

After 69 years, extreme interest is still apparent in St. Lô, France liberated by 29th Division troops following D-Day

*Normandy Remembered: A Campaign to Renovate the
Historic French and American Memorial Hospital of St. Lô*

Few actions in the 20th century carry the kind of lasting historical resonance attributed to the June 6th landing of American, British and Canadian infantry on the Norman beaches of northwestern France in 1944, the penultimate year of World War II. This critical event, subsequently dubbed D-Day, has gone down into the annals of history as the singular manifestation of unbending courage in the face of barbarity, of liberty in the face of tyranny.

And yet it seems there will never be enough opportunities to recognize and revere the individual acts of bravery performed by the countless individuals who gave their lives to eliminate the pernicious Nazi occupation that stretched from Calais to Kiev. As then-General Eisenhower declared in his rousing letter to the Allied forces prior to the invasion, the eyes of the world were on these valiant men as they crossed the English Channel on their way to Omaha Beach. As is well known, the human cost of the assault was great, but the result of this military operation was nothing less than the re-establishment of democracy in Western Europe, as well as, among other things, the formation of an enduring bond of friendship between France and the United States.

Arguably the most critical moment in the decisive battle that followed was the month-long fight for Saint-Lô, a town some twenty miles inland from Omaha Beach that the Germans had held since 1940. Due to Saint-Lô's strategic military location, the Wehrmacht devoted much of its energy to maintaining it. The ensuing struggle between the "Blue and Grays," the 29th American Infantry Division, and the 352nd German Division proved to be one of the most vicious in the region. But the grit of the 29ers, as evidenced by their readiness to plunge blindly over the vexing hedgerows and barrel across wet fields under heavy fire, did not allow them to falter. With the aid of the 35th Infantry Division and a fighter-bomber strike, the Blue and Grays, under the guidance

of Major Tom Howie, infiltrated the German line in a daring surprise attack and reclaimed Saint-Lô for the French on July 18th.

Major Howie did not survive the assault, but his men draped his body with an American flag and made sure he was the first American officer to enter the town. To this day, Howie is reverently referred to as "*le major de St.-Lô*," and a memorial in the

town, above which fly both the French Tricolor and the Stars and Stripes, honors and commemorates his brave contribution and the sacrifices made by his American military comrades.

Owing to the town's critical position on high ground, the taking of Saint-Lô by the 29th and 35th Divisions brought about not only the liberation of the long-subjugated town but also the Allied securing of Normandy and ultimately the liberation of Paris in late



August of the same year. As a consequence of this pivotal fight, Rommel's troops were driven steadily eastward, staunchly pursued by the Allied forces all the way to the Elbe River. After the Battle of Saint-Lô, the final liberation of Europe from the Nazi war-machine was firmly within the Allies' grasp.

Still, though Saint-Lô was reclaimed in the summer of 1944, it would take years for the city to even begin to restore its pre-war housing, infrastructure, and basic standard of living. Four years of occupation and aerial bombardment by Allied B-17 bombers had reduced the formerly bucolic town to a gnarled mass of stone, iron, and wood, even before the Americans arrived and fierce house-to-house fighting subjected the town to further damage. The Irish playwright and novelist Samuel Beckett justly referred to Saint-Lô in his war reportage as "The Capital of the Ruins," and a debate ensued as to whether the city should be rebuilt on the same site or relocated entirely.

The citizens left were forced to inhabit cellars, ruins, and tem-

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Comments from the Commander: Joseph H. Zang

This edition of the 29er acts as the final notice to get your Reunion Registration in to Bob Moscati. It also includes getting those ads in for the Souvenir Program book along with the names of your Patrons to William Mund, allowing him enough time to do his editorial/pagination process. I urge everyone to take advantage of the information contained herein, send in your ads, register early and join us at Virginia Beach.

As my tenure as the National Commander continues I enjoy each rewarding experience. There are many of these experiences that stand out as most memorable. But, having the chance to represent this organization at all these functions has meant a great deal to me. Of particular note was the laying of the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the luncheon following the ceremony. It was very satisfying to see the large turnout for this event and have the weather cooperate, giving us a near perfect day. The event could not have happened without the extended efforts of so many people both on and off the Staff. Each of them has my sincere appreciation of their efforts.

Another impressive day was June 6 at the D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Virginia. The event was moved indoors to the local school auditorium, due to the weather, but attendance was very good. The Association was well represented. In addition to me, the Virginia contingent was there in force. Several speakers made very informative and some emotional talks. Some spoke of

personal experiences during WWII. Both the 29th Division Commander, MG Wittington and Virginia Adjutant General, MG Long added their remarks. Following the Bedford ceremony, I attended a ceremony in Roanoke, Virginia that evening, awarding the French "Legion of Honor" to three more than worthy individuals". This was a more formal ceremony with a plated dinner prior to the awarding of the Legion of Honor. I congratulate those awarded: Mills Hubert Hobbs, John Kessler and Chuck Neighbor. This was an impressive ceremony conducted under the direction of Mr. Bernard L. Marie. The medals were presented by Colonel Jacques Aragonés, French Military Attaché.

In April, National Executive Director John Wilcox and I visited the *Medal of Honor Grove* in Valley Forge. Take a few minutes and read the article concerning the *Medal of Honor Grove* later in this issue. You may be interested in what we found and the facts we uncovered.

We have formed and activated a Futures Committee that promises to influence our operations in positive ways, for some time to come. The Committee is under the capable stewardship of David Ginsburg, current Commander of Post 110. Be assured, you will be hearing from this committee.

In the mean time I will be looking for your registration, your ads, and your patron's names coming in with your checks. Hope to see many of you in Virginia Beach.

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Attention

Veterans who served in France 1944

Veterans who helped liberate France could receive medal

— U.S. veterans who helped in the liberation of France during World War II could be eligible to receive the French Legion of Honor Medal in the future. This medal was previously only issued to WWI vets. Those applying must have written documentation, which is normally a copy of his/her military separation order, DD-214, and other official orders, which verifies their military history during combat. Members of the Army, Army Air Corps, Navy and Coast Guard who participated in one of the four major campaigns in the liberation of France (Normandy, Southern France, Northern France and the Ardennes) are eligible for this French award. Any previous military awards such as the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, etc., would indicate meritorious actions during combat operations. Copies of these documents should be forwarded with the request for consideration for the French Legion of Honor to the Defense Attaché, Embassy of France, 4101 Reservoir Road NW, Washington, DC 20007. These French medals must be approved by the Legion of Honor Committee in Paris, France, after appropriate review. Approximately 100 French Legion of Honor Medals will be awarded each year in the U.S. at the home of each veteran or at public ceremony during a patriotic holiday. These arrangements will be made after the awardees have been notified. To find out more, contact the French Defense Attaché at 202-944-6502 or by fax at 202-944-6538.

Contributions to the *Twenty-Niner Sustaining Fund*

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our membership for their generosity in contributing to the *Twenty-Niner Sustaining Fund* for this Summer issue. From February 15, 2013 through June 15, 2013 these donations totaled \$3,451.93. **Note our cut-off time. If your contributions did not reach our National Executive Director by June 15, 2013 then it will not be listed until the next issue.** We thank you all and bless you.

Adler, Mark M P - Canadian Post # 3 - Toronto, ON
 Bennett, Morris - Post 64 - Assoc. - Roanoke, VA
 Borosky, Dr. Bernard - Post 94 - Assoc. - Muscles Shoals, AL
 Boyer, Tom - Post 64 - Assoc. - Roanoke, VA
 Boyter, Roy - Post 94 - E-115th Inf. - Shreveport, LA
 Brondyke, Russell - Post 94 - Assoc. - Homosassa, FL
 Butler-Caughie, Fred - Canadian Post # 3 - Toronto, ON
 Campbell, Chester L., Sr. - Post 2 - C-175th Inf. - Memphis, TN
 Carter, Allen - Post 64 - 116th Inf. - Waynesboro, VA
 Christians, Russell - Post 29 - B-104th Med. - Worthington, MN
 Coblenzer, Sybil R. - Baltimore, MD

In Memory of Mervin "Coby" Coblenzer

Colonna, Brian S. - Post 29 - D-3-126th AVN. - Reno, NV
 Cundy, Don - Post 94 - Son - Dearborn, MI
 Dabbs, Edward - Post 94 - Assoc. - Beltsville, MD
 Dee, Robert - Post 94 - Son - Oakdale, CA
 Dehays, Antonin - Post 94 - Assoc. - College Park, MD
 Dennis, Larry - Post 94 - Assoc. - Bartlesville, OK
 Dillon, Frank - Post 64 - HQ-116th Bde. - Boones Mill, VA
 Dillon, Nancy - Post 64 - Aux - Boones Mill, VA
 DiMattina, Vincent - Post 94 - Son - Springfield, VA
 Douglas, David A. - Canadian Post # 3 - Toronto, ON
 Doyle, Frederick - Post 64 - 116th Inf. (L) - Lynchburg, VA
 Duncan, Norman - Post 94 - E-116th Inf. - Ashburn, VA
 Eisenberg, Curt - Canadian Post # 3 - North York, ON
 Finn, PNC Robert - Post 94 - A-2-115th Inf. - Westminster, MD
 Fiore, George - Post 94 - E-175th inf. - Long Island City, NY
 Firebaugh, Larry - Post 64 - A-1-116th Inf. - Troutville, VA
 Ford, William - Post 94 - Assoc. - Silver Spring, MD
 Fulmer, George W. - Post 78 - Assoc. - Frederick, MD

In Memory of Edward Fulmer - KIA June 23, 1944 - Normandy

Garrison, Cecil - Post 94 - D-104th Med. - Falls Church, VA
 Gerhardt, Charles - Post 94 - Son - Lebonon, OH
 Golding, Gordon - Post 94 - Son - Paris, FR
 Green Colleen - Post 94 - Daughter - Simms, MT
 Green, J. Pat - Post 64 - 116th Inf. (L) - Roanoke, VA
 Greenshields, John - Canadian Post # 3 - London, ON
 Grier, Thomas - Post 64 - HHC-29th Div. - Roanoke, VA
 Hamilton, W. Craig, Sr. - Post 64 - M-116th Inf. - Roanoke, VA
 Hankins, PNC Glenwood - Post 116 - H/116th Inf. - Martinsville, VA
 Harper, Dave - Post 94 - Assoc. - Bountiful, UT

In Memory of S/SGT Charles Matter - 175th Inf. Regiment

Hays, Steven - Post 94 - Assoc. - Upper Marlboro, MD
 Hensley, Richard B. - Post 64 - A-116th Inf. - Hardy, VA
 Hertzfield, Thomas - Post 94 - Assoc. - Perrysburg, OH
 Hewitt, John - Post 94 - Svc-115th Inf. - Silver Spring, MD

Hewitt, Thomas - Post 94 - Scv-115th Inf - Laughlin, NY
 Hicks, George C. - Post 64 - A-116th Inf. GWOT - Roanoke, VA
 Hobbs, Mary - Post 64 Aux. - Cloverdale, VA
 Hobbs, Mills H., Jr. - Post 64 - A-115th Inf. - Cloverdale, VA
 Hoy, Darrin - Canadian Post # 3 - Toronto, ON
 Huddleston, Luanna - Valrico, FL

In Honor of Calvin C. Huddleston - Post 2 M-175th Inf. WW II

Hymer, John - Canadian Post # 3 - Brampton, ON
 Kelly, Edward J. - Post 94 - Assoc. - Richmond, VA
 Janke, Heather - Canadian Post # 3 - Toronto, ON
 Janke, Len - Canadian Post # 3 - Toronto, ON
 Jarrell, Larry - Post 64 - HHC-116th BCT - Christiansburg, VA
 Jebson, Sallie H. - Post 94 - Daughter - Culpepper, VA
 Johnson, Mickey - Post 64 - A-116th Inf. (L) - Moneta, VA
 Joiner, W. C. - Post 94 - Grandson - Brandson, MS
 Karnes, Daniel E. - Post 64 - Med - 116th Inf. (L) - Roanoke, VA
 Kern, Matthew - Post 94 - Assoc. - Ashville, NC
 Kessler, John C. - Post 64 - AT-116th Inf. - Roanoke, VA
 Kincaon, James N., Jr. - Post 64 - HHC-1-116th Inf.- Roanoke, VA
 King, NP Juanita - Post 64 - Aux. - Roanoke, VA
 King, PNC William H. - Post 64 - HQ-1-116th Inf. - Roanoke, VA
 Knight, James - Post 94 - Son - Mt Pleasant, SC
 Lantern Post 729 - Blue Ridge Summit, PA
 Larkspur Post 110 - Post 110 - Pikesville, MD

In Memory of Philip N. Rouchard - HQ-224th FA

In Memory of Roy J. Hollingsworth - HQ-224th FA WW II

In Memory of Morton L. Wood - B-121st Eng.

In Memory of Eugene L. Mersinger - HQ-2-110th FA

In Memory of Robert L. Davis - A-2-110th FA WW II

Lee, LTC Jack - Canadian Post # 3 - Mississauga, ON
 Lemon, Bob Bennett - Post 64 - Svc-116th Inf. - Salem, VA
 Levon, Agnes - Post 64 - Widow - Roanoke, VA
 Linthicum, George E. - Post 72 - C-175th Inf. - Timonium, MD

In Memory of PNC Sam Krauss - A-116th Inf. WW II

Lockwood, Philip - Post 29 - AT-175th Inf. - Port Charlotte, FL
 Lores, Antonio - Post 29 - M-115th Inf. - Andover, NJ
 Lotz, Robin - Post 94 - C-3-116th Inf. (L) - Richmond, VA
 Lucas, Elona - Post 94 - Daughter - Merrimack, NH
 Marie, Bernard - Post 64 - Assoc
 McCumsey, Sylvester - Post 64 - C-116th Inf. (L) - Keswick, VA
 McNamara, Margaret - Missoula, MT

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

Mills, Glenn - Canadian Post # 3 - Queensville, ON
 Moore, Arthur J. - Post 1 - F-115th Inf. - Houston, TX
 Moseanll, LTC Alex - Canadian Post # 3 - Toronto, ON
 Mozjai, John - Post 94 - G-116th inf. - Edison, NJ
 Nappi, Felice - Post 29 - HQ-2-175th Inf. - New Braunfels, TX
 Neighbor, Charles H. - Post 64 - E-116th Inf. - Roanoke, VA
 Neighbor, James C. - Post 64 - Son - Roanoke, VA
 Oliver, Freddie L. - Post 64 - HHC-116th Inf. - Blacksburg, VA
 Oliver, Paul T. - Post 64 - 229th Chem. - Salem, VA
 Paquis, Joseph - Canadian Post # 3 - Toronto, ON
 Parnell, George L. Sr. - Post 29 - HQ-2-175th Inf. - Springfield, IL
 Paul, Edith - Post 175 - Widow - Katy, TX
 Pearson, Roberta - Post 94 - Daughter - Barnes, WI
 Phoebus, Richard - Post 78 - B-175th Inf. - The Villages, FL

(Continued on page 14)

Taps

The following list shows names of known 29ers and their ladies or family members who died and their deaths reported from February 15, 2013 through June 15, 2013. 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

Arthur, Howard, Post 29, F/115, Portsmouth Oh, 1/13/13
 Bean, Edward N, Post 93, L/175, Linden NJ, 12/31/12
 Behringer, Henry, Post 72, Associate, Baltimore Md, 4/14/13
 Bull, William G, Post 110, C/175, Palm Coast Fl, 4/25/13
 Colburn, James B, Post 2, Assoc., Fort Lauderdale Fl, 4/5/13
 Cole, Donaldson C, Post 85, E/115, Northeast Md, 2/20/13
 DiCarlo, Vincent A, Post 2, K/115, Chicago Il, 12/26/12
 Dulin, Robert E, 29Divarty, Annapolis Md, 3/1/13
 Eggers, Ralph, Post 64, H/116, Roanoke Va, 3/18/12
 Furletti, Frank J, Post 72, HQ/175, Baltimore Md, 4/14/13
 Gentry, Dwight L, Post 94, I/115, Deland Fl, 3/5/13
 Hajj, William, Post 93, Can/116, Danbury Ct, 9/18/12
 Hansen, Harry F, Post 1, 743TK, Ellicott City Md, 5/27/13
 Heefner, Wilson A, Post 72, HQ.1/175, Stockton Ca, 2/16/13
 Hollingsworth, Roy J, Post 110, B/121Eng, Ellicott Cty Md, 12/27/12
 Hood, Edward F, Post 48, A/2-110FA, Hagerstown Md, 4/22/13
 Huddleston, Calvin C, Post 2, M/175, Valrico Fl, 5/18/13
 Hunter, Jake S, Post 64, Associate, Bedford Va, 11/16/13
 McDavid, Thomas, Post 110, HQ/2-110FA, Winter Haven Fl, 5/29/13
 Mersinger, Eugene L, Post 110, HQ/110FA, Westminster Md, 3/21/13
 More, William L, 175 INF, Baltimore Md, 3/9/13
 Mulvin, John J, Post 2, C/116, Tampa Fl, 1/4/13
 Opitz, William A, Post 72, Med/175, Reisterstown Md, Dt Unk
 Pruitt, Ralph E, Post 2, Associate, Taylors SC, 5/8/13
 Rhodes, John T, Post 72, G/175, Selbyville De, 6/12/13
 Robinson, Marvin L, 116th Inf, Salem Va, 5/21/13
 Rouchard, Phillip N, Post 110, HQ/224FA, Towson Md, 2/17/13
 Shank, Ralph E, Post 64, Band/116, Martinsville Va, 4/30/13
 Wandler, Stephen L, Post 64, HQ/116, Allentown Pa, 11/19/12
 Wimbley, John L, Post 110, A/110FA, Summerville SC, 4/10/13
 Wood, Morton L, Post 110, HQ/110FA, Marathon Fl, 3/11/13
 Woods, Elizabeth F, Post 72, Daughter, Merion Sta. Pa, 5/7/13

LADIES

Bliss, Margarette, Wife, Post 2, Bradenton Fl, 2/2/13
 Geremonte, Alida F, Widow, Plymouth Ma, 2/20/13
 Thomas, Doris E, Wife, Aux 88, Cambridge Md, 3/18/13

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 32 comrades and 3 ladies who have died and whose death was reported to us since our last publication. This includes 3 comrades who were not members of our association but were members of our 29th family. This is how it should be. We ask survivors, friends, Post and Regional Officers to forward information, as complete as possible, on the deceased to the National Executive Director so that we can include them in the next issue of "The Twenty-Niner" and in the National Reunion Memorial Service. This will only be possible with your help.

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Recipients French Legion of Honor

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

Aubin, Robert

F-115th Inf.
 Cranston, Rhode Island
 Post #93

Hedlund, Walter R.

I-115th Inf.
 Chelmsford, Massachusetts
 Post #93

Bailey, Fairel

B-110th Field Artillery
 Winchester, Kentucky
 Post #110

Nappi, Felice

HHC, 2-175th Inf.
 New Braunfels, Texas
 Post #29

Drumwright, James H. Jr.

29th Signal Company
 Richardson, Texas
 Post #110

Pollette, Frederick S.

C-115th Inf.
 Charlotte, North Carolina
 Post #78

Mills H. Hobbs, A Company, 115th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division

To my great-grandson, Ryan. I'm doing this for you, son, and I want you to remember it for the rest of your life. This is a story of my life when I was young, 19 to 20 years old.

On December 7, 1941, Bill Hungate and I were sitting in his 1936 Ford down on Church Avenue in Roanoke, Va. We had the radio on, and the news came across that the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor. He and I looked at one another, because he was already 20, and I was 19 and would soon be 20. We knew what was going to happen, that we would be drafted, and he was gone in about two or three months. On May 28, 1942, I turned 20 and got my notice from the draft board to appear at 101 West Campbell Avenue for my examination. I passed with flying colors, but recalling that examination, I want to relate once incident.

We also had some boys from Floyd County being examined. The doctor kept asking one of them, "Can you hear me now?" He shook his head as if to say "no." The doctor asked him again, "Can you hear me now?" He shook his head again. So, the doctor went and got an aluminum pie plate and a syringe and put that syringe in the boy's ear, squeezed it, and you heard a "clunk." The boy had stuffed his ears with cotton to avoid being drafted. Right after that, the doctor pulled a fast one on him. He bent right down to his ear and said loudly, "Can you hear me now?!" The boy almost fell off his chair.

That was Nov. 9, 1942, a Monday. They gave us 14 days to get our things in order, and we left Roanoke on Nov. 23. The whole train carload of us went to Camp Lee, in eastern Virginia. I lived next door to a man who had been in the service, and I remembered what he had told me, "If you ever go into the service, don't volunteer for anything." So I didn't.

After we had arrived, the sergeant came into the barracks real early on Tuesday morning and said, "Are there any truck drivers in here?" About 15 hands went up, but not mine, even though I had driven a laundry truck back in Roanoke. And they went off.

About 15 minutes later, the sergeant asked if there were any cooks. About 12 hands went up, and he said, "Follow me." We looked out there later, and those guys who were "truck drivers" were pushing wheelbarrows of rocks, and those who were cooks were put on kitchen police, or KP. So while they labored all day, the rest of us just lay around the barracks. Thank goodness I had been warned about volunteering. If I see a young man about to go into the service, I tell him: "Young man, let me tell you two things: Don't ever volunteer for anything, and don't stand up if you don't have to." That's good advice. It sure worked for me, and I try to pass it on.

So we spent Thanksgiving at Camp Lee, and the next day we shipped out. They sent us to Macon, Ga., where Camp Wheeler was just outside the city limits. They had a 17-battalion camp there, and we were put in the 13th Training Battalion. We learned our own tricks — going to the range, preparing for certain problems like attacking the enemy, and also doing some forced marches with a full field pack. After 13 weeks of intense training, most of the guys were shipped out to places in different parts of the country. Fifty of us were sent to non-commissioned officer school, NCO school. We trained there for four weeks. Each one of us had to conduct a half-hour class for the whole group on one of our training exercises. Of all things for me to draw, I had to give instruction on the digging and maintenance of a latrine. That's when a group of soldiers is in the field with no bath facilities, and we had to do our duties of life, so to speak.

All 50 of us passed the class, but in the meantime, an order came down from the Army not to promote any more NCOs until they got them lined up across the country and knew how many were needed. But one soldier out of the 50 made it, and it just so happened that his father was a full "Chicken Colonel" on the base. He was a real nice guy and didn't know what to say, but we told him we didn't hold that against him. We shipped out, and he got to stay at Camp Wheeler.

Most of us were shipped to Shenango, Pa., a new post where we stayed about 10 days. No roads, no sidewalks, no anything. If you went to the chow hall and it was raining, you were in mud 4 inches deep. It was good food, but you had better not take more than you could eat. If they had to throw it in the garbage can, you were put immediately on KP. You were told to take what you want, but eat what you take.

From there, we were sent to Camp Kilmer, N.J. Everybody knew that when you went there, you were going to go overseas. All this time, none of us had had any leave to go home. We got a couple of weekend passes, but that's all we ever had. We could not call home and let them know where we were. I had a lieutenant who was the temporary company commander, and he knew I had had training as an NCO. He drafted me to help him pull things together so the boys would be ready to go overseas. His wife was about to have a baby, and he was going crazy to know what her condition was, whether his baby had been born or not.

We had to think of something to get him off the post, and when



he found out I was a truck driver and had driven a half-ton laundry truck until I went into the Army, he went to the motor pool, charged out a truck, and I drove it for him. We went to the gate to leave the base and go into a little town, the name I've forgotten, so we could get to a telephone. (There were no cell phones then!) We couldn't speak the name of any towns where we were, but he got to call his wife. She was expected to go to the hospital any time. I was out there on my own, so I also got to a phone and called home — I couldn't tell them where I was calling from.

The man who had told me about not volunteering had talked with my wife and told her that her husband was shipping out from Camp Kilmer. She got busy on the telephone, got in touch with another boy's wife, and was told he was also shipping out from Camp Kilmer and she could go there with her. Before they left, they called several people's parents, telling them that their sons were with us, so several more people got to see their sons before they shipped off for overseas.

On May 25, 1943, we started loading up the Queen Elizabeth to sail for England, and that took about three days. On May 27, the day before my 21st birthday, we sailed by the Statue of Liberty, and I waved goodbye. We had 14,000 soldiers, plus about 3,800 other personnel, on the ship. The Queen Elizabeth traveled alone because it was much faster than the other convoy ships. About every seven minutes, we changed course, because it took a submarine about nine minutes to line up a perfect shot on another boat. It took us six and a half days to go overseas.

We pulled into Firth of Clyde in Scotland to keep the ship out of danger while it was unloading, and they put us on trains and shipped us to the 10th Replacement Depot. We were there from June 2 to June 10, 1943. Every afternoon, we would have to do a full dress parade for the colonel and his British "friends" who were with him. We didn't mind doing it for the colonel, but we didn't much like to do it for the others. The rule at the mess hall there was the same as in the states: Take it if you want it, but eat it if you take it.

We were to ship out at 4 o'clock in the morning, but at 2 o'clock, they came through and pulled Earnest Allen, my friend from back home who was a graduate of National Business College, and sent him with a finance outfit. I didn't find out about it until we were on the train going down to our new assignment. I was put with Company A out of Frederick, Md., part of the 29th Infantry Division. They had already been over there six months when we were assigned to the 29th. They had been shipped out to Southern England, where they could practice on the moors and all the territory around the cities there, more or less surrounding Plymouth. I was a Virginia boy, and they had assigned me to a Maryland outfit. I didn't know whether I was to make a Southerner out of them or they were going to make a Yankee out of me! But nonetheless, we all got along very well.

We were sent to Fort Tregantle, the 1st Battalion of 115th Infantry Regiment of the 29th Division. We stayed there about one week before they moved us. The Germans sent some bombers near Plymouth. One plane came pretty close to Fort Tregantle, so the company commander of D Company ordered the machine guns to open up on it; and of course, they had tracer bullets mixed in. If that plane had dropped one bomb inside that place, which was solidly in rock, it would have annihilated us. So we moved out of there to Camp Bake, which was about 12 miles from the Tor-

point Ferry. If we got a weekend pass to go to Plymouth, we had to hitch a ride on some truck, because it was 12 miles from Plymouth. But we trained hard there, practicing going over to St. Lô, France in about 4 feet of water with a full field pack, pretending that we were invading England — which of course was practice for landing on Omaha Beach. We trained hard, but not only that, we went through Slapton Sands on the west coast of England and learned how to put together bombs with TNT, made satchel charges and pole charges and things we could push into pill boxes if they were still manned by Germans once we got on the beach.

We also practiced with Ducks, the amphibious vehicles that go into the water and become mobile when they pull up on the beach to unload the soldiers. We also practiced in landing craft, like the Higgins boats. We invaded England so many times that we thought we owned the place! But we got good training at Slapton Sands.

One time, we took five days of training on 6x6 trucks. At about 10 that night, after we got on the ship and dropped our packs, a message came over the loudspeaker: "Will all the 29th troops who just got aboard get back on your trucks and head back to camp?" We didn't find out why for 40 years. As we learned so many years later, some German U-boats slipped in and hit one of the boats from the 4th Division, and they lost 400 to 700 men. There have been different figures on the final number of casualties, but I don't think anybody knew the actual number. So we had to ride all the way back to camp, and our maneuver was canceled.

Then we trained in the moors of England. All the platoons were put out on their own for a week in that wilderness, as I called it, and if we met the food truck next day at lunch, we'd get lunch for the next day also. But if we missed the truck, we'd go without lunch the next day, and we did that for a week. One day at lunch-time, we had salmon — the first time in my life that I ever ate a can of raw salmon, but if you were hungry, you ate what they brought to you! There was one can of salmon for two men.

We trained on the moors for maneuvers. So in time, they notified us that we were going to be one of the assault divisions. I think it was about four or five months before launching the invasion. The time came for us to go to our processing area, which was just outside Torpoint. Believe it or not, on May 27, we were loading the boat at the Plymouth River to take part in the D-Day invasion. After two days of sitting there in the river, we began to advance and passed by the White Cliffs of Dover to rendezvous with the rest of the ships that were participating in the invasion. We were on an LCIL (Landing Craft Infantry, Large) that held 200 men. We didn't have to climb down into the Higgins boats as our LCIL was going to take us to the beach.

We waited about four more days. On June 5, we knew at 9 p.m. that we were headed for the invasion. I never saw such an array of ships in my life! It looked like three columns of stepping-stones: three to the left were British, the column in the center was U.S., and the column on the right was the 4th Division with the Rangers. You never saw such a mass of ships. I was afraid that the U-boats might slip in, but I went over to look out and saw the battleship Texas on one side, and on the other side was the battleship Arkansas, so I knew they wouldn't bother our little boat. They'd go after the big ships, so I went down below to get some sleep. A lot of the boys were seasick, but by morning they were over it.

We rendezvoused from about 2 a.m. to 9 a.m. I was in the sec-

ond regiment, and at 9 a.m. we headed for the shore. We were going in behind the Bedford Boys — with the 116th Regiment of the 29th Division — on Dog Red and Easy Green beaches. But when we got about 500 yards from the beach, the beach master called the skipper. He told them, "I cannot handle you now, I've got some troops still from the 116th. I've got all kinds of dead men on the beach. I've got wrecks on the beach, and there's no place for you to go!" I can't imagine what it would have been like to land after them. So we had to turn and go 2,000 yards down the beach to our left. When we got down there, we started unloading the boat. It doesn't have ramps on the front like the Higgins boat. It had ladders that more or less extended 25 feet beyond the bow of the ship, and we went down those ramps.

I never will forget it as long as I live. We were about halfway in, and our lieutenant said, "I want to see what's going on." A burst of machine gun fire flew right in front of him, and he slammed the door shut. He turned to us and said, "Men, next time I open this door, we're going in!" Our skipper took the 200 of us to within knee-deep water, and he did a good job.

I not only had the 70 pounds of gear that everyone had, but I also had seven bandoliers of ammunition around my neck. I didn't want to be on that beach without any ammunition to fire. Also, I had a 10-pound satchel charge that I had made with 20 half-pound bricks of TNT. My job, if that pillbox was still up there, was to crawl up, pull the fuse, and slam the charge into the slot of the pillbox to disable it. But we could tell that the pillbox had already been knocked out by the Navy, so it didn't take me long to defuse that satchel charge and get rid of the blocks of TNT. I was very relieved to get rid of that.

I was a private first-class and the lead scout for my platoon. The lieutenant had planned to lead the platoon about 25 feet across the beach, which the engineers had cleared with Bangalore torpedoes. Just as I got turned to head up the hill, this sergeant from B Company was coming up to us, put his hand on my chest and said, "Whoa, soldier, we're going first." Since I was a PFC, I had to listen to him or I could be court-martialed. When those men got 25 feet up that path, a stray artillery shell came in and killed two of his men and wounded three. That's where three of us in Company A would have been if we had gone first. They never would have been able to fight any more. I don't mind telling you, I looked up to the sky and said, "Lord, if you get me through this, I'll be a good boy!" I've tried to be a good boy ever since.

We proceeded to go up the hill about a half-mile, arriving about 3 p.m. A German sniper was in a tree there, and he let 1,200 men pass under him without doing anything. But when our Capt. Mintzer, who was the S-2 military intelligence officer, pulled out all those maps, the sniper saw them. As the captain started to pull out the maps and talk to his men, we were 2,000 yards out from our objective that day, and that sniper shot him right through the head. Just a click of your fingers, and he was gone. The sniper started to scramble out of that tree. Needless to say, he didn't make it. I never saw so many rounds of ammunition going to one spot in my life. It was getting toward nighttime, so we spread out into the hedgerow fields. Building any kind of foxhole would be good, so going into the hedgerows wouldn't have required the holes to be so deep.

That night a German bomber got through and dropped a 500-pound bomb in the next field, which happened to be where the

colonel had his command post. One of the pieces of shrapnel from that bomb hit him, and they had to put him on a ship to take him back to England to operate. But he died on the way across the channel, and Major Morris had to take charge of the battalion.

The next couple of days, we were advancing very, very slowly from one field to the next. You couldn't tell when you'd get past some Germans, and they would be behind you and firing at you after you had passed. It didn't take long for the troops who were following us to take care of them, so we were pretty safe after that.

On about the fourth day, we were in a tremendous battle, trying to advance from one hedgerow to another. We couldn't get anywhere, so Col. Slappy came up to look over the situation. He saw what a formidable test that was for us because the Germans had so many troops there, and we had such a shortage of firepower. He called for some tanks to come up and blow out the hedgerows. But the general relieved him of his command because he didn't have tanks at his disposal and put somebody else in charge. The next day, we finally overcame that obstacle.

When we got past that hedgerow, there were 200 to 250 dead Germans behind it. So we realized what we had been trying to break through. We had skirmishes day in and day out, taking one hedgerow field after another, because you couldn't take two at a time. That went on for several days.

We had seen Germans coming up paths, with full packs, and we had called for artillery fire. But there had been a shortage of ammunition because of the strike in the coal mines back in the United States.

Finally one night about midnight, the Germans hit us with one of the fiercest counterattacks we'd seen. They broke through B Company lines and got to the little road, a wagon path really, about 300 yards beyond the front lines. Near the command posts, our company had about 12 men from one platoon getting a break off the front line. They had dug in really well, but the Germans found them and killed about 12 men from our company while they were asleep.

The next morning, we got all the territory back. After losing 12 men from A Company, men I had trained, they hit us pretty hard, but we knew we had to go on. We were sitting there for about four days, just holding what we had. To get from where we were back to the command post, we had to stay next to the hedgerows. By then I had become staff sergeant, a squad leader and then a temporary platoon sergeant. We'd told all the men to stay close to the hedgerows. This one man was short, and he got 20 feet from the hedgerow, and that German machine gunner caught him. His helmet flew off, and for two or three days we had to look at his brains just laying right out there on the ground.

A little while later, a tall man walked out into the middle of the field, and he got riddled with bullets from the German machine gunner. He was lying there dying, crying for help, but if anyone tried to go out and help, they also would get hit. I tossed him my canteen, and that was all I could do because I had responsibility for all those other men, too.

In the meantime, my lieutenant got hit. He called me to his CP, and told me I was in charge of the platoon until they got an officer there. I said, "Lieutenant, where'd you get hit?" He said, "Of all places, in the buttocks." It made a pretty bad hole in his flesh, and he was really hurting.

We moved out the next couple of days to the edge of the forest,

where there was a big, wide field in front of us. We held up there while the division got resupplied with men, and we were able to go in to fight again. In the meantime, one fellow was on the wrong side of a hedgerow, and the Germans hit him pretty badly. Somebody told our Dr. Carter, the battalion surgeon, about him, and he said he was going over to help. The doctor was advised not to because it was on the wrong side of the hedgerow. He had on his Red Cross armbands and the Red Cross on his helmet, but some German shot the doctor right through the head.

He was well liked by the men of the battalion, and that really made us mad, so the next day the whole platoon went on patrol and found nothing in an old barn we had searched. We headed back to our lines, with the lieutenant leading. As platoon sergeant, I was bringing up the rear. We got almost back to our lines, and this stray .88-mm artillery shell came in. It went over my shoulder, between two guys in front of me, and hit the fourth man up in the middle of his back. It disintegrated him. The biggest part of his body that we were able to find was about a 12-inch piece of one of his thighs. We returned to our lines and were getting set up for the night.

In the meantime, our captain who landed with us on D-Day had been promoted to battalion headquarters. He decided one night to come and check on "his boys," and he found most of us who were left in pretty good shape. As the captain got about 50 feet from the command post, a German sniper shot him through the head and killed him instantly. Those killings made us even madder, so we were ready to get right back into it and leave our holding positions.

The night before we were attacked, I had to take one of our squads out of our company to establish an outpost. We were about 200 yards from of the main lines. There were two men to a foxhole, and I had Lawrence Jakenski with me. All of a sudden, he went berserk. There were four or five foxholes spread over 100 yards. He began screaming, crazy like, so I had to do just like General Patton had done: I slapped him and said, "What are you trying to do, get us killed?" He settled down. I guess they could have court-martialed me, but I thought that was the best action to save that soldier.

After a month of fighting in those conditions, we were becoming filthy. We had started loading the boat on May 27 for the invasion and had put on new combat fatigues. In case the Germans attacked us with poison gas, our clothing had been impregnated with a protective coating to prevent the gas or chemicals from coming in contact with our skin. We also had gas masks to protect our breathing.

By July 1, we had advanced close to a French river, which offered the first opportunity in weeks to wash away the accumulation of dirt, sweat and grime — not to mention the smell! — all made worse by the coating on our clothing. The aftermath of our essential bodily functions had become rank without access to a water source in which to bathe. When we got to that French river, we took off our clothes to get into the water, and the supply personnel brought new fatigues to put on when we finishing cleaning up. As we got dressed, we looked back up the hill above us to see about a thousand pairs of pants almost standing on their own, they were so dirty! We got a big laugh out of that.

A couple of days later, we started moving on up the hill toward St. Lô, France, which was supposed to have fallen on June 11, but it didn't fall until July 18. We got almost over the hill to give us

an advantage, and we dug in. One day, they came up and pulled us off the line. The Third Armored Division in their halftracks got up to take our positions. They were giving us the thumbs-up. "You all go and take a rest," they said.

A few hours later, we got orders to turn around and go back. The Germans had found out there was a change of units about to happen, and those Third Armored Division guys were not battle-tested. So we had to go back up and take back about 1,500 yards that they had lost.

We were waiting for our replacements, and we hadn't had a lieutenant for several days, so one afternoon at about 2 p.m., we got a new lieutenant. I took him around and introduced him to the men and squad leaders so they would know he was their officer. We went back to our little CP; he was standing there wearing a field jacket with his gold bars on his shoulders. It was a beautiful afternoon. I looked at him and said, "Lieutenant, you don't have to listen to me, but if I were you, I would take those gold bars off your shoulders and pin them on your shirt collar so that if you get captured they'll know you're an officer. You are a live target with those bars shining in the sunshine." He looked at me and said, "Sergeant, I thank you for your advice, but I earned these bars the hard way, and I'm proud of them." I said, "OK, you don't have to listen to me." Twenty minutes later, a German sniper shot him right through the head. He didn't get to see one minute of combat, because he wouldn't listen. I wasn't trying to be bossy, I was just trying to pass along some knowledge I had.

For several days, we had to go without an officer again. We were at the top of a hill when that other unit relieved us. One afternoon, the colonel called us back, had us all set our watches and said that at 2 p.m., my platoon of A Company and C Company were going to jump out of the hedgerows and see how far we could advance. At 2 o'clock, I sent my first two scouts out. They got about halfway across the field and one called back, "Sergeant, somebody's firing on us from the right." I said that should be C Company, and he said, "We're taking fire."

In the meantime, he had pulled a pin on a hand grenade to have it ready in case some German jumped at him. When I told him to come back, he put the pin in the grenade, but he didn't crimp it. When he rolled over the hedgerow to come back on our side, the pin fell out. The next thing I heard was, "Sgt. Hobbs, help me!" I tried to get him in my arms to get his sulphadiazene tablets out of his packet, but he died right in my arms. He was one of the best little soldiers I ever had, James Kozma, from Connecticut, a white-haired Pollack, but he was a great soldier.

That didn't have to happen, because we had set our watches at our meeting with the colonel to jump off at 2 p.m. A Company was on the left, and C Company on the right. My man got about half-way across the field and said, "We're getting fire from our right." I told him that Company C was over there. Then I called over on the radio, and Captain Keeney said he had not jumped off yet. I'm sure that if I could have gone to the colonel, he would have believed me rather than the captain, and he would have used some discretion there. That was a direct violation of orders from headquarters. The result was that James Kosma got killed.

We spent the night there, and the next evening we were going to make the final push for St. Lô, which was about a mile and a quarter away. We gave up our positions to the 30th Division, turning over our foxholes to them so we could jump off at 6 a.m. At the

time for us to move out, we had a good artillery barrage from outside and behind us, but we also had a terrific barrage coming in from the German side. They thought they'd push us back from the very beginning, and they also jumped off at 6 a.m. There was artillery fire on all sides.

I was behind my men on the line, encouraging them to stay close to the hedgerows, as we had no foxholes to keep us safe. I was running along the line, keeping the boys on line, when I heard one German artillery shell coming, and I said to myself, "That's got the sound of something that's going to get me. I hit the dirt, and true enough, if I had remained standing, it would have annihilated me. As it was, I got hit in six places: in my left upper arm, three places across the back, one place in my left thigh just above the knee, and then my left heel. If it hadn't been for my leather combat boot, that piece of shrapnel would have ruined my foot, and I'd have been a cripple the rest of my life. It caused a knot to come up on my left ankle as big as your fist. Everywhere I looked, I could see blood. I knew blood was coming out of my back, because I could feel it trickling down. I told the last sergeant in our company who was in our line behind me that I had been hit and would need to go back to the aid station, and he'd need to take charge of the platoon. We still hadn't been assigned a lieutenant, so I had to designate that sergeant and tell him that he was in charge.

When I got to the aid station, they realized that I had to be evacuated. So they sent me to a field hospital on the top of the beach to be evacuated. I didn't think I was hurt too much; I was up walking around. I had a German beside me. Then I heard this voice on the PA system, "Mr. Hobbs, get back to your bunk." They told me to stay on that cot, that I had no business walking around. The X-ray showed that the piece of metal that had penetrated my back was right up against my spine, and that I would be sent to an Army hospital in England to remove it. When I got to the hospital, the first thing they did was to operate on my back and get that metal removed, or I might have been paralyzed.

After my operation, I stayed in the hospital for 30 days. I'm telling you, when I was lying there in that room with other soldiers telling their stories, it was quite an experience. One soldier had said, "I admit it, and I shouldn't have done it, but I shot myself through the foot. Now they say that I am ready to go back into combat, because when I shot through my foot, the bullet didn't hit any bones," he said. He was disgusted with himself. Then he muttered: "They said that I was cured now and was ready to go back."

After 30 days, General Eisenhower put out an order that any man able to walk was needed on the continent — right now. My back was still draining, but not so bad that I could not hold a small pack on my back, so I was sent on my way to return to my company. It took me 10 days to get back to my original unit. When I had finally arrived, they had moved out of the Normandy area and into Brittany to help fight for Brest, France. The 29th Division and the 2nd Division and a battalion of Rangers and support units all were fighting against 60,000 Germans at the port of Brest. We had fought on there for several days, and advanced very slowly but did the best we could under the circumstances.

It came time to take out Fort Montbarey, a two or three day struggle, because we had never seen a place so well defended in our lives. The enemy had so many tunnels there that they could go anywhere they wanted to. The Germans would be on the lines

ahead of us, and then there would be Germans behind us after going through tunnels. That was quite a struggle. We got up to where the Germans were on one side of the hedgerow at Fort Montbarey and we were on the other side. All through the night, we harassed one another.

At one point, one German tried to sneak across, and as he was falling over the hedgerow, one of our squad leaders was wide awake and killed him. The next morning when we could see, we were tossing hand grenades back and forth at each other. Our American-made grenades went off after four seconds, and their grenades, which we called "potato mashers," had a six-inch handle that went off in seven seconds. They threw them at us, and we took the chance to go over and pick them up and throw them back at them. Just as they went over the hedgerow, they exploded, and we gave them a dose of their own medicine. So we were proud of ourselves.

We kept fighting that morning, and I looked down the line and all of a sudden saw our new lieutenant going down the path toward the company command post. He had about seven or eight men following him. I hollered at him, "Lieutenant, where are you going?" He said, "I'm going to the company CP to find out what the situation is." I yelled, "Lieutenant, we've got a battle on here, that's what the situation is, and you need to get those seven or eight men back here and command us!" He didn't like that, but he knew he had to do it, so he did.

About five minutes after that, I got hit my second time. It was in my left shoulder, and the piece of shrapnel lodged right in my joint. It froze my arm, and I couldn't move it. I had to go to the aid station, and they sent me back to the hospital in England, the same situation as before. They operated on my shoulder, and I was convalescent for about three and a half weeks. Then it was time for me to go back to my company, for what I call my "thirds," that is, my third time to be returned to combat.

While I was on the ship crossing the channel between England and France, a magician was putting on a show. I was on the deck looking back toward his performance. The fellow helping him was Chili Falls. I had worked under him at Sears and Roebuck for about a year before I went into the service. Of course, I yelled at him. He looked up. I said, "Chili!" He shouted, "Hobbs!" at the same time. I said I'd be down in just a second, so we could catch up on what had happened to each of us since we'd last seen each other. He hadn't been assigned to an outfit yet, but he was going over as a replacement. I eventually found out he was committed to combat and then shipped out. After five days, an .88-millimeter artillery shell landed in his foxhole with him, and he was on his way home, crippled for life — he had served only five days. I had been inspired by seeing Chili, so it wasn't so bad getting back to my company, knowing I'd seen somebody from Roanoke, my hometown. It made me feel a whole lot better.

I was put in the replacement depot in Paris and sent back to my company again. After my division had fought its way through the Netherlands and was about to be on the verge of going into Germany, I rejoined them. It was getting to be a mop-up operation with some encounters with little units of German soldiers who didn't know that their buddies had been captured or overrun. We worked our way to Mšnchengladbach, where we were put into German barracks that were really comfortable. We were to be off the line for a whole week, and then two things happened. First, we

were taking exercises, and the colonel was conducting them for the whole battalion. After about six exercises, the colonel spoke up, "I want a non-com [non-commissioned officer] to come up here and lead the exercises." Nobody volunteered. He started to chastise us, and I sort of got tired of it. So I broke one of my rules about not volunteering, and I moved up there and reported to him. I conducted a couple of exercises, and he dismissed me to my company, well pleased that somebody did volunteer.

That officer was Lt. Col. Grover Johns, and he's the one who wrote the book *The Clay Pigeons of St. L*TM, which has become a classic of modern military history. He decided that we needed a 25-mile hike to keep us in condition, as well as the exercises. So the evening before, he called the sergeants from A Company, B Company, C Company and D Company, the companies that made up the First Battalion of the 115th Infantry Regiment. He furnished us a Jeep. I didn't notice how much room there was, and I had only a small place in the back seat facing backward, so I sat content back there. Then I said, "Hey, we're in strange territory." So I started making mental notes and got out a pencil to write down landmarks, like "turn right here, go down three streets and turn left," like that, so that I would know where to go the next day. Those other guys in the Jeep were sitting up there talking and not paying attention.

So next morning came, and when our companies started to march, A Company was first to start at 7 a.m. It was about 24 miles, and when we got back, we were going to have a hot lunch for each company. At 12 o'clock, guess which company got back? A Company, because I had made my mental notes and written them down. Two hours past noon, we were through lunch and sitting around. Three hours after noon, B Company straggled in. Four hours later, C Company came in, and D Company arrived about 15 minutes later. My men were all lying back, relaxed, and having a good afternoon. You can imagine how the rest of the men felt. But they ate their meals and returned to the barracks. I was right proud of myself for getting that done, and I think the company was right proud of me, too.

Then it came time to jump across the Roer River into Germany, and we held up there because it was in December. The Germans had already started the Battle of the Bulge. About six inches of snow covered the ground, but when we got to Germany, we started billeting in the homes. We would move families out if anyone was still living there and take it for our own use. Back in France, Holland and Belgium, they were all allies, so we lived in dirt in those three countries. We couldn't take their homes. If we took anything from them, we had to pay for it. But in Germany, the slogan was "Live off the Fruit of the Land."

We got into position on the Roer River, and with the start of the Battle of the Bulge, the 30th Division got pulled off the line to hit the German flank, which meant we had to stretch out across their front and man it, too, while they were fighting the Battle of the Bulge. We didn't really know how long that was going to be, so we figured we should plan to be stationed there for quite a while. The kitchen personnel were bringing hot meals to us, and we'd go to a chow line, each about 10 or 12 yards from another one.

One time, we were in line for lunch, and artillery shells started coming in. Everyone went for cover. When we came back to the line, Frankie the coffee pot man looked down, and he didn't have a coffee pot. A shell had come down and hit his coffee pot and

blew it all to pieces. Frankie always had a chew of tobacco in his mouth. When he came back and saw his coffee pot gone and realized what had happened, he swallowed that tobacco, and needless to say, he was sick the rest of the afternoon.

We were going to be there at least a week, maybe longer, so we had stretched out our lines to cover the territory left by the 30th Division. In the house where we were staying, the bedrooms and kitchen were still intact, along with a little shed in the back. We were the outpost for the company. The boys were ordered to pull two hours of guard duty down at the river, and get four hours off. So the first night we were there, we heard this "moo" in the dark. "Hey, there must be a cow up there." So we waited till morning and found a little barnyard. And true enough, there was a cow there. We had a butcher in our platoon who killed the cow, skinned it, and cut it up into steaks and other cuts. We had that little shed with the windows blown out, and it was cold enough to store the meat because we had six inches of snow on the ground. We had steak for breakfast, steak for lunch and steak for dinner. We had all the beef we wanted.

After about three days, the colonel and captain came over one night about 10 o'clock and wanted to find out what was going on at our outpost. "All you're getting are the coffee, the bread and sweets," the colonel said. "What else are you doing?" I replied, "Colonel and Captain, come with me." I shined the light on the meat in the shed, and asked, "What kind of steak do you want?" So they cut off all the meat they wanted, and we cooked it up for them. Of course, The Germans had a habit of storing potatoes for the winter. We cooked some French fries and their steaks, and they enjoyed their meals immensely. I'm not going to use the explicit language they used, but they said, "No wonder you didn't come over for that other 'junk.'" When we were getting ready to leave, we gave what was left of the meat to the cooks so they could put together a good kettle of stew for the rest of the company.

By then the Battle of the Bulge was dying down. The 30th Division units were coming back to take their positions, and it was time to cross the Roer River. One of our boys in the weapons platoon, Pappy Eyler, had just got a letter informing him that his brother had been killed in the European theater, so he went around telling everyone in the company that he wasn't going to make it when we jumped off the next time. We told him not to talk like that, because he was going to make it, and that he should put those thoughts out of his mind.

When the time came for us to jump off at the Roer River, I didn't make it. Our guns put down a smokescreen the next morning. It drifted into the house where we were, and I was overcome by the smoke. I was out for a day or so while they got my lungs cleared out, and I rejoined my company. They had overcome Jülich, and I went to join them and saw a sign put up by the 29th Division: "Sorry we left such a mess of this town, but we were in a hurry!" We were there for about a day and a half, and then the next day we saw the Army moving up past us, all these 155-mm Howitzers, 105-mm Howitzers, and I think some 205-mm Howitzers, mobile howitzers, the tanks and tank destroyers — we never knew that there was that much behind us. We realized that we had plenty of support. They moved through us, and the next day we were going to move on. We were going to clean up the town of Jackerath, and we hit them about noon. Some of our men walked in on six Ger-



These men had all been wounded and returned to A Company of the 115th, 29th Division. This photo was taken in Bremen, Vagesack during Army of Occupation. All of these men were in A Company, 115th, 29th Division on June 6, 1944, D-Day, some had been wounded twice - others once. Photo taken between June and August 1945.

First Row - Ryan, Shumaker, Kinsey, Ponton, Sherman, Harris, Todd, Calley, Hobbs, Walters, Bush

Second Row - Betz, Zoloshka, Tyler, Zorfass, Unknown, Unknown, Flyag, Hentz, Ferrell, Jaskiniz, Unknown, Offitt

Third Row - Lindsey, Unknown, Hart, Anders, Foote, Zoloki, Cochran, Unknown, Everhart

man officers getting ready to sit down to a hot meal. Needless to say, they didn't get to eat it.

We kept fighting for Jaekerath, and as soon as we got the town cleared out, the colonel put out the order for a squad with a bazooka to protect us against a tank coming in there to raise havoc. Sometimes we used those bazooka shells for things other than tanks, so we solicited the company and found out that we had only one bazooka shell. My five-man detail was made up of Sheldon Fellwey from Wisconsin, James Hayhurst from Wheeling, W.Va., Tom Cook from Raleigh, N.C., James Hazelgrove from Kentucky, and myself. We went down and established the outpost. We had no more got settled in than we looked down this one-way road, and six German Panzer tanks were coming directly toward us. I'm sure that their mission was to recapture Jackerath.

We knew that if we could blow up the lead tank, none of the others could get around it. As they approached the crossroads where we were, I told Sheldon, who was going to fire the bazooka, "Sheldon, if you don't shoot that right on the target, they'll know where we are and we'll be mud. They'll annihilate us." As soon as they got up to the crossroad, we waited until the lead tank hit the front of the road. Sheldon fired. There is one spot on the front of a Tiger tank that you can get results, and I know God was with us, because that's where the shell hit. It stopped the tank, and the other five couldn't get around him. They didn't know whether there was a tank destroyer ahead, so they pulled back. We had only small arms and fired those and threw grenades at them, but it turned back the tanks. We were able to defend and hold Jackerath.

All five of us received the Bronze Star for that. I'm sure if we could have knocked out more tanks, we could have received the Silver Star, but we had only one round and knocked out that lead tank, so we did the best we could.

We went on from there, mopping up little areas of scattered German soldiers. All through the towns and fields you'd be walking and see one coming toward you with his hands up, so you'd

have to take him prisoner. I was out walking around the outer areas of our CP, and when I spotted one, he had his hands up, mumbling to himself and coming toward me. When he got up close to me, I told him in German, "Come in, you've surrendered, you are under protection now." I searched him, took his pistol and his watch, and he didn't have anything else that could be used against us, so I took him prisoner, and he said immediately, "I want to see an officer," and I could tell he was an officer. I told him, "I am a non-commissioned officer, and that's what you'll have for right now. When we get to the CP, you'll be turned over to a commissioned officer."

We stayed in that area for a little while, and then started cleaning-up operations. The Elbe River was the international boundary line, established by the Yalta Convention that had been negotiated by U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Josef Stalin of the Soviet Union and Winston Churchill of Great Britain. The treaty required that we stop and let the Russians move into Berlin, the German capital. We had to sit there for about a week, waiting for the Russians to come. In the meantime, we had thousands of Germans coming across the Elbe River, throwing their arms down and surrendering. We captured about 60,000, although they actually came running to us to surrender. They didn't want to be a prisoner of the Russians, and I don't blame them.

I had met a few Russians in strange places when things were winding down. They were crude and rude, and I didn't like them. We had to guard a bridge while we were waiting, and I had charge of it. Everybody had to stop and dismount from their vehicles, and then they could go on across. But this Russian officer stopped, and he couldn't understand. "We're with you," he said, one ally to another, and he couldn't understand. I told him I was under orders to stop everyone, make everyone dismount and walk across the bridge so that we knew nothing could be hidden on a vehicle and cause some damage. That was my first encounter with a Russian, and he didn't much like it, but he followed my orders. From that time on, I never did like them.

One day, a beautiful blond German girl came across the bridge on her bicycle. She got more than halfway across, and she thought she could cheat and get an early start. About 12 feet from the end of the bridge, she started to get on to ride the rest of the way, and I hollered to the guy at the other side to stop her and bring her back. I told her that if she didn't do as she was told and walk her bicycle all the way across the bridge and a short distance beyond so that no military vehicle would hit her, I would bring her back and make her start over again. She said, "You Americans are really serious about this," and I replied, "Yes, we are." She thought that her looks would get her by. The next time, though, she walked all the way across, and she was able to go on her way.

I want to tell you how close I came to having a down payment for my house when I got home. I was told when I was going to the French beach on the Mediterranean Sea that I was supposed to leave the next day. I had accumulated 10 cartons of cigarettes, one German suit, which was going for \$5,000, and cigarettes were going for \$300 a carton, so I was going to sell that merchandise and have plenty of money. Come to find out during the night before I was to go on my leave, we got orders to pull out and go to Bremen-Vegesack, so I was stuck with all that loot to sell. I was still serving my country instead of being on leave in Nice, France, and supposedly having a good time! I finally had to give it to someone else and let him cash in on it.

We went to Bremen-Vegesack to become part of the Army of occupation. That area didn't get as devastated as some of the others. When we got there, anyone who was German was saying, "Me no Nazi, me no Nazi." Some could have been serious, but I don't think it applied to too many of them.

We were in Bremen-Vegesack for two months. A lot of the soldiers who had been in the National Guard had acquired 150 to 165 points for time served and were being sent home. The rest of us who came later didn't have that National Guard experience. I had only 125 points, but they were discharging boys back home with only 78 points. Our unit got transferred to the 69th Division, and most of us stayed together. If we were in A Company, we'd stay there.

While we were learning the countryside and the people, our commanding general issued an order: "If this division gets to march down Fifth Avenue when we get home, you'll have to put the 69th Division patch over your 29th Division patch." You can imagine how that went over with us. We weren't going to put that patch over our 29th Division patch on our left shoulders. That's one time we defied a general, but there wasn't anything he could do. That wasn't directly disobeying a lawful order. That was just his personal opinion.

We left Camp Lucky Strike in France pretty close to the English Channel shore, because we had to go to England and Tidworth Barracks to get physical examinations to be sure we were medically fit to go back to the states. Afterward, we waited for the ship that we would load with our equipment and board to cross the Atlantic. When the time came and we went down to the harbor, lo and behold, we were going home on the Queen Elizabeth — the same ship I came over on. We were very, very thankful for that.

It was a lot different sailing home than it was going over in 1943. We made it home in three days, compared with six and a

half days going over. When we pulled into Pier 90 in New York City, it was 11 o'clock at night, and there was a crowd of people on the dock to greet us. That made us feel good. There also was a show for us, small in size but great in talent. Sally Rand did all her fan dances for us on the dock. Everybody gave her a big hand, but then Kate Smith came on and started singing "God Bless America." Nobody could sing that song like she could! When she started ringing out those words across that ship, I think all 14,000 men tried to get over to see her. I really believe that boat started to list — 14,000 men have a lot of weight. I never heard anything so beautiful in all my life. I was slipping into a state of PTSD, and I didn't even realize it. I can always remember her singing that song, and whenever I hear it I recall her, and tears come to my eyes.

We shipped out by train from Camp Kilmer, which was close by. I had been able to conceal a German pistol in the roll with my clothes and other belongings and get it through on the train home. There was no room for us to have our rolls with us in the seats, and so I had to store it out of sight in the rear of the train car. We had an unruly bunch on that train, and I think some of them went back there to go through people's packs. One of them probably was poking around, felt my pistol, took it and tied up the roll. Somebody had stolen my pistol, after I'd gone to all the trouble to get it back to the United States. I said to myself: "That's something, when I can't trust my own soldiers."

The personnel in charge at Camp Kilmer had grouped us and sent us to the closest separation station available. Our station was at Fort George G. Meade in Maryland.

There were so many of the 29th Division soldiers coming in there that they didn't have enough space to hold us and perform the separation process with us at the same time. They gave several thousand of us leaves of absence. That was my first leave to come home during the whole time of the war. I was granted up to 45 days, unless they called me back earlier to discharge me. On the 41st day, they called me to report and get officially discharged.

As an example of how talkative people are, my younger sister, Marcelene, was downtown and somebody saw her. Marcelene told us that the person told her, "I saw Hubert's wife downtown with a soldier the other day, and I don't know who he was." Marcelene told them, "He's my brother!" That just shows you gossip continues even with the war.

I finally got my paperwork and the \$300 they gave us when we got discharged. About a week later, I went back to the laundry and cleaners where I had been working before I went into the service. A friend asked me, "Why'd you work there?" I told him that I was making \$170 a week at the laundry, when the American Viscose plant was paying \$65 for a 40-hour work. The Norfolk and Western shops were paying \$90 a week. After I worked at the laundry and cleaners for a while, somebody encouraged me to take the civil service exam for the post office. I made 94 points on the test, but being a Purple Heart veteran, I got 10 extra points for a total of 104 on my final exam. I then began a career at the post office that lasted 32 years. I had the time and was then eligible to retire, which I did because my first wife, Hazel, had multiple myeloma cancer. I retired to take care of her, and she survived for 22 months. After she passed away, I met my second wife, Mary Sublett, whose father also served in World War II. We were married on

Aug. 28, 1982, and your dad, Eric, was our ring-bearer when he was about 5 years old. Mary and I went back to Normandy for the 40th anniversary of D-Day in 1984 and for the 50th anniversary in 1994. We went to the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Va., for the 60th and 65th and all other anniversaries since the Memorial was completed. I hope your Mom and Dad will take you there someday, or even better, maybe I can take you there when you visit here sometime.

After volunteering for many years at the Cave Spring Fire Department, in Company 3, I went to work driving a school bus for about four months. When June came, I was happy as a lark, because of those school kids, bless their hearts. I love kids. The grade schools had bus monitors, and those kids knew if they misbehaved they'd be reported to the principal the next day. The high school students would come on the bus and sit arranged by he/she, she/she, or he/he on the two-seater benches. But those middle school children would run you nuts. They'd tell you the wrong place to stop, give the wrong turn at the next street, and pull all sorts of pranks.

I've always loved young people. I umpired sandlot baseball for 31 years and high school football for 19 years. I always felt that I was teaching them sportsmanship and manhood. I made many friends during all those years, even with parents, as belligerent as they could be sometimes. Even when I had to throw a boy out of the game, I went up afterward and told him, "I didn't throw you out of that game, you threw yourself out." It could have been that he'd lost his temper or something like that, but after I had spoken my peace, I'd give him the game ball, and that would be the end of it.

When school was out after those four months and I was no longer driving the bus, somebody at the Cave Spring Fire Department told me to come down to his office at Wells Fargo to apply. I took a job for Wells Fargo carrying a pistol, and it was safer than driving a bus with those middle school children! I worked for nearly 28 years with Wells Fargo, but the last several years were part-time, a 2 day schedule. Every once in a while, I'd go on an extra run if they needed me. When I was 86, some kind of crud was going around & infecting people. Lo & behold, I caught it. I was out for a week, but I never did get over that. When it was time for me to take my VDOT physical, I couldn't pass it, which was required to get on the truck. Even if I wasn't the driver, I would have had to take it over if the driver became disabled. We couldn't afford to stay out overnight with that kind of merchandise on the truck.

So, when I was 86, they put me out to pasture, but I adjusted and learned to enjoy myself. I still cut my grass on my riding mower. Many of the chores around the house I can't do because of my physical condition. It hurts me that my wife has to do those chores, but she understands.

At this stage of my life, I reflect on my World War II experience in the Army because that was such an important period for me. I learned a great deal. I believe there was never an atheist in a fox-hole. If a man tells you that he didn't believe and call on the Lord, he's a liar. And if anybody who's been in combat tells you he wasn't afraid, he is also a liar. I don't care how tough you thought you were, when you knew those bullets were coming at you from the other direction, you were afraid that one of them was going to hit you. I don't care how brave you thought you were.

As for me, I must say that being in the Army made a better man

out of me. To anyone who is having problems with their older youngsters, I believe military training would make a man or lady out of them, and they'd see all the difference in the world. I'm convinced of that to this day. If I see a young man or lady that's going into the service, I'll tell them: Always do what they tell you to; never stand up unless you have to; and never volunteer for anything. I give them those three pieces of advice, because if they will abide by them, they'll put as much safety in their lives as possible — especially don't stand up if you don't have to!

I wouldn't want anyone to have to go to war and fight, but I wouldn't take anything for most of the experiences I had, despite the loss of life and casualties that I witnessed. I am proud that I fought for the good old USA, and I hope it made life a little better for future generations.

It is my hope that my great-grandson Ryan and others will benefit from my story.

Since someone at the Vet Center told me about Tommy Denton, the retired editorial page editor at The Roanoke Times and also an Army veteran who served in Vietnam in 1969, he has volunteered to come over many times to help me relate this story. I want to thank Mr. Denton from the bottom of my heart for doing this for me. I'll never be able to repay him, and I sincerely appreciate what he has done.

Mills H. Hobbs

A Company, 115th Infantry

Legion of Honor Recipients

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

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

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

Please submit this information to the address listed below:

William S. Mund, Jr.
441 Chalfonte Drive
Baltimore, MD 21228
wmundjr@yahoo.com

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

Contributions to the Twenty-Niner Sustaining Fund

(Continued from page 3)

Piper, Samuel M. - Post 94 - HQ-1-115th Inf - Falls Church, VA
 Piper, Samuel M. - Post 94 - HQ-1-115th Inf - Falls Church, VA
 Piper, Samuel M. - Post 94 - HQ-1-115th Inf - Falls Church, VA
 Piper, Samuel M. - Post 94 - HQ-1-115th Inf - Falls Church, VA
 Price, Richard - Post 94 - Son - Montgomery Village, MD
 Proffitt, Carl D., Jr. - Post 64 - K-116th Inf. - Charlottesville, VA
 Rangel-Bron, Ric - Canadian Post # 3 - Toronto, ON
 Rauschenberg, Frank - Post 48 - A-110th FA - Emmitsburg, MD

On behalf of Jerome L. Day Post 48

Rosen, Efraim - Post 116 - Son - N. Miami Beach, FL
 Rosson, Bertha - Post 64 - Assoc. - Salem, VA
 Rubin, Allan - Canadian Post # 3 - Markham, ON
 Rudder, Fred - Post 94 - B-1-175th (L) - Herndon, VA
 Rusiecki, Stephen M. - Post 94 - Assoc. - Dumfries, VA
 Ryan, CPT John P. - Canadian Post # 3 - Toronto, ON
 Schaefer, Gary - Post 94 - Assoc. - Fairport, NY
 Shields, Abby - Post 94 - Assoc. - APO - Europe
 Shuey, III, Theodore G. - Post 64 - B-2-116th Inf. - Verona, VA
 Simmons, Welford C. - Post 64 - C/M -116th Inf. - Harrisonburg, VA
 Sknerski, Edward T. - Post 29 - D-104th Med. - Scottdale, PA
 Smith, Cromwell T., Jr. - Post 64 - HHC-1-116th inf. - Roanoke, VA
 Smith, Garrick - Post 94 - Assoc. - Frederick, MD
 Smith, Marsha - Post 94 - Assoc. - Walworth, NY

Smith, Rufus - Post 94 - Son - Gulfport, MS
 Smolar, Robert - Post 94 - HQ-3-116th Inf. (L) - Westchester, IL
 Spessot, MCPL David - Canadian Post # 3 - Toronto, ON
 Sternberg, Abraham - Post 94 - HHC/115th Inf. - Coral Springs, FL
 Sternberg, Abraham - Post 94 - HHC/115th Inf. - Coral Springs, FL
 Stewart, William - Post 94 - Son - Washington, MO
 Stonebreaker, Millard - Post 94 - I-116th Inf. - Lancaster, NY
 Stasgna, LTC Greg - Canadian Post # 3 - Toronto, ON
 Stizak, Charles - Post 94 - Assoc. - Mt. Pleasant, OH
 Talaber, David - Post 94 - Assoc. - Woodbridge, VA
 Talmage, Roger - Post 64 - Assoc. - Roanoke, VA
 Taranto, Kevin - Post 94 - Assoc. - Commack, NY
 Tennis, William C. - Post 94 - Son - Hampton, VA
 Tuck, Brian K. - Post 64 - A-1-116th Inf. (L) - Evington, VA
 Twining, Everett - Post 29 - A-459th AAA - Concord, VA
 Ungerleider, Daniel - Post 94 - Son - Burke, VA
 Warren, W. E. - Post 94 - HQ-3-116th Inf. - Victoria, TX
 Williams, James - Post 94 - Assoc. - Whiting, NJ
 Waitzman, Morton - Post 94 - HQ-115th Inf. - Atlanta, GA
 Walhoud, Gary - Post 94 - Assoc. - Janesville, WI
 Wilroy, John - Post 94 - E-115th Inf. - Woodstock, GA
 Wilroy, Richard - Post 94 - E-115th Inf. - Pinellas Park, FL
 Wilson Charles - Post 94 - Assoc. - Belgium
 Witecki, Andy - Canadian Post # 3 - Newmarket, ON
 Witecki, Donna LeClair - Canadian Post # 3 - Newmarket, ON
 Worley, Earl P. - Post 64 - Assoc. - Roanoke, VA
 Zimmerman, Chas - Post 94 - HQ-3rd BDE - New Windsor, MD
 Zimmerman, Melvin - Post 94 - Assoc. - New Windsor, MD
 Zwerin, David - Post 94 - Assoc. - Merrick, NY

29th Division Association Goes International with the Allen S. Levin Canada Post #3

Recently, steps have been undertaken to help establish a new post of the 29th Division Association located in Toronto, Canada. This is an Associate Post and will have members mainly from the Canadian Armed Forces, although several have served in U.S. Forces also.

The new Allen S. Levin Canada Post # 3 is named in honor of Mr. Allen S. Levin, a former member of Cannon Company, 115th Infantry Regiment during World War II. The Post was established by Mr. Jonathan Delgado Levin-Turner, a nephew of Allen S. Levin. Several other descendants are still living in Virginia.

Jonathan worked very hard to meet the requirements that would allow the new post. After securing the minimum number of members, he is still heavily recruiting and hopes to build the post to a very prominent number in the future.

At this time, the members of Post # 3 have been busy spreading the history of the 29th Infantry Division and the 29th Division Association. They have attended several functions where Jonathan and other members make sure the attendees know that they are representing our Association.

While they currently wear the patch of the American Legion, they are in the process of securing the proper 29th Division Association attire.

Submitted by NED/PNC John Wilcox



Photo by Jack Kutcher

Pictured above at the *Tomb of the Unknowns* is the new reusable wreath that has been acquired by the 29th Division Association for use at various events and ceremonies. Our thanks go out to NSVC Jack Kutcher for his efforts in the acquisition of this wreath.

Medal of Honor Grove at Valley Forge

On Wednesday, April 24, National Executive Director John Wilcox and National Commander Joseph Zang visited the Medal of Honor Grove in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. The purpose of our visit was to see first hand that the grove existed, if it was functional and if there was anything the 29th Division Association should be concerned with. We found two separate areas of interest. The first area is the Medal Of Honor (MOH) Grove itself. The second is the 29th Division Association Memorials located in the Grove. The MOH Grove is owned by "The Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge". We met Mr. Mick DunLeavy and Mr. Wally Nunn, who are both members of the "Friends of the MOH Grove". Mick and Wally are part of the volunteer organization that has taken on the responsibility to maintain the Grove.

The Grove encompasses 52+ acres of ground. We found all 50 States plus Puerto Rica, the District of Columbia and the Ancient Order of Hibernians represented in a monument area honoring the MOH recipients from that State or territory. Each State has a monument or replica of a monument. Throughout the entire grove there are small stainless steel plaques (approximately 12 X 8 inches) inscribed with the names and units of the MOH holders, with a time span going back to the Civil War period. Each plaque is located within the state area the recipient is/was from. Plaques for members of the 29th Division are located in the area of the 29th Division Memorial. We found, located at the entrance to the Grove, a stone constructed map board stand with a map of the grove that was also a part of the 29th Division Association Memorial. In our research we found, for many years the Association held their annual reunion at Valley Forge as well as many other celebrations.

There are 3461 + or - recipients of the MOH. Maryland has a total of 83 MOH recipients. Virginia has a total of 50 recipients. One recipient from Maryland was awarded two MOH, one for the Civil War and one in peace time. A Virginia recipient is the youngest, at age 17.

Each state area is located in a pattern much like the states are located geographically, with the District of Columbia in between Maryland/Virginia. The Virginia obelisk monument is complete.

Maryland is one of 24 states that have not yet provided a stone memorial. The monument is a fiber glass replica of an obelisk stone monument.

The 29th Division Association's Memorial area is comprised of a pavilion and 30 park style benches. Originally the benches were placed in a semi-circle to form an amphitheater. Each bench is inscribed with a unit, or units, of the 29th Division. The

pavilion is located away from the State monuments and overlooks the Schuylkill River. There are three bronze plaques suitably inscribed and identifying the 29th Division Association as the presenting organization. It was a National project financed through contributions to a memorial fund. Our records of this project are hard to identify. Maintenance of NEC meeting minutes

going back to that time cannot be found. These records may have been lost with the death of PNC NED Richard Herklotz. The major source of information was from the bound copies of the 29er being maintained at the Maryland Military Historical Society.

Elsewhere, near the MOH Grove is a large statue of General Washington kneeling in prayer. There were several contributors to the statue that are identified by suitably engraved bronze plaques. In the center of those plaques is one identifying the 29th Division Association?

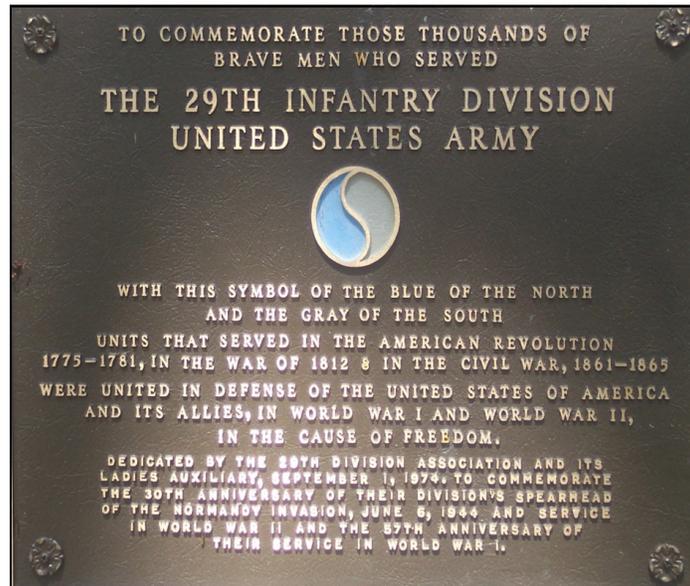
There is no obvious required maintenance concerns indicated in this area.

The 29th Division Association has formed a committee to organize and oversee the completion of the maintenance items required at the 29th Division Memorial in the MOH Grove. The main items needed to show improvement are: some rather small trees and bushes being removed, walk ways improved/replaced, and the roof cleaned of a heavy moss growth. Consideration should be given to displaying the Association Flag upon completion of the restoration. The flag was part of the original concept and its location could not be found or identified. These projects should be coordinated with and would be welcomed by the "Friends of the MOH Grove". Their assistance would be a great help to the effort. If you are interested in serving on this committee, contact NED Wilcox.

The Maryland Region is considering the possibilities of erecting the State Obelisk Monument for Maryland. The constructing and placement of the monument should be a joint effort with the Maryland Region, 29th Division Association, being a part of that project. Other service organizations such as the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the State of Maryland need to be major participants.

For much more information about the MOH Grove and pictures, go to friendsmohgrove.org

Each state monument can be seen by clicking on "your state acre" from the list on the left of the page. The monuments are shown in alphabetical order



147th Engineers role on D-Day at the D-1 Wall

The following article had its beginnings during a 2006 family vacation to Europe. Being a serious student of WWII, I insisted while in France that we visit Normandy. It was during that visit to Normandy, Omaha Beach to be exact that a chance encounter with Marsha Smith introduced me to her and her amazing organization Normandy Allies. We exchanged information and in 2008, I took the first of my two trips to Normandy as a participant with the Normandy Allies group. It was during this 2008 trip that we were introduced to our veteran guest Don Robertson or "Ducky" as he is known to all. Don's story has been highlighted in previous issues, but it was during this visit that I first heard the claim that his unit the 147th Combat Engineers had a significant role in the opening of the D-1 exit on D-Day. Now, I consider myself to be pretty well read on the invasion, in fact, my personal library contains over one hundred books devoted to Normandy, D-Day and in particular Omaha Beach. I can say with some confidence that I had only read that the 121st Engineers of the 29th Division were the unit responsible for this action.

With that being said, I have to admit I was curious and intrigued with Don's claim.

The first thing I did upon returning home was the simplest. A quick internet search turned up an on-line version of the book *Normandy-The Technical Services: Corps of Engineers*. This is an official Army history publication. It states the following on pg 330:

"The Dog beaches between Les Moulins and Vierville. This was the area of the 116th Regimental Combat team, whose engineer combat battalions-the 112th, 121st, and 147th suffered severely during the landings. Survivors of the first sections of the 147th Engineer Combat Battalion to come in on Dog White at 0710 joined the infantry in the fight for Vierville or climbed the cliffs (bluffs overlooking Dog Beaches) with the Rangers. At mid-morning the Battalion commander, concerned about a growing congestion of tanks and vehicles on Dog Green, ordered all his units to concentrate on blowing open Exit D-1, blocked by a concrete revetment. They then set to work, collecting explosives from dead bodies and wrecked vessels, and with help of men of the 121st Engineer Combat Battalion, who had mislanded on Easy Green and had made their way to Dog Green, were able to open the exit."

I was also able with Don's help to contact by telephone Mr. James Reffitt of Xenia Ohio. Mr Reffitt was something of the 147th Engineers unit historian. He was gracious enough to share his D-Day experience and explained to me that while he personally did not take part in the opening of the D-1 exit (He landed in the Easy Red sector and spent the day trying to work his way to Dog Green). It was indeed true and well known throughout the ranks of the 147th that the 147th Engineers were involved in assisting in the opening of the exit. Most notably by providing the TNT to blow open the wall.

This information clearly piqued my interest in finding more information about this action. With that being said, In order for the reader to more clearly understand the role of engineers as it pertains to D-Day and clarify why the 147th would indeed be

involved in this action I am going to paraphrase an excerpt from Jonathan Gawnes excellent book *Spearheading D-Day* pgs 167-171. "One of the more confusing aspects of the Normandy invasion is the plethora of engineering units. It is simpler to think of the engineer support in three main phases.

First came the Special Engineer Task Force on Omaha beach. These units (146th and 299th) were given the task of clearing the beach obstacles. Second came the engineer units assigned to support the combat functions of the assaulting divisions. Each division had its own organic engineer battalion and each regiment had a second engineer battalion assigned for the initial landings. The 29th Division's organic engineer unit was the 121st and its attached engineer unit for the landing was the 112th.

Lastly, came the engineer units concerned with operating the beaches as a place for supply dumps to be established. This last function was the role of engineer units that composed the 5th and 6th Engineer Special Brigades. The 6th Engineer Special Brigade was assigned the western portion of Omaha beach and was to support the landings of the 29th Division. The 147th, 149th, and the 203rd engineer combat battalions were units assigned to the 6th Engineer Special Brigade. There was a great deal of overlap in assignments given to all of these engineer units. This was to make sure that if one unit was not able to perform a job, then another following on its heels would be the next to try. The various assignments are confusing and cannot be placed into neat lists".

In the 29th Division sector the 121st Engineers were assigned the task of opening the D-1 or Vierville exit and the attached 112th Engineers were given the D-3 or Les Moulins exit. However, in the 29th Division sector, the 147th Engineers of the 6th Engineer Special Brigade were also tasked with opening the D-1 exit; therefore both the 121st and the 147th had overlapping assignments. This information in itself explains much of why the 147th can make the claim to have been involved in opening the D-1 exit on D-day.

It wasn't until about a year ago, when I was contacted by Allan and Laurie Jackson of Texas that more information regarding the 147th came to my attention.

Mrs. Jackson's father had been a member of the 147th Engineers on D-Day and she had a copy of the Battalions log. The Jacksons were kind enough to send me a copy and it was this log as well as my securing a book called the *Brigades of Neptune* by Tom Bass that the role of the 147th became much clearer.

What follows is my attempt to reconstruct events involving the destruction of the wall at the D-1 exit using information gathered from those sources as well as information taken from Joseph Balkoski's book *Omaha Beach* pgs 309-311. It is with this synopsis that I hope to clarify the role of the 147th engineers and their contribution to the D-Day effort.

On June 6th 1944 the beach code named "Omaha" was without question the most deadly place on earth. Of all the places along this 5000 yards of sand perhaps the deadliest of the deadly was the area code named Dog Green in front of the D-1 Exit. It was here at Omaha's westernmost beach exit, the Vierville draw,

where there was a massive concrete wall the enemy had erected across the draws mouth to block the movement of vehicles inland. At approximately 12:00 to 12:30pm Brigadier General Norman "Dutch" Cota, Assistant Division Commander of the 29th Division was at this wall. To Cota, the sight of burning vehicles and scores of American corpses on the sand at the foot of the draw was sufficient proof that most of the men assigned to blow this wall, and much of their equipment, had probably not survived the landing debacle. There was an urgent need to demolish this barrier, and Cota set out eastward down the beach to find someone to do the job.

1st Lt. Jack Shea Aide to Camp to General Cota was with him as the General worked his way eastward. Lt Shea records these events. Cota turned to meet Col. Lucius Chase (Executive officer of the 6th Engineer Special Brigade). "Can you blow up that anti-tank wall at the exit?" Cota asked. "We can sir, just as soon as the infantry clean out those pillboxes around there," Col. Chase replied. "We just came down through there. There's nothing to speak of there. Get to it!" Cota ordered. Col. Chase then said that his men did not have any TNT. General Cota pointed to a bulldozer, which had about 20 cases of TNT lashed to its top. "use that," he said, then turned and continued down the beach eastward. Coming upon a second engineer bulldozer laden with cases of TNT, Cota also got it too on its way toward the D-1 Exit.

The preceding in my opinion is somewhat telling. Lt. Shea's recollection clearly establishes that there was a critical lack of the necessary explosives to demolish the wall. It also points out that the bulldozers General Cota speaks of had been modified with racks which carried cases of explosives. In England, the 147th engineers had modified their dozers to carry explosives in overhead racks.

The initial elements of the 147th engineers who were to land on Dog Green sector instead landed scattered to the east from Dog White to beyond the Easy Green sectors. These first landings occurred between 0710 hours and 0740 hours. These troops organized themselves as best as possible and began engineering duties near the Les Moulins draw. 147th landings continued through the next 90 minutes or so, again with these follow up units landing scattered to the east of Dog Green sector. Severe casualties occurred throughout these landings most notably on LCI 91 and 92 which carried in large numbers of engineers.

The remaining 147th engineers of all companies worked there way to the shingle bank and lateral road on these easterly sectors and did there best to accomplish engineering duties as well as fighting alongside the infantry when needed. By late morning the 147th Battalion commander gave orders to have all his remaining units assemble and work laterally west down to the D-1 exit. It was clear that the terrible congestion of vehicles was due to this exit not yet being opened. The following is taken directly from the book "Brigades of Neptune" pgs 156-157 dealing with actions taking place at 12:00 noon or D+5 1/2 hours. These actions coincide time wise with General Cota's being at the wall.

Captain Roy E. Gordon commanding Company B, 147th Engineer Combat Battalion recounts what happened..."Lt Turpin, one of my officers, informed me of this problem. He also told me that there wasn't enough TNT at the site to open the wall to allow

passage of tanks and vehicles. One of Company "B's" D-8 dozers had come ashore on "Dog Red" beach. I told Lt. Turpin to have Corporal Dupuy Beckham, the operator, to take his dozer to the Exit D-1. The dozer carried a ton of TNT in a rack which had been erected above the dozer operator's seat. Corporal Beckham, with an outstanding display of heroism was able to somehow traverse the open beach and deliver the explosives to Master Sergeant Meredith Armwood of the 147th who was waiting for him at the D-1 exit.

George A. Itzel of the 147th remembers Master Sergeant Armwood. He was instructed to organize a detail and blow the wall blocking the D-1 Exit at Vierville Sur Mer. On reaching the wall he found 121st Engineers already busy in preparing the wall for demolition. Sergeant Armwood saw a bulldozer of the 147th operated by Corporal Beckham and ordered him to bring the dozer up to the wall. Beckham was carrying about 1,000 lbs of explosive and in addition there were four cases of Bangalore Torpedoes in a specially constructed rack above the diesel engine of the dozer. There was another similarly laden 147th bulldozer nearby, and the 147th Engineer Battalion Log describes that..."To get this bulldozer up the beach from where it had debarked, it was set loose to run under its own power along the sea wall. When it reached an appropriate spot, Company "A" personnel ran out under a hail of fire, jumped on the moving dozer and brought it to a halt. Thereupon troops of Company "A", Company "C" and Headquarters and Service Company laid down all the fire power available on the exit walls. Master Sergeant Armwood and a Master Sergeant of the 121st Engineers (Probably Noel Dube) picked up the explosives and in a series of short rushes under concentrated enemy fire carried the explosives to the base of the concrete wall. They planted two explosive charges of 550 lbs apiece, set five second fuses and ignited them, racing back to safety across the open beach. The resulting explosion blew in the concrete wall and thus opened the exit.

It is my hope with this article that it would be demonstrated that the 147th Engineers did indeed have a role, in fact an important role in the opening of the Vierville draw. It is impossible to recreate with absolute certainty who did exactly what some 68+ years later. However, a review of the evidence suggests that both the 121st and the 147th D-Day stories parallel each other. Both units mislanded to the east. Both units suffered high casualties. Both units came to the same conclusion at nearly the same time that the D-1 exit had to be opened in order to relieve congestion on the beach. Both units moved westward down the beach and worked hand in hand in clearing the exit. Yet the 147th story has largely been overlooked in most all D-Day histories. Even in Joseph Balkoski's amazing book *Omaha Beach* there is no mention of the 147th Engineers contribution.

In conclusion, I hope this small article has brought at least an awareness of the 147th history and their story as it pertains to the Omaha beach landings.

*By Leonard Patrick
with assistance from
Don "Ducky" Robertson
of the 147th Engineers on Omaha Beach, D-Day.*

A campaign to renovate the historic French & American Memorial Hospital

(Continued from page 1)

porary barracks while some set about clearing the rubble and salvaging material useful for rebuilding. Despite the dismal circumstances of daily life, the spirit of the men, women, and children of the town, much like the spirit of those men who had helped to liberate it, never wavered, and the resilience and dogged persistence that had become manifest throughout post-war France gripped the citizens of Saint-Lô.

Such was the observation of an American woman who had been sent to Saint-Lô in 1946 to assess the post-war condition of the town. During her visit, Mrs. Boa, head of the American Aid to France's local unit for Baltimore, was struck by the perseverance of the people of Saint-Lô, their steadfast determination to restore order and return to their pre-war way of life. In a report to her superiors, she made note of the already ongoing developments in the town, indicating that a surprising amount had already been accomplished. "Flowers," she wrote, "are growing over many of the ruins."

Establishment of the French and American Memorial Hospital of St. Lô

But there was still much to be done, especially with regard to a hospital that, before the war, was the sole medical facility responsible for providing health care to the entire French department of La Manche. The hospital, like many of the buildings in Saint-Lô, had been entirely destroyed, and its modest temporary replacement, staffed almost entirely by Irish military doctors, was hardly prepared to serve the region once the heavily-diminished population had been partially replenished by returning exiles and military officers. The need for a new medical center was dire.

Eleanor Roosevelt also visited Saint-Lô in 1946 and became an advocate for the swift rebuilding of the city. She was later supportive of the hospital fundraising efforts saying, "The Saint-Lô hospital is one to be proud of and, since there were people who cared enough to build so much of it, I wish it might be possible for them to fulfill finally the dream of making the hospital complete."

The American Aid to France Inc., officially certified by New York state in 1944 with the express purpose of relieving human suffering in France, had provided emergency supplies toward the end of the war in the form of clothing, foods, household items, and blood plasmas. Yet as the recovery effort began to evolve away from material relief and toward substantive reconstruction, the incorporation sought to make a contribution that would both assist the restoration of Saint-Lô and leave behind a symbol of America's enduring goodwill toward her French allies. The leadership of the AATF, inspired by the determination of the French people and acutely aware of Saint-Lô's symbolic importance to Franco-American relations, decided to gather funds that would be put toward the establishment of a memorial hospital.

On July 18, 1948, the cornerstone for the proposed French and American Memorial Hospital was laid at the highest point in the town, overlooking the burgeoning reconstruction of Saint-Lô.

Unfortunately credit was lacking, funding woes were accumulating, and galloping inflation hiked up the originally estimated price; thus construction crept along at a disappointingly sluggish pace. On May 10th, 1956, its official inauguration day, the hospital was still unfinished. After its eventual completion, however, the Memorial was awarded the distinction of inclusion in the historic registry of France. It quickly became recognized as one of the largest, most professional, and most modern hospitals in all of Europe, from which other medical centers might draw inspiration.

Present Day Renovation Plans for the Memorial Hospital

Today, the Memorial is recognized for high-quality patient care and comfort. It continues to be a leader in providing superior care to the people of the La Manche region of France. More than 1,500 people, including doctors, interns, student nurses and nurses, and other hospital workers, staff the 377-bed hospital. The seven story hospital provides superb acute and chronic care in all areas of medicine, and includes 80 outpatient surgery rooms and 60 nursing home beds.

Under the leadership of CEO Monsieur Thierry Lugbull, the Memorial is once again innovating. As the 70th anniversary of D-Day approaches, the Memorial will undertake a bold renovation of the hospital in order to continue offering the very best care possible to the people and the visitors of the region. The Memorial is proud to be of service to the many veterans and their family members who frequent Normandy and St. Lô.

Description of the project

The first phase of the project calls for the renovation of three floors. These floors will house the cardiology and neurology patients in new, centralized areas, turning rooms that contain 4-patient beds to private rooms. Next, a new patient education center will be built, which will offer a variety of wellness programs. In addition, the Memorial will become the central hub for providing cardiac diagnosis and care to the people of Saint-Lô and Normandy.

The *Normandy Remembered* fundraising campaign is underway with the goal of raising \$2,750,000 (US dollars) over three years, and for the first time since the effort by the American Aid to France, the hospital is reaching out to the French community and American friends by inviting them to participate in this project. Our shared history is a unique one and this renovation project is a commitment to keeping the spirit of French and American friendship alive in Normandy and Saint-Lô.

A private foundation in St. Lo, France, Fonds de Donation, owns an account at the Friends Of Fondation de France, a charity 501(c)3 based in New York City and will assure that US resident donors are able to receive a tax deduction for their gift. The first tax-deductible donations will be accepted in September, 2013. If you are interested in getting involved with or giving to the French and American Memorial Hospital campaign, please contact kate@visionphilanthropy.com.

Article submitted by Xan Holt and Kate Mason

70th Anniversary

**From the Landing Beaches to Saint-Lô:
Join us for the Commemoration of the Liberation of Saint-Lô
July 13-26, 2014**

Our journey begins in Bayeux, where we explore the World War II British and Canadian sectors. Visits include: Caen Memorial to the Peace, Juno Beach, Abbaye d'Ardenne, Pegasus Bridge, Arromanches Circular Theater and Mulberry Museum, Longues s/mer Battery, Bayeux Tapestry and Cathedral, British Cemetery and more...

We move on to Grandcamp-Maisy and the American sector as our journey takes us from Omaha Beach and Utah Beach through the hedgerow country to Saint-Lô. Historians and Normans who lived through the landings and the liberation share their experiences with us. Visits include: Pointe du Hoc, Omaha Beach & the Normandy American Military Cemetery, Utah Beach, Graignes, La Fièvre, Sainte-Mère-Eglise & the Airborne Museum, Saint-Lô & bocage areas, LaCambe Cemetery, Chateau Colombières & the marshes, rue Captain Carter, Wall of Remembrance, Trevières... and more....

Our journey culminates with an afternoon in Paris, lunch along the Champs Elysées, a visit to the Eiffel Tower and then home —with lasting memories!

Pricing and packages available September 2013

Contact: Marsha Smith

Normandy Allies, PO Box 1332, Pittsford NY 14534 normandyallies@verizon.net 585-748-2357

Donald M. McKee, 1944 - E Co. Medic, 175th 1994 Past National Commander

For the 50th anniversary of D-Day our 29th Division Association sponsored a large contingent of 29ers and their families back to Normandy. One of the highlights of the trip was a stop at the St. Lo Hospital which had been the scene in July 1944. of a fierce battle with us 29ers and our comrades in the 35th Infantry Division against the enemy.

We had 485 in our group along with our 10 buses there for a quiet stop to remember the 1944 battle. With us, was the Governor of Maryland, William Donald Schaefer, who spoke to our group and the hospital staff to honor us all.

We hope that 29ers now can support the hospital's recent expansion of their facilities and an enlargement of the memorial there to honor our two divisions.

Our front page article details the plans that the Hospital will be undertaking for the next year or so. The relationship between the Hospital management and our Association has continued for several years. We suggest that you continue to stay informed if you are interested via the future "29er" or by calling Ms. Kate Mason in Nashville @ 615-419-5185. She is managing the drive in the States. "29, Let's Go!"

121st Engineer Battalion Association seeks names of former members, both living and deceased

Mr. Dan Pyle of the 121st Engineer Battalion Association is in the process of developing a list of names of former members of the 121st Engineer Battalion from 1922 through today. As part of that project, he is also trying to list all former 121st members that have passed on and are Standing in the Final Formation.

Mr. Pyle is aware that the Chin Strap and the Twenty-Niner list the names and units assignments of 29th Division Association members that have passed on. He has asked if any member of our Association may have old Memorial Service Programs that may have names of 121st Engineers.

Anyone who might have old programs or other information that might assist Mr. Pyle, can contact him at the following.

Dan Pyle — 121st Engineer Battalion Association
Home: 410-876-5528 - Cell: 443-257-9978
Home Email: dp121@verizon.net
Work Email: daniel.r.pyle3.nfg@mail.mil

Army Divisions Association Annual Meeting 2013

During the period 25-27 April 2013, the Army Divisions Association (ADA), of which the 29th Division Association is a member, conducted its Annual Meeting and Familiarization (FAM) Tour in DuPage County, IL, a suburban area about 25 miles west of Chicago. NSVC Jack Kutcher and Adjutant William Mund attended these events.

One of the principal functions of the ADA is to contact the Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) in various locales around the Country to solicit their support to host the member associations' annual reunions. The DuPage County CVB, area hotels and entertainment personnel did an outstanding job in "showing off" what the area had to offer. We stayed at three different hotels and visited five others to review the facilities and attendant amenities of each to support a typical association reunion.

In addition to the lodging, we were treated to a bevy of exquisite meals the entire three days. Side trips included a visit to the Willis Tower (*formerly the Sears Tower*) in downtown Chicago, a cruise of the Chicago River that included a historic look at the various architectural themes within the City, and a visit to Cantigny Park. Cantigny Park is the former estate of WWI veteran COL Robert R. McCormick, who was the Editor and Publisher of the *Chicago Tribune* for 44 years. Cantigny Park is the current home of the 1st Infantry Division Museum with which McCormick

served in WWI. While our Association will most likely never have the opportunity to visit that area, the FAM tour was a most beneficial learning experience.

The annual meeting of the ADA was conducted all day on Saturday, 27 April. This meeting was an enlightening experience, and provided an excellent forum in which to discuss common problem areas and to exchange ideas on a multitude of subjects. The featured guest speaker was Mr. Tom McDonnell, Senior Vice President of HUB International, Ltd. who spoke to us about having appropriate insurance coverage for our organizations. Saturday evening was very special. The DuPage County CVB put on a very nice military appreciation show. After the color guard posted the colors, we were treated to a wonderful four course meal and musical program with a "Memories": theme.

Our hats go off to Mr. Ollie Pickral, the Executive Director of the ADA, and to Mr. Don Kelby, the "man on the ground" responsible for coordinating this annual meeting and FAM tour. Although smaller in size than many of the other associations, The 29th Division Association is a viable partner in the ADA, and we should remain as such. Continued participation in all ADA activities is encouraged.

Submitted by NSVC John F. "Jack" Kutcher

Memorial plaque to honor HMS Curacao placed in England

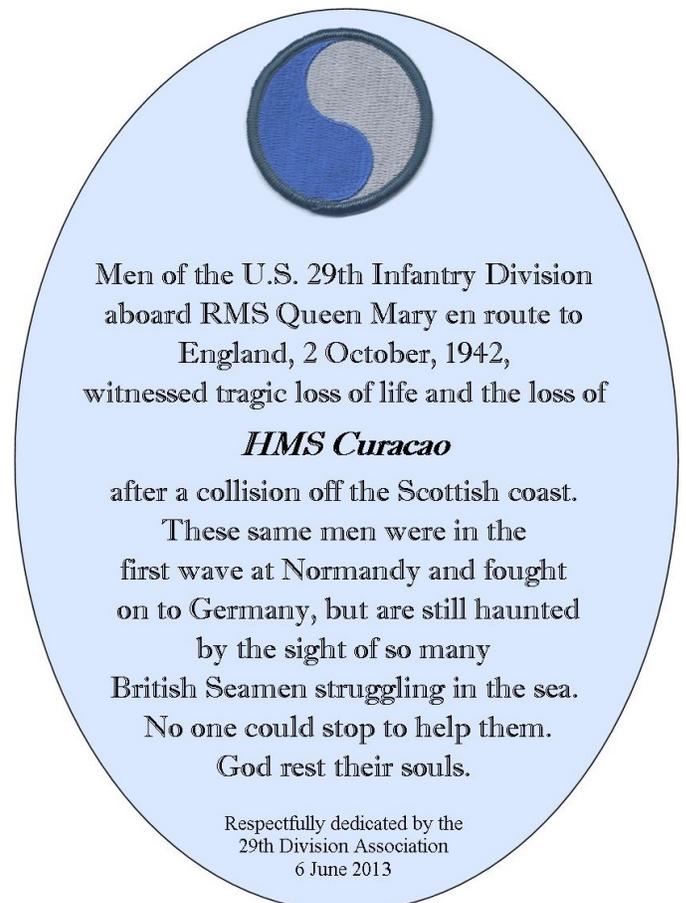
After many years of effort by eyewitness Norman Duncan, of Post 94 the plaque shown here will be in place as of 6 June, 2013 at The National Memorial Arboretum, Croxall Rd., Airwas, Staffordshire, England. A tree previously planted to honor the lost crew had a marker which is no longer readable. The site management requested we provide our marker to replace the no longer useful one. Ours is of much better material and will last indefinitely.

Please see the web site www.tnma.org.uk. The location is quite beautifully done, not only with trees, but many sculptures and memorials to British units of many conflicts. It would be a special place to visit when in England while on the way to Normandy.

National Executive Director, John Wilcox was most helpful in providing information and guidance during this project. As was, Will Mund, our assistant editor. The British Embassy in Washington and Naval Attaches there were helpful in locating a proper place for the memorial.

The undersigned learned much about British Navy memorials all over the UK and what has happened to many formerly important naval bases. The effort was well worth the time. The strong feelings of good men like Norman Duncan and Bill Doyle, who were on RMS Queen Mary and saw the great loss of life, might now be eased.

*Submitted by George Linthicum,
Past MD Region and Post 72 Commander*



The General Alvin Ungerleider JMU/Normandy Allies Scholarship

To honor his years of distinguished service in three wars, the family of the late Brigadier General Alvin D. Ungerleider established a scholarship earlier this year at James Madison University. The scholarship funds the expenses for one university student to participate in the Normandy Allies Travel Study Program which the 29th Division Association helped to create.

Thanks to their generosity, Danielle Brookover, a rising senior History major, is the first General Alvin Ungerleider Scholarship recipient. Her winning essay thoughtfully responded to the prompt: "Would the young men and women of your generation be willing to make the same self-less commitment to free Europe that your grandfather's generation did?" Danielle wrote:

"Society has changed incredibly over the past sixty years, but the fundamental American principles of compassion, leadership and patriotism still prevail." She went on to describe how she and others of her generation respond compassionately to the needs of others across the globe. She has helped rebuild homes for veterans in West Virginia and taken part in numerous fundraisers to help people in distress. Though careful not to compare her actions to those of "The Greatest Generation," she does emphasize that her generation is ready if called upon to act in a similar way. Danielle will study the D-Day beaches, the surrounding terrain, sites and communities successfully liberated nearly seventy years ago and share her experiences with her own students in the future. The Ungerleider Scholarship will therefore help perpetuate the tremendous legacy of the 29th and all other units from that fateful day.

JMU begins its partnership with Normandy Allies this summer. We are excited to join veterans, secondary students, and others to learn about and honor the heroes who served in Normandy and to reach a deeper appreciation of what they accomplished. All will experience vicariously the enduring memory of D-Day and the liberation of France. The leadership of the 29th Division Association, especially Al Ungerleider, Don McKee, and Don



McCarthy, were critical in helping bring what became Normandy Allies to fruition. As National Commander of the Association, Al was an early supporter of the concept that led to Normandy Allies. In its earliest years, he met the students each year in Bedford, Virginia and Washington DC. He guided the students through the Holocaust Memorial and shared his own battle experiences in Normandy. It is therefore fitting that a scholarship in his name will continue that commitment.

Who was Alvin Ungerleider? Drafted in 1942, Lt. Ungerleider led fifty men from L Company, 115th regiment of the 29th Infantry Division ashore at Omaha Beach in the morning of June 6, 1944. He was wounded twice in those first days and after a brief convalescence, he returned to command his men as platoon leader and rifle commander. He took part in the liberation of St. Laurent-sur-Mer and the city of Brest. He and his men then battled together through France and Belgium into Germany.

In April 1945, he was in charge of an American assault to free Dora-Mittelbau, a sub camp of Nordhausen prison. There, he and his men witnessed firsthand the horror of the Holocaust. He later recalled, "After taking heavy fire from turrets above a barbed wire enclosure, my men and I smashed through the gates, and wit-

nessed the sight of dead bodies and human beings in the worst state of degradation." He helped assure the approximately 300 terrorized survivors that their personal horror was over, speaking with them in a mix of English, German, and Yiddish. Lt. Ungerleider then led them in reciting Kaddish, the Jewish prayer for the dead. This was the first time they had the opportunity to recall friends and family killed in the Nazi horror. Following the prayer, he and his men shared their rations with the survivors. It was an experience he never forgot. By war's end, his bravery and meritorious service earned him 2 Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart.

Al Ungerleider retired in 1978, after 36 years. He served in Korea and Vietnam, shifting eventually from Infantry to Armor. He last posting was as Commander of the Aberdeen Proving Grounds. Throughout his long and distinguished career, the compassion for others revealed at Dora-Mittelbau remained central. While commanding a tactical unit in Vietnam, he spent his spare hours volunteering in a local orphanage. Earlier, while stationed in Monterey, CA, he started the first Sunday School there for Jewish children. At Aberdeen, he established equal opportunity programs to broaden opportunities. His military service and compassion gained recognition from the governments of France, Korea, and Vietnam, as well as from his own grateful nation. He died on February 13, 2011 and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery. He personified the citizen soldier and the scholarship created by his widow, Ruth, and sons Dan and Neil, will help generations to come remember General Ungerleider and his fellow soldiers, who, as former President Clinton said at the 50th anniversary ceremony at the American Cemetery at Colleville, France in 1994, "When they were young, these men saved the world." On that day, retired General Ungerleider stood proudly at his side representing the thousands of soldiers who had fought there.

*Michael J. Galgano
Professor of History
James Madison University
Harrisonburg, VA*

NOTICE**NOTICE****NOTICE**

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

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

These proposed changes to the National Constitution and By-Laws are now published to conform to the above notification requirements. Changes are indicated in underlined italic type.

**NATIONAL CONSTITUTION
OF THE TWENTY-NINTH DIVISION ASSOCIATION**

Article VI – National Officers

Section 1. Elected officers of this organization shall be a National Commander, a National Vice-Commander and one National Vice-Commander for each Region, a Finance Officer, a Chaplain, a Welfare Officer, a Service Officer, a Judge Advocate, a Historian, a Surgeon and a Sergeant-at-arms. They shall have one vote each on the National Executive Committee.

Section 10. Vacancies in the elective offices occurring between Annual National Conventions shall be filled by election by the National Executive Committee. Any member of the 29th Division Association, in good standing, shall be eligible for election to fill any vacancy. Except for a vacancy in the office of National Commander, which shall be filled by the National Vice-Commander.

**NATIONAL BY-LAWS
OF THE TWENTY-NINTH DIVISION ASSOCIATION**

Article II – Duties of Officers

Section 1.

a. NATIONAL COMMANDER: The National Commander shall be the Executive Head of the 29th Division Association, with full power to enforce the provisions of the National Constitution and By-Laws and the mandates of the National Convention. He shall be the Chairman of the Convention and the National Executive Committee. He shall appoint all necessary committees and appointive officers as herein provided, and shall perform all other duties as are usually incident to the office. At the end of his term the office of National Commander may be filled by the National Vice-Commander, provided he is nominated for and elected to, the office of National Commander.

b. NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER: The National Vice-Commander shall serve as the National Membership Officer during his term of office. He shall act as the representative of the National Commander on all matters referred to him by the National Commander and perform such other duties as are usually incident to this office. In the event of death, resignation, incapacity or removal of the National Commander, he shall assume the office of National Commander.

Paragraph b, as pertains to JUNIOR NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER is deleted.

Ceremony moved inside to commemorate D-Day 2013 in Bedford, Virginia



The D-Day ceremony for 2013 was moved inside because of the rain.

Left: Bob Slaughter was remembered with his portrait on the stage.

Right: Don Englar gets a thank you handshake from TAG-Virginia, MG Daniel Long after the D-Day Vets assembled in front of the audience. Looking on is PNC Glenwood Hankins.

Photos and text by Carl Yusna
Post 93



ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY 2013



Photo by Jack Kutcher

Post #110 members: National Commander Joseph Zang (center) and WWII Veteran, Walter Heline (right), placing the wreath at the *Tomb of the Unknowns* at Arlington National Cemetery on 19 May 2013.

POST HAPPENINGS

Baltimore Post #1

The following message was received from Michael R. Krauss, son of PNC and Post #1 Commander Samuel Krauss :

Please allow me to express my sincere thanks to the members of the association for their support following the recent death of my father PNC Sam Krauss. The turnout of 29ers was outstanding. The memorial service on Sunday evening was second to none. A friend commented on the service saying he had never witnessed anything so moving. I replied that "29ers take care of their own."

A right hand salute to Maryland Region Commander John Vaccarino for mobilizing the association and to National Chaplain John Schildt for the finest service I have attended.

Dad would be proud.

Michael R. Krauss, Post 1

In the interim, John Vaccarino, Post Adjutant and Finance Officer will be the acting commander of Post #1.

Florida West Post #2

Florida West Post #2 continues to be a viable active post with home base being on the west coast of Florida with monthly meetings held in Sarasota.

The highlight of activities this year was again the "Special Luncheon" - the 5th annual event of its kind since the post stopped, due to attendance problems, having a yearly 3 or 4 day Reunion/Convention. Age has taken its toll.

However, Post #2 continues to have a good turnout for the so-called "Special Luncheons". We've had a high of 39 attendees to a low of 31 this year. National officers continue to honor Post #2 with their presence at these events.

This year the following national officers attended our luncheon: National Commander Joe Zang and his wife Shirley; PNC's Ivan V. Dooley, Robert Moscati and John Wilcox and his wife Chris.

We were very fortunate to have 11 World War II veterans attend this luncheon as well. Their names are: Dick Ford; Bob Bricker; Paul Kramer; Joe Joseph; Ken Perhai; Ernie Rutherford; Mike Crouch; Ted Daubresse; Cosmo Utero; Dick Quigley, and Anne Welk, a ETO nurse.

Limestone Post #72

At the regularly scheduled post meeting held on 15 April, the post officers were elected and then installed by National Commander Joe Zang.

On 28 May, several post members and officers traveled to the Baltimore County Office Building for a D-Day proclamation by the County Executive Kevin Kamenetz. Mr. Kamenetz was presented with a new 29th Division Association tie.

A Memorial Crab Feast occurred on Sunday, 2 June in the William Donald Schaefer dining facility at the Fifth Regiment Army. This event was attended by 105 people.

Jerome L. Day Post #48



Post 48 members at the D-Day Proclamation on 6 June at the County Commissioners office. Left to right: Charles Foreman; BJ Foreman, Robin Bartlett Frazier; Post Cdr. Frank Rauschenberg and WWII Veteran Buck Zendgraft of the 115th Infantry.

Cresap's Rifles Post #78

Members of Post 78 in Frederick, Maryland have been keeping busy since our last report.

In April of this year we held our annual Spring Fling dinner with roughly 70 in attendance. This is an annual event and has been held for many years. While we have used many different locations in the past, for the last two years we have used the social room of the Frederick Church of the Brethren on West 2nd Street. The food is great, and the service provided by the ladies of the church is excellent. PNC Richard Smith and wife Mary were in attendance and PNC Smith installed the new officers.

Several years ago, members of Post 78 undertook a project to replace a monument and enhance an area in front of the armory that had originally been dedicated in 2002 as a Memorial Grove. Following the monument replacement and some extensive landscape work, the area was rededicated as the MG Boyd M. Cook Memorial Grove.

Across the road in front of the armory are two large flower beds that had gotten completely out of control with the plants that were there. Post 78 members, with the approval of the local command, removed all the old shrubbery, covered the entire areas with a weed control material and completely covered them with white landscaping stone. Following this, we have inserted 6" X 9" pavers that form the letter "A" and can be inscribed. Inscriptions on the pavers may show the name, dates of service, unit served in or any other sentiment one might wish. They can be used to honor or memorialize an individual or organization. Inscription requirements allow up to 3 lines with 15 characters per line that include spaces, periods, etc. Post 78 is asking a donation of \$75 per paver with offerings open to anyone. Further information may be obtained by contacting Post Adjutant John Wilcox at 301-695-9558 or email at twoniner1@hotmail.com.

POST HAPPENINGS

Eastern Shore Post #88

Eastern Shore Post 88 continued to support local Memorial Day Ceremonies on the Eastern Shore. The Post 88 Color Guard participated in the Cambridge Long Wharf Ceremony on May 27th. As part of the Long Wharf Ceremony Past Post Commander Wayne Simmons wife, Mary Ellen, presented a wreath from Doris Messick (widow of Luke Messick) for the Maryland National Guard and Post Chaplain George Wheatley presented a wreath from Post 88 to honor the 29th Division Association. then on May 30 the Post provided a Color Guard for the Maryland Dept of Veterans Affairs Ceremony at the Eastern Shore Veterans Cemetery in Hurlock, MD.

Post 88 recognized Past Treasurer and Finance Officer Elmer L. Willey at its June 12th meeting with a plaque recognizing and thanking Elmer for his 21 continuous years as the Post Treasurer and Finance Officer.

Members of the Post assisted CSM (Ret) Ron Christopher on June 6th in Denton at the General Fretterd Community Center Caroline County Veterans walkway project Groundbreaking. This walkway with commemorative bricks for Caroline County service members of all branches is scheduled to be complete and dedicated on Nov 9, 2013.

Post 88 has joined Post 88 member COL (Ret) Ray Simmons to form the Cambridge Long Wharf WWI Dorchester County Distinguished Service Cross Monument Committee to place a new monument next to the existing WWI fountain at Long Wharf recognizing the 5 Dorchester Countians who received the DSC in WWI in France. 4 of these DSC awardees were 29th Division soldiers. COL (Ret) Simmons has obtained concept approval from the Cambridge City Council, Long Wharf Monument Committee and the Cambridge Rotary Club. Post 88 is kicking off a fund raising program to help with funding this new Monument. The monument design is being completed to enable application for final approvals. The target date for the Monument Dedication is Memorial Day 2014.

Post 88's next planned event is the annual Family picnic and crab feed on October 5, 2013.

Larkspur Post #110

It has been a busy spring for the Larkspur Post. Post 110 sadly paid our respects at Past National Commander Sam Krauss's funeral and for our fellow Redlegs - Gene Mersinger and Mort Wood.

The Old Timer's party was a great success. The next big event is the October Memorial Service and Picnic and we recommend everyone try to come out and bring your families.

The Post is doing well and has 216 members, our highest numbers in years. What we need to do now is find a way to reach out and get more of our members to our events, especially our weekend and evening events - we are always open to ideas!

National Commander Joseph Zang and our WW II Liaison Walter Heline, both of Post 110, placed the 29th Division Association Wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on 16 May 2013.

Lantern Post #729

The Parlor House Restaurant in Waynesboro, PA, is now the new meeting place for Post 729. The installation of new officers for the year 2013-2014 took place on 16 May with Past Region Commander John Vaccarino administering the oath of office.

On 18 May, Post 729 participated in the Memorial Day Parade at Smithburg, MD. On Sunday, 19 May, Post 729 was represented at the Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Arlington National Cemetery.

They also participated in Wreath Laying ceremonies at the Hagerstown Court House on 26 May, and the Veterans Memorial Park in Smithsburg, MD, held on 30 May. Post 729 also participated in the Memorial Day (27 May) and Independence Day (4 July) parades in Waynesboro, PA.

On Sunday, 21 July, Post 729 will host their Annual Picnic at the Savoy Restaurant, North Church St. Rt. 997 Waynesboro, PA. All interested parties are welcome. Please Contact Ward Simmons at (717)-762-2259 or Donald Buhrrman at (717) 794-2133 for more Information.



Photo by William Mund

Maryland Region Commander Robert E. "Bob" Wisch, smiles as he poses with the MD Region Charter as Past Region Commander John Vaccarino looks on. Election and Installation took place on 11 May 2013. The installation ceremony was conducted by PNC Robert Recker and took place in the William Donald Schaefer dining facility at the Fifth Regiment Armory, Baltimore, Maryland.

POST HAPPENINGS

Post 64 - Meet and Greet Recruiting Visit

On the morning of Saturday, February 2nd PFO Frank Dillon, John Kessler and Aux. Como. Nancy Dillon, visited 1-116th on their day of drill at the Lynchburg, VA. army.

John Kessler had all the troops and officers on the edge of their seats during his recollection of wartime experiences. At



John Kessler talking to soldiers of the 1-116th Infantry at the Lynchburg army.

lunch John was asked to dine at a table of young troops so they could hear more about his adventures. They all, including John had a wonderful time.

Also during lunch, we gave old 29er magazines away to those whom were interested to learn more about the 29th Division Association. We gained several new members and sparked interest in many more potential members that day.

Photo and article by Frank and Nancy Dillon, Post 64

St. Patrick's Day Parade, Roanoke, Virginia Saturday, 16 March 2013

Post 64 – 29th Division Association participated in the Roanoke, Virginia parade. Post Commander Bill King led the Color Guard. They were followed by Jay Kincannon's WWII



Jay Kincannon's World War II era jeep with John Kessler, Alvin Hudson and Robert Key

era jeep, next was Julian Will's Korea era jeep, followed by John Garrison's Vietnam era jeep and bringing up the rear was Bruce Lankford's truck.

After the parade we all gathered around a delicious lunch at the Roanoker Restaurant. During lunch, Hugh Wills called to see how everything went and we all had fun passing him around the table so to speak, sharing our day with him over the phone.

All those in attendance had a very nice time and I am sure that I speak for everyone in saying "29, Let's Go", "Ever Forward."

Photo and article by Jay Kincannon, Post 64

13th Annual Armed Forces Day Parade

Post 64 were Honorary Grand Marshals along with many WWII Veterans to participate in the 13th annual Armed Forces Day parade that was held at Salem, Virginia's Veteran's Care Center and Veteran's Medical Center, Saturday, May 18th 2013.

Those in attendance were Frank Dillon, whom helped Steve Roragan organize the parade, Nancy Dillon, support tasks and Doug Eggleston, Red Cross support. Chuck Neighbor, Juanita



John Kessler & Jay Kincannon along with photo of Bob Slaughter.

King and Earl Worley rode in and on a Deuce and a half, driven by 1-116th enlisted. Morris Bennett and Bill King along with three 1-116th enlisted made up the 29th Division Association Color Guard. John Kessler rode shotgun in Jay Kincannon's jeep while Jennett Dunman rode in the back seat holding a picture of Bob Slaughter we had framed. Of which will be on display at the Bedford, Virginia, D-Day Memorial June 6th 2013 and thereafter.

After the parade, our friends, whom play bluegrass music, "The Guard" band played for all residence to hear and enjoy and enjoy they did. Those whom were able, tapped their feet, clapped their hands and sang along. One couple danced to a song and one resident played his guitar with the band.

This parade was started by now post member Steve Roragan with one truck on his own to a 60 participant parade today. Every resident at the care center that enjoys the parade looks forward to what Steve can bring every year.

Submitted by Nancy Dillon, Post 64

Soldiers prepare for Expert Infantry Badge and annual training

FORT A.P. HILL, Va. — Soldiers from the Winchester-based 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team prepared to qualify for the Expert Infantry Badge and performed squad-level exercises May 17-19, 2013, at Fort A.P. Hill. The weekend's training served as preparation for the battalion's annual training in June, during which Soldiers will qualify for the EIB and perform squad live-fire exercises.

"Historically, units drill the month before annual training at their home stations and prep administratively, but here 3rd Battalion is on the ranges, in the field, making maximum use of their training time," said Brig. Gen. William R. Phillips, II, the Virginia National Guard Land Component Commander.

Phillips observed the battalion's training on May 18 and met with troops discussing topics such as retention, schooling, and equipment.

Soldiers of the Charlottesville-based Company A performed squad-level close quarters combat and ran an urban assault lane for troops to qualify for the EIB. The urban assault lane was composed of 10 tasks including, but not limited to, successfully firing an M4 rifle, setting up a Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System, and administering first-aid in the field. To qualify on the lane, the Soldier must successfully complete each of the ten tasks in 20 minutes.

"It's 20 minutes of decision making and incorporating everything these infantrymen have learned since day one of Basic Combat Training," said 1st Lt. Hysen Shala, 2nd platoon leader of Company A. "The EIB train up and subsequent testing is a compilation of basic infantry skills that every Soldier should know and be able to complete," said Lt. Col. Erik Gordon, commander of 3rd Battalion. "If time permitted and resources were available, I feel every Soldier should rotate through the EIB training."

In preparation for a squad live-fire exercise in June, Soldiers of Woodstock-based Company B performed maneuver and movement drills throughout the weekend. And the approximately 25 infantrymen going for the EIB shot the M4 rifle qualification portion, in which they must shoot expert, hitting 36 of the 40 targets.

"It's not easy, but I am confident in my Soldiers' capabilities," said Capt. James Covington, commander of Company B. "Nothing on the EIB is new to them. They just have to pay attention, work hard, and know their stuff."

To prepare for the expert-level of shooting required for the badge, Soldiers of Leesburg-based Company C, spent much of the weekend refining their shooting skills at distance.

"One problem with qualifying expert is hitting the 300-meter targets," said 1st Lt. Herrick Johnson. "Today we are having them fire successively at 300 meters so that when they go up for individual weapon qualification they will be more successful."

In squads, Soldiers of Fredericksburg-based Company D, combined their gunnery skills in firing crew-served weapons mounted on Humvees, in preparation for their crew certifications during annual training.

The scouts and snipers of Winchester-based Recon Platoon, Headquarters Company conducted squad-level battle drills with focus on react to contact and break contact, allowing squad leaders to conduct internal assessments prior to annual training.

"By incorporating EIB material into our scenario, we were able to both train Soldiers going for EIB testing next month and accomplish our unit Mission Essential Tasking List, a daunting task especially given the limited time we have with troops," said 1st Lt. Jonathan Pungello, recon platoon leader.

Soldiers of Fredericksburg-based Company F, 429th Brigade Support Battalion, 116th IBCT provided distribution of fuel and ammunition, maintenance, and food services to troops throughout the weekend.

These events with 3rd Battalion—doing actual field work—help them get back to the basics, said Capt. Annie Bonnacerrere, commander of Company F. It gives the Soldiers a practical environment to apply their occupational skill sets and allows the forward supply company to practice their infantry basics.

"Our annual training period this year will be exciting and challenging," said Gordon. "During our training last weekend we were able to tie-up a lot of loose ends and position ourselves to complete a very successful annual training."

*By Spc. JoAnna E. Greene
116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team*

New 29th Association Shirts and Necktie

Shortly after the convention last October, we introduced a new shirt that we are now carrying as part of our standard merchandise. This is a 100% pre-shrunk cotton pullover golf shirt and comes in royal blue, gray and white. Most sizes (but not all) are available including Medium, Large, Extra Large and 2 Extra Large in each color. The shirts bear an embroidered emblem of the 29th Division Association and the text "29th Division Association."

We have also recently begun carrying a new necktie designed especially for the 29th Division Association. These ties are 100% polyester and are a beautiful blue and gray striped design that any 29er will be proud to wear. Check the Supplies Page 41 in this issue for prices and postage.

**Remember To Visit us
At Our National Website
www.29thdivisionassociation.com**

Doc's Corner: A Tribute to Dr. Edmund G. Beacham

As a young medical officer in the 224th Artillery Bn, I was impressed by our Maryland Army National Guard State Surgeon, Colonel Ed Beacham. He was the person who took a group from Maryland to Fort Sam Houston, to learn early courses on military medicine and tropical diseases. Later, I served with him on the board of the Maryland Military Historical Society as well as in the Maryland Defense Force after both of us had retired from active National Guard Service.

Dr. Edmund Beacham was born 19 August 1914 and raised in East Baltimore. He graduated from City College, a public high school, and subsequently attended undergraduate and medical school at the University of Maryland. In 1939, while in medical school, his roommate convinced him to enlist in the Maryland Army National Guard. Subsequently, he was commissioned 15 July 1940.

On 3 February 1941, after a brief internship, he was called to active duty as the regimental surgeon of the 175th Regiment of the 29th Division. He sailed to England on the Queen Elizabeth, eventually landing in Scotland, trained at Tedworth Barracks, and finally at Lands-end in Cornwall. After training, the 175th then landed on Omaha Beach. To quote Dr. Beacham, "almost whole neighborhoods of men were killed on the beach. I don't think anyone envisioned that kind of casualties. We had Clearing Stations set up for maybe 900 men over a three day period. And yet, we were getting 2,100 casualties a day. Morale never sagged. We had a sense of what we were there for."

As the Regimental Surgeon, his company included approximately 125 enlisted men, eight physicians, and two dentists.

On 7 June they boarded landing craft after scrambling down rope ladders and nets from the mother ship. Food at first was D rations, then K rations, and finally C rations. According to Major Beacham, most wounds were the result of shell fragments. In the field, aid men attached to the companies provided first aid, splinted extremity fractures with Thomas splints, applied tourniquets and put Sulfa on the wounds. Not only was Major Beacham an excellent physician, he was also meticulous in note taking and a stickler for details. For example, in longhand he listed his entire medical company by name, rank, education data, service, Asian duty, and awards (men receiving Good Conduct medals or other awards.) His medical studies included detailed evaluations of Venereal diseases while in various parts of England prior to D-day as well as once the invasion occurred, forwarding this information to higher HQs in the form of graphs and memos.

Combat exhaustion was also studied and documented in de-

tail by graphs on a daily and weekly basis. Once he became division surgeon the study became a comparison of the various regiments in addition to the 175th. In a handwritten document entitled Discussion of Exhaustion Cases, he found the following:

1. 1600 cases of exhaustion were evacuated from the 175th Infantry Regiment from 12 June 1944 until September 19 1944.

The 116th Infantry Regiment had had just less than 600 cases and the 115th Infantry Regiment had just under 300 cases.

2. A chart showing numbers for each company showed an average of 33 for a rifle company with the exception of K and L companies. They had 123 and 90 cases respectively. The Heavy Weapons company averaged 21.

3. There were peaks - 19 June, 13 July, and on 31 July, 117 cases. Particularly noteworthy during this time, the enemy had cut off the units from higher headquarters' control.

4. In the Spring, 1944, Lt. Col. Parson, MC, discussed the question of combat fatigue with Line officers as well as Medical Officers. He suggested clearing the field of personnel considered unfit for combat prior to D-day. Principles for handling combat exhaustion were to evacuate when they were showing physical exhaustion, apprehension, nervousness, jumpiness, or episodes of weeping or personality change including tremors. Such persons were to receive 48-72 hours of R and R and then return to duty. This policy lasted until 10 August when Major Beacham directed that only severe cases of exhaustion would be evacuated from the battalion aid stations. Milder cases would be counseled by line officers and Battalion surgeons. Moderate cases were sent to the regimental surgeon for evaluation. Dr. Beacham personally interviewed 164 soldiers with a diagnosis of combat exhaustion from 9 August 1940 through 4 October 1944 at the regimental aid station, 175th infantry. Here are two examples:

Case Number 64, PVT "X", D Company, entered combat 15 August as a combat engineer. He complained of stomach trouble, can't sleep, nervousness. Physical examination was negative. An explanation of symptoms was carried out as well as his being given a sedative. The diagnosis of anxiety state of the mild nature was made and he was returned to duty.



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





Major Beacham in Germany, 1945

Case Number 29 was a private from L Company. He was staring and despondent. His pal had died. He was fatigued, was worrying and getting no rest. A diagnosis of anxiety state moderately severe was made and was evacuated.

Of extreme interest to me as a medical officer was his listing of casualties and is in his own shorthand. For example:

- CE** – Combat exhaustion
- WIA** – Wounded in action
- SWA** - Severely wounded in action
- LWA** – Lightly wounded in action
- NBC** – Non Battle casualty

Subsequently, while the Division Surgeon, he gained medical control of the 104th Medical battalion. One interesting sidelight is that he was wounded in combat, being shot in the elbow area, with the bullet traversing up the forearm, discovering the bullet in the palm of his hand. For years he proudly wore that bullet on a chain.

After cessation of combat, he was relieved of active duty on 12 August 1946, and transferred to the USAR until 18 December 1946. A day later, on 19 December 1946, he became the State Surgeon, Maryland Army National Guard, eventually serving 27 years, eight months, 12 days of active service. His awards include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, and the Maryland Distinguished Service Cross, with promotion to Brigadier General (MD) on 30 September 1982.

His Maryland military service did not end as he then became the Surgeon for the Maryland State Guard from 1983 through 1988, the Maryland State Guard [now called the Maryland Defense Force.] Owing to his long and faithful service the Medical Clinic at Camp Fretterd Military Reservation was dedicated in his honor with several former adjutants general and Governor William Donald Schaefer, Governor of Maryland, attending.

After his distinguished active duty military career, Dr. Beacham completed his interrupted medical residency in 1948. He became the chief of the Tuberculosis department at Balti-

more City Hospitals in 1954. Later from 1973 to 1984 he was full-time Chief of the Chronic and Community medicine / Chronic Medicine and Geriatrics the Baltimore City Hospitals. [it later became The Bayview Medical Center, Johns Hopkins] where he was appointed an Assistant Professor at Johns Hopkins University and University of Maryland.

Dr. Beacham presided over the Maryland National Guard Military Historical Society from 1978 through 2003. He also was a member of the Maryland Military Monuments Commission and helped establish the World War II War Memorial which is on Ritchie Highway overlooking the Severn River and Annapolis as well as The Memorial Monument at the Fifth Regiment Armory, Baltimore. He was founder of the Edmund G Beacham Endowment lectureship at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical center.

An oil portrait of Dr. Beacham hangs in the Beacham Ambulatory Care Ctr., Johns Hopkins Geriatric Center. Honors have been bestowed upon him by dignitaries including Chief Justice Bell of the Court of Appeals, the highest court in Maryland. He authored several medical papers especially on Tuberculosis and Geriatrics. In addition, he was an all-around athlete and an expert in soccer in his younger years.

He passed away peacefully in his sleep on 27 August 2008, with his being buried at Garrison Forest Veterans Cemetery. He was survived by his wife, Carolyn, a daughter, Joyce C. Radatz, as well as son, Dr. Bruce Beacham and grandchildren. His wife, Carolyn, recently passed away on 8 June 2013 after a long illness.

I can truly say that he was perfect gentleman and mentor to all the young medical officers, as well as medical students and residents, teaching us medical skills as well as how to act professionally in the field of battle and how to be a proficient staff officer. He is truly missed by all who have served under him during his most auspicious career.



Brigadier General (MD) Edmund G. Beacham

The National Executive Director's Column: by PNC/NED John E. Wilcox, Jr.

With Spring now well underway and Summer's warm weather following closely, it's time to get out your shorts and swimwear and head for the beach. Unfortunately, it's been a lot of years since I donned any swimwear. However, I do still show my boney knees in my shorts from the time the temperature hits the low 70's until late in October or November.

In the last issue of the 29er (Spring 2013) I gave a pretty thorough description of my position as the National Executive Director. One of the major things that manages to consume a lot of my time is meetings. In my position, I feel that it is my responsibility to keep my finger on the pulse of the Association. In other words, know what's going on all the time. I make a special effort to do that. If I am asked to chair a particular committee, I attempt to select a team I feel is well versed on the topic we will be studying and capable of making sound workable decisions. Alternately, if I am serving as a member of a committee, I attempt to become knowledgeable of the issues and try to work with the Committee Chairman as best I can.

I think recruiting has always been a major issue of not only this Association, but probably every other organization. Most other Veterans Service Organizations (VSO) are suffering the same problems. Age of the older members, job responsibilities, family commitments and budgets of the younger members as well as other factors seem to make trying to maintain and add to the membership roster a continuing dilemma.

A couple of years ago, a committee was established to try and discover new and inventive ways to produce new members. While the major result of the committee was an old and tested method, it has seemed to prove its worth for us. A tri-fold brochure was created and printed that contained a capsulated history of the 29th, along with a list of the various posts of the Association and their locations. Another portion of the brochure is an application for membership to be completed and mailed with a check to our National Headquarters. We had made attempts to get these information sheets out to as many armories as possible as well as other meeting places where potential candidates might congregate. A new committee is now working on a better way of delivering these brochures through plastic containers that hold a large number, as well as a graphic sign that compliments these items and our Association. These again will be placed in locations we feel may give us the best results.

As I mentioned earlier, I spend a lot of time on the road and at meetings. Working with the National Commander, I visited Virginia Beach, VA late last year to inspect several different hotels

as potentials for our annual National Convention. A selection was made based upon our needed requirements and we are now finalizing all plans for that affair in October. Later on, PNC Richard Smith and I again visited Virginia Beach and the surrounding area to review the possibility of several different attractions we might schedule for our members during the convention period. This also has now been finalized and the results have been shown in the 29er.

Also this year, I joined our National Commander, and PNC Robert Moscati in a trip to Fort Belvoir to help support the reestablishment of the existing Post 84 located at that location.

PNC Moscati, National Senior Vice Commander John F. Kutcher and I visited again later on to take part in a recruiting effort. Both trips were successful and the post is now back up and running and becoming more healthy every day. I normally make several day trips to Baltimore each month to attend meetings or some other function. I also try to attend the change of command ceremony at various posts and have performed the task as Installing Officer in many cases. I have also visited several units when deploying or for homecomings. I recently represented the Association at the Ceremony to honor the 69th Anniversary of D-Day at the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, VA. on June 6th. This was an honor and a place to which I enjoy traveling whenever circumstances permit.

Before I close for this issue, I would like to introduce you to my family as I said I would last time. My loving wife and I celebrated 59 years of marriage on May 1st. I must admit that she has been very patient about sharing me with my job. Even though I have missed a number of family events and have been forced to reschedule many other family affairs, she continues to be very understanding and cooperative. Our marriage has brought to us, three (adult) children, 2 grandchildren and one lovely 1 1/2 year old great granddaughter. Our oldest son lives with his wife about 30 miles west of Frederick in Hagerstown, MD and our daughter lives only a short distance from our home in Frederick. The youngest son lives in Salisbury, MD. Our granddaughter lives in Frederick and our grandson lives in Okinawa, Japan. After spending 9 years in the US Marine Corps, of which 4 years was in Okinawa, he became engaged and finally married a young lady from that country. The two of them and our great granddaughter still reside in Okinawa.

Next issue I'll attempt to keep you up to date on some of the other things going on in the Association. Until then, remember to use your sunscreen.



Photo by William Mund

NED John Wilcox (left), accepting for the 29th Division Association, a flag that had flown in Kabul, Afghanistan, from Major Colin Noyes of the 29th Division HQ staff at Fort Belvoir on 29 March 2013.

Aggressive Patrolling

Post 72 member Joe Balkoski is now writing his fifth and final volume in the history of the 29th Infantry Division during World War II. What follows is Joe's Chapter Two from that book, entitled "They Who Have Borne the Battle: The 29th Infantry Division Victorious."

Joe's previous book (Volume IV in the series), "Our Tortured Souls: The 29th Infantry Division in the Rhineland," has just been published. It covers the period from November 16, 1944 to December 31, 1944, when the 29th participated in a major Ninth Army offensive to the Roer. If you wish to obtain a copy of "Our Tortured Souls" direct from Joe or provide comments, suggestions, or corrections for his newest effort, please contact him at 6509 Old Orchard Rd., Baltimore MD 21239, or 29division@gmail.com (e-mail) or 443-564-4279. Thanks, and... 29, Let's Go!

The incessant wind blustered across the Roer on those icy January nights, chilling to the bone those tiny handful of men guarding the front for their 13,000 comrades of the 29th Division. In truth, most of the time boredom and the cold were of more concern than the enemy, but still a 29er let his vigilance slip at his peril. The nights were usually dead quiet, but an inexplicable noise—possibly a Jerry slipping over the river, perhaps a rabbit disturbing a ration can draped on the wire, or maybe even a friendly patrol—could instigate momentary terror and a frantic effort to recall the daily password and countersign in case the generator of that noise had to be challenged. Generally there was no sign of the enemy except for an occasional brightly colored flare that lit up the sky on the far side of the Roer. On those rare nights with no cloud cover, the wondrous heavens gradually rematerialized as the flare faded, revealing such an array of sparkling stars that even a passionless soldier would wonder how it was that fate had brought him to this spot, so far from home, in the midst of the greatest cataclysm in world history. It had to end soon; when it did, without much more bloodshed, God willing, the soldier would surely find those same heavens far more wondrous—simply because he had survived those frosty nights on the Roer and all the dreadful nights thereafter.

Now and then the searchlights of XIX Corps's Battery A, 226th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Searchlight Battalion, each 60 inches in circumference and 800 million candlepower, lit up the heavens above the Roer with a luminosity equal to a dozen full moons. The 226th's personnel, ordinarily trained to track enemy aircraft at night, had recently become experts in the Allies' innovative "artificial moonlight" technique by bouncing their powerful beams off low-lying clouds. "Perhaps no single soldier impression of the division's campaign in Germany will be remembered more clearly than the strong, friendly searchlight beams which pierced the night sky throughout the long months on the river line," declared the 29th's 1948 official history.

The 29th Division might not be going anywhere soon, but Gerhardt had no intention of letting his opposite number on the far side of the Roer figure that out. The perplexed Germans would be kept on their toes, the general insisted, by a nonstop series of raids, patrols, whirlwind artillery barrages, and crafty deceptions. On January 5, Gerhardt concocted one of the most unusual schemes in 29th Division history, labeled "Operation Devil." Unlike the general's standard technique, which normally

called for the application of unmitigated violence, Operation Devil was based, at least at first, on an unprecedented display of passivity. A divisional action report noted that for more than twenty-four hours, from 7 AM on the fifth to 7:15 AM on the sixth, "No weapons were fired, radio silence was in effect, and vehicular movement was cut to a minimum."

If the Germans found their opponents' behavior unusual, as they surely would given the Americans' predilection for expending ammunition liberally, they would be in for a much greater shock at 7:15, when every weapon in the 29th Division, from rifles to 155-millimeter howitzers, opened up and maintained their fire steadily for fifteen minutes. Then, at 7:30, a smoke-generating outfit would lay a thick two-mile long smokescreen along the Roer, aiming to give the enemy the idea that the 29ers were about to mount a major attack.

If the idea was to gauge the Germans' response to a 29th Division offensive, Gerhardt must have been pleasantly surprised that their reaction amounted to—nothing. Obviously these were not the fanatical paratroopers who had made the 29ers' lives hell in Normandy and Brittany. Rather, they must be uninspired and overage *Volksgrenadier*, lacking the materiel and the will to resist. It wouldn't be long now...

In a post-war interview, however, *Generalleutnant* Dettling of the 363rd *Volksgrenadier* Division, the commander of German forces defending the Roer opposite the 29th, disagreed. "In view of the dispersal of enemy forces because of the Ardennes Offensive, we hardly needed to reckon with an attack at that time," he wrote. As soon as possible, however, Dettling needed to figure out precisely what he would do at the time in the not-too-distant future when he must indeed reckon with a real 29th Division attack. That would be the challenge of his life.

If there was ever a time in war for Gerhardt to adopt a *laissez-faire* stance against the quiescent Germans, some hopeful 29ers surmised, this was it. But the general's actions in the new year dispelled that fantasy long before it took root. Gerhardt was always an immovable advocate of "aggressive patrolling," even on a comparatively tranquil front, and he regularly extolled the significance of prisoner snatches, disruption of enemy routines, up-to-date intelligence of German defenses, and the overall sense that Dettling must never be allowed to forget that he was up against one of the most hard-hitting divisions in the U.S. Army. Indeed, if history would eventually categorize the 29th Division as

an elite outfit, as Gerhardt fervently hoped, its aggressiveness would be one of the reasons why; he once even went so far as to boast that had Hitler launched his December offensive across the Roer instead of in the Ardennes, "There would have been no surprise, as we maintained continual offensive patrols across the river." As always, however, 29th Division infantrymen ordered to fulfill the general's whims displayed little enthusiasm—it would have been far easier and less costly, they thought, to limit harassment of the Germans to artillery fire—but the U.S. Army was not a democracy, and orders were orders.

More than two months of Gerhardt's "aggressive patrols," carried out on a daily basis as frequently as three or four times per night, provided reluctant 29th Division infantrymen a chance to sharpen their soldierly skills, but even the veterans had to admit that the nocturnal setting was hair-raising. "While it is comparatively simple to sum up these patrol activities in a few sentences," a 29er remarked, "it would be a grave injustice to the men who crossed the icy river to prowl around in the dark on strange ground, not knowing when a trip wire or booby trap would explode or when dreaded mines might go off, bringing down a barrage of enemy fire. It would be a grave injustice indeed to say that this work was routine."

The 29th Division repertoire included two types of patrols: the simple "reconnaissance patrol," consisting only of a handful of men, including one officer whose job was to gain intelligence and nothing more; and the much more ambitious "combat patrol," which did not shy away from contact with the enemy and characteristically attempted to capture a German prisoner. Occasionally, Gerhardt would elevate a combat patrol into a full-fledged raid of up to company strength, with the object of temporarily seizing a piece of enemy-held real estate while inflicting as much carnage as possible, followed by prompt withdrawal to the American side of the Roer.

By far the most common of the 29th Division's winter patrols were of the reconnaissance variety. The point was not to fight; indeed, if gunfire erupted, the patrol leader invariably ordered his men to withdraw posthaste. Rather, the patrollers sought the kind of rock-solid intelligence that prisoner interrogations and air photos rarely provided: the depth and current of the Roer; the sites of enemy foxholes, machine gun nests, command posts, and minefields; the nature of the ground; the location of gaps—if any—through enemy wire. In addition, as a 175th report observed, "The information gathered served also to select targets for our supporting artillery, which was frequently called upon to fire on designated targets and areas."

Shortly after midnight on January 7, one typical patrol was carried out by three men from the 175th's Company B, 1st Lt. Carl Geer, Sgt. Floyd Gross, and Sgt. Philip LeClair, plus a fourth man from Company C, Pvt. Leonard Roseler. All four 29ers were hardened combat veterans: Roseler and Gross had landed on Omaha Beach on D+1, June 7; Geer had joined the regiment shortly after the fall of St. Lô and had gained two Purple Hearts since; LeClair had fought in every 29th Division campaign since the fall of Brest in September. The 29ers departed a forward command post at a German estate known as Linzenich Gut and stealthily crept toward the 175th's forwardmost outpost along the Roer. There, they picked up a four-man inflatable boat and

moved down to the riverbank, interrupted twice by German flares, causing them to assume prone positions hastily and remain immobile until the flares expired. Each flare triggered a delay of only a few minutes, but it seemed like hours.

Company G's 1st Lt. Joe Ewing, who occupied Linzenich Gut that night, observed, "A light snow had fallen, and the temperature was below freezing." He also noted that the patrol members wore their field jackets inside out, a common 29th Division practice since the jacket's outer shell reflected light. "We waded into the water, and Sgt. LeClair, Sgt. Gross, PFC Roseler, and I got in the boat," Geer wrote. "The river here was about fifty yards wide and five feet deep." That information alone was valuable, but it was not enough; Uncle Charlie certainly would expect more.

On the far side of the river Geer's men disembarked and tiptoed onward to see what additional information they could gather. Their wellbeing depended entirely, as *Baltimore Sun* reporter Holbrook Bradley noted, on "the element of surprise... The men in the group were cautioned again and again before they set out against talking or making any noise that might be picked up by enemy listening posts... This night patrol job is one of the most nerve-racking that any front-line troops must undertake. Usually it means creeping or crawling over muddy, rain-soaked, or snow-covered ground. Sometimes it means crossing waist-high or shoulder-high streams of icy water, often through an enemy field of fire."

The slightest sound could lead to disaster. "Then one of the men coughed," Geer recalled. "He covered his face as he began to cough, but it made some noise, and in the silence it seemed louder. We remained motionless for some time and heard noises in houses twenty-five yards ahead of us. It sounded like a door being opened... We worked over to our left and saw a light in another house." When the same 29er erupted in another fit of coughing, Geer wisely decided to go back, recross the Roer, and return to his command post. He carried out the withdrawal without further incident and, following hot coffee for all, made his report. A mission that had lasted for hours had to be summarized in just a few sentences, an entirely inadequate number to reflect the moments of agonizing strain the men had just endured. No one had gotten hurt, fortunately, and even though Geer had not learned much that Gerhardt did not already know, the general would gain at least some satisfaction from the knowledge that his men had plodded deep into enemy territory, right under the Germans' noses really, and had not been detected. Now that was the way the 29th Division should do things...

A January 13 recon patrol run by the 116th Infantry's Company F, led by 2nd Lt. William Arendt, learned the hard lesson that once the Germans detected a patrol, continuation of the mission made little sense. Arendt, who had suffered a serious wound to his right hand on September 5 at Brest, defined his mission as a "listening" and "capture-if-you-can" job. The patrol moved out silently on either side of a narrow lane leading down to the Roer near the village of Barmen. A few hundred yards shy of the riverbank, an abrupt pop—the unmistakable sound of a German flare—broke the silence, followed by a sharper pop as it ignited. The flare, descending back to earth with a distinctive hiss, had caught the 29ers in the open. "I held up both arms, our signal to freeze in place, crouched if we had time," Arendt remembered.

“Hopefully the Krauts would miss us—but they didn’t. Within seconds, in came the mortars... The flare’s light was dying, but it was too late now. After the first shells exploded, I hollered ‘Hit it!’ and I expect everyone dove for the [road-side] ditches—I know I did. I got up after the first few rounds had blasted the road and surrounding fields, knowing that we had to get out of that zone. I started running down the road toward the river, shouting ‘Let’s move it!’”

The men reassembled on the riverbank; the only casualty was Arendt himself, the victim of a knee wound. “My concern mainly involved the snow-dunking all of us took in the road ditches,” he noted. “It was terribly cold, and we were all at least partially wet... I figured we could take it only for another twenty to thirty minutes if we could stay reasonably quiet for that time.” They did; but when they set out for home, they were a cold and dispirited group of men. Declared Arendt: “Everybody just fell out when we reached the company area, eager to get something warm.” Uncle Charlie, if he learned of this patrol, would not be pleased. The next day, the 2nd Battalion surgeon, Capt. Jorge Hereter, evacuated Arendt as a “non-battle casualty”—Arendt noted, “If there ever was such a problem as combat fatigue, I had it in my last twenty-four hours with George Company.” Back at a rear-echelon hospital, alarmed doctors noted that his wounded right hand had failed to recover, and he was restricted to non-combat duty. Arendt never returned to the 29th Division.

The much more challenging mission known as a “combat patrol” was a type all 29th Division infantrymen dreaded because they knew the chance of violent contact with the enemy would be high. Indeed, a combat patrol’s standard objective—the capture of a German prisoner—virtually assured that fighting would erupt. Even worse, as the 115th Infantry’s official history asserted, “The men assigned to these combat [patrols] knew that the odds favored their engaging the Germans in hand-to-hand combat if they were to accomplish their mission.” That history further asserted that patrols typically were “instructed to remain on the east bank of the Roer until one [prisoner] had been taken or until the patrol engaged the enemy in a fire fight and was forced to withdraw.”

One of the 29th Division’s most successful combat patrols was carried out on the night of January 16 by twelve men from the 116th Infantry’s Company K, led by 2nd Lt. Arthur Dempsey. A 30-year-old New Yorker who had studied for a year at Columbia University, Dempsey had been in uniform for more than three years, but his only “combat” experience had occurred as an enlisted man in an anti-aircraft outfit that opened fire in defense of Los Angeles against a phantom Japanese air attack on the night of February 24, 1942. Eventually he gained a commission and on December 9, 1944, was assigned as a platoon leader in the 116th Infantry. Although his tenure in Company K up to that time had been short, Dempsey’s platoon members recognized him as a bona fide character due to his skill as a flute player and his practice of wearing a fur hat made from rabbit and fox pelts—a habit that promptly earned him the nickname “Daniel Boone.” He had previously carried out several patrols across the Roer, reportedly alone, and on the morning of his January 16 adventure, he had taken the back seat in a diminutive L-4 Cub observation plane to get an aerial view of the ground his men would soon traverse.

Dempsey and his eleven followers, clad in white camouflage suits to blend in with the snow, moved out at 9 PM and headed for a sharp bend in the Roer two-thirds of a mile east of Barmen. Another Company K platoon leader who had recently crossed that same ground, 1st Lt. Robert Easton, recalled in a letter to his wife, “Sometimes the blackness is so thick you can’t see more than three or four yards... Progress consists of a few steps, followed by long minutes of looking and listening, usually crouched, sometimes prone. A high degree of alertness is essential. The slightest sound carries long distances in the still, cold air. A careless footstep on ice-encrusted snow can sound like an explosion. A cough or sneeze can be disastrous. The hardest part is sorting out imaginary images of danger from real ones.”

On one of his earlier patrols, Dempsey had crossed that same bend in the river, using a huge tree that had toppled across the Roer as an ad hoc bridge. With a wide interval between men, moving as quietly as possible—Dempsey remarked a few steps on the ice sounded like “walking on crackers”—the 29ers tiptoed across the fallen tree into enemy territory, led by “Boone” Dempsey. Each man carried extra grenades, but neither the Thompson submachine guns hauled by some nor the M3 “grease gun” carried by Dempsey’s second-in-command, S/Sgt. Joseph Keating, were authorized weapons in a U.S. Army rifle platoon. As for Dempsey, he left behind the officers’ standard M1 carbine in favor of two .45 Colts: “I’m accustomed to pistols,” he said. “They don’t encumber me.”

Dempsey was unencumbered enough to lead his men through a gap in the German wire, followed by Keating, PFC Joe Rigdon, and the other eight patrol members. They turned north; a further advance of 200 yards brought into view what was described as something looking “like an Eskimo igloo,” with a sled and a hay bale lying nearby. It was an earthen German bunker, covered with snow and expertly camouflaged—but where were the Germans?

Dempsey learned within a few seconds that they were close. As he pondered his next move, two Germans came plodding down a narrow trail toward the bunker, obviously unaware that they were about to come face-to-face with the Americans. Would those two become Dempsey’s coveted prisoners? They would not...because as they neared the bunker, a GI inadvertently made a noise, divulging the patrol’s presence. “They went down on their bellies and started crawling away,” Dempsey reported. Another account noted, “Dempsey moved toward them, and they took off on the run.” The two Germans made a clean escape into the nearby woods, and even worse Dempsey realized that within a few minutes they would warn their comrades of the American incursion, and all hell would break loose.

Dempsey had to work fast. He had not yet inspected the enemy bunker, so there was still a chance the patrol could report something positive when it returned to American lines: some captured papers or maps, perhaps; maybe even trophies, such as a Luger or one of the enemy’s lethal MG42 machine guns. He warily approached the entrance; a report noted: “What he had thought to be a glimmer of light from some sort of reflector in the doorway turned out to be a five-inch square ventilation tube leading into an [earthen] hut. Looking into the tube, he saw a man’s head directly in front of the hole. He asked Sgt. Keating to come

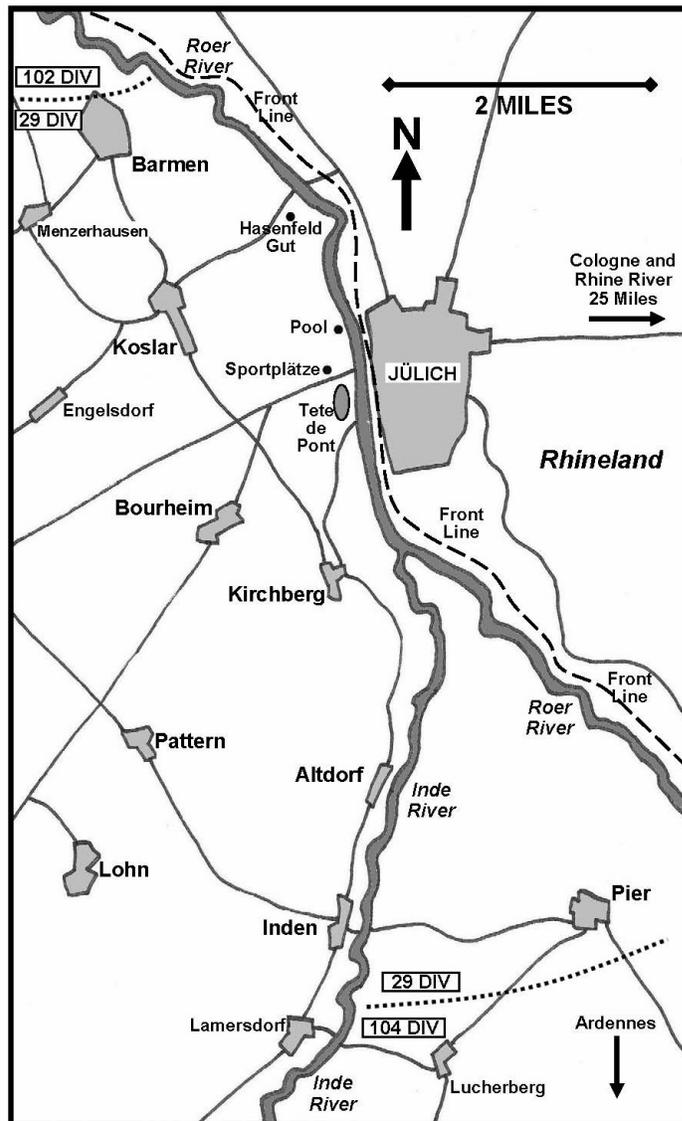
up and have a peak." Dempsey declared: "I had the impression I was looking through some kind of periscope to a faraway room... Sgt. Keating stepped up to the hole and said, 'Man, that's a Jerry!... Hell, he's right in front of you!'"

Here was the reason the 29ers had crossed the Roer. "Boone Dempsey pulled one of his .45s out and shoved it through the hole almost to arm's length," reported Lowenthal in a *29 Let's Go* article after interviewing Dempsey three days later. "Then he spoke into the opening, in German—*Kamerad!* The Kraut's head jerked toward the hole within six inches of the muzzle, and his hands went straight up to the ceiling as if they had been pulled up by strings. He came out dressed in an overcoat and cap and carrying biscuits in each hand. Keating and Boone Dempsey each had a go inside the hut—they tore down a field telephone and carried away some arms."

The captive was a Leipzig native named "Willie," described by another Company K member as "a rather pathetic-looking middle-aged member of Hitler's 'master race'...[who] declares himself only too glad to be done with war and to have a cup of hot coffee in a warm cellar." On their hasty return to American lines, Willie fell into the river while following his captors over the Roer log-bridge. "He was a sorry-looking sack when Boone Dempsey and his men led him into their CP," wrote Lowenthal. The patrol was back home by ten minutes after midnight on January 17, so the whole affair took only three hours. A hasty interrogation by the 3rd Battalion's intelligence officer revealed that Willie had been snatched from a Luftwaffe unit in October and attached to the *Fusilier* (Reconnaissance) Battalion of the 59th *Volks grenadier* Division. The interrogator concluded, "He was in the 'rest' bunker, forty meters behind the outpost line. Two men manned the outpost [with a machine gun and rifle], and one rested in the bunker... Up until three days ago, his battalion had been back about five kilometers digging trenches... His company has fifty to sixty men. Food is brought up around midnight to the platoon CP, which is at Broich. They have a cold breakfast and cold lunch—only one hot meal."

When Gerhardt heard the news, he phoned Gillem at XIII Corps headquarters and declared, "We caught one in [Lt. Col. Sidney] Bingham's outfit [116th Infantry] last night!" He also contacted Bingham and announced: "Nice going! And congratulate that fellow [Dempsey]!"

A less successful but much more violent combat patrol took place on January 29, carried out by members of the 115th Infantry's Company F. Led by 2nd Lt. William Salem, a neophyte who had joined the 29th Division less than three weeks in the past, the eight-man patrol was scheduled to move out from the company command post in the village of Schophoven at 1:30 AM with the goal of crossing the Roer and capturing one or more German prisoners. As the moon was nearly full and unusually bright due to a lack of cloud cover, Salem delayed departure, but at 3 AM, as the regimental history observed, "the visibility gave no signs of diminishing," so Salem's band moved out. They had planned to cross the river by means of a hefty tree limb that had fallen near the riverbank, but it turned out to be far too short to span the thirty-foot river. The night was so piercingly cold that when the 29ers reached the Roer, they saw it was frozen: would the ice support their weight? A volunteer, 21-year-old T/Sgt.



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Robert Aubin, would find out. Aubin, a veteran platoon sergeant from Rhode Island, had the job of covering the patrol's crossing with a BAR, but he simply got up and walked upright across the river. It worked; the rest of the patrol followed and made it to the far side without getting wet.

The patrol divided into two groups and stealthily advanced according to the age-old leapfrog method. At one point a 29er spotted a low tripwire to his front; whether it was set to detonate a mine if triggered or simply warn the Germans of their opponents' approach, no one knew since the vigilant soldier promptly snipped it. In the bright moonlight the GIs perceived a high embankment 250 yards ahead, which Salem knew from his 1:25,000 map marked the course of a canal, probably an old millrace carrying the Roer's waters to a nearby paper mill. Could this be the spot where the 29ers could snatch an unwary German soldier on outpost duty?

"As one of the men covered him, Lt. Salem began crawling forward to investigate the canal," observed a 115th Infantry account. "He inched his way up to within a few feet of the protecting embankment when a German sentry suddenly popped his head over the embrasure. Sighting the white-clad lieutenant, the sentry

began to scream wildly in alarm and fright and began running down the bank of the canal. He was felled by a bullet from Salem's carbine. Another sentry nearby also jumped up and began running off. He was shot in the back as he ran." But a captive was of no value if dead: "Salem ran up to [the first German], hoping that he might take him prisoner and get back at once. Hasty examination revealed that the man had been shot through the head and was close to death. The lieutenant had scarcely made this discovery when a grenade was thrown into the canal, and the Germans began opening up with their automatic weapons." The ensuing cacophony could be heard on the American side of the Roer, and a concerned 115th Infantry clerk promptly made a 3:30 AM entry in the 2nd Battalion journal: "Believe Company F patrol across river involved in a fire fight."

Proper patrol principles indicated that the 29ers should immediately withdraw, and this they did in haste, despite "a great deal of small arms fire whizzing around them." American mortars and artillery opened up to prevent the Germans from pursuing, and within just a few minutes Salem's men, all uninjured, had returned to the Roer's west bank—without a prisoner. "When questioned later as to why he hadn't stopped to search the wounded man for identification papers," the report noted, "Lt. Salem replied, 'Hell, when they start throwing grenades at you and firing burp guns, you don't stop to think of things like that!'"

The journal looked on the bright side by noting that the patrol had "killed two enemy" and "located an eight-man Jerry strong-point." How Gerhardt would react to that news would depend on his mood. Happily for Salem, that mood was good: at 7:42 AM, the general phoned Lt. Col. William Blandford, the 115th's commander, and declared: "Got the report on your patrol, and evidently it inflicted some casualties on the enemy." A nervous Blandford rejoined, "We didn't get any prisoners," a response that caused Gerhardt to offer a reassuring "You did all right."

The Germans, too, dispatched small patrols across the Roer, but they undertook them much less frequently than the 29th Division and never dared to attempt anything as audacious as the company-size raid that Colonel William Purnell, the 175th's commander, planned for the early hours of January 14. Purnell intended to test the enemy's resolve by sending half of his Company B, amounting to 84 men, across the Roer straight into the linchpin of the Germans' Roer defenses, the city of Jülich. "The plan of the raid," as an action report later noted, "called for the company to cross the Roer at a point just south of the Aldenhoven-Jülich bridge [now destroyed], destroy two fortified houses on the eastern side of the river, and bring back prisoners." As of that date, it was the 29th's boldest incursion into enemy territory, and all participants, from Company B's commander, Capt. Charles Morris, down to his rawest private, suspected the Germans would be no pushovers. Jülich had been the 29th Division's prized objective for over two months, and by now the enemy's retention of its ancient and hallowed city had taken on a symbolic meaning far outweighing its military importance.

For days, Morris studied maps and air photos, consulted with members of supporting artillery, chemical mortar, machine gun, and searchlight outfits, and went over the plan again and again in meetings and rehearsals with his platoon leaders and senior NCOs. At the appointed hour, 2 AM on the fourteenth, Morris's

men would quietly move forward to the riverbank, board fourteen inflatable rubber boats—six men per boat—and paddle to the opposite shore, a task that under perfect conditions would take a minute or two as the Roer's width at that point was only about thirty yards. Each man knew by heart the location of the two riverside buildings in Jülich and his role in their destruction. As in all 29th Division raids, the men understood that they must move fast, do their dirty work efficiently, and get out as quickly as possible before the enemy's inevitable reaction.

Those who knew Bill Purnell understood that he was not a dugout-bound colonel, and they were hardly surprised when the 175th's commander announced to Gerhardt the night before the raid, "I'm going down to the river" so he could observe the raid first-hand. When the general cautioned him, "You watch yourself now," Purnell replied: "Yes, sir. Everything has been gone over in the most elaborate detail, and I think it should be a success." That same night, Gerhardt did something highly unusual when he directly phoned a company commander, Captain Morris, and said, "I just want to wish you luck. It looks like everything ought to go all right."

Despite Morris's meticulous preparations, things did not go all right. Two elements of the godforsaken Rhineland weather threw his plans into disarray, one of which ultimately worked to the Americans' advantage; the other most assuredly did not. "About midnight," the 175th's report of the raid noted, "a fog began to set in, and by 0200 hours the entire area was covered [and] visibility was limited to about fifty yards. Otherwise the night was quite light [this must have been due to artificial light provided by American searchlights, as January 14, 1945, marked the first day of a new moon] and had been clear until midnight."

Furthermore, after a short thaw, the temperature on January 13 had dropped precipitously, so much so that a nearby Allied outfit reported that "roads and paths are in a very icy condition." When Morris's men reached the river a little after 2 AM, "the principal obstacle to the success of the raid and which had been unforeseen was encountered. Ice extending from the shore for about eight to ten yards into the river was thick enough to support the weight of a man for part of the distance, but broke through further out. This condition effectively prevented getting the boats launched and resulted in considerable noise."

Noise was the only signal the alert enemy needed to respond. They immediately popped some flares, which did little good on such a foggy night, and started firing every weapon at their disposal—rifles, machine pistols, machine guns, mortars, artillery—at the general area from where the noise emanated. Morris promptly used his radio to call for his own supporting mortar and artillery fire—some of which used the new POZIT shells—and for a short time the continuous whistle of incoming and outgoing ordnance, mixed with the thunderous reverberation of their explosions, made it almost impossible for a man to think. Although the enemy fired its fusillade blindly, in just a few minutes it inflicted five Company B casualties, two of whom were officers: 1st Lt. Erwin Prasse and 2nd Lt. Richard Swain. A Chicago native, Prasse had been an All-American end on the 1939 University of Iowa football team, nicknamed the "Ironmen" because many of its players, Prasse included, were on the field the entire game—for offense as well as defense. Swain had joined Company B as

a platoon leader just two weeks after D-Day and had suffered a severe wound at Vire in August. He had only just returned to the company following his recovery when he was hit again during the January 14 raid.

Surely the surprise element was lost, and not one of Morris's men had set foot on the enemy side of the river. At 3:35 AM, however, Gerhardt's war room received a radio message from Maj. Henry Reed, the 175th's operations officer, that Company B was "reorganizing and preparing to go again." But then something inexplicable happened. "Three whistle blasts were blown, three times in succession, on the enemy side of the river," the action report noted. "This was the [American] signal planned for withdrawal of the company from the objective at the conclusion of the raid, and when it was heard, the men, in good faith, returned to their original assembly area in good order." Not everyone agreed with that assessment: a liaison officer on the scene reported to the war room at 3:37 AM "that things were getting out of control." Had the Germans, by remarkable coincidence, also been using a whistle to signal their troops? Or had they somehow figured out the Americans' withdrawal signal and hoodwinked them? Possibly, too, the oppressive fog and numbing battle noise had played tricks on one or more 29ers' ears, triggering a false rumor that the withdrawal order had been issued.

No one ever figured it out. Purnell, a direct witness to the confusion that had ensued when his men reputedly heard the whistle, wisely cancelled the raid. More casualties would certainly occur for no useful purpose if Morris's men pressed ahead over the river. Purnell returned to his command post, and at 7:24 that morning Gerhardt phoned to inquire how such a carefully planned raid had gone awry. An astonished Purnell must have thought Gerhardt had turned a new leaf, for the general had no reaction whatsoever to Purnell's four-sentence raid summary, which included the lament, "We thought we had covered every possibility." Perhaps Purnell helped pacify the general when he concluded that the withdrawal, despite the rumors Gerhardt may have heard, "wasn't particularly disorganized."

If the general measured a raid's success not by its prisoner count or haul of fresh intelligence, but by the hurt inflicted upon the enemy, the 54-man mission carried out shortly after midnight on January 22 by the 116th Infantry's Company C must have been viewed enthusiastically by Gerhardt. The raid's target was a large edifice just 150 yards deep in enemy territory labeled Broicherhaus on U.S. Army maps. Described as "a large mansion" and "the lone white house," and already the victim of a two-month deluge of American shells and bombs, the battered and highly conspicuous Broicherhaus sat halfway between Jülich and Broich, and was rumored to be the site of an enemy observation post. Wreaking further damage on the structure would obviously do no further good, but snatching or killing any German occupants would in the future discourage the enemy from using that building and surely boost Gerhardt's spirits.

An earlier mission against Broicherhaus had to be cancelled when the raiders made too much noise launching their rubber boats on the ice-encrusted Roer. But the 29ers, led by their company commander, Capt. Robert Bedell, did not repeat that mistake when they moved out from their forward positions at Hasenfeld *Gut* at 2:03 AM on January 22 and reached the Roer a

few minutes later. Launching their inflatables into the frigid water, the raiders traversed the river in less than a minute, disembarked, and moved as silently as possible across the river flats through fresh snow several inches deep. Not many 29th Division soldiers had more combat experience than Bedell, a bona fide D-Day hero who led one of the first American penetrations through the German defenses by climbing the Omaha Beach bluffs alongside the legendary "Dutch" Cota. Wounded twice in Normandy, first on June 17 and again on August 5, he had only recently returned to Company C as its leader after serving a spell as a 1st Battalion staff officer. For the raid, Bedell later reported that "75 percent of the patrol was armed with automatic weapons [Thompson submachine guns, "grease guns," and BARs]. This fact gave the men a lot of confidence."

Several rehearsals and even flyovers in observation aircraft had demonstrated to the raiders that the 150-yard procession from the river to Broicherhaus would be significantly slowed by German barbed wire, mines, and above all by the need for stealth. Those lessons proved valid when the raid's point man, 22-year-old Sgt. Roy Nichols, a D-Day veteran and former Arkansas farmhand, stumbled on a wire. "Nothing happened," an account noted. "No mine and no flare. Sergeant Nichols got down and examined it closely and cautiously, and on finding it looked like a telephone wire, he cut it."

Bedell's plan called for the raiders to surround the house, set up BAR teams to provide covering fire, and send forward a dozen men to seize the house. Overcast obscured the meager first-quarter moonlight, but still the 29ers had no trouble perceiving the looming house through the gloom as they plodded eastward from the river. The GIs were within a stone's throw of the house... Still no Germans; no flares; no wire; no mines; not even footprints in the snow. Were any Germans present?

They were. A 25-year-old Indian from Nevada, Pvt. Carl Dick, noted: "I had wire cutters and had gone around the south side of the house to prepare a place for a BAR team. I heard a noise behind the house and dropped on my stomach. My snow suit blended in with the snow. A German soldier, wearing a wool cap and white poncho and holding a machine pistol walked around the southeast corner of the house. He came within ten feet of where I was lying, saw some of our men west of the house, turned his head, and called in a low voice. Four Germans similarly dressed and armed came around the house. One of them saw me and yelled. I had my M3 submachine ["grease"] gun in front of my shoulder, and I started firing. All of them fell to the ground. Sergeant Nichols ran up. The Germans were thrashing around in the snow, so we threw grenades at them."

A report for Gerhardt written that same night by Maj. Asbury Jackson, the 116th's intelligence officer, observed, "It is [the raiders'] opinion that only five of the enemy were present, and all of them were killed." But the short firefight had already drawn an enemy response in the form of scattered machine gun and mortar fire, so Bedell promptly signaled for his men to withdraw. Just to make sure no Germans lingered in Broicherhaus, the 29ers blasted the already wrecked building with three *Panzerfäusten*, captured German rocket launchers. When Bedell had nearly reached the river, he realized that the group was missing a three-man BAR team that apparently had not received the withdrawal

order on the far side of the house, so he dispatched a man to fetch them and lead them back. Later, Bedell would note regretfully, "The withdrawal should have been started on a [flare] signal instead of on [voice] command."

This would have been an opportune moment for American mortars and howitzers on the opposite bank of the Roer to open fire and suppress the enemy's increasingly violent reaction, but according to Bedell's plan the Americans would not initiate that supporting fire until they perceived the launch of a flare of a prearranged color. But the only man among the raiders carrying that flare, Bronx native PFC Arthur Valdevento, met a tragic end on the retreat to the river when he stepped on a mine and was killed instantly. Valdevento, who had joined Company C at St. Lô and suffered a severe wound at Brest, had celebrated his twentieth birthday just four days before his death.

The mine blast also wounded 30-year-old Sgt. John Sirmeyer of Michigan, who was standing a few yards away from Valdevento.

Minus Valdevento, Bedell's men recrossed the Roer at 4:45 AM. By the standards of the pitiless methods by which generals measured success in war, Bedell had succeeded: his men had killed five Germans; the 29ers had lost only Valdevento, plus two men wounded. The benefits to Jackson's intelligence staff, however, were meager. In fact, the only conclusion reached by Jackson's report stated "that the [German] group at the house consisted of part of the outpost line, or was a resting place for men of the outpost line." Whether that information was worth Valdevento's life, or for that matter whether one American life was worth the lives of five Germans, would surely stir passionate debate among the 29ers.

Little more than two weeks later, in that same sector, mines yet again wreaked havoc on a 29th Division patrol. Whether those mines were German or American, no one knew—but by the time they had done their dirty work, it was too late to ask. The 115th Infantry's Company K ran that five-man recon patrol early on February 8 with the usual object of learning what the enemy was up to on the far side of the Roer. Second Lieutenant Jack Kussman, who had only recently returned to the division following an August wound suffered in Normandy, was selected by Capt. Robert Armstrong to lead the patrol, but just as Kussman was preparing to depart the front to report back to the company command post in Koslar for a briefing, Armstrong called back

and told Kussman to stay put; 1st Lt. Jackson Webb would lead the patrol instead.

Webb and his four men, S/Sgt. Warren Owenby—a D-Day veteran who had been seriously wounded in Normandy—and PFCs Clarence Ruth, Robert Kribs, and Willie Edens, set out from Hasenfeld Gut to the Roer at 3 AM on the eighth. "We got to the riverbank OK, and there we left Edens to cover us with his



175th Infantry review in Aldenhoven.

BAR," reported Ruth, a 20-year-old Normandy veteran from Louisville. "The other four of us got into boats and started to paddle across. About halfway across, the current got so swift that we had to return... Then [we] started back toward the bunker which we were using as the 2nd Platoon CP. Halfway back, Owenby stumbled on a mine, and before I knew it, Webb hit one too. The other three of us managed to get them back to safety without a shot being fired. The lieutenant lost his left foot and Owenby his right. Kribs

was hit by some small fragments of the mine, and Edens received a concussion. I was the only one who didn't go to the hospital."

Kussman recalled that "Webb and the sergeant stayed in my CP until stretcher bearers came down from Koslar to get them. I remember telling Webb that I was sorry he got hurt on a mission to which I was originally assigned, and he told me that he was the lucky one since he was getting out, and that I had to stay and take my chances. At the time I think I agreed with him."

Individually, the 29th Division's missions across the Roer had not yielded much beneficial intelligence on the Germans and their defenses; collectively, however, the hundreds of cross-river patrols and raids conducted from New Year's Day through mid-February 1945 had painted a picture of the enemy that cheered Gerhardt mightily. The Roer, even following heavy rains and snow melt offs, was not much of an obstacle; even better, German defenses on the river's east bank—barbed wire, minefields, trenches, pillboxes—were surprisingly feeble and could be penetrated by just a handful of men. Had those defenses been more formidable, the 29th's Division's January casualty count of ninety-seven would have been much higher. Finally, the number of German troops guarding the Roer line seemed astonishingly low; the defenders' skill and morale were evidently even lower. Once the 29th Division unleashed its full power, backed by the might of the Ninth Army and Ninth Air Force, Gerhardt surmised that the job ahead should not be too difficult.

Few details of Army life struck combat soldiers as more absurd than close-order drill in a war zone; when that endeavor was elevated one step into a full-fledged formal parade, it was still more ludicrous. On the other hand, one had to admit that participation in a military review was a lot more enjoyable and safe than sitting in a front-line foxhole in the depths of a freezing Rhineland winter.

One morning, comfortably situated in Aldenhoven for several days in that glorious status known as "division reserve," the men of Lt. Col. Claude Melancon's 2nd Battalion, 175th Infantry, were astonished by their growling non-coms' inflexible orders to fall in full kit—including their GI overcoats—with as much soldierly bearing as they could muster. That day, Sunday, February 4, 1945—exactly four years plus one day after President Roosevelt had called the 29th Division into active service for a period that supposedly would not exceed one year—the 2nd Battalion would participate in that venerable Army ritual known as a pass in review. Hardly any of the veterans of the 1941 call-up remained, but the hundreds of draftees who had arrived since would make up for the lost men.

Melancon, a Louisiana Cajun, was not used to such frigid weather. Assembled in the gateway of a drab Aldenhoven train depot, he and his executive, plus the S-1, S-2, S-3, and S-4, huddled together to break the icy wind, collars turned up for warmth, stamping their feet to preserve circulation, some even with their hands in their pockets—an action that was strictly taboo within the 29th Division. When the 29th Division's expert band broke into a rousing march, the six officers snapped to attention, Melancon in front, ready to receive his beloved battalion. One could hardly believe that such an activity was in progress within easy range of German artillery—someone claimed it was "the first parade of any U.S. Army unit within the German border during the war"—but the sight of hundreds of fighting men, about to bestow and receive age-old military honors between soldiers and their

leaders, could not fail to move even a hardened warfighter.

Presently each of the battalion's five companies came swinging up the street, the band's first-class music contributing immeasurably to the 29ers' perfect cadence. The 175th even had its own regimental march, *The Dandy Fifth of Maryland*; by now hardly a man knew the jingoistic words: "Brooklyn Heights we stormed for Washington, Monmouth too our valiant efforts won..." A color party with the national and regimental colors led the column, the color-bearers clutching their staffs with all their strength to control the flags in the incessant wind. To those colors and each of the follow-on company guidons lowered in salute, Melancon and his staff returned snappy hand salutes, offered in response to each company's "eyes right."

One of the many distinctive features of the 175th Infantry, known as the 5th Maryland only four years in the past, was its unique regimental flag, adopted in 1889 and in continuous use since. So popular was the regimental color that in 1904 the design was adopted by Maryland as its state flag. Unlike the standard dark blue flag emblazoned with an eagle in use with most U.S. Army regiments, the 175th's color was a curious blend of four quadrants of equal size: two identical quadrants in upper and lower corners displayed the black-and-gold coat of arms of the Calvert family, the 1634 founders of Maryland; the other two quadrants, also identical and in opposite corners, displayed red and white bottony crosses, the symbol of a Calvert ancestral line. It was an extraordinarily colorful ensign that contrasted sharply with this dreary, decrepit German village.

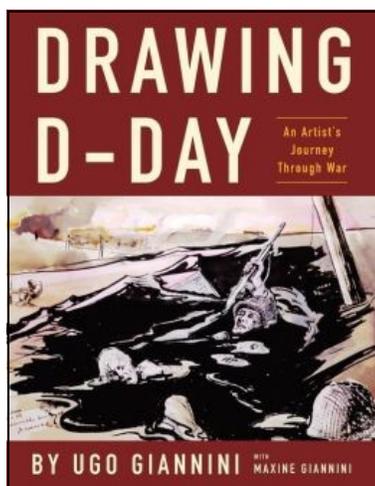
Just one thing went wrong: the regimental color was attached to its staff upside down. No one, not even Melancon, noticed. The regimental history blamed it on "replacement personnel" who were "unfamiliar with regimental customs."

Next time, Joe will discuss the plans and preparations for "Operation Grenade," one of the 29th Division's most successful offensives of World War II. Stay tuned!

Book Review

Drawing D - Day: An Artist's Journey Through War

By Ugo Giannini & Maxine Giannini



On June 6, 1944, Ugo Giannini landed on Omaha Beach at H+70 minutes as one of a platoon of military police assigned to the 29th Division. Ugo's team was to control the incoming traffic. There were thirty-seven men in his platoon; they were decimated in the first ten minutes. Six men got to the beach. Someone told Ugo that he was needed on the bluff above. He climbed the Vierville Draw, jumped into a crater made by naval bombardment, and spent that day and part of the next day as an eyewitness to the greatest invasion ever conceived by the military. Remarkably, he began to draw. These are the only drawings made that historic day, as well as the next. This book is the story of one man, in the context of World War II; a man who was a poet, an artist, and had the strength of a boxer. A civilian used to the comforts and hysteria of an immigrant Italian family, in love with his childhood sweetheart, plunged into the hell of war. Presented here are the sketches from that historic day and the days that immediately followed.

For more information on how to obtain this book, please contact: Maxine Giannini at 521 Hillside Terrace, West Orange, NJ 07052 or missig29@aol.com / 973-669-3863.

Army draft got Lewistown man off the farm, into battle

The Army took Orville Smith away from the farm and, in the process, unwittingly made him part of one of history's most notable battles.

As a young man, Smith was plucked from his farm between Woodsboro and Walkersville, MD when he was drafted in 1941. He was a medic and a member of the 29th Division on June 6, 1944 — a date better known as D-Day — when he landed on Omaha Beach as part of the Normandy invasion. The bodies were already piling up. The water was red with blood.

"I got myself out on the beach, pulled guys out of the water to keep them from drowning," Smith said.

After five hours, Smith, who served in the Army for four years, was able to make it over the hill at the beach and move on.

Smith maintains a wry sense of humor, though four or five months ago he was diagnosed with bone cancer. He's in treatment and feeling well, he said.

At 95, he'll tell you he's 59, he joked. Smith told his story as he sat in the living room of a Lewistown home he shares with his 19-year-old great-granddaughter, April.

A framed print of the invasion hung on the wall behind him. Across from him sat his friend Kirby Lee Maybush, a captain with the Frederick County Sheriff's Office. The two became friends after Maybush learned he was a veteran and sought him out. Both served in the 29th Infantry Division.

Smith wasn't scared that day on the beach, and he does not remember if he was shot at.

"We had a job to do, and that's what you were there to do," Smith said.

To this day, Smith doesn't know why he was chosen to work as a medic. It was a role picked for him by the Army, he said, and perhaps a greater power. He said later he met the grandchildren of some of the men whose lives he saved.

"I guess God wanted me to be a medic," Smith said.

Smith, who spent a year and a half in England before D-Day, spent time in Germany, too. In Germany, he wound up sharing a

foxhole with Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower. The Germans had started shelling, and Smith jumped in, seeking cover.

Eisenhower, who had been visiting, followed him in, landing on top of him, Smith said.

The two men had met before in England and would run in to each other again, this time near a stream in Thurmont close to Camp David. Smith was on his way to fish with his son as Eisenhower emerged from the woods, Smith said. Not only did the president remember Smith's name and rank, he told him he could take all the fish he wanted. Smith took double the allowance that day, he said.

"He wasn't like a stiff-necked general," Smith said. "He'd talk to anybody."

Smith was discharged in June 1945 and received several medals, including two Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart. He returned to his wife, Daisy, whom he married on a Sunday at 3 p.m., two hours before leaving to report for service. Daisy died in 2010.

Maybush now hangs Smith's Purple Heart in his office. He calls Smith's service fascinating.

"I'm just in awe. A-W-E," Maybush said, spelling out the word, "about what he told me about the beach."

Smith credits the Army with changing his life, taking him away from farming, which he didn't like — and giving him skills. When he returned, he got a job with Potomac Edison.

"I was fixing automobiles instead of fixing people," Smith said.

Smith retired after 35 years and ran a small business behind his home repairing lawn mowers, Smitty's Lawnmower Shop. It's something he still enjoys, along with dining at restaurants.

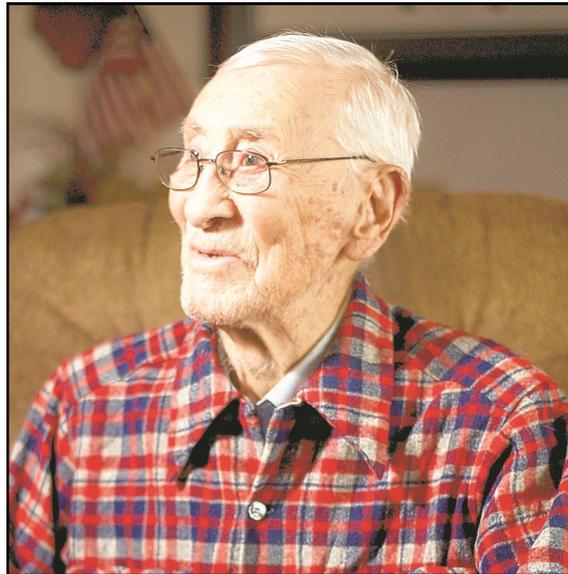
Smith said he sometimes thinks about his time in the war. He's "not proud, just happy" he said, because pride "makes you puffed up. I figure I did a good job. I saved an awful lot of lives."

By Courtney Mabeus

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Photo courtesy of the Frederick News-Post

Photo by Adam Fried



Thank you for your donations to the Twenty-Niner Sustaining Fund. They are greatly appreciated and help keep the magazine coming. Please continue to support our upcoming issues.

Donations can be sent to:

PNC NED John E. Wilcox, Jr., P.O. Box 1546, Frederick, MD 21702-0546

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

These Honored Dead

We remember these words from President Lincoln. Likewise, our preamble calls us to remember our “honored dead”. We cannot imagine the horrors of D-Day, the thunder of the naval guns, the German 88’s, the rattle of small arms fire, the screams of the wounded and dying, and the blood splattered sands of Omaha Beach.

Ernie Pyle wrote that the dead littered the beach. Cigarettes, writing paper, all kinds of personal items were lying on the beach or floating in the water. The losses were heavy. The stench of

As time passed, and heavy fighting occurred in the hedgerows, more young Americans were killed in action. Additional space was needed. Thus, a larger cemetery was created at La Cambe. We turn now to the dedication of that cemetery.

From the standpoint of the 29th Division, the infantry regiments, field artillery units and other detachments, filed into place, “Old Glory” fluttered from the pole in the center of the cemetery. The guidons of all the units presented a picturesque military scene. A plaque was placed reading:

June 1944, by the 29th Infantry Division, United States Army, as a final resting place for officers and men of the division who made the supreme sacrifice on the battlefield of Normandy. We, who carry on the fight salute these comrades, and honored dead of the division. In command of this valiant legion of the Blue and Gray is LTC William T. Terry, who was killed in action on 17 June 1944.

General Charles H. Gerhardt spoke briefly saying that many of those killed in action were his personal friends, and regardless of their faith, they were now “in the hands of a supreme being.”

Then came a very moving and unforgettable experience. There was a roll call of those killed in action. As each name was called, a comrade in the ranks answered, and the guidon was lowered. Then came the command “present arms”, and the sounds of “taps” echoed across the bivouac of the dead. Father Donovan,



death filled the air. General Gerhardt knew that something had to be done. The sight of dead men lying all over the place was demoralizing. The men who “gave their last full measure of devotion,” should have a decent burial. Apparently, it was General Gerhardt who selected a site near the beach for their interment. Later, the bodies were moved to La Cambe, and still later to Colleville Sur-Mer.

For a time, a monument marked the spot of the first burials of the 29ers and others in Normandy. Over the years the monument crumbled and needed repairs.

Thus, on 7 June, 2013, sixty-nine years to the day of the original burials, ceremonies were held by “Deep Respect”, a French organization. This organization is dedicated to the remembrance of Normandy veterans, and the care of monuments and graves, such as the placing of flowers etc. and assisting American visitors on their return to the scene of that epic day in June 1944. Made-moiselle Carole Duval, who attended our 2011 Reunion, is at the helm of this fine organization.

At the 2011 Reunion in Martinsburg, I mentioned to Carole the fact that Pete Gettridge of B Company, 115th Infantry was buried at Colleville. Upon her return home, I received a photograph from Carole. She had lovingly placed flowers on Pete’s grave. These photographs were shared with Pete’s family in Boonsboro, MD. This is a fine “boots on the ground” organization interested in remembering our comrades who sleep far from home under the skies of France. For more information check www.deeprespect.org.



acting for all the Chaplains of the 29th gave the benediction. “For our comrades who have fallen, may the blessing of Almighty God descend upon this spot and remain forever.” The 29th Division Band played the National Anthem. General Gerhardt stepped forward and said, “Now let our fallen comrades hear our battle cry.” Then the men, survivors of the beach and hedgerows, lifted their voices in a thunderous roar, “29 Let’s Go.”

As we honor all veterans, let us remember our “Honored Dead”, across the sea in Normandy.

Submitted by National Chaplain Reverend John Schildt

IMPORTANT NOTICE

We, Editor Don McKee, and Assistant Editor William Mund have enjoyed our many, many years of service to the association and its members. It is not an easy job but we do treasure our brief respites between issues. As age takes its toll, we hope to continue in our quest to put out a quality piece.

One of the items that we have chosen to highlight are the wartime stories of our WWII veterans and now, similar accounts of those 29ers who have served overseas since then. These, we feel make our 29er recognized as one of the best of all military magazines. However, we must stress again that when you send these in, we are not able to handle multiple pages of typed text. Even though the industry likes to play up their computer scanning abilities, they really are not effective in going from typed versions to the format we need for our page composition and printing. We have had to resort to retyping it in WORD for the shorter pieces. We no longer have this inclination.

So, we ask that in your submission of veteran's stories that you need to find someone who can type it in WORD, or it cannot be used. Once it's in WORD it can be sent to us via the internet and our processing can go forward with dispatch.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. For now, computer users, this means finding a family member or a friend to assist. We need your stories. Let's hope that we can move forward in the continuation of our 25 year old publication record.

Also, current copyright laws prevent the Editorial Staff of the *Twenty-Niner* from reprinting any article and/or photograph that has already appeared in other publications such as newspapers or magazines. Please do not submit these articles or photos for publication in the *Twenty-Niner*.

29th Division Association Supplies Available

ITEM	COST	POSTAGE & HANDLING	MAILED
Book—Ever Forward 116th Inf. History (soft cover)	\$17.90	\$5.60	\$23.50
Book—Ever Forward 116th Inf. History (hard cover)	\$25.00	\$5.60	\$30.60
Book—29th, Let's Go—29th Division History	\$29.00	\$5.60	\$34.60
Book—Beyond the Beachhead	\$19.90	\$5.60	\$25.50
Book—115th Infantry in WWII	\$25.00	\$5.60	\$30.60
Book—Omaha Beach and Beyond (The Long March of Sgt. Slaughter)	\$25.00	\$5.60	\$30.60
Book—From Beachhead to Brittany (Joseph Balkoski)	\$28.00	\$5.60	\$33.60
Book—From Brittany to the Reich (Joseph Balkoski)	\$27.00	\$5.60	\$32.60
Book—Our Tortured Souls (Joseph Balkoski)	\$27.00	\$5.60	\$32.60
Book—Frederick in the Civil War (John W. Schildt)	\$17.50	\$2.25	\$19.75
29th Div. Assn. Note Pads (5 1/2 x 8 1/2)	\$1.75	\$1.25	\$3.00
29th Div. Assn. Note Pads (4 1/4 x 5 1/2)	\$1.35	\$0.65	\$2.00
Crest—115th Infantry Regiment	\$5.50	\$1.05	\$6.55
Crest—116th Infantry Regiment	\$5.50	\$1.05	\$6.55
Crest—175th Infantry Regiment	\$5.50	\$1.05	\$6.55
Decal (specify inside or outside)	\$0.50	\$0.50	\$1.00
Labels, gummed w/29th logo (sheet of 50)	\$1.00	\$0.50	\$1.50
Golf balls w/29th logo (sleeve of three)	\$5.00	\$2.50	\$7.50
Key chain w/29th logo	\$1.00	\$1.50	\$2.50
Lapel pin	\$3.95	\$1.05	\$5.00
Lapel pin, past post commander	\$5.00	\$1.05	\$6.05
Ladies pendant	\$6.00	\$1.05	\$7.05
Medallion (for plaques)	\$6.00	\$1.05	\$7.05
Plaque, wood 29th Div. Ass. Logo	\$10.00	\$1.75	\$11.75
Pocket purse—squeeze	\$2.00	\$0.75	\$2.75
29th Div. Assn. pocket patch	\$6.00	\$1.05	\$7.05
Pocket patch holder	\$3.00	\$1.05	\$4.05
Shoulder patch, 29th ID	\$3.50	\$0.50	\$4.00
Jacket, coach, navy with logo in S, M, L, XL, 2XL	\$27.00	\$5.60	\$32.60
Golf Shirt, embroidered 100% cotton pullover (royal blue, white, gray in L, XL, 2XL)	\$23.00	\$5.60	\$28.60
29th Div. Official Assn. Necktie	\$20.00	\$1.95	\$21.95
29th Div. Assn. Bolo Tie	\$6.00	\$1.25	\$7.25
29th Assn. Dress Hat (state size)	\$31.00	\$5.60	\$36.60
Hat, Baseball w/29th logo (embroidered)	\$15.00	\$2.50	\$17.50
Hat, Baseball w/29th logo (embroidered/ Summer mesh)	\$12.00	\$2.50	\$14.50

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

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

Special Note

**DUE TO A POSTAL RATE INCREASE,
 SOME PRICES HAVE CHANGED.**

Minutes

of the NEC III Meeting
held on 20 June 2013 at the
Weinberg Center, Camp Fretterd, Maryland

National Commander Joseph Zang called the National Executive Committee (NEC III) Business Meeting to order at 0900 hours. Commander Zang led the attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the opening prayer that was offered by National Chaplain Reverend John Schildt. The group then recited the 29th Division Association Preamble.

Commander Zang began by welcoming all to the NEC meeting. He also welcomed the ladies that were present. NC Zang then asked for the roll call by Adjutant William Mund. It was noted that a quorum was present.

Minutes of the last meeting (NEC II, 17 January 2013) had been published and distributed in the Spring 2013 edition of the *Twenty-Niner*. As there were no amendments or corrections to the minutes, they were approved as published.

Officer's Report

National Commander – Joseph Zang reported on the activities that he has participated in during the past few months. He mentioned the annual wreath laying at the *Tomb of the Unknowns*; his visit to the *Medal of Honor Grove*, at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania and several ceremonies and observances such as the annual D-Day ceremony in Bedford, Virginia. During the winter months Commander Zang regularly attends meetings of Post #2 in Florida.

National Senior Vice Commander – John F. “Jack” Kutcher, Sr. has been heavily involved with maintaining a budget for the 29th Division Association. He also has participated in many observances and activities during the past several months. He, along with Adjutant Mund, attended the Army Divisions Association (ADA) Convention and FAM tour in DuPage County, Illinois.

National Junior Vice Commander – I. John Vaccarino organized the funeral service for PNC Sam Krauss. As Past Maryland Region Commander he installed several groups of officers for various posts in the Maryland Region. He has also participated in many ceremonies and observances such as Memorial Day and the dedication of a Blue Star Marker at the old Post Office in Ellicott City, Maryland. He thanked and praised the National Chaplain, Reverend John Schildt for officiating at several funerals and memorial services over the past few months.

Southern Region Vice Commander – PNC King was excused. PNC/NED Wilcox read a report from PNC King concerning the Southern Region. PNC King has installed officers in several posts and attended ceremonies and observances in Virginia. He also attended many of the same ceremonies and observances as several of the other national officers. He reported on the possible creation of a new Post in Christiansburg, VA.

Maryland Region Vice Commander – Robert “Bob” Wisch has only been in office for several weeks. He attended funeral/memorial services and viewings for several members in the Maryland Region. He said that many posts in the Maryland Region conducted ceremonies and observances on Memorial Day. He reported that the Maryland Region has approved the expenditure of funds to repair the Route 29 Memorial near Route 40 in Ellicott City. The memorial has suffered some damage due to the weather.

At Large Region Vice Commander – PNC Richard Smith was excused. PNC Smith is at home recovering from recent hospitalization and surgery.

National Executive Director – PNC/NED John Wilcox reported on a meeting that he attended with other national officers at Fort Belvoir back in March. The purpose of this meeting was to educate current day 29th Division soldiers on the history of the 29th during WWII. He along with the National Commander traveled to *Medal of Honor Grove*, at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania for a fact finding mission. PNC/NED Wilcox is

responsible for the daily functioning of the National Headquarters working in close cooperation with the National Finance Officer. He is constantly attending meetings/ceremonies and observances too numerous to mention.

Membership – PNC R. Moscati explained his report that was distributed. He said that 80% of our members are paid up for 2013. He said that there has been a slight rise in membership numbers in Virginia.

Finance & Budget – Finance Officer J. Brian Becker began his report by making a few comments. He explained his written report and several questions were asked. As there were no amendments or corrections to the Finance Officers Report, it was approved as presented. *Copies of this report may be obtained by contacting the undersigned.*

Chaplain – Reverend John Schildt spoke about the events, ceremonies and observances that he has been involved in over the last several months. He mentioned the ceremony in France on 7 June that he was involved with, *in absentia*.

Welfare – Dick Jordan was excused.

Service – Walter Carter was excused.

Surgeon – Dr. Frank Barranco had no report.

Historian – Joe Balkoski was excused. PNC Dooley said that the *Maryland Military Historical Society Inc.* has authorized the release of funds from the *Middendorf Grant* to acquire the remaining 29th Division Morning Reports from WWII.

Sergeant at Arms – Randall Beamer had no report.

Property – NPO Franklin Shilow announced that he has many new ties and shirts.

Editor the *Twenty-Niner* – Editor PNC Donald McKee had recently fallen and injured himself and was unable to attend this meeting. In his stead, Assistant Editor William Mund made some comments. Most notable in his comments was that for the first time in his recollection, the contributions to the *Twenty-Niner* had exceeded the expenditures needed to publish the publication. One reason this has happened, is because of the superb monetary support shown by several posts. He implored all posts to support the 29er. He talked about the meaning of “copyright” and how he cannot legally publish anything (text or photos) that has already appeared in another publication without written consent from the writer and/or the publisher of that publication.

Judge Advocate – Frank Rauschenberg had no report.

Parliamentarian – PNC Robert Recker had no report.

Committee Reports

2013 National Convention – PNC/NED Wilcox gave a report on the activities that will occur on 10-13 October 2013. The Holiday Inn, North Beach, Virginia Beach, Virginia is the site of our event. All the latest information is being published in the Summer 2013 *Twenty-Niner* and the forthcoming *Chin Straps*.

2014 National Convention – NSVC Kutcher said that the 2014 Convention will be in Ocean City, Maryland. This event will occur on 16-19 October 2014. Several tours are being considered. JRVC Vaccarino said that the convention site for 2015 is still being decided.

Nominating Committee – PNC/NED Wilcox, reporting for Nominating Committee Chairman PNC Bill King said that all current officers have agreed to continue in their respective offices. He is looking at several candidates for the position of Junior Vice Commander.

Budget Committee – NSVC Kutcher presented a “Power Point” presentation on the budget. He said that the 2014 budget is being developed and will be presented at the convention in October at Virginia Beach.

Special Reports

Normandy Allies – Adjutant Mund made a report for Walter Carter who was unable to attend this meeting. He presented a detailed update on the activities being anticipated for Normandy Allies in 2013. A motion was made by Wilcox and seconded by Tolzman to fund \$600 to Normandy Allies for a student to travel in 2014. An amendment to the motion was offered by Ginsburg and seconded by Tolzman to fund \$2,600 for the travel of a student and a teacher for travel in 2014. The amended motion was passed along with the original motion.

Freedoms Foundation and Medal of Honor Grove – On Wednesday, 24 April 2013, Commander Zang, along with PNC/NED Wilcox visited Valley Forge, PA on a fact-finding mission. Commander Zang gave a “Power Point” presentation with many photos of the grove and the 29th Division Association Memorial located there. This visit revealed that several concerns need to be addressed. A motion was made by Ginsburg and seconded by Recker to transfer the funds formerly held by Post 92 to National for the sole purpose of the maintenance of the 29th Division Memorial located there. Motion was passed.

ADA Meeting – NSVC Kutcher reported that during the period 25-27 April 2013, the Army Divisions Association (ADA), of which the 29th Division Association is a member, conducted its Annual Meeting and Familiarization (FAM) Tour in DuPage County, IL, a suburban area about 25 miles west of Chicago. NSVC Jack Kutcher and Adjutant William Mund attended these events. The annual meeting of the ADA was conducted all day on Saturday, 27 April. This meeting was an enlightening experience, and provided an excellent forum in which to discuss common problem areas and to exchange ideas on a multitude of subjects. The 29th Division Association is a viable partner in the ADA, and should remain as such. Continued participation in all ADA activities is encouraged. Currently, our association pays \$50 a year dues to the ADA. The ADA reimburses each association \$250 for travel expenses. Any additional travel expenses are borne by the individual attendees. Funds should be allocated by our association to make up the difference for any travel expenses incurred by the attendees over and beyond the \$250 stipend provided by the ADA.

Old Business

Trip to France – NSVC Kutcher in his capacity as Tour Treasurer, updated everyone on the ongoing coordination efforts that he, along with Trip Coordinator Fran Sherr-Davino have been working on, concerning the trip to Normandy, France on 31 May – 13 June 2014 to observe the 70th anniversary of D-Day, 6 June 1944. The estimated cost of the trip is \$3,000, not including airfare. Current planning is for 10 ceremonies in various towns/areas. The central focus of the trip for the Association will be the moving ceremonies on June 6, 2014 at both Colleville Cemetery and Vireville Sur Mer, where the National Guard monument to the D-Day veterans is located.

Wreath Laying Ceremony 2014 – at Arlington National Cemetery will occur on 18 May 2014 at 3:15pm. A buffet lunch is being planned afterwards.

HMS Curacao – Maryland Region Commander Robert Wisch said that the plaque to honor the Royal Navy sailors who lost their lives on the *HMS Curacao* in the collision with the *RMS Queen Mary* has been placed in the Memorial Gardens at the National Memorial Arboretum in the United Kingdom.

Futures Committee – Chairman David Ginsburg presented a “Power Point” presentation concerning the recent deliberations of the Futures Committee. This committee has met twice since NEC II in January. The purpose and goals of this committee are: to improve recruiting and increase of active members; strengthen and stabilize posts with NEC resources and to explore new ways to utilize the electronic revolution (i.e. payment of dues with PayPal, and electronic dissemination of the *Twenty-Niner* and *Chin Straps* in recruiting efforts) that has taken place in the beginning of the 21st Century. He explained the recruiting initiative and the “PayPal” process. The Futures Committee has recommended the elimination of the office of National Junior Vice Commander, effective in 2014. This action would encourage greater participation from members who would not want to be obligated to a 3 year commitment as is required now. A motion was made by Dooley and seconded by Beamer to recommend that the NEC amend the By Laws to eliminate the office of

National Junior Vice Commander, effective in 2014. Motion was passed. The proper notification process is published in this edition of the Summer 2013 *Twenty-Niner*.

New Business

Newly Established International Post – PNC/NED Wilcox reported that steps have been taken to help establish a new post of the 29th Division Association located in Toronto, Canada. This is an Associate Post and will have members mainly from the Canadian Armed Forces, although several have served in U.S. Forces also. The new Allen S. Levin Canada Post # 3 is named in honor of Mr. Allen S. Levin, a former member of Cannon Company, 115th Infantry Regiment during World War II. The Post was established by Mr. Jonathan Delgado Levin-Turner, a nephew of Allen S. Levin. The Post currently has 21 members.

29th Division Association Website – PNC/NED Wilcox updated everyone on the latest changes to the website. He said that there were some minor difficulties accessing some of the pages on the website. It was recommended that visitors to the website use a different browser if they are experiencing difficulties accessing pages on the website.

Charities Ratings – Post 110 Commander Ginsburg gave a “Power Point” presentation on “Charities”. This presentation rated various charities concerning their ability to properly administer and use their funds in accordance with the defined purpose of the charity.

Deaths, Sick & Distressed

PNC R. Moscati reported that 78 members have passed away since last year’s reunion.

Closing

With no further business, Commander Zang began the closing ceremonies. A closing prayer was offered by Reverend Schildt and a final salute to the colors. He announced that the NEC I meeting will occur immediately following the Memorial Service on 13 October 2013 at the National Convention in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Meeting was adjourned at 1410 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
WILLIAM S. MUND, JR.
Adjutant
National Executive Committee

NEC Members please note:

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

The 175th Responds

For several years now, the 29th Division's 175th Infantry Regiment has placed four pages in the Association's Convention Booklet that is given out to attendees at our annual meetings. As everyone well knows it was our Division's mighty 116th Infantry Regiment (Virginia) that came in at 6:30am on June 6, 1944 at Omaha Beach alongside of the 1st Division's 16th Infantry. The landing was indeed most difficult and it only succeeded with the utmost in casualties. But succeed they both did, thus taking part in our Country's greatest military accomplishment.

Maryland's other regiment the 175th was scheduled in around 1400 hours that day. But the beaches were so chaotic and bad that the entire operation had to be postponed until the next morning at 0800. In that 24 hour period progress ashore was very slow and when the 175th did get in and mated up with the other two regiments, they were all only a mile or so inland. And for the next 11 months in Europe everyone had an equally hard journey. So to "toot our own horn" a bit, these four pages are placed in the book for all to see. Putting items into the book each year involves a cost that the Association uses to help with the income phase of our existence and it helps to keep our annual dues from having to jump through the roof. So, if any 175ers out there want to help this year with this endeavor, contact Editor McKee (see lower left corner of page 2) for the address. OK, 175ers, let's hear from you!

Holiday Inn & Suites, North Beach, Virginia Beach, VA



An oceanfront paradise, you never have to leave the resort to enjoy the many pleasures of the Atlantic Ocean. Just steps from the beach, take in the spectacular views and the sun from the large lounge area surrounding the outdoor pool. When you're ready to venture out, take your pick of places to go and things to see. Savor a choice of delectable dining spots right at the hotel. Enjoy a hearty breakfast, lunch or dinner while watching the waves of the Atlantic Ocean gently roll and crash on the relaxing outdoor patio of The Square Whale. Grab a casual breakfast or lunch at The Greenery restaurant. Or savor the ultimate indulgence with a romantic dinner at Isle of Capri, our top-rated Italian restaurant that overlooks the ocean from the sixth floor with breathtaking views of the Atlantic.



Newly renovated in 2010, our Virginia Beach resort hotel features a winning combination of style and contemporary living amenities specially designed for families. Deluxe oceanfront hotel rooms and suites are well appointed with an in-room microwave and refrigerator, coffee maker, complimentary Wi-Fi, triple-sheeted deluxe bedding, iPod docking station, flat screen television, iron & ironing board, hairdryer, electronic keys and desk; perfect for families. For the health and safety of your family, our entire property is smoke-free.

Pre-Convention Planning, Hotel & Trip Information

Bus from Pikesville, MD

In order to allow for a couple of comfort stops & perhaps a snack & still arrive in Virginia Beach at a reasonable time, the bus must leave the Pikesville Military Reservation at 7:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 10, 2013. This should allow you to arrive at the hotel by about 2:00 p.m. or earlier. **It is imperative that you arrive at Pikesville early enough to load your luggage & be prepared to depart by 7:00 a.m.**

The cost for the round trip bus transportation will be **\$50.00 per person**. This price also will pay for the bus transportation needed for the tours while in Virginia Beach. This fee must be paid in advance & not later than **Monday, September 9, 2013**. Due to contractual commitments with the bus company, trip prices are made on a non-refundable basis. This will only affect those who cancel after cut-off time. Checks should be made payable to the Maryland Region & mailed to John Kutcher at 3207 Rolling Green Road - Churchville, MD 21028-1311.

As in past years, you may bring snacks & bottled water onto the bus, but absolutely no alcohol is allowed. A special effort should be made to police up all your trash & leave the bus in a clean condition. Maryland Region Jr. Vice Commander Tom Insley has agreed to serve as Bus Captain. If needed, you can reach Tom at 410-788-0446 or through email at retfiveo@verizon.net.

We will be allowed to park in the front of the lot along the fence separating the military vehicles from the open lot. Do not block the conex boxes located there. This will make it easier for folks to unload their luggage and load it directly onto the bus.

Items of Interest

It has been suggested that it would be nice if attendees to the convention could have a place to display photographs, old documents, & other items of interest concerning the 29th Division & our association.

This year, we are encouraging our members to bring these items of interest with them for display in the Dining Room preceding our Friday night dinner. Tables will be set aside for this purpose. So, 29er's, Let's Go, & bring items of interest with you to the convention & share them with your 29er comrades. **Items must be removed after the dinner.**

Your Convention Committee has been working hard again this year to bring you another outstanding National Convention that will be held this time in the beautiful Tidewater area of Virginia. The Holiday Inn & Suites, North Beach will be the home to the 29th Division Association for our 95th annual reunion.

The hotel, located at 3900 Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach, VA 23451, is just a short distance off Interstate Route 264 & has a large ample free parking garage immediately across the street. The Vista Del Mare dining room where our banquet will be held on Saturday, October 12th is on the 6th floor of the hotel with floor to ceiling windows offering breathtaking views of the Atlantic Ocean. The very comfortable guestrooms each include a refrigerator, microwave, flat screen TV, complimentary wireless internet & privacy balcony. Both King size & Queen size beds will be available.

Since many of our guests will not be arriving until Thursday afternoon, we have decided to forego the normally scheduled trips for that day. Instead, the hospitality room will be open with various snacks & beverages beginning at 4pm & remaining open until 11pm. Dinner on Thursday evening will be on your own in one of the many great eating facilities both within & outside the hotel.

On Friday morning at 9:45 a.m., our motor coach will leave the hotel & travel roughly 25 miles to the Nauticus Museum in Norfolk where we will board the Victory Rover tour boat for an interesting 2-hour narrated cruise of the world's largest naval base. This tour allows the opportunity to see many ships of the Atlantic Fleet while hearing fascinating & entertaining commentary as we cruise the smooth waters of the Elizabeth River & Hampton Harbor. On board we will enjoy comfortable seating, clean restrooms, a snack bar & gift shop. Following this event, we will again board our coach for a short ride to the Freemason Abbey Restaurant for a lunch. The restaurant is located in a 140 year-old renovated church & has been a favorite of the locals for 26 years.

On Friday evening we look forward to sharing an evening among friends with a meal in the hotel. We have again made minor changes by offering a sit-down plated dinner & deleting the standard buffet. We feel this will help accommodate some of our many members using canes & walkers. The meal will begin at 6:00 p.m. with open seating & the location to be announced.

Following breakfast on Saturday at a restaurant of your choice, the annual business meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. For those not attending the business meeting, there are numerous shopping venues nearby. The hotel restaurant is open for lunch with a great menu at reasonable prices. We will again join in the ballroom that evening for the annual banquet beginning at 6:30 p.m. where our newly elected officers will be inducted. The entire reunion will wrap up Sunday morning with the National Memorial Service conducted by our National Chaplain John Schildt.

After much discussion, the Convention Committee finds it necessary to make some adjustments to our fees & policies this year. We have begun by raising our registration fee to \$20.00 per person.

We are contractually bound to pay a certain amount once we have scheduled a motor coach for a trip. In the past we have suffered greatly from last minute cancellations. When we have individuals who sign up for a trip & then cancel, our committed price to the bus company does not change. Because of this, we are forced to now offer all trip prices on a non-refundable basis. This will affect only those who cancel after an advertised cut-off time.

Finally, we came very close to having to pay a penalty last year because of cancellations. Any free or discounted item we receive from the hotel (meeting rooms, ballroom, etc.) is based primarily on the headcounts we provide, both for meals & lodging. While individuals have up to 72 hours prior to date of arrival to cancel their lodging, this is not necessarily so for other items. We are contractually bound to pay for all meals ordered unless the number is reduced prior to the hotels cut-off time. Due to this, a non-refundable policy for meals cancelled after an advertised cut-off time will be effective beginning this year.

While we have thought long & hard on how we could avoid these changes, we feel it has become necessary while attempting to give you a quality reunion.

Notice to our attendees arriving by air at Norfolk airport

There is no shuttle service provided by the hotel to or from the airport. Please let us know on your registration form that you are flying in. We shall do all possible to help you if we can. The hotel can pass onto you ahead of time the name and phone number of a taxi service. **Taxis are located outside Arrivals Terminal Door #4.** We want everyone's route to be non-aggravating.

Souvenir Program Book Ads

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

Full Page	\$100.00
Half Page	70.00
Quarter Page	40.00
Eighth Page	25.00

IMPORTANT: The deadline for ads and boosters is **September 9, 2013**. Make up your ad copy, attach to this form with your check payable to the 29th Division Association & mail to:

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

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

Patrons

During the 95th year of our 29th Division Association, your name and the names of all your family should appear in the Souvenir Program Book. The cost per name is \$2.00. Please print each name legibly.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Zip: _____

Tel. #: _____

This coupon, with your check, made out as indicated above, should also be received by September 9. Mail to William S. Mund, Jr. at the address above.

**95th ANNUAL CONVENTION
OCTOBER 10 TO 13, 2013
ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM**

Please print and make your reservation early.

Name: _____ Unit: _____ Post: _____

Name: _____ Unit: _____ Post: _____

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

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

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

Chicken Marsala _____

Stuffed Baked Flounder _____

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

Grilled Salmon _____ Pork Tenderloin _____

Friday Trip—Naval Base Cruise followed by lunch at The Freemason Abbey Restaurant No. @ _____ \$35.00 \$ _____

TOTAL: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Make check payable to 29th Division Assn. and mail to Robert Moscati, 1910 Calais Ct, Baltimore Md. 21244

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

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

CUT-OFF DATE FOR REGISTRATIONS IS SEPTEMBER 9, 2013

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

**HOLIDAY INN AND SUITES, NORTH BEACH
3900 ATLANTIC AVENUE
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23451**

**Call 757-428-1711
For Reservations**

The group room rate is \$95 plus 13% tax per night & must be guaranteed with a credit card or one night's deposit by check or cash. Check in time is 3 PM and check out time is 11 AM.

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

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

**CUT-OFF DATE FOR GETTING THE DISCOUNTED ROOM RATE IS
SEPTEMBER 9, 2013**

29TH DIVISION ASSOC. DONATION COUPONS				
NAME _____				
ADDRESS _____				
CITY / STATE _____				
PHONE NUMBER _____				
COMPLETE INFORMATION ABOVE AND RETURN WITH CHECK TO 29TH DIVISION ASSOC. PO BOX 1546 FREDERICK, MD 21702	COMPLETE INFORMATION ABOVE AND RETURN WITH CHECK TO 29TH DIVISION ASSOC. PO BOX 1546 FREDERICK, MD 21702	COMPLETE INFORMATION ABOVE AND RETURN WITH CHECK TO 29TH DIVISION ASSOC. PO BOX 1546 FREDERICK, MD 21702	COMPLETE INFORMATION ABOVE AND RETURN WITH CHECK TO 29TH DIVISION ASSOC. PO BOX 1546 FREDERICK, MD 21702	COMPLETE INFORMATION ABOVE AND RETURN WITH CHECK TO 29TH DIVISION ASSOC. PO BOX 1546 FREDERICK, MD 21702
HOLDER OF THE WINNING TICKET WILL RECEIVE 50% OF TOTAL COLLECTED OR NOT LESS THAN \$200.00	HOLDER OF THE WINNING TICKET WILL RECEIVE 50% OF TOTAL COLLECTED OR NOT LESS THAN \$200.00	HOLDER OF THE WINNING TICKET WILL RECEIVE 50% OF TOTAL COLLECTED OR NOT LESS THAN \$200.00	HOLDER OF THE WINNING TICKET WILL RECEIVE 50% OF TOTAL COLLECTED OR NOT LESS THAN \$200.00	HOLDER OF THE WINNING TICKET WILL RECEIVE 50% OF TOTAL COLLECTED OR NOT LESS THAN \$200.00
DONATION IS \$5 A TICKET YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN	DONATION IS \$5 A TICKET YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN	DONATION IS \$5 A TICKET YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN	DONATION IS \$5 A TICKET YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN	DONATION IS \$5 A TICKET YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN
THANK YOU AND HAVE A GREAT DAY!				

NOTE: RETURN ALL 5 TICKETS OR CUT OFF AND RETURN THE NUMBER YOU WANT WITH YOUR CHECK FOR \$5.00 FOR EACH TICKET

DRAWING WILL BE HELD AT THE NATIONAL CONVENTION ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2013 — YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN

THOSE WHO MAY WANT ADDITIONAL TICKETS SHOULD CONTACT NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS AT 301-695-9558 OR TWONINER1@HOTMAIL.COM

COMPLETE NAME, ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBER AND RETURN WITH CHECK TO 29TH DIVISION ASSOCIATION-P. O. BOX 1546 - FREDERICK, MD 21702-0546

ENVELOPES BEARING TICKETS AND CHECKS MUST BE POSTMARKED NOT LATER THAN OCTOBER 1, 2013

National Officers of the 29th Division Association and their families shall not be allowed to participate in this raffle.

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

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

Address Service Requested

Association Membership

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

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

MD Post 1	Catonsville, MD
FL Post 2	Sarasota, FL
CN Post 3	Toronto, Canada
VA Post 5	Virginia Beach, VA
FL Post 27	New Port Richie, FL
HQ Post 29	At Large
MD Post 48	Westminster, MD
VA Post 64	Roanoke, VA
MD Post 72	Baltimore, MD
MD Post 78	Frederick, MD
VA Post 84	Fort Belvoir, VA
MD Post 85	Harford & Cecil County, MD
MD Post 88	Eastern Shore, DE & MD
NE Post 93	New England
MD Post 94	Silver Spring, MD
MD Post 110	Pikesville, MD
VA Post 116	Staunton, VA
PA Post 175	Pennsylvania
MD Post 224	Edgewood, Md
MD Post 229	Parkville, MD
MD Post 729	Blue Ridge Summit, PA

You Can Help Our Association Grow

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



"29 Let's Go!"

Application for Membership in 29TH DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.

Please Print

Applicant _____

E-mail Address (if available) _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip+4 _____

I was a member of ____ Company ____ Battery ____ Regiment

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

*GWOT _____ Children/Grandchildren _____

Phone Number _____

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

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

*GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

Applicant's Signature _____