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THE TWENTY-NINER

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Spring 2017

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Blue and Gray Ball to highlight the 99th Convention & Annual Reunion

The 99th Convention and Annual Reunion of the 29th Division Association will be held in Baltimore, Maryland from Thursday, October 12 thru Sunday, October 15.

Headquarters will be at the Hunt Valley Inn in the picturesque section of Hunt Valley, Maryland which is about 10 miles north



of Baltimore City and directly east of Route 83's Exit 20 (Shawan Road).

This year we will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the 29th Division which was organized on July 26, 1917.

A \$109.00 rate per night (plus additional state and occupancy taxes) has been established which includes breakfast. Also included is complimentary parking and a shuttle service to nearby Hunt Valley Town Center and the light rail station on Shawan Road.

For members coming by air, fly into the Baltimore-Washington Airport (BWI) and proceed to Concourse E, the International Pier, where there

is a light rail train station. Board the light rail marked "Hunt Valley." Call the Hunt Valley Inn upon arrival at Hunt Valley and a shuttle will take

you to the Inn. The train ride takes approximately forty-five minutes. One way cost is \$1.70 or \$0.70 for seniors.

On Thursday, October 12th, Registration desk

and Hospitality Room will be open beginning at 1300 hours. Hotel check-in begins at 1600 or earlier if a room is available.

There will be a bus trip to the Fifth Regiment Armory in Baltimore on Friday to visit the 29th Division Museum and the Maryland Museum of Military History.

Joe Balkoski, National Historian of the 29th Division Association, will conduct the tour. Afterwards, members and guests will be transported to Harbor Place in Baltimore for sightseeing, shopping and lunch. Some of the sights to see during your visit to Harbor Place are the USF

(Continued on page 17)

29th Infantry Division begins mission in the Middle East

CAMP ARIFJAN Kuwait — The Virginia National Guard's 29th Infantry Division assumed command as U.S. Army Central's intermediate division headquarters, Task Force Spartan, during a transfer of authority ceremony 19 Dec 16, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

"Today is a watershed day in U.S. Army Central. Today the paradigm of the mission command in this theater Army changes as we install the 29th Inf. Div. headquarters as Task Force Spartan," said Lt. Gen. Michael X. Garrett, commander USARCENT.

The 29th assumes mission command for Task Force Spartan with more than 18,000 troops supporting Operation Spartan Shield and theater security cooperation in U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. More than 450 Virginia, Maryland and North Carolina Army Na-

tional Guard Soldiers from the 29th are postured and prepared to conduct contingency operations and command forces throughout the USARCENT area of operations.

Operation Spartan shield is a combined forces contin-

(Continued on page 18)

MESSAGE FROM:**National Commander – Robert E. Wisch**

Dear Comrades of the 29th Division Association,

Since my installation as National Commander in October, I have attended numerous post meetings as well as representing the Association at 29th Division deployment ceremonies and dedications relating to the Division.

I have the privilege not only of being your commander during the 100th Anniversary of the 29th Division but also the privilege of working closely with the dedicated leadership of the 29th Division Association. Our elected and appointed national officers as well as the leadership of each region and post are committed to the perpetuation of the 29th Division.

As I visit Association Posts, there are two characteristics apparent with every post, active members are getting older and attendance at meetings is declining.

In order for our Association to sur-



vive ten or twenty years from now we must increase membership. I ask each and every member of our organization to join with me in an effort to increase our membership.

Wear your 29th Division Association military cap at meetings and a 29th Division baseball cap as often as you can. Veterans of the 29th will find you.

Several years ago I was in San Diego when a man approached me and said he was a former member of the 115th Regiment when he lived in Maryland. I mailed him an application and he became a member of Post # 72.

On Saturday, June 10, 2017, members of the 29th Division Association will journey to Arlington National Cemetery to remember our fallen comrades by placing a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The wreath laying ceremony will take place at 1215 hours followed by a buffet lunch at the Spates Community Center in Fort Meyer, Virginia.

The Director of Arlington National Cemetery has given the 29th Division Association permission to allow a bus

to proceed directly to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The Maryland Region will provide a bus from Baltimore to Arlington leaving from the Hammonds Ferry Road "Park & Ride" at Baltimore Beltway Exit #8.

For our members who prefer to drive directly to the cemetery, you can park on the main driveway into the Arlington National Cemetery and board the bus.

The Baltimore Orioles will honor the 29th Division on Sunday afternoon, July 16, when the Orioles play the Chicago Cubs. Plans are still in the tentative stage and when they become finalized an announcement will be printed in the *Chin Strap*.

Post # 64 member, Ted Shuey, has volunteered to host a customized 29th Division Association trip to Normandy, France. The trip will leave from Dulles Airport on Saturday, September 23 and return on September 29th. Total cost is \$3,000.00 which includes air fare, ground transportation, lodging, admissions and most meals. Full information can be found on page 33 of this publication.

The 99th Convention and Annual Reunion of the 29th Division will be held in Baltimore from October 12 through October 15. This event will honor the 100th anniversary of the 29th Division and will be highlighted by the "Blue and Gray Ball" on Saturday evening. I promise you that this will be a memorable convention and I encourage every member to attend.

Again, thank you for the privilege to be the commander of the 29th Division Association.

Twenty-Nine Let's Go and God Bless America.

*Robert E. Wisch
National Commander
29th Division Association*

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

duster197329@gmail.com

Editor *Emeritus* — Donald McKee
305 Northwest Dr., Silver Spring, MD
20901-1227
301-593-4591

mckee175@netscape.com

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Donations to the *Twenty-Niner*

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our membership for their generosity in contributing to the *Twenty-Niner* for this Spring issue. From November 1, 2016, through February 28, 2017, these donations totaled \$1,914.00. Note our cut-off time. If your contributions did not reach our National Executive Director by February 28, 2017 then it will not be listed until the next issue.

Baldwin, Steven, Post 94, Associate, Rockville, MD
Barden, Patricia Duncan, Post 94, Daughter, Maidens, VA

In honor of her Father Norman Duncan, E/116

Baumbach, Jeffrey V., Post 94, Son, Brick, NJ
Baumgarten, Rita S., Post 110, Widow, Jacksonville Beach, FL

In memory of her husband Dr. Harold Baumgarten

Bourdeau, Mary Ellen, Post 94, Daughter, Glen Falls, NY
Boyster, Roy, Post 94, E/115, Shreveport, LA

In memory of James Comins, I/175

Brondyke, Russell, Post 94, Associate, Homosassa, FL
Burke, Edward A., Post 94, A/821TD, Cincinnati, OH
Burkert, Perry L., Post 94, Son, Sinking Spring, PA
Koos, Donald, Post 29, I/175, Whiting, NJ

In memory of his Father, Harry L. Cundy, HHC/3/175

Connolly, Donald R., Post 94, B/1/115, Silver Spring, MD
Cooley, Carl, Post 94, Son, Slagle, LA
Cundy, Donald, C., Post 94, Son, Dearborn, MI

In memory of his Father, Harry L. Cundy, HHC/3/175

Dabbs, Edward A., Post 94, Associate, Beltsville, MD
Daugherty, Kristin Susan, Post 94, Associate, Madison, WI
Dees, Robert L., Post 94, Son, Oakdale, CA
DeHays, Antonin, Post 94, Associate, College Park, MD
Dennis, Larry, Post 94, Associate, Bartlesville, OK

In memory of his Father-in-Law, MAJ Robt. Stewart, 121ENG

Dennis, Ruth, Post 94, Daughter, Bartlesville, OK

In memory of her Father, MAJ Robert Stewart, 121ENG

Dillon, Laura, Post 94, Daughter, Fort Wayne, IN
Duncan, Norman, Post 94, E/116, Ashburn, VA
Fernandez, Robert C., Post 94, Associate, White Plains, NY
Florida West Post #2, Punta Gorda, FL
Ford, William, Post 94, Associate, Silver Spring, MD
Garrison, Cecil L. "Jay" Jr., Post 94, Son, Centerville, VA

In memory of Cecil L. Garrison, Sr., D/104MED

Garguilo, Neil D., Post 94, Son, Lakewood, NJ
Gaskin, William P., Post 94, HHB/DIVARTY, Montgomery, PA

In memory of those who gave their all

Green, Colleen, Post 94, Daughter, Simms, MT
Green, Colleen, Post 94, Daughter, Simms, MT
In memory of PNC John F. "Jack" Kutcher, Sr.
Gutknecht, Kay M., Post 94, Daughter, San Jose, CA
Hall, Burdell, Post 94, G/175, Morton, IL
Harper, David B., Post 94, Associate, Bountiful, UT
Hayes, Steven A., Post 94, Associate, Upper Marlboro, MD
Hayslett, Guy M., Post 94, Associate, Olney, MD
Heeter, Eugene, Post 94, K/175, Rolling Meadows, IL
Hertzfeld, Michael, Post 94, Associate, Perrysburg, OH
Jebson, Sally Howie, Post 94, Daughter, Culpeper, VA
Jindra, Leonard, Post 94, F/115, Floral Park, NY

Kelly, James E., Post 94, Associate, Franklin, TN
Kern, Matthew, Post 94, Associate, Asheville, NC
Knight, James S., Post 94, Son, Mt. Pleasant, SC
Kruhm, Fred N., Post 94, C/121ENG, Burtonsville, MD
Kussman, John C., Post 94, L/115, Dayton, OH
Kuykendall, Robert, Post 116, HHC/116, Waynesboro, VA
Langille, Rick, Post 94, C/116, Springfield, VA
Lucas, Elona K., Post 94, Daughter, Merrimack, NH
Masters, Kathryn J., Post 94, HHC/29ID, Cheyenne, WY
Maupin, Charles A., Post 94, HQ/3/175, Columbus, GA
Medla, Gregory, Post 2, Associate, Ft. Walton Beach, FL

In memory of R. Medla, K/116 & J. Medla, 7th Army Air Force

Miles, Earl E., Post 2, A/115, Dinuba, CA
Mund, William S., Jr., Post 94, B/115, Baltimore, MD
Murray, Johnny E., Post 116, HHC/116, Roanoke, VA
Neuwirth, Francis, Post 94, A/821TD, Sleepy Hollow, NY
O'Rourke, Hugh E., Jr., Post 94, Grandson, Northport, NY

In memory of SGT John J. Dolan, C/116

Phillips, J. M. & Joyce, Post 94, Associate, Mardela Springs, MD
Piper, Samuel, Post 94, HHC/1/115, Longwood, FL
Praski, Benjamin, Post 94, Associate, Grapevine, TX
Rosen, Efraim, Post 116, Son, Miami, FL

In honor of Joe Balkoski for his work on the 29th

Ross, John K., Post 94, Associate, Washington, DC
Rush, J. Warner, Post 94, Associate, Scarborough, NY
Santora, William, Post 94, Son, Toms River, NJ
Scalesse, Carmela, Widow, Somerville, MA

In memory of Raymond Scalesse, C/115

Schaefer, Gary B., Post 94, Associate, Fairport, NY
Shaw, Richard, Post 94, C/224FA, Clarksville, MD
Shields, Ann, Post 94, Associate, Lorton, VA
Simons, John Jr., Post 94, I/175, Roswell, NM
Smith, Garrick, Post 94, Associate, Frederick, MD
Smith, Gregory, Post 94, Associate, Fairport, NY
Smith, Marsha, Post 94, Associate, Walworth, NY
Smith, Mary, Widow, Perry Hall, MD

In memory of her husband, PNC Richard "Dick" Smith

Smith, Rufus, Post 94, Son, Gulfport, MS
Smolar, Robert B., Post 94, HQ/3/116, Perry Point, MD
Stapleton, Gregory J., Post 94, Grandson, Lexington, KY

In memory of COL James S. Morris, 115&116

Stapleton, Rebecca C., Post 94, Daughter, Lexington, KY

In memory of PFC John C. Coulter, Jr., 29th DIVARTY

Sternberg, Abe, Post 94, HHC/1/115, Coral Springs, FL
Strizak, Charles J., Post 94, Associate, Mt. Pleasant, OH
Talaber, David J. Post 94, Associate, Woodbridge, VA
Taranto, Kevin P., Post 94, Associate, Manhasset, NY
Tennis, William C., Post 94, Son, Hampton, VA
Thompson, Ralph A., Post 94, Associate, Fairfax, VA
Turner, Colleen, Post 94, Daughter, Columbia, TN
Ungerleider, Daniel S., Post 94, Son, Burke, VA
Waitzman, Morton, Post 94, HQ/115, Atlanta, GA
Walhovd, Gary A., Post 94, Associate, Janesville, WI
White, Claire M., Daughter, Wenham, MA

In memory of Eugene D. White, Sr., F/175

Zimmerman, Charles D., Post 94, HQ/3BDE, New Windsor, MD
Zwerin, David S., Post 94, Associate, Merrick, NY

TAPS

The following list shows names of known 29ers and their ladies or family members who died and their deaths reported from November 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017. We are indeed saddened and mourn their passing. We extend our deepest sympathy and love to their families and loved ones. We pray that they and all of our earlier deceased 29ers and ladies may rest in peace. Amen.

LAST ROLL CALL

Baumgarten, Dr. Harold, Post 110, B/116, Jacksonville Bch, FL, 12/25/16
 Berlin, Homer P., Post 1-72, K/115, Baltimore, MD, 11/19/16
 Brashears, Jesse H. Jr. Post 78, A/1/115, Frederick, MD, 12/17/16
 Delawder, Harry E., Post 85, Associate, Elkton, MD, 11/22/16
 Domme, Henry W., Post 5, A/104ORD, Chesapeake, VA 3/1/17
 Drumwright, James H. Jr. Post 110, 29SIG, Richardson, TX, 12/15/16
 Fretterd, James F., Post 88, B/115, Federalsburg, MD, 11/26/16
 Harlan, Kenneth R. Jr. Post 5, HQ/111FA, Chesapeake, VA, 3/1/16
 Hudson, W. Alvin, Post 64, HHC/116, Roanoke, VA, 1/19/17
 Kutcher, PNC John F. Sr. Post 58, HQ/2/175, Churchville, MD, 2/17/17
 Lastner, Leroy D., Post 1-72, F/175, Bel Air, MD, 1/27/17
 McWilliams, Robert H., Post 88, Associate, Cambridge, MD, 9/22/16
 Melander, William E., Jr. Post 94, SV/115, North Babylon, NY, 10/24/16
 Myers, William, Post 48, Associate, Westminster, MD, 1/15/17
 Paulsgrove, Larry Leo, 729MT Hagerstown, MD, 11/29/16
 Pusey, Wessels S., Post 85, E/115, Colora, MD, 10/20/16
 Robertson, Donald J., Post 175, M/175, Homosassa, FL, 12/17/16
 Schaefer, Gordon L., Post 94, C/175, Fort Wayne, IN, 9/20/16
 Shankle, Terry R., Post 78, A/115, Frederick, MD, 12/11/16
 Testerman, Gerald B., Post 88, Associate, Church Creek MD, 11/20/16
 Thevenet, Alan, Post 94, B/111FA, Boynton Beach, FL, 10/29/16
 Tine, Charles, Post 110, HQ/110FA, Chestertown, MD, 12/12/16
 Van Roosen, PNC Donald, Post 93, H/115, Sandy, OR, 12/29/16
 Walsh, William D. Jr. Post 110, 1st Rangers, Randallstown, MD, 9/14/16
 Wareheim, Paul E., Jr. Post 110, HQ/224, Baltimore, MD, 1/27/17
 Warnken, Frederick J., Post 110, HQ/224FA, Cumberland, MD, 12/7/16
 Wilch, William A., E/115, Middletown, OH, 12/5/16
 Wright, Frank M., Post 88, Associate, Cambridge, MD, 9/12/16

LADIES

Becker, Thelma M., Widow, Perry Hall, MD, 4/4/14
 Clayton, Jane, Widow, Sarasota, FL, 2/25/16
 Cottrill, Rhea, Widow, Knoxville, TN, 5/25/16
 Duran, Ruth A., Widow, Harrah, OK, 8/29/12
 Leidy, Thelma, Widow, Westminster, MD, 2/24/17

Kutcher Foundation

Donations are being accepted to the **Kutcher Foundation** at **302 Dove Court, Forest Hill, MD 21050** to support a number of local and national charitable organizations supported by PNC Kutcher, and the establishment of a military leadership scholarship in his honor.

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 28 comrades and 5 ladies who have died and whose deaths were reported to us since our last publication. This includes 2 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

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

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 veterans displayed during these most perilous years in the history of mankind.

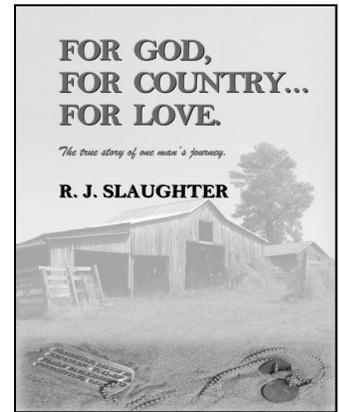
Lippincott, Don H.
 A/175
 Houston, TX
 Post 1-72

Rutherford, Ernest C.
 USS PC 567, United States Navy
 Englewood, FL
 Post 2

Uttero, Cosmo
 H/175
 Bradenton, FL
 Post 2

We have the pleasure in enclosing a second extract from Robbie Slaughter's book, *For God, For Country ... For Love*, available from the 29th Division Association – all proceeds to the association.

Having crossed Omaha beach under the 7am maelstrom of D-Day, Robbie's father, Dalton Slaughter (B Company, 116th Regiment) found himself taking out German emplacements along the cliffs of Omaha. The first extract finishes with Dalton cradling his best friend's lifeless body in full view of an enemy sniper.



For God, For Country ... For Love

Chapter 34 Head Count

A hand on Dalton's shoulder and the look on Clayton's face, made him realise he should quickly gain better cover and the three buddies slid away to where they thought it would be safer. They moved extremely cautiously now, frightened of the next bullet, the sniper surely still in place and having good measure of their new position. They lay static for long periods, looking at each other, unsure of what to do next. Then slid still further eastward, repeating their start stop, indecisive movements.

Along with the cold reality of war came the physical cold, of being wet and sea sick for so long, of no food and the fear and exertion of hours of battle. Over six hours had passed since they had left the Javelin and after being trapped on the beach and then clearing the cliff emplacements, it felt as if a week had passed. With no contact from the Rangers, nor the rest of the boat team, the three buddies decided they had best locate someone, an officer, NCO, anyone who might know what to do. Keeping low, they made a dash for it and recovered the safety of an enemy trench, going 100 yards before coming across a few Rangers and a couple of other men.

"The reinforcements have arrived," a Ranger joked and told them to join up with their boat team further east.

They passed concrete chambers cut into the limestone to act as shelters for the guards of Rommel's Atlantic Wall, the insides appearing as black as night. Dalton and his buddies just hoped they had been cleared and weren't still harbouring enemy soldiers. Moving still further back eastward they came level with Pingnot on the far side of the field; he was getting the remnants of his boat team to dig in near the hedgerow. Spotting his men, Pingnot sent a runner to them.

"No one's where they oughta be," the runner told them. "Pingnot's got less than twenty men with him and he doesn't

know where the hell the other boat teams are, just a mess, could be pushed back into the sea at any minute ..."

"Just what we wanted to hear," Clayton replied looking at Ted and Dalton, with Ted sticking a finger through a bullet hole in his pants and wondering how in the world he didn't have a hole through his leg. "And the radio's bust!" the runner added as if he hadn't relayed enough bad news. But Clayton was smiling, Ted was now completely distracted, he had found a piece missing from his rifle butt where a bullet must have hit it. With a shrug of his shoulders, Ted sat down on the mud and removed the precious pictures from his top pocket, "Guess I'm as safe as I'm gonna be," he said to himself, looking at them.

The runner looked at Ted as if he had gone mad, but he continued regardless. "Pingnot wants you guys to find another officer and let them know where we are and get hold of some more ammo. Pingnot's shouting at everyone, shit scared we're gonna get a counter attack."

"Yea, well I just wanna eat," Ted said, surprising his close buddies by his insubordination. "Just took my first piss in France and could hardly lift myself out."

"His first piss outside his pants," Clayton corrected and everyone laughed for Ted had not been the only one.

The landslip cliff section didn't seem so steep on the descent. At the top of the hollow they could see right along Omaha; it was 11a.m. and what had been a real mess was slowly transforming into organised chaos, the tide was finally turning against the defenders.

Stepping onto the sand they passed the etchings of the battle. The waves still washed around the dead, rolling the bodies this way and that; someone had shifted Staff Sergeant Holmes onto the boulders to keep him clear of the water. Beneath the cliff some dead had been laid side by side. A group of wounded soldiers further along towards the Vierville Draw were receiving attention from medics and from their buddies. B Company man Mach Smith's eye was out of its socket, lying on his cheek. Bob



Dalton Slaughter at age 23

Sales had placed a rag over it. More seriously wounded men were grouped together nearer to the draw, again at the foot of the cliff.

Of the three B Company landing craft beaching closest to the Vierville Draw, there were perhaps twenty or so able bodied men and not a single officer to be found. Though untouched by wounds, they simply leant against the rock face or sat at its base; numb from being in the water for hours, from inching their way up the beach and numb from the sights they had witnessed. They were leaderless and static.

Of the Headquarters craft, Bob Sales was the only survivor. Only three men from Lieutenant Donaldson's boat made it: Charlie Conner, Harold Baumgarten and Roy Perkins. The other B Company men were from Dalton's own 3rd Platoon whose boat had snagged on an obstacle. Allbritton had made it but Austen was wounded and the tenacious Sergeant Campbell was there, despite being in the sea long enough to be as wrinkled as a prune. First Lieutenant Winkler, like Donaldson, had been killed and 3rd Platoon's Second Lieutenant Frisby had been wounded; whilst the fate of the boats led by Lieutenant Taylor and Lieutenant Williams was yet unknown.

Dalton, with Ted and Clayton, started to pick up bandoliers from men who would no longer need them. They were careful to avoid the more brutalised men where the ammo belts had become as one with the ribs and inners. It was then that Dalton realised that one of the wounded men lying at the base of the cliff was the Company Chaplain. The Chaplain was the link with the woman who kept Dalton's soul alive and images of Hetty, which had been driven deep by the experiences of the day, came to the fore and made the horrific more so.

The Chaplain reached out to take Dalton's hand but was barely able to squeeze it. They spoke to each other, though what was said Dalton soon forgot for as he headed back to the land slip, the US Navy started to bombard the remaining German emplacements along the Vierville Draw. One of the shells fell wide of the mark, hitting the cliff above where the Chaplain had lain and sent rock cascading down upon the wounded men.

Climbing away from the shoreline, Dalton, Clayton and Ted forgot about collecting their assault jackets which they had discarded on the beach that morning. Possessions mattered not and even food was for the moment way down even on Ted's list of priorities.

Over 18,000 troops had been landed on Omaha by 12.30p.m. and during the afternoon they pushed their way ever so slowly inland. Ordinary men had become heroes by necessity and the terrain became littered with them. Thankfully, there were those with whom luck ran and thus by the evening of this long Tuesday in June, a strip of France some 4 miles wide and just 800 yards inland at Vierville and 2,000 yards inland at Coleville had been taken. Just as they could never have anticipated the carnage on the beach, so the men had little perception of the experiences to follow; oblivious as to just how treacherous each and every further step in Normandy would be.

Pingenot's boat team stayed by their hedgerow until the light started to slip away in the west; setting beyond where the English Channel reached the Atlantic and then still further towards a calmer and safer place.

When Dalton, Clayton and Ted rejoined the boat team with their unwelcome news, Staff Sergeant Padgett told them to dig their foxholes and quick. They were being harassed by the occasional sniper as well as mortar fire and without reinforcements, Pingenot was still adamant there would be a counter attack.

Dalton started to dig a foxhole close to the hedge and encountered great difficulty in achieving any depth to protect him from the shrapnel that came with the mortars. Normandy had experienced the same fine weather through May as the south of England. The earth was dry beneath the muddy surface, the limestone having drained away the water and Dalton's first strike sent a pulse vibrating up his arm and through his tired joints. The ground seemed as hard as concrete, not at all like the Devonshire soil so easily displaced in spring. Several inches deep, Dalton encountered the roots of the hawthorn and if breaking up the surface wasn't difficult enough, driving a short blunt spade through half inch roots brought him out in another sweat. The salty beads ran off his brow and created still more streaks down his already grubby and lined face. The day was stretching out real long now; normally Dalton would have dug without stopping, dug until the hole was sufficiently deep and broad to provide good protection for two men. But at about eighteen inches in depth he passed the spade to Ted, and took his turn in keeping guard, waiting for the counter attack. Ted dug a further foot and with the displaced soil surrounding the hole, the two soldiers decided it would have to be deep enough as it was. The first mortars had fallen on the abandoned emplacements and Pingenot had been right in moving away from them and digging in by the hedge. With German snipers and scouts moving up and around the surrounding fields, it wasn't long before mortars were falling closer to the mark and the protection of the foxholes was needed. But the fire was sporadic and succeeded more in keeping the men on their toes than providing any strategic intent for the 'Krauts'. With night closing in, Dalton wasn't sure which was worse, the reality of daylight harassment or the anticipation and fear of what might loom out of the darkness.

Hunger finally filtered into Dalton, Ted and Clayton's consciousness sometime after dark. But with their rations in their assault jackets, food had to be scavenged from whence it was available - the German emplacements and the bodies of enemy soldiers. Even stale German rye bread was tasty to a stomach that hadn't consumed food or drink for twenty-four hours.

Sometime after midnight, illuminated by the moon's rays which penetrated the clouds still scudding across a heavy sky, Pingenot's boat team started to make its way back down the cliff to the beach. They had been ordered by Colonel Canham to regroup with the rest of B Company in Vierville. The locations of their dead were marked by attaching the bayonet to the man's rifle and then inserting it into the ground where they lay with the man's raincoat used to cover his body. But otherwise they were strictly to be left untouched; left for the Grave Registration Department to collect. They would be identified by their 'Dog Tags', one of which the Department would leave on the soldier. Down on the beach they had already placed some of the dead in body bags, but it would be a long time before they reached the men on the cliffs. The bodies would later be transferred into caskets and then as soon as feasible, to a temporary cemetery. Sometime in

the future, on a clearer and calmer day, a decision would be made, hopefully by the family as to where their boy would be permanently laid to rest.

The wind had dropped and the sea calmer as the men stepped onto the quiet beach. The sun and moon were pulling the sea away from the shore again and soon there would be another low tide, before yet another the following morning and so time moved on. The surf washed up the beach and little by little, the scene changed. The dull light rounded the shapes, blurred the edges and took away the colour. The debris stretched across the widening expanse of sand, as though several huge ships had sunk off shore and all their contents had been thrown onto the beach. In an hour or so the moonlight would be lost and make all appear as one, just like boulders and rocks, a continuum of the shore line of Normandy.

The 116th 1st Battalion were to regroup close to Vierville, on its northern edge and north of the quarry where the 29th Division command post had been established. It was at this command post, just 150 yards inland, that Colonel Canham, the regiment's commander anxiously awaited the arrival of the rest of B Company; so few had yet reported.

In the darkness, Pingnot walked his men up the Vierville Draw past the remains of the sand bagged emplacements and the mine fields. They were bedraggled and tired. Uniforms, faces and hands were dirty and dusty with mud and blood stains; blood from men hit close by and from their own cuts and grazes. Salt encrustations from the sea water and sweat dressed their skin. Clothing was ripped by the barbed wire on the cliff, rocks on the beach and splinters from the wood of the trenches. Stains and smells from human excrement and sweat, faces smeared by the wipe of a hand, working hands at the end of working arms, hands that spread the grime in among the fine light hair that grew unobtrusively from their young chins. But more telling than anything, were the looks on their faces. This had surely been their longest day.

About the same time as Pingnot's men arrived at the company rendezvous, Lieutenant Taylor with some of Lieutenant William's men walked down the road from the north of Vierville. Thus with the arrival of Taylor and Pingnot all that were coming back, were back.

It was an emotional reunion for the surviving men, pleased as they were to find buddies safe, yet deeply concerned and insecure at the absence of others. But priorities had to be right; set up a defensive position, dig the foxhole, eat then talk, if the enemy allowed it. The company moved up to the crossroads with the D514 where Dalton and Ted paired up again to dig yet another foxhole, their tiring arms shifting what felt like ten cubic yards of soil. The soil was softer here and without roots proved much easier to dig. But at a depth that was clearly inadequate, their empty stomachs and tired limbs refused to co-operate further. They pulled out a chocolate bar from a D Ration and then set about opening a C ration can containing 10oz of stew hash and beans. It was a feast, finished off with a few dry crackers and water.

Basic training in the States had focused on care and feeding of weapons and if a rifleman hadn't learnt in training that his M1 rifle was his best friend, then it only took a couple of minutes in battle



High walls and buildings lined their route from Omaha to Point du Hoc, 7 June 1944.

for the message to sink home. It had been drilled into them to keep it clean and they had become proficient in taking it apart and reassembling it blindfolded. It was well after midnight but it hadn't yet become fully dark. The last of the moonlight was still piercing the clouds to provide a subdued illumination, more than sufficient for a well trained rifleman to clean his M1. Dalton started what would become a daily ritual and a compulsive endeavour to keep his rifle dry, clean, oiled and loaded. Then whilst men settled down and either finished their food or like Dalton, cleaned their weapons, events of the day were recounted. With strained and muffled voices, news of the fate of each LCA passed along the grapevine; from group of men to group of men. Some of the information was accurate, some inaccurate and some a soldier's tale. Dalton listened whilst he unlocked the trigger guard from the trigger housing, separated the two sections, pulled out the trigger housing and set it aside.

Dalton already knew something of what happened to the three LCAs beaching at the Vierville Draw; of Bob Sales and the Headquarters LCA, of Charles Conner, Baumgarten and Perkins LCA and of the main body of his own 3rd Platoon. With the muzzle of his rifle pointing down, barrel to the left, Dalton separated the rifle stock from the barrel and receiver, separated the operating rod and removed the spring.

Much was said of the losses, of best friends and of good soldiers. Eight Officers and 185 enlisted B Company men had landed eighteen hours earlier, and in looking around at those remaining, Dalton could see that the company was seriously depleted.

He used the tip of a bullet to remove the operating rod pin and removed the bullet guide, operating arm and catch. Working the operating rod handle loose from the bolt, he slid the bolt free and lifted it out.

It seemed that Lieutenant Taylor's LCA beached on the far eastern edge of Dog Green and only three soldiers were lost in crossing the sand. By around 11a.m. the platoon had moved up the bluff to the edge of Vierville and then on through the village towards Ormel Farm. Drawing small arms fire from a field to the left of the farm, Taylor's platoon had attacked with rifle fire and

grenades. The engagement was said to be swiftly concluded when the dozen or so Germans surrendered, with no losses to the B Company men.

Dalton pulled out his little kits of wipes, linseed oil and ramrod style barrel brushes. After pushing a damp cloth through the bore, he ran the barrel brush through several times to remove any sediment. Taking a dry cloth and making sure it was absolutely clean, he pushed the cloth through the barrel to dry it and then lightly oiled it to ensure it didn't rust overnight.

After dealing with the prisoners, it appeared that Taylor led his platoon to the crossroads just beyond the Farm. Here two German trucks stopped several hundred yards further down the road and soldiers off-loaded to take up positions in the surrounding fields. Taylor apparently lost four men in the subsequent fire fight and pulled back to the farm buildings. The walls of the farm were slotted and the men were able to repulse the first attack, then with the arrival of some 20 Rangers, the farm was said to be comfortably held. Taylor did not withdraw until ordered by Canham to regroup at Vierville that evening.

Dalton treated the rifle chamber in the same meticulous way he had attended to the bore; all metal parts were cleaned with light coatings of oil, except for bolts, springs and rod cams which were cleansed with graphite cup grease and wiped off.

The 40 or so B Company men already at Vierville before Taylor and Pingnot arrived, must have been made up from the three landing craft beaching at and near the Vierville Draw and some from First Lieutenant Williams's craft. Williams had beached still further to the east of Vierville than Taylor. The British Naval crew were described as 'cool cookies' and had bided their time, continuing until they found a 'calmer section' and eventually landed their human cargo between WN 68 and WN 70 in the vicinity of Dog White. Reading between the lines, Dalton gathered that few casualties were incurred in crossing the beach.

It was at Dog White that Colonel Canham and his Command Team also sensibly landed, perhaps 30 minutes after Williams and set up a temporary command post there. Accounts of Canham's bravery in motivating the men pinned down on the beach stirred the men's pride in their regiment. The Colonel had apparently helped initiate one of the first penetrations inland; thus together with other units, Williams's platoon moved up the bluffs at Dog White and tackled the German emplacements.

Dalton had been told that as much care should be taken of the wooden parts and strap as the mechanical parts of the gun, to lightly apply linseed oil to the wood, to wash the sling, dry it and lightly treat it with neatsfoot oil to keep it pliable. But Dalton felt that would have to wait, maybe forever.

Lieutenant Williams was at first said to have been hit by two grenades and several bullets, but the story settled to him being lightly wounded when he crawled forward from his men to drop a grenade into a machine gun emplacement. Apparently Staff Sergeant Frank Price led the platoon on towards Vierville whilst Williams was picked up by medics. Price entered the village around the same time as Taylor and joined the lieutenant in the push to the crossroads and Ormel Farm.

Thus unbeknown to each other, the three B Company units had been involved in some of the earliest break outs from the western half of Omaha. The first being Pingnot on Charlie, then

Williams at Dog White, shortly followed by Taylor on the eastern edge of Dog Green.

"Shame they didn't have us all land at the softer spots," Clayton remarked. "Wonder who thought it a good idea to make a full frontal attack on the Vierville Draw?" he asked, but no one replied, they had no idea, hadn't even questioned the rationale. "Could have come from behind and taken the emplacements out from the start," he added.

Dalton dwelt a while on Clayton's words, then tried to make himself feel better by assuming that the people who knew best, must have had good reason to attack from the front.

The whispering and the story telling petered out, eating and cleaning done, the men fell quiet as the early hours slipped by. 2nd Lieutenant Taylor had reported to Divisional Command at the Quarry. As Acting Company Commander, Taylor returned to do a quick head count before dispatching a runner with a note. The runner was Marshmallow of course, his first real job of the day. He had turned in sick on the afternoon of the 4th and had arrived on Omaha at 6.30p.m. clean and 'as fresh as a daisy'. Marshmallow's note carried the news that 5 of the 8 officers and 100 of the 185 enlisted men were missing.

N.B.

(C Company of the 116th who were to follow B Company in at Dog Green, actually landed 1,000 yards to the left and lost only 20 of their 194 men in crossing the beach.)

Chapter 36 Down the Road

Normandy, 7th to 9th June 1944.

Working in pairs, with two hours on guard and two hours off, the 1st Battalion made the best of their first night on the narrow band of liberated French soil. Sometime after everyone fell silent, Charlie Connor walked to the edge of the bluff to take a nature call and in the dim light saw a German machine gun team scurrying past. On returning with several of the men, the enemy had already slipped into the gathering gloom. But the sighting led to an edgy rest, with sleep hard to come by and short in duration.

In the last hours of the short night, a thin veil of sea mist moved onshore to shroud the bodies and debris littering the beach. Pulling itself across the widening expanse of sand, it lay low and then crawled up the Vierville Draw, swirled and sunk into foxholes, clung to uniforms and to the exposed skin of the men and formed a cloak around the night watchmen - the silent watchmen who stood peering into the gloom with just their thoughts for company.

Dalton had slumped down into his foxhole sometime after waking Ted, around 3.30a.m. Ted was on last watch. The light levels appeared to increase well before 5a.m. but the promise of a new day dragged on until the anticipation was lost and trepidation again replaced hope. One night, whilst training on Salisbury Plain, Allbritton had commented to Dalton that the sun 'in these parts seems to hover below the horizon for a while' as though there was some debate as to whether it should rise.

By 6a.m. it was as light as the day was probably going to get, the sky still overcast and the mist vaporising away. Trucks, jeeps

and a few tanks started to make their way up from the beach and along the road through Vierville. Dalton slept despite the noise, deeper asleep than at any other point in the night. For having woken to see US vehicles moving inland, he had felt more secure. Sometime after first light Sergeant Campbell came down the ranks and told Ted that he could stand down; Ted immediately slouched over and fell asleep.

Clayton was the first of the platoon to rouse himself and the first to break open a K ration; the paraffin coated khaki box had done its job, holding together despite the damp. Pushing aside the coffee, soup powders and the crackers, he picked out what he was looking for, the precious cigarettes. The first few draws gave him the lift he needed; he got up and made his way over to a water pump in the back yard of a shell damaged building. Dalton woke to see him crossing back over the road with his helmet half filled with water. Clayton splashed his face clean of the previous day's grime, before lighting the wick of a Coleman stove with his Zippo lighter. He then placed his helmet with the remaining water over the flame until the water was hot enough to add the coffee powder. Allbritton, Ted and Dalton joined him and the four soldiers sat without talking and watched as more vehicles and men moved up the Vierville Draw. The coffee was the best they had tasted in a long time.

Of the new arrivals, the Sherman tanks were the most welcome sight. With their 450 horse power Ford engines, each of the 6m long hulks grated slowly up the incline. At 28 tons in weight, their maximum speed on the flat was just 28mph. It would be the first action for the fresh faced crews, five men per tank: the commander, gunner and loader in the turret and the driver and bow gunner in the hull. Though massive in appearance, Clayton commented that there was precious little room for five men, for once you take away the engine, tracks, the bogies and all the suspension units, there was little space left. Somewhere in amongst the crew were stored 97 shells for the main 75mm gun and all the ammunition for the three mounted machine guns. Dalton felt claustrophobic at the thought and preferred his chances in the open air. However with all its weaponry and armour plating, it looked an awesome and reassuring weapon to have on their side. Though little did they know how powerless it would be in the Normandy countryside and feeble by comparison to the German tanks. Between the tanks came the jeeps, a few M8 Armoured Cars, half-track personnel carriers and the important supply trucks.

By around 9a.m. under the orders of Colonel Canham, the three battalions of the 116th Regiment had been mustered and prepared to advance from Omaha. It was essential to break out from their tentative toe hold before the enemy counter attacked, though fortunately German armoured and infantry divisions were still being held in their reserve positions. The high command still believing that the Normandy invasion was a feint, with Pas de Calais the actual target of the Allies.

1st Battalion, comprising of what was left of A and B companies and the less depleted C and D Companies were to push west along the D514. They would be accompanied by 2nd and 5th Rangers. The column of some 550 men, 10 Shermans and a sprinkling of other vehicles did well to leave Vierville at around mid-morning. The road ran parallel to and no more than one



The road to Point du Hoc with ominous farm buildings with slits for windows.

thousand yards from the cliffs which stretched from Vierville, past Pointe et Raz de la Percée to Pointe du Hoc. It was to Pointe du Hoc that the column was heading to relieve the three companies of 2nd Rangers who had scaled the cliffs there and who had since been pinned down by the 352nd German Infantry.

Walking in two columns, one on each side of the road, the men passed the high stone walls of the outlying buildings of Vierville. They passed huge substantially built houses, like manors with equally huge barns made from the same beige stone as the cliffs. The buildings surpassed anything Dalton had seen except perhaps the few stately homes they had come across in England. Some were intact whilst others had suffered the bombs destined for the beach. With the road rising slightly for three tenths of a mile to reach open countryside, the men got into their stride. The small fields bounded by hedgerows made them feel as if they were back on manoeuvres in England; the countryside equally lush green and the plants identical, with the May blossom and cow parsley. The tanks rumbled and clanked along the hard surface and threw up clouds of dust which covered the infantrymen. It lightened the mud patches and stains on their uniforms and it filled their lungs. Those who walked close to the tanks, believing they were safer there, also struggled with the exhaust fumes which made them feel light headed.

Ditches lined either side of the road, hedges bordered them to act as a fence to the field and farm buildings frequently interspersed the route, telling the farm boys amongst them, that this was fertile ground. The barn walls sometimes sat right along the edge of the road, the slit windows appearing as if designed for military defence.

Now the naval bombardment was in evidence at every turn: more damaged buildings, shell craters, dead cattle in the fields and wrecked German vehicles with the dead still occupying them. The smell of bloated carcasses was sickening but worse was the smell of the soldiers decaying. They had seen many dead but not like these, for the oxygen had long since left their bodies, not pink, nor pale, or even blue, but purple and swelling. Swelling beyond recognition of the men they once were. Liquids oozed from their wounds and openings to grossly exaggerate



Huge stone buildings on the road to Point du Hoc, led many to believe that the Normans were rich folk.

their distorted shapes. The smell was as foul as the sight and the two created a nauseating concoction.

Problem was that unlike yesterday, Dalton had time to contemplate what he saw; the unique images drawn, sketches of horror, created and hung as if in a living gallery. A paratrooper caught up in the branches of a tree, suspended like a tasteless symbol, limp and motionless, to portray war in a way words cannot. The living passed the spectacle by and carried the image with them until their memory faded into their last breath of air.

The column stopped up ahead and the line of men, like the body of a caterpillar, shuffled and concertinaed to a halt. The land to their left fell away to the Aure valley and the slightly raised nature of the road made the work of snipers that much easier. A sniper had hit for a second time and someone at the front was going to do something about it. A staff sergeant and a few riflemen slid off down a hedgerow, the trees beyond it perhaps concealing the dedicated man. Most of the column sat in the ditches on either side of the road, some lit up and some fell asleep. The ditches were well trimmed as was the custom; to the French landowner, a good ditch was as much an indication of good breeding as it was of good land management. The depth and shape of them and the softness of the tended grass was strangely comforting and Dalton also grabbed what extended to a fifteen minute nap. A burst of small arms fire acted as a signal to fall back in and the column continued, delayed by just one man. Further along the road, Dalton passed Charlie Connor lying in the ditch as still as death, hit by the sniper so he presumed. By the time Connor woke up, B Company were almost out of sight.

About a mile further down the road, a German machine gun team opened up on the lead men and again the men took cover in the ditches. This isn't so bad Dalton thought as he lay down and tried to catch another nap.

"Beats yesterday," Clayton said, taking out another cigarette, more than happy to take in the brightening sky and warmth that had started to pierce the cloud. The German gun crew had done their job and held up the column. Having been left isolated, good sense prevailed above valour and they filtered off into woodland. The column continued with one less private as though nothing had happened, without pursuing or further pursuit from the German machine gun team.

Sometime after midday the battalion snaked into St. Pierre du

Mont, a 1,000 yard ribbon of buildings, some of which were again huge, perhaps 100 feet wide - like Dewlish house but bigger and Dalton wondered if the Normans were renowned for being wealthy. At the limit of the village the land stretched out on either side again, with the village church way over to the right and what seemed like another very large residence to the left of it. The view might have been insignificant had a German artillery unit not used the last house of the village as a range marker, perhaps guided by a spotter in the church tower. With the shells raining in, the guys hid behind the tanks, scattered over garden walls and into front yards. Dalton leapt over a low stone wall, Ted virtually threw himself over and landed on Clayton's leg nearly breaking it. Thinking something more sinister had struck him, Clayton screamed out and his overreaction tickled his buddies' sense of humour. But any inclination to chuckle was swiftly snuffed out by the screams of men who really had been hit.

Mortars fell and 88 mm shells shrieked in to explode on and around the road, causing craters and hitting buildings. Without foxholes, the men simply clung to the earth and pulled themselves ever closer to it, luck and prayer their only protection. After the relatively calm start to the day, Dalton had managed to fool himself that things would get better, but now, caught in the open, amidst butchered men, he knew it wasn't going to. With the terrible noise and smell of cordite came the shouting of officers and non coms. Fire was returned, mortar crews pulled themselves together and the tanks started to pound the area from which the shelling emanated. But the tanks had little manoeuvrability on the narrow road and rather than risk losing them, the column pulled back 800 yards. During the encounter B Company went down to just two officers, losing 2nd Lieutenant Pingenet, hit by shrapnel. Staff Sergeant (Toad) Padgett found him in a shell crater and helped carry him to the care of medics. Roy Perkins sustained shrapnel wounds serious enough to end his combat days; to be shipped back to England and perhaps Pat's loving arms, the best of the options on offer so it now seemed to Dalton.

The dead were pulled into the ditches and the column entered the fields between the village and the cliffs, digging in for the night within the sound of the waves. They were only a few hundred yards from Point Du Hoc, but the battalion had suffered another thirty-five casualties and the 2nd Rangers would have to wait until the next morning to be relieved.

A cloud burst, though short lived, turned the surface of the churned up fields near St. Pierre into a thin layer of mud which caked onto boots. And in a way that only mud can, mysteriously spread onto almost every section of clothing and equipment as the men established the emplacements and dug their foxholes. D Company, the heavy weapons unit, set up their water cooled Browning automatic machine guns and 81mm mortars so that the centre and flanks of the battalion were covered. 4th Platoon, the heavy weapons platoon of B Company, did the same with their air cooled Browning and 50mm mortars to protect the integrity of their own B Company men.

The digging in was undisturbed by the enemy or further downpours and long before dark the men started to get some food in their bellies, clean their weapons and establish watch routines. Sitting on the edge of his foxhole, Dalton spread the bouillon

soup powder from a K ration onto the spam C ration to give it a more palatable tangy flavour and for good measure opened a tin of spaghetti. With his stomach comforted, he placed another priority before the care of his weapon this night, the care of his feet; to the foot soldier the care of feet was vital. They would have to carry him from battle to encounter to engagement, along roads, across fields and likely many miles in the days to come. Dalton removed his boots and socks to air and hopefully dry and saw Ted doing the same. It reminded him of the way his mamma used to prepare little Virginia Mae for an outing. Any bits clinging to the socks were meticulously removed, the material smoothed over the foot to iron out wrinkles, not just once but several times. Finally he pulled the laces to just the right tension, no tighter and no looser than he knew would ensure a comfortable mile or many miles, whatever was required of them, at whatever the time of day or night.

On his first two hour watch, Dalton peered through the hedgerow as dusk killed colour and shape. The cluster of bushes, the spinney or the wood beyond, perhaps concealing nothing more than cowering mammals scared of all the new noises and smells, or perhaps they concealed the enemy waiting to strike. The vegetation provided dense cover, the deciduous trees like oak, maple, birch, ash and elm spreading over hardy thistles, nettles and other plants growing below them. So different to a Virginian pine forest, for it offered concealment and yet also concealed the enemy.

Allbritton had paired up with Clayton as Dalton had with Ted and they too would be taking turns at peering at something or nothing, real or imagined - their first night in the moist Normandy countryside. The only mammal bold enough to venture out that night was a solitary bat, which swooped across the field beyond where Dalton was standing; devouring the flying insects which seemed to proliferate in the abundant terrain. There were no birds or bird sounds, likely driven away by events. But as night descended completely so came the scratching and scraping of insects, heard loudest by the men in their foxholes; for the insects searched in the humus, the earth their home and life source. Intermingled with these natural sounds were the grunts of men getting comfortable in unfamiliar surroundings, of whispering, the tinkle of metal, the flap of a strap or the reassuring sound of a human nature call. These intermittent sounds were themselves enveloped by the distant rhythm of the waves, waves which indiscriminately maintained their assault on the Normandy cliffs less than a mile to the north.

With the enemy perhaps only a few hundred yards away to the west and with casualties of the day fresh in their minds, the guards stood alert, guns ready and fingers twitching. In the small hours, two soldiers fired at an 'approaching' intruder who failed to respond to their clicker code. The M1 Rifle fire woke all but the most exhausted however with no return fire, nerves soon settled, eyelids drooped, muscles relaxed and weapons were laid back down. In the morning a bullet ridden cow lay a few yards from where the guards had fired.

By 5.00a.m. only harmless light pierced into the subconscious of the sleeping soldiers; then a naval bombardment of the German positions several hundred yards to the west finished the wake up call.

Dalton sat up in his foxhole and brushed off the slugs that had crawled onto his raincoat with the early morning dew; the grass and hedgerow were wet with it and he was glad he had drawn the coat up to his helmet before falling asleep. Two short periods of sleep, perhaps three hours in all, made a total of no more than five hours in the last three nights. Allbritton dragged himself out of the next foxhole and threw Dalton a chocolate bar. Tucking a few precious squares of olive drab toilet paper inside his helmet liner webbing and picking up his entrenching tool, Allbritton walked off for a nature call. His uniform was still patchy from the mud accumulated the previous day and by the time he came back, was muddier still with fresh wet mud and bits of leaves attached.

Clayton had somehow managed to collect enough water for the four of them to share coffee and sitting on his pup tent canvas he looked a wiry old soldier. The men washed back the hot liquid and surveyed their surroundings for the first time in the light. A chilly wind had picked up and a fine drizzle fell from the grey sky to quietly penetrate their clothing.

"Just as cold in June as winter back home," one remarked.

"Yea, just like England," said another, whilst Clayton laughed at the use of his pup tent ...

"We need a water proof ground sheet, not a God Damn tent," he chuckled.

A few soldiers had been detailed to remove the dead GIs from the field and their movement distracted the buddies. Two of the dead had already been there when the company entered the field and had given rise to the smell which had pervaded the air during the night. A third soldier had been hit by a sniper during the early morning. The four friends watched as the swollen, putrid bodies were placed onto woollen GI blankets and with soldiers holding each corner, dragged over to the road and left in the ditch for collection. With the dead, thankfully also went the smell and the buddies drew strange satisfaction from its dismissal.

"That coffee sure tasted good," someone commented as the last body was dragged out of sight and mind; dismissing them as real soldiers must.

With the growing light the men made ready to move west towards Pointe du Hoc and prepared for the day's likely encounters. The naval bombardment continued through the first part of the morning and then quietened as it focused on targets further west. Rather than returning to the road and facing whatever now lay waiting there, the battalion struck out across country. The pace was slow and cautious as they walked across fields, through woodland and pushed through hedgerows. Slow not least because they had to carry all their weapons as well as all their worldly goods.

The naval bombardment had done its job in scattering the enemy encircling the 2nd Rangers and the 116th 1st Battalion joined up with them at Pointe Du Hoc without incident. But before the milling men could come to some sort of order, they were suddenly attacked with machine gun fire and mortars.

The 116th 3rd Battalion had come up to support the 1st and approaching Pointe Du Hoc from the south had mistaken the American position as German. The onslaught was short lived and the casualties few but the incident left a nasty taste in everyone's mouth, their first of friendly fire. With a respite of a couple of

hours, casualties were dealt with and Dalton and his buddies consumed their remaining rations and grabbed what sleep they could in yet another foxhole; dug into stony ground.

The two remaining B Company Officers met with the other battalion officers in one of the least damaged German gun emplacements. A captain talked with the Regimental CP on one of the scarce SCR 300 radios whilst other less senior officers scanned a creased and dirty map. The SCR 300 was used at company and battalion level, whereas the handy-talkie, the SCR 536, was used at company and platoon level. Surviving 536s were also few and far between after the landings but in B Company their scarcity had not been such a problem. With well under half the men and just 2nd Lieutenant Taylor and 2nd Lieutenant Varadian remaining, communication wasn't exactly complex.

Around midday, 1st Battalion, rejoined by half a dozen tanks, was ordered to push three miles along the coast road towards Maisy.

The Naval guns could now be heard again in the distance, bombarding the coastal town of Grandcamp Maisy and in so doing, attempting to make life easier for the approaching infantrymen. Pushing through Grandcamp and just several hundred yards from Maisy the column passed an old French couple. They stood on the doorstep of what must have been their home; a house partly in ruins, surrounded by a ravaged farm. They watched the men pass, the occasional soldier nodded to them and the couple returned the acknowledgment, the tears squashed by smiles on their lined faces. The quiet step of the rubber soled boots on the road was intermittently drowned by the next tank to trundle past, then when the last soldier passed by and the tanks were distant, the couple were left alone, to start the first day of the rest of their free life.

Maisy, like Grandcamp, had been devastated by the naval bombardment. The great coastal guns, the Maisy battery, had been silenced, emplacements and civilian homes damaged and the defenders demoralised. Some initial resistance was answered by the tanks, which fired on the few positions still manned and working. However, with the threat of further shelling, the Germans surrendered to the dirty, sweaty and dishevelled men of the 116th. Unshaven, unwashed, with frayed nerves to match their frayed uniforms, the guys were daunting in appearance and intent. With terrible losses so fresh in their memories, written across their faces was the message to co-operate or else. Most of the captured Germans obeyed and were thankful for their lives and those that didn't weren't a problem for long.

The 1st Battalion remained in Maisy during the night of the 8th June. Despite the attraction of sleeping in and around the buildings, the units sensibly dug in and set up defences in strategic open areas. Remaining resistance was dealt with in the early morning and the men made ready to head further into France. However, a heavy barrage of artillery onto the D514 south of the town forced them west of the road and down towards the wet coastal plain. Crossing then the low lying fields and hedgerows they captured the small village of G fosse Fontenay around mid morning.

At G fosse Fontenay the men were still no more than 2,000 yards from the sea, however by early afternoon of the same day, they had finally started to push into the Normandy countryside.

Heading south-eastward they reached the higher ground above the Aure Valley and followed a contour with dark woodland beyond. Just what did the darkness harbour Dalton wondered as he blindly followed his officers.

Well before dusk and some three miles from G fosse, the battalion dug into the fields above the village of St. Germain du Pert. That evening all three battalions of the 116th Regiment were ordered into division reserve; it had been a long and costly first few days.

B Company Casualties 6th - 9th June 1944 Enlisted men and Officers

Compiled from B Company morning reports, National Personnel Records Centre, St. Louis, Missouri.

By the morning of the 9th June, remaining B Company Officers had managed to produce more reliable lists of casualties. But they did not distinguish between losses on the 6th with those on the 7th, 8th and 9th June.

Abbreviations used

Pvt	Private	KIA	killed in action
Pfc	Private first class	SWA	seriously wounded
Sgt	Sergeant	SWA*	Later died of wounds
S/Sgt	Staff Sergeant	LWA	lightly wounded
T/Sgt	Tech Sergeant	MIA	missing in action
LT	Lieutenant	MIA*	later confirmed KIA
CPT	Captain		

In the heat of battle, with often fraught communications, distinguishing between LWA and SWA wasn't always an exact science. Mach Smith for example, listed as LWA had his eyeball knocked out. In contrast, some men listed as LWA returned to the company within a relatively short time. However it was invariably the end of the war for a man listed as SWA.

Name	Rank	Classification
Austen Robert J.	S/Sgt	SWA
Barnes John G.	Pfc	LWA
Barnett William D.	Pvt	MIA*
Bercholz Joseph M.	Pfc	KIA
Bray Claude V.	Pvt	KIA
Bratten Thomas E.	Sgt	MIA*
Brooks James C.	Pfc	KIA
Brown Staunton M.	Sgt	KIA
Brulotte Roger G.	Pvt	MIA*
Brownell Claude H.	Pfc	KIA
Butzko George M.	Pvt	SWA
Byrnes Chalres T.	Pvt	KIA
Carnrike Frank E.	Sgt	KIA
Cartwright Francis E.	Pfc	SWA
Chesney Benjamin	Pfc	KIA
Cheek Frank J.	Pfc	KIA
Childress William H.	Pfc	SWA
Chipps William R.	Pfc	KIA
Churchill Joseph B.	Sgt	SWA*
Cicerona George	Pvt	SWA
Collins Charles L.	Pfc	LWA

Colvin	Frank H.	Sgt	SWA	Pisar	George	Pvt	SWA*
Couch	Francis J.	Pvt	MIA	Pluta	Metro	Pvt	MIA*
Dearing	Leonard F.	Pvt	KIA	Pott	Milton h.	Pfc	LWA
Dirtoma	Frank J.	Pvt	MIA*	Rafferty	Laverne E.	Pfc	SWA
Dittmar	Robert L.	Pvt	MIA	Reyes	Robert B.	Pfc	MIA*
Donaldson	Harold C.	1LT	KIA	Riggs	Clairus L.	Pfc	MIA*
Drumheller	William A.	Pfc	KIA	Riley	Medford H.	Sgt	SWA
Eckardt	George F.	Pfc	MIA*	Rinker	Garnet L.	Pfc	MIA*
Edney	Walter A.	Pvt	LWA	Roach	John A.	T/Sgt	LWA
Eiseman	Henry M.	Pfc	LWA	Roach	Walter W.	Pfc	KIA
Evans	Joseph D.	Pfc	SWA	Roberson	Clarence E.	S/Sgt	KIA
Ferrell	William E.	S/Sgt	KIA	Rose	Albert C.	Pvt	KIA
Felix	Joseph A.	Sgt	LWA	Sadusky	Frank	Pfc	MIA*
Frisby	Ralph B.	2LT	SWA	Schools	William E.	Pfc	MIA*
Fridley	Thomas H.	Pvt	KIA	Shope	Forrest C.	Pfc	KIA
Garbett	Robert L.	Pfc	MIA*	Smith	Augustus W.	Pfc	SWA
Godwin	James D.	Pvt	MIA*	Smith	Mack L.	Pct	LWA
Harlow	Willis M.	Pfc	SWA	Stanton	Byron L.	Pfc	KIA
Hawn	George A.	Pfc	KIA	Stedman	William A.	Pfc	KIA
Holmes	John	S/Sgt	KIA	Stoviak	William V.	Pfc	LWA
Jennings	Ralph E.	S/Sgt	KIA	Strizak	Frank	Pfc	MIA
Johnson	Hogan M.	S/Sgt	KIA	Svebeda	Clarence	Pvt	SWA
Kafkalas	Nicholas S.	Pvt	MIA*	Torowski	Daniel L.	Pvt	MIA
Kennedy	Paul M.	Sgt	KIA	Umberger	William A.	Pfc	MIA
Kernoll	Russell T.	Pvt	KIA	Wade	Audy F.	Pfc	SWA
Kincer,	John T.	T/5 Med	KIA	Walter	Eugene M.	Pfc	SWA
Knight	Alva J.	Pfc	MIA*	Waite	Richard A.	Pvt	KIA
Kolouch	Leonard F.	Pvt	SWA	Williams	William B.	1LT	SWA
Koshinski	Francis E.	Pfc	MIA*	Wilson	Jerome E.	Pfc	KIA
Krummert	Aloys R.	Pfc	SWA	Winkler	Emil	1LT	KIA
Kucera	William	Sgt	MIA*	Womack	Daniel P.	S/Sgt	KIA
Kufta	Conrad V.	Pfc	MIA*	Wooldridge	Lexley L.	Sgt	SWA
Kulka	Francis J.	Pfc	SWA	Wright	James A.	S/Sgt	KIA
Laffin	William C.	S/Sgt	KIA	Yarbrough	James B.	Pvt	SWA
Latin	Peter P.	Pvt	SWA	Young	Willie E.	Pvt	KIA
Lee	Basil	Pfc	KIA	Zappacosta	Ettore V.	CPT	MIA*
Linton	Charles K.	Pfc	LWA				
Lurie	Harry	Pfc	MIA*				
Macaluso	Eugene	Pfc	KIA				
Maffe	William J.	Pfc	MIA*				
Magila	Edmund M.	Pvt	SWA				
Malmberg	Kayo T.	T/Sgt	MIA*				
Mandino	Vincent J.	Pfc	MIA*				
Manning	William A.	Pvt	SWA				
Marks	Thomas J.	Pfc	MIA*				
Marshall	John W.	Pvt	SWA				
Martin	Douglas M.	Pfc	LWA				
McCarthy	William J.	Pvt	KIA				
Melanda	Stanaley L.	Pvt	SWA				
Messer	John L.	Pvt	KIA				
Minor	Michael W.	Pfc	SWA				
Nickol	Dallas A.	Pvt	MIA*				
Nuzzo	Frank	Pfc	MIA*				
Odee	Charles W.	Pfc	MIA*				
Overman	Clifford C.	Pvt	KIA				
Palmer	Robert E.	Pvt	KIA				
Pellegrini	Joseph L.	Pfc	SWA*				
Perkins	Roy L.	Pfc	SWA				
Pingenot	Leon A.	2LT	SWA				

The author, Robbie Slaughter was born and raised in London. After studying Physics and Computer Science at Aston University, he taught physics at schools in the Midlands, becoming Assistant Head Teacher and gaining a Masters Degree in Education along the way.

In 2000, he left teaching to run his own business and later began research for his book—a journey which has taken him across England, into the Normandy countryside of France and over to the eastern states of the USA.

Robbie is married to Lorna and they have three sons. Their eldest son is in the British Army.

To be continued in the Summer 2017 edition.

Thank you for your donations to the "Twenty-Niner". They are greatly appreciated and help keep the newsletter coming. Please continue to support our upcoming issues. Donations can be sent to:

Editor/NED William S. Mund
P.O. Box 47634
Windsor Mill, MD 21244-0634

Without our generous readers, we could not exist. Thanks again!

VAARNG's 116th MET completes overseas mission

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – The Virginia National Guard's 116th Military Engagement Team marked the official completion of their overseas mission Jan. 9, 2017, during a Transfer of Authority ceremony held at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. During the ceremony, the 116th MET passed the mission to the Kentucky National Guard's 149th Military Engagement Team.

"Thank you for a job well done," said Maj. Gen. William B. Hickman, deputy commanding general – operations for U.S. Army Central, who presided over the ceremony. "You can all be proud of what you've accomplished."

To mark the transition between the METs, Col. Todd Hubbard, commander of the 116th MET, and Lt. Col. Joseph Gardner, commander of the 149th MET, re-

placed the Virginia state flag flown over the headquarters tent with the state flag of Kentucky. This act marked the end of the 116th's mission and the official start of the 149th's.

During their nine-month overseas mobilization, the 116th MET was based in Kuwait, with Soldiers also training in Jordan, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Oman. The 26-Soldier team conducted 53 engagements with military members from 12 countries, including Uzbekistan, Lebanon, the United Kingdom and Tajikistan. In Jordan, team members completed more than 150 engagements with leaders of the Kingdom's military. Collectively, the team flew more than 1 million kilometers, drove more than 100,000 kilometers and spent more than 1,200 man days on mission, traveling throughout the region and working with military members of partner nations.

"In May, I stood on this stage and told you the 116th MET was ready for its mission," Hubbard said during the ceremony. "I'm happy to report today that we fulfilled that mission."

During their travels, Soldiers of the 116th MET worked in small teams, often pulling in subject matter experts from other units in the region, engaging with partner nation military members on topics including infantry tactics, tactical communications, border security and control, professional development and the military decision making process. Each engagement, no matter the location, aimed to build or enhance relationships with partner nation military members and also to identify and expand on commonalities between the U.S. military and our partners, sharing best practices and lessons learned along the way.

"The MET punches above its weight," Hickman explained. "It really is a small group of leaders, but their impact is felt across the [region] on a weekly basis, whether it's in Jordan going out almost daily with our partners there, or in other countries participating in training exercises or other events."

For the 116th MET, their mobilization experience started with a

few drill weekends at the end of 2015 and the beginning of 2016, when the team first came together. From there, the team spent approximately three weeks at Fort Pickett, the Virginia National Guard's premier training site, working on basic Soldier skills, building their operations order and learning more about their upcoming mission. The team then headed south, to Fort Hood, Texas, where they conducted medical and administrative tasks to assess unit proficiencies for deployment, as well as other key training tasks, including a

mission readiness exercise that aimed to validate the team on their ability to conduct the MET mission. Finally, in mid-April, the team headed overseas to begin their mission. They spent the latter part of April and the first few days of May working with the North



Members of the 116th Military Engagement Team pose for a group photo at their Transfer of Authority Ceremony on 9 Jan 17, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

Carolina National Guard's 30th Military Engagement Team before officially taking charge on May 8, 2016.

"What we discovered is that we can learn a lot from our partners," Hubbard said. "Not only can you learn how to live in the desert, how to work with non-U.S. equipment or maybe just adapting to the weather and terrain, but you also learn how to assemble a team, how to do a mission brief, how to travel to a foreign country, how to lead your team through an engagement, how to use a linguist and how to return safely to base."

The 116th MET was comprised of Soldiers from various Virginia National Guard units, all pulled together under the 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Collectively, the team has more than 500 years of experience, with team members completing 45 deployments and specializing in a variety of fields including field artillery, aviation, infantry, military intelligence and engineering.

"A MET really is hand-picked," said Hickman. "It's 26 leaders that come in here and they're all handpicked by the leaders coming and they're specially trained to do this mission. They'll take this experience working with other nations, working with other militaries and they'll develop themselves as better leaders as they go out and accomplish other missions."

Following their Transfer of Authority ceremony, the majority of the 116th MET packed the last of their belongings and headed back to Fort Hood for a few days of out-processing before flying back home. Several members of the team in Kuwait, Jordan and Oman will stay in country for an additional four to six weeks to ensure maximum continuity during the transition between the 116th and 149th METs.

"I know you realize how valuable this deployment was, not only for our partners, but also for you and your future readiness," Hubbard said. "I appreciate your positive energy and your tremendous effort throughout this mission."

Article by Mr. Cotton Puryear, VAARNG Public Affairs

HHC 29th Combat Aviation Brigade deploys

The unit will serve as the headquarters element for the 29th CAB, which will consist of more than 1,500 soldiers from multiple aviation units spanning more than a dozen states.



Nearly 200 members of the Maryland Army National Guard's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 29th Combat Aviation Brigade deployed from Edgewood, MD, on 29 January 2017, to provide full-spectrum aviation capabilities in support of ongoing operations in the Middle East. The 29th CAB is an integral element of the 29th Division.

Since 9/11, the brigade has deployed units in Kosovo and Bosnia, and also in direct support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. It also supported Hurricane Gustav relief operations in Louisiana and the 2009 Presidential Inauguration.

The 29th CAB returned from supporting the end of Operation New Dawn in Iraq from 2011-2012. After Operation New Dawn, the brigade established the first aviation brigade operation, sup-

porting Army Central Command in Kuwait, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia.

The unit had the Army's only deck landing qualified attack battalion while it supported stability in the Arabian Gulf.

The 29th CAB is commanded by Colonel Mark Beckler. The Command Chief Warrant Officer is CW5 Gino Spescia and the Command Sergeant Major is CSM Steven McKenna. The 29th CAB's home station is the Edgewood Armory in Edgewood MD.

29th Division Association members from Eder-George Post 85 were on hand to join with the families of the deployed soldiers in wishing them well. National Commander Bob Wisch along with several other national officers also attended the event.

Text provided by the MD Military Department and the "Twenty-Niner" editorial staff.

29th Combat Aviation Brigade mobilizing and moving out

FORT HOOD, Texas - When the 29th Infantry Division prepared for deployment to Europe prior to D-Day landings in 1944, it must have been an arduous effort. As the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB) mobilizes and moves to Iraq and Kuwait, the planners and Soldiers are working just as hard as their predecessors.

Soldiers of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company 29th Combat Aviation Brigade, the 2nd Battalion 149th General Support Aviation Regiment and 449th Aviation Support Battalion came together here to load and move hundreds of vehicles, trailers and equipment to be shipped from Texas to destinations in the Middle East.

"Movement of a brigade-sized element is not an easy task," said Master Sgt. Scott Trimble, logistics non-commissioned offi-

cer in charge, 29th CAB. He added, "The brigade had to coordinate with eight states in order to make this mission happen."

The coordination efforts involved both military and civilian counterparts working together.

"Coordination of such an event involved multiple players, civilian contractors of the Rail Operations Center (ROC) and the DRRF (Deployment Ready Reaction Field) played an intricate part in ensuring that we had all of the information needed to execute movement in the most efficient manner," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Robert Smith, mobility officer for 29th CAB.

All of the teams involved were able to work together and accomplish the mission with ease.

"We were impressed by the professionalism and efficiency of



A Soldier holds up the “stop” hand signal as he prepares to guide a pallet load system vehicle onto the rail car. Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company 29th CAB, 2nd Battalion 149th General Support Aviation Regiment and 449th Aviation Support Battalion loaded hundreds of pieces of equipment onto the rail cars at the Rail Operations Center located in Fort Hood, Texas.

U.S. Army photo by Col. Mark Beckler, Brigade Commander, 29th Combat Aviation Brigade.

these National Guard soldiers,” said Mr. Travis Davis, document team manager of the ROC.

“These Soldiers were able to inventory and load over 300 pieces of cargo and vehicles two days ahead of schedule, without injury, they definitely made our jobs easier,” Davis added. It takes time to plan a mission of this magnitude, putting together the right team makes a difference.

“Chief Warrant Officer 3 Smith is definitely one of the best mobility warrant officers in the Army; if anybody can get us and our equipment to the Middle East, he can. I have tremendous confidence in our entire movement and logistics team,” said Col. Mark Beckler, 29th CAB commander.

Pre-planning of such an event took over eight months, said Staff Sgt. Jimmy Algarin, transportation management coordinator, 29th CAB, “We had over six months back and forth to make this happen.”

After their sealift departs Texas, the 29th CAB will use U.S. Air Force strategic airlift assets to move their remaining helicopters, equipment and personnel to multiple locations in the Middle East. The 29th CAB mobility warrant officer CW3 Smith, must ensure that the airlifts arrive at the right locations in the correct sequence, which will enable 29th CAB Soldiers to begin conducting missions in the shortest time possible.

When the 29th CAB arrives in Kuwait, they will see familiar faces. More than 400 Twenty-Niners from the 29th Infantry Division are already working in Kuwait.

The 29th CAB looks forward to supporting 29th ID and other U.S. Forces and allies in the region, and without the CAB mobility team, this mission wouldn’t be possible.

“If you plan for 80 percent of your mission, then navigating the remaining 20 percent is easy,” said Algarin.

Article by 1st Lt. Steve James & Staff Sgt. Isolda Reyes



Transportation management coordinator, Staff Sgt. Jimmy Algarin, (left), updates Lt. Col. David Paolucci, 29th CAB executive officer, on the status of movement operations at the Deployment Ready Rail Field as drivers prepare to move vehicles to the Rail Operations Center, Fort Hood, Texas. Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company 29th CAB, 2nd Battalion 149th General Support Aviation Regiment and 449th Aviation Support Battalion loaded hundreds of pieces of equipment onto the rail cars at the ROC located in Fort Hood, Texas.

U.S. Army photo by Col. Mark Beckler, Brigade Commander, 29th Combat Aviation Brigade

Donald C. Van Roosen

11 August 1923 — 29 December 2016

Past National Commander — 2000 - 2001

Past National Commander Donald C. Van Roosen, a longtime resident of Winchester, MA, and Pinehurst, NC passed away Thursday, 29 December 2016, in Sandy, OR, at 93 years of age.

He was born in Boston on 11 August 1923. He entered the U.S. Army in April 1943 and joined the 29th Infantry Division in England as a private in January 1944.

He landed in Normandy on D-Day at Omaha Beach, and was a prisoner of war for 10 days during the final assault on the city of Brest in Brittany. He received a battlefield commission in October 1944.

PNC Van Roosen's combat decorations included the Silver Star; Bronze Star with 2 clusters, Purple Heart with 3 clusters, a Presidential Unit Citation, and the Combat Infantry Badge.



After World War II, he continued his service in the U.S. Army Reserve for a total of 23 years of mili-

tary service, including 12 years in Special Forces. He retired in 1970 as a lieutenant colonel.

He graduated from Harvard College in 1949 and later worked in manufacturing sales and as an international marketing consultant. His volunteer work included over 50 years with the Boy Scouts of America, receiving their highest awards, the Silver Beaver and the Silver Antelope, in 1985.

PNC Van Roosen was married to Nancy Johnston Crough in 1950, and later to Marcia Hunnefield Vantine, in 1987, both deceased. He had three children: Christine, Laurie Clarke, and Hugh; and four grandchildren: Annie and Dale Clarke, Allison and Hugh. He is sorely missed.

The funeral will be held in Manchester, MA, at a future date.

Blue and Gray Ball to highlight the 99th Convention & Annual Reunion

(Continued from page 1)

Constellation, WW-II submarine USS Torsk, Phillips Seafood, Hard Rock Café, etc.

The Hospitality Room will be open upon your return and again later after a buffet dinner.

The 29th Division Association's Annual Business Meeting and the election of 2018 National Officers will be held on Saturday. Afterward, there will be a Post Commander's Workshop.

A Hunt Valley Inn shuttle bus will be available for those not attending the meetings to take you to the nearby Hunt Valley Town Center for shopping and lunch.

The highlight of the 99th Convention and Annual Reunion and a night to remember will take place on Saturday evening in the beautiful Maryland Room of the Hunt Valley Inn.

Members and guests will be served a delicious plated dinner followed by a guest speaker and the installation of 2018 National Officers.

The Blue and Gray Ball

As soon as the after dinner ceremonies are over, the Blue and Gray Ball will begin. The twenty piece, big band sound of "Ain't Misbehaving" will take you back to the 1940's and 50's when the 29th Division held the Blue and Gray Ball in the Fifth Regiment Armory.

The dance floor will be open or you can relax and listen to the sounds of Glen Miller, Tommy Dorsey and Harry James. Vocalist, Brenda Blackwell, will revive the song, "It's Been a Long, Long Time" which was the favorite song of 29ers' returning home from World War II. Kitty Kallen introduced the song when she was the vocalist for Harry James and was later crowned "Miss Blue and Gray" of the 29th Division.

There will be an open bar during the first hour of The Blue and Gray Ball

The 29th Division Association's Memorial Service will be held Sunday morning followed by a National Executive Committee meeting for 2018 National Officers.

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

Eyes on the Sky: 29th ID Soldiers enhance theatre capabilities

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait (25 January 2017) – Air Defense capabilities are constantly upgrading to stay ahead of emerging threats. Soldiers are trained on a variety of systems and equipment at the Air Defense schoolhouse, but for many this training will be their only experience with a majority of the systems, especially for Soldiers serving in Division-level units.

When Soldiers with the 29th Infantry Division Air Missile Defense Team were granted a chance to implement their training on the latest radar systems here, members of the unit saw it as a chance for the unit's Sentinel Radar team to embrace the rare opportunity and lead the way for divisions to follow as they participate in Operation Spartan Shield.

"The 29th ID is laying out the groundwork upon which future divisions will fall in," said Capt. Nicole Vajda, 29th ID Sentinel Radar officer-in-charge. "Incoming divisions will be able to begin operations almost immediately, allowing seamless transitions from one division to the next."

The unit trained on the advanced Sentinel radar, an advanced radar designed to provide persistent air surveillance and fire control quality data through command and control systems to defeat unmanned aerial systems, cruise missiles and fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft threats.

It was the second exposure to the system for the 29th ID AMD team. The team initially familiarized themselves with the system while participating in the division's Warfighter Exercise during mobilization. Following the exercise, the radars were sent to theater where the Soldiers promptly set up the equipment, eager to test it out. With the direction of Vajda, they emplaced and set up the radar, generator, and shelter. Once all of the cables were attached and the last electricity grounding stake hammered into the ground, the team could start detecting.

"We were not positive the systems would pick up certain tracks," said Vajda, in reference to detectable objects in the air space. But any uncertainty before the exercise dissipated when the radar proved itself.

"It was exciting –after the exercise we were even more confident in system capabilities," Vajda said.

Currently the Sentinel is the only 360-degree coverage air defense radar that the Army maintains. The radars that 29th ID deployed are the latest model which are capable of hosting an enhanced armor protection kit that increases Soldier survivability. The improved platform allows for installation of equipment that in turn offers the ability to be coordinated with the Army Integrated Air & Missile Defense systems.

Experience with various radar systems is key. With Vajda's main background in the slightly different field of Global Missile Air Defense, the unit looked to Staff Sgt. Romando Green, the Air Missile Defense noncommissioned officer-in-charge for the 29th ID for the institutional knowledge necessary for mission success.

Green has spent 15 years in the Army and has experience on many different radar systems, including the Sentinel.

"It's monumental for the Division to have the Sentinels providing air defense capabilities," said Green. "Normally a division would be limited to merely having eyes on land force capabilities."

Green explained that customarily, the division would perform air traffic control duties and the Sentinels would be operated at the battalion or brigade level. Having the Sentinel radar at the Division level enables radar information to be distributed in a more expedient manner, he said.

At the end of the day the knowledge Vajda, Green and the other members of the Air Missile Defense Team gained from exercises such as this one will be passed on to future participants in Operation Spartan Shield.

The 29th ID is presently deployed to or in Central Asia and the Middle East in support of Operation Spartan Shield to preserve regional stability and prosperity. 29th ID provides division level command and control to prevent conflict, shape the environment and, when necessary, wins the Nation's wars.

*Written by Sgt. Kelly Gary,
29th Infantry Division Public Affairs*

29th Infantry Division begins mission in the Middle East

(Continued from page 1)

gency operation designed to deter and react to possible threats within the region.

"The work you do to build readiness with your units and with our allies and partners to build capacity, understanding, interoperability and trust is critical to any future fight. Readiness is everything in our business, it is and will always be our priority," said Maj. Gen. Blake C. Ortner, 29th Inf. Div. commander.

While USARCENT will still retain oversight of OSS, this transfer of authority will allow them to be more flexible in commanding other operations and missions throughout the region.

"The establishment of Task Force Spartan, as a tactical command for OSS, permits USARCENT to fully focus on our operational level theater wide responsibilities," Garrett said.

Task Force Spartan is comprised of five brigades, which provide fire support and maneuver capability to the region while training alongside numerous partner nations to improve interoperability and cohesion.

"We must all be ready to fight together should the need arise and our operability must be as seamless as we can make it because when the time comes we will be in it together shoulder to shoulder with our friends throughout the region," said Ortner.

Article by Sgt. Aaron Ellerman, U.S. Army Central

Dr. Harold Baumgarten

2 March 1925 — 25 December 2016

Past National Surgeon

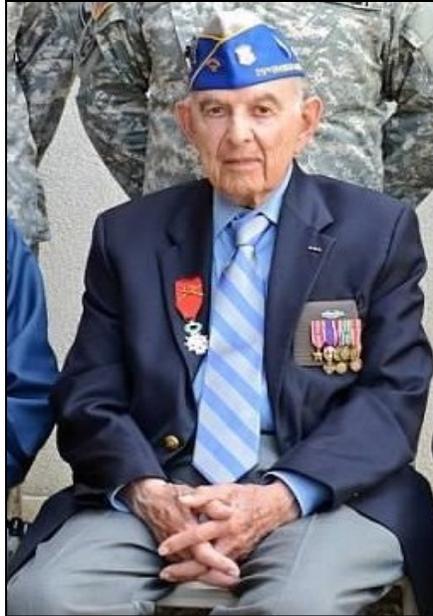
Past National Surgeon of the 29th Division Association, Dr. Harold Baumgarten passed away on 25 December 2016, at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida. He was 91.

Born in New York, on 2 March 1925, Dr. Baumgarten attended New York University at age 16 and joined the ROTC. He tried to enlist as a pilot after the U.S. entry into the war in 1941 but was turned down. He was drafted in 1943.

Arriving in Scotland, he soon found himself in southern England as part of the 116th Infantry Regiment of the 29th Infantry Division.

Prior to the invasion, Dr. Baumgarten was a soldier in A Company, 116th Infantry Regiment. He had become familiar with some of the 19 men from Bedford, Virginia, who died in the first wave assaulting the beach known as Omaha.

The book, "The Bedford Boys" by Alex Kershaw, recounts the tragic consequences of those in A Company assaulting the beach in



the first wave. Mr. Kershaw interviewed Dr. Baumgarten extensively for this book.

Before the invasion, Dr. Baumgarten was transferred to B Company for the assault on Omaha. His unit didn't fare much better. Out of 30 men only two or three on Dr. Baumgarten's landing craft survived the beach assault.

Dr. Baumgarten was wounded

three times on D-Day and twice more the next day. He has undergone 23 surgeries for his wounds.

After the war, he earned a bachelor's degree from NYU and a master's from the University of Miami and taught high school biology, chemistry and physics. When the University of Miami opened a medical school, he applied and was accepted.

He practiced medicine as a Board Certified Physician for over 40 years. He also worked part time as the Medical Director of Gulf Life Insurance.

He has written three books and given lectures all over the world (especially in Normandy, France) at private high schools, colleges, police academies, churches, the WWII museum and assorted business groups in the United States.

In addition to his wife Rita, survivors include a son, Hal Baumgarten; two daughters, Karen Sher and Bonnie Friedman; a sister, Beatrice Yates; and six grandchildren.

NEC III

Thursday, 22 June 2017 — Pikesville, Maryland

at the

Pikesville Military Reservation — NCO Club

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

Cost is \$15

Checks made payable to: **29th Division Association**, for \$15 and mailed no later than **15 June 2017**

to:

William Mund

441 Chalfonte Drive

Baltimore, MD 21228-4017

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR:

Several items (Part 1)

There are several items that I would like to bring to everyone's attention:

The *Twenty-Niner* is professionally prepared, printed on a real printing press at a real printing facility and mailed at a professional mailing facility.

Conversely, the *Chin Strap* is copied on a copier and stapled. A few days later the *Chin Strap* is folded, stuffed, and sealed by a hard core group of cheerful volunteers from the MD Region who get together one Saturday a month for this purpose.

After this process, one or two other cheerful volunteers transport the finished product to the post office for the final processing and mailing.

Sometimes, this can be time consuming as postal regulations do exist concerning the proper collating of the mailing and an official auditing may occur.

This has been going on for many years before my time. These volunteers deserve everyone's admiration and respect. Month after month they show up, never complaining. Always with a cheerful and positive attitude.

I won't list the names of these cheerful volunteers. They know who they are, and I salute them for their dedication to the *Chin Strap* and the 29th Division Association.

These two publications, although sent to everyone in the association, are two different publications with two different editors.

As editor of the *Twenty-Niner*, I will not publish articles in the *Twenty-Niner* that have been published previously in the *Chin Strap*. So, if you want something published, it's your choice, but it's either the *Twenty-Niner* or the *Chin Strap*, not both.

Do not send *Chin Strap* donations to me. They go to Editor Chip Boblitz whose contact information is listed in the *Chin Strap* every edition.

Some posts have their own newsletters. This is a good thing and is encouraged. The *Chin Strap* is being sent to the entire association so that the posts that don't have the luxury of publishing their own newsletters can communicate with their members. So, post leaders, please use the *Chin Strap* to keep your members in-

formed of planned activities, meetings, and dues collection deadlines.

I am sorry to mention that PNC Bob Moscati is still in a rehab facility in Catonsville, Maryland. I visit him about once a week. PNC David Ginsburg and Ed Tolzman are also regular visitors. It is hoped that one day he will return to his home.

With the help of PNC Ginsburg and BG (Ret) Ted Shuey, there has been some progress with the leadership and administration concerns of Post 116 in Staunton, Virginia.

I regret to report that National Senior Vice Commander Frank Rauschenberg has resigned for personal reasons. Junior Vice Commander Grant Hayden has now assumed the office of Senior Vice Commander.

National Commander Wisch has many activities planned for this year which marks the 100th anniversary of the formation of the 29th Division. Please read the lead article on page 1 and the com-

mander's message on page 2. Convention hotel information is published on page 30. Souvenir Program Book information and Registration are on pages 38 and 39.

At the NEC II in January, Dr. Howard Bond of Post 85 in North East, Maryland was elected National Surgeon.

Please read the minutes of the NEC II meeting that was held on 22 January 2017 on pages 34 & 35. There is much information published in these minutes.

Of special note is the change in location for our NEC III meeting to be held on 22 June 2017 at the NCO Club at the Pikesville Military Reservation in Pikesville, MD.

This change of location was necessitated by the upcoming renovations that will occur at the Weinberg Center at Camp Fretterd, MD. This renovation project will most likely begin in April or May 2017. This will force the closure of the Weinberg Center for a period of 9 to 12 months.

It is anticipated that we can return to that facility after the renovations are completed.

William S. Mund, Jr.
Editor

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL POSTS

All posts are requested to submit one of two documents to the National Finance Officer at the end of the tax year.

One document being a statement that the post's "normal revenue stream" is less than **\$50,000** a year; or, a copy of a current financial statement that shows the "current revenue stream", signed by proper post authority.

Failure to provide either of the documents will result in the requirement that the Post must file their own **IRS Return 990-N**.

The National Finance Officer will not file the return for any Post failing to document their capability to file the return.

If any Post has a "normal revenue stream in excess of **\$50,000** per year" they will be required to file **IRS Form 990 EZ**.

The National Finance Officer has filed all **IRS 990** documents for all posts this year.

DRAWING D-DAY

An Artist's Journey Through War — Part Three

By Ugo Giannini

with Maxine Giannini

Chapter Four

September 1944: Reduction of Fortress Brest

The defenses of Brest had been constructed to withstand attack by land or sea. For miles beyond the city the hedgerows had been prepared for the expected offense. An outer band of defenses consisted of an abundance of strong points, heavy in automatic weapons and self-propelled guns, dug well into the earth, some fortified with concrete and steel, all of them forming a great defensive arc that swept around the city. An inner band of ramparts was modernized with steel pillboxes, antitank ditches, road barriers, and minefields. With months of preparation these positions had become an ultimate in defense. The Brest garrison was estimated to hold approximately 20,000 men, in actuality it comprised nearly 50,000. (pg. 121. 29 Let's Go)

"Landing on D-Day was a picnic compared to Brest.... Brest received the personal order of Hitler to hold for three months."

The Army's After Action Report of September states:

In September of 1944 the American soldiers of the 29th Division felt the full fury of the German forces. "The backbone of the defense of Brest was entrusted to the excellent soldiers of the 2nd Paratroop Division, who fought, in almost every case, as they were ordered by General RAMCKE: 'to the last man'—figuratively speaking.

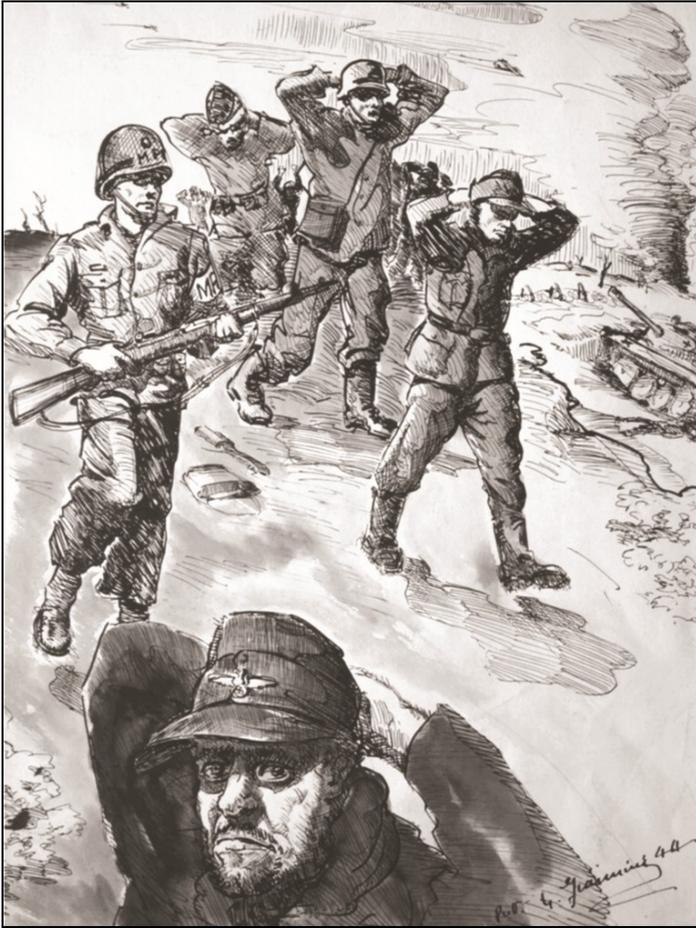
In the zone of the 29th Division the 2nd Paratroop Regiment of the 2nd Paratroop, Division, the 852nd Infantry Regiment of the 3434 Infantry Division and the 899th Infantry Regiment of the 266th Infantry Division were the main enemy forces. In addition to these, other units of the three divisions, plus a multitude of naval, air force, marine and garrison troops formed a part of the defensive forces of the Fortress Brest. At the commencement of the campaign it was estimated that a total of 20,000 men defended BREST proper and the DAOULAS and CROZON Peninsulas. Actually the number turned out to be approximately 40,000. It was stated that RAMCKE (the Major General of the German forces) had promised HITLER he would hold out until September 20. On 18 September, RECOUVRANCE fell, followed by BREST on 19 September and CROZON on 20 September. This tenacity to hold had permeated through all ranks, particularly among the Paratroopers, although there was no question that the defenders were happy to see the end of the siege when it came.

Defenses: The Fortress of BREST, with its natural, French built and German built fortifications, proved to be the most strongly defended locality yet encountered and was probably the most strongly defended port in the West. Defended localities are shown in the colored sketches to accompany this report—



"Defenses of BREST The bunkers and pillboxes were of reinforced concrete, in many cases 9 feet thick. Concrete shelters, concrete CP s and casemates all were impregnable to air and artillery bombardment, and could be taken only after assaulted or surrounded by infantry troops. The final shelter, the Naval School and U-Boat Pens, proved to be a veritable building 150 feet underground, which could not be breached by even the heaviest bombardment." (After Action Report, 6 October 1944) It was during this time that Ugo wrote:

Might as well inject this piece of past history—I had suffered one week of battle neurosis while we gave Brest (France) a work over—the Jerries turned their 300 mm



Capturing Prisoners of War

naval guns at us, two landed in my back yard, a huge hunk of shrapnel tore a window in my tent (as if I wasn't getting enough ventilation!) To make matters worse our own P 47s bombed and strafed our area—we had a lot of fun (now that it's over.)

It's ironic, that the port of Brest was so destroyed as to be inoperable; The Allies had to rely on other ports of entry for their desperately needed supplies. Hitler decimated his best troops, he should have reorganized along the boundaries of Germany where he could have supplied and supported the troops. It was our good fortune; Hitler didn't listen to his Generals.

Brest was totally destroyed, there were only two buildings left standing.

September 1, 1944

I remember you.... When you were only twelve, sitting there in the window corner, reading some unremembered book. You were a Chinese doll—for there was in the slant of the eyebrow, the style of the hair and the lips always ready to smile, a note of something which brought me far away—and yes, you wore an orange colored sweater.

I would have forgotten, and it would not have mattered today but I thought then—her face glowed many times with a confused and almost painful rapture, and her large bright eyes would catch my curious gaze and then——softly

dip into the shades of shy melancholy—was it—you did not wish me to share your secret?

But I had eyes then, cruel curious eyes and they would not leave you alone. Every day I watched you—until I became ashamed of the desires my curiosity aroused in me.

And in turn, it was I who became ill tempered and annoyed—because my own face felt the heat of a similar glow. I did well in concealing from you this torment—yet from my heart I would not destroy the sweet sadness the face of you implanted there—And so we spent the years struggling to conquer and explore the secret that had caused such pain and joy.

Did you think to find it in the music of Grieg's Nocturne? Did you forget it in the works of Byron and Poe?

September 14, 1944

Dearest,

I had just finished a note to you and already mailed it—sitting here, lost in a not bright world, musing and lost, when suddenly word from you, little angel—a note of Aug. 28, 29.

And only now I stated that I would acknowledge only your letters until that one arrived which you would answer.... Sprinkled with pink powder, and recalling you to me strongly—so that my mind drugged by the months of combat, falls back, back and where the hard shell of me refuses to sway and where I, incapable of tears, feel the spirit of youth weeping healthily within.... Feeling that my body is strong, and the blood red and the spirit restless for you, for you! And only you. I have had companions through death and Hell—only you, only you, and I am alone.... But you will help me to forget the pictures hanging in my mind. I know you will help me.

Only recently I gazed out over the sea and I thought I could swim the distance, but I am afraid of water of late, and the sight of a beach holds a strange lure and a violent dread.

But I shall be drugged with happiness on the ship coming home, and I will choose to forget the dread. There is enough horror and ugliness in this world without my touching upon it. And so if I seem out of place it is only because my efforts search to embrace beauty.

I'll keep the war here with its sights and smells and sounds, and you keep beauty and faith there—preserve it for me I will need it. Yes—it is different where I am—there is no bed but the ground often. In fact for two months I slept in a fox hole and when it rains, it just rains until the sun shines. There is little difference between day and night, for we do not undress to sleep, only occasionally removing our shoes. There is no hot bath—lucky to draw water to drink from some stream or well. There are no luxuries or toilets—the ground suffices. Do I miss the comforts of home? No—because there is something else here which drowns all minor complaints. The silent question, we know is always present, "Will I see the dawn?" You understand I think by this slight description. There I'm carrying on not at

all what I expected to say. So I don't know what to write about—it's true. I can only repeat what I have said over and over—wait for me—because soon, soon, this must end. I try as much as humanly possible, every day to outlive the grievous fears. Only lately, I have become inclined to nerves. But they are based on long strain, and I'm sure I'll be feeling fine directly—So good-night and I hope another letter from you arrives soon—it is my only recreation to answer it.
 Forever yours,
 Ugo



Le Conquet. Outpost, Operation Sugar.

is well at home—I can say the same for myself. I am sorry I am unable to tell you where I am at the present—however, the day is arriving when there will be no more of this secret stuff. We will all be glad for that.

I doubt whether I will be able to see Harold. I'm too far from where he is. Glad to know he is well. He wrote recently, and I was greatly relieved. He sent some kerchiefs

and perfume from France? How nice. I was always up there making it possible for soldiers to see France you hear? Ha! Ha!

Give my regards to Ann and everybody else I hardly remember. I don't think it is fair for you to remind me to keep single—you've made me feel as though I do not deserve any happiness at all—would you like me to be an old bachelor?—I guess maybe I will now anyway since I can't find anyone to share life the way I see it. I'm going to be a headache—but soon as I get restless I'll let you know. Things will not be quite the same I imagine and there must be adjustments made. However let us not come to conclusions.

I've been in the Brest peninsula—lovely country.

I just mailed some articles consisting of two separate packages. Let me know when they arrive. There should be a fourth check coming—glad you received the first three. Only lately I drank enough champagne to fill a bathtub and white wine and plenty of eggs—"I get around." I still have a great appetite and I have cultivated an appreciable thirst for various things.

No matter how I live I don't lose any weight, and I've even grown a moustache—will you recognize me? Walter wrote recently—I should send him a letter.

Regards to Dick and Evelyn & Jr. and Pop

Tell them I am eager to see them all at the earliest date. When?

*October 18, 1944
 Somewhere in Germany*

Dearest,

I have waited long for your letter of Oct 10 to arrive—It was to be an answer as I directly implied in my note of Sept 17—The answer is there. I shall quote it and you shall see it again as you wish me to see it. "You cannot help me.

Chapter Five

October 1944: Paris - The Siegfried Line

After completing its move from France, the 29th Division assembled in Valkenburg, Holland. Once more, the terrain was completely new, and the war would be pursued in Germany with a hostile civilian population. Hitler declared that every civilian was now a soldier. The 29ers were told to use extreme caution. Vast flat farms of turnips and beets, of small apple orchards separated by small villages, each with a church whose spire became an ideal lookout post for observation of the least movement. "This scene presented a serene and somber picture to the 29th Division soldier. The warmth of the Norman farm lands dissolving into the bleak, ominous autumn of the Rhineland." (29 Let's Go)

There were very few of the original 29ers left. General Charles Gerhardt—the commander of the 29th Division since their assemblage in England—used the Division as a battering ram to storm the beaches on D-Day. There was to be no let up, from Omaha Beach to St-Lo to the battle for Brest. The casualties, missing in action, and deaths were staggering: 14,563. The division Ugo had trained and fought with virtually disappeared. Now, after no respite, the 29th began the grim, new task of confronting the West Wall or Siegfried Line. This line was made up of a vast construction of poured emplacements with connecting underground tunnels designed to prevent men and tanks access to Hitler's Germany. They were called "Dragon's Teeth."

October 2, 1944

Dear Mom,

Received your letter of Sept 19. Glad to know everyone

I asked you to, hundreds of times, you've disregarded my questions wonderfully and answered negatively, what I searched for, I did not see or feel" and in concluding, "I begged you once to give me the solution for any reason why I should believe in your way of life—you refused."

Your letter arrived here in good time—eight days and this is your decision of eight days ago. I rarely receive letters—except a few from the folks—and I write only rarely now. If I may—let me say this—whatever life I lead now is not of my choosing and it has been this way since May 13, 1942. It is a life of hardship, of submission, of repression, of danger, of loneliness, of longing, of great physical and mental anguish—of privation. (The full sense of the word) It is a life tho'

you undoubtedly wish to know about from me—I have not dared discuss or describe—I imagined perhaps you might have known without my adding to and confirming. I would retain whatever traces of fine feeling I imagine myself to possess. I am humble to the ground and that you should misjudge me, even as a friend, brings sadness—a sense of eternal loss.

You wish an explanation of why you should trust and believe in my way of life—I have forced my love upon you, am I forcing it now?—If you loved me, would you ask in sincerity such a question? My way of life, the inner life which is left me has not altered—it is the same path we both loved before I left—and now that I am gone do you betray that trust? Now that I am left, do you tell me I wove a pattern of false—? about your mind?

I was good enough for you then—now that I have suffered you condemn me for being self-centered, cheat, liar, infidel, pagan, trustless?—I do not accept the names in your idea of the words. I only know that I have not changed nor broken my trust. If you did not love then—surely now, if you were to see me I could not inspire you with that Passion.



Ugo in Valkenburg, Holland, October 1, 1944. These were Harley-Davidson Motorcycles that were issued to the MP's.

My Dearest

I was startled to receive today a cablegram. I had for a moment a strange assortment of fears—I expected the world to cave in, why? I don't know, except maybe, being away for so long; I don't really know. Well it's cold outside, but now I'm warm inside, with the nostalgia of old things—I shall keep it now, your cablegram with its message of urgent affection. I shall reread its simple line and remember how it came to warm me when it was cold and lonely—and it's been so long since I felt this way—I wish, I could hold you close to me—then you would know how I miss you—words wouldn't be necessary then. My birthday slipped by—but all the while your dear remembrance was journeying across sea and land, to me. And now it

is here, a little miracle with wings.

It seems you are here and that I see the beautiful line your hair makes as it cascades down your shoulders—and the full sensitive lips, the white petal skin fresh as wild flowers—and I know, for I have felt the fires which glow in those sad eyes; once long ago; my one arm could easily encircle your waist—it is so small—and the curve there caused great alarm—as you well remember!! There is a deeper instinct; a primitive one, which surges from depths of longing and repressed desire—but are dead memory, nothing more. Goodnite

October 30, 1944

Hello—

I was really thinking that I might have been home this Christmas; perhaps that gives you an idea of how I view time. And here it is almost Xmas and I know it was a pipe dream. There is a scarcity of pipes now so it's rather difficult to dream another. I'm getting a little anxious for the future—the joker has been in hiding for a long time—and last night I suddenly thought I saw its leering face. Not pleasant! So maybe it's a

good thing after all to have left so long ago. It's like an anesthetic maybe. I would like something from you—I don't know what, just something to remind me that it wasn't a pipe dream—the past. I'm over the first glow, and the second is more quiet, that is as strong but not so vociferous.

Happy Birthday! I wish I would be there ... I feel empty; a shell whose emptiness echoes the sounds of many places, many longings but it is only a shell.

Write me a little note—be surprised how it would warm up the chill. Sure, sure, you want me to tell you that everything is all right. From my side of the fence, it is. How about yours? You never did say when and if you ever convalesced from your previous indispositions.

If anybody is going to meet either in this or another world, you can say definitely

"I've got an Appointment with Gogo there; In sweetness or in fire he'll be there—he wrote it in my heart, long ago. So I'll live and wait." I am not sure that destiny has been favorable in sparing me thus far—there were others I knew with more reason to live than I. They are gone, even before they experienced the terror of waiting. I am sorry if I whipped up a storm of ungrateful remarks in my last letters. Whatever it is I say, whatever reproach or display of anger, it is only because I wish to do good, to guide you, but not to be cruel no never in the spirit of real anger.

Goodnite

P.S. I mailed you a small bottle of perfume. I had no choice, there were only three to select from—more as a memento, purchased under the Eiffel Tower in Paris. I was fortunate to be able to convoy our outfit through Paris. I was there only one hour. I left with the impression that it was the most beautiful city I had ever seen. Someday you shall see it.



The Siegfried Line, with concrete emplacements called Dragon's Teeth.

able to give each other mutual support across the flat plain of the Rhineland. In addition, the weather in November was the wettest in years; twenty-eight out of the thirty days had rain. The men in foxholes stood knee-deep in mud. Another D-Day was planned, and General Gerhardt's secret message was, "It's a Democratic landslide," which indicated the attack was on. Twenty-two divisions and 500,000 men were employed to crack the Siegfried line before the onset of winter. (After Action Report.) The language of the After Action Report used terms such as "jump off," "button up," and "cleaning up," as code for the astonishing efforts by the 29th Division. "Jumping off," meant that you were on the attack, amidst mines, artillery, and enemy, nowhere to go but forward into the hell of war. "Button up" usually indicated that very little progress was made on the front, and it was time to

regroup and dig in for the night. "Cleaning up" meant hand-to-hand combat with the remnants of the retreating enemy.

The battle for Koslar was an immense struggle. It was rare in the After Action Reports for the writer to express much emotion, usually delivering a dry report of ground lost or gained and men wounded, lost, or killed in statistical terms. But in describing the action of November 26, 1944, he stated: "Mere words cannot paint the picture contained in the downright and utter bitterness of the battle that raged on the front of our 1st Battalion this day. In fact, it raged with such fierceness and reached such a feverish pitch at one point that it was hard to believe that a man could live through this veritable inferno."

November 1, 1944

Dearest Heart,

After almost two months of wallowing about in mail bags, your letter of Sept. 12 arrived. I enjoyed the snapshots very much. I am aware that you have grown into a young woman. And despite what you may say or imagine, you appear quite healthy. This is as it should be.

Musing here—I realize with painful shock that I have been subject to the unsound reasoning of a forced existence. And I shift equally the blame to your own lack of faith in me. It appears that it is not enough for a perverted destiny to separate us, but that we must add self-inflicted

Chapter Six

November 1944: Roer River to Julich

The men of the 29th Division were faced with the challenges of crossing the Roer River in order to capture Julich. But before they could do this, there were a dozen small German towns that had to be taken. Each town had become a point of resistance linked by lateral trenches to the adjacent towns, most of them

grief to that already miserable state. You plague me with your pettiness, such as observing that I write "dearest" after the letter is completed. This is only a habit peculiar to me. Why do you look for non-existent loopholes? Why must I always be faced with suspicion? Is this the extent of your faith? You ought to be ashamed of yourself! If it is my fortune to return we shall see who is going to blush with shame. But I think I'm always to blame fundamentally. I started out on this campaign long ago.

This is hardly the time for pleas of forgiveness—I'll not ask for any. But I will say you and I better snap out of it. Or is there someone else? I think crazy things sometimes all because you have been waiting so long—and I too! Oh it can't be! Rene, Rene what is the matter with us?

We don't mean a word of it—all we do is torture each other. As tho' spiting the indifferent Heavens. It is we who suffer—not the world! I insist on writing—I'm not dead. I love you deeply; all I ask is a time to come home, only one hour to tell you that I'd rather die than leave you again. I don't remember what I have said in my letters—but if you thought some passages beautiful—they are only a meager expression of the thing you inspire. Do you not see this as the truth? You must! There is no room for doubt. Won't you write to me in the spirit of other days and with hope for the future at this moment, writing is so utterly futile. I must wait so long for an answer. I'm afraid you have ceased caring for me. And life makes no difference now. But as long as you are there I must think! Think! I have forgotten what it is like to be told "I love you," and I'm afraid I haven't said it either in ages. Write to me. I need your help—please write to me. There is no time, there is no time! I need to know now.

I'll be standing there and thinking you will not come to me—you will not have my arms about you. I'll just be standing and you will say a faint "hello." Maybe you would not recognize me! And I would walk to you and ask if you are looking for someone you turn and say yes— I'm waiting, but he hasn't come—he should have been here, but I can't see him and I won't know what to say, standing there



The Thousand-Yard Stare: These sketches of 29ers illustrate the complete exhaustion, the hollow-eyed stare of many too long in battle.

like a clown. I don't know how much there is left of time—but it leaves only anguish and loneliness which nothing can destroy, only you. I am waiting, for your help, please write to me. It is more urgent than I can say in words—tell me, tell me you are waiting as you used to.

*Goodnite
Duchenka*

November 3, 1944

Dearest,

There are many things I am able to tell you now, but I have a "disciplined pen," and it does not recognize readily a newly acquired freedom. I feel quite certain that for the future our conversations will be more colorful more dramatic with life—feeling that I have run the gauntlet of many experiences and their resulting emotions. But I place in your hands the difficult task of reconciling your own years of patient waiting to my bewildering accumulation of scenes and events. We have lived thus far dependent upon each other. I detach from this hour my sense of the present and I review as from a height the

entire plot of the story. From the moment I left you, I love you the more in knowing that you have had the courage to mingle your life with mine. This is dead earnest! Because I look at the whole of it quite proudly, I am tired, Rene. What I should like to write I do not have the energy—you will wait for my return and trust that I will tell you all and everything—only I am afraid there is not enough of time in this life for me to tell you how I need your nearness. If I were to live forever, time would run out before I could express in the many ways my devotion. I do not need to think of you to realize the loss; it's been there of itself, a melancholy emptiness a feeling of obscure sorrow, sometimes an intense wild anguish—this unconsciously; but then to bear the pressure of actual thought on that vacant pain—I cannot place in simple words the contours of that emotion. You are my light—you must understand. Divine from your music, from the mosaic of beautiful colors and variations, I am there, as I feel for you I want to come home and for us. I want to stop time, for I know being with you is all of time I ever want. If I achieve nothing but the happiness of feeling

your nearness all my days, I shall have achieved all.

The little photo you recently sent me—smiling through the garden, at me, your hair has grown, it is waiting for me. I dream you from its crown to the little white toes. Mm I had better refrain from this beating my head against the impossible—such thoughts.

All I ask is a tall ship. and a star to steal her by And then—on wings of song I will take thee to romance.

I have the strangest premonition, perhaps based on desire that soon, sooner than you dare to expect I might return. I can hear your laughter ringing in the fields. And when the moon is full and pale—my thoughts are buoyant as the mist, and I see the warm shadows playing on that dear face.

Goodnite

I'm tired and the pen is wandering.

Chapter Seven

December 1944: Holding Positions

It has been a long haul from Omaha Beach to the banks of the Roer River, inside Germany: the 29th has never stopped.

There has never been enough written or said about this front-line American outfit, and the part it has played in the assault upon Hitler fortress Europe. Since D-Day, security has clouded some of its proudest accomplishments: how the men with the little blue and gray shoulder patches stormed ashore in the face of one of the strongest German concentrations in the beachhead area; how they took Saint Lo, where their wounded filled one orchard and overflowed into the next; and what they did at Perrier, and at Brest, where they held the right flank under direct fire of a battery of huge naval guns.

With Brest cleaned up, the 29th struck northward, across France, Belgium and Holland ... and pounded its way into Germany, smashing a corridor through the concrete and steel of the Siegfried Line.

Since June, the fighting men of this Division have expended more than seven million rounds of small arms ammunition alone ... a bullet fired at a German for every 35 seconds that have ticked off since H-Hour on D-Day. They have cleared mines from more than twelve hundred miles of road, which ultimately leads to Berlin. The Division has captured more than its own number in German prisoners. The total of casualties it has suffered must still remain secret, but the 29th's Roll of Honor is a long one.

Beyond the Siegfried Line, the Let's Go Division paused to regroup and rest, and incidentally, to win the somewhat dubious distinction of being the first American Unit to conduct maneuvers inside Germany. This came after the capture of the German town of Wehr. Wehr was thoroughly and effectively captured, and its German Defenders were ousted in short order. But the job was not done entirely to the liking of Major General Charles Gerhardt, the Division Commander. (The General is something of a perfectionist.)

So two days later, the few German civilians who had sifted back into their homes were evacuated once again, and the 29th proceeded to go through the motions of capturing the battered



This undated self-portrait is signed, "Me".

hamlet once again ... this time to the General's complete satisfaction.

Gerhardt is one of the American Army's most capable assault generals. He was short and bald, and peppery and profane. Significantly, June 6—D-Day—was his birthday and he marked the occasion by storming ashore with his men. Three hours later, he was bawling out officers of his staff for failing to be in proper uniform.

Headquarters of the 29th always is close enough to the front lines to hear the chatter of machine gun fire. The walls of the Command tent are spotted with patches covering German bullet and shell holes. Each patch bears a neat inscription as to the date and number of casualties.

When the 29th was ready to jump off on its last push, the General summoned his staff for a last-minute conference. When they were assembled, he marched to the war map on the wall. He punched a stubby forefinger at the Roer River. "We've got to get the hell on down there," he said. "Let's go."

That's all there was to it. Ten days later, the muddy, bloody men of his division crouched in their new foxhole along the river. To the rear word was sent in this sector, there is no more German opposition west of the Roer. The 29th had done it again.

The great obstacle to be overcome by the 29ers was the se-

ries of seven massive dams, which sat in the Hurtgen Forest and held the Roer River in absolute control. One hundred million tons of water could be released to make the Roer a racing flood, which would overflow the approaches to the River along the fronts of the First and Ninth Armies. (29 Let's Go)

There would be no further action until these dams were captured. This was not to occur for quite some time, as on December 16, Hitler launched a massive counteroffensive, known as the "Battle of the Bulge." Field Marshal von Rundstedt employed three German armies, consisting of fourteen infantry and ten panzer and panzer grenadier divisions in this operation. They struck in the sector of the Eifel Mountains on the First Army front in Belgium. The main impact of the blow was delivered on a 75-mile stretch of line, which was held by only four American Divisions, the 106th, 4th and 28th Infantry Divisions, and the 9th Armored Division. The aim of the counteroffensive was to break through this weakly held sector, drive to the Meuse River and ultimately continue to the great port of Antwerp. The north sector of this drive was approximately thirty miles south of Julich, and posed no threat to the 29th Division. (29 Let's Go)

The 29th Division assumed control of the XIX corps sector which had been committed to reinforce the beleaguered forces battling in the Bulge. (The Long Line of Splendor) During the remainder of the month of December, the 116th Infantry continued to carry out its mission of defending and improving positions by setting up interlocking bands of fire, clearing fields of fire, and taking all preventive measures possible to guard against the Germans counterattacking from the East bank of the Roer River and penetrating from the North. (After Action Report) There were 151 casualties during this phase.

In the past few days I have not been familiar with myself, —a sense of growing uneasiness estranges me from a previous attitude of tolerance and last night's sleep was wildly haunted—they are not frightening images strangely enough—but they come with terror in their eyes. One face caught in a whirlpool of darkness swam up to my own face



Sketch of a fallen German soldier.

and the eyes held such terror!

It is difficult to sleep, and there is no rest from fatigue. The mind keeps going while the body brings sleep.

December 1944

My Dearest,

I suppose we all act thermometer-like regarding the war. I am not the exception. In view of this I can do nothing but tell you that it may be long yet, however, the day will come, and I hope that time rushes fiercely. What can I say—since you know my attitude? I do not hope for anything but the war's cessation, for me to return. Time does not move as rapidly as before. I'm afraid we shall hardly know each other—and I have so much to tell you.

There are many letters of the past in which I have reflected morbid

hours—please forgive me this. Loneliness and anguish are strange dictators. I refrain from writing, since when I look soberly at what I have written, I close my eyes and try to picture your formula for living and I behold that I cannot mail you pages soaked in the rancid brine of my own tears; I should detest myself! Tho' I am not concerned with philosophies for living, since the overwhelming madness of this existence does not permit of such ideals, I still consider that I must bring home to you a heart that is not encrusted with scars. Within, I remain the same; when I cease to respond to this madness with grief, then you shall know I have deteriorated into something not worth your infinite waiting.

Sleep is infested almost nightly by images of a familiar memory, yet I cannot begin to tell you that they torment me with a new distortion. I live again in sleep, the hours of the day, only with great, fearful distortion. At this time, what is most appropriate to write about? Since I see and feel things as being tragic to the extent of ridicule; Yes, I wish to hell I had been born with the idiots' bliss, so that I would not feel out of place in this nonsensical version of being. I do not find myself responding savagely with the savage. Men die or are killed—it is pure knowledge, clear as

sunlight, that all things must go why do I respond with notes of pain, of sensitivity of shock? How stupid! Why does this simple, plain, ancient custom of killing and being killed torture me by first straining itself through my imagination till it becomes monstrous, gruesome, mad, utterly mad? At this time, and for that matter, at any time what is there to write about since the fire must come to ashes?

How utterly ridiculous my boast of eternal love since a conspiracy, destiny, has placed my mortal body and mind (there is no other) in a perilous position. And how stupid it is for anyone to mourn over pages illuminated with passages of violent ethereal emotion. Oh yes, it is quite dangerous to think this way, but oh my darling, I only want to come home and love you before we grow old and before it is too late. Don't you see? I know how empty, how cruel disillusionment invades the childhood faith. The only truth is the knowing that truth is a word people have sought to create meaning for.

If I were braver, if I were stronger, I would not be alarmed to tell you that you wait at your own peril, but I can only suggest this, since the only life conceivable for me is to feel your love about me. And I confess, if ever you grew tired and bade me farewell, I confess, I would go quickly mad. True, I have lived long without you but I am not sure now that I am sane. Of Human Bondage has a strangely beautiful note, but I must not write of something, which I reserve only for sanity. I made another note here for a projected conversation. Don't pay too much particular to what I say since I almost persist in leaving out the counterpart and I hang things in mid-air. I'll cut them down when I return. I have said nothing, only words, words empty, futile, hopeless, powerless. I am here and you are there. See? How insignificant and ant-like we are. Minds that voyage from planet to suns with bodies insufferably mortal. It is too real, too personal to reveal on paper how I need you to understand.

There isn't much to talk of tho' I've filled the pages. I would like pictures of you. Would you oblige? Winter is here to stay it seems making things more grotesque. I fail to see any meaning to all this myself. The thing which gives me a great lift is to read how encouraging your armchair prophets are. They actually make the wonderful predictions that the European War will end in a few years. Isn't that just dandy? Of course we are glad to give all; especially when prolonged over a period of years. After all didn't the boys who died in the last war do so in order that we would have peace? They didn't die in vain, they died for their country.

I'm not so bright, just tired, that's all.

I look forward to returning—there are things to do and people to avoid.

A new world? Ha! The same old globe wearing a different face.

To be continued

Attention! All Post Adjutants and Finance Officers

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

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

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

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

Remember: Do not delay sending in new member information.

Thank you for your cooperation.

29th Division Association Wreath Laying Ceremony Arlington National Cemetery Tomb of The Unknowns Sunday, 10 June 2017 1215 EDT (12:15 PM)

On 10 June 2017, the 29th Division Association will be honored by having its National Commander lay a Wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery. The ceremony will be held at 1215 hours followed by a buffet luncheon at the Spates Community Center in Fort Meyer, Virginia.

Due to recent changes in policy at Arlington National Cemetery, there will be no POVs allowed to drive up to the tomb. This applies to us and all other groups as well.

Tentative plans call for the Maryland Region to have a bus available leaving Exit 8B of the Baltimore Beltway (I-695) at a time to be determined.

Further information about the time of departure for the bus, the meal cost, and transportation up to the tomb from the parking lot, will be published in an upcoming *Chin Strap*.

Hunt Valley Inn Reunion & Convention Information



HOTEL RESERVATIONS

**Hunt Valley Inn
245 Shawan Road
Hunt Valley, MD 21031**

For reservations call 866-764-8359. Hotel phone number is: 410-785-7000

The group room rate is \$109 plus tax (14%) per night for one guest. No charge for additional guest. Breakfast is included in the room rate each morning. Reservations must be guaranteed with a credit card for one night. Check in time is 3 PM and check out time is 11 AM.

BE SURE TO REFERENCE THE 29TH DIVISION ASSOCIATION ROOM BLOCK

**MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS EARLY. WE ONLY HAVE A LIMITED NUMBER OF ROOMS
CANCELLATION MAY BE MADE UP TO 3PM THE DAY PRIOR TO ARRIVAL WITHOUT CHARGES**

**CUT-OFF DATE FOR GETTING THE DISCOUNTED
ROOM RATE IS SEPTEMBER 12, 2017.**



John F. "Jack" Kutcher, Sr.

25 September 1939 — 17 February 2017

Past National Commander — 2013 - 2014

Past National Commander John F. "Jack" Kutcher, Sr., of Churchville, MD passed away peacefully at his home on Friday, 17 February 2017 after a two year battle with cancer.

Born and raised in Baltimore City, Jack attended The Shrine of the Little Flower Elementary School and Mt. St. Joseph's High School where he graduated in 1957.

He attended Loyola College for two years, and left there to work for the Bethlehem Steel Corporation at Sparrows Point, in Dundalk, MD.

In 1962, PNC Kutcher enlisted in the Maryland Army National Guard and spent a total of 37 years in the military culminating in his retirement in 1999 with the rank of Colonel.

PNC Kutcher was a graduate of numerous military service schools, including the U.S. Army Infantry and Signal Advanced Courses, the U.S. Air Force Combat Operations and Battle Staff Management Schools, The U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and the National Defense University National Security Course.

After his retirement he remained active in many veterans' service organizations. In addition to the Ameri-



can Legion and the National Guard Bureau Alumni Association, he was the Past Secretary-General and Past Maryland Commander of the Military Order of Foreign Wars.

He was elected National Vice-Commander of the 29th Division Association in 2011, and to National Commander in 2013.

As National Commander, he had the honor of placing a wreath at the

Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery in May 2014.

In June 2014, he led a contingent of WWII Veterans and their families and friends to Normandy, France for ceremonies in observance of the 70th Anniversary of D-Day.

"PNC Kutcher was extremely knowledgeable, and it was a great pleasure for me to seek his counsel in the proper administration and maintenance of association operations," said Will Mund, current 29th Division Association Executive Director.

"Whenever I had a question about how to note something properly, Jack would always have an intelligent and appropriate answer," Mund recalled.

PNC Kutcher met his wife, the former Maxine Ann Carozza, in Baltimore in October 1958; they were married in August 1964. They raised four sons while living in Baltimore, and moved to Churchville in Harford County, Maryland in 1974. They celebrated 50 years of marriage in August 2014.

He is survived by his wife Maxine, their four sons John F. Kutcher, Jr. and his wife Susan, Michael D. Kutcher, Matthew D. Kutcher and his wife Dawn, and Daniel G. Kutcher; and eight grandchildren.

Towson University announces scholarship honoring Major Robert Marchanti

On January 14, 2017, as part of the pregame ceremony of the men's basketball game and their Military Appreciation Day, Towson University announced the creation of the Major Robert J. Marchanti Scholarship for a worthy student-athlete.

MAJ Marchanti was a member of the Maryland Army National Guard who was killed in action in Afghanistan in 2012.

Marchanti was a Towson alumni and a Baltimore County Physical Education Teacher. Marchanti joined the Army in 1984, and then later used that same discipline and sense of duty to

become a successful wrestler for Towson University.

He graduated from TU in 1989 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Physical Education, and then taught for more than 17 years in Baltimore County Schools. His loss had a major impact on his family, friends and many students he worked with over the years.

This scholarship honors and memorializes his life and provides assistance to a deserving student-athlete who shares the same sense of duty and discipline displayed by MAJ Marchanti.

You can help honor the life, service,

sacrifice and memory of MAJ Marchanti with a donation that supports a current student-athlete.

Towson's Athletic Department's mission is to help our student-athletes achieve excellence in their sport and in the classroom, and become leaders on campus and in the community.

MAJ Marchanti epitomized these values, and your gift can help current and future Tigers follow in his footsteps. The following is a link to the donation site.

<https://towson.givecorps.com/projects/23492-athletics-major-robert-marchanti-endowed-scholarship>

National D-Day Memorial prepares for June 6 ceremony

It was called the “Day of Days” and “The Longest Day.” Every armchair historian and professional scholar recognizes it as one of the crucial events in recent world history. This June 6th, it will be remembered in suitable fashion—by honoring the ones who made it a day of victory and those who gave their lives.

As it does each year, the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, VA will mark the anniversary of Operation *Overlord*, or the Normandy Invasion, or, as it’s most often called, simply D-Day.

“It’s interesting that every military operation in WWII had a D-Day, the date on which the action commenced. But only what happened on June 6th, 1944 goes down in history as D-Day,” said April Cheek-Messier, President of the National D-Day Memorial Foundation.

June 6, 1944 was the date of the Allied invasion across the English Channel into France, beginning the march to victory against Nazi Germany within the next year. The 29th Division spearheaded the operation at Omaha Beach, suffering almost 500 fatalities in that one day.

“We exist to pay tribute to the valor, fidelity and sacrifice of those who served on June 6, 1944,” said Cheek-Messier. “We are keenly aware of what it took to stage the invasion and to win the battle even when victory seemed impossible. We want the current generation to know what it cost to secure the freedoms we enjoy. We commemorate June 6th every year to remember and say thanks.”

This year’s commemoration will feature a keynote address by Jerry Yellin, one of the nation’s best known WWII veterans. Yellin, a captain in the Army Air Force, is best known for flying the final combat mission of the war on August 14, 1945. On that sortie, his wingman, Phillip Schlamborg, became the final American to die in battle during the epic conflict.

“Jerry is an inspiration to everyone who meets him, and we know people will be inspired by his address in June,” said Cheek-Messier. “While he was not part of the D-Day invasion, he can certainly speak to the experiences of all of the men and women who served in WWII.”

Another feature of that day will be the dedication of a new visi-

tor’s center at the D-Day Memorial, housed in the iconic structure of WWII: a Quonset Hut.

“Our Quonset Hut will be a great addition to our site,” noted Cheek-Messier. “Not only does it give us more space for operations, it is itself an educational tool. Millions called these structures home during the war.”

Quonset Huts were omnipresent in the war, in both theaters and on the home front. Used as barracks, hospitals, storage de-

pots, latrines, or any other function that would fit under a curved roof, the huts had the advantages of being cheap and quick. A team of 10 men could assemble a Quonset-20 in a day; with practice later in the war six men could erect one in six hours.

The Memorial’s new Quonset Hut will be named in honor of Bobbie Johnson, a longtime supporter and volunteer who served as an aviator in the war.

The commemoration of the 73rd Anniversary of D-Day will also feature music by the 29th Division Band, recognition of WWII vets, and a gathering at the evocative sculpture *Homage*. The bronze work is a tribute to the Bedford Boys, twenty men from the small town in the Virginia mountains who died on the beaches of Normandy. Bedford suffered the highest per capita losses on D-Day of any community in the US.

“Our *Homage* ceremony has become tradition,” said Cheek-Messier. “Ash Rothlein, a D-Day veteran from North

Carolina, asks us to gather around the sculpture as he hangs his own French Legion of Honor medal on the statue, in memory of those who did not live long enough to be so honored. We then collectively promise to ‘Never Forget.’ It’s a moving experience.” The D-Day ceremony will commence at 11:00 on June 6th. The event is free and open to the public, but attendees are encouraged to bring their own chairs. Preferential parking is offered to older or disabled veterans.

For more information, call the National D-Day Memorial at 540-529-3329 or email info@dday.org.

Article by John Long, Director of Education
The National D-Day Memorial



April Cheek-Messier with WWII pilot Jerry Yellin who flew the last combat mission of WWII.

Join the 29th Division Association's Trip to Normandy

23 – 29 September 2017

The 2017 trip to Normandy departs Saturday, 23 September landing in Paris on Sunday morning, 24 September. We will head straight to Pegasus Bridge to begin a study that afternoon of the British sector of "Operation Overlord."

That evening, the group checks into the Casino Hotel, Vierville, directly across from the 29th Division's D-Day Headquarters site. The three nights here provide the base of a study of the American section and details of the 29th Division's achievement and sacrifice.

The first full tour day is spent entirely on Omaha Beach, concluding at the American Cemetery and a reception at the Hauserman Chateau in Vierville. Day two includes Pointe du Hoc, Utah Beach, and the Airborne drop zones. Day three follows the Division's route to St. Lo, before returning to Paris for two nights at the Hilton Charles De Gaulle. Returning home flight is 29 September.

Ground transportation is by van to limit walking and allow access to German bunkers and areas unavailable to large tours. The tour is led by American, French, and German historians. The cost of \$3,000.00, double occupancy, includes air and ground transportation, five nights lodging, admissions, and most meals. The group is limited to twenty, due to the size of the historic Casino Hotel rebuilt right on Omaha Beach.

There will be a \$500.00 initial deposit, then \$500.00 each month. Last payment in September completes the total cost of \$3,000.00, double occupancy.

Group is limited to **20** participants.

Checks should be made out to **116th IRF, Inc.**, the foundation that makes all of the arrangements. Reservations will be accepted until **31 May 2017**, on a "first come, first served" basis. The foundation's mailing address is:

**116th IRF, Inc.
P. O. Box 116
Staunton, VA 24402-0116.**

The point of contact is **Anna Davis (540) 248-0778**, email addavis5058@gmail.com

Requests for single occupancy will be considered at an additional charge of \$600.00.

Minutes

of the NEC II Meeting
held on 26 January 2017 at the
Weinberg Center, Camp Fretterd, MD

National Commander Robert Wisch called the National Executive Committee (NEC II) Meeting to order at 0930 hours. Commander Wisch led the attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the opening prayer that was offered by Chaplain Schildt. The group then recited the 29th Division Association Preamble.

Commander Wisch began by welcoming all to the NEC. Commander Wisch then asked for the roll call by Adjutant Valerie Hawkins. It was noted that a quorum was present.

The Minutes of the previous meetings (Business Meeting, 22 October 2016 and NEC I, on 23 October 2016) had been published and were distributed in the Autumn/Winter 2016 edition of the *Twenty-Niner*. As there were no corrections or amendments, these minutes were approved as published.

Adjutant Hawkins read correspondence received from Rita Baumgarten, wife of Past National Surgeon Dr. Hal Baumgarten who passed away recently. She wrote that she had sent a donation to the *Twenty-Niner* in memory of her husband.

Officer's Report

National Commander – Robert Wisch noted that this year is the 100th anniversary of the forming of the 29th Division. He said that many activities are being planned for this year. Commander Wisch has attended the 29th HHC deployment ceremony at Fort Belvoir, VA on 30 October 2016; the 116th Muster in Staunton, VA on 12 November 2016; the 175th Annual Review on 3 December 2016 in Baltimore and several other events and services. He will attend the 29th CAB deployment ceremony scheduled for this coming Sunday, 29 January 2017.

National Senior Vice Commander – Frank Rauschenberg attended a Post 729 meeting recently.

National Junior Vice Commander – Grant Hayden had no report.

Southern Region National Vice Commander – David Leighton reported on the activities and events that he has attended over the past several months. He said there is an attempt to form posts in Christiansburg, and Harrisonburg, VA.

Maryland Region National Vice Commander – Houston Matney is recovering from surgery and was not in attendance at this meeting.

At Large Region National Vice Commander – Edward Tolzman had no report.

National Executive Director – William Mund said he was grateful to Adjutant Hawkins for her assuming the position of National Adjutant. He presented her with an "Adjutant" pin to show his gratitude. He stressed the need for members to keep their Spring 2016 edition of the *Twenty-Niner* as it contains the association's Constitution & By Laws.

Membership – Interim Membership Chairman Mund talked about his "End of Year" report that had been distributed to the members present. He said that there exist some difficulties with the leadership and administration of Post 116. Mund deferred to PNC Ginsburg for his comments on his attempt to coordinate with BG (Ret) Ted Shuey and others to rectify the situation with Post 116. The constant deployments of the 3 battalions of the 116th have contributed negatively to the proper administration of the post. It is hoped that the group headed up by BG (Ret) Shuey will find a solution to the administration and leadership difficulties of Post 116.

Finance & Budget – J. Brian Becker reported on the financial status of the association. He said that the convention produced a minimal amount of excess revenue. FO Becker said that Commander Wisch will establish a committee to approve future grant requests. FO Becker also advised that to conform to IRS regulations/requirements, all posts are requested to submit one of two documents to the Finance Officer at the end of the tax year. One document being a statement that the post's "normal revenue stream" is less than \$50,000 a year; or, a copy of a current financial statement that shows the "current revenue stream", signed by proper post authority. Failure to provide either of the documents will result in the requirement that the Post must file their own IRS Return 990-N. The FO will not file the return for any Post failing to document their capability to file the return. If any Post has a "normal revenue stream in excess of \$50,000 per year" they will be required to file IRS Form 990 EZ. FO Becker has filed all IRS 990 documents for all posts this year. He said we should be receiving an update from the Cook Bequest sometime soon.

Chaplain – Reverend John Schildt commented on the association plaque presented to Jean Mignon in France recently by BG (Ret) Shuey of Post 64. He mentioned the recent passing of Dr. Baumgarten and PNC Donald Van Roosen. He talked about the book written by Chaplain Metcalfe of the 1-115 about WWII.

Service – Walter Carter was not in attendance and no report was rendered.

Welfare – National Welfare Officer Rauschenberg will give his report under "Deaths, Sick & Distressed."

Historian – Joe Balkoski reported that the WWI exhibit at the Fifth Regiment Armory in Baltimore is complete. He thanked the association for supporting this exhibit with a generous donation and invited everyone to view it this Saturday, 28 January at 1100 hours.

Sergeant at Arms – Randall Beamer had no report.

Property Officer – Franklin Shilow was not in attendance and no report was rendered.

Parliamentarian – Thomas Insley had no report.

Judge Advocate – Houston Matney is recovering from surgery and was not in attendance at this meeting.

Committee Reports

2017 National Convention – Commander Wisch said that the convention will be in Hunt Valley, MD on 12-15 October 2017. A military ball after the banquet is planned for Saturday evening with a 20-piece orchestra.

Association Website – PNC Ginsburg said there is no change with the website but that post information should be updated several times a year.

Communications Committee – PNC Ginsburg reported that one traveling display is at the Fifth Regiment Armory and the other is on extended loan to the 116th Foundation in Staunton, VA. The first phase of the creation of the DVD has been completed which includes interviews with 29th WWII veteran Steve Melnikoff of C/175; BG(Ret) Ted Shuey of Post 64 and SGM Tom Thompson who has deployed twice as a 29er to Iraq. Additional funding is required to complete the DVD. A motion was made by PNC King

and seconded by PNC Vaccarino to fund \$5,000 to complete the DVD. Motion was passed.

Special Reports

Normandy Allies – NED Mund read a report sent to him by Walter Carter of Normandy Allies. In the report, a request was made for two donations totaling \$2,800 to Normandy Allies for a student and a teacher to travel in 2018. If Normandy Allies is unable to use those funds for its 2018 trip, it will keep them for the same purpose in 2019. A motion to approve the donation was made by FO Becker and seconded by PNC Ginsburg. After a brief discussion the motion was passed.

The Twenty-Niner Newsletter – Editor William Mund had no report.

Old Business

Wreath Laying Ceremony – at Arlington National Cemetery and the luncheon following at Spates Community Center will occur on Saturday, 10 June 2017 beginning at 12:15pm. Commander Wisch said that we will be allowed to have the bus go all the way up to the tomb. The Saturday date was chosen so that we can have our luncheon at Spates Community Center as we have done for many years in the past.

New Business

Election of National Surgeon – A motion was made by NED Mund and seconded by FO Becker to elect Dr. Howard Bond of Post 85 to be National Surgeon. Motion was passed and Dr. Bond was elected and introduced as the National Surgeon.

Appointment of Nominating Committee – Commander Wisch authorized SRVC Rauschenberg to appoint a Nominating Committee Chairman for the 2017 Convention.

NEC III – Mr. Jim Bonner, our caterer and host for our NEC meetings at the Weinberg Center spoke about upcoming renovations that will occur at this facility. He said that a renovation project will most likely begin in April or May 2017. This will force the closure of the Weinberg Center for a period of 9 to 12 months. Mr. Bonner stated that we will have to change our NEC III meeting on 22 June 2017 to a different location. He said that we could hold our meeting at the Pikesville Military Reservation. A motion was made by NED Mund and seconded by Howard Bond to have the NEC III on 22 June 2017 at the Pikesville Military Reservation NCO Club. Motion was passed.

Sunflower, Alabama initiative – An effort is underway to honor the then unidentified slain soldier pictured in the March 1945 edition of Life magazine during World War II. During the last several years it has been determined that the soldier's name is Henry Slade Harrell of Sunflower, Alabama. He was in the 29th Division, a member of C/175. The tentative plan is for a plaque in memory of this soldier to be placed in the Washington county courthouse pending approval from the family and county government. A group of 4 members of the association have been identified to travel to Sunflower, Alabama for this presentation/undertaking. They are: Commander Wisch, NED Mund, Historian Balkoski and Steve Melnikoff, a WWII member of C/175. A motion was made by PNC Ginsburg and seconded by Mund to fund \$2,000 for the plaque and \$3,000 for the travel expenses. Motion was passed.

Normandy Trip – A trip to Normandy is being tentatively planned for the September 2017 time frame. BG (Ret) Ted Shuey has been consulted to coordinate and host the trip. It is anticipated that the total cost per person including airfare is \$3,000. Further information will be forthcoming in the *Twenty-Niner* and the *Chin Strap*.

29th Division Monument – Commander Wisch spoke about the monument he saw in Carlisle, PA. He proposed that the 29th Division

Association fund the cost for a similar monument to be placed at the D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Virginia, in honor of the 100th anniversary of the formation of the 29th Division. Juanita King of Post 64 spoke in favor of doing all we can to support the D-Day Memorial in Bedford. It was determined that initial coordination should be made with the D-Day Memorial to ascertain if they would be receptive to this proposal. Monument cost estimates would then need to be solicited. PNC Ginsburg said that we should explore other alternatives as opposed to funding monuments.

Oriole Game on 16 July, 2017 – The commander has tentatively coordinated a 29th Division Day to occur on Sunday, 16 July, 2017. The Orioles will host the Chicago Cubs. There is the possibility of support from the Maryland National Guard for this event. More information will be forthcoming.

Classified Advertisement – Commander Wisch suggested that all posts place an ad in their local newspapers on 6 June to commemorate the 29th Division's involvement in the D-Day landings officially known as Operation Overlord. He passed around an example of an ad that Post 72 placed in the newspaper last year.

Marchanti Scholarship Fund – PNC Ginsburg talked about the scholarship fund that has been set up in MAJ Robert Marchanti's honor. MAJ Marchanti, a Maryland guardsman, was KIA in Afghanistan, the most recent 29er to lose his life in the GWOT. A contribution to this scholarship fund by the MD Region is anticipated at their next meeting in March 2017. PNC Ginsburg said that the NEC should consider also supporting this scholarship fund.

Deaths, Sick & Distressed

SRVC/Welfare Officer Rauschenberg noted the names of several recently deceased members, Dr. Hal Baumgarten, Charles Tine, James F. Fretterd, and PNC Donald Van Roosen. PNC Robert Moscati is still in rehab at Frederick Villa in Catonsville, MD. PNC John Wilcox is recovering from surgery and is still hospitalized. PNC Jack Kutcher is not in good shape. MD Region Commander Houston Matney is at home recovering from surgery.

Good of the Association

Historian Balkoski advised that the 100th anniversary of the formation of the 29th Division will be held on Thursday, 6 April 2017, at 1000 hours at the Fifth Regiment Armory in Baltimore. This will also be the official grand opening of the WWI exhibit that was partially funded by the 29th Division Association. Maryland Governor Hogan has been invited to attend.

Closing

With no further business, Commander Wisch began the closing ceremonies. A closing prayer was offered by Chaplain Schildt along with a final salute to the colors. Commander Wisch announced that the **NEC III** meeting is tentatively scheduled for **Thursday, 22 June 2017**, at 0930 hours at the Pikesville Military Reservation, Pikesville, Maryland.

Meeting was adjourned at 1147 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

VALERIE HAWKINS
Adjutant

NEC Members please note:

These minutes are not distributed individually.

This is your copy.

Normandy Allies Welcomes You—

England & France: May 27-June 9, 2017

Team Leaders: LTC Peter Combee, retired & Mary M. Stubler

Reservation Deadline: March 30, 2017

Phase I: England

London itinerary includes the Cabinet War Rooms, HMS Belfast, Imperial War Museum, Bletchley Park, and the Royal Naval Museum. The group embarks by ferry from Portsmouth for a morning arrival on the Normandy coast.

Phase II: Normandy

Lodging in Bayeux and Grandcamp-Maisy, the group will enjoy the rich heritage and wonderful cuisine of Normandy while visiting sites significant to the Normandy Landings and Liberation. The itinerary includes: Omaha, Utah, Gold, Juno, and Sword Beaches; the American Cemeteries at Colleville and Saint James; Pointe du Hoc, Graignes, La Fière, Sainte-Mère-Eglise and the Airborne Museum, Saint-Lô and the bocage, Chateau Colombières-the marshes and the Ritchie Boys, Bayeux Tapestry, Bayeux Cathedral, Mont St. Michel, and more.....

From the Landing Beaches to Saint-Lô: July 16-29, 2017

Team Leaders: Marsha Smith, LTC Peter Combee, retired & SGM Charles Frick, retired

Reservation Deadline: April 13, 2017

Our journey begins in Bayeux, as we explore the World War II British and Canadian sectors. Visits include: Caen Peace Memorial, Juno Beach, Abbaye d'Ardenne, Pegasus Bridge, Arromanches Circular Theater and Mulberry Museum, Longues s/mer Battery, British Cemetery, and more... We absorb French heritage with the Bayeux Tapestry and Cathedral, Mont St. Michel, 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, Normandy American Military Cemetery & Brittany American Military Cemetery, Utah Beach, Graignes, La Fière, Sainte-Mère-Eglise & the Airborne Museum, Saint-Lô & bocage areas, LaCambe Cemetery, Chateau Colombières the marshes & the Ritchie Boys, rue Captain Carter, Wall of Remembrance, Trevières... and more....

Trip Dates for May/June 2018 & July 2018 will be available late summer 2017

Contact:

Normandy Allies, Inc. PO Box 1332 Pittsford NY 14534 USA

Call/email: Marsha Smith 585-748-2357 normandyallies@verizon.net

“Our greatest gift to all of our living and fallen soldiers is to never forget”

Teacher Grants support the mission of Normandy Allies

Normandy Allies donors provided four Teacher Grants for 2017. Teachers responded to required questions: describe their current knowledge of the Normandy Landings, the extent and focus of their classroom curriculum given to the Landings, how their participation in Normandy Allies will benefit their students.

Grant Recipients:

-Amelia Underwood, 29th Division Association Grant (\$2100). Amelia is an Adjunct Professor of Military Science at James Madison University. In future editions of *The Twenty-Niner* Normandy Allies will share the course developed by LTC Peter Combee to provide college students the opportunity to earn credit during the May/June program. Amelia wrote: “As a veteran of the United States Army and an avid student of American history, I am honored...I am excited to share my previous research and experience with my students...Our greatest gift to all of our living and fallen soldiers is to never forget their sacrifices for freedom.”

-Donna Wielgolewski, Pennock Grant in honor of 1Lt John Garvik, A/115th, (\$3500). Donna, a high school teacher from Wheaton IL, participated in the July 2016 program under a grant from the First Division Museum in Cantigny IL. She will lead a group of her high school students for this July program. Donna writes: “These students are our future and I know they will contribute the knowledge and experiences with other students through their present and future classes...Having these young students experience this history will keep it relevant, for it cannot be forgotten.”

-Sarah Green, PNC George F. Cook Grant (\$1500), Pennock Grant in honor of 1Lt Garvik, A/115th, (\$500). Sarah is an academic coordinator at Montana State University, making her first journey to Normandy as part of the May/June program. She will participate in a Wall of Remembrance ceremony dedicating a plaque honoring John O’Neil, A/116th, KIA D-Day. Sarah writes: “My position on our campus at some point might involve advising a student athlete who interrupted his college years to serve our country in some capacity. I know the trip to France will definitely provide me with the opportunity to better understand and relate to our veterans and their specific needs.”

-Edward Wenner, PNC George F. Cook Grant (\$1500). Teddy is Associate Dean of Admissions at Blair Academy and an Army veteran of Iraq. He will chaperone the Blair students attending the July program. Teddy writes: “In today’s world, it is hard to imagine the scale of the Normandy operation or the sacrifices given by those who charged upon the beaches... I am looking to create a second semester senior elective centered only on Operation Overlord and to study it in depth. My intent is to emphasize the importance of the event, not just from a military perspective, but also from a philosophical and moral one. Again, to get into the ‘why’ of such a vast undertaking and the necessity for it to occur.”

Normandy Allies is grateful to our grant donors and to all who support our mission.

29th Division Association Supplies Available

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

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

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

You can now buy 29th merchandise using a credit card, debit card, or "PayPal".

*Just go to the new updated website at www.29thdivisionassociation.com and click on
"Merchandise" and it will walk you through how to order merchandise using electronic payment.*

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	Quarter Page	\$40
Half Page	\$70	Eighth Page	\$25

IMPORTANT: The deadline for ads and boosters is **September 1, 2017**. 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 21228-4017
 443-529-4233
duster197329@gmail.com

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

Patrons

During the 99th 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. #: _____

Email: _____

This coupon, with your check, made out as indicated above, should also be received no later than **September 1, 2017**. Mail to William S. Mund, Jr. at the address above.

Legion of Honor Recipients

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

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

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

William S. Mund, Jr.
 441 Chalfonte Drive
 Baltimore, MD 21228
edit-pub29er@hotmail.com

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

99TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OCTOBER 12 – 15, 2017 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!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Registration Charge (Non-refundable) No. @ _____ \$25.00 \$ _____

Friday Evening Buffet (Open Seating) No. @ _____ \$35.00 \$ _____

Saturday Evening Banquet (Assigned Seating) No. @ _____ \$35.00 \$ _____

Choice of:

Roast Beef _____

Chicken _____

Friday Trip — 29th Division Museum at the Fifth Regiment Armory and lunch is "On Your Own" at Harbor Place. No. @ _____ \$25.00 \$ _____

TOTAL: _____

Make checks payable to 29th Division Association and mail to:

William Mund, 441 Chalfonte Drive, Baltimore, MD 21228-4017

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 Will Mund at (443) 529-4233 or Email at duster197329@gmail.com

CUT-OFF DATE FOR REGISTRATIONS IS SEPTEMBER 25, 2017

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Hunt Valley Inn

For reservations call: **866-764-8359**

BE SURE TO REFERENCE: *THE 29TH DIVISION ASSOCIATION ROOM BLOCK*

CUT-OFF DATE FOR GETTING THE DISCOUNTED ROOM RATE IS SEPTEMBER 12, 2017.

See page 30 for more Hotel information.

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

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

Address Service Requested

Association Membership

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

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

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

You Can Help Our Association Grow

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



"29 Let's Go!"

Application for Membership in
29TH DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.

Please Print

Applicant _____

E-mail Address (if available) _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip+4 _____

I was a member of ____ Company ____ Battery ____ Regiment

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

*GWOT _____ Children/Grandchildren _____

Phone Number _____

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

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

*GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

Applicant's Signature _____