



## MESSAGE FROM THE PUPS

The National Timberwolf Pups Association is entering its tenth year as an organization—a milestone achieved through the dedication of the many family and friends of the Veterans of the 104th Infantry Division of World War

II—and its members ended 2019 on several high notes of accomplishment. In September, we enjoyed a memorable reunion in Warwick, Rhode Island, that included many wonderful experiences, both within our hotel and in the

*Continued on pg. 3*

## MISC. NEWS & INFO

### Living History Event



[Far left & far right] Baboian Pups, [Middle L-R] Davis Kenyan & Pup Jack Vallely]

At its 2019 Veteran's Day event, the Waltham Massachusetts Historical Society hosted a lecture entitled, "Living History: The 104th Timberwolves," which was presented by talented WWII re-enactor, Davis Kenyan, an attendee at our 2019 reunion in Warwick, Rhode Island. Davis delivered a PowerPoint presentation, both in and out of character, while wearing his Timberwolf uniform and surrounded by many Timberwolf artifacts. Also in attendance were the children of TW Jacob Baboian, 414 C, who was one of Waltham's three WWII TWs (the other two were Father Paul McCarty, 413 G, and Joe Vallely, 413 L). Waltham's Mayor, Jeannette McCarthy, was present for the event, following which Davis was recognized with an award from the Society.

### 2019 General Terry De La Mesa Allen Award

On November 16, 2019, Cadet Daine Van de Wall was presented the Terry De La Mesa Allen Award for Excellence in Second Class Military Science at the United States Military Academy, West Point. The award, presented to the third-year cadet who earned the highest grade in military science, was yet another proud achievement by this remarkable cadet who, among other honors, is also First Captain of Cadets (responsible for the overall performance of the approximately 4,400-member Corp of Cadets), a Rhodes scholar, and a Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society member. Cadet Van de Wall's proud parents, who are naturalized US citizens from the Netherlands, were in attendance for the ceremony. The award was presented by NTPA Board Member Jack Vallely with his wife, Pat.



### French Legion of Honor Award

In the event that there are living WWII TW Vets and their families who might be interested in applying for consideration for the French Legion of Honor Award, we are in contact with the Midwest French Consulate to process their applications. Only living Veterans are eligible to apply. Please get in touch with Jack Vallely for copies of the application, instructions, and other assistance: [jackvallely@yahoo.com](mailto:jackvallely@yahoo.com), 508.788.1868.

# 2019 REUNION PHOTO GALLERY



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*"Message from the Pups" continued from pg. 1*

surrounding areas of New England. As always, the reunion maintained the tradition of honoring the fallen. A special memory was made when several of our Pups made a special visit to the home of a Timberwolf residing in nearby Massachusetts who was unable to attend our reunion due to transportation issues. The Pups conducted a ceremony to present him with an award and several Timberwolf gifts, and the sincere appreciation of our 104th Vet was felt by all present.

In October, we renewed our bonds across the ocean with our overseas Friends in Europe. The 75th Anniversary Battlefield Tour was a spectacular success, and the friendship with those nations our Veterans liberated is stronger than ever. In November, we continued the tradition of presenting the General Terry De La Mesa Allen Award at West

Point and have introduced a new generation of leaders to our "Greatest Generation."

These experiences, together and separately, constitute the mission of the NTPA. Each of us is a host and an ambassador of goodwill to all who attend our reunions, welcoming newcomers and returning members, and each of us is a witness to the history of the military service of the soldiers of the 104th.

In 2019, we successfully pursued our mission and we look forward to 2020 being a new year of achievement.

Happy New Year to all!

—Andrew Lane, NTPA President  
[andrewben.lane@gmail.com](mailto:andrewben.lane@gmail.com)

(1) Pups Pat & Jack Vallely, our helpful local contacts for the reunion; (2) [L-R] Overseas Friend Ton Bruijstens & Pup MSG (Ret.) Gary Neinhuis; (3) [L-R] Pups Nell Bartels and LCDR (Ret.) Al McDonnell with longtime Overseas Friend Esther Eenhuizen in the Foxhole; (4) [L-R] Pups John & Marva Warmington with the Casserly Pups; (5) Pup Maris Abbene; (6) [L-R] TW Wife Marilyn Lytle with the 104th flags and Pups Jack Vallely & JeNeal Granieri; (7) [L-R] TW Wife Renee Buchanan & Pup Doris Davis; (8) TW Wife Marilyn Lytle & MG (Ret.) T. K. Moffett; (9) Pup Betsy Murphy; (10) Pup John Holmes; (11) TW Vet Keith Zimmerman & his daughter, Nancy; (12) NTPA President, CPT Andy Lane & LCDR (Ret.) Al McDonnell; (13) Two Pups outside the USS Constitution Museum; (14) 106th Vet Bob Pope & family; (15) 106th Vet Richard Idstein; (16) TW Wife Frances Francis (17) Pups LTC (Ret.) Kent & Bonny Smith; (18) 106th Vet Harry Martin; (19 & 20) WWII re-enactor, Davis Kenyan, sharing his 104th artifacts in the Foxhole [gallery continued on page 15]

On the Roer River: Part 1

When Mullenark Castle fell, late on December 14th, 1944, the Timberwolf Division controlled the entire west bank of the Roer River in its sector. The river was quiet and shallow. The men settled in for what they expected to be a brief respite while the higher-ups prepared for a river crossing. Many received passes to the rear for a chance to clean up and recuperate.

Two days later, rumors reached 104th Division HQ that the Germans had attacked early that morning, just south of the division, and were pushing American troops backward (what would eventually be called the Battle of the Bulge). They were also reported to be dropping parachutists in US Army uniforms behind Allied lines. At least fifteen were believed to have landed in the 104th sector. First Army (Gen. Courtney Hodges) and 12th Army Group (Gen. Omar Bradley) were slow to appreciate the gravity of the situation. General Bradley insisted the Germans were no longer capable of launching a major offensive.

Division HQ, after checking with higher-ups, continued to send men on passes. Not until the afternoon of the 17th were orders received that all leaves had been canceled and

all troops were to return from rest camps that night. Trucks were sent to pick them up.

Meanwhile, patrols of TWs were busy hunting for parachutists. Other patrols were evaluating the condition of the river or crossing it, to observe the Germans or to capture enemy soldiers for interrogation. The largest number of TWs were building a defense in depth to the rear of the division, in case the enemy succeeded in getting behind it, which was exactly what the German army wanted to do.

General Bradley's 12th Army Group HQ, south of the Bulge, was physically cut off from his First and Ninth Armies to the north. Communication by wire was intermittent at best. So Eisenhower, on December 20th, over Bradley's strong objections, temporarily transferred both armies to Field Marshall Montgomery's 21st Army Group. The 104th would be transferred again from First Army to Ninth Army, all without changing position. The 104th Division was now stretched out on a 16,000-yard front along the Roer River—from Merken in the north to across the river from Düren in the south—a distance that would normally be covered by three divisions.

Like the Americans, the German army was sending patrols across the river. Most were small, but during the night of December 28–29, an estimated fifty enemy soldiers, under cover of a mortar barrage, crossed in the 414th 1st Battalion sector. The higher-ups were so concerned that this might be an attempt at a second breakthrough that they ordered the long toms—the big guns firing for the Bulge—to turn around and fire for the 414th. There were casualties on both sides. The enemy was driven back and did not try again.

*To be continued...*  
 —Kathy Clark, NTPA Historian  
[kpclark@vom.com](mailto:kpclark@vom.com)

On a personal note: People sometimes ask how I became so involved with Timberwolf history. I can't say why it happened but can pinpoint the exact moment my interest began.

I was visiting my parents; it was the 50th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge. Dad was sitting in his chair in the living room, reading the newspaper, and I was nearby on the couch, probably reading the funnies.

Dad, seldom negative about anything, began shaking his head in disgust, muttering, "Shouldn't have been a surprise. Shouldn't have been a surprise..."

"What shouldn't have been a surprise, Dad?" I asked.

"The Bulge. As we were approaching the river, every night, we heard heavy military traffic moving from north to south on the other side of the river. Every night, I reported it to my superiors, and I'm sure they reported it to their superiors. Shouldn't have been a surprise."

And as it turns out, it should not have been a surprise. The reason it was is a story in itself.



## Timberwolf Tracks

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*The Definitive History of the 104th Infantry Division in World War II*

## A Daughter's Story



**T**W Pup Patricia Wehrmann met our 2019 tour group in Cologne, Germany, to share the remarkable story of her search for her father, TW Thomas J. Crocker, 555 AAA Battery B. After VE Day, the men of 555 AAA were sent to Antwerp and France to serve as MPs. In France, Thomas met Eliana LaMarra, who fell in love with him on their very first date. After ten months, the 555 AAA returned to the

United States, but Eliana stayed in France, where she found herself pregnant. After Patricia's birth, she wrote to Thomas at a St. Louis address he had given her. To her shock, Thomas's wife, Thelda, responded to Eliana's letter—Eliana had no idea that Thomas was married. Thelda proposed that she and Thomas adopt Patricia and raise her in the States with their daughter, Laura, who was three months younger than Patricia. Eliana refused.

As a child growing up in France, Patricia's life was secure, yet she longed to know her father. When she asked her mother what he looked like, her mother would say, "Look at yourself in the mirror—you are the same," for they shared light green eyes and dark hair. As soon as Patricia learned to speak English, when she was about twelve, she decided to write to her father at the St. Louis address. She did not receive an answer.

Over the years that followed, Patricia searched for passport records or any information that might link her to her father. Not finding him was, for her, "a big, big problem." In the 1970s, Patricia continued her search, deciding to call the St. Louis exchange for phone inquiries. Calling from her office at the National Shipping Company in Le Havre, France, she learned that there were five Thomas J. Crockers listed. Patricia decided to call each one and ask, "Do you have a daughter in France?" Each one answered no, but there was something about the second number that made her feel sure it was the one she sought. Patricia called again, and this time, Thomas said, "Yes, I am your father."

After numerous transatlantic calls between September 1977 and January 1978, Patricia crossed the ocean on one of the company's container ships, the *Atlantic Champagne*, and then flew to St. Louis, where her father and stepmother were waiting for her. They had gathered all the family for a welcome party "full of warmth and love," as Patricia described it. She learned that she had two sisters—Laura and Judith—and a brother, Mike. Family members remarked

again and again how much she and her father resembled each other.

Patricia became close to her father and stepmother, as well as her siblings and cousins in her American family. She learned of her Cherokee, English, Irish, Scottish, and German ancestry. Always conscious of her American father, she had chosen what she thought of as American names, Carol and Gregory, for her own children before she ever met Thomas.

TW Thomas J. Crocker lived to be sixty-three years old; Eliana died at age forty-nine. Eliana never married or dated anyone else.

Patricia sent this message after the tour. "When I met the Timberwolves in Cologne, I have been touched very deeply



## WAR STORIES OF WWII

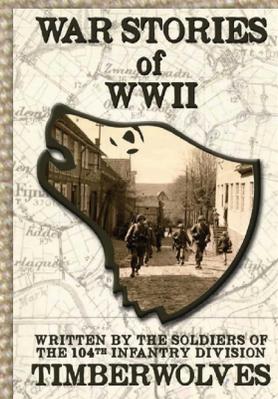
WRITTEN BY THE SOLDIERS OF THE  
104TH INFANTRY DIVISION

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Continued on pg. 6

in my soul and my heart, very friendly." And no one who heard her story on the tour will forget it.



## Searching for Skip

On each Timberwolf tour, unexpected events create indelible memories. As our tour bus headed east from Halle on October 29, 2019, Mathias Maurer, President of the Count von Luckner Society in Halle, Germany, invited 91-year-old Ursula Borstoff to join our group. Ursula directed our bus to the School Museum in Raguhn, Germany, where she described her search to find the TW Pup who had left a note and bouquet of flowers at the Raguhn Fire Station during the 50th Anniversary Timberwolf Tour in 1994. Her only clues were a business card attached to a note, which read, "Oct. 22, 1994: In honor of my father T/Sgt. Tom Kendrew / 104th Inf Div / April 17, 1945. In loving memory, Your Son, Skip."

As the archivist of Raguhn Town History, Ursula had attempted to contact Skip by letter, with no success. She hoped that our group might find the note a link to locate him. With an internet connection and phones in hand, members of our tour group went to work.

Based on the information on the business card, Terry Wold, Maureen Downs, and Melissa Morash began a search for Tom Kendrew's son, Skip (Charles) Kendrew. By the time we bid farewell to Ursula at her home, Melissa had found the location of Thomas Kendrew's Pennsylvania grave, while Maureen found his 1945 obituary.

As our coach continued toward Berlin, bits and pieces of information from the business card, a Google search, and a LinkedIn work history pointed us to a Charles V. Kendrew, now 78 years old and living in Peabody, Massachusetts. That afternoon, Melissa tried to reach Skip by phone, but when there was no answer, she turned to Facebook. Melissa

noted the likely age of Skip's children and found a Thomas Kendrew, also living in Peabody. She sent a direct message to Thomas through Facebook that same afternoon, explaining how she came to be looking for Skip. Less than an hour later, Tom replied and promised to forward Melissa's message to Skip, who replied by email. By 10:00 PM European time, Melissa had placed a call and was speaking to Skip in Massachusetts.

Thomas Kendrew, Platoon Sgt. 414 F, was 24 when he was shot by a sniper that April day in the factory building, now the Raguhn Fire Station, where Skip had left the note and flowers. Thomas's buddies took out the sniper; and Thomas was interred at the American Cemetery at Henri-Chapelle in Belgium until 1949, when his parents brought him home to be buried in the US. He was awarded two Silver Stars as well as a Bronze Star for his service during the war.

Thomas left a wife and two sons to whom he had written a letter, in case something happened to him. In it, Thomas listed his Timberwolf buddies. After the war, these men acted as surrogate uncles to Skip and his brother, telling them their father was the bravest man they ever knew and that he always watched out for his men. In time, Skip's mother married Tony Sannizzar, one of these buddies, who became Skip's stepdad.

Over the years, Skip and his wife attended NTA reunions, and kept up with his father's and stepfather's buddies from the 414th. Amazingly, Skip's son was born on April 18, 1965, almost twenty years *to the minute* of his grandfather's death in Raguhn. After German reunification, Skip was able to honor his father at the Raguhn Fire Station during the 1994 tour, leaving the note that Ursula had saved.

Remembering T/ Sgt. Kendrew and his son was a poignant end to another memorable day on the 75th Anniversary Battlefield Tour.

—Betsy Murphy, NTPA Facilitator  
[emurph12@optonline.net](mailto:emurph12@optonline.net)

## NOTES FROM THE REUNION SITE COMMITTEE

### Hello to everyone!

We are happy to announce that the 2020 NTPA Reunion will be held in Kansas City, Missouri, at the Hilton Kansas City Airport hotel. We have great reports that it is a wonderful hotel, newly remodeled, with complementary shuttles to the airport and the Zona Rosa, the area's entertainment district. Internet, parking, and breakfast are included with our room rate.

We will again be sharing the Foxhole, tours, and Beer Bust with the 106th Infantry Division; but based on some

feedback that folks were unhappy with sharing the Banquet with the 106th, since they tend to use that dinner as a partial business meeting, we thought it might be best to have separate dinners in adjacent rooms. This way, we can still mingle with them before and after dining without inhibiting their traditions.

Per usual, we will be having the Raffle at the Beer Bust, so please look for items to donate that are a delight to us all. In order to avoid any confusion, we will make sure our Raffle Masters (Andy and Al) go through all of the ticket bags before we open things up for the usual free-for-all

**NATIONAL TIMBERWOLF PUPS ASSOCIATION 2020 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/timberwolf2020](http://www.afr-reg.com/timberwolf2020) (a 3.5% convenience fee will be added to credit-card charges). All registration forms and payments must be received on or before **August 10, 2020**. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space-available basis. **We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing it.** Please do not staple or tape your payment to this form.

**ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC.**  
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OFFICE USE ONLY	
Check # _____	Date Received _____
Inputted _____	Nametag Completed _____

<b>CUT-OFF DATE IS AUGUST 10, 2020</b>				
		<b>Price Per</b>	<b># of People</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>
<b>TOURS</b>				
<b>Wed. (9/9): KANSAS CITY TOUR</b>	11:00 AM to 4:00 PM	\$ 39	x	= \$
<b>Thurs. (9/10): ARABIA STEAMBOAT MUSEUM</b>	9:45 AM to 2:30 PM	\$ 47	x	= \$
<b>Thurs. (9/10): NEW THEATRE &amp; RESTAURANT</b>	5:30 PM to 10:30 PM	\$ 88		
<b>Friday (9/11): NATIONAL WWI MUSEUM &amp; MEMORIAL</b>	9:30 AM to 2:30 PM	\$ 66		
<b>BANQUET</b>				
<b>Sat. (9/12): Banquet Dinner (Please select an entrée below.)</b>	7:00 PM to 11:00 PM			
Chicken Marsala		\$ 47	x	= \$
Seared Salmon		\$ 47	x	= \$
Grilled Sirloin		\$ 47	x	= \$
Vegetarian		\$ 47	x	= \$
<b>ADDITIONAL EXPENSES</b>				
<u>REQUIRED</u> : Per-Person Registration Fee (covers various reunion expenses)		\$ 50	x	= \$
<u>OPTIONAL</u> : Reunion Photo CD (prepared by NTPA Photographer Art Luque)		\$ 25	x	= \$
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT Payable to <u>Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.</u></b>				<b>\$</b>

**PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME AS YOU WANT YOUR NAMETAG TO READ.**

FIRST \_\_\_\_\_ LAST \_\_\_\_\_

TW UNIT \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST REUNION? \_\_\_\_\_ PUP? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE NAME (IF ATTENDING) \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST(S) \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PH. NUMBER ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: SPECIAL SLEEPING/ROOM REQUIREMENTS MUST BE CONVEYED BY THE ATTENDEE DIRECTLY TO THE HOTEL.**

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 cancelations, please refer to our policies outlined on the reunion schedule page. **CANCELATIONS WILL ONLY BE TAKEN MONDAY–FRIDAY, 9:00 AM–4:00 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.

First Casualties

By Vincent De Saedeleer

Seventy-five years ago, on September 25th, 1944, the 104th Infantry Division had its first casualties of war. They were the men of 415th Infantry Regiment Anti-Tank Company Mine Platoon.

On the afternoon of September 25th, while engaged in a practical march, the platoon was involved in an accident that occurred at an abandoned German pillbox at Saint Marcouf in France. No one knows exactly what happened, but a tongue of flame some 200 feet long shot out of the pillbox, roasting alive thirteen members of the platoon; and shortly after, a tremendous explosion took place. The accident itself is mentioned in the *415th Infantry Regimental History* (page 5); in John H. Light's book, *An Infantryman Remembers World War II* (page 53); and in the journals of E. J. McCully in *Journals of War: Coming of Age with the 104th Infantry During World War II*

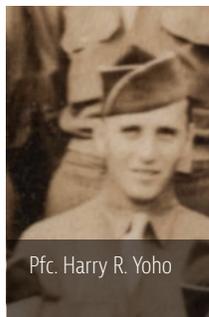
by Anne McCully Dorre, Susan Kuwitzky, and Victoria Laack (page 392).

At one of the Timberwolf luncheons at Oregon, Veteran Robert Royer (415 AT) told the story to Mary-Ellen Jamieson. He was not injured but witnessed the explosion, seeing his friend "melt away" in front of him.

The thirteen men killed were: T/Sgt. Leonard K. Bjorgo (KIA), Pfc. Frank R. Campbell (KIA), Pfc. Edward S. Dragansky (KIA), Sgt. Ralph T. Fuhlman (died of wounds), Sgt. William B. Klimek (KIA), Pfc. Leonard J. Koscianski (KIA), Pvt. William L. Muncy (KIA; body could not be identified), Pfc. Louis L. Pool (KIA; body could not be identified), Pfc. James M. Reisinger (KIA; body could not be identified), Pfc. James R. Schneider (KIA; body could not be identified), Pfc. Denton C. Wilson (died of wounds), 2nd Lt. James C. Woods (KIA), and Pfc. Harry R. Yoho (KIA). Pfc. Walter R. Horton was seriously wounded in action but survived. All the other soldiers were buried shortly after the incident at Saint Mere Eglise Cemetery Number 2, a temporary military cemetery in Basse-Normandie.



Pfc. Edward S. Dragansky



Pfc. Harry R. Yoho



Pfc. Leonard J. Koscianski



Pfc. James R. Schneider



T/Sgt. Leonard K. Bjorgo



Pfc. Frank Campbell

The list of casualties and details of the Soldier's Medal was found by Arjan van Hassel (of Friends of the Timberwolves), which came from the regimental After Action Report, "Campaign in Germany," September 15, 1944:

*Routine training, physical hardening, and up-to-the minute information was given the men at this time. The region was, as yet, only partially cleared of mines and booby traps; and ammunition dumps and pillboxes contained large stores of high explosives left by the enemy. It was here that the Regiment sustained its first casualties in contact with the enemy. During the course of a practical-training march, the Mine Platoon of Anti-Tank Company was involved in an accident [that] cost the life of [its] leader and 12 enlisted men, as well as injured 8 others on the afternoon of 25th September...*

**PFC. L. L. POOL, DEWITT, DEAD** 1



DeWitt, Ia.—Pfc. Louis L. Pool, son of Mrs. Elizabeth Pool, was killed in action in France Sept. 25, 1944, according to a telegram from the war department to his mother Wednesday. Memorial services will be held at 9 a. m. Monday in St. Joseph's church. The Rev. John Moriarty will be celebrant of the mass.

**PFC. POOL**  
Pfc. Pool was born Nov. 29, 1920, and after graduation from St. Joseph's school, was employed at Frank's and Sons before entering service Nov. 19, 1942. He trained at Camp Adair, Ore., and Camp Carson, Colo., before going overseas in September, 1944.

Surviving are his mother; two sisters, Mrs. Frances Reimer, Davenport, and Mrs. Grace Boyer, Grand Mound; and two brothers, Jerome, Bettendorf, and John, at home; survive.



Sgt. Ralph T. Fuhlman was posthumously awarded the Soldier's Medal, according to HQ General Orders #12 from November 12, 1944:

*Sergeant Fuhlman, having personally escaped from in or near a burning German pillbox [that] was filled with live ammunition and explosives, and [that] had been accidentally ignited by means undetermined, at a time when several soldiers were inside, called instructions to a fleeing, burning comrade to "roll over"; and himself, fearlessly and upon his own volition, without regard for his own safety, did, in an effort to save the lives of his comrades trapped within, attempt to enter the fiercely burning pillbox, which was expected to explode at any moment. As a result of this courageous action, he lost his life in the subsequent explosion, which occurred shortly thereafter. Sergeant Fulman's courageous action served as an impressive example, and at the cost of his life, demonstrated the highest type of soldierly qualities in carrying*

*out a voluntary mission of mercy in the face of great danger.*

After the war, five soldiers—T/Sgt. Bjorgo (from Minnesota), Pfc. Campbell (Ohio), Pfc. Dragansky (Pennsylvania), Pfc. Koscianski (Ohio), and Pfc. Pool (Iowa)—were reburied at Normandy Cemetery (Colleville-sur-Mere), and two soldiers were reburied at Ardennes Cemetery (Neuville-en-Condroz)—Pfc. Schneider (California) and Pfc. Yoho (Michigan). All others were returned to the United States.

While in training, a group picture of 415th's Anti-Tank Company was made. TW Bryce C. Thornton remembered some of the fallen soldiers and mailed to Henk and Jose Koyen (of Foundation "Vrienden van de Timberwolves" [Friends of the Timberwolves]) the mens' location in the group picture. Ronald van Beek (also from the Foundation) provided the list to give these men a face.



Bryce C. Thornton



415th Infantry Regiment Anti-Tank Company  
[Photo courtesy of the Vincent De Saedeleer collection]



- .....
- (1) Astrid van Erp found this excerpt of Pfc. Pool's obituary in a newspaper from 1944;
  - (2) The destroyed bunker that exploded a couple of seconds after the initial explosion;
  - (3) The ammunition bunker that burst into flames (the initial explosion happened here);
  - (4) Inside the ammunition bunker (notice the rails for lifting and moving heavy, 210 mm shells, which weighed 135 kg each), facing the entrance;
  - (5) The wall in front of the ammunition room (at the end of the corridor);
  - (6) The wood ceiling of the corridor, which was common in the construction of bunker ceilings

[Photos courtesy of the Vincent De Saedeleer collection]

## 2020 REUNION—SCHEDULE & TOURS

### NATIONAL TIMBERWOLF PUPS ASSOCIATION 10th ANNUAL / JOINT REUNION with the 106TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

HILTON KANSAS CITY AIRPORT  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI  
SEPTEMBER 9–13, 2020

#### SCHEDULE of EVENTS

##### Wednesday, September 9

Reunion Registration open	8:30 AM–10:30 AM
KANSAS CITY TOUR	11:00 AM–4:00 PM
Reunion Registration open	4:00 PM–7:00 PM
NTPA Board Meeting	4:00 PM–6:00 PM
106th IDA Outgoing Board Meeting	5:00 PM–6:00 PM
Meet & Greet with 106th	6:00 PM–7:30 PM
Foxhole (Hospitality Room) open	7:30 PM–9:30 PM

*NOTE: Souvenir sales hours will be posted in the Foxhole.*

##### Thursday, September 10

Complimentary Breakfast Buffet	6:30 AM–9:00 AM
Foxhole (Hospitality Room) open	8:00 AM–9:30 PM
Reunion Registration open	8:30 AM–9:30 AM
ARABIA STEAMBOAT MUSEUM	9:45 AM–2:30 PM
NEW THEATRE & RESTAURANT	5:30 PM–10:30 PM

##### Friday, September 11

Complimentary Breakfast Buffet	6:30 AM–9:00 AM
NATIONAL WWI MUSEUM & MEMORIAL	9:30 AM–2:30 PM
NTPA Business & General Meeting	4:30 PM–6:00 PM
Foxhole (Hospitality Room) open	4:00 PM–9:30 PM
Beer Bust (w/ 106th)	7:00 PM–12:00 AM

##### Saturday, September 12

Complimentary Breakfast Buffet	6:30 AM–11:00 AM
106th IDA Memorial Service	9:00 AM–10:00 AM
NTPA Memorial Service	9:30 AM–11:00 AM
106th IDA New Board Meeting	3:30 PM–5:00 PM
Cash-Bar Reception (w/ 106th)	6:00 PM–7:00 PM
Banquet Dinner & Dance (separate)	7:00 PM–11:00 PM

##### Sunday, September 13

Complimentary Breakfast Buffet	6:30 AM–11:00 AM
Farewells and Departures	

#### TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

##### KANSAS CITY TOUR

**Wednesday, September 9:** Kansas City is known as the City of Fountains, and you'll see why as we make our way through the area. Points of interest include Clark's Point in Case Park, Union Station, the Liberty Memorial (the only memorial dedicated to those who served in World War I), the new Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts (much like the Sydney Opera House in Australia), and Kauffman Memorial Garden. You'll have free time for lunch at Country Club Plaza, Kansas City's premier entertainment district. The plaza offers more than 150 shops and restaurants nestled within old-world architecture, among captivating fountains and expressive works of art.

- 11:00 AM—Board bus at hotel
- 4:00 PM—Back to hotel
- \$39/Person (Includes bus & guide)
- Lunch is on your own.

##### ARABIA STEAMBOAT MUSEUM

**Thursday, September 10:** Journey back to 1856, when the Steamboat *Arabia* sank in the Missouri River with a wealth of treasures. Her excavation in 1988 uncovered a time capsule of remarkably preserved frontier supplies, including jewelry, china, cookware, clothing, and food. This international cargo is the largest collection of pre-Civil War artifacts in existence, and the display keeps growing! Enjoy lunch at the museum's cafe or at the adjacent City Market. This historic area features a farmer's market as well as gift shops, restaurants, and galleries.

- 9:45 AM—Board bus at hotel
- 2:30 PM—Back to hotel
- \$47/Person (Includes bus, guide & admission)
- Lunch is on your own.

##### NEW THEATRE & RESTAURANT

**Thursday, September 10:** Spend an evening at the theater, where you'll enjoy a buffet-style dinner and a live performance. The New Theatre & Restaurant is known for top-quality entertainment and great food. (Stay tuned for more details about the show in the next *HOWL*...)

- 5:30 PM—Board bus at hotel
- 10:30 PM—Back to hotel
- \$88/Person (Includes bus, dinner & show)
- Specialty drinks and desserts are not included.

##### NATIONAL WWI MUSEUM & MEMORIAL

**Friday, September 11:** Ranked the number-one attraction in Kansas City and the fifth-best museum in the US, the National World War I Museum & Memorial has been called a "national treasure"—America's only museum dedicated to sharing the stories of the Great War through the eyes of those who lived it. Upon arrival, we will participate in a brief memorial service outside of the Liberty Memorial Tower, which rises 217 feet above the main courtyard. After the service, you can tour the museum at your own pace, exploring interactive displays, thought-provoking films, eyewitness testimonies, and the largest collection of WWI artifacts in the world. Then grab lunch at the Crown Center Food Court nearby. (Note: The Liberty Memorial Tower is not wheelchair accessible and includes 45 steps.)

- 9:30 AM—Board bus at hotel
- 2:30 PM—Back to hotel
- \$66/Person (Includes bus, guide & admission)
- Lunch is on your own.

#### IMPORTANT NOTES

1. Please plan to be at the bus boarding area 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 cut-off date, Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. (AFR) shall process a full refund less the nonrefundable AFR registration fee (\$15 per person). Attendees canceling reunion activities after the cut-off 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 4:00 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. **PLEASE NOTE: Canceling your hotel reservation does not cancel your reunion activities.**

**HILTON KANSAS CITY AIRPORT—KANSAS CITY, MO**  
**(816) 891-8900 or (800) 445-8667**

<http://www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/missouri/hilton-kansas-city-airport-MCIAPHF/index.html>

**LOCATION**

**8801 NW 112th Street, Kansas City, MO 64153**

Located 5 minutes from the Kansas City International Airport  
and just 15 minutes from downtown Kansas City

**RESERVATION INFORMATION**

Please call one of the numbers above and reference the National Timberwolf Pups / 106th Infantry Division, or follow this link: <https://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/M/MCIAPHF-TIMBER-20200908/index.jhtml>.

**Group Name:** National Timberwolf Pups / 106th Infantry Division Military Reunion

**Reunion Dates:** September 9–13, 2020

**Rate:** \$109 + tax (currently 16.35%). Rate includes a daily complimentary breakfast buffet.

**Cut-off Date:** August 10, 2020 (*Late reservations will be processed based on availability and at a higher rate.*)

**Cancellation Policy:** Reservations must be canceled 48 hours prior to your arrival date to avoid a charge of one night's stay (\$109) plus tax.

**PARKING & SHUTTLE INFORMATION**

The Hilton Kansas City Airport offers complimentary parking to reunion attendees and their guests. A free shuttle service to and from Kansas City International Airport is also offered upon request. Please contact the hotel upon arrival at the airport and proceed to the baggage-claim area for pickup.

**WHEELCHAIR RENTAL**

ScotAround rents both manual and power wheelchairs by the day and by the week. Please call (888) 441-7575 or visit [www.scootaround.com](http://www.scootaround.com) for more details and to make reservations.

*“Notes from the Reunion Site Committee” continued from pg. 6*

ending! Of course, this depends on how many gifts we have to raffle off, but rest assured that all bags will be drawn from first. We are always trying to improve!

There is a lot to see and explore in Kansas City, including the National World War I Museum and Memorial. Unfortunately, the Truman Library is being renovated and

**“Clearly, we do have an important purpose in the NTPA!”**

may not be open when we arrive; but other available tours will cover many of the outstanding sights and sounds in this fabulous city. So take advantage of them, and share the enjoyment with our fellow devotees.

As far as the future goes, we have contacted other units that might want to think about joining

us. Expansion is always a slow but definite challenge that allows us to continue having reunions. We know we may need to adjust a bit, but the goal of continuing to honor our WWII Vets is a good one. A friend of mine overheard some young people talking about WWII, saying, “Wasn’t that in the ‘70s?” Clearly, we do have an important purpose in the NTPA!

With this in mind, we continue in our efforts to design a permanent 104th display at the Fort Douglas Military Museum, including the task of deciding which items and themes are “must haves” and which are “should haves.” We are hoping to set up a video conference or meeting with Jack and Pat Vallely, our own museum experts, and Beau Burgess, the Fort Douglas curator, to get the ball rolling. We hope to have a reunion in Salt Lake City when the time comes to open up the exhibit, though that may be a while off. Again, it’s good to have a goal that preserves the legacy of our beloved 104th Timberwolves.

I hope everyone is doing well and that you will put September 8–14 on your calendar for this year’s reunion in Kansas City. It is nice that the journey may be a close one for many of you. The center of the country is a good place to meet!

Cheers!

—JeNeal Ann Granieri  
 NTPA Treasurer & Site Committee Chair  
[jagranieri@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jagranieri@sbcglobal.net)



In 2019, the NTPA Battlefield Tour commemorated the 75th anniversary of the Timberwolves' baptism of fire in Europe. With each passing year, the National Timberwolf Association and, now, the National Timberwolf Pups Association have recorded and honored the passing of our Timberwolf Veterans and Wives among the Last Bugle Call in our *HOWL* publication. In a special note of tribute, the NTPA would like to remember two individuals included in this call: Robert "Bob" Huber and Mildred "Millie" Didlake.

Bob Huber, 415 Co G, joined the Timberwolves at the age of nineteen in February 1943 and passed through the war without wound to marry his wife, Mabel. He served as President of the NTA and helped lead multiple tours through Europe, joined by his family. Bob wore a golden 104th ring that he would offer with a story, pointing toward histories or noting that an infantryman never missed a chance to eat. He would recount an encounter during the war with ease, punctuated with a broad smile and a dry sense of humor, but always laced with a solemn nostalgia. He spent recent years delivering talks and educational sessions to venues in Pennsylvania (where he lived in Wyomissing) and nationally regarding his service and the Timberwolf involvement in WWII. During memorial services and tours, Bob often recited the poem, "Why Men Who Have Been to War Yearn to Reunite," expressing "As long as I have memory, I will think of them all, every day," ending each recitation in emotional tribute to his fellow Timberwolves: "such good men."

Millie Didlake was a rare wolf herself. While raising a family with her husband, Edmund, she found time to raise spirits for the 104th. Millie met TW Clifford Park, 415 Co C, in their kindergarten class, stayed in touch with him, and eventually joined the European Battlefield Tour in 2008. In a single trip, she adopted—and was adopted by—the National Timberwolf Association and wore the patch proudly ever

after. In the years since, Millie joined in additional European tours and in every annual reunion to pay her own tribute to the Timberwolves, grappling friends throughout the association and across seas with hoops of steel. Millie celebrated her 84th birthday while cruising the Rhine on a Timberwolf tour and all howled in chorus.

The enduring spirit of the 104th continues as we mourn each loss—each Veteran, each family member, each Friend. The yearning to reunite, taught to us by our Veterans, endures as we maintain the NTA's vitality and commitment in the NTPA, continuing the tradition of honoring the soldiers of the 104th Infantry Division and celebrating their accomplishments. Lest we forget...



—Paul Murphy  
NTPA Webmaster  
[paul.fr.murphy@gmail.com](mailto:paul.fr.murphy@gmail.com)

**Photo CDs by  
TW Pup Photographer Art Luque**

Available for Purchase—\$25 Each

- 2011 St. Louis Reunion
- 2011 European Battlefield Tour
- 2012 Colorado Springs Reunion
- 2013 Albuquerque Reunion
- 2014 Minneapolis Reunion
- 2015 New Orleans Reunion
- 2016 Washington, DC Reunion
- 2017 Reno Reunion
- 2018 Dayton Reunion
- 2019 Warwick 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  
Statement of Income and Expenses  
January 1, 2019–December 31, 2019**

**BANK BALANCE on JANUARY 1, 2019**  
 Checking account \$ 5,905  
 Savings account \$ 9,190  
**TOTAL \$15,095**

**DEPOSITS**  
 Dues \$ 4,005  
 Book sales \$ 1,385  
 Reunion income (sales/raffle) \$ 2,210  
 Donations \$ 225  
**TOTAL \$ 7,825**

**EXPENSES/DISBURSEMENTS**  
 HOWL production & mailing \$ 4,060  
 NTA web fees \$ 338  
 General postage/shipping \$ 149  
 General operating expenses \$ 732  
 Veteran support (West Point, etc.) \$ 1,224  
 Bank fees \$ 77  
**TOTAL \$ 6,580**

**BANK BALANCE on DECEMBER 31, 2019**  
 Checking account \$ 8,802  
 Savings account \$ 7,538  
**TOTAL \$16,340**

**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)**. **PayPal access** is also available on the **NTPA website**: <http://www.timberwolf104inf.org/membership--contact-us.html>

**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](mailto:jenealann@att.net), 415-412-3279 or 415-661-6753 (see mailing address listed above).**



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

*We will remember them.*

Compiled by Sandra Eberhard ([webpup@bellsouth.net](mailto:webpup@bellsouth.net))

Jacob C. Baboian 414 C	Thomas C. Fleming 104 HQ	Robert J. McKeegan 104 MP	Henry O. Vail 555 AAA Btry D
George Bacon 415 C	Wayne B. Gold 104 HQ	John C. Miller 414 B	Douglas Weaver 329 C
Danny Barnes 413 I	Frederick Haddad Unit unknown	Stanley Muska 104 Band	WIFE or WIDOW
Lawrence R. Bell 104 QM	John Hastings 414 F	Robert Personius 386 FA HQ	Lois Burke 413 I (Harold)
Robert F. Boehm 555 AAA Btry C	Charles Humphries 415 M	Ernesto M. Rodriguez Unit unknown	Bernadette M. Noss 555 AAA Btry B (Arthur)
Charles F. Breuninger 415 E	William J. Johnson 104 MP	Leonard Rossi 104 HQ	Helen Thornton 415 AT (Bryce)
John L. Carroll 415 E	Arthur Kaczmarek 104 Band	Jack Schwanhausser 414 F	Barbara Warren 414 AT (Donald)
Frank B. Carruth 104 HQ	Holman Lilienstern 104 HQ	Ralph Simpson Unit unknown	LONGTIME FRIEND
Leonard Erlichman 104 QM	Peter Madia 104 HQ	Kenneth Sturgeon 555 AAA Btry B	Mildred "Millie" Didlake
Bryce Finch 415 G	J. D. McGlohon 104 HQ	Paul L. Sunderland 329 Eng HQ	

(21) [L-R] Pups JoAnne Rajek & Mary Jamieson; (22) [L-R] Pups Lonnie & Jacquelyn Groe with Pup Melissa Morasch; (23) Pups MSG (Ret.) Grace Hsu & MSG (Ret.) Gary Nienhuis; (24) [L-R] SGM (Ret.) Lyle Wold & LCDR (Ret.) Al McDonnell; (25) [L-R] Earl Richards, our adopted WWII Vet/Friend from New Mexico, enjoying the Foxhole with another TW Friend; (26) Pups Clark & Ann Howell; (27) Pup Priscilla McNamara; (28) 106th Friend with Pup Dorothy Meyer; (29) A raffle surprise for 106th Friend Frances Cowart; (30) [L-R] 106th Friend Kathleen Lyons & Pup JoAnne Rajek; (31) Laughin' & rafflin' at the Beer Bust; (32) the Memorial Service Color Guard; (33) Frances Francis salutes her husband & other TWs at the annual Candle Ceremony; (34) Pup Mary Jamieson; (35) Pups Richard & Martin Chromik; (36 & 37) 106th Vets Herb Sheaner & Bradford Holmes enjoying the Banquet; (38) Pups CSM (Ret.) James & Mary Davis; (39) [L-R] Vet Earl Richards & two 106th Vets; (40) Dressed in their finest: [L-R] TW Friend from the NY Guard, Pup Clark Howell & NTPA President, CPT Andy Lane [Photos courtesy of NTPA Photographer Art Luque & available for purchase (see the ad on page 12)]

2019 REUNION PHOTO GALLERY (CONT.)



## NATIONAL TIMBERWOLF PUPS ASSOCIATION

Vets, Family & Friends of the 104th Infantry Division WWII  
1749 9th Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94122  
[www.timberwolf104inf.org](http://www.timberwolf104inf.org)



TW Keith Zimmerman (HQ) representing all of our beloved 104th Veterans at the 9th Annual / 2019 NTPA Reunion Memorial Service at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick, Rhode Island

*Photo courtesy of NTPA Photographer Art Luque*