When ‘Uncle Sam’ First Came Calling in WWI, Frank Wren Answered the Call

By Henry Bodden

This poster of “Uncle Sam” appealing to our men and women to join in the defense of our country, is just as familiar to all who received a letter from our government that begins with “Greetings” --- World War I produced one of the most memorable images in American history. This U.S. Army recruiting poster depicts a commanding “Uncle Sam” pointing his finger at the viewer and urging young men and women to enlist in the First World War. This poster was painted by noted U.S. illustrator James Montgomery Flagg, and first appeared on the cover of the July 6, 1916 issue of “Leslie’s Weekly” magazine with the title “What are you doing for Preparedness?” The U.S. would not declare war on Germany until April of 1917, but the “winds of war” were brewing. The image was later adapted by the U.S. Army for the poster with the new unforgettable call to action. More than four million copies of it were printed between 1917 and 1918. “Uncle Sam” may have been Sam Wilson, known as “Uncle Sam” – a meatpacker who stamped the initials “U.S.” on barrels of meat he sold way back to the Army in the War of 1812.

So, I received a letter recently from Richard S. Wren Sr. who is a lifetime member of the 3rd Division and the 7th Regiment who served in

‘The land of Medals…’

The Battle of Monte La Defenza and the heroics of Floyd K. Lindstrom

by Toby Knight

Rising from the valley with ominous and barren cliffs, Monte La Defenza was a Soldier’s worst nightmare. No trees, no crevices to use for cover, terribly steep and the tops of the ridges totally infested with crack German machine gun and mortar positions. This mountain proved to be a living death trap. No Soldier, who

The German view of HWY 6 and the railroad in the Mignano Gap from Monte La Defenza.

was faint at heart, needed to be on this mountain. Only the most brave, experienced and professional Soldiers needed to scale these precipices and fight these “Huns.” This is why clearing Monte La Defenza was assigned to the 7th Regiment of the Third Infantry Division.

Monte La Defenza was the largest of the mountains that surrounded the Mignano Gap. The Germans used this area as the focal point for their artillery spotters and aerial attacks due to its clear and unobstructed views of the battlefield. It was their command centre

OP International Loses One of its Greatest Veterans

Robert A. (Bob) Dutil was born on 5 April 1925 in Dunnigan, CA. He passed away on 3 July 2020 in Colusa, CA. In WWII he served with the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Section of the 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry in WWII from Sep 1944 until Feb 1946. He fought in the Vosges Mountains; the exploitation to Strasbourg; the Battle of the Colmar Pocket; the Siegfried Line campaign, and the final campaign in Germany. He participated in the 7th Infantry Regiment’s flag-raising ceremony on the Obersalzberg

Bob points to himself at the 1945 flag raising ceremony with the 3rd Infantry at Berchtesgaden

Please turn to WREN on page 4

Please turn to La Defenza on page 5

Please turn to DUTIL on page 8
Rock of the Marne!

We need new members to step into our formation and strengthen our Society. Without new members, I am afraid that our Society will eventually die.

The voting results of the Executive Committee actions were reported by the C&BL’s Committee chair, Amy McKenna. All items were approved by 2/3 majority vote of the votes received. Thank you all for participating in this important voting process.

Last year was the Society’s Centennial year. We had some great accomplishments that led to a wonderful reunion. I would like to personally thank all of our Executive Committee Members, Society Staff and Outpost Leadership teams who work hard to ensure that our Society is strong and lives up to our core values. This is where the “rubber meets the road.” It is those members who toil relentlessly as a volunteer for our membership that have ensured to our first 100 years. It will be the same for our next 100 years. We need every member to work to ensure that our Society is around for the next centennial. The best thing you can do is RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS. We need new members to step into our formation and strengthen our Society. Without new members, I am afraid that our Society will eventually die. So, please, help me in recruiting. It is the lifeblood of our Society.

Rock of the Marne!

Toby

Update Your Contact Info

Update your email, phone, and mail contact information.
Send changes to the Society Database Manager.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Your ID Number</th>
<th>Dues Date: Paid until date shown or LIFE</th>
<th>Outpost Affiliation</th>
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<td>5902</td>
<td>June 2020</td>
<td>OP 35 CR</td>
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LYNN BALL
2010 WORCESTER LANE
GARLAND, TX 75040-3331

DELIVERY POINT BARCODE

Region: 
ER = Eastern
CR = Central
WR = Western

Check your name and address. If your zip code does not contain 9 digits (zip+4), it is incomplete. Check http://zip4.usps.com/zip4/ or contact your local post office for your zip+4.

Watch Schedule

The Watch editor requires receipt of copy on or before the 5th of the month preceding the month of publication. Space fills quickly so articles sent early have more chance of being published.

Deadline to the Editor: 

January 5th.................................................................Publication
February
March 5th..............................................................April
May 5th........................................................................June
July 5th......................................................................August
September 5th.........................................................October
November 5th..........................................................December
Korea from 1952-1953 and was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in combat. Richard sent me a group family photo of his family’s history that served from the First World War to the present. Quite a family history that answered the call of duty. All in this family portrait are blood relatives, except Richard’s Army brother-in-law John Thieman Sr., who was killed in WWII in France and not in the group photo. Richard also had three of his nephews retire from active duty. And on Richard’s wife side, her family goes all the way back to the Revolutionary War and the Spanish-American War. Richard writes “as you can see, my family of coal miners and shipbuilders take our service to our country very seriously.”

The large group photo of twenty men are all blood relatives of the Wren family that represent over 100 years of service to the United States Military, beginning when Frank Wren joined the Army and served in World War I. Here is a list of twenty-two men of the Wren family who proudly served and continue to serve our country today.

**COMBAT VETERANS**

Frank (Renne) Wren, Army WWI, Uncle. John Thieman Sr., Army WWII (KIA) Brother-in-law. Ralph Wren, Merchant Marine WWII, Brother. Robert Wren, Army Air Corps WWII,
Richard S. Wren Sr. – Richard S. Wren Jr. – Jacob Wren (grandson) Anthony Wren (grandson)  

E. Wren, Navy Gulf War (Iraq & Afghanistan War), Grandson. Garry Kellar, Army Gulf War (Iraq & Afghanistan War), Grandson.  

WAR ERA VETERANS  


PEACE TIME VETERANS  


I’m sure I speak for all our readers, we all salute this extraordinary family for their service and patriotism.

La Defenza from page 1

and proved to be tactically critical to their defense. Monte La Defenza was therefore heavily fortified and radically defended by the Germans. If Monte La Defenza fell, the Mignano Gap would be lost. The Soldiers of the 7th Regiment were determined to make sure that Monte La Defenza fell decisively.

One Soldier of the 7th Regiment played a pivotal role in ensuring that Monte La Defenza fell and was instrumental in clearing the infested ridges of the German machine gun nests. PFC Floyd K. Lindstrom, of Company H, would earn the Medal of Honor for his actions on Monte La Defenza. The division’s historical record of this battle best tells the story:

“Between November 10-12 of 1943, the second Platoon of Company H, 7th Infantry, was attached to Company E. The platoon had been depleted to a total of 14 Men and two serviceable machine guns. PFC Lindstrom was the gunner of one of those guns.

At 0900 approximately forty enemy launched a counterattack against the left flank of the company. PFC Lindstrom’s machine gun section received the greater weight of the attack.

“...The enemy, from his position on the commanding heights,” said PVT Marvin D. Crane, “had excellent observation and when he opened fire on us with deadly accuracy. The bulk of the enemy were 200 yards above us when he attacked. Echo Company withdrew about 150 yards, because there was not enough cover for them at this point, leaving our machine gun section out in front.”

“Even though he saw the rifle company withdrawal, PFC Lindstrom nevertheless instantly, and without orders, immediately set up a defensive position and opened fire with his machine gun. The enemy fire became intense as they started dropping a great number of mortar shells in our “section” area and commenced to rake our positions with machine-gun, machine-pistol and rifle fire.”

“...Lindstrom insisted on moving forward alone another ten yards for a better field of fire. He picked up the machine gun bodily and moved uphill over the rocky ground with his 112 pound load. In doing this he became the direct target of machine-gun and small arms fire from some of the enemy who weren’t more that fifteen to twenty yards away...at least thirty-five hand grenades of the concussion variety were thrown at PFC Lindstrom in an attempt to silence his gun.”

“Lindstrom was aiming for one German machine-gun and crew in particular when he single handedly carried his heavy machine gun forward because he saw that it was the chief supporting weapon in the German counter attack. Despite heavy fire from the mortars and machine guns pistols, he moved to within about fifteen yards of this machine...
gun even though it was firing at him and missing him only by inches.’ I could hear the jerrys yelling at him in pigeon English. “American Soldier-you give up-we treat you fine-you no surrender, plenty trouble-we got you surrounded.” This was repeated time and again and each time Lindstrom answered “Go to hell” and gave them another burst of fire from his machine gun…”

When Lindstrom saw that the attack was likely to succeed if the enemy machine guns were not put out of action, he yelled out at me to cover him with my rifle, that he was going to ‘get that machine gun,’ and armed only with a .45 pistol which he always had at his hip, he frontally assaulted the machine gun in a mad uphill dash. The Germans saw him coming and let go a continuous stream of fire which kicked up the dirt inches behind his heels and he ran at them. Somehow he miraculously escaped being hit by the continuous chain of automatic fire from the machine gun, got right on top of the gunners and shot them to death with his pistol. He then returned, dragging the German machine gun behind him, after which he braved more enemy fire to go back to their position and return with two full boxes of ammo which he directed us to emplace and put to use in countering the enemy attack. We received no other support from our other machine gun during the counterattack because it was unable to fire on the enemy from its position…”

Visiting the mountain for the first time left me breathless. The heights were staggering and the fact that our Dogface Soldiers were ordered to scale the sides left me with a foreboding feeling. As a Soldier, I could not imagine what went through the minds of those Men when they were told of their mission. It must have sent a shudder down their spines. Looking at the small winding road that signified the jumping off point for the 7th Regiment to take Monte La Defenza, I said a small prayer and my respect for their sacrifices tripled.

Using the morning fog to help mask their assault, the Men tactically chose their ascent points. Although the fog was a natural blessing, it was a double edged sword. The fog also made the ground wet and slippery. Not good for climbing a mountain-under fire! The Germans made effective use of their fields of fire and the barren landscape. Men had to crawl on their hands and knees to move up the mountain and when confronted by withering machine gun fire had nothing more than scattered rocks no bigger than a bowling ball to use as cover.

Basic Infantry tactics, team work, the use of massive artillery bombardment and extreme heroism is what carried the day.

The 7th Regiment knew the fighting would be bloody and set up both a temporary cemetery on Monte La Defenza and a Hospital that was an abandoned small monastery. Both places are still there and Luigi, Federico and Angelo took me there. Both places left me profoundly grateful to the Men who suffered during this, now little known, battle.

As I walked the mountain and followed the trails the Germans had made to each of their foxholes, I could not help but think about how deliberate, smart, tactical and brilliant their defenses were constructed. Their foxholes were constructed of rocks found on the mountain making them perfectly camouflaged. They really knew what they were doing. It made my heart hurt even more knowing the amount of Americans that would perish trying to dislodge them from the heights of Monte La Defenza.

Visiting Monte La Defenza opened my eyes to the real horror of war. In the face of impossible circumstances, men, in war, must proceed and fight doggedly to achieve a bitter victory. It’s the only cruel task that will work. All of the Dogface Soldiers who scaled the hills and mountains in the Mignano Gap were heroes of immense stature. Their deeds were kept personal, only known to their fellow battle buddies that went up the slopes with them. They forged a silent honor of valor that is only understood among Men who share the experiences of battle, death, fear, misery and, ultimately, victory. When they returned home they kept that honor in their hearts, forever. Only to be shared when they meet again in their final formation with God.
‘The Chat Noir’

By Paul E. Desroches

In 1958 while serving in the 3rd Infantry Division in Bamberg, Germany my friend Chaplain’s assistant Chris Kirth asked if I would like a weekend pass to attend a religious retreat in Munich. I certainly accepted the offer and prepared for a few pleasant days of prayer and R&R.

As I was passing the Orderly Room, I heard a couple of men from Bravo Company asking for me. I stopped and asked what they wanted. They heard I had a car and was going to the Munich retreat and wanted to hitch a ride. Unfortunately my car was in the shop and I told them I was going by train. They suggested that since I had an Inter-National Driver’s License, we rent a car and travel together; a great idea!

About noon our passes were released and we walked out the rear gate of the Post to a nearby car rental agency. For very little money (about 30 Marks or $7.50 American) we rented a brand new VW white convertible with black top, a nice set of wheels. A few minutes later we were heading down the Autobahn with the top down on a beautiful early spring afternoon thinking nobody has it better than us. We arrived at the Retreat House just before dinner time; we’re assigned rooms and told to head to the dining room.

After dinner a few prayers were said and we were told we were off until the start of the Retreat at 8AM Saturday. So, we decided to tour the area and got in our classy rental and drove downtown, then crossed the bridge to Salzburg, Austria. We parked and walked the narrow streets and narrower lanes. We saw a beer sign and couldn’t pass it up. The place was served by all women help and they loved us American G.I.s.

We drank beer, sang songs and had an all-around good time. Suddenly its last call and we had to leave. I found it hard to believe that a major city had such an early closing time, but then saw that all the gasthauses were now closed. We were in a partying mood and I said we should look for an afterhours place. We walked down a number of narrow lanes then saw a door that had “Chat Noir” written on it. “Ah! This must be an afterhours place.”

I knocked on the door; a scantily dressed woman appeared at a 2nd floor window and asked what we wanted. I said we were looking for Maria and with that the door swung open,...

Society 100th Anniversary Challenge Coin

Buy your 100th Anniversary Society Challenge coin TODAY. These coins are spectacular! The overall design idea was to use the baseplate of an artillery shell as the main concept. As you can see it also looks familiar to the bottom of a rifle bullet with the primer in the middle being the 3rd ID patch. This design features our beloved “Rocky” the bulldog marching with the Stars and Stripes in the background on the back of the coin. The front features the Society logo embossed in a polished gold circular disc that has the Society dates on the ribbon on the bottom and the division mottos surrounding the logo.

Each coin is offered for $25 each and they come in their own custom “Marne” blue velvet jewelry box. These are truly amazing coins that will only be offered this year while supplies last. Order your coin by sending your check or money order to:

Society of the Third Infantry Division
5339 Osprey Oak
San Antonio, TX 78253

Make checks payable to: Society of the Third Infantry Division. You can also purchase your coin online at our Society website: www.Society3rdid.org
on 5 May 1945. He served on occupation duty in Salzburg, Austria, and Bad Wildungen and Ziegenhain, Germany and was discharged as a PFC. He received the Bronze Star, European Campaign Ribbon, WWII Victory Medal, the US Presidential Unit Citation, French Croix de Guerre (Fourragere), and French Legion of Honor. After his discharge in March 1946 he became a walnut farmer in Williams, California, raised sheep and goats, and worked for the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District, from which he retired in 1990.

Bob accompanied us almost every year but one through 2016 for OP International’s ceremony on the Obersalzberg. He came with us on trips to Southern France, to Alsace, to Venice, to Berlin, to Crete, to England, and to Belgium. Bob was always ready to go just about anywhere with us as long as there were good friends with good red wine there! Everywhere we went, locals loved him. He was a great Ambassador for America.

Bob won our hearts when we held our first ceremony on the Obersalzberg in 2008. Monika had scrubbed the Society roster for all WWII veterans of the 7th INF Regiment to find those who had participated in the flag-raising ceremony on 5 May 1945. Bob was one of those and he was the only veteran who didn’t initially hang up on Monika thinking she was asking for money. He listened to her, asked her to give him a few days to think about it and then called back to say he would be happy to come with us to Bavaria! He was such an unassuming and genuinely nice person, we were honored and happy to have him representing the great 3rd Infantry Division and it was why we chose him to raise the flag during the ceremony.

In May 2012 we had the unique pleasure of traveling to Germany and France with Bob and his former Battalion Commander in WWII, MG (ret.) Lloyd B. Ramsey, to revisit their battlefields together. It was great experience to see them together. In 1945 there was a big gulf between officers and enlisted men, but Bob did have memories of seeing his commander in action in the Colmar Pocket. MG Ramsey was in a wheelchair for the trip, and Bob’s solicitude towards his old
commander was very touching.

Bob was a walnut farmer from Williams, California. He was simple in dress, simple in his manners, and straightforward in his speech, and quiet, when you first met him. Once he knew you he had no problems talking. He was a classic American of his time, and one of those people we have met who made us happy to have undertaken our project to commemorate the 3rd ID in France, Germany, and Austria. He was an honest man, and he would tell you exactly what he thought.

As a farmer Bob was very much into agricultural techniques and procedure. Wherever we went with him in Germany, France, Austria, England, Belgium, and Greece he always checked out the walnuts for sale in the local groceries and farmers' markets — and almost every time he reached the conclusion his walnuts are better! He peppered almost everyone he met who was in any way connected to farming with questions on the trees, the water, the soil, irrigation techniques, harvesting, machinery, sheep, goats, cows, etc.

Bob carried a Thompson Sub-Machinegun and learned how to shoot and maintain it, but no one ever taught him how to do the manual of arms with it — not really a skill he needed in combat. When he was called up to the Obersalzberg for the 5 May 1945 flag raising ceremony he didn't know how to present arms, and there was no time for any training in the manual of arms. They put Bob in the rear rank and to just make it up when it was time to present arms, and he did!

Bob served with LT Murl Conner in the I&R Section. For 10-15 years members of Conner's family asked the Army to upgrade the Distinguished Service Cross to the Medal of Honor for his actions in the Colmar Pocket. The Conner family learned of Bob's service with the I&R section with LT Conner and asked him to give a statement to the Army substantiating what happened the day of the action. Bob refused to do so. Bob told us he was in the same fighting position with Conner in the middle of some woods — he saw and experienced nothing of what was written in the award citation. He sent a letter to the Army Board of Military Corrections telling them that he had been with Conner at the time of the action, that it didn't happen as described in other witness statements made by soldiers who hadn't actually been in position to witness the event, that he had refused to sign such a statement in 1945, and still wouldn't do so. It was a matter of great principle to him. He was surprised to learn when Conner's award was upgraded in 2018 one of the newly discovered witness statements was signed by a "Bob Dutil!"

We visited him in California five times. The first time was in late March 2015 to celebrate his 90th birthday. The celebration was held in the farm's huge
Chaplain’s Corner

“These are the times that try men’s souls.” Thomas Paine famously wrote these words in December 1776 to address the challenging issues at hand as the Revolution was trudging forward. With expiring enlistments, privations in the field, and the prospect of a long road ahead, the way forward did look bleak; yet, Paine sought to stir resolve and commitment to the cause of freedom.

The COVID-19 experience has been a time of challenge for our Dog-Faced Soldier Families as well as our Nation as a whole. Perhaps your experience with this disease resembles that of my family: My father-in-law had a stroke in early May and had to be taken to the hospital but no one could be there with him due to COVID restrictions; I’ve a father and step-mother in an assisted living facility where my sisters are able to wave at them through a window, but cannot give them the hugs they so richly enjoy; and the dad of one of my brother-in-law passed away and the funeral had to be placed on hold.

It has truly been a trying time; yet, as a Chaplain and a person of faith, I hold on to hope for a better tomorrow. In the midst of all the restrictions, families have been afforded the unique opportunity to spend time together. People who have never utilized modern electronic devices and social media platforms have now found ways to connect despite distance and restrictions. With the shared privations, our communities have been able to draw closer together through the experience.

As we move forward together and face whatever is next with the challenges of COVID, as we stay united, we are truly better than off than when we struggle on our own. Most assuredly we yearn for the time when we can all reunite with loved ones and return to “normal,” but in the meantime, let us continue to rely on and support one another in all the ways we can.

Though I am deployed once again, never forget that I remain a resource for you all!

CH DKB
cdhkbeavers@gmail.com
Reflections

By Jackie Postell (member of the Society of the 3rd Infantry Division)

Part Two

After James Arness recovered, he was in the movie The Farmer's Daughter playing the brother of Loretta Young's character, in which she won an Academy Award for her role. He was introduced on TV by actor John Wayne's testimony to his fitness to play Marshall Matt Dillion on Gunsmoke which ran for over twenty years. Go 3rd Infantry Division!!! Army Chief of Staff George Marshall's youngest step child Allen Brown was killed on Anzio Beach on May 29, 1945 in an assault on his tank.

As stated above, I am a part of the Marshall Foundation at VMI. In 2012, they hosted a trip to WWI & WWII battle sites to France, Luxembourg, and Belgium to commemorate General Marshall’s 65th anniversary of his Marshall Plan that saved and rebuilt Europe after WW2. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, one of the very few soldiers to be awarded it. We went to several battle sites that Marshall helped, and we laid wreaths at three US Military cemeteries and raised the US Flag at those locations. They were the US Cemetery at Normandy, Meuse Argonne at Montfaucon, France, and the Hamm Cemetery where Gen. George Patton is interred. In the Meuse Argonne, there are over 14,000 soldiers from WWI buried there. Our group picture was taken there in the chapel built in 1919. The next day we went to Hamm, Luxembourg where our group laid a wreath at Patton’s grave. At the cemetery’s visitor center, the Mayor of Luxembourg City, came to us and invited us for a champagne reception at the City Hall. George Patton’s granddaughter who lives in Germany came with us to the Reception. Dress codes were for being respectful at the wreath layings. The receptions and the final dinner was at the American Embassy in Paris, France for the Honors given to Gen. George Marshall.

With General Patton’s granddaughter and General Marshall’s grandson in Luxembourg City Hall, she is holding a book given to her about General Marshall written by Mark Stoler. This is another book about ARMY LEADERSHIP I WOULD recommend for leadership for whatever you are doing and where you are doing it. I want here to give a tribute and most thankfulness to the 3rd Infantry Division soldier that brought several copies of the Watch On The Rhine on our trip to France for the 65th Anniversary of the Marshall Plan. He shared with me those copies and I was very interested in all I saw in that newsletter. He discovered how enthusiastic I was about everything in it. When we got back, he surprised me with a membership in the 3rd Inf Division Society. He was in the Third during the Korean War. His name is Gerard Zoeller, Gerry told me about his family coming from Germany. He was thankful and grateful the US Army liberated Germany and he told me of a book for me to get and I did order it. I have enjoyed every minute in the 3rd in the 7 years that I have been a part of the 3rd Infantry Division Society. In the picture of our group at the Meuse Argonne Cemetery Chapel, he is third from my left on the front row holding a blue notebook.

This book tells of a 3rd Infantry soldier who fought in WW2 and was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for fighting in Nuremberg, Germany in the last weeks of the war in April, 1945. His name is Michael J. Daly who went to West Point in 1940. He did not like it and was discharged there after one year and shortly after joined the regular army. He was sent to Alabama, for basic training as a Private. He went to Fort McClellan for basic training after being at West Point for a year and found basic somewhat easy. The rest of this article will focus on Michael Daly and Audie Murphy and their association and a direct line to comments about God, and Jesus Christ. It will also bring attention to two Generals in the U. S. Army and their association with God and Jesus Christ and the resulting amazing result to all concerned and the consequences to the world. Even the name of the book on Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Michael J Daly,” A Cause Greater Than Oneself”, reflects service, selfless sacrifice, to put others interests before oneself.

I noticed a reference to Gerald Zoeller joining the US Army and his service in the 3rd Infantry Division. He mentioned this to me and I am glad I got this book, which means a lot to me. Both Audie Murphy and Michael Daly being in the 3rd Infantry Division knew each other. They fought in the same area in France, in Nancy and Holtzwiir, France where Audie’s fighting in two degree weather earned him his Congressional Medal of Honor. Here is another excerpt from Daly’s book that describes the war that both Daly and Murphy participated in and how rough it was. Murphy is quoted as saying the German Army was like coiled snakes and the battles were very “lethal.” The war took its toll, but the courage the Army of the Allies to win the war and to conquer the enemy, Nazi Germany was very great to help the world be a peaceful place.

Michael Daly in the last days of the war fought in Nuremberg on April 18th, 1945 in a rugged battle in that city’s streets. Being the leader, he had become as a soldier the leadership to protect his men at all times. He took the point in battles so he could get exposed to the most fighting. In Nuremberg, he and his unit were facing a German machine gun nest. Daly killed fifteen Germans, wiped out three machine gun nests, and destroyed an enemy patrol. The commanding officer of the 15th Regiment, Col. Hallett Edson, said Daly “infected his men with heroism and demoralized the enemy.” Like Murphy earlier, Daly received the Congressional Medal of Honor with this action.

Now Hear This!
Send all information for publication in The Watch on the Rhine to:
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1-918-376-9417
Letters to the Editor

Good morning, I hope you are all well!
Thanks for the wonderful sharing, more and more excited to receive and read your newspaper online! THANKS THANKS THANKS.

With fraternal affection I hug!  

Maria Cristina Verdon

Dear Mr. Bodden,
I love “The Watch On The Rhine.”

Donald R. Wilcox

From the Editor’s Desk...

Please note that the Scholarship Foundation Recipients Report was not submitted this issue.

Message from the Roster Manager

Have you applied for or upgraded a membership, EVER, and did NOT receive a New or Life Membership packet and/or Membership Card? Please contact me via email: rostermanager@society3rdid.org or leave a message at: (509) 216-0783. Rock of the Marne! Frank B Ugolini

Call for Awards Nominations

This is the first call for nominations for annual awards. The Awards Committee, consisting of the three Regional Vice Presidents, will select the recipients of the Society Service Award and the Outstanding Associate Member Award. The Executive Committee will select the recipient of the Audie Murphy Achievement Award from nominations submitted to the Awards Committee. These awards will be presented at the Reunion Banquet. The annual Society Awards Program recognizes and honors those members of the Society of the Third Infantry Division who have contributed their energy and creativity to further the Society’s objectives.

Nominations must be received by August 10, 2020
Mail all nominations to SFC Ken Drake, Society Awards Chair, 3604 Herndon Lane, Wahiawa HI 96786 or at email: Sqtubal@earthlink.net. So that effective evaluation of nominations and determination of recipients can be accomplished, nominations must include the following general information as well as the specific information mandated in the award criteria to which the nomination is directed.

- Nominee’s out-of-affiliation and precise information about his/her qualifications for the award
- Nominee’s achievements (details relative to the Society’s objectives and/or to the benefit of all veterans)
- Only nominees whose dues are current and who possess the established qualifications per the By-Laws and per awards protocol as stated in the S.O.P. will be considered for an award.

The Audie Murphy Achievement Award is the highest award the Society presents each year: The requirements for the Audie Murphy Achievement Award are as follows: the recipient must have been a member in good standing of the Society for at least three years or a former distinguished member of the Third Infantry Division or worthy national leader. Some of the considerations for this award are exemplary military service; service as an elected national Society officer, appointed or elected, including Outpost officers and members; outstanding service by Society members to their community, state or nation.

The Society Service Award: may be presented to a member in good standing of the Society for exceptional service to the Society. The recipient must have been a member of the Society for a minimum of three years.

The Outstanding Associate Member Award: may be awarded to an Associate Member in good standing of the Society for exceptional service to the Society. The recipient must have been a member of the Society for a minimum of three years.

President’s Special Award: Special service awards are given at the president’s discretion.

Nominations: If you are active in your outpost, you probably know of an outstanding worker who deserves recognition. If so, please nominate that member. You may make the nomination for a specific award or just name the person and tell what he or she is or has been doing for the Society, and the Society Awards Committee can make the determination. Thanks in advance for your help.

—Submitted by Award Chairman SFC. Ken Drake

Why Belong to the NIA?

- To support the work of the ONLY organization representing the entire Infantry and the Chief of Infantry. The combined strength of our membership ensures that the Infantry voice is heard by decision makers.
- To share the camaraderie of like minded soldiers and citizens who believe in maintaining the Infantry spirit, and to help recognize outstanding Infantrymen.
- To grow professionally through participation in Association activities, programs and publications.
- To support a new, expanded National Infantry Museum and the educational values associated with its contents.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION available securely on our website, or will be sent upon request.
Honorary President
Marne 6 Sends

MajGen Antonio A. Aguto, Jr.

As I finish my first year as Marne 6, I am continually amazed by the incredible effort of our Dog Faced Soldiers. I have witnessed acts of courage, compassion, and genuine care for one another.

of Army Modernization, becoming one of the first unit’s to field the Army’s newest sniper rifle. In addition to this fielding, the Raider Brigade has continued to set the standard, not only for the 3rd Infantry Division, but for the Army in general, when it comes to training and maintaining combat readiness in a COVID-19 environment. Raider battalions continue to conduct gunnery, qualifying their crews while preserving the health of the force. Everything that Raider Brigade does prepares them for whatever mission they might be tasked with and their dedication and professionalism is what will allow them to be successful.

The 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, “Spartans” remain deployed to Europe supporting our NATO Allies. They continue to seek out opportunities to prove their mettle, and as such they have remained extremely busy with gunnery, training exercises and even hosting the Polish President and other dignitaries for a visit to their site. All of this occurred during a very busy Change of Command season which was executed in theater and saw a majority of the battalions, as well as the brigade itself, change leaders.

The 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, “Falcons”, completed their deployment in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve and began returning home to Hunter Army Airfield in late-May and early-June. After an incredibly successful deployment it was great to welcome the Falcons home and congratulate them on a job well done.

The 3rd Infantry Division Artillery, “Thunder”, and our 3rd Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade, “Providers”, has continued to deploy Soldiers worldwide and provide valuable support here on Fort Stewart as we continue day-to-day operations in response to COVID-19. Our Task Force 1-28, “Black Lions,” continues to prepare for an Army-directed reorganization that will take place later this year, and are continuing to focus on training and maintaining readiness in this challenging environment. All three units have a number of extremely important mission, both here and abroad, and their continued support to the division is what allows us all to enjoy success at every turn.

All across the Division and Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield, we continue to remain focused and ready to respond and win anywhere in the world. As always, I could not be more proud of our Soldiers, Families and our Community for what they sacrifice and accomplish on a daily basis and I look forward to what the next year will bring.

We are all Dog Faced Soldiers!
Rock of the Marne!
Army Strong!

Military Humor

At one of our reunions, I was in the Men’s Room and noticed a very spit-n-polish Marine Corps Colonel in full dress uniform washing his hands. As I was about to exit the Colonel stopped to ask me about the large number of vets in the building; I explained it was a reunion of the 11th Armored Cavalry’s Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia. The Colonel then mentioned “I noticed you did not wash your hands. In the Marine Corps Officers are taught to wash their hands after using the latrine. To which I responded, “In the Army the NCO’s are smart enough not to pee on their fingers”.

Word to the Nation: “Guard zealously your right to serve in the Armed Forces, for without them, there will be no other rights to guard.”

...President John F. Kennedy
A Norwegian-American Patriot

Norwegian-American born Arthur Hansen commented to me that he had sat in on the war crime trial of SS German Commando Otto Skorzeny at Dachau in 1948, and also escorted German Luftwaffe Ace Gen. Adolph Galland to Bremen, Germany in 1947. Naturally, this caught my attention and through several phone calls with Art and his son Keith, a remarkable story unfolded about this Norwegian’s service to the U.S. military in WWII and Korea with the 3rd Infantry. I will get into that later, but the following is a story of a son’s tribute to his father, and excerpts from the May 8, 2020 issue of “The Norwegian-American”, and several interviews with Art himself.

Arthur Hansen was born in New Jersey on May 8, 1928, and in the early 1930’s his family moved back to Kristiansand, Norway where they lived during the German occupation of Norway. Art was almost twelve years old when the Germans invaded Norway on April 9, 1940. To this day, Hansen remembers vividly when he and his older brother Morgan were awakened by artillery shells crashing into the town, one which hit a neighbor’s house. A German twin-engine bomber flew over the scene and strafing those putting out the fires that also damaged the school and the Kristianand Cathedral. Later it was found out that the German cruiser “Karlsruhe” was in a gun battle with the Norwegian Land Battery at the Fortress at Odderoya. Arthur and his family had to be evacuated and ended up living on their family boat until it was safe to return to their home. Te German occupants would eventually build barracks directly across the street from their house. Thus began five long years of occupation. But because Arthur was an American citizen, the family had to hide his birth certificate from the Germans. Then on May 8, 1941, his brother Morgan made a daring escape to neutral Sweden with a friend. They were trained under the local Resistance leader Maj. Arne Laudal. But Laudal and his group were betrayed to the German Secret police, and he and his son were arrested, interrogated, and tortured by the Germans, but never revealed anything. Laudal was sent to the Grini prison camp is Oslo and summarily executed. Morgan made many trips from Sweden back to Norway and guide other refugees to safety. Art’s brother was flown to England and signed up to be a sailor in the Norwegian merchant fleet and took part in the Allied convoys to supply the war effort.

Late in the war, food was scarce for the family of six and Art was always hungry. He read an ad that promised daily food rations serving on a motorized Dutch barge that was docked in the harbor. His parents agreed, believing this would help hide his true citizenship in plain sight. He joined the barge in Farsund where he heard the sound of hymns, so he went ashore to the church and joined the service. Arthur was approached by a group of men who turned out to be with the Resistance and told him they would take care of him and brought him into the mountains until April of 1945. After the liberation of Norway on May 8, 1945, Arthur answered an ad for the Royal Norwegian Navy and was stationed aboard the former German tug “Arngast” which was built to tow the German battleships “Bismarck” and “Tripitz”. He was told they were going to be sent to Scotland to receive commando training to go fight against the Japanese – but this never came to fruition. Then after his service in the Norwegian Navy at age seventeen, he sailed to Gdynia, Poland where he met a Norwegian captain of an American tanker who offered him a job because of his American birth certificate. Upon arriving at the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw, Art arranged clearance to sail in five days. But the Embassy held him due to being in the country illegally, estranding Art in Poland. Art met a Polish attaché of the U.S. Embassy and ended up wearing an American uniform as an employee of the U.S. Naval Attache. He was given a pistol and training and was tasked with guarding German POW’s.

In July of 1946, Art signed up with the U.S. Merchant Marine and sailed on several voyages to many ports. I was stunned when Art told me his first U.S. port he arrived was Port Arthur, Texas. This was my hometown and my Dad had served during WWII in the Merchant Marine running petrol from the refineries of Port Arthur all along the Gulf and East coast dodging German U-Boats that were sinking anything that floated for months after Pearl Harbor. So what a coincidence that Art’s first U.S. port of call was Port Arthur, Texas when I was a four year old resident. That same year while sailing on the T2 tanker USS Crow Wing, while docked in Chelsea, Mass. Art and his brother Morgan would finally be reunited after five long years during the war years. Then in February of 1947, Art received his Coast Guard discharge from the U.S. Merchant Marine. Within a day, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and because of his fluent German, he was sent to the U.S. Army Intelligence School in Oberammergau and served with the 323rd and 7854 Military Intelligence detachment as an interrogator and interpreter in Germany, first in Bremen and later in Berlin. In June of 1947, Art was involved in the “denazification of field grade and general officers”, and then in July he was sent to the former Dachau concentration camp in Dachau to observe the war crime trial of German SS-Obersturmbannführer.
(boy that’s a mouthful) Lt. Col. Otto Skorzeny who was captured by the 3rd Infantry Division. This event led to Art commenting about an earlier article I had written about Skorzeny, otherwise this story of Art’s service would not have been shared with our readers. Funny how doors open out of the blue sometimes. Art sent me another piece of an interesting experience he had in late summer of 1947. In a letter he had written on March 19, 2009, subject: Gen. Adolph Galland, Luftwaffe – Art details how he was ordered to pack a sidearm and accompany two British Military Police to pickup the youngest German Luftwaffe General and transport him back to Bremen and deliver him to U.S. Military Police to a “Processing Place” for former Generals for Denazification war crimes.

The following information was provided to me by Art’s son, Keith Hansen who wrote a Father’s Day tribute to his father for his service to our country. In 1948, his unit was moved to Berlin to concentrate on the Russian Communist threat and the beginnings of the Cold War. Then in 1950, after his service in Germany, Arthur was assigned to the 519th military intelligence platoon at Fort Riley, Kansas. On January 1, 1951, Art received orders to ship out to Korea, so Art’s father put the bride to be on a train on January 2nd and they were married at Fort Bragg on the 3rd of January. The following day, the bride was on her way home and Art was on the way to Tokyo. Arthur was sent to Korea and assigned to the Army 3rd Infantry Division as an aerial observer flying long-range flights into North Korean territory in an unarmed airplane, while getting shot at on every mission. Keith said “Dad never spoke about Korea, other than he flew in spotter planes. It wasn’t until 2017 when Keith’s mother produced a box of letters from Art written to her and Keith’s grandparents. So as Keith began to ask Art questions, here are Art’s words about Korea. When Art arrived in Tokyo in January of 1951 at Gen. MacArthur’s headquarters, Art’s intelligence unit gained knowledge of China and Korea. Then in February of 1951, Art left Japan and landed at Pusan, Korea and onto Seoul. With the 3rd Infantry, Art’s first combat flight was in an L-4 “Grasshopper” dropping leaflets to the Chinese and North Koreans stragglers who were trapped in the mountains between Pusan and Seoul, asking them to surrender peacefully. I asked Art how low he flew on
Art is seen inspecting the P.1101 swept wing aircraft of the Luftwaffe

Art is featured in this book about the Luftwaffe’s advanced aircraft towards the end of the war.

By November of 1951, Art had over 100 combat missions as an aerial observer. Then on December of 1951, Art flew his last combat flight over Imjin, returned to Seoul and walked with twenty other men to Inchon. It took Art thirty days to get back to the States and he quipped, “they were in a hurry to get me to Korea, but not in a hurry to get me home”. When Keith asked his Dad how he felt about serving in Korea, Art said “I would do it again, I’m so happy to see what Seoul looks like now compared to the destruction I saw in 1951”. For all our Korean vets who served and sacrificed in Korea, it stings that Korea is often referred to as “The Forgotten War” – in spite of that, we should all take solace that the South Koreans have not forgotten, and without our participation there would just be one Korea now – Communist Korea. Art was discharged in March of 1952 and settled into civilian life as a carpenter and general contractor until retirement. Keith is very proud of his father and their Norwegian heritage and service. Keith closes with “All he has seen with his eyes, both good and evil and being part of history, if I could live someone else’s life, it would be his”.

Editor’s Note: Art sent me this nice autographed book about Germany’s advanced prototype Messerschmitt jet planes at their facility at Oberammergau in Bavaria. One such “wonder weapons” under development was the P.1101. On April 29, 1945, an infantry unit of the U.S. Seventh Army entered Oberammergau and discovered the aircraft. Hitler was to commit suicide days later and Germany would surrender unconditionally at Reims on May 7th. Also on May 7th, 1945, a team arrived to inspect the futuristic prototype. One young American soldier who had the opportunity to inspect the aircraft at close-hand was Cpl. Arthur Hansen (as pictured) He recalled: “I remember seeing the aircraft and wondering what it was. My first thought was that it was some type of V-1 style weapon, but soon realized it was a very advanced aircraft as the Messerschmitt was way ahead in technology.”
2nd Lt. Kammens just graduated in May from Elon College in North Carolina. Angela who calls Art “Pop Pop” will report for duty at Fort Stewart soon with the 3rd Infantry.

Art wanted to give the first salute to family member 2nd Lt. Angela Kammen’s commission.
The 75th Anniversary of the Nuclear Age

By Henry Bodden

After World War I, America began to dismantle its military might after defeating Germany in “The War to End all Wars”. Germany was strapped with unreasonable reparations and stripped of their ability to wage war in the future, or so the Allies thought at the Treaty of Versailles. However, this Armistice would last only twenty years as Versailles backfired giving rise to a maniacal German Corporal named Adolph Hitler.

As the “winds of war” whipped up in the 1930’s in Europe, America had the 17th largest military in the world, right behind Portugal. But after Pearl Harbor, America in just about 3 ½ years defeated the two strongest military powers on two fronts, and produced the first atomic bombs. An amazing achievement coming from being so militarily weak after their Naval fleet was destroyed at Pearl Harbor. But America went to work on the home front as thousands of “Rosie the Riveters” turned out an incredible amount of aircraft, tanks, jeeps, ammunition and bombs, thus unleashing it’s production might and emerging from “The Great Depression.”

The Navy, Marines, and Army island hopped their way across the Pacific from Guadalcanal to Okinawa. In Europe, we lead the way at Normandy under Supreme Allied Commander Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower. The Allies fought their way from Normandy to Berlin (by the Russians) in a year. But in the Pacific, a stubborn and relentless Empire of Japan refused to surrender as they saw their country destroyed city by city, as did the German people see their country reduced to ruins.

After Okinawa was secured in the Pacific, “Operation Downfall” (The invasion of the Japanese homeland) was planned to begin in November of 1945. When President Roosevelt died suddenly in April of 1945, President Truman was faced with a terrible decision to make. Truman was kept in the dark about the Manhattan Project until he was presented with “Operation Downfall” which would have several million American servicemen first invade Kyushu, then land on Honshu, and then Tokyo anticipating enormous American and Japanese casualties. So President Truman wisely and with great courage authorized the use of atomic bombs in hope to avoid a land invasion.

Some who produced the bombs did not even want them used on Japan, suggesting let the Japanese watch a test to convince them to surrender. America didn’t know for sure what it had and if it even worked. But they knew it could unleash a potential new weapon that would affect mankind well into the future. As one scientist named Isidor Rabi remarked after witnessing the Plutonium bomb detonate, “Suddenly there was an enormous flash of light as it blasted, it pounced, it bored right through you”. Col. Paul Tibbetts was briefed what his mission was to be and he readily accepted it.

On August 6, 1945, Tibbetts took off on a B-29 named after his mother “Enola Gay” from Tinian with the 9,000 pound “Little Boy” in its bomb bay. The bomb was released over Hiroshima at an altitude of 31,000 feet at 8:15 a.m. and exploded 49 seconds later, some 2,000 feet above the city for maximum damage.

As Tibbetts piloted the B-29 to a sharp dive away from the blast, he told his crew “Fellows, you have just dropped the first atomic bomb.”
that died over the years. As a point of trivia though, more civilians were killed by Curtis LeMay’s relentless fire bombings of Japanese cities with their wooden structured homes. Still Japan’s Army would not surrender. Only when Russia declared war on Japan and were advancing from Manchuria toward Japan, wanting a piece of the spoils did Japan surrender to the Americans fearing Russian involvement.

Emperor Hirohito should have been tried as a war criminal, but Gen. MacArthur wisely allowed the Emperor to remain as he was to stabilize the country as MacArthur rewrote the Japanese constitution and basically disarming them. As another bit of trivia, I have researched Mitsuo Fuchida extensively from his planning and leading the attack on Pearl Harbor, to his raid on Darwin, Australia, to his defeat at Midway, and as a liaison officer directing the Japanese delegation as they formally and unconditionally surrendered on the USS Missouri on September 2, 1945 in Tokyo Bay. He was in Hiroshima August the 5th when he was called to Tokyo for a meeting, thus sparing him probable death the next day in Hiroshima. Incredibly, he was converted to Christianity by Doolittle raider Jake DeShazer who spent the rest of the war in captivity after the Doolittle Raid.

Jake went back to the US after the war and entered a seminary and returned to Japan for the next thirty years as a missionary. One day Fuchida approached Jake and was converted to Christianity and Fuchida opened a ministry in Oregon as a traveling Evangelist. He was invited and had dinner with Admiral Nimitz, met Admiral Spruance, became friends with Billy Graham and even became a US citizen. Can you imagine, the pilot that lead the raid on Pearl Harbor becoming a US citizen and forgiven for the most part his attack that killed about 2,400 Americans. So as you read your Watch this month, we remember the 75th anniversary of the nuclear age, and to date no nuclear bombs since have been used since Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Korea, The Beginning & The End

This past June and July we witnessed two more anniversaries about the Korean War or Conflict as it is called. Korea also is referred to as, much to the chagrin of our soldiers, “The Forgotten War.”

By early 1950, the 3rd Division fulfilled its commitment to provide troops for Fort Benning’s Infantry School. On June 25, 1950, seventy years ago, seven North Korean divisions attacked South Korea and within three weeks these Communist troops had engulfed half of its southern neighbor. The United Nations condemned the attack as it became a U.N. war. As usual, the U.S. was not prepared for another military action. According to Gen. Matthew Ridgway who would later succeed Gen. Douglas MacArthur said the General Reserve of the U.S. Army consisted only of the “skeletonized” 3rd Division and the 82nd Airborne. The 3rd Division was assigned to the Far East Command on August 10, 1950.

At the end of October the Division learned it was shipping out to the Korean mainland. By early November of 1950, the Chinese Communists were overrunning UN forces in North Korea and forcing a rapid but orderly withdrawal. The 3rd Division arrived at Wonsan on North Korea’s eastern coast on November 11 and gradually withdrew north to Hamhung and Hungnam, all under pressure by the advancing Chinese and joint...

The weather had turned bitterly cold and the enemy was suffering more than our troops. The “Cotton Balers” were assigned an area of operations bordering on the sea of Japan and stretching some twenty miles north toward Hamhung. Fights erupted as the Chinese closed in on the 3rd which now had its back to the sea. By November 21st, the 2nd & 3rd Bns of the 7th had been moved to an area about 35 miles north of Hamhung. By the 26th, elements of the 7th were moved southwest to about 15 miles west of Hamhung, while other elements were spread far to the northwest to the Changjin Reservoir with the 1st Marine Division.

Some of our 3rd soldiers in Korea from our website

The Korean Memorial monument in Washington D.C.

Don Chase (seated) in Korea. I have written about Don Chase.
This Task Force was assigned the task of escorting the Marines out of a trap at the more commonly to be known – The Chosin Reservoir. They had to fight their way back some 25 miles to Hamhung. They accomplished this by December 11 in forty below zero weather, making the Chinese pay dearly for the ground they gained.

The Chinese now began its final assault on the thinly held perimeter around Wonsan-Hungnam area. The 3rd Division formed a protective wall around Hungnam, beating off an avalanche of vicious enemy attacks and allowing the evacuation by sea of 196,000 refugees. Then by January 1, 1951, the 3rd was at Pusan in South Korea. The Chinese had overextended themselves in the South and the Marine Men prepared for the offensive. Then in the middle of March as preparations were made for a major assault north were finalized. The enemy withdrew and Seoul was occupied without a shot being fired.

Later the 7th fought and won two hills (Hills 347 & 526), but it was easy going after that as prisoners informed Division Command that the Communists had withdrawn to the Imjin River. Here the Communists decided to hold their ground in the so called “Iron Triangle” with the towns of Kumwha, Chorwon, and Pyonggang at its corners. When the 3rd headed for Chorwon, the Chinese launched their offensive on April 22, 1951. Our artillery cut their forces to shreds as they were climbing over the dead bodies of their own men. The 7th was relieved by the 15th and they had stopped the charge in their sector. By April 27th, the Communists had spent itself and ground to a halt. The 3rd Division alone had killed 12,000 Chinese and wounded another 24,000 in the five days of battle.

I cannot cover the whole Korean war in this limited amount of space, but the Chosin Reservoir and the brilliant bold move of Gen. MacArthur at Inchon make for future stories concerning Korea. So at 2200 hours on July 27, 1953, a cease fire was agreed to by the two sides and the shooting phase of the Korean War was over.

No one won, no one surrendered, but the Communist expansion was stopped so the U.N. goals were realized. This “limited war” cost six million dead and wounded, about half being South Korean civilians, while U.N. forces suffered 88,000 killed. I know our soldiers feel short changed for their sacrifices being referred to as “The Forgotten War,” but South Korea has not forgotten. Had it not been for our boys, there would be only one Korea today, Communist Korea. The difference between North and South Korea today is startling, just look at the economic power South Korea is today as our ally. Seoul is a bustling modern day metropolis with glistening skyscrapers, while North Korea has been ruled by a dictator family that cannot feed its own people while enslaving them. And to this day South Korea has not forgotten our sacrifice. I have two good friends that were flown to Seoul and treated like royalty and honored for their sacrifice. In fact South Korea still funds these trips to their country for anyone who fought in their behalf. So you have not been “forgotten”. Source: The History of the 3rd Infantry Division.
WASHINGTON, March 18, 2004 — The "Thunder Runs" of the war in Iraq seemed to come from nowhere. One day the fighting was far to the south, and seemingly the next, soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division were liberating Baghdad.

The Thunder Runs were the audacious answer to charges that American forces were stuck in a quagmire in Iraq.

Army Col. David Perkins commanded the 2nd Brigade of the "Rock of the Marne" Division. There were two armor battalions, the 1st Battalion, 64th Armor and 4th Battalion, 64th Armor and an infantry battalion, the 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry in the brigade.

Perkins, now with the Joint Staff here, said the unit got the assignment April 4. The first Thunder Run was a battalion-sized raid up from the south, through downtown Baghdad to link up with the 3rd Infantry Division's 1st Brigade at the international airport.

"We were fighting the Medina Division and completing their destruction," Perkins said. The other two battalions were attacking the Iraqi division.

The Abrams tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles of the battalion moved into Baghdad April 5 and encountered a "pretty dense gauntlet of fire," the colonel said. They found that the Iraqis had heavily defended the roads, because they knew the U.S. soldiers were coming.

The Iraqi forces' strongpoints were the overpasses. Under them, the Iraqis placed tanks and armored personnel carriers. This prevented observation from above. For their counterattacks, the Iraqis placed dismounted infantry in bunkers and fighting positions on and around the on ramps and off ramps of the highways.

Perkins said that in the fight up to Baghdad, the unit found momentum was the key. Once U.S. soldiers broke through the defenses, the Iraqis could not reorient well. Still, breaking through the defenses was tough for his soldiers, Perkins said. They faced a "hail of fire," and it was immediately apparent that thin-skinned resupply vehicles could not survive.

The first Thunder Run encountered very heavy fighting, Perkins said. "We had one (killed in action) and a number of casualties, two serious," he said. "There were a lot of heroic activities." An anti-tank missile disabled one tank, and the crew still under fire went out to put the fire out and save their tank. The fire extinguishers ran out, and they poured water from five-gallon cans to finish putting out the fire. The tank commander climbed on top of the vehicle and saw a rocket-propelled grenade team working toward the vehicle. He pulled his 9-mm pistol and engaged the enemy, Perkins said.

The battalion successfully completed the raid. They went through downtown Baghdad and out the western side, linking up with the 1st Brigade. Saddam Hussein's spokesman said the Iraqis had defeated the American probe into Baghdad. At the airport, a reporter came up to Perkins and said the BBC reporters in the city had not seen the Americans. "My initial flippant response was 'Well, I was in the city and I didn't see the BBC, so maybe they weren't there,'" Perkins said.

"We captured an Iraqi brigadier general in the raid," he said. "He was completely surprised there were American tanks in the city. He believed their propaganda that the Americans were a hundred miles south, dying by the thousands. All of a sudden he's coming to work and there is a tank battalion rolling down the center of Baghdad."

It became apparent to Perkins that the propaganda being put out by Saddam's regime was giving the Iraqis a false sense of security and emboldening them to continue to fight. "What I really took away from it was maybe there was a psychological benefit to be gained by making sure people knew exactly who was controlling the city, that the war was over," Perkins said.

On April 6, the brigade was ordered to conduct a second Thunder Run into Baghdad. "As we looked at the situation and plans and what happened to us on the 5th, to go in and stay in would be of much more tactical and strategic significance than going in and coming out," Perkins said. "We began the plan at the brigade level to attack into the city and stay in the city."

But staying would mean resupply. It would mean that the thin-skinned fuel and ammunition vehicles would have to enter the city. Perkins figured that the American tanks could operate for about 10 hours before refueling. He would have to make the decision on the operation after four hours, as to whether it would be successful. "What I did not want to do was attack into the city and get cut off and end up with a Mogadishu, Somalia, situation," Perkins said.

U.S. Army Rangers and Delta Force personnel were ambushed in Mogadishu in October 1993. The bloody firefight left 18 dead and 84 wounded.

The Thunder Run would require the whole brigade. Perkins said the two armor battalions would lead and punch on through to the center of the city. "The idea was not to stop for anything," Perkins said. "Don't stop to attack strongpoints. Don't stop for disabled vehicles. Just go."

The Thunder Run would require the whole brigade. Perkins said the two armor battalions would lead and punch on through to the center of the city. "The idea was not to stop for anything," Perkins said. "Don't stop to attack strongpoints. Don't stop for disabled vehicles. Just go."

The 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry would come up behind and take the three overpasses the Iraqis had fortified. In typical American humor, those objectives were named Moe, Larry and Curley.

The brigade attacked, and as the two tank battalions got into the city they attacked down two avenues. The 4th Battalion, 64th Armor went down the river and took the palaces. The 1st Battalion, 64th Armor went into the city and took the parade field and ministry buildings. "Essentially, we had two tank battalions attacking..."
Border Surveillance Mission 70-72

Sgt. Robert Suckman, C Troop, 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry, 3rd Infantry Division, recalls border duty at Coburg, Germany with the 3-7th Cav during the 1970-1972 period.

“Several weeks before we were deployed, we would start hours of classroom training and review. We would learn recognition of Warsaw Pact military equipment, such as uniforms, weapons, vehicles, planes and helicopters. We would be taught how to complete the necessary paperwork for our particular job assignments: spot reports, weather reports, vehicle status reports. We would learn how to use the code books and properly decipher messages. We would also become familiarized with proper radio procedure. We would review and hone our map reading skills, understand terrain features and grid coordinates.”

“The vehicles that were going to be used, were all thoroughly checked and given high priority for needed parts to bring them up to standard, even appearance wise. If I remember correctly, we would take gun jeeps, 5/4 ton trucks, M113 APC’s, M114 scout vehicle tanks, Sheridan tanks, track vehicles tank retrievers and 2 1/2 ton troop cargo vehicles.

Also, our weapons, such as 45’s, M16 rifles, M60 machine guns, 50 caliber machine guns, LAWS and grenade launchers. Of course we took all the ammo that went with the weapons and weapon systems.”

“The Coburg was the Taj Mahal of border camps. Large, white, clean and well maintained buildings. The grounds were well maintained, with nice lawns and shrubs. Compared to a camp I was at on the Czech border, Coburg was a resort and show place. Upon arrival at Camp Harris, we would relieve the departing unit that was there previously and have a briefing.”

“Road patrols would consist of two jeeps and 6 to 8 troopers assigned. Each jeep would have a driver, gunner and a patrol leader/observer. Each jeep would have a combat load of 45’s, M16’s, M60 machine guns, grenades and ammunition, rations as well as communication equipment.”

“Everyday, a patrol would be sent out at different times of the day. Patrols would last anywhere from 8-12 hours. There were several different patrol routes that could be set up. The patrol had specific check points they had to go to, dismount, observe the border area on the East German side and send spot reports and weather reports back to the Operation Center, of any activity, civilian or military, that was observed. The patrols also had cameras to capture anything noteworthy. They could get no closer than 10 meters to the actual border. The patrol needed to stay at each check point, a specified amount of time. Arrival and departure times had to be recorded. Upon return to camp, the patrols would turn in their equipment and ammo, finish the paperwork and be debriefed. We had 3 patrol unit set up, so each unit would have a patrol day, a day off and a day for details, maintenance of vehicles and other such activities.”

“Observation Posts were manned 24P, with a 24 hour shift per team. If I remember right, each team consisted of around 8 members. I believe 4 troopers were assigned as guards and 4 were assigned as the border observers. The guards patrolled the road entrance to the OP and were armed with a M16 and a telephone or radio connected to the OP.”

“The observers would watch the border area to the front of the OP and call in Spot Reports of any activity, civilian or military, to the Operations Center back at Camp Harris, just as the Road Patrols would do. Op’s were usually located in wooded areas on top of a hill. The area being observed usually was a well traveled road or area of military activity. The Op’s were constructed with an observation area in the front, and was equipped with radios, telephones, binoculars, scopes, maps and manuals as well as weather gauges. The back area of the OP was for troopers to rest and eat when they were oh.”

The Coburg castle in Germany
“Along with Spot Report, the OP would relay real time weather information, temperature, wind speed and direction and basic weather conditions. Spot and Weather Reports were recorded on a standard form and were relayed back to the Operations Center by phone. Forms were set up by line numbers: ex. Line 1 might be date, line 2 might be time and so on.”

“Hot meals were transported to the OP by support personnel from the Troop. On occasion, a special team of soldier trained in the use of night vision scopes and listening devices, would set up at night along side the Op and use their equipment to observe the border. Remember, this was back in early 70’s and the Army wasn’t equipped with all the modern night vision devises as it is now. Upon being relieved in the morning by another team and returning to camp, all paperwork would be turned in, filed and the team would be debriefed.”

“The OP was armed with the same basic weapons and equipment as the road patrols. I think each team had their own jeeps and kept them right on the OP site in case they had to evacuate the position in a hurry.”

The Border Operation’s Center at Camp Harris was manned 24P by an Operations Sergeant(which was my job assignment) and an assistant runner. The center is where the patrols and observations posts would radio/call all spot and weather reports to. The report came in by line number for ease of reporting and recording. The Operation Sergeant checks for accuracy of coordinates and completeness of report and then calls in the report to next higher link in the chain, Nuremberg. The time of receiving the report and sending the report back out are recorded in the log book. The report needs to be sent back out in a timely manner so the information is noteworthy. Weather reports are also relayed in the same manner. Contact must be maintained with the patrols and observation posts at all times. If no reports are relayed for an hour, communications checks would be initiated by the Operations Sgt. and recorded in the log book.”

The operation center had 3 teams assigned, 24 hours on and 48 hours off. The center had phones to the observation posts, to Nuremberg and radios communication to all three. Also in the Ops Center, was a Crypto room and operator. No one had admittance to this area but the operator. There was also a room set up for debriefing of patrols and observation post troopers, as well as briefings for visiting commanders.

The Operation Center was also in charge of the code books and passwords, making sure they were secure and that all pertinent troopers had the proper information given to them before departing for their assignments.”

“In case of an invasion, the Operations Center had to be maintained to the very end, to continue sending in reports from the patrols and op’s. If possible, a helicopter would be sent to pull us out at the last possible moment (yeah right). The Crypto operator had explosives to destroy the center and all it’s content (so I was told). The Cav had an expected life expectancy of about 10 minutes if under full invasion by Warsaw Pact forces. We were to report what was coming, from which directions, and the directions they were headed. Real comforting to know that we were expendable, but hopefully we would give the rear areas time to mobilize and repel an invasion or at least slow them down. As I look back on it now, I liked the Cav assignment in Schweinfurt and enjoyed the border tours. It really opened my eyes to reality and gave me a sense of pride and a job well done.

The 3rd Id memorial in Coburg, Germany
The First Wave

Editor's Note: Mr. Alex Kershaw was our guest speaker at our 102nd Anniversary Soldier's Ball in Jekyll Island, Georgia last year. He is currently writing a book about the 3rd Infantry Division in WWII and was invited by our Commanding General to attend and speak at our 100th Anniversary of our Society and the Soldier's Ball. Alex is an honorary Colonel in the 116th Infantry Regiment of the 29th Infantry Division that stormed the beaches at Vierville-sur-Mer at Omaha Beach on D-Day in Normandy. Alex Kershaw is the widely acclaimed and award winning author of several New York Times best selling books about WWII, including "The Bedford Boys" and "The First Wave" which is the subject of this article. Alex is a graduate of University College, Oxford and worked as a journalist for the Guardian and other newspapers before moving to the US in 1994 and residing in Savannah, Georgia. Alex leads battlefield tours and lectures on WWII. His 2012 book, The Liberator, is being made into a drama series to be aired on Netflix this year. I therefore asked Alex if he would contribute this summary of his latest book "The First Wave" about the tragic deaths of "The Bedford Boys" who died at the invasion at Vierville-sur-Mer on D-Day.

Part Two

By Alex Kershaw

Radio operator John Clifton was particularly successful with English women due to an unbeatable combination of Southern charm, penetrating brown eyes, courtesy of his Cherokee Indian ancestry, and a slim but muscular build. Raymond Hoback was among the first to fall in love with an English girl. His brother Bedford wrote to their sister, Mabel: 'Ray is not married yet, but is courting heavily. I saw him the other night with a little Jewish girl, really good looking.' Within a year, Sergeant Clyde Powers would be considering marriage to a sweet-natured 'rose' named Pam Roberts whom he met in Plymouth; Sergeant Roy Stevens would be dating a chirpy Liverpudlian, Mickey Muriel Peake; and company clerk Pride Wingfield would be seeing Doreen, Mickey's cousin. They shared cigarettes, taught their girls to jive and jitterbug, and tried to forget the war. The next dance, the next pub, the next 48-hour pass were all that mattered. Passes in hand, some Bedford boys took their English dates to the grave of Pocahontas, the Indian princess from Virginia, who was buried at Gravesend. Some visited another Virginia - Nancy Astor, Britain's first female MP, who invited groups to tea and sandwiches. Others from Company A headed straight for the nearest railway station, bound for London, specifically Piccadilly Circus.

'That was where the ladies, or rather the women, hung out,' Roy Stevens explains. As often as not, the men were overcharged for everything they bought in London, and sometimes fleeced by canny English 'gals' who could see a horny Yank coming a long way off. Private Bob Sales was typical of the young Virginians in the 116th Infantry who saved their wages and then headed for Piccadilly Circus at every opportunity, hell-bent on painting the town red. As soon as they arrived in London, they hopped on the tube to Soho, army-issue rubbers and crisp pound notes stuffing their wallets. In Gerrard Street, Sales and his fellow Virginians then bartered with 'cheeky tarts' sitting on stoops, mascara lines drawn on their calves to resemble stockings, calling out their price: 'Half a pound, occasionally a pound if she was really good looking.' Bedford boy Earl Parker also visited London, but did not enjoy it quite so much as Sales. He couldn't stop thinking about his new family. Back in Bedford, his wife Viola had given birth to their first child, a girl. He had been convinced the baby would be a boy, and had agreed on a name with Viola: Danny. A few weeks later, a letter reached Earl. Viola had named the girl Danny because she thought it would make him happy. Earl pulled out a photograph to show his buddies. She was every bit as beautiful as her mother.

4 June 1944, The Bedford boys filed up a gangway leading to their troopship, the HMS Empire Javelin. From the deck, British Sub-Lieutenant Jimmy Green watched as they came aboard. Green and other British naval officers had already dubbed Company A 'the suicide wave' - the men under Fellers looked so young and naive, somehow sacrificial. 'Actually, we also referred to ourselves as the suicide wave,' recalls Green, 'and to be honest we were all quite proud of the label.' By mid-afternoon on 5 June, the Empire Javelin was heading out to sea. Men gathered nervously on the ship's main deck to watch the vast armada dotting the horizon. Typically, to ease the tension, Master Sergeant John Wilkes joked that every man in Company A would get the Bronze Star after landing in France. Earl Parker stood at the Empire Javelin's rail with the Stevens twins. 'It was a solemn thing,' remembers Roy Stevens. 'We sat around and talked about what we would do when we got back home.' Suddenly, Parker pulled out a picture of his 16-month-old daughter, Danny. 'If I could just see her once,' Parker said, 'I wouldn't mind dying.' By 4am the next morning, the Bedford boys stood on deck ready to climb into the landing craft that hung over the sides of the Empire...
Javelin. For a few moments, they stood in silence. It seemed that whatever each man was thinking formed part of some communal prayer. Company A went to its boat stations. Captain Fellers thanked his men for their hard work during training and asked them to be careful. 'This is it,' he added. 'This is the real thing.'

Roy Stevens' boat was number five of the seven. His brother Ray's was number two. Roy looked around, trying to spot his brother. He was desperate by now to wish him good luck, slap him on the back, buoy his spirits, tell him they'd be back in Bedford soon working their farm together. Roy suddenly stumbled into his twin, Ray. All the other Bedford boys were shaking hands, wishing each other luck. Ray stuck out his hand for Roy to shake. Roy refused it. 'I'll shake your hand in Vierville sur Mer,' he said, 'up at the crossroads above the beach, later this morning sometime.' Ray bowed his head and held out his hand again. 'I'm not gonna make it.'

Of course he would. Roy still refused to shake Ray's hand. He'd do it later after they'd crossed Omaha Beach.

Roy directed the boat team to its positions. His buddy, Clyde Powers, took a position on one of the three rows of benches for the men to sit down. Powers's uncle, Sergeant Harold Wilkes, lumbered aboard, his assault jacket crammed with a quarter pound of TNT, K-rations, and a medical kit containing morphine. From the Empire Javelin's deck, the seas had looked cold and choppy. Now, as Roy Stevens hunched down into his craft, LCA 911, the slapping waves felt violent and ominous: 'I never saw water that bad. The seas were just rolling and rolling, and there were white caps way out where we were, [12 miles] from the coast. It was really, really rough.' Some began to wonder whether they would get to France, let alone across Omaha Beach. Jimmy Green stood beside his coxswain in LCA 910. Green had been ordered to keep radio silence until he landed Captain Fellers and his boat team. As his flotilla formed up, he checked his watch. Hour for Company A was 6:36am. He had just over two hours to get to Omaha Beach. He gave the order for Company A's six boats to approach the beach in two columns of three craft. Whenever he looked over his shoulder, he could see Captain Fellers and his men sitting in tense, glum silence. 'They were just boys, pleasant, fresh-faced country boys. They looked like nice lads on a trip around the bay. The rest of [the British seamen in] our flotilla also thought they were a nice bunch. But not assault troops in the sense that they were heavily laden with 60lb of equipment.' Three miles from the beach, Company A heard a massive explosion. The men looked to their right, westward. The battleship Texas was firing at Omaha; when the ship’s enormous 14in guns erupted, shock waves threatened to swamp the boats. By now, severely seasick men, including Bedford boy John Schenk, barely had the strength to bail with their helmets. Just after 6am, Lieutenant Ray Nance peered through a narrow slot at the front of his LCA. A pall of smoke hung like a storm cloud over the beach, obscuring many of the bluffs. Nance closed the slot, keeping his head down. A few feet from Nance, Bedford boy John Clifton struggled to repair his radio set. The antenna had broken off due to the heavy seas. Should he abandon it? Nance told him to bring it along and they would repair it later on the beach. Without radios, there was little chance of setting up Company A's first command post. Clifton shouldered the broken set. In LCA 911, Roy Stevens watched a volley of rockets flash over-
He squeezed the CO2 tubes in his life belt, but as he did so the belt flew away. The buckle had broken. He turned and grabbed a man nearby and managed to keep himself from going under by climbing on to the man's back.

head. 'Take a good look!' a man shouted. 'This is something you will tell your grandchildren!' 'Sure, if we live,' thought John Barnes.

'There was a lovely firework display,' says Jimmy Green. 'The rockets went up in the air and then down in the sea about a mile off the shore, nowhere near the coast. They killed a few fish but that was about it. I was furious. They'd come all that way just to misfire. Bang, bang, bang! It woke those Germans up who didn't know we were already coming, but that was it.'

Out at sea, a British coxswin gunned LCA 911's engines. 'We're on our way in,' someone said.

Stevens said a prayer. Most of the men beside him were so seasick they did not seem to care if they lived or died. Mortars and artillery fire began to drop into the seas. In Stevens's boat were Harold Wilkes, Billy Fizer and Clyde Powers. 'We're sinking!' Water gushed into LCA 911. Stevens whipped off his helmet and began to bail frantically. John Barnes glimpsed the spire of Vierville sur Mer's church. Then the front of 911 disappeared beneath the waves. Barnes felt the craft fall away below. He squeezed the CO2 tubes in his life belt, but as he did so the belt flew away. The buckle had broken. He turned and grabbed a man nearby and managed to keep himself from going under by climbing on to the man's back. At the head of the flotilla, Jimmy Green heard a man shout for help and turned around just in time to see LCA 911 go under. His orders were not to stop and pick up men from the water. In any case, his boat did not have space for the men from 911. 'I'll be back,' Green shouted. Roy Stevens could barely swim and was soon struggling to keep his head above water, weighed down by 60lb of kit as well as his assault jacket, sodden and crammed with ammunition, which now fitted so well he couldn't get rid of it. Stevens gulped sea water between desperate breaths and then grabbed hold of a Bangalore torpedo.

Clyde Powers was a good swimmer, having spent many summer days as a boy plunging into swimming holes and on the shores of Smith Lake, a few miles from Bedford: 'It was quite a bunch of the 30 that couldn't swim. I would say it was eight or nine who couldn't swim.' Those who could swim, like Powers and his uncle Harold Wilkes, did their best to prop up those who couldn't. Every man wore an inflatable Mae West, but their assault jackets and packs were so heavy when soaked that even men who could swim had to kick hard simply to keep their heads above water. 'I'm drowning!' one of the men shouted. Stevens turned and saw his boat team's radio operator, Private James Padley. A wave slapped Stevens in the face. He wiped salt water from his eyes. Padley was gone. Aboard LCA 910, men could now see vague outlines of defensive installations and other landmarks. Jimmy Green spotted some 'nasty looking pillboxes along the coast'. One looked particularly lethal. 'If there's anybody in there,' Green thought, 'we've had it.' Green turned to Fellers. 'This is where we're going to land, is that OK?'

Green gave the command to approach at full speed. He still couldn't see any Germans, but everybody knew they were now ready and waiting in some strength because mortars started to splash around them with much greater frequency. Suddenly, off to Green's left, an LCA was hit by an anti-tank rifle bullet which ripped through just above the water line, tearing off Bedford boys Frank Draper's upper arm as he sat in the middle of the craft. 'I was later told that the other men tried to get Frank to lay down he was bleeding so badly,' recalled Draper's sister, Verona. 'But he wouldn't do it. He kept trying to stand.' Finally, Draper fell to the floor awash with vomit and dirty sea water.

Jimmy Green gave the hand signal for Company A to make the final run to the beach. His craft touched bottom about 30 yards from the shore and then bucked up and down in heavy surf. He opened the doors, lowered the ramp and then turned to Fellers: 'Good luck.' Fellers thanked Green for getting the men in on time. The armor-plated door leading on to the ramp opened. Fellers stood, exited, and then clambered down the ramp. The middle row filed after him. 'They went out in very good order,' recalls Green. 'They didn't need to be ushered out - they knew what they had to do.' It took over a minute for the other two rows to get out of the boat. The enemy still held their machine-gun fire. Green watched as the tall figure of Fellers and his men waded, guns above their heads, through the water, snaking on to the beach in a long line. He saw Fellers and his men lie down on a slight incline. Green went back to work, ordering his coxswin to pull off the beach and head back to pick up LCA 911's crew still in the water. It was H-Hour: the Bedford boys had arrived on the shores of Fortress Europe exactly on time.

Editor's note: At the end of the first day of breaching the Atlantic Wall, the Allies suffered 10,000 casualties. But the tiny town of Bedford, Virginia, with a population of just 3,000 suffered the greatest loss of life percentage wise. In just the first few minutes of hitting the beach near the two draws at Vierville-sur-Mer that they were ordered to take, they suffered 90% casualties. During these first minutes, nineteen of the boys from Bedford were killed, with three more dying in combat in Normandy bringing the total to twenty-two deaths. The Bedford Boys were the inspiration of Steven Spielberg's movie "Saving Private Ryan" and their landing at Vierville-sur-Mer. I have visited several of the Bedford Boys graves at the American Cemetery at Omaha Beach. On June 6, 2001, the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Virginia was dedicated and opened with President George W. Bush in attendance. Steven Spielberg also helped fund the memorial. I strongly suggest reading Alex Kershaw's books - "The First Wave" & "The Bedford Boys"
abreast through downtown," he said.

But securing the supply line was difficult. Between 300 and 500 enemy soldiers attacked infantrymen at Objective Curley. Perkins had only two platoons as a reserve. He committed them.

Still, no supplies were getting through, and it was decision time. The infantry battalion commander said he thought he could secure the area. Perkins took tanks, put them at strategic locations, and then shut the engines down. "We needed to do it to save fuel," he said.

At Objective Moe, the unit was "black" on ammo that meant they had about an hour's worth of ammunition left.

In the midst of this, an enemy missile landed in the center of the brigade's tactical operations center. "It left a crater 10 feet wide, 10 feet deep," Perkins said. Five people were killed and 20 were wounded, many seriously. The tactical operations center lost its communications, and the assault command post up in Baghdad took over the air and artillery support mission.

Resupply vehicles moved up to Objective Curley and were ambushed. Two soldiers were killed and some vehicles were lost. "Between Hour 4 and 6, what you have is two tank battalions in the city with the engines shut down, on the highway the group is almost out of ammo, the brigade TOC has been destroyed, and my lead resupply package has been destroyed," Perkins said.

But determination from bottom to top made it work. "Got what was left of the ammunition and fuel resupply and drove them through blazing infernos to get ammo up to the northern guy," he said.

The young privates and specialists drove in the northbound lanes. On the overpasses, American soldiers laid down a wall of fire in the left-hand lanes to keep Iraqi soldiers away from the fuel-and ammunition-packed vehicles. "They were driving up the highway while friendly forces (were) firing back down the passing lane," Perkins said. "And they are driving aluminum-skinned bombs."

After the initial ambush every vehicle made it through, and the tankers and infantrymen received their ammunition, food and fuel.

Perkins said there were huge challenges that everyone worked through. "Everyone had this unbelievable focus and sense that we're going to make this happen," Perkins said. "Because in our minds, if we can stay in the city, the war is over."

That night, the force countered localized counterattacks. On April 8, the force defeated a major counterattack. On April 9, the soldiers defeated an assault across the Tigris River. "Later on the 9th was when the Marines came up and we linked with them at the bridge," Perkins said. "That was the end of the organized resistance."

James Garamone, Army Forces Press Service

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On The Lighter Side

So I was just thinking, we all need to support our feathered peaceful protesters in their quest to save their statues.
The Route of the Third Infantry Division in WWII

By Luigi Settimi

It is with great pleasure that Outpost 16 presents to all the members of the Third Infantry Division Association its project for Italy and for all the other sections that will want to participate.

Since I have been a member and then president of an outpost, I have always read and seen all the articles, photos, research, books, which are published in the various social media, in the magazines of the association or in bookstores.

They are thousands of memories, images, true stories, life lived, beautiful and tragic moments.

In these early years I had the opportunity to visit several museums dedicated to the Second World War in Italy and France. In many of these, there is the story of the passage of the Third Division, in many countries there are monuments, plaques, in memory of the liberation by the boys of the Third Division.

Recently, I had the chance to buy the book, almost impossible to find, "From Fedala to Berchtgesarden", the diary of the 7th Regiment and in the second page I saw the "Combat course" that line that starts from Fedala in North Africa and goes through Italy to Licata, Palermo, Messina, Salerno, Il fiume Voltorno (the winter line), Anzio, Valmontone, Palestina, Rome and then in France in Sant′ Tropez, the Rhone valley, Marseille, Avignon, Montelimar, Besancon, the Vosges mountain range, Colmar, Strasbourg and then in Germany, crossing the Rhine, in Mannheim, Nuremberg, Munich, to Austria, in Salzburg, where they climbed up to the "eagle's nest" to drop the Nazi flag from Hitler's house.

It was an incredible, heroic journey through Europe. A journey that had already been marked, where the route had already been traced with sweat, fatigue, and blood spilled.

Of this journey each of us has a piece, a memory, a search. He knows a big museum or a small museum, he knows a plaque, a stèle in memory. He knows where that hero of the Third Division fought, where he fell or where he won a medal of honor.

Hence my idea, which I immediately proposed to our President, Toby Knight.

Bring it all together! Put together all the little pieces of history that everyone has and unite them into one big project, which tells the story of the road taken by our boys to free Europe.

To President Toby, I then presented the project for Italy that I now present to all of you.

We have divided Italy into three areas of competence: islands, south and center.

We have partnered with other associations to help us in this endeavor. They are:
- Society of the Third Infantry Division, Outpost No. 16, Floyd K. Linstrom
- Association Reduci 51° Bersaglieri Battalion AUC "Montelungo 1943" (Winter Line area and Gothic Line)
- Association Historicus Cascoli Museum (Winter Line area)
- Association Memento (Landing of Licata)
- Pistoiese Gothic Line Association

They will begin in their areas of competence to make contact (already started in recent years) with the various museums reminiscent of the combat zones of the Third Division.
- The Museum of the Landing of Licata
- The Museum of Baron La Lumia (which houses General Patton's Jeep... a story we will tell you)
- The Landing Museum of Salerno
- The Military Base of Torre Astura in Neptune, where the Third Division landed.
- The Anzio Landing Museum
- The War of Liberation Museum in Rome
- We will include in the project the two American war cemeteries, that of Neptune and that of Florence.

And we plan to continue along the Gothic Line, telling for those who will visit Italy also the facts that happened in those great battles along the last German line of defense in Italy. But we will not stop here.
- We have already started, a year ago, to mark all the geographical points where a Third Division Soldiers earned the Medal of Honor. All these points will be marked and indicated with a plaque or a monu-
ment. We have found the point of Maurice Lee Britt, that of Floyd K Lindstrom and that of Sylvester Antolak.

- We have found and will indicate along this road the places of combat, such as the place where Colonel Toffey died, the machine gun posts along round mount, chimney mount.
- The area of the Bosco del Foglino (Anzio) where the Third Infantry Division tents were set up in Anzio.
- All the great monuments dedicated to the Third Division, built in the past.
- A war cemetery of the 7th regiment along the winter line, a small cemetery near Licata, forgotten, unobtainable places.

Last but not least, but precisely because of its importance we put it here, we will insert the Museum of the Third Infantry Division of Fort Stewart

The contacts between the associations in Italy and the museums aim to create a common agreement for the production and exchange of exhibitions, the creation of common brochures, where the whole route will be indicated and where everyone will have the opportunity to make known their position and their proposal.

Inside Outpost 16, we have a museum that can already be visited. It is called the Historicus Museum and many members own means, objects, collections of original material from the Second World War, which is often requested for themed exhibitions and installations. All this in the near future can be used by the various museums that will be united in the street.

In addition, all this material, all these contacts, stories, places and museums, will be indicated in a web portal, which will open with the map of Europe and where enlarging the map you will know all the geographical points where the Third Division has passed, all the points where there is a museum, a plaque, the history of what happened and the photos to see those places as they were at the time of the war.

It’s not a simple project and it requires a lot of work, but as an Italian outpost we will dedicate to this project all the desire and passion we have and we will put all this at the disposal of the General Direction of the Association, at everyone’s disposal.

And our dream is that also the other French, German and Austrian outposts they are even further ahead in the research because they are already present in the territory since a long time) in order to be able to join together all this route and give the possibility today and tomorrow, to future generations, to turn on a tablet, to connect anywhere in Europe and to know if the Third Infantry Division has passed in their area and to be able to follow that route marked by those Soldiers and return to those places.

It’s a fantastic road, a route of memory, of the memories of each one of you and of each one of us of the Outpost 16, that even if not American, feels inside itself, to give the honors to those boys who came to free them from Nazifascism.

We must not forget that, we must not forget that road.

Roll Call

New Members — Society of the 3rd Infantry Division

Listed below are all new members who enrolled during since the last issue of The Watch-on-The-Rhine.

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Last Call

The following personnel were identified as deceased. 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

We no longer list the addresses of our deceased members. This is being done to curtail predators and people who victimize our members’ survivors with schemes. If you need an address of one of the following, you can find it in your Roster or you can contact the Roster Manager Frank Urgolini. Contact information is on page 2 of the Watch.

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<tr>
<th>ID#</th>
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Purpose

The Society of the Third Infantry Division, United States Army, was founded in 1919 and incorporated in 1958 as a non-profit, fraternal, social, educational, patriotic, military service organization and shall always remain non-profit 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 goals for which it is formed, that same full measure of loyalty and devotion which my comrades who have fallen gave to the Division and to the cause for which they fought.

Through my loyalty and devotion to their memory, they shall not be forgotten by the country, for which they died, or by the comrades at whose sides they fell.

To them, I pledge in peace and war the dedication of myself to that country and that cause to which they consecrated themselves.

General Information

All members in good standing receive the official bimonthly publication, The Watch on the Rhine. Life Members shall receive The Watch on the Rhine with no further dues payments during their lifetime. The National Membership Roster is printed every three years. All members receive a copy of the roster on the three-year cycle. All new members receive a copy. The next National Membership Roster will be printed in 2021.

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” (named for Lt. Maurice Britt, MOH, WW2).

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.

Associate Membership: Spouse, parents, brother, sister, children, grandparents, grandchildren of any person eligible for Regular Membership and any person with an interest in, or an affinity for, the Society of the 3rd Infantry Division.

Life Membership: Available to both Regular and Associate Members.

Dues

Annual dues: Regular, Active Duty, Associate Members ............$20.00
Annual dues: Overseas Members .....................................$35.00

Some Outposts charge an additional fee beginning with the second year’s dues, making the total annual dues for Outpost #3: $23.00; Outpost #12: $24.00; Outposts #7, #60: $25.00; Outpost #22: $22.00. All other outposts pay $20.00 annually; all new members pay $20.00 for the first year.

Dues for Special Life Membership

Recipient of Medal of Honor ..........No charge

Dues for Other Life Memberships are based on the following scales:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Domestic</th>
<th>Overseas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to age 39</td>
<td>$400.00</td>
<td>$1,280.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ages 40-49</td>
<td>$350.00</td>
<td>$925.00</td>
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<td>Ages 50-59</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
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<td>Ages 60-69</td>
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<td>Ages 70-79</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
<td>$310.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ages 80 and over</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
<td>$275.00</td>
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</table>

*Active Duty Lifetime Membership.........$100**
*For any AD Soldier currently on Active Duty
**Will only receive digital copies of the "Watch on the Rhine" magazine via email

Annual dues are payable before July 1st each year. Life dues are applicable for Regular and Associate Members. Life Member dues can be paid in one lump sum or in four quarterly payments over a 12 month period.

For information, please visit our website: www.society3rdid.org.
CAMPAIGNS OF THE THIRD INFANTRY DIVISION

WORLD WAR I [2 Medals of Honor]
★ Aisne
★ St. Mihiel
★ Champagne-Marne
★ Meuse-Argonne
★ Aisne-Marne
★ Champagne

KOREAN WAR [13 Medals of Honor]
★ CCF Intervention
★ First UN Counter-offensive
★ CCF Spring Offensive
★ U.N. Summer-Fall Offensive
★ Second Korean Winter
★ Korea, Summer-Fall 1952
★ Third Korean Winter
★ Korea, Summer 1953

WORLD WAR II [40 Medals of Honor]
★ Algeria-French Morocco (with arrowhead)
★ Tunisia
★ Sicily (with arrowhead)
★ Naples-Foggia
★ Anzio (with arrowhead)
★ Rome-Arno
★ Southern France (with arrowhead)
★ Ardenne-Alsace
★ Rhineland
★ Central Europe

WAR ON TERRORISM [1 Medal of Honor]
★ Liberation of Iraq
★ Transition of Iraq
★ Iraqi Governance
★ National Resolution
★ Iraqi Surge
★ Iraqi Sovereignty
★ New Dawn

Rock of the Marne
◆ WWI 1917-1918
◆ Peacetime 1919-1941
◆ WWII 1941-1945
◆ Korea War 1950-1953
◆ Cold War 1945-1991
◆ Desert Storm 1990-1991
◆ Peacetime 1992-2000
◆ Bosnia 2000-2001
◆ Peacetime 2002-2003
◆ Middle East 2003-present

WWI, WWII, Korea, Cold War, Peacetime, Bosnia, Iraq, Afghanistan

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