

Camp Van Dorn



# Blood and Fire

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

ARDENNES / ALSACE • RHINELAND • CENTRAL EUROPE



Vol. 42 No. 2

FEBRUARY 1990

SARASOTA, FLORIDA

42nd Annual Reunion

August 29 to September 2, 1990

Orlando Airport Marriott

1990 FLORIDA REUNION  
AUGUST 29 to SEPTEMBER 2

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# 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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September 1990

R. Drew, P.O. Box 6077, Captain Cook, HA 96704 .....	253 E
Col. R. Tucker, 1017 Baldwin Ave., Norfolk, VA 23507 .....	254 Hdqts.
N. Douglas, P.O. Box 318, Cecil, PA 15321 .....	255 Hdqts.
C. Davison, P.O. Box 275, Pahokee, FL 33476 .....	718 FA C
J. Waters, 4917 Greenbrook Dr., Charlotte, NC 28205 .....	563 Sig.

September 1991

M.T. Beer, 2801 Friendship St., Iowa City, IA 52240 .....	253
J.W. Finlay, 1014 Idylwild Dr., Richmond, KY 40475 .....	255
G.H. Stewart, 809 W. Palmetto, Florence, SC 29501 .....	Sp. Trps.
C.T. Nugent, 721 Albany Rd., Lexington, KY 40502 .....	Arty.
John Burney, Jr., 1130 Forest Hills Dr., Wilmington, NC 28403 .....	254

September 1992

L. Tirelli, 78 Cleveland Dr., Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520 .....	253
R. Ross, 306 E. Story, Bozeman, MT 59715 .....	254
E. Witt, 3935 Thousand Oaks #907, San Antonio, TX 78217 .....	255
R. Ingle, Rt. 4, Box GT 34, Lincolton, NC 28092 .....	Sp. Trps.
A.G. Ash III, 5809 N. Front St., Phila., PA 19120 .....	Arty.



NATE SPIEGEL

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

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

A NOTE OF CLARIFICATION

At the San Francisco Reunion, I stood on the podium and announced the dates, rates, and references of the Court of Flags Hotel in Orlando. Then, it was the Florida Chapter's intention of keeping that date.

On the day after the San Francisco convention. I was congratulating John Santangelo for a fine show. He asked why the Florida group did not contact the Marriott Hotels in Orlando. I told him both Nate Spiegel and Gar Ludy were each given a cold reception by Marriott people in Orlando, on separate occasions.

To be brief, John and I went down to the Sales Manager's office. He contacted Orlando. After several cool conversations, the Orlando Marriott turned around 180 degrees. They offered us a fine contract. In comparing the Court of Flags vs. the Marriott, the earlier convention date, the free airport shuttle, a \$50.00 per couple savings round trip (coming by air), the 25% food discount, a committee of 10 decided the change would benefit most members of the 63rd Division Association. If the change in time is inconvenient for anyone, I apologize.

For any additional information, please address any phone calls or letters to my attention.

Hank Greenberg, President  
9035 Flynn Circle  
Boca Raton, FL 33496  
(407) 451-1796



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, 1989 is now history! Spring of 1990 will bring Easter and Pass-over. This spirit of rebirth will also be present in the minds of the Hotshots of the 63rd Infantry Association.

From Aug. 29 to Sept. 2, 1990, the special feelings of friendship will reunite this group. This closeness seems to grow with every reunion. No one knows how many we have left, so enjoy each one of them.

This year, the first one hundred to register on the enclosed 63rd Activity Form with an accompanying check will have a chance to win:

### ON LAND

A free Hotel Room for the Reunion at Orlando Airport Marriott

### ON THE SEA

A free 3-Night Cruise to Nassau on Emerald Seas Ship for Two

### IN THE AIR

A free Round-Trip Flight for Two anywhere Delta flies

Magic  
Vacation  
Marriott  
Style



Pop Young, our Executive V.P., will be in charge of banquet seating, which will be made by major unit. Special requests for seating of 8 or more people will be honored. Include these requests with your 63rd Registration-Activity Form. To avoid Chow Line Mania, seating will be by preassigned table numbers.

Call "A Travel Corner" at 1-800-888-3313 (free) for special Delta Airlines discounts for 63rd Reunion; also help in booking other airlines or car rentals. Ask for Sally or Marlene.

Yours in Comradeship,  
Hank Greenberg

Left: Matt Bugay

Right: Hank Greenberg (age 19)

March, 1945 at Saargmund

first city in Germany.

Shave - and Photo.

Free Bath - Haircut



INFORMATION CONCERNING THE TOURS YOU WILL BE TAKING WHILE IN ORLANDO FOR THE 63rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 42nd ANNUAL REUNION

Thursday, August 30, 1990:

UNIVERSAL STUDIO, 9:30 am to 3:00 pm

You will leave the hotel by bus at 9:30 am and proceed to Universal Studio Plaza. At this attraction, you can visit movie theme attractions, live shows/interactive events and motion picture backlots.



As you meander through the attraction, you will come across costumed characters, lookalike characters, dining and food, and shopping. It will be a lot of fun, however we think that at 2:30 pm, you will be ready to load on the buses to return to the hotel before the evening entertainment begins.

KENNEDY SPACE CENTER, 9:30 am to 3:00 pm

At 9:30 am, you will leave the hotel by bus for a trip to the Kennedy Space Center, where you find a few changes, if you have not been there within the past year. The price includes the Space Center bus tour and IMAX (The Dream is alive). All other attractions are free and there is a new cafeteria is available for your convenience. You will load aboard the buses at 2:00 pm for the return to the hotel for a little rest before the evening entertainment.

Thursday Evening, August 30, 1990

SEA WORLD 5:00 pm to 9:30 pm.

When you load aboard the buses at 5:00 pm, you will find that a pleasant evening awaits you at Sea World. For those who desire, there will be a Polynesian Luau and Dinner - Show. The dinner will be a real South Seas feast featuring roast pork loin with sweet and sour sauce or King Kamehameha Seafood Platter. These are only the main courses and before the evening is over, you will know what a stuffed turkey feels like. The show features South Sea musician and dancers plus an exciting fire-knife dancer. For those who do not favor the above, you may want to come Sea World just to view the attraction and to eat at the various food stands throughout the park.

Friday, August 31, 1990

SEA Escape, 7:00 am to 5:00 pm

You can look forward to a day of fun, rest or relaxation, which ever you choose as you board the buses at 7:00 am for the trip to Cape Canaveral where you will board the Sea Escape. This is early in the morning, however do not eat breakfast before you leave for it will be served aboard ship when you arrive. The tour also includes lunch, casino, lounge shows swimming, dancing or just plain sun-bathing. The choice is yours. There are handicap facilities aboard the ship so all can enjoy this tour. The ship will return to port at 4:00 pm and you should be back at the hotel by 5:00 pm.

EPCOT CENTER. 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

This is a tour where you will want to take it easy and pick out the things you would like to see that day, because it is impossible to see everything unless you are a race horse. All of the attractions are worth while seeing and there are several new ones since 1984. One of the ones that has opened recently, is the Norwegian pavilion and it seems to be one of the favorites for visitors. You will leave the hotel at 9:00 am and return to the hotel 4:00 pm.

# Letters To The Editor



To the Men of the 63rd Division:  
Your kind expression of sympathy is gratefully acknowledged and deeply appreciated.

I cannot tell you how touched I was by your beautiful gift of flower

The comradeship Jack had with the unit meant so much to him, and although he knew that he was very ill, he was determined to make the trip to San Francisco, knowing that it would be his last.

Thank you all for your love and compassion and for the cards, and phone calls. GOD willing, I shall see you in Orlando.  
With sincere thanks.....

Jane E. Grant

\* \* \*

I am trying to continue my husbands efforts to obtain his Silver Start Medal. As I understand it, all records have been lost following a fire at the Personnel Center in St. Louis. I would appreciate any assistance in my efforts.

Thank you,

Shirlee Smolin  
3729 Silverwood Dr.  
York, PA 17402

Note: Edwin was a Lt. in Co"A" 254th Inf. and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

\* \* \*

I would like to contact the soldier who was next to me, when I got wounded Feb. 6, 1945. We were in the woods near Saarguemines and Woelfling. It was shortly after we crossed the railroad tracks. I only remember his nickname, it was "Mousey". If anyone has any information on this "hot-shot", please contact me. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Irwin Lieberman,  
124 Nandina St.  
Phila., PA 19116  
Co"L" 255th Inf.

\* \* \*

REUNION DATES TO REMEMBER.....  
AUGUST 29 to SEPT 2nd.....at the  
ORLANDO AIRPORT MARRIOTT....

## Dear Nate:

The enclosed reference on Charles Blue, (listed in TAPS column), who followed Gen. Hamblens reference to find Siegfried Line Pillbox #24, the first destroyed by the 63rd and then shipped 80 lbs. of the concrete from #24 to this country for encasement into paper weights.

It was Charles who served in Germany as contact man for our 63rd 1987 ETO tour. Charles' German wife Dona, speaks of members of our 63rd association as being part of Charles' USA family, of which she has great fondness. Mrs. Blue's father was an eye doctor in Germany, and during the summer of 1945, a young US Army corporal, who could speak perfect German, visited German Dr. Flamm, to have a piece of trash removed from his eye. The American was Henry Kissenger, who continued a long time correspondence with Dr. Flamm, until Dr. Flamm passed away a few years back.

Randy Wesson...."D" 253rd Inf.

\* \* \*

The following was sent to me by Ed Kelly, "E" 253rd, which he saw in the VFW magazine.

Seeking Edgar Brown (MT), Edwin Berse, (Gowron, IL), Mazzaro (CA), Collins (MT), Feister (OK), and Wolf, to verify my head injury, and almost losing my left ear while unloading a Liberty Ship with our supplies. Please contact Robert L. Kean, P.O.Box 445, Pleasanton, CA 94566.... Co"C" 254th Inf.

Note: Robert is not a member of our assn. If any of you California Hotshots live near Bob, try to get him back into the fold, and let him know about the insert in the Blood & Fire.

\* \* \*



Our lovely ladies at our S.F. Reunion.

## CHAPTER NEWS

### FLORIDA CHAPTER...Pres. Hank Greenberg

We held our semi-annual reunion at the Orlando Airport Marriott December 1st and 2nd 1989. More than 50 members attended and were favorably impressed with the friendliness of the staff and the quality of the food. As a prelude to the August 29th to September 2nd, 1990 Reunion, it bodes fair tidings. Two new members attended. They were George and Jeanne Derederian, and Paul and Mary Obal.

It is said that practice makes perfect, so we will repeat this again May 10th and 11th 1990, as a warm-up for our big National Reunion in August 1990. The place will be the Orlando Airport Marriott. Hosts will be Charles and Irene Cohen. Floridians and visitors are all welcome.

Special Room Rate: \$40 per night...place  
**ORLANDO AIRPORT MARRIOTT...7499 Augusta  
National Drive, Orlando, FL.(407) 851-9000  
Fax - (407) 857-6211.**

\* \* \*

### Co. "F" 253rd Inf..William "Smitty" Smith

Those that did attend the Reunion at the Pocmont Lodge in Bushkill, PA., seemed to enjoy it, as at least 80% of those present have requested that I set it up again for next year (1990) for the same time period.

I have reserved a 24 room building at the Pocmont Lodge for Oct. 9th - 12th 1990, in "B" Building, "Senior Adult Special". Three meals a day--Four Days, three nights, and all kinds of recreational facilities. Entertainment nightly, \$170.00 per person DOUBLE OCCUPANCY. That's it--the whole package, all you have to do is get there. We had 29 in '89, and hope to improve our attendance this year. There will be a Hospitality Room. If interested please contact me at: 52 Palm Blvd., Madison, OH 44057.. or call (216) 428-5839.

\* \* \*

### Co. "I" 254th Inf...Charles Jenkins

The 3rd weekend in May 1990 has been selected as the dates of the "Gathering". It will be Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 18th, 19th and 20th, 1990. We will meet at the Colonial Inn on U.S. 441-23 South. Some of us will probably be there on Thursday, most will be arriving on Friday, but we've had one fella who came just for Saturday.

Come when you like, leave when you're ready and there are those who like to play golf before they leave. Room rates will be \$38, including hotel taxes for N.C. The motel accepts major credit cards, checks or cash. Make your reservations early: **Colonial Inn Motel, P.O. Box 675, Franklin, NC 28734 (704) 324-6600.** That special rate of \$38.00 per night is up-to 4 people in a room.

\* \* \*

### I.O.K. CHAPTER...FALL MEETING Hosted by Mag & Chari Froberg

The fall meeting of the I.O.K. was held at the Quality Inn, Hocking Hills in Nelsonville, OH, on November 10th & 11th 1989. The motel is located on the campus of The Hocking Technical College, and is operated by the college as part of their Hotel/Motel Management curriculum. Students (19-21) make the beds, clean the floors, man the front desk, cook the meals and tend the bar.

In addition, there is a collection of log homes and buildings on the campus arranged in the positions they would occupy in a small frontier village. Here the students learn the old arts of building material making - log selection, bark peeling, forming with buck saw and adz, etc.

Sunday breakfast was held at the Lodge, at the Old Man's Cave, with visits to the sandstone caves and hollows of the Hocking Hills. This was a little experience that we all will remember.

\* \* \*

### PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER..Pres. Irv Schlocker

Our Oct. 20, 1989 fall mini-reunion, held at the Pocmont Hotel in Bushkill, PA was a huge success. The "get-a-way" weekend, attended by 42 people was filled with good company, great entertainment and lots of food.

We were happy to welcome our newest members: Benedict and Marie Parenti and Gerard and Yvonne Pepe, who fit right into our group. At the close of our business meeting, 5 prizes of \$20.00 each were won by; Joseph Sokolowski, Raymond Mascio, Paul Huseman, Gordon Myers and Nick Castronova. The prize money drawn for the raffle is the Hotel's "one free room for every forty" booking policy. We plan to have a Spring Brunch and a Fall Catskill Mini. Anyone interested, please contact: **Irv. Schlocker, 935 Princeton Ave., Phila., PA 19111, or call (215) 342-1488.**

Phila. Chapter continued on next page

Chapter News Continued:

The Phila. Chapter is sad to report that George Cahill, our beloved comrade and treasurer has died on December 29, 1989, after years of being seriously ill. We will miss George's dedicated devotion and friendship. Evelyn Cahill, George's wife will assume the Treasures position. Evelyn has worked very closely with George, and during the past 3 years she has assumed the responsibilities completely.

\* \* \*

The following poem was written by **Wesley Barnes** (14 years old) of Garland Texas. It is based on a true happening in the life of his grandfather, then **Capt. John B. McClure, Cannon Company, 254th Inf. during the Battle of Colmar.**

War

The snow lay like a white blanket about the earth  
The smell of death was thick in the air.  
The battle was done,  
The air was silent.  
Many souls were released from their human shell.  
Creeping slowly up the road of slush,  
Was my grandfather's Jeep.  
It contained him and a military chaplain.  
The jeep stopped.  
My grandfather stood up.  
The chaplain stood up.  
A shot pierced the cold, silent sky.  
A second passed:  
And then another.  
The chaplain fell where he once stood.  
Acting swiftly, my grandfather raised his rifle at the fleeing sniper.  
Aimed.  
Fired.  
The sniper fell.  
My grandfather knelt to the chaplain and wept.  
For it was planned for him to be where the chaplain now lay.

\* \* \*

**DON'T FORGET YOUR DUES....  
PLEASE SEND THEM IN NOW...  
TO OUR TREASURER!**



**PATRIOTISM IS CONTAGIOUS**



**SPREAD IT AROUND!**

There are still some Indexes to Col. Hatcher's Book available. If you have the book, you might like one. Please remit \$1.50, Lydia 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*



*Captured German POWs*



# STATISTICAL DATA FOR THE 63RD INFANTRY DIVISION HISTORY

FULL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
(in WWII) ..... LAST FIRST MIDDLE

NICKNAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

## UNIT(S) of 63rd Division Served In

Co./Btry. \_\_\_\_\_ Bn. \_\_\_\_\_ Regt. \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Co./Btry. \_\_\_\_\_ Bn. \_\_\_\_\_ Regt. \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Co./Btry. \_\_\_\_\_ Bn. \_\_\_\_\_ Regt. \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Co./Btry. \_\_\_\_\_ Bn. \_\_\_\_\_ Regt. \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

HIGHEST 63rd ENLISTED RANK: \_\_\_\_\_ SERIAL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

DUTY, SPECIALTY, JOB?: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME AND RANK OF YOUR SUPERIOR OFFICER: \_\_\_\_\_

HIGHEST 63rd COMMISSIONED RANK: \_\_\_\_\_ SERIAL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

DUTY, SPECIALTY, JOB?: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME AND RANK OF YOUR SUPERIOR OFFICER: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE JOINED 63rd \_\_\_\_\_ DATE LEFT 63rd \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_ LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_

PRIOR ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_ NEXT ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

## WERE YOU IN EUROPE WITH THE 63rd INF. DIV. BEFORE 8 MAY 1945? Yes, No

WOUNDED IN ACTION?  Yes,  No  
Date Town/Area

1. / /  
2. / /  
3. / /

BATTLE INJURY?  Yes,  No  
Date Town/Area

1. / /  
2. / /  
3. / /

NON-BATTLE INJURY?  Yes,  No  
Date Town/Area

1. / /  
2. / /  
3. / /

### WERE YOU MISSING IN ACTION?

Yes,  No

### WERE YOU A P.O.W.?

Yes,  No

Can you provide copies of orders, reports, rosters, etc.?  Yes,  No

## DECORATIONS AND AWARDS: With the 63rd Infantry Division in Europe

- Distinguished Service Cross \_\_\_\_\_
- Distinguished Service Medal \_\_\_\_\_
- Silver Star \_\_\_\_\_
- Bronze Star Medal \_\_\_\_\_
- Soldier's Medal \_\_\_\_\_
- Purple Heart \_\_\_\_\_
- Air Medal \_\_\_\_\_
- Army Commendation Medal \_\_\_\_\_
- Others: \_\_\_\_\_

- Army Good Conduct Medal \_\_\_\_\_
- Combat Infantryman Badge \_\_\_\_\_
- Combat Medic Badge \_\_\_\_\_
- Other Combat Badges: \_\_\_\_\_

- Foreign Decorations & Awards: \_\_\_\_\_

Wife's name: \_\_\_\_\_

### ● Current Address and Telephone:

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

### ● Submitted by: Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

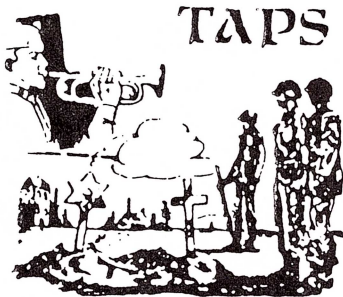
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**Mark here and use the back for add'l. info and comments.  
Thanks!**





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!"

W. E. LINKLATER

Died April, 1989.....HQ 254th Inf.  
3303 Laurel Oak Way, Sarasota, FL 34237..

JOHN WATERS

Died October 19, 1989.....563rd Signal  
4917 Greenbrook Dr., Charlotte, NC 28205.

JACK GRANT

Died October 25, 1989.....563rd Signal  
5908 32nd St. N.W., Washington, DC 20015

GUY LOCKNER

Died October 20, 1989..."A" Btry 861st FA  
4206 Falls Rd., Baltimore, MD 21211.....

ARTHUR MELCOLM

Died August 28, 1989...."A" Btry 861st FA  
7008 Knotts Dr., Jacksonville, FL 32210..

TOM NUGENT

Died December 6, 1989..."A" Btry 863rd FA  
721 Albany Rd., Lexington, KY 40502.....

JOHN FINLAY

Died November, 1989.....Co"H" 255th Inf.  
1014 Idlywild Dr., Richmond, KY 40475....

JOHN L. ETHIER

Died August 11, 1989.....AT 253rd Inf.  
5733 Danbury Dr., So. Bend, IN 46614....

JACK OWENS

Died September 14, 1989..Co"B" 363rd Med.  
527 Riverside Dr., Clinton, TN 37716.....

BYRIL THOMPSON

Died N/A.....Co"I" 254th Inf.  
802 Baird Dr., Aztec, NM 87410.....

LLOYD PACK

Died N/A.....Co"I" 254th Inf.

101 Puruis, Waco, TX 76705.....

JOSEPH PASTENA

Died N/A.....Co"I" 254th Inf.  
16 Aspen Lane, Manahawkin, NJ 08050.....

EMMIT V. FAGAN

Died N/A.....Co"I" 254th Inf.  
403 Madison, Marshall, TX .....

SEYMOUR SINGLETON

Died N/A.....Co"I" 254th Inf.  
Rt 3, Canton, NC.....

JOHN J. FARRELL

Died April, 1989.....Co"A" 253rd Inf.  
70 Vanderveer, Holland, PA 18966.....

ROBERT T. BOGAN

Died Nov. 1989.....HQ 253rd Inf.  
64 Donbray Rd., Springfield, MA 01119.....

ELMER HOUSE

Died September 21, 1989."A" Btry 862nd FA  
4010 N.W. 17th Pl., Gainesville, FL 32605.

RAY FINK

Died October 14, 1989....Co"K" 253rd Inf.  
P.O. Box 501, Tripoli, IA 50676.....

THOMAS MILLS

Died March 18, 1989.....Co"C" 255th Inf.  
3521 N. Prescott Pl., Tucson, AZ 85715....

EDWIN M. SMOLIN

Died Nov. 9, 1989.....Co"A" 254th Inf.  
3729 Silverwood Dr., York, PA 17402.....

WILLIAM WILSON

Died August 24, 1989.....Co"A" 263rd Engr.  
Address not available.....

EDWARD G. JACKSON

Died December 12, 1988....Co"G" 255th Inf.  
100 N.W. 32nd St., Mineral Wells, TX 76067

JACK B. FERREN

Died November 9, 1986.....Co"H" 254th Inf.  
7351 S.W. 10th St., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33068

CHARLES BLUE

Died Nov. 24, 1989.....HQ & 63rd Band  
6140 Bensheim, Gerhart-Hauptmann ST. 5....  
Federal Republic Germany.....

DAN C. ABERNATY

Died December 20, 1989....Co"A" 253rd Inf.  
P.O.Box 376, Gordonville, TX 76245.....

"TAPS" continued....

# HISTORIC NOTES

by Mike Daynor...



We are having problems getting the citations of men who were reported to me as being recommended for the Distinguished Service Cross. If you know of any individual or family, write to them for the citation and General Orders. Col. Hatcher in his book said he recommended Capt. Young, C.O., Co "A" 255, who was killed near Waldenburg. No one seems to know if he was awarded the D.S.C. We have written Personnel Center in St. Louis and Military Archives for the citation, and GO, no response so far. In this issue of the B&F, there are two more citations of men who were awarded the D.S.C. I have two more names and citations to be published in a later issue of the B&F. If anyone reading this, knows of any 63rd men who were recommended for the award please send it to me. Please include the full name, serial # (if available) and unit. We may be able to get something out of the Personnel Center.

**AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS..**  
**ROBERT H. MEADE 0-423346-Capt. Co I 253rd**  
**WALTER J. DILBECK, JR. 35841476-PFC Co F**  
**253rd Inf....**

Surprising as it may seem, a man who read the "Hartingshof Raid" account by Waldo Nielsen, Co C 254th Inf. Waldo was wounded in action and lay all night in a small stream. George S. Parker Co L 254th, was one of the men who picked him up. George went to the Co. CP where a 6 man patrol was ready to go out and was asked if he wanted to go along. He writes, "as a fool I said yes". According to George they picked up 3 men from Co C 254th who were fighting in the area the day before. He states, "it wasn't to dangerous since the Germans did not fire at us as they were tired of hearing the moaning all night". Waldo Nielsen passed away a few months ago. It's a pity that Waldo and George did not know how fate brought them together in Feb. '45.

Speaking of Decorations, I received a letter from Mrs. J. House, she states her husband Elmer S. House was cited to the Order of the Regiment and was awarded the French Croix de Guerre with Bronze Star. Cpl. House was a Forward Observer from

from Btry "A" 862nd FA Bn. attached to the 254th Inf. Regt. in the Colmar area. The citation cites Cpl. House for "Continuously exposing himself to the intense rifle and machine gun fire while directing artillery fire on a strongly defended town". E.S. House passed away Sept. 21, 1989.

We are in need of some real 63rd photos that are different-showing action of part action shots. We do not need pictures of individuals or group for the history unless it is revelent to the narrative.

We are working on the History. Had to take time out due to illness, for over a month with pneumonia and other, "blessings of old age," aches, pains, pills and doctors. We never had a list of what is or was available in the Military Archives. We are awaiting an answer as to prices for copies and other information.

Sincerely,  
Mike



TAPS continued....

JAMES W. HERRING

Died February 12, 1989...Co "K" 253rd Inf.  
3904 Camilla Dr., Jackson, MS 39212.....

LT. L.R. LEAVITT

Died December 1967.....Co "C" 253rd Inf.  
Address not available.....

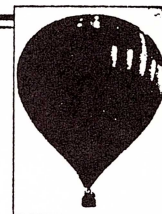
1st SGT. MELVIN PARR

Died May 1989.....Co "H" 255th Inf.  
6058 Dunson Dr., Watauga, TX 76148.....

John Waters who died on October 19, 1989 due to a massive heart attack on his way to the dentist, was my ass't photographer at our business meeting and our Saturday night banquet. He will be missed by myself and also his many friends in the association. Especially his ribbing me with, "Nate you sure you put film into the camera".

Nate...Editor

ORLANDO  
*Go for the Magic!*



AUGUST 29 - SEPT. 2, 1990

Closing date for the next issue of the  
Blood & Fire, May 1st.



**NEW MEMBERS**  
\*\*\*\*\*

- JAMES E. GEVERT.....254th Inf.  
20900 E. Homestead Rd. E-7.....  
Cupertino, CA 95014.....
- EUGENE KLINEFELTER.....Co"B" 254th Inf.  
490 Hirsch, Calmuet City, IL 60409.....
- JAMES SHRIVER, JR.....363rd Medics  
1543 Larkspur Dr..San Jose, CA 95125.....
- THOMAS I. WILSON.....Co"M" 253rd Inf.  
8364 Sunnyside RD., Sandpoint, ID 83864..
- THEO. MATHIS.....Co"E" 253rd Inf.  
6228 Moon Rd., Columbus, GA 31909.....
- EDWIN J. KOCINSKI.....254th Medics  
3701 E. Monterosa #17, Phoenix, AZ 85018.
- ALBERT SAFRANEK.....Btry"A" 861st FA  
1113 W. El Camino Ave., Sacramento,.....  
CA 95833.....
- JOSEPH G. ANCHO.....Co"A" 253rd Inf.  
759 S. University, Blackfoot, ID 83221...
- LEON TURNER.....Co"C" 255th Inf.  
Route 4, Box 19, Waverly, TN 37185.....
- WAYNE S. CROSSER.....Hqs Btry 863rd FA  
2201 Caballerosl Rd., Norco, CA 91760....
- CHARLES W. EUBANKS.....Co. & Regt. N/A  
1008 Wood Ave., West Point, MS 39773.....
- GLEN REIFSTECK.....Co"B" 254th Inf.  
1939 Melody Lane, Arnold, MO 63010.....
- SALVATORE SCIASCIA.....Co"B" 263rd Engr.  
106 Devoe Ave., Yonkers, NY 10705.....
- FRED MOFFITT.....254th Sv. Co..  
607 Crystal Dr., Spartanburg, SC 29302...
- JOHN E. WHITSETT.....Co"K" 254th Inf..  
2301 W. 96h St., Shawnee Mission, KS 66206
- NICHOLAS GENTILE.....63rd Recon.  
9820 S.W. 128th St., Miami, FL 33176.....
- COL. ROBERT J. GREENWALD.....HQ 253rd Inf.  
21509 S. Figueroa St., Carson, CA 90745...
- PETER S. MANGOLD.....Co"A" 253rd Inf.  
312 Hamilton Pl., West Islip, NY 11795....
- MURLE A. HALBROOK.....718th FA  
617 W. Fillmore St., Vandalia, IL 62471...

JOSEPH N. PERRY.....Co"A" 263rd Engr.  
P.O. Box 636, Greenville, PA 16125.....

CHAPTER NEWS continued....

**CAL/WEST CHAPTER.....**

*Pres. John Santangelo....*

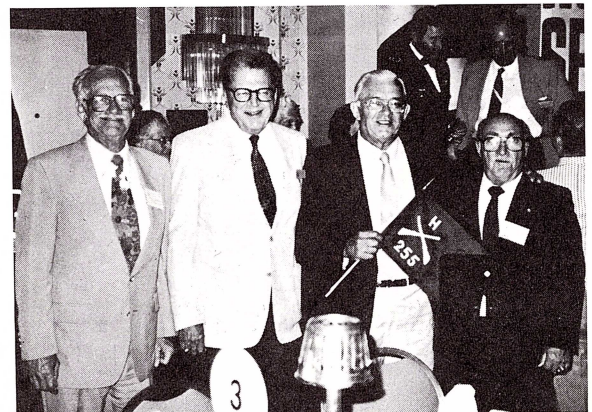
*Have nothing to report on the Reunion in Hawaii for 1992. Have been receiving mail in favor of a Reunion in Hawaii. I should have more information available regarding Hawaii at our Orlando Reunion, and in the next issue of the Blood & Fire. You all have a wonderful Easter and Passover.*

*My personal message to you states like, Washington, Nevada, Arizona, Oregon, etc., get Chapters going, so one day we can hold a Reunion in these states and increase the membership in our association.vv*

*Don't forget to donate to the History Book of the 63rd Infantry Division.*



*Florence & Al Conti*



**★ IMPORTANT**  
 If you want to attend these events, you must send in your advance payment by July 15, 1990



**Make Contact with Your Friends at**  
**63rd Infantry Division Association**  
**42nd Annual Reunion**  
**August 29 to September 2, 1990**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ NICKNAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 Wife's Name (if attending): \_\_\_\_\_ NICKNAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Guest Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Arrival Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of Children Attending: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Children's Age(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Please Check  if this is your first reunion.

<b>Make check(s) payable to Orlando Reunion, 63rd Inf. Div. Assoc.</b>		<b>COST PER PERSON</b>	<b>NUMER ATTENDING</b>	<b>TOTAL COST</b>
Return with this form to: POP YOUNG 5465 Lake Jessamine Orlando, FL 32809	REGISTRATION FOR 1990 REUNION . . . . .	\$ 20.00		\$20.00
	DUES: National . . . . .	\$ 5.00	MEMBER ONLY	_____
	DUES: Lifetime . . . . .	\$ 40.00		_____
<b>WEDNESDAY EVENING, AUGUST 29</b> Meet Your Buddies. Music, Free Beer & Soda, Cheese, Nuts, Fruit, etc. . . . . 7:30 pm to ?		<b>FREE</b>	<b>( )</b>	<b>FREE</b>

o o o o o **ALL TOURS INCLUDE TRANSPORTATION AND BUS DRIVER GRATUITY** o o o o o

<b>THURSDAY DAYTIME, AUGUST 30</b> (Choice of One Bus Tour)	\$ 32.00 Adult	( )	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> #1 University Studios . . . . . 9:30 am to 3:00 pm	\$ 26.00 3-11	( )	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> #2 Kennedy Space Center . . . . . 9:30 am to 3:00 pm	\$ 16.00	( )	_____
<b>THURSDAY EVENING, AUGUST 30</b> Sea World Luau Floor Show, Dinner, Gratuity & Tax . . . . . 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm	\$ 32.00 Adult	( )	_____
	\$ 28.00 8-12	( )	_____
	\$ 17.00 3-7	( )	_____
Sea World Eat on Your Own (No Luau) . . . . . 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm	\$ 20.00	( )	_____
<b>FRIDAY DAYTIME, AUGUST 31</b> (Choice of One Bus Tour)		( )	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> #1 Sea Escape . Breakfast, Lunch, Port Charges Included 7:00 am to 5:00 pm	\$ 35.00	( )	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> #2 Epcot Center . . . . . 9:00 am to 4:00 pm	\$ 40.00 Adult	( )	_____
	\$ 33.00 Child	( )	_____
<b>FRIDAY EVENING, AUGUST 31</b> Chinese Buffet — Music, Dancing, Get Together, Free Beer & Soda . . . . . 7:00 pm to ???	\$ 15.00 Adult	( )	_____
<b>SATURDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 1</b>			
Memorial Service . . . . . 9:00 am to 9:45 am			
Men's Business Meeting (Coffee) . . . . . 10:00 am to 1:00 pm			
Women's Business Meeting (Coffee & Danish) . . . . . 10:00 am to 12:00 pm	<b>FREE</b>	<b>( )</b>	<b>FREE</b>
<b>SATURDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 1</b>			
1 Hour Cocktail Party C.O.D. Bar . . . . . 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm			
Dinner and Dance . . . . . 7:00 pm to 12:00 pm			
CHECK ONE <input type="checkbox"/> Roast Prime Rib of Beef . . . . .	\$ 25.00*	( )	_____
*Tax and Gratuity included. <input type="checkbox"/> Chicken Normande . . . . .	\$ 25.00*	( )	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Child's Platter . . . . .	\$ 10.00*	( )	_____
SOUVENIR PHOTO BOOK OF EVERYONE AT REUNION PLUS GROUP PHOTOS	\$ 12.00 per book	( )	_____

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized By \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

HISTORY OF THE 253RD INFANTRY REGIMENT

for the month of

December 1944

On the 1st of December 1944 the 253d Infantry Regiment, 63d Infantry division, was enroute by ship convoy from the New York Port of Embarkation to Marseille, France.

The convoy arrived at Marseille on the 8th day of December. The first ship of the convoy, The USAT "THOMAS H. BARRY", docked at 0915 and the troops on board; the 1st Battalion, Antitank Company, Regimental Headquarter Company, Service Company, Cannon Company, and the Medical Detachment of the 253d Infantry Regiment; Service Company of the 255th Infantry Regiment and approximately two thousand (2000) replacements, began to debark about one (1) hour later. The 2d and 3d Battalions of the 253d Infantry Regiment aboard the USAT "SEA ROBIN" debarked later the same day. The entire Regiment was shuttled to a staging area, CP #2, located about twenty (20) miles Northwest of Marseille.

After arrival at the staging area, orders were issued to pitch tents and make preparations for front line duty. The ground was rocky which made it difficult to pitch tents. To add to this discomfort, the weather was cold and rainy and the wind blew continuously over the bare knoll on which the staging area was located.

The time from the 8th to the 15th of December was used for cleaning weapons and equipment, attending to personal hygiene and obtaining supplies preparatory to moving to the front lines.

The Regiment moved from this staging area to Camp d'Oberhoffen, about five (5) miles East of Haguenau, France. The majority of the troops were moved by rail, one train leaving on the 14th and second train leaving on the 15th. The motor column, carrying supplies, crew-served weapons, other equipment and the remainder of the troops left the staging area on the 15th of December. The train and motor convoy followed generally the same route which carried them through the following towns, in order, Marseille, Avignon, Valence, Lyon, Macon, Chalon-sur-Saone, Dijon, Epinal, Luneville, Sarrebourg and then from Sarrebourg to Camp d'Oberhoffen. The trains were unloaded in Sarrebourg and the troops carried by truck convoy to Camp d'Oberhoffen. The Regiment closed into Camp d'Oberhoffen by 0200 on the 19th of December.

The next two (2) days were utilized for cleaning of equipment and attending to personal cleanliness.

At 0200 on the 21st of December an order for movement to a defensive area was received and the day was used for composing combat loads on vehicles and storing excess equipment at Camp d'Oberhoffen.

On the 22nd of December, the Regiment moved by motor and took over position areas on the West bank of the Rhine River where it relieved elements of the 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron. Relief was completed by 1900. The defensive line ran generally North and South along the West bank of the Rhine River from Munchausen to Neuhausel. The period from the 22nd to the 29th of December was used in improving and strengthening defensive positions in this area. The chief enemy activity was by small patrols snipers and combat outposts on the East bank of the Rhine River. During this time the Regimental CP was at Souffleheim, 1st Battalion CP at Reppenheim, 2d Battalion CP at Souffleheim, and the 3d Battalion CP at Lenzenheim. The 3d Battalion CP was moved to Saltz on the 23d of December. Disposition of the Regiment was 1st and 3d Battalions on line, 1st Battalion on the right, 2d Battalion in reserve. The 2d Battalion relieved the 1st Battalion on the 27th of December. The 255th Infantry Regiment was on the right and the 79th Division on the left. Units attached to the Regiment during this period were: Battalion Headquarters and Battery D of the 533d AAAW Battalion, 155th FA Battalion (155MM), 131st FA Battalion (105MM) 1st Platoon, Company A, 753d Medical Tank Company, and the 2d Platoon, 829th Amphibious Truck Company.

On the 29th of December the Regiment was relieved by elements of T.F. Herren, relief being completed by 1930. The Regiment returned to Camp d'Oberhoffen where orders were received attaching the Regiment to the 44th Division and to prepare to move the following night to an undisclosed area.

The next day was used for general clean-up preparatory to the move. Motor movement began at 1930 under cover of darkness.

The Regiment closed into camp at Oermingen, France at 1100 on the 31st of December. Reconnaissances were made and the units of the Regiment marched to position areas on a line running generally East and West from Witting through Siltzheim to Hambach, with the mission of preparing defensive positions to be used by forward elements of the 44th Division provided a retrograde movement became necessary.

The period closed without further contact with the enemy.

The following poem was written by Wilbur T. Braithwaite, "A" 253rd Inf., on Nov. 18, 1988. Wilbur awoke during the night, and the battle at the "Stone Quarry" where he was wounded by a mine, vividly returned.

NIGHT-TIME IN EUROPE  
Winter of 1945

Flares illumine a battered hill,  
Tracers zip across the sky,  
Mortars whistle eerie tunes,  
Soldiers live while "buddies" die.

"Burrp-guns" belch staccato fire,  
"Eighty-eights" tattoo the slope,  
Panzer tanks awake and growl,  
Stars pulsate faint light and hope.

"Foxhole" walls are wet and cold,  
Chilling winds drive rain and sleet,  
Soggy floors turn into ice.  
Numbness forebodes frozen feet.

Darkness harbors hosts of fears,  
Sleep is fitful, time creeps slow,  
Rays of sunlight trigger dawn,  
Men move out to seek the foe.



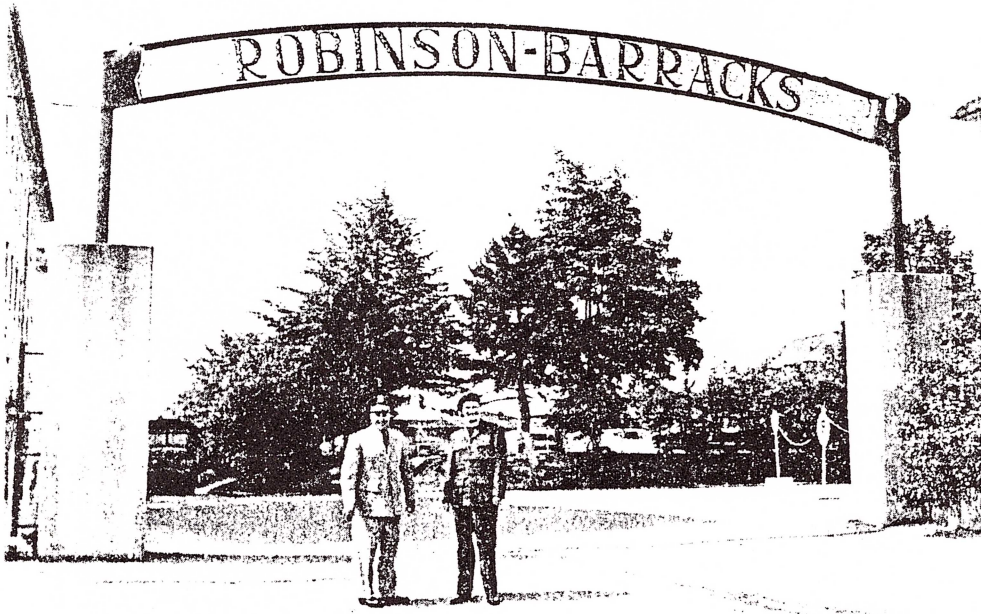
"Just gimme th' aspirin. I already got a Purple Heart."



FLORIDA REUNION

AUGUST 29 - SEPT. 2, 1990

You cost your Assoc. money, when you move without telling us your new address. The Post Office charges us for undeliverable mail!



1987 63RD ETO TOUR DELEGATES TO VISIT ROBINSON BARRACKS IN STUTTGART, GERMANY

By Randy Wesson, 63rd ETO Tour Researcher

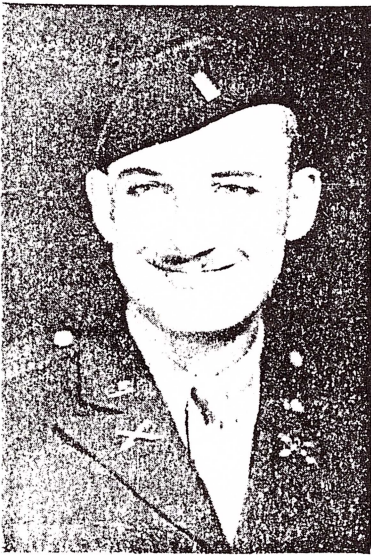
The 63rd ETO tour delegates will have a great treat in being received by a banquet, in Robinson Barracks, located in Stuttgart, Germany, on September 20, 1987 (see enclosed feature on Stuttgart's Mayor Manfred Rommel).

Robinson Barracks were named in honor remembrance of the WWII killed 63rd Lieutenant James E. Robinson, Jr.

A staffer in Mayor Rommel's office suggested to me that the name of Robinson is referenced at least 10,000 times a day in the routines of the U. S. Army Robinson Barracks, in continuance of the perpetual honor of Lt. James E. Robinson, Jr., who was awarded posthumously the United States highest, but few in count, heroic decoration, The Congressional Medal of Honor.

Lt. Robinson was the only artilleryman to be awarded the congressional medal of honor for WWII service, but his actions for the award were those of acting as an infantry officer. Due to the uniqueness of such beyond the call of duty heroism, many servicemen from many countries have arranged to have their pictures taken, at entrance gates of Robinson Barracks (see above 1958 British visitor).

Lt. Robinson's remains are interred in Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio, Texas. His charming widow lives in Fort Worth, Texas and his beautiful daughter resides in California.




63rd's JAMES E. ROBINSON, Jr.



Come to  
**Music City,  
U.S.A.**

43rd Annual  
Reunion  
September, 1991



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*War II*

FORGET

1945

Vosges-Ardennes-Alsace

1944

Invasion - Southern - France - Association Rhin & Danube

USA Section

25th Infantry Division  45th Infantry Division   
 3rd Infantry Division  36th Infantry Division  68th Infantry Division   
 12th Armored Division  75th Infantry Division

*In World*

LEST WE FORGET

HEADQUARTERS  
SEVENTH UNITED STATES ARMY  
APO 758 US ARMY

30 March 1946

GENERAL ORDERS )  
: )  
NUMBER 92 )

Award of the Distinguished-Service Cross. . . . . I  
\*\*\* \*\*\*)

I -- AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS. By direction of the President, under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the Distinguished-Service Cross is awarded by the Army Commander to the following named individuals:

WALTER J. DILBECK, JR., 35 841 476, Private First Class, Infantry, Company "F", 253d Infantry Regiment, for extraordinary heroism in action on the 6th of April 1945, in the vicinity of Buchhof, Germany. When his company was hit from two sides by a strong and determined enemy force of over two hundred SS troops, Private First Class Dilbeck observed that panic was running wild among our troops. Everyone just took off for the rear allowing the enemy forces to move into the foxholes as fast as they were vacated. From this new position the Germans poured out a deadly stream of automatic and small arms fire causing terrific casualties among the Americans and giving them no chance to reorganize. Realizing that something had to be done to stop the enemy attack, Private First Class Dilbeck stopped voluntarily on a bare knoll and began to pour deadly automatic rifle fire into the ranks of the charging SS troops. With conspicuous gallantry and determination he stood his ground even though all the fire power of the enemy was almost upon him, but he continued to fire as fast as he could change magazines. The enemy attack finally stalled because of their terrible losses. Private First Class Dilbeck had killed or wounded over sixty of the SS troops. Because of his indomitable courage and fearless tenacity, Private First Class Dilbeck saved the lives of many of his comrades and made it possible for this company to withdraw successfully, reorganize and hold its new position.

\*\*\* \*\*\*)

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL KEYES:

JOHN M. WILLEMS  
Brigadier General, GSC  
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

/s/ W.G. Caldwell  
/t/ W. G. CALDWELL  
Colonel, AGD  
Adjutant General



GO No496 Hq 7th Army/WMD.....10 Sept. 45

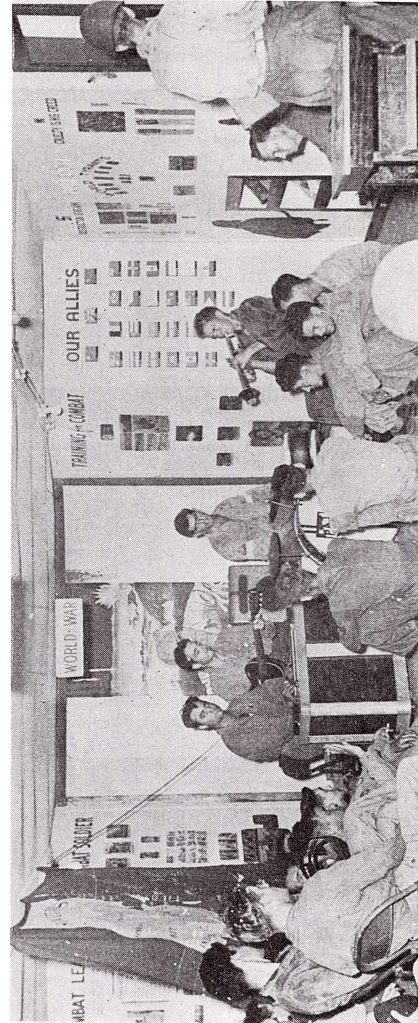
ROBERT H. MEADE, 0 423 346, Captain, Infantry, Company "I". 253rd Infantry Regiment, for extraordinary heroism in action on 8 April 1945, near Zuttlingen, Germany. When his company was unable to enter the town because of heavy enemy machine gun activity, Captain Meade, armed with an M-1 rifle, moved out alone toward the objective. His daring attack resulted in the capture of fourteen SS men and completely unnerved the strongly entrenched enemy. Advancing through the town under sniper fire, he located the mayor and then forced more than one hundred hostile civilians to cease resistance. Captain Meade's courageous action achieved, single-handedly, the surrender of the town. His outstanding initiative and gallantry reflect great credit upon himself and in keeping with the finest traditions of the infantry. Entered military service from Washington, Indiana.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL KEYES:

JOHN M. WILLEMS  
Brigadier General GSC  
Acting Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

W.G. CALDWELL  
Colonel, AGD  
Adjutant General



August 1944, Co. "C" - 255th. Thompson (trumpet), Piccinino (drummer) — rest?

DUES!  
ARE.....NOW  
DUE!.....  
HAVE YOU.....  
PAID  
YOURS?..  
\* \* \* \*  
GO FOR THE  
MAGIC!  
AUGUST 29 -  
SEPT. 2nd  
ORLANDO, FL..





PRISONERS OF WAR... Wm. Albright  
Co. "G" 254th Inf., 1st Platoon

Early in January 1945, about six months before the German surrender, Second Battalion of 254th Infantry was holding a position along the French River. Co G occupied a sector near the town of Ostheim. Several men from the company had been reassigned to other units since the Bulge had taken a heavy toll of troops further north.

During the few days prior to attack Hill 216 on January 20, G Co. established a forward outpost at some distance ahead of the main line. One rifle squad and one light machine gun squad were to occupy the outpost. Shortly after dark we marched to a point along a railroad about 800 yards from the Company Command Post.

Sgt. Armes from weapons platoon, and Pvt. Wm. Bucholz, Pvt. Clyde S. Muse, Pvt. Paul Gerhardt, and Pvt. Clayton Ironecklace were to provide automatic fire with the A-6 light machine gun in case of any active enemy contact. Sgt. John Vitka of first platoon, and Pfc. Wm. Albright, Pfc. Charles Colby, T/5 Louis Lepore, Pvt. Vernon Bannister, Pfc. Victor Koshere, Pfc. Felix Zolkowsky, Pvt. James Johnson, Pfc. Louis Alonzo, and Sgt. Mauro Serrano were assigned to provide BAR and rifle support. Sgt. Vitka was ranking NCO in charge of the outpost.

I don't recall the exact date, but we were probably placed on the outpost on Saturday or Sunday, January 13 or 14. Our orders were to observe and report any enemy activity, to keep under cover and maintain an alert guard at all times. We were provided rations, ammunition for rifles, BAR, and light machine gun, along with a supply of hand grenades. We were to take quarters in a building next to the railroad tracks near an intersection. The upper part of the building had been partially destroyed; the roof was gone, but two walls and part of a third were intact. Part of the wall facing the German line was standing, leaving a fairly clear view of the enemy line and about 500 to 600 yards beyond. The BAR and light machine gun were positioned in the upper part of the building and manned continuously. We were to eat and sleep in the lower section of the building; two guards were posted outside the door of the lower level.

At no time was the outpost unguarded. We maintained contact with the CP by field telephone.

Some time during the two or three days prior to our capture, we were ordered to direct artillery fire at the German positions directly to our front. Pfc. Colby had artillery training in the ROTC unit at Louisiana State University, and he was given the task of directing fire. Spotting artillery fire was not too difficult since there was a relatively clear field between us and the enemy. We could see German troops shaking out their blankets early in the morning. Our operation continued without incident, and on the evening of January 15, Company Commander, Lawrence Lenig and first platoon leader, Lt. Myers came to the outpost just after dark. They may have been accompanied by a carrying detail, bringing supplies; my memory is not clear at that point. In addition to checking out the outpost and its situation, the officers had come to interview Pfc. Colby, who was being considered for a field commission. As soon as the officers left, we checked our guard schedule and got ready of another uneasy night.

I remember clearly that Pfc. Colby and I had the late turn at guard. Some time during the night it began snowing, heavily at times, and visibility became nearly impossible. We were to be relieved just before daylight by Sgt. Armes and T/5 Lepore. I don't recall names of any other men who relieved us. If I recall correctly, four men were posted in the upper part of the building. Colby and I climbed down the ladder to the lower part of the building where we had a stove and barely enough room to roll out our sleeping gear. Sgt. Serrano went outside to make a latrine call, and I filled my canteen cup with water and set it on the stove. I wanted to have a hot drink of C Ration bouillon or Nescafe before I turned in for a couple hours sleep.

But Colby was cautious. I had started unlacing my snow pacs, but Colby told me to "hold up" a minute; he said he wanted to have a look outside. I asked him if I should wake up Sgt. Vitka, and he said wait a bit. I asked him if he had seen anything suspicious. He said that he just wanted to have a look around. Hardly twenty seconds later I heard a machine gun open up; barely a second later I saw Colby come tumbling through the door.

continued on next page...

Later, Colby commented that he was not an athlete and that he had never taken lessons in tumbling, but he had found himself summersaulting toward the door when the machine gun opened fire. It was a strange scene--like a movie in slow motion. I could see tracers coming through the door. They were pouring in about a foot above ground level, and it looked like they were following Colby right through the door. Right behind him, Johnson and Koshere stumbled in. They had been on guard outside the door. Johnson had been hit in the left arm (I learned later), and he sank to the floor. All he said was, "they got me." Colby got to his feet and yelled, "Let's get some grenades out there!" Then Colby and I ran for the ladder; we could hear grenades exploding on the floor above our heads. Lepore had come down, but we didn't see Armes anywhere. Colby started up the ladder, got his head through the trap door, grabbed Armes and pulled him toward the trap door; in the dark, I tried to catch Armes, or at least break his fall. Then another grenade hit the floor above. Colby took the concussion at close range. He had caught a piece of shrapnel and was bleeding from a wound on the back of his head. He was stunned and yelling for me to help him down. By this time everybody was awake; we were heaving grenades out of the door, letting them "cook" with the handles off as long as we dared. Sgt. Vitka cranked the field telephone, trying to contact the CP, but the wire had been cut. Vitka hadn't taken time to step into his snow pacs and was standing there in his socks. I went over to Johnson and asked him how he was feeling and where he had been hit. A "potato masher" had come through the door and landed no more than three feet from Johnson. I had come to Camp Van Dorn with Johnson; he and I were both from Iowa, we both had been inducted the same day at Camp Dodge in Des Moines. I was dizzy from the grenade, and my ears were ringing.

The idea of surrendering had not crossed my mind. Somehow the thought persisted that we would "fight it out." But Serrano decided to "turn in his hand." He shouted, "Surrender;" the firing stopped, and one by one we walked out of the door, hands over our heads. I think I was about the fourth or fifth one out of the door; Colby was among the last four or five. We left Johnson and Armes behind. I heard later that Johnson had crawled back to the CP later

in the afternoon.

Armes, I believe was wounded in both legs. There we were--thirteen of us, standing in the snow and no weapons--Vitka still in his socks and no shoes. Koshere had a small wound over one eye. It was obvious immediately that we had been attacked by a small combat patrol who knew the terrain very well and had taken advantage of darkness and the falling snow. It was getting light, and once outside, and heading for the line of woods we had been "eyeballing", we could see that our artillery fire had been quite effective. Dead Germans were literally lying all over the place.

Our captors hurried us over the open ground and into the woods, lined us up and began asking questions. What did we think of Roosevelt? What did we think of Hitler? None of us had a ready answer. Finally Colby replied that Americans had their leader, and the Germans had theirs. That seemed to satisfy them for the moment. One of the Germans said in broken English, that he had fought in the battle of Cherbourg. "Much dead", he said. Then another German asked the meaning of the term, unconditional surrender. Pvt. Ironecklace gave the most candid and straightforward answer. He said, "That's when you lay on your back with your arms and legs pointing to the sky and say, 'Dead dog.'" In view of the situation, Pvt. Ironecklace's reply took considerable courage; he was to be commended for such a forthright explanation.

This exchange lasted only a few minutes, and we were taken, one by one, for our first interrogation. As far as I know, each man gave his name, rank, and serial number. At the end of the interrogation, we were in no doubt that our captors were no amateurs at the business of questioning prisoners. We were then marched to a secure building and placed under guard. About noon we had a taste of our first prison rations, soup, black bread, and cheese. We ate the soup and bread; we tried to eat the cheese, but we were unaccustomed to the strong flavor, and we ate very little. None of us had the foresight to put it in our field jackets and save it for another day.

Some time after noon, we were loaded onto a truck and crossed the river on a pontoon bridge. We were taken to a makeshift stockade at the edge of a small village, Waldkirch.

continued on next page...



## mailbag continued....

from anyone in the Division.

EDWARD F. SWANSBURG..Co"B" 254th..  
272 el Matador, Zephyrhills, FL34248

Ed is a retired minister of the United Church of Christ. His wife died 3 years ago. Rev. Swansburg wonders if any of his old buddies from the 4th Platoon are still around. One way to find out Rev. join us in Orlando in August, and find out for yourself. As for your receiving the Blood & Fire, you are now reading your first issue Reverend, enjoy!

### HOTSHOTS! HAVE YOU SENT IN YOUR AD FOR THE AD BOOK...IF NOT PLEASE DO SO NOW!

PAUL OBAL..Co"B" 255th Inf..9810-A Walnut Tree Way, Boynton Beach, FL 33436..Paul retired from the U.S. Gov't. He joined the 63rd at Van Dorn, went overseas with the Division, and was wounded in Germany, April 6, 1945. Paul & Mary are new members of the Florida Chapter, and are neighbors of Murray & Stella Moore. Nice folks for neighbors Paul!

JOSEPH G. ANCHO..Co"A" 253rd Inf..759 S. University, Blackfoot, ID 83221..Joe went overseas with "A" 1st Plt., and was wounded on Feb. 24, 1945, and lost his right leg. After coming home, he went to Pharmacy school. Joe, "A" Co. had a good turnout in S.F., and they are looking for a repeat performace this year in Orlando. Why don't you and Angelines make your reservations, and join the rest of your old buddies.

NORMAN WILLIAMSON..Co"B" 863rd FA..Rte# 1 Onamia, MN 56359..Norman attended one reunion in Pittsburgh, and plans to attend our Orlando Reunion in August. He stayed in the service after the war, and retired from the Army. The last 6 years of service was with M.I. His son is Lt. Col. with (M.I.) stationed in Germany. Norman and his son were able to trace some of the 63rd's route, and found the position area where the 255th combat team crossed the Rhine, and states, "it sure looks different after 43 years".

HENRY GOTHERMAN..Co"G" 255th Inf..Rt. 1 Box 461, Austin, AR 72007..Henry retired from LTV Aircraftkl Corp. in Dallas, TX. After the war ended in Europe, he was transferred to the 100th Div. for about 4 mos., then to the 78th Div. in Kassel, Germany. Then went to Berlin to relieve the 101st AB. Was discharged April 9, 1946, at Jefferson Barracks, MO. He feels bad about not

knowing about our assn. earlier, and would like to know how some of his old buddies are doing. That's easy Henry, join us in Orlando and see for yourself.

### TO THE ABOVE LOST SHEEP....WELCOME HOME !

WILBUR T. BRAITHWAITE..Co"A" 253rd Inf..  
58 No. 2nd East, Manit, UT 84642..Wilbur joined the 63rd in Alsace-Lorraine, France and was wounded in a mine field Feb. 24, 1945. Discharged at the Dibble Gen. Hosp., CA. Graduated Utah State Univ. in 1950. Taught and coached at Manti,H.S. for 37 yrs. Wilbur, your Co"A" buddies expect you and Jane to join them in Orlando. See ya!

GLEN G. FOSTER..Co"A" 253rd Inf..3418 W. Howard Ave., Visalia, CA 93277..Glen retired in June after 35 years of teaching theatre arts, and speech. Active in the theatre as Director, Producer and actor. Directed mostly musicals for 26 years. Enjoys writing poetry, short stories and plays. Is active in Lions International. Glen, how about you and Catherine, join your buddy Wilbur and his wife Jane (above) plan to meet in Orlando, with the rest of your Co"A" buddies, and have a blast.

### DUES ARE NOW DUE!

WALTER W. LISCHKA..AT 254th Inf. & HQ Btry 863rd FA..8028 W. Lisbon Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53222..Walter couldn't make it to S.F., due to a total knee replacement in July, but hopes to make it to Orlando. I will your back in action Walter, is when I see you with that cigar stub jutting out of your mouth. See you in Orlando.

KENT L. SCHOLL..HQ Co. 255th Inf..809 Fieldcrest Dr., Neenah, WI 54956..Kent hasn't been to a reunion since Las Vegas, but states, that he has attended a number of Upper Mid-West Reunions in Minn., and enjoys the B&F. Kent & Jean, it's time to attend another reunion, your overdue. Expect to see you both in Orlando.

ROY LACY.. Co"A" 253rd Inf..334 Grandview, N.W. Canton, OH 44708..Roy & Lucille celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Nov. 11, 1989. Belated "Good Wishes" and continued good health from us all. Roy writes that he and Lucille are enjoying life to it's fullest. You folks sure have the right formula.

### HAVE YOU MOVED - HAS YOUR ZIP CODE

CHANGED...PLEASE NOTIFY YOUR SECRETARY  
OR EDITOR...& SAVE YOUR ASSOC. MONEY!



SALVATORE SORRIENTO..Co"D" 363rd Medics..248 So. Middletown Rd., Pearl River, NY 10965..Sal came out of the 98th at Breakenridge, KY. Made cadre and went to Camp Blanding when the 63rd was formed. Then to Van Dorn, France and Germany. Returned home with the 36th Inf. Div. Sal, now wouldn't you like to take Sarah to Florida for our 42nd Annual Reunion? Come on down!

SAM NYER..Co"F" 254th Inf..698 Essex St., Bangor, ME 04401..Sam and his wife plan to attend the Florida Reunion, the last one they attended was in Hartford, Conn. Sam is still working, and is recovering from by-pass surgery. On Feb. 24, 1945 he was wounded, and ended up in the hospital for 1 yr. & 5 mos. Keeps in contact with Lt. Col. Smithson (Ret.) who lives in Whitefield, ME, and hopes to see many old buddies from "F" Co. in Orlando.

WALTER K. DRAKE..HQ Co. 255th Inf..303 E. Cleveland St., W. Frankfort, IL 62896.... Walter is 80 years old and states that he feels pretty good. He and Ann are both retired. He is not sure if many men of his company will remember him, he was a cook. Walter, that depends on what kind of cook you were. I am sure they do, and if any of you men out there remember Walter, drop him a note, am sure he would appreciate it.

WILLIAM TAYLOR..HQ Co. 253rd Inf..141 West Vernon St., Manchester, CT 06040..Bill still enjoys playing tennis, also does volunteer work at the New England Air Museum. He missed the S.F. reunion, as Bill and Mary were on a trip to Russia at the time. They are planning to attend our Reunion in Orlando, and enjoy reading the B&F.

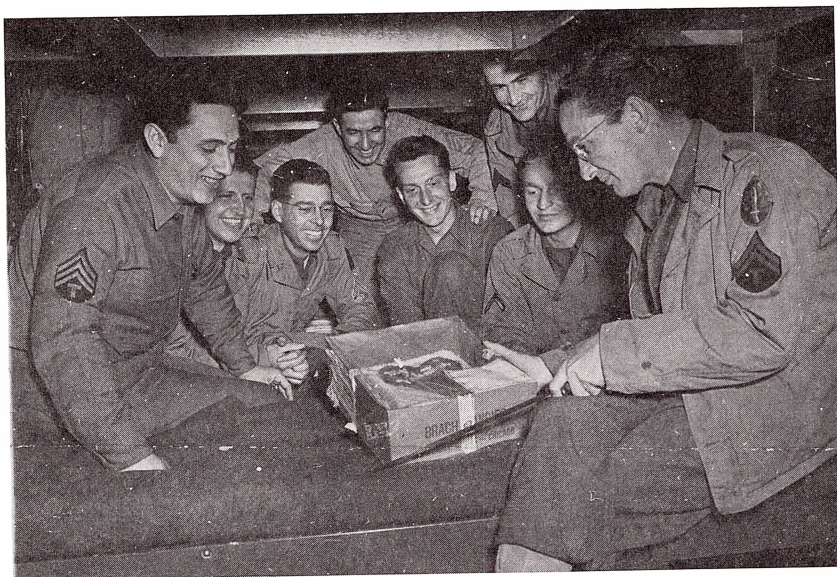
LLOYD SHORT..HQ Btry 718th FA..117 S. Bedford St., Georgetown, DE 19947..Lloyd writes that he has been shoveling snow since Thanksgiving, and when the weather is warmer he is busy cutting grass and tending a large garden. Due to his high blood pressure, Lloyd can't do much traveling. He notes, when you reach my age of 82, you can expect anything to happen. He still hears from Joe Bavasso, Henry Lauchley, Jr., and Pat Cerbo.

GEORGE A. BUCK, LTC. AUS, RET..HQ 862nd FA 726 - 50th St., Des Moines, IA 50312..... George joined the unit in Sept. '43 and left the 863rd as a replacement in August 1944. Recently George assisted a friend of his, find his Uncle Herman Santi, who was a member of "C" Co. 253rd Inf., who was

killed in action, in Hannweiler, Germany.

\* \* \* \* \*





*Valentine cake received by Cpl. Craven (far right), at Camp Van Dorn. Left to right, Resnick, Michaelson, Douglas, Needles, Smith, Summers, Dickeman, and Craven.*



*1944 63rd Division Second-Half Softball Champions, Company I, 255th Infantry, October 1944.*



*KP at Van Dorn - Paul Taubman, Paul Swim, — rest?*



*Ann & Larry Pedone, Mrs. Paulsen & Gen. Paulsen (ARCOM), John Santangelo*



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## 63rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

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MONTH	DAY	YEAR

ARRIVAL DATE

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