

'Thundering Herd'

Newsletter of the 8th Armored Division Association



Ardennes, Rhineland, Central Europe

Summer –2014 - Vol. II No. 3

Dear Veterans of the 8th Armored Division, Members of the Association,
Descendants, Family and Friends,

Happy Summer & Holiday!

Welcome to the 'Summer 2014' edition of the Association Newsletter – 'The Thundering Herd'. We hope to continue to use this newsletter as a means to communicate with the membership, share information, tell the stories of the veterans, and preserve the memory of this gallant fighting unit.

A number of original veterans, descendants and those committed to commemorating the service of the veterans of the 8th Armored Division are maintaining the Association and are planning events, ceremonies and dissemination of articles on the history of the Division. May sincere thanks to them!

We invite all living veterans of the 8th Armored Division to join the Association as honorary members, no dues required, although donations are welcomed. We are also seeking members who share our mission and goals. Please take a look at the outstanding Division web site created and maintained by Okey Taylor, C-58th AIB. There you can obtain membership applications to fill out and mail to the Association address:

<http://www.8th-armored.org/>

8th Armored Division Association
2345 E. Dauphin St
Philadelphia, PA 19125

Use the E-Mail address: 8thArmoredDivision@gmail.com

To communicate further, we also feature a 'Facebook' account and ask all interested to enroll in order to stay in contact and share comments and information:

New Association 'Facebook' page

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/269231523148647/>

Our future plans include:

- * a possible WWII Reunion Tour in Europe
- * a Memorial marker at Arlington National Cemetery
- * 8th Armored Division themed merchandise

We are in need of volunteers to assist with the following:

- * **Reunions** - a volunteer committee to work on the details of a potential annual reunion/Association meeting where yearly business and elections and planning can be conducted.

Association Officers for 2014:

President Emeritus (Honorary)

Okey Taylor (58-C)

oet58c@8th-armored.org

President – Andy Waskie, Jr.

8thArmoredDivision@gmail.com

Vice President – Gloria Zuccarella Layne

laynes@peoplepc.com

Treasurer – Carol Neumann

carol.neumann@tuhs.temple.edu

Chaplain – Norm Olson HQ-49th AIB & Dr. James Christiansen

norm.olson1922@comcast.net

Membership Chair – Joseph

Nesdill

nesdillj@ct.metrocast.net

Association Web masters – Okey Taylor (58-C) & Scott Thorpe

oet58c@8th-armored.org

scott@scottthorpeflyfishing.com

Newsletter Committee Chair – Rick Miller & Sally Shapiro

r-jmiller1@juno.com

sally.shapiro@email.rcn

Present Merchandise

We still have 8th Armored Division caps:

Gratis to 8th Armored Division veterans

\$15 to all others (includes postage & handling)

8th Armored Division Challenge Coins

\$5 per piece

8th Armored Division shoulder patches

\$10 a piece

8th Armored Division License plates

\$15 apiece (includes postage & handling)

8th Armored Division Decals

\$2 a piece





Soon, we hope to have a beautiful 8th Armored Division wind-breaker jacket; polo shirts. If you have any ideas for memorabilia, please let me know.

Please continue to send in your **membership dues for 2014!**

8th Armored Division veterans are GRATIS!

Individual membership - \$20 per annum
Family membership - \$35 per annum

Your dues support the work of the Association and are the life blood of the organization!

Join our 8th Armored Division Association 'facebook' page! It is an excellent way of staying in touch with other veterans, members and families.

Association 'Facebook' page. Please consider joining for updates and information!

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/269231523148647/>

Association web page: <http://www.8th-armored.org/>

Survey for 2015 & Beyond:

- 1. Would you like to see future Reunions of the Associations?**
- 2. If so, would you attend?**

- 3. Where and when would you like to hold a future Reunion?**

Please e-mail answers to our e-mail:

8thArmoredDivision@gmail.com

OR post on our Association 'facebook' page

4. What other kinds of memorabilia would you like to see?

Please read the excellent article written by Philadelphia Inquirer reporter, Ed Colimore on Philadelphia area veterans of the Normandy Invasion on the 70th anniversary of 6 June, 1944.

By Edward Colimore

INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

June 6, 2014

In the back of a C-47 transport plane, heavily-armed paratroopers steeled themselves for battle. Some blackened their faces, others puffed cigarettes — and all carried machine guns, carbines, ammunition and hand grenades.

“I was excited, nervous and scared as hell,” said Joe Beyer, the plane’s radio operator, recalling that early morning flight across the English Channel to Nazi-occupied France.

Below him, at the helm of U.S. Navy LST 359, sailor Peter Rossetti headed for the Normandy beaches with 180 Canadian soldiers, six small landing crafts, two tanks and more than a dozen jeeps.

“We knew this was the big invasion and we had to be successful,” said Rossetti, who soon watched, through binoculars, American troops being mowed down by enemy fire on nearby Omaha Beach.

Army Medic Bernie Friedenbergr was there, witnessing unimaginable carnage: comrades with horrible gaping wounds, some with arms and legs blown off, and bodies buffeted by waves dyed red with blood. “It was a massacre and I was right in the middle of it,” he said.

Seven decades ago today Fri/June6, Beyer, 93, of Lower Gwynyd, Montgomery County; Rossetti, 91, of Southampton, Bucks County, and Friedenbergr, 92, of Margate City, were part of a “great crusade,” as Supreme Allied Commander, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower put it.

The general told them and fellow service members<NO1>, in a message before they left,<NO> that “the eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty loving people everywhere march with you.”

Looking back on that fateful day, the local veterans now wonder how they ever survived the ordeal, how they made it home in one piece to raise families and live into their 90s.

“The Lord has been good to me,” said Beyer. “I sometimes wonder whether there will be anything left for me in the hereafter — if I’ve gotten everything here.”

History would look on June 6, 1944 as a turning point in World War II, the beginning of the end for Adolph Hitler’s Third Reich.

Beyer’s transport — part of the 441st Troop Carrier Group, 99th Squadron — left England about midnight with 18 grim-faced paratroopers, members of the 101st Airborne, the “Screaming Eagles.” They jumped 800 hundred feet over France’s Cherbourg peninsula, quickly exiting a plane that was flying 180 miles an hour.

“My thought was, ‘Better you than me,’” Beyer said. “But everybody had their job to do and 99.9 percent of them did it.

“We lost one plane from our group (to enemy fire) but the crew was picked up by the French Underground and later returned to the squadron,” he said. “We had some bullet holes in our ship but they were easily patched.”

Below was a massive armada of more than 4,000 ships heading to Normandy. “You couldn’t help but be awed,” said Beyer.

In a flat-bottomed LST (Landing Ship, Tank) (sailors referred to them as “Large Stationary Targets”), Rossetti and others bounced around in the choppy channel waters, taking troops and equipment to the part of the Normandy beaches designated “Gold.”

“When daylight came, we were all tense; I never prayed so much in all my life,” he said. “We knew we could be wiped out.”

At Gold Beach, “there was almost no resistance in the beginning,” he said. “I steered the ship right up on the beach. Then, all hell broke loose.”

On the adjacent Omaha Beach, “we were taking a shellacking,” Rossetti said. “I could see (American troops) shot down and drowning in the water with their heavy backpacks.

“They didn’t have a chance and we were ordered to standby in case we had to rescue them,” he said. “It would have been like Dunkirk,” France, where British, French and Belgian troops were cut off by German forces, then evacuated.

On the beach, Friedenber was “under heavy fire,” he said. “I saw a lot of dead bodies and wounded men and went right to work, patching up guys, going one to another.

“There were an awful lot of casualties,” he said. “I was too busy to be scared.”

Bullets whizzed through the air, kicked up the sand and pinged against metal obstacles as the wounded cried out for help.

“It was a pretty rough situation,” Friedenberg said. “People don’t know how close we came to being pushed off the beach.”

The Germans “were on the high ground looking over the landing area,” he said. “It was as bad as it could get.”

Half of his platoon were killed or wounded in the first 20 minutes.

The beach “was covered with blood,” said Arthur Seltzer, 90, a former Army communications specialist who lives in Cherry Hill. “Bodies were all around ...

“We had a bitch of a time on that beach,” he said. “There were 36 on my landing craft and only two of us survived.”

“You couldn’t dig a fox hole in wet sand,” Seltzer said. “You could only hide behind a soldier who was dead.”

A destroyer, the USS Frankford, sailed dangerously close to the beach and sent shells crashing into enemy gun positions.

Eventually, the German fire was silenced and pinned-down American forces began moving off the beaches.

Beyer went on to fly glider-tow missions into France and was later wounded in the head by flak on Sept. 20, 1944 during Operation Market-Garden, the largest airborne operation up to that time.

After the war, he married, had three daughters and a son, and worked as a mechanical engineer until retiring in 2000. At age 84, Beyer of the Spring House Estates retirement community realized a long-held dream of flying his own aircraft; he became a licensed glider pilot.

Rossetti was seriously injured the month after the invasion when his ship hit an acoustic mine. He later recuperated at the Philadelphia Naval Hospital, married, had four daughters and a son, and worked as a employee benefits consultant, retiring in 2006 and living in the Southampton Estates retirement community.

Friedenberg “came through (D-Day) without a scratch and that was nothing short of miraculous,” he said. “I was lucky, lucky indeed.

“I didn’t expect to live this long,” said the Margate man, who was wounded in the head and back by shrapnel in separate post-D-Day fighting. “I didn’t know if I’d get through the war.”

At home, Friedenbergr married, had two sons and a daughter, and owned a tavern, hotel, motel and Boardwalk video game businesses. He also has spoken to high school classes about the war and wrote a book about his experiences.

Seltzer, an Olney High School graduate, returned to the his parents' Olney home in January 1946, later graduating from Temple University.

He married, had two daughters and a son, and retired as an executive vice president of a Philadelphia electronic component parts distributor<NO1> that now sells computers, TVs, washers and dryers<NO>.

Four years ago, Seltzer returned to England and was taking the ferry to France for a tour of the beach where he landed.

"The guide told us to stay in our seats so our passports could be stamped," said the Cherry Hill man. "I told him, 'Nobody stamped my passport the last time I was here.'"

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[856-779-3833](tel:856-779-3833)

A belated story on Memorial Day

The Meaning of Memorial Day

Memorial Day is the informal start of summer for most Americans. Across the nation, stores, restaurants, hotels and tourist attractions will transition from winter staffing and scheduling to the hustle and bustle of summer. This is a good thing for a nation built on free enterprise. It is important however to remember – literally to remember – what Memorial Day is really about. America has two great holidays dedicated to those who have served our country in its times of greatest need. We remember our honored dead on Memorial Day and our living Veterans on Veterans Day. How will you honor them?

Memorial Day is the day set aside to pay tribute and to remember the sacrifice, and perhaps more importantly, the service of those who have died in the defense of the United States. These men and women answered the call of their country when war threatened. They gave up their personal freedom and their lives that we might have our freedom and our lives. General George S. Patton, Jr., reportedly once said "[i]t is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather we should thank God that such men lived. " Memorial Day therefore is a solemn, but not necessarily somber day to remember those men and women who served our country at battlefields from the Lexington Green in 1775 to the mountains and valleys of Afghanistan in 2014, and who, ultimately, gave their lives in defense of freedom.

Paying tribute to the honored dead is important. But, as Abraham Lincoln said 151 years ago at Gettysburg, “[i]t is rather for us here dedicated to the great task remaining before us, that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion.”

This Memorial Day, Veterans Groups and government leaders will gather at a number of local sites to renew that promise and that dedication and to honor these fallen heroes.

Please take a few precious moments from the barbecues, baseball and beach trips to join in a Memorial Day ceremony.

If you cannot participate in a ceremony or service, we would still recommend that you take a few moments over the long weekend to pause and remember the sacrifices of those who have gone before us. The word “Memorare” is the Latin word from which we derive Memorial. It is a command to “Remember!” those who have insured us all the freedoms we cherish.



8th Armored Division

Bits & Pieces of the History of the 8th Armored Division – from assorted authors. Thanks to you all!

January 25, 1945 Attack on Sinz

[Chuck Garrett](#)

6:12am Jan 25

69 years ago tonight (January 25, 1954) Attack on Sinz 94th infantry Took the town got knocked out of it three times task force Goodrich attacked 18th tank and 7th AIB led the attack dad was a road guard with 18th Tank Battalion he saw 7th armored infantry Btltn A company go forward first troops had camouflage white camouflage next group had white helmets heavy weapons company was last group and all Olive drab laughing and joking as they passed walked into hell 8 AM A company 18th tank was committed exhausted all their ammunition B company about 9 AM C company about 10 A.m. Then they waited for dark and Sent tank retrievers to get back what they could he said he was firing from his Jeep to let them know where the Germans were just beyond the forward CP

Chuck Garrett

4:04am Jan 22

69 years ago the Germans held a Schloos (castle) CCA 18th Tank Btln Assault gun Platoon was held up by it. It had a moat around it. My dad told my older brother he was one of 36 that attacked it. All he would say is it was warm in there and they found Champagne in the basement

69 years ago to night 18th Tank HQ Co Mortar Platoon Lt Garebrant had Half-Track set up in assigned area engineer had stacked German mines there it snowed & they backed over them. Many KIA

February 2, 1945

Chuck Garrett

6:54pm Feb 2

69 years ago my Dad arrived Buckholtsz spelling incorrect Holland they stayed w/the civilians and were treated as family. My dad stayed w/the Gebhardt's he said they had nothing for food they helped as they could the Grandma wanted to make them a cake so the GI's gave her D Bars for it. My father and the guys were told to move up before it was done 2am each man took 1 GI spoonful so to leave some. He said he never forgot how she kissed each one of them and cried when they left. he never forgot them. 42 years later by chance Dad was fishing w/me & 2 of his grandsons we met a foreign speaking man who said he was from Holland my dad told of being in Bucholtz he cried shook dad's hand & hugged him. He was her grandson. I never saw my dad weep so hard yet so happy.

Jelle Thys
jelthy13@skynet.be

Hello

My name is Jelle Thys, I'm a 19 year old WW2 enthusiast and collector from Belgium. My main interest is with the 83rd Infantry Division and I am also involved with the 83rd Infantry Division Association and have been to the past three Reunions.

Recently I bought the Ike Jacket of T/5 Clarence L. Zerbe who was with Service Battery, 324th Field Artillery Battalion, 83rd Infantry Division. After the war, he was transferred to the 8th Armored Division together with many other veterans of the 83rd.

Now I want to find out more about this veteran and am still trying to find his unit with the 8th Armored. I have been looking through your website but have not found anything. Do you know to what unit of the 8th Armored these veterans of the 83rd were transferred to? Or were they all transferred to different units making it impossible to easily know where he might have ended up?

I hope you can help me answering some of my questions and am looking forward hearing back from you.

Please take a look at my website where you can find more stories about members of the 83rd Infantry Division.

Sincerely

Jelle Thys

www.normandytothebulge.be

Hi Jelle,

I am the retired 8th Armored Division webmaster and I am afraid there is not much that we can tell you about T/5 Clarence Zerbe. At the end of WWII, many men were reassigned to different outfits depending on the number of points that they had earned during their Army service.

The 8th Armored Division was scheduled to return to the United States in the early Fall of 1945 so men with lower points were transferred out and high point men scheduled for discharge or reassignment to the South Pacific were transferred into the Division. T/5 Zerbe was apparently one of the men to be returned to the United States.

I was one of the men transferred out of the 8th Armored and I was sent to Co. 'C', 330th Infantry Regiment of the 83rd Infantry Division. In compiling our website, we had trouble finding all the rosters of the men who served with the 8th Armored and we were never able to find any records of men transferred into the Division at the end of WWII.

I am sorry that I could not be of more help to you.

Okey Taylor, 58-C

Unfortunately, my GRANDfather passed away in 1980 or 1981 of cancer. He took to his grave the details of what he experienced overseas, too, though it completely changed him from a happy-go-lucky guy to a dark and angry man. I never knew the man he was before the war, of course...but worse, neither did his children (my mother and her two brothers). I think that wanting to learn more about the history and experiences of the 8th Armored is one of the major reasons that I've been looking to connect.

I read through the history online, and it was telling...my mother, his firstborn, was born on April 11, 1945. Two days later, not even knowing he had a infant daughter, my grandfather and everyone else in his unit was liberating a concentration camp that was immediately classified. I can only imagine what it would have done to him to witness such horrors of inhumanity and to not only be able to talk about it but to not even admit it had existed. *sigh*

Oh, I did want to mention that my grandfather is listed on the official website; I can't remember the details of his unit/battalion but I do remember that he was PFC at discharge. His full name was George Northcott Thomas and he was in Recon but beyond that I'd have to go back to the site to get the details. I can't remember either if the site lists him as deceased, though it should. His widow, my grandmother, is also gone; she passed away due to complications from surgery in 2008 (she was 86). All three of their children are still alive, though, and both I and my cousin

Anne Carpenter (Thomas) Phillips are going to join the Association. Thank you so much.

Maire Johnson
maireniamh@yahoo.ca

David J Clare

7:55pm Feb 17

69 yrs ago Dad's Battalion took up positions in/around Linne, Holland. They (58th A.I.B.) were to relieve the British 7th Armored Division "Desert Rats" who were dug in nicely for 'bout a month. Up till now Dad's C Co. only had small engagements w/ the Germans. They were to be part of Operation Grenade to cross The Roer River & clean up the Ruhr pocket for the eventual crossin ' of the Rhine

2/23/14

David J Clare

6:07pm Feb 23

69 years ago The 8th Armored Division & the entire Ninth Army Group would take place in Operation Grenade. Their objective to clear the area between The Roer & Rhine Rivers. For my Dad & his buddies in C Co 58th Armored Battalion they would lose many friends in the coming days.....

[Operation Grenade - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia](http://en.wikipedia.org)
en.wikipedia.org

During World War II, Operation Grenade was the crossing of the Roer (Rur) river between Roermond and...

2/26/14

Today I Remember my Friend PFC Leonard Justofin who 69 yrs ago was shot in the head near The Graven Farm. I am so grateful to have met Leonard & his family. My trips to Sugarloaf, Pa where a joy & inspiration to research my Dads service. My friendships I have developed in Holland I can thank Leonard for. Including Michel Graven whose father befriended Leonard & the guys of C Co for those difficult days in Feb. 1945. R.I.P. my friend your service & sacrifice will never be Forgotten.

Ava Fromkin

8:05pm Feb 27

Remembering Cpl. Russell Fretz and PFC. Wyman French who were also KIA Feb 25-27, 1945; @ Linne, Holland. Marshall Berkson was together with Fretz and French in the ASTP Program in Naperville, Ill., @ North Central College. Fretz and French became very good friends with each other because of the alphabetical listing of their last names. They were great, clean-cut guys like the kind of may you would want your sister to marry. I would highly

recommend Dr. Raymond Ross' book: WHEN YOUR NUMBERS UP; MERITOCRACY GOES TO WAR. This brings back to me, so many memories. Thank you to all who remember and send respectful wishes to my fellow vets. Ava Fromkin for Marshall Berkson

2/27/14

We Remember PFC Wyman J French of C Co. KIA near the factory @ Merum outside Linne, Holland PFC French was a 19 yr old machine gunner(.50cal) in S/Sgt Burns squad. He was killed when Sgt Burns called him forward to set up & put down covering fire for rest of company pinned down.

We Remember CPL Russell G Fretz Jr of C Co.KIA near the factory @ Merum outside Linne,Holland.CPL Fretz was the other gunner on .50cal w/PFC French.When S/Sgt Burns called them up for covering fire....PFC French was killed as they set up.Seeing his buddy killed Russell picked up machine gun & charged the enemy position.

We Remember 2Lt Boggs C Hall of C Co.KIA outside of Linne, Holland.Lt Hall was Warrant Officer who did not have to be near the front. He was killed when he was hit in the throat by shrapnel from artillery round. He was standing right next to PFC Marshall Berkson when hit & even though medics were right there....they could not save him

Raymond Ross, S/Sgt., Co. B, 58th AIB, 8th Armored.

Winter 1945 will never be forgotten by those of us who fought and survived. Read about it in my memoir, a true story written by me, a soldier who was there.

Copies are available at discount prices for the 8th Armored supporters with part of the price going to the Association. Hard copies are \$10 plus \$5 shipping (\$15); soft copies are \$5 plus \$5 shipping (\$10). Send your check to Raymond Ross and your copy will be in the mail immediately.

Raymond Ross 9740 E. Avondale Lane Traverse City, MI 49684

[231 922 0235](tel:2319220235) e-mail: rickyross@prodigy.net

David Clare

March 5, 2014

Today We Remember The more then 34 Men killed & 160 wounded from the 36th Tank Battalion in Action at Rheinberg, Germany.From Co.A-Capt.Kemble Tucker,PFC Neil Cole,Sgt Ernest F Fichtl Jr,PFC Sam R Jones,T/4Simon L Legg,PFC Myles T Marriot,T/5 Robert A Sullivan,T/5 Edward J Szczepanek,PFC Edward H Witkowski.From Co.B-1 Lt Herbert L Erickson,2 Lt Victor M Zuck,CPL Alan Beachler,Sgt Herbert S Bulkley,T/4 Robert B Condra,PVT John B Connor,CPL William C Koscak,CPL Norbert S Mack,CPL Owen J

McNamara,CPL John C Patoka,PFC Ralh E Price,Sgt Donald G Severine,PVT Junior L Sherman,T/4 Charles R West,T/5 Stewart F Wheeler,From Co.D-1 Lt Frank P Rich,1 Lt Kenneth R Robinson,T/4 Carson M Barbour,PFC Clarence H Leach,PFC Charles Miller,PVT Ivan E Murchison,PVT Harod H Otto,PVT Thomas E Stubblefield,PFC Robert J Scheibel,PVT Charles H Stype,T/5 John T Thorpe,T/4 Sampson C Willoughby. There was 1 Distinguished Service Cross,5 Silver Stars, untold number of Purple Hearts awarded that Day. God Bless you Soldiers your Sacrifice Will Never Be Forgotten!

David Clare

March 6, 1945

Sgt Alex Beregi Jr(Co.A)

Cpl William Fenton Jr(Co.A),

Pfc Adelard L LeCoste(Co.A),

Pfc John J Siciliano(Co.D),

T/5 Fred W Wilson(Svc Co.) all from 36th Tank Battalion .KIA in/around Rheinberg,Germany

Today We Remember S/Sgt Warren E Beard(Co.A),

Pfc John J Friesema(Co.A),

Sgt David M Hanzel(CoA),

S/Sgt Bert C Hayes(Co.A),

Pvt Francis J Kirby Jr(Co.A),

Pfc Calvin A Rempel(CO.A),

Pfc James H Reyerson(Co.A),

S/Sgt Walter D Steinmetzer(Co.A),

Pvt William M Thopson(Co.A),

Capt.Clarence E Smith(Co.B),

Pfc Willard R Evans(Co.B),

Pfc Robert E Hayes(Co.B),

Pvt James H Johnson(Co.B),

Pvt John G Koch(Co.B),

Pvt William J Nixon(Co.B),

S/Sgt Edwin W Ridely(Co.B),

Pvt Frederick E Schraff(Co.B),

Pvt Kirby Trahan(Co.B),

Pvt Charles E Ulmer III(Co.B) all KIA from 49th Armored Infantry Battalion in action near Rheinberg.Germany.

March 27, 2014

[Miriam Leighton Mettler posted in 8th Armored Division Association](#)

Miriam Leighton Mettler

Several years back I had the pleasure of communicating with **Herman Siegel**. He had been with the 88th cavalry reconnaissance squadron mechanized (8th Armored Thundering Herd) during the Battle of the Bulge. He served in Troop C. I have lost communication with him (my fault) and would appreciate knowing his status. In their "journal" it states he was from Philadelphia, but things can change in 70 years! My father had served with him (my Dad passed several years ago), but Mr. Siegel was a kind and articulate soldier who took time to write to me and I am so grateful. An update would be so nice. You folks are awesome.

Pam Stone pamstone@cfl.rr.com
April 16, 2014

I am writing to let you know that your webpage (which is wonderful) is missing the name of one member of the 8th Armored Division. My husband's father, George Gilbert "Gib" Ross, served in the 399th Armored Field Artillery Battalion, Combat Command B, of the 8th Armored Division.

He enlisted 4 Nov 1942 at Rapid City, South Dakota (aged 32.) (He was already attending college at the time at the South Dakota School of Mines, majoring in Civil Engineering.)

Enlisted as a Private, attended Basic at Camp Polk, Louisiana, then attended ASTP school in Surveying & continued in engineering studies until shortly before leaving the USA aboard ship 4 Nov 1944.

George G. Ross' grade at that time was Technician 4. Arrived England 18 Nov 1944 & assigned to Tidworth Barracks, Wiltshire, England. Crossed the English Channel 4 Jan 1945 as part of the 8th Armored.

(Though most of his records were burned up in the 1971 fire at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, MO, we have a Soldier's savings Passbook record that shows he was in the "399th AFA Bn, HQ Btry, 8 AD Arty" when he made a deposit 11 June 1945, and in the "HQ Btry Div, 4 AD Div" when he made a deposit on 2 Oct 1945.)

He left the European theater on 10 Dec 1945, and returned to the USA 29th Dec 1945. His separation date was 6 Jan 1945, at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin.

Gib's separation papers indicate that he was in "Supervision of scouting party of 9 men", and his duties were "Triangulation, plotting, note-keeping", and that he was the "instrument man on transit and aiming circle".

When separated, he was assigned to Company E, 358th Infantry.

George Gilbert "Gib" Ross died 19 June 1999 in Rapid City, South Dakota,

and is buried in Black Hills National Cemetery, Sturgis, South Dakota (with his wife, Fern.)

We would like to honor the memory of George Gilbert "Gib" Ross by having you include him on your website for the 8th Armored Division. Thanks so much for your time and attention in this matter that is of great importance to all of Gib's descendants.

Pam

pamstone@cfl.rr.com

for Donald Henry Ross

dross2039@cfl.rr.com

(son of George Gilbert "Gib" Ross)

May 16, 2014

Tony Black,

This email is primarily for your father Gale. I also served in 58-C with your father but after about 70 years I do not remember him. I believe he was in the third platoon under T/Sgt Fred Hamel as were Leo Frantz, Wyman French, and Russell Fretz. I remember that French and Fretz were killed the same day and almost at the same time but I do not remember Frantz. I was in the second platoon under Lt. Ralph Elias (later promoted to command Co. B) and T/Sgt Bill McClain.

One of my best friends was S/Sgt John Anderson who was in the same unit with me almost the entire three years that I was in the army. John was promoted and took over the third platoon squad of S/Sgt Alvin Weber when he was killed.

I developed and maintained the 8th Armored website until I retired a few months ago. One of the things I received during this time was several rolls of pictures taken by S/Sgt Lester Douris who was our mess Sgt. If your father has not seen them, they are on the website at http://www.8th-armored.org/pics/58c_pics.htm. There are copies of After Action Reports, stories and other items relating to the 58th AIB. One of the stories is by Carroll Able, <http://www.8th-armored.org/books/abel/abel-p01a.htm>, who I think was also in the third platoon.

I would love to see the pictures your father has and if they are on your computer, maybe you could email me a copy of them. I am sure your father still remembers some of the men I mentioned and I am sorry that I do not have information about Leo Frantz for him.

Okey Taylor, 58-C

Information on the 2014 8th Armored Division Association Reunion! Save the date!

Greetings to All!

I wanted to contact you all to express my thanks for those who have been sending in the 2014 Association dues and some who have sent donations for our project to place a memorial plaque at Arlington National Cemetery to honor the veterans of the 8th Armored Division.

Soon, I will send out the summer edition of the Association newsletter 'Thundering Herd'.

I wanted to send out preliminary information on the 2014 Reunion of the 8th Armored Division Association. Please reserve the dates: September 12 – 13 and 14, 2014. The Reunion will take place in the Philadelphia area (I live there). The hotel will be the Holiday Inn in Bensalem, PA (Bucks County, PA a northern suburb of Philadelphia near the PARX Casino). Details on reservations will follow.

The annual Association dinner and meeting will take place on Friday evening, September 12, 2014 in the Hotel. We will have displays, fellowship and the annual meeting and elections for officers.

On Saturday, September 13, 2014 there will be a driving tour of Valley Forge, PA, Battle of the Bulge Monument at Valley Forge Military Academy, the Freedom's Foundation at Valley Forge; and dinner at the Valley Forge Casino & Resort

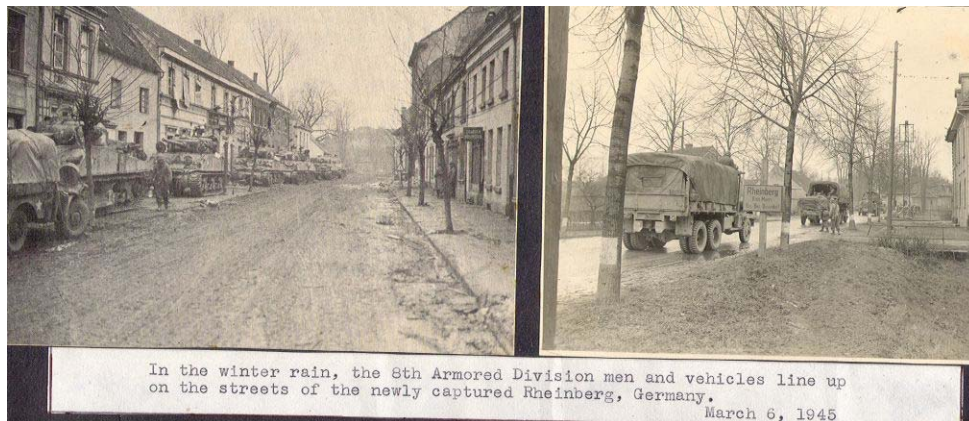
<https://www.vfcasino.com/>

Sunday, September 14, 2014 will be departure day after the Reunion.

The reservation information, costs for each activity and details on the annual dinner will follow soon.

Regards,
Andy Waskie,
president, 8th Armored Division Association

Photos of the 8th Armored Division and its veterans:



Rheinberg – March 6, 1945



Leonard J. Marchlewski-Co B – 78th Medical Battalion at Langenstein Concentration Camp liberated by the 8th Armored Division, April 13, 1945