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The Bugle Call



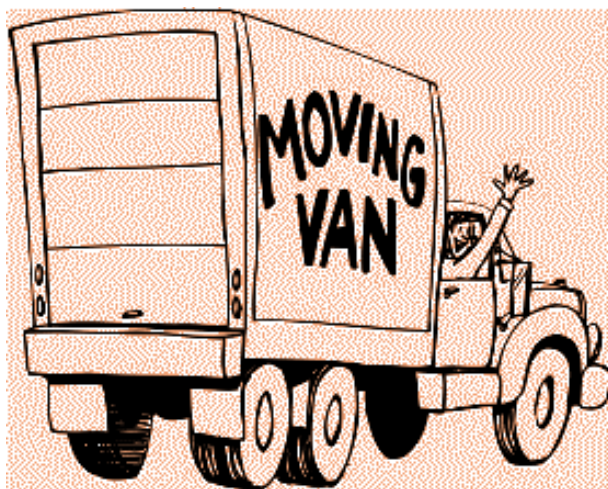
September 2023, Volume 13, Number 7

Warminster, Pennsylvania

*Ann's Choice Residents and Guests are invited to attend Veterans Group Programs and Events
(Meetings are open to ALL with no charge)*

Veterans Group Program in the Keystone Multipurpose Room on September 18 at 10:30am

The Veterans Group is moving the day
and location on its program meetings.



On **Monday, September 18**, the
Veterans Group will meet in the keystone
**Multipurpose Room at 10:30
am** for an exciting program presented
by Matthew Allen, Director of the Bucks
County Office of Veterans Affairs.

Why Do You Need the Veterans Group?

The Veterans Group provides several
services to veterans and fellow residents
of Ann's Choice. These include –

- Color Guard for presenting the U. S. flag at Veterans Group programs and some Ann's Choice programs.
- Annual Memorial Day remembrance service in the Chapel for veterans.
- Annual program on Veterans Day.
- Deploying and retrieving memorial flags in front of the clubhouses.
- Deploying and retrieving small flags around the campus.
- Valet service for mobility devices

Meeting Schedule for 2023

The Veterans Group will meet in the PAC
these days, except as noted:

- Jan. 17 – Business Meeting, Program
- Feb. 21 – Program Only
- Mar. 21 – Program Only
- Apr. 18 – Business Meeting, Program
- May 16 – Military Movie Night
- May 30 – Memorial Day Service (Chapel)
- Jun. 20 – Business Meeting, Election,
Program,
- Jul. 18 – Military Movie Night
- Aug. 15 – Military Movie Night

**Mon., Sep. 18 – Program Only
(New day – Monday;
new time – 10:00 am,
new location – Keystone
Multipurpose Room)**

- Mon., Oct. 16 – Business Meeting,
Program, Keystone MPR
- Fri., Nov. 10 – Veterans Day Program,
Liberty Commons PAC
- Tues., Dec. 12 – Military Movie Night,
Liberty Commons PAC

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- Free transportation to the Horsham VA clinic.
- Military movie nights in the PAC.
- Having this newsletter to read.

It takes volunteers to make these things happen.



Even if you don't
use some of these
services now, there
may come a time in
the future when
you need to take
advantage of them.

“Need the Veterans
Group” is
continued on
page 4

Operation Touchdown

By the summer of 1951, the Korean War had reached a stalemate as peace negotiations began at Kaesong. The opposing armies faced each other across a line which ran from east to west, through the middle of the Korean peninsula, located in hills a few miles north of the 38th Parallel in the central Korean mountain range. United Nations forces and the (North) Korean People's Army (KPA) and Chinese People's Volunteer Army (PVA) forces jockeyed for position along this line, clashing in several relatively small but intense and bloody battles. The Battle of Bloody Ridge began as an attempt by UN forces to seize a ridge which they believed was being used as observation posts to call in artillery fire on a UN supply road.

Bloody Ridge took place from August 18 to September 5, 1951. After almost three weeks of fighting and over 2,700 casualties, the Eighth Army had won its objective. According to 2nd Division estimates, the defense of Bloody Ridge had cost the KPA over 15,000 casualties. The advance in August confirmed once again the reluctance of the North Koreans to part with any of their territory. Taking excellent advantage of the terrain and constructing well-placed defenses, they had fought bitterly to hold on to their observation posts on Bloody Ridge. Only when the attack had been broadened to apply pressure at several points along the front, and the 2nd Division had committed elements of all three of the division's regiments, and only after suffering severe casualties, did the North Koreans concede and evacuate the ridge.

After withdrawing from Bloody Ridge, the KPA set up new positions just 1,500 yards away on a 7 miles hill mass that was soon to earn the name Heartbreak Ridge.

Aerial reconnaissance had disclosed that the KPA had been very active in the Heartbreak Ridge area, grouping artillery and mortar units in the valleys flanking the ridge. But the heavy woods and undergrowth concealed the elaborate fortifications; once again the 2nd Infantry Division was faced with the task of breaching the KPA's main line of resistance. Within the Division there was considerable difference of opinion concerning the expected KPA reaction to an attack on Heartbreak Ridge. Some of the staff felt that the North Koreans would "fight like hell" for it, while others thought the response would be less vigorous.

Brig. Gen. Thomas F. Deshazo, acting division commander, was in the latter group. He decided to use one regiment, the 23rd and its attached French Battalion, rather than two in the assault.

The Battle of Heartbreak Ridge began on September 13 and lasted until October 15. At 0530 the artillery preparation began and for thirty minutes the guns pounded KPA positions on or near Heartbreak Ridge; then the attack began. As the troops moved to reach the east-west spur ridge that would serve as the approach to Heartbreak, the KPA spotted them. Heavy artillery and mortar began. Despite the growing number of casualties, the UN forces pressed on. As the units arrived at the east-west spur and headed up the hill to split the Heartbreak Ridge line, they ran into a hornet's nest. The KPA manned a series of concealed, mutually supporting bunkers that covered the approach ridge with machine guns and small arms, in addition to the artillery and mortar fire that the KPA observers were directing upon the two attack battalions. The UN forces were forced to halt and dig in on the toe of the spur. The prospects for a swift penetration of the KPA lines vanished as night fell; the 23rd Infantry Regiment under Col. James Adams had come up against the KPA's main defenses and another Bloody Ridge experience loomed ahead.

The plans for taking Heartbreak Ridge were hastily revised. Assault objectives were modified and additional forces were assigned. The KPA held the high ground as well as the Mundung-Ni Valley west and northwest of the Heartbreak Ridge. And, the KPA was able to defend their positions and inflict heavy casualties.

The stalemate on the ridge led Colonel Lynch, 9th Infantry Regiment, on September 19 to suggest broadening of the attack to dissipate the KPA's concentrated resistance. The next day, Maj. Gen. Robert N. Young, the new 2nd Division commander arrived and decided that Lynch's plan was sound. The plan was set in motion and the attack began on September 23. However, after three days of multiple attacks and diversionary attacks, minimal progress had been made.

After almost two weeks of futile pounding at the KPA defenses on Heartbreak since the initial attacks, Colonel Adams told General Young on September 26 that it was "suicide" to continue adhering to the original plan. His own 23rd Regiment had taken over 950 casualties and the

division total for the period was over 1,670. As Colonel Lynch had the week before, Adams favored broadening the attack and dispersing the KPA's capacity to resist. He felt that if the KPA forces in the vicinity of Heartbreak were engaged and unable to spare reinforcements or replacements, the 23rd could wear the regiment down and win the ridge. By September 27 Young and the Corps commander, General Byers, had come to agree with Adams and further assaults by the 23rd on Heartbreak were called off. Analyzing the initial attempts of 2nd Division to take Heartbreak, Young later characterized them as a "fiasco" because piecemeal commitment of units and the failure to organize fire support teams.

In the new plan that the division operations officer, Maj. Thomas W. Mellon, prepared in late September, the earlier mistakes were to be avoided. All three regiments of the division would

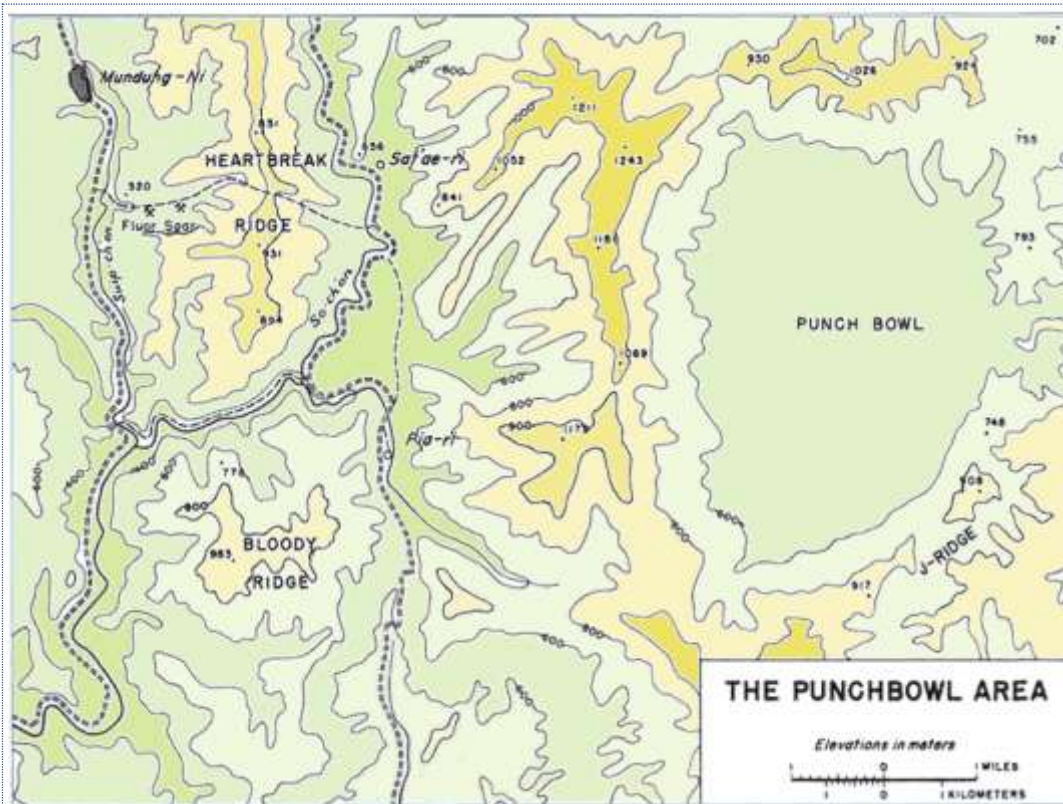
launch concentrated and co-ordinated attacks, supported by all the division's artillery, by a full-scale armored drive by the 72nd Tank Battalion up the Mundung-ni Valley west of Heartbreak Ridge, and by tank-infantry task force action in the Sat'ae-ri Valley east of the ridge. The code name for this operation was "Touchdown" and the target date was October 5.

The preparations required a period of tremendous activity on the part of the 2nd Engineer Combat Battalion and its commander, Lt. Col. Robert W. Love. The road along the Mundung-ni Valley was a rough track unsuitable for the Sherman tanks of the 72nd Tank Battalion and to get it quickly into condition to carry the Shermans was a herculean task, but Love and his men were willing to try if they had adequate fire cover while they worked. On October 4 forty-nine fighter-bombers worked over the divisional sector and a multi-unit task force

raided the Sat'ae-ri Valley. The ground assault commenced the next night at 2100. Finally at daybreak on October 13, French troops stormed the peak and after thirty days of hard combat, Heartbreak Ridge was in the possession of the 23rd Infantry.

The costs of the long battle were high for both sides. The 2nd Infantry Division had suffered over 3,700 casualties during the September 13 to October 15 period, with the 23rd Regiment and its attached French Battalion incurring almost half of this total. The KPA forces suffered heavily. Estimates by the 2nd Division of the KPA/PVA losses totaled close to 25,000 men. About half of these casualties had come during the Touchdown operation.

Source: articles on Wikipedia and the U.S. Army website history.army.mil .



Topographic map of Heartbreak Ridge. (Map copied from the U.S. Army website at history.army.mil ; Colors for elevations added by the editor; original elevations on map are in meters and the elevations in the legend are rounded.) Heartbreak Ridge is in upper left quadrant; Bloody Ridge in lower left.

THE PUNCHBOWL AREA	
Elevations in meters	
	above 3300 ft
	above 3000 ft
	above 2650 ft
	above 2000 ft
	above 1300 ft
	below 1300 ft

Veterans Flags

For certain national holidays, the Ann’s Choice Veterans Group deploys government-issued U. S. flags in front of each clubhouse. The holidays are Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Veterans Day. There are twenty-one in-ground mounts in front of the three clubhouses and Rose Garden. These



flags have been donated to the Veterans Group by families of veterans. Twenty-one

flags are deployed on the three holidays. Volunteers deploy these flags and take them in after the holiday. **Volunteers are needed.** If you would like to join this team as a way to honor veterans, contact Gordon Larson at (630) 926-7334.

Membership Open

At the Veterans Group meeting in June 2022 the membership approved changes to the By-Laws to expand eligibility to all residents for membership in the Veterans Group. Veterans may apply to be a Member, and non-Veterans may apply to be an Associate Supporting Member. Lifetime membership fees are \$50 and \$35 respectively.

All members 1) receive a copy this monthly newsletter, *The Bugle Call*, 2) will not be asked for a donation at Military Movie Night if wearing their Veterans Group shirt, and 3) may participate in any of the service projects of the Veterans Group. Note: Associate Supporting Members are not eligible to be elected to the Board of Directors.

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Continuation of “Need the Veterans Group”

Our concern is that due to the declining number of veterans or the lack of awareness of the need for volunteers, we may not be able to provide needed services in the future.

If you are a veteran or an interested resident and would like to help provide these services in the future, please contact one of the officers and volunteers listed in the left-most column on page 1.

Celebrate All Our New Members

A big welcome to the following new members who have joined the Veterans Group:

- William Clinton (Oct. 1958 – Aug. 1962 and Jan. 1963 – Aug. 1967, U. S. Navy, Atlantic DEW Line)
- Donald Kelly (Feb., 1959 – Feb., 1961, U. S. Army, Germany)
- Dan Ingersoll (June, 1953 – June, 1955, U. S. Army, Korea)
- John Tiers (Jan., 1956 – Feb., 1959, U. S. Marine Corps, CONUS, Okinawa)
- Dr. Stephen Schwartz (1965 – 1967, U. S. Navy, U. S. Marine Corps, Parris Island, SC)
- Miriam Schwartz
- Kenneth Holck (June ` 1953 – Apr., 1955, U. S. Army)
- Stewart Sheckler (Feb. 1962 – Jan. 1964, U. S. Army, CONUS)
- Dale Henderson (Sept. 1957 – Sept. 1963, U. S. Navy)
- Ronald Fell (June 1960 – June 1969, U. S. Army, CONUS)
- Eleanor Fell

AV Opportunities



There is an opportunity to help with the Veterans Group during the meetings and Military Movie Nights by volunteering in the AV booth in the PAC.

Contact Keith Lawrence at (215) 444-0116 for more information about this service opportunity.

VA Benefits

You may have received an application for VA benefits recently in a mailing from PA with the renewal for your driver’s license. If you are not



already registered for VA benefits, take this opportunity to sign up. The Veterans Group

Service Officer, Jerry Byrnes will be available both before and after the movies on July 18 and August 15 to answer questions; he will also have blank forms.