







**COMMANDER'S REPORT:**

**VETERAN CORPS - 69<sup>TH</sup> REGIMENT MEMORIAL DAY – Report Out**  
**Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup> 2016**

We conducted our annual Veteran Corps Memorial Day at Calvary Cemetery and at the armory. In many ways it was one of our best memorial ceremonies. We had members of the Honor guard who performed a rifle salute and taps. We had 5 members of the active battalion as the color guard. Col(ret) Frank Riggio attended with 7 members of the St. Anthony's Pipe Band. It was the first time that I can remember, the commander of the active battalion was present, and we appreciated that. We have had many former commanders attend over the years as we did again this year. The only shortcoming for the day was the poor attendance by our members. For those who were present I wish to thank you.

Of the 10 flags that were posted at the monument, Patrick Gordon was present to post a flag in memory of his father BG(ret) Thomas Gordon. A recent member of the active battalion who also had an outstanding career as a member of the active army was also honored with the posting of a flag for SFC(ret) Brian Danis, who had a love for the regiment and proud of his membership in the Veteran Corps. His recent untimely passing is a loss to all of us.





## THE LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT (EDITION 1)



**Geoffrey Slack  
Colonel(Ret)**

Dear fellow 69th veterans, families, and supporters of the 69th infantry,

This report is the first edition of my efforts to provide you a quick look at the “doings” of the active battalion. The goal of this column is to provide you an insight into the tough but critical activities of the officers, non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the battalion in a time of persistent conflict. I hope you enjoy my observations and I look forward to your comments.

For those who are unsure of how the battalion is configured in modern times it consists of the following: Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3 rifles Companies: A, B, & C. Company D: heavy weapons. And company F, 427 Brigade Support Battalion (persistently attached for logistic support). More details in future reports.

The active battalion is on the cusp of entering its “ready year” thus making it fully deployable for world-wide missions. The army’s current 4 year training model for national guard units allows units time to recover from deployments then rebuild at ever greater levels of complexity

culminating in full deploy ability status; the 69th is nearing that level now. One tremendous training event stands between the battalion and this level of readiness: the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) at Fort Polk, Louisiana. The army attempts to make the JRTC so hard that actual war “shock” to a unit is reduced. It is a hard test but necessary. The battalion heads there in July for nearly 3 weeks. Louisiana in July! The 69th has been on a long pathway to the JRTC and just finished a difficult “super drill” at Fort Drum with the 27th Infantry Brigade to test critical systems prior to heading to the JRTC. 2016 has been a “bear” of a year.

After the JRTC, the army, overstretched for all of its world-wide tasks can use the 69th for any mission, anywhere in the world. As of now, the 69th is scheduled to support a key international training mission in Australia in 2017.

So much more of this story to tell. The 69th is big, strong, and extremely well led. Let’s follow it together.

Yours in a common cause,  
Geoff Slack  
Geoffslack@aol.com



**Letters and Conversations:**

**Our mail clerk has informed me that we have not received any correspondence recently for the Bulletin. But the phone lines and the email is not dead yet.**

- **John Walsh:** As I had promised in the last Bulletin, I picked up the phone and called John this past week. John who will be 95 years young next month regrets that he cannot travel to our meetings from his home in Connecticut. John is a very interesting person to have a conversation with; his recollection of his time with the regiment in the 1930’s is unbelievable! We do talk about many varied subjects and the hour I spent with him on the phone leaves me feeling rewarded. I must call him more often.
- **Kevin Maxwell:** Kevin called last week as he often does checking on how things are going with the Veteran Corps. Kevin is always ready to cover the Veteran Corps at Arlington Cemetery if needed as he has done in the past. He lives in the Fredericksburg area and Washington is a bit of a ride but he gladly does when we ask. Again, Thank You Kevin.
- **Michael Kazmirzak:** The former Company Commander of C/2-156 IN (Black Sheep) attached to 1-69 IN and served as part of Task Force Wolfhound in Iraq recently retired from the LAARNG as a COL. He was severely wounded while serving with Task Force Wolfhound and we wish him well in his retirement.





## UPCOMING EVENTS!



### LOGAN DUFFY RIFLE MATCH

SEPTEMBER 9-11, 2016

### LOGAN DUFFY RIFLE MATCH

September 9-11, 2016

The Logan/Duffy Rifle Match is scheduled for the weekend of 9-11 September 2016. This traditional match between 1-69Inf and the 1-182Inf dates back to the mid 1930's. It is scheduled to be fired in Massachusetts with the 182<sup>nd</sup> hosting it this year as we hosted it last year at Camp Smith.

This has always been a good time and the comradery between the two units lasts a lifetime. Members of the Veteran Corps who wish to attend will as usual, do so at their own expense.



**SATURDAY –  
OCTOBER 1, 2016**

### NOTRE DAME UNIVERSITY VS SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL GAME - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2016:

Mike Guiry has informed me that he is planning to reserve tickets for the Notre Dame / Syracuse Football Game to be held at Met Life Football Stadium, East Rutherford, NJ on the above mentioned date. The seating is in the end zone, upper tier and the cost is \$55.00 per ticket with a slight mailing charge. Time of game TBD.

This is open to anyone who wishes to attend. Please contact Mike ASAP with your intentions so he can secure the desired number of tickets. Tailgate Party to be determined upon number of attendees.

Contact Info: Mike Guiry, (504) 786-2360  
email address: Mguiry@aol.com

### 256 BCT OIF II/III REUNION

**NOVEMBER 18-19, 2016.**

### 256 BCT OIF II/III REUNION SCHEDULED FOR 18-19 NOVEMBER 2016:

The Veteran Corps, 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment has been asked to assist in getting the word out on the planned 256 BCT-OIF II/III reunion. In addition to this Bulletin I ask that those of you who can, please assist with the use of Facebook.

#### Scheduled Events:

#### Friday, 18 November 2016:

2000-2300 Generations Hall Party with Open Premium Bar and Live DJ  
2300-UTC Same as above with Cash Bar

#### Saturday, 19 November 2016:

1199-1600 Tail-gating/picnic at Jackson Barracks Museum and surrounding area.

Tickets can be purchased now at the link below:

<http://www.eventbrite.com/o/louisianana-tigers-chapter-of-the-national-infantry-association-10614223080>

The Facebook page is “256 BCT Redeployment 10-year Reunion”  
The Official reunion website will be [www.louisianatigers.org](http://www.louisianatigers.org)



**SERVICE OFFICER'S SICK REPORT:**

Maurice Savage	3 McCartney Drive, Albany, NY 12211-2315
John Marino	1078 N. Broadway, N. Massapequa, NY 11758
Harry Snyder	1119 Harper Ave., Woodlyn, PA 19094-1209
Jack Munday (Makin Vet)	85 Misha Lane, Sanford, NC 27330

**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, 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Inc., P.O. Box 48, Massapequa Park, NY 11762**

**Other contact information: Email address for the commander is: [tomandlilfitz2@verizon.net](mailto:tomandlilfitz2@verizon.net)**



**REGIMENTAL HISTORICAL EVENTS:**

**In order to add some interesting facts about the history of the Regiment, Jack Hallanan suggested we add this section to the Monthly Bulletin; this month's presentation is provided by Jack Hallanan.**

**1915 - PATRICK FARRELL – RECRUIT – NEW YORK NATIONAL GUARD – 69<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY**

BORN IN 1882, PATRICK FARRELL WAS OLDER AND MORE SEASONED THAN MOST RECRUITS. ONE OF AT LEAST SEVEN CHILDREN OF JOHN AND BRIDGET (NEE RHATIGAN) FARRELL, HE APPEARS WITH THEM AND A COUPLE OF SIBLINGS IN THE 1901 CENSUS IN LISREVAGH IN THE RATHCLINE PARISH OF LONGFORD. SHOWING EVERY INDICATION OF INTENDING TO REMAIN IN IRELAND, HE DIDN'T EMIGRATE UNTIL MAY OF 1915, BY WHICH TIME HE WAS 33 YEARS OLD. PERHAPS HE HAD LINGERED TO CARE FOR HIS AGING PARENTS.

SLENDER, BUT TOWERING OVER MOST OF HIS CONTEMPORARIES AT 5' 11" (OF THE 30 TRAVELERS ON HIS PAGE OF THE S.S. NEW YORK'S MANIFEST, ONLY ONE OTHER STANDS AS TALL), HE MADE HIS WAY TO THE HOME OF HIS BROTHER JOHN IN EDGEWATER, NEW JERSEY. BECAUSE PATRICK NEVER TRULY SETTLED DOWN, HIS BROTHER'S ADDRESS WOULD REMAIN HIS HOME OF RECORD, BUT IF YOU WERE TO WANDER DOWN TO THE DOCK AND SWIM DIRECTLY EAST ACROSS THE HUDSON RIVER, YOU'D FIND YOURSELF IN THE VICINITY OF THE 134TH STREET IN NEW YORK CITY, SO IT'S LITTLE SURPRISE THAT PATRICK SEEMED TO HAVE REGARDED HIMSELF AS A NEW YORKER.

JUST FOUR MONTHS AFTER HIS ARRIVAL, PATRICK LIKE SO MANY IRISHMEN BEFORE, ENLISTED IN THE NEW YORK NATIONAL GUARD IN THE 69TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (WIDELY KNOWN AS THE "FIGHTING 69TH" AND LATER CHANGED TO THE 165TH INFANTRY). AFTER TWO YEARS IN NEW YORK AND THE MEXICAN BORDER, HE RE-

ENLISTED AND WAS SENT OVERSEAS IN LATE OCTOBER OF 1917, MUCH EARLIER THAN MOST MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN ARMED FORCES. SERVING WITH HIM WERE JOYCE KILMER OF "I THINK THAT I SHALL NEVER SEE A POEM LOVELY AS A TREE" FAME, AND FATHER FRANCIS DUFFY. TRAGICALLY, SERGEANT KILMER WOULD BE KILLED BY A GERMAN SNIPER, BUT FATHER DUFFY SURVIVED THE WAR AND BECAME THE MOST DECORATED CHAPLAIN IN THE HISTORY OF THE U.S. ARMY.

DESPITE HIS PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE, PATRICK WAS ONE OF THE FIRST CASUALTIES IN THE REGIMENT, KILLED ON MAY 3, 1918. HIS LOSS WAS RECORDED IN FATHER DUFFY'S STORY: ***A TALE OF HUMOR AND HEROISM, OF LIFE AND DEATH WITH THE FIGHTING SIXTY-NINTH*** PUBLISHED IN 1919:

***IN THIS SECTOR WE HAVE HAD JUST THREE BATTLE LOSSES. WHEN COMPANY G WAS IN LINE, A DIRECT HIT OF A GERMAN SHELL KILLED TWO OF OUR OLD TIMERS, PATRICK FARRELL AND TIMOTHY DONNELLAN.....***

PATRICK FARRELL IS BETTER REMEMBERED THAN MOST. IN ADDITION TO INCLUDING HIM IN HIS BOOK, DUFFY WROTE A LETTER OF CONDOLENCE - ONE WHICH REMAINS IN THE FAMILY TODAY - TO HIS BROTHER, JOHN. THIS IS MENTIONED IN PATRICK'S ENTRY IN THE LONGFORD AT WAR WEBSITE ([WWW.LONGFORDATWAR.IE](http://WWW.LONGFORDATWAR.IE)), WHERE HE, UNLIKE MOST OF THE 69TH IRISH IN THIS NEW JERSEY DATABASE, IS COMMEMORATED IN THE COUNTRY OF HIS BIRTH. JOHN'S FAMILY HAS SINCE SCATTERED TO NEW YORK, CONNECTICUT, MASSACHUSETTS, MARYLAND, CALIFORNIA AND WASHINGTON, BUT THEY AND LONGFORD AT WAR WILL SOON HAVE ANOTHER LETTER TO COMPLEMENT THE ONE BY FATHER DUFFY, ONE FROM JOHN FARRELL ABOUT HIS BROTHER.

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

**TOM FITZSIMMONS – COMMANDER**  
**[tomandlilfitz2@verizon.net](mailto:tomandlilfitz2@verizon.net)**