

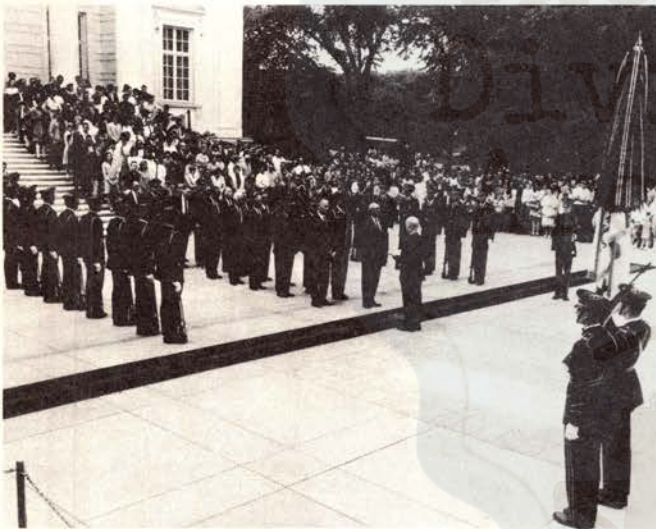
The T-Patcher

36th Division Association

Editor, Archie McDugal

July, 1969

Plaque at Arlington Cemetery Presented by 36th Division Assn.



Remarks of Maj. Gen. Fred L. Walker, war-time commander of the 36th (Texas) Infantry Division, on the occasion of the presentation of a plaque honoring the unknown dead at Arlington National Cemetery by the 36th Division Association:

"We are here, as representatives of the 36th Division Association, to honor these dead, known but to God. We also honor, through them, the unknown dead of all services including our own organization. Although these latter lie in distant fields, they, nevertheless, are memorialized here by three of their comrades (the unknown soldiers of World War I, World War II, and the Korean War).

"We honor these unknown dead because they came to the aid of their nation at a time of great crisis, and willingly assumed their obligations as citizens to defend their country. We honor them also because they made the supreme sacrifice while striving to preserve our Democracy for the enjoyment of future generations. We pray that they have not died in vain.

"As a visual evidence of the honor we pay to these unknown dead, we, of the 36th Division Association, present this plaque as a memorial to them."

Texans who served with the world-famous 36th Infantry Division participated in dedicating a World War II plaque at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington.

The five-by-seven-inch plaque was in honor of the unknown dead and was presented by the 36th Division Association. The plaque will be displayed in the trophy room of the amphitheater adjacent to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The plaque features a large replica of the arrowhead-shaped shoulder patch of the 36th Division with its block "T" which represents Texas. The inscription on the plaque reads, "In memory of the American heroes known but to God. Presented by the 36th Division Association."

Leading the delegation from Texas was Maj. Gen. Ross Ayers, adjutant general of Texas.

Among those present were Maj. Gen. Fred L. Walker and Gen. John E. Dahlquist, wartime commanders of the T-Patch Division. Gen. Dahlquist later rose to be Continental Army Command Commander.

The 36th traces its history to 1835 and the Texas War for Independence, and has fought in every major engagement of the U.S. Army since its origin except those in Korea and Vietnam. In World War I it participated in the Meuse-Argonne and the St. Mihiel offensives.

The T-Patch outfit was mobilized for World War II in 1940 at Camp Bowie near Brownwood.

It was the first United States unit to invade European soil when it landed at Salerno in 1943. It was a costly, bitterly-fought engagement, but a vital first step in the eventual liberation of Europe.

In all, the Division participated in 366 days of combat in seven major campaigns and two amphibious landings during World War II. The division won battle streamers from the campaigns of Naples-Foggia, Anzio, Rome-Arno, Southern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace and Central Europe.

But there was another side of the ledger: The outfit's casualty list was the third highest in all Europe. The 27,343 men lost by the Division included 3,974 killed; 19,052 wounded and 4,317 missing in action. Many of those were casualties of the Salerno landing for which the 36th won lasting fame.

T-Patchers won 12 Medals of Honor and captured a record number of 175,806 enemy soldiers. Other honors won included six Presidential Citations, 12 Distinguished Service Plaques and a host of other commendations and medals and honors.

A Texas Air Guard aircraft from the 136th Air Refueling Wing, Dallas, transported the Guardsmen to Washington for the ceremony.



Amil Kohutek, 36th Division Association president, shows the plaque before it is locked into the glass case in the trophy room.



The Grave of the Unknown Soldier



L to R: Lt. Col. Bob Harper, Odessa; Maj. Ernest Cro-means, Austin (standing behind); Lt. Col. Mickey Francis, Austin; Lt. Col. (Ret.) Harry B. Kelton, Austin; Col. (Ret.) J. N. (Pete) Green, Abilene; Col. (Ret.) Frank Hobbs, Abilene; Maj. Gen. Ross Ayers, Adj. Gen. of Texas; Amil Kohutek, Irving; Archie McDugal, Waco; Col. (Ret.) Oran Stovall, Bowie; Col. Jack T. Brown, Luling, not shown.



War-time commanders of the 36th (Texas) Infantry Division, Major General Fred L. Walker and Major General John E. Dahlquest are greeted by Texans Amil Kohutek (shaking hands with Gen. Dahlquest, and Oran Stovall.

HEARD FROM . . .

J. H. Ellis, Baton Rouge, La.: "Enclosed will find check for dues, my apologies for being so late. I always look forward to the News Letters. This means is the only way we have to renew acquaintances with old friends . . . also interested in being one of the first to purchase Gen. Walker's book . . . will appreciate information on that. Hope to see you in Fort Worth."

Sam F. Kibbey, Ashland, Ky. (Co. K, 143rd): "Dear Amil: I appreciated your recent letter . . . enclosed is a list of some of the people in our area who may not be present members. I hope to attend this year's convention . . . wish to compliment you on the job you are doing for the T-Patchers."

Arthur J. Brown, Boca Raton, Fla. (736 Ord. Co.): "I am hoping to join the 36th Division at the reunion in Fort Worth. Please note the change of address, I have not lived in Fort Lauderdale for years."

From the desk of Lumberman's Sash and Door Co., Miles M. Fox comes a check "to help out." Thank you, sir.

Jimmie L. Russell, Houston, Texas (Co. C, 142nd): "Read in The T-Patcher about Mr. Mann visiting the graves of some of our men in Italy. One name rang a bell. Fred Vincent drove a jeep for me and was transferred to the line after we got into Italy. He was killed at Anzio and was from Belozoni, Miss."

Dr. M. B. Hernandez, Austin, Texas (Co. D, 142nd): "I was quite happy to receive your letter with the notice of the 44th Annual Reunion. I am an old 'T-Patcher' although not an original one. . . . I joined the outfit in Southern France, after I received a battlefield commission in another outfit . . . but I consider myself a worthy T-Patcher . . . and you can count on me to help to keep the organization dynamic."

"Dear Amil: I have received your circular letter and want to congratulate you and Archie and Lelia McDugal for the excellent work you all are doing. I am looking forward to the best reunion ever at Fort Worth. Sincerely, Fred L. Walker."

Roy R. Young, Yuma, Arizona: "Thank you for the information on the 36th Division Association. Col. Burrage had already mailed a copy of the last issue which was very interesting and brought back some old memories . . . previous commitments . . . but perhaps in the years to come I will be able to make one. (141st Inf.)"

Mrs. J. H. Robins, Fort Worth: "Enclosed three pictures of T-Patchers of Co. H, 141st Inf. . . . We enjoy the papers and look forward to them."

John R. Potts, Lockhart, Texas: "I read with interest the article in 'Heard From' section . . . April issue from Thomas Lewis. . . . I have been trying to get in touch with Bob Davey for years . . . please send me Mr. Lewis' address so that I might trace Mr. Davey through him."

Thomas J. Bulova, 505 Orondoga Rd., Syracuse, N. Y. 13219: "Thanks a lot for the rundown on the actions of my old beloved Co. B 143rd. I expect to see the starry skies of Texas again . . . don't think I'll see you this year . . . enclosed dues . . . It will be nice to be back in the fold again."

Edwin Seymour, N. Y.: "My attendance last year was quite an event for me which brought about the reunion with Oscar Vest, a member of my old outfit. I doubt if I will be able to attend this year but I wish you well and know the convention will be a success."

Mamie Doud Eisenhower wishes to thank you for your expression of sympathy. Gettysburg, Penns.

The family of H. Miller Ainsworth will always hold in grateful remembrance your kind expression of love and sympathy. Luling, Texas.

From an El Paso, Texas, paper: Members of Veterans of Co. E, 141st Infantry held their annual summer dance. Oscar H. Rodriguez, secretary of the organization was honored. Mr. Rodriguez joined Co. E in 1938, splitting his war service between this unit and the Army Air Corps. He retired from the Air Force in 1961 with the rank of Master Sergeant and is employed in Civil Service at Ft. Bliss. He lives with his family at 6519 Mohawk Drive.

G. W. Williford, 302 Fairview, Houston (Co. G, 143rd, WWI): "Enclosed dues. . . . Hope to be with you in Fort Worth and enjoy seeing our Comrades again . . . best wishes, and a successful reunion."

Lt. Col. Ed Smith, London, Great Britain: "Thanks for the information—without you I'd have been sunk. . . . I have completed my book in draft and intend sending it to Gen. Walker . . . it is time a British writer did justice to the 36th . . . always felt that some versions were inaccurate."

James M. Estep, Lucasville, Ohio, Rt. 2, Box 478 (Co. E, 142nd): "I was happy to receive your note concerning the reunion so fast. I found your notice in the June Legion. . . . You are the first contact I have had with the 36th since I was wounded and left it in Oct. 1944 . . . enclose dues . . . looking forward to making the 1970 reunion . . ."

Mrs. W. E. Vincent, Hacienda Carmel, Apt. 54, Carmel, Calif. (142nd Regiment): Requesting information on how to replace a lost Pres. Citation which was given Mr. Vincent, WW II.

Wayne Meland, Medena, N. Y.: "Someone overlooked mailing my membership card. . . . I am going to try to get a bunch to come down next reunion. I really enjoy the news."

Jim Casey, Newport, R. I. 02840: "Thanks very much for your letter making me a member for '68-'69 gratis. I was touched by your solicitude for an old T-Patcher."

ITEMS OF INTEREST

For travel material about Texas, America's Fun-tier: Texas Highway Department, Travel and Information Division, P. O. Box 5064, Austin, Texas 78703.

Concerning program material on DRUGS: Leaflets with concise comprehensive information, what they are, what their physical and psychological effects are and the nature of the drugs, may be ordered from: Public Information Branch, National Institute of Mental Health, Chevy Chase, Maryland 20203. Bulk rate, 5 cents each or \$3.25 per hundred are available through the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402.

Marihuana: Some Questions and Answers
The Up and Down Drug: Amphetamines and Barbiturates
Narcotics: Some Questions and Answers
LSD: Some Questions and Answers

Dues for the 1969-1970 year will be \$3.00 starting Sept. 1, 1969.

July 1, 1969 was the date for the official switch-over from the serial number to the Social Security number. For several months identification cards have been including both numbers.

Under Federal law, the State Selective Service System in each state is periodically furnished with information showing the number presently serving on active duty in the armed forces of the U. S. March 31, 1969 a total of 130,485 Texas servicemen and women were serving. In June 1968, the conflict in Vietnam became the longest war that the United States of America has ever been involved in. The war is now a year older. . . . May 1969 shows a total of 35,530 U. S. service deaths. The Vietnam War has taken a total of 619,479 lives from Jan. 1, 1961 through May 24, 1969 . . . not to mention injuries.

Thoughts on the 36th Division

By ROBERT L. WAGNER

I don't know whether the T-Patch veterans or anyone else have ever thought of an infantry division as a living, changing, viable body. An entity which with the proper nourishment (training) and exercise (discipline) undergoes modifications which develop it into a fine, smooth athletic machine—able to perform brilliantly in competition (war).

During the 3½ years I have been researching and writing a history of the 36th Division in the Italian Campaign, it has seemed to me that this is the sort of thing which took place in the unit between the Brownwood days and the Salerno invasion, continuing through S. Pietro, the Rapido crossing and in the rocks above Cassino town, Velletri and beyond Rome.

The civilian soldier of 1940 stayed a civilian inside his mind but became the veteran of World War II—caught between the hard processes of combat and the rigidity of the military system. Out of this mix came those young men—mostly in their twenties—who served in the pre-war Texas National Guard as enlistees, and who were to lead its platoons and companies at Salerno and S. Pietro; and who were to lead battalions and serve on battalion and regimental staffs at a later date—where Gen. Walker left them as part of his legacy to his successor. A few typical names will suffice: Bowden, Minor, Simpson, Ford, Mehaffey, Steffen, Robertson, Stovall, Bellamy—pick your own; you know who they were.

Take a look at the enlisted ranks, thinned out so badly after the Rapido crossing and Cassino. Every man who served in the 36th has remembrances of a good sergeant or two who did his job a little better than the next man and who—like as not—either didn't make it home or wears one or more clusters on his Purple Heart.

What about the draftees who started coming in early '41? These—the first influx of Yankees who were to become more Texan even than the boys from Mexia and Santa Anna. These latter-day descendants of William Tecumseh Sherman gave new muscle to the Division and in many cases brought a high level of skill and education to T-Patcher ranks and helped develop it into one of the best-trained units in the U.S. Army. Along with them came some bad garrison soldiers—but who later blossomed in combat. Remember the Kelly kid from Pittsburgh who Zerk Robertson swore to make a soldier of?

What about the strong Spanish-speaking group from the National Guard days—leaders like Ug' Gonzales, Gabriel Navarrete and Ray Nunez? A bunch of boys just like them died on the Rapido.

We must also speak of the staff and command—National Guard and Reserve officers who in many cases had served in World War I and kept up their military connections between wars during the dreary twenties and thirties when the dictators were spawning and it wasn't fashionable to have an eye to the future reckoning. Men like Crowther, Green, Price and Graham will be remembered along this line. They paid a large price to serve in a war they could have dodged—a fact not always appreciated at Corps and Army.

The Division also had its share of professionals who were to serve briefly in its ranks and go on to glory up the road. Terry de la Mesa Allen, Hibbs and Wheeler will suffice here.

Finally, take another look at the CG—Walker—a necessary pro who took the civilian material and put his lasting stamp upon it. His talents never entirely appreciated by his superiors but who called every major tactical combat shot correctly ahead of time, and watched—as his reward—juniors being promoted over him but who left to the next T-Patch commander a finely-honed instrument of war. A fact best appreciated by the enemy.

Twenty-five years later the youngest are middle-aged and the oldest are slipping away, but the pride remains and the substance will be remembered even beyond their lifespan as the real story has not yet reached print. I hope to lend a hand in remedying this.

Organization of Retired Military

The organization of the Retired Military (ORM) was founded as a private, non-profit organization on July 4, 1965. It was granted a Charter by the State of Texas September 24, 1965. The address is P. O. Box 844, Killeen, Texas 76541. It is not concerned with rank or branch of service.

Mid-West Chapter

The world is getting smaller all the time . . . but it's still a-fer-piece to Michigan from Texas and just as far to Texas from Michigan . . . according to the Rand McNally Touring Atlas. It also says the Mid-Western cities are big and growing bigger . . . Mid-Western corn and wheat fields are big and growing bigger. . . Humor knows no bounds . . . tales are tall and getting taller. . .

By the time you read this the Mid-West Chapter will have had their 4th Annual Reunion July 12-13th at Belding, Mich. We hope they had their usual good time. Hats off to Thomas O'Connor of Greenville, Wilbur Gasper of Belding, and H. L. King. I'm sure there are others also who are working hard at making these reunions what they are.

It sure made us feel good to welcome that good group of folks from the Mid-West Chapter last year in Dallas. They brought about 40 or more memberships with them from T-Patchers in that area.

SPIES, I MAY HAVE SEEN

By BRUCE CARTER

As I follow the news of our boys in Vietnam and realize the difficulties that they have with infiltrators, I can well remember at least two occasions where I may have witnessed two such acts in World War II.

Early in the Italian Campaign, Battery A, 133rd Field Artillery and I believe 1st Battalion 143rd Infantry, Rangers, and other troops were holding a road up to Choinzi Pass. Our four 105's were set up right near the Pass. Our ammunition dump was about one-fourth mile back from guns beside and downhill from the road. I was acting ammunition corporal. One day when I came up from the dump to the road to walk up to the guns, an apparent American soldier was standing in the road looking the dump over. I walked the distance to the guns with him. He talked and acted like an American soldier. His excessive attention to the dump and the guns almost caused me to take him to our C.P. under gunpoint if necessary. Second thought I let him go. The next day the ammunition dump and gun position really got the hell shot out of them with both artillery and mortar. Two men from Texas, 1st Sgt. Greely Aston and Leon Howard "the Cat" and Steve Augustine from Illinois, were badly wounded at the C.P. real close to the guns. I will always wonder if that shelling was necessary, and blame myself a little for letting our position be given away.

In France the only time I went up as a Forward Observer, we had barely gotten into an open shed to set up a F.O. Post, when two young women came walking straight to the shed. They came into the shed looking things over . . . then took a 90° angle, turned to their right and walked away. About the time they got in scrap-iron range our Observation Post was fired on by what seemed to be direct fire from artillery. Our Jewish Lieutenant got both pant legs caught by an incoming piece of scrap-iron when it passed between his thighs. No blood drawn, the old boy didn't even get excited; he just went ahead with his "fire mission."

I am glad that I can say American soldiers were habitually courteous to natives, but again I believe those women walked past us to tell someone something.

From these two episodes I have some respect for and understanding of guerilla warfare. And may I add, respect for and understanding of what our boys are meeting today on another field of battle.

(Editor's note: Bruce Carter, Brty A, 133rd F.A. Bn., native son of Illinois wrote some of his combat memories in a little book, "The Other Side of the Fence" which was published by Carlton Press, N. Y. in 1963. He is from Patoka, Illinois 6287.)



Bert Carlton and Armond Jones study plans for the Fort Worth reunion.



Italy . . . 1943-44. 141st Inf. Jimmy Robbins standing, Oscar Shultz on jeep.



Ed Earwood, Lohrville, Iowa talking to Emil Petr of Dallas . . . 1967.



Eugene Ramsden and son of Chicago, wearing Amil Kohutek's boots.



Italy . . . 1943-44 — Jimmy North



Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Hejl, Dallas Reunion, 1968



Emil Petr (right) chats with Andy Anderson of Chicago at the Houston reunion.

WHO'S WHAT?

"You've come a long way, Baby . . . to get where you are today." Where would we be without commercials? Will you please send us your calling cards? I'm thinking that it might be interesting to print a page or two in The T-Patcher with nothing but business cards. It is really amazing to me that some of you teen-age foot soldiers have actually become successful in the business and professional world. In many cases the wife can take credit for having made a man of you. How about it . . . will you please send us either a business or personal calling card? If you have already sent one, please do so again.

Italian Lad — First-Rate Texan

A group of immigration authorities stared unbelievably when a thin, 12-year-old Italian boy dressed in an overseas cap, a faded Ike jacket with a T-Patch came down the gangway behind the debarking soldiers, after WWII. The troopship was the Claumont Victory, at New York Harbor, February 1946. The stow-away was Johnny Camera, war orphan. Young Johnny had unofficially adopted the 36th Division, shortly after Americans stormed Salerno in 1943. Earlier he had been earning his keeps and about \$1.00 per year as a child farmhand.

He followed and lived with the 36th Division throughout the Italian campaign and became their "mascot." He was befriended by many, including Curly Thompson, of Waxahachie, Texas. Johnny never forgot Curly's promise to give him a home if he could ever get to Texas. He lost track of Curly when the 36th Division left to make the Southern France invasion. He then stayed with a Military Police unit and later ended up at a replacement depot at Naples.

Johnny met another soldier who helped him to get to America. The soldier was being shipped home and he helped Johnny, who was very small, to stow away during the 13-day voyage to New York. Johnny was captured by the immigration officials, when he went to get off the boat, after a 30-minute chase around the boat. The plan had been that the soldier would carry him off in a seabag, but somehow the secret had gotten out and all bags were being checked.

Who was the soldier who hid Johnny, slipped him food and helped him to make the illegal voyage?

"I told the immigration officials it was a military secret, and it is still a secret because it still might get him into trouble," Johnny said.

Johnny's adventures became front-page news. He was featured in Life Magazine. He was sent to Ellis Island for a month while officials pondered what to do with him. By that time the whole State of Texas was behind him. One official said, "He is getting enough telegrams and presents to take care of an army." One strong supporter, then U.S. Atty. Gen. Tom Clark of Dallas said, "If we don't admit the kid there is liable to be a revolution."

He was admitted. Congress passed a special House Bill permitting Johnny to join the Thompson family in Waxahachie. Curly Thompson, a confirmed bachelor, legally adopted him and he was reared in the home of Curly Thompson's parents. A New York reporter flew him to Dallas and Curly drove him across the Mexican border near Eagle Pass so that he could enter the United States legally from Mexico by special arrangement.

Johnny continued to make news during his school days . . . but this time on the sports page. He played guard for Waxahachie High even though he was only five-foot-two and weighed only 125 pounds.

"It was a lot of pain playing against fellows who weighed up to 265 pounds. I broke my nose, ribs and a hand, and got many bruises. But I enjoyed making monkeys out of those big men," he said. He later served two years in the U.S. Navy. He is married and has a three-year-old daughter and a nine-month-old son. He lives in Dallas and works at a Dallas steel firm.

Johnny Camera Thompson is 35 years old now.

(Editor's note: We hope this will answer the questions of many of you who have asked about Johnny.)

THE SHARER

Zim stood in the doorway watching the traffic spurting past carrying its cargo of Americans on their rounds and wondering how many of them consciously knew what a wonderful gift it was to be a part of the fruit of mankind's dream—"America."

Zim recalled with warming pleasure a picture that his grandfather had taken of him and his five chums to point up a lesson in citizenship . . . and although the materials upon which the imprint had been made had long since faded back into nothingness brought on by the constant wear caused by the friction of passing it from hand to hand so that numerous eyes could see and understand, still in all its meaning and the color stayed pristine in his mind. The meaning of the picture and the lessons learned from the quiet words that were spoken as the picture was being planned and during the posing and the efforts to keep the little mouths from bursting out in glorious boyish grins, the final snap of the camera shutter signaling the release of the captives, and the long, long wait for the finished product. Five boys wrapped in the flag of red, white and blue, indicating that they were Americans all and Zim remembered especially how cozy and warm it was wrapped in that flag and how as the years passed by the thoughts or sight of the flag bearing the colors so bright returned Zim to the security and warmth of that moment. . . .

In those days names had meanings, Gramp was a fierce rose-growing, chicken-raising, cigar-smoking, two-fisted American who argued and voted and supported. He was also the provider of candies, cigar bands and toys that he thought would delight young people who in the wink of an eye would be voting . . . and whose good friends had been Generals Grant, Sherman and Sheridan but who loved Dixie and Lee with fury, whose finger-pointing idol was an American General by the name of MacArthur and the finger pointed at the huge portrait of the General any time a question of American intent was brought up and to punctuate any question of good politics or if nothing else arose just to impress upon anyone present the goals his home set for a registered voter and anyone else did not exist. Or just to bring his own attention to the fact that it was to be dusted, this daily chore was his alone as it was to be done gently and Mohawks were notoriously heavy handed. . . . Zim remembered how it felt to see years later the General himself and to have the honor of serving under the General on one of his many missions for America. . . . To serve under the General would have been enough for Gramps, but to have been selected for his Guard of Honor would have been too much for the old warrior. . . .

Zim thought he would get the picture of the General from its place of safe keeping and dust it once for Gramps.

Zim got the box that contained the picture of the General and when he opened it the original flag was on top. Zim opened the attic window and attached the old flag to the pole to let it fly for awhile. The box also contained many, many little flags and Zim remembered that Gramps thought that a flag was an appropriate gift for any occasion and even wrapped his Christmas gifts in red, white and blue. . . . Also in the box was a tissue-wrapped Stars and Bars and a pair of old wrap leggings that had been a gift on one visit to the infantry stationed at Jefferson Barracks as each Decoration Day a visit with decorations to the National Cemetery and a review of the retreat parade was the order of that day and the First Sgt. always had something for Zim, promising to get paid back when Zim reached the age for enlistment. There was a bit of blue braid from the sergeant's hat and with it was Zim's T-Patch . . . of blue . . .

Veterans' Average Age

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|------|
| Spanish-American War .. | 7,000 surviving....av. age | 89.9 |
| World War I | 1,705,000 surviving....av. age | 74.3 |
| World War II | 14,660,000 surviving....av. age | 49.3 |
| Korean Conflict | 5,840,000 surviving....av. age | 39.5 |
| Vietnam Conflict | 2,760,000 surviving....av. age | 26.1 |

23,519,000 Veterans in the United States qualify for wartime benefits.

THE BATTLE STORY OF TEXAS' 36th DIVISION

Chapter III

Velletri . . . The Key to Rome

By BILL JARY

WW II Editor "T-Patch"

Spring in Italy had been a pleasant contrast with the winter fighting men of the 36th Division had experienced in the four-month struggle through the Liri Valley hammering the Germans' mountain defenses, from San Pietro to Cassino.

Needing rest and rejuvenation, the Division moved into a rest and training area near Maddaloni, east of Naples. Passes to Pompei were frequent and entertainment was the order of the day, and all told it was a pleasant spring. To add to this, Mount Vesuvius, visible from the area, put on the biggest eruption show in fifty years.

The training was varied, but early in May 1944 the Division artillery units were alerted to return to action. Last out of the line in the winter, they were to be first back into action.

Dummy guns were set up in the Qualiano (15 miles northwest of Naples) and the artillery moved to the Minturno sector in support of the 85th Division. At 2300 on May 11, complete surprise was achieved with the opening of a new offensive that was to break the Gustav Line. Their job finished by May 17, 36th artillery units rejoined the Division bivouacked at Qualiano.

Breakout from Anzio Beachhead

Completely refitted and rested, the 36th Division embarked from Naples and sped on its way to the stagnant Anzio beachhead. The Germans had managed to confine the American troops within a 10-mile perimeter since January 22, but now the time had come for the breakout.

Life on the beachhead consisted mostly of intricate dugouts and entrenchments, nightly air raids and the ominous sounds of the Nazis' big railroad gun . . . "Anzio Express." The drive for Rome had thrown the 36th Division in front of the fortress town of Velletri. This was the Germans' main defensive position.

Was this to be another frontal attack like Rapido River? Time was running out and Rome was still 20 miles away. The Division Commander, Major General Fred L. Walker, laid his plan for Velletri on the higher headquarters table.

This time it was basically the old Stonewall Jackson strategy . . . circle and strike from the flanks and the rear. It was a spectacular scheme. If it failed at least a regiment would be trapped behind the German lines.

Two hours before time to move up on the night of Memorial Day, 1944 they scrapped the other plan of frontal assault and General Walker's plan was given the green light.

Headed by the 2nd Battalion, the 142nd Infantry Regiment slipped through the lines at the right of Velletri that night without firing a shot. Others followed and noon next day strong elements of other regiments of the Division were in the Alban Hills, three miles or more behind Velletri and the German lines. They circled the hills and captured the town. Other units poured through the gap . . . and the race to Rome was on.

General Walker received for his brilliant maneuver at Velletri, an Oak Leaf Cluster to the Distinguished Service Cross. Wrote Eric Sevareid: "The action . . . turned the key to the City of Rome and handed it to Mark Clark." For outstanding heroism T. Sgt. Logan of Luling, Texas (present address Kilgore, Texas), wearer of the Congressional Medal of Honor, again distinguished himself during the Velletri action by single-handedly charging a German counter-attack from his defensive position in a vineyard, killing 25 Germans and capturing 15. For this he received the DSC.

Fall of the Eternal City

As the attack pushed on beyond Velletri, tanks advancing to seize a vital road junction were held up by ingeniously placed German self-propelled guns. General Walker reconnoitered this position, and despite heavy hostile shelling, led his infantrymen in smashing a vicious obstacle.

Mounting one of the lead tanks ahead of his infantry, General Walker quickly organized a mobile armored force from his available tanks and tank destroyers. With infantry mounted on the sides of the vehicles, units of the

36th Division rushed onward toward the Eternal City. Then Rome fell, in a wild spontaneous Italian fervor.

Many units were attacking Rome from all directions, but men of the Texas Division were among the first to arrive in Rome. The sniper-infested city was soon cleared and the race up the peninsula began. Hot on the heels of the demoralized enemy, the men of the 36th pressed their attacks along Highway No. 1.

Four days after the fall of Rome, men of the 36th had taken the port city of Civita Vecchia, some 30 miles to the west. Battered, burned and twisted skeletons of German vehicles lined both sides of the highway as the men pressed their flushed enemy. As the chase continued, every type of vehicle was utilized, and many captured German trucks were put into use. Additional trucks from Base Quarter-master units in Naples were ordered to transport infantrymen. Supply lines suddenly became over-extended. Gasoline and rations were being shuttled from bases at Anzio, and even Naples, now over 100 miles in the rear. The chase went on.

Tariquinia, Montalto di Castro, Orbetello, and Grosseto fell to the men of the 36th in rapid succession. Then after taking Piombino and the hills overlooking Pisa, the men were relieved from combat and returned to a rest area within the shadow of Rome.

To these men who helped take the Eternal City, it was only fitting and proper that they should get to see this ancient town they had liberated. Visits to the Vatican, Coliseum, Pantheon and the Roman ruins were enjoyed by the Texans. But this vacation was short-lived.

Back to Salerno Again

After less than a week near Rome, the Division was moved by truck to an area so well known to the men who had fought to spearhead the invasion of Italy . . . Salerno.

Now came the time to say goodbye to a great commander, General Walker had been called to command the Infantry School at Fort Benning. In a farewell review, the General spoke to the men of the 36th. His voice was husky when he stepped up to the public address system. He told them they were great fighting men and crisply cited chapter and verse to prove their achievements in Italy were unparalleled in history. He asked them to join him in a moment of silence to honor the thousands of their friends who had fallen since the Division splashed ashore some 10 months before. For that moment there was not a single motion in all that mass of olive drab.

Beachhead Number 2

During the hot month of July under clear Italian sky, these infantrymen were receiving amphibious training on a hallowed ground. This kind of training was not new to these men, for it was only a year before that they had gone through the same kind of maneuvers at Arzew, Algeria, on the other side of the Mediterranean. What was next? Rumors ran high. Bets were placed on Yugoslavia, movement to England as reinforcements to the Normandy beachhead. Some speculated it could be another beachhead behind the lines above Pisa.

The most logical conclusion however, was Southern France, possibly the Riviera, or maybe Marseille or Toulon.

Nevertheless, the planning staff of the 36th Division, along with other old comrades of the 6th Corps, the 3rd and the 45th Divisions . . . were busily working on details of the proposed invasion at the Block House in Naples.

A second beachhead! Those who had landed with the Division at Salerno remembered what all this meant, yet it is not recorded with what emotion the men left Italy. Very few had ever liked the place particularly, for their association had not been with the pseudo-prosperous cities, but rather with the numbered hills and blood-soaked valleys, the shell-raked fields and stinking rubble towns.

There was waiting that night before the departure, before the long convoys rolled and jerked down to the dock and the men got to their ship and waited some more. The whole Division was afloat in the Naples Harbor on August 11th. Four days later the men would know their destination.

The huge convoy carrying the 36th, 3rd and 45th Divisions sailed out into the Blue Mediterranean.
(Next: Invasion of Southern France)

Texas Medals

Two medals are given by the State of Texas: the Faithful Service Medal is given to those who have served at least five years in the Texas National Guard since the Guard was re-organized in 1946. The Texas Defense Medal is for those who are presently serving with the Texas National Guard and had service in World War II.

SECRETARY REPORTS . . .

Registration will cost very little, if any, more for the 44th Annual Reunion than for the last year's 43rd Reunion. You may register for \$9 single and \$18 couple, without dues. Dues this year are \$3 and you may send your dues for 1969-70 any time now, or pay them at the reunion. Included in your registration fee is the Friday evening hospitality party with chips, dips, beer, and soft drinks; the Saturday evening dinner and grand ball with tips and set-ups included, and the Sunday morning coffee before the Memorial Service.

There will be C. P. hospitality rooms, and for the first time they will be alongside one another so that you may visit all your friends without hunting all over the hotel. Refreshments in the C.P.'s are usually "dutch" with the "kitty" available. The ladies' and the young folks' plans are still in the talk stage but they are planning activities for you. The young folks will have quarters (near the swimming pool and snack bar) available at all times so that they will have no trouble getting together. Cookie Kohutek is all grown-up now and she has been coming to these reunions for many years, and knows what you like.

Room rates: Singles \$11, doubles \$13 and twins \$15. These are special rates for T-Patchers . . . do not accept any other.

Your official board has done an excellent job all year long and your response is improving. These jobs are pay-less but they do not need to be thankless also. Your nominating committee for next year is John McKeel, 2807 Hickory Tree Road, Mesquite, Texas 75149 and Ernest Upmore, 501 N. Roberts, West, Texas 76691. If you can serve as vice-president of the 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, or any of the Special Troops or Division Arty., write to one of these fellows and tell them so. You do not have to live in Texas, although we hope you can attend at least one of the executive meetings, you can still make a good vice-pres. without doing so. Your biggest job is to keep in touch with men from your unit, and keep the membership of your unit up. From time to time you will help to make decisions concerning the Association's policies and actions, and you will report the news of all T-Patchers for "The T-Patcher." These are things that we all can do, and I am pleased to say many do.

How we stand . . . We have better than 1,250 paid members, which is much better than usual but we should have 6,000 at least. How many new ones did you recruit this year? We are in good shape financially . . . which means that our heads are above the water . . . there is no way to get ahead in this business . . . our goal is to give you the kind of service that you pay for. The executive secretary is the only paid person and that salary is \$110 monthly. We average mailing from 100 to 150 pieces of mail a week and we receive from 25 to 50 pieces of mail a week. We may not answer all questions but we answer all letters. If we can help you in any way, please call on us.

We hope you enjoy "The T-Patcher." If it doesn't mention someone you know, some place that you have been, or in some way strike a personal chord with you, then you and I have both failed. It is your Association and your paper. Thank you for your cooperation.

—Archie

VICTORIA SAMMIES

Published in the 1969 Spring edition of TEXANA is an article written by Charles Spurlin, Victoria College, entitled "Victoria Sammies." It is a well-written work of art, especially concerning Company I, 143rd Regiment, World War I. The term "Sammie" originated as a result of a misinterpretation by American newspapermen of the French words "viven les amis" which was shouted by the French when the first American soldiers arrived. The words mean "long live the (our) friend"; to the American correspondents "les amis" sounded like "Sammie" and they wrote stories using the term.

NEWS BITS

Michael J. Mullins, son of Lance Mullins (142nd) was wounded in Viet Nam in June. He is with the 101st Airborne.

Sonny Johnson, son of Eddie and Dorothy Johnson, Monahans, Texas, has been in Vag Tau Nam since January. He is a Crew Chief in the AF.

Many of you have sons, sons-in-law and other loved ones in this war. Our prayers, friendship and concern are with you and these men. They are the products of yesterday, the backbone of today, and the hope of tomorrow. May we be mindful of our duties and loyalties for we never know what our personal influences may be . . . "None of us lives to himself."

Retired after more than twenty years of truck driving and two million miles and many safety awards, a long-time member of the Association and Battery C, 131st Field Artillery Bn., AUBREY WILSON of Dallas, Texas has flown the coop. We think he moved to Gainesville, Fla.

Lt. Robert G. Burns leaves Monterrey, California for Thailand the 9th of July.

Frank Roach of Fort Worth will be attending school at Lowery AFB, Colo. during the reunion. He is one who is always willing to pitch in on the work at reunion time.

IN MEMORIAM

Brevet-Lieutenant General H. Miller Ainsworth, Sr., 214 Pecan, Luling, Texas 78648, died in a Galveston, Texas hospital 7 May 1969. He leaves his wife and son and many friends.

Gen. Ainsworth's long and distinguished military career began with his attendance at Officer's Training Camp, Leon Springs, Texas, 8 May 1917. He has served with distinction in both World War I and II. He was awarded the Silver Star, Combat Infantryman Badge and numerous service medals for both World Wars. It has been said by his friends that his love for the 36th Division ranked second only to his wife and son. We have seen him go to bat for the Division and for the 36th Division Association many times. He was frequently commended for his orderly administration devotion to duty and outstanding proficiency in performance of his military duties. The General was very active in getting the Memorial Plaque placed in the Arlington National Cemetery and in getting General Walker's book published. Reunions will not be the same without him.

Douglas N. Boyd died in the Temple Hospital June 1969. He was 52 years old. He joined the 36th Division at the age of 16 (143rd Inf.) and served overseas and left the Division in 1956 with the rank of Major. He was a good lawyer, often taking small clients which cost him money. "Every lawyer ought to put principle and his client's troubles ahead of the money or work involved," he said. Boyd has written many things through the years about the 36th, the National Guard and after-battle reports of 143rd, contributing much to our history. He was president of 36th Division Association in 1959 and that year was especially fruitful. Surviving are his widow (Helen) of 2401 Colonial, Waco, Texas and two daughters Emily and Edna, and a son, Douglas, Jr.

Word comes from Jimmie Russell, Company C, 142nd of Houston: "Robert L. Nickelson . . . the best Sgt. in the Division . . . a fine man and a gentleman who turned down a commission a number of times, died in 1968 while serving with the Border Patrol at Presidio, Texas. He died of a heart attack."

Leamon Bell, Jr. (Cpl.) who owned a grocery store in Kermit, Texas, died of a heart attack in 1968.

Wayland James Caskey, 54, 2608 Peach Tree Lane, Irving, Texas, a long-line driver for Consolidated Copperstate Lines, Dallas, of over two and a half million miles, died in Big Spring of a heart attack while pulling a run from Dallas to Pecos. He was a war-time member of Battery B, 131st Field Artillery, and a co-worker and personal friend of Amil Kohutek.

ONCE A T-PATCHER, ALWAYS A T-PATCHER!

Plan to Attend the 44th Annual Reunion at the Blackstone in Fort Worth, August 29-30-31

Attention Teen T-Patchers

I'm planning a tremendous weekend for all young T-Patchers August 29, 30, 31. I would appreciate your cooperation in helping to make this reunion one that even the young people will remember. If you are planning to attend, please write me for more information. Don't let your parents send you to Grandpa's and Grandma's this reunion... this is a family affair. —Gladys "Cookie" Kohutek, 2404 Lincoln, Irving, Texas 75060.

FROM TEXAS TO ROME

A GENERAL'S JOURNAL BY FRED L. WALKER

The book you have long been waiting for will soon be off the press. They will be ready and available by reunion time . . . but don't wait—a special offer of \$7.50 per copy has been made for those who order by Sept. 1, 1969. The committee working on this would appreciate your prompt order. Make your check payable to: General Walker's Book Fund, P. O. Box 1816, Fort Worth, Texas 76101. You may order as many books as you wish at this price until Sept. 1, after the pre-publication offer the regular price will be \$10.

T-PATCH WARES

Decals: T-Patch decals for your rear windshield . . . 25 cents each.

Jewelry: T-Patch tie tacs (double as lapel pins) \$1.25, bar type tie clip \$2.50.

Rosters: New rosters with all members who paid for last year's membership and many more, \$1.30.

HELP WANTED

Wanted: A good photographer, prefer a T-Patcher, to make reunion pictures.

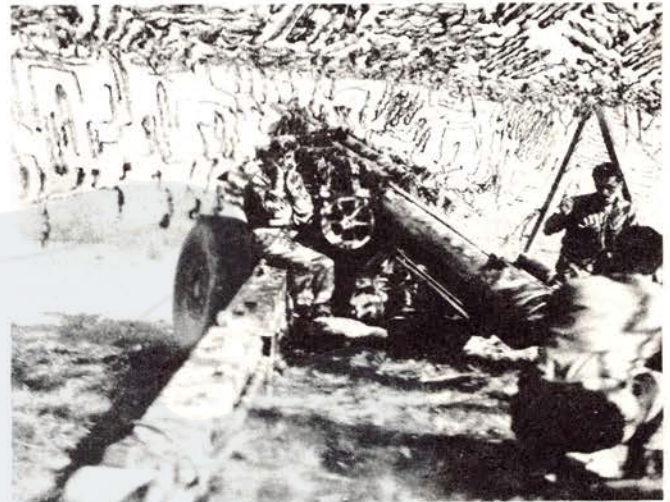
Wanted: Reporters of news and writers of articles, especially WWI stories, book reviews, etc.

BACK ISSUES OF "T-PATCHER" AVAILABLE

We have on hand a few back issues of "The T-Patcher" which we will send to you upon request. Jan. and April 1969 and April and Dec. of 1968.

COMPLIMENTARY MEMBERSHIPS

If you know of any member who is financially unable to pay membership dues the Association would appreciate the opportunity to serve them with a complimentary membership. Although most of us have it better than ever before, a few of us have to live on very limited funds. This may be true of many World War I veterans.



This photo shows a 115-mm howitzer in full recoil; picture taken at the precise moment the howitzer had reached its maximum recoil.

Archie standing in front of Gen. Clark's plane...Italy



Archie standing in front of Gen. Mark Clark's plane . . . Italy



One of three tubes for a large-caliber gun that were left behind by the Germans in their rapid flight into the fatherland, Hochspeyer, Germany. (Note cuts in tube where they tried to destroy them.)



Marching through Rome



From Ill. — Cheezy Martin and Bayles Knodle . . . Houston 1967

FORT WORTH

August 29-30-31 - Blackstone Hotel
 . . . REUNIONS ARE FUN . . .



Waco Reunion . . . Anyone you know? 1959



Wesley Garrison, Birmingham, Ala., and a friend's wife . . . Waco, 1959



Robert Childers . . . 1967



Ernest Uptmores of West, Texas
 Dallas Reunion, 1968



Bob Passons, Temple, Texas



Fort Worth . . . 1958 — Jimmy Robbins, Ben Marasco, Robert Biddle, Homer Reed, Jimmy's two boys . . .

36th Division Association
 P. O. Box 4113
 Waco, Texas 76705

BULK RATE
 U. S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 WACO, TEXAS
 Permit No. 395