



The Watch on the Rhine

The Official Publication of the Society of the Third Infantry Division, United States Army

Vol. 84 No. 3

"Nous Resterons La"

December, 2002

OP 7 Commemorates Memorial Day at Arlington National Cemetery



Preparing to place the Third Inf. Div. Wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns, Memorial Day 2002. Photo by Hedi Werth & compliments of John Insani.

Arlington National Cemetery

.....

May 2002



OP 7 at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers, Memorial Day 2002.

Photo by Hedi Werth.



From left, Ron McCleary, George Houch, and Ray Hergenreder at the Third Inf. Div. Monument, Arlington National Cemetery Memorial Day 2002. Photo by Ray Hergenreder & compliments of John Insani.

A Soldier Remembers Christmas of '43

*Russ Cloer, WWII Lt/Capt.,
7th Inf., 3rd Inf. Div.*

Christmas of 1943 at the Overseas Replacement Center at Ft. Meade, Maryland. A very lonely second Lieutenant, Infantry, 6 months in the Army. (3 months in OCS and 3 months in the cadre of a Glider Infantry Regiment with no enlisted men). Combat experience – none. Endless immunization shots, knowing no one, marking my name in each piece of clothing, stenciling my shipment number on my baggage, being issued a ton of equipment I would have to carry but never use, (gas mask, shoe dubbing, water purification pills, officers' bed roll, tent poles and stakes, C rations), verifying my G. I. life insurance beneficiary, and making out my last will and testament. Shipment GJ432A.

I have been more than repaid for those three years of loneliness in WWII.

Three campaigns in Italy and France with the 7th Inf, 3rd Div., - Anzio, Rome-Arno, Southern France. Then Christmas of 1944, spent in the bitter attack on the Colmar

Pocket, driving fanatic Germans back across the Rhine in snow and bitter cold, the worst winter in 50 years. Constant incoming tank, small arms and artillery fire, cold wet feet and dirty white snow capes. Three officers in my company KIA and two WIA and evacuated in the first 10 days of the attack. I'm suddenly acting company commander.

Please turn to CHRISTMAS on page 4



Since 1919



The Oldest Continuous Army Division Association





The Watch on the Rhine

The Watch on the Rhine is the official publication of The Society of the Third Infantry Division, U.S. Army. The Watch on the Rhine is published bi-monthly for members of the Society by Finisterre Publishing Incorporated, PO Box 70346, Beaufort, SC 29907 (Finisterre@islc.net). A subscription may be obtained at a cost of \$8 by applying to the National Headquarters, The Society of the Third Infantry Division-U.S. Army, PO Box 1156, Ft. Myer, VA 22211. Contributions and suggestions are welcome and should be sent to James E. Drury, Editor, 716 9th St., Camanche, IA 52730-1418.

Officers 2001-2002			
Honorary President	Maj. Gen. Buford C. Blount Commanding General 3rd Infantry Division (Mech)	Committeeman	James E. Drury 716 9th St., Camanche, IA 52730-1418. (563) 259-8952 e-mail: jimd@cis.net
Editor	James E. Drury 716 9th St., Camanche, IA 52730-1418. (563) 259-8952 e-mail: jimd@cis.net	Western Region Vice-President	Carl R. Duncan 14617 Shiprock Dr Sun City, AZ 85351 (623) 977-2347
President	Jerome A. Manley 660 Marigold Terrace Fridley, MN 55432 (763) 571-6963 jerrymanley@msn.com	Committeeman	John B. Shirley 4218 Drake Way Livermore, CA 94550-4914 (925) 447-2256 FAX: (925) 447-8835 e-mail: jbs Shirley@attbi.com
Immediate Past President	Jerry Cunningham 501 Chilhowie Rd. Columbia, SC 29209 (803) 783- 4491 e-mail: jero5288@cs.com	Committeeman	Martin A. Markley 1601 West Woodcrest Ave Fullerton, CA 92833 (714) 871-0419- e-mail: markley@aol.com
Secretary-Treasurer	Raymond C. Anderson 10 Paddington Ct. Hockessin, DE 19707 (302) 239-1525 e-mail: march5@aol.com	Chaplain	Charles C. Trout 10191 Birchwood Dr. Huntington Beach, CA 92646-5432 (714) 836-4981 e-mail: Chaptrout@aol.com
Eastern Region Vice President	Angelo "Jim" Tiezzi 14186 Hilton Head Dr Fort Myers, FL 33919 (239) 466-1214 e-mail: Ajimmjtiezzi@aol.com	Historian	Edward Dojutrek 3303 Fairview Dr. Austin, TX 78730 (512) 343-0900 e-mail: edoju87742@aol.com
Committeeman	Egan M. Fehnel 835 Chestnut St Emmaus, PA 18049 (610) 965-4945 email: nixnootz@erols.com	Judge Advocate	Sherman W. Pratt 1512 S 20th St. South Arlington, VA 22202 (703) 521-7706 e-mail: swpratt@juno.com
Committeeman	Clyde E. Easter 299 Panorama Dr. Fancy Gap, VA 24328 (276) 728-7293	Medical Officer	Dr. Rhoads Mustain 9314 Forest Hills Blvd. Dallas, TX 75218 (214) 321-5500
Central Region Vice President	Walter E. Schmidt 15700 Ryland Redford, MI 48239-3949	Sergeant-at-Arms	Morris Krepke 11807 Larson Rd Anderson Island, WA 98303 (253) 884-4023 mkrepky-op63@juno.com
Committeeman	Richard Martinet 10045 Garden Side Dr Waite Hill, OH 44094 (440) 942-9258 e-mail: martinetopharry@msn.com	Webmaster	Richard W. Heller 1515 Ramblewood Dr. Hanover Park, IL 60103-2230 (630) 837-8871 e-mail: Rheller@warfoto.com Website: http://www.warfoto.com/3rdiv.htm

Committees 2001-2002			
Membership Chairman	Lawrence Driscoll 6932 Williams Drive Woodridge, IL 60517-1907 (630) 964-0634 e-mail: ldriscollp@aol.com	Constitution and By-Laws Committee	Dale L McGraw, Chairman 21302 SE 277th Pl Maple Valley, WA 98038 (425) 432-7151 doremcgraw@aol.com
Audit Committee	Mark W. Sneddon 23834 Mobile Street West Hills, CA 91307 (818) 710-1000	Awards Committee	Alta H. Milling 4738 Datura Rd Columbia, SC 29205-2109 (803) 787-7134 e-mail: altav007@aol.com
Public Relations Committee	Carl Q. Topie 27 Apple Lane Milford, OH 45150 (513) 831-2636 e-mail: cqtopie@aol.com	Nominations Committee	Robert D. Bailey 160 Huguley Rd. Opelika, AL 36804-1891 (334) 298-8622 e-mail: maybob56@aol.com



President's Message

Jerry Manley



Jerry Manley,
President, Society of
the 3rd Inf.Div.

Thanks to Joe Poggi and his very capable O.P. #5 staff the reunion at Buffalo was very enjoyable. To those who have never been there before, seeing Niagara Falls was truly awesome. After the reunion Marilyn, our son

Mel, and I spent two weeks traveling the East Coast. It was very enjoyable but I was happy to return home the end of September.

A heartfelt thanks is due Jim Jarboe and his Awards Committee for presenting me with a Society Service award. How Jim managed that with out me finding out about it ahead of time I'll never know. Thanks again, Jim.

To continue the excellent relationship the Society has had the past two years with the active Division at Ft. Stewart, I have appointed past President Jerry Cunningham as the Society's personal representative to the Division. Jerry will carry on the close contact we have enjoyed during his tenure. Thank you Jerry for accepting this most important role.

I reappointed Jerry's staff with three exceptions who asked or needed to be replaced for personal reasons. Morris Krepky, OP #63 Sec./Treas. will become Sgt. at Arms. Alta Milling OP #3 Sec./Treas. will assume chairpersonship of the Awards Committee and Chuck Trout, Jr. the 15th Regt. Assn., Chaplain will take over as Society Chaplain. Thanks to all three for agreeing to take on these vital positions.

Rock Of The Marne!

Jerry

Call for Nominations

On February 1, 2003, I will be accepting nominations for National President, National Secretary/Treasurer, and one (1) Vice-President and (2) two Committeeman for each of the (3) three regions.

**Nominations will be closed
on April 23, 2003.**

All nominations will be pursuant to Article V (5.2.a) of the Constitution. Elective Officers of the Society are: President, Secretary/Treasurer, (1) one Regional Vice-President and (2) two Executive Committee persons from each of the (3) three regions. Members assigned to outpost will nominate and vote for regional officers only within the region of their outpost. Members at large will nominate and vote for regional officers only in the region they reside. All nominations shall be made with the written consent of the nominee. All nominees will be checked for their current 2003 membership dues being paid before their letter of acceptance and their letter of nomination will be accepted by the Nominating Committee. Any member of the Society considering running for an elected office within the Society of the Third Infantry Division should be a member in *Good Standing*. What is a member in good standing? A member in good standing with the Society of the Third Infantry division is a member that has his dues paid up to date. In this case, his 2003 dues will be paid by the time the Nomination and Election Committee receives both his letter of acceptance and his letter of nomination.

All nominees will be checked by the Nominating Committee twice and then again by the National Secretary for verification of his 2003 membership as being up to date before that nomination will be accepted

Nominations and/or letters of acceptance can either be emailed to me at Maybob56@aol.com or mailed to:

Robert D. Bailey
160 Huguley Road
Opelika, Ala. 36804-1891

Websites that may be of interest to 3rd Divisioners:

- <http://www.stewart.army.mil/homepage.htm> (Active 3d Inf. Div.)
- <http://www.tfeagle.army.mil/> (This is the website of the division in Bosnia.)
- <http://www.warfoto.com> WWII Memoirs-3d Infantry Division
- <http://www.warfoto.com/3rddiv.htm> (Society of the Third Inf. Division Website)
- Walter.Meeks@stewart.army.mil (The 3ID museum address.)
- <http://www.koreanwar.org/> (Korean War Project.)
- <http://www.army.mil/cmh-pg/default.htm>
- <http://www.army.mil/cmh-pg/documents/eto-ob/3ID-eto.htm>
- <http://www.cottonbalers.com> (7th Inf. Regt. Association)
- <http://www.sergeantsmajor.org/cando/> (15th Inf. Regt. Association)
- <http://korea50.army.mil>
- <http://www.nara.gov/regional/>
- <http://www.SwiftSite.com/2IDA> (2nd Infantry Division.)
- <http://www.stewartfrontline.com> (Active Duty 3d ID newspaper, "Frontline")
- <http://www.goarmy.com>
- <http://www2.powercom.net/~rokats/armyhome.html> US Army Insignias
- <http://www.grunts.net/army/3rdID.html> History of the Third Infantry Division
- <http://www.abmc.gov/> American Battle Monuments
- <http://www.ausa.org/> Association of the US Army
- <http://www.infantryassn.com/> National Infantry Association
- <http://members.aol.com/veterans/warlib64.htm> US Casualty Report



As many of us celebrate the Holy Season, it behooves all of us to extend the hand of friendship, love and helpfulness to one another. As each of us tallies the years we have lived it becomes apparent whoever said, "It gets better with age." wasn't necessarily telling the truth. One only has to pay a visit to a hospital or care facility to see that our own hurts and frailties pale into insignificance when compared to others. Each of us can help those less fortunate by visiting our comrades and friends who are in distress. If unable to visit, perhaps a phone call or letter. And remember the children of our nation in our prayers. They will be the Saviors of our country. May God Bless us all.

I thank all who have contributed to the success of our Society and especially to those who contributed to the success of

As we go to press, it is sad to learn of the passing of our Society's sole survivor of The World War.

"The Watch on the Rhine." A special thank you to James P. Rallis for his nice monetary contribution to the "Watch".

As we go to press, it is sad to learn of the passing of our Society's sole survivor of The World War. The daughter-in-law of Harvel Edwards reports his death on 10 November 2002, in Lawrenceburg, TN. She adds, Harvel always loved the 3rd Infantry Division and looked forward to each issue of "The Watch on the Rhine." Harvel lived a long and fruitful life, passing away at the age of 105. Readers may recall we printed his memoirs several years ago, courtesy of Earl Ravenscroft.

Jim Drury

CHRISTMAS from page 1

Three more campaigns, - Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, Central Europe, ending up in Berchtesgaden at War's end. And then, seven months of occupation duty in Salzburg and Bad Hersfeld. I had more than enough points for rotation, but I was considered "essential" and held for three months beyond my eligibility date. Finally, Christmas of 1945 in a redeployment unit in Eberbach, Germany. Knowing no one. Seemingly endless waiting for 40 & 8's to Le Havre for shipment home. Billeted in a deserted German house. Chopping wood for the kitchen stove, the only source of heat. Being asked to volunteer to serve in the honor guard at General Patton's funeral in Heidelberg. Refusing to go!

Those were the loneliest times of my life.

And now? I am 81 years old. I can look back on 55 joyous Christmases, all with my loving wife, children and grandchildren. I have been more than repaid for those three years of loneliness in WWII. It was a time of sacrifice for all. And yet, it was the greatest adventure of my life! We knew what we were doing was right! And as author Lawrence Saunders says, "Old soldiers dream of old battles, because with the sliding of years, memory of terror fades, and what remains is the fond recollection of intensified life, of moments so electric, so bursting, that everything after is thin porridge."

Proposed Stretto Di Messina Bridge

For the WW II veterans who were in Sicily, thought you might find this a little interesting. Remember we landed on the southern shore, fought our way north to Palermo then easterly on the very narrow road to Messina. We then boarded another ship and made the next landing at Salerno on the main land of Italy.

Wouldn't this of been a lot easier in getting to the Italian mainland than the way we had to do it?

The Italian government recently approved the funding for the construction of a bridge crossing from the island to the mainland. With plans to

open in 2010, the 10,826 foot long cable suspended Stretto di Messina Bridge, will be the longest suspension bridge in the world. It's construction will face 134 mph winds and strong earthquakes.

The Sicilian 328,000 cubic meter anchor will be the biggest in order to secure it in the island's weakly cemented gravel. The Italian 237,000 cubic anchor will be buried in mostly solid rock.

Wouldn't this of been a lot easier in getting to the Italian mainland than the way we had to do it? That is if it had been already built before the war and IF the Nazis had not destroyed it like they did many other bridges.

Just thought you might find this of interest; I did.

Bruce Monkman

Book Corner



Hills of Sacrifice

by Michael P. Slater

Gilbert Conner has reviewed a new book by Michael P. Slater entitled, "Hills of Sacrifice." It is an account of the 5th Regimental Combat Team in Korea. Gilbert was on Outpost Harry and writes, "Without the supporting companies of the 5th Regt. Combat Team and the Greek Expeditionary Force, we would not have held our ground."

Turner Publishing co., Paducah, KY (800) 788 3350 offers the book for \$39.95.

Decals Available

Carl Topie again wants all of the members of our Society to know how much he appreciates the many requests he has received for the new window decal and for their donations to the Society. Just send a stamped self-addressed envelope to Carl. If you wish to donate please make checks payable to The Society of the 3rd Infantry Division.

Carl Q. Topie
Public Relations Chairman
27 Apple Lane
Milford, OH 45150 (513).831-2636

Adam's Mark Hotel
120 Church St., Buffalo, NY

Thursday, Sept. 12, 2002
3:00PM – 5:00PM

The meeting was called to order by Jerry Cunningham.

The Invocation was delivered by Chaplain, Jerry Sapiro. Upon delivering the Invocation Jerry announced his resignation. He has served the Society in many various capacities.

The Roll Call of Executive Committee was read by S/T Ray Anderson.

Present: Jerry Cunningham, President; Ray Anderson, Secretary/Treasurer; Jerry Manley, Central Region V.P.; Egan Fehnel, Committeeman; Clyde Easter, Committeeman; Jim Drury, Editor & Committeeman; John Shirley, Committeeman

Not Present: Martin Markley, Immediate Past President; Joe Poggi, Eastern Region V.P.; Carl Duncan, Western Region V.P.; Richard Martinet, Committeeman; Robert Cook, Committeeman; Sherman Pratt, Judge Advocate; Dale McGraw, C&BL Chairman.

Others Present: Jerry Sapiro, Chaplin; Edward Dojutrek, Historian; Larry Driscoll, Membership Chairman; Carl Topie, PR; Jim Jarboe, Awards Committee.

The Sergeant at Arms made the quorum count. Three absent members of the Executive Committee had submitted proxy statements. A quorum was declared. President Jerry Cunningham acknowledged his staff and thanked them for their support during his presidency.

♦ John Shirley moved that the minutes of the last meeting held in Phoenix be approved as reported in the Oct. issue of the *Watch*. Motion approved.

♦ President Cunningham reported on his many activities during the past year including trips to Ft. Stewart, attending the WW2 Ground Breaking Ceremony on the Mall, wreath laying at Arlington Cemetery, the reception for President Bush in Ft. Stewart and the recent recruiting drive to Ft. Stewart that resulted in 72 new members to the Society.

There was no unfinished business to report.

♦ Secretary/Treasurer, Ray Anderson reported that the annual audit was completed and no significant adjustments were made. The posting of the audit in the Aug. issue of the *Watch* was delayed due to some logistic problems but the audit would appear in the Oct. issue of the *Watch* and copies would be made available to members attending the reunion. Ray reported the Societies finances were in good order as we had increased the fund Balance from \$27,939 to \$49,292. He further reported that the budget had been approved by the Executive Committee.

♦ Awards Chairman Jim Jarboe announced that 13 awards had been approved and would be named at the banquet. The cost of the awards were in line within budget. Jim submitted his resignation due to personal commitments.

♦ There was no report on C&BL's as Dale McGraw was not present. The election of officers has only one office that needs to be voted on by the General Membership. The Eastern Region V.P. has two candidates: Jim Tiezzi, O/P 2 and Thomas Twomey, O/P 3.

♦ Nominations Committee, Bob Bailey supplied the completed absentee ballots that were validated. John Shirley with a committee agreed to complete the election.

♦ Our editor of the *Watch*, James Drury, reported that no deadlines have been missed. He further announced that we have one WW1 Society member by the name of Harvel Edwards still living. He is now 105 years old. That's a real Rock of the Marne!

♦ Historian Ed Dojutrek does a lot of person to person contacts to answer question of relatives seeking info. on former members of the Division.

♦ Membership Chairman Larry Driscoll reported the membership is dropping due to the aging of it's WW2 membership and the need to do some creative recruiting.

♦ Public Relations Chairman, Carl Topie reported that we made \$574 from the sale of window decals. He also reported that other military organizations have

made sizable incomes from the publishing of calendars and the use of credit cards.

♦ Regional Officer reports were limited to Jerry Manley. Joe Poggi was busy with hosting this years reunion and Carl Duncan was not present. Jerry Manley stated that the Central region was all set to host the 2003 reunion in St. Louis. Jerry Cunningham reported that the following regions will host future reunions:

- ❖ 2003-St. Louis
- ❖ 2004-Ft. Stewart, Savannah, Ga.
- ❖ 2005- TBA

NEW BUSINESS

The 2003/2004 Budget was approved as previously presented.

♦ Ray Anderson reported on proposals that included two approved by the Executive Committee during the year 23001-2002 and one proposal requiring approval.

1. The approved hiring of a 2nd. party to manage the roster and dues management.

2. The approved new Life dues rates with the condition that it be approved by the General Membership. An accompanying installment plan was also introduced to be administered by the S/T.

3. Permit Finisterre Publishers, Inc. to make use of the new plastic membership card that can further "Streamline" new membership processing. The Executive Committee approved the "Installment Plan" as outlined and the use of the plastic membership cards.

Meeting adjourned at 5 PM and will be continued on Saturday, Sept. 14th.

Saturday Sept. 14, 2002
1 Pm-3 PM

The meeting was called to order by new President Jerry Manley.

The Roll Call of Executive Committee was called by S/T Ray Anderson.

Present: Jerry Manley, President; Ray Anderson, Secretary/Treasurer; Jim Tiezzi, Eastern Region V.P.; Egan Fehnel, Committeeman; Clyde Easter, Committeeman; Jim Drury, Editor & Committeeman; and John Shirley, Committeeman.

Others Present: Jerry Sapiro, Chaplin; Edward Dojutrek, Historian; Larry Driscoll, Membership Chairman; Carl Topie, PR; Jim Jarboe, Awards Committee; Dale McGraw, C&BL's committee; Richard Heller, Webmaster; John Ferrara.

Not Present: Martin Markley, Immediate Past President; Walter Schmidt, Central Region V.P; Carl Duncan, Western Region V.P; Richard Martinet, Committeeman; Robert Cook, Committeeman; Sherman Pratt, Judge Advocate.

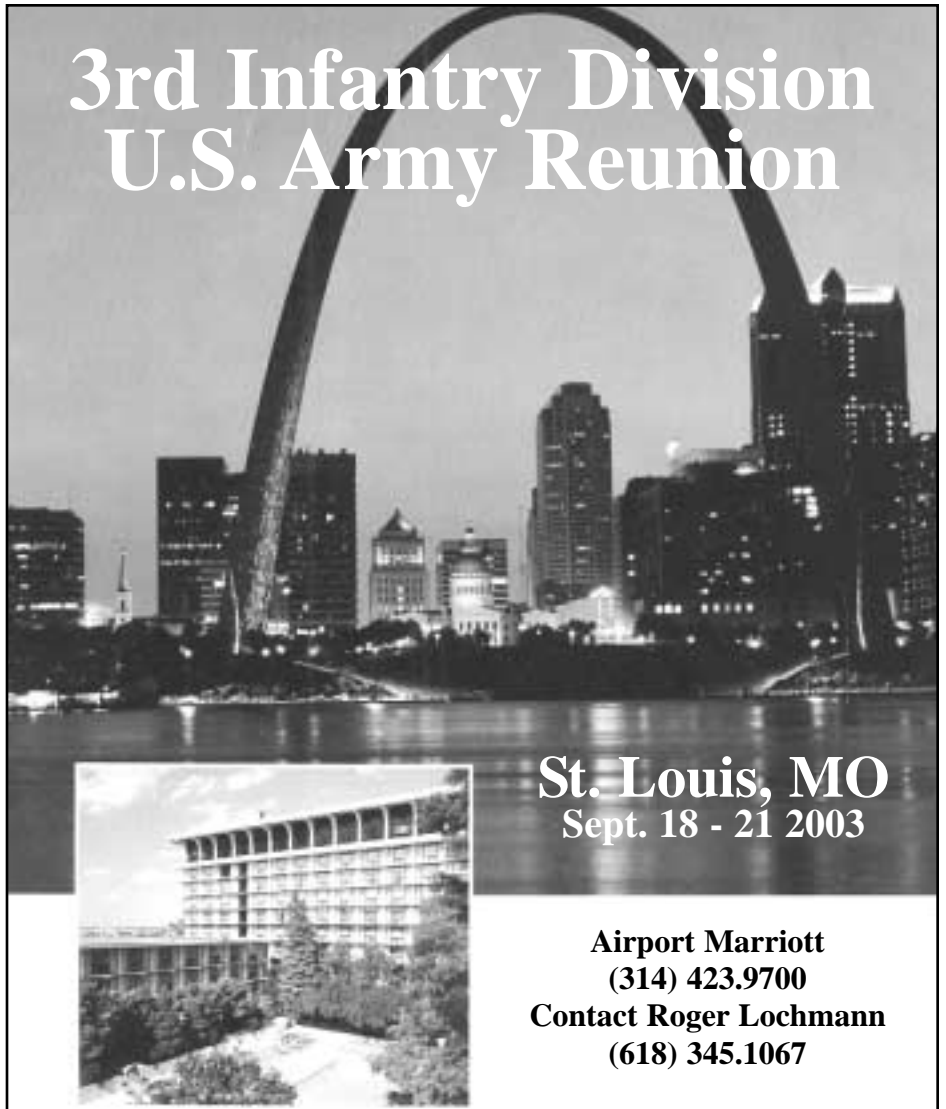
The Sergeant at Arms made the quorum count. Three absent members of the Executive Committee had submitted proxy statements. A quorum was declared.

♦ Jerry Manley announced his Staff Appointments for the year 2002-2003:

Chaplin – Charles Trout*; Historian – Edward Dojutrek; Judge Advocate – Sherman Pratt; Medical Officer – Dr. Rhoads Mustain; Sgt. of Arms- Morris Krepky*; Webmaster – Richard Heller; Membership Chairman – Lawrence Driscoll; Audit Committee – Mark Sneddon; Public Relations committee – Carl Q. Topie; Constitution and By Laws Committee – Dale McGraw; Awards Committee – Alta Milling*; Nominations Committee – Robert Bailey; Liason to Active Duty Personnel – Jerry Cunningham*; (*New appointments)

♦ Jerry Manley pointed out the importance of the Society maintaining close contact with the active duty personnel. To meet this end, he has appointed Jerry Cunningham as the "Liaison" contact with Ft. Stewart. This appointment will be in addition to Jerry's responsibilities as Immediate Past President. Jerry Cunningham requested that his expenses for maintaining this new assignment be paid by the Society. Jerry Manley requested Jerry Cunningham to submit an estimate of those expenses and he would take it under consideration. The deferred question brought forward on the floor by Earl Killen concerning local outposts only having authority to collect dues according to the C&BL's was reviewed. After careful review of Section 9.1c, Dues., it was determined that the language did not limit dues collection to just local outposts. And that the collection of dues by a second party if deemed prudent by the Executive

3rd Infantry Division U.S. Army Reunion



St. Louis, MO
Sept. 18 - 21 2003

Airport Marriott
(314) 423.9700
Contact Roger Lochmann
(618) 345.1067

Committee was justified. Dale McGraw will add language to that section to clarify that point. A motion was made by JimTiezzi that all dues notices would be collected by National billing. That motion was approved.

♦ John Shirley reviewed the 60th. anniversary Battlefield Tour For the Society of the Third Div. in France, Germany & Italy Aug. 13-26, 2004 Jim Drury submitted that an addendum with new members be furnished to new members. That suggestion has been deferred to be a feasibility study by Jim Drury, Jerry Wadley and Ray Anderson It was agreed that the new Life dues Installment plan application be posted in the Watch. Members desiring to participate must make application. The administering of the plan will be under the S/T and National Roster Mgr.. Ray Anderson will coordinate that plan with Jerry Wadley

and Jim Drury.

The question to Delete the *Watch* from the Website or add a member registration number to the Website was dropped. As previously agreed by the Excom, a review of the Honorary Members was made. There are 8 currently on the roster. Ray Anderson surfaced Gen. Walter Kerwin's name as a possible candidate for Honorary Membership. That recommendation was enthusiastically endorsed by the Excom and approved his membership status to Honorary.

Adjournment

Ray Anderson, National
Secretary/Treasurer

Editors note: The above minutes are subject to additions, deletions or corrections at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.



News From The Outposts

2

John S. Cole

Tampa, FL

Our Outpost #2's annual reunion and meeting will be held in Sarasota, FL Wednesday and Thursday, April 22 and 23, 2003. We will be staying at the Inn on the Bay in the heart of Sarasota at a very reasonable daily rate for this time of the year. The first evening we will attend the Golden Apple Dinner Theater and see the stage show, "Kiss Me Kate" along with having dinner. On the second evening we will have our annual banquet and meeting at the Dutch Heritage restaurant.

There will be ample time for attendees to visit the many attractions in the area. More details will be available soon regarding hotel rates, meal rates and dinner theater prices. Any member of the Society is welcome to attend. We thank and appreciate the help of Dorothy McDaniel and Joe Kolac in making arrangements for this event.

*Jim Tiezzi,
President, OP#2*

3

Lattie Tipton

Ninty Six, SC

Members of Outpost 3 deployed to the Chamberlin Hotel in Hampton, Virginia, October 30-31 through November 1, 2002. Actually, the hotel is located right across the street from Fort Monroe's TRADOC Headquarters. (TRADOC is just another US Army acronym that stands for Training and Doctrine Command.)

We were issued passes a day at a time to get ON Post. We had to laugh at this because we're used to being issued passes to get OFF Post. But once on Post we enjoyed comradeship with our friends. Those attending were Bobbie Anderson, Clyde and Anne Clapp, Clyde and Ethel Easter, Willis and Mary Lee Daniel, Bob and Joy Farrington, Tom and Edith Godfrey, Buck and Pauline Guard, Don and Christina Hotz, Alta Milling, Ed Tickle, and George Winders.

The Chamberlin Hotel is an old hotel with many of the old fixtures. It's like taking a step back in time. Buck Guard certainly sees it that way because his grandfather and an uncle were members of the construction crew who built it. It sits right on a busy waterway. Looking across the water, we could see a carrier. This is part of the area where Navy ships come in for refitting before going out to sea again.

On Thursday evening, we had a Halloween Party. Our hostesses, Anne and Pauline, made our hospitality room as close to a haunted house as they could! A number of us took time to come in costume and what a time we had! Those who were unable to attend really missed a good time.

Friday held another surprise. Clyde Easter contacted a fellow

Anzio veteran who lives in the area. He hoped we could tour the USS Anzio. The cruiser is the second ship to be named after the WWII amphibious assaults on the beachheads at Anzio and Nettuno, Italy, on January 22, 1944. We were joined by Woody who arranged the tour. Those who toured were Bobbie Anderson, Clyde Clapp, Clyde and Ethel Easter, Don and Christine Hotz, Alta Milling, Ed Tickle, and George Winders. Clyde Easter is the president of the national organization Anzio Beach veterans. He, Clyde Clapp, Ed Tickle, and George Winders are veterans of Anzio landings. We were treated like VIPs. Master Chief Roger McCormack personally gave us a guided tour. We were honored to be there and crewmembers were awed to meet real walking, talking history. Some asked to shake the hand of these men. Woody is well known by crew members who called out to him as we walked through the ship. Woody even has his own room on board. A big sign declares this as Woody's Fox Hole. The room is full of computers where crew members can E-mail their families and friends or hook up their own PC games.

Our next meeting will be in Columbia, SC. Date to be announced later.

12

Tommy Thompson

Minneapolis, MNL

We held our Fall Fling at Albert Lea, MN on October 5th and 6th. A total of 26 members and guests attended. We were there a year ago and will return again in the spring of 2003. Gretchen Claussen sets up a terrific reunion. The activities and food are second to none. To those of you, especially if you live in central or southern Minnesota, you are missing a very enjoyable occasion at a location that is at most two hours driving time away. Look for more details in coming issues of the "Watch". If you attend I will put you on the meeting notice flyer list which contains much more info.

13

Charles D. King

Detroit, MI

OP #13 met October 5, 2002 for their fall meeting at Gilbert's Steakhouse in Jackson, Michigan. There were 28 present for the fellowship. It was nice to visit with old friends again.

A new food processor, donated by Walt and Paula Schmidt, who couldn't make the "silent auction" at our last meeting, was raffled off and won by Evelyn O'Grady. The 50/50 drawing was won by Iris Marshall, daughter of Iris.

Geraldine Lautzenhiser reported that Gus Koczman is not well at present. We all hope that things work out well for Gus. A letter from Gerald Schmidt, to his friends in OP #13 was read. Jerry has had a run of bad luck lately including a serious lung problem discovery, pneumonia, almost collapsing, and being

taken by ambulance to the hospital, from a Detroit Tiger baseball game at Comerica Park, etc. After an 8 day stay at Ford Hospital, he has been moved into a nursing home to recover. We all wish Jerry the best for a speedy and full recovery.

We had a discussion about moving our meetings around the state. Even making them over-nighters for some that travel long distances. It would take a volunteer from different areas to step up and make arrangements for the group. If anyone in OP #13 would like to head up making arrangements for a meeting place, place to for meals, lodging, (sight seeing, entertainment, speaker or?), someplace other than Jackson, let us hear from you. I think with a little help our meetings could be something special that more members would look forward to attending.

Walter Schmidt was congratulated on his new assignment as Central Region Vice President. The annual election of Outpost officers was held, and since no volunteers stepped up, the present team agreed to stay on the job for another year. If anyone would like to take on one of the elected posts, please let your feelings be known. No one will have hurt feelings if someone wants to take a turn at the helm!

I would like to say thanks to the OP #5 members who worked on the reunion committee, for the fine job they did assuring that we had the great time we had while we were in Buffalo. We enjoyed ourselves very much. I especially enjoyed the talk by Admiral J. Robert Lunney telling about the "Ship of Miracles" at the Hungnam evacuation December 1950. There were many of us present who were there at that time. It was very nice to finally here the 3rd Division receive some long overdue credit for the very important part we played in that event.

*Terry L Tennant
Sec/Treas.*

15 Arizona

Phoenix, AZ

Out Post 15 has 115 members, and all are current on their dues. We are always looking for new members anywhere we can find them. One good place is the American Legion.

Our dinner and meeting will not be held until January 2003. Many of our members who left for the summer will be back around Christmas. Here in Arizona we had the *hottest* summer on record, with two months averaging over 110 every day.

I will be in Arlington Heights, Illinois, in October with the bus to attend the horse races. Andrew Molasky, who is a member of our Out Post has a horse in the race and will be traveling with me on the bus.

*Carl R. Duncan
Secretary Treasurer O.P. 15
Western Region Vice President*

54 Golden Gate

San Francisco, CA

Outpost 54 held the Veterans Day-Winter meeting, Saturday, Nov. 9 at the Brass Door Restaurant in San Ramon, CA. 36 members and guests were in attendance. Self-introductions are always a highlight of the meeting, and several

new members were there for the first time.

Secretary Jack Lewis gave a membership and financial report, and then gave a short talk on how the frontline medical units are different today. The medics we have now are highly trained to save lives and do all that is necessary to stabilize the wounded as they are taken back to battlefield medical facilities where the doctors do their work. Doctors are no longer in frontline battalions since our medic are so skillful, and the doctors are more productive in field hospitals and mobile medical units.

The program was provided by John Shirley who recently visited Ft. Irwin in the Mojave Desert. The 1st Brigade of the 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) was there for a two week training rotation . John was the guest of Col. (P) Bill Weber, 3rd I.D. Assistant Division Commander for Support, and had taken slides of what he observed.

Prior to the rotation, the brigade spent part of a week unloading all their vehicles from flat cars and getting them to the training area. They then spent over a week in maneuver exercises against the resident opposition forcers (11th Armored Cav. Regt.) followed by several days of live fire exercises by all elements of the Brigade. Attached to the brigade was an infantry battalion of the 82 Airborne attached. The first night of the exercise, they made a night jump with only four injuries, none serious. There is a resident operations unit that serves as Observer-Controllers (OC) during the planning, briefings and battles. These specially selected officers and E-7s go into the field and observe all the commanders from brigade to squad. Briefings are held at each echelon after every battle

The opposition force knew the terrain, is very aggressive, shot straight, and was hard to defeat. The MILS (lasers) mounted on all weapons are used to activate targets on all soldiers and vehicles to indicate hits. As the two weeks progress, the brigade units learn a lot and can respond more effectively against these highly trained soldiers of the OPPFOR. When the Brigade is on the march, 4500 soldiers in 1200 vehicles, mostly tracked and armored, with the exception of the large trucks in the supply trains, make an amazing sight for a WW II infantryman. 400 Observer-Controllers, each in a humvee, are out in the field watching every move made by the brigade. I talked with one major OC who said he was first at Irwin as a tank company commander Captain and thought he was a pretty good commander. He said he really wasn't until he finished his rotation. It is the finest training facility in the world, and government spares no expense at Ft. Irwin.

John was also hosted by LTC Edge Gibbons, the CDR of the Scorpions, the group that observes the mechanized infantry battalion, which this time was the 2-7IN. Col. Gibbons served as 3-15 IN S-3, and met John at a Can Do Rendezvous a few years ago. The 41st FA is the artillery battalion for the 1st Brigade, and moves across the desert in a track vehicles armed with a 155 cannon with very sophisticated GPS and computer guidance and fire control. There is a tank battalion in the brigade as well as an armored engineer battalion, medics in armored track vehicles, and many specialized units for intelligence, smoke, chemical, mortars tank

and vehicle retrievers, and long lines of supply and support vehicles. Several gas drills were held where all personal had to get into protective gear and gas masks.

John found the officers and enlisted men highly professional and very conscientious in carrying out their activities. They are preparing themselves the best they can for war, and understand how serious is their profession.

Our raffle was a fine success with \$191 in profit with 50 gifts to chose from, all donated by the members in attendance that day.

The next meeting of OP 54 is scheduled for Saturday, May 10, 2003.

Respectfully submitted

John Shirley, President

63 Fort Lewis Tacoma, WA

Attention outpost 63 members

There will be no December Christmas luncheon meeting. Plans are to have a meeting in February 2003. You will be notified by first class mail of date, time and place.

*Morris Krepky,
OP. 63 Secretary/Treasurer
(by Dale McGraw)*



If you plan to move before the next *Watch* is due or if there is a mistake in your name or address, please enter the correct information below and send to **Society of the Third Infantry Division, PO Box 70291, Beaufort, SC 29902**. By doing this, you will receive your next *Watch* on time. Remember, the USPS will not forward Standard mail (3rd Class) and the Society must pay for each piece returned.

Add Change Delete

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____

National Reunion Planning

2003 Reunion

St. Louis, MO
Roger Lochmann OP 17
1616 Frederick
Collinsville, IL 62234
(618) 345 1067

2004 Reunion

Savannah, GA
Marne Association

Revist Program Report

Return to Korea

Roy Montgomery

I just returned from Korea last weekend from the Society and the 1st Marine Division Association trips, which went very well. The political situation is certainly beginning to change – while we were at Panmunjom with the Marine group, we were getting ready to walk out to the truce shack when we were pulled aside and told “stand quietly, don’t take pictures, make gestures or try to make any kind of communication”. Suddenly, a column of North Korean Generals and Colonels, led by a ROK Army 3-Star General, quickly marched by us – about 5 feet away - and then continued on across Conference Row and back into North Korea. That was really amazing – we’ve been close to Northern MP’s along the MDL before, but nothing like this. It turns out they were in the South (actually in another building in the Joint Security Area, but on the Southern side) for discussions about opening up the new railroad between the two Koreas. When you remember that, just this past July, the Northern and Southern navies had a clash in which six South Korean sailors were killed, this is especially surprising.

I get back on a plane tonight – I’ve got the 7th Division Association and the 1st Cavalry / 24th Infantry Division Association programs coming up. I just wanted to drop a quick note to let you know that the Society’s trip went very well (I will put together a more detailed trip report after I come back from Korea). I also wanted to let you know that, when we visited Chong Song OP (formerly OP Howe), the ROK Army 3rd Infantry Division (which owns Chong Song OP, and of course knew we were coming with the American 3ID) met us with the Division band – it was really something. We then transferred into ROK Army jeeps and went up to the OP, where we are about 500 meters south of OP Harry. The view was perfect – the weather was very good. As we arrived at the OP, we were met by two buglers from the Division band, who had walked up the entire way in their dress uniforms (the ROK soldiers are not allowed to use vehicles – good exercise); they then played “Taps” for us – it was a very moving situation.

Unfortunately, as we got into the OP, I recognized the same damned guy that always seems to be there – he is a senior NCO (their equivalent of an E-8) who knows me well (he doesn’t really care about me, he just knows that I am always bringing people who want to take photos of the DMZ, which is of course not allowed). Needless to say, he followed me like a hawk, so I didn’t get any photos, but several of the fellows attempted “James Bond”-style photos – these are undoubtedly being developed now, and if any come out, I’ll make sure that the Society gets a copy.

Sooner or later, it’s going to occur to these guys that the North Koreans already know what the DMZ looks like, and they’ll stop bothering us about photos, but ...

Anzio Beachhead Veterans of 1944 WWII

Plans are made to hold a reunion, April-May, 2003 in Lancaster, PA. Bring family members with you. We expect a large group from all units that served on the Anzio Beachhead. Contact: Clyde E. Easter, 299 Panorama Drive, Fancy Gap, VA 24328 (276) 728.7293



Letters to the Editor

Jim,

August issue of *Watch* has one of OP 60 members as being deceased and listed under *Non-Members Section*. I didn't see this until I got a call this morning about the listing. I don't always read the non-members listings.

Malvin U. Goldstein member number 3039 was a paid up member of OP 60.

Thanks for correcting this information.

Bob

The editor apologizes for any inconvenience caused by his error.
Jim

.....

I recently attended a reunion of the 756th Tank Battalion at Fort Knox. I have names of those who have died since World War II, also most of those who had registered with the 756th Association. It was sad, seeing those old soldiers back at Ft. Knox, most of them in their 80s, where many of them had started out with the First Armored Division. We toured the Patton Museum (I am not an admirer of the old grandstander, because my brother was killed near Metz, France when Patton outran his supply lines.) Although their ranks are thinning, they are still planning a reunion for next year. I don't where it will be held, for I didn't stay long enough to hear their decision. My husband, Bedford M. Brown, won the Silver Star while serving with this unit. We had been married 46 years when he died of a stroke in 1991. I am so proud of this historic bunch of tankers, who went into North Africa in 1942, and ended up in Berchtesgaden in 1945.

Mary Byrd
brownbyrd@earthlink.net

.....

Dear Jim:

Thanks to you for all of your support. Of course, thanks goes to all past administrations, your preceding Editor of the *Watch*, and to all of our members and ritual teams for their great backing over the past 11 years of my service as National Chaplain of the Society.

Have a few items of news that probably should go in the *Watch*:

1. Last night, Sept. 29th, 2002 had dinner with George Goldstone, his wife Bea, and their son Joseph at the Il Fornaio restaurant in San Francisco. Mary and I were their guests. It was a wonderful personal reunion. George served in the 3rd Signal Co. in WW2, and is a retired Attorney from Michigan. He edited the *Watch* and also served as National V.P. of the Society quite a few years back. We became friends back at Fort Ord before going overseas, when I was TJA and he was Defense Counsel on some General Court Martials. He served on the *Watch* during my

administration in 1954-55. We reminisced and talked of many of the Third Divisioners, occurrences, and places. Thanks to the Goldstones for a wonderful evening.

2. Over the weekend of July 27-28, 2002, we were invited to the 85th birthday of Tom Monroe Jr, son of Tom Monroe who commanded the 15th Regt. In the early part of WW2. It was a wonderful gathering of family and friends. Tom Monroe, Tom Monroe Jr. and his brother all graduated from West Point and became Colonels. Our Col. Tom was in the Class of 1914, and served in both WWI and WW2. Young Tom served in the 30th Inf. Regt. and is a member of the Society. The affair was in the Eureka, CA area. The first day included a boat ride on Humboldt Bay, followed by dinner at the Cook House, located on site where lumbermen used to eat in years gone by. The second day featured a picnic barbecue at 315 Monroe Lane, Eureka, what was formerly the home of our late Col. Tom and now is the home of his granddaughter. What memories! Mary and I were proud to be with young Tom, his family members and friends on this special occasion. Congratulations again to Tom Monroe, Jr.

3. Received a telephone call from Lou Vivolo and his wife Phyllis over the past weekend. Lou served in Cannon Co., 15th Regt., WW2. He recently had a long hospitalization, is now home and on the recovery route. Says he is regaining weight and eating well. Lou was a New England boxing champ in days gone by. He was very proud to tell me that he was now named to be inducted in their boxing Hall of Fame. I nicknamed Lou "Keep Punching", and that he has done. He deserves this great recognition of his past accomplishments. So it's congratulations to another outstanding Third Divisioner.

That's it for now.

Rock of the Marne and Can Do.
Jerome Sapiro
jeromesapiro@worldnet.att.net
415-731-4235

.....

I was living at the time of the Battle of the Bulge. I am 71 years old and can't forget the courageous American Soldiers in that cold winter. (in Vielsalm, (Ardennes).

Eight years after, I think it is my time to help the Korean Nation to recover their freedom so I signed for Korea! "Freedom is not free!"

The Belgian Bn. Wears the Brown Berets. (Some of the Commandos wear green but for Korea Special troops the berets were brown.

Sincerely,

Claude W. Billiet LM of FBA
Belgian Bn. 3d Inf. Division Korea
44 Rue Du Doyard

4990 Lierneux, Belgium
(Please excuse my English.)
.....

I was in Fedala, and every first landing except Anzio. I was in a hospital back in North Africa for 3 months with yellow jaundice. I made Anzio a month after the invasion. I earned ten out of the eleven battle stars credited to the 3d Inf. Div; From Algeria to Central Europe.

Due to a head injury, I do not travel more than fifty miles at any one time. I am 87 years old and will be 88 in four months.

Emil J. Trautman
Life Member OP 2
6030 Chardonnay Ln Apt 103
Naples, FL 34119-4732
.....

I would like to thank everyone that either sent me get well wishes by email, cards, and phone calls while I was laid up for the past 7 months. This has been a long uphill battle for both my wife and I and your cards and calls just gave us more encouragement to overcome my illness.

Everyone meant more than I could start to tell you. Thanks to everyone of you.

I am still limited to what I can do, but I'm getting my strength back little by little. Thanks to a great organization and a great bunch of guys for your concern.

Mary Anne and Bob Bailey, OP 60
.....

Dear Martin,

I hope all is well with you and your family. I wanted to let you know what I was up to since we haven't corresponded lately. I have been thinking a lot about the current war that we find ourselves in. And what role I could play in it. I guess the turning point for me was the understanding that there are Americans in uniform, some of them not even 20 years of age, fighting in a strange land, getting killed so my family and I can stay free. I decided it was my time to pay this debt back.

I joined the Ohio Military Reserve as of today. I drove to the National Guard Armory this evening after work. I must admit I was somewhat nervous as this was the night I was to be sworn in. There are about 15 guys in the unit, with a Major at the top. I was sworn in under a red Maple tree next to a Sherman Tank and the American Flag. The Captain spoke of the importance of trees in our history and for mankind in general. He talked of Duty and Country, and sacrifice. As I repeated the oath, I must confess that I had chills up my spine. After the oath was over, the officers standing around yelled: "Hoorah..Hoorah...Hoorah. My first duty night is next month when we are charged with guard duty of the Red Horse battalion at Camp Perry. Talk about on the job training! I think it is a national guard anti-aircraft battalion. At any rate we patrol the base(unarmed) from dusk until dawn and do this twice a month. Every other Thursday night we study to be Military policeman. I was told tonight that now they are thinking of arming the MP's due to all the terrorist activity. Five miles north of Camp Perry is the Davis-Besse nuclear plant. I am the

only certified marksman in the unit and there is only one guy who was ever in the regular army. They stated that is was going to be great to have a Private around for a change. But they are a friendly bunch and appear to be grateful to have someone new who really acts like he wants to be a part of this. I couldn't be happier and will let you know how things go.

Private John Scott Porterfield
43rd MP BN
Ohio Military Reserve

Editor's note: John is the son of John Porterfield who served with the 3d ID in Korea. The account of the father KIA on Jackson Heights is included in B. Soto's article on page 11 of this issue
.....



When I saw the photo on page 10f of the October issue of "The Watch on the Rhine," it looked familiar and then I remembered where I saw it before. I have a couple of old *Watch* newsletters and I want to tell you that photo appeared on page 36 of the June 1969 issue of "The

Watch on the Rhine.". This issue marked the 50th anniversary of the Society of the Third Infantry Division, which as you know was founded in 1919 after World War I, making us the oldest continuous Army division association.

The caption under the photo reads as follows: "GERMANY—May 10, 1945—These soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division take a deserved break with a little wine for company, where Adolf Hitler and his gang once sat at Berchesgarden, Germany. Included in the group are: Carl J. Sombs (spelling), Adelbert O. Gooch, Jack B. Futrell, Omer H. Nallie (spelling), and Mathias R. Geiger."

Eds. Note: All are listed as Pfc in The History of the Third Infantry Division.

I thought you would be interested in this information.

Rock of the Marne,
Jim Tiezzi, Pres. OP#2 &
Eastern Region VP



Sick Call

Drop a card to a buddy and wish him well.

♦ Friends and acquaintances of Tom Mason, (Old China Hand) & Korea will be interested in knowing he, at 92 years, is still doing fine and appreciates any phone calls at (541) 996 8782. Carl Duncan had a nice visit with him on Nov. 9th.—Editor

♦ Sherm reports he is slowly regaining his health at his home under the close direction of his CEO, Mrs. Pratt. One problem he has is a lack of dexterity with his fingers that slows his e-mail messaging. His voice is strong. His mind is clear. He appreciates all the well-wishes he has received.

We need to remember Sherm in our prayers— Jim Drury

October 28, 1952 is a day that the soldiers of the 65th Infantry of the time will never forget. Even today, every year on that unforgettable day, retired Colonel Gerald Wilcomb calls retired Colonel Willis "Bud" Cronkhite and proposes a toast. Gerald Wilcomb is convinced that they are living on borrowed time and should never have survived that day. Two old soldiers drinking to an incredible day they cannot forget!

Sometime after midnight October 28, 1952, Ben Farnan of the 3rd Recon Company heard moaning from the mine field in front of his position. His position was in front of "Iron Horse Mountain" which was later to be called Jackson Heights. From what he was hearing, he knew that someone had wandered into the minefield in front of the Main Line of Resistance (MLR). Together with his Company Commander and two other soldiers, he went forward in the safe lane and marked the spot and direction where the moaning was coming from with a small sapling. Once the sun came up, Farnan and a buddy went forward with a stretcher to find the wounded soldier. Farnan walked through the minefield first and his buddy followed in his footsteps. They found the wounded soldier, who had both his legs shattered by a mine, and evacuated him on a stretcher. Ben Farnan still wonders if the soldier survived his wounds. To this day Ben wonders who that soldier was.

As the sun rose on October 28, 1952, Captain Willis "Bud" Cronkhite was exhausted. Both he and his men had not slept. They were up all night preparing to launch a counter attack at first light. His command, F (Fox) Company, 2nd Battalion, 65th Infantry had to first, hand over their portion of the MLR to the 3rd Recon Company, then form up for attack that morning.

The night before Captain George Jackson's, G (George) Company had fought a desperate battle to hang onto the high ground around Hill 391. After receiving orders to withdraw, CPT Jackson led the remnants of his battered company in a fighting retreat. Since they were completely surrounded and the Chinese had

The 65th Infantry at Jackson Heights, Korea

Part 2: Fox and Able Company Attack



Jackson Heights in the Spring of 1953.

Photo by Jim Jarbo

penetrated their position, they had to fight their way back to the MLR in the dark. Jackson is retired now and is convinced his company would have been completely wiped out that night if they had not been ordered to retreat. During the heroic battle between 25 and 28 October 1952, the Outpost on Hill 391 of Iron Horse Mountain was renamed "Jackson Heights" in his honor, (see Watch on the Rhine Article of October 2001).

Colonel Chester De Gavre appeared upset that G Company had been withdrawn from Jackson Heights. He fully expected the outpost to be held, no matter what the cost. Later, Captain Jackson, would be personally interviewed by the Regimental Commander himself. When reading the interview in the historical records, I thought it read more like an interrogation. There were many detailed questions about CPT Jackson's defense of the isolated outpost. As a result of the battle, policy changes were made. The standing orders, which allowed local comman-

ders to make decisions on when to withdraw an outpost, were eventually changed. The new policy would only allow the Division Commander himself to authorize a retreat, a big example of micromanagement of tactical operations by higher headquarters that plagued leaders in the Korean War.

Captain Willis "Bud" Cronkhite

CPT Bud Cronkhite crossed the line of departure (LD) and launched his attack at 0645 hours, 28 October 1952. Observing the attack from his Command Post was LTC Carlos Betances-Ramirez, Commander 2nd Battalion, 65th Infantry. The Regimental Commander, COL De Gavre arrived at the Command Post and also observed the attack. Able Company was attached to 2nd Battalion under their operational control. LTC Betances briefed the Regimental Commander about his plan of attack. Betances stated "we had made counter attack plans days before...the plan consisted of Fox attacking...and Able to be prepared to pass through, reinforce, relief etc." MAJ Harry M. Elam, the new Operations Officer for 2nd Battalion, explained the Operations Order he issued as follows:

"Fox (Company) in the lead, Able (Company) following Fox moving in columns of companies...the axis of attack up the "choggie path" toward Jackson Heights...Fox Company was assigned the mission objective "Able," which geographically was a southern slope of Jackson Heights...Able Company, upon seizure of objective Able by Fox(Company) was to pass through Fox Company, seize objective Baker, which was the crest of the hill known as Jackson Heights or 391. On order, Fox Company was to be withdrawn and Able Company was to continue to defend..."

LtCol Carlos Betances-Ramirez

COL De Gavre immediately expressed his dislike of the plan. The Regimental Commander stated "since he (LTC Betances) had lost the hill the night before, he would occupy it with his own company (Fox Company) and release Company A as soon as the position was secure... Company A was to be under Operational Control only for the attack and then to revert to commanding officer 1st

Battalion.” 1st Battalion was then in regimental reserve. LTC Betances was frustrated and surprised. It was Army doctrine that the outpost was to be occupied by the Reserve Battalion. He now had no command authority to control units under his operational control and the Regimental Commander was determining how Companies would be employed. As a loyal soldier, LTC Betances followed his new changed orders, made them his own, and immediately tried to contact the Company Commanders and inform them of the new orders. As sometimes happens in combat operations, once the units had moved out for their attacks, communications broke down between the attacking companies and their higher headquarters. The Company Commanders could not be reached for some time.

CPT Bud Cronkhite personally led his company, waving his golf stick in the air and inspiring his men by setting the example and leading them. He was followed closely by his artillery forward observer, 1LT Gerald Wilcomb, who had also spent a sleepless night preparing his Forward Observer team to accompany the unit. CPT Cronkhite directed the positioning of his machine guns and sent his weapons platoon to provide fire support from his right flank. The weapons platoon not only had machine guns, but had managed to borrow a Quad 50 machine gun. The four 50 caliber machine guns raked the heights covering the advance. At one point during the assault, LT Wilcomb observed CPT Cronkhite running forward and being fired at by a Chinese machine gun. Fortunately, Bud was able to see the tracers approaching him and dive for cover. The Chinese were firing their machine guns and throwing sticks of dynamite and satchel charges down on the attacking Fox Company soldiers. A 57mm recoilless rifle team was able to score a direct hit on the enemy machine gun, knocking it out. Finally, Fox Company seized their objective, the “first knoll” of Jackson Heights. The men deployed into position to defend their objective. Casualties were light. Only one of Cronkhite’s Platoon Sergeants was killed and three soldiers were wounded. It was 0955. The Chinese began to shell the position.

Things were not as simple for Able Company, which followed. 1LT John

Porterfield, was the Company Commander. The Chinese were surprised by Fox Company rapid attack, but as Able Company moved forward behind Fox the enemy was already alerted. Able Company attracted plenty of attention. The last platoon in the company column, the Weapons Platoon lead by the Company Executive Officer, 1LT Juan Guzman, was pinned down in the valley short of Jackson Heights. 1LT Porterfield managed to continue his attack with his remaining rifle platoons and joined CPT Cronkhite’s Fox Company at about 1010 hours.

The Chinese were shelling Jackson Heights with artillery, 120mm mortar, and direct fire 76mm cannon. The soldiers of the two companies were now pinned down on the position under complete observation by the enemy. Since Jackson Heights was solid granite rock, the troops had to take cover and find fighting positions the best they could behind a rock or in a shallow depression. The few bunkers that had existed before had all been destroyed by the previous night’s battle. Once the Chinese had seized the position the night before, they finished off whatever bunkers they encountered with satchel charges. There were bodies and parts of bodies everywhere from the previous battles for the disputed outpost. Dead Chinese, South Koreans, Puerto Ricans, and Continentals littered the area. The smell was nauseating. 1LT Wilcomb jumped into a position, which CPT Cronkhite pointed out to him. He remembered finding a dead Puerto Rican Sergeant. He quickly gave up the position and looked for another.

1LT John D. Porterfield

1LT Porterfield moved forward to make his leaders reconnaissance and personally take a look at his objective, the second knoll and crest of Jackson Heights, objective “Baker”. The Chinese had machine guns firing at anyone who exposed themselves over the crest. Objective Baker was heavily defended. The only avenue of approach, the foot path up the heights, was well covered by enemy machine gun fire. There was no cover or concealment. 1LT Porterfield had to figure out how to continue his attack across the open terrain the enemy was sweeping with fire. The only course of action left to him was a direct frontal attack. Porterfield moved to

Cronkhite’s position and asked if Bud could help him evacuate all his wounded and the many additional wounded he anticipated he would suffer in his continued attack. Cronkhite agreed. Since Fox Company was to return to the MLR anyway, he had no problem helping Able Company with his wounded. This he knew would conserve Porterfield’s manpower for the main assault on his objective.

While the two Company Commanders were together a wire telephone land line was finally hooked up and CPT Cronkhite received his first phone call directly from Battalion Headquarters. It was early in the afternoon. The Battalion Commander, LTC Betances was on the telephone. Orders were changed. Able Company was to return and Fox Company was to stay and defend Jackson Heights. Bud was totally surprised!

About that time 1LT Wilcomb walked over to the Able Company Forward Observer, LT Glasgow, and gave him his cigarettes and telephone, which he thought, would be useful while Able Company was staying to defend Jackson Heights. Then he received word of the changed orders. Fox Company would be staying. 1LT Wilcomb took back the items he had just given Glasgow. He thought about what a screwed up situation he was in. Another SNAFU.

Able Company Officers were grouped close together. Wilcomb walked away from the group of officers to make a communications check with his Battalion on his radio, since he now had to remain on Jackson Heights.

There was a loud, ear piercing blast, which pushed Wilcomb down on the radio. When he regained his senses and turned around to see what had happened he saw that a shell had made a direct hit on the group of officers he had just been with. They were all dead, 1LT Porterfield, LT Glasgow, LT White from Able Company and LT Gibbs from Fox. All the Able Company officers on Jackson Heights were killed.

Corporal Nick Santiago was serving as 1LT Porterfield’s Radio Operator at the time and was in a covered position nearby. He witnessed the shell hit 1LT Porterfield. He still cannot get the image of what he saw out of his mind. Till this day Corporal

Santiago cannot understand why he survived and his beloved Company Commander did not.

Word spread quickly among the men, "the Company Commander and all the officers were dead!"

A medic assigned to Fox Company, 3rd Platoon still remembers clearly what happened on Jackson Heights. He was up most of the night before treating the wounded from G Company, who had retreated from Jackson Heights that night. He remembered that they had been told, as they were preparing for the attack, that Fox Company would not be staying on Jackson Heights, another company was coming up to relieve them. As his platoon made it up to the outpost with Fox Company, he saw Able Company come up and join them. He saw LT Gibbs killed. His platoon then began to withdraw. He thought it was perfectly OK. After all, Able Company was supposed to relieve them anyway.

1LT Wilcomb eventually began to notice that in small groups or singly, wounded soldiers and soldiers "helping them" were leaving the position. One of the soldiers offered him the magazine from his carbine as he left. As Wilcomb looked into the valley he saw soldiers "stung out in the valley below heading south". They were headed back to the MLR.

It was difficult if not impossible to see all of the defensive positions from one spot on Jackson Heights. From what CPT Cronkhite could see, some of his soldiers were helping evacuate the A Company wounded along with his own wounded. This was according to the orders he had issued to assist the wounded. He shouted to a Lieutenant he saw down in the valley to come on up with his platoon. The unknown Lieutenant refused and yelled back to him that Cronkhite should, "Come down, there is no one left, come down." Perhaps that Lieutenant was 1LT Juan Guzman, the only surviving officer of Able Company? Cronkhite could not tell because he was too far away.

1LT Guzman had been in Korea only eight days and this was his first day of combat. He had managed to move his platoon as far as the base of Jackson Heights but could not or would not move further forward. One of the Able Company soldiers retreating from Jackson Heights told 1LT Guzman that the Company

Commander and all the Able Company officers were dead. 1LT Guzman claimed that his platoon had been pinned down ever since Able Company had begun its attack. Upon hearing this news, Guzman chose to withdraw his platoon to a bunker on Hill 270, also known as Outpost Tom, approximately halfway back to the MLR. After that, 1LT Guzman and his men took no active part in the battle. Although he was the only officer still alive in Able Company and was the Acting Company Commander, he refused orders to move forward with his remaining platoon. Able Company had not completed its mission. Objective Baker had not been taken. 1LT Guzman refused orders to continue the attack to Objective Baker and did nothing to rally the retreating soldiers of Able Company. For this he would be court-martialed.

CPT Bud Cronkhite and his men continued to endure the unrelenting shelling while staying behind available cover on Jackson Heights. Bud had lost communications again with Battalion since his radio was unserviceable and his telephone lines had been cut by the enemy shelling. At approximately 1700 hours CPT Cronkhite checked the status of his company. It was then that he became aware that all his Enlisted Men were gone. All that was left were his officers. Soon it would be dark. He then gathered together his officers, his Platoon Leaders, LTs Doan, Barker, Atterbery, and his Forward Observer, 1LT Wilcomb. He gave them a direct order to withdraw back to the MLR. One of the Lieutenants said, "You don't have to order me to go back to the line. I've been ready to leave this place for hours!" CPT Cronkhite already realized his predicament and explained that he was ordering them back because, if there was a court-martial, none of them was abandoning their positions. They were only following his orders.

The officers began their retreat. They slid down the steep slope of Jackson Heights to the valley below. There they met a South Korean supply party loaded down with the supplies they would need to defend the position. CPT Cronkhite ordered four of them to carry back a stretcher with the body of his severely wounded Lieutenant. The rest the South Korean's he "shooed" away back to the

MLR.

Along the chogie path during their retreat back to the MLR, Cronkhite and his officers found they were being "escorted" by Chinese fire. They had to run, then dive for cover along the way to avoid the shells. 1LT Wilcomb was sure a 76mm gun was firing on them. It was a wild trip back to friendly lines. Along the way Wilcomb sprained both his ankles, but fear gave him the will power to make it back despite his injuries.

Back on the main line COL De Gavre was in the 2nd Battalion Command Post along with LTC Carlos Betances-Ramirez. When the news arrived that a large group of men had returned to the MLR, Betances ran forward to see the situation for himself. He talked to the Enlisted Men, who had abandoned Jackson Heights and spoke to them first in English. When that failed he switched and spoke to them in fluent Spanish. He ordered them to return back to the position, rejoin their officers, and do their duty. He explained that the glory and pride of Puerto Rico and the Regiment depended on them. Only a hand full gathered around one of the Sergeants to return. LTC Betances also warned them of the penalty should they refuse his order. One of the soldiers told him, "Sir. If we stay here we may receive the death penalty in a court-martial. If we go back there we will all die for sure, sooner or later a shell will get you. I will take my chances back here."

LTC Betances was in the process of arresting the insubordinate soldiers and taking down their names, when he saw CPT Cronkhite and his officer's return. It was a relief to him that at least his officers had all made it back alive. Some of the Enlisted Men had claimed that all the officers on Jackson Heights were dead. COL De Gavre then arrived on the scene asking questions about what was going on. He then spoke to CPT Cronkhite. They climbed into his jeep and drove off to Division Headquarters.

CPT Bud Cronkhite was dog-tired from lack of sleep and the ordeal he had just been through that day. On the jeep trip to Division Headquarters COL De Gavre talked to Cronkhite. The Regimental Commander told him point blank that he had a decision to make, whether to court-martial him or give him a medal. Someone

had to pay for the “screw up” at Jackson Heights. Apparently COL De Gavre did not think he was responsible in any way despite his own micromanagement of operations. Two companies from two different battalions in his regiment had failed to accomplish their mission. He was searching for a scapegoat, someone to blame for the failure. Cronkhite was numb, and really didn’t know what to think or feel. Once they arrived at the Division Command Post, a meeting was held between COL De Gavre the 3rd Division Commanding General, and the Deputy Commanding General.

The Aftermath

For his heroism on October 28, 1952, CPT Cronkhite was awarded the Silver Star. 1LT Porterfield posthumously received the Bronze Star with V devise and was promoted to Captain.

Despite the fact that he had done his duty and taken all possible actions a Battalion Commander could do under the circumstances he faced that day, on 30 October 1952, LTC Carlos Betances-Ramirez was formally relieved of his command. MAJ Elam, the 2nd Battalion Operations Officer who had issued the order of attack, was given command of 2nd Battalion. A few days later the Continental Battalion Commander of the 1st Battalion, which commanded Able Company, was promoted.

During the period following the battle of Jackson Heights, Ninety-two Puerto Rican soldiers of the 65th Infantry were court-martialed including the only officer court-martialed, 1LT Juan Guzman. These were the largest mass court-martials of the entire Korean War.

By March 1953 the 65th Infantry Regiment was fully integrated and ceased being “the Puerto Rican Regiment”. By then the 65th was an infantry regiment just like all the other infantry regiments in Korea. It’s Puerto Rican soldiers were integrated into all the units in 8th Army and the percentage of Puerto Rican personnel remaining in the 65th dropped to only about 5%.

Why?

The word “transformation” is used today to explain the changes in the U.S. Army to prepare for the future. In 1952 the

United States and the Army were still in the process of an important transformation. It was a transformation in the way we thought about and treated our fellow man. Unfortunately this transformation was extremely difficult, many mistakes were made, careers destroyed, and lives lost.

The world in the 1950’s was very different than it is today in race relations area. As a child I have strong memories of what personally happened to me and my family. The only way to write is to tell the truth the way I see it. It seems ironic that it took so long in our country for people to recognize that we are all created equal. We proudly announced in its own Declaration of Independence, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights...”

The proud soldiers of the 65th Infantry from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, upon leaving their Islands to join the Army in Korea, were already young adults. They were in for a rude awakening on their ocean voyage to Korea. Most had never left their tropical islands. The troops of the 65th immediately learned that they were considered “inferior” by many Continental soldiers and officers. For the first time in their lives these men experienced the cruel unforgiving hatred of racism. They were stressed by the change in climate, different food, and different culture. The Puerto Rican soldiers had the additional problem of having to learn a foreign language. They were all Americans when it came to fighting and possibly dying for their country, but were not treated with respect and dignity by their fellow US citizens.

The Pentagon brass had considered the 65th Infantry a “Rum and Coca-Cola outfit”. Some Officers, including Generals in the Army chain of command, thought that the regiment was “colored”, therefore, unreliable. This was despite the fact that many of the Puerto Rican troops were White. The Puerto Ricans did not discriminate against their countrymen who were different colors. One enlightened Continental Officer told me that he had never seen such abuse of troops in his entire military career as what he saw while serving in the regiment in 1952.

There is no doubt that bigotry and discrimination played a part in what eventual-

ly happened to the 65th Infantry. In a staff study prepared by a 3rd Division staff officer, shortly after the battle of Jackson Heights, great care was taken to explain that all Continental Officers in the 65th were outstanding, (and absolve them of any blame in the performance of the regiment). This statement was clearly intended to protect the Continental Officers and blame the Puerto Rican soldiers themselves for the results of the battle.

The new Commander of the 3rd Division, Major General George W. Smythe, stated to his Operations Officer that he wanted all the Puerto Ricans out of his Division so it would look like any other Division in Korea. Rather than correcting the severe Non Commissioned Officer shortages and leadership problems of the 65th the 3rd Division Commander seized on the combat failures of the regiment at Outpost Kelly and Jackson Heights to effectively remove the Puerto Ricans out of his Division. The regiment was completely integrated after the mass court-martial of over 92 of its soldiers. The Division Commander accomplished his objective.

The attempts by the Continental leadership in the 65th Infantry Regiment to instill a punishing discipline of the soldiers after the battle for Outpost Kelly (September 1952) was poorly conceived and executed. It backfired. The order issued by the new Regimental Commander, COL De Gavre, for all soldiers to shave their mustaches until they could prove they were “real men”, was considered an insult by the Puerto Rican soldiers. The deliberate change in rations from the accustomed Puerto Rican “rice and beans” to Continental “hot dogs and potatoes” was interpreted as another demeaning slap in the face by these Hispanic soldiers. Troops were heard to say the new Regimental Commander did not understand Puerto Ricans. The order to remove the regimental motto, “Borinqueneers” from their vehicles was yet another demeaning insult. Troop morale plummeted and there was a severe loss of confidence and respect for their leaders.

Additional evidence of discrimination is that despite the failures the regiment experienced on Jackson Heights in 1952 not one Continental officer was punished in the 65th. Everyone who was relieved or

Continued on page 24



Looking for...

To the *Watch on The Rhine* publication,

I was referred to your publication by a member of the Society of the Third Infantry Division, Joe Ball. I am very interested about finding information about my Dad, "**William F Dougherty**, Chester, PA." He was a Sgt. from June 1951 to March 1952 in the 7th Regt. Co. "C" and volunteered for a unit called the "Battle Patrol". Do you have any information pertaining to this unit? It might be some sort of Ranger Unit I think. Please help. Thanks.

Mike Dougherty
broomdoc@msn.com



My dad died in 1968, when I was a very young boy and I never really got to know him. I'm just looking for any information that someone who served with him could provide.

Staff Sergeant **Walter E. Laeser**, 36 003 316, served in the HQ and H.Q. Co. 1st battalion, 30th infantry. He served in the following campaigns and battles: Sicilian, Naples, Foggia, Rome, Arno, South France, Germany, Algeria, French Morocco and Tunisian.

He entered the service in February '41 and was discharged May '45. Dad was awarded the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars and four Purple Hearts. The action where he received his Silver Star was in Nurnburg, Germany on April 19, 1945.

Thanks again.

Joe Laeser
608-838-9089



Can anyone out there tell me where I might find **Richard Mottweiler**. We were in WW2 from Africa to Germany, in the 3rd. Recon. He was a Lt. and later maybe a Capt. I lost contact after being wounded the last time April 14 1945 and sent to England.

Milton O. "Buck" Buchanan
4939 W. Pere Marquette Rd.
Coleman MI 48618-9408



Friends of my Grandfather

My grandfather served in WW2 in the 7th Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division. He

fought at Anzio, Cassino, and Southern France. His name was 1st Private **Andrew Sokal**. Does anyone know him?

Pfc Andrew Sokal is listed on page 472 of Donald Taggart's book, The History of the Third Infantry Division in World War II, as a member of the 7th Infantry Regiment.

If you can provide any information please contact Chis Keating at monkey-wienerschnitzelonsatick@yahoo.com



I am trying to locate anyone who may have served with **Robert Hilyer**. He says he was injured in the battle of Monte Cassino. Never got a purple heart. his records were destroyed in the St. Louis fire.

In addition, there were omissions in the record when he was discharged from a VA hospital. He believes he was in the 7th regiment. He's in his 80s now and his memory is not the best. Robert says he was a staff sergeant. However, the VA hospital discharge parents indicated his rank as private...

Is there a way to obtain unit casualty lists which include the wounded? Old hospital records from North Africa?

I would appreciate any help. Robert is a hospice patient and his dying wish is to obtain his purple heart.

Rudy Elder, Vietnam vet &
hospice social worker.
660 SE 5th court
Cape Coral, Florida, 33904
941-540-4862
tturfman@aol.com.

Is looking for information about her Grandfather, **Edgar H Gerkin**, KIA Aug 12, 1943 while with K Co. 30th Inf. Regt., 3d Inf. Div.

Kimberly O'Donnell
5326 West Aire Libre Ave
Glendale, Arizona 85306
kodonnell807@AOL.com
(8-4) 623.847.7348
602.978.6101



Dear Sir,

My name is Keith Boeck and I am the secretary of the Korea chapter of American

Steel Motorcycle Club. We and the local VFW post of Tongduchon Korea will be hosting a Veterans Day ride to the grave site of MSG Kinney on Nov 10, 2002. His headstone was erected at the location of his death by a local Korean. The information I have so far is:

MSG **George Howard Kinney**, 42203437, MOS 01745. A member of the 7th Inf. Regt., 3rd Inf. Div. Died of wounds 51/04/25. Home in Niagara County, NY.

Is it possible to get a unit flag or some other unit insignia to place at his grave site? (Eds. Note: Ron Turner, editor: "Cottonbaler," has taken care of the unit flag.) Also any information other than what I have would be very helpful especially a picture. I believe we may also get Armed Forces TV for the event. Any information on family or just forwarding this email to any family member will be greatly appreciated.

I can and will make pictures of this event available at request.

Keith Boeck, Secretary
ASMC Korea
RUSALAO-2ID(COBRO)
HHC-DISCOM UNIT #15048
APO AP 96224



William E. Seal Sgt. WWII was my first cousin. He never talked much about what he did while serving in North Africa, Sicily, and Anzio during WWII. (I believe in the same Platoon as Audie Murphy) Died in 2000.

Attended a reunion in Washington D.C. I believe it was a Fiftieth. Lived in Hollywood, Florida. Prior to that was partner with his Father's (my Uncle) Texaco Service Station in Springfield, NJ.

Pvt. William E Seal is listed on page 501 of Donald Taggart's book, The History of the Third Infantry Division in World War II, as a member of the 15th Infantry Regiment

David B. Seal
15 Copeley Road
Newton, NJ 07860
973 948 4117
dseal@ptdprolog.net

