

## **Pershing Rifles Company D-8 Alumni Association News**

**Fall 2008 Your fraternal newsletter**

**Volume 1 No. 2**

**www.touchofelbows.net**

**“Perfection is the only acceptable standard!”**

### **PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**

Deep Sense of Pride,

I have been mobilized since January and deployed to Afghanistan since March. Every so often I will see LT Jesse Fu, LT Phil Padron and several of our Fordham ROTC graduates. It reminds me on how critical these young folks are to our future as a country. Without the service of our youth, we could not sustain this democracy. The Pershing Rifles Alumni Association also serves a vital role in the development of the future of our country, especially in time of war. As PMS, I often asked the Cadets, if you do not continue to serve, who will take your place? I now ask the same of all of us, if the Alumni do not continue to serve, who will take our place? Our strength is in the participation of the Alumni. It is remarkable what we have accomplished since our incorporation. The ROTC program is a success and our graduates are leaders in Iraq and Afghanistan. I thank all you who have served the Alumni Association and I welcome those who are volunteering to take up positions on the Board of Directors. Not everyone can volunteer, but we all can keep up the Touch of Elbows.

*LTC MICHAEL K. HOBLIN*

### **FROM THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION (DANIEL J. CREMIN, SECRETARY)**

When I was a Battalion Commander, the first thing I told my Staff was that my assignment was already running out. My goal was to develop policies and procedures that would insure the success of the next Commander. Ron Bernasconi did the same with the Alumni Association. In an orderly transition, Mike Hoblin stepped up as President and Bob Hildner was elected Vice President. We are continuing to work on the Ball and Homecoming. New Board elections

will take place at our Annual Meeting at West Point this November. It is gratifying that many of the younger Alumni are stepping up to support the Company and our goal is to have more of them on the Board. We don't want to go the way of the Fordham Club of Westchester. After I graduated, I lived in Queens and the Bronx, and envied the number of activities the Westchester Club sponsored. By the time I moved to Westchester, less than 14 years later, the Westchester Club was gone. Much later I learned that the leaders of the Club retired or passed on and there were no new members to step up and take their place. There is always the danger that this could happen. It is up to all of us, but especially the younger Alumni, to make sure it doesn't.

### **DONATE TO COMPANY D-8 AND ROTC THROUGH FORDHAM UNIVERSITY (Repeat Notice)**

You can make a donation to the Pershing Rifles Company D-8 via Fordham University and include a matching gift from your place of business, if they make them. The donation code is 525165. Just enter "PERSHING RIFLES CLUB #525165" on your check when you make your annual donation to Fordham. Also email Dan Cremin at [cremind@aol.com](mailto:cremind@aol.com) when you make a donation to Company D-8 so we can make sure that it is credited to the Company's account.

NYC Army ROTC at Fordham University has also set up a fund site to pay for the insignia presented to the cadets on their commissioning. You may donate to Fordham (with matching gift from your company if available). Enter "The Fordham Army ROTC Commissioning Fund" on your donation check.

**P/Rs in Afghanistan and Iraq**  
**By Dan Cremin FCRH65**

Since our last Newsletter Robin Islam and John Paluska left Iraq. Tom Galeazzi deployed for a 2<sup>nd</sup> tour there.

Erik Aass redeployed to Italy from Afghanistan and Anthony Hinson returned to his civilian assignment with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration in Boston, MA.

APOs and email addresses of those in Afghanistan and Iraq, where available, are posted below. Note I have not listed rank in some of the APOs in Afghanistan. These APO addresses are set up without military rank. Keep them in your prayers and drop them a line or a care package, if you can.

**Afghanistan:**

Joseph M. Clark  
ARSIC-S  
Kandahar  
APO AA 09355  
joseph-clark@us.army.mil  
joseph.clark@afghan.swa.army.mil

Jesse Fu  
ARSIC-E  
SECFOR B 2/101 CAV 27TH BCT  
GARDEZ / FOB LIGHTNING  
APO AE 09354  
jesse.fu@us.army.mil

MAJ Bernard Harrington  
OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM  
HHC/101 CAB  
FOB BAGRAM  
APO AE 09354-0000  
bharrin210@aol.com

William Hart  
TAG-CJTF Phoenix  
Camp Alamo  
APO AE 09320  
hart1105@juno.com

LTC Michael K. Hoblin  
HHC 27th BCT  
Camp Phoenix  
APO AE 09320  
ltchoblin@yahoo.com  
michael.k.hoblin@afghan.swa.army.mil

LTC Michael Mallin  
ARSIC-S  
RPAC/FOB Lashkar Gah

APO AE 09355  
mwmallin@aol.com

Phil Padron  
2/1/203 Corps ETT  
FOB Vulcan  
APO AE 09354-0000  
philip.padron@us.army.mil

James Porto  
D CO. 1st Platoon  
SECFOR  
CAMP ALAMO  
APO AE 09320  
plebe1438@aol.com

**Iraq:**

Major Mark Baaden  
C/432 CA BN Unit # 6011  
Camp Taji, Iraq  
APO AE 09378  
Infantryman6@aol.com

CPT Thomas E. Galeazzi  
GRD-IZ  
APO AE 09348-0000  
tommyemerson@hotmail.com  
thomas.galeazzi@us.army.mil

2LT Matthew McKernon  
N Troop 4-2 SCR  
FOB WARHORSE  
APO AE 09336  
matt.mckernon@us.army.mil

2LT XEON SIMPSON  
Co 1-5 Cav MITT 2BCT, 1CD  
FOB Union III  
APO AE 09348  
xeon.simpson@us.army.mil  
Overstanders@aol.com

Please keep all those serving in harms way in your prayers and send them an email or a letter when you have a chance.

**P/R WEBSITE (By Dan Cremin '65)**

Charlie Tagliareni '64 has been implementing changes to our website [www.touchofelbows.net](http://www.touchofelbows.net) and wants to add tabs that list Alumni who have served in military conflicts since World War II. The Pershing Rifles CO D-8 Alumni Association Conflict Experience Fact Sheet is in this Newsletter and on line. If applicable, please complete the form and mail it to The Pershing Rifles Co D-8 Alumni Association, Inc., 13 Rugby Road, Yonkers, NY 10710-1409 and I will pass them on to Charlie. Note this form is different

than the one Ed Jentz is using for the Ron Bernasconi Book Project.

## IN MEMORIAM

Please remember MAJ Dwayne M. Kelley in your prayers. Dwayne was a NJ State Trooper who deployed to Iraq as the XO in Mark Baaden's CA Company. He was killed in a bombing in Sadr City on 24 June 2008. Keep Dwayne and his family in your prayers.

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

### HOMECOMING REUNION

We will be holding a P/R reunion during the Homecoming Football Game 25 October against Lafayette College. The Homecoming Tent will open for brunch at 1100 hours. There will be a cash bar but everything else is free. We have also asked the University to remember Ron Bernasconi at the 1630 Mass in the University Church. See the following URL for more information on Fordham Homecoming:  
<http://www.alumni.fordham.edu/calendar/detail.aspx?ID=734>

### PERSHING RIFLES BALL 2008

The 60th Annual Pershing Rifles Company D-8 Military Ball will be held at the Hotel Thayer, West Point, NY on Saturday, 15 November 2008. The Cocktail Hour will start at 1800 hours. See attached Ball Ad/Reservation form for details on the Ball itself. Note all rooms at The Thayer, The Holiday Inn Express and the Overlook Lodge have been booked. None with the discount price are available

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PERSHING RIFLES COMPANY D-8 ALUMNIN ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Pershing Rifles Company D-8 Alumni Associations, Inc., will be held on Sunday, 16 November 2008 at 0900 hours at the Hotel Thayer, West Point, NY.

## TOUCH OF ELBOWS

### 1961

Received this bit of D-8 trivia about Pat Painting from Denny Corrigan: "It (for some damned reason) just popped into my mind, that

in 1960-61, as CO of D-8, Pat was known to the Aggressor Nation as Josef Pai-Ting."

### 1962

Since we are on D-8 history, received this from Paul Morgan: "This cadet joined in September 1954 and was greeted by First Sergeant Eddie Jentz and Capt Robert A. Foy. After two years of chanting "I want to be an airborne ranger...I want to live my life in danger" I couldn't stand it any more and joined the 82nd Airborne. When I returned to Fordham in 1960 I was told "Take off those jump wings!" to which I replied....Ring a ding a dang dang...blow it out you're a\_\_!"  
*(Paul always had a way with words - Ed.)*

### 1964

Ed Fortunato retired from Crowley in August and started a consulting business, TransLog Solutions Inc. He will do some consulting on a less than full time basis and continue to support Crowley.

Charlie Tagliareni, who recently retired, is now an Adjunct Professor at Brookdale College and Ocean County College teaching Advertising.

### 1969



Ed Higgins and Tom Dolan at Pebble Beach

Bill Dolan and Ed Higgins jointly celebrated their 60th birthdays with a golf trip to Pebble Beach. Their ties go back to the first

day of college in September 1965, where they met at orientation for D-8 pledge candidates. It continued through officer basic at Fort Gordon (Bill in the Signal Corps and Ed an MP) and then on to South Korea for a year in 1970-71. When they returned home, they married girls who were best friends and often vacationed together. Bill currently owns a publishing company in Cleveland and Ed just retired in Saint Louis after a career in banking. They're both looking forward to seeing a great "D" turnout at their 40th reunion next June.

### 1979

Congratulations to Valentina and BG Guy Sands-Pingot on the birth of their daughter, Maria Margaret Alexandra, on 9 September 2008. Both Mother and child are doing fine following their return home from hospital on 11 September 2008.



Maria Margaret Alexandra

### 1982

COL Mark Riccio pulled his retirement and took a new assignment in the J5 as the Chief, Policy and Strategy Division, at Joint Forces Command.

### 1988

LTC Mike Mallin is training the Afghan National Civil Order Police. See the link below to an article in Stars and Stripes explaining some of the problems they are experiencing:  
<http://www.stripes.com/article.asp?section=104&article=63884&archive=true>



Lt. Col. Mike Mallin (center), 27th BCT, cuts the ribbon at the new \$14 million Helmand Province Afghan Police station on 27 May. Mallin, originally assigned to the 42nd Infantry Division and a police officer in civilian life, is the senior mentor to the Helmand Provincial Police Chief. Mallin and other members of the 27th BCT are part of Regional Police Advisory Command-South working in Helmand province in conjunction with the British Army.

### 1991

Our President, LTC Mike Hoblin, hosted a 9/11 Remembrance on Armed Forces Television this past 11 September. Go the [http://www.dvidshub.net/index.php?script=video/video\\_show.php&id=45511](http://www.dvidshub.net/index.php?script=video/video_show.php&id=45511) and scroll down to watch the Video. It is also posted in our website, [www.touchofelbows.net](http://www.touchofelbows.net).

### 1992

Congratulations to Jean & MAJ Jean-Marc Pierre on the birth of their daughter, Eva Gwendolyn, on D-Day, 6 June 2008. She checked in at 6 pound, 11 ounces and mom and baby are doing well. Jean-Marc also started a new assignment as a strategist on the Army's Enterprise Task Force. This is one of the Chiefs Of Staff of the Army's initiatives to improve the operation of the Army.

### 2000

Vince Barragan was promoted to Finance Manager at Johnson & Johnson. He will be responsible for financial leadership to the Vision Care Division's Global Information Technology group. Also, wife Melissa (FCLC '03) is expecting their first child in December. On a trip to Los Vegas in May, Melissa and Vince were able to visit Eugene Sorahan and his family. Eugene is wrapping up his dual MBA/MS degree at UNLV.



Eugene Sorahan and Vince Barragan in Los Vegas

## 2002

CPT Tom Galeazzi deployed to Iraq in August. He is working as the Deputy OIC for the Resident Office of the GRC (Gulf Region Central) which is part of the U.S. Corp of Engineers. His office manages the USACE reconstruction projects in Baghdad-east of the Tigris which amounts to quite a hefty bill. He reports it is an interesting position that interfaces with Iraqi engineers/contractors, DOD civilians and American contractors, even though he works for a Navy CDR.

## 2003

CPT Sean Case was notified in September that his nomination packet as an English instructor at the USMA has been approved. He starts advanced civil schooling (graduate school) in the summer of 2009, with a follow-on 3-year tour at West Point beginning in 2011.

## 2004

Robin Islam left Active Duty and moved to Philadelphia, where Donna is a graduate student at Drexel University. He has already been offered about a dozen positions but none within commuting distance of Philly. He plans to become more involved in supporting the Company once he has a new job and has settled into a permanent residence.

## 2007

2LT John Herger is currently a Platoon Leader with 2D PLT, B Troop, 3-71 Cavalry, 3rd BCT, 10th Mountain Division. He rooms with Rick Cheriscla, and Kim Kane '06 and Tim Campbell '06 live close

by. They are coming up on a deployment in a couple months and their block leave should begin in late October. He plans on attending Homecoming, if his block leave dates do not change.

## MILITARY ABSENTEE VOTING

DoD maintains a Federal Military Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) office that provides information and resources for military voters who wish to file an absentee ballot. The FVAP Web site offers state-by-state voting instructions and on-line registration and absentee ballot request forms. The FVAP also provides links to Service voting information Web sites. Go to <http://www.fvap.gov/>

## LETTERS/EMAIL

**From: Edward Jentz**  
<[jentzhaus@mindspring.com](mailto:jentzhaus@mindspring.com)>  
**Sent: Thu, 18 Sep 2008 2:01 pm**  
**Subject: Letter for Newsletter**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

**I need your help to complete Ron Bernasconi's book. The response thus far to Ron's original request has been minimal.**

**Fraternally, Ed Jentz**  
*(See formal letter from Ed Bloiw – Editor)*

## PROJECT COMPANY D (RON BERNASCOIN BOOK PROJECT)

**Fellow Brothers and Sisters,**

**I am completing Ron Bernasconi's book that will contain the military and civilian experiences of Company D alumni. The book will serve as a historical record of the contributions our graduates have made to our country and to help prepare our cadets for life after D-8. A copy will be given to each new cadet who completes the pledge phase and is awarded the cord. Hopefully, it will serve both as a motivational and an educational tool.**

**I would ask each of you to think about how D-8 affected your lives, what your profession has meant to you, the life lessons, the memorable experiences, anything that happened to you that is**

worthy of passing on and writing them up for inclusion.

**Possible topics include:**

**Family, Personal Faith, Leadership, Accountability, Training, Civil Affairs, Peacekeeping, Stability Operations, Reserve Affairs, Enlisted Relations, Junior Officer vs. Senior Officer Responsibilities, Non-Citizen Participation, Self Confidence, Tradition, Lifetime Skills, Boredom, Humor, Reunions, Coincidences, Code of Conduct, Heed the Past, Prepare for the Future, Camaraderie, Adventure, Pride, Discipline, Integrity, Triumph, Value of Support Units.**

**Please complete the attached form. (Form is on the next page – Editor) Submit it along with any digitized photos and digitized unit patches you would like included.**

**Mail it to:  
COL Ed Jentz USA (Ret) PO Box  
32 Charles City, VA 23030  
[jentzhaus@mindspring.com](mailto:jentzhaus@mindspring.com)**

**Fraternally,**

***Ed Jentz***

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **Homecoming**

Saturday, October 2008  
Fordham University  
Bronx, NY

### **59<sup>th</sup> Annual P/R Company D-8 Military Ball**

Saturday, 15 November 2008  
1800 to 2300 hours  
The Hotel Thayer  
West Point, NY

### **Pershing Rifles Company D-8 Alumni Association Inc., Annual Meeting**

Sunday, 16 November 2008 at 0900 hours  
Hotel Thayer,  
West Point, NY.

Pershing Rifles Company D-8 Alumni News is published by the Pershing Rifles Company D-8 Alumni Association, Inc., for current and former members of Company D-8, National Honor Society of Pershing Rifles and friends. All correspondence may be sent to:  
Pershing Rifles Company D-8 Alumni Association, Inc.  
C/O Dan Cremin  
13 Rugby Road, Yonkers, NY 10710-1409  
Telephone: 914-337-0473 Email: [cremind@aol.com](mailto:cremind@aol.com)  
Website: [www.touchofelbows.net](http://www.touchofelbows.net)

Submission for Company D Historical Project (*Ron Bernisconi Book Project*)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Branch \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

My military experience involved:

WWII \_\_\_\_\_ Korea \_\_\_\_\_ Cold War \_\_\_\_\_ Vietnam \_\_\_\_\_ Panama \_\_\_\_\_

Dominican Republic \_\_\_\_\_ Grenada \_\_\_\_\_ Desert Storm \_\_\_\_\_

Desert Shield \_\_\_\_\_ Bosnia \_\_\_\_\_ Iraqi Freedom \_\_\_\_\_ Afghanistan \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_ (Expeditionary or Humanitarian Service)

Please List:

Highest military awards (medals, badges and wings) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Civilian Accomplishments and Awards \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I give permission to edit the attached submission. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

I give permission to publish the submission and attached photos. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to:

Col Ed Jentz, USA (Ret)

P.O. Box 32, Charles City, VA 23030

NOTE: Memorable experiences, photos and unit patches can be emailed to  
jentzhaus@Mindspring.Com

**2008 PERSHING RIFLES COMPANY D-8 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR: \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONES:-

HOME: \_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_ BEEPER: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

HIGHEST P/R RANK/YEAR: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

BRANCH OF SERVICE: \_\_\_\_\_ HIGHEST RANK: \_\_\_\_\_

CURRENT MILITARY STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP OPTION SELECTED: \_\_\_\_\_ I WANT TO VOLUNTEER TO SERVE ON A

LIFE (\$250): \_\_\_\_\_

A COMMITTEE. PLEASE CONTACT ME.

ANNUAL NEW (\$20): \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form with your check to:

ANNUAL RENEWAL (\$20) \_\_\_\_\_

Pershing Rifles Co D-8 Alumni Assoc., Inc

ADDITIONAL DONATION: \_\_\_\_\_

C/O Jim Kelly

TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

293 Battery Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11209

**Pershing Rifles CO D-8 Alumni Association Conflict Experience Fact Sheet**  
**This information will be incorporated into our "Touch of Elbows" Website**

*Please indicate which conflict you served in by checking appropriate space. If more than one or multiple service in same theater please add below and on reverse.*

**Korea \_\_\_ Vietnam \_\_\_ Grenada \_\_\_ Desert Storm \_\_\_ Bosnia \_\_\_ Somalia \_\_\_**

**Kosovo \_\_\_ Operation Iraqi Freedom \_\_\_ Operation Enduring Freedom \_\_\_**

**Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_ Rank during conflict \_\_\_\_\_**

**Time in conflict area \_\_\_\_\_ (months, years etc.)**

**Highest rank achieved in service \_\_\_\_\_**

**Military Honors Received:**

**Significant Occurrences: (Anything you feel would bring additional insight)**

**Other D-8 P/Rs who served with you:**

**Pershing Rifles**

COMPANY D-EIGHTH REGIMENT  
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER

FORDHAM UNIVERSITY  
BRONX, NEW YORK 10458

**COMPANY BALL AD FORM 2008**

*MAIL YOUR AD AND REMITTANCE (ABSOLUTE DEADLINE\*15 October 2008) TO:*  
P/R Co D-8 Alumni Assoc. Inc, C/O DAN CREMIN, 13 RUGBY ROAD, YONKERS, NEW YORK 10710-1409

**PRICE LIST:**

FULL PAGE      \$75.00 [   ]      # OF ADS [   ]      TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

HALF PAGE      \$50.00 [   ]      # OF ADS [   ]      TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**GRAND TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Make check payable to Pershing Rifles Company D-8 Alumni Association, Inc  
and attach ad to form**

SIZE OF AD \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT REQUIRED \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF DONOR \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS OF DONOR \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE OF DONOR \_\_\_\_\_

**COMPANY BALL RESERVATION FORM 2008**

**Company D-8 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Military Ball  
Saturday Evening, November 15, 2008, 1800 hours  
to be held at The West Point Club  
US Military Academy, West Point, NY**

**Donation \$70 (\$55 for Young Alumni '03 to '08)**

**Dress: Black Tie or Military Dress  
Business attire optional**

***ABSOLUTE DEADLINE\* 1 November 2008***

Make checks payable to Pershing Rifles Company D-8 Alumni Association, Inc. Mail to P/R Co D-8 Alumni Assoc. C/O Dan Cremin, 13 Rugby Rd., Yonkers, NY 10710.

YES, I plan to attend. I will be bringing \_\_\_ guests. Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Although I can't attend this year, enclosed is my donation to help the Company of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ BUS. PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

SEATING PREFERENCE: \_\_\_\_\_

**PERSHING RIFLES COMPANY D-8  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC  
C/O DAN CREMIN  
13 RUGBY ROAD  
YONKERS, NY 10710-1409**



D-8