



The Watch on the Rhine

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"Nous Resterons La"

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CSM Tardiff awarded Silver Star



Above left, CSM (Ret.) Paul Tardiff and wife at ceremony of Paul being awarded the Silver Star he earned during the War in Korea in 1952. Paul was a Cpl in Co. I, 7th Inf. Regt. 3d Infantry Division. He currently is a member of OP11.



Above right, Col & Mrs. Ross Franklin who upon hearing the award had never been made, corrected the oversight. The Col. was I Co. Commander in 1952. Many thanks to Korean War Veteran of the 25th Inf. Div., Robert MacThomas. Photos courtesy Robert W. MacThomas VP KWVA Bangor Chapter.

The much delayed SSM award to CSM Paul Tardiff (USA Retired) was made on the 25th of May (yep, this year) at 1100 hrs. The award ceremony was at the Maine State Korean War Memorial in Bangor. Making the award was COL J Ross Franklin. On September 19, 1952 Col Franklin was a 1st Lt, CO of "I" Company, 7th IR, 3rd ID, CSM Tardiff was a Cpl, 2nd Squad Ldr, 3rd Plt.

"...under cover of darkness the platoon moved to the base of the hill and it became immediately obvious they had encountered a much larger force than anticipated. When a concussion grenade impaired the Platoon Leader, Corporal Tardiff directed his Platoon to return fire. When Corporal Tardiff observed the Radioman hit by small arms fire near

the entrenched enemy, he immediately left his covered position, and dragged him out of the line of fire. Corporal Tardiff again exposed himself to enemy fire in order to return to his position and direct his squad to cover the withdrawal of the wounded Soldier. Corporal Tardiff remained in his position until the enemy had left the trenches and withdrew..."

There were many attendees from all the local Veterans groups, including American Legion, VFW, CSMs own Chapter of the Order of Purple Heart, and from Chapter 1 of the KWVA Bangor.

Col. Carmichael, C/S ME ARNG introduced Mr. Ken Buckley, Pres. Bangor KWVA, presentation of SSM by Col. J Ross Franklin of Florida and Arkansas.

Please turn to **TARDIFF** on page 5

Gobernador, New Mexico

Jose F. Valdez, MOH, Remembered

On August 3, 2002 at 0900, relatives and friends of CMOH Recipient, PFC Jose F. Valdez, Company B, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division will gather to dedicate a monument in his honor at Gobernador, NM. PFC Valdez, awarded the CMOH posthumously for his heroic actions near Rosenkrantz, France on 25 JAN 45, is buried at the Santa Fe, NM National Cemetery.

Gobernador is PFC Valdez' birthplace and official home of record. The family home is still standing although the community no longer exists. He was ordered to report to Pleasant Grove, UT for induction into the US Army but never actually lived in Utah, however, he is listed as a Utah CMOH recipient. A US Navy Vessel was previously named in his honor, as have schools, streets and USAR/ANG training centers and armories in Utah, Colorado and Georgia. This will be New Mexico's first memorial/monument in his honor.

The committee is interested in knowing if there are any remaining 7th Infantry Regiment survivors of those WWII battles who may have served with PFC Valdez from 1943-45...

The committee, which is made up PFC Valdez's relatives and friends and chaired by Mr. Pat Montoya of Blanco, NM, has been working on the monument for more than two years to honor their former neighbor and fallen war hero. They are also working with state legislators to have a 75-mile stretch of US Highway 64 named in PFC Valdez's honor.

PLease turn to **VALDEZ** on page 4



Since 1919



The Oldest Continuous Army Division Association



30th Infantry Regimental Reunion Held at Ft. Benning, GA

The headquarters hotel for the reunion was the Four Point Sheraton, Columbus, Georgia. Most of us arrived on Tuesday. In the evening, we all enjoyed supper at the Texas Roadhouse

Wednesday, June 26th, 2002

We left the hotel at 7:30 a.m. by two army vans. In each of the vans there was an officer, a driver, and a soldier as escorts. At the entrance of Ft Benning, there was a long line of vehicles waiting to be checked by the MPs - we had to show them our IDs. We were taken to the Battalion Conference Room for a 30th Society by-laws meeting and had refreshments. We were then taken to the Red Cloud Range and saw a live fire/static display - four Bradley Fighting Vehicles and soldiers gave a demonstration of their weapons.

We all were given earplugs to wear and binoculars to look through. The men were then outfitted with a helmet and a flack jacket so that we could fire several of the weapons. We fired the machine guns, M16 rifles, and the 20mm shells from the cannon on the Bradley. At noon, we had lunch with the troops in the Gibson Dining Facilities. We got to talk to some of the soldiers. Most of them had just returned from a six-month tour of duty in Kosovo. After lunch, we were taken on a tour of the Fort Mitchell National Veterans' Cemetery in Alabama. In the evening, we attended the Regimental Society

Dinner at the hotel. Along with our group, there were approximately 150 active Regimental soldiers.

Following the buffet supper, Lt. Colonel Audy R. Snodgrass, battalion commander, gave a short speech and showed a video on our soldiers in Kosovo. CSM James G. McDonough (Retired), president of Outpost #60, was the guest speaker. To close the evening, we all sang "Dogface Soldier" and the "Army Song".

Thursday, June 27th, 2002

In the morning, we were taken to Essebagger Field for the Regimental Awards Ceremony. Lt. Colonel Audy R. Snodgrass welcomed us. Remarks were made by Colonel Charles P. Murray (Retired), Medal of Honor recipient. The "Footsie" Britt Award was presented along with the Honorary Colonel and CSM Induction Ceremony. Once again, we had lunch at the Gibson Dining Facilities. In the afternoon, our two vans and a busload of soldiers traveled to see the National Prisoner of War Memorial Museum at Andersonville, Ga. It was a Confederate Prisoners of War Camp for captured Union soldiers during the Civil War. In the evening, we had supper at Chef Lee's Peking Restaurant.

Friday, June 28th, 2002

We were taken to Essebagger Field for the Battalion Change of Command Ceremony. The outgoing commander was Lt. Colonel Audy R. Snodgrass and the incoming commander was Lt. Colonel Wesley Gillman. The Third Infantry Band from Ft. Stewart was there to perform. The troops were inspected, the change of command took place, and the troops passed in review. Very impressive. Once again, we all sang the "Dogface Soldier" and the "Army Song". Following the ceremony, we met with the families of the present and past battalion commanders and were treated to refreshments.

"Our Country, Not Ourselves"

Carl Topie



From the Editor

Jim Drury

I hope many of us are preparing for our annual reunion, Sept. 11th in Buffalo, NY. It is truly a wonderful experience to be able to visit with our comrades, old and new, veterans and active duty personnel. Our active duty 3rd Division Commander, Major General Buford C. Blount will be our opening speaker and I am looking forward to that.

I hope all have mailed their lottery tickets to Ray Anderson to participate in the drawing for Savings Bonds. It is not too late and you need not be present to win. Just make sure your address is on the returned ticket stubs. Joe Poggi, our host, and his helpers are promising a memorable reunion. Thomas Douglas, Jr. of Cordova, TN has sent a generous contribution to the "Watch" and I wish to acknowledge his support and thank him. Support like this, from him and others, help keep ones morale high. I hope to see many of you in Buffalo.

Jim Drury: Editor

Note: The annual Secretary/Treasurer's Financial Report and Audit was unavailable at press time. However, for those interested, copies will be made available at the reunion.

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Present were Senator Susan Collins, Representative John Baldacci, Governor of Maine, members of Troop Command ME. ARNG, among others.

R W (Bob) MacThomas
VP ME KWVA

We All Love Cookies

An old man was lying on his death bed. With hours to live, he suddenly noticed the scent of chocolate chip cookies coming from the kitchen. With his last bit of energy, the old man pulled himself from his bed, across the floor to the stairs, and down the stairs to the kitchen. There, the old man's wife was baking chocolate chip cookies. With his last ounce of energy, the old man reached for a cookie. His wife, however, quickly smacked him across the back of his hand, and exclaimed, "Leave them alone, they're for the funeral!"

Decals Available

Carl Topie again wants all of the members of our Society to know how much he appreciates the many requests he has received for the new window decal and for their donations to the Society. Just send a stamped self-addressed envelope to Carl. If you wish to donate please make checks payable to The Society of the 3rd Infantry Division.

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