



# 3RD ARMORED DIVISION ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



MAY, 2011 ISSUE

ALSO AVAILABLE ON [WWW.3AD.COM](http://WWW.3AD.COM)

PUBLISHED SINCE 1948

## **New Armed Forces Reserve Center in Connecticut named for Major Gen. Maurice Rose**

**Construction continuing on what is virtually “Fort Rose”.**

**Dedication Ceremony expected in early fall of 2011.**

**Spearhead Vets are especially invited (See Page 7).**



Photos from April/May, 2011, show the Reserve Center in Middletown, CT, under construction. Above photo is the main building and headquarters. Left photo shows the full 42-acre site. The complex is adjacent to Interstate-91 and halfway between New Haven and Hartford. In Jan., 2011, President Obama signed the name into law: “Major General Maurice Rose Armed Forces Reserve Center.”

Rose was born in Middletown in 1899, and in 2002 the dedication of his birthplace was a major event. The new Reserve Center, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project, is a centralized consolidation of most of the State’s National Guard and Reserve facilities. The complex includes areas for admin, classrooms, physical training, armory, motor pool, vehicle and supply storage, maintenance, and more.

(Continued on Page 7)

The Design/Builder and Constructor for the Armed Forces Reserve Center project is KBE Ventures, a Joint Venture of KBE Building Corporation and Derita Construction, with Kleinfelder / S E A as the Design Architect. Aerial photo above by Bluebird Aerial Photography. Top photo above by Vic Damon of 3AD.com.



## 3RD ARMORED DIVISION ASSOCIATION OFFICERS & EXECUTIVES 2010-2011

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### **PRESIDENT:**

**William Goss** (D Btry, 486th AAA)  
21 Julien Ct., Crossville, TN 38558

### **SECRETARY/TREASURER:**

**Rev. Walter B. Stitt** (E/33rd AR)  
P.O. Box 2346, South Bend, IN 46680  
Phone: 574-291-3414 Fax: 574-291-2678

### **CHAPLAIN:**

**Passed away on 11/13/2010:**

**Harold Watts** (Hq/32nd AR)  
211 Pasadena Ave. N. #307  
St. Petersburg, FL 33710

### **BOARD OF GOVERNORS:**

**Aurio Pierro** (B/33rd AR)  
28 Rawson Ave., Lexington, MA 02420  
**William B. Ruth** (Serv/33rd AR)  
306 Pinney Dr., Worthington, OH 43085  
**David Putnam** (Maint/32nd AR)  
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**Kenneth Armstrong** (D/23rd Engr)  
3442 S. 88th St., Milwaukee, WI 53227  
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20 Devonwood Dr. #169, Farmington, CT 06032  
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204 Lakeside Dr., Fairfield Bay, AR 72008  
**Robert Riensche** (143rd Signal)  
230 Welcome Way Blvd. #C-16.,  
Indianapolis, IN 46214  
**Oda (Chuck) Miller** (E/32nd AR)  
307 N. Seymore, Versailles, MO 65084  
**Gerald Grace** (Med/32nd AR)  
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**Joseph Femia** (B/36th AIR)  
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### **VICE-PRESIDENTS:**

#### **EAST**

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277 Fountain St., Framingham, MA 01702

#### **WEST**

**Harry Reed** (83rd Recon)  
50 Hwy-Y, Eldon, MO 65026

#### **SOUTH**

**Manuel Baker** (54th FA)  
1672 Canoe Creek Rd., Oviedo, FL 32766

#### **MIDWEST**

**John Barclay** (Serv/33rd AR)  
71 East Shamrock, Canton, IL 61520

### **REGIONAL CHAPTERS:**

#### **DEEP SOUTH**

**James Steckel**, (Hq/36th AIR)  
4431 Orleans Boulevard, Jefferson, LA 70121

#### **KANSAS**

**C. Richard Roemer** (F/33rd AR)  
Rt. 1 Box 55, Grainfield, KS 67737

#### **KIO (KY, IN, OH)**

**William B. Ruth** (Serv/33rd AR)  
306 Pinney Drive, Worthington, OH 43085

#### **NEW ENGLAND**

**Aurio Pierro** (B/33rd AR)  
28 Rawson Ave., Lexington, MA 02420

#### **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**David M. Putman** (Maint/32nd AR)  
3850 Atlantic Ave. #65, Highland, CA 92346

#### **SOUTHWEST TRI-STATE**

**Lillie Duncan** (Sec./Treas.)  
2901 W. Dailey St., Phoenix City, AZ 85053

#### **UPPER MIDWEST**

**Vern Braness** (C/32nd AR)  
P.O. Box 112, Dassel, MN 55325

#### **WISCONSIN**

**Ralph H. Ansay** (Hq/32nd AR)  
2743 N. 84th St., Milwaukee, WI 53222

### **CHAPTERS NO LONGER MEETING:**

Chicago, Florida, Michigan, Mississippi Valley,  
Northern California, Texas, and Pennsylvania.



## Word From Walt

by Walt Stitt, Association  
Secretary & Treasurer

First, let me explain to all you faithful readers who are saying, "Walter speaks with forked tongue." I know that we made a big announcement in last November's Newsletter that there would be no more printed & mailed issues, and that starting this month (May, 2011) the Newsletter would be available only as a download from the 3AD.com website. And so you are wondering how this May Newsletter appeared in your mailbox.

Well, let me just say that life is full of surprises, and our decision to print and mail this issue after all (at a total cost of around \$3,000) is really an act of compassion for the vocal minority of our readers who have spoken out against ending the mailed copies. On the other hand, we've had a good number of compliments from family, friends, and some tech-savvy WWII vets themselves, who report good results with downloading and printing the Newsletter or just viewing on the computer screen (in "living color").

However, compassion has its limits, so let me say with some sadness that "absolutely, positively" this May issue will be the last printed & mailed version. Our Association treasury simply can no longer support the inefficient "old fashioned" way. Of course, we could go deep into debt, like a certain nation I know of, and push funding for our mailed Newsletters off on our grandchildren and great-grandchildren. But that idea would never make it by our Board, at least I think.

Speaking more of my forked tongue, I know we also announced that our annual reunions had ended, and, now on pages 8 & 9 of this Newsletter, you'll find me promoting a get-together late this summer in Branson, MO. Some of you might think, "Ah ha! Our reunions haven't ended after all!"

But let me explain that this get-together is intended only as a very informal and relaxed gathering at a really great vacation spot, and, of course, family and friends are very welcome. There will be no ceremonies, no speeches, and no membership meeting. Just a smaller group of us with plenty of time to chat and dine and have a few beers, and, for live entertainment, Branson is a knock-out.

I do hope you'll consider coming. The planned dates are September 15, 16 & 17, and since the next Newsletter won't come out until November, you'll have to stay in touch with me directly for more details by phone, fax, e-mail or regular letter. Again, see pages 8 & 9, and please contact me with any questions as soon as possible. Cordially yours,



Leave it to our intrepid Newsletter Editor "Pvt. Damon," as he likes to be called, to discover the above photo in an old Newsletter. Yes, that's Betty and me at our Dearborn, MI, Association reunion in 1978. In the background is Col. Lovelady (left) & Vern Dingley, E Co, 33rd AR. It's amazing how I still look the same today.



Rev. Walter Stitt  
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## RECENT TAPS FOR SPEARHEAD WWII VETERANS



**Above: Taps in 1944-45.** Of the eleven military cemeteries in Europe where 3rd Armored WWII soldiers are buried, the largest single group - 422 Spearheaders - lies in the majestic and pristine Henri-Chapelle Cemetery in Belgium (above as it looks today) in an area liberated by the Division in September 1944.

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**Please Note:** Notification by family or friends should be made to Newsletter Editor Vic Damon. His address, e-mail, and fax info is shown on Page 2. Please also include a specific 3AD unit, age, town of residence, and other information, including a phone number if Vic has a question. Thanks.

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### 21 Veterans reported to us since August, 2010

**3AD related: Col. Maurice Rose, USMC (Ret.),** age 84, of Oceanside, CA, died October 25, 2010. "Mike" Rose was born December 29, 1925 at Ft. Benning, GA, the son of then Capt. Maurice and Venice Rose. His father would have another son from a second marriage and would become Commanding General of the 3rd Armored Division in Europe until his death in combat on March 30, 1945. Col. Rose's 31-year Marine career included the Korea War and Vietnam. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Mary Patricia Rose, two sons and a daughter. (Reported by Don Marsh, 3AD & 2AD WWII veteran)

**Harold Watts, Sr. (Hq Co, 32nd AR),** age 93, of St. Petersburg, FL, died November 13, 2010. He had served as Chaplain of the 3rd Armored Division Association for over twelve years, taking over from Father Kenny Lynch. He and his wife Patricia would have celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on December 24th, 2010. He is survived by three sons and six grandchildren.

**James M. Berry, Sr. (D Co, 36<sup>th</sup> AIR),** age 85, of Pleasantville, PA, and formerly of Pittsburgh, died January 7, 2011 after a battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife Peggy, 5 children, and 15 grandchildren. He had attended the 3rd Armored Division Association's final national reunion in Columbus, GA in September, 2010, which he enjoyed with great enthusiasm.

**Edward "John" Price (33rd AR),** age 95, of Astoria, OR, died January 16, 2011. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Juanita Baker Price, and two daughters. He served in the Army from March, 1941 to January, 1946 and was discharged with the rank of major. He served with the 3rd Armored Division through all five European campaigns.

**Edwin Hendrickson (A Btry, 486th AAA),** age 97, of Clinton, MA, died May 1, 2011. "Eddie" Hendrickson is survived by his wife Shirley Hendrickson and a sister, Betty Ann Gadomski.

**Joseph H. Layton, Sr. (D Co, 32nd AR),** age 91, of Salem, MD, died on September 22, 2010. He fought in all five of 3rd Armored Division's European campaigns and received the Purple Heart in France. He was preceded in death by his wife, Iris Bennett Stant Layton, who died in 2004.

(Continued)



## RECENT TAPS CONTINUED

**Fred L. Snyderman (A Btry, 486th AAA Bn)**, age 93, of Voorhees, NJ, died on February 28, 2011. He rose from Private to Captain during 1938 to 1945 and then to Major in the Army Reserves. He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Joan (Stewart) Snyderman, five sons, seven grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. He worked for Kasser Liquor Co. for many years, retiring in 1988 with awards for being a top salesman.

**Cloyd D. Jacobs (B Co, 23rd Engineers)**, age 91, of Frazee, MN died on March 5, 2011 at the VA Hospital in Fargo, ND. He served in Europe with the 23rd Engineer Battalion, 3rd Armored Division, as a SSgt. He participated in several major campaigns and battles including the Break Out at St. Lo., Closure of the Falaise Gap, and the Battle of the Bulge. He was the recipient of the Silver Star for gallantry in action. He married Kathryn Baldwin on November 26, 1948 in Frazee. They had two sons: Paul and Bruce. He was a life member to the 3rd Armored Division Association and had the benefit of attending many of their reunions. Cloyd is survived by his son Bruce Jacobs, 6 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren, and a brother. He was preceded in death by his wife Kathryn, a son, and 2 sisters.

**James E. Dowell (D Co, 32nd AR)**, age 90, died on May 2, 2010 at Stanley Total Living Center in Stanley, NC. First Sgt. Jim Dowell served with the 3rd Armored Division in all five European campaigns. He received a Purple Heart when wounded in Germany on 9/30/44. He was preceded in death by his wife, Hazel.

**Virgil L. Miller (B Btry, 67th FA Bn)**, age 92, of Savannah, MO, died on December 12, 2010 at the Cameron, MO Veterans Home. He is survived by his wife, Martha Miller of Savannah.

**Lester "Moe" Baver (A Co, 36th AIR)**, age 87, of Deer Lake, PA, died on November 6, 2010, in Schuylkill (PA) Medical Center, where he had been a patient for the past two weeks. He was the husband of Beatrice S. Sterner Baver, who died Oct. 23, 2004. He is survived by three daughters, five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. He was a volunteer fire-fighter in Deer Lake for 55 years.

**Merlin G. Mueggenberg (D Co, 36th AIR)**, age 87, of Storm Lake, Iowa, died October 20, 2010 at Loring Hospital in Sac City, Iowa. He was inducted into the U.S. Army in May of 1943. He fought with the 3rd Armored Division in Europe, including the Battle of the Bulge. On April 6, 1945 Merlin was wounded in Germany. He was honorably discharged in January of 1946, receiving three Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart. Merlin farmed for over 60 years and was an active member of his community and St. Mary's Catholic Church. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Delores Mueggenberg of Storm Lake, 4 children, 11 grandchildren, and a very large extended family and many friends.

**Russell F. "Pat" Patterson (33rd AR)**, age 91, of Alton, IL, died December 19, 2010. Sgt. Patterson served in WWII with the 3rd Armored Division during all five of its European campaigns in France, Belgium, and Germany, including the Battle of the Bulge. While on a reconnaissance mission in March, 1945 near Paderborn, Germany he was wounded and captured by German forces, then liberated in April by British forces. He was awarded the Bronze Star for Valor and the Purple Heart. He is survived by two daughters and five grandchildren.

**Leon Titeca (Maint, 32nd AR)**, age 85, of Lebanon, OR, died August 25, 2010 at his home. He worked as a master mechanic on heavy equipment for more than 40 years before retiring. He is survived by two daughters, a brother, and five grandchildren. His wife Dolores died in April, 2010.

**Robert C. Youngmun (F Co, 36th AIR)**, age 85, of Cathedral City, CA, died on June 12, 2010 after a brief illness. He is survived by a brother, four sons, and seven grandchildren.

(Continued)

## RECENT TAPS CONTINUED

**George Sinadinos (Svc Co, 32nd AR)**, age 91, of Steelton and Middletown, PA, died on May 28, 2009. He was a retired steelworker for Bethlehem Steel Corp. with 32 years of service. He is survived by his wife Fortuna "Fritzi" Sinadinos, two sons, one granddaughter, two great-granddaughters, and one step-grandson.

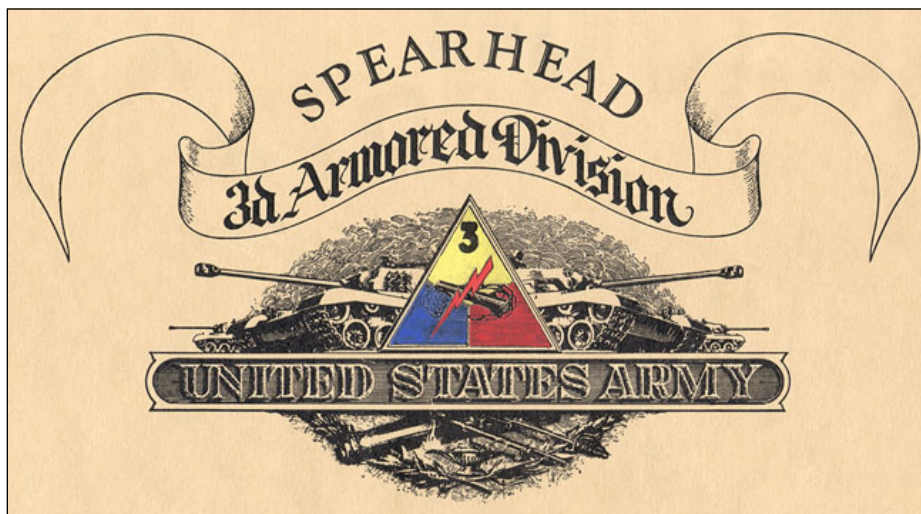
**Cono J. DeSarli (C Btry, 486th AAA Bn)**, age 87, of Bridgeport, CT, died April 18, 2011. He was a retired machinist at Remington Arms and a past president of the 486th AAA Bn Reunion Committee. He is predeceased by his wife, Bianca "Lee" DeSarli, and his daughter, Phyllis Kenealy. He is survived by his son John DeSarli, three grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and extended family and friends.

**John P. Donnangolo (B Btry, 486th AAA Bn)**, age 88, of Trumbull, CT, died March 30, 2011. John was born in Italy and grew up in Minersville, PA. He is predeceased by his wife, Millie Donnangolo. He is survived by his son John Donnangolo and a grandson, Nicholas. He attended the Dedication of the Birthplace of Maj. Gen. Rose in 2002 in Middletown, CT, and took particular joy in being "back in the saddle" of an authentic, working, WWII, quad-.50, anti-aircraft half-track (the M-16), which was on display at the dedication. He had not seen an M-16 in 57 years.

**James A. Cavanaugh (C Btry, 486th AAA)**, age 85, of Auburndale, MA, died May 18, 2008. Reported very late. No other information available.

**Earle T. Binckley (Div Maint Bn)**, age 90, of Laguna Niguel, CA, died December 14, 2010.

**Lynn Seymour Larsen (I Co, 36th AIR)** age 92, of Colorado Springs, CO, died November 6, 2010.



“Whoever you are, Dear Friend, on that last day  
 Look towards Heaven and you will see  
 Somewhere beyond the Milky Way  
 The greatest Reunion we have ever known  
 Will already be in progress  
 All ranks complete -- marching on and on and on.”

By Cecil O. Phillips (Hq Co, 36th AIR, 3AD, WWII) in 1975



## An Invitation to the Maj. Gen. Rose Reserve Center Dedication in Fall, 2011

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Main building with construction underway in April, 2011. Photo by Bluebird Aerial Photography.

### **Continued from front page:**

Spearhead veterans of all era's are encouraged to attend the Dedication of this impressive new facility in Middletown, CT, that will include honoring Maj. Gen. Rose and the Division. The location is just minutes off of I-91 and convenient from most of New England, as well as from Bradley International Airport (Hartford), which is less than 30 minutes away. In addition, Middletown's Main Street, where Rose's birthplace is located, is a treat in itself, with its variety of shops and restaurants.

Eight 3AD WWII vets have already expressed serious interest in attending. However, at this point in time, no firm date for the Dedication has been set (except "early fall, 2011") and specific plans for the ceremony have not yet been made. Since our next Newsletter won't be posted until November, please monitor the 3AD.com home page for the latest news.

**If you are interested in coming and have the slightest question, please don't hesitate to contact me directly.**

**Vic Damon, Newsletter Editor**

**Phone: 203-238-7161 E-mail: vic@3AD.com**



Above four photos: Rose Birthplace Dedication in September, 2002. Photos from 3AD.com.





# Branson's Complete Group and Reunion Planning

**Welcoming Veterans to Branson is a way of life in the Live Entertainment Capital of the World.**

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The Marine Corp Birthday Ball, & Show Me Heroes





## *An Invitation*

**For all WWII Association Members (and families):  
Join us for a very informal & fun Spearhead get-together  
in Branson, Missouri**

For more information as it develops, and for any questions, contact your friendly Spearhead organizer and guide (me) **as soon as possible**. At least 20 folks are needed to maintain these GREAT pricing rates.



Rev. Walter Stitt  
P.O. Box 2346, South Bend, IN 46680  
Phone: 574-291-3414 Fax: 574-291-2678  
E-mail: <[wbstitt@datacruz.com](mailto:wbstitt@datacruz.com)>

**3 Nights Lodging at the All American Inn - Branson, MO**

**Arrive: 9/15/2011 Depart: 9/18/2011**

**For Room Reservations and Event Tickets, the contact person is  
Julie Peters, Branson Tourism Center, Phone: 1-800-268-4014**

### **Thursday, September 15, 2011**

#### **8:00 PM: Show time: Texas Tenors**

A unique blend of country, gospel, classical, and Broadway with breathtaking vocals, humor, chemistry, and cowboy charm. So grab your cowboy hat and your opera glasses, because this wonderful full-spectrum show will leave you shouting both "ENCORE" & "YEE-HAW"!

### **Friday, September 16, 2011**

**11:00 AM:** Includes lunch at McFarlain's Restaurant

#### **2:00 PM: Show time: Comedian Yakov Smirnoff**

"Hold on to your seat 'cause ex-Russian Yakov is about to blow you away with dynamite comedy!" He delivers explosive laughter in a show packed with comedic tall tales, witty perceptions, funny facts, and huge laughs. Only in America can you see Yakov backed up by Lady Liberty, the Laboratory of Laughter, a Russian Dance Troupe, and more!

**5:00 PM:** Includes dinner at Florentina's

### **Saturday, September 17, 2011**

**11:00 AM:** Includes lunch at Great American Steak & Chicken House

#### **2:00 PM: Show time: Hooray for Hollywood**

Take a nostalgic song & dance journey through the most popular movie musicals of the last 50 years. You will see film clips of your favorite movies, and then watch the action unfold, live on stage, as our wonderful cast of singers and dancers perform scenes from those movies. Featuring highlights from "Singin' in the Rain," to Disney's "The Lion King," and everything in between.

**Pricing is Per Person and includes complete quote as listed above:**

**Single: \$410.55 Double: \$275.99 Triple: \$238.61 Quad: \$219.92**

Single (1 guest / 2 Beds) Double (2 guests / 2 Beds)

Triple (3 guests / 2 Beds) Quad (4 guests / 2 Beds)

Free Hot Deluxe Breakfast. Prices are quoted as per person and are based on adult occupancy.

## Former Spearheader Gen. Colin Powell Congratulates Bill Ruth at Ohio Veterans Event



**Above: Powell and Ruth at November 5th, 2010, Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Ceremony**

Two-time Past President of our Association, Bill Ruth (Svc Co, 33rd AR) came face to face last November with one of the men he admires most in the world today - retired Gen. Colin Powell. The event was Bill's induction into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame in the State's capital, Columbus. He was one of 20 inductees so honored that day at this annual ceremony which began in 1992. Those are veterans who have honorably served their country through military service and who have continued to serve and inspire others with their deeds and accomplishments throughout their lifetime.

A committee of veterans serves as advisors for the Hall of Fame, which is sponsored by the Ohio Department of Veterans Services, and selects approximately 20 inductees annually from nominations solicited from all citizens of Ohio throughout the year. Men and women chosen for this honor come from all eras, all branches of service, and all walks of life.

Colin Powell's attendance at the ceremony was a surprise. It had not been previously announced. As expected, he reportedly gave a powerful and inspiring speech. At an informal reception afterwards, Powell went down the line, briefly congratulating each inductee. When his time came for the handshake, Bill said, "General, I've got something to show you." Bill then moved aside his boutonniere (as shown in left photo above) and showed the General his triangular 3AD Spearhead pin. Bill recalls that Powell's "face lit up" and he said, "Yes, we have something in common to share." And he continued with, "My stay with the 3rd Armored Division was a very educational one. I've learned to love that Division."

Bill also recalls his telling Powell that he should run for President, and "You would win hands down." To which the General replied, "My wife doesn't want me to." But the General had to move on down the line. He gave Bill a big grin, and said, "I'd like to talk to you when we have more time." Of course, Bill hopes that time will one day come, but the memory that brief, warm encounter with Powell can never be forgotten. For Bill, it was equal to the Hall of Fame induction itself.

Powell was assigned to the 3rd Armored from 1958 to 1960 after completion of ROTC (City College of New York) and Basic Officer Training Courses at Ft. Benning, GA. Arriving in Gelnhausen, West Germany, the 21-year-old 2nd Lt. joined Spearhead's 2nd Bn, 48th Infantry, at Coleman Kaserne. In his 1995 autobiography *My American Journey*, he wrote, "'You can serve 35 years in the Army and rise to the top, yet your first assignment [the 3rd Armored] always stands out as the most unforgettable, the one against which all future posts are measured. That is what Gelnhausen meant to me."

(Continued)





Inductees of 2010 Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame with event's Director & Ohio's Governor.



**Above center photo:** (from left) Hall of Fame Director Bill Hartnett, Bill Ruth, and Ohio Governor Ted Strickland. **Left photo:** (front row, from left) Pat Duffy [family friend], Lale Ruth [Bill's wife], and Janie Prather [Lale's caregiver]; (standing, from left) Jack Prather [Janie's husband], Bill Ruth [Jr.], and Bill Ruth [Sr.]. **Right photo:** Bill and his Ohio National Guard soldier-escort.

#### The citation accompanying Ruth's award reads:

Bill Ruth was given the charge of embarking upon uncharted waters to build Ohio's first adult vocational education system. Through Bill's efforts adult vocational education was included in major and federally funded programs. He developed an evaluation system called PRIDE, the Program Review, Improvement, Development and Expansion of adult vocational education. Throughout Bill's tenure as an educator, Ohio's system of adult workforce leadership grew to national acclaim. Upon Bill's retirement in 1984, the Ohio directors that Bill assembled and trained, honored him by establishing the Bill Ruth award. This award honors adult workforce administrators who most exemplify the characteristics that Bill fostered and demonstrated himself – hard work, innovation, action, a "fighting spirit" and a passion for the Ohio adult workforce. For the past 20 years, Bill has been making historical World War II military presentations to local schools. He volunteered for the local Alzheimer's Association, the Franklin County Retired Teachers Association, and the Whitehall Credit Union where he served on the audit committee for 10 years. Bill is an active member of the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the local chapter of The Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Catholic War Veterans and the Third Armored Division Association. On May 9, 2010, Bill's meritorious service and educational achievement was recognized with an Honorary Doctorate of Letters in Community Leadership by the Franklin University Board of Trustees and its President. Bill's motto is "You should always take time to teach someone."

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**BULLETIN: May 7, 2011,** Unrelated to the above Veterans Hall of Fame event, Bill Ruth and about 80 other WWII veterans left Columbus, OH, today for an Honor Flight to the WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C. For info on this remarkable program, see: [www.honorflight.com](http://www.honorflight.com)

**Join us at the July, 2011, reunion  
of the all-era Spearhead organization!**



**Association of 3d Armored Division Veterans**  
An All-Era Spearhead Organization founded in 1998  
Board of Directors  
Web Site: [www.3AD.org](http://www.3AD.org)



May 2, 2010

Dear Spearhead WWII Veterans & families,

I had the great pleasure of attending your final national reunion in September, 2010, in Columbus, Georgia, which just happened to be my hometown. As a volunteer helper at the reunion, I met many of you and shared the very special time that it was. You may recall that I am a 3rd Armored veteran myself, having served three years as an MP Sgt. with Spearhead's 503rd MP Co. in Germany in the Cold War. I retired from the Army in 1996 after 20 years of service.

Now that the WWII Association's national reunions have ended, let me invite you to attend the 12th annual reunion of the "younger" association in Memphis, TN, during July 20-23. Our Spearhead Cold War and Gulf War members would feel so honored by your presence. All of our tradition and spirit is based upon what YOU accomplished in WWII, and we will never forget that.

On the next page in this Newsletter you'll find our reunion information. It's guaranteed to be an interesting and fun time. We are expecting the largest group turnout since our national reunions began in 2001. Please feel free to call or e-mail me with any questions.

Sincerely,

*Lani E. Tucker*

Ms. Lani E. Tucker  
Board of Directors, A3ADV

Phone: 706-888-7887  
E-mail: [lt7887@yahoo.com](mailto:lt7887@yahoo.com)



**Photo from our 2010 reunion at Louisville/Ft. Knox**

(Continued)

**BULLETIN**

We are pleased to announce that Lt. Gen. Richard Graves (ret.) will be in attendance at the reunion and will be our featured speaker at the Grand Banquet. General Graves commanded the Division from March 1984 to June 1986.



**11th Annual Membership Meeting and Reunion of the  
Association of 3d Armored Division Veterans  
For Association members of all 3AD era's: WWII, Cold War & Gulf War  
Memphis, Tennessee July 20-23, 2011**

For online or mail-in registration, and any UPDATED information, see [www.3AD.org](http://www.3AD.org).

**Reunion location: Whispering Woods Hotel and Conference Center**  
(minutes south of Memphis, across the State Line)

11200 East Goodman Road Olive Branch, Mississippi 38654

Room Reservations: Phone: 662-895-2941 or 866-851-0393

**Room Rate for 3AD Reunion Attendee's: \$89 per night, plus taxes**

**All-inclusive Reunion Ticket: \$318.74 (separate from room cost).** Order this if you wish to attend all reunion activities and you want to save money over ordering individual activities. **THIS IS YOUR BEST BUY OPTION** and a real bargain. This includes reunion registration, 3AD T-shirt, all transportation & tours, and all scheduled meals, including of course the Grand Banquet.

### EVENT DETAILS

**Wednesday, July 20, 2011:** Welcome Reception in the Hospitality Room and Social Gathering.

**Thursday, July 21, 2011:**

**Memphis City Tour:** Includes tour of St Jude's Children's Hospital, Sun (Recording) Studio, Rock & Soul Museum, Gibson Guitar Factory. BBQ lunch is at Neely's BBQ. Lunch options are chopped pork/sliced beef or sliced turkey sandwich served with cole slaw, baked beans or chips and soft drink.

**Beale Street Dinner & Party:** Includes transportation, meal at Kings Palace Café with 2 drinks, admission to two other clubs on Beale Street & transportation back to the hotel. We will have time to enjoy Beale Street after dinner before returning to the hotel.

**Friday, July 22, 2011:**

**The theme for the day will be 3d Armored Division veteran Elvis Presley:**

**Platinum Tour of Graceland:** Includes bus ride and admission. We will have a special presentation of a posthumous lifetime membership in A3ADV to Elvis. After the Graceland tour the bus will take us to the Piccadilly Cafeteria where lunch will be on your own.

**Dinner at the hotel Friday evening:** Taste of Memphis dinner buffet with a cash bar. The main menu items will be ribs, catfish & grilled chicken. Desserts are bread pudding with bourbon sauce & double chocolate torte cake.

**Special Note:** We are planning on having an Elvis entertainer come to the dinner, and the Mayor of Olive Branch, MS will be attending to welcome us.

**Saturday, July 23, 2011:**

**Men's & Ladies' respective luncheons.**

**Afternoon:** Memorial Service will be held in the Oak Room.

**Evening:** Grand Banquet with cash bar. The dinner menu includes prime rib, pasta primavera & grilled chicken. Desserts include cheesecake, key lime pie, and lemon cake.



## *Former Spearhead Officer in the Spotlight*

### **Obama aide mistakes second most senior Army General for a waiter**

**Washington, D.C., Feb. 7, 2011, News Item:**

Valerie Jarrett, a long-time Chicago friend of President Obama and his wife Michelle who became a White House counsellor two years ago, was attending the prestigious Alfalfa Club dinner when 4-Star General Peter Chiarelli squeezed past her chair behind her. The Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army was wearing his full dress uniform with a chest full of medals and four stars on each sleeve.

It seems, however, that Jarrett noticed only his striped trousers, often worn by waiters, and leapt to the wrong conclusion. "I'd like a glass of wine, please," she said to the "waiter." Gen. Chiarelli, who previously commanded coalition forces in Iraq, turned around with a momentary startled look. "Oh my God, I'm so sorry!" Jarrett said, realizing her mistake. She was later said to be mortified by the incident and let it be known that she had not been wearing her glasses. For his part, Gen. Chiarelli graciously laughed it off.



Jarrett & "waiter" Chiarelli

#### **Who is Gen. Chiarelli?**

**Excerpts from 3AD.com on August 6, 2008:**

"Our congratulations on behalf of all Spearheaders to Gen. Chiarelli on his promotion to four stars and as the new Army Vice Chief of Staff. This comes 20 months after he became the senior military aide to then newly appointed Secretary of Defense Robert Gates."

"And congratulations in particular from members of Spearhead's victorious 1987 Canadian Army Trophy (CAT) team, D-4-8. The General is the same Major "Pete" Chiarelli well remembered and respected as in charge of training 3AD's 4-8 Cav for that NATO tank gunnery competition, the most prestigious in the world."

"He served three years in the 3AD (1985-88) including 1/33rd Armor and later the 4-8's transition from 3/33rd Armor. Two decades later, a Gen. Chiarelli would serve two tours in Iraq - first as commander of the First Cavalry Division and coalition forces in Baghdad, and later as the No. 2 commander in the country."

#### **Special Note in May, 2011:**

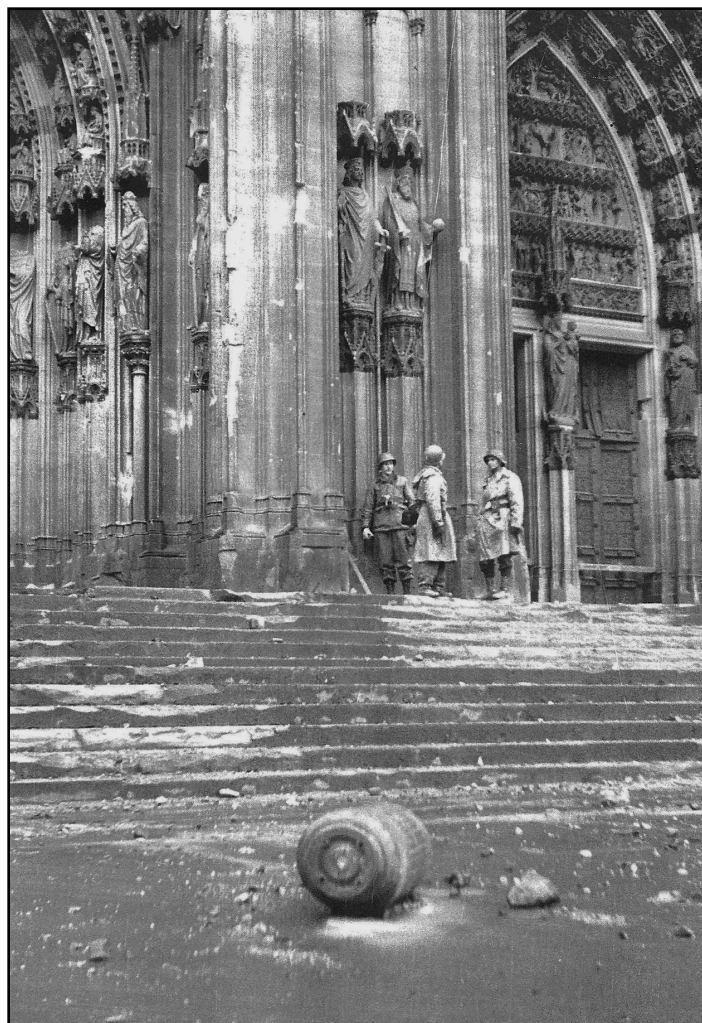
In 2012 Gen. Chiarelli is reportedly very likely to attend the 25th anniversary reunion of the 4-8 Cav CAT victory of 1987. More than 40 vets of that Spearhead unit are now in e-mail communication. The exact dates and location should be announced no later than early 2012. This will be their fourth reunion since 1987 and probably the largest turn out, including families.



Arrow over his current Pentagon portrait points to Chiarelli's wearing the 1/33rd Armor Regiment crest, his choice as a special honor over the many units he has served with in his 39-year Army career.

## Never-Before-Published Photo (at left) of Cologne Cathedral's Close Call

Photo by Jim Bates (Sig. Corps, First Army)  
and sent to us by Clarence Smoyer (E Co, 32 AR)



**In the foreground of the photo at left is an unexploded aerial bomb** within 100 feet of the elaborate main doors of the Cologne Cathedral. Much has been written about the “miracle” of this massive towering church and how it survived numerous bombing attacks with only relatively minor exterior damage, while surrounding neighborhoods were largely reduced to rubble or gutted structures. Had the above bomb exploded (presumably a 500-pounder), that glorious three-door entranceway and much of the church’s front facade would probably have been devastated.

This rare photo (possibly one of a kind) was given to Clarence Smoyer by Jim Bates some fifty years after the war, with the notation “Bomb was a dud. Gen. Rose and men on steps. Others unknown.” The day before (March 6, 1945), Bates had filmed the famous movie footage of the destruction of a German tank in the Cathedral Square by a 32nd AR Pershing tank, with Smoyer as the gunner.

The two men had finally reconnected by mail in the late 1990’s and met in person in 1999, with Bates giving Smoyer a small stack of photos that he had no use for. And included was this remarkable photo that apparently neither Bates, who died in 2002, nor his wartime Signal Corps editors had felt was of any importance. As far as we know, it was never published, and when and by whom the bomb was defused and removed can probably never be known. But surely it had been defused (?) when Maj. Gen. Rose arrived (above) on the steps for group-shots that would include 3AD Brigadier Generals Hickey and Boudinot (photos at right from 3AD.com).



## New 3AD WWII Photos from Dan Fong

16

Dan Fong, our tireless volunteer consultant and researcher for the Newsletter and 3AD.com, is continuing to monitor recently digitized releases from the National Archives for any 3AD-related WWII movie footage and still photos. Most of this material has never been seen by Spearhead vets. Examples of his movie findings were shown at the Association reunion in Columbus, GA, last year, and more films will soon be posted on 3AD.com. More recently Dan has located new cache's of National Archives WWII still photos, and, of those that are 3AD-related, we present a few samples (caption information is based on Archives text):



3/30/1945: German snipers rounded up by 3AD near Marburg, Germany.



11/20/1945: Col. Frederic J. Brown, 3AD Artillery Commander, calls for 8-inch guns to knock out a German Tiger I tank near Mausbach, Germany.



11/20/1945: Enlargement from above photo showing Col. Brown on radio call.

(Continued)





3/30/1945: Crew members of a 3AD Sherman tank scramble to prepare for action against enemy resistance from a village near Korbach, Germany.



4/9/1945: Troops of the 3AD take a rest in the warm April sun in the town of Geselwerder, Germany, following fighting at Paderborn and on their way to more battles and to Dessau.



9/10/1944: 3AD columns pass through Theux, Belgium, where Belgium flags and an American flag are hung in welcome. The Division was only two days away from German soil.

## Bob Kauffman (D Co, 36th Armored Infantry) describes his 12th trip back to Europe

In May of 2009, I had taken my youngest son Alan with me to Europe, and in 2010 I decided to take my daughter Marjorie, my eldest son Richard, and his wife Becky on the same tour. This would be my 12th trip back, starting in 1977. We left Philadelphia on Oct. 8th, flew to Brussels, rented a car and drove to Normandy. On previous visits, I have given up trying to find the road and intersection where I was wounded on July 10, 1944.



U.S. Army Combat Infantry Badge  
Established in 1943

We visited the Normandy American Cemetery where we especially visited the grave of a young man who died on Omaha Beach on D-Day. His widow had asked me to do her that favor. This was late in the day, and an official of the Cemetery asked me if I would like to participate in the ceremonial lowering of the flag. For me, it was very moving moment.

We visited the Bayeux Tapestry and the ancient Cathedral and left for Hebronval, Belgium two days later. There we stayed at a beautiful small hotel in the midst of the Ardennes. I have been staying there since 1983, and they do not charge me or the people I bring for our meals or accommodations. That was how the owners still felt about America as their liberator from the Nazi's.

A number of very serious and competent historians are in that area: Belgian Andre Hubert, a former president of CRIBA (Battle of the Bulge information center) and frequent visitor to the U.S. and friend of the 3AD. There is also a young historian and author named Eddy Monfort, also of Belgium. There was a young man and his wife who had moved from the Netherlands to Grandmenil, Belgium, and opened a Bed & Breakfast. He is Bob Koning and he has created a remarkable website about the Battle of Grandmenil: [www.grandmenil.com](http://www.grandmenil.com). I don't say this easily or casually, but I really feel that Koning found a foxhole that another soldier and I had dug in January 1945. There are many things identical to my memory: the lay of the land, the roadway that was a few yards from our foxhole, and the other two holes nearby that were dug by two other teams.



Bob Kauffman (center) with German historian  
Gunter von der Weiden & Gunter's wife in 2010.

One evening my friend Andre Hubert took our party for dinner at the hotel. In the course of the meal Eddy Monfort arrived with the Mayor of Vielsalm. To my astonishment, the Mayor came to present me with a framed certificate naming me as an Honorary Citizen of Vielsalm. He also presented me with a beautiful basket of a variety of goodies, all products of the area.

In Grandmenil, the scene of a terrible fight with the 2nd SS Panzer, the Das Reich Division, I spoke in the local grade school to a group of very bright and interested students. We then took the class to the local church and showed them the damage to the interior of the church, including a hole in the rear pew from the blast of a bazooka that George Sampson and I had fired through the front door of the church the day after the Christmas night battle.

We then traveled to Germany to the village of Scherpenseel, where such horrific fighting involving the 36th Infantry had occurred. I have three German families as very dear friends there since my 1977 trip. Their kindness and generosity to me over the years has been remarkable. While there, we visited a very dear historian friend, Gunter von der Weiden. He was a true friend of the 3AD and had known Colonel Lovelady well. It was the Colonel who had introduced me to Gunter. We then left for Brussels, ending our 9-day visit. It had been a very tiring but rewarding journey to all of my European friends and to the old battlegrounds that, for me, still feel like yesterday.

(Continued)





From left: Bob Kauffman lowers the flag at the Normandy American Cemetery; Bob and an official; at Normandy Beach monument: Bob with daughter Marjorie (left), son Richard and his wife Becky.



Flags at Omaha Beach; Bob at what he seems sure is his old foxhole outside Grandmenil, Belgium.



Shrapnel hole in Grandmenil church pew from bazooka blast through front door fired by Bob and combat buddy George Sampson; Bob with Grandmenil school children and their teacher after his talk.



# News from Google

## Aurio Pierro (B Co, 33rd AR) joins the ranks of world famous people

... at least he has on Google, the world's most popular Internet search engine. There are few people in history who's **first name alone** will produce his (or her) own information as the #1 listing on a world-wide Google search. Some that come to mind are Napoleon, Winston, Barack, Madonna, Oprah and Elvis. Yes, simply type "Aurio" and there's his 3rd Armored Division memoir. See below, with search results showing that #1 listing out of 226,000 results obtained on April 28, 2011. One of his video's also came in close third, although that won't always happen. Want even more information about Aurio? Just type the full "Aurio Pierro."



**Aurio Pierro  
in 1945**

About 226,000 results (0.64 seconds) [Advanced search](#)

▶ [Aurio Pierro - 3rd Armored Division - WWII](#) ☆ 🔍  
 Top photo: Platoon Sgt. **Aurio** Pierro, 33rd Armored Regiment, in front of a concealed German 75mm anti-tank gun overlooking a mine field east of Stolberg, ...  
[www.3ad.com/history/wwll/memoirs.pages/pierro.htm](http://www.3ad.com/history/wwll/memoirs.pages/pierro.htm) - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#)

[Videos for Aurio](#) - [Report videos](#)

[Nikos Makropoulos - Aurio](#) 🔍  
 4 min - Jan 6, 2009  
 Uploaded by xXSilencerXx23  
[youtube.com](http://youtube.com)

[Aurio Pierro & Fred Bell - 3rd Armored ...](#) 🔍  
 May 17, 2009  
[vimeo.com](http://vimeo.com)

[AURIO - What does AURIO stand for? Acronyms and abbreviations by ...](#) ☆ 🔍  
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[Aurio Cotton Towel](#) ☆ 🔍  
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[www.promotional-products.org/aurio-cotton-towel.html](http://www.promotional-products.org/aurio-cotton-towel.html) - [United Kingdom](#) - [Cached](#)

[Parkway Drive live in Athens at Kyttaro \(Athens\) on 21 Nov 2010 ...](#) ☆ 🔍  
 Oct 10, 2010 ... **AURIO! AURIO! AURIO! AURIO! AURIO! AURIO! AURIO! AURIO! AURIO!**  
**AURIO! AURIO! AURIO! AURIO! AURIO! AURIO! AURIO! AURIO! AURIO! AURIO!**

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## Bob Swirsky (486th AAA Bn) publishes *My War* in 2010 - a True Story of Horror and Humor -

### From book's back cover:

Bob Swirsky, now at the age of 91, tells of his personal experiences as a communication sergeant in WW II. His half-track "3-Baker" was an important cog from the day he landed on Omaha Beach until the cessation of hostilities, V-E Day. Bob relates stories of horror that include the liberation of the Nordhausen concentration camp and many life and death incidents that occurred from Normandy D+18, to Dessau. He also tells humorous tales that took place during his training and days of combat, and talks of his post-war days attempting to adjust to civilian life. After the military, Bob became a commercial artist, a profession at which he worked for 13 years until his sight diminished. He then became a clothing salesman and worked until the age of 86. Now he finds enjoyment and satisfaction in having written *My War*.

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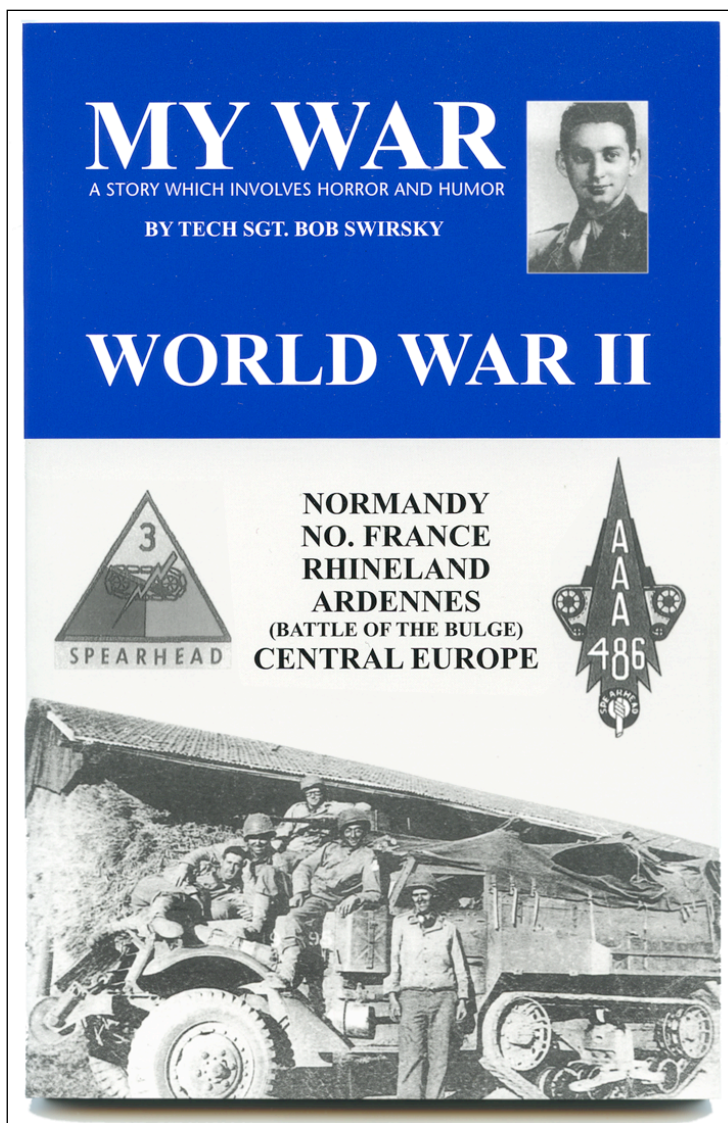
**Note:** If you are interested in purchasing Bob's book, please contact him at phone 203-876-0711 (Milford, CT) or by e-mail: [mindy.0213@hotmail.com](mailto:mindy.0213@hotmail.com). The cost is \$24.95, plus \$5.00 shipping.

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### The book's Prologue: (abridged)

*My War* is the story of only one man, myself, Tech Sergeant Bob Swirsky, among millions of men and women who participated in World War II. I was one of many who was fortunate to come back alive, perhaps not sound of mind for several years, but sound of body. It is a story which involves, whether noted or not in the book, all branches of the service, and which honors all those who paid the ultimate price.

*My War* is being written in the years 2009 and 2010. It is not just a book of memoirs, but relates personal experiences woven



into the combat sequences. It is a tale, not only of the horrors of war, but also of some of the lighter moments that my crew and I experienced throughout 323 days of actual combat as part of the 486th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Bn, Self-Propelled, attached to the 3rd Armored Division, First Army. World War II movies and books by this time are "old hat," but they have sparked the interest of a new generation, including average citizens and elementary school, high school, and college students who have become World War II buffs. I hope the following story will enlighten them.

## Remembrance of the U.S. Holocaust Museum Dedication

By Bill Goss, D Btry, 486th AAA

President of the  
3rd Armored Division Association

We were proud to be members of the 3rd Armored Division attending the United States Holocaust Memorial ceremony in Washington, D.C., April 21-23, 1993. It was a ceremony paying tribute to armies that went into hellpits named Dachau, Buchenwald, and Nordhausen, and many others.

The observance in the amphitheater at Arlington National Cemetery was called "A Tribute to Liberators and Rescuers." An Army chaplain, Alan C. Hendrickson, said in his invocation, that the Museum "was dedicated to men and women whose lives penetrated the darkness and who chose to take a stand regardless of the cost."

There was the marching in of the Military Divisions. There was the presentation of Colors and we proudly marched in with our 3rd Armored Division flag bearer.

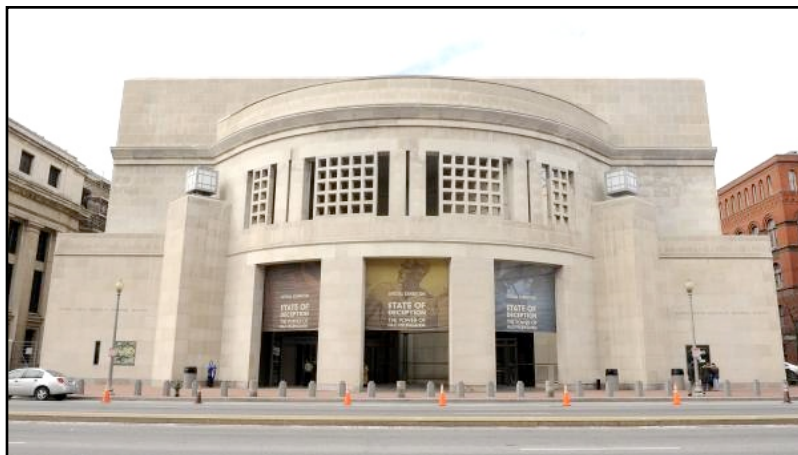
There was the awarding of Liberation Medals for acts of rescue. There was music by the U. S. Army Band. The Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs were present. The son of Dwight Eisenhower and famed Nazi-hunter Elie Wiesel were present, and our good wives were present.

We met and talked to several survivors of different concentration camps. They told us their painful personal tales of oppression and their eventual liberations.

Of those survivors, we developed a special bond with Nordhausen survivor Irving Lee. He later wrote a very moving letter to the Association in care of our President, Robert Riensche (see on next page), and we invited him and his wife Regina to be our special guests at the 1993 Association Reunion in Indianapolis with a stopover first at my home at that time in Cincinnati. Irving's presence at the reunion was a great experience and a great honor for all of our members.

- Bill Goss

March, 2011



The Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C.



Gathered in Bill Goss's backyard in Cincinnati, OH, in the summer of 1993, and prior to their traveling on to the 3AD Association Reunion in Indianapolis, were (standing, from left) Rip Kistne, Phil Palmer, Bill Goss, Kathryn Goss, Marge Steele & Russ Steele; (seated, from left) Irving Lee, Nancy Palmer, Betty Kistne & Regina Lee. Nordhausen survivor Irving Lee and his wife Regina came from California as guests of the Association.

(Continued)



May 1, 1993

To:  
**Honorable Robert Riensche**  
**President, 3rd Armored**  
**Division Association**

Re: Tribute to Liberators at the  
 U.S. Holocaust Museum  
 Dedication, April 21-22, 1993

Dear Sir,

As a survivor of the Nazi  
 concentration camps in Germany,  
 I am writing to you with a sense  
 of great honor and appreciation  
 after attending the Tribute  
 Ceremonies and U.S. Holocaust  
 Museum Dedication in  
 Washington, D.C.

My destiny has twice crossed  
 paths with the 3rd Armored  
 Division. Forty-eight years ago in Germany when I was liberated in April, 1945 from Nordhausen. And now again during the Tribute Ceremony in Washington, D.C.

Because of my health condition during the time of liberation, my recollections of those fateful events, even though deeply inscribed in my memory, never gave me a clear picture regarding my liberators. The books I read and documentary movies I saw these many years later gave me the scope of the heroic actions and sacrifices of the lives that our soldiers made in order to liberate mankind from the rule of Nazi Germany.

Personally, my life in those times was measured in days and I was only a short time from extinction. This is why I had always felt a very deep bond with my unknown liberators, the 3rd Armored Division. They were always in the forefront of the many battles, and to them, we survivors will be grateful for the rest of our lives.

With much pleasure, I would like to relay to you the details of my crossing paths with some members of the 3rd Armored Division 48 years after the liberation. This experience will never be forgotten. Destiny brought together three liberators and their spouses – Michael Sydorko, Russ Steele, Bill Goss – and myself, with my wife Regina (also a concentration camp survivor).

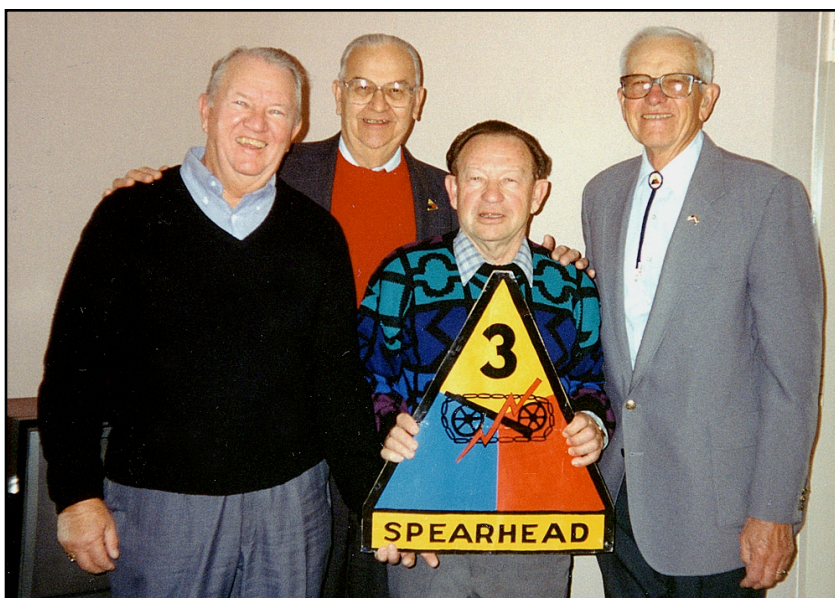
We met during our stay in Washington, D.C., and although we never knew each other before this meeting, we developed a deep bond and at last had time to look at each other, talk to each other, and exchange thoughts that could not be done forty-eight years ago.

On behalf of myself and hundreds of others whom your division liberated from certain death in those fateful days of 1945, please accept our thanks and gratitude for the heroism and sacrifice that will never be forgotten.

God bless you, the members of the 3rd Armored Division, and all other American Forces together with the Allied nations who liberated Europe. God bless America.

Sincerely yours,

**Irving & Regina Lee**  
 San Diego, CA 92120



Pictured at the Association's 1993 Reunion in Indianapolis, from left: Bill Goss, Michael Sydorko, Nordhausen survivor Irving Lee, and Russ Steele.



## The Long Wait for Details of a Son's Death in Combat

The letter below was sent to us in 2011 by Dallas Register of Harrisonville, MO. It was written to his grandfather and refers to "Charles," who was Register's father (Major Charles Gravely of 3AD Hq, Forward Echelon). The Lt. Col. who wrote the letter had known Charles Gravely well, and he offered heart-felt and comforting words, but had no details of Charles' death on September 3, 1944, east of Mons, Belgium. As with many families who lost a son, it was often months before any details would arrive, if ever. In the case of Charles' parents (Jabez and Rebecca Gravely of Montgomery, Alabama), it was not until June, 1945, that word came, not from official channels, but by way of a brief hand-written letter from a Cpl. Leroy Bunch, who had made the effort to locate a lieutenant who had been a witness to events. While Bunch also offered comforting words, he was brief and blunt in relating the

Division Artillery, 3rd Arm'd Division  
A.P.O. 253, c/o Postmaster  
New York, New York  
26 October 1944

In Germany:

Dear Mr. Gravely:

The Commanding General of our Division turned your letter of 12 October over to me and asked that I write you.

On 7 September, in Belgium, Charles was assigned a special and dangerous mission of responsibility and met death while carrying out this mission. He was a soldier to the very last as evidenced by the Bronze Star Medal, awarded him for Heroic Achievement. I have talked to the officer who assigned him this mission, and he told me, that he felt quite unhappy over the outcome, with reference to Charles, but that the mission was of great importance.

I was at our Division Headquarters at the time that nite that his absence became known, and that a search was instituted for him and his party. I feel that you may feel quite proud of Charles. I know that you and Mrs Gravely miss him and I would like to have you know that many more of us here miss him also.

I first met Charles, when we were both in Company 5, O.T.C. at Ft. Benning in February 1941. We were both in the 67th F.A. and later the 391st F. A. until I came up to the Division Artillery Staff. During these years I have known him quite well. We have lived in the same building, the same tent area, and have dodged a few shells together. We have played golf together, rode, gone to shows and dances together, and he has been at my home a few times. I think you had a fine son.

The Christmas gifts which you mention, have not been received as yet, but when they arrive I will see that the edibles are passed out as you have suggested, among his friends, which will include several officers, his driver, and the sargeant who was his assistant. I know this will meet with his approval. May I add, that I have helped him open packages in the past - and that he has also helped me to open some of mine.

After this war is over I hope to have the opportunity of making your acquaintance. I am sorry that I am unable to give you more details now. I do hope that you both will feel less sad in knowing that we who knew Charles, respected him as an officer, and a gentleman.

Sincerely yours,

Lawton F. Garner  
Lt. Col., F. A.



**Maj. Charles Gravely**

lieutenant's description: "He [the Major] was up front leading the task force ... They drove into a machine-gun nest ... It was all over very shortly ... There wasn't any long pain, so we can thank God for that." The parents would eventually learn a little more, also unofficially: The Major was in a peep [jeep] at the time; Lt. Jack Peterson of Lehi, Utah was killed with him; the peep, which went back into service to his replacement, Major Evan Regas, still had bullet holes in it. Such were the common difficulties of a family seeking closure in the death of a soldier son.



## A New Home but Not Retirement for Association's Portrait of Maj. Gen. Rose

It was mounted and displayed on the same 22 x 28-inch backing at every Association reunion as far back as 1950. And it was there again last year at our final reunion in Columbus, Georgia. But now, with no more reunions, what to do with this grand old photo-portrait of Gen. Rose taken in Stolberg, Germany, in the fall of 1944?

The quandary was settled in October, 2010, with the approval of Walt Stitt. Conditional custody of the photo was given to Jeff Fine, whose "Meeting House Opticians" shop in Middletown, CT is on the first floor of the building where Gen. Rose was born. It is there in one of the shop's front windows that the photo will be displayed during national holidays and at special times related to local military and veterans events.

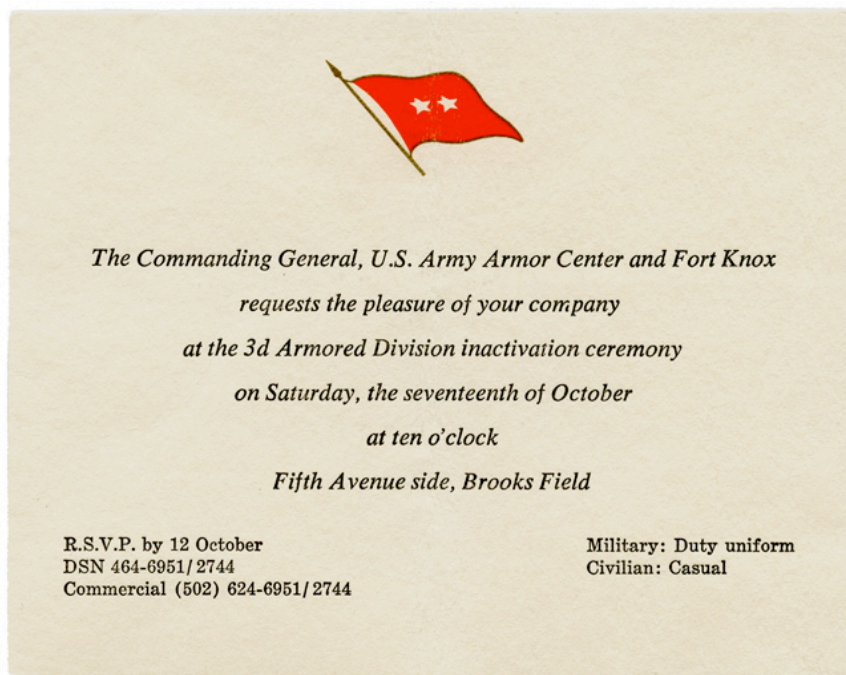
In 2002, Jeff had opened up his shop and windows for use with displays and as a reception area for the Rose Birthplace Dedication. Our thanks again to Jeff, who happens to be a serious amateur historian as well as a veteran – an Air Force Medic with 2 and 1/2 tours in Vietnam attached to Army units.



Above in both photos taken in November, 2010, the Rose portrait is shown at Meeting House Opticians on Main St., Middletown, CT. The former Rose family apartment is on the 2nd floor directly above the shop. (Photos by Vic Damon)



## 25 Spearhead WWII Vets present at Division's Final Moment in 1992



### U.S. Army Armor Center Ft. Knox, Kentucky "Casing the Colors" Inactivation Ceremony October 17th, 1992, at Brooks Field, Fort Knox

Baker, Manuel - Serv Btry/54th FA  
Danay, John - Hq/33rd AR  
DeSoto, Ernest - Col. USA Ret.  
Edie, Bill - CCB & Hq/36th AIR  
Epiey, Herb - 1/36th AIR  
Esbrook, Andrew - E/32nd AR  
Freear, Joe - G/32nd AR  
Fullerton, Bill - Hq/391st FA  
Garcia, Armand - Hq/83rd Recon  
Gardocky, Julius - D/83rd Recon  
Hanneman, LeRoy - Hq/23rd Engrs  
Hirt, Charles - 143rd Sig  
Kelliham, George - A/54th FA

Latham, James - B/54th FA  
Limmroth, Weldon - 143rd Sig  
McIntyre, Ed - A/703rd TD  
Rienschke, Robert - 143rd Sig  
Robinson, Joe - Hq/Supply  
Schumacher, Marc - C/33rd AR  
Shacklette, Thane - 32nd AR  
Sherman, Guy - D/83rd Recon  
Stager, Bob - Med/Att. 36th AIR  
Steele, Russell - Hq/33rd AR  
Swenson, Harley - B/32nd AR  
Wood, Claude - B/67th FA


---

Thanks to Manuel Baker (54th FA Bn) for supplying the above original invitation card as well as the long-lost official Army video of the entire ceremony, which can be viewed on 3AD.com (see: WWII Index/3AD WWII Videos/3AD Inactivation). Also present that day was the Army Chief of Staff (4-Star Gen. Gordon Sullivan), five former 3AD commanding generals, 3AD Cold War & Gulf War vets, and families and friends. During the ceremony, Maj. Gen. Paul Funk, Armor Center CG and 3AD CG in the Gulf War, asked the above 25 3AD WWII vets to stand and be recognized.



## More Reasons to visit "3AD.com"

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### 3rd Armored Division, World War II

#### SOLDIERS' MEMOIRS

Selections By or About Individual Soldiers

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More to come.

Soldiers pictured at top of page, whose writings are included in this section, are (from left): Walter May, Chris Brous, Dick Goodie, Glen Davison, John Smith, and Don Marsh.



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Conversion of book to digital text in 2004 by Vic Damon of 3AD.com staff

### COMPLETE TEXT of "SPEARHEAD IN THE WEST"

3rd Armored Division's 260-Page WWII History - Published in 1946

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## The 32 Survivors of the Original "I" Company 36th Armored Infantry Regiment

**"To Hell and Back" was a reality.**



This photo was taken by John Vincent Hiatt of I Co on VE-Day (May 8, 1945 ) in the area of Sangerhausen, Germany. Of I Co's original stateside training group of about 200 soldiers, these 32 men were the only ones not killed or incapacitated during nine months of combat from the hedgerows of Normandy to Dessau, Germany, near the Elbe River. And, still, some of the above men were themselves wounded, but were able to stay with the unit to the end. Below, as written on the back of the original photo, are the names of the men. Unfortunately, there was some confusion in that writing about the order of names and in which "rows," so we are simply listing the names without location in photo.

Marvin F. Sandberg, Pete LaCicero, Al Golisano, Lafayette Webster, George Beal, Alvin M. Schroeder, Reidl (first name unknown), George E. Stout, William M. Murphy, Wilbur W. Molnar, Ervin E. Kleindl, Joseph F. Burns, Raymond B. Thorton, William B. McMahon, Olen D. Yarnell, Tom Thorton, Raymond O. Stapleton, Frank T. Jashek, Edward C. Gross, Cecil J. Funk, Ray A. Hannah, Ira J. Van Riekel, Clover (first name unknown), Walter C. Wedeking, Delbert H. Watson, Fuller (first name unknown), Arthur C. Peeks, Simon Lang, Charles R. Ross, Burt. P. Barlow Jr, Melvin J. Weber

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Note: The photo is from the personal WWII collection of Al Golisano (I Co / 36th AIR). Our thanks to Al and, in addition, to John Hiatt, the grandson of the late John Vincent Hiatt (I Co / 36th AIR), for help with the soldiers' names and in supplying additional information on I Co.



## 3AD (991st FA) Artillery on New York Daily News Sunday Edition - September 17, 1944

The big guns of the 991st FA Bn are shown during the first Allied shelling of German soil in WWII. For wartime security reasons, the photo and related story on inside pages was not published until well after the fact, and the artillery unit is intentionally not identified. The photo was actually taken on Sept. 10, 1944, in vicinity of Eupen, Belgium. The guns are the 155mm M-12 self-propelled. This original newspaper was found and purchased on eBay by Jim MacClay of the 3AD.com staff.

Average net paid circulation  
for August recorded  
Daily---2,050,000  
Sunday-3,700,000

# SUNDAY NEWS

NEW YORK'S PICTURE NEWSPAPER Trade Mark Reg. U.S. Pat. Off.

HOME

Vol. 24. No. 20
★ New York, Sunday, September 17, 1944★
23 Main+12 Comic+8 Coloroto Pages

# YANKS SURGE INTO REICH ON 100-MI. LINE

Story on Page 3



**Blitzing Germany** Smoke rises skyward after a battery of American 155 mm. self-propelled guns hurl a salvo of shells into the village of Bildehen in Germany. The guns are mounted on Sherman tank chassis. Yesterday the Yanks, striking on a 100-mile front across the Westwall, had struck to within 26 miles of Cologne.

(Official U.S. Signal Corps via A. P. Wirephoto)  
—Story on page 3.

## From the Best of Haynes Dugan

### Division Headquarters G-2, Intelligence & Public Affairs and the Association's Historian for more than 50 years

On of his many great works:

#### **Aftermath of Gen. Rose's Death**

By Haynes W. Dugan

Written in 1987

Dugan passed away in 2007 at age 93.

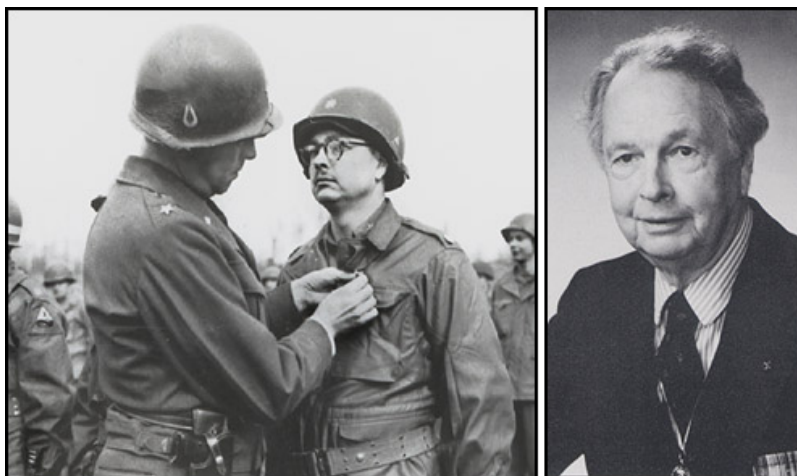
A very detailed account of the removal of General Rose's body is given by Arthur Hausechild, then of headquarters of the 33rd Armored Regiment and now living in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Here is his story:

"At the time I was a staff sergeant, senior noncommissioned officer of the reconnaissance platoon, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 33rd Armored. After a very busy night, I was ordered by Captain McCann to take a detail out to retrieve General Rose's body, as it was believed he had run into an ambush the night before.

"Taking Sergeant Owen and two other men from my platoon, we proceeded out on the route described by the captain and at the foot of a small hill we could see what was left of the party's vehicles near the top of the rise. We stopped and Sergeant Owen and I moved forward on foot and found only one body at the site of the ambush. It was the body of the general. He lay on the ground near his jeep, his helmet with bullet holes in it lay beside him, and his pistol still in its holster with the flap buttoned down. He wore his pistol on a regular pistol belt."

At this point Hausechild had been 28 hours without sleep. They were in a vulnerable position, so each taking a leg of the general, they drug him to the jeep. When reprimanded by an officer on outpost for lack of respect for the general, Owen was a bit testy, Hausechild relates.

Lieutenant Colonel John K. Boles, Jr. is usually credited with the final delivery of



Major Gen. Maurice Rose (left) and Major Haynes Dugan at a medal award ceremony in Belgium (photo by Marvin Mischnick of Div Hq), and Dugan at right in 1990.

the general's body, this on the front of his peep.

Hausechild's account put paid to a question advanced, in all good faith, by Weldon Limroth of the 143rd Armored Signal Company, now of Mobile, Alabama, that General Rose was surrendering his pistol at the time of his death and the tank commander thought it was aimed at him.

At the Reading, Pennsylvania reunion in 1954, Limroth visited in the home of Neil Fleischer of Lebanon, Pennsylvania, who was number one radio operator for General Rose and in the armored scout car which contained Lieutenant Colonel Sweat. Also with them in the scout car was Wesley D. Ellison of Lubbock, Texas, number two radio operator.

Fleischer, upon being released as a prisoner of war at the end of the war, did not return to the division. Fleischer, Limroth recalled, thought General Rose was surrendering his pistol to the tank commander when the latter, feeling threatened, opened fire. Wesley D. Ellison did not confirm this. However, following the 1987 reunion of the division association, Limroth phoned Fleischer's widow and asked her to recall the 1954 conversation and, without prompting, she gave an account of the surrender of pistol by Rose.

Richard W. Raabe, then of the Inspector General's office, now living in Corpus Christi, Texas, but a long time resident of Chicago, also refutes Limroth's theory.

(Continued)



He should know, for the IG's office conducted an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of General Rose. In brief, Rose and his party were shouted at by the tank commander, did not understand him and Robert Bellinger said, "General, I think he wants you to drop your pistol belt." The general then lowered his hands to undo the belt and was shot. "Conceivably," Raabe says, "the tanker thought the general was reaching for his gun and consequently fired."

Glenn Shaunce all along has told the story, that the general, Bellinger, and he were unable to understand the German tanker and Bellinger, thinking they were instructed to drop their arms, told the general that he thought the German wanted him to drop his pistol. Time and again Shaunce has said that only Bellinger could join in a true account of what happened, but Bellinger was last heard of as living in Hicksville, Long Island, New York and we have not been able to contact him since then.

Don R. March (142nd Signal) quotes Shaunce as follows:

"Bellinger never dropped his shoulder holster. Ask him. He is still alive. He told me that he was carrying a captured Walther P-38 German pistol and that after he escaped that night he used his helmet to dig a hole to bury the damned P-38 for fear that if he was caught with it that they use it to shoot him."

The 3rd Armored was not the only busy outfit on 31 March. General J. Lawton Collins, our VII Corps commander, who had used cub planes to reach headquarters of his forward divisions, has this account:

"I went outside normal command channels and telephoned, around three sides of the Ruhr, direct to General Simpson's 9th Army headquarters. Thanks to our fine Signal Corps communications, I got a clear connection with Simpson, whom I knew well from our service together as instructors at the Army War College. I explained the situation to him and said, 'For God's sake. Bill, get Monty (Field Marshall Bernard Law Montgomery, commander of the British 21st Army Group) to let you release the 2nd Armored Division for a drive on Paderborn. I will send a combat

command of the 3rd Armored across to meet the 2nd at Lippstadt. We will then have the Ruhr wrapped up." Simpson agreed. The 2nd Armored actually had already started east and had advanced close to Beckhum, thirty five miles west of Paderborn.

"The next morning, on Easter Sunday, to match our previous Christmas Day defeat of the 2nd Panzer Division in the Bulge, Combat Command B of the 2nd Armored and Task Force Kane of the 3rd Armored (Lieutenant Colonel Matthew W. Kane, commanding officer of the first battalion of the 32nd Armored Regiment) met at Lippstadt, completing the encirclement of the Ruhr, which we in the VII Corps proudly named the Rose Pocket."

As a result of this, more than 376,000 German soldiers were isolated, along with the main industrial area of the Reich, and their commander, Field Marshall Model, committed suicide.

At no time did the 3rd Armored get the publicity it had following the death of General Rose. Even the British press, usually more attuned to the feats of her own troops, joined in the accolade resulting in the closing of the Ruhr pocket.

Easter Sunday of 1945, the day of the closing of the Ruhr pocket, paled into insignificance to the sorrow of the Rose family.

Mrs. Rose, the widow, and their young son were living in Denver, Colorado, close to his family, the Rabbi and his wife and Rose's brother. Also living in Denver was Mrs. Jo Berry, wife of Lieutenant Colonel Edward S. Berry, commander of the 67th Armored Field Artillery Battalion. Both she and Mrs. Rose attended the Episcopal Cathedral in Denver and, both husbands being in the 3rd Armored, they would exchange information contained in letters from their respective husbands. They became, if not close friends, two held within common bonds and on attending Sunday services at the cathedral would sit together. On a few occasions they would lunch together.

On Easter Sunday of 1945 Jo Berry was, for some reason, late to church and upon arrival found Mrs. Rose some rows in front of her.

(Continued)

During the service, an army officer arrived and was directed by the ushers to Mrs. Rose, who arose and accompanied him out of the church. Knowing that something was afoot, at the end of the service Mrs. Berry went to Mr. Rose's quarters, to have her worst fears confirmed, and thereupon to man the telephone and act as a protective barrier between the grieving widow and the press and other callers, for Mrs. Rose's grief was intense. Here was a woman who had lost, not only the father of her child, a husband, but an ardent lover. Here was a bereft woman. One has but to look at the picture taken of her at that time to see a person wound up tighter than an eight-day clock.

At the family home in Denver, Rabbi Samuel Rose, age 89, father of the general, said: "It is well that since this had to be, it happened in the week of Passover. As Jehovah said, 'When I see the blood, I will pass over you.' He spoke not only to the Jews, but to all peoples, to Americans, to Germans, to all people. And so, may Jehovah accept this sacrifice, and see the blood and pass over all peoples for their sins, at this Passover time. For my son's sake."

The attitude of the widow was somewhat different. According to Ed Berry, Virginia Barringer Rose had a memorial service for General Rose in the cathedral chapel and all of her Protestant friends attended.

Shortly thereafter Philips S. Van Cist, attorney, in a one sentence letter, filed general's will, saying it "does not look like it would be necessary to probate the estate."

What Van Cist meant was there was not enough estate to probate. The bulk of what was left to the widow was an insurance policy, no stock, no bonds, no trust funds, no real estate, just an insurance policy. Apparently all the widow had was her wardrobe, some household goods, her son's clothing and toys. If there was a car, it was not mentioned.

Drowned in her grief, Mrs. Rose disappeared from Denver, not taking leave of acquaintances as fast as can be told. Of her later life little is known to us. There were rumors, but just rumors. In her later years she was listed as being in a nursing home in San Antonio, Texas.

The son, Maurice Rose, also sought a career in law enforcement, caring not to bask in the fame of his father's shadow. As late as 1986 he was known to be chief criminal investigator in the sheriff's office at San Antonio.

What had happened to those of Rose's party surviving his death? Major Bellinger, his aide, spent several nights in the woods, at times hiding in the bush as German patrols passed nearby. Early spring nights spent in the woods without blankets are not conducive to comfort, but Bellinger found that this and lack of food sustainable, but the loss of water not. On his return to the division he was hospitalized for dehydration before returning to duty. Shaunce, as related, returned to duty but minus his P-38. Goff also returned.

Colonel Sweat, who was headed for the nearby German tank at the time General Rose was shot, was interrogated by a German intelligence officer who had worked in a North Carolina mill and thus spoke English fluently. At his first opportunity, Sweat removed and tossed into a latrine his General Staff insignia. His replies were restricted to name, rank and serial number. Later, with other prisoners, he was placed on a train, headed for deeper into the interior. En route the train was rocketed by a British plane. The soldier guard standing next to Sweat was killed, while Sweat was wounded in the forehead. The train stopped at a small town and the prisoners removed. Civilians, recently exposed to the air attack, attempted to lynch the prisoners of war, but the Wehrmacht soldiery prevented it.

Finally, Sweat was taken to the surgery of a civilian doctor, who cleansed and sewed up his wound. They were evacuated further into the interior to a camp at Fallingbostel, where, he recalls, he was issued a bowl, spoon and thin blanket. The latrine was a hole in the floor. Officials wanted to move Sweat further inland, but a friendly British doctor placed him in the infirmary and declared him to ill too move. Finally, rescued by advancing British forces, but forced to remain in place for the time being, Sweat was placed in command of over 4,000 prisoners of war, the senior one a Russian lieutenant general. He remained in this capacity until relieved. ■



## A Spearheader's Late Salute to General Bradley

by Ellis O. Butler

G Co, 33rd Armored Regiment

First appeared in the *El Paso Times* in 1981 after the death of Gen. Bradley

I'm sorry that I never had an opportunity to apologize to General Omar Bradley for my thoughtless breach of military courtesy towards him. That must have been over 35 years ago, shortly after the World War II fighting in Europe ended. That General Bradley was equally guilty of a lapse of military discipline did not excuse me.

Nor did the fact that I was back in the States awaiting discharge after serving in the 3rd Armored Division for four years – including one year of combat in Europe. Looking back at it now, the average combat GI usually felt that, except the buddies in his own outfit, there seemed to be only about three men overseas that cared about him or that he gave a hoot about.

One was Ernie Pyle, that slim, friendly, unassuming reporter who bypassed Army headquarters, the rear echelons, and the brass to get right down in the mud and grime and shellfire to talk with combat GI's and send their stories back to their hometown papers. The second was Bill Mauldin who delighted the GI's with his all too true cartoons in the Stars and Stripes depicting the totally different way of Army life as lived by the combat soldiers and by the rear echelon forces.

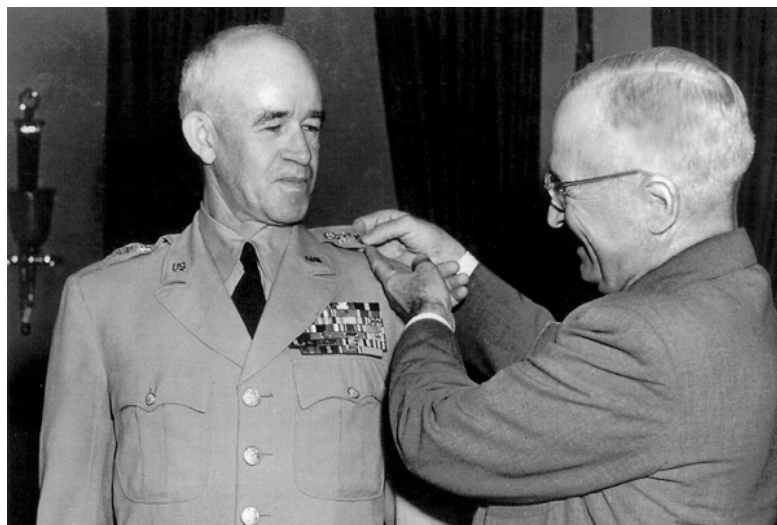
And the third was General Omar Bradley. Our division served under his command for several months of training in England and almost one year of combat in Europe. In England he visited our division frequently – not staying at headquarters but coming on down to where the GI's were preparing for combat. Omar Bradley was different – plain, soft-spoken, considerate, yet a brilliant strategist, and a leader we respected and admired. The combat GI's considered him one of us.

With the coming of V-E Day, the combat draftees were detached from the outfits they had served overseas in and shipped back home to reception camps to await discharge. Mine was near Boston, which I found to be filled with "home front" service personnel, long on sharp uniforms but short on actual war service. One afternoon while still awaiting my discharge papers – and still wearing my 3rd Armored Division uniform – I strolled along a Boston boulevard, happy to be almost out of the Army and somewhat scornful of all the rear echelon troops around me.

Suddenly I looked up and saw coming down the avenue towards me, an Army passenger car, bearing the flag and stars designating it to be the car of a general officer. And riding in the car, to my surprise and delight – General Omar Bradley! He was accompanied by several bemedalled aides and seemed as bored and out of place as I myself was feeling.

Without thinking, I grinned and waved to him, forgetting completely that what I should be doing was saluting him. When General Bradley saw me, to him just another one of a million soldiers, he suddenly, grinned, too, pointed to my Spearhead Armored Division patch, and waved back to me!

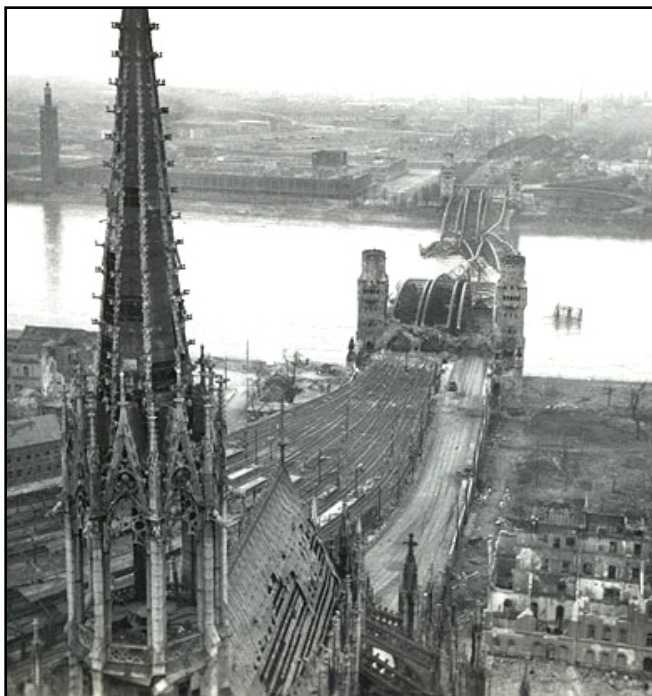
It seemed as though we were two bored soldiers suddenly spotting a fellow combat veteran and recognizing each other's wartime services. We both seemed genuinely glad to spot each other among the throng of rear echelon, non-combat types. We never did salute each other as protocol called for. Just smiled and waved. And I never did get an opportunity to apologize to General Bradley. But I was glad it happened the way it did. I suspect Omar Bradley was too.



Gen. Omar Bradley receives his fifth star from President Harry Truman in 1950 at Pentagon ceremony.

## From the Best of Marvin Mischnick Division Headquarters Photographer

A small sampling from his work on 3AD.com and at the Illinois Archives



View from atop the Cologne Cathedral toward the Hohenzollern Bridge over the Rhine River. Retreating German troops blew up the bridge on March 6, 1945, with advancing 3AD forces less than 30 minutes away. Spearhead was just barely denied a chance to cross the Rhine one day before the famous capture of the Remagen Bridge by the 9th Armored Division.



Marvin Mischnick on an unexploded 500 lb. bomb somewhere in France in August, 1944. Today in May, 2011, still vigorous at age 92 at his home in Elmhurst, IL, he sends his greetings to his fellow Spearhead vets. Marvin is the last known living member of the Div Hq G-2 Section (Intelligence & Public Affairs).

At right: A Presidential Citation Ceremony, March 24, 1945, at the Mauser Estate on the east bank of the Rhine River at Honnef, Germany, where the 3AD had established a temporary command post. The citation to the 3AD, that had just completed its crossing of the Rhine that day, was presented to Div. Commander Maurice Rose (at right) from First Army Commander Lt. Gen. Courtney Hodges (at left), and 7th Corps Commander Lt. Gen. J. Lawton Collins (in middle),



(Continued)





German Panther Mark V from Battle of St. Lo is hauled away for inspection by a crew from 3AD Maintenance Bn near Le Desert, France, in July, 1944.



Dead enemy soldier in Arnoldsweiler, Germany on Feb. 26, 1945, as 3AD advances in the Rhineland Campaign.



3AD vehicles roll by the hastily abandoned headquarters of the Luftwaffe in France, the Rothschild Estate outside of Pontcarre, on Aug. 27, 1944.

## From the Best of Frank Woolner

Div Hq G-2 Sergeant and primary author of *Spearhead in the West*

### "Fighting Fair and the SS" - a Story of Atrocities

Written by Woolner about 1990

Time dulls memory, but I am never going to forget a morning in Normandy when we were first introduced to wartime atrocity. This was at Argentan-Falaise. My early 703rd tank-busters had already learned that combat was kill or be killed, but I think we all felt the combat would be waged decently.

As a matter of fact it was - where we bellied up to the average German soldier, the Luftwaffe, or even those tremendously efficient Kraut parachutists. Rommel's Palm-Tree brassard boys were tough customers, but if they captured one of us after a firefight there was no summary execution; they grinned at us, offered a good meal, a glass of schnapps and good luck as a prisoner of war.

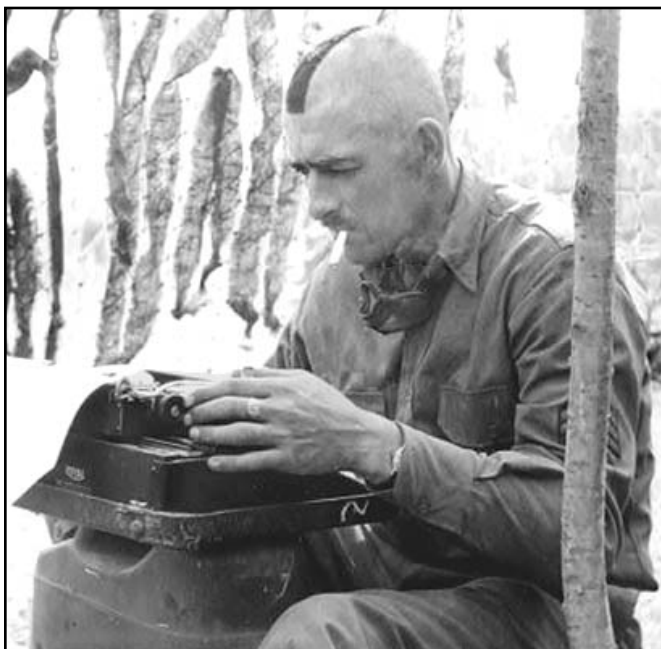
Not so the SS. These, until the very end when kids were drafted into the outfit sans indoctrination, were trained murderers. We got into atrocity and it escalated. I am not going to be a hypocrite and say that 3AD was innocent; the horror was tit for tat. Our own boys didn't start it.

On the morning recalled at Falaise, a German SS combat patrol came in and captured six of our boys. Just before dawn, after a night of routing light tanks through our leaguer, I was discussing the situation with a young officer named Jack Wissing.

Apparently, just after I left him to get some much needed rest in a slit trench, the SS patrol came in. Damned if I know why they succeeded, but the Krauts forever stated in their orders that Americans tended to be drowsy at dawn. Wissing wasn't sleepy; he was wide awake when I vacated the premises. Okay, we win some and we lose some.

But these black-shirted bastards took our shavetail and five other soldiers down behind the nearest hedgerow and murdered all but one with gunfire. The one was quick enough to run and escape. He told us all about it and the evidence was there.

I don't have any hard-on about the average German soldier; he was just doing a job as we



Sgt. Frank Woolner, sporting a "Mohawk" haircut, is shown working his personal Royal portable typewriter atop a gas can during the winter of 1944-45 somewhere in Belgium or Germany. (Photo from Woolner Family)

were, but I'd still like to find those criminal SS and give them a dose of hot lead. All of those killed without need were my friends. The shavetail was our company's reconnaissance officer and because everybody was short-handed, although a buck-stripe sergeant, I was appointed to take his place as an acting recon officer.

Which I did, and nobody complained. It happened that I knew my maps and compass, and it happened that I was stupid enough to be unafraid when I should have been shit-scared. You old troopers know how it was; we obeyed orders and we goofed off whenever that seemed feasible. I make no excuses to my tank-buster early command or to Lt. Col. Barr; they knew all about me; they knew when I deserved a pat on the back or a kick in the rump.

The business at Fromental made us all atrocity-oriented. We didn't want to be, but how else do you react to animals who observe no rules? The

(Continued)





Graves of Nazi SS soldiers near Ranes, France, obviously well tended by German troops. Photo taken in August, 1944 by 1LT Adrian Kibler of the 991st FA Bn, attached to the 3AD.

guy who killed [Division Commander] Rose may have thought that the General was reaching for a pistol. The bastards who killed my friends knew that they were disarmed and helpless.

Spearhead brats may question, but we weren't very kind to the SS after that. Spearhead did not hurt Wehrmacht, Luftwaffe, parachutists or Seemarine prisoners; we treated them well, swapped drinks and traded tall tales. No way with SS.

I want those people dead; they weren't fair fighters; they were murderers; and I will never excuse that. War itself is a form of murder and if we humans ever learn to reason together then this ancient curse may become stone-age history.

The allies were decent soldiers, as were most of the Germans who opposed us; we were all tough and hated to hurt the innocent. If I had to kill, then I will go to hell with blood on my hands - but I never scragged a helpless prisoner. Some of my colleagues did and, as a non-com, I closed my eyes and ears. The victims were always SS. We committed atrocities too, or call it instant justice where sub-human cretins were known to have slaughtered unnecessarily.

In Belgium, during the Battle of the Bulge, these animals mowed down a whole raft of captured American artillery troops. I personally saw one instance in which they murdered

Belgian men, women and children with blows from rifle butts. Make it very clear; the wrongdoers were almost always totenkopf SS. An old-timer, I harbor no hatred of the then Wehrmacht soldier; he was just like me - stuck into service and battling for his nation.

I know a few of them now; like me they throw their hands out and admit how wrong it all was. We can fish together like old friends. They are welcome visitors at my central Massachusetts barracks and they have urged me to visit a new Germany to talk about peaceful angling and sport shooting. ■

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#### **Frank Woolner - a brief military bio:**

From Shrewsbury, Mass. Died 1994 at age 77. In WWII Woolner saw frontline combat action during 1944 in France and Belgium as a recon sergeant with the 703rd TD Bn. He also served as the Bn's chief writer for press & historical purposes, as he had at stateside and England. In Sept, 1944, Woolner was promoted to the Div Hq G-2 as a war correspondent and historian under LTC Barr and Maj. Dugan. When the war ended, Sgt. Woolner stayed in occupied Germany with a Hq production staff to research and publish the 3AD history chronicle *Spearhead in the West*, working out of Darmstadt. He was the author of the main narrative of the book. He returned to civilian life and Mass. in early 1946.

## Harold “Hap” Paulson - Spearhead’s Poet Laureate



1LT “Hap” Paulson  
703rd TD Bn

### From Hap at home in Largo, Fla., in May, 2011:

Early on, as a schoolboy in Brooklyn, NY, I learned that grammar, syntax, and even spelling were overlooked by the teachers if you made your composition a poem. Oddly enough, I am listed in my high school yearbook as "Brooklyn Tech's Poet Laureate." Yet none of my poems are in those yearbooks. I guess the teachers were more impressed than the student editors. After returning home from WWII, I attended college at night. My narrative compositions (they didn't want poetry) came back marked "Not of interest to everyone," or "the language is not colorful enough." So I went back to my personal poetry on occasion for family and friends. In 1987 I attended a 3rd Armored Div. Reunion and later wrote a poem of my experience. I submitted it to the Division Newsletter, the response was good, and the rest is history. Now, in 2011, with over 100 Army-related poems under my belt, I am very pleased that over 80 of those can be found on the 3AD.com website. Just Google search for “Hap Paulson Poems” and it should be the first link shown. Below are a few examples. Please enjoy.

### “Line of Flankers, Left”

I had seen the scene a thousand times  
On Saturday afternoons,  
In the grade "B" Westerns the movies showed,  
Right after the cartoons.

The cavalry spread across the plains,  
In "Line of flankers" charging,  
Straight at the Indian's positions,  
With no evasions or dodging.

But now, in November of forty-four,  
It was me out on that path.  
A tank destroyer instead of a horse,  
Carried my charge on Hastenrath.

To my right, in the line of flankers,  
Were the tanks of the thirty-three,  
On my left, the tank destroyers,  
"C" Company, seven-oh-three.

With Colonel Mills commanding us,  
Toward our objective we sped.  
Out across those open fields,  
Hoping no mines would leave us dead.

Our number two destroyer  
Took a hit on the gun shield's top.  
It welded the shield to the turret,  
But the tank didn't have to stop.

Our number three destroyer  
Had seen the enemy blast,  
And fired a return round,  
Before we went roaring past.

We reached the town in a hurry,  
Our security section alit,  
And started to clear out the houses,  
To prevent a "panzerfaust" hit.

Then over the radio, we heard Colonel Mills,  
"Calling Amber Charlie two"  
With your open turrets you're vulnerable,  
So I'm giving this order to you,

Take your destroyers out of here,  
Go back to Sherpenseel.  
I'll call you when I think it is safe."  
So we sped back across the field.

We evacuated our wounded,  
And awaited the colonel's call.  
It must have been a day or two,  
"Til we heard from them at all.

We want the TD's on the town's north end  
Cover the road coming in.  
Once more we charged across the field,  
To Hastenrath again.

We set up our positions there,  
Covering the northern hills,  
Then set out to locate  
The headquarters of Colonel Mills.

Once there, we found that fickle fate  
Had had one capricious whim.  
Colonel Mills shielded us from snipers,  
But, one of them killed him.



### **“Mortain”**

We finally made the breakthrough,  
And our tanks moved to Mortain.  
Out of the miserable hedgerows,  
On to the wide French plain.

First Army stopped to hold the flank,  
While Patton's troops moved through.  
While we waited to go again,  
The USO sent a crew.

Edward G. Robinson was the star,  
That we were supposed to see.  
But before the show got started,  
We heard this from the M.C.

Third Armored men -- back to your units,  
The Germans have counter-attacked.  
So we went back to our destroyers,  
While the USO got packed.

The Colonel told us to roadblock  
The road that came from the east.  
The only covered locations  
Took us a mile away, at least.

The day proved uneventful.  
But at night the bombers came.  
As they pattern-bombed along the road,  
We felt each bomb had our name.

It started to the east of us,  
We heard them drawing near.  
Kerboom, kerboom, each one closer.  
I can tell you, we knew fear.

We flattened out in our foxholes,  
Saying every prayer that came to mind.  
Then, suddenly they had passed us,  
The bombs were falling behind.

We didn't get much sleep that night,  
Expecting their tanks to come.  
But dawn came up, we saw no Krauts,  
Though we surely expected some.

Then, later in the morning,  
We spotted a truck on the road.  
Our gunners started "tracking,"  
At the outposts it was "lock and load."

When the truck reached our position  
It had red crosses on its side.  
We had them pull it off the road,  
Then we saw the girls inside.

"What on earth are you doing here?"  
They replied they had lost their way.  
They were supposed to be with the USO,  
That was cancelled yesterday.

I hid their truck in an old barn,  
Until I was sure it was safe to proceed.  
I sent a patrol back to Mortain,  
To be sure it was safe, indeed.

They fed us doughnuts and coffee,  
While we awaited the patrol's return,  
And asked if we'd like a movie,  
Since we had time to burn.

They set the screen up in the barn,  
"Going my way" was what we saw.  
I had to smile, while thinking,  
"What a way to fight a war!"

### **“The Army Can Opener”**

Once again, I'm frustrated,  
Upset, teed off, and vexed.  
I bought a brand new can opener,  
And it has me perplexed.

Sitting on the appliance shelf,  
It really looked quite nifty.  
I couldn't resist the sale price,  
It was only thirteen-fifty.

But when I got the damn thing home,  
And tried to open a can,  
It cut and skipped, sputtered and dripped,  
Did nothing according to plan.

Do you remember the can opener  
That came with the rations box?  
Two metal pieces, with a hinge,  
Open cans? It could open locks.

It measured one eighth, by an inch, by an inch.  
So small, yet really handy,  
And when you had to open a can,  
It really worked quite dandy.

Since the war, we put men on the moon,  
Traveled faster than sound,  
Designed television and Internet,  
But there's no engineer around.

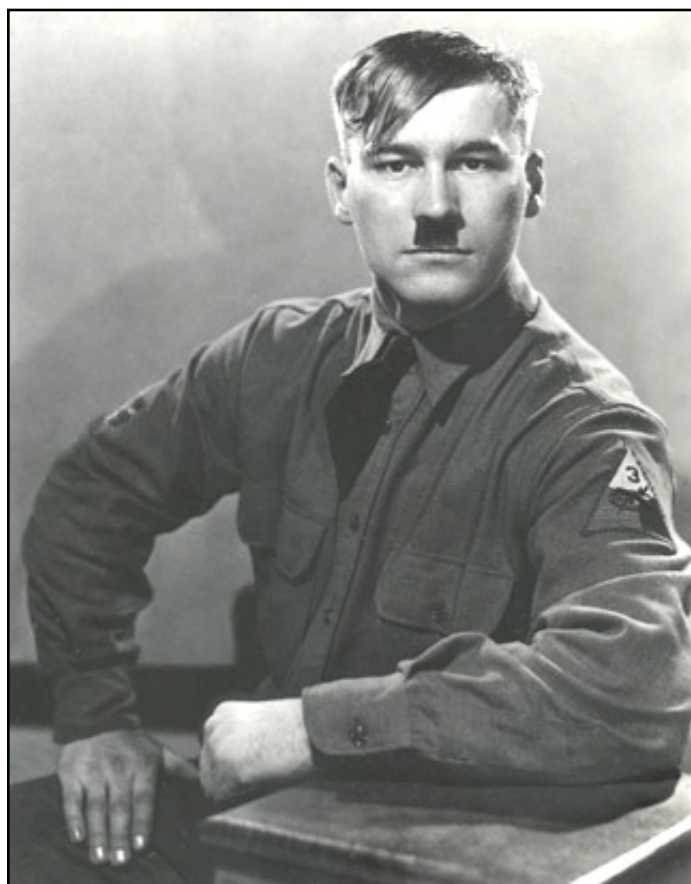
Who improved on the GI can opener.  
I wish someone would begin,  
For I have yet to see an improvement  
On that one inch piece of tin.

## Spearhead Humor



### **Not all Foxholes were Miserable.**

This luxury foxhole was photographed outside Mortain, France, in August, 1944 by 1LT Adrian Kibler of the 991st FA Bn. The soldier taking in some sun is SSgt Yandell of the 991st. Maybe he'd like a mint julep.



### **Say again?**

Rumors and panic that Adolf Hitler had infiltrated the 3rd Armored Div. were dispelled when Div Hq photographer Marvin Mischnick admitted that this photo was only a self-portrait of himself taken as a lark in 1941 at Camp Polk, LA.



## Spearhead Humor (cont.)

Why is this 3AD soldier grinning  
for the folks back home?



... because behind him is a huge formation of bedraggled German POW's  
captured by the 3AD during the Battle of Mons.

From the WWII personnel photo collection of  
1st Sgt HARRY BOERSEN  
Hq Co, 45th Armored Medical Bn

Our thanks to his granddaughter, Jennifer Boersen of Holland, Michigan

## About Association Membership Dues

The annual dues for 2011 (\$25) has still not been received from some members. (We will delay in reporting you to the MP's.) The alternative Life Membership remains at \$90.00. Dues for 2011 should be sent to Secretary/Treasurer Walt Stitt below.

Sadly there will be no more Association national reunions, and the Association as a corporation is scheduled to end in September, 2011. However, certain public relations and administration work will continue at least for several years beyond 2011. In addition, a redesigned Association section on the 3AD.com website will maintain a 3AD WWII Bulletin Board for news and comments through this decade and beyond.

**Rev. Walter B. Stitt**  
**3rd Armored Division Association**  
**P.O. Box 2346**  
**South Bend, IN 46680**  
**Phone: 574-291-3414**

## THE SPEARHEAD STORE

*Open for Business!*



Above is the store display at the 2010 reunion. It was not a complete sell out, so a limited supply is still available. (Photos by Justin Reed)

All with 3AD designs, of course:

\$3.00 - Patch (cloth triangle)

\$1.25 - Window Decal

\$2.50 - Bumper Sticker

\$3.00 - Charm (small)

\$6.00 - Rope Bolos (red only)

\$12.00 - Travel Clock

\$20.00 - Men's/Ladies' Watch

\$12.00 - Ladies' Necklace

\$10.00 - God Belt Buckle (with Belt: tan or black)

\$32.50 - History of 36th Armored Infantry Rgmt

NOTE: We are sold out of all other books. We are also sold out of Lapel Pin, Key Fob, & Baseball Cap with fancy 3AD patch (in above photos).

Shipping & Handling is included.

Please order through Walt Stitt at above address.





**Dear Spearheaders,**

The year 2011 has become a milestone for 3AD.com, which is now a kind of "mother ship" for this Association Newsletter as well as its usual role in easy public access to a wealth of 3rd Armored Division history. The website has now surpassed the \$50,000 expense figure for the 9-year span of 2002 to 2011. That includes funding for site maintenance, research, ongoing expansion, 3AD.com digital-projection presentations and static displays, etc. Of that figure, approximately \$45,000 has been my own donation. That does not include the man-hours involved.

3AD.com was an idea that sprang from the dedication ceremony of Gen. Rose's birthplace in 2002 in Middletown, CT, and from the research and planning on my part leading up to that wonderful gathering. Though not a WWII vet myself, I served with the 3AD in Frankfurt, Germany, during 1966-69. I was assigned to the Div Hq Public Affairs Office as an "Information Specialist," primarily working as a photographer & journalist for *Spearhead Newspaper*. The name Gen. Rose was well known to me in an office that was also responsible for preserving the Division's history. In 1967 and again in 1968 I attended the annual Memorial Day observance at Margraten Cemetery, including the very special ceremony at the General's gravesite. Then three decades later came the story of his birthplace, and how it was so belatedly discovered and then dedicated. That is well described on 3AD.com in the Rose section.

Much hard work with 3AD.com lies ahead. Of its current 2,582 web pages, the great majority involves the Spearhead WWII era, and a great deal of WWII material in my office has still to be prepared for web display. New historical material continues to be discovered – 3AD WWII film footage, still photos, and documents – by way of the National Archives and other not-for-free sources. Then eventually comes a most arduous project, to say the least: the modification of each of 3AD.com's sections and pages, including its video's, to become a permanent public Internet archive under the umbrella of the University of Illinois Library Internet Archives.

The fact is that the 3AD WWII archive Trust at the University in Urbana, IL, simply has never had the funds to research, develop, and design a comprehensive 3AD website. Set up in the early 1980's, the 3AD Illinois project was intended and funded as a veterans' depository and not with responsibilities for proactive research or publishing or purchasing, nor does it have those plans today. In brief, 3AD.com will be freely inherited (and very welcomed as such) by the University to continue as a publicly accessible online history that Trust founders Col. Andrew Barr and 3AD Historian Haynes Dugan could never have dreamed of in their time.

And this brings us back to that \$50,000 milestone for 3AD.com. A partial breakdown of that amount appears separately below. It will surprise many, but I have never requested funding assistance from the WWII Association, or from younger 3AD veteran groups. With the exception of Past President and former Treasurer Bill Heinz, who passed away in 2007, no WWII Association member has ever asked me how 3AD.com was being funded. Starting two years ago, I had casually mentioned the growing expense to a number of Board members in hopes that a dialogue would begin within the Board. But to my knowledge that never happened, and, with a treasury that is now winding down, any future Association support would seem impossible.

3AD.com's journey and its expenses are far from finished, and it's the future that I'm thinking about. I'm very happy and very satisfied to have contributed what I have for this great Division and its legacy. It is an honor and a privilege. But at some point, "going it alone" needs to be at least partially remedied. How that can happen, I don't know. Ideas are welcome, directed to either Walt Stitt or other Board members, or to myself.

Faithfully,

**Vic Damon, Newsletter Editor and 3AD.com Webmaster**

Of that \$50,000 amount, approximately \$45,000 has come from my personal funds. It sounds like a lot, but, spread over that 2002-2011 span, it was manageable. The remaining approximately \$5,000, has come from 3AD.com's most able assistant chief, Jim MacClay (a 3AD Cold War & a Gulf War vet), largely for 3AD WWII-related materials purchased on eBay. My own WWII-related costs have included (a partial listing): purchase of the "3AD.com" domain name (\$1,125); website domain service provider (\$3,200); essential computer hardware & upgrades, including hard-drive storage, tabloid scanner, digital projector & screen, etc. (\$4,400); computer software & upgrades (\$2,800); three trips with stays at Illinois Archives (\$6,000); two trips with stays at Patton Museum (\$2,600); trip to Valley Forge monument (\$650); travel for 4 of 5 Association reunions (\$3,400); purchase of 3AD films, DVD's, books, and photos (\$1,600); Rose Birthplace event support (\$1,800); and a multitude of additional expenses over time that only a small-business manager could appreciate.

**3rd Armored Division Association**

P.O. Box 2346

South Bend, IN 46680-2345

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## **IMPORTANT REMINDERS FOR ASSOCIATION MEMBERS**

This will be the last issue of the Newsletter that will be mailed to you. Please see Page 3 for comments from Walt Stitt about this change. Future issues of the Newsletter will be available on the Internet for viewing and printing from the home page of the 3AD.com website. Months of publication are May and November.

All monetary contributions (i.e., dues, gifts, memorials) should be sent to the Secretary/Treasurer until further notice. Your donations to help continue the Newsletter, which is now the Association's main life blood, are most welcome.

All other correspondence and submissions to the Newsletter, including death notices, should be sent to Vic Damon, our new Editor.

Sadly there will be no more Association national reunions, and the Association as a corporation is scheduled to end in September, 2011. However, certain public relations and administration work will continue at least for several years beyond 2011. In addition, a redesigned Association section on the 3AD.com website will maintain a 3AD WWII Bulletin Board for news and comments through this decade and beyond.

**Rev. Walter B. Stitt**

Secretary/Treasurer

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