

October 2010

*Fifteenth Infantry Regiment*  
*"The Old China Hands"*



[www.15thinregtassoc.org](http://www.15thinregtassoc.org)

October 2010

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear Fellow Old China Hands!

I would first like to thank Tad Davis for having organized our outstanding regimental dinner during the Society of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Reunion on 18 September. It was a great affair, especially with the support of the US Army Chorus, as well as with the attendance of two of the Division's three still-living WWII Medal of Honor Recipients – Wilburn Ross (30<sup>th</sup> INF) and Bob Maxwell (7<sup>th</sup> INF). We were sad that MG Kendall was unable to join us, he is the heart and soul of our association, but he assured me when we spoke prior to the dinner that he will be with us next year! At our regimental association business meeting I discussed several serious issues that concern me. Foremost is the dwindling membership in the Association. I ask all of you to be imaginative and aggressive in finding and gaining new members. Without new members our Association will soon fade into the sunset. Second is the continued lack of active participation by the vast majority of Association members in Association activities and projects. It would be marvelous were we once again able to fill the Dragon with letters and reports from our members. Now that the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion has returned from Iraq, we will soon be working with a new command team at Fort Benning. LTC Harvey and all of his soldiers have done us very proud while in Iraq, and Captain Lerch did a great job of keeping us in the loop on affairs at home. Our challenge will be to build on this foundation and establish close working relations with the soon to be new commanders – it is a two-way street and I am sure we will succeed in strengthening the bonds between all Can Do Soldiers, past, present, and future. We also remain committed to supporting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion while it is deployed in Iraq and anxiously await its return next year. There are other concerns which I will leave for later editions of the Dragon. I encourage all of you to contact me and the rest of our Association leadership with any of your concerns so that we can take action to remedy any issues. As my historical article notes, we can be proud to add General William B. Rosson to our list of distinguished Can Do alumni who have risen to the top of our Army. We were extremely honored that his widow, Mrs. Bertha Mitchell Rosson, joined us for our dinner in September. Many of you may not be aware that there are efforts underway to build the National Museum of the United States Army outside of Fort Belvoir, Virginia. The Army is the only service not to have its own museum, or for that matter, a monument. Veterans' organizations are being solicited by the Army Historical Foundation for financial support. Any veterans' organization which contributes \$2500 or more will have its name displayed on a donor wall inside the museum. All of us who serve and have served in the past are THE ARMY. The museum will tell our story. I will approach the executive committee of the Association and recommend the 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Association be one of the first organizations to donate. Let me know, by email, mail, or phone, whether you support this worthy project. Speaking of history, I recently spoke to SGM (retired) Mel Greek in Tacoma, Washington. He is one of our Old China Hands and it had been a while since we'd heard from him. He is doing fine in the Pacific Northwest. I also maintain contact with Frank Keaton, who at 99 and a half is also doing fine and is looking forward to joining us for the Can Do Rendezvous in the spring! By then he will be 100! I remain proud of the honor of being the Association President, and appreciate deeply the support of our Association Officers and membership. But I don't want to be leading what one member calls, "a route-step organization." I need all of your assistance and engagement to get us back to moving at a quick-step and then double-time! Can Do! Tim

**15<sup>th</sup> INF Regiment Association Founders**  
Ramon Clarke - Charles Crain - Jerry Cunningham - Michael Halik  
Maurice Kendall - Leonard Lassar - Whitney Mullen - Raymond Taylor - Frank Yokum

The Dragon is the quarterly publication of the 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Association. It is published in January, April, July and October.' Neither its editorial nor articles content carry official endorsement of the Association. Input for the Dragon is due the 15th of each month prior to publishing.

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**ASSOCIATION OBJECTIVES**

- To perpetuate and foster the history and traditions of the Regiment.
- To provide opportunities for uniting past and present members of the Regiment into a close and cooperative alliance.
- To promote morale and high esprit de corps among members of the Regiment. ~ To acquire and maintain a repository of regimental historical memorabilia.
- To perpetuate and foster the history and traditions of the Regiment.
- To assist in the maintenance of monuments dedicated to the units of the 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment.

**Send dues and new addresses to:**  
Bartolo Viruso, 116 Harriett Road,  
North Babylon, NY 11703

Annual dues \$10 for regular members and \$5 for active duty members, due October 1 each year.  
Life membership: To age 60 = \$150; Age 61-69 = \$120; Age 70-79 = \$100; Age 80 and above = \$50.

Send or Email news items to:

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# TAPS



**PATRICK M. HEARNE**

115 Steven Drive  
Troy, IL 62294-1865  
3-15INF/K, Korea, CPL  
DOD – August 7, 2010  
*Reported by His Daughter,  
Jane Roehl*

**EDITH M. JUOPPERI**

625 Lake Linden Drive  
Laurium, MI 49913  
Associate  
DOD – Unknown  
*Reported by USPS*

**WILLIAM B. HERNDON**

897 River Bluff Road  
North Augusta, SC 29841  
15INF/I, WW2, SSGT  
DOD – March 2010  
*Reported by Rich Heller*

**JAMES W. KERR**

127 Club Drive  
Fairhope, AL 36532  
15INF/I & HQ, Korea,  
SSGT  
DOD – July 29, 2010  
*Reported by Rich Heller*

**CLAUDE M. RICKETT**

567 Cicero Dr  
San Antonio, TX 78218  
15INF, CW, Mortar  
Battery, 1SGT  
DOD – February 20, 2010  
*Reported by his Don Wilcox  
and John Burke*

**WILLIAM A. COOPER**

4608 San Juan Avenue  
N. Las Vegas, NV 89042  
15INF/MI, WW II, PFC  
DOD – October 13, 2010  
*Reported by Mrs. Bill Cooper*

**ROBERT C. CAMERON**

5328 SE Thiessen Rd  
Milwaukie, OR 97267  
15INF/A, WWII, CPL  
DOD – May, 2010  
*Reported by Rich Heller*

October 2010

## CHINA 6 SITREP

CHINA Families and Friends:

Greetings from Ar Ramadi, Iraq: Task Force 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry has landed safely and completed a successful Relief in Place, Transfer of Authority with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 504<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment from the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division. We took the baton from them nearly two months ago and are fully into our steady state operations. The Task Force is located in the Al Anbar Province and our Operational Environment (OE) encompasses roughly 11,000 square kilometers and over 1.5 million people including the major population centers of Fallujah, Habbaniyah and Ramadi. The main body of the Task Force is primarily stationed at Camp Ramadi but our Soldiers accomplish diverse tasks with elements at Camp Fallujah, Camp Tariq and Camp Taqqadam (TQ) where we are partnered with the three brigades that make up the 1<sup>st</sup> Iraqi Army Division. Additionally, under the Advise and Assist concept, we have 15 field grade officers who comprise the Stability Transition Team (STT) for our task force. They partner at the Iraqi Division level with the Army and also the Police District level with the Iraqi Police in all the districts. Most of the STT operates out of Fallujah.

Other units attached to TF China include A/3-7 IN (Attack), who is partnered with the 8th IA BDE, 3rd IA DIV out of Camp Taqqadam and the 442d MPs, a New York National Guard Company whose mission is to train Iraqi Police across the OE at all levels, helping them establish primacy and manage the internal security for Al Anbar. The 442d's mission is to help the police become a respected institution in Iraq which will allow the Iraqi Army to focus less on internal security and more on external threats.

We also provide support for the State Department's Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRT) in Al Anbar. Practically every day, A "Can Do" Soldier is helping these teams get to where they need to be to help build civil capacity, improve the judiciary, help the institutions gain the respect and trust of the people, and ultimately contribute to quality of life for Iraqis throughout the province. In the last two months we have participated in several Combined Medical Engagements and Humanitarian Assistance missions with the Iraqis in the lead. Each mission has helped build respect and confidence in the Iraqi forces that are responsible for conducting these missions.

Finally, and equally as important as the rest, many of our Soldiers are working continually to provide life support by getting the logistical packages out to the outlying areas, feeding us, maintaining us, and working in the operations centers that command and control the vast sector and operations.

The mission is enormous but with the improved security situation, it has been manageable. We have had several situations where contact with violent extremists has occurred and we expect that to continue to some degree until we leave Iraq. It has been comforting to see the Iraqi Security Forces successfully target extremists and criminals, showing competence and credibility as they improve the situation here daily.

We take great pride in our place in history as one of the first battalions into Iraq during the invasion as well as one who oversaw the transition of combat operations as Operation Iraqi Freedom ended and Operation New Dawn began. To anyone familiar with the 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry legacy, it is fitting that 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry units would be here to see it through to conclusion.

I look forward to my next opportunity to update you on the accomplishments of the 3rd Battalion and all the great things that "Can Do" Soldiers are doing to make this effort a success.

Very Respectfully,

CAN DO! VANGUARD, OUT FRONT! ROCK OF THE MARNE!

LTC Jeffrey M. Shoemaker (CHINA 6)

TASK FORCE 3-15 Infantry, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division

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October 2010

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT SEPTEMBER 17, 2010**

*Contributed by John Burke*

**NEW MEMBERS**

JASON S. BALGOS  
 15 HABERSHAM CT.  
 FORT STEWART, GA 31314  
 HHC, 3-15  
 MAY 2009-PRESENT

JOHN A HURD  
 8 CONCORDIA DR  
 SAVANNAH, GA 31419  
 HHC, 3-15  
 MAR 2009- PRESENT

MICHEL ILLOVSKY  
 312 WEST ELTING  
 MACOMB, IL 61455  
 C CO, 1-15  
 1963-1965

DUSTIN M. PHELPS  
 2028 EVERGREEN CT.  
 MATOON, IL 61938-6631  
 HHC, A CO, 3-15  
 JULY 2002-MAY 2006

THOMAS H. JENKINS  
 11 MONTCLAIR AVE.  
 DALY CITY, CA 94015-4508  
 B, C, D CO. 1-15  
 APR-NOV 1953

JEFFREY M. SHOEMAKER  
 804 WILLIAM H. WILSON RD  
 FORT STEWART, GA 31315  
 HHC, 3-15  
 MAR 2009- PRESENT

**Members by Type**

Regular Life	262
Associate Life	10
Regular Annual	383
Associate Annual	<u>15</u>
	670

**Periods Represented**

China Hands	2
World War II	99
Korea	233
Cold War	81
Ready Forces	26
OIF	204*
Associate	<u>25</u>
	670

\* Members currently serving with the active battalions, 1/15- 119 and 3/15 - 22.

Dues Notices for October 2010 Dragon: Check Your Address Label. If 2010 is shown, this could be your last newsletter.

**ANNUAL MEMBERS TAKE NOTE**

If your address label indicates 2010, your dues are past due. Annual dues for 2011 were due by October 1, 2010. Don't let this be your last mailing of The Dragon. Please remit your dues to the Treasurer right away. (Address shown on page 2) Annual Regular and Associate dues continue to be \$10.00. Current active duty is \$5.00.

**Annual Members**  
**Check Your Address Label.**

If your address label shows 2010, this is the last notice by The Dragon for your annual dues payment. Please mail your dues to the Treasurer right away. Address and amounts on page 2

## 91<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL REUNION REGIMENTAL DINNER HIGHLIGHTS



Presentation of Shield of Sparta to Mrs. David Mills by Tim Stoy



Henry Burke presenting special 3rd ID/15<sup>th</sup> Infantry cane to Leonard Lessor



Tim Stoy with Army Chorus members and CMOH recipients Wilbur Ross and Robert Maxwell

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## 1-15 RETURNS HOME AFTER 1 YEAR DEPLOYMENT ENDS

*Contributed by John and Elizabeth Burke*

The last of five flights over the past few days touched down at Lawson Army Airfield September 29, 2010. This flight included the Battalion Commander LTC Kenneth Harvey and Command Sergeant Mark Major Moore. Except for a handful of troops this completed the return of the entire battalion from a year's deployment to Iraq. The troops expressed happiness at seeing family, trees and grass. It was a festive occasion with balloons, banners, a military band, loud screams and applause. John & Elizabeth Burke represented the Association in welcoming the troopers' home.



LTC Harvey dismounts the aircraft



Elizabeth Burke and the "Harvey Squad"



LTC Harvey's daughter with Dragon 6



CSM Moore's Family at the Ready



CSM Moore's brother, Mike, standing Guard



Welcome Home to the land of the Big PX

October 2010

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

*Contributed by Chaplain Chuck Trout*

In November we will be recognizing Veterans for their service to our great nation. We can never thank our veterans enough for all they have done to keep our nation free. As we remember these great warriors, let us remind ourselves of how this 'blessed' land got its start. Some may say that we are not a Christian Nation. Allow me to set the record straight. In 1776, Pastor John Peter Muhlenberg after preached a sermon, said, "There is a time to fight and that time is now!" He removed his clerical robe to reveal the military uniform that he wore under his robe. He then led 300 men from his church to defend their liberties. This group became the 8th Virginia Brigade and Muhlenberg became a Major General under George Washington. Where did the writers of the Constitution get their specific ideas? In attempt to answer this question, political scientists embarked on an ambitious ten-year project to analyze over 15,000 writing from the Founding Era. Their research revealed that the single most cited authority in the writing of the Constitution was taken from the Bible. Let's review what our founding fathers said: \*President George Washington said, "It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor."

\*President John Adams urged, "The safety and prosperity of a nation ultimately and essentially depends on the protection and the blessing of Almighty God."

\*Samuel Adams said, "May every citizen have a proper sense of the Deity upon his mind and an impression of the declaration as recorded in the Bible."

\*Later President Reagan warned, "If we ever forget that we are one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under."

The Iwo Jima memorial is the largest bronze statue in the world. If you take a close look at the statue, you will count 13 hands raising the flag. Twelve of the hands belonged to the six brave soldiers raising the American Flag. The artist who made the statue said that the 13th hand was the hand of God.

The shortest chapter in the Bible is Psalm 117; the longest chapter is Psalm 119; The chapter in the middle, Psalm 118, is the center of the Bible. There are 594 chapters before Psalm 118 and 594 chapters after Psalm 118. Add the first 594 to the last 594 and the result is 1188. The center of the Bible is Psalm chapter 118, verse 8 which states, "It is better to trust in the Lord than to trust in man." And that is what the Founding Fathers did when they wrote the Constitution. That is what we must continue to do!

Your chaplain, Chuck Trout

*Editor's Note: I would ask all members of our Association to keep Chuck's wonderful wife, Joan, in your prayers. She has been courageously battling cancer and I know Chuck could use some "covering fire" from the rest of us. Dave Adams, Editor.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dave:

I was so impressed by Chuck Trout's column THE OCT Dragon that I forwarded it to several friends who were similarly impressed. In ten succinct paragraphs he captured the essence of the courage displayed by the 56 signers and the fearsome price some of them paid for their beliefs in an IDEA. Not for fame, financial gain or acquisitions of any kind. In the context of the tenor of our times, I wonder how many today would pledge their lives, fortunes and honor given similar circumstances. I also wonder how many history textbooks in our primary schools nation-wide even allude to the part played by those particular individuals and the horrendous cost they bore to give us the concerts, parades, fireworks, barbecues and six-packs every July 4th.

Given the above, I would respectfully suggest that Chuck's July column be made a permanent fixture in future July issues of the Dragon. Can you think of a better way to express the real meaning of the day? (When was the last time you heard someone mention the Independence Day weekend?). CAN DO and Rock of the Marne

George S. Burks  
Capt., AUS, Ret.  
L Co, March-November 1944.  
Life Member

*Editor's Note: During the 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Reunion of The Society of the Third Infantry Division in Washington, I had the extreme pleasure of conducting an interview with George for the Veterans' History Project for The Library of Congress. George gave a highly detailed synopsis of the combat soldier's thoughts and actions, especially at Anzio; but, in addition, he passed on a wonderful narrative of the human condition of the average man under these conditions. George is full of wisdom and humor and I am very grateful to have made a new friend. He taught me a lot during that interview. Thank you, George. Dave Adams, Editor.*



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## General William B. Rosson Added to List of Can Do 4-Star Generals

*Contributed by LTC Tim Stoy*

The 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, which includes on its list of illustrious former Can Do officers Generals of the Army George C. Marshal and Dwight D. Eisenhower; Generals Joseph and Richard Stilwell, Paul Freeman, Matthew B. Ridgway, Earle G. Wheeler, Charles L. Bolte, and Walton H. Walker; can now include General William B. Rosson.

Our World War II veterans may most likely know General Rosson from his time commanding the 3/7<sup>th</sup> Infantry and later as Division G3, but it may come as a surprise that he began his military career as a Can Do man at Fort Lewis in 1940. He served as a platoon leader and company commander under LTC Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1/15 Infantry, participating in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division training exercises at Fort Ord, California in 1940. After a year with the battalion future General Rosson moved on to be a Battalion Operations Officer in another regiment in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division.



General Rosson would go on to fight in ten campaigns with the 3rd Infantry Division in World War II in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, France, and Germany. Wounded in Sicily, he went on to receive the nation's second highest decoration for valor, The Distinguished Service Cross, at Anzio on 31 January 1944. Then LTC Rosson was commanding 3/7<sup>th</sup> Infantry during the division's attempt to break out of the beach head at Cisterna.

In connection with the Allied landings in Southern France in August 1944



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General Rosson served as Assistant G-3, VI US Corps. In that capacity he participated in planning and amphibious rehearsals in Italy, and went ashore with the 45th Infantry Division on D-Day as a corps liaison officer. Subsequently, he assisted in the planning of corps operations northward via the Rhone Valley and the Route Napoleon.

He later served on the Army General Staff in the Pentagon, in General Eisenhower's NATO headquarters in Paris, France, and on the staff of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, again in the Pentagon. Troop duty included command of two Infantry regiments in Germany, and command of the European Airborne Brigade, also in Germany.

General Rosson served four tours in Vietnam covering six years. His assignments included:

- Commissioned 1940 as a Second Lieutenant of Infantry
- Initial tour of duty as Platoon Leader and Company Commander in 1/15 INF under then LTC Dwight D. Eisenhower
- Battalion Commander with the 3rd Infantry Division, 10 campaigns in Europe
- Commander, 30th Infantry Regiment, Army of Occupation, Germany, 1945-1946
- Instructor, Command and General Staff College, 1946-1949
- Joint War Plans Branch, Army General Staff, Washington, D.C., 1949-1951
- Plans, Policy and Operations Division, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, Paris, 1951-1953
- Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, 1953
- U.S. Military Advisory Group Indo-China, 1954
- Commander, 39th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division, Germany, June 1955-June 1956
- Army Member, Chairman's Staff Group, Joint Chief of Staff, Washington, D.C., 1956-1959
- National War College, 1960
- Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, USAREUR, Germany, 1960-1961
- Assistant Division Commander and Airborne Brigade Commander, 8th Infantry Division, Germany, 1961-1962
- Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff, U.S. Army, for special warfare, 1962-1963
- Director, U.S. Strike Command Joint Test and Evaluation Task Force, 1963-1965
- Chief of Staff, United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV), 25 June 1965-April 1967
- Commanding General, Task Force Oregon (later the 23d Infantry (Americal) Division), April 1967-June 1967
- Commanding General, IFFV 31 July 1967-1 March 1968
- Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Military Assistance Command Forward, Vietnam (MACV), 1 March 1968-10 March 1968
- Commanding General, Provisional Corps (later XXIV Corps), Vietnam, 10 March 1968-31 July 1968.
- Director, Policy and Plans Directorate, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington, D.C., August 1969-April 1969
- Special Assistant to COMUSMACV, U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, April 1969
- Deputy Commander, U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV), 1 May 1969-15 October 1970
- Commander in Chief, U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC), Hawaii, 16 October 1970-January 1973
- Commander in Chief, United States Southern Command, Canal Zone, January 1973 to July 1975

After serving as Commander in Chief of United States Army Forces in the Pacific from 1970 to 1973, General Rosson completed his career in Latin America by serving as Commander in Chief, United States Southern Command from January 1973 to July 1975, with headquarters in the Canal Zone. Following retirement in 1975, General Rosson obtained a Master of Letters degree in international relations from Oxford University in England. In 1984, the General moved from Florida to Roanoke, Virginia and he married Bertha Mitchell Rosson in 1988. General Rosson passed away in December 2004.

General Rosson's widow, Mrs. Bertha Rosson, still resides in Roanoke and it was while doing research in General Rosson's papers that Monika and I found the information and picture indicating that young 2LT Rosson had indeed served in the Can Do regiment! Mrs. Rosson joined us for the Regimental Dinner on 18 September during the Society of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Reunion. It was her first time ever to join the Regiment or the Division at a reunion and she thoroughly enjoyed her time with our great veterans.

The Regiment is truly honored and fortunate to be able to add General Rosson to our list of distinguished soldiers who have served in its ranks!

October 2010

## The 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Hall of Valor



**CARSON, WILLIAM J.**

**Rank: Musician**

**Organization: U.S. Army**

**Company: Company E, 1st Battalion**

**Division: 15th U.S. Infantry**

**Born: Washington County, Pa.**

**Entered Service At: North Greenfield, Ohio**

**Place / Date: At Chickamauga, Ga., 19 September 1863**

### Citation

At a critical stage in the battle when the 14th Corps lines were wavering and in disorder he on his own initiative bugled "to the colors" amid the 18th U.S. Infantry who formed by him, and held the enemy. Within a few minutes he repeated his action amid the wavering 2d Ohio Infantry. This bugling deceived the enemy who believed reinforcements had arrived. Thus, they delayed their attack.

.....



**SYLVESTER ANTOLAK**

**Rank: Sergeant**

**Organization: U.S. Army**

**Company: Company B**

**Division: 15th Infantry, 3d Infantry Division**

**Born: St. Clairsville, Ohio**

**Departed: Yes**

October 2010

**Entered Service At: St. Clairsville, Ohio**

**G.O. Number: 89**

**Date of Issue: 10/19/1945**

**Accredited To:**

**Place / Date: Near Cisterna di Littoria, Italy, 24 May 1944**

## **Citation**

Near Cisterna di Littoria, Italy, he charged 200 yards over flat, coverless terrain to destroy an enemy machinegun nest during the second day of the offensive which broke through the German cordon of steel around the Anzio beachhead. Fully 30 yards in advance of his squad, he ran into withering enemy machinegun, machine-pistol and rifle fire. Three times he was struck by bullets and knocked to the ground, but each time he struggled to his feet to continue his relentless advance. With one shoulder deeply gashed and his right arm shattered, he continued to rush directly into the enemy fire concentration with his submachinegun wedged under his uninjured arm until within 15 yards of the enemy strong point, where he opened fire at deadly close range, killing 2 Germans and forcing the remaining 10 to surrender. He reorganized his men and, refusing to seek medical attention so badly needed, chose to lead the way toward another strong point 100 yards distant. Utterly disregarding the hail of bullets concentrated upon him, he had stormed ahead nearly three-fourths of the space between strong points when he was instantly killed by hostile enemy fire. Inspired by his example, his squad went on to overwhelm the enemy troops. By his supreme sacrifice, superb fighting courage, and heroic devotion to the attack, Sgt. Antolak was directly responsible for eliminating 20 Germans, capturing an enemy machinegun, and clearing the path for his company to advance. "We roll over the wall and find ourselves in the range of two enemy strong points. But for the moment, the krauts are ignoring us. They are absorbed in trying to split the two groups of men that preceded us.

### **Audie Murphy's Account of SGT Antolak from his book, To Hell and Back**

*"A sergeant in the first platoon senses the predicament. If his men are isolated, they will likely be destroyed. He makes his decision quickly. Motioning his men to follow, he rises and with a submachine gun charges head-on toward one of the enemy positions two hundred yards away.*

*On the flat, coverless terrain, his body is a perfect target. A blast of automatic fire knocks him down. He springs to his feet with a bleeding shoulder and continues his charge. The guns rattle. Again he goes down.*

*Fascinated, we watch as he gets up for the third time and dashes straight into the enemy fire. The Germans throw everything they have at him. He falls to the earth; and when he again pulls himself to his feet, we see that his right arm is shattered. But wedging his gun under his left armpit, he continues firing and staggers forward. Ten horrified Germans throw down their guns and yell "Kamerad".*

*That is all I see. But later I learn that the sergeant, ignoring the pleas of his men to get under cover and wait for medical attention, charged the second enemy strongpoint. By sheer guts, he advanced sixty yards before being stopped by a final concentration of enemy fire. He reeled, then tottered forward another few yards before falling.*

*Inspired by his valor and half-insane with rage, his men took over, stormed the kraut emplacement, and captured it. When they returned to their leader, he was dead.*

*This was how Lutsky, the sergeant, helped buy the freedom that we cherish and abuse."*

October 2010

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