



Veteran Corps, 69th Regiment, Inc.

The Fighting Sixty Ninth

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New York 11762

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BULLETIN

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2017

Veteran Corps Meetings Schedule:

**Veteran Corps 69th
Regiment Mission
Statement**

*The mission of the
Veteran Corps 69th
Regiment is to pre-
serve and expound
the*

*history and tradi-
tions of the Regi-
ment, to*

*provide a venue to
inform and foster*

*camaraderie among
veterans of the 69th,
and to assist the
Commander of the
active unit with the*

Executive Board:

**Executive Board will meet on the
2nd Tuesday of each month at 1930 Hours**

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NOTE:

All members are invited to attend Exec Board meetings. Veteran Corps members may participate with sharing ideas and suggestions, but will not be able to vote at these meetings; updates are presented at the general membership Regular Scheduled Meetings.

REGULAR SCHEDULED MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

2017 – NOTE CHANGES!

Please give your attention to the following schedule of meetings.

Meeting	Date	Day	Time
Regular Membership Meeting	11/19/17	Sunday	1:00PM
Exec – Board of Officers	12/12/17	Tuesday	7:30PM
Regular Membership Meeting	12/17/17	Sunday	1:00PM
Exec – Board of Officers	1/9/18	Tuesday	7:30PM
Regular Membership Meeting	1/14/18	Sunday	1:00PM
Exec – Board of Officers	2/11/18	Tuesday	7:30PM

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*** Note Sunday Membership Meetings : Dec 17, 2017 will be our Christmas Meeting at the Wolf Tones Irish Pub. Located at 37 E. 29th Street. NYC.

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DUES AND 50/50 CHANCE BOOKS:

ANNUAL DUES FOR 2017 - \$10.

As of this printing about 90% of our members are in good standing as paid up to the current year of 2017. If you have not sent in your dues as yet, please do so now. Also I would like to thank those who participate in the 50/50 drawings. The combined income from both the dues and the 50/50 contribute towards the cost of providing you with the Bulletin.

For most of you your 2018 dues is due. We will be sending out invoices with this bulletin. We print the invoices a week in advance.. So if you receive a invoice and have made a recent payment and want to check E-mail me at secretary69vets@verizon.net. New Membership cards will be going out the end of January. So get your payments in.

If you have a change of address or are not receiving the Bulletin via email and would like to.

Email me at secretary69vets@verizon.net

Dennis Hearn

Corresponding Secretary 69th Veterans Corps 516-662-9917

COMMANDERS REPORT:

Membership Meeting:

As stated above the Meeting on December 17, 2017 will be our Christmas Meeting. We invite and encourage all of our members to join with us for an afternoon of food and spirits to celebrate a successful past year. This is also one of the two meetings scheduled for the Auxiliary and we welcome them to join us. It is the last meeting of the year and will be held at Wolfe Tone's Pub and Kitchen located at 37 E 29th Street, NYC.

Also on the agenda for to December meeting his election of officers and members of the board there are two vacancies on the board that need to be filled. Any member of the Veterans Corps is eligible to serve as an Officer or Board member. You will find that your joining a great group of dedicated members who administer our activities. We invite you to join us at the December meeting and see what we are all about.

Our Scholarship Program:

On the weekend of 14/15 October the Board members were formed into three teams with the purpose of visiting the companies of the battalion at their Home Stations. While there we presented the Scholarship Program to them, we also explained who the members of the Veterans Corps are. Both topics were successful as we expect many applications for the scholarship money (only 5 scholarships will be offered each year). We also found an interest in some of those young members in joining the Veteran Corps.

Makin Day Dinner:

The Makin Dinner was a huge success considering it was held outside the armory. Although there were some logistical issues, Captains Clifford and Tierney of the active battalion were able to assist us with that problem. They did a fine job and certainly took the pressure off of us with the logistics. The hall gave us a little more room than the Mural Room and most attending were impressed by it.

Joyce Kilmer:

Our congratulations to Jack Hallanan for mission accomplished. Some time ago Jack came to me with an idea to honor Joyce Kilmer as a poet and as a soldier who made the ultimate sacrifice during WWI. The location he selected was the Kilmer rest stop on the NJ Turnpike. Joyce Kilmer was already honored there but as a civilian poet who had resided in New Jersey. Jack coordinated with the NJ Turnpike Commission, and the HMS company that runs the rest stop. Besides the members of the Veteran Corps we were joined by Ben Kilmer, Great Grandson of Joyce (See Photo on last page) and MG ® Garrett former 42nd Division Commander and a very good friend of the Regiment was present for the rededication of the rest stop. Members of the Veteran Corps who joined Jack was myself with my wife Lillian, John Gundy, Jim Downey with his wife Ann who came up from Warrenton VA and brought some boxwood for everyone to wear. Also attending was Bert Cunningham who is a member of the Veteran Corps and also the Regimental Historian. Bert made the official rededication presentation. It included information on Joyce Kilmer, The incident of Rouge Bouquet, Father Duffy's association with Joyce. He quoted excerpts from Steve Harris's book on Father Duffy. All in all Bert did a fantastic job and is also to be commended for it.

Ms. Rosie Bell, the manager of the Rest Stop greeted everyone as they arrived and welcomed us and seemed caught up in the spirit of the event. The Turnpike Representative presented everyone with passes to use for any of the food vendors Ms. Bell also set up a table with Coffee, Tea and Cakes for us after the dedication.

SOLDIER'S BALL, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2017

On Saturday, December 16th 2017 the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry will hold its Annual Soldiers Ball. This event is usually funded by the Regimental Trust Fund. With the strict restrictions due to the lead contamination of the armory the Trust Fund has had some difficulty in holding Fund Raising events. They have asked us to reach out to our members for some financial assistance. Donations may be made to the Veteran Corps, 69th Regiment and earmarked the Regimental Trust Fund. For any check of \$250.00 or more, the Veteran Corps will provide 2 tickets to this gala event. Officers and Non Commissioned Officers pay their full share of the tickets. We are trying to provide the Specialist and Privates and their ladies with complementary admission in recognition of their service.

Checks to Veteran Corps, 69th Regiment

P.O. Box 48

Massapequa Park, NY 11762

Earmark Check: 69th Regimental Trust Fund

We really need your help with this – Tom Fitzsimmons

HISTORY: BERT CUNNINGHAM:

Going Over

Two months after Farther Francis Patrick Duffy celebrated an open-air Mass at Camp Mills, only days after the Old 69th arrived, a photograph of Edward A. Dalton appeared in the October 25, 1917 edition of *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle* on page 24.

Under the header “Flatbush Boy Serving in ‘Rainbow’ Division” is a studio-made photograph of Dalton wearing his high-collar, wool uniform and soft, tent-shaped campaign hat. It shows a straight-lipped, bright-eyed, youthful face looking directly into the camera.

A few sentences explain how Dalton surprised his parents in May when he enlisted in the Headquarters Company of what he called “the gallant Sixty-ninth Regiment.”

As a civilian, Dalton was an auditing clerk in the Manhattan Borough President’s Office. He was also a member of the Municipal Band, which explains his rank: Musician 3rd Class.

Dalton’s description noted that his paternal ancestors fought in the “Revolution of 1776 and War of Rebellion;” his maternal ancestors also fought in the “War of Rebellion” or American Civil War: pedigrees not uncommon in the Old 69th.

It was ironic that Dalton’s photo and profile, listing his parents as Mr. and Mrs. E.N. Dalton of 363 East Twenty-first Street, and Ed as their youngest son, appeared the same day elements of the now designated 165th Infantry Regiment, began to ship out at night.

As a musician, Dalton was probably in the Regimental Band, led by Drum Major and Border Campaign veteran John Mullins, when it played the *Garryowen* as the 165th marched into Mills on August 20th. He may have also played on Sunday, August 26th, after Fr. Duffy's Mass, to entertain arriving visitors.

But no band played as the men of the Rgt boarded LIRR trains to begin a journey that would take them to ships in Hoboken and New York harbor, and Montreal and the St. Lawrence River to connect with stealthy convoys that would deposit them in France.

The initial Mills training period focused mostly on building physical endurance that included lots of cross-country runs and forced marches that sometimes took troops to beaches on Long Island's south shore where the men could take a cooling dip. Plenty of bayonet drills, boxing and basic infantry skill instruction were also emphasized.

Anticipating that the 165th, as part of the 42nd Division, was on a quick path overseas, some formal farewells were held earlier in October at the Garden City Hotel – often advertised in the Brooklyn papers – which was only about a mile from Camp Mills.

Stephen Harris writes in *Duffy's War* that the families and friends of many in the 165th cherished the opportunity to bid fond, and at times tearful, farewells to their sons, brothers and husbands.

Harris notes with compassion of the sensitive and emotional farewell that Joyce Kilmer received from his wife and parents at the conclusion of one hotel-based fete.

Who bid farewell to Dalton and rest of the 69th Doughboys? Who said goodbye to the store clerks, trolley conductors, actors, salesmen, teachers, lawyers, stock brokers, students, dock workers, teamsters and other civilians turned soldiers as they journeyed into the unknown with a mixture of naive excitement and perhaps a twinge of self-contained dread?

The next time the 165th was mentioned in the *Brooklyn Eagle* came on November 11th when a photograph of Sgt. Leo Maher, a cook, was published indicating he had been shipped to France with the Regiment, which arrived in Brest on the 12th.

By the time the 165th arrived in France, the war situation was changing dramatically from that which existed when America declared war on Germany in April.

General John J. Pershing had three Divisions in France: the 1st, 26th and 42nd.

The 1st Division trained near Luneville and went into the trenches for the first time on October 21st, just as the 42nd was preparing to go over. The French enthusiastically welcomed the long-awaited American Expeditionary Forces into the front lines as a “dynamic change” on the Western Front.

At the same time, Russia's new revolutionary government ceased its war, initiated by the deposed Tzar, with Germany. That too would change the dynamic on the Western Front by allowing the Kaiser to shift experienced Eastern Front divisions west to meet an anticipated flood of American troops.

In March, 1918, the Old 69th would enter the trenches for the first time near Luneville and the lives of Ed Dalton, Leo Maher and those of their fellow soldiers would be forever changed.

For now, however, the four months from arrival to the trenches would be occupied with preparing for battle and meeting the full force of the German Spring Offensive to come.



LETTERS AND CONVERSATIONS

(Emails count as LETTERS)

Edward Ford: Ed gave me a call a few days ago looking for some information and it developed into quite a conversation. Ed was a member of B Company back in the fifties prior to enlisting in the traveling team(AA). Upon his discharge he had had enough of the military and joined the NYPD and was assigned to the Harlem area

for his entire career and loved it. Upon his retirement he lived in various locations in the Metropolitan area before he relocated to South Carolina. Great conversation, must have lasted almost an hour.

Ann Brennan: Dear Ann, The members of the Veteran Corps appreciate your continued contributions to the Veterans Corps in memory of your husband, the late LTC Edward Brennan. You also mention Gene Goldner in you note to us. Be assured he will be remembered in our prayers.

Frank Sherry: Frank and his wife Barbara on their way home from Arlington Cemetery were they were attending the funeral of a relative stopped at the Joyce

Kimer Rest Area. They were impressed by the dedication to the soldier poet.

James Gonyo: The former battalion as present for the Makin Day Dinner and also made a generous contribution to the Family Support Fund. We appreciate your continued attendance at our functions and again, Thank You for the donaton.

Howard Rose: Howie who as a member for A Company in the late 1940's is a long time member of the Veteran Corps and has made a very generous contribution to the Family Support Fund. When a young under aged kid I joined the 69th Regiment State Guard, Howie's uncle was the Company Commander and an other uncle was the First Sergeant, I still remember them both.

Maryann Kelly: Thanks for the Veterans Day card. As usual you never forget us on Veterans Day and at Christmas. Again, Thank You Also I expect to see you at the Christmas meeting with as many of the auxiliary you can muster.

Month	1st Place	2nd Place
October	Jack Dwan	Philip Peterson

IN MEMORIUM:

Raymond M. Gallagher	72 Van Buren Street Pearl River, NY 10965	Company A 1/69	9/11/17
Anthony Hayden	Non Member	Company A 1/69	10/19/17
Albert Venile	Non Member	HHC 1/69	10/25/17
Lawrence Flynn	Honorary Member	DMNA/TAG	11/12/17

MG Lawrence Flynn was an honorary members of the Veteran Corps. Although he never served in the Sixty-Ninth he was a close friend. Even as he served as The Adjutant General for the State of New York he proudly marched with us on St. Patrick's Day every year.

NOTE: The Veteran Corps will list the name of any active or former member of the 69th Infantry in the Memorial Segment. It is not necessary that they were a member of the Veteran Corps. They will also be remembered at the ceremony on our Memorial day each year.

ROUGE BOUQUET:

Go to Sleep; Go to Sleep

Slumber well where the shells screamed and fell,

Lay your rifles on the muddy floor

You will not need them anymore

Now at Last, Peace at Last,

Go to Sleep!

Sgt. Joyce Kilmer KIA 30 Jul 1918 165th Old 69th

SERVICE OFFICERS SICK REPORT:

Maurice Savage	3 Mc Cartney Drive, Albany, NY 12211-2318
John Marino	1078 N Broadway, N. Massapequa, NY 11758
Harry Snyder	1119 Harper Ave., Woodlyn, PA 19094-1209

*May we join in Prayer that our sick have a
Speedy and Complete Recovery*



Ben Kilmer, Great Grandson of Joyce Kilmer

In case of illness or death of a member, please call our Service Officer, Frank Sherry at (516) 536-6756 or leave a message on our answering machine at (212) 585-6556 on a timely manner. If known please list the Company and dates of service in the Regiment.

Please direct all correspondence to:

VETERAN CORPS, 69TH REGIMENT

P. O. BOX 48

MASSAPEQUA PARK, NY 11762

I wish to thank all who assisted in the preparation and distribution of the Bulletin.