

Volume 4
Issue 2

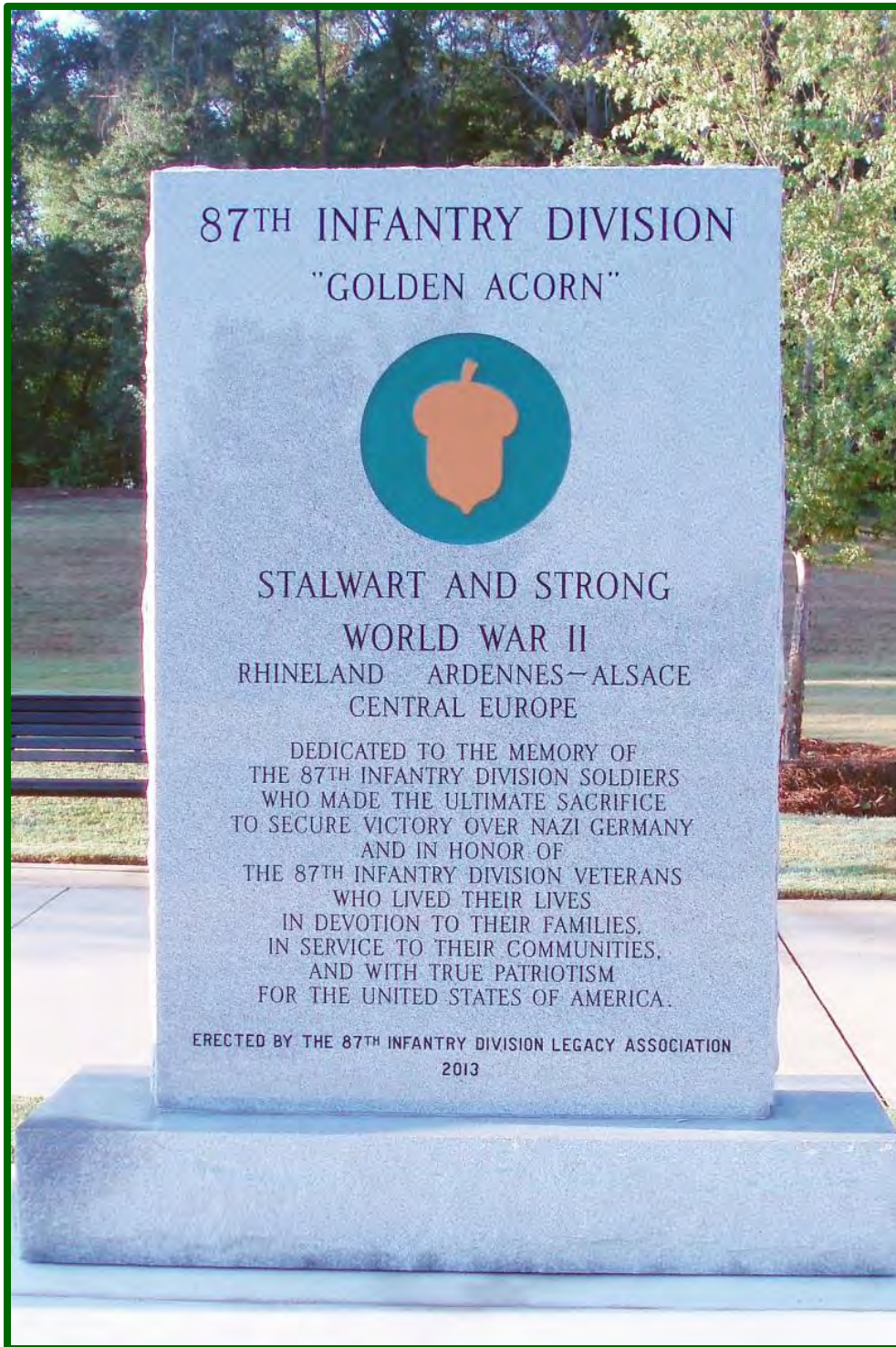


87th Infantry Division

Ardennes • Rhineland • Central Europe

GAN LEGACY EDITION

87TH MONUMENT DEDICATION
National Infantry Museum Memorial Walk of Honor
Fort Benning, Georgia



Monument Dedication Ceremony



Fred Carmichael – Pledge of Allegiance



Eldon Gracy - Invocation



Tom Burgess – Emcee



Guy Millard - Benediction



Thank you to all who made this monument possible

Donor List

Donor's Name	In Honor/Memory Of	
	Name	Unit
Hazel Adams	Bernard Adams	A-346
Ralph J. Ahrens	Ralph J. Ahrens	I-346
Harold E. Allan	Harold E. Allan	I-347
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Howard Bram	Howard Bram	Med-347
Joanne Bree	Joseph Bree	B-346
Melvin Brenner	Melvin Brenner	K-345
Bob Brown	Wm Brown	D-345
Harold Browne	All 87th Deceased	
Tom Burgess	Cpt Wm Kromer	A-345 (KIA)
Claudia Burr	Claude Glenn Wilson	C-334FA
William Burrus	Milton Miller, M.D.	C-347?
Girard Calehuff	Girard Calehuff	D-345
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Frederick Carmichael	Frederick Carmichael	F-347
Harold Champol	Harold Champol	C-345
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	Name	Unit
Victor Cross	Victor Cross	B-345
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Kathy & Denny	John W. Higgins	A-346
Noll Davis	Noll Davis	B-346
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Elden B. Hartshorn	Lt. Hall	I-345
Elden B. Hartshorn	William Kubrick	I-345
Juliana Hassett	Anthony M. Dawkins	549th AAA, batt. A
Merle H. Hatfield	Merle H. Hatfield	I-345
John Haugan	John Haugan	A-312 Egr.
Richard Hazen	Harold Hazen	H-345
Korine Headlee	Jack Higgins	A-346
Mathieu Hebette	Members of 87th Infantry Division	
Melanie Hewes	Raymond Miles	I-347
Thomas R. Hewlett, Jr.	Thomas R. Hewlett, Sr.	I-347
John W.	Lawrence Shootman	A-346
Justin Higgins	Jack Higgins	A-346
Timothy Higgins	Jack Higgins	A-346
Wyman Hilbert	Wyman Hilbert	C-334FA
William Hise	William Hise	F-345
Mary L. Hittle	Donald E. Hittle	I-347

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Robert Hoffman	Robert Hoffman	K-347
Patrick Holzmacher	Charles Holzmacher	
Tim Hoon	Tim Hoon	346
Wayne Hudson	Gibby Gibson	
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Roger Isaacs	Roger Isaacs	E-345
Floyd Johansen	Irvin Pontell & Wardlaw Watson	I-346
Keith Jones	Members of 346th Service Comp.	SC-346
Eugene Kaplan	Gerald Feiffer	F-346 (KIA)
Eugene Kaplan	Richard Shankman	E-346 (KIA)
Leonard Karlin	Leonard Karlin	A-312 MED
Jack Kay	Col. James Healy	312Med
Mrs. Vivian Kennely	John Kennely	F-346
Bernard J. Klemmer, Sr.	Those who did not make it	
Janice Klick	Ervin "Dutch" Sherk	I-346
Robert J. Knect	Robert J. Knect	M-345
Kay Kolacki	Leonard Kolacki	F-346
Claire Korn	Jules Korn	F-347
Susan M. Kranz	Robert A. Karmade	H-347
Vincent R. Kranz	Robert Karmade & William Stiegmeirer	H-347
Arthur Kunin	Arthur Goldschmidt	HQ-347
George A. Kwak	George A. Kwak	I-347
R. Dennis Lennon	Woodrow W. Lennon	B-347
Jesse Leonard	Jesse Leonard	D-346
Donald Leutz, jr.	Donald Leutz	346, 3rd Batt
Karen Lilley	Robert Purple	A-346
William Lillis	William Lillis	K-346
Karolyn Lindberg	Warren Lindberg	E-347
Gregory Lobell	Donel R. Dawson	C-345
Richard C. Manchester	Richard K. Steck	K-345
Seth Marks	Marvin Marks	D-345
Tom Martinelli	Tom Martinelli	I-345
Ronald Martz	Theodore Martz	87 MP 006
George Matyas	George Matyas	B-347
John McAuliffe	John McAuliffe	M-347
Dennis C. McCarthy	George Watson	M-346
Mark A. McCullough	Herbert N. McCullough	E-345

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James J. McNeil	James J. McNeil	E-347
Margaret A. Meland	David J. Fitzgibbon	HQ-345
Raymond Miles	Raymond Miles	I-347
Nancy Millard	Guy Millard	H-345
Claire Z. Moser	Barney J. Zmoda	A-346
Helen Moyle	James Moyle	H-346
Tim Muilenburg	Ivan R. Muilenburg	549th AAA, Batt. C
Dorothy Muza	John Muza	E-346
Leo Nencini	Leo Nencini	HQ3-346
Mildred Nicodemus	Roger M. Nicodemus	SV-346 003
Louis North	Louis North, Col Ret.	K-346
Zenobia Oaks	Prentiss Oaks	HQ3BN345
Ann Oaks	Prentiss Oaks	HQ3BN345
James Oaks	Prentiss Oaks	HQ3BN345
Cynthia R. O'Brien	Spencer A. Reed	G-345
James H. Ogden	James H. Ogden	L-346
Patricia Olson	John A. Olson	I-347
Ernest Oistad	Ernest Oistad	E-347
Carl Opich	Carl Opich	SV-345
Richard Parsons	Richard Parsons	C-312MED
Maureen Pfluger	Richard Pfluger	D-347
Albrecht Powell	Robert Powell	HQ2-347
William T. Prather, III	William T. Prather, Jr.	F-345
Raymond Premuroso	Raymond Premuroso, Sr.	K-345
Corine Prieto	Manuel M. Prieto	H&S-312ENG
Phyllis Purple	Robert Purple	A-346
Robert Purple	Lester Atwell	G-345
Robert Purple	Michael Petrick	M-346
Robert Purple	Gilbert Dehnkamp & Mitchel Kaidy	G-345 & D-345
Mary Reading	Thomas J. Atchison	L-346
Spencer A. Reed	Spencer A. Reed	G-345
Raymond Rissler	Joseph Schatzl	G-345
Ann Rolik	Milan Rolik	K-346
Dr. Benjamin	Dr. Benjamin Rosenberg	B-312MED
Bette M. Ruh	Edwin Ruh	QM
Joan Sallada	Mahlon Krum	B-346
Ellen Sausser	Larry Sausser	DIV HQ

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David G. Schellhase, Jr.	David G. Schellhase	H-345
Laramie Scott		
Reinold J. Schutte	Reinold J. Schutte	I-347
Harry Serulneck	John Renniger	M-347
Harry Serulneck	William Stein	M-347KIA
Mildred (Millie) Sholly	Mahlon Krum	B-346
Tina Sholly	Mahlon Krum	B-346
Wayne Smith	Prentiss Oaks	HQ3BN345
Glenn Soelberg	Glenn Soelberg	E-347
Dr. Leonard	Dr. Leonard Solon	D-347
Mark Spain	George Spain	B-345
George Spain, Jr.	George Spain, Jr.	B-345
Bruce Stevenson	James D. Stevenson	HqCo2Bn346
Barbara L. Strang	Theodore R. Anderson	912FA BatB
Diane Stringer	Guy Millard	H-345
Warren Sweeney	Warren Sweeney	M-345
Douglas Thomsen	William Thomsen	DivHqCo
Linda Tiller	William Jennings Tiller	C-347
Timothy Townsend	Anthony C. Townsend	?-347
George Watson	Mike Petrick & Al Schwartz	M-346
Edmund Wesselman	Edmund Wesselman	K-347
Paul Wetenhall	Ben Wetenhall	AT-347
Wallace Willingham	Wallace Willingham	B-347
Paul Winkler	Bill Harper	Service Co 346
Elaine E. Winters	Mahlon Y. Krum	B-346
Nellie Yedinak	Charles A. Yedniak	Med-347
Sam Zaro	Sam Zaro	87-SIG
Kevin Zeller	Robert Zeller	HQ2-347
Kathy Ziegler	Robert Purple	A-346
Barney J. Zmoda	Joseph Boyle	
Andrew Zmoda	Barney J. Zmoda	A-346
Robin L. Zmoda	Barney J. Zmoda	A-346

We sincerely hope that our donor list is complete and accurate. When we began this project, we never dreamed that we would be able to complete it without using funds from our treasury. The donations for this project exceeded our expectations and wildest dreams. The surplus donations were utilized to pay for as much of the Fort Benning outing as possible. We were able to provide the bus transportation and the lunch at the mess hall with the excess donations.

Educational Forum and 64th Veteran's Reunion

October 2013 - Atlanta



Veterans and Acornettes in Attendance

Front Row Seated Left to Right: Harry Serulneck, Dave Fitzgibbon, Elias Cuevas, John McAuliffe, George Watson, James Ogden, Bernard Klemmer, Hank Rosen, George Matyas.

Standing Left to Right: Jack Higgins, Claire Korn, John Huber, Bette Ruh, Walter Clarke, Spencer Reed, Rodney Perkins, Keith Jones, Victor Cross, Bill Hise, Hal Browne, William Burrus, Fred Whitaker, Pat Olson, Fred Carmichael, Ray Rissler, Thomas Atchison, Howell Moore, Tom Burgess, Barney Zmoda, George Eckerson, Jessie Bowman, Eldon Gracy, Guy Millard, Cecil Newton, Bill Allen, Richard Manchester.

Atlanta and Fort Benning 2013 Reunion Report

By Jim Oaks, President 2012-13

It has been two weeks since our 2013 reunion in Atlanta as I start to write this, but the memory of the four days we spent together are still vivid. This is a recap of the events as I saw them. Others may write from a different perspective, but I think they all will rate the reunion outstanding.

My trip to Atlanta began Tuesday afternoon from my home in Huntsville, Alabama, with a drive to Columbus, Georgia, where I spent the night in order to do some final coordination Wednesday morning with our contacts at the National Infantry Museum (NIM) and Fort Benning.



National Infantry Museum

Wednesday morning I was able to make an early check in at the new Hampton Inn adjacent to the NIM where I had made reservations for Wednesday and Thursday night.

By mid-morning my friend Junior Stephens had arrived from Huntsville. He brought the sound system and tents that we used at the dedication on Thursday. I showed Junior the monument location and we made plans to set up for the dedication the following morning.

After checking with Major Harry Irving, my military contact at Fort Benning, and with Steven McClafin with the National Infantry Foundation (NIF) and confirming the support for the monument dedication, I had lunch with Junior then headed north to the Marriott in Atlanta to attend the afternoon forum.

The drive from Fort Benning to the Atlanta hotel took a little over an hour and a half since the traffic flow on Interstates 288 and 88 was smooth and the hotel was located only two miles from the Interstate exit. I had brought a projector that Dennis Lennon and Ron Krum needed for their afternoon presentation about their father's experience as prisoners of war. Dennis's dad was captured during the first days of the Division's combat in the Saar and had never talked much to Dennis about the experience before he died.



Dennis Lennon presenting at Wednesday forum

Over the years Dennis has been able to piece together the experience primarily after discovering an article from an interview with his dad that was published in a newspaper soon after his return from WW II.

Ron's dad had been more forthcoming about his POW experience over the years before his death and Ron had made visits back to Belgium and Germany with his dad.

After their presentations I gave a short briefing to the group on the anticipated activities planned for Fort Benning on Thursday and implored everyone to pace themselves since it was going to be a long day and the weather would be a little warmer than idea. After answering a few questions, I headed back to the Hampton Inn at Fort Benning where Junior and I made our final plans for the next morning then tried to get some sleep.

We were up early on Thursday and moved the sound equipment and tents to the monument. John Gonzales with the NIF had left the gate open to allow us to move Junior's pickup close to the monument. After breakfast at the hotel we then picked six wheelchairs that the NIF was allowing us to use for the day and moved them to the location where the busses would park later that morning. By then I had confirmed with Karen Lilley and Tom Hewlett that the busses had departed Atlanta around 8:00 and they were hoping to arrive by 9:45 in order to view the band performance that was scheduled to start about 10 minutes before the graduation ceremony, scheduled for 10:00.

The parents and family members of the soldiers in the graduating company began to fill the viewing stand around 9:00, but the Army had reserved a section for our group. Vince Kranz and his wife Sue were staying in Pine Mountain, Ga., so they arrived around 9 and were there to help move any using wheelchairs from the bus to the stands. While waiting for the busses to arrive, Vince had time to take pictures in the Walk of honor and made pictures of the 87th group as they moved from the busses to the stands for the graduation.



The first part of the graduation program had begun by the time our group had moved into the stands, but all were seated by the time the company of graduates marched across the field for their graduation. Before the battalion commander of the graduating company began his introductory remarks he recognized the 38 veterans of the 87th who were in attendance and said they would be dedicating the monument in the afternoon.



The graduation concluded by 11:00 and the group boarded busses to travel onto Fort Benning to the Mess Hall (now called a dining facility or DFAC by the Army.) The group arrived about 15 minutes before the DFAC opened so they were able to be at the front of the line for the noon meal.



U.S. colors and the 87th Infantry Division colors that the Legacy Association keeps.



The facility offered a number of choices. One could go through the main meal line which offered a choice of three entrees, or you could make a short order for a burger if desired. The salad bar was well stocked and deserts were plentiful. The best change from the WW II days was that there was no KP duty to be performed. All members of the cooking and wait staff are civilian employees and they were a friendly group.

After the meal it was time to reload the busses to return to the parade parking area which was also the closest point to the Walk of Honor where the 87th monument was located. As the group moved from the busses to the chairs in front on the monument a quintet from the Army band played music as those arriving were able to admire the monument and some were able to take pictures before the ceremony began. Even though the program listed an “unveiling” as part of the ceremony, a decision was made to forego that part and leave the monument uncovered in order for all to see the monument as they arrived.

The afternoon temperature had reached the high 80s, so Tom Burgess, the emcee for the event, moved the ceremony along expeditiously. In addition to the quintet from the Army band, Fort Benning also provided a 4-man Color Guard unit who carried both the

After the presentation of Colors, Fred Carmichael led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance and all joined Tom Burgess in the singing of the National Anthem. Eldon Gracy gave the invocation and the monument was accepted for the National Infantry Foundation by retired Command Sergeant Major Steve McClafin.

The ceremony was concluded with a benediction by Guy Millard and the trumpeter from the quintet blew Taps from a distance. Tom Burgess then called for the Colors to be retired and the official ceremony ended. Then those who had not been able to make pictures before the ceremony had ample time for their own.

From the Walk of Honor the group made their way to the entrance of the National Infantry Museum where each attending WW II veteran was given a certificate as they entered. Unfortunately, parts of the museum, including the World War II area, were closed due to the government shutdown that had started the first of the week of the reunion.



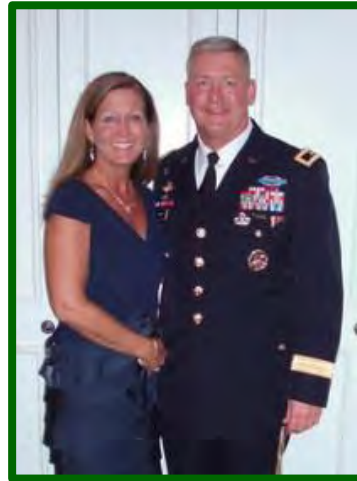
Jim Oaks transferring the monument to the National Infantry Foundation, accepted by retired Command Sergeant Major Steve McClafin

Fortunately the shutdown did not affect the rest of the Fort Benning visit. After the hour or more at the museum it was time to move again, this time back onto the post to the Fort Benning Conference Center, the building that had served as the Officers Club in the past.



The hall where the evening meal was served provided the most decorative setting that we enjoyed during the reunion. Since Fort Benning is now home to both the Infantry and Armor branches, one side of the hall was decorated with yellow Armor flags and the other with blue Infantry colors. During the meal a four piece combo from the Army band provided music.

After the meal Brigadier General David Haight, the assistant post commander, head of the Infantry school and the highest ranking Infantry officer on the post, gave a welcome talk to the veterans and their guest and assured them that the present group of young soldiers that he commands are as fit and well



trained as any the Army has had. He related personal stories from his days as a young Lieutenant to the later years as a commander of large groups. All were testimonies of how fighting soldiers are dependent on each other.

The General and his wife Molly were quite personable and spent lots of time before and after the dinner talking with the veterans, often kneeling down to speak with those in wheel chairs.

After a mini concert by the Army combo followed General Haight's talk, it was time to reboard the busses for the trip back to the Marriott in Atlanta. The group's long day ended around 10 p.m. back at the hotel. Some may have found the long day almost as exhausting as the infamous move from the Saar region to Belgium in December, 1944. But at least they were traveling on a warm bus instead of an open "6 by 6" this time.

Friday morning began with the second forum session conducted by Dennis McCarthy with the help of his uncle, George Watson and his nephew, Col. Brian McCarthy. Col. McCarthy is an Air Force pilot currently stationed in D.C. and he was able to get some time off to help Dennis with two excellent education forums on Friday, one titled "Thinking Outside the Box" in the morning and "The

Evolution of Close Air Support (1944-2013) in the afternoon.



George Watson, M-346, with nephew Col. Brian McCarthy

Friday evening we enjoyed the traditional mixer buffet followed by entertainment from a small group from an area college called the Atlanta Patriot Brass Ensemble. They regaled us with patriotic tunes from the Civil War and forward. This group of six college music majors filled the room with the sound of a 20 piece brass band. After Karen Lilley and Tom Hewlett awarded some door prizes many of the group moved to the hospitality room on the top floor for more conversations.

Saturday's activity began with the annual Business Meeting at which our new set of officers was introduced. Many of the same people agreed to continue to serve on the executive committee with Dennis McCarthy becoming the President and Korine Headlee taking the secretary position. Dennis Lennon agreed to take a position on the committee and became the second vice president. Mark Roth, the Legacy GAN editor, encouraged the

veterans to send their stories for publication and announced that Barbara Strang will be helping as an assistant editor for 2013-14. The other reports were upbeat with all expressing satisfaction and pride with the completion of the monument project in the past year. The meeting then adjourned for a short break before the Memorial Service.

This year our Memorial Service was conducted by Korine Headlee. The Color Guard was composed of our own veterans, Tom Burgess, Fred Whitaker, George Watson and John McAuliffe. Vince Kranz, Tim Muilenburg, and Korine Headlee read the names of members who died in the past year

After lunch Tim Higgins conducted the final forum titled "A Soldier's Experience in the 87th." Tim solicited comments from the group for this session. During all the sessions, going back to Pittsburgh, Tim has also videotaped the presentations and has made them available online. His efforts in this area have been very valuable and are much appreciated.

Fred Whitaker served as emcee for the banquet on Saturday evening. The program included the keynote address by retired Col. William Gavan and reflections from each of the past legacy presidents, Tom Hewlett, Craig Stiegemeier, Ron Krum, Tim Higgins, Jim Oaks and the incoming president, Dennis McCarthy. The evening ended with some group singing and a closing benediction by John McAuliffe. Again, many still had time to spend some more special minutes in the hospitality room as some said good bye until next year in Pittsburgh.

Note: As I have concluded this tonight, it's almost a month since the reunion and there are a lot of memories of those four days in Georgia that I have not written about. However, just as you who were there know, it was a wonderful combination of events and memories. For those of us who have helped make the 87th Infantry Division Legacy Association a reality that started with a seed planted by Barbara Strang in Birmingham, Alabama in 1998, we simply say it has been a pleasure to serve.

Golden Acorn News – Legacy Edition

Tom Hewlett

Craig Stiegemeier

Ron Krum



Tim Higgins

Jim Oaks

Dennis McCarthy

Thanks to all!

Karen Lilley and Tom Hewlett
Reunion Co-chairs

This year's reunion in Atlanta was a huge success with 183 in attendance spanning four generations, including 39 veterans and 5 Acornettes. As always, this wonderful time together would not be possible without the spirited help from all the volunteers. Thanks to everyone who contributed, with special thanks to the following:

- Registration: Pat Hewlett and Joan Sallada
- Quarter Masters: Tina and Millie Sholly
- Monument Dedication: Jim Oaks, Tom Burgess, Eldon Gracy, Guy Millard, Preston Durrer – photography
- Bus Captains: Tom Hewlett, Karen Lilley, Tim Muilenburg
- Memorial Service: Korine Headlee, John McAuliffe, Dick Manchester, Barney Zmoda, Vince Kranz and Tim Muilenburg
- Memorial Service Color Guard organized by Tom Burgess: Jesse Bowman, John McAuliffe, George Watson, Fred Whitaker
- Banquet program: Fred Whitaker (MC,) John MacAuliffe and Bob Purple

- Educational Forums: Korine Headlee, Dennis McCarthy, Tim Higgins, Ron Krum, Dennis Lennon, Brian McCarthy and George Watson
- Hospitality Room: Ron Krum and Craig Stiegemeier
- Video production of reunion events and highlights will be made available for posterity and for all to view on our website by Tim Higgins.
- And lest we forget, we are so grateful for the on-going efforts of Preston Durrer, Webmaster and Mark Roth, Editor- GAN-LE

64th Veterans Reunion and Educational Forum

Pittsburgh, August 2-4, 2014

Karen Lilley - Reunion Coordinator

What a great time we had in Atlanta and we are responding to your enthusiasm with plans for another reunion which is less than 9 months away! This will be a scaled-down version of our previous gatherings, but it



t Marriott on Saturday, August 2 and Sunday,

Looking For a Reunion Assistant for 2014!

Karen Lilley - Reunion Coordinator

Have you enjoyed the last several reunions in D.C., Pittsburgh, Providence and Atlanta? I am looking for someone to assist me in 2014.

As you might know, Tom Hewlett has stepped back from his role as reunion co-chair in order to focus on other 87thIDLA responsibilities. In addition to his office Assistant Treasurer, he has taken on the project of cataloguing the 87th ID memorials and monuments throughout the world.

August 4 where we have enjoyed their fine hospitality and amenities, and close proximity to the Pittsburgh International Airport. They are offering a discounted room rate of \$99.00 (plus 14% tax) per night which has been extended to three days prior to and after our event. This might appeal to families who would like to stay longer and take in some of the attractions in the Pittsburgh area. Reservations may be made by calling the national reservation line at 800-228-9290 or by calling the hotel directly at 412-788-8800. Please identify yourself as a member of the 87thIDLA in order to receive the discounted rate.

A final itinerary will be available on the website (www.87thinfantrydivision.com) in a few months and you will receive registration materials by email and snail mail sometime in March 2014. Events will include 1-3 educational forums, a Saturday mixer and Sunday banquet. The hospitality room will be open for gathering, spirits and snacks for the duration.

We hope you will join us!

He is also in communication with the offices of the Illinois Secretary of State and the Attorney General in order to sustain the incorporated status of the 87th IDLA. Thank you Tom, for all you have done to make the last reunions so successful and for your contributions to the association!

I have agreed to organize next year's reunion and have signed the contract with the Pittsburgh Marriott where we have been before. The dates have been moved to Saturday 8/2 and Sunday 8/3 in order to accommodate more people. In spite of the fact that Reunion 2014 will be a scaled-down version of recent years, there is much preparatory work to be done. There are a few "projects" which can be easily delegated and I'd love to speak with you about them if you are interested. This would also be an opportunity for you to lend a hand during the actual reunion itself, responding to the many details needing immediate attention. In the spirit of "full disclosure," I should be honest about my hopes that this person might consider taking the lead for 2015, with my assistance or with support from someone else. Reflecting over the last several years, it appears that, ideally, the lead should be someone working part-time or semi-retired, however, with a scaled-down program, it is quite possible that less time and energy would be required.

Personally, I have found my reunion planning role incredibly fulfilling and deeply satisfying and have considered it a wonderful opportunity to show my gratitude to our veterans for the role they played in preserving peace and democracy throughout the world. If you'd like to explore joining me in this privilege, I invite you to contact me by email or phone (978) 563-1477. Let's talk!

Army Marching Cadence

***As S/Sgt. Fred Carmichael, F-347,
remembers from 25-mile marches in
training.***

The **coffee** the Army gives you
They say is mighty fine.
It's good for cuts and bruises
And tastes like iodine.

*I don't want any more of this Army life.
Gee Mom, I want to go home.*

The **chicken** the Army gives you
They say is the very best.
You'll get the neck and the asshole
And the officers get the rest.

*I don't want any more of this Army life.
Gee Mom, I want to go home.*

The **turkey** the Army gives you
They say is mighty fine.
A piece fell off the table
And killed a pal of mine.

*I don't want any more of this Army life.
Gee Mom, I want to go home.*

GOOD TIMES



Pat Hewlett and Joan Sallada at Registration Table



Bill Gavin, Guest Speaker,
with Jim Oaks at Banquet



Dick and Sheila Manchester, K-345
Dinner at Fort Benning



Jim Oaks with David Fitzgibbon and his daughters



Robert Wallace, L-346

From the President's Desk:

Dennis McCarthy

Skill, Bravery, Dedication, Comradeship - these are the traits of the men who fought at the Battle of the Bulge. It's no wonder, then, that some sixty-eight years later, the 87th Infantry Division Legacy Association is still going strong. I am deeply honored to serve as President of this wonderful organization.

My "Favorite Uncle George" (George Watson M-346) didn't talk much about his years in the service as I was growing up. As kids we all knew he had fought in the Battle of the Bulge. But we didn't know much else. It wasn't until a few years ago, when I had reason to stay with him in New York for an extended period, that the details of Uncle George's military service became known to me. And what a story it was. During long walks (at least 5 miles), we had lots of conversations about many topics. I talked about my military experience in Korea and Germany (Captain US Army Corp of Engineer 1968 to 1972). But Uncle George is a "talker" and I learned a lot about the 87th. He told me about the upcoming transition of his Army Division Reunion Organization to what is now the 87th Infantry Division Legacy Association. It sounded like a good thing for him and the Unit. I didn't think, then, about how I would become a part of it.

When I heard that the 2010 reunion would be in Pittsburgh (where I live) I decided to surprise Uncle George and show up to support him. I really didn't know what to expect. Was I going to be surrounded by a bunch of grumpy old guys or a bunch of guys that were great to be around? What a surprise! Instead of just spending the minimal amount of time just to show my appreciation for Uncle George, I couldn't get enough of the great people, their stories, and the atmosphere in general. I guess that's when I became hooked. I told all of my family what a great experience the Reunion was.

Pittsburgh Reunion 2011 – It was an easy decision to participate for the second time. I even got a friend of mine, a history buff, to join me for some of the sessions, but I attended everything.

Rhode Island Reunion 2012 – I flew to NY so I could help Uncle George with the driving. (*I got to do all the driving because someone's wallet went missing hours after we got started. I also was allowed to pay for everything. How convenient!*). Needless to say, I had another great experience. Tim Higgins, the President at the time, asked me to be the next 1st Vice President. I didn't hesitate to agree. I felt this organization deserved my time. My only concern...how I was going to live up to the standards I had seen at the other reunions? My job was to organize the Educational Forums for the 2013 Reunion.

Atlanta Reunion 2013 – I am proud to say that my nephew, Brian McCarthy, is a Colonel in the U.S. Air Force. During a family gathering, Brian, Uncle George and I kicked around some ideas for the upcoming Educational Forums. Our creativity was bolstered by numerous glasses of scotch and we all remembered occasions where we had completed tasks, either by unlikely methods or against commander's orders. The results were two of the Educational Forums of the Atlanta Reunion. Brian's schedule permitted him to personally present his "story" and attendees seemed to hang on his every word. He was enthusiastically welcomed by fellow members and he and his father are now members.



Brian McCarthy, George Watson, Ed McCarthy and Dennis McCarthy

My thanks are extended to the many individuals who helped with the 2013 Reunion. But a special thank you to...

- Brian for taking time from his busy schedule at the Pentagon.
- Jim Oaks for all his hard work and dedication related to the 87th Infantry Division monument at the National Infantry Museum's Walk of Honor at Fort Benning, GA.
- Karen Lilley for all her contributions in making the 2013 Reunion a success.

As with most organizations, we have challenges ahead. The most significant challenge for the 87th IDLA appears to be how we will proceed beyond the 2014 Reunion. Do we continue as we have in previous years, do we schedule fewer days, do we merge with another association, or do we not have reunions and limit the involvement to our web site only? We need to explore the pros and cons of all of these options. We need to discuss them with the Veterans. We need to insure that the 87th Infantry Division Legacy continues. I welcome your comments.

For the 2014 Reunion, Tom Hewlett and I will be identifying all of the significant 87th locations for training, ports, battle sites, etc. We plan a display for the hospitality room, where attendees can view these locations, along with photos and images from Google Earth. Please send any information you have to Tom or me. I'm looking forward to serving the Association and seeing you in Pittsburgh in 2014.



87th Infantry Division Legacy Association

Ardennes Rhineland
Central Europe



87th Infantry Division Legacy Association Annual Business Meeting October 5, 2013 – Atlanta, Georgia Time: 10:00 am EST

Agenda

1. Call to order – President Jim Oaks – called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of Agenda/Additions – Jim Oaks (No additions were made.)

3. Introduction of Board Members – Jim thanked all the volunteers involved in making the reunion a successful one. He stated that without all our volunteers help the reunion would not be possible. The Board in turn wanted to recognize Jim's hard work this year especially in getting the Division monument at Fort Benning completed and dedicated. All the following 2012-2013 Board Members were present except Preston Durrer and Bob Purple.

1st VP: Dennis McCarthy, 2nd VP: Korine Headlee, Secretary: Jean Petruck, Treasurer: Vince Kranz, Asst. Secretary for Membership: Tim Muilenburg, Asst. Treasurer for Operations: Tom Hewlett, Jr., Webmaster: Preston Durrer, Editors, Golden Acorn News – Legacy Edition: Mark I. Roth and Barbara Strang, Historian: Jim Ogden, III, Quartermaster: Tina Sholly, Veterans advisors: Tom Burgess, A-345, John McAuliffe, M-347, Bob Purple, A-346, Past Legacy Association Presidents: 2008 Thomas R. Hewlett, Jr., 2009 Craig L. Stiegemeier, 2010 Ronald R. Krum, 2011-2012 Tim Higgins, Reunion Coordinators: Karen Lilley and Tom Hewlett, Jr.

4. Approval of Minutes – Minutes from last year's Annual Meeting had been approved by the Board in conference call in 2012.

5. Treasurers Report – Vince Kranz Vince reported we are in good financial health. As of the end of September there was \$47,758.06 in the account which included \$15,900 from AFR for registration of the reunion. As of September 30, \$2,000 dues have been received as well as \$1,145 of donations. There was a cost of \$1,450 for printing the GAN. Donations for the monument in 2013 were \$7,500. Total donations for the monument were \$18,200 so the monument is paid off. Outflow recorded were \$10 for reporting our 501 status, \$1,800 for GAN printing, \$4,763 in other expenses associated with the monument and \$200 for postage. So far this year a total of \$7,700 in expenses have been recorded. Reunion expenses as of this date are \$12,500.

A question was asked as to how much the monument did cost. Vince responded the monument cost \$11,500 leaving \$6,700 left in contributions. He stated there would be more costs associated with the dedication ceremony.

Another question arose as to fees associated with the care/maintenance of the monument. There was discussion following regarding using the money to take care of the Walk of Honor monument as well as other monuments

that are in the U.S. and other parts of the world. We will be pursuing finding out where all these monuments are located and what type of care and maintenance would be needed where costs would be incurred.

Regarding other costs – we reported a motion the Board made to lend monetary support to a private museum that John McAuliffe told us about in Belgium. It was decided that the amount to be determined for this museum would be discussed after all expenses have been recorded for this reunion.

Items of Business:

6. 2013 Reunion – Karen Lilley – Karen reported that we have 183 in attendance; 39 are veterans and 4 acornettes.

7. 2014 Reunion – Karen Lilley/Tom Hewlett – Karen reported that the reunion next year is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, August 1st and 2nd (later changed to Saturday and Sunday, August 2nd and 3rd) in Pittsburgh at the Pittsburgh Marriott Hotel. She advised that there will be no tours, we will have one educational forum, a Memorial Service and business meeting. There will be dinners for both evenings as well as a hospitality room. Karen reported that the 2014 Reunion would be her last reunion as the Reunion Chairperson. At the Business Meeting, Tom asked if anyone was interested in taking over this position.

8. 2015 Reunion – Tom Hewlett – Tom announced that there will be a reunion in 2015. Nashville was mentioned as a possible site but is not definite. Tom reported that since the 2014 Reunion would be Karen's last reunion as the Reunion Chairperson that someone was needed in that position. It was mentioned that the AFR handles most of legal things and it would be easier going forward with the shorter format. Anyone interested in

serving as the 2015 Reunion Chairperson should speak to members of the Legacy Board.

9. 87th Infantry Monument – Tom Burgess – Tom hoped that all shared in the pride to all that served in honor of the monument. He also thanked all that contributed to the monument. Tom mentioned that our monument is the only one that recognizes not only just our Division but recognizes all that committed themselves to their families and country. He said that We Are Special.

10. Membership Update – Tim Muilenburg – Tim reported that as of Tuesday 526 people were on the current roster and that 293 of these are veterans and acornettes. 440 people have paid dues going forward leaving 86 that last paid dues in 2012. There are 527 non current people and Tim asked for help from people to help contact these people by telephone. It was suggested that perhaps we could sort the roster into regions for people close to them to call.

11. PayPal for Donations – Korine Headlee – Korine reported that we now can take donations electronically through PayPal. Tim M mentioned that we are also trying to get other items such as dues, etc to be used with PayPal and is being worked on.

12. Nomination Committee Report – Tim Higgins – Tim read the Nominations for the Officers and Board of Directors for the 87th Infantry Division Legacy Association for 2014...they are as follow:

President: Dennis McCarthy

1st Vice President: Korine Headlee

2nd Vice President: Dennis Lennon

Secretary: Korine Headlee

Golden Acorn News – Legacy Edition

Asst. Secretary for Membership: Tim Muilenburg

Treasurer: Vince Kranz

Asst. Treasurer for Operations: Tom Hewlett

Webmaster: Preston Durrer

Editor, Golden Acorn News – Legacy Edition: Mark Roth

Assistant Editor, Gold Acorn News – Legacy Edition: Barbara Strang

Historian: Jim Ogden, III

Asst. Historian:

Quartermaster: Tina Sholly

Veteran Advisors: Tom Burgess, John McAuliffe, Bob Purple

Reunion Coordinator: Karen Lilley

A motion was made to accept the slate as read. It was seconded and approved as read.

13. Project to Upload and Support Video through Website – Tim Higgins – Tim reported that we have been recording meetings, mixers, banquets, etc and are being uploaded to the website. There was discussion as to whether these videos should be available to members only or the public. It was agreed that anyone on the internet should be able to have access to these videos. We have been able to determine that the website has been hit from even other countries such as Ireland, France, Germany and China to name a few. A question was asked if they could find a person on the website from the GAN by putting their

name in and finding which articles they are mentioned. The answer was yes you are able to find someone that way. The videos take a lot of space on the website and we have researched paying for more GB of space. A motion was made to increase from 50 GB to 100 GB with a cost of \$400. The motion was seconded and approved

14. GAN Production – Mark Roth – Mark made a plea for people to get involved in the Legacy Association. He said how important the roles are to our parents to work as a Member of the Board.

Mark said there will be a new feature in the GAN's going forward. There will be a page of recognition to those that did not make it back from the war. The stories, photos and information should be sent to Barbara Strang who will now assist Mark. He would like to get some new stories by the end of October that we need to solicit our vets and families for memories and stories.

Karen mentioned the Memory Book and having it scanned into the website and how the Memory Book can continue to grow.

15. Open Discussion/Suggestions – Someone stood up and spoke how totally impressed he was with the professionalism of the Legacy Group.

16. Afternoon and Evening Events – Memorial Service as 11:45am; Educational Forum – A Soldier's Experience in the 87th at 2:00 pm; Banquet at 7:00 pm

17. Adjournment - a motion was made to Adjourn, it was seconded and the motion approved.

Treasurer's Report

Vincent R. Kranz

The 87th IDLA is in good financial health. We started the year with \$27,385.23 in the checking account. As of the end of October there was \$29,195.89 in the checking account.

Income and Expenses for 2013 are summarized in Table 1 below. Most notable items of income were Reunion Registration funds from AFR of \$15,588 and 2013 Donations for the monument of \$7,738. Total donations for the monument since the project was initiated in 2012 were \$18,200.

Expenses as of October 31 totaled \$28,324.50. Significant expenses included \$ 20,876.83 for the 2013 Reunion and Monument Dedication. These are summarized in a Table 2 below.

The total cost of the 2013 Reunion and Monument Dedication was \$20,876.83. This was \$4,991.83 more than the registration receipts from AFR and those received at the reunion registration desk. The difference is primarily the result of expenses incurred as a result of the Monument Dedication activities and transportation. The board agreed to use some of the excess funds received in Monument Donations to cover the extra expenses associated with the dedication.

The final payment for the NIM Monument, payable to the Columbus Monument Company, was \$4,753 so the monument is paid off. The total cost of the monument was \$11,753. Of this amount, \$9,753 went to the Columbus Monument Company which covered \$2,500 for the concrete pad and \$7,253 for the actual granite monument and its installation. The other \$2,000 was paid to the National Infantry Foundation for the site within the Walk of Honor.

As mentioned above, donations totaled \$18,200 leaving a surplus of \$6,447. When the extra expenses related to the Monument Dedication are accounted for the remaining Monument Donations are \$1,455.

Table 1 - 87th IDLA Treasurer's Report as of 10/31/13

1/1/2013 through 10/31/2013

INCOME

Reunion Registration	\$ 15,885.00
NIM Monument Donations	\$ 7,738.09
Association Dues	\$ 2,230.00
GANLE Hard Copy	\$ 1,465.00
Merchandise Sales	\$ 1,319.00
Donation	\$ 1,155.00
Smugmug Sales	\$ 103.07
GAN Disk Sales	\$ 80.00
TOTAL INFLOWS	\$ 30,065.16

EXPENSES

Reunion Expenses	\$ 20,876.83
NIM Expenses	\$ 4,753.00
GANLE Printing	\$ 1,808.51
Web Site	\$ 664.81
Postage	\$ 211.35
Illinois State Incorporation Annual Fee	\$ 10.00
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	\$ 28,324.50
 NET INCOME	 \$ 1,740.66

Table 2 – 2013 Reunion Expense Summary

Expense Item	Amount
Marriott Expenses (Room rental, AV Rental, Meals)	\$12,777.84
Buses to Ft. Benning	\$3,075.00
Dinner at Benning Club	\$2,432.57
Lunch at Ft. Benning	\$777.40
Mixer entertainment	\$600.00
NIF for chairs, carts, podium	\$275.00
Banquet Program printing	\$259.57
Bagpiper	\$215.00
Shipping	\$214.12
Monument Dedication Program printing	\$145.80
Hospitality Room refreshments	\$84.58
Books for Door Prizes	\$19.95
Total	\$20,876.83

The Homefront

Claire Korn, wife of Jules Korn, F-347

(Claire eloquently spoke about the homefront at the Saturday forum and graciously wrote it down for us.)

I was a teenager during WW2. My brother was in the Navy on a ship in the South Pacific, one cousin was with the 8th Air Force in England and another was fighting in Italy. Happily, they all returned home safe.

We lived in the Rockaways which is part of New York City with the Atlantic Ocean on one side and Jamaica Bay on the other. It is a narrow strip of land not even a mile wide. Across Jamaica Bay is Floyd Bennett Field, a Naval Air Station and down the road, about a mile from my home was Fort Tilden, an Army base. Our home address was posted at each place for a soldier or sailor to come and have some quiet time. Quite a few did come, usually brought a book to read. They sat in our backyard on a redining chair, opened their book and promptly fell asleep. I woke them

up when they told me and showed each one the bathroom and handed them a fresh towel. They always left with a bag of cookies baked by my Mother.



Claire speaking at Saturday Forum

From our front porch, you were able to see Ambrose Lightship, which marks the official entrance to New York Harbor, as it does today. Because of our location all the houses had heavy black curtains on the windows, so no light would show. My Father was one of the block Wardens. He wore a helmet, carried a big wooden club and a flashlight that only showed the light down. If you pointed it up the light would go out. He walked around the street and around each house making sure no light showed. Sometimes he would be out almost all night.

My Mother was a Grey Lady. Twice a week she wore a Grey Dress and a Grey hat and rode the bus to the Veteran's Hospital. She helped the nurses with the wounded Veterans, helping feed those who could not feed themselves, reading to those whose eyes were bandaged and writing letters for those whose hands were bandaged. She always came home sad, and on those days, I

prepared dinner for my Father and cleaned up. When it was her turn to volunteer at the local U.S.O., I went with her. I filled the dishes on the table with nuts and pretzels. I brought the sodas the men had ordered. If someone wanted a beer, I had to find an adult to carry the beer. We both walked to the table and I would say, "Here is your beer." I stepped aside and the adult would put the beer on the table. When the Jukebox played a Jitterbug, I would Jitterbug with a soldier or sailor.

I knew how to knit back then and I made many black hats that the soldiers wore under their helmets. Hopefully, the hats I made got to the 87th and helped keep many of you warm during the terrible winter of 44-45. I still remember the day my brother came home. When I came from school, my Mother said, "A package came for you today. I put it on your bed." I ran down the hall, opened the door and my brother said, "Hi Pesty, I've come home." Then he hugged me and picked me up and twirled me around. It was wonderful. When I was dating Julie, I asked him if he wore a knitted hat under his helmet. "Of course," he answered. I said, "Maybe it was one I had knitted," and he looked at me and said, "If you had put your name in it, I would have found you sooner.

We all have memories, some good and some not so good. But memories from many years ago are a wonderful thing to have and to cherish.

[Who was a "Grey Lady?" They were volunteers in the local VA hospital. When the wounded were taken off the Hospital ship in New York harbor, first they were checked out in a NYC hospital, and if more care was needed, they were sent to a VA hospital until they were able to be sent to their home state to be near family.

An owner of a dress factory in the City had a great deal of Grey cotton fabric that was not of the best quality. He volunteered to make grey dresses to be used by the volunteers in the VA hospitals. If a Vet wanted a sip of water or his pillow fluffed up, or to write a letter home, why bother the nurses. Instead they called for a "Grey Lady." It may have been easier than saying, "Lady in grey, please come here." My Mother tore up her dress when the Hospital closed almost a year after the War ended. She didn't like what she saw and some of the things she did, but she never regretted doing it and helping the Vets as much as she was able to do. As I wrote, she always came home sad on those days. – Claire Korn]

WRMS Student Pays Tribute to WWII Veterans

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BY DONNA RHODES.

TILTON -Having a World War II veteran as her grandfather has given Olivia Doubleday a deep-rooted appreciation for those who have served the nation, and as Veterans' Day nears, she hopes others will step up to show their gratitude as well.

The Winnisquam Regional Middle School eighth grader, along with her grandfather, mother, aunt and uncle, recently attended a ceremony for the WW II veterans of the U.S. Army's 87th Infantry Division. The family traveled to Fort Benning, Ga., where they had the privilege of witnessing the dedication of a large granite tablet that will forever commemorate the sacrifices of some of America's bravest service men and women.

The monument is situated along the National Infantry Museum Memorial Walk of Honor.

During WWII, her grandfather; Spencer Reed, was a member of 87th Infantry, which was known as the "Golden Acorn." The division served throughout Europe where, according to online sources, they spent 154 days in combat right up until VE Day. The troops were back at Fort Benning preparing to deploy to Japan when V J Day occurred and 87th Infantry was then deactivated on Sept. 21, 1945.

The fact that Reed: so bravely served the nation in the fight for freedom has greatly impressed his ' young granddaughter. She said she would love to learn more about his role in history. "He had some near misses and I know he got frostbite on his toes, but that's about all he has said about any of it," she said. "He doesn't like to talk about the war because he said it was so sad. When I go to these ceremonies I get to know a little more about what he went through though."

While traveling with him to Fort Benning and other dedications in Rhode Island and Pennsylvania, Doubleday has taken those opportunities to speak with other veterans and hear their stories. One veteran she interviewed in Georgia was a rifleman during WWII, and he gave her a glimpse of his experiences.

"He told me how difficult it was to hide in dirt piles and things like that that he had to do during the war. I learn a little more each time from veterans like him," she said.

Each trip has also been a weekend filled with pride for both the veterans and their families when the men and women are saluted for their service.

"My favorite part is the banquet on the last night when they hand out a lot of awards like

the Purple Heart. That's really special," said Doubleday.

Up until the Oct. 3 dedication in Georgia, she said her grandfather had been hoping to reconnect with his best friend from his days in the Army. This year, she said, the search sadly came to an end when they learned his comrade had passed away.

National reports show that America is losing members of their "Greatest Generation," as chronicled by journalist Tom Brokaw, at the rate of 600 per day. With each and every one of them, a piece of history is lost.



DONNA RHODES

While dressed to show her support in the fight against breast cancer, Winnisquam Middle School student Olivia Doubleday of Tilton and Sanbornton was also proud to stand beside the American flag that her grandfather fought to defend during World War II.

Doubleday said she wished Veterans' Day would hold a little more importance to

citizens. Even as a middle school student, she has come to recognize how essential it is to honor and respect those heroes who are still with us and to hear their stories.

"Every year at school, we have a slide show on Veterans' Day and it makes me tear up because it reminds me of all my grandfather had to go through back then," she said. "I want a little bit more though. I wish we (our class) could go up the street to visit some of people at the Veterans' Home. They risked their lives for us and we should honor them all."

Request From Belgium

Email received from: Mathieu Hébette

I am Matthew. I live in Belgium and I am a teacher in the elementary school. Since I was a child, I have collected items related to the Second World War, especially items related to 87th Infantry Division. I take great care to ensure that the exploits of the men who fought here will never be forgotten and that future generations will recognize the sacrifices they made for our liberty.

My goal is to open a museum in the Ardennes as a tribute to the Golden Acorn Division. To reach this goal, I need to collect more items related to this division: photographs (Battle of the Bulge and other campaigns), combat helmets, uniforms, medals, etc... It would be great if veterans or families of veterans could provide further information or collectable 87th items.

My second request is about a soldier who was Killed in Action. I have recently found the helmet of Clyde E. Fisher (ASN: 33873332,

346th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Battalion, K Company) in Hatrival, near Saint-Hubert. I'm looking for further information about him and about the circumstances of his death to write an article about his history in the GAN.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Best wishes to all Veterans and their family.

Mathieu Hébette [REDACTED]

The 87th Infantry Reunion Trip to Ft. Benning

Ross Flint, M-347

Congratulations to the folks who planned and conducted the 87th Reunion at the Atlanta Airport Marriott.

The first day, October 2nd was for registration and get-togethers -- renewing old friendships and making new ones.

Thursday at 8 a.m. the thirty-nine veterans, wives, siblings and relatives left the hotel by three charter buses and several cars for the journey to Ft. Benning, where many of us experienced our basic training in 1943.

What a change we noted when we entered the base! Where was all the sand and red clay we remembered? Now, the grounds are covered by manicured green grass and the walkways are paved. Gone too were the wood barracks with the pot bellied stoves for warmth and open windows for air. Instead the barracks are brick and mortar with central heating and air conditioning.

After an emotional graduation ceremony at the parade grounds which we watched from the grandstand, we proceeded to the mess hall for lunch. I had envisioned maybe S.O.S. or

spam sandwiches, but instead we were treated to a great selection of entrees, salads, desserts and hot or cold drinks. (I had the fried shrimp, my son had the catfish.)

It was during lunch that many of the young soldiers shook our hands and thanked us for our service in WWII—that was heartwarming indeed!

Then we visited the 87th Memorial dedication. Included here is a picture of the three M347 men and their relatives.



Left to right standing is my son Rick, Harry's pretty daughter Fern, his son Larry, Harry Surelneck and John McAuliffe. I'm seated in my wheelchair on the left.

We then went to the magnificent Infantry Museum.

Prior commitments in Atlanta caused my son and I to miss what I understand was a sumptuous banquet at the Convention Center to end the reunion.

Again, kudos to those who put together this great reunion!

Current Membership Data

<u>Dues Paid</u>	<u>2011 or later (Current)</u>	<u>Before 2011 (Not Current)</u>
Veterans	292	135
Acornettes	51	36
Legacy	188	135
Unknown	5	219
Honorary	1	0
Totals	537	525

The Educational Forums and Our Veterans



Guy Millard, H-345



Glenn Wilson, C-334



Hank Rosen, H-345

Golden Acorn News – Legacy Edition



Jesse Bowman, D-345



Walter Clarke, 549AAA



William Burrus, C-347



John McAuliffe, M-347



Charles Pefinis, G-345



Bill Allen, C-335 FA



Barney Zmoda, A-346



Tom Burgess, A-345



George Matyas, B-347



George Watson, M-346



Victor Cross, B-345

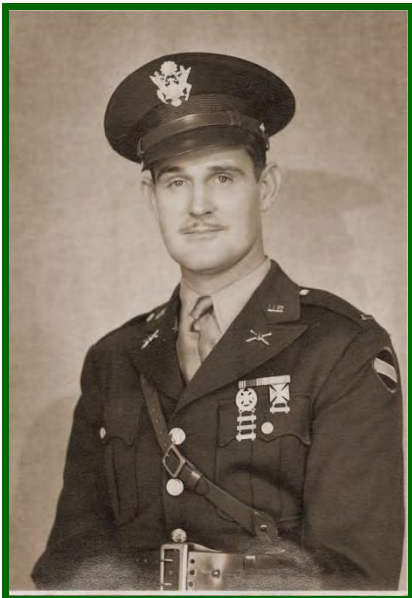


Jim Ogden, L-346

1st Lt. Woodrow W. Lennon's POW Experience

By his son, Dennis Lennon

(This article is a follow up to an article that appeared in the GAN-LE Vol. 3 - Issue 1 about 1st Lt. Woodrow W. Lennon's experiences in the army up until his capture in December of 1944. The information herein was also presented at the Legacy Association Reunion in Atlanta on October 2, 2013.)



The last time we looked at the World War II experiences of 1st Lt. Woodrow Lennon he had become an unwilling guest of the Third Reich. It was probably in the early morning hours of December 17, 1944, that Companies B and C of the 347th had been counterattacked by a German patrol, which subsequently led to many deaths and a significant number of POWs. I remember very clearly asking my father once in the naiveté of my youth how he and his men could have let themselves be captured when they had weapons to defend themselves. He just looked at me and very calmly said, "Son, there is not a lot you can do when you are looking down the barrel of a German Mauser and you are out of ammo." He told me that his unit had actually taken some high ground overlooking a German village and dug in for the night, but had sent back urgently for resupply because in taking this hill, they had exhausted the ammunition that they started out with.

It was before nightfall and they could see German troops and vehicles clearly moving about the village before darkness set in. Unfortunately, the needed ammunition never came and the next evening he was in the same village as a Prisoner of War, sitting in the cellar of one of the houses as the American artillery shelled the town. It was probably the

bitterly that there was a lot of confusion in his company, because the CO and many of the men had found a goodly amount of wine in the cellar of one of the farmhouses nearby and were drunk before and during the battle.

At any rate he ended up in captivity and was quickly taken away from the fighting and back into Germany. At first he went to Stalag XII A near Limburg, Germany, where he was interrogated and issued his POW Tag # 12749 which he carried until his liberation and thru many other POW Camps. He once said he knew it was Limburg because of the awful smell of the Limburger cheese.



Main Gate of Stalag XIIA

I don't know the exact route but somehow he was taken by train up through Germany and into Poland where he was placed in Oflag 64, Schubin, Poland. This was an officer POW Camp that had been used for other nationalities, but was changed to an all officer camp after the Germans began to take allied officers prisoner in 1943 during the Africa Campaign. At any time there were probably between 1500 -1700 officers in this camp. It was a pretty decent POW camp as a whole, but he probably did not arrive there until mid-January 1945, and the camp was evacuated by the Germans on January 21, 1945, because the Russians were within two or three days of overrunning the area. The German guards and the Commandant did not want to become Russian POWs!



Drawing of Oflag 64 by POW



Color Print of Oflag 64

History of Oflag 64

Oflag 64 was a World War II German prisoner-of-war camp for American officers located at Schubin, Poland, which at that time was occupied by Nazi Germany. It was probably the only German POW camp set up exclusively for U.S. Army officers, although other camps holding several nationalities were usually divided into separate national compounds. The camp was built around a Polish boys' school by adding barracks. Initially it was Stalag XXI-B for Polish soldiers until December 1940. Then it became Oflag XXI-B for French and British officers, subsequently for Soviet officers until June 1943. At that time they were all moved out to other camps, the Commonwealth flying personnel to Stalag Luft 3 Sagan, others to Oflag XXI-C Ostrzeszów.

On 6 June 1943 the camp was re-designated Oflag 64. It became an American officers camp with the arrival of about 150 officers captured in the North Africa Campaign in Tunisia. In addition to the ground force officers, there were also a few aviators and enlisted men held at the camp.

Over the next year and a half the camp grew in size until on 21 January 1945, the roll call established a total of 1,471 men. Because of German concerns over approaching Soviet troops, all the men capable of walking were marched out toward Germany. The senior U.S. officer was Lt. Col. Paul Goode.

Two days later, on 23 January 1945, the camp was liberated by the Soviet 61st Army. Still at the camp at that time were approximately 150 Americans, medical personnel and patients, and a few men who had hidden in an abandoned escape tunnel. An additional 200 men had escaped from the marching column and had returned to the camp.

The group that marched out of Schubin reached Oflag XIII-B at Hammelburg on 10 March. They marched through snow and bitter cold for almost 2 months, covering nearly 400 miles. About 400 escaped on the way or dropped out, too weak to march. A number were shot. Part of the group, including Lt. Col. Goode, were again marched out from Oflag XIII-B to Stalag VII-A, Moosburg, where they were finally liberated by units of the U.S. 14th Armored Division on 29 April (three weeks after Hammelburg had been liberated by the same unit).

Those who had stayed at Oflag 64 experienced considerable difficulties. The Soviets who had “liberated” them wanted to hold them hostage until all Soviet POWs in camps behind Allied lines were repatriated. Under the command of Col. Frederick Drury the group finally reached Odessa, Ukraine and were evacuated on a New Zealand ship, HMNZS Monowai

The rest of this narrative is the story of my father’s experience as told to a newspaper reported for the Wilmington, NC Evening Post in June of 1945, after he was back in the US. This was a three part article published on multiple days, so it has been combined it into a single narrative.



General route of the march

“Prison Life in Germany told by Wilmington boy, back in city”

This is the story of first Lieutenant Woodrow W. Lennon who had many harrowing experiences as a German prisoner of war. His day by day account of the 353 mile forced march, with little or nothing to eat, is a firsthand account of this war and a true picture of how the Nazis treated their “luckier” prisoners.

Lieutenant Lennon is a native of Columbus county and has had previous army experience with the Field Artillery at Fort Bragg between 1933 and 1938. During this period he served

a “hitch” in the Philippines and was actually stationed on Corregidor for a while, so he is one who knew from experience what our boys were defending in the Pacific.

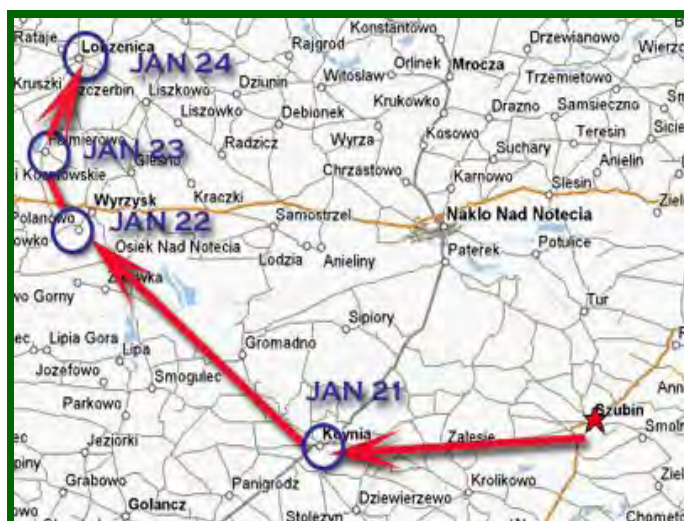
He returned to the states in 1938 and left the Army, taking a position in the Weather Bureau here in 1939. Naturally enough in February of 1941 he was recalled to the Army and went to OCS at Camp Davis in 1942, from whence he went to Camp Tyson, Tennessee as an instructor in meteorology. In 1944 he was sent to Infantry School at Fort Benning, GA, and went overseas with the 87th Infantry Division to France and Germany.

He was captured by the Germans on December 17th 1944, and until his recent release was a guest of the Third Reich. Not long after his capture, he was given a loaf of black bread, a pound of margarine and a small length of liverwurst to last for three days, one of the days being Christmas! On the night of December 25th, he was put in solitary confinement preceding interrogation and kept there for four days and fed only on “grass soup” once a day during this time. His military watch and fountain pen were confiscated by the Germans immediately and he was glad he had no other personal possessions with him for they would have been taken too.

Once he got to the camp in Poland, the Russians began to push pretty close to where they were held and the Germans decided to move them all. What transportation there was, naturally did not fall to the lot of the prisoners and they set out on foot from Schubín, Poland on what proved to be a 45 day 353 mile march to Hammelburg, Germany. How Lieutenant Lennon managed to keep a daily diary of events is probably a military secret, but the fact that he did so provides us with a very illuminating description of what our prisoners of war in Germany undergo--with the understanding

that his was comparatively “good” though probably representative of what the average American soldier underwent.

On January 21 with the temperature at 20 degrees below zero, the column of prisoners walked 22 kilometers through the town of Exin to a barn where they spent the night sleeping on threshed oats. This day they received no rations whatsoever and the available water was impure. The roads were blocked by thousands of evacuees as the Russians were coming on fast, but the prisoners had the right of way and civilians drew to the sides to let them through. Horses were dying and babies were crying among the conglomerate masses standing in the 14 inch deep snow by the roadsides.



January 22 they progressed on for 26 kilometers to the town of Echefield near Wirsitz where they again slept in a barn. Rations for that day consisted of a ¼ pound of margarine, with no bread at all, but some friendly Poles gave them hot “ersatz” which is the name they called a synthetic coffee. The guards were very apprehensive that day and hurried them along away from the oncoming Russians. Crossing the Bromberg canal they noticed that the bridge was ready for demolition at any time. They heard Russian artillery fire and there was quite an air of

expectancy among the prisoners hoping to be released by the Russians. They did all they could to slow up the column in hopes the Russians would catch up.

On the 23rd they went only 7 kilometers to Charlottenburg, where they found the usual barn awaiting them. The men had two blankets apiece which they had to carry all day long in order to have any warmth at all for the night. The rations for that day were thin peas soup and a sort of meal soup and hot water, but the Poles gave them some potatoes and apples which helped. On the morning of the 23rd they awoke to find all the guards gone, and the American Colonel had gone out in hopes of contacting the Russians but to no avail. In the afternoon the guards returned just in time to take away two pigs the Poles had killed, and which Lennon helped them to dress. So they were not able to get any meat after all.

January 24th, after marching 9 kilometers, they arrived at the small farm village of Lobsens with their “barn-hotel” in such poor condition that the snow came through the roof on them as they slept. The Poles gave them a little bread and cheese that day but Lennon saw a German officer beating a little Polish boy with one of the Potato masher hand grenades for feeding the prisoners. They were told that in the future they would get SS troops to guard them, for too many were escaping.

On January 25th they reached the town of Flatow, 20 kilometers further on their way, and stayed in a hayloft for the night. They were given $\frac{3}{4}$ loaf of bread and $\frac{1}{10}$ pound of margarine for rations. They had crossed the border of Germany now and found the people very glum and naturally unfriendly. The SS troops guarding them had a very typical way of clearing out the barns in the morning by spraying them with machine gun bullets. This might cause us to think twice before

grumbling at the alarm clock in the morning. That day they heard intense artillery fire behind them and they traveled down back roads in order to keep the main roads clear.

On the 26th they stayed in Flatow, even though they had been told that they would move at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. Instead they got a welcome day of “rest”. In view of this their rations consisted of one cup of weak soup and some water. Colonel Snyder, the German officer in charge, made a formal announcement of the recall of the Russian Ambassadors from London and Washington and tried to give the impression that the United States was now an ally with Germany in fighting the Russians. He did not fool the Americans, however, and when they brought in a captured Russian almost starved to death, the American medical officers worked to save him although they were not able to do so, as he was too far gone already. When he died, the Germans left him lying in the snow outside for two days.

On January 27th, they took up the march again and walked 18 kilometers to Jastrow where they slept in a stable. They were fed oatmeal, a thin almost soupy concoction, $\frac{1}{4}$ loaf of bread and a little barley soup after this exhausting day. Here two boxcars were loaded with some of the prisoners who were too sick to walk further.

The next day, January 28th, the column moved on another 18 kilometers to Zippnow and spent the night in a church. They had rations consisting of boiled potatoes and hot water for that day and had plowed through deep drifts of snow in the bitter cold. Col. Snyder, the German officer in charge was forced to abandon his vehicle due to the depth of the snow. They found the town entirely evacuated.

On the 29th they reached Stalag II D near Rederickodot which had been evacuated two

days before. They had soup for breakfast and sauerkraut for supper that day.

On the 30th they progressed 14 kilometers to Machlin and slept in a horse shed, drinking “ersatz” and grass soup for their meals. Many of the men were completely exhausted and the bitter cold increased their misery. It was very late before they stopped to rest. Dad’s note: “Quartered very late – very miserable.”



On January 31st they struggled on for 14 kilometers more, reaching Templeburg and a barn for the night. They did receive a loaf of bread on this day and they met many columns of POWs being transferred in all directions.

A short trip of 6 kilometers on February 1st brought them to Herickdorf where they received barley soup for breakfast and potato soup for supper and slept in a barn. The towns along the way were only partially evacuated. Dad’s note: “Toes very numb all the time”

They stopped between the towns of Falkenburg and Dramburg the next night after marching 17 kilometers and slept in a very crowded barn. Their rations were a little better here being pea soup, a loaf of bread, and 1/10 pound of margarine. There was much German military traffic along the roads that

day and always one vehicle would be pulling three or four others.

On February 3rd they did not travel and received only one meal of potato soup. They heard the rumor that day that the Russians were only 26 miles from Stettin.

A 17 kilometer hike took them to Bromburg on the 4th of February and the walk was much better as the snow was disappearing and the roads were almost dry. They slept on a barn again and had “ersatz” and potato soup to eat. It was Sunday so the Americans held a church service.



February 5th they walked 19 kilometers to Zeitlitz and were fed on boiled potatoes and cabbage soup. Here 80 of the sick were put on boxcars. Their route previously had been toward Stargard, but here they changed direction.

On February 6th they reached Regenwald. The name of the town means “raining forest” and it certainly did rain. Lennon testifies. Those 22 kilometers was a very wet walk. They were based at a submarine school and were fed ersatz and the soupy oatmeal. They noticed a group of women POWs marching by them during the day.

February 7th, after another 19 kilometers they reached Lebbin and another barn where they received ersatz and cabbage. The towns looked rather normal though there were very few men to be seen.



February 8th they walked another 20 kilometers to Stuchow all feeling terribly weak from the poor diet. They slept in a barn and had ersatz and boiled potatoes for breakfast, and soup and potatoes for supper. They observed an awfully long column of British POWs that day.

On February 9th they reached Stresow and slept in a hayloft after a 17 kilometer journey. They were given ersatz and potatoes, but Lennon was one of the few lucky ones who “found” some milk and had three cups.

February 10th took them another 14 kilometers and they spent the night at the Luftwaffe Air Base on the island of Wollin. This was a real Saturday night celebration, with ersatz tea and potatoes and later potatoes and gravy. They were also given a loaf of bread which they were told would have to last 9 days as they would get no more – and they didn’t get any more either! This German Air Force school was full of eager young boys with high morale and a firm belief in the motto

prominently displayed, “Who would live must fight!”

On February 11th, after a 14 kilometer march they reached Neuendorf and the barn where they stayed was extremely crowded that night. They received only ersatz and barley soup for food.



The next day, February 12th, they reached Swinemunde, 25 kilometers away. This time they were quartered at a German Naval Base and received gruel and ersatz as rations. Lennon was one of the few that got a hot shower here, but it weakened him so that he could hardly stand up afterward. This day marked the passing of the 200 mile mark in their long march.

By February 13th they reached Gartz, 8 kilometers further, and after eating potatoes and gravy took a railroad ferry to the island of Usdom.

The next day, they walked 15 kilometers to Stolpe and slept in a barn, receiving potatoes, ersatz, and 1/10 pound of margarine as rations. Colonel Snyder made an announcement of a day of rest for the next day and to their surprise they actually got it. Their food for this day consisted of boiled

potatoes, and 100 more sick prisoners were put on box cars.



On February 16th they marched for 23 kilometers, finally arriving at Anklam and a barn. For rations they had ersatz, potatoes, cabbage and a package of “Knockbrot”, a sort of concentrated cracker field ration, for the way they crossed the bridge to the mainland.



February 17th was really a big day as far as the marching went. In their weakened condition they marched 26 kilometers to Gutzkow. They did get 1/6 loaf of the brown sawdust bread with tea, potatoes and barley soup that day. But Colonel Snyder made the best announcement of his career in their

opinion when he told them there were some Red Cross food parcels for them. They were staying in a barn on the estate of a Duchess, who had a son in America as a prisoner of war. She called Berlin long distance and arranged for them a day of rest.

The day of rest, February 18th, was also marked by the actual receipt of the Red Cross parcels. The prisoners felt this was due to the fact that their American Colonel was to meet the Swiss delegation shortly and was going to give a full account of the treatment they had received. The Germans immediately got a truck and arranged for him to pick up one Red Cross parcel per man from a nearby prison camp.

On February 19th they walked on 12 kilometers to a barn in Jarmin. They received tea and potatoes that day as rations but all of them felt 100 per cent stronger after receiving the Red Cross parcels, so it was not so tough.



On the 20th they went 21 kilometers to Demmin and got 1/6 loaf of bread, some tea and soup. Here they met a British Sergeant who said there were Red Cross parcels in the town and the Colonel immediately doubled the column back to locate them. The men were milling around in a confused state at this maneuver, but they finally did get half a

parcel per man. These were half Canadian and half American parcels. The German Colonel told them to save their food as they would need it when they were put on railroad cars, but they were so hungry they ate almost all of it anyway. February 21st proved to be another day of rest and they got 1/6 loaf of bread and soup.

The next day, February 22nd, they went 17 kilometers on more of the same rations and reached Neukalin.

On February 23rd, after 19 more kilometers they reached Nealchin and had now passed the 300 mile mark on their journey. Rations consisted of bread, cabbage and potato soup.

On February 24th they reached Grubenhagen, 22 kilometers past Nealchin and received bread, potatoes and turnips as food. They passed a lot of roadblocks for tanks on this day. February 25th brought them to Plaurhagen after 20 kilometers over dirt trails and through the woods. On that day they received only potatoes and slept in barns.

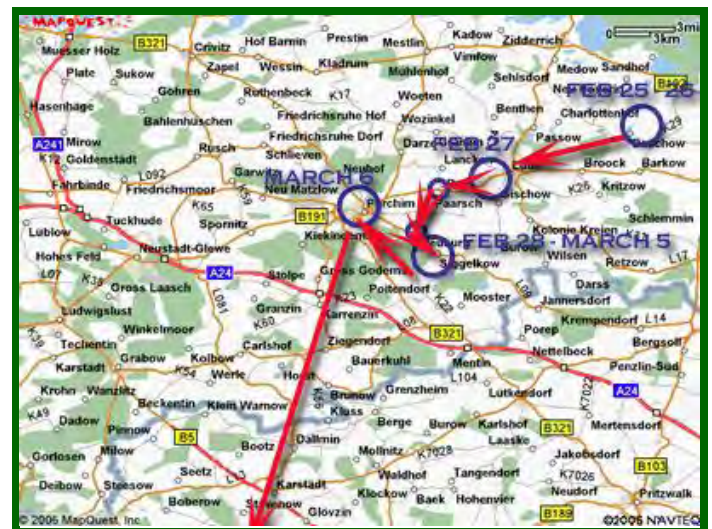


February 26th was a day of rest and rumors were flying everywhere that there were no railcars available. This proved to be so, and meant that on February 27th they marched on another 17 kilometers to Lubz, with only

turnip soup and potatoes for sustenance. On this day some German General also inspected the column.

On February 28th they reached the farm village of Siggelkow after a 12 kilometer march where they received potato soup, ½ loaf of bread and ½ Red Cross parcel. Here they stayed until March 5th awaiting rail transportation.

On March 6th they marched 10 kilometers to Parchim, where they found the box cars, but Colonel Goode, the American POW in charge would not permit them to enter until “US POW” was painted on the top of each car. They packed into the cars 42 men in each and traveled this way through the 7th, 8th and 9th of March, sleeping in shifts with 2/3 of the men lying on the floor at a time. They passed through Maglaburg and Halleweiner enroute to their destination at Hammelburg. Though they were issued a three day ration of meat it was made into soup and they never actually saw the meat itself. On March 10th they were settled into Oflag XIII B at Hammelburg and nothing eventful happened for about two weeks.



Then on March 27th some American tanks 60 miles ahead of the front lines, broke down the fences and said “take off” to the prisoners.

About 2000 prisoners began rushing out and caused much confusion but the Germans captured them all eventually and even took the American tanks. This was quite a blow.



Main Gate, Hammelburg Stalag XIIIB and C

On March 28th they were moved to Nurnberg to Luft 3 and stayed there four days, after which they walked to Moosburg and actually gained weight on their march. Things were pretty confused and upset in Germany about this time and the prisoners were able to forage for themselves – catching chickens and rabbits and living off the “fat of the land”, such as it was. They came across some Red Cross trucks near Sevitz and got some more of the life-saving parcels.

On April 20th they arrived at Stalag VIIA in Moosburg after walking day and night in the rain, however once they had crossed the Danube they merely “fooled along”. After remaining in prison camp here for a week, finally on Sunday, April 29th, at 7:30 am the 14th Armored Division and the 99th Infantry attacked the town and by about 9 am the American flag was flying over the city and the prisoners were free at last.

Lt. Lennon was transferred by truck on May 9th to an airfield and by C-47 to Rheims, France. Here he took a hospital train to Camp Lucky strike near Le Harve and on May 27th

boarded a Liberty Ship for New York where he docked on June 9th.

This account of Lt. Lennon’s though it is not the most gruesome to come from this war, and though he left many of the discomforts to the imagination, is still a picture of what thousands of American boys have gone through and which we should try to appreciate when we think in terms of the post war world.



Final Destination, Moosburg, Germany



Stalag VIIA Main Gate Moosburg, Germany

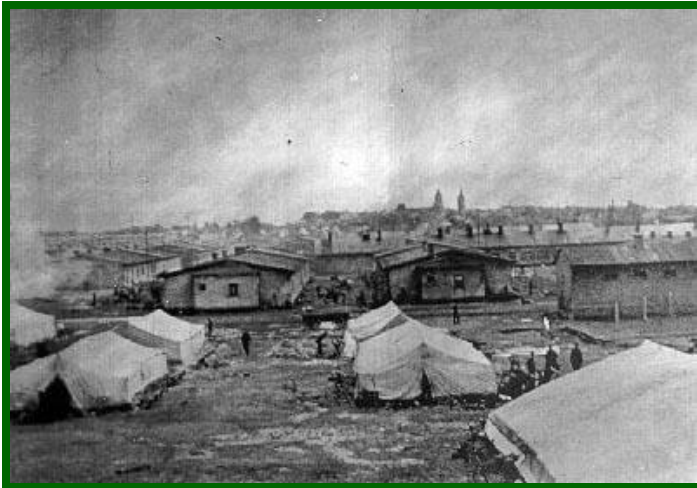
Golden Acorn News – Legacy Edition



Main Gate Stalag VIIA

World War II Prisoner of War Diary of
Lt. Woodrow W. Lennon

date	Dist.	Location	Quarters	Rations	Observations
31 Jan	25 Km.	EXIN + 5 Km.	Barn - on Threshed Dots Babies Crying, Crew, Toilet, M Quadrangle (Barn)	None Water Impure 1/2 Oleo. Hot Ersatz From Poles	Evacuees - Shold impassive, dispass- essed, Horses Falling snow, very cold Guards Arrangements Road Priority, even Evacuees, Poles
22	26	Braunfeld (near W. Kirsitz)	very friendly Ready for Demolition, heard Artillery near it.	W. Crossed Bromberg Canal near it. Air of Expectancy.	
23	7	Charlotten Burg	Barn - Tie nail Hot water Gans. Mares Guards Poles Killed	B. Pea Soup Tie nail Hot water Gans. Mares Guards Poles Killed	Given Potatoes by Poles, Poles to find all guards to contact Russ. Returned in mid Apr. noon 2 pigs. Did not get it.
#1					



Squalid Camp conditions Stalag VIIA

29	8	Near- Redevick Cdot	Stalag 2-D	B. Soup S. sauerkraut	Had stove in room Slept on bed, Stalag Evacuated 2 days.
30	14	Macclin	Horse Shed Quartered	B. Ersatz S. Grass Soup very taste - very Miserable	Exhausted, Many Drifts. Bitter Cold very Miserable
31	14	Temple- Burg	Barn	1 loaf Bread	Many PW's going all directions.
FEB. 1	6	Hedrick - Pot P.	Barn Toes Very Numb	B. Barley Sou S. Potato Soup	Towns Now partly Inhabited. Both Land The time
2	17	Between Falkenburg Bromberg	Barn - very Crowded	S. Pea Soup 1 loaf Bread 1/2 Oleo	Saw much Mil. Traffic. One car always pulls serv
3	0	"	"	D. Potato Soup	Rested - Russ - 26 mi. From STETTIN
4	17	Thru Bromberg	Barn	B. Ersatz S. Potato. Soup	Bromberg almost Normal. Loads Paper in Barn. Roads Almost Dry.
#3					



Liberated POWs Stalag VIIA

18	0	Past Gutkow	Barn	D. Soup	Really Pot hole in Parcel.
19	12	Thru Jarmen	"	B. Tea S. Pot.	Feel 100% stronger.
20	21	Thru Dammrin	"	1/2 Bread B. Tea S. Soup	Another Parcel - Half Canadian. Col Snyder says to conserve it. May get RR Cars Plenty of cooking & Eating
21	0	"	"	1/2 Bread D. Soup	Plenty to Carry
22	17	Neukolin	"	1/2 Bread S. Soup	Passed 300 mi. Mark.
23	19	Thru Malchin	"	1/2 Bread S. Cabbage Pot	Road Blocks being Constructed.
24	22	Thru. Kirch Gubersleben	"	S. Turnips & Pot.	On dirt Trails Through woods
25	20	plow near K2-000	"	S. Pot	New Runners - No Cars Available.
26	0	"	"	S. Pot & Barley Soup	
#6					

Golden Acorn News – Legacy Edition

Feb. 27	17	Thu - Lubz	Born "	S. Turnip S + Pot.	German Gen. Insp. Column.
28	12	Siggele Kow Near Parchim	"	S. Turnip S Pot. + 1/2 Bread	1/2 RC. Parcel
Mar. 1	0	"	"	S. Barley S	Awaiting RR. Transportation
2	0	"	"	S. Pot + Gravy	Wrote Card Home 1/4 RC. Parcel
3	0	"	"	S. Pot + Gravy 1/3 Bread.	Cooking & Waiting
4	0	"	"	S. Barley S + Pot.	"
5	0	"	"	1/6 Bread.	"
6	10	Parchim RR	RR	1/2 Bread 1/2 0.000	U.S. P.O.W. on Top of cars HZ Men.
#7					

Mar. 7-8-9-10 Thu Magdeburg Halle Weimar To Hammelburg

11. 0 Oelag XIII B

Started From Schubin, Poland
Walked 565 Kilometers or 353 miles

#8

Start in shifts 1/2 on Floor & 1/2 on Time.

Memorial Service



Korine Headlee, Organizer
G-dau of Jack Higgins, A-346



Necrology

Lyle W. Allen , H-345

John P. Ambrozy, K-345

Maragaret Brown

John A. Caponigro, F-346

Arthur C Carlson

J. Gregory Cole , B-334FA

James C Covington, jr., DIVHQ

Charles Daley, Jr.

John W. Dick, HQ-345

Earle R Hart, A-345

Ralph James, L-347

Thomas G Jessee, 87-QM

Donald B. Johnston, M-347

Talley Kelley, D-345

Lloyd "Dusty" Kempfer, ?-345

Donald L. Madsen, F-346

Paul X Moran, F-346

Clarence E. Nelson, D-312 Med

Charles W. Pettit, I-346

Manuel M. Prieto, H&S 312 ENG

Nello A. Rampi, A-112

Alice H. Rasmussen, A-912FA

Stanley G Rosenberg, HQ-312ENG

Gregory L. Rowe, M-346

Robert F. Steward, E-346

James W. Thornton, E-347

Melvin N. Vesely, D-347

Cecil Whitaker, B345

Philip M. Whitten,

Glenn D. Wideman, Med-912FA

Sam D. Zaro, 87-SIG

Names of the recently departed are read each year at the Memorial Service and we do not want to overlook anyone. Thank you.

A Tribute to Two Influential Veterans

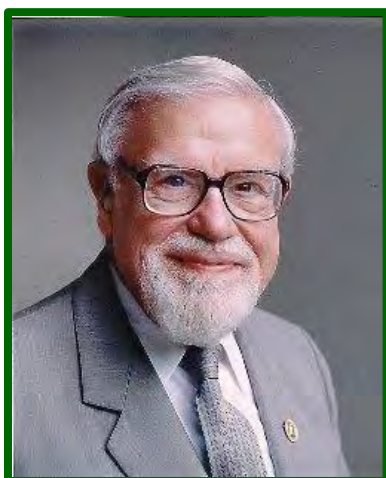
By Barbara Strang

This year the 87th lost two veterans who had a great influence on my life – Glenn Doman and Earle Hart. I know many of you knew them well.

GLENN DOMAN, K-346

August 26, 1919 – May 18, 2013

I first met Glenn Doman in 1984 at The Institutes for the Achievement of Human Potential. I only knew him from a distance but his lifelong work had an impact on my life, as well as thousands of others worldwide. (It would be fitting that I learned of his death in an email from a family in Malaysia.) I was fortunate to listen to him lecture numerous times. He usually mentioned WW2 and the Germans who were trying to kill him. I did not realize at the time that they were the same Germans who were trying to kill my father as well. I became aware that Glenn Doman and my father were in the same division at a reunion in 1995.



(Condensed from obituary published in The New York Times.)

Glenn Doman, founder of The Institutes for the Achievement of Human Potential, was world-renowned for his

pioneering work with brain-injured children and well children. In 1940 he graduated from the University of Pennsylvania School of Physical Therapy.

On the day of the attack on Pearl Harbor, Doman enlisted and served as 2nd Lt. Infantry Platoon Leader and as company commander of K Company, 346th. He was decorated by George VI with the British Military Cross for outstanding heroism in action. From the U.S. he received the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in combat, the Silver Star for gallantry against an armed enemy, and the Bronze Star for heroism in close combat, and he was nominated for the Congressional Medal of Honor.



Earle Hart, left – Glenn Doman, right
(Photo taken in 1999)

Following his discharge, Doman began pioneering the field of child brain development. In 1955 he founded The Institutes for the Achievement of Human Potential with the goal of successfully treating the brain. In the early 1960s, the successful work with brain-injured children led to vital discoveries about the development of well children. Doman taught more than twenty-

five thousand families, and he strongly influenced millions of families through the book "What To Do About Your Brain-Injured Child."

EARLE RUSSELL HART, A-345

Nov 1, 1925 – Sept 11, 2013

I first met Earle at a VBOB (Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge) meeting in 1996. He learned I was compiling a book about the 87th, and after that, made frequent trips to my home outside of DC with photos, maps, after-action reports, anything he could do to support me in my effort. He was very much a mentor,



along with my father, on teaching me about WWII, the Army, the infantry, and of never forgetting the

ultimate sacrifice of so many who lost their lives fighting with the 87th. We spent many hours together at the National Archives, Library of Congress, and planning the 2000 Reunion in Washington, DC.

Earle Hart was a Past National Commander of the 87th Infantry Division Association. He died September 11, 2013, after a long battle with heart disease. He also served as historian for the 87th for many years and was one of several GI's to testify in front of Congress to promote the building of the WWII Memorial built in Washington D.C. Earle was an ardent supporter of the 87th Sons and Daughters,

which would go on to become the 87th Infantry Division Legacy Association.

In 1999 he wrote about his combat experience-

I had trained and fought with the same rifle platoon – variously as PFC rifleman, BAR man, messenger/radioman, 1st scout, Squad Leader, Platoon Sergeant, and on occasion as Platoon Leader (no officer). I was made Squad Leader and later Platoon Sergeant after most of my immediate non-coms were killed – Squad Leader, Platoon Guide (Assistant Platoon Sgt.), and Platoon Sergeant. Seldom had a Platoon Leader – original officer was wounded first day in combat, replacement officer was wounded just after arrival.

I was one of three original platoon members (out of 42) who went through all 5 months of combat – never away from unit – “walked out.” During my combat, I experienced innumerable near-misses – such as a shrapnel shell fragment pierced my steel helmet, and the liner, but stopped just short of my head – still have the helmet and liner. Also, I was knocked unconscious (temporarily) by a “friendly” white phosphorous artillery “marking” round. It landed (accurately) a few yards away, but fortunately in the very deep snow of the L’Ourthe River valley – where I was out front as 1st scout – just below the German machine-gun position during the 9 Jan 1945 attack on Pironpre.



2003 Reunion, Members of A-345 - Left to Right: Earle Hart, Tom Burgess, Eldon Gracey

Miraculously, through it all, I only received minor wounds/ scratches – I never went back to the rear (thanks, I'm certain, to my parents' fervent prayers) – there but for the grace of God! The demands of surviving and functioning under the horrors of prolonged infantry combat caused a kid, hardly 19 years old, to become old before his time.

Earle spent his childhood years in Aldan, Pa., graduating from Lansdowne High School. He was only 18 years old when he was drafted into WW II. After the war, Earle earned a degree in mechanical engineering at Swarthmore College. In 1957, he

founded Harowe Servo Controls, which manufactured guidance mechanisms used in commercial and private aircraft and ballistic missiles. He is survived by his wife, Holly McCord Hart, 4 daughters, 12 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren. A private family burial was held at Philadelphia Memorial Park with military honors.

It was noted in his obituary that he believed that the soldiers who should never be forgotten were "the guys who didn't make it back." In this issue we will begin to publish the stories of those who never lived to tell their story.

We Remember . . . Those who made the Ultimate Sacrifice

Killed in Action: 1154

Died of Wounds: 141

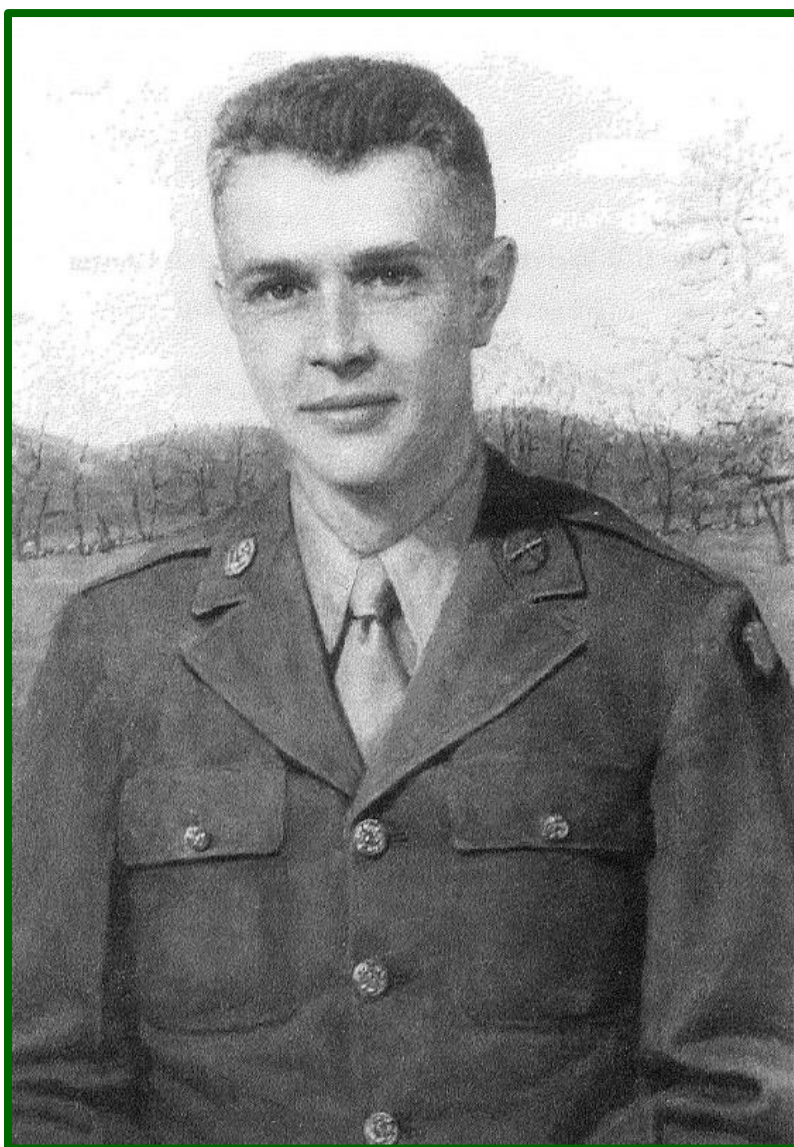
(We will continue to publish information in each newsletter on those who were Killed in Action with the 87th Infantry Division. If you have any photos of these men and/or would like to honor their memory by sharing their story with us, please send to [REDACTED], or mail to Barbara Strang, 1338 E. Dartmouth St., Mesa, AZ 85203.)



William Wesley Wilkerson III – A-345 Killed in Action - January 12, 1945

(Information obtained from The Vanderbilt Bill Wilkerson Center Website)

The Bill Wilkerson Center is named for the son of the founder, Dr. Wesley Wilkerson. Bill Wilkerson was killed in the Battle of the Bulge at the age of 19.



Who was the person behind the name of the Bill Wilkerson Center? The only son of the Center's founder, Wesley Wilkerson, Bill Wilkerson was a young scholar and soldier who died long before the Center became a reality. Bill Wilkerson was popular, intellectually curious and kind. Although he planned to become a doctor like his father, he was also very interested in history and archeology. Bill knew the location of Civil War trench lines around Nashville as well as where Native American tribes lived and traveled. When he was a teenager, he spent much of his free time on horseback, riding through the hills south of Nashville, collecting minie balls and arrowheads. For Christmas when Bill was 16, his parents gave him a folding shovel to carry on his horse to dig for relics. His father used that shovel when ground was broken on the 19th Avenue building in May 1956. Fifty years later, Bill's sisters dug that same spade into a pile of sand to commemorate the current facility in Medical Center East.

In 1943, when he was 17, Bill volunteered for the Civil Air Patrol. He graduated from Hillsboro High, then took classes at Vanderbilt. That summer, he enlisted in the Army, returning home for the last time after basic training in North Carolina before being sent to England in the fall of 1944. In January 1945 the dreaded telegram "missing in action, and presumed dead" arrived at the Wilkerson home. The family would later learn that Bill had volunteered to be a forward observer in the largest ground battle of World War II, the Battle of the Bulge, in which American and British troops halted Hitler's last attempt to turn the war in

his favor. Bill was one of more than 19,000 young American men to die between Dec. 16, 1944 and Jan. 28, 1945.

When finally the center for hearing and speech sciences that Wesley Wilkerson had worked for since the 1930s became a reality, the board asked Dr. Wilkerson to excuse them on a certain matter of business. With him out of the room, they voted unanimously to name the center after Bill.

The Bill Wilkerson Center has symbolically given this young man who never had a chance to make his mark as an adult the opportunity to help tens of thousands of people over the last 60 years.



Vanderbilt Bill Wilkerson Center
Nashville, TN

History

In the early 20th century, Dr. Wesley Wilkerson practiced medicine as an eye, ear, nose and throat doctor in Nashville. He was most concerned for his pediatric patients with hearing loss and was frustrated with the lack of intervention services for deaf and hard-of-hearing children, who were expected to live at home or in an institution and have very little independence as adults. Dr. Wilkerson married Fawn Parent Wilkerson and had three children: Bill, Nancy Fawn and Jane. In January of 1945, Bill was killed in World War II during the Battle of the Bulge when he volunteered for dangerous duty as a forward observer.

In the 1940s, Dr. Wilkerson attended several conferences where he heard Mrs. Spencer Tracey speak about her son, a profoundly deaf child who had learned to speak thanks to early intensive intervention. He became determined to create a place where any child with hearing loss could come to learn to speak and communicate in order to have a much better chance at education, employment and a normal life. In 1949, Dr. Wilkerson organized a board of directors and chartered the Tennessee Hearing and Speech Foundation. Two years later, in 1951, the Foundation opened a clinic, hiring audiologist Dr. Freeman McConnell as its first director. In a secret meeting, the board of directors voted to name the Nashville clinic after Dr. Wilkerson's son, Bill, as a memorial and a tribute to the Wilkerson family. Dr. Wilkerson also worked with Vanderbilt University to start a training program for hearing and speech professionals and a research program. During the next few decades, the Center created a permanent, state-of-the-art facility, expanded the scope of its mission to treat very young children with hearing loss, started a brain-injury rehabilitation program, and expanded its research and training programs.

In 1985 Vanderbilt University Medical Center recruited Dr. Robert Ossoff from Northwestern Medical School to move to Nashville and build a world-class otolaryngology program in treatment, resident education and research. During his tenure, Ossoff created a Voice Center that ranks among the finest in the nation, and he grew the Department of Otolaryngology into an academic and research powerhouse.

In 1997, the Bill Wilkerson Center merged with Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Partnered with the now nationally-ranked Vanderbilt Department of Otolaryngology, the combined departments are known as the Vanderbilt Bill Wilkerson Center for Otolaryngology and Communication Sciences.

The Vanderbilt Bill Wilkerson Center serves people with diseases of the ear, nose, throat, head and neck as well as hearing, speech, language and related disorders. As a part of one of the nation's leading academic health systems, the Center restores health and the ability to communicate to thousands of people every year through patient care, professional education and clinical research. The Center is housed in a state-of-the-art building on the Vanderbilt campus that encourages collaboration and team-based care in all its specialties. It is internationally known for its graduate programs in Hearing and Speech sciences, being ranked #1 in the 2013 U.S. News and World Report rankings.

From Bill Wilkerson's personal diary, Sunday, March 7, 1943

Today I learned the ABC's of war: Some men don't come back. After thinking it over it doesn't scare you, but it makes you bitter. I'm not afraid of dying, but you don't want to just be one of thousands who die. You want to have honor even in death.

When I was young, I hoped we would have a war so I could watch the men march by, or better still march with them. I would trade all the uniformed men, all the power in the world, for an acre of ground, a house and a wife, and kind neighbors.

Oh! Peace has never been appreciated enough.

Stanford Lee Arnold – E-345 Killed in Action - February 8, 1945

By Robert D. Epperson



Stanford Lee Arnold was born on 4 Aug 1923 in Nochaway, Randolph County, Georgia, where he completed his education graduating from Shellman High School. Stanford was the son of William I. and Emmie E. (Halliday) Arnold. His father served as a County Commissioner from 1935 to 1953, and was instrumental in building schools, hospitals and rural electrical utilities. Stanford, a tall, slender man, 6 ft tall weighing 140 lbs enlisted in the Army on 12 Feb 1943 at Fort McPherson, Atlanta, Georgia. He was assigned to Co E, 345th Infantry, 87th Division, the Golden Acorn Division, which was sent to Europe as part of Lt Gen George Patton's 3rd Army. He received his training at Camp McCain, MS, and Ft Jackson, SC, and was promoted to Staff Sergeant. While at Ft Jackson, Staff Sergeant Arnold earned the Expert Infantryman Badge.

In Europe, now Technical Sergeant Arnold and Company E became embroiled in the hotly contested Saar Valley and afterward

entered the Battle of the Bulge in late December 1944 in the Ardennes region. During that time Arnold received a battlefield commission to 2nd Lt.

On 4 Feb 1945, Lt Arnold wrote home:

"The weather is about the same, the snow is three feet but usually freezes over at night which makes for tough walking whenever you are moving around. Of course everybody is wet and damp but we are all getting by okay so far.... I am in a small room now with five other fellows & I am having quite a time trying to concentrate on something to write. By the way I am now somewhere in Germany nothing different from the countries that I have been except for the name.... I am still looking for your package & also a cake that Lois sent me but haven't seen them yet. I only hope they didn't get sunk coming over.... Well give my love to all & may God guide & bless us all."



Olzheim, Germany, looking west along the line of approach to hills where German artillery was positioned.

Four days later, on 8 Feb 1945, Lt Arnold and his men would attack the small town of Olzheim, Germany, just 4 miles from the Belgian border. The importance of Olzheim was the telephone cable linking the German high command with the western front, which ran through the center of the town. Without telephone connections, the Germans would be forced to use radio communications, all of which traffic the US could readily decode.

briefed us in a log bunker. Next day we had to run at intervals across an open field to avoid machine gun fire down a road towards [the town] and the hills overlooking Olzheim. A few Germans were lying dead on the road. As we were descending the hill, German shells began falling amongst us. [The men] scattered and later all ended up in the house. I saw an opening in the woods and ran and jumped a barb wire fence for cover. With a lull in the shelling I ran to the farmhouse." The group in the farmhouse consisted of Jim Hennessey, J J Moore, Ryan O'Shields, Sgt Jim Howe and Lt Arnold.

As Jim Hennessey remembered it, "The night before the attack, Lt Arnold

From the citation for Lt Arnold's posthumously awarded Silver Star,

"Lt Arnold set up a telephone in a building near Olzheim, Germany, and realizing the immediate necessity of filling the position when the artillery observer was delayed, took over and telephoned vital information to friendly artillery. Enemy tanks moved up and fired at point blank range at the building and enemy artillery was directed against it. With great courage and devotion, Lt Arnold ordered his men to the comparative safety of the cellar while he remained at his post and continued to transmit information until he was killed by a direct hit."

Jim Hennessey remembers that he, J J Moore, and Ryan O'Shields were told "to seek shelter in the cellar of the house. Sgt Jim Howe stood on the first floor with Lt Arnold. They then took a heavy shelling. Soon we heard an explosion coming from upstairs. As we tried to go there, Sgt Howe told us it was no use. Lt Arnold was dead.... [He had been] killed instantly by a shell that pierced the walls of the house."

Lane Barton of Vancouver, Washington, was an enlisted man who served with Company G [345th] during its attack on Olzheim. Barton later described the extreme accuracy of the artillery

support provided for his battalion that day, after his squad had dug into the side of a steep hill overlooking the valley. From their vantage point, they spotted a column of German tanks speeding along a road far below. The forward observer gave his first order for fire and a short while later the rounds went rustling by overhead. Barton recalled: "The FO's initial fire order put his ranging fire close to the middle of the column. He called; 'Fire for effect,' and three salvos of three rounds each burst in the middle of the tanks. One tank was hit directly. We could not believe our eyes. The FO acted as if the barrage was nothing out of the ordinary."¹ It is very likely that Barton was describing the results of Lt Arnold's last efforts.

Jay Compton, Lieutenant USN, grandson of Henry J Compton who succeeded Stanford Arnold as 2nd Lt in Company E, wrote in 2005, that Hank Compton and Stanford Arnold became close friends soon after they were assigned to Company E. When Hank returned home after being wounded, he took a train to Benevolence, Georgia, to see Stanford Arnold's parents. He promised them that he would name his first born son after Stanford. Jay Compton's father, Stanford Marc Compton is that son. Jay is now following the military tradition set by his grandfather and Stanford Arnold, as an officer in the US Navy.

That tradition however, did not start in World War II. Stanford Arnold was named after his great-grandfather Capt Thomas Quincy Stanford, Company G, 39th Alabama Infantry, CSA², who was killed leading his company in a similar attack against an artillery emplacement at the battle of Murfreesboro or Stones River on 31 Dec 1862. Quincy Stanford's grandfather, Rev Samuel Stanford, was wounded at the battle of Eutaw Springs on 8 Sep 1781 during the Revolutionary War. It is this tradition of service and sacrifice that makes the Spirit of America and keeps it safe.

The tradition of American military service begun by Rev Samuel Stanford in 1780-1781 is currently being continued by his 5th great grandchildren and their spouses: Maj David C Epperson, USAF, and his wife Maj Lisa Epperson, USAF; Capt Adam Walker, USAF; and Adam's brother-in-law, Capt Lee Stanford, USAF.

¹ Lane W Barton, Jr to John R Walker, re: Olzheim and FOS. Email message, Feb 23, 2000; taken from Bracketing the Enemy: Forward Observers and Combined Arms Effectiveness During the Second World War, PhD Dissertation by John R Walker, Aug 2009. Jim Hennessy remembers that the effort to establish observation posts started just before midday, which is consistent with the observation post established and directing artillery by 2:00 pm. Lt Arnold's fire direction prior to the arrival of the forward observer would have directed the artillery against the tanks which being sent to drive him and his men away. These tanks could be those seen by Lane Barton.

² Confederate States Army, the army of the Confederate States of America during the American Civil War.

Curtis F. Shoup – I-346 Killed in Action – January 7, 1945

By Lt. Robert J. Watson

The Life of a Man Who Hated War



I knew this man - Curtis Shoup - very well. We lived near one another and graduated together from Oswego, New York High School, our birthdays and ages were only three months apart.

Curtis was a quiet, unassuming person, his boyish looks reflecting his age. He was an excellent student and while he did not participate much in sports, he was strong and graded well in strength tests. Curtis Shoup's father was a Baptist minister and the son hoped some day to emulate his father.

After our graduation in 1940, our paths split for several years. So it must have been fate that brought us together again in August 1944 at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. That month he was assigned to my unit, Company I, 346th Regiment.

We had many memories to share and warmly renewed our acquaintance. Although he hated war, Curtis proved to be a fine soldier.

He was trained as a Browning Automatic Rifleman, carrying and firing the weapon both in training and in combat. His proficiency and dedication brought him promotions to staff sergeant and he became an assistant squad leader. Although war was not to his liking, he realized that someday he might have to kill or be killed.

On 7 January 1945 seven days before his 24th birthday, the temperature in Belgium dived to near zero. In fact for five days before 7 January, the temperature and visibility consistently stayed around zero. In this situation, we Americans were at a terrible disadvantage. That's because the Germans had selected their area of concentration and did not need much additional observation. Day after day, they rained down tank and machine-gun fire from the east-end of the village steadily depleting our forces and keeping us pinned down.

Unable to dig in, the heat of our prone bodies melted the snow, penetrating our clothing and actually freezing us in place. Our weapons operated erratically, while German snipers picked off

anybody who raised his head. Under these conditions, our advance was painfully slow, exacting an exorbitant cost in blood.

On the fourth day of being pinned down in the snow and bitter cold, Company I was achieving a small advance when it encountered withering fire from two German machine guns and some mortars. Curtis Shoup was able to spot one of the machine guns but because of the terrain, was unable to draw a bead on it with his BAR.

He tried to run to a more advantageous position but ran into a hail of machine-gun fire. Then, to the amazement of all of us, he stood up straight and fired from the hip at one machine gun. Hit again, he somehow managed to crawl toward the machine gun and drop a grenade, destroying the nest. Although mortally wounded, he was actually attempting to destroy the second machine gun when a sniper took his life.

Those who saw it all will never forget this incredible, unselfish act. Inspired by his sacrifice, our company fought house to house under extremely heavy fire and finally captured Tillet. Our five-day siege had started with ninety enlisted men and five officers. At the end, we had thirty-five enlisted men and one officer, myself.

Why does one person sacrifice his life to save others? That question has preyed on my mind for over half a century. We will never have answers and we certainly will never know how many fatalities would have been caused if Staff Sergeant Curtis Shoup had never risen up and sacrificed his life.

Other courageous Americans played key roles in overcoming the tenacious enemy in this battle. They included but were not limited to 1st Lt. Glen Doman, a fine officer from K Company, who won the Distinguished Service Cross for exceptional bravery in the battle. Lt. Bill O'Donnell, now a Monsignor of the Catholic Church, who jumped on a disabled German tank and directed fire at the enemy, winning the nation's third highest award, the Silver Star. Erasmus Pistone of the Third Battalion medical detachment, who was posthumously awarded the Silver Star for administering first aid under fire.

Curtis Shoup was the only member of the 87th Infantry Division to have received the United State's highest military award as American troops fought to lift the yoke of Nazi tyranny.

Curtis, I know that God has already blessed you.

Medal of Honor Citation:

The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pride in presenting the Medal of Honor (Posthumously) to Staff Sergeant Curtis F. Shoup, United States Army, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action above and beyond the call of duty while serving with Company I, 346th Infantry Regiment, 87th Infantry Division.

On 7 January 1945, near Tillet, Belgium, Staff Sergeant Shoup's company attacked German troops on rising ground. Intense hostile machine gun fire pinned down and threatened to

annihilate the American unit in an exposed position where frozen ground made it impossible to dig in for protection. Heavy mortar and artillery fire from enemy batteries was added to the storm of destruction falling on the Americans.

Realizing that the machine gun must be silenced at all costs, Staff Sergeant Shoup, armed with an automatic rifle, crawled to within 75 yards of the enemy emplacement. He found that his fire was ineffective from this position, and completely disregarding his own safety, stood up and grimly strode ahead into the murderous stream of bullets, firing his low-held weapon as he went. He was hit several times and finally was knocked to the ground. But he struggled to his feet and staggered forward until close enough to hurl a grenade, wiping out the enemy machine gun nest with his dying action. By his heroism, fearless determination, and supreme sacrifice, Staff Sergeant Shoup eliminated a hostile weapon which threatened to destroy his company and turned a desperate situation into victory. G.O. No.: 60, July 25, 1945.

Curtis Shoup was born 11 January 1921 in Napanoch, New York. He was a graduate of Oswego High School in Oswego, New York. He entered service at Buffalo, New York. He is buried in North Scriba Union Cemetery in Scriba, New York.

The *USNS Sgt. Curtis F. Shoup* (T-AG-175)



USNS Sgt. Curtis F. Shoup (T-AG-175) was a C1-M-AV1 coastal freighter built as *Spindle Eye* and acquired by the U.S. Army intended to be a "news transmission ship" for the invasion of Japan.

The ship was renamed November 1947 by the Army, after conversion to an Army passenger-cargo vessel, *Sgt. Curtis F. Shoup* in honor of Sergeant Curtis F. Shoup who had been awarded the Medal of Honor.

After layup the U.S. Navy acquired the ship as an *Alamosa*-class cargo ship and placed the ship in service as the **USNS Sgt. Curtis F. Shoup**. The ship was responsible for a number of tasks, including helicopter delivery, surveying, and oceanographic service.

The *Sgt. Curtis F. Shoup* was struck from the Navy list on 28 April 1970 and sold in 1973.

From the Editor

Mark I. Roth

On behalf of all the members of the 87th Infantry Division Legacy Association and all those who read and enjoy this publication, I would like to thank those people who gave of themselves to contribute the content for all of you to enjoy. Special thanks to Barbara Strang (daughter of Ted Anderson, B-912FA), who did all the heavy lifting for this issue and Amy Wilken, daughter-in-law of Harold L. Wilken, I-346, for our fabulous new covers. Without their contributions there would be no publication for you to read.

In order for us to publish with any regularity, we need the veterans and their families to share their stories with us. You can send your story either in hard copy or electronically. Send hard copy stories to GAN, C/O Mark Roth, 8611 Cypress Springs Road, Lake Worth, FL 33467. If you send a hardcopy story, please include your phone number so we might get answers to any questions that might arise while we convert your story to an electronic form.

To send your story to us electronically, you can mail a CD or a diskette to us at the address for hard copy stories or email your story to [REDACTED]

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We sincerely hope that you enjoy this publication. Let us know how we can make it more enjoyable for you.

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There are open positions on our Executive Committee. Right now, we desperately need a reunion co-chair to work with Karen Lilley. For this year (2014), the position would primarily be a learning experience with a larger role in organizing the next reunion. If you have any interest in working with us for the Association, please call Dennis McCarthy.

Golden Acorn News – Legacy Edition

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