



Central Valley Chapter - California Land Surveyors Association  
[www.californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org](http://www.californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org)

# THE Central Valley Chapter PRISM

Volume 5, Issue 3

May 2015

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## 2015 Chapter Programs

Adopt-A-Road:  
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Boy Scout Merit Badge:  
Zachary Wong (Coordinator)  
TrigStar:  
Bill Koch (Coordinator)  
Workshops:  
Rich Brown (Coordinator)

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Up  
Coming  
Meetings!

**Date:** May 27, 2015

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

**Location:** Perko's @ 901 North Carpenter Road, Modesto

**Speaker:** Kevin Jorgenson, PE, PLS

**Topic:** City of Manteca

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**Date:** June 24, 2015

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

**Location:** Perko's @ 901 North Carpenter Road, Modesto

**Speaker:** Kimberly Wilson - Living Legacy

**Topic:** The Effect on a Changing Economy. What to Expect.

## Announcements

### FINAL FILING DATE

The final filing date for **refile** PE/PLS/SE is July 6, 2015

Test Date: PS is October 30, 2015

CA PLS is November 2, 2015

Final filing date for Spring 2016 tests are:

New PLS is November 2, 2015

Refile PLS is January 11, 2016

### FINGERPRINTING REQUIRED

Legislation has been passed requiring the Board to verify all applicants' fingerprints for criminal history prior to approval. Effective July 1, 2015, all applicants will be required to submit fingerprints prior to certification/licensure. This applies to all new and refile applicants. Please click [HERE](#) for further information.

### 2015 MEMBERSHIP IS NOW DUE

You should have received your 2015 membership bill from State CLSA. When you send in your dues, please don't forget to send in your Central Valley Chapter dues to the Chapter. We will be updating our membership database, so **please update your information**. You can also pay [online through the chapter website](#).

The Central Valley Chapter will waive chapter dues for any members (or new members) who have become victims of the current economic downturn and are unemployed. Please fill out the Membership Application, enter "Unemployed" on Line 7 for the Name of Firm or Agency, submit your application, and your 2015 chapter dues will be waived.

## Classes, Training, and Continuing Education

# Mark Your Calendars

### CAD Masters - AutoCAD Level I (3-Day Course)

May 26-28, 2015, Sacramento  
June 8-10, 2015 Walnut Creek  
June 22-24, 2015 Sacramento  
July 7-9, 2015 Walnut Creek  
July 20-22, 2015, Sacramento

[Register here](#)

### CAD Masters - AutoCAD Level II (2-Day Course)

May 18-19, 2015, Walnut Creek  
June 8-9, 2015, Sacramento  
June 20-21, 2015, Walnut Creek  
July 23, 2015, Sacramento

[Register here](#)

### CAD Masters - AutoCAD Level III

June 4, 2015 Walnut Creek  
July 30, 2015, Sacramento

[Register here](#)

### CAD Masters - AutoCAD Civil 3D Adv. (2-Day Course)

June 10-11, 2015, Sacramento  
July 13-14, 2015, Walnut Creek

[Register here](#)

### CAD Masters - AutoCAD Civil 3D Intro (3-Day Course)

June 1-3, 2015, Walnut Creek  
June 15-17, 2015, Sacramento  
June 29-July 1, 2015, Walnut Creek  
July 13-15, 2015, Sacramento  
July 27-29, 2015, Walnut Creek

[Register here](#)

### Land Use Navigators - Subdivision Map Act

May 22, 2015, Fresno

[Register here](#)

### Lorman Education: Platting and Subdivision Title Issues

June 18, 2015, Webinar

[Register here](#)

### CLSA Workshop: Speaker Michael Dennis

GPS, Geodesy, and the Ghost in the Machine  
June 26, 2015, Sacramento

[Register here](#)

If you have information about a training or class, please submit to: [editor@californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org](mailto:editor@californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org)

## Thoughts From the Editor



I would like to take this moment of your attention and stress the importance of utilizing the knowledge that you have at your disposal. We lost another long time surveyor this past month. Robert Snyder, L.S. 4726, passed away on April 19, 2015. He started surveying under Walt Brookey in 1963. He obtained his Land Surveyor's license in 1978. Bob retired in 2007 after 44 years in the profession. His passing is a great loss to surveying. Take this loss as a reminder to talk with our experienced surveyors. Hear their stories, learn their lessons and most of all enrich your own skills with their knowledge, before it's too late. I would like to say thank you to all the men and women that have dedicated their lives to land surveying and the profession.

If you would like to comment on this topic or suggest another, please submit it to:

[editor@californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org](mailto:editor@californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org)



CLSA EDUCATION FOUNDATION

*Land Surveying Photo Gallery*



California Land Surveyors Association Education Foundation would like to thank Bryant Sturgess for generously donating his collection of historic images.

The proceeds from the photos sold on this website will be used to fund scholarships for land surveying students.

## Current Events

Adopt-A-Road, Claribel Road, Riverbank - March 7, 2015



From left to right: Jim Landrum, Rich Brown, Landon Blake, & Tom Price  
Photo taken by Keith Spencer





## State News

### Introducing NGS Regional Geodetic Advisor Dana Caccamise

By Scott Martin, PLS

During my surveying career in California, I have had the privilege to work with the first National Geodetic Survey (NGS) Geodetic Advisor to California, Don D'Onofrio, and the second, Marti Ikehara. My work with them was primarily focused on planning and executing Height Modernization projects in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Sacramento Valley. However, they were both very involved with the California Spatial Reference Center (CSRC) where I have been a member of the Coordinating Council since 2001. We worked together at the CSRC, including being involved in awarding NGS funded Height Mod contracts administered by the CSRC. I also worked very closely with Marti during the last year of her NGS career, even touring parts of California with her to spread the Geodetic "Gospel." Don transferred to California from Alaska in 1990, where he was serving as the Geodetic Advisor. Through a cooperative agreement between NGS and Caltrans, which was executed to support the development and implementation of the High Precision Geodetic Network (HPGN), the NGS Geodetic Advisor to California position was created. Caltrans served as the State partner for this program, funding roughly half of the salary for the position, as well as providing office space and support, from its inception in 1990 until its conclusion in March, 2013, when Marti retired.



Before Marti's retirement, the NGS had already decided to move away from the State Advisor concept involving a local partner in most of the States, like Caltrans, and transition to a Regional Advisor concept, fully funded by NGS and covering all of the United States. Consequently, the contractual relationship and partnership between NGS and Caltrans was not renewed. Following Marti's retirement, California was without an assigned Geodetic Advisor for more than 18 months, as NGS worked to get hiring exemptions during a period that included a shutdown of the Federal government. During the hiatus, adjacent, and not-so-adjacent NGS Advisors assisted with covering the more pressing NGS Advisor needs in California, including providing OPUS Project Manager Training through two CSRC/CLSA organized workshops in June of 2014. Mark Armstrong, NGS Advisor to Oregon, and Bill Stone, NGS Regional Advisor to New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah, served as instructors for those workshops. Their efforts above and beyond to assist California during the dark and rudderless period of being without an NGS Geodetic Advisor were much appreciated.

But, those days are over now because California and Nevada now have a NOAA/National Geodetic Survey's (NGS) Pacific Southwest Regional Advisor. Introducing Dana Caccamise.

He will be assisting the geospatial community throughout California and Nevada—including public- and private- sector surveyors, GIS professionals, engineers, and earth scientists—with proper application of the National Spatial Reference System.

Dana is a recent addition to the NGS, and he previously held geodetic management and engineering roles in the Geodesy

*Continued on page 5*



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## Geodetic Advisor, *cont. from page 4*

and Geodynamics group at The Ohio State University (OSU). While working at OSU, Dana participated and collaborated in a wide range of global geodetic research projects that emphasize geophysical applications of continually operating GPS/GNSS stations. As a result of these efforts, Dana was awarded an Honorary Doctorate and several other awards and accolades from both Bolivia and Chile for contributions to geodesy in South America. Dana's notable credentials include his Doctoral Candidacy in Earth Sciences/Geophysics at The Ohio State University and Master's Degrees in Geophysics and Geodesy from both The Ohio State University and the University of Hawai'i at Manoa.

The California Spatial Reference Center (CSRC), located at Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO) at the University California San Diego (UCSD), is currently hosting his position. Dana also now holds a Research Associate position in the SIO's Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics (IGPP) department.

### A personal note from Dana:

*I am in the process of relocating to the warm sunny weather of San Diego, a place where most geodesists can only visit or even dream about. The achievements and good works of people like you, the readers of this article, play a significant part for the existence of the Geodetic Advisor position, and certainly not a minor consideration in my desire to take on this role. Let's face it; today and in the recent past, California & Nevada is where the geodesy innovations have occurred. I am not a betting man, but if I were, I'd bet it will continue for quite some time and I would very much like to be a part of these successes. I am also very grateful to UCSD's California Spatial Reference Center for hosting my position, and of course the NGS's optimism that I can represent them to the fullest extent. As I get further along in my position, I look forward to meeting all of you soon, possibly at one of your local chapter meetings.*

For more information about the NGS and its products please visit: <http://geodesy.noaa.gov>

The advisor program can be found at:  
<http://www.geodesy.noaa.gov/ADVISORS/>

For more information about the CSRC please visit:  
<http://csrc.ucsd.edu>

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## National News

### The Artillery Surveyors in WWII—Africa and Europe: Part 2 of 3: Quite Different from C&GS Work Written by Albert "Skip" Theberge

There were at least fifteen officers of the Survey attached to Corps Artillery organizations in Italy and in the drive across France and through Germany. The oldest of those was Charley Schanck. He was over 40 years old, but volunteered to leave a nice comfortable office job in D.C., and go to where the action was. After training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, Schanck was transported to Le Havre, France and then found his unit assigned to the Third Corps of Patton's Third Army. He was survey officer for the 288th FAOB, apparently a unit which replaced Battery B of the 285th FAOB, following the infamous Malmedy Massacre. Did he ever find the action! He was thrown right into the Battle of the Bulge, his personal account having him going into action on December 20th with portions of the unit located within 15 miles of Bastogne. The following is an excerpt from a letter he wrote to the Director, U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey:

"We have tried hard to forget many things they taught us at Fort Sill and learned a number they didn't mention. As you know any comparison with the quality of the work we do and Coast Survey work is out of the question, but so are the conditions under which we do it. We have been working in about two feet of snow with the temperature in the teens and low twenties. One day we ran twelve kilometers of traverse in a snowstorm into a city that had been encircled three or four days earlier, and counted numerous interdiction shell holes along the road enroute home that hadn't been there when the survey was made. I have seen range poles cut in half and tripods shivered and have watched an 88 shell burst within 60 feet of myself, instrument man and recorder, leaving us all unscathed but spraying the ground generously two hundred feet beyond us."

In classic understatement, Schanck went on to say, "Yes it is quite different from C&GS work."

Al Levy, a forward observer with the 288th, recalled his personal experiences in the Battle of the Bulge in a reminiscence (<http://www.veteransofthebattleofthebulge.org/2014/07/07/a-forward-observer-in-the-bulge-al-levy-288th-faobn/>). After being nearly blown to bits by a German shell in an already heavily damaged farm house, Levy recalled: "Later on the same day, in that same house I heard some weird noises coming from the basement. I went down to investigate and found one of the Army Infantry Sergeants, holding a 45 pistol and crying. I asked if I could help him. He kept saying 'I can't stand this any longer'. I went back upstairs to my First Lieutenant, in charge of tagging and sending wounded soldiers back to 1st Aid Stations and asked him if he could send the guy downstairs to the rear lines to get some help. He said 'Hell No! If we send everyone back who doesn't want to be here, there would be no one left to fight this F--- war!' I returned back down to the Sergeant in the basement and he finally gave me his gun. I have often wondered what became of him!"

"My most vivid recollections of my World War II Service include seeing my first American GIs shot dead and lying frozen in the snow banks, the horrible sounds of the shells, mortars and screaming meemies hitting the snow and turning it black. My most haunting memory is the feeling of the bitter cold, snow and heavy rain. I suffered permanent damage of my toes from frostbite, lying in the foxholes in the middle of winter, in the Battle of the Bulge."

Concerning the 288th FAOB, one sound ranging observer married his instructor illustrating a little known aspect of the war. Although the survey school was at Fort Sill, at least some of the sound ranging observers were trained at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. Observer John Kelley of the 288th Battery A, sound ranging unit, trained at Fort Monmouth and fell in love with his instructor, Mary Grieser, and married her after the war. As in many other aspects of the home front war, women were put in positions that were almost exclusively male prior to the war.

*Continued on page 11*



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## Classifieds

### SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT HAS OPENING FOR ASSISTANT SURVEYOR III

SCVWD is looking for an Assistant Surveyor III. The opening is in the Land Surveying and Mapping Unit, under the Division of Watersheds Design and Construction.

**Closing Date:** May 21, 2015

**Location:** San Jose, California

**Salary:** Based on a seven-step salary plan. Pre-tax payroll deductions toward CalPERS contributions are required of all employees.


**Duties:** To perform a variety of technical land surveying, work with some oversight, in support of construction, photogrammetric, right-of-way, and hydrographic survey activities; to create, prepare and modify electronic or computerized surveying and mapping data; to operate a variety of survey equipment on a survey crew; to record notes and make calculations in the office; to utilize a variety of technical surveying or engineering computer software/hardware and to perform related work as assigned.

**Experience:** Two years of responsible practical field or office surveying and mapping related experience at the Assistant Surveyor II Level (or a total of three years of experience).


**License of Certificate:** Possession of a Land Surveyor in Training certificate is desirable.


For more information or to Apply [CLICK HERE](#)

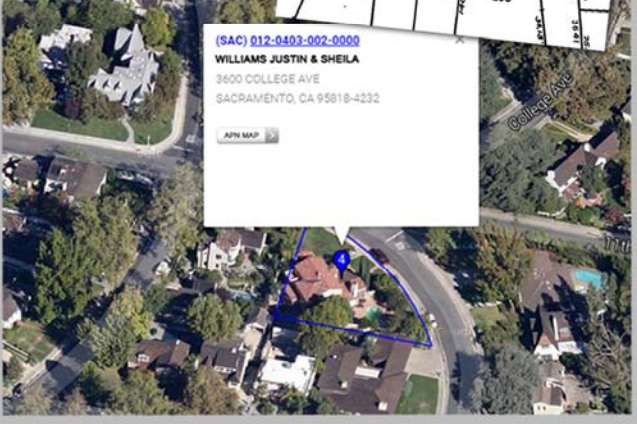
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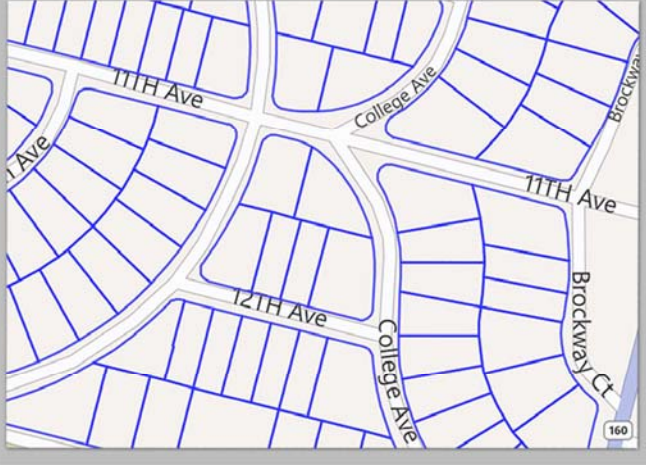
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## Pictures of the Issue

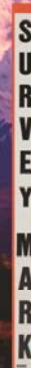
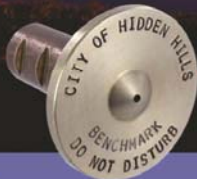


Tommy turtle was caught snoozing on a monument preservation job. You simply cannot find good help nowadays. As the chapter chairman of the monument preservation committee, I went off on Tommy Turtle for snoozing on the job. After thinking about my rampage I went back and apologized. Tommy turtle promised me to do better in the future. Submitted by Mike Quartaroli, LS 4450

If you have a historic or interesting photo you would like to see in a future edition of The Prism, please submit to: [editor@californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org](mailto:editor@californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org)

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## Monument Obituaries

By Mike Quartaroli, L.S.



Another great beast has been slain. This behemoth of a monument, known as "T-179", was set by the U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey in 1951. It had an elevation of 17.91 feet, NGVD 29. The bronze disc is set on a 13" diameter pillar of concrete 6 feet long! It is located on the north side of Bowman Road approximately ½ mile west of I-5. This great monument was struck down during the spring of 2013. This prominent and well known monument, along with others, was instrumental in the development of Reclamation District No. 17 located east of the San Joaquin River between Stockton to Lathrop. They do not make monuments like this any longer.

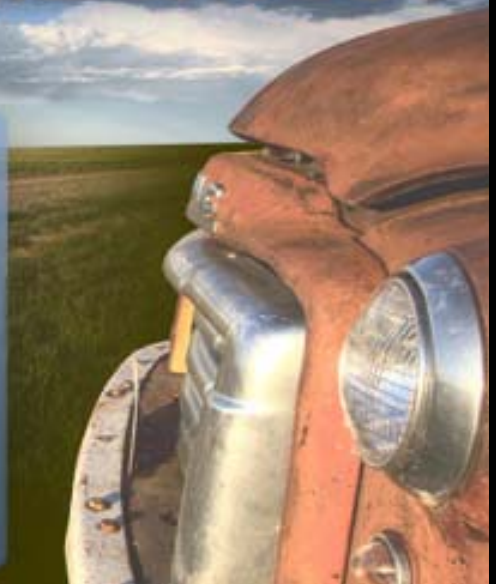
Donation of your time to the CLSA Central Valley Chapter Monument Conservation Committee is requested.

## THE SUBDIVISION MAP ACT

### *A One-Day Seminar*

**This seminar provides guidelines for effective use of the Subdivision Map Act.**

- New Legislative and Judicial developments in 2014
- When the Map Act applies (and when not)
- What kind of Map (tentative/final or parcel map) to use
- Exemptions and Exceptions under the Map Act
- Life of Tentative Map
- Conditions of Approval/Exactions/Dedications/Fees
- Creative mapping approaches
- And more...



# Just For Laughs

## A Couple of Laughs about Engineers

Three men: a project manager, a software engineer, and a hardware engineer are helping out on a project. About midweek they decide to walk up and down the beach during their lunch hour. Halfway up the beach, they stumbled upon a lamp. As they rub the lamp a genie appears and says "Normally I would grant you three wishes, but since there are three of you, I will grant you each one wish."

The hardware engineer went first. "I would like to spend the rest of my life living in a huge house in St. Thomas with no money worries." The genie granted him his wish and sent him on off to St. Thomas.

The software engineer went next. "I would like to spend the rest of my life living on a huge yacht cruising the Mediterranean with no money worries." The genie granted him his wish and sent him off to the Mediterranean.

Last, but not least, it was the project manager's turn. "And what would your wish be?" asked the genie.

"I want them both back after lunch" replied the project manager.

## You Might Be an Engineer if...

your favorite James Bond character is "Q".

you see a good design and still have to change it.

you still own a slide rule and you know how to use it.

your family haven't the foggiest idea what you do at work.

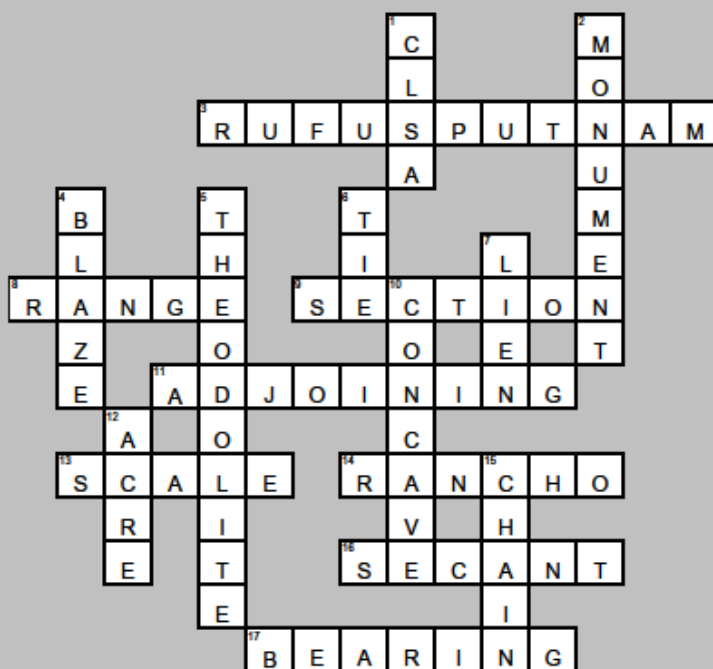
you think the real heroes of "Apollo 13" were the mission controllers.

you think "cuddling" is simply an unproductive application of heat exchange

you have owned a calculator with no equal key and know what RPN stands for.

you make four sets of drawings (with seven revisions) before making a bird bath.

## Terms of the Profession: Answers to March 2015 Puzzle



A land surveyor, a physicist, and an engineer were all given a red rubber ball and told to find the volume.

The land surveyor carefully measured the distance from one side of the ball to the other with his Total Station and used it in the formula  $\frac{4}{3} \pi \left(\frac{d}{2}\right)^3$ .

The physicist filled a beaker with water, put the ball in the water, and measured the total displacement.

The engineer looked up the model and serial numbers in his red-rubber-ball table.

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## The Artillery Surveyors in WWII... cont. from [page 6](#)

Just how different this work was from home front duty was underscored by the experiences of Fair J. Bryant, survey officer of the 285th FAOB and Joseph P. "Jupe" Lushene, commanding officer of the 16th FAOB during the Battle of the Bulge.

### Malmedy Massacre

On December 17th, the second day of what became known as the Battle of the Bulge, Battery B of the 285th FAOB was proceeding south on its way to take up new positions in support of the Third Army. It was proceeding forward against retreating U.S. troops when it encountered the German Battle Group Peiper, a take-no prisoners spearhead unit, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Joachim Peiper. After the lightly armed Battery B surrendered, over 80 officers and men of Battery B were taken to a field and slaughtered by the German troops in what came to be known as the Malmedy Massacre, one of the most infamous atrocities of the war.

Fortunately for Coast Surveyor, Major Fair J. Bryant, the executive officer of the 285th FAOB, he wasn't with Battery B on December 17. The remainder of the battalion began moving on December 18th and took a route further to the west, although, they too were almost caught by the rapidly advancing German units. The 285th worked in Luxembourg for the next couple of weeks on the south side of the Bulge joining their counterparts in the 16th and 288th FAOBs. Much of the work was done at night requiring use of range poles with highly directional lights. In spite of the directionality of the lights, there were instances of survey crews being fired upon as both American and German troops would shoot indiscriminately upon open lights. Following the Battle of the Bulge, the 285th returned to the vicinity of Aachen, Germany, and then took part in the rout of the Germans across Germany, ending their pursuit in Chemnitz.

As a footnote to Fair Bryant's Army service, W. E. Smith, Battalion Survey Officer for the 285th, relates that Bryant wrote the battalion survey manual in longhand with no reference to notes or other documents. This was typed by the battalion clerical staff with no corrections being made. Mr. Smith, who was a professional surveyor both before and after the war, relates that, "Try as hard as I could, I could find no error in the work. That document was the best evaluation and explanation of survey procedure that I had ever seen."

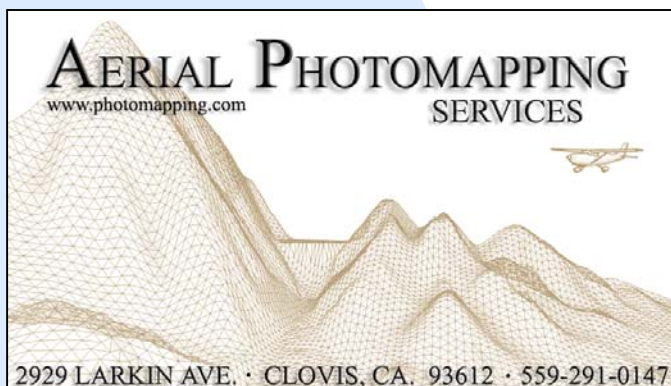
### Earning the Iron Cross

Coast Surveyor "Jupe" Lushene, who was both commanding officer of the 16th FAOB and the VIII Corps Artillery Survey Officer, had to be warned not to expose himself to enemy fire by the VIII Corps Artillery Commander because it was felt that he was irreplaceable. That he had a propensity to do so is shown by an occasion on which he personally made the necessary reconnaissance for a sound base on Schnee Eifel Ridge, Germany, to locate German mortars which were firing from only 700 to 1000 yards away. In 1955, Brigadier General John B. Horton, Deputy Commanding General of the Army Artillery Center at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, wrote:

..."On 16 December, the day the Battle of the Bulge started, many of the Observation Battalion installations were overrun. Lt. Colonel Lushene saved much equipment and lives by his coolness and disregard for personal safety while under hostile enemy fire....Lt. Colonel Lushene did a fine job of withdrawing his battalion, frequently under small arms and artillery fire as well as attack by ground forces of tanks and infantry. I feel that he should have been awarded at least the Legion of Merit for his actions during this period." [During the period that the 16th FAOB was attached to VIII Corps, Brigadier General Horton was Assistant Commander of the VIII Corps Artillery.]

[Click for Complete Article](#)

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