



Trialogue

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Brigadier General Arthur Gerwin, USAF (Ret.)

President and Chairman

B.L. Rice, Editor

Hurrah for Our Heroes!

RFLA Salutes Veterans in Honor of Veterans Day, November 11, 2008 Our WWII Veteran RFLA Members Tell Their Stories

JUDGE BENTLEY KASSAL

From 1943-1945 during World War II, Judge Bentley Kassal served as an air intelligence officer in the A-2 intelligence office responsible for the close-support operations of the 12th Tactical Air Command. His specialty was the location of targets for U.S. aircraft as well as being a Luftwaffe-German Air Force expert. Duties took him to the North African, Sicilian, Italian, French, and German theatres of war.

1944 was a busy year for the Allied Forces and Judge Kassar spent the beginning of that year in a mountainous region of southern Italy, which was the site of the bombing of the Abbey of Montecassino.

Kassar had daily contact with the intelligence officers of all the Fifth Army divisions at the Cassino front, as well as receiving daily reports and photos from its fighter bomber and photo reconnaissance squadrons flying constantly in that sector.

Montecassino, February 15, 1944:

"The American ground troops were completely stymied from advancing north to Rome on Highway 6 by the continuous and extremely effective German artillery shelling, all directed from the completely untouchable vantage Abbey. Kassar remarks, "President Roosevelt had absolutely forbidden any Allied air or artillery attacks because of its critical religious significance. However, although we had large numbers of American, Polish, French (including the North African Goums [French Moroccan soldiers]) troops dug in on the side of the side of the mountain who had suffered continuous great losses, their inability to attack the Abbey continued for several weeks.

Until Montecassino, the Allies' progress had been very



Courtesy of Judge Bentley Kassar

Capt. Kassar (r.) briefing General [4 stars] Hap Arnold, near Cassino.

slow and bloody, but steadfast. There was no alternative, either to attack the artillery positions in the Abbey or to lose the initiative and troops in great numbers.

That is the true background with no realistic choice but to attack the Abbey and clear it of artillery and their spotters or possibly lose the battle.

Regarding the sagacity and military judgment of General Mark Clark, he played no real role in the decision to attack. It was solely that of President Roosevelt. I express no opinion here as to General Clark's effectiveness in the Italian campaign. Although I landed on D-Day on both the beaches of Gela, Sicily and Salerno, Italy and planned tactical air targets from D-Day on in both sectors, I express my

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JUDGE BENTLEY KASSAL

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opinion that General Patton in Sicily was an outstanding military strategist.

P.S. Incidentally, a rather interesting personal incident took place the day of the aerial bombardment. Our advance XIIth tactical Air Command headquarters with the advance headquarters of the Fifth Army, was about 10 miles from Montecassino, on the side of a small mountain, very similar in appearance to the Abbey mountain but somewhat smaller, also, like Montecassino, with a small building atop our mountain. The assigned 15th Air Force Strategic bombers, from Foggia, Italy (on the eastern part of Italy) with little flying experience in our sector, absolutely rejected our general's invitation to have fighter-bombers lead them directly to the Abbey target. In essence, the answer was 'we know how to navigate and we don't need your help' — all pride.

As it played out, on the day of the actual attack on Montecassino, three of the heavy bombers mistook our small mountain for Montecassino and the navigator-bombardiers dropped almost 6 bombs on our headquarters. Fortunately, no one was injured except myself when I hit the ground so hard I tore the skin on both my knees. But even in pain, I nevertheless had great pride and joy at finally seeing the bombers overhead at 10,000 feet as a result of my target planning."

Salon-de-Provence, France - September, 1944

"This event occurred in September, 1944, a few weeks after we made the very successful invasion landing at St. Tropez, France, just east of Marseille. Although this was my third D-Day landing, the previous ones at Gela, Sicily and Salerno, Italy, I was never trained in ground combat. The invasion had been a complete and overwhelming success and, as distinguished from the Normandy invasion, all of our ground units moved rapidly to the north. As a result, many German soldiers were overrun and remained behind our lines because of the speed with which our troops advanced. Thousands of German tanks, weapons and other military vehicles were abandoned and strewn all over the roads and countryside.

Our air headquarters was then established in Salon,

in Provence, Southern France. One day, shortly after we had set up camp, a French farmer arrived at headquarters to report that a group of 15 German anti-aircraft soldiers, who had been stationed for a long period on his farm, wanted to surrender. However, they would only do so to the Americans and, above all, not to the French Forces of the Interior (the FFI)—a very brave but ruthless group of French partisans. They were very fearful that they might be executed. Since I spoke French (6 years at high school and college), I quickly volunteered to go with him as an American officer to his farm to negotiate their surrender. I thoroughly relished the thought of this unusual experience.

As an air intelligence officer, I had no combat training or orientation and knew nothing about undertaking an enemy surrender. Further, I had none of the savvy of the ground troops on how to approach the enemy (despite my experiences on my three D-Day landings). However, I clearly recalled the John Wayne macho from his films and imagined how he would handle this courageously and fearlessly.

I requisitioned a 2-1/2 ton truck with driver and six enlisted men with carbines (all from our air corps non-infantry trained cadre). We drove to the farm and at a distance of 200 yards, à la John Wayne (having no other guiding experience), I barked out to the enlisted men to leave the truck and yelled 'alright men, I'm going up ahead — cover me!' To the best of my recollection, that's exactly how I figured John Wayne would have handled the situation.

We slowly approached without incident and entered the farm house with the farmer. He immediately left us to go across the open field—a distance of about 300 yards. He returned within minutes accompanied by 14 bedraggled Germans—almost all being either over 50 or under 16. I asked for their commander and was told he remained behind to be certain we were Americans and not the F.F.I. The farmer and one soldier again ran across the field. Ten minutes later, a tall good-looking captain arrived. He spoke English quite well and I observed that he and I had many things in common. Both of us were 27 years old, lawyers and he was about my height—a sharp contrast to his men who were so very old or very young for combat duty.

I asked him in English what he thought about the war. After acknowledged having seen the tremendous numbers of our troops, trucks, tanks and our planes overhead, his answer floored me. He said 'we will win because Hitler has a secret

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weapon'. In truth, the then-secret V-2 rocket was about to be unveiled against England and, in fact, it proved to be very terrifying but ineffectual, having no impact on the outcome of the war.

Naturally, I was both astounded and then enraged by his response but I realized that he was a prisoner of war and there was nothing I could do to retaliate and punish him. However, I quickly developed what I deemed to be the appropriate response to his unwarranted pride, confidence, and belief in Hitler.

I looked him directly in the eye and said: 'Did you ever think you would be taken prisoner by a Jew?' His eyes and facial expression quickly proved that I had taken the proper course and delivered the coup de grace. If ever one could see hatred in a person's face, there it was and I reveled in it." □

JUDGE MARTIN EVANS:

Judge Martin Evans kept a diary during WWII and below is an excerpt.

“July 29, 1944

An appropriate title for this day could be taken from Vincent Sheehan's book - *A Day of Battle*. The column, with the



Courtesy of Judge Martin Evans

Capt. Martin Evans, AUS, in front of the half-track, an armoured vehicle with front wheels and tracks in the rear.

2nd Battalion of the 41st Infantry Regiment as advance guard, moved southeast through Pont Brocard and Notre Dame de Cenilly where it halted temporarily. A German group was attempting to move south or southeast and we had met it. After intensive indiscriminate firing, Lt. Col. Coleman organized an attack to the west

from the road and a goodly number of Germans were killed. Our own losses were negligible. A motley mixture of troops was present in that attack- our infantry and tanks attached to them, an artillery battalion, a platoon of tank destroyer guns, and about 2 1/2 platoons of Co. L, 8th Infantry, 4th Div, who had been leaderless until organized and placed on the right of the armored groups. Too much ammunition was fired in this engagement. At its conclusion the column moved forward to set up road blocks about 5400 yards, 320 degrees mag azimuth [northwest] from St Denis le Gast. While moving into this area a fight was started with a German SS unit which apparently had seen our billeting party choose that area and

which was waiting for the battalion to move in. Fighting lasted until morning, with the advantage on the German side because of their previous knowledge of the land and their readiness for battle, but their losses far exceeded ours in men, although we lost several vehicles. Lt. Col. Coleman, our battalion commander, and Mr. Gurley, our Battalion adjutant, and about 4 men were killed, one of them being crushed by one of our own tanks. We also had several wounded men. German losses were about 30 dead and more wounded. One prisoner, who was very much worried that he would be killed, came in about 0430 July 30. He was overjoyed to hear that we do not kill prisoners. The morale of the men in the battalion was excellent all through the fighting; even the cooks and clerks who had rifles and other weapons ready to do their job. (NOTE: I was the officer who organized the leaderless 2 1/2 platoons of Co. L")

July 30 1944

Quiet settled over the battalion at first light and the day was spent in continuing the digging in of the area, the collecting of prisoners who either were captured or turned themselves in, and in the reorganization of personnel and vehicles. Tentative estimate of losses for us were 2 officers and 3 enlisted men killed, 1 enlisted man missing and 18 men wounded. Estimated enemy losses were 65 killed and 185 captured. We lost one mortar half-track and the enemy lost 1 Mark 4 tank." □

JUDGE EDWARD J. GREENFIELD

“The Last Days of World War II

As a Naval Intelligence officer who had just participated in the capture of a Japanese ship in the South Pacific crammed with over 3,000 first line troops, which we were taking into port in the Philippines, I arrived in Manila to be stunned by the news of the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

When the Japanese indicated they were prepared to surrender, I was hurriedly dispatched as an officer conversant with the Japanese language with an advance team to negotiate the preliminaries to a truce prior to the ultimate signing of the formal articles of surrender. Aboard a speedy destroyer, we plowed through a monstrous typhoon to the No. 1 Japanese naval base at Kure, in the Inland Sea.



Courtesy of Judge Edward J. Greenfield

Lt. (s.g) Edward J. Greenfield, U.S. Navy, at Tokyo Bay, 1945

Having arranged for pacification of the base and the remaining fleet, a group of us commandeered a vehicle and drove to the nearby city of Hiroshima, the first Americans to enter that city not very long after the bomb had been dropped. It was the most horrific and devastating sight I had ever seen. The entire city was leveled to the ground from the coast to the mountains,

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JUDGE EDWARD J. GREENFIELD

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except for the gaunt skeletons of the one or two steel and concrete buildings that protruded from the ashes. People away from Ground Zero were still dying, but no one had warned us of any radiation hazard.

We then went to Nagasaki, also a daunting sight, though its many hills had blunted the total destruction. Shortly after, six of us sat on the beach facing the sea as the U.S. ships arrived, greeting the armed Marines who were storming ashore. The war was over, and the Occupation had begun." □

COLONEL RUSSELL S. KNAPP

As the lead navigator serving on an air crew as part of the 486th Bombardment Group (Heavy) during WW II, **Colonel Russell S. Knapp** related how life could be during a mission run.

"Some of one's experience in war results from foul-ups which could have had serious consequences. One of my missions in the 8th Air Force involved a deep penetration in Germany. Our formation was briefed on the direction of the flight, the altitude at which the flight was to bomb the target and the speed at which to fly.



Photos Courtesy of Colonel Russell S. Knapp

Lt. Russell S. Knapp, Navigator, 833rd Bombardment Squadron

The altitude of the bombing run was however not discernible by the Germans. The AF used a formula to set each daily bombing run.

Thus, if base altitude was set, at say, 10,000 feet and the bombing run at 25,000 feet, reference to the bombing altitude would be referred to as 'base

plus 15,000'. Base was changed every mission. On the particular mission in question while the formation was ascending to the prescribed altitude, someone asked what today's bombing altitude would be. Somebody answered base plus 15,000. Twenty minutes later, someone asked over the air what today's base was. When somebody answered the question, a gigantic groan was heard throughout the formation since we all knew the enemy monitored our communications.

When my group changed over to B-17s from B-24s and now used radar equipment, my crew on its first radar mission flew deputy lead, leading the high flight. During the mission, the lead crew in the middle flight had to drop out and my crew took over the lead while still leading the high group. This new type of formation at the target area so surprised the Germans that they didn't fire their anti-aircraft guns and we completed our mission scot-free.

When we first arrived in England in March, 1944, it did not take the Germans long to work their propaganda on us. They told us over the radio the name of our CO, the Letter to adorn the tail on our planes, where we trained and other info designed to unsettle us. The V-1s and V-2s were no pleasure either. But we got used to the V-1s and it wasn't before long that we didn't take to the air raid shelters. The V-2s were a different story. You only heard the boom of the explosion with no early warning. You had to be lucky to survive under the circumstances!" □



A rare color photo of the B-24 flown by Knapp, known as the Superstitious Aloysius. (Photo courtesy of Colonel Russell S. Knapp)

BOOK REVIEW by Monsignor Harry Byrne, Senior RFLA Chaplain

SURVIVAL IN THE SHADOWS: Seven Jews Hidden in Hitler's Berlin,

Barbara Lovenheim, Center for Holocaust Awareness and Information, Rochester, NY 2002, 239 pp.

Out of the author's smooth flowing prose, the fascinating story is told of Doctor and Ms. Arthur Arndt, their children, Erich and Ruth, Charlotte Lewinsky and her daughter, Ellen, and Erich's friend, Bruno Gumpel, and their successful survival in Berlin while it was being "cleansed" of Jews by the Gestapo. As the "cleansing" intensified, the seven went into hiding. They became "U boats" –living under the surface. Since neighbors knew them as Jews, they resorted to various subterfuges to explain their disappearances from the community, as, for example, alleging a visit to a distant sick relative or staging a fictitious suicide, leaving a farewell note and their yellow star and Jewish identity papers. They had to find friends and neighbors who would house them for a while. A kind of network developed and the members of the group moved separately from place to place around the chain, finding shelter and the meager food that they could obtain. It was a chilling existence, the danger of being apprehended by the Gestapo or turned in by a Greifer – a Jew who had turned informer as a way of surviving. They lived under the constant threat of capture and then shipment to Auschwitz, or one of the other death camps. Heart-breaking scenes occurred as individuals kissed mothers, aunts, and others as they were relentlessly marched off to the collection centers.

The men were more vulnerable than women because a strip search would reveal circumcision. The women with Aryan features, especially the young, attractive Ellen, could afford to move around more easily, employing various stratagems to survive. Ellen's mother one day entered a restaurant and was told that there was no available table. She pointed to a table occupied by a single German officer and joined him with his pleased agreement. She fumbled in her pocketbook for her ration cards. "Oh, my!", She said, "I must have left them at home". The officer gallantly offered his cards and Charlotte was able to continue the meal with him. He invited her to join him the following week. She agreed and found a series of such luncheons quite pleasurable and valuable as meal tickets. Then one day after lunch, he invited her to his room for a chat and a glass of wine. She had not counted on this but accepted for the following week, but then failed to show up, deeming the situation too risky.

Who were the "Righteous Gentiles" who sheltered this little group? They were pious Lutherans and other Christians, individuals following no religion, and some former patients of Doctor Arndt. Then there were Jose and Carmen Santaella, devout Catholics, who sheltered some of the group at their country house and hired Ellen and Ruth to care for their four girls. As an official at the Spanish Embassy in Berlin, Santaella was in a privileged position yet risked international complications if caught harboring Jews.

The allied bombings of Berlin brought new dangers both from the devastating explosions and the threat of recognition in the air-raid shelters, which they prudently decided not to use. As the war ended and Russian and American troops arrived, there were a series of happy endings. Erich and Ellen having been married while in hiding, now had their marriage consecrated in a double ceremony with Ruth and Bruno at the Kottbuser Ufer synagogue, where Erich had been bar mitzvahed. The synagogue had been destroyed but a small annex had been reconstructed with American aid. The author describes in details the gowns in which the brides were dressed and the clothing of the grooms. The author's splendid writing with such details of appearance, street scenes, the hiding places, the weather, and personal characteristics sets the reader down in the various scenes themselves. (A classic sentence: "Erich went to the factory the next morning as usual, pedaling through the chilly air and watching the sun rise as it cast a warm yellow glow around the squat brown tenements.") Being thus placed on the scene, the reader feels the terror, the strength, and resourcefulness of the dramatis personae as they move through Hitler's horror to the war's end, arrival in New York on May 20, 1946 aboard the USS Marine Flasher, and their new lives in the United States.

The readers' immersion in the lives of these survivors is enhanced by thirty pages of photographs, showing the various personages in more youthful years before the war, then immediately after the war, and on to old age with family photos of Erich and Ellen, Ruth and Bruno, with their children and grandchildren in 1993 in Rochester, NY. on the fiftieth anniversary of their weddings. This is a memorable page-turner of a book with its incredible story of suffering, deaths, redemption and new life. □

What's Been Going On in 2008

❖ RFLA honored its World War II veteran members at the January 15, 2008 Annual Members & Director Meeting. Judge Martin Evans, Judge Bentley Kassal, the Honorable Norman Goodman, Mr. Arthur Harris, Judge Edward J. Greenfield and Col. Russell S. Knapp received Certificates of Appreciation and ribboned medals commemorating their service in WWII. (Colonel Knapp was not available for the photo.)



All Photos on This Page By Judge Joseph S. Levine



Judge Martin Evans and IG Robert R. Salman



Judge Joseph S. Levine, Hon. Norman Goodman, and Richard Babinecz, Esq.

RFLA 2008 Annual Awards Banquet



FBI Honoree SSA Elizabeth Gallagher and Hon. Mark J. Mershon, ADIC



SAC John P. Gilbride and DEA Honoree ASAC Richard Santa Ana



ASAC Delano A. Reid and ATF&E Honoree SA Gerald T. Raffa



USMS Honoree Asst. Chief Deputy Donald P. O'Hearn & U.S. Marshal Eugene J. Corcoran, EDNY

All Photos on This Page By Uli Seif



Capt. Robert O'Brien & USCG Honoree Chief Petty Officer Michael Di Trani



Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly & NYPD Honoree Deputy Commissioner Richard A. Falkenrath



Col. John P. Melville, Field Cdr. & NYSF Honoree Trooper Daniel C. Snyder, Jr.



Hon. Anthony R. Whitaker, Chief of Inspection & PA NY/NJ PD Honoree Michael G. Hurley, Manager of WTC



Hon. William A. Morange, Dep. Exec. Dir. & MTA Honoree, Chief Kathleen M. Finneran



RFLA Essay Winner Jane Karpis, RFLA Essay Judge Lauren Visco-Rigal, and RFLA Runner-Up Salvatore Comodo



Defender of Counterintelligence Honoree Mr. Paul M. Joyal and Gerald J. Turetsky, Esq.



Benedict P. Morelli, Esq. and Defender of Fair Journalism Honoree Mr. Jonathan F. Dienst



Cav. Robert G. Fonti and Defender of the NYS Purse Honoree NYS Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli



James W. Quinn, Esq. and Defender of the Judiciary Honoree Hon. Dennis Jacobs, Chief Judge, 2nd Circuit, USCA



Hon. James D. O'Donnell, surprise presenter to RFLA Founder, Brig. Gen. Arthur Gerwin, USAF (Ret.)



Defender of the City Honoree Hon. Raymond W. Kelly, Commissioner, NYPD and Hon. James D. O'Donnell



Defender of U.S. Justice Honoree Hon. Michael B. Mukasey, U.S. Attorney General and Judge Gregory W. Carman, Chief Judge Emeritus, U.S. Court of International Trade

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What's Been Going On in 2008

❖ The RFLA Annual Banquet was held Tuesday, May 27, 2008 at the Harmonie Club in Manhattan. The United States Navy Honors Guard presented the Colors, followed by "The Star Spangled Banner" sung by Diva Carol Kaszar. After the National Anthem, Taps was played. An invocation and blessing was given by Father Raymond J. Nobiletti. The program continued with a toast by General Arthur Gerwin to the President of the United States. During dinner the Navy Band Northeast performed a Sousa concert and the Emerald Society of Pipes and Drums thrilled the audience. Nine law enforcement agencies honorees and six RFLA Leadership Eagle honorees received Eagles. RFLA again honored – not one – but two student essay contest winners this year. Lauren Visco-Rigal presided as the essay contest judge with the RFLA Essay Contest committee which chose Jane Karpis as the winner, and the runner-up, Salvatore Comodo. A special eagle was presented to General Arthur Gerwin in recognition of his outstanding leadership of RFLA. Lt. Gerhardt, USN, bandmaster of the Navy Band Northeast also received a Certificate of Appreciation and Judge Roslyn Mauskopf was honored with a gavel set.

❖ RFLA also held a LESMAP (Law Enforcement Senior Managers Appreciation Program) night honoring the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) New York Office on Thursday, September 11, 2008 at Mutual of America, for which RFLA thanks for hosting the Event. The United States Coast Guard presented the Colors followed by Courtenay Schowalter singing the National Anthem. Father Raymond J. Nobiletti officiated in a memorial for the victims of 9/11. Three members of the Emerald Society of Pipes and Drums on bagpipes and drum marched into the hall with stirring music for the memorial and dinner ensued. After dinner, Certificates of Appreciation were presented to the DEA honorees, with Miss Lillian Carlson announcing each honoree, assisted by the Honorable James O'Donnell; his son, Mr. John Kerry O'Donnell; and Richard A. Dienst, Esq. □

The DEA honorees



All Photos on Pages 8-9 by Ben Asen

Piper from the Emerald Society of Pipes & Drums

USCG Color Guard with Captain Robert O'Brien, USCG (r. between flags) looking on with approval.

Top:
Sgt. Anthony Francis,
USA (Ret.), playing taps.
Middle (l. to r.):
Emerald Society of Pipes
& Drums, NYPD; John
O'Donnell; John helping
his father James O'Don-
nell pass out Certificates
of Appreciation.
Bottom left:
Courtenay Schowalter
singing the National An-
them.
Bottom right:
Lillian Carlson reading
the names of the DEA
honorees.



RFLA DIRECTOR LTC MICHAEL HOBLIN IN AFGHANISTAN:

U.S. Support Brings Growth to Kabul School

(Source: American Forces Press Service)

KABUL, Afghanistan, Oct. 22, 2008 – Afghan children are benefiting and thriving thanks to sustained efforts by a U.S. task force and a program that is helping to expand and improve their schools.



Afghan girls and boys show their delight at the opening of a new wing at the Tajwar Sultana Girls School in Kabul, Afghanistan. U.S. Army Photos by Capt. Robert Romano

A new addition to a Kabul school was opened over the weekend in a ceremony that included Afghan officials, school faculty and U.S. military officials, as well as the local contractors who completed the work.

“This is the greatest day of my life. I feel as though I am the mother of all these children,” said Rabia Abdullah, principal of the Tajwar Sultana Girls School. “We used to teach them in tents, and now we have a school.”

The school is located within the Afghan capital’s Police District 4 in a village known as Kololah Pushta. More than 4,000 students, mostly girls, attend classes there in three shifts each day. The curriculum includes primary school in the morning, high school in the midday and middle school in the afternoon.

Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix, based at Camp Phoenix here, has been investing U.S. funds in Afghan school and community construction and rehabilitation projects through the Commanders Emergency Response Program [CERP] as part of its mission to support the government of Afghanistan and its people.

The task force’s primary mission is to train and mentor the Afghan army and police, but it also supports efforts to build infrastructure and communities as part of the larger effort to assist Afghanistan.

With an investment of \$185,000 through CERP and under the task force’s supervision, Afghan contractors built a new 10-classroom school that opened in April. The Afghan Education Ministry coordinated with the construction plan and assisted with the design. Additional projects to add a new story with 10 more classrooms at a cost of \$155,000 and to renovate an older building at a cost of \$58,000 were completed last month.

Previously, many classes were held outside or under tents because an existing structure built almost 30 years ago was in poor condition and there was not enough space to meet students’ needs.

The faculty includes 120 teachers, all of whom have been trained at one of the Education Ministry’s training centers. Teachers earn 4,000 to 6,000 afghanis per month, which equates to about \$100 to \$140.

In all, the projects have resulted in the construction of 20 new classrooms and the renovation of 30 more. While the student population has grown significantly since the fall of the Taliban, the students-per-classroom number at Tajwar Sultana has dropped from 70 to about 35 – the Education Ministry’s recommended maximum.

The school now is positioned to expand its curriculum for computer and science programs. “Education is the future of our country,” said Najibullah Kamran, director of education for the city of Kabul.

“When I first came to Afghanistan I did not know what I would focus my time on,” said Lt. Col. Michael Hoblin, a New York Army National Guard officer serving as the director of Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix’s civil-military operations office.

“After my first school opening, I realized education was the key to progress. How can Afghanistan have a bright future if the children are not educated?” he said. “We have built or started construction on 47 schools throughout Afghanistan. If you look into the eyes of these children, you can see hope. These kids need and deserve our help. There is progress here.” □

(From a Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix news release.)



Lt. Colonel Michael Hoblin, New York Army National Guard

More Photos of Colonel Hoblin and the School Children in Afghanistan.



Origin of Veterans Day

When the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, it officially marked the end of the Great War, as World War I was known at the time, with the armistice actually taking effect seven months earlier on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, November 11, 1918. Later in November 1919, President Woodrow Wilson declared November 11 as Armistice Day.

On May 13, 1938, Armistice Day was made a legal holiday by an act of Congress which was amended on June 1, 1954 to change its name to Veterans Day to honor American veterans of all wars.

It is interesting to note that when the Federal three-day holiday weekends began in 1971 when the 1968 Uniforms Holiday Bill took effect, there was a great deal of protest of moving Veterans Day from its original date due to its historical significance. Thanks to a 1975 law signed by President Gerald R. Ford, the holiday once again was returned to its original date on the eleventh month on the eleventh day in 1978, regardless of what day of the week on which it falls.

Source: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



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Inform the public of the roles of judges, jurors, lawyers and law enforcement personnel in America's justice systems;

Interest and inform youth concerning the important roles of American court systems in their lives;

Enhance the media's understanding of the roles of America's civil and criminal justice systems, their structures, operations and the people who function therein;

Recognize the achievement of high quality performance by persons engaged in the administration of justice on national, state and local levels; and to support efforts to improve public and private facilities dedicated to the administration of justice everywhere;

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