



Message from the Pups

Greetings to all the WWII Veterans of the 104th Infantry Division, and to all the friends and supporters of the National Timberwolf Pups Association. As we near the date of our reunion in Albuquerque, New Mexico, it is hard to believe that almost a year has passed since the last one. As always, we are working on the details to make this another successful reunion, and we hope to see all of you to mark this milestone anniversary and to again enjoy the bonds of friendship built over the years.

At the reunion, we look forward to sharing details about the establishment of the National Timberwolf Association Scholarship program, the General Allen Award at West Point, and the honors given to the 104th Infantry Division of World War II in April at the Capitol by the United States Congress at the ceremony marking the liberation of Europe. In addition, also in April, both

President Obama and President Clinton thanked the World War II Veterans of the 104th and other liberating divisions at a banquet marking the twentieth anniversary of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

The successful transition of the organization programs from the NTA to the NTPA was made possible by the diligence and attention to detail of the leadership of our World War II Veterans, and with the outstanding support of the members of the present-day 104th. This continuity of organizations will preserve the legacy of 104th for future generations. On behalf of all of the Pups, friends, and supporters, we thank you.

See you in Albuquerque at the reunion.

—Andrew Lane, NTPA President
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We are fast approaching the time when our members, Vets, and families begin to make plans for the reunion—this year in beautiful Albuquerque. Please take the time to register as soon as you can, so we have a sense of how many of you will be coming to our third annual reunion.

We hope to make this another special reunion, where we meet and greet old and new friends alike. Better yet, we hope that many Pups and families will make this a regular part of their vacation planning every year.

We encourage you to take a look at the tours available as well as the many other attractions in the Albuquerque / Santa Fe area. Add a few days to your trip to enjoy them all! Remember that Chester Nez, one of the original Navajo code talkers of WWII, and his biographer, Judith Avila, will be speaking to us about the essential and powerful contribution of these code talkers to the Allied victory in the Pacific. For security reasons, these Veterans had been

sworn to secrecy for many years after the war. So, we are very fortunate to have found Chester and to be able to learn his story firsthand.

We will continue the “small-prize raffle” this year and welcome gift contributions. Our main goal in any fundraising that we do is to provide the necessary funds to expand the *HOWL*—especially for those Vets and family members who cannot attend the reunions—and to provide a valuable experience for those who can join us. Of course, we also hope to contribute to memorials and museums as well, as the opportunity arises. So, we thank all of you for your support and encourage you to make your reservations early. Bring friends and relatives, and let’s all look forward to a great time in New Mexico!

—JeNeal Ann Granieri, Treasurer & Committee Member
jagranieri@sbcglobal.net

Notice of Elections

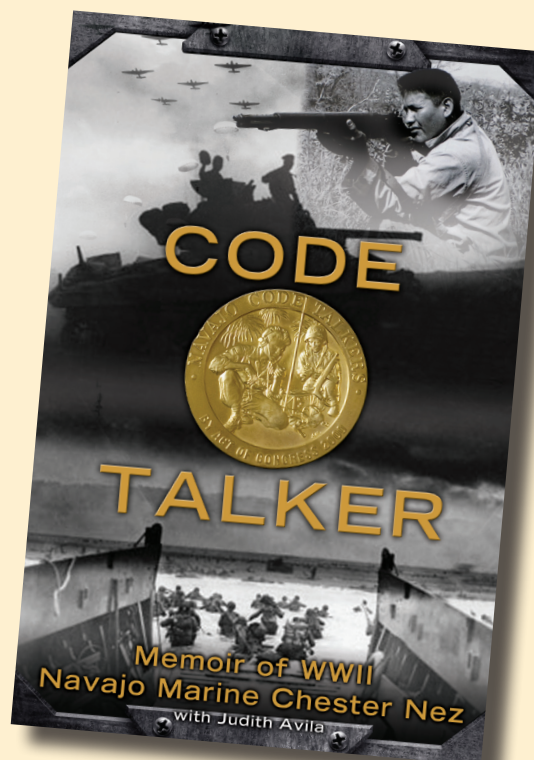
For offices of **President**, **Vice President**, and **Treasurer** of the National Timberwolf Pups Association, Inc. Elections to be held at the Timberwolf Pups Meeting on **Saturday, August 31, 2013, at 8:45 AM** at the Sheraton Uptown, Albuquerque, New Mexico. All members of the NTPA are

invited to elect the officers of the NTPA for the next term. The present officers are seeking re-election, and any additional candidates should submit their names for the vote the day of the meeting.

Award-Winning Book Tells of Award-Winning Service



Chester Nez, at ninety-two, is the last of the original Navajo code talkers of WWII—the twenty-nine Navajo marines who developed the only unbroken code in modern warfare. His prizewinning memoir, *Code Talker: The First and Only Memoir by One of the Original Navajo Code Talkers of WWII*, shares his inspirational and unique view of history. *Code Talker* pulls you into the foxhole with the legendary men who developed a code that even other Navajos could not break. Co-author Judith Schiess Avila (www.JudithAvila.com) invites you to come to Albuquerque to hear her and Chester speak on this fascinating topic.



NATIONAL TIMBERWOLF PUPS ASSOCIATION REUNION—ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please note how many people will be participating in each event, and total the amount. Send that amount payable to ARMED FORCES REUNIONS in the form of a check or money order. Your canceled check will serve as your confirmation. Returned checks will be charged a \$20 fee. You may also register online and pay by credit card at <http://www.afr-reg.com/timberwolf2013>. All registration forms and payments must be received by mail or online on or before **July 30, 2013**. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space-available basis. **We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing.**

ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC.
322 MADISON MEWS
NORFOLK, VA 23510
ATTN: TIMBERWOLF

OFFICE USE ONLY	
Check # _____	Date Received _____
Inputted _____	Nametag Completed _____

CUTOFF DATE IS JULY 30, 2013								
						Price Per	# of Tickets	Total
Thursday Tours—PLEASE CHOOSE ONLY ONE								
<i>Thurs. (8/29): KIRTLAND AFB & INDIAN CULTURAL CENTER</i>	8:45 AM	to	3:00 PM			\$36	X	=
<i>(This tour is limited to 40 people.)</i>								
or								
<i>Thurs. (8/29): CITY TOUR & INDIAN CULTURAL CENTER</i>	10:00 AM	to	3:00 PM			\$36	X	=
<i>Friday (8/30): SANTE FE TOUR & BATAAN MUSEUM</i>	9:00 AM	to	5:00 PM			\$35	X	=
<i>Friday (8/30): VILLA DI CAPO DINNER & ENTERTAINMENT</i>	6:00 PM	to	10:00 PM			\$60	X	=
Saturday (8/31): Ladies' Brunch	10:30 AM	to	11:30 AM			\$18	X	=
Saturday (8/31): Gentlemen's Canteen	10:30 AM	to	11:30 AM			\$12	X	=
Sunday (9/1): Banquet Dinner (Please select an entrée below.)	6:30 PM	to	11:30 PM					
Beef Option						\$40	X	=
Chicken Option						\$40	X	=
Monday (9/3): Farewell Breakfast	7:00 AM	to	9:00 AM			FREE	X	=
Reunion Picture CD (prepared by Art Luque)						\$25	X	=
Registration Fee: Includes access to Foxholes, General Meeting, Beer Bust, Memorial Service, and Foxhole Breakfasts								
REGISTRATION FEE(S) IF RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE 7/30/13						\$40	X	=
REGISTRATION FEE(S) IF RECEIVED AFTER 7/30/13						\$50	X	=
Total Amount Payable to Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.								\$

PLEASE PRINT NAME (for nametags) _____

TW UNIT _____ FIRST REUNION? _____ PUP? YES _____ NO _____

SPOUSE/GUEST NAMES _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____ PH. NUMBER (_____) _____ - _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS _____

MUST YOU BE LIFTED HYDRAULICALLY ONTO THE BUS WHILE SEATED IN YOUR WHEELCHAIR IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN BUS TRIPS? YES NO (PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE AVAILABILITY.)

TRAVEL BUDDIES

Would you like to have a Travel Buddy? Yes No Would you like to be a Travel Buddy? Yes No

For refunds and cancellations, please refer to our policies outlined on the reunion schedule page. **CANCELATIONS WILL ONLY BE TAKEN MONDAY–FRIDAY, 9:00 AM–5:00 PM EASTERN TIME (excluding holidays).** Call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancelation code. Refunds processed 4 to 6 weeks after the reunion.

2013 Reunion Schedule & Tours

NATIONAL TIMBERWOLF PUPS ASSOCIATION 3rd REUNION, SHERATON HOTEL ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO AUGUST 28–SEPTEMBER 2, 2013

Wednesday, August 28

Reunion Registration open 2:00 PM–7:00 PM
Foxhole / Souvenir Sales 1:00–5:00 PM & 7:30–9:30 PM

Thursday, August 29

Reunion Registration open 8:30 AM–9:00 AM
KIRTLAND AFB / INDIAN CULTURAL CTR. 8:45 AM–3:00 PM
CITY TOUR / INDIAN CULTURAL CTR. 10:00 AM–3:00 PM
Reunion Registration open 2:00 PM–6:00 PM
Foxhole / Souvenir Sales 1:00–5:00 PM & 7:30–9:30 PM
Catholic Mass 4:00 PM–5:00 PM

Friday, August 30

Reunion Registration open 8:00 AM–8:30 AM
SANTE FE TOUR & BATAAN MUSEUM 9:00 AM–5:00 PM
Foxhole / Souvenir Sales 1:00–5:00 PM & 7:30–9:30 PM
Reunion Registration open 2:00 PM–6:00 PM
Catholic Mass 4:00 PM–5:00 PM
Ladies' Brunch Reserv. Forms Collected 5:00 PM–5:30 PM
VILLA DI CAPO DINNER & SHOW 6:00 PM–10:00 PM

Saturday, August 31

Timberwolf Pups Meeting 8:45 AM–10:00 AM
Ladies' Brunch 10:30 AM–11:30 AM
Gentlemen's Canteen 10:30 AM–11:30 AM
Entertainment for All 11:45 AM–12:30 PM
General Meeting 2:00 PM–4:00 PM
Foxhole / Souvenir Sales 1:00 PM–5:00 PM
Reunion Registration open 4:00 PM–5:00 PM
Banquet Table Reserv. Forms Collected 4:00 PM–4:30 PM
Catholic Mass 4:30 PM–5:30 PM
Beer Bust 8:30 PM–11:00 PM

Sunday, September 1

Memorial Service 9:30 AM–11:30 AM
Foxhole / Souvenir Sales 1:30 PM–4:00 PM
Cash Bar 5:30 PM–11:30 PM
Banquet Dinner and Dance 6:30 PM–11:30 PM

Monday, September 2

Farewell Breakfast 7:00 AM–9:00 AM

TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

KIRTLAND AFB & INDIAN CULTURAL CENTER

(This tour is limited to 40 people.)

Thursday, August 29: Start the day with a tour of Kirtland Air Force Base, home of the 377th Air Base Wing, whose mission is to continue to strengthen gains in the nuclear enterprise mission, to ensure expeditionary combat force readiness, and to make our mission partners successful. Kirtland is home to four centers of excellence: Nuclear Excellence, Special Operations / Combat Rescue, Directed Energy, and Space. After departing the base, we will make a short stop at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial Park before continuing on to the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center. Their permanent exhibit, *Our Land, Our Culture, Our Story*, features a brief historical overview of the Pueblo world, and a contemporary exhibit featuring original artwork and craftsmanship of each of the nineteen Pueblos of today. Time will be allowed for **lunch on your own** at the Pueblo Harvest Café and Bakery, offering delicious options for lunch, from soup and salad to entrées.

- 8:45 AM—Board bus
- 3:00 PM—Back at hotel
- \$36/Person (Includes bus, guide & admission.)

CITY TOUR & INDIAN CULTURAL CENTER

Thursday, August 29: Discover the original site of Albuquerque, founded by the Spanish in 1706, with a visit to Old Town. At the plaza, your guide will give you a brief orientation, after which you will be on your own to browse among the approximately 140 arts and crafts shops, restaurants, and galleries. Most of the buildings are still of the Territorial or Spanish architectural style and provide a delightful step into the past. Next, we will make a short stop at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial Park before continuing on to the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center.

- 10:00 AM—Board bus
- 3:00 PM—Back at hotel
- \$36/Person (Includes bus, guide & admission.)
- Lunch on your own.

SANTE FE TOUR & BATAAN MEMORIAL MUSEUM

Friday, August 30: Sit back and enjoy the trip to Santa Fe, the "City of Holy Faith," via the scenic route known as the Turquoise Trail. Wind along the east side of the Sandia Mountains, and through the revived ghost towns and mining towns of Cerrillos, Madrid, and Golden. Founded in 1610, Santa Fe is the site of the oldest continuously operated community building in the United States. Private homes, public buildings, even gas stations and laundromats are adobe or adobe plastered. Your guide will conduct a walking tour of the historic section of Santa Fe, including the oldest church, San Miguel Mission; Loretto Chapel, site of the Miraculous Staircase; St. Francis Cathedral; the state capitol, and more. Following the tour, enjoy **lunch on your own** in one of the many local restaurants. Then we'll head to the Bataan Memorial Museum, which honors the New Mexico National Guard and the history of the Bataan Death March.

- 9:00 AM—Board bus
- 5:00 PM—Back at hotel
- \$35/Person (Includes bus, guide & admission.)

VILLA DI CAPO DINNER & ENTERTAINMENT

Friday, August 30: Enjoy a fabulous dinner at Villa Di Capo Ristorante Italiano, where excellent food, great prices, and superior service are their reputation. Located in the J. A. Skinner Building, a registered historical landmark, and situated on the old Route 66, it represents one of the few examples of art deco design in Albuquerque. The building, built in 1931, was designed as the main store in a chain of family-owned groceries and has always been divided into two stores (now two dining rooms). After dinner, there will be entertainment (TBD).

- 6:00 PM—Board bus
- 10:00 PM—Back at hotel
- \$60/Person (Includes bus, escort & dinner show.)

IMPORTANT NOTES

1. Driver and guide gratuities are not included in the tour prices.
2. Please plan to be at the bus boarding area at least five minutes prior to the scheduled time.
3. All trips require a minimum of thirty people, unless otherwise stated.

CANCELTION AND REFUND POLICY for ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC.

For attendees canceling reunion activities prior to the cutoff date, Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. (AFR) shall process a full refund less the non-refundable AFR registration fee (\$7 per person). Attendees canceling reunion activities after the cutoff date will be refunded to the fullest extent that AFR's vendor commitments and guarantees will allow, less the non-refundable AFR registration fee. **Cancellations will only be taken Monday through Friday, from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM Eastern Standard Time (excluding holidays).** Please call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds are processed 4 to 6 weeks after the reunion. **Canceling your hotel reservation does not cancel your reunion activities.**

SHERATON ALBUQUERQUE UPTOWN HOTEL
(800) 325-3535 • (505) 881-0000

The Sheraton Albuquerque Uptown is located at 2600 Louisiana Boulevard NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110, in the newly developed Uptown Area. At this gateway to all of the sights, sounds, and experiences of New Mexico, guests have access to hundreds of boutique shops and fine-dining restaurants, as well as Old Town Albuquerque, where old and new intersect. If you are driving, please contact the hotel directly for driving directions. Check-in time is 3:00 PM; check-out is at 12:00 noon. And parking is complimentary.

Each guest room is equipped with a Sheraton Sweet Sleeper Bed; voicemail; high-speed, wireless internet (for a fee); a coffeemaker; a hair dryer; an iron and ironing board; and a complimentary morning newspaper. The hotel also features a fitness center, an indoor (heated) saltwater pool, a whirlpool, and a gift shop.

The Sheraton is a 100-percent nonsmoking hotel, with handicapped-accessible rooms available upon request. Please be sure to ask for these special accommodations when making your hotel reservation.

Onsite, **The ABQ Grill**, open until 2:00 PM daily, serves breakfast and lunch, and gives guests a chance to relax in a casual atmosphere while experiencing some of the best and unique dishes in New Mexico. **Sol Café** is open from 6:00 AM to 11:00 PM, offering Starbucks coffee all day and a selection of breakfast items, salads, sand-

wiches, and other light fare. And **The Lobby Lounge**, open from 4:00 PM to 12:00 AM, gives guests a place to enjoy a drink while watching one of the lounge's big-screen TVs. Featuring a full menu, its original and creative dishes are available until 11:00 PM. Room service is also available from 6:00 AM to 11:00 PM.

The Sheraton does not offer airport shuttle service to and from the Albuquerque International Sunport Airport. However, Sunport Shuttle provides service from the airport to the hotels in the Albuquerque area. Current rates are \$15 per person one way and \$28 per person round trip. The Sunport Shuttle check-in counter is conveniently located inside the airport on the baggage claim level, across from Southwest's baggage carousel 3. Please call 866-505-4966 to verify rates and make reservations.

If you are a guest of the Sheraton, there is limited parking available for RVs. Should you require full hookups, please contact Albuquerque Central KOA. They are located at 12400 Skyline Road, Albuquerque, NM 87123, about ten minutes from the hotel. Call 505-296-2729 for rates, reservations, and information.

If you need to rent a wheelchair for the reunion, ScootAround rents both manual and power wheelchairs by the day and week. Please call their toll-free number at 888-441-7575 for details. All prices quoted include delivery fees.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Vendors and schedules are subject to change.

----- CUT HERE AND MAIL TO THE HOTEL -----

NATIONAL TIMBERWOLF PUPS ASSOCIATION REUNION—HOTEL RESERVATION FORM
REUNION DATES: AUGUST 28–SEPTEMBER 2, 2013

NAME _____ SHARING ROOM W/ _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

TEL. NUMBER (_____) _____ ARRIVAL DATE _____ DEP. DATE _____

_____ # OF ROOMS _____ # OF PEOPLE IN ROOM _____ HANDICAP ACCESS

KING BED _____ 2 DOUBLE BEDS _____

If the room type requested is not available, the nearest room type will be assigned.

RATE: \$104 + tax (currently 13%). Rates will be honored two days before and after reunion dates, based on availability.

CUTOFF DATE: July 25, 2013. After this date, reservations will be processed on space and rate availability.

CANCELATION POLICY: Your deposit is refundable if your reservation is canceled by 6:00 PM on your arrival day.

Please call 505-884-2511. All reservations must be guaranteed by credit card or with the first night's deposit enclosed.

_____ AMEX _____ DINERS _____ VISA _____ MASTER CARD _____ DISCOVER

CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____ EXP. DATE _____

SIGNATURE (regardless of payment method) _____

MAIL TO: Sheraton Albuquerque Uptown Hotel, 2600 Louisiana Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110 / Attn: Andrew Wyrick
OR VISIT: <https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/timberwolf>

The 68th Anniversary of the Liberation of Mittelbau-Dora Concentration Camp

It has been sixty-eight years since the 104th and others liberated the Mittelbau-Dora Concentration Camp near Nordhausen, Germany. When the camp was discovered, the Veterans who witnessed the ghastly scene on April 11, 1945, had no doubt that what went on prior was nothing short of unimaginable. Had the evidence not existed in plain sight, the worst of human cruelty overwhelming the medics attempting to salvage whatever life remained, the very idea may have been declared fiction. But death and destruction piled high at the camp, as they did in the mountain nearby—the mountain into which inmates had tunneled and labored, literally dying to keep several of Germany's lethal secrets: V-2 and V-1 rockets, and their construction. Of the 60,000 prisoners held at the camp between 1943 and 1945, 20,000 died as the result of their work, executions, starvation, and disease. The 104th helped to evacuate 1,200 survivors, and 885 pulled through.

Out of respect for those who died as well as the Veterans who experienced these horrors up close, the *HOWL* is going to forgo the darker imagery and simply pay tribute to the liberation with a photo gallery of related images—“lest we forget.” (Photos courtesy of TW Elmer Beal, NTPA Photographer Art Luque, and *HOWL* Editor Jen Weaver-Neist)

If you wish to learn more about Mittelbau-Dora and its history, here are some resources that may be of interest:

- Mittelbau-Dora Memorial:
<http://www.buchenwald.de/en/29/>
- United States Holocaust Memorial Museum:
<http://www.ushmm.org/>



(1) Liberation Day: April 11, 1945; (2) Historian and author Major (Ret.) Jefferson Davis giving a talk on the day of the anniversary in Vancouver, Washington; (3) The modern-day exterior of one of the tunnel entrances at Mittelbau-Dora; (4) A crumbling brick wall inside the tunnel; (5) The crematorium; (6) A wall memorial inside the crematorium; (7 & 8) The memorial sculpture, created by Jürgen von Wojsky, which depicts five bound prisoners who purposely stand with their backs to the crematorium

Vancouver Barracks Military Association Plans Timberwolf–Vancouver Barracks Interpretive Center

In 2011, several Timberwolves of the Army Reserves 104th Division formed the Vancouver Barracks Military Association (or VBMA) in Washington state. Their goal was to preserve and promote the history of the Vancouver Barracks, as well as the entire history of the 104th Division, which was headquartered at the Barracks for over sixty years. Some of their members include former Division historian, Major (Ret.) Jefferson Davis, and Sergeant Major (Ret.) Lyle Wold.

In 2012, the VBMA signed a letter of intent with a local church. This church owns a former military chapel, which stood at Camp Hathaway within the Vancouver Barracks. This chapel was built using the same plans as the eleven chapels that once stood at Camp Adair. If the VBMA can find a new home for the chapel, and secure the funding to move it, the church will sell the building to the VBMA for \$1.

For more information on this project, please contact me at president@vbma.us; visit the Vancouver Barracks Military Association website at www.vbma.us; or write to the VBMA at P.O. Box 820203, Vancouver, WA 98682.

–Jefferson Davis, VBMA President
president@vbma.us, 253-223-0125
 Timberwolf Best Warriors



Timberwolf Best Warriors

A little liquid sunshine couldn't dampen the enthusiasm of the Timberwolf Best Warrior competitors as they descended upon Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM), Washington, during the second week of March. Although it was a small group of competitors compared to past years, the soldiers rose to the challenge of scheduling changes and abbreviated preparations.

As Army Reservists, we are constantly balancing our military obligations with our civilian occupations and our families. The competitors demonstrated that they had arrived ready to make an impression as they started posting scores like a 310 on the Physical Fitness Test and finishing the Ruck March in forty-seven minutes. Everyone recognized that quality soldiers were on the ground, and the competition was going to be intense.

In addition to the basic evaluations on Physical Fitness, Land Navigation, and Marksmanship, the competitors were also turned over to the experienced Medical Simulation Training Center from JBLM. The center not only services military personnel but also provides training for local, state, and federal law enforcement, and emergency medical response teams. The Timberwolf candidates experienced Lane's Training, which included overcoming physical obstacles, simulated heavy weapons fire, combat-environment background noise, IED explosions, evaluating and treating casualties under fire, and call for emergency evacuation of casualties. The competitors were also evaluated on their knowledge and bearing by three sergeants major from within the 104th Division.

After scoring the competing soldiers in all events, three Timberwolves were selected to move forward to compete at the 108th Training Command with soldiers selected from the 95th and 98th Training Divisions at Fort Jackson, South Carolina: Staff Sergeant Allen Benningfield, 3-399th Leader Training Battalion; Specialist Richard Callis, 2-399th Troop Support Battalion; and Sergeant Gregory Ruske, HHC, 1st Brigade. Sergeant Ruske, a recipient of the Silver Star and Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster, also earned the runner-up position as the 108th Training Command's Soldier of the Year.

–Major Alex Johnson

(1) The chapel exterior
 (2) The Best Warriors marksmanship test

The First Crossing of the Mark River

In the last days of October, the 104th Division fights its way north to the south bank of the Mark River, about five miles below the wide Maas River. When the inexperienced Americans start moving, pushed hard by Terry Allen, the seasoned British and Polish troops cannot keep up on either side.

Terry Allen's boss, British 1st Corps commander General Crocker, believes the Germans are withdrawing across the Maas and unlikely to defend the Mark in strength. Impatient to cut off the enemy's retreat, he orders Allen not to wait for the other divisions but to attack alone, forcing a crossing over the Mark near the village of Standdaarbuiten before dawn on October 31.

Allen assigns the main effort to Colonel Cochran's 415th Infantry Regiment. Cochran calls on the 1st Battalion, now under the command of Major Fred Needham, to lead the assault. Companies B (on the left) and A (on the right) will make the initial crossing. Company C, in reserve, will follow B. Each will be reinforced by a section of D Company. The Germans have destroyed all bridges over the river except a small footbridge, so C Company, 329th Engineer Battalion, will ferry the doughboys across in collapsible canvas boats borrowed from the Canadians. According to plan, after 1st Battalion is across, 2nd Battalion will follow. Meanwhile 414th Infantry will be crossing further upstream.

Timberwolf Tracks states that at 6:30 AM, "Company B [415]...crossed the water under grazing machine-gun fire. Most of the troops clung to the sides of the assault boats to avoid being hit." Company C follows B, but Company A, using the footbridge, is delayed by enemy fire. At 9:10, General Allen telephones division headquarters from the 415th Command Post, where he is watching the progress of the attack with Colonel Cochran. "Baker and Charley across. Able halfway across.... [The] 415, when across, will move on Noordhoek."

On the north side of the river, the men must traverse a thin strip of meadow to reach the cover of the first dike. As recorded in *Combat History: 415th Infantry Regiment*, "Captain Peter Mirakian, Commander of Company B, was first across the dike, carrying his favorite weapons—hand grenades. He was last seen carrying a 60mm mortar, shooting it at German tanks 'from the hip.'"

By 9:30, all three rifle companies are across. Lead elements have advanced approximately 1000 yards beyond the river, but the attack is not going well. First Battalion is short on artillery forward observers and field glasses, preventing effective use of Division Artillery, which is firing in support. Even 415 D mortar men on the south side of the river cannot fire due to lack of observation. Radio communication is suicidal. German weapons zero in on the noise. Vehicles waiting to come to the battalion's aid

cannot cross the footbridge. General Allen calls repeatedly on the engineers for a larger bridge, but mortar, 88mm artillery, and machine-gun fire drive them back. He asks Corps for air support. It is refused because of weather.

Regimental headquarters sends word to the besieged troops that reinforcements are on the way. Second Battalion will cross behind them, and the 414th Battalion will be coming to their right. But the 2nd Battalion is prevented from crossing by artillery fire and a shortage of boats. And the 414th is prevented by mines, boggy ground, and fog.

That afternoon, the Germans surround Companies A and B. Company C, 100 yards to the rear, watches helplessly as enemy tanks fire point-blank into Company B foxholes. Major Needham, at the battalion command post south of the river, informs Regiment that tanks have overrun the bridgehead. "Very few, if any, got out," he says. General Allen calls for all available bazookas to be brought to the 415th Command Post for transport across the river.

During the evening, General Crocker agrees to a withdrawal. Captain William Felkins, Jr., commander of Battery C, 387th Field Artillery Battalion, requests permission to gather volunteers for a rescue patrol, one of several volunteer rescue parties that night. They cross the river carrying extra bazookas and laying wire over which Felkins can personally direct artillery fire against the Germans. From north of the river, Felkins telephones Colonel Cochran: "A and B Companies still in position. Some of C came back.... Need some antitank guns if have to carry them by hand." A short while later, Captain Felkins is killed, trying single-handedly to knock out a machine-gun nest that is threatening his patrol.

The next morning, Cochran reports to Division, "1st Bn has withdrawn to the S of the Mark River and is reorganizing.... Evacuation of personnel from bridgehead is going on with the assistance of 35 men from the 2nd Battalion and 30 men from Medical Detachment.... Evacuation of casualties completed to best of our ability by 0545."

John Wade, 415 D, remembers gathering around Major Needham later that day with what was left of 1st Battalion: "There were no officers or non-coms from A or B Company...when a cursory roll was called," he says. "C Company had been in reserve and fared better. D Company's machine-gun platoons were further reduced.... Aside from Headquarters Company, the battalion was now smaller than a rifle company."

On October 31, the 415th Infantry Regiment listed 2 killed, 19 wounded, and 354 missing.

To be continued...

—Kathy Clark, Legacy Coordinator
kpclark@vom.com



Chaplain's Corner

Greetings and Springtime Hopes to TWs, TW Pups, and all.

In these days after Jewish people have celebrated Passover and the liberation of the Hebrew people from slavery in Egypt, and Christians have celebrated the liberation from the death of Jesus of Nazareth, we have a stimulation to renewed faith and hope in the one God of all. It is a time of reflection on the Lord's gracious acts, and on our own trust in Him as a living and loving and caring and mysterious person (not just an idea); and it is a time of reflection on our own faith in Him. I hope that this Spring will come to you as a time of warmth and refreshment and new life—and even joy. God is full of life, not gloom, though some “religious” people may be. God is full of hope, like the parents of a child, and He breathes that hope into us.

We have need of that hope up in this corner of the country, after the brutal shock of the bombings resulting in deaths and horrific injuries at the Boston Marathon, and then the tension-filled days and nights after that, during the manhunt for the perpetrators. Now that they have been apprehended, a degree of calm and normal life has gradually come back to our city and its suburbs. I would hope that the survivors of the lethal explosion near Waco, Texas, are experiencing a similar time of calm and relief.

The encouraging news at this time is that the TW Pups are well along in preparing for our reunion in Albuquerque, and we can look forward to a change of scene and a meeting with friends again. I hope we all can make it there.

On the political front, we have concerns about gun control, immigration policies, and as always, taxes. Internationally, we have ongoing concerns about the volatile Middle East, terrorism, and perhaps a feeling of “war fatigue.” Instead of being resigned to endless trouble, though, perhaps we could quietly pray for the people here with leadership responsibilities, and for our soldiers on the ground there.

Besides the warmer days, there is a particular thing about springtime that's reassuring and familiar: it's the beginning of the baseball season. Baseball is a “slower” game, and it gives us time to think. It's usually less violent too. There's a certain “rhythm” to it. There's strategy and teamwork and patience and sharp action, and the time to “absorb” it. There's green grass and fresh dirt, and for some of us, it may bring up memories of the thump and sting of a catch, and the smell of our glove.

May spring and baseball help us to settle into our own rhythm and think our own quiet thoughts. We may be getting



old, but we're not stuck in the past. We're moving into the future, yes, but we're keeping the memories of our fathers fresh.

I hope you all have a peaceful and pleasant summer, and I hope to see you in Albuquerque.

Prayers,
Fr. McCarty

Let's Get 'Em!

One morning when I was commanding the Second Battalion of the 415th Infantry Regiment, a distraught tanker from the 3rd Armored Division came into my command post (CP). He needed help.

It seems he was leading a supply column up the road that ran through our position. About a mile north of us, his column had been attacked and he had lost two tanks. He wanted us to clear the road for him.

I called Captain Mauldin, who commanded G Company, and told him to get the company ready to move out; I would be down to the company in a few minutes. When I got there, I explained the situation. I told him we would move up the road to a road junction a few hundred yards north of us, and then we would continue north through the woods so as not to be seen.

There was a ridge just ahead as we entered the woods. We kept the troops behind the ridge as Mauldin and I went to the top to observe the terrain on the other side. If German tanks had knocked out the two tanks, I figured we would see them here. I was wrong. All we saw was a valley and then another ridge.

We moved the company forward with bazooka men up front. (A bazooka is a handheld, antitank rocket launcher.) We climbed the next ridge and repeated the observation procedure. This time we could see a village about 500 yards away. A dozen or so villagers were leaving the village—a sign that something unusual was going on. It indicated the possibility that they foresaw action in which they did not want to be involved.

“Let's go to the village and see if it is clear,” I said to Mauldin, and we moved the company down the ridge and started across the absolutely flat field that extended to the village. Mauldin and I were thirty or forty feet in front of the troops, who were spread out in a line of skirmishers.

When we were about 200 yards from the village, a slight

Continued on page 10

movement caught my eye. I focused on it and saw a German soldier sitting behind a machine gun. As I mentioned, the field was as flat as a pool table—absolutely no place to take cover. Realizing we were sitting ducks, I yelled, "There they are! Let's get 'em!" Then I started running as fast as I could at the machine gunner. All of us started running and yelling.

To my relief and amazement, the gunner got up and ran away. He did not fire a shot.

Once in the village, we found there were some armored vehicles and troops. We captured about fifty Germans, and Mauldin's bazooka men immediately knocked out six armored vehicles. The one we did not immediately get drove out of the village, up a small rise to the north, and then stopped, apparently because a bazooka shot had damaged its engine. We later brought forward the tank platoon

attached to the battalion. They finished off the vehicle on the slope so that it would not fire at us any more.

I found out years later, after the war, that this German force had been sent out to reconnoiter for a place that the German force, hemmed in by the 7th Corps' encirclement of the Ruhr Pocket, could break out. (I will tell this story, "Beierlein and the Map," in the next edition of the *HOWL*.)

Captain Mauldin was awarded the Silver Star for the valor he displayed in leading his men, especially in knocking out the enemy's armored vehicles. And the 3rd Armored Division's supply column moved on. All in a morning's work.

—John R. Deane, Jr.
General, US Army (Ret.)



Compiled by Sandra Eberhard (webpup@bellsouth.net)

*At the going down
of the sun
and in the morning...
We will remember them.*

Daniel Drench 387 FA A	Ed Koch 415 F	James H. Pryor 555 AAA Bn HQ Btry	Lucy Conti 555 AAA Bn Btry D (Adam)
James W. Dutcher 414 H	Henry "Bud" Kurz 555 AAA Btry D	Reaford L. Robinson 104 HQ	Phyllis Franz 413 M (Gene)
Donald J. Anderson 414 HQ 2nd Bn	John M. Eckstein 555 AAA Btry A	George R. Lanz 414 B	Lois Lee 413 I (Glendon)
Howard Bardon 929 FA Bn Btry C	Eugene "Gene" Franz 413 M	Joseph Liddel 387 FA Med	Betty J. Long 555 AAA Bn Btry C (Marvin)
Carl Barringer 413 F	Robert B. Frey Chaplain, 413 HQ 3rd Bn	George MacCollom 414 C	Shirley J. Strumberger 555 AAA Bn Btry A (Nicholas)
Dean F. Beck 413 K	Edgar "Ned" Gilbert 413 G	Harrel Martin 415 HQ 3rd Bn	Dorothy Taylor 329 C (Doyle)
Samuel Boratko 929 FA	Leonard Greenwald 415 D	John Mulligan 413 L	
Joseph Brady 104 QM	Lewrel "Jack" Harris 414 HQ 3rd Bn	Joseph Olsen 415 F	CORRECTIONS With apologies for the errors in the January <i>HOWL</i>
Larry C. Buswell 414 E	Dale Hewgley 329 Med Detach B	Ramo Parola 414 L	
Herbert Davis Unit Unknown	Chester M. Johnson, 415 C	William Pearson 329 Engr HQ	WIFE or WIDOW Anthony Rybski 415 M
Victor A. DeLucia 414 AT	Matthew J. Kiley 929 FA HQ	John Pershing 415 Med Detach	Bernita "Bee" Allen 555 AAA Bn Btry B (Ray) Phyllis Joan Withem 414 F (Otis)
Manuel S. Dominguez 415 E	George Kirkpatrick 414 B	Melvin G. Pfeiffer 415 C	Eleanor Coe 414 K (Ronald)

Welcome to a new section in the *HOWL*—one that’s dedicated to remembering our Timberwolves and others related to this ongoing organization. These can be influential people to the 104th, fallen or missing brothers, as well as those we’ve lost since the war.

If you have a tribute or story you’d like to share in an upcoming *HOWL*, please send it to me via email or post using the following contact information: jen@damerocketpress.com / Jen Weaver-Neist, 6858 SE Langwood Street, Hillsboro, OR 97123. When possible, please include a high-resolution, digital—or physical—photograph (at least 100 percent in size, 300 dpi).



Remembering Mayor Ed Koch: Once a Timberwolf, Always a Timberwolf

By Kathy Clark, NTPA Legacy Coordinator



Steve Combatalade (414 H) told me the following story about my father and Ed Koch:

Dad was NTA President in 1986, when the annual reunion was held in San Francisco. One of the first things he did after being chosen president was to contact every Timberwolf he could find in the San Francisco Bay area, whether

he knew them or not, to ask for help. Since people found it difficult to say “no” to my father, he wound up with quite an impressive crew. Steve Combatalade was on this crew, and being a dedicated golfer, he set about trying to arrange a golf outing for the reunion attendees at the prestigious Presidio Golf Course.

The Presidio was still an army base at the time, and if I understand the story correctly, the golf course was only open to active army officers and members of the private Presidio Golf Club. Steve talked to everyone he could at the Presidio, and though they were all very sorry, they said there was no way to arrange for the World War II Veterans to play golf there.

Finally, Steve called my father and asked if he could do anything. Dad said that he couldn’t, but he might know someone who could. And then Dad telephoned Mayor Ed Koch in New York. It’s unlikely that Dad and Koch had ever met, but you know what they say about Timberwolves. Somehow Dad got through to the mayor and explained the problem. Koch called Dianne Feinstein, who was mayor of San Francisco at the time.

Steve soon received a call from the Presidio announcing that it had turned out they could accommodate the

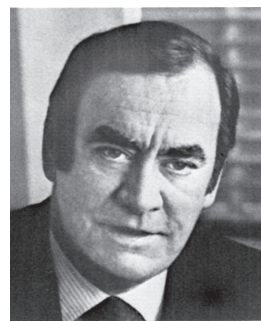
Veterans after all. So even though Mayor Koch may never have attended a reunion, he sure came through in 1986 for the reunion in San Francisco.

[Ed Koch (415 F) was one of thousands of ASTPers who joined the 104th at Camp Carson. He fought with the Division through Holland and into Germany. He was injured one night near Aachen when he fell down the cellar stairs of an abandoned building his unit was searching. He was hospitalized and later reassigned to a noncombat position. He never returned to the Timberwolves. For more details about his experiences with the Division, see *Citizen Koch: An Autobiography*, with Daniel Paisner, St. Martin’s Press, NY, 1992.]



Remembering Governor Hugh Carey

By John R. Deane, Jr., General, US Army (Ret.)



Hugh Carey and I met in the summer of 1942 when we both joined Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 415th Infantry Regiment at Camp Adair near Corvallis, Oregon. We were both newly commissioned second lieutenants of the infantry. Shortly after joining the Division, I was transferred to the Anti-Tank Com-

pany of the regiment and did not have close contact with Hugh until the summer of 1943, when, as newly promoted captains, we were sent to the Advanced Infantry Officers Course at the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia.

I had an automobile at that time, so Hugh and I drove to Fort Benning in my car over a period of several days, during which time our strong friendship was born—a friendship that lasted the rest of our lives.

It was at Fort Benning where I first saw Hugh’s great intellect and tactical vision. He stood out in our class of a hundred or so students, most of whom were older and more experienced than we. His responses to answers in our various classes were clear, concise, loaded with wisdom, and indicative of the notable future he was to enjoy throughout his life.

When we returned to the regiment, Hugh was assigned to the regimental staff as the S-3 (operations officer). I was assigned as the regimental S-2 (intelligence officer). In these positions, we worked hand in glove. His tactical concept of each of the regiments’ operations dictated the specific intelligence needed to ensure success. My job was to see that we acquired the necessary intelligence to

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permit the regimental commander to assess the situation and judge the adequacy of Hugh's proposed plans to accomplish the mission assigned to the regiment at the moment.

Hugh and I were very close, both as friends and as colleagues, while we served on the regimental staff. We were in constant communication, discussing the operations of the moment as well as those we could foresee. When I slept, he took care of my duties and responsibilities; when he slept, I took care of his. My admiration and respect for this singular individual never ceased to grow.

It was obvious right from the start that the regimental commander was greatly impressed with Hugh's vision and analytical thought. He had complete confidence in Hugh and leaned upon him heavily in making his decisions. Over the course of our operations in Europe during WWII, mostly in Germany, it was clear that the division commander had unbounded confidence in our regiment. He assigned us consistently important and difficult missions. Without question, this confidence was the direct result of the competence of our regimental commander and the brilliance of Hugh Carey.

After the war, Hugh returned to civilian life, participated in his family's business, became a lawyer, and

entered politics. He enjoyed success as a respected and outstanding member of the US House of Representatives, where he served seven terms. This success led to his running for election as the governor of the state of New York. He served two terms as governor and is credited with having saved New York City from financial collapse in 1975, and thus the state from a similar fate. During this period, I saw him from time to time in Washington, and we corresponded with each other.

The final resurgence of our friendship came with his cardiac bypass surgery. He called me shortly after this surgery, and I sensed his need for support from a fellow warrior—from a friend whose friendship had been forged in the bonds that bind men sharing the dangers of combat. I wrote him immediately, and we had many telephone conversations and exchanges of letters in the weeks and months until his death on August 7, 2011.

As he wrote me in his final days, "General, in my life's travels, I have met many great leaders, but few have bonded in friendship and given me as much courage as you have."

These are words that I shall never forget—words that I cherish because they come from a great man, a humble soldier, and superb leader: my friend, Governor Hugh Carey.

Letters from the Pack

The Editor of the *HOWL* and the NTPA are pleased to announce the resurrection of a historic *HOWL* column. Please send us a letter on any subject related to the Timberwolves, including personal experiences, or just write to let your buddies know how you are doing. Veterans will receive first preference for available space, but Pups, friends, and others are encouraged to participate. Send all letters and questions to Kathy Clark, PO Box 52, El Verano, CA 95433, or kpclark@vom.com. (Please include "TW" in the subject line.)



20th Anniversary Ceremony at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum

April 29, 2013

My father, Phil Wilens (414 B), and I attended the 20th anniversary ceremony at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum yesterday evening [4/28] and today [4/29].

Survivors and WWII Veterans were honored. Over 800 survivors attended, and there were 143 WWII Veterans. The liberating units were especially honored.

At the dinner last night, my Dad and I were seated with Leonard Gordon, a survivor of the Dachau Concen-



(1) TW Phil Wilens and daughter Leslie; (2) [L to R] TW Wilens with survivor Leonard Gordon and fellow Veteran Russel Fielding

tration Camp, and Russel Fielding, who was in the 42nd Infantry Division (Rainbow Division). He liberated Dachau forty years ago today. Very moving.

Here is some general information about the event: <http://neveragain.ushmm.org/events/entry/events-tribute>.

Hope to see you in Albuquerque.
—Leslie Curly, TW Pup

Part 3: A First-Time Meeting Years in the Making

By Liz Massey

HOWL editor's note: This is the final installment of a three-part story that first aired on November 11, 2011—a story that demonstrates how the care of overseas graves by our friends in the Netherlands is as important today as it was during WWII, maintaining a connection that now spans generations. It is reprinted with permission from THV 11 News in Little Rock, Arkansas, with our special thanks to anchor Liz Massey and news director Dave Parker. Please see the end of this article for links to the three original on-air videos as well as the print versions of the first two parts.



Ben (in the foreground) with the Bryant family

November 13, 2012—One year ago, on the last Veteran's Day, we introduced you to a young Belgian man and his mission to keep an Arkansas soldier's memory alive, plus the search for [the soldier's] relatives.

Immediately after our story aired, emails and phone calls poured in, leading us to Private First Class Jarrell Bryant's family and a first-time meeting to remember.

This walk has been more than three years in the making, a moment to bring generations together, and a first-time meeting long overdue. Three people—a 21-year-old Belgian postal worker, a mother, and a son—are all connected by one man.

"I really wanted to meet this family because it's—how do you say it? I wanted to get to know the people he called family," explained Ben de Staercke.

We discovered this story one year ago when we first introduced you to De Staercke—a man with a deep connection to the Enola, Arkansas, soldier. Three to four times a year, De Staercke goes to The Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery and Memorial in Belgium to visit Private Bryant, killed in action during World War II while volunteering to take a wounded buddy to get help.

Now, for the first time ever, De Staercke is in Lenexa, Kansas. His search for the family Private Bryant left behind [is] finally over.

"Can't really explain how much this all means to me to see the people he loved and he left behind. It's [a] really marvelous experience," says De Staercke.

Private Bryant's widow is 93-year-old Eva Bumpers, and their only son is Larry Bryant.

De Staercke adopted Private Bryant's grave in 2009.

"It's a very beautiful place, and he's buried with his comrades in arms. It's a very nice place to be buried," he told THV 11.

"I've been thrilled to death that he was taking care of Jarrell's grave because [Jarrell's] worth everything to Larry and me. So anything that Ben does for him—I'll love him for taking care of the grave," said Bumpers.

"He must be a great guy... Anyone [who] would do that for what they called the great generation—what those people did, died to set them [the Netherlands] free," said Bryant.

De Staercke said it's an honor, and so is meeting Private Bryant's family.

Continued on page 15



The three TW graves that Ben cares for at Henri Chapelle--that of Pfc. Bryant [left], Pvt. Lunie F. Barr [middle], and Maj. John Jeavons (All three Veterans were from the 415th.)

Membership Form

Annual dues for the association are \$20 and a nominal \$10 for Veterans and/or their spouses. Our bylaws state that membership in the organization begins in January of each year, but we will accept dues at any time. And we certainly encourage people to pay their dues for the next year at the reunion if they wish.

Please fill out the dues form below, and kindly indicate if there is an address change since our general mailings will not be first class and thus will not be forwarded. You can keep us updated by sending information either to Paul Murphy at the website or to JeNeal Granieri at jagranieri@sbcglobal.net or at the mailing address below.

NATIONAL TIMBERWOLF PUPS ASSOCIATION

Dues: \$20 per year (\$10 for Veterans/Wives)

Name _____

TW connection and his unit _____

Address _____

City _____

Apt. _____ State _____ Zip _____

Address change? _____ (Please check if applicable.)

Email _____

Phone _____

Please make check payable to: NATIONAL TIMBERWOLF PUPS ASSOCIATION

Mail to: NTPA, 1749 9th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122; Attn: JeNeal Granieri

Check those that apply:

Vet _____ Widow _____ Pup _____ Associate _____ (not a Vet or Pup)

Renewal _____ New Member _____

Military History and Information Resources

National WWII Memorial & Registry

Website: <http://wwiimemorial.com/default.asp?page=registry.asp&subpage=intro>

Personalized WWII Research

William L. Beigel

4824 Newton Street, Torrance, CA 90505

Phone: 310-791-3949

Website: <http://ww2research.com/beigelwd@aol.com>

US Army Heritage and Education Center

950 Soldiers Drive, Carlisle, PA 17013

Phone: 717-245-3972

Website: <http://www.carlisle.army.mil/ahec/>

Veterans' Service Records

US National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001

Phone: 1-866-272-6272

Website: <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/>

WWII History Magazine

6731 Whittier Avenue, Suite A-100, McLean, VA 22101

Phone: 800-219-1187

Website <http://www.wwiihistorymagazine.com/>

Editor: Mike Haskew (editor@wwiihistorymagazine.com)

Seeking InDesign Help

If you know how to use InDesign and Photoshop, and would like to volunteer your services to assist with the biannual production of the HOWL, please contact editor Jen Weaver-Neist with more information about your experience and availability: jen@damerocketpress.com / 503-313-7899.

HOWL Corrections & Feedback

See an error somewhere, or do you have any ideas you'd like to share regarding current (or improved) content? If so, please direct your feedback to editor Jen Weaver-Neist: 6858 SE Langwood Street, Hillsboro, OR 97123 / jen@damerocketpress.com / 503-313-7899. And make sure to include complete contact information so that it is easy to get in touch with you if necessary. Thanks!

Photo CDs by TW Pup Photographer Art Luque

Available for Purchase—\$25 Each

- 2011 St. Louis Reunion
- 2011 European Battlefield Tour
- 2012 Colorado Springs Reunion

Please make check payable to:
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San Francisco, CA 94122
Attn: JeNeal Granieri



"A First-Time Meeting" continued from page 13

"I still don't know a lot, but I know how he lived, who his family was, and even how he died. So it's a bit of rounding of the circle," he said.

The circle will never be broken between a young Belgian man, a son, a war widow, and an American hero.

"And we'll never know what sacrifice he gave for us. We know that his death—everything about him we lost, except his memory.... We know he lives on in our hearts and always will," said Bumpers.

All three hope to keep to in touch.

A Happy Reunion

Characteristic of a true friendship is the fact that two meetings hardly seem separated by time. The conversation continues where the previous conversation stopped eighteen months ago, as though no time passed between conversations. That was my feeling when, on May 3rd, 2013, the Timberwolf tour coach stopped near the village of Moerdijk to pick me up, so I could guide the American friends during a visit to a part of the Battle of the Dikes. While we (my Belgian friends Vincent, Ben, and I) boarded the bus, there were sounds of applause and recognition. I saw a number of familiar faces: the four Veterans and family members like Mary Jamieson, Peggy Gouras, Millie Didlake, and so many others.

"Oh, what a delight to be among them," I thought. It was the beginning of three memorable days.

It started many months before, when we received the message that the National Timberwolf Pups Association was organizing a new trip to Europe—part II of "Following in Their Footsteps." From that moment, here in West Brabant, preparations were made. For three days, our American friends would be our guests, and we wanted to offer them three unforgettable days. I intended to do my utmost to have them here during the national commemoration on May 4th.

There was one unpleasant detail to attend to first. During the restyling of the Standaard, the war memorial was replaced in a wrong way. Our committee wanted that fixed before Veterans and Pups arrived. I felt deeply that we owed them a true and correct memorial. The city council was unwilling to change the monument. But after a fierce war of words and some spicy articles in the newspaper, they decided to agree, and our monument was restored in its former glory.

Together with the Friends of the Timberwolves from Zundert-Achtmaal, Belgium, Oudenbosch, Etten-Leur, and Standdaarbuiten, a three-day program was prepared. In close consultation with Mary and tour guide Patrick [Last Name], the program was finalized. On April 30th, the day we crowned a new king and queen, we met with Patrick at the Golden Tulip hotel in Breda to put the finishing touches

Previous stories and videos:

Part 1: Lost But Not Forgotten: <http://www.thv11.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=180163>

Part 2: Lost and Found: <http://www.thv11.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=182150>

Part 3: A First-Time Meeting Years in the Making: <http://www.thv11.com/news/article/234454/2/THV-Extra-To-Belgium-and-Back>

on our plans. We had a toast to the new royal couple but even more to the coming days.

In that same week, Esther Eenhuizen showed me a piece of paper with some letters. It included a word totally unknown to me, and she asked for my help. How could I refuse? And more, the letter came from Peggy, who was still walking around with an unanswered question: "Where exactly did my uncle William Mabry Mayfield die on the battlefield?"

During her last visit in Margraten, we found her uncle's name among the names on the wall of missing persons. But what was written down on that piece of paper was more like some "double Dutch" to me. I kept thinking of that mysterious word. I pronounced it in all possible ways, I sang it loudly, and suddenly, during the silent hours of the night, like some kind of brainwave, I knew it!! "ROODE VAART." I knew the place pretty well, and it matched my knowledge of the battles near the village of Moerdijk.

On Friday, May 3rd, the birthday of my son, Wim Vermunt, the moment came. When boarding the bus, the first thing for me to do was to tell Peggy that her uncertainty would come to an end, and that I would arrange a visit to the place where her uncle died in his foxhole that same afternoon. Great was her joy and gratitude.

During the visit of the area, we saw where the 413th regiment passed through during those dramatic days in November 1944. I asked the driver to stop the coach on top of the dike that marks the sacred field, Peggy was looking for. I asked her to step down, and I told her: "This is the place you and your family are looking for." Understandably, tears of relief, happiness, and sadness filled her eyes, and not only hers. I was grateful to be a part of this moment, and I prayed silently to thank the good Lord; what He took sixty-nine years ago, He gave partly back on this memorable afternoon.

Although it had just started, this Timberwolf visit had already become one of the most precious prints on my personal memory, ever. I brought some flowers that Peggy laid

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Our Friends Overseas

"A Happy Reunion" continued from page 15

on the dike, followed by moments of silence. Then she collected some soil, which she is planning to rub into the letters of the name on the tomb of her uncle when she is back in the United States. After this tour, Mary asked me for the notes of the places we visited, and I handed them over to her.

Friday night, there was a meeting between the tour participants and many friends of the Timberwolves. This happened while enjoying a buffet, Western style—an excellent opportunity to catch up. We had chosen a military setting, where there was an opportunity to visit the Maczek museum, dedicated to the Polish liberators of the city of Breda, to see a movie, and to enjoy each other's company. It looked like a big family indeed.

On Saturday, we visited Oudenbosch. Again, there was a warm reunion with the Veterans and Pups. The Oudenbosch committee arranged a tour of the Basilica, and the deceased Timberwolves were commemorated at the war memorial along Wilhelmina Square. After the ceremony, a simple lunch was served before leaving for Wuustwezel in Belgium.

Due to the necessary preparations for the national commemoration in Standdaarbuiten, it was not possible for me to accompany Veterans and Pups to the ceremonies in Wuustwezel, but later, just as the coach arrived back in Standdaarbuiten, we served a simple dinner (simple because of the limited time). The dinner was offered by the community of Standdaarbuiten, and all enjoyed the dinner. At 6:45 PM, our American guests entered the parish church to attend the national memorial service, as chorales were played on the organ.

After I welcomed everyone at the service, I explained the theme of 2013: "Freedom You Agree." There is no such thing as boundless freedom. It's not only your freedom that matters but the freedom of others that is also important. When interests don't match, you will have to make agreements about the limits of your freedom and that of others, and that is only possible when your credo is: "Love thy neighbor as you love yourself."

Harmony "Oefening" played appropriate music. Veteran Bob Huber delivered an impressive speech to share his experiences during the Battle of the Dikes. After the hymn

"Abide with Me," and under the lightning of three candles, Esther read the names of the civilian victims. She also mentioned the soldiers of the Timberwolf Division who sacrificed their lives. Margot, a member of our committee, read a poem. Then we walked in silent procession, accompanied by a muffled drum and the sounds of a bell, to the war memorial. For all participants, this silent walk left a deep impression.

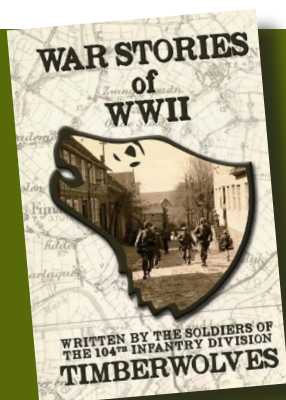
At exactly 8:00 PM, we joined in two minutes of silence—something that was observed by the whole country of the Netherlands. After the municipal speech was delivered, wreaths and flowers were laid at the war memorial on behalf of the community of Standdaarbuiten, the Timberwolf Veterans, Pups, and the Friends of the Timberwolves. Esther read a poem she had written, and her contribution put an end to the memorial services in Standdaarbuiten. Everyone was invited to socialize, enjoying a cup of coffee or a good chat. The most impressive comment I got on the services was from Peggy, who said, "Now all is good. I felt as if I was attending the funeral of my uncle. I don't have to see the place once again. I can close this book. I am so grateful."

Sunday was marked by the meeting between the Timberwolves and the Polar Bears at the war museum in Achmaal. There was a lot of conversation among participants, and many also visited the Oostvogels museum. Lunch, with soup from the field kitchen, was delicious. In the afternoon, after a tour of historic sites, we all arrived in Leur. There, the four Veterans unveiled a new Timberwolf monument.

That was the last part of the three-day program in West Brabant. It took a lot of fitting, measuring, monitoring, and discussing, but the satisfied faces of our guests made it more than worthwhile. Thankfully, I look back on three wonderful days, which were impressive, emotional, and at times, richly blessed by our good Lord, but also by wonderful weather.

A grateful president of the Remembrance in Standdaarbuiten May 4th, forever in my heart,

—Toine Vermunt



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Written by the Soldiers of the 104th Infantry Division

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“Following In Their Footsteps,” Part II: Germany

At the beginning of May, a group of thirty of us embarked on the second part of the “Following in Their Footsteps” overseas tour. Our tour guide was Patrick Hinchy (of MilSpec Tours), and once again, he provided us with stellar tour guidance. He had some help from the Friends of the Timberwolves from Belgium and the Netherlands, Albert Trostorf (Roer River locales), and Matthias Mauer (Halle locales). The tour weather was glorious, the sites AMAZING. We reconnected with many friends from overseas and met some new friends, and truly, it was a trip to remember! Keeping in mind the adage, “A picture is worth a thousand words,” we are including photos to tell the story of our journey.

From Cherbourg to Torgau, and all points in between, we dedicate the “Following In Their Footsteps” tours to the soldiers of the 104th Timberwolf Infantry Division—to all those Veterans who still remain among us, to all the Veterans who left us too early, and to all those young soldiers who never made it back home. Timberwolf Up!

You can view a more detailed, “virtual” tour at: <http://www.timberwolf104inf.org/eurotour.html>.

—Mary Jamieson, Tour Coordinator
mejamieson@aol.com



(1) Toine Vermunt and Peggy Gouras at the dike where Peggy’s TW uncle, William “Mabry” Mayfield, was killed; (2) Holland tulip fields in full bloom; (3) Kinderdijk—the city of windmills; (4) Veteran John Tyrrell talking with the Friends of the Timberwolves; (5) [L to R] TW John Tyrrell, TW Tom “John” Hobson, American Embassy representative and TW Pup Martin Hohe, TW Bob Huber, and TW William Danner at the Polar Bears ceremony, dedicating the new Timberwolf plaque in Wuustwezel, Belgium; (6) Vincent de Saedeleer and Veteran John Tyrrell; (7) Friends of the Timberwolves serving lunch from a field kitchen at the Timberwolf Museum in Achtmaal; (8) 104th Veterans dedicating a new Timberwolf plaque in Etten Leur; (9) Rene Buchanan visiting with the British 49th Polar Bear Veterans in Achtmaal; (10) Etten Leur today [L] and in 1945 [R]; (11) Our Veterans posing with the Friends of the Timberwolves at the Zundert memorial; (12) Sgt. Major (Ret.) Lyle Wold at the Margraten cemetery; (13) Peggy Gouras touching the name of her uncle on the MIA section in Margraten; (14) Lunch at the M&M Museum in Belgium

2013 European Battlefield Tour



(15) Group photo in Frankenberg on our trip through the Westerwald (a fairytale town!); (16) Our color guard at Henri-Chappelle and Margraten; (17) The Siegfried Line and its dragon's teeth—still there after all these years; (18) Hohenzollern Bridge in Cologne as it appears today [top] and as it looked after the Allied bombing in 1945 [bottom]; (19) Owners of the Frenz Mill, Peter and Mareike Wollschläger, who hosted us for morning coffee (We presented them with a book written by Charles Norris, a member of the 415 AT Squad, who stayed at the mill in 1945 during regimental reserve.); (20) TW Bob Huber and Pup-in-Law Byron Brown posing in front of the Remagen Bridgehead; (21) Near the site of the friendly bombing incident in Weisweiler (Jan. 25, 1945) today [top] and as it appeared in 1945 [bottom]; (22) Entering the tunnels where the V-1, V-2 rockets were manufactured by the slave laborers at Mittelbau-Dora Concentration Camp; (23) Veteran Bob Huber sharing his story of crossing the Roer River (Feb. 23, 1945); (24) The peaceful Roer River today; (25) Dinner in Melsungen, very near Kassel; (26) Don and Mike Davis with the proprietress of the Verliehausen Gasthaus (She remembers the 104th soldiers staying in her family's gasthaus during WWII.); (27) Entrance to the Mittelbau-Dora Concentration Camp Memorial (on the site of the former camp); (28) 104th Veterans posing with Matthias Mauer, our guide in Halle; (29) Halloran Salt Guild greeting the tour group at the Halloren museum; (30) Betsey Justice, Peggy Gouras and Esther Eenhuizen posing in front of Sanssouci Palace, home to Frederick the Great, in Potsdam; (31) TW Vets posing at the Delitzsch chocolate factory; (32) Group photo at Martin Luther University in Halle; (33) The Holocaust Memorial in Berlin; (34) St. Nicolai Church in Gutenberg as it was in 1945 [L] and as it is today [R] (Gutenberg was the town 415 D was assigned for occupational duty after V-E Day.); (35) Jerry Lacy standing in front of the Mulde River, near the location where his father, Sgt. Windsor Lacy, died; (36) At the Elbe River, where a scouting patrol from 415 D met the Russians—then [front left] and now [background]; (37) Castle Puchau, HQ for the 415th, in late May of 1945 [front left] and today [background]; (38) Our last evening together, filled with merriment, well wishes, and farewells



My dad enlisted in the US Army on March 23, 1942, and I was born eight years later to the day. I know this because my birthday deviated from our family's usual tradition of gathering around the birthday boy or girl's bed to sing happy birthday; on my birthday, the first thing my dad would say to me was "What day is this?" I would respond with "My birthday!" And

with that wonderful smile of his, he would say, "No, it's the day I enlisted in the army," just to tease me. The only sibling who could compete with me was my younger sister, who was born nine years later on D-Day, June 6th.

My dad enlisted three credits shy of finishing law school and went on to be an attorney in his everyday life. Once he enlisted, he went through basic training, OCS, and artillery school, and was assigned to Camp Adair as one of the initial groups of personnel when the camp was established. He remained with the 104th until early 1946, after helping to muster everyone else out of the unit.

As children, my siblings and I were reminded of his time in the service. When we cried over small things, he would remind us to save our tears for the big things, because we would have much harder things to deal with as we went through life. He was an optimist, and I think this was not only part of his nature but something reinforced by what he did and saw during the war.

When the Timberwolves knew they were going to be shipped overseas, my dad and his friends decided that instead of blowing the fund they had accumulated (during their training) on one big party, they would buy a projector and take it overseas. Many a time when we watched an old movie on TV, my dad would say, "We showed that movie in a bombed-out building in [whatever European city they happened to be in when they actually got a little respite]."

We also learned interesting tidbits about the world, such as: in the Netherlands, people could open the upper part of their door and almost everyone had a cow nearby. He said in Germany, he saw school books that taught math by asking how many 1 soldier plus 1 soldier equals, as opposed to a US school book asking how much 1 apple plus 1 apple equals. He also told us about some of the harsher realities of the war, such as the liberation of the Mittelbau-Dora Concentration Camp and how he wondered how human beings could do that to other human beings. When he saw it, he wrote my mom and said he realized for the first time what they were fighting for—that something like it would never happen at home.

We were brought up on army lingo. Growing up we were told to "rise and shine"; he sang us the song "Oh! How I

Hate to Get Up in the Morning" when we lingered in bed too long; he never parked close to our "objective" when we could park a mile away and "steal a march," because we would be away from all the congestion (none of us had the heart to say, "But Dad, by the time we walk to the car, all the other cars are gone!"); we learned how to drive successfully in a convoy; and we were never at the end of the line, we were "bringing up the rear." Since he did some spotting from a Piper Cub during the war, after the war, he loved to take us out to the small airfields to watch the Piper Cubs take off and land. And he would explain to us how they flew.

My dad died when I was twenty-two, so none of us really got to sit down with him as adults and hear the in-depth war stories he had to tell. My cousins, who were somewhat older than us, said they remembered he said that even though he got a bronze star for running wire, rechecking for breaks in the line, and getting knocked unconscious during the shelling that was going on, he was most afraid when there had been a bad fire and there were many wounded in the woods. He and others volunteered to go in on jeeps to retrieve the wounded, taking off any signs of their rank lest someone target them. He said that, behind the trees, you could see the Germans with guns aimed at them, and the volunteers were relieved when they were able to retrieve the wounded and get back to their line successfully. I don't think he ever regretted the time he spent in the army; he always said it made a man of him.

My siblings and I got involved with the Timberwolves, and our involvement really took off when my brother found a picture of my father on a website that our Holland friends had posted. My brother wrote to identify him, and from there, a beautiful friendship began with the NTA and our friends in Europe. My sister and I eventually decided to go on the European tour, and how exciting it was to meet real Timberwolves.

What I have learned as a Timberwolf Pup is that my father was a special man like so many of the men of his era. Every Timberwolf we have met on our tours and at the reunions has reminded me of my dad in their concern for others, their sense of humor, their ability to accept life as it comes and make the most of it, and their success at building wonderful lives after the war. They never resent the years they offered up to protect our liberties then as well as the liberties of all future generations.

—Rosemary Murphy, TW Pup

(1) John E. Murphy as a new recruit; (2) John with 5 of his 7 children, around 1955



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2013 "Following In Their Footsteps" Battlefield Tour: Davis brothers, Mike (left) and Don (right) visit the place where their TW father, William (to Don's right), stopped to eat in Verliehausen, Germany, in 1945. (Photos courtesy of Vincent de Saedeleer and Don Davis)