



The Watch on the Rhine

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

Vol. 87 No. 2

“Nous Resterons La”

October 2005

Boston, MA: June 16 - 19

Outpost Harry Survivors Reunion

During the reunion tour of Boston the OPHSA group visited the Korean War Memorial adjacent to the Charleston Navy Yard.



Photos by Jim Jarbo



Sam Buck, Doug Jones and Freeman Bradford display their awards for outstanding service to the OP Harry Survivors Association at the OPHSA reunion in Brookline, MA.

Eighty members and guests of the Outpost Harry Survivors Association met for their 14th Annual Reunion at the Holiday Inn Boston/Brookline from June 16 to June 19.

Association President Floyd Deiwert, Jr. and Reunion Planner Jerry Cunningham, greeted members and guests at the reception. Jerry presented a briefing outlining the planned schedule of events.

Friday the group took a narrated tour of the Boston area. There was a stop at the USS Constitution (Old Ironsides) at the

Charleston Navy Yard and a look at the nearby Korean War Memorial. The tour included the Government Center, Boston Common, Faneuil Hall, the site of the Boston Massacre, and the Old North Church.

Members spent time meeting in the hospitality room and looking over the history files and collected pictures of the battles for OP Harry during the last months of the Korean War.

Please turn to OP HARRY on page 4

The Belgian Beret

By Bob Boucart

After having been decimated after WWII, the Belgian Army was reorganized with the assistance of British and Belgian instructors, the latter having joined Great Britain during the war, and of course thanks to the voluntariness of thousands of Belgian nationals.

The coloured beret with its metallic or tissues bade was compulsory.

It is particularly the land forces which differ in the choice of colours. The Navy and Air Force kept their headgear.

As far as I remember:

- Khaki beret Infantry-Engineering Transport
- Black beret Royal Tank Corps
- Green beret Commando units—
“Chasseurs Ardennais”
(Ardenne light infantry)
- Red beret Paratroopers-SAS,
Airborne units
- Dk Blue beret Artillery

Please turn to **BERET** on page 6



Bob Boucart is retired and proud to be a Cottonbaler!



Since 1919



The Oldest Continuous Army Division Association





The Watch on the Rhine

The Watch on the Rhine is the official publication of The Society of the Third Infantry Division, U.S. Army. The Watch on the Rhine is published bi-monthly for members of the Society by Finisterre Publishing Incorporated, 3 Black Skimmer Ct., Beaufort, SC 29907 (Finisterre@islc.net). A subscription may be obtained at a cost of \$15 by applying to the National Headquarters, The Society of the Third Infantry Division-U.S. Army, 10 Paddington Ct., Hockessin, DE 19707. Contributions and suggestions are welcome and should be sent to Alta Milling, Editor, 4738 Datura Rd., Columbia, SC 29205-2109.

Officers & Staff* 2004-2005

Honorary President	Maj. Gen. William G. Webster Commanding General 3rd Infantry Division (Mech)
Editor	Alta Milling 4738 Datura Rd. Columbia, SC 29205-2109 (803) 787-7134 e-mail: Altav007@aol.com
President	Angelo "Jim" Tiezzi 14186 Hilton Head Dr. Ft. Myers, FL 33919-7387 (239) 466-1214 (winter) (860) 665-9105 (summer) e-mail: Ajimmjtiezzi@aol.com
Immediate Past President	Jerome A. Manley 660 Marigold Terrace Fridley, MN 55432 (763) 571-6963 e-mail: jerrymanley@msn.com
Active Duty Liaison*	Jerry Cunningham 501 Chilhowie Rd. Columbia, SC 29209 (803) 783-4491 e-mail: jero5288@bellsouth.net
Secretary-Treasurer	Raymond C. Anderson 10 Paddington Ct. Hockessin, DE 19707 (302) 239-1525 e-mail: march5@aol.com
Eastern Region VP	Donald Daly 321 S Roberts Rd Bryn Mawr, PA 19010-2103 (610) 520-9587 e-mail: Chorwon@aol.com
Committeeman	Robert D. Bailey 160 Huguley Rd. Opelika, AL 36804-1891 (334) 298-8622 e-mail: maybob56@aol.com
Committeeman	Clyde E. Easter 299 Panorama Dr. Fancy Gap, VA 24328 (276) 728-7293
Central Region VP	Jerome Daddato W 4150 Co. Rd. K Random Lake, WI 53075-1308 (920) 994-2962 e-mail: daddyo41500@aol.com

Committeeman	Lloyd Whitmer 7500 Mose St. Navarre, OH 44662 (330) 756-2803 e-mail: whitmerld@sssnet.com
Committeeman/ Historian	Edward Dojutrek 3303 Far View Dr. Austin, TX 78730 (512) 343-0900 e-mail: edoju87742@aol.com
Western Region VP	Carl R. Duncan 14617 Shiprock Dr Sun City, AZ 85351 (623) 977-2347
Committeeman	John B. Shirley 4218 Drake Way Livermore, CA 94550-4914 (925) 447-2256 FAX: (925) 447-8835 e-mail: jbs Shirley@comcast.net
Committeeman	Nile Stuart 1720 Elmsford Ave. La Habra, CA 90631 (562) 697-0695 email: Nile.stuart@juno.com
Chaplain	Charles C. Trout 10191 Birchwood Dr. Huntington Beach, CA 92646-5432 (714) 836-4981 e-mail: Chaptrout@aol.com
Judge Advocate	Jerry Kraft 719 Colorado St., Apt 5-C Austin, TX 78701-3026 (512) 473-2303 FAX (512) 473-8803 e-mail: JKraft@austin.rr.com
Medical Officer	Bae Suk Lee, MD 3151 Brinton Trail Cincinnati, OH 45241 (513) 769-3627 e-mail: miyong@cinci.rr.com
Sergeant-at-Arms	Henry H. Burke 122 Palisades Circle Columbia SC 29223-3409 (803) 782-7517 e-mail: pennieburke@sc.rr.com
Webmaster / Database Manager*	Richard W. Heller 1515 Ramblewood Dr. Hanover Park, IL 60133-2230 (630) 837-8871 e-mail: Rheller@warfoto.com Website: http://www.3rdiv.org

Committees 2004-2005

Membership Chairman	Richard R. Gallmeyer 1125 Evert Dr. Virginia Beach, VA 23464-5007 (757) 366-0393 e-mail: msg1gal@aol.com	Constitution and By-Laws Committee	Dale McGraw 624 N. Reed Street Kennewick, WA 99336 (509) 783-1115 e-mail: doreMcGraw@aol.com
Audit Committee	Mark W. Sneddon 6355 Topanga Cyn Blvd #225 Woodland Hills, CA 91367 (818) 710-1000	Awards Committee	Lynn Ball 2010 Worcester Ln. Garland, TX 75040 (972) 495-1704 e-mail: ldball1@msn.com
Public Relations Committee	Carl Q. Topie 27 Apple Lane Milford, OH 45150 (513) 831-2636 e-mail: cqtopie@aol.com	Nominations Committee	Robert D. Bailey 160 Huguley Rd. Opelika, AL 36804-1891 (334) 298-8622 e-mail: maybob56@aol.com



President's Message

Jim Tiezzi



Jim Tiezzi, President
Society of the 3rd Inf Div

By the time you read this, the reunion in San Diego will have been over for several weeks, so there probably won't be too much in this issue regarding the programs because of the deadline for publication.

The following issue in December will carry much of the reunion activity and I will say in advance that it was a great reunion and we will have made several Service Awards, Presidents Awards, Recruiting Award, a very Special Award and our first Scholarship Awards.

When you receive this issue of the Watch, you will note that on the address label there is a line noting your unit, service period and rank while serving with the 3ID. If the information on the label is correct, there is no action required on your part. If it is incorrect, please refer to an article on the inside of this issue advising you how to have it corrected. The purpose in updating this information is that when we print the National Membership Roster in January, and distributed to all members, it will have your unit, service period and rank correctly listed. Thanks for your help on this.

Our roster is continuing to grow with new members as you can see by the listing in each issue of the Watch and we congratulate you on the great recruiting

Our roster is continuing to grow with new members as you can see by the listing in each issue of the Watch and we congratulate you on the great recruiting job you are doing.

job you are doing. At the end of August, we have 3602 members on the roster, however, this will be reduced after the reunion by about 100 deceased comrades that will be removed from the rolls after their names are read at the Memorial Service.

As of September 1, as I write this article, we still have 199 members that have not paid their current dues. About 95% of this number are members that have been with the Society for several years. This will be reduced somewhat by the time your read this message in October. I ask the OP Secretary/Treasurers to make one last effort to get these members paid otherwise they will also be dropped from the roster soon.

Now is the time to think about our Rock of the Marne troops in Iraq as the two major holiday seasons of the year will be soon be upon us. Please give them your moral support by sending phone cards to: CH (LTC) James White, DIV Chaplain HZ. ST. 3ID, APO AE 09352, and his staff will distribute these to the soldiers. Beanie Babies are also welcomed by the troops to give to the Iraqi children as they like to receive them and the soldiers like to give them out to the

kids. In addition please keep all our troops in your prayers and hope they will not be in harms way and will return safely in the not too distant future.

It is a little early for this, but better now than not getting a chance later, to wish each and every member and your families a most wonderful Thanksgiving Day with good health to go along with your turkey.

Rock of the Marne,

Jim

2006 Membership Roster

Getting Ready to Print Roster

Please check the accuracy of the information on your mailing label for this *Watch on the Rhine*. We need to ensure the 2006 Full Roster will be as accurate as possible. One of the places where accuracy is questioned is the highest rank attained while serving in the 3ID. Many regular Army members continue to serve and earn higher rank but may not have served in the 3rd ID at that rank. We can only print what's been reported.

The 2003 Membership Roster had 11 fields for:

Last, First, Unit, Rank, Period, Address, City, State, Zip, OP, and Code.

ID numbers, telephone numbers, and email addresses, have not been a part of the roster in the past but we'd like to include these this time. If you do not want your phone number, for example, printed in the roster, please let Rich know.

If you find any discrepancies or need to make changes to what's printed on the label, please contact Rich Heller at rheller@warfoto.com or rockodemarne@yahoo.com, telephone 1-630-837-8871 or send me a message at 1515 Ramblewood Drive, Hanover Park, IL 60133-2230. Please respond before December 15, 2005.

This roster is meant to be used by our members. Personal information should not be given to non-members without permission of the member.

Check your label

Your ID Number	Dues Date: Paid until date shown or LIFE	Outpost Affiliation
3928 ALTA MILLING 4738 DATURA RD COLUMBIA SC 29205-2109	June 2005	OP 3
*****5 Digit		
DELIVERY POINT BARCODE		

Important: If bar-code does not extend across full label, your zip code does not have 9 digits and your address is not correct according to the USPS. Contact your local Post Office for proper format.

Check your name and address (Apt./Bldg/Lot No.). Notify the Membership Chairman if you find an error. If your zip code does not contain 9 digits (zip+4), your address is not correct according to the USPS. Contact your local Post Office for proper format.



I pray that few of our members were seriously impacted by Katrina. Please contact someone from an Outpost near you if you are in need of something that we can help with.

Again, I ask each of you who use E-mail to submit things for the *Watch* to put WATCH on the subject line. I will delete E-mails if I can't identify the sender or if the subject is not clear.

I do enjoy funnies from time to time but please take me off your distribution list for those types of E-mails. It's very stressful to find 300+ E-mails waiting for me daily.

REUNION REPORT

Naturally I cannot report on the recent Reunion as this information had to be to our editor five days before the reunion. But thought I would comment a little on what we went through in getting this show on the road.

When I accepted to do something at one of our Outpost meetings, I somehow was designated the Host Coordinator. Guess I did not learn my lesson from being in the Army to never volunteer for anything. But, I have not regretted it.

First, I am one who realizes that I do not know everything and am sure I would need help on this project. So I warmed up the computer and sent emails to five gentlemen who I thought would provide well rounded bits of information on what has to be done.

They all agreed to help: Art Weldon, Jack Sneddon, Martin Markley, Jim Jarboe, and Andy Scullion. And they have been a great help.

We first took care of hiring the Reunion BRAT as negotiating and working with hotels these days needs a professional, in our opinion. We have not regretted hiring them. Naturally they could do everything, but I felt that Outpost members needed to be more involved so proceeded to obtain the services of certain people to do certain tasks for the reunion. We took care to assign tasks by taking into account our age, and that someone may have to take over due to an emergency. In fact, I just about had to drop out as mid-way in the planning I had a health problem.

Michel Mitchy belongs to an active group of 3rd ID re-enactors. He's excited that they have four new members. Some photos of a recent re-enactment near Vesoul can be seen at <http://goliathe999.free.fr/dl/R2eM/Morey%20august05.WMV>.

Our Webmaster (and he is a master at this) has shortened his web addresses. So you only have to key www.3rddiv.org to get the Society's website and to access the On-line store, just key www.3idstore.com. Rich has custom-made stamps on the site that you'll love. Check it out.

Guess I did not learn my lesson from being in the Army to never volunteer for anything. But, I have not regretted it.

The biggest problem I had with the planning was the SOP on how to handle the Memorial Breakfast. The SOP was probably written years ago by someone who had done it many times and knew what to do. As I had never handled it before, it was a mystery. So I took it upon myself to make recommendations to the Society's President that were accepted. Now anybody can follow what to do.

The important thing is to work with one's committee and other members of the Outpost and Society. The result is that the job never really becomes a job but a task of enjoyment.

We have enjoyed in performing these duties for you members, so hoping we have done the right thing and that you have enjoyed our reunion. Can't say right now if there were any problems, but if there were, I presume they were minor ones.

We all in Outpost 22 appreciate all who were able to attend. Thank you.

Rock of the Marne!

Bruce Monkman, Host Coordinator

OP HARRY from page 1



MG John Singlaub is pictured during his speech at the OP Harry Survivors Association reunion banquet. Photo by Jim Jarbo

The following morning, a solemn Memorial Service and candle lighting ceremony was held in tribute to those young soldiers who died defending OP Harry and those members who died since the last reunion.

During the business meeting Claude Williams was elected President and Gerard Lang Vice President. Pensacola, Florida, was announced as the tentative site for the next reunion to be held in June 2006.

At the banquet the featured speaker was OPHSA member MG John K. Singlaub, US Army (Ret.), who as a major led the 2nd Bn., 15th Infantry in the defense of OP Harry from December 1952 to May of 1953. The Massachusetts chapter of the KWVA provided a color guard for which we thank their President Nicholas Paganella.

Immediate OPHSA Past President, Floyd Deiwert, in the name of the National Infantry Association presented Saint Maurice Medallions to members Leonard Godmaire (5th RCT) and Richard Kilgen (15th Inf.).

In addition Past President and founding father of OPHSA, Martin Markley, presented service awards to Sam Buck (Treasurer), Doug Jones, (Secretary) and Freeman Bradford (Webmaster) for their outstanding efforts in behalf of OPHSA.

Society of the Third Infantry Division

STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS AND FUND BALANCES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005

CASH RECEIPTS	
ANNUAL DUES	\$ 24,821
LIFE MEMBER DUES	9,697
RAFFLE TICKETS	25,265
ROSTER DONATIONS	35
SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION	2078
DECALS, DONATIONS & GENERAL FUND	5127
INTEREST	<u>290</u>
	<u>67,313</u>

CASH DISBURSEMENTS	
WATCH — PRINTING & POSTAGE	26,301
HEADQUARTERS EXPENSE:	
Postage, Copies, Stationery & Supplies, Etc.	3,726
RAFFLE EXPENSE & BONDS	4,630
ROSTER MANAGEMENT	730
DUES & DONATIONS TO OUTPOSTS	5,146
DECALS, MEMBERSHIP & ADS	1,509
PUBLIC RELATIONS EXPENSE	92
MEMORIALS EXPENSE	428
SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION	
Includes WW II Memorial Fund balance of \$649	2,488
AWARDS	492
EDITOR EXPENSE	113
HISTORIAN	300
ACTIVE DIVISION COORDINATOR	520
WEBSITE EXPENSE	<u>375</u>
	<u>46,850</u>

RECEIPTS IN EXCESS OF DISBURSEMENTS 20,463

FUND BALANCE — JULY 1, 2004	
CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$ 9,699
MARKET INDEX SAVINGS ACCOUNT	33,325
SAVINGS-LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND	<u>23,004</u>
	<u>66,028</u>
	<u>\$ 86,491</u>

COMPOSITION OF FUND BALANCE — JUNE 30, 2005	
CHECKING ACCOUNT	3,642
MARKET INDEX SAVINGS ACCOUNT	49,255
LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND:	
SAVINGS	8,594
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT-MATURITY 03/11/06	25,000
	<u>\$ 86,491</u>

Watch Schedule

The *Watch* is your magazine. But the editor needs your help to keep it at the top of its class. Here is the schedule for each issue:

Deadline to the Editor	Publication
January 10th	February
March 10th	April
May 10th	June
July 10th	August
September 10th	October
November 10th	December

MARK W. SNEDDON

**6355 Topanga Canyon Boulevard # 225
Woodland Hills, CA 91367**

To the President and the Executive Committee
The Society of the Third Infantry Division

I have reviewed the accompanying Statement of Cash Receipts, Disbursements, and Fund Balances of The Society of the Third Infantry Division for the year ended June 30, 2005. My review consisted of reviewing on a test basis, the cash receipts and disbursements as well as the cancelled checks, deposits, bank statements, bank reconciliations, general ledger, and the resulting statements.

Based on my review I am not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying statement in order for it to present fairly the financial activity and conditions of The Society of the Third Infantry Division for the year ended June 30, 2005.

As an accommodation only, the National Secretary-Treasurer, Ray Anderson, is a co-trustee on the Chateau-Thierry Monument Fund which has a CD maturing in January 27, 2008. Value at 7/27/05 is \$5203.00 per the Suntrust Bank. This is not part of the Society Funds and is reported here for information only.

Sincerely,

MARK W. SNEDDON
National Auditor

July 27, 2005

System Helps Veterans Get Awards and Decorations

Army veterans and their families can have an easier time tracking and receiving medals and decorations thanks to an automated system used by the Clothing and Heraldry Product Support Integration Directorate (PSID).

The Web-based system eliminates extensive paperwork, reduces processing time and has capabilities such as allowing each veteran the opportunity to find out the status of his or her request or make address online. These types of inquiries that used to be handled telephonically or by letter can be entered online at <http://veteranmedals.army.mil/>.

Award criteria and background for the different service medals can also be found on the Web site. Requests for medals are initiated through the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis.

Eligible veterans or the next-of-kin of a deceased veteran can request medals from NPRC at <http://vetrecs.archives.gov/>.

BERET from page 1

Brown beret Solely the volunteers
for the Korean war

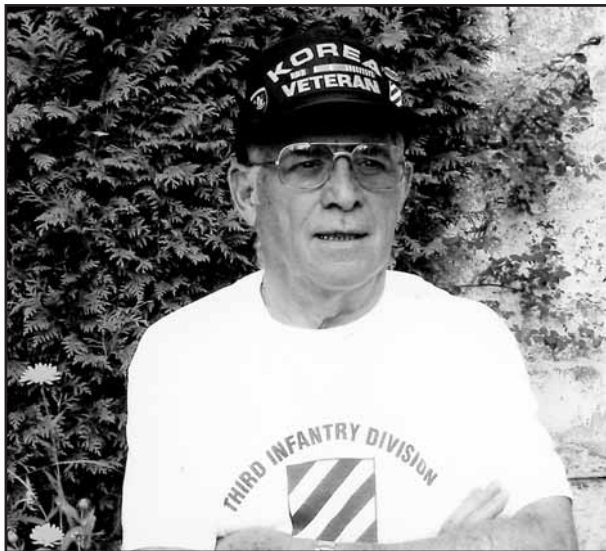
Let's disregard period 1944 till 1950. The brown beret was created only for the 3200 volunteers who succeeded each other from 1950 till 1955, keeping +/- 850 men on the spot. The metallic bade of the beret was also tissue knitten on the sleeve of the service dress, together with the badge of the 3rd US Division.

It takes 3 months for a young recruit to fix his beret suitably and it has to be repeated daily!!

Rock of the Marne

Bob Boucart, Instructor
Ret. C.S.M.

Editor's Note: Thanks, Bob, for sending me the metallic and cloth badges. One day I hope to place them in the Watch so that our members can see them. Your use of "tissue" is probably our word "cloth" and "knitten" is probably our word "embroidered" patch. And thanks for serving, you proud Cottonbaler!



Above left, Claude Billiet in Korea (standing in the Imjin River) and Above right, Claude now. Claude was an instructor in Korea.



A sketch by Claude – "Alone after Winter Patrol" – Korea '53

Society's Historian Helps Solve Years-Old Mystery

Ed Dojutrek was recently contacted by a fellow historian, Jennings Rowell of the 82nd Airborne Division, Living History Detachment.

Mr. Rowell had been contacted by Mr. Ralph Werelds from Holland who had adopted the grave of Private John W. O'Daniel, Jr. of the 505th PIR. Mr. Werelds was trying to develop some history of PVT O'Daniel.

Brynn Spiegel...confirmed that Private John W. O'Daniel of the 505th PIR is, in fact, the son of General O'Daniel and her uncle.

Mr. Rowell, through recommendations made by Ed, made contact with Brynn Spiegel who is the granddaughter of General "Iron Mike" O'Daniel. She confirmed that Private John W. O'Daniel, Jr.

of the 505th PIR is, in fact, the son of General O'Daniel and her uncle.

In sharing this information with Mr. Werelds, Mr. Rowell asks what was involved in adopting a grave. His response was: "I can tell you that the American Graveyard is my second home. It sounds crazy but I like it over there. I take my children (two boys) with me to visit the cemetery and talk to them about the war and about all the heroes who were killed in WWII.

Together with my wife I visit John O'Daniel on the date that he was killed and give him flowers (I do not know his date of birth).

We pray together also for those other brave soldiers who were killed. We bring him flowers on Christmas day. One time on Memorial Day, we visited his grave with flowers and paintings made by my kids. And that is all we can do for him. I think it is very important that my kids know what happened 60 years ago."

Thanks to Ed and Jennings Rowell, Mr. Werelds now has a face and a birthday to add to his noble efforts! As Mr. Rowell pointed out, "the Dutch are [still] honoring our soldiers killed in the liberation of their nation." The General would be honored to know that a Dutch family takes care of his son's grave.



Scholarship News

Society of the 3rd Infantry Division Scholarship Foundation, Inc.

Scholarship Foundation Update

The officers/trustees of the Society of the 3rd Infantry Division Scholarship Foundation wish to thank those of you who have contributed to the Foundation, and we hope you will support this worthy effort in the future. The names of our most recent contributors are listed at the end of this article.

As many of you know, three scholarship grants in the amount of \$750.00 each were awarded in 2005. The names of those recipients were highlighted in the announcement made by National President Jim Tiezzi at our 86th Annual Reunion in San Diego last month, and details concerning each applicant will appear in the December Watch on The Rhine. It is now time for applicants seeking 2006 scholarship grants to begin planning their submissions to the Society of the 3rd Infantry Division Scholarship Foundation. Scholarship awards help to defray the rising costs of college tuition.

The first step is the responsibility of those sponsoring applicants. If you served with the 3rd Infantry Division and you wish to sponsor an applicant, you need to write your letter of recommendation to be submitted by the applicant along with his/her submission for a 2006 scholarship grant. This letter should contain your statement of relationship to the applicant, a statement regarding your service with the 3rd Infantry Division, and your recommendation of the person you are sponsoring. Once you have done this, applicants should begin planning their submissions. While the deadline for receiving applications is May 1, 2006, it is wise to begin collection of the required documents well in advance of that date. You can request the required application and instructions by contacting Lynn Ball at 2010 Worcester Lane, Garland, TX 75040 or calling 972-495-1704. A list of the requirements is also printed below. As you can see, some items on the list require the cooperation of another person or require some effort on the part of the applicant.

4. Letters of recommendation from two teachers concerning the applicant's progress in current or most recent classes or subjects.
5. The applicant's official high school or college transcript.
6. A detailed statement of the applicant's goals after graduation, academic accomplishments, financial need, extracurricular activities (both in-school and out-of-school), community service involvement, and other activities that demonstrate personal character qualities as well as potential to succeed.
7. The applicant's 200-to-300-word essay on a subject pertaining to 3rd Infantry Division history, or to national pride, or to loyalty to the nation, or to patriotism, or on another subject of applicable importance.
8. The applicant's photograph, attached to the application.

Completed application forms together with all required enclosures (described above) must reach the Scholarship Foundation, Inc. Chairperson no later than May 1, 2006. Applications received after that date will be returned to the applicant.

To help all future applicants seeking scholarship funds both through our Scholarship Foundation and through any other source of scholarship funds, our Officers/Trustees are preparing detailed guidelines for applicants to use as a resource aimed at improving their application success rates. We will submit our guidelines for publication in the February *Watch on The Rhine*. This effort will represent a way of assisting applicants seeking grants from both our Foundation and from other agencies.

Donor gifts, since the last publication, were received from the individuals below. If you donated to this worthy cause and do not see your name listed below, it is because knowledge of your donation did not reach us before September 1, 2005. Look for your name in the next issue of the *Watch*.

Submitted by Lynn Ball, Chairperson

1. A statement from the Sponsor attesting to the applicant's eligibility in accordance with The Society of the 3rd Infantry Division Scholarship Foundation Inc.'s Purpose and By-Laws.
2. A Letter of Admission or evidence of continuing enrollment from the applicant's university, college, or vocational school of choice.
3. A letter from the applicant's high school principal attesting to the applicant's character if applicant is attending or has recently graduated from high school. (If applicant is currently attending college, please disregard this requirement.)

DONORS TO SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

Melvin G. Ehrstein	Erwin E. Filz	Robert E. Gibney
George Kraw	Lynne Cole Wortman	Charles K. Sheperd
Robert E. Hinson	Harold D. Stanfield	Luvern R. Solien
Roger P. Garner	James I. Gracyalny	Adam A. Polcha
James J. Derkacy	Edward L. Marshall	Ralph A. Edwards
R. B. and Ernie Sanford	Louis H. Feulner	Frank J. Elkenbary
James H. Funk	Vaughn A. Le Clair	Jerre F. Swink
William P. Blackley	Dick L. Doeren	A. G. Mauldin
Jack R. Graham	William C. Heidger III	Melvin S. Titus
John Keller	Donald F. Becker	Jack B. Estep
Fred A. Hofheinz	Ronald D. Graeser	Robert D. Borrelli
Mary Ann Davenport	Sherman A. Hochstetler	John Madri
John D. /Ann L. Howard	Lawrence T. O'Brien	Adam Kradyna
Matthew A. Lukow	George W. Needham	Francis B. Young
James G. McCray	Petro F. Di Biase	



News From The Outposts

3 Lattie Tipton

The members of the Lattie Tipton Outpost will meet at the Springmaid Beach Resort in Myrtle Beach, SC, October 21-23, 2005. If you're in the area, please join us.

Outpost member Vince Coscia alerted us that there is activity at the Dowd House in Charlotte, NC, again. Earlier this year Outpost member Henry Burke provided photos of a historical marker placed near the birthplace of the Third Infantry Division at the beginning of World War I. The Dowd House was the headquarters for Camp Greene as the post was called then. The Dowd House is being renovated. Vince, who lives in Charlotte, serves on the Dowd House Advisory Council of Mecklenburg County. As this goes to print, the Grand Reopening Ceremony is scheduled for November 12, 2005. Vince will let us know details as he gets them. If you're interested in attending, contact Vince at Vacoscia@aol.com or at his cell phone at (704) 907-3163. Thanks for representing us on the Council, Vince.

On the home front, James Cooper has been in the hospital but is at home now. He plans to be at our next meeting and we'll really miss him if his health prevents him from coming. He's a charter member of the Outpost.

*Alta Milling,
Secretary/Treasurer*

4 Fort George Wright

Spokane, WA

The members of Outpost 4 met at Frontier West in Spokane, WA, on October 8 at 11:30 a.m.

Members looked forward to meeting Keith Tucker and his wife who are transferring in to OP 4 from OP 17 in St. Louis. They have just moved to Priest River, Idaho. Keith was in Tank Company, 65th Regiment.

Members participated in a "Get Acquainted" Roll Call where they related an event that occurred during their service in the Third Division.

Following the business meeting, we had a drawing for a door prize.

*Lyle Kerns
President*

12 Tommy Thompson

Minneapolis, MN

O.P. #12 held its 24th annual summer picnic at Moore Lake Park in Fridley, MN, on Saturday, August 6, 2005. The weather was perfect. As usual with a pot-luck picnic the food was varied and plentiful. There was no important business to attend to so eating and visiting was the first order of business.

Unfortunately a pall was cast over the activities because just two weeks before the picnic on July 23, 2005, Harold Hibbing, a long time and very active member of O.P. #12, passed away very suddenly. Harold was a past President of O.P. #12 a number of times. He and his wife Pearl lived in Rochester, MN, yet they never failed to attend every Outpost function regardless of where it was held. Chaplain John Ethen led us in observing a moment of silence in Harold's memory. He will be sorely missed.

Attendance has continued to drop at all of our three yearly meetings and it will be the prime subject of discussion at our fall meeting on October 1 in Albert Lea, MN. By the time this issue of the Watch reaches you that meeting will be history. The December Watch will inform you of what decisions have been reached. We are losing our WWII vets to age and illness and the Korean War and Peacetime Vets just don't seem to be willing to take an active part in O.P. activities. The O.P. has a fairly large membership but it cannot survive with just three or four members willing to take an active part.

*Jerry Manley
O.P. #12 Sec./Treas.*

18 Giovinazzo-York

Milwaukee, WI

Sharon Pelon, OP secretary/treasurer since we were formed back in December 1998, was recognized for the outstanding job she's done for the Outpost. She had to give up her post for personal reasons and we will miss her dearly. She is still an active associate member. At our meeting in Appleton, WI, Sharon was presented a quilt made by Kathleen Daddato.

On a sad note we lost a dear, and I repeat—a dear friend, on



Kathy Daddato, left, and Jerry Daddato, right, hold up the quilt presented to Sharon Pelon, center.



The young men of OP 18.

July 2nd, Pat Koleske, wife of Ed Koleske of Appleton, WI. She never missed a meeting and was an asset to our Outpost. She will be missed dearly.

Our annual Fall Brunch Meeting will be at the Holiday Inn Select, 150 Nicolet Road, Appleton, WI 54914 on Sunday, October 16, 2005, at 11:00 a.m. in the Hook & Ladder Room. Bring yourself, your favorite go-to-meeting-with person or a potential member, or both for an interesting get together.

Commander Jerry Daddato

35 Audie L. Murphy

Audie Murphy Outpost #35 met at the Best Western Skyline Room in Fort Worth, Texas, on July 16, 2005. Attending the luncheon meeting were Richard and Sarah Addison, Joe and Lynn Ball, Rosemarie Bonilla, Len and Lula Coble, Ralph A. Edwards, Richard Gilland, Joe and Lucia Hilderbrand, Darlene Pierce, L. J. Pugh, Justin Valle, and Connie Bassett and Carl Wyatt. Darlene Pierce and L. J. Pugh did an excellent job of hosting the meeting.

The meeting was opened with an Invocation delivered by Colonel Richard Addison, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of The United States of America, led by L. J. Pugh, and the playing of "Dog-Face Soldier," supplied by Joe Hilderbrand.

Outpost #35 acquired 26 new members over the past year. New Members since the last newsletter include Martha Treece, Dallas TX; Leslie Veach, Mangum OK; Gerard M. Devlin, Bluffton SC; Michael Kennedy, San Antonio TX; Antonio Garcia, Fort Worth TX; Orlando Segura, El Paso TX, and Rowenia Ely, Dallas TX. After numerous reminders, four members will be dropped from the National and Outpost rosters.

Paul Stanley, Immediate Past President, recently celebrated his 90th birthday at a party attended by 55 friends. Paul has a positive attitude toward life; he commented that, at his age, he does not purchase green bananas. Signa Stanley is not well: Alzheimer Disease compounds her very serious heart and cancer conditions. Signa is residing at home with 24-hour per day

care given by Paul and others. If anyone wants to send Paul and/or Signa good wishes, here is their address: Paul and Signa Stanley, 2020 S. High Street, Brady TX 76825-7414.

Sarah Addison is recovering from a very serious fall while delivering Meals on Wheels in Fort Worth. She and Richard had nearly completed their route when Sarah's fall resulted in a badly broken upper right arm. The break required surgery to repair the broken bone and rotator cup. We were glad to see Sarah and Richard at the meeting.

Charles Howard Riley passed away in Friendswood, Texas, on February 9, 2005, at the age of 80. Charles served as a Sergeant with the 10th Engineers during WW2, and his last memories were of his army comrades and his battle experiences. He always said, "The real heroes of the war never came home." Charles is greatly missed by his friends, and comrades, and his family. (Reported by Jake Riley, Grandson #10)

Joe told members of the recent appointment of Outpost #35 Member Jerry Kraft to the post of Society Judge Advocate. Jerry succeeds Sherman Pratt who recently resigned due to health reasons. Jerry is an excellent choice for this position as he, like Sherman, has a long background in Law. Additionally, Jerry is a true patriot in the spirit of Audie Murphy, and he is a very caring and concerned citizen. He will serve the Society proudly and well.

Leon Lebowitz supplied some material on the 60th Anniversary Tour of France for members Ralph A. Edwards and Richard B. Gilland. Joe volunteered to pull the material together.

Members who traveled more than 50 miles roundtrip to attend the meeting were:

Joe and Lynn Ball:110 miles
 Rosemarie Bonilla:540 miles
 Len and Lula Coble:540 miles
 Ralph A. Edwards:550 miles
 Joe and Lucia Hilderbrand:300 miles
 Justin Valle:110 miles

By popular request, we are printing the words to "Dog-Face Soldier." The ladies have made a pact to learn the words and to out-sing the gentlemen at our next meeting. A prize will be given to the loudest singer.

*I wouldn't give a bean to be a fancy pants Marine.
 I'd rather be a Dog-Face like I am.
 I wouldn't give up my O. D.s, for all the Navy's dungarees.
 For I'm the walking Pride of Uncle Sam.
 The posters that I read all say, "The Army Builds Men."
 So they're tearing me down to build me over again.
 I'm just a Dog-Face Soldier with a rifle on my shoulder,
 And I eat raw meat for breakfast every day.
 So feed me ammunition.
 Keep me in the 3rd Division.
 Your Dog-Faced Soldier's A-OK.*

Submitted by Lynn Ball

Continued on page 19

3ID TAPS on the Web
<http://www.warfoto.com/3rdtaps.htm>

Interview of Charles O'Neil, Tec 5 3rd Infantry Division, 15th Regiment, Company I, 2nd Platoon

■ A son talks to his father about his thoughts and experiences as a 3ID soldier during WWII

Q: What do you consider to be the worst part of World War II for you?

Well, of course being in the war is bad enough but what I consider for me the worst part was one particular battle area during the winter we were up in the north-east part of France in an area they called the Colmar Pocket. It's up near Germany, near the Rhine River. Colmar is one of the biggest cities in France and it's up in the northeast corner of France up near the Rhine River up by Germany. We were fighting up in that area and it was an area that had been devastated. Originally, during the early part of the war the French were fighting up in there naturally when Germany attacked them. The Germans came through there and the French backed up, retreated. Then they counter-attacked and went back up through those villages and towns again and there was more devastation. The Germans returned, counterattacked, pushed the French out. Naturally they went all the way to Paris the Germans did. Then when the Americans invaded France and started fighting back then the war returned to that area once again and the American Army pushed through that area.

Q: What time during the war was that when the Americans first starting coming back?

When the Americans got back through there? It was probably the early part of 1944.

Q: When did you enter the war there?

We came up there in the winter time, it was November, probably the middle of November 1944 is when we got into the Colmar area. We had battled our way all the way to Strasburg, France which is on the Rhine River. I was in the 3rd Infantry Division and we were the first American

unit to actually reach the Rhine River.

Q: Did you have any problems getting up to the Rhine River?

Not really, surprisingly. The Germans were retreating and I remember one day we took eleven consecutive villages. We did not have to fire hardly any shots at all. Nobody got hurt on either side.

Q: Is that because there were not any Germans there?

There were a few. They were doing a delaying action. They were pulling back really all the way back into Germany again so they could build up for what we later found out was a big counterattack which really developed into the Battle of the Bulge up in the Belgian area. We were farther down. I was in the 7th Army. We were on the southern end of the front line.

Q: Where would that be?

We were down around Colmar, down in that area, a part of France known as Alsace-Lorraine. It's a part of France. It is close to Germany. Most of the people there are French and German. They speak, strange as it may seem although it is in France, they speak mainly German in that area. It is the part of France where they grow all the grapes to make the fine French wine. We were fighting in all these little villages where all these vineyards are. We were fighting through the vineyards.

Q: So you fought through all the towns and the vineyards and got to the Rhine River; what happened after that?

No, we got to the Rhine and Strasburg and then they were undecided whether we should cross or not. They figured maybe not, it was a little too early. Up to that nobody had fought in Germany. We were the first unit to come to the German bor-

der. There was a bridge there. Kiev(?) was the name of the German city on the other side. There was a bridge there but we never tried to go over it. I imagine if we did we probably would have gotten blown to smithereens. It was pretty well protected. So we did not cross over into Germany just then. We waited about a week. Then they decided that down in the Colmar Pocket. The French Army was being reinforced, and they decided that the French Army should take Colmar so that the people of France could see the French Army once again intact fighting back. But in order for the French Army to do that, the American Army, namely us, the 3rd Infantry Division and the 45th Infantry Division, which was the Oklahoma National Guard, spearheaded the drive around the city of Colmar, taking all these cities and towns around the city of Colmar, so that the French could fight their way in. It was a political thing really.

Q: So while the French were taking the city, we were just outside the city?

We were softening it up for them to go in there and take the city.

Q: Were you having any trouble there?

Yes. We had a lot of trouble, and that is where the question you asked me where the most scary thing that happened to me during the war occurred there in a little town called Bennwihr.

Q: Did you know it was going to be that bad?

No, we had no idea. Like I said it had been devastated before that because first the French took it, then the Germans pushed them back, then the French went back through there, then Germans came back, then the American 36th Division, which was the Texas National Guard, they went up through there and fought up there and then they got pushed back by the Germans.

Q: Why was it such a valuable place?

Well, actually it was not that valuable. I guess it was acceptable to both Armies to run back and forth up there. I don't think it was particularly valuable to the Germans.

Q: Did you have to send all your artillery up there?

Well, when we started fighting around Colmar we got counterattacked at the same time they got counterattacked which caused the Battle of the Bulge. We got counterattacked down around Colmar. They seemed to think that the bulge area was more important than the Colmar area so they were sending most of the supplies up there so we were not getting any artillery or very little artillery. We were allowed ten artillery rounds a day.

Q: So were you having trouble keeping them off?

We were having a lot of trouble keeping them off. They would be quiet during the day but at night they would try infiltrating tactics. We did get air cover from the French Air Force because we were attached to the French Army at the time. The French Air Force was giving us air cover that was helpful. But in this little town of Bennwihr we had a lot of casualties. What precipitated this whole thing was there was a little hill outside of the town and the Germans were on top of that hill and they could look right down the main street of this town that was practically flattened. So they could see us but we could not see them. We were living in a school, in a basement of a school. It was all knocked down except for the basement part. There were even dead German bodies in the other part of the basement from us.

Q: Did that get you scared when you saw them?

Not really because we had been in the war then almost a year, so we were used to seeing dead bodies, Germans and Americans. So, no, that did not bother me. But what did bother me particularly was the night they came in and said we are going to patrol that hill. We are going to send a patrol up there, eight guys and you are the eight guys, meaning I was one of them.

Q: Did they pick you out of a hat or something?

No, they just said the 2nd squad of the 2nd platoon is going to be the patrol to go up on the hill and find out what they have up there, come back and make a report...if you come back.

Q: How did you feel about that when they said that?

Terrible, because we figured this was it. We had an idea of what was on that hill. We figured half the German Army was on that hill. It was all mined. The roads leading up to it were mined. In that town were a lot of cattle that used to walk around. In the day time you would see a cow and then at night they would give us an artillery barrage and you would go out the next morning and you would see that the cows would be dead.

Q: Is that because they thought it was you?

Yeah, they thought it was movement. They figured it was maybe a vehicle or they were trying to reinforce us or whatever so they just fired down in there. Unfortunately, the cows would be in the way. So we figured if we had animals in front of us and pushed them up that hill they could explode the mines. Then they said well no, we won't use the animals; the men will have to pick it up the best they can. We were going to be led up the hill by our sergeant who was a fella by the name of Sylvester S. Suyhada from Aliquippa, Pennsylvania. He was a tough sergeant, a real tough guy but a great combat man. We had faith in him but we also figured this was going to be our last night on earth. We were really terrified because we figured if we ever went out of that building, down that road and started up that hill you could count the seconds before we would be long gone. We would be either blown up by the mines or we would be just cut down by all the machine guns and automatic weapons they had up there. We were really scared. It was right around Christmas time, too. This was no big Christmas present coming our way. So we were really scared. We did a lot of praying that night. About two hours before the attack was supposed to go off, they came and told us that they had called the whole thing off. They were not going to bother. That it would be suicide to send us up there. We had figured that out long before. If we send the men up there most likely they would just get wiped out. The company had been really beat up as it was, we had lost an awful lot of men and our moral was low. We were cut off to begin with and the French and the Americans were trying to break through

to us. We were just hoping that they would. Actually the next day they did. An American unit came through, a battle patrol from the 45th Division came through. They replaced us and they sent us back to an R & R, Rest and Recreation, area.

Q: You must have been pretty happy when you realized you were not going up that hill?

I was. Right. Yes, indeed, we figured we'd have a lot of birthdays now. If we had ever gone up that hill I would not be sitting here talking to you now. But I am glad I am. I am glad they called that off. That was probably the worst, the most scared I ever was. It's funny, because I had been shot at and it did not affect me that much. Naturally when you are in battle, you are in a war, you are getting shot at, you are scared but when the thing is going on you are not scared. It is survival and you are thinking I'm scared, so is he. But everybody is running, there is a lot of movement going on. But here you are just sitting and thinking in two hours I have to go up that hill and I know when I go up that hill I am a dead man. It just played on our minds. We were really panicking, we really were.

Q: Was this the worst time that you ever thought that this was it?

Yes. Yeah. Yeah. This was definite. That is a fact. If we had gone up that hill, that would have been the end. There were other times later on where we figured boy, if we go in there like this we are going to get wiped out but that was more or less in the back of your head. You said if we go in there like this, then this is going to happen but really we did not think it would. Like we were taking the city of Nuremburg, you all know about Nuremburg, the big German city, and you probably have seen in the movies where they blew up the Nazi swastika on the top wall of the Nuremburg Stadium, that was our division that did that. But we were fighting across the airport in Nuremburg, a wide open field, and we were getting shelled pretty hard, although we were making it well because we had tanks with us and they were firing at other tanks, German tanks. So it was an even-steven thing.

Q: *Were there any German planes there, seeing you were at the airport?*

Not then. No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no. They had long gone out of there. This was close to the end of the war. This was in April, the later part of April, the war ended in May. The German Air Force was more or less gone by that time.

Q: *Was this the last time you were in battle?*

No, it was not the last time we entered battle. It was the last time we entered a really big battle and this was a case of where if we were going to try to take this city we were going to get wiped out but really in the back of our heads we knew that we wouldn't. We figured we had a fighting chance. It was going to be a tough battle but we would make it. But when they told us we were going to attack that hill back in Bannwihr we knew, really knew deep down that if we ever left that building we were going to die. Fighting in Nuremberg we said boy, this is going to be a tough battle and maybe we will get killed here. Of course, you always had that, maybe we will get killed today but it would pass, and you really thought I'll make it, I'll make it, I'll make it. But that one time we figured I'll never make this. It was just impossible. That's why they finally did call it off because they figured eight men are never going to survive on that hill.

Q: *Wouldn't it be kind of stupid if you had to find out information if you guys were never going to get back?*

That's right. That's right. They had to take that hill to get out of that town. The outfit that relieved us had to take that hill to break out of that town and break out of that whole area around Bannwihr, Sigolsheim and Colmar which the French eventually did take. Come to find out, they were going to send eight of us on that patrol up that hill that night. Come to find out we talked to some tank guys, fellas that were in a tank outfit who were down in Bannwihr after us, they made the attack on that hill with over a hundred men and it took them two days to get the Germans off that hill and we were going to go patrol that thing with only eight men. They said it was devastation, they lost a lot of tanks, it was a real...a real war they

had on that hill. The Germans had everything, tanks, artillery and everything on that hill. They had a heck of a time with a hundred men and tanks and we were going to go up there with a couple of rifles, a machine gun and eight guys. So you see why I was scared.

Q: *That hill was that important?*

It was. It was extremely important to both sides.

Q: *What happened after that?*

They took that hill maybe two weeks after we left the area. We went back and got replacements and everything. Then they sent us up to another area closer to Colmar. We fought up to two towns before you got to Colmar. That is when the French Army had to come in because of political reasons the French had to take the city of Colmar. The French went through us and they did eventually take the city of Colmar. That was a whole tough area. That was known as the Forgotten Front—The Colmar Pocket.

Q: *Could you have taken Colmar without the French being there?*

Oh, yes. Oh, sure. No problem. In fact, we probably could have taken it two or three days earlier.

Q: *Was it just a matter of the French people seeing their own Army?*

That's right. It was a political thing. It was set up by the Allied Governments; England, France and the United States to make sure the French people would see their army, retaking French territory because that hadn't happened in any of the big cities before. The city of Paris was taken by the Americans, so they didn't see their French Army fight back. This was the first chance that they really did have an opportunity to see their own French Army fighting the Germans and defeating them. Of course, they didn't know that the build-up that they hadn't fought until they went into that city and that we had done

all the fighting for three weeks prior to that to soften everything up.

Q: *Were you in that battle with the French? Were you there?*

No. They went through us. We stopped. We let them go through us down the road and they went into town and we just went into the cities and sat outside. If they did have any trouble we would have went in but they didn't. It took them two or three days to do it.

Q: *From there you went to Germany?*

Yeah. Well, after that we went back and took river training. They took us back to a place called Pont-à-Mousson in France. We were taking river training to cross the Rhine.

Q: *What's that?*

They take you down to a river in rubber boats. They trained us to cross the Rhine River. We used to go back maybe a hundred yards, eight men, four on each side, in a rubber boat, pick up the boat and run like the devil, throw it in the water, jump in and row across. This was the Moselle River we were doing this on, row across the Moselle River and make believe you were attacking the Germans on the other side.

Q: *Did you ever have to use this type of training?*

No. No because what happened was they got the bridge in Rema, Remigan or whatever it was and the Allies went over that bridge and got into Germany and fanned out. So the Germans pulled away from the Rhine River so actually there was no need for any river crossing. When we crossed the Rhine we crossed on a bridge, crossed over on a bridge in a bunch of trucks.

Q: *So you ended up not using the river training and having a battle at an airport?*

Yeah. (Laughs) That was quite awhile

2005 DONATIONS

PERIOD	SCHOLARSHIP	MEMORIAL FUND
July 2 to September 9	\$315.00	\$75.00
GRAND TOTAL (2005)	\$2,440.50	\$1,102.50

afterwards though. The battle at the airport wasn't that bad really. But we had the battle at the airport that was at Nuremburg. After that we fought our way into Austria. We did fight beyond then, beyond the airport, we fought in Austria, all the way down to Salzburg.

Q: *But it wasn't that hard in Austria?*

No. Down around Nuremburg and down in that area was what they called the Redoubt Area at the time and it was where Berchtesgaden was, Hitler's big hideout was in the town of Berchtesgaden which was up on a mountain right outside of Nuremburg.

Q: *Were you aiming for that, the hideout?*

Yeah. There was a big battle going on among the Americans; the 3rd Army, I mean the 3rd Division, my outfit, the 45th Division, the 36th Division, some French people and the 101st Airborne. We were running who could get to Berchtesgaden first.

Q: *Who did?*

The French. (Laughs) The French got there first. Of course, everything was gone by then. Hitler, well, as a matter of fact by the time we got to Berchtesgaden, Hitler had already committed suicide back in Berlin anyway.

Q: *That must have been pretty good news?*

Yeah. Well right after Nuremburg we knew the war was over then because they were just surrendering all over the place as far that goes.

Q: *So you just finished out the war?*

We ran out the string more or less. We fought our way into Reichstag, Austria and maybe ten miles from the Russian front and the war ended.

Q: *Happy to hear that?*

Yes, that night we said, remember that day in Bennwahr when they were going to make us attack that hill? And then we said yes, and they said thank God they didn't because they if they did we would not be here today.

Art O'Neil, Artone@comcast.net

Long-lost Korean War pilot to get military burial

Society Member Spots Clue to Korean War MIA in China

■ **Remains missing for decades, until chance brought them to light**

From Barbara Starr and Larry Shaughnessy, CNN Washington Bureau

PLANO, Texas – On May 31, U.S. Air Force Capt. Troy Gordon Cope [was] remembered in a funeral and burial with full military honors—52 years after he disappeared during a Korean War dogfight with a half-dozen MiG-15 fighter jets.

Unlike most funerals, this event has his family feeling elated, because, after a half-century of searching and wondering, they finally know what happened to him.

It was a mystery solved with the help of a bootheel, Soviet-era documents and an American businessman's visit to a remote corner of China.

"Gordy" Cope, as his family called him, was one of four brothers from Norfolk, Arkansas. The four boys joined the Army Air Corps during World War II. Cope left the service after that war ended but rejoined when the Korean War broke out. He was flying an F-86 Sabre jet on September 16, 1952, when he and his wingman clashed with six MiG-15s near the Yalu River, the border between North Korea and China.

Cope quickly found himself out of ammunition, and his wingman said he lost visual and radio contact with Cope. He was never seen again.

What the American pilots didn't know then is the they were not up against North Korean pilots in the MiGs. Investigators have since learned Cope and his wingman were fighting more experienced Soviet pilots.

The Soviet' covert role in the Korean War helped fuel speculation within the U.S. government that they tried to capture U.S. pilots to exploit them for intelligence purposes. At the time, U.S. Air Force technology was a top priority of Soviet pilots to exploit them for intelligence purposes.

The military initially listed Cope as Missing in Action. But months later, without any evidence of what happened, the

The unanswered questions about Cope's fate wore on his family. His mother, Edith, took her own life about five years after he disappeared. His nephew is convinced the uncertainty was connected to her death.

military listed him as Killed in Action. He was awarded a posthumous Purple Heart to go with the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal he earned in World War II.

The unanswered questions about Cope's fate wore on his family. His mother, Edith, took her own life about five years after he disappeared. His nephew is convinced the uncertainty was connected to her death.

"There is no question in my mind it was," Chris Cope of Plano, Texas, told CNN. "I think it was totally connected to it."

His brother, Carl, always had faith that Gordy might be alive.

Although his C-47 transport plane crashed in Sicily during World War II, "I survived, so I've always felt like it would be a possibility that he would survive," Carl Cope told CNN. "I have never given up hope."

In 1988, the family held a memorial service for Troy Cope in Norfolk. They never expected to find out any more about what happened to him.

The first real break in the case came in 1995. American businessman *Warren Sessler* [Society member and strong advocate of our country's efforts to bring home our POWs and MIAs] visited a museum in Dandong, China, a city just over the Yalu River from North Korea. Sessler found a dog tag stamped with Troy Cope's name. Museum officials let him make a rubbing of the dog tag, and he reported what he found to the U.S. Embassy in Beijing.

Submitted by Martin Markley

Another Voice for Recognition

Many of us have been after this [a Cold War Medal] for some time now. For example, Sunday, August 21st marked the 37th anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Prague, Czechoslovakia during which 80 Czech freedom fighters lost their lives. On that date, I was the scout platoon leader for Bravo Company 1/15th Infantry, 2nd Brigade, 3rd I.D. On that day, a full scale alert was called for USAREUR which was a normal occurrence. My mission was to guard the Davy Crockett tac nuke warheads that were housed in bunkers along the airstrip at Harvey Barracks in Kitzingen, Germany.

As day faded into night, radio traffic decreased. Our sister unit, 1/64th Armor, had an M60A1 tank platoon in perimeter formation around my APC's and there was an occasional commo check between my tracks and the tanks. Though separate units, we often functioned and deployed in unison with the same tactical mission as an armored cavalry unit. Individual weapons and track mounted 50 caliber and M-60 7.62 caliber machineguns were locked and loaded as always.

Around 11 P.M., a message came in code across the radio that in effect told us to stand down. There was no other explanation. One of the NCO's from Battalion S-3 came by a little later and gave us orders from our C.O. that we were to assemble at first light back at HQ.

Upon assembly and getting some much needed coffee, we were told the reason. The Russians, in coordination with their Warsaw Pact allies, had gone into Prague with several armored divisions. Because

...this is one of my arguments that we Cold War vets aren't merely entitled to a Cold War medal; we have, in fact, earned it.

of the suddenness and the stealth with which they conducted their invasion, our intel did not pick up on it until it was well underway. In turn, Soviet intel had picked up that the entire USAREUR command including our German and British NATO allies had gone on full alert.

Initially, the Soviets thought we were preparing to counter the Prague invasion. They did not know that this was a routine alert. The timing between their invasion and our alert was purely coincidental. Even so, the Soviets immediately began to prepare for what they thought would be us charging through the Fulda Gap instead of the other way around. In effect, World War III nearly began the evening of August 21, 1968. It was the closest we had come to global and/or thermonuclear conflict since the Cuban Missile Crisis of October 1962.

No one, I repeat, no one to this day (except those who were there) has an inkling that this happened. Therefore, this is one of my arguments that we Cold War vets aren't merely entitled to a Cold War medal; we have, in fact, earned it. Regards,

David Adams, OP 60
Editor, The Dragon
15th Infantry Reg't Association
david_adams_atlanta@yahoo.com

Some Vets Denied Burial Honors

Some military veterans have not received full burial honors because they do not have their discharge documents when they died. Since 1950 the discharge form has been called DD Form 214. That document went by other names prior to 1950, but they all serve the same purpose.

When a veteran dies, the family provides a copy of DD Form 214 or equivalent discharge documentation to the funer-

al home which uses it to arrange for an official U.S. flag, honor guard, grave marker and burial in a national cemetery, according to the veteran's service level and last wishes. But, problems can arise with veterans who do not have copies of their discharge certificates available at the time of death.

For more information on obtaining a discharge form, contact your county's veterans service officer.

Roofer Recovering

Nile Stuart e-mailed to inquire as to how I was coming along in my mending process and I realized some of you may also be wondering.

As I think you all are aware, I fell off the roof of my lake home while doing some repair work on July 2nd. I was very lucky that I was not killed in the fall or paralyzed. My doctors decided (after a zillion x-rays, MRI's, Cat Scans, and Ultrasounds) that they would not operate. Instead they placed me in a "full body brace." It looks like a turtle shell with three straps on each side. It takes the place of the plaster body cast used in the past for serious back injuries.

I am well on my way to recovery but will be required to wear the brace until sometime in October. That will probably be followed by months of physical therapy. One doesn't realize how much you use your back in your everyday activities until you can't move it at all. I can't twist, turn, bend, push or pull, to any extent when my back is held completely rigid.

Unfortunately, because of the brace I had to cancel my reunion and flight reservations. Having never been to San Diego, I was really looking forward to the trip but that is now out of the question. Traveling any distance, especially by plane is a definite no-no. On top of that I spend most of my time in pajama bottoms and XL Tee shirts as none of my clothing will fit over the brace that extends from my neck to my hips.

I asked Ed Dojutrek, Central Region Committeeman, to be my proxy at the reunion. He voted in my name in all matters that came before the reunion.

Rock of the Mame!

Jerry Manley

So that his brethren shall know...

Please report the death of any member of the Society of the Third Infantry Division to Alta Milling, 4738 Datura Rd., Columbia, SC 29205-2109 Ph: (803) 787-7134 e-mail: Altav007@aol.com for listing in the "Last Call."



Letters to the Editor

Dear Alta,

I'm enclosing a couple of photos from our trip. They are of the 3rd ID memorial in Chateau Thierry, Northern France on the Marne River.

Our travel adventure began on Friday, July 8th when we drove to Dover, DE, to try to catch a flight [to Europe]. We spent Friday night, all day Saturday, and Saturday night on alert. Catherine [Bacon, OP 7 Associate Member and retired colonel USAF Reserves] called BWI [Baltimore-Washington International Airport for those who don't recognize BWI] and found that there were seats available on a contract flight. So we drove from Dover to BWI as did many others we saw at Dover. We landed at Rhein-Main that is the military half of the Frankfurt airport. [I've been there and done that!]



Monument at Chateau Thierry that honors the "heroic deeds of the Third Infantry Division, United States Army" in World War I and World War II.

We traveled to Wiesbaden where we stayed at the American-Military hotel. The next day we traveled south about 70 miles to Ramstein AFB. Cath contacted her friend who was retiring soon. On Wednesday, we traveled to Bastogne, Belgium, where we stayed in a lovely hotel. We took in all of the memorials as Cath and Ray [Hergenreder, OP 7 Life Member] are both history buffs.

The next day, we drove to Callis to board a ferry for Dover, England. We stayed in Dover to see the sights. We even ate Dover sole and it was so delicious. From there we drove about 60 miles to Hastings and stayed in the Royal Victoria Hotel which was across the street from the ocean! It was lovely. Cath checked out all the details of the 1610 battle.

Then we headed north to Mindenhall AFB, which is about 70 miles north of London. We had a lovely suite that we used as our base for the next four days. We saw Newmarket where horseracing began. Ray likes horseracing and we got his picture on a mechanical horse with silks on. It was hilarious! Then we headed back to Dover to catch the ferry and went to Bayuex. It is one of the D Day sites. We spent a couple of days there and then drove toward Paris to see the home of Monet. It was wonderful. We decided to skirt Paris on our way back to Ramstein. That was a fiasco but we finally made it in one piece!

Ramstein is a beautiful base and it is the NATO center. Ray and I relaxed while Cath practiced for the retirement ceremony of her friend, Peggy. [Just to show how being in the military creates an extended family], 25 years ago, Cath was an instructor at the Air Force Academy and Peggy was one of her first students. They have kept in touch all these years. The ceremony was held in an impressive NATO building.

Then we prepared for our trip home. We finally flew out on Sunday and arrived in Dover, DE, about 8:30 PM. Another couple from our flight graciously gave us a ride to BWI. We arrived at about midnight and our car wouldn't start! Obviously, dead batteries are not a rare occasion because the parking lot attendants had jumper cables and we were soon on our way.

In addition to being bushed, we were hungry not having eaten in 12 hours! Nothing was open until we got to Woodbridge, VA, where we knew there was a Dennys. [Home again, home again, jiggy jog.]

Martha Hergenreder



Ms. Milling,

At a recent meeting of the Outpost Harry Survivors Association, I presented Richard Kilgen, a member of Outpost 22 of the Society of the Third Infantry Division, The Medal of Saint Maurice on behalf of the National Infantry Association.

Sincerely,

Floyd Deiwert, Jr.

Jr Past President

E-mail floydiris@seidata.com



Floyd Deiwert, Jr. (left) and Richard Kilgen

Editor's Note: Congratulations to you, Richard. Please pass along my thanks to Mr. Deiwert for letting us know about the honor bestowed upon you. It's good to know that our members are still earning medals for serving again in one capacity or another.

Dear Mrs. Alta,

I've been watching the horror of New Orleans, Alabama, and Mississippi and their on-going battle with fires, flooding, winds, and the life-saving efforts.

This brought back a subject that involved the 3rd Infantry Division. I realized we were ground bound troops. But we had another group of troops—the United States Air Force pilots, and ground service for those fighter jets and B-29s. Of course, I can't forget that they napalmed and strafed "dug in" enemy troops. Some crashed or were shot at, hit, but managed to get back to their large base at that time, Kimpo, was the name.

To ensure our 3rd Division ground troops weren't touched by their bombs, we had a canvas strip that was about four feet wide and 10 or 12 feet long. It was a bright RED. We spread it out to show the pilots that this was our line of defense.

The fighter jets and B-29s would fly over us in tight formation on their way in. We could count 12 or 15 in each formation. But when they flew over us around 3 or 4 o'clock in the afternoon, they were scattered and we could count only about 4 or 5 B-29s and about 6 jet fighters. When they flew over our red-colored strip, they got into a tight formation readying themselves to land at Kimpo within an hour.

Now back to the 3rd Division ground troops. While the planes were overhead, the men would yell "OK, you are safe now!!" Some yelled at damaged planes, "Jump, jump! We'll run to you with meds." As we could see, those brave Air Force men had heavy losses.

Our troops were involved with the Air Force. I remember a personal experience where a strafing jet got hit by enemy anti-aircraft gunfire. The pilot bailed out and we ran to where he landed. It was in a level rice paddy but frozen. As we got near him, he was dazed. We yelled to him that we were Americans and had come to help him. He yelled back, "I'm an American!"

As can be seen, New Orleans is somewhat like we had in that war—shooting at aircraft.

I saw on TV the choppers in New Orleans lifting people in a basket attached to steel cables into the open door of the chopper. They have a "roller" machine that rolls the two cables.

During the Korean War, we had ground 2 roller machines—one at the top of a hill and the other at the bottom of the hill. They were connected with a long "thumb" sized steel cable. The basket was used to lower wounded to the bottom of the hill and to raise supplies to the top. The hill was as high as a 10-story building with a slant to it like high school bleachers.

But we had war troubles with our lift. It was always breaking cut about half way up the hill and always at the same location.

When we got our first call of a break in the cable, we talked to every man in the company [C]. Finally, one draftee said he was a telephone cable repairman before being drafted. He said he was willing to try a larger cable. That's a winner! Three of us immediately went to the broken cable. He said he would train us. He was familiar with all sizes of cables. He told us a secret about the "breakpoint" of the cable—it had been cut with a bolt cutter!

He showed us how to "lace" the strands of steel into a normal shaped cable. We watched closely and soaked it up like a sponge.

One thing that was consistent about all of calls to us was that the basket was always at the top of the hill. The hill was called Sandbag Castle and was occupied by members of the forward command headquarters.

Well, the calls continued and the cable was cut about three feet from earlier cuts. During the last three weeks of war, there were no calls. The cutter was killed by an American sniper. The sniper was returning from the aid station and was going up trail to the hill top position. All this happened about two car lengths from us. He was killed!

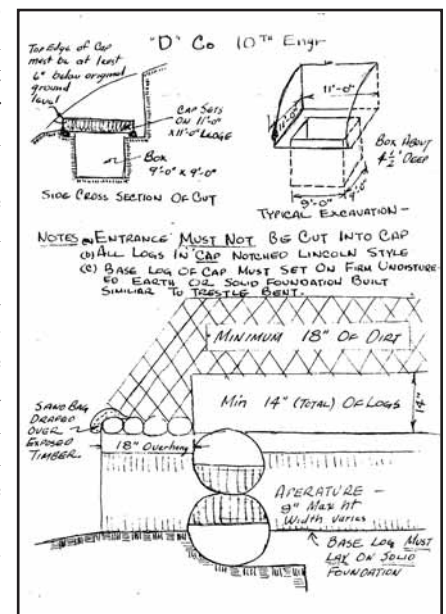
Morgan Strickland
Bakersfield, CA

◆ ◆ ◆

Alta,

This is a follow-up story to the "Editors note" on page 11 of the April 2205 "The Watch on the Rhine" regarding building defensive lines in June 1951.

I was assigned to Company D, 10th Engineer Combat Battalion in November of 1951. I was platoon leader of the 1st platoon. At that time the 3rd Division was on the Jamestown Line. Company D, and specifically my platoon, were assigned the responsibility to build a defensive position behind the Jamestown Line, that we called the Kansas Line. My platoon became a provisional company. Infantry officers from each of the regiments (mostly from the recon companies) and from 3rd Division headquarters were assigned to select the new defensive positions and lay out fields of fire.



Design of Bunker



General Cross, Commanding General, and General Newman, Assistant Division Commander, were actively involved in this project. Third Division was the first to plan for a fall back defensive position. We had a V.I.P. tent set up with a sand box model

Lt. Luke (top, left) and Lt. Wilscom (beside Luke) oversee a bunker being built by Korean service workers



LEFT: The sign announces that you have arrived at Company "D" of the 10th Engineers
BELOW: Squad tents of the 1st Platoon, Co. "D" are ready for inspection.



that was used to brief the delegations from other divisions. General Cross and General Newman were the ones who conducted these briefings for the "top brass" of the other combat divisions.

We were assigned approximately 500 Korean Service workers (KSC) to dig out and build the bunkers under the direction of my platoon troops. Our very first task was to remove mines from an area about half the size of a football field for the camp site for the KSC workers. We were literally disarming the last anti-personnel mine (US M2A3 "bouncing betty") and ready to go back over the entire area to make sure we got them all when a dozen trucks pulled up with the KSCs and before we could stop them they were over the entire area. Fortunately our efforts in removing the numerous mines were successful!

We also had a logging camp set up several miles from our site cutting and trimming logs for use in building the numerous bunkers. Several "Brockway" trucks were assigned to us to haul the logs. Based on the prototype bunker, logs were trimmed and cut to size.

The bunkers were cut into the hills to maintain as closely as possible to the original grades and slopes of the ground. It was anticipated that with some vegetation growth, they would become naturally camouflaged. (The drawing depicts our prototype bunker.) Excavation for the bunkers was started using carefully placed explosives to loosen the earth. Most of the explosives used were left over from WWII. Many of the cases of dynamite showed some leaking and required extremely careful handling.

As part of the preparation, double apron barbed wire fences (both protective and tactical) and "tangle-foot" were installed along the designated fields of fire and potential approaches as selected by the infantry officer advisors.

Locations for the mine fields were selected, but not installed. These were to be installed at the time the infantry would be relocating to the new Kansas Line. (We had enough problems taking care of the existing minefields within our division sector without adding more.)

Building the Kansas Line was a high priority project and much effort and work was expended to make it a well designed and defendable line.

For me personally, a lowly 1st Lt., having the opportunity to meet on several occasions both General Cross and General

Newman, and even attending an occasional Division briefing with Colonel Allison (Colonel Allison was Commander of the 10th Engr Combat Bn) was a pretty heady experience. I greatly respected, trusted and admired all the leadership of the Third Infantry Division.

Upon return home and to civilian life, I tried to follow the news events, but the Korean War did not have "embedded" news reporters, and was mostly not front page news. I do remember not long after my return, that a major Chinese offensive pushed back our lines and I hoped that the work we did saved lives and stopped the Chinese.

I enjoy reading *The Watch on the Rhine*. Thank you for your efforts in putting it together.

Charles A. Wilscam, Jr.
(402) 933-9945
E-mail:wilscam@cox.net

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Alta,

I am enclosing a letter just received from 3ID Society member John Miller of Lenwood, MI. I think the letter is unique and will be of more than routine interest to your readers. Trooper Miller was with me as a member of my command (L/7) at the time of our historic entry into Hitler's Bavarian Mountain retreat Berchtesgaden in the first days of May 1945. Our arrival established the 3rd Division as the first unit to arrive there, and not the otherwise famed 101st Airborne as wrongly written by the late Stephen Ambrose in his Band of Brothers.

I think Miller's account not only exciting, exhilarating and indispensably significant in and of itself, but he may well be the last veteran of that day and event so long ago that is still around to help in recording what happened in error and there are in fact members of my company or force yet surviving, perhaps the publication of his letter and my herewith description will encourage them to come forth with their own experiences and thus contribute to the documented record of those historical days.

Sherman Pratt, Lt Col (Ret),
Arlington, VA
CO, Company L, 7th Infantry
Regiment in May 1945

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Dear Sherm,

I have been meaning to write you about the WW II Magazine article in the May issue which I received in early April. You finally got through to them about Berchtesgaden and they took steps to correct it. It may never be totally corrected. I never gave it much thought how totally involved the regiment was in securing Berchtesgaden before, but it sounds like we received plenty of help even though companies C and L were given most of the credit.

The thing I remember about that day was I was on that tank that fired the round that hit the scout car on the other side of the gorge. The road was 10 to 15 feet higher on the other side with a vineyard going up the mountainside above the road. We were

going south on our side and the German scout car with trucks following loaded with troops going north on the other side of gorge. I know some of the soldiers on that side of the tank had to move for the tank operator to swing its big gun around and fire. Everything stopped with a long echo time (echoes echoing echoes). You then came back to see what was the matter and tell the tank operator to take it easy and not to fire. I remember you strolling back with your pistol holster at your side with a 10-12 inch leather string hanging from the bottom of the holster. The trucks loaded with German troops turned around and went back. Just thought you would like to know what it looked like where I was. I think our task force was still primarily made up of the group that came down from Munich to Salzburg.

Another thing that happened as we neared Berchtesgaden, we had to cross a bridge over a small stream—20 feet wide coming down from the mountain. All the other small tanks and vehicles crossed before the two heavy tanks. I was on the first heavy tank to attempt to cross the bridge. We just about made it and the bridge gave out. I jumped off the right front of the tank from where I was sitting. I was the only one who didn't get wet feet as the bridge gave way. The tank was trapped in the stream. The other heavy tank made it across farther up stream. The others all went into Berchtesgaden. After a half an hour or so a light tank came back with a heavy chain and stabilized the tank so it could climb out. Then we went into Berchtesgaden and set up for the night.

Sincerely,

Comrade John J. Miller

'Operation Hero Program'

Donated Flier Miles For Wounded Troops

Operation Hero Miles, through a partnership with several major airlines and the Fisher House Foundation, offers Americans the opportunity to donate their unused airline sky miles to wounded troops and their families for visits to medical facilities and trips home. Every flight provided comes about only because a family or individual takes the time to donate frequent flier miles to the Hero Miles Program to make sure that the nearly 3 million miles needed each week are available. The program's agreements with individual airlines only permit airline tickets for military (or DoD civilian employees) hospitalized as a result of their service in Iraq, Afghanistan, or surrounding areas, and their families.

These tickets cannot be used for R&R travel, ordinary leave, emergency leave, or other travel not related to a medical condition. Currently, participating airlines include Alaska Airlines, America West Airlines, American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, and Northwest Airlines.

For more information on the Operation Hero Miles program, including information on how to donate frequent flier miles to the program, visit the Hero Miles website at <http://www.fisherhouse.org/programs/heroMiles.shtml>.

Society member recognized by VFW

Earl L. Newman, an Indiana native, has now seen his name in print—something many of us never see during our lifetime. A VFW publication for July/August 2005 recognized Earl for his milestone 60-year membership in that organization.

The following is an excerpt from the article:

On June 6, 1941, Earl enlisted in the Army and was sent to the Engineer School at Ft. Belvoir, VA, followed by advanced training at Plattsburg, NY. Based on his 5th place in a class of 160, he was given credit for completing high school. He was then assigned to Ft. Bragg, NC, where he joined the 3rd Infantry Division, assigned to the 36th Infantry Combat Battalion, which was enroute via ship to North Africa. Arriving in October 1942, he inadvertently left his ship on a Higgins Boat (plywood) and for three days was involved in retrieving wounded and dead soldiers. After rejoining his unit and landing at Casablanca, he had a sting driving for the General in charge of Intelligence for the land forces and had the opportunity to see the Casablanca Conference (President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill, and French General De Gaulle) as well as the defeat of Rommel's armored force. He then rejoined his unit as a wireman beginning with Sicily, moving into Salerno and Naples, Italy. After that Earl stated his real combat experience began at Anzio and Mount Cassino. For 164 days the American forces withstood a German siege and suffered many losses. He was later awarded the Purple Heart for shooting down a German aircraft with an abandoned 50 calibre anti-aircraft gun. When the battle turned in 1944, his unit continued on to Rome, Corsica and to Axi on the Southern tip of France. During this period, Earl earned the Bronze Star with V device for his action in overcoming some German forces and capturing one prisoner. As a result, he was awarded the Croix de Guerre and the French Fourragere. He continued on through France into Germany and was at Berchtesgaden when the war in Europe ended. Earl participated in every campaign that the 3rd Infantry Division was involved in during WWII. He was discharged in June 1945 at Ft. Benjamin Harrison, IN, and returned to Valparaiso where he married Dorothea Roznak. In addition to the awards highlighted above, he earned the Presidential Unit Citation, the American Defense Service Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the European African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with 10 silver stars devices and arrowhead, and the Good Conduct Medal.

Earl and Dorothea raised two children (Michael and Janice) and have 2 grandchildren. Earl is a life member of the Valparaiso American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Additionally, he is a life member of the Society of the 3rd Infantry Division [FBA] and the Rhine et Donube Association. He volunteers with the State Parks and various food pantries.

We are all proud and salute the outstanding performance of duty that Comrade Earl Newman gave to our country and community.

Submitted by Ray Anderson

Editor's Note: We're proud of you, too, Earl.

Anzio Beachhead Veterans of 1944, WWII Reunion

Mark your calendar for April 5-10, 2006, and make plans now to visit Nashville, TN. Contact Clyde E. Easter, 299 Panorama Drive, Fancy Gap, VA 24328, or at (276) 728-7293.



Searching for BAR men

I was with the 3rd Inf. Div., 15th Inf. Regt., 3rd Bat. Co. I in Korea from April 1952 to March 1953. We had two BAR men in our company whose names were George Visnosky, from Cleveland and David (I think that was his first name but we called him Mosky) Moskowitz from N.Y. During a raid in the area of the Little & Big Nori outposts on the Imjin River, I heard both had received Silver Star awards. I was a commo man who missed that raid because I was attending a two-week class to learn about a new code machine at the School of Standards at Camp Casey. When I returned to the Company, I heard they were assigned to Japan with a lot of other guys from our regiment. Is there anyone who may have information regarding them?

Thanks,

Sal DiFranco
SALVDI@aol.com

Joel Olsen, MIA France

I am looking for any records or information on my father GI Joel OLSEN or OLSON who went missing in action in France in 1944 on a special scouting mission. He was stationed in West Wales, UK, in 1942-44. He came from Aurora (Chicago?) (or Michigan?). Before World War 2, he was married with a son William, but by the time the war started, he was divorced. In Wales, he met my mother whom he planned to take back to the US.

My father might have been born in 1908 in Aurora. His son William may have been born in 1936. I am also searching for my brother William. Do you have any ideas about how I could trace information on both my father and brother?

Elizabeth Price
shootgreen@hotmail.com

Norman Katzman, Radio Operator

Norman was a radio operator in WW 2. His plane was shot down over the hump in the Far East. I'm looking for his sister Natalie Katzman. I don't know if she married or not so I only know her maiden name. We all lived in Brooklyn on Union Street before the war. I have some memorabilia I would like to leave with her or a family member regarding her brother Norman. He and I were very good friends.

Thank you,

Jerry Sitner
Nycnmi@aol.com

Everett hopes to find buddies

I served with the 3rd Infantry Division, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Battalion, Service Company.

I drove a truck—number SV 22.

I would love to hear from Sgt Yomons (I'm not sure of the

spelling of his name) or another truck driver we called 'Tom Cat.'

I drove a truck that hauled ammo, gas, and other supplies.

Any information would be greatly appreciated.

Everett Prickett
PO Box 584
Idaho Springs, CO 80452
(303) 567-4416
E-mail: epco303@aol.com

OUTPOSTS from page 9

63 Fort Lewis

Tacoma, WA

Outpost 63 members and friends would appreciate your publishing this Outpost Report regarding the death CSM Morris Krepyk in the next "Watch on the Rhine". The current Outpost 63 leadership has not responded to information regarding CSM Krepyk's death.

"Morris Krepyk, secretary and guiding hand of Outpost 63 for 50 years, was laid to rest at a moving ceremony on the Fourth of July. The service was conducted by a Rabbi from Ft. Lewis and an eight-man Guard of Honor. Morris joined the New York National Guard in 1933, lying about his age during the Great Depression to earn money for his meals. He served with the Third Division throughout WWII in the European Theater and was awarded the Purple Heart. Discharged in 1945, he made his home in the Tacoma, WA, area, becoming both the Command Sergeant Major of the Washington National Guard and Fire Chief of Ft. Lewis.

In the Guard he was the Adjutant General's chief advisor on enlisted men's affairs. He cherished his Third Division associations and received many awards for his contributions, including most recently the placement of a 15th Infantry plaque at the entrance to Ft. Lewis. He was the motivating force in the development of a full-scale fire department on Anderson Island, his home of many years. The station is named for him. His wife of 64 years, Ruth, resides in an Adult Family Home.

Attending the Independence Day service were his daughter Virginia Frost, her husband, a grandson and great-grandson, and members and friends of Outpost 63. Morris leaves his immediate family, four grandchildren, three great grandchildren and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Submitted by Virginia Frost.

New "Watch" Website:
<http://www.3rdiv.org>



Letters from Joe

by **Jim Morrison**

Johan S. Opheim, commonly known as “Joe”, was inducted into the U.S. Army just before Pearl Harbor. Having grown up on the plains of Eastern Montana and having experienced the struggles of the Great Depression, and challenging family situations, he was well prepared for the hardships he endured. He served with his fellow members of the 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division in the Mediterranean theater, starting first with North Africa, then on to Sicily, then the Italian mainland and eventually on to the South of France where he was killed in action during the battle of Montelimar on August 28, 1944.

The book is available through Trafford Publishing for \$32.50. The website is <http://www.trafford.com/robots/04-0423>.

Editor’s note: Jim sent me a copy of his book. Having attempted to develop my family’s history, I am envious of the treasures he found. His family had saved 167 letters from Joe! On August 16, 1944, just 12 days before he was killed, he wrote to his sister, Tillie, and family:

We came, we saw, we are conquering. The civilians have capitulated completely and are very generous with their wine, which is quite an improvement over our usual stuff. Have filled up to my heart’s content on large luscious tomatoes. The [Italians] never could figure out why we liked them raw.

Obviously, Joe was well-educated and had a sense of humor. But there is much more. Jim fleshes out the “scenes” of the times. Everything is put in prospective.

The book is full of pictures, another wonderful blessing that would cause genealogists to turn green with envy.

Good job, Jim.

The Outdoor Kids

by **Robert S. Appel**

I was “once-upon-a-time” a Pfc 30-cal. Light-machine gunner who served with Company B, 7th Infantry Regiment, 1st Battalion on the Anzio beachhead.

My recent book is a compilation of stories (long and short) written by veterans of Company B, who annually meet for reunions and share their remembrances of combat in writing.

For WW II footslogging veterans, this is a “keepsake” of fading memories never to be forgotten. We were not the happiest “campers” literally living out-of-doors in all kinds of weather and to our parents, we were just kids. Hence the title, “The Outdoor Kids.”

The 280-page book sells for \$15.00. \$5.00 of the proceeds will be donated to Anzio Beachhead Veterans of 1944 of WWII. The remaining \$10.00 will be donated to the Alzheimer’s Association to help find a cure for the disease with thousand deaths.

If you’re interested in purchasing the book, please send your check or money order to Clyde E. Easter, 299 Panorama Drive, Fancy Gap, VA 24328, or at (276) 728-7293.

James Arness: An Autobiography

Clyde Easter recommends this book if only for its riveting chapter on Anzio. [I checked on Amazon.com and read some of the reviews posted by readers. Clyde’s recommendation must be a good one because nearly all the comments mentioned Mr. Arness’s war experience. Personally, I didn’t even know he was a veteran until Clyde told me at one of our Outpost meetings.] The book has 238 pages and Clyde quoted \$35.00.

Last active-duty water battalion inactivated at Hunter Airfield

Nancy Gould, Frontline Staff

Soldiers of the 559th Quartermaster Battalion bid farewell in a somber and historical inactivation ceremony in front of the Hunter Army Airfield Garrison Headquarters.

“It’s sad to see the 559th Quartermaster Battalion go,” said Col. John Kidd, Fort Stewart Garrison Commander, about the multi-functional water supply battalion.

“Be proud of your service and your expertise supporting natural disasters here and abroad. You’ve accomplished your mission with a job well done.”

Most of the 559th Soldiers will be reassigned to the 260th Quartermaster Battalion and some to the 87th Quartermaster at Fort Stewart, said 1st Sgt. Frank McNeill, the battalion’s water treatment noncommissioned officer in charge. McNeill said that the battalion is the last water purification battalion to go the U.S. Army Reserves.

“The colors are never far from you,” said Lt. Col. Shawn Morrissey, battalion commander, to the unit’s Soldiers. “Carry them with you.”

The history of the 559th QM Bn. began at Camp Blanding, Fla., March 12, 1943

The history of the 559th QM Bn. began at Camp Blanding, Fla., March 12, 1943.

The battalion was originally known as the 559th Quartermaster Service Battalion but after World War II, was renamed the 559th QM Bn.

It was inactivated on November 5, 1945 at Camp Lee, Va., but on June 1, 1993, allotted to the regular Army and reactivated at Hunter as the only water supply battalion in the Army.

The battalion received participation credit for numerous campaigns in WWII including, Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland and Central Europe.

The battalion was called upon again in 2001, to deploy to Pakistan and Qatar for Operation Enduring Freedom, where the unit provided theater-wide logistical support for the Global War on Terrorism. Most recently, the battalion deployed to participate in Operation Iraqi Freedom III.

In The Spotlight



Lous Vann

I was a Corporal in the Medical Detachment, Third Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, Third Infantry Division in 1943-1944. On September 15, 1943, I joined the 7th Regiment near Palermo, Sicily, as one of a mass draft of men from the U.S. 9th ID. During the battle for Sicily, I served in the 39th Infantry Regiment of that division. The 9th ID was to stay in Sicily for a while, then move back to England and get ready for Normandy in 1944. On September 20, 1943, the 7th Regiment landed on the beach south of Salerno, Italy. There, I was given a litter squad and attached to Company L. We had a 60-day fighting march northward through the mountains and waded chest-deep across the swift, icy Voltarno River.

The next year, I was assigned as a rifle platoon medic attached to Company I in France. On Thanksgiving morning, November 23, 1944, we surprised the Germans with our attack and captured the town of Saales in the Vosges Mountains. During the battle a shell landed and exploded just a few feet from me. Three or four of my I Company men were killed next to me and I was seriously wounded. After the smoke cleared a medic came by to help me. He was a good friend named William Lewallen, T/4. Unfortunately, Bill became the last Cottonbaler to die (14 June 1945) from WWII combat; perhaps the last such in the Third Division. I spent 11 months in hospitals and made a good recovery.



Cpl Vann exits his shelter/sleeping hole outside the wall of the Aid Station.

Would anyone think that I had deserted to the Nazis even though that would be nuts for a Jewish guy?

This period has left many memories, the bulk of them best forgotten. A few good ones remain, such as any time I was relieved from the frontline by another outfit, or got to spend a little time with my older brother, Benjamin, an MP in the Naples area. However, there are many, many, many unhappy memories of being cold, hot, wet, hungry, lonely, homesick, seasick, exhausted, and scared.

But the worst feeling I ever had in service was that of complete helplessness, about half a year before the injury that sent me home. This occurred on Anzio on the night of February 29/March 1, 1944.

At dawn of February 29, the Germans put down a heavy artillery barrage that lasted all day, the start of a 5-day attack to break through the Third Division. In over four months of front line duty up to then, I had never heard so much incoming German artillery. I stayed in my shel-

ter/sleeping hole that was outside and under the wall of the Third Battalion, 7th Infantry Medical Aid State—a simple barn. I was in my hole that afternoon when a German shell exploded on an overhang of the barn roofing directly over the hole. Everything went black and I thought I was buried, but when the smoke and dust and debris cleared, I was OK, except all my equipment was hit. Thank heaven for that piece of roof.

Casualties were high that day and after dark I led my litter squad up to the line to pick up and bring back a wounded soldier. About midnight we went up again for another man and brought him to safety. On this return trip we had an extra hand for the litter—a German POW whom we handed over to battalion MPs. Then back in our holes for some sleep that did not last long. The duty sergeant was outside my sleeping hole saying, “Hey, Vann, get up! Go to Company L CP to pick up a man.”

I quickly gathered my three men and, armed only with collapsed litter, started forward. It was cold, raining hard, very muddy, and pitch black, except for occasional parachute flares and artillery blasts which slowed us down more. Suddenly, I found myself walking on nothing. I thought I had again stepped into someone’s foxhole. This had happened just 10 minutes earlier and the sleeping soldier was not happy. After an exchange of curses and the password of the night, he let me continue unharmed.

This time, however, I kept going straight down and landed with a splash in about a foot of water. I was dazed but unhurt and lucky it was only a foot of water. The first thing I did was grope around in the water for my helmet and put it on; an infantryman feels so much safe wearing a helmet. Then I realized that I was at the bottom of a well about 15 feet deep. It was some 5 feet in diameter and composed of slick, smooth stones, and even darker inside than the sky above.

I called out, not too loudly, wary of possible enemy nearby, but there was no

Continued on page 24



Cpl Vann stands in the entrance (facing away from the front line) of the Third Battalion Medical Aid Station — a barn



Roll Call

New Members — Society of the 3rd Infantry Division

Life Members

6544 LEWIS B. CHENEY OP35
700E NAPLES CT BLDG A, UNIT 700
CHULA VISTA, CA 91911-6821
Referred by Joe and Lynn Ball

6543 JAMES D. HENSLEY OP60
15INF/39FA KOREA 1SGT
1114 BROOKWOOD DR
AUGUSTA, GA 30909-2306
Referred by LTC Ben Yarbrough

6555 MERTON H. JILLSON OP11
15INF/G WW2 SGT
17 SIMS ST
NASHUA, NH 03063-2522
Referred by Rich Heller Website Invite
(Originally Joined in 1945)

6549 JAMES J. LEATHEM SR. OP5
DIV/9FA WW2 CPL
16 SYCAWAY AVE
TROY, NY 12180-2729
Referred by Alfred D'Arco

Annual To Life Members

6085 D. G. ALTORAN-MONTIJO OP2
65INF/HQ KOREA CPL
223 AJAX DR NW
FORT WALTON BEACH, FL 32548-3801

5298 DANIEL J. CARSON FBA
DIV/SIG KOREA 1LT
46-1060 EMPELA WAY
KANEHOE, HI 96744-3979

2800 JOHN SD EISENHOWER OP7
15INF/HQ KOREA MAJ
27318 MORRIS RD
TRAPPE, MD 21673-1915

2998 CURTIS GENTRY OP15
10ENG/D PT E4
12025 N 61ST DR
GLENDALE, AZ 85304-2538

7114 JONATHAN M. HANCOX OP5
DIV/HQ CW 1LT
413 MONMOUTH AVE
BRADLEY BEACH, NJ 07720-1148

7152 DAVID L. HOUSTON OP35
123SIG/B CW SGT
4021 MARY RIDGE LN.
ST. CHARLES, MO 63304-2827

4084 BURNELL J. NISSEN OP57
15INF/G WW2
3008 HINDE AVE
SANDUSKY, OH 44870-5916

4853 EDWARD J. PENROSE OP5
15INF/HQ/F KOREA SGT

22 STOTHARD DR
HILTON, NY 14468-9381

7107 CHARLES W. PHALLEN OP601
601TD/A WW2 TSGT
39 BAYLIS ST
OSWEGO, NY 13126-1753

4563 ROBERT D. SEVERANCE OPMA
DIV/DISCOM HQ CW CSM
85060 HARTS RD
YULEE, FL 32097-5576

Annual Members

6553 REID S. ANDERSON OP54
DIV/HQ/15INF/SIG/525MI/447SIG
WW2 SFC
905 SYCAMORE LN
WOODLAND, CA 95695-4436
Referred by Rich Heller Website Invite

6518 DONALD R. BOYCE OP63
DIV/ARTY 3AVN/CO HH/BTRY CW LTC
2756 MARYLAND ST
LONGVIEW, WA 98632-3559
Referred by Rich Heller

6517 JOHN P. BUCHMAN OP5
10FA/1BN/A CW SGT
234 HILLCREST DR
DOYLESTOWN, PA 18901-3315
Referred by Website Invitation

6556 JOHN L. FITZPATRICK OP2
DIV/3/51 CW SGT
111 NORTH L ST
LAKE WORTH, FL 33460-3446
Referred by Jack Silberman

6541 CLARENCE L. GOEKLER JR. OP54
15THINF/B WW2 PFC
15245 REESE RD
CHICO, CA 95973-9451
Referred by Dick Guimond

6533 LARRY D. GORMLEY OP5845
15INF/1BN/2BDE GW SSGT
CMR 475 BOX 1085
APO, AE 09036
Referred by Monika Stoy

6550 BARRY L. HILLYER OP57
1/76FA CW PFC
6906 WARDELL HOLLOW RD SE
URICKSVILLE, OH 44663
Referred by Website Invitation

6528 EMIL A. KUNTZ OP33
15INF/ KOREA SGT
23080 HAMBURG RD
OLDENBURG, IN 47036-9752
Referred by Dick Guimond

6557 JULIAN M. MARCHANT OP3
15INF/K WW2 CPT

245 BERRY TREE LN
COLUMBIA, SC 29223-7448
Referred by Henry Burke

6546 DUSTIN V. RADEMACHER OPMA
1/75/RANGER OIF3 SGT
COMPANY B, 1-75TH RANGER REGIMENT
HUNTER ARMY AIRFIELD, GA 31409
Distinguished Graduate of the Primary
Leadership Development 08-05/ Jerry
Cunningham

6524 ALLEN B. SCHONBERG OP35
7INF/1 DIV/HQ GW SPC
1410 WINROCK BLVD APT 32-202
HOUSTON, TX 77057-1742
Referred by Website Invitation

6552 JAMES D. SIMMONS OPMA
DIV/3BDE 7INF/4 GW SGT
1311 BARNARD DR
RICHMOND, VA 23229-5307
Referred by Vicki Hester-3ID Museum, Ft
Stewart

6548 TIMOTHY R. STOY OP5845
DIV/HQ 15INF/2 15IN/1 PT MAJ
950TH TC UNIT 22419 GAFSC
APO, AE 09069
Granted an Annual Membership with dues
paid for two years, by the Executive
Committee for outstanding Recruiting results

6519 THOMAS T. TAHARA FBA
7INF/HQ/2BN KOREA SGT
949 HAHAIONE ST
HONOLULU, HI 96825-1038
Referred by Ramon Agbayani

6514 JOSEPH V. TOMASZEWSKI OP5
4INF/1BN CW SP4
27 GREENTREE DR S
HYDE PARK, NY 12538-2129
Referred by Website Invitation

6527 DAVID J. VANDEVENTER OP17
DIV/HQ CW SP4
1804 HIGHWAY 18
ALGONA, IA 50511-7164
Referred by Website Invitation

6545 HERMAN L. WERNDLI OP3
7INF/I KOREA TSGT
6809 ROBIN DR
CHATTANOOGA, TN 37421-1752
Referred by Website Invitation

6525 DAVID A. WOOD FBA
DIV/1RAIDER/BDE PT COL
25731 DENAINA DR
EAGLE RIVER, AK 99577-9102
Referred by Dick Guimond

6535 DANA C. WYATT OP5845
DIV/103MI/BN PT SSGT

CMR 475 BOX 526
 APO, AE 09036
 Referred by Monika Stoy

Associate Life Members

6532 MICHELE BIASUTTI OP5845
 ITALIAN ARMY LTC
 VIA BELFIORE 16
 BASSANOD , DG 36061 ITALY
 Referred by Monika Stoy
 6537 BETTY JO CRAIG OP35
 3733 HUNTERS GLN
 CIBOLO, TX 78108-2216
 6554 LLOYD D. ELLIS OP35
 13018 HEIMER RD APT 1003
 SAN ANTONIO, TX 78216-2069
 Referred by Rich Heller(Father served
 in WWI with 3ID)

Associate Annual Members

6542 ALEX P. ALRIKAS OP2
 19154 62ND PL
 LIVE OAK, FL 32060-7808
 Referred by Dennis Noes
 6522 DANIEL ALTORAN FBA
 URB.HNAS DAVILA, CALLE 5 F-9
 BAYAMON, PR 00959
 Referred by Frank Kane
 6521 MILDRED ALTORAN FBA
 PO BOX 190207
 SAN JUAN, PR 00919-0207
 Referred by Frank Kane
 6523 NOEL ALTORAN OP35
 6741 BUENOS AIRES DR APT 2047
 NORTH RICHLAND HILLS, TX 76180-6518
 Referred by Frank Kane
 6520 EDUARDO ALTORAN-MUNDO OP7
 301ST SIG CO OIF SGT
 666 YORKTOWN DR APT D
 FORT LEE, VA 23801-1427
 Referred by Frank Kane
 6540 DORIS CRAIG OP2
 11230 DOLLAR LAKE DR Unit 5
 PORT RICHEY, FL 34668-1905
 Referred by Robert J. Craig
 6516 ALBRECHT ENGLERT OP5845
 HQ German 19th Army WW2
 HAMMELSGASSE 38
 WERTHEIM/MAIN, 97877 GERMANY
 Referred by Al Brown as a surprise
 birthday gift
 6551 JOSEPH J. HAYEK OP88
 1ST CAV CW CPT
 3311 OXCART CT
 CASPER, WY 82604-5414
 Referred by Website and wants to
 support 3ID

6530 ANGELICA JOLLY OP57
 270 RIDGE TOP CIR
 DOYLESTOWN, OH 44230-1720
 Referred by James A. Jolly Jr.
 6547 KEVIN J. KANE OP2
 3776 ALABAMA AVE UNIT C109
 SAN DIEGO, CA 92104-3359
 Referred by Frank Kane
 6534 EBERHARD K. NICKEL OP5845
 GERMAN ARMY LTC
 STAUSTUFE 30
 THUENGENSHEIM, 97291 GERMANY
 Referred by Monika Stoy
 6539 DONALD P. O'GRADY OP2
 82ABN-1/75 RANGERS GW SFC
 122 HARBORD RD
 FT. LEAVENSWORTH, KS 66027-1229
 Referred by Frank Kane
 6538 JO ANN R. O'GRADY OP2
 1603 CLEVELAND AVE
 PALATKA , FL 32177-5905
 Referred by Frank Kane

6526 ROBERT RIZK OP5
 88 JF KENNEDY DR
 MILLTOWN, NJ 08850-1711
 6529 THOMAS J. TIEZZI OP2
 83 COLONIAL DR
 WETHERSFIELD, CT 06109-2517
 Referred by Jim Tiezzi
 6531 GABRIELE E. TORONY OP5845
 3RD ID MUSEUM CURATOR, GERMANY
 CMR 475 BOX 425
 APO, AE 09036
 Referred by Monika Stoy
 6515 DAVID A. ZUCCHINO OP7
 Embedded Journalist HHQ/2BCT OIF1-3
 1404 BYRD DR
 BERWYN, PA 19312-1910
 Referred by LTC Mike Birmingham

2006 Battlefield Tour to Italy

For our 62nd anniversary, we are planning our tour in conjunction with the return of the USS Anzio (CG 68). Contact Clyde E. Easter, 299 Panorama Drive, Fancy Gap, VA 24328, or at (276) 728-7293.

Money Down Drain

The Society paid \$170 last year in postal returns of the *Watch*. If my math is correct, that means 243 copies of the *Watch* were returned due to a bad address. That's just money down the drain.

"Snow Birds" in particular are reminded to give us their new address upon moving south.

Members who move, even if it's across the street, are urged to notify their respective Outpost secretary *and* our database manager Rich Heller at 1 (630) 837-8871 or rheller@warfoto.com. I suggest that a notice similar to this be included in OP newsletters and reinforced during meetings.

*Ray Anderson
 National Secretary/Treasurer*

SNOWBIRDS

If your have two addresses during the year, we need to know them. Please give us the dates and addresses for both households.

Name: _____ Outpost # _____

Email address: _____

1. **Winter Address** _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Dates: _____ Tel: _____

2. **Summer Address:**

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Dates: _____ Tel: _____

SPOTLIGHT from page 21

answer. For safety reasons we did not walk in close formation. I soon became aware there was no way I could get out of the well by myself. This triggered a series of terrible scenarios in my mind. Would I starve to death? Would my body ever be found? Would I be reported MIA even though there was no enemy action in the immediate vicinity? Would anyone think that I had deserted to the Nazis even though that would be nuts for a Jewish guy? Would a passing German patrol see me and deliver a live grenade? Would this morning's German attack reach me and would they be shoot me like a fish in a bowl? Would my new wife, my parents and other family ever know what happened to me? And what about my mission? I was responsible for three men and our casualty, and I was failing them. Maybe they would find a POW to carry the fourth handle in my stead. Just a few of many disturbing thoughts that rushed into my head.

After what seemed like an interminable time but was less than an hour, I heard a whispered voice above, "Hey, Vann. Hey Vann." I quietly called up and directed one of my squad to the edge of the well cautioning him about the drop. He called over the other two men to help. It seems that they had not soon or heard my fall and continued to the company CP where they waited for me to show up. There, they checked to see that our patient was stable

and, after a reasonable wait, decided to search of me. They left the CP and spread out within whisper distance of each other and started to backtrack.

After I was located, the three men looked around the well area and found a wooden plank, about 6 feet long, and dropped it to me. I wedged it against a well of the well and attempted to climb it, but no go. The plank was far too short and soon became very slippery. I made a number of attempts to climb it but failed. Next the crew scrounged around more and found a length of commo wire. Using that to haul me out also failed. Several times German shells landed nearby and the men had to take cover. That was really miserable for me and dashed my hopes of rescue. Dawn was coming soon and we all had to be out of that area before daylight and a renewed German attack.

Finally, two of my men went back to the company CP to seek help and get equipment; the third man remained to reassure me and to guide the others back. After a while they returned carrying our collapsed litter along with two extra men from the CP. They stretched out on the ground and lowered one end of the litter, that was about eight feet long, holding on to the upper handles; the spare men held on to the litter holders to keep them from falling in.

With a final effort to climb the slick plank, I was able to get a hand on one lit-

ter handle and then to lock my fingers farther up around the curved metal foot-rest of the litter: and then to grab on with the other hand. The men lifted straight up, then two of them grabbed me under the arms and hoisted me over the top.

With no time to waste, we all ran back, with the life-saving litter, to the company CP, loaded our patient on the litter, and started back to the Aid Station, but it was hell. MG tracers and a "screaming meemie" barrage landed around us. We all had to take shelter in a CP dugout until things quieted. Luckily (for him) our patient was only semi-conscious. We struggled back to the Aid Station, turned our patient over to the 3rd Battalion surgeons, Captains Minerva and Mustain. Finally we found our way back to our holes for much-needed rest.

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to those unknown heroes who pulled me out of the well that cold February night, and also to all those Army medical people, who helped me after November 23, 1944, to get well and on my feet again.

Louis Vann

1721 Columbus Boulevard
Coral Gables, FL 33414-3535
(305) 567-2489

Editor's Note: Thank you, Louis, for sharing this wonderful example of the motto Leave No One Behind. I'm glad to know it was practiced then as it is today. Photos were taken on Anzio in March 1944.

An Invitation

Outpost 1 is planning an **Excursion Picnic to the Korean War Memorial Museum and Library in Rantoul, Illinois** (Southwest of Chicago at the old Chanute Air Field) soon. We invite our neighboring Midwest Region Outposts, OP12, OP18, OP17, OP33 and anyone else to join us in visiting this new Museum. Secretary Gordon Lowery of OP1 is finalizing details and up-to-date announcements will be put on the Society's Website on the Outpost News Page at <http://www.warfoto.com/3rdsocietyoutpostnews.htm> as they are completed. For further information, contact Gordon at gblowery@comcast.net or phone him at 1-815-498-1547.

MOVING??

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, 1515 Ramblewood Dr., Hanover Park, IL 60133-2230**. 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

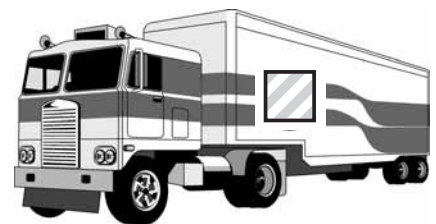
Change

Delete

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



Chuck Trout

Another year is quickly passing by! By the time you read this article there will only be a few months remaining in 2005. Like any other publication, articles must be sent into Alta Milling, the Editor of "The Watch on the Rhine" far enough in advance so she can perform her magic and produce another newspaper. [Thanks for the plug, Chaplain!] I mention this because we, so many times, take things for granted. I know I do! I get up in the morning, and without thinking, go out to the front yard and pick up the morning newspaper. For years, I would go to reunions and look forward to the meals and entertainment. I love the many freedoms we enjoy in this great country. But, all of these things are the result of sacrifices made by others.

As I write this article (by the way, today is August 19th), I decided to take a few minutes, slow down, and say a prayer for all of the people working so hard in San Diego getting ready for the 86th Annual Reunion of the Society of the 3rd Infantry Division. For the Officers and Staff of The Society, as they give freely of their time and talents, so many times behind the scenes, to make the Society a better organization.

I mentioned today's date, because today, I received from Jim Tiezzi, the President of the Society of the 3rd Infantry Division, the list of active duty soldiers who died during the last year in Iraq. There are 125 members of the 3rd Division on that list. By the time you read this, the reunion will be over, and only those who attended the Memorial service, held during the reunion, would have heard us honoring these brave soldiers.

I wonder how many people take their freedoms for granted. When we read the commentary pages of our local newspaper, we notice that the civilian population refer to the military as "our young men and women". Some how, our brave soldiers are "their young men and women" when they want to make a point.

But might they also be taking something for granted?

God Bless you and may God continue to bless America.

Each November we celebrate Veteran's

Day. You who are reading this know the meaning of the word "Veteran." But some of our young people may not. They have been bombarded by the mass media that call anyone who has been in an occupation for a number of years a "veteran." We have veteran sports figures and even veterans of the music industry. I agree with the Dictionary that defines a veteran as "a former member of the armed forces."

Being a veteran is not only about having done one's duty, it is also characterized by a sense of patriotism. A sense of service to others, even if it is not always appreciated. And above all else, it's about a bond that can be freely understood only by those who have experienced life in a military family.

A veteran is the first person up as the flag passes by, and the last one down, for the veteran has been a witness to the blood and tears that make all other parades possible. A veteran is both proud and humble; proud of the fact that in 200 years no foreign occupation enemy has set foot on American soil; and humble in the realization that many of his comrades who made this historical fact a reality; never returned.

Above all else, "a veteran is an American." Men and women, no matter where we served, when we served, or what branch of service we served in, we have earned the honor of being called a "veteran."

This Veteran's Day, as in previous years, is not about department store sales, or just the parades, but about our history as a great nation and to celebrate "YOUR" involvement in making this the greatest country that God has ever blessed.

It is the veteran, who salutes the flag, who served under the flag, whose coffin is draped by the flag, who, with great restraint, allows the protester to burn the flag.

Let us remind our own family members, friends and neighbors that while many are called "veteran this and veteran that" there is only one true veteran: someone who is, or has worn a military uniform of the United States.

God bless you all, Mr. and Ms. Veteran,
Your chaplain,

Chuck Trout

Army Creates Mentorship Websites

The new Army Mentorship Community and Army Mentorship Resource Center websites are now operational and available to those with Army Knowledge Online (AKO) access.

As part of the new mentorship philosophy, "Leaving a Legacy Through Mentorship," the sites are designed to help bring mentors and mentees together. All Active Component Soldiers, Reserve Component Soldiers, Department of Army Civilians, Spouses, Retirees, Veterans, and Contractors, who are authorized AKO access, are encouraged to participate in the program.

Each forum offers the opportunity for open dialogue between voluntary mentors and those seeking advice, guidance, and mentorship

Within the Army Mentorship Community, there are multiple tailored mentorship forums. Each forum offers the opportunity for open dialogue between voluntary mentors and those seeking advice, guidance, and mentorship. In these forums, open discussions are highly encouraged in order to help others develop and grow personally and professionally.

The Army Mentorship Resource Center offers valuable information for both mentors and mentees including related articles, a mentorship handbook, a sample Individual Development Action Plan, and a searchable mentorship profile server for mentors.

Submitted by Martin Markley

Alive and Well

The new 15th Infantry Regiment Association's Website is up and running. The new site is located at www.15thInfantry.org.

Webmaster Michael Horn invites you to review the new site and provide him with feedback. There is a Guest Book link on the left navigation bar located at the bottom of the main page.

Michael J. Horn
(770) 485-2185 Office
(678) 581-0392 Home
mhorn1833@comcast.net



Last Call

All of us in the Society of the Third Infantry Division, U.S. Army, extend our sincere sympathy to the families and friends of those listed below. May they rest in peace.

In Memoriam

LIFE MEMBERS

BASSETT, Wallace R. OP 5

CPL 7INF WW 2
85 Bassett Road
North Haven, CT 06473-1915
DOD: July 16, 2005

Reported by Joe Poggi

Joe reported that Wallace was the OP 5 Chaplain for over 20 years. He and his wife Helen attended all meetings and reunions. He was also Chaplain for his American Legion Post. He was a strong supporter of the Chapel of the Four Chaplains in Valley Forge, PA.

BOYCE, Beryl L. OP 63

COL 9th FA WW 2
2756 Maryland St.
Longview, WA 98632-3559
DOD: November 18, 2004

Reported by his son Donald who is also a member of OP 63.

Donald wrote that his father served with the Division beginning at Ft. Lewis, WA, as a 2nd LT in the artillery till the war's end in Munich, Germany, having attained the rank of major. He commanded B Battery, 39th FA Bn and with the 9th FA in various positions. [Donald (LTC, Ret.) the Third in Kitzingen, Germany, from 15 July 63 to November 1964 with Hqs Btry 3rd ID Arty as the Aviation Section Commander.] Both father and son had/have pride in the Division's continued outstanding service in the Middle East. Two of COL Boyce's grandsons, Donald's sons, continue the family tradition of serving their country—one is on the way to Iraq (a LTC, USAR) and the other served on active duty for 1 ½ years as a major in the ANG.

CRAIG, Clayton C. OP 35

LTC 15INF & 65INF WW 2 & Korea
3733 Hunters Glen
Cibolo, TX 78108-2216
DOD: July 2005

Reported by his wife Betty Jo to John Ethen and Joe Ball

YOUNG, Richard T. OP 22

MAJ 7INF/HQ WW 2
23116 Port Antonio Way
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677-7942
DOD: August 13, 2005

Reported by Bill Rosensteel
At the beginning of WW 2, he joined the

Army as a 1st LT. He fought with the 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Division in Africa, Sicily, Italy, France, Germany, and Austria, rising to the rank of Major and earning a Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster and Legion of Merit, among other medals. He practiced law from 1946 until his 1985 retirement.

ANNUAL MEMBERS

BRAY, George W. OP 2

CPL DIV/MP Korea
820 Patrica Ave., Apt 107
Dunedin, FL 34698-6056
DOD: May 27, 2005

Reported by his wife Betty to Frank Kane

BROOKS, Don L. OP 35

SGTM 7INF/HQ Korea
946 Redway Lane
Houston, TX 77062-4306
DOD: Unknown

Reported by Lynn Ball

BUSCH, Eugene R. (Rick) OP 57

SGT PT 76FA/1
808 Ryan Rd., Apt. 14
Medina, OH 44256-2252
DOD: May 24, 2004

Reported by his wife Joanne
Joanne made a donation to the Society in memory of her husband.

Joanne relates that at age 52 Rick had a fatal heart attack and is buried at the Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery in Rittman, Ohio. *[When I spoke to Joanne, she told me Rick enjoyed even the smallest things in life. When he saw a penny on the sidewalk or anywhere, he'd pick it up and give it to her. He'd recite the rhyme "See a penny, pick it up, and all day long you'll have good luck." Now when she sees a penny, she thinks of it as a message from Rick. What a great way remember a loved one.—Alta]*

DURKIN, John T. OP 33

SGT 30INF/K WW2
2101 S. Garfield Ave., Apt 307
Fort Collins, CO 80524-3740
DOD: July 13, 2005

Reported by his daughter Susanne Durkin-Schindler and Curtis Halvorson
According to the obituary Curtis provided, John served honorably in the U.S. Army during WW II with Company K, 30th Infantry of the Third [Infantry] Division. He was a

Ranger and squad leader who saw combat in the European and North African theaters. He was a survivor of the landing at Anzio Beachhead. He was decorated with the French Croix de Guerre with Palm; the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster; and the Silver Star. He never forgot his comrades in arms and participated in annual reunions of the Third Infantry Division. Curtis wrote that John is buried in the Fort Logan Cemetery in Denver, CO.

GARZIA, John R. OP 2

SFC 15INF/G Korea
1514 Pine Tree Drive
Edgewater, FL 32132-2508
DOD: July 17, 2005

Reported by his wife Alice to Frank Kane

HAVEY, John P. OP15

2143 W. Earll Dr.
Phoenix, AZ 85015-6045
COL 703 ORD KOREA
DOD: June 14, 2005

Reported by his daughter Anna Marrs

HENRY, Emmett W. OP 17

T4 15INF/CN WW 2
308 Dover St., Apt. 235
Kingsley, IA 51028-5026
DOD: July 25, 2005

Reported on returned Dues Card

HIBBING, Harold H. OP 12

41FA/HQ WW 2
102 13th Avenue SE
Rochester, MN 55904-4720
DOD: July 23, 2005

Reported by Jerry Manley

LORENZ, Donald S. OP 15

SSGT 10FA/A WW 2
4256 Granadilla Drive
Moorpark, CA 93021-2138
DOD: July 2, 2005

Reported by his daughter Holly Lorenz
On the WWII Memorial registry, Holly placed the following information: enlisted on February 15, 1941, at Ft Snelling, MN. On December 7, 1941, he was stationed at Ft Ord, CA, where he was assigned to the Boat Detachment as a coxswain and worked with the first Higgins Boats and Tank Lighters. He saw action Algeria, French Morocco, Tunisia, Sicily, Maples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, Southern France, Rhineland, and Central Europe. A memorable event was serving with the first unit to reach Hitler's hideout in

Berchtesgaden, Germany. He was awarded the Croix de Guerre with Palm, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with one Silver Star, three Bronze Service stars and Bronze Service Arrowhead, Distinguished Unit Badge, Good Conduct Medal, Expert Gunner, Purple Heart, and the American Defense Service Medal.

LOSCHIAVO, Albert C. OP 2

2LT 7INF/M Korea
2415 Laurelwood Drive
Clearwater, FL 33763-1520
DOD: August 21, 2005

Reported by his wife Carole to Frank Cane

OGDEN, George E. OP 63

CPL 15INF/H Korea
400 SW Park St.
Grants Pass, OR 97527-5442
DOD: July 5, 2005

Reported by Shirley Ogden

Mrs. Ogden reported that he was buried at Eagle Point Veterans Cemetery.

POINSETT, Edgar H. OP 5

LTC 7INF/G WW 2
162 Kendall Road
Kendall Park, NJ 08824-1306
DOD: July 12, 2005

Reported by: John Stavola

He was sent to Africa and joined the 3rd ID there. He remained with the Division until the end of war having served in Italy, France, Germany and Austria. He participated in the amphibious landing in southern France. He was awarded the Silver Star, the Bronze Star with one Oak Leaf Cluster and the Indian Arrowhead for the amphibious landing, and the Combat Infantry Badge having participated in six combat campaigns with the 3rd Infantry Division. He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

PUGLIA, Robert K. OP 54

SFC 65INF/HVMTR Korea
4741 Chancery Way
Carmichael, CA 95608-6255
DOD: Unknown

Reported by John Shirley

THELEN, Alphonse A. OP 12

SSGT 10FA/HQ WW 2
3656 Mount Vernon Lane
Woodbury, MN 55129-9382
DOD: August 5, 2004

Reported by his son to Jerry Manley

WHITAKER, William G. OP 3

PFC 15INF/I WW 2
1617 Atlanta Drive
Lexington, KY 40505-2505
DOD: March 2, 2005

Reported by his wife Jonelle

Jonelle wrote that her husband served from Rome through the Rhineland and Central Europe. He fought a gallant fight, but this was one adversary he could not conquer (congestive heart failure and diabetes).

NON-MEMBERS

KOLESKE, Pat

Wife of Ed Koleske, OP 18
1606 N. Edgewood Ave.
Appleton, WI 54914-2439
DOD: July 2, 2005

Reported by Jerry Daddato

WILDASIN, Raymond C.

SGT 7INF WW 2
Davenport, IA
DOD: August 4, 2005

Reported by Jim Drury

He was awarded the Purple Heart and

Bronze Star.

He married Dolores Edna Shaffer on May 17, 1940. Survivors include his wife, Dolores, daughter and son, four grandchildren, three great-grandchildren; and a sister, Darlene Vance.

WIRTZ, Genevieve H.

wife of Louis Wirtz, OP 13
1135 W. Dale
Muskegon, MI 49441
DOD: June 10, 2005

Reported by granddaughter, Lori Rypstra.

Lori said that Gen and Louis were married 58 years and loved attending 3rd Division reunions together.

Morris Krepky CSM, Div HQ, WWII ♦♦ DOD: May 17, 2005

“May the soul of our dear departed one be bound in the bond of life.”

The military was Morris's life and he was a Heart & Soul member of the 3rd earning many awards for his activities over the 50 years of being secretary of OP 63.

He joined the New York Army National Guard in 1933 by lying about his age during the Great Depression, his main motivation being three meals a day. He went on to serve in the U.S. Army Third Infantry Division and was awarded the Purple Heart during combat of three years in the European Theater of World War II. He was discharged in 1945 and returned to make his home in the Tacoma area. Morris continued a long association with his cherished Third Division buddies.

Morris retired as Fire Chief of Ft. Lewis and Command Sergeant Major of the Washington State National Guard, as the Adjutant General's chief advisor on enlisted men's affairs.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Ruth who resides in an Adult Family Home in Lacey, Washington, due to advanced Dementia; daughter Virginia Frost (John O'Hern) of Olympia, Washington; son David (Cindy) of Carnation, Washington; four grandchildren, Ken of Everett, Washington, David (Laurel) of Tempe, Arizona, Morgan and Matthew of Carnation, Washington; three great-grandchildren, Joseph, Destiny and Leo; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins; also his loving companion, Jean Welch of Graham who tended faithfully to his care in his final years.

Taps was played for Morris at his Military burial ceremony where his ashes were placed on Anderson Island, WA, the morning of Independence Day, July 4th, 2005.

Virginia Frost (daughter of Morris Krepky)

.....
Morris served with me at Division Headquarters. When supplies and other things were needed, like a good soldier he was a wonderful procurer.

Morris remained my friend until his passing. We kept in touch with each other.

He served the Society as Secretary-Treasurer of Outpost 63 and as part of the annual Memorial Service Team.

His loss is a great one both personally and to the Society.

I will remember Morris in my prayers. God Bless him.

Sincerely,

Jerome (Jerry) Sapiro, OP 54



New National Cemetery Set to Open

Veterans and family members in western Pennsylvania and northern West Virginia now have the option of burial in the new National Cemetery of the Alleghenies, the Honorable R. James Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, announced. A five-acre section permitting about 3,700 burial spaces will be opened to allow burials to begin even before the cemetery's construction is completed. A construction contract to develop a total of 80 acres for approximately 19,000 burial sites will be awarded this fall. VA expects to complete that project in 2007. The 292-acre site is in Washington County, about 12 miles south of Pittsburgh. The cemetery is expected to serve veterans in 16 counties of western Pennsylvania and three in northern West Virginia. About 323,000 veterans live within 75 miles of the site.

When construction of the cemetery's initial phase is completed in 2007, the site will include an administration and maintenance complex, three committal service shelters, a public information center with electronic gravesite locator and restrooms, a flag assembly area and a memorial walkway and donations area. Burial space will include 15,000 gravesites, a columbarium to hold 3,000 cremation remains and 1,250 in-ground cremation burial sites. Information on VA burial benefits can be obtained from national cemetery offices, from a VA Website or by calling VA regional offices toll-free at 1-800-827-1000. Information on the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies can be obtained by calling 724-746-4363. For more on burial benefits and regulations, also see Death & Burial Benefits.

VA Reviewing Approved Stress Claims

VA is taking a new look at the claims of about one-third of the military veterans who now receive disability payments for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The Veterans Affairs Department will begin a yearlong review next month of 72,000 cases after an internal study found inconsistencies in the way the claims were decided, including many cases approved though they lacked required medical evidence. Millions of dollars a year could be involved. The review will cover veterans whose claims were approved between 1999 and 2004 and who receive full disability benefits for PTSD alone or in combination with other conditions.

Editor's Note: The "internal study" was their own IG inspection, and we all remember those. The VA's OIG issued their report entitled Review of State Variances in VA Disability Compensation Payments. From a memo from the Vietnam Veterans of America, Len Selfon (VVA's director of Veterans Benefits) wrote that "...the OIG reviewed 2,100 'randomly selected' awards of VA disability compensation for PTSD from seven VA regional offices and concluded that approximately 527 (25%) of the evidentiary records in these cases did not document an in-service stressor to the VA's satisfaction. [A stressor is an event or experience that is fundamentally outside of the range of usual human experience and is so traumatic in nature

that the individual subsequently develops a delayed psychological reaction known as PTSD.

For veterans who served in combat, the VA is legally required to accept their word as evidence that a combat-related stressor actually occurred. However, for veterans who have no documentary evidence that they served in combat, the VA requires that a claimed stressor be proven through documentation. Without documentation of the claimed stressor's occurrence during service, the VA can legally deny a claim for service connection for PTSD.] The OIG attributed this to the 'subjectivity' involved in adjudicating PTSD claims. This is essentially a euphemism for inconsistent decision-making practices on the part of VA adjudicators due to inadequate training and supervision." At the VVA's national convention, attendees were briefed on this issue.

One interesting point regarding the "State Variances" was that when VVA representatives asked why the adjudicators weren't using the manual published by the VA to spells out the connections between the level of disability and the level of compensation, who ever they asked this question said "What manual?" Now that's bad!

VA Gives \$1 Million for Veterans Home

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) awarded a \$1 million grant last week for improvements to the state veterans home in LaSalle, Ill. The \$1,048,639 grant will pay up to 65 percent of the cost to construct a new storage facility at the state veterans home in LaSalle. Overall cost of the project is estimated at \$1.6 million. The home is available to veterans who have been residents in Illinois for a year or entered service from Illinois. Additionally, veterans with military service of one day or more during wartime with an honorable discharge are eligible.

In fiscal year 2004, VA spent nearly \$1.9 billion in Illinois to serve about 896,000 veterans who live in the state. VA operates major medical centers in Chicago, Danville, Hines, Marion and North Chicago with outpatient clinics and Vet Centers in many locations. VA health care was provided to 175,541 people in Illinois during 2004.

Office of the Medical Inspector

The Office of the Medical Inspector (OMI) carries the responsibility of helping to resolve medical problems and issues veterans and their families may encounter with the Veterans Health Administration. Many veterans are not aware of this office or what type of services they provide. Omi is not part of the Inspector General; they do not conduct criminal investigations nor do they address benefits issues, rather, their mission is centered on assuring good healthcare for veterans. Omi is prepared to address any patient care issue that arise in a VA Medical Center (VAMC).

OMI's contact information is furnished below for your use and dissemination:

Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of the Medical Inspector (OMI)

810 Vermont Avenue, NW
 Washington, D.C. 20420
 800-634-4782 OR (202) 501-2000
 OMITRIAGE@MAIL.VA.GOV



Quartermaster

VA Activates Surviving Spouse Website

The Department of Veterans Affairs recently activated a new website aimed directly at surviving spouses of military members who died on active duty and surviving spouses of veterans who died after serving their country. The website at <http://www.vba.va.gov/survivors> not only has links to the VA pages describing survivor benefits but also to other government sites that may offer valuable information and assistance. There is also a link to Frequently Asked Questions that answers most questions. For more specific questions, the site tells how to contact the VA directly. The main VA website is at <http://www.va.gov/>.

VA Awards Grant for Alaska Veterans Home

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has awarded a grant of \$2.2 million to the state of Alaska to convert the Palmer Pioneer House into the state's first veterans home. The \$2.2 million grant will pay up to 65 percent of the cost of converting the existing facilities at Palmer into a veterans home. Overall cost of the project is estimated at \$3.5 million.

VA Handbook is available on-line

The VA Handbook Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents can be downloaded free at <http://va.gov/opa/feature/> or ordered from the Government Printing Office by calling toll free 1 (866) 512-1800 for a cost of \$7.00.

Submitted by Martin Markley

Reunion Shadows

At every reunion there is an undercurrent of sadness,
 For it's focus is on things long gone by,
 Never forgotten again and the people involved,
 Who left a legacy of camaraderie that never has died.

Aged in memories from the distant past,
 Are brought to the fore and put on display,
 As tales are told about the battle once engaged in,
 When youth was at its peak and carried the day.

Pictures will be created of many memorable scenes,
 Some slightly tempered by the passage of time,
 But still very vivid in the eyes of its owner,
 Having been deeply etched in the recesses of the mind.

Names will be recalled of those who are absent,
 Bringing forth images of faces that never knew age,
 Yet kept in the thoughts of all who are here,
 Because they are much more than a name on a page.

Donald A. Chase
 15th Infantry Regiment
 3rd Infantry Division
 Korea

Partial list of 3rd Infantry Division items available

IMPORTANT ITEM: The pin pictured here, is 1 1/8" in length, in 3rd Division blue and white, was created to wear in memory of a loved one or good friend who was a member of the 3rd Infantry Division at any period in time. It can also be worn in memory of a spouse of a 3rd Infantry Division veteran.



Price\$4.00 each
 (Mailing fee: 1-3 items-75cents, 4-6 items \$1.25)

OVERSEAS CAP: White

Men\$18.00 ea.
 Women\$20.00 ea
 w/3ID patch - \$1.75

Embroidery of all letters, numbers, periods, marks, dashes, etc.
 - 50 cents ea; cap cover: \$3.00 (Mailing fee: \$2.00)

ZIPPO LIGHTER: w/3rd Div. logo \$15.00 (Mailing fee: \$3.00)

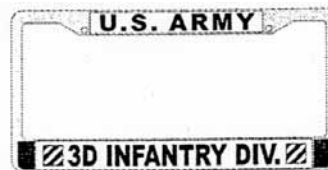
3ID BASEBALL CAPS: Black, w/3ID logo plus "3rd Infantry Division" above and "Rock of the Marne" below. For Korea veterans, "Korea 1950-1953" replaces "Rock of the Marne."

3ID\$9.00
 Korea\$9.50
 (Mailing fee \$1.75 for one, \$4.50 for two/three)

TIE BAR: 2 1/2 " long, w/3ID logo\$4.50 each
 (Mailing fee \$1.00 each)

FLAG: 3ID - White with 3ID logo in center, poly, 3'x5'
 Price\$6.00
 (Mailing fee: \$2.00)

LICENSE PLATE FRAME:\$6.00
 (Mailing fee: \$3.25)



California residents please include State Sales Tax
 Have many more items so please write or call for flyer.

Contact: **Bruce Monkman,**
P. O. Box 37-1311,
Reseda, CA 91337-1311
Ph/FAX 818-343-3370
E-mail: bruce Monkman@earthlink.net



Society of the Third Infantry Division

U.S. Army

Purpose

The Society of the Third Infantry Division, United States Army, was incorporated in the State of Illinois in 1919 as a non-profit, fraternal, social, educational, patriotic, military service organization and shall always remain non-partisan and non-political.

Specific objectives are:

- To foster and strengthen associations and friendships formed during service with the Third Infantry Division, U.S. Army.
- To honor the Third Infantry Division War Dead.
- To perpetuate the memory of other former comrades who shared a background of honorable military service with the Third Infantry Division, U.S. Army.
- To encourage and achieve the mutual benefit and support resulting from a close and cooperative alliance between the Society and the Third Infantry Division, U.S. Army.
- To support the Government of the United States and to give it, in peace and in war, the same devotion and service expected of us as members of its armed forces.

Pledge

I pledge to the Society of the Third Infantry Division, United States Army, in the achievement of the objects for which it is formed, that same full measure of loyalty and devotion which my comrades who have fallen gave to the Division itself and to the cause for which it fought.

Through my loyalty and devotion to their memory, their loyalty and devotion shall no more be forgotten by the Country for which they died than by the comrades at whose side they fell.

To them, I pledge, in peace the dedication of myself to that Country, that cause and those ideas of right and civilization, to which they consecrated themselves in War.

General Information

All members will receive the official bi-monthly publication, *The Watch on the Rhine*, and the national membership roster.

The Society is divided into chapters, called outposts, which members are entitled to join. Outposts, at their discretion, may charge a small additional amount for outpost activities. At Large members do not belong to outposts but are referred to as "Footsie Britt At Large."

Eligibility

Regular Membership: Veterans with honorable service in the Third Infantry Division. Also, those who were members of supporting or attached units of the Third Infantry Division.

Life Membership: Same as regular membership.

Associate Member: Spouse, parents, children, or siblings of any person eligible for regular membership, and any person with a special interest in, or an affinity for the Society of the Third Infantry.

Dues Information

Annual Membership (per year):\$10.00

Overseas Members (per year):\$20.00

Life Membership

Recipients of Medal of Honor.....No charge

Veterans of World War INo charge

Other Life membership dues are based on the following scale:

Up to age 39\$340.00

40-49\$300.00

50-59\$225.00

60-69\$150.00

70-79\$100.00

Over age 79.....\$75.00

Contact Ray Anderson, Secretary/Treasurer, for information on extended payment plans. Dues are payable before July 1st each year. Send payment to: **The Society of Third Infantry Division , 1515 Ramblewood Dr., Hanover Park, IL 60133-2230.**



Membership Application Society of the Third Infantry Division, U.S. Army

Date: _____

New Annual or Life Member

New Associate Member

Name _____ Date of Birth _____
(Last) (First) (Middle Initial)

Phone No _____ E-Mail Address _____

Home Address _____ Wife Name _____
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Current/Former Occupation _____

Unit(s) Served with: _____ Served From _____ To _____ Rank: _____

Referred by _____

Please print clearly, detach, and mail this application for membership along with a check or money order payable to Society of the Third Infantry Division to: **The Society of Third Infantry Division, 1515 Ramblewood Dr., Hanover Park, IL 60133-2230.**



MIDWEST #1 Chicago, IL

President: Larry Driscoll
6932 Williams Dr.
Woodridge, IL 60517-1907
e-mail: ldriscollp@aol.com

Vice President: Rich Heller
1515 Ramblewood Dr.
Hanover Park, IL 60133-2230
rheller@warfoto.com

Secretary-Treasurer: Gordon Lowery
1523 Holiday Drive
Sandwich, IL 60548
(815) 498-1547
E-mail: gblowerry@comcast.net

JOHN S. COLE #2 Tampa, FL

President: Angelo "Jim" Tiezzi
14186 Hilton Head Dr.
Ft. Myers, FL 33919-7387
E-mail: Ajimmjtiezzi@aol.com
(239) 466-1214 (winter)
(860) 665-9105 (summer)

Vice President-North: David Oglesby
11208 Villas On The Green Dr.
Riverview, FL 33569-7109
(813) 671-7022

Vice President-South: Mitchel Chockla
6520 SW 63rd Ct.
South Miami, FL 33143-3331
(305) 667-3115

Secretary: Dorothy M. McDaniel
3622 Sharondale Dr.
Sarasota, FL 34232
(941) 371-5155

Treasurer: Frank L. Kane
12824 Sand Crane Way
Hudson, FL 34669-2633
(727) 856-3302E-mail:
ThanFrankKane@aol.com

LATTIE TIPTON #3

President: Robert L. Farrington
4601 Sandy Ridge Road
Columbia, SC 29206-1137
(803) 782-0202
Locsmit@aol.com

Vice President: George Winders
2603 Mills Drive
Columbia, SC 29204
(803) 738-2933

Secretary-Treasurer: Alta H. Milling
4738 Datura Rd.
Columbia, SC 29205-2109
(803) 787-7134
Fax (803) 738-3582
E-mail: Altav007@aol.com

FORT GEORGE WRIGHT #4 Spokane, WA

President: Lyle W. Kerns
4105 S. Shaefer Road
Spokane, WA 99206-9511
(509) 926-9251
Maxkerns@aol.com

Vice President: Donald W. Tesch
P.O. Box 1291
Deer Park, WA 99006-1291
(509) 276-5855

Treasurer: Evelyn Tesch
P.O. Box 1291
Deer Park, WA 99006-1291
(509) 276-5855

Secretary: Dorothy Larsen
2718 E. 4th Avenue
Spokane, WA 99202
(509) 535-8127

GEORGE G. FROST #5 NY & North East

President: Egan Fehnel
835 Chestnut Street
Emmaus, PA 18049
(610) 965-4945

Vice President: John Fisher
36 Alden Rd
Paramus, NJ 07652
(201) 444-9568

Secretary: George E. Cox, Jr
212 Pine Court
Bloomingburg, NY 12721-4923

Treasurer: Earl E. Killen
RD #1 Box 37A
Bolivar, PA 15923
(724) 676-2292
E-mail: earlkillen@wpia.net

WASHINGTON DC #7 Washington DC

President: (Open)

Secretary-Treasurer: John L. Insani
1235 N. Pickett St.
Alexandria, VA 22304
(703) 370-4586
E-mail: johninsaniarmy@aol.com

NEW ENGLAND #11 Boston, MA

President: John Ferrara
2023 N Hill Rd
Westfield, VT 05874
(802) 744-2771

Secretary-Treasurer: Allan W Earley
48 Maple St.
Sterling, MA 01564-1448
(508) 835-3583
E-mail: modelt33@aol.com

TOMMY THOMPSON #12 Minneapolis, MN

President: LuVern R. Solien
3173 Aadland Ave. NE
Buffalo, MN 55313
(763) 682-3596

Vice President: Melvin Ingram
517 Newbury St #211.
Ripon, WI 54971-1428
(920) 748-6318

Secretary-Treasurer: Jerome A. Manley
660 Marigold Terrace
Fridley, MN 55432-5641
(763) 571-6963
E-mail: jerrymanley@msn.com

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President: Walter E. Schmidt
15700 Ryland
Redford, MI 48239-3949
(313) 532-7575

Secretary-Treasurer: Terry L. Tennant
10611 Gamewood Dr.
South Lyon, MI 48178-9354
(248) 437-6856
E-mail: cibdoggie@aol.com

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President: Carl Swanson
5817 East Duncan St.
Mesa, AZ 85205
(480) 832 8201

Vice President: Charles Obee
13511 West Gemstone Dr.
Sun City West, AZ 85375

Secretary-Treasurer: Carl R. Duncan
14617 Shiprock Dr.
Sun City, AZ 85351
(623) 977-2347

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1616 Frederick
Collinsville, IL 62234
(618) 345-1067

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620 Santen Dr.
St Louis, MO 63123-7612

Secretary-Treasurer: Matthew Riestler
35 Kansas Ave.
Belleville, IL 62221
(618) 233-5841
E-mail: mkbjriester@prodigy.net

GIOVINAZZO-YORK #18 Milwaukee, WI

President: Jerome Daddato
W 4150 Co. Rd. K
Random Lake, WI 53075-1308
(920) 994-2962
E-mail: daddyo41500@aol.com

Vice President: Bob Larson, Sr.
8420 E. Larsen Rd.
Janesville WI 53546-8607
E-mail: romala@ticon.net

Treasurer: Jacob G. Behringer
4730 County Rd S
Oshkosh, WI 54904-9516
(920) 233-0640

Secretary: Robert Meganck
N16 W26577 Wild Oats Dr.
Pewaukee, WI 53072
(262) 695-8369
E-mail: rlmeganck@yahoo.com

ALBERT MICELI #22 Southern, CA

President: Andrew Scullion
1525 West Oakland Ave., Sp #88
Hemet, CA 92543
(951) 492-0667
E-mail: ascotsgreys@aol.com

Vice President: Bruce Monkman
7731 Etiwanda Ave.
Reseda, CA 91335-2021
Ph/FAX 818-343-3370
E-mail: brucemonkman@earthlink.net

Secretary-Treasurer: Martin A. Markley
1601 W. Woodcrest Avenue
Fullerton, CA 92833
(714) 871-9676
m.markley@sbcglobal.net

ERIC A. SCOTT #33 Fort Wayne, IN

President: Kenneth R. Kendall
PO Box 604
Portage, IN 46368-0604
(219) 762-4248
E-mail: kkendall@netnitco.net

Vice President: James Satryan
3505 W Torquay Rd.
Muncie, IN 47304-3249
E-mail: Wurzburg58@hotmail.com

Secretary-Treasurer: J. M. Prendergast,
0575 W. 600 N.,
Howe, IN 46746-9326

AUDIE L. MURPHY #35

President: Joe Ball
2010 Worcester Ln.
Garland, TX 75040
(972) 495-1704
E-mail: ldball1@msn.com

Secretary-Treasurer: Lynn Ball
2010 Worcester Ln.
Garland, TX 75040
(972) 495-1704
E-mail: ldball1@msn.com

W. A. SIDNEY #52

President: Daniel Wolfe
1200 Midland Ave
Bronxville, NY 10708
(914) 961-5709
E-mail: infopitcha96@aol.com

Treasurer: Joseph A. Trippi
37610 Aster Ct
Newark, CA 94560
(510) 796-0219

Secretary: (Vacant)

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President: John Shirley
4218 Drake Way
Livermore, CA 94550-4914
(925) 447-2256
FAX (925) 447-8835
E-mail: jbs Shirley@comcast.net

Secretary-Treasurer: Ruth De Bord
18727 Sand De Sac Rd.
Salinas, CA 93907-1325
(831) 663-2690
oz187sns@msn.com

WESTERN RESERVE #57, Ohio

President: Donald Wingerberg
9650 Pebble View Dr.
Cincinnati, OH 45252
(513) 923-1991

Vice President: Richard L. Martinet
10045 Garden Side Dr.
Waite Hills, OH 44090
(440) 942-9258
E-mail: martinetopharry@msn.com

Secretary-Treasurer: Lloyd Whitmer
7500 Mose St.
Navarre, OH 44662
(330) 756-2803
E-mail: whitmerld@sssnet.com

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President: Gordon L. Saint
1609 S. 7th St.
Phenix City, AL 36869
(334) 298-4783

Vice President: Jon D. Ready
214 Terrace Dr
Brandon, MS 39042-2338
(601) 824-2642
E-mail: readyjd@bellsouth.net

Secretary-Treasurer: Robert D. Bailey
160 Huguley Rd.
Opelika, AL 36804-1891
(334) 298-8622
E-mail: maybob56@aol.com

FORT LEWIS #63 Tacoma, WA

President: (Open)

Secretary-Treasurer: Gerald Yager
6051 4th Ave. NW
Seattle, WA 98107-2109
(206) 782-8924
E-mail: YAGEROP3ID63@msn.com

COLORADO #88

President: Joseph Anello
4588 Spring Meadow Lane.
Castle Rock, CO 80104-8738
(720) 733-0143
E-mail: joeannello@comcast.net

Vice President: Martin K. Canape
PO Box 636
Fountain, CO 80817-0636

Secretary-Treasurer: Orlando Maffucci
7 Churchill Place
Pueblo, CO 81001
(710) 543-3278

BLACK "Y" BOYS #601 Richardson, TX

President: Robert A. Maynard
91 South Nanaposa Trail
Suttons Bay, MI 49682
(231) 271-3819
E-mail: sutmay@aol.com

Secretary-Treasurer: Bill R. Harper
2303 Primrose Dr.
Richardson, TX 75082-3303
(972) 437-5242
E-mail: billrharper@comcast.net

MARNE ASSOCIATION Ft. Stewart, GA

President: COL Larry Burch
5210 Marne Ct.
Ft. Stewart, GA 31315

Vice President: MAJ Tom Whitaker
505 Tremain Dr.
Hinesville, GA 31313
E-mail: thomas.whitaker@us.army.mil

Secretary: (Open)

Treasurer: (Open)

EUROPE #5845

President: Monika Stoy
950th TC Unit 22419 GAFSC
APO AE 09069

Vice President: Jean-Marc Weckner
Secretary/Treasurer: Monika Stoy

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CAMPAIGNS OF THE THIRD INFANTRY DIVISION

WORLD WAR I [2 Medals of Honor]

- ★ Aisne
- ★ St. Mihiel
- ★ Champagne-Marne
- ★ Meuse-Argonne
- ★ Aisne-Marne
- ★ Champagne

WORLD WAR II [37 Medals of Honor]

- ★ Algeria-French Morocco
- ★ Tunisia
- ★ Sicily
- ★ Naples-Foggia
- ★ Anzio
- ★ Rome-Arno
- ★ Southern France
- ★ Ardennes-Alsace

★ Rhineland

- ★ Central Europe

KOREAN WAR [11 Medals of Honor]

- ★ CCF Intervention
- ★ CCF Spring Offensive
- ★ Second Korean Winter
- ★ Third Korean Winter
- ★ First U.N. Counteroffensive
- ★ U.N. Summer-Fall Offensive
- ★ Korea, Summer-Fall 1952
- ★ Korea, Summer 1953

PERSIAN GULF WAR

- ★ Defense of Saudi Arabia
- ★ Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM [1 Medal of Honor]

The Rock of the Marne



**Society of the Third Infantry Division, U.S. Army
 10 Paddington Court
 Hockessin, DE 19707**

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