

# FOURTEENTH ARMORED DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Sixth Annual Reunion

JULY 24-26 1970

WARD MOTOR HOTEL

FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS

#### COMBAT HISTORY OF THE HER 14th ARMORED (LIBERATOR) DIVISION

The 14th Armored Division was activated at Camp Chaffee, Arkansas, on 15 November 1942, under the command of Maj Gens Vernon E. Prichard, It trained intensively at that post, participated in the Tennessee maneuvers of 1943-44, and moved to Camp Campbell, Ky. It left there in October 1944, crossed the Atlantic, and landed at Marseilles, France, 29 October 1944, the first division to debark at that port.

The division, now under the command of Maj. Gen. Albert C. Smith, engaged the enemy in the Maritime Alps, where it initiated its distinguished combat career. The first major task of the division was a drive through the Vosges Mountains, considered one of the most difficult enterprises facing a modern army, and never before attempted. The 14th breached the Vosges defenses, through mountain passes and over tortuous roads, in deadly fighting, and poured onto the Alsatian Plain, fought through the Maginot Line, took Haguenau, Wissembourg, and knifed into Germany.

The von Rundstedt winter offensive dragged the 14th into defensive action. It first battled crack Nazi troops in the Bitche salient, where it engaged six German divisions, thwarting the Nazi attempt to overrun Alsace and recapture Strasbourg. For nine days they slugged it out with one panzer and two panzer grenadier divisions, at Hatten and Rittershofen, in bitter, agonizing and mortal combat. General Jacob L. Devers, commanding the Sixth Army Group, called this action "the greatest defensive action of the war."

Early in 1945, the 14th joined the offensive to clear the Saar-Palatinate area, and cracked the vaunted Siegfried Line in two places, driving to the Rhine River at Germersheim, and entering a period of pursuing fleeing Nazi troops. The division crossed the Rhine at Worms, 1 April 1945.

In the final phase, the division took Lohr, Gemunden, Bad Bruckenau and Neustadt. With the 12th Armored, it clamped a pincers on Schweinfurt, ball-bearing center.

Swinging south, the 14th outflanked Bayreuth and Numberg. Hammelburg, prison of thousands of Allied officers, fell at once.

In the last long dash of the war, the 14th crossed the Danube at Ingol-stadt and pushed to the Isar River, where it liberated more that 110,000 Allied prisoners at Moosburg, largest Nazi prison camp. Last act of the dashing 14th was to seize a bridge intact on the Inn.

The 14th Armored Division captured more than 50,000 German prisoners, liberated 200,000 Allied prisoners, hence its name *Liberators*, and captured and destroyed in excess of 500 enemy tanks, along with mountains of enemy materiel. On one 500 mile drive across the battle area, the 14th liberated 1,000 enemy-held towns, villages and cities.

After fighting through France, Germany and knifing into Austria, the division performed occupation duty, in Bayaria, from VE Day until September 1945, when it returned to the United States, It was officially inactivated at Camp Patrick Henry, Virginia, on 23 September 1945.

28 OCT 44

### City of Fort Smith



#### Fort Smith, Arkansas

JACK FREEZE Mayor

#### PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Fort Smithians recall with pride the men of the Fourteenth Armoured Division who were headquartered at "Camp" Chaffee during the 1940's; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Fort Smith owe a great debt of gratitude to these men who went above and beyond the call of duty to provide assistance so direly needed during the flood of 1943; and

WHEREAS, the "Liberator Division will be coming home" to have its Sixth Annual Reunion July 24, 25 and 26, 1970;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jack Freeze, Mayor of the City of Fort Smith, Arkansas, do hereby proclaim the week of July 20-26, 1970 as

"FOURTEENTH ARMOURED DIVISION WEEK"

in Fort Smith and ask all citizens to join me in welcoming them "home".

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Fort Smith, Arkansas, to be affixed this 5th day of November, 1969.





#### To the 14th Armored Division Association

I am sure that all of you who were at Camp Chaffee when the 14th Armored Division was activated have many and varied memories, some pleasant and others like the deep and dusty tank trails, a little blurred.

Among some of mine are the friendliness of the people of Fort Smith and their unfailing and cheerful cooperation with the military that was suddenly thrust into their community, in the paramount business of the nation-getting on with the war!

America was a unified nation then — I hope it may be again!

I look back on your battlefield performance and realize what a fine dedicated group of men it was my privilege to command, and it gives me a warm feeling inside, as it must you.

You are well named "LIBERATORS," and richly deserve the title, as many unfortunate P.W.s will attest.

My most sincere greetings to all of you, and my regrets over not being with you.

Albert Cowper Smith Maj. Gen. USA-Ret.

Commanding General Honorary National President



### Message from the President of the 14th Armored Division Association

Welcome to Fort Smith and the sixth annual reunion of the association.

Those of you who are attending for the first time have a rare opportunity to renew friendships of 25 years ago.

A warm feeling of camaraderie has grown up among those of us who have regularly attended the earlier meetings regardless of the unit to which we belonged. We hope you will have the same experience.

The strength of the association is in you—its members. We expect a record attendance here and hope it will continue to grow at future reunions.

Ron Grays, our immediate past president, has been at work for more than a year on plans for the St. Paul meeting next year and it should be an excellent program.

Why not plan to attend now — and bring a former division member with you?

Best wishes to each of you.

Don Allen

National President



#### Members of the 14th Armored Division Association:

It is with a sense of great and humble pride, and deep dedication, that we can reflect on our wartime service and association. All of us have given a large part of ourselves in the service of our country, and in defense of its cherished liberties, at the risk of our lives.

For you engaged the enemy, and you were victorious. You sustained America in her time of greatest peril.

America is a great country. We have received our heritage from our forebears, and from those patriots whose life blood has nourished and nurtured the freedoms of democracy. We have, in a small measure, sustained the democratic ideals of this nation, by our service, by our blood, by our sweat, and by our tears.

We pass on, this priceless heritage, to our children, and their children and to generations yet unborn. It is our right, and privilege, and responsibility to do this, because, when our country called, we answered.

There is more right with America than wrong with it. It is up to us to rededicate ourselves to upholding her honor, her justice, and her compassion; for nowhere on the face of the globe is there a nation more majestic, more magnificent, more magnanimous than our beloved America.

God grant it that it shall ever be so.

Andrew W. Winiarczyk

Lt. Col. USA-Ret.

Honorary National President



#### Members of the 14th Armored Division Association:

Yours was one of the fine armored divisions from the days of its inception and throughout its operation in World War II to the time of its demobilization.

The 14th Armored Division has an enviable record from the time during which it was preparing itself for the field of battle on through its accomplishments during what was probably the heaviest fighting of the war — which forced the crossing of the Rhine and the advance into Germany.

You met adversity and success alike, and were always the best when the going was toughest. Today, after some twenty years, you are again assembling because of your great loyalty to your country and to each other. This is what makes this country great — and in these trying times I am sure that the great leadership you showed in the War is being used wisely in your various communities to the betterment of those communities and thus to the betterment of the nation as a whole.

With warm personal regards and every wish for the continuing success of each of you.

Jacob L. Devers General, USA-Ret.

Commanding General, Sixth Army Group, ETO

#### Officers of the 14th Armored Division Association

Honorary National Presidents

Maj. Gen. Albert C. Smith, USA-Ret., Commanding General

Lt. Col. Andrew W. Winiarczyk, USA-Ret.

| National President Donald E. Allen                        |
|---|
| National Sr. Vice President & Secretary Archie L. Jeardoe |
| National Junior 1st Vice President Pasquale DeFusco       |
| National Junior 2nd Vice President Harold L. Denny        |
| National Treasurer Andrew D. Tierno                       |
| National Judge AdvocateAtty. William Spotten              |
| Past National Presidents*James L. Sims,                   |
| Dennis C. White, Robert A. Jorgenson, Ronald C. Grays     |

\*Deceased

#### **General Officers**

Maj. Gen. Albert C. Smith, USA-Ret.

Maj. Gen. Joe C. Lambert, USA-Ret.

Maj. Gen. George P. Seneff, Jr., USA

Brig. Gen. William E. Shedd, USA\*

Brig. Gen. Harold H. Dunwoody, USA

Brig. Gen. DeWitt C. Armstrong, III, USA

Brig. Gen. Ross R. Condit, Jr., USA

Brig. Gen. Robert E. Elder, USAR

Brig. Gen. Carl Neely, USAR-Ret.

Brig. Gen. James H. Myers, USAR-Ret.

Brig. Gen. Jack D. DeWitt, USAR

\*Maj. Gen. designate

## Ladies Auxiliary of the 14th Armored Division Association

| President Mrs. Betty Hill        |
|----------------------------------|
| Vice President Mrs. Lee Denny    |
| Secretary Mrs. Valetta Collins   |
| Treasurer Mrs. E. James Dooley   |
| Public RelationsMrs. Helen White |

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> Donald I. Beamgard Sv. Co., 25th Tank Bn. Atwood, Kansas 67730

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# 6th Annual Reunion Program

# FOURTEENTH ARMORED DIVISION ASSOCIATION WARD MOTOR HOTEL, FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS

#### THURSDAY, JULY 23, 1970

7:30 P.M. Early Bird Dinner (Dutch)

#### FRIDAY, JULY 24, 1970

9:00 A.M. Registration open until 5:00 P.M.

ALL DAY SHOPPING SIGHTSEEING VISITING (Ladies Auxiliary will hold a hospitality room for

all ladies during these hours)

6:30 P.M. Executive Board Meeting

8:00 P.M. Beer Bust (Civic Auditorium)

#### SATURDAY, JULY 25, 1970

8:30 A.M. Business Meeting, Election of Officers (Civic Auditorium); Auxiliary Business Meeting (Gold Room

of Ward Hotel)

10:00 A.M. Board Busses for ride to Fort Chaffee

11:00 A.M. Dedication of Bronze Plaque at Post Headquarters.

Dedicatory Address: Lt. Col. Andrew W. Winiar-

czyk, U.S.A.-Ret.

12:00 M. Free time at Chaffee for reminiscing and exploring

the Post

2:00 P.M. Return to Fort Smith.

2:00 P.M. to

6:00 P.M. Unit Reunion Time

6:30 P.M. to

7:30 P.M. Cocktail Hour (Civic Auditorium)

7:30 P.M. Dinner (Civic Auditorium)

Installation of new officers

Presentation of Distinguished Service Awards to: Lt. Col. Andrew W. Winiarczyk, U.S.A.-Ret.

Honorary National President

Don E. Allen, National President

**Guest Speaker** 

9:00 P.M. Dancing till? ??

#### **SUNDAY, JULY 26, 1970**

10:00 A.M. Memorial Service by Division Chaplain John W.

Hollister at Fort Smith National Cemetery.

Wreath-placing by Association President Archie Jeardoe.

Color Guard and Firing Squad from Fort Chaffee Caretaker Detachment

P.M. So Long — Farewell — Au Revoir — Auf Wiedersehn See you in St. Paul

#### **NEXT REUNION:**

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#### Regards To All

COLONEL JOSEPH J. MURTHA Westbury, New York 500 A.F.A. Bn.

#### GREETINGS to ALL OUR COMRADES from

Battery A, 499th Veterans Ass'n ROGER E. YANT, Captain

Higland, Indiana

JAMES C. HARPEL, 1st. Lt.
Clarksville, Tennessee

ROSCOE CORLEY, 1st Sgt.

Floyds nobs, Indiana
7th REUNION — AUGUST 1971
Peter P. Banck, Chairman, Adrian, Minn., 56110

In memory of those members of the 499th AFA Bn. who gave their lives so that we may live in a Free America:

JOHN L. ENSMINGER, Pfc. WILLIAM G. KARPARIS, Pvt. JOHN L. LAYTON, Pfc. LEONARD J. MORIO, Pvt. CHARLES W. McDEVETT, 2nd Lt. ROBERT L. PALECEK, 2nd Lt. LOREN E. SMITH, Tec 5 Lt. Col. Louis H. Schinfeld C.O., 84th Armored Med. Bn.

\_\_\_\_

M. D. 30 Gold Farm Road Wyncote, Pa. 19095

Obstetrician-Gynecologist

Hope to hear from my former officers and men.

Sincerely, LHH

### Highest Regards to 94th Recon

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THE BRAVE, COURAGEOUS MEN IN THIS ORGANIZATION WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED. THEIR ABILITY, ENTHUSIASM, COURTESY, INGENUITY, LOYALTY AND FAITH WERE COMMENDABLE.

Peter H. Armagost (Lt.) Ray H. Young (Capt.)

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## GREETINGS TO ALL WHO ARE ATTENDING THE REUNION

May this be a time of reminiscence and fellowship. But more a time of renewal of involvement, and prayer for peace and unity among countries and people.

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Co. A, 25th Tank Battalion

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Co. A, 48th Tank Battalion



Lt. Col. Andrew W. Winiarczyk, U.S.A.-Ret., Honorary National President, and Dennis C. White, National President of the 14th Armored Division Association, sign a resolution in support of the United States policy in Vietnam, in 1966, before transmitting it to the White House.

This photo is reproduced as a historical document. According to authorities at the Independence Hall shrine, this was only the third time within the past 100 years that a document was signed in front of the Liberty Bell. It is in this context of history that it is shown.



This bronze tablet is enshrined at the base of the flagpole at at Post Headquarters at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas.

It is appropriate and fitting that this plaque is located here, for this is the birthplace of our Division, the one singular place in our memory book that holds so much for so many who made the transition from civilian to soldier during World War II.

It was here at Fort Chaffee that the bonds of everlasting friendship were forged. It was here that we learned so much of the deadly environment and training for combat. Yes, it was here that each of us had given so much of the precious time of our lives in dedication and defense of the principles of freedom and liberty.

#### REOUIESCAT IN PACE

Sleep on, brave men, beneath the fields,
O'er which you valiantly fought,
Rest in the peace of Heaven's arms
A dignity you bought.

For you had given so much of yourselves,

Your youth, your blood, your life, To defend our cherished democracy, On the deadly fields of strife.

The home you loved is left behind, In America, the land of the free. Rest in peace, O noble friends, You have given us liberty.

SHALOM





#### A Message From M. Maurice Cuttoli, Prefect of Alsace and The Bas-Rhin

Colonel Winiarczyk,

I am happy to address you in this letter for your comrades, a message recalling the great part your unit played in the liberation of Alsace in 1944-45.

I send my best wishes for the success of your reunion of the 14th Armored Division, and please receive, Colonel, the expression of my distinguished regards.

I take the opportunity on the special occasion of the reunion of the 14th Armored Division to warmly thank them, so many years after that memorable epic, for the decisive aid they furnished in 1944-45 to expel the invader, liberate the Alsatian land and restore liberty to a province which knew during 52 months untold privation and painful bruises.

The memorable heroism of the American GIs who fought and spilled their blood alongside Allied soldiers remains deeply impressed in our hearts. We recall with emotion their obstinacy and fury while joined with the troops of (Gen. Tassigny) DeLattre as they plunged into Germany.

Thanks to the valiant 14th Armored Division, a defense was established on the Lauter in the spring of 1945. It facilitated the entry of French troops into the Palatinate, then the crossing of the Rhine. Your division shattered the obstacle which then constituted the Siegfried Line, the last rampart of Nazism. This effort is inscribed in gold letters in our annals—the 48 hours of firing which the 14th Armored Division directed against German lines, demolishing the fortifications, opening a break in this line—reputed impregnable—and assuring the successful progress of mobile units charged with clearing enemy territory.

The generosity and courage of the American soldiers who came from beyond the seas, crossed the Atlantic and the whole of France in order to drive back the invader, repelling him in his last entrenchments, remain here a privileged subject of reflection and gratitude.

These events have impressed upon the French and the people of Alsace because they remain present in every memory—the respect and admiration. This recollection of glorious deeds authorizes me to address you on the occasion of your annual reunion my sincere wishes that your meeting will once again and remain in the future that of renewed friendship, cemented by the heroism and solidarity of men who from one side and the other of the Atlantic who have fought together and often died for liberty.

#### Accomplishments of the 14th Armored Division

There was the final Division review for General George S. Patton, and General Smith was "highly commended for the superior performance."

The 14th Armored Division was to have an existence of almost exactly three years. It trained for two years; and in combat—

The Division captured, in armed conflict, 64,000 prisoners, not including an estimated 20,000 taken and turned over to supporting infantry divisions.

Liberated 200,000 Allied prisoners held by the enemy.

Freed 250,000 displaced persons.

Destroyed and captured 500 German tanks.

Took 100 self-propelled guns.

Put out of action 500 enemy artillery pieces.

Overran 400 anti-aircraft guns.

Destroyed or captured 100,000 small arms.

Captured or shot down 400 enemy aircraft.

Destroyed or captured 50,000 tons of enemy munitions.

Took 2,000 railroad cars and 100 locomotives.

Captured or destroyed 200 factories.

Liberated or captured 1,000 cities, towns and villages.

The Division's vehicles had traveled in the ETO an average of 2,000 miles, from October 29, 1944 to May 8, 1945; and had used four and one half million gallons of gasoline.

Its .30 caliber machine guns had fired 2,150,000 rounds; its rifles, 640,000 rounds; its tommy guns, 315,000 rounds; its 50s, 348,000 rounds. Its tank guns had fired 36,000 rounds; its artillery pieces, 120,000; its men had thrown 8,000 hand grenades.

From Nice to Jettenbach, from Barr to Muhldorf, 581 men of the 14th Armored Division then lay buried. Hundreds were in hospitals.

They had been civilian soldiers, those men, they had been drafted or enlisted, activated into a Division and trained for war, men of America. They had entered combat, not unafraid but brave, they had fought, and they had taken their defeats. They had taken their defeats, and they had fought again.

And they had been victorious.



#### **HAMMELBURG**

The 14th Armored Division has a warm spot in my heart and the memories of your penetration into our Hammelburg prison camp are once again vividly recalled.

The armored officers throughout the United States Army join me in wishing you a successful and an enjoyable reunion and hope there will be many others in the future.

General John K. Waters U.S.A.-Ret.

(Gen. Waters was General George L. Patton's son-in-law, and was held a prisoner at Hammelburg.)

#### **MOOSBURG**

As I recall, we were liberated on April 29, 1945. I remember hearing artillery shells going over the camp as the Germans were making a stand on the opposite side of a small river. The artillery became louder, and then we heard the rumble of tanks. I looked out the barracks and saw the Luftwaffe guards forming in column of two, taking off their helmets and throwing their guns over the fence. Then I went outside and looked toward the town of Moosburg, and saw the Stars and Stripes for the first time in 11 months and 16 days—it really made tears of joy come to my eyes.

I informed my buddy from Tulsa and we went outside, and it was bedlam as everyone in the camp was out, shouting, screaming, crying and really whooping it up. The armored guys set up a shower wagon for us and gave us soap—white field bread, which by the way tasted like angel food cake to us—and of course C rations.

Some time later, General Patton came into the camp with his six-shooters on his hips.

I have two sons, officers, in the service of our beloved country, and another in college ROTC, and I am proud of all of them.

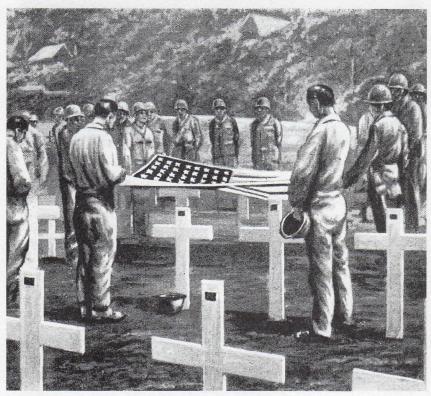
There are really no words to express my feelings at this time. I was liberated by the LIBERATORS, but right now, THANK YOU, LIBERATORS, for getting me home to produce more AMERICANS WHO ARE PROUD OF THEIR COUNTRY. Best of luck at your reunion.

William Harry Churchill

Captain, U.S.A.F.-Ret.

(Capt. Churchill was one of more than 200,000 Allied prisoners of war liberated by the 14th Armored Division. He also designed the 14th Armored Division Booster Award.)

# FORT SMITH NATIONAL CEMETERY MEMORIAL SERVICE



#### Sunday, July 26, 1970

SLEEP ON

Weeks turn into months
And the months into years
Until the war is but a lingering memory.
But we shall never forget
Those who made the supreme sacrifice for their country.

Young men battled courageously in its defense.
Valiantly they fought
And valiantly they died.
They have gone off to a land where there is an everlasting peace.

Sleep on, brave men,
Beneath the blood-soaked earth of
Europe
And the fields of your native land.
Sleep on.
You have earned your rest well.
Andrew W. Winiarczyk, Jr.

#### ... A MISSION ... A TASK ... A PRAYER ...

The road of memories and a trip through nostalgia is reflected on this page, when the 14th Armored Division the fury, knifed through enemy territory and restored freedom, liberty and justice to oppressed peoples.

| MARITIME ALPS             | SIEGFRIED LINE                |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| LANTOSQUE                 | USSCHAIDT                     |
| PIERA CAVA ECKEN O        | HERXHEIM                      |
| SOSPEL                    | KLINGENMUNSTER                |
| EPINAL                    | GERMERSHEIM                   |
| GERTWILLER                | RHINE RIVER                   |
| S. DIE                    | WORMS                         |
| FRANKENFIELD              | LOHR                          |
| MAINZO BARR DEMUNDEN      | GEMUNDEN                      |
| SELESTAT PLOHR BAMBER     | G NEUSTAD BAYREUTH            |
| WORMS OF GAMBSHEIMADT 3   | HAMMELBURG                    |
| SOULTZ-SOUS-FORETS        | Bruckena <mark>u</mark>       |
| SAVERNNE                  | wildflec <mark>k</mark> en    |
| HAGUENAU                  | PEGNIT                        |
| MAGINOT LINE              | MAIN RIVER                    |
| GERMERSHEIHATTEN NURNBERG | LICHTENFELS                   |
| RITTERSHOFEN              | CREUSSEN<br>FOLICITATION ARKT |
| O KARL SHUU               | FEUCHT                        |
| LAUTER RIVER              | NEUMARKT                      |
| LAUTERBOURG               | ALTENFELDEN                   |
| P) 31 KA 3BOURG           | TALLERSBERG                   |
| KAPSWEYER                 | BAYREUTH MOOSBURG             |
| OBER OTTERBACH            | NURNBERG                      |
| BERGZABERN                | DANUBÉ RIVER                  |
| SCHLEITHAL                | INGOLS TABENICH MUHLE         |
| BANNSTEIN                 | EICHSTATTERBURG O JETTENE     |
| PHILIPPSBOURG             | ALTMUHL RIVER 8 MAY 4         |
| BAERENTHAL                | FREISING                      |
| WINGEN                    | ISAR RIVER                    |
| ROTHBACH                  | ERDING                        |
| ZINSWILLER                | MOOSBURG                      |
| INGWILLER                 | JETTENBACH                    |
| BOUXWILLER                | INN RIVER                     |
| SURBOURG                  | MUHLDORF                      |
| OBERHOFEN                 | TOGING                        |
| MODER RIVER MORSCHWILLER  | AMPFING                       |
| MORSONWILLER              | WASSERBERG                    |
|                           | AIIIIII                       |



I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND TO THE REPUBLIC FOR WHICH ITSTANDS, ONE NATION UNDER GOD, INDIVISIBLE, WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL.