



MESSAGE FROM THE PUPS

Hope for the Future by Honoring the Past

Dear Friends,

One of the greatest gifts a parent can provide a child is to show, by example, how to successfully navigate through life's challenges. The "greatest generation" set the standard on how to meet the setbacks of the Great Depression and, thereafter, the threat to civilization presented by fascism and communism. Today, our world is threatened by new dangers and is in great need of citizens capable of meeting the demands required to triumph over evil. The nation requires a suitable role

model to guide its citizens on how to prevail during this difficult time.

The answer is to remember the past and the lessons of unity, sacrifice, and service that brought our nation through those turbulent years. We, the family and friends of the 104th, are able to be part of the solution to the challenges of today by honoring its heroes and preserving the history of the Timberwolves for future generations.

We are pleased to announce that the 71st Annual Reunion of the National Timberwolf Association will be hosted September 7–12 this year by the Pups in

Continued on pg. 5

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2015 REUNION PHOTO GALLERY



2015 NTPA Reunion in New Orleans, Louisiana August 26–31

FRIENDSHIP AND remembrance were the timeless themes as 104th Veterans, Pups, family, and friends gathered at the Hyatt Regency New Orleans for the 5th annual NTPA reunion. The Crescent City, still rebuilding ten years after Hurricane Katrina, was also the setting to mark the seventieth anniversary of the end of WWII in which the Timberwolves served so long and so well. As NTPA members arrived, the Foxhole was a friendly and informal place to renew old friendships and to welcome those who were attending for the first time.

On Thursday, our tour buses headed upriver through plantation country for a guided tour of the Oak Alley Plantation. (Located on the west bank of the Mississippi and protected by a forty-foot levee, the 1839 plantation house is named for the alley of 250-year-old oak trees that shade the drive from the river to the front of the house.) Tour guides in antebellum dress led us through the rooms of the house, and shared its history and the stories of the people who once called it home. After the tour, we enjoyed a delicious Cajun buffet lunch and the chance to visit the plantation's exhibits and beautiful gardens and grounds.

A short bus ride on Friday morning brought us to the National World War II Museum and its Stage Door Canteen, which offered a special welcome to the NTPA. Speakers recalled the Timberwolves' role in the European Theater, including the memories of Robert Randolph Richmond, a TW Vet from New Orleans and author of *Duty and Sacrifice*. Each of our Veterans received a memento of the visit to the museum and a standing ovation from the audience. From there, we toured the museum, which extends to multiple buildings. The Road to Berlin interactive exhibit traced the Timberwolves' hard-fought path across Europe; and *Beyond All Boundaries*, a movie narrated by Tom Hanks, included vivid and powerful scenes of the war. (As the audience filed

out at its conclusion, the silence was broken often by those who stopped to shake a TW's hand and express their thanks for all he had done to free the European continent and preserve liberty.)

After dinner out on Friday night, we returned to the hotel to enjoy an "Evening Dessert Theater" featuring the Dr. Bone Jazz/Blues Quartet. The cabaret atmosphere provided a relaxing and lively evening filled with the sounds of New Orleans music.

The NTPA General Meeting was held on Saturday morning. President Andy Lane welcomed everyone and reminded us how fortunate we have been to learn the history of the Timberwolves from the personal experiences we have shared with our Vets over the years. Every effort is being made to continue to honor them and to preserve their legacy. As the NTPA looks to the future, possibilities of joining with other legacy groups are being explored in order to continue the tradition of our reunions. Andy then introduced our speakers, Robert DuPont, PhD, chair of the University of New Orleans Department of History, who knew and worked with the author Stephen Ambrose to found a WWII Museum in New Orleans. Next, Michael Edwards, MA, former coordinator of the University of New Orleans Eisenhower Center, traced the development of the crucial flat-bottomed landing craft by the Higgins Boat Company.

Saturday afternoon's city tour included some free time to explore the French Quarter and enjoy the sights and sounds of Jackson Square. Then it was back on the buses to see the ongoing efforts to restore the city in the years since Katrina and to drive by the beautiful homes along St. Charles Avenue. A stop for café au lait and beignets at Morning Call Coffee Stand in the City Park rounded out our afternoon tour. Saturday night's Beer Bust—complete with another fine performance from MG T. K. Moffett—was a most enjoyable end to our busy day.

The Sunday morning Memorial Service began with an ecumenical service led by Dr. Landon Dowden. Bob Huber opened the ceremony with the lighting of candles; then we heard the poignant remembrances of fallen soldiers from cherished friends and family, like TW Pup and former *HOWL* editor Bill Jackson, KCBS news anchor Stan Bunker, TWs Bill Danner and John Tyrell. After singing "My Buddy," each candle was extinguished by a TW Veteran or Pup. As always, the solemn and moving ceremony was unforgettable.

Sunday afternoon's WWII Records Seminar and the Annual Banquet that evening brought another memorable reunion to its conclusion. We look forward to continuing the tradition in the Washington area this year.

—*Betsy Murphy, HOWL Crew*
emurph12@optonline.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
- 2015 New Orleans Reunion

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



(1) Pup sisters Rosemary & Betsy Murphy; (2) Emily Smith & Sheila Robertson; (3) Lacy Pups, Jerry & Mike; (4) Sharon Chesterman & family [the Lanes]; (5) Pup Ted Stigall; (6) TW Robert Bassemir & family; (7) [L-R] Peggy Gouras, Carmen Carmouche & Betsey Justice; (8) TW Keith Zimmerman with daughter Nancy Weber; (9) Polly & Sonny Dunham; (10) [L-R] Carmen Carmouche, TW Wife Edna Cramlet & TW Bob Huber; (11) Roxanne & Wayne Tiner; (12) TWs John Tyrell & Bill Danner; (13) Reba Wright Smith & granddaughter; (14) NTPA President Andy Lane [middle] with Pups Ken Green & Holly Wathan; (15) a talented New Orleans entertainer; (16) [foreground, R-L] Marilyn Lytle & her daughter, Janelle, visiting with Frances Francis; (17) Connie & Larry Luptowski; (18) TW Ron Javornik with daughter, Jeanne [Belknap], and wife, Bev; (19) Pup Nancy Milwid-Reed with Earl Richards; (20) two overseas friends (and brothers) [L-R] Stefan & Corne Lauwerijssen; (21) NTPA board member Marilyn Shinavar with MG Moffett [gallery continued on pg. 19...]

Bill Jackson's Speech 2015 NTPA Memorial Service, New Orleans

GOOD MORNING! I want to thank Andy Lane for giving me the opportunity to tell my story about how I became one of the founders of the Timberwolf Pups and headed that rather loose organization for most of the years I was also the editor of the *Timberwolf HOWL*.

My story is a little different than it is for many of you, as World War II is a vivid memory for me, having been born in 1934 and now in my eighty-first year.

When WWII started, my dad, William K. Jackson, was already in his thirties, and he was very war conscious. We lived in Clearfield, Pennsylvania, and he almost immediately became active in civil defense, helping organize the air-raid wardens for Clearfield and going around our neighborhood in the evening to make sure everyone had their shades pulled or lights out—so any possible air attack would have a hard time finding a target. He also became active in the National War Loan Drive program, in which people would buy “war bonds” to provide funds for the war effort. He became chairman of the First, Second, Third, and Fourth War Loan Drives for Clearfield County.

Our family business was a chain of fifteen motion-picture theaters, and at one point, my father had been offered (but turned down) a direct commission in the navy to run their motion-picture distribution system in the South Pacific. He felt he was doing more good at home. However, since he looked much younger than his thirty-seven years, he heard someone say, “Why isn’t Bill Jackson in the Army?” and went down the next day and enlisted.

He took his basic training at Camp Croft, near Spartansburg, South Carolina. When his training was near the end, my mother and I visited him for two weeks; and I loved going out to the camp to his barracks. The guys would dress me up in a uniform and helmet, hand me an M-1 rifle, and I would march around the barracks. Most of them were little more than kids themselves (eighteen, nineteen years old), and they called my dad “pops” because he was the oldest in his outfit.

My dad came home for two weeks’ leave before going overseas. The gang in our neighborhood played “war” a lot instead of cowboys and Indians; and we had an old abandoned coal mine on the hill behind the neighborhood where we would go and dig foxholes, fight battles, and throw

coal-clinker hand grenades at each other. I took my dad up to our battlefield and showed him my foxhole, and he admonished me to always dig it deep.

He took a ship to France and then on to Germany to a “repple depple,” Army slang for a replacement depot. He was assigned to Company I, 413th Infantry Regiment and joined them near Inden, Germany, in November 1944. His unit advanced through heavy fighting to the Roer River by December, where they were stopped by the German offensive (now known as the Battle of the Bulge). They were on the northern rim and, along with the 8th Infantry Division, held.

On February 23, 1945, they jumped off across the Roer River at the start of Operation Grenade to take the city of Düren. Dad’s boat came under machinegun fire. The engineer guiding the boat was hit and the boat went out of control, spinning down the flooded river and over a seventeen-foot dam.

My father and one other were listed as missing in action, according to the telegram my mother received. However, roughly two weeks later, his body was recovered from the river, death having come from a fractured skull, not gunfire.

A new cemetery had recently been opened at Henri-Chapelle in Belgium to handle the large number of casualties from the recent Battle of the Bulge and then the push into the industrial Ruhr section of Germany. We were informed of Dad’s burial there and, shortly thereafter, received a letter and picture of his grave from a Belgian family who had pledged to care for it. We heard from them occasionally over the following years.

Now, fast-forward to the year 1957. In June, I was drafted and sent to Fort Riley, Kansas, for basic training, assigned to the 1st Infantry Division. They took \$5 out of our first month’s pay and we became members of the Society of the 1st Division. We got a weekly one-hour lecture on the history and traditions of the division, including General Terry de la Mesa Allen, who had led the 1st Division into North Africa in November 1942 and Sicily in July 1943. When I went home after basic training, I asked my mom why the name “General Terry Allen” sounded familiar to me. She said that was the name of the general who had sent us a letter after my dad was killed. (I still have that letter.)

After basic and advanced infantry training, I was sent to Germany in early 1958, assigned to the 8th Infantry Regiment, 8th Infantry Division. My company commander found out my dad was buried at Henri-Chapelle Cemetery and that



Washington, DC, at the Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel in nearby Arlington, Virginia. Following extensive discussions, we have succeeded in scheduling our event to coincide with the concurrent reunion of the 106th Infantry Division at the same location.

The individual reunion traditions of the two divisions will continue, as always, with observing all we have shared and maintained to honor the 104th, past and present. Our collaboration with the 106th provides the two organizations greater strength to negotiate hotel accommodations and tour choices to our respective memberships. In addition, the proximity of the two events will provide increased educational opportunities to expand our knowledge of World War II.

Our ambition is to establish a framework for future reunions of the 104th. The consolidation of reunions of similar organizations is such a framework for leveraging the combined memberships to enhance our ability to provide economic viability for wonderful locations and tours. We hope to add more WWII reunion organizations to our annual event to assure that the history of the greatest generation is preserved, providing guidance and lessons for future generations to navigate the challenges ahead.

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

NOTES FROM THE REUNION SITE COMMITTEE

WE ARE happy to announce the specifics for our 2016 NTPA reunion. It will be September 7–12 in Washington, DC. This is later than usual, but we felt we could move to do a semi-shared event with the 106th Infantry Division at a date that was good for both.

Our hotel is the Sheraton Pentagon City in Arlington, Virginia, just across the river from DC and near the Air Force Memorial. We will share a beautiful separate breakfast room and the Foxhole with the 106th. There will also be several tours in connection with the 106th, and the evening entertainment on Friday (9/9) will be a trip to a wonderful play at the Kennedy Center.

This hotel is very appealing for a lot of reasons:

- It includes breakfast in our rate, and parking is FREE!
- It is nice, friendly, and much smaller than the Hyatt in New Orleans, with easy access to all meeting rooms. No one will have a hard time finding their way.
- It is very friendly to military groups and often hosts Medal of Honor families.
- It offers easy access to downtown DC, which is only a few stops on the Metro from Pentagon City Station. The free hotel shuttle drops you off right in front of the station and runs frequently. (The Pentagon City Mall and Pentagon Row mall are next to the Metro stop. Pentagon Row is four stories high and has numerous food options.)
- The 9/11 Memorial at the Pentagon is within walking distance of the Metro stop, and there is a foot trail that leads by Arlington Cemetery and the Air Force Memorial.
- Rental bikes are available.

Transportation from the airports:

- Regan National: The hotel provides free shuttle service both ways. Super easy!
- Dulles International: Take a taxi, an airport shuttle, or a bus directly from the airport to Rosslyn Station (\$7). Then take the Blue Metro Line south to Pentagon Station (two–three stops) for pickup by the free hotel shuttle.
- Baltimore: Take a train, shuttle, or taxi to Union Station and then the Metro to Pentagon Station for the free hotel shuttle!
- Note: Metro attendants are very helpful. Ask! Renting a car is also a good option, especially if you want to venture out of DC.

The hotel will honor the reunion rate for three days before and after. Take advantage of all there is to do in DC. Go to Congress! See a hearing! See more sites! Have fun! Just get your hotel reservations soon—even before you register with AFR.

One more note: Our raffle has taken on a life of its own, but it needs nourishment! Please consider bringing a few contributions (regifted items, TW items, etc.). We had great items last year and appreciate the donations. The more we have, the more fun it is to pick and choose the prizes.

Hope to see a lot of you in Washington, DC. It looks to be another great event.

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



2016 REUNION—ACTIVITY FORM

NATIONAL TIMBERWOLF PUPS ASSOCIATION 2016 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 www.afr-reg.com/timberwolf2016 (a 3.5% charge will be added to the total). All registration forms and payments must be received on or before **August 4, 2016**. 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 AUGUST 4, 2016							
				Price Per	# of People	Total	
TOURS							
Thurs. (9/8): FT. MEADE TOUR & HOLOCAUST MUSEUM	9:00 AM	to	3:30 PM	\$60	X	=	
Friday (9/9): SHEAR MADNESS AT THE KENNEDY CENTER	6:45 PM	to	10:30 PM	\$72	X	=	
Saturday (9/10): NATIONAL MEMORIALS TOUR	9:30 AM	to	3:00 PM	\$45	X	=	
BANQUET							
Sunday (9/11): Banquet Dinner (Please select an entrée below.)	6:30 PM	to	11:30 PM				
Sliced London Broil				\$42	X	=	
Chicken Picatta				\$42	X	=	
PER-PERSON REGISTRATION FEE (Covers various reunion expenses)							
REGISTRATION FEE(S) IF RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE 08/04/16				\$45	X	=	
REGISTRATION FEE(S) IF RECEIVED AFTER 08/04/16				\$55	X	=	
Reunion Photo CD (prepared by NTPA Photographer Art Luque)				\$25	X	=	
Total Amount Payable to Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.						\$	

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR THE FORT MEADE TOUR			
NAME (As listed on state-issued government ID)	ID #	STATE of ISSUE	BIRTHDATE
GUEST 1:			
GUEST 2:			
GUEST 3:			

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

FIRST _____ LAST _____

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

SPOUSE NAME _____ GUEST(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

By submitting this form, you will be enrolled in our monthly newsletter subscription. To opt out, please check this box:
 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 cancellation code. Refunds processed 4 to 6 weeks after the reunion.

**NATIONAL TIMBERWOLF PUPS ASSOCIATION
6th ANNUAL REUNION
SHERATON PENTAGON CITY—WASHINGTON, DC
SEPTEMBER 7–12, 2016**

SCHEDULE of EVENTS

Wednesday, September 7

Reunion Registration open 2:00 PM–6:00 PM
Foxhole 7:30–9:30 PM
NOTE: Souvenir sales hours will be listed in the Foxhole.

Thursday, September 8

Breakfast Buffet 7:00 AM–9:00 AM
Reunion Registration open 7:30 AM–8:30 AM
NTPA Board/Committee Meeting 8:00 AM–8:50 AM
FORT MEADE TOUR & THE HOLOCAUST MUSEUM 9:00 AM–3:30 PM
Reunion Registration open 2:00 PM–6:00 PM
NOTE: Additional registration hours will be posted if necessary.
Foxhole 1:00–9:30 PM

Friday, September 9

Breakfast Buffet 7:00 AM–9:00 AM
Timberwolf Pups Meeting 9:00 AM–9:45 AM
General Meeting 10:00 AM–12:00 PM
Foxhole 1:00–5:00 PM
SHEAR MADNESS (KENNEDY CENTER) 6:45 PM–10:30 PM

Saturday, September 10

Breakfast Buffet 7:00 AM–9:00 AM
NATIONAL MEMORIALS TOUR 9:30 AM–3:00 PM
Foxhole 1:00 PM–5:00 PM
Beer Bust 8:30 PM–11:00 PM

Sunday, September 11

Breakfast Buffet 7:00 AM–9:00 AM
Memorial Service 9:30 AM–11:30 AM
Foxhole 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, September 12

Breakfast Buffet 7:00 AM–9:00 AM
Farewells and Departures

TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

FORT MEADE TOUR & THE HOLOCAUST MUSEUM

Thursday, September 8:

Begin the day with a guided bus tour of Fort George G. Meade, an army installation that includes the Defense Information School, the United States Army Field Band, and the HQ of the United States Cyber Command and National Security Agency. Originally opened in 1917, Ft. Meade has a rich history serving as a recruit training post and POW camp during World War II. Following the bus tour, enjoy lunch at one of Ft. Meade's dining facilities. After lunch, visit the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, America's only national memorial to the Holocaust. Established by a unanimous Act of Congress, the museum contains a permanent exhibit of artifacts, films, photographs, and oral histories that document the Nazi genocide. The narrative begins with images of death and destruction as witnessed by American soldiers during the liberation of Nazi concentration camps in 1945 (something the Timberwolves experienced firsthand). The Hall of Remembrance serves as a place of reflection.

- **Special notes: (1) A photo ID is required for base access. (2) The Holocaust Museum is not recommended for children under the age of twelve.**
- **9:00 AM—Board bus** (details cont. in next column)

- **3:30 PM—Back to hotel**
- **\$60/Person** (Includes bus, guide, admission [to base & museum] & lunch)

SHEAR MADNESS AT THE KENNEDY CENTER

Friday, September 9:

The Kennedy Center is home to the entertaining show *Shear Madness*, Washington's hilarious whodunit murder mystery. Someone's been killed in the apartment above a Georgetown hairstyling salon, and the police haven't got a clue. Take a stab at catching the killer. It's a riotous, improvisational plot with topical humor where *you* spot the clues, *you* question the suspects and *you* solve the crime! The ending is different every night, so you'll never see the same show twice. If DC critic Arch Campb says *Shear Madness* is "the most fun [he] ever had at the Kennedy Center," you are guaranteed to have a great time! (Dress code is casual, and a cash bar will be available.)

- **6:45 PM—Board bus at hotel**
- **7:00 PM—Board bus at Pentagon City Mall**
- **10:30 PM—Back to hotel**
- **\$72/Person** (Includes bus, escort & show)

NATIONAL MEMORIALS TOUR

Saturday, September 10:

See our nation's war memorials during a driving tour of Washington, DC. Stop at the Lincoln Memorial, and visit the Korean War and Vietnam War Memorials. Enjoy a maritime movie at the US Navy Memorial and Naval Heritage Center, but to honor the sailors of the US Navy. Afterward, stop at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, which the largest building (3.1 million square feet) in Washington, DC and is the first and only federal building dedicated to both government and private use. While there, enjoy lunch on your own at the Reagan Building food court—named one of the "best family food courts" in DC. After lunch, free time will be allowed the World War II Memorial, the first national memorial dedicated to all who served during World War II.

- **Special note: A photo ID is required for entrance to the Ronald Reagan Building.**
- **9:30 AM—Board bus**
- **3:00 PM—Back to hotel**
- **\$45/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.

**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.**

TO REGISTER, YOU CAN...

- **Go online** and pay by credit card: www.afr-reg.com/timberwolf2016
- **Fill out the form on the previous page** and send it with your check by mail: Armed Forces Reunions, Inc., 322 Madison Mev Norfolk, VA 23510, Attn: Timberwolf

2016 REUNION—HOTEL INFO

SHERATON PENTAGON CITY—WASHINGTON, DC (703) 521-1900 or (800) 325-3535

www.starwoodhotels.com/sheraton/property/overview/index.html?propertyID=829

LOCATION

900 South Orme Street, Arlington, VA 22204

Located just minutes from Reagan National Airport and downtown Washington, DC

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/timberwolf2016 and click on the hotel reservation link to receive the discounted group rate.

Group Name: National Timberwolf Pups Association Reunion (104th Infantry Division)

Reunion Dates: September 7–12, 2016



Rate: \$119 + tax (currently 13%). Rate includes breakfast for two people daily (additional vouchers can be purchased at the front desk). Room rate will be offered three days before and three days after reunion dates, based on availability.

Cutoff Date: 08/04/16. Late reservations will be processed at a higher rate based on availability.

Cancellation Policy: Deposit is refundable if reservation is canceled by 4:00 PM the day prior to arrival. If guest does not check in or has not canceled their reservation by then, one night (with tax) will be charged to the guest's credit card. All reservations must include a one-night room deposit and be guaranteed with a major credit card.

PARKING & SHUTTLE INFORMATION

Complimentary shuttle service departs every thirty minutes from 5:00 AM–12:15 AM to and from Reagan National Airport. Go to the Ground Transportation area of the airport to catch the shuttle. SuperShuttle also offers transportation from Dulles International Airport and Baltimore/Washington International Airport. Please contact them at (202) 296-6662 or (800) BLUE-VAN, or visit www.supershuttle.com for more information and to make reservations. Complimentary shuttle service is also available to the Pentagon City Metro Station. Free hotel parking is available for all reunion attendees.

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 to get more details and to make reservations.

TREASURER'S REPORT

NATIONAL TIMBERWOLF PUPS ASSOCIATION Statement of Income and Expenses January 1, 2015–December 1, 2015

BANK BALANCE on JANUARY 1, 2015	
Checking account	\$ 7218
Savings account	\$ 9432
TOTAL	\$16,650
DEPOSITS	
Dues	\$ 5900
Book sales	\$ 2590
Donations	\$ 1745
Reunion income (sales, raffle, etc.)	\$ 3978
Interest	\$ 15
TOTAL	\$14,228

EXPENSES/DISBURSEMENTS	
HOWL production & mailing	\$ 5300
2nd postcard mailing	\$ 591
NTA web fees	\$ 338
General postage/shipping	\$ 597
General operating expenses	\$ 1834
Merchandise	\$ 790
TOTAL	\$ 9,450
BANK BALANCE on DECEMBER 1, 2015	
Checking account	\$ 6851
Savings account	\$14,577
TOTAL	\$21,428

Advance on the Left—413th Regiment

Note: Most facts below are from archival records. What really happened at the pillboxes, or the true horror of Putzlohn, can be appreciated only through the stories of the men who lived it. Page numbers in brackets refer to related stories in the Timberwolf War Stories book.

WHEN THE 414th Infantry jumped off against Hill 287 on November 16, 1944, 413th and 415th regiments began what Gen. Allen called “pressure attacks.” For the 413th, this meant capturing heavily fortified pillboxes to its front and clearing enemy-occupied houses on the edge of Verlautenheide.

Supported by fire from 385th Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd and 3rd Battalions attacked at 1245. An assault team from Company I went after three large pillboxes, which Americans called 50, 51, and 52. The largest, 52, was finally cracked open late afternoon.

After a miserable day fighting with only one pillbox captured and many casualties, German-born Pfc. Joe Schallmoser, badly shaken, thought, “There’s got to be another way.” He convinced his superiors to allow him to try to talk the Germans in the remaining pillboxes into surrendering.

American artillery fire was halted for two hours while Joe and two prisoners from 52, a lieutenant and a medic, stumbled through darkness to 51. The lieutenant in charge offered Joe a shot of schnapps. He wanted to give up but said only the captain, in 50, could authorize a surrender. They drank to world peace, and off Joe and his prisoners went to the next pillbox. “No!” said the captain, then requested a truce to evacuate his wounded. Joe promised to try.

Downhearted, Joe headed back with his two prisoners. How senseless the killing and maiming. Suddenly, he heard noises behind him.

“I whirled and flicked on my flashlight. As far back as I could see [were] Germans with their hands behind their heads, following me in single file” [page 171].

That evening, Terry Allen telephoned the command post of 30th Infantry Division, fighting left of 413th. “We are having success where we didn’t expect it,” he told them. “Boys don’t go to bed too early. In fact, they have insomnia.”

The next morning was spent mopping up Verlautenheide and cracking open empty, booby-trapped pillboxes evacuated by the enemy during the night. G2 (Intelligence) Periodic Report summarized division action on the 17th: “The enemy defended steadily and strongly throughout the day, giving ground only on the left, where he was pushed out of pillboxes by CT [combat team] 413.”

The rest of that day and the next consisted of regrouping and patrols. When Hill 287 fell on the 18th, Gen. Allen informed the regiment that on the 19th, it would be “carrying the ball.”

Second and 3rd battalions jumped off at 0800. First Battalion remained in division reserve. Against light opposition, the infantrymen quickly secured two small villages along the way to their next objectives—towns of Rohe and Hehlrath. By evening, 2nd Battalion was in position to attack Rohe the following morning. Company A, 329th Medical Battalion, reported seven casualties for the day, “only one apt to die.”

That night, the rains started. Second Battalion jumped off through deep mud in a driving rain. On the outskirts of Rohe, it met stiff opposition. Fire from 385th Field Artillery drove the enemy under cover. Supported by 750th Tank Battalion, troops forced their way into town, where they fought house to house until the following afternoon.

Meanwhile, 1st Battalion passed through the lines of 30th Division to launch a surprise attack on Hehlrath from the north. Company A, accompanied by a 750th Battalion platoon of tanks, entered town alone. Overnight, the Germans surrounded them. The next morning, the rest of the battalion rescued them. After a quick reorganization, 1st Battalion jumped off for Durwiss.

According to 413th Regimental History, the approach to Durwiss was “across almost a thousand yards of open, muddy fields.” Company A suffered its heaviest casualties of the war in the half hour before entering town, and Company B lost almost an entire platoon [page 189–190]. Artillery support got the battalion into town, where fighting continued mostly underground in cellars and tunnels into the next day.

Third Battalion was preparing to attack Putzlohn and a continuous hill mass, referred to as hills 272 and 303. Company I was assigned the town, Company L the hill mass. Peter Branton, of I Company [page 194] wrote about November 22: “[It] was the worst day in the history of our company... We lost more men than on any other single day... We got on the tanks...our tanks came under fire... We were sitting ducks. Off to our right front was a BIG Tiger Royal tank... When our tanks fired at this big boy, the tracer projectiles bounced off like rubber balls... The Tiger Royal picked off our tanks one by one.” Gen. Waltz, 413th commander, told division, “One platoon of Company I may be wiped out.”

German tanks were vastly superior in firepower and armored protection to American Shermans. The Shermans could not stand up to them, and infantry weapons would not penetrate their armor.

The next day was Thanksgiving. Paul Chronister wrote [page 196], “As I remember Putzlohn and Hills 272 and 303, it was more or less the Waterloo for the 3rd Battalion of 413th Infantry. K Company was in reserve when I Company was trying to get into Putzlohn.... I Company was unable to get into the town and had to pull back, so it became our turn.”

“Boys don’t go to bed too early. In fact, they have insomnia.”



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

We will remember them.

Compiled by Sandra Eberhard (webpup@bellsouth.net)

Al Abarca
414 G

Lee Babcock
413 I

Joseph Boyle
Unit unknown

Russell Buffett
413 L

John J. Burton
413 I

Ronald E. Coe
414 K

Lou Cohn
555 AAA Bn Btry A

Carleton Curran
415 HQ 1st Bn

John Cuthbertson
804 Ord

Frank Flaherty
413 HQ 3d Bn

Charles Greninger
415 H

John Hanrahan
Unit unknown

Austin Ison
413 I

Howard Jones
414 HQ 3d Bn

Peter P. Kucharski
413 I

Omar N. Kussow
413 G

Roger Lackman
329 Engr C

Siamund Langsem
414 G

Joseph Motzi
415 L

Souren Mouradjian
415 K

Samuel Polk
Unit unknown

Robert C. Polski
415 H

Fred Roecker
Unit unknown

Robert "Bob" Royer
415 AT

John Henry Schmidt
413 D

John Seifert
414 L

J. C. Sharpe
413 L

Carl G. Smith
414 Serv

Robert "Bob" Spitler
414 E

Arthur Charles Swain
415 B

Frank Temple
413 HQ 3d Bn

Arnold Thompson
329 Engr HQ

Donald B. Warner
413 I

Max Lemoine Whitten
387 FA B

Thomas Wilson
414 AT

WIFE OR WIDOW

Beatrice Ermis
413 I (Ervin)

Lumina Gouvin
413 I (Paul)

Dorothy Lueptow
414 H (Art)



Chaplain's Corner



Editor's note: the following excerpt is a trip down memory lane, reprinted from the January 2009 *HOWL*.

NEW YEAR'S greetings to all Timberwolves, families, and Pups. I hope all of you have had pleasant and lively gatherings and celebrations over the Hanukkah and Christmas and New Year's holidays and holy days. Family gatherings of two or three or even four generations can be a bit of a physical and emotional workout for people our age,

but they can be stimulating and very enjoyable too. And usually we can get some calm and rest afterwards.

Again this year, I spent some time at my youngest sister's house—the sister with eleven kids, plus grandkids, and a few great-grandkids. It's one way to catch up fast with what's going on in the worlds of work, education, various kinds of electronics, the movies and TV, and pop culture in general. The kids talk fast and I have to bring my brain up to speed—or try to. Later, I take a rest. But it is reassuring to see that the younger ones are very “with it” and energetic. It gives us confidence that the future is in good hands. And speaking as an older member of a particular religious community—the

Society of Jesus—a recent gathering here of younger members of that community gives grounds for confidence and hope too. Though not as numerous as in older days, they are all very lively and on the ball.

The past year has not been lacking in events to engage our attention and concern: violence and continuing bloodshed in Iraq and Afghanistan and parts of Africa; politics here at home and the long competition for the Democratic presidential nomination between Hillary and Barack (and Barack's final success); the ongoing erosion of financial institutions and credit markets, with the fallout effects of all that; and recently, the “bailout” proposals for the American auto industry. It's a lot to take in and very complex to really understand. It all tests our confidence in ourselves, and in our trust that our God will continue to guide us and “hold us in the palm of his hand.” Because we can get rattled.

“Dedicate yourselves to thankfulness.”

I say that in all of this, and in our own personal problems, we will do well to turn to God the Father of all of us and pray: for light, for strength and stability and calm, for inspiration and solid support, for all those near and dear to us, and for our country. And I don't mean praying for hours—we are getting old for that—but ten minutes here and ten minutes there. A ten-minute break with God. And while we're at it, we all probably have a few things, present or past, that we can thank him for. In one of his letters, St. Paul says, “Dedicate yourselves to thankfulness.” The Hanukkah and Christmas seasons do help us to remember—and give thanks.

With best wishes and prayers for this new year,
Fr. McCarty

“Timberwolf Tracks in History” continued from pg. 9

Company K, joined by remnants of Company I, fought valiantly for a toehold in Putzlohn. Tanks, including three Tigers, counterattacked with infantry. Snipers took a heavy toll. Lt. Col. Summers, commanding 3rd Battalion, informed Gen. Waltz, “K Company will have to retreat from Putzlohn if it doesn't get help.”

Company L had seized hill 272 in a predawn attack. The Germans counterattacked repeatedly, and around noon, drove the Americans off the hill. Three company officers were killed and seventy-eight men were missing. A few hours later, C Company relieved battered L Company and retook the hill.

After dark, Company B slipped quietly into town to relieve K Company. One platoon, which could not be located, was left behind and attached to the relief company.

A predawn entry in the G2 Journal stated, “Tanks in Putzlohn causing heavy casualties. At least 1 Mark VI [Tiger]. Bazookas are ineffective. SPs [self-propelled guns] cannot be moved to town because of marshy ground.” Nevertheless, the enemy was withdrawing. It harassed Company C but did not try to retake the hill. That afternoon, 413th Journal declared enemy tanks were gone and the town cleaned up.

To be continued...

—Kathy Clark, Historian
kpclark@vom.com

WHY VETERANS REUNITE

Why Veterans Reunite

November 22, 2015

INOW know why men who have been in war yearn to reunite.

Not to tell stories or look at old pictures. Not to laugh or weep.

Comrades gather because we long to be with the men who once acted at their best—men who suffered and sacrificed, who were stripped of their humanity. I did not pick these men; they were delivered by fate and the military. But

I know them in a way I know no other men. I have never given anyone such trust. They were willing to guard something more precious than my life; they would have carried my reputation—the memory of me. It was part of the bargain we all made, the reason we were willing to die for one another.

As long as I have memory, I will think of them all, every day. I am sure that when I leave this world, my last thoughts will be of my family and my comrades—such good men.

—TW Bob Huber

WAR STORY

Christmas Eve, 1944

By TW Dick Rigler

WE, THE 104th Infantry Division, after relieving the 1st Infantry Division at the German border city of Aachen in November of 1944, learned our next objective: the major city of Cologne, about fifty miles to the east. Fighting on their home turf, the German resistance was fierce.

By mid-December, we had only advanced half of the distance to the Roer River. At that time, the Germans launched their big offense directly at the newly placed 106th Infantry Division, on our right flank, which had never seen battle. The German's objective was to recapture the port city of Antwerp, thereby encircling numerous Allied forces to the north. Taking it would give them major superiority and would be disastrous for us. This offensive was called the Battle of the Bulge and was successful for about twenty-five miles into Belgium, where it was stopped and the Germans were forced to retreat back to where their offense began.

Our front remained at the Roer until February 23, 1945. During that period, we were on constant alert, in fear of a northern offense against us. We of the 329th Engineer Combat Battalion took pains to thwart any such attempt by laying many minefields in the area in case of an attack. The German Autobahn ran from Aachen to Cologne and was situated in our area. The Autobahn bridge over the Roer was destroyed as the Germans retreated, but a road crossed over the highway a short distance from the river, paralleling it, and its bridge over the Autobahn was still intact. We thoroughly prepared it for demolition, if needed, and the surrounding fields were also heavily mined.

A primary detail for our platoon was to keep that bridge over the Autobahn constantly guarded and, in the event of an attack, to detonate it. This was done by placing four men at the bridge in twenty-four hour shifts and having two outside at all times, alternating each hour with the other two, who were in a dugout bunker in the bridge's hillside. It was bitterly cold, but we could thaw out on the break hour by a fire in the bunker. I had this assignment numerous times, and on Christmas Eve 1944, it was my turn to guard the bridge with three of my buddies.

As we walked the Autobahn that Christmas Eve, it was clear, dark, and very cold. Being on a stationary front, there was little combatting, save for patrols on both sides crossing the river and some artillery fire.

Suddenly, we heard the firing of one round from an artillery cannon in the distance, and there was a bursting flare directly over our heads. Protocol for this situation was to freeze, so as to not show any movement for the enemy to see. A flare parachuting down takes a long time, and its light is very intense. There was probably a German patrol behind

WAR STORIES OF WWII

WRITTEN BY THE SOLDIERS OF
THE 104TH INFANTRY DIVISION

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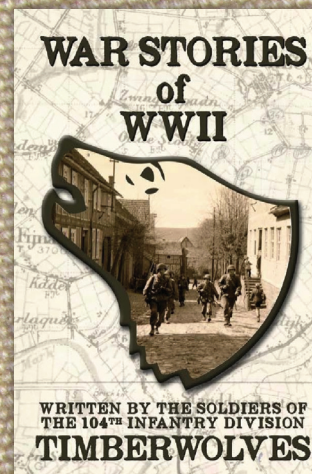
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Continued on pg. 13

our lines reconnoitering the area, but such a patrol was not intending a firefight, only to gather information.

Shortly after the flare burned out, we heard another artillery piece fire; and this time, it had the sound of an 88mm as it whistled over and hit a nearby mine field with a thud, fortunately not exploding. Evidently, the target was our bridge. Our guard duty continued but now with much apprehension.

Later on, in the quiet, we could faintly hear sounds of music in the distance coming from the enemy side of the

river, accompanied by singing voices. The melodies were familiar Christmas carols coming from a church as the civilians there worshipped. Here I was, in a war-ravaged area, facing a bitter enemy, but we both had a common love for the same God; and on this very night, we celebrated the birth of His only Son, Jesus Christ, in a manger in Bethlehem.

The previous tense happenings of that night were erased, and now I had a calmness come over me that made that Christmas Eve in 1944 a very special one in my life.

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.)

A Timberwolf Goes to Washington

June 25, 2015

I THOUGHT that it might be of interest to know that there was a Timberwolf (Ike jacket, shoulder patch, infantry badge, etc.) in the 2015 National Memorial Day Parade. According to the *Washington Post*, there were 300,000 spectators.

Each day for several years, I have attended the WWII celebration at the Rocky Run Middle School, located in Chantilly, Virginia. They usually have about 100 WWII Veterans in attendance to be honored for our service and to communicate with the students. This year, I took a friend who had been in the Polish army, subsequently captured by the Russians. I also took a woman who was in Hiroshima when the bomb was dropped. Her mother was just getting back from a train trip when the lights went out; she arrived on the street to see the rising mushroom cloud, with fires popping up all over the place. Their home was west of the bomb site, and the radioactive particles blew to the east. Both will be part of next year’s program.

The lead history teacher at Rocky Run, Jamie Sawatzky, invited me to ride on a float in the National Memorial Day Parade. I mentioned this to my daughter in El Paso, and she immediately got a plane ticket so she could be here. The main part of the Rocky Run’s presentation was for each student to carry an 18 x 24 picture of a deceased Medal of Honor winner, so there were more than 200 seventh graders in attendance.

My local daughter and Cindy met up with that bunch and rode the subway into DC, where we had a one-hour discussion of what Memorial Day means. Jamie asked me to tell one of my stories to the group; the other speaker was the chancellor at the University of Richmond. When I went out to join the parade, I was concerned that my daughters wouldn’t find a place to sit—NO WAY. But Jamie gave each of them their

placard; so instead of watching a parade, they were part of the parade! It was quite a thrill.

Cindy found the link to the film of the entire parade: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f70mFsf6MAE>. It is a long film—I am on-screen from 101.23 to 102.8, and my daughter Cindy is briefly on 102.07 and 102.08. Our float featured the *LIFE* magazine shot of a sailor kissing a nurse in Times Square. The trumpeter (trumpetress?) is part of a national association. The lady sitting next to me was an Air Corps nurse (my sister Lu spent three years at a hospital in England). All of us from the Rocky Run group dropped out of the parade a block from the end and held our own special memorial service near the WWII Memorial. It was a huge day—what a thrill it was to be there.

On July 4, I will be riding in the lead car in the parade at nearby Leesburg, Virginia. The parade starts about a block from General Marshall’s home. Yes, I still wear my Ike jacket; it almost fits.

Good luck to you,
—Dick Graff



Special Images from TW Bill Harper

July 13, 2015



Our granddaughter, Jordan, when she visited the Mittelbau-Dora concentration camp site last December (2014).

Continued on pg. 14



Kansas Veterans on the Honor Flight to DC: (from the left) my friend Warren Spikes, from Hugoton, then me, C. W. "Bill" Harper (414, Co. A) in the jacket (The other two Vets, I do not know.)



Search for Black Timberwolves—and a Thank-You December 2015

IT'S THE ol' *HOWL* editor here, writing to alert you of two important bits of news: (1) This issue of our newsletter has been in the additional loving hands of my new editorial assistant, Clara Taylor, an aspiring editor and designer. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank her for all her great work so far, and I look forward to working with her on the next issue as well. (2) As part of her duties, Clara is helping me to start a search for any information pertaining to our Black Timberwolves and their descendants. Other than the story by General Deane in the June 2012 edition of the *HOWL* (<http://ftp.timberwolf104inf.org/uploads/HOWL%20v.1%20no.2.pdf>), there's little to go on. If anybody out there has info to share, please get in touch with us: clarataylor928@gmail.com, 503-313-7899.

Many thanks all around,
—Jen Weaver-Neist, *HOWL* Editor

A Facebook Post from TW Bob Huber July 20, 2015

SEVENTY YEARS ago, this "world traveler" came home on a thirty-day furlough. Sure was great seeing my good old hometown, Robesonia (pop. 1500). Great to see a "whole" town after all those flattened in Europe. My mom and my girlfriend, Bonnie, were so glad to see me. The A-bomb was dropped while I was still home. So we Timberwolves were in Germany when they surrendered and home at the end of WWII. In nearby Reading, it was wall-to-wall people. If in uniform, the girls would kiss you (Bonnie held on to me very tightly). Great period in my life—just nothing like being home. As John Howard Payne wrote, "Mid pleasures and palaces, though we may roam, / Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home."



104TH ARCHIVE: THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

THE NTPA is organizing the archive of the 104th Infantry Division of World War II. Over the past year, we have acquired a tremendous amount of material thanks to the efforts of Marilyn Lytle, who provided the extensive collection she and Glen assembled over the decades of their leadership, and William Jackson, who generously provided a truckload of past issues of the *HOWL* (which he published

for many years) and many supporting materials. This is a great start to documenting the remarkable story of the soldiers of the 104th, both during and after the war. Anyone interested in contributing to the collection should contact NTPA President Andrew Lane: andrewben.lane@gmail.com, 973.896.3521.

From Nebraska to the Netherlands: A Pup Takes Students Abroad to Study World War II

By Scott Wilson, TW Pup

SCOTT WILSON, grandson of Timberwolf Tom Wilson (414th, Antitank Co.) is a history teacher at Omaha Central High School in Nebraska. He recently took thirty-six of his students to Europe to retrace the footsteps of the US Army in World War II. They visited London, Normandy, Paris, and some sites on the Western Front from World War I, then spent two days in Bastogne learning about the Battle of the Bulge.

Next, they headed to the Netherlands, where Scott had arranged a visit to the American military cemetery at Margraten. Each of the 8,301 graves in the cemetery has been adopted by a local resident who decorates his or her special grave with flowers on anniversaries and holidays.

Six former Central High School students who died during World War II—including one Timberwolf—are buried at Margraten. Scott had requested a meeting for the group with those graves' adopters.

The cemetery in the Netherlands will never be forgotten.

The meeting was held at the town hall in Margraten. As any Timberwolf Battlefield Tour participant can attest, meeting the Dutch people is a highlight of the trip. The mayor welcomed the group and described the history of the adoption program. The students had researched their six soldiers, and Scott gave each adopter a written biography, along with the soldier's Central High senior picture.

After the meeting, each adopter spoke at the cemetery about his adopted grave. It brought tears to the eyes of many of the students. The grave of Timberwolf Philip Horan (pictured here) has been adopted by a retired Royal Dutch marine, who is proud of the adoption and takes his responsibility seriously. Captain Horan graduated from Central High in 1936 and West Point in 1941. He was commanding I Company 414th Infantry on April 15, 1945, when he was killed by a sniper in Halle, Germany, as he was directing the advance of his men. It was less than one month before V-E Day.



Continued on pg. 16



he was PFC William Jackson. At the time, I was also PFC William Jackson. He informed Stars and Stripes, the Army newspaper, just prior to Memorial Day 1958, and they sent a photographer and me to the cemetery to take pictures of PFC William Jackson at the grave of PFC William Jackson, which was the front-page picture of the European edition.

Later, after I got out of the army, I figured my dad's unit must have a history and reunion organization like the 1st Division, and I located the National Timberwolf Association and joined. I studied their history and learned that General Terry Allen had taken over the 104th Infantry Division in late 1943, trained its soldiers, and took them to Europe in October 1944.


The NTA printed a twice-yearly newspaper called the *Timberwolf HOWL*, and in 1989, they had a notice on the front page that they needed a new editor. They had had one editor since 1946, but he had developed Alzheimer's and could no longer do it. I wrote a letter to Howard Bedney, the national secretary/treasurer, stating that while I wasn't a Timberwolf, I was the son of one killed in combat. I owned a small weekly newspaper (*The Sun*) located in Hershey, Pennsylvania, and I would be willing to take on the editorship, asking only that they cover my production costs.

Almost immediately, I began to receive visits from Timberwolves living in this area, such as John Light, a professor at Dickenson College, apparently checking me out. I must have passed muster, as I soon received a call from Bedney stating I had the job. I replied that if any of the Timberwolves wanted to do it, I could wait. His response was to the point: "Hell no, they're all a bunch of old bastards, I'll get twenty years out of you."

And that's exactly what they did get. I took over the *HOWL* in 1989 and edited it until they closed down the NTA in 2010. In between, I was made a member of my dad's company and met six men who knew him well, including Lt. Peter Branton, who was in the boat when he was killed, and another—Hal Burk—who spent the night in a foxhole with him the night before he was killed. When Hal Burk told me that, I must have had a doubting look on my face, which he picked up on. He shook a finger at me and said, "Your mother's name is Mary Alice, you were born in Philadelphia, and you lived in Clearfield, Pennsylvania!"

In 1994, on the fiftieth anniversary of the Timberwolves going to Europe, I joined them for a trip to retrace their route through France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany. When we got close to the Roer River, Pete Branton told me we were

The deep gratitude that the Dutch still feel for their American liberators, plus their attention to the graves of the fallen these many years later, made a strong impression on the students. The trip concluded with a visit to Cologne




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leaving the tour for a day. He had rented a car so we could travel to Inden, where my dad had come in as a replacement. We retraced the last three months of the dad's life, right down to the Roer Dam, where he was killed.

If you wonder how it is that I can speak so frankly and easily about my father's death and burial at Henri-Chapelle, it is because of those six wonderful men who shared their memories with me and gave me the great gift of closure.

I know where my dad is, and I know he is being cared for.

Thank you.

and Berlin, but the cemetery in the Netherlands will never be forgotten.



Traveling in the Footsteps of the Timberwolves

IN OCTOBER, I returned to Europe to give three talks in the Netherlands to teach people how to research American World War II soldier service. I also spoke at the Tilburg Liberation Ceremonies about the many possible stories we can write about those involved in WWII.



My days were filled with meeting people I'd been in contact with through Facebook who had an interest in and knowledge of WWII. At the end of my trip, on 1 November, I met some of the Friends of the Timberwolves at the Achtmaal Museum—Esther, Adrie, Sjaan, Kevin, Peet, and Herman. The day was perfect: warm sun, a slight breeze, colorful leaves falling from the trees, and new friends.

We met at the museum, and after coffee and cookies (with a history lesson thrown in), I had a tour. Time was short because we had a lot to see that day (on my next trip in May, I will have to try to meet with the group again and see more of the museum). The museum houses not only Timberwolf artifacts but also artifacts from other groups who fought in the area.

Upon completion of the tour, we hopped in two jeeps and took off through the countryside. Peet was my driver and also the man who gave me the history lesson over coffee. As we drove, he told me about the routes we took, where the fighting occurred, and details about the men and war. We stopped at many sites to see where battles happened, including where my friend John Tyrrell was wounded.

Seeing the places where battles were fought, or concentration camps where so many died, is high on my list of things to do when I visit Europe. What is difficult is trying to picture these now serene, often beautiful places through the eyes of someone who was there seventy-plus years ago. Trying to wrap my head around what happened there and then put that into words is difficult. It is often unimaginable the horrors that took place in such a calm place where crops grow or sheep graze today. And everywhere we went, I could feel the presence of all the soldiers in those fields, regardless

of which side they fought on. In some areas, the energy was so intense that it rode in waves through me.

After visiting many places the Timberwolves fought, we stopped for lunch in an old building, where I met Toine Vermunt, a local historian and author. Toine gave me a short history lesson after lunch, before we departed the area. He showed me maps of Holland and explained where the Timberwolves were, what happened at the building we were having lunch in, and what we would see in the afternoon: the Battle Between the Dikes. Toine gave me a booklet that he wrote a few years ago explaining this battle, and I am grateful to have this history.

Toine rode with us to see the area where the battle took place, after first stopping to lay flowers at a Timberwolf Memorial. It was as if the Timberwolves were waiting for us, because the energy at the memorial nearly dropped me to my knees. Our next stop was at a woman's home where we were allowed to walk behind and stand by the canal where the men were fighting and attempting to cross—another beautiful place where such horror occurred.

As the afternoon began drawing to a close, our last stop was at the Basilica in Oudenbosch. We had about fifteen minutes there, as they were about to close. (It is another place to which I must return.) The Basilica is a small replica of St. Peter's in Rome. "Small" does not do it justice; it felt gigantic, and I felt very tiny. I was able to light some candles for my soldiers and say some prayers before we left.



After returning the jeeps to the Timberwolf HQ and saying goodbye to my new friend Adrie, the rest of us went out for dinner before I drove back to Ammerzoden, where I was staying for two weeks.

Continued on pg. 18

The day I spent with the Friends of the Timberwolves was one of my favorite days from this trip. It was incredible and moving to be surrounded by people with such passion for World War II and our soldiers. People who understood the soldiers still walk in the mists and live among the items in their museum—people who honor the memories of those who gave them their freedom. And my absolute favorite part of the day: meeting Kevin, who is a teenager and has the desire to preserve the stories of these men. It warms my heart to see young people wanting to be involved in this work. It provides the promise that when the older generation is gone and my generation is aging, there will still be someone sharing the stories and memories.

I look forward to meeting my friends again in 2016 and encourage anyone who has not been to Europe to visit them—please do so. They are an amazing group of people, and you will appreciate and enjoy every minute with them.

You can read about my trip and learn more about researching World War II service on my website, the World War II Research and Writing Center: <http://wwiiresearchandwritingcenter.com/portfolio/traveling-in-their-footsteps-articles/>.

—Jennifer Holik, Writer and WWII Researcher

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).

(22) NTPA Historian Kathy Clark with TW Bryce Thornton & his wife, Helen; (23) TW Pup & NTPA board member Mary Jamieson with her husband, Byron Brown; (24) [L–R] NTPA President Andy Lane, Natl. WWII Museum volunteer & Vet Art Arceneaux, and SGM Lyle Wold (ret.); (25) TW Mel Morasch; (26) Melody (Morasch) Minch; (27) Pups Audree & Steven Granieri; (28) TW Albert Clifton; (29) two attendees taking a breather at the Beer Bust; (30) overseas tour guide Patrick Hinchy & Rene Buchannan; (31) TW Widow Linda Areaux [holding a photo of her husband, Raymond (a 415th medic, Co. G)] with her two Grandpups & Pup; (32) TW Tom Bomford & co.; (33) [L–R] Pup Nell Bartels & Mary Frances Pedraza (MG Terry Allen's granddaughter); (34) TW Tom Bomford; (35) reunion speakers Stan Bunger, KCBS All News anchor, & Jennifer Holik, writer & WWII researcher; (36) TW Albert Clifton; (37) TW Jim Henderson & family; (38) two generations of (Keith) Zimmerman Pups; (39) Pup Margo Weaver with NTPA Photographer Art Luque; (40) out & about for lunch on Jackson Square; (41) Millie Didlake showing off TW Charlie Harper's book; (42) NTPA Treasurer JeNeal Granieri & her husband, Al

2015 REUNION PHOTO GALLERY (CONT.)



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NATIONAL TIMBERWOLF PUPS ASSOCIATION

Vets, Family & Friends of the 104th Infantry Division WWII
1749 9th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94122
www.timberwolf104inf.org



You can't have a Foxhole in New Orleans without libations! Here are a few members of the gang getting the reunion started: [L-R] SGM Lyle Wold (ret.), Friend Millie Didlake, Pup Doug Morasch, overseas Friends Esther Eenhuizen & Corne Lauwerijssen, Pup Melissa Morasch, and Pup Mary Jamieson.