



Blood and Fire



63rd Infantry Division Association

• ARDENNES / ALSACE • CENTRAL EUROPE • RHINELAND • CAMP VAN DORN

Vol. 40 No. 3

MAY 1988

SARASOTA, FLORIDA



*St. Louis, MO
Welcomes the . . .
63rd Infantry
Division Association
AUGUST 3-6, 1988*

**63rd Infantry Division
Association** BLOOD and FIRE

40th Anniversary



CAMP VAN DORN
ARDENNES / ALSACE • CENTRAL EUROPE
• RHINELAND •

*St. Louis
Where the Mighty 63rd meets
The Mighty Mississippi*

*Plan to join us for our gala
40th Anniversary Reunion.*

Blood and Fire

Published by the 63rd Division Association to perpetuate the memory of our fallen comrades, to preserve the Esprit de Corps of the Division, to assist in promoting an everlasting peace.

Three Issues Annually

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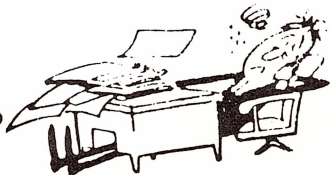
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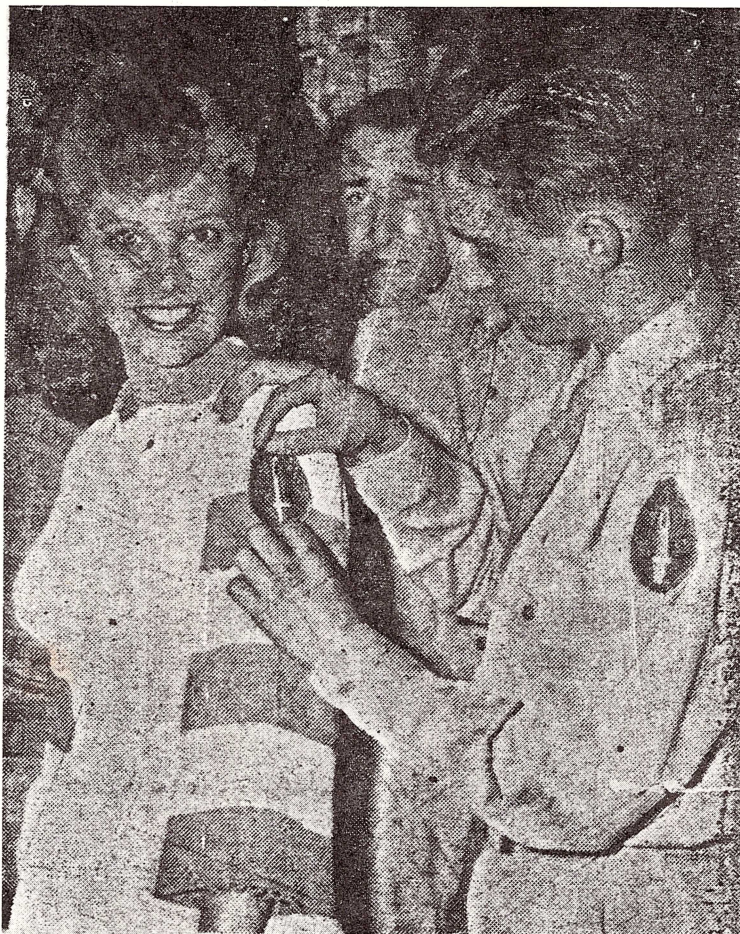
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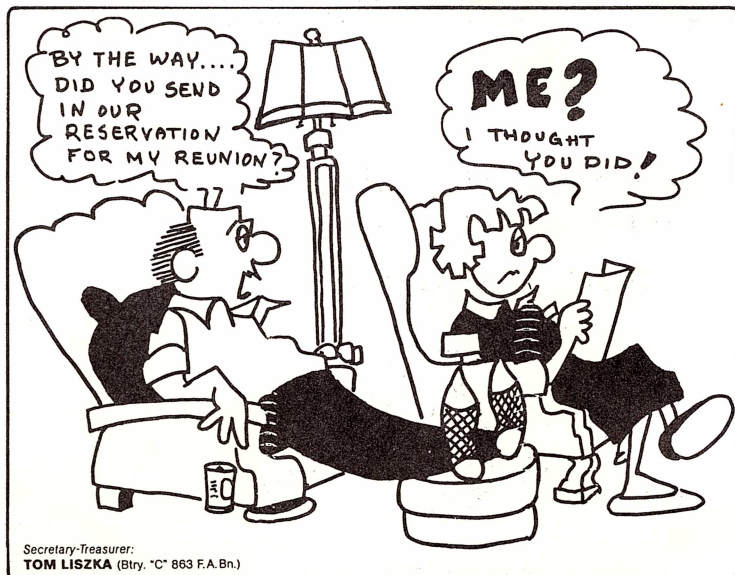


NATE SPIEGEL

3715 Lokai Pl. Sarasota, FL 34232
 813-371-3078 Co. "C" 253rd



Before Dinah Shore said goodbye to the boys of the Division she was given the flaming badge of the outfit when Pvt. Leland Burt of the Service Company, 253d Infantry made it official by sewing the emblem to her sleeve. Pvt. Burt hails from Billings, Mont., and Hollywood, Cal.



Secretary-Treasurer:
TOM LISZKA (Btry. "C" 863 F.A. Bn.)

LET'S MAKE THAT RESERVATION NOW

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My Fellow "Hot Shots," "D" Day is rapidly approaching. Our Committee is in over-drive and anxiously awaiting your arrival. We do, however, need your registration forms and advance monies so that the tickets to the various events can be purchased. Advanced sales to the Cardinals' Baseball Games have already reached 2½ million tickets. So you can see how important it is to let us know your choices. (If you check-in Wednesday, August 3, do so by 5:00 - If Thursday, August 4, do so after 4:00 - due to excess downtown ballgame traffic.)

Our Cook-out on the riverfront following the memorial service will feature a choice of meats. BBQ Pork Steaks or BBQ Beef, so if you will indicate on your registration form your choice, it will certainly help us a great deal. The complete menus will be printed in our program book.

The Munny Theater will present "Man of La Mancha" starring Hal Linden of TV's Barney Miller fame. That is a wonderful show and our outdoor Munny is an excellent theater.

The buses are all lined up for Grant's Farm, or the Botanical Gardens. (Each trip is about 15 or 20 minutes from the hotel.) The Moonlight Excursion on the SS President is all booked. So all we need is you.

Don't forget our 40's Revisited on Wednesday night, and admission is free. Bring along a 40's costume and let's have a barrel of fun. (Can some of you guys still get into your uniforms???) We'll have dancing, beer, snacks, cheese and fruit trays plus prizes and entertainment.

I've covered everything pretty much in detail in the February issue of the Blood and Fire on the first two pages. All our events are listed on the registration form. Our Ladies are planning an old-time Koffee Klauth and sing-along with attendance prizes. Coffee and struedel will be served. We will also have an extra sheet of events to see and do included in your registration envelope, such as Shuttle Bus trips to Anheuser-Busch Brewery, Top of the Arch, and Shopping Malls. Check your airlines - they all come in to St. Louis with Midweek specials. Amtrack is only 5 blocks from the hotel, and then Greyhound Bus Depot is about 3 blocks. If you come by car, unload on the Broadway Street entrance of the hotel and the attendant will direct you to the parking garage, and you will receive a parking pass. This fee will be added to your hotel bill. If you come by R.V., please send me a note and I'll mail you all the information on R.V. parking in the Downtown area.

A professional photographer will follow us on all our events and will put together a slide show to be shown at the Blood and Fire Banquet. It in turn will be made into a video tape that you will be able to purchase as a permanent remembrance of your St. Louis visit. We promise to keep the cost way down.

So as you can see, all we need now is you . . . so please get your registration in soon (also your ad for our program book). I'm looking forward to meeting you all in St. Louis!

Gene Rombach
President



ST. LOUIS

REUNION

AUGUST, WEDNESDAY 3 to SUNDAY 7, 1988





NEW MEMBERS

MORRIS KANTOR.....Co."A" 253rd Inf.
4006 Starbrook Rd...Randalls Town, MD 21133

HAROLD L. LEWIS.....Co."L" 255th Inf.
1135 Viking Dr. Est.#61,Valley City,ND58072

ROBERT C. PITCHER.....Co."L" 254th Inf.
10652 Maple St.....Hayden Lake, ID 83835

ROBERT W. SELTON.....Co."D" 253rd Inf.
15 Wagon Rd.....Hilton Head,SC 29928

JAMES J. BECK..... 718th Svc.Btry.
2240 W. Bourbonnais St.,Kankakee, IL 60901

RALPH W. DEVEREAUS.....Co."B" 254th Inf.
17504 Brennan Rd.....Oakley, MI 48649

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391 Edgewood Ave.....New Haven, CT 06511

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136 Harmon Rd,LakeviewAcresMabank, TX 75147

ATHUR W. HARCKHAM.....Hqs. Co. 253rd Inf.
32 Old Lake Rd.....Congers, NY 10920

HARRY J. SMETANA.....Co."A" 253rd Inf.
RR 3 Box 148.....Medford, OK 73759

LEONARD J. DIGATI.....UnitN/A
24 Cottage St.....Bristol, RI 02809

GARNIER GRANDIDIER.....Co."H" 253rd Inf.
211 N. Cherry St.,Mt. Olive, IL 62069

VINCENT C. IMMEL.....863rd FA Btry"A"
4475 West Pine Blvd.....St. Louis, MO 63108

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3715 Elkanah Pl.....Randallstown, MD 21133

MYRON E. MOSTI.....Co."H" 253rd Inf.
321 S. 4th St.....Steubenville, OH 43952

DANIEL A. MILLER.....862nd FA
735 Lorentz.....Elmont, NY 11003

SALVATORE SORRIENTO.....363rd Medic
248 S. Middletown Rd..Pearl River, NY 10965

M. GOLD.....Co."A" 253rd Inf.
625 E. 14th St.....New York, NY 10009

C.E. ANDERSON.....Unit N/A
766 E. 400 Noth.....Orem, UT 84057

HAVE YOU, SENT IN YOUR REUNION RESERVATIONS

ROBERT H. FITTS,.....863rd Btry "C"
706 E. 9th St.,.....Merrill, WI 54452

HUGO BOETTCHER.....Co."D" 254th Inf.
Box 81.....Frohna, MO 63748

GEORGE S. BUSHNELL.....Co."K" 255th Inf.
Salisbury, CT 06068.....

JAMES B. KEENEY.....Co."B" 255th Inf.
Keeney Lake Box 338.....DeSoto, KS 66018

MEL R. ECKERT.....Co."A" 253rd Inf.
328 Salem St.....Safety Harbor, FL 34695

THOMAS H. MARTIN.....Co."L" 253rd Inf.
2016 S. Avenida URSA.....Tucson, AZ 85710

THOMAS H. GAZELEY.....563rd Sig.
37426 Gore Dr.....Lebanon, OR 97355

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RR 3 Box 72.....Edwardsville, IL 62025

KELLY B. BYRAM.....Co."A" 253rd Inf.
35540 Richard.....Wayne, MI 48184

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JERRY A. KNEISL.....CN Co. 253rd Inf.
265 Runnymede Dr.....Creve Coeur, MO 63141

LOUIS WARMOTH.....Co."C" 253rd Inf.
406 N. Magnolia St.....Sumter, SC 29150

RALPH F. ALTMAN.....Co."K" 255th Inf.
555Demmler Dr.....Pittsburgh, PA 15237

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32 Douglas Ct.....Pearl River, NY 10965

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RR No.1 P.O.Box 317.....Eaton, IN 47338

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34 S.W. 17th Terr.....Homestead, FL 33030

GEORGE C. SCHMITT.....862nd SV Btry
88-26 242nd St.....Jamaica, NY 11426



FLAG DAY...JUNE 14th

The flag of our country provides one of the most dramatic chapters in United States history. The Stars & Stripes emblem has ALWAYS been a colorful reflection of American progress..YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW.

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, One Nation UNDER GOD, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

PATRIOTISM IS CONTAGIOUS
SPREAD IT AROUND



HISTORIC NOTES

by Mike Baymor...



Questions & Answers - & Items of Interest:

Q. Was the 63rd Infantry Division in the Ardennes?

A. No. Task Force Harris, or any numbered units of the 63rd Inf. Div. were in the Ardennes (Battle of the Bulge) fought in Luxemburg & Belgium. Some individuals, 200 per regiment, were sent as replacements from Task Force Harris in Dec. 1944 to units fighting in the Bulge. They fought with units other than the 63rd ID. Task Force Harris units fought in Alsace. A campaign credit, Ardennes-Alsace, was given for the period 18 Dec. '44 to 25 January '45, to units participating in the campaign. That is why Task Force Harris & the three Infantry Regiments have three campaign stars, in their ETO Ribbon. Other units of the 63rd ID have two.

Q. When was the 63rd ID, activated?

A. The 63rd ID, was officially activated on 15 June 1943 at Camp Blanding, FL. The bulk of the cadre came from the 78th ID at Camp Breckenridge, KY. Some orders read assigned to the 63rd ID, prior to 15 June '43. The activation date is the official beginning date of the 63rd Inf. Div.

Q. Was the 63rd ID in the Huertgen Forest?
A. No. The battle of the Huertgen Forest, took place 13 Sept 44, to 15 Dec. 44. It ended when the Battle of the Bulge started. Lt. Paul Boesch, formerly with the 63rd at Camp Van Dorn, was sent out as a replacement. He fought there with another Division. For more details on this bloody battle, read "The Battle of Huertgen Forest" by Charles B. MacDonald. The author was also a member of the 63rd, who was sent from Van Dorn as an overseas replacement.

Several members wrote and asked, why someone doesn't write a history of the 63rd ID. One started, we are all getting older and before long, it will be too late. GOOD NEWS. William Scott, E-254, a recently retired mechanical engineer, said he would try. Bill Scott has some writing experience. I will assist him where possible, but we need YOUR HELP. Copies of documents that former company clerks, 1st Sgts., officers and others who kept, or came into their possession. Also needed are rosters, detailed maps, operating orders, overlays,

journals, stories of incidents, pictures with as much identification as possible, human interest stories, unusual experiences and etc., etc.

Checking the Archives in Washington, D.C. We find some documents are missing. If you came into possession of the documents or copies, please send them and any other material to William J. Scott, 407 South Walnut ST., Sycamore, IL 60178-2234, or to me. If you want your material returned, please indicate on the document. This is not an overnight project. Bill is also considering writing a history of the 254th.

A very interesting book written by a former member of the 63rd ID, "The Harrowing of Hell Dachau" by Marcus J. Smith. Capt. Smith was a Medical Officer, who was detailed to a DP Team, when the 63rd CP was in Sargemines, France. He entered DACHAU on the day following liberation of the camps by the 42nd & 45th Inf. Div's. He writes of his observations and experiences from the time he entered to the closing of the camp, and his return to the 63rd ID, after the hostilities were over. Very, very interesting. Other books of interest..Units we fought with.. "Impact" The Battle Story of the 10th Armored Div., by Lester M. Nichols. We fought with them from the Neckar to the Danube. "The Story of the Century", the story of the 100th Inf. Div. Some of our units, fought with them near Bitche, France and Heilbronn, Germany. "History of the 30th Infantry Regiment", by Rupert Prohme. The 254th is mentioned, during the Colmar Pocket operation.

From Fedula to Berchtesgarden! History of the 7th Inf. Regiment in WW11, by Nathan William White. The 254th is mentioned during attachment in the Colmar Pocket operation.

Mr. M.S. Koziol a German newspaperman, who wrote several books. His latest book is "Fliegerhorst Home Base", a bi-lingual pictorial history of Schwabisch Hall Army Airfield, from 1934 to 1987. He is currently researching the fight for Waldenburg Castle, and its occupation. The Mayor of Swabish Hall wants to thank the man from a convoy parked near the church, who provided a guard so the Mayor could drum up the fire guard, to save the 800 year old St. Michaels Church, because the building next to it was on fire, during the night of 19-20 April.

continued on next page...

Historic continued.....

Elements of the 255th, CCB 10th AD, with 2nd Bn. 254th attached, were some of the units in the town about the time of the fire. If you have any information on the above two items, please send them to me. I will forward them to Mr. Koziol.

If you are interested in Col. Hatcher's, "With the 63rd ID in WW11". please let the Associations secretary know. We need 200 names to make a reprint feasible.

See Y'all in St. Louis
Mike.....

Editor's Comment.....

After 40 years, accuracy sometimes gets lost in the shuffle in some of the articles sent in by "hotshots". If there is an error in one of the write-ups that is sent to me, our capable historian Mike Baymor, will rectify it in the following issue.

We have many "hotshots" who trained with the 63rd, and then were transferred to other units. and others who joined the Division later. Their stories are of interest to all us, and they are part of the 63rd Infantry Division Association.....

Nate...

REUNION NOTICE

43rd Infantry "Winged Victory" Division....
Sept. 9, 10, & 11th, 1988...The Centre of Vermont Holiday Inn, Rte 7, So. Main St., Rutland, VT 05701. For details contact...
Lou Calarco, 11 Laurel Hill, Dr. So. Burlington, VT 05401

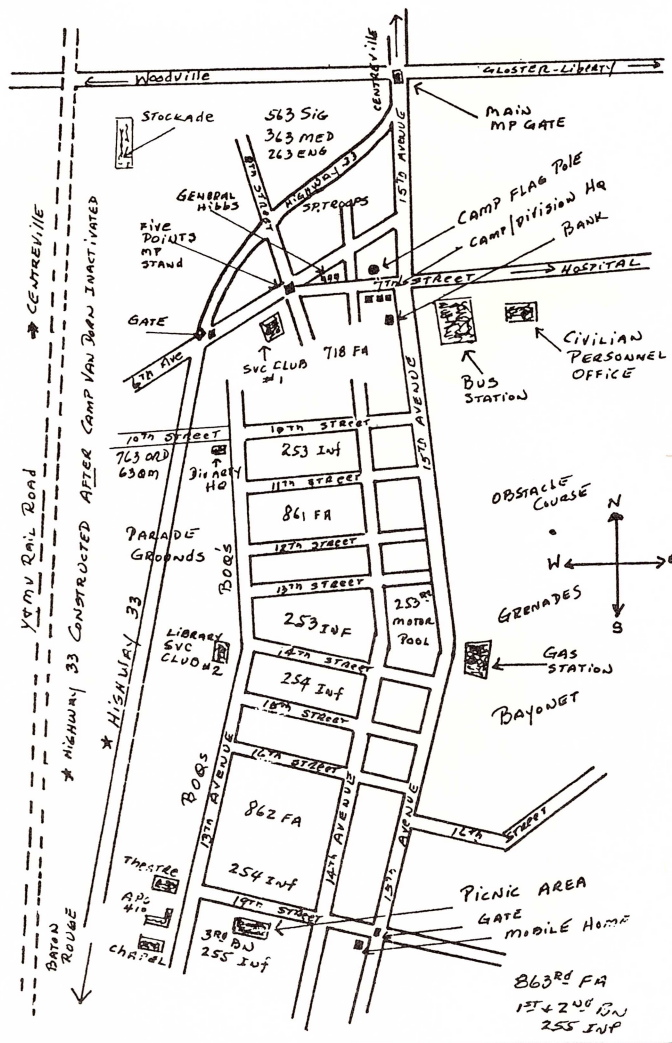
LOYALTY

Loyalty cannot be blueprinted. It cannot be produced on an assembly line. In fact, it cannot be manufactured at all. For its origin is the human heart...the center of self-respect and human dignity. It is a force which leaps into being only when conditions are exactly right for it..and it is a force very sensitive to betrayal.

Maurice R. Franks, editorial ptrs.



MOVING TIME!
LET YOUR SECRETARY
KNOW...YOUR
NEW ADDRESS.....



CAMP VAN DORN



E-255, 1945 Left to right: Top row, S/Sgt. Warren, Pfc. Vermillion, PFC. Williams, PFC. Montgomery. Bottom row, T/Sgt. Kozak, Sgt. Green. Picture taken somewhere in Europe.



THE COLLENBERG CASTLE,,BODIGHEIM,
GERMANY.....

As Remembered Forty Years Later
by Colonel Frederick C. Johnson

The 763rd Ordnance Company of the 63rd Infantry Division and attached support Ordnance units took over the castle grounds of the Collenberg Castle on May 21, 1945. It was the property of Baron and Baronin Karl von Ruedt von Collenberg. It was necessary to displace some 50 or 60 people living in several buildings. The grounds, hard surfaced courtyard and roads within the compound proved to be excellent hard standing for repair and maintenance of the Division's trucks, half-tracks, wreckers, and artillery.

The original castle, located on a rise just behind the main enclosed compound, was unoccupied, but in good repair and dry inside the main rooms. The center of the old castle contained a huge room. It's entire floor area was covered with books closely stacked about three or four feet high. This solid block of books must have contained thousands of volumes.

On the day of our arrival, I received a typed note from Baron Karl von Ruedt requesting an audience for himself and his cousin Baronin Liselotte Rudt. The latter, a very nice and quiet lady, could speak English and the two had important questions to be cleared. I granted the Baron's request for the next morning. In the meantime, he and most of his retinue were living very nicely at their place called the "Vicarage".

During our meeting, the Baron stated that the tremendous collection of books in the old castle consisted of one-half of the library at Heidelberg. The books had been transferred in the event the Heidelberg library and it's books were destroyed by the enemy. At least there was a chance of saving one-half of this treasure. The Baron asked that it be protected. This was granted, and the old castle was placed off limits. When we departed the collection was as intact as when we arrived.

From time to time I received messages from the Baron requesting permission to visit and pick up personal belongings. These requests were granted and acknowledged with many notes of thanks from the Baronin.

We had located a rather large safe in the upstairs library. A key had been broken off in the lock, and the opening completely jammed. As Ordnance personnel are quite handy with tools, I gave an OK to see if the safe could be opened without the use of cutting torchs. It was done and the safe revealed a quantity of silver pieces, jewelry, household keepsakes and a number of papers and files, some of which indicated insurance matters. The safe was reloaded with all of the above items, closed and locked as it had been before the entry.

Shortly after this, I was asked by the Baron if we could open the safe as he wanted some of the jewelry, insurance papers, etc. I let him know that to burn an opening with a cutting torch might ruin anything in the safe. However, I said we would try other means and would so advise him in a few days.

When I was about to let the Baron know that he could come for the safe's contents, a note was received from the Baron asking that we leave the safe as it was if we had not opened it. This request seemed strange. On a hunch, I took all of the files to the Counter Intelligence Corps group attached to Division Headquarters. The C.I.C. people said some of the papers were insurance policies and private papers which they returned to me. The balance had to do with German munitions which they dispatched to Washington, D.C.

We assembled the balance of the safe's content making an inventory. All items were turned over to the Baron and signed for as per attached document dated 1 June 1945. The Baron was advised that any insurance papers would be returned to him. The insurance papers were returned to the Baron for which he was most grateful. He was told that other papers and files had been retained by Division Headquarters.

With the Baronin interpeting, the Baron explained that much of the paperwork in the files that had been retained by the C.I.C. contained a history of the German armament system and problems in World War11. The Baron was one of a number of German generals who had been disposed by Hitler as he blamed them for the breakdown in the German armament system. These papers were put together by a group of the ex-generals to prove that they were not responsible and with the hopes that Hitler would reinstate them.

continued on next page.....

PATRIOTISM IS CONTAGIOUS

SPREAD IT AROUND!!



Collenbery Castle continued.....

The Baron further added that this group had made a vow never to turn this material over to the enemy, but we had taken it and he was happy. We received a number of Thank-you-notes from the Baron as well as verbal thank-yous from the Baron and Baronin for the American unit's care and consideration of the castle's people and property.

The 763rd and attached units departed Bodigheim 7 June 1945.

Col. Fredrick C. Johnson, Ret.
Formerly Division Ord. Officer

~~~~~  
REMINISCING...by the "Old Sarge"  
William "Smitty" Smith "F" 253rd

Had to take a peek at the morning reports for this time - it says, Departed St. Michel 0800-1-4-45 for the Sarreguemines, relieved Co. 1 114th Inf. of "Garrison". Now, was St. Michel the "Nut House Asylum". Reminiscing the nights when I had to go check our patrols that we had at the bridges, would walk out of the building I was in and couldn't see my hand in front of my face, by looking up in the sky and seeing the outline of the building, I would try to walk down the middle of the street. When getting close to the patrols, I could hear the guys cock their rifles. It was an eerie feeling, as we were all pretty green then.

Another incident, the third Jeep. Someone had left a Jeep on the other side of the river, after a few days we went over to the other side and "captured it". Someone must have stolen it, and left it there. Most of the men in the company knew we had it, but kept it quiet, as Hqs. would have taken it from us, we now had three Jeeps, and some companies only had one.

Now back to the "Nut House Asylum". When we arrived there was no heat or windows. The men started to light fires on the floor to keep warm. One of the men informed me that they found a barn full of "pot bellied stoves". It didn't take us long to get a truck over, and requisition fifteen of... them. In short order, we had those pot-bellies "red hot". The requisition order was a Thompson sub-machine, that Joe Morse showed the owner. The next day, we were tipped off, that Regimental Col. Lukert was on his way down to our Co., with smoke coming out of his ears. Our flamboyant Capt., and myself went out to meet the Col. He even had the M.P.'s with him, Col. Lukert was master in chewing you-out. The

Frenchman that owned the stoves wanted to to get paid for them.....believe he wanted \$15 per U.S. money. The Colonel wanted to know who gave the men permission to take them, the Captain turned looked at me, brushed off his bars, and said I have more to lose than you, so, I was put under arrest and taken away by the M.P.'s. Felt bad that the guys had to give up their stoves, and I wasn't feeling to good myself, as I figured I would get busted from 1st Sgt. down to Pvt. for something that was not my fault. Once we arrived at M.P. Hqs., I informed the M.P. Captain what had happened. He just smiled, and said relax nothing is going to happen to you, as I would have done the same thing myself. By the way, they were combat M.P.'s.

On Jan 26, '45, 151 EM 5 Officers 3 Medics departed Ssttrhurmines on foot, arrived in Neunkirch, relieved "C" Co. 253rd of Garrison. (Neunkirch, was a Garrison???)  
Boy, why I didn't I keep a Diary in my own language! (Smitty, am not touching that last sentence with a 10 ft. pole..Editor).

~~~~~  
COME ON GUYS, YOU ALL HAVE SOMETHING TO REMINISCE ABOUT. THE LAUGHTER AND THE TEARS THAT TOOK PLACE IN THE STATES OR OVERSEAS. SEND IT TO ME, WILL ASSIST YOU IN THE WRITE UP IF NEEDED.....Nate

~~~~~  
*MEMORIAL DAY*

*Our nation should always keep alive and fulfill INSPIRED YOUTHFUL THINKING. We should always endeavor to CREATE--in LOVE & GRATITUDE and in PRIDE--for those who stand close to us in this MEMORIAL DAY.*

*They are the ones identified by the words engraved in the memorial hall of the American cemetery at EPINAL, France. The lines read--"Citizens of every calling--bred in the principles of the American Democracy--DEFENDERS OF CHALLENGED FREEDOMS--CHAMPIONS of the RIGHTS of MEN".*

*And a prayful promise to the HONORED ONES.  
Fear not. We shall keep the faith.  
Forever shines the glory of your sacrifice  
With humble hearts and steadfast resolve  
We pray for the wisdom and the determination to CARRY ON!  
Lord of Hosts, be with us yet,  
LEST WE FORGET---LEST WE FORGET.*

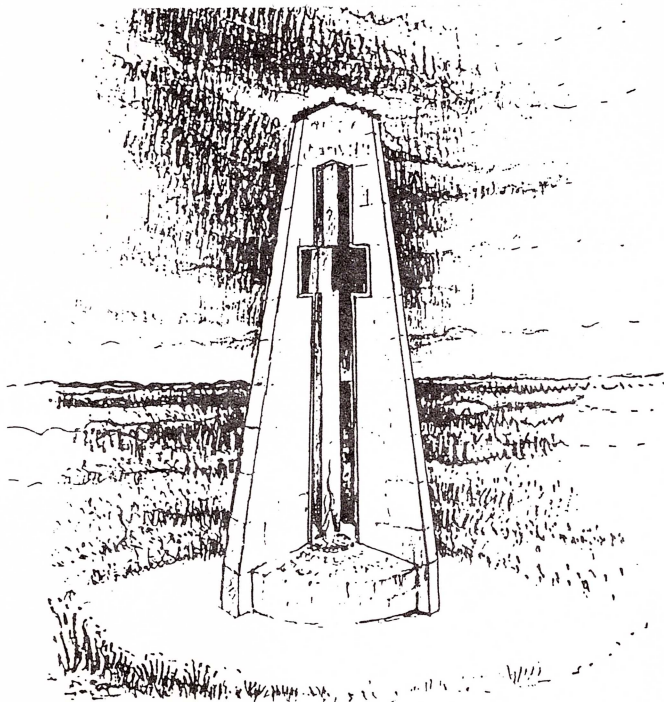






## MAIRIE DE JEBSHEIM

Département du Haut-Rhin



## THE CROSS OF THE JEBSHEIM MILL

MEMORIAL DE LA BATAILLE DE JEBSHEIM  
25-30 JANUARY 1945

INSCRIPTION WILL BE PLACED ON THE BASE

« THEY ARE TOGETHER IN DEATH  
« LET US UNITE IN PEACE

The memorial, designed by the Parisian architect Bernard Fauquet and by Robert Wagener, engineer, both of whom fought at Jepsheim, is a cross formed by the void created by 3 panels of grey-rose cutstone from Alsace. These panels represent the nationalities of belligerents: France, the United-States, and Germany are grouped in a star pattern on a circular base. The panels, symbolically joined at the top and protected by a small roof of Alsatian tile, will be inscribed with the names of the units that fought at Jepsheim in January 1945. Total height will be 6.00 meters.

The location of the monument on the site of the old Berckheim Mill, destroyed during the battle, will perpetuate both the severe combat which took place at that site, and the memory of the mill that was "the property of the Berckheim family" for many centuries.

It will also allow for yearly meetings to be organized at a spot that since the end of the war has attracted numerous visitors who either participated in the battle or lost a loved one there.

The financing of the construction of the memorial is gained by donations from veterans groups of the three countries and by various subsidies. The inauguration is scheduled for the summer of 1988.

Donations may be made out to  
association La Croix du Moulin de Jepsheim  
Mairie 68320 Jepsheim.  
FRANCE.

IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND DEDICATION  
PLEASE ADVISE IF I CAN HELP WITH  
AIRLINE OR HOTEL RESERVATIONS.

## THE CROSS OF THE JEBSHEIM MILL

The origins of this project were the feelings expressed after the last commemorative service by a group of paratroopers who had fought at Jepsheim.

"Despite the warm welcome we receive during our visits to Alsace, these ceremonies make little sense if they are only directed towards remembering the past; especially since the hardships endured and the sacrifices that were made, both military and civilian, were justified only on the hopes for a "better future".

"Let us hope that one day we will be able to assemble all the participants in the past events at Jepsheim - the French, the Americans, and the Germans and thus set an example for "Europe groping for unified identity".

"Is such an assembly possible? We believe so, and if a unified Europe is to become a reality one day, why shouldn't the "veterans" participate?"

"When clouds appear on the horizon, we must unite in spite of the moral sacrifices that unity can mean, particularly for those of us who fought at Jepsheim."

Everywhere we talk of the slow march towards a fraternally United Europe; and when you realize that nearly 900 French, American, German, Austrian from the Edelweiss division, Italian, Spanish, Hungarian, Belgian, Scandinavians, and units in the foreign legion died at Jepsheim, what other village in Alsace would be entitled to receive an European monument of reconciliation?"

ROGER E. JOHNSON

6 RAILROAD AVENUE, MONTVALE, N.J. 07645  
201-391-6913

15 April 1988

BROTHER - CAN YOU SPARE A DIME?

On 12 June 1988 an unveiling of "The Cross of the Jepsheim Mill", Jepsheim, France will take place. A European monument of reconciliation it will honor the more than 900 soldiers who died in the crucial "Battle of Jepsheim" fought from 25 thru 30 January 1945. As many of you know this battle was fought by the 254th Infantry Regiment with some support from the 1st Moroccan Infantry Division and 5th French Armored Division. This crucial "Battle of Jepsheim" broke the back of the German resistance in the Colmar Pocket and the German 19th Army retreated across the Rhine River at Neuf Brisach, France. The 63rd Infantry Division will be honored on the monument with its sky reaching panel.

The cost of the monument is 250,000 French Francs paid for by equal donations from French, German and American Veterans. So far 170,000 Francs have been donated. We are short 80,000 Francs. I appeal to you to help make this monument a reality. Tax deductible checks can be made out in dollars to: "La Croix du Moulin de Jepsheim". Checks can be sent to:

La Croix du Moulin de Jepsheim  
Mairie Andre Hild  
68320 Jepsheim  
France

In France the checks will be converted from Dollars to Francs. If it is more convenient, you can forward your check to me and I'll make sure it gets to France.

BROTHER - CAN YOU SPARE A DIME?

Best personal regards,

# CHAPTER NEWS

## SECOND ANNUAL UPPER MIDWEST REUNION.....

To be held on June 3rd, 4th, & 5th, in the Minneapolis area. We've planned several events which we hope will make a great week end for you and your comrades.

Saturday morning and afternoon, sightseeing shopping, or just relaxing, and swapping war stories. We have reserved a block of tickets for the World Champion Twins game on Saturday evening at the Metrodome, they will be playing Oakland A's. Tickets for the game are \$8.00 each.

Arrangements have been made at the Hampton Inn, 7745 Lyndale Ave. South, Richfield (Lyndale & Hwy 494). Rates for a double room are \$80+tax for two nights, single, \$64+ tax for two nights. Included in the price is a continental breakfast. We ask that you each make your own reservations, and they must be made prior to arrival to insure these special rates.

If you have any questions, please contact: FRED HALVERSON, 85 Rice Creek Way N.E., Minneapolis, MN 55432..(612) 574-7460...or

PAT KENNEALLY, 3916 Abbott Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55410, (612) 920-0645

BOB JACOBSON, can use the help of hotshots in adjoining states, for publicity and etc. He can be reached at 4533 17th Ave. South, Minneapolis, MN 55407. (612) 724-7556.



1st UPPER MID-WEST CHAPTER REUNION PICNIC ...7-26-87



20 Attended UPPER MID WEST CHAPTER REUNION PICNIC.....

## ST. LOUIS REUNION COMMITTEE

President..Gene Rombach

We are in the process of forming a MID-WEST CHAPTER, of the 63rd Inf. Div. Assoc. Anyone interested should contact Gene Rombach, 3557 Michigan St., St. Louis, MO 63118... (314) 771--549..or..VP Francis Sullivan, 6256 Eichelberger, St. Louis, MO 63109... (314)352-4268.....Francis X. Sullivan

PLEASE NOTE: We have TWO (2) Mid-West chapters. Mid-West and Upper Mid-West.

Editor...

## FLORIDA CHAPTER....President Don Binkley

You all come join us, the weekend of May 13, 14 & 15th, at the SILVER SPRINGS HOLIDAY INN Silver Springs, FL (904) 236-2575. Located off I-75..SR40 exit, and is located across the road from the Silver Springs Attraction. Special rate of \$40 per nite + tax.

Vince & Barbara Hannon, have planned an enjoyable weekend for us all.....

Friday nite..Mixer nite - Hospitality Room  
Sat. Morn....Short meeting  
Sat. Noon....Visiting Silver Springs, relaxing and conversing with your buddies, or visiting other area of interest. Numerous "horse farms" nearby.

Sat. Nite.....Banquet will be held at the hotel. Then back to Hospitality Room.

For further information call Vince & Barbara at (904) 483-2708.

Nate

# World War II Vets

## Gather At Former Captain's Home

By BILL MOORE  
Senior Editor

For a stranger, the home at 19 Wayah Road, just south of Franklin, can be a little hard to find.

But for the men who punched the first hole in the Siegfried Line during World War II, it's no trouble at all. They have been finding their way there in increasing numbers at two-year intervals since 1980.

The men are survivors of at most five months of combat with Company I, 254th Infantry Regiment, 63rd Division, U. S. Army. The trim residence on Wayah Road is the home of Clement J. Coss, once and forever the captain of I Company.

The first company reunion was held in Franklin in 1980 and approx-

imately 25 veterans and their spouses attended. In 1982 that number grew to 50 and in 1984 it was 70.

"They suggested we have the first reunion in Atlanta," Coss said. But osteo arthritis has just about ruined my right knee. I need special equipment to be comfortable, so I had to tell them that I couldn't make it to Atlanta. Then they decided to come here."

This year the reunion was held May 18-18. Forty veterans of service in I Company under Capt. Coss, along with their spouses, came from all over the United States to meet old comrades in arms to pay their respects to the captain and to relight old battles.

"They came from 19 states," Coss said. "They occupied all 30 of

the rooms in one motel in Franklin and better than half of the rooms in a second motel.

"Most of the three days were spent in conversation, signifying and fellowship," Coss said. "On Saturday night there was a banquet, but mostly the reunions are informal affairs."

Coss enlisted in the Army in 1942. He was 38 years old at the time.

"I didn't have to go," he said. "I was past draft age and I had a wife and a family, but something big was going on and I wanted to be a part of it. I guess that influenced my decision."

After 13 weeks of basic training, Coss went almost immediately to Officers' Candidate School at Fort Benning for another grueling 13 weeks of training. He was commissioned a second lieutenant of infantry on Jan. 15, 1943.

The 63rd Infantry Division was organized at Camp Blanding, Fla., and moved to Camp Van Dorn, Miss., for training. Coss was assigned as commander of I Company early in the process.

"Most of the men in the division were recruited from the Northeast," Coss said. "We had a lot of men with surnames of Polish ori-

gin. After 18 months of training the division was sent overseas to the European Theater.

Coss was then 39 years old, overage in grade for captain. It was necessary for him to obtain a waiver to be able to go with his company. He got it.

The 63rd arrived in Europe late in 1944, just in time to plunge into the winter war. For almost five months I Company was in almost continuous combat.

"We lived in snow and freezing mud and slept in muddy holes in the ground," Coss said.

In January of 1945, the 254th Regiment was involved in the heavy fighting that reduced the Colmar Pocket near the Rhine River, fighting in knee-deep snow across fields liberally strewn with land mines. Later the 63rd Division led the Seventh Army into Germany.

In mid-March the division was the first in the Seventh Army to punch through the Siegfried Line, winning a Presidential Unit Citation in five days of heavy fighting.

In April, attacking across southern Germany, the 63rd destroyed the crack German 17th SS Division and captured the university city of Heidelberg.

When the war ended the division was in sight of the Alps after a chase across Europe which the men of the division still call "the race to the Danube River."

The division and the men of I Company were in combat for 119 days. The division captured 21,543 prisoners and suffered 8,019 casualties. Coss was one of them. He was hit by shrapnel and disabled by trench foot. In both cases he was hospitalized but battled successfully to get back to his company.

Coss returned to civilian life to become a bakery executive in Raleigh.

But he was recalled for the Korean War. He was assigned to a training job in the United States but "there was something else going on

in Korea." Moreover his oldest son was in the Army in Korea. So Coss wrapped a transfer. He had gotten as far as Japan when his son was killed.

Then it was back to the bakery business.

Coss and his first wife moved to Franklin when he retired in 1967 and built a house on Falton Road.

Later, after 45 years of marriage, his first wife died. A couple of years later he met Alice, his second wife, while they both were attending the Mount Hope Baptist Church, not far from his home.

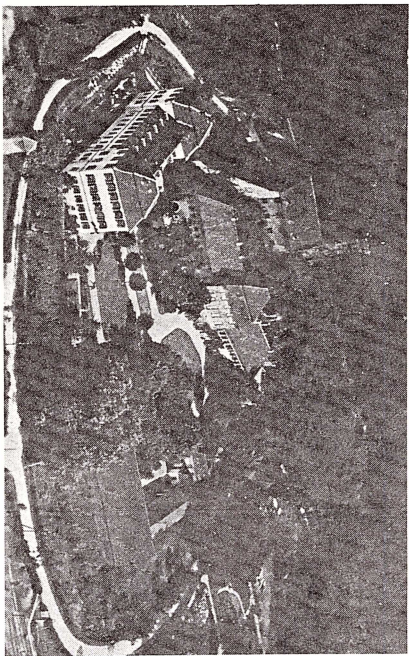
Clement Coss is now almost 89 years old but he's looking forward to the next reunion of I Company, scheduled for 1988. Age has marked him, but he still has the easy assurance of a man accustomed to command. His concern now is, as it was more than 40 years ago, the welfare of the men he led into battle.

"I don't want to read a lot about me," he said. "The men are the important thing. Write about them. They deserve it."

And perhaps that attitude is why, after the passage of more than four decades, men from all over the United States make a biennial pilgrimage to 19 Wayah Road just south of Franklin.



REUNION HOSTS—Capt. and Mrs. Clement Coss have been the honorary hosts since 1980 for the biennial reunions of the Army's I Company, 254th Infantry Regiment, held in Franklin where Coss, the World War II company commander, lives.



Collenberg, Castle



"Remember the Old Messkits"

**IMPORTANT**  
 If you want to attend these events,  
 you must send in your advance  
 payment by July 1, 1988.



**ST. LOUIS**

**REUNION**

**AUGUST, WEDNESDAY 3 to SUNDAY 7, 1988**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Wife's Name (If attending) \_\_\_\_\_ Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Arrival Time \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Children Attending: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Guest Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Children's Age(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please Check  if this is your first reunion.

| <i>Please make check payable to: St. Louis 63rd Inf. Div, Assoc.</i>                                         |                      | COST PER PERSON   | NUMBER ATTENDING | TOTAL COST |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------|
| <b>Please return this form and payment to:</b><br>Al Hiller (253 Reg)<br>545 Harrison<br>St. Louis, MO 63031 | REGISTRATION .....   | \$ 15.00          | MEMBER ONLY      | \$ 15.00   |
|                                                                                                              | DUES: National ..... | 5.00              |                  | _____      |
|                                                                                                              | DUES: Lifetime ..... | 40.00             |                  | _____      |
| <b>WEDNESDAY EVENING, AUGUST 3</b>                                                                           |                      |                   |                  |            |
| "The 40's Revisited" Costume Party & Dance ..... 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.                                     |                      | FREE              | ( )              | FREE       |
| <b>THURSDAY MORNING, AUGUST 4 (CHOICE OF ONE)</b>                                                            |                      |                   |                  |            |
| Bus Trip #1 (Grants Farm) ..... 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.                                                       |                      | \$ 10.00          | ( )              | _____      |
| OR                                                                                                           |                      |                   |                  |            |
| Bus Trip #2 (Botanical Gardens) ..... 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.                                                 |                      | 10.00             | ( )              | _____      |
| <b>THURSDAY EVENING, AUGUST 4</b>                                                                            |                      |                   |                  |            |
| Moonlight Excursion & Dance ..... 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.                                                    |                      | \$ 10.00          | ( )              | _____      |
| <b>FRIDAY MORNING, AUGUST 5</b>                                                                              |                      |                   |                  |            |
| Riverfront Memorial Service ..... 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.                                                    |                      | .....             | ( )              | .....      |
| Riverfront Cookout ..... 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.                                                             |                      | \$ 12.00          | ( )              | _____      |
| <b>FRIDAY EVENING, AUGUST 5 (CHOICE OF ONE)</b>                                                              |                      |                   |                  |            |
| Baseball Game ..... 7:30 p.m. to ?                                                                           |                      | Estimate \$ 10.00 | ( )              | _____      |
| OR                                                                                                           |                      |                   |                  |            |
| Muny Opera (Broadway Musical) ..... 7:30 p.m. to ?                                                           |                      | 10.00             | ( )              | _____      |
| <b>SATURDAY MORNING, AUGUST 6</b>                                                                            |                      |                   |                  |            |
| Men's Business Meeting ..... 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.                                                         |                      | _____             | ( )              | _____      |
| Women's Social Meeting (Coffee, Apple Struedel) ..... 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.                                |                      | FREE              | ( )              | FREE       |
| <b>SATURDAY EVENING, AUGUST 6</b>                                                                            |                      |                   |                  |            |
| 1 Hour Cocktail Party C.O.D. BAR ..... 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.                                                |                      | .....             | .....            | .....      |
| Dinner & Dance ..... 7:30 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.                                                                 |                      | .....             | .....            | .....      |
| CHECK ONE <input type="checkbox"/> Roast Baron of Beef .....                                                 |                      | \$ 25.00          | ( )              | _____      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Filet of Sole .....                                                                 |                      | 25.00             | ( )              | _____      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child's Platter .....                                                               |                      | 8.50              | ( )              | _____      |
| <b>PREPAYMENT FOR THESE TRIPS MUST BE MADE BY JULY 1, 1988</b>                                               |                      |                   |                  |            |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b>                                                                                           |                      |                   |                  |            |



## Childhood home front memories

By Daci Armstrong  
Special to The Tribune

Most children growing up as I did in Stockton have few troubling memories of World War II. I was safe in the bosom of my family, and I've always thanked God I put in my appearance on this side of the globe.

I have many recollections of how the war affected my daily life. Some of the darkest, literally, relate to the blackouts.

I was a curious child, and early on, I wanted to read. The Stockton Record's comic strips were the best material to practice on.

Our evening paper was delivered about 5 p.m. It was dusk by the time I got to see the paper, and, because of the blackout, it was quite dark everywhere.

I tried the old reading-with-a-flashlight technique in front of the open front door so I could catch the last glimmer of fading daylight. It worked until my mother caught me at it.

Of course, by the time the blackout siren sounded again telling us it was OK to put the lights on, it was my bedtime.

See CHILDHOOD, Page A-6



George Powles  
As he appears today

George Powles, whose story appears at right, left the war and returned to a job that made him a local celebrity — as a teacher and coach in the Oakland schools.

He coached several sports at McClymonds — where Bill Russell played on his basketball team — and later moved to Skyline, where he coached baseball. By his retirement in 1975, he had coached 17 players who went on to the major leagues, including Frank Robinson, Curt Flood and Vada Pinson. In 1981 he was voted into the California Coaches Hall of Fame.

He and his wife of 51 years, Winifred, have a son and a daughter, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

## Flashback of youngster haunts ex-infantryman

By George Powles "D-255"  
Special to The Tribune

At least once a year for the past 30 years I have had a bad dream. It is always the same.

Three of us infantrymen are crouching in some shrubbery in a monastery garden. Our eyes are fixed on a house across the river, about 200 yards away. I have binoculars and am particularly interested in the trees and shrubs surrounding the house.

Everything is quiet and suddenly we are shocked to see a little girl appear on the scene. She is about 11 years old, with two long, blond braids down her back underneath a bright red cape, and she is riding a bicycle along the road on the other side of the river.

In a few seconds she will pass this lone house on the outskirts of the city and in two minutes will reach her destination, perhaps her piano teacher in the residential area.

But we know something she doesn't. She has only a slim chance of riding past that quiet, solitary home, now just ahead and to her left.

What we know is that high over her head and in back of her, but rapidly catching up,

are three high-explosive mortar shells that will in a very short time come crashing down, about four seconds apart, and cover an area of about 100 yards long, with the house somewhere near the center.

It is always at this stage of the dream, just as we are muttering and talking to ourselves — "Ride, girl! Stay low and ride out of it!" — that I wake up with a strange feeling, because I know the nightmare is really a reliving of past experience, of one that is not yet finished.

The seeds of the dream were sown many years ago when, as a young man, I had visions of visiting faraway places that I knew only in books or pictures.

One such place was Heidelberg, site of Germany's most famous university and subject of songs, poems and operettas. Songs and stories of the beautiful city on the Neckar River attracted me, particularly those featuring the university and its cadets. Sigmund Romberg's operetta, "The Student Prince," set in Heidelberg, was my favorite, and I could sing

See FLASHBACK, Page A-6

Continued from Page A-1

all its songs.

When I finally got a chance to travel years later, it was as a member of the 63rd Infantry Division of the U.S. Army.

We arrived in Marseille on Dec. 8, 1944. Eight days later we were in "forty and eight" boxcars (40 men and 8 horses) moving slowly north toward the border. After three days we left the train and walked into Germany.

For the next four months we were combat infantrymen. Dog Company was a heavy weapons one, meaning our basic weapons were the 81-millimeter mortar and the 30-caliber machine gun.

We fought, we moved on, we drew back. We walked, we jeeped, we trucked. We were in the rain, snow, sleet and mud — always the mud.

We ate when the kitchen reached us and slept when the chance came. It never seemed often or long enough.

On March 20 we went through the Siegfried Line near a little town called Ommerheim. It wasn't too heavily defended but I lost a few friends.

We moved on and lots of prisoners were coming in, voluntarily. Now everyone thought the same thing: "It's almost over."

One morning late in March, we woke up in a wooded area and learned that we were close to a good-sized town.

The lieutenant called some of us over and gave orders for the morning.

"Gentlemen," he said, "the city just ahead of us is Heidelberg."

"It has many hospitals, schools and churches and we are told it will not be defended. It has not been bombed and doesn't want to be. The war is coming to an end and they know it. All military has apparently pulled out.

"We are supposed to send in a small party just to case the area. Sergeant, take five men and one of our mortars and go with "B" Company's patrol."

I knew I was going because I had been packing the radio on most of the patrols lately. The six of us joined two squads of "B" Company's riflemen and headed for the Neckar River and Heidelberg.

When we saw the river we dropped three mortar men off and they set up the gun in a clearing.

Reaching the Neckar, the patrol strung out and walked toward the city a half mile away.

The exposed river was on our left and the few scattered buildings we were passing on our right seemed like timeless cloisters, schools or hospitals. They reached far up into the mountains and almost every one had a big white cross on its slanted roof which cried out, "Don't bomb me. I'm out of bounds."

It was a warm, sunny Saturday morning, and I felt good.

"Tomorrow is Easter," I remembered, "and I'll bet Win and the children are painting

eggs right now."

As we trudged along the nice paved road I thought, "This is the only way to fight a war."

I called up to the sergeant, "What a lousy way to visit Heidelberg." He turned around with a puzzled look and didn't say a word.

He'd never heard of the place, I realized.

Then the words to the old song came to me. My mother

*We saw the girl on the bike... I was pretty sure I had already heard three faint clicks on my headset. Then came the voice of our No. 1 gunner... 'Sorry, there's three of 'em on the way.'... We stared a little longer, then I had to turn away. I prayed...*

used to sing them at her piano: "Oh, Heidelberg, dear Heidelberg"

*Thy name we'll never forget. That golden haze of student days Will live within us yet.*

And then it came!

One short, sudden burst of a German machine-gun from the other side of the river.

Talk about sitting ducks: on one side of us was the open Neckar and on the other an eight-foot-high wire fence guarding the monasteries and convents.

All down the line guys were throwing their rifles over the fence and scrambling after them. I made it, 40-pound radio and all.

Now it was quiet again. We were all looking at the same

place — a solitary old house across the river ringed by trees and shrubs.

"He's probably long gone now," said the sergeant, "but we ought to toss a few over to let him know he woke us up."

The sergeant gave me the approximate directions and distance from our mortar to the target, and I got on the radio and passed it on to the guys back at the gun. They had prob-

ably heard the burst and were waiting for the word. And then I gave the fire order, "Fire, three!"

A few seconds went by and then, suddenly, we saw the girl on the bike.

I hollered into the mike, "Hold the gun! Don't fire!"

I was pretty sure I had already heard three faint clicks on my headset. Then came the voice of our No. 1 gunner, who had always been pretty fast. "Sorry, there's three of 'em on the way."

We stared a little longer, then I had to turn away. I prayed, "How about a couple of duds?"

I heard the three explosions and watched the other private first class wince with every burst.

As I turned back the sergeant said, "Well, that's that!"

I stared over at the smoke and dust and said slowly "That's the end of the war for me. I don't want to ask for another shot on this crazy radio."

German history has probably recorded that the beautiful city of Heidelberg was taken by the Americans in March 1945 with out a shot being fired.

Don't believe it. I was there. One short machine-gun burst and three mortar shells were fired.

A few years ago, I had some one place this ad for me in Heidelberg's leading newspaper the Heidelberg Tageblatt:

"On March 31, 1945 at about 9:30 a.m. a little girl riding her bicycle north of Heidelberg was almost killed by American mortar fire. Fortunately and miraculously she rode away from the explosions and was, I believe, untouched by the shrapnel. God was riding with her that morning.

"If that woman, or anyone who knows her, is still in the area and reads this, I hope they will call this newspaper and arrange a meeting with me. I want to talk to her."

There was no answer.

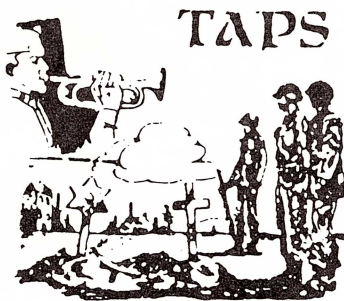
But I still have a feeling that we shall meet someday, probably in Heidelberg's finest restaurant. It will be a rewarding evening that ends in complete understanding. And then it will be over, my troubled conscience and sense of guilt, her bitterness, anger and perhaps her hatred. She will at last know what really happened that day.

I can hardly wait.

ST. LOUIS **Marriott**  
DOWNTOWN



Wednesday 3 to Saturday 6, August 1988



So near to grandeur is our dust,

So near to God is man;

That when duty calls to youth "thou must" I

The youth replied, "I can!"

E.J. "Bill" BURSON

Died Feb. 14, 1987.....Co. "L" 254th Inf.  
2922 Murat St.....San Diego, CA 92117

R.A. VAN FOSSEN

Died March 4, 1988.....Unit N/A  
66560 Mc Bride Hill, St. Clairsville, OH 43950

ROBERT T. FERGUSON, Jr.

Died Jan. 12, 1988.....Co. "H" 255th Inf.  
204 Altondale Ave.,...Charlotte, NC 28207

PRESCOTT C. NAUMANN, Jr.

Died March 2, 1987.....Hqs 253rd Inf.  
3 Capri Gate.....Plainview, NY 11803

ALLAN G. GALLAHAN

Died Jan. 1, 1988.....Co. "I" 254th Inf.  
Falmouth, VA.....

PAUL COOK

Died July 21, 1987.....Medic 254th Inf.  
7216-15th Ave.....Takoma Park, MD 20912

1st Lt. RICHARD G. MANKIN

Died N/A.....Co. "G" 253rd Inf.  
1715 Wood Cliff Way.....Atlanta, GA 30329

FOREST J. DOWNEY

Died Jan. 12, 1988.....Co. "K" 253rd Inf.  
1410 Canal St.....Alexandria, IN 46001

ROMAN H. HERR

Died Nov. 5, 1987.....Co. "H" 254th Inf.  
1455 Santa Susana.....Hemet, CA 92343

JAMES R. HYDE

Died August 2, 1987.....Co. "K" 254th Inf.  
RD#2 Box 482.....Summerville, PA 15864

GIRARD ARCAND

Died Dec. 12, 1987.....AT 255th Inf.  
66 Millers Falls Rd..Turners Fall, MA 01376

FREDERICK SHOEMAKER

Date died N/A...Hqs.Co 1st Bn 255th Inf...  
Phoenixville, PA.....

ROBERT T. FERGUSON

Died Jan. 12, 1988.....Co "H" 255th Inf.  
204 Altondale Ave.....Charlotte, NC 28207

JOSEPH STARACE

Died Oct. 16, 1987.....Unit N/A  
5300 Washington St.,E..Hollywood, FL 33021

BOB ROWE

Died June 15, 1987.....863rd FA Btry "A"  
R.R. #2.....Rochester, IL 62563

WILLIAM LORBERBAUM

Died Oct. 18, 1986.....Co. "I" 255th Inf.  
15 Briarwood Ct, Rockville Centre, NY 11570

JAMES W. CLARK

Died 1985.....Co. "K" 253rd Inf.  
5107 Sequoia Rd.....Fayetteville, NC 28304

JOSEPH CZEPIEL

Died July 5, 1987.....MP's  
3248 Faronia St.....Pittsburg, PA 15204

ROBERT GIBBS

Died Feb. 13, 1986.....AT 255th Inf.  
21 Kendal Dr.....Woburn, MA 01801

OTTO LUOMA

Died July 15, 1980.....Co. "I" 255th Inf  
438 E. Tamarack St.....Ironwood, MI 49938

VICTOR ZILINSKAS

Died Feb. 2, 1978.....Co. "H" 254th Inf  
Whispering Pines.....Pinconning, MI 48650

(wives claim the above 2, never put intoBF)

WILLIAM LaBOSSIERE

Died Jan. 8, 1987.....Unit N/A  
12500 McMullen Loop....Riverview, FL 33569

IRA M. HOPPOCK

Died March 21, 1987.....861st FA Btry "C"  
2A Vermont Way.....Whiting, NY 08759

HOBART RYE

Died Feb. 4, 1988.....Co."I" 254th Inf.  
412 Linden Ave.....So. Point, OH 45680

"I WAS BORN AN AMERICAN, I LIVE AN AMERICAN  
I SHALL DIE AN AMERICAN....Daniel Webster



## Hot Shot Mall Bag



SAMUEL E. DeHAVEN..Co."A" 253rd Inf..RR#1  
P.O. Box 317, Eaton, IN 47338..Sam is an-  
other hotshot that Paul Vermillion gave an  
application too. Sam was wounded in Germany  
Feb. 24,1945, and was in the 2nd General  
Hospital in Nancy, France. Sam, start pack-  
ing to take Sarah to St. Louis, so you can  
see Mel, Paul, and the rest of the guys.

ROBERT FITTS..863rd FA Btry "C"..706 E. 9th  
St., Merrill, WI 54452..Thanks to Jake  
(Jacko) Pompe, that Bob is now a member of  
our assoc. Years back, a medic buddy of  
Bob's, was supposed to have sent Bob's name  
into our secretary, but he apparently for-  
got and since died. He didn't know whom to  
contact until now, Thanks for the assist  
Jacko.Bob is planning to join us in August.

DANIEL A. MILLER..SV Btry 862nd FA..735  
Lorentz St., Elmont, NY 11003..Dan works  
for the church, meals on wheels. Plays in a  
dance band at Senior Citizen Centers. It's  
with a 10 pc. orchestra, and he plays the  
drums. Hehopes too see everyone soon, you  
do mean in August 3-7, just want to make  
sure you have the right starting date.

HUGO BOETTCHER..Co."D" 254th Inf..Box 81  
Frohna, MO 63748..Hugo retired on Feb. 15th  
after 41 years in the garage and service  
station business. Served on the local fire  
dept. for 30 years, 16 yrs. as chief, also  
Sunday School Supt. at his local church.  
Hugo, you didn't write if your taking ....  
Corine to our reunion. Corine, he IS taking  
you, right. That's the way to go.

THOMAS H. MARTIN..Co."L" 253rd Inf..2016  
So. Avenida URSA, Tucson, AZ 85710..Tom  
joined the 63rd at Van Dorn in 1944. His  
1st Sgt. was William Younger. Tom was tak-  
en prisoner on Jan. '45, but doesn't re-  
member the name of the area. Why don't you  
take Maria to St. Louis for a good time,  
and maybe get some answers at the same time

THOMAS GAZELEY..563rd Signal..37426 Gore  
Dr., Lebanon, OR 97355..Tom is retired,  
and is active in the American Legion, Elks  
and the Eagles. Enjoys bowling, golf and  
loves to travel. Get ready to travel Tom,  
Katherine, start packing those bags. See  
you both in August.

JAMES KEENEY..Co."B" 255th Inf..Box 338,  
De Soto, KS 66018. James will be retiring  
after 41 years of service with his company.  
He would like to hear from some of his old  
buddies. Come on James, take Rebecca to St.  
Louis, and meet old buddies in person.

**HAVE YOU SENT IN A CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

### THE FOLLOWING "HOTSHOTS" WHO WERE LOST FOUND THEIR WAY...BACK INTO THE FOLD.

HAROLD C. LEWIS..Co."L" 255th Inf..1135  
Viking Dr., Est. #1, Valley City, ND 58072.  
Harold was with the 4th pltn., from Jan.  
to April '45. He left the unit on that day  
a short distance from Sinsheim. After his  
release from the hospital, he was attached  
to SHAEF until his return to the states.  
Harold would like to know what happened to  
the unit after April 3rd '45. Why don't you  
join us in St. Louis, you may get all the  
answers your searching for, others have.

LOUIS WARMOTH..Co."C" 253rd Inf..406 Mag-  
nolia St., Sumter, SC 29150..Mag Froberg  
coerced Lou into parting with the \$5 dues,  
to join our association. Now Lou, what does  
Mag know, that we don't know, to pry that  
fiver loose from you. Margaret, make sure  
Lou takes you to St. Louis this August,  
seats are available at the Co."C" table.

MEL ECKERT..Co."A" 253rd Inf..328 Salem St.  
Safety Harbor, FL 34695..Mel has kept in  
contact with a few old buddies thru Christ-  
mas cards. Paul Vermillion gave Mel an ap-  
plication to join our association. Mentions  
that the last time he attended a reunion  
was in Detroit 1967, and expects to join us  
in St. Louis. Mel you sure have a lot of  
catching up to do.



DAVID S. HARRISON..Co."F" 255th Inf..34 S.W. 17th Terr., Homestead, FL 33030..David went from the cavalry to Van Dorn in '44. Ended up in the hospital April '45, in Nancy, France, He has an insurance agency, is a Capt. in the Civil Air Patrol, and likes to travel in his motor-home. Would like to talk to the men who were on liason-patrol 3-15-45. What an opening David, take Shirley, in your motor-home to St. Louis, and start talking.

ALPHONSE DiBENEDETTO..Co."G" 253rd Inf..391 Edgewood Ave., New Haven, CT 06511..Al wrote a long an interesting letter, took the highlights. (Our sec/treas. "takes out" it's the "loot" dues, and Nate the rest is yours) Al is an attorney, and wife Margaret is an opera singer. Had been a public defender for many years, and now is in private practice. Due to illness, Al was in the hospital when the 63rd went overseas, and did not re-join his unit after that. He was a 2nd Lt., and claims he "got no respect". Wonder if Roger Dangerfield was a 2nd Lt., he claims the same thing. Al has a son who is a Captain and stationed in Germany. Al, you have more time available now, am sure you and Margaret will enjoy yourselves in St. Louis in August.

SAL SORRIENTO..Co."D" 363rd Medic..248 So. Middleton Rd., Pearl River, NY 10965..Sal is active in his VFW Post in Piermont, NY. He was a staff sgt. with the 363rd. Is very happy that he found out about our assoc. Sal & Sarah, are looking forward in joining us in St. Louis.

JAMES P. CALLOZZO..Co."F" 253rd Inf..32 Douglas Ct., Pearl River, NY 10965..James noticed our reunion notice in the American Legion magazine, and that he is another "lost sheep" who found his way home. Is a retired engineer, active in civic & community affairs. As an old hotshot, he would rather wear out, than rust away. James, you didn't write about attending St. Louis, why don't you join Sal & Sarah you know those folks in your area, the column right above.

MILBURN J. ARTH..Co."B" 253rd Inf..RR3 Box 72, Edwardsville, IL 62025..Milburn joined the 63rd in Feb. '45, as a replacement. He has been retired for 2 years, after 39 yrs. with Shell Oil Co. Jessie, gives the orders now.

RALPH ALTMAN..Co."K" 255th Inf..555 Demmler Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15237..Ralph is now in his own accounting practice, after working for several large accounting firms. Was a

College Professor & Administrator for 19 years. For a time he was platoon messenger. He has maintained a roster of the platoon personnel. Ralph, take Betty to St. Louis, and wouldn't it be terrific to see some of your old buddies on that list. (Ralph, I will be sending the roster to our historian Mike Baymor...Nate).

\* \* \* \*

*THERE ARE STILL MANY "LOST SHEEP"  
OUT THERE..LET"S BRING THEM HOME.*

\* \* \* \*

MICHAEL De Buino..Co."C" 254th Inf..1008 7th Ave., Beaversfall, PA 15010..Mike and Eleanor celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary, Christmas Day. Congratulations & many more folks, from us all. Mike would like to know if there were any awards for Colmar & Jepsheim. Mike Baymor our historian will have any answer in the next issue of the Blood & Fire.

RAY W. PETERSON..I & R Pltn. Hqs. Co. 255th 3258 N. 100 East Ogden, Ut 84414.. Ray and Merlene traveled to Yakima.Wash. last June and met with Chuck & Billie Worthin. They hadn't seen each other since 1945. Discussed old times in the I&R platoon. Ray also located Bob Rallison, they both came from the same town, entered & discharged from the service the same time. Now on to St. Louis Ray and meet some of the other 'guys'.

WILLIAM BECKETT..Hqs. Co. 254th Inf..228 White Oaks Circle, Bluffton, SC 29910..Bill enjoyed Roger Johnson's European tour last September. He and Dorothea will be joining us in St. Louis, and expects a good turnout of the folks who were with on the tour.

ALBERT PARSONS..Co."A" 254th Inf..7700 Gleason Rd., Knoxville, TN 37919..Al is a retired stockbroker after 25 years with Paine Webber, on Oct. 1, 1987, just before the crash. Now, that was good timing Al. He enjoyed his first reunion in Louisville, and is looking forward to St. Louis.

*HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES!!*

*IF NOT DO IT NOW...THANK YOU!!*

**IF YOU FIND MISTAKES  
IN THIS PUBLICATION,  
PLEASE CONSIDER  
THAT THEY ARE THERE  
FOR A PURPOSE.. WE  
PUBLISH SOMETHING  
FOR EVERYONE, AND  
SOME PEOPLE ARE  
ALWAYS LOOKING  
FOR MISTAKES !!!**



JAMES J. BECK..718th FA SV Btry..2240 Bourbonnais St., Kankakee, IL 60901..James is a new member who was separated by the flock by me in Mail Bag. James joined the 63rd in '43, and was with the Division all the way, discharged in Nov. '45. He never knew we had an assoc. until a buddy of his found him and told him. Is anxious in receiving and reading the Blood & Fire. (thanks James) Let's not forget Katherine, you know, St. Louis in August. Got you back in the fold James, we don't want to lose you again.

CLARENCE TENNEY..AT 253rd Inf..4313 Lane Rd Perry, OH 44081..Clarence retired 5 years ago. He and Mary raise some garden produce, do very little travelling, but enjoy short runs over the northern part of the state. Both also enjoy what they are doing as they have no more clocks to punch.

PERSHING CHITWOOD..Medics 255th..Rt 1-Box 217, Winfried, TN 37892..Pershing claims that he still going strong, but at a slower pace. He contacted J. Finlay "H" 255, G. Kauffman Medic 255, and would like to hear from old buddies Harry Simpson, Paul Cizmar & S. Scrapchansky. He & Prillie will be joining us in St. Louis.

WILLIAM LOVEKIN..Co."F" 253rd..RD#8 Box 128 Johnstown, PA 15909..Bill writes, that if Jim Dugan can't find that little place(?) he can always come to Johnstown. With all that flooding, it's still on the map. Still is a ONE COW RANCHER, and goofs off the rest of the time. Jim called me (editor), as he and Helen were leaving for Alaska in the near future, say's hi to the gang. Now Bill if Jim gets back in time for the reunion, I suggest, he bring back a couple of icebergs for the drinks. Also ask Jim, who John is????

IRWIN LIEBERMAN..Co."I" 255th Inf..124 Nandina St., Phila., PA 19116..Irwin received his basic training at Camp Wheeler, GA. After his furlough, was sent to LeHarve, France, and joined the 63rd near Saargamines. Was wounded and evacuated to Paris, then to England. It wasn't until recently that he found out about our assoc. He was driving along a main blvd., and noticed a familiar insignia on a rear bumper, pulling along side the vehicle, asked the driver to please join him off the road, and that is how Irwin & Al Conti first met. "What an emotional experience seeing that insignia for the first time since my discharge". Your on a roll Irwin, expect to see you & Marjorie in St. Louis.

DAVID B. GROTHAUS..Sp.Tr. Medical Detachment. 520 Dunkirk Rd., Baltimore, MD 21212..David is an original member, who attended the dinner in New York, which was held at the Headquarters Restaurant, at which Gen. Hibbs ate his dinner out of a messkit. He also attended the first meeting in Washington. Due to cancer in his eye and face, he is house-bound, and won't be able to attend anymore reunions, but has fond memories of the many reunions he did attend. David, will try to keep those fond memories alive in the Blood & Fire.

HARRIS GOLDMAN..Co."L" 254th Inf..12001 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Springs, MD 20904 Harris that he enjoys the Blood & Fire.... That the improved paper & printing quality is great, same goes for the half-tone photos. Ends with, the black & white this good, we don't have to think about color. Harris you sure made my printers day, as for myself, am speechless (no comments please) thanks, appreciate the PR .....Nate

RICHARD D. KOGLER..Co."M" 254th Inf..1555 Castleberry Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70815... Dick retired 2 years ago, as Vice President -Engineering of Baden Chemical. Enjoys golf loafing and traveling. He joined the 63rd shortly after he left Camp Blanding. Was wounded at Colmar and spent 10 months in the hospital. Has never been to a reunion, and may make it to St. Louis. Fran, start packing those bags, send in your hotel & pre-registration form, and you got him hooked, see you both in August.

WALLACE WINKLER..S-2, 2nd Bn. 254th Inf... 5020 Lake Circle Court, Columbia, MD 21044. Wallace was one of the early, "filler officers", to report to Camp Blanding, and enjoyed training with the 63rd. Was shipped out to the ETO in May '44, and soon afterward he was attached to HQs Ninth US Army in an Intelligence Roll. Retired from the DOD, in Feb. '83. He credits his excellent beginning for a wonderful career to the 63rd Infantry Division.

JAMES DRISCOLL..Co."H" 253rd Inf..148 Forester St., San Francisco, CA 94112..James is retired, and now works as a volunteer at VAMC hospital in San Francisco. Has 3800 hours in volunteer time, and gave 9 gallons of blood to vets at the Veterans Hospital. James would like to hear from members of Co."H". Agnes, what have you been feeding James?? Take him to St. Louis, he needs a change.....to meet old buddies & the "old Sarge" Joe Falkenstein.

DANIEL FUNK..Co."I" 255th Inf..6520 Visitation Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45248..Dan and Mary will be joining us in St. Louis. He would like to know if there are any HAM OPERATORS in the association. His call letters are W8QEQ. To all you "HAMS" out there give Dan "a holler", and expect all of you in St. Louis, maybe start your own club or communication line.

RAYMOND HANCHAR..Co."F" 253rd Inf..410 Jones Ave., Maquoketa, IA 52060..Ray is enjoying retirement. Also enjoys reading the B&F. Came across a hotshot from his hometown of Rome, NY, and will drop him a line. Ray, you can do much better than that, the "old Sarge Smitty" expects you and Ruth to attend our reunion in St. Louis, that goes for the rest of Co."F" as well.

VINCENT FEALY..Hqs. Co. 253rd Inf..168 Westminster Dr., Yonkers, NY 10710..The last reunion Vince attended was in Wash. D.C., but expects that he and Joan will be joining us in St. Louis. He is now retired after 30 years with the Chemical Bank, and compliments the staff for the excellent B&F. Thanks Vince...staff consists of one.. your Editor.

RAYMOND MASCIO..Hqs. 861st FA..28 Roselle Ave., Pleasantville, NY 10570..Ray underwent open-heart surgery in 1987, and is still not fully recovered. Believes the last reunion he attended was either Wash., D.C. or Orlando, FL. Ray, you get well real soon, so you can join us at one of our upcoming reunions.

JOHN WATERS..563rd Signal..4917 Greenbrook Dr., Charlotte, NC 28205..John is my sidekick photographer at our business meetings, and puts film in the camera. (no comments please) He called to inform me that he couldn't write due to 40 stitches in his hand. Visited recently with Sam Daniels in Birmingham, AL who was in the 563rd. The 563rd had their mini recently in Charleston, SC, and everyone had a ball. John, on your way to St. Louis with Hazel, pick up Sam and take him along, make sure you have a pen & application, sign him up. Take care of that hand, see you both in August.

ROBERT A. KELSEN..Co."C" 255th Inf..4007 So. Hempstead Circle, San Diego, CA 92116. Bob is retired and joined the 63rd as a replacement. He and Gloria planned to attend the European Tour, but due to illness they had to cancel out. He recently joined the Calif. Chapter. Bob, you attended the Las Vegas reunion, missed Louisville, now

you and Gloria, have catch-up to do, see you both in St. Louis.

EARL W. SHAW..AT 253rd Inf..RT1 Box 94... Lynch Station, VA 24571..Earl joined the assoc. in '86. Claims he was the second oldest man in his company, as he had already reached the ripe old age of the latter 20's but felt he had more stamina, than those of a more "tender age". (Earl your on your own on this one, Nate) He is happily married to Estelle, who is a member of the FFV, DAC, DAR, and the Jamestowne Society. Being a Yankee, and not having any ancestors who resided in Jamestowne before 1616, he cannot become a member of the Society. Don't fuss about it Earl, you are a member of the 63rd, and you can take- Estelle to our reunion in St. Louis.

DWIGHT H. EARLY, Jr..AT 254th Inf..2118 Timberlane, Wheaton, IL 60187..Dwight got lost in the shuffle, and to make sure he is always paid up, sent in \$40 for life membership. You just bought yourself a heck of a deal Dwight. He was a S/Sgt. & 1st Lt. with his unit. Enjoys the B&F, and hopes to see everyone in St. Louis, & at future reunions.

WILLIAM ALBRIGHT..Co."G" 254th Inf..Bridgewater College, Bridgewater, VA 22812..Bill is another that got lost in the shuffle, & also paid for a life membership. He joined the 63rd in Van Dorn in '44. Plans to get in touch with men from his unit, got some of the names from our "Roll Call" roster, after our Louisville bash. He plans to join us in St. Louis, and get together with some of the guys from Co."G".

EUGENE BOSCH..Hqs. Co. 3rd Bn. 253rd Inf... 132 E. Warren St., Beverly, NJ 08010..Two years ago, Eugene and his wife Winifred celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary. That year they made a trip to Germany to visit his sister and brother also their families. He will never forget the privilege and thrill, when his Captain & Major, gave him a 5 day pass when the war in Europe was over, so that he could visit with his parents and sister in Stuttgart, which was a heap of rubble and in French occupation. He found them alive, and fortunately they lived on a hillside, as the house was damaged but livable. Later he was transferred to Military Gov't., and stationed in Munich, as an interpreter until his discharge because he was 36 years old.

*SEE YOU IN ST. LOUIE...LOUIE*

*SEE YOU AT THE REUNION!!!*

Not the way the song goes but.....See Ya!

CLAUDE ATKINS, Sr..Co."G" 255th Inf..8936 Grove Ave., Berrien Springs, MI 49103-1371. Claude is retired after 33 years with Tyler Refrig. Corp. Has been married to his lovely wife Dorotha for 41 years. (How did you do it Dorotha????). Claude enjoys loafing and going to reunions, one out of 2 is not to bad. Claude, would like to see more of his buddies from Co."G" attending our reunions. Your on the ball on that one Claude

ORA A. TWISS..Co."B" 263rd Engrs..1318 Southgate Ave., Louisville, KY 40212..Ora stayed with the Army, and retired in 1966. Attended a meeting at Ft. Meyer, VA in '49 but being on active duty, he did not join up. Ora & Anita joined us in Louisville, couldn't attend any of our functions, as he had to go to work. We hope that in the near future Ora, you and Anita will be able to attend more of our reunions, and stay for the whole, "enjoyable shindig".

GIFFORD KIRCHDOERFER..Co."H" 255th Inf.... 2519 N.W. 69th Terr., Gainesville, FL 32606 Gifford is retired, and moved from Silver Springs, MD to our Sunshine State. He and Anna attended our Louisville bash and saw a number of his old buddies. Gifford, you and Anna, our WELCOME to join our Florida mini's, and meet some mighty nice folks.

RALPH K. SMITH, Jr..Hqs. Co. 2nd Bn.255th P.O.Box 150 Locust Valley, NY 11560..Ralph has been an attorney for 36 years, to keep it in the family, his son will become an Ass't District Atty. this year. He was happy to hear that Sgt. Ed Patterson, received the British Military Cross. Also mentions that he was behind Ed 2-17-45, returning from behind the German lines, when they <sup>hit</sup> the minefield. Ed lost his left leg, and right arm. Ralph received a tiny sliver in the chest, and feels that Ed Patterson was a great "Soldier". So do we.

ERNEST PORTER..563rd Signal..1778 Maywood Rd., So. Euclid, OH 44121..Ernie couldn't make it to Louisville, due to knee and ankle surgery. Has 15 grandchildren. (With that back-up crew, no one picks on grandpa or grandma). Ernie & Kay hope to join us in St. Louis in August.

JAMES "JIM" NELSON.."A" Btry 861st FA... 7336 Elvin Court, Norfolk, VA 23505. Jim can't do much travelling as Anne had lung cancer last year, and is recovering slowly All "Our Prayers" are with her Jim for a complete recovery.

**HAVE YOU SENT IN YOUR REGISTRATION FORMS!!  
IF NOT .....DO IT NOW!!!**

IVA P. OGDEN..Co."E" 254th Inf..Rt.6 Box 143, Mena, AR 71953..Iva writes that he can't complain, he is doing fine, and that he and Alta will be celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Dec. 24th 1988. Iva why don't you and Alta, join us in St.Louis am sure all your old buddies will be happy to do a little pre-celebrating with you folks.

JOE FALKENSTEIN..Co."H" 253rd Inf..2701 N. Shore Dr., Evansville, IN 47711..Joe was 1st Sgt. of "H" Co., and being a good 63rd 'er, he just brought in two "lost sheep" into our assoc. Garnier "Granny" Grandier and Myron Mosti. Myron was found in a very unique way. Joe had an old "V" letter addressed to Myron, dated 1945. Didn't remember why he held onto the letter until 1985. He happened to be home in Wheeling, W.VA that year, and casually mentioned it to one of his brothers, His brother replied, that he thought he knew Myron, and the search was on. In 1986, Joe personally delivered the letter to Myron after 40 yrs. Since then a personal friendship was formed. By the way, the letter was from Myrons mother, and she was still alive when he delivered the letter. Like the movies used to, that was a happy ending.

WILLIAM M. HARRINGTON..718 FA Btry "C"... 3100 Bishop Rd., Appleton, NY 14008..Bill married a girl from Baton Rouge, and after 44 years he and Irene are still going strong. Can't say the same for Bill's health, he has been paralyzed for 30 years. Recently he had a heart attack, and ended up in a Veteran's Hospital. After returning home, he had a stroke and another heart attack. OK you guys from "C" Battery get that stationary out and start writing to Bill. All our Prayers are with you Bill.

JERRY HIGGINS..Co."H" 253rd Inf..345 So. 53rd St., Lincoln, NE 68510..Jerry has been retired from the lumber business for about a year. Would like to join us in St. Louis, but due to his wifes illness, will not be able to make it. He agrees with Big John Kinney from California, who was with "H" Co., that John was the youngest Staff Sgt., but he claims that John neglected to mention, he was also the ugliest. Easy John, Jerry says he was only kidding. Boy, I thought I would have to call the old sarge Joe Falkenstein of "H" for an assist.

**WE ARE NEVER TO OLD TO LAUGH & ENJOY OUR  
SELVES...COME TO ST.LOUIS THIS AUGUST &  
TO JUST THAT**

JOHN L. WITMER..63rd Div. Finance..2313 Chestnut St., Camp Hill, PA 17011..... John has kept in contact with a number of men who were in the finance section, thru the years. A number of years back, he visited parts of the 63rd area he was in.... including people he stayed with in Mittersheim and Alsace. Has been to a number of reunions years ago, in Philadelphia and New York, but none recently.....John has been around the world twice, and has many fond memories. John, you should have kept your bags packed and joined us at one of our reunions. It's not to late, you can start by joining us in St. Louis.

HARVEY L. DAVIS..263rd Engrs..1310 Woodfield Dr., Jackson, MS 39211..Harvey was one of the men who was at Van Dorn at two different times. Nov. '42--July '43, with the 99th Div. July '43 to April '44 U.S. Air Force. April '44 assigned to Co."B" 263rd Engineers at Van Dorn, and ended up in the same barracks, when he was with the 99th Div. He spent a couple of weeks with a rifle platoon, until they discovered that he had previous training in combat engineers. The balance of his time in the service was spent with the engineers, and came home from Germany in March '46. Was employed with the Farmers Home Adm. until 1977, then opened his own Financial Consulting business. In the last issue of the B&F, he noticed the name of Albert McCoy, and plans to write to him, as he was in Harvey's platoon. Has plans to visit France & Germany in the near future, and if anyone has any information as to names of places & locations where we were, he would appreciate hearing from them. Harvey, you asked the where-about of other 263rd'ers, why don't you and Johnnie join us in St. Louis, you may have some of those questions answered. Bill Snyder of "A" 263rd, has been attending our reunions for quite sometime, and am sure can assist you. Give it a shot.

CHARLES KUEHNER..3rd Bn. Hqs. Co. 254th Inf and SV Co. 255th Inf..40 Mountain Ave., Princeton, NJ 08540..Charlie started out with the 98th Div. in Camp Breckenridge and moved out with the original 63rd cadre. He made WO (JG) in Van Dorn and he says he got "the all expense paid trip to Europe." After the war, he was sent to Gen. Eisenhower's SHAEF-HQS. as Personnel Officer in the Economic Div. Probably his major contribution in that job was, to get his picture taken (on the Q.T.) with his foot on the front bumper of Ike's Cadillac, acting like it was his. He retired from AT&T in

1982, and is currently doing a book on the stock market for Dow Jones-Irwin. and hopes to meet the old gang in St. Louis.

CHAPTER NEWS .....(they just made it)

INDIANA..OHIO..KENTUCKY CHAPTER

The I.O.K Chapter, held the Spring get-together at the Frobergs near Granville, OH on Sat. April 9th 1988.

The business meeting was conducted by the Chairman, Ed Fowle, and included a final recap of the Louisville 1987 Reunion. Also plans for our fall outing, about the 15th of Oct. '88, in the Springfield/Dayton area.

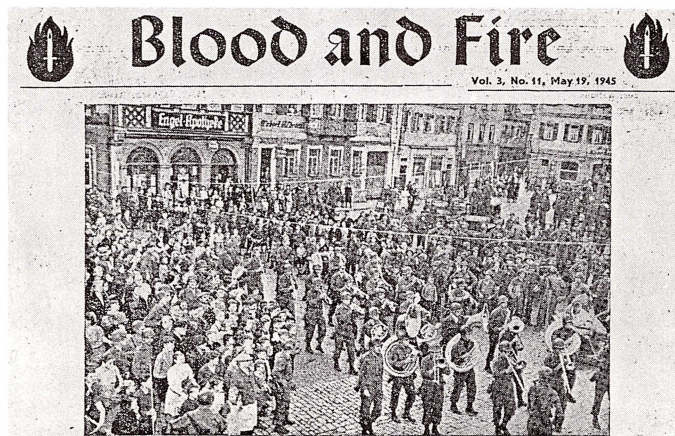
Following lunch, the group visited the village of Granville. We visited the Robinson "Life-Style" home built around 1871. and continuously lived in by the Robinson families until Mrs. Robinson's death in 1981. Special showings of undergarments of yesteryear were featured. The Robinson-Hunter/Avery Downer House, originally built in 1842 was toured--noting some outstanding examples of Ohio craftsmanship exhibited in this old home. Latter listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Cocktails and dinner were enjoyed by all at the Best Western in Newark.

Submitted by Charj Froberg....



63QM Camp Blanding, Florida. Frank Benvenuto and "Hotshot Buddies."



The Blood and Fire Band brought VE day to Bad Mergentheim.



CALIFORNIA & WESTERN STATES CHAPTER

# 63rd Infantry Division Association BLOOD and FIRE

• ARDENNES • CENTRAL EUROPE • RHINELAND

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Mrs. R. Drew  
Mrs. Nell Campbell

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT. Laurence Pedone  
VICE PRESIDENT; Tom Campbell

Next to New York City, San Francisco is the best Convention City in the world, its the fun place to be, for things to do and see is numerous, along with food places too eat. I was also told San Francisco is the most romantic city in the world next to Paris, France and the best wines in the world and Irish coffee.

The Hotel that we are looking at for our 41st Reunion is The Sheraton Palace in the heart of San Francisco, but what is happening they are going to be under a 71 Million Dollar Renovation in 1989 and don't think they can Host our Group and told us to look for a secondary Hotel, we have tentatively came up with the Hotel called Cathedral Hill, in the better part of town, at the corner of Van Ness & Geary ave. where the Cable cars run on Van Ness, and only minutes away from the Bart Line, 10 minutes from Fisherman's Wharf, and Downtown San Francisco shopping is within walking distance, all of San Francisco is a Big Shopping area.

We of The California Chapter hope too come in with a Room Rate somewhere in the \$60.00 range, and have parking waived as that could cost as high as \$16.00 per day. Food in town can meet with anyone's pocket book, there is Nob Hill prices, middle road prices, and then there is McDonald prices. San Francisco is known for its Exquisite Food's, you can go to North Beach, for Italian, Chinese. The Wharf for Seafood, Russian and you can get American anywhere.

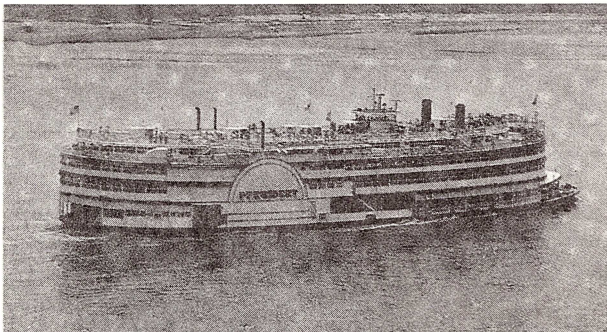
There are plenty of things of Interest to do and see, you will not lack for things too see and do. (Be sure and bring your Camera).

You will Love San Francisco so make your Plans now.

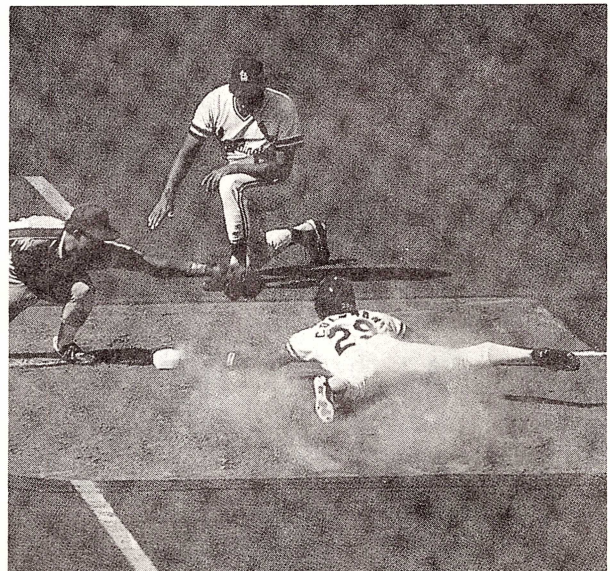
Sincerely;

*J. Santangelo*  
John Santangelo

President: **JOHN J. SANTANGELO**, 3339 So. Canfield Ave.,  
Los Angeles, CA 90034 • (213) 204-0440



President Riverboat



Busch Stadium—St. Louis Baseball Cardinals



**SECRETARY'S DILEMA!!  
HOT SHOTS..WHO HAVE NOT REPLIED!!**

One of my first goals was to identify & send letters to all "HOTSHOTS" who by oversight, I'm sure, have last paid dues prior to 1987. I have been gratified to hear from so many of you, but how about the rest of you guys, "making my day", & send in your dues. With the increased costs in postage & printing, the annual \$5, just covers the 3 issues of the B&F.

My thanks to those who replied, and here's hoping I hear from the rest shortly.

Tom

(come-on guys, make his day).....

~~~~~  
BY POPULAR DEMAND!! WE NOW HAVE THOSE 63rd CAPS!!

That many of you have been asking for.....ONLY \$8.00 each.....

Make your checks out to the 63rd Inf. Div. Assoc..... and mail to

TOM LISZKA..19 W 565 Deerpath Ln., Lemont, IL 60439
(cost of mailing is in the price)

OLIVE INSIDE SHIELD

YELLOW
BACKGROUND
& SWORD



RED TYPE
& FLAME

**TO: TOM LISZKA
19 W. 565 Deerpath Ln.
Lemont, IL 60439**

63rd DIVISION ASSOCIATION DUES FORM!!!

Name _____ 63rd Unit _____

Address _____ Zip Code _____

Wife's Name _____ Annual Dues \$5.00 _____ Life Membership \$40.00 _____

Tell us about yourself! _____

Mail Reservation Form To:
ATTN: ROOM RESERVATIONS

ST. LOUIS **Marriott**
PAVILION DOWNTOWN

ONE BROADWAY
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63102-1772



63rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
REUNION DATES: Wednesday, August 3—Sunday, August 7, 1988
DEADLINE FOR GUARANTEED ROOMS: JULY 11, 1988
Reservations received after 7/11/88 are accepted on a space available basis only!



CHECK (✓) ROOM ACCOMMODATIONS PREFERRED:

- SINGLE (1 person, 1 bed) \$50.00 per night
- DOUBLE (2 people, 1 bed) 50.00 per night
- TWIN . . (2 people, 2 dbl. beds) 50.00 per night
- TRIPLE . (3 people, 2 beds) 50.00 per night
- QUAD . . (4 people, 2 beds) 50.00 per night

- Handicap Access Room Requested
- Non-Smoking Room Requested

Written confirmation requested

\$_____ Deposit enclosed Make check or money order payable to *Marriott's Pavilion Hotel*
PLEASE DO NOT SEND CURRENCY

PARLOR SUITE Rates available upon request.

Please reserve accommodations for: (PRINT OR TYPE) • One night deposit is required to guarantee your room reservation.

NAME _____ DATE _____
LAST FIRST

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

SHARING ROOM WITH _____ NO. OF PERSONS _____

SIGNATURE _____ PHONE NO. _____

Month	Day	Year

Arrival Date

Arrival Time

Month	Day	Year

Departure Date

Check In Time 4:00 p.m.

Check Out Time 12:00 p.m.

IMPORTANT DEPOSIT INFORMATION

The St. Louis Marriott Pavilion Downtown can only confirm and guarantee your reservation request when accompanied by one night's \$50.00 deposit (room rate plus 9.85% tax). This deposit may be made by check, money order, or by using any of the following credit cards:

• ROOM TAX SUBJECT TO INCREASE

American Express, Diners Club, VISA, or Mastercard. If paying by check or money order, please include the arrival date on the face of the check. If you do not honor your reservation on the day of arrival or the reservation is not cancelled before 4:00 p.m. on that day, the room will be billed for one night and reservation will be cancelled.

CREDIT CARD # _____ EXPIRATION DATE _____

NAME AS IT APPEARS ON CARD: _____

- AMX
- CARTE BLANCHE
- DINERS CLUB
- VISA
- MASTERCARD

Blood and Fire
63rd Division Association

63RD Inf. Div. Assn.
T. W. Liszka, Secy.
19 W. 565 Deerpath
Lemont, IL 60439

FIRST CLASS



MR. P. KOHLER
18 IVY COURT
CLIFTON N. J. 07013

Forwarding and Address Correction Requested