

THE

# RED 5 DIAMOND

The official publication of The Society of the Fifth Division, United States Army.

Volume MMXXIII Ed.2

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Annual Dues: \$15



# Never Forget

**“WE WILL”**

Deadline for submission of articles for the next Edition:

July 10 2023

# 2020-2021 Society of the Fifth Division Officers – Roster

## PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENTS

\*Maj. Gen. Hanson E. Elyz (1919-22,24-25)  
 \*Col. Philip J. McCook(1922-23)  
 \*Dr. E. C. Morton (1925-28)  
 \*Maj. Gen. Paul B. Malone (1929-30)  
 \*Capt. Peter Murphy (1930)  
 \*Maj. Walter E. Aebischer (1930-32)  
 \*Capt. Peter P. Zion (1932-34)  
 \*W. Walter Healey (1934-35)  
 \*Lloyd A. Reder (1935-37)  
 \*Col. Henry Clay Bate (1937-38)  
 \*William Barton Bruce, Sr. (1938-39)  
 \*Emil Everts (1939-41)  
 \*A. Lincoln Bradbury (1941-45)  
 \*William Gibbs (1945-46)  
 \*John W. Fonner (1946-48)  
 \*William L. McGrory (1948-49)  
 \*Kenyon Stevenson (1949-50)  
 \*Charles A. O'Connell, Jr. (1950-51)  
 \*John H. Pfau (1951-53)  
 \*Frederick F. Specht (1953-54)  
 \*John H. Baskin (1954-55)  
 \*Walter R. Stout (1955-57)  
 \*Frank H. Deane (1957-58)  
 \*Edward Pivovar (1958-59)  
 \*T. Earl McNaney (1956-60)  
 \*Russell S. Fisher (1960-62)  
 \*Gordon S. Henry (1962-63)  
 \*John J. Madison (1963-65)  
 \*Herbert K. Webb (1965-66)  
 \*Charles P. DeRose (1966-67)  
 \*Victor Dunneback (1967-68)  
 \*Winston Roche (1968-69)  
 \*Ervin J. Kotowski (1969-70)  
 \*Herbert Ginsburgh (1970-71)  
 \*Aubrey Prewitt (1971-72)  
 \*Michael S. O'Donnell (1972-73)  
 \*Virgil Scheibel (1973-74)  
 \*Frank Kolimaga (1974-75)  
 \*Kenneth Anderson (1975-76)  
 \*Howard Singer (1976-77)  
 \*Robert Young (1977-78)  
 \*Stanley Piotrowski (1978-79)  
 \*George Bachman (1979-80)  
 \*Harry Arquette (1980-81)  
 \*William Stanfield (1981-82)  
 \*Guido Bemasconi (1982-83)  
 \*Msgr. Harold Prudell (1983-84)  
 \*Chester Ball (1984-85)  
 \*William Colon (1985-86)  
 \*Robert Graves (1986-87)  
 \*Herman Schell (1987-88)  
 \*William Stanfield (1988-89)  
 \*John Goodman (1989-90)  
 \*William Upham (1990-91)  
 \*Bradley Brewer (1991-92)  
 \*Harry Arquette (1992-93)  
 \*Robert Rochon (1993-94)  
 \*Charles Coco (1994-95)  
 \*Michael Giannini (1995-96)  
 \*Don Brown (1996-97)  
 \*Cullen Stone (1997-98)  
 \*Jay Balderson (1998-99)  
 \*Jimmy C. Walker (1999-2000)  
 \*Mickey McCoy (2000-01)  
 \*Carl M. Hiestand (2001-02)  
 \*Robert M. Rochell (2002-03)  
 \*James A. Landry (2003-04)  
 \*Mike Sperling (2004-05)  
 \*Phil Maniscalco (2005-07)  
 \*Jim Spiller (2007-08)  
 \*Pat Andreoni (2008-09)  
 \*James "JJ" Jackson (2009-10)  
 \*Bernie "Buck" Kean (2010-12)  
 \*Steve Wheat (2012-13)  
 \*Bobby Moody (2013-2014)  
 \*Wayne Cumer (2014-2015)  
 \*Robb Robetson (2015-2016)  
 \*Bob Dudley (2016-2017)  
 \*Dennis Thompson (2017-2018)  
 \*Alex Candelaria/Steve Wheat (2018-2019)  
 \*Hal Roller (2019-2020)  
 \*Louis Pepi (2020-2021)  
 \*Gary Haverman (2021-2022)

## Executive Board

President	Hal Roller	president@societyofthefifthdivision.com
First VP	Bud Wagner	firstvpres@societyofthefifthdivision.com
SecondVP	Larry Burnett	secondvpres@societyofthefifthdivision.com
Secretary	Scott Murrah	secretary@societyofthefifthdivision.com
Treasurer	George Shoener	treasurer@societyofthefifthdivision.com
Historian	Roger Allen	historian@societyofthefifthdivision.com
Chaplain	Ron VanBeek	chaplain@societyofthefifthdivision.com
Judge Advocate	Phil Maniscalco	judgeadv@societyofthefifthdivision.com
Editor	Dave Kocan	editor@societyofthefifthdivision.com
1st Past Pres	Gary Haverman	firstpastpres@societyofthefifthdivision.com
2nd Past Pres	Lou Pepi	secondpastpres@societyofthefifthdivision.com

## Functioning Staff

Webmaster	Joe Boman	webmaster@societyofthefifthdivision.com
Quartermaster	Dennis Coulter	quartermaster@societyofthefifthdivision.com

## Advisory Committee

### All Executive Board members (above)

### All Active Past Presidents

Robert Rochell – Libby  
 1129 Castle Bluff Circle • Waco TX 76712  
 Cell: 254-723-3280  
 e: rochell@msn.com  
 HHC, A Battery 5/4 Artillery

Jim Spiller – Joanne  
 500 Pearson Circle Apt 4011 Frederick, Md. 21702  
 Home: 301-662-2752 • Cell: 301-788-5459  
 e: spiller612@gmail.com  
 HHC, 1/77 Armor

James Balderson – Jackie  
 905 Sutton Place • Richmond, IN 47347  
 Phone: 765-966-7175 • e: jaybalderson@yahoo.com  
 Co D, 1/11 Infantry

Robert Dudley  
 16385 148th Street • Bonner Springs, KS  
 66012-9373  
 Phone: 913-220-3725 • e: colrdudley@aol.com

Mike Sperling 14503 E. 257th Avenue • Brush  
 Prairie, WA 98606 Home: 360-892-7639 • Cell:  
 360-798-7111 e: sperlingmichael@hotmail.com  
 HHC Recon, 1/61 Infantry Bernie "Buck" Kean –  
 Mary 498 Ebenezer Road • Ellijay, GA 30536  
 Home: 706-273-1793 • Cell: 770-361-6670 e:  
 Buck5div@wildblue.netCo D, 1/11 Infantry  
 James "JJ" Jackson – Karen P.O. Box 1845 • Cold  
 Springs, TX 77331 Home: 936-767-4229 • Cell:  
 713-560-0008 HHC Recon, 1/61 Infantry

## Representatives at large

### Northeast

John Ginty  
 845-687-7051  
 New Paltz, N.Y.

Ray Naughton  
 ecsailr1@yahoo.com  
 Prudence Island, RI.  
 386-681-7704

### Southeast

Wendell Fanning  
 wendell0964@att.net  
 Gasonia, NC

### Gary Barard

1660 Esprit Court • Atlanta, GA 30331-8428  
 Home: 404-349-8247 • e: gbarard@aol.com  
 Co A, 75th Support Bn.

### West

Dennis Coulter 417-414-5680  
 4118 E. Stanford St. Springfield, Mo., 65809  
 dwcoulter1@aol.com

### Ray Collins

1230 Phillips Street • Long Beach, CA 90805-4854  
 Home: 562-428-6243 • e: raymcl8@aol.com  
 HHC Recon, 1/61 Infantry

### Vietnam

### Nick Pink

40662 Elizabeth • Sterling Heights, MI 48313-4037  
 Home: 360-892-7639 • Cell: 360-798-7111  
 Co D, 1/11 Infantry

### Vernon Songeroth

930 Timber Ridge Road • Princeton, IL 61356-2886  
 Home: 815-872-4171  
 Co D, 1/11 Infantry



## A Note from the President Hal Roller

You do not want to miss this reunion in San Antonio. Not only will it be a fun time, we will be in one of America's most enjoyable and historic cities- right on the famous San Antonio Riverwalk. Shops, restaurants, amusement arcades, and local culture abound. You can even take a boat cruise on the San Antonio river. The river ride is an especially entertaining thing to do at night. If you are like me and interested in history, our hotel will only be four blocks from the Alamo. If you have never heard of the Alamo, obviously the American educational establishment has failed you!

Picking a location along the San Antonio river in the ancient lands of the Lipan Apache, the Spanish founded San Antonio de Bexar in the middle of the seventeenth century. Comprising a small garrison with surrounding missions, the settlement never grew much larger. At the time of the Texas revolution, San Antonio had a population of around 2,500 mostly ethnic Mexicans while the empresario Americans in Texas numbered around 40,000. Today San Antonio is the nation's sixth largest city with 80% Hispanic population.

I believe we are going to have a large turnout for this reunion so register early. I know there is an issue with inflation but we have gotten a great deal on the room rate- the price of \$144.95 per night includes a room for two with breakfast for both. If you have done any traveling lately you know that is a great price. Likewise on our entertainment. You cannot go to San Antonio without listening to mariachi music. Robert Cadena has done a great job of giving expert insight and assessment in finding a mariachi band for us. Los Soberanos will provide a performance for us on our Saturday night dinner! The music will be great. The only thing I worry about is some of our members getting into the music too much and trying to dance! In case that happens, there will be medics and an ambulance standing by.

This note has to end with kudos for the Executive Board. From the time one reunion ends to the time the next reunion begins, each officer of the Executive Board is working for our Society. Take our Chaplain Ron VanBeek for example. Ron not only keeps a list of deceased members; he calls each to comfort the family. During the year, Ron is busy planning and getting resources together for honoring the fallen at our memorial services. We have a great Society of the Fifth Division and our Executive Board is the foundation that greatness is built upon.





## A Message from our First Vice President Bud Wagner

Planning continues for our next 5th Division Reunion, September 7-10 in San Antonio Texas. All information including registration is available on the 5th Division website @ <http://www.societyofthefifthdivision.com/>.

Please consider making this a priority, our group is aging, and we are losing members every year.

I hope you're aware of the many benefits available to us as Vietnam Veterans. I'm continuing to learn more about our benefits every year. Recently I was able to enroll my wife in CHAMPVA health care which is going to save us money each year.

Vietnam Veterans may be eligible for a wide variety of benefits available to all U.S. military Veterans. VA benefits include disability compensation, pension, education and training, health care, home loans, insurance, vocational rehabilitation and employment, and burial.

I want to encourage you to contact a Veteran Service Officer (VSO) in your area who can inform you of any benefits available to you and your spouse. A VSO can directly access your military information and file claims with the VA on your behalf.

I want to personally encourage you to take advantage of this benefit because of your military service to this great nation. There is also help for those of us suffering from PTSD and other issues related to our combat experiences.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you in San Antonio Texas this year!!

Bud Wagner





# Hello from our 2nd Vice President Larry Burnett

Hello everyone, I hope this finds you doing well. As for my 2025 Reunion, I'm still working on it and no location is for sure yet. I also want to thank the many people that continue to help me with these electronic contraptions. Bob Dudley and my son in law Ted, a special thank you to both of you.

My Wife and I love to travel on our motorcycle. This summer we are planning a trip to Louisiana. If it works out we will have been in every state west of the Mississippi River on our motorcycle. We have already been to the Smokey Mountains. We just love traveling on our bike. It's a 2017 Harley Trike. Somewhat different than the 2 wheels. Took a little getting use to.

I am looking forward to this fall for Hal's reunion in San Antonio, Tx. Wife also has relatives there also.

I Would like to thank JJ for me even being at these reunions. He was Society President the first time I came to one and it was in Branson, Mo. in 2010. I saw the listing for the 5th Inf. Division in the American Legion mag. I had always looked for it but never really knew it existed. Had his phone number as the person to contact. So I called JJ. About all he asked was if I was in the 5th Inf Div.? I said yes I was. Then he told me about the SOFD and said that they would like for the person to join the Society. So I did. Then I find out that it is the oldest running reunion in the Military i believe. Have only missed one since and that was 2011. I truly enjoy them.. I enjoy meeting some of the men I served with plus meeting a lot of the men that was in the field that we fired for and supported. I really do wish more of you Red Devils would come to a reunion just once before your health get to where you can no longer travel. I think if you come once you will think seriously about coming again.

Stephen Bass was the first guy that I became acquainted with when I first got to C-2 and was assigned to gun 5. Always said he took me under his wing and told me the do's & don'ts.

James Boblett, I just remember seeing that name on a shirt. But can't honestly remember him in person.

Truman Hengesteg, well most everyone remembered "Grandpa".

Rob Leslie, he was also on gun 5. But before I could really get to know the crew of gun 5, I was taken off and sent to FDC. Not sure about anybody else, but I seldom strayed far from my section I was assigned to. Unless it was to go have a nice cold, {hahaha}, beer at the club bunker.

Do hope that some of you guys from C 5/4 arty that has never been to a SOFD reunion would come to one. I truly believe you will enjoy it. one doesn't have to stay the entire time. One day or every day as you wish.

Larry Burnett  
2nd VP



## From the Editor of your Red Diamond Thoughts and Opinion

When did we give up, when did we give in, when did we stop caring? I don't understand why we have that from less than 1 percent of the population pushed into our face. I don't care if you shower in the morning or at night, I'm just glad you showered. I don't care if you write with your left or with your right, I'm just happy you learned how to write. I don't care how you want to identify yourself, but I do care if you try to influence my children and grandchildren. I don't care if you have a parade, just don't expect me be there. I am allowed to have my opinion and I am allowed to accept or not accept what I want and what I do. So until someone explains to why I will not be drinking

### Bud Light or Budweiser Beer

Let them know what you think of their  
advertising. No to Bud Light and  
Budweiser

This is my opinion and you have yours  
Thank you

Society of the 5th Infantry Division, U.S. Army  
Scott Murrah, National Secretary  
P.O. Box 162176  
Fort Worth, TX 76161

## The Minutes from our Secretary

25 September 2022

Audit was completed in for 2021 and was printed in the Red Diamond. It was a successful audit. Look for information in the Red Diamond next year to use credit card.

\$1800.00 was made from the hospitality room during the reunion.

2021 reunion 17 mail order transactions for \$1233.00, 2022 reunion 69 mail order transactions for \$3420.00.

Sold more shirt this time.

Motion to resupply the shirt inventory. Motion made, seconded and passed.

Constitution committee

Discussion on the change to the constitution. Article 3 (membership), section A, to allow more younger armed forces veterans eligible members to join the 5th INF DIV.

Motion to change the constitution of Article 3 (membership), section A, Motion made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Slate of Officers 2022-2023

President – Hal Roller

1st Vice President – Bud Wagner

2nd Vice President – Larry Burnett

Secretary – Scott Murrah

Treasures – George Shoener

Historian – Roger Allen

Chaplain – Ron VanBeek

Judge Advocate – Phil Maniscalco

Editor – David Kocan

Quartermaster – Dennis Coulter

Webmaster – Joe Boman

Motion to approve the slate, second and passed unanimous.

US Army museum at Fort Belvoir, walk of honor, would like to put some plaque.  
Made a committee to research that.

Inventory of coins 300

Propose Lee Anderson goes thru the chairs starting next year.

Purpose purchase a multi-bugle at the next board or find donations for it.

Thought about advertising in Veteran magazines for the Division.

Thanks to the board members who stay on the board for many years to make the society continue.



## RESULTS OF FINANCIAL REVIEW-SOCIETY OF THE 5TH DIVISION, U.S. ARMY CALENDAR YEAR JANUARY 1, 2022 TO DECEMBER 31, 2022

Utilizing established review procedures, the Audit Committee of the Society of the 5th Division executed a review of the Society's financial statement and activities for the Calendar Year ending December 31, 2022. The objectives of the review were to determine if proper accountability was maintained over Society funds and if such funds were used to accomplish the Society's objectives.

The Society of the 5th Division was created in 1919 to (1) perpetuate and memorialize the valiant acts and patriotic deeds of the 5th Division; (2) promote fellowship and the interest and welfare of its members; and (3) publish and preserve the history and accomplishments of the 5th Division and the Society. These objectives are achieved through the efforts of Society members, under the leadership of its officers, and annual reunions for members and special guests.

The Society's National Treasurer is responsible for the overall accountability of Society funds. As such, the National Treasurer maintains the Society's checking account, bank statements, vendor invoices, and other accounting records to support and summarize the receipt of income and the disbursement of funds for expenditures. At the end of each calendar year the Treasurer prepares an Account Activity Report reflecting the results of financial operations and the financial condition of the Society. The Audit Committee used these records to perform the review.

The Calendar Year 2022 Account Activity Report (Attached) shows that the Society generated income of \$21,458.35 from dues, donations, quartermaster sales and income from its annual reunion. The report also reflects expenditures of \$16,162.89 for quartermaster purchases, donations to several organizations, and general administrative activities.

The Audit Committee analyzed the accounting records provided by the Treasurer and concluded that the records adequately support income and expenditure amounts reflected on the Account Activity Report. We also concluded that the Account Activity Report accurately reflects the financial condition of the Society of the 5th Division. Additionally, the expenditures incurred during the year appeared reasonable and consistent with Society objectives.

The Committee extends its appreciation to the Society's Treasurer for the timely submission and the thoroughness of the records needed for this review.

Audit Committee Members

Gary J. Barard

Bud Wagner

This page is dedicated to those who may need prayers, cards and maybe a phone call. If you know of anyone who should be listed please email the names, thank you.

Ken Magnett 29 East Ridge Rd. Eddyville, Ky., 42038  
765-210-1513 Multiple cancer from Agent Orange

Tom Owens 2677 Beacon Drive, Doraville, Ga., 30360-2601  
404-984-7005 hospice care

The Sperling's 14503 NE 257th Ave., Brush Prairie, Wa.,  
98606 360-798-7111

Robert Rochell 1129 Castle Bluff Circle Waco , Texas, 76712  
254-723-3280

## Taps

Gerald Maksymouicz    died 12/24/22    5th Division  
96th Chemical

Raymond Rowe                      died 11/15/22    A-1/61

**Report of the Treasurer of the Society of the Fifth Division  
Account Activity for FY22 (01/01/22-12/31/22)**

**RECEIPTS**

Secretary - Dues (\$2695) + Donations (\$921)	3,616.00
QM Sales	5,593.50
2022 Reunion Income	10,489.24
Checking Account Adjustments	1,759.61
TOTAL	<b>21,458.35</b>

**DISBURSEMENTS**

Secretary Expenses	(511.90)
QM Expenses	(2,891.99)
Treasurer Expenses	(94.51)
Red Diamond Editor Expenses	(170.02)
IT/Communications Expenses	(1,438.68)
Donations	(6,100.00)
2022 Reunion Expenses	(3,467.26)
Loss from CDs (Transfer \$10,000 from Bank to CDs)	(1,488.53)
TOTAL	<b>(16,162.89)</b>

RECEIPTS - DISBURSEMENTS for FY22 **5,295.46**

Report of Treasurer - December 31, 2021 (FY21)	
Cash in Bank	42,562.89
Value of Ladder CDs/MM	45,033.85
Net Worth	87,596.74

***ON 07/01/22 \$10,000 WAS MOVED FROM BANK TO LADDER CDs***

Report of Treasurer - December 31, 2022 (FY22)	
Cash in Bank	39,346.88
Value of Ladder CDs	53,545.32
Net Worth	92,892.20

Net Worth Difference for FY22 **5,295.46**

**George B. Shoener  
National Treasurer  
SOFD**



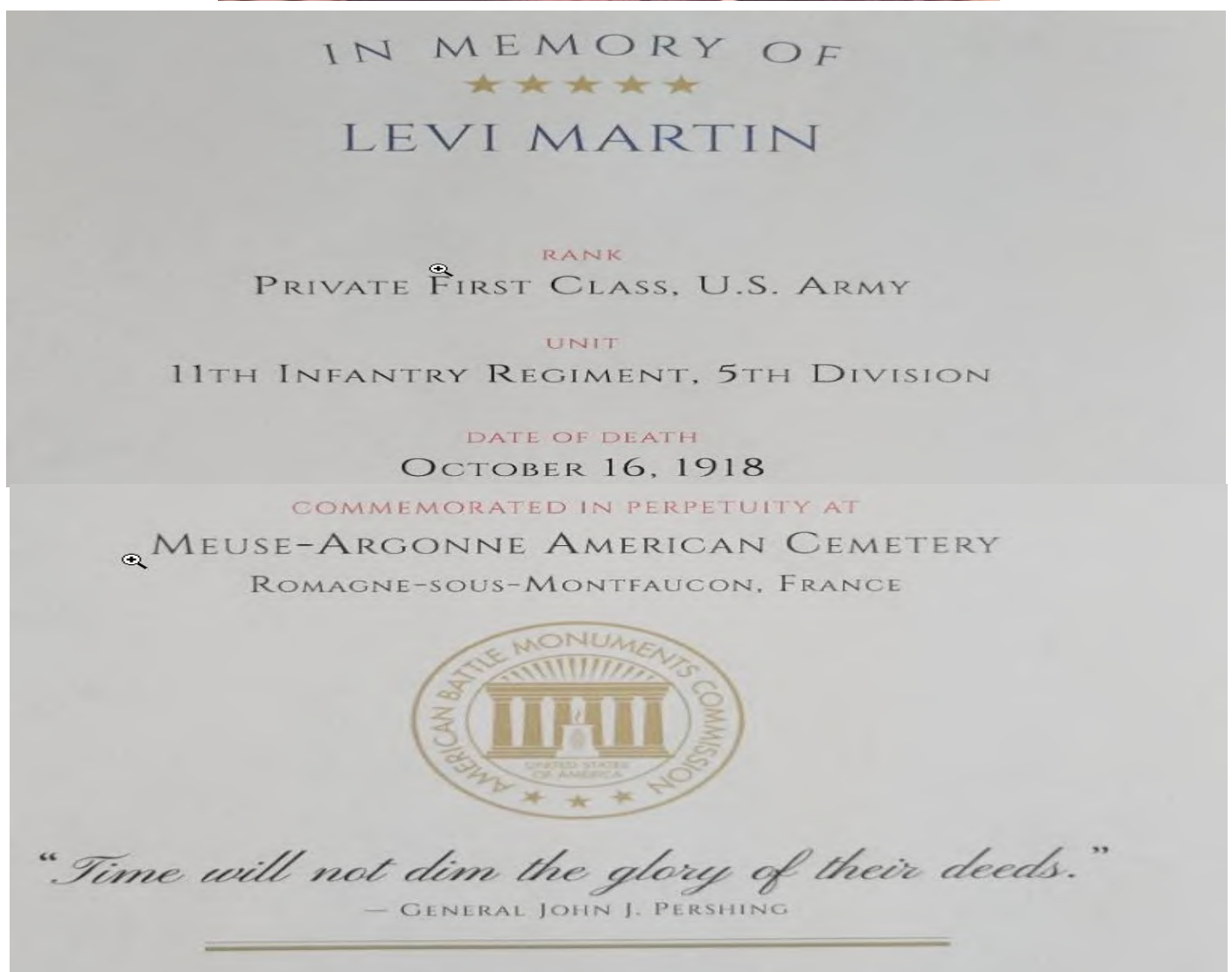
Hello,

Do you have a recommendation for a website/book/resource concerning the 5th Division's activities during WW1?

An ancestor of mine, Levi Martin, was assigned to the 5th Division and was killed in action during WW1, on October 16th, 1918. He was 22 years old. He is buried in the Meuse-Argonne Cemetery in France. I am trying to write an article about him; he deserves to be remembered. Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,  
Mark Miles

Sincerely  
Inline image





I just received some information from the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC), Meuse-Argonne Cemetery, concerning Levi Martin. I've attached some photos in reference to this.

One is a recovery card detailing the recovery of PFC Martin's remains from the battlefield to the Meuse-Argonne Cemetery. It lists him as being in Company D, 11th Infantry Regiment, 5th Infantry Division.

The other attachment is a map of the battlefield of the Meuse-Argonne Battle. In the lower left portion is a small green oval. This is the location where the ABMC believes he was killed in action on October 16th, 1918, and also where he was disinterred on June 17th, 1919. This is just several hundred yards from where the Meuse-Argonne Cemetery is located.

It is helpful to see this location on Google Earth, as Google Earth shows the cemetery, as well as the towns nearby.

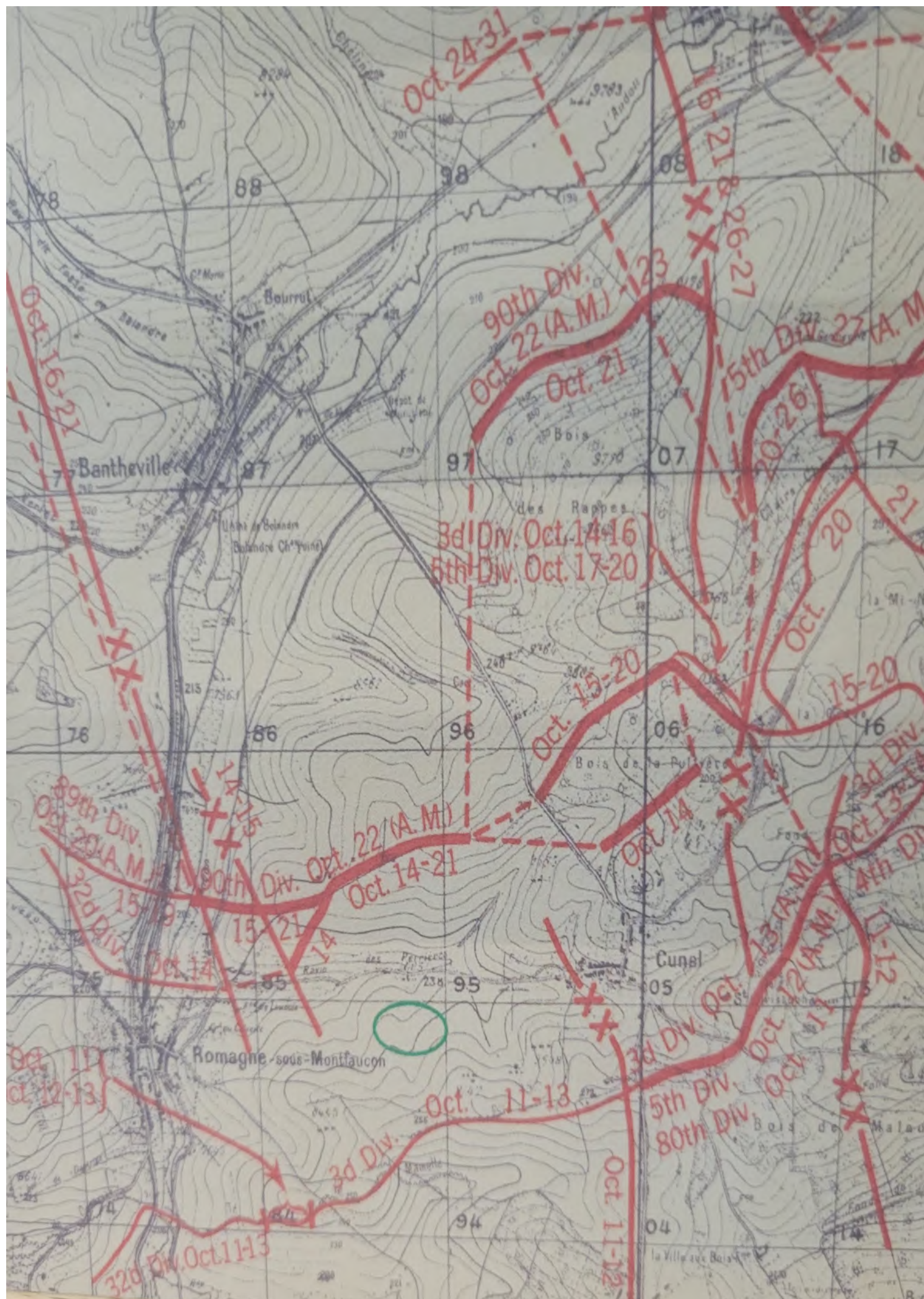
I've gotten a copy of "The Official History of the Fifth Division, U.S." reprinted by Forgotten Books. It has detailed casualty reports, by name, of the various timeframes, but I cannot find any mention of PFC Levi Martin.

I thank you for your assistance in researching PFC Martin. I am continuing to conduct research attempting to find a Next of Kin that may have letters, etc. If I find more information, I will keep you informed.

Sincerely,

Mark Miles







File No. <b>107557</b>	Last Name <b>MARTIN</b>	Army Serial No. <b>735235</b>	First name and Initials <b>Levi</b>	Cablegram No. <b>AGO- 201</b>
Rank <b>Pvt. 1st.</b>	Organization <b>ARKANSAS Co. D, 11th Inf., 5th Div.</b>	Cause of death <b>KIA.</b>		Date of Death <b>10-16-18</b>
Date of Burial	Place of Burial—Unconfirmed			No.
Authority File No. D <b>8944</b>	Place of Burial—Confirmed <b>Grave No. Isolated Grave. Commune of ROMAGNE-sous-Montfaucon, Meuse. 35 NE: Coord. E 209.1: N 284.2</b>			Cemetery Commune <b>280</b>
Authority File No. D <b>12100</b>	Disinterred and Reburied: Date <b>6/17/19</b> In: <b>Grave No. 200, Sec. 98, Plot 4, Argonne American Cemetery, Romagne-sous-Montfaucon, Meuse.</b>			Cemetery <b>1232</b>
Emergency Address: <b>Luther Martin, Brother Hattieville, ark.</b>			Notified Emergency Address <b>F-107 11/30/20</b>	
R. B. Sketch No. <b>5759</b>	Photograph No. <b>D-28531</b>			
PERMANENT AMER. CTY. INTERMENT See Reverse Side of Card				
Grave Marker	Name Peg	Cross <b>Yes</b>	Head Board	Bottle
			Ident. Tags	Buried with body <b>No</b>
				On grave marker <b>Yes</b>
REMARKS: <b>Auth. AGO letter 2-3-20. 2-7-20.</b>				
3-572 <i>2115-4-19.21 (110) sec 98</i> <b>G. R. S. Form 13—Revised Jan. 25-20</b>				

## REMOVAL PROJECT INFORMATION

Body disinterred \_\_\_\_\_ for preparation and shipment.

Arrived at (European port) \_\_\_\_\_, (date) \_\_\_\_\_

Shipped to (U. S. port) \_\_\_\_\_, (date) \_\_\_\_\_, (boat) \_\_\_\_\_

Arrived at (U. S. port) \_\_\_\_\_, (date) \_\_\_\_\_

Shipped (date) \_\_\_\_\_ to (consignee) \_\_\_\_\_

B/L or Express Order No. \_\_\_\_\_

Received at Destination (date) \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_

Authority File No. D. <b>D-31459</b>	Reburied (date) <b>10-5-21</b> <b>Grave 4, Row 30, Block H, Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery</b>	(within custody of U. S.)	Cemetery No. <b>1232</b>
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Emergency address notified of the reburial (date) **10-13-23 rd**

here is an article from Lt. Ercey Carver that his daughter sent to me a couple of years ago. She gave me permission so that it may be added to our newsletter. In we, the 7th engineers Vietnam vets were asked to join the WWII 7th Engineers reunions. They held their reunions in Kokomo, In. I met with Lt. Carver for a few years and Cpt Marks just once. When the WWII vets could no longer attend their reunions the Vietnam vets then started attending the Society's reunions. We are looking forward to the reunion in San Antonio.

Ercey's daughter will try to make the San Antonio reunion as she lives nearby.

We still have one WWII vet, Dan Santagata who attends the reunion when he can.

Thanks,

Tom Grafton

2554 Cathedral Dr

St. Louis, Mo 63129

H: 314-416-0535

C: 314-570-8056

Some WWII Memories of Lt. Ercey Carver

7 th Engineer Combat Battalion (Approx. 600 men)

5 th Infantry Division (The Red Diamond)

3 rd Army (Gen. George Patton)

4 Oct. '42

Inducted into U.S. Army at Ft. Hayes, Columbus, Ohio.

Interesting antidote: A day after induction and with minimum of instructions I was walking along the sidewalk near the post and approaching two officers. I passed right between them and gave them the salute with both hands at the same time. Didn't want either one to be offended by using one hand! Needless to say, they stopped me and corrected me!

6 Oct. '42

Started to travel by train from Ft. Hayes west. Nobody knew where we were headed. At a stop much later, we yelled at some one on the station platform and he said we were in Rolla, Missouri near Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri

8 Oct. '42

At Ft Leonard Wood, Missouri I began combat engineer training (3 months). Combat engineers in the army learn how to build roads, blow up roads, build bridges, blow up bridges, lay mines, pick up mines, dig fox holes, carry troops across water in boats, etc. and are armed with weapons to fight with infantry troops when necessary.

While at Ft. Leonard Wood I was accepted by the army to attend Officer Candidate School at Ft. Belvoir, Virginia after three months basic engineer training followed by two extra weeks training acting as an officer in handling "misfits" in a temporary "company of engineers" (This was a test to see if we "had it" to go on to officer training school!)

28 Apr. '43

After some of the most intense ninety days of engineer and infantry training, where at every minute of the day we were subjected to all kinds of harassment by drill instructors trying to make us "fail" at whatever we were doing, I graduated from Ft. Belvoir as a "90 day wonder", 2 nd Lt. in the Corps of Engineers!

Mom and Dad came to my graduation.

1 May '43

After a short "stop over" in Chillicothe, Ohio I reported to Camp Carson (now Ft. Carson) near Colorado Springs to Company A, 49 th Engineer Combat Bn. Spent that summer field training troops in that area and we also spent a couple of months in east Texas and Louisiana on maneuvers – just more combat engineer training.

Oct. '43

Transferred to Camp Shenango, Pennsylvania across the border near Youngstown, Ohio. Spent some time in organizing a temporary unit of troops in preparation for overseas movement.

1 Nov. '43

Boarded the original English "Queen Elizabeth" luxury ship in New York harbor with the temporary organized troops. They happened to be a four-hundred-man unit of medical troops. It was a seven-day crossing of the Atlantic Ocean to Glasgow, Scotland.

8 Nov. '43

Landed in Scotland. Boarded a train and headed south to a troop replacement depot where the troops and officers would eventually receive permanent assignments to various units in England and Northern Ireland. When I boarded the train in Glasgow, American Red Cross ladies came down the aisle passing out packages of cigarettes. I glanced at my pack and noticed stamped on the top of the pack, "Courtesy of Chamber of Commerce, Chillicothe, Ohio." What a coincident! This was about a twelve-hour ride.

9 Nov. '43

Stayed at the replacement depot which was near to Birmingham, England for about three days, and was finally assigned to the 7 th Engineer Combat Battalion of the 5 th Infantry Division in Northern Ireland.

17 Nov. '43 (on or about)

From Liverpool, England travelled by ship across the Irish Sea to Belfast, Northern Ireland. Transported by truck south to the small village of Dundrum which is about 35 miles from Belfast and also on the sea coast. I was assigned to Company "A" whose commander was Capt. Charles Marks (now living in Ft. Wayne, Indiana). He assigned me as 3 rd Platoon Commander which had about 50 men equipped with 3 squad GMC trucks, one platoon GMC truck, and a jeep for the platoon commander. We spent 6 ½ to 7 months in advance engineer training – day and night.

20 May '44

I was sent to England for a two-week Bailey bridge school – learning how to put heavy metal bridges across small rivers and ravines. This heavy bridge when put across wide rivers could be built using floating pontoons and piers from one section to the next.

7 Jun '44

On our last day of bridge school, we noticed many air-craft flying overhead toward France and of course we speculated the anticipated "invasion" was on. Sure enough, at the end of the day back in our quarters the radio was "shouting" that the invasion of Normandy was on!



8 Jun. '44

Returned by air to Northern Ireland where I noted all of our combat units were already engaged in “water proofing” vehicles – getting them ready for possibly driving through water onto the French beaches in Normandy.

14 Jun. '44 (on or about)

Our engineer unit began landing on Utah Beach (Normandy). It was almost a week after the initial invasion landing on the beach, so there was no direct firing at us by the Germans – they had been pushed inland a few miles. There were occasional German long-range artillery shells coming in on us but not too accurate. Nothing like the shelling our troops endured during the landing the week before. For a couple of weeks, we stayed in the area (3 or 4 miles from the beach) laying mines, picking up mines, digging foxholes for the infantry, and occasionally firing at the Germans in support of our infantry in the hedge-row land of Normandy.

Jul. '44 (early)

We began to intensify our engagement with the Germans and slow but sure they started retreating eastward through France toward their Homeland. My platoon of engineers was a part of a Task Force of infantry, artillery, and tanks pushing the Germans eastward. Occasionally, they would “dig in” and fight, but we would root them out and they continued to retreat. The Army Air Corps gave us excellent support with “close in” strafing and bombing of the Germans we were chasing. All this time my engineers were doing the tasks they had been trained to do.

1. Helping the infantry dig fox-holes when necessary.
  2. Making roads where sometimes there were no roads.
  3. Blowing up roads with TNT and dynamite when necessary.
  4. Building trestles or bridges where needed.
  5. Blowing up bridges sometimes to prevent the Germans counter-attacking from time-to-time.
  6. Laying mines when necessary to prevent German vehicles easy maneuvering.
  7. Picking up mine both ours and the Germans when it became necessary.
  8. From time-to-time we actually had to fire at the Germans right along with our infantry soldiers.
- There were other Task Forces like ours steadily pushing the Germans eastward through France.

Sept. '44 (Labor Day)

Being part of General Patton's 3rd Army, we had pushed the Germans so rapidly eastward through France that rations, water, gasoline, and maintenance parts for vehicles could not keep up with the troops and their vehicles. So for a few days we were stopped to let “things” catch up with us. We later were to learn the German troops had stopped running and began infiltrating back into the fortification areas which existed between France and Germany.

12 Sept. '44 (on or about)

We renewed our offensive eastward, but against heavy German resistance again. They had really come back and “dug in” during the few days we had waited for our supplies to catch up. After a few weeks of heavy fighting, we began to move more rapidly again. A little later our units had begun house-to-house fighting in Saarbrücken, Germany (near the French border) when we were suddenly ordered to pull out, go northward overnight and we became the southern part of what was to be called the Battle of the Bulge. The German army had attacked in Belgium and our unit was to prevent the Germans from breaking southward out of the “Bulge”.

Oct., Nov., Dec. '44

Our unit contained the Germans on the south side of the Bulge until the weather started clearing later in December. The city of Bastogne had been surrounded by the Germans with many American troops there. General Patton ordered a Task Force be organized and an effort be made to break the siege of Bastogne. My engineer platoon along with the infantry and tanks broke through the Germans surrounding the city and relieved the American 101 st Airborne Division. Never saw such a bunch of happy soldiers! We then started again pushing the Germans eastward back into Germany. The engineers were very busy in helping American troops across several rivers and the German troops were really running.

20 Mar. '45

On this date our engineers stood on the west bank of the Rhine River. All German troops who had not been captured as prisoners had retreated to the east bank and continued moving eastward. As I stood there with the engineer battalion commander, he was telling me what we needed to do as a defense against the enemy for the next day or two. Up drove a couple of jeeps and "lo and behold" General Patton stepped toward us! We saluted him and I stepped aside as he and my commander began talking. I overheard Patton tell my commander we were "doing a great job" and he turned to me and shook hands. My commander told him of his plans to set up defenses in the area. Patton said words to this effect, "Colonel, the best defense is a good offense, so I want you to get all the boats and floating bridge equipment available up here as fast as you can.

We will get all the men and equipment across this river as fast as we can tonight and have a floating bridge across the river by tomorrow afternoon to get our heavy guns and equipment across." My job with a driver and jeep the rest of the day and night was going back to the rear areas and leading convoys of boats and floating bridge equipment on trailers to the assembly area at the river in the village of Oppenheim, Germany.

21 Mar. '45

On one of my many trips back to the rear area in pitch black darkness, I heard and, as it got nearer, could see this huge hulk of a machine on this narrow dirt road. I pulled over, stopped and a voice yelled, "Where is the Rhine?" I yelled back, "Who are you?" He replied, "We're U.S. Navy with a big landing craft on a trailer." I yelled, "Whoopee!" Told him to follow the little dirt road. How he ever got that rig down that winding road at the river bank in the dark, I'll never know! That big landing craft got a lot of troops and equipment across the river that night and later in the morning. The floating bridge was completed by mid-afternoon by our 7 th Engineer Combat Battalion and the 3 rd Army began crossing. I estimated it was about ¼ mile long in spanning the river at the village of Oppenheim.

23 Mar. '45

We entered Frankfurt which was pretty well "bombed out." The German troops were already gone, but the civilians were already out "cleaning up" the streets and sidewalks- industrious people!

Mar. '45, Apr. '45 (continued)

As we chased the German troops further eastward, the Russian troops were chasing other German troops westward – both toward Berlin. In April and early May the enemy troops began surrendering in huge numbers. Example: At one resting point I went into a nearby woods to "go"! As I finished, I heard some voices coming toward me. I hid momentarily and then saw some Germans wandering through the forest. They had already gotten rid of their weapons. I hailed them. Up went their hands and I directed them back to our rest area where we held them until some of our troops came by headed back to the rear area. There were 35 men in that group of prisoners. We learned later that large masses of Germans were "giving up."

6 May '45  
(V-E Day)

By this date my unit was again part of an infantry Task Force in Czechoslovakia heading north not far from the town of Pilsen. We got word of the German surrender at Rheims, France. Patton troops were ordered back to the German/Czech border. Our immediate task was to keep refugees from crossing the Czech border into Germany. They were running from the Russian forces who were coming into Czechoslovakia to occupy it.

7-8 May '45

Here it was! The end of the war and we had no "booze" to help celebrate! It was decided that I, my driver, and a jeep would go into nearby Czechoslovakia and find an operating brewery. Before we found the beer, I noted some U.S military vehicles of the 4 th Armored Division. I knew Joe Hurst, a friend from my hometown of Chillicothe, was in the Medical unit of the 4 th . Finally found him and we had our picture taken together. Later that day I found a Czech brewery operating, bought two barrels of beer and headed back to our battalion headquarters in Germany. The two heavy kegs of beer in the jeep made it look like the front wheels were almost off the road and rear end of the jeep was dragging! To say the least our battalion headquarters welcomed us back with the beer!

May '45  
(About Middle)

Our engineer unit was eventually sent to a small village south of Munich, Germany where we temporarily set up "occupation" duties for about a month.

Jun. '45  
(Later Part)

The 5 th Division began preparing to return to the U.S. My unit convoyed to a staging area in France – our places was called "Camp Lucky Strike." Eventually from there I led an American convoy westward through France to the port of LeHarve where we boarded a transport headed to New York. The French had done very little cleaning up!

4 July '45

Spent 4 th of July aboard ship! Arrived in New York a few days later. Our ship was greeted in New York harbor with all the fanfare – whistles and horns blaring with hoses of water flying through the air! Quite a welcome!

15 Jul '45 - 15 Aug '45

Arrived home on Pine Street in Chillicothe on 30-day leave. Opened up a bottle of champagne I had sent home from France and that mom and dad has saved in the "ice box". As I recall, I think mom even had a sip of it. One day I was playing golf at the country club and while walking down number 8 fairway, I hear from a nearby backyard radio about the bombing of Hiroshima, Japan! Speculation arose about ending the war with Japan! A few days later, of course, it became a reality!

We had previously been assigned to Camp Campbell, Kentucky after the 30-day leave to begin advanced training to eventually participate in the invasion of Japan. Upon reporting to Camp Campbell our unit began to disband. I was released officially on 14 October 1945. I enrolled at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, 4 January 1946, into the School of Engineering. I wanted to learn what an "engineer" does after being and "engineer" in the U. S Army during World War II! Whew!

-End of Story-

# Society of the Fifth Division

## 102<sup>nd</sup> Reunion

In San Antonio, Texas

September 7 – 10, 2023

In the Holiday Inn Riverwalk Hotel

This is Going to be an

Entertaining and Fun Reunion

Continue to Scroll Down to

Register and

Make Hotel Reservations

## SOCIETY OF THE 5<sup>TH</sup> DIVISION REUNION HOLIDAY INN RIVERWALK | SAN ANTONIO, TX

### **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

#### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

7:00pm - 9:00pm	Executive Board Meeting	Bolero 1
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#### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

2:00pm - 7:00pm	<b>Reunion Registration Open</b> <i>Hospitality Room and Quarter Master Store to be open throughout reunion, hours to be posted.</i>	Skyline Atrium Foyer
4:00pm - 11:00pm	Hospitality Open	Rumba/Skyline Atrium

#### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

9:00am - 4:00pm	Fredericksburg/National Museum of the Pacific War	
3:00pm - 6:00pm	<b>Reunion Registration Open</b>	Skyline Atrium Foyer
4:00pm - 11:00pm	Hospitality Open	Rumba/Skyline Atrium

#### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

9:00am - 12:30pm	Missions Tour	
5:00pm - 6:00pm	Cash Bar Reception	Tango Ballroom Foyer
6:00pm - 9:00pm	Dinner Banquet	Tango Ballroom 2-4
9:00pm - 11:00pm	Hospitality Open	Rumba/Skyline Atrium

#### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

9:00am - 10:00am	Non-denominational Worship Service	Tango Ballroom 1
10:00am - 11:00am	Memorial Service	Tango Ballroom 1
1:00pm - 2:00pm	Society General Membership Meeting	Tango Ballroom 1
2:00pm - 4:00pm	KIA Photo Presentation	Tango Ballroom 1
5:00pm - 6:00pm	Cash Bar Reception	Tango Ballroom Foyer
6:00pm - 9:00pm	Dinner Banquet	Tango Ballroom 2-4
9:00pm - 11:00pm	Hospitality Open	Rumba/Skyline Atrium

#### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Farewells and Departures

#### **CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY FOR ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC.**

For attendees canceling reunion activities prior to the cut-off date, August 9, Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. (AFR) shall process a full refund less the non-refundable AFR registration fee (\$10 per person). Attendees canceling reunion activities after the cut-off date will be refunded to the fullest extent that AFR's vendor commitments and guarantees will allow, less the non-refundable AFR registration fee. **Cancellations will only be taken Monday through Friday from 9:00am until 5:00pm Eastern Standard Time, excluding holidays.** Please call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion. Canceling your hotel reservation does not cancel your reunion activities.



## **SOCIETY OF THE 5<sup>TH</sup> DIVISION REUNION TOURS**

### **HOLIDAY INN RIVERWALK | SAN ANTONIO, TX**

**Friday, September 8, 2023**

#### **FREDERICKSBURG/NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR**

Enjoy a scenic ride to Fredericksburg, the boyhood home of Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. Tour the National Museum of the Pacific War, which is dedicated to everyone who served in the Pacific under Admiral Nimitz. Nimitz served as CinCPAC, commander in chief, United States Pacific Fleet, and was soon afterward named commander in chief, Pacific Ocean Areas, during World War II. The Museum, once a hotel owned by Nimitz's grandfather, now includes over 34,000 square feet of indoor exhibit space including the George Bush Gallery, Admiral Nimitz Museum, Plaza of Presidents, Veterans' Walk of Honor, Japanese Garden of Peace, Pacific Combat Zone, and the Nimitz Education and Research Center. A 43,000 square foot expansion was added in 2010, where you can explore the impressive display of Allied and Japanese aircraft, tanks, guns and other artifacts made famous during the Pacific War campaigns. Enjoy lunch at one of several restaurants or delis located on Fredericksburg's downtown Main Street. There is shopping nearby on Main Street for those interested.

**9:00am board bus, 4:00pm back at hotel**

**\$61/Person includes bus, guide, and admission. Lunch on your own.**

**Saturday, September 9, 2023**

#### **MISSIONS TOUR**

In San Antonio they celebrate heritage and they hold their city's true history in the highest regard. San Antonio Missions National Historical Park was named the first World Heritage Site in Texas by the United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO), and includes the city's four southernmost Spanish colonial missions – Concepción, San José, San Juan and Espada. In the 18th century, Spanish priests established these five Catholic missions along the San Antonio River to serve as the center of an ethnically diverse society. Today, the missions – walled compounds encompassing a church and buildings where the priests and local Native Americans lived – represent the largest concentration of Spanish colonial missions in North America. We'll visit Mission San Jose and Mission Concepcion, and also drive by and hear the history of Mission San Juan and Mission Espada, along with their famous aqueduct. One of the many beautiful aspects of San Antonio Missions National Historical Park is that though it is a site steeped in history, it is still very much a thriving, active community today. Enjoy exploring what is old while discovering what is new.

**9:00am board bus, 12:30pm back at hotel**

**\$37/Person includes bus and guide**

***35 Person Minimum Per Bus***

**Driver and guide gratuities are not included in the tour prices. Please plan to be at the bus boarding area at least fifteen minutes prior to the scheduled time. All trips require a minimum of thirty people, unless otherwise stated.**

**SCOTTER POLICY FOR PROGRAMS:** If you use a scooter but can climb the steps to board the bus, either you and/or a person traveling with you must be able to put the scooter in the bus's luggage compartment. Due to liability issues, drivers and tour guides cannot assist with scooters.

**SOCIETY OF THE 5<sup>TH</sup> DIVISION ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM**

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event and total the amount. Send that amount payable to ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. in the form of check or money order. Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. Returned checks will be charged a \$35 fee. You may also register online and pay by credit card at <http://www.events.afr-reg.com/e/society2023> (3.5% will be added to total). All registration forms and payments must be received by mail on or before August 9, 2023. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing. Please do not staple or tape your payment to this form.

**Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.**  
**322 Madison Mews**  
**Norfolk, VA 23510**  
**ATTN: SOCIETY OF THE 5<sup>TH</sup>**

**OFFICE USE ONLY**

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Date Received \_\_\_\_\_  
 Inputted \_\_\_\_\_ Nametag Completed \_\_\_\_\_

<b>CUT-OFF DATE IS 8/9/23</b>	<b>Price Per</b>	<b># of People</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b><u>TOURS</u></b>			
FRIDAY 9/8: Fredericksburg/National Museum of the Pacific War	\$61	#	\$
SATURDAY 9/9: Missions Tour	\$37	#	\$
<b><u>MEAL OPTIONS (Please select your entrée for each day)</u></b>			
<b><u>SATURDAY 9/9:</u></b>			
Chicken Picatta	\$61	#	\$
Seared Salmon	\$61	#	\$
Fire Grilled Sirloin	\$69	#	\$
Vegetable Wellington	\$61	#	\$
<b><u>SUNDAY 9/10:</u></b>			
Chicken Roulade with Fire Roasted Peppers, Feta Cheese and Spinach	\$61	#	\$
Tilapia	\$61	#	\$
Fire Grilled Sirloin	\$69	#	\$
Garden Vegetable Ravioli	\$61	#	\$
		#	\$
<b><u>PER PERSON REGISTRATION FEE</u></b>			
Covers various reunion expenses.	\$20	#	\$
DONATION FOR HOSPITALITY ROOM EXPENSES	\$		\$
Total Amount Payable to <b><u>Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.</u></b>			\$

**PLEASE PRINT NAME AS YOU WANT YOUR NAMETAG TO READ**

FIRST \_\_\_\_\_ LAST \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE NAME (IF ATTENDING) OR GUEST NAMES \_\_\_\_\_

UNIT INFORMATION (ex. D CO/1<sup>st</sup> BN/11<sup>th</sup> Infantry): \_\_\_\_\_

YEARS SERVED W/ 5ID(ex. 1965-66): \_\_\_\_\_

WHERE (CIRCLE ONE): WWII FT CARSON VIETNAM FT POLK OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

CURRENT & PAST SOCIETY OFFICE HELD (ex. NATIONAL FIRST VICE PRESIDENT, PAST PRESIDENT, ETC.): \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS OF MAIN ATTENDEE \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PH. NUMBER (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Sleeping room requirements must be conveyed by attendee directly with hotel)

MUST YOU BE LIFTED HYDRAULICALLY ONTO THE BUS WHILE SEATED IN YOUR WHEELCHAIR IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN BUS TRIPS? (PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE AVAILABILITY). ☐ YES ☐ NO

For refunds and cancellations please refer to our policies outlined at the bottom of the reunion program. **CANCELLATIONS WILL ONLY BE TAKEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 9:00am-4:00pm EASTERN TIME (excluding holidays).** Call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion.

***Holiday Inn Riverwalk***  
***Reservations – 210-224-2500***

**Location**

Holiday Inn Riverwalk  
217 N. St. Mary's St., San Antonio, Texas 78205

**Reservation Information**

Please call the number above and reference the Society of the Fifth Division Reunion or your group code – "DIV"

You can also click the following link to make reservations:

[https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/san-antonio/satrw/hoteldetail?fromRedirect=true&qSrt=sBR&qIta=99801505&icdv=99801505&qSIH=SATRW&qGrpCd=DIV&setPMCookies=true&qSHBrC=HI&qDest=217+North+St.+Mary%27s+Street%2C+San+Antonio%2C+TX%2C+US&srb\\_u=1](https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/san-antonio/satrw/hoteldetail?fromRedirect=true&qSrt=sBR&qIta=99801505&icdv=99801505&qSIH=SATRW&qGrpCd=DIV&setPMCookies=true&qSHBrC=HI&qDest=217+North+St.+Mary%27s+Street%2C+San+Antonio%2C+TX%2C+US&srb_u=1)

**Group Name:** Society of the Fifth Division

**Reunion Dates:** September 5-11, 2023

**Rate:** \$144+ applicable taxes (currently 16.75% plus 1.25% Tourism Public Improvement District Fee, per room per night)

**Rate includes Breakfast Buffet for Two (2) each day – Vouchers will be provided for each guest to use through their stay in hotel's restaurant.**

**Cut-off Date:** 8/11/23 Late reservations will be processed based on space availability at a higher rate.

**Cancellation Policy:** Room cancellations must be made at least 48 hours in advance or you may be charged a cancellation fee.

**Parking & Shuttle Information**

Day of Event Self-parking is available at a discounted rate of \$15/per day Sunday – Thursday. And \$20/per day Friday – Saturday.

Overnight Self-parking is \$27/per day and includes in/out privileges for registered guests.

Valet parking available at \$32.00 per night.

\*Parking rates are subject to change.

The hotel does not provide an airport shuttle.

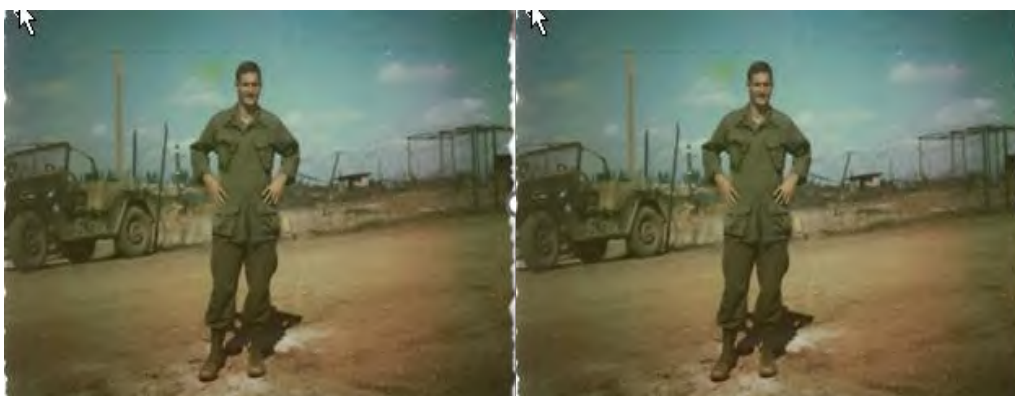
**Wheelchair Rental**

ScoutAround rents both manual and power wheelchairs by the day and week. Please call (888) 441-7575 or visit [www.scoutaround.com](http://www.scoutaround.com) for details and to make reservations.

**Reunion Registration**

To register for the reunion please re-visit <https://www.events.afr-reg.com/e/SocietyFifth23>

## Article for the Red Diamond



### JOIN ME.....ON A JOURNEY! By Phil Maniscalco (D 1/11 Infantry - Vietnam)

Where do I begin? This original journey began in April 1995 in Branson, MO when members of Delta Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 11<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division reunited after about 25 years of mostly silence. Thank You Dennis & Jeanie Knight for all the work that you did in finding members of Delta Company and organizing our first couple Company size reunion gatherings!

Let's fast forward to November 16, 2021, when I started the current chapter of this journey and for which I am now asking you, the reader, **to consider joining me**. First, a couple of facts:

#### 1. The Coffelt Database of Vietnam Casualties:

<http://www.coffeltdatabase.org/index.php>

The following excerpts are taken from the Coffelt database Home Page:

Named in Honor of Richard Donham Coffelt (06 August 1932 – 25 January 2012), The Coffelt Database of Vietnam War casualties has its roots in an effort begun by Richard Donham Coffelt. A Korean War era soldier and later an attorney in Hays, Kansas. Richard became aware that the government had not made public a central source of information regarding the servicemen and women who died as a result of service in Vietnam. In 1980 Richard set out to determine the unit of assignment for each Army soldier who died in Vietnam. As this was two years before the IBM PC (personal computer) came on the market, the work necessarily was done the old-fashioned way: by library research, travel, and in hand-writing.

In 1993-94, after PCs had become commonplace, Tom Holloway (Emory University, Atlanta) changed the landscape by obtaining the Department of Defense's casualty database and the Army Adjutant General's database in digital form. Using the University's mainframe computers to read the reel-to-reel computer tapes, Tom integrated the two databases and converted the information into a commonly used small-computer format. The "Holloway Database" effectively became the public's sole source of information regarding all our Vietnam dead.

In the late 1990s, others joined Richard's effort, contributing information and collating the collected material into digital form using the Holloway database as a baseline. The additional resources allowed the project's scope to expand to include unit of assignment information for all service branches. In 2002, an early version of the Coffelt Database was deeded to the National Archives, which made it available on-line as a searchable database.

#### 2. Vietnam Memorial Wall of Faces: <https://www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces>

The Virtual Wall of Faces features a page dedicated to honoring and remembering every person whose name is inscribed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. In an effort to further preserve the legacy of those who sacrificed all in Vietnam, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund is committed to finding a photo to go with each of the more than 58,000 names on The Wall. The Wall of Faces allows family and friends to share memories, post pictures and connect with each other.

So, given that I have access, **as we all do**, to these two resources (Coffelt Database and Vietnam Memorial Wall of Faces), I began this **current journey** of posting messages on the anniversary date of their passing for each of our 514 soldiers from the 5<sup>th</sup> Division killed in action in Vietnam. These are the steps:

1. **First**, go to the Society website <http://www.societyofthefifthdivision.com/> and in the left column at the bottom of the Home Page, opened the Killed in Action (KIA) slide presentation and identified each of the 514 Fifth Division soldiers killed in action in Vietnam.
2. **Second**, go to the Coffelt Database (CDB) Home Page. Click **“Search CDB”**; then click **“Name Search”**; then entered the soldier’s **First Name** and **Last Name**; and click **“Go”**. Often, when there are soldiers listed with the same name, click the **“Go”** button that corresponds to the date that our soldiers were killed in action. The number of documents available for each soldier may vary.
3. **Third**, go to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund – Wall of Faces webpage and clicked the **“Search”** button in the upper left hand corner. On the search line, enter the soldier’s full name. The soldier’s Wall of Faces page should appear along with their photo(s). **Read all the postings. Some soldiers have many, many postings and some soldiers have fewer postings. You have now entered the heart of the journey!**

Click **“Leave a Remembrance”** button. There are eight (8) entries required:

- a. Title of Remembrance (e.g. You Are Not Forgotten, etc.).
- b. Remembrance (in your own words. Can be as simple as “thinking of you”).
- c. Your Name.
- d. Your Email address.
- e. Click box to reflect to showing your email address.
- f. Relationship. The drop down list gives you options. I always select “served with”
- g. Click box “I am not a robot”.
- h. Submit Remembrance. Sometime, the remembrance is immediately posted. Other times it takes several minutes.

As I stated earlier, the current chapter of this journey for me began over a year ago on November 16, 2021, after nine months of rehabilitation from slipping on the ice and getting a head concussion in February 2021. **I needed to be inspired and motivated to get back into a fitness program.** I decided to post a remembrance for every 5<sup>th</sup> Division Vietnam KIA (514) on the anniversary date of their passing. My remembrance includes a one mile walk-run on their anniversary date. I have now begun my 2<sup>nd</sup> year of posting these Remembrances and walk-running the mile prior to the posting(s) for that day.

There are many beautiful Remembrances for the 5<sup>th</sup> Division soldiers. I would like to share one: This posting is to Staff Sergeant Fred Dale Pakele, Charlie Company 1/61, who was killed in action on February 9, 1971 and buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Hawaii. The posting is from his granddaughter Pualena, titled “Aloha Grandpa” and dated November 12, 2020.

Grandpa Fred,

“I’m Pualena, your Granddaughter and Vicki’s daughter. I never got to meet you, but I know you live on in my mom and I know you would have loved to see everything she has accomplished and all the people she helps everyday. She’s an amazing person and the best mom.

I get to see Grandma Ku’ulei a lot, mom is with her almost every day, and I go visit, to help them



move things, or just to have lunch. :) Grandma loves to have lunch together, we eat a lot of tuna sandwiches, noodles, and I can never get enough of her coconut butter mochi! She said she used to make it for Uncle Bryan and Uncle Ron when they would have boy scout activities, and the other kids would always request it. :) Grandma makes the most amazing quilts! She has made a quilt for everyone, mom, Aunty Bonnie, Uncle Bryan, Uncle Ron, and for all of us grandchildren, too!"

I have a sister, La'akea, who lives in Colorado, and five cousins: Kristi, Lyle, Lauren, Beau, and Ella. We all wish we could have met you, and we're proud to be your grandchildren. We love you!

Me ke aloha,  
Pualena

Your journey may include postings for members of your Squad or Platoon or Company or Troop or Battalion or Regiment, etc. I invite you to join me on this life changing journey and post your own messages.

**Brothers Forever!**

**Phil Maniscalco** (Cell Phone #860-961-6450)

**D Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 11<sup>th</sup> Inf. Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 5<sup>th</sup> Inf. Division,  
Vietnam (Sept '68 – Sept '69)**



## WWII Soldier identified and buried 77 years after his death

RALEIGH, N.C. — On the morning of Sept. 8, 1944, Soldiers with the 5th Infantry Division were ordered to cross the Moselle River and take up a position...

[www.army.mil](http://www.army.mil)

RALEIGH, N.C. — On the morning of Sept. 8, 1944, Soldiers with the 5th Infantry Division were ordered to cross the Moselle River and take up a position in the woods.

After heavy losses, the men retreated across the river two days later, though some stayed behind to search for wounded or missing Soldiers before crossing again.

1st Lt. James E. Wright was one of the men who stayed behind. Having already taken a boat to the German-occupied side of the river and rescuing three wounded Soldiers, he went back across the river, in the vicinity of Dornot, France, and was never seen again.

His niece, Diane Merkt, who was one year old when Wright went missing, said the family never gave up hope that her uncle would return home.

"His mother always used to say that she knew she would be working out in the yard, the house is right over there, and she'd look up and see him walking up the drive from the Highway," Markt said. "She never stopped hoping that, and now he's going to be right here with her."

Markt was sitting in the Oakdale Cemetery in Lumber Bridge, North Carolina, on Oct. 12, 2021, 77 years after Wright went missing, and pointed across the neighboring field to where the family's home still stood.

Wright did come up the drive from the highway, only not walking as his mother had hoped. Instead, his remains were carried on a horse-drawn funeral caisson, casket draped in an American flag, with a procession of family, community members and North Carolina National Guard Soldiers and Airmen following behind.

In July, a few months before Wright's funeral, his family received the call that his remains had been positively identified.

To get the call after 77 years of knowing your family member was missing and of course pronounced dead; chills," said U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Sidney Brookman, a K-9 handler with the 20th Security Forces Squadron and Wright's great-grandniece. "My grandmother called me at about 9:30 at night and was saying 'the craziest thing just happened, you'll never guess, they identified your uncle Wright.'"

Brookman served as the escort for Wright's remains from the facility in Colorado where they were identified, all the way home, where he was buried.

"It's very rare that a relative actually escorts a family member home," Brookman said. "For me to be able to be chosen to do that, my great grandmother asked for me to be the escort; for her to put the trust in me is an honor."

Wright's family was not alone in waiting so long to have a family member returned home. According to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, more than 70,000 Americans remain unaccounted for from WWII.

Brookman said she hopes others who are still missing family members will see her great-granduncle's story and know that there is still hope their remains will return home.

Wright, who received a Silver Star, Bronze Star, and Purple Heart, was described by his family as a handsome man who was kind, wanted to help others and cared about his community.

Although he was transferred to the 5th Inf. Div. in 1942, his military service started in the neighboring town of Parkton, N.C., where he was a member of L Co., 120th Infantry Regiment, a unit that is part of the lineage of today's 1st Battalion, 120th Inf. Reg., 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT), North Carolina National Guard (NCNG).

Col. Wes Morrison, commander of the 30th ABCT, saw this as the N.C. Guard bringing home one of their own.

"When the army says leave no comrade behind, this is really what it means, because they never stop looking for the missing in action," Morrison said.

Before being identified, Wright was one of the many service members whose name was memorialized on the Walls of the Missing at the Lorraine American Cemetery in St. Avold, France.

A rosette will be placed next to his name on the wall, signifying that he is no longer missing.

Morrison has traveled to the American cemeteries in Europe many times as part of the 30th Infantry Division association, whose members are WWII and Iraq veterans who served in combat with the 30th.

"I've often wondered how those stories came to be and what was the final resolution when those Soldiers came home," Morrison said. "Now I will know the whole story behind that when I get to see Lt. Wright's name with a rosette next to it next time I'm in Europe."

Wright's sister, Elizabeth Wright Harper, who is now 100 years old, said she was not surprised by his remains coming home; it just took longer than expected.

When Merkt, Harper's daughter, told her mother the news, she began to cry.

"My mother is not a crier," Merkt said. "She told me, 'I'm not crying, you understand, these are tears of joy. He's finally, really coming home.'"

Wright received full honors at his funeral, performed by Soldiers with the NCNG's Military Funeral Honors, and has laid to rest amongst his family at the Oakdale Cemetery, in Lumber Bridge, N.C., almost in sight of his family home; a war hero returned.

**MATUSZAK: Sgt. Thaddeus**  
since Sept. 10, 1944, official  
dead Sept. 11, 1945, aged 32  
loved son of Hedwig Matuszak  
Mitchell st., brother of Viola  
Stella Filiplak, Roman, Ray  
Joseph Matuszak; also survive  
ters-in-law, 2 brothers-in-law,  
and 3 nephews. Memorial mass  
10, at St. Vincent's church,  
Mitchell st., at 9 a. m.

Soldier Accounted For From World War II (Matuszak, T.)

WASHINGTON –

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that U.S. Army Sgt. Thaddeus S. Matuszak, 31, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, killed during World War II, was accounted for Sept. 7, 2022.

In September 1944, Matuszak was assigned to Company K, 11th Infantry Regiment, 5th Infantry Division. They were part of Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's Third Army and had been fighting across France that summer before being stopped by fierce German opposition at the Moselle River near Dornot. On the morning of Sept. 8, Matuszak's unit was part of a larger force ordered to cross the river and take up a position in the woods on the east side. They dug their defensive positions in a curved line at the edge of the forest they called Horseshoe Woods. The force held their position against a relentless German attack, taking heavy losses, until Sept. 10, when another crossing of the Moselle was made. Only then were they allowed to retreat. That night and into the morning of Sept. 11 most of the Soldiers were able to retreat across the river, though some officers stayed behind to search the woods for the wounded or missing before recrossing the river. Matuszak was among the Soldiers reported missing that night. His body was unable to be recovered because of the fighting and German presence on east side of the river.



The American Graves Registration Command (AGRC) was charged with recovering the remains of fallen service members in the European Theater following the war. Although some unknown remains were found in and around Horseshoe Woods, none were associated with Matuszak. AGRC continued operations along the banks of the Moselle until 1951. At that point, Matuszak was declared non-recoverable.

DPAA historians and archaeologists are conducting ongoing, comprehensive research on Soldiers missing from combat at Horseshoe Woods. During this research, one Unknown, X-75 Limey, was a candidate to match Matuszak. After extensive research and record comparison by DPAA historians and analysts, X-75 was disinterred in September 2018 and sent to the DPAA Laboratory at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, for analysis.

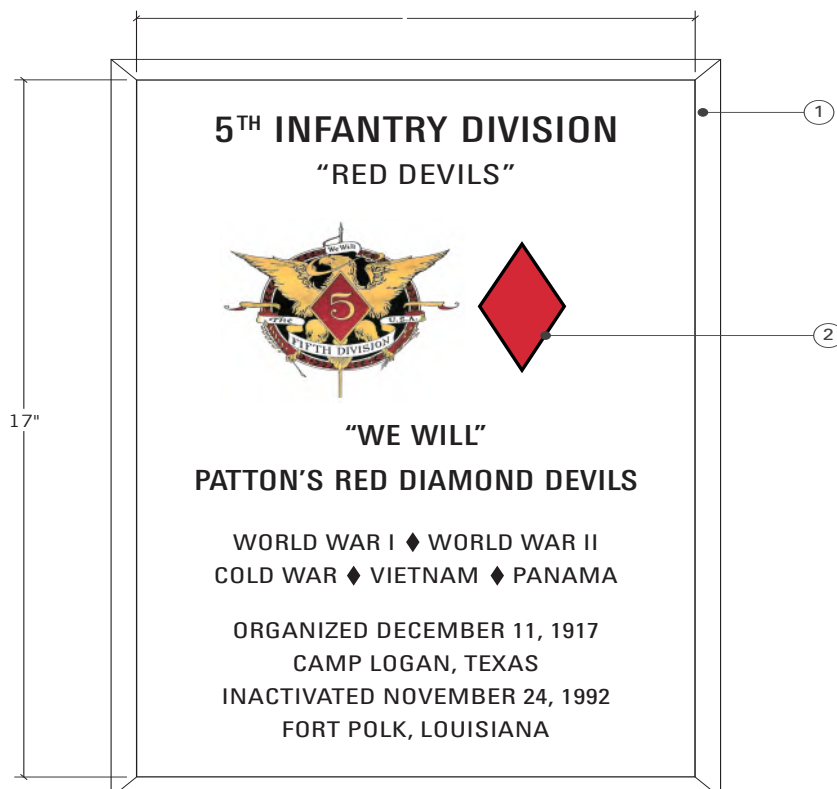
To identify Matuszak's remains, scientists from DPAA used dental and anthropological analysis, as well as circumstantial evidence. Additionally, scientists from the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) analysis.

Matuszak's name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at the Lorraine American Cemetery, an American Battle Monuments Commission site in St. Avold, France, along with others still missing from WWII. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

Matuszak will be buried in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on a date yet to be determined.

For family and funeral information, contact the Army Casualty Office at (800) 892-2490.

**Army Historical Foundation Logo Leah Beckett**  
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**Campaign for the National Museum of the United States Army**  
**Office: 571-384-3016**  
**[www.armyhistory.org](http://www.armyhistory.org)**







The Pearl District — once home to Pearl Brewery, one of the largest breweries in Texas — is now a thriving entertainment district with plenty of enticing dining options. **NICK SIMONITE/TNS**

## Spirited San Antonio named one of essent

By Patti Nickell  
Tribune News Service

San Antonio may be America's most vibrant city. It's a city where cultures collide and the best of each is absorbed into its fabric. It's a city of mariachis and margaritas, fiestas and fajitas, beer and brisket. A city with a history that few other American cities can equal.

If there's any doubt about the latter, catch "The Saga," a 25-minute journey through San Antonio's epic 304-year history projected in multimedia images on the facade of San Fernando Cathedral. From the early Spanish settlers to the defenders of the Alamo to the cattle barons, they are all there. If some cityscapes resemble a black-and-white movie, San Antonio's is in full blown Technicolor.

For all these reasons, Conde Nast Traveler magazine named San Antonio one of the 23 places Americans should visit in 2023.

It didn't have to convince me. I visit often, my most recent trip being in October over the weekend of both Halloween and Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead). And, as if things weren't lively enough, it was also the weekend of the inaugural Tasting Texas Wine & Food Festival.

Is there such a thing as too much celebration? In San Antonio, the answer is no. Throughout the year, locals and visitors alike eat, drink and dance at events such as the Bud Light St. Patrick's Day River Parade (March), Fiesta San Antonio (April), Texas Folklife Festival (resuming in fall 2024) and now the Tasting Texas Festival (October).

The rest of the year, you'll just have to make merry on your own at the iconic multi-level Riverwalk, or in the burgeoning Pearl District.

The Riverwalk needs no introduction. It's a destination in its own right — along the same vein as the Las Vegas Strip, New Orleans French



"Saga" is a multimedia show depicting the history of Texas on the facade of San Fernando Cathedral. **SAN ANTONIO VISITORS BUREAU**

Quarter or Miami South Beach. Plus, it has the added advantage of being just a short walk from the city's most revered attraction, the Alamo.

Unless you've been to San Antonio in the past few years, you might not be as familiar with the Pearl District. And even if you have, you'll be surprised at the constant evolution of this area at the "quiet" end of the San Antonio River.

At one time, this was the site of the historic Pearl Brewery, one of the largest breweries in the state. The brewery made one of Texas' favorite libations, Pearl Beer, from 1883 until it closed in 2001. Today, The Pearl is a vibrant entertainment district, with an award-winning hotel (Hotel Emma), specialty shops, a soon-to-open concert venue, bars, restaurants and the third campus of the Culinary Institute of America.

The Pearl has quickly become one of San Antonio's

culinary hotspots with not only the CIA and an expansive farmers market, but with two nationally recognized restaurants: Supper in Hotel Emma and Cured, occupying what was once the brewery's administrative office (you can still see the vault where the money was kept).

They have been joined by an impressive trio of newcomers, each promising a dining experience not to be forgotten.

Brasserie Mon Chou Chou looks as if it had been magically transported straight from Montmartre. Try to snag an outdoor table and sip an aperitif while deciding which of the bistro's comfort food dishes to order: gratinee Lyonnaise (Lyon-style onion soup with Emmental cheese and cognac), croque monsieur, or confit de canard au poivre vert, puree de pomme de terre (crisp duck confit in a green peppercorn sauce and country potatoes).

Next, it's off to the

## ial US destinations in 2023



A woman in costume celebrates Day of the Dead in the Spiritlandia River Parade in San Antonio. **JANIS TURK/TNS**

Mediterranean at Ladino. The inventive menu is a mix of Castellano, French, Italian, Greek, Turkish and Hebrew influences. Chef Berty Richter's intent is to showcase the Jewish-Balkan cuisine he grew up with, having a Turkish mother and roots in Italy, Greece and Bulgaria. San Antonio has never seen a restaurant like this. If you're adventurous, select the curated dining experience, Mezas De Alegria (Tables of Joy), and expect to be joyful.

Should you want to stick closer to home, opt for Carriqui. Its name comes from the colorful green bird whose flight path across South Texas is also the inspiration for the menu. The restaurant features dishes such as a tuna tostado with jicama, cucumber, citrus habanero marinade and aioli; BBQ cabrito served in a banana leaf with Texas pecan mole; and the staple of South Texas cuisine, beer-braised barbacoa, a slow-cooked meat, with salsa verde.

There's a reason the city formed an organization known as Culinaria, "committed to food, wine, spirits and fine tastes," with a variety of events held throughout the year.

San Antonio is one of only two U.S. cities, joining Tucson, Arizona, as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy,

which means it's less about the number of restaurants than the city's culinary heritage and how it will sustain it for future generations.

Still, the restaurants can't be underestimated. In 2022, this culinary powerhouse boasted seven James Beard Award semifinalists.

If you want to experience the wines and food of the Lone Star State at the 2023 Tasting Texas Festival in Travis Park, make your headquarters at the historic St. Anthony Hotel, across the street from the park.

This AAA Four Diamond property — the first luxury hotel in the city — is on the National Register of Historic Places, having hosted a variety of guests, including Lyndon Johnson, who spent his honeymoon there. The St. Anthony has an elegant restaurant, Rebelle, complete with antique wooden staircase, chandeliers, an Italian marble bar and more than one ghost. Just ask the staff and they will happily fill you in on all the ghosts in residence — the Lady in Red, the guest in Room 536 and the ghost of the Men's Locker Room, among others.

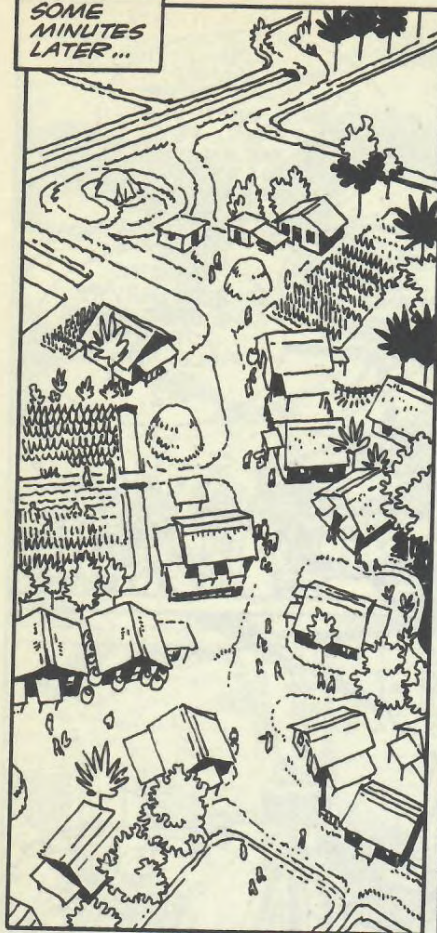
It's no wonder no one ever wants to leave this historic hotel — or this historic city, where there always seems to be a celebration going on.







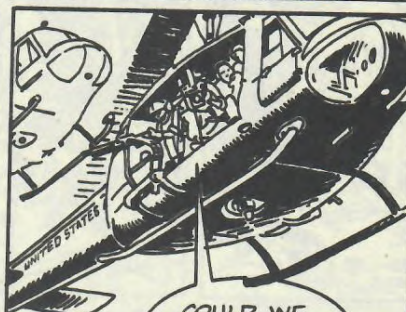
SOME  
MINUTES  
LATER...



... OVER A PEACEFUL  
LOOKING VILLAGE--



THERE IT IS, MR. LAWRENCE.  
WE'LL BE DOWN IN A  
FEW SECONDS.



COULD WE  
GO AROUND  
AGAIN, FIRST  
SERGEANT?

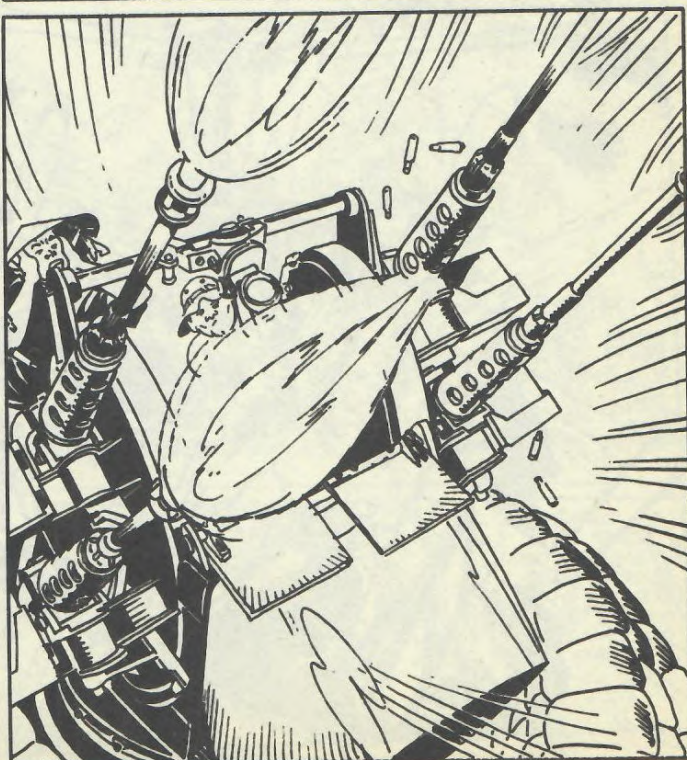
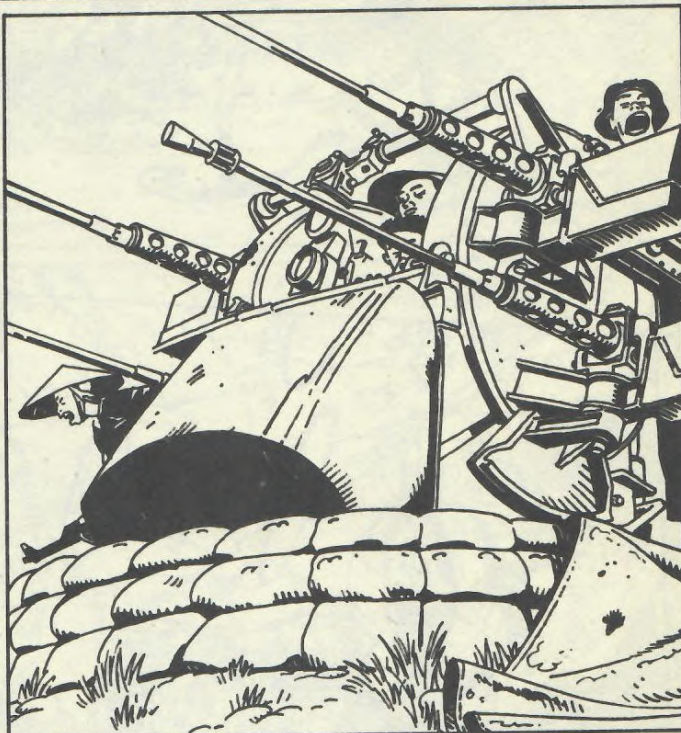
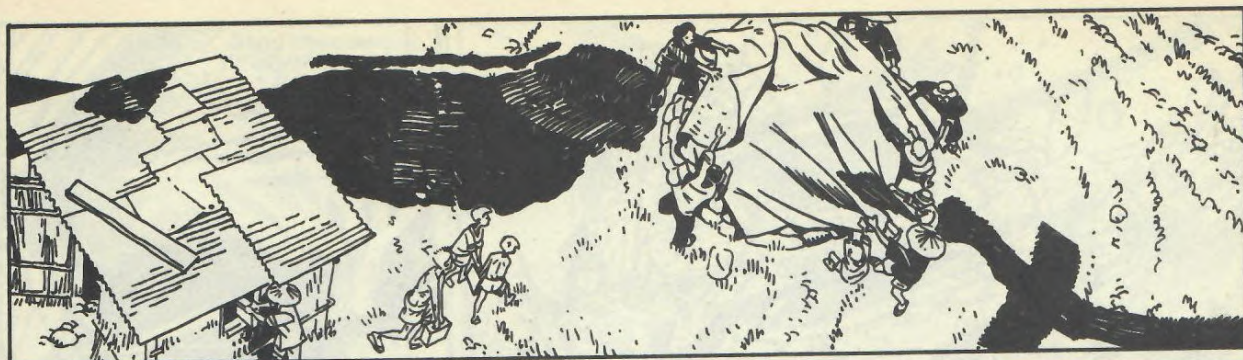
I'D REALLY  
APPRECIATE IT  
IF WE COULD  
COME IN WITH  
THE LIGHT  
BEHIND US. IT  
WOULD MAKE  
THE FILM  
MUCH BETTER.



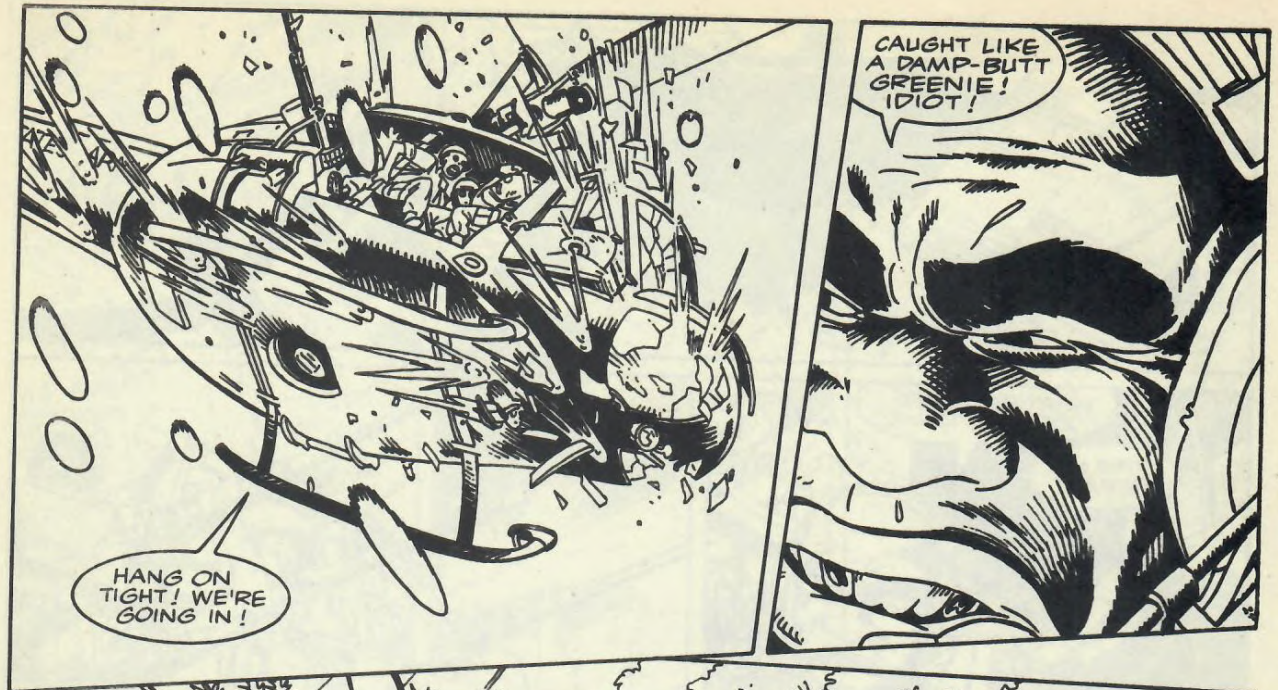
MR. KENDALL, PLEASE ROLL US  
AROUND AND MAKE THE LAND-  
ING APPROACH FROM THE  
OTHER SIDE.



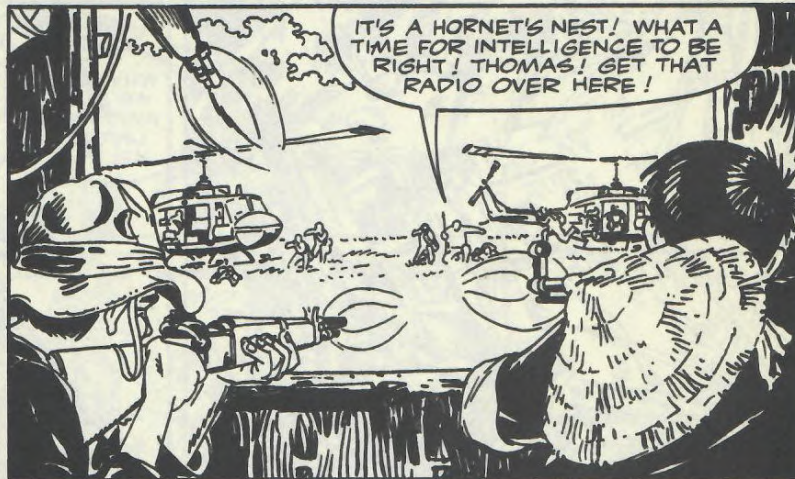
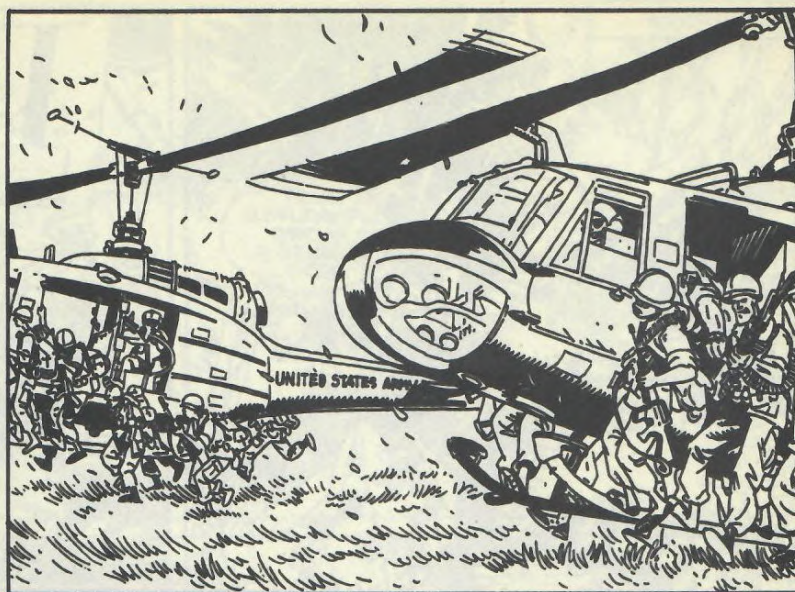






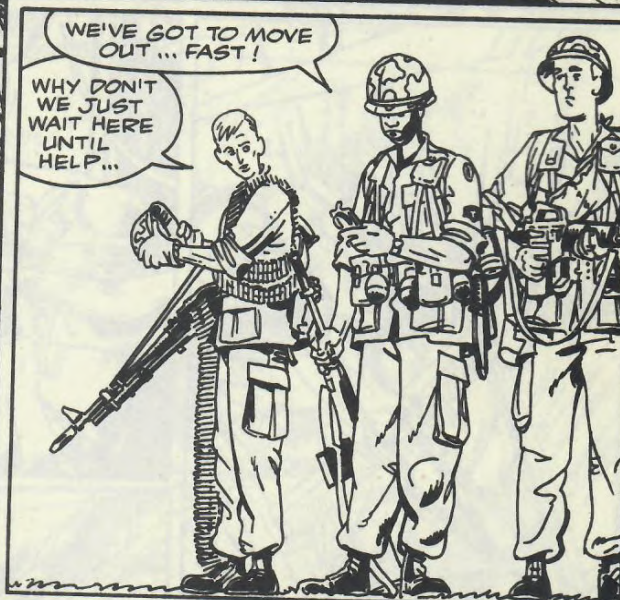
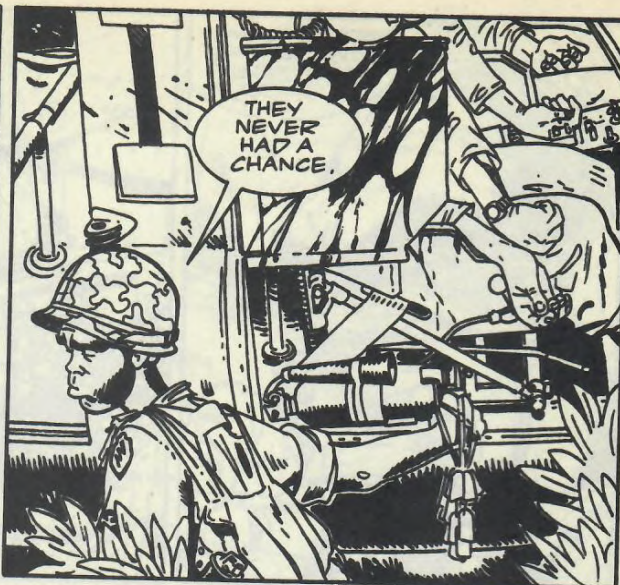








MEANWHILE...



YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. RIGHT ABOUT NOW, TOP'S CALLING SOME FAST MOVERS TO DROP NAPALM ON THAT VILLAGE, AND WE'RE TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT.



BESIDES, THE VC ARE GOING TO DI DI MAU OUT OF THAT VILLAGE, AND WE DON'T WANT TO BE IN THEIR WAY WHEN THEY DO.



WE'LL GET SOME DISTANCE, THEN MOVE NORTH AND WEST. WE'LL CROSS ONE OF OUR PATROLS SOON ENOUGH.

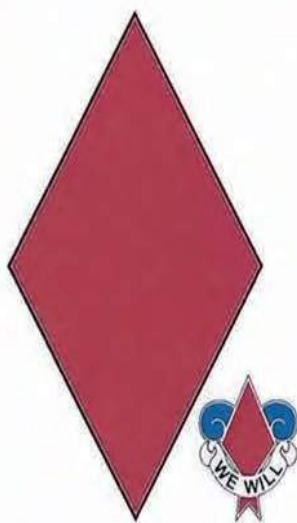




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