

The T-Patcher.org

36th DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Editor - Archie McDugal

APRIL, 1969

DOMESTIC SERVICE Check the class of service desired, otherwise this message will be sent as a fax telegram <input type="checkbox"/> TELEGRAM <input type="checkbox"/> DAY LETTER <input type="checkbox"/> NIGHT LETTER		WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM	INTERNATIONAL SERVICE Check the class of service desired, otherwise the message will be sent at the full rate <input type="checkbox"/> FULL RATE <input type="checkbox"/> LETTER TELEGRAM <input type="checkbox"/> SHORE SHIP	
NO. WDS.-CL. OF SVC.	PD. OR COLL.		CASH NO.	CHARGE TO THE ACCOUNT OF
Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to To Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower		36th Division Association		
Street and No. Washington D.C.		TIME FILED 8 P.M.		
Care of or Apt. No.		Date March 28 1969		
Destination				
THE NATION AND PARTICULARLY ALL MEN WHO SERVED IN THE UNIFORMED SERVICES OF THE UNITED STATES HAVE LOST A GREAT FRIEND AND LEADER. SINCERE SYMPATHY AND CONDOLENCES FROM THE				
36th DIVISION ASSOCIATION Amil Kohutek President				
Sent by 36th Division Association P.O. Box 4113, Waco, Texas VA 9-1248				
<small>Sender's name and address (For reference) WU12071(12-68)</small>				
<small>Sender's telephone number</small>				

Dwight D. Eisenhower was President of the United States, the highest office one can hold . . . and yet T-Patchers remember him best as General Eisenhower. He was largely responsible for drawing up war plans for our defense.

One of Eisenhower's greatest friends (since 1921) was a professional soldier by the name of Gen. Fox Conner. General Eisenhower was not fond of learning history . . . so much to memorize. It was Gen. Conner who gave him the desire to learn history, and broaden his understanding. With the aid of a huge wall map and a book, he traced the development of different campaigns . . . studied in minute detail such operations as Napoleon's, at Austerlitz and Marengo, and the emperor's last campaign in Italy.

Gen. Conner with a remarkable prescience, foresaw a second World War. The potentialities for another great conflict, built into the Treaty of Versailles, were bound to explode, he said. He urged Eisenhower to prepare himself for that day, which he did. He never dreamed that he would ever wear a general's stars . . . he hoped he might reach the rank of a full colonel.

In a small way of paying tribute to this great soldier and leader and in expressing our sympathy to his family, the above message was sent to Mrs. Eisenhower from the Association.

Gen. Ayers New AG

Gen. Ross Ayers, a veteran commander in the Army National Guard, became the adjutant general of Texas, and was promoted to major general, Tuesday, March 18, 1969. Gen. Ayers began his military career in 1931, when he enlisted in Service Battery 131st Field Artillery Battalion, 36th Infantry Division.

Ayers, who owns extensive farm operations in West Texas, succeeds Maj. Gen. Thomas S. Bishop at the head of the state military forces. He took the oath of office in ceremonies in the governor's reception room. Gov. Preston Smith, Ayers' college roommate during their days at Texas Tech, was there.

Ayers holds the Bronze Star and the Silver Star for gallantry during World War II. His home is Friona, Texas.

ONCE A T-PATCHER, ALWAYS A T-PATCHER

Plan to attend the 44th Annual Reunion at the Blackstone in Ft. Worth, Texas, Aug. 29-30-31

RESOLUTIONS MADE AT THE 43rd ANNUAL REUNION AUG. 31, 1968

Resolution No. 1

WHEREAS the management of the Baker Hotel has furnished excellent accommodations and service to the Association at the 43rd annual reunion;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Association express its gratitude and appreciation to the management and staff for the consideration shown the Association and its members.

WHEREAS the Dallas Tourist and Information Service has cooperated to make this 43rd Annual Reunion one of our finest by assisting in the registration of members and guests and providing other valuable services;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Association hereby express its appreciation for this splendid assistance.

Presented by Wesley Garrison

* * *

Resolution No. 2

WHEREAS the 36th Division's glorious record in serving our country must be perpetuated. We must be strong and in order to be recognized and continue as an Association we must be liquid;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Annual Dues beginning with 1970 year, Sept. 1, 1969, be increased from \$2.00 to \$3.00 per year.

By M. M. Gitman (Co. G, 142nd)

* * *

Resolution No. 3

WHEREAS we the members of the 36th Division assembled in our 43rd Annual Reunion do commend the brave and courageous members of our military services;

BE IT RESOLVED that we pledge our continued support to the armed forces of the U. S.

By T. J. Sessions

* * *

Resolution No. 4

WHEREAS there is on deposit in The First National Bank of Luling, Texas \$500.00 for a Salerno Memorial Fund this Association hereby dedicates and authorizes the Association to transfer this fund for the publication of the Diary of General Fred L. Walker as a fitting Salerno Memorial.

Furthermore BE IT RESOLVED that this Association undertake to assist in the publication and distribution of the published diary and the incoming president is hereby authorized to appoint a committee for the purpose of funding the publication of the diary.

By Miller Ainsworth

Resolution chairman: Oran Stovall

Closing the Generation Gap

G. B. Shippy, Jr., 213 N. 2nd Street, Darby, Pa. 19023, a young fellow whose father was in G Company 143rd Infantry, writes for information concerning the 36th Division and especially personal news of G Company and his father. He sends five names and addresses of Philadelphia, Pa. T-Patchers, taken from the telephone book and \$2.00 to cover a subscription to The T-Patcher.

Bishop Gets Medal

Maj. Gen. Thomas B. Bishop was given the Lone Star Distinguished Service Medal by Gov. John Connally Jan. 21, as one of the retiring chief executive's last acts. The Lone Star Distinguished Service Medal was created by the Legislature in 1965 to honor "exceptionally outstanding achievements . . . in the performance of duty of great responsibility." It had not been awarded before. During the period January 1963 through December 1968, Gen. Bishop distinguished himself while serving in the position of Adjutant General of Texas.

During World War II a young pilot landed his plane on an aircraft carrier and hurried to the skipper to report. "I shot down seven Jap planes, sunk a destroyer and left a cruiser listing."

To which the skipper replied, "Velley good Yank, you made one mistake."

DEATH VALLEY HERO

On May 23, 1959, North Carolina State College officially named a beautiful modern building—"Bragaw Dormitory." In a formal program friends and family honored an outstanding student, a loyal alumnus, a man of exemplary character, unusual ability, outstanding leadership, and courage far beyond the call of duty, Henry Churchill Bragaw.

You knew Henry Churchill Bragaw as a soldier, Co. K, 143rd Infantry Regiment leader. He was with you 26 years ago at Salerno.

Don Whitehead, correspondent, wrote the following report Dec. 8, 1943: "For his cool and daring leadership in organizing the defense and encouraging the men under intense enemy fire, 31-year-old Lt. Henry C. Bragaw, Wilmington, N. C. is being recommended for a battlefield promotion. Bragaw is a slender, soft-voiced Southerner, who was a horticulturist on a North Carolina plantation before the war. He sports a fierce red handlebar mustache which is his identification with the troops. 'Bragaw is a cool one,' a colonel said. 'He stayed in there in the hottest part of the fighting to keep the men organized and their spirits up.'"

He was killed in the Battle of San Pietro, Italy. After his death his mother received a memorial gift of money from the men of Company K. Two candelabra were purchased and placed on the altar of the Episcopal Church in Southport, N. C. in his honor.

Cowtown Supper

Eight couples of T-Patchers met and had supper at Armond Jones' Restaurant in Fort Worth Feb. 22. They were Fort Worth couples Frank and June Mosley, Bob and Bess Childers, Joe and Wilma Justice, Mr. and Mrs. P. M. McReary, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert N. Walters. Out-of-town couples were Amil and Pauline Kohutek of Irving, Joe and Dorothy Kincaid of Weatherford, J. D. and Bernice Baker of Aledo, Texas. Mr. Jones and his daughter were present also.

Proud T-Patcher?

When you are given the opportunity to list the civic and social groups of which you are a member . . . do you remember to mention that you are a member of the 36th Division Association?

36th Division Histories

The 36th Division Association is looking for copies of **The Fighting 36th**. We have several people who either have given their copies away or they did not get one. There were two editions, the first had the names of World War II men and the last had the roster of the National Guardsmen after the war. We would like either copy, no matter what condition and will pay the regular price of \$10 plus postage.

Books for 141st Infantry Regiment

Emil S. Schneider, Secretary-Treasurer of the 141st Infantry Regiment Association, 129 Cedar Street, San Antonio, Texas 78210, expresses concern over the placement of the book "Five Countries, Five Years, Five Campaigns." He states that over 300 books have been set aside for the families of men who saw honorable service with that regiment. You have only to call for the book, stating your eligibility, although the postage of about twenty-five cents would be appreciated. Anyone belonging to the 36th Division Association is also entitled to the book. If this book is not in your local libraries drop us a line and we will contact the distribution committee in that area. Every Texas history collection should have this little book . . . every T-Patcher should want a copy.

Attention New York Area

All T-Patchers in the New York area will be happy to know that someone near you is interested in getting the New York Chapter back into action. Mr. Henry Weidow, Jr., Postmaster Skytop, Penn. 18357 is your man. He will need your help. We wish you full speed ahead and let us know if and how we can help.

THE BATTLE STORY OF TEXAS' 36th DIVISION

Rapido River San Pietro and Cassino

CHAPTER II

By BILL JARY (World War II Editor
of 36th Division Newspaper: T-PATCH)

The Italian winter with its wind, rain, slush, snow, and mud, was compared with the fighting during the days of the American Revolution. Said Maj. Gen. Fred L. Walker, division commander, "The suffering at Valley Forge does not even compare with the privations the men of the 36th faced in Italy."

Mud, Mountains, and Mules

After nearly two months of reinforcing, and rest since the 12 bloody days at Salerno, doughboys of the 36th again took up battle positions on November 15, 1943, when the T-Patchers relieved the 3rd Division in the Mignano sector, 10 miles south of Cassino.

So began one of the most trying periods of the division in combat.

The mountain passes that lay ahead on the rocky road to Rome were occupied by fanatic Germans with defensive positions deeply embedded in rock. The Nazis literally sat on the hills and just booted the GI's in the face in every assault.

San Pietro's "Death Valley"

In all the fighting from the beaches of Salerno, San Pietro was one of the bloodiest, most bitter and toughest battles of World War II, just 100 days after the invasion.

Men of the 143rd Infantry Regiment of the 36th Division called it "Death Valley" because they were on a rampage for 48 hours as they stormed this enemy fortress ringed by fortifications, dug into the terraced slopes commanding the Liri Valley.

Before the Fifth Army could advance along the road to Rome, this fortress had to be taken.

The battle began when the 143rd attacked at mid-day behind a heavy artillery barrage. Casualties were heavy and some companies lost all their officers, either killed or wounded.

While one group worked its way slowly along the slopes from the east in face of heavy fire, another attacked from the south out of the valley. Both ran into murderous fire from Nazi machine guns and mortars hidden in the caves and rubble of the battered little town on the slopes of Mount Sammucro.

One company, led by Capt. Charles Beacham, San Antonio, reached the edge of the town and had to turn back in face of direct fire.

Seven Riflemen Left

After two company commanders were killed, Lt. Eden C. Bergman, Clifton, Texas, took over command and reorganized the troops and led them back into the fight. He took his men deep into the German lines but had to withdraw when he had only seven riflemen left.

Battered by artillery fire and mortar fire, hammered by repeated attacks by the T-Patchers, and unable to pierce the American lines—the German pulled back from the San Pietro defenses toward San Vittore and the Rapido River line below the town of Cassino.

Out of all this mud and cold of those ragged mountains, comes the inspiration for the now famous Mauldin Cartoons, whose Willie and Joe exemplified the GI who fought and bled during the winter fighting in Italy.

Most notable example was the story written by the late Ernie Pyle, when he immortalized a man who was so beloved by the men who fought with him. That man was Capt. Henry T. Waskow of Belton, Texas, a company commander of the 143rd Infantry Regiment. Those who saw the Ernie Pyle movie "GI Joe" will immediately recognize Capt. Waskow as the captain whose body was brought down the mountain lying belly-down on the back of a mule.

They Remember Rapido River

Following the fall of San Pietro, doughboys of the 36th Division had many bloody battles yet to come. The name "Rapido River" is engraved in the memory of those men who fought across this icy bloody stream that runs in front of Cassino.

Between San Pietro and Cassino stood another small

Italian village, San Vittore. The Germans had made the town another fortress along the road to Rome.

San Vittore died beneath terrible crashing explosions of American artillery. Men of the Texas Division moved on to Rapido.

Fighting during January 1944, men of the 36th found days and nights of mud, cold rain and snow, very little sleep in water-logged foxholes and ditches with the constant noise of their own batteries and the more dangerous counterpoint of German guns, eating nothing but cold rations for days on end, and seeing their own units thinned out and their best friends disappear.

On the night of January 20-21, which was to coincide with the Anzio beachhead invasion, Texans of the 36th launched a drive to cross the Rapido River.

This treacherous stream, about 40 feet wide, 20 to 30 feet deep was swift and icy cold. The Germans had cleared all the trees and brush and literally laced it with machine guns. Preceding the crossing, some 39,000 rounds of artillery were pumped into the Germans on the opposite side of the river.

Both Sides Mined

Both sides of the river had been mined by the Germans and they had strewn barbed wire across the far side. Almost every rubber assault boat used in the crossing was punctured and sunk. Men tossed into the freezing waters, struggled to reach shore, but many were swished downstream never to be seen again.

German artillery had zeroed-in on spots where engineers had tried eight times to build foot bridges, but still they came only to find themselves under a murderous crossfire of numerous machine guns, and mortar fire.

By dawn the first attack was known to have failed and remnants of 141st and 143rd Regiments were hastily gathered together and on January 21 we tried again.

The second crossing was attempted, but again the incessant death chatter of enemy guns was met with courage that will hardly know an equal.

By night, the last remnants of two proud regiments gathered together in the shadow of loaf-shaped Mount Tracchio, prepared again for a third attack.

Third Try Cancelled

At the last minute, the third try was cancelled, and the Rapido River remained as a monument to those who died or, failing death had been made prisoners, or who had been carried torn and bleeding to the merciful hands of the medicos.

Tacticians say the distraction to this crossing made possible the ease with which the original assault at Anzio was carried out, and doing so served a purpose.

They were called "Men of Texas," but these heroes were listed from every State in the Union and two of the Territories. To them Rapido River, with almost 2,000 casualties in 48 hours, spelled an incident unequalled in the chronicles of the 36th Division.

But still tenacious, the division moved on February 1, to the Mount Castellone sector east of Cassino, to protect the vital flank of a series of attacks on "The Abbey Hill."

Men of the 36th continued to kill Germans until the division was relieved on February 24th. Artillery units of the 36th, however, remained in the lines for weeks, continued to duel with German howitzers emplaced behind the Monastery Hill.

And so the end of the winter fighting came to the 36th. Of the men who had fought valiantly through the Liri Valley from San Pietro to Monastery Hill, the division commander has been quoted as saying: "I know of no greater exhibition of mass heroism, nor do I ever expect to learn of another."

(Next time the breakout from Anzio, Velletri the key to Rome, and the 2,350-mile chase up the peninsula.)

Oldest Americans

There are currently 23.7 million Americans who are receiving monthly payments under various Social Security programs. The most unusual of these are the 2,000 beneficiaries who are more than 100 years old.—

The oldest S.S. beneficiary, Charlie Smith of Bartow, Florida, expects to celebrate his 126th birthday this July. He was brought to America from Liberia at age 12 and was sold as a slave in New Orleans. He is receiving S.S. payments based upon credits he earned at age 113, picking oranges in Florida.

HEARD FROM

Bill Nagle, Hidden Lake Drive, Princeton, Ill. (HQ Co. 141st Inf.): "Hope to be in Fort Worth . . . I'll be working toward that goal. I am a Damn Yankee but I fought with Texans in a Texas outfit and I will never forget them."

Wilmer McCloskey, Logansport, Ind. (111th Engineers): "Inclosed is check for dues and membership roster. If I can't make it for the reunion on some other date I can use the roster to look up a few of the boys."

Thomas A. Lewis, Chicago, Ill. (HQ 141st, L Co.): "Many years ago when the Division History was published I was upset to discover that my listing was in HQ Co. I joined L Co. at Camp Edwards and extended on through, picking up wounds at the Rapido (as Co. commander), and again in Southern France. I have maintained contact with some of my friends of those hectic days . . . Edgar Ford, Jim Epperson, Bob Davey and General Wilbur." (See picture.)

John C. Davenport, Evansville, Indiana: "I had a nice time at the last two reunions. I met my Co. Commander, Earl Higginbotham, down at the Dallas reunion . . . hadn't seen him since he was hit in both arms in Italy. He was helping me sack those things we put in the registration sacks, Friday night. I am planning on Fort Worth if everything works out."

Attorney Morris M. Gitman, Dayton, Ohio sent his 1970 dues and wishes to be remembered to Colonel Stovall and Sgt. Mullins.

R. A. Pilkington, St. Ann, Mo.: "Mr. Johnson took over the leadership of our country without a staff, without a Vice-President, and without warning, in a time when no one knew what was to come, he stood firm and alone, never doubting, never flinching, always faithful. The days that followed were filled with much care and fraught with danger. Now that he has retired the least we can do is to let him know that we appreciated his efforts . . . a word from you Texans would be most welcome I am sure."

Mrs. Eleanor Geline Guynes and Colonel (Ret.) John Norvell Green announce their marriage on Friday, the twentieth of December, nineteen hundred and sixty-eight, Abilene, Texas.

Along with J. C. Walker's dues comes this explanation of how he missed the reunion. His wife's family also had a reunion and they got the dates mixed . . . this was learned after driving 500 miles to attend it, arriving a week late and since it was a week before, they missed both reunions. The word of this mix-up came via Col. Stovall (Engineer).

Herman (Rosie) Rosenthal, 6623 N. California St., Chicago, Ill. 60645. Herman was Co. L, 142nd bugler. Herman is with the Veterans Affairs in Chicago, VFW, Am. Vets, Am. Legion .

Other Co. L men in Chicago are Bruno V. Bredis, 2905 W. 66th St.; Elmore Kastner, 7243 W. Palatine; Nick D. Zanini, 2725 N. Merrimac.

Capt. Frank J. Gorman, Ret. C.O. Co. A, 143rd Inf. from Lynn, Mass.: "Once a T-Patcher always a T-Patcher. I have located a few names that I will forward. Thanks for being so patient."

Mrs. Clifton Torrence, 143rd Inf., San Angelo, Texas: "I am not sure we will be going to the reunion, but we wish to stay on the active list. I am sending the dues . . . I don't want Cliff AWOL."

Jack Hawkins, 160 Christians Road, FD3, New Castle, Del. 19720, would like to publish a history of 132nd Field Artillery Battalion and will do so if he receives 300 pledges. Hawkins writes that the response is good and the personal work to assist him was beyond his expectation. He writes, "My good wife 'Margo' commented on how dependable Amil Kohutek must be. To which I replied, 'You don't know these Texans like I do . . . they are something special!'"

FROM ARCHIE . . .

Your truck-driving president Amil Kohutek, has shattered all previous membership records. He goes after members like they were miles. He has set himself a goal of 2,000 members (I understand that he has driven more than two million miles in a commercial vehicle). Amil is a good example of how hard work gets the job done . . . and when you hear from this man you know he is sincere.

Your cooperation is appreciated. We have received names and addresses and memberships from several people and have reason to believe that you are working with us. To mention a few . . . Weldon Jetton, Wichita Falls; S. S. Grace, Katy, Texas; J. M. Caviness, Paris; L. B. Easley and R. E. Adams . . . plus many more.

We are especially thankful to you who sent something for this news—without you we are lost. To mention a few who sent pictures . . . from Fort Worth, Max E. Shaffer; Rusty Murphy, Austin; John Holick, Creskill, N.J. From time to time some of you send more than your dues . . . thanks for the donations.

We make a lot of mistakes, mostly because we are hurried . . . and who isn't hurried these days? If you find out where we are going so fast, please let us know. We could use your suggestions. What aren't we doing that you would like for us to do? How may we improve The T-Patcher?

Are you planning with us to attend the 44th Annual Reunion, in downtown Fort Worth (Cowtown) at the Blackstone Hotel? If you have never attended the 36th Division Reunion we urge you to try to make just one. The whole family is welcome and there will be something for all. The Blackstone has been completely remodeled . . . to the tune of about \$8 million, in a mixture of Italian and Spanish influences. We will do anything we can to help you make your plans to attend. You may wish to stay several days and would like an apartment or a place to park a trailer . . . we may can even find a T-Patcher who has room for you in his home.

ON THE FRONT COVER . . .

The T-Patch memorial monument pictured on the front of your T-Patcher news is found on the Texas State Capitol grounds in Austin. It was erected in 1958-59 at the cost of \$4,250.00.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

We will be happy to help you plan your vacation in Texas, America's "Funtier," in any fashion that we can. If you would be interested in swapping out residence for a couple of weeks with other T-Patchers please send us the following information: the area in which you live and the area that you wish to visit. Example: Family in Brooklyn, New York, would like to exchange residence with family in Waco, Texas for two weeks in August. In this fashion families may visit other parts of the country at normal living rates with only the expense of travel. Once contact has been made, details can be worked out between the two families.

For travel materials—where to go and what to do—write: Texas Highway Department, Travel and Information Division, P.O. Box 5064, Austin, Texas 78703.

Speaker Request

Chief of Information, Department of the Army, ATTN., Community Relations Division, Washington, D.C. 20310. "You will be interested to know that during the next several months the U.S. Army will have a small group of young officers and noncommissioned officers who returned from Vietnam this summer, available for speaking engagements." These speakers are available to the association, for meetings of church, school and civic organizations. To obtain a speaker, write the above address for information.

Guide our feet into the way of peace. — Luke 1:79b.



Group of artillerymen playing rummy between firing missions on the western front. L to R: Pfc. Thomas W. Horton, 410 N. Granberry St., Cleburne, Texas; Pfc. Bernard Goldman, 262 Neptune Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.; Sgt. John D. Veal, 2823 Ave. 11, Fort Worth; Cpl. Raymond N. Wood, Joshua Texas (with back to camera).



Lt. Stephen R. Gregg, Congressional Medal of Honor winner, shown holding a light machine gun which he fired from the hip at the enemy while taking a hill in Southern France.



S/Sgt. Thomas E. Bohannon, Coleman, Texas, a section chief with the 132nd F. A., receiving firing orders from his Battery Headquarters prior to calling out his section on a firing mission.



Photo shows two American Red Cross girls, in a snowball fight. The girls are Miss Kay McDonald and Miss Jerry Wilke, Austin, Texas. Who is the soldier?



L to R: Cpl. Hugo J. Martin, 85 W. Hamilton Ave., Englewood, N. J. and Pfc. William A. Anderson, 4102 N. Hamlin Ave., Chicago, Ill. are shown a split second after pulling the lanyard that sent another 105-mm shell screaming on its way into German-held ground. Both men are members of the 132nd F. A. Bn.



A gun crew made up of T-Patchers load up and prepare to fire back at the Germans one of the numerous 88MM guns that they left behind while retreating. L to R: S/Sgt. James F. Carter, Corpus Christi, Texas; 1st Sgt. Albert R. Walbhuber, Lesstsdale, Pa. (packing ammo and loading); Sgt. Jerome B. Ginter, Lancaster, Pa.; Pfc. Archie E. Christopher, Eugene, Oregon.



German prisoners coming in from an outpost to surrender to the 36th . . . D-Day in Southern France.



Field Marshal Gerd von Runstedt, the Dean of Junker Generals, is shown with his captor, Major-General John E. Dahlquist after his capture at Bad Tolz, Germany.



Capt. Russell W. Price, Buffalo, N.Y., administration officer with the 11th Field Hospital, is holding a small Russian baby which is undergoing treatment in a French hospital, near where the Americans set up their Field Hospital.



Col. Hans Bucher, German Commander of the Alpine Troops facing part of the 7th Army, meets with Major-General John E. Dahlquist to arrange the surrender of his forces.



An officer treating a wounded German prisoner immediately after his capture.

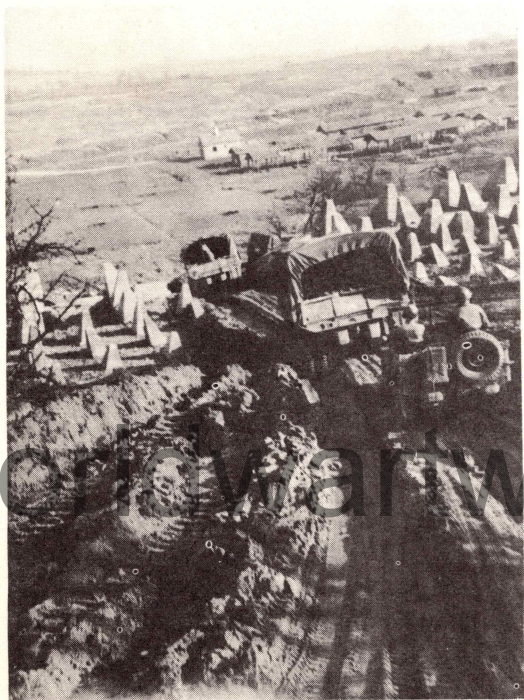


Bomb and shell-torn street in the town of Oberhoffen, Germany.

Thanks to Public Relations S/Sgt. Max E. Shaffer for taking us back a few years with some of the guys.



Wadesboro, N.C. Maneuvers . . . 1942. It took nerve, guts and several six packs of razor blades to complete the bald heads of the men from Company B, 111th Engr. (from Rusty Murphy, Austin, Texas)



Views of the American Seventh Army passing through a breach in the Siegfried line.



Dragon's teeth of the outer barriers of the Siegfried line.

A QUESTION OF HISTORY

Often we receive letters asking what books are on the market or at the libraries about the 36th Division, therefore we try to list any we know of. The fact that books are listed in the 36th Division Association newspaper does not mean that we believe everything that has been printed. Most books are written by good writers, and are very interesting reading. You be the judge. In 1965, after the publication of "The Battle of Cassino" by Fred Majdalany and "The Return to Cassino" by Harold L. Bond, Kenneth L. Dixon, correspondent, blasted these books with this report:

"The ingredients which compose what comes out as history can be frightening, particularly when men who apparently have no fondness for accuracy provide those ingredients.

"Books make history, especially those books which are labeled as non-fiction; that is, factual accounts of what really happened. They go into libraries and school children study them and accept them as the truth.

"When they were published, I bought both the books of Fred Majdalany (The Battle of Cassino) and Harold L. Bond (Return to Cassino) and read them. I found them both interesting—although neither of them should have been labeled 'non-fiction'.

"Majdalany was an infantry officer during the tail-end of the battle but most of his material consists of information which he credits to high-ranking brass who weren't even there when the shooting was going on. Bond was a junior aide to a brigadier general. Let it go at that.

"Maybe I wouldn't even mention this whole business, even though I put down both books in disgust after I had read them, but I got a letter from Fred L. Walker, the general who rose from the ranks, rode with Pershing in Mexico, fought in the trenches in World War I and commanded the 36th (Texas) Infantry Division in World War II.

"It was a brief note which said, in part, sadly: 'Fighting on the battlefield always comes to an end but the paper war never seems to stop. . . .' And it mentioned the two books.

"He was sad, but I am angry. Majdalany, for example, wrote that the 36th Division command was responsible for the Rapido River debacle where more than 1,500 men were lost—whereas anyone who was there at the time knows that the division command fought bitterly against staging the crossing at that time and place.

"He further wrote that the troop movements were made in daylight, and thus detectable by the Germans. This was true but it was not a division command, as stated in his book. The division command was to start no troop movements until after dark, which would have been shortly after 5:30 o'clock. But the II Corps commander ordered an afternoon attack. Knowing the corps commander, I do not think he would have given such an order without Fifth Army's authority.

"In any case the book contained two glaring errors right there. It is full of them. And although it contains a great deal of factual information and interesting reading, I do not think it should contribute to history, because it isn't. He wasn't there. He was far to the east. He simply got his information after the war from the carefully censored reports which finally filtered up to the high brass, with everyone passing the buck. And even those won't bear him out!

"Then comes Professor Bond, the ex-general's aide, who picks up quite a bit from Majdalany in his book as far as the Rapido, but then compounds the errors in fact as far as the Anzio breakout and the capture of Rome were concerned.

"He wrote that the 36th passed through the 3rd Division positions. That's hogwash. The 142nd Infantry of the 36th infiltrated through its sister regiments, the 141st and 143rd, which were already in the line.

"Bond credited Brig. Gen. Robert Stack (whose aide he was) with masterminding the whole operation, which must have embarrassed Stack, who is too honest a gentleman to want to be given undeserved credit. It was Maj. Gen. Walker who listened to all his staff, flew over enemy territory in an artillery Cub to look the situation over, and finally crawled along the combat line to be absolutely sure of the terrain. Another error in Bond's book was that the 36th didn't start marching into Rome until daylight. Great Caesar's ghost! Part of the division was in the middle of Rome shortly after 2 o'clock in the morning. It was greeted only

by sounds of hand-clapping from the thousand darkened balconies.

"Gentlemen, you are both skillful writers. But a little more careful research wouldn't hurt—if you do it in the right places. I didn't have to research what was written here because, if you will forgive a corny curtain line,—I was there. . . ."

Not All Texans

From Max E. Shaffer, Fort Worth, Texas:

"I wonder how many former members of the division are in the same boat as I am at present. After reading "Rome Fell Today" and being lumped in the general grouping of a Texan, who right or wrong was all for Texas and the 36th, come hell or high water; also being lined up with the group that felt General Walker could do no wrong, suddenly feel that the authors of that book left a lot to be desired. I made a light contribution to the authors and I suppose, left the impression with them that I was a Texan. Tain't so, fellers, I sure as h--- am a Texan now, but during WW II I was not. I joined the 36th at Camp Edwards as a part of a small Regular Army cadre to help build up the Division. No offense intended but when I arrived, with three other RA sergeants at Camp Edwards we were about as welcome as a skunk at a family picnic. This feeling wore off after about a month or two but it sure was strong at that time. As a result of my first contact with the 36th I made up my mind that the last place on earth I wanted to live or visit was the state of Texas. After spending what seems like a large part of my life starting everything I wrote with 'With the 36th Division, Somewhere in Italy, France, etc.' I was more sure than ever that when I left the 36th, I would never go near Texas.

"I was transferred to Texas after Korea in the 1950's and after staying here with my family we made up our minds we were home. We are home, you couldn't run me or my family out of Texas. I'll bet there are a lot of transplanted Texans here now who have the same feeling about the state.

"I'll bet that few people were aware that of the entire Public Relations Staff of the 36th during Africa and Italy . . . there was not one Texan! The crew that wrote, etc., were all non-Texans. I wonder what the authors of 'Rome Fell Today' would think of that."

Old-Timers' Reunion

Company MG, 142nd Infantry, held its reunion at Gainesville, Texas where they were organized in 1917. Wade Pryor, 5311 Bradford Drive, Dallas, Texas 75235, keeps the roll, which he says has dropped to about 50 now. Many of the men no longer drive cars for themselves but last October there were 24 present at the reunion. This year's reunion is set for October 4-5 . . . Curtwood Motel, Gainesville, Texas. John A. Story, Vernon, Texas is the President.

Co. L, 142nd Reunior

Company L, 142nd Infantry Reunion is held in August. For further information write H. L. Gunlock, 900 W. Wall, Breckenridge, Texas 76024.

Battery C Reunion

Battery C, 132nd Field Artillery Bn. reunion will be held June 27, 28, 29. The site picked is the Aloha Motor Lodge and Manor Apts., 2100 Central Ave., Highway 7 South, Hot Springs, Ark. The Aloha is owned and operated by Lee Rostenberg, a former artilleryman in the 1st Division, who is also general arrangements chairman.

BOOK OF HONOR

Do we have a T-Patcher in Eastern Iowa or Western Illinois who has served during any United States war (he doesn't have to be a T-Patcher); who came from that area and is now living in that area and who was awarded a medal of valor, the Medal of Honor, Silver Star, Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star, Air Medal, Navy or Air Force Cross, Army or Navy Commendation Medal with "V" device, or the Soldier's Medal?

The U. S. Army Weapons Command and Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois, is preparing a "Court of Patriots" designed to perpetuate the memory of this area's uniformed heroes.

The address is HQS, U. S. Army Weapons Command, Attn: AMSWE-IN, Rock Island, Illinois 61201.

IN MEMORIAM

"Life is not measured by the time we live."—Crabbe

James Elmer Walker, 5841 Graham Street, Fort Worth, Texas passed away January 4, 1969. Mr. Walker saw service with the 111th TNG, World War I.

Lee Durbin, P. O. Box 83, Riviera, Texas 78379 passed away Oct. 26, 1963.

Dec. 1968 . . . Ross A. Elliott was killed by an auto near his home, 210 Aneida, Pontiac, Michigan, soon after an eye operation which impaired his side vision. Ross joined us in Camp Blanding, Florida in 1942 and made sergeant in Italy. He received some decorations, but not as many as he deserved.

J. B. McPherson, truck driver for Consolidated Copperstate Line, died Feb. 1969, from smoke inhalation after falling asleep with a cigarette in his hand. He apparently had laid down and dozed off after the night run from Dallas to Pecos. He is survived by his widow and two sons of 1220 Brookmeadow Lane, Dallas. Word comes from Amil Kohutek, Association president and friend, that McPherson had 38 years and 3½ million miles behind the wheel of a commercial vehicle. He was a member of Co. F, 144th Inf. in WW II.

Albert Delvaux, 601 N. Bently Ave., Miles Ohio 44446 . . . 142nd Infantry, died December 2, 1968.
Arthur B. Weiss of New York died Jan. 28, 1969.

Monsignor Willam F. O'Brien, Church of Saint Monica, 9933 Midway Road, Dallas, Texas 75220, died November, 1968.

Walter P. Suhoskey of Philadelphia, Pa., died in August of 1967.

Lieutenant General John H. Michaelis (right), Commanding General, Fifth U. S. Army, accepts a silver medallion commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Salerno Beach landing by the Fifth U. S. Army. Presenting the medallion is Member Thomas Lewis, Chicago investment banker, who served in World War II with the 36th infantry division in North Africa, Italy and South France. Brigadier General William H. Wilbur (USA Retired), Medal of Honor hero of World War II, also a member of the Club, observes the presentation being made at headquarters of the Fifth Army at Fort Sheridan. Mr. Lewis also presented to LTG Michaelis a treasured copy of a published tribute to infantrymen, written by General Wilbur, which will be exhibited in the Fort Sheridan museum along with the medallion.



AFTER WAR IS HELL, TOO

As a child you heard stories that always had a moral and a happy ending. The moral of this story is "BE THANKFUL that we have never had war on the home front." The happy ending could be the modern resorts along the Italian beaches.

After World War II the Italian people came out of the caves and mountains longing to take up life again, to start the winter wheat planting but what they found was a barren land filled with mines. In the Lire and Cassino Valley alone, the Allied Control Commission estimated there were some 500,000 mines. In the first half mile square that was cleared, 1,800 mines were dug up or exploded. They were stacked along the road to Cassino—piles of flat, round, grey-enameled mines, disorderly heaps of yellow potato mashers; thousands of rust-covered, fin-tailed mortar shells, bazooka shells, and oval fragmentation grenades; and sometimes a snapped bayonet or broken rifle in the debris.

The detail of moving the "canned death" was like detailing a crew of pygmies to cart away the Empire State Building brick by brick and it was hard to find men for the job. The valleys were without electric power. Plans called for tent communities to shelter 25,000 persons, but that number was never reached.

The people of the valleys tried to help themselves, but there was little they could do with the fields mined and their materials destroyed or stolen by the Germans. One mayor of one of the valley towns said, "All we have left are eyes for crying."

December 31, 1918

GALVESTON—The 36th Division composed of Texas and Oklahoma soldiers who trained at Camp Bowie and which won so much fame on the battlefields of France, will disembark here about the middle of January and will be given a rousing welcome upon their arrival. Thousands of relative sand friends of the men will come here for the event.

Note—The Victoria-Calhoun and Goliad Companies are units of the 36th Division. A large number of Victoria, Port Lavaca and Goliad people will go to Galveston to welcome the boys home. They will be mustered out of the Army-at Camp Travis. (From The Victoria Advocate)

"We need your good wishes. We need your advice. We need your criticism. We need your prayers in these difficult days ahead."—Richard Nixon.

FRIENDLY SERVICE OFFERED

Mr. Dewey W. Mann, 2105 21st St., Nitro, W. Va., returned to Italy last November and visited the American Cemetery of 7,860 graves at Nettuno, near Anzio. He was able to locate the graves of some of his very dear friends and took color pictures. Mr. Mann would like to send pictures to relatives of the following, from Company B, 142nd Infantry: August A. Fleitman, Texas; Gaither W. Vaughan, Texas; Jacob H. Sellars, Texas; Charles R. Waldron, N. C.; Fred Vincent, Mississippi; William A. Henkleman, Texas. Also Mr. Mann would like to know the whereabouts of Chester V. McKeen, former Co. Comdr. of B Co., 142nd Inf.



Company G, 143rd Inf. men who joined in Feb. 1942, from N. J. and N. Y. (from John Holick, 158 Jefferson Ave., Cresskill, N. J.)

Worldwartwoveterans.org

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