



VETERAN CORPS, 69TH REGIMENT, INC.
THE FIGHTING SIXTY NINTH
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 REGIMENT WEB SITE

BULLETIN	JULY 2017
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Veteran Corps Meetings Schedule:

Veteran Corps 69th Regiment Mission Statement

The mission of the Veteran Corps 69th Regiment is to preserve and expound the history and traditions of the Regiment, 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 morale and welfare of the soldiers and their families.

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.

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Meeting	Date	Day	Time
Exec – Board of Officers	8/8/17	Tuesday	7:30pm
Exec – Board of Officers	9/12/17	Tuesday	7:30pm
Regular Membership	9/17/17	Sunday	1:00pm
Exec – Board of Officers	10/10/17	Tuesday	7:30pm
Regular Membership	10/15/17	Sunday	1:00pm

Note: Regular membership meetings now 1pm. Our meeting schedule for both Board and Membership meetings are going to be somewhat different due to the lead clean-up period. We may go to a lighter schedule and also make an effort to continue our Sunday meetings at an alternate location. Stay tuned for updates.



Tom Fitzsimmons

COMMANDER'S REPORT:

We usually do not have a Bulletin distributed for the months of July and August but there is just too much information not to have one. As you know, the battalion will be doing their AT in Australia this year and will be leaving the first week of July for a period of 20 days. We wish them well for a successful tour. They have worked very hard preparing for this mission and I am sure their performance will result in a very positive manner.

Logan Duffy Rifle Match:

Upon their return, the members of the battalion rifle team will be preparing for the annual Logan/Duffy Rifle Match. This match between the 69th of NY and the now 182nd of Massachusetts, with the exception for the WWII years, has been fired since the mid 1930's. The 69th is the host for this year's match and it will be fired at Camp Smith on Saturday, September 16, 2017 with the victory dinner later in the evening at the West Point Officers' Club. The Veteran Corps continue to support this event with your generous contributions as we provide the team with ammunition, plaques for the high shooter of each team, souvenirs, and dinner costs for the shooters only. All members of the Veteran Corps are invited to attend the dinner and after gathering. Note: Costs for dinner and the gathering is out of the pocket expenses.

Makin Day Dinner:

Next on our agenda is our annual Makin Day Dinner. This is an event that usually takes place on the first Friday of November. Although we may not have this traditional dinner in the armory, we are looking for an alternate location in the vicinity of the armory. There will be a rental fee plus insurance cost involved.

Attendance will be the key element for the dinner to be a success. We will need about 125 in attendance to make it happen. That is about the same that have attended for the past 3 dinners. The September Bulletin will indicate if we are going forward with the Makin Day Dinner, when it will be, where it will be and the cost. This Veteran Corps will do everything in its power to continue our traditions and your participation will be appreciated.

SOP – Family Support Fund:

Attached to this Bulletin you will find a revised copy of the SOP for the "Family Support Fund". A brief history on the fund. When the battalion deployed to Iraq in 2004, the Veteran Corps started a separate account with the purpose of assisting the wounded, including the soldiers from Louisiana who were attached to us and were hospitalized in the US by providing funds to their next of kin for travel and lodging to visit them. We also remembered those who made the Ultimate Sacrifice by sending a Memorial gift to each family. We also provided the funds for three memorial plaques. Two in our armory and one in the armory in Houma, LA. Other expenses were travel and lodging for the Gold Star Families on St. Patrick's Day. All in all we expended in the area of \$131,000.00. Our mission was to assist our soldiers and that is what we did. All of this money was made possible by our members, friends of our members, various fraternal organizations and the good citizens of New York.

Now for the revised SOP related to the Family Support Fund. First the original plan was to end when the battalion returned home from Iraq and our wounded were back to civilian life. This has happened and with little expenditures the fund has continued to grow. Presently we have about \$127,000.00 in it. It is not a tremendous amount of money and we do not plan to make a give-away program of it, but there are some things we can do. The first objective will be to start the Scholarship Program this coming September. We hope through the generosity of our members we will continue to receive contributions to keep this fund operational. Since its inception it has been separate from our other funds. The Family Support Fund is a Not For Profit fund and is a 501-C(19) banked under its own separate account.

Please read the attached SOP at the end of this Bulletin.



**Geoffrey Slack
Colonel(Ret)**

THE LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT (EDITION 11 – JULY 2017)

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

This edition will endeavor to provide for you some insights provided to me by Lieutenant Colonel Makay concerning the upcoming Theater Support Cooperation mission in Australia this month. First, I think it important that you understand how much the current focus of the senior leaders of the U.S. military have changed from purely fighting terror around the globe to preparing to fight what are called “near-peer” competitors. These threat forces currently challenge the United States globally (strategically) along nuclear and cyber threat lines of operations. There are specific theater (operational and tactical) conflicts where our enemies often enjoy proximity, proxy forces, and civilian support where their challenge to American military primacy is real and present. Last year the 69th was severely tested at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) in a “hybrid war” scenario – a combination of terrorist and near-peer “enemies”. The battalion’s success certified them for a war deployment. No deployment is currently scheduled. However, the JRTC rotation makes the 69th particularly ready to support operations in any theater around the world now; it is deployable. The battalion is desirable to the Army to address its endless mission sets for which it lacks trained and ready U.S. Army forces. Below are quotes from LTC Makay:

“The Soldiers of the 69th will culminate another busy year of training and preparation to occupy the “Land of Tetta” (exercise name) in July 2017. The 69th was selected to be the first National Guard battalion to participate in Pacific Command’s (PACOM) *Talisman Saber Exercise*. This exercise is designed to test PACOM’s ability to

mobilize and integrate multi-national forces in a high-intensity conflict. This exercise will encompass seaborne troops, amphibious landings, airborne drops, and light and mechanized forces who will converge on this large swath of terrain in the northeastern sector of Australia.”

“This 15 day force-on-force event (with a 2 day R and R excursion to explore the “outback”) will test the 69th’s ability to conduct attacks, execute a full battalion defense, and exercise the battalion’s ability to provide “mission command” (new term for command and control). Additionally, the entire event will test the battalion’s planning skills and logistics capabilities to the limit. This is a unique opportunity for the 69th. To practice a global move, to train with foreign armies, to integrate into a foreign formation, to travel to a foreign continent and to report to an Australian brigade commander are all critical skills for the 69th Infantry. We will be task-organized alongside our Australian partner’s right down to the platoon level.”

“This an outstanding opportunity for the 69th, the National Guard, and the U.S. Army to demonstrate that we are not only ready to lead our allies, we are also ready to follow them as well.”

Geoff’s words now – I will close by saying with unabashed pride that I know just how tough the run-up to this exercise has been and that it is part of a long continuing process of excellence that has never stopped since 9/11/01 (and arguably right back to Bull Run). I’ve had the privilege of watching the re-birth of the active battalion these many years and I can tell you truthfully that the 69th is ready to take the fight to any enemy, anywhere and do it now. Please join me in wishing LTC Makay, CSM Seifert, and the mighty 69th Godspeed and good luck in Australia!

Yours in a common cause,

Geoff Slack
geoffslack@aol.com



Annual Membership Dues 2017 = \$10.00

Please make every effort to make sure you send in your annual dues for 2017!

IMPORTANT!!

**VETERAN CORPS – MAILING ADDRESS –
MEMBERSHIP DUES AND 50/50 PAYMENTS –
SEND TO:**

**VETERAN CORPS, 69TH REGIMENT, INC.
P.O. BOX 48
MASSAPEQUA PARK, N.Y. 11762**

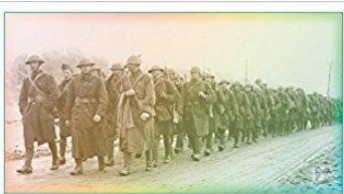




REGIMENTAL HISTORICAL EVENTS:

Hearing the Call and “Play Ball”

Submitted by Bert Cunningham



The Shamrock Battalion
in the Great War ***



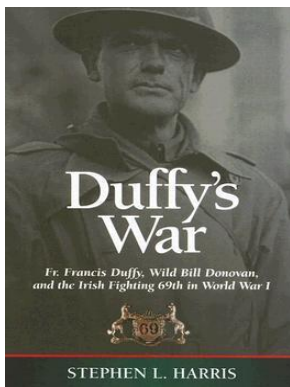
*** Martin J. Hogan
Edited with an Introduction by James J. Cooke

With the 69th federalized on July 15, 1917, enlistment efforts went into high gear. And those recruited joined for various reasons in various locations. Seventeen-year-old Martin Hogan, who would serve in the 3rd Battalion’s Co K, responded to a recruiter’s challenge in New York City. “I was at the theater one night,” Hogan wrote in his 1919 book *The Shamrock Battalion of the Rainbow*, when the call was made for volunteers. “As I sat near the stage, I was the first to present myself. When I filled out my application, I chose the old 69th – because it and I was Irish.”

Living in what he described as “Irish Town” near Brooklyn’s Ebbets Field, James Minogue, who would serve in Co C, had a neighborhood-focused reason for joining up. “The 69th was quite a thing to the Irish Kids,” Minogue told author Henry Berry in an interview recorded in the Veterans Corps Room in April, 1976. “We’d hear about their great record in the

Civil War and Thomas Francis Meagher and Michael Corcoran. So I guess it was natural that when war came, I would want to go over with them.” In that long-ago Sunday afternoon interview of WW I veterans, Nicholas Martone of Co G added: “I’m Italian, but I was raised in Irish Town like Minogue. Why I wanted to go over with these crazy Micks, I’ll never know, but we had one hell of a regiment.”

According to Stephen Harris’s book *Duffy’s War*, Staten Island was a source too. “Dozens of orphans from the Mission of the Immaculate Virgin at Mount Loretto, led by Herbert McKenna, showed up, ready to fight.” McKenna would also serve in Co K. As the ranks swelled there were those who wanted to support and recognize the Regiment in advance of leaving for Camp Mills on Long Island. On July 25th, a special game was played at the Polo Grounds between the NY Giants and Cincinnati Reds to benefit the 69th. Most of the Regiment attended. A baseball signed by President Wilson was auctioned off for \$500 or about \$9,500 today. The ball was given to Father Duffy who pledged to have it auctioned off in Paris to benefit the French Orphan’s Fund.



In the meantime, Joyce Kilmer was seeking a way into the 69th after a previously unsuccessful attempt caused him to join the 7th Rgt. That’s next.

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50/50 - Drawings:

Month	1 st Place	2 nd Place
June 2017	Michael Daly	James Stickney

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Letters and Conversations: Deferred this month

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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

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

Please review SOP Draft – next page

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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



Veteran Corps, 69th Regiment, Inc.
The Fighting Sixty Ninth

Established 1874

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the69veterans@gmail.com

Veteran Corps, 69th Regiment, Inc. Family Support Fund

Amendment to the Family Support Fund – October, 2016

The Fund has the following purposes:

1. To establish a base Fund to provide assistance to members of the 1st Bn 69th Inf. in the event they are called for future combat deployments. The amount that will be held in escrow will be no less than \$50,000.00. This will provide funds for transportation and lodging for the immediate families of those wounded, injured or become sick in a combat zone and are hospitalized in the United States. It also includes a Memorial contribution to the families of those who may be killed in action. It may also provide funding for various functions related to the activities of the present day members of the 1st Bn 69th Inf.
2. To conduct, at the Funds expense, a one time reunion for the veterans of the 69th Infantry who served in OIF III or Task Force Phoenix or future combat deployments. The Fund will also contribute toward an annual Children's Christmas party, within our limits (to be determined by the committee), for the children of the members of the active battalion.
3. To provide up to five scholarships of \$2,000.00 each year to children or grandchildren of members of the 1st Bn or former members who served in OIF III or Task Force Phoenix.; or future combat deployments. The criteria of such scholarships will be determined by the committee.
4. To provide a one-time grant not to exceed \$2,000.00 to an active soldier of the 1st Bn, 69th Inf and former members of the Bn who served in OIFIII or Task Force Phoenix. Also included are the immediate family members where such soldiers were killed, wounded, injured or became sick while on active duty in a combat theater, provided deployments of the 1stBn, 69th Inf upon showing of reasonably serious need.
5. To authorize such other expenditures as determined by the committee, provided each expenditure is related to the above referenced purposes.

Administration of the Fund:

1. The Fund will be administered by a committee (The Fund Committee) consisting of at least five (5) members appointed by majority vote of the Board of Directors of the Veteran Corps, 69th Regiment, Inc. (the Corps). In appointing members, the Board shall designate one member to serve as chair and one as Treasurer. The Chair shall be one of the Commander, First Vice Commander or Second Vice Commander of the Corps. The members shall serve at the pleasure of the Board and may be removed without cause by majority vote of the Board.
2. The Fund Committee by majority vote and in its sole discretion shall determine the individuals to whom payments from the Fund are made and the amounts of such payments, provided, however, that the fund must maintain a minimum balance of \$50,000.00 during periods when the active battalion or subordinate units thereof are not deployed in a combat theater or not deployed for training in anticipation of deployment to a combat theater. In the event that the active or subordinate units thereof is Federalized the distribution of the above mentioned funding for social purposes shall be held in abeyance until those units are released from Federal duty. The Committee, in its discretion, will establish general guidelines for grants including an application process.
3. The Chair shall call a meeting of the Fund Committee at such times and places as the Chair shall determine. Fund Committee meetings may be conducted in person or by telephone with a quorum of three (3) members. All actions taken by the Fund Committee shall be reflected in written minutes. The Treasurer shall maintain the accounts of the Fund and shall maintain records of all donations and disbursements. All checks issued by the Fund shall require the signatures of the Chair and the Treasurer. All committee minutes, records and accounts of the Fund shall be available for inspection by any member of the Fund Committee or the Board of Directors.
5. The purpose of the Fund may be changed or modified, by a majority vote of the Fund Committee, subject to review and approval by a majority of the Board of Directors.