

# The 95th Division Journal

I R O N M E N O F M E T Z

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- WWII veterans honor current 95th Soldiers with "Thank You" coin
- Message from Maj. Gen. Harry L. Twaddle

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## Reunion Comes Early in 2014

2014 will be a two-event year for 95ers, with both the rededication of the 95th Memorial at Ft. Sill in the spring and the 70th anniversary of Metz trip in the fall.

We're planning an early annual reunion event April 10-13 to coincide with the Memorial rededication. Reunion activities will be based in Oklahoma City at the Wyndham Garden Hotel. The hotel has a convenient shuttle service from the airport and good in-house dining facilities.

For your convenience, a registration form is included in this issue with full details.

Come join us on Thursday April 10 to start hospitality and get settled in.

On Friday we'll ride a comfortable motor coach down to Ft. Sill to tour the new Memorial and visit a local Bavarian restaurant for Friday night dinner.

Saturday events will include a morning business meeting followed by a casual Victory Belles luncheon.

Saturday afternoon is free time for hospitality or touring Oklahoma City venues. A formal dinner is scheduled Saturday evening, where we hope to repeat the success of the 2013 reunion which in-

cluded a significant number of active and recently retired members of the 95th Training Division (IET) and a special tribute for their service. Sunday morning we'll conclude with church services and Metz hour.

The French are currently organizing events for the Metz remembrance to be held in November 2014. We will provide details online and in the upcoming Journals as they become available.

We're hopeful to have a large turnout of WWII and current veterans at both events.



A glimpse of the new Hall of Honor in the relocated Memorial. It is still a work in progress and is slated to reopen in April 2014 with a special rededication ceremony. The Memorial will include the original artifacts collected by the WWII veterans as well as a new section which shares the contributions of 95th Soldiers since WWII, including artifacts from Iraq and Afghanistan.

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You may use the Officer and Council contact information shown above if you have questions, death notices or other information to share.

## 1945: A Message from the Commanding General . . .

The following words were written by Maj. Gen. Harry L. Twaddle at the close of the Division's service in WWII. This year marks 70 years since the division entered combat.

During these days when high flown commendations may seem to be merely the coin of the times, it is difficult for me to express my feelings toward you.

Through long months of bitter fighting, I have placed full reliance on your ability and courageousness, and you have never failed to accomplish assigned milestones. Attached units, new reinforcements and the Division "regulars" have met and overcome all obstacles as a fighting team.

Perhaps, while training in the U.S., many of us smiled at our self-chosen name of Victory Division. But if we smile now, it is an overtone to stronger thoughts of pride, of fellowship and of loss.

During the fighting we may have felt that the taking one more stubbornly-resisting pillbox or the clearing of one more fiercely-defended area of

high ground had little connection with the great world struggle.

Now, in retrospect, we cannot but feel encouraged as we see the significance of our work in bringing about victory in Europe for those nations whose aim is the good life for all.

With deep gratitude and respect, I thank you for a difficult and important job bravely and well done.

HARRY L. TWADDLE  
Major General, U.S.A.  
May 21, 1945



## 95TH CHANGES COMMANDERS

*Mitch Meador, The Lawton Constitution*

Command of the Army Reserve's 95th Division passed from Brig. Gen. A. Ray Royalty to Col. Daniel J. Christian in a ceremony here Saturday.

The 95th Division headquarters is in the Armed Forces Reserve Center on Fort Sill, but it has brigades in four states and a presence in 28 of the 50 states. The four brigades are in Kentucky, Wisconsin, Washington state and 1st Brigade, 95th Division, which is also headquartered at Ft. Sill.

The overall mission of the 95th Division is to produce drill sergeants to support Training and Doctrine Command's training operations, particularly basic training, and to support contingency missions overseas, according to Capt. Philip Thrash, secretary of the general staff.

"We have folks in Saudi Arabia right now. We also have ongoing missions at Fort Bliss, (Texas,) and other installations outside of Fort Sill. We have some upcoming Fort Sill missions in February through September of the coming year," Thrash said.

During those months, the 95th Division will supply augmentees to the 434th Field Artillery Brigade's basic training battalions to serve as drill sergeants. The Army Reservists will serve two weeks each as their annual training.

Christian has served in the Army Reserve for 32 years. Originally from Albany, N.Y., he was commissioned

in 1981. Upon earning his bachelor of science degree in computer and information sciences from Niagara University, N.Y., in 1985, he was recognized as a distinguished military graduate.

His civilian business experience spans multiple Fortune 500 companies. He currently lives in Dothan, Ala., where he's vice president of the information technology organization for AAA Cooper Transportation, a national transportation carrier in the U.S. and international territories.

Christian and his wife, Donna,

clearly a prestigious unit and very well known with the training division ranks."

In August, he got the opportunity to identify which units he would like to be assigned to, ranking them from one to seven, and this was his No. 1 choice.

### Remembering Peter Molineaux

Christian shared a personal story from his time in Iraq. In January 2005, while recruiting Iraqis for the Iraqi National Army, he encountered a bright, articulate young man named Capt. Peter Molineaux, who came from a well-to-do family in the D.C. area, was on track to become a Special Forces officer and had just completed his initial training.

"One of the initial questions I asked Peter was, 'What on earth are you doing here?'" Christian said.

Molineaux had volunteered for the assignment, and his response was, "This is the right thing for me to do. This is where I needed to be."

On Aug. 8 of that year, they had just wrapped up a raid on a village after a very long day. They were exhausted from 100-degree weather and were heading back to base camp when Molineaux approached Christian and offered to take the rear humvee position, which was typically Christian's position as commander. Molineaux insisted, and Christian asked why.

*(see 95th CHANGES page 5)*



**Col. (P) Daniel Christian receives the division flag from Maj. Gen. Leslie Purser as part of the ceremonial passing of the colors from the outgoing commander, Brig. Gen. A. Ray Royalty.**

have two sons. The younger, Brian, was able to make the ceremony, but the elder, 2nd Lt. Anthony Christian, was iced in at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., where he is following in his father's footsteps by attending the MP Basic Officer Leader Course.

"This is clearly a monumental moment both in my career as a soldier and as an officer," Christian said. "It is indeed an honor and a privilege to be assigned to this unit. It is

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### MAJ. GEN. (RET.) JAMES E. ARCHER



Dear Members and Friends of the Association,

As we approach the end of 2013, I want to update you on the recent activities of your Association and to lay out our agenda for 2014, the 70TH Anniversary of the beginning of combat for the Iron Men of Metz.

1. The 64TH Reunion was held in Arlington, TX from 7-11 August 2013. The event was incredibly successful, with an insightful and informative METZ HOUR, presented by Walter Blenko of E Company, 378TH Regiment. We were also treated to a revealing retrospective on the superb leadership of the Commanding General, MG Harry Twaddle, by 1ST Vice-President Clif Twaddle, grandson of the CG. Those in attendance also received a copy of a moving *A Tribute to the Iron Men of Metz*, by Dr. Doug Beakes, HQ Battery, 359th Field Artillery Battalion. I will have all 3 of these posted on the Association website in the near future. Look for them!

2. Of notable importance, the Leadership of the current 95TH Division (IET) was holding a Conference in a nearby city during the Reunion. Iron Man Ceo Bauer, I Company,

377TH Regiment and Walter Blenko accompanied me to address approximately 100 leaders and educated them on our Association and the importance of their participation in our activities. Ceo gave a rousing presentation that immediately connected with these great Soldiers, especially the senior enlisted leaders. Believe me, the generations were bridged effectively and a positive impact was made on their interest in the Association.

3. We had invited the leaders of the current Division to our Reunion banquet and were gratified by the response. Your Association had a special Commemorative Coin produced (see it on the website and in the JOURNAL) as a special recognition to members of the Division who have served in wars since WWII, with special emphasis on Iraq and Afghanistan. About 75 of the Division's leaders who attended our banquet have served honorably in 'harm's way' and were awarded these coins by the original Iron Men in recognition of their service. It was a touching moment that was captured on film and in print by an Army Public Affairs team. The Soldiers of both generations were overwhelmed by this tribute. BG Ray Royalty, Commanding General, was the keynote speaker and gave a touching speech about 95TH Soldiers, their families, and what it is like to return home after the rigors of combat. Parts of his speech can be found in a video of the Coin Ceremony on our website. Several new members joined the Association in response to this initiative.

4. Our Secretary/Treasurer, (Major) Jennifer Mack has worked to completely update the Association's website. I urge you to go to [www.95divassociation.com](http://www.95divassociation.com) to see the transformation of the site. The previous software had served us admirably, but was in need of upgrades and

new security features. We plan on this site being very active and hope that you will visit it often.

5. The Victory Belles had a very successful Luncheon at the Reunion, thanks to the hard work of Mary Beth McCarthy, Susan Feely, and others on Mary Beth's team of volunteers. We continue to be indebted to their hard work, creativity, and efforts to provide another outlet for friendship in recognition of our families and the legacy of those who support our Soldiers. MG (Retired) Doug Dollar was the guest speaker and informed the attendees about the mission of the 95TH Infantry Division Foundation and recent efforts to reestablish the Memorial (Museum) at the new Division HQ at Ft. Sill. His comments were very well received and reinforced the benefit of the Foundation and Association working together to ensure the Foundation is known and supported.

These were just some of the highlights achieved in the past year. (Colonel) Terry Earnest and (CSM) Darryl Cohen, comrades of mine in the 95TH Division (IT) helped Clif and I in several of the crucial details of the Reunion, as did Mike and Marsha Flora, Paul Madden, and Steve Bodnar. I am thankful for them and for all the members of our Executive Council, whose direction has been invaluable and their reassurance has been of great comfort.

In 2014, we have an ambitious agenda.

1. The 65th Reunion of the Association will be held in Oklahoma City, 10-13 April 2014. The reason for the early date is three-fold. First, we know that there are plans underway for the 70th Anniversary of the Liberation in Metz for November 2014. Some members will be attending this historic gathering and we wanted to maximize the opportunity for our members to attend both

events. Second, we wanted to quickly follow up on the momentum we gained with the leadership of the Division and its Soldiers, who were so moved by the Coin Ceremony, which we hope to duplicate in a banquet timed when Division units are having their weekend assembly. Finally, we wanted to participate in a rededication of the 95TH Infantry Division Memorial at the new 95TH Division Headquarters at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. It has been reconstructed in a beautiful new setting. The Memorial, conceived by the 95th Infantry Division Foundation and built through the unselfish contributions of many Iron Men and their families should be a great magnet for our Veterans and another opportunity to interact with our younger Soldiers, whose contributions in more recent wars will also be on display. Look for details in the JOURNAL and on the website at [www.95divassociation.com](http://www.95divassociation.com).

2. The 65th Reunion is purposely planned to be a day shorter, to focus on reducing expense, but to also retain all of the elements of past reunions. We wanted to maximize the chance that you would come in order to see the new Memorial site, while not inhibiting your opportunity to join us in Metz. We have selected a hotel close to the OKC Airport and expect the accommodations and agenda to be relatively easy, physically, on our members...a very high priority.

3. The website will be further developed and will be a more active focal point for Association news and membership development. We are providing in this issue and on the website all of the needed information about the Reunion and, over the next few months, the activities planned in Metz. We will focus on strengthening the bonds with our European friends through this medium.

4. The JOURNAL will continue to capture a range of articles of interest to all generations of friends of the 95TH Division and will continue to serve as an outreach to our older members, to let them know of our love and interest in preserving their Legacy.

5. We will try to propose new By-laws and Constitution in 2014, which have remained in draft form for some time, as we wrestled with more pressing reorganization issues and the need to upgrade our communications tools.

It is my sincere hope that you can join us in OKLAHOMA CITY, APRIL 10-13, 2014 for the 65th REUNION. I encourage you to make your plans now. Time is short and we need to gain some confidence that the arrangements we are making can be supported, financially.

Best wishes for good health through the Holidays and in the coming year.

Jim

## **95TH CHANGES** *(Continued from page 3)*

"In his typical humble, unselfish fashion, 'Everybody's tired. This is where I need to be. Don't worry about it.' So we wrapped up, we took off, and en route back to our forward operating base, Peter's humvee was directly hit.

"Peter and four of his brothers were seriously injured that day. And he was medevac'ed. I tell you the story because of Peter's selfless service and personal courage and everything he had done. To this day, when I wear that uniform, I think of Peter Molineaux.

"I continue to serve with Peter on my mind, making sure that I do all the right things and I do them well. So I'm happy to tell you Peter is doing fine. He's in graduate school (in the D.C. area) and is enjoying everything he's doing today," Christian said.

## **Changing operating environment**

Christian went on to talk about the changing operating environment and how to position the 95th Division for future success.

Maj. Gen. Leslie Purser, commanding general of the 108th Training Command, recognized Royalty's daughter, Morgan; his father, retired 1st Sgt. Dan Royalty, a Korean and Vietnam war veteran, and great-uncle, Jack McCoy, also a Korean war veteran, among those in attendance. Royalty's wife, Teena, was unable to attend for health reasons.

"Today we say thanks to a commander who has done so much to strengthen our forces and help keep our nation safe and strong. There's no doubt that Ray Royalty and his team have done an outstanding job in positioning the 95th Training Division as an enduring part of the overall operational force within the Army Reserve," she said.

On Royalty's watch, the 95th Division deployed soldiers to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and executed a wide variety of roles in the continental U.S. - providing trainers and advisers, supporting NATO's mission of training the Afghan National Security Forces, advising the highest levels of the Afghan National Army and supporting the Afghan National Military Academy.

Under his leadership, the 95th Division has shifted focus to future operations by supporting humanitarian missions and exercises within U.S. Southern Command and U.S. Africa Command.

Royalty bade an emotional farewell to the 95th and thanked all of those who have mentored and supported him, including his father, his daughter, Command Sgt. Maj. Paul Hill and Maj. Gen. Mark McDonald, commanding general of Fort Sill and the Fires Center of Excellence.

# NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

LT. COL. MICHAEL HIXSON

I am honored to be in the 95th Training Division (IET) and be part of the proud legacy that continues today. A significant part of my military career has been with the Division. My first unit and position in the Army after being commissioned as a 2LT in May 1993 was with the Division headquarters as the property book officer. I was fortunate to have a good supply NCO that took care of me and taught me some important things. I was in this position a little over a year before leaving to be a platoon leader in a quartermaster company. In February 2004, I was deployed as a captain and a company commander of a quartermaster company to Al Taqaddum, Iraq. Approximately 70% of my unit was cross-leveled from other units comprised of soldiers from



Lt. Col. Michael Hixson was promoted to the rank of major in 2005 by Maj. Gen. James E. Archer.

11 different states. Two of the most seasoned soldiers that were cross-leveled to the unit were CW3 Harris Smith and Master Sgt. Curtis Jones, both from the 2d Brigade, 95th Division. They both did an outstanding job and we became good friends over the deployment. I knew I would be looking for a new unit/position when I returned from deployment because I would be up for promotion soon. 2d Brigade had a position vacancy in supply. I transferred to the unit in August 2005 and was promoted to the rank of major one year later. Maj. Gen. Archer who was the commanding general of the 95th at the time pinned on my new rank. I stayed in the brigade for nearly three years until it changed to the 800th Logistics Support Brigade through transformation. I then joined the 1st Brigade Engineers, 102d Division (MS) in Tulsa, Okla. as the S4. This was convenient since I lived in Broken Arrow. I stayed with them approximately three years until I was involuntarily cross-leveled to the 1182d Deployment and Distribution Support Battalion out of Charleston, S.C. for deployment to Iraq and Kuwait. Once overseas, I was assigned to the 840th Transportation Battalion (an active duty unit stationed in Kuwait and Iraq) as the Support Operations Officer. Our mission was to close out Iraq and ship units' equipment back to the U.S. or to Afghanistan. It was my first time working with a Trans-



Brig. Gen. A. Ray Royalty congratulates newly promoted Lt. Col. Michael Hixson and his wife, Michelle.

portation unit. Before leaving duty in Iraq, I contacted the 95th to see if they had any lieutenant colonel slots open since I knew my promotion board would be posted soon. The G4 (supply) position was available. I applied for the position and was very fortunate to have been selected as the G4 for the 95th Training Division (IET). I returned from overseas in March 2012 and transferred to the Division in June 2012. I was promoted to lieutenant colonel Aug. 28, 2012. My wife and father pinned on my new rank with my family and Brig. Gen. Royalty in attendance proudly watching.

(see *SPOTLIGHT* page 9)

# REUNION ACTIVITIES IN OKLAHOMA CITY

**Thursday, April 10, 2014**

## **Wyndham Garden Oklahoma City Airport**

2101 South Meridian Avenue  
Oklahoma City, OK 73108 US  
1-405-685-4000



Guests should make your reservations as soon as possible by calling the hotel directly. **Deadline to reserve your room is Friday, March 30, 2014.** Standard King and Double rooms are available at \$104.77 per night and the price includes taxes and breakfast for up to two per room. There are also a limited number of suites available at a rate of \$161.70. To get the group rate, those reserving rooms must state they are part of the "95TH INFANTRY REUNION." All reservations must be accompanied by a first night room deposit or guaranteed with a major credit card.

Thursday is a free day with no planned activities. Time to look around and see who has made it to Oklahoma City for another great 95th Reunion. **Hospitality Room** is anticipated to open at 3pm on Thursday.

**Friday, April 11, 2014**

## **Rededication of the 95th Memorial at Ft.**

**Sill, Okla.**

**9:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.**

**\$40 per person**

Guests will visit Ft. Sill for the rededication of the 95th Memorial. The outing will provide sufficient time to take a leisurely stroll through the reset Memorial which now includes a post-WWII section honoring the service of 95th Soldiers from the 1950's through current service in Afghanistan. Lunch is included. The bus will return to the hotel in time to allow guests to freshen up for dinner.



## **Dinner**

**6:30 p.m., Royal Bavaria**

**\$10 per person bus fare, dinner off the menu**

An informal setting with a fare of authentic German cuisine. Price is bus fare only and guests will be responsible for their own dinner cost. There will be a special event menu for our group with prices ranging from \$12-19, excluding taxes and beverages.

**Saturday, April 12, 2014**

## **Business Meeting**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Saturday, April 12, 2014, cont.**

## **Victory Belles Luncheon**

**11:30 a.m.**

**\$22 per person**

Luncheon for the ladies. Come enjoy fun and fellowship with some great entertainment and door prizes.

Following the business meeting and Victory Belles luncheon, guests will have free time to visit local attractions like the Oklahoma Memorial, Western Heritage Museum and much more. Visit

<http://www.visitokc.com/visitor-info/>

for more information on available local attractions.

## **Banquet**

**6:30 p.m., Wyndham Ballroom**

**\$36 per person, all inclusive**

This dinner will be more dressy and will include Military Honors, a Guest Speaker, and special Presentations in honor of the Iron Men of Metz and succeeding generations

**Sunday, April 13, 2014**

## **Protestant and Catholic Services**

**9:00 a.m.**

## **Metz Hour**

**10:15 a.m.**

Memorial Services to remember fallen comrades. This year's speaker to be announced.



# OKLAHOMA CITY REUNION REGISTRATION

Member Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Name \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_

*For additional guests, attach a list.*

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ 95th Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if member served in Afghanistan, Iraq, and other war zones, earning a right sleeve patch and provide dates:  
\_\_\_\_\_.

## Reunion Fees

(Note: All Members, Spouses and Guests attending the Reunion must register and pay the registration fee.)

ITEM	NUMBER	COST	TOTAL
Registration before March 1, 2014 <small>(Saturday's Banquet)</small>	_____	X \$10	\$_____ (No registration fee for those only attending Saturday's Banquet)
Registration after March 1, 2014 <small>(Saturday's Banquet)</small>	_____	X \$25	\$_____ (No registration fee for those only attending Saturday's Banquet)
<i>Friday:</i>			
Memorial Dedication at Fort Sill <small>(Includes bus, tip and lunch)</small>	_____	X \$40	\$_____
Royal Bavaria (bus fare only)	_____	X \$10	\$_____
<i>Saturday:</i>			
Victory Belles Luncheon	_____	X \$22	\$_____
Banquet	_____	X \$36	\$_____
<b>Grand Total:</b>			\$_____

Form of payment: \_\_\_\_\_ Check (Made payable to the 95th Division Association)  
**Mail completed form and check to P.O. Box 1113, OKC, OK 73101**

\_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card   

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address (if different from above) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**SPOTLIGHT***(Continued from page 7)*

I attended the 95th Training Division (IET) Senior Leaders Conference held in Dallas, Texas in August 2013 and also attended the Association's reunion banquet that was held the same weekend. I joined the Association about one month prior to the reunion. I did

not want to miss out on the opportunity to have one of the "Great" WWII Iron Men of Metz Veterans present me a coin along with other current 95th soldiers to recognize overseas deployment. This was a proud moment and an obvious highlight of my career. I plan on being a life member of the 95th Division Association and I would like to make the next trip to Metz,

France. There is so much history with the 95th and so many great soldiers have served in the 95th that have made tremendous sacrifices. I am proud to be a soldier and member of the 95th Division and Association.

It is good to be back home with the 95th!!

## VICTORY BELLES

HELLO TO ALL VICTORY BELLES PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE,

I want to express my thanks and deep appreciation to all who attended our lovely luncheon at the Arlington Hilton on August 10, 2013. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves which made preparing for it very worthwhile.

I want to extend a special thanks to Susan Feely and Megan Graf for the tireless and invaluable assistance to make the event successful. The favors and centerpieces certainly enhanced the decor. Jim Archer and Jennifer Mack assisted to a large degree also.

Special thanks goes out to those who contributed crafts for a very successful raffle. Beautiful bird houses were donated by Susan Feely and Tom Mack; a Halloween box lamp and folding shopping totes were donated by Kathy Twaddle; 95th t-shirts came from Jennifer Mack; a lovely tea candle holder and a butterfly t-shirt were from Debra Sutter; 95th pins were donated by Nancy

Archer; and 10 pack note cards were Rosemarie Sisco's contribution. All of these were certainly appreciated and they certainly added to the enjoyment of the luncheon. Many happy recipients took their prizes home with them. The money received will be a help to the 95th Division Association.

A delightful lunch consisting of Pan Roasted Chicken and all its delicious accompaniments was one of the highlights of the luncheon to make everyone's hunger satisfied. Soft 40's, 50's and 60's background music added to the pleasant atmosphere of the luncheon.

Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Douglas Dollar, President of the 95th Division Foundation was the speaker for the luncheon. He gave us an insight into the work of the Foundation. Much was gained from his remarks.

Dates and plans for next year's Reunion will be forthcoming at a later date. Please, though, be thinking about your favorite recipe or recipes that you would like to share for a Victory Belles' cookbook. A story to accompany

the recipe will add to the enjoyment of it, but is not necessary. Please mail them or email them to the addresses listed below. The favors for the luncheon were certainly evidence of how nice it would be to have recipes from as many as possible. Don't forget to put your thinking caps on for craft items you might like to contribute also. I sincerely hope we will meet again for another "fun" time together.

Thanks again,

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# The Legacy Continues

By Maj. Jennifer K. Mack, 95<sup>th</sup> Training Division (IET) Public Affairs

On August 10, WWII veterans made a touching tribute when they presented Soldiers of the 95th Division a special coin during a banquet hosted by the 95th Infantry Division Association at its 64th reunion.

The coin was specially designed as a way to say "Thank You" for the sacrifices current day soldiers are making in the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) and for continuing the legacy of the Iron Men of Metz.

Brig. Gen. A. Ray Royalty, commanding general of the 95<sup>th</sup> Training Division (IET) was the guest speaker for the banquet. Royalty told the crowd of current and past veterans, "Every one of us here has something in common.

I wanted to reach out to the veterans of the 95th Infantry Division from WWII and tell you from the depths of my soul that I appreciate every single one of you. We have more in common than you think. We should all be proud, regardless of our age – our generations, because veterans today are still out

Members hope to get more 95th veterans of GWOT to join because they know how important it will be as these veterans retire from service to be able to reconnect with others who also served and can relate to their experiences.

WWII veterans continue to grow old and their ranks continue to thin, but they keep making the trek to the annual reunion. They wouldn't miss the opportunity to see their fellow soldiers.

Col. (Ret.) John S. Komp said, "Our numbers are getting smaller, but we hope that we'll recruit other members from those veterans from the current 95<sup>th</sup>



**Current 95th Soldiers had the opportunity to meet original Iron Men of Metz on August 10, 2013, at a dinner hosted by the 95th Association. The WWII veterans presented coins to each of the soldiers and thanked them for their service to the Nation. Photo by Whitney Cotten.**

there doing what many of you did in WWII, Vietnam and Korea."

The Association was created following WWII to give the veterans a way to keep in touch and continue relationships that were forged in combat conditions and were the lifeline for many.

Division to reinforce our ranks. It's a great time to renew friendships made over the years."

"It's been almost 70 years since their combat so you can imagine the passion that they still recall from being around their brothers and I think it's also part



**Soldiers lined up for the opportunity to meet the original Iron Men of Metz and receive a coin as a “Thank You” for continuing the legacy of the Division with their own service. Photo by Whitney Cotten.**

of the continuing process of healing for the combat that they experienced,” said Maj. Gen. (Ret.) James E. Archer, president of the Association.

Royalty, relating his return home from an overseas deployment said, “And the first thing I see is the Statue of Liberty—the Statue of Liberty. I will never forget that—EVER. And to the Soldiers of the 95th Infantry Division, I’m sure there are some similar experiences when you finally touched American soil.”

Those types of shared experiences – that’s the purpose of the Association. It gives veterans a way to keep in touch with their comrades long after they’ve served – folks with similar memories that can reminisce and remember together.



**Maj. Dale McCurdy, center, examines his coin after receiving it from an original Iron Man, Anthony Duno. He said, “As a member of the first 95th Division detachment to deploy to a combat zone since World War II, I felt like the Iron Men were passing the torch to my generation and accepting us as one of them. I am honored to have the opportunity to know the Soldiers who earned our lineage.” Photo by Michele McCurdy.**



## DEPARTED COMRADES

### ***Daniel E. Vaughan, Service Co, 377th***

Daniel was the widower of Elizabeth West Vaughan. He passed away April 16, 2013. He fought with the 95th Infantry Division in Patton's Third Army and received the Purple Heart and Bronze Star. Vaughan also retired from the South Carolina National Guard as a Major.

### ***Norvell Langhorne, HQ, 3/379th***

Norvell joined HQ, 3/379th at Indiantown Gap coming in March 1944 from ASTP at Randolph Macon College, Ashland, Va. He returned to the states to Camp Shelby in 1945. He was then discharged at Fort Bragg, N.C. in 1945. He received the Bronze Star in 2011 (66 years after his discharge) for his service in the 95th Infantry Division.

### ***Merrill Irving Feldman M.D., DMD FACR***

As a soldier in WWII he was a member of the 95th Division and helped liberate a slave labor concentration camp at Warstein on April 6, 1945 where he observed massive atrocities by the German SS guards. His unit is recognized in Yad Vashem as one of the liberators. Later in life, Dr. Feldman reported that one of his most moving experiences was returning to the city of Metz, France to be honored in a service at the Temple.



### ***Herman Sosnovy, Co F, 377th***

Life member, Herman Sosnovy passed March 2, 2012 and the Association inadvertently omitted the news of his passing. Herman was a Purple Heart recipient for wounds received in WWII. His wife of 63 years, Beatrice said he was an avid golfer and died at the age of 90.



### ***Morris Dale Sanders, 95th Recon***

Dale died at the age of 98 at the Paris Regional Medical Center in Paris, Texas. His wife Anne said she is wondering if he was the last of the Recon boys. We haven't heard from any of them for a few years."

### ***George Kattleman, 379th (HQ Bazooka Team)***

George passed away July 6, 2013 in Ocala, Fla. He would have been 89 on July 31. George was assigned to the 379th Regimental Scouts when he joined the Division. When the scouts were disbanded after combat ended, he was assigned to Company A. Originally from Minnesota, he and his wife Arlene moved to Florida several years ago. They attended several Association reunions.

### ***James Newman, A Co, 379th***

James passed away August 31, 2013. He joined A Company at Indiantown Gap, Penn. He was seriously wounded in the Mance Ravine, west of Metz, November 14, 1944 and was taken prisoner by the Germans. He was liberated several days later when units of the 5th Division captured a German hospital in Metz. For years James was thought to have been killed and it wasn't until 1994 that he was located. James was awarded the French Legion of Honor in 2011. He and his wife, Wilva attended nine Association reunions.

### ***Richard "Dick" E. Sieckman, Co I, 378th***

Dick was the loving husband of Beth, proud and guiding father of Mark and Scott and served as a second father to Matthias Kastell. He served during WWII in the 95th Infantry Division, Company I. After the war, and up to his death, he kept in touch with fellow comrades and was active in writing newsletters and documenting facts about the war that would otherwise have been lost.

### ***Emory D. "Pat" Thornton, Co A, 379th***

A WWII Veteran of the 95th Infantry Division, Pat was a retired sign painter and the owner/operator of Thornton Signs. He enjoyed volunteering at Military Heritage Museum in Punta Gorda, FL, making photo and video tributes and sharing them with friends and family, and hunting and traveling.



### ***Elvis A. Mason, 379 HQ***

*You can make a donation to the 95th Foundation in memoriam of your fallen comrades.*

*Checks may be sent to:*

*95th Foundation, 408 W. Nimitz St., Fredericksburg, TX 78624-2750*

# A TRIBUTE TO THE IRON MEN OF METZ

*By Dr. K. Douglas Beakes*

*This is an excerpt. Go to <http://95divassociation.com> to read in its entirety to fully grasp Doug's fitting tribute to his comrades.*

The division's residue at hostilities' end,  
The living, the dead, neither able to comprehend.

The hard fought routes retraced, the memories remaining to persist,  
Good times ahead, the unpleasant unable to be dismissed.

Battered Germany, liberated France, and then the Channel coast,  
We struck our last operational command post.

Our ship lying tranquilly just off the shore,  
The filling with polished combat boots on its teak-wood floor.

We strained our weary eyes across the swirling spray,  
To see the European continent inexorably fade away.

Out on waves, we put to rest the soul-rending job we had done,  
As we sailed into a tranquil sea, and the setting sun.

From inception, to the end, of its European tour,  
The 95th Division's history will long endure.

The brief span of recorded time on mankind's clocks,  
Pervades the components of the primal paradox.

It places in reticent hands the brutal devices,  
That call for the ultimate of worldly sacrifices.

We, who retraced our paths back across the sea,  
Provided another new world, pure, safe, and free.

We, the men who fought and dispelled Europe's belligerent myth,  
Are proud, yet humble combat veterans of the Ninety-fifth.

We will never forget those left behind in Europe, resting prone,  
Whose names are carved for eternity,  
At Saint Avold,  
in everlasting stone.

## Reunion Reflections: With the many events of the 64th Reunion in Arlington, versions of guest speaker remarks can be found on the Association website at <http://95divassociation.com>

### *Clif Twaddle, guest speaker at the Friday night dinner*

This week we are celebrating the 64<sup>th</sup> reunion of the Iron Men of Metz. That a group of men have stayed so tight and so true to their course for almost seven decades is a very remarkable thing. It is a clear indication of the value that this Organization has delivered. It has been very important in so many ways, providing healing, fraternal gathering, remembrance of friends lost and the building of family relationships. This sixty-plus year track record says a lot about the character of the men in the Association. And in many ways it reflects on the character of my Grandfather. He believed in developing a vision, setting a goal, and working to be thoroughly prepared.

I've been reflecting back on the things that developed that part of his character. In 1910 my Grandfather, son of a dairyman and one of seven children, was wrapping up his final year of college at Syracuse University. The son of a dairyman, a varsity football player and an electrical engineer, he set off to conquer the world.

Less than two years later a recruiting poster in the Cleveland Post Office caught his attention. It offered college graduates a direct Army commission, so Harry applied and traveled to Fort Leavenworth, Kan. to become what he called a "90 day wonder."

By the time the United States entered WW I it was Captain Twaddle and he had been promoted to post commander at Fort Gibbon. Eager to join the fray in France, Harry applied for an overseas assignment. Unfortunately, his unit arrived at the embarkation point in New Jersey just as the armistice was being signed.

Many of Harry's military contemporaries in the years between the wars were West Point grads and most were combat-experienced. Determined to be a top performer even in the face of these challenges, he developed a plan to prepare himself.

His plan was a balanced schedule of both schooling and duty in command of troops. He moved every couple years as he worked his way up the ladder of military schooling, graduating from the infantry field officer's course and then the command & general staff school. Then he served a year as an instructor in the department of tactics at Ft. Benning's infantry school. Next he completed the army war college and following this was, for two years, assigned to the operation and training division of the war department General Staff.

General Twaddle wanted the chance this time to lead a field combat operation...got his wish and early in 1942 laid plans for building a new Division. He began to select his staff, and took an unusual step. He went to Fort Bragg to personally interview the cadre from the 7th infantry division. With a team of select officers and NCOs, he began to build the 95<sup>th</sup> and hone their skills for the challenges that were to come. Those of you that were along from the beginning experienced swamps and deserts and snow-laden mountains. His focus on training and preparedness and teamwork helped build the skills and confidence that led to your successes in Europe, proving at Metz and elsewhere that yours was a deserving and legendary fighting unit.

My Grandfather's tribute to the 95th appears in a letter to Col Shawhan. He says, "To have had the honor of commanding the 95th, I shall cherish recalling the feats of the greatest group of officers and men ever assembled in a fighting organization. There was no pulling back in the harness; all did their jobs willingly, to the best of their ability, and with an ever present display of loyalty and cooperative spirit."

As many of you know, we wrestle with how best to sustain the Association's legacy. We have been blessed with growing support from members of the 95th Division (IET). We hope that this kindles their interest in the Association, and we hope that their engagement will mark the beginning of a new chapter for the Association.

Next year many of you and your families will visit France for the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Metz. We will walk in your footsteps. We will remember those lost on the battlefield, and those who have left us in the years that followed. I know that General Twaddle will be looking down on you with pride, and I hope that all of you will be able to make that journey. I reflect back on the words of my Grandfather in one of his last Metz Hour talks. General Twaddle said: "it is our solemn duty to preserve this nation of ours; otherwise our honored dead will have died in vain". Help us to remember with reverence the valor and devotion of our departed comrades. Let us, in their memory, pledge ourselves to patriotic service.

Texas came many heart-warming messages. Below are excerpts from some reflections shared. Full [om.](#)

Jim,

I want to thank you and your team for the job you've done with the Association. The Arlington Reunion was masterfully executed due to your efforts. I was amazed at the tributes to me and the other veterans. The events at the final dinner were a complete surprise to me and I feel humbled. You can all take satisfaction, I'm sure, of our rank and file appreciation of the ceremonies of the final banquet. I hope to make it to the next Reunion and the one in Metz, November 2014, but until then my best wishes and thanks to each of you.

*David Leyshon, K 378*

### **Walter J. Blenko, Jr. E/378, Metz Hour**

In Rheinhausen we were billeted for a few days in a block of apartments that had hardly been touched by the war -- perhaps only a few scars on the outside walls from stray bomb fragments. We had beds, electricity and running water. We were in heaven after living in basements and bombed out buildings. We had not quite reached the stage of living in hollow trees.

The average GI was an inveterate explorer, and it did not take long for some of our squad to discover that there were lockers in the basement of the building which held a large supply of potatoes. Now, our field rations were undoubtedly nutritious, but they could be monotonous. Dehydrated potatoes, in particular, were detested and were mostly thrown away.

Upon discovery of real potatoes in the basement, one of the squad visited the mess sergeant and returned with a can of Crisco while others fired up the kitchen range. Before long a very large frying pan of potatoes was giving off a most tantalizing smell.

At about that time, the battalion commander elected to pay a visit to E company and check up on his troops. He collected the company commander, and they arrived in our space just as the potatoes were close to being eaten. The battalion commander then began to lecture the company commander about our need to feed the civilian population; that if we ate their food stocks, it would be necessary to use resources to bring in food; that this would impede the war effort and delay final victory; and on and on.

At the end of the lecture, our company commander said, "Colonel, how would it be if we eat their potatoes and let them eat our dehydrated potatoes?" One can guess who the squad members sided with.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
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95th Infantry Division Association  
P.O. Box 1113  
Oklahoma City, OK 73101  
*Address Service Requested*

# FIRST CLASS MAIL

**Bravest of the Brave!**

Check out our new website at <http://95divassociation.com/>

The screenshot shows the website's navigation bar with links for HOME, OFFICERS, MEMORIAL, TRAVELS OF THE 95TH, GALLERIES, and CONTACT. A logo with an American flag and a '95' is on the left. The main content area features a large photo of a reunion, a sidebar with links to mailing address, news, and overseas friends, and a 'BECOME A MEMBER' section with the 'IRON MEN OF METZ' logo and a 'Bravest of the Brave' booklet image.

**HOME** OFFICERS MEMORIAL TRAVELS OF THE 95TH GALLERIES CONTACT

**Mailing Address**  
PO Box 1113  
Oklahoma City  
Oklahoma, 73101

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Spring 2013 Journal

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**BECOME A MEMBER**

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Click image to view Bravest of the Brave, a booklet and ...

The Legacy Continues - Video from the 64th Reunion