

OFFICER REVIEW

DECEMBER 2015

Volume 55 • Number 5



THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

A Doughboy's Diary

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

- Honoring Fallen Overseas
- Operation Dragoon
- A Christmas Miracle



Companions are Gifts

We're now in the midst of the holiday season. During this time of the year, many of us visit with family and friends. But, let's us not forget our fellow MOWW Companions now and in the future. Take a moment to demonstrate the Order's motto, "It is nobler to serve than to be served."

All of us know of dedicated Companions who are unable to attend meetings or need physical assistance or transportation to be able to do so. They may even be deployed. Find a way to reach out to those Companions who have been absent from meetings and ask them to rejoin you. For those Companions who unable to attend meetings, make a point to visit them. Some chapters do this well—you know who you are! Chapter newsletters and the *Officer Review*™ magazine should not be the only means of connecting with them.

Join in the universal gift of Companionship and communicate with one another. Every Companion has a story to tell. Many of our Companions have extremely fascinating backgrounds that should be embraced and captured—perhaps those stories might be published in newsletter articles or articles for the *Officer Review*™.

While this is a busy time for most of us in our personal lives as we near the end of 2015, after the beginning of the New Year, we will realize many new opportunities within the Order to serve others through our outreach programs. As you work on your outreach programs, document how you conduct each one in the form of a continuity book. This will be useful not only for you but for others. Your program may be unique in some way—promote that! Communicate this information to other Companions by preparing a brief article for the *Officer Review*™ magazine on the special aspects of your program.

As I travel to various parts of this great country to visit Youth Leadership Conferences, Massings of the Colors, and region and chapter meetings, I want to be able to share with you in person some of the outstanding efforts being made by our Companions (and non-Companions alike) in support of our youth, and law and order personnel—the future leaders of our nation.

I wish you a wonderful holiday season with good health, peace and happiness.

Ruth L. Hamilton

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OFFICER REVIEW

THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS



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ON THE COVER

A wounded German soldier lighting a cigarette for a wounded British soldier at a British field hospital during the Battle of Épehy, near the end of the First World War (1918).

Photo: Lt. Thomas K. Aitken, British Army photographer/Imperial War Museums



A Doughboy's Diary

BG EDWARD WHEELER, USA (RET)

COL WOODS-OKC CHAPTER (073), OK

While browsing through an old antique shop in my hometown, I spotted a thin, almost obscure, collection of single spaced, typewritten set of onionskin pages contained in green file folder cardboard covers. I scanned it, and realized it was an original and yet unpublished World War I Doughboy's personal diary. The content consisted of the experiences of US Army Private Ralph M. Brown of Washington, DC. Because the Allies were already short of Soldiers who knew how to drive, upon arrival in France he was assigned to the 4th French Army as an ambulance driver. His diary covered his adventures from 9 February 9–11 November 1918. The following entries represent selected excerpts from the daily record he managed to keep while fighting in the trenches of WWI's Western Front.

— BG Ed Wheeler

9 February 1918

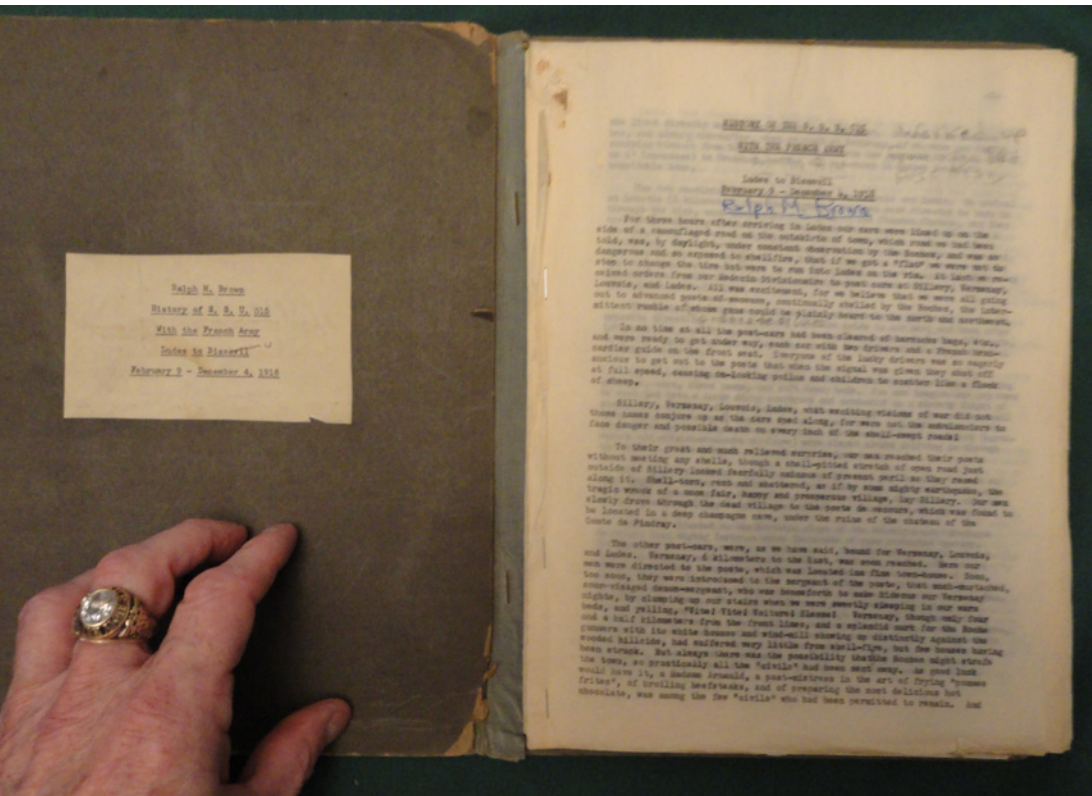
"After a miserable trip across the Atlantic in a stinking one-stacker steamer that had previously been used as a banana boat in the Caribbean, we arrived at St. Naizaire. We were then sent to Ludes in a train that had been obviously designed and used to ship livestock. We stank as badly as did the previous animal occupants. None of us had been able to bathe since we left New York harbor on December 26."

We knew when we were closing in on our assigned quarters because the ground shook from Boche artillery fire. We finally bedded down in a filthy loft replete with millions of cooties. Billeted with us was the French 22d Colonial Infantry from Senegal. Tragically, half of that regiment suffers from trench foot. The stench from their oozing ulcers is horrible."

25 February 1918

At 0230 this morning, the Boche gunners fired high explosive and gas shells on a 15-kilometer front westward toward Reims. We stayed in our French gas masks for five hours. The firing continued until 0730, with rounds landing so close that we prayed that our bombproof would stand the pounding. The Boche fired over 20,000 gas shells and 10,000 high explosive rounds. Suddenly the shelling ended and they launched their attack across the front. However, our artillery destroyed their formations before they reached our outpost lines. The French have mastered the use of artillery and can quickly deploy it at point blank range if necessary.

Fighting has raged throughout today despite the snow, freezing temperatures and extreme wind. Bodies are frozen stiff in macabre



and horrific postures in what was their final moment of a horrible and violent death. While helping a wounded Poilu, suddenly my boot fell through a muddy hole. As I pulled it out of the sucking muck, I realized I had stepped into the rib cage of a long dead Boche soldier's rotting corpse. My stomach retched in exploding vomit.

17 March 1918

The war is incomprehensibly pitiless, brutal and unforgiving. The small stream that meanders past our quarters runs northeast to southwest. It passes from the Boche lines, through the wire on both sides and finally wanders around Ludes. The stream oozes blood red around the clock and carries with it a smell of death that none of us will ever forget.

We are working 12 to 14 hours a day removing wounded from the lines. The roads are constantly under Boche bombardment. A new driver was killed yesterday along with his entire cargo. A shell landed squarely on his ambulance that was filled with wounded. I heard he was from Pennsylvania but I never knew his name.

27 March 1918



The trenches that were rebuilt last autumn by the French have had to be reinforced due to the spring rains. The mud is like quicksand and our vehicles are buried up to their axles. Boche marksmen are taking their toll of our drivers. Unfortunately, French Lebel's are not as good as Boche Mausers. While we worked to free our trucks from the muck, a Boche sniper killed a French doctor. He fell over into the mud before the sound of the bullet carried over our heads.

Yesterday, a French Senegalese fought off a patrol of six Boche. He held his position because he couldn't move. His boots were glued into the mud. So he stood there and fought them off by firing and reloading his magazine. He was wounded three times, and out of

ammunition. All night he fought off ravenous trench rats with his bayonet until he was rescued this morning by a French patrol. The trench rats are the size of cats. They've grown that large by eating the endless supply of dead flesh that this four-year long war has produced.

9 April 1918

A huge Boche offensive smashed westward through the British and French lines. The French high command strengthened the lines East and West of Reims and immediately to our rear, which prevented a frantic retreat. Everyone is exhausted. Fighting is at bayonet point.

Two dozen Boche 'Sturmtruppen' were captured 50 meters from my dugout. They had broken through but were surrounded by French reinforcements. Only...an officer was present kept them from being slaughtered by the Poilu. The French can hardly be blamed. The Boche have ravaged France, destroyed its economy, looted every building and wine cellar and violated its women. A hundred years from now the French will still hate the Germans for what they have done to this country.



23 April 1918

Today Boche 'Sturmtruppen' and infantry smashed into the British and French lines north and west of Reims and broke through everywhere from Fort Brimont to Anizy le Chateau. Thousands of British Tommies, Poilu and Boche on both sides, who woke up this morning, are now cold and stiff in the mud this evening. If the Boche artillery does not keep us awake, our own men scream in their nightmares.

13 May 1918

Today the Boche broke through our lines again. They threatened our trench system, communications and

Left: French Senegalese troops – the term “Senegalese” was given to pretty much all central African French subjects, and the “oringinaires” only referred to the coastal population of those colonies

<http://www.gwpda.org/www-wwww/Scott/images/08p192/S098.jpg>

Right: Grenade laden German “Sturmtruppen” advance across No- Man’s-Land with their Kar 98a slung across their backs to leave both of their hands free for bombing.

<http://pbs.twimg.com/media/BM-5tlnCQAAYtWf.jpg?large>



forward command posts forcing us to withdraw. All hospitals were jammed with wounded. Yet just as Boche units were on the verge of exploiting their initial penetration, mobile French artillery arrived with 75s, 155s and 210s. Like a flash, they unlimbered their guns and placed them along the roads. In minutes, they had their guns blazing away at the attacking forces.

On our northern flank, the British lines bent inward under the assault. However, our French 75s leveled their guns and fired point blank at Boche infantry, slaughtering their formations and forcing them to fall back.

8 June 1918

The Boche attack this morning was preceded by an eight-hour bombardment that began at 2200 last night. The French artillery laid waste to the field-gray human formations led by the Kronprinz.' The slaughter exceeds any ability to describe its extent. As far as any eye can see across No Man's Land, there is nothing but arms, legs, heads, entrails and shattered bodies lying in the mud or hanging on wire. If a truce could be arranged, one could walk from our lines to the Boche lines from body-to-body without ever touching ground.

Chamrey was our base until the village became too hot to remain. All of us had many narrow escapes from high explosives, shrapnel and gas shells. We finally found a cave in a courtyard under a farm, but the pounding by the Boche gave us no relief. Men were becoming irrational and incoherent. Going without sleep in this manmade Hell was driving many insane.

22 June 1918

Our uniforms were all soaked with the blood of all of the wounded. We didn't have any clean uniforms to change into when we were ordered into a formation. Some French Colonel in a makeshift field ceremony awarded three American ambulance drivers a Croix de Guerre. It was accompanied by the usual French cheek kissing that is common here.

Today the Boche again launched an offensive with three divisions that gained them 500 yards. It cost them one-third of their force. French Colonial Senegalese drove them back to their original trench lines. No change in the line and the Boche lost an entire division in the process.

We were then pounded by a hurricane of high explosive and gas shells in the form of one continuous whistling,

shrieking, exploding storm. Today nine French villages were completely wiped off the map across our front.

9 July 1918

At midnight, a Boche storm broke in titanic fury against the entire Champagne Front. It included a 40-kilometer semi-circle that protected Reims and the valley of the Marne. The earth erupted under our feet from the impact of the huge Boche guns. The firing continued for ten punishing hours during which we were compelled to live in our gas masks.

The British counterattacked using their Black Watch and Royal Cameron Highland Regiments both of which suffered terrible losses. I cannot help but wonder how many British and French villages will be without any men when this war ends.

6 August 1918

Tonight we were finally withdrawn. We were sent to Tours because we desperately needed relief. The Boche wanted us to know they had not forgotten us. They sent over Avions and Gotha GV's to drop bombs on us. The bombs had no effect other than our nerves are on the edge of collapsing.

We will be reequipped and given a week of rest. We also met newly arrived Americans who came to reinforce us and replace those we have lost. They all seem so young. We have only been here for six months, but unlike the Poilu, we have not grown beards. Most of them think we are old men because we look like it. Yet we are barely a year or two older than they are. War takes its toll in many different ways.

18 September 1918

Two of the new boys were killed last night when their dugout took a direct hit from a Boche Avion bomb. The Boche aviators also dropped propaganda leaflets. They are ineffective other than to be treasured as souvenirs and sent home in the next mail.

9 October 1918

Female French Civils told sad and horrible stories about their treatment at the hands of the occupying Boche. Many were still in shock because they had been repeatedly violated, starved and beaten.



Crown Prince Wilhelm of Germany (German: Kronprinz Wilhelm von Preußen; 6 May 1882 – 20 July 1951), was the last Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Prussia and the German Empire.

14 October 1918



All bridges were makeshift wood. The old stone bridges have been either blown up or mined. Often the mines on a bridge or buried alongside a road will explode a day or two after the Boche have withdrawn. We don't know when or where one might explode. Constant fear of a sudden and hidden explosion is part of the reason many are beginning to lose control of themselves. Many brave men who are suffering from shell shock cannot control their shaking hands, and even soil themselves during barrages.

20 October 1918

Arrived at Sery. Boche lines are collapsing in front of us. We flanked their trenches and their positions are indefensible. The lines of Boche prisoners being marched to the rear are as far as the eye could see. Most are gaunt and hungry. Even the lower ranking officers were thin. We feed them soup and bread because it is obvious they are starving.

As we approached Novien Percien, a Boche ammunition dump scattered over 5 acres was blown up. The sky erupted with exploding powder, shrapnel, high explosives, gas bombs, cartridges, grenades and star shells. All buildings within five kilometers that were still standing were rocked, and all [the] glass that still remained was shattered and splintered into flying shards.

2 November 1918

It is obvious to everyone that the Kaiser's Army is collapsing, yet the generals still order attacks. They have been shoving millions of young men into a sausage grinder for four years and seem to be driven by a lust for more glory and blood. I am convinced that war is merely organized insanity on a massive scale. The end is in the air and nobody wants to be the last to die. Yet the politicians and the generals still want to fight. Of course neither of them will be doing any of the dying. Damn them all to Hell anyway!

11 November 1918

Rumors have run wild for weeks which we learned to ignore. But today at dawn, a formation was held in front of Chateau Percien. The 4th Army Field Commander announced that an ARMISTICE [sic] had been signed and would go into effect at 1100 hours. The Americans did not have to have the announcement translated. The effect on our French comrades was electrifying. Cheering erupted throughout the trench system. Yet despite the announcement, we were still called upon to evacuate a dozen Poilu who were wounded this morning. The insane Boche apparently intend to fight until the very last second.



At 1100 the war was finally over. An almost eerie silence fell across the front. Then French wine suddenly appeared in great quantities. Celebratory toasts were delivered not only to the end of the four-year madness and slaughter, but to one another for having survived it." ★

Private Ralph M. Brown remained in France until 1919, when he was returned on a chartered ocean liner. Upon arrival in New York harbor, he was discharged from the US Army. After he returned to his home in Washington DC, he became a writer, and eventually an editor and prominent publisher in New York City.



BG Ed Wheeler was educated at Texas A&M, the University of South Carolina and the University of Tulsa. He holds BA, MA and MS degrees and is a graduate of the US Army Command and General Staff College, the Industrial College of the Armed Forces and the US Army War College. He is a published non-fiction author, college Adjunct Professor of History, Government and Cultural Geography, and a member of the President's Hundred.

Left: The severe effects of shellshock, what we now know as PTSD, on a WWI soldier.

<http://lassannn.imgur.com/>

Right: Men of U.S. 64th Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, celebrate the news of the Armistice, November 11, 1918.

<http://pbs.twimg.com/media/BM-5tlnCQAAytWf.jpg?large>



Honoring Fallen Overseas

CAPT HARRY H. WEINBERG, SC, USN (RET)
GREATER BOSTON CHAPTER (004), MA



**MOWW
Companions
entering Nettuno
American
Cemetery.**

**Page 9, MOWW
Companions placing
wreath at the
Nettuno American
Cemetery. L-R:
Cpt. Frank Zarba,
LT Gerald O'Grady,
Captain Alan Rieper,
Col. John Arthur
Moore, Col. James
Littleton, Captain
Harry Weinberg,
former Region I
Commander, BG
Emory Maddocks,
and BG Joseph
Milano. BG Stuart
Tauber, LtCol.
Matthew Bourassa,
Col. Walter
Opanasets, Cpt.
Don Piroli.**

Twelve MOWW Companions from the Region I Chapters of Greater Boston and MG (Bvt) Chamberlain, participated with the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts in their 378th Fall Field Tour of Duty (FFTD) to Rome and Malta. In addition to serving as "Good Will Ambassadors" for the United States, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the City of Boston, the Ancients honor and commemorate those American heroes who gave their lives in foreign lands. This type of activity is in keeping with the MOWW Preamble that calls for Companions to encourage the holding of commemoration events that honor our comrades who gave their all.

The Ancients visited the Sicily-Rome Cemetery and Memorial in Nettuno, Italy, which is close to the World War II Anzio Beachhead, to place a wreath in honor of the nearly 7,900 Americans buried there, and the nearly 3,100 Americans whose bodies were never identified, or were lost or buried at sea. The combined band of CINC South travelled up from Naples, Italy to participate in this ceremony.

The cemetery and its memorial are maintained in pristine condition by the American Battle Monument Commission. Any visit to an American cemetery in Europe, whether it is dedicated to those who fought and died in World Wars I or II, is a moving experience. The American Battle Monuments Commission and their on-scene supervisors are to be commended.

This cemetery and memorial were dedicated on Memorial Day in 1945 by Lieutenant General Lucien Truscott via a remarkable speech and method. General Truscott turned his back on the audience and extemporaneously addressed the fallen soldiers buried there with a moving and heartfelt apology.

His remarks were captured and reported by a young Bill Mauldin who wrote, "He apologized to the dead men for their presence here. He said everybody tells leaders it is not their fault that men get killed in war, but that every leader knows in his heart this is not altogether true." Mauldin went on to say Gen Truscott asked for their forgiveness and stated there was no glory in being killed if you are in your late teens or early twenties. He said he would straighten out anyone who thought death in battle was glorious. He thought this was the least he could do. General Truscott, who commanded the Fifth Army in Italy, was one of our most successful leaders in World War II.

Before leaving Rome, the Ancients had the privilege of being hosted by the Pontifical Swiss Guard, whose origins date back to 1506. This makes them the oldest continually operating military organization in the world. The Ancients of Massachusetts are third, with their origins dating back to 1638. The Honorable Artillery Company of London is second, with origins dating to 1537.

The Pontifical Swiss Guard conducted a tour of their armory and museum, and provided a briefing on their history and responsibilities in protecting the Pope. The Pontifical Swiss Guard wears the most unique uniform of any active military organization, and they are proud of that. As a token of their long friendship, the Ancients presented them with a hand-tooled armor breastplate, which the Commander of the Swiss Guard promised to wear at every ceremony calling for this dress.

From Rome, the next stop was the unique island nation of Malta, which sits in the Mediterranean Sea south of Sicily, north of Libya, and west of Tunisia. Malta played a critical role in the liberation of North Africa and the planning of the invasion of Sicily. Submarines and aircraft from Malta wreaked havoc on German resupply lines to North Africa and Italian naval and air bases.

For these actions, Malta paid a very heavy price and came close to being bombed into submission by the Germans.





They experienced over 3,300 air raids and had over 15,000 tons of bombs dropped on them, resulting in nearly 1,600 civilians killed. On 15 August 1942, after being nearly

depleted of all fuel, ammunition and food, a crippled convoy led by the tanker SS Ohio made it into port with enough supplies to save the island nation. For this courageous stand, King George VI of Great Britain honored the Maltese people with an award of the Cross of St. George, a rare honor given to a population. The arrival of the convoy was a turning point for the Allies in World War II.

Malta has a long history of attacks from many nations, including a great siege by the Ottoman Empire in 1565 in which some 9,000 Maltese withstood an invasion force of 40,000 Turks. To escape the yoke of Napoleon and France, Malta voluntarily became a protectorate of Great Britain in the early 1800s and remained so until 1964, when it received its independence as member of the British Commonwealth. In 1974, it ended its ties to Great Britain altogether. It has subsequently become a member of the European Union. From the first moment one steps on Malta's soil, one falls in love with this fascinating island nation.

The Ancients with its MOWW contingent dedicated the first ever memorial to Americans in Malta. A plaque honoring American military men and merchant men who died in the defense and support of Malta was dedicated on a prominent wall overlooking the harbor of Malta's capital Valletta. The plaque is located in the Upper Barrakka Gardens, which overlooks the harbor and recognizes many heroes of past events; it is also one of the most visited places in Malta.

In addition to the Ancients with its MOWW contingent, an honor guard and ceremonial band from Malta's Armed Forces participated in the inspiring ceremony. The plaque was unveiled by the Ancients' Captain Commanding, Donald Previte, and the Honorable Carmelo Abela, the Minister of Home Affairs and National Security. In his address, Minister Abela emphasized the great relations and cooperation between our nations. He was especially grateful for the training the United States furnishes Malta's Armed Forces. In addition, the American Chargé d'Affaires Terry Flynn, representing the American Ambassador, spoke highly of the recognition of Americans to the defense of Malta in World War II. Following the ceremony the Chargé d'Affaires said that henceforth, on every Veterans Day and Memorial Day, a wreath-laying ceremony would take place at the plaque.

Following the ceremony, the President of Malta, Marie Louise Colero-Preca, hosted a luncheon for all the Ancients at the Grand Master's Palace. She expressed the delight of the Maltese people for the presence of the Ancients in Malta and their work in recognizing the efforts of the Maltese people during one of the darkest periods in the history of Malta and Europe.

The MOWW members of the Ancients take great pride in carrying out the mission of commemorating and establishing memorials of the World Wars. It is a special honor to do so in a foreign land where so many of our comrades gave the ultimate sacrifice and so few of our citizens are present to remember them.



A visit to the Ancients' Armory and Museum on the top floor of historic Faneuil Hall in Boston is a rewarding experience, and in the many remarkable exhibits and artifacts, one can see the history of this country from Colonial times to the present. Over 50,000 visitors experience this every year. There is never a charge to visit, but every visitor will get a "charge" out of the American history and patriotism on display. ★



Captain Weinberg has a baccalaureate degree from Boston University and a Master's Degree from George Washington University. After OCS, he attended the Navy Supply Corps School and later the Navy Command and Staff College. He served as a Supply Officer on several ships.

He also had multiple assignments to Navy and Joint Staffs, including CTF 73 (SERVGRU Three), the Logistics Agent for the Seventh Fleet, during the Vietnam War. He retired from the Navy in 1985, and was later a Senior Logistics Manager at Northrop's Precision Products Division. In addition to MOWW positions, he was President of the Wardroom Club of Boston during its Centennial in 1999.



Top left: Armor Breast Plate presented to Pontifical Swiss Guard

Top right: Plaque memorializing American Military Men and Merchant Mariners dedicated in Malta



Operation Dragoon

CPT RYAN HARTY, USANG & CPT JAMES GIACCHI, USANG
NEW JERSEY CHAPTER (246), NJ



Often times, great opportunities walk through your door unexpectedly. This was exactly how CPT Jim Giacchi and myself ended up in Southern France with the immense and incredible honor of representing the 1-102d Cavalry for the 70th Anniversary of the liberation of Southern France, specifically the Battle of Montrevel. COL Dennis Dougherty, USA (Ret), mentioned in passing that a reenacting group that has ties to the 117th Cavalry Association, Mémoires de l'Ain, was hosting a celebration and reenactment display for the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Montrevel in the small rural farming town of Montrevel-en-Bresse. Both CPT Giacchi and I jumped at the opportunity to represent

the unit and to visit in-person the battlefield that the 117th Cavalry heroically fought on during the operations of August and September of 1944. Little did we know what was in store for us!

CPT Giacchi and I began our journey after linking up in Frankfurt, Germany. CPT Giacchi flew commercial a few days earlier to take in the scenery of Western Germany via motorcycle, which is a story in and of itself. We took the 6-hour drive from Frankfurt to Montrevel and made contact with our hosts, Jean-Marie Gillet and Bruno Cavillon. Bruno is the subject matter expert on the battle and can tell you the minute-by-minute details of the battle, from vehicle positions, routes, and significant actions such as 1LT Lee's heroic actions which earned him the Medal of Honor. In what would begin 10 days of commemorations, celebrations and parades, we started in the town of Atin (a small town south of Montrevel) with a ceremony and parade on 6 September followed by a tour of the reenactment encampment on Sougey's Farm, which was a restored 15th Century French farm. It was certainly a sight to see, with French Resistance, German, and American reenactors—with every WWII vehicle and weapon you can imagine. It was surreal to see the guidons on A and B Troops of the 117th Cavalry flying again on the same fields of battle as they were in 1944.

CPT Harty and CPT Giacchi are driven around in a World War II era US Army Jeep as part of the commemoration of the liberation of Montrevel. 7 Sep 2014.



CPT Giacchi shakes the hand of a WWII French Resistance Fighter during a parade and memorial ceremony for the Liberation of Dole. 12 Sep 2014.



The following day, the town of Montrevel had their parade and ceremony which was an absolutely amazing experience. Men and women who were children at the time of the battle came out to speak to us and show us photographs of the 117th. We participated in an emotional ceremony at the 117th Cavalry Monument. It seemed that the entire town came out to pay tribute to the brave Soldiers of the 117th and the French Resistance fighters that fought over the very ground we stood on 70 years ago. Although we both spoke little French and the local citizens spoke little English, the passion, emotion, and heartfelt thanks for our 117th brethren was undeniable. The highlight of the ceremony for us was the laying of the wreaths on the 117th monument followed by the French and American national

anthems played by a high school band. There is something overwhelming about hearing the Star Spangled banner played when you are thousands of miles from home on foreign soil. We ended the parade and ceremony at the town hall which was the building that A and B Troop made their last stand as the 11th Panzer “Ghost” Division surrounded the town. The building still bore the scars of war with multiple bullet holes throughout the exterior.

Throughout the parade and ceremonies, both CPT Giacchi and I were in our ASUs, Stetsons, and spurs. This was quite the sight for the French citizens of Montrevel as it would be in our further travels and made us minor celebrities for a few days. We cannot count the number of pictures and even autographs we did throughout our trip!

After the ceremonies and the conclusion of the reenactment, we bid adieu to our hosts and began our travels north to the city of Dole. The 117th liberated Dole in September 1944 and the city reached out to us to ask us to participate in their anniversary celebrations. The city of Dole is a beautiful and immaculately preserved medieval city, something you would imagine in a story book. In the town of Dole, our guides were two Deputy Mayors, Jean Baptiste Gagnoux and Jean-Phillipe Lefèvre. They arranged tours of the city to include the Collégiale Notre-Dame of Dole, an old Hospital that has been turned into the town library, and numerous other beautiful buildings.

In Dole, we participated in the unveiling of a monument to the 117th Cavalry on the bridge the Squadron entered the town in September of 1944, liberating it from the German Wehrmacht. It is hard to explain the reception we received from the town of Dole. The city opened its arms to us and treated us with amazing generosity. A highlight of our experience in Dole was the time we were able to spend with French Resistance veterans from WWII. They were incredible men and it was humbling to be in their presence. We participated, in conjunction with the French army, in a multitude of ceremonies at various small towns’ WWII memorials. Our final day in Dole was a parade through the picturesque and ancient streets of Dole in WWII jeeps and vehicles. The streets were lined with the people cheering and waving as we went by. The parade ended at Liberation Square where 70 years earlier the 117th and the town of Dole celebrated the final liberation from Nazi occupation after four long and arduous years. The scene that



awaited us at the square is hard to put to words. There were over 5,000 cheering spectators there to honor the American Soldiers and French Resistance fighters. It was emotionally overwhelming and humbling to be part of such a wonderful celebration.

The trip was a once in a lifetime opportunity and an incredible experience. “Humbling” is a word that CPT Giacchi and I used frequently throughout the trip. It was an honor for us to represent the 1-102d Cavalry and the 117th Cavalry association. It is one thing to read articles and books about the battles of WWII and the campaigns of the 117th but it was quite another to see the very ground that those brave troopers fought across in 1944. We both came back with an increased devotion to remembering and educating our Soldiers about what our predecessors accomplished so many years ago. We truly hope that this is not the last trip members of the regiment will take to visit the towns to which our unit and its history are inextricably linked. ★

CPT Hartly and CPT Giacchi assist the Mayor of Dole, Jean-Marie Sermier, unveil a monument to the Liberation of Dole and the contribution of the 117th Cavalry Regiment. 9 Sep 2014



(L-R): Companions CPT James Giacchi, USANG, and CPT Ryan Hartly, USANG





PATTON'S PRAYER

As explained by Carlo D'Este in "Patton: A Genius for War" It was November in the Lorraine when a frustrated Patton called the Third Army chaplain, Msgr. (Col.) James H. O'Neill, and asked for a prayer for the weather. O'Neill composed the following prayer, which Patton shared with the troops in the form of a greeting card which read:

Almighty and most merciful Father, we humbly beseech Thee, of Thy great goodness, to restrain these immoderate rains with which we have had to contend. Grant us fair weather for battle. Graciously hearken to us as soldiers who call upon Thee that, armed with Thy power, we may advance from victory to victory, and crush the oppression and wickedness of our enemies, and establish Thy justice among men and nations. Amen.

To each officer and soldier in the Third United States Army, I wish a Merry Christmas. I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty, and skill in battle. We march in our might to complete victory. May God's blessing rest upon each of you on this Christmas Day.

—G. S. PATTON, JR.,
Lt. Gen. Commanding,
Third United States Army



A Christmas Miracle

ALISON BELL

"THEN AND NOW," LOS ANGELES TIMES, 26 DECEMBER 2010 ©
ORIGINALLY TITLED, "A 1944 CHRISTMAS MIRACLE FOR GEN PATTON"

The World War II general's holiday greeting to troops in Europe that winter included a prayer entreating God to end the rains that were bogging down the United States' 3rd Army

In early December 1944, Gen. George S. Patton Jr., commander of the United States' 3rd Army, stood with his troops at Germany's doorstep. He'd pushed his men across France toward Germany with furious speed during summer and early fall, but in the last months, as he drove through France's Lorraine region toward the Saar River, progress stalled. Fuel and supplies were running short, and perhaps even more deviling, the weather wouldn't cooperate. Driving rains had mired his troops and grounded the fighter planes and bombers needed for air support.

On Dec. 8, Patton turned to a higher power to clear the skies. He asked Chaplain James H. O'Neill if he knew of a "good prayer for the weather," according to military historian and Patton expert Kevin M. Hymel. "We must do something about these rains," Patton said, "if we are to win the war."

After some thought and research, O'Neill came up with the following:

"Almighty and most merciful Father, we humbly beseech Thee, of Thy great goodness, to restrain these immoderate rains with which we have had to contend. Grant us fair weather for Battle. Graciously hearken to us as soldiers who call upon Thee that, armed with Thy power, we may advance from victory to victory and crush the oppression and wickedness of our enemies, and establish Thy justice among men and nations. Amen."

O'Neill typed the prayer onto an index card, and on the flip side typed a Christmas greeting from Patton. Patton ordered 250,000 copies of the card printed and distributed to every man in the 3rd Army.

Throughout history, soldiers have called upon their gods for protection and victory over their enemies. But Patton's now legendary prayer was extraordinary in its presumption and audacity, said Hymel. "There were four other American commanders in the European Theater during that time, and none of them were asking God to fix the weather."

The prayer also makes one question what led Patton to his conviction that he could control the weather? Some clues might be found in his privileged upbringing in what is now San Marino.

"As a child, if he asked for something, he got it," Hymel said. "Patton got the message early on, if you ask, you will receive."



Patton, born Nov. 11, 1885, and called “Georgie” as a child, was the cherished only son of George Smith Patton and Ruth Wilson. (The couple also had a daughter born two years later, Anne, who was called Anita or Nita.) Patton Sr., a prominent attorney and the first mayor of San Marino, had attended the Virginia Military Institute, which George Jr. attended for a year before transferring to West Point. George Sr.’s father had commanded a Confederate regiment during the Civil War and was killed in Winchester, Va. Wilson’s father, Benjamin David Wilson—the namesake of Mt. Wilson—had been the mayor of Los Angeles, a state senator and a powerful landowner.

Patton’s childhood was an idyllic one, full of hunting, fishing, riding ponies around his parents’ ranch and swimming in Lake Vineyard, which is now San Marino’s Lacy Park. He was raised on stories of heroism; at night his father read to him Shakespeare’s plays, the Odyssey and the Iliad, Scottish legends, Civil War tales and Bible stories.

Little was denied Georgie. He had his own carpentry shop, a ping-pong table, horses, swords, an army of toy soldiers and a shotgun, Hymel said. Home-schooled until he was almost 12, he was spared from having to compete with his peers. And when he did start attending traditional school, it was rough going as Georgie had trouble reading and writing. Some historians suspect he had dyslexia.

Not only did Georgie possess the unconditional love of his parents, but that of his doting Aunt Nannie, who lived with the family. Her devotion to Patton was

twofold: She loved her nephew but she was also “in love with his father,” Hymel said. She was so enamored with George Sr. that she even tried to accompany him and her sister on their honeymoon. “Because she could not have George Sr., she devoted her life to George Jr., and praised anything the boy did,” Hymel said.

Patton’s religious beliefs were also set in childhood. His parents were devout Episcopalians who helped found the first Protestant church in the San Gabriel Valley, the Church of Our Saviour, according to Kenneth Veronda, headmaster of Southwestern Academy in San Marino. Patton used to pray nightly to a painting of two men he thought were God and Jesus but were really Civil War heroes Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson, Hymel said. “Patton was raised to believe that he had a firsthand relationship with God.”

And perhaps he did. In December 1944, his prayer was answered. The weather miraculously cleared (it did eventually snow, but the prayer hadn’t mentioned snow), and Patton was able to get his army moving again. When the Germans launched their final attack against Allied Forces, the Battle of the Bulge, Patton swung his men north toward the town of Bastogne, where German forces surrounded American troops from the 1st Army. On Dec. 26, he broke through the German defenses and relieved Bastogne.

Of all of Patton’s World War II military successes, it was this effort at Bastogne, said Hymel, that Patton considered his “most brilliant operation and outstanding achievement of the war.” ★

Infantrymen fire at German troops in the advance to relieve the surrounded paratroopers in Bastogne.

Source: “United States Army in World War II, Pictorial Record, The War against Germany: Europe and Adjacent Areas”



Looking Back On Iraq So We Can Move Ahead

EMMA SKY

REPRINTED FROM ARMYTIMES

19 October 2015, 11:25 AM

I stood at the podium, looking out across the packed, 500-seat auditorium. Having served as GEN Raymond T. Odierno's political adviser from 2007–2010 in Iraq, I had been asked to brief III Corps ahead of their deployment back there.

"I'm honored to be back at Fort Hood, [Texas,]" I began. "There is no place that has borne the cost of the Iraq War more."

I paused. I saw only one face I knew in the audience. "How many of you have served in Iraq?" I asked. Hundreds of hands went up. And it was at that moment that I recognized every person in the room. My hesitancy left me. These were battle buddies.

"Nothing that happened in Iraq after 2003 was preordained. Nothing was inevitable. There were different potential futures for the country," I told the audience.

I spoke to them about the Surge: how I had witnessed

commanders on the ground pacify their areas by protecting the population, reaching out to insurgents, brokering cease-fires and carefully targeting irreconcilables.

"From 2007–09, we had, for the only time during the whole war, the right strategy, leadership and resources. The violence dropped dramatically. What our soldiers did was real. It made a difference," I said. And for a moment, I was carried back to battlefield circulation with Odierno, visiting units camped out in the middle of nowhere; and Odierno assuring the assembled soldiers, who were exhausted and filthy from patrol, that what they did mattered, that their tactical successes contributed to the overall strategy.

It had been real. All the indicators at the time pointed in a positive trajectory. We and the Iraqis thought the civil war was behind us and that the country was headed in a positive direction. But then it all went wrong.

Things fell apart because of the politics: Iraqi politics and our politics. In our rush for the exit, we gave up our role



Photo by: US Army/Spc. Steven Hitchcock)





Multi-National Forces Flag

of “balancer,” of moderator, of protector of the political process. We failed to broker the formation of government after the closely contested 2010 elections, thus providing Iran with the opportunity to heavily increase its influence by guaranteeing Iraq’s then-Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki a second premiership on the condition there would be no follow-on

security agreement with the U.S. We did not transition from a military-led to a civilian-led relationship with Iraq. We gave up our soft power as we withdrew our hard [power].

Maliki used his second term to go after Sunni politicians, driving them from the political process. He reneged on his promises to the awakening leaders who had fought against al-Qaida. He arrested Sunnis en masse. He subverted the judiciary and undermined democratic institutions. Sunni protests were violently crushed. Such an environment enabled the Islamic State group to rise up out of the ashes of al-Qaida in Iraq. And Sunnis who had previously contained al-Qaida in Iraq, with our support, determined that the Islamic State was the lesser of two evils when compared with the Iranian-backed regime of Maliki.

When the Islamic State moved into Mosul, the Iraqi army, which greatly outnumbered them, fled, leaving behind all their U.S.-supplied equipment. Maliki had replaced leaders who he feared were too close to the U.S. with ones loyal to him. They had pocketed the funds that were supposed to be used to buy ammunition and food for the troops. And they had not given orders to their soldiers to fight.

As the Phantom Corps prepared, once again, to deploy to Iraq, I advised those who had served there before to recalibrate their thinking. It was not the same place; it was not the same mission.

“Keep asking how the military component fits into the overall strategy,” I urged them. “The military effort is essential, but not decisive. It has to be in support of the political and diplomatic activities. But the military gives muscle to U.S. diplomacy. The deployment shows commitment.”

Later, I hung out for a couple of hours with soldiers. Some came up to me to pose questions they’d been too embarrassed to ask in front of the large audience. Some wanted to talk to me about their previous deployments. And a number were seeking answers to what the Iraq War had been for, what all the sacrifice had been for.

It is the hardest question to answer. They died as soldiers, doing a job they loved and believed in. They sacrificed their lives in the knowledge that the soldier on the right and the soldier on the left would have done the same for them.

It was a scorching day in Texas—Baghdad hot. But at least I didn’t have to wear body armor, or gloves. And then I thought of Command Sgt. Maj. Neil L. Ciotola, the sergeant major of III Corps during the Surge. He had been a stickler for standards and cared so much for soldiers. He always made me smile, and he always had words of wisdom. We spoke while I was in Texas.

“Look, Miss Emma, did I think the war was a good idea? Of course I didn’t. But that decision was not up to me. That was for our political masters to answer. As a soldier, my job is to salute and move out to execute the mission to the best of my abilities.” As we reminisced, joked and laughed, he told me how much he had been changed by his experience in Iraq, how it had made him a better person. The soldiers had set out to transform Iraq and instead, they had been transformed by it. Amid the horror of war, they had seen their better selves, learned who they really were and what they were capable of doing, and had been prepared to lay down their lives for each other.

There is not a day that goes by when I don’t see a post on Facebook commemorating a soldier who died on that particular day, with a photograph and a short note about who they were and how they lived. I see soldiers setting up organizations such as the Warrior-Scholar Project to help enlisted veterans get into university. I see soldiers helping their former translators get visas to the U.S. through the Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project, and helping them resettle in the U.S. through No One Left Behind. I see sponsored runs in the names of fallen comrades raising money for wounded warriors—and for Iraqi children. I see soldiers standing for election. I see soldiers active in civic life, committed to making America a better place, to make it worthy of the sacrifice of our soldiers.

I wish politics and media in America were less polarized.



I wish more was done to generate consensus on America's role in the world and how to strengthen the capacity of institutions to implement that vision. I wish there would be a bipartisan commitment to learn lessons from the Iraq experience. It is the best way that we can honor those who gave their lives in this war. I wish our civilian and political leadership would try to learn how to better set achievable objectives and make rational assumptions; how to develop an overall national strategy; and how to use military means not as an end in itself, but as a tool to achieve political outcomes.

Despite its faults, the Army does at least try to learn and improve, to understand the utility of force and its own limitations. I think of Odierno and Ciotola: friendships formed on the battlefield through sweat and tears, and loss and loss and loss, in an effort to give Iraqis the hope of a better future—the only purpose that made any sense as to why we were there.

When I think back to the war, I remember our dedication to each other, the commitment to the mission, the selflessness, the trust, the better angels of our nature. ★

*Emma Sky, OBE (Officer of the Order of the British Empire), is director of Yale World Fellows. She is the author of *The Unraveling: High Hopes and Missed Opportunities in Iraq*. She served in Iraq from 2003 to 2004 as the governorate coordinator of Kirkuk, and from 2007 to 2010 as political adviser to GEN Raymond T. Odierno, then-commanding general of U.S. Forces in Iraq.*

**Emma
Sky, OBE,
and GEN
Raymond
T. Odierno,
USA, in Iraq**

DISCLAIMER: Opinions or points of view expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official position or policies of the Military Order of the World Wars.



CINC's Schedule

19 December 2015

MG George G. Meade Chapter,
Fort Meade, MD - Holiday Gala

15-16 January 2016

Apache Trail Chapter, Tempe, AZ

18 February 2016

Sun City Center Chapter, Sun City Center, FL

10-13 March 2016

Pershing Rifles National Convention & Drill
Meet, Chantilly, VA

1-2 April 2016

Region VII Conference, North Little Rock, AR

10 April 2016

Region IV Conference, Richmond, VA

14-17 April 2016

Dallas Chapter Meeting & Military Ball,
Dallas, TX

29 April-1 May 2016

Region V Convention, Memphis, TN

22 May 2016

Fort Meade Memorial Day Remembrance
and 30th Annual Massing of the Colors,
Fort Meade, MD

1-2 June 2016

Philadelphia Chapter Installation Luncheon

14 June 2016

Santa Fe Massing of the Colors & Region
XIII/Department of Rio Grande Meeting,
Santa Fe, NM

18 June 2016

MG George G. Meade Summer Gala, Fort
Meade, MD

20 June 2016

San Diego Chapter Installation Meeting



7 December 2015 – Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony, Washington, DC

Veterans render a salute after laying wreaths during a Pearl Harbor remembrance ceremony at the National World War II Memorial in Washington, DC. (L-R): WWII Battle of the Bulge veteran Daredevil Harry Miller, HQ Company; PCINC LTC Alfred H. M. Shehab, USA (Ret); CINC LTC Ruth Hamilton, USA (Ret), and PCINC CAPT Russell Vowinkel, USN (Ret).

Photo By: Sean Kimmons <http://www.marines.mil/>



Endowment Grants

PCINC LTC ALFRED H. M. SHEHAB, USA (RET)

CHAIR, GRANTS COMMITTEE | HANN-BUSWELL MEMORIAL CHAPTER (AT LARGE)

PURPOSE OF THE HANN-BUSWELL MEMORIAL CHAPTER ENDOWMENT GRANTS

- The Hann-Buswell Memorial Chapter has established an endowment fund to promote the tenets of the Preamble of the Constitution of the Military Order of the World Wars, and to support the Strategic Goals of the Military Order.
- The Chapter's endowment fund earns interest from which grants may be made while keeping the principal untouched. Endowment (grant) requests will prompt funders to ask hard questions about the financial outlook of the applicant(s), and the intended use of the grant money requested
- *The Hann-Buswell Chapter's Grants Committee is seeking grant requests from MOWW chapters and national committee chairs, including ad hoc committees. Grant request procedures are listed below.*

HANN-BUSWELL ENDOWMENT GRANT REQUEST PROCEDURES

- *The grant requests must be in MS Word.doc format, and received by the Chair, Grants Committee, NLT 60 days prior to the Hann-Buswell Memorial Chapter meeting at the 2016 Convention, i.e., by 10 June 2016. Grant requests must be sent to hotspur38@verizon.net.*
- *The Grant request(s) must include a breakdown of the grant request, to include the grant money requested, the specific application of the grant money, and the justification for the request. The grant request must also cite the money raised by the requestor(s). In addition, it must directly support the Preamble to the Constitution of the Military or MOWW's Strategic Goals.*
- *The grant request(s) must also cite any previous year's grant, i.e., the amount requested, the amount received, and the specific use of the prior year's grant money.*



HANN-BUSWELL ENDOWMENT GRANT REQUEST REVIEW PROCESS

- The Grants Committee will review grants received as outlined above, and will make a recommended disposition to the chapter's membership, e.g., approve in full, approve in part, defer, or deny.
- The grant requests and the Committee recommendation(s) are presented to the Chapter during its annual meeting at the MOWW Convention. Chapter members present will vote on each grant request, and the Chapter notifies the submitter of the disposition of grant request(s).
- A majority vote of the Chapter members present who are voting during the chapter meeting at the MOWW Convention are required to approve/deny/defer the grant request—in whole or in part.





Proposing Amendments

PCINC CAPT RUSSELL C. VOWINKEL, USN (RET)
CHAIR, CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS COMMITTEE

The Military Order's Constitution and Bylaws are the supreme guidance of the Order. They are on the Military Order's website.

HOW THE PROCESS WORKS

- Per the MOWW Constitution and Bylaws, Companion proposals to amend either of these documents must make such proposals to the Chair, Constitution & Bylaws Committee, at the address in the MOWW National Directory by 15 February, annually.
- Proposals may submitted after that date but before March 15, annually, may be considered if a majority of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee finds that the subject of the proposal is an emergency matter.
- Proposed amendments received after 15 March will not considered for the MOWW Convention held that year. The process to submit proposed amendments to the MOWQW Constitution and the MOWW Bylaws is identical.
- The full Committee will evaluate proposed amendments meeting the submission timing above and the submitter requirements below.



SUBMITTER REQUIREMENTS

- *In proposing amendments to the MOWW Constitution and/or MOWW Bylaws, the submitter must:*
 1. *Cite the Article, Section, Paragraph, etc., proposed for amendment, and quote the current text applicable to that citation in full.*
 2. *Cite the Article, Section, Paragraph, etc., applicable to the text proposed, and provide the new (proposed) text in full.*
 3. *Provide the rationale for the proposed changes, i.e., specify the benefits resulting from adopting the proposed amendment.*
- *The three items above must be ready for publishing in a single MS Word document.*

NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO BE PRESENTED AT CONVENTION

- Chapters and members of the General Staff will be informed of proposed amendments to be presented at the annual MOWW Convention at least sixty (60) days' notice prior to the annual MOWW Convention at which they will be presented for adoption.
- A three-fourths favorable vote of the delegates voting at the MOWW Convention is required to amend the MOWW Constitution.
- A two-thirds favorable vote of the delegates voting at the MOWW Convention is required to amend the MOWW Bylaws.



Involvement—It's Worth It

BRIG GEN ARTHUR B. MORRILL III, USAF (RET)
CHIEF OF STAFF, MOWW

It's early Saturday morning, I'm sitting in Starbucks, and I'm thinking about our Order and each of you. Over the years, we've talked a great deal about recruiting and being individually involved in MOWW activities. In fact, recruiting and involvement comprise our Order's cardinal Strategic Goal, because to the degree we're successful in broadly achieving MOWW Strategic Goal 1, we'll be more successful in achieving all four of the other Strategic Goals.

Our Order needs, as all Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) need, new members to carry on its mission, to replace departed members, to strengthen the organization capability-wise, and to increase our ability to serve others.

However, we need more than greater numbers. We also need greater numbers of those who will volunteer to be involved and get things done. That is why involvement is part of Strategic Goal 1. Involvement, i.e., engaged and iterative volunteerism, is what gives life to our Preamble. Volunteerism is what makes outreach possible. Of course, we cannot merely order each other about. No one should think that, even though we do organize ourselves and have some processes to help get things done and to promote continuity.

As an Order, we need more volunteers. We can ill afford to continue to let an increasingly smaller group of people simultaneously hold an increasing number of positions and do ever more work. We didn't do that while on active service, or while working in the private sector, and we shouldn't do it now. That's why joining a volunteer organization, such as our beloved Military Order, is just the first step. Joining is much like entering a gymnasium. Involvement, i.e., what we do once we're in the gym, makes all the difference in the world.

How and when we volunteer to do things, how we help new and existing Companions take an active, specific role in a chapter's activities, make the

difference between merely joining and voluntarily contributing. The individual Companion, the sponsors, the chapter's leadership, and all Companions, all play vital roles in helping to bring about greater individual involvement and personal fulfillment.

As Companions, we are volunteers in service. By volunteering to be a member of the Military Order, we are also volunteering to be an involved Companion, actively contributing to the Order's mission and the chapter's activities based on the Preamble and our Strategic Goals. The good news: there is a role for everyone to play in chapter success. As our insightful Surgeon General, Dr. Bob Mallin, said in a recent *Officer Review*™ (Nov 15):



Relating to us, some of our individual members experienced in organizing, planning and running programs are invaluable. We can involve and learn from these Companions—even if they are not as mobile as they were.

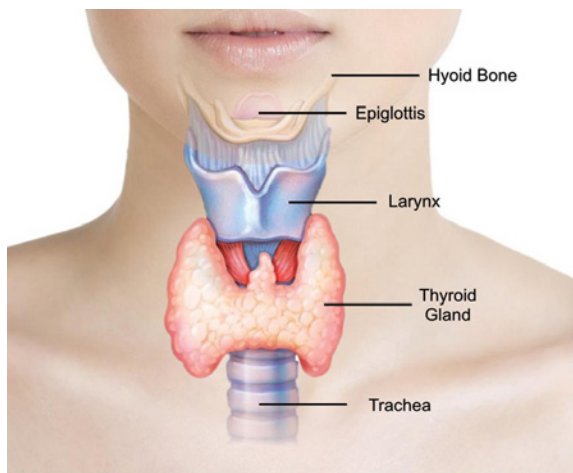
We have approximately 7,600 Companion members in MOWW, and so we are for great force for good in our communities and service to our nation, through kindness, mutual respect and teamwork. These attributes are seen in many ways. However, they all begin with how we treat each other, how we recruit new members into our fold, how we help them understand the importance of volunteering after joining MOWW, and how we help them personally become more fulfilled, team-oriented, serving Companions of our great Military Order. ★

i'm not telling
you it is going to
be easy, i'm telling
you it's going to be
worth it.



What About the Thyroid?

CPT (DR) ROBERT E. MALLIN, USA (FMR)
SURGEON GENERAL, MOWW



When I was a kid, I would occasionally see people with “spare tire”-like swellings around their necks. This was especially true in populations far from the sea and naturally occurring iodine. These were goiters, and they usually resulted from an insufficient intake of iodine. This was remedied by mandating that iodine be added to salt...hence “iodized salt” is what we buy today.

The gland called the thyroid (shield shape, in Greek) is the largest gland in the neck. It is in front of and surrounds the windpipe. It is normally a butterfly shape with wings on either side of the trachea (wind pipe.) Its only function is to make the thyroid hormone, which acts on nearly all the bodily tissues to regulate growth.

This gland is, therefore, the number one regulator of metabolism and growth. Simply, its problems relate to manufacture of this hormone, i.e., making too much or too little. The organ’s growth can get out of control and compress the important neck structures, e.g., the esophagus (which limits eating) or the windpipe (which limits respiration), or it forms growths (that may or may not be malignant).

An imbalance of hormone production can lead to problems. Hyperthyroidism is a speeding up of metabolism, and is seen in nervousness, tremors, fast heartbeats, and the quintessential “hyper.” As the thyroid is the only gland that uses iodine, a radioactive form

of iodine can be used to go straight to the thyroid, and may be what is needed to do the trick. Other drugs and hormone regulation may also be needed. Hypothyroidism, too little hormone, causes, basically, a bodily slow down, weight gain, less energy, etc. Logically administered hormone in balance is the treatment.

If the gland is just too big (even if benign), it may cause too much pressure and have to be removed. The use of X-rays and ultra sound help in diagnosis. Occasionally an MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) is needed for details.

Cancer of the thyroid is more common in women than in men, and over the age of 30, but is among the most curable of all cancers—with excellent long-term survival rates. If indicated, glandular removal and lymph node dissection of one or both sides of the neck is done. This surgery requires a specialist’s skilled experience and fingers. This would often be routine if it were not for the laryngeal nerves that run through the area and control vocal chords and speech.

Almost 50% of us will have a thyroid nodule (lump) at some time. Overwhelmingly, they are benign. A needle biopsy can settle any question.

To be complete, there is Thyroiditis, an infection of the gland. This causes inefficient use of iodine and has too many considerations for this basic discussion.

As always, check with your provider if you have difficulty swallowing, breathing, feel permanently “sluggish” or “hyper” over and above the needs of stress. A hoarse voice, neck pain or palpable (feelable) neck lumps all require investigation. ★



CPT (Dr.) Robert E. Mallin, USA (Fmr), is a graduate of Adelphi University and New York Medical College. He is certified with the American Board of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. In private practice from 1975-94, he was the Alaskan State Physician of the Year. While in the US Army (1966-1968) he earned a Bronze Star, Purple Heart and Air Medal, and a Combat Medical Badge.

We Will Treat Anyone

CH (COL) WILLIAM K. BROCK, AUS (RET)
CHAPLAIN GENERAL, MOWW

During our visit to Normandy, France, in April 2015, my wife and I visited the 11th Century church at Angoville-Au-Plain. The church is in the area where two medics, Bob Wright and Kenneth Moore, from the 101st Airborne Division landed and could not locate any of the other 101st Airborne units.

Since they were medics, they decided to set up an aide station inside the church. They posted a sign outside in English and German:

**We Will Treat Anyone.
Hang Your Weapons Outside**



During the next three days following the Normandy landings on 6 June 1944, these two medics treated eighty patients consisting of both German and American soldiers, and a ten-year-old French boy who was the lone survivor of his entire family. All of their patients survived and bloodstains remain on some of the pews, which had been used as hospital beds.



COL Renita Menyhert, USA (Ret), presented their story at one of our regular Fort Hood Chapter meetings during October 2011. She had maintained a lifelong friendship with Bob Wright and had possession of a wedding dress, which she had displayed on a manikin for our meeting. Bob had his parachute made into a wedding dress for his fiancé.

They were married on 30 September 1945.

Bob died in 2013 and some of his ashes are interred in the French cemetery next to the church with a small marker simply engraved "R.E.W." The ten-year-old boy they treated still resides in Angoville. The church itself now contains several stained glass windows depicting the landings from the 101st Airborne Division and some memorial markers in honor of Bob Wright and Kenneth Moore.

It has struck me as being very appropriate that an old church was used as a house of mercy to those in need, and also to serve as a memorial to those medics who were trained, willing and able to provide that expertise in such an hour, ie, serve so selflessly.

As fellow travelers on the road of life, we never know when we, too, may be called upon to serve our fellow man in such in such a capacity. May God grant us the wisdom and insight to be prepared for such an occasion, and the willingness to serve with kindness and compassion. ★



CG (COL) Brock retired from the Veterans Administration in 1997 after 20 years of service, and earlier retired from the US Army after 33 Active Duty and Reserve years as a Military Chaplain. He is a graduate of the University of Indianapolis and the United Theological Seminary. His military education includes the Chaplain's Basic and Advanced Courses, US Army Command & General Staff College, and the National Security Management Course. He is a past Commander of the Ft. Hood Chapter and is active in the First United Methodist Church in Waco (TX). He and his wife, Evelyn, have two daughters and six grandchildren.

Above: Church at Angoville-Au-Plain

Left, L-R: Bob Wright and Kenneth Moore

Below Left: A stained glass window in the church commemorates the 101st Airborne landing on D-Day, 6 June 1944

Source: www.normandythenandnow.com/





BRIG GEN SCOTT (204), GEORGIA

Celebrating Justice

BY ROBERT KOMLO, MAJ, USAF (RET)

Great Idea!

The Brig Gen Robert L. Scott Chapter recently commemorated the 226th anniversary of President George Washington's signing of the Judiciary Act (24 Sept 1789). This act established America's federal court system and created the post of attorney general for the United States. The Chapter honored this day in history by inviting our Middle Georgia District Attorney, David Cooke of the Macon Circuit District, and Colonel Mike Carswell, Law Enforcement Services, Macon-Bibb Sheriff's Office, to our September meeting. For its Law & Order emphasis on this day, the Chapter wanted to focus on public safety functions that ensure the safety and security of American citizens by supporting and participating in related programs.

DA Cooke provided an outstanding presentation of "Law and Order—Arrest and Prosecution." He gave a detailed overview of the processes of gathering evidence to prosecute offenders. He emphasized the commitment to legally and ethically follow the law in trying cases in his circuit. Our DA says the best way to reduce crime is to ensure all children can read at their grade level when they start in elementary school. He also described the heavy responsibilities in deciding whether to pursue a plea agreement or to prosecute in a court of law.

Colonel Carswell put in plain words the many responsibilities and procedures necessary in arresting offenders. He emphasized the heavy burden placed on law enforcement officers, in oftentimes dangerous circumstances, without using excessive force or treating arrestees cruelly. He says that crime has to cost something and a potential criminal needs to know that there will be a price to pay for any illegal activity.

For their willingness to speak as representatives of America's finest men and women who gallantly and faithfully serve our community and for their life-long commitment to public service, Chapter 204 was most appreciative.

(L-R) Presentation of Certificates of Appreciations: DA Cooke, Col Raleigh Mann Chapter Commander, and Col Carswell.



HAMPTON ROADS (027), VIRGINIA

In Support of Our Order

BY MAJ EARL JOHNSON, USAF (RET)

Maj Earl Johnson, USAF (Ret), and Col William Townsley, USAF (Ret), delivered certificates and checks to the organizations that support our AIFCV youth leadership programs.

Maj Earl Johnson, USAF (Ret), is pictured with: *Top:* Jack Johnson, owner of Excel Graphics who does our shirts at the same discounted price he charged 13 years ago. *Center:* Kate Coelin, who reserves the 4-H dorms and provides food service. She also ensures we get the best dates and deals to support our program. And finally, Candy and Heather are with York Trophy. They engrave the coins and plaques for us at very short notice without errors. They also have supported our program for years. So, today they all received a check for lunch and an MOWW Certificate of Appreciation. They have served us well!



GEN VANDENBERG (213), CALIFORNIA

Congratulations in Order

BY LTJG JOSEPH BROCATO, USN (FMR)

On 29 October 2015, MOWW hosted a luncheon honoring WWII and Korean War veterans. This luncheon was held at the Madonna Expo Center in San Luis Obispo. There were 246 veterans and an additional 340 guests in attendance.

We were pleased and honored to have Lieutenant General David J. Buck, USAF, as the keynote speaker. General Buck is the Commander of the Fourteenth Air Force, Air Force Space Command; and Commander, Joint Functional Component Command for Space, US Strategic Command for Space, US Strategic Command, Vandenberg Air Force Base, CA.

General Buck was very complimentary to the attending veterans. One of his quotes: "I want to thank you for leaving us such a proud heritage, a tradition of honor and a legacy of valor." He said he was honored and humbled to be in their presence.

Attendees also included representatives of Congresswoman Lois Capps, California State Assemblyman Katcho Achadjian and California State Senator Bill Monning. The San Luis Obispo County Supervisors attended along with the District Attorney and mayors of Paso Robles & Atascadero.

Entertainment was provided by the Cal Poly band playing national songs and the Medley of Hymns of the Services at the beginning of the program and the Cal Poly Trio (less one) singing some really fantastic songs during lunch. (The duo were called up by Gen Buck and he gave them each a Challenge Coin and a hug for their fine performance.)

Each veteran received a package that included: A pictorial montage of their service (if the WWII vets did not receive one last year); Certificates of Recognition from US Congress, CA State Assembly, CA State Senate, and County of San Luis Obispo; A book by Blaine Harden, "The Great Leader and the Fighter Pilot," a story of the tyrant creator of North Korea and a young Lieutenant getting his freedom. The packages were hand delivered by nine energetic Grizzly Academy Cadets.

Clockwise from top left, (L-R): The head table consisted of Master of Ceremony LTJG Joseph Brocato, Lt Gen David Buck, USAF; BGen Fred Lopez, USMC (Ret), and State Senator Bill Monning; General Buck making his presentation; LTJG Joe Brocato calls out a name, the veteran raises his/her hand, and the cadet makes the delivery. A package delivered by a cadet to WWII veteran SGT Bonnie Jones-Meyer US Women's Army Corps. (Bonnie had received her montage last year.) The cadets made 240 deliveries and their support is much appreciated. The Grizzly Cadets were gentlemen and we were pleased to have their assistance.





DALLAS (069), TEXAS

Chapter Receives Check for \$750

BY CAPT WALLACE LYLE MUELLER, USMC, (FMR)

Companion LTC Michael Christians, USAR, presents a check for \$750 from his employer, Morgan Stanley to Dallas Chapter Commander LTC Kenneth Boatman, USA (Ret).



TOPEKA (086), KANSAS

MOWW Silver Patrick Henry Awards Presented to Kansas State University

BY VCINC MG DONALD JACKA, USA (RET)

Over the past decade, Kansas State University has developed a program of Military and Veterans Affairs, and a relationship with Fort Riley (KS), which tremendously benefits service members, their families and the community. The cooperative and supportive relationship between Kansas State University and Fort Riley/1st Infantry Division is a model for other military installations, communities and universities to replicate.

On 26 May 2015, the MOWW Kansas Department Commander, MG Donald Jacka, USA (Ret), and CPT Terry Harbert, USA (Fmr), Commander of the Topeka Chapter (who were both commissioned at Kansas State University), had the pleasure of presenting Silver Patrick Henry Awards to Dr. Kirk H. Schulz, President of KSU, and LTC Arthur S. DeGroat, USA (Ret), Executive Director of Military and Veterans' Affairs, Kansas State University.

In keeping with the tenets of our Order's Preamble, these two gentlemen were honored in a ceremony at the WWII Memorial on the KSU Campus. Approximately 25 family members, academic deans and academicians were present for the ceremony. President Schulz and LTC DeGroat (a Topeka Chapter Companion) both received a SPH plaque with an engraved plate which read:

"Thank you for your Outstanding Patriotism and Exceptional Service to our Military, Military Families and Veterans, The Military Order of the World Wars, Topeka Chapter, 26 May 2015"

Both citations noted the relationship and bond cultivated between Kansas State University, the First Infantry Division, and the military personnel and families of Fort Riley and Kansas.

(L-R): VCINC MG Donald Jacka, USA (Ret), reads from the citations accompanying the Silver Patrick Henry Awards presented to Dr. Kirk H. Schulz and Companion LTC Arthur S. DeGroat, USA (Ret).



MG MEADE (026), MARYLAND

French Commemoration Day

BY LT COL SHELDON GOLDBERG, USAF (RET)

VCINC LTC John H. Hollywood, USA (Ret.) and COL M. Hall Worthington, USA (Ret), (in uniform as a BG, Maryland Defense Force), lay a wreath at the annual French Commemoration Day Ceremony at St. John's College in Annapolis. The ceremony and monument honor four unknown French soldiers who died while assisting American forces during the Revolutionary War.



LTG MIDDLETON (056), LOUISIANA

LTG Middleton Presents Youth Leadership and Patriotic Awards

BY SVCINC COL CLAY C. LE GRANDE, JR., USA (RET)

On 3 November 2015, the LTG Middleton Chapter Companions heard presentations from four students the chapter-sponsored Youth Leadership Conferences during 2015. Three students (Breezy Berteau, Kijan Dunn and Katherine Roberts) participated in the Patriots Point Youth Leadership Conference 23–26 June 2015 aboard the USS Yorktown in Charleston, SC. Trevor Sanders participated in the Huntsville YLC October 28–31 2015 held at the US Space & Rocket Center, Huntsville, AL. The students discussed their impressions of the conferences, and how it had impacted their current educational and leadership experiences.

During the meeting, each student received a certificate and MOWW coin honoring their selection for participation in the Youth Leadership Conferences from LTC Patrick Widner, USAR (Ret), LTG Middleton Chapter Commander, and LTC Shaun McGarry, Chapter Youth Leadership Program Vice Commander. Each student, accompanied by their parents and their nominating school counselor, were the the chapter's guests for dinner at the Baton Rouge City Club.

LTC Patrick Widner, Chapter Commander, visits with Kijah Dunn (Broadmoor HS), Breezy Berteau (Parkview Baptist HS), Katherine Roberts (St Michaels HS), and Trevor Sanders (St Amant HS), as they display their MOWW certificates. Also shown with the students is LTC Shaun McGarry, Chapter Vice Commander for Youth Leadership Programs, who presented the certificates.





VA to Pay for Robotic Legs

The VA has agreed to pay for robotic legs that could allow scores of paralyzed veterans with spinal cord injuries to walk again.

Veterans have been petitioning the VA to do this because many cannot afford the \$77,000 needed to pay for the powered exoskeleton called the ReWalk. The device was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration in 2014 for individuals to use at home. The ReWalk was invented by Israeli entrepreneur Amit Goffer, who was paralyzed in an accident in 1997. Several competing products that use similar technology — nicknamed “electronic legs” — are also being tested in U.S. rehab hospitals.

None, including the ReWalk, are fast enough or can be worn long enough to replace wheelchairs. VA pilot studies found paraplegics who used the exoskeleton as little as four hours a week for three to five months experienced better bowel and bladder function, reduced back pain, improved sleep and had less fatigue.

About 42,000 veterans are paralyzed. Of them, a fraction would meet the requirement for an exoskeleton. The apparatus requires specific height and weight requirements and works for paraplegics but not for quadriplegics. A supportive belt around the patient’s waist keeps the suit in place, and a backpack holds the computer and rechargeable battery. Crutches are used for stability, and the FDA requires an assistant be nearby.



ReWalk Robotics CEO Larry Jasinski said a dozen VA centers are expected to start training staff to provide the system. The program will likely be expanded in the future.

Former Army SGT Terry Hannigan, a 62-year-old paralyzed Vietnam veteran, was the first veteran to get the robotic legs as part of a test of the system. She uses them to walk through the mall and shop at the grocery store.

“It definitely is a show stopper, especially in the mall with kids. Some say things like ‘Wow, look at Robocop!’ They ask a lot of questions, but I don’t mind,” Hannigan said.

When she was confined to a wheelchair she said she had to ask people to pass her things out of her reach.

“To be able to hear the conversation, not miss half of what’s being said because it’s over your head, that in itself is a big plus,” she said. “Now I can walk up, shake

someone’s hand. I can hug, kiss them. That might be a small thing, but the only other time I would get body contact was when a family member or caregiver would pick me up and put me in bed.”

VA Plans to Propose Expanded Disability Benefits Eligibility for Veterans Exposed to Contaminated Water at Camp Lejeune

The VA announced on 17 Dec 2015 that it plans to propose expanded disability compensation eligibility for veterans exposed to contaminated drinking water



while assigned to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune.

From 1953 to 1987, water sources at the base were

contaminated with industrial solvents that are correlated with certain health conditions. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald decided to propose presumptions of service connection for certain conditions associated with these chemical solvents following discussions between environmental health experts at the Veterans Health Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR).

ATSDR determined that the drinking water at Camp Lejeune was contaminated with perchloroethylene, trichloroethylene, vinyl chloride, benzene and other petroleum contaminants from leaking storage tanks from 1953 to 1987. ATSDR also determined that prolonged exposure to these chemicals increases the risk of certain health conditions.

The Secretary’s proposal would also expand benefits eligibility to Reserve and National Guard personnel who served at Camp Lejeune for any length of time from August 1, 1953, through December 31, 1987. These personnel would be presumed to have been exposed to the contaminated water during their Reserve or National Guard service and, in appropriate circumstances, to have been disabled by such exposure during service, thus allowing them to qualify for VA benefits under the statutory definition of “Veteran.”

Based upon VA’s review of current medical science and ATSDR’s findings, Secretary McDonald intends to propose creation of a presumption of service connection for the following conditions:

Kidney Cancer, Liver Cancer, Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma, Leukemia, Multiple Myeloma, Scleroderma, Parkinson’s Disease and Aplastic Anemia/Myelodysplastic Syndromes. ★



Reveille

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LTC David R. Titus, USA (Ret) *

CENTRAL ARKANSAS AR

COL Anita E. Deason, USANG (Ret) *
Col James D. Elmer, USAF (Ret) *

CLEARWATER FL

Gladys S. Tanso, HRM
LTC George K. Smith, USA (Ret) *

DALLAS TX

Col Ralph L. Hodge, USAF (Ret)
COL Ronald P. Forest, USA (Ret) *
1stLt Tommie R. Williams, USMC (Fmr)
COL Ronald P. Forest, USA (Ret) *

GREATER BOSTON MA

Brig Gen Gary W. Keefe, USAF NG
LTC Frederick J. Maguire, Jr., USA (Ret)
Maj Gen L. Scott Rice, USAF *
LTC Frederick J. Maguire, Jr., USA (Ret)

HANN-BUSWELL MEM [AT LARGE]

MajGen James L. Williams, USMC (Ret) *
LTC William K. Rapp, USA (Ret) *

HILL COUNTRY TX

Lt Col William J. Heath, Jr., USAF (Ret)
Lt Col Earl C. Bullock, Jr., USAF (Ret) *

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LTG John M. McDuffie, USA (Ret) *
Capt William T. Keating, USAF (Fmr) *

LTG MIDDLETON LA

LTC Matthew W. Peterson, USAR
LTC Patrick L. Widner, USAR (Ret) *

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MAJ Arnel David, USA
Col Douglas A. Roderick, USAF (Ret) *
LTC James R. Fisher, USA (Ret)
COL S. John Whidden, USA (Ret) *
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COL S. John Whidden, USA (Ret) *
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MAJ Clement I. Goodwine, Jr., USA (Ret)

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LTC Richard H. Seignious, USA (Ret)
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WILMINGTON DE

CDR Bruce H. Shumway, USN (Ret)
COL Earl E. Seppala, USA (Ret) *

*Denotes Perpetual Member





Taps

RANK/NAME (SERVICE)
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BG BULTMAN [AT LARGE] VA
COL William H. Tomlinson, USA (Ret) *

COL SHEETS NC
CAPT Joel R. Lancaster, USN (Ret) *

COL WOOLSEY CA
CDR (Dr) H. Wallace Vandever, USN (Ret) *

DALLAS TX
CDR Edwin C. Kennedy, USNR (Ret) *

FORT WALTON BEACH FL
CDR Thomas L. James, USN (Ret) *

FORT WORTH TX
COL Hubert E. Collmar, USA (Ret) *

GRANITE STATE NH
1st Lt Jesse I. Taylor, USAF (Ret) *

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Maj Thomas L. Eggleston, USMC (Ret) *

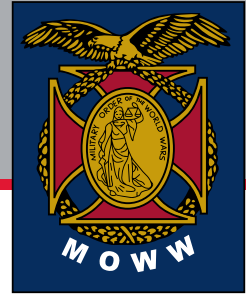
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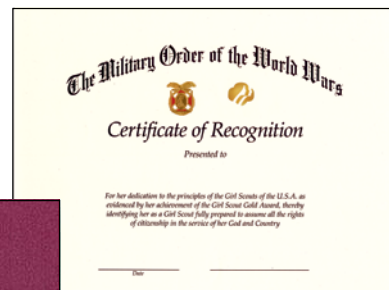
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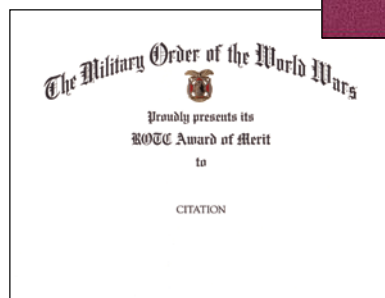
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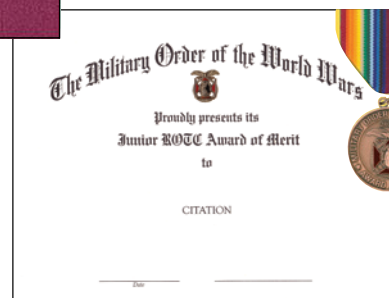
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