



# THE BUGLE CALL

314<sup>th</sup> Infantry 79<sup>th</sup> Division - WW1 October 2007

## News from the 314<sup>th</sup> Front

Thank you to all who were able to attend our last Memorial Day Service. The Washington Memorial Chapel was once again a most gracious host and the chapel was filled as we heard our speaker, Colonel Robert Dalessandro, director of the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center, Carlisle, Pa.

Our most sincere thanks to: Colonel Dalessandro, the Washington Memorial Chapel, and the color guard from the Frank C. Parker Jr. and Son American Legion Post 901 including Ray Jude Paski and his sons, Mathew and R.J. who also attended the color guard in WWI uniform.

Following the service, descendants and friends enjoyed a wonderful luncheon provided by the Douglas family, Tony Patti did some video taping remembrances of veterans for the web site.

The offering from the service amounted to \$333.00 and was deposited in our cabin moving fund.

Through the hard work of our Board of Directors and Memorial Committee we are pleased to announce that the 314<sup>th</sup> has obtained a Certificate of Registration with the Commonwealth of PA Dept. of State Bureau of Charitable Organizations for soliciting funds in our state. We have also verified our tax free status under the Federal 501 C3 classification, which has become permanent. Of course, we are subject to the usual annual reporting to the IRS.

While all past contributions have been tax free, it is comforting to know our status is now permanent.

### Included in This Issue

Page 1	News From The 314 <sup>th</sup> Front
Page 2	Report of Board of Directors
Page 3	News From <a href="http://www.314th.org">www.314th.org</a>
Page 4	Cabin Status October 2007
Page 5	Private Otto Springer
Page 5	Cpl. Irwin J. Rentz, 314 <sup>th</sup> AEF
Page 6	Private Otto Springer
Page 6	The Malloy's Visit France
Page 7	Thank a Teacher and a Veteran
Page 8	Membership Form

# Board Meeting Report - Descendants and Friends, 314<sup>th</sup> Inf. AEF

June 16, 2007

In attendance were the following persons;

President Al Douglas and wife Martha, Vice President John H. Shetler, Treasurer Ray Jude Paski, board members Frank Dube, Bob Rentz, Joe Patti, Joseph T. Labrum Jr. and member Robert Young. Col. Craig Nannos, representing the AHEC, and The Very Rev. R. James Larsen, representing the WMC. Thomas J Timoney was not able to attend but did meet with Rev. Larsen before the meeting.

Motions were made, seconded, and approved for the following;

1. The officers of the D&F 314<sup>th</sup> to remain the same for the term of one year.
2. To extend the lease for the World of Scouting Museum, as tenant, on a monthly basis. Rev Larsen to contact, John Shay Esq. (WMC) and Thomas J. Timoney Esq. (314<sup>th</sup>)
3. The unused captured German shells, piled up by the brick wall, to be gifted to the AHEC.
4. Voted in as a board member.

Robert Young  
4306 Wheelwright Trail  
Downingtown, PA. 19335

5. Ray Jude Paski to pay the chapel organist \$100 for our past Memorial Day Service.

President Al Douglas reported that we have obtained our charitable status with the state of PA to solicit funds for the cabin move. Al also asked we keep track of our individual time for the move project as it may help qualify for matching funds. Along these same lines, Col. Nannos reported that all monies received will go to the AHEC Foundation for tax purposes.

It was reported there is \$12,000 in the cabin move fund. Treasurer Ray Jude Paski issued his financial statement of \$12,196.19 (total) being in the 314<sup>th</sup> funds.

Rev Larsen informed us that he will be retiring by the end of the year, we wish him well in his new venture in Dayton, Ohio. Many thanks were extended for all he has done for us. He also highly suggested that we make the cabin available during the week for special events at the chapel and have someone hand out information for our project. Al Douglas has already prepared a brochure and John H. Shetler has produced a move fund form for donations. Rev. Larsen also reported that the form of agreement between the WMC and the 314<sup>th</sup> is being refined in regards to the insurance issues and the cabin moving contractor, that being, the contractor should supply the necessary insurance to be overseen by us and the WMC.

Discussion of the fund raising effort included: that Mike Vereb be given a chance to lead the effort in Harrisburg before we try to contact Gov. Rendell ourselves. Al Douglas and Joseph Labrum discussed getting in contact with local banks to seek donations/grants. Rev. Larsen indicated we have use of the endowment. We should not count on this money as part of our cabin moving fund but may be a source to qualify as a matching fund. Col. Dalessandro had suggested in a prior meeting that the monies spent by Carlisle may also be a consideration for matching funds. Al reported that his meeting with Senator Spector has not produced anything yet.

This report certainly does not cover all of the discussion but is intended to cover the highlights and keep everyone informed and focused on our work at hand, that being, the move and preservation of the cabin and collection.

Respectfully submitted,

John H. Shetler

# News From WWW.314th.ORG

Tony Patti has been very busy this year with our website. If you haven't visited the web site recently, please do. There are many new areas to view and explore.

The www.314th.org website now contains more than 1,000 photographs, 83 separate web pages, 6 videos, including four taken during the last Memorial Day ceremony.

The website now comprises a total of 1.4 Gigabytes (more than two full CD-ROM's) of information about the 314th Infantry A.E.F.

Some of the newer web pages cover these topics:

Bugle Call newsletters (the years 2000 - 2007 are now available online in PDF, JPG, and WPD formats)

Historical Documents from 1917, 1918, 1919, 1922, 1937, 1959, 1962, 1971 and 2004 are all available online

Camp Meade

Leviathan

Pat the Mascot

Princess Matoika

Postcards (especially for 1917 - 1922, including soldier postcards written to friends and relatives at home)

Perpetual Light

Bullet Pencils

France

Tony is also asking if anyone who has 314<sup>th</sup> photos and /or documents (especially photos of the inside or outside of the cabin during 1930-1990) and/or newsletters prior to the year 2000, please contact him at [tonyspatti@comcast.net](mailto:tonyspatti@comcast.net) . You may want to consider this offer as it would be a wonderful way to help preserve your family and 314<sup>th</sup> history. If you have a history or diary that you would want part or all of on the web, please contact Tony.

[Editor's Note]

Once again, for those of you who have not seen the website for the 314th you are in for a real experience. The website as set up by Tony Patti is one of the best constructed and information loaded sites on the Internet. Please take the first opportunity that you have to look at it. As usual Tony has done a GREAT job.

## Cabin Status - October 2007

The Board of Directors is continuing to work hard at finding funding for the transfer of the Cabin to the Army Heritage and Education Center, Carlisle, PA. Our cabin moving fund is growing slowly but, steadily, and has a current balance of \$13,134.92. The army has informed us that they have begun to look for funding also.

The AHEC is nearing completion of the German side of the WW I trench exhibit. The AEF side is complete and the HQ area of the trench bears a 314<sup>th</sup> sign. For those folks who can visit Carlisle and the AHEC, the trench system is a "must see"!

In June, board members met with reporter Megan Hart of the Lancaster Sunday News at the cabin. Megan did a wonderful job and the article made front page news of the local section on July 8<sup>th</sup> 2007.

The World of Scouting Museum has a new director, Jill Dixon. The weekend cabin opening schedule remains the same: Saturday's and Sunday's from 12 noon- 5pm. However, we suggest persons call ahead to avoid any unforeseen closures. Please call the museum at 610-783-5311 or the World of Scouting archives at 610-574-9474 to verify the schedule and leave a message if needed. You may also contact :

President Al Douglas at 610- 489- 4036 or Vice President John H. Shetler at 717-284-3293 and they will try to accommodate your wishes.

We ask our members to please make it a point to help spread the word of 314<sup>th</sup> AEF and our cabin moving project. This can be done just by a simple conversation with family and friends. Remember your family veteran and the sacrifices they made.

Checks for the cabin move fund should be made payable and sent to:

"Descendants and Friends of the 314<sup>th</sup>"

c/o Timoney/Knox

400 Maryland Drive

Ft. Washington, PA. 19034-7544

Contributions are tax deductible under 501 C3

# Corporal Irwin J. Rentz, 314<sup>th</sup> Infantry AEF

Contributed by Joseph Rentz and Robert Rentz

Our father and grandfather was **Irwin J. Rentz** of the 314<sup>th</sup> Infantry, Company A. Mr. Rentz was a most organized individual who kept meticulous records of his activities during his tenure with the 314<sup>th</sup>. He was just 23 years of age, a school teacher in a one room schoolhouse in Berks County, Pennsylvania; he had been married for just 6 months when he arrived at Camp Meade at 8:00 on the night of December 28, 1917. What follows are excerpts gleaned from his diary.

December 28<sup>th</sup>, 1917 - Arrived at Camp Meade, Maryland. Met many new friends. We are a jolly bunch of fellows. Thank God for that. Prospects of going to France are, according to them, “not very good.”

April 6<sup>th</sup>, 1918 - We left Camp Meade for Baltimore, marched about ten miles through the streets of Baltimore. Most of the way at attention with Bayonets fixed. Reviewed by President Wilson. Crowd seemed to like the 314<sup>th</sup> best of all.

July 6<sup>th</sup>, 1918 - Left Camp Meade at 8:00 am, were cheered all along the way especially in Baltimore and Philadelphia. Spent the night in Jersey City before boarding the USS Leviathan. Arrived in Brest, France - July 19<sup>th</sup>, 1918.

August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1918 - Was assigned to Intelligence Department. Was issued helmets and 100 rounds of ammunition. I am to be on an observation Post. The rate of deaths in this service is second highest in the Army.

September 13<sup>th</sup>, 1918 - Arrived about 10 miles south of Verdun. First day of combat. Lots of activity in the air. Observation Balloons in the air - one shot down by an aeroplane. Our position was discovered and the shells began. The barrage was much like the incessant sound of large drums. The sky was red with flashes of the artillery while the shrapnel made a hard whining noise as it burst above us. General Pershing passed our area. Ferguson was shot by a machine gun. My first sight of bloodshed. Many men died that night. The 315<sup>th</sup> retreated in disorder telling us we were now the front line. Casualties are heavy. First aid inadequate.

October 1<sup>st</sup>, 1918 - Today at about 1 PM our relief came over the hill. Our outfit was hit hard. Many men died on the field of battle from exposure.

November 1<sup>st</sup>, 1918 - We began our Second Drive. Heavy shelling. Passed through several places that had been heavily gassed. Shots were everywhere, hid behind a pile of ammunition and gave up hope of living through the fire. Many men severely burned by mustard gas. We left dugouts and began a very rapid advance. Captured many towns.

November 11<sup>th</sup>, 1918 - At 11 am. The 11<sup>th</sup> hour, the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the month, the 11<sup>th</sup> day of our advance - the guns stopped firing and our advance ceased. We spent the rest of the day talking about the strange conditions. In the evening the Germans began celebrating by shooting off their store of rockets and flares. A very pretty sight. We had small campfires, the first we were permitted.

May 16<sup>th</sup>, 1919 - We left France aboard the Princess Matoika, formerly a German vessel which had been interned in Japan - finally given to the U. S. for transport service.

May 30<sup>th</sup>, 1919 - Discharged from the army at Fort Dix (518 days in the Army).

(Continued Page 6)

## Corporal Irwin J. Rentz

Continued from Page 5

Mr. Rentz later became superintendent of an Iron Foundry which was part of the Textile Machine Works in Wyomissing, Pennsylvania. He had four children, John D., who later became President of the Descendants and Friends. John died in 2006; Robert I., editor of the Descendants and Friends Newsletter; Roy M. of Chicago Illinois, father of Joseph, Steve and Bill; and Mary Jane of Palmyra, Pennsylvania. Joel Rentz, living in Brandon, FL, son of John Rentz is an active member of the Descendants and Friends.

**The diary of Corporal Rentz is very much more detailed and includes a great many names and places where the actions of the 314<sup>th</sup> took place. Much is included about the horrors of war and the agony of those who served with the 314<sup>th</sup>. We must never forget the suffering and bravery of those who fought to protect the freedoms we now enjoy. Remembering and educating the generations regarding these sacrifices is crucial to our countries survival. Each generation must accept its responsibility to perpetuate this freedom by not allowing the history of its veterans and what they did to be forgotten. This is the mission of the Descendants and Friends of the 314<sup>th</sup> Infantry.**

## News From The American Legion War Museum in Greenville, SC

Contributed by Lynn Duncan

The American Legion War Memorial Museum in Greenville, SC currently has a special display on **Otto Springer** of the 314<sup>th</sup> Regiment Headquarters Company, 79<sup>th</sup> Division. Private Springer trained at Camp Meade. He was a carpenter and helped to build the 314<sup>th</sup> Log Cabin. On display is Private Springer's uniform, helmet, gas mask bag, postcards, war souvenirs, and personal items. You can visit the War Museum website at:

**[www.americanlegion3warmuseum.com](http://www.americanlegion3warmuseum.com)**

The website has information about the hours of operation and special tours. Hundreds of school children who visit the museum learn about WWI through the exhibit on Private Springer and the 314<sup>th</sup> Regiment.

## The Malloy's Visit France

Contributed by Peter Malloy

My wife and I just returned from Europe and we did what I wanted to do, I stood more or less where the 79th, and its regiments jumped off on the morning of 26 September 1918, only I was there 89 years later. It was every bit as moving as I expected, only more so. So quiet and peaceful, no one around, no cars, nothing. What must it have been like 89 years ago. Noise and chaos, unbelievable.

Our guides were Christina Holstein and Tony (her boyfriend), of Verdun Tours. They were indispensable, nice and very knowledgeable. It would have been difficult to do it by yourself because so little is marked.

The cemetery is as beautiful and lovingly cared for as one can imagine.

**This Newsletter welcomes news article contributions from our members. Especially important are informational pieces regarding participating members of the 314<sup>th</sup> Infantry AEF.**

## **Thank a Teacher and a Veteran**

Sent as an email by Mr. David Abel to the editor

Back in September a year or so ago, on the first day of school, Martha Cothren, a social studies school teacher at Robinson High School in Little Rock, did something not to be forgotten. On the first day of school, with the permission of the school superintendent, principal and the building supervisor, she removed all of the desks out of her classroom. When the first period kids entered the room they discovered that there were no desks.

Looking around, confused, they asked, “Ms. Cothren, where are our desks?” She replied, “You can’t have a desk until you tell me what you have done to earn the right to sit at a desk.”

They thought, “Well maybe it’s our grades.” “No,” she said. “Maybe it’s our behavior?” She told them, “No, it’s not even your behavior.”

And so, they came and went, the first period, second period, third period. Still no desks in the classroom. By early afternoon television news crews had started gathering in Ms Cothren’s classroom to report about the crazy teacher who had taken all the desks out of her room.

The final period of the day came and the puzzled students found seats on the floor of the desk-less classroom, Ms. Cothren said, “Throughout the day no one has been able to tell me just what he/she has done to earn the right to sit at the desks that are ordinarily found in this classroom. Now I am going to tell you.”

At this point, Martha Cothren went over to the door of her classroom and opened it. Twenty-seven U. S. Veterans, all in uniform, walked into that classroom, each carrying a school desk. The Veterans began placing the school desks in rows, and then they walked over to the classroom wall. By the time the last soldier had set the final desk in place those kids started to understand, perhaps for the first time in their lives, just how the right to sit at those desks had been earned.

Martha said, “You didn’t earn the right to sit at these desks. These heroes did it for you. They placed the desks here for you. Now, it’s up to you to sit in them. It is your responsibility to learn, to be good students, to be good citizens. They paid the price so that you could have the freedom to get an education. Don’t ever forget it.”

This is a true story. . .

**If you can read this, thank a teacher. If you can read it in English, thank a soldier and remember a Veteran.**

If you are reading this Newsletter for the first time and are not presently a member. We invite you to become a member.

## DESCENDANTS AND FRIENDS OF THE 314th AEF

### MEMBERSHIP FORM

#### Classes of Membership

Widows of WWI Veterans (free	_____	Students under age 18 (\$2.00)	_____
Contributing Member (\$5.00)	_____	Family or Supporting (\$10.00)	_____
Patron (\$25.00)	_____	Benefactor (\$50.00)	_____
Endowment Gifts (\$100) or larger	_____		

Please mail this form with your check to:

Descendants and Friends 314th c/o  
Ray Jude Paski  
602 Arch Street  
Spring City, PA. 19475

Please make checks payable to:

Descendants and Friends of the 314th Infantry

Contributions are tax deductible.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and relationship of veteran: \_\_\_\_\_

Persons wanting to make personal item donations for the museum please contact Ray Jude Paski, museum curator, at the above address.