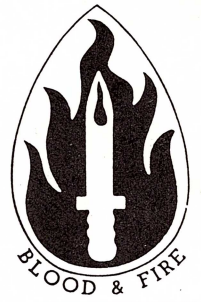




# Blood and Fire



## 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Association

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

Vol. 41 No. 2

February 1989

SARASOTA, FLORIDA

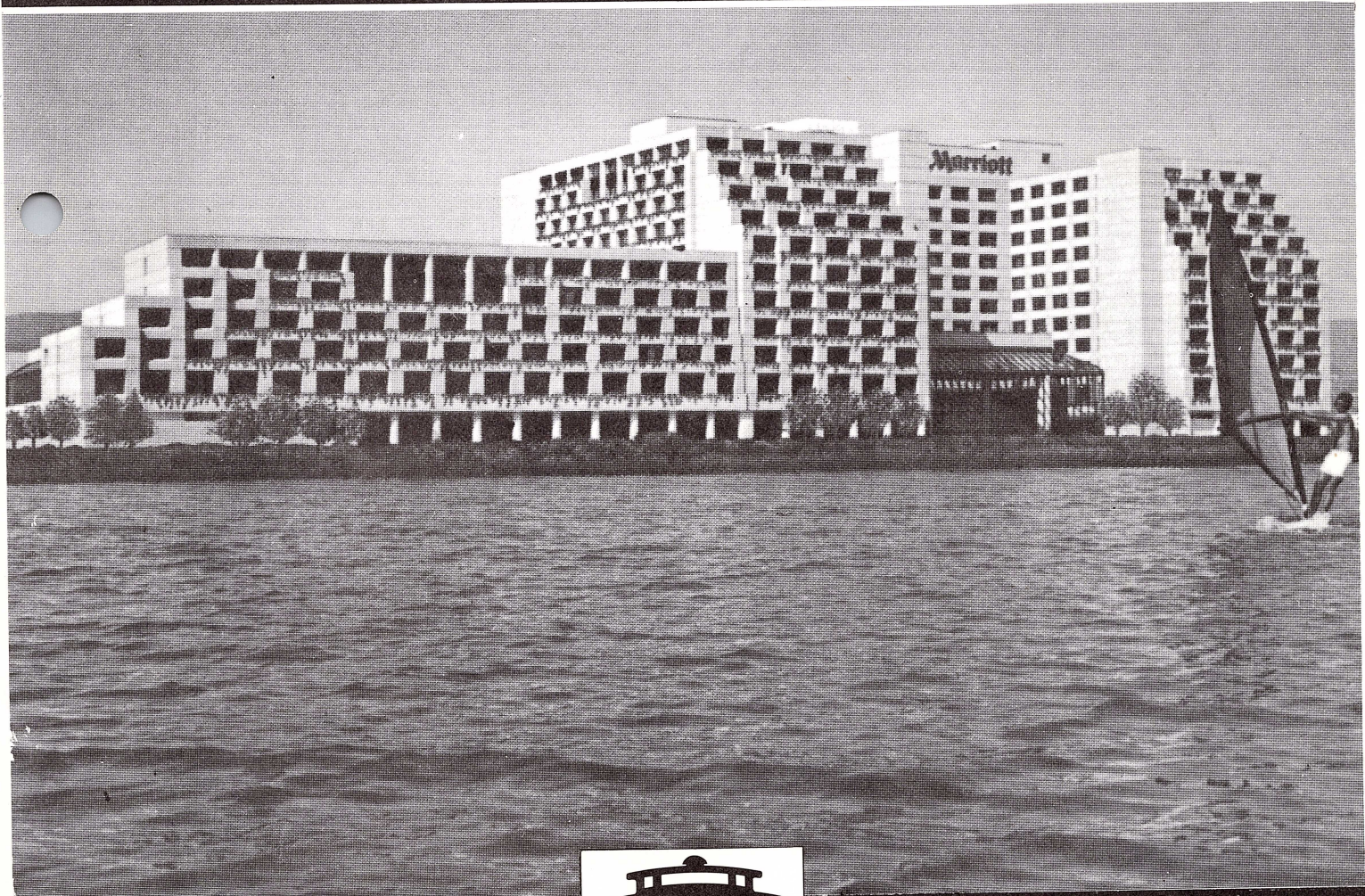
Family & Friends Welcome... Turn the '89 Reunion into a long vacation

Early Bird  
Registration Form...

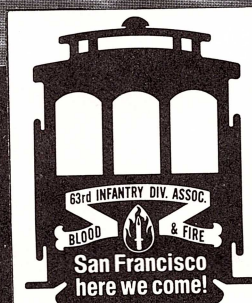
# WIN A FREE HOTEL ROOM

FOR THE DURATION OF THE '89 REUNION

SAN FRANCISCO  
AIRPORT **Marriott**



*San Francisco*  
*You'll never meet anyplace like it!*



63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division  
Association  
41<sup>st</sup> Annual Reunion  
August 23-27, 1989

# Blood and Fire

From the  
Editors  
Desk



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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September 1, 1990

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 J. Waters, 4917 Greenbrook Dr., Charlotte, NC 28205 ..... 563 Sig.

September 1, 1991

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Editor



NATE SPIEGEL

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

OOP'S I GOOFED!!

In the last issue of the Blood & Fire, I had a question mark under one of the men in the photo, with John Crews and John Waters. The "question mark" is no other than Joe Falkenstein "H" 255th Inf., a good friend of mine. Sorry Joe, for that "doozy". By the way, could it have been the tie, white shirt and jacket?? Naw, that couldn't have changed you that much!! Even with my "goof", he wrote some very kind words, regarding his enjoying ...the Blood & Fire. Thanks buddy, I owe you one. See you in San Francisco.

\* \* \* \* \*

JACK & JANE GRANT will be celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary on 7-8-89. GOOD HEALTH and many more, ENJOY.

\* \* \* \* \*

MAGIC OF AMERICA.....

While browsing thru a flea market I found a magazine without a cover, and "dog-eared". It was those large words on that first page that attracted my attention, "THE MAGIC OF AMERICA". You will find it in this issue of the Blood & Fire.

Our past President Ronald Reagan extolled "PATRIOTISM" in his speeches, and we of the 63rd Infantry Division Association, are proud to call ourselves patriots of this great country of ours.

That little phrase I "coined", and have been putting into the Blood & Fire, "Patriotism is contagious, spread it around", this is one "disease", we want to saturate this country with.

Footnote:

Finding this insert, and my write-up in the last issue of the B&F, "THE MAGIC OF ORLANDO", our 1990 Reunion theme, is part of the "MAGIC OF AMERICA".

PATRIOTISM IS  
CONTAGIOUS!  
SPREAD IT  
AROUND!





## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

SAN FRANCISCO HERE WE COME!! The San Francisco Reunion Committee, are ready and waiting for your arrival. WE WANT YOU!! Start making your plans now, to attend the San Francisco Reunion and make this 1989 our 41ST Reunion, into a Long Vacation Trip.

The Hotel, is a beautiful Hotel right on the Bay, at the San Francisco Airport. The Marriott will Honor our members, families, friends and guests, at the same room rate, 3 days before and 3 days after the reunion at the rate of \$55.00 per day plus an 8 percent tax.

Those of you, that will be driving there, there is FREE PARKING, those of you that will be coming by airplane, use the Marriott Hotel Shuttle Bus at NO CHARGE!! It is Complimentarily. (There was a misquote in the October Issue of the Blood & Fire Magazine.

If you have not already done so, let me take this time to remind you to please take an AD out in our Souveneir Ad Book, 63RD INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION SAN FRANCISCO REUNION. Look for Ad inside the Blood & Fire Magazine.

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION FORM: One of our members can win a FREE HOTEL ROOM THE DURATION; of the 41ST SAN FRANCISCO REUNION AUGUST 23rd until the 27th, 1989. All you have to do is sign up now, get your early Bird Registration Form in by May 31, 1989. BE A EARLY BIRD !!

MAIL TO:

Mr. Anthony Mucciollo  
419 University Ave.  
Burbank, CA. 91504

Look for the Early Bird Registration Form in the Blood & Fire Magazine. The drawing for the Early Bird Registrationm will be on Saturday night, the night of the Dinner, Dance, Banquet, August 26, 1989, (not Wednesday the 23rd) there will be many more gifts and prizes. The San Francisco Reunion Committee will be raffling a FREE 3 DAY/2NIGHT stay at the LAS VEGAS TROPICANA HOTEL for a One Dollar Ticket, you can buy as many chances as you want, drawing to be held on Saturday evening at the Dinner, Dance Banquet. Who will be the Lucky One? Balance of the Details will be at the San Francisco Reunion.

We will have two Hospitality Rooms for our use, if any chapter company group wishes to meet and take photo's. Let us know so we can give you the Time and the Day. You may also bring any Memorabilia in, that you may have to put on display; such as Photo's, Helmets, Stars, Stripes or German money.

The Events are as Follows:

Wednesday Registrastion Day; sign in at Registration Desk, get your name tags, and packets with your tickets and information.  
Wednesday Evening meet with your friends and buddies.

hotels and gardens. There is also a collection of unusual shops, including the Cheese Factory. Here you can find a treasury of fine wines, and watch Sonoma Jack cheese being made. This afternoon you will visit one more Sonoma winery, perhaps one illustrating wine production on a smaller scale, typical of some Sonoma concerns, where wine making is still a family tradition. At the end of the day you will return to your hotel.

Thursday Evening ITALIAN BUFFET

MUSIC, DANCE, SING, and be happy. FREE BEER AND SODA  
(Dress is Casual), be comfortable and enjoy yourselves.

Friday Morning A DAY OF REMEMERANCE Time 8:45a.m 2:00p.m

FREE BEER and SODA COOK-OUT at PRESIDIO  
MEMORIAL AND TAPS, at 6th Army, with Military band and colors.  
Today, you will have the unique opportunity to enjoy one of the most beautiful military posts in America, the Presidio of San Francisco with its park-like atmosphere and breath taking views.

The Presidio was first established in 1775 as the western most defense outpost of the Spanish Empire. Now, it is the southern anchor of the Golden Gate Bridge and home of the Sixth U.S. Army commanded by the senior army officer in the Western U.S.

Festivities at the Presidio will commence by first honoring the fallen comrades-in-arms of the 63RD INFANTRY DIVISION. Taps will be sounded by a member of the highly acclaimed Sixth Army Band. Following the playing of taps, the Presidio Post Chaplin will offer a prayer of remembrance.

Friday Evening  
Same as Wednesday

Saturday Morning

Mens Meeting 10:00 a.m - 1:00 p.m.

Women's Meeting 10:00 a.m - 12:00 noon (Coffee, Danish, or Struedel)

Saturday Evening DINNER, DANCE, BANQUET

1 Hour Cocktail Party C.O.D. BAR 6:00 p.m - 7:00 p.m.

A Famous writer once declared, "Everyone should be allowed to Love Two Cities, his own and San Francisco." Today, you'll discover why this is True.

For those of you coming with your Camper's and RV's; RV parking now is at Pacifica Beach or Candlestick Park. Its the new RV Park in San Francisco.

FOR RESERVATIONS: Call (415) 822-2299 or Toll Free 1(800) 888-CAMP

COME AND JOIN US !! YOU WILL HAVE A WONDERFUL TIME !!  
THE ITINERARY IS GOING TO BE GREAT !

*J Santangelo*  
John Santangelo PRESIDENT  
1 (213) 204-0440



MINUTES OF OFFICERS MEETING, FRIDAY, AUGUST 5TH, 1988, MARRIOTT PAVILION HOTEL  
ST. LOUIS - ROOM 2224

The meeting was called to order by President Gene Rombach and the following were in attendance:

President - Gene Rombach, Acting Secretary - Ed Witt, Editor - Nate Spiegel, M. J. Arth - B-253, Ed Fowle - HQ 862, Don Johnson - HQ 1st 253, Mike Baymor - Historian.  
Directors - M. Froberg, C. Stewart, J. Santangelo, G. Ludy, P. Romano, R. E. Tucker, C. Davidson

Minutes of previous meeting read by Ed Witt and accepted.

Treasurer's Report and Related Sheets read by Ed Witt and Accepted. Board discussed and agreed on (1) Add'l Mailing, then if no reply after 30 days after mailing - to drop. Also Witt to present this Saturday A.M. to membership for concurrence.

Discussed status of books, caps and Indexes - Mike Baymor stated it would cost \$9.00 a book in a 100 lot purchase and \$4.70 a book in a 500 lot purchase. We will recommend to Membership to drop the Hatcher Book.

The Secretary to reorder caps as required and the Indexes will not be needed.

The I.O.K. Chapter requested authorization to purchase and sell jewelry at Reunions and to have information put in the B. & F. They will put up all funds needed to purchase and then split profits 50/50 with the National. Ed Witt Motioned and Pete Romano seconded we concur with their proposal - Motion Carried. Bill Smith did not show at Meeting and there is no status on his jewelry sales. Suggest our Secretary follow-up on this later on and I presume he will not sell or reorder any more.

Discussed the assignment of Chapters as back-up for Site Presentations and the following was firm: 1990 - Florida, 1991 - I.O.K., 1992 - Philadelphia. Presentations from Other Locations will be honored from the floor at the Business Meeting after prior approval the day before by the Board to ascertain adequate personnel to handle a Reunion. The above to be presented at tomorrow's meeting.

The Editor gave his report which gave a due date of Oct. 5th for the November Issue and all Returns will be going to Nate who will correct his listing and then advise the Secretary/Treasurer of returns.

The Historian gave his report and it covered the status of the Hatcher Book which is sold out and the possibility of a new history written by Mike, Mag and Bill Scott. Mike will cover this at tomorrow's Annual Meeting.

President Rombach then discussed the Sales Tax Exempt potential savings to the organization. After a brief discussion it was decided to have the President appoint a Committee of three lawyers to explore this area.

John Santangelo then advised the Officers of next year's Reunion in California. He was contacted Friday A.M. by Marriott people in St. Louis for the possibility of bidding on the site. He talked long distance with the Marriott in Burlingame, Ca. (about 15 miles from San Francisco) and will have teletyped firm figures Saturday A.M. for presentation to the Membership - estimated to be \$55. a room and the 3rd week of August with many complimentary features such as free bus transportation to and from S.F.

The subject of a check list for the new President was discussed and Mag stated that he gave one to Gene and Gene was in turn to do the same for Santangelo.

John Santangelo and one of his officer-candidates stated they have 6 working couples and 18 volunteers available as a work force for their Reunion. He also has been in contact with the 6th Army and the 63rd Arcom for assistance in their Memorial service.

The Meeting was adjourned at 5:15 P.M.

Ed Witt Acting Secretary

 **San Francisco** 1989  
SAN FRANCISCO AIRPORT **Marriott** Reunion  
**August: Wed. 23 to Sun. 27, 1989**



Return trip from R&R in Dejon, France....  
L-R ??? John Leluola G-3 and Sgt. Paul Smith G-3



Rear: Pvts. Bennett,  
Price & Blount  
Front: Sgt. Joloski &  
Pvt. Page  
Co. "E" 253rd Inf.

\* \* \* \* \*  
SAN FRANCISCO HERE WE  
COME..AUGUST 23-27th..  
GET YOUR RESERVATIONS  
IN EARLY.....

MAIL YOUR DUES IN  
DO IT NOW!!!







# THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

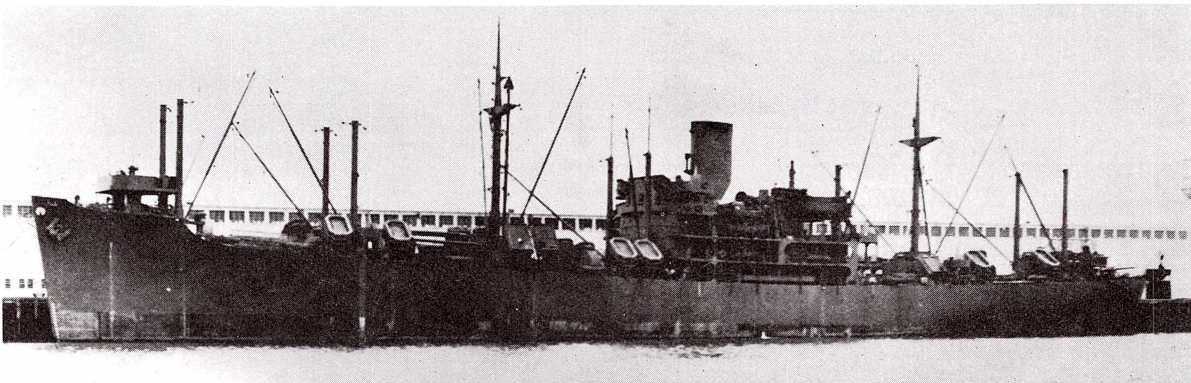
This is to certify that the accompanying flag was flown  
over the United States Capitol on January 19, 1988,  
at the request of the Honorable Michael Bilirakis,  
Member of Congress.

Presented to the 63rd Infantry Division Association  
Commemorating the unveiling of  
"The Cross of the Jepsheim Mill"

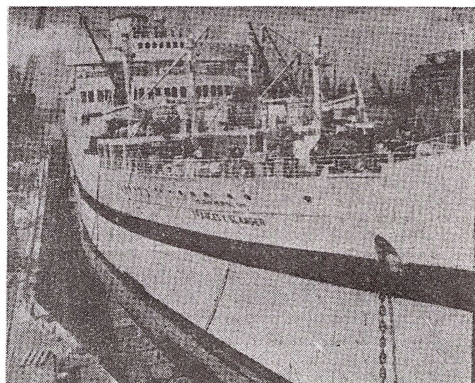
June 12, 1988

*George M. White*  
George M. White, FAIA  
Architect of the Capitol

Presented to the Florida Chapter-By Abe & Sylvia Haidt-I&R Hqs. Co. 254th Inf.



THE SEA ROBIN..was the cargo ship that carried troops of the 63rd, behind the.....  
Saturnia, on our trip overseas. From the collection of Frank O. Braynard.....  
Courtesy of Don Cronan..Co. "M" 255th Inf.



SATURNIA..carried troops of  
the 254th Infantry overseas.

Renamed the Frances Y.....  
Slinger, as a hospital ship  
in honor of the above, who  
was an Army nurse, killed  
in the ETO.



IMPORTANT NOTICE.....

To those "hotshots" who have not paid their 1988 dues, please do so now.

It was decided in St. Louis, that our secretary would drop from our mailing list all those who have not paid their dues, after sending them two letters, requesting they send their dues in, or be dropped from the roster. Many were dropped by not replying or sending their dues in.

Many were being carried on our roster for years. Our secretary did a "bang up job" updating all our records.

I don't want YOU, to be disappointed by being one of those not receiving future issues of the B&F. Please send your dues in now to our treasurer, Tom Liszka. Still only \$5 per year, and \$40 for life membership. It's still the best deal in town, as I know what the other military assn. membership fees are.

It's also ridiculous, when dues are so low and the assn. has to pay out a \$1.78 for returned B&F's, because the "hotshot" did not notify our secretary or the editor, about an address change.

TOM AND I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR...  
COOPERATION...THANK YOU!

\* \* \* \* \*  
A SON NEED HELP!!

My father was Wilfred (Bill) J. Lillibridge, PFC. He died when I was only two years old. I have tried on two occasions to get a copy of my father's service record. Each time I was informed that his records were destroyed by fire. He was with the 3266th Ordinance Base Depot Co. from 9/43 until 12/44.

I have photographs of my father with a 63rd Inf. Div. patch on his uniform. He probably was assigned to the 63rd, after March 24th, & before April 5, 1945. He was photographed by the Danube near Dillingen on 4/26/45. He was also at Dachau, shortly after it was liberated, as he had lots of photos of this area. He was later assigned to Hqs. Co. of the 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion on 5/25/45, until 9/45 then returned to the states on 11/11/45, (New York City), assigned to C Battery, 398th F.A.

If you have any information, please contact me.

One last note of information, my father was 34 yrs. old, 5'7", 130 lbs. Thank you in advance for your help. Fred Lillibridge 920 South-land Lane #213, Brookings, SD 57006.

Start putting those old memory banks to work, and maybe someone out there can assist Fred.

\* \* \* \* \*  
and a "BIG THANK YOU":

For all those Christmas cards, letters, & donations. Letting me know that you enjoy reading the Blood & Fire, and how essential it is to the association. It sure made my days, and all that work worthwhile.

YOUR EDITOR....Nate

Note: Our treasurer Tom Liszka appreciates those donations to the association.  
The

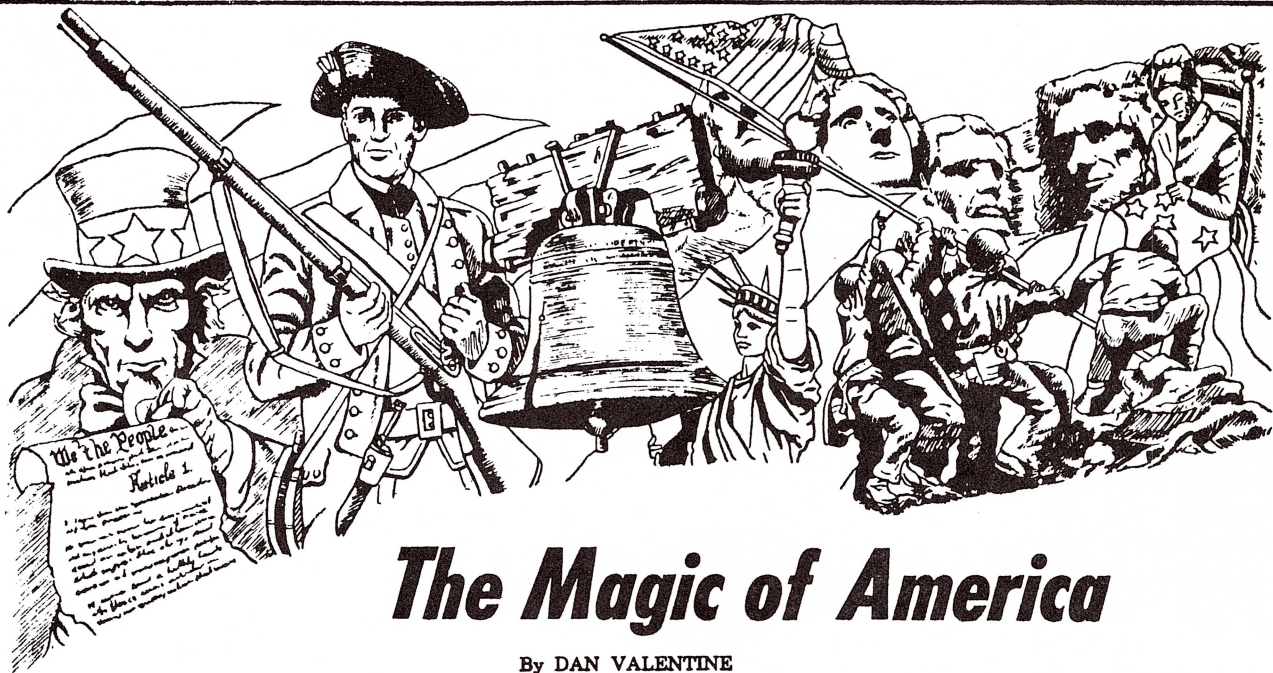
\* \* \* \* \*



LtoR: John Gill-Lou Gallo-John Hazelton  
Vince Fealy & Jim Mulcahy in the  
wheelchair....HQs Co. 253rd Inf.  
1988 Reunion -St. Louis



1st Sgt. Lou Beamont-Div. Hqs.



# The Magic of America

By DAN VALENTINE

## AMERICA IS MANY THINGS . . .

It's a mood . . . a state of mind . . . a philosophy . . .

America is —

A brisk wind from the Atlantic ocean . . . a soft breeze from the Pacific . . .

America is a mountain peak in Colorado . . . the Mississippi River . . . a snow storm in Montana . . . the hot July sun on the wheatfields of Kansas . . .

America is a small town — with one street-light.

America is a big town — with concrete canyons of skyscrapers.

America has broad shoulders . . . and a cocky grin . . . and nervous feet that want to keep moving.

America is restless.

It moves . . . It churns . . .

It was born in rebellion.

America thrives on hope.

It's a second-chance nation — where every man has the right to dream a new dream.

America is the place where losers can become winners . . . where the poor can become rich . . . where the ignorant can become educated . . . where the ill can become healthy . . . where the lost can be found . . .

America is laughter . . . The hearty grin of a man building a bridge, the giggle of a school-girl . . . the happy shouts of boys at play.

America is music . . .

The hoe-down fiddle at a country dance, a great symphony playing in a giant hall . . . the Yankee-Doodle tune of a New England town band on the Fourth of July . . .

America is many things: The right to attend church, the right not to attend church . . . The right to speak up, the right to keep quiet . . . The right to join the crowd, the right to walk alone . . .

The ghosts of giant heroes walk the halls of America's memory: Patrick Henry . . . Davy Crocket . . . Nathan Hale . . . John Paul Jones . . . Ben Franklin . . . and Washington and Lincoln . . . and Jefferson . . .

America is Thomas Edison . . . and Walt Whitman . . . and Charles Lindbergh . . . and Babe Ruth . . . and Bing Crosby . . . and Willie Mays . . .

America is The Mayflower . . . The Boston Tea Party . . . Bunker Hill . . . Valley Forge . . .

Gettysburg . . . The Alamo . . .

The Battle of the Marne . . . and Guadalcanal, Okinawa . . . and Omaha Beach . . .

America is a magic mixture of all the people of the world . . .

English, Scots and Germans pushing back the wilderness . . . Italians, Dutch and Swedes walking across the plains to a new tomorrow . . . Jews, Poles and the French blending together to make a dream come true . . . People of all races and creeds working together to create a nation . . .

America is many things . . .

The Statue of Liberty . . . Mount Rushmore . . . Freeways . . . Yankee Stadium . . . Yellowstone Park . . .

America is a traffic jam . . . an election day . . . a town meeting . . . a Little League baseball game . . . a junior prom . . . a Labor Day parade . . . a trip to the moon . . .

America is the right to work at a job, the right to quit a job . . . the right to own property . . . the right to compete . . . the right to follow a dream . . .

America is many things . . . a mood, a state of mind . . . a philosophy . . .

America is a red white and blue tomorrow for all men who hold the hope of freedom in their hearts . . .

# CHAPTER NEWS

**LADIES OF THE 63rd DIVISION.....**  
 The Reunion Committee for the meeting in San Francisco, has been working hard to put together an unforgettable event. The women on the committee have been organizing our own meeting for Saturday morning. We are hoping to have the best turnout ever. We are requesting your help and encouragement to have your family attend. There will be something for everyone--- young, old, and even the very young. If you have any questions, please get in touch with a committee member, or...  
 Mrs. Betty Santangelo, 3339 S. Canfield Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90034...  
 Mrs. Anne Pedone, Sr., 23816 Ocean Ave., Torrance, CA 90505.

See you in San Francisco,  
 Anne Pedone

\* \* \* \* \*

**"F" Company Mini-Reunion.....**  
 We will be holding our mini-reunion, at the Holiday Inn South, on April 5th, Wednesday to Sunday, the 9th 1989. All rooms up to four people in a room, for the special rate of \$38 plus tax. It has a very large & beautiful lobby, Exercise room, Jacuzzi, Indoor-Outdoor swimming pools and a putting green. We can have all our rooms in the court-yard. Their breakfast buffet is only \$4.75. You can all join us, at the Holiday INN Baton Rouge South, 9940 Airline Hwy., Baton Rouge, LA 70816..(504) 924-7021...

"Smitty" Smith

\* \* \* \* \*

PLEASE NOTE:THE BELOW ORDER FORM IS NOT THE SAME TAPE THAT WAS SOLD AT THE ST.LOUIS REUNION. THIS VHS TAPE HAS A RUNNING TIME OF 49 MINUTES. INCLUDES THE LAST REVIEW OF THE DIV. BEFORE GOING OVERSEAS.

**PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER...Pres. Irvin Schlocker**  
 We held our 2 day annual fall mini-reunion at the Nevele Hotel located in the New York Catskill on October 23-25th.

Our group of 45 people had a wonderful time eating 3 meals a day..walking the spacious grounds, taking in the spectacular fall scenery in all it's beauty, and just sitting around, having good old fashion "bull sessions". In the evening we were entertained by a 10 piece orchestra and very talented singers and comedians.

At our business meeting, Shorty Myers, showed the 54 minute VCR tape featuring scenes from Camp Van Dorn, authentic 63rd Division combat film, and the 63rd ARCOM tape...all combined into one tape, for very easy viewing.

Shorty has produced a great tape that will be treasured by all of us who were there, in combat. The tape will be available for distribution in the near future. If you wish to order one, look for Shorty's memo elsewhere in this issue.

The \$75.00 hotel rebate was raffled in three \$25.00 prizes, that were won by Alton See, Irvin Schlocker, and Gail McCracken, George Cahill's daughter.f

We are now checking into a different site for the 1989 Fall Mini-Reunion.

Albert J. Conti

\* \* \* \* \*

**FLORIDA CHAPTER...Pres. Hank Greenberg**  
 Our mini-reunion on November 5th, which was held in Boca Raton, at the Sheraton Inn, was a weekend of enjoyment, R&R, and good comradeship. We had an attendance of 36 people, which included a number of first timers. They promised to attend our future mini's, and were sorry they didn't join us before. Theweekend was hosted by Hank Greenberg, Bob & Virginia Brace, they did an excellent job.

continued on next page..

## ... LAST REMINDER! 63RD INFANTRY DIVISION VHS VIDEO TAPE ORDER FORM .....

Tape includes the way it was at Camp Van Dorn from '43-'44, combat scenes from Army Archives and the 63rd Arcom Remembers the Fighting 63rd in Combat.

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ tapes @ \$22.00 each.  
 DO NOT SEND MONEY. YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED BY MAIL WHEN TAPES ARE AVAILABLE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_(\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_



MAIL TO: GORDON MYERS, 306 Red Cedar Drive, Levittown, PA 19055

# HISTORIC NOTES

by Mike Baymor...



The Company Commander of the QM Co was kind enough to send me a complete roster of the QM Co. for May '45. We need to hear from the Recon Co., Ord. Co., Medic Bn., (except 253rd det.), MP's, Engr. Bn., Div. Hqs. Co. We need rosters and human interest stories, also unusual true experiences. WE have a good start on our history. Mag Froberg is keeping up with the input. It's YOUR history, so dig out some of the material which has been locked up since '45, and send it to us. Thanks a lot to all who are helping in the project. Now that most of the Division is at or near retirement age, you can write the experience, you wanted to do many years ago.

The Seventh Army of Report of Operations, long out of print, is being reprinted by the Battery Press, in Nashville, Tenn. This originally was a three volume set, but is being printed in 2 volumes, 1,064 pages of texts, 302 photos and 83 large scale maps. It costs \$99.95 plus \$6 for postage and handling, because of it's size. The original volumes were selling \$250 to \$400.00.

I have used the 3 volume books. Books II and III covered the 63rd Inf. Div., from the Colmar pocket to the end of the war. I haven't contacted the Battery Press to see if volume II is available separately. This should completely cover the 63rd Inf. Div. Information was provided by George Parker, "L" 254th, a WWII Military History collector.

Mike Baymor

\*\*\*\*\*

MOVING TIME!

LET YOUR SECRETARY  
KNOW...YOUR  
NEW ADDRESS.....

\*\*\*\*\*



Chapter New continued.....

Friday night, we had a fish dinner at St. Peter's American Episcopal Church. They went all out, to make sure everything was delicious, and it sure was, with a few renditions of some Irish melodies as a background, with one of the church volunteers playing the piano. Even had Murray Moore, singing along (singing??).

New Officers for 1989...Pres. Hank Greenberg, Vice Pres. Gen Garland Ludy, Treas. Nate Spiegel, Secretary Kay Gomiela.

Our next mini will be held in Winter Haven on the weekend of May 25-27th, at the USA Inn, for the special rate of \$31.00 per nite, plus 8% tax. It will be hosted by Walter & Ann Milke, 3201 Ave. O N.W., Winter Haven, FL 33881 (813) 967-7116.

USA INN P.O.Box 7, Cypress Gardens, FL33884 (813)324-5950....Your all invited, and can make your reservations with the above information.

Nate.....

Postscript: The Florida Chapter has started on our Florida 1990 reunion, with emphasis on enjoyment, more R&R, and enough time for those extra "bull sessions" with old buddies. More information will be forthcoming in future issues of the Blood & Fire. At this stage in life, we all want to enjoy ourselves, but, at a slower pace.

Nate...Reunion Chm...



Back: Schafer, Urban, Anderson, Swackhammer, Hooven, Linscott, Jackson.....  
Front:Dennison, Eckert, Herberth, Yuskavich Vermillion, Brown  
Present but not in picture:Abernathy, Greer, Prothero, & Savageau...Co.'A' 253rd Inf.  
1988 Reunion in St. Louis

# Wartime memories resurrected

by Georgia Maxwell

Thanksgiving, 1944. Lloyd Mills, a 23-year-old platoon sergeant from Daviess County, landed at Marseilles, France. It was three months after D-Day, 125 days before Germany's surrender.

Mills was attached to the 63rd Infantry Division. Nicknamed the Blood and Fire, they would, according to the Division Commander's journal, be in almost daily contact with the enemy as they crossed France and Germany.

Major General Louis E. Hibbs's account (parts are included here in italics) reads like a wartime newsreel. Added to a Missouri man's personal memoirs, it's more like a novel.

"We were in France about two months before entering German soil," the retired Jamesport farmer said. Reclining in an easy chair, in bib overalls, the memories unfurl. Not of heroic battles or war epics. Just humorous antics of two young Americans nicknamed Zeke and Zeke . . . of writing home to his New England girlfriend of the camaraderie between servicemen.

*March 14, 1945—Last month this Division brilliantly forced the crossing of the Saar River and led the Seventh Army onto German soil. Before tomorrow the Seventh Army attacks along the entire front. In the coming*

continued

After Heidelberg the German people realized it was all over. Some began to help the Americans by removing the wires of German booby-trapped bridges. One civilian told Mills, "Hitler did more for Germany than anyone we'd ever had. We didn't know he was destroying people to do it."

continued:

prisoners (the ones who were well enough) started streaming out to meet us. There were citizens of every country, even Russians and Mongolians . . . but mostly Jews. I didn't know until then that Hitler had singled them out for extermination.

"It was cold. They had taken burlap sacks and wrapped them around their feet. The stench was horrible."

Mills compares the prisoners' looks with the emaciated Third World pictures shown on television. They were skinny, bones protruded, eyes were sunken.

"They streamed out of Dachau—almost animal-like with relief and emotion. Even affectionate. They would grab us and hug us." The first prisoner he encountered asked for a cigarette. It was the one English word known all over Europe.

"The front line wasn't there over 30 minutes," he continued. "We didn't even go inside." When they moved on, rear echelon troops guarded the camp. Medics provided food and medicine.

The Red Cross also helped, but there were displaced persons everywhere. Those who were able set out on foot or bicycle, their destinations often countries away.

Nine days before Germany's surrender, just 15 miles outside Munich, the 63rd was relieved.

*attack, you will again strike first, into and through the Siegfried Line—blasting a hole in the enemy's vaunted West Wall, last barrier to the Rhine.*

VETERAN'S DAY

MONDAY,  
NOVEMBER 11

The Gallatin Chamber of Commerce encourages local merchants to close Monday to observe Veterans Day.

Penetration of this Siegfried Line presented the 63rds' heaviest combat. A protective barrier built by Germany on the French border, the line consisted of low, enclosed German gun emplacements of cement and steel. They were surrounded by trenches. Underground kitchens and supply rooms (often running two or three stories deep) provided unlimited supplies. The entire fortress was surrounded by tiger's teeth. These cement facades resembled tombstones and were placed at random to prevent tank penetration.

But penetrate it they did. In a nutshell, Mills said the engineers bombed

The Fuhrer's destruction was everywhere. In addition to the towns, Americans liberated work and concentration camps. They are remembered most for their liberation of the Dachau concentration camp. However, Mills says that's only because it has since been made into a memorial. At the time it was no dif-

*ferent than others on their path.*

*May 1, 1945—Blood and Fire, you're getting a break, and a well-earned one, from combat. You've fought across the Saar, through the Siegfried Line and across Germany from the Rhine, through the Odenwald, across the Danube to within sight of the snow-covered Bavarian Alps. Victory's on the horizon.*

The 63rd retreated to Mannheim where they received word of Germany's surrender. Mills started making plans for the future. He wrote his brother back in Missouri to buy an engagement ring and mail it to a little gal in New England.

He would remain billeted in German civilian homes for close to a year. But, with true American ingenuity, he and his best friend, Richard Mercer, alias Zeke and Zeke, made the best of it. Their zany escapades, kept at bay while on the battlefield, now flourished.

"First, we needed some real food," the Missouri Zeke said. "We were tired of rations. We wanted fried chicken." Perched atop an upstairs window, they learned to snare a running rooster on the ground with a hook and wire. When their commanding officer found chicken feathers, the men didn't stop . . . they learned to be more careful.

Eggs presented a greater challenge. You couldn't grab an egg and carry it precariously 30 feet through the air.

But, the German civilians were willing to trade eggs for coffee. "Only trouble was we were greedy. We liked coffee with our eggs. So we'd take used coffee grounds and spread

them on paper to dry. Then we'd fluff them up and go door to door to trade for eggs. It worked. Except when we'd forget where we'd been and try a repeat performance."

The Zekes found three German motorcycles buried under hay in an old barn. They figured they'd been left there when the German Army ran out of gasoline. The cycles were promptly "commandeered in the name of the U.S. government" and the group enjoyed some weekend fun.

They also enjoyed horseback riding. "Horses were free for the catching," Mills explained. The Germans had used them to pull artillery pieces after they ran out of gasoline. After the war they were turned loose.

He was still in Germany when the A-bomb (another secret he had no inkling of) was dropped on Japan. World War II was over.

"I was mustered out in March, just in time to plant oats," he said. The first time it rained him out of the field, he headed east to retrieve his New England gal.

They were married and returned to Jamesport in May. By Nov. 12, his first Veterans Day back in the States, he was too busy getting crops out to worry about any special observance.

"Really I just dismissed the war. I didn't want to join VFWs or anything like that I just wanted to farm."

(Continued on Page 3)



Lloyd Mills...as a member of the 63rd Infantry Division



He dwells neither on the hardships nor the heroics. Instead, he chooses to remember the war for the beautiful country, the warm and jolly German people, the humorous camaraderie. A few years ago, he took his New England gal back to see an improved Germany. He was pleased.

Beautiful hillsides were landscaped right over the top of buried rubble from World War II. That sight alone was worth his trip. He chose to wait outside as his wife toured the Dachau memorial.

Approaching the 40th Veterans Day since the war to end all wars, Mills figures he'll still be thinking more of his crops than he will of the holiday. He is, however, immensely thankful he's free to do so. We all are.

Submitted by Col. N.L. McCartney..Co."E" 253rd.

from the: Gallatin Northern Missourian.....

# Letters To

# The Editor



PLEASE NOTE: The San Francisco Reunion COMMITTEE, needs your assistance to defray expenses for all those "goodies". It's no easy job in putting on a reunion. Support them by placing an "AD" in their souvenir ad book. Do it now, I'm sure they will appreciate your support. Editor...

Dear Nate:

I am trying to locate men from Co."A" 253rd Inf., who were with Lt. James Robinson, April 6, 1945, that is the time, the action took place, that he was awarded the Medal Of Honor for, it was near Untergriesheim, Germany. I am making a video history of the 861st F.A., and any assistance would be appreciated. ED MUSIAL, 1614 E. Colony Ave., Kissimmee, FL 32743.

Thank you...Ed M.

\* \* \* \*

Dear Nate:

Do we have a listing on PFC Victor E. Dyer #35045705, he was in the 255th Hqs. Co. I would appreciate any information from the 255th, that would assist me in locating Victor. I have movies of him when we went to Ft. Benning for special training in July '44. Thank you!

Shorty Meyers

Note: Shorty's address is on the Video ad, in this issue, and Shorty we don't have him listed on our roster.

\* \* \* \*

Dear Nate

Pictured in enclosed photo are 13 of the 17 men who attended the St. Louis, reunion from rifle Co."A" 253rd Inf. Regt. While trying to "round up" more men for the reunion, we discovered the following...34 men K.I.A., 39 Post War Deaths, found 67 men, and we are still trying to locate 276 men, for a total of 416 men. If we can share information to help you locate your men, please let us know. Contact...

PAUL VERMILLION, Sec./Treas. "A" 253rd 612 Brookhollow Drive, Port Lavaca, TX 77979. Ed Hooven...President

Are YOU DELINQUENT with YOUR DUES?? Please, send them in NOW to our treasurer Tom Liszka, to keep receiving YOUR BLOOD & FIRE. THANKS!!

SAN FRANCISCO REPORT CONTINUED..... Because of this, we want every member of our Association in attendance. What do you say, can we count on you to be there in San Francisco on August 23-27, 1989.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ivan M. (Sonny) Charitan  
Co"B" 263rd Engrs. Com Bn.

\* \* \* \*



Secretary's Corner

Tom Liszka....

There are still some Indexes to Col. Hatcher's Book available. If you have the book, you might like one. Please remit \$1.50 to Tom Liszka, 19W 565 Deerpath Ln., Lemont, IL 60439, to cover the printing and postage.

Also, I had available at the Reunion, listings by Regiment and Battalion, of members of our Association. If you would like such a listing of YOUR REGIMENT, please remit \$2.00 to cover the reproduction cost and mailing.

We still have 63rd Div. Assoc. Caps..... and they are still Only \$8.00. Make your checks out to the 63rd Inf. Div. Assoc: and mail to above address. Cost of mailing is in the price.

OLIVE INSIDE SHIELD

Yellow Background & Sword

Red Type and Flame



STATE OF FLORIDA  
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS  
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

POST OFFICE BOX 1008  
STATE ARSENAL, ST. AUGUSTINE  
32085-1008

13 September 1988

63rd Infantry Division Association  
422 Winfield Boulevard  
San Antonio, Texas 78239

Dear Mr. Witt:

Please find enclosed some information on the Camp Blanding Museum and Memorial Park of the Second World War. The museum and park have been designed, and work presently is under way to make them realities by November 25, 1990, the 50th Anniversary of the federal mobilization of Florida's National Guard units.

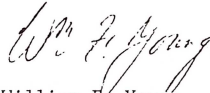
We are erecting nine coquina-stone foundations to mount bronze divisional plaques (18" high X 24" long) and a divisional crest (12" X 12") for the nine infantry divisions stationed at Camp Blanding during World War II. They include the 1st, 29th, 30th, 31st, 36th, 43rd, 63rd, 66th, and 79th divisions. We are asking each division to furnish the plaque and crest and the museum will provide the stone pedestal and have them mounted. Cost estimates for the plaques are approximately \$600.00 each.

In addition, we are asking for artifacts or military memorabilia that might be available for display in the museum. Items could vary from tanks and trucks to personal uniform items, weapons and equipment.

For further information, please contact me at P. O. Box 743, St. Augustine, FL 32085; or by telephone at 904/797-1130. You also may contact one of the three gentlemen listed in the enclosed material.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,



William F. Young  
CW4, FLARNG

What is the Camp Blanding & Historical Assoc.... It is, a not-for-profit organization. To promote support for the Museum and Memorial Park of the 2nd World War. To the different units and entire Infantry Divisions that were formed, and also trained there. The 1st, 29th, 30th 31st, 36th, 43rd, 63rd & 79th.

The Association was chartered on August 15, 1988, at Camp Blanding, Fl. Membership is open to all individuals & organizations interested in preserving the history of the U.S. Army involvement in WW2. Membership, Annual-\$10, Life-\$50, Patron-\$100, & Benefactor-\$200. Meetings will be held

The officers are elected by the General Membership present at the Annual General Membership meeting. Officers are, President, V.P., Secretary, Treas. & Directors.

SAN FRANCISCO REUNION AUGUST 1989

The Headquarters of the Assoc. is located at Camp Blanding, Fl. Address: The Camp Blanding & Historical Assoc., Rt.1, Box 465, Starke, Fl 32091-9703. The Assoc. operates & exists at Camp Blanding, only with the consent of the Installation Commander. This consent is contingent upon compliance, and conditions of National Guard Regulation, Army Regulation and State Law.

I recently spoke to Lt. (Ret.) James Bloodworth, and he informed me, they are looking for uniforms weapons, vehicles, and anything they could use in the museum, pertaining to WW2. The Memorial will be on 10-12 acres, near the main gate.

For further information, you can contact SGM Rodney Hall, Director Museum Project, at the above address. To call, Camp Blanding switchboard number, 904-533-2268, Extension 3196.

Dedication Service for the Museum will be on NOV. 25th, 1990.

Nate....Editor



The mop & broom brigade....  
Goldschmidt, Borrson(?)  
Sink & Hergesheimer  
A.T 254th Inf.

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 !!!



# Family & Friends Welcome... Turn the '89 Reunion into a long vacation

Early Bird  
Registration Form...

# WIN A FREE HOTEL ROOM

FOR THE DURATION OF THE '89 REUNION

- 1- All you need to do is fill in this form, cut along dotted lines and mail by May 31, 1989 to:  
**Anthony Mucciolo, 419 University Ave., Burbank, CA 91504.**
- 2- All names will be placed in a box and the winner will be drawn on Wednesday evening, August 23, 1989.

- 3- *FULL HOTEL RESERVATION DEPOSIT WILL BE REFUNDED TO WINNER.*
- 4- *NOTE: Hotel reservation and deposit must be mailed direct to San Francisco Airport Marriott. (See reservation form on back page.)*

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 <input type="checkbox"/> if this is your first reunion.		

**Make check(s) payable to: San Francisco Reunion, 63rd Inf. Div. Assoc.**

	COST PER PERSON	NUMBER ATTENDING	TOTAL COST
<b>SAN FRANCISCO REUNION: AUGUST 23-27, 1989</b> REGISTRATION ..... \$15.00 DUES: National ..... \$5.00 DUES: Lifetime ..... \$40.00		MEMBER ONLY	\$ 15.00
<b>WEDNESDAY EVENING, AUGUST 23</b> Meet Your Buddies. Dance Music, Free Beer & Soda, Cheese & Nuts ..... 8 pm to ?	FREE	( )	FREE
<b>THURSDAY DAY, AUGUST 24</b> (CHOICE OF ONE BUS TOUR)			
<input type="checkbox"/> #1 San Francisco Highlights ..... 8:30 am to 1:30 pm	\$ 18.00	( )	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> #2 Sausalito & the Bay ..... 9:30 am to 2:30 pm	\$ 24.00	( )	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> #3 Wine Country (WITH FOOD) ..... 9:30 am to 4:30 pm	\$ 35.00	( )	_____
<b>THURSDAY EVENING, AUGUST 24</b> Italian Buffet, Dance Music, Free Beer, Wine, Soda ..... 7:30 pm to ?	\$ 15.00	( )	_____
<b>FRIDAY DAY, AUGUST 25</b> A Day of Remembrance, Memorial Service at the Presidio 6th Army Base. Includes PICNIC LUNCH & FREE BEER ..... 9:30 am to 2:00 pm	\$ 22.00	( )	_____
<b>FRIDAY EVENING, AUGUST 25</b> Social Get Together, Music, Free Beer & Soda ..... 8:00 pm to ?	\$ 5.00 PER MALE	( )	_____
<b>SATURDAY MORNING, AUGUST 26</b> Men's Business Meeting ..... 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Women's Social Meeting (Coffee, Danish) ..... 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	FREE	( )	FREE
<b>SATURDAY EVENING, AUGUST 26</b> 1 Hour Cocktail Party C.O.D. Bar ..... 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Dinner and Dance ..... 7:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.			
CHECK ONE <input type="checkbox"/> New York Steak .....	\$ 25.00	( )	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Filet of Sole .....	\$ 25.00	( )	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Child's Platter .....	\$ 9.50	( )	_____
<b>DON'T FORGET YOUR AD BOOK ADS</b>			
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>			

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE & MAIL





## REMINISCING.....

### BATTLE FOR JEBSHEIM

by A. A. Brill  
Former 2nd Lt.,  
3rd Platoon, Co. "G",  
254th Inf.

[NOTE: A longtime friend of mine recently surprised me by coming up with letters which I had written to him during the latter part of 1944 and early 1945. There follows verbatim excerpts from one dated 8 February 1945.]

In closing up the German pocket in the Colmar sector, my battalion was given the mission of seizing and holding one of the towns in that area. My platoon was to start off the attack. Everything went along smoothly until we came to within one mile of the objective. Then the Germans let loose with everything they had--88's, mortars and artillery. In spite of the pounding, we managed to edge our way forward along ditches and draws.

A little while later, my company commander sent word up to me to hold up my advance because the unit on our right was meeting stiff resistance and could not keep up. I set my men up in abandoned German positions and awaited word to continue the attack. After some time, it appeared that we might be stuck there for the night so I took my platoon sergeant with me to reconnoiter for other positions. By this time, it was dark.

We had not gone more than 35 yards when we came upon six men huddled together behind a snow bank. It was snowing fairly hard so I could not make out who they were. At that time we were not more than 15 yards from the group. I knew that my men had to remove their white camouflage prior to the attack, but I was not certain about the adjacent unit. We saw some other men (also in white) making their way out of the nearby woods. Suddenly, one of them yelled to another in German!

Well, I hit the ground and so did my sergeant--just as the Germans opened up with their burp guns. I managed to toss a hand grenade and cover my platoon sergeant as he scooted on back to warn the rest of the platoon. They continued firing at him but failed to hit him. I took off my gloves and took out another grenade. As I lay there in the snow, I heard a lot of movement in the vicinity. The Germans were all around me.

I just lay there half covered with snow, still gripping the grenade. I had absolutely no idea what to do, knowing damn well that they had to find me there. Well, one German did finally approach. He did not bother with me at all--just called out in German that I was dead. I must have aged twenty years in that moment.

By this time, my platoon opened fire and the heavy machine guns that we had attached did likewise. Soon the tanks that we had in support opened up with their guns. Together, they really fired up a storm. My own fire was ricocheting all around me, but I never felt more relieved in all my life.

Soon the Germans were yelling in confusion and scampering around like mad. The last thing I was able to understand was the German officer yelling in German, "Grab the wounded ones and head back through the woods." I raised up long enough to see one German get hit by our guns. After they were well into the woods, I yelled back to my platoon and they came out to get me. They had practically given me up for lost. I was still shaking when they showed up--partly from the cold and partly from what had just occurred.

We took the town the next day. We had mopped up most of the place except for one part of town where resistance was heavier than anticipated. We did not know it at the time but there was an enormous number of Germans holed up in some solid brick buildings and bunkers out in the field. They had plenty of automatic weapons and ammunition. For one whole day and night we pounded them with small arms and mortar fire. Prisoners started trickling in. Hearing some Germans yelling near a barn close by, I went out to investigate.

A German officer was there asking our men not to shoot. Figuring that the German wanted to surrender with his men, I had my men hold their fire while I spoke to him. As he saw me approach with my carbine in hand, the German got chicken and took off just as one of my men took a shot at him.

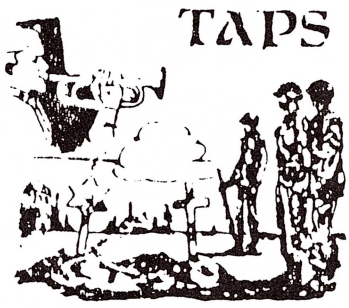
He came back again around the other side of the barn and I again tried to speak to him. He seemed to be afraid that I was going to shoot him so I handed my carbine to one of my men. Going outside the barn, I noticed about twenty Germans nearby. I told them, in my best German, to drop their weapons and put their hands on their heads.

The German officer laughed in my face. It seemed that he wanted to speak to me to ask us to surrender. I turned five shades whiter. As I bolted back through the barn door, they started firing at me. I cleared the barn in time because they soon lobbed a bazooka shell in. Their counterattack had begun.

It took all of that day to clean out the town, but when we finally did we accounted for a terrific toll of the enemy--killed, wounded and captured. According to the veteran outfit here, we had really come through our first engagement with flying colors. A week later, we received word that all who participated were awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge.



*San Francisco* 1989  
Reunion



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!"

ROBERT MORRISON

Date died Dec. 16, 1988..Co"A" 255th Inf.  
736-96th Ave.N.....Naples, FL 33963...

M.D. HAINES

Date died N/A.....Hqs. 862nd FA  
101 S. Cleveland.....Cambridge, MN 55008

FORREST G. LARSEN

Date died N/A.....Co"A" 263rd Engrs  
1315 Rowell #906.....Joliet, IL 60433

HENRY E. McNALLY

Date died Nov. 23, 1988."A" Btry 861st FA  
11132 Newport Mill RD,Kensington, MD20795

MICHAEL G. STEPHANY

Date died Jan. 6, 1980...Co"K" 254th Inf.  
4726 Wetzel Ave.....Cleveland OH 44109

JOSEPH FERRIGNO

Date died Dec. 24, 1988.SV Btry 861st FA  
1815 Palmer Ave.....Larchmont, NY 10538

Col. EDWARD A. CHAZAL

Date died Oct. 8, 1988.....255th Inf.  
Jacksonville, FL.....

JOE DIAZ

Date died June 1971.....Co"B" 253rd Inf.  
308 E. 3rd Ave.....Langeloth, PA 15054

EARL MATTUSCH

Date died Dec. 3rd 1984..Co"B" 253rd Inf.  
2514 West Locust.....Davenport, IA 52804

FOREST LARSON

Date died Dec19,1988.263rd Engrs. HQS "A"  
1315 Rowell.....Joliet, IL 60433

A BIG THANKS FROM THE LADIES OF....  
We the women of the San Francisco Reunion  
Committee, would like to express our deep-  
est thanks to Mrs. Dot Hiller, and the St.  
Louis Chapter, for the lovely gift that  
was donated by Mrs. Dot Hiler, for one of  
our door prizes, to be given away at the  
San Francisco Reunion. Will you be the  
lucky one?? See you all in August.

The women of the San Francisco  
Reunion Committee...



## Hot Shot Mail Bag



Mrs. MARY STEPHANY (husband Michael de-  
ceased) Co"K" 254th Inf..4726 Wetzel Ave.  
Cleveland, OH 44109...Mary enjoys read-  
ing the various articles in the Blood &  
Fire, and seeing all those photos of the  
past. Thanks Mary! Mary is still a mem-  
ber of the association.

JACK NEEDHAM, Svs. Co. 255th Inf..14211  
S. 84th Ave., Orlando Park, IL 60462....  
Jack was sorry that he couldn't make St  
Louis, as he was recovering from heart  
surgery. Jack we hope you have recupe-  
rated by August, so you and Eleanore can  
join us in San Francisco. Am sure you  
both would enjoy it.

WALTER K. DRAKE, Hqs. Co. 3rd Bn 255th  
Inf..303 Cleveland, W. Frankfort, IL 62896  
Walter writes that he still is going  
strong at 79, and feels OK. He wonders if  
any of his old company are still alive &  
kicking. Heck Walter, they are not only  
alive and kicking, but kicking up their  
heels at our reunions. You and Ann should  
join us in San Francisco, and join in.

GERALD BLACKBURN, Medics 254th Inf..3111  
Home Ave., Marion, IN 46953..Gerald re-  
ceived a Christmas card from Sgt. Ray  
Mininni, of the 254th Medics. Ray and his  
wife took a trip to the Alsace region in  
'88. He wrote of seeing a large part of  
France including the Colmar area. Some of  
the area is still the same as it was 45  
years ago, including the barn yard odors.

continued on next page...

Mail bag continued.....

Ray wrote of passing the house where he helped set-up the 2nd Bn Aid Station, the outside appearance was the same as in '45. At the present time Ray is not very well. His report brought back memories of the time we took men off the mine fields on Hill 216. The loss of some toes from one foot was quite tramatic for me, much less, parts of the human body. Still have flash-backs of that time in France.

BERNARD P. LUCAS, Div. Hqs. Arty..3415 Benjamin Apt 303, Royal Oak, MI 48073... My wife Florence and I were very disappointed when we were not able to make the 63rd trip to Europe in '87. We were able to make it in Sept.-Oct. of '88. We went to Colmar, from where we Jebnheim. We found City Hall, where Mr. Schere made us welcome. While I was with Hqs Btry Div. Arty, air section, we did not have any experience of the early action in that area, but the aura of the place, made me feel the presence of those that were there. We wanted to find evidence of the Siegfried Line, and in Ensheim where we met Hugo, he led us to an area called Omerstalwald, there were many grass covered mounds that he said were bunk-ers, and the remains of many trench systems, including other evidence of the battles that took place there. We have never seemed to make a reunion to fit our schedule, but hope to make San Francisco. You folks better start revamping your schedule to fit our reunions.

LAWRENCE DREYER, Co"K" 253rd Inf..5800 Melville Rd., Ft. Pierce, FL 33482..Larry is retired, stays young and active by building & flying his own plane, including some acrobatic flying. Sorry Larry, I'll watch, you fly. Larry, when are you going to take Joan, and "fly" to one of our reunions. San Francisco would be a good start.

WILLIAM TAYLOR, Hqs.Co. 1st Bn 253rd Inf... 141 W. Vernon St., Manchester, CT 06040... Bill does a lot of travelling, keeps busy playing tennis, and works(??) a few hours a week at the tennis club. Does consulting part-time for United Technologies Research Center. He also assists with airplane restoration at the New England Air Museum... Bill take Mary Lou in your plane, Larry and Joan will go in theirs to San Francisco, you two guys would have a lot to talk about

WESLEY EPSTEIN, Hqs 863rd FA..9200 Bustleton Ave., Apt 1601, Phila., PA 19115 Wesley received a heart transplant two years ago, and is doing quite well. Writes that the

experience, post-op, was very similiar to by-pass surgery, and the recovery plan can be just as rapid. Wesley has bought a small airplane, and learned to fly since the surgery. Wesley, you sound like you have been recycled. Sorry you won't be able to make it to San Francisco, but may be Florida in 1990. You, Larry & Bill, will have a lot to talk about.

IVAN "SONNY" CHARITAN, Co"B" 263rd Engrs. 5140 White Oak Ave.#311, Encino, CA 91316 Sonny recently underwent some major surgery, and the good news is that everything is coming along fine. He is PR man for the San Francisco Reunion Committee, and has written an article for the B&F in this issue. Stay well buddy, there is a lot of hard work ahead.

LEROY J. CRANE, Div. Hqs. Co..Route 4-Box 451, Point of View Reservoir Rd., Clinton, NY 13323..Leroy is, going to join us in San Francisco, but is disappointed that so few men of his co. attended the St. Louis reunion. Come on men, join Leroy in August, and have a ball at the same time. Sorry that your name was omitted from the Roll Call listing. They had a lot of names, and sometimes a couple slip thru the typewriter keys. Your listed now.

FRANKLIN M. MILLMAN, Co."B" 254th Inf..700 Tradewind Dr., No. Palm Beach, FL 33408.. Franklin took his basic training with the after it left Camp Blanding. He was shipped to the 90th Div. in England. Went thru Utah Beach, & the hedgerows to the Saar River. He joined the War Crimes Commission after coming out of the hospital. He also worked for Melvin Purvis, Leon Jawarski. Franklin and his wife, still work, and own a glass & carpet business, with no time available to join us at our reunions. There is always next year.

HARRIS GOLDMAN, Co"L" 254th Inf..11201 Old Columbia Pk #416, Silver Springs, MD ;20904..Another interesting saga of how a "lost sheep" finds 63rd hotshot. Harris and his wife Minna, were shopping in Sears as the salesman was writing up his order, he asked, if Harris was from Texas, s reply yes. His reply.....I was with the 63rd Div. and my name is George Kressley, and the last time I saw you was in the snow covered fields, during the morning attack on Jebnheim. We spotted each other, said a few words without stopping, as George was on his way to an aid station. Forty three years later, they meet again just 12 miles from Harris's home.

Col. RICHARD L. DOOLEY, Hqs. 861st FA..7902 Causeway Lane, Cincinnati, OH 45255... Dick and Alice, had made plans to join us in St. Louis, but due to unforeseen circumstances they had to cancel their registration. They are planning to join us in San Francisco, and hope nothing unforeseen arises again. Their son, commands an artillery battalion in the 7th Inf. Div. at Ft. Ord.

Mrs. LOUISE MULCAHY, (husband Jim) Hqs. Co. 253rd Inf..22 Allston St., #300, Box 84, W. Medford, MA 02155.. Louise sent in a photo of Hqs Co. men who were present at the St. Louis reunion (photo in this issue). One was a first timer, who hadn't seen each other since Germany. Jim & Louise were married in Camp Blanding 45 years ago. Louise's parting words, "we enjoy all the reunions, and wouldn't miss one for the world". That's the best PR for you all to attend our reunions. Thanks Louise, "we love ya".

GERALD LAUX, AT 253rd Inf..9555 Brink Rd., Sylvania, OH 43560.. Gerald was 18 yrs. old in August '43, when he was assigned to his unit. After basic, he was shipped to the 90th Inf. Div. in Jan. '44. Was wounded twice in France, and discharged in Feb. '47. Had open heart surgery in '86, and is coming along fine. Gerald, if possible, try joining us at one of our reunions.

ED KELLY, Co "E" 253rd Inf..120 Bennett, Apt 4P, New York, NY 10033.. My friend Ed, who is a great reader of history, usually sends me an up-date on the New York scene. Checked out other information for me, and this time he encloses a few statistics on the 63rd Div. Out of 14,000, we had total casualties of 4300, roughly 32%, a very high rate. K.I.A. 861 wounded, 3,326 died from wounds 113. Closes with, "I am proud to have been a member of the 63rd Inf. Div."

ED RASMUSSEN Co "B" 254th Inf..8735 Lakeview Dr. Omaha, NE 68127.. Ed is retired from Union Pacific Acc'tg. Dept. He now serves as his church treasurer, and has also made contact with "Howdy" Wilcox, Don Vant Sant and Bill Scott, all from his co. Ed also writes, that he and Minnie, are in good health, and have made only one reunion so far. Only one reunion, eh! Minnie, I am relying on you, to change that, uno, uno. In this issue, there is a pre-registration form, fill it out and send it in pronto, come August, you yell "surprise" we are going to San Francisco. I know you can do it Minnie, see you both in August.

BILL LUCAS, AT 255th Inf..5036 Orinoco St Pittsburgh, PA 15207.. Bill had a heart attack in '82 to '87, and is progressing very well. He enjoys reading the B&F, and hopes he can make it to San Francisco. We hope so too Bill.

EUGENE W. BLOUNT, Co "E" 255th Inf..Box 195, Victor, IA 52347.. Gene and Dorothy attended our St. Louis reunion, he met 3 men who were inducted into the service on the same day, and they all took their basic at Van Dorn. Writes that he met a lot of nice people at the reunion, also his old Pltn. leader S/Sgt. White. Has enclosed a photo (this issue). Gene you didn't mention San Francisco, your on a roll, don't give up now, see you in Aug.

PAUL RICKEN, "A" Btry 862nd FA..RD#1, Box 105, Palatine Bridge, NY 13428.. Paul is a new "lost sheep". In the last issue of the B&F, I had him listed as part of the 253rd, as it is noted above, he was in the FA. Sorry Paul. He was a member of the 862nd FA from the time it was formed at Camp Van Dorn, until it was ready to go overseas, when he was discharged because of illness in his family. He was Sgt. of the 1st section, and helped train men for about a year, and helped pack the equipment for shipment. When his orders came for discharge, he was very disappointed. He didn't know there was an assoc. until he saw a reunion note in the D.A.V. magazine, he is now a life member.

ALFRED CIULLO, Co "C" 253rd Inf..90 Crane St., Fall River, MA 02723.. Al and Cathy couldn't make St. Louis, but hope to make our San Francisco Reunion. He is still working, but next year retirement. Al still claims he is the "Baby" of Co. "C". Lou, John, Mag, etc., is Al really that young?? Naw!! See you both in August.

LEO BURRELL, Co "C" 263rd Engrs..P.O. Box 3236, Seven Lakes West End, NC 27376... Leo just retired and moved to N. Carolina, is playing a lot of golf, and is trying to get adjusted to retirement. Playing golf is a good start Leo, but you haven't mentioned San Francisco. Your first two moves are fine, now number three should be making plans for our reunion in August Mollie, make sure he takes his golf clubs along, they have golf courses in Calif.

FRED CONSOLMAGNO, Co "M" 254th Inf..38 Led-yard St., Springfield, MA 01104.. Fred had a triple by-pass, on his birthday, which to be on Halloween.

cont'd. on next page...

Is coming along fine, and is looking forward to playing golf again. Hope you will be well enough to join us in August, and Audrey, like I told Mollie, make sure he takes his golf clubs along. We all want to see him well and happy, in San Francisco.

HAROLD SMITH, Co"L" 254th Inf..Taconic Rd. Taconic, CT 06079..Harold is retired now, worked for a private school for 30 yrs. Is enjoying retirement, goes "day tripping", and hiking with Blanche. Let's not forget his trout fishing. Enjoys reading the B&F which brings back many memories, such as Hill 216. Harold, you and Blanche can have more fun, join us in August. No hiking please, plane or car will do.

EDWARD A. DANFORTH, Co"B" 253rd Inf..7238 N.34th St., Omaha, NE 68112..Ed writes that he still is in good health, and right mind. His friends reply, "how can you tell" It's easy Ed, just tell them you are making reservations for San Francisco. No charge for the consultation, Ed.

ERNEST CARVALLO, Co"F" 253rd Inf..1650 Kanunu St.#409, Honolulu, HI 96814..Ernest has a ranch, and delves in "beef cattle" with his son. He also had a golf business but recently sold his share to do more travelling. He had his share of dealing with the Japanese, as they were most of his customers. Ed will be in San Francisco

JOHN J. FARRELL, Co"A" 253rd Inf..70 Vanderveer, Holland, PA 18966..John is retired, and does consulting work part-time. He and Mary enjoy travelling to see their children in Calif. You can have double enjoyment now folks, seeing your children & attending our reunion in August. In fact, bring them along, too join the fun.

LLOYD R. SMITH, Co"A" 263rd Engrs..Rtl,Box 17, Lexington, NE 68850..Lloyd to answer your question, under the Sec'y's. by-line he has listings of Reg'ts & Battalions for \$2 per. contact Tom. If you and Isabelle would join us in San Francisco, I "betcha" you will meet all those old friends and make new ones, & also a good time.

WILLIAM L. BATES, Co"A" 253rd Inf.& Div. MP's..77-26-66th Dr., Middle Village, NY 11379..Bill is still working and expects to retire in about a year. Has been in the paper business for 40 yrs. Enjoys reading the B&F, then passes it on to an old MP buddy, who is not a member of the assoc. Come on Bill, get your buddy to sign up & get his own B&F. Bill & Muriel can't join us this year, but hopeto in 1990.

MERWIN M. MOORES, Hqs.1st Bn 253rd Inf... 16412 SE 9th St., Bellevue, WA 98008.. Merwin & Marge took the '87 tour to Europe and had a great time. Was to busy traveling, to attend St.Louis reunion, but will join us in August. Enjoys reading the B&F and Tom & I thank you for those kind words we try our best.

CLARK UTLEY, Co"G" 253rd Inf..5911 Nabley Hill Rd., Fenton, MI 48430..Clark was with the 4 pltn., 1st mortar squad, from Van Dorn, until the Division was disbanded. Has attended a few reunions, but expects to attend our San Francisco reunion. Retired after 40 yrs. in the building trades in '87. He recently came across a hotshot who saw his cap, and claimed that Clark is the first 63rd'er he has seen since '46. His name is Maurice O'Neil,"E" 253rd, and said he will be sending his dues into our sec'y. Still has'nt sent it in Clark. You can get the information from our sec'y. for \$2.00

GERALD A. GEUSS, Co"L" 253rd Inf..863 Nicholas Ave., Kingston, NY 12401..Gerald took his basic training at Van Dorn. On a forced march, he broke his left foot jumping over a stream. Coming out of the hospital after 2½ months, his unit had moved out and the only thing left in the barracks, was his foot locker and duffel bag. He was shipped out as a replacement to the 357th Inf., 90th Div. Gerald served with the 90th Div., from June '44 until the end of the war.

LLOYD SHORT, Hqs Btry 718 FA..117 S. Bedford St., Georgetown, DE 19947..Lloyd is one of our young men of the assoc., only 81 years young. He feels good, keeps busy in his garden, and has plenty of grass to cut in the summer time. Come on Lloyd, chuck that mower and join us this August in San Francisco, and meet all those old buddies of yours "around the country" all in one place at the reunion.

PAT SCORZELLI, Co"A" 255th Inf..52 Center St., Lake Ronkonkoma, NY 11779..Pat is a "lost sheep" who is happy to be back in the fold. He and Beryl joined us in St. Louis, saw a couple of old buddies from "A" Co., and made "lots of new ones". One of your buddies, Bob Morrison, passed on just before Christmas, he and Leah were members of our Florida chapter. Gives a "big thanks" to Gene Rombach who assisted him at the St. Louis reunion. Pat I expect to see you and Beryl in San Francisco.



# BLINDED VETERANS ASSOCIATION

4500 S. LANCASTER

DALLAS, TEXAS 75216

(214) 372-7912

FTS 749-7912

## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT:

### BLINDED VETERANS CAN CALL BVA FOR HELP

Four decades have passed since the Blinded Veterans Association (BVA) started serving blinded veterans. We have enhanced the lives of many blinded veterans through our field services and outreach employment programs; however, we have only made a dent in the blinded veteran population.

Because we live primarily in a visually oriented society it has not been easy to establish contact with many of our visually impaired veterans. This is why we are asking you for help in locating blinded veterans so that we can inform them of benefits they rightly deserve. Contrary to what many people think, it is not necessary for veterans to have been blinded in the military to receive benefits from the Veterans Administration. Blind rehabilitation and possibly pension are but two benefits available to veterans even if blindness occurred many years after military service.

BVA services are not limited to veterans benefits, we also inform blinded veterans of state and community resources that are available.

The BVA could make a difference between night and day in a blinded veterans life.

For more information about the BVA contact:

Theodore Jones  
 VAMC, Bldg. 1 Rm. 20  
 4500 S. Lancaster Road  
 Dallas, Texas 75216  
 Tele: (214) 372-7912  
 FTS: 749-7912

The above photo is of Pfc. Wilfred "Bill" Lillibridge, "A Son Needs Help Column" Contact Fred Lillibridge at 920 Southland Lane #213, Brookings, SD 57006  
 Editors note: Photo was received after column was typed up.

\* \* \* \* \*

Please send your Pre-registration form in Early..

Don't forget the Ad Book Needs "YOUR SUPPORT".

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

## 63rd DIVISION ASSOCIATION DUES FORM!!!

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

Tell us about yourself! \_\_\_\_\_

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**63rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION**  
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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.

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**Blood and Fire**  
**63rd Division Association**  
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