



## Virginia Beach, Virginia is the site of our 101st Reunion & Convention

The 101st Annual Reunion and Convention will be held at the Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront from 10 – 13 October 2019. As usual, our attendees will start arriving on Thursday.

On Friday, we have two locations that we will visit. The first being the Military Aviation Museum just south of Virginia Beach, in the Pungo area.

### Military Aviation Museum

The Military Aviation Museum in Virginia Beach, Virginia, is home to one of the world's largest collections of warbirds in flying condition. It includes examples from Germany, France, Italy, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, from both World War I and World War II, although the complete collection ranges from the 1910s to the early 1950s.

Its mission is to "preserve, restore and fly these historic aircraft and to allow a new generation to experience

*(Continued on page 20)*

## 29<sup>th</sup> Division honors their fallen during 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day



*Photo by Fran Sherr-Davino.*

WWII veteran Leonard Jindra, of F Company, 115th Infantry is pictured here with currently serving 29th Division Soldiers, at Vierville-Sur-Mer on 6 June 2019.

VIERVILLE-SUR-MER, France—The top officer in the National Guard, and one of the oldest survivors of the D-Day landings, commemorated the 75th anniversary of the Normandy landings at the National Guard Memorial on Omaha Beach here.

Gen. Joseph Lengyel, the chief of the National Guard Bureau, said the United States needed its allies in order to win as "no nation can confront combat operations alone."

One of the soldiers honored at the ceremony was 98-year-old D-Day veteran Leonard Jindra, who landed with the 115th Infantry Regiment at Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944.

Lengyel, accompanied by Army Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Kepner, senior enlisted advisor, and other Guard leaders, placed a wreath at the base of National Guard Monument. The monument is on top of an original German bunker on Omaha Beach.

Also in attendance were Maj. Gen. John Epperly, 29th Division commander; former division commander Maj. Gen. Blake Ortner; and retired Brig. Gens. Peter Hinz and Ted Shuey.

Jindra also was honored at a wreath ceremony at the Normandy American Ceme-

*(Continued on page 13)*

### THE TWENTY-NINER

Vol. 63, No. 2

Summer 2019

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

© Copyright 2019

The 29th Division Association Inc.

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

## NATIONAL COMMANDER'S MESSAGE:

# J. DAVID LEIGHTON

The NEC III meeting was conducted on June 13, 2019 at the Winchester Armory. This has been a very productive year for the 29th Division Association with many great ideas and initiatives to help grow our membership and secure the future of the association.

PNC David Ginsburg presented the new 29th recruiting display. The members discussed possible locations for recruiting new members. Set-up is very easy and would only need to request a table be provided by the venue.

29th Division Association's use of social media and the newly improved website is more accessible thanks to PNC David Ginsburg, Neil Ungerleider and Jimmy Kilbourne. Membership is increasing because of their efforts. They are asking for constructive feedback from each of our members and suggestions for improvement are welcome. We can already see our success by the new members and their posts being published in the *Chin Strap*.

I would like to personally thank everyone for their help and support. I know a lot of



National Commander J. David Leighton and the new recruiting display.

work still needs to be done but I get a good feeling as I think of the things that we have accomplished together. We value input from all members. Please keep bringing those ideas!

During the meeting, some discussion of alternative options for raising money were discussed. More discussion will occur at the convention in October.

With this year being the 75th anniversary of D-Day, the 29th Division Association participated in several wreath laying ceremonies in Normandy, France, Bedford, Virginia, as well as The Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C. The cost of participating in these ceremonies will be discussed at the conference. We also hope to have better participation at the D-Day Memorial Ceremony in Bedford going forward.

It was an honor and a privilege to have NCO, SFC Paul Bosserman and Soldier of the Year, SPC Esther Alger participate in the wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery on June 29, 2019. Both Soldiers expressed pride in being a part of this ceremony and that was evident by their performance. The day was very hot and humid

but the luncheon at Fort Myer Spates Community Center afterwards was a welcome relief and the meal was great.

The 101st Annual National Convention & Reunion will be in Virginia Beach, October 10-13, 2019. I would encourage everyone to attend as we have a lot of great things planned. We are going to tour the Military Aviation Museum with WWII airplanes from U.S. Army and U.S. Navy, Great Britain, Germany and other European countries. WWI aircraft from United States, Great Britain, France and Germany. After lunch at the Aviation Museum, we will visit the State Military Reservation (SMR) for a historical talk and a guided tour.

MG John M. Epperly, Commander, 29th Infantry Division (Light), Fort Belvoir, Virginia will be the guest speaker for the Saturday evening dinner. Having served under MG Epperly, I am excited and honored that he has made room in his very busy schedule to speak.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the convention. Further details and registration information are provided in this publication.

*J. David Leighton, National Commander*

### THE TWENTY-NINER

Vol. 63, No. 2

Summer 2019

The known office of this publication is:

The 29th Division Association, Inc.

The *Twenty-Niner* is published by:

The 29th Division Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 46734

Windsor Mill, MD 21244-0634

Third Class postage paid at Baltimore, MD

Editor/Publisher — William S. Mund, Jr.

443-529-4233

[duster197329@gmail.com](mailto:duster197329@gmail.com)

Asst. Editor/Publisher — Frank Armiger

410-591-9977

[farmiger@gmail.com](mailto:farmiger@gmail.com)

Editor Emeritus — Donald McKee

301-593-4591

[mckee175@netscape.com](mailto:mckee175@netscape.com)

© Copyright 2019

The 29th Division Association, Inc.



## 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 6 March 2019 through 1 July 2019, these donations totaled \$6,096,23. Note our cut-off date. If your contributions did not reach our National Executive Director by 1 July 2019 then it will not be listed until the next issue. **Donation checks must be made payable to the 29th Division Association.**

Fitzgerald, Cathryn, Union City, NJ

***In memory of Adam James Damascus, HQ/1/115***

Gaskin, William P., Post 110, HHB/DIVARTY, Montgomery, PA

Hayden, Grant, Post 1-72, HHC/29ID, Kingsville, MD

Langley, Joseph H., Post 94, HHC/29ID(L), Alexandria, VA

McNamara, Margaret, Widow, Missoula, MT

***In memory of John Fowler, B/104MED***

Melchionda, Mark J., Post 93, Son, Sagamore Beach, MA

***In memory of Joseph & Angelina Melchionda***

Neuwith, Frank, Post 94, A/821TD, Sleepy Hollow, NY

***In memory of his wife Marilyn Neuwith***

Parker, Grayson & Natalie, Wilton, NH

***In memory of Adam James Damascus, HQ/1/115***

Post 78, - "Cresap's Rifles", Frederick, MD

***In memory of William E. Dailey, A/1/115***

***In memory of PNC Charles W. "Buck" Lockard, A/1/115***

Scheuerer, Sally, Widow, Cranford, NJ

***In memory of PFC Raymond A. Scheuerer, C/116***

Shuey, Ted, Post 64, HHC/116BDE, Staunton, VA

Tennis, William C., Post 5, Son, Hampton, VA

***In Memory of Milton C Tennis, Btry D, 710 AAA Gun Bn***

United Way, Pasco County, Florida

White, Claire M., Daughter, Wenham, MA

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

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

***In memory of CW4 Charles W. "Buck" Lockard, A/115***

## Convention Hotel Reservations

**October 10-13, 2019**

**Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront**

**5700 Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach, VA 23451**

For reservations call: **757-428-7025**

The group room rate is \$99.00 plus tax (14% and \$4.12 per night lodging tax and resort fee) per night for one guest. No charge for additional guest. Breakfast is not included.

Reservations must be guaranteed with a credit card for one night. Check in time is 4PM and check out time is 11AM.

**BE SURE TO REFERENCE:**

**THE 29TH DIVISION ASSOCIATION ROOM BLOCK**

Make you hotel reservation early,  
we only have a limited number of rooms.

**CANCELLATION MAY BE MADE UP TO 72 HOURS OR MORE  
PRIOR TO ARRIVAL WITHOUT CHARGES.**

**CUT-OFF DATE FOR GETTING THE DISCOUNTED ROOM RATE  
IS SEPTEMBER 9, 2019.**

From the desk of the

## National Finance Officer

It is that time of the year where I will begin to prepare the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget for presentation to the Executive Committee at the Annual Convention. If you are a Committee Chairperson, or someone who expects to commit Association funds during the next fiscal year please send me your estimated requirements no later than **26 July 2019**. A simple email with the amount and a description of the expense is all I need to get started. Also please include your contact information. Please email this request to: [NFO29thDivAssoc@gmail.com](mailto:NFO29thDivAssoc@gmail.com). If you do not have email capabilities mail the information to: Tom Knight, 1702 Mews Way, Fallston, MD 21047.

## Attention

### Veterans who served in France 1944

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

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

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

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

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

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

## TAPS

The following list shows names of known 29ers and their ladies or family members who died and their deaths reported from March 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019. 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

Daley, William E., Post 78, A/115, Hagerstown, MD 6/8/19  
 Delphey, Ray G. Jr., Post 78, Son, Damascus, MD 3/10/19  
 Gallagher, PNC Hugh J., Post 110, Blue Ball, PA 4/24/19  
 Grant, Edward C., Post 1-72, HQ/1/115, Mount Dora, FL 5/2/19  
 Koos, Donald, Post 29, I/175, Whiting, NJ 3/17/19  
 Lockard, PNC Charles, Post 78, A/115, Middletown, MD 5/5/19  
 Middleton, James R., Post 88, I/115, Salisbury, MD 7/20/18  
 Seward, George M., Post 85, E/115, Newark, DE 3/23/19  
 Shields, Neil J., Post 94, E/115, Pittsburg, PA 2/10/19  
 Tucker, Barran, Post 2, G/175, Bixby, OK 3/29/19  
 Welch, Norman A. Jr., Post 93, Assoc., Plymouth, MA 4/14/19

## LADIES

Earl, Shirley, Wife, Corry, PA 3/5/19  
 Neuwirth, Marilyn, Wife, Sleepy Hollow, NY

## 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 11 comrades and 2 ladies who have died and whose deaths were reported to us since our last publication.

We ask survivors, friends, Post and Region Officers to forward information, as complete as possible, on the deceased to the National Executive Director, so that we can include them in the next issue of "The Twenty-Niner" and in the National Reunion Memorial Service. This will only be possible with your help.

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

## Hugh J. Gallagher Past National Commander 1981 – 1982



The 29th Division Association, Inc., regrets to announce the passing of Past National Commander Hugh J. Gallagher, Jr., age 101, of Blue Ball, PA, formerly of Drexel Hill, PA,. PNC Gallagher passed away on 24 April 2019.

Born in Philadelphia, PA, he was the son of the late Hugh J. Gallagher, Sr. and Margaret Gallagher (nee Devitt).

PNC Gallagher was a veteran of the United States Army having served in A Battery, 110th Field Artillery of the 29th Infantry Division during their campaigns in Europe during World War II.

He had been employed as a Lab Technician with Borden Chemical located in Camden, NJ for 42 years. He retired in 1980.

Hugh was a longtime member of Garrettford-Drexel Hill Fire Company. He joined the fire company in January, 1951. He served on the House Committee, and was a member of the Board of Directors from 1983 through 1988.

At some point in his long life, he joined the 29th Division Association, Inc., and in 1981, PNC Gallagher was elected National Commander of the 29th Division Association, Inc.

PNC Gallagher is survived by his beloved wife of 74 years Frances W. Gallagher (nee Wilbur). He was the loving father of Kathleen Shea, Eileen Mahan (Will) and Judith Langill (the late William). Grandfather of four grandsons and four great-grandchildren. Brother of Sr. Monica, LSP and eight deceased brothers and sisters.

A Funeral Mass was held at 1100 hours on 1 May 2019 at St. Andrew the Apostle Church, 3500 School Lane, Drexel Hill, PA. He was interred in SS Peter and Paul Cemetery, Springfield, PA.

# "I Can't Tell You Everything."

## *Writing Home From the War Front*

### 1942 - 1945

*A collection of family letters compiled and transcribed by Carlton and Mary Nabb.*

#### George B. Nabb, Jr.

George B. Nabb Jr. was born in 1909 on the family's farm, North Yarmouth, near the small village of Aireys in Dorchester County, Maryland. He remained on the farm after graduating from Cambridge High School and farmed with his father. He enlisted with the National Guard in 1929. In November of 1938 he married Georgia Fleming and their first son George Nabb III was born in 1940. Their lives were forever changed when George (Junior) was called to active duty on February 3, 1941. Leaving his wife and young son at the farm with his family, George left not knowing where he would be sent or how long he would be gone.

#### D-Day, June 6, 1944

He held the rank of Captain and was Commanding Officer of Company D of the 115th Infantry when they landed at Omaha Beach. He continued on with his men towards St. Lô and was shot and wounded on June 17th.

Georgia would receive notice that he was wounded and later a 2nd notice tells her he was seriously injured. That cable and letter appear to be the only information sent to her about him being hurt. He was awarded the purple heart for this wound, and he remained in a hospital and rehab many weeks.

August 7, 1944 he returned to duty and just 4 days later he was again shot and listed as "seriously wounded in action" on Army reports. Following hospitalization he was placed on 3 months limited service and then transferred to a Replacement Depot and assigned as an instructor in weapons training. The oak leaf cluster on his Purple Heart was for the second time he was shot.

#### After the war...

As a youngster living on the farm, most of my time was spent working with the cows or fishing and hunting on the Transquaking River. However there were two rooms in the old farmhouse that when Mom & Dad were not around I sometimes explored. One room was the old part of the house that they called "up the kitchen stairs" which was a storage room. This part of the house was never used much since in the summer it was so hot it would take your breath away and in the winter a glass of water would freeze. Dad said that this is where Old Carl Pinder stayed and a small back stairs is how he got into his room. Carl was a Negro farmhand that worked on North Yarmouth most of his life and was indeed part of the family.

After World War II Carl had left and his room is where Dad's army trunks were stored and I loved to open them up and inspect the contents. Years of Dad's life were packed in these lockers and yet he very seldom mentioned them.

The other room was the parlor where Mom had her "secretary" and its contents were the letters that Dad had sent her while he was away in the service. I did not read these letters much until after Mom's death and then I realized the love and commitment shared between the two individuals that

gave me life.

These letters share the lives of many family members during a period of history where lives were torn apart both physically and mentally. The time frame is from October 1942 through July 1945. I was born about nine months after Dad got back from Europe. My wife Mary said the first night home was probably on a full moon.

Mary has spent countless hours putting these letters and photos together. For this I will always be grateful that her tireless work leaves the family a true legacy.

Carlton Nabb

Junior & Georgia's second son

Wed. Oct 14, 1942

Dearest Georgia,

You will have received my other letter long before you get this one I suppose.

We are in England. I didn't write and tell you that in my last letter because there was some doubt in my mind as to whether I could or not.

We are stationed near a town that I can't tell you the name of. We have good quarters, much better than I expected to have. There are three officers in the same room that I am in. We do have a shortage of coat hangers at present and my clothes are hung on chairs and the bed. However we expect to get our lockers in the next day or two. When we do I have plenty of hangers in it.

Well I had all my American money changed into English money today. There is a great difference in the money and I know that I am going to have quite a time learning how to use it. I haven't bought anything yet, but think that when I do I'll just hold out my handful of money and tell them to take what they want.

Cigarettes over here are 35 cents a pack and a good cigar costs around 40 cents. I still have quite a good supply of cigarettes on

hand so I'm not worrying any about that yet.

Honey don't worry about me. I'm all right in every respect. I thank God that you and our little boy and everyone we love is as far from this war as you are. When this is all over we will be together again and make up for all that we have missed.

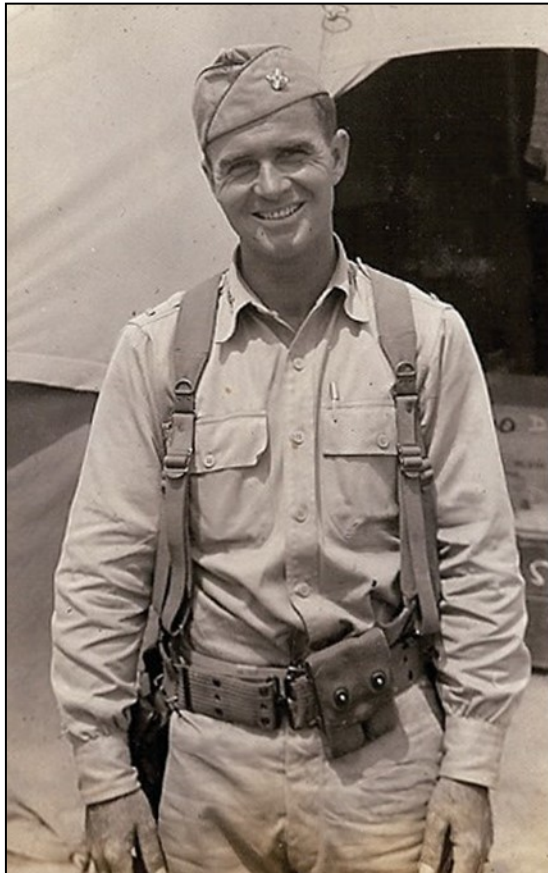
Tell Georgie Boy that I see lots of little boys over here just about his size, but not as cute as he is. Tell him to keep Grandmom's turkeys well fed as it will soon be Thanksgiving. Write as often as you can and tell me all the news.

Lots & Lots of Love Junior & Daddy

V-MAIL Oct 16, 1942

Dear Georgia,

How does this find you and the little man? I would surely love to see him. Every little tow headed youngster I see over here reminds me of him. The little boys here seem to have a mania for American coins.



This is a very lovely old town that we are in. The English homes are all built along the same general lines and look quite a bit like a picture you have seen somewhere.

You should see the number of people here who ride bicycles. Men and women old and young use them as their means of transportation. We don't see a great many cars here, but the highways are full of bicycles.

How is everyone at home? Is papa's asthma any better. I wish he could find some relief from it. Give my love to the boy and everyone.

Lots of Love Junior & Daddy

postmarked New York, NY, Nov 17, 1942

Monday Oct. 19, 1942

Dear Georgia,

I am writing this about 9:30 in the evening. I have been down to the Co. for about an hour.

It has been a beautiful day here today. the seasons here are a little later than at home as the leaves on the trees are now just turning, and at home I imagine they are nearly gone.

Our training takes us out through the country nearly every day. The farms here are much larger than I expected to see and just as neat as can be. I have seen some of the prettiest horses here that I have ever seen. Just walking along the roads makes me long for the day when I can get back and settle down once more.'

Yesterday was Sunday, but we worked right on through. I think we will have a break and get a few hours off soon.

I'm beginning to be able to drink hot tea. I never liked it before, but like the old saying "you can get used to anything when you have to". We have coffee once in a while, but it is really not coffee at all just a substitute of some kind. Every available piece of food of all kinds is saved here. We have got the saying now. We had better eat it this meal or else we will have it for the next one. But it is not so bad, everyone gets enough to eat; we have just got to learn to like some of the dishes we are not accustomed to.

How is my little man. I can see his rosy cheeks now when he goes out these frosty mornings. Tell him to watch out or Jack Frost will bite his toes.

I haven't received any mail yet. I understand we will be able to get cigarettes here, but don't know for a certainty et. I wish you would send me a few cakes of soap. I still have 8 or 9 cakes but it is something that is next to impossible to get here.

I broke the only tooth brush I had this morning. I think I have an old one in my locker, but that isn't here yet. You can send me a couple of those too. It will probably be a couple of months before I get them then. I think I will write to Sara and Papa tonight. I haven't wrote to them since I arrived here. What did he do about the wheat crop. Has he ever said any more about your coming up there. I know that if you did it would be a great comfort and lots of company while Sara is gone. Write often.

Lots of Love Junior & Daddy

postmarked US Army Postal Service A.P.O. Oct 21, 1942

V MAIL Oct. 28, 1942

My Dear Georgia,

I received a letter from you yesterday. It was more or less of a record as it was the first letter to be received in the Co. However a few more did come in today. It was all v mail. That is much faster than the regular mail. Maybe now that the mail has started to arrive there will be a letter for me more often. I certainly hope so as I'm anxious to hear from you as often as possible.

How is my little man? Tell him that I often think of him and wish I could see him. Wish you could see this place at night. There is no moon now until late at night and it is as dark as pitch everywhere.

Quite a few of the officers and men have been on a tour of a famous old college near here. They all report it as being very interesting. I think I shall go at the next opportunity.

I shall be looking for a letter again pretty soon. Write often and tell me the goings on. Incidentally I'm well and all right.

Junior & Daddy

postmarked Nov 6, 1942, New York, NY

Tuesday nite Oct 29

Dear Georgia & Georgie Boy

I received my first letter from you today. I am the only man in the Co. who has \_\_\_\_\_ in fact there have only been \_\_\_\_\_ few in the Regiment so far. How did you find out about the V letters. They are the kind we use here when we can get them. You should have received one or two from me by now.

I was surely glad to hear from you. I have read it several times today. We took a fifteen mile hike today and feel like it too tonight. I haven't any blisters, but think that in a little bit longer one I would have. The officers are attending a school now, five nights a week. It lasts about an hour and a half. We have had two nights so far, both very interesting.

You write that you have had lots of rain. Yesterday it rained here and hard too.

I am sorry to hear that papa is so far behind in getting in his wheat. I know it must be uphill business with him.

The farmers here are seeding wheat too. You should see the women driving tractors. I saw two today and they were handling them just as good as men.

I would like to see you all. I often think of you and the boy. Tell him Daddy of- ten thinks of him and wonders what he is doing. Do you remember what happened the 17th of next month four years ago. I was thinking of it today. We haven't had much time together have we? Maybe it won't be like this always.

Tommy is away now. He is attending a school for 1 week. I surely miss him. I'll write to you again when I can get another V mail blank. They are much faster than the ordinary letter.

Lots of Love Junior & Daddy

P.S. Don't forget to put my serial no. on my letters 0-334926

postmarked US Army Postal Service Oct 29 1942

V MAIL Nov. 4, 1942

Dearest Georgia,

I have certainly had quite a lot of mail the last day or two. I received all the letters you wrote me at Hilmir and 3 v mail letters.

You must have received some mail from me by now. You will probably get yours as I did mine. All at one time.

I am well except for a slight cold and two or three blisters on my feet. I think I'll get a bicycle and ride like the English do. You know "When in Rome do as the Romans do. I know Georgie would have a time over here with his tricycle. He would probably get run over in the rush. I wish you could see some of these little kiddies riding on the back of their mother's bicycles. I have seen children who could not have been more than 18 months old sitting in a little box not larger than a shoe box on the back of the bicycle and riding along as contented as you please.

We actually had some tomato juice for breakfast this morning. I don't know whether it was Phillips' or not but that was the first thing I thought of. Write and tell me the news.

Lots of Love, Junior & Daddy

*This letter was received twice, once postmarked Nov 19 in NY and one post- marked Nov 24 in NY. Each V Mail has a number on it and is stamped with a censor's stamp.*

Somewhere in England Friday night Nov 6

Dearest Georgia and Georgie Boy:

How are you tonight? Well and hearty I hope. I miss you both more than I can say. However we are kept so busy that I have little time for day-dreaming. I am sure that is a good thing as we don't have a chance to think of much else. However when the days work is over I often think of all of you and wonder how you are and what you are doing.

I am pretty tired tonight. We went on a hike today. I still have my blisters.

Some are better and I accumulated another one or two today.

Each Co. in the regiment has organized football, soccer and softball teams. We have one hour of each day for playing these games.

I think I shall send home some money tomorrow. I am undecided whether to cable it or buy a bond and have it sent to you. We can do either one. I certainly don't have much need for it here, or haven't yet at least.

I haven't received a letter now for three or four days, but that is to be expected.

We certainly won't get mail as often as we did in the U.S.

Honey don't send me a lot of things that I can get here. I know you want to, but I can get everything I need right here and it just means a lot of unnecessary trouble for you.

Are you going up home? You wrote me that Papa had asked you to. I think I know how you feel about it, but I know it would be a great thing for Papa to have you and Georgie there.

Does my little man ever ask for me. Don't let him forget me. Tell him daddy is way over the water. I suppose Santa Claus is going to bring him a big red wagon for Xmas isn't he? Tell him Daddy hopes to be home by next Xmas to help fill his stocking, and that if he isn't a good boy Santa Claus will put a switch in his stocking. I can see him now when you take him in town and he sees all the Christmas toys in the stores. Do you remember what a time we had with him last year. And that old train I'll bet I put that track together at least a thousand times.

I am well except for a cough and cold, but nearly everyone has that now. Its just a matter of getting used to this climate and weather.

You should see the babies over here. I think most of the women have at least one or two. We came thru a small town near here today about four oclock. I never saw as many baby carriages and babies in my life. It was nothing to see a carriage with two in it.

I was thinking today that gunning season opens there tomorrow. I certainly will miss that especially all those wild ducks I used to kill down by Aunt Hesters. How about it? I suppose Johnny is all ready for it.

I have intended writing to Johnny & Liz, but haven't got around to it yet as well as a lot of others I should write to. I'll just have to do it soon that is certain.

Write when you. Kiss the boy for me

Lots of Love Junior & Daddy

*The following was written on the envelope to Army personnel who would check outgoing mail: In Oct I received a letter from you stating that my allotment would be changed from 100. to 208.67 per month and that it might be necessary to send two checks. I received the first check of 100. the 2nd of Nov. but as yet have not received the other \$108.67. I would like for you to look into this matter for me at once as I am in need of the money. Thanking you.*

V MAIL Nov. 12 1942

Dear Georgia,

I have received the photograph you mailed me. They are certainly good especially the one of Georgie standing in front of the corn shock. He looks like he was mad over something. Why didn't you send one of yourself?

I am well except for a cold and my throat is a bit sore tonight. I got some lozenges for my throat this morning and don't know which is the worst the sore throat or the lozenges.

We observed Armistice Day yesterday by having two minutes silence at 11 o'clock. Did they have another parade in Cambridge. I thought about the ones we had in the past.

How is the boy making out with his new boots? I suppose he will be over the tops of them whenever he can find enough water to wade in. At least that is what I usually did.

How is Papa and everyone? Tell them all I asked for them and am going to write soon. Sorry to hear about Jean but maybe it will be best anyway. I shall expect another letter tomorrow or next day. With all my Love

Junior & Daddy

postmarked Nov 21 1942 New York, NY

15 Nov. 1942

Dear Georgia & George Nabb 3 times,

Today is Sunday. We have not been too busy today. Some drill this morning and athletics this afternoon. I played softball and got beat at it too.

We had rather distinguished guests for dinner today. The Lord Mayor Salisbury and his wife. You remember the sesqui-centennial celebration at

Salisbury Md. don't you? Well this man was there for the celebration. He came over to this camp especially to see the men in Co I which is from Salisbury. He still remembered the names of the people there. He, his wife and daughter stayed for dinner and both he and she spoke for a few minutes afterwards. It was very interesting, especially his description of the Eastern Shore. A news correspondent was there and several pictures were taken so you may see some of them in the papers a week or two from now.

We are to go on a hike tomorrow and I have just been fixing up some of my old blisters with adhesive tape.

I wrote to Sara and to Johnny & Liz this morning. Should have done so long ago. I haven't had a letter from you now for nearly a week. Probably I'll get one tomorrow. I hope that by now you have heard from me as I know you are anxious to do so.

My cold is better, but still have some and a cough yet.

I hope you are all well. I often think of Georgie and the way he has the croup. Surely hope he doesn't have it this winter. Didn't we have a time with him last winter? Can't think of much else to tell you except I love you and miss you all very much. Don't worry about me. After all there are lots worse places than this and it won't last forever. Looks as though it may have reached the turning point now.

Lots of Love, Junior & Daddy

P.S. Did you get the cablegram?  
postmarked Nov 17 1942

21 Nov 1942

Dear Georgia & Georgie Boy!

Have you received my cable yet? I got it off on the 13th so that you would be sure to get it by the 17th and lo and behold on the 19th I get a notice that there was something wrong with the address. I had it changed and I suppose you will get it about the 25th It usually takes about 4 days for one to get.

Write and let me know if you are receiving the new allotment. It is being deducted from my pay and I want to know if you are getting it.

The Xmas packages started coming in today. Or not Xmas packages especially, but the first packages the men have received since they left. I haven't received any yet but I think I'll keep all mine and open them Xmas morning like a little boy. I'll have the fun of guessing what is in them you know.

Tommy received a box of candy today from a girl friend in Ga. Surely was good!

I am much better of my cough but still have some cold. I was talking with the dentist tonight. I think I'm going to have that wisdom tooth of mine pulled. It doesn't hurt, but once in a while I bite my jaw with it. He says that they are either very hard or else very easy to pull. I'm hoping this is an easy one.

I went to see a prize fight last night. It was the first night I have been away from here. The fights were all good, but quite a bit different from the American ones.

I have changed my living quarters now. I'm living in another building much closer to the Co. This time I'm in a room with Lt. Bowe who is in command of C Co.

Have you ever seen Francis Johnson? I suppose he will never leave the States. I often think of Hooper and wonder where he is. I have another orderly and not a bad one, but I'll never get another Hooper. This boy lives around Salisbury Md. Hayward is his name.

You wrote that Papa was sick again. I hope he is better by this time. He certainly should have someone with him. I don't know what you will decide to do, but I don't believe you would be so lonesome up there as you think. You would have your little man and I know his being there would mean much to Papa. It does look as though some of the others might stay from time to time at least. I have certainly wrote quite a lot tonight. I will expect a letter from you tomorrow. Write often and, Here's Hoping you a Happy Thanksgiving.

Love to all, Junior & Daddy

P.S. Hello there George Nabb 3rd. How's tricks?  
postmarked Nov 21 1942



Nov 21, 1942

Dear Georgia &amp; Georgie Boy:

How do you like the way this pencil writes. I just received it today in a box. Yes I got your box today, but I didn't wait until Xmas to open it. I was too curious to see what was in it. I can use everything in it except the pocket book. I have just bought a new English one. The English money is much larger than our own and the bills just won't fit in the one I had. I'll put this one away and use it when I get back home.

Tell Georgie Boy the handkerchiefs come in fine. I had to buy some just the other day. We have books with coupons in them and we can get anything we need. Don't send any more soap for awhile. I have built up a surplus of that, I think I have close to a dozen cakes and that ought to last a long time

Tell Sara the sewing kit came just in time. I lost two buttons off my short over-coat yesterday and will try it out tonight or tomorrow. I already had one of these that the Red Cross gave us, but not as good as the one she sent.

I also received the letter you wrote on the 15th of October today. The one in which you wrote about Johnny having to pay his fine. I don't understand why it was so long in coming. I surely hope he has learned something from his experience.

I also received Xmas cards from your mother and father, from Ramona Lee and Aunt Maud & Uncle Eddie. I think this is the first time I ever read Xmas cards before Thanksgiving.

There has been quite a bit of mail coming in today, package after package. Some large and some small but packages from home none the less. You have no idea how much a letter or a small insignificant package means to the men. Even though the package contains something that they can buy here anywhere, still the fact that it comes from home means much to them.

Well we finally lost out in athletics. C Co beat us today 2 to 0. We were handicapped by having one of our best players sick in the Hospital.

Did I tell you in my last letter that I had been over to Churchill Hospital. I have four or five men in there. One of them has pneumonia but that nowadays is nothing to be worried about. They are in most cases up and around again in about two weeks. There seems to be a mild epidemic of colds and sore throats going around. Thank goodness I'm better of mine.

How are all the folks at home? Is Bill still sparking the little Marshall girl? Tell him he will soon have to dig down and buy her a Xmas present and that it would be a good idea if he bought her mother one too just to keep on the good side of her. Too bad about old Mr. Marshall. He had certainly been around Aireys a long time.

I have a little work to do now so will close and write again soon. Send me some more photos of you and the boy and everybody else. Lots of Love.

Junior &amp; Daddy

28 November 1942

Dearest Georgia:

I wrote to you last night, but received your letter of the 14th of Nov. so thought I had better write again tonight. About the check this month you should have gotten it along with the other one. This is it should have all been in one check,

\$208.00 or there about. I received a notice from the Treasury Dept one day this week notifying me that the change had been made effective the 1st of October; which means you should have gotten the full amount in the last check you received. I shall wait for another letter two from you and if I don't hear that you have received it I will start investigating it from this end in the meantime you write a letter to the address in Washington that I will put at the end of this letter explaining the matter. It would probably be done quicker that way but I will do the same from this end. Maybe between the two we will get it straightened out. In the meantime I'm going to cable you some money within a few days. I won't need it and don't want to take it around with me. In the letter before this I told you to buy a wrist watch with some of it, but you use it as you see fit to buy your coat or stove or whatever you want.

This last letter I received is the only one of which I have received so far that you said you were going up home so you get a pretty fair idea of how

we are getting them. I suppose you receive mine the same way. I'm sending you, Sara, your mother and Papa some Irish linen handkerchiefs. That is if I can get them. They should be pretty nice. They certainly cost enough, but so does everything one buys over here.

The picture of the boy is cute, but why don't you send me one of yourself. Have you received the cablegram I sent you on our wedding anniversary yet?

I received a Xmas card from Edward Johnson and his wife today. How is Harry Smith getting along? I certainly hope he gets completely well of his hurt.

Don't worry about me keeping warm. I have plenty of heavy clothes, under-wear and everything I need. I think I shall go in town one day this coming week and get a raincoat and maybe a pair of shoes. I understand the rain coats cost about 7 or 8 pounds that is about 25 or 30 dollars in American money. I'm finally getting so I can count it. Write soon and often.

Lots of Love Junior &amp; Daddy

30 November 1942

My Dearest Georgia,

Well I hit the jackpot today. I received five letters from you, three were v mail and two air-mail. They were the ones you wrote about the 8th and 9th of November and were the first ones in which you said you had heard from me. I suppose you and Georgie had a time over that first letter.

So he was out in the field counting turnips was he? He should be over here. I never saw as many turnips and as large ones in my life. The farmers use a great many of them to feed to their cows.

Well today was pay day. It is nearly eleven o'clock pm and we have just finished paying off. I was also paid today. I drew around \$75.00 this month. I don't know how much yet I'll cable or mail to you but it will be less than \$100.00 as I have got to keep some to run me thru the month. I certainly hope you get the other check, but if you don't be sure to write about it. You may get both months' allowance in the next one, but write anyway, and be sure to let me know whether or not you do get it.

We rigged up a tin can with a hole in the top tonight for contributions to the English children around here. The purpose of it is to more or less play Santa Claus to them. They are kept in many instances in nurseries where one or two women look after them during the day and they see their mothers only at night. The people in America don't realize how fortunate they are. I know this. When I get back home I'll have a greater appreciation of what America means and our way of living. Oh yes the collection tonight totaled about \$40.00 from our Co. so Tommy said. He went in to London over the weekend. Talks like he had a big time, but he always has one wherever he goes.

You should see me riding a bicycle around here. Several of the men in the Co. have bought them and I use them occasionally. You know I never rode a bicycle much anyway and these English ones are a bit difficult to ride, compared with ours. They have the brakes on the handlebars - like a motorcycle. And the enlisted men take a peculiar delight in saluting an officer when he is riding a bicycle. The first time I tried to return a salute I almost fell off, but I'm getting a little better at it now. I'll soon be able to ride without my hands on the handlebars at all. Maybe.

Tell Georgie that its about time he started ironing his own clothes. You have certainly ironed your share of them.

I'm sorry to hear that Harry Smith is not getting along so well. I am going to write to them sometime soon. Will close with Lots of Love

Junior &amp; Daddy

postmarked Dec 8 1942

2 December 1942

My Dear Georgia &amp; Georgie Boy!

How are you tonight? Well and happy I hope. I received the box with the candy, cakes and marmalade in it today. I don't know what I'll do with the Jelly? Probably give it to some English children.

I am mailing you a money order for \$50.00 for Xmas. Use it any way you



want. The only trouble is that you probably won't get it until after Xmas, unless the mail happens to be faster than usual. Have you received your check yet.

How is Sambo? I bet his feet and fingers get cold these days. Does he still go wading with his boots? Tell him he can put on the pair I sent home.

I don't know of much that might interest you. I have written three times this week and have told you about all there is to tell.

Was that old Mr. Frank Vincent or Frances his son that died recently.

Love to all Junior & Daddy

5 November 1942  
(LIKELY WAS DECEMBER)

Dear Georgia and Georgie Boy:

I received your letter of the 20th Nov. today telling of receiving the cablegram. It was a little late wasn't it? The pictures were certainly cute. I have quite a collection of them now, about 7 or 8 I think.

It is pretty cold here tonight. The wind is blowing too. This is Saturday night. Most of the officers have gone out. I am Officer of the Day and I am setting here in our little room by my little coal stove as snug as a bug in a rug. We are going to move our quarters again and I'm afraid the ones we are going to won't be as comfortable as these. I understand that the winter starts over here around the last of December and lasts up through January and February. For the most part the weather here is pretty dismal, rainy and damp.

I hope you get the money order o.k. Have you received the other check yet? You didn't say anything about it in your letter.

What is Sambo doing tonight? I suppose he is so busy all day that at night he is ready for bed. Do you remember what a time we used to have with him down in Georgia last winter. He certainly was a card.

It will probably be close to Xmas when you get this, as I'm sure the mails everywhere are more or less tied up at this season of the year.

Of one thing I'm thankful, we are not getting so much tea to drink as we were. I don't believe I will ever learn to drink that. I do coffee. Do you know what I would like to have for my breakfast in the morning? Buckwheat cakes and some good country sausage. I was just thinking that this is about the time of year that Papa usually kills hogs.

It was just a year ago tonight that Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. We were on our way back to Fort Meade from the Carolina Maneuvers. Honey I will soon have been in service two years. A long time isn't it? I only hope that it will be over sooner than we expect. It looks as though it may be some time yet before it is settled. So keep a stiff upper lip. It can't last forever and when it is over we will make up for what we have lost.

You are certainly not getting a whole lot of gas are you? First thing you know people will be riding bicycles over there like they do here.

Tell Georgie Boy to feed Joe Boy and Sally good and Daddy will ride him on them when he comes home.

Lots of Love Junior & Daddy

Dec 9 1942

Dear Georgia,

How are you and my little man tonight? Well I hope and I expect by the time you receive this all ready for Xmas or else it is over. I do certainly wish you and everyone else a happy Xmas and only wish I could be there to share it with you and our little man. Tell Santa Claus to bring him a red wagon. What happened to his other one, the one he got last Xmas? Do you remember what a time we had trimming the tree with him last year? Are you going to have a tree for him this year?

I would certainly have liked to have been there and had some of that rabbit you wrote about. They have rabbits over here and big ones too, but they don't shoot them. The rabbits burrow in holes in the ground like rats. Then a man comes along with a ferret and puts him in the burrow. If there are any rabbits in there the ferret stays in, if not he comes out. As soon as the man is certain there are rabbits in the hole he digs them out. He has some fast dogs called whippets which run the rabbits down and kill them when they come out. Quite different from the way we hunt them isn't it?

We have moved to different quarters. They are just about the same as before. We have a fireplace for heat but it is like all other fireplaces. Nice to look at, but a good thing to freeze by.

It hasn't been real cold here yet. Several mornings we had some heavy frosts and some ice, but it has been warmer for the last day or two. still damp and wet though as usual.

I received the other pictures of Georgie in your last letter, but haven't received any mail now for several days. I can't tell you how much these letters mean, just your mentioning those little every day happenings make you seem closer.

Honey they are still feeding us mutton. We had it for two meals today. I'm like one of the enlisted men who said that he didn't like the stuff but that "mutton was better than nutten". I'm glad to hear that your mother is getting a good price for her turkeys. She certainly deserves it the way she works over them.

I don't know whether I have told you before or not, but I received the cigarettes you sent about a week ago. I have quite a supply of them now - five cartons I think.

Do you ever hear from Stella? Grat tells me that the baby weighs 14 lbs now. It must surely have done some growing since I last saw it. I'm getting sleepy so will close. Write often. Lots of Love.

Junior & Daddy

P.S. (to George 3rd) How is tricks?

December 11, 1942

My Dear Georgia & Georgie:

I received two letters from you today, the first in quite a while. They were the ones you wrote on the 21 and 22 of November. I also received one from Fanny.

Yes I know about Fanny being pregnant. Boob told me about a week ago that she was going to stop work. I asked him why and he told me that he thought I was soon going to become an uncle. She wrote that she had only received two letters from him since he has been here. From what she writes Carol Ann must be getting quite a big girl now. Says she is beginning to grow some hair. She is something like Georgie was. He was certainly a long time in starting some wasn't he.

You wrote that you thought you saw my picture in the paper. It might have been with the ones that were taken at the time the Lord Mayor of Salisbury visited us. I was in several that day.

Maurice Clift is in the Hospital with pneumonia I understand. At any rate he is in the Hospital. I'm not certain about the pneumonia. You know how rumors are. Don't say anything to Pauline about it as it would only cause them to worry if they don't already know about it.

This weather is surely not the kind that encourages good health, especially when you are not used to it. I believe it has rained every day or night for the last week. Today it has rained off and on all day long.

I'm glad to hear that Papa is getting his corn out all right. Maybe he will be through by Xmas. I remember the last year I was home we finished husking on Xmas Eve.

How is Monie coming along? Has she got another dog yet. Tell her I see lots of little black dogs over here, but no three legged ones.

Do you know what happened today? I received the same v mail letter from you that I received about two weeks ago. It was the one in which you told about having rabbit for supper. I guess they must have gotten mixed up somehow when the photo of them was taken.

I went to see a movie here last night. "Wild Geese Calling" Henry Fonda & Joan Bennett starred in it. It was a pretty good show. I believe it was the first one I've seen since last spring. Do you go often? I suppose Sambo will soon be wanting to go see Mickey Mouse & Porky Pig won't he? That is if he can keep still long enough.

I would surely like to see all of you, but will have to forego the pleasure unless you decide to come over. I'm well and safe so don't worry. I hope I get the pictures of you & George before Xmas. Will close. Lots of Love.

Junior & Daddy

V MAIL 18 December 1942

My Dear Georgia

I haven't received a letter now for several days. I had been receiving them so regularly for a while that I looked for one every day.

How are you and my little man? All ready for Xmas I suppose. It is just a week off. I hope you have an enjoyable one. I wish I could be with you.

I think the greater part of the battalion will have thirty-six hour passes. It is planned to go to London.

I am writing this in Tommy Wilson's room. He says that you have forgotten me, that is why you don't write.

How is every one at home? Have you ever received the check for the allotment? Write and let me know so that I can get the matter straightened out.

Have you and Georgie been in town Xmas shopping yet? I'll bet he has a time in the stores. He surely had one last year didn't he?

I am well except for a slight cold. The weather here is just about the same as always. Write soon. Lots of Love

Junior &amp; Daddy

Saturday night December 19, 1942

My Dearest Georgia,

I received your letter or letters today that were written about the 1st of December. In fact there were four of them. They were the ones in which you wrote of seeing my picture in the papers. I don't think that was myself in the movies since I don't remember any taking any pictures, but then there are newspaper correspondents with us all the time. We had one to stay in the Co. for two days this last week. He is going to write an article about the men in the Co. how they live, eat and etc. That was pretty good about June seeing Leve's picture or what she thought was his picture in the paper. It is possible that it was him of course, but if she can tell him back too she must be an expert.

Five hundred men from this Bre. are to get a trip to London on the 24th (Xmas Eve) for thirty-six hours. We go up by train and stay at a Red Cross Building of some sort there. I think I shall go as I'm anxious to see what London looks like especially the parts of it that have been bombed. Do you know that I have been over here nearly two and a half months and haven't had even an hour off during that time to go any here. However, it is my own fault since we are allowed 24 hour passes over the weekends. That is 25% of the number in the command are. I'm going to take mine off the next weekend that comes up and sleep it out I think as I don't know of any place near here where one can go. If you go in the towns, the stores all close around nine o'clock and there are very few busses or other means of transportation available.

By the way Boob was telling me that Leve was going to become a father again in the not too distant future. Is that so? You never did tell me whether or not Sambo is going to have a little sister. I hope not, with me so far away. Maybe that will happen when I get home.

Somebody is either doing some premature talking or bragging about promotions back there. I saw in the paper where Leve was a Capt and you wrote that Moses Moore was one. Well they are both still 1st Lts. and don't let anyone tell you differently yet a bit. As for my promotion I don't know. There are quite a few who are in line for one, but they are almighty slow in coming. I'm not losing any sleep over it though as I'm look forward to the day when this war is over and I can get back, however I will take anything that comes my way.

You should have received the money order I sent you by now. I certainly hope you receive it by Xmas. I hope they will soon get that allotment straightened out. Write and let me know. I'm glad to hear that Papa is pretty well through husking corn. Tommy received a letter from home today say-

ing that they had some snow there. Over here it is just rainy and cold day after day. The sun has shone about 4 or five hours this whole week long. My cold gets better one day and I catch more the next. I've had very little trouble with my nose since I've been here. Once or twice since it has hurt some, but I took some aspirin and it soon left. Maybe it's because I don't have you to rub it for me.

I'm glad to hear that Harry Smith is getting along so well. I'm going to write to them, but somehow or other I've neglected doing so.

Tell George that's right don't let Martin get any sleep. Tell him to pull Martins old black wooly hair for me. Is he still afraid of Aunt Hester? He should be getting over that now. You tell him I say for him to keep your wood box filled up when he gets his red wagon.

I saw in the paper today where the sale of gas in the Eastern US has been stopped indefinitely. That will be pretty tough won't it. You will have to get out the saddle and start going horseback. Give my love to all. Write often and keep smiling. Lots of Love your own.

Junior &amp; Daddy

postmarked Dec 21, 1942

25 December 1942

My Dear Georgia &amp; Georgie Boy:

How are you tonight? Well I hope, and I trust that you have had an enjoyable Xmas. I only wish that I might have been there to share it with you both. Did George get his big red wagon?

I have just gotten back from London. There were about five hundred of us, officers and enlisted men who took the trip. We left here around 8:30 yesterday morning on the train and reached there about 10:30. We all stayed at hotels that are operated by the Red Cross. I had expected to see a pretty dull Xmas compared to what ours is, but I had no idea that it would be as drab and dull as it was. I didn't see a single Xmas decoration except in the Red Cross establishments. No bright lights, no children with new toys, no merry making except what our boys did. You would never know that it was Xmas. To these people it seems to be just another day. A great part of this is due to the war I think. Tommy, Lt. Ligon and I went to church services at Westminster Abbey this morning. It is without question the most beautiful place that I was ever inside of. We also saw Big Ben, The Houses of Parliament and Buckingham Palace.

Honey London is so large that words fail to describe its size. I only saw a small part of it, but everywhere we went there were burned building. Some without a roof, others with the sides blown off by bombs. It must certainly have been terrible there during the raids. They haven't had one now for more than a year I think. We saw Major Hopkins at the officers club yesterday. I don't think he is satisfied with his job there. He has asked to come back.

We had dinner at the Officers club today. We had mushroom soup, turkey, mashed potatoes, green peas, dressing, plum pudding, coffee and date salad. A real good dinner and it only cost us 4 shillings which is about 80 cents in American money. I've reached the point now where I have stopped thinking in terms of American money.

Have you received the money order yet. I hope you got it before Xmas especially if you haven't received the other checks. I don't understand why they are so long in coming. I haven't received a letter now for two or three days. They seem to come in piles. Leve was telling me about June and writing about the picture you wrote of.

I am going to bed now as I'm pretty tired. I'll bet I've walked 10 miles in the last two days. I wish I could see you both tonight. Thank Mr. & Mrs. Pattison & Emily for the Xmas cards they sent me. Write often.

Lots of Love Junior &amp; Daddy

postmarked Dec 28 1942

*To be continued.*

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

# "Keep Faith with Your Helpless Brother"

## Maryland in the Meuse-Argonne Part II

By Alexander A. Falbo-Wild

By 1 October 1918, the U.S. First Army's offensive into the Meuse-Argonne had stalled. Several factors contributed. First, both supply and communication logistics completely broke down. The unpaved French road networks in the area simply couldn't cope with the volume of traffic generated by the operation.

Although A.E.F. planning staffs brilliantly arranged the preparations for the offensive, they were overwhelmed in maintaining and coordinating its momentum. Second, fresh troops were required to resume the offensive.

The previous week's combat marked the baptism of fire for many of the spearhead formations. For others, it was the fiercest fighting they witnessed thus far. All were exhausted.

Some units like the 308th Infantry (the famed 'lost battalion' of the 77th Division) became cut-off and isolated for several days. The 35th Division effectively destroyed itself achieving its objectives. And of the 415 Allied tanks which began the attack, only 94 remained.<sup>1</sup>

Finally, enemy resistance had become evermore resolute. This was a particular problem on the offensive's flanks. The two years of relative inactivity in the Verdun sector served the Germans well in choosing their defenses.

Ensnared in camouflaged three-story tree houses on elevated ground surrounded by deep trenches and machine-guns nests, German artillery observation rained steel from the east and west on the First Army. Two assaults were planned to deal with the situation.

The U.S. V Corps would carry the western hills of the Meuse-Argonne on October 7. On October 8, the U.S. 33rd and 29th divisions under the French XVII Corps would take the eastern heights. Three French divisions would work in tandem in the east. The 29th's geographical objective was the Bois de Consevoye north of the village of Brabant, and then the consolidation of the entire area by reaching the Bois de la Grande Montagne.

After a night march to the start line on the eve of the 7th, the 29th Division's 58th Brigade (consisting of the 115th and 116th infantry regiments) was in position to lead the assault the next morning. The 57th Brigade (113th and 114th infantry regiments) would leap frog ahead within 24 hours.<sup>2</sup>

At 0500hrs on 8 October 1918, "the tension of many hours was broken, and the men lighting their cigarettes as they went, advanced under cover of their protecting artillery fire, toward the enemy's first line."<sup>3</sup> After crossing the Meuse River over pontoon bridges erected by French engineers, the 58th Brigade captured the

ruins of Brabant by noon. The formation was then to establish itself in the Bois de Consevoye by nightfall where the 57th Brigade would pass through them and continue the attack. If all went well, the German guns would be silenced within 24 to 48 hours and the First Army could boldly maneuver once more.

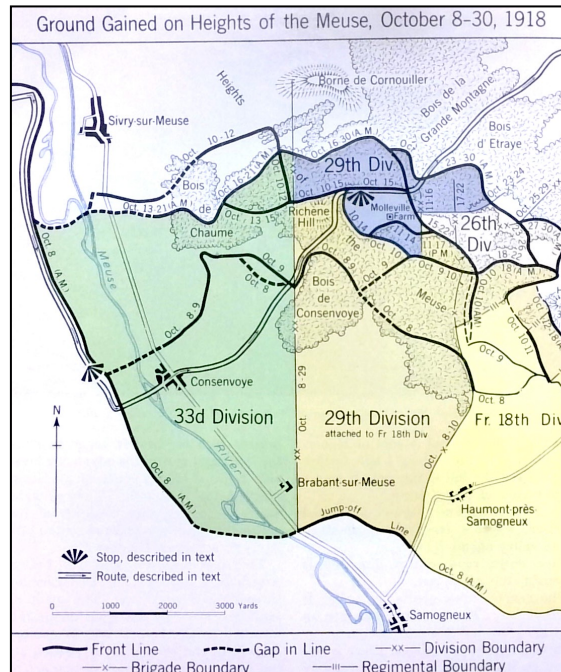
Meanwhile, Ambulance Company 113 set up its lines of communication to treat the wounded.<sup>4</sup> Upon arriving in the town of Samagneux astride the eastern bank of the Meuse, the 113th's commanding officer, Captain Anderson, issued the following report to the 29th Division surgeon, Colonel J.B. Huggins...

*"Pursuant to order received from the director of ambulance companies, this company proceeded from Glorieux to Charny at 7am, October 8, 1918, and there established headquarters: kitchen, automobile park and repair shop. The Dressing Station party and litter-bearers then advanced to Samagneux and established at 8:10am a Dressing Station, and immediately started the evacuation of the wounded to the hospital at Glorieux."*<sup>5</sup>

Anderson and his men saw evidence of reinforced subterranean life everywhere in Samagneux. Hustling to and fro from sandbagged dugouts and shelters of corrugated steel were aide-men carrying the wounded with their respirators positioned at the ready upon their chests. Helmeted engineers urgently mended shell-holed roads nearby. And bewildered prisoners in mud-caked field grey were

accompanied by pensive military policemen with fixed bayonets. However, there was little sign of the town itself. A 113th driver paused a fellow of his unit to ask for directions to Samagneux, only to be told... "You are in it now."<sup>6</sup> It took several days for another to finally realize that Samagneux was once a town. For it was utterly "obliterated" apart from the cornerstone of what was the Catholic church of St. Nicholas parish.<sup>7</sup>

Roughly two miles down the road stood Chalk Cliff Dressing Station dug into the side of a 30-foot tall embankment on the east bank of the Meuse. Following closely in the wake of 58th Brigade's advance, the 113th discovered that Chalk Cliff was the best of a bad situation. "A prime requisite to be considered when choosing a Dressing Station location" wrote Robinson, "is protection, as far as is possible, from direct rifle or machine-gun fire, and suitable means of access for ambulances."<sup>8</sup> This had to be balanced with the necessity of maintaining pace with the leading infantry elements in the attack. As such, the 113th and the casualties in their care routinely dealt with German artillery rounds of both explosive and chemical varieties. Formerly a German position, the area was further endan-



Map courtesy of American Armies and Battlefields in Europe (1938).



gered by scores of 'potato-masher' styled hand grenades, many of which were booby trapped to rolls of barbed wire and water-pumps left behind. A similar situation was found in Brabant as the 113th moved up on the 9th.

Under these conditions, the 113th labored, carrying the wounded back either on foot or cart to be shuttled away by canvas covered Ford Model-T's to the field hospital at Glorieux. The 29th Division's casualties mounted steadily. By October 10, the battle for the Meuse-Argonne Heights greatly intensified. Although the initial phase went smoothly and the counter-attack on the 9th was thwarted, the Austro-German resistance calcified the deeper the 29th Division entered the woods of the Bois de Consenvoye. It also had trouble keeping pace with the 33rd Division on its left. The battered but competent 1st Austrian Infantry Division held the bulk of the heights and was soon receiving reinforcements and relief from the German 228th Infantry Division. Neighboring formations also contained elite shock troop battalions determined to hold their ground. By October 12, both the 29th Division's brigades were thrown into the cauldron with losses exceeding 1,000 men.<sup>9</sup>

The burden of the medic, especially in modern war, can be difficult to overemphasize. Their exposure to danger was typically never accompanied by the rush of vanquishing an enemy occupied entrenchment or regrouping with comrades for a renewed attack. Their mission brought them as close as possible with war's cost. Facing their fear of entering 'Hell's Half Acre' unarmed was less of a challenge to some who were more concerned with the fear of keeping their wits at their first glimpse of torn flesh.

The 29th Division would be engaged for another two weeks in the battle of the Argonne. However, it was ultimately successful in taking most of the heights by October 12. Although the price had been high with over 3,000 men lost in the period of October 7-22, the price would have been higher without the dedication and fortitude of men like Ambulance Company 113. They honored their captain's words and had kept faith in their helpless brothers.

#### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> American Battle Monuments Commission, *American Armies and Battlefields in Europe*, CMH Pub: 23-24 (Washington, D.C.: Center of Military History, U.S. Army, 1992), 175.

<sup>2</sup> James S. Price, "Storming the Heights of the Meuse: The 29th and 33d Divisions Fight for Control of the High Ground, 8-16 October," in *The Companion to the Meuse-Argonne*, ed. Edward G. Lengel (Chichester, UK: Wiley-Blackwell, 2014), 122-23.

<sup>3</sup> John A. Cutchins, *History of the Twenty-Ninth Division "Blue and Gray" 1917-1919* (Philadelphia: MacCalla and Co. Inc., 1921), 148.

<sup>4</sup> Cutchins, 145, 148.

<sup>5</sup> Robinson, *Ambulance Company 113*, 110.

<sup>6</sup> Robinson, 112, 114.

<sup>7</sup> American Battle Monuments Commission, *American Armies and Battlefields*, 312; "St. Nicholas Center," accessed March 8, 2019, <https://www.stnicholascenter.org/galleries/gazetteer/5626/>.

<sup>8</sup> Robinson, *Ambulance Company 113*, 110.

<sup>9</sup> U.S. Army, *German Documents to Accompany Operations of the 29th Division* (Ft. Monroe, Va: Printing Plant Coast Artillery School, 1922), 455; U.S. Army, *Operations of the 29th Division East of the Meuse River: October 8th to 30th, 1918* (Ft. Monroe, Va: Printing Plant Coast Artillery School, 1922), 8.

#### BOOK REVIEW:

## U.S.S. CYCLOPS

by Marvin W. Barrash

*The only complete history of the ship  
from conception to disappearance.*

From the day it was realized that the U.S.S. Cyclops would never arrive at her destination, much attention has been drawn to the subject of this colossal collier. Many have been curious because of the mystery surrounding her disappearance in the area known as the Bermuda Triangle. Others are interested in naval history and some because of a family connection to a member of her crew.

This study provides an objective look at the U.S.S. Cyclops; escorting readers through the multitude of stacks of documentation of this yet-to-be solved case. Conflicting points of view are presented. That is especially the case with the story about the Cyclops' only commanding officer, George W. Worley. The U.S.S. Cyclops served a vital role in the Navy, in peace as in war.

As a fuel ship the Cyclops did not offer her crews glamorous tours of duty. Being assigned to the U.S.S. Cyclops meant hard work, long days, and the handling of thousands of tons of coal. Most days on board the U.S.S. Cyclops have been accounted for within these pages. Dates on which only negligible activity, such as when clothes washing occurred, have not been included. In a few instances, log book pages for a few dates appear to have been lost.

The Cyclops' logs from January 1, 1918 and later were likely on board the ship when she was lost. Events related to the ship beyond December 31, 1917 have been found in-part with in the log books of other vessels or from other documentation.

Information pertaining to War Risk Insurance and pilgrimages to France are included as they affected surviving family members.

This is as much a finding aid for most information related to the U.S.S. Cyclops as it is a narrative history. As much as possible, each source used in this study has been identified in detail as to permit further research by the reader.

Published by Heritage Books, Inc.

1-800-876-6103

Also available through Amazon.com

**For more information, contact Marvin Barrash at:**  
***cyclops.book@gmail.com***

## 29<sup>th</sup> Division honors their fallen during 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day Invasion

(Continued from page 1)

tery, along with the widow of D-Day veteran and fellow 29er Hal Baumgarten, who inspired the opening sequence of the movie, "Saving Private Ryan."

The cemetery, which includes more than 9,300 burials and honors the more than 1,500 missing in action from the campaign, covers 172.5 acres, according to the American Battle Monuments Commission.

### Last Bedford Boy honored

On June 6, President Donald Trump, in a ceremony at the Normandy American Cemetery, honored all World War II veterans of the campaign, including the last known surviving member of the unit known as the "Bedford Boys."

"Private Pickett, you honor us all with your presence," he said, before shaking Russell Pickett's hand. Pickett, who landed on Omaha Beach with Company A of the 116th Infantry Regiment of the Virginia National Guard, rose out of his wheelchair to salute Trump before sitting back down. The 116th Infantry Regiment was in the first assault wave to hit the beaches—with more than 800 soldiers of the 116th killed, wounded or missing during the assault on Omaha Beach. On June 6, 1944, 19 soldiers from Company A died, many from the town of Bedford, VA.

French President Emmanuel Macron also honored the last remaining World War II Normandy vets, speaking in French, but stopping to break into English, and turn to them, who were behind him in wheelchairs, in a personal tribute.

Other 29th Infantry Division ceremonies included:

- A moving ceremony at the division monument in Saint Clair sur l'elle. The town was the site of a fierce battle where division soldiers took the Le Pont de la Pierre Bridge during the invasion.



Photo by Neil Ungerleider, Post 93

The 29th Division is honored at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. Sgt. Aaron Geisbert, of the 29th Division, and his 14-year-old daughter Kennedy have the honor of ceremonially lighting the eternal flame.



Photo by Neil Ungerleider, Post 93

Major General John Epperly, Commander of the 29th Division and Barbara Cota Bartholin in Isigny-su-Mer, France, liberated by the 175th Regiment in 1944. Bartholin is the granddaughter of Brig. General Norman Cota, one of the highest-ranking officers to land with the 29th Division on D-Day.

- The 116th Infantry Regiment Foundation placed two new memorial plaques at the base of the statue, "Ever Forward," at the foot of the bloody Vierville draw. The plaques, four times larger than the originals, include new World War II veteran's names and sponsors.
- Association members met at the National Guard Memorial at Omaha Beach, and went to the water's edge at low tide along the English Channel, at the exact time in the morning that the division landed on the fiercely contested beach. One retired general remarked, "I can't believe they went 300-400 yards under fire, with little cover, in this low tide."

### Friendship built through war continues after 75 years

VIERVILLE-SUR-MER, France—The horror of war created a friendship for two families that has survived after more than 75 years.

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the D-Day invasion in Normandy, France, Houston businessman Jim Trippon, 57, spent several days last week at Chateau Vierville, an ancient building that his father helped to liberate from the Nazis. Trippon visited Jean-Paul Hausermann, whose family has owned the chateau since 1904, to continue the life-long friendship Jim's father John had with the family.

His father, John Trippon, who died in 2014, was a combat engineer and a technical sergeant in the U.S. First Army's Technical Corps, 6th Engineers Special Brigade, 11 Port of Embarkation unit. On June 6, 1944, he waded ashore with 550 other men in





*Photo by Kevin Dennehy, Post 1-72*

**Omaha Beach at dawn on 6 June 2019, the 75th anniversary of the invasion of France (Operation Overlord).**

the second wave of troops at Omaha Beach aboard a Higgins landing craft. In the first 90 minutes, more than half of the men in the unit were killed.

The water was only supposed to be a few feet deep, but when the elder Trippon stepped off the landing craft, he and his heavy engineering gear and Browning automatic rifle went to the bottom of a 15-foot hole. "He figured it was a short naval round that made the hole," Jim Trippon said.

To help get troops off the beach, John sacrificed his body by throwing himself on barbed wire obstacles so other troops could step on him to get over them. The elder Trippon never talked about this incident, or the battle, and the resulting scars on his stomach.

"He never talked about the war until the 70th anniversary," Jim Trippon said. "All he would ever say about the battle was that he lost a watch given to him during The Great Depression."

After a full day of fighting, which saw thousands of U.S. soldiers killed and wounded, including hundreds in the 29th Infantry Division during the toughest assignment on D-Day, Jim spent the rest of the night in shallow foxholes on top of the bluffs overlooking Omaha Beach. German mortar and artillery shells rained in all night.

The next day, Trippon and his unit fought their way towards the Chateau Vierville, which is on the top of the bluffs overlooking Omaha Beach. The Chateau, occupied by the Germans as a headquarters since 1941, was a formidable obstacle to the advancing soldiers.

"The Germans had kidnapped a French girl, tore her clothes off, and put her in a medieval tower to entice American soldiers (many from the 29th Division). When they would arrive, machine guns would open up on them," Jim Trippon said. "My dad saw what was going on and saw a tank arriving. The

tank wanted directions to nearby Point du Hoc (where the U.S. Army Rangers landed)."

In exchange for directions from Private Trippon, the tank fired shells into the tower, destroying the German machine gun nests, but unfortunately killing the French girl, Trippon said.

After the battle for the chateau, which left scores of men dead and wounded on both sides, Trippon found a dead cow in a nearby field while foraging for food. He made several trips to the dead animal to bring back fresh beef for other soldiers.

The next day, soldiers from the 29th Infantry Division walked through the same field and were killed by mines, a fact Trippon did not know when he made several trips to the dead cow. During the 75th anniversary of D-Day, more than 100 original U.S. Army vehicles from that era were in a re-enactment camp on the field where Germans planted the land mines.

**Hausermann remembers occupation, and the battle**

Hausermann, who was 14 at the time of the invasion and now 90, remembers the landing and the occupying Germans very well. "The commander was a Prussian colonel, who was part of the aristocracy and spoke French. We never saw him again after June 6, he arrived the day before in full dress uniform, warning the family in the chateau to be careful," he said.

Hausermann said that the overall commander of the Normandy defenses, Field Marshall Erwin Rommel, would visit the chateau to inspect the fortifications in the area. "He would sit at the head of the table in the dining room, while the colonel would sit to the side," he said.

Both 29th Division Association and 116th Infantry Regiment Foundation members listened to Hausermann's stories at the chateau during a reception on June 6.

One of the young captains on the colonel's staff was part of the famous Messerschmitt aviation family. "One day, my grandmoth-





*Photo by Kevin Dennehy, Post 1-72*

**Leonard Jindra of Post 94 and young boy at Omaha Beach.**

er asked him if he was a Nazi, which he ignored. He came back a few days later to answer the question and said he was studying at Oxford [University] in England and was ordered to report to the army or the Gestapo would kill one of his family members," Hausermann said.

After the chateau was liberated, fighting continued in the area, including a fierce fight in the small forest behind the house. "Many Americans were killed and wounded there. All seven Germans who defended the woods were killed," Hausermann said.



*Photo by Regina DeCoster*

**From left to right: Jim Trippon, Jean-Paul Hausermann and Kevin Dennehy at the Vierville Chateau. Hausermann and Dennehy point to the Latin inscription on the dining room's fireplace that reads "Pax," which means peace.**

He and his family invited the elder Trippon to visit and stay at the chateau many times over the next 70 years. John Trippon, 92, died months after he returned to Normandy one last time in 2014.

To keep the tradition alive, during the 75th anniversary, Hausermann and his wife, Odette, invited Jim Trippon, his sister and children to stay at the chateau, which has a foundation that dates to the 12th century, to commemorate its liberation.

To honor his father, the younger Trippon spent one night on a vintage World War II cot in the same barn John slept in. "It's a good thing he was out there because like his father, Jim snores loudly," Hausermann said.

*Article by Kevin Dennehy*

*Association Member Kevin Dennehy of Post 1-72 is a retired colonel in the Maryland Army National Guard. He is author of "The D-Day Visitor's Guide."*

## Legion of Honor Recipients

29th Division veterans who have received the Legion of Honor from the Republic of France are encouraged to submit their names for publication in the *Twenty-Niner*.

Please include the following required information:

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](mailto:duster197329@gmail.com)

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



**Diana Jindra and Jay Garrison, Commander of Post 94, after participating in the wreath laying at Saint Clair-sur-Elle.**



## ***Normandy Allies: the Annual Journey***

**From the Landing Beaches to Saint-Lô: July 12-25, 2020**

*Team Leaders: Marsha Smith and LTC Peter Combee, retired  
Historians and Normans who lived through the landings and the liberation  
share their experiences with us.*

Honor and remember in the American Sectors: Omaha Beach, Utah Beach, Pointe du Hoc, Normandy American Military Cemetery & Brittany American Military Cemetery, Graignes, La Fièvre, Sainte-Mère-Eglise & the Airborne Museum, Saint-Lô & bocage areas, LaCambe Cemetery, Chateau Colombières the marshes & the Ritchie Boys, rue Captain Carter, Wall of Remembrance, Trevières... and more....

Explore the British and Canadian sectors: Caen Peace Memorial, Juno Beach, Abbaye d'Ardenne, Canada House, Pegasus Bridge, Arromanches Circular Theater and Mulberry Museum, Longues s/mer Battery, British Cemetery, and more...

Throughout our time in Normandy, we lodge in the charming town of Bayeux with our evenings open to enjoy the culture and cuisine. Excursions to Bayeux Tapestry and Cathedral, Mont St. Michel

***Information Packages and Pricing will be available by October 15, 2019***

Registration Form available online: [www.normandyallies.org](http://www.normandyallies.org)

Registrations accepted: October 15, 2019 – March 20, 2020

Contact:

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

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Donors honor WWII and promote remembrance of Normandy landings**

Normandy Allies donors provided grant for students and teachers participating in *Normandy Allies: From the Landing Beaches to Saint-Lô, July 14-27, 2019*.

Eleven students received grants: Addison Bryson, Pittsford NY; Andrew Denning, Pittsford NY; Nathaniel Gebregziabher, Charlotte NC; Katherine Holding, Needham MA; George Lanham, Bluemont VA; Charles Rothberg, Pittsford NY; Max Rouchard, Mount Airy MD; David Sylvia, Fredericksburg VA; Joseph Thomson, Yorktown VA; Faith Turner, Rochester NY; Matthew Yager, Brighton NY

We thank our donors who supported our students: 29th Division Post 94, Tracy Turner, Gregory Smith, Roberta Miller, Pat Stark, and the bequests of George F. Cook and Stella Wawrynowic.

Seven teachers received grants: Kirt Grochowski, Crystal Lake IL; Nicole Nederlk, Charlotte NC; Sharon Merrifield, Blairstown NJ; Bradley Rice, Arlington Heights IL; Matt Stergios, Missoula MT; John Yager, Brighton NY; Erin Zoltoski, Webster NY

We thank those who have supported these teachers through grants: David & Diane Pennock, the First Division Museum at Cantigny, and the bequest of George F. Cook.

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



# VP Mike Pence attends ceremonies in Bedford, VA, commemorating the 75th anniversary of D-Day

More than 10,000 patriotic and grateful people gathered in Bedford, VA on June 6 to mark the 75th anniversary of D-Day—and say thank you to more than 100 WWII veterans from across the country. The commemoration at the National D-Day Memorial was one of the largest gatherings in the nation of heroes past and present—and the 29th Division was well represented.

The event featured many stirring moments long to be remembered: addresses by Vice President Mike Pence, Senator Mark Warner, and Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert Wilkie; expressions of gratitude by dignitaries from across the globe; an amazing aerial tribute comprised of WWII and modern military aircraft including a B-52 flyover; readings of the words of the men and women who were actually there in 1944.

But the true stars of the event were the WWII veterans—nearly 100 registered heroes, including dozens from the Normandy campaign. As the capstone to the program, every World War II veteran was escorted by an active duty military member for an extraordinary roll call. Each veteran was announced as he or she proceeded across our Memorial's bridge before a crowd of thousands; the grateful audience recognized each veteran with thunderous applause, enthusiastic handshakes, and requests for autographs and photos.

In addition, each veteran had a short biography read aloud and received a commemorative medallion from the Commonwealth of Virginia; a small token of appreciation for saving the world seventy-five years ago.

Vice President Mike Pence paid a heartfelt tribute to the veterans in attendance. "It is my great honor to be here today in the presence of men that fought on D-Day 75 years ago," he said. "It was not just a continent you took back from tyranny; you delivered a world into freedom."



Charles H. "Chuck" Neighbor, of Post 64, Roanoke, Virginia.

"We marvel at the courage that you showed as young men," he continued "You are among the greatest Americans that have ever lived...you are the pride of this country and we take one more opportunity today to say, 'thank you.'"

The 29th Division, fittingly, was well-represented in the program. Brigadier General Lapthe Flora, Assistant Adjutant General of the 29th Division, Virginia National Guard, proudly read from the memoirs of Bob Slaughter, a D-Day veteran and founder of the National-D-Day Memorial: "As we approached the beach the ramp was lowered. Mortar and artillery shells exploded on land and in the water. Unseen snipers concealed in the cliffs were shooting down at individuals...the water was turning red from the blood." Flora, a native of Vietnam, was adopted and raised by a D-Day veteran and now serves on the National D-Day Memorial.

Colonel Preston Scott, Chief of Staff of the 29th Division, VNG, also participated, reading the words of heroic medic Cecil Breeden of the 116th Regiment. In recognition of the vital role of the 29th, Senator Bryce Reeves presented a resolution by the Virginia Senate honoring the role of the division from D-Day through VE Day.

In addition, stirring music was provided by the 29th Divi-



Crowd listens to Vice President Mike Pence speaking.

(Continued on page 30)



# Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront is the site of our 101st Reunion/Convention

*October 10-13, 2019*



## Convention Hotel Reservations

**October 10-13, 2019**

**Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront**

**5700 Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach, VA 23451**

**For reservations call: 757-428-7025**

The group room rate is \$99.00 plus tax (14% and \$4.12 per night lodging tax and resort fee) per night for one guest. No charge for additional guest. Breakfast is not included.

Reservations must be guaranteed with a credit card for one night. Check in time is 4PM and check out time is 11AM.

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

Make you hotel reservation early, we only have a limited number of rooms.

CANCELLATION MAY BE MADE UP TO 72 HOURS OR MORE PRIOR TO ARRIVAL WITHOUT CHARGES.

**CUT-OFF DATE FOR GETTING THE DISCOUNTED ROOM RATE IS SEPTEMBER 9, 2019.**

# Charles W. "Buck" Lockard

## Past National Commander — 2010 - 2011

### 19 June 1936 - 5 May 2019

The 29th Division Association, Inc., regrets to announce the passing of Past National Commander Charles W. "Buck" Lockard, of Middletown, MD on 5 May 2019 at his home surrounded by his family. He was the loving husband of Betty L. Lockard. They would have been married 65 years in July.

Born 19 June 1936 in Frederick, he was the son of the late George and Mary M. (Currens) Lockard. Buck was a graduate of Frederick High School class of 1954.

Buck retired from the United States Army as a CW4. He was a member of the 29th Division Post 78, the FSK American Legion, Amvets Post 9 in Middletown, The Maryland Warrant Officer's Association, and was very generous and giving to numerous veteran's organizations.

He was a diehard Orioles and Colts fan, and enjoyed playing golf in his younger years. "Daddybuck" attended every sporting event he could of his grand- and great-grandchildren. Buck was looking forward to following Branden Kline's baseball career.

PNC John Wilcox recalls that he and Buck went to high school together and both enlisted in A/115 at the same time. "We not only had a relationship through the military, but also a close personal friendship as well."



Buck and his wife Betty, and John's wife Christina shared many good times together, and also helped celebrate many family birthdays and anniversaries. PNC Wilcox said that "in more recent years, we traveled together several times to attend the Florida West Post 2's annual luncheon in Sarasota, Florida."

PNC Wilcox also noted that "as Buck and I were both retired from the military, we utilized the opportunity to seek lodging at military facilities whenever possible. On one such occasion we rented a cabin on

the beautiful Kingsley Lake at Camp Blanding near Stark, Florida."

"Buck will be sorely missed by everyone he knew in the 29th Division Association and by all the members of Post 78. He always held the 29th Division and its soldiers in very high esteem," concluded PNC Wilcox.

In addition to his wife, Buck is also survived by his adopted four legged daughter "Nyla" and he is survived by three children, Charles W. "Bill" Lockard, Jr. of Frederick; Patti Humphreys of Middletown; and Kelly Toms and husband, Tony, of Thurmont; four grandchildren, Bryon Lockard and wife Clarica, Carrie Strobel, MaryAvery Feigley and husband Kenny, and Shelby Jo Toms (Chris Shriver); and four great-grandchildren, Colin Lane Lockard, Tyler James Strobel, Landen Michael Strobel, and Cooper Charles Lockard. He is also survived by many special nieces, nephews, cousins, a very special Aunt Peggy (Florida), and many special friends and neighbors.

He was predeceased by siblings, Elizabeth Day, Calvin Lee Lockard, and Pauline Jones.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, 14 May with Rev. Tim May officiating. Interment followed in Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

## Annual wreath laying event at Arlington National Cemetery

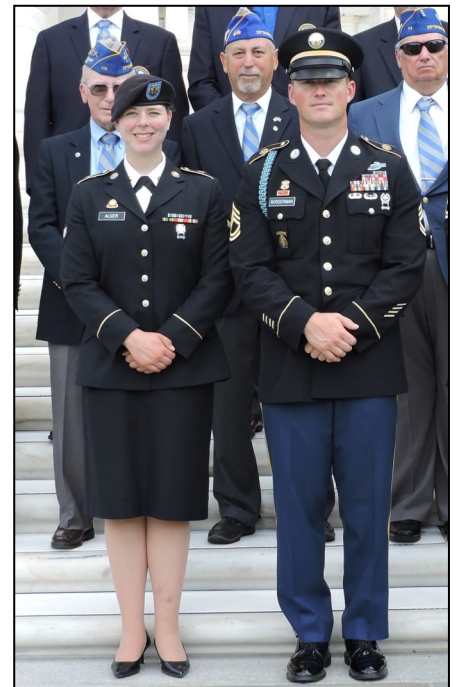
On Saturday, 29 June 2019, 29th Division Association National Commander J. David Leighton along with SPC Esther Alger and SFC Paul Bosserman of the 29th Division participated in the wreath laying at Arlington National Cemetery.

The 29th Division Association was honored to have these Soldiers join in the ceremony and the luncheon held afterwards at Fort Myer.

SPC Alger (left) and SFC Bosserman (right) previously were named Soldier of the Year and NCO of the Year respectively. Both are assigned to the Fort Belvoir-based Headquarters Battalion, 29th Infantry Division.

Back in February, SPC Alger and SFC Bosserman were announced as the winners of the 2019 Virginia National Guard Best Warrior Competition held at Fort Pickett, VA. These Soldiers spent three mentally and physically grueling days of competition against Soldiers and NCOs from six different Virginia National Guard major subordinate commands.

For many years, the commanding general of the 29th Division was asked to assist our national commander with laying the wreath. Then, we decided to ask our WWII 29th veterans to participate in this honor. As attrition takes its toll on our WWII veterans we then decided to honor our Soldiers of today by asking them to participate. We thank SPC Alger and SFC Bosserman for participating in this year's event.



William S. Mund, Jr., Editor

## Virginia Beach, VA, is the site of our 101st Reunion & Convention, 10-13 October 2019

(Continued from page 1)

and learn from what [their forebears] might have endured ... in the skies so very far from home."

Unlike most other collections, which are displayed in a static museum environment, almost all of the historic aircraft at the Museum have been restored to flying condition. In twice-yearly major airshows (one in the spring for World War II planes, and one in the fall for WWI), as well as other special events, the aircraft fly again for the public to view and experience.

The collection also includes a large reference library, along with artifacts and materials to illustrate the historic context of the aircraft in the collection.

The Museum was founded by Gerald "Jerry" Yagen in 2005, and the museum's hangars were opened to the public in 2008. He had been collecting and restoring warbirds since the mid-1990s, starting with the Curtiss P-40E Kittyhawk, so the creation of a museum to share the collection with the public was the logical next step.

The museum is housed at its own small private grass airfield, the Virginia Beach Airport, in the Pungo area of Virginia Beach, Virginia.

The complex includes two display hangars (one on each side of the main museum building) in one group of buildings, and in another group, a replica World War I-era wooden hangar, a maintenance hangar (entirely new, but an exact replica of a 1937 Works Progress Administration design), a restored authentic pre-WW II Luftwaffe metal hangar, and a set of three identical storage hangars painted to resemble British World War II hangars.

The Luftwaffe hangar was built in 1934 at Cottbus Air Base; after the base was closed during the re-unification of Germany, the Museum obtained the hangar in 2004. It was dismantled and shipped to Virginia Beach and construction started in 2010 and finished in fall of 2012 at the Museum where it now houses the Museum's Luftwaffe aircraft.

Also underway is a control tower, a re-erection of a genuine ex-8th AAF World War II tower from RAF Goxhill. A two-story brick and concrete structure, built to Air Ministry drawing 518/40, it was completely disassembled, labeled and shipped to Virginia. It is currently being assembled at the Museum's airfield where it will be used as an operational tower. In the UK, some similar towers are now historically protected; when rebuilt, this will be the only such original control tower in the US.

The complex also includes a large orange and white checked water tower, which is visible from a considerable distance and provides a useful landmark for both ground and air travelers. After our tour, we will have lunch at the museum before departing for the next location.

### State Military Reservation (SMR)

#### Camp Pendleton, Virginia Beach, VA.

Some of our attendees who served in the Maryland or Virginia Army National Guard may have spent some time here during their time as National Guard soldiers. This editor spent 8 annual training periods at Camp Pendleton during the years 1986-94. I must admit that I felt extremely lucky and guilty when I knew that other soldiers were spending their 2-week annual training period at Fort A.P. Hill or Fort Pickett or some other God-forsaken place.

We are indebted to our host, MG Tim Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia for allowing us to visit and tour Camp Pendleton. MG Williams is scheduled to welcome and speak to us upon our arrival at Camp Pendleton.

Camp Pendleton is a 325-acre (1.32 km) state military reservation in Virginia Beach, Virginia, named after Brigadier General William N. Pendleton, who served as Robert E. Lee's chief of artillery during the

Civil War. It lies on the Atlantic coast slightly east of Naval Air Station Oceana.

The facility was laid out in 1911, with construction beginning in 1912, as the State Rifle Range for the use of the state militia. Between 1922 and 1942, it was named after the then serving Governor of Virginia, being firstly named Camp Trinkle (1922-1926), then Camp Byrd (1926-1930), Camp Pollard (1930-1934), Camp Peery (1934-1938), and Camp Price (1938-1942). During both World Wars, the base was federalized. In World War I it was used by the U.S. Navy for coastal artillery training and during World War II it was controlled by U.S. Army, who first applied the name Camp Pendleton.

The Camp Pendleton-State Military Reservation Historic District was designated a historic district and listed on the National Register of Historic Places on September 26, 2005. The camp initially was about 400 acres (160 ha) in size. The original 1912 construction mostly related to the rifle range, but most of those buildings were demolished prior to World War II. A second major construction phase began in 1919, during which the U.S. Navy focused on improvements to the rifle range. Those buildings have also been demolished, but the layout of both the first and second phase remains. The third and final phase of construction was the responsibility of the U.S. Army during World War II; most of the camp's remaining buildings date from that phase. At the time it was listed on the National Register, Camp Pendleton had 108 buildings in a condition good enough to qualify them as contributing properties.

The operation and maintenance of Camp Pendleton is funded primarily by the federal government through the National Guard Bureau, and its primary purpose is the training of personnel and organizations of the Virginia National Guard, as well as other states' National Guard units and components of the U.S. Armed Forces. When the facilities are not used by military organizations, state and local civilian agencies also conduct training at the site. Its facilities include a small arms range, helicopter landing strip, classrooms, barracks, dining halls, maintenance garages, training fields, and a chapel. Other tenants include the Military Sealift Command, whose facilities are leased to the federal government by the State of Virginia, and the 203rd RED HORSE of the Virginia Air National Guard.

Upon returning to the hotel, attendees will have some time to themselves before the buffet dinner is served. After our meal, historian Joe Balkoski will speak to us. Again this year, the hospitality suite will be staffed by the members and ladies of Post 64 of Roanoke who always provide great hospitality.

On Saturday morning, members will attend the Business meeting whereby the officers for next year will be elected and installed. The ladies will be using the bus to visit the Shops at Hilltop and the Virginia Beach Surf and Rescue Museum.

Major General John M. Epperly, Commanding General of the 29th Division is scheduled to be our speaker at our formal assigned seating banquet in the evening. MG Epperly assumed command of the division on 5 May 2018.

Our annual event culminates on Sunday morning with the Memorial Service where we honor all of our members who have passed away during the past year. We hope that you and your family/friends will make an effort to attend this year's event.

The 29th Division Association, Inc. is in its 2nd century of existence. How long will it continue to survive? The future is uncertain and the end can always be near. By supporting the association and attending our conventions, you can help prolong the life of the 29th Division Association. Nothing lasts forever, however, we should all strive to insure that the association does survive well into the 2nd century of our existence.

*William S. Mund, Jr., Editor*



# A Thirty Year Journey

1997-1998

*This is the fourth and final installment of a THIRTY YEAR JOURNEY. Much of it dwells on personal accounts from the WWII veterans and places associated with the division. There are so many stories, and we write with trepidation in fear of omitting some accounts of those from the "Greatest Generation." Their stories could fill a book. Hopefully, the accounts are representative of the men who stormed the beaches of Normandy. Hopefully the commentary will evoke memories of our honored WWII veterans and their families and make those of us who served after WWII even prouder of having the honor and the privilege of wearing the "Blue and Gray."*

John W. Schildt

July 2018

Once again we traveled to historic New England. On the day prior to the meetings, our daughter went whale watching, while I toured historic Salem. The big news in the evening was that Ginny Cook, Boyd's wife had made a hole in one. She was the toast of town. Late Saturday night, we were shocked to learn of the tragic death of Princess Diana in Paris. Al Ungerleider spoke at our Memorial Service.

Whereas I never thought I'd get to Normandy, 1997 brought my third trip to the sands of Omaha and beyond. This time the trip was different. It was to be led by an outstanding 29'er, Mel Sherr. Mel was a decorated veteran and Command Sergeant of the 104th Medical Battalion in France. Usually trips to France never got beyond St. Lo covering the more famous aspects of the 29th Division in WWII. This time a trip to Brest was planned.

Mel was an amazing man, big smile, compassionate, and giving. I initially met Mel in 1987 at the reunion in Hagerstown. There, during the memorial service, he accompanied Mrs. Bowen on his violin. Mel was an accomplished musician. He often played at supper clubs. He went from table to table and asked about a favorite. Then, without notes he played the song. On one occasion, the 115th had a banquet. He came to our table and played "Mary Ann down by the seashore sifting sand." Mary Ann is my wife's name. Sadly, Mel died on Christmas Day 1996. 1997 was the Mel Sherr memorial tour.

This was a major loss to the Association.

However, his daughter Fran picked up the torch and never missed a beat. She has become the unofficial travel agent for the Association taking numerous tours to Normandy and is currently busy arranging the details for the Associations' trip to France for the 75th Anniversary of the D-Day landings.

I had the privilege and honor of riding and sitting with my friend Frank Wawrynovic on the ride from Paris to St. Lo. Upon our arrival in St. Lo, I was met by the Blouet family, having met ten year-old Lucie at the parade in 1994.

My roommate for this trip was Don Miller, F-175. Don had been a good friend of Sherwood Hallman and the WWII Company commander, Robert Miller. Don had been badly wounded during the crossing of the Roer River. I will never forget that prior to bedtime, Don removed his artificial leg and scooted to the bathroom on his knees. Our room overlooked the historical ramparts of St. Lo. At night, a light shone on the 8th Century tower and the flag of St. Lo.

Saturday dawned as an ideal Normandy day. At 10:00 there were ceremonies at the Major Howie Memorial. We walked down General Gerhardt Way and saw the Blanchett Memorial Mausoleum. The First Battalion of the 115th had established headquarters in the cemetery in 1944. My French family and some of their friends were present for the event.

Then we traveled out into the bocage country. Walter Carter and his family were in for a big surprise. The road signs had been covered. After stopping and hearing about the WWII action in the area, the cover-

ing was removed. There was a new road sign. It said, "Captain Carter Way." This was a memorial to Captain Carter, Walter's father. Although a medical officer, he had been shot and killed by the Germans as he was treating Frank Wawrynovic. It was a very moving experience. Walter has memorialized his father in an excellent book, "No Greater Love." Frank carried the results of his wound all his life, walking with a limp. He obtained a degree in forestry and was able to secure contracts in the east to remove trees and brush for the construction of power lines. Kind and generous, Frank and his wife, Stella, established a scholarship at Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia in memory of Dr. Carter.

Saturday afternoon we spent between the landing beaches and St. Lo. We were pleasantly surprised by the Wall of Remembrance in St. Jean de Saviygy. Framers

and residents of the small towns in the area had constructed the wall in gratitude for the American liberators. Veterans were invited to place plaques, so that the names of some of the liberators would be there for all to see. Some of the plaques were unveiled that September day. The afternoon concluded at the old Norman farm of a good friend of the 29th, Alain Chesnel. Our group and the residents of the area mingled and had a good time.

Sunday ceremonies were held at our Division Monument of Omaha Beach. The WWII and post WWII members were presented with certificates making us honorary citizens of the towns in the 29th's landing areas: Vierville-sur-Mer, St. Laurent-sur-Mer and Colleville-sur-Mer.

Ben Mirmelstein and I conducted a brief service in our Military Cemetery. We were surprised to have flowers from Steven Spielberg. He had been filming, "Saving Private Ryan." Our own Bob Slaughter was one of the advisors for the film. The superintendent showed us the headstone that had been used in the movie.



During the evening, my French family gave me a tour of St. Lo and a lovely dinner in their home. With all the courses, chatter and laughter, dinner lasted several hours.

On Monday we went to Vire and to the Hill where the 116th had been heavily engaged, and thence to a French School. On every trip with the veterans, the children waved flags and smiled.

In the afternoon, the Blouet family took me to Ste. Mere Eglise the site of the airborne landing in 1944. I was amazed to see a museum in the shape of a parachute, as well as seeing the church spire from which hung Private Steele's parachute as seen in the movie, *"The Longest Day."* I stood by the village pump where in 1944 the villagers formed a bucket brigade to fight fires caused by allied bombing.

Mel and Fran had added a new feature to the 1997 trip. Since D Day had been so big, travel groups seldom traveled beyond Normandy. Thus a long trip was taken to Brest. The Allies needed another port to funnel in supplies. Thus the decision was made to capture Brest. Don Miller of the 175th was there. He shared with us details of the action as well as the exploits of Sgt. Sherwood Hallman. MOH recipient. Virginia Hallman, Sherwood's widow and members of the Hallman family were with us.

After three tours of Normandy with the "original cast or veterans of action," I decided I could take groups to see where the 29'ers had fought and died. We were fortunate to have at least one veteran for each of the three trips. I planned the trip, and Amex priced the tour and made all the hotel, bus, and museum arrangements.

In 1988 a group of us were eating and asked for our check. In her response was one I'll never forget. "You Americans are all alike. You are always in a hurry. Good food and good friendship is to be enjoyed or savored." Thus I decided my trips were going to take time to stop and smell the roses, taking our time at each place.

During the first trip on my own, I had dinner with my French family. It was a three-hour event. You know how it is. A course at a time, unhurried, meanwhile laughter, banter, no TV, no phone. A good dinner, time together makes memories and indeed is "the pause that refreshes."

With us on the first trip was Sam Dixon. He was a member of the 16th Regiment of the First Division. He was just 18 years old in 1944. While huddled in his foxhole during a German artillery barrage, Sam told the Lord that if he survived, he would seek to do something useful. Although slightly wounded, Sam obtained a degree, taught school, coached high school football, and was a tennis instructor for many years. He was still coaching tennis into his seventies.

Also with us on the trip was Sharon Weddle Block, the daughter of Captain Leroy Weddle, CO of B. Co. 115th Infantry. Captain Weddle led the first American troops into St. Lo. During the advance he was badly wounded. Sgt. Lowry Brooks took a piece of lath and splinted the arm. The medics said that the splinting saved his arm. After the war, Leroy, "Bud" to his friends, served as a postman, then postmaster in Hagerstown. He never regained full use of the arm.

In St. Lo thanks to Jean Mignon, we had a police escort. There was a reception at the Hotel de ville (City Hall). Captain Weddle's daughter Sharon presented some personal and Company B material to St. Lo. We also gave them a Washington County flag and a flag that had flown over the grave of Francis Scott Key in Frederick.

Our French family gave us a picnic. The police men loaned us their radar guns. I'm sure a lot of Frenchmen were surprised to see American tourists pointing radar guns at them.

On my trips I always preordered 30 carnations. Trip members were told in advance that they would be given a flower to place on a grave at our Military Cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer. They were told the choice was theirs. If they had a relative or knew the son of someone buried in the cemetery, they could obtain the grave number and place a flower.

For me, the choice was always Marion "Pete" Gettridge. Pete had

spent part of his boyhood in Sharpsburg, and had enlisted in Company B, 115th Infantry. Twelve days after he landed on June 6, Pete was killed in action on June 18. A good friend of the Association and Bill Douglas, Mde Carole Duvall has continued to place a flower on Pete's grave far from his Maryland home.

Glenn Jeffries was with us on one of the trips. A coxswain on a landing craft, he vividly recalled a young American floating in the water off Omaha Beach. As he contemplated where to place his flower, he seemed drawn to a certain grave. As he placed the carnation, he was overcome with emotion. He said, "I'd like to believe that maybe I placed the flower on the grave of the young man I saw floating in the water."

### 1999 and Beyond

In March 1999, I received a note saying that Colonel Bill Puntenney had gone home to be with the Lord. The world had changed drastically in his lifetime. Perhaps as his life drew to a close he had flashbacks to an earlier time growing up on a ranch in Arizona. Perhaps he recalled riding with the famed Seventh Cavalry as the band played, "The Gary Owen." Maybe he thought of his relationships with General Gerhardt and Tom Howie, or of meeting Generals Eisenhower, Bradley and Montgomery. No doubt he thought of God's goodness and his many narrow escapes from death. And of course there had to be thoughts of his beloved Bonnie and the family. He could rest now. His work was done and he was home, home at last with his Lord. My life is richer because of the privilege of having known so many of the WWII 29'ers.

### 2001

The time for the 2001 reunion was changed from the autumn to June. It was changed to coincide with a major event in the history of the 29th Division, the dedication of the National D Day Memorial on the 57th anniversary of the D Day landings. The place, Bedford, Virginia. The driving force, the chief advocate for the memorial in Bedford, was a 29'er, Robert John "Bob" Slaughter, D/166.

In the 1990's Bob began campaigning for a National D Day Memorial. A native of Roanoke and working for the local newspaper, he began at home, then across Virginia, and finally speaking before Congressional Leadership. This is a story in itself. Company A of the 116th was in the same battalion with Bob's Company D. Thus Bob had many friends among "the Bedford boys." In Bob's thoughts, there was no place more fitting for the memorial than the little city of Bedford.

Thus in June 2001, all roads led to Bedford. The reunion was held in nearby Roanoke. Cornelius Ryan had written in his epic *"THE LONG-EST DAY"* that no city in America suffered the percentage of loss as Bedford. From a city of slightly more than 5,000, 19 members of Company A fell on the sands of Omaha Beach in the first few moments of the invasion. A few weeks later, telegrams began arriving in Green's Drug Store in Bedford. One yellow slip and then another. "We've got casualties," and "We regret to inform you." A pall of gloom and grief hovered over the small Virginia city. We have written about that in our first installment of this series.

On the evening of June 5, 2001, a major storm struck Bedford and momentarily there was a question about whether or not the ceremony could go on. Roanoke was not affected. However, after the storm passed workers got busy and cleaned up the tree limbs, leaves, fallen wires, etc.

Prior to the banquet, I met a tall, lean BG. He was the assistant commander of the 82nd Division. 29'ers had served under him during a peace keeping mission on the Sinai Peninsula. Hence, he was an invited guest. My impression, we are going to hear more about this man. And we did. The BG was Stanley McChrystal.

Our banquet concluded around 2130 hours. Fifty-seven years ago, the original cast of D Day would have been taking their places in the landing crafts headed for a strip of sand on the soil of Normandy, a place called Omaha Beach.

The morning of June 6 dawned bright and clear. Other than some down trees, there was no evidence of the storm that had ravaged Bedford the evening before. We departed our hotel early as a huge crowd was about to descend on Bedford. President George H.W. Bush was to give the primary address. The military and political figures from around the world, and our WWII Allies were to share in the ceremonies. Also sharing center stage was our own Bob Slaughter, the man behind the memorial. What a legacy Bob has left. Donald Van Roosen also shared, participated in the event. It was an awesome event.

Early on, I assisted Joe Ewing in finding a seat in the section reserved for veterans, and then went looking for a shady vantage point. We all swelled with pride as the proceedings unfolded, and we could contemplate what PNC Frank Oberle always noted, "the division's finest hour."

In 2002 Taps sounded for three fine men - WWII 29'ers whom I had the pleasure of knowing. Among them Colonel Art Flinner. A graduate of Dartmouth, Flinner enlisted in the Army in 1940. 1944 found him in the U.K. commanding C Battery of the 110th Field Artillery. He went ashore along with four 105mm howitzers. Joe Balkoski noted that the firing of his cannon was among the first of any U.S. artillery to land. His battery was also the first to support the infantry of the 29th. Coming ashore on June 7, Art's jeep sank in a shell hole, and the young captain directed the Battery standing on the seat in his sinking jeep. After the war, Art worked diligently to establish the Maryland National Guard artillery museum at the Pikesville Military Reservation. See 29'er, Nov. 2002, P. 65

I never dreamed on that summer day in 1988 that later I would have the funerals of "Herk," as well as for Sam and Lillian Krauss.

For many years "Herk" had arranged the "Memorial Table or an Altar." With his passing the task was assumed by the "one and only" Dick Jordan, the man who was always asking for a dollar. Years later at his Memorial Service, many placed dollar bills in the casket with Dick. His life is a story in itself. So many years of service to the Maryland Army National Guard and to the Nation. If one needed something, Dick was the man to find it. Several generals attended his funeral.

George M Lear, SVC/115th died suddenly on September 17. A member of the NG in 1941, he was transferred to the Office of Strategic Services, later the Central Intelligence Agency. George was one of the four members of the Omaha Beach Memorial Foundation and did a lot of fundraising. He took many photos and gave me copies of the dedication and other copies of his work.

Upon arrival at the reunion in Hampton in 2003, I was shocked to learn that Richard "Herk" Herklotz had died suddenly after arriving at the hotel. Herk was one of the three men who got me into the association as well as Post 78 prior to the reorganization of Post 72. He was indeed a mentor and friend. Herk and Betty often visited our home. Herk was with the 100th Field Artillery from 1940-1945. He retired as a colonel and was a long time NED. His post was assumed by John Wilcox. Rest in peace comrades.

On Monday, August 16, 2004, Boyd Cook, John Wilcox, and yours truly journeyed to Martinsburg for the memorial service for Sgt. Bobby E. Beaseley. A member of the 116th Infantry, he was killed in action during a deployment to Iraq. Another member of the 116th was also killed. These were the first members of the 116th to be killed in action since WWII.

Our church sent care packages of items selected by the troops to those serving in Iraq.

### Sharpsburg

29'ers have long been involved with events at Sharpsburg or Antietam National Battlefield. On Memorial Day 1900 the Maryland Monument was dedicated by President William B. McKinley. The president had been a commissary sergeant during the battle of Antietam. As a nineteen year-old he earned a battlefield commission by serving food

and drink to members of the 23rd Ohio Regiment while under sporadic fire. On May 30, 1900, he was escorted by Henry K. Douglas, a Civil War member of the "Stonewall Brigade" and then the youngest member of "Stonewall" Jackson's staff. After the war, Douglas was instrumental in helping to "bind up the wounds of war," and actually became Maryland's adjutant general in 1890.

During the 75th anniversary of the battle of Antietam, MG Milton Reckord, a WWI veteran, and long-time Adjutant General of Maryland was a leading member of the commemoration committee. Maryland National Guardsmen engaged in the sham battle at Bloody Lane in 1937.

In July 1989, elements of the 110th Field Artillery along with the 229th band returned to Antietam for the rededication of the Maryland Monument. Members of the 29th Light were also present to show attack helicopters and as well as other modern military equipment. For at least two decades, part of the 110th Field Artillery came to Antietam to fire the cannon during the "Overture of 1812" which concluded the annual July 4 event, attended yearly by more than 30,000.

Sharpsburg has perhaps the longest continuous Memorial Day observance in the nation. During the 1950's, the Honor Guard of the 175th took part in the wreath laying at the town square.

In days gone by, ceremonies were held at the town square, followed by a parade, and then events in the National Cemetery. In the 1950's flying box cars flew low over the cemetery and dropped flowers on the graves. The planes literally, as General Logan wished, "strewed the graves with flowers."

Many of the young men of the 1930's had served with the unit based in Hagerstown prior to the war and were mobilized in 1941. They enlisted in part because of a few extra bucks which assisted them during the Great Depression.

Several were wounded including Max Grim. Marion "Pete" Gettridge was killed in action. During the Civil Centennial Observance of the Civil War, the Sharpsburg Rifles were organized. Max Grim became the drill sergeant for the unit in which their forefathers had served during the 1860's. The Sharpsburg Rifles were selected to march in President Kennedy's Inaugural parade and to be present during the reenactment of the 1861 Lincoln Inaugural. Max never missed a Memorial Day parade in Sharpsburg.

The program booklet was dedicated to the 29th. Many members of the Association were present, including Generals Fretterd and Cook. The latter was the grand marshal.

In 2005, we again went to Roanoke. On a Saturday, we took buses to the National D Day Memorial. I sat with my friend and one of the heroes, Colonel Alvin Ungerleider, Company L, 115 in WWII. We were supposed to have some ceremonies at the Memorial. Due to bad weather we came back to Bedford and met in the historic armory from which Company A departed for WWII. Of course they were virtually decimated on Omaha Beach. Once again, I had the opportunity to meet a member of Company A, Roy Stevens. His twin brother made the supreme sacrifice on D Day.

Naturally, the Memorial service was centered on the losses sustained by the "Bedford Boys" and their families.

### Joe Ewing

From boyhood I had known men who were members of Company A 115th. Thus one evening while in high school, I was overjoyed to find a large package in the mail. It contained a great book "29 LET'S GO" by Joseph Ewing. Other than supper, I spent the evening with the book. At that moment, I never dreamed I would meet the author and become good friends with him.

There were so many giants in the ranks of the WWII generation. Certainly Joe Ewing was among them. Joe was born in Roselle, New Jersey. He was the great grandson of Senator Thomas Ewing of Ohio.



The Senator was the foster father of General William T. Sherman, as well as Secretary of the Treasury under President William Henry Harrison and the first Secretary of the Interior under President Zachary Taylor. Joe was a proud graduate of the University of Notre Dame. While at the Indiana School, Joe ran track and cross country.

Following graduation, Joe worked for several newspapers and then in 1942 he entered the military and graduated from OCS at Fort Benning. Briefly he served as a weapons platoon leader with the 242d Infantry of the 42d Rainbow Division.

Then in September 1944, he joined the ranks of the 29th just as the division was preparing to attack Brest. As a rifle platoon leader in the 175th Infantry, he participated in the crossing of the Roer.

With his career in journalism and combat experience, Joe was selected to write the account of the 29th Division in WWII and assigned to Fort Meade in the War Department Historical Division. Thus the famed book "29 Let's Go."

In the post war years, Joe served on many military history boards and at various camps and museums.

In his golden years, he resumed jogging and kept at it. Naturally, he never missed watching a Notre Dame football game. It was unwise to disturb him when "the Fighting Irish" were playing.

I was honored to give a brief eulogy for this outstanding 29'er at his viewing. Joe Ewing was without doubt, one of the finest men I have ever met and a gentleman to whom we all owe gratitude for "29 Let's Go."

#### Charleston

In 2006 the reunion was held in historic Charleston, South Carolina. On our free day, Don McKee and some of us went to the Charleston harbor and toured the U.S. Yorktown, one of the famous carriers that turned the tide of the battle in the Pacific. We saw Fort Sumter in the distance. In the afternoon, we had a tour of antebellum Charleston, one of America's oldest and historic cities.

After the tour, we visited the Citadel, the Alma Mater of Thomas D. Howie, the Major of St. Lo. We saw the carillon erected in his memory. Then we were guests of the Citadel as the Corps of Cadets passed in review. The event made one proud to be an American.

In 2016, I had the prayers in Bloody Lane at Antietam for a major event. In some manner, the sword of a Colonel Tew had been found in a Canadian Armory.

Tew was in the first class to graduate from the Citadel, ranking No. 1 in his class. The Canadians wanted to return the sword to its proper place. Thus a ceremony was held in the Sunken Road where Tew was killed. Off to my right was the Honor Guard from the Citadel. To my left a delegation of Canadian soldiers, including a major general. The cadets and Canadians approached and met at the spot where Tew fell. The Canadian Major General placed the sword in the hands of the Chief Ranger at Antietam, who transferred the sword to the captain of the honor guard. The long lost sword is now in the museum at the Citadel.

Our speaker at the banquet was Thomas D. Howie III.

#### New England Again

In 2007 we traveled again to New England. on Friday we toured Plymouth Plantation and boarded Mayflower II. To me, the fact that the little ship made it across the Atlantic is more amazing than the space shot. The pilgrims were on the sea for three months. Prior to coming ashore, the men gathered in the cabin of the ship and signed the Mayflower Compact. It says in part, "we being desirous of establishing a colony to the glory of God and the advancement of the Christian faith do hereby affix our names." Following the tour, we had a lobster feed. The New England Post did a great job.

More was yet to come. That evening we had a police escort to the famous Fenway Park, home of the Boston Red Sox. The presence of the 29th was noted. The visit to Fenway fulfilled another boyhood dream. Years previously, I had met Ted Williams and always wanted to

visit Fenway, Bill and Juanita King and I sat together and had hot dogs for supper.

Sunday brought the Memorial Service in the historic United First Parish Church in Quincy. Presidents John and John Quincy Adams are buried in the church. Leaving the church, I was wounded. My toe caught on a step and I rolled down a flight of stairs. Members of the police escort wanted to take me to the ER. I said, "No. I have a plane to catch." They patched me up and at the airport I adjusted the bandages. In addition to the cuts I had a dislocated thumb and was unable to turn a key or hold a coffee cup in my right hand. For the first time in my prayers, I thanked the Lord for my thumb.

The New Year began on a sad note. MG Boyd Cook was stricken with an illness and expired on February 2. All 29'ers, as well as the hosts of others who knew him, were saddened. He had touched so many lives and left his print on the officers and men he had commanded. He was the first non WWII person to become commander of the association. For years he chaired the nominating committee. During the presidency of George W. Bush, he was among those invited to breakfast at the White House, and then transported to Arlington National Cemetery for Memorial Day ceremonies. He and the President discussed in a positive manner. Another famed 29'er, Steven Blum, who rose to the rank of lieutenant general and later a Chief of the National Guard Bureau, sat in on the presidential cabinet meetings.

On Saturday night prior to Christmas, the Retired Officers Association held their Christmas banquet in Shepherdstown. Boyd invited my wife and I to be their guests. It was a delightful evening. He gave me a copy of Bob Slaughter's book. I was so glad we went as it was the last time I saw Boyd alive.

St. John's Episcopal Church in Hagerstown was packed for his Memorial Service. The procession from Hagerstown to Lappans was seven miles long. The tail end never made it to the cemetery for the committal service.

When we moved to Sharpsburg, Boyd called and asked if we were going to be home. He bought some flowers along which still brighten our lives. An old saying reads, "bloom where you are planted." Boyd M. Cook more than fulfilled that saying.

On Saturday, May 9, 2009, many 29'ers gathered at the 29 Michael Cresap National Guard Armory just east of Frederick. The occasion, the rededication of the Major General Boyd M. Cook Memorial Grove.

In my remarks, I noted that "mighty oaks from little acorns grow." Boyd Cook was a soldier's soldier. His father had been an officer in the Delaware National Guard. Boyd came from a private up through the ranks, transferring to the Maryland Guard as his work took him to the Boonsboro area. At one time he commanded Cresap's Rifles, then became assistant division commander and then commanded the division. Boyd gave the dedicatory address in 1988 when our monument was unveiled on Omaha Beach. In 1994, he coordinated the travel arrangements of the buses for all the events in Normandy. He was active at the Episcopal Church in Lappans, Maryland. One of the additions is named in his honor. Boyd remains alive in our hearts and continues to cast a long shadow of influence across the lives of those who knew him.

For the 2009 session we traveled to Plymouth Meeting. Our tour brought us in touch with the founding fathers. We visited Constitution Hall as well as the complex housing "the Liberty Bell." Then it was a return trip to Valley Forge and we heard once again about the suffering of the Continental army during the horrible winter of 1777-1778. As usual, I took a few moments to visit the statue of George Washington praying for the American cause and his ragged, cold, and shoeless army. We rejoiced in the fact that Commander Robert Finn and his wife had become grandparents.

In 2011, we met away from the big cities and hunkered down in Martinsburg, WV. Tours included the Antietam National Battlefield, the

bloodiest single day of combat in American history, Ferry Hill, Harpers Ferry and the Air National Guard base in Martinsburg.

At the Memorial Service, we honored members of Company B, 115th Infantry who hailed from nearby Washington County, MD. Relatives of Marion "Pete" Gettridge, B -115, KIA in France were present. Melissa Mertz who as a girl had played "*Amazing Grace*" and other hymns on her flute in 1991 in Chewsville, repeated the music twenty years later. Another young lady sang, "*There's A Star Spangled Banner Waving Somewhere*." This was a favorite of NC Jack Kutcher.

At almost every reunion, we were privileged to have French friends, historians and 29th division devotees present. In 2011, Mde Carol Du Val traveled to be with us and with her good friend, Bill Douglas. Carol has never forgotten the sacrifices of the 29th. She still places flowers on some of the graves at St. Laurent.

The group stands in front of the Soldier's Monument at the Antietam National Cemetery. The monument had stood at the entrance to the National Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876 and was then shipped to Sharpsburg and dedicated on September 17, 1880.

It has been said that "politicians make war, generals lead or mislead the troops, the officers and men in the ranks do the fighting and doing," and a British non-com says, "the folks at home do the crying." Standing on a pedestal, the Private soldier is over twenty feet tall and is standing guard over the "bivouac of the dead."

In February 20, 2013, PNC Sam Krauss answered the "last roll call." Sam was one of the first members of the association whom I met. Always jovial, warm and friendly, and always with the greeting, "Well Rev, how you doin'?"

Sam was among those added to the 116th to supplement the heavy losses expected on D Day. He was wounded shortly thereafter. While treating his wounded shoulder, the Dr. told him, "Son, you might be able to lift little girls but not big ones."

After the war, Sam became very active in the association. For many years he assisted in the planning of reunions and soliciting funds for the program book. He was National Commander in 1962-1963.

Sam's birthday occurred around our June NEC meeting. We always sang "*Happy Birthday*" to the jovial soldier. Sam took his son along to Normandy for the tenth anniversary. Michael, following in Dad's footsteps, proudly served in the U.S. Air Corps and seeing action in View Nam.

O.T. Reilly was a seven year-old at the time of the battle of Antietam. He later became the first battlefield guide, his career lasting over fifty years. As time passed, O.T. became melancholy. The number of veterans at reunions, and returning to Antietam became less and less. I too, have experienced this as in 1987 the males in attendance were all WWII veterans. Now there may be ten, with all ages being in the 90's.

The 2012 Reunion was held in Annapolis. Folks from a far helped themselves to Chesapeake Bay seafood. Naturally, the tour was of the U.S. Naval Academy.

2013 found us back in Tidewater, Virginia. The tour was of the huge U.S. Navy complex at Portsmouth and Hampton Roads. We saw battle-ships and modern carriers. A pleasant surprise was seeing the U.S. Cole come into port. We all sought to obtain pictures and cheered the ship and the crew.

2015 we quartered at Fredericksburg in the heart of Civil War country. As part of "the only Richmond movement," four major battles were fought within ten miles of Fredericksburg. This writer gave a power point presentation entitled "Where 100,000 Fell," speaking of the battles of Fredericksburg, December 1862; Chancellorsville, May 1863; the Wilderness and Spotsylvania, May 1864. Our trip was both educational and military. We traveled to the USMC Museum of Quantico, Virginia.

#### **Harrisburg and Carlisle**

The 2016 reunion was held on the south shore of the Susquehanna River at Harrisburg, with our bus trip to the Carlisle Barracks, the sec-

ond oldest army post in the nation. There we toured a great museum. The U.S. Army Military History Institute is also based there as well as the U.S. Army War College. Many 29'ers have been graduates of this famed school. At one time, the facility was the home of an Indian School. Among the famous attendees was none other than the great Jim Thorpe.

We were honored to have PNC Paul Winters with us. Paul was a combat medic with the 116th in WWII. Unfortunately, Paul needed medical attention as on Thursday evening he suffered a nasty fall.

I spent a lot of time with PNC Jack Kutcher and Maxine. While recovering from an automobile accident in 2015, Jack sent me a card noting that the Sisters of the Little Flower would be having a mass for me. That touched me deeply. The Order was begun as Sister Theresa said that her goal in life was to give little flowers of God's love to those she met along the road of life. This was a little flower of God's love given to me by a good friend. The meditation for the 2016 reunion was "Little Flowers." On another occasion I spoke "There is More," that out beyond where we can see, beyond the sunrise there is more of God's goodness and greatness. A little later, PNC Bob Recker gave me a photo of a lovely sunrise over the horizon at Ocean City. Sadly, Jack left us too soon.

#### **2017**

In 1917 we entered WWI. National Guard units were formed into army divisions. The New England area consisted of the 26th or Yankee Division. Pennsylvania units became the 28th, while primarily Maryland and Virginia units were formed into the 29th Division with a blue and gray patch symbolizing the blue and the gray fighting together for a common cause. What had been the First Maryland was designated the 115th Infantry regiments, while units, basically from the Shenandoah Valley were to be known as the 116th. Both units as well as later the 5th Maryland which became the 175th were older than the nation.

For the 100th Anniversary, Commander Robert Wisch decided to go all out. First there was a visit to the 5th Regiment armory and the museum created by the esteemed Joe Balkoski. Then the banquet. Bob even composed a song about the 29th and sang it for us. There were cut outs of WWII pin ups, and a 1940's dance band. The highlight of the evening was reading a letter from a Major Tom Howie to his daughter, Sally. This was very moving. Sally and her daughter, Julia, were guests of honor. Another big moment was the gift of a jar of sand, not just any old sand, but sand from Omaha Beach.

In September Bob and other 29'ers had traveled to Normandy with General Ted Shuey. Each member of the group brought as much sand as they could carry in their suitcases. The sand was then placed in jars for gifts to the approximately 150 persons who attended the reunion. Thanks Bob, and everyone else for memorable reunions and experienced.

A friend spoke at his mother's funeral. He said, "I will not speak of last memories, but I will speak of lasting memories." And so the memories of the men and women, people and places of the 29th have brought forth and produced lasting memories.

For six years I had the privilege of serving a church in St. Thomas,



**Al Ungerleider and Don McKee, both Past National Commanders and Past Editors of the *Twenty-Niner* newsletter.**

Pennsylvania. Among the members was Jacob Nelson "Nellie" Fox. During the war years 1944-1945, the old Philadelphia Athletics conducted spring training at McCurdy Field in Frederick. The team and the famed manager, Connie Mack stayed at the Francis Scott Key Hotel in Frederick.

One day during that period, Mr. Fox brought "Nellie" to Frederick for a try out. Mr. Mack looked at the scrawny youngster and thought he was the candidate for a bat boy. However, Nellie was signed to a contract and sent to a minor league team. Later he was brought up to the Athletics and then traded.

This was one of the biggest mistakes Mr. Mack ever made. As second baseman for the Chicago White Sox, Nellie made the All Star team numerous times, set several major league records, and in 1959 was named the American League's Most Valuable Player as he led the White Sox to the World Series. The little man, thought to be a new bat boy, is now enshrined in the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown.

I have been to Cooperstown, in fact was invited to the enshrinement of Nellie Fox. It's a big place with the names of baseball's greatest. However, I think the Baseball Hall of Fame would be small if we would list a Twenty Ninth Division Hall of Fame. The list would be endless.

In fact, we agree with General Omar Bradley, "Every man who landed on Omaha Beach was a hero in time." Time moves on. It waits for no one. But the world will long remember what the 29th Division did on Omaha Beach in Northern France, Central Europe, and the Rhineland.

The WWII 29'ers are our heroes. They left a legacy of excellence, courage, and sacrifice.

Around Christmas, 1863, the troops under the command of Thomas J. Jackson were encamped at Moss Neck on the edge of what is currently Fort A.P. Hill. Sandie Pendleton, Henry Kyd Douglas and others were discussing the future and their legacies. One said, "I will be proud to tell my children and grandchildren that I served with "the Stonewall Brigade."

We can proudly wear the Blue and Gray patch. We can remember that the long line of valor and commitment stretches from the French and Indian War to Saratoga, Long Island, Yorktown, Bladensburg, the battles of the Civil War, to the Mexican Border, the Argonne Forrest, the Meuse River, to Omaha Beach, the hedgerows, St. Lo, Brest, Julich and many other places, to the faraway places where young 29'ers have served.

We can proudly say, "We served with the 29th Division, and remember not only the few we have named, but the privates, sergeants, non-coms and officers who through the years have proudly served in the 29th Division.

In Revelation 14:13 we read "Bless are they who die in the Lord, that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them." Another passage says, "Though they are dead, still they speak. The works, courage and sacrifices of those who have gone before us still inspire us and speak to use." Let us always remember them.

Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, the Audie Murphy of the Civil War gave many speeches after the conflict. On one of his Memorial Day addresses he shared some words that are good for every day.

Part of the following comes from the prayer at the dedication of our monument on Omaha Beach, 17 September 1988, with several additions.

*They're gone now. The planes in the sky, the ships on the sea, and those who landed on Omaha Beach. They're gone now. Those who fought thru the hedgerows. Those who captured St. Lo and Brest. They're gone now. Those who fought in Northern France and Central Europe. Those crossed the Roer and took Julich. But we shall long remember the young men of the 1940's. The Boys who quickly became men, who gave their best, and sometimes their all. Those who wore the Blue and the Gray. Those who indeed were part of the Greatest Generation.*

This concludes Reverend John Schildt's account of his many years of service as National Chaplain of the 29th Division Association Inc. We are forever in his debt for his devotion and his kindness in the performance of his ministry.

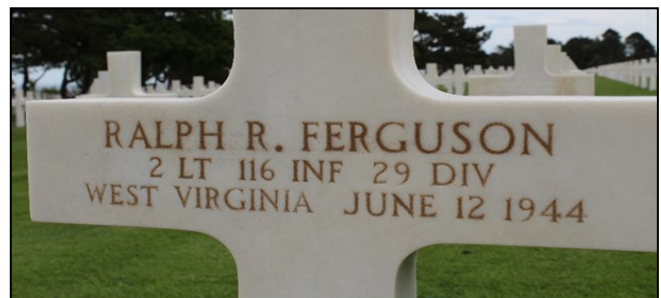
William S. Mund, Jr. Editor

## Reflection



As I approached the river crossing where my Great Uncle Ralph Ferguson lost his life the fresh scent of a heavy downpour still hangs in the air. A gentle spray is all that remained as the clouds lifted to sunlight. A melody of wagtail calls danced amid the swaying trees which showcased their most brilliant green. How can a place so peaceful hold such sorrow?

It was only five day earlier that I first laid my hand upon his grave in the American Cemetery. The feeling of moist beach sand still lingers on my fingertips as I think about rubbing the sacred soil into the recesses that spell out his name. A sense of joy has stayed with me since that moment. It was as if by reaching out my hand, Ralph reached back to say the time for mourning has passed.



Standing on the bank of the Elle River, that is how I feel. The time for mourning is gone, it is now time to look down at his photograph and smile just as he did. I pulled a red rose from my pocket. Its petals still velvety smooth although its color has deepened since the morning of the 6th. The sole flower left from the sunrise service. Broken and overlooked I found it the fitting symbol of rejuvenation and love. After letting go a petal each for his siblings and parents I released the rose to the current. A whirlpool collected the delicate flower and breathed life into it with each pirouette.

Seconds stretched into minutes as I watched the rose float away. Sheets of water enveloping the pedals in a glassy shield. Walking through the flourishing field of tall grass I found an area to cross. Royal towers of Queen Anne's Lace led the way. The river was calmer here. The ripples wider and slower. Waiting in the flow is the rose. Its color brighter, its movement graceful. The current cradles it in a friendly manner as if to say hi. He is at peace and so am I.

Heather McPherson  
Lexington, South Carolina



# Minutes

of the NEC III meeting  
held on 13 June 2019 at the  
Winchester Readiness Center, Winchester, Virginia

National Commander David Leighton called the National Executive Committee (NEC III) Meeting to order at 0930 hours. Commander Leighton led the attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the opening prayer that was offered by National Adjutant Valerie Simmers. The group then recited the 29th Division Association Preamble.

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

The Minutes of the previous meetings (NEC II, on 24 January 2019) had been published and were distributed in the Spring 2019 edition of the *Twenty-Niner*. As there were no corrections or amendments, these minutes were approved as published.

National Commander Leighton read correspondence from Post 78 thanking the NEC for the donation to their Post in memory of PNC Charles "Buck" Lockard.

## Officer's Report

National Commander – David Leighton has been working on the preparation of this meeting and the Wreath Laying that will be 29 June 2019 at 12:15pm. Information can be found on the 29th website. The 75th Anniversary of D-Day, 6 June 2019 ceremony at the National D-Day Memorial had 100 WWII Veterans present. The Vice President of the United States was also present. Commander Leighton assisted in the wreath laying of that ceremony. Commander Leighton discussed the activities for the National Convention in October. We will tour the Military Aviation Museum and SMR Camp Pendleton on Friday.

National Senior Vice Commander – Pete Hinz is planning the 2020 National Convention to be somewhere between Carlisle, Gettysburg, PA and Frederick, MD along the US 15 corridor.

National Junior Vice Commander – Ted Shuey, new kid on the block. Currently, Chairman of the Board for the Woodrow Wilson Library. The term ends in 3 weeks and then he can focus on the NJVC duties. Just getting back from the 75th Anniversary of D-Day at Normandy. There will be follow-up information from that trip.

Southern Region National Vice Commander – Jimmy Kilbourne had no report.

Maryland Region National Vice Commander – Howard Bond had no report.

At Large Region National Vice Commander – Edward Tolzman was not present for a report.

Finance & Budget – Tom Knight went over the Finance Report posted with the Agenda. The General Fund is currently outspending the receipts. The donation from Dick Jordan to be used for the cost of publishing the "29er" was discussed. That account has not been touched. Request a motion to transfer \$800 annually from that account for the publication of the "29er" until the money has been used up. SRVC Hinz made the motion and it was seconded. PNC Ginsburg recommended an amendment that the Finance Officer can transfer the amount at his discretion. That way it is not necessary to come back to the NEC and ask for additional money. NED Mund seconded the amendment. The vote was to pass the amended motion.

FO Knight then asked about needing permission to move money from the investment account to the operating account. Past Finance Officer Becker noted that the Finance Officer does not need to ask permission. That is part of the duties.

FO Knight recalled that the previous FO had mentioned that unless we

find a way to generate income, we will eventually run out of money. Can we look at a possible committee to investigate ways to generate income? SRVC Hinz made a motion that the National Commander create a committee and report back by the next meeting. It was seconded by JRVC Shuey. Under discussion PNC King mentioned ways Post 64 has had success. PNC Ginsburg mentioned forming the committee at the Business Meeting. It does not have to be someone on the NEC. SRVC and JRVC had discussed what are the duties of the JRVC. Could the JRVC give guidance to the committee? JRVC Shuey, FO Knight, and SRVC Hinz volunteered to initiate the committee. PNC Ginsburg called the question. The vote was taken, and motion was approved.

National Executive Director – William Mund has been busy getting ready for this meeting and the Wreath Laying. The Wreath Laying is becoming a problem with the added requirements by the authorities at Arlington and the security at Fort Myer. Arlington will no longer be returning our wreath to us so we will have to purchase a new one every year.

Membership – Membership report printed with agenda. We are only 3% off from the same time last year. PNC Ginsburg discussed the relocation of Post 29. We can now move it to the Southern Region. He then showed the new Recruiting Display. PNC King asked about the ability for Post to purchase their own Display. PNC Ginsburg will get the Post the costs, if they are interested.

Editor 29er – The 75th Anniversary and National Convention are the emphasis in the next issue of the "29er".

Chaplain – Vacant

Service – Neil Ungerleider was not present for a report. He is looking for feedback - critique on the Website. Please e-mail Neil with any recommendations.

Surgeon – Howard Bond had no report.

Welfare – National Welfare J. Brian Becker discussed William Wolf, Donald Graf, Junior Fisher, John Wilcox, and Bob Wisch are having health issues. PNC King mentioned Shirley Earls is deceased and we have lost contact with James Proctor.

Historian – Joe Balkoski was not present for a report.

Sergeant at Arms – Randall Beamer mentioned items happening at Post 729.

Property Officer – Franklin Shilow was not present for a report. PNC Ginsburg asked about hats. The current provider keeps increasing the prices. PNC Ginsburg suggested having a discussion to possibly change the hat style. He recommended that the Commander, SRVC and the Property Officer get the information together to bring forward at the Convention.

Parliamentarian – Thomas Insley was not present for a report.

Judge Advocate – Houston Matney mentioned administrative items have come up, i.e. insurance due right after the convention. Incorporation is another issue, i.e. 29th Division vs Twenty-Ninth Division, Inc. We need to have information spelled out for newly elected officers entering their office for consistency.

## Committee Reports

Wreath Laying Ceremony – 29 June 2019 at 1200 is the date and time. Soldier and NCO of the Year are attending.

2019 National Convention – Commander Leighton mentioned the hotel cost is \$99 a night with no breakfast.

Futures Committee – PNC Ginsburg mentioned the Armory Program is

(Continued on page 30)

## 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 26, 2019**. 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

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

## Patrons

During the 101st 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 26, 2019**. Mail to William S. Mund, Jr. at the address above.

## Convention Vendors

All vendors who wish to participate in our Reunion and Convention at the Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront are required to register with the National Executive Director no later than **1 September 2019**.

Please contact:

William S. Mund, Jr.  
National Executive Director  
**duster197329@gmail.com**  
**443-529-4233**

### Please Note:

This is the only *Twenty-Niner* that will be published before the convention.

Please make note of all the convention information on this page and pages 18, and 28.

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

For those interested, a bus will be available for round trip travel between the Pikesville Military Reservation (PMR) in Pikesville, MD and the hotel in Virginia Beach, VA. The bus will depart PMR on Thursday morning, 10 October 2019 and return to PMR on Sunday.

The cost for the bus is **\$50 per person round trip**. Departure time from PMR will be determined at a later date.

Please join us in October for our 101st Annual Reunion and Convention of the 29th Division Association.

*William S. Mund, Jr., Editor*

## 101st Annual Convention

October 10 – 13, 2019

### 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 — Military Aviation Museum & State Military Reservation (SMR) Camp Pendleton, Virginia Beach, Virginia. Boxed lunch included in cost. Please select your choice for lunch.

No. @ \_\_\_\_\_ \$30.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Choice of:

Ham & Cheese \_\_\_\_\_ Smoked Turkey \_\_\_\_\_

Bus—Pikesville Military Reservation to Virginia Beach, VA. Round Trip for \$50.

No. @ \_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: **29th Division Association, Inc.** 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.

**See page 18 for hotel information and prices.**



(Continued from page 27)

the next item to be accomplished. Some of the same graphics from the Recruiting Display will be used. They will be placed in Armories that have someone that will be able to receive them.

Nominating Committee – Junior Vice Commander, Chaplain and Service Officer are vacant.

Awards and Grants Committee – NWO Becker said there has been no activity. PNC Hayden asked about the plaques for the OCS/WOCS graduation. NWO Becker will follow up.

#### Old Business

75th D-Day Normandy Representation – SRVC Hinz reported on representing the 29th Division Association. A wreath was purchased and laid at the 116th monument and the 29th monument. We need better official representation. JRVC Shuey added comments. Jimmy Kilbourne said we need to own our brand in France. Add this to the Agenda for the Business Meeting as Old Business.

National Chaplain Vacancy – Since we do not have a Chaplain, what are we going to do for the Sunday Memorial Ceremony? SRVC Hinz mentioned that since the Convention will in Virginia, let's contact a Chaplain in Virginia. He will contact the 29 Division Chaplain for Sunday Service at the Convention.

#### New Business

Fundraising Raising - Raffle – NFO will table this for now. Any budget items for next year, please forward to Finance Officer.

Other New Business – Several issues came up that maybe we need to establish a standing Governance Committee to cover administrative issues. PNC Ginsburg mentioned that the Commander can create any standing committee. If it were to become a permanent standing committee, it would require a by-law change.

PNC Ginsburg mentioned that there should be an official presence at

the National D-Day Museum for 6 June every year. NED recommended moving something in June. We already have the NEC III, the Arlington Wreath Laying. If we add something for the D-Day Memorial, we need to change one, most likely the Arlington wreath laying. National Surgeon Bond recommended moving the Arlington wreath laying to later in the year. PNC Ginsburg motioned that presence at Bedford on D-Day, seconded by PNC King. Motion passed.

#### Deaths, Sick & Distressed

Already covered.

#### Good of the Association

PNC King recommended that the NEC Meeting be changed to a weekend instead of a weekday.

SRVC Hinz mentioned that we missed an opportunity to recognize the 100th Anniversary of the end of WWI. Is there any way we can look at recognizing the 100th Anniversary of the signing of the treaty?

#### Closing

With no further business, Commander Leighton began the closing ceremonies. A closing prayer was offered by NA Simmers along with a final salute to the colors.

Meeting was adjourned at 1314 hours.

*Respectfully submitted,*

VALERIE E. SIMMERS  
Adjutant

**NEC Members please note:**

**These minutes are not distributed individually.**

**This is your copy.**

## VP Pence attends ceremonies in Bedford on 6 June 2019

(Continued from page 17)

sion Band throughout the ceremony, including the playing of Taps in honor of 4,414 Allied soldiers—2,501 of them Americans—who lost their lives on D-Day. The 29th Infantry Division Association was also on hand to pay tribute and lay a special wreath in memory of the fallen 29ers of 75 years ago.

April Cheek-Messier, President of the National D-Day Memorial Foundation, also paid tribute to the men of D-Day and extolled the significance of the victory they won: "D-Day was the watershed event of WWII...it was the beginning of the end of Hitler's dreams of Nazi domination.

"The consequences [of failure] would have been dire. That's why it's so critical that we pay tribute and historically remember on these occasions why we're here today."

Other events marked the anniversary. On June 5th, the

day before the commemoration, WWII veterans were invited to an exclusive showing of WWII aircraft, and were invited to take to the skies in Stearman biplanes, which trained thousands of American airmen before heading into combat. While the weather on June 6th was perfect, rain on following days forced the cancellation of an outdoor concert and special parade. However, a recreated 1944 military chapel service was held on Sunday June 9th.

"The WWII generation is too rapidly leaving us. We've already said goodbye to so many friends," noted Cheek-Messier. "The 75th Anniversary was about paying tribute to those still with us while remembering those we have lost. We can never say thank you enough."

*Article by John Long, Director of Education  
National D-Day Memorial.  
Photos courtesy of National D-Day Memorial.*

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

## 29th Division Association Supplies Available

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>POSTAGE &amp; HANDLING</u>	<u>MAILED</u>
Book—Ever Forward 116th Inf. History (soft cover)	<b>\$17.90</b>	\$5.75	<b>\$23.65</b>
Book—29 Let's Go—29th Division History	<b>\$29.00</b>	\$5.75	<b>\$29.00</b>
Book—Beyond the Beachhead (Joseph Balkoski)	<b>\$19.90</b>	\$5.75	<b>\$25.65</b>
Book—115th Infantry in WWII	<b>\$25.00</b>	\$5.75	<b>\$30.75</b>
Book—Omaha Beach and Beyond (The Long March of Sgt. Slaughter)	<b>\$25.00</b>	\$5.75	<b>\$30.75</b>
Book—From Beachhead to Brittany (Joseph Balkoski)	<b>\$28.00</b>	\$5.75	<b>\$33.75</b>
Book—From Brittany to the Reich (Joseph Balkoski)	<b>\$27.00</b>	\$5.75	<b>\$32.75</b>
Book—Our Tortured Souls (Joseph Balkoski)	<b>\$27.00</b>	\$5.75	<b>\$32.75</b>
Book—The Last Roll Call (Joseph Balkoski)	<b>\$25.00</b>	\$5.75	<b>\$30.75</b>
Book—Fields of War, Battle of Normandy (Robert Mueller)	<b>\$19.95</b>	\$5.75	<b>\$25.70</b>
Book—Drawing D-Day (Ugo & Maxine Giannini) (soft cover)	<b>\$43.00</b>	\$5.95	<b>\$48.95</b>
29th Division Association Note Pads (5 1/2 x 8 1/2)	<b>\$1.00</b>	\$1.30	<b>\$2.30</b>
Crests—115th, 116th, & 175th Infantry Regiments	<b>\$5.50</b>	\$1.10	<b>\$6.60</b>
Pin—29th Patch Stick Pin	<b>\$5.50</b>	\$1.10	<b>\$6.60</b>
Decal (specify inside or outside)	<b>\$0.50</b>	\$0.50	<b>\$1.00</b>
Labels, gummed w/29th logo (sheet of 50)	<b>\$1.00</b>	\$0.50	<b>\$1.50</b>
Clear Plastic key ring w/29th Association logo	<b>\$1.50</b>	\$1.00	<b>\$2.50</b>
Lapel pin	<b>\$3.95</b>	\$1.10	<b>\$5.05</b>
Lapel pin, past post commander	<b>\$5.00</b>	\$1.10	<b>\$6.10</b>
Ladies pendant	<b>\$7.00</b>	\$1.10	<b>\$8.10</b>
Medallion (for plaques)	<b>\$6.00</b>	\$1.10	<b>\$7.10</b>
29th Division Wine Glass	<b>\$5.00</b>	\$1.10	<b>\$6.10</b>
29th Division Association pocket patch	<b>\$6.00</b>	\$1.10	<b>\$7.10</b>
Pocket patch holder	<b>\$3.00</b>	\$1.10	<b>\$4.10</b>
Shoulder patch, 29th ID	<b>\$3.50</b>	\$0.50	<b>\$4.00</b>
Jacket, coach, navy with logo in S, M, L, XL, 2XL	<b>\$28.00</b>	\$5.75	<b>\$33.75</b>
Golf Shirt, embroidered 100% cotton pullover (royal blue, white, gray—L, XL, 2XL)	<b>\$23.00</b>	\$5.75	<b>\$28.75</b>
29th Division Official Association Necktie	<b>\$20.00</b>	\$2.00	<b>\$22.00</b>
29th Association Dress Hat (state size)	<b>\$40.00</b>	\$5.75	<b>\$45.75</b>
Hat, Baseball w/29th logo (embroidered)	<b>\$15.00</b>	\$2.60	<b>\$17.60</b>
Hat, Baseball w/29th logo (embroidered/Summer mesh)	<b>\$12.00</b>	\$2.60	<b>\$14.60</b>
29th Division Cemetery flags on wooden staff 12" X 19"	<b>\$5.00</b>	\$3.00	<b>\$8.00</b>
DVD — 29 Let's Go! - A video history of the 29th Infantry Division	<b>\$10.00</b>	\$3.00	<b>\$13.00</b>
Flash Drive — Past editions of <i>Twenty-Niner</i> (2013-2018) in 'pdf' format	<b>\$20.00</b>	\$1.10	<b>\$21.10</b>

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](http://www.29thdivisionassociation.com) and click on "Merchandise" and it will walk you through how to order merchandise using electronic payment. **Merchandise will not be mailed unless you have included the Postage and Handling fee. This includes merchandise paid by credit card off of the website.**

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

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



## JOIN THE 29TH DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.



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

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (Middle)

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

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Post (optional) - please indicate if you have a preference on what Post you are assigned to: \_\_\_\_\_

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

### 29th Division Association Membership

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

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

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