

INFANTRY LETTERS



INFORMATION SOUGHT ON ZEROING M16A2 RIFLE

The 2d Battalion, 29th Infantry Regiment, in conjunction with the Army Research Institute (ARI), has begun a study to determine whether the M16A2 zeroing procedures outlined in Field Manual (FM) 23-9, *M16A1 and M16A2 Rifle Marksmanship*, are in need of revision. Preliminary results indicate that an M16A2 rifle, when zeroed at 25 meters in accordance with the manual, will shoot high on a 300-meter target when aimed center of mass.

We would appreciate any information INFANTRY readers may have on the subject. The following are specific topics of interest:

- Information on why the 25-meter zero standard was adopted for the M16A2.
- Any modifications to the FM 23-9 zeroing procedures being used in the field to address the tendency of a properly zeroed M16A2 to shoot high at the 300-meter target when aimed center of mass.
- Studies concerning the trajectory of the M16A2 round.
- Studies concerning the most common engagement ranges in recent U.S. combat operations.
- Problems with the rifle's rear sight.
- Comparisons between U.S. Army and U.S. Marine Corps M16A2 zeroing procedures.

Anyone with information that may be of value to this study is invited to call the 2d Battalion, 29th Infantry, at DSN 784-6922 or commercial (706)

544-6922. Points of contact are MAJ Dougherty and MSG Sump.

MICHAEL A. PHILLIPS
LTC, Infantry
Commanding Officer

RESEARCHING SOLDIERS OF "SLAUGHTERHOUSE FIVE"

I am conducting research on the 141 U.S. prisoners of war who were held in Arbeitskommando 557 in Dresden, Germany, in early 1945. These were American soldiers from the 106th Infantry Division who had been captured during the Battle of the Bulge and subsequently transferred to Stalag IV before being assigned to Arbeitskommando 557. This Arbeitskommando was made famous in the book *Slaughterhouse Five* by Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. These soldiers were present in the meat locker during the bombing of Dresden in February 1945 and were subsequently forced to search for and dispose of the dead following the raids.

We have located approximately 60 of the 141 soldiers and would like to hear from anyone who has knowledge of any survivors, or any documentation or photographs of Dresden, either shortly before the bombing or in the aftermath.

We are also interested in finding anyone who may have conducted interviews of, or investigations into, the returning prisoners. Two of the group did not come back: Edward Crone, Jr., died of malnutrition in a prison camp, and Michael D. Palaia was executed for

stealing a can of food. I would greatly appreciate it if anyone having knowledge of these two men, or any of the others from "Slaughterhouse Five," would contact me at S76 W22280 Knoll Drive, Big Bend, WI 53103; telephone (414) 662-4547.

FRANK J. IDZIKOWSKI

SHAEF/ETOUSA VETERANS ASSOCIATION REUNION

The 11th National Reunion of the Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF) and the European Theater of Operations, U.S. Army (ETOUSA) will be held in Chicago, Illinois, 6-9 October 1995.

For additional information, write to me at 2301 Broadway, San Francisco, CA 94115; telephone or FAX (415) 921-8322.

ALAN F. REEVES

EDITOR'S CORRECTION

In the article "Peacekeeping Operations in Somalia," by Lieutenant William A. Kendrick (May-June 1995, page 31), the author's biographical data was inaccurate. During the deployment to Somalia, Lieutenant Kendrick led a platoon in Company D, 3d Battalion, 15th Infantry, and is now the battalion's signal officer.

Our apologies to Lieutenant Kendrick for the confusion.

