



Victory Weekly



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telling the Camp Victory story

May 17, 2005

Holocaust remembrance ceremony held

Sgt. David Foley
MNC-I PAO

Soldiers gathered in an overflow room at the Coalition Café dining facility on Camp Victory May 6 for a "Days of Remembrance" ceremony in memory of those killed during the Holocaust.

"We need to reflect on our past so we can go forward and build a better future, and this is just one of the ways of doing it," Multi-National Force and Corps - Iraq Equal Opportunity Advisor Orvie Baker, Fort Bragg, N.C., said of the remembrance ceremony.

Baker said Soldiers in Iraq could gain a better understanding of the atrocities that took place under the Third Reich because of the similarities between Saddam's regime and Hitler's.

"In my opinion it's like a modern day version of it," he said. "I look at (Al-Faw Palace) and see how elaborate it is, yet just outside the wire conditions of poverty exist; Iraqi people are having problems getting potable water, and the children are living without basic needs. It makes me think of (the Holocaust) in some ways."

One of the things that the Equal Opportunity Office did differently for this observance was to limit the slide show to a few minutes -- just enough to educate the audience and announce the program agenda.

One of the highlights of the observance was the reading of an original poem for the occasion that described much of the Holocaust and the many races of people who were tormented by Nazi rule.

Staff Sgt. Theresa Snow,



photo by Sgt. David Foley/MNC-I PAO

Sgt. 1st Class Robert Birmingham, noncommissioned officer-in-charge, Human Relations and Equal Opportunity, Multi-National Corps and Force - Iraq, talks about the atrocities of the Holocaust during a remembrance ceremony in the Coalition Café dining facility at Camp Victory May 6.

Coalition Café dining facility food service noncommissioned officer, Fort Bragg, N.C., said she wrote the somber poem after attending an equal opportunity representative course on Camp Victory offered by the MNC-I Human Relations/Equal Opportunity

office one month prior to the event as a way to better understand the subject for a class she was scheduled to teach.

"I didn't really know anything about (the Holocaust), so it was

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2nd Annual EOD Memorial (Forward) held at Victory



photo by Sgt. Michael J. Carden/MNC-I PAO

British Maj. Gen. Mark Mans, deputy commanding general, Multi-National Corps - Iraq, speaks at the 2nd Annual Explosive Ordnance Disposal Memorial (Forward) May 7 at Al-Faw Palace, Camp Victory. Mans spoke of how essential EOD technicians are to the Global War on Terrorism.

Sgt. Michael J. Carden
MNC-I PAO

More than 50 explosive ordnance disposal service members and civilians serving throughout Iraq gathered for the 2nd Annual EOD Memorial (Forward) May 7 at Al-Faw Palace, Camp Victory, to honor the memory and sacrifice of EOD technicians who lost their lives during past year.

The evening began with toasts and tributes to the fallen EOD techs and their families, including a picture slideshow of EOD techs in action during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

A table and setting "in the place of honor" served as a reminder to those in attendance "that all of our soldiers could not be here with us" on this occasion, said 1st Lt. Phil Cordaro, officer-in-charge, personnel operations, 184th Ordnance Battalion, Fort Gillem, Ga.

"The table is small and is set for one -- symbolizing the facility of a prisoner --

alone against his oppressors and the singular life given in defense of our nation," said Cordaro, who was the narrator for the evening. "The single yellow rose inside the vase reminds us of the families and loved ones who kept the faith and remember. The glass is inverted, for they cannot toast with us tonight."

The event is intended to replicate the EOD Memorial Ball, which is held every year in May at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., but for EOD techs who are deployed to Iraq, said Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Udelhofen, sergeant major, 184th EOD Bn.

"The EOD field is a very close community," Udelhofen said. "When one of us dies, we all feel it. This is just our way to remember them and pay our respects."

The events were held simultaneously, preceding a ceremony the following day at Eglin AFB to add the names of the past

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Battlefield assessment commemorates Medal of Honor recipient

Spc. Jeremy Crisp
MNC-I PAO

In remembrance of the Global War on Terrorism's first Medal of Honor recipient, Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith, Soldiers from Camp Victory conducted a battle assessment ride May 4 to the scene of Smith's last battle.

Members of the 319th Military Intelligence Battalion, 525th MI Brigade, Fort Bragg, N.C., conducted a slide and battlefield presentation to enlighten Soldiers on what took place April 4, 2003, the day Smith lost his life.

Capt. James B. Cogbill, commander, Headquarters and

Headquarters Service Company, 319th MI, was the orchestrator for the event and said he originally heard about the Smith story before he deployed to Iraq in December.

"Before we came over here, I heard about this guy who lost his life defending a courtyard in Baghdad," Cogbill said. "I was interested in the story, so I went to the Army Web site to get more information. What I hadn't realized was the battle was so close to here."

Cogbill said his battalion runs a noncommissioned officer and officer professional development session each month, and about the time of month the development session came

around, so did his idea.

"I asked our battalion commander if we could do our NCO/officer professional development on the Paul R. Smith courtyard battle," Cogbill said. "I got the go-ahead and was able to get Smith's platoon leader, Capt. (then 2nd Lt.) Brian Borkowski on the phone.

"He was very excited about helping and said he was very glad that we are keeping the memory of such a great NCO alive, and I told him we were glad to do it," Cogbill said.

Part of Cogbill's presentation was a visual representation taken from www.army.mil and the St. Petersburg Times site: www.sptimes.com. The Web sites displayed a virtual battlefield with detailed

information that reconstructed the events that occurred that day. Along with information from Borkowski, Cogbill was able to demonstrate these events at the battlefield.

Located 250 meters from the 319th headquarters, the courtyard and surrounding environment has changed little. Numerous bullet holes adorn the tower where Smith unloaded many of the more than 300 .50-caliber rounds he fired from atop an M113 Armored Personnel Carrier. Un-spent, corroding rounds and a metal canteen are some of the battlefield relics that still lay strewn about the area.

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photo by Spc. Jeremy Crisp/MNC-I PAO

Capt. James B. Cogbill (right,) commander, HHSC, 319th MI Bn., points out an angle of attack to Staff Sgt. Quintana J. Hankins, maintenance platoon sergeant, 319th MI Bn., May 4 at Camp Victory. From this vantage point, Soldiers in Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith's platoon were able to eliminate the Iraqi troops attacking from a tower in the courtyard where Smith was killed April 4, 2003.



photo by Spc. Jeremy Crisp/MNC-I PAO

Capt. James B. Cogbill (far left), commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Service Company, 319th Military Intelligence Battalion, Fort Bragg, N.C., describes the circumstances involved in the final fight of Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith, to fellow members of the 319th MI Bn. May 4 in the courtyard where the battle took place at Camp Victory.

HOLOCAUST

interesting for me to learn about it," She said. "In order to get a better understanding of things, I write poems."

Snow spent three nights from 6 to 11 p.m. doing research on the Holocaust and said the more she learned, the more she wanted to know. Once she gathered all of her facts, she wrote the poem to help her remember what she had learned. With no idea she would be reading the poem in front of people at the Holocaust observance ceremony, she pieced everything together and shared it with Sgt. 1st Class Robert Birmingham, Multi-National Force and Corps - Iraq Human Relations and Equal Opportunity noncommissioned officer-in-charge.

After hearing the poem, Birmingham wanted Snow to share it with others.

"I was shocked when Sergeant Birmingham asked me to read the poem during the ceremony," She said. "I wrote the poem to help me with the class, and it ended up turning into something more. It was exciting."

After all the formalities, attendees viewed the Holocaust-themed movie, *Schindler's List*.

"We chose to watch *Schindler's List* because it gets us away from the PowerPoint slides and offers the soldiers something a little more unconventional. *Schindler's List* is also a great film that is historically accurate," Birmingham said.

Birmingham said it was good to be able to sit back and watch the movie after all the work he and his team did in preparation for the event, and he was glad the participants were able to enjoy it too.

Baker said events like this one are what the Army's Equal Opportunity program is all about.

"It's not about people of different races," he said. "It's about educating people about all different races. Based on my 17 years in the Army, the best thing the Army has to offer is people from different backgrounds getting together on a common level, getting rid of the (stereotypes) and learning how people really are."

EOD

year's fallen EOD techs to the EOD Memorial Wall.

The memorial consists of four cenotaphs, each representing its own branch of service. They are engraved with the names of 182 Army, Marine, Navy and Air Force EOD techs who have died on active duty as a result of an EOD operation. The first names date back to World War II.

"If you could see the memorial ceremony they have at Eglin (AFB) every year ... it's amazing," Udelhofen said. "We've lost several (EOD techs) this year. I'm glad I'm here now. If I was attending the memorial it would be really hard on me."

This year the names of four Soldiers and two Marines were added to the wall. All six were

killed while performing missions in Iraq.

"It's important to remember those who have fallen, especially those in (Iraq)," said British Maj. Gen. Mark Mans, deputy commanding general, Multi-National Corps - Iraq. "It is my privilege and an honor to be here with you to remember those Soldiers and Marines who lost their lives."

Mans was the evening's guest speaker. He was commissioned into the Corps of Royal Engineers from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, England, in 1974. He has spent the majority of his 30-year-career dealing with ordnance and improvised explosive devices, he said.

"I've been involved with EOD and dealt with IED issues throughout my entire career," Mans said. He commanded British troops in Northern Ireland, Bosnia and in the Middle East during the first Gulf War. "IEDs have been around for many, many years. It's nothing new."

Mans said there have been great improvements in counter-IED equipment over the years, but counter-IED personnel have made the greatest contribution. Personnel such as the EOD techs are the most

important element in reducing the threat of IEDs.

"The human who is brave and courageous, well-trained and skillful ... that's the person we want," Mans said to the EOD techs. "You guys epitomize that in every sense."

Near the evening's end, the newest and oldest graduate of the EOD school were recognized by cutting the first pieces of a cake decorated with icing in the design of the EOD badge worn by all EOD school graduates. This signifies the old always being faithful and the new carrying on the EOD tradition, Udelhofen said.

Jim Ennis, project manager for a civilian contracted ordnance disposal company working in Iraq, was the oldest graduate. He completed EOD School in September 1962 and retired in 1981 as a Lt. Commander in the Navy EOD branch.

1st Lt. Sarah Treveloni, executive officer, 38th Ordnance Company, Fort Stewart, Ga., was the most recent graduate.

She said graduating and earning her EOD badge was one of the proudest moments of her life. She completed the year-long course Feb. 25, only to find herself almost immediately deployed to Iraq. She and her unit arrived in Iraq the first week in May.

"Being here makes you realize the reality of our job," Treveloni said. "I know what the risks are, but I know we make Soldiers safer because of what we do. That's what attracted me to EOD in the first place."

Udelhofen said it takes a dedicated person to be an EOD tech. "Even when they are not deployed, they're training, learning the latest tactics, techniques and procedures in dealing with explosive ordnance. They're constantly risking their own lives to make the lives of others safer," he said.

"The hardest walk in the world is when a guy puts on a bomb suit and walks toward a suspect item or vehicle, knowing that it's a bomb and that it could blow up," Udelhofen said. "You've got to be dedicated. To me there is no greater job than being an EOD tech."



photo by Sgt. Michael J. Carden/MNC-I PAO

The table display seen here was set in "the place of honor" as a reminder of the explosive ordnance disposal technicians who died in combat and could not be with their comrades during the 2nd Annual EOD Memorial (Forward) May 7 at Al-Faw Palace, Camp Victory. Each item set on the table symbolizes the ultimate sacrifice made by the EOD techs and the loss suffered by their families and the EOD community.



photo by Sgt. Michael J. Carden/MNC-I PAO

Explosive ordnance disposal service members watch a slide show of EOD technicians in action during the 2nd Annual EOD Memorial (Forward) May 7 at Al-Faw Palace, Camp Victory.

Voices of Victory:

Is there a historical site or landmark you'd like to see before you leave Iraq?



"There's so much history in Babylon. I definitely want to take a trip there before I leave."

Dale Robinson, coordinator, Morale, Welfare and Recreation



"I'd like to see Saddam's Palace in Tikrit. My husband was there last year and said it was amazing."

Spc. D Lovelace, communications, 200th Engineer Battalion, Alabama Army National Guard



"I'd like to go to Babylon."

Sgt. Orbin Guilamo, quick reaction force, 44th Medical Command

Operating Hours

Coalition Cafe

Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Dinner 5:30 - 8 p.m.
Midnight Dining 11:30 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Sports Oasis

Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Dinner 5:30 - 9 p.m.

Shopette

Open 24 Hours

Camp Liberty Post Exchange

Everyday 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Fitness Center

Open 24 Hours

Chapel

Sunday:

Protestant Worship 7 a.m. and 9 a.m.
Catholic Mass 10:30 a.m.
Gospel Service Noon
Mormon (LDS) 2 p.m.
Episcopal 4 p.m.
Full Life Service 6 p.m.

Saturday:

7th Day Adventist 11 a.m.
Catholic Mass 8 p.m.

Mini-Chapel (Bldg. 2)

Friday:

Jewish Service 6:30 p.m.

COMMEMORATE

Soldiers were able to get inside the tower to get a bird's-eye view of the battlefield and stand at the remains of the gate where Pfc. Thomas Ketchum, Pvt. James Martens and Sgt. Joshua Henry first saw Iraqi soldiers streaming in from the east.

Cogbill invited Soldiers to climb up on the crumpled remains of the courtyard wall, which gave Soldiers a view of the highway heading eastbound into Baghdad. This was where Smith and the Soldiers of 2nd platoon, Company B, 11th Engineer Battalion, Fort Stewart, Ga., entered the courtyard.

At this vantage point, Soldiers could get a visual layout of where troops and equipment were during the battle.

Cogbill explained the importance of the battle at the end of his presentation and answered any questions the troops had.

"It is important that we take whatever lessons we can from our military past," Cogbill said. "I also think it is important that we learn from Sergeant First Class Paul R. Smith. It's critical for Soldiers to be able to see and have described to them what heroism really is and what it looks like."

Staff Sgt. Quintana J. Hankins, maintenance platoon sergeant, HHSC, 319th MI Bn., was a participant at the presentation, and she said she relished the

opportunity to be able to get to out and see the battlefield first hand.

"I had no idea that this had taken place here," Hankins said. "We need to be reminded how things have changed since 2003 and to remind us that a lot of people have lost their lives out here."



photo by Spc. Jeremy Crisp/MNC-I PAO

The tower at the courtyard where Soldiers from Company B, 11th Engineer Battalion, Fort Stewart, Ga., were receiving gunfire April 4, 2003 -- the day Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith lost his life -- stands riddled with bullet holes May 4 at Camp Victory.

Victory MWR Events May 17 - May 23

Today: Spades at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Nine-ball at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 51; Basketball coaches meeting at 12:30 p.m. at Bldg. 51; Classes at the Gym: Tae-Kwon-Do from 6 - 7 p.m.; Fencing from 7:30 - 9 p.m.; Kajukenbo from 9 - 10:30 p.m.
Wednesday: Chess at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Mixed Night at 7 p.m. at Bldg. 51; Classes at the Gym: Aerobics from 5 - 6:30 a.m. and from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.; Boxing from 8 - 9 p.m.
Thursday: Country Night at 7 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Ping Pong at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 51; Classes at the Gym: Tae-Kwon-Do from 6 - 7 p.m.; Bench Press at 8 p.m.; Kajukenbo from 9 - 10:30 p.m.
Friday: Halo at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Latin Night at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 51; Softball league coaches meeting at 6 p.m. at Bldg. 51;

Classes at the Gym: Aerobics from 5 - 6:30 a.m. and from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.; Fencing from 7:30 - 9 p.m.
Saturday: Reggae Night at 7 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Dominos at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 51; Classes at the Gym: Tae-Kwon-Do from 6 - 7 p.m.; Boxing from 8 - 9 p.m.
Sunday: Ping Pong at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Eight-Ball Tournament at 3 p.m. and Chess at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 51; Classes at the Gym: Fencing practice from 9 - 11 a.m.; Fencing from 7:30 - 9 p.m.; Kajukenbo from 9 - 10:30 p.m.
Monday: Dominos at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Halo at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 51; Classes at the Gym: Aerobics 5 - 6:30 a.m. and from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.; Boxing from 8 - 9 p.m.; Softball league opening day

Hometown Greetings

There will be no hometown greetings this week due to other Multi-National Corps - Iraq public affairs missions. However, they will reconvene for the following week. Currently, the time and location has not been determined.

MNC-I Commanding General: Lt. Gen. John R. Vines **MNC-I Production Chief:** Sgt. Mark St.Clair
MNC-I Public Affairs Officer: Col. Billy J. Buckner **Victory Weekly Editor:** Sgt. Michael J. Carden
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Victory Weekly welcomes columns, commentaries, articles and letters from our readers. Send submissions or comments to michael.carden@iraq.centcom.mil, or drop by Trailer 40 behind Building 0.

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