An American Boy – A History Of Life And Valor

Part One

By Luigi Settimi

In the history of men in war there are days when courage, strength and valor are manifested together at the same time, asking for help from luck. These are days that remain fixed in the memory of those who lived them and the companions who were close to them, becoming “days of glory.” These days fill pages of books, full of memories and testimonies. These days of glory, through the books, are handed down to subsequent generations, creating the history of a people, the unity of a nation, its character and that of subsequent generations.

Maurice Lee Britt, at dawn on November 9 and 10, 1943, did not know that those he was about to live were his days of glory and that subsequent generations would remember them forever. This is the story of an American boy, called to arms during the Second World War and who participated in the war of liberation in Italy. The Association of the Third Infantry Division U.S. Army - Italy, on the day he was seriously wounded, 75 years ago, and his war ended, remembers him with infinite affection. Maurice Lee Britt “Footsie” - Company L, 3rd Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division Maurice Lee Britt, with the nickname “Footsie”, was born on June 29, 1919 in Carlisle, Arkansas. His family moved to nearby Lonoke County when Maurice was still a

Report That Lt. Garlin M. Conner’s MOH Action Did Not Take Place is Repudiated

In the August 2020 issue of The Watch on the Rhine, Tim Stoy and/or Monika Stoy submitted an article concerning the death of Pfc. Robert A. Dutil. In the article the Stoy’s repeated a story allegedly told to them by Dutil concerning Medal of Honor recipient, Lt. Garlin Murl Conner, and the 24 January 1945 Colmar Pocket battle near Houssen, France. On June 24, 2018, Conner was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor by President Donald J. Trump for his action on 24 January 1945. In the Stoy’s article, they state that Dutil allegedly told them he refused “to give a statement to the Army substantiating what happened the day of the action” in effect because it did not happen. That Dutil was surprised to learn that one of the witnesses’ statements was signed by a “Bob Dutil.” Included here-with are copies of Pfc. Dutil’s sworn eyewitness statement concerning Lt. Conner’s action, and summaries of the other two eyewitnesses, 1st Sgt. Harold J. Miller and 1st Lt. Harold Wigetman. (The copy of Dutil’s statement obtained from the National Archives is difficult to read. A second typed copy that is copied from the original is

Please turn to BRITT on page 4

Please turn to MOH on page 10
Rock of the Marne! As we move into the end of this unprecedented year, we can only look forward to better times. And better times are on the way. Adversity is something that all Dogface Soldiers are intimately accustomed to and perseverance, coupled with a good sense of humor and positive attitude, will always see us through.

Please take good care of yourself and your family as we see ourselves through this pandemic.

There is so much information to get to that I will jump right in. First, there are some great articles in this edition and I hope you read them thoroughly and understand that our Society is doing great things both in the United States and in Italy! Outpost #16 is doing some great things to honor our Soldiers and I am really thankful to them for all of their amazing work!

The financial report is included in this edition and I am thankful to our NEW Central Region Vice-President for his work in auditing our books. You can rest assured that our Society is on sound financial footing and that we are working to invest, save and fundraise for the future. Thanks John!

Our awards chair has received all the nominations for Society Awards this year and they will be announced in the December edition of the Watch on the Rhine.

The donation cards went out in August and I would like to say an emphatic THANK YOU! to all those members who donated to the various funds that make up the financial streams of our Society. Your philanthropic endeavors are what make our Society financially strong and position us to be successful in the future.

The centennial legacy book has been completed and those members who purchased a copy should have received it by now. I think it is a spectacular book that really highlights our Society, our Division and, most importantly, our members. It really is a seminal book that codifies the contributions of the 3rd Infantry Division over the years of its establishment and I am proud of this book. You can still purchase your copy form the publisher at the following website: https://www.acclaimpress.com/books/3rd-infantry-division/ OR call them at (573) 472-9800 ext. 11 to order your copy today!

The first half of the Outpost disbursements came out in August and all OP Secretary-Treasurers or Presidents should have received their check by now. Please cash these checks ASAP or the funds will be returned to national.

Many of you have not received your plastic membership cards and I am aware of this situation. You should see your new card in the next fews weeks, if you have not already received it. Thank you for your patience.

Lastly, the reunion registration and itinerary are included in this edition. The reunion will be held in Hinesville/ Savannah, GA from May 13-16, 2021. We have worked hard to keep the costs of this reunion as low as possible and Outpost Marne Association has graciously accepted the responsibility of sponsoring this reunion. The costs are low and we will also attend the Soldiers Ball on May 14th at the Savannah International Convention Center. Please fill out your registration form and send it as soon as possible. You MUST reserve your room 30 days in advance to get this special rate, but you can cancel 24 hours in advance and NOT be penalized anything. SO RESERVE EARLY and, if necessary, cancel late. It will be a grand time and I look forward to seeing you there!

Rock of the Marne! Toby Knight, President

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**DELIVERY POINT BARCODE**

Check your name and address (Apt/Bldg/Lot No.). If your zip code does not contain 9 digits (zip+4), it is incomplete. Check: http://zip4.usps.com/zip/

**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**

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boy. He received the nickname “Footsie” as a teenager, after winning a pair of shoes at a local fair when they realized that he had feet that matched our size forty-seven, a giant size for the time. He graduated cum laude in 1937 from Lonoke High School and later entered the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, where he was awarded a scholarship. He followed a “Bachelor of Arts” in journalism (a Bachelor of Arts degree course) and in 1941, after graduating, he entered the Army as a reservist with the rank of infantry lieutenant following the “Reserve Officers Training Corps” (training course for reserve officers). In the same period he entered as a professional player in the 1941 American football championship, in the Detroit Lions, immediately distinguishing himself for his speed, strength and agility. In December of the same year, he was drafted back to active duty as a lieutenant and began training at Camp Robinson, Arkansas, but immediately received a postponement to complete the season with the Detroit Lions. At the end of the season, once enlisted, he was assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division, 30th Regiment, 3rd Battalion, L Company. Initial training took him first at Fort Lewis, Washington; then Fort Ord, California; and finally at Camp Pickett, Virginia.

At the beginning of his military career he was deployed with the Third Division in coastal defense, on the west coast of the United States, but the war events of 1942 soon called him in action on the African and then Italian theater of war, with the entire Third Division. On October 23, 1942 the 30th Infantry Regiment and the entire Third Division were embarked for North Africa, seventeen days later, on November 8, they landed in French North Africa together with two other divisions of the U.S. Army, under the command of Major General George S. Patton Jr. Britt was on those ships and on the landing craft, he was platoon commander in the L Company of the same regiment; target, blue beach sector of Fedala. Landed on the beach of Fedala, near Casablanca in French Morocco, the 30th Infantry Regiment immediately insured the left flank of the Third Division and silenced the cannons of Fort Blondin that were firing on the naval force located off the Moroccan coast. The 7th Regiment left immediately to the assault of Casablanca, together with the 15th Regiment where there was a young soldier who would become famous in the following years, Audie Murphy, the most decorated soldier in the history of the United States of America. In two days the three infantry regiments of the Third Division conquered complete control of the Fedala and Casablanca sectors.

Britt distinguished himself for the attack on the castle, from whose walls the artillery beat the entire beach and the ships during the landing operations, the spirit of a leader and a hero was being born. In January 1943, the 3rd Battalion, of the 30th rgt. infantry was assigned to the personal guard of Sir Winston Churchill and President Franklin D. Roosevelt, during the Casablanca Conference. At the end of the North Africa Campaign, the Third Division had a training period in Bizerte, Tunisia, in preparation for the invasion of Sicily. The second

for Britt saw him again protagonist was July 10, 1943, when they landed in the point defined “blue beach” in the area of Licata, with the 3rd and 7th Battalion of the 30th Infantry Battalion. Britt, in the days following the landing, distinguished himself by making one of the longest marches on foot in modern military history; leading his men for 54 miles (87 kilometers) in just 33 hours, without water or food, crossing inland Sicily in July, with temperatures above forty degrees, starting from Gela to Palermo. The city was liberated on July 22nd and Britt participated first, with his men, in the fight for the liberation of the city and then continued in the great march to Messina. Once Sicily was liberated, the allied forces organized themselves for the invasion of the Italian peninsula with a series of landings divided between American and British troops. The American troops, on September 19th 1943, landed in Salerno; Britt was in the middle of the landing. What he was repeating in his thoughts and prayers was to have some luck for this third landing since the beginning of the military service; he was experiencing personally the Avalanch operation. Britt, in the fights of the following days, took command of L Company when his commander was wounded and evacuated to the ships for treatment. On September 22nd he was leading the 30th Rgt. Infantry at the assault of Acerno, ten miles from Salerno, seeing a critical situation for his company and the nearby ones, he decided to locate and destroy an enemy machine gun emplacement that mowed down the advancing American soldiers from a safe position.

In the end he found it, placed in a chestnut grove to the west of the city; he took a rifle grenade and crawled in the open field, regardless of the risk, for over 50 meters, before reaching a position useful for shooting and destroying the position, which he did with the only possible shot. With this action he received a “Silver Star Medal” the third highest decoration for military valor that can be awarded to a soldier by the U.S. armed forces, for “an act of heroism in action against an enemy of the United States of America”. On the same day, a few hours later, a mortar shot fallen near him hit his arm with a shrapnel, “giving” him in this way the first of his four “Purple Hearts” (a decoration of the U.S. armed forces assigned in the name of the President to those who were wounded or killed while serving in the armed forces from April 5, 1917, the day that marked the entry of the U.S. into World War I). At the beginning of October 1943, all southern Italy was in the hands of the Allies, the armies were in front
of the Volturno line. This was the first of a series of defensive lines prepared by the Germans and crossing Italy from east to west and from which the Germans had chosen to fight to delay the Allied advance. This strategy forced the Allies to advance and fight in rough terrain and conquer them meter by meter; giving the defenders time to complete the preparation of other defensive lines, such as the Winter Line and the Gustav Line; one of their strongest defensive lines south of Rome, which engaged the Allies for almost six months. On October 29, after crossing the Volturno, Britt was in the front line with her boys in the Pietravairano area during the attack on Mount St. Nicholas, her task was to organize a covering fire to allow a company of 20thrgt to conquer the summit. In the same actions of that day a soldier of the third division deserved the Medal of Honor, will be the subject of a next research. During this action a soldier of Britt’s was hit by a sniper and fell on a steep terrain in an impassable and rocky area discovered at the enemy shooting; his screams made it clear that he had not been killed but only wounded. Britt didn’t wait for evening and then darkness to send help and take him, but he climbed up the hill, over uncovered terrain and easy target for the snipers, until he reached the wounded soldier, who was picked up on his shoulder and taken back to the valley, towards his lines and first aid. For the actions in Pietravairano on October 29th, he received the “Bronze Star Medal” with a bronze “V” placed on the ribbon to indicate the “Value” of the actions carried out in those days. The following days saw part of the third division in charge of reaching and conquering the three mountains that dominated Highway Six (the S.S. Casilina) north of the village of Mignano: the hill of Monterotondo on the right of Montelungo in the center and Monte la Defenza on the left. For the attack would have been used the 15th regiment (target Monterotondo and Montelungo) and the 7th regiment (target Monte Cesima, on the border with the sector and the English attack target, Monte Camino). The patrols of explorers reported several minefields, traps and machine gun emplacements on all the mountains, defended by units of the 3rd Panzergrenadier Division and Hermann Göring Division, still efficient, despite the heavy losses suffered so far. General Truscott, who had been in command of the 3rd Infantry Division since April 1943, had put the 30thrgt in reserve. Infantry, keeping it ready for the decisive assault in that area when the German defenses were about to collapse. But the tactical situation found on Mount Camino, a mountain located to the west, towards the sea, in the English sector, very high and steep, where the 56th English division was blocked; it led the English General McCreery to ask Clark for more pressure to help the 56th division. General Clark consented asking to General Lucas a greater effort; the latter asked to General Truscott, commander of the troops of the area defined as “Mignano Gap” (passage of Mignano), to employ also the 30thrgt infantry in a wrapping maneuver. Truscott protested, seeing in this the waste of a regiment, but he obeyed the orders sending the 30thrgt infantry on board of the trucks towards Presenzano, near Rocca Pipirozzi, from here the regiment passed in the areas garrisoned by the 45th Division and advanced westwards along the Cannavinelle Hill, dug by a Ranger battalion, to take Monterotondo from East. The regiment, tired, wet from the rain that never ended and cold from the low temperatures of the period, was ordered to conquer and hold the strategic position of Monterotondo that allowed the Germans to control the main road to Rome. To the rain joined also the snow, and the 30thrgt infantry on the morning of November 6 attacked making little progress. At their side, to the west, the 15thrgt infantry had failed to conquer the first peak of Montelungo, both had not reached their targets and needed a new attack.

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 “Marine” 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
Greetings Dogface Soldiers, Families, and friends of the Marine Division,

As we leave a summer of exceptional challenges, I’d like to assure you that the 3ID remains ready to deploy in defense of our Nation’s interests, and we have remained engaged throughout the world in support of a great number of crucial missions, while managing all with measures in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

At this moment, I’m tremendously proud to witness the consideration of another 3ID Soldier for the Medal of Honor. At this moment, I’m tremendously proud to witness the consideration of another 3ID Soldier for the Medal of Honor. Lead Bradley Fighting Vehicle of the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment patrol, the fuel cell ignited, throwing fuel everywhere. Cashe was slightly hurt and exited through the gunner’s hatch. He immediately helped the driver, who was burning, escape the vehicle. Cashe then rushed to the rear of the vehicle. Inside the troop cargo, the squad leader managed to open the hatch door as the vehicle burned inside and out.

Cashe acted decisively and without any regard for his own safety. Through immense pain, he pulled Soldiers out, with his fuel-soaked uniform burning as he worked. In moments, the elements of the patrol converged on the scene and evacuated the wounded. All total, a national translator was killed, and ten Soldiers injured, seven severely.

Cashe’s injuries were the worst, with second and third degree burns over more than 70% of his body. He returned to the U.S., and died November 8, 2005 at San Antonio Military Medical Center in Texas.

Sergeant First Class Cashe, originally from Oviedo, Florida, had joined the Army in 1988. He was a husband and a father. He was a Dogface Soldier, and his actions embody the values and grit of our kind. For him and his family, this honor is long overdue. Cashe was a noncommissioned officer and leader with qualities we must all aspire to reflect: courage, strength, selflessness and commitment to each other and our mission.

In closing, I’d like to say that I’m extraordinarily proud of all our Soldiers and Families for the resiliency they have displayed in the face of our recent challenges. Like generations before us, we’ve shown that we are a fit, adaptable and focused team; Winning matters.

Rock of the Marine!

Maj. Gen. Tony Aguto
Dogface Soldier

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March to the Bahnhof

By Paul E. Desroches

We were on a three day pass while serving with the 3rd Infantry Division in Bamberg, Germany, with three Army friends who had been together since Basic training in Fort Benning, Georgia a year before. Dick McGinn was an undefeated champion wrestler, Dick Arnold held the world speed swimming records, and I was a kid from Brooklyn with nothing outstanding on my record. We headed for Munich and found a reasonably priced Pension (Bed & Breakfast) by the Bahnhof (train station), booked rooms, parked the car and took off to see the town on foot. The Hofbrauhaus in the town square was an amazing beer hall filled with many hundreds of jovial Germans drinking beer, singing songs and eating bratwurst. It was a fun place, but we decided to move on and explore the area. We walked and walked as we were infantrymen. We then walked some more stopping for a beer whenever we came across an inviting Gasthaus, or Ratskeller. As it started getting dark, we decided to head back to the Bahnhof and our car. We were quite far from town and were on this lonely road. At one point we passed a large stadium with a swastika on prominent display which gave me an eerie feeling. I didn’t share my feelings with McGinn and Arnold, as they would have been dismissive of any danger. We had not experienced any hatred, animosity, or hard feelings during our stay in Germany, but in the heart of SS Country on this lonely road in the dark, I felt anxious. Suddenly, almost in unison, McGinn and Arnold sat down by the side of the road and say they are too tired to go on and we should spend the night there; I knew that was not a good idea. They had the stamina to go on, they were world class athletes in top shape.

From deep in my subconscious, without any forethought, I blurted out, “I’m Paulus of Macedonia, son of Philip of Macedonia, Brother of Alexander the Great and Alexander wouldn’t stop”.

An early photo of the Munchen Hauptbanhof

“I’m Paulus of Macedonia, son of Philip of Macedonia, Brother of Alexander the Great and Alexander wouldn’t stop”.

“2020 Raffle Prize Winners
The following members won each prizes during our 2020 annual raffle. Thanks to all of our members for participating in this critically important Society program. Rock of the Marne!

$100 Winners:
Ronnie Wall Brown
Rodolph Fisher
Michael Bopray
John Harrell

$250 Winner
Pastor Marc Johnston

$500 Winner
Paul Grabert

$1000 Winner
Robert P. Lott

Errata
Gerald Vincent died 12-8-18. Previous WOTR editions had the DOD incorrect. We regret this mistake and wish the family peace and tranquility.
By Henry Bodden

When you receive the October issue of the Watch, V-J Day which officially ended WWII happened on September 2, 1945, seventy five years ago this year. The notable film documentarian Ken Burns referred to World War II as “The Greatest Event In The History Of Mankind” — citing the loss of 50-70 million people, mostly civilians including the six million victims of “The Holocaust”, and all the cities left in ruins in Europe and the Pacific displacing millions of citizens worldwide.

I would be remiss not mentioning this darkest time in world history, brought on primarily by two evil men – Adolph Hitler and Hideki Tojo. But the war produced many notable titans of their respective countries, both good and evil. America produced some future military giants that had their roots in WWII. Men like an artillery WWII captain in France named Harry Truman, who would later make the decision to drop two atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan – saving about one million American casualties, and five million Japanese casualties by avoiding the land invasion slated for Japan.

Five Star Gen. Douglas MacArthur who rewrote the Japanese Constitution taking their military threat away. Ironically, Truman the WWII Army Captain would later fire MacArthur during the Korean War.

Gen. George S. Patton who first met Gen. MacArthur at St. Mihiel, France during WWII, drove the Germans out of their trenches with his newly formed tank brigade.

WWII produced another future WWII five star general named George C. Marshall, and Gen. Omar Bradley. WWII five star Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower served stateside during WWII, but rapidly rose through the ranks to become the Allied Supreme Commander who led our troops to victory at Normandy. Admiral Chester Nimitz led our Navy to victory in the Pacific. And of course, President Franklin D. Roosevelt whose steady hand through the war was not around to see the Allies defeat Germany and Japan. France produced WWI veteran and future President Gen. Charles De Gaulle and Gen. Leclerc who liberated Paris in WWII.

Japan had Emperor Hirohito, Adm. Yamamoto, and Hideki Tojo. Italy produced Il Duce Mussolini. Russia produced Josef Stalin, Nikita Khrushchev, (the defender of Stalingrad) against the Germans, and Gen. Georgy Zhukov. China produced future Chairman Mao Zedung and Chiang Kai Shek. Germany produced Hitler, Herman Goering, and Erwin Rommel, “The Desert Fox”. So many notable names that WWII produced. What is remarkable is that prior to Pearl Harbor, America was the seventeenth military power in the world, right behind Portugal. Then in 3 ½ years, America fought and defeated the two most powerful militaries in the world, and on two fronts and developed the first atomic bombs ushering in the nuclear age. With Germany and Japan in ruins, America stuck around and rebuilt their two economies into the power they are today, and are two of our most important allies today.

The Aftermath of WWII

Like I mentioned, two men in particular (Hitler & Tojo) were the source of this total worldwide destruction that claimed about 407,000 American lives that was fought on six of the seven continents. But what struck me was the large number of our military whose bodies were never found. In 2008 I visited the American Cemetery in Manila, and in the middle of the cemetery (as pictured) is “The Tablets Of The Missing” which have 36,280 names inscribed on these tablets. We lost 111,606 Americans in the Pacific, and this MIA number represents about one third of all Americans killed in the Pacific. The reason this high number of MIA in the Pacific, as compared to the 33,720 in Europe, is due to the many naval battles fought in the Pacific where when ships were sunk, many went down with the ships and never recovered. But the fanatical Japanese with their “bushido” code of warriors paid dearly in the Pacific theater. Japan lost about 2,120,000 soldiers and countless civilians. But as I was walking around each “Tablet of the Missing”, I found the names of the five Sullivan brothers who went down with the USS Juneau, and two of JFK’s PT-109 crew members who were never found also. In 2017, we sailed and paused over the spot where the PT-109 was recently found. It was decided not to raise the remains and leave it as a memorial like the USS Arizona. Also inscribed on the Tablets are the names of 879 men (out of 1,195 aboard) who went down with the USS Indianapolis on July 30, 1945 after being torpedoed after dropping off a component of the “Little Boy” atomic bomb to Tinian. So you can see that the Navy and our airmen who were shot down in Europe and the Pacific accounts for many of...
standing circled in the back row of this photo as Admiral Nimitz is signing the surrender documents. He finally relented and began to tell me his story and how he happened to be present on the USS Missouri to witness the surrender. “Bud’s” story is twofold: “being in the wrong place at the wrong time, and being in the right place at the right time.” Bud survived Pearl Harbor with a very serious jaw injury that plagued his speech the rest of his life.

Later after Pearl Harbor, the WWI flying ace Eddie Rickenbacker was on a secret mission to deliver a message to Gen. MacArthur in Australia in 1944. Rickenbacker’s plane went down near the Fiji Islands, and Bud and several other Navy planes were sent out to find

Please turn to EVENT on page 28

Far left, Regina Elmo Wallace photo signed by niece Sue Biles. Left, Regina pictured on the far right. Below, The USS Intrepid under kamikaze attack on November 25, 1944.

those MIA, including Joseph Kennedy Jr. whose body was never recovered from a mission over the English Channel. But recently one of our readers named Sue Biles of Mississippi told me a story about her uncle, Reginal Elmo Wallace (as pictured) who was killed as his carrier the USS Intrepid was attacked by kamikaze planes. The USS Intrepid was hit by five kamikaze planes killing 69 sailors altogether over several days, including Sue’s uncle. After the attack where the Intrepid Air Group downed 43 planes that day, there was a mass burial at sea, including Sue’s uncle Reginal. This picture of the burial at sea had to be haunting for Sue about her uncle being lowered into the depths of the Pacific Ocean, never to be seen again. I had no idea that so many of our military were lost, denying closure for their loved ones.

Just as Sue Biles related her story of her uncle Reginal to me, another extraordinary story related to me made it personal for me by the man who endured the Pacific war in captivity. I saw his story in the newspaper and tried to contact him, but he was at first leery of me and refused to talk to me about his experience. His name was “Bud” Gilbert of Oklahoma City, and is
THIRD BATTALION SEVENTH INFANTRY
A.P.O. #3
U. S. ARMY

COMPLETE DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES RENDERED

I am ROBERT A. DUTIL, 39420425, Private First Class, Intelligence Section, Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, Seventh Infantry, in which capacity I was present at and an eyewitness to the following action:

On 24 January 1945 my battalion was consolidating its position in the BRUNWALD WOODS. We had been attacking toward HOUSSEN, FRANCE, but had surged so far ahead of the outfits on our flanks that we decided to halt until they caught up to us.

It was about 0800 hours in the morning -- all our men were dug-in -- when the first inking of an enemy attack was received. Our woods was suddenly subjected to an intense concentration of light and medium artillery. Word was flashed back that six KRAUT tanks were striking at our front and left flank. This news was implemented almost instantly with the additional information that a whole blooming battalion of KRAUTS were swarming out of a dike 200 yards to our left flank.

The S-2, 1st Lt. GARLIN M. CONNER, who was sitting beside me in the Battalion OP said that he was going to get some artillery fire on the advancing KRAUTS before the situation got worse. Without another word he grabbed a reel of wire and a sound power telephone and took off like a bat out of hell, right through the exploding shells. Limbs from the trees were falling all over the place as these damned tree bursts showered fragments around. I followed along behind him in order to be of whatever assistance I could.

However, the KRAUTS couldn’t stop Lieutenant CONNER. Shells burst within 25 yards of him, but he ran the 400 yards between him and the most forward infantrymen without hesitation. Not content with that, he advanced 30 yards beyond the infantry running through a hail of machine gun, spit pistol and rifle fire to a shallow ditch just outside of the woods which paralleled our lines.

Although the ditch was only one foot deep, Lieutenant CONNER got in it and started phoning fire orders to the Battalion OP. Pretty soon friendly artillery shrieked over our heads and the KRAUT attack was broken up. The god damned Huns ran for the cover of the dike, however, those KRAUTS were unusual -- they reformed and were at us again almost instantly.

Lieutenant CONNER took care of those KRAUTS once more and again they fell back in disorder. Meanwhile a German heavy machine gun set up behind the dike began to rake the ditch Lieutenant CONNER was using. His butt was sticking up in the air and I thought sure he was going to get it in both cheeks, but he was lucky.

The KRAUTS kept coming -- wave after wave surged forward only to be driven back by the artillery fire adjusted by Lieutenant CONNER. This went on for about 3 hours. One time a KRAUT got within 5 yards of the ditch before he was killed.

The KRAUTS tried it once more and were so determined that it looked like Lt. CONNER was a goner. They were all around him and I gave him up. Just then, however, Lt. CONNER adjusted fire on himself. Shells straddled his position -- some even exploded between his ditch and our infantry. This was too much for the KRAUTS. They broke and ran and this time they didn’t come back.

Lieutenant CONNER had killed or wounded at least one full company of the enemy. About 50 Germans were dead and somewhere around a hundred were wounded.

/s/ ROBERT A. DUTIL, 39420425
Pfc., Hq. Co., 3rd Bn., 7th Inf.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 9th day of February, 1945.

/s/ CHARLES C. BLOSSOM, JR.
1st. Lt., Infantry Summary Court

The eyewitness accounts of both Conner and Murphy were taken by 1st Lt. Charles C. Blossom, Jr., who signed each witness statement, including Dutil’s:

“Subscribed and sworn to before me this 9th day of February 1945.”

included for the reader’s convenience) These three eyewitness accounts describe Lt. Conner’s feat during the Colmar Pocket campaign on 24 January 1945 when Conner went forward to meet six German Panzer tanks and 600 infantry soldiers. After calling artillery in on the enemy for three hours while lying in a small snow covered ditch, 50 Germans were killed and 100 wounded before the enemy withdrew. Two days later on 26 January 1945, two miles from the place of Lt. Conner’s gallantry, Lt. Audie Murphy did battle with the depleted enemy of 250 infantry soldiers and six German tanks. In one hour of battle, 50 Germans were killed or wounded until they withdrew. The eyewitness accounts of both Conner and Murphy were taken by 1st Lt. Charles C. Blossom, Jr., who signed each witness statement, including Dutil’s: “Subscribed and sworn to before me this 9th day of February 1945.”

In 2006 I communicated with Mr. Dutil by letter and telephone. Mr. Dutil told me during our telephone conversation that he was called back from the front to give his eyewitness statement. He also stated he was between Conner and his American outpost with a rifle to protect Conner from infantry soldiers who got near Lt. Conner’s position in the shallow ditch where he was directing artillery on the enemy. Conner was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his action on that day. In 2000 I began assisting former Green Beret Richard Chilton in his mission to have
Conner’s Distinguished Service Cross upgraded to the Medal of Honor. During our mission we accumulated 13 banker boxes of documents and information about Lt. Conner. Additionally, I have interviewed 25 World War II combat soldiers who served in some or all of the Third Division battles with Conner and Murphy. These interviews were done over a five year period while attending World War II reunions. I met and talked with Tim and Monika Stoy on two separate occasions at Third Division events in Arlington, VA. On one occasion I gave a presentation concerning our efforts to obtain a new hearing before the Army Board of Corrections of Military Records (ABCMR) and to submit the three eyewitness accounts which were not available at the previous hearings. It took a lawsuit in federal court and an appeal to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals to obtain a judgment ordering the ABCMR to grant a new hearing. It is not possible, of course, to get a response from Mr. Dutil since he has passed, and the Stoy’s article appeared immediately following his death. The Society members deserve this information in order to decide the truth for themselves.

Walton R. Haddix, Albany, Kentucky

Conner Family’s Response To Article

It was a shock to read in the August 2020 issue the first negative article I have read in “The Watch” concerning an American soldier. The article by Tim Stoy and Monika Stoy disparages the action of Lt. Garlin M. Conner and his Battalion on 24 January 1945, in the Colmar Pocket, for which Lt. Conner was awarded posthumously the Medal of Honor by President Donald Trump in a White House ceremony on June 26, 2018.

The Stoy’s article, titled “OP International Loses One of its Greatest Veterans,” concerned the passing of and their tribute to Pfc. Robert A. Dutil. In the four page article, complete with photos of the Stoys and their mother/mother-in-law, the Stoys tell of their 12 year friendship with and admiration for Dutil. They relate that Dutil accompanied them on seven trips to Europe almost every year from 2012 through 2016. They state he served in WWII from September 1944 until February 1946, being discharged as a PFC. The Stoys relate that they visited Dutil in California on five separate dates beginning in 2015. On one occasion they visited him for several days.

Strangely, in the middle of their article praising Dutil’s life, his military and civilian careers, and their friendship, the Stoys gratuitously insert a paragraph reciting Dutil’s alleged comments to them about his fellow 3rd Infantry soldier, Lt. Garlin M. Conner, with whom he served in the I&R section under Lt. Col. Lloyd B. Ramsey (later Maj. Gen. Ramsey).

Previous editions of “The Watch” on the Rhine contain articles written by the Stoys, along with photos concerning trips, and visits with Gen. Ramsey and his passing in 2016. It is difficult to understand why they deliberately omitted any reference in their article that Gen. Ramsey was in command and personally involved in the action that they claimed never happened. The Stoys will contend that they were simply repeating what Dutil told them but their deliberate omission of all of the un-contradicted (except by Dutil) evidence surrounding the battle defies logic and fairness.

Conner was one of the highest decorated soldiers of WWII. He fought 28 months in continuous action from North Africa to Germany. He was wounded seven times, participated in four amphibious assault landings and earned a battlefield commission. Additionally, he was awarded three Purple Hearts, a Bronze Star (for valor), four Silver Stars and the Medal of Honor. Conner was not an accidental hero. All of his citations for his valor awards state that he left a position of safety to engage the enemy. Two of Conner’s wounds were serious, requiring hospitalization for several days. On both occasions he slipped away from the hospitals before he was healed, and without being discharged, to rejoin his outfit on the front lines.

Isadore Valenti, a medic with the 3rd Infantry, in his 1998 book “Combat Medic,” wrote about Conner at page 147:

Conner was a man who didn’t say too much, unless it was something relative and pertinent.

The Lieutenant has an interesting military background. In November 1942, when the 3rd Division landed in Fedala, along the Mediterranean coast, near Casablanca, Lt. Conner hit the beach as a private-first-class. He fought in the campaigns of Sicily, southern Italy, Anzio, the push up into Rome, and was there in the first wave when we hit the beaches in southern France.

Lt. Garlin Conner has one or more wounds for each campaign he was in. He has a little blood in every country he fought in. Decorations, yes. The Silver Star with three clusters, the Bronze Star, the Distinguished Service Cross (also called D.S.C.), for conspicuous gallantry in one of his last actions. And, of course, the Purple Heart with several clusters.

Concerning the Colmar Pocket battle of 24 January 1945, in which Lt. Conner’s action resulted in the Medal of Honor, Valenti, in “Combat Medic,” wrote at page 192:

Ex-private, but now Lieut. Garlin M. Conner, formerly of Company K, now with the 3rd Battalion Headquarters was scheduled to go home, i.e., to the USA. Lt. Col. Lloyd B. Ramsey, 3rd Battalion C.O. said, “For his safety, I decided to bring Lt. Conner to the 3rd Bn. Hqs. where he might be a little safer. I made him my S-2”. And added, “He has more silver stars and purple hearts than anyone I know.”

The 3rd Battalion was slowed down by a fierce enemy counterattack. Enemy formations were converging on the battalion’s positions and were in danger of being overrun by a powerful enemy force of more than 500 German fanatics.

At this point, Col. Ramsey was discussing the seriousness of the 3rd Battalion’s situation with his staff when Lieut. Conner approached him. Conner said he would take a patrol out, and see if he could direct artillery strikes on the advancing enemy. Taking a radio and wire line with field phone, in case of radio problems, Lt. Conner moved...
out with his patrol.

Conner and his men soon found themselves at a point with nothing in front of them but Germans, and under intense, automatic weapons fire. Conner called for artillery fire support which he directed on the Germans as they charged forward. Col. Ramsey said, “I personally stayed in radio, or phone contact with Lt. Conner.”

For more than two hours Conner remained there as artillery observer directing one artillery strike after another on the advancing Germans as they surged forward. At times, Conner remained there as enemy soldiers began edging around his position, wounding his assistant. Each time the German fanatics were stopped just short of his position.

At one time, Lt. Conner had to leave his position. He radioed Col. Ramsey that he would be out of contact for a few minutes. When he returned he told Col. Ramsey he had spotted two German tanks, and had gone over to a tank destroyer (TD) to point them out. The German tanks were knocked out by the TD.

At another time, Col. Ramsey, concerned with Conner and his patrol’s safety, asked if he were bringing the artillery fire too close to his position. Conner’s answer was that the artillery fire had already been on his position; that the artillery fire was now behind him, i.e., between his position and that of the battalion’s command post. He continued to direct the accurate shell fire of the 10th Field Artillery until the German attack was shattered and broken.

For this action, Lt. Conner received a Distinguished Service Cross. He was responsible for killing and wounding over 150 enemy soldiers.

On 2 February, 1945 nine days after Lt. Conner’s action on 24 January 1945 in the Colmar Pocket near Houssen, Lt. Conner volunteered for a rescue mission at the Rhone Canal. Valenti, in “Combat Medic,” wrote at pages 200 and 201:

In spite of our depleted strength, the 7th Infantry Regiment, following an artillery saturation of enemy positions, jumped off into a new attack at dawn, 2 February 1945. The objective—crossing of the Rhone Canal.

The third Battalion took up the right flank in the attacking wave. Company K, under the able command of Captain Kret, met and fought off fanatical enemy resistance.

Company K was cut in two, and forced to take cover in trenches. Several attempts by the 7th Infantry Battle Patrol to rescue the trapped men of Company K failed. Bitter fighting raged on between Germans and the trapped American troops.

Troops of the 1st and 3rd Battalions tried to move in near the vicinity of the trapped K Company soldiers, only to find themselves locked in battle with the Germans inside the nearby graveyard. Troops from all three battalions were committed in the rescue attempt of Company K, but failed because of devastating enemy fire over the flat terrain.

The company commander of L Company was killed during one of the rescue attempts. The enemy now concentrated 80MM mortar, artillery and flakwagen fire on the town of Biesheim, which was now partly occupied by Company I, and on the road leading to the trapped Company K.

Lt. Conner was still with 3rd Battalion Headquarters when Company L’s CO was killed. Lt. Col. Lloyd B. Ramsey called a staff meeting to select his replacement. Again Lt. Conner came forward and volunteered to act as Company L’s CO. “No words can express the outstanding leadership qualities that Lt. Garlin Conner had, always willing to do more than his part,” said Col. Ramsey, 3rd Battalion CO.

Company L, now under command of First Lt. Garlin M. Conner, though badly shaken, continued the rescue assault. After engaging the Germans in hand-to-hand combat, in which more than 12 enemy soldiers were killed, other elements of the 3rd Battalion, during the night, made contact with the trapped Company K.

By February 4, the bitter fighting in Biesheim was over. A great many Germans were killed and were captured. Company K lost over ten men KIA, and as many wounded, including Captian Kret, Company K’s CO, who was hit by a chunk of shrapnel from an exploding 88MM cannon shell.

For his action at the Rhone Canal, Conner was awarded the third oak leaf cluster to his Silver Star.

In the Stoy article at page 9, the Stoys relate Dutil’s alleged comments concerning Lt. Conner:

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”

Dutil’s statements, as recited by the Stoys are demonstrably false in a number of respects. No member of the Conner family ever spoke or communicated in any manner with Dutil. The Stoys state that Dutil told them he was in the same fighting position in the middle of some woods – he saw nothing of what was written in the award citation. Who is to be believed? Dutil, who denied making his sworn statement or Lt. Harold Wigetman, Sgt. Harold Miller, Lt. Col. John A. Heintges, and Maj. Gen. Lloyd B. Ramsey, all participants in the battle and witnesses to Conner’s action.

Dutil alleged that the other witnesses who gave sworn statements were untruthful. The effect of Dutil’s alleged statements, as related by the Stoys is that his commanding officer, Lt. Col. Lloyd Ramsey, who was in constant contact with Conner by phone for the entire three hours, fabricated his sworn statements and testimony about his telephone contact and about the battle.

Dutil alleged, according to the Stoys, that he refused to sign such a statement in 1945,” yet a sworn statement by a Robert A. Dutil in the National Archives, a copy of which appears in this magazine. Dutil stated that “It was a mat-
ter of great principle to him,” yet apparently, he issued no press statements or authored any articles revealing that a Medal of Honor recipient’s action never occurred, and all sworn, eyewitness accounts were false. It would seem that since this was a matter of great principle to him, he would have gone public in an effort to prevent the award based on fraud and lying officers, particularly since the nation’s highest valor award was involved.

Pfc. Robert A. Dutil, contrary to the Stoys’ statements, did, along with Sgt. Harold Miller and Lt. Harold Wigetman, give a sworn, signed statement on February 9, 1945, before Lt. Charles C. Blossom, Jr., Summary Court. (A copy of Dutil’s sworn statement appears in its entirety, along with a summary of the other two eyewitnesses’ statements, in another article in this issue.) Coincidentally, later that month, Lt. Blossom took the statements of three eyewitnesses to the action performed on January 26, 1945, by another 3rd Infantry soldier, two days after and four miles from Conner’s action near Houssen. Those statements were submitted for the consideration and award of the Medal of Honor to Lt. Audie L. Murphy.

In a 2008 phone conversation with Walton Haddix, a neighbor and family friend of Garlin Conner, who devoted years to obtaining the upgrade to the Medal of Honor, Dutil related to Haddix his account of the events surrounding Conner’s action on 24 January 1945. Dutil’s description then, was the same as those contained in Dutil’s and the other two witnesses’ statements made in 1945.

Of greater concern is that the Stoys’ had Dutil’s story but waited until his death to publish it. They report that Dutil died 3 July 2020, and they break the story in the August issue. It would have been more meaningful if Dutil or the Stoys told his story while he was living and he could have been examined about it. Instead, all we have is the hearsay statement of the Stoys which they did not publish until their first opportunity following Dutil’s death. Tim Stoy had an ethical obligation to include in the article and cite the substantial evidence that contradicted Dutil’s statements. Instead, Stoy chose not to balance the story, thus leaving the reader and future readers of the article with the belief that Conner’s award was based on fraud.

In his memoir, Maj. Gen. Lloyd B. Ramsey, U.S. Army Retired, “A Memoir,” Gen. Ramsey stated at page 155, that Lt. Conner’s Distinguished Service Cross should have been a Medal of Honor. He quoted from a letter to his father in February 1945:

“I just sent one of my officers home; he was my S-2 (Intelligence Officer), Lt. Garlin M. Conner, who is from Aaron, Kentucky. I’m really proud of Lt. Conner, he probably will call you and, if he does, he may not sound like a soldier, will sound like any good old country boy, but, to my way of seeing, he’s one of the outstanding soldiers of this war if not the outstanding. He was a Sergeant until July and now is a First Lieutenant. He has the D.S.C. which should have been, I believe, a Congressional Medal of Honor, but he was heading home and we wanted to get him the highest award possible before he left. He has a Silver Star with 4 clusters, a Bronze Star, Purple Heart with 6 clusters and is in for a French medal. On this last push, within two weeks he earned the D.S.C., a cluster to his Silver Star and Bronze Star. I’ve never seen a man with as much courage and ability as he has. I usually don’t brag much on my officers, but this is one officer nobody could brag enough about and do him justice; he’s a real soldier.”

For his action on 24 January 1945 in the Colmar Pocket battle near Houssen, France, Lt. Conner was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, which was upgraded posthumously to the Medal of Honor by President Trump in ceremonies at the White House on June 26, 2018.

Conner’s transportation orders to return home to the United States were issued February 10, 1945, and with that he left the arena.

“It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who striveth valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.”

Theodore Roosevelt

(Writer’s comment: Lt. Garlin M. Conner and his wife, Pauline, following the war, remained friends and in personal contact with Gen. Lloyd B. Ramsey. They exchanged phone calls, correspondence, Christmas cards and visited at military reunions. Gen. Ramsey encouraged Conner continuously until Conner’s death to apply for the upgrade of his D.S.C. to a Medal of Honor. Conner always declined, stating that he had enough medals. The writer and his wife became friends with Gen. Ramsey in 2006 and were invited guests in his Salem, Virginia home and his Roanoke residence on several occasions until his death. On one occasion while visiting Gen. Ramsey at Roanoke, the Stoys were visiting Gen. Ramsey. The Conners saw the Stoys from time to time at 3rd Army events in Arlington. The Stoys were invited and attended as guests of the Conner family the White House ceremony awarding Conner the Medal of Honor.)

Luther C. Conner, Jr.
Albany, Kentucky

Editor’s Note: In a lapse of judgment, and I take full responsibility for publishing the entire story about Bob Dutil’s disavowing the action of Lt. Conner’s heroic action at Houssen, France, I should have deleted this controversial section of the article, or at least questioned the Stoys about its veracity. Even then, in my better judgment I should not have published an account where either party now deceased cannot verify or retort. So I apologize to all involved about this self-inflicted controversy I caused. It created quite a stir, and the Conner family and friends deserve to submit their viewpoint. Limited space does not allow the other two sworn affidavits by Sgt. Harold Miller and Lt. Harold Wigetman to be included here, but both eyewitness accounts reaffirm the gallantry of Lt. Conner in Houssen on Jan. 24, 1945. But the Dutil sworn statement is vital to this story. In all my articles that I write, I avoid any trace of controversy and focus on telling our soldier’s stories and keeping their stories alive. I love history and keep my writings purely in
I am very sorry to pass along that on August 8, 2020 Gordon W. Draper, age 85, passed away peacefully in his sleep.

Gordon was our outpost Vice President and wrote all our updates for the Watch on the Rhine among many other things. We were privileged to have him in our outpost and be able to hear all about his life experiences.

Sp5 Draper served in the U.S. Army 1957-1959 with the 30th Infantry, Head Quarters Company in Germany, during which time he served as a report/photographer for the Marne Rock (the division newspaper).

Gordon was very active in his community, serving over 68 years with the Boy Scouts of America, being recognized as a Outstanding Eagle Scout.

Gordon enjoyed photography and traveling, and achieved his goals of exploring All the continents in the world (Antarctica twice!), 125 countries, each of the world’s 24 time zones, all 50 states in the U.S., and all the US and Canadian Provinces. He also finished his goal of visiting all of the 3,141 counties in the US.

Good evening everyone.

To share information, I am sending you the communication received from an association in Campania, in love with the Third Infantry Division and which would like to participate in our project.

In September we will probably meet to define and exchange information.

I ask Historicus if he has any further information on this association.

Greetings to all.

Egr. Luigi Settimo

I am writing to you having received your address from Dr. Pasquale Capozzolo, our friend and president of the “Avalanche 1943” association, who told me very abstractly about a project concerning the glorious American Third Division, which your association intends to carry out. For this reason, he contacted the association of which I am the secretary, “Exploring Campania” as he is aware that for about two years we have been studying the Third American Division both bibliographically and in the field. In particular, our study was based on the field research of all the routes, clashes and battles of the Division from the landing in Battipaglia to Acerno. Today we can claim to have full knowledge of what was the American army march on our mountains for the liberation of these areas.

But what we discovered most important concerns a very bloody battle won by the fifteenth infantry regiment of the Third Division in the mountains of Montecorvino Rovella and, above all, the exact place where the
American hero, and my personal hero, Audie L. Murphy, he fought on the evening of 21 September 1943 in the mountains of Acerno. We went several times to this place and we also found that the description he made in “To Hell and Back” exactly corresponds to the geographic conformation of the place. We also made a further comparison from the reports of the American officers of the Third who describe the battle that took place there. We would be happy to be able to share our information with worthy associations such as yours and, above all, offer it to the American Third Division to pay tribute to the memory of all those soldiers and, in particular, of Audie MURPHY. Therefore, we ask you, if you are interested, information about the project you intend to carry out and if necessary, if we can participate in it. We thank you for your availability, hoping for a future collaboration for the sake of the history of those tragic events, for the glory of the Third Division and, above all, not to forget all those young people who have suffered so much on our lands. On this occasion, we send you our best regards. Corrado Curci Secretary of the Association Exploring Campania.

Letters to the Editor

Mr. Bodden, thank you for your article on the Wren’s 100 years of service to our country. My Dad’s buttons were popping off his chest with pride.

Richard Wren Jr.

Mr. Henry Bodden
I was disappointed to read Tim Stoy and Monika Stoy’s article in the August issue of The Watch concerning my husband, Lt. Garlin Murl Conner. Mr. Dutil and the Stoys cannot diminish my husband’s record and valor. They only diminish their own, if any.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Garlin M. Conner
Albany, Kentucky

Hi Henry,
I received my August issue today and I thank you for publishing my “Chat Noir” story, I always get a kick out of seeing one of my stories in print.

In the back issues I read of your tour starting in Paris and wondered if my wife and I could join you in the future. If possible, would you send some particulars, including approximately cost.

It seems like it could be a terrific experience. Thanks again,

Paul Desroches

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• 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.
101st ANNUAL REUNION
SOCIETY OF THE 3rd INFANTRY DIVISION; HINESVILLE/FORT STEWART, GEORGIA
MAY 13-16, 2021

To be held at the La Quinta Inn and Suite located at 1740 E Oglethorpe Hwy, Hinesville, GA 31313. Room rates are $79 per night, plus tax. The hotel provides free parking to hotel guests. Call the La Quinta at (912) 369-3000 no later than April 13, 2020 to make your hotel reservations. Reservations may be cancelled up to 24 hours before check in with no penalty. Make sure to mention you are with the Society of the 3rd Infantry Division Reunion to receive the group rate.

Thursday May 13th
2:00pm ~ Registration and Hospitality Room Opens
5:00pm-6:00pm ~ No Host Social Hour
6:00pm-8:00pm ~ President’s Reception Dinner

Friday May 14th
8:30am-2:00pm ~ Fort Stewart Tour (Lunch Included)
4:30pm ~ Bus to Soldiers Ball
5:30pm-6:30pm ~ Soldiers Ball No Host Social Hour
6:30pm-9:00pm ~ Soldiers Ball Dinner
9:00pm ~ bus to La Quinta Hotel

Saturday May 15th
8:30am-10:30am ~ General Membership Meeting
10:30am-12:00pm ~ Executive Committee Meeting
1:30pm-4:30pm ~ Mighty Eighth Museum Tour
6:00pm-6:30pm ~ No Host Social Hour
7:00pm-9:00pm ~ Reunion Banquet, Program and Awards

Sunday May 16th

8:00AM-10:00AM ~ MEMORIAL BREAKFAST AND REUNION FAREWELL

TOURS

Fort Stewart Tour
Friday, May 14th
8:30am-2:00pm
Price ~ $30.00

The Third Infantry Division will host the Society during a tour of Fort Stewart and will include a visit to the Fort Stewart Museum, the Warriors’ Walk Memorial and more events that are still in the planning stages. A lunch will be included during this tour.

Mighty Eighth Museum & Lunch
Saturday, May 15th
1:30pm-5:00pm
Price ~ 42.00

The Mighty Eighth Museum uses state-of-the-art graphics, memorabilia, vintage motion pictures and photographs and interactive “live-it-yourself” features. The Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum is a work of art by itself. Divided into galleries, which effectively group the information presentation by either time or location, the museum begins with a concise retraction of the events leading to World War II in the Prelude to War, and then paints a bleak picture of Britain, seemingly alone, against the powerful German forces. Dramatic archival footage, some of which is rarely seen, recreates the life and death struggle that took place over the skies of Great Britain from 1940 until 1942. A lunch will be provided at the museum.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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TOBY KNIGHT
president@society3ridid.org
210-885-2137

COME JOIN US AS WE SHARE OLD MEMORIES AND MAKE NEW ONES!!!

Confirmation of Registration and Itinerary will be sent out by MAY 1, 2021

CANCELLATION POLICY: By sending in the registration form, you are agreeing to the cancellation policy
A $20 per person cancellation fee will apply to all cancellations received within 30 days of the event.
Cancellations received within 10 days of the event will be non-refundable.
Cancellations can ONLY be requested over the phone at 210-885-2137. You will receive a cancellation number; no refund will be issued without this number. Please make sure to keep this number for verification of your cancellation.
101st ANNUAL REUNION
SOCIETY OF THE 3rd INFANTRY DIVISION; HINESVILLE/FORT STEWART, GEORGIA
MAY 13-16, 2021

Address ___________________________ City ___________________________ State ______ Zip _________

Phone ___________________________ Email ___________________________

IF YOU SERVED IN THE 3RD INFANTRY DIVISION FILL OUT THIS SECTION

Name ___________________________ Preferred Name On Badge ___________________________

Unit Served In __________________ Outpost __________

Please Check All That Apply:
☐ WWII ☐ Korea ☐ Cold War ☐ Gulf War ☐ Iraq War ☐ Afghanistan ☐ Peace Time ☐ Active Duty

IF YOU ARE AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER FILL OUT THIS SECTION

For Additional Associate Members Please Use The Backside Of This Form

Name ___________________________ Preferred Name On Badge ___________________________

Associate Member: ☐ Yes Outpost __________

IF YOU ARE A GUEST FILL OUT THIS SECTION

For Additional Guest Please Use The Backside Of This Form

Name ___________________________ Preferred Name On Badge ___________________________

Name ___________________________ Preferred Name On Badge ___________________________

Please List Any Special Needs: __________________________________________________________

In Case Of Emergency Notify: __________________________________________________________

Required Registration Fee (Per Person) _______ X $39.00 ..................................................=1

Thursday May 13 ~ President’s Reception Dinner _______ X $20.00 ..................................................=1

Friday May 14 ~ Fort Stewart Tour And Museum _______ X $30.00 ..................................................=1

Friday May 14th ~ Soldiers Ball & Dinner _______ X $70.00 ..................................................=1
Includes Bus Transp., Compl. Wine, Memento & Duo Plate Of Beef & Chicken For Dinner

Saturday May 15 ~ Mighty Eighth Museum And Lunch _______ X $42.00 ..................................................=1

Saturday May 15 ~ Banquet, Program And Awards _______ X $20.00 ..................................................=1

Sunday May 16 ~ Memorial Breakfast _______ X $0.00 ..................................................=1

TOTAL ENCLOSED ..................................................................................................................=$

REQUIRED INFORMATION FORT STEWART ACCESS

Legal Name (Last, First, MI) ___________________________ Gender (M/F) ________ DOB (i.e. 1962 Jan 11) ________

Driver’s License# & State Issued (I.E.M19go62blu / MI) ___________________________ U.S. Citizen ☐ Yes ☐ No

Legal Name (Last, First, MI) ___________________________ Gender (M/F) ________ DOB i.e.1962 Jan 11) ________

Driver’s License# & State Issued (i.e. M19GO62BLU / MI) ___________________________ U.S. Citizen ☐ Yes ☐ No

PAYMENT IS DUE NO LATER THAN APRIL 30, 2021!

Please Send Payments to the Following Address and Made Payable to:
Society of the Third Infantry Division
803 Hopeton Ct.
Hinesville, GA 31313
The 2020 Scholarship Awards

The Scholarship Foundation grant program for 2020 is now complete. The applications were, as always, outstanding and we congratulate all recipients. Their names and a brief profile follow.

**Cassandra Anderson** received the “Joe Ball Award in Honor of Lynn Ball, Chairman of the Scholarship Foundation” scholarship/student aid grant in the amount of $1000.00. She was sponsored by her father, Jason Anderson who served with the 3rd in Kuwait. Ms. Anderson is currently in medical school and already holds two degrees, which she earned with distinction. Her essay, “American Freedom during the COVID-19 Pandemic,” discusses the behavior of citizens who disregard the recommended safety precautions. She feels that Patriotism contemplates sacrificing individual freedoms for the good of the country. This award was sponsored by Joe Ball, who served in the 7th regiment during the Korean War.

**Cole Blanchard** received “The Scholarship Foundation Memorial Award Honoring Major General Maurice Kendall,” in the amount of $1000.00. He was sponsored by his grandfather, Robert Barfield, who served with the 3rd division during the Korean War. Mr. Blanchard is currently attending Georgia College and State University. His essay entitled “The Story of Sacrifice” discussed the Korean War as remembered by his grandfather, and the impact those stories had on him.

**Erika Brock** received the “Bae Suk and Miyong Lee Award in Memory of the Hungnam Evacuation, Korea, 1950” aid grant in the amount of $1000.00. She was sponsored by her father, Mark Brock, who served with the 3rd Infantry Division in 1996 and again 2011. Her essay “History of the 3rd Infantry Division” does a good job of capturing the history of the division. This award was sponsored by Dr. Bae Suk Lee, who served with the 15th Regiment of the 3rd Infantry Division during the Korean War.

**Carissa Cavicchioni** received the “Thomas Maines Award in Memory of SFC Ralph E. Richenbacher.” She was sponsored by her father Eugene Cavicchioni, who served with distinction from 1950-1953. Her essay “Patriotism” summarizes reasons for serving. She quotes her grandfather, who said “he served for his country.” This award was sponsored by Thomas Maines, who served our country during the Korean War.

**William P. Eiden** received the “LTG Webster Award Honoring Kimberly Shawn Grugin Webster, former First Lady of the 3rd Infantry Division.” Mr. Eiden was sponsored by his father, Lawrence S. Eiden, who served in the 3rd. His untitled essay talks about the Cold War and praises the Marine Division’s proud history from the end of WWII through the middle east conflict. This award was sponsored by LTG Webster, who commanded the Division in combat in the Middle East.

**Monica Lopez** received the “LTG William G. Webster Award honoring the Men and Women of the 3rd Infantry Division,” in the amount of $1000.00. Ms. Lopez was sponsored by her father, Ruben Calderon, who served with the 3rd infantry Division. Her essay “Dogfaces” traces her father’s war experiences. This award was sponsored by LTG Webster, who was Commanding General of the 3rd Division during the Gulf War.

**Gillian MacNeil** received the Foundation “2020 Memorial Award honoring all who served in the 3rd Division” in the amount of $1000.00. Gillian was sponsored by her father, Gerald MacNeil. Her essay, entitled “Stand by Me,” defines loyalty as an attribute that defines many successful people. “3rd Infantry Division soldiers demonstrate loyalty to their country.” She says, “Loyalty comes in various forms, but each is just as important as the other.”
Laura Smith received the "Thomas Mason ‘Old China Hands’ Memorial Award" award in the amount of $1000.00. Ms. Smith was sponsored by her grandfather Bradford Guthrie, who served with the distinction with the 3rd Infantry Division. Ms. Smith will be attending Birmingham Southern College in the Fall. In her essay, entitled “Patriotism in the United States,” she says, “Patriotism is when love for your own people comes first.” Her essay defines her views on both “Patriotism” and “Nationalism.” She summarizes her essay by saying that, despite our differences, all American people share this devotion to act on behalf of the patriotism that roots us all. “It’s all the same patriotic fight, a fight for a better America.”

Tristan Hans Smith received the “Michelle and T.A. Smith award honoring the 184th Inf. (4th BCT, 3rd ID) OIF 2005-2006, a Valorous Unit” student aid grant in the amount of $1000.00. He was sponsored by his father Michael Smith, who served with the 3rd from 1990-1993 in Germany and Desert Storm. Tristan is currently attending Arizona State University. Tristan will be pursuing a career in the Air Force after graduation. His essay entitled “Our Veterans” discusses generations of veterans in his family and praises all veterans for their service to our country. This award was sponsored by T.A. Smith, who served in the 184th in OIF Ill.

We recently received an update from one of our 2006 scholarship grant awardees. He wrote to say he now lives in Florida and he and his spouse expect their 2nd child in December. Others wrote letters of thanks with offers to help. Another past recipient looks forward to “serving this great country” as a pilot in the United States Air Force. We are proud to have helped these fine young men and women achieve their goals. Note: ROTC still produces over 70% of all officers serving today.

The Foundation raffle for 2021 will feature many prizes donated by our generous members. Featured items are two weapons; both are fully operational and have not been fired outside of factory testing. First is a commemorative Korean War M-1 rifle and the second is a 1911A military style pistol. Other items are coins, video items, and comforter sets. A full list will be available in December.

The Foundation is currently accepting donations for the 2021 program. Sponsored grants are needed. If you plan on sponsoring a 2021 grant, please let Lynn know as soon as possible at 2010 Worcester Lane, Garland, Texas 75040-3331. Tax certification or receipts are provided as well as the names being published in the Watch and on the Foundation web site. Thank you for your help. Out offspring are grateful.
This past July, when I was in the mandatory 14-day quarantine upon arriving in Kuwait, I received a text message from my son and had no clue what it meant. I’ve never been one who’s “up on technology” but in looking at the icons he’d sent, I didn’t know if things were alright or he was having trouble. Fortunately, a young Air Force Captain was in the bunk across from me so I woke him up to “translate.” It turns out everything was fine with my son, but I sure couldn’t decipher that from what he’d sent.

While something to laugh about now, at the time, I was worried about how he was doing. The way he communicated made perfect sense to him but perplexed me. The Old Testament story about of the Tower of Babel addresses where God confounded mankind’s language and everyone began speaking different languages. (Though I’m pretty sure “text” and “emoji” were not two of the languages they used.)

sometimes run into challenges even when we are speaking the same language to someone else. In comedy movies or TV shows, miscommunication is often the basis for many of the laughs. When one character only partially hears what another is saying or they take it out of context, a series of misadventures often follows until everything gets straightened out. When we watch this happen in a show it is funny; however, in real-life, it is a different matter.

So what can we do about this? Well, a good rule-of-thumb when communicating with someone is to first seek to understand what they are saying before you attempt to ensure they understand what you are saying. When someone is telling you something, make sure you fully understand what they’re trying to communicate. If they are in tears and they’re telling you they are “ok” that is probably not accurate.

Likewise, if they are sharing an opinion to listen to understand what they are really saying and where these statements are coming from before jumping right into sharing your opinion. You have both a right to your opinion and a right to share your opinion with them, but first make sure you really understand what they are saying. In doing this you will both understand what “language” is being used and can better understand one another.

There are currently many challenges within our communities involving people hearing and understanding what others are sharing. As current and former “Dog-Faced Soldiers” we have the unique ability and opportunity to be voices of reason in the midst of hostility. We can continue our 3ID history of making a difference for our country by helping our friends and neighbors respectfully communicate with one another and then be able to truly hear what each other is saying.

Update Your Contact Info
Send changes to the Society Database Manager

Your ID Number
Dues Date: Paid until date shown or LIFE
Outpost Affiliation
Region:
ER = Eastern
CR = Central
WR = Western

5902
LYNN BALL
2010 WORCESTER LANE
GARLAND, TX 75040-3331

June 2021
OP 35 CR

DELIVERY POINT BARCODE
Check your name and address (Apt/Bldg/Lot No.). 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

Now Hear This!
Send all information for publication in The Watch on the Rhine to:
Henry Bodden, Editor
Society of the Third Infantry Division
9610 North Dover Place
Owasso, O.K. 74055
hebodden@gmail.com; 1-918-376-9417

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 Ugolini. Contact information is on page 2 of the Watch.

ID#  Name  Service  Units   DOD   Notified by
3042 Antonio M. Gonzales  WW2  15INF/F  2020-07-09  Reported by Dianne Roark. TPK
5008 Arthur W. Weldon  WW2  30INF/F  2020-07-15  Reported by Francine Weldon Poirier, Daughter. TPK
I have received a suggestion that more Korean veterans need their stories told. Truth is I get very few submissions from our Korean vets, or I would certainly publish them. But I can’t publish what I don’t receive.

Looking back, I have published a fair amount of stories about Korea, like two large articles in the August issue, and poems from some Korean vets, and their stories in past issues. Most of the submissions I receive are from our WWII vets who are in the twilight of their lives, and they appreciate their stories being kept alive.

So Korean vets, send me your stories. Also I receive no stories from our Mid-East veterans and our younger veterans. I like stories that are told by real people, rather than just writing about a subject in a generic fashion.

Right now our outposts have nothing going on and sadly they are shrinking, so I need your stories if you want them published. Your personal stories are the lifeblood of our magazine and are needed.

---

**From the Editor’s Desk...**

Henry E. Bodden

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**Statement of Cash Receipts & Disbursements and Fund Balances for the Year Ending 30 June 2020**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cash Receipts:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Dues</td>
<td>$8,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>Life Membership Dues</td>
<td>$3,948</td>
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<tr>
<td>Watch Advertising</td>
<td>$-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Raffle Tickets</td>
<td>$12,087</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roster Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>General (Natl.) Fund</td>
<td>$3,291</td>
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<tr>
<td>Memorial Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scholarship Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Society 100th Anniversary Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monument Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outpost Donations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transfer From Edward Jones</td>
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<tr>
<td>Challenge &amp; Anniversary Coins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Soldiers Ball Donations</td>
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<td>Division Ball Receipts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Receipts</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Receipts from Operations</strong></td>
<td>$127,387</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cash Disbursement:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Watch Printing &amp; Postage</td>
<td>$20,552</td>
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<tr>
<td>Headquarters Expense</td>
<td>$628</td>
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<tr>
<td>Raffle Expense</td>
<td>$3,390</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Dues &amp; Donations Cards Expense</td>
<td>$353</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donation Cards</td>
<td>$224</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plastic Membership Cards</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roster Management Expense</td>
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<tr>
<td>Watch Editor Expense</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership Information &amp; Ads</td>
<td>$-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Awards</td>
<td>$227</td>
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<tr>
<td>Memorials (Arlington &amp; Chateau-Thibery)</td>
<td>$191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website Expenses</td>
<td>$2,831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outpost Dues &amp; Donations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roster Printing &amp; Postage</td>
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<td>Reunion Expense Allowance</td>
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<td>Transfer to Edward Jones</td>
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<td>Surety Bond Insurance Expense</td>
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<td>President’s Discretionary</td>
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<td>Division Ball Expenses</td>
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<td>Bank Fees/Adjustments</td>
<td>$160</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Disbursements from Operations (See Note 1)</strong></td>
<td>$165,651</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Receipts in Excess of Disbursements</strong></td>
<td>$(18,264)</td>
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</tbody>
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**Fund Balances June 30, 2019:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund Balance</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chase Checking Account Balance June 30, 2019</td>
<td>$58,854</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Increase (Decrease) in Checking Account Balance</strong></td>
<td>$(38,264)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward Jones Investment Account Balance June 30, 2019</td>
<td>$54,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Increase (Decrease) in Edward Jones Acct Balance</strong></td>
<td>$(22,020)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Increase (Decrease) in Asset Value</strong></td>
<td>$(16,244)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fund Balances June 30, 2020:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund Balance</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chase Checking Account Balance</td>
<td>$58,854</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward Jones Investment Account Balance</td>
<td>$54,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Fund Balance June 30, 2019</strong></td>
<td>$113,254</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund Balance</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chase Checking Account Balance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edward Jones Investment Account Balance</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Fund Balance June 30, 2020</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Increase (Decrease) in Fund Balance</strong></td>
<td>$(16,264)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note 1. Disbursements include a net transfer of $20,000 from the Chase checking account to the Edward Jones investment account to earn a higher return on investment.

Note 2. The total includes a $20,000 transfer from the Chase checking account and $2,020 in investment income.
General Paik Sun Yup, First ROK Army 4-Star Gen

By Monika Stoy

General Paik Sun Yup, great ROK Korean War hero and the ROK Army’s first-ever four-star general, died on 10 July 2020 at age 99. In Korean tradition he was 100 years old, as the 9 months in the womb count as year number one!

He was born in Kangseo, North Korea on 23 November 1920, during the Japanese occupation of the Korean Peninsula. Most everyone has heard of GEN Paik, who was a fixture in America/ROK relations for 70 years!

A 28-year old Division Commander of the 1st ROK Division as a promotable Colonel at the outbreak of the Korean War, he rose to command ROK I Corps in 1951, then became ROK Army Chief of Staff in 1952, remaining in that position until 1954. He served a second tour as Army Chief of Staff in 1957 in a period of major turbulence in the ROK Armed Forces.

He retired as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1960. After he retired from the Army he served as an Ambassador to the Republic of China (Taiwan), to France, and Canada. After 9 years abroad representing the ROK, he returned and was appointed by President Park, Jung Hee, to be Minister of Transportation. A major part of his duties was the building of the Seoul subway! Afterwards he served as a corporate president.

GEN Paik served as President of the Association of the Republic of Korea Army (AROKA), the Korean counterpart to the Association of the United States Army (AUSA). In his final years he served as President Emeritus of AROKA with his magnificent office in the War Memorial of Korea. The General knew every major American commander of the Korean War.

His Korean War memoir, “From Pusan to Panmunjom,” published in 1992, has been published in English by the Association of the United States Army and is a riveting read. He authored another book, “Without My Country I Cannot Exist,” published in 2010 in conjunction with the 60th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War.

My husband Tim and I first met GEN Paik on 22 November 2012 in his office in the War Memorial of Korea. It was a courtesy call, as at the time we were in Seoul having just completed a Korea revisit with a group of American veterans. He was very gracious and showed us the many pictures and mementoes of his long years of service.

It was amazing to meet this great Korean hero who had made history and helped form the Republic of Korea into the vibrant country which it had become! He presented us signed copies of “From Pusan to Panmunjom.” He was humble and generous in sharing his experiences and time, and telling us about many important players in the Korean War.

The ROK Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs asked us to organize its Thank You banquet for American veterans in Washington, D.C. in July 2013, the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Korean War Armistice. One of the senior ROK representatives for the event was GEN Paik, and we were happy to meet him again, especially for such an important anniversary. Ironically, on 27 July 1953 he was serving as ROK Army Chief of Staff and had been ordered by President Rhee Syngman to not attend the signing event. The ROK never signed the armistice agreement!

To honor this great hero, we bought a brick in his name through the Army...
General and Strong Supporter of ROK-US Alliance, Dies

Historical Foundation to be placed at the National Museum of the United States Army. We visited Seoul annually and on every visit we had an office call with GEN Paik. In the last several years his health situation became more precarious, but he always made time to meet with us, a singular honor for us!

Our last visits with him were in October and November 2019. His mind was still sharp, and he shared his memories of Lieutenant General Iron Mike O’Daniel, US I Corps CG, with us as they were corps commanders together. Paik remembered him as a consummate commander.

O’Daniel left Korea in July 1952 and took command of U.S. Army Pacific in Hawaii. After being named ROK Army Chief of Staff Paik visited Hawaii and O’Daniel gave him a wonderful reception! We asked him whether he knew O’Daniel, as Tim is writing a biography of him. We were amazed he remembered these incidents.

In 2014 the ROK Department of Defense, the ROK Army Chief of Staff, and the War Memorial of Korea hosted an event at the War Memorial for the publication of the Korean translation of LTG Edward L. Rowny’s book on his Korean War experiences. The Korean translation was initiated by the late Mr. Cha, Kil Jin, then President of WhoAmI publishing company in Seoul. GEN Paik was the senior Korean War veteran present. He and LTG Rowny had their handprints preserved in clay in honor of the occasion!

We hosted our first Korean War historical seminar in Northern Virginia in April 2017. For the inaugural seminar GEN Paik sent a letter of greeting to our veterans and other participants. It was a great honor for me that GEN Paik always addressed me as “Miss Monika!”

He was ill for several months before his passing and we remained in touch with his executive assistant, COL Wang Woo Lee, to monitor his condition over that period. His death was not unexpected. As sad as we were at hearing of his death, we are sadder at the dishonorable way in which GEN Paik was treated in death by the government of the ROK.

The General was denied burial privileges in the Seoul National Cemetery, ostensibly because there was no more space. President Moon Jae In and his liberal government, liberal academics, and liberal politicians painted Paik as a Japanese sympathizer in WWII. He was instead buried at the National Cemetery in Taejon.

President Moon Jae In did not attend the burial service, but General Robert B. Abrams, the Commander of U.S. Forces Korea, Commander United Nations Command, and Commander ROK-US Combined Forces Command, did. He expressed his own and the United States of America’s deep respect for this great man.

Whenever a liberal government experienced failed policies and encountered
difficulties, they would use anti-Japanese propaganda to divert public attention from these problems. Over a period of decades, the educational system succeeded in mis-educating several generations of Korean students who are now ill-informed adults toeing the liberal government line. We are dismayed at the ignorance many of the younger South Koreans are displaying on their own history.

Paik Sun Yup deserves better than this! He was a Korean patriot who helped keep the ROK free and make the ROK what it is today. He was a great supporter of the US-ROK relationship, so much so he was buried in a U.S. Army combat uniform! We will remember him with deep respect and great fondness.

_Reach Monika Stoy at timmoni15@yahoo.com_

P.S. A KWVA member who was concerned about GEN Paik’s treatment after his death wrote this in an email to a fellow Korean War veteran:

“Thanks for the good thoughts. The situation has been overtaken by events. I sent a condolence note to the General’s family through his office at the War Memorial in Seoul. His ADC, a colonel Kim, reported back that the General was in the care of the Army and he was buried at the War Cemetery in Taejon. So the General is buried among his troops from the Pusan Perimeter fighting, just as General Patton was buried among his troops in Belgium [and Audie Murphy is among his at Arlington National Cemetery].

“I was pleased the other day to get a phone call from the General’s daughter, Namhi, who did attend the funeral and has returned to her home in Connecticut. We had last met in Bath, Maine when I arranged for the General to attend the launching of the first USS Arleigh Burke class destroyer and to meet with the Admiral who had been his gunfire support when the General commanded the ROK 1st Corps on the East Coast and then the Admiral and Paik were on the first negotiating team at Kaesong and Pan Mun Jom in late 1951.

“The daughter, Namhi, and I talked for over an hour and I promised to get together with her when I next mosey up [her way].”

_A miniature of GEN Paik Sun Yup’s brick at NMUSA_
Stumbling Across Another Interesting Photo

Akkerman’s depiction of the seven man German squad approaching the cave Audie Murphy and his men were hiding out in Italy

By Henry Boddin

Society President Toby Knight has reported in the last two issues of “The Watch” his recent trip to Italy as a guest of our International Outpost #16. Our Italian Outpost with Luigi Settimi took Toby all around the Mignano Gap and the mountains where our 3rd Infantry fought bitterly against the Germans. Surrounded, Audie Murphy and his men sought protection in a cave within a quarry where they setup for a defense against the Germans in the area. This episode is covered in Audie’s autobiography “To Hell And Back”. When a German squad of seven men entered the quarry where the cave is in to clear out the area, Murphy and his men opened fire killing three of the Germans, while the other four survivors died of their wounds despite the efforts of our soldiers to help them. Also, in the next issue is a story by Luigi Settimi titled “An American Boy” about Maurice Brit. The cave is again referenced in the latter part of the story.

Charlotte Tompers, a historian out of Luxembourg who saw one of my posts about the cave and the German squad, sent me this photograph as pictured of the seven man German squad approaching the cave by artist Michael Akkerman. I had no idea this illustration existed, which confirms the story so to speak of this incident. Imagine my surprise when an artist in Idaho has among his many paintings, one of this German squad approaching a cave where Murphy and his men are hiding out in. Some coincidence!! I contacted Michael about his illustrations and we now exchange history stories. Michael developed an interest in drawing in the third grade. After high school, Michael attended the College of Western Idaho in Boise, Idaho, and then received a Bachelor of Arts in Cinematic History at Columbia College in Hollywood majoring in directing. His objective is to continue working alongside fellow artists in the field of illustration, painting, writing, and all aspects of film making. This young 29 year old man and his friends have been developing an action/war cartoon series specializing in the WWII European/Mediterranean theater.
Not everyone appreciated Bill Mauldin’s ‘Willie and Joe’

By Henry Bodden

“Now then Sergeant, about those pictures you draw of those god-awful things you call soldiers, where did you ever see soldiers like that? You know g....n well you’re not drawing an accurate representation of the American soldier. You make them look like g....n bums. What are you trying to do, incite a g....n mutiny?” I once asked a WWII friend of mine who served under and knew Gen. George S. Patton very well, what was he like in person? In an understatement he replied, “Well, he cursed a lot.”

This first paragraph are the words of Gen. Patton dressing down a young cartoonist by the name of Sgt. Bill Mauldin for portraying soldiers as sloppy and unshaven in their appearance. The “spit and polish” Patton who sometimes insisted his men wear ties in combat, had called in Mauldin to his Luxembourg Palace right after “The Battle of the Bulge” for a face to face meeting about Mauldin’s disrespectful portrayal of American soldiers.

I will get to that later, but first how Bill Mauldin got involved in WWII, landing in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, and Anzio in the footsteps of the 3rd Infantry Division. He and Audie Murphy became close friends and co-starred with Audie in John Huston’s epic “The Red Badge of Courage.”

William Henry Mauldin was born October 29, 1921 in Mountain Park, New Mexico, and died on January 22, 2003 in Newport Beach, California. After studying cartooning at the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts, Mauldin returned to the Southwest where he worked as a cartoonist before enlisting in the U.S. Army in September of 1940. Bill was sent to Fort Sill, Oklahoma for infantry training. Most people when they hear the name Bill Mauldin, their first thought is WWII.

His characters “Willie and Joe” were created for the 45th Division News in 1940. As a bit of trivia, prior to 1933 members of the 45th Infantry wore a Native American symbol of good luck as a nod to the many Native Americans who served in the division. But now commonly referred to as a “swastika,” this insignia was abandoned as the Nazi Party rose to power in Europe. Today, they wear a different Native American symbol: the Thunderbird...

Reader’s Digest. In 1943 he shipped out with the 45th Infantry Division to Sicily, where he joined the Mediterranean edition of the U.S. Army paper the “Stars and Stripes” in early 1944. His editor arranged for syndication by United Feature Service as “Up Front” at the same time.

Bill covered the fighting in Sicily, Salerno where he was wounded, and at other locations in Italy, France, and Germany. He won his first Pulitzer for cartooning in 1945. Mauldin always called it as he saw it and during the war led him to more than one confrontation with the military brass.

But the most famous one was when he was summoned by Gen. George S. Patton to Patton’s headquarters at the Grand Ducal Palace in Luxembourg City where he summoned Sgt. Bill Mauldin for a face to face meeting about his cartoons that Patton found disturbing.

Gen. Patton’s luxury headquarters at the Grand Ducal Palace in Luxembourg City where he summoned Sgt. Bill Mauldin for a face to face meeting about his cartoons that Patton found disturbing

One of Mauldin’s best known cartoons, and his personal favorite was of a US cavalry man about to shoot his Jeep. In one episode of the TV series MASH, Col. Potter shoots his destroyed Jeep after Major Frank Burns ran a tank over the Jeep.

he Watch on the Rhine
Joe’s’ caricature of the dogface soldier

Another Mauldin cartoon that kept the morale up of our “dogface soldiers” the Bulge, Mauldin drove up to Luxembourg to Patton’s quarters. Mauldin recounted the meeting in “The Brass Ring” in which Patton harangued him and threatened to “throw his ass in jail.” Mauldin was permitted to speak his mind to Patton and neither party budged. Supreme Commander Gen. Dwight Eisenhower intervened and overruled Patton by stating the Mauldin’s cartoons were vital to the morale of the troops.

Editors Note – Again I thank Luxembourg historian Charlotte Tompers for telling me about this story. So in a new feature for “The Watch”, I will post one or two of Mauldin’s cartoons in each issue due to his close connection with the 3rd Infantry and his friendship with Audie Murphy. These cartoons should put a smile on the faces of all our “dogface soldiers” who labored in the all phases of the military.
and rescue Rickenbacker before falling into Japanese hands. Bud’s plane ran out of gas and ditched near Fiji when an enemy gunboat blasted their boat out of the water, killing several of Bud’s Navy mates. He spent the next year and a half in captivity, working in a coal mine and at a kamikaze plant. His prison camp was about 75 miles away from one of the atomic bomb blasts. After liberation he was invited to witness the surrender signing on the USS Missouri and became part of history as he is seen on his tip toes on the back row to view the surrender proceedings. Bud and I became friends and stayed in touch by telephone, but he joined me at a book signing in Oklahoma City one day and signed my print for me. Another of the many incredible stories by our WWII men and women.

Left, the Japanese delegation arrive on the USS Missouri on September 1, 1945 (Sept. 2, 1945 in the US) in Tokyo Bay to accept unconditional terms of surrender.

Gen. MacArthur overseeing the Japanese surrender to the Allies

Sen. John McCain’s grandfather is circled in photo as he witnesses the surrender, as well as John McCain’s father. Circled in the rear row is “Bud” Gilbert, just released as a POW in Japan.

I became friends with “Bud” Gilbert and published and often told his unfortunate story of Pearl Harbor and captivity.
My work to honor Floyd K. Lindstrom

I started around 2008 with a phone call to Alex Ellis. I started the research on this forgotten hero, Floyd K. Lindstrom. On Nov 11, 2011, I laid a wreath for the first time at Floyd's grave and then worked to dedicate the new flag pole at American Legion Post 5 to honor Floyd. I received letters from President Obama and Commander of 3rd ID about remembering Floyd with the new flag pole. During Memorial Day 2012, I unveiled a plaque at The Shrine of Remembrance in the Honor Court. In Nov 2012, groundbreaking for a new VA Clinic in Colorado Springs began and I was there asking people to contact Congressman Lamborn to get the new clinic named after Floyd.

A committee was formed in Feb 2013 to come up with a name for the clinic. In May of 2013 there was the Dedication of Colorado Freedom Memorial where Post 5 donated money in honor of Floyd to have his name there. Then in Aug of 2013, the Salute To American Veterans Rally in Cripple Creek unveiled a plaque to honor Floyd for being a MIA for about 4 months before being declared KIA.

In Oct 2013, bills were introduced to name the clinic after Floyd by Congressman Lamborn and Senator Udall. House Bill 3375 passed the House on June 17, 2014 then passed Senate Dec 2014 and signed by the President on Dec 16, 2014. Initially, the VA Clinic was opened without Floyd's name on it on Sept 26, 2014, but later, a formal naming of the clinic was held on Feb 20, 2015. On July 5, 2017, we unveiled a display case of items that came from Lindstrom's time frame in WW2 but none of his, personally. There was a Pillowcase from Camp Roberts, a pistol belt, a 3 ID Print of his bust and dress uniform like he would have worn. Luigi Settimi of OP #16 in Italy, sent me dirt from Monte la Difensa (the place Floyd fought and eventually received the MOH), sand from Anzio, and a set of dog tags.

Mary Jane passed Jan 1942 and was laid to rest on Feb 3, 1942, 2 years to the date before Floyd was KIA. Floyd reported into the Army the day after his 30th birthday in June 1942. He did basic at Camp Roberts in CA with another Soldier from Colorado and they would both stay together until they got to their BN in the 3rd ID and were sent to different companies but both would go on to receive the Medal of Honor. That other Soldier was the great hero Robert Maxwell! He gave me some great help with my research. This Nov 11, 2020 the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum said they will display Floyd's medals. It has been an honor to work to recognize Floyd K. Lindstrom’s heroic achievements as a Soldier in our Army during WWII and I will continue to do whatever I can to support his legacy.

Private First Class Lindstrom's official Medal of Honor citation reads:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty. On 11 November 1943, this soldier's platoon was furnishing machinegun support for a rifle company attacking a hill near Mignano, Italy, when the enemy counterattacked, forcing the riflemen and half the machine gun platoon to retire to a defensive position. Pfc. Lindstrom saw that his small section was alone and outnumbed 5 to 1, yet he immediately deployed the few remaining men into position and opened fire with his single gun. The enemy centered fire on him with machine gun, and grenades. Unable to knock out the enemy nest from his original position, Pfc. Lindstrom picked up his own heavy machinegun and staggered 15 yards up the barren, rocky hillside to a new position, completely ignoring enemy fire which was striking all around him. From this new site, only 10 yards from the enemy machine gun, he engaged it in an intense duel. Realizing that he could not hit the hostile gunners because they were behind a large rock, he charged uphill under a steady stream of fire, killed both gunners with his pistol and dragged their gun down to his own men, directing them to employ it against the enemy. Disregarding heavy rifle fire, he returned to the enemy machine gun nest for 2 boxes of ammunition, came back and resumed withering fire from his own gun. His spectacular performance completely broke up the German counterattack. Pfc. Lindstrom demonstrated aggressive spirit and complete fearlessness in the face of almost certain death.
**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:

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<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Domestic</th>
<th>Overseas</th>
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<tr>
<td>Up to age 39</td>
<td>$400.00</td>
<td>$1,280.00</td>
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<td>Ages 40-49</td>
<td>$350.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ages 80 and over</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
<td>$275.00</td>
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*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.

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

Date: ____________________  □ New Regular Annual or Life Member (Circle Annual or Life)
□ New Associate Annual or Life Member (Circle Annual or Life)

Name ____________________  ____________________  ____________________  Date of Birth

(Last)  (First)  (Middle Initial)  (Required for all members)

Phone No ____________________  E-Mail Address ____________________

Home Address ____________________  ____________________  ____________________  ____________________

(Street)  (City)  (State)  (Zip+4)

Unit(s) Served with: ____________________  Served From ____________  To ____________  Rank: ____________

Current/Former Occupation: ____________________  Spouse’s Name: ____________________

Amount Enclosed: ____________________  Referred by: ____________________

Please print clearly, detach, and mail this application for membership along with a check or money order payable to Society of the Third Infantry Division to: The Society of Third Infantry Division, 12420 W Tower Ave, Airway Heights, WA 99001-5063.

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

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)
- Ardennes-Alsace
- Rhineland
- Central Europe

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

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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