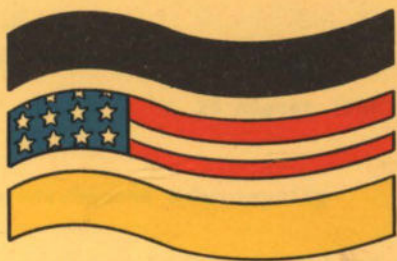
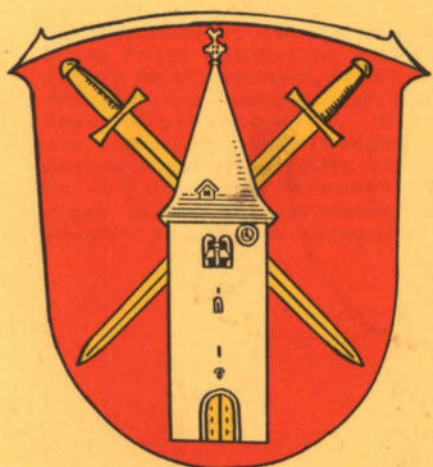


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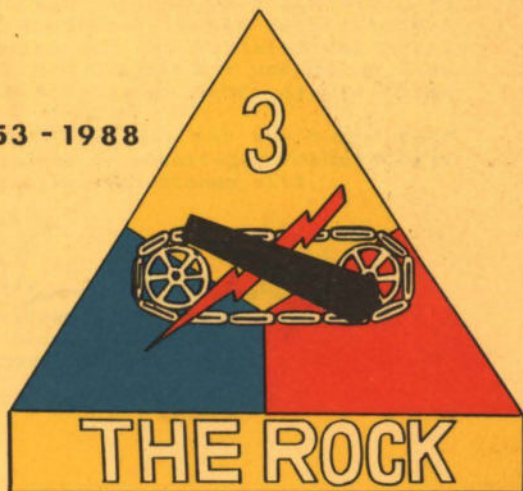


COMMEMORATIVE ANNIVERSARY



Kirch-Göns

1953 - 1988



26-28 AUGUST'88

*Headquarters, 1st Brigade
3rd Armored Division
APO New York 09045*

AETV-TFG-CO

25 August 1988

To the Soldiers and Citizens of the Kirchgoens Subcommunity

Welcome to the Thirty-Fifth Commemorative Anniversary of Kirchgoens and Ayers Kaserne. This celebration is a significant event because it celebrates thirty-five years of strong, friendly ties between the citizens of Kirchgoens and the soldiers of Ayers Kaserne.

Please join Cease and me in the various events and activities that are planned to commemorate this festive occasion. It will be a distinct pleasure to have you join us in celebrating a long and unbroken period of mutual friendship that will continue in the years to come.

An die Soldaten und Buerger des Standortes Kirchgoens

Ich heisse Sie herzlich willkommen zur 35jaehrigen Jubilaeumsfeier der Ayers Kaserne.

Diese Feier beinhaltet einen wichtigen Anlass weil damit der 35 Jahre bestehenden starken, freundschaftlichen Verbundenheit zwischen den Buergern von Kirchgoens und den Soldaten der Ayers Kaserne gedacht wird. Bitte nehmen Sie mit mir und meiner Frau die vielen Veranstaltungen und Aktivitaeten wahr, die zu Ehren dieses Anlasses geplant sind.

Es ist uns eine besondere Freude, dass Sie mit uns dieses Fest einer langen ununterbrochenen Zeit der gegenseitigen Freundschaft feiern, die in den kommenden Jahren weiterbestehen wird.


Warren P. Giddings
Colonel, Armor
Commanding



35th ANNIVERSARY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

25 AUG 88. TOP OF THE ROCK CLUB, AYERS KASERNE

1800: Commemorative Dinner

26 AUG 88. AYERS KASERNE

1000: 10km Run

1300: Partnership Day/Open House

1800: Live Band/Dancing

27 AUG 88. AYERS KASERNE

1300: Parade through Kirchgoens

Partnership Day/Open House

1600: GE/AM Soccer Game

1800: GE/AM Basketball Game

Live Band/Dancing

28 AUG 88. MARKPLATZ, KIRCHGOENS

1300: GE/AM Festivities

1800: 3AD Band Concert

35TH COMMEMORATIVE ANNIVERSARY

VERANSTALTUNGSKALENDER

* * *

25 AUG '88 * AYERS KASERNE

18.00 Uhr Abendessen im "Top of the Rock Club"

26 AUG '88 * AYERS KASERNE

10.00 Uhr 10 KM Lauf

13.00 Uhr Partnerschaftstag/Tag der offenen Tuer

18.00 Uhr Live Bands/Tanz im Festzelt

27 AUG '88 * AYERS KASERNE

13.00 Uhr Parade durch Kirch-Goens

Partnerschaftstag/Tag der offenen Tuer

16.00 Uhr Deutsch-amerikanisches Fussballspiel

18.00 Uhr Deutsch-amerikanisches Basketballspiel

Live Bands/Tanz im Festzelt

28 AUG '88 * KIRCH-GOENS

13.00 Uhr Deutsch-amerikanische Veranstaltungen

18.00 Uhr Konzert der 3rd Armored Division

Combat Command "A", 1st Brigade, 3d Armored Division

Organized 1 March 1942 at Camp Polk, Louisiana, as Headquarters Detachment, Combat Command A, 3d Armored Division. Assigned to European Theater of Operations from 5 September 1943 until 10 November 1945. Engaged in combat operations from 29 June 1944 until 25 April 1945. Engaged in occupation operations from 25 April 1945 until 10 November 1945. Inactivated 10 November 1945 at Aalen, Germany and reactivated 15 July 1947 at Fort Knox, Kentucky. Assigned to Germany with the 3d Armored Division as part of NATO peace keeping force in Europe on 12 May 1956. Reorganized and redesignated 1 October 1963 as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade, 3d Armored Division.

CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION CREDIT

World War II

Normandy
Northern France
Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe

DECORATIONS AND HONORS

Distinguished Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered MONS.

French Croix der Guerre with Pal, World War II, Belgian Fourragere 1940.

Cited in the Order of the Day of the Belgian Army for action in Belgium.

Cited in the Order of the Day of the Belgian Army for action in the Ardennes.

KIRCHGOENS SUBCOMMUNITY

Adjacent to the small community of Kirchgoens is Ayers Kaserne, known as The Rock and home for the Ready First Combat Team of the 3d Armored Division. The kaserne was built in 1952 and named in honor of SSG Lovall E. Ayers, Company B, 22d Infantry Division, who was killed in action February 10, 1945 at Prum, Germany. He was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. During WWII Ayers Kaserne was a recovery field for the Luftwaffe. The entire base was demolished, except for one bunker. The Rock is the home of the largest combat brigade in the U.S. Army located outside the continental U.S. The brigade's predecessor, Combat Command "A", 3d Armored Division, was first stationed at Ayers Kaserne on May 12, 1956 when the Division returned to Europe. On October 1, 1963 Combat Command "A" was reorganized and redesignated as the 1st Brigade. The Commander of the Ready First Combat Team additionally serves as the commander of the Kirchgoens Subcommunity which includes all U.S. facilities in Kirchgoens and Butzbach.

STANDORT KIRCH-GOENS/BUTZBACH
AYERS KASERNE

In der Naehة des Dorfes Kirchgoens, auf einem Stueck Land genannt "Teh Rock" (der Fels), liegt die Ayers Kaserne, das Zuhause der 1. Brigade der 3. Panzerdivision.

Die heutige Ayers Kaserne wurde 1952 erbaut und nach dem Stabsunteroffizier Lovall E. Ayers benannt, der in der B Kompanie der 22. Infantriedivision war, und am 10. Februar 1945 in Pruem im Kampf fiel. Nach seinem Tode wurde er mit dem "Distinguished Service Cross" geehrt.

Waehrend des 2. Weltkrieges diente das Gelaende auf dem sich die heutige Ayers Kaserne befindet als Stuetzpunkt der Luftwaffe. Die gesamte Anlage, bis auf einen Bunker wurde im 2. Weltkrieg zerstoeert.

"The Rock" beherbergt die groesste Kampfbrigade der U.S. Armee, ausserhalb der Vereinigten Staaten.

Am 27. Juli 1974 besuchte Praesident Gerald R. Ford die Ayers Kaserne waehrend seines Aufenthaltes in Deutschland.

Der Kommandeur der 1. Brigade der 3. Panzerdivision ist ausserdem Kommandeur des Standortes Kirchgoens/Butzbach, was alle U.S. Einrichtungen des Standortes einschliesst.

Historie der 1. Brigade der 3. Panzerdivision

Urspruenglich wurde die 1. Brigade am 1. Maerz 1942 als Kampfgruppe "A" der 3. Panzerdivision im Camp Polk, Louisiana aufgestellt. Nach der Ausbildung im Camp Polk, der Mojave Wueste, Camp Picket, Indiana Gap und Wilshire, Gross Britanien landete die Einheit am 24. Juni 1944 in Frankreich. Die Kampfgruppe "A" nahm am Feldzug durch Frankreich bis Belgien teil und durchbrach am 12. September 1944 die Siegfriedlinie. Nach der Schlacht in den Ardennen fuehrte die Einheit den Angriff auf Koeln an. Zum Ende des 2. Weltkrieges hatte diese Einheit am Kriegsgeschehen in der Normandie, Nord-Frankreich, den Ardennen, im Elsass, Mitteleuropa und im Rheinland teilgenommen. Die Kampfgruppe "A" wurde in den Jahren 1945-47 kurzfristig aufgeloeest, aber danach in Fort Knox, Kentucky wieder aufgestellt. Als Truppenteil der 3. Panzerdivision kehrte die Einheit am 12. Mai 1956 nach Europa zurueck und wurde in der Ayers Kaserne stationiert.

Am 1. Oktober 1963 erfolgte die Umbenennung der Einheit zur 1. Brigade der 3. Panzerdivision.

Die 1. Brigade, sowie die 3. Panzerdivision haben seit langem Partnerschaften mit der deutschen Panzergrenadierbrigade 13 in Wetzlar und der 5. Panzerdivision in Diez.

835 Fredericksburg Road
New Braunfels, Texas 78130
29 May 1988

Dear Colonel Giddings:

Thank you for your very kind letter of 10 May, it is always nice to be remembered by one of your old commands. Naturally I am a little biased towards the Spearhead, having spent some 7+ years with the Division both in peacetime and throughout all its combat time; from platoon leader through all command slots except that of Division commander. I enjoyed every minute.

I have been thinking about experiences with the command at Kirchzoens and have decided that something humorous would be best for me. I never failed to enjoy some of the alerts that were pulled in the winter time when some of the battallions thought they were just going to the alert area and instead were ordered to remain there for 24 hours or longer. Oh did the truth come out when the inspections were pulled and key iters had been left behind. then to further complicate their problems guards were posted to see that nothing was slipped to them by friends. They were some mighty cold soldiers and I might add that they usually learned from their experience.

Mrs. Richardson and I wish you well on the occasion of your 35th anniversary celebration. We have fond memories of the area and its fine people. We would so much like to be with you but that is not possible. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and kind invitation.

Sincerely,

Walter B. Richardson

Walter B. Richardson
Maj. Gen., USA-ret

108 Colston Place
Lexington, Virginia 24450
31 May 1988

Col. Warren P. Giddings
Headquarters, 1st Brigade
3rd Armored Division
APO New York 09045

Dear Col. Giddings:

My tour as commander of CCA, 3rd Armored Division (as it was known then), brings back many memories, some fond, such as working with Herr Honack, Mayor of Kirchgoens, and working with the many promising young officers, outstanding NCOs, and dedicated soldiers. I will always remember the alerts, the maneuvers, and the gunnery training, as well as the good and the bad athletic teams -- including the USAREUR championship baseball team, the bad football team, and the basketball game (2d ARB, 46th Inf.) in which Bailey Robertson (Oscar's brother) scored 75 points.

No command in peace time can perform adequately without the support of the wives. The wives of CCA were superb.

You asked for a favorite memory or a poignant memory. I think we perhaps had an occurrence that will long be remembered by those who were in CCA at that time.

It was a nice quiet Sunday afternoon, a day of relaxation for a change. Suddenly, I received a message that an M48 tank had been stolen and that its driver had knocked down the fence at the end of the airstrip and was heading down the runway toward Kirchgoens. He did do just that, including crossing some fields planted in crops. When he arrived at Kirchgoens, he turned right onto the highway and continued through Kirchgoens toward Butzbach. In the meanwhile, CCC had been alerted and asked to block the road southwest of Butzbach.

The driver of the stolen tank proceeded through the main street of Butzbach, with all of its Sunday afternoon traffic, without scratching a fender. After maneuvering through Butzbach, he continued toward Bad Nauheim until he saw the roadblock established by CCC. He then turned right across the field of growing crops toward the main line railroad tracks. When he reached the embankment leading to the tracks, he climbed it and started across. Apparently he then saw or heard a train and panicked, spreading the railroad tracks so that they were unusable. He finally threw a track trying to go down the embankment on the far side of the railroad tracks.

The main North-South rail line in West Germany was out for hours. One soldier was behind bars. He wasn't even a tank driver!

With warm personal regards to the Ready First!

Sincerely,


Richard L. Irby
Major General, USA (Ret.)

JOHN W. DOBSON, BRIG. GENERAL, USA, RET'D
51 BRAM'S POINT
HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA 29928

21 May 1988

Colonel Warren P. Giddings
Commanding 1st Brigade
3rd Armored Division
APO New York 09045

Dear Colonel Giddings:

First may I thank you for your ~~like~~ invitation to the celebration of the 35th anniversary of Ayers Kaserne in advance of receiving same and at the same time tender my regrets since a trip to Europe this summer neither fits our plans or our pocketbooks. The many wonderful memories which we have of our tour with CCA, 3'D(Spearhead) are still very much alive with us as well as the feeling of privilege at serving under a Division Commander such as General Abrams. My question is where did the Rock come from, Spearhead always seemed very descriptive of what an AD was supposed to do. At any rate if the 1st Brigade id anything like CCA was in the 1959-660 period you have the finest command that a Colonel could have in the US Army. My congratulations.

I think that I spent more time at Grafenwoer than I did at Ayers during my year in command and it is on the hallowed soil of that Training Area that my most exiting moments as CO occurred. The Tank Firing Qualification Tests were probably the most important happenings in the lives of everyone from Tank Cndrs., Platoon, Company, and Bn. CO's and the Combat Command CO. So the time finally arrived for the dreaded testing at Graf and I inquired of the Training and Testing Command there if the Combat Command Commander had ever qualified his own tank over the course. The answer was " Not that we know of". Hence I informed the Testers that my tank would be the first one through the test firing course with me in the Cndrs turret ~~xxxxx~~. I wasn't worried about my gunner, driver, or loader. We had worked together before on the range and in maneuvers, but I had never fired the 50 Cal MG in anger at anything before the test was to come off and my information was that the malfunctioning of the 50 Cal MG flunked more tank crews than any other single item. The major cause for this malfunction seemed to lie in the ejection system jamming because of a build up of cartridge cases in the receptacle provided

to catch ~~the same~~ ^{same} ~~bridge~~. Therefore I had great misgiving about ~~x~~ screwing up things for my own tank crew. The night before we were tested I had one of my rare inspirations on how to avoid a jam on the 50 Cal so I called my Tank Crew together and we plotted our strategy. I said men if you dont mind getting a few hot 50 Cal. cases on the head I think we can lick that part of the test. Get me the largest screwdriver if the toolbox and remove the spent case box. I will fire the 50 Cal. with one hand and sweep the spent cases out of the way with the screwdriver in the other hand. Next day on the test all went 100% up till my firing of the 50 Cal. Then came my frantic firing and screwdriver operation. I could hear the Test NCO laughing as he watched through the open commanders turret at my wild scraping of empties but the Gods were kind as without a hitch all the 50 ammo was fired with deadly effect at the dummy targets. After the critique which noted that though unorthadox the fire was effective from the 50 Cal. so we PASSED. As we proudly rode back with yellow pennant flying designating a qualified crew we were cheered by Frank Wadsworth's Battalion which was waiting to be tested. Frank incidentally qualified every tank crew in his Bn., the best record in the 3d.

Please excuse the length of the foregoing and my spelling of Graf. My best to you for a successful 35th Anniversary and I hope that you have not had the pleasure of having one of your tanks gently brush a building in Kirchgoens during a night alert as I did. The mayor and I were still friends though when we left. Treasure your days in the 1st Brigade.

With best regards,

Jack Dobson

2331 S. Queen Street
Arlington, VA 22202
24 May 1988

COL Warren P. Giddings
Hqs., 1st Bde., 3rd Armored Div.
APO NY 09045

Dear Colonel Giddings:

Thank you very much for your kind invitation to attend the celebration of the 35th Anniversary of Ayers Kaserne, 25-28 August 1988. Unfortunately, I have another commitment which will prevent Mrs. Davison and me from attending. I regret this because your invitation evoked many warm memories, and exciting ones as well, of my tour as Commanding Officer, Combat Command A, 3d Armored Division, in 1961-62. One of the exciting memories follows.

I took command of CCA in July 1961 and two weeks later we moved to Grafenwohr for our annual range firing. During the month that we were there, the construction of the wall began that now divides Berlin.

This act by the East Germans, with Soviet support, followed a series of actions by Krushchev, the Soviet leader, during June and July designed to achieve a drastic change in the four-power status of Berlin and to increase pressure for a German "peace treaty" on terms favorable to the Soviets. While the erection of the wall undoubtedly caused a certain degree of concern in the White House and surely in Heidelberg, its significance did not penetrate ~~the~~ ^{to} Graf where our attention was absorbed by tank gunnery and other range activities as we strived to set a record for the rest of Seventh Army to shoot at...and we did! Later, we were to learn that there was a world outside of Graf and that we were part of it.

We returned to The Rock, as it was known even then, in early September and, shortly thereafter, were notified that the entire division was moving to the Alsfeld - Bad Hersfeld - Fulda area to conduct a division field maneuver or, as the press release stated, "a routine training exercise." It seemed obvious to us, at least, that this exercise was something other than "routine." A New York Times correspondent followed every move we made and "Stars and Stripes" reported almost daily on some Soviet activity across the border.

Not long after CCA had settled into assembly areas along the Shlitz-Breitenbach line, our division commander, then Maj. Gen. Creighton W. Abrams, appeared at my CP and asked that I accompany him in his jeep. We proceeded to the high ground on the west bank of the Fulda where Gen. Abrams and I dismounted and walked

to a point with a clear view to the east. Then he turned to me and said, "Davison, we are now going to talk about how you and I are going to fight the battle when the Soviets try to come through here."


Needless to say, he caught my undivided attention immediately and I hung on every word he uttered as we discussed our plans. He exuded a confidence that, between us, we could handle anything that came our way and I must say I found his confidence infectious. A great leader had made his point.

Apparently, Krushchev got the message also because, during the remainder of the fall of 1961, Soviet activity gradually subsided. Finally, Krushchev gave up on changing the status of Berlin and achieving his self-serving "peace treaty."

Lesson: Well trained soldiers and combat ready units play an important role without ever firing a shot in anger. The 3d Armored Division had done its job.

Best wishes to the Ready First.

Sincerely yours,


Michael S. Davison
General, U. S. Army (Rtd.)

William R. Kraft, Jr.
Major General, USA, Retired
404 South Pitt Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

23 May 1988

Dear Colonel Giddings,

I am happy to respond to your letter concerning the 35th anniversary of Ayers Kaserne. I remember passing by as it was being constructed in the Fall of 1952. At that time I was commanding the 66th Tank Battalion which had been on a field exercise in the Hessian Corridor and we were returning to Mainz as part of CCB, 2d AD. I never dreamed that I would be returning to the Rock some 10 years later to command CCA, 3d AD.

It so happened that I was the last CO of CCA since, during my tenure, CCA, in a curious reorganization, became 1st Brigade. A company in each maneuver battalion was eliminated and, although we gained a third tank battalion, we lost the combat power of two infantry battalions. No cross reinforcing option was satisfactory since we invariably ended up with a two company battalion or one with only a headquarters. It took the Army a long time to correct this, as you know. In addition we lost the CCA Hq tanks which I felt were necessary to proper battlefield command and control. Later, when I commanded the 3d AD a couple of my brigade commanders tried to use that as an excuse for not qualifying a tank at Graf. When I had CCA the order of march down Table VIII was commanders first from division to platoon.

A memorable event that occurred when I was in CCA was the assassination of President Kennedy which shocked us all because only a few months before he had reviewed the entire division on the airfield at Hanau and had spoken to many of the soldiers. Likewise he made a deep impression on the Germans with his famous Berlin

speech - Ich bin ein Berliner - and with his charm and vigor. In compliance with a regulation governing actions to be taken upon the death of an incumbent president I assembled the Brigade on the parade ground and made the official announcement. Since there was no band present it was an unusually silent and solemn affair, not at all like the ceremonies we were accustomed to. All of the local dignitaries attended and some were quite broken up. I remember Herr Hanack, the Burgermeister of Kirch Goens greeting me with tears. A Dutch officer from a brigade in northern Germany arrived after traveling all night to offer the condolences of his unit. I recall that all of us, including the Germans, were quite uneasy not knowing whether there had been a conspiracy to overturn the government.

Mrs. Kraft and I would like very much to be with you for the ceremonies marking the anniversary but I am already committed to a trip to Germany in October in my role as Honorary Colonel of the 66th AR, there now being three battalions of the Regiment there. I don't think I could manage another trip so close to that one.

We do wish you and the 1st Brigade all the best.

Sincerely,

William R. Koger

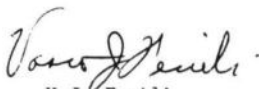
"SILVER TALON" REMEMBERED

The prime military experience of my tour with the 1st Brigade was the 3rd Armored Division's "Silver Talon" in January 1966. This was the last division-size exercise in USAREUR.

At the time, the Brigade was manned by experienced, well-trained people. It made a flawless move to the maneuver area--between Ansbach and Wurzburg--and all units prepared very diligently for the maneuver. The 1st Brigade was chosen to make the division "main effort" on frozen, snow-covered ground. I had insisted on strict radio silence until we hit the line-of-departure. All units executed with precision.

The over-all action was rated a great success by the Division Commander, Major General Walter T. Kerwin, Jr.

Enthused about the success of the exercise, we were unprepared for what came next. Within a month after our return to The Rock, 95% of the Brigade was on its way to Vietnam as replacements. Fillers for the Brigade were 2d lieutenants and enlisted personnel who had not completed advanced individual training. By sticking to basics, we made great strides in training and managed to maintain operational effectiveness.



V.J. Fenili
1st Brigade Commander--
July 1965--April 1967



HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY, EUROPE, and SEVENTH ARMY
Commander in Chief
APO New York 09403

June 14, 1988

Colonel Warren P. Giddings
Headquarters, 1st Brigade
3rd Armored Division
APO 09045

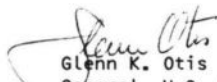
Dear Colonel Giddings:

It's a great idea to celebrate the 35th Anniversary of Ayers Kaserne. Congratulations to you and the 1st Brigade troops for the initiative.

The enclosure to this letter is a short story - one vignette of my command tour with Ready First. Hope that is adds to your collection.

Best wishes to you and the Brigade - one of the Army's biggest and best maneuver brigades.

Faithfully,


Glenn K. Otis
General, U.S. Army
Commander in Chief

In the fall of 1971, the Army was beset with both drug and race problems. The First Brigade was no exception. In the small confines of Ayers Kaserne, there were a total of six heavy battalions (3 armor, 2 mechanized Infantry, and 1 Direct Support Artillery (155mm SP). In addition, the separate support companies were housed at Ayers as was the Division's NCO Academy. And of course, the new battalion area had neither been constructed nor even planned. Two-man rooms in the barracks housed four men - and all were double-bunked.

With these tight living conditions and the tensions they foster, drugs and racial problems were magnified. Weekends were particularly difficult. The Brigade area was known to the troops as "THE ROCK". However, there was a standing order against using such a name or reference.

So, the troops used the name anyway - and spoke of "THE ROCK" as if it were an epithet.

Soon after my command tour began, we decided that "THE ROCK" was not only ingrained with the troops but also rather appropriate to the Brigade. Therefore, the Brigade installed the big boulder at the last road junction leading to Ayers, painted "THE ROCK" in bold letters on it - along with the First Brigade LOGO - and adopted the name in all references to Ayers Kaserne, the local training areas, and the surroundings. It caught on with the troops - and in a few months they were using "THE ROCK" as a rally point and "bragging rights" topic with others. For the next few years, "THE ROCK" served a useful purpose as the name for the home of First Brigade.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES ARMY MATERIEL COMMAND
5001 EISENHOWER AVENUE ALEXANDRIA VIRGINIA 22333-0001

Dear Colonel Giddings,


Heartiest congratulations to 1st Brigade and the citizens of Kirchgoens on the 35th Anniversary of Ayers Kaserne. Command of the 1st and the close working relationship with citizens of the surrounding community are among my fondest memories. The mid-seventies were exciting times in the 1st.

I hope that the "Rock" we moved in at the bottom of the hill for the Brigade's "First Annual Picnic" in honor of President Ford is still firmly ensconced.

Judy and I are disappointed that we will be unable to attend the celebration, but will visit the "Rock" during our next trip to Europe.

Warmest personal regards and best wishes.

Sincerely,



LOUIS C. WAGNER, JR.
General, U.S. Army
Commanding

Colonel Warren P. Giddings
Headquarters, 1st Brigade, 3d Armored Division
APO New York 09045



Planning Research Corporation

PRC Systems Services
1500 Planning Research Drive
McLean, VA 22102
703-556-1500

29 June 1988

Colonel Warren P. Giddings
Headquarters, 1st Brigade
3rd Armored Division
APO New York 09005

Dear Colonel Giddings:

Thank you very much for your kind letter of 26 May 1988.

I was assigned to the Rock on three separate occasions:

| | |
|------|----------------------------------|
| 1956 | Platoon Leader (1/13 Infantry) |
| 1971 | Battalion Commander (2-33 Armor) |
| 1977 | Brigade Commander |

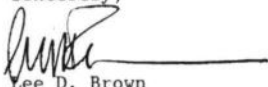
All told, I spent about 6 1/2 years at Kirch Gons and have sometimes wondered if that wasn't over-kill. Anyhow, some of my major contributions were:

- A piece of new fence (still decernable-near the RR track gate) which I penetrated with my platoon on my way to the GDP during an alert on New Year's Day, 1958. Incidentally, due to weather, and other complications, it took two weeks to get all USAREUR closed back to their Kasernes. Rumor has it that there was some alcohol involved in a bet between the two Corps commanders in the presence of the 7th Army Commander as to which Corps could clear first. Anyhow, the siren at KG stuck on, due to an ongoing snow storm, and that meant the real thing-so off we went!
- I had commanded a Mech Battalion in the 1st infantry division in Vietnam and was nominated for repetitive command in Europe. I was fortunate enough to command the 2-33 Armor for 30 months. Obviously, many memorable things occurred. I will say, however, that the most lasting for me was my consummate good fortune in having Glen Otis as the Brigade Commander.
- There are many war stories I could recall as Brigade Commander. I think that the most enduring thing that I did was to author the brigade's nickname: Ready First!

Regardless of how many incidents one recalls about our past in the 1st Brigade, they all pretty much fall into the "you-had-to-have-been-there" category. For all of us, however, I believe that there is an overarching recollection. That recollection is one of overwhelming power. There is no other unit in the Army that has so much deterrent authority, or as much fighting potential as the magnificent team which constitutes the 1st Brigade. There has always been a spirit of "come and get us--if you dare" about Ready First. As long as there is a 1st Brigade, the Fulda Gap will remain the Fulda Defeat for the Warsaw Pact.

My very best wishes to you and the men and women of the 1st Brigade and its superb supporting units.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Lee D. Brown', followed by a horizontal line.

Lee D. Brown
Brigadier General
US Army (Retired)

LDB:rwg



3d Infantry Division (Mechanized)
Wuerzburg, Germany
APO New York 09036

August 16, 1988

MESSAGE FOR THE READY FIRST BRIGADE:

On behalf of the soldiers of the Marne Division, I congratulate the First Brigade, 3d Armored Division, on having completed 35 years of service in Europe.

Having been one of you, I know the difficult and challenging tasks of your important mission. You can be justifiably proud for your contribution to that long period of service for peace.

Best wishes to you, your families and to the dedicated American and German civilians who are supporting all of you on "the Rock".

Rock of the Marne!

N. Krawciw
Major General, U.S. Army
Commanding



23 June 1988

Dear Paul,

It has been five years since we departed Kirchgoens. Our remembrances of Kirchgoens and the First Brigade are no less clear today than they were the day we departed. The reason for this is that our time "on the rock" was an important and genuine experience for us.

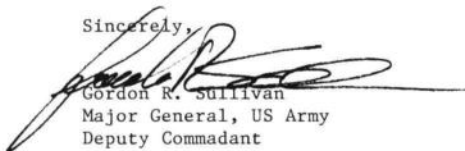
There are hundreds of things that I remember about Kirchgoens but perhaps the most fond one relates to Mayor and Mrs. Harnack.

The Burgermeister was usually at important activities, and we would normally have a couple of moments with him during which we chatted about the "good old days." One summer night Gay and I went to a Singing Club Fest in Kirchgoens. After the festivities the Mayor and his wife asked Gay and I back to their home. What a delightful evening we had, remembering former commanders, non-commissioned officers and soldiers. The old pictures, newspaper articles, and letters from numerous old friends contributed to the evening. Also, homemade wurst, great wine, in the home of two people who have given so much of themselves to the betterment of our alliance and our lives, enhanced what was already a wonderful time.

The small town of Kirchgoens has played a much more important role than its mere size would suggest in the lives of thousands of Americans and ultimately in the free world. The image that many Americans have of Germany was created in Kirchgoens. This image is what has given our relationship and alliance the resilience and strength to withstand the test of time.

I regret that we could not be with you during this anniversary.
We are with you in spirit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Gordon R. Sullivan', is written over the typed name and title. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Gordon R. Sullivan
Major General, US Army
Deputy Commandant

Colonel Warren P. Giddings
Headquarters, 1st Brigade
3d Armored Division
APO New York 09045



HEADQUARTERS, US ARMY ARMOR SCHOOL
Fort Knox, Kentucky 40121-5200

July 19, 1988

Herzliche Gruesse und Glueckwuensche an dem 35. Jahrestag.

Peggie und ich haben viele schoene Erinnerungen an die fuenf Jahre wo wir in dem Kirchgoens/Butzbach Gebiet mit Freunden gewohnt und gearbeitet haben. Aber einer der besten Erinnerungen die wir haben ist von dem 30. und 1. Kirchgoens/Ayers Jahrestag im August 1983.

Das Abendessen am Freitag war wunderbar, das Wetter am Samstag war hervorragend, die Soldaten in der Parade durch Kirchgoens waren Spitze und viele gute Freunde waren mit uns. Unter anderem General Glenn K. Otis und Gemahlin, ein frueherer Erste Brigade Kommandeur, und Herr Abs R. Hanack und Gemahlin. Es war mir ein besonderes Vergnuegen der Gemeinde von Kirchgoens ein Album der frueheren Kommandeure mit Widmung von jedem als eine Erinnerung an diesen Jahrestag zu uebergeben.

Peggie und ich wuenschten, dass wir an dem 35. Jahrestag mit all unseren Freunden teilnehmen koennten, da es aber leider nicht moeglich ist, wuenschen wir Ihnen alles Gute fuer die Zukunft und viel Glueck.

Mit herzlichen Gruessen Ihr

Dennis V. Crumley
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
Assistant Commandant

COMBAT COMMAND A/1ST BRIGADE COMMANDERS

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| BG Doyle O. Hickey | Sep 43 - Mar 45 |
| COL Leander L. Doan | Mar 45 - Sep 45 |
| COL John R. Pugh | Jul 55 - Jan 57 |
| COL Douglas P. Frazier | Jan 57 - Sep 57 |
| COL Walter R. Richardson | Sep 57 - Feb 59 |
| COL Richard C. Irby | Feb 59 - Jan 60 |
| COL John W. Dobson | Jan 60 - Aug 61 |
| COL Michael S. Davison | Aug 61 - Aug 62 |
| COL Arthur L. West, Jr. | Aug 62 - May 63 |
| COL William R. Kraft | May 63 - Jun 64 |
| COL Carl P. Kaiser | Jun 64 - Jul 65 |
| COL Vasco J. Fenili | Jul 65 - Jul 67 |
| COL Kenneth R. Lamison | Jul 67 - May 69 |
| COL Jay D. Carpenter | May 69 - Jun 70 |
| COL Angelo Grills | Jun 70 - Dec 71 |
| COL Glenn K. Otis | Dec 71 - Jun 73 |
| COL Thomas F. Cole | Jun 73 - Dec 74 |
| COL Louis C. Wagner, Jr. | Dec 74 - Apr 76 |
| COL Dale A. Vesser | Apr 76 - Sep 77 |
| COL Lee D. Brown | Sep 77 - Jun 79 |
| COL Nicholas S.H. Krawciw | Jun 79 - May 81 |
| COL Gordon R. Sullivan | May 81 - Jun 83 |
| COL Dennis V. Crumley | Jun 83 - Aug 85 |
| COL Henry A. Kievenaar, Jr. | Aug 85 - Aug 87 |
| COL Warren P. Giddings | Aug 87 - |

