



Epperly takes command of 29th Division

FORT BELVOIR, VA. — Brig. Gen. John M. Epperly took command of the Fort Belvoir-based 29th Infantry Division, Army National Guard, from Maj. Gen. Blake C. Ortnier during a traditional change of command ceremony May 5, 2018, at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Lt. Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson, Vice Chief, National Guard Bureau, presided over the exchange of unit colors that represented the transfer of command from Ortnier to Epperly.

Epperly, a resident of Stafford, Virginia and a 1989 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, previously served as the deputy commanding general of the 29th.

Epperly thanked Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia and Maj. Gen. Linda L. Singh, the Adjutant General of Maryland, for choosing him to command the 29th ID.

(Continued on page 14)

THE TWENTY-NINER

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Join us in Roanoke for our 100th Annual Reunion & Convention

Recently, I had the opportunity to sit down with National Commander Grant Hayden to discuss the upcoming Reunion and Convention. It will be a special one for the 29th Division Association marking the 100th anniversary of this organization and NC Hayden plans to assure that it is a very memorable one.

The convention, which will be held in Roanoke, VA at the Holiday Inn Roanoke – Valley View, will begin on Thursday, 11 October (exactly one month to the day, prior to the centennial anniversary of the end of World War I, the war that saw the creation of the 29th Division) and end at noon on Sunday, 14 October.

NC Hayden discussed the voucher program whereby a business may sponsor a World War II veteran's attendance at the convention. When we spoke, he had just sent out 40 letters to businesses in Maryland and Virginia and indicated that first time attendees would receive preference.

Of course, the hospitality suite will be open starting on Thursday as members and guests gather, reunite and prepare for a weekend of camaraderie and commemoration. The suite will be open throughout the convention and Association merchandise will be available for purchase.

NC Hayden indicated that activities would get underway in earnest on Friday at the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, VA. Members and guests will travel

via bus service to the Memorial for a commemorative wreath laying.

NC Hayden has invited the 29th Division NCO and Soldier of the Year, who will be Convention guests and who recently assisted with the annual wreath laying at Arlington

National Cemetery; to participate in this special event. The 29th Division band will be on hand and play throughout the ceremony.

Our good friends from Mission Barbeque will provide a free lunch for all in recognition

of the contributions of our 29th Division veterans to the freedom that we all enjoy.

If time permits in the afternoon, NC Hayden has plans to bus the group to nearby Lexington, VA to tour the Robert E Lee Chapel and the George C Marshall Museum. When the group returns to the Holiday Inn, we will gather for a delicious buffet dinner.

On Saturday, while we hold our annual business meeting and Post Commanders Workshop, NC Hayden has plans for the spouses. Bus service will be available to transport the spouses and other guests into Roanoke to several venues: the Valley View Mall for some leisure shopping, the Black Dog Salvage showroom and TV show studio, the Historic Downtown Roanoke Market (the oldest continuously operating open-air market in the Commonwealth of Virginia), and the Taubman Museum of Art. There will certainly be something of interest for everyone!

(Continued on page 18)



The Bobbie G. Johnson pavilion, Quonset hut, at the D-Day Memorial in Bedford, VA.

MESSAGE FROM:**National Commander – Grant L. Hayden**

The annual wreath laying ceremony at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier on 28 June 2018 with the assistance of the NCO and Soldier of the year from the 29th Infantry Division was a great honor.

SGT Jake Moyer and SGT Austin Cook performed flawlessly and represented the Division with distinction. The weather was perfect and buffet at the luncheon at Spates Community Center was excellent.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the continued success we are having in gaining new members.

The changes that PNC David Ginsburg and Neil Ungerleider have made to our Website has put the Association on a path to obtain over 100 new members by convention.

The Legacy program initiated by PNC Ginsburg contributed immensely to our success in increasing our membership.

Several initiatives discussed during the NEC II have been implemented to include; Updating the photographs on the Website, correspondence to all units on their eligibility to join the Association, Welcome letter and 29th Division History DVD mailed to the 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry of the Ken-



tucky National Guard that recently became affiliated with the 116th IBCT.

Names of all new members are now listed in the *Chinstrap*, and the *Chinstrap* is now being mailed to all Readiness Centers in Maryland and Virginia. *The Twenty-Niner* will also be mailed to the readiness centers.

Outstanding leadership Plaques will be

presented in August at the Graduation of OCS candidates and one to be presented to recognize a Military Police instructor.

Merchandise updating, and visibility is under review and should be completed by the end of this year.

A recruiting poster has been developed and will be distributed soon to all the readiness centers in Maryland and Virginia.

The recent NEC III conducted on 28 June 2018 at Ft. Belvoir had a full agenda and several amendments to the Bylaws were discussed and will be contained in this publication.

A vote on these amendments to take place during the business meeting at our convention.

A lively discussion took place on whether to increase the per capita dues and was decided against. The outcome was to establish a committee headed up by PNC John Wilcox to look for diverse ways in obtaining funds for the Association.

Finally, please join us at the 100th Anniversary Convention in Roanoke, Va. 11-14 October 2018. Details of the convention and registration form are contained within this publication.

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DiNonno takes command of 116th IBCT

FORT PICKETT, VA — Lt. Col. Joseph DiNonno took command of the Staunton-based 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team from Col. Scott Smith, in a traditional change of command ceremony June 10, 2018, at Fort Pickett, Virginia.

Brig. Gen. John Epperly, commander of the 29th Infantry Division, presided over the exchange of unit colors that symbolized the transfer of command from Smith to DiNonno.

DiNonno most recently served as the Virginia National Guard J3 director of joint operations in a traditional Guard status, and Smith will become the Virginia Army National Guard operations officer in both his full time and traditional Guard status.

DiNonno graduated from Old Dominion University and commissioned as a

second lieutenant in May 1994. During the course of his career, he served in a wide variety of leadership positions including platoon leader, company executive officer, Infantry company commander, planner, squadron operations officer, squadron executive officer, squadron commander and Infantry brigade executive officer.

He mobilized and deployed to Guantanamo Bay in 2002-03 and Kuwait in 2007-08 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, and to Iraq in 2011 in support of Operation New Dawn.

DiNonno holds a Juris Doctor from Regent Law School, a Masters in Strategic Studies from the Army War College and a Bachelor of Science from Old Dominion University.

By Mr. Cotton Puryear

Donations to the *Twenty-Niner*

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our membership for their generosity in contributing to the *Twenty-Niner* for this Summer issue. From March 1, 2018, through July 1, 2018, these donations totaled \$1,500.00. Note our cut-off time. If your contributions did not reach our National Executive Director by July 1, 2018 then it will not be listed until the next issue. **Donation checks must be made payable to the 29th Division Association.**

Anonymous

In memory of PNC "Jack" Kutcher, Sr.

In memory of Frank "Doc" Barranco

In memory of all departed members of the 29th Division

Byrne, Thomas, Post 93, Associate, Wellesley, MA

Cresap's Rifles, Post 78, Frederick, MD

In memory of Past Post Cdr. James F. Walsh, A/1/115

Fulmer, George W., Post 78, Associate, Frederick, MD

In memory of Edward. L. Fulmer, KIA, 21 Jun 44

Golding, Gordon, Post 94, Son, Paris, France

Heinlein-Ewell, Rita, Post 94, Daughter, Captiva, FL

In memory of her Father, SGM John J. Heinlein

Koos, Donald, Post 94, I/175, Whiting, NJ

Krauss, Michael, Post 1-72, Son, Goldsboro, NC

In memory of his Father, PNC Sam Krauss

Leutz, John, R., Son, Columbus, OH, and 5 other friends

In memory of his Father, LTC Robert L. Leutz

Lhamon, Samuel Sr., Post 1-72, HHC/29ID(L), Pasadena, MD

In memory of MG Boyd M. Cook

Linthicum, George E., III, Post 1-72, C/175, Lutherville, MD

In memory of Celeste Macmillan, widow of W. Macmillan

Manahan, Ronald C., Post 729, B/729MB, Blue Ridge Summit, PA

Melchionda, Mark, Post 93, Son, Marshfield, MA

In memory of his parents Joseph & Angelina Melchionda

Michas, Mariah, Post 78, Granddaughter, Tucson, AZ

In memory of her Grandfather, LTC Robert L. Leutz

Miller, Norvell E., III, Post 1-72, HHC/2/175, Baltimore, MD

In memory of LTC George Kerchner, HHC/2/175

Morgan, Thomas, L, III, Post 116, HHC/3/116, Midlothian, VA

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

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

Pulket, Arthur W., Post 58, HQ/175, Bel Air, MD

In memory of MAJ Leo J. Lathroum

Sparks, Gary, Sr., Post 94, Son, Hillsborough, NH

Veteran Corps Fifth Regiment Infantry

In memory of CPT Roger J. Johnson

In memory of SSG John L. Kraushofer

In memory of SGT Joseph G. Feldmann, Jr.

In memory of MAJ Leo Lathroum

White, Claire M., Daughter, Wenham, MA

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

Wilcox, PNC John E. Jr., Post 78, A/115, Frederick, MD

In memory of Richard Fox, A/1/115

Message from the Finance Officer

National Finance Officer Bob Jones reported at the NEC III meeting at Ft Belvoir on 28 June that all IRS 990-N tax returns were filed for all posts and accepted by the IRS back in February for 2018 and any changes of Post Finance officers and addresses from 2017 were also reported to the IRS.

Please remember that all Post IRS ID numbers are linked under the parent 29th Division Association, Inc. IRS ID number. If a Post receives any IRS correspondence PLEASE share with either NFO Bob Jones or NED Will Mund.

If any Post has any Finance related questions about their Post or the National, please do not hesitate to contact me. NFO Bob Jones, 410-490-9287, bobandhelena@gmail.com

Brief message from the editor

I would like to thank and recognize PNC David Ginsburg of Post 110 and Neil Ungerleider of Post 93 for the work they have done with the *Facebook* campaign. Their work has resulted in our association recruiting 88 new members since NEC II in January.

Since I have become involved, this amount of new members is unprecedented. It is hoped that everyone in the association will attempt to recruit new members.

On another subject: I would like to reference my column in the Autumn/Winter 2018 edition on page 26. I reported that we had identified another D-Day imposter, i.e. someone who deceived everyone about his service with the 29th and his participation on D-Day, 6 June 1944.

This imposter has since been exposed by a certain entity in New England and several newspapers and other media have reported this man's treachery.

For those of you who are interested, here is a link to an article about this man's deception and outright extreme dishonesty.

<http://thisainhell.us/blog/?p=79089>

Do a search on this man's name. You will also get to see him actually deceiving everyone and see him wearing the awards and decorations that he was never authorized to wear.

I'm sure we have more D-Day imposters amongst us in our association who have falsely claimed that they were members of the 29th. I highly recommend that all members who claim to be WWII veterans check the 29th Division Morning Reports spreadsheet to see if their name is listed. That link is:

<http://www.29thdivisionassociation.com/MorningReports.html>

William S. Mund, Jr., Editor / Executive Director

Please Note

This is the last *Twenty-Niner* before the convention. Please make note of all the convention information on pages 12, 38 and 39.

Also read the convention article beginning on page 1. This article describes the events and activities that are planned for this year's convention.

Please join us in October for our 100th National Reunion and Convention October 11-14, 2018, in Roanoke, Virginia.

TAPS

The following list shows names of known 29ers and their ladies or family members who died and their deaths reported from March 1, 2018 through June 30, 2018. 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

Baker, Roy R., Post 729, D/115, Waynesboro, PA 4/9/18
 Cannon, John R., Post 85, E/115, Lebanon, TN 10/18/15
 Culler, Carl L., Post 78, A/1/115, Fort Myers, FL 5/31/18
 DiStefano, Frank G., Post 93, DIVARTY, Haverhill, MA 3/3/18
 Feldmann, Joseph, Post 1-72, C/175, Arnold, MD 4/7/18
 Fenton, Stuart V., Post 5, B/1/111FA, Norfolk, VA 5/6/18
 Futty, John C., Jr., Post 85, E/115, North East, MD 3/21/18
 Gallimore, John W., Jr., Post 2, H/175, Vero Beach, FL 5/12/17
 Herrick, LeRoy W., Post 93, H/116, Chicago, IL 1/20/10
 Keyes, Sidney S., Post 88, H/115, Cambridge, MD 4/11/18
 Kraushofer, John L., Post 1-72, 175TK, Lansdowne, MD 2/14/18
 Kreh, Richard T., Sr., Post 78, A/1/115, Frederick, MD 6/24/18
 Leutz, Robert L., Post 48, H/115, Oak Harbor, OH 4/25/18
 Lippincott, Don H., Post 1-72, A/175, Houston, TX 2/9/18
 Maly, John J., Post 78, Associate, Frederick, MD 6/5/18
 Marino, Francis C., Post 93, A/227FA, Kings Park, NY 2/13/10
 McCarthy, Donald A., Jr., Post 93, Son, Portsmouth, RI 6/27/18
 Miller, Lewis F., Jr., Post 29, A/115, Berwick, PA 1/24/18
 Moxley, Everest, M., Jr., Post 78, A/1/115, Finksburg, MD 6/20/18
 Myers, Dick M., Post 48, Associate, Westminster, MD 1/14/18
 Nappi, Felice, Post 29, HQ/2/175, New Braunfels, TX 4/17/18
 Renner, Ralph L., Post 48, 110FA, Upperco, MD 5/9/18
 Rutherford, Ernest C., Post 2, USN, Englewood, FL 5/28/18
 Simpkins, Marion, Post 2, Widow, Owosso, MI 9/28/16
 Sink, James R., Post 64, Roanoke, VA 3/22/17
 Steckel, James B., Post 110, DIVARTY, Hanover, PA 6/14/18
 Velleco, John M., Post 93, C/459AAA, Stratford, CT 1/18/15
 Walsh, James F., Post 78, A/1/115, Frederick, MD 4/9/18

LADIES

Gasparri, Roberta, Widow, Port Charlotte, FL 4/27/18

**Be sure to check out our
 new and improved
 website at:**

www.29thdivisionassociation.com

LEST WE FORGET

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

You have just read a list of 28 comrades and 1 lady who have died and whose deaths were reported to us since our last publication.

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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 Sharpsburg, MD 21782-0145
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 E-mail: duster197329@gmail.com

Attention!

Post Adjutants & Finance Officers

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

This results in the new member not receiving the latest issues of the *Chin Strap* and *Twenty-Niner* to which they are entitled.

Please email this new member information to Will Mund at duster197329@gmail.com or by telephone to 443-529-4233. To delay their addition to the mailing lists is a disservice to our new member.

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

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

Remember: Do not delay sending in new member information.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Out In Front — All The Way

an account of James Slade Morris - 115th Infantry

by his Grandson, Gregory L. Stapleton

Chapter 6

The Great Crusade Begins

D-Day, the invasion of "Fortress Europe" was the 6th of June 1944. The airborne drops, the sea borne assault, the special forces, naval and air forces were all a part of an enormous undertaking on a scale unheard of in warfare.

Many excellent books have been written chronicling the invasion and I will only chronicle events in direct connection to Jim Morris and the 115th Infantry.

The basic plan had called for the American 1st and 29th Infantry Divisions to land on Omaha Beach. The 116th Infantry Regiment would land with the first assault waves alongside the 16th Regiment of the "Big Red One". According to "Operation Neptune" the 115th Infantry was scheduled to land with the second wave of troops (known as Reserve Force "O") about 1300 hours on the same beaches that the 116th had cleared and secured.

The 115th would then push on hard for village of St.-Laurent-Su-Mer, with the 1st and 2nd battalions in front and the 3rd in reserve. Once secured the regiment would move then on to Longueville, its D-Day objective. ¹

At Longueville the regiment was to set up defensive positions and prepare for counterattack. It is a military maxim that no plan no matter how well crafted survives five minutes after contact with the enemy, and the "Operation Overlord" plan would be no exception.

The 115th Infantry crossed the channel in twelve LCI's. ² Each LCI could carry an entire infantry company, but no vehicles. The regiment's assault ships waited off shore for their time to land, while on the beach the situation was not going well. The 116th had landed in the smaller LCVPs in specially composed landing teams, along with special amphibious tanks, engineers, and Rangers. The defensive fire, rough surf, and general confusion of an amphibious landing had left much of the beachhead in a state of disarray. Co. "A" of the 116th Infantry had suffered heavily as some of the first troops to hit the shore and was effectively ruined as a cohesive fighting unit. ³ Progress off the beach was slow, and defensive fire still raked the beach.

General Gerhardt aboard a warship offshore was receiving the discouraging reports from the beach, including dispatches from his Assistant Division Commander General Norm "Dutch" Cota. Gerhardt decided he needed to commit more support to the

struggling first wave. At about 0930 he ordered the 115th Infantry to move up their landing time. Instead of landing on a secured beach as the plan had stipulated the 115th would have to fight their way inland.

As the LCI's approached the Dog Red Sector of Omaha Beach at 1000 hours it became apparent a change in the plan was necessary. The naval commander decided the lack of success moving off the beaches of the initial assault wave, the congestion from follow up troops, the heavy casualties already suffered, and the intense fighting still occurring on that beach precluded landing in the designated places. The decision was made to move the regiment a little to the east to the Easy Red and Fox Green sectors of Omaha Beach in the 1st Division zone, and land the 115th behind the 1st Division's 16th Infantry Regiment. ⁴



The landings of the 115th Regiment began about 1030 hours. The first wave troops of the 16th Infantry had made better progress off the beach and naval gunfire had set brush fires along the bluffs and the smoke helped obscure the landing. These circumstances prevented the horrendous casualties suffered by their sister regiment (116th). The beach was still under sporadic machine gun fire and long-range artillery was still falling along the water's edge among the discharging landing craft. ⁵

By 1100 hours the regiment was either ashore or in the process of landing. The addition of two battalions (1st and 2nd) of the 115th Regiment to a beach already crowded with the 16th and 18th Regiments who were still trying to get organized added to the confusion.

The 18th Regiment was landing at about the same time as the 115th and the beach quickly became mired in congestion and confusion that delayed the movement of needed manpower, weapons and supplies off the beachhead.

The 1st Battalion cleared the beach in about 15 minutes after coming ashore but it was 3 or 4 hours before the entire 115th could be brought to bear against the enemy defenses. ⁵ Uncleared minefields and intermittent enemy fire slowed the advance and it was nearly 1400 hours before the battalion could reorganize on the bluffs and head inland for their objective.

Correspondent Robert Cochrane of the *Baltimore Sun* newspaper wrote this about the landing of the 115th;

"Their courage and coolness in storming the beaches near St.

Laurent-Sur-Mer on invasion day did much to make firm the Allied hold on the beachhead at a time when the success of this great military undertaking was in the balance.”

The 1st Battalion of the 115th Infantry (1-115) encountered their first real enemy resistance at about 1430 hours as they neared the town of St. Laurent-Su-Mer when German defenders counterattacked them. The battalion repulsed the attack but could not exploit the advantage as their ammunition was running low.

The 115th was not supposed to have met such stiff opposition and consequently its jeeps, trucks and weapons carriers were not scheduled to arrive until the next day and all equipment, weapons, and ammunition had to be carried up the beach, through the ravine-like draws off the beaches, across the bluffs and into the fight. Support soon arrived and the troops then pushed past the village to the south, arriving at the St. Laurent-Formigny Road about 2300 hours. At the road the attack was slowed by mortar and sniper fire and the GI's set up defensive positions for the night.⁶

The lack of transportation, poor communications within the complicated and divided command structure and virtually no available support from tanks and artillery had hampered the attack progress of the units for the entire day.

General Dutch Cota who had landed with the 116th set up his command post (CP) in the village of St. Laurent, but the town was far from secure and hard all night fighting was needed to finally conquer the enemy strongpoint.

General Gerhardt landed that evening to take command of the 29th Division and set up the divisional CP near the Vierville draw (D-3) in a rock quarry. Enemy fire still harassed the beaches all night.

That night while inspecting the positions of Company A near the St. Laurent-Formigny Road LTC Richard Blatt (CO of the 1st Battalion) was mortally wounded by mortar fire. He was evacuated back to England but died several days later.

Major James S. Morris took command of the 1st Battalion. His military career had reached the moment he had been building for, the years of training and preparation for running a battalion would now be put to the test. In less than one day he was now thrust into the position of taking over a unit in combat while closely engaged with the enemy on a beachhead that was not yet beyond being pushed back into the sea.

The commander of an infantry battalion was one of the most crucial jobs in the Army. A battalion was recognized as the smallest unit of troops that could operate independently. A battalion had its own foot soldiers, heavy weapons, intelligence gathering, operations planner, supplies, transportation, cooks, etc. General Gerhardt made the statement “*The war is won at the battalion level*”, and Gerhardt was not shy about relieving a battalion commander who he did not think met his expectations. Col. Charles Cawthon (CO, 2-115th) in his book *Other Clay* noted; “*There is little impersonal decision making in an infantry battalion, my hide was also at stake*”.

For its actions on June 6, 1944 in landing on the beach, taking over for the bogged down initial assault forces, moving off the beaches, organizing and launching an attack on St. Laurent that cut off and isolated the town. The 115th Infantry Regiment was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation. This is a very prestigious

award and one not given out without being justly earned and deserved. The official U.S. Army citation read:

The 115th Infantry Regiment is cited for gallantry and outstanding performance of duty in action in the vicinity of St.-Laurent-Su-Mer, Normandy France on June 6, 1944.

In the attack on the heavily fortified and stoutly defended enemy positions the regiment landed in close support of the initial assaulting force with the mission of crossing the beach with the greatest rapidity and advancing on the town of Longueville, from which point a night attack was to be launched across the inundated area to the south.

Finding the initial assault force disorganized and decimated by the withering artillery and small-arms fire of the enemy, the regiment immediately committed to action and took over the assault force missions without adequate time for assembly and reorganization. Rapidly changing orders and maintaining complete control, the cool determination of the leaders and the quick adaptability, courage, and aggressiveness of the men, under difficult and hazardous conditions made possible the successful advance of the regiment against the inland strong point of St.-Laurent-Su-Mer.

By nightfall the town had been enveloped, its eastern inner defenses penetrated, and by early morning, after a night of continuous stubborn fighting the strong point was overcome and progress inland was steady and rapid.

The outstanding performance of duty, the courage, the tenacity, aggressiveness, and extraordinary heroism of all personnel of the 115th Infantry Regiment at a time when the success of the great military undertaking was in the balance, reflect the highest credit on the military forces of the United States.

As the sun rose on June 7, 1944 the 115th Infantry was already on the move. The city of St. Laurent was by now mostly in American hands, and the 3rd Battalion (3-115) would finish up the job. The 1st Battalion (1-115) passed through the southern outskirts of the town and with the 2nd Battalion (2-115) was to move toward Longueville along the Insigny Road. Progress toward Longueville was slow, Co.'s “B” and “C” were held up by intense small arms fire as they approached Louviers.

The battalion operating mostly on its own because of lack of communications with the other battalions of the regiment, tried most of the rest of the day to maneuver and neutralize this resistance. Late in the afternoon, radio communications were finally established with Regimental Headquarters and orders were given to bypass the strongpoint to the south and link up with the 2nd Battalion (2-115) near Montigny.⁸ General Gerhardt took command of the division at 1700 hours that afternoon. The 110th Field Artillery Battalion, one of two indigenous self-propelled artillery units in the 29th Division came ashore that afternoon. The other artillery battalion, (111th Field Artillery) had lost nearly all its guns during the initial landings.

The 1-115th had been in almost constant firefights since early morning on the 7th, and they linked up with the 2-115th in the darkness of morning on June 8. The 1st and 2nd battalions moved on Longueville against only minor resistance, as the enemy retreated from the town, arriving there about 1100 hours. The

regiment was then to clear all resistance north of the Aure River in the flooded lowland areas.

The regiment was now faced with a natural obstacle to its advance referred to on Allied maps as the "inundated area". The Aure River Valley ran east to west through the regiment's zone forming a wide swamp that varied in depth from several inches to over a man's head. The German defenders considered this a natural defensive barrier and only lightly defended its southern border. Patrols from the battalions were sent out to find routes through the area.⁷

The 1st Battalion (1-115) followed a path through the swamps on the heels of the 3rd Battalion without much resistance. As they emerged on the southern shore on the morning of the 9th of June, the 1-115 moved through the town of Columbières, and continued to the east toward Briqueville.

As the 1st Battalion neared the town, they encountered sniper fire, then started taking small arms fire, soon fire from heavier weapons and armored vehicles slowed them to a halt. Co. "C" tried to push into the town, but the effort was driven off. And in typical fashion the Germans counterattacked against Co. "B" with infantry and armor. The battalion had more than its hands full against this attack and an urgent call was made to regiment for artillery support.

The supporting fire helped break up the attack. PFC Moore of 1st Battalion was awarded a Silver Star for his actions during this attack, as almost by himself he stopped a tank using only rifle grenades, long enough for his comrades to come to his support and forcing the tank to break off the attack and withdraw.⁸

Unable to move on the town, defensive positions were set up by the 1st Battalion. troops as the Germans continued to hit them with counterattacks throughout the day. Repelling all attacks but unable to return to the offensive, the battalion remained in place through the night, and into the next day.

That night, the 2nd Battalion in one of those unfortunate incidents of war was surprised by an enemy force that inflicted severe casualties to the battalion including killing its CO, LTC William Warfield and most of his staff. The next day, the 1st Battalion. was pulled from the lines and brought back to regimental reserve.

Jim Morris wrote a letter later in the year home to his wife telling about an incident that occurred in the early morning hours of June 11th. The battalion arrived at the estate of Mmlle. Odette Pagny that night and dug in. "*A frog (a slang for Frenchman) was ushered to my foxhole with the compliments of the lady of the manor.*" She was requesting to see the commander as soon as possible.

Major Morris, took the Chaplain and Battalion Surgeon who both spoke French with him. They were led to her chamber at 0200 hours where they found her in bed and "*very much jittery*". The battalion had just that day drove the Germans out, and she feared they might come back. The "*splendid and lavishly furnished house*" had been used as a German HQ. Morris assured her they had no intention of allowing "*Herman to return*". Mmlle Pagny provided quite a bit of info about the country and the enemy situation all of which turned out to be true.

The next day she served the officers cognac that was nearly 200 years old. The family who made their livelihood in wines had

an assortment of spirits "*fit for a king*" and they had managed to keep their private stock hidden from the Germans.

She became very fond of Captain Norval Carter the Battalion Surgeon. "*He was a charming person and had more friends than his ancestor had liver pills*". An expression from that time referring to a great amount of anything as "*being more than Carter has little pills*", a popular over-the-counter remedy.

Captain Carter was killed not long after in action by a sniper while tending a wounded soldier. After the death of Capt. Carter, Morris stopped to see Mmlle Pagny on a trip to the rear area. "*She was heartbroken at the news*". She wanted to know where he was buried, and wanted to write his wife to tell her; "*His grave would be well taken care of*".

The combat in the Norman hedgerows was unlike anything the soldiers of the 29th Division had been trained for prior to the invasion. The region was crisscrossed with an endless maze of small fields surrounded by centuries old fence lines overgrown with trees and bushes and had become natural walls of limbs, roots, soil, rocks and stones. These hedgerows were often taller than a man, and were bordered by roads with sunken ditches that made ideal natural defensive positions.

Each and every hedgerow afforded the enemy a position to slow any advance and force the attacker to deploy for battle to root out the defenders. The enemy would often put up a determined resistance, inflict casualties, slow the attack, and then fall back to the next hedgerow where the process would be repeated again and again. Progress was being measured in yards, as each hedgerow attacked and conquered revealed another one beyond it, and beyond that still another, and another.

This type of combat was taking a toll on the Americans, and kept the soldiers in almost constant contact with the enemy. The 1st Battalion's stay in reserve did not last long, and they were told the next night to prepare for an attack across the Elle River toward St. Marguerite-d'Elle.

Early in the still dark morning hours of the 12th of June, the 1-115th started to move to link up with the right flank of the 2-115th along the north bank of the Elle. The battalion groped around in the dark without finding the 2nd Battalion and finally about 0500 hours it attempted to force a crossing of the river near St. Claire-sur-elle where the river was little more than a stream.

German defenders dug in on the far bank slowed the advance with heavy fire from automatic weapons, and the stalled attack was then hit with an artillery barrage that caused heavy casualties. Several more attempts to get the bogged down attack across the river were unsuccessful and about 1100 hours the 1-115th dug in at its current positions on the north bank. Similar efforts by the 2nd and 3rd battalions went without much success.⁹

The next morning the 116th Infantry was sent to try to force a crossing of the Elle River farther to the east. The 3-115th was able to take advantage of this attack and got a foothold across. The 1-115th was still held up on their side of the river, and about mid-day, heavy fire from MG's, mortars, and artillery pounded their positions.

The battalion sent patrols across the river and discovered the Germans were withdrawing under the cover of the barrage. As the battalion started to move across to the opposite bank they discovered the now empty defensive positions which had been

built with excellent fields of fire and strong cover permitting the defenders to hold up the battalion crossing for so long. The 1-115th pushed forward until they contacted the rear of the enemy troops and harassed them until night brought an end to the action.

On the next day, June 14th the regiment was pulled back to division reserve for a much-needed rest and re-equipping. The division was now assigned to the newly formed XIX Corps. Gen. Gerhardt replaced Col. Gene Slappey as Commanding Officer (CO) of the 115th Infantry with Col. Godwin Ordway.

Ordway had been Gerhardt's Chief of Staff at division. The 1st Battalion was without an Executive Officer (XO), and its acting CO Major Jim Morris was nearly incapacitated with foot troubles. So the next day, Col. Ordway brought in his own man, Major Glover Johns Jr. from division to take over as CO of the 1st Battalion.

Major Morris returned to his job as XO. Johns, who had been the Division Liaison Officer (LO), and an ex-cavalryman, did not think he knew enough about the day-to-day ins and outs of running an infantry battalion, but Col. Ordway told him he had a staff to do that.¹⁰ Soon Major Johns would learn that he had one of the best staffs he could want to take care of all the details that he might forget or did not know to do.

The staff of an infantry battalion was composed of a commander (CO) usually a Lieutenant Colonel (LTC). However, attrition of officers sometimes put officers of lesser ranks into positions until they could be replaced or promoted.

Major Johns was the CO of the 1st Battalion. He commanded the force of about 800-900 officers and soldiers. The CO reported to his boss at regiment. In this case Colonel Ordway of the 115th Infantry.

The next level up the chain of command was General Gerhardt at 29th Division. In the radio parlance of the U.S. Army every division and regiment was given a radio code name. The 29th Division was given the name "Latitude", and each subordinate unit would have a code name beginning with the letter "L":

115th Infantry Regiment "Limestone"

116th Infantry Regiment "Lemon"

175th Infantry Regiment "Lagoon"

The CO of each of these units was known as the "six". Hence, Gen. Gerhardt was known as "Latitude 6", Col. Ordway of the 115th was "Limestone 6"

The three infantry Battalions in a Regiment were known by a color designation:

1st Battalion Red

2nd Battalion White

3rd Battalion Blue

Consequently, Major Johns was "Limestone Red 6" (Limestone - 115th, Red - 1st Bn., six - CO), when he talked with his bosses at regiment, or his peers at other battalions. When the battalion CO talked to his company commanders below him, he was just "Red 6".

The battalion Executive Officer (XO) usually a Major was the second in command. In this case it was Major Jim Morris. He was known as "Red 5". The XO took care of the administrative duties of the battalion, substituted for the CO when he was away, took over if he was killed or wounded, and usually ran the rear com-

mand post (CP). During combat he was the link from regiment and division to the battalion. He was also a second set of eyes and ears of the CO, and could be counted on to go get a first-hand account of a situation and report back to the CO.

The rest of the key members of the battalion staff are:

S-1 Personnel Officer "Red 1"

S-2 Intelligence Officer "Red 2"

S-3 Operations Officer "Red 3"

S-4 Supply Officer "Red 4"

Also on staff was the Battalion Surgeon, generally a Captain or Major, an Artillery Liaison Officer assigned by the supporting Field Artillery Battalion that was providing fire support to the battalion. (Usually this was the 110th FA Bn.), and there might also be Liaison Officers for any armor or tank destroyer battalions on attached duty.

The maneuver element of the battalion was its three rifle companies and one heavy weapons company. Companies were designated by the phonetic alphabet corresponding to their designation. In the 1st Battalion the line companies were:

A Company "Able"

B Company "Baker"

C Company "Charlie"

D Company "Dog"

Companies A, B and C were rifle Companies led by a Captain as CO, with a Lieutenant as the executive. Each rifle company had just fewer than 200 soldiers and was broken down into 3 Platoons of about 50 men each commanded by a Lieutenant. The weapons company (Co. D) supplied the supporting fire for the battalion with mortars, machine guns, and antitank weapons. The CO of Company A would go by "Able 6" on the radio, and each of his Platoon leaders would use a color designation. Red for the 1st Platoon, White for 2nd, and Blue for 3rd. The Platoon leader for 1st Platoon would be "Able red 6".

The smallest infantry combat element was the Rifle Squad. A squad was made up of 12 men, a Sergeant was squad Leader, and his assistant was a Corporal. They could be armed with rifles, sub machine guns, or carbines. There were seven riflemen armed with M-1 "Garands."

The M-1 "Garand" was the basic U.S. infantry weapon of the war, and the finest rifle issued to any army at the time. The "Garand" was a semi-automatic rifle that could fire eight rapid, successive shots with great accuracy and reliability.

Each squad had an automatic weapon known as a BAR (Browning Automatic Rifle) with one man carrying the weapon, and two more carrying extra ammunition in addition to their M-1 rifles. The BAR was a light machine gun weighing about 20 pounds and could fire 20 shots from a changeable magazine in short bursts or continuous fire.

In combat the battalion Commanding Officer (CO) and the battalion S-3 (Operations Officer) were the first command team. They would work closely with the artillery LO to plan, execute, and direct the attack. The Executive (XO) and the S-2 (Intelligence Officer) were the second command team. They had to be kept up on all activities and plans and could step in to the CO or S-3 jobs if needed. They also would keep upper commands informed of progress during a fight, relay messages to other units, keep the tactical situation plotted on maps, gather

intelligence, provide support, and see to supplies of critical items such as ammunition.

"I am writing from a foxhole". On the 15th of June for the first time since landing on D-Day 9 days earlier, Jim Morris was able to write home. *"I am OK"* was the first thing he wrote. *"I guess that is the best way to start this letter off".* The news of the heavy casualties of D-Day was just beginning to reach the United States, and he undoubtedly wanted to get word he was still OK. *"I am very well except for a pair of very sore feet."* His foot problems were becoming a big problem. He had been able to cope with his feet in the National Guard and during training by giving them daily care, but the extremes of combat had not allowed him the same attention. *"I am forced to make a change soon since I find it increasingly difficult to walk very far."*

Morris did not want to have to give up on his troops, and he had pushed himself along for several days. Major Johns had arrived to take over as CO, but Morris hoped he could remain as XO and stay with the "boys". He wished Clara a *"Very Happy Birthday"* which was coming up in 10 days, and the letter should just be arriving about that time. The next day the battalion was pulled back to Corps reserve.

With Major Johns as CO, the 1-115th went on its first attack on June 17th. During the course of the attack radio contact with the assault company cannot be made, and Johns moved forward to check on the lack of progress. In the ensuing action his radio operator, and some of his staff, including a company commander were killed when the command staff was caught too far forward in an unsecured area. On Johns's return to the CP, he finds replacement radios and operators waiting for him. Capt Newcomb the S-3 said *"Major Morris (the XO) heard we were out of radios and operators so he sent us a whole new set, complete with operators. I don't know where he got it, but it works".*¹¹

Later that night Johns goes off to regiment to report on the situation to Col. Ordway. He is gone a long time and does not return until the middle of the night. He finds most all of the HQ staff asleep in their foxholes, but happens upon Newcomb. Johns remembers he has forgotten to see to the needs of the battalion for food and ammo and asks Newcomb about it. Newcomb tells him *"Major Jim Morris and I took care of that an hour ago".*¹²

Major Jim Morris always prided himself on doing his job no matter what was asked of him. As the battalion XO, he stepped up and did the necessary jobs to keep the 1st Battalion moving and fighting despite his painful physical problems, and without animosity over losing his command after leading it through such hard fighting.

The next day the battalion command post came under a heavy artillery barrage, and Captain Newcomb was killed by a sniper.

The next evening June 19th, Jim Morris finally had to ask to be relieved. His feet had finally gotten too bad to go on. Major Johns noted: *"The XO (Morris) had developed serious foot trouble and could no longer keep up with the outfit when it was on the move. Morris had reluctantly asked to be relieved. The officers of the staff were equally sorry to see him go".*¹²

According to Major Johns, before Morris left, Johns asked him if he could have an old French bayonet that Morris had been given by some of his men. Johns thought it would make a good pointer and maybe for prodding troops along. Morris did not want

to give it up, but said Johns could have it with his best wishes to bring him luck since *"he wanted it so damn bad"*. In exchange Morris asked that the first Jerry pistol Johns found come to him. *"I'll be around"* said Morris.¹³ They shook hands and Jim Morris left his beloved 1st Battalion for good.

Col. Ordway took Morris back to regiment, where the Regimental Surgeon Major Theodore Cross recommended that the condition of his feet was so severe that he be evacuated to England. Jim Morris did not want to leave the outfit, and appealed to Gen. Gerhardt to allow him to stay. Morris was assigned to Division and given the job as Division Liaison Officer. This was the same job Major Johns had before being sent to command the 1st Battalion.

Jim Morris had survived his baptism by fire as a soldier and a commander. He had been thrust into one of the most important combat leadership positions and had led his men well for a week in which the battalion was almost constantly in direct contact with a determined enemy. He had to accept the reality he could not keep going and dejectedly asked to leave the troops with which he had lived, trained and fought alongside for the most of the last three and a half years.

Morris could have sought a rear area job and spent the rest of the war in relative safety, after all he had already done more fighting than a lot of officers would ever do in the war. But Jim Morris was not one to let others do his fighting for him. He was determined to get well and get back among the "boys". Until then he would work to ensure the faith that his superiors had showed by allowing him to stay was repaid by doing the best damn job he could do.

Chapter 7 Division Staff

Major Morris was on the Staff of General Gerhardt at 29th Division HQ as of June 20th, and he finally found time to write a lengthy letter to home. In a V-Mail to his wife, and a longer letter to his mother he wrote; *"I am with division headquarters starting today, I am the Liaison Control officer". "I coordinate the activities of about 15 liaison officers to and from other units".* Major Glover Johns in his book *The Clay Pigeons of St. Lo.* Described the job of a Liaison Control Officer (LCO). Each battalion in the division has an LO (Liaison Officer) who keeps the division staff informed about the operations, locations, and condition of each unit. The division LCO keeps track of these officers, who are by norm, Lt.'s and Captains. If communication with a battalion cannot be made or if orders need to be sent the LO is called upon to do the job.

However, if a battalion is out of contact for a long time, Gerhardt liked to have the division LCO "do the job personally". He would send the LCO out in a jeep, maybe with a driver and a rifleman to find the wayward outfit. The man who held the job for the short time after Johns went to battalion and before Morris's arrival had gone out on one of these missions and had disappeared. Johns said of the liaison job; *"it wasn't the soft snap that a lot of people seemed to think it was".*¹

Morris described to the family what had happened in a V-Mail on the 20th to his wife:

"It all happened because my feet gave out on me. After two weeks steady going both day and night with the first Bn. I finally had to give up."

"It broke my heart because after being with this Bn. for 17 ½ years I did not want to leave at a time like this".

"Blatt was knocked out the first day and I had been in command since then, and because I wanted to stay in command, I forced myself to go further than I really should have. Finally, I reported to the Regt. Surgeon and he wanted to evacuate me back to England and some desk job. I told the old man (Gerhardt) that I was not anxious to leave the division and he got me this job on the division staff". So I have spent most of the day sitting at a small desk in a tent in an orchard with my shoes off, and it sure is a relief"

"It has been plenty rough going and we (1st Bn.) have been out in front all the way. I have had some very narrow escapes; too numerous to write about, but so far have been lucky. The Major who had this job before me went out in a jeep a couple of days ago and had completely disappeared, jeep, driver and all. It is believed he must have taken a wrong road and was captured. I'll try not to make the same mistake". "The boys have been going pretty steady since we landed but we all hope to get a little rest soon. I have not had a change of clothes or a bath for 21 days and feeling a wee bit crummy. The outfit has done splendidly for itself and of course there have been casualties".

"I hope that someday (my feet) will be well enough to allow me to go back to command the old 1st Bn. again, but I have the honor to have commanded them during the first two weeks of the hardest fighting they will ever have to do. For boys who had never been under fire before they were splendid".

The next day he found the time to write a lengthy letter to his mother. He started by saying he had sent a couple of "hasty notes between foxholes" to Clara and was sure she had heard that he was OK. He says it is his first chance to write about any of his experiences, and will only have time for one letter, so since he had sent several V-mails to Clara, he was writing this letter to his mother.

"She (Clara) might be interested in hearing about the fun I'm having so you might send this letter on to her... so I won't have to write about things twice...there isn't much time around here to write about experiences".

About his staff job he wrote:

"you may be relieved to know that my job is safer and I am not often exposed to anything except occasional artillery fire". "It keeps me off my feet and allows me to get back in shape".

He tells his mother what led up to this:

"For the first 12 days of this fracas I commanded the Bn. and we had hot and heavy going day and night all during that time and I have nothing but admiration for all the boys because they have fought splendidly and now all (are) a bunch of veterans".

"After the first week my feet were getting sore because of weak arches and calluses. It was not possible to keep a jeep up at the front so I hobbled along as best I could hoping we would soon stop and get some rest. We kept going, so a few days ago I reported to the surgeon and he said

that I would have to be evacuated, which meant being sent back to England and transferred to some non-combatant outfit".

He tells a story about a close call, He said "I thought that my time had come". He obviously thought it showed he was lucky, but I doubt his mother or wife looked at it the same.

"The only wounds I have so far are a couple of hundred scratches I got crawling through a briar fence getting away from a tank". "Moving from one company area to another to see how they were progressing. I came to an open area... about half way across a machine gun opened fire on me. I heard bullets crack past me, I broke into a run for a fencerow all grown up with bushes and briars. I made the 100 yards in nothing flat and did a long slide that landed me in a depression along the edge of the fence."

"(the tank) began firing his cannon and the first shell burst in a tree over my head. A quick look around showed me the ditch on the other side of the fence was a little deeper and afforded some protection from the machine gun fire, the cannon fire had me worried because it was exploding mighty close. I lay very still for a while and the tank thought he had annihilated me because the firing stopped".

"The tank was only about 200 yards away, drawing my sore feet up under me, I dived through the fence, leaving half my clothes and hide hanging on the briars. Seeing that I was still alive (the tank) furiously began firing again. His shells cut a tree off about 8 feet off the ground that I had been lying under. I had to leave there, so I crawled on my tummy, each time a bush or weed shook as I crawled he would fire another burst. After a little while the tank stopped firing and I was making fairly good time crawling when to my dilemma a sniper fired at me from the opposite direction."

I heard the snipers bullet crack over my head...the people in the tank thought I was firing at them so they renewed firing as hot as ever. I had to hug the ground closely and try to locate the sniper. ... armed only with a pistol, but decided it was better than nothing. I was in a rather tight spot. I couldn't battle a tank with a pistol, but snipers are often lousy shots...if I could locate him I had a chance of getting to a road cut farther on".

"Just when a miracle had to happen – I heard some rifle shots from my left, which I recognized as good old U.S. M-1's. I knew "A" Company was in that direction, and hoping they had spotted my sniper, I began to crawl again. Luck was on my side and no more came from the sniper and I was able to gain protection of the road cut, got on my feet and got clear. I can't figure out how I escaped being hit... After getting out of that mess, I have every confidence that they won't get me now".

He told of all the mail he was getting, but did not see how he could manage to get to answer them. He wanted her to give his best to all and say how much he appreciated the mail. He said he has a chance to "catch a couple of winks" so will close,

"Clara will keep you posted, and don't worry about me, I will be OK". "Am not at all afraid and have never been in

better health, mental and physical, except my feet, but they will come around OK now that I don't have to be on them all the time".

The next day he V-mailed Clara;

"Took a jeep ride around to one of the neighboring units and saw a lot of old friends...of course some of the old familiar faces are missing".

Sent a Birthday V-Mail to his wife on June 25th. And in another V-mail on the 29th he told her:

"Today I visited the old Bn. There was considerable shot and shell flying around. Had nothing worse than dirt blown down my neck. Saw Robert Hushon and several of the boys and they are all in good spirits."

A few days later;

"We are still plugging away at jerry" He notes very matter of factly that: "A nice big shell, that turned out to be a dud landed in my backyard last night"... "nothing seems to startle us anymore". Talking about the artillery and how he was becoming so accustomed to the sounds of artillery fire he wrote; "they only make a lot of noise anyway". He finished the letter by adding "must sign off for now and get down in my foxhole".

On July 2nd 1944;

"We are still on jerry's tail and he doesn't like it a bit". He was also finally allowed to write about where he had been stationed in England and told her about Landing in Scotland, being near Oxford, Salisbury and Andover, Cornwall and Plymouth.

The day before his birthday he wrote he had hoped to celebrate by going back to the old regiment, but he did not know when that would be. He wrote:

"The regiment CO wanted me back, but he had no vacancies. Someone else took over my Bn. when I left, so I don't suppose I'll get back there. I would be glad to take a job as Bn. Exec. again to get back with the boys". "Every time I go down to the front the boys give me a cheery hello and always ask when I am coming back". "I like this job OK and it has its interesting moments, but it is not like being with the boys in the line all the time."

To be continued in the next edition.

Notes:

- 1 The 115th Infantry Regiment in WWII
- 2 No Greater Love, No Greater Sacrifice
- 3 The Bedford Boys
- 4 The 115th Infantry Regiment in WWII
- 5 The 115th Infantry Regiment in WWII
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- 10 The Clay Pigeons of St Lo
- 11 The Clay Pigeons of St Lo
- 12 The Clay Pigeons of St Lo
- 13 The Clay Pigeons of St Lo

116th IBCT staff conducts command post exercise to prepare for Warfighter

FORT PICKETT, VA – More than 350 members of the Virginia National Guard's Staunton-based 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team participated in a command post exercise April 12-15, 2018, at Fort Pickett, Virginia.

"I have seen the brigade grow as a team over the past few months as we prepared for this exercise and enhanced our processes," said Col. E. Scott Smith, commander of the 116th IBCT. "I'm confident we will continue to grow over the next few months and be ready to claim victory at our upcoming Warfighter exercise."

The command post exercise is a medium-cost, medium-overhead training exercise focused on unit commanders and staff. During the exercise forces and events are simulated in a notional environment as the commander and staff plan, coordinate, synchronize and exercise command and control over operations during a mission. Missions are tracked on computer screens while simulated enemy forces fight back.

The training event involved every asset of the 116th IBCT from infantry, cavalry and engineers to field artillery and support battalions. Joining the 116th IBCT were Air Force representatives from the 118th Air Support Operations Squadron who supported the mission with simulated air assets.

"This command post exercise allowed the brigade staff to take a hard look at our ability to effectively command, control and support our battalions on the battlefield," said Maj. Brian Gallavan, brigade operations officer. "We are walking away with brigade and battalion staffs that are better synchronized and we will continue our preparations to win against any adversary, anywhere."

The entire exercise is overseen by 18 observer coach/trainers from Mission Command Training Support Program. Each member of this team is certified through a rigorous training program and are subject matter experts on doctrine and in their specific war fighting function. They play a critical role by mentoring and providing feedback to all staff members from the initial planning phase to the after-action review.

"The 116th IBCT really made huge improvements on planning products over the last four months", said Peter Combee, the senior training advisor for the Mission Command Training Support Program. "These improvements allowed commanders at all levels to focus on the fight."

The command post exercise is an abbreviated version of the Warfighter exercise that the 116th IBCT will participate in during this summer's two-week annual training.

"I am looking forward to taking our experiences and lessons learned from this exercise and applying them to the Warfighter," said Smith.

By MAJ Scott Drugo

100th Annual Reunion & Convention Hotel Information

Holiday Inn Roanoke — Valley View

October 11-14, 2018



HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Holiday Inn Roanoke — Valley View

3315 Ordway Drive, Roanoke, VA 24017

For reservations call 877-410-6667. Hotel phone number is: 540-362-4500

The group room rate is \$107 plus tax (13.3%) per night for one guest. No charge for additional guest. Breakfast is included in the room rate each morning. Reservations must be guaranteed with a credit card for one night. Check in time is 3 PM and check out time is 11 AM.

BE SURE TO REFERENCE THE 29TH DIVISION ASSOCIATION ROOM BLOCK

MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS EARLY. WE ONLY HAVE A LIMITED NUMBER OF ROOMS

CANCELLATION MAY BE MADE UP TO 3PM THE DAY PRIOR TO ARRIVAL WITHOUT CHARGES

CUT-OFF DATE FOR GETTING THE DISCOUNTED

ROOM RATE IS SEPTEMBER 11, 2018.



WILL YOU CARRY ON THE LEGACY?

“As the son of a 29er who landed on the beaches of Normandy, and continued to serve our country through World War II, Korea and Vietnam, it is imperative to keep the 29th Division Association alive and well funded so the stories of the soldiers who fought in those, as well as current and future conflicts, can continue to be told. I want to help ensure that my children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews have the same opportunity as I have had to learn this history so they can then pass it on to future generations.”

Dan Ungerleider, son of BG and PNC Al Ungerleider,
115th Infantry, 29th Division — World War II



Cecil Garrison — 104th Medical Battalion, 29th Division, World War II, and his son Jay Garrison, Commander of Post 94.



We need the families of our veterans, especially those of our “Greatest Generation,” to carry on the legacy of the *Blue and Gray*. If we can get each veterans to have one family member join the Association, or have each family to add one addition person, we will double in size and be there to tell the story for many years to come.

To join, simply use the membership form in the *Chin Strap* or the *Twenty-Niner* or go to www.29thdivisionassociation.com and click on “Join the Association.”

Epperly takes command

(Continued from page 1)

"I am remarkably humbled to take command of such a storied division," Epperly said.

"I am deeply appreciative to Maj. Gen. Williams and Maj. Gen. Singh, for the trust and confidence they have placed in both me and my command team," he said.

Epperly thanked his family for their support throughout his military career.

"I want to thank my wife for her love and undying support during our Army journey. She's been there every step of the way for past 29 years," Epperly said. "I must also thank our two sons, who have also answered the call to serve the nation. I'm incredibly proud of these two young men and their decision to serve."

Addressing the assembled guests and the Soldiers of the 29th ID, as well as representatives from each of the brigades that comprise the division, Epperly explained that the National Guard would continue to have a robust operational tempo.

"It would be a gross understatement to say the citizen-soldiers of the division are busy. Even though we returned home a scant 10-months ago, we are already busy preparing for our next mission," he said. "Like their forbearers, our citizen-soldiers have become an indispensable part of the nation's defense. Indeed, there are great challenges ahead for the 29th."

Hokanson commended the Soldiers of the division for their dedicated service.

"I'd like to recognize and offer my sincerest thanks and appre-



Brig. Gen. John M. Epperly addresses the Soldiers of the Fort Belvoir-based 29th Infantry Division, Army National Guard, upon taking command of the division from Maj. Gen. Blake C. Ortner during a traditional change of command ceremony May 5, 2018, at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Marc Heaton)



Brig. Gen. John M. Epperly takes command of the Fort Belvoir-based 29th Infantry Division, Army National Guard, from Maj. Gen. Blake C. Ortner in a traditional change of command ceremony May 5, 2018, at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Epperly, a Stafford, Virginia resident, previously served as deputy commanding general of the 29th during its 2016-2017 deployment to the Central Command area of responsibility. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Marc Heaton)

ciation to the Soldiers and families of 29th. Without your dedicated service and sacrifices none of the accomplishments and accolades of this division would be possible. The 29th Division has been answering the nations call since WWI and has served our nation with distinction everyday since," he said.

Hokanson also congratulated Epperly on his selection to command the division.

"Like so many 29th ID commanders before him, his distinguished and selfless service will take the division forward to meet its next challenges," said Hokanson.

Maj. Gen. Blake C. Ortner, the outgoing commander, took command of the 29th in 2015. Both Hokanson and Epperly praised him for his leadership of the division over the previous three years.

"Few senior leaders in our organization have the breadth of experience of Maj. Gen. Ortner's. A true warrior leader, Blake provided a model every young officer in this organization should strive to emulate. You are leaving this unit in great shape and that is the highest praise any outgoing commander could hope for," said Hokanson.

"Today, we send off Maj. Gen. Ortner to his next assignment. I was fortunate to serve with him on numerous occasions, including our recent deployment to the Arabian Gulf region last year for Operation Spartan Shield," said Epperly. "I am proud to have been his deputy commander and prouder still of the history we have made. We wish you well in your next assignment, sir."

Ortner welcomed Epperly as the new commander and thanked the Soldiers of the division for their service.

"I could not have asked for a finer unit, or a finer group of soldiers, noncommissioned officers, and officers to serve with. My greatest honor has been to have the privilege to serve with you all," said Ortner. "As I pass the command to Brig. Gen. Epperly, I can do it with confidence. He is, without a doubt, one of the finest officers I have known in my 35-years in the United States Army."

Ortner has been selected to serve as the Military Executive for the Reserve Forces Policy Board in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, according to an announcement made March 21, 2018, by Williams.

"The assignment of Maj. Gen. Ortner to this position is a result of his vast experience, and we are excited to see him represent Virginia at this level," Williams wrote in the announcement.

Prior to the change of command from Ortner to Epperly, the two affixed the Meritorious Unit Commendation streamer and Global War on Terror campaign streamer to the division's colors. The division was awarded both streamers for its recent deployment to the Central Command area of responsibility from December 2016 to July 2017, in support of Operations Spartan Shield and Inherent Resolve. The new campaign streamer is the first to be added to the 29th ID's colors in more than 70 years.

Epperly is a 1989 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, where he received Bachelor of Science degree in General Engineering and International Relations. He also holds an MBA in Finance from Drexel University and a Master of Science in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College.

He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant of Armor and Cavalry and served on active duty for over eight years in various assignments including Tank Platoon Leader, Heavy Mortar Platoon Leader, Tank Company XO, and Battalion S4. He also served as an Assistant Professor of Military Science in the Reserve Officers Training Corps at Drexel University.

Epperly joined the Virginia Army National Guard and branch transferred to Infantry upon leaving active duty in 1997. Over the last 21 years, he has commanded at every level, from company to brigade within the 29th Infantry Division. He commanded 2nd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment and deployed the battalion in support of Operation Vigilant Relief to assist civil authorities in the wake of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. He later took command of 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment and deployed the battalion for combat operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2007-2008.

Epperly took command of the 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team in 2012. Following brigade command, he served as the 29th Infantry Division G3 (Operations). Most recently, he served as the 29th ID's Deputy Commanding General for Operations and deployed in this role to the Arabian Gulf Region in 2016-2017 in support of Operation Spartan Shield.

Epperly resides in Stafford, Virginia, and is employed as an Executive Vice President with DMI Inc., in Bethesda, Maryland.

By SGT Marc Heaton



Brig. Gen. John M. Epperly, incoming commanding general of the Fort Belvoir-based 29th Infantry Division, Army National Guard, assists Maj. Gen. Blake C. Ortner, outgoing commanding general, with affixing the Global War on Terrorism campaign streamer to the division's colors during a ceremony May 5, 2018, at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Marc Heaton)

D-Day Veteran Charles "Chuck" Neighbor



Photo by Carl Yusna, Post 93

Charles "Chuck" Neighbor of E Company, 116th Infantry, is shown being recognized for his service at the National D-Day Memorial's commemoration service on June 6th. He is a member of Roanoke Post 64. Assisting him is post Vice Commander and Chaplain Morris Bennett.

Book Review

Anywhere I Happen To Go

The following is an account of some of the explorations made by PNC John Wilcox, put into book form taken from notes maintained by him and his wife Christina over a period of 60 plus years. This travel includes that taken in early life, as well as later with his wife, family and while employed by the US Postal Service.

Much of the information supplied from personal sources comes primarily from on-site visits and by referencing brochures and pamphlets printed by target locations. The 240 page book describes experiences that have been recorded by him and his wife, as well as ancillary information obtained from the internet through sources such as Google Search and Wikipedia.com.

While many people have traveled during their lifetime, how many have stopped long enough to really learn about the sights they were seeing? How many have had the unique experience of watching a horse dive from a platform high in the air, into a large tank of water?

How many have taken the opportunity to see the beautiful Skyline Caverns located in the Shenandoah National Park in Virginia, and know that they first opened to tourists in 1939, and are estimated to be between 50 and 60 million years old?

Who among you have ever fished in the waters of the St Lawrence River and visited an old castle on one of the 1,000 island located there?

A new book titled "Anywhere I Happen To Go" written by PNC John Wilcox will expand on these adventures and also take you to St Louis, Missouri to see and learn a little about the fantastic Gateway Arch. You will travel further west to read about the beautiful Sunset Crater National Park north of Flagstaff, Arizona.

Also experience the tales about the Hopi and Navajo Indians who lived in the area around the Painted Desert and Petrified Forrest near Holbrook, Arizona. These and many more personal adventures including a full chapter describing visits to the State of Alaska for the reader to consume. There are also pictures galore to further enhance the text.

John is a Past National Commander of the 29th Division Association. In addition, he served as the National Executive Director for the Association from 2002 until 2014.

His career in the military spanned a period of 28 years from time of enlistment as a Private in Company A , 115th Regiment in Frederick, MD to that of 1SG at the time of retirement in 1982.

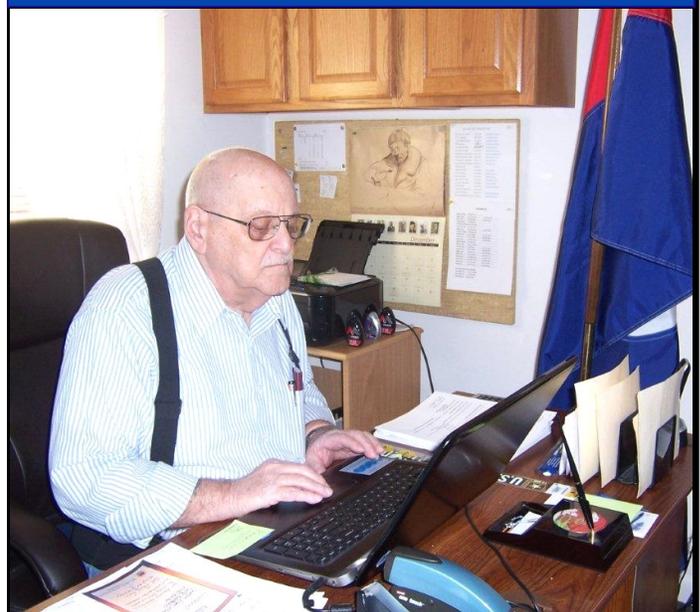
In addition to promotions through the ranks of an infantry company, he also served as Rifle Platoon Sergeant, Weapons Platoon Sergeant, Battalion Assistant Operation Sergeant and Infantry First Sergeant. John also served as a Senior Supply Specialist in the US Army Reserves for four years.

Further information is available at wilcoxj154@gmail.com or 301-695-9558.

Anywhere I Happen To Go



John Wilcox



**PNC John E. Wilcox, Jr.
Past National Executive Director 2002-2014**

D-Day Memorial's annual commemoration of the Normandy Invasion



The ones called to the front of the assembly last June 6th had silver hair and hearing aids; many leaned on walkers or rested in wheelchairs. There were fewer than previous gatherings—all knew their ranks had grown thin and would be thinner still next year. But to the crowd of 1300 at the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, VA, they were more: heroes to hail with thunderous applause and heartfelt gratitude. These men and women, after all, were veterans of World War II, and on the 74th Anniversary of D-Day no one wanted to miss the opportunity to say thank you.

The National D-Day Memorial exists to pay tribute to the valor, fidelity and sacrifice of the WWII generation every day. But of course each June 6th, the anniversary of the largest air, sea and land invasion of the war, deserves special note and attracts extraordinary attention. This year was no different.

Prior to the stirring ceremony (featuring patriotic music of the 29th Division Band) the public had the opportunity to meet many of the veterans in the Memorial's new Pavilion. Dedicated just the previous week on Memorial Day, the Pavilion was named for WWII veteran and faithful volunteer Bobbie Johnson of Bedford. The structure, like the nearby Gift Shop constructed last year, is modeled after the Quonset hut, the ubiquitous and iconic arched buildings assembled by the thousands during World War II—reflecting the Memorial's ambition that everything on its site serve an educational purpose.

One visitor on June 6th in particular was eager to show his gratitude to all veterans: the keynote speaker. George Patton Waters is the grandson of the famous WWII general George S. Patton. He travels widely to pay tribute to vets and active duty military personnel. "I am truly overwhelmed by the magnitude of where I am and what this is all about. I'm humbled to stand before you; but I am excited to be part of the remembrance and recognition of those who made [our] freedom become a reality." Water's eloquent speech paid tribute to the generation who fought the Second World War, and to all of the nation's defenders.

Others were equally fervent in gratitude. "Today we reflect on that rainy, blustery morning of 6 June 1944," noted April Cheek-Messier, president of the National D-Day Memorial Foundation, "when thousands of soldiers, sailors and airmen embarked on a journey that would preserve freedom for the world."

"It was on that morning that the first steps for liberation were made, she added. "Many gave their lives for it."

The National D-Day Memorial's annual commemoration of the Normandy Invasion also featured a visit by Desmond Doss Jr, son of a renowned Medal of Honor recipient from the Battle of Okinawa. Desmond Doss, Sr. was an army medic from nearby Lynchburg, VA; the subject of the critically-acclaimed film "Hacksaw Ridge," he was the first conscientious objector to be awarded the Medal of Honor.

In addition, the Memorial's program featured Ash Rothlein, a Normandy veteran who recently endowed a "Legacy of D-Day" scholarship fund. Rothlein was on hand to introduce the first recipients, four deserving graduating seniors from area high schools. Dignitaries of several allied nations—Britain, Canada, France, Holland, Belgium—were also on hand to thank the generation which liberated their homelands.

The 74th Anniversary Commemoration was an impressive event, but plans are in the works for an even more overwhelming day next year. The 75th Anniversary of D-Day, June 6, 2019, will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to say thank you to a vanishing generation. The 75th anniversary of an important day in history has often marked a crucial watershed for survivors—the last major anniversary in which participants can take part in significant numbers. The National D-Day Memorial is continuing to plan for the 75th anniversary commemoration on June 6, 2019—it figures to be perhaps the most important date since its 2001 opening. Make plans now to come to Bedford next June and pay tribute to the men and women who saved the world!

By John Long, Director of Education, D-Day Memorial

(Continued from page 1)

That evening we will hold the formal dinner and NC Hayden has advised that there will be some very special souvenirs to mark this historic occasion.

A combo from the 29th Division band will provide musical entertainment in the lobby as members and guests gather to hear an update from 29th Division commander, BG John M. Epperly.

NC Hayden will recognize the 29th Division NCO and Soldier of the Year and he will introduce the incoming National Commander, David Leighton.

Our keynote speaker for the evening will be a very special guest, Bernard Marie, international business consultant and Roanoke resident.

Mr. Marie was born on June 5, 1939 in Paris, France and celebrated his fifth birthday in Normandy as the initial wave of paratroopers filled the sky above his house. He recalls the early morning of the following day as the bombardment began and shook the ground around him. It was not long after that the 29th Division troops in the first wave hit the beaches and began their move inland on 6 June 1944.

Bernard Marie's lifetime of service and devotion to World War II veterans has inspired many. As a young boy, he witnessed history while living in Normandy, France during the D-Day invasion in June of 1944. Mr. Marie has since hosted annual events for these veterans. Through his influence, 150 American World War II veterans received the Ordre National de la Legion D'honneur. In 2016, Mr. Marie was nominated for The American Legion's prestigious Patriot Award for his service and devotion to World War II veterans.

He will talk about his experiences as he and his family lived through the Nazi occupation of France and his father left to join the Resistance. Mr. Marie will provide a unique perspective on the invasion through the eyes and ears of a child. This promises to be a very exceptional capstone for an evening of commemoration and remembrance: "to perpetuate the friendships we cherish; to keep alive the spirit that never knew defeat; to glorify our dead, and to further keep before our country, the record of the 29th Division in all the wars".

We will all say farewell on Sunday, 14 October in the morning with the traditional memorial service led by Chaplain, Reverend John Schild, to remember all those 29ers who so selflessly served their country and in many cases made the ultimate sacrifice to perpetuate the freedoms for which this country stands. May we never forget.

The Annual Reunion and Convention will mark the end of NC Hayden's tenure and he will become PNC Hayden joining a select group of Past National Commanders who have all, in their own way, advanced the purpose of the 29th Division Association as described in the "Preamble."

NC Hayden's goal has been to position the Association for the future and specifically to attract 100 new members during his tenure. Thus far, the Association has more than 80 new members and he is confident that this goal will not only be met, but will be exceeded!

To accomplish his goals for the Association, NC Hayden firmly believes that communications of all types are absolutely necessary to "get the word out" not only on the military side but the civilian side as well. The legacy program is one critical piece as well as the op-



Our guest speaker Mr. Bernard Marie

portunity for associate members to join. Anyone who supports and fervently believes in the 29th Division Association Preamble that we recite before every meeting is a candidate for membership.

Some of the specific initiatives that NC Hayden cited are the following: the Facebook page that provides news and information about the Association; the new poster that will be placed at all NG installations and allows potential members to scan a QRC and join within a matter of minutes; an upgrade to the website to facilitate the purchase of merchandise that allows members and friends to essentially advertise their appreciation for/commitment to the mission of the Association; and the YouTube video (accessible through Facebook) that provides the history of the 29th Division from its inception to the present.

In addition, NC Hayden reached out to the 1st Battalion 149th Infantry of the Kentucky National Guard based in London, KY (approximately halfway between Lexington and Knoxville, TN off I75). The Kentucky NG unit is now officially affiliated with the Staunton based 116th IBCT and proudly wears the 29th ID patch. NC Hayden is certain that he will be able to recruit several new members from this Guard unit.

Without a doubt, however, NC Hayden has especially enjoyed visiting the posts, participating in the installation of officers and getting to know our members. He noted that all of the posts are unique in character – some even involve the members' entire families. About one thing he is certain: the 29th Division Association has much to offer to anyone who wants to assure that this illustrious military unit is remembered and honored for all time. NC Hayden is committed to that cause and will position the Association to move forward when his tenure ends this fall.

By Frank Armiger, Assistant Editor

Page 1 photo courtesy of National D-Day Memorial, Bedford, VA

Hans, do you remember?

(or, if the big kitchen table could tell what it saw and heard...)

*Hans, with your thick glasses and your old bicycle,
You arrived at our home in 1941,
at the same time as your Prussian colonel
for whom you were the officer's assistant.
You were scarcely 18 years old.
For us you represented the occupier.
It was war even in our kitchens!*

Do you remember the recriminations of our ornery cook when you borrowed her pots and pans to make meals for your Prussian colonel and how you returned them with the bottoms all black? When it burned on the bottom, she got really angry; she even went to complain to your Prussian colonel, who laughed about it, as we did too.

In 1942 Willy arrived. We called him "the teacher", which he had been between the two wars, because he had already served in the war of 1914-1918. He was secretary to your Prussian colonel. It was he who often helped us fill out the forms that the bureaucrats would send us from your country in order to know how many cows, pigs, and chickens we had. Wisely, he advised us to *déclarer* a lot fewer than we actually had.

Willy was married and had 2 children. Once he received permission, on an "exceptional" basis, to go visit his family. On the evening before his departure, we gave him a large loaf of bread (white ! like the good bread from our Normandy country side), to thank him for his help. Do you remember how happy he was? On his return, he showed us photos of his family.

Hans, with your thick glasses and your old bicycle,

Months and years passed, and you and Willy were no longer total strangers; you included us in your rare joys and numerous family bereavements (and there were a lot at that time). From our perspective, you were associated with our family life during the good and bad times, including our bereavements. When our grandmother, an irritable Alsatian woman, died, our Prussian colonel, very courteously, left, out of kindness, for a week, and you and Willy with him, so that our whole family could come together for the burial and stay in the house. Even *thé* captain left, the one who often asked my grandmother, "What news do you have from BBC in London?" because he knew very well that she listened to the English radio, which was strictly forbidden, but he never denounced her. Without a doubt, he didn't believe the news broadcasts from Berlin!

Hans, with your thick glasses and your old bicycle,

You had a certain admiration for the ornery cook, ever since she confronted the Major (a Nazi probably). He had come every week to make an impromptu inspection; all your comrades would hurry to line up in the courtyard. One of them, an unlucky fellow, had closed the glass door of the greenhouse too forcefully; the pane had shattered. The Major had punished him with extra work and had demanded that he repair it which was expensive at that time.

The next week, the Major returned to make his inspection. He checked that the pane had been replaced and called all your comrades for the inspection. Again. everyone came running nerv-

ously, because it was during these inspections that the Major would designate those who were sent to the Russian front ... from where you did not return. Again, the same unlucky fellow from the preceding week, closed the glass door too forcefully and, once again, the pane shattered. The Major became really angry, shouted a lot, and ordered a punishment. Four soldiers seized *thé* unlucky "offender," each by an arm or leg and threw him into an enormous pile of barbed wire, then threw him back again when he got out, all bloody, his uniform in shreds. The ornery cook, outraged by such savagery, and pale with anger, came out of her kitchen and planted herself in front of the Major, her two hands on her hips, and cried in a shrill voice that the soldier was a man and that he should be respected as such. The Major, stupefied, was speechless and, finally, without a doubt to quiet that "shrew", stopped and had the punishment stopped. If a Frenchman had done that, the Major would have certainly thrown him into prison, but a woman, he didn't dare. This must be the source of the admiration that your comrades and you had for this cook. She may have been ornery, but she was certainly courageous.

Hans, with your thick glasses and your old bicycle,

You never were a good cook. So. when Marshal Rommel announced he would *bepasâng* through to visit the beaches and he intended to have lunch at the house, our ornery cook spontaneously helped you prepare the meal, because we knew that you were really anxious.

During the difficult winter of 1943-1944, things began to get worse. You, the German soldiers, began to lack food. Do you remember the day when your army allocated to your Prussian colonel and you only one little sack of sugar? However, we had flour, milk and eggs, but no sugar. Even so, it was the ornery cook who decided to make crepes, I don't know who brought the beer, nor from where they brought out the cider, but, do you remember, that evening, in particular, no one went to bed hungry.

Hans, with your thick glasses and your old bicycle,

You were with us in the kitchen about 4 in the morning on June 6, 1944. when the sound of cannons and planes which were bombarding, informed us all of the serious events that were taking place.

Do you remember *thé* look on Willy's face when he crossed *thé* kitchen? He looked fixedly at the ornery cook. Somehow she understood that, he was saying goodbye to her. And he left, courageously, without saying a word, alone into the night, his rifle on a rifle sling, to take his watch post, just 100 meters from the house, there at the corner of the field that borders the church. He was killed there by a bullet between the eyes; the automatic rifle of an American G.I. fired faster than his German "Mauser" rifle. When they recovered his body the next day he was still at his post, his hands still gripping his outdated rifle. We could see that he had put his bayonet on the end of his old rifle, as he had to do in the trenches during the war of 1914-1918, proof that he had decided to fight to his last breath ... for his country, not for the "nationalist

socialist party". The ornery cook, in seeing him there dead, admitted to us later, much later, that Willy had certainly been the "boche" [pejorative for a German] that she hated; but, just the same, there before him, dead, she said a little prayer asking God to graciously receive his spirit.

Do you remember your Prussian colonel?

Until the very end he was an aristocrat! As he was getting ready to return to his post and was crossing the kitchen, the ornery cook who had so often helped him clean his uniforms and thus knew him well, asked him in a voice full of reproach, why he had put on his best uniform and his metal cross when he had to go fight. He replied, "It is necessary to look good to die!" and he left, by the little woods behind our home, to return to his office at the German headquarters. He died there, burned alive. There was nothing to recover from his body.

We went to protect ourselves in the shelter, a trench, which we had been advised to dig in the vegetable garden and you went to take your turn at your post in the observation post which had been prepared at the top of the largest tree on the property, near the house.

Hans, with your thick glasses,

A little before 6 in the morning on June 6, 1944, you saw everything from above: the countless warships approaching from the ocean horizon and bearing down on Omaha Beach, "the bloodshed," the American soldiers landing to be mowed down by the machine guns, the bunker cannons firing on the boats which caught fire but whose cannons continued to fire on the bunkers. You saw all of that. You wanted to warn your superiors by the telephone that had been installed for that purpose high in the tree, but it didn't work. The French Résistance had cut the wires.

And you felt powerless, you whose thick glasses prevented you from using a rifle. So you flattened yourself on the platform without moving, to not let yourself be a target because the Americans were obsessed about snipers camouflaged in the tops of trees. You heard bullets whistle and shells explode on the house. You saw the corner tower of the house collapse, the bell tower of the church and the church destroyed by the shelling from the American Navy because lookouts for the German forces were hidden there. You hoped that a counterattack by your people would come to liberate you. But there was no counterattack. Under these conditions to come down from your tree, would have been suicide. The next day, June 7, you witnessed, still from the top of your tree, two assaults by American soldiers on the little woods behind my place, which 7 of your comrades were defending. They successfully pushed back the first assault, but all succumbed in the second.

During the night of June 7 to 8, you decided to come down from your tree without hope, alone, hungry and thirsty, because you had neither eaten nor drunk for 2 days. It was the ornery cook who heard you arrive in the kitchen (the Americans were not yet occupying the house). She gave you the only piece of bread (dry!) that we had left, and you drank, at last. In the semidarkness of night, in a low voice, you made her understand that you wanted to leave. She offered civilian clothing to you, but you refused them, for you said, "If I must die, I want it to be in my uniform". You were proud of your uniform and you were right. And you left, with your thick glasses, on your old

bicycle, crossing the little woods behind my home. But why did that damn old bicycle have to squeak so much? We had never noticed that noise. We heard it for a long time ... We weren't betting on your life ... and you weren't either!

With your departure, the last German soldier as an uninvited "occupier" had left our home. Several months later other German soldiers came again to our home, but as prisoners of war. We had them work to repair the buildings, walls, and fences of our devastated farm.

Hans, with your thick glasses and always on your old bicycle,

While crossing Trévières, in ruins, the little town 7 km from us, on the morning of June 8, the "field police" stopped you, believing you to be a deserter. You had to do some fast talking to explain to them that you weren't able to use a weapon because of your thick glasses: they wanted to shoot you. It was a Frenchman who saved your life because he recognized you and vouched that you had been the assistant to the Prussian colonel. They finally released you and you were able to continue on your way.

A little after that you crossed a column of German soldiers who were returning to the front, on foot, in a long file walking along the lower side of the road. There was a little French girl, about 7 or 8 years old, in a small garden, bordering on the road. One of the soldiers stopped, took out a slice of gray bread from his pocket, and gave it to the little girl, saying to her "Take this bread, my little one. In a moment, I will not need it any more" because he knew he would soon be massacred. The German soldiers who followed him did the same, so that when the last soldier in the column had passed, the little girl had an apron full of bread.

Hans, with your thick glasses and your old bicycle, on your shoulder,

You were able to cross Saint-Lo (St-Lô), in ruins, from the bombings by American planes. It was several kilometers beyond that when you stopped at a farm to try to find something to drink. At the entrance to the farm, there was a sign nailed to a stake with a drawing of a skull and crossbones and, written above in big letters, "Cholera" "Do not enter." But you hadn't noticed it. The farmer's wife was still on the farm. She gave you the only things he had in abundance, some milk from her cows. You asked her why there was that sign at the entrance. She explained to you that two days previously the German servant who, with his men had occupied the farm for a long time, had announced to her that they had received the order to leave and that they were going to be replaced by the "SS" "Do you know the "SS"? he had asked her. Since she replied, no, he added, "Well you will get to know them! But I am able to do something to help you. When they arrive, tell them to go look at the sign at the entrance to the farm ... if they haven't already seen it. Indeed, for 2 days there were many "SS" in the region, but none on the farm; and those who had entered by a way other than the entrance, on going to look at the sign, didn't return!

Several days later you met a school friend from your village. He offered to take you on his panzer. Clinging to the back of the gun turret, your feet burned by the heat given off by the motor, but not

(Continued on page 22)

Arlington Annual Wreath Laying — 16 June 2018



Photo by William Mund, Post 94.

SGT Austin Cook, center, and SGT Jake Moyer, right, of the 29th Division participate in the wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns. SGT Cook and SGT Moyer were the guests of the 29th Division Association.



Photo by Tom Knight, Post 58.

Left to right: SGT Jake Moyer, National Commander Grant L. Hayden and SGT Austin Cook.



Attendees at the 2018 Annual wreath laying at Arlington. The 29th Division Association was honored to have current Soldiers of the 29th Division participate in this event and be our guests at the luncheon that occurred afterwards at Fort Myer.

Photo by William Mund, Post 94.

(Continued from page 20)

letting go of your bicycle, you saw the approach of the American plane that machine gunned the column of trucks and panzers. You cried out to warn your friend, who quickly closed himself in the panzer; he was burned alive there. You were able to escape because you jumped to the ground in time and slid under the apple trees, with your old bicycle. Thus, you were able to escape from the "pocket" of FALAISE (a town southeast of Caen, in Normandy) and from the Polish soldiers thirsty for vengeance who encircled it. You didn't take prisoners in Poland and they didn't either in the "corridor of death."

Afterwards, on the road which led to Paris, you were able to ride by day. What plane would waste a hail of bullets on a single soldier on an old bicycle? On the other hand, at night, you were obsessed with the idea that a French peasant would come, with a big scythe to cut off your legs in your sleep. It was but one example of a fear of the French Resistance.

You crossed Paris before the insurrection. Following your road, you were able to reach your country before winter. There, they assigned you as assistant to another colonel.

On May 8 1945, it had already been several weeks that you didn't have any more officers to report to. You no longer had your old bicycle, but you had saved your thick glasses. So you found some civilian clothes and you returned, on foot this time, back to your home, Altona, near Hambourg (Hamburg)

But there was no longer any "home," only a pile of ruins in the middle of a field of ruins. You were the only surviving member of your family: your mother and sisters were dead, burned alive by English phosphorus bombs. Your brothers, all "SS" had been

killed on the Russian front. Your father, who had already been in the war of 1914-1918 and then who had to leave again in 1939, as a stretcher bearer on the French front, never returned home, without anyone even knowing where he died.

*Hans, with your thick glasses, but in a nice car,
you returned to tell me your epic, 10 years later,*

You had promised to return to see me when you married and had children; those were your exact words. But you never returned. Perhaps because my father, on that day had put you out the door of our home, because, he had said, without mincing his words, that he have seen enough of you and supported you and yours during 5 years of war and occupation and, because of you [the Germans] there were too many deaths and too much misery.

*I always regretted it,
Because on that day,
Hans with your thick glasses
you became
my friend.*

*J.P. Hausermann
14710 Vierville/mer
September 1990*

[This passage was translated from French to English by Prof. Linda Gaylord Piazz A, Roberts Wesleyan College, Rochester, New York, USA, January 2009. Please note that this translation closely parallels the original, with as little editing as possible, in order to preserve the authors style]

Book Review

Fiction uses 29ers account of D-Day

The 29th Division and its pivotal role in the D-Day landings play an important part in *The Hellfire Club*, a best-selling book by CNN Anchor Jake Tapper. The book, set in 1950s Washington, is the fictional story of World War II veteran Charlie Marder, a new congressman learning the politics, ethics and treacherous waters of the nation's capital.

In a key scene where Marder learns more about a conspiracy that reaches the highest levels of government, he relies on his D-Day experience to battle the paralyzing fear he feels.

"He remembered having this feeling once before, for just a moment, during the war, when he listened to reports of Companies A and B of the First Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment of the 29th Division, landing at Omaha Beach and getting

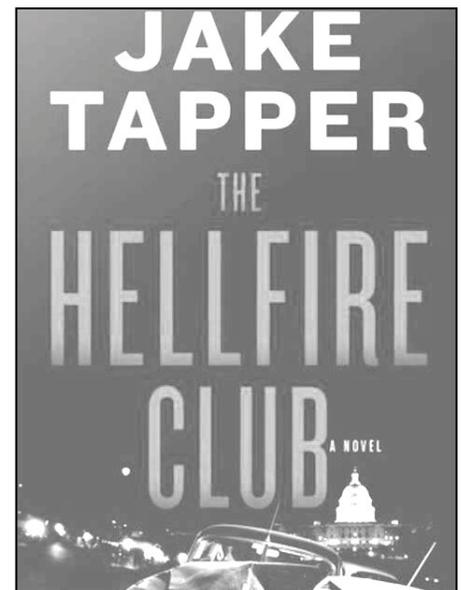
mowed down by Germans, like wheat cut by a scythe," Tapper writes. "Charlie and his men would soon enough be sent right into that same spray of death, he'd realized, and he sat as still as a statue until his first lieutenant snapped his fingers in front of his face, bringing him back."

These sentences resonated strongly with me, as my Dad, PNC Al Ungerleider, had much the same experience on D-Day as the fictional Charlie Marder.

A 22-year-old Second Lieutenant, he, too, heard the accounts of the Bedford Boys and others being decimated on the beach, before leading Company L, 3d Battalion of the 115th Regiment ashore in the second wave.

For his valor at Normandy, my father was awarded the Bronze Star. He was wounded twice during the first months of the invasion.

Later in summer of 1944, he would receive his second Bronze Star while fighting to liberate the French city of Brest.



Tapper says he drew on online accounts shared by D-Day veterans, "Charlie's general war experiences were based on the actual heroics of very real men of the 29th Infantry."

Neil Ungerleider, Post 93

Memoirs of Paul Kramer's World War II Experiences

Part 2

Brittany Peninsula

After our short rest period, we were loaded onto trucks and headed to the Brittany Peninsula. The 29th Division along with 2nd and 8th Infantry Divisions had been assigned to capture the city of Brest where the Germany Navy had submarine pens. The City of Brest was defended by a German 2d Parachute Division along with German Naval and Marine personnel under command of Major General Hermann Ramcke. The Brest garrison was comprised of nearly fifty thousand soldiers. The Allied Command wanted to use the Port of Brest to bring in more troops and supplies directly from the U.S.A.

I spent most of my time living in my oversized foxhole with my switchboard beneath a large hedgerow which was pock marked with holes where German 88 shells had hit it. The fields were covered with marks from shell shrapnel. Lieutenant Tebbetts, who was the leader of the Communication/Wire Platoon, would occasionally stop by my foxhole, but I had very little contact with other soldiers in the battalion.

During this time the line companies did not move very far, so I was able to stay in one place and keep the phone wire connected to each of our line companies. One day just before dark, three young soldiers, replacements for one of our line companies, came to my foxhole and wanted directions to H (How) Company. I told them that it would be too dangerous to go farther at night and I instructed them to go to the next field dig and stay in foxholes next to the hedgerow for the night. I told them I would come and wake them at daybreak.

In the morning, I went through an opening in the hedgerow and found all three soldiers dead. They were still in sitting positions against the hedgerow with their rifles between their legs, but their heads had been blown off by an 88 shell which exploded on top of the hedgerow directly above them. They had come so far, only to never reach their destination. I do not know why they did not heed my advice to dig and get into foxholes.

Another day, a US Soldier who was guarding and escorting four German prisoners stopped at my foxhole and asked me how far it was to the prisoner cage (holding area). I told him it was quite a distance. He said okay and left with his prisoners. About 20 or 30 minutes later he came by on his way back to his line company. I asked him where the prisoners were and he said they would not have to worry about spending time in a prison camp and he kept on going.



It was like living in a shooting gallery. The Germans turned around their coastal guns and started firing them inland along with their other artillery at our Division's positions. The Germans were in two or three forts around Brest on the high ground and could rain artillery shells down on us at will. The 29th Division lost about 1,000 men killed and wounded, while taking the forts and the city of Brest.

From September 12 to 16, 1944, the 2nd Battalion of the 175th was involved in heavy fighting including the capture of Fort Keranroux near Brest. The 2nd Battalion was awarded the French medal Croix De Guerre with a Silver-Gilt Star. I did not learn that the 2nd Battalion had been awarded this French medal until 2016.

When General Ramcke and his staff finally surrendered, they came out of the bunker at the submarine pens dressed as if they were going to do a dress uniform parade. You would have thought they had won the battle. So much for the German SS and regular troops' attitudes. We had tied up three US Army Divisions for weeks to take Brest and in the end received no benefit. The port was so badly damaged it was not used to bring in additional troops or supplies.

We had a few days of rest after the battle for Brest. Just before leaving the Brittany Peninsula we got to take a shower (outside) by using a water tank truck that was parked in a field. We would strip all of our clothes off then line up naked, fifty at one time. You would step under the shower head and

a soldier on top of the tank would pull a chain and water would come out for enough to wet down. You would soap up and he would rinse you off with short burst of water. French woman on the road enjoyed the sight and what a variety they saw.

Going to Holland

Most of the Division were loaded into 40' x 8' boxcars and headed by rail to Belgium. The trip took over four days and four nights. The train had to go slowly due to the bomb damage to the tracks and bridges and sometimes the train would stop while the tracks were repaired. It would give us time to go to the bathroom and show off to the French women if they happened to be going by. It was the only rail line open to Paris and we would have to wait for hours in rail yards while the line ahead was repaired. We had no hot food just K-rations to eat. While stopped on the outskirts of a town in Belgium some of the guys went into town. They were able to buy fresh eggs, bread, and other food. The people would come out to our train while stopped and give us water, booze, and food.

We were their liberators. After the train was rolling again, they would take a head count. One time a soldier was missing, he was later found near the end of the war. He was married to a Belgian woman and living in Liege, Belgium. He was arrested, tried as a deserter, and executed. The 29th Division arrived in Holland during the last couple of days of September and camp was set up near Valkenburg, Holland.

Wounded in Germany

A few days after arriving in Holland the 2nd Battalion of the 175th moved north to the German town of Geilenkirchen. We moved on foot, through heavy woods, for nearly a week, with little or no resistance. Per orders from Captain Osborne, on October 12, 1944, when we entered the town and set up our switchboard, it was inside a doorway on the ground floor, not in a basement or cellar. I questioned the location of the switchboard due to possible shelling by the German Army. Lt. Tebbetts agreed with me, but was overridden by Capt. Osborne. The Capt. said English intelligence had informed him that German forces had pulled 10 miles out of town and we would be on the move again in the morning.

On October 13th, which incidentally was a Friday, at exactly 12 noon we were informed that some hot chow had been sent up by Jeep from Regimental HQ which was to our rear. I was working the Battalion switchboard and teaching Marko Blazevich, from Niagara Falls, N.Y., how to operate the switchboard. He was standing in the doorway along with our Sergeant Joseph Ricca.

I got up from the switchboard and as I bent over to pick up my helmet a heavy caliber mortar shell hit the roof opposite from our doorway. The blast threw me back through the room to the opposite wall. I slid down the wall to a sitting position, and as I looked across the room to the doorway, I saw Blazevich in a heap on the floor and he muttered one word (mother) and died. The sergeant had been thrown at an angle into the room and his knee cap was blown off.

Another young soldier, who was the aide to Major Wolfe, the Battalion commander, was lying outside, his helmet and the top of his head were gone. He too had been killed instantly. I turned my head and looked at the wall behind me as the plaster dust was falling down. I then knew I must be wounded. Lt. Tebbetts came through the doorway and came to me and checked me for wounds. I had a wound in my right leg and a nick in the left elbow. Lt. Tebbetts said this probably would not have happened if the switchboard had been placed in the basement. He was unhappy with Capt. Osborne.

I was put on a stretcher and loaded onto the hood of a jeep and taken to the Battalion Medical Center. My wounds were treated with sulfa and bandaged, then I was taken by ambulance along with four other wounded men to a hospital in Maastricht, Holland, about an hour drive.

A doctor at the hospital checked my wounds and in the morning I was taken down to the train station and laid on the outside decking in the rain before being loaded on to the train. It took approximately 24 hours to get to Paris, France. It was slow going because the tracks were in bad condition. There were no lights on the train or signal lights because of German fighter planes strafing. The train stopped overnight in Liege, Belgium and we were taken to a small hospital in the downtown section.

While at this hospital two V-2 German rockets hit about half a block away. A theatre was destroyed and the explosion shook our building. I could just imagine 100 of these V-2 rockets hitting London, England. Late the next afternoon the train arrived in Paris. It

was slowly drizzling rain and I could see out the rear window of the ambulance to the buildings and trees. The leaves were turning color and it was very pretty and I thought what a way to arrive in Paris - by ambulance.

I stayed in the hospital in Paris for several days and while there, a young nurse for my ward created quite a scene. After looking at me she went to the American doctor in charge of the hospital and accused the American Army of sending babies to fight the war. She said, I could not be more than 15 years old and she wanted to take care of me. She was nice looking and I wished she would have, but they sent me out by train and then by ship to England.

I received good care at an American Field Hospital near Upton on Severon. In a few weeks I was able to get a day pass to go to Upton and ended up at a pub called "The Commander". It was run by a very interesting Englishman and his wife a Maltese, from the Island of Malta. He had been a midget submarine commander and had had orders to ship his midget submarine to an area off of Norway. A large German battleship was hiding in one of the Norwegian Fiords. The fiord was protected by depth charges attached to wire netting. When his submarine entered the fiord it got hung up in the wire net and set off several depth charges. He was badly injured by the exploding mines and some of his crew were killed. He recovered from his injuries, but could no longer serve in his country's navy. He therefore opened his bar and hotel in Upton on Severon.

I met some very interesting people while there. One of them was Beatrice Moakler of Cambridge, Mass. The English people on the whole were very caring. It was at his pub that I met a 20 year old English girl, Doreen Hope, and her girlfriend. We developed a close friendship over the next few weeks as I would walk her home from the bar in the evening. She brought some sanity back into my life for a few short weeks.

I got invited to dinner, but only if I brought something for dinner. I surprised them by bringing a large can of fruit cocktail and of course they had no or very little fruit in England during the war. We feasted on lamb, cabbage, potatoes, plum pudding, and fruit cocktail. Well, needless to say, I became their future son-in-law, which made Doreen very happy. This was evident by the fact that I was invited to attend church services with the family.

One Saturday evening, I was planning on attending a party and staying the night at the Commander's Hotel and Pub, but was low on cash. During the evening I asked the Commander's wife if the hotel was full and she said only two rooms on the 2nd floor were taken. My combat experience kicked in and I scooted up the hotel stairs and found a door which opened to a spiral stairway to a small bedroom and bath where I spent the night. I returned to the hospital on Sunday evening.

On another evening at the pub, Doreen and I were drinking and feeling no pain. I went to the kitchen before we left the pub and unlocked the rear door. We then left the pub and started walking to her home that was three or four blocks outside the village. It was a typical damp and very foggy English night. There was a small barn attached to her home with a small hayloft. We ended up in the hayloft.

About 3:30 AM I headed back to the hotel. As I walked, I could hear footsteps behind me. I stopped suddenly and looked behind and could just make out the outline of a Police Bobby who ducked into a doorway. I took off at a half run, being very quiet as I ran. When I came to the alley next to the hotel, I went into the alley and

then into the hotel kitchen through the unlocked door. I locked the door and stood to one side and waited several minutes. The Bobby was looking for me in the alley and finally he tried the door, but found it locked. I heard him curse and he headed back down the alley. I retired like an English gentleman to my private room in the 3rd floor turret, being very quiet in the 2nd floor hallway, as the Commander's bedroom was at the top of the stairway on the 2nd floor.

It was a clear morning when I awoke about 11 o'clock. I cleaned up at the small sink in the bedroom, dressed and went downstairs after being sure no one was in the hallway or on the stairway. Upon reaching the lobby, I looked into the bar and could see the Police Bobby talking to the Commander. I quietly walked out the front door and went to Doreen's home. They were waiting for me and we all went to church where I thanked God for a safe night. I took the bus back to the hospital later in the day. The next morning, I learned that I was being returned to my outfit in Germany the next day. I wrote Doreen a letter explaining my return to combat and thanked her and her family for all their kindness. I never saw Doreen again.

Returning to Germany

I returned to the 2nd Battalion, HQ Co., on January 1, 1945. The HQCo. was located in a small village on the bluff of the Roer River in Germany. The larger German town of Julich was directly across the river and the river was in flood stage because the Germans had blown up a large dam up river. The flooded river would present a problem for our engineers in their attempts to build platoon foot and vehicle bridges across the river which would be under heavy German artillery fire.

It was late in the day when I arrived back at the communication section. Lt. Tebbetts greeted me, as well as my buddies in the wire section. Lt. Tebbetts said I could operate the switchboard from 11:00 P.M. to 7:00 A.M. as things would be quiet and not too much activity on the board. I was told they had been in this location for approximately four weeks with absolutely no shelling by the Germans.

I found this hard to believe and I assumed it must be true because the switchboard was set up on the 1st floor by a window, looking out on a large courtyard between two buildings, instead of being located in a safe spot in the basement. I took over the board about 8:00 P.M. and all was quiet. Three or four wire section soldiers were sleeping in their fart bags on the floor of the room.

Suddenly, about midnight an 88 shell came screaming into the courtyard and exploded sending shrapnel flying through the window and into the room. The soldiers ran for the basement and I was about to do the same because I could hear three or four more rounds coming into the village. One shell hit some bridge building equipment and a vehicle parked in the street in front of our building and the vehicle was now on fire.

Just then the HQ drop on the board went down and I answered the call. It was Capt. Osborne, he was in the basement of his quarters down the street. He said, "Kramer is that you?" I said, "Yes" and he said, "Well, welcome back." He told me to stay on the switchboard and count the number of shells incoming and report back to him when it was over.

Meantime, the whole damn town was blowing up with 88 shell fire. I counted 78 hits in approximately five minutes. The shells hit tanks, halftracks, and bridge equipment trucks that were parked on the streets of the village. The windows of the room

that I was in were blown out and the interior walls were pocked marked with shrapnel holes.

I called Capt. Osborne back and reported the shell count. He knew I was pissed off. I'm not back eight hours and almost got wounded or killed because the board was not down in the basement. Lt. Tebbetts came in and said I must have alerted the Germans, they must have known I was back in town. We all laughed. We could not get over the fact that the 1st shell hit so close to me. The rest of the time it was quiet.

Later we moved the switchboard to a large cave near the Roer River, overlooking Julich, in anticipation of crossing over the river. I remember a large building across the river, about three or four stories tall. It had the wording "Ford Motor Co." on it. There were German snipers at windows on the upper floors, so of course, this made the building a target for our artillery and machine gun emplacements along the river. I don't think there was a building in Julich that was not damaged or destroyed.

The Germans also knew we were using the caves and kept up a steady barrage of 88's and rocket fire on the caves. The tank and foot pontoon bridges had to be built at night under cover of darkness and the Germans kept trying to destroy the bridges with artillery shells. One engineering company had almost completed the tank pontoon bridge half way across the river when a large artillery shell scored a direct hit on the bridge, destroying the bridge and killing about 35 soldiers and wounding many more.

The Germans were using a large artillery gun that was mounted on a flatbed railway car that was located several miles outside of Julich. The artillery gun could fire on 29th Division positions across the river. This artillery gun was finally destroyed by the US Army Air Force.

As soon as the bridges were completed the line companies started moving across the river under the cover of darkness. I was told to wait with the switchboard in the cave until a runner came to get me. While waiting for the runner to show up, an 88 shell hit almost directly in the mouth of the cave, but I had moved back behind a bend in the tunnel of the cave, otherwise that hit would have killed me.

When the runner finally showed up, I pulled the wires off the board, loaded the switchboard on my back, picked up my rifle, and followed the runner who would lead me to the location of the 2nd Battalion HQ Co. in Julich. We went down the bluff to the river's edge and on to a narrow wet foot bridge. The bridge had a rope railing on one side which could be used to try to keep your balance as you crossed the river. I could see the river moving swiftly under the foot boards and in the darkness it would be sheer luck to make it to the opposite side. Halfway across we came upon a dead American soldier sprawled across the bridge. My runner stepped over him okay, but when I tried balancing on one foot, to attempt to step over him, I almost lost my balance. The bridge was also swaying and after several scary attempts, I made it over his body, but when I looked ahead I could not see the runner.

Before I reached the river bank German rocket fire started hitting the river bank and once I did reach the river bank I had to crawl to the top of the bank. The river bank was wet and slippery with mud.

Two American tanks were parked nearby, but due to the shelling they were all buttoned up. I crawled up inside the tank tracks as close as possible to try to keep from getting hit with shrapnel. I waited until the rockets and 88's stopped landing nearby. I got up and looked for the runner, but could not find him. I do not know to

this day what happened to my escort (runner). I moved off into the darkness, not knowing where to go. I headed down a street by the river staying close to building when shelling started again.

I ducked into a doorway. I heard English being spoken on the other side of the door, so I slowly opened the door. There was a squad of soldiers from one of our line (rifle) companies in the building. I asked the sergeant if he knew where the HQ Co. would be. He told me to follow this street and cross a park and follow that street on the opposite side. I might find HQ Co. somewhere in that area.

With German snipers still around, I started crossing the small park. I was on the edge of a large bomb crater when some more shelling started. I slipped in the mud and lost my balance and fell with the switchboard on my back into a shell crater and came to rest against what I thought to be a rock. However, upon turning to look I discovered I was lying next to a dead German soldier, who was faced own in the water at the edge of the bottom of the hole. I thought perhaps this would be the way I would end up before the night was over. We kept each other company until the shelling stopped. I crawled out of the crater and proceeded down a street on the other side of the park.

I was exhausted, so I stopped and knelt down to rest, in front of a home with a large hedge. I took a peek through the hedge. My heart stopped, for I thought I saw in the dark a German soldier coming around from the side of the house heading to where I was kneeling. I slowly picked up my carbine rifle, clicked off the safety and pointed it through the hedge at the approaching figure prepared to fire. I noticed the figure had a GI helmet on, so I said, "Halt!" The figure stopped and said, "Is that you Kramer?" It was my Lt. Tebbetts. He said, boy I sure am happy to see you. He had come looking for me and the runner. He took me down to the basement of the house where the 2nd Battalion HQ had temporarily located for the night and we hooked in the wire lines as they came in from the line companies.

After Julich, we moved on to Munchen-Gladbach, the largest German city to fall into our hands. This city was completely bombed out, burned, and void of population except for a few women and children hiding in basements. The German Army was retreating back to the Rhine River. I do not recall much of the action around the city. However, I do recall the things I should not. A Sergeant from the Anti-Tank Platoon asked me if I would be a look out for him. I said, look out for what? He told me that when they entered Munchen-Gladbach, he found a beautiful stand-up safe in mint condition in a bombed out jewelry store in the downtown section. I must have been as dumb as I looked and asked him what he had in mind. That was the wrong thing to ask. He said that no doubt there was jewelry and money in the safe, as it looked like new and securely locked. He said he had access to blasting putty and fuses and knew how to use them. However, he needed a lookout while he did the job. Sounded exciting and I wanted to see the center of the city. So I said, "OK."

We arrived at the location of the safe. The roof of the building had been blown and burned off, but the walls were still standing. There was a cement block outhouse about 30 ft. to the rear. It was decided I would stand in the doorway and look up and down the street for any activity. There was a bombed out Woolworth Five and Dime Store across the street. All the buildings on the block were in the same condition. The sergeant packed the putty around the safe tumbler lock section and installed a fuse line. Then he put

a quart size pan over the lock section to direct the blast inward. I signaled that all was clear and after he did his job we both tore ass out the rear and got behind the shithouse.

The blast was a beauty. It knocked me off the ground. There was dust and smoke everywhere. What had been left of the ceiling had collapsed and the floor beneath the safe had fallen into the basement along with the huge 7 foot high safe. I went and looked out the front of the building up and down the street. Parts from the front of the building had been blown across the street making it impassable. A jeep with some G.I.'s, including an officer, stopped at the next corner. I told the sergeant that it was time to leave. I took off out the rear of the building to where our jeep was parked. The sergeant came out shortly and told me the blast did not open the safe. That was the end of my safe cracking days.

After the 2nd Battalion left Munchen-Gladbach and before we reached Hannover we hit a small town early in the morning just as we had in Julich. I remained stationary until I received a call from Lt. Tebbetts, who told me to disconnect the communication wires with Regiment and bring the switchboard into the town. Following his directions, I arrived at the house where the 2nd Battalion HQs would be set up. I was alone in the street outside the house when I heard a tank coming and knew by the sound of the engine that it was a German Tiger Tank.

I ducked into the house and went down to the basement and looked out a small window into the street. The German tank had stopped in front of the house and a machine gunner had opened the turret hatch. He was looking at the house and shouting to his comrades inside the tank. Needless to say, I didn't stick around. I bolted up the stairs and out the rear door, through the back yard, over a rear wall, and was out of that town in a matter of minutes. I met up with one of our HQ's lineman, who informed me that the battalion had pulled back out of town after meeting stiff resistance. That was as close to a German Tiger Tank as I ever wanted to be.

We crossed the Rhine River and did not meet much resistance from the German Army, but passed a lot of German prisoners of war being taken to our rear area. We were on the move every few days until we reached the Elbe River. I had no real contact with the German population, other than to see them along roads with their carts, blankets, pots, pans, etc., trying to get away from the fighting and the incoming Russians.

Before we reached the Elbe River the 2nd Battalion along with the rest of the 175th was assigned to sweep some forest areas around Klotze, Germany. This operation started on April 21, and ended on April 26th. Everything was going great with lots of German soldiers being taken prisoner until April 23rd. On the 23rd the 2nd Battalion was assigned to clear out a forest west of Klotze. I was told that we had received some intelligence that there may be some German tanks in these woods, so our Anti-tank Platoon was ordered to go into the woods to support the line companies.

I was operating the switchboard and I received a message that the Anti-tank Platoon had been ambushed and that Lt. Harold Chaney, platoon leader, had been killed along with two of his platoon members, Sgt. John Kardos and T/5 William Miller (who was Lt. Chaney's radioman). This news was a shock to all in the 175th Regiment and these were the only casualties in the entire 175th operation while clearing all of the forest. There was a lot of discussion between the officers of our HQCo. on how Anti-tank Platoon had been ambushed.

The 175th was ordered to head to the Elbe River with the rest of

the 29th Division. At the Elbe River we set up our 2nd Battalion HQs in a house near the river in the small village of Vretze. In the basement we set up my switchboard along with a small kitchen and our bedrolls for sleeping. From the windows in the house you could see the Elbe River. On the other side of the Elbe River were large numbers of German soldiers and equipment. They were jammed up on the roads from the Elbe River all the way back toward Berlin. Also, large numbers of German civilians were on the other side of the river.

Many soldiers and civilians were trying to swim across the river to get to the American side to get away from the Russian Army. Some of these German soldiers and civilians were shot by American soldiers as they reached our side of the river. One time, a person dressed in a German Army overcoat came out of the river and failed to halt when ordered by American soldiers. This person was shot and killed and it was discovered it was a female German nurse. It was decided something needed to be done to try to stop Germans from swimming across the river.

I heard over the switchboard that around 10,000 German soldiers were waiting to get across the Elbe River, far too many for our division to attempt to get across the river without benefit of a bridge. We also did not have a stockade to hold the prisoners or food to feed them. However, due to the number of Germans getting shot while attempting to swim across the river, it was decided to send a delegation under a white flag to the German Headquarters.

The delegation had a captain, several sergeants, and two privates (Irv and me). The German HQ was located two to three miles beyond the river and we were to bring some Germans over to our side to consult with our Division Commanders about surrender and getting some of the Germans to our side of the river. Later the entire German V-2 Rocket Division did surrender to our 2nd Battalion and was brought across the river.

Irv Natkow who was Jewish from Camden, New Jersey, had been transferred on April 25, 1945, from the 2nd Battalion, Company H to our 2nd Battalion HQ Company because he could speak fluent German. Irv was assigned as a fellow switchboard operator and we became good friends. He had a great personality and everyone enjoyed his company. I always thought that Irv should have been an officer which would have suited him. He was selected to go along as the interpreter for the group going to the German HQ. Irv arranged for me to go with them. We were ferried across the river in a pontoon boat with absolutely no weapons and under a White Flag. Upon landing we were met by several German Officers, one I believe was a Major.

We started walking down a road that was lined on both sides with tanks, trucks, half-tracks, command vehicles, and horse drawn 88 field artillery. The vehicles were loaded with German military personnel. Not only was the equipment in fine condition, but the German Soldiers were very sharp looking, clean, well fed, and armed. The tank personnel were dressed in black uniforms (jackets) with white trim, skull and cross and SS insignias on their collars. The look on their faces and some of the things that were said in German

as we passed by indicated they did not think too kindly of us. So it was very scary to be walking among the armed enemy. It would have taken only one crackpot to open fire on us and all hell would have broken loose. I don't mind telling you, I was thinking I had made a bad mistake coming on this junket inside enemy lines. Thank goodness we had the German Officers with us. German soldiers always did respect rank and so no trouble developed while we proceeded.

After walking about two miles away from the river, we arrived at the German Headquarters, a large tent. Inside were about 10-12 high-ranking German officers. Their uniforms were immaculate and their boots all polished and they were all wearing side arms. They appeared to be in dress uniforms, much to our surprise. Most were 40 to 50 years old, clean shaven, and hair trimmed neatly.

Irv addressed them in German, introduced our American Officers and what we had come for and what we expected. They acted polite up to a point when we informed them they must surrender their side arms to show us a prime sign of willingness to surrender. This was, as I could see by the expressions on their faces and comments they made in German between themselves a very tough thing for them to do.

Reluctantly, they undid their service belts and took off their holstered Luger Pistols. Thus began my collecting of their side arms. I had tied my field jacket tight around my waist so I could stuff the pistols inside my jacket. I looked like a fat guy. I tried to check the safety on each pistol as I put it in my jacket. One older German Officer, with totally white hair, had tears in his eyes when he handed me his fine leather holster with a German Swastika embossed in gold and holding a Luger Pistol. Later, I looked at the pistol and saw that it had the crown of the head of the former German Kaiser from World War I engraved on it.

After approximately 30 minutes we departed with several of the German Officers and returned to the river. Our officers were going to try to arrange a meeting with General Gerhardt and the German Commanding Officers about bringing the German military personnel across the river to the American side. After getting back to our HQ in Vietze, I unloaded the pistols from my field jacket. One of pistols accidentally went off. I guess it had a hair trigger and the bullet missed Irv by inches, who was standing across the table from me.

I later heard, unknown if true, that one of the German Generals had said he had a complete defense perimeter set up between the Elbe River and Berlin and that now would be a good time for the Germans and Americans to stand and fight the oncoming Russian Army. He stated that if we didn't do this together, we, the Americans would end up some day doing it alone. Of course, the Americans and Germans never combined forces to fight the Russian Army. One night, as I stood on the bank of the Elbe River and watched the glow in the sky of what must have been Berlin burning. I thought what a fitting conclusion to this terrible conflict and I was thankful to have lived through it all.

To be continued in the next edition.

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

116th IRF invites you to visit France with them this year



The Major Thomas D. Howie Memorial in St. Lo

The 116th Infantry Regiment Foundation, Inc. is hosting two groups to Normandy with the first trip traveling from September 20th to the 26th 2018 and the second group traveling from 25 September to 1 October. The trips are very enjoyable; conducted with small groups at a leisurely pace, mixed with cultural experiences, historical education and moments of personal reflection.

We arrive at the airport in Paris and drive towards Vierville-Sur-Mer on the Normandy Coast. Along the way we visit Pegasus Bridge and British D-Day beaches Sword, Juno and Gold. Tour the D-Day Landings Museum and the remains of the Mulberry artificial harbor on the beach. Marvel at the Longues-Sur-Mer Battery which was part of Germany's Atlantic Wall. Dinner and check in at historic Casino Hotel at the end of the day.

After breakfast at the hotel, we walk across the street to the National Guard Monument to hear the heroic stories of American soldiers while standing on Omaha Beach. Visit the Omaha Beach and Normandy '44 Museums, then the American Military Cemetery in Coleville. At the cemetery a Flag Lowering Ceremony takes the opportunity to show respect for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Reflect on your day at a reception in the beautiful Hauserman Chateau. Dinner at hotel.

Following breakfast at the hotel we drive to Point du Hoc. Hear the battle stories of the U.S. Army Rangers. Visit Utah Beach, the museum and the Airborne Drop Zones as history comes to life. Unwind and enjoy a Calvados (local cream liquor) during a recep-

tion at the Bernard Lebec Estate. Then it's on to St. Mere-Eglise and the Airborne Museum. Explore the German gun line captured by Dick Winters and the La Fiere bridge defended by paratroopers. Enjoy dinner at a local French restaurant.

Our final breakfast on Omaha Beach and then check out of hotel. Visit the German Military Cemetery. Drive cross-country to visit villages and battle sites in the 29th Division zone of advance to St. Lo. Travel to the Major Thomas D. Howie Memorial in St. Lo and learn about "The Major of St. Lo" and the battle to liberate the town. Eat lunch in the heart of St. Lo. After a full day return to Paris and check into the hotel at the airport. Enjoy dinner on your own at the hotel.

Start your free, unguided day in Paris with full breakfast buffet at the hotel then ride the train into the city center. Enjoy Meals. Museums, the Eifel tower and all Paris offers that you can pack into a long day. Return to the hotel by train. Depart to the USA after breakfast the next day.

Another group we will host from 15 to 21 September will visit World War One sites of the American Expeditionary Forces including the contributions of the 29th Division in the Meuse-Argonne. Conducted with the same feel and experience as the Normandy trips, this will be a special trip!

To learn more call Jimmy at 540-248-0116 or send an email to 116thdirector@gmail.com

By Jimmy Kilbourne, Post 116

A Thirty Year Journey

Introduction

The forthcoming articles relate in part to thirty years of involvement with the 29th Division Association. Joe Balkoski was attending reunions in the mid-1980s. My first experience was during the reunion of 1987. Thus, other than the WWII generation, I guess we are the "old guys." It has been a rich and wonderful experience. In the next issues we will share stories of 29'er veterans and the places connected with three decades. For those present in the 1980's and 1990's, hopefully the stories will evoke memories of days and events gone by. And for the younger members, hopefully the articles will add to your pride in having served in the 29th Blue-Gray Division.

*John W. Schildt
July 2018*

One of the best decisions I ever made was to enlist in Company A, 115th Infantry, Maryland National Guard. Based in Frederick, Maryland, it was in the early 1950's Company A was commanded by James A. Cutsail, Jr., a WWII Infantry officer.

Lt. Paul Crum commanded one of the platoons. He had been a belly gunner on a B 24 and was a veteran of 24 bombing missions over Europe. He was a member of the prize winning Company A Rifle team.

My platoon leader was Richard A. Fox. "Dick" was a quiet humble man. He was a veteran of D Day, twice wounded and a recipient of the battlefield commission. Years later, Dick went on one of the Normandy tours that I led. He said, "Uncle Sam paid for the first tour. I had to pay for this one." Little did I dream that years later, I would have part in their funeral services.

My first encampment was at A.P. Hill. As we pitched our tents, the veterans told us to make little ditches around the edges of the tents. It was great advice. The next night we had a deluge. We were under artillery fire, terrific thunder and lightning.

At this time, the 115th was commanded by Colonel Randolph Millholland of Cumberland. Some referred to the regiment as "Randy's Dandies." Rising in rank, Millholland commanded the 115th during part of WWII. He led by example. My first year at A.P. Hill found me on guard duty at a road junction. Around 0200, I saw an approaching jeep. It was none other than the Colonel. It was a moonlight night. He asked me, "Is this your first guard?" I replied, "yes sir." Then he asked "do you see shadows and hear strange noises?" Again, "yes sir." His reply, "everybody does the first time."

During my years with the 115th, the Korean War was winding down, but the Guard was heavily recruiting. I was still in high school, so I participated in various high school assemblies, where the mission of the Guard and the benefits of serving were shared with prospective recruits. Likewise, there were frequent military funerals for combat dead being returned for burial. It was difficult for

working men to get off, but there was no problem with our school principal. He always permitted me to leave school to be a member of the firing party. It was an honor to serve.

Company A at the time always participated in numerous parades on Memorial Day and Armistice Day as it was known. On one occasion, a little boy grabbed a shell casing almost as quickly as it was ejected. It was still hot and burned his finger. I don't know how he got so close.

I've always been impressed by military pageantry. Thus, even though it involved "hurry up and wait," I was thrilled to take part in "Pass in Review." Usually the Governors of Maryland and Virginia were on the reviewing stand along with a lot of brass.

Prior to enlisting in Company A, our family had the privilege of having General and Mrs. D. John Markey as neighbors. For several years, I mowed his grass, shoveled snow, and carried out the ashes from the furnace. The General was still ramrod straight in posture, and short, and concise in his comments.

Although outshone by his contemporary, General Milton Reckord, General Markey had an illustrious career. Apparently underage, he enlisted in the First Maryland during the Spanish American War. He saw service on the Mexican Border, and commanded a machine gun battalion in France in WWI.

Somehow he caught the eye of General of the Armies, John J. "Black Jack" Pershing. The General appointed Markey to the American Battle Monuments Commission. At the time, the mission was to memorialize our areas of participation in the battles of WWI. On one of his last tours, the General and Mrs. Markey took a side trip to see the pyramids in Egypt. He sent me a card. "Boy," he always called me that "there is no grass to mow here." Years ago, his daughter showed me General Markey's Distinguished Service Medal and a letter of commendation from General Pershing. Markey was in command of the 115th in 1941, and then due to age was assigned command of a training post in Virginia. He ran unsuccessfully for the



U.S. Senate. The General had a long and outstanding career in the 115th and the 29th Divisions.

On a warm August morning in 1987, four gentlemen came to my office at Bethel United Methodist Church in Chewsville. I knew one from Civil War circles. That was John Smith, a WWII member of the 110th Field Artillery. The others were Richard Herklotz, Sam Krauss and Bernie Nowakowski. Those three were also WWII veterans of the 29th Division.

They informed me that the 29th Division Association was having their annual reunion in Hagerstown over the Labor Day weekend. They were looking for a place to hold their Memorial Service. After checking the church facilities, they decided to come to Chewsville.

That was my introduction to the 29th Division Association. The Association was founded after WWI to promote the friendship and comradeships of that era, to assist one another and to keep alive the spirit and tradition of the 29th Blue Gray Division.

On Saturday night I was the guest speaker at the primary banquet. Believe it or not, I was a stand in for the Honorable John A. Marsh, a former officer in the 116th Infantry, as well as Secretary of the Army during the Ford and Reagan administrations. Needless to say that was somewhat intimidating.

On Sunday morning it was raining "cats and dogs" as they say. However, that did not dampen the spirits of our parishioners. They anxiously awaited the arrival of the soldiers and families of the 29th. Mid-morning a convoy of ten yellow school buses rolled in transporting over 500 persons who were at the reunion. From across America, England, and France they came. Our ushers were overwhelmed by the sudden influx. We needed help. It came from a general. Boyd Cook was busy distributing extra hymnals. John Reilly, 175th Chaplain of the Association presided. Mel Sheer, 104th Medical Battalion, our fantastic violinist accompanied Mrs. Bowen, wife of Colonel Millard Bowen 175th in singing "Our 29ers." I had the homily. Then as always, the names of those who had answered the "last roll call" were read, as well as the names of deceased members of the Ladies Auxiliary. This has traditionally been a part of the Memorial Service as the Association remembers its "honored dead."

After lunch the rain eased and the buses departed from the hotel in Hagerstown to tour the Antietam Battlefield, the scene of the bloodiest one-day battle of all American history. Over 23,000 were killed or wounded in twelve hours of combat. The area became not only a vast hospital (18,000 wounded) but a vast cemetery. 12,000 fell in less than a square mile. We visited Bloody Lane, Burnside Bridge, and a church which had served as a hospital. Enroute to the battlefield, I had the privilege of sitting with John P. Cooper, the commander of the 110th Field Artillery in 1944. We stopped at the Visitor's Center and Frank Oberle, gave me a Civil War book.

During the evening there was a dinner dance. I can still see Chaplain Reilly and others dancing to the music of the 1920's and 30's. The band played "The Charleston," and "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy." The 29'ers departed for home on Labor Day.

Sam had told me to use the flowers from the Memorial Service as I saw fit. Therefore, on Monday, I took them to Mount Hope Cemetery in Woodsboro. One arrangement was placed on the grave of Sgt Glenn Eyer (115th) who was killed in crossing of the Roer, and the other on the grave of Lt. Kenneth Ports of Walkersville who at age twenty-two was killed near Nancy, France on September 18, 1944.

At the 1987 reunion, I met Colonel Robert Miller and Don McKee. Bob Miller enlisted to the 175th Infantry in 1935, he was nineteen at the time. He also served briefly in a field artillery unit. However, in 1939, he returned to Company F, 175, and was commissioned a 2nd LT.

While waiting with the 175th to land on Omaha Beach on June 7, Bob noted that it looked like "Dante's Inferno" of literature fame. Later in the hedgerows he watched his men, and other 29ers "melt away" under constant German rocket artillery or mortar fire. Bob lost four LTs, two were killed, two were wounded. He was the last company officer to survive, but then came eleven months of hospitalization.

Returning to the states Bob achieved one of his goals, graduating from Towson University. For a time, he was an adviser to the Wyoming National Guard. Then he became an Inspector General. One of his favorite places was VMI.

Traveling to Normandy with General John P. Cooper and Robert Griffith, the three reflected on their WWII days in Normandy and the desire to memorize the 29th in Normandy. Thus a memorial committee was formed, with Bob being the chairperson. The writings of the creation and dedication of the monument can be found in the November 1988 edition of the 29er.

Among those serving under Col. Miller were Sherwood Hallman and Donald Miller. Bob always concluded telephone conversations with "over and out." However, whenever we see a photo of our monument or visit Omaha Beach, we should think of Bob Miller.

Colonel Miller's right hand man was Donald M. McKee. Don was born in Detroit and then moved to Kalamazoo. During his junior year in college, Uncle Sam beckoned saying, "I want you." Thus Don was enroute to basic training and then medical training at Camp Grant, Illinois. Shipped out to England, Don was assigned to Company E, 2nd Battalion 175th Infantry.

On August 28 during the campaign for Brest, Don was wounded and hospitalized for four months in England. The Germans overran the aid station killing the living and the wounded at random. Don survived by playing dead.

After the war, Don assisted by the GI Bill, completed his college degree, graduating from the University of Michigan with a degree in Chemical Engineering.

During the next decades, he moved around designing and supervising the construction of water and waste water plants. Upon telling him that I was from Walkersville, he said, "I designed that system." At the time of his retirement, Don was eastern regional manager for his firm. At that time he and Virginia were living in Silver Spring, MD.

Don became reunited with fellow 29'ers as he became a member of Post 94 when the memorial committee was formed. He became secretary-treasurer of the group. Then he became National Commander in 1993-1994 and was the dynamic force behind arranging and providing for five hundred 29'ers to return to France for the 50th anniversary of D Day. He succeeded Paul Winters, another medic as National Commander. Don joked that the Association must be in bad shape if they needed medics for consecutive terms.

Another gentleman present at the reunion in 1987 was a banker from Michigan. In 1944, LT Rod Parsh was in the command bunker of Co. E. 115th Infantry near Brest. Four German soldiers came through the lines with a white flag and an offer to surrender. Parsh sent them up the line chain of command and the 115th entered Brest.

In the summer of 1988, Herk, Sam, and Bernie returned to Chewsville. This time they brought their brace and bits. They installed a lovely plaque in the vestibule of the church thanking the congregation for opening the doors for the Memorial Service.

Herk, who was NEO at the time, used the "Chin Strap" to promote the dedication service. As a result, seventy-five members of the Association attended the service on Sunday, July 10, 1988. Following the service, the 29'ers were treated to a luncheon by the

congregation. The plaque remains forty years later reminding the future generations and young Americans of the sacrifices of those who have gone before us, and of a "spirit that never knew defeat." The unveiling was depicted in the second edition of "the 29'er" edited by Don McKee and Al Ungerleider.

Herk also asked me to submit a brief devotional for monthly editions of the "Chin Strap." It was to be called the "Spiritual Corner." The paragraph continues thirty years later.

One article was called "Brevity." It is easy to ramble on, but difficult to condense something meaningful into 300 to 500 words. It has been a challenge but a joy.

It was in Hagerstown that the WWII veterans opened the door of membership to include those who had served in the 29th during the post war years. Thus having served in the 1950's I was eligible. Initially, I became a member of Post 72, but when Post 78, Cresap's Rifles was reorganized I transferred my membership to that post. Eventually, I became the first post war member to serve on the NEC holding the office of National Welfare Office. Then following Frank Oberle, the first post war member to become Chaplain.

The 1988 reunion was held in Akron, Ohio. I did not attend because the gathering was still a Labor Day event, and in a few days, we would be going to Normandy. Also in 1988, Frank Oberle of Lancaster became National Chaplain and held that post for more than ten years. When he stepped down, I became chaplain.

Frank graduated from high school in 1943, and shortly thereafter entered the army. First in England and then with the 29th as a member of Company L. He was indoctrinated in the lineage of the 116th. He said, "that did not mean much at the time to a 'snot nosed brat'" (Frank's word).

On June 5, 1944, Frank gathered with comrades on the deck of the "Thomas Jefferson." The chaplain spoke from Isaiah 43 of "running through fire and water." He said that as he and his company landed, buddies yelled, "Remember Isaiah. Remember Isaiah."

Immediately after the war, Frank became a member of the Association and held just about every post including National Commander. For a while, he was also editor of the forerunner of the "The 29'er."

Shortly thereafter, Col. Robert Miller called me. He said, "you are going to Normandy with us." He informed me that the 29th monument would be dedicated in September. I should get a passport and "pack my bags" thus the door was opened to go to Normandy.

At last the big moment came. By early September, three groups of 29'ers were ready to converge on Paris, then motor to Normandy some 180 miles away. Mission, to dedicate the 29th Division Monument on Omaha Beach and to remember our fallen comrades.

On September 14, ninety-five persons in Group A departed Dulles International Airport via Pan Am. There were hugs and greetings as the group assembled. Regardless of former rank there was a spirit of oneness. I was in the group. My seat mate for the long flight was Bill Boxhall (729). Across the aisle was a fine man from Maryland's eastern shore, Austin Cox (115). We soon became good friends. Several rows in front, MG Boyd Cook tweaked his dedicatory address. The pilot spoke on the intercom when we reached the French coastline.

Group B led by Richard Herklotz flew Icelandic Air. They had a stopover in Reykjavik. That group consisted of 29 and was primarily from the Baltimore area. After landing in Luxembourg, the group toured battlefields in Germany and then motored to Bayeux.

Group C had begun their trip in England visiting places connected with the WWII 29th. Then they crossed the Channel to Cherbourg. The forty-two member group connected with Groups A & B at the Novatel in Bayeux.

Group A arrived at Charles de Gaulle about daybreak and boarded buses, traveling on September 15 to Normandy. Upon arrival, there was rest and meeting comrades from Groups B and C.

Friday morning September 16, we boarded buses for St. Lo, the Capital of the Ruins in 1944, virtually destroyed by Allied bombings and German artillery fire.

Enroute, we passed some of the hedgerow area and small Norman towns where heavy fighting had occurred in 1944, where people were thankful for the liberators. WWII vets were amazed that the rural areas had not changed much.

Our first stop was the Major Thomas D. Howie Memorial. All 29'ers are aware of the great story of the "Major of St. Lo." There will be more about him in the next edition. We were met by the Mayor of St. Lo. Greetings were exchanged by the French and the Americans. Wreaths were laid, followed by the French and American National Anthems. Then we had a police escort to the St. Lo War Memorial. The Bible speaks of the "rain falling on the just and the unjust." Tragically in war, innocent civilians experience the wrath of bombs and artillery fire. The St. Lo Memorial is a remembrance of the civilians who died, while the German executed some suspected members of the French Underground.

St. Lo observes June 7 as a day of mourning. The many civilians who were killed in the allied bombing, as well as those executed by the Germans, are remembered in appropriate ceremonies.

There was a reception at the Hotel deVille, or City Hall and then a luncheon nearby. It was at this time that I met Hal and Rita Baumgarten. In fact, I sat with them at lunch, learning the story of how "Doc" was only a youth but was wounded five times as a member of the 116th. Hal was overjoyed to meet Cecil Breedon, the medic who treated Hal's wounds and undoubtedly saved the lives of many of D Day. Cecil stripped to the waist and waded out into the surf to bring wounded back to shore after they were being pulled by the tide out to sea. After the luncheon, the Mayor gave us a history of St. Lo, going back to the time of the Vikings.

Friday afternoon we visited the St. Lo Memorial Hospital, built in part by contributions from 29'ers. My Platoon leader, Richard Fox said that for a time, \$1.00 was deducted from his military pay. In 1945, there was an article in the Frederick paper urging discharged 29'ers and others to contribute to the erection of the hospital. Several years ago there was an appeal in "the 29'er" for contributions for upgrading the renovation of the hospital. We might say that the hospital was part of the 29'er Marshal Plan. Six years later, we became good friends with a family in St. Lo. Three of the four family members were born in the hospital. Thus in the midst of war there is life.

Among those in our group was Ray Merkle of Merkel Monuments of Baltimore. The firm produced our Division memorial. It was special to Ray as he had proudly served for twenty years in the MDARNG with the 110th Field Artillery.

At last the big day, and the fulfillment of 29'ers dreams arrived. It was Saturday, September 17. It was the 201st anniversary of the signing of the Constitution and the 126th anniversary of the Battle of Antietam. Fog hung over the fields and hedgerows of Normandy, later lifting, almost in greeting. Departing from the hotel we went to Ponte du Hoc and saw the huge craters and the German defensive position. One could almost see the landing craft approaching the beach. One wondered how in the world they ever made it.

There had been at least two places where the American combat dead had been buried. But then 74 acres were set aside at Colleville-sur-Mer. Then in time nearly 10,000 young Americans, "the roses that never had the opportunity to bloom" were buried. Seeing

rows of white crosses and Stars of David, evoked the words spoken to Moses, "take off your shoes for you are standing on holy ground," and so we were. It was an awesome moment. Once again we were reminded that freedom is never free. The price, "the last full measure of American youth." Around 1,000 or ten percent in the Normandy "bivouac of the dead" are 29'ers.

The 29th Division Light had sent a detachment as well as the Color Guard to participate in these once in a lifetime events. We stood at attention as the colors of our beloved Blue and Gray were marched into the cemetery. In the distance we could hear the sea gulls, and the newly constructed memorial carillon pealed forth over the more than 300 assembled and the members of the "greatest generation" at rest under the canopy of heaven. One of the great moments of my life came next as filled with emotion I gave the invocation.

Present to speak at the ceremonies in the cemetery was a representative of the American Ambassador to France. General James Fretterd read a proclamation from the Honorable William Donald Schaefer, Governor of Maryland. MG Boyd Cook read proclamations from Army Secretary John O. Marsh and Governor Gerald Biles of Virginia. Donald M. McKee, 175 Treasure of the Memorial Foundation responded to remarks given by a representative of French veterans. Several wreaths were presented and the events in the cemetery concluded with taps.

Returning to Vierville, a luncheon was served by a local restaurant. A tent was set up in a school yard across the street. This was done to accommodate the overflow crowd. The French provided an ample supply of Calvados.

As we moved to the Vierville Draw, the Lord smiled upon us. The wind quieted and the sky overhead was a bright blue, the Colors of the Division as well as "old Glory" waved proudly in the breeze coming in off the channel. As several hundred persons gathered, a French Military band presented a concert at 1500 hours. Colonel Robert Miller began the ceremonies by asking this writer to offer the invocation, assisted by a French interpreter. Basically this was the prayer. I rarely write them as we seek to speak from the inspiration of the moment.

Now it was time to witness the efforts of Bob Miller, Don McKee, and Bob Griffin. Two members of the French Resistance and two 29'ers unveiled the monument. The 29'ers were John R. (Bob) Slaughter (D-116) and Bernard W. (Bernie) Nowakowski (Sv Co. 175). All of the events were published in the November 1988 issue of the 29'er. Perhaps it will be reprinted on the 75th anniversary. Several persons laid wreaths and the French equivalent of Taps played, followed by the benediction by a French Army Chaplain. Each 29'er was given a rose to place at the monument.

Colonel Miller had written the inscription that appears on the monument. He shared the story of how the monument had come into being, noting that now at long last the monument would stand in memory of young men who landed on Omaha Beach and fought for survival on the LONGEST DAY, and as they sought to liberate those held under Nazi occupation.

Years later, Senator Robert Dole, a badly wounded veteran of fighting in Italy, gave an address in Washington at the dedication of the WWII Memorial. He asked the question, "Why Build Memorials?" "We sit in the shade of trees we did not plant. We plant trees under which we will not sit." He added that in fifty years, even the children of WWII will be gone. Monuments remind us of the blood shed of patriots through the years.

Years in advance the 29th Division answered the question of "Why Build Memorials" on September 17, 1988. Following the re-



Chaplain Schildt with Lucille Hoback Boggess.

marks of Colonel Miller, the Mayor of Vierville, Jean-Marie Oxeant spoke. He was followed by LTG Herbert R. Temple, Jr., Chief of the National Guard Bureau. Then the dedicatory address was given by MG Boyd Cook.

For some of you this may be old hat. For our WWII veterans who traveled to Normandy in 1988, hopefully the article will evoke memories. For others, it might be the first time you read the account of those September moments thirty years ago and bring added pride to your service in the 29th Division.

That evening as we were gathered in the lobby of the Novatel, several Frenchmen arrived. They brought flat boxes filled with little bags of sand from Omaha Beach for each 29'er, their gift of gratitude. Language may have been a barrier, but there was no barrier comprehending the moment.

This day was one that we did not want to see go. We just wanted to savor the moment and bask in the afterglow of a great moment in the history of the Division and Association.

Through the years I had read of Bedford and the tremendous loss as described in the *Longest Day* by Cornelius Ryan. On a gray Sunday afternoon earlier in the trip, I had met Lucille Hoback Boggess and her sister, Rachel. All 29'er's know that their brothers were killed in action in the early moments on Omaha Beach. Bedford is buried in our American Military Cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer while the body of Raymond washed out to sea.

On a damp Sunday, Lucille, her sister Rachel, Al Ungerleider, Russ Murphy, and others went to the grave of Bedford Hoback. There, after forty-four years, we had scripture and prayers.

Our eyes were moist and our cheeks were set. It was one of the great moments of my life. Lucille told us that in the pre-war days, the Hoback family after church went to a nearby woods for a picnic. She said that after her brothers were killed, they never went again. Once again, vacant chairs, broken hearts, and buckets of tears.

To be continued in the next edition.

Normandy Allies International Experience: July 14-27, 2019

Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Normandy Campaign.
See you in Saint-Lô!

Registration period: October 1, 2018 – March 5, 2019

Phase I: British and Canadian Sectors

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

Phase II: American Sector

Our journey takes us from Omaha Beach and Utah Beach through the hedgerow country to Saint-Lô where we will be part of the commemorations on July 18th. Historians and Normans who lived through the landings and the liberation share their experiences with us. Our visits include: Omaha Beach and the Normandy American Military Cemetery at Colleville s/mer, Brittany American Cemetery at St. James, Pointe du Hoc, Utah Beach and Museum, Graignes, La Fièrre, Sainte-Mère-Eglise and the Airborne Museum, Saint-Lô and bocage areas, Lebec Cider Farm, LaCambe Cemetery, Chateau Colombières and the marshes, rue Captain Carter, Wall of Remembrance, Trevières... and more....

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

Land Package Rates: Will be available late September 2018

Registration period: October 1, 2018 – March 5, 2019
Space is limited and subject to availability.

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

Students and Teachers: Travel Grants are available.

Contact Marsha Smith, Program Director:
normandyallies@verizon.net

PO Box 1332 Pittsford NY 14534 585-748-2357

29ers who died in battle for Normandy bridge honored

Sixteen combat soldiers of the 115th Infantry Regiment who died in a battle to cross the river Elle just six days after D-Day were honored in a ceremony in France on June 12.

Michael van den Dobbelsesteen, a new member of Post 93, organized the memorial service with his wife, Deborah, on the 74th anniversary of the attack on the bridge at Le Pont de la Pierre.

"We felt it was an act of duty considering we bought our house in an area where so many soldiers of the 29th lost their lives," said van den Dobbelsesteen. "It was an emotional moment for me to actually read out their names, but also a moment for these men to finally have recognition for their role in which the battle for the bridge was fought."

The men of the 115th Regiment were not successful in two attempts to take the bridge and dozens more were wounded in the assaults. However, later that day the 116th Regiment launched a renewed attack on a different bridge, broke through the German lines, and liberated the town of Saint-Clair-sur-Elle.

Van den Dobbelsesteen said he plans to place a permanent stone monument with a bronze plaque closer to the bridge with the names of the 16 soldiers killed: Royce W. Bass, Joseph J. Cirmelli, Alex G. Davis, Daniel D. Gody, Jerome W. Herman, Oramel L. Kickner, Charles Lunger, Howard D. Luther, Charles F. Mozingo, Bernard L. Peters, Henry G. Poole, Nello V. Regni, Americo Ricci, Michael J. Sadowski, Thomas W. Sumney and Stanley G. Teeple.

By Neil Ungerleider, Post 93

Thank You!

The editor of the *Twenty-Niner* is always grateful for the donations that are received to help fund the *Twenty-Niner* and he encourages everyone to do so.

Checks must be made payable to the 29th Division Association and mailed to:

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

Minutes

of the NEC III Meeting
held on 28 June 2018 at
Bldg. #612, Fort Belvoir, Virginia

National Commander Grant Hayden called the National Executive Committee (NEC III) Meeting to order at 1020 hours. Commander Hayden led the attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the opening prayer that was offered by PNC John Wilcox. The group then recited the 29th Division Association Preamble.

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

The Minutes of the previous meetings (NEC II, 25 January 2018) had been published and were distributed in the Spring 2018 edition of the *Twenty-Niner*. As there were no corrections or amendments, these minutes were approved as published.

Adjutant Simmers read correspondence received from Marsha Smith of Normandy Allies suspending their request for Student and Teacher Travel Grants for their July 2019 program from the 29th Division Association.

Officer's Report

National Commander – Grant Hayden spoke about the Wreath laying at Arlington that occurred on 16 June and included the participation of 2 Soldiers of the 29th Division. He mentioned the outstanding job that PNC Ginsburg and Neil Ungerleider have been doing with membership recruitment on the website. NC Hayden said that some of the suggestions he made for the website have been implemented. The *Chin Strap* is now being mailed to all Readiness Centers in Maryland and Virginia. Contact with the new Kentucky unit has been established and we are hoping for some membership results. The process for presenting awards to deserving Soldiers has been established and it is hoped that awards will be presented later on in the summer.

National Senior Vice Commander & Southern Region National Vice Commander – David Leighton along with Executive Director Will Mund attended the Army Divisions Association FAM in early May in Virginia Beach, VA. NSVC Leighton attended Bernard Marie's dinner for WWII veterans recently.

National Junior Vice Commander – Pete Hinz had no report.

Maryland Region National Vice Commander – Past Maryland Region Commander Bob Jones reported that Bill Bullock was elected Commander of the Maryland Region at the May region meeting.

At Large Region National Vice Commander – Edward Tolzman was not present and no report was rendered.

Finance & Budget – National Finance Officer Bob Jones with the aid of a "Power Point Presentation" reported on the finances of the association since the NEC II meeting in January. NFO Jones has filed all documents as required by the IRS.

National Executive Director – William Mund made some comments about the printing of the *Chin Strap* and the problems associated with determining an exact hard-copy distribution date.

Membership – Executive Director Mund said that at this time we are doing about 4% better than last year concerning dues collection. He noted that we have had the addition of 88 new members due to the Facebook campaign that PNC Ginsburg and Webmaster Neil Ungerleider have been coordinating.

Chaplain – John Schildt was not present and no report was rendered.

Service – Walter Carter was not in attendance and no report was rendered. Executive Director Mund read correspondence he received from Comrade Carter offering his resignation as National Service Officer of the 29th Division Association.

Surgeon – Dr. Howard Bond had no report.

Welfare – National Welfare Officer J. Brian Becker said he would like to send "Get Well" cards to sick members if he could find out who they are. PNC Ginsburg reported that PNC Dooley was in an auto accident and is doing OK.

Historian – Joe Balkoski was not in attendance and no report was rendered.

Sergeant at Arms – Randall Beamer had no report.

Property Officer – Franklin Shilow noted that we have a few more items for sale.

Parliamentarian – Thomas Insley was not in attendance and no report was rendered.

Judge Advocate – Houston Matney deferred his remarks until later on in the meeting.

Committee Reports

2018 National Convention – Commander Hayden reported on the planned 2018 convention to be held in Roanoke, Virginia on 11-14 October 2018. Trips are to include the D-Day Memorial in Bedford for a wreath laying and free lunch; and possibly the Marshall museum in Lexington, VA. Post 64 will be handling the hospitality room. The current cost for the rooms is \$107 a night with breakfast included. The 29th Division Soldier and NCO of the year will be honored at the Saturday evening banquet. Bernard Marie will be the guest speaker. A combo of the 29th Division Band will be entertaining on Saturday evening. Juanita King made some comments on recent awards that were received by BG Flora and his wife. BG Flora was our guest speaker at our convention in Harrisburg, PA. in 2016.

2019 National Convention – NSVC Leighton said he is working with the Convention Visitors Bureau in Virginia Beach to select a site for our 2019 convention. A brief discussion was held as to whether the convention should continue to be held on days that include the weekends as opposed to days during the week. It was decided that we should continue with the weekend dates.

Futures Committee – PNC Ginsburg said that the only purpose of the Futures Committee is to increase new membership. With the aid of a "Power Point Presentation" he covered the current initiatives that have been ongoing, such as the DVD, Traveling Display, and the changes to the website, including the Facebook campaign. The Legacy campaign has been launched in the electronic version of the *Chin Strap* and will be in the Summer 2018 *Twenty-Niner*. The tri-fold will be redesigned. Posters are to be made to be displayed in all Readiness Centers in Maryland and Virginia.

Awards & Grants Committee – Committee Chairman J. Brian Becker reported that no grant applications have been received at this time. The process for presenting awards to deserving Soldiers has been established and some awards are to be presented later on this summer.

Nominating Committee – Committee Chairman PNC Ginsburg asked that the posts recommend individuals to fill vacant positions on the NEC.

Special Reports

Normandy Allies – Executive Director Mund read a report sent to him by Walter Carter of Normandy Allies. The report advised the association of the upcoming history-study trip on 15-28 July 2018. This year marks the 20th year of operation for Normandy Allies.

The *Twenty-Niner* Newsletter – Editor William Mund said the Summer 2018 edition of the 29er will be coming out in mid-July. It will contain all the information and forms for the convention.

Old Business

Wreath – PNC Zang said he noticed that the wreath used for the Arlington wreath laying is not in good condition. Executive Director Mund said he would check with Jay Garrison for his comments.

New Business

75th Anniversary of D-Day Representation – Jimmy Kilbourne of the 116th Regimental Foundation said that the foundation would be doing a trip to Normandy in 2019. NJVC Pete Hinz said he may be interested in representing the 29th Division Association at this event. A motion was made by PNC Ginsburg and seconded by Adjutant Simmers for the National Commander to present at the convention, what the recommendations are concerning our involvement and participation in this event. Motion was passed.

Changes to the Constitution & By Laws – PNC Ginsburg with the aid of a “Power Point Presentation” presented several amendments to the Constitution & By Laws. After hearing some comments and suggestions from the National Judge Advocate, the NEC approved these amendments with some modifications. In accordance with the *Constitution, Article XIV, Amendments*, these amendments are to be published in the *Twenty-Niner* at least 30 days prior to the convention at which time they will be voted upon. *These amendments are published on page 36 of this publication.*

Per Capita dues increase – A discussion occurred concerning a possible per capita dues increase. A motion was made by Commander Hayden and seconded by Adjutant Simmers that a committee be established to be chaired by PNC Wilcox to study other possible ways to raise funds for the association. Motion was passed.

Old Twenty-Niner Newsletters – National Surgeon Howard Bond said he has found a home for old back issues of the *Twenty-Niner*. He encourages members to donate them to him for this purpose.

Good of the Association

PNC Wilcox presented his new book “Anywhere I Happen to Go” to the members present. The book covers much of his travel as an employee of the U.S. Postal Service.

Closing

With no further business, Commander Hayden began the closing ceremonies. A closing prayer was offered by PNC Wilcox along with a final salute to the colors. Commander Hayden announced that the Annual Business meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 13, 2018, at the Holiday Inn Roanoke, Valley View hotel. NEC I will occur following the Memorial Service on Sunday, 14 October 2018.

Meeting was adjourned at 1250 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM S. MUND, JR.
National Executive Director

NEC Members please note:

These minutes are not distributed individually.

This is your copy.

D-Day Embarkation Point

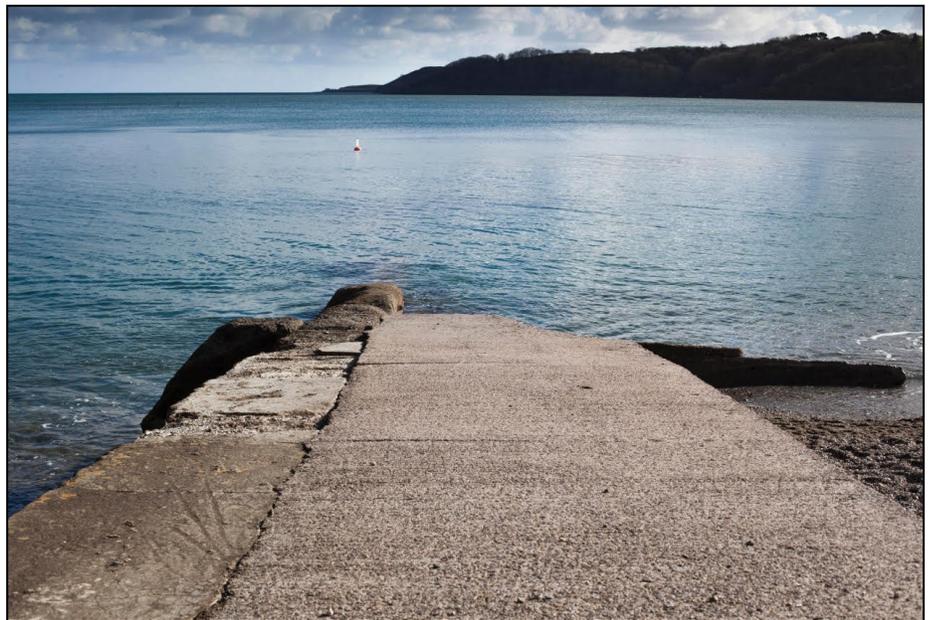
By Alan Hampson

I am a photographer and artist based in Cornwall in the UK. I live at the very end of the country close to Lands End. I have always lived by the sea and had a father who was on the Atlantic Convoys during WWII, so from stories and films I grew up with, I have an interest in social history.

During a visit to Trebah Gardens, I came across the embarkation point of the 29th Division, which today is a popular tourist destination for the gardens and beach, with the majority of people unaware of its history, and just enjoying a day out.

The attached image led to the development of an exhibition about man made constructions, which are found all around the Cornish coastline, and generally remain unnoticed and have become the overlooked and ordinary.

The work explores the historical, industrial, and social aspects of the coast. The subjects are shelters, slipways, huts, coastguard lookouts, mines, lighthouse



buildings, surf shacks, the wreckage of industrial structures, WWII defences and other coastal features.

After Trebah, I concentrated on a range of slipways that lead to or from the sea. Today they are used for fishing and leisure, but some carry the ‘terrible beauty’ as the embarkation points for D-Day during WWII.

These existing structures are still evident and can serve as a powerful memento mori.

All the locations are on the South West

Coastal Path. This is ‘one of the world’s greatest walks’ (Lonely Planet) and enjoyed by millions of residents and visitors every year.

I still find the Embarkation Point a poignant and emotive place and realised that today’s sea sounds are the same sounds the 29th would have heard whilst waiting to leave for Omaha Beach.

The exhibition and imagery, called “Close to the Edge” can be found on my website, where I can also be contacted.

www.alanhampson.co.uk

NOTICE

NOTICE

NOTICE

In accordance with Article XIV – Amendments – Section 1 of the 29th Division Association National Constitution which reads:

This Constitution may be amended at any National Convention by a two-thirds vote of the total authorized delegates present, provided that the proposed amendments shall have been submitted by the National Adjutant to the Posts, and members of the National Executive Committee, by sending a copy of the proposed amendment to them at least thirty days prior to the convening of the National Convention. Publication in the “TWENTY-NINER” in an issue circulated at least thirty days prior to the Convention date shall satisfy the above notification requirements. It is further provided that it can be amended without prior notice by a unanimous vote at any Convention.

These proposed changes to the National Constitution and By-Laws are now published in adherence to the above notification requirements. Changes are indicated in **bold** type. Deleted language is shown as being struck through e.g. ~~This is struck through language.~~

Constitution

Article IV - Membership

Section 1. Any person who is, or has been a member of the 29th Infantry Division, or those units with lineage to the 29th shall be eligible for membership.

- a. Any person who served in any of the units while attached to the 29th Division shall be eligible for full membership in this Association.
- b. Relatives of members who qualify for membership under Article IV Membership, Section 1, shall be eligible for full membership in the association and may hold any office at the post, region and national level except the positions of Commander and Vice-Commander at the National level unless they have also served honorably in the 29th Division. These offices shall be reserved for those who have served with the 29th Infantry Division.
- c. No member may hold any office at the national, region or post level until they reach their 18th birthday.
- d. Any person who has falsified their membership form, or any person that has falsified their military service, is not eligible for membership in the Association.**

Section 3. In the event that there is no Post in the State in which the candidate resides, **the candidate will be assigned a post by the National Executive Director or their assistant.**

Section 4 – Delete Section 4, paragraph c.

~~c. The National Auxiliary of the 29th Division Association shall be made up of persons who served in the 29th Infantry Division who, if alive, would be eligible for membership in the 29th Division Association. The National Auxiliary posts, chapters, regions and national headquarters will function in accordance with the constitution and by-laws of said National Auxiliary. Anyone in the National Auxiliary of the 29th a. Division Association may not be enrolled in any post of the Association or granted associate membership by any post or unit of the Association.~~

Article VI – National Officers

Section 1. Elected Officers of this Association shall be a National Commander, a Senior National Vice-Commander, a Junior National Vice-Commander and one National Vice-Commander for each Region, a Finance Officer, a Chaplain, a Welfare Officer, a Service Officer, a Judge Advocate, a Historian, a Surgeon, a **Chairman of the Futures Committee**, and a Sergeant-at-Arms. They shall have one vote each on the National Executive Committee.

Section 2. Appointed Officers - The following are the Appointed Officers: National Adjutant, National Executive Director, Assistant to the National Executive Director, Editor of “The Twenty-Niner”, Assistant to the Editor of “The Twenty-Niner”, and a National Property Officer. ~~and Adjutant of Headquarters Post 29. At Large.~~ **They** shall be appointed by the National Commander-Elect and their appointment shall be ratified by the National Executive Committee following the announcement of their appointment by the National Commander-Elect. They shall have one vote each on the National Executive Committee.

By Laws

Article II – Duties of Officers

Delete Section 17 (Adjutant of Headquarters, Post 29)

~~Section 17. ADJUTANT OF HEADQUARTERS POST NO. 29: The Adjutant of this Post shall circularize, bill for and receive membership dues, maintain proper and complete files including membership cards, and in general assume the duties incident to the proper operation of this Post. He shall maintain a bank account and deposit dues and contributions received from members of Headquarters Post No. 29, and shall in turn remit per capita dues to National Headquarters to the National Executive Director.~~

and replace with a new Section 17 (Chairman – Futures Committee)

Section 17. CHAIRMAN – FUTURES COMMITTEE. The Chairman of the Futures Committee shall be responsible for assisting the posts in recruiting new members into the Association and programs to maintain retention of existing members from a campaign and events perspective; responsible for advising the Webmaster and the National Executive Director on the look and feel of the Association collateral including membership forms, tri-folds and the Association webpage; maintenance of the Association social media accounts including Facebook; responsible to create and assist in executing recruiting campaigns for new members on an ongoing basis. This includes campaigns aimed at former members of the 29th Division and its legacy units, currently serving soldiers in the 29th Division and its lineage units, family members of those that had served in the Division, and anyone who wants to keep the history of the 29th Division alive; and the creation of collateral and tools to help tell the story of the 29th Division including documentaries (DVDs), traveling displays and other applicable tools.

Article V – Discipline of Post Members.

Section 1. Each Post shall prescribe its own set of disciplinary rules, and is empowered to enforce said rules, providing, however, that they shall not in any way conflict with the National Constitution and By-Laws and shall be in conformity therewith.

Section 2. Any member who misrepresents their military service may be expelled from the Association by their respective Post or by the National Executive Director.

29th Division Association Supplies Available

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>POSTAGE & HANDLING</u>	<u>MAILED</u>
Book—Ever Forward 116th Inf. History (soft cover)	\$17.90	\$5.75	\$23.65
Book—29 Let's Go—29th Division History	\$29.00	FREE	\$29.00
Book—Beyond the Beachhead (Joseph Balkoski)	\$19.90	\$5.75	\$25.65
Book—115th Infantry in WWII	\$25.00	\$5.75	\$30.75
Book—Omaha Beach and Beyond (The Long March of Sgt. Slaughter)	\$25.00	\$5.75	\$30.75
Book—From Beachhead to Brittany (Joseph Balkoski)	\$28.00	\$5.75	\$33.75
Book—From Brittany to the Reich (Joseph Balkoski)	\$27.00	\$5.75	\$32.75
Book—Our Tortured Souls (Joseph Balkoski)	\$27.00	\$5.75	\$32.75
Book—The Last Roll Call (Joseph Balkoski)	\$25.00	\$5.75	\$30.75
Book—Fields of War, Battle of Normandy (Robert Mueller)	\$19.95	\$5.75	\$25.70
Book—Drawing D-Day (Ugo & Maxine Giannini) (soft cover)	\$43.00	\$5.95	\$48.95
Book—For God, For Country ... For Love. (R.J. Slaughter)	\$20.00	\$5.75	\$25.75
29th Division Association Note Pads (5 1/2 x 8 1/2)	\$1.00	\$1.30	\$2.30
Crests—115th, 116th, & 175th Infantry Regiments	\$5.50	\$1.10	\$6.60
Pin—29th Patch Stick Pin	\$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	\$7.00	\$1.10	\$8.10
Medallion (for plaques)	\$6.00	\$1.10	\$7.10
29th Division Wine Glass	\$5.00	\$1.10	\$6.10
29th Division Coffee Mug	\$10.00	\$3.00	\$13.00
29th Division Association pocket patch	\$6.00	\$1.10	\$7.10
Pocket patch holder	\$3.00	\$1.10	\$4.10
Shoulder patch, 29th ID	\$3.50	\$0.50	\$4.00
Jacket, coach, navy with logo in S, M, L, XL, 2XL	\$28.00	\$5.75	\$33.75
Golf Shirt, embroidered 100% cotton pullover (royal blue, white, gray—L, XL, 2XL)	\$23.00	\$5.75	\$28.75
29th Division Official Association Necktie	\$20.00	\$2.00	\$22.00
29th Association Dress Hat (state size)	\$38.00	\$5.75	\$43.75
Hat, Baseball w/29th logo (embroidered)	\$15.00	\$2.60	\$17.60
Hat, Baseball w/29th logo (embroidered/Summer mesh)	\$12.00	\$2.60	\$14.60
29th Division Cemetery flags on wooden staff 12" X 19"	\$5.00	\$3.00	\$8.00
DVD — 29 Let's Go! - A video history of the 29th Infantry Division	\$10.00	\$3.00	\$13.00

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

Souvenir Program Book Ads

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

Full Page	\$100	Quarter Page	\$40
Half Page	\$70	Eighth Page	\$25

IMPORTANT: The deadline for ads and boosters is **August 25, 2018**. Make up your ad copy, attach to this form with your check payable to the **29th Division Association** & mail to

William S. Mund, Jr.
 441 Chalfonte Drive
 Baltimore, MD 21228-4017
 443-529-4233
duster197329@gmail.com

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

Patrons

During the 100th year of our 29th Division Association, your name and the names of all your family should appear in the Souvenir Program Book. The cost per name is \$2.00. Please print each name legibly.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Zip: _____

Tel. #: _____

Email: _____

This coupon, with your check, made out as indicated above, should also be received no later than **August 25, 2018**. Mail to William S. Mund, Jr. at the address above.

Legion of Honor Recipients

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

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

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

William S. Mund, Jr.
 441 Chalfonte Drive
 Baltimore, MD 21228
duster197329@gmail.com

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

100TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OCTOBER 11 – 14, 2018 ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM

Please print and make your reservation early.

Name: _____ Unit: _____ Post: _____

Name: _____ Unit: _____ Post: _____

Enclose separate sheet for more names. Please select your entrees for the dinners.

EACH PERSON MUST PAY THE REGISTRATION CHARGE!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

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

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

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

Choice of:

Beef _____

Chicken _____

Friday Trip — D-Day Memorial in Bedford, VA & Marshall Museum in Lexington, VA. Lunch is included. No. @ _____ \$25.00 \$ _____

TOTAL: _____

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

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

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

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

CUT-OFF DATE FOR REGISTRATIONS IS SEPTEMBER 18, 2018

Convention Hotel Reservations October 11-14, 2018

Holiday Inn Roanoke – Valley View, 3315 Ordway Drive, Roanoke, VA 24017

For reservations call: **877-410-6667**

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

CUT-OFF DATE FOR GETTING THE DISCOUNTED ROOM RATE IS SEPTEMBER 11, 2018.

See page 12 for more Hotel information!

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

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

Address Service Requested



JOIN THE 29TH DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.



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

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

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

E-Mail Address: _____ Telephone Number: _____

Did you Serve? Please indicate what unit you served in: _____

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

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

29th Division Association Membership

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

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

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