Letter from the President

LTG (Ret) Thomas G. Rhame
President, Society of the First Infantry Division

Hope everyone enjoyed the spring and is enjoying the summer. Do not forget the Division reunion scheduled in August in Memphis! Time will quickly pass if you don’t take action soon. We would like to see everyone there. This is a rare opportunity to see those you served with previously. You can easily find out the details by visiting our web site. I encourage you to register today. Join us in Memphis!

The Memorial Day service at the Division Monument in Washington, DC was another great event. We had approximately 80 veterans and friends of the Division attend the event. This is a great opportunity at a special place to pause and honor those that have fallen for our Division. In addition, it is a great opportunity to remember those of our friends who survived the wars with the Division but have since passed away.

Our monument is a special one in a special place. It is the only Division Monument that lists the names of all of those that have fallen in service while fighting with the Division. All of us need to remember that those of us who are here at the present owe an obligation to raise the funds necessary to add the names of our fallen from the Iraq War and the Afghanistan War. The 1st Infantry Division Foundation has begun to raise the funds necessary to do this. We will have to have all the funds on hand prior to being given permission to complete the addition which will add the names to the monument. I strongly encourage each of our members to make sure that some of their annual donations go toward completing this part of our monument. It is important work and only the members of the Society can complete the mission. Donations should be made to the 1st Infantry Division Foundation.

It has been a real pleasure for me to have served as your President of the Society for the past 12 years. However, I believe that the time has come for me to step down and time for a more current and younger person to lead the Society. The Society has formed a Nomination Committee and is going through a search for a person to replace me. This search should be concluded and their nomination for the successor will be made at the business meeting at the Division reunion in Memphis. I sincerely appreciate the support each of you has given to me and the Society over the past years. Your support is so vitally important to maintaining the spirit of our Division. I plan to remain active in support of the Division.

See you in Memphis!

Duty First!

Farewell LTG (Ret) Rhame!
12 Years of Service with the Society of the First Infantry Division!

2001

Above: Rhame poses with other Danger 6’s, during the 2001 Officers Dinner.


2011

Left: LTG (Ret) Rhame presenting the award for the buffalo wing-eating contest at the Welcome Social, during the 2011 BRO Reunion in Buffalo, NY.

2009

Left: LTG (Ret)Rhame seated with his wife, Lin, and CSM Jim Champagne at the 2009 BRO Reunion in Dearborn, MI.

2011

Left: LTG (Ret) Thomas G. Rhame poses with other Danger 6’s, during the 2001 Officers Dinner.

Letter from the Executive Director

CSM (Ret) Darrell “Buddy” Wallace
Executive Director, Society of the First Infantry Division

Society of the 1st ID (SOC1ID)

The 7th Annual Reunion will be held at Pigeon Forge, TN. May 17-20, 2012. In Pigeon Forge, TN. The total attendance of 179 set another consecutive record, exceeding last year’s number by over 50, including many first time Ramrod attendees.

The majority of Ramrods continue to be Vietnam veterans, and this year there was at least one from each company (B, C, D) of the 1st and 2nd Battalions. After what has become a very spirited inter-unit competition, it appeared early Saturday that A/2/2 would claim the bragging rights. But by the end of the day, C/1/2 would claim the bragging rights.

The most senior and junior attendees are worthy of special note. Veterans of WWII: Shorty Clements (K/3/2), Harry Paylor (K/3/2) and Dan Barkto (L/3/2). Veterans of the War on Terror (most recently in Afghanistan): From Ft. Knox, KY—LTC Alan Streeter (who relinquished command in March, having led the 2nd Battalion during its recent Afghanistan deployment), SFC Anthony Roszko (A/2/2), SFC John Huff (D/2/2), and SSG Justin Skotnicki (A/2/2); From Grafenwoehr, Germany—1SG Peter Bacek (D/1/2), SFC David Gilmer (D/1/2), and SSG (P) Vicente Nicola (D/1/2). The 7th Annual Reunion will be held at Pigeon Forge, TN. May 17-20, 2012. Reunion Coordi- nator is Israel Tamés (C/2/2), tames25@sigglobal.net, tel. 210-252-6692/210-259-6490. Assistant is Juan Santiago (B/2/2), decoyof3m76@aol.com, tel. 321-432-8874/321-259-7494. (Toll free)

Sixth Annual 2nd Infantry Regiment Veterans Reunion

By Juan Santiago

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Ninety-six veterans of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the 2nd Infantry Regiment, and 85 guests met May 17-20, 2012, in Pigeon Forge, TN. The total attendance of 179 set another consecutive record, exceeding last year’s number by over 50, including many first time Ramrod attendees.

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This year’s informal gathering actually marked a 20th anniversary for some of the Ramrods present. It all began in the early 1990’s in Owensboro, KY, when Bob Fulps (C/2/2) organized a reunion of his unit’s Vietnam veterans. Around 2005, Don Rochat (BHC/1/2) decided to start one for the “Blackscareves” in Pigeon Forge. Both reunions grew, attracting more Ramrods and their families, so in 2007 they were combined at Pigeon Forge’s larger venue.

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Obituaries:
The sands of time seem to be catching up with us. In the last issue we added three to the list; we now have two more to make it five in the last six months! After two weeks in the hospital Emmett Keenan’s wife, Dorothy died on March 24th. Emmett, a Director of the 745th Tank Bn Assoc, and Dorothy were regular attendees at the Starved Rock luncheons. A great couple. Our heartfelt sympathies are extended to Emmett.

An e-mail from Carol Fritz tells that her husband, Leroy, died on April 18 of congestive heart failure. He had spent a week at home under the hospice program. Lee was a replacement that joined us just prior to the Battle of the Bulge, and was in the mortar platoon. Music was his life which he taught in high school. He also tuned pianos. Those of you who were at our final reunion at Ft. Knox in 1999 will recall that at the end of the program, an unplanned event occurred. Without any warning, I asked Lee to lead the room full of people to sing “God be With You Till We Meet Again”. Moving! Wonderful! Lee is a dry eye in the room. Truly a moment to remember. Thanks again, Lee.

Sick Call:
Today, May 22nd, I talked to George Bogus to find out why he and Mickey missed the Starved Rock luncheon. He told me that his left leg had swollen so much that he couldn’t negotiate stairs. By now it has improved quite a bit after being divested of a lot of water, and he’s feeling a lot better and can get around pretty good, at least to get out to his garden and water it. He’s planning on being able to make the luncheon at Cantigny in August.

Social Activities:
1st Tuesday of the month, at 9:30, breakfast at Loves Park, IL. Sheri’s Place Family Eatery, 5659 Forest Hills Road. Attendance is getting low! A few months ago, Paul Grupp was the only one.
4th Thursday in August. Most likely a luncheon at the museum. Look for a special mailing telling of it. We are truly grateful to the folks at the museum and how great they treat us—whether we deserve it or not. That date might be 8/25/12. Worthy of note: 8/15 would be the 70th Anniversary of the formation of the 745th Tank Bn, and, for what it’s worth. Bud & Lainie’s 70th Wedding Anniversary.

The Iron Rangers and Bandido Charlie Welcome Home and Awards Ceremony

By Ken Costich

A special awards ceremony was held at Fort Riley in conjunction with a welcome home banquet/ball for the soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 10th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division who have recently returned from combat assignment in Afghanistan.

On the evening of Thursday, March 9, a joint gala event was hosted by the veteran soldiers of the Bandido Charlie Association for the active duty soldiers of the 1-10th Infantry “Iron Rangers”. Several dignitaries headed by the Battalion Commander, LTC James J. Smith were also present.

On Friday, March 9, an awards ceremony that spanned four decades, from Vietnam to Afghanistan, was held to honor four veterans of the Vietnam War and one OIF/OEF NCO. It took place in the 1-10th Infantry Battalion conference room. BG Donald M. MacWillie, the Deputy Commanding General Logistics, 1st Infantry Division; LTC James J. Smith, Battalion Commander, 1-10th Infantry Battalion; and his Command Sergeant Major Robert A Duenas, were in attendance.

The festivities concluded on Tuesday, March 13 with a change of command ceremony. Outgoing commander LTC James J. Smith was succeeded by incoming commander LTC Roger A. Crambie III, as the new commanding officer of 1-10th Infantry. Outgoing CSM Robert A. Duenas was succeeded by incoming CSM Matthew J. McCready.

Several family members, friends, and dignitaries including Colonel Michael Pappal, Commander, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team; LTC James J. Smith, Battalion Commander, 1-10th Infantry Battalion; and his Command Sergeant Major Robert A Duenas were present.

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Soldiers of the ‘Devil’ Brigade Receive Rare Training From Unique Visitor

By SGT Kerry Lawson, 1st HBCT Public Affairs

Soldiers of the ‘Devil’ 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division conducted resiliency training featuring a rare guest speaker that visited Fort Riley April 20, 2012. Dave Grossman, a retired Army officer and nationally renowned scholar and speaker, delivered a message of self-respect and reintegration during his engagement with the Devil Brigade Soldiers.

Grossman, a former sergeant and lieutenant colonel in the United States Army, said these Soldiers have been trained to fight and have fought as they were taught. But, now that the brigade has reset from its most recent deployment and the Soldiers need to know what to do after the fight.

The Devil Brigade returned from its year-long deployment from Iraq in late 2011. The unit also had three battalions that fought in Afghanistan that returned at a later time, presenting additional challenges for getting the entire brigade back into a trained and ready status. The brigade entered a reset period which focused on equipment, retraining and reviving Soldiers and Families.

Grossman explained that experiencing some degree of post traumatic stress from combat is normal and that veterans throughout history have learned to cope and recover. He provided examples of this and spoke about using controlled breathing to limit the rise of stress in response to combat or memories of combat.

Grossman also emphasized the importance of sleep in Soldiers maintaining their health. Of those committing suicide, lack of sleep is often a contributing factor, according to Grossman.

Devil Brigade Soldiers have begun the train-ready phase by executing collective training focused on the basic foundations of individual tasks and skills as well as that of a team and at squad level.

Now that the reset phase is ending the brigade is continuing by transitioning its Soldiers into the train-ready phase.

Teams and squads within the brigade have conducted field training exercises such as Battle Drill Six, land navigation, assembling and disassembling an M4 Carbine, sending reports, evaluating a casualty and performing a nine-line medical evacuation.

The 1st Infantry Division headquarters marked its first Memorial Day deployed to Afghanistan with a ceremony on Bagram Air Field, May 28.

The Commanding General of the 1st Infantry Division and Combined Joint Task Force-1 presided over the ceremony, addressing an audience of Afghan, U.S. and NATO service members.

MG William C. Mayville Jr. spoke about sacrifice.

“Today we take pause from the fight to remember those who have given their lives in defense of our great nation,” said Mayville.

In Afghanistan, we pay a special tribute to our brothers and sisters who have fallen here: 15 so far under this division’s watch and 1,575 over the last 11 years of combat,” he said.

The division assumed command of the fight in Regional Command-East mid-April, and has since been relentlessly pursuing the Taliban in what is called one of the last major offensives of this war.

So far its losses have hit close to home, said Mayville.

“We each know some of their names,” said Mayville, “and a few even know their families. We will never forget their sacrifice, nor will we forget their service.”

Mayville led the ceremony and its conclusion with words of dedication, both to the fallen and to the meaning of their sacrifice.

“We are here to ensure that those who conjured the unthinkable act of 9/11 and still wish us harm have no haven from which to plan and execute such an attack on our homeland and our way of life,” he said.

“Continue this fight against those who seek to bring terror to peace-loving people. Grasp the contagion of courage from those we honor today and finish the fight.”

The service ended as a 21-gun-salute, the traditional soldierly send-off to fallen comrades, echoed between the ranks of soldiers at the ceremony.

Daggers Welcome New Senior NCO

By Mollie Miller, 1st Infantry Division Public Affairs

One chapter closed and a new one opened for Soldiers with the 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division May 11 as the “Dagger” Brigade welcomed a new senior noncommissioned officer and bid farewell to a man who has guided the Soldiers of Fort Riley for more than six years.

CSM Christopher Gilpin accepted the NCO Sword and the responsibilities that come with the title Dagger 7 from CSM Rodney Lewis during a ceremony conducted on Custer Hill Parade Field.

Lewis, who has called Fort Riley and the Big Red One home for about seven years, said although it will be difficult to say goodbye to the Central Flint Hills Region, he will do so knowing the brigade is in the skilled hands of the Soldiers, leaders and Families of the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley.

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Soldiers and Families as we move in between, the communities IBCT commander. “From Junction By SGT Nathaniel Foster, 75 th Fires Brigade Public Affairs

A Battery Deploys to Afghanistan

By SGT Scott Lamberson, 4IBCT Public Affairs

About 1,500 Soldiers assigned to the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division began deploying to eastern Afghanistan in late April. Hundreds of Family members and friends said farewell to several hundred “Dragon” Soldiers from different battalions May 17, as the Soldiers prepared to embark on their journey. After their goodbyes, Soldiers were bused to a deployment center, where they ensured their carryon baggage would fit aboard the plane. Soldiers were weighed with their gear and equipment before swiping their ID cards to signal the start of their deployment pay and benefits.

“We have a superb network, not only within our organization and the 1st Infantry Division, but the (Central) Flint Hills Region as well,” said COL Joseph Wawro, 4th IBCT commander. “From Junction City to Manhattan and many places in between, the communities have been very supportive of our Soldiers and Families as we move forward in our deployment.”

The nine-month deployment will be the brigade’s first to Afghanistan. The Soldiers will serve under their higher headquarters, the 1st Inf. Div. “They’re ready,” said CSM Wylie Hutchison, 4th IBCT senior noncommissioned officer. “They’re trained, ready and willing to serve their country in its time of need as we move forward to Afghanistan. It’s an honor and privilege to be the command sergeant major of the ‘Dragon’ Brigade, and I look forward to seeing with these Soldiers in combat.”

Numerous buses loaded with Soldiers departed Fort Riley headed for northeast Kansas May 17, where their long flights and journeys began. Dragon Soldiers will continue to deploy from Fort Riley throughout the coming weeks.

“We are ready to move forward and complete our mission in Afghanistan,” Wawro said.

Dragons Begin to Deploy to Afghanistan

By SGT Keven Parry, Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs

A Gray Eagle unmanned aircraft makes its way down an airfield on Camp Taji, Iraq, before a surveillance mission in the Baghdad area. In spring 2012, F Company, “FENIX,” became an official part of the Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, adding its capabilities to the strength of the CAB.

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Keeping up with the 1st Division

Headquarters (DEPLOYED) The 1st Infantry Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion (DHIB) deployed to Eastern Afghanistan in mid-April 2012. The Division’s headquarters is in charge of Regional Control-East (RC-East) where they will oversee one of the last major offenses against the Taliban during Operation Enduring Freedom.

1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team (REDEPLOYED) Since September 2011, 1st Brigade soldiers have returned home to Fort Riley, Kansas after a year-long deployment to Iraq. Currently, the brigade has finished their “reset” phase of redeployment and will continue to the “train-ready” phase in order to prepare for future missions.

2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team (REDEPLOYED) After their return last Fall, the 2nd IBCT has been continuing its training schedule for future missions.

3rd Brigade Combat Team (REDEPLOYED) 3rd BCT deployed to Afghanistan in January 2011 in support of OPERATION NEW DAWN and returned to Ft. Knox, KY in early 2012. It’s troops will continue to reset their equipment and begin readiness training. Recently, the “Iron Dukes” have received some new leaders (see page ) and dedicated a new memorial to honor their fallen (see page).

4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (DEPLOYED) Since April 2012, the 4th IBCT has begun deploying its troops for the brigade’s first deployment to Afghanistan. The “Dragon” brigade will carry out its mission under the command of the 1st Division Headquarters in Eastern Afghanistan.

1st Combat Aviation Brigade (REDEPLOYED) Since April 2012, the 1st Combat Aviation Brigade has been continuing to train and prepare for future deployments.

Vipers Support U.S. Border Patrol in Arizona

By SGT Heather Denby

Above: Fourth MEB Commander COL Frank Rangel, visited 103rd Engineer Company soldiers April 16 to monitor progress of the engineer mission being executed in support of U.S. Border Patrol - Tucson Sector. The 103rd Eng. Company deployed as a company-sized unit to execute the homeland security support project along the U.S./Mexico border here. The 4th MEB is headquartered at Fort Leonard Wood, MO. The ‘Vipers’ are scheduled to complete their 30-day, engineer support mission in May 2012.

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The World War II Journey of a 1st Division Army Cook

The following is an excerpt from Noel Vaughn Skaggs’ recently released book, “Food Under Fire: Noel Peters’ World War II Journey.” For ordering information, please see the “BRO Books” section of this issue on page 16.

By Noel Skaggs

It is unknown why Noel Peters did not complete OCS. He was certainly a good scholar as evidenced by his successful attendance at the university level by his performance as a teacher. He was also known for his good work ethic. OCS produces Second lieutenants who eventually became platoon leaders. This type of training was three months in duration and the graduate who was sometimes very young and inexperienced become an officer, consequently they were nicknamed “90-day wonders.” Perhaps he just did not develop an interest in becoming a “90-day wonder.”

What do we know is that he became an army cook. He would have probably attended one of the army’s Cook and Baker schools, as he was transferred. There were many of these scattered around the country at various army posts. The school he attended may have very well been located at P. Bergin, Georgia where he attended OCS.

Noel was transferred on 23 February 1943 with a rank of Technician Grade IV to Shenango Personnel Replacement Depot at Greensville, Pennsylvania. This facility in western Pennsylvania was later known as Camp Reynolds. The primary mission for Shenango Personnel Replacement Depot was to serve as a holding point for trained soldiers awaiting deployment to units overseas as replacement personnel. Over one million soldiers passed through this camp during the war years. Noel received orders for departure on 8 April 1943 and departed with the destination of Allied forces North Africa on 19 April 1943.

It should be noted that Noel was already a SGT by the time he went overseas. This was unusual and shows that he had already demonstrated outstanding leadership ability. He was moving up quickly. Noel’s trip to his new overseas assignment in North Africa was probably by way of England on board a troop ship.

The Kitchen

Noel was assigned as an army cook to deploy to combat areas with the 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division. He would usually work from an army field kitchen which was normally contained in a modified 2 1/2 ton cargo truck with a trailer. The soldiers would refer to this setup as, “the kitchen.” The truck provided space for the transportation of kitchen and mess equipment, supplies, and a limited cooking area while the company was on the move.

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Some adjustments had to be made in order to place kitchen equipment inside the truck. The two long seats that were normally positioned along the inside of the truck for soldiers to sit on, would be attached along the outside of the truck in the same relative position. They also serve as shelves to use for storing, preparing or serving food. The metal boxes supporting the canvas top were lengthened. This provided headroom for the cooks to work standing up while the truck was on the move.

Inside the truck were three field ranges which were designed to perform a wide range of cooking while using gasoline as fuel. The ranges were portable and could be prepared either by roasting, boiling, baking, frying or broiling. Each range had a 10-gallon aluminum roasting pan with a heavy sheet aluminum cover which could be inverted and used as a hot plate or griddle. Also on the range was a 15-gallon heavy steel pot with an 8-gallon double breaker insert which could be used as a separate unit.

Feeding soldiers in combat situations was always difficult. Good commanders recognized that good morale comes with serving hot food to soldiers in a combat zone. They usually required their cooks to bring one to two hot meals forward each day.

In most situations, the commander could modify the tactical situation enough to provide for feeding hot food for his troops. The effectiveness of the cooks in the company reflected the interest of the commander. Conditions close to the front lines were often unstable and the work had to be performed under the dangers of continuous combat. Since positions were likely to change frequently, cooks had to make daily changes and cook on the move in order to serve the troops.

The meals had to be within reach of the men and was subject to frequent interruptions. Regular meal hours couldn’t be observed, but the kitchen operated on a 24-hour basis so that cooks could eat whenever the military situation made it possible. If necessary, the soldiers were sent to the mess area in small groups to avoid congestion and continue to man the front line, usually in platoons or squads until the entire company was fed.

When required, food could also be delivered forward to the front lines in thermite (insulated) containers. Many times food was prepared in the late afternoon at a safer point slightly to the rear of the combat area and then moved after dark to the men at the front. Depending on the situation, the kitchen would serve a hot meal at night and then return early the next morning under cover of darkness and serve the morning meal. Sometimes a box lunch or C-rations would be left for dinner in the mid-day when food could not be brought forward. Every effort was made to provide hot meals and hot coffee twice a day.

Page Phillips was from Mt. Airy, North Carolina and served as a cook in the kitchen with Noel in Cannon Company. They fought alongside Cannon Company across North Africa and Europe to the end of hostilities.

Page recalled that the Company usually had three cooks per shift and was augmented by however many KPs (cook helpers drafted from the ranks) were needed. Page verified that during combat conditions, the kitchen would be situated back from the front line. They would then load the prepared meal in containers and transport the food in a jeep and trailer to the front line after dark.

Often, the troops up front would be holding German prisoners who they had just captured and Noel and Page would transport the Germans back when they returned to the kitchen. After the wall all the soldiers had been fed, if there was any food left, they would let the prisoners have something to eat.

The prisoners would then be turned over to a Military Police (MP) detail for transport to prisoner holding areas, well behind the front lines.

Page recalled one time he and Noel had delivered food on the front line and had forgotten to take their weapons with them. On the way back to the kitchen, they were observed by some MPs without their weapons. The MPs wrote them up and told them to give the written infraction to their company commander. When they got back, they handed the document to Captain O’Brien, Company Commander, who was noted for his short temper. Page said that Captain O’Brien read the paper, became furious, threw it on the ground and started stomping on it. He never did anything to Noel and Page about it.

Sometimes serving the meals to the soldiers could be very tricky because of the closeones of the enemy. On one occasion, another company of the 16th Infantry Regiment was feeding its soldiers and as the kitchen crew approached the front line in darkness, their commander told them that the Germans were only 50 yard on the other side of a small hill they were dug in against. The commander said no mess kits could be used because of the noise. Supper was supposed to be hamburger patties, rice, peas and pineapple chops. Their company commander told the kitchen crew he would send the troops to them, three or four at a time with their hands extended and for them to put a hamburger patty in one hand, and a scoop of rice in the other. Talking was forbidden. That was supper for the night.

Cooks were trained to prepare meals while the kitchen was under way, whenever conditions would permit. Cooking under these conditions could be done by almost any method except deep-fat frying. Truck vibration and bouncing prevented the preparation of cakes and dough for bread, but pies and biscuits could be baked while moving.

A typical field kitchen menu during World War II, under front line conditions would be a breakfast of grapefruit, corned beef hash, toast and coffee; dinner of meat and vegetable stew, beans, sliced peaches and lemonade, and supper of chicken fricassee, pickled beets, cherry cobbler and coffee. There was a good variety of food served with menu changes every day for approximately a two-week cycle.

Their rations were provided by the Quartermaster Corps.

If the distance between the kitchen and the front lines were too far on the hostilities too close, the soldier subsisted on prepackaged rations. The least preferred type of ration was older K rations which included such items as pre-mixed cereal, instant eggs, biscuits, meat product, processed cheese, fruit bar, chocolate bar, bouillon, orange or grape drink powder, instant coffee, sugar, cigarettes (Lucky Strike Greens or other brands were included in small packs), chewing gum and toilet paper. The colored cored, wax boxes were designed to burn just long enough to heat a cup of water for coffee.

The improved prepackaged rations were called C rations. They consisted of 10 variations—heavily beans and meats, bean and vegetable stew, meat and spaghetti, ham, eggs and potatoes, meat and noodles, meat and rice, frankfurters and beans, pork and beans, ham and lima beans, chicken and vegetables. Jam, crackers, Continued on next page...

Bridgehead Sentinel
powdered drinks, sugar, and cereals were also included. Later, an additional can of cigarettes, gum, toilet paper and water purification tablets were added. Most of the C-rations were packed in tin cans which required a can opener. Included in the C-rations was the famous P-38 can opener. The P-38 was a simple little piece of 1 ½" stamped piece of metal that contained a small blade on a swivel. The troops would carry the P-38 on their dog tag chain, key rings, or in their pocket. Many contests sprang up to see who could open a can the fastest. After the war, P-38’s could be found in many camping equipment or fishing tackle boxes.

While the Company was stationed in a more permanent location such as England before the invasion—or in occupied Germany after hostilities ceased, their mess support was provided from an actual mess hall. On a few rare occasions, the Company stumbled across fruit trees with eggs. He fished the piece of shell out, held it up and said, “I guess I’m out of practical”.

Food Under Fire continued...

Food preparations for that many men had to be performed quickly and efficiently. Noel emphasized this when I visited the Peters’ family at their home in Indiana. He explained while fixing breakfast one morning that he had learned in the army how to crack ten eggs at once to save time. He had less than ten in front of him, so he grabbed up five in one hand and broke them all at once into a bowl. There was only one piece of shell the size of a nickel in the eggs. He fished the piece of shell out, held it up and said, “I guess I’m out of practical”.

The small village of Debogórze, Poland was the scene of hard fighting in September 1939. Situated in the middle of Okowyke heights near Fabia, which was the biggest harbor before World War II, Debogórze played a central role in the defense of the Polish seaside. The village was changing sides five times in a couple of days, during savage close-quarters combat with bayonets.

In this historic place, the Big Red One Historic Association from Poland, displayed their first exhibit about Poles who served in the U.S. Army. Included in this display were many short biographies of Polish-American, Big Red One soldiers.

This was made possible thanks to the great help we received from the First Division Museum at Cantigny Park, and their McCormick Research Center team.

We displayed names and short biographies of Theodore Dobol, Kazimierz Lenards, Philip Strzeczyk and Leon Nienczyk, who had served for a short time in the 97th Infantry Division and after the war became a very popular movie actor—he played in 600 films! In the dark times of communism, spreading any kind of information about Poles who served in the west with the Polish forces was forbidden. The veterans from the west were treated as enemies. Many of them were sent to prisons for years or even killed after a quick and unfair trial.

The veterans of the U.S. Army have been forgotten for a long time. We hope to change this. Thanks to the local authorities, we had an opportunity to showcase our work and shared this history to hundreds of visitors.

The second day was the highlight of our event, featuring a re-enactment of two battles from 1939—the Polish defense and the 1945 U.S. Army at Elbe river. Our association played the role of infantry men from the 69th Division, meeting Russians near the town of Torgau. Our greatest enemy was weather. It was raining the whole day and it was really cold. But the rain didn’t stop us. The vehicles, the explosions, Russians and Americans met again.

The locals were very pleased about it. Note the steam rising off the pots.

Corporal George Hougaz of Marseilles, Illinois
745th Tank Battalion, 1942–45
Was presented the French Legion of Honor on October 20, 2011 at the Marseilles, Illinois VFW Post 5506 by post commander Jack Leininger. Leininger presented the medal on behalf of Graham Paul, the French Consul General in Chicago.

Sergeant William Javanicki of Silver Spring, Maryland
5th Engineer (Combat) Brigade
Was presented the French Legion of Honor on February 15, 2012 at the French Embassy in Washington DC by Olivier Senor Almeras , Consul General of France.

Staff Sergeant Donald Pawlak of Depew, New York
A Company, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 1940–1945
Was presented the French Legion of Honor on July 17, 2011 by the Honorary French Consul of West Seneca Veterans Memorial Park in West Seneca, New York.

Tech Sergeant Edward J. Zolowski of Shirley, Massachusetts
F Company, 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment
Was presented the French Legion of Honor on March 23, 2012 by Christophe Guilhaou, Consul General of France in Boston at Fort Devens Massachusetts.

If you’re a WWII veteran of the Big Red One, have been honored with the French Legion of Honor and haven’t yet had your presentation mentioned in the Bridgehead Sentinel, please tell us about it. Include your: name, hometown, date and location of presentation, 1st Div. unit and the years.

The Highest French Distinction
Created by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802, the French Legion of Honor was created to reward military and civil merits in the service of France. The “Legion d’Honneur” is France’s highest distinction which can be presented to a citizen of France, or another country.

Listed below are submissions from 1st Infantry Division veterans who have recently been awarded the French Legion of Honor by their local French Consulate General.

By Michal Kowalski, Big Red One Poland

Display Honors Poles in the U.S. Army by Big Red One Re-Enactors

The veterans of the U.S. Army who have recently been awarded the French Legion of Honor and can be presented to a citizen of France, or another country.

Listed below are submissions from 1st Infantry Division veterans who have recently been awarded the French Legion of Honor by their local French Consulate General.

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The following excerpt is from James Magner’s recently released book about his personal experiences in Vietnam with the 2nd Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment.

The author notes that after releasing his book, he was contacted by two children of 1SG Naipo Mokuwahna, who passed away when they were young.

The following message was sent to Magner from Naipo’s daughter, Leilani:

“I bought this book tonight and have read through 10 chapters. I cried on the second. I can picture everything in my mind especially the images of my father. He passed when I was a baby and I have tried tracking down information of his time in the military, and finding out that this book had been written gave me chills. It is beautifully written and helps me to live the story. Thank you for writing this book and I highly suggest it to everybody. Mahalo.”

By James John Magner

Intro: The Legend

“Lieutenant Magner, I’m Captain Tiller. This is Lieutenant Montgomery, the XO. Glad to have you aboard.”

“We shook hands. Bill Tiller was short, thin, late twenties, with glasses over his pointy nose. He looked like one of those high school nerds who always knew how to fix the projector. His second-in-command, LT Ellis Montgomery, was a bit taller and chunky. He wanted to be called Moony, but was usually called “Chub.”

“You’re going to give us 3rd platoon, but it’s not as sufficient strength yet, so I want you to take 2nd platoon for now. Lieutenant Griffith is having trouble with his knee. He should be good in a few days and by that time…”

“Yes sir.”

“In the meantime, Lieutenant Montgomery will get you what you need and show you around. And, oh yeah, you should meet your new platoon sergeant so you two can work together as replacements come in.”

“Excuse me, sir, what happened to the platoon?” I asked.

“We lost some people.”

Montgomery took over. “With Mokuwahna, you may not need other people.”

“How’s that?”

First Sergeant Naipo Mokuwahna, “The Legend,” was a one-man combat team. Or so we have been told.”

Tiller sat down at his desk and started to go through papers, but looked up. “He came over with the 101st Airborne. They had a little fight last week, and the CO brought in some media people… cameras, film, the whole shooting match. The general sees some guy in a foxhole with five VC heads on stalks.”

Montgomery was enjoying this more than the captain. “He’s got them looking straight at him, and he’s got his guitar out, singing

them a song he just wrote for ‘em. Needless to say, he’s freakin’ everyone out.”

The captain smiled a little. “The Old Man practically has a heart attack, starts pushing the media guys in the opposite direction. He tells his people to get rid of the crazy bastard.”

Montgomery broke in. “So The Legend gets buried—dropped to the bottom of the army TO and E.”

“I said, ‘To us.’”

Tiller, looking down again: “No, to you. He’s full-blooded Hawaiian. He learned his jungle warfare in the Pacific, fighting the Japs during World War II. He had a couple of Silver Stars by the time you were born and picked up more medals in Korea. And this is his second tour in ‘Nam. He taught hand-to-hand combat at ranger school. He’s a black belt in everything.”

“He looked at me in earnest. “You can learn a lot in a hurry, but you’ll never see the little bastards anyway.”

I discovered that the light-weight little play gun—the GIs were already calling it the Mattel—had a selector switch for either full automatic, or semi-automatic. That’s about all I learned.

Enter, The Legend

I walked into the musty darkness of the officers’ tent, blinded by the glare of the morning sun, and from squinting into the little cracked shaving mirror hung on the wooden rack that held the big washbowls. I didn’t hear a sound until I got within machete range.

“Lieutenant Magner?”

It was an explosion of life from out of the dim clutter. He was unerring, like one of the bunks had started a conversation. I could make out a form that was probably human.

“You Magner?”

I was not prepared for The Legend despite the briefing from Captain Tiller. The words dropped from out of a face that looked like one of those island masks use in ancient rituals. His teak-colored skin was even darker and spookier by the black beret.

Nobody was authorized to wear a black beret in those days.

A Haunting Beauty: Vietnam Through the Eyes of an Artist

“We’re going to give you 3rd platoon, but it’s not as sufficient strength yet, so I want you to take 2nd platoon for now. Lieutenant Griffith is having trouble with his knee. He should be good in a few days and by that time…”

“Hey, you’re going to give us 3rd platoon, but it’s not as sufficient strength yet, so I want you to take 2nd platoon for now. Lieutenant Griffith is having trouble with his knee. He should be good in a few days and by that time…”

“You’re going to give us 3rd platoon, but it’s not as sufficient strength yet, so I want you to take 2nd platoon for now. Lieutenant Griffith is having trouble with his knee. He should be good in a few days and by that time…”

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A couple of days.”

I knew immediately the impression it made; his eyes turned and walked out. I was now talking to the bulk that was left behind. “We don’t have anything today, and I’ve got to take 2nd platoon out tomorrow. That’ll give you some time to get the 3rd platoon together. Everybody’s new. I want to meet with you and the squad leaders tonight at 1800, and the platoon the day after tomorrow. A big company operation is coming up next week, and Captain Tiller wants us to go out a few times before that. We may go out Thursday. I’ll let you know tonight.”

Nothing. Not even a grunt. He floated out like the Ghost of Combat Past.

Map Man

I was on patrol with my one platoon, 3rd platoon. It was our second time out. We were up to twenty-seven people out of forty, the full size of a platoon according to TO&E—the table of organization and equipment. McDaily, my radio operator; Makauwahna, my radio operator; and Toomey, the medic, made up the headquarters group. The other twenty-two were spread out among the four squads. Over half of the platoon was made up of new guys, FOGs, including two squad leaders.

We came to a twenty-foot-deep ravine that cut the jungle open like a knife. What the hell? It wasn’t on the map! It was then that I discovered that the contour lines on the map were ten meters apart, not ten feet apart like stateside maps. That’s about three times more. No wonder the lines were so far apart.

This ravine was simply between them. Yeah, it was beautiful, but it could be a great place for VC ambush.

The steep slopes were slimy, and the stream had to be waded. Getting across, one squad at a time, was slow, with a lot of sliding and hanging on. It was dicey. Then we discovered something else about the lovely, leisurely drifting water—Leeches. The needle-like little suckers could go right through your jungle duds. We had to strip, and fast. The vets happily flicked the black slimy things at the new guys who were already in a bloody panic. We flicked our leeches off, and then off each of our backs. You got acquainted quickly out there.

But we were on high ground with a deep gorge to our backs. At nobody was going to try to sneak up behind us.

“Sergeant Alterman, we’re stopping here for lunch. I want you to circle around to the left and tie the drop-off by those bulldores. The other squads will follow. Put security out fifty meters.”

“Roger.”

“By the way, you were with Sergeant Mokuwahna. Did he say anything about this ravine not being on the map?”

Alterman grinned. “I’m not sure he still has this part of the map.”

Continued on page 18...

By Patrick Guy

Most people tend to have a favorite month and conversely, a not-so-favorite month. Maybe it’s December because of Christmas, or November because of Thanksgiving.

October has always been a bittersweet month for me. I was born eight days before my mother’s birthday in October, but I lost her when I was only 12 years old. My birthday has always been a sad reminder of losing her and the memories that could have been. Knowing that, I will tell you why October 28 always brings a little smile to my face, despite the other sadness.

I had been in Vietnam for about ten months, and had spent my time in live with November Platoon of Company B, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment (Blue Spaders). My main job was infantry rifleman, though like most guys, I had other titles including “demolition man.” Apparently, I was the only one who could remember the demolition formula for blowing things up. P=Plenty. It worked every time! I was also, at times, known as “ammon man” for carrying cans of M-60 machine gun rounds. And lastly, like all infantrymen, I was often appointed “boiler man” for blowing things up: P=Plenty.

I learned many lessons early on about traveling with an infantry company, conducting search and destroy missions etc. Specifically, one must be quiet, build no fires, and keep your eyes wide open. You may not have been the only one looking to “destroy or ambush.”

Ultimately, I transferred out of the infantry line company into a recon platoon. Recon stands for reconnaissance, which involved traveling into the jungle and attempting to locate the enemy. Once the enemy was located, a larger force was contacted to engage them. At least that was the idea as I understood it.

For some of those who ever served in a line or recon platoon, let me highlight the differences as I saw them in 1969, about 50 miles north of Saigon. The line platoon was part of a large company, composed of roughly 90 men who usually travelled as one; while the recon platoon was made up of maybe 12 men who traveled alone. As I noted earlier, my infantry company had tried to use the elements of surprise and stealth to defeat the enemy. My new recon platoon seemed to be oblivious to the dangers which lurked in the jungle, and instead enjoyed playing the radio, smoking, and making as much noise as they pleased.

Needless to say, it did not take long for me to realize that I may have been wrong about the transfer, and the comfort of a large force when danger was near. Nevertheless, on the night of October 27, 1969, my comrades and I set up an ambush in the middle of the jungle. I had done this many times in the past, but mainly along trails or streams—a place where the enemy might travel at night. This particular ambush site was in the middle of thick jungle with no apparent signs of traffic. This was more than OK with me because with all the radios blaring, and fires burning, I had a hard time believing we would be able to surprised anyone.

At about 2:00 a.m. my gun position mate woke me up to take my shift. We had deployed a series of claymore mines in front of us, and were lying in wait. At 6:00 a.m. I heard what I believed to be something coming from the jungle. I thought it was probably an animal, given there were no trails created by humans. All of a sudden, I saw a flash of green moving in front of me. Having been to this rodeo before, I knew what to do. I discharged the claymore mines and started throwing fragment grenades as quickly as I could. My fellow comrades soon joined me in laying down heavy fire. When the firing was over, there lay two departed NVA soldiers, and a blood trail off into the distance.

Upon searching the two bodies, we found maps and other important-looking documents. In addition, one of the guys was carrying a bag full of medals. There were probably about forty in all, but two different types. One type of medal depicted an NVA soldier standing with his AK-47 pointed downward, the bayonet extended into a helmet on the ground. The helmet had the letters “U.S.” emblazoned on it. The other type of medal showed an NVA soldier standing next to a civilian peasant. I returned the medals to my platoon lieutenant who was busily calling in our achievements to battalion headquarters on a field radio.

The battalion commander, Colonel Harold Stone (later LTG) was so impressed with our find, he immediately flew to the scene in his LHI helicopter to investigate the enemy documents first hand. After congratulating us on a job well done, he determined that the documents should be rushed to CIDG intelligence for further evaluation.

During my execution of the ambush, my position mate awoke and fired his M-16 rifle. Unfortunately, it had raised during the night, and the barrel of his rifle was full of water which caused the gun to explode. No one noticed this at the time, but during our post event celebrations, the exploded rifle was discovered along with the realization that we were now one gun too short, or one man too many. Needless to say, I immediately volunteered to solve the problem by returning to Fire Support Base Oklahoma with Colonel Stone in his LHI. It was later determined that the medals with the “U.S.” helmet emblazoned on them were to be awarded to enemy soldiers who had killed an American soldier. The other type of medal was awarded to the parents of a VC/NVA soldier who had lost his life in battle. Having lost many good friends to enemy fire, you know why October 28 brings a little smile to my face—for the medals that did not make it home. 

By Juan Santiago

Juan Santiago and his wife Carmen, visited Vietnam October 16-27, 2011. It was his first trip back in over 41 years, and he was able to re-visit many of the sites of operations of his B Co, 2nd Bn, 2nd Inf Rgt (65-67) and 120th Assault Helicopter and Cnd Aircraft Co’s, 1st Avn Bde (67-70).

After about 23 hours “in the air” after departing Orlando, they landed at Tan Son Nhut International Airport. They stayed at the renovated Rex Hotel in Saigon (the name still used by many Vietnamese to identify the central district), and took day trips with a hotel-provided SUV and driver to all their points of interest. They quickly noted that US dollars were widely accepted and that all travel was planned in travel time rather than distance. Mopeds and small motorcycles were everywhere, jostling for position with trucks, buses and cars, to include a few Chevys and Fords. There was a “Tourist Security” force in the more popular areas providing directions and/or much-needed assistance to cross the busy intersections.

In Lai Khe, Juan was able to find the original locations of his WPPs, B Co and Bn Hq, as well as those of A Trp, 1/4 Cav and 701st Maint. They looked very much the same as when he had arrived in 1965, because the Michelin Plantation trees had been re-planted long ago. He spoke with a former unit barber, who still lived in the same house in the village, although the street in front had been widened and paved. The airfield, barely recognizable from the main road, had been reclaimed by the jungle. Old “Highway 1” now was 2.5 lanes going each way and is partially toll.

The village of Bau Bang no longer exists, having become an industrial park with modern housing area. The village of Ben Cat has become a city with paved Continued on page 13...
We thank all who have responded to our requests for support of our SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS. Your generosity will enable us to fulfill our obligation to the children of all Big Red One soldiers who have lost their lives in combat—over 180 children to date—and to the children and grandchildren of our 1st Infantry Division veterans.

Following is a list of contributors to the 1st Infantry Division Foundation Scholarship Fund from 1 February 2012–31 May 2012. Duplicate names indicate additional contributions.

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OIF/OEF D.C. Monument Fund

At the present time, over 12,000 Big Red One soldiers have their names inscribed on this monument from past conflicts. But, once again, we’re asking for your help. Much preliminary work needs to be done, and that takes money. Please help honor our Big Red One Soldiers who gave so much and are still giving!

Here’s my contribution of $ _______ to help honor our men and women of the Big Red One who have lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Name ____________________________________________________________
Address __________________________________________________________
City ____________________ State _______ Zip _________________________
Phone(       ) ___________________ E-Mail ___________________________

Please make your check payable to: 1st Infantry Division Foundation.
Mark it “DC MONUMENT FUND” and mail it to: 1st Infantry Division Foundation, PO Box 607, Ambler, PA 19002.

Scholarship Fund

Yes . . . I want to help the children of our BIG RED ONE Soldiers! Here is my TAX DEDUCTIBLE contribution to the Scholarship Fund!

$15 □ $30 □ $60 □ $100 □ $150 □ Other$________

Name ____________________________________________________________
Address __________________________________________________________
City ____________________ State _______ Zip _________________________
Phone( ) ___________________ E-Mail __________________________

Please make your check payable to: 1st Infantry Division Foundation.
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Your contribution is 100% deductible for income tax purposes.

NOW CONTRIBUTE ONLINE! Visit www.1stID.org and click on “Foundation” then “Contributions.”
Family, friends and Soldiers coming together normally implies good food, good times and plenty of fun. In the case of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division and its honored guests, however, Friday’s Duke Memorial and Dedication Ceremony was a much more solemn occasion.

The day’s events were planned by the Duke Association, a private organization has chosen me for this honor. This semester has been quite a journey, thus far as I have been busy adjusting to college life. Thank you again for your generosity.

Sincerely,
Adam W. Vogel

By Staff SGT John P. Zumer

Duke Brigade Remembers Fallen, Dedicates Memorial

Family, friends and Soldiers coming together normally implies good food, good times and plenty of fun. In the case of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division and its honored guests, however, Friday’s Duke Memorial and Dedication Ceremony was a much more solemn occasion.

The day’s events were planned by the Duke Association, a private organization entrusted with preserving the legacy of the 3rd BCT, 1st Inf. Div. “Dukes.”

The group wanted to remember the ultimate sacrifices paid by Duke Soldiers since 2001 in the Global War on Terror. Brigade leaders and veterans felt the best way to honor the memory and service of their fallen was to build a unique memorial, separate from other larger, all-comprising memorials. It was that desire which served as the impetus for launching the new organization.

With Friday’s dedication of the Duke Memorial, event organizers brought to Waybur Theater the Families of those Duke Brigade Soldiers who had made the ultimate sacrifice in the Global War on Terror. Guests were introduced and welcomed, and Duke Association President Maj. Steve Smith took the opportunity to thank those in attendance. He also commented on the many people and organizations in the greater Fort Knox community that helped make the memorial a reality, once word got out about the project. “I quickly found out they had made the Duke Brigade their own,” said Smith.

The solemnity of the occasion was brought home to the audience with a Fallen Hero Flag Presentation. Where an honor guard meticulously folded a United States flag, a narrator explained during the folding that the thirteen separate folds in the process each represent not the 13 original colonies as one might suspect, but special virtues or influences like equality, womanhood and country.

After a memorial video, high-lighting Fallen Duke Soldiers and the brigade’s history since 9/11, Col. Chris Toner, commander of the 3rd BCT, 1st Inf. Div., discussed the unforgettable legacy of those Soldiers who had died, and how they and their Families will be remembered in brigade circles.

“We will never forget the terrible loss you have suffered,” said Toner.

After the Waybur Theater events concluded, attendees moved to the formal dedication of the Duke Memorial, near the common area shared by the 3rd BCT battalions. The monument unveiled to the public is modeled after the 1st Cavalry Division’s memorial at Fort Hood. Featuring separate markers for each of the brigade’s six battalions, with individual names of Soldiers who have fallen in Iraq or Afghanistan since 2001 listed on each marker.

The monument currently holds 118 names. A special memorial prayer and the somber notes of “Taps” set the stage for many months of work on the part of volunteers reaching fruition. In unison, each marker was uncovered, with Family members then inspecting each, looking for the names of loved ones. Many took the opportunity to highlight with tracing paper and charcoal the imprint of the names set into the black granite markers. A reception for Gold Star Families at the Fort Knox Leaders Club brought the day’s events to a close.

It was a somber day of remembrance, certainly, as those present relived some very painful moments, recognizing brave Duke Brigade Soldiers no longer with Families, friends and their comrades-in-arms. Toner said if there was any consolation, however, it was in knowing the Fallen won’t ever be forgotten by those who gazed upon the Duke Memorial, or remember in their most precious memories what their lives meant to the nation and loved ones left behind.

Many Family members present thanked those who had arranged the tributes paid to their Fallen Soldiers, even on such a bitter-sweet day that couldn’t help but remind them of what they had lost. “You guys just did an amazing job, all of it,” said Darren Baker, stepfather of Spc. Mihayla Brag, who died in December just before the brigade was set to return from Afghanistan.

For those who helped and planned the memorial and day’s events, however, it was a small installment on a debt that cannot be repaid. “Their sacrifice was great, but not in vain,” said Toner. “They risked their lives, ultimately, for their brothers and sisters.”

Adam W. Vogel

Wesley A. Johnson

Wesley is the grandson of Jack Daniel Johnson who served with Company B, 2nd Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment from February 1963– June 1966 when he was killed in Vietnam.

Dear Foundation:

I graduated on May 13, 2011 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemical Engineering, cum laude. I am now working in an introductory program for BASF Corporation, which is the largest chemical company in the world. I have started working in Marlburg, GA at a Fluidized Catalytic Cracking Production Facility as a process engineer.

Your organization was a big help to me and my family, and I just wanted to sincerely thank your organization’s support in helping me reach my academic goals.

Sincerely,
Wesley A. Johnson

Daniel Turner

Dear Foundation:

Our son, Andrew, received a Huelbner Scholarship back in 2005. He did put it to good use. After an undergraduate degree at the University of Missouri at Columbia, he graduated from Creighton University Medical School. He is now Capt Andrew Turner, MD, currently a psychiatrist resident at Tripler Army Medical Center, Honolulu, HI.

Sincerely,
Daniel L. Turner, LTC, USAR (Ret.)

Justine Able

Dear Foundation:

I wanted to write to express my sincere gratitude for your support of my education through the Foundation’s Scholarship Fund. I am now a senior at Drake University in Des Moines, IA and plan on attending medical school next fall. I know that all of this would not have been possible without your support.

Thank you very much and have a happy holiday season.

Justine Able

The following letters are from recent recipients of the First Division Foundation’s Scholarship program.

Adam W. Vogel

Wesley A. Johnson

Dear Foundation:

Thank you for awarding me the 1st Infantry Division Foundation Scholarship. I am truly grateful that your organization has chosen me for this honor.

This semester has been great thus far as I have been busy adjusting to college life. Thank you again for your generosity.

Sincerely,
Adam W. Vogel

Dear Foundation:

I graduated on May 13, 2011 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemical Engineering, cum laude. I am now working in an introductory program for BASF Corporation, which is the largest chemical company in the world. I have started working in Marlburg, GA at a Fluidized Catalytic Cracking Production Facility as a process engineer.

Your organization was a big help to me and my family, and I just wanted to sincerely thank your organization’s support in helping me reach my academic goals.

Sincerely,
Wesley A. Johnson

The scholarship allowed me to focus on my academics and extracurricular activities during college, which helped me gain a position with a Fortune 100 company. My father was able to earn his Bachelor and Masters Degrees mainly due to the financial assistance provided by the 1st Infantry Division Foundation, and now I have also benefited from your foundation. Thank you for all the assistance over the years.

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Dear Foundation:

I wanted to write to express my sincere gratitude for your support of my education through the Foundation’s Scholarship Fund. I am now a senior at Drake University in Des Moines, IA and plan on attending medical school next fall. I know that all of this would not have been possible without your support.

Thank you very much and have a happy holiday season.

Justine Able

The following letters are from recent recipients of the First Division Foundation’s Scholarship program.

Adam W. Vogel

Wesley A. Johnson

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Thank you very much and have a happy holiday season.

Justine Able
CSM Bradley K. Meyers
Command Sergeant Major, 3/1 IBCT

CSM Bradley K. Meyers, originally from Lafayette, Ind., enlisted in the Army in 1984 and graduated Basic Training and Airborne School at Fort Benning, Ga. He spent the next few years in various airborne units before graduating from Ranger School. He attended the US Army Sergeants Major course in 2003, and was first appointed to the position of Command Sergeant Major in 2005. He took on the role of 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division Command Sergeant Major in March of 2012.

LTC Scott A. Shore
Battalion Commander, 201st Brigade Support Battalion

LTC Scott A. Shore is a Armor Officer and West Point graduate. He began his career in Vilseck, Germany, where he started out as an Armor Platoon Leader during Desert Storm, and later as Company Executive Officer. After transferring into the Transportation Branch, Shore served several different positions within the 9th Theater Support Command, and then moved on to the Army G-1, the Strategic Deployment and Distribution Command and the 1st Armored Division. He took command of the 201st Brigade Support Battalion in June, 2012.

CSM John N. Morales
Command Sergeant Major, 3/1 IBCT

CSM John N. Morales was born in Kansas City, and enlisted as an Infantryman in 1989. After graduating Basic Training and Airborne School, he went on to serve in both the US and overseas at places including Fort Benning, Ga., Fort Stewart, Ga., Fort Irwin, Calif., Germany, and Korea. He has deployed to Kuwait, the Persian Gulf, Iraq and Afghanistan. He took on the role of Command Sergeant Major of the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, in April, 2012.

CSM Victor E. Fleek
Command Sergeant Major, 1-26 IN

CSM Victor Fleek, from Dobbins, Ind., enlisted in 1983 and attended Basic Training at Fort Benning, Ga. He has served at installations including Fort Kobbe, Panama; Fort Richardson, Alaska; Fort Carson, Colo.; and Hohenfels, Germany. His experience as a Soldier includes positions as squad leader, drill sergeant, observer controller and First Sergeant. He took on the role of Command Sergeant Major of the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment in April, 2012. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Science from Liberty University, and has completed all levels of the Non-Commissioned Officer Education System, including graduating from class 57 of the US Army Sergeants Major Academy. His awards and decorations include the Expert Infantryman's Badge, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, the Bronze Star Medal, and the Meritorious Service Medal.

LTC Eric P. Lopez
Commander, 2-2 IN

LTC Eric P. Lopez, born in New Haven, Conn., was commissioned as a 2nd Lt. when he graduated from West Point in 1996 with a Bachelor of Science degree. He has since led infantry units at Fort Campbell, Ky., Hunter Army Airfield, Ga., Fort Drum, N.Y., Fort Benning, Ga.; in addition to serving in leadership roles at Fort Lewis, Wash., and Human Resources Command in Alexandria, Va., and Fort Knox, Ky. He took command of the 3rd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment in March, 2012. He has deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, and some of his Army education includes airborne school, air assault school, survival, evasion, resistance and escape school, and Ranger school.

CSM John N. Morales
Command Sergeant Major, 2-2 IN

CSM John N. Morales was born in Kansas City, and enlisted as an Infantryman in 1989. After graduating Basic Training and Airborne School, he went on to serve in both the US and overseas at places including Fort Benning, Ga., Fort Stewart, Ga., Fort Irwin, Calif., Germany and Korea. He has deployed to Kuwait, the Persian Gulf, Iraq and Afghanistan. He took on the role of Command Sergeant Major of the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, in April, 2012.

Some of his awards include the Order of Saint Michael Medal, the Bronze Star Medal with Valor device, the Purple Heart medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal.

LTC Michael Zernickow
Commander, 6-4 CAV

LTC Michael Zernickow enlisted as an infantryman in 1988, and participated in an airborne assault into Panama during Operation Just Cause. He was selected to attend Officers' Candidate School in 1994, where he was named Distinguished Military Graduate. Since his commission, he has served as a Platoon Leader, Company Executive Officer, Battalion Supply and Administration Officer, and Company Commander. He was also selected to serve on the staff of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Aide-de-Camp for the Combined Forces Command – Afghanistan. His military education includes the airborne, Pathfinder, Jumpmaster and Ranger Schools, and the Command and General Staff College.

Zernickow holds Masters Degrees in education from Troy State University and public policy from Georgetown University. He was named the commander of the 6th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, in March 2012.

CSM John A. Murray
Command Sergeant Major, 6-4 CAV

CSM John A. Murray was born in Dillsboro, Ind., enlisted in 1983 and graduated from Basic Training at Fort Benning, Ga. He has served at installations including Fort Kobbe, Panama; Fort Richardson, Ak.; Fort Carson, Colo.; and Hohenfels, Germany. His experience as a Soldier includes positions as squad leader, drill sergeant, observer controller and First Sergeant. He took on the role of Command Sergeant Major of the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment in April, 2012. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Science from Liberty University, and has completed all levels of the Non-Commissioned Officer Education System, including graduating from class 57 of the US Army Sergeants Major Academy. His awards and decorations include the Expert Infantryman's Badge, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, the Bronze Star Medal, and the Meritorious Service Medal.

CSM Victor Fleek, from Dobbins, Ind., enlisted in 1983 and attended Basic Training at Fort Benning, Ga. He has served at installations including Fort Kobbe, Panama; Fort Richardson, Alaska; Fort Carson, Colorado; and Fort Hood, Texas. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Social Science and History. He was appointed to the position of Command Sergeant Major in 2012, shortly before taking over the duties of the 6th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment Command Sergeant Major. He has deployed to Kosovo, Iraq and Kuwait, and has attended Air Assault School, Scout Commander Certification, Sling Load Inspector Certification, and graduated from St. Thomas Aquinas College with a Bachelors Degree in Social Science and History.
LTC Glenn Bollinger, III
Commander, 3-1 Special Troops Battalion

LTC Glenn Bollinger, III, was raised in Radcliff, Ky., and commissioned as an infantry 2nd Lt. in December 1992. He started out as a rifle platoon leader at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, and then as a Ranger Rifle Platoon leader with the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. He later served in several positions in Special Forces Groups, including Assault Troop and Detachment Commander, eventually moving up to the role of executive officer to the Deputy Commander of Special Forces Command. He took command of the 5-1 Brigade Special Troops Battalion in March 2012.

He has deployed to Haiti, Iraq and the Philippines, and has attended a number of military schools, including the Jumpmaster, Combat Diver, Air Assault and Pathfinder schools. He holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Science Degree from Western Kentucky University and a Master of Arts Degree from the School of Advanced Military Studies.

CSM Billie Jo Boersma
Command Sergeant Major, 3-1 Special Troops Battalion

CSM Billie Jo Boersma, from Flagstaff, Ariz., enlisted in 1992 and attended Basic Training at Fort Jackson, S.C., and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Gordon, Ga. She has served in many stateside and overseas assignments, including Fort Huachuca, Ariz., Munster Depot, Germany, and Fort Bragg, N.C. She was named Drill Sergeant of the Year in 2003.

Her military education includes all Non-Commissioned Education System courses as well as the Master Fitness course, Airborne School and the Battle Staff NCO Course, and graduated the US Army Sergeants Major Academy with class 58.

Her awards include the Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, and Joint Commendation Medal. She is a member of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club. She took on the role of Command Sergeant Major of the 3-1 Brigade Special Troops Battalion in April 2012.

LTC Henry I. B. McNeilly
Commander, 1-6 FA

LTC Henry I.B. McNeilly, or “HIB,” began his career in 1993 at Fort Campbell as a field artillery officer, serving in a variety of positions before moving to Korea and serving on USFK Joint Staff. From there he went to Fort Drum and served as battalion fire support officer and battery commander before fulfilling an instructor assignment at West Point. The then served in a variety of positions in Hawaii including Iraqi Army Military Transition Team Trainer, battalion operations officer and executive officer, brigade executive officer, and U.S. Army Pacific staff member. He assumed command of 1-6 Field Artillery in March 2012.

He deployed twice to Iraq and is a graduate of several military schools including Command and General Staff College, Combined Arms and Staff Services School, Field Artillery Officer Advanced and Basic Courses, Air Assault, Airborne, and Ranger courses. His awards and decorations include the Meritorious Unit Award, Bronze Star, and the Combat Action Badge. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Elon College, North Carolina, and Masters in Public Administration from John Jay College, the City University of New York.

Juan’s Trip Continued from page 9...

Juan was raised in Radcliff, Ky., and commissioned as an infantry 2nd Lt. in December 1992. He started out as a rifle platoon leader at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, and then as a Ranger Rifle Platoon leader with the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. He later served in several positions in Special Forces Groups, including Assault Troop and Detachment Commander, eventually moving up to the role of executive officer to the Deputy Commander of Special Forces Command.

He took command of the 5-1 Brigade Special Troops Battalion in March 2012.

He has deployed to Haiti, Iraq and the Philippines, and has attended a number of military schools, including the Jumpmaster, Combat Diver, Air Assault and Pathfinder schools. He holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Science Degree from Western Kentucky University and a Master of Arts Degree from the School of Advanced Military Studies.

Juan’s Trip Continued from page 9...

Above: “The surprise of my life. I stopped at the Village of Lai Khe to ask for information, next thing I know the gentleman pictured here saw me and said, ‘I know you.’ He said that he was the barber for the 2/2 Inf. His Name is Mr. Chanh, he is 72 years old like me. WOW! I never expected to run into him.” — Juan
Sergeant of the Guard at Nuremberg

The following is an excerpt from Jim Sharp’s recently released book “SGT of the Guard at Nuremberg.” For ordering information, check the “BRO Books” section of this issue on page 16.

By Jim Sharp

Colonel Burton C. Andrus was the Senior Military Officer responsible for providing security throughout the Palace of Justice and the prison complex. Colonel Andrus was a big man, stout in physical appearance with a gruff voice. He was a tough and strict disciplinarian and was able to keep soldiers on his security detachment that had the same characteristics. He was a demanding, no nonsense soldier who treated German Generals Goering, Hess, and Keitel as Prisoners of War.

By late August 1945, most all of the defendants and many of the witnesses had been selected from various prisons to Nuremberg in preparation for the trial. As part of that preparation, Colonel Andrus had put out an order to begin selecting a cadre of NCOs to be trained as permanent “select” senior security personnel for the length of the trial, which was expected to last three months. Colonel Andrus named a board of three officers who would conduct interviews and select the security cadre. Other security personnel would be selected after the senior cadre had been selected.

The 1st Infantry Division, stationed at the former Nuremberg SS barracks, would be the “pool” from which security personnel would be selected. Captain Miller, my company commander suggested that I should interview for a position. At the time, I was the Regimental Motor Pool Sergeant with a 10-person staff. I was in charge of assigning the repair and transport of Jeeps and other vehicles. Also assigned to me was a military 2-door sedan for providing transportation services, parking guards or taking key personnel on or off of the Palace of Justice. The United States provided transportation for the United States defense team.

When we were not on duty all guards were housed in old German SS barracks in Nuremberg about three miles from the Palace of Justice. While on duty guard rotated to different posts. The purpose of rotating was so that the guards would not become familiar or friendly with the defendants.

Guard Duty

As an NCO at the International Military Tribunal, a part of our responsibility was to train those soldiers who would be standing guard at the doors of guard posts at the Palace of Justice. Before we could do that, we had to undergo orientation and training of our own. This training lasted 12 hours a day, seven days a week.

The first time I saw the defendants up close was in the exercise yard during my first training and orientation. I was observing them from atop the ancient prison wall surrounding the entire Palace of Justice area. I was amazed because I originally thought these men would look like sadistic monsters, or something similar—because these were the leaders of the Third Reich, now accused of the most dreadful crimes against humanity. These were the same Nazis I had read about in the Topaha Daily Capital, and whom I had learned to hate throughout my military career. When I saw them in the exercise yard for the first time it was a shock because they were all neatly dressed, strolling and visiting in small groups. My first thought was, “they looked just like ordinary men that you might see strolling in the park back home.” My second thought was, “I wonder if I could get an autograph from one of these Nazi leaders.”

As we stood atop the 10-foot high wall surrounding the Palace of Justice area, the Officer of the Day who was leading our orientation, pointed out Hermann Goering, Rudolph Hess, Joachim von Ribbenbrop and others. It was during this orientation that I fully recognized the historic nature of this trial—the first international trial of its kind. The defendants were all infamous, and not only represented the most evil Nazi regime, but were responsible for killing more people than any other in modern times.

When we were not on duty all guards were housed in old German SS barracks in Nuremberg about three miles from the Palace of Justice. While on duty guard rotated to different posts. The purpose of rotating was so that the guards would not become familiar or friendly with the defendants.

The United States provided most all of the security guards for the defendants and many of the witnesses. At each inspection of the defendants and guards by Colonel Andrus was, “Any disorder or organized attempt to use of force was needed with the defendants. However, on occasion when Goering, Hess or other notable defendants were on the stand, and the courtroom was full of reporters, greater caution and control was necessary because the news people were anxious to get as close as possible. Since the conditions were in a constant flux, the security procedures often were revised.

All the defendants were well educated and could speak several languages, especially English. They were in fact administrators, lawyers, architects, professors, authors, journalists, teachers and engineers. This odd assortment of men were the leaders of Hitler’s Nazi Germany. The fact that I had authority over these formerly powerful Nazis seemed unreal. As time went on and we became accustomed to each other, we would occasionally carry on a brief conversation or even secure an autograph.

On October 24, three days after the indictment was read, one of the twenty-two defendants, Robert Ley, head of the German Labor Front (DAF) tore a towel into strips, attached them to a plumbing pipe in his cell and hanged himself. The suicide was the first major embarrassment of our security staff and brought major changes to the whole security guard situation. Thereafter, the defendants often were subject to strip searches while out of their cells and at the same time, towels were removed and cells were searched high, and low.

Conversation between guards and defendants was expected to be limited to carrying out orders and prison duties. A 24-hour watch was placed on all defendants and a light was to shine into the cell of each defendant continuously. Defendants were not allowed access to any newspapers or radio. During the early part of the trial they were not permitted to communicate with each other, but due to complications of enforcing this ban was only enforced during the first few months of the trial proceedings.

When the trial started, many Germans still worshipped the defendants and still thought of them as leaders of the Third Reich. Some were comparing Adolf Hitler to President Franklin D. Roosevelt, as both had brought their country out of a depression. Many Germans held steadfast of their views until evidence began to come out in trial testimony of the millions of people that Hitler and these defendants had killed in concentration camps.

Colonel Andrus reminded us frequently that they were the enemy, but just as they were important to us and our allies, they were also important to the other Germans who were not. As time went on and some were fanatical enough (include the SS, some of whom were still in hiding) to attempt a rescue and start another Reich. Rumors concerning such activities picked up by our intelligence group were rampant. As these rumors and information were received, we would beef up our security by adding more guards, machine gun emplacements, and tanks around the Palace of Justice complex.

Among the first orders issued by Colonel Andrus was, “Any prisoner who attempts to escape, the guard or any member of the guard who sees him, will shoot him. In the event of mutiny, disorder or organized attempt to
escape, immediate action will be taken by te guard using such force as necessary.” Each Sergeant of the Guard was armed with a .45 caliber pistol, and nine rounds of ammunition, with orders to use it if necessary to prevent escape. The other guards carried tear gas, which were the law enforcement type of club.

Security guards were not to become friendly with the defendants; and they were to be treated as prisoners of war. When the defendants were in their cells, security guards were to remain quiet. Any visiting through the cell door during quiet time was easily heard in adjacent cells. Each week the defendants were allowed to receive and write one letter from their family.

Occasionally some VIPs would try to move near the defendant’s bench to get a “photo-op” with Hermann Goering or other defendants in the background. Some of our young army attorneys assigned to Jackson’s staff were also guilty of this as well. This posed a problem for those of us trying to enforce the rules because some of the army attorneys and visiting dignitaries did not think the rules applied to them. We tried to be diplomatic, but we did have the authority to eject them from the courtroom.

As things settled down to routine activities, frequent chats took place between guards and defendants when moving them to the court room or to legal areas to see their attorneys. In many cases the attorneys were late to the appointment and this provided some time for conversation or collection autographs.

I found the ones to visit with were Hermann Goering, Alfred Jodl and Wilhem Keitel. It was almost impossible to visit with Rudolf Hess. More than once I asked for his autograph and most times would act like he did not hear, or simply ignore the question. He replied to my request only twice, one time stopping in front of his cell door window, stood at attention and said, “Heil Hitler!” The other time, he simply said, “wait until after the trial.”

Also serving with me as support staff at Nuremberg was Herb Whitlow, who now lives in Tecumseh, KS. He was a recording specialist and responsible for helping record all court proceeding at Nuremberg, including monitoring the main control station in the courtroom. Herb spent about eight months at Nuremberg for the trial. When I asked his impression of the trials he said, “I was in awe of the size of the court room and the number of people involved. When the trial was over, I was amazed at the destruction that the group of defendants had caused in Europe.” Whitlow did not think any of the defendants were very impressive with the exception of General Alfred Jodl.

I promised the interview committee when I took the job that I would stay the three months the trial was expected to last. Then I signed up for another three months. After seven months on guard duty I began to wonder if this trial would ever end! I decided if I was going to start college in the fall semester on the GI Bill, I needed to get in the pipeline to be discharged. Consequently, I was not present when the judgments were rendered, and the sentences were carried out five months later on October 16, 1946. By the time the sentences were carried out I was enrolled as a freshman at Kansas State University.

Were You Present During the Nuremberg Trials?

Whether you were a guard, served in the motor pool, or any other duty with the 1st Division during this historic moment, the Bridgehead Sentinel would love to hear your story! Send your stories to the Bridgehead Sentinel mailing address on page 15, or e-mail: DBlake@FirstDivisionMuseum.org.

ADDRESS CHANGES AND DUES

Please send DUES and ADDRESS CHANGES to: Society of the First Infantry Division PO Box 1227 Junction City, KS 66441

SOCIETY OF THE FIRST INFANTRY DIVISION

Society HQ Mailing Address: Society of the First Infantry Division PO Box 607 Amherst, PA 19002

Executive Director: Darrell “Buddy” Wallace

Administrative Staff: Jennifer Sanford; Ruth Dupree; Barbara Prinity

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855.235.7076 (Toll Free)

Bridgehead Sentinel Production

Bridgehead Mailing Address: Bridgehead Sentinel c/o First Division Museum at Cantigny 13151 Winfield Road Wheaton, IL 60189-3355

Phone: 630.260.8234

Fax: 630.260.9298

EDITORIAL POLICY

The purpose of the Bridgehead Sentinel is to serve the needs of the Society and the interests of its members by: -Disseminating information from the Society to its members; -Publishing articles and items of interest to Society members; -Promoting the history and heritage of the Big Red One. The Bridgehead Sentinel will publish three issues per year to be mailed out 1 March, 15 June, and 15 Oct. To be considered for publication in a particular issue of the Bridgehead, articles must be received by the following dates:

-For the Spring issue, received by 15 Jan;
-For the Summer issue, received by 1 May;
-For the Fall/Winter issue, received by 1 Sept.

Submissions received after these dates will normally be considered for publication in a subsequent issue.

The Bridgehead Sentinel encourages members to send stories they have written about their time spent with the division. The Bridgehead Sentinel staff reserves the right to edit all articles for length, grammar, and content.

The Bridgehead Sentinel does not publish material relating to political issues or campaigns, paid advertisements or solicitations, or material that may be considered defamatory or libelous. Because of issues involved in securing permissions for articles and original copies of photos, the Bridgehead Sentinel does not typically re-publish articles that appeared previously in other newspapers, journals and magazines.

The Bridgehead Sentinel reserves the right to publish or not publish any article or item sent for its review. All stories, photos and other items sent to the Bridgehead Sentinel will be automatically considered for donation to the First Division Museum in Wheaton, Illinois, unless otherwise requested.

Send your stories to the Bridgehead Production address above.
2011 was again a very busy year that went by too fast! The winter of 2011-2012 was almost like in 1944, as we all did a lot of back-breaking shoveling... In April 2011, we went to visit our British WWII friend Kent Smith and his wife Olwen. We attended the annual ceremony which honors the “forgotten dead” who gave their lives during Exercise Tiger, just six weeks before D-Day.

In July we went to Overland Park, KS as guests of the 99th Infantry Division to attend their final reunion. The WWII Veterans put us at the VIP table although we would have preferred to sit with all our friends from the “Greatest Generation.”

While in Kansas, we visited McConnell Airbase and Fort Riley, home of the Big Red One. From KS, we flew to MA where we attended a VBOB reunion. We were hosted by our friends Chris and Jeanne de Marcken and many friends from MA paid for our air expenses. We were overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity of all these friends. It was an exhausting schedule of events, trips, speeches, and reunions with dear friends. In fact, it was the most emotional trip we ever made... like in 1944, as we all did a lot of back-breaking shoveling...

In September, we became “Honorary Members” of the First Engineer Combat Battalion Association. The men in the first jeep who came in our town on September 11, 1944 (our Liberation Day) were from that unit.

On September 22nd, we joined a group of retired Belgian NCOs to organize a special ceremony to honor the memory of all these soldiers who gave their lives for our Freedom. Certificates of Adoption were given out to new adopters. Brigadier General Ricky Gibbs, Acting Commanding General of the V US Corps attended the ceremonies at the Henri-Chapelle and the Teddern Cemetery. We adopted 15 graves of young American soldiers and are in touch with the families of the boys. We know that it makes them very happy to know that somebody is going to the grave sites to pray and lay flowers.

We had another special guest in October, Major General Mayville, who is the Commanding General of the 1st ID. He came to see the museum and sit on the bench Marcel had in his kitchen during WWII and on which G.I.s used to cook for General Mayville. That meal was 6 months to prepare. He had a replica of a German V1 rocket which took him 6 months to finish an actual size wood replica of a German V1 rocket. Marcel was very proud of his creation.

We had another special gift in October, Major General Mayville. Among the items were two Nazi war criminals. We are in touch with the families of the boys. We know that it makes them very happy to know that somebody is going to the grave sites to pray and lay flowers.

We are just missing pictures of the “forgotten dead” who gave their lives during Exercise Tiger, just six weeks before D-Day.

Sometimes we pause to give thought as to how many wonderful people we have met this year: Veterans, high-ranking Officers, active soldiers, wounded warriors, school children, people from all walks of life. Yes we have been blessed with years of a wonderful marriage, good health….and of course meeting people!

-Mancel and Mathilde Schmetz
Welcome to the new members of the Century Club! These are members who have donated $100 or more toward the Big Red One Support Fund.

Thank you for partnering with us to support our division!

If you would like to donate to the BRO Support Fund, please use the coupon below or the membership renewal application on page 18 to do so. With your generosity, help and support, the Big Red One continues to take care of its own!

**CENTURY CLUB**

The Big Red One Support Fund is the Society’s own fund that provides assistance to serving 1st Infantry Division soldiers and their families in non-emergency situations—our 1st Infantry Division Foundation’s McCormick Grants program handles the emergencies. As the Global War on Terror has progressed, the number of needs and assistance programs have multiplied dramatically, yet there are often needs that fall between the cracks. These situations are the reason the BRO Support Fund exists.

If you would like to donate to the BRO Support Fund, please use the coupon below or the membership renewal application on page 18 to do so.

**BRO SUPPORT FUND**

Yes . . . I want to help our Society help the Soldiers of the BIG RED ONE!

Here is my TAX DEDUCTIBLE contribution to the BRO Support Fund!

$15 $30 $60 $100 $150 Other

Name __________________________
Address _________________________
City __________________ State __ Zip __________
Phone(______) E-Mail __________________

Please make your check payable to: Society of the First Infantry Division.
Mark it "BRO SUPPORT FUND" and mail it to:
Society of the First Infantry Division, PO Box 1127, Junction City, KS 66441.

Your contribution is 100% deductible for income tax purposes.

**BUSINESS MEMBERSHIPS**

If you are a business in the Fort Riley, Kansas community and would like to support the Society, become a business member!

Join the Society of the First Infantry Division and show your support for the Big Red One!

Membership form and information on page 18.
A Haunting Beauty

Continued from page 8...

“What do you mean?”

“He burns the maps to cook his food... doesn’t I like the taste of head tablets.”

“Say again?” This had to be a joke.

“He uses the maps to cook his food.” Alterman was enjoying this.

As the platoon sergeant, Mokuwahna got the second set of maps so he could look for things we needed to be aware of—a second set of eyes. Also, in case I got knocked off, he could take over immediately. It’s not good if I’m the only one looking at the map, or have the only set. This was something I had to talk to the old boy about.

I strode over to find The Legend. He was seated on a log, with other pieces of jungle debris constructed to make a table. The rest of us were sitting on the ground eating C-rations. Not Mokuwahna. He had an elaborate display of condiments and dried fruits and vegetables: bananas, pineapples, peppers, and good looking things I couldn’t identify. What, no tablecloth? How about a display of exotic weapons and bullets.

“45? The man’s not eating what we’re eating. It dawned on me—'45? The man’s not eating what we’re eating. It dawned on me—‘45? The man’s not eating what we’re eating. It dawned on me—’45? The man’s not eating what we’re eating. It dawned on me—’45? The man’s not eating what we’re eating. It dawned on me—”

“Uh-huh.”

“How can you keep track of what we are as we move along? What if I get separated from you, or killed? What do you do?”

He looked over at me with no expression. “Don’t get killed, or get killed? What do you do?”

“What if I get separated from you, or get killed? What do you do?”

We’re eating. It dawned on me—“What if I get separated from you, or get killed? What do you do?”

I strolled over to find The Legend. He was seated on a log, with other pieces of jungle debris constructed to make a table. The rest of us were sitting on the ground eating C-rations. Not Mokuwahna. He had an elaborate display of condiments and dried fruits and vegetables: bananas, pineapples, peppers, and good looking things I couldn’t identify. What, no tablecloth? How about a display of exotic weapons and bullets.

My head tablets.

2012 REUNIONS

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL  Effective For 2012

SOCIETY OF THE FIRST INFANTRY DIVISION
PO Box 1127, Junction City, KS 66441

DATE: __________________________

TITLE: __________________________ (Rank or Army Or/Name)
(First) (Last) (Suffix—MD, RET etc.)

LAST 4 DIGITS OF SSN: ____________________

If you do not want your contact information (name, address, email, era, unit) listed in the Members Only online directory on our website, please check here.

MAILING ADDRESS (All Members)

(Street or Unit/CMR) __________________________ (City or Apt) __________________________ (State or AE) __________________________ (Zip Code + 4) __________________________

PERMANENT/BILLING ADDRESS (Active Duty Soldiers Only)

(Street, Apt #) __________________________ (City) __________________________ (State) __________________________ (Zip Code + 4) __________________________

Your phone # will not be released for any reason including the website.

PHONE: __________________________

EMAIL: __________________________

YOUR SERVICE WITH THE BIG RED ONE (assigned, attached or in support—eligible; please check all that apply)

☐ WW II ☐ Vietnam ☐ Cold War ☐ Peacetime ☐ Gulf War ☐ Balkans ☐ Iraq ☐ Afghanistan

UNIT: Company: __________________________ Battalion: __________________________ Regiment: __________________________

Years of Service: __________________________

Have you served in combat with another unit? ☐ Yes ☐ No

SELECT A MEMBERSHIP TYPE (please check only one)

All Membership types include a subscription to the Bridgehead Sentinel and the Annual Calendar

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

☐ Regular ($30 per year)

☐ Executive ($60 per year)

ANNUAL ASSOCIATES

Family and Friends of the Big Red One

☐ Regular ($30 per year)

☐ Executive ($60 per year)

☐ Business ($100 per year)

ANNUAL ACTIVE DUTY

Currently serving with the Big Red One

☐ E-1 to E-3 $25 per year

☐ E-4 & under $20 per year

LIFE MEMBERSHIP VETERANS

☐ Under 39 ($400)

☐ 40 - 49 ($500)

☐ 50 - 59 ($600)

☐ 60 - 69 ($700)

☐ 70 - 79 ($800)

☐ over 80 ($1000)

LIFE - ACTIVE DUTY

☐ Currently serving w/ BRO ($100)

CONTRIBUTIONS

☐ I would like to make a tax deductible contribution of $ __________, beyond my regular dues to be used for the:

SOCIETY’S GENERAL FUND or the BRO SUPPORT FUND (please check only one)

(Note: Donations of $100 or more will be recognized as CENTURY CLUB members in the Bridgehead Sentinel.)

PAYMENT (for “Membership Type” and “Contributions”)

☐ Enclosed is my check payable to the SOCIETY OF THE FIRST INFANTRY DIVISION in the amount of $ __________

☐ Please charge my (circle one): Visa / Mastercard / American Express / Discover

Card #: __________________________

EXP DATE: [month / year] CVC:

Signature: __________________________

CVC# and signature are required.

Return this form and your check, if applicable, to the address at the top of the form. If paying by credit card, you may fax this form to 785.579.6762.

For your convenience, you may also join online on our website at www.1stID.org by clicking on the “Membership” link.
ORDER FORM
Mail to: Quartermaster Society of the 1st Inf Division, PO Box 1127, Junction City, KS 66441

Name_______________________________________________________
City_____________________________________ State____ Zip____
Address_____________________________________________________
Phone________________________ E-mail_____________________________

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For Overseas orders ADD 10% + (x .10) Include shipping and handling.

*All prices include shipping and handling.

SUB-TOTAL

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Card Number __________________________ Expiration Date: Month____ Year____ (e.g. 08 11) Security Code ____ ____ ____

Signature________________________________________________________ (Back of card)
“Dogface Charlie” Celebrates Book Release with Reunion at Cantigny

On May 3-6, we welcomed 50 Vietnam veterans of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division and their families and guests for their annual reunion and to celebrate the release of Dogface Charlie, a book about their experiences. The book was the idea of veteran Tom Mercer who encouraged his buddies to contribute. Museum staff edited and produced the book, now part of the Cantigny Military History Series. Since its release at the reunion, nearly 500 copies have been sold, with another 200 on back order. The FDM website also features a lot of supplementary material submitted by the veterans. The Charlie Company vets had a banquet in Le Jardin, a memorial service in the museum’s courtyard, and panel discussion with distinguished authors and veterans of the Vietnam War. These were noted war journalist and author, Joe Galloway; Brigadier General (Retired) James Shelton, a 1 ID staff officer during the 1967 battle of Ow Thanh; and Joan Kotcher, a former Red Cross “Donut Dolly” volunteer with the 1st Infantry Division in Vietnam. Publishing books like Dogface Charlie, and bringing together veterans like Charlie Company, are among the ways in which the museum ensures these stories will be available to future generations.

The Curator’s Corner: First Division Ring from World War I

This gold ring featuring lions with jeweled eyes flanking a First Division insignia was originally owned by World War I First Division soldier Henry J. Sommer. Along with the ring came a 10 May, 1933 newspaper article which announced that Sommer had received a Silver Star Medal for gallantry in battle. On 2 May 1918, he is credited for carrying a fellow Kentuckian [Pete Pettis] to a dressing station 1/2 mile behind the front in the Cantigny Sector while under heavy fire. Unfortunately, Pettis died several weeks later in a base hospital. According to a letter from his daughter accompanying the donation, he began his military service in the 7th Cavalry, but asked to be transferred to a unit that “would be involved”. He was then transferred to the First Ammunition Train of the First Division. His daughter [the donor of this artifact] “Linky” Brokhausen joined the Navy WAVES in 1944 at age 22 and became an instructor on the Link Flight Simulators.

McCormick Research Center Seeks Back Issues of the Bridgehead

The Robert R. McCormick Research Center, which houses the museum’s military archives on the 1st Division, would like help locating some past issues of the Bridgehead Sentinel. The Research Center currently does not have issues of the Bridgehead Sentinel from 1975-1986. If any 88th veterans still have their Bridgehead Sentinels within those years, please consider donating them to the Center. Your copies of the Bridgehead Sentinel will be safely preserved within our collection for future generations.

Summer Exhibit Depicts the Life of the World War II GI

The First Division Museum at Cantigny is excited to present their summer exhibit, Drawing Fire: Bill Mauldin and the World War II GI. Cartoonist Bill Mauldin’s work during the war humorously captured the experiences of front-line soldiers. His famous characters Willie and Joe spoke for the GIs at the front, men who routinely faced danger and lived in the mud and muck. In 1945, at the age of 23, he became the youngest Pulitzer Prize winner in history with his cartoon depicting American GIs and German POWs. The exhibit tells the GI story using Mauldin’s cartoons and some of the museum’s extensive but rarely seen World War II collection. The visitor will see more than forty of Mauldin’s cartoons and a variety of artifacts including personal objects carried by soldiers, equipment, decorations, and letters written home during the war. In addition, an interactive allows visitors to hear German weapons and artillery that GIs would have faced. The exhibit opened on May 19th for Armed Forces Day. A formal opening on June 6th featured Mauldin biographer Todd DePastino. Over the course of the summer there will be a variety of activities and programs including cartooning workshops on Saturday June 30 and drop-in educational programs throughout the summer.

The First Division Museum at Cantigny

1s151 Winfield Road, Wheaton, IL 60189-3353
Phone: 630.260.8185 Fax: 630.260.9298
E-mail: Info@FirstDivisionMuseum.org www.FirstDivisionMuseum.org