



Tom Fitzsimmons

COMMANDER'S REPORT:

As we move toward our last quarter of the year we still have some activities to that are important to us:



➤ Logan Duffy Rifle Match – Saturday, 9/15/18:

We will support the rifle team with match grade ammunition as they prepare for the Logan Duffy Match. Dennis Hearn, Pete Vesey, and I would like to visit the team at one of their practice sessions to show our support for them. Other members will attend the match at Ft. Devens, MA.



The Logan-Duffy Rifle Match between the 182nd Inf and the 69th Inf, a competition that date back to the 1930's will take place on September 15th, 2018. Both units alternate hosting the match. The host for this year's match will be the 182nd infantry, MAARNG and will be conducted at Ft. Devens. MA. The winning team, in addition of boasting about winning, also takes home the Logan-Duffy Bowl, appraised at thousands of dollars. Those of you who attend the Makin Day Dinner may recognize the bowl because that is the bowl we use to mix our Regimental Cocktail.

The Veteran Corps will be providing Match Grade Ammunition for the team practice sessions as they prepare to bring the bowl home again.

For members of the Veteran Corps who wish to attend the Logan Duffy Match that will be held at Ft Devens, MA must send in their money for the Victory Dinner at a cost of \$40.00

➤ Memorial Service – Salem Fields Cemetery, Brooklyn, NY – date TBD:

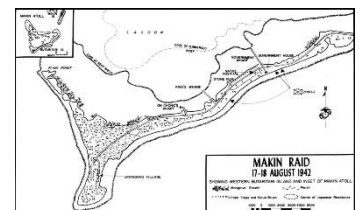
I would like to have a Memorial Service at the Salem Fields Cemetery to honor those of the Jewish faith that made the Ultimate Sacrifice in WWI. As noted in the Regiment Historical section, many served that were of the Jewish faith. In addition, Ed Dunn informed me some time ago about Salem Fields Cemetery located at 775 Jamaica Avenue in the Cypress Hills section of Brooklyn, NY. The cemetery is for those of the Jewish faith. Of interest is that there is a section dedicated to the Veterans of WWI and there is a Bronze plaque that is and was presented by the Veteran Corps, 69th Infantry in memory of those of the Jewish faith that gave their lives in service with the 165th Inf (old 69th New York in WWI). (I have no idea when the bronze plaque was dedicated).



I will propose to the membership that we visit the cemetery and place a memorial wreath to honor these soldiers.

➤ Makin Day Dinner – Friday, 11/2/18:

The Makin Day Dinner that is the traditional event celebrating the first combat in WW II. The Makin Day Dinner will take place on Friday, November 2, 2018.



We have gone to contract with the Masonic Hall again as the armory is still under a lead problem. The Masonic Hall was a great alternative. So mark your calendars now! Much more information and details in next month's Bulletin.

- **December 2018:**
Finally in December our elections and Christmas gathering.



- **SOLDIER / NCO OF THE YEAR - UPDATE:**

Our congratulations go out to both of the battalion soldiers that went on to compete in the National Guard “National Best Warrior Competition”. They both had already competed in the Battalion, Brigade, State and Regional (8 other states) competition. Now on the National level we are proud of these soldiers as SSG Quinton Davis placed 6th in the NCO category and SGT Ilya Titov who placed 2nd in the Soldier category. SGT Titov (recently promoted) will go on to prepare at Ft. Benning in the event he has to compete in the All Army Best Warrior Competition. This event will include Active Army, Army Reserve and National Guard soldiers. The battalion commander, LTC Don Makay states, “*These soldiers set the standards and the tone for what a warrior is and what a Soldier/Leader can achieve with commitment, professionalism, support and hard work*”.



Letters, Emails, and Conversations:

- **Bertram Ferrer:** Received a letter from Bertram indicating how he misses attending our meetings. Bertram is active with the Montford Point Marines Association and a longtime member of the Veteran Corps. He sends in his dues for the next two years and enjoys reading about the battalion’s advanced training. Bertram, next St Patrick’s Day is on a Saturday and I expect you to be there to march up 5th Avenue with us!
- **Kevin Maxwell:** Had call from Kevin last week and he has had some issues due to his being at the WTC after 9/11. He seems to be doing somewhat better now. He is still down in Spotsylvania and does stay in touch via the telephone. Kevin is always interested in the battalion and the Veteran Corps.
- **John Walsh:** John who celebrated his 97th birthday last month stays in constant contact with me via email and telephone. I do not know where he gets his emails from but they are quite humorous in nature but our telephone conversations are about the pre WWII era of the 69th and also the current battalion activities. He enjoys the Geoff Slack and Bert Cunningham segments of the Bulletin. John is also a contributor to the Family Support Fund.

I mentioned above that I stay in contact with John Walsh via email and telephone. This is an example of one of his emails. The reason I am sharing it with you is that it relates to the press interview with COL Donovan. John is an Irish Catholic but he loves his Yiddish. The email follows: Keep in mind that John is 97 years young and he writes like this.

- *“Tom: For some years I have been learning Yiddish words and having a great time in doing so. At one point in my career, I had a young Jewish female assistant. We both became fascinated with the book “The Joys of Yiddish” by Leo Rosten and would try one-upping each other with a new vocabulary. Every now and then, I still enjoy bringing Yiddish words into my conversation. My Grandfather Walsh had his plumbing business on the lower East side of Manhattan and apparently had an ability to converse in the language. We had a lecturer here at 3030 (his residence) for whom I did a small favor. When she thanked me profusely, I passed it off saying that every day I tried to do a*



IN MEMORIAM:

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 during the ceremony on our Memorial day each year.

Maryann Kelly

President of the Auxiliary

August 2, 2018

Maryann served as President of the Auxiliary for over 17 years. She was an outstanding lady who was involved in the operations of the Auxiliary and did her very best to hold it together. Active in coordination with the Veteran Corps she attended at all of our events (excluding the Makin Day Dinner) such as our Memorial Day Ceremony, St. Patrick's Day celebration, our Christmas Party and every membership meeting. I must mention our members will miss Maryann and they will certainly miss her Irish Soda Bread.

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 OFFICER'S SICK REPORT:

**John Marino
William Higgins**

**1078 N. Broadway, N. Massapequa, NY 11758
5301 Tiffen Drive, Ft. Worth, TX 76180-5952**

May we join in prayer that our sick have a complete and speedy recovery!

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 recording machine at (212) 686-6556 in 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, Inc., P.O. Box 48, Massapequa Park, NY 11762

Other contact information: Email address for the commander is: tomandlilfitz2@verizon.net



ANNUAL DUES and 50/50 Drawings:



Annual Membership Dues 2018 = \$10.00

Our dues, though only \$10.00 per year, are an important part of our yearly budget. The dues, supplemented by those who participate in our 50/50 drawings, provide the funds that make this Bulletin possible.



REGIMENTAL HISTORICAL EVENTS:

SUBMITTED BY JACK HALLANAN, ED DUNN, JR AND TOM FITZSIMMONS

THE JEWISH TROOPERS WITH THE “FIGHTING IRISH”

(The newspaper article that follows is from a reporter’s press release with COL Donovan)

Colonel Donovan Lauds Jewish Lads of 69th Regiment.

The famous 69th regiment – the Fighting Irish”- which has just returned from France where it covered itself with glory, and which will parade up Fifth Avenue on Monday afternoon, has its quota of Jewish troopers who shared in its heroic deeds, according to a statement of Colonel Donovan, commanding officer of the 69th.

Upon arrival of the transport Harrisburg, Colonel Donovan, surrounded by reporters, photographers, and movie men, was posing patiently for pictures and as patiently answering questions about his “Fighting Irish” and their deeds of valor in France, when a non-commissioned officer appeared before him on the bridge deck, saluted, and reported: “Sergeant Abraham Blaustein with a message from the regimental intelligence officer.” “Blaustein” repeated a reporter, facetiously, Blaustein, Irish?” “No, Jew,” answered the Colonel. “We have a lot of Jews,” likewise some Dutch—I mean men of German birth extraction and a few Indians, but they are more Irish than the Irish.”

Then it became known that Blaustein, of somewhere on Rivington Street, was one of the first men of the 69th to be awarded the Croix de Guerre and that he has a brother, Harry also a sergeant, and in a platoon of Company A. “Not only that but among the replacements that came to the regiment at various times were Milton Cohen, a crack machine gunner, and Louis Goldstein, another East-sider, mess sergeant of headquarters company, who captured a fancy German rolling kitchen, from which he fed virtually the whole regiment during the battle which resulted in pinching off the St. Michiel salient.”

“Then there is another little fact in the history of this Irish regiment – three of its battalion adjutants during the Argonne campaign were Jews. Good Jews, too, and good Irish, which means good, manly men.”

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

TOM FITZSIMMONS – COMMANDER
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