



63rd Infantry Division Newsletter

Issue Number 63

December 2017

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 over a year since I last published our Internet Newsletter, and what a year it has been. Last December 7, my darling wife Joyce fell down our basement steps and did fatal damage to her brain and spinal cord. I found her at the foot of the stairs and she was unconscious, called EMT, they arrive quickly but she never regained consciousness and passed away on 12 December after her doctors determined that there was nothing more they could do for her. Needless to say I have been in somewhat of a confused state ever since and still have not come to grips with the loss of my soul mate. For the rest of this newsletter I will try to come up with more positive and happy subjects.

Availability of historical data relating to the 63rd Infantry Division:

The Historical items for sale in the Memorabilia section of the web site are still available for the most part. Check what is available at the following section of the 63rd Infantry Division web site:

www.63rdinfdiv.com/memorabiliapage1.html

I also still have some 63rd Infantry Division and 254th Infantry Regiment Challenge coins available.

Combat records and files provided to other historical units

I recently provided detailed information relating to the Jagst River battles to a German re-enactment group at their

Historical Assistance for Veterans and their families.

Requests for assistance with information concerning the 63rd Infantry Division has tapered off somewhat over the past year, although most of what I have received has been from relatives of veterans rather than from the veterans.

This is understandable since all of our veterans have to be over 90 years old. I just turned 90 this year, but I entered service with the 63rd Infantry Division at Camp Van Dorn, MS at the age of 16.

I was able to obtain some awards for our veterans despite significant obstacles placed in my way by those that don't quite feel close to WWII veterans, since that war was almost 76 years ago.

I will mention that with the correct application and supporting documents the US Army Awards Branch is still approving the award of the Bronze Star Metal for Meritorious Service for those of us who were awarded the Combat Infantryman or the Combat Medical Badge during WWII. Details can be found on Page 2 of the Bulletin Board of the 63rd Infantry Division website. If you have questions relating to this award or how to apply, please contact me at joyclint@comcast.net. **(Note: Next of kin can make application for this medal to be awarded posthumously to the veteran)**

Also I will mention that the French Government is still making awards of the French Legion of Honor to American Servicemen who had a hand in liberating France. Details for making application for that award can be found at :

(Note: If the veteran is deceased, next of kin cannot make application for this award)

www.63rdinfdiv.com/LegionofHonorpage1.html

request. Let's hope that they realize who won that battle.

Events of 73 years ago:

Seventy-Three years ago the three Infantry Regiments of the division were on the high seas heading for a landing at Marseilles France on 8 December 1944. That is hard to imagine it was that long ago. The division would go on to make itself proud of the combat successes it experienced during the 5 months after our landing.. Units of the division earned and were awarded seven(7) Presidential Unit Citations and a French Croix de Guerre during their time in combat.

Historian's comments:

Recently, now that I am alone I began to look at outside activities to keep me busy and to keep my mind off of my loneliness and sorrow.

On 11 November 2017 I was asked to participate in the Veteran's Day Memorial ceremony at the National WWII Memorial in Washington DC. I accepted and was glad that I did. The ceremony was well attended and although most of the WWII veterans in attendance were either in wheel chairs or using a cane, like I do, we stood proud and assisted in laying a number of memorial wreaths at the memorial.

I have also been asked to attend to upcoming memorial ceremony for Pearl Harbor day at the National WWII Memorial. I plan to attend this ceremony also.

Looking to expend my outside interests I recently joined the Alexandria, VA chapter of the American Legion. I hope to meet with a number of WWII veterans who are also members of that Chapter. Of interest is that immediately upon my joining, the Chapter Adjutant came by my house and among other things offered the services of the American Legion to help me get around and make my life easier. I was impressed with that gesture.

Well I guess that is about all for this newsletter. I will close by wishing all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

If you get the chance during the holidays, take the time to hug a veteran and thank them for their service to our country. This also applies to the active members of our military.

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