



MESSAGE FROM THE PUPS

Past, Present, and Future

Dear Friends,

After a very severe winter, spring is finally here, and we are once again enjoying mild weather and watching the new growth of the season.

Our organization is now in the final stages of preparing its fifth reunion—this year New Orleans, Louisiana (home to the National World War II Museum, among other attractions). We are proud to be able to honor our 104th Infantry Division Veterans on the 70th anniversary of the end of the war.

We—the sons, daughters, nephews, nieces, and friends of the 104th—are fortunate to have learned the history of this era from its participants. Eyewitnesses give us the gift of sharing their experience in a manner that no book or movie can ever match. We have been forever enriched by the years of shared details and knowledge at our reunions and trips back to the sites of our Veterans' achievements in Europe.

Every community has monuments to its members who have given their lives in the defense of our nation in conflicts around the world and, more recently, at home. Our nation needs these monuments

Continued on pg. 2

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to both soothe its grief and to remember. Without such a reminder, we are at risk of forgetting those we lost and the cherished values that cost their lives.

What will we be able to give to future generations?

Unless history is taught, it is at risk of being forgotten. To forget our history of World War II is to lose the valuable lessons that cost our nation such a high toll of life.

How will we be able to continue our reunions and memorial traditions in the future?

We can ensure that coming generations will have the opportunity to both learn about and honor our greatest generation. We have located and contacted organizations like ours—other WWII legacy organizations honoring WWII divisions around the United States—and invited

them to join us in New Orleans this year. We hope to unite these groups to create a “Family of Annual Reunions” (FAR). It is possible that such a union could launch an initiative that allows individual groups to continue their traditions as well as establish new traditions, ensuring that our WWII Veterans will always be honored and the history of this time will always be here remembered.

We hope that all of you will join us in New Orleans to continue our traditions and to share in our new beginning.

—Andrew Lane, NTPA President
andrewben.lane@gmail.com

NOTES FROM THE REUNION SITE COMMITTEE

Hope many of you are looking forward to our 2015 Reunion in New Orleans! We have an exciting program planned, with lots of free time for you to explore on your own.

Our very distinguished speakers at the general meeting will be Robert DuPont, PhD, Chair of the University of New Orleans Department of History, who will speak on the origins of the National WWII Museum and the work of its founder Stephen Ambrose; and Michael Edwards, MA, former coordinator of the University of New Orleans Eisenhower Center, who will speak about New Orleans in WWII and the production of Higgins boats, which were the landing crafts used on D-Day and beyond.

At our new “Evening Dessert Theater” event, we will feature the Dr. Bone Jazz/Blues Quartet, who will give us an evening of New Orleans music in our own private cabaret! No need to go out and face the crowds or the weather to find great local entertainment—and you’ll get to enjoy this while visiting with old and new friends.

The Foxhole will always be our place for rest and relaxation with a great group of Pups, Vets, and family. The Beer

Bust on Saturday evening will be the usual fun event, with General Moffett performing for us. We are still having the raffle too, so remember to bring items to donate. (Re-gifting is fine!) Then the Sunday Memorial Service and evening Banquet will top it all off before we depart for our homes, looking forward to meeting again next year.

Which brings me to this: last year’s survey resulted in the top two choices being Washington, DC, and San Diego. We have tentatively booked the Doubletree Hotel in Crystal City near the Metro into Washington, DC (\$119–\$124, including breakfast), and we also have a bid from the Holiday Inn Bayside in San Diego (\$129). Larger metropolitan areas tend to be more expensive than smaller places, obviously! Both hotels offer great venues and are in exciting, interesting cities. Perhaps we do one next year and the other the following year.

We would like your input on this to know which destination would be the best for 2016 before we make the final decision. We will likely have a vote at the reunion, and do welcome your comments. We would also like to know if you want to go back to Labor Day weekend or keep it one week earlier. We think some may find it easier to attend if it is earlier, like this year. Please let us know that as well. (Note: If you are not attending this year but may in the future, please contact anyone on the committee to voice your opinion. Our contact info is on page 1.)

We hope to maintain good attendance and even grow as the Pups generation looks to continue the legacy, memory, and tradition of the 104th Infantry Division. In the meantime, we look forward to seeing you all at New Orleans. Let the good times roll!

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

Photo CDs by TW Pup Photographer Art Luque

Available for Purchase—\$25 Each

- 2010 St. Louis Reunion
- 2011 European Battlefield Tour
- 2012 Colorado Springs Reunion
- 2013 Albuquerque Reunion
- 2014 Minneapolis Reunion

Please make check payable to:
NATIONAL TIMBERWOLF PUPS ASSOCIATION
Mail to: NTPA
1749 9th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94122
Attn: JeNeal Granieri



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, INC. 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/timberwolf2015> (a 3% charge will be added to the total). All registration forms and payments must be received on or before **July 24, 2015**. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space-available basis. **We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing.** Please do not staple or tape your payment to this form.

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 24, 2015

	Price Per	# of Tickets	Total
TOURS			
Thurs. (8/27): PLANTATION TOUR 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM	\$79	X	=
Friday (8/28): NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM TOUR 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM	\$53	X	=
MUSEUM TOUR—WWII VETERAN PRICE	\$33	X	=
Saturday (8/29): CITY TOUR 12:00 PM to 5:30 PM	\$37		
EVENING DESSERT THEATER			
Friday (8/28): Coffee, tea, dessert, and entertainment 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM	\$30	X	=
BANQUET			
Sunday (8/30): Banquet Dinner <i>(Please select an entrée below.)</i> 6:30 PM to 11:30 PM			
Herb-Marinated, Seared Chicken Breast	\$41	X	=
Grilled Hanger Steak	\$47	X	=
Grilled Louisiana Drum Fish	\$42	X	=
PER-PERSON REGISTRATION FEE (Covers various reunion expenses)			
REGISTRATION FEE(S) IF RECEIVED <u>ON OR BEFORE</u> 07/24/15	\$45	X	=
REGISTRATION FEE(S) IF RECEIVED <u>AFTER</u> 07/24/15	\$55	X	=
Reunion Photo CD (prepared by NTPA Photographer Art Luque)	\$25	X	=
Total Amount Payable to Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.			\$

(PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME AS YOU WANT YOUR NAMETAG TO READ.)

FIRST _____ LAST _____

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

SPOUSE/GUEST NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

PH. NUMBER (_____) _____ - _____ EMAIL _____

DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS _____

(SPECIAL SLEEPING/ROOM REQUIREMENTS MUST BE CONVEYED BY THE ATTENDEE DIRECTLY TO THE HOTEL.)

CREDIT CARD # _____ EXP. _____

NAME (AS ON CARD) _____ SIGNATURE _____

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.)**

ARRIVAL & DEP. DATES _____ TO _____ • VIA ☐ PLANE ☐ CAR ☐ RV • STAYING AT HOTEL? ☐ YES ☐ NO

For refunds and cancellations, please refer to our policies outlined on the reunion schedule page. **CANCELTATIONS 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.

2015 REUNION—SCHEDULE & TOURS

NATIONAL TIMBERWOLF PUPS ASSOCIATION 5th ANNUAL REUNION HYATT REGENCY—NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA AUGUST 26–31, 2015

SCHEDULE of EVENTS

Wednesday, August 26

Reunion Registration open 2:00 PM–7:00 PM
Foxhole 7:30–9:30 PM
NOTE: Souvenir sales will be open during the main Foxhole hours, from one hour after start time to one hour before closing, and will be closed during tour hours.

Thursday, August 27

PLANTATION TOUR 9:00 AM–2:30 PM
Reunion Registration open 2:00 PM–6:00 PM
NOTE: Additional registration hours will be posted, if necessary.
Foxhole / Souvenir Sales 1:00–5:00 PM
Foxhole / Souvenir Sales 7:30–9:30 PM

Friday, August 28

Timberwolf Pups Meeting 9:30 AM–10:30 AM
NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM TOUR 11:00 AM–4:00 PM
Foxhole / Souvenir Sales 1:00–5:00 PM
Foxhole / Souvenir Sales 7:30–9:30 PM
Evening Dessert Theater 8:00 PM–10:00 PM

Saturday, August 29

General Meeting 9:30 AM–11:30 AM
CITY TOUR 12:00 PM–5:30 PM
Foxhole / Souvenir Sales 1:00 PM–5:00 PM
Beer Bust 8:30 PM–11:00 PM

Sunday, August 30

Memorial Service 9:30 AM–11:30 AM
Foxhole / Souvenir Sales 1:30 PM–4:00 PM
Holik WWII Records Seminar 2:00 PM–4:00 PM
Cash Bar 5:30 PM–11:30 PM
Banquet Dinner and Dance 6:30 PM–11:30 PM

Monday, August 31

Farewells and Departure

TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

PLANTATION TOUR

Thursday, August 27: A day learning about plantation life awaits. Learn the history of several local plantations, such as Ormond and Houmas House, and drive by Laura Plantation. Once at Oak Alley, built in 1839, experience a bygone area in one of the South's most beautiful settings. Marvel at the unbelievable view of a quarter-mile-long alley of twenty-eight magnificent oak trees, each over 250 years old. Perhaps the most photographed plantation ever, Oak Alley has been the setting for many motion pictures. Your guided tour will reveal the fascinating stories of the home and its interesting past. After the tour, enjoy a Cajun buffet outside, under a tent. Lunch includes a salad bar, soup, crawfish *étouffée* with rice, jambalaya, red beans & rice, vegetables, rolls, dessert, coffee, tea, and water.
Note: The second floor of the house is only accessible via stairs.

- 9:00 AM—Board bus
- 2:30 PM—Back to hotel
- \$79/Person (Includes bus, guide, admission & lunch)

NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MUSEUM

Friday, August 28: Dedicated in 2000 as the National D-Day Museum and now designated by Congress as the country's official WWII museum, this remarkable attraction illuminates the American experience during the WWII era. From the Normandy invasion to the home front and the sands of the Pacific Islands,

you will see the courage, teamwork, and sacrifice of the men and women who won the war that changed the world. Explore moving personal stories and powerful interactive displays. New in 2013, visit the US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center, which tells the story of our nation's unprecedented industrial capability during the war years. For an additional cost, view the powerfully authentic 4-D cinematic experience, *Beyond All Boundaries*, narrated and produced by Tom Hanks, in the Solomon Victory Theater.

Note: WWII Vets do not have to pay the museum admission price (see Vet's price below).

- 11:00 AM—Board bus
- 4:00 PM—Back to hotel
- \$53/Person (Includes bus, escort & admission)
- Lunch and movies on your own.
- OR
- \$33 for WWII VETERANS (Includes bus & escort; admission is FREE)
- Lunch and movies on your own.

CITY TOUR

Saturday, August 29: Your tour of the Crescent City begins with a trip down historical St. Charles Avenue, complete with universities, parks, old oaks, stately charm, and an operational streetcar line. View the lovely Antebellum homes and Lake Pontchartrain, where some of New Orleans' finest newer homes are located, and stop at one of the city's unique above-ground cemeteries. Hear the stories of Hurricane Katrina and see firsthand the long-lasting effect it has had on New Orleans. Continue to the French Quarter (the *Vieux Carre*), where a blend of French and Spanish cultures intermingles with a modern lifestyle. Also witness the bustling seaport activities, which are such an important aspect of the city's economy. Enjoy free time at Jackson Square, the focal point of activity in the French Quarter, and explore the area with its gracious iron balconies and lovely courtyards. Lunch is on your own in Jax Brewery, an old landmark transformed into a modern complex of shops and eateries, or at one of the many fine restaurants in the Quarter.

- 12:00 PM—Board bus
- 5:30 PM—Back to hotel
- \$37/Person (Includes bus & guide)
- Lunch on your own.

IMPORTANT NOTES

1. Please plan to be at the bus boarding area (in front of the hotel) at least five minutes prior to the scheduled time.
2. Driver and guide gratuities are not included in the tour prices.

CANCELATION 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 nonrefundable 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.**

TO REGISTER, YOU CAN...

- Go online and pay by credit card:
www.afr-reg.com/timberwolf2015
- Fill out the form on the previous page and send it with your check by mail: Armed Forces Reunions, Inc., 322 Madison Mews, Norfolk, VA 23510, Attn: Timberwolf
- Call us: (757) 625-6401

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 30TH (2:00–4:00 PM): WWII RECORDS SEMINAR WITH
RESEARCHER & AUTHOR JENNIFER HOLIK**

The Day that Lived in Infamy: Navigating the Records of World War II

All the records burned! A 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis destroyed approximately 80 percent of the Army, Air Corps, and National Guard records. But this is not the end of the research possibilities for these soldiers. Many alternative record sources exist to reconstruct their service history. Learn how to research the records of World War II for any branch of the military in this informative program, which features:

- A trip through time, exploring the service history of several men and women
- Resources to search prior to obtaining military records
- Information on obtaining official military personnel files
- Military records that can be used to reconstruct service history
- Tips on weaving military, genealogical, and historical records together
- Resources for the prisoners, the missing, and the dead

COST: \$30 (includes a workbook)

Note: The workbook provides examples and space to take notes. Full examples of records will be available on Jennifer's website to view at your leisure (www.jenniferholik.com).

Space is limited to 40, and preregistration is encouraged (see details below).

BOOKS: Jennifer's newly released books (reviewed in this newsletter) will be available in limited quantities at the reunion. You may purchase a book ahead of time and **receive 10% off the price by using this code: 3CWSCYMZ**.

- To purchase *Stories from the World War II Battlefield, Volume 1: Reconstructing Army, Air Corps, and National Guard Service Records*, go to <https://www.createspace.com/5290771>.
- To purchase *Stories from the World War II Battlefield, Volume 2: Navigating Service Records for the Navy, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, and Merchant Marines*, go to <https://www.createspace.com/5355927>.



Jennifer Holik has more than twenty years of research and writing experience, including eleven published books, and numerous articles and educational courses. She holds a BA in history from Missouri University of Science and Technology; and offers expert World War II, genealogical, and historical research services. Jennifer has the rare expertise to locate, analyze, and interpret World War II records across all branches. She can reconstruct service history; provide details on combat experience; and, when necessary, document the death and burial of a soldier. Connecting the dots and piecing together the multiple puzzle pieces of a soldier's story is her specialty. (Talk to her about how she can help you to write and publish a book about your family or soldier.) In addition to research and writing, Jennifer speaks across the Chicago area at genealogy societies, libraries,

Rotary groups, corporations, and other venues. Her current program topics include beginning genealogy, youth genealogy, and World War II. Jennifer's passion is writing the stories of families—particularly those of WWII's men and women.

TO PREREGISTER: Visit Jennifer's website to pay via PayPal (<http://www.jenniferholik.com/records-seminar.html>), or fill out and mail the form below.

*** DEADLINE: AUGUST 10TH ***

**PREREGISTRATION FORM: HOLIK WWII RECORDS SEMINAR
Sunday, August 30, 2015 • NTPA Reunion in New Orleans**

Attendee(s) _____

Area(s) of interest (Please circle whatever applies.)

Army • Air Corps • National Guard • Navy • Coast Guard • Marines • Merchant Marines

Address _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____

Cost is \$30/person. Please enclose a check (made out to *Jennifer Holik*) and send it with this form to: Jennifer Holik, 2455 Brunswick Circle, Unit C, Woodridge, IL 60517. For any questions: jenniferholik@generationsbiz.com.

2015 REUNION—HOTEL INFO

HYATT REGENCY NEW ORLEANS

(888) 421-1442 or (504) 561-1234

<http://neworleans.hyatt.com/en/hotel/home.html>

LOCATION

601 Loyola Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70113

(Located just minutes from popular attractions like the Garden District, the Warehouse District, and the French Quarter)

RESERVATION INFORMATION

Call one of the numbers above and please remember to reference the National Timberwolf Pups Association Reunion. Or you can visit www.afr-reg.com/timberwolf2015 and click on the hotel reservation link to receive the discounted group rate.

Group Name: National Timberwolf Pups Association

Reunion Dates: August 26–31, 2015

Rate: \$115 + tax (currently 14.75%). Full breakfast buffet is included in rate for up to two people per room per day.

Cutoff Date: 07/30/15. Late reservations will be processed at a higher rate based on space availability.

Cancellation Policy: Must call 72 hours prior to scheduled arrival date to cancel reservations and avoid being charged for one night, including tax.

PARKING & SHUTTLE INFORMATION

The Hyatt Regency New Orleans offers valet parking services (currently \$40 for overnight guests), and additional public self-parking is available in nearby lots. The hotel does not offer shuttle service to or from the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport. Shuttle service is available from the airport to hotels in the Central Business District for \$20 per person (one way) and \$38 per person (round trip). All prices are subject to change. Ticket booths are located on the lower level near the baggage-claim area. For more information, to make reservations, or to verify pricing, please call (866) 596-2699 or visit www.airportshuttleneworleans.com. Taxicabs are also available on the lower level, outside the baggage-claim area.

WHEELCHAIR RENTAL

ScootAround rents both manual and power wheelchairs by the day and the week. Please call (888) 441-7575 or visit www.scootaround.com for more information or to make reservations.

WAR STORIES

December 1944: Inden, Germany

By Joseph Allegretti

Editor's note: this and the following story are on file with the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor—an electronic registry of Purple Heart recipients (<http://www.thepurpleheart.com/>).

It was December 1, 1944. I was a sergeant, C Company, 413th Infantry. Our objective was to retake control of Inden prior to December 2, as my division—the 104th—planned to cross the Inden River on the 2nd, under cover of darkness.

We had already learned that the Germans would fight to the last man in a desperate effort to hold this key road center. Part of my company and our captain (Captain Gleason) had been forced to surrender early on November 29th. German tanks had fired their long 88s directly into a warehouse occupied by them. The tanks fired point blank for several minutes.

I was at a different location with the other 2nd Platoon, Company C men. We were able to escape capture and later unite with others from our company who had become separated after suicide rushes by German infantry.

Now a part of a newly formed C Company, progress was exceedingly slow; firefights had to be made for every house, and sometimes, for each room. The artillery and tank barrages were intense, the German soldiers tenacious. Our casualties were extremely heavy.

Small-arms and machine-gun fire from a nearby house on the side of the Inden River opposed our advance. My platoon leader and I were attempting to get close to the side of the house when three Germans fled from a side door. We quickly fired at them, and they fell—wounded—to the ground.

When we ran past them, one or more of them threw fragment grenades at us. I was hit by shrapnel in the left thigh, and the lieutenant was hit in his right knee.

As we moved (hopped) back under much pain to a secure position, we repeatedly fired at the Jerries until we were rescued by others from our platoon.

I was operated on at a rear echelon medical station in Germany and was later airlifted to a hospital in Birmingham, England. I returned to my platoon and C Company in early January, 1945.

I have often wondered why the Jerries, lying wounded on the ground, threw those grenades. Their actions caused

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us to fire at them for a second time, probably causing them more pain, suffering, and possibly death.



March 1945: The Remagen Bridgehead, Germany By Joseph Allegretti

The 1st Battalion, 413th Infantry, moved into a reserve position near a captured German air base on March 21, 1945. I was a sergeant in C Company. We had crossed the Rhine River on a pontoon bridge at Remagen.

Under cover of darkness, we relieved the 26th Regiment of the 1st Infantry Division. This was the first airfield captured east of the Rhine River, and we soon learned that the Jerries wanted it back badly. There was a *Luftwaffe* strafing attack while we were moving into position.

The Jerries made several attempts to pierce our lines that night and other nights, but none of their attacks were successful. They used tanks, artillery, mortars, and ack-ack guns. At one point, the Germans came within two hundred yards of our lines. American artillery broke up the attack.

On the evening of March 24, I was standing behind a fieldstone barn, smoking a cigarette with some members of my squad, when I heard the rumble of German tanks approaching our position. Most of my platoon was resting inside the barn.

Almost immediately, several shells ripped through the barn. I was thrown into the air by the explosions and landed hard, yards away. Stunned and disoriented, I lost consciousness, suffering from a moderate concussion from the blast. I believe there were fatalities and severe casualties, both inside and outside the barn.

I was evacuated and treated at a rear echelon medical station, and later transferred to a hospital in Paris for tests, reevaluation, and treatment.

I never returned to C Company, 413th Infantry. I was assigned to an ordinance battalion in Mannheim, Germany, in mid-May of 1945.



Bob and the Nazi Major By Bob Huber, 415 G

This is my only face-to-face encounter with a Nazi soldier (we fired our machine guns from a distance). Being a personal incident and happening seventy years ago, I've never written about the incident. I do so now in memory and honor of my fellow Timberwolves from the 104th Infantry Division.

Our company had entered this sizable town—again at night—without too much trouble, and our section machine gun had settled in for the night. A GI from one of our rifle

companies came looking for me. While clearing out the streets, they had come upon a bomb shelter used as a barracks by about fifty enemy combatants. The group was commanded by a major who would only surrender to an American soldier. My fellow Company G buddy knew I spoke German, so he came after me.

I took along some of my machine gunners to cover me in my "confrontation" with this heroic *Deutsch* major. Arriving at the location, I told my guys to cover me from the doorway (the major was at the far end of the shelter).

With my trusty M1 rifle in hand, I started out (I was fearless in those days). Using my best John Wayne strut, I maneuvered between those startled Germans. Then I told the major, in my best German, this was it—no negotiating: "Give me your pistols" (a P-28 and a .25).

It was all over, but the rifleman was upset that I kept the German's weapons; I called it the fortunes of war.

P.S. My fellow machine gunners thought this action was worth a medal; I told them I was just trying to contribute to the war effort.



Seventy Years of War and Peace By Bob Huber, 415 G

This is a tribute to the American Servicemen who became a big part of my life between nineteen and twenty-one years of age. All served on land, sea, and air; but I served in three different units of the army.

First, I was in the 86th Division (the Blackhawks), then at a camp north of Dallas, Texas. Met my new buddies from the "four corners" of the United States of America—and what an eye opener! I had never heard such an assortment of accents. (Of course, my Pennsylvania Dutch accent sounded funny to them.) Being the same age, we got along great, spending about six months together, taking basic and advanced infantry training. What a great bunch of all-American guys.

While in Texas, I passed an exam and headed for the University of Illinois in the ASTP (Army Specialized Training Program), an army training program for engineers. I lived in fraternity houses, and my first roomie (from Boston) had a clock radio—something I'd never seen before. The second term, I roomed with a guy of Armenian background who was nice but had no high school math skills. I tried my best to tutor him, but then the army closed down the program.

This GI left some good friends again and headed for Camp Carson in Colorado and the 104th Infantry Division—the Timberwolves. About four thousand of us ASTP "students" filled the division to its fifteen thousand capacity.

Now I was assigned to the machine-gun section of Company G in the 415th Regiment. A dozen men would

comprise our MG, and fight through Holland and Germany for 195 days—from October 23, 1944 to May 1, 1945. What an astounding bunch of Timberwolves!



(L-R) Bob Huber with fellow TWs Alan "Mac" MacDonald and Bob Cobbe on the 2011 overseas tour [Photo-merge courtesy of NTPA photographer, Art Luque]

We have had reunions since the war's end; but nothing will ever recapture those magical moments when we were an efficient fighting machine. These great Yanks from all parts of this country proved that they could do the best with what they had. Combat creates this very special esprit de corps that is hard to explain. These Timberwolves were such good men!



Combat Artwork and Taunting the Enemy—1945

By Richard Rigler, 329 C

Editor's note: Richard welcomes correspondence with any NTPA members who are interested. Please contact him via email: Drigle@aol.com.

The front line in Germany, east of the city of Aachen, had been stationary along the Roer River (actually a large creek) since mid-December of 1944. This lull was the result of the German breakthrough on our right flank, commonly called the "Battle of the Bulge," which had pushed the Allied forces twenty-five miles back into Belgium.

I was serving as a combat engineer in the 104th Infantry Division, and the action in our area involved mortar and artillery shelling, night patrols across the river, and being on alert for an enemy offense northward from the Bulge.

We were in the town of Düren, and the city of Cologne, on the Rhine River, was twenty miles east of us; it was to be our next objective after the Bulge had been overcome to form a continuous front line along the Roer. This line was established in early February, 1945.

The assault crossing of the river was set for predawn on February 23rd, but the river was now flooded and swollen up—360 feet wide and flowing at 11 miles per hour—due

to the German destruction of an upstream dam, making the push difficult.

In preparation, on a sunny day, our platoon was assigned the detail of using white paint to mark all corners of buildings, curbing, etc. to make these spots visible for vehicles and troops in the assault darkness. Working in pairs, my partner and I painted these areas and finished with striping of the top of a wall along a street that led to a demolished bridge at the end of the block.

This street headed in the direction of Cologne, so, with the extra paint, we thought we'd graffiti the wall with the words "I'll Walk Cologne," which was a take-off on the title of a popular song of the day—"I'll Walk Alone."

With more extra paint, we went to the end of the street to the river's edge, gazed across at the quiet enemy position, and had the bright idea of taunting him with a sign large enough to be read on his side.

To our right was a factory that had a blank wall facing the river, and it was the perfect spot for our prank. In large letters, we quickly printed the phrase (in German), "Hitler ist kaput"—and not a shot was fired from the other side!

Looking back, I realize how crazy we were; but when you're young, you do irrational things. Besides, who needs dignity when you're in the entertainment business?



Letter to Mrs. Pruitt

By the late General John R. (Jack) Deane, Jr.

I wrote the following letter to the widow of Lieutenant Everett Pruitt, an officer who served with me in the 415th Infantry Regiment of the 104th Infantry Division in World War II. Pruitt lived through the war and died of a massive heart attack in 1977; but I did not know this until 1995. That is when I wrote to his widow.

Continued on pg. 9

I have included this letter in [my] memoirs because it gives an idea of what some aspects of war are like. It is an example of the incredible courage men exhibited in defending their country and the liberties their countrymen enjoy.

In the letter, I describe a patrol led by Pruitt in which three of his men each lost a foot to antipersonnel mines. I found out in January 2002 the names of the three men. I had known one of them, Duane A. Robey, and had corresponded with him. The names of the others were in a letter he wrote to another member of Pruitt's platoon, Vincent Campbell, in June 2001. Campbell sent me a copy of the letter and other materials along with a request for help in locating his military records, which he claims the Veterans Administration lost. The other two were Al Gaines and Charles Lynde.

Pruitt was a stocky man of great strength and in excellent physical condition when we served together. He had been a track star at Pepperdine, then a small college in Southern California—a member of the relay team there that set the world record for the 400-yard relay. That record was still on the books when Pruitt was with the regiment. It was his college and academic experience that led him to set the criteria, described in the letter, in selecting the men for his Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon.

It was this platoon that I led in the action discussed in "I Killed a Man" [printed in the June/July 2014 edition of the *HOWL*].

March 27, 1995

Dear Mrs. Pruitt:

I have just read a newsletter from Bill Bradford. Your address was in it. I thought I would take the liberty of writing you to perhaps give you some new perspective or reinforce that which you already have of your husband.

I was a friend of your husband's in the 415th Infantry during WWII. For a while, I was the Regimental Intelligence Officer (S-2, if this means anything to you). The whole mission of Pruitt's I&R Platoon had to do with intelligence, so its activities fell within my purview. I do not remember that we called him by any name other than Pruitt. I cannot remember any nickname, and I do not recall using the name "Everett."

As I recall (this happened before my time as the S-2), our Regimental Commander gave your husband the latitude to choose any soldiers in the regiment to fill the I&R Platoon. Pruitt picked only men who had exemplary records. In addition, to the best of my recollection, he had the criteria that they must have attended college and have played varsity athletics.

As a result, Pruitt got the brightest and most physically adept men in the regiment. They had the potential of being the best unit in the regiment, and when he had finished training them, they were the best.

On a few occasions, in Europe, I gave Pruitt some time off to relax and I led the platoon. It was a pleasurable experience, if any experience in war may be termed "pleasurable." These

men of Pruitt's were superb. They were an unbeatable team. They reflected Pruitt's character, his pride, and his indomitable desire to perform to perfection. He was a true professional. His men emulated him and aspired to his high standards. It was great to be with them.

I am sure you have heard of the patrol across the Roer River preparatory to the regiment's attack. Let me reiterate as I saw and experienced it.

We needed all the intelligence we could get on the enemy's position, his defenses, and [any] obstacles the regiment might encounter in the river crossing. This was needed to minimize casualties in the attack and to allow an effective night attack, the hallmark of the Timberwolf Division.

Pruitt and his men planned a patrol across the Roer River to capture a prisoner. They had spotted a German bunker that appeared to house three German soldiers at night. This bunker was in the median between the lanes of an Autobahn passing through the area. (In case you are not familiar, the Autobahns were, and still are, Germany's net of superhighways. They are similar to our interstate highways.)

Using various mathematical formulas, angles obtained with an engineer transit, and other measurements, they calculated the distance from the riverbank to the bunker. I mentioned earlier, these were smart guys. They laid out a course

Continued on pg. 19

WAR STORIES OF WWII

WRITTEN BY THE SOLDIERS
OF THE 104TH INFANTRY DIVISION

\$25

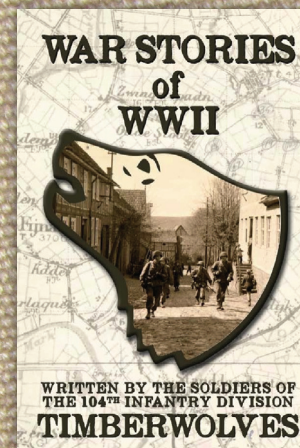
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Hillsboro, OR 97124





*At the going down
of the sun
and in the morning...*

We will remember them.

Compiled by Sandra Eberhard (webpup@bellsouth.net)

William L. "Bill" Benson
415 H

Roy Biscamp
414 L

William Bracey
414 H

James E. Bucan
415 C

William Buck
415 F

Frank Calamita
414 B

Darrel J. Caron
555 AAA Bn Btry A

Charles Carswell
414 F

Patrick Casserly
413 I

Don Fullerton
415 K

Oak Gifford
104 Recon

Milton Gilbert
413 K

Gale Good
415 I

John Hanrahan
Unit unknown

John D. Hemsley
413 G

Ivan Hogan
415 C

Edward S. Kozubal
104 Recon

Joseph J. Lesnar
413 HQ 2d Bn

Maurry Magill
413 M

Scott Mason
Unit unknown

John Melvin
104 Sig

Robert Mulholland
415 K

Robert "Bob" Nolan
413 I

Arlan Peters
415 C

Dallas Queck
104 Recon

Jack Rosen
413 K

Joe Schallmoser
413 I

Edward A. Szczepanski
804 Ord

Arthur Swain
415 B

Thomas E. Suta
Unit unknown

Billy Todd
555 AAA HQ Btry

Miller Toombs
Unit unknown

James Underkofler
415 AT

Cecil Wylie
385 FA B

Gerald "Jerry" Yaxley
413 I

WIFE OR WIDOW

Rose Bezjak
555 AAA Bn HQ Btry (Andrew)

Shirley Brozovich
750 Tk Bn B (John)

Jean Cerull
555 AAA Bn Btry D (Melvin)

Janet L. Norwood
415 M (Bernard)



Chaplain's Corner



April 1, 2015—Greetings and blessings to one and all in this season of hope and joy. A season of hope and gratitude too: gratitude that it hasn't snowed up here in New England for a week or more now and that there has been a pretty good "melt" of the snow that had accumulated previously; and joy as we look forward to the warm and balmy spring days to come. I hope you haven't had to do much "personal shoveling" or "personal plowing" these past few months, and

I'm glad to report that we've had a few showers around here to help clear the streets.

As for the news, we're all still wondering for the reasons behind at least a couple of the recent plane crashes, and we're praying for a quietening of hostilities in the Near East.

In domestic political news, we feel the heat rising as we approach the presidential election of 2016, hearing some of the views of Hillary and Jeb, and Ted and Mario (and others). We have reason to be concerned about shifting military and political alliances in the Middle East and concerns about what kind of role our country should be playing there.

In sports, we have been presented with a nail-biting NFL season and a thrill-filled Superbowl climax; and at time of this writing, we're down to eight games in the NCAA basketball tournament (I make no bets). Where collegiate hockey

will end up, no man knows (not this man, anyway). But I hope your favorites have been winning.

In church news, the Catholic Church is continuing its "synod" on marriage and family life—big gathering of bishops and associated "experts" to hear input on these issues in the world and in the Catholic Church and other churches. This input includes the experiences and views of the people in the pews. The second half of this program will take place this coming summer, at the second gathering.

I'm a Catholic, as you know, and I'm glad the church has had the courage and confidence to take on these issues; and I pray that the results will be fruitful for all.

As for your chaplain's health, it's still an uphill grind. I had a setback just before last Christmas, and I'm still trying to gain back some of the energy (and weight) that I lost at that time. Fortunately, there are generous people here who are willing and able to help me, so many thanks to them.

As you know, Catholics don't worship saints, but they do honor them (something like we honor service men and women who have earned the Congressional Medal of Honor) and believe that they can help us in our relationships with the Lord. So here are a couple of saints you might ask to intercede for me that I might get stronger and healthier: St. Constance (somehow she got to be patron saint of artillerymen) and St. Joan of Arc (who did some soldiering herself).

There's an old Latin saying in the Church: *Oremus pro invicem*—"Let's pray for each other." Let's do that.

It's Lent, Passover, and Easter; death, resurrection, and new life. May that new life be yours.

Best wishes of the Season be yours,
Fr. McCarty

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A PUP

What It Means to Be a (Clark) Pup

It's often been said that life runs in circles. My mother used to tell a story from when we were following Dad and the Timberwolves around the country before they went overseas; I was between the ages of two and three. Dad (Col. Bob Clark) was away, doing some kind of army thing as usual. Mom went out to dinner with some of the other army wives, with me in tow. We were in the middle of dinner when a group of army officers came in and sat down at the next table. Mom said I stopped eating, looked intently at each man's face, satisfied myself that none of them was my father, and went back to eating.

Now, in my old age (relatively old age) I'm doing it again. Whenever I see a group of old men in caps, I find myself looking intently at each cap to see if, by chance, any one of them is a Timberwolf.

—Kathy Clark, TW Pup & NTPA Historian



This photo was taken at my grandparents' in St. Joseph, Missouri, in September of 1945, after the surrender of Japan. Notice how relaxed and happy my father looks. He was home on leave before reporting to San Luis Obispo. That's my brother, Bobby, next to me.

Rebroadcast of 1986 TW Interview

On Saturday, April 11, Stan Bunker, morning anchor for KCBS All News in San Francisco, honored the seventieth anniversary of the liberation of Mittelbau-Dora (<http://www.buchenwald.de/nc/en/896/>) with the rebroadcast of his 1986 radio interview “The Liberator and the Liberated” with TW Bob Clark, and Mittelbau-Dora survivor Eddy Wynschenk. On April 11, 1945, the tanks of 3rd Armored Division entered Nordhausen with some 414 TWs aboard and discovered the camp. They couldn’t stay, so they radioed back to the 104th, which was following close behind. The 104th arrived later that day, and all available medics immediately went to work. Although most Timberwolves were not directly involved with the camp, the commanding general, Terry Allen, spread the word that all available men were to come for a look so they would know why they were fighting.

The following is a letter that Bob sent back to his wife on April 13, telling of the experience (courtesy of their daughter, Kathy, who’s pictured with their family on page 11):

Darling:

Well, we returned to regiment yesterday after a most interesting experience with the 3rd Armored. We were working on a flank & so regiment was about 40 miles ahead of us to the south. We’ll soon be on the move again, I’m sure.

I saw a sight today in this good-sized city that one must only see to believe. We saw, in a concentration camp, the bodies of 3200 people who had been starved to death. They had removed the ones still alive yesterday, before we arrived, but they say most of them were unable to raise themselves from the ground. These living were in with the dead—living in the same holes in the ground; in the same shacks. One of our advance field hospitals, which is equipped to handle 45 patients, is trying to take care of the 800 or so who were carried out alive.

About 80 percent of those in the camp were Russians & the rest were Poles, Slavs, and a few French. Most were men, but there were a few women & children. I saw some who had been removed from the camp, and they looked no better than the dead. It’s impossible to describe the bodies of these starved individuals. It’s something I’ll always remember...

*I love you,
Bob*

Memorial Donation

A very generous donation has been made to the NTPA in memory of an extraordinary Timberwolf, Frank Calamita, known as “Cal” to all good Company B people. Said the donor, “The Association was a huge part of his life, and he kept us together for years.”

Frank was a past president of the NTA and a longtime unit rep for 414 B. He sent out regular newsletters and

arranged the mini reunions that Company B held every year. During the war, he was the radioman for Company B; and he deserves full recognition and praise.

The NTPA gratefully accepts the anonymous donation, and joins the donor in thanking Frank for his service to our country and for his ongoing contribution to the Association.

Electronic Copies of the *HOWL* Online

Remember that this edition of the *HOWL* is available Online—in full color—on the NTPA website (as are past editions, going back to 2012): <http://www.timberwolf104inf.org/wolf-tracks.html>. If you would prefer to opt out of the print version and switch to our newsletter’s digital counterpart, please contact Paul Murphy, our webmaster: paul.fr.murphy@gmail.com.

Harper’s Hand in the Division History

The January/February 2015 edition of the *HOWL* advertised a new Pomegranate book about TW and artist Charlie Harper (*Harper Ever After*, <http://www.pomegranate.com/a238.html>). But some of you may not know that Harper also penned the drawings in the *Timberwolf Tracks* for the title pages (1, 22, 49, 103, 191, 291, and 363) and another of a medic (page 131).

Many thanks to Sandra Eberhard for sharing this information with us. And for those of you who don’t have a copy of the *Timberwolf Tracks*, a softcover reprint is now available (see page 19 of this newsletter).



In Praise of General Allen

From the Pulitzer Prize-winning book *An Army at Dawn: The War in North Africa, 1942–1943*, by Rick Atkinson, comes the following regarding Terry Allen: “[Army Chief of Staff George C.] Marshall and his training chief, Lesley J. McNair, kept a list in a safe of more than 400 colonels with

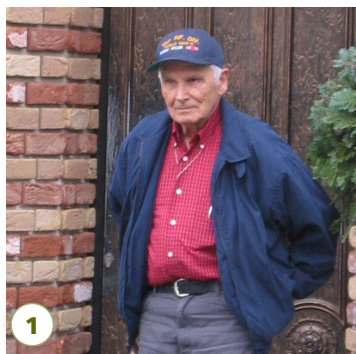
Continued on pg. 13

perfect efficiency reports. Allen, neither a full colonel nor perfect, was not on it. Rather, he was facing court-martial for insubordination in 1940 when word arrived of his double promotion, from lieutenant colonel to brigadier general. He was the first man in his former West Point class to wear a general's stars. No man better exemplified the American military leadership's ability to identify, promote, and in some cases, forgive those officers best capable of commanding men in battle."

A Memorable TW Gathering

By Kathy Clark

In the fall of last year, ninety-five-year-old Frank Strebel (413 F) planned the luncheon for northern California Timberwolves and their families as he had done twice a year for so many years. Excitedly, he called his daughter Judy to tell her thirty-six people had signed up—more than in a while. To top it off, his friend Mel Morasch (329 Med C) was flying in from Oregon for the day, with his son and daughter, to see Frank and attend the lunch.



On Sunday, November 16th, Frank drove himself from the Yountville Veterans Home, where he lived (more than fifty miles and an hour's trip under the best of circumstances), along a heavily traveled freeway to Pier 29 Restaurant on San Francisco Bay in Alameda. Meanwhile, Al McDonnell, JeNeal Granieri's husband,

was picking up the Morasch family at the airport.

The lunch went like clockwork. Everybody had a good time and was happy to see each other. Having the guests from Oregon was a special treat. Frank's voice was not strong, but his spirits were good. As people prepared to leave, Frank stood and asked for a volunteer to organize future luncheons. "I'm on my way out," he told us, and sat down. His daughter quickly volunteered, then Frank left with the rest of us to drive himself home.

The next month, Frank began to fail, and he went into a hospice room at the vets home. On December 23, Judy sent an email: "Frank is on the bridge between our world and the next... He's completely lucid yet thinking there are fighter planes overhead." On January 6, she said that he told her he was shelled during the night but that they didn't get him. Sadly, she sent notice later in the day that Frank had died at 6:25 PM.

Another Timberwolf has gone to join his buddies. We miss them all, and our country will be poorer for their absence. May they watch over and guide us as we seek to fulfill the charge they have passed to us—to promote peace and cooperation among all for a better world.

70th Anniversary European Battlefield Tour

Due to low registration numbers, we cancelled the planned 70th Anniversary Battlefield Tour. This was very disappointing, as we had a wonderful tour planned; but we are hopeful we can schedule another battlefield tour in the next year or so.

You all know "nothing in Hell can stop the Timberwolves," so you will not be surprised to hear that a couple of our Veterans decided to make the trip on their own. Please see their tour details in the "Friends Overseas" section on page 18.

Call for War Stories

Every Timberwolf Veteran has a war story; everyone played a role. Get your story into the next *War Stories* book (as seen on page 9). Don't let it be lost to history. Please send your story to Kathy Clark, P.O. Box 52, El Verano, CA 95433, or email kpclark@vom.com.

Spring Luncheon in Oregon



In May, forty-one people attended a local gathering of Oregon Timberwolves, families, and friends at the Shilo Inn near the Portland Airport. Among the highlights: TW Bob Royer and his four-generation table (Bob and his son, grandson, and great-grandson); the featured speaker, Dirk Kruysman, and his tales of the war he experienced as a young boy living in occupied Holland; and of course, delicious red-white-and-blue cake.

Timberwolves Honored at Timbers Game



Continued on pg. 14

Members of the Oregon Timberwolves family attended a Portland Timbers game on May 27th—Military Appreciation Night—and represented with a full row of support. Two Veterans were among them, Mel Morasch (WWII) and Daniel Herrigstad (post WWII); and Mel even had his picture taken with mascot Timber Joey and a "wood cookie" (cut from a log whenever a goal is scored by the home team—who won that night, by the way).

Photos:

1. Frank on the 2006 battlefield tour, standing in the place where he was wounded in Frenz, Germany, during the war [Courtesy of Jen Weaver-Neist]

2. Vets at the luncheon: (L-R) Leon Gobet, Mel Morasch, C. T. Barton, Ross Turkle, Art Sorenson, and Bob Royer (seated) [Courtesy of Melissa Morasch]

3. Luncheon speaker, Dirk Kruysman, shaking hands with MC Lyle Wold [Courtesy of Melissa Morasch]

4. (L-R) Pup Doug Morasch, Timber Joey, and TW Mel Morasch [Courtesy of Mary Jamieson]

LETTERS FROM THE PACK

If you have a letter on any subject related to the Timberwolves, including personal experiences, or you just want to let your buddies know how you are doing, please send your letters and questions to Kathy Clark, PO Box 52, El Verano, CA 95433, or kpclark@vom.com. (Please include "TW" in the subject line.)



Search for More Info on TW Joseph Gaskins February 2015

Several years ago, in an effort to learn more about my grandfather, Staff Sergeant Joseph Gaskins, I joined the National Timberwolf Association. I was put in contact with Mr. Bob Doerr, who was a squad mate of my grandfather, and we corresponded for a few years prior to his death. The information he provided was invaluable, as I never knew my grandfather. (He was killed in a mill accident in 1963.)

I am still hoping that others may remember him. He was in the 413th, L Company, 3rd Battalion. I can be reached at either frank.d.razzano@gmail.com or by phone at (910) 584-9135.

Thanks in advance!
—Frank D. Razzano, Jr.

A Special Note Regarding the Header of the *HOWL*

June 2015

Many of you may already know my dad, TW Frank Aloysius Pastore, Sr., who was born in Jersey City, New Jersey, in

1922; whose family moved to Richmond, Virginia, in 1939, where he graduated from St. Patrick's High School; who, after working at Camp Lee for a few years, was drafted into the Army in November of 1942; and who served with the 104th Infantry Division in the European Theatre, earning three battle stars and the Bronze Star. What you may not realize, however, is that my dad was also an excellent artist and a wonderful dad.

After WWII, my dad was married to my mom, Dorothy, for fifty-nine years. They had four children, and he worked as a commercial artist—most notably at Reynolds Metals Packaging Division's Styling and Design Department, and as a graphic artist at Bellwood Printing Plant. He was a very active member of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Richmond, Virginia, and he was best known for his detailed retirement cards and religious paintings (most of which he graciously donated).

My Dad was so proud of serving in the Timberwolves. He inspired us with his artwork and many stories. One day, he decided to illustrate the header for the *HOWL* and send it to the editor. The design—which has now been in use for over ten years—is a sign of my Dad's appreciation for all who served in the Timberwolves. He loved drawing.

I spent a lot of time with my dad looking at pictures he brought back from the war. I distinctly recall last Memorial Day, when I spent the day and evening with him in the hospital. We watched WWII movies and several baseball games; and he spoke about the uniforms and shoes he wore during that time. He shared stories and certainly gave me an appreciation of what you went through serving our country. For that, we will be eternally grateful.

My dad passed away on July 9, 2014. We had full military honors at his funeral ("Taps" was played by the members of the Honor Guard from Fort Lee in Petersburg, Virginia), and



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I was so moved—it was a wonderful experience. I know Dad was smiling down and saying, "Nice job."

—Nancy Gladden, Pup

P.S. My mom passed away on December 12, 2014. My parents had a wonderful marriage, so it really did not surprise us that they passed away so close together.

TIMBERWOLF TRACKS IN HISTORY

Stolberg and Hill 287

At 12:45, 16 November, following a massive air attack in advance of the infantry, the Timberwolves charged forward in their first hostile action inside Germany. To their left (north) was the 30th Infantry Division of the Ninth Army. To their right (south) was a combat command of the 3rd Armored Division, and Terry Allen's former 1st Infantry Division. The long-planned 12th Army Group offensive was finally underway. The Division's initial assignment was two-fold: (1) capture the large industrial area northeast of Stolberg, including the cities of Eschweiler and Weisweiler; and (2) clear the Eschweiler Woods, the wooded high ground between Stolberg and Eschweiler.

The 413th Infantry, adjacent to the 30th Infantry Division, faced pillboxes of the German West Wall, a protective barrier of mutually supporting concrete bunkers guarding the German border. Each pillbox would have to be reduced and its defenders evicted. In the center of the line, the 415th was on the west edge of Stolberg. VII Corps had taken the southern part of that city in September, but the Germans still held the northern part. Third Battalion's job was to take it away from them. Second Battalion would attack pillboxes in conjunction with the 413th. The 414th faced the Donnerberg ("Hill 287" to the Americans, for its height in meters). Third Armored had captured the hill briefly in September but had been unable to hold it. From a huge concrete bunker atop the hill, the Germans looked down on Stolberg, Eschweiler, and the Eschweiler Woods. Neither of the Division's assignments could be accomplished without first driving the Germans off the Donnerberg.

As described by Charles B. MacDonald in the official US Army history *The Siegfried Line*, "General Allen divided his operations into two distinct phases. He directed Colonel Touart's 414th Infantry...to make the divisional main effort northeast against the Donnerberg and the Eschweiler Woods. In the meantime, the other two regiments were to be executing limited operations, which General Allen described as 'pressure attacks.' After clearing the woods, thereby signaling the end of the first phase,...414th was to pause while the main effort shifted to the division's north wing....The second phase was to be launched by the 413th Infantry from the vicinity of Verlautenheide." After reducing the pillboxes, the 413th would capture the towns of Rohe and Helrath, working its way around to attack Eschweiler from the north.

Colonel Touart assigned Hill 287 to Lt. Col. Rouge's 3rd Battalion. Lt. Col. Clark's 1st Battalion would advance to

the right of 3rd Battalion and get into position to take the Eschweiler Woods as soon as the hill fell. Lt. Col. Needham's 1st Battalion of the 415th Infantry, temporarily attached to the 414th, would clear the lower reaches of the hill along the southern edge of Stolberg.

Things began badly for 3rd Battalion. Company K had one man killed and five wounded by artillery fire just getting into position for the jump-off. With K Company leading and L Company close behind, the battalion advanced. Within half an hour, both companies were pinned down by mortar fire. Company I was ordered up to help. Company L went straight. K Company circled to the right and I Company to the left, to flank the hill on both sides as the battalion tried again. Again it was stopped. Colonel Touart came forward to direct operations himself. With little cover, and the enemy looking down on them, every advance was driven back by murderous fire.

After two days, despite multiple air strikes and artillery support, 3rd Battalion was still struggling to take the hill. Late in the afternoon of the 17th, according to *Timberwolf Tracks*, "with effective use of smoke and heavy artillery concentrations, I Company was able to surround a massive pillbox, which was the key to the entire defense of the sector." The defenders held on, however, and the Americans withdrew. After dark, all was quiet.

Meanwhile, Clark's 1st Battalion was fighting hard to reach its designated jump-off position in the woods. On the 17th, Lt. Col. Joe Cummins's 2nd Battalion came up on the right rear of 1st Battalion in support. Both battalions endured mortar fire, artillery fire, and mines. That night, Clark wrote his wife, "The last two days have been very, very rough....The Bn ran into difficulty yesterday & last night but did much better today."

Needham's 1st Battalion on the north slope of the hill, according to the 415th Infantry Regiment history, was "greatly retarded by mortar and artillery fire directed from Hill 287" on the first day, and by heavy machine gun and artillery fire on the second day. Even so, official records show the battalion made good progress each day and succeeded in taking its objectives, including a huge slag pile that overlooked all of Stolberg.

When the 3rd Battalion renewed its attack the morning of the 18th, enemy resistance was unexpectedly light. Shortly after noon, assistant division commander Brigadier General Bryant Moore reported at the battalion command post, "287 is taken and held by our troops." When a bulldozer finally

broke through the thick pillbox walls, to the amazement of troops, nobody was inside—although Timberwolves had been guarding the only escape tunnel. [See "Hill 287" by Wes Gaab in *War Stories* for the story of the German escape.]

As Company B was organizing to lead the 1st Battalion night attack through the Eschweiler Woods, red smoke unexpectedly descended on the men. Nobody knew what it meant. Suddenly, American planes roared overhead, bombing and strafing. The men leaped for their slit trenches. As casualties mounted, radioman Frank Calamita tried frantically (over the radio) to get the attacks stopped. The planes returned a second time. Before they could be called off, more Timberwolves were killed and wounded. Clark wrote home, "The Bn did exceptionally well today. We had one bad mishap that about broke my heart..."

Company A led that night, followed by Company C. Bringing up the rear was the badly broken up Company B. The night attack was so successful that the next morning, four news correspondents appeared at battalion forward positions to get the story. William S. White, Associated Press, wrote in an article published in newspapers across the United States, "American forces have advanced to the last ridge short of Eschweiler... American doughboys reached here at midnight after creeping for six hours through total blackness. Not a man was killed or even wounded....The Germans were caught completely by surprise, and many a nest of them is cut off behind us now."

By late afternoon of the 19th, the 414th Infantry was in the southern outskirts of Eschweiler. The 415th, after three days of stubborn house-to-house fighting, had reached the

Continued on pg. 17

MEMBERSHIP FORM

NTPA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Though our bylaws state that membership begins in January of each year, we will accept dues at any time. (You may find it easier to pay your dues for the next year at the annual reunion, for example.) Please fill out the form below, and mail it with your check (payable to the **National Timberwolf Pups Association**) to this address: **NTPA • 1749 9th Avenue • San Francisco, CA 94122 (Attn: JeNeal)**

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

Name _____

TW connection/unit _____

Address _____

_____ Phone _____

Address change? _____ *(Please checkmark if applicable.)*

Email _____

(Please checkmark whatever applies below.)

- I am a _____ Vet _____ Widow _____ Pup _____ Friend
- This is a _____ membership renewal _____ new membership
- I wish to receive the *HOWL* as part of my membership. _____

**If you have any queries about membership, please contact our treasurer via email, phone, or post:
JeNeal Granieri, jenealann@att.net, 415-412-3279 or 415-661-6753 (see mailing address listed above).**

extreme northern edge of Stolberg. The 413th had cleared the Germans from the pillboxes and advanced elements to the outskirts of their next objective, the village of Rohe. First Battalion, 415th, having obtained all its objectives, reverted to its parent regiment.

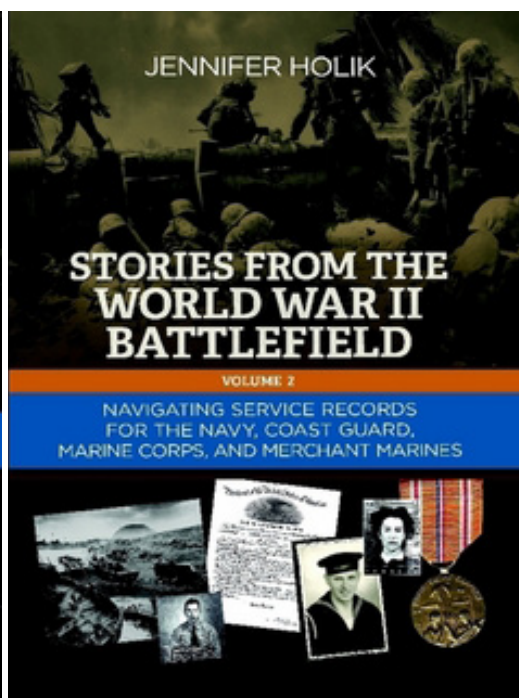
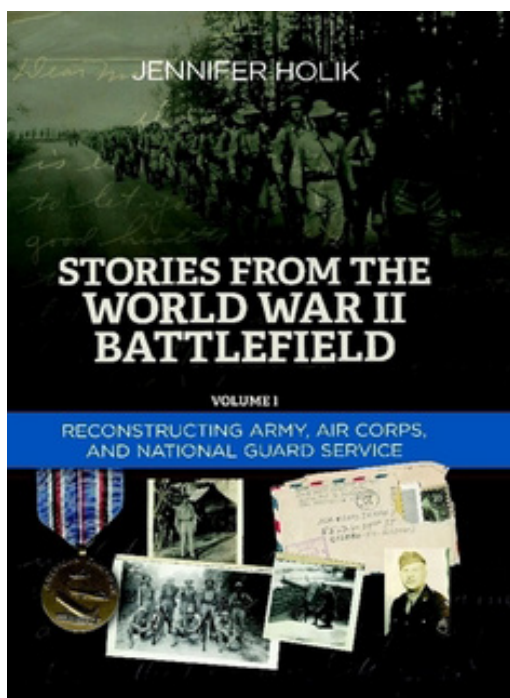
With Hill 287 and the Eschweiler Woods securely in American pockets, the main effort now shifted to the 413th on the north flank of the division.

To be continued...

—Kathy Clark, Historian
kpclark@vom.com

BOOK REVIEW

Book Review: *Stories from the World War II Battlefield*



through various sources. In addition, the organization of each book is geared toward very basic information at first that Holik then builds on until the reader is able to navigate more complex sources. She explains the different services and the many different departments/organizations that provided support to the active duty troops so that their service would be recorded from start to finish. Even though many of these documents were destroyed in a fire in 1973 at the NPRC (National Personnel Records Center), Ms. Holik provides alternative ways to obtain information.

Most impressive were the examples she provided in the books of documentation she was able to uncover, based on

Stories from the World War II Battlefield, Volumes 1 and 2, are written by Jennifer Holik, an expert in genealogical, historical, and military research. These two books translate her expertise so that the average person interested in researching their ancestor's military service can navigate the many resources available. The first volume is devoted to resources specific to land services, and the second volume is devoted to those serving at sea; therefore, while the methodology she outlines for successfully researching your particular individual is similar in both volumes, the sources as to where to locate the information differ.

Anyone who has tried to research an ancestor's history knows the many road blocks that the researcher encounters. They may also lack knowledge of all the potential sources of information that might help them gather more information. Ms. Holik provides all this information in her books. The book is full of not only relevant sites that can provide information but suggestions on how to organize research by providing worksheets the individual can fill out as they progress

her research methods. Many examples are provided in both books, and I was most impressed by the detail that was provided by each area of service to document each service member. One example: the reports gathered by the military after interviewing farmers in their fields and other townsfolk in a European community to verify the ultimate fate of three American flyers. Holik outlines the care taken by the military to document exactly what happened. So her research extends to resources in Europe and the Pacific as well, which can provide additional help to families during their research.

I would recommend these books to anyone who is interested in researching their own loved one's military history. Having tried to navigate the internet on my own, I believe that the sites, associations, military resources, and work papers provided by Ms. Holik will lift many of the road blocks we all encounter.

—Rosemary Murphy, Pup and NTPA Board Member

Timberwolf Veterans Visit the Netherlands



The Timberwolf tour was canceled this year, but that didn't stop two Timberwolf Veterans from coming to the Netherlands anyway! We picked up John Tyrrell and Bill Danner from the airport in Amsterdam on Saturday, May 2nd, and organized a barbecue that night with the Friends of the Timberwolves. John and Bill were also interviewed by the local newspaper, and their pictures were taken.

The next day, we visited the cemeteries at Henri Chapelle and Margraten, including the grave of Phil, John's buddy; and our "Bugler Boy," Kevin, played "Taps." At Margraten, Bill placed flowers at Jack's grave. We also stopped at the Wall of the Missing, where the name of Peggy Gouras' uncle is. We called her when we were there; and while she was on the phone, Kevin played "Taps" again—like Peggy was there with us. This year, there was something special at Margraten: the pictures of almost three thousand soldiers were placed next to their graves or their names on the wall. It was a very impressive day.

Monday, May 4th, was Remembrance Day in the Netherlands. We visited Achtmaal in the afternoon, where John and Bill were asked to reveal a new "listening pole"—an interactive exhibit that tells the story of the liberation of that

area. John and Bill were also invited to join the Remembrance ceremony in Standdaarbuiten, where they placed flowers at the Timberwolf monument.

On May 5th, we had a party for the seventieth anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands! In the morning, we visited Zevenbergen, where the Liberation Fire from Wageningen was brought in by runners from the local athletics club. They ran 100 kilometers through the night to bring the fire to Zevenbergen. Again, the two Veterans were interviewed by the local newspaper. Somebody even brought a Timberwolf jacket and gave that to the Veterans.

Liberation Day ended with a beautiful outdoor concert in Etten-Leur. The Veterans were taken to the concert in a DUKW (amphibious WWII vehicle) and watched the concert together with the mayor of Etten-Leur. Among others, the musicians played some Glenn Miller tunes and "We'll Meet Again." At the end of the concert, the DUKW took Bill and John back to the harbor—but not before they sailed passed the spectators three times, who gave them a big round of applause.

John had to go home again after Liberation Day, but Bill stayed for a couple more days. He unveiled a new information sign in Standdaarbuiten that tells the story of the liberation by the Timberwolves and explains the symbolism of the monument. Again, he made it to a newspaper! He visited Rotterdam, the Hague, and a reenactment event in Zaandam.

Unfortunately, all good things come to an end. But we'd like to end with the words of Vera Lynn: "We'll meet again!"

—Esther Eenhuizen



on the ground—using their calculations—that replicated their proposed route to the bunker. They used this course for several nights to practice getting from the riverbank to the bunker.

Their means of crossing the river was a destroyed bridge on the Autobahn. Pruitt took a patrol of eight men, including himself, across the bridge and started for the bunker. He was in the lead.

He later told me all was going well when he heard an explosion behind him. Thinking one of his men had thrown a grenade, he rushed back to find out why. What he found was that one of his men had stepped on an antipersonnel mine, known as the "Schu" mine. The mine had cost the man his foot. This seriously jeopardized the success of the patrol.

Pruitt decided to have two men take the wounded man back to safety while he continued the mission with the other four. It was still not known that they were in a minefield. One of the two men who attempted to lift the wounded man was standing on a Schu mine. The added weight on the mine caused it to detonate; and he, too, lost a foot.

Pruitt now had two men who could not move on their own. It would take two of the remaining men to carry each of their wounded friends. The second explosion—[or] perhaps even the first—had alerted the Germans. Shortly thereafter, it became apparent they were sending out a patrol to investigate.

Realizing that there was now no chance of success for his patrol, and recognizing the great danger to his men, Pruitt ordered one of the men to get back across the river as quickly as possible to alert our forces as to what had happened. He ordered the rest of the men to help the wounded to safety while he covered them with fire. About this time, a third man was incapacitated by a mine. Now there were three of the six remaining men helping the three wounded while Pruitt fought a rear-guard action.

We had planned artillery fires, which would come between the patrol and the Germans in the event the patrol were discovered. The patrol would fire a flare into the air to signal they wanted the artillery support. Pruitt fired the flare, and the artillery began its protective fires.

This slowed the German patrol momentarily, but then they pressed on. Pruitt fought them every inch of the way. He withdrew a few yards at a time as his men made their way toward the bridge. Pruitt finally reached the end of the bridge and was determined to make a stand there, until his men were safe.

He fired at the German patrol until he ran out of ammunition. He, unconsciously I think, prayed for help. Suddenly, in a scooped out section of the concrete, he felt three grenades. Ignoring his own safety, he stood up and threw the grenades at the oncoming Germans and prepared to take them on in hand-to-hand combat. Pruitt was strong, athletic, and a tough cookie. I am sure he would have done well against them.

The grenades again slowed them. As they regrouped, Pruitt's men called that they were safe. He made his way back to safety then—and only then, when he knew his men were safe. It

brings tears to my eyes as I write about the heroism of your husband. He was a man among men, a soldier among soldiers, and a hero among heroes. I never met a more courageous man.

I recommended Pruitt for the Congressional Medal of Honor, a recognition he so richly deserved. Either the recommendation went before an exceptionally tough Board, or my command of the English language and my ability to bring events to life through its use came up short. He was [instead] awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the second highest award our nation makes for gallantry in action against an armed enemy.

I was very fond of your husband. Perhaps you can divine from this letter how much I admired him.

Sincerely yours,
John Russell Deane, Jr.



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(Foreground) TW Al Milwid and his signature, ever-present cigar; (background) Timberwolves moving into Lucherberg, Germany, on December 11, 1944. The town offered higher ground for better observation, but the Germans put up a hard fight before the town was taken. (Al died in January of this year and is sorely missed.)

[Photo-merge courtesy of NTPA Photographer, Art Luque]