



**Special points of interest:**

- St Patrick's Day 2013
- 69th Soldiers Return Home
- Hurricane Sandy
- Message from the Commander

## 69th Regiment Newsletter



### General Frank J. Grass visits the 69th on St. Patrick's Day

General Frank Grass visited the 69th to attend the Unit Day festivities. March 17, is the 69th Regiment's Unit Day and each year the Regiment leads the St. Patrick's Day Parade after attending a special Mass held for the unit at St. Patrick's Cathedral. In previous years General Martin Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff visited the Armory and sang "We are the Fighting 69th", an old Civil War song and had unit members sing the chorus. This is the 162nd time the Regiment has lead the St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York City.



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### Message from the Commander

I would like to thank the Officers, NCOs ,and Soldiers of the Unit for their dedication to duty and outstanding performance this year , especially the Soldiers who returned from deployment. It's great to have you back with us.

### 69th Soldiers return from Deployment

On January 28th, 2012, C Company was mobilized at Camp Smith, NY and re-designated B Company 2-108 Infantry. Three days later the company flew to Camp Shelby, Mississippi for two months of individual and collective training including mounted and dismounted live fire, cultural and threat training,

and familiarization with specialized equipment. During this period, the Company was tasked to support two separate missions with the majority of the Company preparing to deploy to Afghanistan and the rest training for a multi-faceted mission supporting Third Army in Kuwait. In April, the Afghanistan

deployers attended a rotation at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, California for nearly a month of demanding training in a realistic environment close to that of Afghanistan. Soon after the completion of this training on May 8th, those

## 69th Soldiers return from Deployment (cont'd from page 1)

headed to Afghanistan were deployed Their mission supporting Afghan National Police in securing Highway One in western Afghanistan. Over the next five months, the company conducted over 200 dismounted, mounted and aerial patrols along the highway assisting and assessing police forces and collecting intelligence on insurgent and criminal networks in the area. In late September, the Company was ordered to redeploy earlier than expected and returned to Camp Shelby for demobilization and on to New York for a final homecoming.

### WELCOME HOME



### Learn the Bagpipes

The Garryowen Club is sponsoring a Regimental Bagpipe Band. It is hoped that each company will have a bagpiper to march with the company on St. Patrick's Day and to be used on special company occasions. Chris Finnegan, the Piper for the Regimental Staff will teach interested soldiers on Thursday evenings throughout the year. If you are interested email [history@sixtyninth.net](mailto:history@sixtyninth.net) and say you are interested in learning the bagpipes, Musical experience is not necessary but if you have the interest to learn the pipes join the team. The Garryowen Club will provide practice chanter and instructional materials to interested soldiers.

### Head of the Irish Defense Forces visits Armory



The day after his visit with President Obama, Lieutenant General Seán Mc Cann visited the

69th Regiment with his ADC Lieutenant Colonel Tom O’Callaghan, and Colonel Seamus McDermott, Military Adviser to the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United



### Hurricane Sandy



Assembly for Relief Efforts



Assisting FEMA distribute food in Manhattan

During Super-storm Sandy members of the 69th were activated to assist Federal, State and local authorities with the rescue and cleanup effort. Sandy was one of the largest storms to hit the East Coast. Three members of the unit, Sgt. Kenny Bharose, Sgt. 1st Class Israel Mahadeo, and Sgt. Michael Palopoli were awarded the New York State Medal of Valor, the State’s highest military award.

### Union League Club



On April 26th the Union League Club hosted a military style dining in for Officers and NCOs of the 69th and 369th Regiments. General Raymond T. Odierno, the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army attended. The formal event was a great success.



NEW YORK STATE MEDAL OF VALOR

## 1848 Tricolour Celebration in Waterford

For the third year in a row representatives from the 69th Regiment were invited to attend the 1848 Tricolour Celebration in Waterford, Ireland in March. SFC Dennis Rick and SSG Colin Stewart attended with COL (Ret) Jim Tierney. The 1848 Tricolour Celebration commemorates the first time the Irish National Flag was seen when Thomas Francis Meagher hung it out his window in Waterford City in March 1848. Before the Civil War, Meagher command one of our lineage Regiments. He served with the 69th during the Battle

of Bull Run and later formed and commanded the Irish Brigade. While in Ireland, the group visited the 69th Regiment Monument in Ballymote, County *Sligo* and stayed at the Granville Hotel in Waterford which is the house where Thomas Francis Meagher was born.

SFC Dennis Rick and SSG Collin Stewart in lobby of the Granville Hotel in Waterford Birthplace of Thomas Francis Meagher



## Alpha Company attends 150th Anniversary of Marye's Heights

Alpha Company was a part of the 13 December 2012 commemoration of the Battle of Fredericksburg which was a high profile event coordinated by the Town Council of the City of Fredericksburg, Virginia and the National Park Service. The commemoration was attended by the general public, Alpha Company 1-69th IN, the 69th Veterans Corps and dignitaries from the governments of the United States and the Republic of Ireland.

The Company traced their fore fathers steps and marched up the local city streets as all of the town bells tolled ending on the Sunken Road. There they Saluted the Battalion colors with the 1-116 IN from Virginia once a Confederate unit who fought in the Battle of Fredericksburg.

Jim Finucane, Councilman from County Kerry, Ireland who attended the event said when the tenacity and courage of the 69th changed the perception of the Irish as "un-kept immigrants" to courageous soldiers. And he believes it is a turning point for Irish Heritage.

John J. Hennessy , Chief Historian at Fredericksburg for the National Parks Service said that after the charge up Marye's Heights, soldiers on both sides who fought in the battle would refer to their location on the battlefield in relation to where the Irish Brigade fought.

### Fredericksburg After Action Report

The 69th Regiment New York Volunteers entered the battle of Fredericksburg, on December 13, 1862, commanded by Col. Robert Nugent, and 18 commissioned officers and 210 rank and file, in which the above numbered regiment lost 16 commissioned officers and 160 rank and file, leaving Capt. James Saunders, Lieutenant Milliken, and Lieut. L. Brennan to bring the remnant of the regiment off the battle-field.  
**JAMES SAUNDERS**  
*Captain, Commanding Sixty-ninth Regiment*

