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COURTESY PHOTOS

'WE WERE TAKEN PRISONER' WWII VETERAN THEN AND NOW

George "Red" Ellis, an 88-year-old World War II veteran and retiree, talks about his time during WWII as a prisoner of war in Germany. (From left to right) The last photo of Red before getting on a troop train to Fort Dix, N.J., in 1944; photo taken during Basic training at Camp Blanding, Fla. when he was 18 years old, also in 1944; and Red standing in front of his home in Edison, N.J., October 20, 2014.

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
OF THE
U.S. ARMY RESERVE
76TH OPERATIONAL RESPONSE
COMMAND HEADQUARTERS
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE,
FORT DOUGLAS, UTAH

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EDITORS CHOICE

LOOKING AHEAD

We live in amazing times! As the 76th ORC continues to realign with its Operational Response mission, I have three major focuses for our way ahead. First, we must train hard and with as much realism as possible so that we can effectively execute our responsibilities without failure. A sign on a restaurant I recently ate at said, "One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well."—Virginia Woolf. Certainly we cannot perform well unless we train well! Second, we must be financially brilliant given the austere days ahead. This will call for great creativity, conservatism and sacrifice on our parts as we must do "more with less." Third, we must invest in our future leaders. If we are to remain strong, we have to prepare those who are gifted as leaders so they are set up for success.

Effective October 2015, we will take on the additional mission of Task Force 76. With this new mission we have 96 hours to stand up contingency forces to respond to a major chemical-biological-nuclear event. This is the first time in our nation's history that the Army Reserve has been entrusted with this mission and it is a fitting honor that we were given this mission as the First Army Reserve Division formed in 1917.

TF 76 works directly for ARNORTH and NORTHCOM. Our TF headquarters is at Westover Air Force Base in Chicopee, Mass. and is ably managed on a day-to-day basis by Col. Doug Mills who serves as the Chief of Staff. It is entirely foreseeable that the 76th ORC will own this mission for sometime into the future and possibly permanently.

CSM Matthews and I are exceedingly proud of all of you who serve with us in the 76th ORC and TF 76. Though we live in challenging times, we know you are up to the challenge and for that we are grateful.

Please be safe over this holiday period. If there is ice and snow on the roads, ensure you winterize your vehicles before you start your travel and be wise in selecting your routes. Allow yourselves enough time to arrive and depart your destinations safely. Particularly avoid consuming alcohol and traveling. I continue to be amazed by the number of distracted drivers texting and driving—don't be one of them! Let's not suffer any accidents!

I hope you will enjoy the holiday season with your family and friends. All of us here from the 76th ORC Headquarters wish you a blessed time of reflection and rest and a Happy New Year and Onaway!

MAJ. GEN. DANIEL L. YORK
COMMANDING GENERAL
76TH ORC



**A Simple Observation
A Single Report can lead to actions that may STOP a terrorist attack
THINK ABOUT THE POWER OF THAT. THE POWER OF iWATCH.
SEE SOMETHING SAY SOMETHING
Army Antiterrorism Awareness Month**

SOLDIER TRAINS WITH DANISH HOME GUARD

REPRESENTS ARMY RESERVE



A Danish medical group with the Danish Home Guard practice wound analysis, preparation and movement of a casualty to an aid station in Denmark, June 20, 2014. These exercises were done in joint participation with American Soldiers from the Military Reserve Exchange Program in order to provide a joint training environment.

STORY BY
STAFF SGT. KAI L. JENSEN
PHOTOS BY
1ST. LT. KYLE KENNEDY

SALT LAKE CITY - Copenhagen, Skive and Tranum are all locations many Americans have only ever heard of.

For most people, traveling Europe will only ever be a dream but, fortunately, for 1st Lt. Kyle Kennedy, a computer operations officer with U.S. Strategic

Command Army Reserve Element, he was chosen to serve as an Army Reserve representative to the Danish Home Guard and was able to visit these places.

“The entire trip was fun,” said Kennedy, a 34-year-old from Columbus, Neb. “The Home Guard liaisons made sure our days were packed from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., and they went above and beyond to make sure we got to see the whole country and experience the Danish Home Guard way of life.”

Kennedy was sent to Denmark from June 11-25, 2014, as a part of the Military Reserve Exchange Program and was educated in how they ran their operations including logistics, medical, armor, shooting competitions, as well as their day-to-day activities.

This program provides National Guard and Reserve officers training associated with mobilization duties while enhancing their ability to work and communicate with the military individuals of the host

nation.

“He is a unit role model and leader with impeccable character,” said Lt. Col. Mike Poss, commander of STRATCOM ARE. “Based on these qualities, he was a great selection to be an ambassador of the Army Reserves for the Denmark MREP.”

This program provides Soldiers with an understanding of the training, doctrine and operations of a major alliance partner.

“The experience of working with allied militaries makes [Soldiers] more experienced and teaches them how these other militaries operate,” said Maj. Benjamin Flosi, MREP manager. “They build relationships so that later on in their careers when they actually do work with allied militaries, they already have a point of contact, relationship and experience to fall back on.”

During his time there, the experience that most stuck out in his mind was the shooting competition the Danish Home Guard held.

“The Home Guard’s shooting competitions were fantastic,” exclaimed Kennedy. “They had different stages and events [including] distance shooting, movement shooting, close contact firing, speed shooting, shooting at unique angles and shooting while on an elevated platform at pop-up targets. I placed first for the American group and third overall in the second day shooting competition.”

Kennedy’s time there was split with him spending the first few days in Copenhagen, nine days in Skive and the remaining days spent in Tranum.

“Copenhagen was my favorite location,” he said. “Everyone there is so active, from people on bikes, to kayaking, to running. The prices were extremely high, but it helped you manage your money better and appreciate the things you have.”



Military Reserve Exchange Program Soldiers are briefed on range safety by a member of the Danish Home Guard while in Denmark, June 18, 2014. The Soldiers were able to train with the home guard in a variety of ways and participated in multiple range competitions.



Soldiers with the Military Reserve Exchange Program receive instructions from a member of the Danish Home Guard, June 21, 2014. The MREP provides Soldiers with the opportunity to train with allied militaries and gain a better understanding how foreign powers operate.

Kennedy wanted to be in the Army and support his country ever since he was a little kid and, with 17 years of time-in-service, this was another unique experience that he was able to add to his list.

The MREP annually selects Soldiers to

participate in their efforts to multiple countries. Information on opportunities and how to apply can be found online at www.usar.army.mil/resources/ForSoldiers/Pages/Reserve-Foreign-Exchange-Program.aspx

FORMER PRISONER OF WAR TELLS HIS STORY

“ We were trying to make our way back to the American lines when we ran into a group of German soldiers...

George “Red” Ellis _____





ABOVE: The gate of the prison camp located just outside the town of Limburg was used to hold American prisoners of war during World War II.

LEFT: A replica of the flat bottomed boat that was used by American forces to cross the Sauer River into the Siegfried line during WWII.

ABOVE: A railcar similar to the ones that were used to move prisoners-of-war during World War II.

‘We were taken prisoner’ WWII veteran tells his story

STORY BY
STAFF SGT. KAI L. JENSEN
PHOTOS COURTESY OF
GEORGE “RED” ELLIS

SALT LAKE CITY — After taking machine gun fire, George “Red” Ellis and two other Soldiers finally made it to shore but soon found out they were surrounded by German soldiers on both sides of the Sauer River.

“We were trying to make our way back to the American lines when we ran into a group of German soldiers,” the 88-year-old veteran said. “We were carrying Browning Automatic Rifles, and they didn’t work. The hand grenades didn’t work. So we were up the creek without a paddle... and from there it was history, we

were taken prisoner.”

Red, a 75 year resident of Edison, N.J., was held as a prisoner of war during World War II by Germany from February to May, 1945, and was forced to live through things most people will never have to experience.

“Red is a true example of the Onaway spirit [the motto of the 76th],” said Maj. Gen. Daniel L. York, commanding general of the 76th Operational Response Command. “Although he was the point of the spear in ferrying troops across the Sauer River during the 76th Infantry Division’s first action, he showed his true resolve and resilience surviving as a POW.”

Drafted into the Army in 1944 when he was 18 years old, Red

completed basic training and was assigned to the machine gun and mortar section of a rifle platoon, of the 76th ID in Fort McCoy, Wis., which has since been redesignated as the 76th ORC.

Shortly thereafter, on June 27, 1944, 21 days after D-Day, the 76th ID landed in Le Havre, France and began moving toward Luxembourg to reinforce Allied forces there.

“We were at Luxembourg at a little town called Echternach,” said Red, who was a newly promoted private 1st class at the time. “From there we made our advance into the [German] line prior to crossing the Sauer River.”

“I was in a boat that was supposed to transport more troops across but as we were

coming back our medical boat got hit by machine gun fire,” he continued. “We attempted to pick up some of the survivors but the stream was traveling at a great rate due to flooding.”

At this time the Sauer River was flooding at more than 20 feet above flood level according to records from the time.

“Then a hotel that was on the German side got hit and it lit everything up like daylight and they opened up firing on us,” said Red quietly. “We laid down in the boat while it drifted down stream and when we finally made it to shore, we were in a pocket where the Germans were on both sides of the river.”

Shortly thereafter, they were captured and taken back to a

German bunker that was a part of the old Siegfried line, which was a line of defensive fortifications used in World War I and again in World War II by the Germans.

“We thought we were going to get mowed down because they doubled up on the guards, two guards for each one of us,” said Red, who was only 19-years-old at the time of his capture. “I said to my buddy ‘we’re not going to go down without fighting, if they make a move let’s take some of those bastards with us.’”

Fortunately for both sides that didn’t happen and along with the other POWs, Red was then moved to various locations.

“From there we were transported from different places and they kept moving us until we

finally ended up in the prison camp,” said Red. “When we arrived, I was turned over to the SS [a paramilitary organization under the Nazi party] for about a week of interrogation and they tried to find out from me what the conditions of my unit were. They threatened to shoot me a few times but thankfully never followed through.”

The prison camp, which was located just outside the town of Limburg, 50 miles northwest of Frankford, Germany, held not only American POWs but also Polish prisoners who were being used as slave laborers.

Due to malnourishment and difficult conditions, the prisoners would trade whatever valuables they had to the Polish laborers in



LEFT: Map of the country of Luxembourg

RIGHT: George "Red" Ellis and his wife smile on their wedding day, April 20, 1946.



ABOVE: Red holding the division colors for the 76th Infantry Division prior to a ceremony.

BELOW: George "Red" Ellis and his wife Doris stand outside their home in Edison, N.J. They have been married for more than 68 years.



airstrike caused the German soldiers to detach the engine and leave them behind, where they quickly escaped.

"We forced the doors open, got out of the cars and took off from there," said Red. "We went down into the nearby town and we heard the rumble of the tanks and it was the 9th armored [division]. They said 'you guys are in pretty good shape, can you set up a station to take in German prisoners as they come?'"

Ironically the former POWs were now the guards and set up a road side stand taking care of the German prisoners until the column finally went through and sent Soldiers back to take over. From there, they were deloused and given a month of recuperation after being sent back home. Red was discharged from the military November 29, 1945.

After the war Red married the love of his life, Doris, and raised a family. He has also proudly served as the president of the Onaway Association, an organization of former members of the 76th ID, and was even asked to take part in the repatching ceremony for the 76th ORC in 2013.

"I think he is a hero," said Doris Ellis, Red's wife of almost 69 years. "What he had to go through, and I know a lot of other men have gone through it too, but he still thinks about others. I think he is very good and I'm very proud of him, and I'm glad that I married him."



exchange for a loaf of bread or any other food item they could get their hands on.

"I got rid of a watch," said Red. "Everything was valued on food. You'd think everyone there were cooks because all they could talk about was what food they would have when they got back."

In between being yelled at and harassed by the guards, time in the camp was passed by sitting outside, if it was warm, and trying to kill all the lice that were on their bodies.

"They would antagonize us," he said. "I was fortunate because

I never smoked but the guards would walk along the fence and throw their cigarettes just out of reach of the prisoners to antagonize them."

At one point, during a bombing raid, Red and another prisoner were able to escape into the nearby countryside where a civilian helped hide them in a bombed out house and supplied them with maps. Unfortunately, 7 days later, they were recaptured and sent back to the camp.

Near the end of the war, hundreds of POWs were being transported, via train, when an



Dorothy Ruben, finance noncommissioned officer with the 76th Operational Response Command, waves as she approaches the finish line of the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer five-mile walk at Liberty Park, Salt Lake City, October 11, 2014. The event raises funds for breast cancer research and had hundreds of participants.

MOTHER, SOLDIER, BREAST CANCER SURVIVOR

STORY AND PHOTOS

BY

STAFF SGT. KAI L. JENSEN

SALT LAKE CITY — Wife, mother of two children, Soldier for 26 years and breast cancer survivor; Sgt. 1st Class Dorothy Ruben, finance noncommissioned officer with the 76th Operational Response Command, found out she had breast cancer September 2005 while going through a permanent change of station from Milwaukee to Boston. “I didn’t know how to react,” said the Chicago native and 53-year-old veteran. “I was puzzled and in disbelief, confused.

I thought they were joking around and it couldn’t happen to me.”

Ruben went in for a routine checkup in June of the same year but due to her PCS, didn’t find out she had cancer until three months later in Boston.

“They called me and said ‘we did find something, its early stages but you need to come in.’” said Ruben. “When I started having different things done is when it really opened my eyes.”

She had to go back in for surgery where they made an incision and performed what they call a lumpectomy, where they take out only the certain part of where the

lump is located. Following the surgery she had to go back in for 10 weeks of radiation and then start taking Tamoxifen, which is a chemotherapy pill.

In addition to the treatments and other hardships, she also had to deal with depression.

“I went through a small depression stage probably because I was still in denial,” she said. “There wasn’t much I could do because I wasn’t working that much and I was always exhausted from the treatments. I always tried to do my radiation after lunch so that I could be off for the rest of the day.”



ABOVE: Sgt. 1st Class Dorothy Ruben, finance noncommissioned officer with the 76th Operational Response Command, works at her desk at Fort Douglas, Utah, September 8, 2014.

RIGHT: Dorothy Ruben, finance noncommissioned officer with the 76th Operational Response Command, poses in front of the finish line at the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer five-mile walk at Liberty Park, Salt Lake City, October 11, 2014. Ruben participates in at least one fund raising event a year.



Ruben was fortunate enough to have an understanding Army Reserve unit that tried to help wherever they could.

“My unit helped me out a lot when they found out,” said Ruben. “They gave me whatever time I needed to do what I needed to do. My unit was outstanding.”

Supporting her through all of this was her family and husband, who made sure to drive here wherever she needed to be and support her however they could.

“My husband took it very well and he helped me a lot,” she said. “He was there to take me to the doctor and take me home, make sure I had something to eat and look out for me. He did everything, he was very supportive.”

Her daughter was there every step of the way as well and shared in her mother’s journey and struggles.

“My daughter was older at the time and she held her hand, she shared in my wife’s

optimism,” said Harold Ruben, her husband of 20 years. “If my wife felt a little doubtful she was there to help motivate her.”

Now more than ten years later, and still in remission, Ruben stays active in her support of breast cancer awareness and regularly does at least one or two 5k races a year.

“I’m very proud of myself for being strong and committed to breast cancer because I think it is very important,” said Ruben. “I would tell anyone ‘go get tested, get screened. Make sure you’re taking those preventative measures because they mean a lot.’”

For more information about breast cancer, and preventative measures you can take, visit www.cancer.org.

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ARMY RESERVE COLONEL 'DEEPLY HUMBLLED' BY AWARD



Army Reserve Col. Lisa A. Harbach (far right), State Emergency Preparedness liaison officer of Region III, stands with other Recipients of the Servicewoman of the Year Award in Charlotte, N.C., Aug. 26, 2014. Each year an active duty military woman can be nominated for the award.

STORY BY
STAFF SGT. KAI L. JENSEN
COURTESY PHOTO

Army Reserve Col. Lisa A. Harbach, State Emergency Preparedness liaison officer of Region III with the 76th Operational Response Command, was presented the Service Woman of the Year Award in Charlotte, North Carolina, Aug. 26, 2014.

Each year, an active duty military woman, from each branch, can be nominated for the award which goes to the State level and then on to National.

Harbach was nominated for not only her military career of 35 years but also her

selfless service to her community which includes her speaking at Memorial Day and Veterans Day functions as well as being a member of her local honor guard.

"After returning home from a yearlong deployment in Kuwait and Iraq, I became an active member of my local honor guard," said Harbach. "We are called upon quite frequently and as the only field grade officer within the area, I stay very busy presenting flags to the next of kin."

In addition, her role as the SEPLO for Pennsylvania is incredibly important as emergency preparedness liaison officers are responsible for coordinating disaster response activities with civil authorities during catastrophic situations.

"EPLOs working at that level are liaisons between the Army Reserve and the State," said Master Sgt. Lewis Flores, 76th ORC EPLO noncommissioned officer in charge. "When the civil authority exceeds their capacity to handle an event, they will go to the liaison for additional support from the Reserves."

Awards and nominations go through the American Legion Auxiliary, which is a foundation that supports America's core values by providing additional resources benefiting the lives of veterans, military and their families, communities and youth.

"I was deeply humbled and honored to be a recipient of this prestigious award," said Harbach.

From the FIELD



(From left to right) Col. Marcus Sanders receives the unit guidon from Maj. Gen. Daniel L. York during the activation ceremony of the Pacific Command Army Reserve Element at the Sgt. James Witkowski Armed Forces Reserve Center in Mountain View, Calif., November 2, 2014. The PACOM ARE was officially activated February 1, 2014 and is designed to augment and work side-by-side with their active duty counterparts at PACOM. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Addie L. Randolph, 76th Operational Response Command)

Soldiers from the 3rd Army Augmentation Unit receive pre-deployment training at Fort Bliss, Texas, November 12, 2014. Approximately 50 Soldiers deployed to Kuwait in support of 3rd Army by augmenting active duty personnel and allowing Soldiers to transition out of theater without affecting the overall mission. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Addie L. Randolph, 76th Operational Response Command)



Soldiers from the 152nd Theater Information Operations Group march during the 2014 Pleasanton Veterans Day Parade in Pleasanton Calif., November 02, 2014. The Soldiers acted as color guard in representing the United States Army Reserve. (Courtesy Photo)

ARMY RESERVE, OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES GATHER FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE FORUM



The Army Reserve 76th Operational Response Command hosts the Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer conference at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, September 5, 2014. The conference is a way for all of the EPLO regions, and other staff involved, to be represented as well as to share ideas on ways to improve the EPLO program.

STORY AND PHOTOS

BY

STAFF SGT. KAI L. JENSEN

SALT LAKE CITY — The Army Reserve 76th Operational Response Command hosted the Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer forum at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, Sept. 5-6, 2014.

The forum provided attendees with the opportunity to network, discuss procedures and develop better methods for inter-service and inter-organizational communication.

“This conference is not the end all, rather, it is the start or the genesis to figuring out where the gaps and seams are and agreeing on who will take the lead for those gaps in order to mitigate risk,” said Col. Ernest Litynski, EPLO officer-in-charge. “This is really the beginning to bringing all of our partners together to make sure we have unity of effort.”

The 76th ORC’s EPLO organization is responsible for supporting civil authorities in their response to catastrophic disasters, and was developed because of the increasing complexity of the military’s role

in responding to domestic emergencies.

“Army EPLO is the frontline, if you will, in preparation,” said Navy Cmdr. Mark Lukken, J35 operations officer from U.S. Northern Command. “NORTHCOM calls it phase zero, which is planning and preparation for response to any type of disaster, natural or otherwise. So they’re the front line that goes out to make sure that coordination is completed.”

EPLOs have been instrumental during prior emergencies such as Hurricane Sandy and the 2013 Colorado floods, where they were responsible for communicating

military assets and capabilities to civil authorities in order to provide disaster relief where it was actually needed.

“We provide a domestic response where our EPLOs often respond to a crisis within 6 hours of notification,” said Litynski. “These mission assignments come from a key stake holder within one of the intergovernmental agencies in the United States, such as the [Federal Emergency Management Agency].”

In attendance were representatives from the Pentagon, US NORTHCOM, U.S. Army Reserve Command, Army North, and all ten EPLO regions. There are 53 EPLOs assigned as state emergency preparedness liaison officers, as well as 10 regional teams that are embedded with defense coordinating elements.

“We are a force provider. What we provide in USARC, through the 76th ORC, are officers that are in every state of the U.S., minus Hawaii,” said Maj. Gen. Daniel L. York, commanding general of the 76th ORC. “These officers provide to Army North specific information regarding what assets are available in the Army Reserves.”

York finished by saying that there are ten regions in the United States that EPLOs are assigned to, and what they provide to those regions is a specific army reserve capability that is unique and extremely important.

Reserve component EPLOs from all of the armed services have represented the federal military in each state and region since the 1970s. They have coordinated the input of military personnel, equipment and supplies, in numerous disaster operations, in order to support civil authorities during emergency relief operations.

For more information on your area and what region you fall under, please visit http://usacac.army.mil/cac2/call/docs/11-07/app_p.asp.



Maj. Gen. Daniel L. York, commanding general of the 76th Operational Response Command, speaks to attendees during the Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer conference.



Brig. Gen. Ferdinand Irizarry, US Army Reserve Command deputy chief of staff G-3/5/7, speaks during the Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer conference.



(Left to right) Maj. Gen. Daniel L. York, commanding general of the 76th ORC; Maj. Gen. Simeon G. Trombitas, deputy commanding general of Army North; Brig. Gen. Ferdinand Irizarry, USARC deputy chief of staff G-3/5/7; Col. Ernest Litynski, EPLO officer-in-charge; and Lt. Col. Adam Miller, special operations officer, answer questions during the conference.



PHOTO BY CHIEF WARRANT 3 TERRILL PURCELL

The sun rising on the morning of the 76th Operational Response Command's Army Physical Fitness Test at Liberty Park in Salt Lake City, October 19, 2014.