



## Commander's Message:

### Conference/Reunion Update

Since the last edition of the 29er, the Conference Committee contacted and worked with the Gettysburg Wyndham Hotel to identify our options regarding the existing contract for our Conference in the fall of 2020.

Not surprisingly, most other organizations with 2020 events were postponing their events to 2021, meaning there were very few 2021 dates available.

Therefore, due to these associated implications I distributed a motion to the National Executive Council (NEC) to reschedule the Conference; a quorum was met and the motion carried with a clear majority of votes "for."

The new dates for the Conference at the Wyndham in Gettysburg are 27/28 – 31 October, 2021. As it is very disappointing to forego a Confer-

*(Continued on page 2)*

## THE TWENTY-NINER

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Summer 2020

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## Association adapts to challenges brought on by the pandemic

"29 Let's Go!" As our country and the world are wracked by the physical, emotional and economic damage wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic, our venerable motto has taken on a new meaning.

Just as it rang from the beaches of Normandy, the trenches of the Meuse-Argonne, the hills and valleys of the Balkans and the deserts of the Middle East, it is now ringing in the cities and towns of America, our homeland, as we fight the battle against an unseen but deadly enemy.

To meet this vexing challenge the 29th Division Association has had to adapt, just as well-trained troops would do in the field as the enemy and environment evolves. No longer are we able to meet in large groups inside buildings.

However, we are now meeting in small groups, outside, with face coverings and plenty of hand sanitizers. Although altered, we are still sharing our camaraderie by adapting.

In June, we held our NEC III meeting via Zoom. With NC Hinz leading the meeting we had a substantial quorum present. Although we missed sharing coffee, donuts and lunch we were still able to conduct the meeting with vigor and efficiency.

The NEC covered a variety of topics and reports and established a number of key action items to move the Association forward. Using the Zoom platform allowed us to meet virtually from our homes and offices throughout the region.

We plan to continue using Zoom as long as the pandemic prevents our gathering and will probably continue to use it beyond to augment our in-person meetings.

Unfortunately, we had to reschedule our annual convention at the Gettysburg Wyndham due to the pandemic. When NC Hinz



**National Commander Pete Hinz leads the NEC III via Zoom on 18 June 2020.**

contacted the hotel, he learned that the prime 2021 slots were going fast and, consequently, the Association had to move quickly. With that in mind NC Hinz worked with NED Simmers to take an online vote that overwhelmingly approved the change in dates.

Now, our planning that was underway for the convention will continue since the venue will be the same. We are very excited about our first convention in Gettysburg.

Our initial plans include exploring a number of special events. Private tours of the battlefield will include an overall tour as well as very specific tours that would focus on the actions of the Stonewall Brigade and the Maryland USA vs. Maryland CSA struggle on Culps Hill; a visit to the National Park Museum and a private visit in the evening to the Cyclorama; a tour of the Eisenhower Farm; special presentations and workshops that will appeal to a variety of our members and guests; excursions to Harrisburg and Frederick to visit their Civil War museums; and free time to explore this historic and beautiful area on your own.

As the convention gets closer, we will so-

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(Continued from page 1)

ence this year, discussions have begun about some sort of social and educational events, virtual and physical, in the fall that afford the opportunity for camaraderie within whatever guidelines the pandemic situation may dictate.

### **Pandemic Update**

For our personal benefit and for the benefit of our family, friends, and those around us, we all can and should be tracking events and developments regarding the Coronavirus and COVID-19 daily.

Regarding transmission/infection, the virus mutated sometime in the past, becoming more contagious, but less lethal (except perhaps for those of us with a higher risk profile). And while it was common sense all along, it is finally becoming almost universally accepted that social distancing and mask wearing are the most effective tools to reduce transmission/infection.

Treatment has improved marginally, primarily due to the increased availability of resources. Not as positive is that while research is in high gear, there have not been reports of progress towards an outright cure for CIVOD-19.

However, there is exciting and promising news regarding development of a vaccine



for the Coronavirus, with not only progress in finding a vaccine but in using new methods for vaccine research and development that may have significant importance beyond the current emergency.

The bottom line is that at the personal level, we must each continue to make informed and intelligent decisions for the matter at hand - transmission/infection of a very dangerous virus - and not let philosophical, political, emotional, or entertainment factors cloud our decisions to stay safe and well.

To that end, National Surgeon Dr. Howard Bond has developed guidance for safely holding Post meetings in a physical, in-person setting. Please look for them in this publication - very good guidance!

### **Looking Forward**

We have all (I hope) developed ways of adjusting our lifestyle and daily routines and of coping with the pandemic, and it will be interesting (to say the least) to see how much of the adjustments become long-term or even permanent. Some will be certainly for the better.

Specific to the Association is the use of virtual meetings and electronic communication to conduct Association business. We recently completed the 3rd meeting of 2019-2020 year of the National Executive Council (NEC); the meeting was successful and productive. Please make sure to review the minutes as provided in this publication.

Toward the end of the NEC meeting, Jimmy Kilbourne elaborated on a topic he has identified several times in the past - that the Association needs to look to the future and to determine how to be relevant to attract new members, keep them, and survive as an organization.

He further suggested that we undertake a strategic planning effort to review the organization, its purpose, and provide a framework for growth and continued success for the Association. The previously formed Governance Committee will initially take up the effort and develop a project proposal for the NEC to consider for execution and support.

Looking at the future of the Association as a formal planning process becomes only more important and needed in consideration of recent social events across the nation.

While many would argue that much has been accomplished over the years towards freedom and equality (two ideals which are actually frequently at odds), it is now ever more clear that legislation and social programs have not effectively eliminated or even measurably reduced discrimination in the United States. It seems as if our nation is still greatly one of division, not inclusion.

Our Association logo, based on the shoulder sleeve insignia, or "unit patch," for the 29th Infantry Division, was based on the joining together of soldiers from the North and the South, symbolically a union moving forward to fight as one for the United States.

I think this theme - that the 29th serves as model for the transition from division to inclusion and union - can serve as a theme for our effort to build on the great successes of the Futures Committee as we look forward and plan for the Association's future.

*"29 Let's Go!"*

Peter C. Hinz  
National Commander  
29th Division Association, Inc.

## **THE TWENTY-NINER**

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## Donations to the *Twenty-Niner*

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our membership for their generosity in contributing to the *Twenty-Niner* for this Autumn/Winter issue. From 2 March 2020 through 8 July 2020, these donations totaled \$1,290.00 Note our cut-off date. If your contributions did not reach our National Executive Director by 7 July 2020 then it will not be listed until the next issue. **Donation checks must be made payable to the 29th Division Association.**

Buckley, Linda, Dundalk, MD

***In memory of Walter Heline, A/224 & 29th Rangers***

Campbell, Larry, Post 85, Son, Avondale, PA

***In memory of Bruce F. Campbell, K/116***

Cresap's Rifles, Post 78, Frederick, MD

***In memory of Richard V. Etzler, C/729 MT***

***In memory of Marion Carmack, Jr., A/1/115***

***In memory of Edward W. Heffner, A/1/115***

Eder George Post 85, North East, MD

***In memory of our post member Tom Parker***

Garrison, Jay, Post 94, Son, Durham, NC

***In memory of his father, Cecil L. Garrison, D/104 Med Bn***

Geo Flos, Women's Group, Hampstead, MD

***In memory of Walter Heline, A/224 & 29th Rangers***

Glisson, Barbara, Hampstead, MD

***In memory of Walter Heline, A/224 & 29th Rangers***

Gurtowski, Richard, Post 94, HHC/29, Vicksburg, MS

Heinlein, Rita, Daughter, Captiva, FL

***In memory of Walter Heline, A/224 & 29th Rangers***

Lane, Dale, Post 94, Son, Indianapolis, IN

Larkspur Post 110, Pikesville, MD

***In memory of Herbert Grymes, HQ/2/110***

***In memory of Richard Bogia, B/2/110***

***In memory of Calvin Reter, SVC/2/110***

***In memory of Francis "Buzz" Chalk, B/224 & 136th CSH***

***In memory of Walter Heline, A/224 & 29th Rangers***

Magaziner, Harvey & Ilene, Scottsdale, AZ

***In memory of Walter Heline, A/224 & 29th Rangers***

Martin, Joyce, Selbyville, DE

***In memory of Walter Heline, A/224 & 29th Rangers***

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

***In memory of Ray E. Moon, F/115***

Murphy, Pamela, Ellicott City, MD

***In memory of Walter Heline, A/224 & 29th Rangers***

Sheridan, Diane

***In memory of Walter Heline, A/224 & 29th Rangers***

Smith, Marsha, Post 94, Associate, Walworth, NY

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

Sparks, Gary Jr., Post 94, Grandson, Dover, DE

Welch, Linda, Post 93, Associate, Plymouth, MA

***In memory of COL Norman "Butch" Welch***

## TAPS

The following list shows names of known 29ers and their ladies who died and their deaths reported from 11 March 2020 through 8 July 2020. 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

Browning, Gordon, Post 85, HQ/2/175, Woodbridge, VA 4/20/20

Carmack, Marion, D. Jr., Post 78, A/1/115, Frederick, MD 4/16/20

Chalk, Francis "Buzz", Post 110, B/224, Baltimore, MD 4/14/20

Grymes, Herbert L. Jr., Post 110, A/110, Cockeysville, MD 3/5/20

Heffner, Edward W., Post 78, A/1/115, Harpers Ferry, WV 5/29/20

Heline, Walter, Post 110, A/224, Baltimore, MD 4/13/20

McIntire, Stanley E., Post 729, B/729MT, Waynesboro, PA 4/21/20

Paradiso, Salvatore, Post 2, Associate, Tiffin, OH 1/1/19

Parker, Thomas A., Post 85, Associate, Kennedyville, MD 3/21/20

Pryor, Phillip M., Post 88, I/115, Salisbury, MD 3/10/20

Reter, Calvin L., Post 110, SVC/110, Reisterstown, MD 1/25/20

Seghetti, Leo J., Post 110, B/110, Fisher, IN 4/1/20

Seldon, Wendell L., Post 116, HHC/116, Henrico, VA 4/13/20

## 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 13 comrades 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.

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

## BG Rhodes to succeed MG Epperly as commander of the 29th Infantry Division

RICHMOND, VA — Brig. Gen. John M. Rhodes has been selected to succeed Maj. Gen. John M. Epperly as the commander of the Fort Belvoir-based 29th Infantry Division, according to an announcement made May 22, 2020, by Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia. The assignment will be effective Sept. 1, 2020.

Rhodes has served as the 29th Infantry Division deputy commanding general for operations since Sept. 12, 2018. He served in command and staff positions at every level of the Mississippi Army National Guard and served as Mississippi National Guard Assistant Adjutant General – Army and the commander of the 66th Troop Command prior to his assignment with the 29th.

“Please join me in congratulating this exceptional officer on his new assignment,” Williams wrote in the announcement. “Brig. Gen. Rhodes is a proven leader with a track record of excellence. We look forward to the 29th Infantry Division’s continued success under his command.”

This assignment follows Epperly’s selection as the Deputy Commanding General, Army National Guard, for Army Futures Command.

“Maj. Gen. Epperly’s outstanding performance during his tenure as the 29th ID’s commanding general has uniquely prepared him for this position of increased responsibility,” Williams wrote in the announcement. “I have no doubt he will continue to excel.”

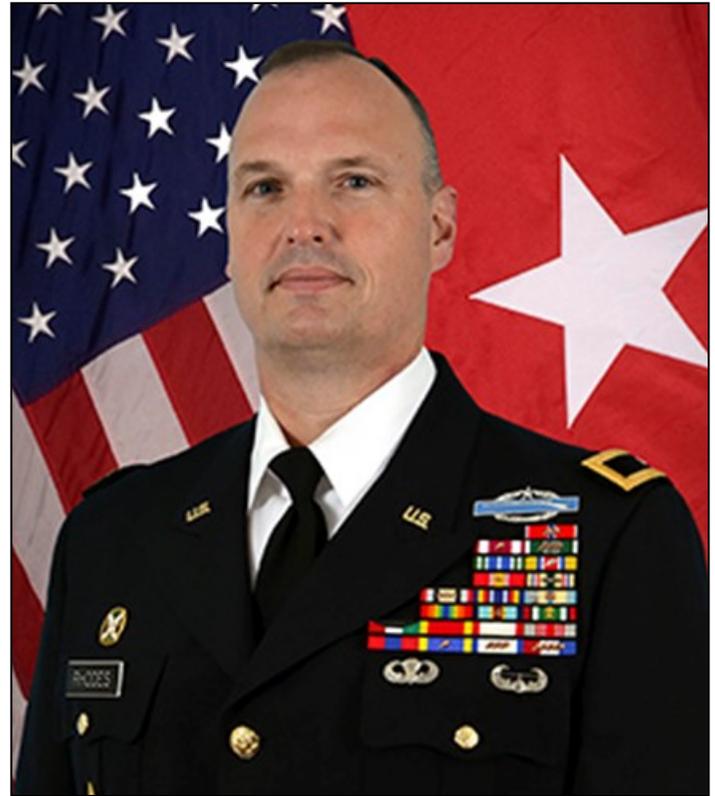
A formal change of command ceremony is scheduled for Sept. 12, 2020, at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Rhodes was commissioned a second lieutenant, Infantry in May 1987 through the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps at Mississippi State University. Currently he serves as the Deputy Commanding General of Operations for the 29th Infantry Division. Prior to transferring to the Virginia Army National Guard in 2018, he served as Mississippi National Guard Assistant Adjutant General – Army and the commander of the 66th Troop Command. He also commanded a Joint Task Force in response to natural and man-made contingencies in support of homeland security and defense operations. From 2010-2013, he served as the commander of the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team.

His combat assignments include mortar platoon leader for the 6/6th Infantry Battalion, 1st Armored Division during Operation Desert Storm in 1991, commander of 1/155th Infantry Battalion during Operation Iraqi Freedom III in 2005, and deputy commander of 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team during Operation Iraqi Freedom 9.2 in 2009-2010.

His military awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal with two Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, the Meritorious Service Medal with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Commendation Medal with three Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Achievement Medal, the Combat Infantry Badge with one Bronze Service Star, the Expert Infantry Badge, the Parachutist Badge and the Air Assault Badge.

Rhodes earned a Bachelor of Business Education from Missis-



**Brigadier General John M. Rhodes**

issippi State University in 1987, a Masters of Business Administration, Military Management from Touro University International in 2003 and Master of Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College in 2010.

Rhodes and his wife Debbie work and reside in Corinth, Mississippi where he is the general manager of the City of Corinth Gas and Water Department.

Epperly is a 1989 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point where received a Bachelor of Science degree in General Engineering and International Relations. He also holds an MBA in Finance from Drexel University and is a graduate of the U.S. Army War College Class of 2010.

He received a Regular Army commission through West Point as an armor and cavalry officer and served on active duty until 1997. He joined the Virginia Army National Guard and branch transferred to infantry. Over the last 21 years, Epperly has commanded at every level in the division to include command of the 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

Epperly has extensive experience in division operations having served as the 29th Division G3 operations officer on two occasions. Most recently, Epperly served as the deputy commanding general for operations for the division. He deployed to the Arabian Gulf Region with the 29th Infantry Division in 2016 and 2017 as part of Operation Spartan Shield.

Epperly’s military education includes the Airborne School, Air Assault School, Armor Officers Basic Course, Scout Platoon Leader’s Course, Infantry Mortar Leader’s Course, Armor Officers Advanced Course, CAS3, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College.

*By Mr. Cotton Puryear*

# "I Can't Tell You Everything."

## Part 4

### *Writing Home From the War Front — 1942 - 1945*

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

*Note: Punctuation and grammar inaccuracies have not been edited.*

(should have been March 23, 1943)

My Dear Georgia & Georgie Boy:

I have just been in and had a nice hot bath. Boy that certainly takes the kinks out of one. If I ever have a home that is one thing I'm going to have in it.

I was just thinking that day after tomorrow our little man will be three years old. There was quite a time three years ago on the 25th of March wasn't there.

Gosh I remember the first time I saw him. He certainly wasn't very pretty then was he? I suppose he was to you though.

I'm sorry I couldn't find a birthday card to send him, but I sent you all an Easter Card instead. Be sure and have a birthday party for him with three big candles in the cake.

I received a v-mail from you yesterday written the 8th of March. I suppose by now everyone is busy farming away. They are over here. Almost everywhere you look you see a tractor doing something in the fields.

I've been doctoring on a blister tonight. I have two honeys, one on each foot. I have never received the fruit cake. Have about given up over receiving it now. I still have a few of the cookies left and almost all the candy you sent.

Lt. Ligon said that he was sure that Georgie put that sucker in against his will and bets that he tried to take it out after he did put it in. I can see him putting it in there now.

We are getting some Coca Colas now. I had one just a few minutes ago.

I hope that by now you have received the money orders. Be sure to let me know when you have. I shall probably be sending another one after the first of this next month for a small amount.

I had a photo taken while in London. I should get them in a week or so. I will mail them provided they are any good. I couldn't tell anything about that as I didn't have time to wait and see the proof.

Tell Fanny I see Boob quite often now. You remember Jake Lowe don't you? Well he is the same as ever, a clown if there ever was one. You just can't help but laugh at some of the things he says.

Must close now as I have to get early in the morning. Hope I get a letter tomorrow. Lots of Love  
Junior & Daddy

February 23, 1943

P.S. Hello George Nabb. Aren't you going to give your bottle of titty to those hungry lambs?  
postmarked March 24, 1943

March 24, 1943

V MAIL

Dear Georgia,

This date was rather a "momentous" one for us wasn't it? Remember three years ago today? There has been a few changes in our lives since that time.

You wrote in the last letter I received that the allotment had not been received yet. I looked into the matter today. A radiogram was sent several days ago and surely you should hear from it by now. I certainly hope that it is now straightened out. This will make six months now since it was to become effective.

I wrote to Johnny and Liz last nite. I should have done so long ago but just didn't. Has Monie gotten her letter yet?

How is my little man? I'm sure you are having a time with him these days. Does he still call Martin his friend? I can't think of much that is new tonight. I am well and o.k. How is Papa's asthma - any better? And Uncle Will? Is he any better? Write soon. Lots of Love

Junior & Daddy

postmarked Apr 11 1943 New York, NY

March 27, 1943

V-MAIL

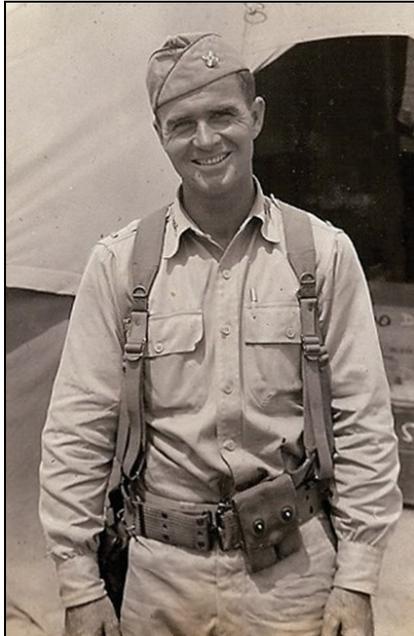
My Dear Georgia & Georgie Boy:

I received your v-mail letter of Mar 17 today. It was the first I've had in two days. I've reached the point where I look for a letter every day.

This is Saturday night again. The days certainly move by quickly. I can't seem to realize it, but we will soon have been here six months.

Tommy was up to see me a short while ago. I told him about your asking about his censoring of my letter. He had a big laugh over that.

Sambo is pretty rough on the baby chicks isn't he? Especially when he throws shovels at them. I'm sorry to hear that he has been having the croup again. It is getting pretty late for that isn't it?



Have you been able to get the car finished yet? I hope it will look all right when the job is done. By the way I saw a Plymouth today of the same model. It was the first one that I have seen over here. Looked right familiar too. Does Georgie put his harness on Teddy? By the way did you ever use the harness you bought to put on Georgie. Maybe with that you could manage to keep up with him. Lots of Love  
Junior & Daddy  
postmarked April 13, 1943

April 2, 1943

My Dear Georgia & Georgie Boy:

How are you tonight? I have just returned from London on a 48 hr pass. Got back about an hour ago, 5:30. I went to see two or three shows, slept till 10 o'clock both mornings and spent the rest of the time walking.

I bought a pair of Oxfords while there and what do you suppose I had to pay for them. Four pounds! That is the equivalent of sixteen dollars in American money. That is one awful price to pay for a pair of shoes isn't it? If I had paid that amount for them back in the states, I would have wanted someone to examine my head. My other dress shoes are still almost as good as new, but have gotten, too small for me.

Some of the shops there have some beautiful silver in the, but I would be afraid to mail it to you. When the war is over and if I'm still where I can get it, I'll bring back a piece for you.

I haven't had a letter now for four days. I don't know yet whether any came while I was gone or not. Lt. Bowen has gone down to the Co. and said he would bring it up if I had any.

I haven't received the pictures yet. They were supposed to have been here several days ago. Will send them when they come and you can give two of them to someone you want to unless you want more than one.

How is Sambo these days. Just as busy as a bee I bet. I am sending he and Ramona a v mail Easter card tonight.

Tomorrow is Saturday, but today seems like Sunday to me. So guess I'll have to get in the harness for two more weeks before I get any time off.

I think I shall drop down to see Tommy tomorrow night. I have only been down to see him once and then he wasn't home. He is a hard man to keep up with. He had a big laugh when I told him what you said about censoring my letters.

I have only found one thing over here to eat that can compare with our own food and that is the waffles that we get at the American Red Cross. They are surely swell.

Give my love to Sambo and kiss him for me.  
Lots of Love Junior & Daddy  
postmarked April 3, 1943

Apr 4, 1943

V MAIL

My Dear Georgia & Georgie Boy

I received several letters and the cablegram from you yesterday. Glad to hear that you received the money o.k. Quite a nice little sum wasn't it?

Oh yes I received Georgie's letter too. Tell him he writes a

good bit and must write more often. I received the valentine and birthday cards he sent me quite a while ago.

I received the pictures of you and the one of Georgie. The pictures of you are good but what in the world are you so serious about? loosen up and smile a little. What kind of a haircut is that Georgie has? It looks something like mine, a pineapple bob. He is surely cute sitting on the fence. Who is that standing in back of him, Bill?

I'm sorry to hear that Johnny is back at his old habit again. I thought perhaps he had stopped.

Too bad about John Young losing his mind, but then he never did have much to begin with since I've known him.

Boob was telling me that he has received word that his brother Elliott has been missing in action since February. Will write more in another letter.

Lots of Love Junior & Daddy  
postmarked April 17, 1943

April 4, 1943

My Dearest Georgia & Georgie Boy:

This is a follow up to a v mail letter which I have just completed. I usually write one of each and both have about the same thing in them.

I received your letters with the pictures and also the cablegram. Was glad to hear that you received it all right. I was trying to figure out how much I should have in the bank the other night, but couldn't remember just what the figures were you told me. It must be around \$2400.00 with that isn't it? Hope you hear from the allotment soon, that will be six hundred more.

I wrote and told you about the travel pay I put in for the trip you made to Camp Blanding. When you receive that its yours as you had to borrow money from your mother and Ridgeway to do it. So use it for whatever you like, but it may be quite a while before you receive it. I am either going to mail you another money order or else buy a bond and have it sent to you in a day or so as I have a little more cash on hand here than I expect to need before next month.

Yes I receive the newspaper clippings you send and like to get them. I usually carry them over to Leve when I finish with them. Too bad about the Tall Boy wasn't it? Boob tells me that he has received word that his brother Eliot is missing in action in North Africa. Pretty tough on his mother as I understand she is in pretty bad health.

Spring is showing everywhere over here. The grass is green, trees are budding and flowers are beginning to bloom everywhere. I believe the English must be the greatest lovers of flowers in the world. Everywhere

*end of letter, page 3... is missing*  
postmarked April 5, 1943

April 6, 1943

V MAIL

My Dear Georgia & Georgie Boy,

I received three air mail letters from you today and I also received the birthday cards from Sara and Papa. I also received a notice from the Dependency Office dated March 8 which said that the back amounts would be mailed to you by a special check and that the future checks would be for \$208.67. Write and let me know about it as soon as you can.

In your letter you stated that Aunt Mary had had a stroke of paralysis and that Uncle Will is not any better. I'm sorry to hear that, but then both of them are getting along in years.

You tell Georgie that if he doesn't stop saying those bad words I'm not going to bring him a doggie when I come home.

I'm glad to hear that you have joined the club you were speaking of. You will probably enjoy it. I see where Lydia Jones has four sons in the Navy. That is quite a record isn't it! Write soon. Lots of Love

Junior & Daddy

postmarked Apr 18 1943 New York, NY

April 9, 1943

V MAIL

My Dear Georgia & Georgie Boy

I received two air mail and one v mail letter from you today. Was glad to hear that you had received the checks for the allotment. However it should have been for five months and not four. Maybe they will straighten it out in this month's check. If they do not write to them and be sure to let me know.

I received your birthday cablegram on the eighth which is pretty close considering how far it had to come.

Of course I didn't mind you saving part of the check for a spring suit. Wish I could be there to see you in it.

I shall buy a bond tomorrow. You should receive it within a few weeks. Sorry to hear that Uncle Will is no better. Doesn't look as though he will be here much longer.

So Georgie told Uncle Walter to hold on to his horses and not run into his automobile did he? I'll bet that did tickle him. Will write more tomorrow night.

Lots of Love Junior & Daddy

postmarked April 20, 1943

April 10, 1943

V MAIL

My Dear Georgia & Georgie Boy:

I am writing this at 11:30 Saturday night. I have just been down to the Co. and made bed check.

I didn't receive a letter today. Must have gotten them all yesterday. I more or less look for one every day, but I know that a lot of times I'm not going to receive one.

I mailed the photos to you yesterday. Hope you get them all right, but expect they will be crushed before you do

I've been pretty busy tonight. I have been trying to straighten up a Council book I've counted forms until I see figures before my eyes, and there is still a difference of 98 cents. Can't figure where it went to, but I'm through looking for it tonight.

You remember Capt. Dryden don't you? He is down here tonight. Has just received his promotion to Major.

Can't think of much to tell you that's new. Will tell you I love you and miss you both very much. Be sure and see that the Easter bunny comes to see Georgie. Love!

Junior & Daddy

postmarked April 21, 1943

Apr. 16, 1943

My Dear Georgia & Georgie Boy:

How are you tonight? Well I hope. I have just gotten back from a 48 hr. pass. Lt. Bowen and I spent our time in a small town called Salisbury. It is about [the letter was cut here by a censor] from here. Spent our time walking around the town looking at the old buildings and saw a show or two. We stayed at The Red Lion Hotel. It was built between 1300 and 1400. We visited the cathedral there. It is around 700 years old, but is in perfect condition, and is fully as beautiful inside as Westminster Abbey.

I did spend quite some time looking around for something to send Ramona Lee and Georgie Boy, but ended up with nothing. Can't seem to find anything that I believe they would like. I was in a jewelry store there that is operated by the man who was Lord Mayor of Salisbury when they had the centennial celebration in Salisbury, Md. You remember I wrote of him once before. While in there I looked at [paper is cut here by censor] old silver there. Good thing you were not there or I might have come out broke. They really do have some beautiful pieces, and some that he showed us was made in the 18th century. He showed us a small pitcher about the size of an ordinary glass and the price was eight pounds or a little over \$32.00. Some pitcher wasn't it. I did see a pair of silver candle sticks that were about the same price and very pretty. If you would like to have something like that let me know and I'll see if I can't get you something and send it to you. I was sorry to hear of Uncle Will's death, but have expected it for some time as you told me in your letters that he was pretty bad off. It will surely leave Aunt Anna in a bad way if Norman does have to go, but maybe Uncle Will's death will change it some. I'm glad you sent the flowers as that is what I wanted you to do. Is Aunt Mary any better? In your last letter you wrote that she was sick in bed.

I suppose you are having nice weather home now. It is surely nice here now.

I saw some of the best looking saddles while in Salisbury. If possible when I come back I'm going to bring one with me.

At the Red Cross club in Salisbury they have two little black cocker spaniels about 7 weeks old. I wish you could see them. They are just alike and everyone that goes in there has a time with them. I thought of Georgie as soon as I saw them.

Haven't asked for my leave yet. Can't figure out what I want to do with the time yet. I thought once about going to Scotland, but don't relish the idea of going alone. And only one officer per company can be gone at the same time.

I wrote to you before about the allotment check. It should have been for February too. The allotment became effective Oct. 1. In other words October was the month in which the increase started and you should have received the first increase in the check you received the 1st of November. If you don't receive the other why write to them about it and let me know. Have you received your travel pay yet. Write soon.

postmarked April 16, 1943

Lots of Love Junior & Daddy

Apr. 21, 1943

My Dear Georgia & Georgie:

I received your letter of April 9th today. It had the clipping in it about the damage to the peach crop by sleet and cold weather. That will be a pretty severe blow especially to the large growers.

I received a v-mail from Dr. Quinn and Aunt Sissie yesterday. Was glad to hear from them. He spoke of Papa and Johnny and the girls being over there to see them.

Yesterday I carried D Co. through a Company proficiency test. Seemed right natural to be back in harness there again. I think I shall be sent back there before long, at least that is what the Colonel told me and asked me to take them through so as to have the experience behind me.

The boys worked swell and the Co. got a mark of satisfactory. You should have seen them. You know over here we go in for quite a bit of camouflage. Well that day we all had our faces blackened to keep the glare of our white skins from showing up. We looked like a bunch of black face comedians. I got my blacking out of the coal bucket here in the room.

Honey I wish you could have seen those boys the night before we were to go through the problem. Capt. Powell had the whole Co. assembled in one of the buildings nearby to give them some last minute instructions and for me to give them any that I might have to add. Well when I walked into that room everyone began clapping and applauding. I can hardly tell you how it made me feel except that it made me feel good to know that such loyalty and feeling for me existed.

C Co. is having a party tonight in the Gym. We are having beer, doughnuts, coca cola and of all things Ice cream! The boys in the kitchen mixed it and had it frozen in a town nearby. That will be a treat for the boys as we haven't had any since leaving the states. I had some Sunday. Lt. Ligon and I walked over to see Tommy and they had a freezer of it. It was pretty good too.

At the party tonight some of the boys are going to sing, one plays the accordion and we are having some A.T.S. girls over to it. They are similar to the W.A.A.Cs back in the U.S.

So you found Georgie playing in the horse trough. Seems like I remember another little boy who used to do the same thing. Wonder who it was?

Look Honey there is one thing that I wish you would send me if you can get one in Cambridge, that is one of these identification bracelets that men wear. It is nothing but a flat piece of metal with my name and rank and serial no. on it and a piece of chain that holds it on your wrist. Don't get an expensive one, but it should have a fairly heavy chain to keep from breaking. If you can find one and don't have to pay too much for it I'd like to have one. Please don't buy an expensive one as it is not that important. I'm going to have to make a purchase of some writing paper soon. We have some in the company store. I have just two sheets left.

Keep me advised about the allotment and let me know when you receive the bond.

Have you received the photos yet? You asked about them in your letter. I am well, but don't think I'm gaining any weight right now. Am just about holding my own. Lots of Love  
Junior & Daddy

P.S. Hello George Nabb. How's tricks? Are you tending to Joe Boy and Sally? Have you been in the horse trough lately?  
postmarked April 21, 1943

24 April 1943

My Dearest Wife and Darling Son:

How do you like that one? You wrote in one of your letters that

you liked the way I began one of my letters. I didn't receive any mail today and can't think of a great deal to write about.

Today is Saturday. Tomorrow is Easter Sunday. I intend to attend the services here tomorrow at 10:30. They have arranged to have an open air service in a stadium here. I understand that it's to be right nice. My only regret is that I can't be home with you and Georgie and attend services together. Tomorrow I'll say a little prayer for you both.

You wrote in one of your letters asking me if I was receiving Captains pay. I am. Will be sending you some more money or another bond next month. I heard from the test which I took the company through today. The Co. was rated satisfactory and the Co. Commander (me for a day) very satisfactory. Sort of makes me feel good.

I haven't heard anymore about going back to D Co., but it seems pretty certain that I will sometime in the not too far distant future.

We are having our regular Saturday night dance here at the Officers Mess to- night. I think I shall go down for a while, otherwise I'm never going to use up the pounds worth of chits that I bought. I haven't been to one of them since we have been at this place.

So Aunt Mary is expecting again. You just can't keep them down can you? I thought that was all over with them, but guess you never can tell. So Frank is home on a 10 day furlough. I don't imagine he has changed much since I last saw him. I can get the furlough, but the trouble is I can't get back home. It would be right nice to walk in on you and sort of surprise you wouldn't it?

How is Papa? Better I hope. It is bad enough to have the asthma, but still worse to have a bad cold with it. Does he still go to the Doctor? And how are you feeling now? Seems like every letter I get you are either sick or just getting over feeling bad.

I just happened to think of it. When you send me that identification bracelet, send me a small jar of Noxzema that is if you can. The entire package can't weigh more than 8 oz. I still have quite a bit, but it's beginning to run low.

I am in good health. I have a slight cold, but that is normal for me.

This place is really getting beautiful now. The trees are nearly leafed out and the flowers on the lawns are in full bloom. There are many different kinds and colors, but I can only identify two of them, lilies and tulips. Give my love to the youngest and I hope old Easter Bunny treats him good. Remember the horses he got last Easter and then stood on them and broke them. Lots of Love  
Your Loving Husband

Junior & Daddy

postmarked Apr 28. instead of stamp, he has written free in upper right corner.

May 1, 1943

My Dearest Georgia & Georgie Boy:

I am writing this Saturday night. I am Officer of the Day so have quite a bit of time on my hands.

I came back from London last night, and had five letters waiting for me and I received two more today.

I didn't visit the doctor who lives in London. Maybe I will some

time later. The other one lives quite a ways from here and I don't expect I'll get that far.

Didn't do much on my pass. Spent most of it at the Red Cross Club. It rained all day the last day there. I went to see a couple of movies and enjoyed them very much. I also tried to find a cloth belt to match my blouse, but was unsuccessful. My blouse is much lighter in color than the ones they are now making and I expect I'll have a job finding one. I wish I could though as they are so much more comfortable than the Sam Browne belt.

I received a v mail from Fanny and one from Emily yesterday. Says that the event hasn't happened yet. Too bad about Mrs. Wilson, but Boob has been expecting it for some time I think. I see from the clippings you send that quite a few of the married ones are being called up now. They are no better in a lot of cases than the single ones especially if their wives are working.

I'm sorry to hear about your fever blisters and that you are not feeling so good. From what you write about Georgie he must be a card. I would surely love to see him and you too. Too bad that Papa isn't able to do much. Even if he could get out and around and see what was going on it would keep things moving I know.

So Bill has joined the Home Guard. I wonder that your mother ever consented to it but I'm sure it will do him good and I believe he will enjoy it.

I went over today to a school nearby that American Officers and enlisted men are attending. It was pretty interesting, but the ride was pretty tiresome.

Well the ghost walked yesterday. That is it was pay day. I'll either be sending you a money order or having a bond sent to you within the next few days. I drew \$146.00 and I still have quite a bit left from last month.

I haven't asked for a leave yet. Lt. Bowen is up in Scotland. I'm going to wait and see what he thinks of it before I decide on any place in particular.

Tommy was over to see me while I was on pass and left a note on the bed asking whether I ever stayed in or not.

You were speaking of the grass being late this spring. Too bad that we couldn't transplant some of this over here back there. The country is really beautiful now. On the trip to London the fields looked like some picture you have seen.

It certainly looks like Aunt Nellie would do something to the house and buildings there unless she is waiting for them to fall down.

I don't imagine anyone is going to buy the Marshall place as it is just a frog pond. If help doesn't get more plentiful I expect more will be for sale, but this is a bad time to buy anything as you will pay just twice what it is worth normally. Write often as your letters mean so much to me. I'll write again tomorrow. With all my Love  
Junior & Daddy

P.S. Hi there George Nabb. How are you and Martin making out, ok?

P.S. I'm enclosing some odds and ends for your scrapbook if you can use them postmarked May 10, 1943 opened by Army Censor return address is Co. C 115th Inf

May 5, 1943

My Dearest Georgia & Georgie Boy:

How are you tonite? At least I hope your feet are not hurting like mine are.

Took a walk today and I feel like I'm walking on pins.

I received a v mail from you today and a letter from Rosalie & Payton. I was more or less surprised to hear from them. She talks like Payton is farming away. By the way I received a letter from you day before yesterday dated the 27th of February. That one surely must have gotten hung up somewhere. It was the one with Georgie's picture pasted on it. You will probably have heard it before you receive this, but will tell you anyway. Leve received his Captaincy yesterday. There were three of them in the Regiment. I'm glad to see him get it as he should have had it long ago.

You wrote in that letter I received about receiving the Life Insurance policy, was it for \$5000 or for \$10,000. You remember I told you that I had to take out an additional \$5,000 due to the fact that there was some mix up in the one I took out just before I went to Fort Benning. However if you have received only one for \$5,000 it is all right since they have probably found out about the other one and have straightened it out.

It has been pretty cold here for quite some time. Hope you are having that good old Eastern Shore spring weather now. It will soon be time for soft crabs won't it? Sure would like to have about half a dozen.

How is Sambo? As good as ever? Have you carried him in to see his new cousin. I asked Boob what they were going to name her, but he said that would be up to Frances. Tell her I said to call her Liza Jane.

Emily tells me that Carol Ann is a big girl now and that Georgie scares her with Teddy when she goes out there.

I suppose people are setting out tomato plants now. They should be a good price. I hope the farmers can make some money, while everybody else is lining their pockets. You should hear the men over here speak about John L. Lewis. If they could get him here for a few minutes I'll guarantee there wouldn't be any more coal strikes of his calling. I think some people must be crazy. Any person who would do a thing like that should be drafted in the army and immediately sent overseas. Maybe six months or a year of that would cure them of whatever it is they have.

I was so tired last night that I lay down for a few minutes sleep and didn't wake up until 10 o'clock. Had to go down to the Co. mess hall and get something to eat. How are you feeling these days. Better I hope. Give my Love to all. Lots & Lots of Love and I miss you so much.

George B. Nabb Jr (your husband & Georgie's Daddy)

postmarked May 6 1943

opened by Army censor

May 8, 1943

My Dearest Georgia & Georgie Boy:

Saturday night is here again. I have just come up from the Officers Lounge & Bar. I played two or three games of checkers, had a couple of drinks, a cup of coffee, two sandwiches and decided to come up and go to bed. They are having a dance tonight, but somehow or other I couldn't get interested. Sometimes I wonder what is wrong with me. There is to be a Grand Ball here next Saturday night. I suppose it will be quite an affair. I guess I should learn some of these new steps. That seems to be about all

they do now, but I don't believe I'll turn into a Jitterbug at my age. I'd rather have you here to teach me anyway.

In your letters you ask if I am commanding C Co. No, I'm not. Lt. Bowen is in command. I'm second in command. I haven't heard any more about a change, so won't be much surprised if I stay there. I at least am free of the worry and responsibility for a time. However if they decide to send me back to Co. D I'll be glad to go. Nearly every time I talk with any of the men there they want to know when I'm coming back. I don't know anything to tell them. So I just say I don't know. I'm not the only one around here who has received similar treatment. Another Co. Commander was talking to me tonight and told me he was on his way out after having a Co. for nearly a year. Honey I'm not bitter about it nor do I feel badly. What some of the higher ups may think of me doesn't matter half as much to me as what I think of myself and what the men who served under me think.

Excuse this change in paper. I had just one sheet of the other and I thought I would use it up and be through with it.

I haven't received any letters for a couple of days now. Perhaps I'll get one tomorrow.

I hope you are all feeling well by this time. Does Sambo still stay around Martin & Obbie? Tell them I say that if they let anything happen to that boy I'll wring their necks when I get back.

The news was very encouraging today. The Germans are at last getting a dose of their own medicine. I believe that before you receive this the African campaign will be over. I only hope and pray that the other part of it will come to a speedy close also.

Have you received the photos yet? Hope they didn't get crushed too badly. And there are also two \$75.00 bonds on the way. Keep me informed as to when you receive them as I keep the money order receipts until I hear from you. Hope the allotment comes through o.k. If it is ever completely straightened out I want to increase the amount and then I won't have to bother about sending extra money to

*Remainder of letter and envelope are missing, (Pg 5)*

15 May 1943

#### V MAIL

My Dearest Georgia & Georgie Boy:

I received your letters of May 1 & 3rd yesterday. Also Easter greetings from George and Pauline. You were asking about a package the Women's Club sent to me. I haven't received any of the packages other than the ones I have wrote to you about. We went to London on our pass. Had a pretty good time. Went to see a couple of shows. "Thunder Birds" and "Slightly Dangerous" Enjoyed the last one very much.

You were asking about the bonds. I mailed two checks to the US Treasury. One on May 3 and another on April 8. So you should have two of them instead of one. Keep me informed as to when you do receive them, as I want to make sure you get them all right.

The last few days have been beautiful. I hope that you are having weather like them. Be sure to make me one of those strawberry shortcakes and send over. Boy what I wouldn't give to have one right now. Will write again tonite. Lots of Love.

Junior & Daddy

Hello there George Nabb

postmarked May 24, 1943, New York, NY

May 15, 1943

My Dearest Wife & Darling Son:

Another Saturday night is here. We are having a dance downstairs. I think I'm catching cold. I have a headache and feel chilly. I have just started a fire in here but really shouldn't need it as the last three days have been warm and beautiful.

I received the package with the bracelet and sunglasses in it today. It surely came in a hurry. I didn't expect it for another month. They were in good shape. The bracelet is just what I wanted. It is a little too large, but I can have that fixed the first time I get a chance to see a jeweler.

I have never received the package Miss Rita was asking you about. Nor the one you sent with the cake in it. They are probably feeding the fishes now.

This letter is nearly a repetition of the v-mail I wrote this morning. There are two \$100.00 bonds on the way. I bought one in April and another in May. Be sure and let me know when you receive them.

About the insurance policy. So far as I can find out the one I received at Fort Benning is null. That is no part of my pay was ever deducted for it. The last two you received are the important ones. However keep them all as there might be some question. I'm only allowed \$10,000.00 insurance and the three policies make \$15,000.00.

You were asking about whether or not I wanted you to keep the \$100.00 allotment now that the car has been paid for. Of course I want you to keep it. You will have some money of your own and you can certainly save as much that way as if you just kept out what you think you need. So you keep out \$100.00 for yourself and have your own account.

Too bad about the cold weather killing the tomato plants. I expect they are pretty expensive this year aren't they? I know help must be a problem.

So Bad Pants broke up the turkey eggs did he? He deserved a switching for that. But I'll bet nobody gave him one.

Hope you have received the photos by now and they won't be crushed when you do receive them.

I received Easter cards today from Liz & Johnny and one from Ramona Lee. So Frances named the baby Catherine Frances. There are surely enough Catherines in our family. No less than six or seven I think.

Will write again tomorrow nite. Lots of Love to you both and I miss you so.

Junior & Daddy

postmarked May 19, 1943

16 May 1943

My Dearest Georgia & Georgie Boy:

Today is Sunday and a beautiful one too. I haven't felt so good. I've caught cold somehow and I've had a headache the greater part of the day.

I was thinking that it was about this time last year that you and George were down to A.P. Hill. Remember what a time he had there in camp and that was the first time he ever told anyone that his name was George Nabb.

Honey I was just looking at what my bank balance should be now, provided you have received the back checks. It's over

\$3000.00 plus \$300.00 in War Bonds. With the car paid for now you should be able to save quite a sum out of your allotment. So maybe when this is over we won't be quite penniless. No fooling though, I think we can save \$250.00 a month. You see I receive around \$140.00 a month over here besides what is sent to you. For the last three months I have sent \$75.00 back for a bond. I still have more left than I have any need for here. I have a little over \$100.00 now, but was holding that back in case I did get a leave. If I haven't gone on leave by the 1st of next month I'll send it by money order or cable it to you. I certainly hope they get the allotment straightened out this time. If I could increase it, it would be much simpler than sending this money home every month.

Has the boy been breaking any more eggs lately. Some of these days he will get hold of some rotten ones and maybe that won't be a mess. It's a good thing we don't still have geese as I know he wouldn't take any eggs from under them. By the way speaking of eggs I had two hard boiled eggs while in London. Guess what kind they were. Sea Gull eggs! They tasted pretty good too, though I didn't think I'd ever eat one. You never know what you will have to do though do you? They were about the size of guinea eggs and tasted almost like hen eggs except they were much sweeter.

Did you go to church today? If it has been as pretty there as it has here I'm sure you must have gone somewhere. Only wish I could be there to go with you.

From the way things look now it shouldn't be too much longer. The shortest time possible will be long enough for me.

Will enclose a postcard or two for your scrapbook. Lots of Love Junior & Daddy  
postmarked May 17, 1943

18 May 1943

My Dear Georgia & Georgie Boy:

I am writing this before supper. I have been asleep quite a large part of the afternoon as we were out last night. I received your letter of the 8th of May today. Can't think why the check should be so long in coming unless they are getting the whole business together. In one of your previous letters a few days ago you said that they owed me for four months. If you received 4 months back pay in the March check, they only owe us for Feb. Mar & April. You don't receive May check until June. I don't understand why you are not receiving my mail as I am writing more often if anything than I did at first.

Be careful of Georgie riding on the tractor as one or two children have been killed at that business.

My cold is better. In fact I don't think I caught much. It was just a bad headache.

I think I shall go to a show tonight or else go up to see Tommy for a while. I get so damn lonesome at times I hardly know what to do. Maybe it won't be too much longer before it's over. They are betting on this fall over here in some instances. I hope they are right.

If and when I do get out of the army I think I'll just set down and do nothing for a while. It will certainly be strange not having to eat sleep and work by the clock.

Boob said the other day that when he got home he wasn't even

going to walk down to the store to get a coca cola. I think the most of us feel the same way, but we will change I suppose. I do know that it will be hard for all of us to become adjusted to civilian life again.

I suppose the churches are beginning to get ready for Children's Day aren't they? Is Sambo going to have a speech? He can recite Peter Peter Pumpkin Eater can't he?

Honey I'm sitting here and almost asleep again. Don't know about the show after all.

We have had some spring onions on two occasions and last night for supper had lettuce salad. I had begun to think that Brussel Sprouts was the only green vegetable they had over here.

Haven't you received those photos yet. I can't think of anything you might send me unless its some Schick Razor Blades. I still have quite a lot and still have all those that Sara sent me. I could use my cap, but I expect it would be too large to send. You would have to take the whalebone out of the top in order to pack it. Don't bother. If I want to wear one bad enough I'll buy one here. Will close.

Lots of Love Junior & Daddy  
postmarked May 24, 1943

19 May 1943

My Dear Georgia & Georgie Boy:

I'm writing you again tonite though I haven't mailed the letter I wrote last night. I put it in my pocket this morning and forgot all about it until this evening.

I received a v-mail from you today telling of receiving two checks for 108.67 each. If the next check is for \$208.67 which will be April's pay, it will be all straight. We are having beautiful weather. Today has been unusually warm. I suppose the farmers are busy as can be now.

How is my little man. I'll bet he is a good boy now isn't he? I went down to see Tommy a couple of nights ago, but as usual he was out. He certainly does get around.

Leve was telling me a few days ago that his sister was getting married and I saw her picture in a copy of the Banner one of the boys in the Co. had tonight.

I'm glad to hear that Papa is feeling better. Maybe when the weather gets warmer the asthma will not be so bad. Why doesn't he have those teeth pulled and try that?

If you don't receive the title for the car I should go in to see Mr. Leonard. I'm sure he will arrange to get it for you. I certainly haven't gotten much good out of that car have I. It will be worn out probably by the time I get home. You should see some of the little carts that they drive horses to over here. They look like something you have seen in pictures.

I'm having quite a time getting used to these days and nights. It is now quarter past ten and is still light enough to read a paper outside. I suppose by mid-summer it will be midnight when it gets dark, as it is not good and dark at eleven o'clock now. If the farmers back home had these kind of days they could certainly get some work done.

I think I shall write to Harry and Aunt Belle tonight. Will close.  
Lots of Love  
Junior & Daddy  
postmarked May 20, 1943

21 May 1943

My Dearest Georgia & Georgie Boy:

I am writing this just before supper. I feel pretty Jaded right now. We have been playing baseball for about an hour. Honey in one of my letters I asked you to send me some Schick razor blades. Well don't do it. I got some today and can get more at any time. They would probably cost you quite a bit more over there than I have to pay for them here. And about the Noxema I still have quite a bit and you needn't send any of that unless there is something you want to send besides. I try not to keep any more than I need of anything as it just takes up space. And when I can get it whenever I need it there is no need of piling it up. I have about ten or twelve cakes of soap now. You might send me by bathing briefs if you can find them, perhaps I'll have a chance to use them.

The weather is still beautiful here. It doesn't even seem like the same country that it was last winter.

I hardly know what it is that they want about the magazine you ordered for me, but will enclose a sheet of paper asking for it. How is Sambo? Is he taking care of the colts. So he pulled up the tomato plants did he? I expect I would skin him if I were home. Or would I? I don't suppose anybody would let me correct him.

I hope that by now you have received those pictures of your handsome husband. You must certainly want to see them badly. I was over to see Maurice a few minutes last night. He speaks as though they are much relieved to know that John White is alive even if a prisoner.

How is the little baby girl coming along? I would like to see Georgie the first time he saw it.

I received a v-mail of the 6th of May today. I don't miss many days now. Keep it up.

Lots of Love

Junior & Daddy

postmarked May 22, 1943 by army and  
Jul 8, 1943 by Post Office in Cambridge, MD

May 1943

My Dear Georgia & Georgie Boy:

I received two air mail letters from you today. One of them had the pictures of Georgie in them. Those were certainly cute of him with my old straw hat on. He looks like he is in heaven on that tractor. His hair is turning dark isn't it? Or is it the pictures that show it that way? I know he must have a time with Teddy. In the picture where he has just got up he looks like he is almost choking Teddy.

I like to get pictures of the boy, but send some of yourself, Papa and all the others. I have quite a collection now. I must have 15 or 20. I can't understand why the check is so long coming. Maybe you will get it in a few days. You were asking how much money I receive now. I already wrote you in one of my letters that I get around \$140.00 over here besides what is going home.

You talk of a shortage of potatoes over there. Well there is none here. We certainly get our share of them over here. I received a v-mail from Dr. Quinn today. He writes that Aunt Mary is up and down.

I'm glad to hear that your grandmother is much better. So

Georgie gets along with them all right does he? I'll bet they would change their mind if they were around him long enough.

So Martin's wife has left him. I never did think they got along any too well anyway.

I have a job writing letters. Everyone I write must be just like the one before it. Perhaps I should write one about every two weeks then I might have something to tell you.

I mailed the photos separately. They were quite heavy so they may be some time getting to you. But I do hope you get them all right. Give my Love to all. Lots of Love

Junior & Daddy

P.S. Am enclosing another card or two. I expect you have the same ones.

May 27, 1943

V MAIL

My Dear Georgia & Georgie Boy:

I received your v mail letter of Mar 17 today. It was the first I've had in two days. I've reached the point where I look for a letter every day.

This is Saturday night again. The days certainly move by quickly. I can't seem to realize it, but we will soon have been here six months.

Tommy was up to see me a short while ago. I told him about your asking about his censoring of my letter. He had a big laugh over that.

Sambo is pretty rough on the baby chicks isn't he? Especially when he throws shovels at them. I'm sorry to hear that he has been having the croup again. It is getting pretty late for that isn't it?

Have you been able to get the car finished yet? I hope it will look all right when the job is done. By the way I saw a Plymouth today of the same model. It was the first one that I have seen over here. Looked right familiar too.

Does Georgie put his harness on Teddy? By the way did you ever use the harness you bought to put on Georgie. Maybe with that you could manage to keep up with him. Lots of Love  
Junior & Daddy

May 30, 1943

V MAIL

My Dearest Georgia & Georgie Boy

This is the first letter that I've written to you for several days. I have just been so busy that I couldn't get a chance. So this will probably be a long one.

I received two v mails from you day before yesterday. In one of them you wrote of a growth in George's nose and that you were taking him to the doctor and see what it was. I hope he doesn't have to have an operation as young as he is, but if it bothers him so much as you say I know that is the best thing you can have done. I only wish I might be there with you and know how you feel. However that is not a serious operation and he will soon be fit as a fiddle.

You also wrote that you had received the photos. I'm glad you got them all right. I think they are right good, don't you? So George doesn't want anyone to touch them. I expect he had a time when he saw them or did you both have one?

Keep me informed as to the two bonds and let me know about the allotment.

Will continue on another form.

Love Junior & Daddy  
SECOND V MAIL

This is page two of a v mail letter. This is the first time I have tried this and I expect you will get these on different days.

Today is Sunday, Memorial Day. I attended church services today and also last Sunday. I'll bet I'm beating you in that respect.

I hear that Jimmy Webster is the proud father of a baby boy and so is Moses Moore. Maurice was telling me a day or two ago.

I received a v mail from Fanny a day or two ago. She says that the baby is growing, but doesn't know who it looks like and she also said that Carol Ann was just as jealous of it as she could be. And too that Georgie wanted one like it. I would love to see Carol Ann, I know she must be quite a girl now and I know she is spoiled.

I am well, but did have some cold that caused my nose to hurt some during the past week. I got soaked by the rain one day and that caused it.

It is 9:30 and the sun is still high and shining bright. Some country isn't it. It gets dark now about eleven o'clock. Will write again tomorrow. With all my love to the dearest wife and the most darling son in the world.

Junior & Daddy postmarked June 6, 1943,  
arrived in one envelope

May 31, 1943

My Dearest Wife & Little Man:

How are you tonight? Well I hope. I'm wondering how or what you did about George's nose. I hope it is not serious.

I wrote to you last night by v mail and told you about everything I know so this letter will probably be pretty dull.

Have you ever heard from the Bonds I bought in April and May? Be sure to let me know as I'm keeping the money order receipt until I hear from you.

You know I'm thinking strongly of buying a bicycle. They are mighty handy in getting around here with bus or train connections as they are. I may just forget it or I may buy one.

I didn't tell you in my letter last nite, but I had two fresh eggs for breakfast one morning this week. The first ones in eight months. Maybe they didn't taste good. And this morning we had fresh milk over our cereal. Also the first we have had since we reached here.

The wind is blowing hard here tonight and it is raining. We have a cozy fire in the fireplace so its pretty nice to set in and look out.

Was the Travers boy who was wounded in the army or the navy. And I didn't know that Milford Lewis was in the Navy until you mentioned it in your last letter. They were a long time getting him weren't they.

That was too bad about your father's car, being damaged so much. But doesn't the Finance Co. pay for the greater part of it. By the way how does our old jitney run? Sure would like to have

it over here when I have a few hours off and take a spin in it. Tell George to keep her all shined up as he may have to use that one when he goes courting.

How are you making out with your Cod Liver Oil? I'm glad to hear that you feel better. I'm feeling fine, but every once in a while I get a touch of spring fever. You know, feel like lying down in the sun and taking a nap. I guess that's pure laziness and not spring fever isn't it?

I started a letter to Aunt Belle and Harry over a week ago and haven't finished it yet.

How is Papa? Hope the asthma is better. And Sara? Has she got a beau yet?

I shall stop for now and take a bath and turn in as it's 10:30.

With all my Love to you both

Junior & Daddy

postmarked June 2, 1943

2 June 1943

My Dearest Wife & Little Boy:

I wonder what you are doing tonight? How I would love to see you both. I hope and pray that the day is not far off when we can be together again.

I received the pictures of Georgie and Papa in the wagon, and the one of him standing over by the corn house. At first I thought that it was just a picture of the gobbler and I didn't see that head of his sticking up until I had been looking at it for some time. I know he must be under Papa's and the colored boys feet all the time.

I didn't receive any mail yesterday and so far none today. For the last few days we have been getting our mail late in the evening instead of the middle of the day.

If I were you I should not do anything about the allotment being overpaid as yet. If it keeps coming that way write to them. We will certainly have to pay it back, but wait until they get it straight.

I'm going to buy another Bond in a day or two and have it sent to you. I am also going to send you a money order within a day or so, you can be on the lookout for them.

I hardly know just yet what to tell you about the livestock. I'll let you know as soon as it is definite that Papa is going to stop farming this year. Seems like everything I plan goes wrong, but I suppose we are all required to give up something if we are to win this war. I had hoped to be able to come back to some of the things I had when I left, but it doesn't look so now. I would surely love to see those colts. I expect they are pretty large now aren't they?

It has been pretty blustery here for the last few days. Not at all like the June we have back there. Our overcoats still feel pretty good at times. Especially after nightfall. And our little fireplace feels good too. I suppose back there it is hot enough to walk around in your shirt sleeves.

Our mess has been unusually good for the past week. We changed personnel in the kitchen. Maybe its the old saying that a new broom sweeps clean.

We have a radio in our Lounge now and tonight at supper we had an American program on. Boy, did that sound good. Even that old Hillbilly music sounded good.

Honey, did you ever hear of Boiled peanuts? We have a Lt. Harley in the Co. from Georgia and he has been doing some

fancy talking about boiled peanuts. He has wrote to his mother to send him some peanuts and he is going to boil them. I certainly am waiting to taste them. Hope they taste better than they sound.

We have a pretty well representative bunch of officers in the Co., one from Georgia, one from Minnesota, one from North Carolina, one from New York and lastly one from Maryland, The Eastern Shore too. Guess who?

I'm still in Co. C and haven't heard any more about going back to Co. D lately. You know I told you that I was writing to Aunt Belle and Harry about a week ago. Well I have never finished it yet. You and Georgie seem to be the only ones I get around to writing to. I have some post cards here that are several months old. I suppose I'll have to think of someone some of these nights and get them off. I'm going over now and mail this and see if I have any more letters. With all my Love

Junior & Daddy

P.S. George Nabb ask Aunt Hester if she has had to go to town to get her shoe fixed lately. And punch Old Martin in the belly.

postmarked June 4, 1943

June 4, 1943

V MAIL

Dear Georgia & Georgie Boy:

I am writing this Monday morning while I have a few spare moments. I haven't received any mail now for two or three days. Probably I'll get some today.

I am sending another \$100.00 bond today so you should receive it in about a month. Write and let me know how many bonds you have including the \$100.00 that you bought. With this one that I have just bought we should have five of them. I only have or can find the receipts for three of them including the one I bought today. If you have two not counting the two that I bought in April and May then you have the proper number. I don't know whether this very clear or not but when you have received the one I have just bought you should have five.

I hope you are all well. I am o.k. and getting along all right. You were asking about strawberries. Yes I have seen a few over here, but they are five shillings a quart, that is \$6.00 in American money. Don't think I shall buy many.

I have never visited either of the addresses you sent me. Maybe I'll get around to it some time. Write when you can. Lots of Love.

Junior & Daddy

postmarked June 10, 1943 New York, NY

June 4, 1943

My Dearest Georgia & Georgie Boy:

Well another day has gone by and as yet have not received any mail. Maybe there will be one tonight.

Honey I know you have read and heard of those fogs that are common in England. Well we have one tonite. I don't think I ever saw a heavier one in my life. This is the first heavy one that I've seen since we have been here.

I wrote you a v-mail this morning, but thought I would write again tonight.

As I told you this morning I have mailed a money order for another Bond, and in this letter I am enclosing a money order for \$100.00. I'm cutting myself pretty close this month, but I'm sure I'll have enough to see me through. If not I'll borrow a pound or two from some of these birds who have done the same from me. I don't like to keep too much money lying around.

I have already asked you in this morning's letter, but will repeat here. According to my figures this last bond I bought should make five. However I only have three receipts which means I must have misplaced one of them. For the one you bought with the money I mailed you of course I don't have the receipt. I have the receipts for the ones I mailed the money for in April, May & June. There must have been one earlier than that. Just let me know how many you have and the dates of them when you write.

How is Sambo? From the letters you write he must keep that dog with him all the time. Does he take him to bed with him? I don't feel the best tonite. This weather I suppose. I had a headache this afternoon, but took some aspirin before supper and feel better now.

As soon as I know definitely what Papa is going to do I'll write you about the stock. I only wish it were so I could be there, but that is just wishful thinking.

So you think I look better and younger in the picture. That picture flatters me. There are lots of wrinkles and gray hairs that don't show there. True I'm not quite under the strain that I was the last time I saw you. Weren't those hectic days? I still remember the last trip home from Camp Kilmer. I enjoyed every minute of it even if we were traveling most of the time.

I see where the coal miners are on another strike back home. If that is the way the people back there are backing the War Effort then it is going to be a long time before we win this thing. And for people like that they don't deserve to live in the same country with a real American. There are no strikes in England. If a person is even late from work they are fined.

Has Georgie been in any more turkeys' nests? Tell him that old duck will scratch his eyes out if he bothers those little ducks. All my Love

Junior & Daddy

postmarked June 5, 1943

*To be continued.*

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

# Unveiling of the 29th Division monument commemorating the 1st Battalion, 115th Infantry – Le Pont de la Pierre, 12 June 2020

*Post 93 member Mike van den Dobbstein and his wife Deborah have used the shutdown for the Covid -19 pandemic to honor the 115th Infantry Regiment's 1st Battalion in St Clair sur Elle.*

**Submitted by Frances Sherr-Davino, Commander, Post 93**

The people of Normandy never stop thinking about the actions of the 29th Infantry Division during WWII. This includes ways to honor the events and losses of 1944.

Mike van den Dobbstein and his wife Deborah came to Normandy three years ago and bought an old farmhouse complete with outbuildings in St Clair sur Elle. They both have a life long love of World War II history. They met in the UK and decided that Normandy was their next stop.

They immediately set about restoring the home and its shell holes and opened a Bed and Breakfast in 2019. I visited the Le Pont De La Pierre and saw how charming and historically accurate it is. Most everything inside is from the 1940s time period. It is an amazing living museum.

They honored me by hanging photos of my mother and father in the hallway leading to one of the bedrooms. They wanted to honor the medics of the 29th ID in this wing of their home. My father was Master Sgt Melvin Sherr, 104th Medical Bn and spent more than a month in St Clair sur Elle in June of 1944. This was a moving experience for me and the group of descendants of 29ers who were with me.

Mike and Deb did not stop B and B. During the pandemic they have renovated one of the outbuildings into a 1940s canteen where they will hold dances and events in the future.

Next they decided they must honor what happened down the road and would not settle on anything less than a hand-built monument to the 115th and the men who died there at Pont de la Pierre. Below explains in Mike's words their process that took place.

## **Unveiling of the 29th Division monument Le Pont de la Pierre, 12 June 2020**

*Welcome everyone,  
Madame la Maire Brotin de Moon-sur-Elle,  
Monsieur le Maire Lunel de St.-Jean-de-Savigny,  
Messieurs les anciens combattants,  
Messieurs les porte-drapeaux  
ladies and gentlemen.*

*Thank you for attending the special occasion of the unveiling of the 29th Infantry Division monument.*

*When my wife Deborah and I came to live at Le Pont De La Pierre, we learnt about the battle for the bridges across the river Elle on 12 June 1944, and we felt that it was our duty to*

*honour the men who pay the ultimate price for our freedom here on that day. We placed a temporary monument on our land, hoping that one day we could place a permanent one closer to the bridge.*

*When this plot of land was offered for sale last year we knew we had to grab the opportunity. It is across this field, where we currently are standing, that the 29th Infantry Division attacked in the early hours of 12 June 1944. We could not have found a more suitable and poignant location for the monument.*

*Unfortunately due to the global pandemic and subsequent lockdown, the transfer of the land and therefor the creation of the monument and memorial garden was delayed.*

*We thank Mr and Mrs Dauxais for allowing us to start work as soon as the lockdown lifted, so that we could have today's ceremony.*

*Once the creation of the garden is completed, it will be open to the general public to pay their respects and commemorate.*

*On 11 June, the 1st Battalion, 115th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division had assembled in Sainte Marguerite d'Elle and were preparing to launch an attack on the bridge Le Pont de la Pierre at first light on 12 June.*

*Simultaneously, the 3rd Battalion of the same regiment were getting ready at Pont l'Evesque to attack the bridge Pont Jourdan near St Jean de Savigny.*

*A heavy artillery barrage by the US Army onto German positions south of the river Elle precluded this attack. At 4.30 the men of the 1st Battalion started their way down the hill but even before they were able to get near the bridge, German troops opened fire.*



**Mike van den Dobbstein and his wife Deborah Draper beside the monument after the dedication.**

For many hours, the 1st Battalion battled their way down to the bridge but could not get close enough, and during the day suffered 87 casualties, of which 15 were killed that fateful morning. One man would die of his wounds two days later. The remaining 71 wounded were evacuated to the rear of the line to be treated for their injuries. Almost all of them returned to the frontline within the next several weeks to continue fighting.

Here today, we are honouring and remembering those men who made the ultimate sacrifice at Le Pont de la Pierre, on this very day, 76 years ago:

**Royce W. Bass** from California  
**Joseph J. Cirmelli** from California  
**Alex G. Davis** from Pennsylvania  
**Daniel D. Gody** from New York  
**Jerome W. Herman** from New Jersey  
**Oramel, L. Kickner** from Illinois  
**Charles Lunger** from Pennsylvania  
**Howard D. Luther** from Maryland  
**Charles F. Mozingo** from West Virginia  
**Bernard L. Peters** from Pennsylvania  
**Henry G. Poole** from Georgia  
**Nello V. Regni** from Pennsylvania  
**Americo Ricci** from Rhode Island  
**Michael J. Sadowski** from Pennsylvania  
**Thomas W. Sumney** from North Carolina  
**Stanley G. Teeples** from Michigan

None of this would have been made possible without the support of so many people and I would like to thank them most sincerely:

Mr Ralph Windler, WWII veteran, for his stellar work to the 29th Infantry Division Archives

Mr Joseph Balkoski for his assistance with our research  
 Michael Yannaghas for providing valuable information on the battle

Mr & Mrs Dauxais for making sure we would have today's unveiling

Guests of Le Pont de la Pierre Vintage B&B and Allied Victory Tours for their kind donations

The 29th Division Association, Post 93 and members, for their generous donations

And of course everyone here for attending today's special occasion

I would like to invite Mrs the Mayor Madame Brotin and Mr the Mayor Monsieur Lunel to unveil this monument.

We will now plant the commemorative oak trees.

The Common English Oak will be planted by Mr Yannaghas, on behalf of Gregory Stapleton, grandson of Major Morris who was the Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion, 115th Infantry Regiment.

The American Red Oak will be planted by my wife Deborah



on behalf of the Frances Sherr-Davino, who is the commander of Post 93 of the 29th Division Association.

We would now like to invite you to a vin d'honneur and to raise a glass to the fallen. Thank you.

Best wishes from Normandy,  
 Mike

The site remains closed until the land is officially transferred and the roses mature. Mike and his wife Deb expect the site to be visited to pay respects and reflect on the actions of the 29th Infantry Division, 115th Infantry Regiment.

The monument was unveiled by the Mayors of Moon sur Elle and St Jean de Savigny, for whom we are grateful for their support to the 29th Division Association.

Several members from our Post were in Normandy last year and saw this now peaceful area and met our member Mike. He and Michael Yannaghas, also a Post 93 Member living in St Lo, deserve a big round of thanks from all of us for all that they do to keep the history alive. Lest we Forget

In case, this wasn't enough for Mike and Deborah to contribute in keeping the history alive - their next project in the works is a museum dedicated to Women in WWII. Can't wait to see it! Oh, Did I forget to mention that Mike is a Normandy Battlefield guide and Michael Yannaghas runs the Museum at the Chapelle Madeleine as well as guides everyone who comes to St Lo.

# Covid-19: The Pandemic

As we begin the second half of 2020, we find ourselves six months into the Covid-19 pandemic. The disease, which began in the fall of 2019 in China, has spread worldwide, causing death, societal anxiety and vast economic loss. This viral pandemic will most likely be seen as a defining event of the 21st century.

The virus is not new, but this novel strain has become a SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) causing agent. Thus, the medical community has begun a massive study of the virus' infectivity, propagation, control and treatment with thousands of studies going on worldwide. There are over 160 vaccines under study at the present for prevention. Multiple drugs are being studied for use in effective treatment.

The research approaches at this time are for medications to kill the virus or slow its spread (antiviral) and for drugs such as steroids or hydroxychloroquine that treat the inflammation or cytochrome storm in the patients ill enough to require hospitalization. Inflammation in patients may cause the organ damage or death. Presently, the antivirals have shown little effectiveness, but research continues. Steroids have been promising in treating inflammation and improving the survival rate of patients in critical care units. Also, as we better understand the infectivity of Covid-19, trials have begun using the sera from convalescent patients as treatment.

Development and production of vaccines is a slow process. The CDC has initiated "Operation Warp Speed" with a goal of having 300 million doses of safe and effective Covid -19 vaccine available by January 2021 in the United States. Multiple federal agencies are engaged with the private sector to accomplish this goal. So far, 2.1 trillion dollars have been pledged in support to AstraZeneca, Moderna, Johnson and Johnson, and others. These funds will be used for research, development, enhanced manufacturing capability, and production. The goal of Operation Warp Speed is to insure research and production can occur simultaneously in the most promising vaccines. The result is hopefully an earlier release of vaccine.

Numerous questions need to be answered about this viral illness, but knowledge is being accumulated daily. As we advance and retreat with this illness, medical scientists worldwide are combining their prior understanding of viral illnesses with new findings.

As the federal and state governments struggle to manage viral transmission, we are still following basic safety guidelines: wash your hands frequently, wear a mask, and social distance. Post-exposure precautions include observation and quarantine. Although states are opening up, we must protect vulnerable populations such as the elderly and those with compromised immune systems (e.g. diabetics and cancer patients). If you are unsure of your risk, contact your doctor.

We all need to adhere to wellness practices: healthy diet; moderate exercise; weight management; medication adher-



*By the National Surgeon  
Dr. Howard H. Bond MD, FS  
Post #85*

ence; and routine health screenings for high blood pressure, heart disease, diabetes, and cancer. One area that we should not neglect in assessing the impact of the pandemic, is the mental health status of ourselves and our families. Annual flu shots help to prevent the flu and lessen patient exposure to additional illness in medical offices, emergency rooms, and hospitals.

Also, keep current about the status of the Covid-19 vaccine. When first available, it may be limited to high risk populations. There are numerous sites to give you information. My state health department web site has been most helpful, as it reflects local disease trends and statistics ([coronavirus.maryland.gov](http://coronavirus.maryland.gov); [vdh.virginia.gov](http://vdh.virginia.gov)).

Howard H. Bond, M.D.  
National Surgeon  
29th Division Association, Inc.

## **29th Division Association Inc. Post Meetings COVID-19 Phase Best Practices**

1. Check with venue staff to insure they are following state guidelines for group meetings.
2. Encourage ill or possibly exposed members to stay home.
3. For vulnerable or ill members arrange Zoom style attendance if you have the technology.
4. Hold your meetings outdoors if feasible and have members bring lawn chairs.
5. Wear masks.
6. Social Distance – 6 feet
7. No handshakes or hugs.
8. Have an officer bring a few extra masks, hand sanitizer, paper towels and surface spray cleaner.
9. Clean hands often.
10. If serving food, wear gloves. Serve box lunches if possible, and use plastic utensils. Clean all surfaces before and frequently during and after serving.
11. Encourage members and their families to see their physicians about the flu shot this Fall.
12. We are awaiting progress and information on a COVID-19 vaccine.

## 29th ID Band's efforts rewarded with ASUA

ROANOKE, VA — The Virginia National Guard's Troutville-based 29th Infantry Division Band received the Army Superior Unit Award streamer from Brig. Gen. Lapthe Flora, VNG Assistant Adjutant General-Army, during a ceremony Nov. 9, 2019, before the Virginia Veterans Parade in Roanoke, Virginia.

"I was honored to present the 29th ID Band with the Army Superior Unit Award on behalf of the 29th ID commanding general, and it was very fitting that we presented the award in front of their hometown crowd in Roanoke before the Virginia Veterans Parade," Flora said. "The Soldiers of the 29th ID Band serve as ambassadors for the Virginia National Guard at events across the commonwealth as well as overseas, and I couldn't be more proud of the job they do. Earning the ASUA is not easy, and it recognized the hard work and dedication of all the members of their band and their outstanding leadership."

The band earned the ASUA for their successes between Oct. 1, 2015, and Sept. 30, 2017. That period included a short-notice deployment for a contingent of their Soldiers to Kuwait. During the deployment, the band performed ceremonial music during two events, including a hand-off from the Fort Belvoir-based 29th Infantry Division to the Fort Leavenworth-based 35th ID, and an awards ceremony for a chemical company.

"It allowed nine members of the band an opportunity to do their wartime mission of providing music throughout the full spectrum of operations," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Donald Carlson, the band's commander.

At the same time as the deployment, the band was also completing a much different mission: moving into a new facility in Troutville. The band had been based out of the now-closed Clifton Forge Readiness Center, and moved into the new Roanoke Regional Readiness Center, all without slowing down their tempo of operations.

"The band has always maintained a high operational tempo despite the many distractors such as moving the unit to new facilities, deployments, possible deployments or non-musical training that needs to be completed," said Carlson. "The performances on the deployment and all of the ceremonies and concerts that we performed all contributed to the band earning this award."

For members of the band, seeing their hard work recognized with an award like the ASUA is gratifying, but won't change the band's mission.

"The 29th Division Band has a rich and respected legacy and I think this award continues that tradition," said Sgt. 1st Class James Bradshaw, trombone player and group leader. "We are committed to always doing what is needed to promote the Virginia Army National Guard. Winning this award will not change our focus, it just provides a level of appreciation that what we do is important to the Commonwealth of Virginia."

"It is nice to know that the leadership recognizes the hard-work and high operational tempo enough to support getting an award for it," agreed Carlson.

The band has several large performances already scheduled



(U.S. National Guard photo by Maj. Jenny K. Hartsock)

**Brig. Gen. Lapthe Flora, Virginia National Guard Assistant Adjutant General-Army, presents the Army Superior Unit Award to Chief Warrant Officer 3 Donald Carlson, the commander of the Troutville-based 29th Infantry Division Band.**

for the next year or two, including performing ceremonial music at the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Virginia in June of 2020, and performing at the inauguration for the next Virginia governor in 2022.

The 29th Infantry Division Band has a long history of excellence, including during World War II, when 80 band Soldiers came ashore at Normandy three days after D-Day. There, the band served as litter bearers and provided assistance to mortuary affairs before moving out as two 40-member bands in an effort to entertain combat troops. To the band's commander, earning the ASUA is just a fraction of that historic legacy.

"The 29th ID Band's legacy is huge and this is a small part of it," said Carlson. "I could not say that it comes close to anything that Warrant Officer Ralph Shank and the band members who participated in the D-Day invasion did in support of the occupation of France during World War II. Hopefully, we are just doing justice to the legacy by doing all that we can to support the 29th Division and the Virginia Army National Guard."

The 29th Infantry Division Band contains seven musical performance teams. These include the concert band, marching band, ceremonial band (The Normandy Winds), rock band (Easy Green), brass ensemble (Normandy Brass), clarinet ensemble, and the fife and drum ensemble. Additionally, the band has a color guard and a sound reinforcement team.

According to Carlson, the Soldiers of the 29th Infantry Division Band perform an average of 45 missions per year, half of which are community support events. Unlike the other half of their missions, these are performed for civilian audiences, many of whom have limited knowledge about the Virginia National Guard. At the end of every concert, attendees are encouraged to talk with Soldiers to learn more about their mission, the Virginia National Guard and the military in general.

By Mr. Mike Vrabel

## 29th ID CG recognizes Soldiers for outstanding COVID-19 response support



*(U.S. Army National Guard photo by Maj. Scott Drugo)*

**Maj. Gen. John M. Epperly, commander of the 29th Infantry Division, recognizes Virginia National Guard Soldiers supporting COVID-19 response efforts June 15, 2020, in Blacksburg, Virginia.**

BLACKSBURG, VA — Maj. Gen. John M. Epperly, commander of the 29th Infantry Division, visited Virginia National Guard Soldiers supporting COVID-19 response efforts June 15, 2020, in Blacksburg, Virginia, and presented his challenge coin for particularly outstanding performance of duty.

“There is not much more noble work than what we are doing for the people of the commonwealth,” Epperly said. “The job we are doing here matters. There are various reasons for joining the National Guard, but serving our fellow Virginians when they are in need tops the list for the Soldiers of the 29th Infantry Division.” Epperly said even in the wake of all the security challenges around the nation, the COVID-19 response mission has not been forgotten.

“You are making a huge difference in the community, and it shows,” he said. “I appreciate everything the Soldiers of the 29th ID are doing to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. They leave jobs, family and friends to serve the people of Virginia, and we owe their families and employers an extra measure of gratitude as well.”

Many of the Soldiers have been on duty since March 31, and they are assigned to the Lynchburg-based 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat

Team, the Danville-based 429th Brigade Support Battalion, 116th IBCT and the Fort Belvoir-based 29th Infantry Division Headquarters.

Soldiers have been assisting with logistics at mobile sites for COVID-19 testing, N95 mask fit testings for health care professionals and emergency medical services personnel, distribution of personal protection equipment, transporting test samples and food bank distribution.

Epperly recognized Soldiers identified by their chain of command for their initiative, professionalism, courtesy and compassion with the public at testing sites as well as strong work ethic, selfless service and dedication to duty. Several Soldiers were also recognized for maintaining high standards of physical fitness during periods of heavy operations tempo.

He also recognized a Soldier who assisted Roanoke Fire and EMS personnel during recent flood response operations.

Statewide, Virginia National Guard personnel have collected more than 43,100 COVID-19 samples, conducted more than 2,700 N95 mask fit tests, provided more than 41,300 hours of planning augmentation and distributed more than 411,000 pounds of food.

*By Mr. Cotton Puryear*

# The National D-Day Memorial goes digital during pandemic

When “Phase 3” of Virginia’s pandemic response went into effect, the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Virginia reopened to visitors after weeks of being closed. Folks touring the Memorial this summer will notice a few changes: guided tours have been suspended, in favor of docents stationed across site to answer questions; a digital tour is also available through the NDDM app to facilitate self-guided visits. The ticket counter in the Bedford Welcome Center is closed; visitors are encouraged to buy tickets online in advance as a way to foster social distancing. But one thing has not changed: mission of the Memorial to honor the valor, fidelity and sacrifice of Allied forces on D-Day.

While the beautiful site in Bedford, VA is open, the Memorial has embraced one widespread effect of the recent quarantines: digital programming. While virtual lectures, online school programs, and video tours have long been offered, the recent demand for such offerings has increased this summer, and the Memorial is responding in kind.

“While people are more free to travel now, a lot of folks understandably are reluctant to leave home,” said April Cheek-Messier, President of the National D-Day Memorial Foundation. “We’re responding by stepping up our virtual offerings.”

Cheek-Messier noted an interesting side effect. “These programs have actually extended our reach. Last year, kids had to come to Bedford for our WWII day camps. This year, we’ve mailed ‘Camp-in-a-Box’ parcels to several states. And people across the globe have watched our digital programs.”

For the first time, Memorial Day and June 6th commemorations

were entirely virtual this year. The videos for both events were extremely well-received, and can still be viewed (and re-viewed) on the Memorial webpage: [www.dday.org/virtualmemorialday/](http://www.dday.org/virtualmemorialday/) and [www.dday.org/virtual76/](http://www.dday.org/virtual76/). Tens of thousands of people have watched these commemorations, many more than could have attended in person.

To continue the momentum, NDDMF has instituted “World War Wednesdays,” an opportunity for viewers to hear first-rate presentations on not just WWII, but other global conflicts which make interesting comparisons. For instance, Andrew Phillips, Museum Curator, Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library, will speak on “Woodrow Wilson and the World Wars,” linking the two great events. Felicia Abrams, formerly with D-Day but now at the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, will speak on 18th Century international wars and how they compare to the Second World War. Go to [www.dday.org/virtual-programs/](http://www.dday.org/virtual-programs/) for the full schedule. The presentations can be viewed on the Memorial Facebook page, and will be posted on the website afterwards for those who can’t tune in in real time.

For folks who don’t feel comfortable visiting the site, or who live too far away to conveniently drop in, periodic video tours will also be offered through the summer.

On June 6, 1944, American forces taking part in the biggest invasion of WWII had to be ready to respond to the unexpected and adapt to changing circumstances. In the unprecedented and challenging times of 2020, the National D-Day Memorial, inspired by their example, remains flexible and responsive to the crisis.

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## Association adapts to challenges brought on by the pandemic

*(Continued from page 1)*

lidity these plans and lay out a robust agenda for the event. Although we may not be able to do everything that we would like, the hotel is extending the convention rate to our attendees for 3 days before and after the convention to visit the many interesting venues throughout the Gettysburg locale. Stay tuned as the Convention Committee works to assemble a memorable convention schedule for 2021.

As our National Guard soldiers were called to duty in March to fight the battle against the pandemic and support the state health services, the Association is pursuing ways to support them and their families as they struggle to deal with the impact to their personal lives. In that vein the Association is focusing on the Military Family Relief Fund – Mid Atlantic and Virginia. To provide some details on the organizations the following is an excerpt from the MFRF – MA newsletter posted on 20 April:

*The Military Family Relief Fund Mid Atlantic (MFRFMA) has continued to support the Maryland National Guard, Coast Guard, Veteran Organizations, First Responders and local Food Banks During COVID-19 Pandemic. We have invested nearly \$10,000 and over \$20,000 of donated products in providing morale and welfare efforts to these organizations to help bring a smile to the face of these brave Americans.*

*Over the last month, board members Dennis Pulket, Bruce Kahl and Gene Pulket have worked tirelessly to coordinate*

*the receipt and delivery of over 25,000 products to soldiers, sailors, airmen and first responders on the front lines of the fight against COVID-19. The trio has traveled over 1500 miles to deliver snacks and pizzas to the front lines.*

*With the donations and support of the Herr’s Food Company, Glauber’s Fine Chocolate, Jeppi Nut and Candy, Fishers Pop Corn and many local pizza shops, the MFRFMA has been very successful in providing a token of appreciation to the brave warriors of the fight with the invisible enemy.*

*During our most recent road trips, we have delivered care packets to:*

*Ruhl Armory in Towson, Maryland; Camp Fretterd Military Reservation in Reisterstown, Maryland; Westminster Armory; Frederick Armory; Adelphi Armory; White Oak Armory; FED EX Field; Glen Burnie Armory; Dundalk Armory; Havre De Grace Armory; Edgewood Arsenal Armory; Saint Margaret’s Catholic Church Food Bank; Dundalk American Legion – Veterans Program.*

*We were fortunate enough to speak with numerous soldiers and support personnel throughout our travels. Overall they were proud of the opportunity to serve and their morale was outstanding with a very positive “Can Do Attitude.” They told us about several of their day to day tasks that included crowd control at test sites, transportation support, direct support to food banks, medical support operations, supporting*

*(Continued on page 31)*

# Le Carrefour as seen through German eyes

*This article first appeared in the March 1998 edition of the "Twenty-Niner." It is correspondence from Mr. Karl Wegner to Mr. Vincent Milano.*

Dear Vincent Milano:

I found the article you sent to me most interesting. In some ways, it was very odd to read the events of the night through the eyes on one's former enemy.

My hope is that you will relay my best regards and the comments I have made to Mr. Van Roosen. I hope that I might be able to give a clearer picture of the German side during that night.

First, I must say that I am in complete agreement with Mr. Van Roosen in his description of the type of action that occurred. I know what it means to ambush an enemy force and this was nothing like that. The most I would say is that it was a surprise attack.

As for our situation that night, I have thought long and hard about it and reviewed my diaries. I have also pondered the questions you have asked me. One must understand the situation of the column we were in that night in order to understand the tactical events that followed.

Our group was not just a thrown-together pile of stragglers as one might think. It is very true that we did have mixed in among us members of the R.A.D. (Civilian Teenage Workforce), Luftwaffe Kanoniers (Anti-Aircraft Artillery), and some men from the Coastal Artillery branch of the Kriegsmarine (Navy) but the vast majority were men from our own division including the P.O.A. troops (the so-called Ost Battalions, captured Russian)—these were comprised of Ukrainians, Georgians and some Mongols.

We had many different arms of service for as we retreated toward the next H.K.L. (main line of resistance) we simply took with us all the men from the divisions we encountered.

The best way to describe this would be to say we started back with only Grenadiers (infantry) and Pioniers (engineers), then we picked up Kanoniers (artillery) and after that came the Fahrers (motorcyclists) and Nachschub men (supply personnel) and after them came the Verwaltungs men (Headquarters personnel) and in between we got whoever was lost or attached to us.

I would say that we were a "slice" of our division on the march with all units present but on a much smaller scale. I really do not even know who, or from which service, the commander was. But I do know that there were several officers of all ranks below Major in the column.

Since we had begun to pull back at dusk, there was little trouble from the Jabos (Fighter planes). Even so, most of the vehicles were camouflaged with tree limbs and the like. While on the move

the entire column operated as normal with the combat troops in the front and rear and the rest quite comfortable in the middle. We did stop a couple of times to wait for the slower elements or to get our bearings.

Then, our forward troops saw the encampment of the Amis (Americans). There was a hushed flurry of activity amongst the officers and I assume they held a meeting to decide on the best course of action. It was decided that we could and had to fight through—it was the quickest way toward the new H.K.L. (MLR).

The battle plan as far as I knew and remember was for a line of infantry to push through the field held by the Amis and get between them and the road. I was to be a part of this group. With this plan the infantry could keep the Amis busy and away from the road acting as sort of a shield to get the column through.

Our orders and I am quite sure of this, were not to chase or destroy the forces in the field. We were just to keep them from halting the column. One other fact that is important is that the initial assault was to be made by combat troops and this is how we were brought forward. This enabled us to have a good force for the initial action.

Although we were from different companies or units, we were all trained and experienced combat troops. Our training had always prepared us for operations in "Ad Hoc" (task force) commands and thus we were prepared for this. Now in the assembly area, even though it was dark, I seem to recall at leave five M.G. 42's.

And, Mr. Van Roosen is quite correct in stating that down that road would thrust the Stugs (Assault Guns) supported by the men from Schnellbrigade 30 (bicycle troops). I believe they were either of the Aufklarungstruppe (Recon troop) or from a Stosstruppe (shock troops) of that unit since they were heavily armed with MP's (machine pistols) and the like.

The number and type of Panzers, according to the article, is in question. I can only say what I saw and experienced that night. First, I can say that they were definitely Stug III's and not Marders. The Marder was very high and had an open gun compartment in the back and ours were the kind with captured Russian PAKs (anti-tank guns) and made on old Czech tanks. I had seen them before during training exercises. The Panzers that night were not them.

The ones that night were the low turretless Stugs and I can remember on 3 or 4 at the most but no more than that. I will say that the confusion among the Amis could have been the result of another vehicle in the column. Amongst the many trucks were six Nags. These were absolutely the biggest truck I saw used by our Army. They were loud and I think that these were camouflaged and at night, they were mistaken for a small Panzer. These trucks were from a supply depot that was evacuated. But, Major Clift mentioned only four Stugs, so there does not appear to be a discrepancy.

As I study the maps you sent that belong to the article, I have

placed things better in my mind. I was very close to the road the column was to push down, though I do not believe I was the last M.G. before the crossroads.

The attack began well for us for several reasons. First, we had the element of surprise. Secondly, there would be no Jabos (fighter plans) or Arifeuer (artillery fire) brought down on upon us, and finally the fighting ability of those in the first assault.

We had no idea of the disarray that the Amis were in during the first moments. We made an advance and then prepared to fire and move once again. This is the point I know when things went wrong for us. Our reserve was comprised of many different rear area troops and P.O.A. (Russian) men. They were supposed to follow us and take up our old positions as we moved forward and just keep the Amis we missed away from the road.

But this is not what happened. With the many different officers and non-combat troops, order was not maintained and there was some panic, I feel, as these men surged forward and through us not even stopping. Perhaps many of them just wanted to get to safety very quickly.

Whatever the cause, this threw off our attack because confusion began to reign. This also enabled those Amis who had not withdrawn or been hit to start to organize resistance against us. The confusion was added to by the shouts of many of our officers who gave contradicting orders.

The Amis pulled away to our right and further in front of us. This was not a problem in one way since we were keeping them away from the road at our end. But now, we became targets in the field as well. Eventually, we managed to get through and onto the road.

I may have gone through the gate were Mr. Van Roosen's commander was killed. I know I passed through one and there were several bodies lying close by it. We turned right and headed south. I did pass a destroyed Stug.

Some would question who were the victors that night and morning. I would say that no one was. Yes, we did overcome the Amis for a short time, take some prisoners, and get some extra food. No, that the Amis did not chase us and we got to the H.K.L. (Main Line of Resistance). However, I must point out that we lost many men, several due to our own fire, and the Amis were able to block the road by knocking out some Stugs and other transport thus forcing the Artillery and other vehicles to take another much longer route and putting them in danger from attacks by Jabos since they would be forced to move during the daylight hours. Only those of us on foot managed to get through.

I was very much surprised at the American reaction to the battle and that of Herr General Gerhardt. I firmly believe that in the circumstances given (and I did not even realize that the condition of these men was near the point of exhaustion) the Amis recovered quickly and fought well under bad circumstances. It is never easy to fight when the enemy has been able to hit you unexpectedly.

Please excuse me for saying this, but I think the Amis were

victims of their own press. I know at that time, from what we heard and read of captured writings, that we were supposed to be a defeated enemy army on the run from the Allies "fresh and flushed with victory."

I do not think Herr General Gerhardt wanted to face the fact that his men could be on the losing end of an engagement of this size. This is just my opinion. But, it is also my opinion that these men have been given a bad name because they had been in the wrong place at the wrong time. I fought them and know that these men did very well.

To me, as one who was there, although on the other side, to say that these young men did anything less than serve their country and Army well in this battle is an injustice.

No army wins every battle it engages in but it is also judged by the way its men react in the bad times as well. And these men, despite everything, still prevented us from getting the trucks, artillery, and supplies down that road and into line. The delay they caused was significant from our point of view since we were short of and in desperate need of all of these things.

I seem to have gone on long enough. I hope that I have been of some help to Mr. Van Roosen. Again, Please forward to him these lines and my regards. Should he have any further questions, I would be very happy to assist in any way I can.

Heartiest Greetings,  
Karl Wegner  
914th Infantry Regiment  
Wehrmacht

## 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.

# Back from the front – between the lines

*By James A. Frick, E/175*

I was a replacement, having completed basic training at Camp Wheeler, Georgia, and shipped to the ETO in a package. We arrived in Belfast on April 4th 1944, and wound up at a British camp near Coleraine and Donaghee.

It was the most miserable camp I had been to yet. The climate was terrible. The wind blew at 40 to 50 miles an hour every day.

Around the end of May, we boarded a train again for Belfast. There we got on a ship and set sail for England and arrived at an American camp on the Salisbury Plain.

We did not stay long at that base. One night they loaded us in the back of a British truck and we took off in a large convoy. No light, going 50 to 60 miles per hour on narrow British roads. It was a scary ride. I said "this guy is sure a good driver". When we stopped and piled out, a young blonde British girl got out of the cab. I would have been a lot more scared. Security was really tight; we did not know where we were or what was happening. This was about June 7th, and we did not know the Allies had invaded France.

We were herded into a dark warehouse and told to get some sleep on the floor. They told us nothing. The next day, we found out we were still in Southampton. We were allowed to roam the town and get a few beers, but still we knew nothing; we were like sheep waiting for the slaughter.

The next day, we found out France had been invaded. About June 10th, we were loaded on a transport. Late that night, we started across the English Channel, still not knowing what to expect. We anchored out from the beach and were met by LCVPs, small invasion boats. I had my B bag and my rifle going down the cargo net, with that small boat rising and falling about 10 feet in the swells.

I had to time my jump to land when the boat was coming up. Not easy when someone is standing on your fingers and you have to watch the guys below. I made it OK, and the boat started for Omaha Beach. There was a lot of debris in the water—sunken tanks, trucks, bodies, etc. We went in, the navy pilot dropped the ramp and we started to run off. Well, I went into the water up to my neck. I lost my B bag with everything I owned. I got ashore and lined up with the rest.

They were asking for volunteers for the 81 mortars. I did not know what that was. I kept telling them that I was a radio operator, a 747. They said, we don't need any, so you are a rifleman, assigned to E Company, 175th, 29th Division.

Before we crossed the channel, we were issued new

O.D.'s They were impregnated with something, in case the Germans used gas. It would not penetrate as fast. It also kept out the air. They were awfully hot.

So, there I stood on Omaha Beach, soaking wet, scared to death, with nothing but my rifle, cartridge belt, first aid packet, canteen and entrenching shovel, and a rain coat draped on the back of my belt, and a khaki field jacket, a sad looking sight.

Some officer said, "Follow me," and I, with a group of about 20, started walking inland. I walked about two miles when I was met by a PFC. He said he would be my Sergeant, and led me through a hedgerow to where E Company was dug in.

He buddied me up with a buck Sergeant from Georgia and told us to start digging a hole. We got it about half done when he came back and said to drop everything, we are going on a patrol. "Patrol?" I asked, "Where are the Germans?" He said they are ahead about 200 yards behind one of the hedgerows.

We were supposed to try to locate some who might be trying to flank us. We went out and down a road about one half mile and lay in a ditch for a while. He then said, "Let's go back and tell the Captain." We did not see anything. He was as scared as I was. I finished digging my hole and was standing guard against the hedgerow and my buddy was lying in the hole resting, when all hell broke loose.

All of a sudden, and out of nowhere, came this ear splitting noise, and then six scattered explosions. It seemed as if everyone was hit. I hit the ground when I heard the screaming and as I went to get up, I burned by hand on a piece of shrapnel buried in the ground right next to me.

There was a lot of screaming and calls for the medics. My buddy in the hole came out covered with dirt and spitting up blood and was sent to the rear for medical attention. (He lasted about one day.) There were quite a few dead and wounded. It was quite a baptism of fire for me. I had no buddy now, so the acting Sergeant asked me to buddy with him. We pulled four hours on and four hours off all night.

The next morning, we went up to talk to the Captain for orders. He said to me, "Come here soldier. See that dead German across the sunken road behind that machine gun? Well, I want you to go over there and get his pistol and that leather pouch he has over his shoulder. We will cover you."

I was scared stiff, but, being a good soldier, I obeyed and

brought him back what he asked for. He thanked me and told me to go back to my hole. The next morning, we pushed forward.

The acting Sergeant, (his name was Stitchken) and I came to a small stone house and saw a little smoke coming out of the chimney. We approached it just like they teach it in the book. We went from one tree to the next covering each other as we approached. We got to the door, and I kicked it open, and we both rushed in with our rifles at the ready. There were two German soldiers cooking something in a skillet in the fireplace. They surrendered without a struggle—we surprised them. Took them out and turned them over to someone in the Company command post.

As we were advancing up a road, Stitchken was taking the point. When he rounded a bend, he was hit in the legs by machine gun fire. The whole column stopped. I dragged him back to safety, and the Captain sent someone around to knock out the gun. A couple of grenades did the job and we moved on.

Here I am without a buddy again. Come evening, the enemy stopped us with mortar and small arms fire. I dug in. The next day, we got replacements and I got another buddy. Before we could move out in the morning, we were hit by artillery 88's. We suffered quite a few casualties. My buddy was among them. We were getting close to St. Lo and every hedgerow was tougher to take.

We finally dug in good. I guess we were waiting for help from the tanks and other outfits. They gave us sacks and we filled them with dirt and piled them around the holes. There were snipers around trying to pick us off from behind, so everyone had to be careful and on the alert.

It had been some days since I landed on the beach, and I had nothing to eat except C rations to the best of my knowledge. It was getting to me. I would eat stew or hash and it would come right back up. Too much grease for my stomach.

We could not get a vehicle nearer than two miles from the front, so I volunteered to walk back and carry rations, so I could get all meat and beans. Coming back with a box on each shoulder, I was going through the reserve company when someone hollered. "Don't walk there, there is a sniper firing." Well, I thought, "The hell with it," and I kept on going. Zing, a bullet hit the ground by my feet, but I just kept on going. I figured I was out of his range by then. I got back and opened the boxes and got my meat and beans.

Well, I have to say that after two days of that diet, I got the dysentery. I asked the medic for something to help me, but he said he had nothing with him, but he would try to get something.

Thankfully, St. Lo fell the next day. We were given a so-called three-day rest. We pitched a pup tent and were told to lie with our feet in the sun. When I took my boots off after 42 days of constant wear, the skin and all came off my feet. I'll say, it did not smell very well. I finally got a chance to wash them and get clean socks and underwear.

We got new replacements about the same time. I, as an Acting Sergeant, had to train them in how to take a hedgerow. Some rest I got! There was a long-tom artillery piece set up in the next field and it fired one round a day. When it fired, every tent in the area went down. The suction pulled all the tent pegs out. Then, I had to put it up again.

They fixed my diarrhea with a couple of pills, and you know, the funny thing when we moved out, I never saw a C ration again. All K's. We moved out of the bivouac area with a full complement of men. I got a new buddy. No one wanted me for a partner for they all said my number was due. I had been there too long. I persuaded a boy from Detroit to buddy with me.

We moved out in the back of a 2-1/2-ton truck going through St. Lo (the first I had seen of the destruction of the city). It was flattened. We did not ride far. It was dark when we got out. It seemed no one knew where we were. I dug in and waited for morning. At first light, we got fired upon and the advance we were supposed to make stalled.

I called for a 60mm mortar to knock out a machine gun that was holding us up. The mortar crew set up their mortar. My buddy wanted to go up and get a good look. Well, the first round fell a little short and he got slit across the throat. He came back and said, "I knew if I buddied with you, I would get it." I felt about one foot tall. I thought, "I must be some kind of jinx." (He was the only G.I. to stop in Irwin after the war to see me.)

After that gun was knocked out, we started to move forward, chasing them, jumping one hedgerow after the other, not knowing what was behind any of them. When dusk came, they stopped and put up a fight using small arms and mortar fire. They always seemed to kill and wound a few of us before we could stop and dig in. It got to be sort of a pattern for a while.

We moved up on a hedgerow and Sergeant Gill, who was in charge of my squad, went down the row and told all the men that when he gave the signal, we would all jump over the hedge and move forward. I was standing next to him when he gave the order.

He and I went over and started advancing in the open field. I glanced around and told him no one else was coming. We both turned, and just then I got hit with a bullet from Jer-

ry. I told the Sergeant I was hit and we both went sideways to a sunken road and dove over the hedge into it.

The Sergeant said, "Drop your pants, you are bleeding like a stuck hog." I thought I was too! My O.D. pants were wet and I could feel something warm in my shoe. When I dropped my pants, the Sergeant started to laugh. He said "you look like someone cracked you across the ass with a whip. You just have a welt." I saddled up and we went back to the squad.

The Sergeant went down the line kicking butts. He said because they did not cross the hedge, they almost got me killed. He said. "I'll take one more look then we will all go." He parted the weeds and stuck his head in the opening and bang! He fell back in my arms, a bullet right between the eyes.

I told the men what happened and said "Follow me." We went over the hedgerow and ran to the next and jumped it and ran across the open field to the next. I thought that was far enough, so I said, "Let's dig in and wait for someone to catch up."

After I had my hole dug and posted the guards, I decided to assess my personal situation. I took my ammo bag off and opened it (what a mess). As I remember, there were a pair of gloves, a K ration, grenade launcher for my rifle, two hand grenades and an 80-round bandolier of rifle ammo. Everything looked like the rats had chewed it.

I took every round out of the clips, none were any good. Some the heads were off, some of the casings were bent, and there was powder everywhere. I was really lucky the grenade did not go off. My raincoat, which was folded over my belt, looked like a sieve when I opened it up, and my canteen had a hole right through the middle of it. The warm water had run out and down my leg. That's why I thought I was bleeding. The good Lord was really looking after me!

I was witness to another generally similar incident suggesting possible heavenly support. Just where it occurred I don't remember, but my squad was advancing with a scout out front. All of a sudden a German machine gun opened up. We stopped, and the scout hollered, "I'm hit, don't come up." We backed off and sent for the medic. He came up with a litter and I explained the situation to him.

He said he was not going out there until he was sure it was safe. I said, "Give me your helmet (with the Red Cross) and your arm band. I'll get him myself."

I crawled out and got him by the feet and dragged him back slowly. As he was being put on the litter he reached into his shirt and pulled out his New Testament, with a steel jacket cover. There was a hole in the cover with penetration

through about half the pages, and there was the bullet! He said, "Won't this be a nice souvenir to show the folks back home!" The Lord was with him that day!

An incident happened on this push I forget to tell about. We were pinned down and not moving. A Major came up from Regiment to find out why we were not moving. He ordered an assault on the machine gun. As we prepared to move up, the Germans started to shell our position.

Well, this Major jumped in my hole. I got in too. He said, "Soldier, find yourself another hole." I said, "I dug this hole and I'm staying." I started to wiggle and squirm until he was on top of me. When the shelling stopped, he was furious with me and ordered me out first to attack the gun.

We fanned out and moved forward on arm signals. We did not get far when I saw the G.I. next to me, motion to come back. When I came through the hedge, the Major grabbed me and said, "Why did you come back?" I said, "I was the first one out and the last one back, what more do you want?" He stalked off and never came back.

One day the Captain sent me forward with 15 men and we dug in, supposedly waiting for orders to move forward again on command. Well, F Company was supposed to be on my right, but I did not know that the Germans had broken through F Company and attacked Battalion HQs.

They assaulted with tanks and infantry. Some of the infantry hit our hedgerow, rolling concussion grenades over it. My men were mostly new to combat and they froze in their holes. I ran up and down the line telling them to get out and use their rifles and grenades.

I was lucky that one of their grenades went off on the top of my helmet. I knocked me goofy for a minute and knocked all the fillings out of my teeth. (I had a lot of temporary ones.) When the smoke cleared, all were dead but me, I thought, and I checked all the holes and could get no response from any of them. I dug down in my hole and went to sleep.

The next morning, I was looking over the hedgerow and I saw two Jerries standing in a gate opening. I had no ammo, but I had an anti-tank rifle grenade in my pouch and a clip of blank ammo, so I put the grenade launcher and grenade on my rifle, took careful aim and fired, expecting to get them both with one shot.

Well, I hit one of them right in the chest. I could hear the thump. He went down, but the grenade, being armor piercing, did not explode. His buddy dragged him back to the hedgerow out of sight. I did not know what to do in my situation, so I just stayed. I had no rations, just a D-bar.

I stayed in my hole another night, and in the morning, I awoke to a German machine gun firing over my head. The

smoke almost made me cough, but I didn't. I waited a little while, listening to them talking German, and then I slipped out of my belt, and taking a grenade, crawled about 10 feet down the hedge. There were in a corner on their side.

I pulled the pin, let the handle go that activates the 5-second fuse, and counted to three, then I tossed it. I don't think it hit the ground before it went off. I waited a little and crawled back, put on my gear, and waited and listened, hearing nothing. I grabbed the barrel of the machine gun and pulled it on my side. Then I collapsed in my hole.

Later that evening, I saw G.I.'s crawling into my position. They had light packs on. I let a couple go by and then I tapped one on the shoulder and asked how to get out of here. He said, "I thought everyone in here was dead. Just follow back on the line we are coming in on."

They were from the 115th. I got back to the road and asked where I could find E Company, 175th? An officer said they had been pulled to the rear and offered me a ride in a jeep headed in that direction. When I found my Company, the Captain said he thought I was AWOL. I found out that the regiment HQs had been hit hard by artillery, and they had lost a ranking officer and a lot of men.

I asked my First Sergeant if I could go back to Regiment to see a friend of mine from home. He gave me permission. I walked about two miles and looked up the communications officer. I told him I was a radio operator and thought he should give a man on the line a job in Regiment before giving it to a new recruit. He said he would do what he could.

The next morning, the Captain sent for me to come to the Command Post. He said, "Where were you yesterday?" and I told him. He said "You must have talked to the Communications Officer?", and I said I had. He held up a piece of paper and said "Do you know what this is?" I said, "I hope it is my transfer to Regiment?" He said "that's exactly what it is," and ripped it up right in front of my nose. He said, "You are a rifleman and a good rifleman and you are going to stay a rifleman, and furthermore, you are going to take Sergeant stripes."

I was hot and I told him, "I've turned stripes down four times already and I'm turning them down again." He said "You will take the stripes or a court martial, now make up your mind?" I had no choice.

Later that day, he called a formation to read the general orders in front of the company promoting me to Staff Sergeant. He had already had the orders cut. After the formation, he handed me my stripes and told me to sew them on. I put a tack at the top and one at the bottom, so when I got on the line I could rip them off and put them in my pocket.

(The Jerries like to pick off the non-coms and the officers the same as we did).

I have an amusing story that happened around this time. In the skirmish before we were relieved, we tried to advance on a hedgerow, but were thrown back. My runner and a member of my squad, LaBeau, a French Canadian with thick black curly hair and eyes that bulged, had hit the ground half way and lay there all night. The next morning, we advanced again, and he got up and ran with us.

When we had secured our objective, he came to me and said, "Look at my helmet." It had two small holes in the front and two gaping holes in the rear. He showed me his head and he had two creases in his hair. He said, "This sure is my lucky helmet."

Later in the day, I got my stripes, and we got new replacements, and I was standing with my hands in my pockets, briefing them on what to expect, when I saw the Captain lumbering quickly towards me. I came to attention and pulled my hands out of my pockets. He was mad and told me if he ever caught me with my hands in my pockets again, he would make me sew them up.

Now the funny part—he called LaBeau over and told him to get rid of that helmet. LaBeau said, "I would like to keep it sir, it is my lucky helmet." The Captain said "Get rid of it, you are demoralizing the replacements." (I cracked up).

The next day we went through the lead Company and took the point, jumping hedgerows and running across open fields. It seemed like every day brought something new and every evening brought more casualties.

One day, as we were advancing, I decided I would walk on a road that paralleled our advance. It would be a lot easier than jumping hedgerows. Well, all of a sudden, I heard a vehicle approaching. I dove in the ditch along the road and waited. This may sound funny, but I said to myself, "That sure sounds like a Model A Ford. Sure enough, when I rounded the bend, it was a Model A ½ ton truck with three German soldiers in the front seat, and a big tree branch on the back for camouflage.

When they got about 10 yards from me, I jumped up to the center of the road and hollered, "Halt!" They stopped momentarily and looked around then started forward again. I shot out the two front tires and put a couple of rounds in the radiator. Then they stopped and put up their hands.

My men heard the firing and came running over. They stripped the prisoners of their weapons and watches. I got nothing for my part. They said they were lost. I sent them to the rear with one of the men and we all continued on. The constant physical and mental strain was starting to show on

all of us. We were only getting two or four hours sleep a night and the sights and sounds of battle were taking their toll.

On this push, two other G.I.'s and I came across a wooden box about 1-1/2'x2-1/2'x1' with a padlock on it. We shot off the lock and the box was full of German paper money. We all grabbed what we could and stuffed it in our field jackets. We could not dally; we had to run and catch up with the company.

Later, I used it for toilet paper and after a couple of days, I pitched it. I did not think it was worth anything. I put one 100 marks bill in my wallet for a souvenir. Later, I found out it was good. Well, there went a few thousand!

Another incident happened about this time when my company was behind the main line, but we pulled guard as always. The situation was quiet, so my buddy Horton and I decided to chat a bit. He was sitting on his heels and I was kneeling on one knee. We were about one foot apart when all of a sudden he went "oof" and fell backwards. I grabbed him and laid him down. I could see he was blue behind the ears and was dead, but I took out my canteen and tried to pour water down his throat. I looked again and a bullet had gone through his heart and out his back. It had to come over my shoulder to hit him were it did. I was so frustrated that I went over and busted my fist against a tree—frustrated because my buddy was killed and not me.

June 26th was my birthday, and I was digging a hole in the pouring down rain singing happy birthday to myself, saying I'll never be 26 on the 26th again and what a hell of a place to be.

One morning as we were advancing, I was running through a sugar beet field. The beets were out of the ground and as large as one's head. I tripped and fell and said to myself, "I'm too tired to get up, I'll just lie here." Something made me look up and standing beside me was the Lord Jesus. I say him plain as day. He said, "Get up and go, for if you lie here, you will surely die." It seemed like I got new strength. I got up and ran as fast as I could and caught up with my outfit. I knew then, as I had always prayed, that the Lord was looking out for me. We pressed on.

I was buddying with a 19-year-old boy from Waco, Texas. He said he had been a pro softball pitcher. Well, I watched him slowly crack up as the days went by. He started to shake and cry, stutter and rant. They had to take him out of the line to hospital. Combat fatigue. So, I am without a buddy again. I am 26 and he was 19 and he cracked up. I can't explain it.

We moved on skirting the city of Vire. One of our other units in the Division took the city. One night we were hit by artillery fire and we suffered a few casualties. The next morn-

ing, I was asked to carry three of our dead back a few fields so they would not smell up our area. Well, the first of many my buddy and I picked up to put on a stretcher had been sitting in his hole, and when I went to lift him out, my arm went clear into his chest cavity. He had a big hole in his back. Well, I pulled my arm out and wiped the blood on my pants and with the aid of my buddy, we put him on a stretcher and carried him out.

The next fellow we carried back had a Swiss knife on his belt. I thought I could use a knife like that. It had everything on it you could think of, so I took it and put it on my belt, and went back for the third man. When I got back with him where we had laid the other two, I looked at him and said to myself, "I can't take something from a dead man." So, I took the knife and put it back on his belt. My conscience felt better.

A few days later, we heard that our armies had pushed the Germans into the Falaise Gap and with 105's pointing down on them from all sides many thousands surrendered. We rested for two days. But it had been the most physical and mental 21 days I will ever experience. The General told us we were going to Brest – just a few snipers and a few automatic weapons." We should take it in no time then we would go to England for a rest (ha ha) or occupy Germany.

We were loaded into open 2-1/2 ton trucks and drove all day and all night and arrived at our destination in Brittany about noon. It rained all night and I got soaked. It seemed that each time we got pulled back for replacements, they had a movie. I can't remember the names of them but I know I saw each of them several times.

*To be continued.*

## **Please note new address for National Headquarters**

The appointment of Valerie Simmers as National Executive Director has required us to change our address for 29th Division Association, Inc., National Headquarters.

The new address is:

**29th Division Association, Inc.**

**National Headquarters**

**5 Shore Drive**

**North East, MD 21901-3397**

Please make note of this new address and do not mail anything to the old P.O. Box address.

*WILLIAM S. MUND, JR.  
Editor*

# Online Store Test

At the National Executive Committee Meeting in January 2020 a small group of individuals were directed to look into the possibility and feasibility of establishing an online store to sell 29th Division Association merchandise.

Little did we know that a few months later we would not have access to our current merchandise which is for the most part stored at the 5th Regiment Armory in Baltimore. Because of the Corona Virus we have been unable to sell from our current inventory as the travel restrictions have prevented the National Property Officer from getting to the items and mailing them to the buyer.

PNC Grant Hayden, JVC Dick Snyder and I looked at two options that were readily available to establish an online store. They were:

1. Pay a vendor to set up an online store to include website, storage of inventory, and ship orders.
2. Use a vendor that has an established website with several organizations and add the 29th Division Association store.

After reviewing and discussing these options we decided that number 2 above was best for what we were trying to accomplish. Now it was time to speak to a local company to review their processes and set up a test. We set up a meeting in mid-February with USA Printwear, a company we have done business with in the past and is owned by a 29er and his wife. We knew they were currently operating online stores for the 175th Regimental Association, and the Baltimore County Teachers Union just to name a few.

At the meeting we were shown the website, sales reports available and we also discussed merchandise to be sold during the test. One of the biggest selling points for our selection was the fact that we don't purchase inventory as the items are made and sold based on orders. There will be a few times where an exception to this method of inventory is made but only when it is advantageous to the Association. Considering that we currently have over \$10,000 of inventory in our traditional store this was a big plus. Also, we have the ability to set our profit margin and shipping cost are calculated and added at time of check-out. At the conclusion of the meeting we agreed to begin a test and selected a few items to be made available during the test.

The test has been running about 90 days and with limited advertising sales have been somewhat slow. Following an article in the *Chin Strap* there was a slight increase in sales including a sale from Puerto Rico and France. We have also agreed to make available what we are calling a "Travel Package" which will be larger quantities of popular items such as baseball hats, license plate frames, and more that can be delivered to or shipped to locations where large numbers of members may be gathering for a meeting, reunion. There is also the ability to bulk ship items to Posts and in some cases even deliver to save you shipping

cost. We have lots of flexibility, so if you have a request just ask and we will work with you.

In case you missed it in previous communications you can get to the online store one of two ways.

1. On the 29th Division Association Website near the bottom you will see "Association Tests New Online Store". Just click on the "Read More" link and it will take you to an article that contains a link with the online store website information.
2. You can also go directly to: [www.USAprintwear.com](http://www.USAprintwear.com) and you will see the 29th Division Association Logo. Simply click on that and you will be taken to our store.

Finally, during the test which is expected to last until early fall we will have a limited number of items available. If there is something you would like added to the store just email me and we will see if we can make it available. We had a request to make available a gray version of the new baseball hat and after a brief discussion we agreed and that is now available on the site. I believe this is the way of the future for 29th Division Association merchandise sales but time will tell. Feel free to email me with any questions or comments.

Tom Knight  
National Finance Officer  
NFO29thDivAssoc@gmail.com

## Help Wanted

As the National Finance Officer, I am always looking for ways to increase revenue for the Association. I would like to hear from you with suggestions for an annual raffle that could be started to raise funds.

My thoughts are that the raffle would begin each January and end with the drawing being held during the formal dinner at the Annual Convention. What I need from you, the membership is:

1. Your thoughts on this idea. Do you think this is doable? Will you and your Post support this by selling tickets?
2. Your suggestions on a prize that would be something that would draw interest and lead to an easy sell of tickets.

I am just one person, and this is just my idea. If you have an idea that will raise funds please let me know. Also, if you would like to get involved by heading up a Fundraising Committee I welcome your help.

Please feel free to let me know what you think about the raffle or other fundraising efforts. My email address is: [NFO29thDivAssoc@gmail.com](mailto:NFO29thDivAssoc@gmail.com)

Tom Knight  
National Finance Officer

# Minutes

of the NEC III meeting  
which was conducted electronically  
on 18 June 2020

National Commander Pete Hinz called the National Executive Committee (NEC III) Meeting to order at 1010 hours. Due to the fact that the meeting was online, Commander Hinz waived the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance. He then recognized National Chaplain Bill DeHaven who offered the opening prayer. The group then recited the 29th Division Association Preamble.

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

The minutes of the previous meeting (NEC II, on 23 January 2020 had been published and were distributed in the Spring 2020 edition of the *Twenty-Niner*). Since there were no amendments or additions, the minutes, as published, were approved.

## Officer's Reports

National Commander – NC Hinz recognized the National Guard and the 29th Division and all the great work that they have done during the COVID-19 pandemic.

National Senior Vice Commander – SRVC Ted Shuey has been unable to visit the posts, other than 116, and other veterans' associations as planned due to pandemic. He visited with the 26th Division Association when he was in Boston in January but all other visits are on hold at this time. SRVC Shuey would like to see some type of smaller gathering(s) in September or October in lieu of the National Convention.

National Junior Vice Commander – JRVC Dick Snyder picked up a \$500 check in February from Mid-Atlantic Family Support and turned it over to NFO Knight. NC Hinz requested that JRVC Snyder draft a letter of thanks to send to the organization.

Southern Regional Vice Commander – Jimmy Kilbourne indicated that the Museum is open and PNC Grant Hayden is stopping by to share a test product for the NEC to consider. Jimmy was asked at NEC II to work with NFO Tom Knight on the Association's tax status and brief the NEC. He has developed a full formal decision brief with slides that NFO Knight and other senior officers have not yet reviewed. Subsequent to that review, he feels that the briefing needs to be presented at a special in-person meeting in late summer or fall to allow for a robust discussion.

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

At Large Region National Vice Commander – PNC David Ginsburg cited Post 93 in New England that has been very active with Neil Ungerleider working on the Futures Committee, Fran Sherr-Davino has been recruiting and Charlotte Juergens produced the "Sunken Roads" video.

National Executive Director – NED Valerie Simmers indicated that orders are still coming in for the store but we do not have access to the facility at this time and therefore the orders are suspended.

Membership Chairperson – Chairperson Mund reported that the Association, overall, has done well with membership considering the pandemic. We are only 10% behind where we were at this time last year. PNC David Ginsburg requested a column be in-

serted in the membership report for 2019 data so that a comparison between 2020 and 2019 is available. Mund will send that information to PNC Ginsburg twice per year.

Editor 29er – The *Twenty-Niner* will be published around mid-July and will be 32 pages.

Finance – National Finance Officer Tom Knight reported that our investments went down in value because of the pandemic but have recently started to recover the losses. There is uncertainty about the future but at this time there are no plans to change the investment strategy. The property account is only an estimate since we are unable to get into the armory to access the store-room. NFO Knight tapped the BOA savings account to move \$2K into the operating account since it was low. Please submit all budget requests for the upcoming fiscal year by 31 August.

Chaplain – Bill DeHaven expressed concerns about COVID-19 re-emerging in October and asked that everyone keep our troops in our prayers. The National Guard is always there when you need them.

Service – NSO Bullock was not present and had no report.

Surgeon – NS Dr. Howard Bond shared information on COVID-19. He is attending weekly briefings. He recommended that everyone be sure to get a flu shot in the fall. Keep up to date on the news and what the healthcare professionals recommend. The coronavirus started in China in late 2019 and spread to the rest of the world in 2020. To stay safe, it is important to frequently wash your hands and wear a mask. Much is not known about the virus at this time. Most research is observational and hypotheses driven. There are currently thousands of ongoing studies one of which showed that steroids might help reduce death in seriously ill patients. The CDC website is a good place to get the information, but keep in mind that we are still working with a number of assumptions, e.g., how long the virus stays active on surfaces. For Post meetings, please keep in mind that our members are at high risk and we need to be extremely careful. Post 85 plans to meet on 1 July outside at the VFW facility around the flag pole, socially distancing, wearing masks and with everyone bringing their own chairs. PNC Ginsburg announced that our oldest member, Steve Melnikoff, had locked down around 1 March. NC Hinz asked Dr. Bond to provide a list of best practices for meetings that will be shared in the summer issue of *The Twenty-Niner*.

Welfare – NWO Becker contacted NED Simmers to extend his best wishes and let everyone know that Post 1-72 Commander Lee Hofmann visited the home of H. Edmund Koehler to check on him. Unfortunately, Ed had moved out and no one currently knows where he is.

NWO Becker also reported on the passing of Buzz Chalk. PNC Ginsburg recounted the horrible impact of COVID-19 on his family. There is a link to a site where you can donate. That information will appear in an upcoming *Chin Strap*.

PNC Ginsburg indicated that the wife of Post 110 member, Jim Bonner, has had a number of medical issues and consequently,

Jim has been very busy with that and all of his other duties. Please keep the Bonner family in your prayers.

Walter Heline, last of the 29th Rangers, will be laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery in August. NED Simmers indicated that there have been numerous donations in memory of Walter that will be posted in the upcoming *Twenty-Niner*.

NED Simmers asked for prayers for her husband Ken who is slowly recovering from back surgery.

Historian – Joe Balkoski inquired about the status of the \$10K donation for the restoration of the 115th National and Regimental colors. To date, the Maryland Military Historical Society has not received the donation. NC Hinz indicated that he would follow up to determine the status. D-Day 76 featured a very well-done livestream all day on YouTube following the timeline of events in June 1944. NH Balkoski will provide YouTube channels and links to Editor Mund for dissemination to the membership.

Sergeant-at-Arms – NSA Randall Beamer had no report.

Property – NPO Frank Shilow was not present. NFO Knight reported that some items are not selling and we need to determine how to proceed with them. These items primarily are books and ties. We can consider moving them to the virtual store. We could also consider giving a copy of the 29th Division History to each new member and selling them in the museum gift shops.

Parliamentarian – NP Thomas Insley was not present and had no report.

Judge Advocate – NJA Houston Matney had no report.

### Committee Reports

2020 National Convention – The Association held an online vote on a motion to reschedule the Convention to 2021 because when NC Hinz contacted the Gettysburg Wyndham Hotel, he was told there was a very tight window to reserve conference time in 2021 and consequently, needed to move quickly. The electronic vote carried by a large margin and the Convention is rescheduled to 28-31 October 2021. The 29th Division Facebook page and website were both updated with the new dates. All of the terms of the original contract were carried forward with the exception of the room rate that increased to \$117. NC Hinz felt that it was very important to lock down the new dates at the venue since Gettysburg should be a major draw for the Association. The Convention Committee planning was underway with workshops, presentations, tours, etc. in the works. In the meantime, we are considering some presentations in lieu of the Convention, e.g., how to research your 29th Division ancestor. Even though the Convention is rescheduled, the Association will still hold the NEC I meeting in September or October.

Awards/Grants Committee – NWO Brian Becker was not present and there was no report. However, NFO Knight reported that he processed two grants: one for the 175th for banner wall plaques that they have in the armory; the other went to the 116th Museum to update the World War II exhibit.

Futures Committee/Association Website – PNC Ginsburg provided the following report: The committee met the week prior week via Zoom. Jimmy Kilbourne and Neil Ungerleider are constantly updating the website including the merchandise that is available for purchase. There is a need to target soldiers who served in the 21st century to increase membership. We should strive to tell all

of the soldiers who attend a 29th Division or 116th Regiment event about the Association and include more current stories in *The Twenty-Niner*. To address the modern soldier, the committee requested \$5K to add 15-20 minutes to the documentary video covering first-person 21st century activities such as the Bosnia and Kosovo deployments, the death of MAJ Robert Marchanti in Afghanistan and the 9/11 deployment. Additionally, the committee requested \$1K to create a promotional trailer to run on such sites as Reddit. PNC Ginsburg made a motion to provide the \$6K to the committee for these two initiatives less any money still left in the original budget. The motion was passed unanimously. The license plate holders that include the website URL are now available in the virtual store for \$5 apiece. The Futures Committee is debating whether the Association should consider giving license plate holders and the new hat to new members when they join. Jimmy Kilbourne suggested that we consider a trial membership for new, young members for one year and as such they would receive 12 *Chin Straps*, 3 *Twenty-Niners* and a new license plate holder. NED Simmers reported that Post 85 had tried this initiative in the past but it was not successful. Consequently, we need to show the value of a membership and follow up with new members after they join. The Gettysburg convention is a good example of how we can do this. NC Hinz will get an invite to the next Futures Committee meeting. A national campaign should culminate at the Convention in 2021. We need to develop this campaign around the other events that are scheduled for this year. We have received 3,000+ hits thus far on the website for the morning reports. We have created the World War II timeline that is currently available only for members. We also need to concentrate on recruiting people of color going forward.

### Old Business

Future D-Day Normandy/Bedford Representation – NC Hinz advised that we will hold this initiative in obedience while the pandemic restricts events at these locations.

Governance Committee – No report.

Future Wreath Laying Events – We were planning to hold a wreath laying at the National Cemetery in Gettysburg during the Convention in September. We will now plan to hold a wreath laying at Gettysburg and/or Bedford in 2021.

Current Guard Support – PNC Ginsburg initiated a motion to donate \$2K maximum to the Maryland and Virginia National Guards to recognize their efforts during the pandemic. NC Hinz revised the motion into three separate motions for an online vote in May. However, there was some confusion and concern about the vote prompting NC Hinz to defer action until the motions could be discussed at NEC III. The motion also called for the funds (\$4K) to be replenished for each budget year as needed. Also, \$2K would be in the budget for the 29th Division. Distribution will be coordinated with the Association National Judge Advocate. After discussion, the motions were withdrawn so that the TAG offices in Virginia and Maryland could be contacted to assess their needs at this time. The possibility of contacting the Kentucky TAG as well was discussed. It was also noted that the JAG should also be included in the communication. NC Hinz and PNC Ginsburg will reword the motion and send it out for electronic vote.

### New Business

Virtual Store – The virtual store has been up and running for two

months. Since the store is online, there is no need to maintain a physical inventory. We bulk purchased 250 license plates to save money. For overseas orders, shipping will be added at checkout. Jimmy Kilbourne suggested that we also include a gray hat in the inventory. The acquisition of this hat is underway. The shipping of multiple items should only charge one shipping fee. We also will be preparing travel packages for distribution at Association events.

**Uniform** – In terms of the hats as well as the rest of the Association dress code, NC Hinz will develop and communicate “Type A” and “Type B” uniform guidelines for male and female members based on feedback from the NEC members. Consequently, he requests that everyone send their input to NED Simmers and Adjutant Armiger. Once everyone responds the Futures Committee will evaluate the feedback and hold a meeting to review.

**Other new business** – PNC Grant Hayden sent an email about the 729th that is deployed to Poland and suffering from low morale. Although the unit is no longer aligned with the 29th Division but are part of the 29th by lineage, we need to consider this as a Maryland Region issue and follow up with PNC Hayden to determine what he'd like for us to do.

We will be looking at some type of event for the fall to bring our members together. One thought is to have a small in person gathering and another is to hold a virtual convention via Zoom to include presentations, discussions and updates on the Association. The Convention Committee will follow up to plan a fall event that will include NEC I.

PNC Bill King recommended donating to the Military Family Support Unit that was formed in Roanoke. Last year they provided over 50,000 meals. To obtain more information, we should contact COL (Ret) Roger Talmadge at 540-345-9755 (M) or 540-400-8301. This is one initiative that the Association will consider in terms of disposition of funds.

PNC Ginsburg indicated that a new 29th Division commander is arriving in September and we should make every effort to connect with him as soon as possible. Also, we should probably have at least one representative at the change of command ceremony on 12 September.

PNC Ginsburg also indicated that he will be stepping down

as the Futures Committee chairperson with Jimmy Kilbourne taking his place. PNC Ginsburg will remain on the committee as a member.

Jimmy Kilbourne recommended that we consider that the *Chin Strap* become a national newsletter in the future. Also, he indicated that the Association needs to do some strategic planning to develop a vision and goals for the future. We need to think about the future – 5 to 10 years from now. The strategic planning framework will serve as the basis for decision making as well as the measurement of progress against the goals. This could be addressed at a planning session. During the planning process, we should also evaluate the Preamble to bring it more in line with the current time. We could consider hiring an outside facilitator to help develop the plan. NC Hinz will follow up on this recommendation to initiate the planning process.

#### **Deaths, Sick and Distressed**

No additional reports.

#### **Good of the Association**

The Maryland Military Historical Society will resume its Round Table meetings on 16 July. This will be via Zoom and the presentation will be on the US paratroopers on D-Day. If anyone in the Association is interested, please contact Adjutant Armiger for the Zoom meeting information.

#### **Closing Ceremony and Adjournment**

Chaplain Bill DeHaven provided a closing prayer. NC Hinz adjourned the meeting at 1320 hours.

**The date of the NEC I meeting is to be determined and announced later.**

*Respectfully submitted,*

FRANK A. ARMIGER  
Adjutant

**NEC Members please note:**

**These minutes are not distributed individually.**

**This is your copy.**

## **Association adapts to challenges brought on by the pandemic**

*(Continued from page 20)*

*nursing homes and many more duties.*

*The Military Family Relief Fund Mid-Atlantic will continue to take donations, Many more trips are planned later in April as well May and maybe beyond. Please consider donating items or monies to be used for this effort as the soldiers, airmen, first responders and coast guard personnel greatly appreciate and need your continued support. To donate please go to the following page on our website: <https://mfrfma.org/donate>. Thank you.*

At the NEC III PNC Bill King recommended the Military Family Support Unit formed in Roanoke that has provided over 50,000

meals to the soldiers and their families. Please see the NEC III minutes for the contact information if you are interested in supporting their fine work.

Finally, we are planning an event or events in the fall in lieu of our national convention. This may take the form of smaller group gatherings and/or a virtual convention. The latter will use the Zoom platform and provide presentations and discussions on the 29th Division from WWI to the present. Once the plans are firmed up, we will communicate them to all members.

As the pandemic spreads the Association is adapting and we are moving forward despite the limitations that are necessarily in place. As always, we are prepared and ready!

*Frank A. Armiger, Assistant Editor/Adjutant*

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North East, MD 21901-3327

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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, 5 Shore Drive, North East, MD 21901-3327**

<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