



## 96th Annual Reunion & Convention in Ocean City, MD



*Please join us for our annual event in Ocean City, MD, 16-19 October 2014*

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

As in the past, Thursday, 16 October is a travel day and registration. Since many of our guests will not be arriving until Thursday afternoon, there are no trips scheduled for that day. Instead, the hospitality room will be open with various snacks and beverages beginning at 4pm and remaining open until 11pm. Dinner on Thursday evening will be on your own in one of the many great eating facilities both within and outside the hotel.

**NOTE:** The closest commercial airport to the convention site is Wicomico Regional Airport (SBY) near Salisbury MD, some 30 miles from Ocean City. If flying in, we suggest that you make that your destination airport. We will make arrangements for

your transportation to the hotel. Please be sure to advise Bob Moscati of your airline, flight number, and arrival time as early as possible.

On Friday, we are planning a short bus trip down the Delmarva Peninsula to visit NASA's Wallops Island Space Flight Facility. This tour will include an Orientation and Briefing on the missions and activities conducted at the facility, including a stop at the Visitors Center. After lunch at the Base Dining Facility we will visit the Launch Control Center and tour the rocket launch area. We will then return to the Hotel for a sumptuous plated dinner and leisure time in the Hospitality Room to share in more camaraderie.

The Annual Business Meeting will be conducted on Saturday morning. The Banquet on Saturday evening will open with the Color Guard from Post #85 in North East, MD presenting the colors, and Ms. Valerie Hawkins of Post #85 offering an a cappella solo of the National Anthem, followed by another delicious plated dinner. Our Guest Speaker will be Major General James A. Adkins, the Adjutant General of Maryland. Installation of our newly elected officers will follow the dinner.

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

*See page 39 for Registration Form and other information*

## Commander's Message – John F. “Jack” Kutcher, Sr.

I am pleased to report the state of the Association is good and is continually improving. After six successive years of declining membership, we are experiencing an increase to our aggregate end-strength. This is due largely in part to the success of the embedded program instituted in 2013, an initiative of the Futures Committee chaired by NJVC David Ginsburg. As in any organization, recruiting and retention of members must remain one of our main objectives, and it is everyone's job to assist in this effort any way they can. The Association's newly designed and updated website has also proven to be an invaluable tool in this regard. A special thanks and kudos to our Webmaster Doug Wilcox for his extraordinary efforts in “translating” the myriad of initiatives posed by the Futures Committee into an effective, informative & aesthetically pleasing operational tool.

April and May were particularly busy with the Association participating in welcome home ceremonies, Freedom Salutes, and various memorial services. On a personal level, the premier event during this time period occurred on Sunday, 18 May 2014, when I had the honor of placing the 29th Division Association's Memorial Wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery. I was joined in this honor by Comrade William C. Doyle, a Normandy veteran and former staff sergeant in the 175th Infantry Regiment who will celebrate his 100th birthday in October. Thirteen comrades of our newest post, the Allen S. Levin Post #3 travelled from Toronto, Canada for the wreath laying ceremony. Also, the newly elected officers of Post #3 were installed by PNC/NED John Wilcox at the buffet dinner at the Spates Community Club on Fort Myer, Virginia following the ceremony.



Photo by Maxine Kutcher

**Flag Presentation to Mayor Francois Briere of St. Lo.  
Assisting Commander Kutcher is SPC Megan McGraw.**

A little over a week after the wreath laying at Arlington, we were on our way to Normandy with a small group of 29th Infantry Division D-Day/WWII veterans, accompanied by their families and friends, to attend various ceremonies observing the 70th Anniversary of D-Day. Most of the ceremonies took place at 29th Division monuments in towns and communes liberated by elements of the 29th Division after the breakout from the beach. These ceremonies included placing memorial wreaths provided by the Association, and presentations of 29th Infantry Division Flags donated by individual posts of the Association to the respective mayors. The highlight of the trip occurred just after dawn on Omaha Beach near Vierville sur Mer. Three original soldiers of the 116th Regimental Combat Team (Hal Baumgarten, Arden Earll and Don McCarthy) unveiled a new statue honoring the 29th Infantry Division. Named “Ever Forward”, the motto of the 116th Infantry Regiment, it depicts a soldier emerging from the surf, and dragging a wounded comrade to relative safety in search of medical assistance. It is a very impressive statue reflecting a very poignant moment in history. The statue is the first phase of a long-range program of the 116th Infantry Regiment Foundation. The 29th Division Association is pleased to have supported this initiative through a donation to the 116th Foundation.

Since we are still celebrating the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 in which many of the antecedent regiments of the 29th Infantry Division participated, the next several months will be equally busy. In addition, the 96th Annual Reunion and Convention in Ocean City, Maryland is right around the corner. See story on Page 1. I hope that many of you are making plans to join us in Ocean City for the 96th Reunion. It promises to be a memorable event! An important ingredient in our annual reunions is the preparation and publication of a Souvenir Program Book. Organizations and individuals are encouraged to purchase space in the 2014 Book. Additional information and instructions are provided on Page 39 of this issue next to the Reunion Registration Form. See you in Ocean City!

Submitted by John F. “Jack” Kutcher, Sr.

### THE TWENTY-NINER

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## Contributions to the *Twenty-Niner Sustaining Fund*

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our membership for their generosity in contributing to the *Twenty-Niner Sustaining Fund* for this Summer issue. From February 10, 2014 through June 15, 2014 these donations totaled \$1,526.92. **Note our cut-off time. If your contributions did not reach our National Executive Director by June 15, 2014 then it will not be listed until the next issue.** We thank you all and bless you

Albright, David R., Post 94 - Assoc. - Brentwood, TN  
Allen S. Levin Post # 3 - Ontario, CN  
Barden, Patricia, Post 94 - Daughter - Maidens, VA  
Baumgarten, Dr. Hal, Post 110 - B-116th Inf. - Jacksonville, FL

### In Memory of Milton A. Burke - D-Day Veteran of the 116th Inf.

Borosky, Bernard, Post 94 - Assoc. - Muscle Shoals, AL  
Boyster, Roy J., Post 94 - E-115th Inf - Shreveport, LA  
Burke, Edward A., Post 94 - A-821 TD - Cincinnati, OH  
Cogan, Gene, Post 2 - B-115th Inf. - Avilla, IN  
Cooley, Carl G., Post 94 - Son - Slagle, LA  
Dickerson, Glenn H., Post 94 - C-121st Engr - Ann Arbor, MI  
DiMattina, Vincent Jr., Post 94 - Son - Springfield, VA  
Edlund, III, Marcus, Post 64 - Assoc. - Williamsburg, VA  
Feldman, Joseph, Post 72 - C-175th Inf. - Arnold, MD  
Ford, William G., Post 94 - Assoc. - Silver Spring, MD  
Forney, Walter, Post 78 - Med-115th Inf. - Frederick, MD  
Garguilo, Neil, Post 94 - Son - Lakewood, NJ  
Garrison, Cecil L. Jr., Post 94 - Son - Centreville, VA  
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Green, David, Post 94 - Son - Philadelphia, PA  
Hertzfeld, Michael G., Post 94 - Assoc. - Perrysburg, OH  
Hewitt, F. Thomas, Post 94 - Svc-115th Inf - Laughlin, NV

### God Bless all Active and Deceased Members

Huffaker, James R., Post 64 - M-116th Inf. - Knoxville, TN  
Janssen, Kathleen, Post 94 - Daughter - Arnold, MD  
Jindra, Leonard, Post 94 - F-115th Inf - Floral Park, NY  
Joiner, Tommie L., Post 94 - 175th Inf - Batesville, MS  
Joiner, William C., Post 94 - Grandson - Brandon, MS  
Linthicum, George, Post 72 - C-175th Inf. - Lutherville, MD

### In Memory of Ronald R. Sommers - C-1-175th Inf (5/3/14)

Martin, Annette U., Post 94 - Assoc. - Israel  
Martin, Donald, Post 78 - L-175th Inf. - Slater, MO  
Martin, Tom, Post 94 - Son - Mt. Sterling, KY  
McCumsey, Sylvester, Jr., Post 64 - C-116th Inf. (L) - Keswick, VA  
McNamara, Margaret - Missoula, MT

### In Memory of John J. O'Neil - A-1-116th Inf. WW II KIA 6 June 1944

Maylor, Thomas E., Post 29 - B-115th Inf. - Longmont, CO  
Moore, Arthur J., Jr. - F-115th Inf. - Houston, TX  
Neuwirth, Francis, Post 94 - A-821 TD - Sleepy Hollow, NY  
Piper, Samuel M., Post 94 - HQ-1-115th Inf. (L) - Falls Church, VA  
Piper, Samuel M., Post 94 - HQ-1-115th Inf. (L) - Falls Church, VA

Piper, Samuel M., Post 94 - HQ-1-115th Inf. (L) - Falls Church, VA  
Piper, Samuel M., Post 94 - HQ-1-115th Inf. (L) - Falls Church, VA  
Ross, John K., Post 94 - Assoc. - Washington D.C.  
Roush, Bruce & Carol, Post 72 - B-AVN Bde. - Jarrettsville, MD  
Royce, Evelyn, Minneapolis, MN

### In Memory of Howard Royce

Scheuerer, Raymond A., Post 94 - C-116th Inf - Kenilworth, NJ  
Simmons, Welford, Post 64 - C & M-116th Inf. - Harrisonburg, VA  
Smith, Garrick E., Post 94 - Assoc. - Frederick, MD  
Smolar, R. Blair, Post 94 - HQ-3-116th Inf(L) - Perry Point, MD  
Sparks, Gary, Post 94 - Son - Hillsborough, NH  
Stemberg, Abraham, Post 94 - HHC -115th Inf(L) - Coral Spring, FL  
Stonebreaker, Millard E., Post 94 - I-116th Inf - Lancaster, NY  
Talaber, David & Angela, Post 94 - Assoc. - Woodbridge, VA  
Taranto, Kevin, Post 94 - Assoc. - Commack, NY  
Tennis, William C., Post 94 - Son - Hampton, VA  
Twining, Everette, Post 29 - A-459th AAA - Concord, VA  
Vernillo, Michel T., Post 29 - HQ-227th FA - Pittsburgh, PA  
Williams, James, Post 94 - Assoc. - Whiting, NY  
Wilroy, John D., Post 94 - E-115th Inf(NG) - Woodstock, GA  
Wilson, Charles L., Post 94 - Assoc. - APO, AE  
Zick, Marianne E., Baltimore, MD

### In Memory of LTC Lester K. Zick - AT-175th Inf.

Zimmerman, Charles D., Post 94 - HQ/3rd Bde - New Windsor, MD  
Zimmerman, Melvin A., Post 94 - Assoc. - New Windsor, MD

## Legion of Honor Recipients

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

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

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

Please submit this information to the address listed below:

William S. Mund, Jr.  
441 Chalfonte Drive  
Baltimore, MD 21228  
[edit-pub29er@hotmail.com](mailto:edit-pub29er@hotmail.com)

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

## TAPS

The following list shows names of known 29ers and their ladies or family members who died and their deaths reported from Feb 16, 2014 through June 16, 2014. We are indeed saddened and mourn their passing. We extend our deepest sympathy and love to their families and loved ones. We pray that they and all of our earlier deceased 29ers and ladies may rest in peace. Amen.

## LAST ROLL CALL

Bean, Robert S, Post 85, Assoc, Elk Hills Md, 5/9/14  
 Bujac, Eugene, Post 2, G/115, Annapolis Md, 6/1/14  
 Cecil, Joseph O, Post 78, A/1-175, Frederick Md, 3/5/14  
 Christiansen, Galen, Post 29, Med/3-116, Sun City Az, 5/11/13  
 Honick, David, Post 93, C/227FA, Thousand Oaks Ca, 7/27/13  
 Keyser, Richard V, A/1-115, Jefferson Md, 3/25/14  
 King, Earl R, B and Med/115, Dillsburg Pa, 1/15/14  
 King, Sterling, B/115, Cedar Grove Md, 3/11/13  
 Kopp, Vance D, Post 110, DivArty, Reisterstown Md, 5/10/14  
 Leigh, L. Cass, Post 64, D/116, Washington DC, 2/10/14  
 Loffhouse, Joseph, Post 85, E/115, Elkton Md, 4/30/14  
 May, Robert L, Post 729, B/115, Hagerstown Md, 4/15/14  
 Mullinex, Harold B, B/115, Damascus Md, 2/12/13  
 Ponton, Henry "Pete", Post 78, A/115, Frederick Md, 6/16/14  
 Schlentz, Warren, Post 64, Assoc, Greensboro NC, 2/21/13  
 Sommer, Ronald R, Post 72, HQ/1-175, Baltimore Md, 5/10/14  
 Stansbury, Donnie G, Post 78, B/115, Frederick Md, 3/27/14  
 Willett, John D, Post 29, Med/1-115, Roanoke In, 1/15/14

## LADIES

Vecchioni, Joan, Aux 72, Widow, Glen Burnie Md, 6/8/14

## 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 18 comrades and 1 lady who have died and whose death was reported to us since our last publication. This includes 3 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.

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## French Legion of Honor Recipients

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

### Cox, Austin H.

L Company, 115th Infantry  
 Crisfield, Maryland  
 Post 88

### Dickerson, Joseph Q.

E Company, 116th Infantry  
 Murfreesboro, North Carolina  
 Post 64

### Herrick, Leroy W.

H Company, 116th Infantry  
 Chicago, Illinois  
 Post 93

### Jindra, Leonard

F Company, 115th Infantry  
 Floral Park, New York  
 Post 94

### Mozgai, John

G Company, 116th Infantry  
 Edison, New Jersey  
 Post 94

### Peregrim, John

E Company, 115th Infantry  
 Devon, Connecticut  
 Post 93

### Vernillo, Michael T.

HQ 227th Field Artillery  
 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
 Post 29

# D-Day and Beyond

**Editor's Note:** *This account is about Ivy Agee, from Gordonsville, Tennessee. I spoke with Mr. & Mrs. Agee on 21 April 2014. The Agee's have been married for 71 years.*

On 6 June, 1944, Allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy, setting the stage for the march eastward that would end the war in Europe less than one year later. Ivy Agee, of Gordonsville, Tennessee, was one of those soldiers who went ashore that morning.

Ivy Agee had completed high school, married his high school sweetheart, Virginia Lester, and awaited his call into the armed forces. That call for induction came on 10 January, 1943. Ivy went to Camp Forrest, Tennessee, where he was introduced to the rigors of military training. After a short stay at Camp Forrest, he was on his way to Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, and then on to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, a field artillery garrison near Lawton, Oklahoma. From Fort Sill, he went to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, and was shipped to Europe on the luxury liner, *Queen Elizabeth* which made the voyage in five days. On the way to Europe, the *Queen Elizabeth*, went unescorted and constantly changed its course to keep away from the German U-Boats. On the voyage, he was assigned as a member of a crew to help man the guns aboard the ship. Upon landing at Greenock, Scotland, he was transported by rail to Plymouth, England, where on his first night there, Plymouth was hit by an air raid by the German Luftwaffe.

In England, Ivy was assigned to the 29th Infantry Division, which had as its nucleus the Virginia and Maryland National Guard units. The Division came from both the north and south, hence the Blue-Gray. Ivy was assigned to the 111th Field Artillery Battalion. The motto of the 29th Division was *29 Let's Go*. In the eleven months of combat, the Division would be afforded many opportunities to live up to its motto.

The division went through various phases of training, artillery problems on the moors (swamps) near Southampton and assault training exercises, which included combat conditions assault landings at Slapton Sands, England, located on the waters of the English Channel. All training was done in the utmost secrecy, although it was presumed the division would be part of the invasion of the continent when the time came. Ivy said "Even though this was the presumed mission of the division, it was impossible to comprehend the vastness of the operation, because aside from training of the division, security was so strict it was impossible to know what was occurring elsewhere, that more than three million troops were training all over England, Wales, Ireland and Scotland. Although the officers tried, there was no way to prepare us for the reality of war."

Although Ivy did not know, on 11 May, 1944, a top secret order came down from the Headquarters of the Supreme Allied Command. The 29th Division was one of the two divisions selected to assault a beach having the code name of Omaha on a date yet to be determined with a code name of D-Day. Omaha Beach was a crescent shaped strip, approximately four miles long with five draws or ravines leading to the top of the cliffs ranging in height from 75 to 250 feet high. They were topped with a mixture of

German obstacles, bunkers, gun emplacement, pill boxes, maze of trenches and plenty of barbed wire, a lot of which is still there. In peacetime they had nestled peacefully on the western part of France, playing host to vacationers in the summertime. The 29th Division went into additional intensive, secret training. All passes from the military compound were strictly for official business only. Ivy Agee had now been in England for a year.

In the early days of June the 29th Division began loading on Navy craft at Falmouth, England, for the assault on the European Continent. An artificial fog was put up, and the troops loaded on the ship. They were now 160 miles away from Omaha Beach. The 111th Field Artillery Battalion's mission would be in direct support of the 116th Infantry Regiment of the 29th Division and assigned nine separate operations to be prepared to perform. The 111th was scheduled to go ashore between H hour plus 30 and H hour plus 90 minutes on D-Day. The weather was bad. 5 June had actually been selected for D-Day; however, Allied Command postponed it one day to get a break in the weather, which proved to be a very little break. Ivy said "On the morning of 6 June, the voice of General Dwight D. Eisenhower came over the ship's loudspeaker and announced, 'This is it'. He told us many lives would be lost. Then he said 'God bless you'". Ivy continued, "The water was rough as we crossed the Channel. We said our goodbyes to each other, because most of the soldiers did not think they would live to see each other again."

The weather was rough and proved to be an additional enemy on D-Day as the storm continued. The force of the wind caused waves averaging three to four feet, and the beach breakers were about the same. Additionally, the Germans had placed underwater obstacles of steel and wood, barbed wire, and mines attached parallel to the beach area.

The time for the troops to go ashore had arrived. They were tired, wet, cold and seasick. Ivy climbed down the net from the craft to a jeep on the Rhino Ferry, a flat boat with 150 vehicles on it. He was assigned a jeep equipped with radio for setting up communications. Because it was his duty to get ashore and set up communications, he would be one of the first ashore from the 111th Battalion. He was temporarily attached to A Company of the 116th Infantry Regiment, and went ashore with them. Only two vehicles made it off the Rhino, Ivy's jeep and a 6x6 truck. As Ivy came off, the water was so deep that he had to stand on tip-toe to keep his nose above water. He said, "I was able to steer the jeep with one hand and choke it with the other." Once ashore, Ivy had to abandon the jeep because of shellfire. As Ivy came off the Navy craft, he knew the 111th was in trouble as he saw both troops and equipment being thrown into the water. When he got ashore, there were few able bodied soldiers on the beach.

A Company of the 116th Infantry was making the initial assault. (Historical accounts credit A Company as being the first troops to land on Omaha Beach.) As a forward observer recon-

naissance radio operator, it was Ivy's job to direct fire where it was needed. However, he had become separated from his partner and the radio, which was in the jeep. Due to all the adverse conditions, almost all of the Battalion's equipment and some of the troops never got ashore. Enemy resistance was fierce. Some coming ashore barely made it before being killed or injured. The Battalion Commander became a casualty on the beach. A Company suffered so many casualties that reinforcements had to be sent it.

Ivy knew survival depended on getting off the beach as quickly as possible, which would take nearly four hours. After abandoning his jeep, Ivy crawled across the beach on his stomach with sand flying all around. He made it to a rock wall at the base of the bluffs and crouched down by another soldier whom he did not know. Ivy said, "We were talking about what we were going to do. An airburst came over us and a fragment from a shell hit the other soldier between the eyes. He died immediately."

Along with other soldiers, Ivy continued to crawl beside the wall, all the while watching for snipers. He said, "We continued to inch forward using shell holes made by the German artillery guns. We did what we could for the wounded, while at the same time trying to protect ourselves. My 45 Colt pistol had so much sand in it that it would not fire. I took a gun from a dead soldier for my own." Ivy attached to the 116th Infantry until 111th Battalion re-assembly could be accomplished.

The 116th Infantry was re-assembled in a rock quarry in an area in the vicinity of Vierville-sur-Mer, a hamlet located along the coast and preparation for recommitment into battle began. After three days with the 116th Infantry, Ivy rejoined the 111th Field Artillery. Battle would be against some of the enemy's crack infantry and paratroopers, and against an unexpected deterrent, the Normandy hedgerows. In the fighting, it was not unusual for the allies to be on one side of the hedgerows and the Germans on the other.

With amazing speed, the Battalion was supplied with the much-needed equipment for battle (Only one of the 105mm Howitzer guns of the 111th Battalion made it ashore.) Through the remainder of June and into early July, the 111th Field Artillery Battalion continued in direct support of the 116th Infantry Regiment. Opposition continued to be fierce with battle waged for every foot of gain. Progress was measured by the number of hedgerows gained rather than the number of kilometers. Ivy said the Germans unwittingly were a big help to the troops in getting a firm base on French soil. He said, "After we got off the beach, we found an abandoned building. Behind the building was a sand table with all the German gun positions drawn in the sand. The Germans retreated so fast they did not destroy the drawings which were valuable information to us. This helped us put fire in those positions." (Near Vierville-sur-Mer is an abandoned German gun position that has remained just as it was when abandoned in the D-Day fighting).

Slowly, the Allied troops fought their way off the beachhead. With the British and Canadian troops to the north and other American troops that had landed on Omaha Beach and to the southwest on Utah Beach, the Allied troops gained a foothold that would prove very valuable in the days and weeks ahead.

On 16 July, 1944, the 111th Field Artillery Battalion became a

part of a coordinated attack to seize the high ground overlooking a city named Saint Lo, which was only 25 miles from the beaches. The battalion was in the thick of the battle, which consisted of attacking, repulsing counter attacks and advancing, until Saint-Lo was liberated on 18 July, 1944. The city had a pre-war population of 40,000, and the buildings were reduced to rubble during the battle. It may have been the most completely demolished city of Europe. The 29th Division marched through Saint-Lo and turned south.

As August approached, the 111th Field Artillery Battalion continued to advance in a southward direction and found itself in battle to again meet the enemy and move through hedgerows to liberate the city of Vire, an important German communication center. The battle was fierce. However, the 111th was now a seasoned, battle hardened outfit, and Vire was under Allied control in less than forty-eight hours. After liberation of Vire, the division was given a week of Rest and Rehabilitation (R&R).

After the R&R, the 29th Division was attached to the Third Army and found itself on a march of 240 miles, which was completed in fourteen hours. This placed the division on the outskirts of the city of Brest. The allied forces soon learned that Brest was another heavily defended Fortress and would have to be taken after another fierce battle. Brest was important to the Germans as a U-Boat base, and they had surrounded the port of Brest on all sides with heavy defenses. They combined the use of ancient Napoleonic forts with an extensive system of pillboxes and forts, using reinforced concrete, extending deep into the ground where great stores of ammunition and supplies were kept. By properly utilizing the carefully constructed fortifications, only a few German soldiers were needed to hold off a superior number of Allied troops.

The Allies assault was almost a text book plan. First, the dive-bombers were brought in to soften up the fort. Then the artillery took over, and for three weeks pounded the fort with heavy fire of the big guns. Then, more dive-bombers came, more artillery fire, and finally the fort was assaulted by the infantry using dynamite and flamethrowers. The seizure of Brest was a bitter fight to the end.

After 63 days of action, the 29th Division's part of the Battle of Normandy was over. The battle for Normandy had been savage. There were still others before the war would be won.

The troops thought an extended rest period would be granted. After a week's rest, the division started a 600 mile march northeasterly across France, and after three days of travel, they arrived in Southeastern Holland, where the mission of the 111th Field Artillery Battalion would be in direct support of a cavalry unit rather than the 116th Infantry Regiment. It would now be a part of the Ninth Army.

Ivy remembers the cleanliness of the area. Everything was spic and span. However, the area was completely flat, and the fall rains brought a new factor – mud. It would now take twice as long to move. The war would go on whether the weather would be fair or foul.

The ground troops were now approaching the feared German Siegfried line, and the mission of the 111th and the Cavalry unit was to hold a long line, while other troops battled through the line into the Aachen area. This would place the Allied troops within

the German homeland in the north. After the fall of Aachen, the Ninth Army was ready to start the drive towards the Roer River, one of the lesser known but one of the raging rivers of Western Germany.

By mid-November, the 111th was penetrating into Germany. Plans were being made for the drive eastward. However, there were major obstacles ahead. The weather was being less than cooperative, readying itself to bring Western Europe the worst winter in half a century. Further south, the Germans were preparing for their last major offensive of the war, the Ardennes Offensive or the *Battle of the Bulge*. The Ninth Army and the 111th Field Artillery Battalion were slowed to a snail's pace.

Even though the weather was unfavorable, the war continued. As the ground war moved into Germany, one of the towns that had to be taken was Koslar. Ivy Agee became one of four soldiers who entered Koslar as a forward observer party. After entering the town and pushing their way into a courtyard, they lost contact with their unit and were completely surrounded by German troops. Their only contact was by radio. They found refuge in a cellar in the courtyard, and also found there were German troops next door. They found four white rabbits which they killed and ate as rations until an observation plane came over and perfectly dropped some rations in the courtyard. Ivy fought both a psychological and ground soldier's war, daring the enemy to come out, and at the same time joining his fellow soldiers to deliver accurate and effective fire on the enemy. In the meantime, other units of the 111th were attempting to fight their way to the courtyard. Outside Ivy heard the rumble of a tank and knew it was a German tank coming towards the courtyard. He called for and received artillery support in the form of a perfectly directed shot that knocked out the tank. After four days, Ivy and the others fought their way out and reunited with their advancing unit. For Gallantry in Action, he was awarded the Silver Star.

In December, as the weather continued to worsen and the German offensive in the south commenced, the Allied drive eastward was slowed. The 111th ground to a halt and it was under these conditions that Ivy spent Christmas.

In January, with the Ardennes Counteroffensive in the south under control, and with favorable weather, the assault on the German homeland was again launched. This time it was not to be denied. The attacks were successful, the German lines were broken and its armies on the run. In early March, the 29th Division was pulled back for a much needed rest, not only for the men, but also for the equipment that was badly in need of repair.

The rest period was abruptly halted when the division was back in action and ordered to cross the Rhine River. This action lasted about a week. By this time, the Russian Armies were closing in from the east, and it was just a matter of time before the Nazi opposition would completely crumble. In the meantime, the war went on.

The 29th Division was sent to mop up behind the Fifth Ar-

mored Division which was moving so fast towards the Elbe River and a linkup with the Russians that they were unable to do a thorough clean up. For several days, the 111th followed the 116th Infantry without firing a round of ammunition. However, as they neared the banks of the Elbe, the resistance stiffened. The German army was caught in a wedge and trying to buy some time, which was useless. The 111th was ready to march into Berlin but was halted by orders that the Russians would take the city.

Even though combat was over, many unexpected problems arose. German soldiers were being captured at an unprecedented rate. Prisoners by the thousands, marching ten abreast, were being brought in to makeshift prison camps. Allied POW's were being freed in large numbers, and slave laborers suddenly found themselves free. The net result was a mass movement westward of men, women and children in all sorts of conveyances and clogging vital supply lines necessary for the military. Divisions were assigned to clear the roads of all except military traffic and to care for those who had been displaced.

It had been an eleven month march for the 29th Division from the Normandy beaches to the linkup with the Russians at the Elbe River and being halted at the outskirts of Berlin. The division had played a vital role in *The Great Crusade*. Ivy Agee had been a part of it all the way. He saw many of his friends fail to survive, one on the very waning days of the war, the victim of a sniper's bullet. Ivy said, "You can read stories and see movies, but you really had to be there to understand what really happened. I am thankful to have survived. The one thing that sustained me throughout those months of war was "If God be for me, who could be against me?"

In May 1945, the 29th Division was assigned occupation duties with the responsibility of assisting in the supervisory control of the Bremen-Bremerhaven Enclave. Ivy's assignment continued until he was transferred back to the United States in the fall of 1945 aboard the liberty ship the *John W. Brown*, which is still in operation today.

Ivy Agee received his discharge on 18 November 1945. He received many awards and decorations among those the Silver Star and Bronze Star.

Ivy made his first trip back to the beaches of Normandy in 1997, where he was made an honorary citizen of Vierville-sur-Mer, Colleville-sur-Mer and Saint Laurent-sur-Mer.

Ivy said his memories of D-Day have never faded. He said, "Never a day goes by that I do not remember my fellow soldiers that I left on the beach and in Europe. I left part of me in France, Belgium and Germany. Ivy has a small flower garden in his yard as a reminder of his fallen friends in battle 70 years ago.

One soldier said to Ivy, "Why am I here" I'm not mad at anybody." But, Ivy reflects, "It was 70 years ago. It was a different world. Our way of life was threatened. The call came. We answered."

**Be sure to check out our new and improved  
website at: [www.29thdivisionassociation.com](http://www.29thdivisionassociation.com)**

## **Futures Committee: Unit histories and Post pages go live**

Since the last *Twenty-Niner* came out, things have centered around 2 initiatives – building up the unit histories on the website, and creating a space on the site for the Posts to be able to say what they are doing.

On the unit histories, there are now histories on “The 29th Division in World War II” and unit histories on the 115th Infantry, 116th Infantry, 175th Infantry, 110th FA, 224th FA, 104th Medical, 121st Engineers, 729th Maintenance, 229th S&T, and the 129th Signal. The 111th FA and the 227th FA will go live in the next few days. We are still working to get the 158th Cav live as well but need help getting their history updated for the last 10 years of deployments.

A key initiative of the Future’s Committee is ways to get the Posts to feel more involved in the Association and the Post Commander’s to attend the Convention.

To help the Posts, we have created a place for the Posts on the website. Posts now post when they meet, their dues structures, current post officers, and their major up-

coming events throughout the year, as well as their contact people.

We have created the idea for a Post Commander’s Workshop – time set aside during the convention for Post Commanders (and several members of each post) to brainstorm their challenges, what is going right, what is going wrong, and to try to talk through ways to grow the post. By allowing the Post Commanders to do these things that are not normally done at NEC Meetings or the Convention, we feel we can both strengthen the posts as well as give the Commanders a reason to want to come to the Convention.

Lastly, the Committee is still looking for motivated members who want to work directly with their local National Guard units to try to recruit more currently serving soldiers into the Association. If you are interested, please contact me at 443.641.7207 or [dginzu@gmail.com](mailto:dginzu@gmail.com)

*David Ginsburg*

*NJVC – Futures Committee Chairman*

### Maryland Post 110 - Pikesville, MD

**LARKSPUR POST 110  
29TH DIVISION ASSOCIATION  
[www.post110.org](http://www.post110.org)**



Post 110 meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month (except July and August) at 11am at the Pikesville NCO Club in Pikesville, MD.

Post 110 is one of the largest Posts in the 29th Division Association, with over 200 members. It is primarily made up of former members of the 110th and 224th Field Artillery Battalions, and people from other units formerly and presently based at the Pikesville Military Reservation including the 58th Infantry Brigade, the 3rd Brigade of the 29th Division, and the 129th Signal.

**TO RENEW YOUR \$12 DUES FOR POST 110, CLICK HERE**



The current list of officers were installed for a period of two years in 2013.

Post Commander - David Ginsburg  
Vice Commander – Frank “Doc” Barranco  
Adjutant – Robert Ward  
Finance Officer – Edward Rodier  
Redleg Publisher/Post Executive Director – PNC Bob Moscati  
WWII Liaison – Walter Heline  
Maryland Region Executive Committeeman – PNC Joseph Moscati  
Welfare Officer – Buzz Chalk  
Chaplain – Wayne Jolly  
Historian – Bunky Loehmeyer  
Sgt-At-Arms – Ron Cassett

Past National Commanders  
Dick Smith  
Joe Zang  
Bob Moscati  
Joseph Moscati

Dues are \$12.00 per year and based on a January through December schedule. Dues can also be paid by PayPal on our site, [www.Post110.org](http://www.Post110.org)

**Larkspur Post 110's page showing how a Post can collect dues on the National Site directly for the Post.**

## 70th Anniversary Memoire et Honneur Tour to Normandy

“On this visit to Normandy you could clearly see that the French people here love the WWII veterans and they will never forget your sacrifice for their liberty.”

*by Frances Sherr-Davino, Tour Coordinator*

I arrived in Paris a couple days before everyone else only to spend time on paperwork. I worked with Martha Barron, who also arrived early, to get everything printed that we needed for the 13 days ahead of us. We had one day out in Paris of wonderful fun where we were in search of places Martha's father had been during the war. We followed his pictures up the Rue de Rivoli to the Hotel Regina where he had stayed. We enjoyed a drink and dessert in the beautiful hotel bar. The next day, the 30th of May was arrival time for the group and everyone's flight safely arrived. So all gathered together while we waited for the last person to arrive and then I phoned the coach to come rescue the group from the airport terminal.

After checking into the Marriott Rive Gauche, we had a late lunch and then everyone was on his or her own until the next afternoon. On the 31st at 4 PM we took two coaches for tours around Paris each with a French guide, who pointed out many beautiful landmarks and then arrived at the Arc de Triomphe. With the aid of Chef du Cabinet for International Relations, Andre Rakoto, we participated in an amazing French Ceremony in laying flowers at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and symbolically lighting the eternal flame. The veterans were seated beside the tomb and the rest of the group was ushered under the street and then traffic was stopped!

With Commander Jack Kutcher leading the way, we marched up the Champs-Elysees to the Arc and gathered around the Tomb. I was chosen to stand with French General Charpentier whom I had written about our presence in Paris. With me were Fred Rudder, who currently serves with the 291st Army Liaison Team and had just returned from his 5th deployment and Capt. Lindsey Rowland, US Army, who spent

25 months in Iraq. I was in amazing company. We were thrilled to be standing there and had to pinch ourselves, as it was an amazing sight. A French Air Force band was on one side of us. The French locals, who had gathered, were crying with joy because American WWII veterans were present. Fred assisted the veterans with the flowers and then Steve Melnikoff was

selected and handed a silver sword to symbolically light the eternal flame. It was a beautiful sight.

The next morning, we departed Paris on our two coaches for Normandy. Our goal of the day was lunch at Chateau La Cheneviere located outside Port en Bessin. It was absolutely lovely and we cheered the wonderful but shy chef at the end of our first of many great meals together! After lunch, we arrived in St Lo to our home for the next 10 nights: the Mercure Hotel. For some folks, I think it took a few days to relax into the flow of travel in the French countryside of Normandy. Several people on the tour chose to stay with a French family. Everyone was happy to be in Normandy for the 70th Anniversary of D-Day.

By the 2nd of June, our group of 60, swelled to 68 plus 12 students and professors from George Washington University, (GW) who would follow us for the next week. In addition, for several days

we had high school students from St Lo travel with us.

Our first full day in Normandy, took us to Pont du Hoc for a visit and to pay our respects to the Rangers. WWII Foundation Director Tim Gray and cameraman, Jim Karpeichik, were there to film for an upcoming video for PBS. Both Hal Baumgarten and Joe Balkoski were interviewed while everyone visited and walked the Pont. Jack Kutcher and Joe Zang laid flowers with WWII veterans Steve Melnikoff, Hal Baumgarten and Arden Earll, and student Elena from GW University. A catered lunch



*Photo by Fran Sherr-Davino*

**29th Division Commander, MG Charles Whittington, and color guard stand behind veterans of D-Day on Omaha Beach, France, on the 70th Anniversary of D-Day, 6 June 2014.**



**Mayor Marc-Andreu Sabater, of Vire, greeting Arden Earll, 116th Inf, who participated in the battle for the Liberation of Vire. Also seen is Hal Baumgarten, 116th Inf and Joseph Steimel, 175th Inf.**

followed in Vierville sur Mer and everyone got their first glimpse of Omaha Beach and had more food, wine and delicious desserts. The group then went to Bayeux and most took in the 11th Century Tapestry, which tells the story of William the Conqueror, while others enjoyed the cathedral and the beautiful town. The McCarthy brothers, Col. Paul Griffith and Maxine Giannini, widow of Ugo Giannini, joined us at dinner in a small picturesque village outside St Lo. We had another grand meal and the spirit of family and friendship that occurs within the 29th Division Association was alive and well.

On Day 2 we had a sightseeing day to Mont St Michel and then to St Malo. Both destinations are amazing sights with beautiful architecture. Mont St Michel is an 11th Century Romanesque working abbey and a town built up around it. St Malo, founded in the 1st Century, has a walled city where the corsair Pirates lived and plundered for the King of France any enemy who entered the English Channel. During WWII it was badly damaged but was reconstructed with the same stone. It now has delightful shops and restaurants. We made it back to St Lo in time for dinner!

Day 3 - 4 June was the day we were meeting the 29th Division soldiers who would be with us for the next 5 days. We started at the Church in Vierville sur Mer with a concert by the brass section of the 29th Division Band from Roanoke, Virginia. We moved on to the Signal Monument in St Laurent sur Mer. It started to rain and we were ushered into a tent to wait for it to pass. The new Mayor of St Laurent was quite nervous to be having his first ceremony with WWII veterans of the 29th Division as well as the CG (Commanding General), MG Whittington. Mayor Philippe Laillier confided to me that he had butterflies in his stomach for such an important event.

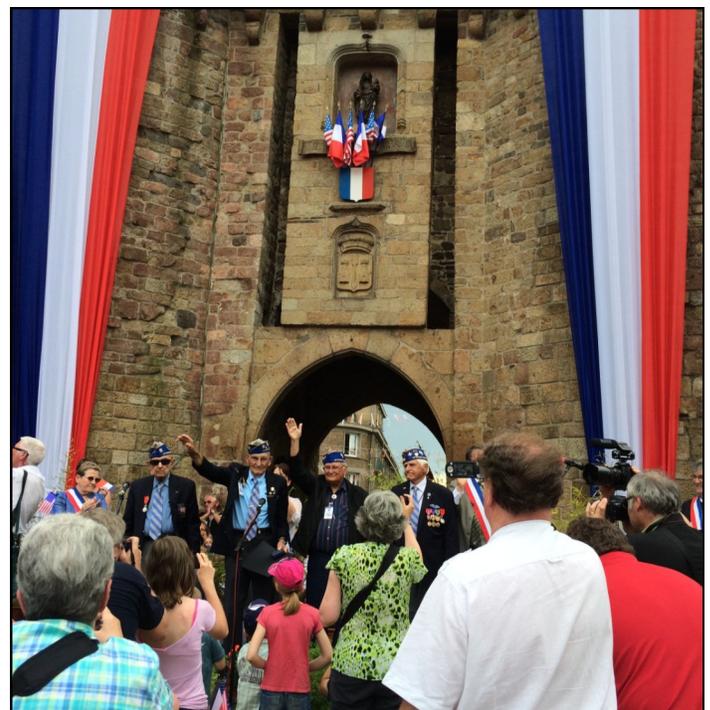
After the speeches, the flower laying and taps, the 29th band members played both the French and American anthems. We then stopped at the First Cemetery Marker on Omaha Beach and were greeted by Monsieur le Mayor de Bellague of Vierville sur Mer and a local choir who sang the Hymn of the Free French Forces. Lunch followed and then we headed to La

Cambe where we were met by another new Mayor to me, who was overjoyed to have the veterans in his town for the naming of a square beside the church the Place de 29th Division. The square was filled with children waving American flags. We were treated to a reception and the veterans were showered with gifts. That evening we attended a concert by the Texas Children's Choir at the French American Memorial Hospital in St Lo. The Director, M. Thierry Lugbull, invited us all to a splendid buffet dinner. As you walked through the lobby, the 1944 drawings of Ugo Giannini were on display.

On 5 June we started the day at the Wall of Remembrance, where we had two new plaques unveiled. Patricia Robert spoke about her dad, Morley Piper, 115th Inf, and then the family unveiled Morley's plaque on the Souvenir du Muir. George Faries spoke about his father, Major George Faries, 104th Medical Bn., and unveiled a plaque in honor of his dad with his wife and sons and grandson.

We moved 2 km to the crossroads at St Clair sur Elle for a ceremony with the ten Mayors of the Bocage region liberated by the 29th Division. The speakers included the Mayor of St Clair sur Elle, The Deputy of the region, the Counselor General, MG Whittington and our own Morley Piper. Morley's daughter Patricia and granddaughter Audrey translated for him. Following the speeches and wreath layings, taps, and national anthems, 120 local children sang to us our National anthem in English and then the French National Anthem in French. With the release of hundreds of white balloons we moved back to the coaches and on to a lunch given by the 10 towns.

During our meal, Jack Kutcher presented the 29th Division flag and engraved paperweight, to each of the 10 Mayors, who were so touched and grateful with the wonderful gifts. M. Denis



**Hal Baumgarten, Arden Earll, Joe Steimel and Steve Melnikoff greet hundreds of townspeople in Vire.**

Lesage presented each veteran, soldier and family with a tile made locally to commemorate the 29th Division and the 70th anniversary at Le Carrefour. In Morley's words: "Vive la France!"

We rose very early on 6 June and departed the hotel at 0500H with three coaches, as the group was now 120! We arrived to Omaha beach at 0600H and the escorts swooped the WWII veterans down to the beach and everyone followed. The Honor Guard was in place with MG Whittington in front to greet us. I hurriedly poured the Calvados that Martha had found at a local producer and 1st Lt Moore passed them out to the CG and all of the veterans. At H Hour, 0630, MG Whittington made a toast to those who did not make it off the beach and then all downed their calvados. The Veterans were then escorted off the beach to seats in front of the National Guard monument. General Ted Shuey introduced the history and unveiling of the 116th/29th Division Statue. Monsieur le Maire de Bellaigue spoke about the meaning of the morning. Then Hal Baumgarten spoke brilliantly and I give you a small quote: "Surrender is not in a 29ers dictionary."

The four veterans who were on the beach 70 years prior at that hour stood to unveil the new statue. Slowly, the cover slid off to reveal a magnificent statue (*see photo inset*) that showed a soldier dragging a comrade over the sand. It will be there for eternity for all to see. The National Guard monument has now become a park-like destination. With the addition of this glorious statue, Dog Green sector of Omaha Beach in Vierville sur Mer will continue to stand to honor the events of 1944.

Following the unveiling, we all boarded coaches to go to the American Cemetery at Colleville for the big event with Presidents Obama and Hollande. The Veterans sat on the stage with both Presidents and the 29ers were in plain view in the front. President Obama quoted BG Dutch Cota with the words "Rangers lead the way!" in his speech. President Obama shook hands with every veteran on the stage. While we waited for our coaches to return, we learned that the gendarmes were not letting any coaches into the parking area to pick people up! But, after a bit, our coaches were first to arrive so I owe a big thank you to SGM Brock for his help and contacts to get us out of there as fast as we did! We moved back to Vierville sur Mer and had a picnic lunch in Camp Cecil Breeden, a reenactment camp named for the medic who had landed on the beach with the 116th Infantry on 6 June. The lunch was an amazing three courses in a box! We sat in the grass and at a long table in the shade. Following lunch, we went to the Vierville draw and took our places at the 29th Division Monument for speeches by the Mayor and CG, both thanking the veterans over and over. Flowers were laid, taps were played and then both National anthems were sung. Flowers were then laid at the Ranger plaque that is on the stone wall to the right of the monument.

We then moved down to the National Guard Monument for a ceremony with the contingent from NGAUS, (National Guard Association of the United States). Anne Armstrong and MG Danner, The Adjutant General of Missouri, spoke about the meaning of the day. Flowers were laid on the monument.



**The monument, named "Ever Forward", the motto of the 116th Infantry Regiment, depicts a soldier emerging from the surf, and dragging a wounded 29th Division soldier to relative safety in search of medical assistance.**

Our day had drawn to a close. We made our way to the coaches to return to St Lo. Refreshed, we had a dinner in our hotel.

On 7 June, we arrived in Isigny to the church and the plaque dedicated in 2004 for the 175th Infantry Regiment. It had now been placed on the side of the church below a special stained glass window. We had a short ceremony and laid flowers. Then we all visited the interior of the church to see the stained glass that the citizens had repaired after the war with the yin/yang patch of the 29th Division. We moved to the War Memorial for a larger ceremony where townspeople and children were waiting for us. I put 29th Division stickers on all of the children! They seemed so tickled. After the ceremony we moved into the Town Hall to see a temporary exhibit set up by a group of French Collectors and Historians. One of the rooms showing 29th Division WWII uniforms and materials belonged to Yannick Creach of Morlaix, Brittany. Yannick joined us with his wife Florence and young son.

We returned to the Hotel Mercure for a lunch and a short rest before heading to the Howie Memorial in St Lo. We joined the Mayor, Deputy and Townspeople to lay flowers at the Memorial for Tom Howie. We followed the Honor Guard to the church St Croix to continue to honor the strength and courage of the Major of St Lo. The Church, where the Major's body had been laid, was now laden with flowers. The Honor Guard led us to the museum down the street where pins were given to all of the WWII veterans and Bob Lowry, 116th Infantry Regiment, received the Legion of Honor. The auditorium was fully packed with excited local citizens trying to get a glimpse of their heroes.

Following the pinning's, we took some pictures outside and then moved to the hotel for a brief break before dinner. We had a delicious buffet dinner put on by the town. Jack Kutcher presented M. le Maire Francoise Briere a 29th Division flag, with the aid of SPC Megan McGraw, of the 29th Division flag



**M. and Madame Thierry Lugbull at dinner in Canisy. Thierry is the Director of the French - American Memorial Hospital in St Lo.**

Honor Guard. Megan was given a gift from the town to remember the occasion. The Honor Guard then had to rush off as tomorrow would be another long day for them. The rest of us headed to the coaches after more incredible apple tarts were eaten.

On the 8th of June we departed at 0815 to travel to St James cemetery. We arrived to be met by a large number of local town folks and the Mayor of the small village where the cemetery sits. The band played music from the side until we were ready for the ceremony. MG Whittington spoke about the sacrifice of our soldiers and gratitude for the French citizens for safekeeping our fallen. Flowers were laid and SGT John Pace played taps that echoed out from inside the chapel.

The band played both National Anthems and then the Honor Guard led us to the grave of CMH recipient T/SGT Sherwood Hallman. We laid flowers and taps were played. In a wonderful gesture MG Whittington slowly placed the coin of the Commanding General on the headstone.

Yannick Creach who knew T/SGT Hallman's wife and son very well, spoke about Sherwood's actions in Brittany at the Iliac Farm to win him the Medal of Honor. Tony Paradiso had a small ceremony with taps at the grave of SGT Gerhardt Gosnell, 104th Med Bn, for Gerhardt's son is the pastor in his church back in Ohio.

We boarded the coaches and drove to our lunch in Vire. M. le Maire Marc-Andreu Sabater greeted us and escorted everyone in to a delicious lunch. He seemed overwhelmed with joy to have the veterans and us attend. We then went to Hill 203 for our ceremony in honor of the actions on the hills outside of Vire by the 116th Infantry Regiment. The veterans and their escorts were driven in antique cars and made a grand entrance. After

speeches from the Mayor, the assistant Prefect, Major General Whittington, we heard from Mrs. Kathleen Newman, who spoke about her father, Captain Robert Walker. He had visited Vire several times and had placed the crest of the 116th on the monument. For Kathleen, this was a special honor to carry on her Father's story. Doves were released at the end of our ceremony. We then drove to the town center where the veterans were presented with a medallion fabricated for them by the town. There were young children who read poems they had written and a children's choir who sang in honor of the veterans. The vets were cheered! We then went to the town hall for a drink and some delicious hors d'oeuvres.

This was our last day with our escorts, honor guard and band. The escorts had bonded with their veteran and promises of visits were made. We returned to the hotel Mercure to have a social with the soldiers so we could say thank you to them for their service with us. A few of the escorts, speaking from their hearts, told us that it was the best assignment they have ever had or could hope to have in their military career.

The next two days we visited the Peregrory monument in Grandcamp, went to the Utah Beach Museum, back to Omaha Beach and the Cemetery for a quieter visit than on the 6th. We had some great scallops in Grandcamp but a highlight was our dress-up dinner at Chateau de Canisy. Count Denis de Kergorlay greeted us when we arrived. We quickly went to the rear



**Fran Sherr-Davino at the Ranger monument.**



**Morley Piper, PNC Donald McCarthy, Steve Melnikoff, Hal Baumgarten, Arden Earl and Joe Steimel joining MG Charles Whittington (left), with a toast of Calvados in memory of those who did not make it off the beach.**

for a group photograph and to take photographs of the beautiful view. We went into the music room and salon for a drink and then into the beautiful dining room, which was lit by candlelight! The Chateau has been in the Kergorlay family for 1000 years. During dinner Count de Kergorlay told us the history of his family chateau and when done Jack Kutcher presented a 29th Division Flag to him. I presented Denis with one of the 29th Division ties and in a lovely gesture, he removed his own and tied a perfect knot announcing "I love this tie!"

On the eve of the 11th of June, we ended our stay in France at the Hilton at Charles de Gaulle Airport airport where we spent the night before our morning flights back to the USA, tired but happy. We have honored and remembered each day, the fighting and the spirit that never knew defeat.

I would like to thank Historian Joe Balkoski, who lent his knowledge and wisdom of the events surrounding the 29th Infantry Division in WWII. Joe traveled with his daughter, Leah, who had a life changing experience with the WWII veterans. I'd also like to thank Jack Kutcher, who acted as our Treasurer for the trip, collecting the deposits and paying our bills, which he did with precision.

The details of this trip would not have been possible without the help of Michael Yannaghas, who lives in the area of St Lo.

Besides taking my many phone calls late at night, he met with all of the Mayors on our behalf, arranged for flowers and wheelchairs, and translated speeches for Mayors and MG Whittington. I'd like to give thanks to Jeanine Verove, President of the St Lo/Roanoke Association, who arranged for some of our folks to stay with French Host Families. She arranged for us to have medics with us on the coach every day of our stay! Jeanine was also on call for anyone who needed a doctor or taxi arranged. Thanks to Sophie Lefebvre for arranging the beautiful flowers for the Arc de Triomphe for us.

And special thanks to our 29th ID soldiers who accompanied us. The Band was always playing when we arrived and departing a site. The Honor Guard was always in place. And to the escorts for the WWII veterans – we all love you! We were all so impressed with our soldiers of today!

This has been an honor for me to once again arrange this 70th anniversary trip for WWII veterans and families of the 29th Infantry Division. "29 Let's Go!"

*Article by Frances Sherr-Davino*

*Unless otherwise credited, photos are courtesy of:  
Frances Sherr-Davino, Jody Sherr-Dulude,  
Colonel Patrick Swan, and Master Sergeant Fred Rudder.*

# New TAG in Virginia — BG Timothy P. Williams

SANDSTON, Va. — Col. Timothy P. Williams was sworn in as the new Adjutant General of Virginia by Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth Kelly Thomasson and promoted to brigadier general June 2, 2014, at the Joint Force Headquarters – Virginia in Sandston surrounded by his wife Cheryl, Governor Terry McAuliffe and Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security Brian Moran.

“It is an honor to be here, and I am so proud I was able to appoint Tim Williams as the Adjutant General,” McAuliffe said. He praised Williams for many years of service on active duty, deployed to Iraq and with the Virginia National Guard. “He is ready to assume command,” he said.

Williams takes command of the Virginia Army National Guard, Virginia Air National Guard and Virginia Defense Force following the retirement of Maj. Gen. Daniel E. “Chip” Long, Jr.

“Thank you for the trust and confidence you have placed in me to command this organization,” Williams told McAuliffe. He then thanked his family for their many years of support. “I also have to thank the Soldiers and Airmen I have served with over the years,” he said. “If it weren’t for you, I wouldn’t be here. I promise you I will do my best to lead us all into a successful future.”

Williams, a native of Richmond, mobilized in 2003 for Operation Noble Eagle where he worked with security operations for U. S. Air Force installations in the mid-Atlantic states. He also deployed in 2007 for Operation Iraqi Freedom where he supported theater level logistics transformation.

Serving in the National Guard is a tradition for the Williams family. His brother David, a retired lieutenant colonel, father Pat and grandfather Bill all served in the Virginia National Guard, and his son Troy currently serves in the Virginia Air National Guard.



Williams earned his commission as a field artillery officer from Virginia Tech in 1985. He was a member of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets and the Regimental Band, the Highty-Tighties. After attending the field artillery office basic course, he was assigned to 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment in Fort Bliss, Texas. While in the Regiment, he served as a fire support team chief, battery fire direction officer, squadron fire support officer and regimental nuclear targeting officer. In 1990, he transitioned to the Virginia National Guard.

He commanded at the field artillery battery and battalion level before transferring to the logistics corps and commanding the Virginia Beach-based 329th Regional Support Group for four years. His most recent military assignment was J8 director of resource management on the Virginia National Guard Joint Staff, and as a civilian he was Director of Training Support and Doctrine at the Combined Arms Support Command at Fort Lee, Virginia.

He received his Bachelor’s Degree in Management Science from Virginia Tech and has a Master of Arts in Management from Webster University and a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Iraqi Campaign Medal with the Bronze Service Star, the Parachutist Badge and the Air Assault Badge.

Williams resides in Hanover with his wife Cheryl. They have three grown children: Grace and husband Joe and their daughter Giuliana, Seth and his wife Natalie and Troy.

*Article by Mr Cotton Puryear*

## 29th Infantry Division Challenge Coins Available from Post #3

Our Post in Canada, Post #3,  
has 29th Infantry Division  
Challenge Coins  
that are available to  
interested individuals.

Anyone wanting a coin should contact  
the post at their email address:  
[29thdivisionpost3@gmail.com](mailto:29thdivisionpost3@gmail.com)



# TOMB OF THE UNKNOWNNS – 18 MAY 2014



*Photo by Michael D. Kutcher*



*Photo by William DeHaven*

**World War II Veteran, William C. “Bill” Doyle, age 99, of C Company 175th Infantry, 29th Infantry Division, assists National Commander, John F. “Jack” Kutcher, Sr., with the Wreath Laying at the “Tomb of the Unknowns” on a beautiful Sunday afternoon in May.**



*Photo by Michael D. Kutcher*

**29th Division Association attendees, including a contingent from Post #3 in Canada, pose for a group photo moments after the Wreath Laying ceremony.**

## 29th Division Association is seeking a new Webmaster

### Description and requirements for the position of 29th Division Association Webmaster

This position entails the creation and management of content having to do with the website of the 29th Division Association. Content is defined as web pages, down-loadable documents of various types, and photos embedded within the site.

The webmaster must have the ability to take direction via email and/or phone and work with a variety of files sent via email. While feedback on technical issues is necessary, the content of the site is solely at the discretion of the Association officer(s) directing the project. All input to the website shall flow through the office of the National Executive Director of the Association for final approval.

Access to the Association's web host account (at GoDaddy.com) will be given to the incoming webmaster so all work can be accomplished in a seamless fashion.

All current, necessary files will be supplied to the incoming webmaster. These files (comprising the existing website) can be easily viewed and manipulated in virtually any web editing program. An attempt has been made to keep the coding very simple.

Any candidate for the position should be a current member of the 29th Division Association, or be willing to become a member prior to acceptance of the position, and remain in that status until resignation or termination of service.

A modest sum of compensation may be offered commensurate with the applicant's experience and proficiency, and may be increased over time.

Point of contact for the position of webmaster is Doug at: [dougwilcoxmusic@gmail.com](mailto:dougwilcoxmusic@gmail.com) or by phone at 240-452-5951. Verbal responses will be accepted until August 1, 2014.

*Editor's note: In our Spring 2014 edition we published a request from schoolchildren in France seeking information on the three 29th Division soldiers listed below.*

*We received the following information back from our friends in France concerning the fate of these three men.*

### John F. Langan

#### K Company, 3 Battalion, 115th Infantry Regiment

On the 11th of June 1944, in the evening, the 115th Regiment, 29th Division is based at the edge of the river Elle, in the vicinity of the village of Saint Clair sur Elle.

On the 12th of June, the 1st Battalion (Companies A, B, C, D) engaged from Sainte Marguerite, around the Pont de la Pierre sector. But the enemy's fire was such that 6 hours later, no one had managed to cross and the battalion had to move back to where it started.

To its left, the 3rd Battalion (Companies I, K, L, M) tried in its turn to cross the river in the Pont de la Jourdan area. They were not successful either. K Company got stuck there with no possibility of advance. There are many reasons to conclude that the soldier John Langan was killed there.

### Walter Muller

#### K Company, 3rd Battalion, 115th Infantry Regiment

On the 16th of June, the 2nd battalion from the 115th Regiment is in reserve. One can easily guess that, since he was killed on this day, Walter Müller belonged to one of the other two battalions.

Indeed, on the 16th, the 2nd Battalion (Companies E, F, G, H) had to replace in Saint Clair sur Elle the 1st Battalion from the 116th which had freed the village on the 13th. But because they were late in doing so, the 2nd Battalion from the 115th had to face, when it came to it, German paratroopers who had managed to partly retake the place and the Americans had to suffer losses.

As for the 3rd Battalion (Companies I, K, L, M) they fell into an ambush while they were crossing the Foulons hamlet on their way to the Isigny road, which is very near.

### Leonard C. Moone

#### HHC, 3rd Battalion, 175th Infantry Regiment

After heavy fighting to capture the Hill 108 West of Villiers Fossard. The infantrymen from the 175th Regiment kept on progressing and on the 28th of June, they were near this village and near Le Mesnil Rouxelin.

The 28th of June is included in what can be described as the static period during which no large actions occurred.

However, numerous skirmishes occurred during three weeks during the patrols which were daily put into place to secure the gained ground.

It is highly probable that the soldier Leonard Moone perished in one such action.

At the beginning of July, this regiment was transferred on the Eastern side of the front to support the actions of the 116th regiment in the Saint André de l'Epine area.

### Doc's Corner:



A new feature article on a 29th Division Surgeon will appear in the next issue of *The Twenty-Niner*!

By the National Surgeon  
Dr. Frank T. Barranco, Sr. MD  
Post #110

### Please Note

The Editor of *The Twenty-Niner*,  
William Mund, now has a new email address.

It is: [edit-pub29er@hotmail.com](mailto:edit-pub29er@hotmail.com)

Please use this address from now on  
and delete the Yahoo address.

## National D-Day Memorial hosts thousands of visitors on D-Day

The National D-Day Memorial hosted the largest gathering of D-Day veterans in the country on June 6 during its commemoration ceremony to mark the 70th anniversary of the Normandy invasion. Over 300 D-Day veterans from all over the United States were in attendance and over 11,000 people visited the Memorial during the June 6 activities. The ceremony itself encompassed a moving tribute to those who fought in Normandy and began with a recognition of D-Day paratroopers marked by the U.S. Army Golden Knights parachute team. As they landed at the Memorial, they made their way to two D-Day veteran paratroopers in the audience and presented them each with a baton.

One of those paratroopers was 29th Division Member, John Kessler. In the spring of 1939, John Kessler joined Company "M" of the 116th Infantry Regiment of the 29th Division. Kessler trained with the 29th Division until May 1942 at which time he was sent to Fort Benning, Georgia for Officer Candidate School. Kessler was later sent to Parachute Jump School and received his wings in June 1943. The young officer was assigned to the 509th Combat Paratrooper Battalion. On June 6, 1944 he was part of the Normandy Invasion and went on to the front lines in Bastogne, Belgium during the Battle of the Bulge. Kessler received the Bronze Star with V device for Valor for his actions in Sadzot, Belgium. Kessler accepted the baton on behalf of all of those paratroopers who would not return.

After a series of oral histories read by various speakers, Bob Sales gave the keynote address to the crowd. Sales, who served with Co. B of the 116th Infantry Regiment, 29th Division, landed on Omaha Beach and was the only survivor of the 30 men on his landing craft. Sales was awarded three Purple Hearts and the Silver Star, among other medals, for battling his way across France before being wounded and left partially blind. In February of this year, Sales received another medal in recognition of his efforts for helping to liberate France from the iron grip of Nazi Germany. In a ceremony in Northern Virginia, French President Francois Hollande made him a knight of the French Legion of Honor. He was one of only six WWII veterans to receive the medal directly from the French president during his visit to the United States. During the June 6 ceremony, Sales recalled in detail his ordeal on D-Day stating,

"On D-Day, there were 30 men on my landing craft. As we neared the beach, the British coxswain said, 'I can't go any fur-

ther. I've got to drop the ramp.' He couldn't go any further because there were mines on the poles in the water and if we hit one, the entire boat would blow up. He dropped the ramp and Captain Zappacosta was the first man off. They cut him down at the end of the ramp and he fell in the water. My friend, Sgt. Dick Wright was second. They got him too.

I was fourth and the sea was rough. The boat was bouncing up and down and somehow I got thrown off to the side. When I got away from the boat, I looked back and everyone that was coming was being cut down. When I got out of the water and looked around, there was Dick Wright, my Sgt. He said, Sales, help me. I started to crawl over to him and he raised up on his elbows to try to holler to me and when he did a sniper shot him in the head. I knew I was next. I buried my face in the sand and waited. I sang the 23rd psalm a few times. But they did not get

me. I laid there for about 30 minutes and then began to crawl my way up the beach. I crawled little by little using bodies for protection. There was screaming and hollering. It was one of the worst things I've seen in my entire life..

That was my D-DAY. After 6 months of combat, the war ended for me. I was blown out of a tank and spent the next year and a half in a hospital. I lost some of my sight and though my other physical wounds would heal, the pain of losing so many comrades has never

gone away. Company B of the 116th Infantry of the 29th Division lost 113 men during the war.

I tell you my story because it is in our hands, as veterans and as citizens, to preserve the legacy of those who were there. Long after the last of us has rejoined their ranks, we have to make sure that there might never come a day when June 6th means no more than any other day. That there might never be a generation of Americans for whom the name Normandy means nothing at all. Time has...thinned our ranks...since June 6th, but on this day of all days, we are always together – in spirit if not in body."

The crowd enjoyed a flyover by a C-47. C-47s were used extensively by the Allies during WWII with over 900 involved in transporting approximately 13,000 paratroopers to Normandy for the invasion. A P-51 flyover brought many cheers from the crowd as it made several passes. The P-51 was best known for its role as a long range escort fighter in Europe, enabling the Allies to gain control of the skies. A T-6 flyover in the missing man formation was particularly stirring. Taps was played in



*Photo courtesy of the Bedford Bulletin and Tom Wilmouth*

**D-Day veteran Bob Sales with National D-Day Memorial President, April Cheek-Messier.**



Photo courtesy of the Bedford Bulletin and John Barnhart

**C.D. Proffitt Jr. (left) greets Austin Cox, both 29th Infantry Division D-Day veterans.**

memory of the 4,413 who died on June 6 and the thousands more who would give their lives in the days and weeks that followed D-Day. Frederic Dore, Monsieur le Charge d'Affaires, France spoke of his country's gratefulness to those who fought to liberate France. He remarked, "We will never forget what your sons did to make us free again."

Numerous wreaths were laid to pay tribute to those units, vessels, and divisions involved in the invasion. In preparation for dedicating the new sculpture, *Homage*, April Cheek-Messier, president of the National D-Day Memorial Foundation, spoke of its significance stating,

"For the men of D-Day, homage meant a journey across thousands of miles of ocean to a stretch of sand on a foreign shore. It meant bracing up and bearing on into a nightmare of fire and fury. Homage meant pushing oneself forward even while pulling friends to their feet. For so many – too many - it meant silent reflection at makeshift grave markers, bareheaded and humble. In these gestures of courage, devotion, and sacrifice, the soldiers of D-Day reaffirmed this age-old commitment to one another: "I become your man from this day forward and unto you shall be true and faithful, even unto death."

For the boys of Bedford, these bonds of homage were forged long before D-Day. It was the reason Ray and Roy Stevens joined the National Guard together in 1938 – for the certainty that if they were called up to serve, they'd go together. It was what made Ray Nance one of the best leaders the Bedford boys could have asked for: a man who knew them all from home and faithfully labored to transform them from farm boys to fighting men. It gave Clyde Powers the strength to pull Roy Stevens above the surface and save him from drowning when their landing craft sank from beneath them on the way to Omaha Beach. It propelled Captain Taylor Fellers, Raymond and Bedford Hoback, John Wilkes, Jack Powers, Earl Parker, Frank Draper, and so many others down the ramps, into the water, onto the sand, into destiny, into memory. Sons and husbands, fathers and friends, these were the boys of Bedford. They belonged together, they belonged to each other, faithful and true, even unto death.

Cheek-Messier went on to read a portion of the plaque that accompanied the *Homage* sculpture.

Highlighting the story of Bedford's loss is a powerful reminder of sacrifice, particularly those on the homefront. Families said goodbye to loved ones not knowing if they would return, and often those who did were never the same. Many family members were never the same either. When Mrs. John Hoback of Bedford, a woman of grit and character, lost both of her sons on D-Day, she carried on, but she did so with a large piece of herself missing. Many years later when she was on the brink of death and lay in her bed (tired and incoherent after a series of strokes), she asked over and over again, "Where are my boys?" When death closed her eyes for the last time, she finally found them.

*In honor of Blue Star families  
who sacrifice for freedom and in tribute to  
Gold Star families  
who have loved and lost.  
We will remember them.*

At the conclusion of the ceremony, *Homage* was unveiled to a large crowd. D-Day veteran Ash Rothlein chanted, "We will never forget," and the crowd joined him in repeating the phrase over and over. It was an appropriate ending to an emotional event. Veterans moved to the reunion tent after the ceremony and shared their experiences with the public and joined in camaraderie with one another. The National D-Day Memorial hosted visitors from all over the country during the anniversary and received coverage on most major networks and received international coverage as well. The weekend included a parade for veterans through Centertown Bedford, a movie night, a performance by the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, and a period chapel service on June 8, all of which were well attended.

Letters of thanks continue to pour into the Foundation. One D-Day veteran recently wrote, "Being in such an environment was, for me, a special day in my life which I will never forget."

The National D-Day Memorial is grateful for all of the support it received to make the event possible. For more information on upcoming events, please visit [www.dday.org](http://www.dday.org) or call 540-586-3329.

*Article by April Cheek-Messier  
President, National D-Day Memorial*



Photo courtesy of the Bedford Bulletin and John Barnhart.

**John Kessler accepting the baton from the U.S. Army Golden Knights parachute team.**

## Commemorating the 70th Anniversary of D-Day in Bedford, VA

Normandy? Out of reach this year with high school and college tuitions to pay! But Bedford, Virginia? "Only" four hours from Baltimore. This was so much more doable! So my 16-year old son and I made the trek to the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford on June 6th for the commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of D-Day. The Memorial Foundation put on an outstanding tribute to that day in history and to the 200+ D-Day veterans who attended.

The story of why the National D-Day Memorial is in Bedford is known to many who read the *Twenty-Niner*. Bedford's loss of lives during the D-Day invasion is well documented in Alex Kershaw's superb book, *The Bedford Boys* (Da Capo Press, 2003). Just as Kershaw brought to life the young men of Company A, 116th Regiment, 29th Division, through the descriptive narratives of his book, the Memorial creates an opportunity to bring to life and commemorate the hours of the invasion. As a first-time visitor to the Memorial, I was so impressed with the imagination and creativity of those who brought this concept of a D-Day memorial to fruition. Set on top of a hill just outside of town, the Memorial is thoughtfully laid out in four sections – a beautiful garden and three large plazas, each with a specific theme and dedication.

The Richard Reynolds Sr. Garden documents and honors the men involved in the planning for D-Day with a statue of General Eisenhower and busts of major players in the preparation. The remaining three portions of the Memorial represent other aspects of the invasion. My favorite part was the images of the men storming the beach. Soldiers climb the cliffs, navigate the beach landing, or lie where they fell. Machine gun fire echoes and water spurts up simulating the constant barrage of fire that day.

The newest statue called *Homage* was just unveiled on June 6th. It honors the Bedford Boys and all the others who lost their lives that day.

Friday's ceremony started with a paratrooper drop. The serving paratroopers then marched through the crowd (thousands attended) and shook hands with paratrooper veterans. There were about twenty short readings by veterans and different government and military representatives. The readings included General Eisenhower's words to the soldiers before they embarked, the Chaplain's prayer as well as excerpts from letters and diaries of those who participated in D-Day in some way – on the landing craft, on the beaches, and in the air. Those words were sometimes chilling, but always honest portrayals of the feelings of confusion, sadness, fear, awe, and pride.

Several WWII-era aircraft performed flyovers, including the Missing Man formation. Representatives placed wreaths at appropriate places around the Memorial. The wreaths were from several U.S. units (29th Division, 8th Air Force, 101st and 82nd Airborne to name a few) as well as from France, Canada, and Britain. Most importantly, the WWII veterans were honored with a standing ovation for their service. After the formal part of the ceremony, the visitors could walk around and visit living history stations and talk to veterans. The veterans my son and I met and spoke with were mostly from the southern coastal states. What an honor it was to shake their hands and thank them for their

service. My son was especially impressed with the piece of flak that one of the B-24 pilots carried. It had hit his plane during one of his missions. An inch either way and it would have severed a key line for the operation of the plane!

Despite the heat of the day, I couldn't get enough of the Memorial and even went back in the evening (minus my tired son!) to reflect on the day's activities in the quiet of the fading light. By that time, the crowds were mostly gone and I could wander around the Memorial slowly absorbing the solemnity of the site.

Visiting the Memorial was a perfect way to honor our veterans and those who lost their lives on D-Day. Kudos to the National D-Day Foundation and to the Foundation's President, April Cheek-Messier for a superb commemoration of the 70th Anniversary.

*Article by Mary Sprankle Scavilla  
Catonsville, Maryland*

### 29th Division Association Auxiliary debuts their new wreath on 6 June



*Photo by Frank Dillon*

**National Auxiliary President, Juanita King leads Nancy Dillon; Mary Hobbs and Karolyn Sink in the ceremonial procession at the National D-Day Memorial.**

We with the 29th Division Association Auxiliary would like to thank the National Executive Committee for the funds necessary for the purchase of our new wreath. The wreath made its debut at the 70th Anniversary held at the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Virginia on June 6, 2014. The wreath is being kept in a safe and environmentally controlled space at the office of the D-Day Memorial.

*Submitted by Nancy Dillon*

# POST HAPPENINGS

## Post 2

As in previous years, Florida West Post #2 is "shut down" for the summer – no meetings until September at the earliest. This is probably due to vacations, our snowbirds heading north, and the summer heat may also be a factor. So obviously, there's not much going on, except that two of our Post #2 World War II D-Day Veterans were selected to attend celebrations of the 70th anniversary of the June 6, 1944, invasion of Normandy.

Cosmo Uttero, accompanied by his daughter and his granddaughter, who is on active duty with the Navy, were treated (with the exception of his granddaughter) to an all expenses paid 9 day trip to Paris and Normandy. The trip was sponsored by the New Orleans D-Day Memorial Association. Cosmo said that they and the other Veterans and guests so honored were treated royally. Cosmo said he was interviewed by Diane Sawyer and Tom Brokaw, and met many other dignitaries. He said it was a wonderfully emotional experience.

Ernie Rutherford and his son were likewise honored for the 70th anniversary celebration of D-Day at the Bedford, Virginia D-Day Memorial. Ernie was in the Navy on D-Day aboard Patrol Craft 567, the ship closest to Omaha Beach. Its job was to fire on German strong points and draw fire from the beach so that German firing positions could be identified. Also to raise the signal flag indicating that the landing craft circling off Omaha Beach, should head for the beach to begin the invasion.

Another Englewood D-Day Veteran who served with the 4th Infantry Division and landed on Utah Beach, Ed Kent, accompanied Ernie. The 3 day all expenses paid trip was sponsored by the Honor Flight organization. In addition to the Bedford celebration, the group was also honored with a trip to the Arlington National Cemetery's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, as well as a stop at the World War II Memorial in D.C.

*Taylor Thomas, Post 2 Commander*

## Post 3

Post 3 has had a very busy spring. Members of the post were instrumental in the organization and conduct of the VE Day celebrations for the City of Toronto.

The highlight of our spring was the trip that 14 people (post members and spouses) made to Arlington National Cemetery for the annual wreath laying ceremony. We were truly honoured to be invited to join the rest of the 29ers in this very important recognition of the service of all. The opportunity to meet and have dinner with so many other members from various posts was such a pleasure.

While at the dinner, many of our new executive members were sworn into their positions, including our new Commander, HLCol Alex Moseanu. We thank our founding Commander, Jonathan Delgado-Levin-Turner for his guidance and support during our inaugural year and we look forward to future opportunities to meet with more 29ers soon.

We continue to attend events at 32 Signal Regiment and other military events in and around the Toronto area.

*Heather Janke, Post 3 Adjutant*

## Post 48

Jerome L. Day Post 48 welcomes two new members to Post 48. Comrade Robert Alexandra is a veteran of the Maryland Army National Guard, with the 110th Field Artillery. In addition, Post 48 welcomes Lawrence Solarczyk, a veteran of the Maryland Army National Guard. We welcome both Comrades aboard.

On April 24, 2014, Post 48 held its Installation of Officers ceremonies at Johansson's Dining House in Westminster, attended by representatives from the Region and the National. Guest speaker for the occasion was State Command Sergeant Major, Thomas B. Beyard, MDARNG. CSM Beyard a veteran of the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade, (CAB) spoke on the need to keep the 29th Division Association alive.

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

In keeping with the National Association Futures Program, we have taken a proactive approach in the recruiting and the retention of comrades starting with the welfare of comrades who may be in need or distressed.

We continue to foster a relationship with the 29th Military Police who will be occupying the Readiness Center in Westminster in the fall of 2014. Post 48 had the privilege to join members of the 29th MP in the Westminster Memorial Day 2014 parade. The MP's graciously accommodated several of Post 48 veterans in providing their Humvees in the parade. In addition the Humvees were placarded with the "29th Division Association".

As the Post Commander, I had the distinct pleasure of marching with cadence in the 1.5 mile parade with 2LT Simmons and SSG Shuman of the 29th MP's. A special thanks to the soldiers of the 29th Military Police.

On June 6, 2014, a proclamation recognizing the 70th Anniversary of D-Day, the invasion of the 29th Infantry Division on the beaches of Omaha beach, Normandy, France was read by Carroll County Commissioner and a member of Post 48, Haven Shoemaker. Commissioner Shoemaker served in the 175th Infantry of the Maryland Army National Guard.

The agenda for the upcoming meetings agenda will be to continue the comradeship with the 29th Military Police to perpetuate the friendship and keep alive the spirit of the 29th Division.

Plans are underway to attend the 29th Division Association National Convention in Ocean City, Maryland in October, 2014.

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

*Frank Rauschenberg, Post 48 Commander*

### Post 72

At the regularly scheduled meeting in April, Thomas Insley was elected as Post Commander. Post 72 donated \$10,000 to the Wounded Warriors Program at the April meeting. These funds were given to Post 72 by the Lake Shore Democratic Club upon their dissolution.

Post 72 participated in the Arlington Wreath laying ceremony on 18 May and similar observances on Memorial Day along with Post 1 and the Veteran Corps.

D-Day Proclamations were presented to Post 72 by the County Executives of Baltimore, and Anne Arundel Counties in commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of D-Day, 6 June.

The Annual Crab Feast is scheduled for 17 August at the Fifth Regiment Armory.

Sadly, we regret to report the passing of Joan Vecchioni on 8 June 2014. Joan will be missed.

*Thomas Insley, Post 72 Commander*

### Post 78

Post 78 got off to a slow start after suffering a number of losses at the end of 2013 due to non-payment of dues and to death. We unfortunately lost 5 members to Post Everlasting. However, within the past 6 months, we have now regained our membership status within the Maryland Region by recruiting 3 former members of the 29th Infantry Division and two new Associate Members. This brings our current strength back up to 219, with only 16 of those not yet paid for 2014.

We celebrated our annual Spring Fling Dinner again this year in the Social Room of the Frederick Church of the Brethren. This has been the location for this event for the past five years. The folks at the church prepare a great meal for us and the surroundings are very pleasant and accommodating. Our invited guests this year included National Commander Jack Kutcher and his wife Maxine, Past National Commanders Joe Zang and Dick Smith and their respective wives, Shirley and Mary. We did not install officers this year as we are in the middle of a two-year cycle.

A special guest, Ms. Lillie Stansbury was also in attendance with her daughter Dianna. Ms. Stansbury is the widow of former Post 78 member Danny Stansbury. Post Commander David Houck presented her with a bible that we had failed to present at the funeral. In addition, Post Adjutant, PNC John Wilcox presented Ms. Stansbury with a booklet he had put together containing 2 years worth of the humor pages taken from the Maryland Region Newsletter, the *Chin Strap*. Wilcox was the former editor of the newsletter and learned that Ms. Stansbury was a big fan of the humor page.

The Post again honored our fallen 29ers by placing flags of the 29th Division Association on the final resting places of roughly 362 former soldiers of the Division in 36 cemeteries in Frederick County, MD. There are probably many more that we have been unable to identify. We have undertaken this mission every year since 1997, but unfortunately it has become harder each year as we gain new locations and less people to do the work.

We are now looking forward to our annual Family Picnic to be held at the pavilion at the post home of AMVETS Valley Post # 9

in Middletown, MD. This event will begin at 1:00 P.M. on Saturday, August 16 and all 29ers and families are welcome with a donation of \$15.00 per person. Post 78 members may come at no cost.

*David Houck, Post 78 Commander*

### Post 85

Our Post 85 Honor Guard performed 21 gun salutes on 22 February for two recently deceased veterans, Mr. Holloway and Mr. Denny. We had 14 scheduled firings over Memorial Day weekend.

Our armorer reports we have 1,730 blank ammunition rounds available and that all 10 M-1 weapons have been cleaned and are secured in our gun vault. The post will be sending the honor guard to the 29th Division Association Annual Convention and Reunion in Ocean City to present the colors Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday morning.

Our D-Day dinner was on Saturday, 14 June in the VFW in North East MD and our annual Thanksgiving dinner will be held on Saturday, 22 November again in the VFW in North East.

*William Bernhard, Post 85 Commander*

### Post 88

Post 88 had a very successful Memorial Day season providing color guards for the Cambridge Memorial Day ceremony at Long Wharf Park on May 26, 2014 and the May 30, 2014 State of Maryland Memorial Day ceremony at the Eastern Shore Veterans Cemetery. Post 88 made a presentation to the Cambridge Rotary Club on May 4 on the 70th Anniversary of D-Day on June 6. Post 88 and National Commander Jack Kutcher assisted the family of Post 88 member Gene Creighton with a plaque and Certificate to be presented to Gene for his 100th Birthday which he celebrated on May 25, 2014.

Post 88 is focusing on fund raising for the new WWI Monument to be placed in Cambridge at Long Wharf Park on Veterans Day, November 11, 2014. The Monument recognizes the 5 Dorchester Countians who received the Distinguished Service Cross in WWI. 4 of the men were 29th Division soldiers.

And last but not least, we are looking forward to our annual Family Picnic and Crab Feast to be held on October 4, 2014 at the Cambridge VFW Post. We will again have burgers, hotdogs, salads, desserts, and of course steamed crabs.

*Bob Jones, Post 88 Commander*

### Post 110

Larkspur Post 110 is reaching its summer hiatus. The post had its annual lunch meeting at Skip and Nadine Merkle's house in June and it was well intended. Many of our members were on the Normandy trip including Hal Baumgardten, PNC Joe Zang and Bill Bullock. Hal was prominent on an AP video of the 70th Anniversary as well as the History and the Military Channel.

One of our key initiatives was the forming of a committee to investigate where the state is with regards to Pikesville Military Reservation and the NCO Club, and what can be done to preserve the buildings at the reservation where we meet.

There are no normal July or August meetings, but we are still

trying to schedule our annual GWOT evening sometime in the August/September timeframe, and that will be followed by our Annual Memorial Service in the September/October timeframe. All dates should be announced soon.

Larkspur Post #110 is sending a car full of members to attend the July 26th statue unveiling in Carbondale, PA for BG Al Ungerleider.

We would also like to recognize Post 110 members MG Chuck Whittington on his fantastic tenure as the 29th Division Commander, the promotion of Bill Hartman to SGM and Jared Lake on his taking command of the 111th Field Artillery.

*David Ginsburg, Post 110 Commander*

### **Post 729**

On May 29, 2014 John Wilcox installed the newly elected post officers. Several members of the Post attended the 29th Division Wreath Laying at Arlington National Cemetery on May 18, 2014.

On Wednesday June 11, 2014 several members of the Post attended the rededication of the WWII Memorial in Rouzerville, PA. The memorial was originally erected after WWII to recognize the men & women from the area who served and to honor those who died. The Post Adjutant, Ken Gilland donated his time and resources to recondition the memorial for the dedication. Ken is the owner of Gilland's Memorial Works, Blue Ridge Summit, PA.

Post members also participated in wreath laying ceremonies on Memorial Day at the Court House in Hagerstown and at the Veterans Park, Smithsburg. The Post will also participate in the July 4th parade in Waynesboro, PA.

The Post will hold its annual Summer Picnic at the Savoy Restaurant on Sunday, July 20, 2014 at 5:00 PM.

*David T. Yohman, Post 729 Commander*

### **Post 64**

Hello Everyone! Boy, have we had some busy days with Post 64 in the months of May and June.

Post 64, 29th Division Association, of Roanoke, Virginia were participants in the parade in Stafford, Virginia on Saturday, May 3rd, 2014. From Post 64 were: World WarII, D-Day Veteran, Chuck Neighbor; Post Commander, Bill King; and Chaplain, Morris Bennett.

Jump-off was at 10:00 AM. A WW-II jeep was provided for the Parade route by John Harris who father served in WWII. Our jeep stopped in front of the judges stand where upon, Brigadier General Blake Ortner stepped down to our jeep to shake hands and thank WWII Veteran Chuck Neighbor. This was a most touching moment.

The Armed Forces Day parade on 17 May was a blast at the VA Care Center and Hospital. It was confined to the main grounds and did not involve Shenandoah Avenue this year but still went well with great participation and good music afterwards by the "Guard."

We observed the wreath laying ceremony on 18 May at the Tomb of the Unknown in Arlington, Va. It was a great pleasure to meet with members of Post 3. We are glad they could make it. Several of us enjoyed our visit on 25 May to Morris Bennett's church. The Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church is a 150

year old church out in the beautiful country side of Fincastle, Va. Morris Bennett gave a wonderful memorial service honoring all veterans. Bernard Marie spoke of his childhood and the blessings he has had in meeting and honoring the many, many veterans through the years. The get together after the service was unexpected and very delicious might I add.

On 26 May, we attended the Memorial Day celebration at the D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Va. John Kessler was one of the honorary speakers that day. With the help of his family, the finished bust of John R. "Bob" Slaughter was unveiled.

During our monthly meeting on 4 June, we recognized four birthdays. Mrs. Rosen designed and had a cake made for John Kessler. The post had three big chocolate chip cookies decorated for Bernard Marie, Don Englar and Tom Boyer.

Several members of our post gathered with hundreds, young and old, to welcome Veterans and their entourage for Roanoke, Virginia's first ever Hero's Welcome at the Roanoke Blacksburg Regional Airport on 5 June.

The D-Day celebration at the D-Day Memorial on 6 June, was a very wonderful and awe inspiring tribute to all Veterans. One show stopper was when the Golden Knights, U.S. Army Parachute Team, glided down from a plane and presented John Kessler with a baton. It was a pleasure to see PNC/NED John Wilcox and SRVC & Mrs. John Vaccarino. I also had the pleasure of meeting the new Adjutant General of Virginia, Brigadier General Timothy P. Williams and Assistant Division Commander of the 29th Infantry Division, Brigadier General Timothy E. Gowen.

Later that day, if you missed Bernard Marie's 30th Annual D-Day WWII Dinner you missed out on a very entertaining evening. The color guard for the evening was comprised of soldiers of the 1-116 Regiment and French NATO Forces based in Norfolk. LTC Norbert Cyr, Canadian Defense Liaison Staff, Washington, DC, was in attendance. Mr. Oliver Serot- Almeras, Consul General and B.G. Bruno Caitucoli, Head of the Military Mission of the Republic of France, bestowed the French Legion of Honor in the rank of Knight upon Don Englar (AKA Dan to Bernard ), Lee H. Boone and the late Tyre Nicholson. The Poste Restante of the evening was the USO themed song and dance Bernard did with the "Letters From Home ", Andrew Sisters routine. Lets just say a few officers in the room joined in parts of the show. Others got fought over and John Kessler left that evening with lipstick kisses on his face.

Before the benediction was made Bernard was rendered speechless when post member Robert Shumate presented him with an authentic WWII helmet with post members signatures all over it sealed in a display case with sand from Omaha Beach. Frank Dillon presented him with a helmet shaped candy dish with a belt buckle and sun catcher in a sea of Hershey bars. It was fun Bernard, Thank You!

Five members represented us in the Bedford parade on 7 June. Thank you to those who showed. The awesome part of that day was to feel the emotion of a town stood still as the court house bell was chimed for each soldier lost 70 years ago and the sound of taps projected North, South, East and West.

*PNC William King, Post 64 Commander*

# Child of D-Day grew into man of honor

## *Frenchman honors D-Day vets with dinner every year*

By Matt Chittum

He had no father, as far as he knew.

So it was Bernard Marie's paternal grandfather who took him onto his lap in the dark basement. The old man covered the boy's ears while the shelling roared and shook their home on the northern coast of France.

Bernard, just 5 years old plus one day, was terror stricken. None of them in the basement in the Normandy village of Luc Sur Mer could know the terrible bombardment was the harbinger of freedom.

It was only after 16 hours, when Marie heard his mother scream and the family rushed outside, that they knew they were liberated from the German occupation and the end of World War II in Europe was nigh.

Out in the daylight of June 6, 1944, Marie saw his mother embracing an American GI, a member of the massive D-Day invasion. He calls it "the most unbelievable picture that I will never forget."

Marie grew up to become an international businessman, a bit of a jet-setting bachelor, and a raconteur with a French accent that remains as thick as a demi-glace.

Now a dual American and French citizen and a Roanoker, he counts many D-Day veterans among his friends. Friday at 6 p.m. at the Sheraton Inn, he will again honor them as guests at his 30th annual commemorative dinner, but his devotion runs much deeper than a free meal. Marie sits by these veterans' death beds, speaks at their funerals, consoles their widows.

He's worked to see about 100 of them recognized with the French Legion of Honor medal.

"This is a man that appreciates what happened over there," said Don Englar of Blacksburg, a D-Day vet who will be the latest to receive the Legion of Honor at Marie's dinner this year. "His feelings towards us, he keeps it on his cuff."

Lee Boone of Hampton will also receive the Legion of Honor, along with Tyre Nicholson of North Carolina, who will receive it posthumously.

"My goal is not only to honor these guys, but my biggest problem is to be sure nobody is going to forget them," said Marie, who turns 75 today.

His efforts bespeak the thanks of his native country, but also a deeply personal gratitude.

They changed the course of civilization and "saved the world from madness," as Marie puts it. But they also changed his own future in a most intimate way.

"They gave me back my freedom, my father, my life."

### **A widow with a secret**

Marie had no memory of his father. Marcel Marie had gone away when his only child was just a year old, conscripted into the German labor force earlier in the war.

Just a year later, he escaped his work camp via Spain and made his way to England on a fishing boat, where he was an early member of the French Resistance.

While he was alive and well, few could know it.

Bernard Marie's mother told everyone her husband was dead for the family's safety. Surely the Germans would be brutal to them if they knew the family's patriarch was in the resistance.

"So, my mother was a widow," Marie said.

Food was scarce where the family lived near Paris, so in the fall of 1943 the family moved to the Marie family home in Luc Sur Mer.

There, Suzanne Marie had a channel through which she could keep tabs on her husband's welfare: Father Paul.

Their Catholic priest was also a member of the resistance, Marie said. He would embed phrases in his sermons that were coded messages to Suzanne Marie. "When we arrive in heaven," for example, meant Marcel Marie had parachuted into France, Marie said.

But Marcel Marie had no means of communicating directly to his wife, so he couldn't tell her that in taking the family to the northern coast of France, she had moved them directly into the path of the largest seaborne invasion in history.

### **'To get rid of the bad guys'**

Sirens were common in Luc Sur Mer, waking families and sending them to the basement for safety, only to return to bed an hour later without a shell being fired.

When the Marie family took to the basement about 2 a.m. on June 6, 1944, the all clear never came.

They had no food or water, and soon the shelling began. It was brief but terrifying for little Bernard. It would be 16 hours before they emerged to see Suzanne Marie embracing the American soldier. The village, it turned out, was along the coast identified on invasion maps as being between Juno and Sword beaches.

The image of his mother hugging the soldier was confusing for Marie, who had learned that pretty much anybody in a uniform was bad. But the GIs gave him chocolate and chewing gum and families everywhere began to fly the French flag for the first time in years.

Marie's mother told him, "Now you will never hear any more noise."

The next day, Suzanne Marie visited Father Paul to learn that Marcel Marie had landed with the invasion and was on his way home. She returned to her family and told them her secret at last: Marcel was alive.

Four days later he arrived, a total stranger to his son. He took the boy on his knee while his mother held his hand and told him he had to "disappear to get rid of the bad guys."

It was another decade before Bernard Marie demanded a more thorough explanation.

"The worst thing that can happen to a human being is to have your country taken over and lose your freedom," he recalls his father saying. "For freedom, there's only one thing you can do, and that's to fight."

### **'That's part of life'**

Marie had been spoiled by his mother and aunts and grandparents. That changed when his loving but more discipline-minded father returned home later in 1944.

When Bernard Marie was a man himself and drafted into the French army to fight in Algeria, his father didn't intervene despite having considerable influence in the French military.

In Algeria, the newest Marie to serve chose work as a combat engineer searching for land mines over searching for the enemy in caves — a residual fear from that harrowing night in the basement in 1944.

"I'm not comfortable in a dark room even now," he said.

When he was blasted from the hood of a jeep he was riding on by a land mine, his father visited him in the hospital.

"Good job, you're OK," he said. "That's part of life."

Toughness was a valued trait among the Marie men, but with it ran a deep devotion to other men who also served.

All of Marie's life, France ground to a halt every year in early June while the nation paused to thank their liberators and remember those who died in the service of it.

So when Marie arrived in the United States he was confused to find little such remembrance here at all.

### From Normandy to Roanoke

Marie was living in Indianapolis and running a business magazine in the early 1980s when he decided more needed to be done to recognize World War II veterans, and D-Day vets in particular.

There was no National D-Day Memorial in Bedford or World War II Memorial in Washington then.

He decided to have a luncheon for them, which he'd pay for out of his own pocket. He called the newspaper, told them his story as a hook to promote the event, and figured 50 or 75 veterans would show up.

More than 500 came.

His father, still alive at the time, couldn't make the trip from France but made sure his son delivered his gratitude for the liberation of France.

He also had a tongue-in-cheek question: "Why did you take so long?"

Marie continued the luncheon annually, eventually making it a dinner and taking it with him wherever he moved, hosting it in Charleston, South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina, and Raleigh, North Carolina.

In the early 1990s, he was invited to speak at a D-Day anniversary recognition on the courthouse steps in Bedford.

From that visit, he became involved with the creation of the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, mainly as a fundraiser. By then he was living in Fairfax, Virginia, and running a company that produced software to teach people foreign languages.

After so many trips to Bedford and visits to Roanoke, he decided to settle here. The dinner came with him, the first one taking place here in 2001.

'He just blended in'

Today Marie lives in a small apartment in South Roanoke that's like a three dimensional scrap book of his life. French and American flags stand behind a cluttered desk and amid crowded shelves of history books. The walls are covered in a mosaic of old family photos, war-time newspapers, pictures of him hang gliding and hanging out with race car drivers, and posters from plays he's produced.

He's become a fixture among area World War II vets since then.

"The fact that he's from Normandy, he just blended in with our 29th Division Association," said Chuck Neighbor, a D-Day vet. He's among the men who received the Legion of Honor. His application for it "kind of floundered until Bernard got hold of it and pushed it through," he said. "Apparently he has quite a standing with the French embassy."

Marie confesses to being a pain in the neck for the French consulate.

Another friend, Hubert Hobbs, received the medal last year, just a few months before he passed away.

In Hobbs' final days, with his wife, Mary, worn down from sleeping in a chair in his hospital room, Marie sent her home and held vigil all night by Hobbs' bedside himself.

The two had "a very special relationship," Mary Hobbs said. Sometimes when Hubert was refusing food, Marie could get him to eat when his wife couldn't.

"I knew he had worked with the Red Cross, and I knew he loved the veterans, and I trusted him," she said.

Hobbs died in February. Marie spoke at his funeral.

It's one of seven he's attended or spoken at for veteran friends just this year.

The number of veterans alive and able to attend his annual dinner is dwindling. Marie will continue to welcome all of them for the meal at his expense in the future, but it will be a dinner for the vets themselves, and not the general public, he says.

"He's doing that all by himself, and it's really more than he can handle, but he does it," Neighbor said.

It's not all about the dinner. Marie comes when called.

About two weeks before the dinner, Tracy Lintner called him from Salem, where Marie is a frequent substitute teacher.

Her grandfather, Robert Leech, a D-Day veteran, is deep in the grasp of dementia and seems to be living back in the 1940s in his mind. Some days he's being drafted, other days he's in a foxhole. Lately, he'd been asking repeatedly for his "star." No one in the family was sure what it was, but they guessed it was a medal of some sort.

Lintner called Marie, unsure of what he could do.

Marie said the man will have his star.

In late May, he drove to Buena Vista to the nursing home where Leech is living. In a courtyard outside, he found Leech in his wheelchair wearing his World War II Veteran baseball cap. He held a small American flag.

Marie wore slacks, a shirt open at the collar and a blazer with an American flag pin in the lapel. He brought with him a leftover civilian medal he found in a desk drawer. It was made by the consul of Normandy to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the invasion.

He introduced himself to Leech as a citizen of France and Normandy, thanked him for his bravery, and pinned the medal to his sweater, just above his heart.

Then Marie knelt before Leech and kissed his hand.

As family pushed Leech back to his room after the ceremony, the old man began to sob, Lintner said.

That night, he fell asleep still wearing his medal.

*This article is reprinted with the permission of the Roanoke Times*

# What Happened!

By Herbert Colcord, of I Company, 175th Infantry Regiment

Less than a year out of high school, I was now lying flat on my stomach in the middle of the hedgerows in Normandy, France, with machine gun bullets flying inches above my head. My friend, John Spurr, was lying wounded beside me. My life as a U.S. combat soldier was about to end, but the constant threat of death would follow me for the rest of the war.

My story begins in January of 1944 in southwest England near the town of Penzance. The 175th Infantry Regiment of the 29th Infantry Division was preparing for the invasion of Europe. In the forbidding moors that covered the countryside, the days invariably were rainy. It was not a fun time. The training was intense, and time passed quickly. Soon we were on our way to Plymouth on the coast of the English Channel.

It was 3 June 1944. We were briefed about our role in the coming invasion of France. After sustained air and naval bombardment, the landing would supposedly take place at Normandy with minimal resistance from the enemy. Needless to say, this turned out to be a miscalculation! After the briefing, we had our last meal before boarding a ship for the voyage across the channel. It was not until I returned home a year later, that I learned that much of the world were watching with great anticipation and hope. Millions were praying that this would be the beginning of the end of World War II.

We started to cross the Channel on 4 June. However, the weather had other plans for us, and we were forced to return to port. On 5 June, the sun came out, and we were again on our way in one long serpentine line of ships. The mood was somber as we suddenly realized this was the real thing. We would soon be on the shores of Omaha Beach in Normandy. We were actually sunning ourselves as we sliced through the water. My friend, John, who was 25 years old, suggested we attend a church service. I was 18, and did not go with him. That decision bothered me for years after the war because John was killed in action and, for some reason, I was spared. In later years, I was able to resolve this situation in my own mind.

As we moved to our marshalling area about two miles off the coast of Omaha Beach, the sun was setting and the 116th Infantry Regiment was preparing for the initial assault that would take place at about 0600 on D-Day – 6 June 1944. When we awakened from whatever sleep we could manage, the guns on the battleship *USS Texas* were firing shells at the Germans, signaling that the invasion was on.

Our responsibility at this point was to follow up the initial assault of the 116th Regiment. We did not know about the bloodshed those soldiers had suffered on the beach. As nighttime settled in and early morning arrived, we could see that the assault of the first day had not gone well. As we prepared to go over the side down the rope ladder to the Higgins boats, the wounded of the first day were being brought onto the ship from the other side. The trip down the rope ladder was precarious, as we had no previous training. We climbed onto the ladders, each carrying fifty pounds of equipment and a rifle, knowing that one misstep would result in a forty-foot fall. All of this took place in pitch-blackness. We had no idea what we were about to experience.

It was now early morning on 7 June 1944. We took off in the Higgins boats for the beach about 0400 amid much shouting from the naval officer in charge. It was really chaotic. The ride to the beach was tense. Our destination was a sector named *Dog Red*, at the eastern end of the beach. When we arrived at the halfway point, enemy resistance began to flare up on that beach, and the coxswain was ordered to change our destination to a sector named *Easy Green*. At that point, all of us — about 30 men or one platoon — were instructed to take our rifles off safety. If the mood was tense when we started, it was now filled with incredible anxiety! My biggest concern was hoping the coxswain would drive the boat close enough to shore, so I wouldn't have to swim - because I couldn't!

After we landed and moved inland a few hundred yards, we ran into some machine gun fire. We lost a few men to artil-

lery fire, but the troops who landed before us had a much rougher time. There were bodies everywhere on the beach. I remember in particular, the bodies of six medics lying side by side. As we moved up a path, we came across a signal outfit where one shell had killed five men, severing the head of the lead wireman. Once we reached high ground, things quieted down. It was now about 1700. Because of the last minute change in our beach landing area, we had become separated from our company but were able to join the rest of our company by nightfall. The day finally ended, and I was happy to still be alive.

Over the next few days, we moved inland in what seemed like a constant march interrupted by periodic firefights. On 8 June about twenty soldiers in another battalion of our regiment were either killed or wounded by friendly fire from British planes. We captured the town of Isigny-sur-Mer on the morning of 9 June and by noon were marching again, this time toward Saint-Lo. After marching another ten miles, we reached the German front lines and were forced to stop due to a lack of artillery support. We set up perimeter security on a hillside just beyond the village Moon-sur-Elle.

Now, both sides began probing each other's defenses. One night around 0300, a German patrol came down the road at our end of the secure area. Our men spotted them before they could do any damage. There was a brief firefight, but no casualties on either side. The Germans initiated several other probing attacks that night at other areas on our perimeter.

My partner and I were lying in foxholes in the middle of a field. Things were too quiet, so we decided to create some noise. I fired my automatic weapon into the night. That was not a smart move! The muzzle flash from my weapon revealed our exact location, and we immediately received heavy return fire with tracer bullets flying all around us. Obviously, I did not try that again.

Early on the morning of 12 June, we received orders to make contact with the 115th Infantry Regiment somewhere on

our left flank. This was not unusual since, like the Germans, we were constantly probing enemy lines with patrols. This particular request was a little different though, since we knew the Germans were very close because of the skirmishes the night before. Our squad leader, John Spurr, selected five others to join him in this patrol—a point man, me, and three others. A full squad consists of twelve men.

We started out about 0600 on a beautiful day and knew only that the friendly troops of the 115th Regiment were to our left. We did not know their exact location or the location of the enemy. With the point man leading the way, we moved straight ahead for two hedgerows, and then made a right turn through a gate and into a field. This was a bad choice. Just after I moved through the gate, a German machine gun opened up on us. The first rounds killed our point man. John and I dove into a trench, and the other three, who had not yet passed through the gate, retreated back to our lines.

As John and I inched forward on our stomachs, the machine gun kept firing. At that point, John, told me to turn around. This was hard to do without being hit, but the two of us crawled back to the gate. I tried desperately to dislodge the gate from its hinge so that we could make a run for it, but then John was hit by machine gun fire and seriously wounded. As we tried to figure out what to do, two German soldiers came up behind us and ordered us to get up. We complied.

John was in serious condition. I tried to help him, but my five-foot-seven frame was ill suited to carry John who stood at six-four. We were led back to a place where some German soldiers were huddled in a machine gun nest. These were probably the same ones who were trying to kill us a few minutes before. John and I stayed there a short time before we were led to a company headquarters area. There I was interrogated by the company commander, a German captain originally from New Jersey, who spoke fluent English and knew more about my outfit than I did.

During the interrogation, I asked the captain if he could get a cart for John. He obliged, and we were taken to another area. John was still not doing well, but at

least he was riding on a horse-drawn cart. After reaching the third area, John and I were separated. I later learned that he died on 29 June 1944, in a German military hospital in Rennes, France. Today, his final resting place is on a hill in his hometown of Plymouth, Massachusetts.

The Germans marched me to a watchtower and forced me to climb a ladder to the top of it. I did so somewhat tentatively since I didn't know what was ahead. I barely made it to the top and then, exhausted, dropped to the floor. I must have slept for fourteen hours. A guard was stationed at the bottom of the tower, but he didn't have to worry about me escaping. 12 June was finally over—the end of a perilous day and the beginning of my eleven month struggle for survival as a prisoner of war.

#### A POW Memoir

I was captured by the Germans near the village of Moon-sur-Elle in the Normandy region of France on 12 June 1944, and repatriated in the Bavarian section of Germany near the Alps on 29 April 1945. During my eleven months as a prisoner of war (POW), I was constantly being moved—on foot, in trucks, or in rail boxcars—ultimately traveling about 1,300 miles. After an initial stop at a makeshift camp in France, I traveled for about three months moving from north to south in Germany with stops at Stalag 12A in Limburg, Stalag 12D in Trier, Stalag 7A in Moosburg, and Stalag 7B in Memmingen. After September 1944, I spent most of my time in smaller forced-labor camps operated out of Stalags 7A and 7B. These work camps known as *Arbeitskommando* or ARB-KDO, included ARB-KDO 659B in Wasserburg, ARB-KDO 657B in Gunzburg, and ARB-KDO 653B in Augsburg, where I stayed for about six months.

Within a few days of my capture, I found myself as a lone prisoner traveling with a German convoy. To avoid Allied air forces patrols, the convoy only drove at night. One German soldier was assigned to guard me. During this time, I learned the German army was somewhat disarrayed. For example, we were moving at night to avoid aircraft attacks, but some of the trucks had their lights on. This was not very smart. As we moved under the cover of darkness, I could hear a squadron of English Mosquito bombers overhead. The

Mosquito bomber was the only low-level night bomber at that time and this squadron seemed to know the general location of our convoy. They dropped a larger number of flares in an attempt to locate us. Fortunately, they never did find us or I probably would not be here today.

Another close call involving Allied planes happened while I was traveling by rail in a boxcar, I remember “celebrating” my nineteenth birthday (9 July) around this time. During one of its many stops, our train parked under a bridge. Allied planes bombed the bridge, but it was a long train and only a few cars were under it. Fortunately, none of the cars were hit.

At one point, not long after I was captured, I was in a temporary camp with several hundred paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division. Something unusual, funny, but very dangerous, took place there. One of the prisoners had to urinate and chose a bathroom of convenience—out the second story window. At that moment a German colonel walked by and was showered with urine. As you might expect, he was not very happy. Fortunately, he cooled off after berating us in German for about ten minutes.

My first opportunity to write a letter home was on 27 June 1944, in Stalag 12A. My mother saved the letter for me. My next memory was at Stalag 12D where I had my picture taken. This was about 20 August 1944. Just after the war ended, another soldier came across my POW record and photograph. He mailed the record to my home in North Quincy Massachusetts along with this note:

*To whom it may concern: Found this prisoner-of-war record in the files of a German office. If Herbert is alive, which I hope he is, this would make a good souvenir for him to keep. Seeing that I live only a short distance from you, this card came to my attention. I am from Winthrop, Massachusetts, just across the bay. If you receive this card, please write and let me know or write to Mrs. Ruth Glover, 43 Lewis Avenue, Winthrop, 52 Massachusetts. From a poor soldier in this here country waiting to go home . . . PFC Edwin Glover, 19 May 1945, Memmingen, Germany.*

My POW record and Private Glover's letter are among my most prized possessions.

Our boxcar arrived at Camp 653B in Augsburg during November of 1944, and we stayed in that city until April of 1945. This was by far the longest amount of time we were in one place. Life here was a series of forced-work details. The work involved salvaging slates from the roofs of bombed-out buildings. This was dangerous work because the roofs were not stable. Occasionally, we were on work details when Allied bombers flew overhead. They were a constant threat because our pilots had no way of knowing we were on the ground. The Germans devised a code to indicate the level of alert-one siren meant planes over Germany; two sirens meant they were coming our way; three sirens meant they were overhead and the guards would move us to a bomb shelter. On occasion, German anti-aircraft guns would shoot down our planes.

While I was in Augsburg, some of our soldiers devised an escape plan. Two of them thought they had a pretty good chance of escaping. One spoke perfect German, and the other spoke perfect French. But that would only help them after the escape. First, we had to cover their absence. The guards counted us every night, so we devised a somewhat elaborate scheme to make the count include the two soldiers who had escaped. Everyone in our barracks was involved. The plan was successfully executed, but the two soldiers were recaptured within ten hours. Fortunately, their punishment was only one day in solitary confinement.

One day, when we were not on a work detail, the guards herded us into a bomb shelter. This was unusual. After a short time, we heard aircraft. Soon their sound became louder. As the sound increased, four or five bombs landing right on top of us and the bunker began to cave in. Then the bombs stopped, and the planes flew off. After assuring ourselves that the planes were no longer a threat, we emerged from the shelter and were met by a shocking sight. The entire complex was in flames, and shortly thereafter, it burned to the ground. Somehow the guards knew about this attack beforehand, and they actually saved our lives. I suspect the target of the bombers was a nearby Messerschmitt buzz-bomb factory. I hope it suffered the same fate as our work camp.

We were then moved to another camp in Augsburg and remained there until the middle of April. Here, I clearly remember watching a one-hour bombing of the Augsburg railroad station. We were on a hill several miles away. Five minutes after the bombing ended, the German trains were running again.

The Germans moved us out of Augsburg sometime toward the end of April. We started moving as a loose-knit marching unit. During this time, a French observation plane followed us. As we approached a small German town near the Bavarian Alps, an Allied advanced unit of African-American soldiers, part of General George S. Patton's Third Army, started to fire rounds into the town. Some of the German guards returned fire, but then quickly surrendered. We were now free. My official release to Allied control was on 29 April 1945.

I was flown from Germany to France, first to Rheims and then to Le Havre, before shipping off to New York City, where I arrived on 15 May 1945. I was given leave to go home until about 15 June and then went to Lake Placid, New York, for a month of recuperation. I was still in the army. At the beginning of August, I was sent to Fort Ord on Monterrey Bay in California for four months and received my sergeant stripes. On 7 December 1945, I was discharged and gratefully returned home for good. I arrived home about 15 December. It was good to be home, but two pieces of sad news were waiting for me: (1) John Spurr, who landed with me on Omaha Beach and who was wounded when the Germans captured us, had died a few weeks later on 29 June 1944. His body was brought back to the United States, and I attended his funeral in Plymouth, and (2) my dog also died while I was a POW.

After arriving home, I discovered my parents learned I was a missing in action (MIA) on 30 July 1944, but did not know I was still alive until two months later. My mother fainted when she was told I was MIA, and my father lit a candle every day and prayed at a chapel in Boston. The stress of "not knowing" even affected the mailman. When my parent's letters to me returned, he simply couldn't handle the deliveries. Finally, my parents' prayers were answered in October when the gov-

ernment confirmed I was a POW in Germany. *The Patriot Ledger* published the news on 18 October 1944.

Let me tell you about life in a boxcar. Each car contained about forty men. In the center of the car was a big barrel that was our toilet. All of us tried to distance ourselves from it for obvious reasons. The Germans did not feed us much, so there was a minimum of solid waste; most of it was urine. There were no windows in the car, and it was summer, so the smell was overwhelming. There were two slits up high where only the taller men could see out. While on the train, we received one small bowl of soup each day if we were lucky. Later, when we were in a permanent camp, we received bread with the soup. The train would stop occasionally to empty the toilet and take on water. The water was usually dirty, but we drank it anyway. We were not allowed out of the boxcar except to empty the toilet. I would never want to repeat this experience. I will never forget it, but will forever be grateful to God for helping me to survive it.

My life in a POW camp was similar to time spent in a boxcar. Some of the things that we take for granted, such as brushing our teeth or having a normal bowel movement just didn't happen. Food was scarce and personal supplies non-existent. When it was available, food consisted of dark bread, soup, and water once a day. We never had a chance to shower or wash our hair. We never had a chance to drink a glass of clean water.

All of our clothes including our socks and underwear were never washed. We wore what we had on when we were captured. We could not cut our nails or our hair. Most of us had lice. Gratefully, we were not physically abused. The abuse was emotional. There was the constant threat of air raids. We did have some limited health care, but not nearly enough.

During my time as a POW, I lost about sixty pounds; I weighed 183 pounds when we crossed the English Channel and 120 pounds when we were liberated. My normal weight was 140 pounds, but the army's doughnuts and God's good grace had provided me with extra weight that would serve me well throughout my nearly eleven months of captivity.

*Mr. Colcord is a member of Post 93 and resides in Milton, Massachusetts.*

# My Final Hurrah as National Executive Director

They say all good things much sometimes come to an end. Well, it appears as though that time has come for me. In June of this year, I will have filled the position of NED for 12 full years. It has been a very gratifying period for me and has left me fully satisfied that I have given most of what I have to offer to the 29th Division Association. Since the term of my commitment ends with the election of new officers at the National Convention in October, I have made the incoming commander aware that I will not be available for appointment to a new term.



Over the past 12 years, I have served 11 National Commanders. During the year 2004 - 2005, I served in a dual capacity as National Commander and National Executive Director. The one good thing about that assignment, was that I didn't have to convince anyone but myself on certain undertakings.

At the expense of being just a little egotistical, I felt this might be a good opportunity to share just what membership in the 29th Division Association has done for me. I feel it necessary to make known, that before becoming a member of our Association, I was an active member and officer of the former Company "A" Association that got its beginning in 1981 and later merged into the 29th Division Association. This organization was made up of those who were current and former members of Company A -1-115th Infantry in Frederick, Maryland.

Post 78 had been chartered in 1947 following WW II, but unfortunately lasted only a few years due to lack of leadership. The Post was re-chartered on 23 January 1991 and this was the year I began my career that has lasted since that time.

## **JOHN E. WILCOX, JR. 1991 - 2014**

Served in the Maryland Army National Guard (MDARNG)  
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LIFE MEMBER (# 53) CRESAP'S RIFLES POST 78,  
29TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION  
Post 78 Chartered 3 January 1991

### OFFICES HELD WITHIN THE 29TH DIVISION ASSOCIATION:

Chaplain, Cresap's Rifles Post 78, January 1991 - June 1992  
Commander, Cresap's Rifles Post 78, June 1993 - June 1994

Board of Directors, Cresap's Rifles Post 78, 1994 - Present  
Adjutant, Cresap's Rifles Post 78, June 1994 - Present  
Editor/Publisher, the "Cresap's Rifle", Cresap's Rifles Post 78,  
June 1994 - Present  
National Adjutant, October 1997 - October 1998;  
Acting 2008 - 2009  
Adjutant, Department of Maryland, May 1998 - May 2000  
Editor, the "Chin Strap", Department of MD/MD Region,  
April 1998 - April 2004 and June 2006 - June 2014  
Junior Vice Commander, Department of Maryland,  
May 1999 - May 2000  
Senior Vice Commander, Maryland Region,  
May 2000 - May 2001  
Commander, Maryland Region,  
May 2001 - May 2002  
National Executive Committee, since May 2001  
National Vice Commander, for the Maryland Region,  
October 2001 - October 2002  
National Executive Director, June 2002 - October 2014  
National Junior Vice Commander,  
October 2002 - October 2003  
National Senior Vice Commander,  
October 2003 - October 2004  
National Commander, October 2004 - October 2005  
Judge Advocate, Maryland Region, May 2007 - May 2008  
Acting National Property Officer,  
January 2010 - January 2011

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Other Military Organization Memberships & Offices Held:  
Life Member 115th Infantry Regiment Association  
(now defunct) - joined 6 June 1971  
Sergeant-At-Arms, Glenn W. Eyster Woodboro American Legion  
Post 282, 2007 - 2009  
Paid-Up-For-Life (PUFL) Member # 101758819  
January 2006 - joined 19 April 1978  
Company A Association, 1980 - 1990 - served as:  
Treasurer 1982 - 1984 and President 1984 - 1985  
Member Vets Corps since January 2002  
Life Member # 658 National Infantry Association,  
Minuteman Chapter - joined 20 June 2002  
Member # 2078745 Middletown Valley AMVETS Post # 9 - 21  
June 2004 to 31 December 2010  
Commander, Korean War Veterans Association  
Frederick Chapter 142, June 2009 - June 2010  
Member # R039160 - 28 January 2007 to 30 November 2010

I want to take this early opportunity to thank all the friends I have made over the years and to wish each of you the very best. God Bless all of those I have come to know and whom without, this great Association could not exist. Be safe, be happy and

**"29, Let's Go!"**

*PNC John E. Wilcox, Jr.*

## ***Future Voyages to Normandy:***

***July 13-26, 2015***

***May 25-June 8, 2016***

***July 11-24, 2016***

**Explore the history with Normandy Allies!**

*The British and Canadian sectors—Caen Memorial to the Peace, Abbaye d'Ardenne, Juno Beach, Pegasus Bridge, Arromanches Circular Theater and Mulberry Museum, Longues s/mer Battery, Bayeux Tapestry and Cathedral, British Cemetery... and more...*

*The American sector— Pointe du Hoc, Omaha Beach, the Normandy American Military Cemetery at Colleville s/mer, Utah Beach, Sainte-Mère-Eglise and the Airborne Museum, Graignes, La Fièvre, Saint-Lô, the bocage areas, LaCambe Cemetery, Chateau Colombières and the inundated areas, Wall of Remembrance, Trevières... and more....*

**Team Leaders:** LTC (Ret) Peter Combee, SGM (Ret) Charles Frick, Walter Ford Carter, Marsha Smith

**Stories and photos from previous trips are available online: [www.normandyallies.org](http://www.normandyallies.org)**



Find Normandy Allies on Facebook

**Send your request to:**

**Normandy Allies, Inc. PO Box 1332 Pittsford NY 14534 USA**  
**Call/email: Marsha Smith 585-748-2357 [normandyallies@verizon.net](mailto:normandyallies@verizon.net)**

## **Lessons and Legacies: D-Day 2014**

800,000 people journeyed to Normandy to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Landings. Normandy Allies was among those honoring the veterans and those who sacrificed their lives for our freedom. Our group of San Diego State University students, high school teacher, and adults, led by LTC Peter Combee and SGM Charles Frick, joined the 29th Division veterans on Omaha Beach at 06:00 on June 6. The rising sun found hundreds gathered on the sands to welcome and applaud the returning veterans. The photos were taken by SDSU student John Hodges.

The Normandy Allies program began with three days in Paris and then moved into Normandy. The visits included Mont St. Michel, the Caen Peace Memorial, Pegasus Bridge, the new Juno Beach underground tour, and Saint-Lô.

At the Wall of Remembrance, the students observed silence as the new 29th Division flag was raised along with the American and French flags.



*Photo by Normandy Allies student J.D. Hodges.*

**SGM Charles Frick, 29er Vincent Rowell, LTC Peter Combee at the Airborne Museum in Sainte-Mère-Eglise.**

The group was invited to the private reception for the opening of the new extension on the Airborne Museum in Sainte-Mère-Eglise. They met the new mayor, Jean Quéfier, who affirmed the continuation of the friendship between our organization and the town. LTC Combee and SGM Frick were surprised and delighted to see 29er Vincent Rowell at the Airborne Museum (*photo*)

Normandy Allies returns in July 2014 and will participate in the commemorations for the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Saint-Lô. Stories and photos from

both programs will be on our Facebook page and our website: [www.normandyallies.org](http://www.normandyallies.org)

# Snap It Up — the 29th Division Theatrical Troupe

"This is the Army" starring Ronald Reagan, George Murphy and Joan Leslie was a 1943 motion picture based on two wartime stage musicals, "Yip Yip Yankhank" from World War I and "This is the Army" from World War II. Both shows were created by Irving Berlin.

"Yip Yip Yaphank" was written and produced by Sergeant Irving Berlin while he was stationed with the 152nd Depot Brigade at Camp Upton in Yaphank, New York. The commanding officer at Camp Upton had wanted to build a community building on the grounds of the army base, and thought that Sgt. Berlin could help raise the \$35,000 needed for its construction. After a tryout run at Camp Upton's little Liberty Theatre, the show moved on to Central Park West's Century Theatre. By the end of 1918, the production had moved to the Lexington Theatre in New York City. The show featured Irving Berlin's "Oh, How I Hate to Get up In the Morning", "I Can Always Find A Little Sunshine at the YMCA", "Mandy" and other hit songs. Berlin considered "God Bless America" too sticky for a finale and replaced it with "We're On Our Way to France". On the night of the final show, the audience saw a divergence from the usual ending. Instead of the performers marching off to war on the stage, they were seen marching through the isles, Sgt. Irving Berlin included, and marched out of the theatre heading for France for real.

In May of 1941, ex-Sgt. Irving Berlin was on a tour at Camp Upton, New York, where he spoke to Special Service officers about re-staging his original WW I show. General George Marshall approved the Broadway production allowing Berlin to conduct the arrangements. The retooled play, with the new name "This Is the Army", ran on Broadway at the Broadway Theatre from July through September, 1942. "This Is the Army" went on a national tour and ended in San Francisco on February 13, 1943. It earned two million dollars for the Army Emergency Relief Fund.

In the winter of 1917, Major General Charles G. Morton, commander of the 29th Division, had just returned from a tour of observation and study in France, and with his customary foresight had noticed the lack of entertainment facilities for the enlisted men. The General detailed his chief aide, Captain Murry A. Cobb to form a division theatrical troupe. Cobb appointed Sergeant Alex W. Porter as manager and director of what was known as the "29th Division Vaudeville Troupe". Its original intention was

to confine itself to Camp McCellan but a date was arranged to play at the Jefferson Theatre in Birmingham, Alabama. The show was so well received that a tour of adjacent southern cities such as Gadsden, Talledega, Anniston, Pell City, Rome, Georgia and others were made.

Three months after arriving in France, the first performance was put on in a hangar just outside of Belfort, on the Alsatian Front. The show was interrupted by a German air raid. Two weeks prior to the signing of the Armistice, the production "Snap

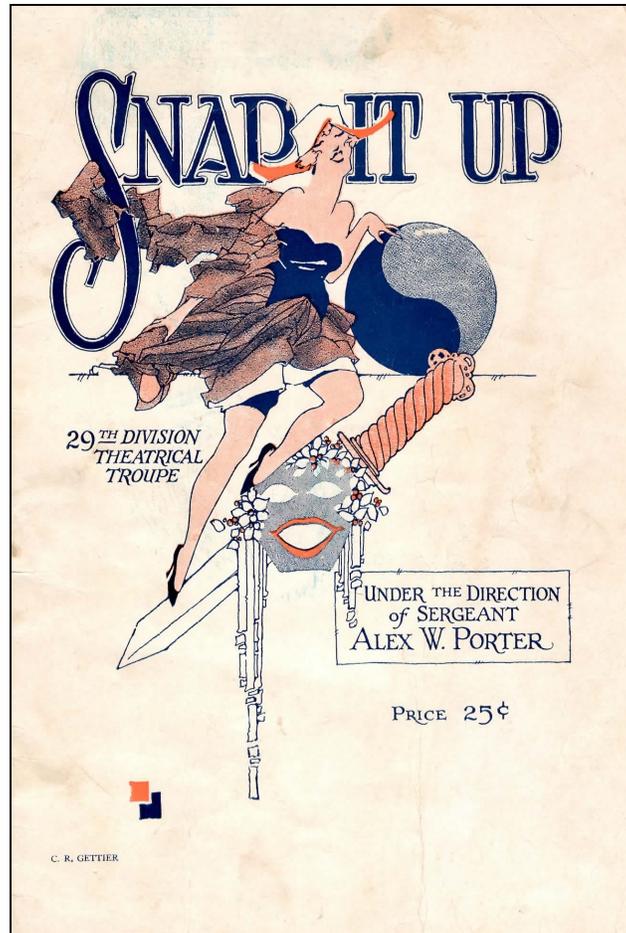
It Up" was conceived. It was decided that the new production would be a "girl" show instead of vaudeville. As many beardless 29er youths as could be found were taken off of K.P., picket lines and other menial duties and drilled to play the parts of Flossy Footlights, Dolly Dimples and other roles. The success was phenomenal. After completing the rounds of the 29th Division, the show was put on the road to entertain the personnel of the 8th Army Corps and later called upon by the First Army for a presentation at Bar-sur-Aube. The show was hailed as the premiere production of the A.E.F. and was considered good enough to represent Lieut. Gen. Hunter G. Liggett's army in Paris, Dijon, Langres, Chatillon-sur-Seine, Chaumont and other important cities in the A.E.F. territory.

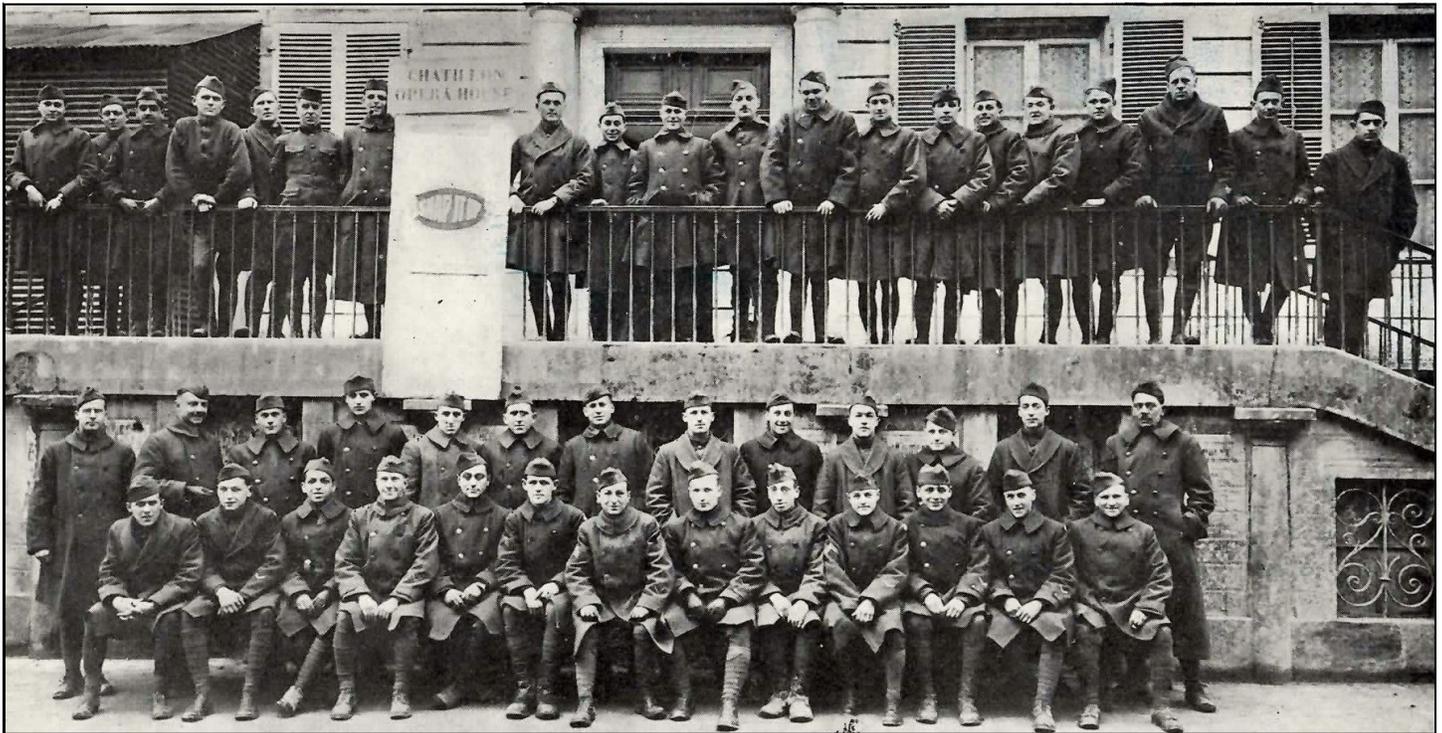
At Chaumont, a special performance was given for the Commander-in Chief of the A.E.F., General John J. Pershing. After the show Gen. Pershing shook the hand of Sgt. Porter for five min-

utes, while he told him how much he had enjoyed the performance. Also in the audience was Miss Margaret Wilson, daughter of the President, who witnessed the show for the second time. The last production in France was at the American Embarkation Center in LeMans.

After returning to the United States, "Snap It Up" performed on Broadway in New York City, even after Broadway had lost all its craze for soldier shows. It was billed "staged exactly as it was in the barns, billets, dugouts and recreation buildings in France".

The 29th Division Musical "Snap It Up" was revised in 1941 at Fort Meade and renamed "Snap It Up Again". Former Limestone Post #72 member Milton Price was "selected" for the show and often talked about it. Milton was a member of Company B, 175th Infantry and was volunteered by his company for the show, although he admitted he couldn't sing or act. The revised show





The 'Snap It Up" Company at Chatillon-sur-Seine, Cote D'or, France

was a military musical review headlined by former Broadway or Hollywood performers now in the 29th and the cast included 29ers from all units. Five members of the 110th did impressions of the Ink Spots and played the instrumental "Tromboniana", the 115th Glee Club sang "There's Only Tonight" and it's soloist, Sergeant John Insley, sang the finale Democracy's Awake".

Private Milton Price and other members of the 175th took part in two skits. In the first they were dressed in khakis and sang a song called 'Where We're Going We Don't Know'. Several times at Post #72 affairs, Milton would sing the only lines he remembered.

*"Where we're going we don't know  
First we're out to fight the foe  
Whop or Nazi, Hotsy-Totsy  
We'll wipe out the whole damn gang  
Bang, Bang, Bang - Bang, Bang, Bang - Bang, Bang"*

The second appearance had thirty-five members of the 175th dressed in the old Dandy Fifth gray uniforms doing close order drill. Halfway through, the lights were dimmed and the rifles, which had been coated with a fluorescent material, glowed in the dark.

The first performance of "Snap It up Again" was given at the Mosque Theatre in Richmond, Virginia, in September 1941. The



"Snap It Up" at the Chatillon Opera House,  
Chatillon-sur-Seine, France

second performance was given a few weeks later at the Maryland Theatre in Baltimore. After the show in Baltimore, "Snap It up Again" closed because some VIPs in Washington decided soldiers should be fighting and not performing. It wasn't long after the closing that Irving Berlin started the show "This Is the Army" using all Army personnel which was highly acclaimed. As Milton Price used to say, "Again, timing and who you know play a big part in life and in the service".

*Article by Robert Wisch*

**Be sure to check out our  
new and improved website at:  
[www.29thdivisionassociation.com](http://www.29thdivisionassociation.com)**

1944 ★ 70th Anniversary of D-Day ★ 2014

1944 ★ 70th Anniversary of D-Day ★ 2014

# D-DAY 2014

## CONNEAUT — AUG. 22-23

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## Experience the Largest D-DAY Living History Event in the U.S.

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- ★ **Explore** pre-invasion encampments of Allied and Axis forces and their tactical support elements, plus historical exhibits.
- ★ **See** training exercises, weapons, vehicles, and living history demonstrations by over 750 reenactors.
- ★ **Experience** 3 unique battle recreations.
- ★ **Watch** Higgins Boats, DUKW, and LVT make amphibious landings with Allied troops to assault Axis defenses on the bluffs overlooking "Normandy" beach as military aircraft patrol overhead during the climactic battle of the event.
- ★ **Meet WWII veterans** and be amazed as they share their personal experiences.

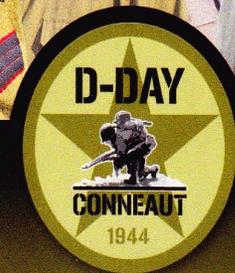
### Free Admission with Free Parking & Shuttle to Event.

Just off Interstate 90 (Exit 241), 5 miles west of the Pennsylvania border, in Conneaut, Ohio. Follow the signs to free shuttle parking areas. Donations of any size are greatly appreciated.

Visit [www.ddayohio.us](http://www.ddayohio.us) for event information and to learn more about D-Day or how you can become a part of this great event.

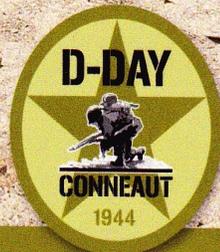
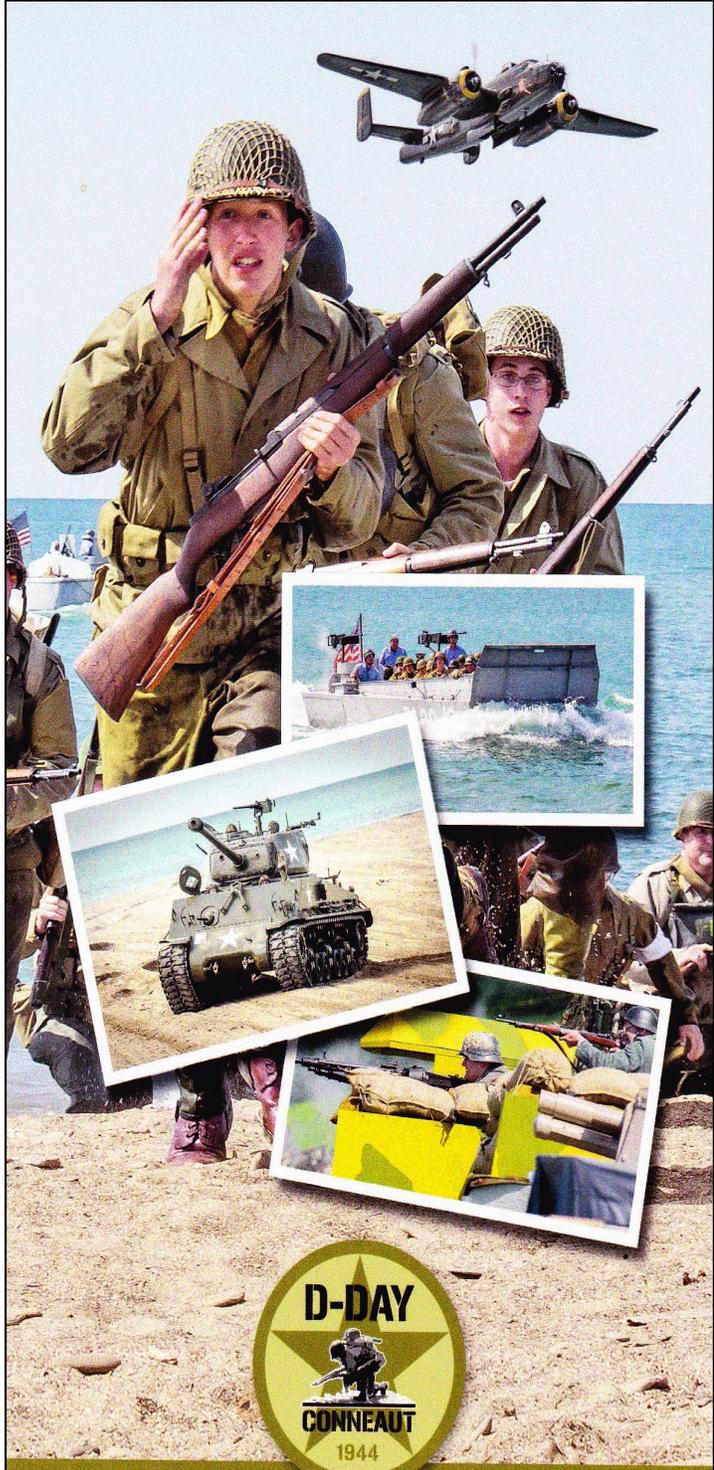


August  
22<sup>nd</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>  
2014



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April 3, 2014

Dear friend and honored Veteran of WWII,

It is my great pleasure to invite you to D-Day Conneaut 2014! Although we are months away from our 15th anniversary event, please give me a few moments of your time to brief you on developing plans for this year. My associates and I are in the process of pulling out all the stops as we celebrate the 70th Anniversary of that "Longest Day", June 6th 1944. As we commemorate this historic anniversary, we are expecting even more planes, boats and reenactors to portray your everlasting legacy. We are also hoping that a record number of WWII Veterans join us in attending this year as well. The 2014 event dates are Friday August 22nd & Saturday August 23rd.

Unfortunately, the march of time has seen many individual veteran units suspend their annual reunions. Yet, much to my satisfaction, D-Day Conneaut has become *the* annual gathering of those who have shared the heartaches and triumphs of war. With special events and programs geared towards remembering your service, be assured that our organizing committee will do everything possible to extend to you the courtesy you so richly deserve. Transportation to and from our veterans' parking area and within the park itself along with complimentary refreshments throughout the day will help you get around comfortably regardless of limitations.

On Friday morning at 9AM, the event opens to the public. At 10:30, a "meet and greet" with Allied and Axis reenactors begins our veterans' program. At noon, a catered lunch (please RSVP), will be provided for you and a guest. Following the luncheon and weather permitting, those that are up to it can come aboard a WWII era Higgins boat for a cruise on Lake Erie. After the cruise, veterans who would like to share their experiences in a group setting can participate in our Friday "Veterans' Recollection Program". At the end of the day, the reenactors will set the stage for the first of three recreated combat actions: The Road to Victory at Foucarville.

On Saturday, our "Veterans Hospitality Tent" will open at 9AM. Many veterans come early to renew friendships from the previous day or even the year before, just like the reunions of the past. At 11AM, the action begins with our second main combat scenario; "Kellam's Bridge" at La Fiere, where U.S. Paratroopers defended this strategically vital roadway from German forces determined to take it back. Following this demonstration, our second "Veterans' Recollection Program" will serve as the forum to showcase your unique experiences from across the globe or right here at home. At 3PM, the event's signature operation begins: the amphibious landing. The shores of Lake Erie will once again feel the roar of bombers and fighters overhead, the shrieks of armored tracks and the thunder of hundreds of Allied troops as they assault heavily fortified axis positions. If you can't get back to France for the 70th, then Conneaut Ohio is the place to be in 2014.

Planning to attend? Then please kindly contact me by phone or email or have a family member do it for you. I will then mail in early July a complete veterans' schedule, event map, a brief questionnaire about your service and instructions on how to attend the Friday luncheon. In turn, my staff and I will prepare a commemorative name-badge and welcome package for you to take home as an event keepsake.

I hope to hear from you soon! Until then, I wish you good health.

Eric Montgomery - WWII Veteran Liaison - D-Day Conneaut  
9841 Peach Street - Waterford PA 16441 – Phone: 412-726-6665 - Email: [stitch@ddayohio.us](mailto:stitch@ddayohio.us)

# WWII vets balk at St. Patrick's parade's \$10 fee

By Luanne Rife

They gave their blood and their buddies' lives for this country, but they aren't going to give this city one thing more. Especially not a lousy 10 bucks.

Members of Post 64 of the 29th Division Association, long a staple at Roanoke's St. Patrick's Day Parade, view even a nominal entry fee as an assault. They won't be bringing their World War II Jeeps on Saturday. Or their Humvees. And they certainly won't be bringing the seven members who 70 years ago took part in the D-Day invasion that changed the course of World War II in Europe.

"You've got to understand, these men saw their buddies, their friends, their brothers slaughtered in Normandy," said Bill King, the post's commander. "So when I announced we were going to have a busy next six months, first with the St. Patrick's Day parade and about paying a fee, one of them said, 'We're paying a fee to the city of Roanoke to be in the parade?' That's when the stuff hit the fan. 'What do you mean? We paid more than anyone. There wouldn't be a St. Patrick's Day parade if we hadn't gone to Normandy.'"

It didn't matter that Post 64 always paid an entry fee or that it's a token amount. Until this year, the members weren't aware of the fee. King thinks he might have been paying it out of his pocket. But when the members found out, they were livid.

Even an offer by the organizers at Downtown Roanoke Inc. to waive the fee has not persuaded them to participate.

"They said this is an insult, an absolute insult and that I could tell them [DRI] where they could go — and I'm being polite here. These old boys got mad," King said. "They wouldn't participate in any parade that wanted them to pay."

The hard feelings date back a couple decades ago.

"You have to know a little of the history to appreciate these men who are in their 90s," King said. In the early 1990s, they wanted to build a D-Day memorial in Roanoke and approached the mayor and city council.

"They didn't give us the time of day.

That was the first go-around," King said. Memorial organizers chose Bedford when it offered a serene 20-acre site. Roanoke, by contrast, had proposed a three-quarter acre parcel beside busy Williamson Road and Wells Avenue.

The second go-around was when "the city ran the National Guard out of Roanoke," King said. That's the way the members of the post view it.

In 2009, the Virginia National Guard announced that it was moving its four units out of Roanoke, including one with the 29th Division. The guard had been located in a 1954 building on Reserve

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*To members of  
Post 64, including some  
D-Day veterans the  
participation fee is  
"an absolute insult."*

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Avenue that was owned by the city and beside the former Victory Stadium complex.

Maj. Cotton Puryear of the Virginia National Guard said the city owned the armory and had asked them to vacate the building.

"The city offered an alternate location, but it did not meet the needs of our units stationed there. We relocated the units to other Virginia Guard facilities in Petersburg, Martinsville, Lynchburg and Virginia Beach," Puryear said.

Councilman Bill Bestpitch recalls it had more to do with money and what Roanoke could afford.

"The National Guard was becoming more and more dissatisfied with the building," Bestpitch said. "They wanted the city to fund the cost of a new building." But with so many pressing capital needs, a new armory did not rise to the top of a short list of projects that could be funded.

Once the National Guard pulled out, the city razed the building. The site is now used for ballfields. Bestpitch said they've continued to encourage the guard to come back.

"We've had folks in Richmond come and meet with us. They want 40 acres,

and they want us to give them the land," he said. And they want it near an interstate exit.

Land like that is in short supply locally, and is also desired by industry that would potentially provide jobs and workers throughout the week who would shop and dine at other businesses. Bestpitch said he attempted last year to see if there was interest in land between the Salem Veterans Affairs Medical Center and the Virginia Veterans Care Center, but that effort seems to have stalled.

"I agree it's very important to have the guard here to help when there's flooding," Bestpitch said, adding that the city does want them back in the area.

"Identifying the land is a good first step, but acquiring the money to build a facility would take a team effort and many years," Puryear said. It's a complicated process.

The guard's No. 1 priority, he said, is to ensure that if Roanoke needs assistance they could respond rapidly. He said they are able to do that with units from Lynchburg, Pulaski and Lexington, and that soldiers still live and train in Roanoke.

None of that matters to members of Post 64, who believe the city has failed to appreciate their service. Charging them to appear in a city parade is just the final show of disrespect.

Matt Klepeisz, marketing and events specialist for DRI, said the fees charged to parade participants offset the cost to produce the event.

"I have spoken with Mr. King and expressed our interest in having them be a part of the event. Unfortunately, we only heard about their concerns after they had sent in their entry information," he said. "We have spoken to them at length about their participation, including waiving their entry fee, but they have, at last discussion, declined participation for this year. Mr. King did indicate the potential for their participation in future years."

"People from Downtown Roanoke have called and apologized and apologized after the fact, and want to come talk to us," King said. Maybe after they cool down, he said.

*This article is reprinted with the permission of the Roanoke Times.*

# Thoughts on war, landmines, and the village of Broich

The area around the small village of Broich near the Roer River was completely devastated by the military artillery fire leveled on this area, by both sides in their attempts to keep their present positions. Most of the buildings and private homes had been hit repeatedly, until there was nothing but damaged structures barely standing.

I thought, as I picked my way carefully through this town, about the former residents, who once had comfortable homes here filled with many family heirlooms and memories of far more better times. They now had been uprooted and moved out to God knows where? They would return one day to the ruins of their war devastated homes in this small village by the Roer River. Many were forced to leave their homes rather suddenly, leaving most of their valued heirlooms behind. These were now ground into dust by this unrelenting battering of their homes, as this terrible war moved on, leaving nothing but sorrow for those who were able to return.

I thought again of a statement made by my former company commander (Al Ungerleider) as he stated then. "In war there are never any winners, when you consider the destruction left by both sides. Who won – we who are left, will never know?"

There is nothing more depressing then the sight of those destroyed homes that hard working mothers and fathers built to bring up their families, with the hope of one day passing it on off to those left behind. Now nothing has been left, other than shattered memories.

Looking back these many years, I reviewed some of the old maps and records of the Broich area. Strange village names, like Alsdorf; Koslar; Julick; Zopp; Aldernhoven and Durboslar all brought back memories of the Julick-Broich highway and our bridge site #5 at the Hasenfeld Gutt, where so many of our men lost limbs to the heavily mined areas alongside the river.

I have often wondered over these many years, how the many returning residents dealt with this problem of uncharted mine fields in the surrounding area and how long it took to clear out these limb shattering devices. Often over the years, there are still reports of some unfortunate farmers, uncovering some of these still dangerous devices.

Today, there are still many military forces using these same death dealing devices that they deliberately abandoned in place, once they moved away from the battle area. They left this deadly problem for others to deal with. Meanwhile our U.N. have never been able to muster the votes to outlaw these devices, despite the many injuries and death it has caused to so many small children, who innocently wandered into these dangerous unmarked fields of death.

Today, some 70 years later after my first encounter with shoe mines in Normandy while moving up the E-Draw, I am still left with the death dealing memories they left me with. I wonder why, with all the death and injuries these mines have caused over these many years to those many innocent civilians why this U.N. organization continues to talk endlessly about abolishing this deadly weapon.

This organization has gone down the same road the League of

Nations once traveled, talking long and hard about those thorny issues, while the world around them burns to the ground. Kind of reminds me of a rhyme my father once told me. (A man of words and not of deeds is like a garden full of weeds, and when those weeds begin to grow, soon this garden will overflow, producing nothing.) So too, have these numerous sessions of endless talk at our U.N. organization produced nothing but disappointment to those interested in banning those weapons by all nations.

Today, after all these years this world of ours is still faced with this same problem. Meanwhile, this organization continues to waste time talking about this issue. In the meantime, the toll of innocent victims grows worldwide because nothing is being done to ban these weapons by all concerned nations.

Again, as I often do, I find myself drifting away from the original subject and that was the short time I spent in the Broich area after crossing the River Roer on 23 February 1945. As I already stated, we found many small towns in the area completely destroyed as this battle unfolded around us. The town's people had been evacuated for the most part but a few displaced persons had moved back into some of these abandoned homes and they were now wandering about this devastated village trying to salvage anything of value.

Most were elderly grandparents, looking to save something from out of their past, and tears ran down their cheeks as they retrieved something from out of their past from the wreckage. I had visions of my family back home and prayed they would never have to go through this in their lifetime. Many of my comrades shared these same thoughts I am sure, as I studied their somber faces.

As we moved forward, we noticed for the first time, a change in the intensity of the fighting spirits of our opposing forces. After the first few shots, they would put down their weapons and come out with white flags. One could see from some of their expressions, they knew this war was lost and there was no longer any reason to continue this senseless war that could only bring more suffering to their people.

As Al Ungerleider so profoundly said at that time, only the innocent are left to pick up the pieces of their lost lives as this war moves on to its conclusion. There are no winners because we have all lost a portion of our lives, fighting a senseless war.

So, I now close down this short sad story of an incident in our lives while fighting a senseless war that left the world no better off than it was before.

*Submitted by William "Billy" Melander*

## **Please Note**

**The Editor of *The Twenty-Niner*,  
William Mund, now has a new email address.**

**It is: [edit-pub29er@hotmail.com](mailto:edit-pub29er@hotmail.com)**

**Please use this address from now on  
and delete the Yahoo address.**

# Minutes

*of the NEC III Meeting  
held on 19 June 2014 at the  
Weinberg Center, Camp Fretterd, Maryland*

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

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

Minutes of the last meeting (NEC II, 16 January 2014) had been published and distributed in the Spring 2014 edition of the *Twenty-Niner*. As there were no corrections or amendments, these minutes were approved as published.

## Officer's Report

National Commander – Jack Kutcher reported on the activities that he has participated in during the past few months. He was involved with the planning and execution of the Wreath laying ceremony that occurred at Arlington National Cemetery in May. He was the treasurer for the Trip to France event that took place a few weeks ago commemorating the 70th Anniversary of D-Day.

National Senior Vice Commander – John Vaccarino updated everyone on the activities that he has been involved in during the last few months. He has recovered from knee surgery and thanked everyone for their best wishes during his operation and rehabilitation. His biggest challenge during this period was trying to identify an individual to replace PNC John Wilcox as National Executive Director. PNC Robert Moscati will be appointed as National Executive Director at the NEC I meeting in October at the convention in Ocean City. SRVC Vaccarino attended the wreath laying activities at Arlington National Cemetery in May and Loudon Park Cemetery on Memorial Day. He also attended the ceremonies at the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Virginia on 6 June.

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

Southern Region Vice Commander – PNC Bill King gave a detailed report of the many events that he has attended, several of which were previously noted by other officers. He lamented the passing of two stalwart members (Hubert M. Hobbs and Hugh Wills) of Post 64, 29th Division Association.

Maryland Region Vice Commander – William DeHaven has attended several memorial services and events as previously noted. He spoke about the "Proclamations" issued by three counties commemorating D-Day 6 June. He lamented the passing of Joan Vechionni of the Ladies Auxiliary.

At Large Region Vice Commander – PNC Richard Smith had no report.

National Executive Director – PNC/NED John Wilcox reported on the activities that he has participated in during the past few months. Before the dinner following the wreath laying event at Arlington in May, PNC Wilcox installed the officers of Post #3 from Canada. This was the first time they had been properly installed. He recognized JRVC Ginsburg for the increase in membership/property revenue due to the advent of "Pay Pal". NED Wilcox heads up the Nominating Committee and will render his report at the convention in October. He has made a trip to Ocean City for a site visit to the hotel that will be hosting our convention in October. He spoke about the efforts and difficulties of "Rotary Inter-

national" in transporting WWII veterans to the D-Day Memorial ceremonies on 6 June 2014.

Membership – PNC R. Moscati explained his report that was distributed. Membership continues to slightly rise due to the advent of "Pay Pal". Conversely, he reported that Post 229 has been dropped.

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

Chaplain – Reverend John Schildt spoke about the 50th Anniversary of D-Day in 1994. He attended the ceremonies in Bedford at the D-Day Memorial on 6 June 2014. He will officiate at the services for recently departed Henry "Pete" Ponton, of A-115th Infantry on Saturday.

Welfare – Dick Jordan said that 57 members have passed away since June 2014.

Service – Walter Carter deferred his report until later in the meeting.

Surgeon – No report

Historian – Joe Balkoski was excused.

Sergeant at Arms – Randall Beamer attended the Arlington wreath laying ceremony.

Property – Franklin Shilow said the increase in property sales is due to the advent of "Pay Pal".

Editor the *Twenty-Niner* – No report.

Judge Advocate – Frank Rauschenberg's report was deferred until later in the meeting.

Parliamentarian – No report.

## Committee Reports

2014 National Convention – Commander Kutcher gave a report on what has been decided so far concerning the event that will occur on 16-19 October 2014. The Clarion Hotel, Ocean City, MD is the site of our event. All information will be published in the Summer 2014 *Twenty-Niner*. Bus transportation from Pikesville has not yet been determined.

2015 National Convention – NSVC John Vaccarino made some brief comments on his negotiations with the Convention Visitors Bureau of Fredericksburg, Virginia. He will be taking a select group of individuals on 16 July to accompany him on a site visit to the *Fredericksburg Hospitality House*, the hotel that he has identified for this event in 2015.

Futures Committee – NJVC David Ginsburg said that the most recent meeting of the Futures Committee occurred in March 2014. Several issues and concerns came out of that meeting most notably the possibility of a "Post Commander's Workshop" at the convention, whereby all the Post Commanders could assemble and discuss items of interest concerning individual posts. Secondly, a Constitution and By-Laws change was recommended referencing the language which requires certain females to join the Ladies Auxiliary in lieu of actual membership in the 29th Division Association. Language regarding male spouses of female soldiers and/or spouses of the same sex should also be considered and introduced. This change to the Constitution and By-Laws was referred to the Judge Advocate for further action.

## Special Reports

Normandy Allies – NSO Walter Carter gave a report on the upcoming group trip to France in July. This group is made up of 30 individuals, mostly students who will travel to France. He said that the travel grant provided by the 29th Division Association for a teacher to travel in 2014 will not be disbursed for that purpose, that it will be saved and used in 2015. NSO Carter made a motion seconded by PNC Wilcox for the 29th Division Association to provide \$600 for a student grant for 2015. Motion was passed. There was some discussion on the possibility of a

teacher from Maryland applying for a teacher travel grant to participate in the trip scheduled for 2015. NSO Carter thanked the 29th Division Association for their donations over the past years.

Twenty-Niner Newsletter – Editor Mund said he is constantly preparing for the next edition of the *Twenty-Niner* and that together with his other duties he is busy most days. Editor Emeritus PNC Donald McKee recalled his service to the 29th Division during the war years and his service to the 29th Division Association for the past 30 years.

Trip to France – NC Kutcher reported on his recent trip to France to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of D-Day. NC Kutcher was officially involved in as Treasurer of the group that was headed up by Fran Sherr-Davino. He praised Fran's efforts in coordinating this event. Several events occurred with some minor coordination difficulties. These events were not under the control of the group or Ms Sherr-Davino. Flowers and 29th Division flags were presented to mayors and cities, and displayed at various monuments and historical locations of interest. The Commander presented all the posts that funded the flags with certificates acknowledging their contribution of flags. NC Kutcher spoke about the monument that was unveiled by the 116th Infantry Foundation. PNC Joe Zang made some additional comments about the trip and some of the minor difficulties that arose.

#### Old Business

Wreath Laying Ceremony – at Arlington National Cemetery occurred on 18 May 2014 at 3:15pm. William C. "Bill" Doyle, C-175th Infantry, assisted the Commander in laying the wreath. A buffet lunch was held afterwards. Bus transportation was provided. The reusable artificial wreath was used for this ceremony and recovered the next day by PNC McKee.

Website Updates – NJVC Ginsburg gave a very detailed report with "Power Point Presentation" on the updating of the website. He has recently added several new tabs such as unit histories and post write-ups. The unit histories deal with the history of the individual combat units, i.e. 115th Infantry, etc. The post write-ups highlight the activities; officers; meeting dates and times of the respective posts. This would help a perspective member in their selection of a post.

Membership Cards – The continued use of membership cards was again brought up by PNC R. Moscati and discussed. Several opinions both pro and con were discussed. A motion was made by PNC R. Moscati and seconded by Mund to have generic membership cards printed which would not contain a date. These cards would be used or not used at the discretion of the individual posts. Motion was passed.

Statue in Normandy – A motion was made by PNC R. Moscati to donate \$5,000 to the 116th Infantry Foundation for the new statue that was unveiled in Normandy on 6 June 2014. This motion was seconded by PNC King. After much discussion, this motion was passed.

Hospital in St. Lo – Commander Kutcher made a motion which was seconded by PNC Zang to donate \$1,000 to the French hospital in St. Lo. This hospital was featured in the Summer 2013 and Spring 2014 editions of the *Twenty-Niner*. Motion was passed.

#### New Business

Proposed change of date and time for NEC meetings – PNC King stressed the need for the association to consider changing the date & time for NEC meetings. He recommended moving the meeting to a Saturday to facilitate greater attendance by those who still are employed.

Veterans Administration Concerns – NSC Walter Carter presented correspondence that he hopes the 29th Division Association will adopt and send to the President of the United States concerning the "Veterans Health Administration Scandal of 2014". A motion was made by NJVC Ginsburg and seconded by NSVC Vaccarino to adopt this correspondence and send it to the President and other important officials. Motion was passed.

Ladies Auxiliary – President Juanita King said that the Ladies Auxiliary have been transporting veterans who can no longer drive to meetings and doctor appointments. They have been educating the general public in 29th Division history. The Ladies laid a wreath at the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford on 6 June 2014. The Ladies in Roanoke have a sister city relationship with St. Lo in France.

Proposed Amendments to the By-Laws – Judge Advocate Rauschenberg presented two amendments that are to be considered and referred to the National Convention to be voted on in October. The first proposed amendment recommended by the "Futures Committee" referenced the language which requires certain females to join the Ladies Auxiliary in lieu of actual membership in the 29th Division Association. Language regarding male spouses of female soldiers and/or spouses of the same sex was also added to the proposed amendment. A motion was made by NJVC Ginsburg and seconded by Mund to approve this proposed amendment and begin the notification process in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws. This motion was defeated.

The second proposed amendment establishes a minimum age of 18 for membership in the 29th Division Association. After much discussion, a motion was made by Ginsburg and seconded by King to table the motion. Motion was passed.

Post Commander's Workshop – was covered in the report of the "Futures Committee".

Reprinting "29 Let's Go!" – NED/PNC Wilcox reported on the difficulties he has encountered in trying to get the book "29 Let's Go!" reprinted. The cost of getting the book reprinted in hard cover is very expensive. It was decided that the book should be reprinted by Advance Printing in soft cover to lower the costs. A motion to have the book reprinted in soft cover was made by PNC McKee and seconded by NSVC Vaccarino. Motion was passed.

100th Anniversary of the 29th Division – Comrade Wisch proposed forming a committee to explore the possibilities of erecting a monument on the 100th Anniversary of the 29th Division which occurs in 2017.

#### Good of the Association

PNC Lockard made mention of the Dorsey Orchestra that performed at the D-Day Memorial in Bedford on 6 June.

Reverend Schildt said that members of the Howie family will be traveling to France as guests of the French government commemorating the liberation of St. Lo.

#### Closing

With no further business, Commander Kutcher began the closing ceremonies. A closing prayer was offered by Reverend Schildt along with a final salute to the colors. He announced that the **NEC I** meeting is tentatively scheduled for **Sunday, 19 October 2014** at Ocean City, MD.

Meeting was adjourned at 1500 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM S. MUND, JR.

Adjutant  
National Executive Committee

#### NEC Members please note:

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

*Please support the "Twenty-Niner Sustaining Fund".  
Your donations are greatly encouraged and appreciated.*

*Donations may be sent to:*

**PNC/NED John E. Wilcox, Jr.,**

**P.O. Box 1546,**

**Frederick, MD 21702-0546**

## 29th Division Association Supplies Available

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>POSTAGE &amp; HANDLING</u>	<u>MAILED</u>
Book—Ever Forward 116th Inf. History (soft cover)	\$17.90	\$5.75	\$23.65
Book—Ever Forward 116th Inf. History (hard cover)	\$25.00	\$5.75	\$30.75
Book—29th, Let's Go—29th Division History	\$29.00	\$5.75	\$34.75
Book—Beyond the Beachhead (Joseph Balkoski)	\$19.90	\$5.75	\$25.65
Book—115th Infantry in WWII	\$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
29th Division Association Note Pads (5 1/2 x 8 1/2)	\$1.75	\$1.30	\$3.05
29th Division Association Note Pads (4 1/4 x 5 1/2)	\$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
Pocket purse—squeeze	\$2.00	\$0.75	\$2.75
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 Division Association Bolo Tie	\$6.00	\$1.30	\$7.30
29th Association Dress Hat (state size)	\$32.00	\$5.75	\$37.75
Hat, Baseball w/29th logo (embroidered)	\$15.00	\$2.60	\$17.60
Hat, Baseball w/29th logo (embroidered/Summer mesh)	\$12.00	\$2.60	\$14.60
29th Division Association flags on a staff, 12" X 18"	\$4.25	\$1.50	\$5.75
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](http://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	\$100.00
Half Page	70.00
Quarter Page	40.00
Eighth Page	25.00

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

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

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

**Patrons**

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. #: \_\_\_\_\_

This coupon, with your check, made out as indicated above, should also be received by **September 15**. Mail to William S. Mund, Jr. at the address above.

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

Please print and make your reservation early.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit: \_\_\_\_\_ Post: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit: \_\_\_\_\_ Post: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Chicken Picatta \_\_\_\_\_ Baked Salmon \_\_\_\_\_

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

Top Sirloin of Beef \_\_\_\_\_ Orange Roughy \_\_\_\_\_

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

**TOTAL:** \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Robert Moscati, 1910 Calais Ct, Baltimore MD 21244

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

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

**CUT-OFF DATE FOR REGISTRATIONS IS SEPTEMBER 15, 2014**

**HOTEL RESERVATIONS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Address Service Requested

### Association Membership

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

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

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

### You Can Help Our Association Grow

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



**"29 Let's Go!"**

**Application for Membership in  
29TH DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.**

Please Print

Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address (if available) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_

I was a member of \_\_\_\_ Company \_\_\_\_ Battery \_\_\_\_ Regiment

29th Division WWII \_\_\_\_\_ NG \_\_\_\_\_ 29th Inf Div \_\_\_\_\_

\*GWOT \_\_\_\_\_ Children/Grandchildren \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

\*GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_