

CALL ME SPEARHEAD

The Official Publication of the
Association of 3d Armored Division Veterans

October 2003

Volume 03, Issue 4

1-33 ARMOR

2ND BDE, 3RD ARMORED DIVISION

“FIRST MEN OF WAR”

1 May 1972 – 1 November 1973

Many years have passed since I assumed command of the 1-33 Armor, 2nd Bde, 3AD on 1 May 1972 at Coleman Kaserne, Gelnhausen, FRG in a quiet and subdued early morning formation. For the next 18 months the 1-33 Armor was to be home, and the daily activities impacting on my life and the lives of those serving with me were focused here. It is doubtful that much, if anything, has been written about this or any other 3rd Armor Division unit of the time. After all, we served in the equivalent of a peacetime army, even though there were elements remaining in Vietnam that would not be totally withdrawn until March 1973. Who wants to talk about a peacetime army unit? I do! I want to pay tribute to the hundreds of men who served so faithfully, competently and successfully during this period. They did things for themselves and their unit that provided a great legacy of accomplishment for those who came after them, and they are entitled to be proud. My words will never adequately express my deep and lasting gratitude, but I could not leave their story untold. Their children and their children's children have a right to know of their faithfulness to one another and their country. If I had my way a “Cold War Service Medal” would be awarded to each member. Had the bugle sounded, the enemy would have known they had encountered “Regulars by God!”

The battalion mission was to be part of the defense of Germany :

specifically the Fulda Gap area east of Frankfurt . Everything focused on being able to accomplish this in the most efficient, effective and least costly manner. Combat readiness was the key word that needed to be engraved in the hearts and souls of everyone from the commander on down. Making this a reality was the challenge because the army in Europe was still experiencing a great deal of turbulence in the personnel area created by the Vietnam experience. The early out program reduced the availability of properly trained personnel, increased turnover rates had caused a great deal of stress for unit commanders. Between 1 January and 30 October 1972 , the 3AD received 12,500 replacements, or more than 1,000 soldiers per month. Secondly, a plethora of people programs were established to deal with the discipline, drug and race problems generated by the latter years of the Vietnam War. MG Kraft, the CG at the time, hit the nail on the head when he said, “Most of our training problems stemmed from a conflict between training programs and people problems.”^[1] Frustration of all concerned was often the result. Writing to the Brigade Commander concerning training management and scheduling techniques on 11 August, the battalion commander expressed his thoughts as follows: “The sheer magnitude of the number and frequency with which new programs have been introduced in the course of the past year have forced an overall diffusion of the training effort. Each commander has attempted to accomplish all assigned missions to the best of his ability. However, each has found that every program has the same priority and that few, if any, of the old requirements have been lessened. As a consequence, each commander balances the many programs as best he can with the multitude of programs and his personnel interests/capabilities working against maximized effectiveness of all programs at any given point in time. Most will remember Human Awareness Training, HEADSTART, Equal Opportunity/Human Relations Councils, GED Programs, Drug Abuse Programs and RAP sessions. All were well intended. Some were absolutely necessary but some seemed to provide the disgruntled with opportunities outside, or at least on the very edge, of the chain of command. These were never helpful.

Before discussing some of these programs in greater depth, it might be helpful to set forth the personnel situation. The officer strength never reached TO&E levels of 33 at any time. Shortages of appropriate grades and armor branch officers were constant. Each Headquarters Staff

Section experienced the assignment of at least two principles in 18 months, while there were three different Battalion Executive Officers, four S-1's and four Battalion Maintenance Officers. Headquarters and Headquarters Company had four commanders and each of the platoons turned over at least once. Combat Support Company turned over once along with each of its platoons. The tank companies experienced at least two CO's, along with the assignment of six to seven different lieutenants, but a CO and two lieutenants were routinely available for duty at any given point in time. From a training standpoint, the stabilization of key staff officers, company commanders and platoon leaders through tank gunnery and the unit tactical training tests was a major factor in successfully meeting division combat ready requirements. It is a credit to these men that of the 25 assigned during this period only 15 were Armor officers. Ten held commissions in other branches of the service. All 25 acted as Tank Commanders during gunnery.

The enlisted picture was not too different. Authorized strength was 497. This strength was never attained. At the time of the battalion change of command on 1 November 1973, there were 451 assigned, 411 present for duty and 349 present for training. But that had been the situation for the last 18 months. A review of the personnel strength in September 1972 showed that the battalion personnel turnover would result in an average of 31-33 tankers per company (50%) out of 64 authorized who would be with us for tank gunnery in May 1973. On 12 October, commanders were informed in a note from the Division Chief of Staff that efforts would be made to maintain an assigned strength of 470. He went on to say that some battalions were going to be hard pressed to turn out the required 204 crewmen for gunnery. The CG was adamant that commanders not play with the MOS structure, i.e. moving infantrymen, etc. into tank crew positions. But, numbers were only part of the problem. The battalion was short 21 E-6 (SSG) tank commanders and 81 E-5 (Sgt) gunners along with two E-3s. These shortages were offset by the assignment of 50 E-4s and 41 E-2s; both grades unauthorized in the TO&E for the battalion. Thus, trained and experienced personnel were lacking and time was limited in terms of bringing those present and newly arrived up to speed and integrating them into appropriate crews. If the battalion had not had some remarkable, hardworking and dedicated noncommissioned officers along with young men who were

willing and able to perform well above their current grades, it could never have accomplished the tasks it faced. The extended Vietnam drawn down generated many discipline problems in the army. These were fostered by waffling politicians, the lack of a coherent decisive Vietnam policy at the highest levels of government, the press, the growth of a questioning attitude in the rationale for military service, the terrible treatment of returning veterans, and the public's attitude shift which came to hold the military in various forms of disdain. All soldiers were affected negatively by these events. When coupled with the fact that there are some people in every crowd who resent authority and do everything they can to rebel against it; the availability of drugs in Europe; the outward manifestations of the tensions experienced in the units between the races; and the non-availability of the required experienced noncommissioned officers, it is little wonder that units suffered unneeded and unwanted turmoil. The 1-33 Armor was no different than any others in this regard. In combination, these things had a negative impact on morale and esprit. If you lived in the barracks, each played a significant role in your quality of life because they were factored into your perception of your status, treatment, happiness and overall satisfaction with your unit. How they were handled touched you personally and became extremely important. And, as some discovered, those things perceived as unfair, inadequate or just disliked in the hands of an intelligent charismatic troublemaker could lead to dissidence and disloyalty. If not handled by the chain of command quickly and appropriately, things could go downhill in a heartbeat.

Commanders in the 1-33rd always started with the assumption that all soldiers in their units were good, talented, hardworking and deserving of respect. On the other side of the coin, assigned personnel needed to respect one another and those in the chain of command. Unfortunately, a few rotten apples spoiled things from time to time but not for long. Minor racial tensions came to the surface on occasion, but they were always handled by a chain of command that contained a significant number of minority leaders. RAP sessions were in vogue, but they did not seem to be the best choice for bringing problems to the attention of commanders. The chain of command needed revitalization, strengthening, and disciplined responsiveness to the needs of the command. Everyone worked to this end. By the fall of 1972, the desired result was well on its way to being achieved.

A number of things had to happen to reinforce these endeavors. The most important was demonstrating to all that the chain of command really had their best interests at heart. Yes, they were expected to do there very best, but they could count on being supported to the fullest extent possible. Raising morale and esprit depended on helping each soldier develop a personal enthusiasm and sense of pride for the tasks he needed to accomplish and a concurrent pride in the role he played on the team; whether it be crew, platoon, company, battalion, brigade or division member. Of course, this is basic, but the battalion had to be refocused along these lines or success would not be achieved. By September, the nickname for the battalion had been changed from the “Wild Boars” to the “First Men of War.” Frankly, the name “Wild Boars” insinuated an undisciplined, self-aggrandizing and viciousness that did not seem to be fitting a professional military unit. The first battalion of the 33rd Armor needed to become the first in everything and until everyone started thinking of themselves that way, it was not going to happen. As a consequence, the “First Men of War” motto was introduced at the end-of-month ceremony on 31 September. By the time on-cycle gunnery started, pennants had been designed for the battalion and issued to every unit. Observing the 1-33rd on the move with pennants flying was a thrilling sight to behold because everyone riding under those pennants knew the blood and sweat they had contributed to the unit’s success. These changes were minor in the overall scheme of things, but they stood as very important symbols of each member’s contribution.

This article is part of a biography written by Colonel Luther R, USA (Ret). Colonel Lloyd, was the battalion commander of 1st Bn 33 Armored Regiment from May 1972 to November 1973. Colonel Lloyd also served as HHC 3d Bde XO from August 1971 to May 1972. He entered military service in 1954 and served for 30 years. Colonel Lloyd and his wife Jeanne have three sons, a daughter and nine grandchildren. This is only part of the entire article, the remainder will be posted on the website at a future date. We need more stories like this for both the newsletter, and the website. Please help us record the history of the 3d Armored Division so the efforts of all of us will never be forgotten. Send your articles to clmech@ptd.net or fax to 717-336-0693

President's Letter

This has been a busy summer and fall for the A3ADV. Paul Smith and I attended the 3rd Armored Division Association WW2 Reunion in early September, which was held in Covington , Kentucky . We went to the reunion to work with the WW2 organization to carry forward with the plans for additional joint reunions. Our 2004 Reunion in Columbus , Ohio is going to be our first joint reunion between the two organizations and plans are in the works for the second joint reunion 2005 in Indianapolis , Indiana . I attended the WW2 Board of Governors meeting and Paul attended the general membership meeting. We look forward to working with our Spearhead brothers as we move forward.

The A3ADV Board of Directors will be holding their annual meeting in Charlotte , North Carolina during the weekend of 24-26 October. We will have a report on this meeting in the next newsletter. A planning team from the A3ADV will be meeting with the WW2 organization in Columbus , Ohio mid December to finalize the plans for the 2004 Reunion . We will be discussing meal selections, tours and general hotel operations with the convention hotel. I would like to have a few members who live close to Columbus to attend the meeting with us. Currently, Paul Smith (TN), Jim Cunningham (TX) and myself (SC) are scheduled to attend the meeting but we need some local members to help with information and possible coordination/research.

Finally I hope that each of our members has visited the Members Only section of the website. This is your private section of the website, so if you would like to see additional information added leave a message in the members only guestbook. I made a small start on adding pictures to the Spearhead equipment section; however, I need more pictures. Look through your albums and send us copies of your trucks, trailers, jeeps, tanks, PC's, artillery and helicopters. If you do not have the ability to scan the pictures for publishing on the website please contact me. I will scan the pictures and return them to you.

Thank You

Kevin

Election of Association Officers

The Board of Directors has just completed the 2003 election of officers. As Association members, you elect three members of the Board of Directors each year during the reunion. If more than three candidates for election are presented, members are also given the opportunity to send in a vote prior to the reunion to be counted at the reunion with votes of attendees. As was previously announced, only three candidates were presented for election at the 2003 reunion in Seattle and they were elected to the Board during the annual meeting which is always held at the reunion. Those elected for the next three years were Kevin Colson (re-elected), David Feller (re-elected), and Paul Smith. The Board of Directors then meet, usually in the October following the July reunion, and elect officers from the Board. These officers serve at the pleasure of the Board and an election is held each year. To expedite the business at the Board meeting, the Board has voted on officers prior to the meeting with the following results:

President	Kevin Colson
Vice President	Paul Smith
Secretary	Daryl W. Gordon
Treasurer	Dave Feller
Board Members	Hal Dudley
	Jim Cunningham
	Carl Erickson
	Rick Wilson
	Phil Mitchell

Please feel free to contact any of these officers or directors with any questions or suggestions for the Association. Thank you for your continued support of the Association.

Iraq Today

Hello from Balad Iraq ,

I thought I would take a few minutes and update you on one Spearheader's thoughts and insights on Iraq .

Every time I see a Spearhead patch on the right sleeve of a soldier I stop and ask about who they were with during Desert Storm. To a man they proudly tell me of their unit. Tankers, Infantrymen, Artillerymen, Aviators, Signal Soldiers, and Support Soldiers, each and every one a proud veteran of the 3d Armored Division in Operation Desert Storm.

If you are one of the Spearhead veterans in Iraq , please accept the thanks of a Spearhead veteran who now works as a civilian for the Army in Iraq , for what you are doing and what you have done.

I can only speak from my experiences in Desert Storm and what I am experiencing now, so some might be able to take exception with parts of what I write. We are much farther North now than we were in 1991. Several hundred miles in some cases. In a lot of ways it is a good bit more dangerous today than it was in the days after Desert Storm. Convoys are being attacked every day, car bombs are being set off, improvised explosive devices (IEDs) are being set off, mortar and rocket attacks on our bases almost every day. Yes, I think that this is a much more dangerous place than it was in the spring of 1991.

But you know what? The soldier of today is doing his or her job with the same pride and dedication we all felt in the first desert war and indeed during the Cold War as well. I have seen a lot written and heard a lot about the quality of the soldiers of today and I guess that each time we have a war there is about the same talk. The soldiers of today are GREAT! Active duty, Reserve, and National Guard all soldiers and all working to make things happen. Each one of you who have been Spearheader's can remember that same pride and dedication.

I don't get to see too much of Iraq other than the few square miles of Balad Airbase. I can tell you that Balad Airbase was the headquarters of the Iraqi Air Force Academy . It was bombed during Desert Storm and had been abandoned and basically unused until the Army arrived in April. The soldiers and civilians here have put their collective noses to the grindstone and are making Balad Airbase into a place where now about 16,000 soldiers and civilians are living and working. They are getting roads fixed, electricity reestablished, water and sewage reestablished, good food for the soldiers and many many other things to make life here just a bit better.

Just a bit about the weather. So far I have seen two kinds of weather; hot and dusty and for a change dusty and hot. When I arrived it was during the hottest weeks of August and it was 135 to 145 degrees during the middle of the day.

Do you know a soldier who is deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan ? Do you know their family, left behind in the states or Germany ? Take a few minutes and tell them how you feel about the job they are doing. See if the family is ok. Offer to help them if you can. I used to tell my First Sergeants that my worst fear was the 17 year old wife, married to a 18 year old private, with a 3 month old baby, living in a small town outside of the base, with no phone and a car that is broken down. No way to get to the doctor or the store. These folks exist and need each of our help. Keep your eyes open, if you find one of these families get them to agencies that can help them

Hal Dudley , CSM (R)

Spearhead June 1981 to June 1991

Hal Dudley is an Association member who also currently serves on our Board of Directors. Hal is currently working in Iraq as a civilian. Hal was also the Vice President of the 2003/2003 BOD Hal served with the Division in both the Cold War, and during Desert Storm.

Spearhead in the News

Armor News, June 11, 1945

Corps Commander calls 3d Armored Division “Great”

With the VII Corps – Lt. General J. Lawton Collins, commanding general of the American First Army’s crack VII Corps paid tribute to the fighting qualities of the 3d Armored “Spearhead” Division on the occasion of that unit’s separation from his command.

General Collins reviewed the history of his command and declared that “This division, more than anything else has made the VII Corps. The 3d Armored Division has not only been the spearhead, it has been our very backbone.”

“This was the first Allied division to enter Belgium ,” he continued, “I am sure that those who participated in it will never forget the great fight at Mons and Mauberge, when this division and the 1st Infantry cut off an entire German corps and literally wiped it out.”

“We took Liege in one day, when it took the Germans four days to two weeks to do it in the early part of this war.”

“And there,” the general went on, “without a pause, this division led the way into Germany proper and, along with the 1st and 9th Infantry Divisions were the first to break through the Siegfried line defenses. We

finally ran out of gasoline, ammunition and weather—all at the same time, which is the only thing that stopped us.”

“Led by your wonderful division commander, Major General Maurice Rose, you all cut loose and swung on a wide end run after we had taken Marburg , and headed north to Paderborn , making more distance, 101 miles in 19 hours, than any other armored division in the army.”

Speaking of General Rose, who was killed in action during the swift Ruhr encirclement drive, General Collins said: “I now want to pay tribute to General Rose, whom I regarded as the top notch division commander in the business at the time of his death. In my opinion he, more than any other man in the world deserves the credit for bringing the war to a conclusion at least six months sooner than it would have ended otherwise. “

In conclusion, General Collins said, “We could never have made the great swinging marches without the 3d Armored Division. Your men have been privileged to serve not in an ordinary division, but in one of the very great divisions. I want to tell you how happy and proud I have been to have the honor to command you.”

This article was submitted by Ray Reeder, a veteran of the 33d Armored Regiment in WWII. We hope to make Spearhead in the News a regular feature of the Newsletter, please forward any articles you might have that speak of the history of the 3d Armored Division to clmech@ptd.net or fax to 717-336-0693

Membership Report

Total Memberships	701
Lifetime Memberships	253
Annual Memberships	423
Associate Memberships	14
Memberships inactive	<176>
Members who have passed away	<11>
Active Members	513

New Members

The following new members have joined since our last newsletter:

Judy Schwartzman	A 122 Main Bn
Charles Schwartzman	HHC 2/36
Robert Roberts	1/48 Infantry
Donald Devine	HHC 1 st Bde
Richard Majerick	503 AG
Thomas Bannon	54 th FSB
Dick Illyes	32 M Tank Bn
Bill Schesser II	E 122 Spt Bn
Thomas Crowley	3/12 Cav
Carl Michaud	HHC 52 AIR
Larry Tolar	67 FA
James Cronen	A 1/33 AR
Jack McNair	2/27 FA
Hubert Sutton Jr	D 23 Eng Bn
Mike Stubbs	2/32 AR
Ramon Jaramillo	HHC 2/48 Inf

Allen Lyle	1/32 AR
Dennis Asch	HHC 3AD
Bob Nueske	HHC 1/4/ Inf
Edward Bybee	WWII
Michael Conley	DIVARTY
Fred Robertson	503 Spt Bn
Melvin Merritt	503 Spt Bn
Joey Stanker	HHC 3AD
Dart Torney	3/33 AR
Marvin Fisher	2/27 FA
Kevin Miller	HHC 3AD
John Trankovich	2/6 FA
Darrin Eisenbarth	4/67 AR
Steven Turbett	503 Admin
Harvey Scobie	503 Admin
Thomas Manning	1/36 Inf
Billy Smith	1/32 AR
Carl Jackson	1/33 AR
Michael Brown	1/33 AR
Greg McComisky	3/33 AR
Martin Van Gills	2/32 AR
Raymond Meier	ETO
Tim Darr	E 36 AIR
Daniel Bott	D 33 AIR
Claude Wood	HHC 3AD
Edmond Snyder	HHC 3AD
James Parrish	HHC 32 AIR
Fred Meier	G 32 AR
Robert Rippon	D 83 Recon
Curtis Giles	486 AAA
Paul Horowitz	A 83 Recon
David Hedrick	HHC 3AD
Ralph Gardner	391 AFA
Arlington Smith	F 36 AIR
Don Driggers	HHC 3AD
William Heinz	C 83 Recon
Elgie Hart	Svc 32 AIR
Carl Tucker	B 36 AIR
John Hoover	Svc 32 AR

Calvin McCaslin
Russel Hogue
John Gesualdi
Vagel Keller

B 36 AIR
Svc 33 AR
486th AAA
B3/33AR