



Executive Director's Message:

Greetings to all of my comrades both here in the United States and abroad who are members and supporters of the 29th Division Association. I am very pleased to report that the Congressional Naming Commission has recommended to Secretary of Defense, Lloyd Austin, that the iconic blue and gray, yin yang patch of the 29th Division be retained and unchanged in the US Army.

Led by National Commander, BG (Ret) Ted Shuey, your Association's leadership worked tirelessly to present the case that the patch should be retained. As Commander Shuey reports in his column, this was an effort that reflected the widespread support for our cause both here in the USA and Europe. As National Executive Director, I want to thank all of those who signed the petition and donated to the "29 Let's Go" fund to save the patch.

As a part of the effort to convince the Naming Commission, and ultimately Congress, that the patch

(Continued on page 4)

THE TWENTY-NINER Vol. 66, No. 2 Summer 2022

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

© Copyright 2022
The 29th Division Association Inc.

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

103rd Reunion & Convention will focus on today's 29th Division and Ft. Belvoir



DoubleTree Hotel, Crystal City, VA

The 103rd Reunion and Conference of the Association will focus on today's 29th Division and Ft. Belvoir. With our proximity to the Capital, we look forward to a very special weekend with military and civilian leaders in attendance as well as former 29th Division Commanders and staffs who have served since reorganization.

The Conference will convene 13-16 October, at the DoubleTree Hotel, Crystal City, Virginia. The Conference room rate is \$159.00, + 14.25% tax, with upgrade possibilities through Hilton membership or a slight additional cost. There is also a discounted daily parking fee of \$25.

Rooms are limited, please go to: <https://book.passkey.com/go/29THDIVISION> and register soon.

There will be one registration fee of \$100.00 per individual this year to cover all of the Association's scheduled events, but not individual tours since there are so many sites of interest. The DoubleTree Hotel is near from the Pentagon, across the river from the Capital and only a four-minute walk to the Crystal City Metro Station. In addition, affordable tours can be arranged at <https://www.dctours.us/>.

Registration this year will be provided

(Continued on page 2)

Patch fight decision reached by Naming Commission

I am pleased to announce a first-round victory. In their report to Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, "The Naming Commission" has indicated the configuration of the design may remain! The heraldry, however, supporting it must change. So, it's not over yet. We cannot allow the actual historical foundation of the 29th Division to be modified in any way!

So, forget the Naming Commission. Their work and report are done. Now, we need to reach out to our Army contacts to let them know we oppose any change to the reasoning that created the patch. The Army will be compelled to reach out to The Institute of Heraldry, TIOH, and request a

(Continued on page 2)

Convention

(Continued from page 1)

through Armed Forces Reunions, Inc., a firm that understands the military and pledged to be responsive to our needs. They are set to make this the most enjoyable 29th Division gathering yet.

The \$100.00 registration fee covers admission to the National Museum of the United States Army and our reception there on Friday. It will cover all group transportation needs and provide our annual Saturday evening banquet. To expedite serving, that meal will be a buffet offering Top Blade Beef and roasted Chicken entrees. The banquet seating is limited to 200, so please register as soon as possible.

Please see **pages 21-23** in this publication for **convention registration, itinerary and Souvenir Program Book** information.

The DoubleTree will provide a complete buffet breakfast each morning for \$25.00 which includes all taxes and gratuities. There is also a coffee shop in the lobby offering drinks and light fare throughout the day. Lunch, at this point is planned "on your own," with exceptional restaurants within a short walking distance.

Following our visit to Ft. Belvoir on Saturday morning and our business session at the DoubleTree, the afternoon will offer multiple presentations and panel discussions. This will include authors Joe Balkoski and Joe Harris, WWII Veteran Steve Melnikoff, former Commanding General and staff presentations, the 29th Division reorganization of 1985 by LTG (Ret.) H. Steven Blum, former Chief of the National Guard Bureau, a "Save the Patch" update, and a special "Family breakout."

If you served in the 29th Division, or a member of your family has served during any period, this is a must attend event. 29 Let's Go! See you in October.

Ted Shuey, National Commander

THE TWENTY-NINER

Vol. 66 No. 2
Summer 2022

The known office of this publication is:

The 29th Division Association, Inc.

The *Twenty-Niner* is published by:

The 29th Division Association, Inc.

PO Box 548

Lutherville-Timonium, MD 21094

Third Class postage paid at Baltimore, MD

William S. Mund, Jr., Editor/Publisher

443-529-4233 / duster197329@gmail.com

Frank Armiger, Assistant Editor/Publisher

410-591-9977 / farmiger@gmail.com

© Copyright 2022

The 29th Division Association, Inc.

Patch Fight

(Continued from page 1)

review leading to rewriting the creation of the Yin-Yang symbol. This effort must be stopped!

Then, we need to continue reaching out to Congress requesting they oppose any Army recommendation to change the background of the 29th Division. Hopefully, we can have the 29th Division issue extracted from any legislation resulting from the Naming Commission's report. This would require a "line-item veto," but I think there could be partisan support for that effort.

Please continue to send your support to the "29 Let's Go" Support Fund. Nearly 100 of you have helped us get to this point but winning in Congress will require a great deal more work and possibly the need to hire a professional lobbyist. Please help as you can. So, the fight over the 29th Division patch continues.

Important Notice

from the

National Finance Officer

As of this writing, I am nearing my fourth year as the National Finance Officer of this great Association. While I have enjoyed supporting the officers and members of the association it is now time to plan to turn the reigns over to someone else.

I advised Commander Shuey of my intentions and we agreed that it would be best for the Association if a replacement could be identified now to serve as Assistant Finance Officer with the end state being that individual would become the National Finance Officer after the 2023 Convention/ Reunion.

If you are or know someone that would be interested in becoming the National Finance Officer they can contact me for more information. I can be reached at Tknight22@gmail.com or by phone 410-688-6307.

Thanks for your continued support.

Tom Knight

National Finance Officer

29th Division Association

New address for National Headquarters

29th Division Association, Inc.

PO Box 548

Lutherville Timonium, MD 21094-0548

Donations to the *Twenty-Niner*

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our membership for their generosity in contributing to the *Twenty-Niner* for this Spring issue. Note our cut-off date. If your contribution did not reach our National Executive Director by 23 July 2022, then it will not be listed until the next issue. Donation checks must be made payable to the **29th Division Association** and mailed to: **PO Box 548, Lutherville Timonium, MD 21094-0548**

Beck, Raymond, Post 88, Woolford, MD

In memory of BG (MD) James M. Hurley & CW4 Bob Recker

Boudreau, Mary Ellen, Post 94, Daughter, Glens Falls, NY

In memory of her father, Oscar F. Donohue, I/115

Braga, Bruce, Post 93, Portsmouth, RI

In memory of Albert Martinelli, F/175

Burke, Edward A., Post 94, A/821/TD, Cincinnati, OH

Canaday, Michael, Post 29, 1/170, King George, VA

Cresap's Rifle, Post 78, Frederick, MD

In memory of Kraig Morris

Cundy, Don, Post 94, Son, Dearborn, MI

In memory of Harry L. Cundy and Charles Maupin

Green, Colleen, Post 94, Daughter, Simms, MT

In memory of John O'Neil, A/116

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

In memory of PNC Sam Krauss

Liswell, Bernie, Post 88, HHC/2/115, Denton, MD

In memory of MSG David Puderbaugh, 2/110FA

Marschall, C.J., Post 48, HHC/175, Hampstead, MD

Post 93, New England

Pfeiffer, John, Post 1-72, 121ENG, Denton, MD

Sherman, Mike & Ann, Scottsdale, AZ

In memory of their fathers, Howard Harris & Albert Sherman

Sherr-Davino, Fran, Post 93, Daughter, Chattahoochee Hills, GA

In memory of her father, Melvin Sherr, 104 Med Bn.

Smolar, Robert & Valerie, Post 94, HHC/3/116, McLean, VA

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

Veteran Corps, Baltimore, MD

In memory of LTC Norvell Miller, III

Ward, Ronald L., Americal Division, Protem, MO

Welch, Linda, Post 93, Plymouth, MA

In Memory of COL Norman B. Welch

White, Claire, Daughter, North Reading, MA

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

NOTICE

A comprehensive revision of Association By-Laws will be presented at the National Convention for consideration by Association members. Proposed changes will be circulated to all Posts, either by regular mail or electronically, at least 30 days prior to the Convention.

Houston Matney
National Judge Advocate

TAPS

The following list shows names of known 29ers and their ladies or family members who died and their deaths reported from 23 March 2022 through 23 July 2022. 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

Blucher, James E., Post 1-72, HHC/175, Baltimore, MD 5/6/22

Cadwalader, Ben R., Post 110, HHC/2/110, Gibson Island, MD 8/29/18

Cox, Linda, Wife, Church Hill, MD 6/6/21

Firebaugh, Larry D., Post 64, A/1/116, Troutville, VA 9/1/21

Fitzhugh, James H., Post 88, Associate, Virginia Beach, VA 2/13/22

Furzeland, Robert, Post 93, Associate, United Kingdom 3/15/20

Lynch, Leonard B., Post 85, E/115, Bel Air, MD 10/22/21

Miller, Norvell, III, Post 1-72, HHC/2/175, Baltimore, MD 1/18/22

Neighbor, Charles H., Post 64, E/116, Roanoke, VA 4/23/22

Norman, Edw. C., "Craig", Post 116, 29ID(L), Chesapeake, VA 5/21/22

Pezzi, Richard, Post 1-72, Son, Greenberg, PA 8/4/21

Purner, Marshall L., Post 85, E/115, North East, MD 2/22/22

Silverwood, Harry E. Jr., Post 110, B/2/110, Baltimore, MD 5/25/22

Stagg, Paul A., Post 88, Associate, Cambridge, MD 2/17/22

Willey, Elmer L., Post 88, K/115, Cambridge, MD 3/22/22

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

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

Frank Armiger

National Executive Director

PO Box 548

Lutherville-Timonium, MD 21093

E-mail: farmiger@gmail.com

(Continued from page 1)

should be retained, I worked with a Baltimore-based media company, Aliceanna Collective, to create a powerful 2 minute video featuring former Maryland Adjutant General, MG (Ret) Linda Singh, WWII veteran of the 175th Infantry, Steve Melnikoff and Rosemary Coover (nee Boyle), daughter of WWII veteran Joe Boyle a 1LT in the 116th Infantry in the second wave on D-Day.

We were fortunate to work with a media company led by Mike Marx-Gibbons who served in the Maryland National Guard as a combat medic. Mike understood our cause and was very passionate about saving the patch. That passion was vividly displayed in the final product that can be viewed on the Association website if you have not already seen it.

We are continuing to work with Mike and Aliceanna on a second video that will link the service of our veteran community over the entire history of the 29th Division from its founding in 1917 to the present day. We will use the video to attract new members and to highlight the National Convention and Reunion in October.

I also had the opportunity to meet a son of a WWII 29er via the internet. Chris McIntosh contacted me about a book that he had published based on a manuscript written by his father, Edwin McIntosh, a private in Company B, 115th Infantry. He sent me a copy of the book and after reading it, I discovered that parts of the book had been published in the *Twenty-Niner* in the '90s. A review of the book and Chris's story are contained in articles elsewhere in this newsletter.

Highlights of the NEC III Meeting on 16 June held at NGAUS in Washington, DC

We held the National Executive Committee (NEC III) meeting at NGAUS Headquarters in Washington, DC on 16 June. We met in the state-of-the-art Montgomery Conference Room and were treated to outstanding service by the NGAUS staff. This was our first Zoom hybrid meeting with attendees in person at NGAUS HQ and remotely via Zoom. Although there were a few glitches, overall this approach to the meeting worked very well.

National Commander Shuey opened the meeting with a discussion on the latest efforts to save the 29th Division patch that was still in jeopardy of retirement at that time. He indicated that he was hearing positive information that the patch would be retained but emphasized that the fight was not over and that the Association must continue to maintain its focus and campaign at all levels of the federal government.

NC Shuey indicated that the "29 Let's Go" Fund had been set up in conjunction with the Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge allowing members to provide tax deductible donations in support of the "Save the Patch" campaign. To date over \$20K had been contributed. However, NC Shuey expressed disappointment with the number of members who had signed the petition. That number fell well short of his 90+% expectation.

NC Shuey reviewed the plans for the 2022 National Convention and Reunion to be held at the Doubletree Crystal City on 13 – 16 October. The event will include a visit and reception at the new US Army Museum at Ft. Belvoir, VA on Friday evening. After the meeting NC Shuey took some of the attendees to the hotel for a

brief visit. The hotel is easily accessible from Route 395 and has ample meeting space. The group was very impressed with the room that will be used for the hospitality suite that has a magnificent panoramic view of the Pentagon, the Potomac River, the Jefferson Memorial and DC skyline.

NED Armiger reviewed the proposals for restoration of the 115th flag that is housed at the Maryland Museum of Military History. Since the funds had already been allocated and sent to the Maryland Military Historical Society prior to COVID, PNC Hinz will inform Dr. Julie Shively, Museum Director, that they can proceed with the restoration project.

Neil Ungerleider and NED Armiger are working with the staff at the Bodmin Keep Museum in Cornwall, England to restore a plaque at the entrance to the museum honoring the soldiers of the 29th Division who trained there prior to the D-Day landings. The NEC approved funding for the restoration that will supplement donations from Susan Kearney and her sister (children of a WWII vet who trained there), Post 93, Post 94 and Post 110.

Assistant National Executive Director Will Mund reported the following membership information as of 8 June: 1,587 paid members (pre December 2021), 691 new members (2022) without dues for a total of 2,278 members.

PNC David Ginsburg, chairman of the Futures Committee, reported that they are working on increasing membership by looking at the following: improving the Facebook page and the newsletter to attract new members, methods for recruiting, providing ample reasons to attend the annual convention by advertising how the camaraderie and great stories flow at the hospitality room and marketing the Friday night event as a great place to also share stories and team build.

PNC Ginsburg also emphasized the importance of the Post Commanders Workshop and would like to see it reinstated at the upcoming Convention in some form, perhaps renaming it the Post Operations Workshop with a broader focus on all aspects of Post leadership.

Judge Advocate Houston Matney reported on the Bylaws Revision Committee indicating the following: he has prepared a working draft that eliminates the Constitution and incorporates key features into the Bylaws, thereby removing any potential conflict with Articles of Incorporation (aka "Charter"); considered authorizing periodic emergency action by national officers which may exceed the scope of Bylaws, such as occurred in the COVID crisis and 29th Division patch issue; considered changing the service term for National Commander to 2 years and phasing out the Junior Vice Commander office; clarifying what constitutes an At-Large Region; eliminating all or part of the lengthy job descriptions for certain officers as being self-evident as well as eliminating or consolidating certain positions; and considering reclassifying who should be elected vs. appointed.

JA Matney will present his final recommendations at the upcoming special NEC to be held on 17 August at the Doubletree Crystal City as we prepare for the convention and business meeting.

*Frank Armiger
National Executive Director*

29ID HQ completes 9-month Spartan Shield rotation

The Fort Belvoir-based 29th Infantry Division (29ID) headquarters recently returned home after completing a 9-month deployment to the U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) area of responsibility as the headquarters of Task Force Spartan, which exercises command and control of Operation Spartan Shield.

Task Force Spartan is a unique, multi-component, total Army organization, made up of active Army, National Guard, and Army Reserve support units and is led by a National Guard division headquarters on a rotational basis.

In its role as Task Force Spartan, the 29ID commanded two brigades and four battalion-level task forces. Units supporting Operation Spartan Shield provide capabilities such as aviation, logistics, force protection, and information management; while also facilitating theater security cooperation activities such as key leader engagements, joint exercises, conferences, symposia, and humanitarian assistance and disaster response planning.

Established in August 2016 with the first deployment of the 29ID to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, the purpose of Task Force Spartan is to establish a continuous U.S. military presence in southwest Asia that is built upon the execution of joint-interoperability exercises with partner nations from the Gulf Cooperation Council.

The USCENTCOM Area of Responsibility (AOR) is among the most dynamic regions in the world.

Networks such as Daesh, al-Qaeda, and affiliated groups continue to pose a threat to U.S. interests and partners. The volatile state of the region requires the U.S. to prepare the environment as much as possible to protect U.S. national interests and those of our partners.

"The staff of the 29th Infantry Division Headquarters spent over two years training for this mission and shortly after arriving in southwest Asia we added Operation Allies Refuge to our list of tasks," said Maj. Gen. John Rhodes, Commanding General, 29th Infantry Division. "The Soldiers of Task Force Spartan quickly adjusted to evolving requirements and executed every mission like the true professional citizen-soldiers they are."

PARTNERSHIPS

The 29ID, as Task Force Spartan (TF Spartan), worked to support and build upon the military capacity of regional partner nations through an on-going series of bilateral and multi-lateral military training exercises and engagements.

During the division's nine months in theater, it executed or participated in more than 15 exercises as well as numerous engagements with more than eight partner nations.

In Sept 2021, TF Spartan participated in Bright Star 21, a bi-annual, multi-lateral training exercise hosted by the Arab Republic of Egypt with support from USCENTCOM. The exercise consisted of multiple training events, including a command-post exercise, field training exercises, a maritime exercise, and a senior leader seminar. Approximately 20 nations participated in Bright Star 21.

"Bright Star was an opportunity to enhance our relationships, train with multiple allies and partner nations in a joint environment and strengthen

the military capacity and capability in the region," said Rhodes. "The size and scope of the exercise, combined with the professionalism of our allies and partner nations led to a positive experience for all involved and demonstrated to other nations in the region that we stand together, ready to meet any challenge."

"TF Spartan was the planning lead for the entire Land Forces component of Bright Star 21 and supported the largest and most strategic portions of Bright Star 21," said Maj. Thomas Bortner, Training and Exercise Officer-in-Charge for Task Force Spartan.

An exercise of this size would, of itself, pose a considerable logistical and planning effort. However, this iteration of the exercise happened to coincide with the noncombatant evacuation operations (NEO) out of

Afghanistan as part of Operations Allies Refuge that Task Force Spartan, and much of the U.S. military assets in the USCENTCOM AOR, played a significant role in.

"The execution of Bright Star 21 was under the cloud of Operations Allies Refuge in Afghanistan," said Bortner. "The fact that the U.S. was able to execute Bright Star 21 during one of the largest airlifts and civilian evacuations in U.S. history demonstrated how important our relationship is with Egypt."

TF Spartan then planned and participated in Gulf Gunnery 21, a two-week trilateral gunnery exercise between the Royal

Saudi Land Forces (RSLF), Kuwaiti Land Force (KLF), and U.S. forces held at Udairi Range Complex, Kuwait in Nov 2021. The exercise was designed to strengthen the relationships and increase interoperability between the three military forces and marked the first time in over 30 years that all three nations came together, having not done so since the 1991 Gulf War.

"The main objectives of Gulf Gunnery 2021 were to achieve interoperability between the three nations, conduct a trilateral gunnery exercise, strengthen military-to-military relationships, and to promote the message to our adversaries that our regional partnership is strong," said Maj. Matthew Wessler, TF Spartan's Kuwait Partner Nation Team Deputy.

Soldiers from the 29ID and TF Spartan then took part in Exercise Protection Shield III, a nine-day chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) survivability training exercise held between the U.S. and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

During the exercise, more than 400 participants from multiple organizations were synchronized to train in a real-world threat environment demonstrating their readiness to respond as a team to regional threats.

This biennial training event involved TF Spartan, U.S. Air Force Emergency Management, U.S. Air Force Explosive Ordnance Disposal, U.S. Air Force medical experts, Royal Saudi Land Forces, Royal Saudi Air Defense, the Royal Saudi Civil Defense Force, Red Crescent, Ministry of Health, and other Kingdom of Saudi Arabia civilian organizations working side-by-side toward a common goal.

"Protection Shield III is a great opportunity for the U.S. military to come together with Saudi Arabia and represents a unique opportunity to both learn from and teach our training partners, honing our crisis response



MG Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia, greets MG John Rhodes, the 29th Infantry Division Commanding General, March 24, 2022, at Fort Hood, Texas. Photo by Cotton Puryear

capabilities,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 John Hartley, the TF Spartan CBRN officer-in-charge.

TF Spartan also led and participated in numerous engagements with their regional partners, aimed at strengthening relationships and developing mutual cooperation.

In Dec 2021, TF Spartan soldiers led female self-defense classes at the Kuwait Sports Club in downtown Kuwait City, as a part of the “Every Soldier an Ambassador” program, which encourages interactions between deployed American soldiers and Kuwaitis. The classes were held in support of the United Nations Secretary-General’s UNiTE by 2030 campaign to End Violence against Women.

The event consisted of 12 separate two-day long classes, as well as a specialty class for women with special needs. Each class began with an inspirational message from a local female leader and consisted of learning and practicing basic self-defense techniques.

Ambassador Alina Romanowski, U.S. Ambassador to Kuwait, even dropped by for a special session for her and her staff.

“We are so pleased with the collaboration between Kuwait Sports Club, Task Force Spartan, and the U.S. Embassy,” said Katie Garry, Cultural Attaché for the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait. “The workshop was one of the largest collaborations in recent memory between the U.S. military, the U.S. Embassy, and a Kuwait sports institution. We are grateful to have been a partner in this collaboration.”

Also in Dec 2021, soldiers and leaders from TF Spartan’s Office of the Staff Judge Advocate participated in a multi-day legal symposium held at the Kuwait Air Force Command. The event was co-planned by TF Spartan and the Kuwait Ministry of Defense Legal Affairs Directorate of Military Judicial Authority.

To assist in the planning and execution of these, and numerous other, exercises and engagements, the TF Spartan developed Partner Nation Teams to directly work in collaboration with its various partner nations across the region. These small teams of highly trained officers and non-commissioned officers worked side-by-side with their counterparts from each host-nation’s military.

“Establishing the Partner Nation Teams allowed our small teams to focus solely on building relationships and planning engagements and exercises with one country’s military services,” said Maj. Chris Wille, Task Force Spartan’s Liaison Officer to the United Arab Emirates Land Forces and Deputy Chief of the UAE Partner Nation Team.

By working alongside their partners, these teams were able to develop the relationships and trust necessary to plan and execute major bilateral and multi-lateral training exercises.

“Being on the ground with our partners enabled us to build relationships, improve interoperability between our militaries, and better understand their training and capabilities. This is hard to accomplish if you’re not on the ground with them every day,” added Wille.

AFGHAN EVACUATION

In addition to its primary mission of building partnerships and promoting stability across the region, TF Spartan played a vital role in the effort to evacuate at-risk Afghans from Afghanistan, as part of Operation Allies Refuge, following the Taliban take-over of the country in mid-2021.

In July 2021, TF Spartan was tasked with the creation of facilities at Camp Buehring, Kuwait to house and care for up to 5,000 Afghan evacuees. In less than 60 days, the 29ID, working with the West Virginia National Guard’s 111th Theater Engineer Brigade, constructed “Freedom Village”, a sprawling compound designed and built from the ground up as a short-term safe haven to welcome and house evacuees as they awaited processing and onward movement.

“We hit the ground within 24 hours of getting the warning order,” said Sgt. 1st Class Gavin McClung, Task Force Spartan Protection Cell non-commissioned officer. “From that time on, we sprinted.”

With time running against them, the soldiers worked furiously to

ensure Freedom Village was fully operational before the first evacuees arrived.

“We had operated under a particular course of action for about ten days, and in 24 hours, we shifted course again because we were told the Kuwaiti government had agreed to help us – that this was a humanitarian mission,” McClung said.

With concrete numbers to work from, the team – now officially known as Task Force Freedom – worked with subunits under TF Spartan to anticipate every logistical need in the movement of almost 5,000 people, more than half of whom were children.

“It took a lot of planning, because displaced civilians have different access and needs than Department of Defense personnel,” McClung said. “They couldn’t go everywhere on base, so there were logistics of transportation and meal services to consider.”

“Even though we were adjusting as the situation changed, we knew it was going to work because we started with a solid plan,” said 1st Lt. John Rivera, Task Force Freedom tactical operations center (TOC) officer-in-charge.

By the end of Aug 2021, the last of the evacuees boarded flights headed for the United States. In all, Task Force Freedom, part of Task Force Spartan, was responsible for more than 800 service members from 13 units, made up of active duty, National Guard, and Reserve. They worked with multiple federal agencies, including the Department of State, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection, as well as multiple non-governmental agencies to screen, process, and care for almost 5,000 evacuees, while providing more than 132,000 meals, 5,500 medical screenings, and the delivery of two babies.

Shortly after completing its work at Camp Buehring, Task Force Freedom was then tasked with assuming responsibility for the Afghan Evacuation Mission Support Element at Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar.

Many of the same 29ID and TF Spartan soldiers that had served as Task Force Freedom in Kuwait relocated to Qatar to continue their mission of aiding at-risk Afghans.

Renamed Task Force Liberty, they became U.S. Army Central’s lead agency for Operation Allies Welcome, the multi-agency federal effort, led by the Department of Homeland Security, to support long-term safe haven operations and the safe resettlement of vulnerable Afghans following the Afghanistan evacuation efforts of Operations Allies Refuge.

Task Force Freedom’s mission was to liaise, coordinate, integrate, and operate with joint interagency, intergovernmental, international, and non-governmental agencies and organizations to receive, house, and screen Afghan evacuees for onward movement.

“Coming off a historic mission in Kuwait, Task Force Liberty soldiers turned around and took over the evacuation mission in Qatar in a matter of weeks,” said Col. Tim Culver, who served as chief-of-staff for the evacuation missions in both Kuwait and Qatar. “We were able to seamlessly shift from crisis operations at Buehring to steady-state operations at CAS, with little or no previous humanitarian support experience, which speaks volumes of the can-do mentality deeply ingrained in so many 29th ID soldiers. Much like the 29th ID soldiers before them, these soldiers will be remembered in history books years from now. The relationships they fostered and lives they changed will last for generations in ways that they may not even realize yet.”

Over the course of their 9-month deployment, the soldiers of the 29ID remained resilient, flexible, and focused on completing their mission, even in the face of challenges and ever-changing circumstances.

“We have made tremendous sacrifices in providing aid and comfort to Afghan evacuees, maintaining regional security, and developing enduring relationships with our partner nations,” said Rhodes. “We take great pride in being a part of this historic deployment. The 29th has proudly represented our nation, our home states, and our local communities.”

By: Staff Sgt. Marc Heaton

29th ID Soldiers from Maryland, Virginia recognized for overseas deployment

BALTIMORE – Maryland and Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to the Fort Belvoir-based 29th Infantry Division Headquarters were recognized for their federal active-duty service June 26, 2022, in Baltimore. The Soldiers returned to the United States in late March 2022 after completing a nine-month deployment to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility as the headquarters of Task Force Spartan, which exercises command and control of Operation Spartan Shield.

“The staff of the 29th Infantry Division Headquarters spent over two years training for this mission and shortly after arriving in southwest Asia we added Operation Allies Refuge to our list of tasks,” said Maj. Gen. John Rhodes, 29th Infantry Division Commanding General. “The Soldiers of Task Force Spartan quickly adjusted to evolving requirements and executed every mission like the true professional citizen-Soldiers they are.”

Senior state elected officials including retired Maj. Gen. Craig Crenshaw, Virginia Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs, and military leaders from Maryland and Virginia recognized the troops with Maryland Soldiers receiving the Maryland Outstanding Unit Ribbon and Virginia Soldiers receiving the Virginia Governor’s National Service Medal.

“If your deployment was anything like what I’ve experienced, the days were long, but the months just seem to fall off the calendar,” said Maj. Gen. Timothy E. Gowen, the Adjutant General of Maryland. “During those short months and long days, you performed magnificently. As the command element for Task Force Spartan and Operation Spartan Shield, you played a vital role in building and maintaining security cooperation with U.S. allies and partners in one of the most volatile regions of the world, where transnational terrorist and insurgent groups continue to pose a threat the U.S. and its interests.”

Gowen said that while the 29th had a full plate, world events ensured it was piled even fuller. He explained while they were flawlessly executing Bright Star 21, a major multilateral exercise involving participants from 20 different countries in multiple training events, including a command-post exercise, field training exercises, and a maritime exercise, they were called on to support Operation Allies Refuge, one of the largest airlifts and non-combatant evacuation operations in U.S. history.

“By the time the last evacuees departed Camp Buehring in August 2021, you had enabled our governmental, non-governmental, and international partners to screen, process, and care for almost 5,000 evacuees, while providing more than 132,000 meals, 5,500 medical screenings, and the delivery of two babies,” Gowen said. “And then you immediately pivoted to assuming responsibility for the Afghan evacuation at Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar, where you continued to support the safe resettlement of Afghan evacuees. It’s not an exaggeration to say that were it not for you and the troops overseen by the 29th, the Afghan evacuation mission couldn’t have succeeded.”

Gowen presented the U.S. Department of State Honor Award to Brig. Gen. Joseph Reale, 29th Infantry Division Deputy Command-

ing General, for his service as the Task Force Spartan deputy commander in support of Operation Allies Refuge from Aug. 25, 2021, to Sept. 6, 2021.

The award citation read “Your exceptional leadership, strategic planning, and synchronization of Kuwait, joint, coalition and inter-governmental organization efforts to support the largest non-combatant evacuation airlift in U.S. history let to the successful evacuation of over 6,800 American citizens, other country nationals and Afghanistan civilians. Signed Joey R. Hood, Acting Secretary, Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs.”

Reale said it was quite an honor to get recognized by the State Department, but he said it wasn’t his award, it was an award for the 29th.

“It was a whole team effort,” he said. “It took everybody in this room to do their job and beyond to get it done.”

Brig. Gen. K. Weedon Gallagher, the Virginia National Guard Land Component Commander, thanked each and every one of the 29th ID Soldiers for their hard work and perseverance.

“You couldn’t possibly have envisioned how events in Afghanistan would unfold and impact the environment, and I can only imagine how difficult and challenging that pivot was, but you crushed it,” Gallagher said. “You behaved like seasoned warriors. You kept moving forward, and in the end, you got it over the goal line, which is a testament to your strength and determination. Not just as a team, but as individuals. When you look back at it you realize you have written a new chapter in the very long and very distinguished book of the 29th.”

Virginia Delegate David Reid presented Rhodes with a Virginia House of Delegates Joint Resolution 268 commending the 29th Infantry Division, and he also helped present medals to Virginia Soldiers

“Thank you very much to the 29th Infantry Division for everything you have done in your 105 years of service, not just in World War I and World War II, but all the different conflicts you have been involved in for what would now be five generations,” Reid said. “It is a stellar history.”

Before presenting the resolution, Reid read the last three paragraphs of the resolution:

WHEREAS, to the men and women who have served and sacrificed as members of the 29th Infantry Division, the Blue and Gray represents what can be achieved when people of different backgrounds put aside their differences for the good of the nation and the defense of American ideals at home and abroad; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That the 29th Infantry Division hereby be commended for more than 100 years of service to the Commonwealth, the United States, and free people throughout the world; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Major General John M. Rhodes, commanding officer of the 29th Infantry Division, as an expression of the House of Delegates’ admiration for the division’s rich history of accomplishments and appreciation for the importance of the Blue and Gray as a symbol of liberty, solidarity, and commitment to service.

Read the full resolution at <https://ngpa.us/20370>.

The Maryland Outstanding Unit Ribbon is awarded to subordinate

(Continued on page 10)

Alpha Company, 429th BSB train at Camp Dodge, Iowa

CAMP DODGE, Iowa – More than 30 Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to the South Boston-based Alpha Company, 429th Brigade Support Battalion, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team traveled to Camp Dodge, Iowa, to conduct annual training June 5-18, 2022, at the Army National Guard Sustainment Training Center.

“Alpha Company is a traditional logistics company. We supply fuel, water and ammo,” explained Capt. Demetrius Hollis, Alpha Company commander. “Camp Dodge allows Soldiers to train specifically on their military occupational specialties and that’s something Soldiers have been asking for.”

“We’re so accustomed to going to Fort Pickett, this is a great opportunity to get away,” said 1st Sgt. Otis Brown. “We do great training there but this puts them in a different environment.”

In addition to a headquarters element, Alpha Company includes a transportation platoon capable of moving and delivering logistics packages, a water and fuel platoon, and a platoon capable of manning supply support activities.

Hollis, who has been in command for 24 months, said one of the biggest gripes from Soldiers is that they’re not able to do their specific job at home station.

“We’ll go to Fort Pickett and they’ll fire their weapons or go through certain types of training but they won’t get to learn their specific MOS,” he said. “At Camp Dodge they’re given the chance to train. The supply folks are here, the water dogs are on a mission, the 88Ms are given the chance to get on the road and they’re moving equipment from point A to point B, and Soldiers are here learning how to dispatch vehicles. Everyone’s getting a chance to train.”

“This is a great experience not only for the new Soldiers but also for the experienced ones,” Brown said. “We all can learn something new and we’ve learned a lot we can take home.”

While Fort Pickett provides great training opportunities, traveling to an unfamiliar location tests the unit in ways training in Virginia can’t.

“At Fort Pickett you know where everything is,” Hollis said. “Here, there’s that fear of the unknown and when there’s that fear, they pay more attention, they want to do a good job. Everyone is on their A game. They know they’re going to come out better Soldiers when they come out of this.”

One major difference is that when the unit travels to MTC they are often staying in the field.

“We’re pitching tents and pulling security,” explained Spc. Jacob Hughes, a Motor transport operator. “Here it’s more admin and performing missions. It’s the most amazing, helpful thing.”

“I like coming to different places, because at Pickett we’re in the field,” said Spc. Chuck Onuegbu, an ammunition specialist from Charlottesville, who has been in the unit for six years. “Here, I can do my job and focus on that, then go back to the barracks and come back the next day and do my job. In this environment I’m doing better with the things I was rushing with paperwork wise, which forms to fill out. It’s been a solid learning experience.”

It’s not just the location that provided a great training opportunity but also the STC staff and their methods.

“The staff here is watching you and giving you feedback in real time,” Hollis said. “Sometimes they’ll let you do the wrong thing over and over to see if you’ll adjust. Sometimes they’ll see if you can think on your own. They’ve been great to work with.”

“The staff here has been outstanding,” Hughes agreed. “If we mess



Camp Dodge, Iowa - VAARNG Soldiers assigned to the South Boston-based Alpha Company, 429th Brigade Support Battalion, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team conduct annual training June 9, 2022, at the Army National Guard Sustainment Training Center at Camp Dodge, Iowa. Alpha Company serves as a distribution company and, in addition to a headquarters element, includes a transportation platoon capable of moving and delivering logistics packages, a water and fuel platoon, and a platoon capable of manning supply support activities. (U.S. National Guard photo by A.J. Coyne)

up, they’ll show us the correct way to do it in a manner that’s effective. They’ll show us how to do everything but they won’t micromanage it. They don’t step in and do it themselves. They let you do it and experience it until you can do it 100% on your own.”

Spc. Allie Champion has only been in the unit for a year but this experience was very different for her compared to last year’s annual training.

“Coming here has given me the opportunity to learn my job and see what it’s like in an actual Army atmosphere,” the ammunition and stock accounting specialist said. “We’re learning so much from our instructor. It’s very enlightening for me.”

Because a number of the unit’s Soldiers were asked to deploy with other Virginia Army National Guard units over the past year, many of Alpha Company’s Soldiers had to step up and fill positions they wouldn’t normally fill and perform duties they wouldn’t normally perform, Hollis explained.

“Here, I’m in charge of more so I’m pushed out of my comfort zone,” Hughes said. “You never learn anything if you’re comfortable. I think coming here is a big step for me and a lot of the Soldiers. Coming here has been pretty phenomenal.”

With a number of Soldiers deployed and a number of younger Soldiers in the unit, the training also provided an opportunity to bring an already tight-knit unit even closer together.

“There are a lot of new people in the unit in the last few months,” said Spc. Kimberly Jackson, a water treatment specialist who has served in the unit for more than 10 years. “AT really gives you a chance to get more comfortable and get to know everyone.”

“The people in this unit are phenomenal,” Hughes, who has been in the unit since 2018, said. “We’re all a family. We all have a life outside of this but we’re all interested in each other’s lives. You need that kind of camaraderie to work efficiently and perform your best.”

By A.J. Coyne | Virginia National Guard Public Affairs

**New address for National Headquarters is:
29th Division Association, Inc. PO Box 548, Lutherville Timonium, MD 21094-0548**

Georgia's historic 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

The 29th Division Association is pleased to learn that Georgia's historic 48th IBCT is joining our Division family.

The 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team has a history, which exemplifies the concept of the Citizen Soldier. The origins of the Brigade go back to the creation of the Albany Guards, the Barnesville Blues, the Baldwin Blues, and the Floyd Rifles, which were all organized around 1810. Fifteen years later, they were joined by the "Macon Volunteers." All first saw Federal service during the Seminole and the Mexican Wars. At the start of the Civil War, they were formed into the 4th Georgia Infantry and they fought in most of the major battles in Virginia, surrendering at Appomattox in 1865. Reconstituted in 1872, they were mustered into Federal service in 1898 for the Spanish American War but did not see combat.

During World War I, the "Macon Volunteers" served within the 42nd Division as Company B of the 151st Machine Gun Battalion. The "Rainbow" Division included National Guard units from all over the country and was one of the first to Arrive in Europe. They served in Loraine in February of 1918 and then were moved to the Champagne Region to counter the German Offensive in June. Company B fought in both the Saint-Mihiel and Meuse–Argonne Offensives. The other National Guard Regiments from Georgia were grouped into the 121st Infantry Regiment of the 31st Division. Most of the Division was broken up to form replacements upon their arrival in France, but B and C Companies of the 1st Battalion of the 121st and F Company of 2nd Battalion were assigned to the 151st Machine Gun Battalion.

The units in what are now in the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team were repeatedly reorganized in the early 1920s within the 59th Infantry Brigade of the 30th Division.

Early in World War II, the "Macon Volunteers" were redesignated as the 30th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop which quickly became mechanized. The 30th Division arrived in France 11 days after D-Day and played a key role in Operation Cobra, which allowed US forces to move beyond the hedgerows of the Normandy bocage. After the liberation of Paris, the 30th Division pushed into Belgium and reached the Netherlands by September. They then encircled Aachen. After blunting part of the German assault at the Battle of the Bulge, the Division crossed the Roer River near Jülich in February 1945. They ended the war on the Elbe River. The 121st was reassigned to the 8th Division at the beginning of the World War II. The 121st landed on Utah Beach on July 4th and served along with the 29th Division in the Battle for Brest. They then turned east, moving into Luxembourg before entering combat in the Hürtgen Forest. They also fought in the Roer before also making it to the Elbe.

From 1945 to 1973, National Guard units from Georgia underwent a series of redesignations. From 1946 until 1955, they served within the 48th Infantry Division. When the Division converted to Armored, the "Macon Volunteers" were redesignated Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Combat Command B. The 121st was broken up and some assigned to the 162nd Tank Battalion. In

1968, the 48th Division, like the 29th was made inactive and the remaining elements of the Georgia National Guard moved to the 30th Infantry Division. Finally at the end of 1974, these units were consolidated into the separate 48th Infantry Brigade.

During the 1980s, the 48th was one of three National Guard brigades to receive special training so that they might operate as a "round-out" for a Regular Army Division. When Operation Desert Shield commenced, all three were passed over and other active-duty units were sent in their place. In November 1990, more than 4,500 members of the 48th Brigade were mobilized to participate in Operation Desert Storm. The unit completed training in California and became the only Army National Guard brigade validated as combat ready for the Gulf War. The War, however, ended to soon, and subsequently the 48th was criticized for being underprepared. The Army focused on issues like incomplete dental records. The same 1991 Report that highlighted these concerns also recognized that 147,000 Army Reserve and National Guard soldiers had served on active duty under Operation Desert Storm. Out of the 48th's experience came the National Guard that we have today: better trained and prepared.

For seven years, starting in 1999, the 48th Infantry Brigade (Enhanced) (Mechanized) became part of the newly reconfigured 24th Infantry Division. The Brigade deployed to Bosnia and Herzegovina for Stabilization Force (SFOR) Rotation 9 from April to October 2001. In October 2004, the 48th Infantry Brigade was mobilized again, this time for the Global War on Terrorism. Seven months later, the unit began deploying as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom, where they faced some of the fiercest combat. The brigade was assigned to Multi-National Division – Baghdad (MND-B) under the control of the 3rd Infantry Division and was responsible for a sector of southwest Baghdad, nicknamed the Triangle of Death. The brigade then relocated to a series of stations from the Kuwait border to as far north as Mosul, and as far west as the Syrian border.

When they returned to Georgia, the 24th Division had been deactivated and the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team became part of the 35th Infantry Division, headquartered at Fort Leavenworth, KS. In 2009, more than 3000 Georgia Guardsmen deployed again, this time to Afghanistan for fifteen months, as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. During that time, they lost 8 Guardsmen. In 2016, the brigade was grouped with the Active-Duty 3rd Division, in a somewhat similar system to that, which they had operated under before the Gulf War. Currently, the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team is made up of one Cavalry Squadron (1st of the 108th), three Battalions of the 121st Infantry, one battalion of the 118th Field Artillery, 148th Brigade Support Battalion, and the 177th Brigade Engineer Battalion. Last month, they participated in the Exportable Combat Training Capability(XCTC). The brigade was evaluated on a series of tasks to ensure Guardsmen's readiness in series of combat environments including mortar and platoon live fire, anti-armor ambush, urban warfare, air reconnaissance, and assault.

Submitted by Edmund D. Potter, National Historian



29th Provisional Rangers – Mission Accomplished!

This story starts December 1942 when 368 volunteers formed the **29th Provisional Ranger Battalion (PRB)** mostly from the 29th Infantry Division based in England. We know there were 368 members of the 29th PRB (initially labeled the “2nd Ranger Battalion” by their Commando instructors) from the training log of the Commando School. The log shows that 10 officers/167 enlisted men began Commando training on 1 Feb 43 and another 11 officers/180 enlisted men began training on 1 May 43. The battalion, commanded by MAJ Ralph Millholland from the 115th Regiment, conducted several raids on islands in the English Channel and in Norway with the Commandos before the battalion was disbanded in October 1943 after 11 months of service.

Fast forward to 2018 when Senator Joni Ernst, a combat veteran from the Iowa National Guard, decided to seek the **Congressional Gold Medal** award for all of the WWII Rangers – those in the 29th PRB and those in the other six battalions. Her bill S3166 was introduced in the 115th session of Congress on 28 June 2018, and was then cosponsored by Army combat veteran Senator Tammy Duckworth from Illinois. A similarly-worded bill was introduced in the House of Representatives. Unfortunately, timing was not conducive to passage as the two bills were introduced mid-year of the second term, so both bills died.

Senators Ernst and Duckworth made a second attempt in the following 116th session of Congress, and were joined in the House by Representative Dan Crenshaw – a former Navy Seal with three deploy-

ments in Iraq. Senator Ernst’s bill, S1757, was introduced early in the session and passed in the Senate by unanimous consent. Representative Crenshaw’s bill, HR5002 was introduced late in the session, but still received almost half of the required 290 cosponsors.

Senators Ernst and Duckworth made a third attempt to get the Congressional Gold Medal legislation for all WWII Rangers in the current 117th session of Congress, and were joined by Representative Jason Crow from Colorado, an Army Ranger with tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Senate approved its bill again by unanimous consent last year, and the House approved its bill in May 2022 with 418 Yeas and no Nays.

The legislation moved then to the President on 6 June 2022, and he signed it into Public Law 117-132 on the next day, one day after the D-Day anniversary – a day when so many of the former 29th Provisional Rangers died or were wounded on Omaha Beach.

The medal will now need to be designed, minted and then awarded at an official Washington, DC ceremony. Based on previous awards, these remaining activities may take as much as 18-24 months. We have a preliminary list of 126 members of the 29th PRB, but we are looking for more. Send an email to Ron Hudnell at ronhudnell@gmail.com if you have information or questions.

As of 7 June 2022, the members of the 29th Provisional Ranger Battalion have been authorized the Congressional Gold Medal.

Mission Accomplished!

By Ron Hudnell

Recognition

(Continued from page 7)

units of the Maryland National Guard for demonstrating outstanding unit readiness requirements and for outstanding performance in support of “real world” contingency missions.

Created in 2005 by then-Governor Mark R. Warner, the Virginia Governor’s National Service Medal recognizes the service of the men and women of the Virginia Army and Air National Guard called to active federal duty since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

The awards were presented during the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Weekend hosted by the Virginia and Maryland Family Program Offices to help Soldiers and families find resources they might need after the deployment.

“Reintegration following deployment is a critical time for members of the National Guard. Unlike active duty units, most of our members are not concentrated on and around large military bases, and Yellow Ribbon events are essential to connecting our soldiers and their families with the access information on health care, education and training opportunities, financial, and legal benefits to which they are entitled,” Gowen said.

He thanked Soldiers for attending the event.

“The information shared with you today will help ensure that

your military and civilian lives and careers continue their upward trajectory for years to come,” he said.

About Task Force Spartan:

Task Force Spartan is a unique, multi-component, total Army organization, made up of active Army, National Guard, and Army Reserve support units and is led by a National Guard division headquarters on a rotational basis.

In its role as Task Force Spartan, the 29th ID commanded two brigades and four battalion-level task forces. Units supporting Operation Spartan Shield provide capabilities such as aviation, logistics, force protection and information management. They also facilitated theater security cooperation activities such as key leader engagements, joint exercises, conferences, symposia, and humanitarian assistance and disaster response planning.

Established in August 2016 with the first deployment of the 29th ID to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, the purpose of Task Force Spartan is to establish a continuous U.S. military presence in southwest Asia that is built upon the execution of joint-interoperability exercises with partner nations from the Gulf Cooperation Council.

The USCENTCOM Area of Responsibility is among the most dynamic regions in the world. Networks such as Daesh, al-Qaeda, and affiliated groups continue to pose a threat to U.S. interests and partners. The volatile state of the region requires the U.S. to prepare the environment as much as possible to protect U.S. national interests and those of our partners.

By Cotton Puryear | Virginia National Guard Public Affairs

**New address for National Headquarters is:
29th Division Association, Inc. PO Box 548, Lutherville Timonium, MD 21094-0548**

***Baltimore Sun* publishes Memorial Day article on 29th Division Patch**

Back in the late 1960's Andy Warhol, iconic American pop artist, purportedly said, "In the future, everyone will be world-famous for 15 minutes." It only took me 75 years but I've finally reached that pinnacle and I realized it for a cause that is very near and dear to my heart.

It all started when I received a phone call in mid-May from Jonathan Pitts, a columnist with the *Baltimore Sun*. He told me that he was following the story about the Congressional Naming Commission reviewing the 29th Division patch as a potential symbol "celebrating the Confederacy." He had already contacted eminent 29th Division historian Joe Balkoski who referred him to me in my capacity as National Executive Director of the 29th Division Association.

I had a pleasant conversation with Mr. Pitts who told me that he was writing an article on the issue surrounding the 29th Division patch and would like my input. As I've stated in this newsletter and the *Twenty Niner*, I believe that the patch commemorates unity between the North and South as symbolized by the yin yang design of the blue gray patch. Consequently, the patch does not commemorate the Confederacy but recognizes instead the solidarity of two sides that had recently fought each other in the deadliest war in US history.

I also shared the 105 year history of the patch that was designed in 1917, just 52 years after the Civil War, for 29ers to wear on their sleeves and helmets in World War I.

I told him about the activation of the National Guard unit for World War II in 1941 as Roosevelt readied the country for potential entry into the conflict. The GIs of the 29th later shipped out for England and trained for months in preparation for the great invasion of Europe known as Operation Overlord.

I reminded Mr. Pitts of the bravery of those 29ers who landed on Omaha Beach on 6 June 1944, many of whom are buried wearing the patch in the American Cemetery at Colville-sur-Mer. These were the boys that Steven Spielberg portrayed so realistically storming the beaches in the movie, "Saving Private Ryan." And ironically, as the camera zoomed in on one body on the beach with the name of Ryan on the rucksack, the blue gray patch stood out prominently on his shoulder.

He asked me who I should talk to further about the 29th Division and the patch and I named our National Commander, Ted Shuey, WWII veteran, Steve Melnikoff, historian Joe Balkoski and former Maryland Adjutant General, MG (ret) Linda Singh. I was very pleased to see that he followed up with all of them.

As I waited to hear more about the article, I received an urgent message from Mr. Pitts on 24 May. His editor wanted to run the article that weekend and could I come down to the Fifth Regiment Armory the next day for a picture-taking session to illuminate the article. Fortunately, I was available and eager to participate and met *Baltimore Sun* photographer, Karl Ferron, in the museum at the Fifth. We primarily devoted our time to the World War I and World War II rooms as he photographed uniforms displaying the patch. He ended the session in the museum taking pictures of MG (ret) Linda Singh's uniform jacket that is on display there.

Finally, as we stepped outside to wend our way to our cars, he asked me about the patch and I told him the story. He seemed to understand our position. He finished his work by taking a beautiful picture of the exterior of the armory.

Just a few days later, I received an email from a good friend and MDMHS/29th Division Association member, Randy Everett, with the link to



***Baltimore Sun* photographer Karl Merton Ferron photographing MG (ret) Linda Singh's uniform on display at the Maryland Museum of Military History.**

the article that had been originally posted on the *Baltimore Sun* website and picked up by MSN (<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/end-of-the-blue-and-gray-national-commission-considers-mothballing-legendary-insignia-of-the-29th-infantry-division/ar-AAXKXYU?ocid=msedgdhp&pc=U531&cvid=7c3e733c88bd4f299c8612d24403052b>)

As I read through the article I was pleased to see that Mr. Pitts had accurately portrayed my story and included photographs of Steve Melnikoff and MG (ret) Linda Singh, whom he also quoted.

I also appreciated the fact that he tried to balance the article by presenting the views of Dartmouth College history professor, Matthew Delmont, and Richard Brookshire, co-founder of the Black Veterans Project, both of whom saw the patch honoring the Confederacy and a candidate for retirement. However, Professor Delmont had to admit that the patch was not as clear cut in his mind as the Confederate flag.

As the Memorial Day weekend unfolded, I was anxious to see the print version of the article. I was not sure in which edition it would appear. Also, I expected that the article would be tucked back inside the paper to be seen by only those who read from front to back. You can hardly imagine my surprise when I picked up the 29 May Sunday edition, the most widely distributed edition. There it was on the front page just below the fold! I could not believe my eyes because one of the pictures where I stood behind the uniform of CPL George Eigner, Battery A, 110th Field Artillery was also there!

The entire text of the article posted on MSN was there, but not all of the pictures. However, the fact that it appeared on the front page meant that many subscribers would read it and, hopefully, understand that our cause was a just one. I would not have long to wait. A couple of weeks later the *Sun* published the responses they received to the article. It was amazing and encouraging. All of the letters to the editor were positive and vehemently in support of retaining the blue and gray patch.

We can only hope now that our Representatives in the US Congress see this issue in the same light as many of their constituents. We will probably not know until October when the Naming Commission presents its recommendations to Congress. But in the meantime, we will continue to work diligently to "Save the Patch!" Thus ends my 15 minutes of world-fame.....

Frank Armiger, Assistant Editor/National Executive Director

D-Day Memorial in Bedford, VA continues its educational mission

A busy spring at the National D-Day Memorial saw the return of school groups in impressive numbers after the pandemic, stirring public commemorations, and announcements of new initiatives on the horizon. As the last of the WWII generation continues passing into history, the Memorial is determined to carry on their legacy and be sure their role in saving the world does not fade from public memory.

Podcast: A new podcast by the National D-Day Memorial employs new and popular technology to tell old stories of valor, fidelity and sacrifice. Called "Someone Talked!" (after the iconic WWII poster) it features well-known scholars discussing their research into the biggest war in history, and placing in historical context the events that still shape our world. The host is internationally-known WWII scholar and author John McManus, who is joined by staff of the Memorial as co-hosts. So far guests have included Joe Balkoski, Kevin Hymel, and Alex Kershaw, with other world-class scholars scheduled for interviews soon. Episodes (released twice a month) can

be found at www.dday.org and are also available through any podcast provider. Virginia Humanities graciously sponsors the podcast through a generous grant.

Memorial Day: A large crowd gathered on a sunny May morning to recall those who have given their lives for our nation. David Carey, a naval aviator and POW from the Vietnam era was keynote speaker, and captivated the crowd with tales of his ordeal and his tribute to those who never made it home. Memorial Day weekend began with the return of the Memorial's rousing "Stars and Stripes Forever" Concert featuring the Jefferson Choral Society and Let's Dance Band.

D-Day Commemoration: A weekend of events marking the 78th anniversary of the Normandy Landings brought an appreciative crowd to Bedford. Alumni and supporters of the Citadel gathered to dedicate a new plaque at the Memorial site honoring heroes from

their school, and fans of patriotic music enjoyed a stirring concert by the 29th Division Band. On June 6th, hundreds assembled to pay tribute to what happened 78 years ago, inspired by Dr. John McManus' talk on the importance of the landings in securing victory. Later, tributes to longtime supporter Ash Rothlein and Bernard Marie, friend of WWII veterans, were held.

Sadly, the 2022 commemoration was the first for the Memorial in which no D-Day veterans were in attendance. Four WWII vets were present and were duly honored, but the absence of the heroes of Normandy was keenly felt. However, it only made more evident the importance of preserving their memory.

Motor Pool: At the June 6th commemoration, National D-Day Memorial President April Cheek-Messier publicly announced that a lead gift had been pledged to construct a WWII-era motor pool, to house an impressive collection of WWII vehicles that has been pledged to the Memorial by another donor. Doris Fowler of Hume, VA, joined by her son Mike Fowler and daughter-in-law Colleen Regan, will donate \$1 million to the building, to be named "The John & Doris Fowler Family Motor Pool," providing an immersive, interactive, and engaging environment to educate visitors about the importance of motor transport in WWII.

Day Camp: Finally, more than 30 children participated in the Memorial's annual WWII Day Camp in June. The theme of this year's camp was Normandy, and kids learned not only about the campaigns of 1944 but also about the culture, history, food and games of the area that 29th Division veterans got to know so well—and which still loves American veterans for liberating France. From crafting Viking-style longboats from carboard to running an obstacle course designed to mimic the difficulties of the bocage to learning about the role of the French resistance, the camp reinforced the Memorial's commitment to educating the next generation.

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



Kathryn Sink, Aubrey Sink, and Jackson Sink participate in laying wreaths in honor of the 29th Division on D-Day.

Book becoming available soon:

No Two Days the Same: Bringing Back a Division

The standup of a ten-thousand person organization is not without its challenges. This book takes the reader on a journey that the author experiences first hand. It details the struggles of creating a new division staff. In **No Two Days the Same: Bringing Back a Division**, the author reminisces about his mid-career on the general staff while residing on Fort Belvoir, VA. Stories help the reader to better understand how an organization of this magnitude was formed. Learn how a plan is put into action, discover

what everyday life was like, and realize the readiness issues faced by a newly reactivated division. This book also includes the division concept plan. The roadmap that reorganized the resources of two states into a light infantry division.

MY TIME WITH THE 29TH ID(L)

1985 — 1990

By Joe E. Harris

ISBN: 978-1-951797-88-1 /

JWC Publishing; September 1, 2022

***This book is scheduled to be available
at the convention in October.***

Newly published book by a WWII 29er Rifleman

Assistant Editor's Note: On 5 May the Maryland Military Historical Society received an email inquiry through our website from Chris McIntosh who had just published a book about 29th Division soldiers in WWII. One of those soldiers turned out to be his father. Chris was seeking support for advertising and distributing the book and the Society was interested in helping. Below is Chris's story about the book and his father. A review of the book can be found in a separate article.

My name is Chris McIntosh. I am a retired army officer whose father served in the US Army's 29th Infantry Division during WWII. Sergeant Edwin A. McIntosh was a rifleman in the 29th Division's 115th Regiment and was severely wounded during the war. While I was growing up, he discussed his buddies who died in combat; many of whom were right by his side when it happened. He mentioned what great individuals they were and what a loss for him it was when they were killed. Their names were revered in our household throughout my life. With regards to combat; he spoke only in generalities always sparing us the details.

As a young Army Officer, I was stationed in Germany in the 1980s when my father came over to visit. I lived only 90 minutes from where he fought during the war so I suggested we take a little tour. We visited the quaint villages and towns his unit fought through and occupied; many of which were utterly destroyed during the war. We also hiked through serene, green pastures and farmland in the area which, 48 years prior, had been a brutal killing field for my father and his buddies. He pointed out where they took out a Panzer tank, where his platoon HQ was located, and where he took part in a devastating attack against a German strong point which caused the loss of many Americans and left an indelible mark on my father. There was an unspoken deep emotion in his demeanor and energy in his walk as we hiked through this former battlefield. I could tell by his mannerisms that very graphic images were returning.

Leaving the pastures and villages, we headed toward the ancient medieval city of *Julich*. As we ventured into the town, my dad became visibly shaken and could no longer stand. We rested on a city bench near a rose garden next to the main road. Weakened and distressed, he softly commented, "This is where it happened". He gave no further detail regarding his statement and I did not push for any, not wanting to cause further distress.

We left Julich and drove to the American Military Cemetery at Margraten, Holland where many 29ers are buried. He found all of his buddies who were buried there and we saluted each. One buddy, PVT Kenneth Mason, was given a battlefield promotion to sergeant by the company commander (that my father witnessed) during the war but was not reflected on the gravestone. My dad spent months trying to get this changed through the US Battle Monuments administration bureaucracy, but to no avail as no promotion paperwork was submitted by the company commander at the time. (Note: that same company commander, CPT Chester Slaughter, is buried not far from SGT/PVT Kenneth Mason there at Margraten).

I always wondered what it was that shook my dad so visibly that



Chris McIntosh deployed to Afghanistan in 2008.

day back in 1988 while we rested on that little city bench. It wasn't until 2018 after my father's death, when I came across his manuscript for *HEAVEN, HELL, OR HOME* that I found out what it was. It was then that I learned what happened on that spot near the rose bushes by the main road. It was then that I learned about the continuous cascade of combat experiences and horror that he and his buddies endured during that winter of 1944 and 1945. It was also then that I became determined to get his manuscript published as a book and get the story out about these great Americans.

My father was severely wounded in February of 1945 and sent back to Coventry, England for surgeries and then rehabilitation. The war ended on his birthday, May 8th 1945, while he was in that rehab hospital in Coventry. Following rehabilitation, he was sent to Berlin to perform occupation duties there. His thoughts were with his buddies in 2nd platoon, Baker Company who continued the fight east after my dad was wounded.

While on a troop transport train delayed in Marburg, Germany on its way to Berlin, he saw a soldier with a 29th patch. He ran towards the young man asking him to hold up. Introductions were made and this soldier turned out to be a member of Baker Company. Anxiously, my dad asked him if he knew how his buddies were and what became of 2nd platoon. Sadly and despondently, the young man relayed to my father that all were killed in action; devastating news. His buddies were all gone now and he realized that he was the only survivor from his replacement group. (Note: The company commander, CPT Slaughter, went on temporary orders to link up with a friend in the Air Corps who flew B17s. This infantry officer was shot down on a B-17 flying an air raid mission over Berlin. He always told his company that they would get to Berlin; he did).

I have visited the gravesites of many of my father's buddies who

made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. As discussed, many of them are still in Europe buried at the American Military Cemetery in Margraten, Holland. Others were brought back and buried near their home towns. One buddy, PFC Clarence Anspach, is buried in a country church cemetery near Leesport, Pennsylvania. In 2020 while attending my daughter's college graduation in nearby Delaware over Memorial Day weekend, I decided to visit Leesport and pay my respects to Clarence whom I heard about all of my life. Asking the church pastor the location of his grave, he recommended that I talk to the Anspach family who lived in the little white farm house just ¼ mile from the cemetery. I drove to that farm house and knocked on the door; answering the door was Fred Anspach - Clarence's brother. Fred never knew any detail of his brother's service during the war; only receiving the Secretary of War's brief letter informing the family of his death. 76 years later, I was able to provide the detail of his heroic service and hopefully some closure as well. I also explained to him how his brother's name was revered in our household while I was growing up. We subsequently visited Clarence's gravesite together.

My father writes his book in the 3rd person and is also the main character in the story- "Young Mack". As he narrates the different scenarios throughout the book, he is also able to quote his buddies, as well as protagonists and antagonists, as he was a participant and/or witness to most events. There are some events however that were relayed to him by his fellow platoon members and these stories are simply quoted. For instance, SSG Hartman's tale about his 4 day pass to Paris.

Hartman regaled the platoon about his wonderful experiences in the "City of Light" and how he got a manicure and talked with the lovely Parisian ladies. My father obviously was not on the trip with him but enjoyed the tale of Hartman's trip and included this vignette in his book. There are many other circumstances in the book like this which the reader can easily interpret.

The names of my father's buddies that were killed in action are all real. These are the true heroes my dad wants the reader to know about. These were young men who had their entire lives ahead of them; men with dreams, aspirations, and loved ones to go home to. All of this was sacrificed for service to their country. There are other individuals in the book in which he writes about in very unflattering terms; this will become very apparent to the reader. Their names were changed by my dad as the war is over now and there was no need to sully the name of a person who served.



Edwin A. McIntosh in dress uniform while serving on occupation duty in Berlin with another division.

By Chris McIntosh and Frank Armiger

Book Review:

Heaven, Hell or Home: The True Story of a Rifleman Serving in the US Army's 29th Infantry Division During World War II by Edwin A. McIntosh

This book presents a very unique method for relating an eyewitness account of the many ordeals of infantrymen on the front lines during WWII. As mentioned above, the story is told in the third person with "Young Mack" representing the author. In many respects the book reads like a novel with a great deal of dialogue between the soldiers and at times with their enemies. McIntosh's writing style is crisp and very descriptive. He wants you to feel what he and his buddies felt as they experienced the horrors of war.

The story takes place during the Rhineland Campaign as the 29th Division approaches Julich on the Ruhr River in Germany in December 1944. The author was a rifleman in 2nd Platoon, Company B, 115th Infantry Regiment and recounted the action around Julich, including at the Sportplatz, Bourheim, Koslar and Hasenfeld Gut.

However, this is not a historical account of the combat from either a strategic or tactical perspective, but arises from the view of individual soldiers who only knew the small world around them. In addition to Young Mack, we also hear from others like Brodsky, Hartman, Narza, Fitch and many others in the 2nd Platoon.

Then, there are those who did not make it, like T/SGT Laverne Sackett and Private Kenneth Mason. For each of these fallen buddies, McIntosh pauses his story and provides the exact location where each is buried, some in US cemeteries and some in the Military Cemetery in Margraten, Nether-

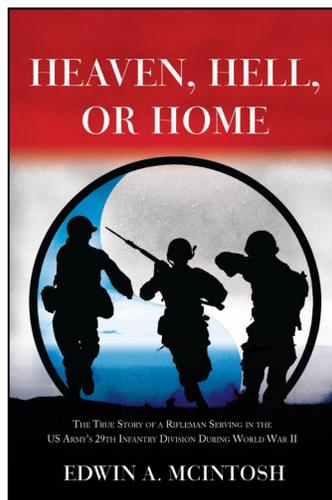
lands. These interludes read like solemn segues between the gut wrenching horrors of war.

This is not a book for the faint of heart. McIntosh describes the terror that he sees in graphic detail: torn bodies, bloated dead animals, pigs rooting about German corpses, etc. We join him and his buddies in fox-holes trying to stay awake and dry during heavy, cold rainstorms. We hear their banter as well as their conflict in uncensored language that became their everyday dialogue.

After reading the book, it became crystal why Joe Balkoski entitled his book that covers this part of the 29th Infantry Division's action in Germany *Our Tortured Souls*. Like Young Mack many of the riflemen were replacements. Most of those who had landed on the beaches in Normandy were long gone and now the war had become a slog through the beet fields and feedlots of western Germany. The men were afraid, angry and at times bewildered, but when the time came they rose to the occasion and performed their duties.

In the end, Young Mack was also severely wounded. He had only been in action for a number of weeks and now he was out of the war. But the war was not out of him. It is apparent in reading the book that he had a vivid memory of everything that happened there from the sublime to the horrific, but most importantly he remembered his buddies. They were the ones who helped each other get through it.

By Frank Armiger, Assistant Editor



Normandy Diary

Part 2

By Colin H. McLaurin, CO, I/115

Combat Initiation

Early the next morning, our battalion moved out. Our first objective was to secure the nearby village. Since I was the Company Executive Officer, it was part of my job to set up and control the Company Command Post (CP). This I did while two of our rifle platoons moved slowly into the village. Other units of our battalion moved in also. I soon heard my first enemy small arms fire. A machine gun opened up and its rate of fire was so great that it sounded like a piece of cloth tearing. This was a sharp contrast to ours which was more of a chatter.

I took advantage of a halt and observed my surroundings. Other than the movement of our soldiers, there was no sight of life. The village was apparently deserted. On the opposite side of the road from me and on the edge of a small clump of woods, I saw what I judged to be a first aid station. A jeep was standing in front of it and medical personnel were loading a couple of litters on it.

I did not have the slightest idea how many Germans were opposing us or what units were assisting us, if any. All I knew was that we had orders to move to a certain objective, and its location was not definitely fixed in my mind. I little knew then how prominent a part uncertainty would play in our forthcoming operations.

While I was standing around trying to think of something constructive to do, I observed two Frenchmen walking toward the point on the side of the road where I had my CP located. They each had a small bucket in their hands. These men interested me, for they were the first Frenchmen that I had ever seen on their native soil. Both had the dress and appearance of farmers with their wrinkled, tough, sunburned skin and worn patched clothes. On their feet were wooden shoes.

They walked up to a point abreast of where we were standing, and after nodding their heads in greeting, attempted to walk on by. Their faces showed no emotion and their manner was unconcerned in spite of the scattered rifle and machine gun fire going on only a short distance away. We stopped them, and one of my men who could speak French asked them what they were doing. They replied that they were going to get some milk. I let them proceed about their business because I did not know exactly what I would do with them if I detained them. Later they came trudging back, but this time there were held and later sent back to regimental headquarters to be questioned. Sometime later, I found out that nearly all French civilians had been moved away from the coast, and the only ones left there were pro-Nazi.

My company began moving slowly forward; so I began to move too. At one point, I passed by a dead American soldier who was lying by the side of the road and behind a low stone wall where he had fallen. My mind had been indoctrinated to expect to see death, but in spite of this mental conditioning, I experienced a feeling of revulsion and pity as I walked past that motionless body which was dressed in the same uniform as mine, and whose legs, arms, mind, and heart were forever stilled.

We progressed slowly through the town of St. Laurent-Sur-Mer, advancing from house to house. Walls, fences, and hedges usually

furnished adequate cover, but this condition favored the Germans more than it did us. We had to keep moving, but the Germans, by keeping still in their hiding places, were very difficult to locate.

The Company engaged in its first real skirmish on the outskirts of the far side of the town. Up until then the fighting had merely amounted to an exchange of fire between ourselves and the Germans. They had withdrawn before we were able to come to grips with them. I had not as yet really taken an active part in the fighting. My job had been to keep in contact with the forward platoons and to keep the Company CP located as close to them as possible without receiving small arms fire. The CP was the nerve center of the Company. I had set up the CP in a sheltered spot about 150 yards behind the platoons in front. There was a considerable amount of firing up ahead by the riflemen, and a couple of minutes after it died down, I spied LT Carter, one of the rifle platoon leaders, walking to the rear. In front of him and walking with upraised arms was a German soldier. LT Carter's face looked as if he had rubbed it with soot. Five minutes later, I observed three more prisoners being escorted back to the rear by a rifleman. It became my responsibility to start them on their way to the POW cage. Definite instructions had not as yet been given to us as to the method of disposing of prisoners; so I was lucky when I ran into an MP a short distance away who took them off my hands.

I did not receive any messages from the platoon leaders after all this happened; so I decided that I would go up and find out just what was going on. As there was scattered firing going on all around, I took pains to take advantage of all available cover along the way. In an open field through which I passed, I was shocked to see three dead American soldiers sprawled face down on the ground. In the same field, I also passed some sort of launching ramp for rockets. There were a couple of projectiles still loaded in the launcher and others lay scattered over the ground. I deduced that this had been a part of the German's beach defenses. (We were still in sight of the water as most of our movement had been parallel to the beach instead of straight inland.)

I found the forward platoons halted and deployed behind a couple of adjoining hedgerows. Captain Spry, the Company Commander, was looking over the terrain out in front and debating his next move. It took only a couple of minutes to become aware of the situation. It seems that a small group of Germans had held their ground until the position had been overrun. When the nearest platoon had closed in on the position, one of the Germans had started throwing hand grenades. One of them had exploded so close to LT Carter that the smoke and flame had seared and blackened his face. He had miraculously escaped serious wounds. One of his men proudly pointed to the thrower who was lying dead at our feet. He said, "Green let him have it with his BAR." The other Germans had taken refuge in an underground dugout; so the flame thrower had been unlimbered. Only one squirt was required to make them come out with upraised arms. They were the ones I had turned over to the MP.

While our men stood around in this position sort of catching

their breath before continuing the advance, CPT Spry instructed me to take a few men and see if I could locate and eliminate a sniper who, we suspected, had been taking pot shots at us. The sound of his rifle fire seemed to come from a house about two hundred yards behind us. At last, I felt that I was doing something. I gathered four men, including a BAR man and started out. I proceeded slowly and cautiously, for it only takes four well-aimed shots by a good rifleman to eliminate four men. By being reckless I might find the tables turned on me. Instead of me eliminating the sniper, I might end up being the one eliminated. When we were a hundred yards from the house where we thought the sniper was hiding, I stopped a bit and waited to see if he would shoot again so that I could accurately locate his position. As luck would have it, if he were there, he stayed as quiet as a mouse. I was about to move closer when I heard a loud explosion and out of the corner of my eye I saw the resulting flash and smoke. This startled me for I did not know what had caused it. It could have been a grenade, mortar shell, or an artillery shell. Whatever it was it had exploded less than 75 yards from where I was hiding, and might have been aimed at me or may have been just a stray shell. As I had no means of determining at whom it was aimed, I decided to proceed.

I looked around to motion my men on forward and was amazed as well as angered to discover that they left. I found them were they had taken cover behind a hedgerow which we had crossed on our way up.

A few minutes later we were at the entrance of the house where we suspected the sniper was hiding. Just as we were about to enter and start searching it, I heard a sound coming from the cellar; a door opened, and out popped a middle-aged Frenchman with his fearful wife behind him. He smiled and bowed ingratiatingly and at the same time chattered away in French. They seemed very eager to tell me something, but not being able to understand French, I had no idea what they were talking about. I judged from their eager faces that they were trying to be friendly. The old man suddenly pulled down his dirty trousers and showed me a wound on his thigh which looked like a bullet wound.

I knew a few words of German; so I said, "Sprechen Sie Deutsch?" He replied with a flood of German which might have been Greek as far as my limited vocabulary was concerned. After a conversation in a combination of sign language and German, I decided there were no Germans there. As time was passing, we gave the house next door a sketchy search without locating our quarry. With a feeling of relief, I decided that we had better rejoin the Company.

By the time I reached the place where I had left the Company, I found that they had moved on and were out of sight. As I did not desire to become separated from my outfit in this sniper infested area, I hurried forward to catch up with them.

So far, resistance had been slight. This was surprising in the light of the extensive system of trenches which I had observed. The area must have been only very lightly defended or some other American unit had passed through before us. I never found out, but either solution was probable. I had thought we would meet a strong enemy force and overwhelm it by coordinated action. Instead, it seemed that both the German and our own forces were confused and anything but coordinated. I guess that is what is meant by the term "fog of war."

I never quite found out what the battalion's next objective was. When I caught up with the Company, I found that we were deployed on either side of a cement highway. My company was on the right and K Company was to our left and on the other side of the highway. We were moving slowly.

Our movement was hampered by the hedgerows which enclosed every field and orchard, large or small, and which were to plague us for weeks to come. They were high dirt embankments with bushes, briars, vines and even small trees growing on them. Considerable effort was required to climb over them, for in addition to the climbing the undergrowth would seem to reach out and lasso your feet. Frequently these hedgerows would be built up along roads which themselves would be sunken several feet below ground level. Such terrain as this made movement difficult for the men who carried heavy loads such as machine guns, mortars, ammunition, and radios. After a couple of days of such movement, my hands were covered with briar scratches.

We advanced from hedgerow to hedgerow for maybe a mile or more encountering slight resistance from snipers and small groups of Germans who only seemed trying to harass and delay us.

Our movement was halted when we suddenly bumped into a battalion from another regiment of our Division. This battalion seemed to be advancing along the same route over which we had anticipated moving. What our battalion commander planned on doing about this state of affairs I did not know; I just waited for him to issue the necessary orders.

Taking advantage of the halt, I walked over to the highway and looked around in curiosity. The road was the only place where visibility was not limited to a couple of hundred yards. On the shoulders there was grim evidence that other troops had been there before us. Within a hundred and fifty yards either way of where I stood I saw several dead American soldiers. I also saw for the first time bits of broken and discarded equipment which in the weeks to come could be seen along all the roads over which our troops fought.

For some reason, unbeknownst to me, we did not immediately continue our movement. We remained halted by the side of the road for an hour or more. From time to time a sniper's bullet would crack by and let us know that the enemy was nearby. I was comforted no little when I observed several Sherman tanks lumber slowly by me with much clanking and squeaking. Another column of troops came marching up on each side of the road. Soon the area along the road became congested with troops.

At this stage of the operation, I did not have the faintest idea where the other battalions of the regiment were nor what they were doing. No doubt the battalion commander had radio contact with regiment, but for us confusion reigned supreme.

A short while later, the assistant regimental operations officer came walking up with a very harassed and worried look on his perspiring face. He came up to me and asked where the Battalion CP was? I pointed to the area where it was supposed to be; about three hundred yards away. He said that he had a regimental attack order for the battalion CO, but that he was having so much difficulty locating the regimental units that he was afraid that he would not get the orders distributed before the time for the operation to start. Thinking that I might help him out a little, I suggested that he dictate the order to me and that I would deliver it to our battalion CP myself. The

suggestion was accepted; so he sat down beside me and dictated the order.

Fortunately, I was saved the effort of acting as messenger. One of the battalion staff officers passed by on his way to the CP; so I passed on the information to him.

Fifteen or twenty minutes later we started moving. This time we struck out cross country in one column and practically in single file. Such a formation is defective in that it strings the unit out in one long thin line, but it also allows the unit to take advantage of the most covered route. In a few minutes we walked into another abandoned German position. It was situated in a grove of trees on the top of a small hill. Naturally we were curious to look over the position, but the Germans had other ideas. Just as we were beginning to feel a slight sense of security, an enemy artillery shell whistled in and exploded among us. It exploded about seventy-five yard from where I had "hit the dirt." A man from my Company was killed by a piece of flying shrapnel. Although I had known, liked, and soldiered with this man for many months, I felt no great sorrow over the fact that he had been killed. Neither did the incident arouse my anger at the enemy. I experienced a feeling of regret that he was with us no more and thankfulness that it had not been I who had been killed. Anticipation of danger and death seem to harden a soldier's senses.

The battalion commander conferred with the company commanders and gave them orders for moving forward. I think that was as far down the chain of command as the order ever reached, for I never knew what we were to do or where we were to go. I did find out that we were moving again. This was a typical example of most of our movements during the following days. Due to the lack of time and the fact that only the leaders possessed maps, only meager details ever filtered down to the fighting echelons, the men with the rifles. All they could do was follow blindly, the commands of their leaders, many of whom were just as confused as they were. This quality of blind dogged obedience to orders is one of the greatest trials of the infantryman.

We must have been sighted by the enemy, for we began to be harassed by light small arms fire. Every minute or so a few bullets would crackle by over our heads.

The order to march to our undisclosed objective was by column of companies with my company third in line. There was a long deep trench leading out in the desired direction; so to avoid coming under direct enemy fire, the battalion set out walking along in the trench single file.

After twenty minutes of waiting for the forward elements to file by, I started out. My position was at the rear of the company. It was customary for an officer to bring up the rear. The company commander marched at the head of his company and the platoon leaders at the head of their platoons.

One little incident that had provided us with some amusement while we were waiting, was the spectacle of a German prisoner that we had captured earlier in the day. The battalion S-2 (Intelligence Officer) had forced him to carry his pack and other equipment which he did in a surprisingly cheerful manner. He seemed perfectly at ease, if not satisfied to be with us and answered all questions earnestly. When his answers caused us to

laugh, he laughed too. The German was a small, middle-aged man and obviously not first line material.

Half an hour later, I walked into a large barn yard on the outskirts of a village. The men were scattered here and there in groups, some in barns and sheds and others gathered around a water pump, intent of filling their empty canteens. As I had been far behind the head of the column, I did not know why we had stopped. An unseen heavy machine gun was hammering away to our front.

Taking advantage of the break, I filled my canteen at the pump and was careful to add a halizone tablet to purify the water in case it was polluted.

After glancing around, I located only part of my company, one platoon to be exact. Failing to see my company commander, I, being second in command, assembled the remainder and then went to try to find out what was going on. I was relieved to find CPT Dana Tawes, the battalion S-3, standing by the side of a paved road which extended alongside the barn yard but was obscured from view from the inside by a high stone wall. I think that he was relieved to see me too. He seemed agitated about something. He directed me to get going immediately. I asked him where he wanted me to go and he said, "Just follow this road and you will catch up with the column."

I went back into the yard through a break in the wall, gathered the remainder of my company together plus a platoon of heavy machine guns which had been attached to us, and moved out on the road. On the far side of the road, just beside the point where the S-3 was prancing around, was parked an armored half-track vehicle. Its fifty caliber machine gun was pointed over a high dirt hedgerow, and the gunner was very absorbed in shooting at some target which I could not see. There were two small breaks in the embankment, and lying in the ditch in front of the gaps were three dead American soldiers bearing mute evidence of the marksmanship of the enemy. I could see that this was a hot spot and the sooner I got away from it the better off I would be.

The road which we were to march along was straight as an arrow for at least five hundred yards, and then it curved sharply to the left. The thought of taking my men down that straight, coverless road filled me with apprehension, for I knew that there were enemy soldiers not far away. I could visualize the enemy waiting until we were strung out along the road and then opening fire with a couple of machine guns. Such action would inflict heavy casualties.

I hesitated a few moments before giving the order to proceed to my men. I deduced that, for some unknown reason, the battalion column had been split. The biggest portion had gone on and were somewhere up ahead. The remainder had been stopped, possibly by enemy fire. It was plain reasoning, however, that if we were to rejoin them, we must push on; so I gave the word to start moving.

We started moving, quickly but with every sense alert. When I had progressed perhaps a hundred yards down the road, a few stray bullets cracking by somewhere in my vicinity sent me scurrying for cover in a ditch along the roadside. As I crouched there, I looked around and to my surprise, I observed a middle aged woman also in the ditch only a few feet away from me. At the time I thought that she was a local citizen taking cover until the shooting was over. Since my concern was not with civilians, I paid

slight attention to her and in a couple of minutes, moved on. Later, I found out that I had been sharing the ditch with a dead woman. I have often wondered how she died. Was she accidentally killed or was it a case of German brutality?

In spite of my fears of ambush, we negotiated the straight stretch of road without being fired on, and I breathed a sigh of relief as we rounded the curve. From this point on, the road was unpaved and was what I would classify as a little country road.

We divided into two files, one on each side of the road and began to cautiously move forward. For the sake of safety and greater cover and concealment each file stayed in the shallow drainage ditches on each side of the road. Hedgerows bordering the road provided additional cover but they also limited visibility to the right and left.

We kept going, moving slowly and taking advantage of all the cover available. We did not have to be told to do this, for several times German automatic weapons were heard as close as three or four hundred yards from us. This was nerve racking for me as well as the others. Here we were, a small body of men, walking down a strange road. We were unaware where the enemy was located, when or if we could contact the ones who had gone on ahead, and fearful of stepping on a mine which might be embedded in the road shoulder. This hazard was real, for we had been warned not to walk on the shoulders as the Germans frequently mined them. I was careful where each foot fell. This created a strained atmosphere for all of us.

An hour and a half later, I could have sung for joy; I walked up to several men from the battalion who were standing by a crossroad. Heavy firing was going on to our right, coming from the far side of a wooded area which bordered the road. One of the men whom we had found said that the rest of the battalion was having quite a fight over there.

LT Miller, the platoon leader of the remaining platoon of my company, crawled into the ditch beside me. I suggested that he go forward and contact the company commander while I went back to bring up the stragglers. He smiled a peculiar smile which I interpreted as a sign that I had given him the more dangerous mission. To prevent him from thinking that I had chosen the easy job, I told him that I would go forward, and he could round up the stragglers. He did not object and left to carry out his job.

My job proved to be unnecessary for before I could get started, I observed a group of officers and men approaching me. When they came closer, I was told that the battalion was breaking off the skirmish. As it would soon be dark, the battalion commander or higher authority had ordered the outfit to withdraw a short distance.

A few minutes later the entire battalion began moving into positions nearby. I naturally experienced a feeling of relief over the fact that I and the men under my control had joined the rest of the unit.

After we were established in our position, I spent the last few minutes of the light of the fast fading day in eating a belated meal consisting of my next to last K ration. My day's work was not over yet though; I still had my slit trench to dig which was always a disagreeable task. The Company CP had been established in the roadside ditch; so I dug my hole in the ditch bottom. By doing this, I was fairly well sheltered without having to dig extensively.

Using my lifebelt, which I had been wearing since leaving the LCI (for protection when we were to cross the inundated area) for a pillow and my raincoat for a blanket, I bedded down for the

short night with the knowledge that we were to start out again at some ungodly early hour the next morning long before daybreak. Thus ended my second day of combat. As yet I had not fired a shot, but the sharp crack of enemy bullets and the whine and thunder of the artillery had become familiar sounds.

We were aroused the next morning at 0400 hours. Considerable effort is required to get up at such an hour even if one's bed is the cold, hard ground. The stars were shining brightly, and the air was quite chilly. It always depresses me to be roused out of a sound sleep and to have to get up in cold darkness. This morning was no exception.

During the skirmish the evening before, Captain Spry had received a slight eye injury. While it was not serious, the medics had ordered him to stick around the aid station for a couple of days. As a result, I found myself in command of the company until Captain Spry rejoined us.

I dragged myself out of my hole, folded my raincoat and put it in my pack, adjusted my equipment, and I was ready to go. I stumbled over to the battalion command post to get my orders for the day. Together with the other company commanders who, with me, were gathered closely around Major Gillespie, the battalion commander, I scribbled down fragments of our movement order by the light of my shaded flashlight. The process was repeated when I gave the orders to my platoon leaders.

We were to advance cross country in a column of companies with my company leading. Cross country travel by compass Azimuth in darkness is difficult, and, although I had done it many times before in training exercises, I was not happy over the prospect of bearing the main responsibility for its successful conclusion. Failure in combat, for a unit to achieve its objective sometimes jeopardizes a bigger operation.

A few minutes before the scheduled time to form the company, a battalion runner approached me and informed me that the battalion commander desired to see me. When I reported back to Major Gillespie, he announced that the movement had been called off. Ordinarily, it is very annoying to have orders countermanded, but this was one time that the annoyance was more counterbalanced by the announcement that we could go back to sleep.

A couple of hours later, cheered by the light of the morning sun, we arose for the second time. Again, the company commanders gathered around Major Gillespie, and this time received orders for a simple march. Our objective was the outskirts of the town of Trevieres, and could be reached by moving parallel to the road which lay adjacent to our present position.

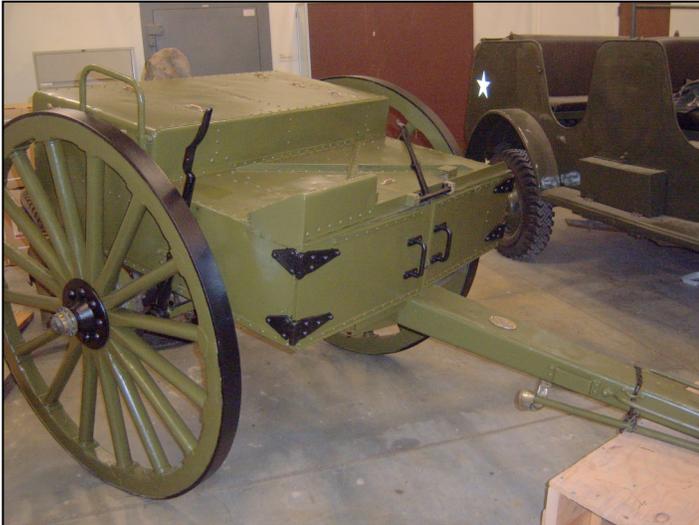
As we were forming, I noticed a dead German soldier lying by the side of the road and, since I had not seen him the evening before, I asked where he had come from? One of the men said that he had been shot out of a nearby tree during the night.

At last we set out with a company on each side of the road. The operation was similar to that of the morning before, except that there seemed to be fewer Germans. In fact, we flushed out only a couple of snipers and they were in the zone of advance of another company. There was an abundance of evidence that they had recently been around in large numbers. In some of the houses we searched, we found stray bits of discarded equipment and in some of the yards there were cases of mortar ammunition.

To be continued

The FoG — Friends of the Guard

Time for another update on the FoG's support of the Virginia National Guard Historical Foundation: since our last report most of the effort has been focused on the volunteers restoring a Model 1918 Artillery Cart, inventory the large number of books which have been donated to the VANG JFHQ library and beginning the preservation and restoration of a UH-1Huey.



Manufactured in 1918 by the J.G. Brill Company and assigned serial number 198, the artillery cart was in rough shape when it arrived at the JFHQ. The wooden spoke and support structure for the wheels required some significant effort and repair to ensure they would hold up the weight of the cart. After many hours of careful cleaning and repainting the cart eventually took on its original appearance and was ready to be moved carefully to the drill floor.



Now it is displayed with a companion piece: a French 75mm cannon. It was interesting to note the number of brass, bronze, and copper fixtures uncovered during the cleaning process. We decided not to repaint these and instead polished them to make them more visible.



The crew responsible for preserving the cart and then rolling it by hand to its display location. From left: Craig Jewell, Grayson Van Beuren, Andre Williamson, James Ebertowski, Forrest Malcomb, Steve Bourgeois, Tom Michels, Doug Weiser and Brian Wood.



With the return of better weather—well sort of—work began on the UH-1 Huey which, when finished, will be displayed on a pedestal over the Virginia National Guard Joint Force Headquarters sign.

Photos and text provided by Mr. Alexander Barnes of Post 29, Richmond, VA.



29TH DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.
 NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
 PO Box 548
 Lutherville Timonium, MD 21094-0548



NATIONAL COMMANDER	NATIONAL SENIOR VICE COMMANDER	NATIONAL JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER	NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	NATIONAL FINANCE OFFICER
TED SHUEY	DICK SNYDER	JIMMY KILBOURNE	FRANK ARMIGER	TOM KNIGHT
tedgshuey@gmail.com	rdsnyder21@comcast.net	116thdirector@gmail.com	farmiger@gmail.com	tknight22@gmail.com

20 July 2022

Dear Member/Friend of the 29th Division Association,

The upcoming 103rd Annual Reunion and Conference, **13-16 October 2022**, will be very special this year as we honor the Headquarters 29th Infantry Division recently returned from their Spartan Shield deployment in Kuwait. We will also be recognizing our soldiers overseas in continuing 29th Division deployments to the Horn of Africa, Iraq, and Kosovo. In order to maximize this effort, we will be visiting the Division Headquarters at Ft. Belvoir and unveiling a recently completed plaque at the National Museum of the United States Army there.

The DoubleTree Hotel in Crystal City, Virginia will host this year's gathering of our Veterans, families, and friends. Your support for the official Reunion/Conference **Souvenir Program Book** will allow us to not only discount individual Convention fees, but also allow us to invite many of those just off their deployment to attend our annual Banquet as our guest. We hope many will be able to attend this year in uniform, along with members of their family.

While we hope you will be able to attend this important Convention, the **Souvenir Program Book** support is a way you can assist in making it a success. Please consider an ad/entry to help us to honor today's 29ers, friends and loved ones who have served in the Division, our historic units, and Division Posts. Checks should be made payable to the **29th Division Association** and mailed to Mr. Mund's address listed below to reach us **NLT 15 September 2022** to ensure they make this year's book.

Full Page (Color)	\$200.00	Quarter Page (B&W)	\$40.00
Full Page (B&W)	\$100.00	Eighth Page (B&W)	\$25.00
Half Page (B&W)	\$70.00		

FY22 has been a challenging year, but one of our most successful in history as we preserved our historic 29th Division patch. Let's top it off with the very best Reunion/Conference ever! **29 Let's Go!**

Sincerely,

TED SHUEY
 National Commander
 29th Division Association Inc.

WILLIAM S. MUND, JR.
 441 Chalfonte Drive
 Baltimore, MD 21228-4017
 duster197329@gmail.com
 443-529-4233

29th Division Association Reunion and Convention 13-16 October 2022

The 103rd Conference and Reunion of the 29th Division Association will 13-16 October 2022 based at the DoubleTree Crystal City, 300 Army Navy Drive Arlington, VA. This year's conference will focus on honoring the recently returned 29th Division Headquarters and subordinate units from Iraq, Kosovo, and the Horn of Africa. We will be recognizing their "29 Let's Go" spirit and the outstanding support of their families and employers. The conference will include, for the first time, all units that comprise the reshaped 29th Division. For example, Florida's 53rd Brigade participated in training elements of the Ukrainian Army before the outbreak of war there. The 29th Division is now 15,000 strong and we need to recognize and honor the service of all our units!

Schedule of Events

Thursday, 13 October

1200 Conference Registration begins, Potomac View Room
1400 Hospitality Room opens, Potomac View Room
Dinner on your own

Friday, 14 October

Morning- 0800 Registration continues
Afternoon- at leisure, tour National Museum of the United States Army, NMUSA at Ft. Belvoir.
*A bus is scheduled to shuttle back and forth to NMUSA beginning at 1400.
Last return to hotel at 2000.*
1700 Reception in the Veterans Room of the NMUSA Museum,
Special Guest General Daniel Hokenson, **29th** Chief, National Guard Bureau

Saturday, 15 October

0800 Transportation departs hotel lobby
Update and Presentation, MG John Rhodes, **29th** Division Commander
Headquarters, Ft. Belvoir Parade Field
1000 General Business Session, **29th** Division Association, Washington Ball
Room - Guest Speaker, SASC (TBD)
1200 Lunch
Post Breakout Luncheon (Invitation Only)
1300 **29th** Division History Breakouts
"Former CGs" symposium, Veterans presentations,
WWI/WII history, tours
1800 **29th** Division Reception, Washington Ball Room followed by dinner
2100 Hospitality Room opens, Potomac View Room

Sunday, 16 October

0900 Annual **29th** Division Memorial Service, (Location TBD) Chaplain Jenkins
1000 **29th** Association 2022-23 NEC I meeting, Potomac View Room

Checkout

See you next year!

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 (Color)	\$200	Quarter Page (B&W)	\$40
Full Page (B&W)	\$100	Eighth Page (B&W)	\$25
Half Page (B&W)	\$70		

IMPORTANT: The deadline for ads and boosters is **September 15, 2022**. Make up your ad copy, attach to this form with your check payable to the **29th Division Association** & mail to

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

IMPORTANT: "Camera Ready" copy is needed. Please make sure your ads are complete and legible. Any questions concerning ads etc., please contact William Mund at the above listed address. Thank You.

Patrons

Commemorating our 102nd Annual Reunion & Convention, your name and the names of all your family should appear in the Souvenir Program Book. The cost per name is \$2.00. Please print each name legibly.

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Zip: _____

Tel. #: _____

Email: _____

This coupon, with your check, made out as indicated above, should also be received no later than **September 15, 2022**. Mail to William S. Mund, Jr. at the address above.

**29TH DIVISION ASSOCIATION REUNION ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM – OCTOBER 13-16, 2022
DOUBLETREE CRYSTAL CITY – 300 ARMY NAVY DRIVE, ARLINGTON, VA 22202 – (703) 416-4100**

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event and total the amount. Send that amount payable to ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. in the form of check or money order. Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. Returned checks will be charged a \$30 fee. You may also register online and pay by credit card at www.afr-reg.com/29DIV2022 (3.5% convenience fee will be added to credit card charges). All registration forms and payments must be received by mail on or before October 10, 2022. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing. Please do not staple or tape your payment to this form.

Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.
322 Madison Mews
Norfolk, VA 23510
ATTN: 29th Division Association

OFFICE USE ONLY	
Check # _____	Date Received _____
Inputted _____	Nametag Completed _____

	Price Per	# of People	Total
CUT-OFF DATE WAS 10/10/22			
REUNION SCHEDULE			
THURSDAY, 10/13: 1200, Hospitality Room opens, 14 th Floor, DoubleTree Registration begins			
FRIDAY, 10/14: Hospitality Room and Registration Continue NMUSA Opens to Registrants 1700 Reception and Social			
SATURDAY, 10/15: 0700 Hospitality Room Opens 0800 Bus transport to Ft. Belvoir 0930 Return to Hotel 1000 Annual Business Session 1200 Post workshop with Lunch (Invitation Only) 1300 Conference Symposium/Tours 1800 Reception and Dinner			
SUNDAY, 10/16: 0900 Annual Memorial Service			
REGISTRATION FEE			
MANDATORY ALL INCLUSIVE PER PERSON REGISTRATION FEE			
Registration Fee Includes: Hospitality Room Friday & Saturday Reception Saturday Banquet Admin expenses Conference Name Badge required for entry to all events 29 th Division Association Members and Guests	\$100	#	\$
Total Amount Payable to Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.			\$

PLEASE PRINT NAME AS YOU WANT YOUR NAMETAG TO READ

FIRST _____ LAST _____

29 DIVISION POST _____ IS THIS YOUR FIRST 29TH DIVISION REUNION? _____

29TH DIVISION UNIT (IF STILL SERVING) _____ VETERAN _____

SPOUSE NAME (IF ATTENDING) _____

GUEST NAMES _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PH. NUMBER (____) _____ - _____ EMAIL _____ @ _____

DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS _____

(Sleeping room requirements must be conveyed by attendee directly with hotel)
 CANCELLATIONS WILL ONLY BE TAKEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 9:00am-5:00pm EASTERN TIME (excluding holidays). Please call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Cancellations prior to October 10, 2022 will receive a full refund less the non-refundable AFR registration fee (\$15 per person). After October 10, please contact the association directly for refunds.

29th Division Association, Inc
PO Box 548
Lutherville-Timonium, MD 21093

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

SAVING OUR PATCH!



Our most urgent cause in 2022 was to defend our famous and iconic Blue and Gray shoulder patch from the work of the DOD's Naming Commission to have the patch retired. We were successful in that effort. However, the heraldry supporting it is to be changed. We cannot sit idly by and allow that to happen. Please continue to send your support to the "29 Let's Go" Support Fund.

A Special "29 Let's Go!" support fund (a 501 (c)(3)) has been created that will be used to educate the public, inform decision makers, and engage Congress about the 29th Division's legacy. These tax-deductible contributions will be managed by The Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge in a capital growth grant fund to ensure that there are always funds ready to support this and future issues, as well as programs that further the purposes of the Fund and the 29th Division Association. Please go to our website 29thdivisionassociation.com/donate/ and donate directly to the "29 Let's Go!" fund.

Contributions to the Fund can also be made payable and mailed to:

"29 Let's Go" Support Fund
P. O. Box 2008
Staunton, VA 24402-2008