



# The Watch on the Rhine

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

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"Nous Resterons La"

October, 2002

## From Berchtesgaten...



## ...A Cottonbaler's toast to a battle well fought

See "On the Cover" – page 3

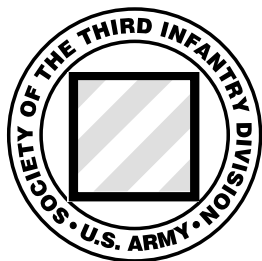


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# The Watch on the Rhine

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# President's Message

Jerry Manley



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

Although this article is appearing in the October "Watch" and the 2002 Buffalo reunion and elections are history, in real time I'm writing this in August so as to meet the September 10th deadline for the publication of the October "Watch."

I want to start my term as your President by thanking all the past Presidents for their assistance in filling out the staff and committee chairman positions. In the interest of a smooth transition from President Cunningham's Presidency to mine I asked all of Jerry's appointees to consider continuing on in their present positions. Most were willing, a few asked to be replaced for personal or health reasons. I'm in the process of doing that now. I hope I can report to you at the Saturday evening banquet that my staff is complete.

President Harry S. Truman used to keep

President Harry S. Truman used to keep a sign on his White House desk that stated, "The Buck Stops Here". I truly believe in that.

a sign on his White House desk that stated, "The Buck Stops Here." I truly believe in that. If you have a problem related to the Society contact your OP officers, region committee-men or region Vice President, first. If they can't solve your problem or answer your question, then contact me. My snail mail, phone number, and e-mail address are on page 2 of the "Watch". I would prefer you to reach me by snail mail or e-mail if at all possible. Telephone conversations are often misunderstood or misinterpreted by both parties involved. If your plea is written you and I can both study it carefully before mailing it or replying to it.

Finally, I wish to especially thank Jerry Cunningham for all his help. I have called on him many times over the past few months and he has literally "bent over backwards" to advise me. He has done his utmost to help me in every instance.

## The Third Infantry Division Insignia

From "History of the Third Division United States Army in the World War," Pg 364



Description of Insignia. The Division insignia consists of three diagonal stripes 5/16" wide and 5/16" apart, superimposed diagonally upon a dark blue field 2 1/4" square. When sewed on the left shoulder even with the seam, as prescribed in General Orders from G.H.Q., the three stripes should run from the upper rear corner downward to the front lower corner.

The clear field of blue stands for the loyalty, steadfastness and undying devotion to the principles of right and justice by the American soldier. The three clear-cut white stripes stand dually, for the three operations up to the signing of the Armistice, of which the 3rd Division took part (Marne, St. Mihiel, and Argonne-Meuse), and for the numeral designation of the Division. One of the basic facts considered in the designing of the insignia was the striking appearance of any design that embodied the use of equal stripes as shown to the world by the flag of our country. The extreme simplicity of the design was a strong point in its favor, as it can be easily and correctly made by any member of the division, whereas a complicated design invariably deteriorates into a caricature.

The idea of the insignia originated with Brigadier General Preston Brown, who was then in command of the Division while the division was in action in the Argonne-Meuse operation. The first official representation of the design was made by the G-2 Section of the division.

### On the Cover...

Cottonbalers seem to be awaiting the arrival of the 101st Airborne at Berchtesgaten at the end of the European War in May 1945. The 7th Infantry Regiment of the 3rd Infantry Division, US Army, deserve to relax after the terrible 3-year fight from Casablanca to Germany. Do you recognize anyone in the picture as reprinted from "Yank" Magazine, June 1945.

*Photo courtesy of Jerry Daddato, President OP 18*

### Check your label

Your ID Number      Your Unit      Dues Date: Current = June 2003 or LIFE      Outpost Affiliation

\*\*\*\*\*5 Digit  
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### 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



Rock of the Marne veterans with their ladies, and active duty troop-ers enjoyed another excellent reunion in September. My personal highlight was meeting Bernie "Doc" Perry and his family, having last seen each other 50 years ago in the hills of North Korea. Once again it was proven that "old friendships never die".

Joe Poggi and his associates did a bang-up job of providing the means for 3rd Infantry Society members to meet and visit with old comrades again. It gets better every year. Thank you, Joe, and the others in your Outpost. It is sad, however, to hear of the passing or serious illnesses of other friends.

I hope all of you who can, will vow to meet in America's Heartland, St. Louis, next year. Roger Lochmann and the others of Outpost 17 have well-laid plans already in place for our enjoyment in September of 2003. Further information will be in our December "Watch."

"Can Do" Regiment folks and their guests enjoyed as the guest speaker, Richard G. Stilwell, III who spoke of his father and other topics. Richard is the son of Richard G. Stillwell, Jr. who commanded the 15th Regiment of the 3rd Infantry Division from the fall of 1952 to early 1953 in the Iron Triangle of North Korea. (by right of possession we should probably call it South Korea). We all had the opportunity to visit a bronze statue of our Colonel, as a four star General alongside the military museum at the pier near our hotel in Buffalo. The General was a Corp Commander in Vietnam and went on to accomplish great things before retiring. General Stilwell passed on in 1991.

**I hope all of you who can, will vow to meet in America's Heartland, St. Louis, next year. Roger Lochmann and the others of Outpost 17 have well-laid plans already in place for our enjoyment in September of 2003. Further information will be in our December "Watch."**

At the banquet Saturday evening we enjoyed a rousing talk from Assistant Division Commander (Support) 3dID, Col. (P) Louis W. Weber who represented Division Commander, Buford Blount. All I can say is "Saddam Hussein, watch your step!" (Editor's quote.)

Col. (P) Weber was followed by Admiral (R) J. Robert Lunney who described what he witnessed from his ship, the final withdrawal of 3rd Infantry Division, Army, from Hungnam, Korea in December of 1950. He described dramatically, the 3rd Divisions 42 mile fight in land to give the 1st Marines and Army elements a safe haven from which to board ships, and fight another day. (God Bless all those gallant fighters.)

I will be trying another year to "get it right" as your editor. It is fun to journey along this road with you, my friends, my guest editorialists and reporters. It is truly an honor to serve you.

**Society Awards**

**Presented at 83rd Reunion in Buffalo, NY, Sept. 15, 2002.**

The following awards were presented during the Annual Banquet before over 400 Society Members and guests.

A **President's Special Award** was presented to Carl Topie, for dedicated service as Public Relations Chairman. Another President's Special Award went to Jerry Sapiro for his long service as Society Chaplain.

A **Society Service Award** was presented to Raymond C. Anderson. (OP 5) for his service to the Society as Secretary/Treasurer. Another **Society Service Award** was presented to Jerry Manley (OP 12) for his Service to the Society in several different positions during the years.

Awards were presented to the **3rd Infantry Division NCO** of the year, Sgt. Ruben C. Herrera and **Soldier of the year** Sgt. Cort B. Anderson for their achievements in maintaining the tradition of excellence of the 3rd Infantry Division.

A **Special Award** was presented to the Rock of the Marne Association, represented at the reunion by three French military history collectors and reenactors. Mitchy, Christophe and Frederic were dressed in authentic World War II uniforms, complete with the CIB and the Blue and White Patch of the 3rd Infantry Division.

A **Society Service Award** was presented to Jerry Cunningham for his dedicated service to the Society as President during the last two years.

The Society's most prestigious award, the **Audie Murphy Achievement Award** was presented to Dale McGraw (OP 4) for his dedicated service to the Society and leadership in OP 4. He was instrumental in coordinating the placement of a 3rd Division Memorial at Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent, Washington. The citation noted that Dale also volunteers at the Cemetery's Public Information Center.

Four awardees were not present to receive their awards, which will be appropriately presented to them.

- Special President's Award:**  
.....Robert Bailey  
.....Martin Markley

- Society Service Award:** .....John Insani
- Society Associate Award** ....Mark Sneddon

**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*

# Gobernador honors its own local hero

Carol Cohea/Staff writer  
Tuesday, August 06, 2002

**Gobernador, NM** – For more than 55 years the man who was critically wounded during a hail of German gunfire and whose life was saved by a young private from Gobernador, had wanted to tell the boy's mother her son had died a hero.

Saturday at the commemoration of a memorial for Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Jose F. Valdez, Willis Daniel, 77, of Roanoke Rapids, N.C., was finally able to tell the Valdez family the poignant story behind the medal.

Only 3,458 members of the armed services have received the Congressional Medal of Honor. It is the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be given to an individual serving in the armed services. Valdez received the honor posthumously in 1946.

The commemoration was held in Santo Nio Park, at the annual reunion of former Gobernador area residents and their descendants. It served also to mark Valdez' homecoming. "I would have liked his mother to be here today. I would have hugged her neck and cried with her," Daniel said. Later in an interview with *The Daily Times*, he began telling the story of a group of young infantry riflemen, most in their early 20s, who were just fighting to stay alive that cold, winter day so far from home. "I was with him when he got shot, though I had never met him before that day," Daniel began. "He had turned 20 five days before the day he got shot ... he was 20 when he died. "We had crossed the Fecht River. The bridge was under heavy shell fire. We swung to the right. Snow was on the ground," Daniel recalled of that January day in 1945. "We had one bank of the river. The Germans had one bank. We came from the rear into the town the Germans were holding. Valdez was with us all this time," Daniel said. Then because words alone couldn't describe the scene, he borrowed a reporter's notebook and began sketching a crude map of the battle scene.

## Outpost duty

He told of the five Americans on outpost duty dressed in camouflage white. On one side were the woods about 500 yards away.

## Pfc. Jose F. Valdez (MOH) is honored in New Mexico after 55 years

On the other side was a railroad track with a bomb crater in the center. Between the two, stood the town's railroad station. Two piles of railroad ties stood at the farthest end of the platform.

Daniel said they'd made their way to the railroad station. Some had taken cover in it. He was behind the nearest pile of ties, just off the platform end. Valdez had made his way to a second pile of ties, separated by a short distance from the first. As the five waited and listened, a deer broke from the woods, then a rabbit.

Then came the opening barrage of enemy fire. The men were blasted with bullets. Valdez volunteered to cover his companions as they began to withdraw, one by one, to the American lines, first to the shelter of the railroad station and then to the depression of the bomb crater in the railroad track. Three were wounded in the withdrawal and Valdez was struck in the abdomen by a bullet that came out his back. Despite his wound and what must have been agonizing pain, he continued to fire until all were safe. By field telephone he called for artillery and mortar fire against the Germans, correcting the range until he had shells falling within 50 yards of his position, repulsing the attack. It also enabled his own rescue.

"It was after the war I found out he had died," Daniel said. "I was trying to locate a member of his family. At one point I heard his mom was living in Durango. I called every Valdez in the book, trying to find her."

Steve Kovatch, 78, of Boseman, Mont., was about 21 at the time. "I was one of the last to see Valdez alive. He'd been hit and paralyzed from the waist down. Four of us went out to get him and carried him back to the railroad station," Kovatch said. "He was in bad shape then. I knew he wasn't going to live."

## The man remembered

Abundio Castro, 81, of Holtville, Calif., was with Co. D, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division. He was a machine gunner.

He recalled Valdez was a quiet individual. "He was a soldier you would want to be in your outfit. They sent him to the outposts. He was the type of fellow to stay awake all night, guarding and guarding. He was always alert and quiet. That keeps up the morale of the rest of the troops in the front line. Your life is at stake," Castro said. "Now that I see where he came from, I realize his senses were sharpened by this country," Castro said.

Though Valdez was born in the Gobernador area in 1925 and raised doing day work at nearby ranches, he enlisted at Pleasant Grove, Utah; therefore, he is officially listed as a Utah Congressional Medal of Honor recipient.

Saturday's ceremony was not the first time Valdez had been recognized for his heroic actions near Rosenkrantz, France, on Jan. 25, 1945. A U.S. Navy vessel was named in his honor as are schools, streets, training centers and armories in Utah, Colorado and Georgia. But this is New Mexico's first memorial to him in the community that gave him the strength and character to be called a hero. He is buried in the National Cemetery in Santa Fe.

## Bringing the honor home

Driven by the desire to bring the honor and the man home to his boyhood community, the Pfc. Jose F. Valdez Memorial Committee was formed by Valdez' relatives and friends. They worked for more than two years to raise funds to erect the permanent memorial and make it a reality.

Meanwhile, retired U.S. Army Reserve Lt. Col. Juan C. Gomez, of Center, Colo., began his efforts to organize the ceremony which included the three men who served with Valdez and two additional Medal of Honor recipients, Capt. Raymond G. Murphy of Albuquerque and Cpl. Hiroshi Miyamura of Gallup.

"It was important to bring closure to the Valdez family and to the men who served with him. It was important to bring Jose home," Gomez said. Gomez' began a search for information about the 7th Infantry Regiment and 3rd Infantry Division and men who knew Valdez. "I discovered they maintained separate Web sites and so I sent messages about the commemoration, hoping

Continued on page 7



# News From The Outposts

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Tommy Thompson

Minneapolis, MN

We held our annual summer picnic on Saturday, August 3rd at Moore Lake Park in Fridley, MN. In spite of the threatening weather forecast seventeen members and guests braved the elements and showed up.

After a windblown picnic lunch had been hastily eaten the business meeting was quickly called to order. We got about half way through our agenda when a monsoon started to move in. Everyone grabbed their belongings and dashed for their vehicles.

Hopefully we can finish our business at the fall meeting on October 5th and 6th in Albert Lea, MN.

Rock of the Marne!

*Jerry Manley*

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 Molaske, who is a member of our Out Post has a horse in the race and will be traveling with me on the bus.

*Carl Duncan*

## LUCKY 2002 RAFFLE WINNERS

<b>1st. Prize \$2000</b>	<b>Edward T. Schmitt</b> , 81 Warren St., Revere MA 02151-3462
<b>2nd. Prize \$1000</b>	<b>Harold Dunham</b> , 507 N. Maple St., Marca II 61756-0383
<b>3rd. Prize \$500</b>	<b>Thomas G. Chilcott</b> , 1020 Livingston, Brighton MI 48116-1435
<b>4th. Prize \$200</b>	<b>Herbert H. Martin</b> , PO Box 445, Lanett AL 36863-0445
<b>5th. Prize \$200</b>	<b>Norman V. Cable</b> , 1115 Parkland Dr., Ft. Collins Co 88525
<b>6th. Prize \$200</b>	<b>James F. Able</b> , 1729 Dahlia Dr., Greenville Ms 38701-7526
<b>7th. Prize \$200</b>	<b>Harry W. Sarver</b> , 547 Continental Ave., Sewickley Pa 15143-1768

# Remains of US Servicemen Recovered in North Korea

■ Remains believed to be those of seven American soldiers missing in action from the Korean War will be repatriated in formal ceremonies in Korea.

The remains will then be flown on a U.S. Air Force aircraft from Pyongyang, North Korea, under escort of a uniformed U.S. honor guard to Yokota Air Base, Japan, where a U.N. Command repatriation ceremony will be held.

A joint team operating near the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea recovered six sets of remains believed to be those of U.S. Army soldiers from the 7th Infantry Division who fought against Chinese forces November-December 1950. Additionally, a second team recovered one set of remains in the area along the Chong Chon River near the junction of Unsan and Kujang counties, about 60 miles north of Pyongyang. The area was the site of battles between Communist forces and the U.S. Army's 1st Cavalry and 25th Infantry Divisions in November 1950. Approximately 1,000 Americans are estimated to have been lost in battles of the Chosin campaign.

The 28-person U.S. contingent was composed primarily of specialists from the Army's Central Identification Laboratory Hawaii (CILHI).

The Defense Department's Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) negotiated terms with the North Koreans in June, which led to the scheduling of three operations this year. This repatriation marks the end of the first of this year's three operations. The remaining two operations are set for Aug. 24-Sept. 24 and Sept. 28-Oct. 29

Twenty-three individual joint operations have been conducted since 1996 in North Korea, during which 159 sets of remains believed to be those of U.S. soldiers have been recovered. Thirteen have been positively identified and returned to their families for burial with military honors. Another 12 are in the final stages of the forensic identification process.

Of the 88,000 U.S. servicemembers missing in action from all conflicts, more than 8,100 are from the Korean War.

Otis Willie  
Associate Librarian  
The American War Library  
<http://www.americanwarlibrary.com>

*Submitted by Drew Pawlick*

## Reconstructing lost/destroyed DD-214s

### ◆ Codes used on DD-214s

A website has been established to provide veterans information on how to replace lost, missing, destroyed or never obtained DD-214, and reference information on SPN/SPD and RE codes used on DD-214s. Please see URL:  
<http://members.aol.com/forvets/dd214.htm>

*Submitted by Brooke Rowe,  
Associate Librarian  
The American War Library*

# Bill Mauldin is in need of his buddies now

Published August 11, 2002 in The Chicago Daily Tribune & reprinted by permission.

By Bob Greene

Someone from the 3rd Infantry Division got in touch and said he thought I'd want to know. He said it was about Bill Mauldin.

What followed was not so good.

I'll get to that in a moment. For those of you too young to recognize the name: Bill Mauldin, who is now 80 years old, was the finest and most beloved editorial cartoonist of World War II. An enlisted man who drew for Stars and Stripes, he was the one who gave the soldiers hope and sardonic smiles on the battlefields; Mauldin knew their hearts because he was one of them. Using his dirty, unshaven, bone-weary infantrymen characters Willie and Joe as his vehicle, Mauldin let all those troops know there was someone who understood. A Mauldin classic from World War II: an exhausted infantryman standing in front of a table where medals were being given out, saying: "Just gimme th' aspirin. I already got a Purple Heart."

Baby-faced and absolutely brilliant, Mauldin became a national phenomenon. Talk about a boy wonder: By the time he was 23 years old he had won a Pulitzer Prize, been featured on the cover of *Time* magazine, and had the country's No. 1 best-selling book, "Up Front." Yet he remained the unaffected, bedrock genuine, decent and open guy ... his fellow soldiers loved him.

And he stayed that way — right down to the baby face — all the way into his 50s and beyond. I was brand-new in Chicago, 22 years old and a beginning reporter, when I walked by the old Riccardo's restaurant one night, and there was Mauldin having a drink at one of the outside tables with his friend Mike Royko. Mauldin had seen me around the hallways; he motioned me over and invited me to join them. I sat down and tried to act as if this was nothing exceptional at all, as I looked around me at the table and thought to myself: You're six weeks out of Bexley, Ohio. That's Bill Mauldin. That's Mike Royko. This is a dream.

He was always so nice to me; he volunteered to write the foreword to one of my first books. We sort of lost touch after he moved to the Western part of the U.S. full time, and

## Using his dirty, unshaven, bone-weary infantrymen characters Willie and Joe as his vehicle, Mauldin let all those troops know there was someone who understood.

I guess that when I thought of him it was still as the eternally boyish, eternally grinning, eternally upbeat Mauldin.

And then the message came the other day from the 3rd Infantry man.

Bill Mauldin needs help.

He suffered terrible burns in a household accident a while back; his health has deteriorated grievously, and his cognitive functions are barely working. He lives in a room in a nursing home in Orange County, Calif., and sometimes days at a time go by without him saying a word. He was married three times, but the last one ended in divorce, and at 80 in the nursing home Mauldin is a single man.

I spoke with members of his family; they said that, even though Bill hardly communicates, the one thing that cheers him up is hearing from World War II guys — the men for whom he drew those magnificent cartoons.

Which is not what you might expect. Mauldin was not one to hold on to the past — he did not want to be categorized by the work he did on the battlefields when he was in his 20s. He went on to have a stellar career in journalism after the war, winning another Pulitzer in 1959. Many Americans, and I'm one of them, consider the drawing he did on deadline on the afternoon John F. Kennedy was assassinated — the drawing of the Lincoln Memorial, head in hands, weeping — to be the single greatest editorial cartoon in the history of newspapers.

But it's his World War II contemporaries he seems to need now. The guys for whom — in the words of Mauldin's son David — Mauldin's cartoons "were like water for men dying of thirst." David Mauldin said his dad needs to hear that he meant something to those men.

He needs visitors, and he needs cards of encouragement. I'm not going to print the name of the nursing home, so that this can be done in a disciplined and scheduled way. A newspaper colleague in Southern California — Gordon Dillow — has done a wonderful job organizing this, and he will take your cards to the nursing home. You may send

them to Bill Mauldin in care of Dillow at the Orange County Register, 625 N. Grand Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92701.

What would be even better, for those of you World War II veterans who are reading these words in California, or who plan on traveling there soon, would be if you could pay a visit to Mauldin just to sit with him a while. You can let me know if you are willing to do this (bgreene@tribune.com), or you can let Gordon Dillow know (gldillow@aol.com).

Bill Mauldin brought hope, and smiles in terrible hours, to millions of his fellow soldiers. If you were one of them, and you'd like to repay the favor, this would be the time.

*Watch editor's note: Our own, Rich Heller and Martin Markley were the triggers for the above article by Mr. Greene.*

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### GOBERNADOR from page 5

they would publish it in their newsletters. Not only did they do that, but they posted it on their homepages," Gomez said.

"The information went all over the world, accessible to anyone who keeps up with their old units. Both the 7th and the 3rd are highly decorated units involving several wars." He said one by one, the e-mails began trickling in. "Before we knew it, we had the names of at least six living Company B members who had served with Jose Valdez. They all remembered him vividly," Gomez said.

Besides the unveiling of the memorial by Valdez family members, American flags and a memorial wreath were placed by Medal of Honor recipients Murphy and Miyamura, Daniel, Kovatch and Castro. VFW Post 2182 provided a 21-gun salute while Nicole Tampino and Tyrell Brooks of Aztec High School played taps.

Members of the Pfc. Jose F. Valdez Memorial Committee included Pat Montoya, Mary Sims, Julie Lobato, Thomas Dugan, Amadeo Herrera, Felix Herrera, Harry Lobato, David Sims, Don Trujillo and Diane Trujillo.

**SAN JUAN**, Puerto Rico — Lt. John R. Wasson beckoned to his men from the enemy side of the river. Night was falling over North Korea's Chorwon Valley, and Company L of the 65th Infantry Regiment, ordered into the darkness to track down and kill Chinese soldiers, had made it perhaps two miles into the no man's land between the U.N. line and the communists.

Wasson, an officer fresh out of West Point, had crossed the river alone to reconnoiter the rocky scrub on the other side. Now he was signaling his troops to follow.

The men of Company L paused. Only weeks earlier, their regiment had been routed in the bloody battle for Outpost Kelly. They had not yet shaken the trauma of that slaughter — the mortal screams of their friends and the sight, later, of what was left of their bodies: eyes gouged out of faces, limbs hacked from torsos.

In the aftermath of that defeat, the 3rd Division leadership relieved the regimental commander with whom many had trained. The new colonel ordered the soldiers to shave their moustaches until they proved their manhood and made some of them wear signs that read, "I am a coward." Now Wasson, new to the platoon, was calling them back into danger.

The men walked away. Back to their regiment — and on to military prison, a few of the 91 soldiers sentenced to years of hard labor for refusing to fight in the weeks after the Battle for Outpost Kelly.

It would be the largest mass court-martial of the Korean War.

Now, 50 years later, a younger generation is campaigning to restore the once-celebrated name of the 65th. Many blame the soldiers' disobedience not on cowardice but on a lack of training, poor leadership and racial prejudice. They say the unit was singled out for prosecution because its members were Puerto Rican.

Bolstered by a new Army review that largely affirms their arguments, and supported by a growing number of politicians on the island and in Congress, they are

# New generation fights for 65th

By **Matthew Hay Brown**  
**San Juan Bureau**  
**May 27, 2002**

calling on President Bush to exonerate the court-martialed soldiers.

"It's left a scar on the honor of the Puerto Rican people," says Ernest Acosta Jr., director of the Puerto Rican-American Research Institute. "We're just trying to set the record straight."

## **Pride and courage**

Once, *la Sesenta y Cinco* was the pride of this U.S. territory, a rare institution in which Puerto Ricans could express patriotism for their island while arguing for their place within the larger United States.

"Those soldiers embodied the very *criollo* tradition of courage," says Silvia Alvarez-Curbelo, a historian at the University of Puerto Rico. "They were a distinct symbol of the relationship between colony and empire, based on loyalty and service but with a high degree of pride and dignity."

In the early years, they were given little opportunity to show it. But after whiling away all of World War I and most of World War II guarding the Panama Canal, they were thrown into action in Korea.

Christened the *Borinqueneers* — from the native Taíno word for their Caribbean homeland — they hit the ground fighting. By the end of their first year, they had been

credited with 15,787 enemy killed in action, more than 10 times their own casualty rate. Members had won four Distinguished Service Crosses, 125 Silver Stars — and the praise of the Far East Command.

"The Puerto Ricans forming the ranks of the gallant 65th Infantry give daily proof on the battlefields of Korea of their courage, determination and resolute will to victory, their invincible loyalty to the United States and their fervent devotion to those immutable principles of human relations which the Americans of the Continent and Puerto Rico have in common," Gen. Douglas MacArthur wrote in 1951. "They are writing a brilliant record of heroism in battle and I am indeed proud to have them under my command. . . ."

## **Defining battle**

Then came the Battle for Outpost Kelly. Elements of the 65th held the bare hill forward of the main U.S. line in September 1952 when the Chinese slammed in, driving the Puerto Ricans off. Twice the troops clawed their way back, only to be overwhelmed each time by Chinese artillery.

Sergio Lopez de Lopez, a 23-year-old private, was among those called to climb Kelly.

Thirty-eight men went up," he remembers. "Three came down."

By the end of September, Kelly was in enemy hands, the 65th had suffered 542 casualties and the 8th Army command was ordering changes. Col. Juan Cesar Cordero Davila, the highest-ranking Puerto Rican in the Army, was replaced as regimental commander by Col. Chester B. DeGavre, a West Point graduate and a "continental," a white officer from the mainland United States.

DeGavre stripped the name *Borinqueneers* from the unit. He cut special rations of rice and beans. But what veterans remember most was his order that they shave their moustaches "until such a time as they gave proof of their manhood."

"Mine had to go also, after 22 years with me," wrote Maj. Silvestre E. Ortiz, the regimental adjutant. "All that the moustache means to a Puerto Rican, it is part of his personality, in many cases the product of a religious vow, so much so that

the three chaplains went to visit this gentleman and appraised him of its importance, unsuccessfully.”

Barely a month after Kelly, soldiers of the 65th found themselves under fire again, now on an exposed rock slope in the no man’s land between the Chinese and U.S. lines called Jackson Heights. For two days, the Chinese alternated pounding the outpost with heavy artillery and probing the wreckage with armed patrols.

Then they overran, but the Puerto Ricans fought back, retaking the hill briefly before fleeing under fire.

On the third day of battle, with casualties rising, a group of 80 men from the 65th gathered away from Jackson Heights and was refusing orders to go back. The next day, more soldiers dropped out of the fighting. Finally, the unit was ordered away from the outpost, back to the main U.S. line.

By the end of October, the 65th had suffered 259 more casualties, most of them at Jackson Heights. In the aftermath, 123 men were charged with disobeying orders. In early November, a platoon from Company L was on patrol when 39 more men refused to follow Wasson across the river.

They, too, were arrested.

One hundred and sixty-two Puerto Ricans crowded the division stockade. The courts-martial began in December. Ninety-five soldiers were tried. Ninety-one were found guilty and sentenced to prison terms ranging from one to 18 years of hard labor.

The news reached Puerto Rico and the mainland in early 1953. Families, Congress and the press demanded explanations. “Nuestros hijos no son cobardes!” the San Juan newspaper *el Imparcial* protested in one headline: “Our sons are not cowards!”

Under growing pressure, the Pentagon responded. In February 1953, Army Chief of Staff Gen. J. Lawton Collins told the House Armed Services Committee the 65th had distinguished itself in battle but had broken down as a result of inexperienced officers and the inability of the troops to speak English.

“The Puerto Ricans have proven in action in early fighting in Korea that they are a gallant people and that they will fight just as well as anyone else if they are prop-

erly trained and properly led,” Collins said.

Language difficulties became the official explanation for the failure of the 65th, and Army Secretary Robert Stevens moved quickly to overturn the sentences. By 1954, all the soldiers had been granted clemency or pardon; most were reinstated to service.

Meanwhile, the Army was reconstituting the regiment, with continental soldiers assigned in the same proportion as in other units. By the end of spring, the unit had lost its Puerto Rican identity. The Borinqueneers faded into history, little known to subsequent generations of Puerto Ricans.

### **Something wrong**

Ernest Acosta Jr. had not heard of the regiment in 1995 when he happened upon a copy of “Puerto Rico’s Fighting 65th U.S. Infantry.” Retired Gen. W.W. Harris, commander of the regiment during its first year in Korea, called his men “the best damn soldiers in that war.” Rotated out of command before Outpost Kelly and Jackson Heights, Harris avoided mention of the courts-martial.

Acosta, a computer-systems analyst for the federal government, had founded the Puerto Rican-American Research Institute years earlier to respond to negative images of Puerto Ricans in the media. A peacetime veteran of the Army himself, the Maryland man prevailed on U.S. Rep. Nydia Velázquez, D-N.Y., to introduce bills to recognize and honor the 65th. Then, at a 1998 conference of the National Puerto Rican Coalition in Washington, someone mentioned the court-martial.

“Knowing what we knew about the 65th, something seemed wrong here,” Acosta remembers. “How could soldiers that had been so highly praised suddenly be court-martialed in such high numbers? Something must have happened.”

Working with friends Guillermo Rodriguez and Baltazar Soto, Army colonels whose fathers had been at Jackson Heights, he pored over yellowing military records, newspaper stories, letters written by soldiers. After reading of the accomplishments of the 65th, the disaster at Outpost Kelly and the humiliation of the men by DeGavre, they asked Army Secretary Louis Caldera in 1999 to review the courts-martial. Caldera referred the

project to the Center for Military History.

The Army report, released last year, blames the breakdown of the 65th on a shortage of officers and noncommissioned officers, a rotation policy that removed combat-experienced leaders and soldiers, tactics that led to heavy casualties, an ammunition shortage, communication problems between largely white, English-speaking officers and Spanish-speaking Puerto Rican enlisted men and declining morale.

“The heavy cumulative effects of all these influences . . . was simply too great a burden for the 65th to bear,” the report concludes. “It is a tribute to the dedication and perseverance of the men of the 65th that, in light of all this, they attacked as many times as they did and were able to advance as far as they did. . . . As happens too often in war, they were let down by their leaders at all levels.”

### **Army report finds bias**

The report also finds bias in the prosecution of the Puerto Ricans, citing instances of continental soldiers who were not charged after refusing to fight in similar circumstances, before and after Jackson Heights.

Acosta is using the report to campaign for formal exoneration — a declaration of their innocence.

That campaign is gaining support. Resident Commissioner Aníbal Acevedo Vilá last month asked Bush “to correct a historic injustice committed by the U.S. Army against a group of brave Puerto Ricans.”

Gov. Sila Calderon also has lent her support, saying it is the policy of her administration “to recognize the valor and the honorable service realized by the 65th Infantry in the North American wars.”

Acosta and Rodriguez planned to meet with Acevedo to discuss strategy for a campaign that would involve the Puerto Rican members of Congress to urge Bush to take action.

Acosta sees the experience of the 65th as one of several long-festering resentments now gaining attention, including naval practice bombing on Vieques, images of Puerto Ricans presented in the often-produced musical *West Side Story* and the still-unresolved question of the island’s political status in relation to the

United States.

“The Puerto Rican community is finally coming of age; it’s finally beginning to protest,” he says. “The community wants equality. It wants to be treated like everyone else.”

Sergio Lopez de Lopez is reluctant to talk about his wartime experiences. Lying awake at night, he remembers the human gore that littered Outpost Kelly, the hacked-off arms and legs of his friends and comrades.

The retired printer sips a Coke in his cool, comfortable one-story home in the Puerto Rican interior. Virginia Aviles Robles, the woman he married two weeks before shipping out to Korea, prepares dinner; their granddaughters giggle and play in the driveway out front. A hand-tinted portrait of the soldier as a young man, taken before Outpost Kelly, dominates the front hall.

“It’s still difficult to think of these things,” he says. “I know so many people who were killed like animals.”

Surviving court-martialed veterans have not been closely involved in the drive for exoneration. Francisco Alicea, president of the 65th Infantry Veterans and Retirees Association in San Juan, says the 225-member organization supports the effort, but has little information about Outpost Kelly, Jackson Heights or the courts-martial.

### ‘It’s already been 50 years’

Lopez was one of the soldiers of Company L court-martialed for refusing to follow Wasson across the river. He was sentenced to two years of hard labor and dishonorable discharge, then pardoned, freed and reinstated six months later. He says now that exoneration is “not so important.” “It would be something,” he said. “But it’s already been 50 years. All those years we suffered.”

Silvia Alvarez-Curbelo, the historian, says there still is value to revisiting the 65th. “It’s never too late for justice,” she says. “You have to revisit the past. Not for wanting to find the guilty or the innocent or anything like that, but to have a clear picture of who you are. You have to go to the past.”

*Matthew Hay Brown can be reached at 787-720-9072. Copyright © 2002, Orlando Sentinel*

# Salute to our Belgian Brothers

Following the attack by communist forces against the Republic of Korea on 25 June 1950 and acting on the UN Security Council Resolution calling on members of the UN to aid the South-Korean government, the Belgian government decided to send an expeditionary force to Korea. Professional soldiers but also reserve personnel and indeed even conscripts could volunteer for the unit. The first appeal for volunteers was answered by about 2,000 of which 700 only were selected due to limited recruiting possibilities at the time and they received their distinctive brown berets. Training and preparation done, the Belgian United Nations Command (BUNC), including a platoon of volunteers from the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, sailed from Antwerp on board the *Kamina* and arrived in Pusan on 31 January 1951.

Further training followed and after running patrols against guerilla forces in the Waegwan area, the BUNC was put in the line near Seoul along the Han River on 7 March 1951 under the command of the US 3rd Division.

In April 1951, the BUNC fought with distinction along the Imjin River where it received its first battle honours. In August, those volunteers that did not seek to prolong their tour of service were relieved by a new contingent arriving from Belgium. A continuous trickle of new volunteers arriving by ship or plane would then see to keeping the unit up to strength.

The BUNC continued to see lots of

A United States Presidential Unit Citation as well as two Korean Presidential Unit Citations were earned as were a number of individual decorations, medals and citations.

combat action and went on to earn further battle honours at Haktang-Ni (October 1951) and Chatkol (April 1953). After the cease-fire the BUNC was reduced to some 200 men on 30 December 1954 and the last members of the unit left Korea on 15 June 1955.

It is not within the scope of this medal-oriented website to tell the complete story of the BUNC in detail but I do wish to render homage to those that served by making available information on the battle honours, some citations, and a list of those that did not return to their homes and families ...

## Battle honours and the battles that lead to them

During the Korean Conflict, the BUNC received four Belgian citations which were recognized by the award of the fourragère of the Order of Leopold I on the unit’s flag. A United States Presidential Unit Citation as well as two Korean Presidential Unit Citations were also earned as were a number of individual decorations, medals and citations.

The four Belgian citations are for the battles on the Imjin River, near Haktang-Ni and Chatkol and a general citation for the whole of the war.

## Book Corner



### “Avening Bataan” (The Battle of ZigZag Pass)

*Author: The Third Division Society’s own, B. David Mann, (S3 Officer 15th Inf. Regt. Korea).*

It was a very enlightening read for me. Major Mann has obviously researched the historical details well and coupled with his personal experiences as an Infantry Platoon Leader with the 38th Inf. Division during those awful weeks of conflict, has woven an outstanding first-person story.

Well interspersed with personal accounts of Japanese survivors of the battle makes the book all the more interesting.

Ivy House Publishing Group  
5122 Bur Oak Circle  
Raleigh, NC 27612  
\$26.95 plus P&H \$4.75

I would recommend it for any Military or other student of history of action in the Philippines. (*They Did Return!*)

*Editor: Jim Drury*

# Audie Murphy Honored

**3rd Infantry Division Members were cordially invited to a Patriotic Party in the town Audie Murphy called home Farmersville, Texas June 20, 2002 6:00—9:00 p.m.**

**W**WII's most decorated combat soldier, Audie Murphy, was honored with a birthday celebration in his hometown, Farmersville, TX, Thursday, June 20 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. The town is paying tribute to him and all military personnel. It's a family party you won't want to miss—a parade honoring WWII veterans, T38 and T39 Fly Over from Shepherd Air Force Base, patriotic music performed by the Garland Chorale and Caledonian Pipes & Drums Band, great food, and no admission charge at Freedom Plaza on the downtown square of this small, rural town 1 hour northeast of Dallas. (To let us know you are coming or for more information, call the Visitor's Center at 972-782-6533 or [mainst@farmersvil-letx.com](mailto:mainst@farmersvil-letx.com). Please identify yourself as a member of the 3rd Infantry Division.)

For those intrigued with how an 5'5" 112 pound 18-year old from a poor sharecropper family with less than an 8th grade education could distinguish himself so brilliantly on the battlefield and have such passion for freedom, come to the party and get to know his home town folks. His parents and grandparents are buried in nearby cemeteries. Farmersville lost 1.5% of its population in WWII – about 6 times the U.S. average.

**"Freedom flies in our heart like an eagle.**

**Let it soar with the winds high above**

**Among the spirits of soldiers  
now sleeping,**

**Guard it with care and with love."**

(A stanza from Audie's poem *Freedom Flies in Your Heart Like an Eagle.*)

The purpose of Farmersville's tribute is not to glorify war or killing but to honor those who through their personal responsibility and sacrifice have taken on the burden of our freedom. Some survived and some did not. Everyone who loved them also paid a price.

To know more about Farmersville and read about last year's Audie Murphy Day Ceremony, go to [www.farmersvilletx.com](http://www.farmersvilletx.com)

In 1996, the Texas Legislature officially designated Audie's Birthday as Audie Murphy Day in Texas. On June 20, 1999, which was Audie's 75th birthday, as Governor of Texas, George W. Bush underlined the importance of the day with an Official Proclamation. This material and other information about the Audie Murphy Foundation is available at [www.audiemurphy.com](http://www.audiemurphy.com)

The *Life Magazine* issue for 1945 covering Audie's return from WWII was shot here in Farmersville and things probably look pretty much the same. Our town is a lot like Audie was when he went to the war—small, rural, and scrappy but intensely loyal to friends and kinfolk. It would be a special treat if your members could join us on this occasion.

If I can be of any further assistance, please contact me at 972-784-8619 or [loisoneal@fni.com](mailto:loisoneal@fni.com). I would appreciate receiving a copy of the *Watch* at 1095 CR 815, Farmersville, TX 75442.

Please feel free to forward this information on to any other group who would be interested in our celebration since I don't know the information channels available within the military.

With great appreciation,  
Lois O'Neal

## Signs of the Time

Septic Tank Truck sign reads: "We're #1 in the #2 business."

Sign over a gynecologist's office: "Dr. Jones, at your cervix."

At a military hospital-door to colonoscopies: "To expedite your visit, please back in."

On a Plumbers truck: "We repair what your husband fixed."

On the trucks of a local plumbing company "Don't sleep with a drip. Call your plumber."

## A Btry, 41st FA tests skills in Kuwait

By: Spc. Christen Coulon, 40th Public Affairs Detachment, ©Frontline 2002

**T**he 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery and A Battery, 41st Field Artillery, finished their three-week artillery Table 12 evaluation June 28. The live fire exercise, which began June 10, tested the battalion's three artillery batteries on a myriad of field tasks at the platoon level.

The training was divided into three one-week evaluation periods for each battery with each platoon in the battery participating in one 40-hour continuous evaluation. C Battery began the training, followed the next week by A Btry.

The final week saw A Btry., 41st FA, which is attached to the 1/10th in Kuwait, end the table.

"Table 12 is a platoon evaluation," said Capt. Ralph T. Borja, commander, A Btry., 41st FA. "During the evaluation, there are a certain number of fire missions that each platoon must accomplish. They are timed and evaluated to see if they are meeting the standards for the fire mission. We are also looking to see how they react to chemical attacks, the enemy and the mission. We just want to see how they move, shoot and communicate."

During the long training event, the units had to fight not only the heat, but dehydration and fatigue. In order to combat these problems, the soldiers were supplied with coolers full of ice-cold water.

Despite the heat and lack of water, the platoons did very well Borja said. "The key out here is motivation; they have all had a good train-up prior to coming to Kuwait," Borja said. "I think that the vast amount of training opportunities you get out here in Kuwait keep the soldiers motivated. There is a lot you can do out here that you just can't do (back home) because of range restrictions and surrounding communities."

Borja said their training mission allowed his unit to work better as a team and is an opportunity for junior soldiers to learn from the rest of the unit.

"As we have been here I have seen my soldiers get a lot better at their profession," Borja said. "I think they are all starting to realize how important their job is and what it means to the United States of America."

# “Hold at all Costs”

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The US Eight Army had designated this defensive position “Outpost Harry.”

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*George S. Buck (Sam)  
2nd Lt 39th FA 3rd Div.  
Attached to King Company, 15th Regiment, 3d  
Infantry Division Korea 1953.*

I joined King Co., 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division in April 1953 on Outpost Dick as their forward observer. This static position was located just to the right of Chorwan Valley.

The Truce Talks were going on and it appeared we were getting closer to an armistice.

A Chinese division located to our front harassed us with artillery, mortar and sniper fire day and night. We returned the same hospitality. Our patrols, consisting of eight or nine GI's plus several listening posts, would go out just after dark and would return before daybreak.

Around the middle of May 1953, a company of Greek Hellenic Forces replaced King Company on OP Dick. We didn't want the Chinese to know what was going on, as a company just new to the Outpost would be very vulnerable to an attack within the first night or two.

We exchanged positions five men at a time, taking close to a week to get our company off and the Greeks in position. Our company Commander, Lt. Markley (at that time), and myself were the last to leave as the new company Commander had to be sure he understood how the Outpost was laid out and to be familiar with the Chinese defenses. The same with the Greek Forward Observer taking my place, as he had to learn the sector we were defending and every artillery and mortar position.

There was only one interpreter for this operation so there were lots of charades going on, in desperation locating an interpreter. We had a humorous experience after going to these lengths to keep our transfer a secret. The last night before Lt. Markley and I left the Outpost, a speaker out in the Valley said “Sayonara King Company, we will get along better with the Greeks than we did with you.”

King Company then went in reserve for some needed rest and training to keep them sharp. I went back to my battery (C Battery - 39th Forward Artillery) and being a new 2nd Lieutenant, I was assigned Safety Officer during the nights. That job entailed using a gunner's quadrant on the breach of a 105 Howitzer to be sure the elevation and site was set correctly to avoid firing on friendly forces.

One night around the 1st of June, as I was watching a rare movie, a runner from our Battalion gave me a message to rendezvous with K Company, 15th Infantry at these coordinates. I rounded up my Forward Observation party, consisting of my driver, recon Sergeant, and radio operator. Our jeep and trailer was always on the ready and away we went driving blackout. We had to be very careful, as the edges of the road had not been completely cleared of mines so we had to take it slow and easy.

The coordinates led us to a small schoolhouse at a fork in the road some two or three miles behind the front lines. King Company's trucks were all parked around the school and the men were lounging around in the dark. The company officers were inside the small building with blackout curtains covering the doors and windows. By candlelight, they were going over a map and getting ready to move out to take responsibility for defending a critical combat outpost located forward of the main line of resistance (MLR). The US Eight Army had designated this defensive position “Outpost Harry.” Lt. Markley was in the lead jeep and my jeep and trailer was second. The rest of the company was mounted in trucks and we drove blackout up to just behind the MLR, also known as the “front lines”. There, we parked the vehicles and moved out in column formation across the front on foot and headed North without making an noise. A few times we would come to a fork in the trail and Markley would post either or Lt. Richards, the Company Executive Officer, or me there to direct the men to the correct trail.

Searchlights located behind the MLR shined their powerful lights over us into the eyes of the Chinese soldiers located in positions north of Outpost Harry to prevent the enemy from seeing us. We finally reached an orchard at the base of Outpost Harry without being discovered. We could almost smell the Chinese, they seemed that close. It is important to realize that King Company was now 1,000 yards in front of the MLR, beyond the effective range of the automatic weapons belonging to the friendly units located there. From now on, King Company could only rely on its own organic weapons and supporting artillery and mortar fires for its defense.

We scattered out under the shattered trees waiting for daybreak before we made our move up the hill. Finally, Markley gave the order to move in-groups of five so as not to attract too much attention. I was the second man behind the ever-present Markley who led the first group up the hill. Considerable incoming artillery and mortar fire began to impact on the hill. We had hardly any protection and at places the hill was almost straight up. I was loaded down with my M-2 carbine, flak-jacket, steel helmet, six grenades strapped to me, an EE 8 telephone, a roll of commo wire and a PRC radio on my back. I never thought I would make it to the summit, but there was no place to stop to catch your breath.

After we reached the positions on top, we found Outpost Harry to be well fortified with trenches and bunkers arranged so that each bunker could keep the enemy off the roof of another. My observation post was on the forward slope and equipped with a BC scope. There was just enough room to sleep two.

The command post was located just on the rear side of the front trench. It was protected by about six feet of overhead made out of railroad ties and sandbags. I usually spent the nights with Markley and Richards.

About the second day on the Outpost, orders came through promoting Markley to Captain. Richards and I took two of his silver bars and made a Captain's insignia to celebrate Markley's promotion. For some reason, he didn't want to use my gold 2nd Lieutenant bars.

Our intelligence informed us that the Chinese were building up behind a hill called Star Mass and Camels Bank. Star Mass was connected to OP Harry by a saddle. It was considerably higher than OP Harry, and the

Chinese had excellent observation on our position. Intelligence estimated the build up to consist of three divisions of Chinese. Outpost Harry was the closest US EIGHTH Army outpost to this buildup and our resources consisted of a company plus heavy weapons or approximately 150 men.

We knew for several days that we were going to get hit and our orders were to "Hold At All Costs." The Chinese wanted this vital piece of real estate as it looked straight down on our main line of resistance and then they would have a clear shot at capturing Seoul just before the armistice. If that had happened, the line dividing North and South Korea would have been south of the 38th parallel instead of where it ended.

One of my first jobs on the Outpost was to register defensive fire around the three sides, one gun at a time, so that we would have a wall of steel protecting OP Harry. After I had all the guns registered, Captain Markley asked me to show him where I had placed the fire. As I was showing him, he spotted this rather deep gully right out in front. When he said that he wanted a round placed in the bottom of this gully, I explained that I had one on the far bank and 105's have a dispersion bracket of 50 yards so some of the rounds would land where he wanted. He informed me that he wanted to see a round in the bottom of the gully, as it offered the Chinese cover on the natural approach we knew the Chinese would take to attack the outpost. I asked the Captain to get our company buttoned up and I would see what I could do, but I was afraid I might put one in our trench.

He took off to make sure everyone was inside their bunker and I called fire direction center a very unorthodox fire command "ARCH left and repeat range". I soon received a "splash" from FDC informing me the round was on its way. The next thing I heard was the blast of the shell to my left rear. I ran back to the impact area, afraid of what I was going to see. Would you believe the Captain forgot about three engineers digging in a bunker in the area? Luckily, no one was injured as they were brushing the dirt off themselves and asking who fired that shot. I didn't admit to anything and got out of their sight!

We knew several days before, that we were going to get hit but didn't know when. Intelligence requested that I indicate on my map where the smoke shells were landing as

## **We knew for several days that we were going to get hit and our orders were to "Hold At All Costs." The Chinese wanted this vital piece of real estate as it looked straight down on our main line of resistance and then they would have a clear shot at capturing Seoul just before the armistice.**

that was the way the Chinese were marking their approaches to OP Harry plus they were using red, blue and green smoke shells that must have meant something to them. It appeared most were landing on both sides, indicating the Chinese would mount a pincher attack. I called the coordinates of every shell I saw throughout the day of 9 June 1953.

At about 2100 hours the following day, 10 June, all hell broke loose with the Chinese firing their artillery and mortars. They fired a "time on target" and then continued to pound our hill. It was a tremendous barrage. One thing the Chinese were not hesitant to do that night was to attack through their own artillery fire, thinking we would be in our bunkers and they would be on top of us before we could defend ourselves. They lost many of their soldiers to their own artillery fire, and to ours, but they succeeded in reaching the outpost and commenced their assault. We had planned to fight the enemy outside our bunkers under a covered position erected in the trench, but incoming artillery fire blew up our position and pinned us inside the bunker.

I was in the command post with Captain Markley and Lt. Richards. We started hearing the bugles, whistles and burp guns all around us. Richards shouted that the enemy was in the trenches. As Markley and Richards were firing over my head to keep the Chinese out of bunker, I was on my radio to the Fire Direction Center requesting to have our artillery fire on ourselves to clean out the enemy out of the trenches. We knew that the Chinese were in the open, while our men were inside bunkers, so we felt this was the best way to hurt the enemy before the Chinese overran the hill. The next thing I heard was that unmistakable sizzle of an armed grenade behind me. Before I could complete radio transmission, it went off and Markley and Richards were hit by shrapnel and fell unconscious. (American artillery opened fire on top of our position anyway, once FOs on the MLR realized we were

being overrun). I ran to the door where I had left my carbine, grabbed it, and shot a Chinese soldier coming through the door. Another grenade was thrown in. I hovered in the corner of our bunker and put my head down against the blast, then I stepped back in the door and shot down another Chinese soldier trying to run in. This went on at least three or four more times before my hand, arm and leg went numb from the exploding grenades.

I switched hands and laid the barrel of my carbine on the edge of the doorway. I let the Chinese soldier almost run into me before I fired. The next grenade that was thrown in exploded and knocked me off my feet. I fell partially on the Captain. I tried to work a bullet into the chamber of my carbine and prepared to fire again. I heard some conversation outside the door and then I saw a Chinese with a flashlight creeping in. My carbine was lying across my lap but when I pulled the trigger, nothing happened. The Chinese soldier started to search the other side of the dark bunker, looking at Richards. I wiped my bloody hand on my face to play dead. He then checked out and searched the Captain. He took the Captain's carbine. When he searched me, he took my .38-caliber automatic handgun and my carbine. Then he left the bunker.

Almost immediately, two Chinese came in carrying one of their wounded and the next thing I felt was one of their guards squatting near my feet at the edge of the doorway. Several more of their wounded were brought in and laid on the floor near Richards, Markley and myself. Each time someone came through the door, the guard would slide his rifle butt up my leg that was cut up from shrapnel. I knew if I moved he would kill me.

A little later, Lt. Richards started to come to and was moving and groaning. After some conversation with their wounded, the guard got up and shot him. A short time later, Captain Markley started to cough up some-

## Then we looked at Captain Markley. His head was split open from one ear to the other and bleeding quite profusely. His eyeball was lying on his cheek.

thing and the guard shot him, but I could tell Markley was still alive as I could feel him moving. Due to the darkness, the Chinese couldn't see him very well. A while later, a shell landed outside the door of our bunker filling it with fire and shrapnel. I could feel the guard lurch and fall over. I think he was the only one hit. That left Captain Markley and myself alone with four or five wounded Chinese lying inside.

Just after daybreak the next morning, I heard GI voices. I could tell there was still hand to hand-to-hand fighting in the trenches. A GI came busting through the door, seeing the Chinese on the floor, and started firing. He probably thought they were going to try to kill him, but I knew they were wounded and shouted "Cease fire - GI!" He stopped and said, "Ok Doc" and took off. At that time, one of the wounded Chinese rose up to a sitting position and was looking for something to kill me with. I started looking too and all I could find was a flashlight. When I shined the light directly into his eyes, he froze. Finally a GI came in and saw what I was trying to do and the wounded Chinese soldier lay down not moving. Then we looked at Captain Markley. His head was split open from one ear to the other and bleeding quite profusely. His eyeball was lying on his cheek. I'll never know why, but I cleaned the blood and dirt out of the socket with my fingers and put the eyeball back in place. What is hard to believe is that he still has that eye going on 50 years later and has a little vision in it.

My replacement Forward Observer found me but he had lost his radio operator to a direct hit and the FO was hit badly in both feet. He tried to get me on his shoulder but neither of us had the strength to get out. I kept telling him to leave me and get out himself, if he could, as it didn't appear we both were going to make it in the shape we were in. He told me he wasn't going to leave me and we were going to make it. Then I saw two medics had Captain Markley on a litter. It

Continued on page 16

## C Co., 2/7 honored for Gulf War actions

Forwarded by: Birmingham, Michael MAJ HHC 31D/AFZP-HC"

*Spc. Jacob Boyer  
Staff Writer, The Frontline*

**C**ompany, 2nd Battalion 7th Infantry received the Valorous Unit Award in a ceremony at the Fort Stewart Museum Friday afternoon, eleven years after its actions west of Al-Basra, Iraq.

"It's a very big deal," said Capt. James P. Dykes, S-1, 2/7 Infantry. "The equivalent for this award recently. The award submission was lost after the Gulf War

(Mech.), was clearing enemy positions in the vicinity of the Rumaylah Oil Fields when they were directed to move forward and make visual contact with a large enemy armored force moving across the Euphrates river and determine the force's intent, according to the citation.

"It was a clear, cool morning," said Lt. Col. Richard Avena, the company commander at the time. "We were consolidating our positions in a demilitarized zone. As we were settling in, we ran into a dug-in Iraqi platoon. It all happened very fast."

The company was engaged by a battalion from the Hammurabi Division of Iraq's Republican Guard. They received rocket-propelled grenade fire at close range from the dug-in platoon and demonstrated "uncommon valor, discipline and aggressive determination" in conducting a frontal assault and destroying the platoon's position, according to the citation.

"3rd Platoon engaged and were pinned down by anti-tank and mortar fire," Avena

said. "They counterattacked, and they did that very well. The NCOs and officers did the right thing."

The Iraqis answered with an organized attack of 10 tanks and 15 infantry fighting vehicles. The company destroyed eight of the tanks and nine fighting vehicles in the ensuing battle and captured the remaining vehicles, according to the citation.

The company's actions "secured a vital intersection for the brigade, allowing follow-on forces to defeat the Hammurabi Division and complete the final destruction of the Republican Guard," as stated in the citation.

"You don't realize something until days or even months later," Avena said. "The company distinguished itself as a good, solid team. This is a befitting recognition even though it is 10 years from the fight."

The award would probably have come sooner, but the paperwork, which was submitted at the end of the Gulf War, was lost. Sen. Chuck Hagel resubmitted it in 2000 at the request of retired Maj. Kim Stenson, the 2/7 S-3 at the time of the conflict and the officer who originally submitted the paperwork.

"It was kind of a surprise for me," Avena said. "I didn't know about it until I got a letter in the mail."

The ceremony included current members of C Company, who accepted the award.

"There's an understanding that today's soldiers get from our past," Avena said. "It's part of the tradition and history of these soldiers."

The award was not based on any individual actions, but more of a testament to the teamwork exhibited by C Company, Avena said.

"I feel the NCOs and junior officers, who I wish could be here, deserve recognition for keeping things together," Avena said. "They deserve it in every respect."

### New Bumper Stickers

- CLEVERLY DISGUISED AS A RESPONSIBLE ADULT.
- IF WE QUIT VOTING WILL THEY ALL GO AWAY?
- ILLITERATE? WRITE FOR HELP.
- HONK IF ANYTHING FALLS OFF.
- COVER ME, I'M CHANGING LANES.



## Looking for...

My father was in the 3rd Inf. Div. F Co15th Inf. Regt. during the Korean war. He was on outpost Harry in April of 1953. His name is **Emery Longley**. He was wounded on April 24th. If anyone remembers him, please drop a line and I will relay the message to him. He would love to hear from anyone who remembers him. Thank you so much.

Tonya Longley  
PO Box 471  
Morrisville VT 05661 chiquita@pshift.com



I have some more information for you about **Thomas Joseph Rupley's** Korean war service. The information I have on him only covers the period from June 14, 1950 to June 10, 1955. That is all that the National Personnel Records Center me, even though I originally requested all of his Assignments and Geographical Locations from June 1942 to his retirement in 1967.

Before going to Korea in 1952, he served as a rifleman in Company B, 169th Infantry Regiment in the 43rd Infantry Division at APO 112, New York, NY. He was in this outfit from September 5th 1952 to December 26, 1952. This must have been an assignment in Europe. He returned stateside via Camp Drake, wherever that was, then was sent to Korea in April of 1953. He was in the 38th Replacement Company of the Third Infantry Division from April 8, 1953 until April 10, 1953, then was assigned to C Company, 7th Infantry Regiment of the Third Infantry Division at APO 468. He was in that outfit from April 11, 1953 until May 18, 1954. He served as a Rifleman with the M.O.S. 1745. I do not believe he was wounded in Korea, but somewhere along the line he was awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge. After Korea, he was sent to Headquarters Company, 272nd Infantry Regiment At Fort Dix, New Jersey. He was also in Company G of the 272nd Infantry Regiment at Fort Dix, then it appears he got out of the

Army at Fort Dix on June 10, 1955. That is all the information I can give you because that is all that NPRC sent me. His military records may have been burned in the July 12, 1973 fire. But any help you would be willing to give me in gathering more information on his Korean War service would be greatly appreciated. Mr. Rupley died at the VA Hospital in Syracuse, New York on May 17, 1976 and is buried in Section 67, Grave # 1284, in Arlington National Cemetery.

Dave Davies  
Portage, Wisconsin



Served with the 58th FA Bn, Bat. A as an FO, supported Charlie Co, 65th Inf. Regt. 3d Inf. Division 1952 to 1953. Saw action on Kelly Outpost, Harry Outpost, Jackson Hgts and more. Would like to hear from any veterans of the 58th.

Edward W. Hill  
cen39025@centurytel.net  
N5008 Oak View Drive  
West Salem, WI 54669



Hello, I am trying to locate someone for my grandfather. His name is **Warren Walker**, 30th Inf. Regt. (Mortars) WWII. He was assistant squad leader and squad leader. He is trying to locate someone he served with. The following is what he gave me. 30th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Division, Mortar section 3rd platoon, 3rd squad. He was a Sgt. If you can provide any information please contact Tina Erb.

Mr. Walker was with the third division during WW2. He fought in Germany and Rome to name a few. I believe the years were 1942-1946. He received a Purple Heart. If there any other questions please ask. I will get the answers to you. Many thanks. This means so much to him.

Tina Erb  
66 Lincoln Avenue  
Bloomsburg, PA 17815-1236

570-389-1074  
mtkaiy3@aol.com



My father, **Frank Pabeschitz**, never talked about the war. All I know is that he served in WWII in the 3rd Infantry Division. When he died I was 18yrs old. Any information that you could provide would be most helpful. Thank you for your help.

Robert Pabetz

*Frank J. Pabeschitz, is listed on page 525 of the History of the Third Infantry Division in World War II as a member of the 30th Infantry Regiment. If you have any information please contact Robert at spabetz@msn.com*



Hi Jerry,

I am not sure you can help me, but maybe I'm on the right track? I am looking for information on my father. His name: **Wilbert Owen Haycraft**. He said he was with the 3rd Infantry, Armor Division. He was a tank Commander. His classification when he entered in Illinois reads: 1-C disc. Order #11649-A 11/19/45.

His honorable discharge was in Georgia 9/28/45 He said he was awarded 4 silver and 3 bronze stars all with valor and said he was in France, N. Africa, Sicily, Italy and Rome. I know there was an article written about him when he received one of the medals and it was in a paper in Peoria, Ill. and possibly Louisville, Ky. paper

I am his daughter Debbie and I was born in 1967. My father passed away in 2/22/87, in Michigan where he had been living since after the war. He was born in Grayson Co. KY on 2/23/23.

I would be infinitely grateful if you can steer me to the location I need to find any information on his military records, as I cannot locate the medals or accommodations, his uniform or any paperwork on him. My mother had quite a time getting a death certificate for him. When I was about 11, he showed me all of these items I mentioned and my moth-

er and I cannot locate these now. We think he may have given them all away to friends.

I do know about the fire...but was hoping I could just find his Unit#, Company#, outfit or regiment. I am trying to finish his portion of my family tree. A relative is writing a book about the Haycraft Family Lineage and she has a deadline. She wants me to get this info. to her ASAP so my dad can be in this book. I just want to give her accurate information to go down in the book. Of course, this is all that I can come up with... I have come to a brick wall. Finding the right information is now my passion!! Can you please share with me anything that might help me in my plight? He spoke a lot about Audie Murphy and I thought he said he was in the 3rd Infantry as well. I think he admired him as well as others.

I do remember some stories he told me about being pinned down by gunfire and he single-handedly captured 13 German Soldiers and was awarded for it. He also had a pistol from a high ranking German's daughter and I believe he said he killed him with it.

At any rate, I am sorry to drop this desperate plea on you... As I am sure there is thousands out there in a similar position. So, thank you in advance for any feedback you will allow me. I sure appreciate it.

Sincerely

Debbie Haycraft Devries  
(616) 866-2589  
9143 Courtland Drive NE  
Rockford, MI 49341

✍

My name is Mrs. Aki Matsuyama and I am looking for anyone who served in the same unit as my brother, **Takeshi Sasaki**. He served in the Korean War and was missing in action since April 25, 1951. He was a member of Company F, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division. The following is the general circumstances of his disappearance: On April 24, 1951, the 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment (which included by brother's company) was located to the east of Chongong-ni, about three kilometers north of the 38th Parallel and mid-



Takeshi Sasaki, MIA, F Company, 7th Inf. Regt.

way between Yonchon and Tongduchon in present-day South Korea. Their battalion skirted the Main Supply Route (MSR) that ran southward to Tongduchon. On April 24, the 2nd & 3rd Battalions came under heavy Chinese attack. The next morning, on April 25, the Chinese intensified their attacks and at some undetermined point during the battle on April 25, my brother became missing in action. The Dept. of Defense has no specific information of Takeshi's loss or to indicate his capture.

I have always wondered if anyone in my brother's unit has firsthand information about the circumstances of what happened to Takeshi and I have been searching on my own for information regarding my Brother's last hours before his disappearance on April 25, 1951. If anyone knew my brother or served in the same unit as Takeshi and has information about the circumstances of what happened to him, please contact me at the following address or phone #:

Mrs. Akiyo Matsuyama  
3158 Fujii St.  
Lihue, HI 96766  
Phone #: (808) 245-6488

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

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## “HOLD AT ALL COSTS” from page 14

was very hard going, as the trenches were full of bodies (Chinese and American) as well as comms wire and all kinds of debris. All I could do was pull myself with my left arm and try to kick with my left leg, as my right side was useless. On the way down the hill, we were in the way of the replacements trying to drive the Chinese out of the trenches. After we arrived at the foot of Outpost Harry, we spotted an aid station a short distance away with a big Red Cross on it. Did it ever look good! Before we could get to it, the Chinese opened fire on it so we gave up trying to get there.

The other FO spotted a US tank and took off his T-shirt and got the tankers attention. They came over and helped my partner down the turret. I was hurt too badly to get inside the tank and one tankers asked if I could hang on to one of the steps on the rear. I told him I could and away we went toward the main line. The machine gunner on the turret was spraying anything and every place that could hide a Chinese. We got away from the fighting and the crew spotted a jeep with two litters sticking out. We were loaded on it and taken to the Regimental Aide Station just behind the front lines.

At the Aid Station, they bandaged our wounds and were told our next of kin would be notified. We were transported by ambulance to a MASH unit that night. I was left on my old dirty and bloody stretcher when they carried me into the operating room. I remember looking up and seeing a star shining through a tear in the top of the tent. After the shrapnel was removed, we were not sutured until we got to Japan. Needless to say, there was a lot of swelling and we were still losing blood. We were then put on a hospital train and taken to a building that appeared to be a school. Rows and rows of wounded GIs on stretchers lay there; sitting on saw horses in this large auditorium. Finally, we were put on a plane for Yokohama, Japan where I spent 30 days in traction and then on a plane to the Army Navy Hospital in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

I find it hard to believe that I survived the worst nightmare of my life. I wouldn't have if it had not been for men like Captain Markley, Lt. Richards (who never made it home) and the FO (whose name I never got) who wouldn't let me quit until we got off that damn hill.