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ELVIS!



In light of the new *Elvis!* movie and its depiction of the King's military service, we would like to report on the multiple memorials to be seen in the area where he served. Elvis was in HHC 1-32 Armor, a battalion of the Third Armored Division, from October 1958 through March 1960. The battalion was at Ray Barracks in Friedberg, Germany, but Elvis and his entourage lived first in a hotel and then in a rented house in nearby Bad Nauheim. The Third Armored Division was deactivated after the Gulf War in 1992 and Ray Barracks was closed and given back to the Germans in 2007. A life-size bronze statue was installed just last year on the USA Brücke in Bad Nauheim in time for their annual European Elvis Festival, held on the weekend closest to his August 16th death day. There is another sculpture in the middle of the traffic circle in front of where Ray Barracks used to be. The Hotel Grunewald in Bad Nauheim celebrates their fame with a memorial to the King out front. A walk in the nearby Eichkopf Training area reveals a set of tank barrier blocks inscribed "GI Elvis Presley was here in 1958". At one end of the USA Brücke is a commemorative bench with musical notation, a guitar, and a microphone. But funnest of all is that the traffic lights at the crossing to the bridge use an Elvis likeness for the pedestrian indicators.



Irish Korean War Memorial

Ireland was not a member of the United Nations during the Korean War and did not send any troops to fight. However, many Irishmen fought for other countries in the conflict, including for the United States. Recent Irish immigrants to the US enlisted to fight in the hopes of securing citizenship. In fact, of the 35 names listed on Ireland's Korean War Memorial in Lixnaw, 27 served in the US Army and one was a US Marine! Unfortunately, the citizen laws were vague and when the conflict was over military service did not help on the path to citizenship. Under growing pressure, Congress passed a law in 1953 accelerating the citizenship process for people who had served in war, but the Korean War vets were not grandfathered. The situation wasn't resolved until 2006 at the dedication of this memorial, when the 28 were granted their US citizenship posthumously. Also of interest to us are the US soldiers killed in combat and now buried overseas. The United States brought all war dead home from the Korean Conflict and did not leave anyone buried overseas. But many of these Irishmen still had deep roots in Ireland so their families elected to have their remains repatriated to the homeland. We are proud to record 22 isolated burials in Ireland in our database. And these burials reflect a rich history of Irish service in the American military: fifteen died in the Korean Conflict, one in Vietnam, six in WWI, and one in the Civil War. One was awarded the Navy Cross and one the Distinguished Service Cross. Our Irish comrades have shed blood with us.

