 2005 he became more interested in PTSD, owing to a family member who had extended active duty. Dr. Bernhard feels that there is a way to prepare soldiers for the stress of combat. " We do a wonderful

job of training to take care of physical injuries--- we need to do the same with mental injuries. We have to do it up front, we can't be playing catch up...." He became friends with Command Sgt. Major Samuel M. Rhodes, who has written a book "Changing the military Culture of Silence" portraying his struggle with PTSD. CSM Rhodes subsequently informed GEN George Casey, Chief of Staff Army, of COL Bernhard's meritorious long service. In a personal correspondence from GEN Casey to COL Bernhard, he stated, "Heard you were deploying again from Sam Rhodes who said that he had finally found someone in the Army older than me!!!! Thanks for your continued service to our soldiers and to this great country. George Casey CSA"

When GEN Casey asked if he would extend again, Dr. Bernhard suggested that he did not feel that he wanted an 80 year old on the front line, retiring the 5th time at age 79. (he was the oldest current soldier in combat).

Military Research

- (1) Medical consultant to Active Signal Technologies, providing funding and testing at USAARL at Fort Rucker, AL for an acoustic stethoscope for use in a high noise environment (A Medical paper was published about this innovation.)
- (2) Development of a non-invasive brain monitor for trauma, concussion and stroke.



116th Infantry Foundation seeks to raise funds for monument

The 116th Infantry Foundation based in Staunton, Virginia, is seeking to raise funds for the construction of five monuments on Omaha Beach, in the commune of Vierville sur Mer, France. The first of these monuments (*see photos*) is scheduled to be unveiled on D-Day, 6 June 2014.

The 116th Infantry Regiment Foundation (IRF), Inc. was incorporated in the



C o m m o n - wealth of Virginia in January, 1994 and began fulfilling its mission to preserve the two hundred and fifty + year legacy as a military organization. The 116th IRF, Inc. was

given 501 (c) (3) by the Internal Revenue Service in May, 1995. Since that beginning, the 116th Foundation has taken control of all of the archives and collections of the Regiment that had been previously stored in the National Guard Armory located in Staunton, Virginia.

After 2001, the collection was closed to the public by the War on Terrorism. In 2012, our museum opened just off I-81 at Exit 227 in the Shenandoah Valley. Signage directs visitors to the site at 566 Lee Highway, Verona, VA 24482. There is no admission or full time staff, the Foundation exists from donations of current and former members.

The most recent effort of the 116th IRF is construction of five monuments on Omaha Beach, in the commune of Vierville sur Mer, France. The government authorized a site in the Vierville Draw where the Regiment landed on D-Day, the site of the greatest losses of any Allied unit on June 6, 1944.



Donations by individuals or organizations of \$5,000 or greater will be recognized with the name(s) engraved on the statue. 18 surviving D-Day Vets will be on hand in Normandy on Omaha Beach to unveil the statue on 6 June 2014.

Donations can be sent to: 116th Infantry Regiment Foundation, Inc., PO Box 116, Staunton, VA 24401 or Visit our Web Page and donate using PayPal or Credit Cards <http://116thfoundation.org/donate/>

Doc's Corner Presents: Colonel (Doctor) William N. Bernhard

(Continued from page 17)

Military Badges

- (1) EFMB (Expert Field Medical Badge)
- (2) Master Flight Surgeon Wings
- (3) Air Assault Badge
- (4) VT ARNG Mountain Warfare Badge [Rams Head Badge]
- (5) Combat Action Badge awarded by 2/111 ACR for action in Iraq during 2005

Awards

Army Service Ribbon, National Defense service Medal (3rd award), Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal (3rd award), Air Assault, Armed Forces Reserve Medal (2nd Award), Flight Surgeons Badge and Aeromedical designation, Armed Forces Overseas Training Ribbon, Army Achievement Medal, South West Asia Service Medal with Bronze Star (2nd Award), Global War On Terrorism Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal w/Campaign Star, Overseas Service Ribbon (3rd Award), Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M Device (5th Award), NATO Medal (2nd Award), Combat Action Badge, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Army Commendation Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, and the Legion Of Merit

He is also a member of multiple medical and military societies such as in Anesthesia and Flight Surgery.

In his career, he served 6 years 4 months on active duty, and 34 years 11 months in reserve status with a total of 41 years, 3 months. COL Bernhard is appreciative of LTG James Fretterd and MG James Adkins for allowing him to serve past the usual

Mandatory Retirement Date. As a result of his longevity, the TV channel at Ft. Benning produced a YouTube video, which is a mandatory all to view. Go to YouTube and type "79 year old COL deploys."

Several newspaper articles were also forthcoming such as in the Bayonet, the Hohenfels, and The Cecil Whig.

COL Bernhard is married to Therese, an Army Nurse, who served on active duty in combat as well as in the 136 Combat Support Hospital, MDARNG. He has 2 sons.

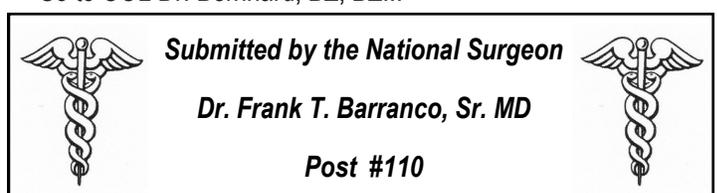
As I said before, "Old soldiers never die, and some NEVER fade away!!"

Even now in his twilight years COL Dr. Bernhard continue to serve to this day performing flight physicals as well as serving as a physician in the MED Detachment in the Readiness clinic for the MDARNG.

He is also the Commander of Post 85, 29th Division Association, which has distinguished itself performing with its Color Guard, and burial services.

The Navy has a saying for doing good deeds and exemplary performance, being "Bravo Zulu"(BZ for short).

So to COL Dr. Bernhard, BZ, BZ!!!



A veteran's memories: Charlie Maupin of Columbus, Georgia

Walk into Charlie Maupin's third-floor, one-bedroom apartment at Covenant Woods retirement community and look around. Look closely. Look on the walls and on the tables. Just look.

You will see medals that signify courage and bravery during World War II. There is a Purple Heart on the wall in the living room next to a Bronze Star with an oak leaf cluster. On a table below the framed medals is the French Legion of Honor, signifying service in two campaigns to liberate France from the Germans.

Next to that is a decorative box containing sand and rocks gathered from Omaha Beach on a return trip in 1993. All memories and honors from another time, long ago.

On June 7, 1944, Maupin was finding his way ashore at Omaha Beach in the Allied invasion of France that turned the tide of World War II. A young man from Columbus drafted into the U.S. Army at a time of war, Maupin was a radio technician in the 175th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division.

As you walk through Maupin's life as documented by what he displays in his apartment, the military honors stand out.

But try to look past that. Look at the computer on Maupin's desk. Look at the laptop with the screensaver of the American cemetery at Omaha Beach.

It all shows that at 94 years old and a widower since 2006, Maupin has not surrendered to life's latter years. Trained as a Morse code operator during the war, Maupin has embraced today's technology -- even social media.

He is on Facebook and has been for about four years. Last Monday, more than 30 people wished him a happy birthday on his Facebook page. He writes letters to the editor of the Ledger-Enquirer; most of them espouse his conservative views. He sends text messages on his cell phone and responds rapidly when someone texts him. He can't hear well, which is why he would rather communicate through text, Facebook or email.

But Maupin recognizes the significant changes in technology. "It is amazing how much they have changed in my lifetime," he said. "Some of it is for the good. Some of it is for the bad. The way I see it, technology has a curse as well as an advantage."

Maupin was married, working at Georgia Webbing and Tape Co. in 1942 as the war was beginning to rage. Because his textile company manufactured fabric for the Army, he was able to defer his service until later in the year.

By November, he was facing the draft and



Charles Maupin then . . .

decided to enlist in the Air Force. "I went down to volunteer and talked to the recruiting sergeant and he told me to wait," Maupin said. "He said I would still be able to pick my service. A few weeks later I got picked, all right, picked right into the infantry."

He spent the next 34 months in the Army, training in South Carolina and England before taking part in the invasion of France.

Shortly before he left the United States for England, Maupin was in line to make a phone call home to his then-wife, Frances. With a long line, he almost gave up, but the operator told him to wait a few more minutes. He did.

"I got through to her that night," he said. "And I didn't talk to her again until I got home



Charles Maupin now . . .

in October 1945." The day that stands out is when his unit landed on Omaha Beach. They were in the third wave.

"As the sun came up, everywhere I looked I could see a ship," he said. "There were ships of all sizes and shapes headed to France. Later that morning, there were what seemed like thousands of planes overhead. I didn't know what to think."

He still remembers what he saw that day when he finally reached shore: "Rows and rows of bodies covered with their ponchos." Even I can't imagine the courage and determination those first soldiers showed," he said.

Maupin marched through France and finished his service as part of the German occupation for five months after the war ended.

In 1945, Maupin returned to Georgia. He went back to work at Georgia Webbing and Tape Co., but the company ended up moving to Talbotton, Ga., and he did not relocate. Using the GI Bill, Maupin went to the University of Georgia extension in Columbus, graduating in 1952. He became an estimator, first for the company that later became American Buildings. When the company relocated from Columbus to Eufaula, Ala., he made the move, but ended up back in Columbus, working for Pasco, another metal building company. He retired in 1987.

In 1993, he and his second wife of 48 years, Marjorie, went to France. Maupin remembers standing on the shore, looking at the English Channel. "All I could think was, 49 years ago, I came from that direction," he said of the water. He also had another thought: "Lord, I pray that it will never happen again."

Three years ago, he was on one of the West Georgia Honor Flights that took World War II veterans on a day trip to Washington to visit the memorial erected in their honor.

"I will never forget that welcome we got at the Columbus airport," Maupin said. "Some of my family was there. Everybody was cheering when we got off the plane. It was special."

Service and participation in one of the most significant military campaigns in history has shaped Maupin's view of war.

"War should not be an answer to people's problems," he said. "The U.S. won the war, but we lost 400,000 young people. Is that winning? War is merely an extension of politics by another means. Who starts wars? It's not the people. It's the people in power."

Reprinted with permission of the Columbus (Ga.) Ledger-Enquirer

POST HAPPENINGS

Post #1

On 13 December last, an organization called the Tennessee Committee for the Bill of Rights held its 13th Annual Commemoration of the adoption of the American Bill of Rights (on the occasion of its 222nd Anniversary). It was sponsored by Jacob B. and June Griffin of Dayton, Tennessee. Post 1 is proud that Jacob is a member of Post 1.

This organization is devoted to recognizing those individuals who have successfully defended one or more of the 10 original amendments to the U.S. Constitution, known as the Bill of Rights. Through the year, the organization accepts nominations for a "Bill of Rights" award and in December, a banquet is held wherein a selection is made of the nominee to be so recognized. In 2013, he/she became the 19th individual to be so honored.

What a great way to show true patriotism! Post 1 is indebted to Jacob and June for keeping alive that spirit which the 29th Division Association's embodies.

Submitted by Post 72 Commander, I. John Vaccarino

Post #2

Florida West Post #2 had its 6th Annual "Special Luncheon" on 20 February 2014 at the Red Lobster Restaurant in Sarasota, Florida. There were 48 people in attendance. Among those were 11 World War II veterans and 4 National Officers of the 29th Division Association.

Following a meal served efficiently by the restaurant staff, the national officers each made some brief remarks. Past National Commander Joe Zang read a brief note that was prepared by National Commander John F. "Jack" Kutcher, who was not in attendance. NC Kutcher sent his personal greetings and said that he regretted being unable to attend the luncheon.

The next meeting of Post #2 will be on 14 March, followed by 10 April and 8 May. Unless otherwise designated, meetings will occur at 11:30am on the second Thursday of the month at the Red Lobster Restaurant (6747 S. Tamiami Trail), in Sarasota, Florida.

Submitted by Post 2 Commander, Taylor Thomas

Post #3

The Allen S. Levin Canada Post 3 will be celebrating its first anniversary starting in May of this year and what a year it has been!

We are proudly hosted and an official part of the 32 Signal Regiment's "Regimental Family" of the Canadian Armed Forces. Post 3 is headquartered in the Fort York Armoury, just down the hill from the "Old Fort York Armoury" which was the focal point of the War of 1812 in which the United States was allegedly (the running joke amongst our Canadian friends) defeated.

Post 3 is heavily involved with many of the 32nd Signal Regiment's activities, and its Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. Greg Stasyna is a post member, and actually member #1! We attend many Regimental functions, including the Christmas Dinner, and many other events from drill to Commander's parades.

All of Post 3's members consist of active and veterans of the Royal Canadian Navy, Royal Canadian Air Force, Canadian Army, and US Army and Air Force. Pending members include 2 former US Marines.

Our members have served in WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War 1, Bosnia, Afghanistan, the Golan and many other places.

One of the main individuals who was instrumental in helping set up operations in Toronto with the Canadian military is our Vice Com-

mander, Lt. Col. Alex Moseanu, who is also one of the Aides to Ontario's Lt. Governor, who represents Queen Elizabeth II on behalf of Ontario.

As the Commander of Post 3, I am extremely honored and proud to be a part of such an important part of US history and representing the profound achievements of the 29th Infantry Division, and leading such a dedicated, and professional group of men and women who make up Canada's first and only Post!

Submitted by Post 3 Commander, Jonathan Levin-Turner

Post #5

Post 5 of the 29th Division Association, formally known as the Rudolph M. Price, Jr. post after the founding member but locally known as the Norfolk Light Artillery Blues, has had a very busy few months. Since a new Commander (John Lane), Vice-Commander (Bob Eldredge), and Adjutant (Chris Robbins) were sworn in last October, the post has undertaken huge recruiting and marketing efforts resulting in the rolls being increased to 40 paid members. There is a regular group of comrades that work at the Post 5 "museum" in the Norfolk National Guard armory on a weekly basis, and the post has resumed regular meetings and has plans for quarterly outings and dinner meetings. In January, the Vice-Commander, Bob Eldredge (former CSM of the 1-111th FA, now retired) graciously hosted the entire staff of the 1-111th Field Artillery Officer Corps for an ODP (Officer Development Program) training session. In addition to giving young officers some history of their unit, several of the officers became Post 5 members!

An open house event is being planned for some time this summer to celebrate the post's 90th anniversary! Members and families will attend the celebration and the museum will be open to the general public during this event. The event will be advertised on local and social media sites, and in local print.

Additional projects in the planning phases include a cleanup / restoration of the Post Association memorial in Elmwood Cemetery, continued support of Veteran's Day and Memorial Day ceremonies at Forest Lawn Cemetery, and the forming of a new visitation team to ensure hospitalized comrades or those in retirement homes are reminded that they are important to our country and are not forgotten!

The Post is now on Facebook and can be found by searching for "Norfolk Light Artillery Blues Post 5", and can be contacted at their new email address: NLAB.Post5@outlook.com for further information.

Submitted by Post 5 Adjutant, Chris Robbins

Post #48

In 2013, the Jerome L. Day Post 48 has grown both in membership and with more active member participation who are, "Keeping the spirit of the 29th Division Association alive."

Currently, we are pursuing the objectives of the embedded program of active Guard units. In December 2013, soldiers of the 29th Military Police from the Westminster Armoury had their holiday family meal at Camp Fretterd. Post 48 Commander Rauschenberg spoke on the need to become a member of the 29th Division Association. In addition, members of Post 48 helped to serve the holiday meal to the troops and their family. An enjoyable time was had by all.

Speaking with the general public and our veterans, many who are not aware of the 29th Division Association and that membership is available to them, is "the best kept secret". For that reason, Post 48 is embarking

POST HAPPENINGS

on a local media awareness program of the 29th Division Association. Two local newspapers have been asked to do feature articles on the 29th. It's hoped that these media articles will generate interest from the community to become members of the 29th Division Association.

We were honored to have Carroll County Commissioner and member of Post 48, Haven Shoemaker speak at our meeting on 30 January, on "the need to keep the spirit of the 29th Division Association alive." Commissioner Shoemaker served in the 175th infantry unit of the Maryland Army National Guard. He spoke of his Dad, Haven Neely Shoemaker, a WWII veteran and his service to his country.

The Jerome L. Day Post 48 meets on the last Thursday of the month, unless otherwise noted on the schedule. Meetings are held at Baugher's Restaurant. Westminster. Dinner at 6pm and Meeting at 7pm. All comrades and guests are invited.

Submitted by Post 48 Commander, Frank Rauschenberg

Post #64

The Harry M. Richardson Post 64 partook in the pomp and circumstance of the annual Regimental Muster in Staunton, VA. On 10 November 2013. This event is always celebrated on Veterans Day weekend at the Stonewall Jackson Hotel.

Saturday morning we rode in the parade through the streets of downtown Staunton upon the Military Vehicle Association's jeeps and truck. Those in attendance were Bill and Juanita King, Frank and Nancy Dillon, Mr. and Mrs. Arden Earl, Don Englar, Chuck Neighbor and John Kessler.

After the parade we all gathered for lunch at Rowe's Restaurant. Everyone enjoyed their meal along with light hearted conversation and laughter. After lunch we went to *The Spoils of War* museum in Verona to check out the new additions and artifacts on display.

After our quaint visit there, we went back to the hotel to get ready for the Muster dinner in which Arden Earl walked away with a Stetson hat from one of the Calvary officers.

And, keeping with annual tradition, we ended the weekend with a Harry Richardson breakfast.

The Post 64 Christmas Luncheon was held on 14 December 2013 at the Lakeland Lodge in Roanoke.

First, we would like to give a huge Thank You to SFC Tammy Anderson and her husband for two giant bags of toys, of which brought many military family support recipients a very Merry Christmas.

We were also honored to have COL Epperly and his Mother and Father join us this year.

Our annual Christmas lunch started with a wet and frozen weather scare this year. In spite of the weather we had a full house of about seventy post members, family and friends gathered together for a nice visit with friends and a delicious lunch.

This year, Bill King's grandsons, Gavin and Chase Dent, whom are also post members, posted the colors to mark the official start of the event. In one corner of the room we assembled a missing man table in honor of Bob Slaughter and all other fallen comrades.

Those whom would like to join us on 13 December 2014 are more than welcome to attend.

In February, we were saddened by the loss of two World War II veterans of the 29th Division and members of Post 64, Hubert Mills Hobbs and Hugh Wills. May they rest in peace.

Submitted by Frank and Nancy Dillon

Post #72

On 15 December, 2013, Limestone Post 72 and the Veterans Corps celebrated their annual Christmas Party with festive food, holiday beverages and good fellowship. 90 tickets were sold, and 77 members, wives, and friends attended in the decorated Schaefer Dining Room of the 5th Regiment Armory.

The Post 72, Board of Trustees. met on 10 February 2014 and discussed several upcoming issues and concerns. Among these are the changes that will occur due to the post election upcoming in April. The dates for the Memorial Service, Crab Feast and Christmas party were also discussed.

Submitted by Post 72 Commander, William DeHaven

Post #78

Cresap's Rifles Post 78 initiated a new program for the 2013 Christmas season that we named "Christmas for the Vets." The program was based on information and guidance provided to us from the Post Commander and the Adjutant of Eastern Shore Post 88.

Members from Post 78 were separated into groups of 2 and 3 and visited veterans of 6 nursing homes located in and around Frederick, MD. Based on an idea from Post Commander Bob Jones and Adjutant Ken Wheatley of Post 88 in Cambridge, MD, lap blankets and white cotton stockings were purchased to be distributed to 122 veterans. Post 88 has very successfully conducted a similar program for many years and shared their experience and guidance with Post 78.

Post Commander Dave Houck, Vice Commander John Sexton, Adjutant John Wilcox, Finance Officer Greg LaCoste, Chaplain Jack Masser, Past Post Commanders Dick Holdcraft, Ron Pitts, Rick Boyer, and Buck Lockard along with Post members Jim Hutts, Jim Frye, and Fred Moxley all participated. The possibility of expanding next year to other nursing homes in Frederick County has been discussed.

Our next event will be the annual Spring Fling Dinner in April.

Submitted by Post 78 Commander, Dave Houck

Post #88

Eastern Shore Post 88 is happy to report another successful "Socks Drive" during the Holiday Season. This is the Post's 21st consecutive year of hosting and visiting shut in members and Veterans in communities and nursing homes on the Shore. 173 Veterans in total were visited this year. Activities began with a luncheon held at the Crisfield American Legion on Dec 5th with a good attendance of 28 Veterans and members. All received a poinsettia and fruit basket following lunch.

The week of December 15 involved visits by teams to nursing homes in Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot Counties. 74 nursing home Veterans were visited and thanked for their service and 43 shut-in Veterans were visited at their home. Each Veteran received a poinsettia, lap blanket, and pair of socks. The Post also sends Holiday cards to over 50 shut-in veterans thanking them for their service.

The Post would like to recognize and thank Post Adjutant and Welfare Officer Ken Wheatley and his wife Janet for their organization, arrangements, and buying of the items for this program. And thanks to all the team members who make these visits a reality. This year's

(Continued on page 29)

29th Infantry Division exercises Domestic All Hazard Response Team (DART) capabilities from Maine to the Virgin Islands

Fort Belvoir, VA — Soldiers from the 29th Infantry Division (ID) recently participated in a *Vigilant Guard* exercise in Maine and *Operation Tide Breaker* in the Virgin Islands.

Vigilant Guard

Vigilant Guard is the largest single emergency response exercise the National Guard has ever organized, with more than 3,000 participants from multiple states and agencies. The exercise took place November 5-8, 2013.

The *Vigilant Guard* exercise program is sponsored by the US Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) in conjunction with the National Guard Bureau (NGB). The program provides State National Guard Headquarters and supporting units with an opportunity to improve cooperation and operational relationships with their civilian, federal and military partners in preparation for domestic emergencies and catastrophic events.

This exercise validated the planning and augmentation capability of the 29th ID's Domestic All-Hazards Response Team (DART). The 29th ID coordinated closely with the Maine National Guard (MENG) throughout the exercise planning, and deployed a 30 personnel augmentation cell to integrate within their Joint Task Force – Maine (JTF-ME) Dual Status Command headquarters to conduct command post operations, civil support planning, and communications support to the MENG. The 29th continues to improve its capacity and capability in order to meet DART mission intent. The National Guard Bureau developed the DART to provide Joint Army and Air National Guard support for significant All-Hazards events in order to provide The Adjutant General (TAG) with operational flexibility for augmenting their existing forces with modular and scalable military force packages.

"This is a great opportunity for the 29th Infantry Division to put our training over the last year to the test," said Maj. Jonathan Toland, Operations and Plans Officer for the 29th ID. "We welcome any opportunity to contribute some of our expertise to other National Guard units. I am extremely impressed with the professionalism of the Maine National Guard and how well we worked together."

This exercise took place during a simulated major winter ice storm and focused on interagency coordination. Training scenarios included simulated bus accidents, potential intruders, bomb threats and other possible terrorist threats, mass casualties, hazardous materials incidents, collapsed structures and cyber security breaches.

The 29th Infantry Division is uniquely suited for these missions as a majority of 29th ID Soldiers have recently returned from federal deployments overseas and have honed the skill sets necessary for crisis management supporting civilian authorities. The 29th ID's real-world experience makes a difference. Many Soldiers are employed by federal and state emergency agencies, law enforcement, and the judicial systems. These distinct experiences are a tremendous asset to the unit, and they truly represent the Citizen-Soldier concept.

"We can take our experiences from the exercise to increase the sustainment of the Commonwealth of Virginia during an actual natural or man-made disaster," said Master Sgt. Gerald Johnson, Operations NCO for the 29th ID.

National Guard and reserve units from Virginia, Maryland, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Virginia, Indiana, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont provided support for this year's *Vigilant Guard* exercise in Maine.

"This *Vigilant Guard* exercise was a great opportunity to conduct realistic training for the 29th Division's DART mission. The *Vigilant Guard* exercise pulls together all the key agencies of a domestic all

hazard response scenario - from the local level first responders to the state level National Guard units and emergency management agencies, to the national level FEMA and NORTHCOM. During this particular exercise, we have seen confirmation that the DART mission helps to synthesize these agencies into a coherent activity aimed at managing National Guard units from many states, with a variety of capabilities into one integrated, manageable force." said Brigadier General, Timothy E. Gowen, Deputy Commanding General of the 29th Infantry Division.

Operation Tide Breaker

The 29th Infantry Division's role in Domestic All-Hazards Response enables the division to assist with hazards within FEMA regions I-V, including the Virgin Islands where the division deployed its Domestic All-Hazards Response Team Coordination Cell (DCC) to provide staff augmentation and force packaging capability and analysis to the Virgin Island National Guard. The exercise was held December 10-11, 2013 in St Thomas, Virgin Islands.

The exercised was designed by the Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency, FEMA's Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program and the Virgin Island National Guard's 23rd Civil Support Team to test the territory's incident management capabilities.

"This is a great opportunity for the 29th Infantry Division to put our training into practice," said Lt. Col Matt Smith, officer in charge of the DCC. "Earlier this year we deployed to Maine for winter hazard training scenario, and the diversity in missions keeps the 29th ID DCC focused on being able to respond to all types of hazards. Covering the entire east coast means we have to understand the threats of hazards and the DARTs capabilities."

The 29th ID coordinated closely with Virgin Islands National Guard and VITEMA throughout the exercise planning and execution, deploying five DCC personnel to integrate within VITEMA and Virgin Island National Guard. Officers from the 29th ID also assisted in resourcing the hazard response teams and augmenting staff positions.

The goal of the exercise is to test the Territory's incident management capabilities within the scope of homeland security and utilizing the Incident Command System developed by the US Department of Homeland Security, Smith explained. The 29th Infantry Division collaborated with more than 50 agencies, including federal, state, territory personnel and the private sector. Royal Caribbean Cruise lines participated in the exercise to strengthen their hazard response awareness.

The exercise tested several capabilities including intelligence and information sharing and dissemination, interoperable communications, onsite incident management, emergency triage and pre-hospital treatment, medical evacuation, weapons of mass destruction hazardous material response, explosive device response operations and points of distribution operations.

The Maine *Vigilant Guard* exercise focused on a winter hazard while *Operation Tide Breaker* began with an earthquake which caused a tsunami to form, devastating many buildings and critical infrastructures along the eastern coast of Puerto Rico, St. Thomas and St. Croix. Major roadways became impassable and emergency responders are unable to reach injured residents. Another training scenario involved potential weapons of mass destruction being found on a cruise ship.

"The people are always the best part of these exercises," Smith said. "It is important that we understand each other's operating procedures during training exercises so in a real emergency, everyone understands their roles and responsibilities."

Article by LTC Tim Donnellan

This Is Jülich, Germany

Post 72 member Joe Balkoski is now writing his fifth and final volume in the history of the 29th Infantry Division during World War II. What follows is Joe's Chapter Four from that book, entitled "They Who Have Borne the Battle: The 29th Infantry Division Victorious."

Joe's previous book (Volume IV in the series), "Our Tortured Souls: The 29th Infantry Division in the Rhineland," has been published. It covers the period from November 16, 1944 to December 31, 1944, when the 29th participated in a major Ninth Army offensive to the Roer. If you wish to obtain a copy of "Our Tortured Souls" direct from Joe or provide comments, suggestions, or corrections for his newest effort, please contact him at 6509 Old Orchard Rd., Baltimore MD 21239, or 29division@gmail.com (e-mail) or 443-564-4279. Thanks, and... 29, Let's Go!

© Copyright 2014 — Joseph Balkoski

In his post-war memoir *Crusade in Europe*, General Eisenhower recalled the electrifying portent of the moment, noting that "the mounting difficulties of the German war machine" hinted "that one more great campaign" would finally bring victory to the Allies. Every 29er suspected he was right, and for General Gerhardt and the 29th Division, the final act would begin shortly after midnight on February 23, 1945, a night the divisional action report described as "clear with a bright moon." At precisely 2:45 AM an audio-visual display the likes of which the 29ers had never before experienced abruptly transformed a tranquil darkness into an infernal maelstrom, the kind of overpowering warfare the U.S. Army had trained for years to inflict upon the hapless enemy, but had almost never put into practice at such an immense level.

The concussive drumbeat of cannon fire from behind the front was accompanied by the dancing light of nonstop muzzle flashes, a remarkable spectacle of firepower that reassured 29th Division infantrymen, waiting fretfully to advance across the Roer, far more effectively than pep-talks by company top kicks or even Uncle Charlie himself. American shells were bursting on the far side of the river with the rapidity of machine-gun fire, and the dull reverberations of those distant blasts drifted back over American lines like peals of thunder in a summer tempest rolling over the Kansas prairie. Front-line dogfaces could not imagine how anyone could live under such a hail of steel. "The whole riverbank and land east of the river was a sheet of fire," noted the commander of the 115th Infantry's Company I, 1st Lt. Mark Hogan, who had joined the 29th Division in Normandy and suffered two wounds since. "The noise was deafening. We were within 100 yards of the edge of the impact area for ten minutes... There were a few short rounds, and one of our men was injured by a shell fragment. There was no fire coming from the German side. A platoon of American medium tanks was drawn up along the river south of us, firing machine guns into the east bank." According to Ninth Army's post-war history, the massive bombardment smothered the enemy "with an average of nearly two and a half projectiles per yard of front." Assuming one survived to see another sunset, all 29ers knew that the images of this night would be seared into their psyches for the rest of their lives.

The skilled artillerymen of the 29th Division had never before been able to practice their craft with such prodigious quantities of ammunition, which for the first time in a major offensive included a copious supply of cutting-edge "Pozit" proximity fuzes. The

U.S. Army's highly scientific gunnery manual had been written for scenarios like this, and the fervent gunners proceeded to carry out their missions with the methodical procedures prescribed by the book. "Against buildings and strongpoints the cannoneers used delay and percussion fuzes, and to force the Germans to keep down while the infantry advanced, they fired time and Pozit air burst fuzes over open entrenchments," wrote Purley Cooper, the 110th Field Artillery's CO. Cooper added that his men sometimes fired howitzer volleys with a fuze mixture, "in which a first volley of shells with Pozit fuzes burst in the air to obtain maximum surprise and effect against troops caught in the open, a second volley fitted with percussion or contact fuzes caught the enemy on the ground as he crawled for cover, and a third volley with delay fuzes allowed the shells to dig in and destroy the cover—all concentrated in fifteen seconds or less on the same area." Cooper concluded: "The shoot was by far the biggest in which the 110th participated during the war...[and] the enemy response was practically nil."

Would German resistance remain feeble when the 29ers commenced the Roer crossing? The 175th Infantry would be the first of Gerhardt's units to ascertain the answer to that question when its leading wave traversed the river opposite Jülich. The assault plan specified that the 175th would cross the swollen waterway on three flimsy floating footbridges built by XIX Corps's 246th Engineer Combat Battalion, whose members would proceed down to the river to initiate their arduous work in darkness, even before the furious American artillery barrage of the far bank lifted. The job required the sappers at each bridge site to extend a flexible steel wire across the Roer—about 300 feet—and anchor those cables not only on the American riverbank, but on the enemy side as well. To safeguard the engineers, the 175th must therefore send a few boatloads of troops across the Roer at 3 AM, one-half hour before *Grenade's* scheduled jump-off time of 3:30, to establish footholds on the river's far side. They would have to paddle across the surging river in pitch darkness, fighting a current of six miles per hour, disembark on enemy turf known to be heavily mined, and, should the enemy detect their maneuver, face withering machine gun, mortar, and artillery fire. If any task in World War II was the equivalent of the "forlorn hope" in bygone days of siege warfare, in which a small body of brave men would lead the charge into the breach of a fortress wall, this was it.

The one-mile stretch of the Roer opposite Jülich covered by



An air reconnaissance photograph of the Roer River, near Jülich, Germany, where the 175th Infantry made a daring assault on the morning of February 23, 1945.

the 175th Infantry was the only portion of the river in the 29th Division's sector over which the Americans could hope to build one or more bridges on Operation *Grenade's* thunderous opening day. Both upstream and downstream from the 175th's zone, flooding had inundated vast areas of the Roer valley, and as of February 23—nearly two weeks after the Germans had blown the Roer dams' discharge valves—the river in those places was still roughly 1,500 feet in width. In the 175th's sector, however, the Roer's width averaged only a small fraction of that distance because of the centuries-long effort by Jülich natives to avert devastating floods by canalizing the river and building sturdy levees. The Germans had also inadvertently lessened their opponents' river-crossing burden when in November they had demolished a major bridge at Jülich as the 29th Division shoved them back across the Roer in Ninth Army's autumn offensive. The immense wreckage from that bridge partially obstructed the river's water flow, slowing the current in the area upstream from the 175th's bridge sites by a considerable factor. "The fact that this [unplanned] dam existed played a great part in site selection for the [29th Division's] bridges," an engineer report concluded.

A forlorn hope comprised of twenty-seven men drawn from the 175th Infantry's Company A, led by 1st Lt. Warren Snyder, set out for the far bank at 3 AM in three fragile plywood boats. Unreeling telephone wire behind them and fighting the strong current, the 29ers reached the opposite side and scrambled out of the boats in the darkness to establish a hasty skirmish line on the riverbank. According to Company A's commander, 1st Lt. Frank Bishop, "While the covering force was crossing the river, Germans on the east bank fired automatic weapons at them. The men fired tracer ammunition at the Germans, marking their posi-

tions, and the supporting tanks [on the Roer's west side] opened up with machine guns and 76-millimeter guns. The Germans ceased firing, and when [Snyder's] party landed, ten Germans crawled out of a narrow communication trench and surrendered. The Germans were trembling and seemed unnerved by the artillery and tank fire." Teams from the 246th Engineers followed Snyder's boats across, unwinding the steel cables that would fix their footbridges in place. They anchored the cables on the German side of the river and promptly began their backbreaking work on the three vital footbridges that were supposed to carry the bulk of the 175th Infantry across the Roer. Operation *Grenade* had begun..

Seven hundred yards downstream, the 246th Engineers commenced an even tougher assignment, the construction of a much larger floating bridge that would be capable of bearing the weight of jeeps and trucks. This bridge would be a vital supply lifeline once the men of the 175th crossed the Roer, allowing heavy materiel to be brought forward and, more important, wounded to be conveyed back to rear-area hospitals for critical care. So pivotal was this bridge in *Grenade* plans that the sappers intended to begin construction in the dark at H-Hour, 3:30 AM, and have it completed shortly after first light.

They were overly optimistic. To support the engineers' effort to anchor a steel cable on the far side of the river, at 3 AM the 175th sent over another forlorn hope advance party, this time two boatloads comprising twenty-eight men drawn from Company F. That outfit was in disarray; just hours before the mission, anxious Company F officers had witnessed their leader, Capt. Reginald Bushnell, being evacuated from the front as a non-battle casualty, forcing 1st Lt. James Lightfoot to assume command of a rifle company for the first time in his military career—on the eve of one of its most important battles of the war. To lead the team over the river, Lightfoot selected 2nd Lt. Ralph Howland, a highly admired fighter and Normandy veteran who less than two weeks in the past had accepted one of the finest accolades his Army could offer, a battlefield commission, resulting in his promotion from technical sergeant to lieutenant. Ordinarily, men elevated from enlisted to officer rank were transferred to different companies, but Howland stayed on in Company F as a platoon leader.

Company F's top NCO since the close of the Normandy campaign, 1st Sgt. Charles Hankinson, watched Howland's men shove off: "The boats were crowded," he recalled. "It was before daylight. We had radio contact with them by SCR-536 [handie-talkie radio]. One boat capsized in the river. The other boat was caught by the current and washed downstream about 350 yards... The men landed [on the enemy side] and tried to work their way south along the riverbank."

It was the last act many of them ever took. One boat team member, Pvt. Joseph Panus, noted, "It was so pitch dark, you could not even see your hand in front of you, never mind men." Bewildered and lost, the horrified 29ers realized they had plunged into an enemy minefield. "All I could see was flashes from mine explosions," Panus related. "Screams and outlines of men being blown up. It seemed like forever before some daylight started to come in. Then I saw bodies of GIs spread out all around me. Close to me was Sgt. George Flamik, whose leg was blown off right to his hip, and many others whom I do not recall

by name." For days, Flamik's status in company records was listed as "missing in action," but his corpse was recovered later and buried in the American military cemetery at Margraten, Holland.

"One fellow near me was one of our men named PFC Joe Zhanel, a blond, husky kid," Panus continued. A Texas native, Zhanel, like Flamik, had been with the company since D-Day and had been wounded twice. Recalled Panus: "I looked at him, and he was alive, but he had both legs blown off to where the combat boot ended. I tried to comfort him and keep him quiet, using his belt and my own as tourniquets. He kept groaning that he couldn't feel his legs and calling out for his mother. I saw medics across the river and waved my arm that we needed help. All I got back from them was a wave back." As Panus tended to Zhanel, a concealed German tossed a potato masher grenade, and when it detonated nearby, the concussion left Panus "numb and shaking like hell." A nearby 29er, PFC Robert Leibiger, spotted the German and according to Panus, "He opened up his BAR and emptied the whole clip at the Kraut; the result was he got him, and I credit Bob for saving my life."

Leibiger crawled over to Panus. "When he saw Zhanel, Bob's expression was, 'What the hell happened to you?' I told him to keep his mouth shut, as Zhanel was delirious and did not know his legs were blown off... A young GI joined us; I understand he was just released from a military prison in England. Zhanel was still alive and suffering, and we decided we had to go for help." Leibiger, Panus, and the unnamed 29er crawled through the minefield, "among the dead, to the edge of the river," Panus remembered. "We almost had it made, but the young fellow must have set off a mine with his foot, and it was blown off. All this time artillery was going off from both sides. Leibiger and I decided to take a dip in the Roer—if one doesn't make it, the other will. We both squeezed the capsules in our lifebelts and went for a swim. [It was] cold and swift... On the other side medics picked us up. We told them there were men on the other side who needed help immediately. The response was: 'We will take care of it.'" The medics eventually recovered several wounded Company F members, including Howland and Zhanel, but two days later Zhanel died.

Company F also lost one of its most steady and experienced soldiers in that minefield. A fixture in the unit since stateside training at Fort Meade and the grueling speed marches on Bodmin Moor, twenty-five-year-old T/Sgt. Don Miller, from Franklin, Pennsylvania, had landed on Omaha Beach on D+1 as a platoon sergeant and had only just returned to Company F following a five-month hospital stay in England as a result of a July 30 wound in Normandy. "A fellow would do anything for his buddies," Miller recalled, "and remember that we had been together—some of us—since 1941. I went back [to Company F] because I wanted to see if any of my friends were still alive. There were a few."

Striving to help his beleaguered men caught in the lethal minefield, Miller himself detonated a mine, shattering his left foot. "I wasn't bleeding, really, but I couldn't walk," he remarked. Miller made an agonizing crawl to the riverbank, popped the capsules on his lifebelt—only half of it inflated—and swam the Roer to the American side. Said Miller: "Boy, that water was cold!" Miller ap-

plied a tourniquet above his left ankle and took refuge in an abandoned building. Two GIs who had come back across the river with him departed and never returned. It was an isolated part of the front, and for nearly a day, Miller stayed put, warmed by a discarded German overcoat, before an American anti-aircraft battery deployed nearby. He crawled towards the GIs, who promptly conveyed him to the rear. "I had pork chops and potatoes when I got back to the aid station," Miller recollected, but eventually surgeons cut his left leg off below the knee.

The vehicle bridge would not be finished anytime soon. For more than twenty-four hours, members of the 246th Engineers strove to anchor their cable on the river's far bank, but according to an action report, "in each attempt the swift current either overturned the boat trying to cross or swept it downstream... In one case, the assault boat overturned, throwing all the occupants into the water; one engineer officer was actually swept downstream approximately one quarter of a mile before he was able to make his way out on the far bank." Far more lethal than the river, however, was the enemy. As related by the engineer's account, "This site was subjected to intense small arms, mortar, and artillery fire all during D-Day and D+1, and each time working crews would appear on the riverbank, they were subjected to withering fire from the far shore and houses thereon." Still worse, "The approach road [to the site] had previously been demined by the division engineers, but it was later found that non-metallic "Topf" mines [undetected by U.S. Army mine detectors] had been used on the road and shoulders. When construction of the bridge first started, the bridge train proceeded to the site and casualties to equipment due to these non-metallic mines were two tractors, one 10-ton wrecker, and two dump trucks. The road was again demined by probing the approaches, which took approximately six hours to accomplish."

Half a mile upstream, the 246th's sappers achieved much greater success in their effort to construct three footbridges for the 175th Infantry, despite German "rifle, machine pistol, and machine gun fire from the shell-torn houses on the far shore." To suppress such enemy resistance, the 175th's Company A reinforced its advance party on the opposite bank by dispatching the rest of the company across the river in boats. The engineers completed their first footbridge at 4:24 AM, less than an hour after they had commenced work. It was a simple structure, nothing more than a series of rectangular floating metal pontoons, roughly six feet long and two feet wide, upon which the sappers laid a narrow wooden-plank walkway and set loose rope handrails on both sides, to which GIs could hang on as they crossed. The steel cable, anchored on both sides of the river, held the structure in place.



PFC Joe Zhanel
Company F, 175th Infantry

All was going well, but in the dark a boat carrying a team of Company A men across the Roer capsized. The swift current swept the boat downstream into the bridge, smashing a gap through the pontoons and breaking up the walkway. "The equipment in the boat, including satchel charges for demolition, was lost," a 175th report noted. "One man [S/Sgt. Charles Zink from California] was lost in the river, and the remaining twelve men were fished out and evacuated, to be treated for shock." Zink was dragged downstream and disappeared. Company morning reports listed him as missing in action, but his buddies presumed he had drowned. Only in April 1945 did the Company A clerk list him as killed in action.

The rest of Company A pressed ahead into Jülich: not a sign of the enemy. "The town was in utter ruin," remarked Lieutenant Bishop. "The stone walls of some houses were still standing—burned out shells—but the streets were piled with rubble and spotted by shell craters full of water. We encountered no resistance in the town, but when we reached the Citadel, scattered small arms fire came from its walls." The 246th Engineers repaired the wrecked footbridge by 6 AM, and as soon as they did so, the first two men to use it were German, not American. "These German soldiers came out of an emplacement on the far side and surrendered to the engineers," a 246th report noted. Shortly thereafter, the leading 29ers of Company G, 175th Infantry, commanded by 1st Lt. Hugh Brady, started out across the span. It was an inspiring sight: as the first hint of dawn broke in the eastern sky, the men pounded onto the bridge at well-spaced intervals, sprinting with their heads down, rifles and BARs at trail arms, praying that an enemy shell would not catch them midway across. Nearly three months after the 29th Division had reached the Roer, it was finally traversing it in force.

Would this be the 29th's first step on the road to Berlin? One of the first 29ers to cross the footbridge was 35-year-old 1st Lt. Joe Ewing, the leader of Company G's 1st Platoon and the future author of the 29th Division's brilliant division history, *29 Let's Go!* "[Germans] began firing when our platoon point was fifty yards from the bridge," Ewing remembered. "We placed rifle and BAR fire on the pillbox. A white cloth was thrown out, and ten Germans came out and surrendered. The Germans seemed dazed and unnerved and offered little fight. There was one dead man near the bridge. He had been hit by artillery and was so badly mangled that it was impossible to be certain, but he seemed to be a German."

Meantime, the 246th Engineers began work on two more footbridges, and both were completed by sunrise. As noted by Brady, the work was hazardous: "The engineers were working busily to get in other footbridges, and were getting shelled by the Germans. I saw two engineers cross the river in a boat, land near the Aldenhoven road bridge, and start up the bank. The second man stepped on a mine and was blown backward into the river. The first man, also caught in the explosion, turned halfway around, collapsed, and tumbled into the river."

The last footbridge completed by the engineers, the southernmost, evidently had no value for the moment because, as a report observed, "until about H-plus-four hours [7:30 AM] the near shore approach to the footbridge was covered by machine gun fire from a strongpoint in a house on the far bank." The com-

mander of the 175th's 1st Battalion, Maj. John Geiglein, challenged that assertion, noting, "This bridge received long-range fire from German machine guns and snipers located in south Jülich a considerable distance from the bridgehead. These guns [and snipers] were too far east to be neutralized by the covering party [from Company A]... The more northern footbridge sites were well selected. Houses along the east bank shielded them from long-range small-arms fire." Even so, by sunrise the two northern bridges drew heavy shelling from German artillery and mortars and even scattered machine gun bursts and sniper fire. Large groups of 29ers from the 175th's 1st and 2nd Battalions still waited anxiously in the riverfront houses on the west bank to cross the Roer, and they well understood that passage over those two serviceable footbridges could be fatal; NCOs advised that the risk could be minimized by making the crossing at a dead run, or at least as fast as one could move burdened by a weapon, a full load of ammunition, and a heavy knapsack.

The 29ers of Company C, led by Capt. Alex Pouska and 1st Sgt. Al Harris—both veteran soldiers who had entered military service long before America's entry into World War II—began their dash over a wobbly footbridge at about 7:30 AM. The unit maintained textbook intervals between men to minimize casualties if an enemy machine gun opened up or a shell burst overhead and consumed a quarter of an hour crossing 150 of its members. All of them made it across safely except one, 20-year-old PFC Henry Harrell—known to family and friends by his middle name of Slade—who became an unlucky victim to the inscrutable fortunes of war. Just before he made it to the far bank, something struck Harrell—whether it was a shell fragment or a bullet, no one knew—and he abruptly crumpled on his knees and fell face-down on the bridge's narrow footboards, losing his helmet and M-1 in the process. He remained on his knees, completely motionless, almost as if he were in a pose of supplication before a mighty monarch seated on a throne. Veterans who had seen men killed in combat immediately knew Harrell was dead; nothing could be done for him any longer save for litter-bearers to pick up the unfortunate GI and return him to American lines once Company C cleared the bridge. A squad leader coming up behind Harrell, S/Sgt. Steven Melnikoff, fired off an entire eight-round clip from his rifle at the spot upstream on the far shore from where he suspected the enemy fire had originated. Running ahead over the slender walkway, the distraught Melnikoff had to step over Harrell's body, an act he remembered sixty-nine years later by noting, "It was tough to walk over the corpse of a guy in your own company."

A native of the rustic village of Sunflower in Alabama's coastal plain region, Slade Harrell's Army career lasted exactly one year, from his February 23, 1944, enlistment to his death on February 23, 1945. But if it had been up to his father Claude Eugene Harrell, nicknamed "Bargie" by the family, Slade would never have entered military service at all. Bargie ran a farm of more than one hundred acres, and as he noted in a June 1943 letter to his congressman requesting intervention with the local draft board to classify Slade as II-C—"men necessary for farm labor"—his business had "cattle, hogs, and miles of fence, with no one help to keep the farm, the cattle business, or the hog business except [my] son... Over one-fourth of [the farm] has to be

cultivated yet." Slade, a red-haired standout in high school academics and football, had graduated in June 1942 fully expecting to follow his older brother Buddy (Claude, Jr.) into military service.

But Bargie opposed his son's inclination, even bringing up Slade's minor asthma affliction to his congressman, Frank Boykin. "I know everything you say in your good letter is true," Boykin replied. "I see no earthly reason why they do not let you keep your boy to help you keep your property that you have spent seventy years accumulating and paying taxes on." Later, in a telegram from Washington to his local congressional office in Alabama, Boykin urged an aide: "Please see all members of the draft board and see if he can be deferred. I am advised by parties here if the rules were properly followed, Henry [Slade] could be deferred and help his folks not only plant, but cultivate and gather the crops which we are going to need not only there, but all over this nation."

The appeal worked for a few months, but on December 7, 1943, Slade received a postcard "to appear for physical examination" at Chatom, Alabama. Asthma or not, a Dr. W.E. Kimbrough considered Slade fit for Army service, and a few weeks later Local Draft Board Number 1 of Washington County classified him not as II-C, as Bargie had hoped, but as I-A—"available; fit for general military service." Bargie would have to care for his cows, hogs, and crops without the help of Henry Slade Harrell.

Private Harrell, Army Serial Number 34971046, received basic military training as an infantryman, specializing in light machine gun operations. The Army shipped him to England shortly after D-Day, and on November 26, 1944, he joined the 29th Division as a member of the weapons platoon of the 175th Infantry's Company C in Aldenhoven, Germany. Private Harrell had plenty of time to acclimate to the front, as the 175th Infantry would not engage in major combat for nearly three more months. On Christmas Eve, Harrell gained a promotion to PFC, but in a Christmas card to his Aunt Pearl, he revealed, "I am just fine, but I sure would like to spend Christmas somewhere besides here in Germany."

On the night before the 175th's jump-off across the Roer—less than twenty-four hours before his death—Slade wrote home to his younger brother Sidney. "I hope that you, mother, and Bargie are well. I am fine as usual," he noted. "I got a very nice package from La-La [his Aunt Louella]. The candy and pecans she sent me were very good. A guy never really appreciates mail until he leaves the States... I wonder if you get out with the weaker sex? I hope you get out often. I hope that you will have some good times for me, but I am sure going to make up for lost time when I get back."

The renowned *Life* magazine photographer George Silk captured Harrell's death in a photo that appeared in the March 12, 1945, edition of *Life*, a shocking full-page image that jolted home-front civilians who had only rarely viewed a snapshot in newspapers or magazines of dead American troops. A redoubtable daredevil who had already produced iconic images of war in North Africa and the Pacific, Silk joined Company C for the Roer crossing and was ahead of Slade Harrell on the rickety footbridge when Harrell was hit. Silk came back onto the bridge after all Company C members had made it across and snapped the

photo; shortly thereafter he was wounded taking a series of pictures of American troops herding German prisoners to the rear.

When Silk's photos appeared in *Life* little more than two weeks later, Harrell was not named in the caption. No one at the magazine, not even Silk, ever learned his name; as the snapshot spread like wildfire across the home front, no one—not even Harrell's parents back in Sunflower, who were *Life* subscribers—knew the identity of the anonymous GI on the bridge. As the tragic episode faded into history, Company C veterans, glancing at the famous image in post-war years, vaguely remembered only the "red-haired kid from Alabama" whose corpse some of them had to step over amid the bedlam of battle. More than six decades later, when data from Company C morning reports and enlistment records at the National Archives were scrutinized in depth, and clues emerged from veterans and Harrell's family—still living in Sunflower—that red-haired kid from Alabama in George Silk's famous photograph was identified as PFC Henry Slade Harrell. Ultimately, Harrell became a symbol of 29th Division sacrifice: on the dedication page of his 1948 book *29 Let's Go!* Joe Ewing—a fellow member of the 175th—displayed the sobering photo of Harrell's body lying on the bridge accompanied by the simple inscription: "To the soldiers of the 29th who fell in the battle."

The 175th's new commander, Colonel Harry McHugh, had been in charge of the regiment for just four days and did not yet grasp its people nor its methods, but even ninety-six hours with the 29th Division was long enough to know that if his men did not hold Jülich by dusk, as *Grenade* plans stipulated, he would receive a phone call that evening from Gerhardt demanding the reason for that lapse. If McHugh dared to provide a reason, the general would almost certainly reject it.

This time McHugh needed no reason; indeed, at 7:35 that evening Gerhardt phoned the 175th's command post and announced to McHugh: "You have done a fine job—nice going!" The general's contentment derived from the consistently positive reports that had filtered back from Jülich to the 29th Division's war room during daylight hours of the twenty-third. As expected, German resistance along the riverbank had not been resolute; those dazed enemy troops who had survived the lethal American barrage did not need much inducement to give up or take off for the rear. As each of McHugh's companies tramped across the footbridges, they pushed ahead straight away toward what remained of Jülich's city center: the 1st Battalion headed east; the 2nd Battalion, north; and finally the 3rd Battalion, which started over the Roer at 7:15 AM, moved south, directly into the tangle of smashed warehouses and factories of Jülich's once-thriving industrial area.

The enemy could not rouse enough defenders to contain the Americans' spirited assault, and aside from scattered resistance within Jülich's morass of rubble offered by die-hards, the Germans had no choice but to yield the city they had held so stubbornly for months against the freezing and frustrated members of the 29th Division. Most German survivors sought refuge in the northern part of town, inside the massive sixteenth-century walls of the historic Citadel—now used as a German Army non-commissioned officer school—and fled through the arched stone gate leading into its spacious central courtyard, slamming the

giant metal doors shut behind them. The archway was topped by a martial eagle and a swastika: so scarred by American shells were those ubiquitous Nazi symbols that the defenders surely knew that Nazism was finished.

"We encountered no resistance in town," noted Company A's CO, Lieutenant Bishop, "but when we reached the Citadel, scattered small-arms fire came from its walls. The Citadel was a large square stone structure, enclosed by a heavy wall surrounded by a moat. There was one bridge across the moat, and the gate in the wall behind it was closed. We had lost the satchel charges that were to be used to blow the gate, so we surrounded the Citadel, neutralized fire from its walls by firing on it with machine guns and rifles, and sent back for tanks... The tanks were delayed until a treadway bridge could be built across the Roer."

That bridge, and every other bridge under construction in the 175th Infantry's zone, was in trouble. Despite the Americans' easy penetration of the enemy's forward defenses, German gunners had expertly zeroed their howitzers on the river sites, where they knew their opponents must strive to build bridges; although most German artillery units had not survived the Americans' overwhelming pre-assault bombardment, those that did kept up an unremitting and devastating barrage on the bridge sites as long as they dared. So effective was that fire that the American bridge-builders learned they were in far greater danger of losing their lives than riflemen at the point of the 29th Division's advance.

As soon as possible after the 175th began its attack, General McLain had ordered the 3,000-man 1104th Engineer Group, led by Col. Hugh Colton and consisting of four engineer battalions and six specialized independent companies, to construct three bridges over the Roer that could carry vehicles, from lightweight jeeps to ponderous tanks and tank destroyers. Two more spans capable of carrying vehicles, including a sturdy Bailey bridge, would be built after Jülich had been secured. McHugh could accomplish little without those bridges: riflemen needed tanks to eradicate the German strongpoint at the Citadel, trucks to replenish depleted ammunition, and jeeps to bring back wounded.

Presently disaster struck the 247th Engineer Combat Battalion at the treadway bridge site. "Construction proceeded at an excellent rate, and approximately 132 feet of bridge was constructed when probably the most unfortunate incident in the operation occurred," Colton's report stated. "At 9:30 AM it was estimated that seven rounds of heavy artillery came in on this bridge site, and all rounds landed on the bridge itself, sinking the floats and severely damaging the treadway. The bridge itself was destroyed with high casualties to the construction unit... It was decided that the center line of the bridge should be shifted upstream due to the fact that the enemy, without question, had this point zeroed in, and that since artillery fire was still coming in, very likely a repetition of the catastrophe might occur." The bridge was not completed until 11 AM on February 24, but as Colton noted even the new site "was subjected to observed artillery fire until its completion." A 29th Division infantryman who witnessed the carnage remembered, "There were engineers lying everywhere—I felt so sorry for them."

Dusk was fast approaching when Colton's men finally completed their first heavy pontoon bridge, but despite the lack of vehicular support during daylight hours, the members of the 175th managed to achieve virtually all their February 23 goals by sunset. The regimental monthly action report proudly declared: "By nightfall, although the Citadel had not yet been stormed, the town was in our hands, and the troops were disposed to hold it securely." To aid them in that

endeavor, Gerhardt loaned McHugh the 116th Infantry's 3rd Battalion, led by Lt. Col. William Puntenney—fresh from a delightful three-day furlough spent at the Cumberland Hotel, adjacent to Hyde Park in London. At dawn, Puntenney's men departed Schleiden and marched three miles over a muddy quagmire of a road to Aldenhoven, where they made final preparations for the imminent battle; as they marched another four miles to the Roer, the ominous cacophony of combat grew much louder. In late afternoon, after they had trudged over the still-shaky footbridges into Jülich, Company K, commanded by Capt. Elmer Reagor, relieved Bishop's Company A at the Citadel and prepared to assault that redoubtable fortress into which the last of the city's defenders had fled.

That act, Gerhardt hoped, would be the denouement of the Jülich battle, but the general would have to wait just a little longer for the final curtain. "By 6 PM we were across [the Roer]," Puntenney noted, "but didn't have our flame-throwing tanks [from the 739th Tank Battalion] needed for the assault on the Citadel. We spent the night in the rubble of Jülich and were under constant enemy artillery fire directed at the bridge sites... It wasn't until about midnight that the bridges were completed [the first vehicular bridge was actually finished at 4 PM on the twenty-third], and our tanks got across, but by then we had to postpone our attack until first light the next day. Three times during the night, German night bombers came in and randomly dropped their bombs in an effort to knock out the bridges. We suffered a number of casualties from these and also the long-range enemy artillery being fired into us from about ten miles to the east."

On the south side of Jülich, as the men of the 175th pushed into the city's industrial wasteland, the commander of the 3rd Battalion, Lt. Col. James Ballard, was wounded and evacuated. The twenty-five year-old Ballard, a 1940 ROTC graduate of Davidson College in North Carolina and a D-Day veteran, had led the 800-man outfit capably for three months and had gained rare praise from the commanding general, who referred to him as "a good kid." Indeed, the "kid" was younger than many of his riflemen. Captain Paul Freund, who had enlisted in the Maryland National Guard as a private in 1936 after gaining a law degree, replaced Ballard.

The 175th held Jülich; would it be able to push beyond the city into open ground tomorrow? The 2nd Battalion's initial foray outside the city was met, as a report noted, by "heavy automatic weapons fire" emanating from a pillbox on the dominating ridge north of town. Company E, commanded by 1st Lt. John Hartley, lost several members to that fire as it cautiously moved out into an open field from behind the cover provided by some buildings. An audacious twenty-four-year-old private named Srecko Radich, who had only been in uniform for nine months, dashed into that field to retrieve a wounded comrade. As related by a citation for valor, "Private Radich ran to the wounded soldier, and as he stooped to pick him up, was hit by tracer fire. Even though mortally wounded, Radich carried his comrade to a covered position and fell dead." That astounding episode transpired in just a minute or two, and when it was over Hartley's weary 29ers had to admit that they had just witnessed an overt act of selfless heroism the likes of which they had never seen before and in all likelihood would never see again.

In a life far too short, Radich had seen a lot of the world. Born in 1920 in that volatile region of Europe known as Slovenia, split in the chaotic aftermath of the Great War between Italy and the new Kingdom of Yugoslavia, Radich emigrated at the age of seven with his parents to the United States. He grew up on the east side of Manhattan, married, and moved to a gritty neighborhood near the banks of the

Delaware River in Camden, New Jersey, where he worked as a cook. On May 12, 1944, a date when several of the 29ers with whom Radich served on the Roer were billeted in Cornwall, preparing for the D-Day invasion three weeks hence, the U.S. Army drafted Radich into military service and ordered him to report to Fort Dix for training as a rifleman. At the close of the 29th Division's bloody November offensive, Gerhardt was in dire need of exactly that kind of soldier, and Radich was assigned to Company E, 175th Infantry, on November 30 as one of dozens of fresh replacements.

By Ninth Army General Order 117, signed on April 20, 1945, PFC

Radich was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for valor, although by then he had been lying for months deep in the soil of the U.S. military cemetery at Margraten, Holland. Radich thus became one of only forty 29ers in World War II to gain the exalted DSC, second in Army precedence to the Medal of Honor, and one of only thirteen to gain the award after D-Day.

In what remained of Jülich's city center, the 29ers came across a curious stone structure consisting of two medieval round towers connected by a forty-foot wall featuring an arched gateway. Maps listed it as the *Hexenturm*, or "Witches Tower," a city gate dating to the fourteenth century that had held up surprisingly well against the American bombardment, except for the towers' caved-in conical roofs. It was the perfect place, a mischievous GI thought, to demonstrate to the home-front folks that the 29th Division was on the move again. Snatching a white bed sheet from a wrecked house, and somehow managing to locate some paint and a brush



A banner made by a member of the 175th Infantry, hung from the *Hexenturm*, or "Witches Tower," in central Jülich.

or two, the artistic GI fashioned a crude banner he knew would attract the attention of newspaper reporters and photographers. On the banner's right side, he painted a perfect blue-and-gray 29th Division "ying-yang" symbol. Then he came up with just the right words.

THIS IS JÜLICH GERMANY. Sorry it is so messed up. But we were in a *HURRY!* 29th (Blue & Gray) Div.

POST HAPPENINGS *(continued)*

(Continued from page 21)

team members were Bob Jones, Bernie Liswell, Ed Lloyd, Wayne and Mary Ellen Simmons, Roger and Tina Smith, Jeannie Webster, Ken and Janet Wheatley, and Raymond "Nick" Willey. The Post also appreciates the active support and attendance of LTG (Ret) James F. Fretterd at our activities.

Submitted by Post 88 Commander, Bob Jones

Post #94

Silver Spring Post 94 can report that more than half of its members have paid their dues for 2014. Members have also contributed significantly to the *29er Sustaining Fund*. We thank our members for their generosity in supporting the post and the association in general. Those members who have not yet submitted their dues for 2014 are urged to do so at this time.

Two new officers are now helping Post Commander Donald McKee in his efforts to administratively manage the post. They are: Vice Commander, Cecil L. "Jay" Garrison, Jr. and Adjutant/Finance Officer William Mund.

Post 94 members please note: all dues and correspondence should now be sent to Adjutant William Mund, 441 Chalfonte Drive, Baltimore, MD 21228-4017.

In the near future, Post 94 hopes to implement "PayPal" options for members to pay their dues and make contributions online. This would greatly facilitate the overseas members of the post in submitting their dues.

Submitted by Post 94 Adjutant, William Mund

Post #110

Larkspur Post 110 is going into the year strong. Many members attended the Regimental Artillery Association's Saint Barbara Day Dinner, where two members got the award for lifetime achievement in the field artillery. Most members of the Maryland Regimental Artillery Association are members of the 29th Division Association and vice versa. There will be regular meetings in March, April and May.

We will be hosting our annual Field Artillery Old Timer's dinner on Friday, April 25th at the Pikesville NCO Club. Interested folks should RSVP to Bob Moscati.

The Post is in the planning stages for our annual summer event to honor the GWOT generation of members. That event will be held in the early summer timeframe.

Submitted by Post 110 Commander, David Ginsburg

Post #729

The Annual Christmas Party of Lantern Post 729 was held on 2 December 2013 at the Savoy restaurant, north of Waynesboro, with approximately 60 people attending the buffet meal. Entertainment was provided by the very talented Waynesboro Senior High School choral group *The Wayne Air's* who sang and danced to the delight of the attendee's. A good time was had by all.

Upcoming Post 729 breakfast dates are as follows: 20 March; 17 April; 15 May; and 19 June. All post breakfast meeting are held at the Parlor House Restaurant in Waynesboro, PA at 0800 hours.

Submitted by Post 729 Commander, Randy Beamer

*Thank you for your
donations to the
“Twenty-Niner
Sustaining Fund”.*

*They are greatly appreciated
and help keep the
newsletter coming.*

*Please continue to
support our upcoming issues.*

*Donations can be sent to:
PNC NED John E. Wilcox, Jr.,
P.O. Box 1546,
Frederick, MD 21702-0546*

*Without our generous readers,
we could not exist.*

Thanks again!



Photo courtesy of Maryland Army National Guard Public Affairs

BG Linda Singh, Assistant Adjutant General - Army, Maryland National Guard, awards COL Charles Zimmerman the Meritorious Service Medal during 58th Troop Command's change of command ceremony, Feb. 8, 2014, at Camp Fretterd Military Reservation near Reisterstown, MD. Zimmerman relinquished command to COL Sean Casey, the former Chief of Staff of the Maryland Army National Guard. COL Zimmerman is a member of Silver Spring Post #94, 29th Division Association.

Contributions to the *Twenty-Niner Sustaining Fund* (Continued)

(Continued from page 3)

Piper, Samuel M., Post 94 - HQ-1-115th Inf. (L) - Falls Church, VA
Piper, Samuel M., Post 94 - HQ-1-115th Inf. (L) - Falls Church, VA
Praski, Ben, Post 94 - Assoc. - Grapevine, TX
Price, Richard E., Post 94 - Son - Montgomery Village, MD
Profitts, Carl D., Post 64 - K-116th Inf. - Charlottesville, VA
Prosser, James, Jr., Post 64 - Son - Manning, SC
Racicot, David & Margaret - Suffolk, VA

In Loving Memory of Milton A. Burke

Robinson, James, Post 110 - M-115th Inf. - Ridgeland, MS
Robertson, Donald, Post 94 - M-175th Inf WW II - Crystal River, FL
Robertson, Donald, Post 94 - M-175th Inf. WW II - Crystal River, FL
Rush, J. Warner, Post 94 - Assoc. - Scarborough, NY
Schaefer, Gary, Post 94 - Assoc. - Fairport, NY
Shaw, Richard W., Post 94 - 224th FA (NG) - Clarksville, MD
Shea, Kathleen G., Daughter - Kemblesville, PA

In Memory of Parents, PNC Hugh J. Gallagher & Frances Gallagher

Shields, Ann H., Post 94 - Alexandria, VA
Shriver, Evelyn, Post 94 - Widow - Pittsburgh, PA

In Memory of John V. Shriver, - K-116th Inf. WWII

Simons, John R., Post 64 - Son - Roanoke, VA

Simmons, Welford, C., Post 64 - C & M-116th Inf. - Harrisonburg, VA
Smith, Gregory, Post 94 - Assoc. - Fairport, NY
Smith, Marsha, Post 94 - Assoc. - Walworth, NY
Smith, Rufus M., Post 94 - Son - Gulfport, MS
Strizak, Charles J., Post 94 - Assoc. - Mt Pleasant, OH
Thompson, Ralph A., Post 94 - Assoc. - Fairfax, VA
Turner, Jonathan, Post 3 - Assoc. - Brampton, ON, Canada
Ungerleider, Daniel, Post 94 - Son - Burke, VA
Ungerleider, Mrs. Ruth, Post 94 - Widow - Burke, VA

In Memory of PNC Alvin Ungerleider

Ungerleider, Neil M., Post 94 - Son - Boxford, MA
Vazquez, Luis R. - HHC-1-115th Inf. (L) - Greenbelt, MD
Wade, Scott, Post 64 - 1/116th Inf. (L) - Alexandria, VA
White, Clair M. - Wenham, MA

In Memory of Eugene D. White, F-175th Inf. WW II

Wilcox, PNC John E., Jr., Post 78 - A-1-115th Inf. - Frederick, MD

In Honor and In Memory of All Alpha Company WW II Veterans

Wilroy, Richard, Post 94 E-115th Inf. (NG) - Pinellas Park, FL
Windsor, Rev. Robert G. - West Newton, MA

In Honor of Milton A. Burke

Zwerin, David, Post 94 - Assoc. - Merrick, NY

In Memory Of BG Alvin Ungerleider

Normandy Remembered

A French and American Fundraising Campaign
To support the renovation of the
the French and American Memorial Hospital of Saint-Lô

*In the Summer 2013 edition of the Twenty-Niner, our front page,
featured an article about "Normandy Remembered,*

*The Campaign to Renovate the Historic French and American Memorial Hospital of St. Lô."
We now provide an update by Monsieur Thierry Lugbull, CEO, of this campaign.*

Dear Friend,

The French and American Memorial Hospital of Saint-Lô is recognized for its high-quality patient care and comfort. It continues to be a leader in providing superior care to the people of the La Manche region. Now we are undertaking a bold renovation of the hospital in order to continue offering the very best care possible.

For the first time since the effort by the American Aid to France, the hospital is reaching out to the French community and American friends by inviting them to participate in this project.

I am personally committed to keeping the spirit of French and American friendship alive in Normandy and Saint-Lô. Our shared history is a unique one. I hope the new project at "the Memorial" will present yet another opportunity to pay homage to this friendship and to put forward a lasting tribute to those who helped forge a new world.

The first phase of the project calls for the renovation of three floors, which will house the Cardiology and Neurology center. Designed by Architect Paul Nelson and Artist Fernand Leger in 1947, the first, second, and sixth floors of the Memorial will be upgraded to increase capacity and to improve comfort for our patients while maintaining original design elements of light and color. Through this modernization, the Memorial will become the central hub for providing cardiac diagnosis and care to the people of Saint-Lô and Normandy.

The second phase of our plan is to bring full electronic connectivity to every patient's room. This will allow doctors to seamlessly access and update patient medical records replacing all paper processing, as well as giving patient's access to the internet.

An important aspect of the renovation project is the addition of a patient research room. This room will become the laboratory for testing the impact of light and color on patient care and recovery as well as the development of new technologies.

Lastly, a new patient education center will be built, which will bring together a variety of professionals and support professionals, including advance practice nurses, social workers and other therapists to provide personalized information to patients about their disease or disorder and their treatment plan before they are discharged. The patient education center's goal is to support recovery at home and reduce the need for readmission to the hospital.

The total cost of the French and American Memorial Hospital in Saint Lo project is \$2,000,000. We are focusing in the United States in the first phase of the campaign, on raising \$800,000 with the French to support the renovation of the Cardiology Center.

We invite you to consider participating in this project. We plan, with our donors, to create a lasting legacy at the hospital that will recognize those who so honorably served.

Recognition levels and opportunities to name areas of the hospital are being established. The names of those honored, as well as the names of the donors, will be displayed on plaques at each room and on a donor wall at the hospital's entrance. For a list of naming opportunities, please contact Kate Mason kate@visionphilanthropy.com

The Friends of Fondation de France is accepting tax-deductible gifts made by Americans for the project.

Thank you for your interest in joining us and **remembering Normandy!**

Warm regards,

Monsieur Thierry Lugbull,
CEO
The French and American Memorial Hospital of Saint-Lô



*For individuals or organizations who wish
to donate, please see the top of page 32.*

Friends of Fondation de France, Inc.
Saint Lo French and American Memorial Hospital Campaign
Normandy Remembered

Founded in 1997, Friends of Fondation de France is a section 501(c)(3) public charity. Donations made to us are tax deductible from United States federal and state income, gift and estate taxes, subject to any limitations that might apply.

There are several ways to donate:

Please note the Saint Lo French and American Memorial Hospital Campaign in a covering note or on the memo line.

Via Check

Make your check out to: Friends of Fondation de France, Inc. and mail it to:

Friends of Fondation de France
 275 Madison Avenue, Suite 401
 New York, NY 10016
 ATTN: Molly Hickok

Online

Friends of Fondation de France accepts contributions via credit card at NYCharities. To contribute go to NYCharities.org and enter our name in the search box.

By Stock or via Wire Transfer

Friends of Fondation de France gladly accepts gifts of stock and donations via wire transfer. To make a gift of stock or via wire transfer, please contact Molly Hickok at GHS Philanthropy Management at (212) 812-4362 or mhickok@ghspm.com.

A copy of the last annual report of the Friends of Fondation de France is on file with the New York State Attorney General's office and may be obtained by writing to the Friends or to the NYS Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, NY, NY 10271.

Attention

Veterans who served in France 1944

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

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

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

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

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

These arrangements will be made after the awardees have been notified. To find out more, contact the French Defense Attaché at 202-944-6502 or by fax at 202-944-6538.

Important Notice

We, Editor William Mund, and Editor Emeritus Donald McKee, have enjoyed our many, many years of service to the association and its members. It is not an easy job but we do treasure our brief respites between issues. As age takes its toll, we hope to continue in our quest to put out a quality piece.

One of the items that we have chosen to highlight are the wartime stories of our WWII veterans and now, similar accounts of those 29ers who have served overseas since then. These, we feel make our 29er recognized as one of the best of all military magazines. However, we must stress again that when you send these in, we are not able to handle multiple pages of typed text. Even though the industry likes to play up their computer scanning abilities, they really are not effective in going from typed versions to the format we need for our page composition and printing. We have had to resort to retyping it in WORD for the shorter pieces. We no longer have this inclination.

So, we ask that in your submission of veteran's stories that you need to find someone who can type it in WORD, or it cannot be used. Once it's in WORD it can be sent to us via the internet and our processing can go forward with dispatch.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. For now, computer users, this means finding a family member or a friend to assist. We need your stories. Let's hope that we can move forward in the continuation of our 25 year old publication record.

Also, current copyright laws prevent the Editorial Staff of the *Twenty-Niner* from reprinting any article and/or photograph that has already appeared in other publications such as newspapers or magazines. Please do not submit these articles or photos for publication in the *Twenty-Niner*.

National D-Day Memorial to Commemorate 70th Anniversary of D-Day

(Continued from page 1)

dedicate a new piece of statuary entitled "Homage." "Homage" is a symbolic piece, emblematic of those communities across our country that nurtured those who went away to war and grieved for those who never returned. This piece, by artist Jim Brothers (a renowned sculptor who passed away recently after a long battle with cancer) will also honor and recognize the Bedford Boys who served and sacrificed so many years ago.

As many already know, Bedford, Virginia has the solemn distinction of sustaining the highest per capita D-Day losses in the nation. Bedford lost 19 of the 32 sons it sent to the invasion of Normandy as part of Company A of the 116th Infantry Regiment. The company landed at Omaha Beach in the first wave, sustaining a 90% casualty rate by day's end.

To date, there is nothing at the Memorial that specifically tells the story of the Bedford Boys. It is the Memorial's desire to make sure visitors are aware of this community's sacrifice nearly 70 years ago in Normandy with a visual reminder of the meaning of sacrifice. The Memorial is still raising funds for this important addition.



Homage



John R. "Bob" Slaughter

With D-Day veterans turning an average age of 90 next year, record numbers of D-Day and WWII veterans are expected to attend what may well be the last large gathering of this historic generation.

Operation Overlord created an Allied foothold on the edge of Nazi-occupied Europe in Normandy, France. Drawing upon human and military resources on an unprecedented scale, D-Day also created an unprecedented number of veterans of a single battle, derived from every sector of our population. In its historical and human consequences, D-Day is epic as well. A turning point in the course of the war, D-Day signaled the beginning of the end of the age of fascism and the return of hope to millions in occupied nations globally. Thus, the story of D-Day is the story of individuals from a broad variety of backgrounds and perspectives living in extraordinary times. The goal of the 70th Anniversary Commemoration is to bring to light as many of those perspectives as possible.

As D-Day veteran and National D-Day Memorial Founder John Robert "Bob" Slaughter (a fellow 29er) stated several years before his passing, "Now that I am in my eighties, I am well aware that the long march that began so many years ago is about to come to a halt. I am proud to say my generation helped save the world from tyranny, prevent the extinction of an entire group of people, and preserve the democratic freedoms of our wonderful American way of life. I wouldn't change a thing, except to wish that my dear army buddies could be here to see and touch

the magnificent National D-Day Memorial that was built for us all."

Sadly, Bob Slaughter has passed, but his legacy lives on. In order to appropriately recognize and honor Bob's vision, work, and achievement, the National D-Day Memorial has chosen to dedicate a bust of him, which will be placed permanently at the Memorial on Memorial Day of this year. However, while many have given generously up to this point, additional funds are needed to ensure this fitting tribute. Giving is easy and can be done online or through the mail. Veterans everywhere, not just veterans of D-Day, are honored by this Memorial and we, as American citizens who have benefited from their sacrifices, have an obligation to ensure that Bob and his legacy are also appropriately honored.

As Bob so poignantly pointed out, this is indeed "our" Memorial and we hope that with the 29ers continued support, we can more fully share the stories of sacrifice that communities like Bedford endured in the difficult years of World War II. May we never forget, or let others forget, how their sacrifice changed the world. Please help spread the word about these important initiatives at the Memorial. Each post, business, or individual can be permanently recognized on either "Homage" or the Bob Slaughter memorial plaques that accompany the statues with a gift of \$1,000 or more.

The Memorial has posted full details about the commemoration on its website. More details will be added weekly as new information becomes available. Please visit www.dday.org, or contact the Foundation at (800) 351-DDAY with questions about the anniversary or giving opportunities related to Homage or the Bob Slaughter campaign.

The Memorial would like to thank Areva, the premier sponsor for the June 6 events. AREVA is a world leader in low-carbon energy solutions, including nuclear energy and renewables, and has been a regular supporter of the Memorial over the years. Mark your calendars now and plan to join the Memorial for what promises to be a memorable and historic weekend. "29, Let's Go!"

*Article by April Cheek-Messier
President, National D-Day Memorial
Images provided by the D-Day Memorial.*

French Legion of Honor Recipients

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

Estey, Edward

Cannon Company, 116th Infantry
Holbrook, Massachusetts
Post #93

Hobbs, Mills H. Jr.

A Company, 115th Infantry
Cloverdale, Virginia
Post #64

Kessler, John C.

Anti-Tank, 116th Infantry
Roanoke, Virginia
Post #64

Miller, William C.

HQ, 116th Infantry
Parma, Ohio
Post #2

Neighbor, Charles H.

E Company, 116th Infantry
Roanoke, Virginia
Post #64

Sales, Robert L.

B Company, 116th Infantry
Madison Heights, Virginia
Post #64

School in St. Lô seeks information on 3 soldiers KIA in France, 1944

A secondary school in St. Lô, France will be honoring the memory of 3 soldiers of the 29th Infantry Division who gave their lives liberating St. Lo from the Nazi occupation.

The three soldiers are: PFC Leonard C. Moone, HHC-3-175th Infantry; Walter D. Muller, and John F. Langan, both of K-115th Infantry.

Anyone with any information on any of these soldiers is encouraged to contact Editor William Mund at **443-529-4233** or **wmundjr@yahoo.com**.

Teachers and schoolchildren in France would like to find out as much information as possible about these 3 soldiers prior to their ultimate sacrifice in 1944.

News from the Ladies Auxiliary

The Ladies Auxiliary continues to aid the veterans and their families. Plans are being formulated regarding the 70th Anniversary Commemoration of D-Day. The Auxiliary will lay a wreath at the D-Day Memorial during the ceremony on June 6th.

The year 2014 continues to bring new challenges for the soldiers and their families of the 29th Division.

Through the efforts of the Ladies of Post 64, over \$1300 in toys and food were donated to the Military Family Support Center in Salem, Virginia. This is a donation funded center for families of deployed troops and their families. Without a nearby military facility for the troops of Southwest Virginia, this center lessens some of burden for the families of the deployed.

Communication and membership remain challenges; therefore the Auxiliary has joined the age of technology. I urge you to visit the Auxiliary on FACEBOOK and the following web sites: www.29thpost64.org and click on the [Auxiliary](#) link, nannywd@centurylink.net and sargking1@aol.com.

*Submitted by Juanita King
President, Ladies Auxiliary*

You can now buy
29th merchandise using
a credit card, debit card
or PayPal. Just go to the
new updated website at

www.29thdivisionassociation.com

and click on
"Merchandise".
It will walk
you through how
to order merchandise
using electronic payment.

29th Division Association Supplies Available

<u>ITEM</u>		<u>COST</u>	<u>POSTAGE & HANDLING</u>	<u>MAILED</u>
Book—Ever Forward 116th Inf. History (soft cover)	<i>Regular Price \$17.90 on Sale for:</i>	\$10.40	\$5.75	\$16.15
Book—Ever Forward 116th Inf. History (hard cover)	<i>Regular Price \$25.00 on Sale for:</i>	\$15.40	\$5.75	\$21.15
Book—29th, Let's Go—29th Division History		\$29.00	\$5.75	\$34.75
Book—Beyond the Beachhead (Joseph Balkoski)		\$19.90	\$5.75	\$25.65
Book—115th Infantry in WWII	<i>Regular Price \$25.00 on Sale for:</i>	\$15.40	\$5.75	\$21.15
Book—Omaha Beach and Beyond (The Long March of Sgt. Slaughter)		\$25.00	\$5.75	\$30.75
Book—From Beachhead to Brittany (Joseph Balkoski)		\$28.00	\$5.75	\$33.75
Book—From Brittany to the Reich (Joseph Balkoski)		\$27.00	\$5.75	\$32.75
Book—Our Tortured Souls (Joseph Balkoski)		\$27.00	\$5.75	\$32.75
29th Division Association Note Pads (5 1/2 x 8 1/2)		\$1.75	\$1.30	\$3.05
29th Division Association Note Pads (4 1/4 x 5 1/2)	<i>Regular Price \$1.35 on Sale for:</i>	\$0.85	\$0.70	\$1.55
Crest—115th Infantry Regiment	<i>Regular Price \$5.50 on Sale for:</i>	\$2.95	\$1.10	\$4.05
Crest—116th Infantry Regiment		\$5.50	\$1.10	\$6.60
Crest—175th Infantry Regiment	<i>Regular Price \$5.50 on Sale for:</i>	\$2.95	\$1.10	\$4.05
Decal (specify inside or outside)		\$0.50	\$0.50	\$1.00
Labels, gummed w/29th logo (sheet of 50)		\$1.00	\$0.50	\$1.50
Golf balls w/29th logo (sleeve of three)	<i>Regular Price \$5.00 on Sale for:</i>	\$2.50	\$2.60	\$5.10
Key chain w/29th logo		\$1.00	\$1.50	\$2.50
Lapel pin		\$3.95	\$1.10	\$5.05
Lapel pin, past post commander		\$5.00	\$1.10	\$6.10
Ladies pendant		\$6.00	\$1.10	\$7.10
Medallion (for plaques)		\$6.00	\$1.10	\$7.10
Plaque, wood 29th Division Association Logo		\$10.00	\$1.75	\$11.75
Plaque, wood replica of Omaha Beach Memorial	<i>Regular Price \$10.00 on Sale for:</i>	\$5.25	\$1.75	\$7.00
Pocket purse—squeeze	<i>Regular Price \$2.00 on Sale for:</i>	\$1.25	\$0.75	\$2.00
29th Division Association pocket patch		\$6.00	\$1.10	\$7.10
Pocket patch holder		\$3.00	\$1.10	\$4.10
Shoulder patch, 29th ID		\$3.50	\$0.50	\$4.00
Jacket, coach, navy with logo in S, M, L, XL, 2XL		\$28.00	\$5.75	\$33.75
Golf Shirt, embroidered 100% cotton pullover (royal blue, white, gray—L, XL, 2XL)		\$23.00	\$5.75	\$28.75
29th Division Official Association Necktie		\$20.00	\$2.00	\$22.00
29th Division Association Bolo Tie	<i>Regular Price \$6.00 on Sale for:</i>	\$3.75	\$1.30	\$5.05
29th Association Dress Hat (state size)		\$32.00	\$5.75	\$37.75
Hat, Baseball w/29th logo (embroidered)		\$15.00	\$2.60	\$17.60
Hat, Baseball w/29th logo (embroidered/Summer mesh)		\$12.00	\$2.60	\$14.60

All Sale Items Are Reduced In Price From 1 March to 30 June 2014

Checks should be made payable to the 29th Division Association & mailed with orders to:

**National Property Officer, 29th Division Association, 403 Caledonia Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21227- 4707, Phone — 410-242-1820**

SPECIAL NOTE: DUE TO A POSTAL RATE INCREASE, PRICES HAVE CHANGED.

Minutes

*of the NEC II Meeting
held on 16 January 2014 at the
Weinberg Center, Camp Fretterd, Maryland*

National Commander John F. "Jack" Kutcher called the National Executive Committee (NEC II) Business Meeting to order at 0915 hours. Commander Kutcher led the attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the opening prayer that was offered by National Chaplain Reverend John Schildt. The group then recited the 29th Division Association Preamble.

Commander Kutcher began by welcoming all to the NEC meeting and also welcomed the President of the Ladies Auxiliary, Juanita King, and the other ladies present. NC Kutcher then asked for the roll call by Adjutant William Mund. It was noted that a quorum was present.

Minutes of the last meeting (NEC II, 20 June 2013) had been published and distributed in the Summer 2013 edition of the *Twenty-Niner*. As there were no corrections or amendments, these minutes were approved as published.

Officer's Report

National Commander – Jack Kutcher reported on the activities that he has participated in during the past few months, the highlight of which was speaking at the Veteran's Day observances at the D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Virginia. He is the treasurer for the Trip to France event that will take place this Spring commemorating the 70th Anniversary of D-Day. He is involved with the planning and execution of the Wreath laying ceremony that will occur at Arlington National Cemetery in May.

National Senior Vice Commander – John Vaccarino updated everyone on the activities that he has been involved in during the last few months. He regularly attends Maryland Region and Post 72 meetings and recently was appointed Commander of Post #1.

National Junior Vice Commander – David Ginsburg said he has been primarily busy with the Futures Committee and issues such as "Pay Pal", the embedded program, and updating the web site.

Southern Region Vice Commander – PNC Bill King gave a detailed report of many events that were held over the last several months in Virginia.

Maryland Region Vice Commander – Robert Wisch has attended several memorial services and events.

At Large Region Vice Commander – PNC Richard Smith was excused.

National Executive Director – PNC/NED John Wilcox reported on the activities that he has participated in during the past few months, the highlight of which was speaking at the Veteran's Day observances at the D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Virginia. He spoke about Post 78's efforts to present Christmas gifts to veterans in nursing homes in the Frederick, MD area. PNC/NED Wilcox is also responsible for the daily functioning of the National Headquarters working in close cooperation with the National Finance Officer. PNC/NED Wilcox will be stepping down as National Executive Director at the end of the fiscal year.

Membership – PNC R. Moscati explained his report that was distributed. He said that for the first time in 7 years, the membership has gone up. Conversely, he warned that several posts are in danger of being disbanded due to dwindling membership/lack of interest and personnel to fill key positions in the administration of the posts.

Finance & Budget – J. Brian Becker reported on the financial status of the association. *Copies of this report are available by contacting the undersigned.*

Chaplain – Reverend John Schildt spoke about the events, ceremonies and observances that he has been involved in over the last several months. He is presently writing a book about A.P. Hill, C.S.A.

Welfare – Dick Jordan said that 37 members have passed away since October 2013.

Service – Walter Carter had no report.

Surgeon – Dr. Frank Barranco said he will provide a column to the editors of the *Twenty-Niner* for publication in the Spring 2014 edition.

Historian – Joe Balkoski thanked the NEC for their generous contribution to the Maryland Military Historical Society, Inc. in support of their quest to install a computer touch screen display in the museum at the Fifth Regiment Armory. That unit is in place and operational.

Sergeant-at-Arms – Randall Beamer said that one of the benches will be repaired in the Spring at the Medal of Honor Grove in Pennsylvania.

Property – No report.

Editor the *Twenty-Niner* – William Mund stated that the editorial submittal deadline for the Spring 2014 edition is 15 February 2014.

Editor *Emeritus* of the *Twenty-Niner* – Donald McKee said he will continue to stay involved with the publication and the association in general.

Judge Advocate – Frank Rauschenberg had no report.

Parliamentarian – No report.

Committee Reports

2014 National Convention – Commander Kutcher gave a report on what has been decided so far concerning the event that will occur on 16-19 October 2014. The Clarion Hotel, Ocean City, MD is the site of our event. The trip and dinners will be finalized in the next few weeks and all information will be published in the Spring 2014 *Twenty-Niner*.

2015 Reunion and Convention – NSVC John Vaccarino made some brief comments on his ideas for the convention in 2015. He said that Valley Forge, PA is being considered for this event.

Budget Committee – PNC Bob Moscati was appointed by the Commander and approved by the NEC to be the Chairman of the Budget & Finance Committee.

Futures Committee – NJVC David Ginsburg began his report by noting the challenges that face the association such as declining and aging membership; lack of contact with existing units; ignorance of unit history and links to 29th Division among active guard members; lineage; and potential deactivation of the 29th Division. He said the goals of the committee are to improve recruiting; increase the number of active members who attend meetings; and to strengthen and stabilize the posts with NEC resources. He covered the "embedded program", and all the tools that are at our disposal to accomplish our recruiting initiatives such as, tri-folds; complimentary status; Chin Strap/29er; and website.

Website – As part of the Futures Committee report, NJVC Ginsburg gave a very detailed report on the updating of the website and how it can affect such things as facilitating the ease in which website visitors can sign up and pay dues (Pay Pal) online. This may also positively affect property sales and educating the public about the history of the 29th. NJVC Ginsburg said he hopes that the new updated website will go live in a few weeks.

Special Reports

Normandy Allies – NSO Walter Carter presented a detailed update on the activities being anticipated for Normandy Allies in 2014. He thanked the 29th Division Association for their donations over the past years. A motion was made by PNC McKee and seconded by PNC King to provide in the budget, for planning purposes, the funding of \$2,600 to Normandy Allies for a student and a teacher to travel in 2015. If Normandy Allies is unable to use those funds for its 2015 trip, it will keep them for the same purpose in 2016. Motion was passed.

Old Business

Trip to France – NC Kutcher in his capacity as Tour Treasurer, updated everyone on the ongoing coordination efforts that he, along with Trip Coordinator Fran Sherr-Davino have been working on, concerning the

trip to Normandy, France on 31 May – 13 June 2014 to observe the 70th anniversary of D-Day, 6 June 1944. The estimated cost of the trip is \$3,250, not including airfare. Current planning is for 10 ceremonies in various towns/areas. The central focus of the trip for the Association will be the moving ceremonies on June 6, 2014 at both Colleville Cemetery and Vierville Sur Mer, where the National Guard monument to the D-Day veterans is located. 29th Division flags are being procured to be presented to the mayors of various towns in France.

Wreath Laying Ceremony – at Arlington National Cemetery will occur on 18 May 2014 at 3:15pm. A buffet lunch is being planned afterwards. Bus transportation is being researched. The date and time of this event had been announced last year at the NEC held in June, and also at the National Convention business meeting in October 2013. A reusable artificial wreath has been procured for this ceremony and will be used for future events.

Canada Post #3 – PNC/NED Wilcox explained the origins of Post #3 and the recent activities that they have been involved in. It is hoped that we will be able to email the 29er to their members to eliminate the postage costs involved in that process. It is hoped that Post #3 can attend an association event sometime in the near future.

Ladies Auxiliary – President Juanita King said that the Ladies Auxiliary have been asked to lay a wreath at the National D-Day Memorial on 6 June 2014. The main objective of the Auxiliary is to support the soldiers and their families in this unprecedented time of drastic and lengthy deployments. She asked that everyone support the Ladies Auxiliary. She requested \$100 for a wreath to be used to support their programs. A motion was made by PNC R. Moscati and seconded by PNC McKee to donate \$100 for this purpose. Motion passed.

New Business

The 116th Infantry Regiment Foundation – based in Staunton, Virginia, is seeking to raise funds for the construction of five monuments on Omaha Beach, in the commune of Vierville sur Mer, France. The first of these monuments is scheduled to be unveiled on D-Day, 6 June 2014. Edward C. Norman, COL, (Ret) representing the foundation, gave a brief accounting of the foundation's mission and purpose. He reminded the members of the various 29th Division anniversaries that will be commemorated in the next 5 years. He asked that our members and association consider donating to the effort to raise funds for the first of these monuments.

Membership Cards – The continued use of membership cards was brought up by PNC R. Moscati and discussed. Several opinions both pro and con were discussed. PNC Moscati suggested canvassing the individuals posts to get a consensus of whether the cards are really needed. PNC Moscati will look into this and report back at the NEC in June 2014.

Posts participation at the National Convention – The Commander made some comments on increasing the participation of members attending the convention. Several comments and opinions were offered by the members present.

Army Divisions Association – The Commander said we should continue our membership in the ADA. This year the FAM Tour and convention is in Knoxville, TN 1-4 May 2014. Adjutant/Editor Mund will attend and represent the 29th Division Association.

Good of the Association

23 January 2014, Tuskegee Airmen, Richland Ballroom, near Edge-wood. \$25 for lunch. For more information contact Jack Kutcher.

NGAM Bull & Oyster Roast (formerly held by the MMOC) – 9 February 2014.

70th Anniversary of D-Day at the National Memorial on 6 June 2014.

Closing

With no further business, Commander Kutcher began the closing ceremonies. A closing prayer was offered by Reverend Schildt along with a final salute to the colors. He announced that the **NEC III** meeting is tentatively scheduled for **Thursday, 20 June 2014** at Camp Fretterd, MD.

Adjournment – the meeting was adjourned at 1410 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
WILLIAM S. MUND, JR.
Adjutant
National Executive Committee

NEC Members please note:

**These minutes will no longer be distributed individually.
This is your copy.**

29th Division Association

*Wreath Laying Ceremony,
Arlington National Cemetery*

Tomb of The Unknowns

Sunday, 18 May 2014

1515 EDT (3:15 PM)

Buffet Lunch @ \$20 per person to follow at the Spates Community Club

Minibus transportation from Baltimore has been coordinated @ \$10 per person.

For bus reservations & more info contact Bus Captain PNC Bob Recker @ 410-672-7106 .

Ocean City, MD is the site of our 96th Annual Reunion & Convention

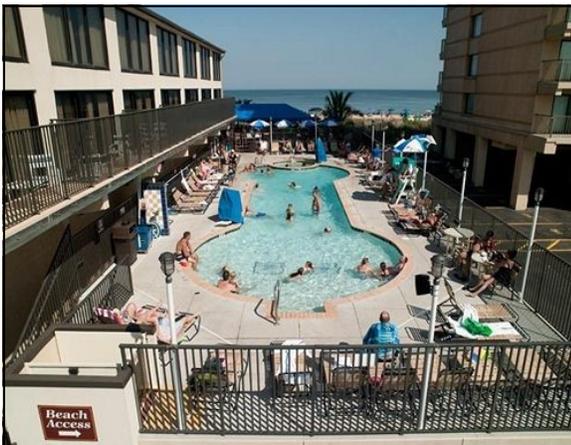
*Come on down and join us! October 16-19, 2014,
at the beautiful Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel*



The 96th Annual Reunion of the 29th Division Association will be held in Ocean City, Maryland during the period 16-19 October 2014. The beautiful Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel located at 10100 Coastal Highway will be our base of operations. An adequate number of rooms have been reserved and arrangements have been made to ensure that the Annual Business Meeting on Saturday is bracketed by a variety of interesting activities, exquisite meals, and a lively social environment. This reunion will provide an excellent opportunity for all 29ers, past and present, and their families and friends to gather, swap stories and share their experiences.

As usual, Thursday 16 October is a travel day and registration. On Friday we are planning a short bus trip down the Delmarva Peninsula to visit NASA's Wallops Island Space Flight Facility. This tour will include an Orientation and Briefing on the missions and activities conducted at the facility, including a stop at the Visitors Center. After lunch, either at the Base Dining Facility, or a local restaurant, we will visit the Launch Control Center and tour the rocket launch area. We will then return to the Hotel for a sumptuous plated dinner and leisure time in the Hospitality Room to share in more camaraderie. The Business Meeting will be conducted on Saturday, and the Banquet with another delicious plated dinner will be offered Saturday evening.

In closing, our annual memorial service will be held on Sunday morning conducted by Reverend John Schildt, our National Chaplain.



Souvenir Program Book Ads

You are authorized to insert copy to occupy a space of _____ page for which we agree to pay the rate indicated.

Full Page	\$100.00
Half Page	70.00
Quarter Page	40.00
Eighth Page	25.00

IMPORTANT: The deadline for ads and boosters is **September 15, 2014**. Make up your ad copy, attach to this form with your check payable to the **29th Division Association & mail to:**

William S. Mund, Jr.
441 Chalfonte Drive
Baltimore, MD 21228
443-529-4233

IMPORTANT: "Camera Ready" copy is needed. Please make sure your ads are complete and legible. Thank You.

ATTENTION PLEASE!

*To facilitate a new compressed processing schedule, we ask that you do not submit your checks for ads and patrons until after **15 June 2014***

Patrons

During the 96th year of our 29th Division Association, your name and the names of all your family should appear in the Souvenir Program Book. The cost per name is \$2.00. Please print each name legibly.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State/Zip: _____
Tel. #: _____

This coupon, with your check, made out as indicated above, should also be received no later than **September 15**. Mail to William S. Mund, Jr. at the address above.

**96TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
OCTOBER 16 TO 19, 2014
ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM**

Please print and make your reservation early.

Name: _____ Unit: _____ Post: _____

Name: _____ Unit: _____ Post: _____

Enclose separate sheet for more names. Please select your entrees for the dinners.
EACH PERSON MUST PAY THE REGISTRATION CHARGE.

Registration Charge (Non-refundable) No. @ _____ \$20.00 \$ _____

Friday Evening Plated Dinner (Open Seating) No. @ _____ \$30.00 \$ _____

Chicken Picatta _____ Baked Salmon _____

Saturday Evening Banquet (Assigned Seating) No. @ _____ \$30.00 \$ _____

Top Sirloin of Beef _____ Orange Roughy _____

Friday Trip—NASA Space Flight Facility at Wallops Island, VA, including lunch. No. @ _____ \$20.00 \$ _____

TOTAL: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Make checks payable to 29th Division Association and mail to:
Robert Moscati, 1910 Calais Ct, Baltimore MD 21244

The cost of meals and trips cancelled prior to the cut-off date will be refunded. Due to contractual agreements with providers and caterers, cancellations made after the cut-off date will be non-refundable.

Any questions, contact Bob Moscati at (410) 944-1639 or Email at Rmoscati@msn.com

CUT-OFF DATE FOR REGISTRATIONS IS SEPTEMBER 15, 2014

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

CLARION RESORT FONTAINEBLEAU HOTEL
10100 Coastal Highway
Ocean City, MD 21842

**Call 410-524-3535
1-800-638-2100**

The group room rate is \$95 plus tax per night & must be guaranteed with a credit card or one night's deposit by check or cash. Check in time is 3 PM and check out time is 11 AM.

BE SURE TO TELL THEM YOU ARE WITH THE 29TH DIVISION ASSOCIATION

MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS EARLY. WE ONLY HAVE A LIMITED NUMBER OF ROOMS AND YOU CAN CANCEL UP TO 72 HOURS PRIOR TO ARRIVAL WITHOUT CHARGES.

**CUT-OFF DATE FOR GETTING THE DISCOUNTED ROOM RATE IS
SEPTEMBER 15, 2014**

29th Division Association
P.O. Box 1546
Frederick, MD 21702-0546

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

Address Service Requested

Association Membership

All applications of prospective members should be mailed to our National Headquarters address. Assignment to a respective Post is normally made on information taken from the application regarding current or former military unit and/or your current home address. Membership dues vary slightly from Post to Post, but if you send a check for \$12.00 made payable to the 29th Division Association, that will normally suffice. Send your check and application addressed to:

National Headquarters
29th Division Association
P.O. Box 1546
Frederick, MD 21702-0546

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| MD Post 1 | Ellicott City, MD |
| FL Post 2 | Sarasota, FL |
| CN Post 3 | Brampton, Ontario |
| VA Post 5 | Norfolk, VA |
| FL Post 27 | New Port Richie, FL |
| HQ Post 29 | At Large |
| MD Post 48 | Westminster, MD |
| VA Post 64 | Roanoke, VA |
| MD Post 72 | Baltimore, MD |
| MD Post 78 | Frederick, MD |
| VA Post 84 | Fort Belvoir, VA |
| MD Post 85 | Northeastern MD |
| MD Post 88 | Eastern Shore, DE & MD |
| NE Post 93 | New England |
| MD Post 94 | Silver Spring, MD |
| MD Post 110 | Pikesville, MD |
| VA Post 116 | Staunton, VA |
| PA Post 175 | Pennsylvania |
| MD Post 224 | Edgewood, MD |
| MD Post 229 | Parkville, MD |
| MD Post 729 | Blue Ridge Summit, PA |

You Can Help Our Association Grow

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



"29 Let's Go!"

Application for Membership in
29TH DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.

Please Print

Applicant _____

E-mail Address (if available) _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip+4 _____

I was a member of ____ Company ____ Battery ____ Regiment

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

*GWOT _____ Children/Grandchildren _____

Phone Number _____

I hereby apply for membership in the 29th Division Association, Inc.

and herewith transmit \$ _____ as annual membership dues

In _____ Post No. _____

which includes the National dues and one year subscription to the official publication of the 29th division Association, Inc. "The Twenty-Niner." which is published three times per year.

*GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

Applicant's Signature _____