



63rd Infantry Division Newsletter

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All information in this Newsletter is developed by Fred Clinton, Webmaster, 63rd Infantry Division and does not necessarily reflect the views of other individuals and is in no way an Official Publication of the 63rd Infantry Division or 63rd Infantry Division Association.

Well it has been about one year since my last newsletter so I thought I'd better do another one just to let you all know that I was still alive and kicking.

Much has transpired since the last newsletter relating to the existence of the 63rd Infantry Division Association and unfortunately none of it is all that great.

I will try to recap where we are now and what it looks like in the future for the Association.

A special Note: I just realized that this newsletter has been published for just over 14 years.

Where does the time go?

NATIONAL REUNIONS

As previously stated in prior newsletters, the Association will no longer have National Reunions due to dwindling membership and ability of many of our members to travel.

I have heard nothing from the two "active" chapters, IMOK and Philadelphia, about having or scheduling any mini reunions.

If I hear anything I will include the information on the Reunion Page of the 63rd Infantry Division Website.

DISPOSITION OF THE 63RD INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION:

As you know, the 63rd Infantry Division Association is in the process of closing the books and deactivating. I announced this sad notice previously on my 63rd Infantry Division Face Book page. At the time of the initial notification from the President and Vice President there was some assurance that the 63rd Infantry Division Association would live on as part of the 63rd Infantry Division Association (USAR). For a few years we even had members of that Association on our Board of Directors. Up until recently it was almost assured that the USAR group would

PHOTOGRAPHS AND IMAGES:

As usual I am asking for you to search your files, files of your father or grandfather, for any photos relating to the 63rd Infantry Division in Training, Combat or on Occupation Duty.

I am still receiving a few photos, but I know there are more out there just waiting to be added to our historical files. In this regard I periodically send new sets of unit histories and our pictorial history files to the many addressees mentioned previously.

REMEMBER IF YOU DON'T RECORD THOSE WWII PHOTOS IN OUR HISTORICAL FILES, THEY MAY BE A

LOSS TO OUR CHILDREN, FAMILY AND HISTORIANS

You can send them to me, Fred Clinton at 102 S. Jenkins Street, Alexandria, VA 22304 or if you prefer by e-mail attachments or on CDs or DVDs.

I would ask that if you are sending digital photos that they be in jpg or pdf format. Also where possible a caption would be nice for identification purposes.

Note: Any hard copy photos sent to me will be returned as soon after processing as possible.

FRENCH LEGION OF HONOR MEDAL:

The good news is that I continue to hear from our veterans that they are the recipient of the French Legion of Honor, having applied for that award as outlined at the following address.

www.63rdinfdiv.com/LegionofHonorpage1.html

So it is not too late to make application for this prestigious award.

BRONZE STAR MEDAL FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE:

If you are a veteran of the 63rd Infantry Division and a recipient of the Combat Infantryman or Combat Medical

absorb our surviving members, files, history, treasury balance and newspaper, the Blood and Fire.

Recently I received word from the USAR group, via their publication "The Blade" that their membership did not approve a merger "due to some problems relating to the Blood and Fire publication". What a disappointment and a short-sighted decision by the members of the USAR group.

So it looks as if when our books are closed we will no longer live on, at least not as an organized Association.

I, of course, will continue to act as Historian for the WWII 63rd Infantry Division and as webmaster for the 63rd Infantry Division web site at www.63rdinfdiv.com. That is as long as I am able.

I was also notified that our donation of \$5000 to the National Army Museum being constructed at Fort Belvoir, VA has been made and acknowledged. Basically this means that our division name and information will be posted in a place of honor in the Museum.

I have been notified by Judith Schaefer, Vice President of our Association that there will be one more and final issue of The Blood and Fire. When, I am not sure, but I will keep you informed if I hear anything new about this.

Rest assured that despite the refusal of the USAR group to accept us into their Association, the WWII 63rd Infantry Division will continue to live on in the form of the 63rd Infantry Division Web Site and the many CDs and DVDs that I have sent to a number of museums, libraries and US Army Schools.

VETERANS DAY 2014

In a couple of weeks we will be honoring all of our veterans and in particular those who gave their all in Combat for their country.

I am sure that there will be the usual ceremonies in your home town as in mine. But it would be appropriate if you were to take a little time to view the names and details on our comrades that were killed in action, died of wounds or were killed in a non-combat situation.

Take a few minutes to view our Honor Roll which contains over 1000 names of our comrades who gave their all during WWII. Go to the following address for page one of the honor roll:

www.63rdinfdiv.com/honorrollpage1.html

While you are at it take the time to visit the

Badge you should check the following page on our web site to see the correct procedure for applying for the award of A Bronze Star Medal for Meritorious service. Immediate next of kin can also make the application if the veteran is no longer living.

www.63rdinfdiv.com/bulletinboardpage2.html

If you want to make an application but do not have the proper documentation to support your request, please contact me at joyclint@comcast.net and I will see if I can find the necessary documentation to make the application.

CD'S AND DVD'S CONTAINING UNIT HISTORIES

I am still able to produce the History CDs and DVDs listed at the following address:

www.63rdinfdiv.com/memorabiliapage4.html

Prices for the CDs and DVDs are contained on that page. Just let me know which one or ones you want, send a check to me in the proper amount and your priceless history CDs and DVDs will be on the way within a couple of days.

THE BULLETIN BOARD

Just how many of you have checked the 63rd Infantry Division Web Site Bulletin Board? Not many, I guess. Well there are a number of interesting items where military historians are seeking information about WWII in general or a specific battle. You will also find information telling you how to make application for all of your medals or maybe request award of the Bronze Star Medal if you are the holder of a Combat Infantryman or Combat Medical Badge. The one thing you won't find on the Bulletin Board is a KP or Guard List.

Go to the following address to access the Bulletin Board Section of the web site:

www.63rdinfdiv.com/bulletinboardpage1.html

DEDICATION OF A NEW WING AT THE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM IN NEW ORLEANS, LA

On 12 December 2014 the National WWII Museum in New Orleans, LA will have a dedication ceremony of a new wing of the museum relating to the European Theater of Operation.

The Museum personnel have invited one member of each division that participated in the European Theater operations to attend as a special guest. They

Regimental and Div Arty sections of the web site where you will find citations for the various awards earned by division units and soldiers- Presidential Unit Citations (4 for 254th and 3 for 253d), Croix de Guerre with Palm (254th), Medal of Honor (1-253d and 1- Div Arty). You will also find citations for those earning the Distinguished Service Cross.

will also be able to bring a guest with them. The veteran selected must have a good knowledge of the history of his division and be able to discuss selected events that appear in the new wing

I am honored to say that I have been selected by the 63rd Infantry Division to represent the 63rd Infantry Division. I will attend the ceremony with my wife, Joyce.

In the interim I have just mailed a complete updated set of 63rd Infantry Division Historical DVDs to the National WWII Museum to be used in their library.

I will be sure to add some photos of the event in the Miscellaneous Photo Section of the Web site.

Just a few words to wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday period. Also a Happy New Year

It is not likely that I will issue another newsletter before the end of the year so I guess I should extend my wishes to you all for those holidays soon to come.

Thanks for your support all of these years.

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