FAMILY OF SFC ALWYN CASHE RECEIVES HIS MEDAL OF HONOR

3RD INFANTRY DIVISION ISSUE

DOGFACE SOLDIERS INDUCTED TO MARNE HOF

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Call for Submissions

Do you have an opinion concerning one of the stories in this issue? We would like to print your responses in our Letters to the Editor column. Have you researched a topic that is of interest to Infantry Soldiers? Submit it to us as an article for the Infantry Bugler. Do you have personal experiences or valuable lessons learned that would benefit other readers? Let us be your vehicle for delivering those thoughts. Send your submissions to bugler@infantryassn.com.
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From the Chairman

From my foxhole, I see significant polarization of Americans’ political thoughts and actions which give me considerable concern for the future. Most historians would label our Civil War as the most dangerous period for our Republic. I was a young teenager as our Nation passed through the 100th anniversaries of that brutal war, and I became very interested in it, especially the leadership of the Union and Confederate generals. During those years, my parents were gracious and let me visit several Civil War battlefields. I was most attentive visiting Gettysburg because the board game of the battle was popular around its 100th anniversary. A family from New York moved to our small town in North Carolina, and their son and I became good friends. On rainy days, we’d play “Gettysburg.” Playing the Confederate side, I quickly learned that I had to win the battle early because the Union combat power grew significantly as the battle continued. Like so many others, I developed the attitude that the Union won because of their population and industrial power. I recently read Robert E. Lee and Me, A Southerner’s Reckoning with the Myth of the Lost Cause by Ty Seidule. I wish I had read this book as a Southern teenager who honored the leadership of Confederate generals and thought the war was more about State’s Rights than about slavery. With the detail on which Ty Seidule built his book’s theme (an average of 86 footnotes per chapter), I’m sure I would have seen slavery as its cause and the treason of very capable Southern leaders, who swore an oath just as Soldiers do today. . . “I, _________, do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic…”

An enemy of our great country continues to be racism which was not defeated at the end of the Civil War. A major step forward was made by President Truman with the integration of our Armed Forces in 1948—my birth year. In the four decades I served the U.S. Army in mostly tactical and operational units, I witnessed very little racism. From Basic Training to commanding a Corps in combat, I served with black Soldiers, NCOs, Officers, Commanders and senior staff officers and they were superb Soldiers and Leaders. Nevertheless, racism in the Department of Defense must have survived for it has returned, and we must not allow it to impact our warfighting capabilities. Racism is an enemy, and our oath includes all enemies.

In 1954, our Supreme Court ruled segregation in public schools unconstitutional. Integration of the public schools in my small, rural hometown seemed to go smoothly which was not the case in too many parts of our country. My challenge as a young Southern boy was being Catholic. When JFK ran for the Democrat Party’s nomination, we got lots of trash deposited in our yard. When he was assassinated, a few high school students expressed that it was “good to get rid of the Roman Catholic President. Albeit small, I had a taste of prejudice.

A month after graduation from high school, I joined the Army. With the Vietnam Conflict heating up, my parents were not enthusiastic about signing a document approving their 17-year-old son to become an Army, private, E1. I was one of two volunteers in my Basic Training Company full of draftees—in the minority again. I was able to get enrolled in the USMA Prep School and won an appointment to West Point. While a cadet, the Vietnam Conflict became less and less popular.

In May 1970, Ohio National Guard Soldiers opened fire on Vietnam War protestors—killing four and wounding nine—a very sad day for America and one that brought us closer to departing Vietnam as we recently did in Afghanistan. I share my history to highlight that our Nation and its Army have faced challenges similar to today’s. Soldiers and their leaders must study history, know our enemies and stay true to the oath we make upon joining our Army. We have overcome tough challenges in the past, and we can again!

The ongoing fight against COVID-19 has accelerated polarization across our country. My first encounter with a vaccine was in the mid-1950s. We were marched out of our classroom, given the polio vaccine and marched back to our classroom. No protest. We were glad we wouldn’t get this horrible disease. The same was true for the Continental Army in 1777 when General Washington required his Soldiers to be inoculated against smallpox, which drove the mortality rate down to two percent. Few Americans know that during our Revolution for Independence, disease killed nine Soldiers for every one lost in combat. As a Private, Cadet, Infantry Officer and Flag Officer, I was given hundreds of shots over 43 years in uniform. I respect family, friends and all those who do not want a COVID-19 vaccine, but my decision to get vaccinated was based on my experience to “… support and defend against all enemies…”

Infantry Soldiers’ mission is to close with and destroy the enemy. Some enemies will not be new (e.g. racism, viruses . . .) and some will be (e.g. cyber, information, space . . .). Therefore, know your enemies, study them and defeat them. Those who came before probably left challenges for you to solve. Don’t “look the other way!” Lastly, review periodically the oath you gave to be a Soldier in the U.S. Army: I, _________, do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States . . .
**From the President**

As I write this, we have closed out 2021 and begun a fresh new year, and we have some Good, Bad and Ugly ahead in 2022. First the good. All of the Infantry Schools are up and running. We graduate Infantry Soldiers from initial entry, Infantry NCOs from our Advanced Leader Course—non-commissioned education system (NCES)—and Infantry Officers from our Infantry Basic Officer Leader Course (IBOLC) in our Officer Education System (OES). All of our Infantry Functional Schools are producing leaders with special skills and knowledge. From Airborne, Jumpmaster, Ranger, Sniper, Air Assault (at the 101st), Pathfinder (at the 101st), Bradley Leader, Stryker Leader, Bradley and Stryker Master Gunner and a myriad of other courses, the Infantry produces certified experts in a variety of systems in all of our programs.

Our products (Infantrymen and Infantry Leaders) are deployed to Eastern Europe from both U.S. Army Europe (2nd Stryker) and FORSCOM (82nd Airborne). We continue to have forces deployed to the Middle East and Africa. We have forces stationed in Korea and Japan while other units deploy from Alaska and Hawaii to the Pacific Rim. These Eastern European deployed forces need to review our Arctic, Cold Weather, Defensive and Mountain Operations. The Russian threat is both a mixture of mechanized and special operators, supported by fixed wing, rotary wing, rocket artillery and field artillery. Our training programs and leader development programs should look at operations against Russian, Chinese, Iranian, North Korean and other threats. We must know how our enemy will fight, so we can beat them.

We downsized our Maneuver Warfighting Conference in February, postponed the Doughboy Dinner until September and canceled our Global AUSA Conference in March. We’re hopeful that we’ll be able to watch Infantry Week in April with a Best Ranger, International Sniper, Best Combatives and Lacerdo Cup, and the Best Mortar Competition. Looking forward to normalized responses to COVID so that we can concentrate on fighting the close fight.

Our Infantry continues to validate and award the Expert Infantryman’s Badge and the Combat Infantryman’s Badge. The Infantry is also integrating a $40K bonus for new Warriors. Our units (Divisions, Brigades and Battalions) continue to prove their merits. For all Soldiers reading this, thank you for your service to our country. Because of you, I know my family can sleep safely and soundly. Continue to prepare yourselves and your subordinates. We never know when our next enemy will be at our doorstep.

**From the Chief of Infantry**

This month we highlight the US Army’s 3rd Infantry Division stationed at Fort Stewart, Hunter Army Airfield and at the home of the Infantry, Fort Benning, Georgia. I’ve twice had the privilege of being a Dogface Soldier, serving with the division as a Company Commander and Deputy Commanding General. Dogface Soldiers have served in almost every major conflict since World War I. The Marine Division served with distinction in World War I, where it got its famous nickname; World War II; the Korean War; the Cold War in Europe; Desert Storm; Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operations Enduring Freedom and Resolute Support.

While it is important for us to look to and learn from the past several decades in Iraq and Afghanistan, we must all shift our focus to the future fight, large scale combat operations (LSCO). We live in a complex and ever changing world. Yesterday, we had U.S Paratroopers securing Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan, and today, we have them standing on the front lines of Eastern Europe, assuring our allies of our commitment to their security and democracy. Our Soldiers must be ready to react to the increasing tensions with our peer adversaries as discussions continue over Ukraine and Taiwan.

With the shift of national focus on LSCO, the Army must stress the importance of mastery of individual Soldier skills. The Expert Infantryman Badge was created in 1944 to serve as an indicator that the wearer has mastered the tasks required of an Infantry Soldier. The Expert Field Medic Badge and the Expert Soldier Badge followed suit in proving that a Soldier has mastered skills that increase their lethality and survivability; and more importantly, has increased Army readiness. The significance of conducting these assessments lies not only in the recognition of those that have mastered their individual skills, but in the continual exposure and practice of these tasks by those conducting the test and those teaching their subordinates. Leaders must stress to their Soldiers that if they are unsuccessful at earning the badge, they must try again; that they must take pride in learning the tasks that may one day save their lives and those of their battle buddies. Our team at the Infantry School is developing the concept of E3B which will serve as a combination of all three tests. The purpose of E3B is to make the test logistically easier for units to conduct, and for Soldiers to have more opportunities to prove their merits.

The responsibility of ensuring our Soldiers are ready for their next fight lies not only on the shoulders of the Rifleman, but also on their team and squad leaders. Dismounted squad leader time is key in ensuring that our non-commissioned officers are ready to lead at higher echelons. It is the decisive point of their career where they are sensors for both the Company and individual Soldier. At this level they bear the personal responsibility of maneuver and are able to master the art of control on the battlefield. Without this crucial development, that NCO will lack the understanding of intricacies of dismounted operations.

For all Soldiers reading this, thank you for your service to our country. Because of you, I know my family can sleep safely and soundly. Continue to prepare yourselves and your subordinates. We never know when our next enemy will be at our doorstep.

“Rock of the Marne”

Follow Me!
The 4th Infantry Division has fought in every major American war since 1917. The 4th Infantry Division formed at Camp Greene, North Carolina and immediately proved itself in the crucible of brutal close combat that characterized the First World War. In the decades that followed, Ivy leaders led the charge onto Utah Beach and through the Hurtgen Forest, fought valiantly in the La Drang valley during Vietnam and relentlessly pursued our Nation’s enemies in the streets of Baghdad and in the mountains of the Hindu Kush.

In 2021, 3rd Infantry Division senior officials, with the 3rd ID Museum’s historian, considered nominations of former Dogface Soldiers for inclusion into the Marne Hall of Fame. Twelve valorous and influential figures were chosen from the division’s storied 104-year history.

“The creation of a division hall of fame is part of a larger effort to celebrate the division’s history and celebrate its heroes, said MG Charles Costanza, commanding general of the 3rd Infantry Division. “While Soldiers might be familiar with the 61 Medal of Honor recipients the division has, there are many who made lasting contributions or are the epitome of a Dogface Soldier we want to honor for our Soldiers and communities of today.”

This inaugural class of the Marne Hall of Fame was unveiled during the 3rd Infantry Division Soldier’s Ball on 19 November 2021 during Marne Week. Inductees were selected based on their service within the division, their lifelong commitment to the division’s values and either their valorous combat actions or their contributions to their chosen field outside of the division.

“The Marne Hall of Fame is about preserving our legacy, paying homage to our Marne heroes and promoting the history of our 104 years, which includes 38 campaign streamers and valorous combat actions from the Marne to the Euphrates Rivers,” Chief of Staff of the 3rd Infantry Division COL Ryan McCormack said. “Broadly, the Marne Hall of Fame initiative is aligned with one of MG Costanza’s objectives to use the outstanding heritage and lineage of the Marne Division to connect with today’s Dogface Soldiers. The intent is to amplify discrete, historical and special events tied to the 3rd ID legacy and share them with our Soldiers. Specifically, we want to embrace these men and women for their courage, selfless service, grit and resilience in the face of the enemy or other adversities.”

The inaugural class of the Marne Hall of Fame included the following Soldiers:

**BG Daniel Stewart**
Born in Liberty County, Georgia, Stewart enlisted in the militia during the American Revolution. Captured by the British, he escaped from a prison ship docked in Charleston Harbor. After the war, he served as a state representative and county sheriff for Liberty County, where he assisted with resolving the Creek Indian wars in Georgia. While serving as state senator, Stewart was promoted to brigadier general in the Georgia Militia and commanded a cavalry brigade during the War of 1812. The announcement that Camp Stewart would be named after him was made in January 1941. It was renamed Fort Stewart when it became a permanent installation in 1956.

**MG Frank O’Driscoll Hunter**
A native of Savannah, Georgia, “Monk” Hunter was a pioneer aviator in the formative years of Army aviation. Serving in France during World War I, he was credited with shooting down eight German planes. During the interwar years, he assisted with the development and testing of pursuit and fighter aircraft, flying virtually every aircraft in the Army Air Corps inventory. In 1940, Savannah Municipal Airport was renamed Hunter Airfield after him, the only instance of a military installation named after a living person. During World War II, BG Hunter served as commanding general of the Eighth Air Force Fighter Command that was instrumental in introducing the P-47 and P-51 fighter aircraft into the European theater. In 1943, newly promoted MG Hunter took command of the First Air Force at Mitchel Field, New York before retiring in 1946.
MG Joseph T. Dickman

Dickman was commissioned in the 3d Cavalry Regiment upon graduation from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1881. After attending the U.S. Army Cavalry School, he saw combat during the Spanish-American War and then participated in the Mexican border operations against the Garza revolutionists and outlaws. During the Spanish-American War, Dickman served on the staff of GEN Joseph Wheeler in Cuba. In 1899, he once again saw combat during the Philippine Insurrection on the island of Panay. In November 1917, he assumed command of the Third Division at Camp Greene, North Carolina and led the division in combat at Château-Thierry, France. During the Second Battle of the Marne, his leadership ensured the division held the Marne River crossings against the German Summer Offensive and earned the division its distinguishing nickname, “Rock of the Marne.” He then commanded IV Corps during the St. Mihiel Offensive, I Corps during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive and was the first commanding general of Third Army during the Army of Occupation of Germany. Dickman retired from the U.S. Army in October 1921.

COL Ulysses G. McAlexander

McAlexander graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1887 as a second lieutenant in the Infantry. His combat experience came first during the Spanish-American War and then during the Philippine Insurrection. After the U.S. entered World War I, he was ordered to France and commanded the 18th Infantry Regiment, First Division. In May 1918, McAlexander assumed command of the 38th Infantry Regiment, Third Division. During the German offensive of July 1918—the Second Battle of the Marne—German forces began crossing the Marne River in the early morning. The 38th IR bore the brunt of the initial and subsequent attacks from both flanks, fighting on three sides. The regiment endured heavy attacks and counterattacks from six German regiments for over 14 hours before being driven across the Marne. Both McAlexander and the 38th IR earned the enduring nom de guerre, “Rock of the Marne.” McAlexander retired from the U.S. Army after 37 years in July 1924.

MAJ Guy Ichabod Rowe

In May 1918, Rowe assumed command of 2d Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, Third Division. During the Second Battle of the Marne, Rowe led the regiment to adjust their position to cover their flanks and fight on three sides. The regiment endured heavy attacks and counterattacks from six German regiments for over 14 hours before driving them across the Marne. During World War II, Rowe first commanded the Quartermaster Replacement Training Center at Camp Lee, Virginia and then became the commanding general at the Jeffersonville Quartermaster Depot in Indiana until his retirement from military service in 1947.

CPT Jessie W. Woodbridge

In August 1917, Wooldridge entered the U.S. Army at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia and received a commission in the Third Division. Once in France, he assumed command of Company G, 38th Infantry Regiment, Third Division. It was during the Second Battle of the Marne that he distinguished himself and was instrumental in the Division earning the nom de guerre, “Rock of the Marne.” It was along the Marne River, east of Château-Thierry, that Company G defended a railway embankment against the German 5th and 6th Guard Regiments. Wooldridge led his company of 189 men in several counterattacks against German forces five times their size, with only 51 men returning unhurt. His lead-from-the-front attitude resulted in his company killing, wounding or capturing approximately 1,000 German soldiers.

GEN Lucian King Truscott Jr.

Truscott enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1917, and after completing officer training, was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Cavalry. In April 1943, he assumed command of the 3d Infantry Division and brought the division to a higher standard of training. The division became known for the “Truscott Trot,” which was a marching pace of four miles per hour, even in mountainous terrain, faster than the two-and-half mile per hour standard. Under his leadership and high standards, the division accomplished the assault of Sicily and the amphibious assault of Anzio. Following the initial landing at Anzio, he assumed command of VI Corps, was appointed commander of newly formed Fifteenth Army, then Fifth Army and lastly Third Army. Truscott held every leadership position from platoon to Army-level in a career that spanned 32 years before retiring in September 1947.

Helen Wyatt Snap

In January 1943, Snap was accepted in the Women’s Airforce Service Pilot (WASP) program. In late February, she started training at Sweetwater, Texas, and by the end of August, she was a member of the fourth graduating class. After graduation, she reported to Camp Davis, North Carolina, to receive training in target towing for anti-aircraft live fire. After her training, she was one of the first female pilots to serve at Liberty Field, Camp Stewart, until December 1944, when the WASPs were deactivated. During her two years in the WASP, she flew more than 1,000 hours in various Army Air Corps and Navy aircraft.

CPL Hiroshi H. Miyamura

Almost six months after arriving in Korea, Miyamura was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions south of the Imjin River, near Taejon-ni. After an intense firefight, he became a prisoner of war for more than two years. For the next 28 months, he endured harsh treatment and malnutrition. He would be one of the last groups to be released on 21 August 1953. For his
heroic actions against the enemy, Miyamura was recommended for the Medal of Honor and once approved, it was classified as top secret since he was still a prisoner of war.

**PFC Charles Johnson**

Many casualties resulted from the bitter fighting at Outpost Harry, near Surang-ni, Korea, during the night and early morning of 11-12 June 1953. Serving as a Browning Automatic Rifleman assigned to Company B, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3d Infantry Division, Johnson acted without regard to his personal safety against an overwhelming attack on his unit’s position. Ignoring his own injuries, he rendered aid to wounded soldiers and moved them into a bunker to protect them from further harm. He then positioned himself between the wounded and the enemy and exacted a grave toll on the attacking Chinese Communist forces. As he moved throughout the trench network atop Outpost Harry looking for additional survivors, he was killed in action while creating conditions for their rescue.

**CPT Maurice L. “Footsie” Britt**

While playing for the Detroit Lions, Britt was drafted in December 1941. He was assigned to Company L, 30th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division. On 29 October 1943, Britt received the Silver Star for his actions at Acerno, Italy. On 24 January 1944, two days after landing at Anzio, he received the Distinguished Service Cross for his heroic actions. Britt would also earn the Bronze Star with Valor. As the commander of Company L, he received the Medal of Honor and a battlefield promotion for his extraordinary actions against the enemy at Mignano, Italy. Britt lost his right arm from an enemy artillery shell on 12 February 1944, and was the first Soldier to earn all of the military’s top awards in a single war.

**2LT Audie L. Murphy**

Murphy was assigned to 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division and landed at Casablanca. After Operation Torch’s success, his first taste of combat came in Sicily where he proved a highly skilled Soldier and marksman. Throughout the war, Murphy demonstrated extraordinary skill in surviving tough situations. Besides the Medal of Honor, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, two Silver Stars, the Legion of Merit, two Bronze Stars (one for valor), three Purple Hearts, the French Legion of Honor and the Croix de Guerre (with silver star), and the Belgian Croix de Guerre (with palm). At war’s end, Murphy was considered the “most decorated Soldier of World War II.” ★
Soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Division participated in the first Marne Innovations Workshop at the Georgia Institute of Technology Jan. 6-9, 2022, in Atlanta, Ga. The workshop is a collaborative event including participants from Georgia Tech Army ROTC, the United States Military Academy and the 75th Innovation Command.

“The Marne Innovations Workshop is the first opportunity for 3rd ID to partner with the Georgia Institute of Technology, and its intent is to solve today’s problems with today’s technology,” Deputy Innovations Officer for 3rd ID CPT Ben McFarlin said.

Recently, 3rd ID Soldiers generated a list of challenges, which were curated from feedback and survey results received from across the Division. Georgia Tech students and USMA cadets then selected a set of challenges from this list.

A group of cadets and students worked with Soldiers during the four-day workshop.
During the pandemic, several of our chapters became stagnant or went on inactive status due to not submitting meeting information, point of contact info or financials.

All chapters that are actively meeting, please submit updated POC information. We also need to update member rosters, officer names and contact, in addition to getting financial records.

Please submit these documents as well as any questions to Chapters@InfantryAssn.com.
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AMERICAN MADE FOR AMERICAN TROOPS
Curtis Reid was 33 years old when his heart stopped. It happened in a dusty building southeast of Baghdad. He was surrounded by Soldiers he loved.

“I watched him die,” Lyndon Kilcrease, then a newly promoted Army specialist, recalled. “They started to resuscitate him, and I remember Jones saying ‘Look, he’s dead.’”

While this sounds like the end of CSM Curtis Reid’s story, it was not. It was just a brief moment in an ongoing, multi-decade career that has spanned numerous continents and has touched the lives of hundreds of Soldiers.

While Reid now serves in a premiere leadership position as the senior enlisted advisor for 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, he came from humble beginnings. Like so many others before him, Reid joined the Army to get away from his hometown and to follow in his father’s footsteps.

“I always wanted to serve because my father was in the military,” Reid said. His father was a Vietnam veteran with the U.S. Marine Corps.

Reid grew up in the small, remote town of Fitzgerald, Georgia, which lies about three hours south of Atlanta. The town is located in dense pine forests and the last census put the population at about 10,000 residents.

Reid entered the service in 1994 as an Infantryman. He and a group of others in his training class were chosen to specialize and became mechanized Infantry, then known by the military occupation specialty code 11M. Reid was attracted to the lifestyle of the Infantry.

“We’re the first ones on the battlefield to close in with and destroy the enemy,” he said. “That’s what lead me to wanting to be Infantry.”

Reid remembers that the training at Fort Benning was grueling. Although the base was only two-and-a-half hours from home, it felt like a world away for him. He didn’t find out until completing his training that his first assignment truly would take him to the other side of the planet.

Reid arrived in Germany in the heart of winter.

“Growing up in the South, I’d never really seen snow before,” Reid recalled. “I was mesmerized and shocked.”

The weather was not the only shock Reid would get upon
arrival. He soon found out he was bunking in a six-man barracks room with a communal shower in the hallway for multiple rooms to share. Modern Soldiers typically live in individual or two-person rooms. For the most part, communal showers are a thing of the past.

“The Army was really hard then,” Reid said. “You did something wrong, and you would get the crap smoked out of you.”

Reid recalls that the leaders at this unit were tough and unbending in their adherence to the Army standards.

“It really made me aware of how high my standards needed to be, how disciplined I needed to be,” he said.

Reid carried on this hard-earned discipline as he moved forward in his career. Soon, he moved into leadership positions and was tasked with leading Soldiers on deployments around the world. He moved around often over the next decade including stints in Korea, Bosnia, Kosovo, the Czech Republic, Kuwait and Iraq. His travels eventually brought him to 3rd Brigade, 3rd ID, at Kelley Hill on Fort Benning, Georgia.

He soon deployed to Iraq with this unit, and it was during this deployment that Reid’s life would change forever.

It was 3 July 2006, and his unit had just returned from an overnight air assault mission that involved clearing insurgents out of a local village. Kilcrease remembers the Soldiers returning to their base—Combat Outpost Cahill—around 5:00 a.m.

“We were all bone tired,” he said. Most of the members of the unit weren’t aware that a change occurred overnight that would send the weary Soldiers back out into harm’s way later that morning.

“We were supposed to leave the [combat outpost] and head back to [Forward Operating Base] Hammer on the 4th of July to re-fit,” Reid said. He said his company commander needed Reid’s unit to head back to Hammer a day early, which was located about 50 miles away.

“So, we got ready and loaded up the Bradleys with the dismounts,” Reid remembered. With the dismounted Soldiers loaded into the back of the vehicle, Reid told his driver to raise the back ramp.

“The ramp didn’t raise, so I got out of the Bradley and the driver got out,” Reid said. “We had to physically, manually push the ramp up in order for the driver to lock it.”

First their mission to go for re-fit was bumped forward a day and now the ramp on their vehicle was broken. Reid remembered thinking this seemed like a sign. With the ramp finally locked in place, the line of vehicles departed COP Cahill and headed toward FOB Hammer. Reid’s vehicle was the last in line and was tasked with providing rear security. The 25mm cannon on his Bradley faced toward the back of the vehicle.

“The back deck has a cargo hatch,” Reid said. “Dismounts can get in and out of the cargo deck, but if that barrel is blocking that cargo hatch, you can open it, but you can’t get out.”

Kilcrease was Reid’s driver that day. For him, the day seemed much like any other, although he was more tired than usual. The route was familiar to him, but he had strange thoughts as he drove it this time.

“I looked over to my left as I’m driving, and there is this big open field,” Kilcrease said. “In my head, I wonder if a medevac could land there.” He is referring to the medical evacuation helicopters that were commonly used in Iraq to rescue wounded Soldiers.

“One once we hit a certain checkpoint, we proceeded, and the next thing I know it’s just a huge explosion; it shattered my helmet,” Reid said. “I just remember calling out ‘IED, IED, IED.’ I looked over at my gunner and he was knocked out, unconscious.”

EFPs were a common weapon used by insurgents to penetrate the thick armor of military vehicles. They work by focusing a weighted piece of metal in an explosion and can cause high levels of destruction on impact.

After Kilcrease woke up, he turned around and looked in the...
area behind the driver’s seat, dubbed the ‘hell hole.’

“I tried to release the back ramp so that the guys in the back could get out,” said Kilcrease. “There’s a lever; it’s the ramp lever. It releases the emergency hatch so you can push the button to lower the ramp. After I turned around and saw the hell hole was on fire, I grabbed the release. I tried to push the ramp button down, but all the electronics had been knocked out of the Bradley. Nothing was working.”

With the ramp malfunctioning, Kilcrease exited the burning vehicle. He was on fire when he hit the ground and was tackled by a medic who put out the flame.

Reid remembers watching the medics treat Kilcrease. It was at this moment that he realized the dismounts were trapped inside with a malfunctioning ramp and the gun blocking the top exit to the vehicle.

“I knew that if I didn’t do anything, they would burn alive in there,” Reid said. “From that point, I jumped back into the turret in my compartment. In the Bradley, you control the turret in mechanical mode or electric mode; I put everything in manual mode. Once I did that, I was able to raise the gun barrel.”

Reid lifted the gun barrel to max elevation and a Soldier in the back of the vehicle popped the hatch open halfway. “I jumped out of the turret to where the cargo hatch was and opened up the cargo hatch all the way,” Reid said. “I jumped into the hull to where the dismounts were in the back. I took each individual out one-by-one and also the Iraqi interpreter. Some of them were unconscious and some of them were just confused from the explosion, so they didn’t have any idea what happened.”

After getting the last Soldier out of the vehicle, Reid jumped off the burning Bradley. Hitting the ground is the last thing he remembers.

“His adrenaline went out, and he just collapsed,” Kilcrease said. Reid’s next memory is of waking up in a small hospital. It was here where his heart stopped, and the medical team resuscitated him. The medics treated Kilcrease alongside him.

“They’re scrubbing me down trying to control all these burns and pulling shrapnel,” he said. “They put [Reid] on a litter right in front of us. He quit breathing.”

“They resuscitated him and got him back,” Kilcrease said. “I can’t tell you how I felt at the time. I was just sitting there watching a dude that you kind of looked at as a father figure, die.”

Reid’s next stop was in Landstuhl, Germany, where a medical team worked to stabilize him. The explosion ruptured his spleen, so the doctors removed it. Once he was out of critical condition, he was moved to Womack Army Hospital in Fort Bragg, North Carolina for recovery.

While the physical injuries were painful, the concussion caused neurological injuries that last to this day. “I had to go through speech therapy, writing therapy, hand and eye coordination therapy,” Reid said. “It was like a two-year rehab. Sometimes I still have challenges with speaking.”

Reid, a religious man, said the recovery made him question the things he held dearest.

“I was questioning God, which is something I thought I would never do,” Reid said. “I was asking why this happened to me.”

Reid’s leadership presented him with the Silver Star Medal during his recovery time at Womack. His battalion’s senior noncommissioned officer came to visit him and asked what he wanted to do next.

“I was like, ‘sergeant major, I want to get back to my guys,’” he recalled. “He said no, and that I needed to take care of myself. My boys were going to be fine.”

Reid’s recovery was grueling, but he said that his faith, his family and his love for the Soldiers he served with kept him pushing to get better. While these injuries might have ended the careers of other Soldiers, for Reid it was just a hurdle to overcome.

“I love being around Soldiers,” Reid said. “That’s why I’m still doing what I do because I love being around Soldiers and taking care of Soldiers.”

It was this love of Soldiers that carried Reid through another Iraq deployment with 3rd BCT, 3rd ID in 2011. Although Reid left the unit shortly after this deployment, he carried the legacy of his time there with him. The Army deactivated 3rd BCT in 2016. Reid’s current unit, 1st Bn., 28th Inf. Regt., is the last remaining 3rd ID unit on Fort Benning.

“Third Infantry Division is my heart,” Reid said. “I wouldn’t want to deploy with any other organization than 3rd ID.”

Reid said that the Soldiers who work with him now are among the best he’s ever served with.

“We are an elite Infantry organization and we are ready to go anywhere that the U.S. needs us to go,” Reid said. “I know that my Soldiers in this organization are fully trained and prepared to do what the nation calls on us to do.”

Reid cherishes this time with his current unit, but says he will never forget the memories he made with the Soldiers who were with him on the day he earned his Silver Star.

“We are forever linked because of what happened to us and I can’t think of any other people I’d rather be linked to,” Kilcrease said.

SFC Justin Naylor is a Public Affairs noncommissioned officer who currently serves as the Operations NCO for the 50th Public Affairs Detachment at Fort Stewart, Georgia. He most recently served as the Public Affairs Operations NCO for 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart. From 2016 to 2020, he served as a recruiter at the Rapid City Army Recruiting Station in Rapid City, South Dakota.
“He loved 3rd ID; he loved Kelley Hill; he loved the organization,” LTC Leon Matthias recalled of SFC Alwyn Cashe. “He bled it through and through.”

Prior to the ceremony presenting the Medal of Honor to Cashe’s family, former and current 3rd Infantry Division Soldiers remembered him as a true Dogface Soldier who embodied the division’s values.

While serving as a platoon sergeant in the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, Cashe’s vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb near Samarra, Iraq, on 17 October 2005. Dazed and wounded, Cashe retrieved seven Soldiers and an Iraqi interpreter one-by-one from the burning vehicle, receiving burns himself on nearly 72 percent of his body. Three of those rescued ultimately perished days later at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas. Cashe was the last, succumbing to his wounds on 8 November. He posthumously received the Silver Star Medal for his heroic actions.

Although it has been 16 years since his death, stories of Cashe and his legacy live on with those who knew him.

While most stories about Cashe focus on his heroism in the face of danger, Matthias, his former platoon leader and witness to the events of that day, fondly recalls a funny and telling moment he had with his then-platoon sergeant.

The 1st Bn. 15th Inf. Rgmt., 3rd Brigade, 3rd ID, was stationed at Kelley Hill on Fort Benning, Georgia, while the rest of the division was headquartered four hours away on Fort Stewart. Texas. Cashe was the last, succumbing to his wounds on 8 November. He posthumously received the Silver Star Medal for his heroic actions.

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The 1st Bn. 15th Inf. Rgmt., 3rd Brigade, 3rd ID, was stationed at Kelley Hill on Fort Benning, Georgia, while the rest of the division was headquartered four hours away on Fort Stewart. While deployed, the brigade was assigned to support Task Force Liberty and received a different combat patch than the familiar blue and white-striped 3rd ID insignia.

Matthias, then a young lieutenant, was excited to sew a combat patch on his uniform after months in Iraq. He chose to wear the Task Force Liberty patch instead of that of 3rd ID. The decision to wear the patch of another organization did not sit well with Cashe. “Well, I think I earned this combat patch, and they said we could wear it,” Matthias retorted to his platoon sergeant. “He’s like ‘sir, you’re not coming on patrol wearing that patch; we are wearing a 3rd ID patch,’” Matthias remembered. Matthias continued to protest, but it fell on deaf ears.

The next thing he knew, Matthias heard Cashe say “get him” and suddenly the Soldiers of the platoon piled on Matthias and ripped off the Task Force Liberty patch. “This is the unit you deployed with, this is the patch you’re going to wear for your deployment, and he was truly adamant about it,” said Matthias of Cashe. CSM Quentin Fenderson, the 3rd ID senior enlisted advisor, said Cashe’s pride in his unit was well earned.

“Third Brigade was different,” said Fenderson, who served in the brigade alongside Cashe. “We felt like we were the underdogs. Every other year we were deploying. So, everybody on Kelley Hill knew each other, and I think that was one of the things that separated us. It was a family. We shared failures. We shared success.”

One memory of Cashe still resonates and guides Fenderson to this day. Fenderson said the brigade went to the Joint Readiness Training Center together prior to their deployment to Iraq. He recalls Cashe’s company forgot to bring antennas for their vehicles. “Here is SFC Cashe—at the time the platoon sergeant—he’s walking around because he’s got all these relationships throughout the brigade,” said Fenderson. “He’s walking around borrowing antennas from people to make sure that his entire company got these antennas.”

“Some leaders today would have sent somebody else to do that,” Fenderson said. “But he took it upon himself.” Fenderson remembers laughing at him at the time and asking, “What are you doing out here? He’s just like, ‘hey, gotta make it happen.’ That’s the type of person he was.” For Fenderson, this story highlights how much Cashe cared about ensuring that his Soldiers could accomplish their mission.

When 3rd Brigade deployed to Iraq, parts of the unit were separated out across the country, so news of the attack on Cashe’s vehicle took some time to reach everyone. “I just remember that when the information came out, they didn’t talk about who it was,” Fenderson continued.

After the family was notified, an information blackout was lifted and Soldiers throughout the brigade found out it was Cashe’s team, Fenderson recalled. “Everybody, I think, just felt it,” he said. “When Cashe passed away, it hit us...
hard because he really was a brother.” Fenderson said that no one was surprised when they found out Cashe performed heroically in combat. “Nobody expected anything different. That’s just how he was.”

“This well-deserved level of recognition for his courage and sacrifice has been highly anticipated by Soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division—both past and present,” said MG Charles D. Costanza, the commanding general of the 3rd ID. Costanza previously commanded the 3rd Brigade, 3rd ID in which Cashe served and worked alongside many Army officials and the Cashe family to make this event a reality.

“SFC Cashe is an example of what being a Dogface Soldier is all about—selfless service. The special relationship we developed with the Cashe family while preserving his memory and telling his story is truly remarkable. I am incredibly proud that this time has finally arrived; for him, our Army and his family,” he said.

For the Soldiers who were with Cashe when his vehicle was struck, his legacy as a consummate professional and caring leader was established long before that day.

Douglas Dodge, who has since retired from the Army, served as a squad leader under Cashe and was rescued by him during the attack that lead to Cashe’s death. Dodge said that prior to the attack, their platoon worked long hours and had few days off. The team was worn out and on edge with each other. He remembered having a strong disagreement with Cashe while in Iraq, although the specific details are fuzzy years later. Following the argument, Dodge went to see their first sergeant, who sat him and another squad leader down and explained how much Cashe protected Dodge’s Soldiers from unnecessary work, even if they didn’t know it.

“You guys don’t understand what he does every day to try to give you guys time just to even have an hour for yourselves,” Dodge remembers his first sergeant saying. Hearing this from someone above their platoon resonated with Dodge.

“It showed me how much he really did do for us and took care of us without us even knowing,” Dodge said. “It wasn’t in our faces. It wasn’t like ‘look what I did for you guys.’ It was just unspoken. He just did it because he cared. I wish I had known that sooner. I think I would have matured faster if I had really realized and understood the responsibilities he had been undertaking and the things he did for us.”

Dodge carried this lesson from Cashe forward with him throughout his career as a noncommissioned officer. “I took care of my Soldiers before, but I don’t think that I had the level of compassion at that point in my career that Sergeant Cashe did,” Dodge said. “Afterwards, I really gave my Soldiers every little bit of what I had.”

Dodge said the effectiveness of his leadership style was apparent as many of his Soldiers later reached out to thank him for his mentorship and guidance. “That was only because I started investing myself into my Soldiers as much as [Cashe] did,” he said.

These memories, and so many others, live on with the Soldiers who knew Cashe. A crape myrtle tree grows in memory of Cashe amidst 468 others at the Warriors Walk on Fort Stewart. The trees mark the exceptional valor and honor of each of the unit’s fallen Dogface Soldiers.

“On my run days, I walk through those trees,” Fenderson said. “I go to see those who died that day and make sure their trees aren’t overgrown.” The pain of the loss of his brothers-in-arms remains with him to this day. “When I walk by those trees, it’s personal because me and the ones who are left from 3rd Brigade are the ones who knew them.”

The memory of Cashe continues as a beacon for the Soldiers of 3rd ID, who honored him last year by dedicating the unit’s most prominent memorial garden and event space in his name. Previously known as Marne Garden, a ceremony involving numerous Cashe family members, Army leaders and veterans took place 20 May 2021, and the garden officially became known as Sgt. 1st Class Alwyn C. Cashe Garden.

“It has been five years since 3rd Brigade deactivated during an Army drawdown of personnel, but the unit’s motto still faithfully represents Soldiers like Cashe,” Fenderson said. “Not Too Fancy, Just Tough.”

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after more than a year and a half of COVID related restrictions limiting the museum’s ability to have guests on site, we can finally celebrate being fully open once again. On 23 November 2021, the National Infantry Museum opened its doors to the public on Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The great news is that we’ve picked right up where we left off with many updates and changes to our artifacts and displays you need to see to believe.

Those who haven’t visited the museum recently will find a new display in Gallery 6 called A Global Presence: 1989 – Present detailing the events from the incursion into Panama up to the events of today. Visitors are taken back by the uniqueness of several artifacts on display including the rotor mount from one of the two Army MH-60 Blackhawk helicopters shot down during OPERATION Gothic Serpent in Somalia, as well as a life-sized representation of an Iraqi street scene which Veterans of that conflict will instantly recognize. Our curators brought each detail to life making every display as authentic as possible to convince even the most critical eye. When you find the M-Gator all-terrain vehicle, take a close look at the water bottle on the grill. Are you able to guess what it is and why it’s there? (Hint…the driver’s grenade pouch will give you a good idea). This exhibit has been so popular that it made a viral appearance on TikTok.

Another unique component of the museum since reopening is our World War II Street, which allows visitors to tour the same streets and buildings used by Fort Benning Soldiers of the 1940s. Visitors can see the headquarters of GEN George Patton when he was stationed here at Fort Benning as the commander of the 2nd Armored Division, and marvel that such a large organization was effectively run out of what would be considered a small headquarters in today’s Army. Included in this walking tour is every type of what was known as the 700 series buildings including a barracks, company headquarters, supply building, division headquarters, mess hall and regimental chapel which remains and active house of worship today hosting weddings and other special events. You’ll also find a small structure custom-built to be Patton’s personal sleeping quarters on those nights when he couldn’t make it back home from field training.

With soldier’s tours and graduations in full swing again, the buzz of family members touring the museum and soldiers competing at the Downrange Combat Simulator make the museum feel alive with activity. While we have remained the host location for Infantry One Station Unit Training (OSUT) graduations throughout the COVID related restrictions, until recently these graduations were not open to the public. However, graduations are now fully open every Thursday and Friday at Inouye Field, and they are attended more than ever before.

Despite some setbacks and changes, we made it to 2022 intact through the generosity of patrons like you. In return, expect a full year of activities including the Foundation bringing you the Freedom Fest, the Hero’s Marathon and the Global War on Terror Memorial Rededication when, unfortunately, we will be adding names to the memorial. Thanks for your continued support and visit us at NationalInfantryMuseum.org to learn ways to contribute to your National Infantry Museum Foundation.
More than 400 people including 160+ newly branched USMA cadets attended the 2022 USMA NIA Infantry Ball where NIA USMA Chapter President COL Greg Boylan (far left) and LTC Adam Sawyer (far right) presented Orders of Saint Maurice and Shields of Sparta to (left to right) CPT Dave Forrester, CPT Teddy MacDonald, Mrs. Megan Morgan, MAJ Jonathan Morgan, Mrs. Erica Ehie, CPT Kingsley Ehie, Mrs. Amy Murr, CPT Romedy Murr, Maj. Phil Skillman (USMC), Mr. Cliff Kazmarek.

On 1 December 2021 at the National Infantry Museum, Cyndy Cerbin received the Order of St. Maurice from former NIA President (Ret) COL Dick Nurnberg in recognition of her service to the Infantry as director of communications for the National Infantry Museum Foundation. Also participating in the presentation were (left-right) NIMF President/COO BG (Ret) Pete Jones and NIA Chairman/CEO LTG (Ret) Tom Metz.

On 4 January 2022, SSG Victoria Schneider and SFC Ivan Hernandez, both former drill sergeants in C Co 1-19, were awarded the Order of Saint Maurice by SFC Cesar Gonzalez and SFC Edgar Hernandez.

On 9 November 2021, SSG Andrew Dominguez (right) presented the Order of St. Maurice to SFC Joshua Jones for his time as an instructor and Branch Chief of the U.S. Army Sniper Course and his contributions to the U.S. Infantry.
On 13 November 2021 during the Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Reunion in Arlington, Virginia, former Tomb Guards John Ranum (left) and Larry Seaton (right) were presented the Order of St. Maurice. Current Assistant Sergeant of the Guard Gabriel Silva (center) was presented the Order of Mercury.

On 3 December 2021 at Schofield Barracks Hawaii, 1-21 Infantry Regiment Compound, SFC Blake Allen (left) was presented the Order of St. Maurice by CSM Shaun Curry.
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