



The Watch on the Rhine

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

Vol. 84 No. 4

"Nous Resterons La"

February, 2003

Society plans support of active troops

Third Infantry Deploys to Kuwait

Jerry Cunningham

Past President

Society of the Third Infantry Division

My visit at Fort Stewart, GA last evening was amusing and enlightening. The reception was *great*. The entire group was in high spirits and well aware of what they will be confronted with in the near future.

The Commanding General made some brief remarks referencing; the Entire Third Infantry Division (Mech) has received their marching orders for Kuwait, which everyone was aware of and well prepared for. The 3ID has been training for this type of deployment for many years. They are equipped with some of the most modern and sophisticated weapons in the world. Not the kind of weapons you and I used on the battlefield as the CG stated. He will be able to monitor every unit within the Division from his Command Post.

For myself, it was a bitter sweet feeling. Having been in combat before, it is not totally pleasant thoughts mixed with fond memories. I'm sure many of you can attest to that.

Wow! They put me on live camera and asked me some strong questions. Such as; what can the 3ID Society do to support our troops? One of my replies was, we can support them by sending them tons of copies of the *Watch on the Rhine* with encouraging words on the inside, also by posting support on our website.

I asked General Blount, was their anything special the Society could do to support them? His reply was, "keep us

I have asked Jim Drury and Rich Heller to request that all the veterans of the Society send their correspondence for the deployed 3ID troops to them so that it can be placed in the *Watch* and on the Web.

in your thoughts and prayers." I assured him we would.

So, I have asked Jim Drury and Rich Heller to request that all the veterans of the Society, send their correspondence for the deployed 3ID troops to them so that it can be placed in the *Watch* and on the Web. This is the best way for that unit to receive input from us veterans and others.

As for the family members remaining behind, they are in the same mode that your family and mine was in when we departed home for war. Let's not forget them also.

On a happy note, I asked many of the Officers and Senior Sergeant Majors. about troop's morale. They replied that the morale among our troops is very high and they are looking forward to returning to Fort Stewart, GA real soon.

Thanks to all of you for your support.

"ROCK OF THE MARNE" CAN DO

To Active Duty 3ID Troops

A Message of Support

■ Listen up, you guys!

Your grandfathers' generation sends its best wishes. Those of us who have "been there" have some idea of what you are going through. If you are like I was, it's the loneliest time of your life right now.

The apprehension and uncertainty is normal, but it will go away when the time comes to do what you have been trained to do. It's a test of your manhood and you will pass with flying colors! And you will be honored and respected forever for what you are doing for your country and the cause of freedom!

God Bless You,

*Russ Cloer, WWII Lt./Cpt.,
7th Inf., 3rd Inf. Div.
(Anzio to Berchtesgaden)
Now age 82.*

Sign up now!

The Society of the Third Infantry Division

☆☆☆

84th Annual Reunion

Sept 18-21, 2003

St Louis MO

See pages 28-29



Since 1919



The Oldest Continuous Army Division Association





The Watch on the Rhine

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President's Message

Jerry Manley

Society Roster to Mail in February

This is to inform you that we will be printing a new hard copy of the National Roster in January and mailing it out to the Membership in early February.

The printing of the roster is one of the major expenses that the Society has to bear. Included in the roster will be donation card. We would appreciate the always generous support of the membership to assist us with this project.

Thank you.

Ray Anderson, National Secretary/Treasurer

Society to Manage Member Records

The maintenance of the Society roster is again being accomplished within the Society.

Timely reporting of personnel changes is important in order that members continue to receive all material mailed by the society.

Effective immediately, direct all membership inquiries send changes of address, new membership applications, and notices of death to:

The Society of Third Infantry Division
1601 W. Woodcrest Ave.
Fullerton, CA 92833-4531
Tel: 714-871-0419
E-Mail: BlueWhiteDevil@aol.com

“Special” death notices (obituaries) for publication in the *Watch on the Rhine* should be sent to Jim Drury, Editor, 716 9th St., Camanche, IA 52730.
Ph: (563) 8952
E-Mail: jimd@msn.com.



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

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and will have a Happy New Year. Marilyn and I did, although I must admit I miss the Christmas experiences of my youth and early adulthood. Christmas was much more family and church oriented then.

Now it seems to be judged on how a big a commercial success it is.

I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank Jim Drury for the excellent job he is doing as “Watch” editor. I imagine many of you, not unlike myself, belong to a number of veterans organizations and receive their news letters and/or magazines. Outside of the VFW national magazine none of them can come close to the

content and quality of the “Watch.” For that we have Jim Drury to thank. Well done, Jim!

Morris Krepyk has informed me that because of his health he will be unable to continue as Sgt. At Arms. When he accepted the position last fall he had hoped that his physical problems would improve with time, such has not been the case. Take care of yourself Morris, our thoughts and prayers are with you.

The 2003 reunion in St. Louis, Missouri will take place on September 18 - 21 at the Airport Marriott. I am sure Roger Lochmann and his Outpost #17 crew will have an outstanding lineup of activities for us while we are there. Being located in the geographical center of the U.S. no one can use distance to travel as an excuse not to attend. We should have a great turnout. See you there!

Rock of the Marne!

Jerry

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/3rdiv.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

Dues Notices

At the request of President Jerry Manley, plans are being made for national to mail the annual dues notices in April and a notice of delinquency mailed the first week of July to all who did not pay their dues by June 30.

It is anticipated that with the initial notification being closer to the due date will result in members taking immediate action and they will not set the notice aside until later as has been the practice of many.

Call for Nominations of Officers – Society of the 3rd Infantry Division



WE NEED YOU !!

Nominations are now being accepted for our National President and the National Secretary-Treasurer from ALL members of the Society. Nominations for the three (3) regional offices are also being accepted. Those offices consist of one (1) Regional Vice-President and two (2) committeemen from each of the three (3) regions.

Nominations will be closed April 23rd at midnight. All nominations with a postmark after April 23rd will not be accepted by the nominating committee. All nominations will be pursuant to Article V (5.2.a) Elective Officers of the Society; President, Secretary-Treasurer, one (1) Regional Vice-President and two (2) Committeemen from each of the three (3) 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 the regional officers only in the region they reside.

All nominations will be made with the written consent of the nominee. All nominees will be checked, and doubled checked for their current 2003 - 2004 dues as being paid for this election year before their letters of nomination and let-

ters of acceptance will be accepted by the nominating committee. Any member of the Society of the Third Infantry Division considering running for an elective office within the Society shall be a member in **good standing**.

What is a member in good standing? A member in good standing with the Society is one that has his/her current 2003-2004 year dues paid up to date. For example. If you are planning on running for an elective office this year, then you should have your current 2003-2004 dues paid before you even consider running for an elective office otherwise the Nomination-Election Committee will not accept your letters of nomination or letter of acceptance.

You can send all letters of nomination and letters of acceptance to me at:

Bob Bailey Chairman
160 Huguley Road
Opelika, Ala.
36804-1891
or you can E-mail them to me at
Maybob56@aol.com

Special Notice

“The membership approved amendments to Article V, Management, of the Constitution during the General Membership meeting in Buffalo. The amendments are included in this issue of the *Watch* on page 8. To implement the amendments this year, the President, Secretary-Treasurer and the Three (3) Regional Vice-Presidents will be elected to a one year term. All Regional Committeemen will be elected to two (2) year terms.

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

Report to the Society President

Veterans Day at Fort Benning

by *Jerry Cunningham*

My mission is completed. The Veterans Day Ceremony at Fort Benning was a big success, however it rained all day and the ceremony was held in side of the Post Museum. The original program was scheduled to last about two hours, and it was cut to about one hour or more. They had me on the original program to make some remarks but, had to delete it.

I went down Sunday afternoon in order to rendezvous with everyone on Monday at noon in the dining facility on Kelly Hill. Everything went as planned. After meeting everyone and eating lunch for about one and a half hours, we all departed Kelly Hill for the Post Museum on Main Post. The Sequence of Events follows:

- Invocation—Bde. Chaplain
 - Posting of the Colors
 - National Anthem
 - Brigade Commander's Remarks
 - Guest Speaker Remarks by
CSM (Ret) James G. McDonough
 - Laying of Wreaths in museum
 - Roll Call (for recently
deceased Soldiers)
 - Firing Squad and Taps
 - Benediction
 - Singing of the Dog Face Soldier and
Army Song
Retirement of the Colors
 - Reception and View all Displays
- We departed the Museum after 4:00PM. I returned back to the Hotel. On Tuesday morning, I departed Fort Benning for home.

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

**Adams Mark Hotel
Buffalo, NY**

**Saturday, September 15, 2002
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM**

President Jerry Cunningham called the meeting to order.

- ◆ The colors had already been placed.
- ◆ The Pledge of Allegiance was said by the membership.
- ◆ The Invocation was given by our Chaplain, Jerry Sapiro.
- ◆ The Secretary/Treasurer introduced the National Officers

Those 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
Others Present:

Jerry Sapiro, Chaplin
Edward Dojutrek, Historian
Larry Driscoll, Membership Chairman
Carl Topie, PR
Jim Jarboe, Awards Committee
Dale McGraw, C&BL Committee
John Ferrara, Sgt. At Arms

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

◆ The Sergeant-at-Arms, John Ferrara, made the required quorum count. It was announced we had proxy statements from Martin Markley, Joe Poggi & Richard Martinet.

◆ The vote on debate time limit was 2 minutes.

Medal of Honor Recipient Chuck Murray of the 30th. Div. was acknowledged as well as MG Maurice Kendall.

◆ Members of the Reunion Committee and Host Outpost Officers were acknowledged.

◆ The Outpost count was as follows:
O/P1, (4) O/P2, (10) O/P3, (7) O/P4,

(2) O/P5, (37) O/P7 (3) O/P10 (0) O/P11
(2) O/P12 (4) O/P13 (10) O/P15 (2) O/P17
(7) O/P18 (0) O/P22 (5) O/P33 (6) O/P35
(4) O/P52 (0) O/P54 (6) O/P57 (7) O/P60
(3) O/P63 (3) O/P77 (0) O/P88 (3) O/P333
(0) O/P 601 (0) O/PMA (0) O/P FB (1)

Under Old Business:

◆ The Minutes of last meeting were approved as appeared in the Oct. issue of the *Watch*

◆ The Secretary-Treasurer's reported on the annual audit and the financial condition of the Society. The audit was approved and will appear in the Oct. issue of the *Watch*. The fund balance has improved and the Society finances are in good order.

◆ Jim Jarboe reported that 13 Awards would be presented at the banquet. He also announced his resignation.

◆ Jerry Sapiro our Chaplain for 11 years, announced his resignation. Wally Trout will be asked to assume these duties.

◆ Constitution & by-laws Chairman, Dale McGraw reviewed the amendments to be made to the C&BL as published in the June issue of the *Watch*. They were:

- Section IX Dues, 9.2 Life Dues:
- Section II, 2.4 Absentee Ballots:
- Section V, 5.2 Officers Term.

◆ The Editor, Jim Drury thanked the membership for their contributions to *The Watch* and announced that no due dates were missed. Their was a suggestion from the floor about securing paid ad's for the *Watch*. Earl Killen stated that would be a conflict with our non-profit status and would create a postage conflict.

◆ It was announced that our Judge Advocate, Sherman Pratt was ill but would continue to pursue his duties upon recovery.

◆ Membership Chairman Larry Driscoll announced that membership was around 3500 and declining. We need to do more recruiting both on the National and local level.

◆ With regard to Nominations and Elections, there was only one office of E. Region V.P. to be determined. All other offices had been determined.

◆ Public Relations Chairman Carl Topie reported that the ad in the *Watch* has generated many request for decals and it has gen-

erated additional income for the Society.

New Business:

◆ Ray Anderson reviewed the approved Executive Committee proposals for 2001-2002. The proposal to increase Life Membership Dues was approved after some discussion. That proposal will also carry an installment payment program that will be administered by the National Secretary Treasurer. The proposal to use Finistere Publishing to collect dues and manage the National Roster was deferred for further review after Earl Killen made a point that the C&BL stated that the dues collection was the responsibility of the Local Outposts.

The resolution of that question is reported in the minutes of the second meeting of the Executive Committee.

◆ Dale McGraw conducted the Vote on Constitution and by-laws change amendments as published in the June issue of the *Watch*. They were:

- Section IX Dues, 9.2 Life Dues:
- Section II, 2.4 Absentee Ballots:
- Section V, 5.2 Officers Term.

All amendments were approved.

◆ The vote on 2003 Reunion to be held in St. Louis from 9/18-9/21/03 was approved. The 2004 Reunion is scheduled for Savannah GA./Ft. Stewart.

◆ The election of Officers was finalized. Ballots were circulated and a vote was conducted by John Shirley and Dale McGraw to determine the outcome for the E. Region V.P. office. The successful candidate was Jim Tiezzi from O/P2.

◆ All of the votes were validated including absentee. Announced were the new National Officers for the Society :Jerry Manley, President, Jerry Cunningham, Immediate Past President, Ray Anderson, Secretary/Treasurer, E. Region V.P, Jim Tiezzi, Central Region V.P. Walter Schmidt, Western region V.P., Carl Duncan, Eastern region committeeman, Clyde Easter & Egan Fehnel, Central region Committeeman, James Drury & Richard Martinet, Western Region committeeman, Martin Markley & John Shirley

◆ Announcements by individuals: John Shirley reviewed the Rock of the Marne tour of Europe and a stop at the Chateau

Thierry monument in 2004.

- ♦ Rich Heller our Webmaster announced the availability of the "Personal search and request" now in the Web Site.

- ♦ Jerry Sapiro administered the oath of office for all new Officers

- ♦ As new President, Jerry Manley thanked Jerry Cunningham for his service to the Society and to him personally. He announced his new staff appointments. Those names appear in the second mtg. of the Executive Committee.

- ♦ Jerry Manley announced that the next time Executive Committee meeting would convene at 1 PM.

- ♦ Jerry Sapiro conducted the Benediction.

Meeting Adjourned.

The above minutes are subject to correction or additions at our General Meeting in 2003.

Replacing lost military medals

The KWP gets many inquiries about replacing lost medals. The following link for the National Personnel Records Center (St. Louis, MO), Military Awards and Decorations gives quite a bit of information of value for obtaining medals.

<http://www.cem.va.gov/orm.htm>
Requests for the issuance or replacement of military service medals, decorations, and awards should be directed to the specific branch of the military in which the veteran served. However, for Air Force (including Army Air Corps) and Army personnel, the National Personnel Records Center will verify the awards to which a veteran is entitled and forward the request with the verification to the appropriate service department for issuance of the medals.

The Standard Form (SF 180), Request Pertaining to Military Records, is recommended for requesting medals and awards. Editor Note: this link also has very good information on USA military cemeteries and grave markers.

3rd ID trains with Javelin in Kuwait

by Sgt. Akilah C. Clarke

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, Dec. 30, 2002) – The Javelin has finally found its place with Fort Stewart, Ga., soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized).

Although it was introduced to the Army almost six years ago via the Ranger Regiment, soldiers with the 10th Engineer Battalion and the 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment got a chance to be the first in the division to experience the 'fire and forget,' anti-tank missile during a live-fire exercise held Dec. 1 in Kuwait.

Because of a number of system improvements, the Javelin outshines its predecessor, the Dragon, by a long shot, said Maj. Eric Fletcher, Army Close Combat Missile Systems.

In addition to having a range of 2,500 meters, almost twice the distance as the Dragon, the Javelin's soft launch system allows the shooter to fire, and move to either reload or find a new position. The system includes an imaging infrared site, which can be used during the day and night.

"The site system uses an infrared scope and thermal imagery to detect the target," Fletcher said. "Once the soldier locks on target, a seeker inside the missile remembers the direction."

Although \$78,000 a shot might seem a little pricey to some, the cost of each missile is worth it when compared to the damage it inflicts, Fletcher said.

"It's really a drop in the bucket compared to other weapons systems," he explained.

"Think, you drop a round in one of these for \$78,000, but it defeats a tank and those cost millions. So, it's a pretty good return on your investment."

Pfc. Daniel Ranson, a gunner with A Company, 10th Engineers and Pvt. 2 Clayton Harper, an anti-armor specialist with A Company, 3-15th, were selected to be the first to fire the system. Both soldiers earned the honor by being the top scorers during Javelin qualifications held at an earlier date.

"It's high speed - a lot better than the AT-4," Ranson

Although \$78,000 a shot might seem a little pricey to some, the cost of each missile is worth it when compared to the damage it inflicts

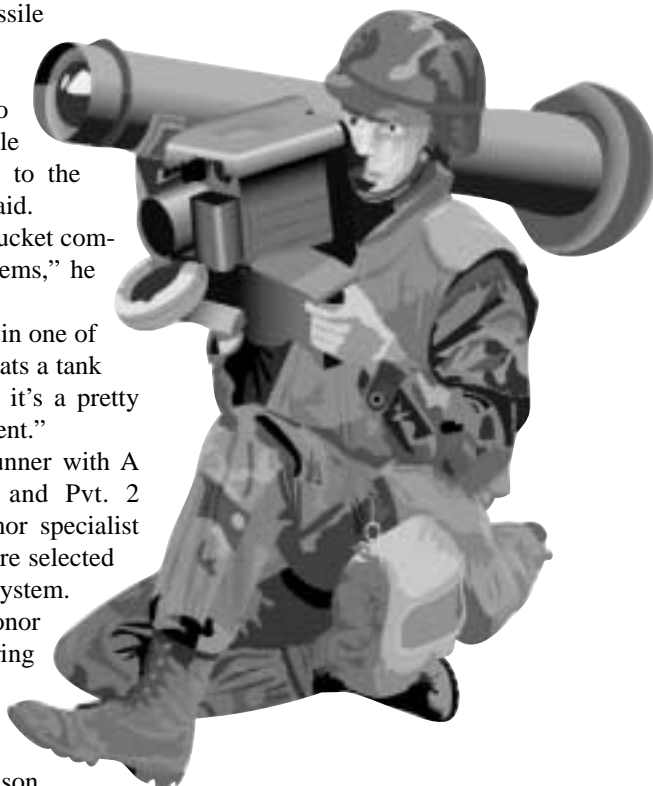
said. "It's meant for rapid deployment. You can set it up, fire and be gone in a matter of minutes."

Harper echoes Ranson's sentiments, saying the Javelin is a significant improvement over systems such as the AT-4 and the Dragon.

It is important that soldiers be allowed the opportunity to use the weapon in the environment it was created for, Harper said.

"I feel this is good training. We're out here in the desert doing what we actually train for," Harper said. "Some of this stuff we can't do back home at Fort Stewart, but out here we have enough space. It's good to do real-live training."

Having proved itself in Afghanistan, the Javelin is slated to be fielded soon to the 3-15th. A number of engineer, armor and scout units are also scheduled to receive the system.





News From The Outposts

12 Tommy Thompson Minneapolis, MN

The Spring Social will be held on May 3, 2003 at the Country Inn and Suites in Albert Lea, MN. If you are a regular attendee you will receive your regular meeting flyer notice in late February or early March. If you have never, or seldom attended one of our gatherings contact me, Jerry Manley before April 1, 2003 for details on motel and banquet reservation costs and deadlines. Ray Pesota, Life member of O.P. #12 is now in the Minneapolis Veterans Home. I am sure he would enjoy visits from of his old O.P. #12 buddies.

Jerry Manley

15 Arizona Phoenix, AZ

Carl Duncan reports it is still wonderfully warm in Arizona. He has started his membership campaign early. He sent out Dues Payment requests the 1st of January and has been pleased with 62 % of his members already re-upping. Carl includes a self-addressed stamped envelope with his requests. Good job, Carl and the loyal members of Outpost 15.

Sick Call:

Carl Swanson
5817 East Duncan St.
Mesa, AZ 85205
480.832.8201

Charles Obee
13511 West Gemstone Dr.
Sun City West, AZ 85375
623.584.2236

Both OP 15 Officers will appreciate any calls or cards. -Editor

Cartoonist Bill Mauldin dies at 81

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif.: Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist. Bill Mauldin, who as a young Army rifleman during World War II gave newspaper readers back home a sardonic, foxhole-level view of the front with his drawings of weary, dogface GIs Willie and Joe, died Wednesday at 81.

A Request for prayers and good wishes for Mauldin was honored with overwhelming responses from veterans of the 3rd Infantry Division

With Willie and Joe, Mauldin became the voice of the World War II infantryman. From 1940 to 1945, the laconic pair of unshaven, slump-shouldered solders slogged their way through battle-scarred Europe, surviving the enemy and the elements while sarcastically mocking everything from their orders to their equipment and even their allies.

The cartoons delighted his fellow soldiers and endeared Mauldin to Americans at home.

63 Fort Lewis Tacoma, WA

To all Outpost 63 Members, O.P. 63 will meet March 16, '03 at the Poodle Dog Cafe in Fife, WA 1:00 P.M. Meal choices are: Chicken Fried Steak, Ham or Fish and Chips, cost is \$13.00.

This is a formal business meeting and will include Election of Officers. Contact persons are: Dale McGraw @425-432-7151 or Morris Krepky @ 253-884-4023, no later than March 10, '03 to make your reservations and meal choice.

*Morris Krepky, S/T O.P. 63
by Dale McGraw*

77 Biff Williams Las Vegas, NV

Lew Conant reports Dave Mofchum has been very ill for over a month. Also, please note Lew's new address and phone number in the Outpost Reports section.



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

Constitution and By-laws Proposed Amendments

CONSTITUTION PROPOSED AMENDMENT

ARTICLE V. MANAGEMENT

5.2 Officers

CURRENT LANGUAGE

5.3 Term of Office. The term of office for all elected officials shall extend from the time of election to the next Annual Reunion-Convention, or until their successors have been duly elected or appointed. The President shall be limited to two (2) consecutive one (1) year terms in office and may be elected again after being out of office for a minimum of one (1) year.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

5.3 Term of Office. The term of office for all elected officials shall be for a two year term or until their successors have been duly elected or appointed. The President shall be limited to one (1) two (2) year term and may be elected again after being out of office for a minimum of two (2) years.

5.3a Election will be held for the six (6) Regional Committeemen in odd numbered years.

Election will be held for the President, Secretary/Treasurer and the three Regional Vice Presidents in even numbered years.

5.3b To implement this change, in 2003 the President, Secretary/Treasurer, Eastern Regional Vice President, Central Regional Vice President and the Western Regional Vice President will be elected for one (1) year.

The two (2) Committeemen in each of the Eastern Region, Central Region and Western Region will be elected for a two (2) year term.

2004, the President, Secretary/Treasurer, Eastern Regional Vice President, Central Regional Vice President and the Western Regional Vice President will be elected for a two (2) year term.

BYLAWS PROPOSED AMENDMENT CURRENT LANGUAGE

SECTION II. ANNUAL REUNION-CONVENTION

2.4 Absentee Ballots. Absentee ballots may only be used in the election of National Officers and amending the Constitution and By-Laws. Absentee ballots may be used by any regular member who is unable to vote in person at annual or special meetings. The Nominations and Elections Chairman will have the official absentee ballots published in *The Watch on the Rhine* at least sixty (60) days before the annual reunion/convention and thirty (30) days before any special meeting. Members using an absentee ballot must sign and date the ballot certifying they are a member in good standing and mail the completed ballot to the Nominations and Election Chairman. The Nominations and Election Chairman with the Secretary-Treasurer will verify membership, count votes and prepare reports for the meeting. The Secretary-Treasurer is responsible for recording the ballots and will have them available for review at meetings. Only ballots published in *The Watch on The Rhine* will be valid.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

2.4 Absentee Ballots. Absentee ballots may only be used in the election of National Officers and amending the Constitution and by-laws. Absentee ballots may be used by any regular member

who is unable to vote in person at annual or special meetings. The Constitution and By-laws Chairman and/or the Nominations and Elections Chairman will have the official absentee ballots published in *The Watch on the Rhine* at least sixty (60) days before the annual reunion/convention and thirty (30) days before any special meeting.

Members using an absentee ballot must sign and date the ballot certifying they are a member in good standing and mail the completed ballot to the appropriate Chairman. That Chairman with the Secretary-Treasurer will verify membership, count votes and prepare reports for the meeting. The Secretary-Treasurer is responsible for recording the ballots and will have them available for review. Only ballots published in *The Watch on The Rhine* will be valid.

JUSTIFICATION

To bring Section 2.4 into compliance with Const. Art. 8.1 and Bylaws, Section 12.1.

NEW TEXT

2.4a The Absentee Ballots should be destroyed by the National Secretary/Treasurer and/or the Nominations/Elections Committee Chairman and/or the Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chairman, ninety (90) days after publication of the results in the *Watch* following a National Reunion-Convention or Special meeting for which they were used.

Delete 6.4c, as this language is covered in 2.4. Renumber 6.4d to 6.4c

BYLAWS PROPOSED AMENDMENT

SECTION IX DUES

CURRENT LANGUAGE

9.2 Life Membership Dues

- Veterans of World War 1 - no charge.
- Recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor - no charge.
- Other Life membership dues are based upon the following ages:

Up to age 60	\$150.00
60 to 70	\$120.00
Over age 70	\$100.00

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

9.2 Life Membership Dues

- Veterans of World War 1 - no charge.
- Recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor - no charge.
- Other Life membership dues are based upon the following ages:

Up to age 39	\$340.00
40 to 49	\$300.00
50 to 59	\$225.00
60 to 69	\$150.00
70 to 79	\$100.00
Over age 79	\$75.00

Dale I. McGraw

All changes were approved by the general membership at the reunion in Buffalo.

Western Union conveys fate of German-held Prisoner of War – eventually

◆ The story of POW James T. Cooper, Company L, 30th Regiment WWII (as told to Alta Milling)

James Cooper, a native of Williamsburg County, South Carolina, lived on a farm for the first 10 years of his long life. His family moved to Darlington, SC, where jobs offering more money were available. In 1930, the family moved again, this time to Lancaster, SC, where Mr. Cooper lives today. James married his sweetheart, Kathleen, on August 22, 1938.

At age 26 and weighing in at 110 pounds, Mr. Cooper enlisted in the Army at Fort Jackson, SC, during the summer of 1943. He wasn't called to active duty until December 14, 1943. Basic and advanced infantry training took place at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, and lasted 13 weeks.

The graduates were promptly sent to Fort Meade, Maryland. The infantrymen were next hosted by the crew of the USS Black on their 16-day voyage to Naples, Italy. This trip in no way resembled a cruise on the Queen Mary.

The men reported to a replacement camp on property that once belonged to the son-in-law of Italy's dictator, Mussolini. From there, PFC Cooper joined Captain Robert Pridgen's company, Company L, 30th Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division and in September 1944, arrived in France. The infantrymen literally experienced a baptism by fire as they participated in a fierce battle near Radden, France, where they had been sent to relieve another company. They found that this company had been nearly wiped out. By the time the artillery finally came in and drove the enemy back, the beleaguered men in Cooper's company believed they too were close to being wiped out. It was during this battle that the heroic actions of one of their own, Sgt. Messerschmidt, earned the Medal of Honor. Unfortunately, it was awarded posthumously.

Following this action, 1st Lieutenant Glen W. Shuler was promoted to company commander as Captain Pridgen was promoted to battalion commander. The men began their visit to the picturesque Vosges

Although many men may tell you that the happiest day of their lives was their wedding day, the happiest day in Mr. Cooper's life was the day he was liberated.

Mountains.

In November, the 30th crossed the Meurthe River. In December they reached Strasbourg. Cooper says the living was better here as they lived in houses in Elsenheim. His duty during this time was on patrol watching for German parachutists. No walking on this duty — in three-man teams, they rode in jeeps around the perimeter of their camp. This was during the threatened break through in the area of the Colmar pocket. By this time they were under the command of the First French Army in central Europe.

Cooper said the men of the 30th Infantry's three battalions, about 350 men, moved steadily toward Germany. They passed through Riedwihr on the way to Holtzwiher which is part of Colmar Pocket. Their objective was the Colmar Canal. They knew that members of their forces had been taken prisoner. Cooper never thought that would happen to him. However, on January 23, 1945, near Holtzwihr, he and 11 fellow soldiers were captured. At the time of his capture, he weighed about 150 pounds. Cooper reported that approximately 250 of their unit were captured in total. About 150 were eventually killed by the enemy.

Cooper was only one of those marched to Stalag V A in Ludwigsburg. Cooper said his clothes were soon frozen and "rattled like newspaper." He said the temperature dropped to -14° at night. Cooper said he couldn't feel his legs and feet. That may have been a good thing since he had been wounded and had shrapnel in one leg. But he kept going. The medics did their best but their supply of medications was long gone. There was no food. Later Cooper and others were marched to Stalag VII B in Memmingen.

At one point during his "stay" in the stalag, he said he could see into a nearby stable. The stable was set up for tank crews that would arrive soon to come in to eat. By this time, the smell of food overpowered his fear and he made a successful dash for the stable. Having stashed away whatever he couldn't

quickly eat, he quietly returned to his barracks.

Cooper said during his imprisonment, President Roosevelt died. Cooper said he was surprised by the sight of their prison guards who sat down and grieved over the loss. The guards were very concerned about the impact the president's death would have on the war.

On the home front, Kathleen was living in Andrews, South Carolina. She was concerned about her husband because she hadn't gotten any letters from him in a while. Then she received one of those dreaded Western Union telegrams. With trembling hands, she read, "Your husband James T. Cooper is MIA. Red Cross will contact you later." She says the Red Cross never did contact her.

After spending 95 days as a "guest" of the Germans, the prisoners were liberated in Augsburg by members of the Third's 15th Infantry Regiment. It was April 29, 1945. He weighed 95 pounds.

Although many men may tell you that the happiest day of their lives was their wedding day, the happiest day in Mr. Cooper's life was the day he was liberated. Cooper says he still has the fork and spoon he used as a POW. Swastikas are stamped on the handles.

Months after his return home, another telegram. It read

".....YOUR HUSBAND PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JAMES T COOPER WAS A PRISONER OF WAR OF THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT PERIOD. GERMANY HAVING BEEN DEFEATED IT IS ASSUMED THAT HE HAS NOW BEEN RETURNED TO MILITARY CONTROL PERIOD."

Then Kathleen received a post card. The front was in German. On the back, the card was dated 11-3-45. In French – Je suis prisonnier de guerre en Allemagne et en bonne santé – and it was signed by James T. Cooper, Private, 34848072. Kathleen smiled, knowing very well that her husband was indeed in good health.



Letters to the Editor

Dear Jim

Just got some bad news from John Insani S/T and "First Shirt" of OP7. I had written him a note (Personal Action copy) of transfer of Ray Hergenreder 7th Inf Korea to OP77 here in Las Vegas. In my note to John I ask him to say high to Carl Swickerwrath an old Buddy of mine from 30th Inf and WWII. John wrote back on Rays transfer to OP 77 and told me Carl passed away on 25 October, 2002. Jim, a lot of the new members won't know about Carl and what he meant to and what he did for this Society. I would like to get some of the little things Carl did for the Society out to the new blood:

Carl Swickerwrath, Capt. USA (Ret)

Marne Men in coming years will view the Monument to the Third Division in Arlington National Cemetery. I hope they stop to think of the years of volunteer toil, endless paper chases, and meeting with the Congressional Committees, Monument Committees (both War Monuments and DC ones).

The Society started a Monuments Committee back in the 30s but it perished on the Depression vine. Again in the 50s a Committee was formed, some funds collected but I think they headed south?

In 1980 when I was National S/T, Lyle Bernard and Carl Swickerwrath presented to the Society a cardboard pylon with a piece of raw potatoe stuck on the top with a toothpick and told the Society they wanted to start a Monument project in Washington DC. The Society all said, "Lets Go". Well in St Louis the next year the idea started to gel. Oh the raw potato was still affixed to the top (Rock from the Marne River).

Donations started to be collected. Funding account set up with Monument handling. Shortly thereafter Carl and Lyle got busy. Suddenly I was receiving ail kinds of forms, letters, etc that I as National S/T had to sign and get notarized and returned to Carl Swickerwrath. A larger Committee was formed headed by General Ramsey but the years rolled by. Many were the recommendations to shelve the whole idea. For eight (8) years Carl, Lyle Bernard would correspond with George Davis (National President) and me to persuade the General Membership to hang on progress was being made.

Well it took 8 years and the Monument was placed in Arlington and Dedicated. Thanks to Carl Swickerwrath's devotion to the cause and his Love and Devotion to the Marne Division in helping to make the Monument a reality. Many of General Ramsey's Monument Staff are gone now. But I will never forget their efforts. Carl goes to rest in Arlington National Cemetery on the 27th of November. Rest easy old friend and say hello to Louise for me; I miss the Lady too.

*Lew Conant
30 Inf WWII*

.....

15th Infantry Regiment in WWII in Bavaria near Augsburg

I am a historian and would like to write a history of Gersthofen (near Augsburg in Bavaria) at the end of World War II. I am especially interested in the last days of the war here in Gersthofen and the handing over of the city to the American troops. The then Mayor of the city, Mr. Georg Wendler was a Nazi and did not hand over the city, instead of him a doctor and a restaurant owner handed over the place to the incoming American troops (15th regiment, 3rd battalion?). Gersthofén had to be bombarded because the mayor didn't want to hand it over voluntarily.

The bombardment of Gersthofen took place in the afternoon of April 27th, 1945. Have you got army reports of this process taking place? Perhaps there are weekly and semi-monthly reports about this time, as I know from the studies of OMGUS and OMGBY files, yet in there I found no files about Gersthofen at the end of World War II. How was the former mayor treated by American troops, was he punished? Why didn't he cooperate? Who became the new major of the place? The relevant time is between April 25 and May 21st, 1945. Georg Wendler, the Nazi mayor of Gersthofen died in 1980, so there is no need in holding back the files any longer.

I only know that it was the 15th infantry regiment that occupied Gersthofen on April 27th in the evening.

I would be very glad if you could help me.

Dr. Bernhard Lehmann
Haydnstr. 53
86368 Gersthofen
Tel. 0821/497862 Fax
0821/491871
e-mail: zonaras@gmx.de

.....

James, Received a nice Christmas card from George & Charlene Pilkington while I was at my B Co. reunion at Fayetteville, Ft. Bragg, NC in Sept. 02. They had been to Branson, MO to Fox Co. 15th reunion. I was surprised that they could travel after George's and wife's health problems, but they have that "Can Do" Spirit. They are great friends.

I wrote to George D. Jackson who was my CO at Breckenridge, KY in basic, 1950. He was glad to hear from me & we have been exchanging letters. He was West Point Class of 1945. Also, his brother lives in Shreveport, LA & knows and is friends with one of our B Co. fellows. It surely is a small world with us veterans.

Just heard on the radio that the rest of our Third Division is on their way to Kuwait. 12-31-02.

*Jack R. Wells
Alton, IL*

3rd Division Veterans of the 64th Tank Bn Hold 50 Year Reunion



Vets of 64 Tank Battalion: Thanks to Laverne Wilson, here is the group of old comrades who had their own 50 year reunion at fort Knox, KY Friday, Sept. 13, 2002. Back row: L to R, Leon Davenport, GA; Jerry Spring, OH; Laverne Wilson, MI and Richard Herold, NY. Front Row: L to R, Bill Pierson, MI; Clyde Rankie, NY and George Roach, RI. Courtesy, Laverne Wilson, MI. 64th Tank

Seven veterans of the Korean War who served in the 64th Tank Bn. in 1952 enjoyed a happy meeting on Sept. 13th 2002 in Fort Knox, KY. Laverne Wilson reports a good time was had by all and they will meet again in 2003. Any who

served in the 4th Platoon, C Co. of the 64th is invited to call Laverne at 989.365.3345.

Good story, Laverne, thanks for sharing it with us. The above is from the OP 13 newsletter, Terry Tennant.

60th Anniversary Tour to Anzio, Italy scheduled for May, 2004

Several veterans have asked about a trip to Anzio, Italy in May of 2004, the 60th anniversary of the Anzio Beachhead.

Although this is still almost two years away, it is not too early to start making plans. I need to know how many people would be interested in making the trip before we can make plans for the visit.

The tour would be for eight to ten days, and would include the Memorial Day Commemoration Ceremony at the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery at Nettuno, Italy. We plan to make the itinerary so as not to be too tiring, as we are growing older. We would be staying at one hotel most of the time.

I do not know the price of the tour at this time, but I will keep the price as reasonable as possible.

I have made eight visits back to Anzio,

The tour would be for eight to ten days, and would include the Memorial Day Commemoration Ceremony at the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery at Nettuno, Italy.

Nettuno, Italy in recent years and enjoyed them all. There have been many changes; it is a beautiful area now. I have many friends there, and we can have receptions, ceremonies, dinners, etc. while there. The people are very nice to WWII Veterans who return.

If you are interested in making the tour, please let me know as soon as possible, as we need to start making plans soon.

Clyde E. Easter
299 Panorama Drive
Fancy Gap, VA 24328
(276) 728-7293

Good-bye to our Senator Robert Smith (R-NH).

■ POW/MIA Advocate leaves U.S. Senate

By Irene L. Mandra

For those of you who do not remember the Senate Select Committee Hearing; when it was time to discuss Korea, only one Senator was interested or cared enough to stay on the panel to listen to our heartaches, Senator Smith. He was the sole senator who truly was interested in our issues and would fight for our missing.

The emphasis of our government had always been the Vietnam War. I approached Senator Smith so many times, on the subject of the Korean War. Every time we met, or he just saw me, he would look at me and say, "I won't forget Korea". How do you say good-bye to a friend of the missing and a friend to the MIA family members?

Senator Smith was a representative on the U.S.- Russian Commission. He truly did a magnificent job for the missing. He was our champion. We will truly miss him and his efforts when he leaves the Senate at the end of this year.

It is hard to say good-bye to a friend. Where can we ever find another, who has been in the issue as long as he was, and who truly cared from his heart? His shoes will be very large to fill. I only hope we find someone who is as compassionate and understanding as he is. We wish our Senator, our friend, the very best. We hope that his new endeavors will bring him joy and happiness he so deserves.

Courtesy of Drew Pawlick

Truly one of the All-Time best quotes:

In a recent interview, General Norman Schwarzkopf was asked if he didn't think there was room for forgiveness toward the people who have harbored and abetted the terrorists who perpetrated the 9/11 attacks on America.

His answer was classic Schwarzkopf. He said, "I believe that forgiving them is God's function. Our job is simply to arrange the meeting."

Except for the place where they died, Bill Feehan and Mohamed Atta would seem to have had absolutely nothing in common. Feehan rescued people; Atta killed them. As a lifelong firefighter who rose to become first deputy commissioner of the New York City Fire Department, Feehan was directly or indirectly responsible for saving thousands of lives. As a suicidal terrorist who flew American Airlines Flight 11 into the North Tower of the World Trade Center, Atta murdered thousands, including Bill Feehan, who was helping a woman at the base of the North Tower when the building collapsed on him. Any suggestion of moral equivalence between the two men is repugnant. And yet, it must be said, both believed in the rightness of their causes with absolute certainty. It might be more comforting to think that Atta was stark raving mad, but true madmen, who are usually dysfunctional, don't work with Atta's calm purpose. No one wants to think that even a seminormal human being—indeed, nearly a score of them—could do what the terrorists did on September 11. In a world of moral relativism, we prefer psychological explanations; no one wishes to stare directly into the face of evil.

The fog of war, a term now much in vogue, was thick around the first battle in the new terror war. As FDNY First Deputy Commissioner Bill Feehan mustered his troops to combat the blazes at the Twin Towers, there appears, in perfect hindsight, to have been an almost willful blindness toward the risk that the towers might collapse.

That is not to say that Feehan was anything but cool and steady in crisis. Indeed, he showed true sang-froid at some very frightening moments.

On Monday, Sept. 10, Bill Feehan, the first deputy commissioner of the New York City Fire Department, was contemplating retirement. An aide asked Feehan if he would be willing to stay on in the next city administration. "Absolutely," answered the deputy commissioner, but he understood that a new mayor would almost certainly want his own team come

3rd Division Veteran Perishes in World Trade Center

January. Feehan was 71 years old. Most firefighters retire before they reach 60. One of Feehan's aides had seen nascent signs that his boss was ready to call it quits. In the lobby of FDNY headquarters in downtown Brooklyn, there is a wall-size plaque for all the firefighters who have perished in the line of duty. The memorial had room for 780 names. Since 1865, when the FDNY was officially organized, the memorial had been nearly filled with 778 names. When Feehan returned from lunch with his friend and comrade Deputy Commissioner Tom Fitzpatrick a

In Feehan's office hung a poster of Korean War soldiers patrolling a lonely road. Feehan never talked about it, but he had won two Purple Hearts in Korea as an Army "grunt." Feehan thought a lot about the psychology of soldiers-and firemen. It was important, he believed, for them not to know too much.

couple of weeks before September 11, the two noticed that workmen were touching up the addition of three names from a devastating Father's Day fire in Astoria, Queens. "I want to be out of here before that plaque is full," said Feehan.

Feehan's friends and family, however, were worried that he'd hate retirement. "I don't want it to be just me and the squirrels in the backyard," he often told colleagues and family. In a real sense, Feehan was the New York City Fire Department. He had been in the department since 1959 and had held every job, from "proby" fireman to acting commissioner. Since his wife, Betty, had died in 1996, he had taken one vacation, arriving at work at 7 a.m., often leaving after 8 p.m. and on call all the time. His staff dubbed him "Yoda" because of his age and his institutional wisdom. Firefighting was a calling for Feehan's family. His father had been a fireman; a nephew, one of his sons and his son-in-law were all firemen. Although Feehan had risen through the bureaucracy, he saw himself as a firefighter whose proper place was at the fire ground. He preferred to be called "Chief" rather than the stuffier "Commissioner."

Feehan was fiercely protective of the close, almost clannish culture of the FDNY. In the early 1990s, when the then Mayor David Dinkins objected to the low number of women and minorities in the FDNY—which is still more than 90 percent white males—Feehan warned against ruining the FDNY's "camaraderie" and "esprit de corps." "Listen," he declared at a city hall hearing. "Maybe we should recruit on the black radio stations ... But don't talk about the Fire Department culture, because that is the culture that gets ordinary men to run into burning buildings and do extraordinary things."

In Feehan's office hung a poster of Korean War soldiers patrolling a lonely road. Feehan never talked about it, but he had won two Purple Hearts in Korea as an Army "grunt." Feehan thought a lot about the psychology of soldiers—and firemen. It was important, he believed, for them not to know too much.

Warriors and rescuers had to be willing to act on blind faith. In Korea, Feehan told his buddy Tom Fitzpatrick, his commanders would tell his company to take a hill and hold it no matter what. "I'd look on

my side and see 1,000 troops, and I'd look across the other side and see 100,000, and I'd say, "OK, we're going to hold this, but they outnumber us 100 to 1. How does this work?" Better, thought Feehan, not to ask.

Feehan could be acerbic. "That guy;" he said about one recently appointed fire marshal, "couldn't find a Jew in Jerusalem." And he had no use for whiners and malingerers who took advantage of the FDNY's liberal policy on medical leave. "You misplaced the boots?" he demanded of a firefighter who had trouble hanging on to his equipment. "Where did you misplace the boots? Did you lose your feet?" But he also had a sentimental side. He would sit for hours at the bedside of a wounded firefighter, and he always ended his banquet speeches with "May God hold you in the palm of his hand." Fitzpatrick teasingly called Feehan "The Monsignor."

A creature of routines and habits, Feehan began September 11, as he did every morning, by rising before dawn, putting on a suit and tie and climbing into his department-issue black Grand Marquis sedan at a little before 6. He pulled into his usual parking space at the North Shore Diner in Queens, sat in his usual booth and ate two eggs over easy and bacon while he read the New York Daily News. (Feehan often ate fruit for lunch; "I gotta lose some weight," he would say, though at 6 feet, 180 pounds, he was reasonably fit.) At about 6:45, he picked up the cup of coffee (light milk, no sugar) that was always waiting for him by the cash register. He went out the door into the first bright rays of sun and said, "Looks like it's going to be a nice day."

"Hey Boss!" yelled Peter Guidetti, Feehan's longtime driver and personal aide. "I think you better see this!" "Bill!" yelled Ray Goldbach, the fire commissioner's executive assistant. "A plane went into the World Trade Center!" Both men were looking out the window, which faced west from the FDNY headquarters in Brooklyn, across the East River toward downtown Manhattan. They could see smoke swirling from the top floors of the North Tower.

Bill Feehan emerged from his office and looked out at the far-off conflagration. "Oh my God!" he said. He paused only a second before ordering, "Let's go!" Some of the secretaries began crying and

sobbing. "Oh, for God's sake, calm down;" Feehan interrupted. "What's the matter, you never saw an airplane hit a building before?" An avid student of fires, Feehan had closely studied the last collision between an airplane and a skyscraper: the foggy morning in 1945 when a B-25 bomber had plowed into the Empire State Building between the 78th and 79th floors. Feehan had marveled at how one of the bomber's engines had penetrated an elevator shaft and plummeted to the basement like a bomb.

Feehan's men—Guidetti, Goldbach and two other deputy commissioners, Tom McDonald and Tom Fitzpatrick—began rushing to the elevator. "Now, hold it, guys," said Feehan, wearing a wry smile, holding his arms to the side and waving his palms down, like a teacher calming rambunctious schoolchildren. "Do we really want to run to this? Or should we walk to it?" Feehan was following an old dictum: "Firemen should never run." It was important to stay calm, to size up the job before rushing in. Yet in the car, racing across the Brooklyn Bridge, Feehan was visibly bothered when he was unable to raise the FDNY dispatcher on the radio. "Car 2 to Manhattan," Feehan said. "Car 2 en route to the World Trade Center incident." No response. At the wheel, driver Guidetti glanced over at his boss and saw something he had never seen before: Feehan looked apprehensive, even a little scared.

The people in the car fell silent. No one discussed strategy. They could see the North Tower in the distance, billowing black smoke from its upper floors. Finally McDonald said, a little lamely, "This is going to be a job and a half." The five men in the car knew that the chances of rescuing anyone on the floors above the fire were slim to none. In his head, Fitzpatrick did some simple math. As a rule of thumb, heavily laden firemen advance up the stairs of a burning building at the rate of a floor a minute. At that speed, it would take the men an hour and a half before they even reached the fire.

Feehan's drollery reappeared. "You think this'll put a damper on the primaries?" he asked. New York's voters were scheduled to go to the polls that day to choose Democratic and Republican nominees for mayor.

Guidetti parked the big Grand Marquis half on the sidewalk at the corner of Broadway and Dey streets, two blocks from the burning North Tower. He popped the trunk, and the men clambered out of the car to pull on their "turnout" coats (an old term for firemen who "turn out" for blazes). Each coat, made of a fire-resistant synthetic weave and emblazoned with fluorescent stripes and the owner's last name, weighs 20 pounds. "Well, Tom," Feehan said, putting his hand on the shoulder of his old chum Fitzpatrick, "this is going to be one for the history books."

Both men were amateur history buffs. ("Some social life you guys have," their colleagues would tease. "Going home every night to watch the History Channel")

As Feehan and his team made their way to the burning building, thousands of stunned people streamed by. Some were crying; others looked dazed. Feehan's driver, Guidetti, called out, "People, get out of here. This building's coming down." His gut instinct was telling him the building would not stand. Yet he was reassured by the memory of a conversation he had had almost 25 years earlier. Guidetti had been chatting with an architectural engineer who had stopped by the firehouse one day. Guidetti had asked the man what would happen if a large commercial airliner filled with jet fuel hit the 80th story of one of the Twin Towers. Would it topple the 30 floors above? The architect thought not. The building, he said, had been designed and constructed in such a way to prevent that kind of disaster.

Guidetti did not bring up his concern with Feehan. None of the men even mentioned the possibility that the buildings might collapse altogether. They just walked, doubletime now, toward the fire.

Feehan and his men had just reached the World Trade Center Plaza when United Flight 175 crashed into the second tower. They felt a sudden flash of heat and smelled jet fuel. Objects began raining down. A strut. A truss. A brake drum. An airplane wheel, minus its tire, landed 10 yards away from Feehan and his group as they ducked and dodged across the plaza. For a moment, Fitzpatrick was sorry he had not worn his helmet. Then he figured that the stuff falling from the sky could kill him regardless. A man emerging from

the lobby of 2 WTC was cut in half by a falling sheet of glass. Fitzpatrick tried not to concentrate on the body parts strewn on the ground.

He couldn't ignore the jumpers. They were flying out of the black gash in the side of the North Tower, from floors 94 through 99, where the plane had struck, as well as from the floors above. Danny Suhr, a fireman from Engine 216, became the first FDNY casualty as he rushed toward the North Tower and was flattened by a female jumper. Bodies were landing with audible rushes of air, muffled thuds and thick red splashes that looked like paint. Inside both towers, elevators like the one Virginia DiChiara had barely escaped became massive metal coffins. Some were sheared from their cables by the planes' impact. Filled with jet fuel, they dropped like bombs, just like the B-25 engine during the Empire State Building crash of 1945.

Feehan and his men made it safely under the overhang of 5 World Trade Center. "This is unbelievable, isn't it?" said Feehan to Fitzpatrick. "This is history. This is not a coincidence. This is an attack." Feehan and Fitzpatrick had whiled away hours discussing the battle strategies of Civil War generals. Now, Fitzpatrick thought, we are the generals. They needed to get organized, to marshal their troops. To lead.

Feehan and Fitzpatrick and the others made for the lobby of the North Tower. Fitzpatrick was relieved to see that there was no real panic. Rivers of people flowed by, strikingly well ordered, he thought, and eerily quiet. No one was burned that he could see. They entered the grand, marbled command post of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, the government agency that runs New York's airports, harbor, bridges and tunnels. Television screens covered the walls. Someone had unrolled blueprints on a conference table.

Port Authority officials hastily briefed the FDNY men. Typically, they said, about 50,000 workers occupied the Twin at the height of the working day. Now, at almost 9:15 a.m., they estimated that half that many had arrived. Two fire companies, Engine 10 and Ladder 10, from the Liberty Street Station, had arrived on the scene within a few minutes. Scores of fire-

There was general agreement that the buildings were stronger than the planes that had hit them. They assumed that the airliners had been shredded into thousands of pieces by the steel facing on the buildings, four inches thick, and 47 top-to-bottom core columns thick as sofas. They did not stop to consider the effect of the burning jet fuel on the steel.

men were pouring in (all told, some 600 FDNY men would work the two towers in their last 100 minutes; 343 would die). The men were climbing stairs under staggering loads of state-of-the-art gear. The helmet (\$216), turnout coat (\$1,038), bunker pants (\$ 776), leather boots (\$ 250), compressed air cylinders for breathing (\$2,300), radios (\$900) and assorted axes and hand tools weighed between 80 and 100 pounds per man. The last transmissions from FDNY radios would come from the 55th floor.

The enormity of the job ahead was starting to sink in. "We're going to need a recall," said Feehan. A "recall" meant calling in every FDNY firehouse and all of the 11,228 firefighters. No one had given an order like that since the blizzard of 1947. Staging it would require the use of Yankee Stadium and Shea Stadium. In the meantime, Feehan had to bring some order to the units rushing to the scene. He began rattling off commands. He wanted Brooklyn units lined up on West Street, the major north-south thoroughfare through the financial district.

As Feehan spoke and conferred with the others, a massive chunk of marble fell off the lobby wall. It was time, they agreed, to find a new headquarters. Feehan and his team made a run for it on a walkway across West Street linking the North Tower to the World Financial

Center. Bodies and debris were still raining down.

The fire engines lining up on West Street were streaked with blood and littered with body parts from jumpers on the North Tower's west face. The heavy rigs rolled over human limbs. An arm got stuck in a wheel well. (The first half-dozen rigs would be crushed by rubble when the buildings fell.) Feehan saw a civilian with a high-end digital video camera panning vertically, over and over, capturing the doomed jumpers. Many were using makeshift parachutes made from drapes or tablecloths. For a second or two the canopies billowed out and broke the fall—before being torn free by the rush of air. Feehan walked up to the photographer, enraged.

"Don't you have any human decency?" he shouted. "Shut that f—ing thing off!" Startled, the man ran away.

In the Winter Garden of the World Financial Center, Feehan and the others set up a command post. For a few minutes, Feehan and a clutch of FDNY top brass stepped outside onto a driveway running parallel to West Street. The oblique angle made it difficult to see the top of the towers. It was hard to assess the damage. Several of the officials wondered aloud if the fire was burning itself out.

There was general agreement that the buildings were stronger than the planes that had hit them. They assumed that the airliners had been shredded into thousands of pieces by the steel facing on the buildings, four inches thick, and 47 top-to-bottom core columns thick as sofas. They did not stop to consider the effect of the burning jet fuel on the steel. All firefighters are taught that steel softens at 1,100 degrees Fahrenheit. And any firefighter can tell you that the head of a match burns at 2,000 degrees. But no one seemed to contemplate the heat of burning aviation fuel, which reaches 3,000 degrees. The firemen were on their own. No engineers were present.

Feehan turned his attention back to the logistics of rescue. He and Fitzpatrick noticed two medics carrying a stretcher stacked with oxygen and other supplies south down West Street. A few seconds later they observed another medic team carrying a stretcher laden with equipment heading north. "We gotta get this orga-

nized,” said Feehan. He ordered the ambulances to “stage”-line up-north of the fire trucks on West Street, pick up the wounded and shoot uptown or down through the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel. From time to time he would mutter his refrain, “This is one for the history books.”

Scanning the South Tower from the driveway along West Street, Feehan and Fitzpatrick noticed a puff of lighter-colored smoke shooting out from around the 90th floor. It was 9:59 a.m. The steel had heated past the critical 1,100-degree mark. Now, most likely, rivets that had connected concrete floors to the facade had begun popping, transferring weight to the 47 core support columns, which began buckling, one floor at a time. Looking up, Fitzpatrick wondered if his eyes were playing tricks. The building’s crown seemed to be slowly twisting and shifting. Loud cracks heralded an enormous black billow of smoke and cascade of debris. It seemed “like an atomic mushroom cloud,” Fitzpatrick later recalled. For a few seconds, Feehan and Fitzpatrick stood transfixed, unable to move. Then they ran for their lives, toward the World Financial Center’s underground garage.

The driveway was mobbed with people fleeing. Feehan stopped to help a woman who had been knocked down. Fitzpatrick lost sight of his old friend as he was swept down the ramp in the stampede. A gust of dust half blinded him. The air seemed heavy, like cotton. Fitzpatrick ran down a long, dark passageway. He imagined the 1,362-foot tower toppling like a tree, bowling over the building he was now beneath. He wondered: when am I going to get hit? He stumbled into an office-size locker room. He felt trapped. “I’m not going to die in a locker room,” he said aloud to himself, angrily. I’d die in a fire, he thought, but I’m not going to slowly suffocate in a locker room tapping on a pipe for three weeks. He decided to backtrack, feeling his way. Others were groping the walls with him. “I found a door over here!” a construction worker shouted. It opened onto a dust-covered stairway leading into a bagel shop that served the WFC’s Winter Garden. Fitzpatrick ran up and outside, astonished to be alive.

Feehan had survived as well. He emerged from the World Financial Center garage into the stygian darkness of dust

and smoke. The first deputy commissioner immediately began digging out bodies trapped in the rubble. People around him had become hysterical. A young firefighter had begun to lose his composure. “What, you never seen anything like this before?” Feehan needled the younger man. “Relax, relax, kid, we’re going to handle this.” He turned to his stunned fellow firefighters in the ash-covered turnout coats. Some of them wondered whether the second tower would also come down. “You expect this is going to happen twice?” asked Feehan. “Get out of here. C’mon, let’s go.” He leaned over and began pulling bodies from the rubble.

Paper was floating down through the murk. Near a decapitated woman, Feehan found another woman, alive but moaning for help. He was lifting concrete from her when, at 10:28 a.m., the North Tower began its collapse.

Standing on the other side of the WFC, Fitzpatrick did not even bother to look up. He had heard the awful noise of a 110-story building imploding less than a half hour before. He just turned and ran for the river, toward the North Cove marina. For a moment the sound of an airplane terrified him. The third act in the atrocity is going to be the World Financial Center, he thought to himself, and he was standing in its shadow. There was no place left to run. Fitzpatrick was not much of a swimmer, but the Hudson River beckoned. Then somebody said, “It’s a fighter plane.” An Air National Guard F-16 had arrived, far too late.

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Feehan had a premonition. In the final moments, he sent his men to dig in the rubble, not rush the building. But for many firefighters, it was too late. The survivors shrug and say, ‘Heaven has some fire department now.’

department now.’

Bill Feehan’s son John, 32, is a firefighter with Squad 252 in the Bushwick neighborhood of Brooklyn. At 10:30 a.m. on September 11, he was four blocks away from Ground Zero, on his way to rescue trapped firefighters, when he felt the rumble and heard the roar of the North Tower collapsing. He had an ominous feeling about his father. “I’ve got to find the command post;” he told a squad mate. But nobody knew where it was. Radios didn’t work; a kind of quiet, stunned chaos reigned. For the next four hours, John repeatedly asked everyone he saw at Ground Zero, “Have you seen my father?” He would later discover that some of them knew Bill Feehan was dead, but couldn’t bear to tell his son. John spent sometime “on the pile,” helping to dig out bodies. One was alive, a woman who said that she had been on the 82d floor of the North Tower. (“God bless her, I’m not sure how she got out,” says John. “She rode the rubble down, I guess.”)

At 3:45, a fire chief motioned John over. As soon as the men made eye contact, John Feehan knew: The fire chief led him to an ambulance. “I don’t know if you want to know this or see it, but your dad’s in there;” he said. “I guess so,” said John, dazed. He climbed into the back of the ambulance and sat there, sobbing. He couldn’t bring himself to pull back the sheet.

The Feehan family was offered St. Patrick’s Cathedral for a funeral, but they preferred Feehan’s old parish in Flushing, Queens. Police had to close the Long Island Expressway to make way for all the city dignitaries coming out to pay their respects.

Before they buried the chief, John and Feehan’s elder son, Bill Jr., 40, went to see their father’s body at Bellevue Hospital. Bill remembered his father’s sayings— “Water seeks its own level” and “The cream rises to the top,” and one in particular: “A coward dies a thousand deaths, a brave man only one:” Looking down at his father’s body, he was relieved to see that his face, though bloodied and bruised, still looked like Bill Feehan. He noticed that his father’s hands were badly cut up and scraped from lifting chunks of concrete.

Recommendation for the Silver Star

Luxembourg Army Corporal Raymond Beringer, serial number L/310903, distinguished himself by selfless, heroic action while serving as chief of a heavy machine gun team, heavy weapons company, Belgian (B.U.N.C.) Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division. The Belgian Battalion was deployed in defensive positions along the "White Horse Mountain Line" east of the village of Chatkol as the 3rd Infantry Division's far right element adjacent to the Republic of Korea's 9th Infantry Division. During the night of 7-8 April 1953, Chinese Communist forces launched a bitter assault to penetrate the United Nations' lines. Initial enemy successes swept back the forward positioned outposts and threatened to break through the battalion's right flank.

On his own initiative and with complete disregard for his personal safety, Corporal Beringer single-handedly relocated his heavy, water-cooled, .30 caliber machine gun from the protected confines of his bunker to an exposed position on top of it so as to have a better field of fire. Despite heavy mortar and artillery shelling, which was pinning down his fellow comrades, Corporal Beringer delivered accurate and crippling fire for several hours into the waves of assaulting Chinese troops, estimated to be of regimental strength.

His determination and coolness under fire blunted the enemy attack and was crucial to the successful defense of the battalion's exposed flank. Following the engagement upwards of twenty dead and wounded enemy were found within 200 meters of his bunker.

At the time of this action Cpl Beringer was an extended volunteer, his mandatory tour of duty having expired three months earlier, when the Luxembourg contingent returned home. In recognition of his heroic feat, he was cited in the official Belgian dispatch of 22 April 1953 by his battalion commander, and promoted to the rank of sergeant. His company commander advised him that he was being recommended for a valor decoration, and gave him the choice of an Belgian or American award. He chose the latter, but apparently the paperwork never reached US channels. The only US awards Cpl Beringer ever received were the Korean Campaign



ABOVE: Howard Smith, Jim Drury and Paul Satterthwaite enjoy the Society of the Third Infantry Division Reunion in Buffalo last September. **BELOW:** Wives also enjoyed the reunion. Shown L to R are Ida (Howard) Smith, Pat (Jim) Drury and Verna (Paul) Satterthwaite.

Report: 7 November 2002

Korean War Veterans Reunion

There were about 300 Korean War veterans at the reunion in Laughlin, Nevada.

I saw several 3ID men. Most are society members. The others received info and membership applications.

The hotel provided a table for me on which were placed applications, history, decals posters and copies of the *Watch*.

Richard Gallmeyer, society member, is responsible for organizing and running the reunion.

He has many names of 3ID Korean War soldiers and will snail mail them to

me. I will check them against the current society roster and try to build a list of prospects.

Richard was at the Buffalo reunion offering to help the society locate new members, but said that he was told by Joe Poggi and Larry Driscoll that they weren't interested.

I hope that my trip results in acquiring new members. Richard is a source of information that should not be overlooked.

Rock of the Marne,
Martin Markley