

**Harry "Goodback" Walthall**  
**Lubeck 1957 - 1960**  
**MOS: 988 Russian Linguist**

**1958**



**2000**



I was assigned to B Co 307<sup>th</sup> ASA Bn, Rothwestern, FRG, along with other members of ALS, R-6-41 Class, Jerry W. Moran, Don Meyer, and later Jon Hunter. My first major assignment was to monitor "Sputnik One" as it circled earth every 90 minutes. B Co Commander was 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jay F. Helms and Executive Officer Lt. Neilsen. First Sergeant was Donald G. Fields. In November 1957, Jerry, Don and I were assigned to the Co B Lubeck Detachment in Lubeck, FRG, where Lt. Bell was Detachment Commander. At first, we lived in Jurg Haus, then moved to Zwingli Haus. Jerry Moran and I roomed with another of our classmates, Jon in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor rear of Zwingli Haus. On that floor was Roy Clark in the front room, Bad Back Harry Rogers in the middle room, and the 3 of us in the rear. In late 1957, the unit was designated Co B, 319<sup>th</sup> ASA Bn. An NCO Haus was leased near Zwinglistrasse on Rathenaustrasse, across from a beautiful park. Here my roommate was Denver R. "Del" Campbell. Hunter, Moran, and I were again roommates when the NCO's moved to the Hotel Reauterkrug on Moislinger Allee.

In 1958, Carl Blecher and I went to the Opel Bruns dealership across the Walkenitz where he bought a pea green 1955 Mercedes convertible touring car; and I bought a pea green 1955 BMW 5201 four-door sedan with suicide rear doors. Later had this car repainted navy blue, rechromed, retrofitted to US specs, then shipped to the US on my return. These two cars were used as official vehicles in Jim and Heinke Shaw's wedding in June 1959.

In January 1960, I became the first to voluntarily leave Lubeck, transferring to 502<sup>nd</sup> ASA Gp in Heilbronn. My brother, Major Melvin Curtis Walthall and family had been assigned to another kaserne across the city. June 1960 DEROS'd to NSA, Ft Meade, MD where I reunited with Ron Johnson, Badback Harry Rogers, Chips Shutt, Bill Bessel, David Dean Truitt, Ted Plisko, Jim "Squeaky" Somerville and others; and later with Del Campbell. These former Lubeckers attracted many others of like persuasion and the NSA and surrounding affiliates grew to great numbers. Many memorable times were had including visits to Carol and Bell Bessel's Baltimore home and Chip Shutt's family home near Baltimore where we met his beautiful sister and swam at the most delightful swimming hole I've ever seen. Our great memories include a trip to the Eastern Shore of Maryland to Dean Truitt's family home, the beautiful US capital of Washington DC, Ron Johnson's roommate hopping pad in Glen Burnie, MD, and the journey to DC in January 1961 in my 1960 Corvair Monza Sport Coupe (in a snow storm) to attend the John F. Kennedy

Presidential Inauguration. (Which the half-dozen of us watched on TV at a warm friendly bar in College Park, MD seeking refuge there from the snow storm and deciding we wouldn't be missed)

I married a beautiful young lady in March 1961 that I had known since she was 8 years old. Beatrice Jean (Kurosky) Walthall. We had three sons; Christopher, Timothy, and Anthony. Del and Ilse Campbell were aunt and uncle to our boys. Del and Ilse have been our close lifelong friends; Chris is southwestern director of sales for a national wholesale chemical. Tim is manager of a TX owned super market, and Tony is Radio Shack store manager in La Jolla, CA. We divorced in 1992 after 31 ½ years and have eight grandchildren, six girls and two boys, and one unknown grandchild on the way.

I made the US Army my first career choice, got out of the ASA in 1964 with five years and five months in grade as E-5. Made E-7 in less than two years and E-8 in another five years. Had a tour in RVN, Americal Division (23<sup>rd</sup> Inf Division) in 1967/1968. Had a three-year tour in Italy during 1968/1971. Attended US Army Sergeants Major Academy, Ft Bliss, TX, Graduating Class 7 in July 1976. Last overseas tour was unaccompanied as Post Sergeant Major, Grafenwoehr Training Area and Sub-Post, FRG in 1977/1978. Retired from the Army in March 1980 at Ft Hood, TX as Sergeant Major, E-9. Began second career as accountant, budget analyst, Director of Financial Management, and Comptroller at Central Texas Junior College (CTC) across the highway from Ft. Hood. While working there, completed BS in Business Administration, MS in Business Management at Tarleton State University (TSU), Texas A&M University System. With MS, taught Business Management courses part-time for 3 ½ years at CTC and TSU. In 1991, I began a third career at TX Dept of Health, Austin, TX. Retired as Chief Accountant on 1 July 1999. Began receiving Social Security in June and moved to Lancaster, TX just south of Dallas in August 2000. YA"LL COME!