



• CAMP VAN DORN •

# Blood and Fire

## 63rd Infantry Division Association



• ARDENNES/ALSACE • RHINELAND • CENTRAL EUROPE •

VOL. 43 NO. 2

FEBRUARY, 1991

SARASOTA, FLORIDA

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Association*

August 14-18, 1991

• 43rd Annual Reunion •

**Nashville**  
Music City U.S.A.  
Loves Company.

# 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

## ELECTED OFFICERS FOR 1991

PRESIDENT	ALBERT J. CONTI
143 East Roosevelt Blvd.	Philadelphia, PA 19120
(215) 457-3245	Co. "K" 253rd Medics
EXEC. VICE-PRESIDENT	IRVIN J. SCHLOCKER
935 Princeton Ave.	Philadelphia, PA 19111
(215) 342-1488	Co. "H" 254th Inf.
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(215) 245-1742	Co. "A" 253rd Inf.
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(708) 739-2449	"C" Btry. 863rd FA

## APPOINTED OFFICERS

HISTORIAN	MICHAEL BAYMOR
809 Martin Ln.	Radcliff, KY 40160
(502) 351-5853	63rd Div. Hqs.
ASST. HISTORIAN	MAGNUS FROBERG
180 Welsh Ln.	Granville, OH 43023
(614) 587-1705	Co. "C" 253rd Inf.
ASST. HISTORIAN	WILLIAM SCOTT
407 S. Walnut St.	Sycamore, IL 60178
(815) 895-3967	Co. "E" 254th Inf.
HONORARY SECRETARY/TREASURER	ED WITT
3935 Thousand Oaks #907	San Antonio, TX 78217
(512) 653-3639	Co. "H" 255th Inf.

## DIRECTORS

September 1991

M.T. Beer, 2801 Friendship St., Iowa City, IA 52240	253
R.L. Ross, 306 E. Story, Bozeman, MT 59715	254
J.H. Simard, 106 Tuttle St., Fall River, MA 02724	255
G.H. Stewart, 809 W. Palmetto, Florence, SC 29501	Sp. Trps.
M.G. Haines, Apt. 3M East Lansing, Lumberton, NJ 08048	Arty.

September 1992

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E. Witt, 3935 Thousand Oaks, San Antonio, TX 78217	255
R.M. Ingle, Rt. 4, Box GT 34, Lincolnton, NC 28092	Sp. Trps.
A.G. Ash III, 5809 N. Front St., Philadelphia, PA 19120	Arty.

September 1993

J.S. Eddy, 419 Sylvia Way, San Raphael, CA 94913	253
C. A. Stewart, 144 Longwood Dr., Ormond Beach, FL 32074	254
J.E. Jaloski, 119 Reaghard Dr., Cheswick, PA 15024	255
V.P. Hannon, 119 Burma Island Rd., Leesburg, FL 32788	Arty.
H.K. Ross, P.O. Box 6796, Ozone, FL 34660	Sp. Trps.

**NASHVILLE REUNION  
AUGUST 14-18, 1991**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Tradition runs deep in Nashville, especially at Opryland U.S.A., the home base for all our exciting tours.

- Opryland U.S.A. Theme Park
- Grand Old Opry Show
- General Jackson Showboat

Come and enjoy a fabulous combination of music, food, entertainment and American tradition that will make your "REUNION-VACATION" the best ever.

**ONE WORD OF CAUTION:** we are obligated to terminate all "GRAND OLE OPRY SHOW" ticket sales on April 15, 1991 . . . at which time full payment must be made for tickets sold. There is a "GRAND OLE OPRY" order form for tickets to the show inside this issue. Please complete and return by specified date.

To purchase additional tickets, above the amount sold is economically unfeasible. We can lose a lot of money trying to "second guess" late registrants.

Due to the Cut-Off dates set by the tour people, we must have all forms by date printed on forms. Sorry to say, but, any member who does not send in his registration form by specified date **WILL BE EXCLUDED FROM ATTENDING** these tours with his buddies and friends. Sign up early, don't be disappointed. **It's more fun going on the tours with friends.**

We are looking forward to seeing you in Nashville. Thank you.

Albert J. Conti and  
The Phila. Chapter

**P.S. PLEASE NOTE:** It is illegal to sell lottery or raffle tickets in the state of Tennessee. To compensate for the loss of revenue, which is used to cover some of the evening functions expenses, **WE ARE ASKING YOU TO HELP US BY SENDING IN A DONATION WITH YOUR REGISTRATION FORM. WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.**

Revised 11/30/90



Editor



NATE SPIEGEL

3715 Lokai Pl . . . . . Sarasota, FL 34232  
813-377-4149 . . . . . Co. "C" 253rd

# Letters To The Editor



Dear Nate:

I am an old Life Member who won't ever be able to attend any of the reunions due to a multiple of disabilities to numerous to mention. Would appreciate your putting the following message into the Blood & Fire.

I want to thank "K" Co. 253rd Regt., and all the other men from all parts of the Division for all the Christmas cards, notes, pictures and all other useful items. I was grounded from sending cards or corresponding in any way due to a likely surgery for cancer of an eye, but so far I have escaped that episode. My eye is somewhat better, but still have to go slow reading and typing, so fellows bear with me until things are better. I did not forget a single one of you. Write to me, and I will take a chance on reading them. Thank you, and may the "LORD BLESS ALL".

Sincerely,  
Chester F. Lobb, "K" 253rd

\* \* \*

Dear Nate:

I read SGM Gerard J. Pepe ("F" 255) story in the May issue of Blood & Fire. I might clarify some of the action at the Bunker, early A.M.

The big pillboxes were behind us to the right, this was where most of the company was stationed. We were in the Bunker about 300 yds. front left, and our squad was there in front of the bunker approximately 100 ft. along a fence. I and my machine gunner had a fox hole. All night long we heard the German tanks moving down the hill and into the town.

At day break, while scouring the area around the bunker, I spotted a German and he had a bead on my head. He was about 200 ft. to the left of the bunker. I dropped in the fox-hole and came back up with my M-1 to shoot, and the gun misfired. I shucked out the round and shot again hitting the German, and he fell. Right after that I noticed our men coming out of the bunker with their

hands up. At the time, that we came to the bunker, I expected to be shot by the German officers, but they made us all sit down in the snow, with our hands up. While one German officer bandaged the right shoulder of the German I had shot. We were so cold with our hands in the air. After the wounded officer was taken care of, they started marching us off toward, and to the right of the bunker. The rifleman in the big pillbox, must have picked off two of the German officers in back, and the one on our left.

Our Staff Sargent who was two men in front of me, and in back of the German officer lowered his hands to his helmet, and brought it down hard on the Germans head. He told us to run to the pillboxes as kept hitting the German in the head with the helmet. As we ran up the hill toward the pillbox, a German tank came down the hill and did not shoot at us, or we at them, as we had no guns. The tank went on down the hill toward the town.

The next day we collected the German dead, and loaded them on our trucks. The only name I remember was my machine gunner, who's name was Daniel. Later on we were both wounded at the same time on the Siegfried Line, on March 18, 1945. Our Staff Sgt. who killed the German was a good soldier, and I wish I could remember his name to get in touch with him.

I enjoy the Blood & Fire, and stories about the war we were in. My wife and I will be attending our 43rd Reunion in Nashville.

James B. Keeney, "B" 255th

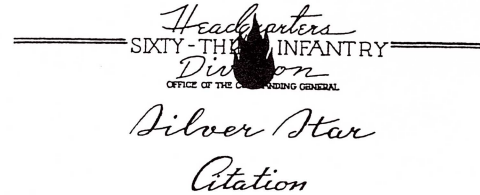
\* \* \*

## FROM THE EDITOR.....

Many of you Hotshots have two mail-addresses, or have your mail forwarded from time to time. The Association has to pay for the forwarding of the Blood & Fire and/or for the return of the Blood & Fire in the case of "No Forwarding Address" or an "Expired Forwarding Time". These costs range from \$.30 to \$1.78 and if I remail the B&F it costs another \$.65. cont'd on next page..

# HISTORIC NOTES

by Mike Baymor...



The status of the publication of the history of the 63rd Infantry Division in World War II is on track. The title of the history is "The 63rd Infantry Division Chronicles." Mag Froberg, Bill Scott and I met in Indianapolis recently to finalize plans. The draft was finalized, pictures incorporated, print and book size decided. Plans at the present time are to deliver the manuscript to the printer by the end of February or the first part of March. An acceptable estimate of the cost was presented by the printer, and the final price will be set when the manuscript is delivered and the contract signed.

Mag Froberg has accepted the responsibility of mailing all books to those who have placed orders. He has the list of all who have ordered books. At the present time we have 140 orders. If you desire to reserve a book, send a check or money order for \$32.50 to: Magnus Froberg, 180 Welsh Lane, NE, Granville, OH 43023. The cost includes postage and handling.

After 45 years, it was difficult to gather materials, manuscripts, pictures, and rosters, because of missing documents, the deaths of our senior officers, memory lapses, etc. Despite the difficulties, we did our best with the materials we were able to collect. We have worked long and hard, and we believe we have a GOOD BOOK! We hope you like it. **Delivery should begin before the next REUNION.**

Another DSC has been uncovered. **COLLETTE, JACK N., S Sgt. 20710921, B-254 Inf., buried in Lorraine Cemetery, KIA 26/4/45.**

I don't have the citation but will try to get it from an outfit in Alexandria.

Mike....



**SUPPORT OUR TROOPS  
IN  
DESSERT STORM**

**HERBERT BEHRENS, 12111048, Technician Fifth Grade, Infantry, Headquarters Company, Second Battalion, 253rd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 13 March 1945, in the vicinity of Bubingen, Germany. Technician Fifth Grade Behrens accompanied an assault platoon to maintain radio communication with the battalion commander. After being held up by machine gun fire and repulsing three enemy counter-attacks, the platoon was ordered to withdraw. In his withdrawal, Technician Fifth Grade Behrens encountered a wounded man, administered first aid, and after remaining alone with him for nine hours, led him to safety under cover of darkness. The magnificent courage and outstanding gallantry under fire of Technician Fifth Grade Behrens reflect the highest credit upon himself and are in keeping with the finest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered military service from Bronx, New York.**

**LOUIS E. HIBBS  
MAJOR GENERAL, U.S. ARMY  
COMMANDING**



**FROM THE EDITOR....cont'd.**

In addition to the cost it is a lot of work for both myself and the Secretary, as we do not have anyone on our staffs but ourselves. We do not know if it is temporary or a permanent change of address, and we change it and then the next issue is again forwarded..... and we have to change it back.

If you do not receive your Blood & Fire because you have moved temporarily, please send me \$.75 (new rates) and request a copy. The Blood & Fire is mailed out at the end of October..February and May.

Nate.....

My telephone number has been.... changed to: (813) 377-4149....

# 1991 AD BOOK RESERVATION FORM

ACTUAL BOOK SIZE: 5½" × 8½"

FULL PAGE...\$50.00

½ PAGE...\$30.00

¼ PAGE...\$18.00

⅛ PAGE...\$10.00

3 LINE BOOSTER \$5.00

SPONSOR NAME  
(each) \$2.00



43rd ANNUAL REUNION COMMITTEE

## 63rd Infantry Division Association

BLOOD and FIRE  
• ARDENNES/ALSACE • RHINELAND • CENTRAL EUROPE

### "HOT SHOTS" WE NEED YOUR HELP

The State of Tennessee forbids any and all types of raffles.

To compensate for the loss of these reunion funds . . . we ask that you take out an ad in the 1991 Souvenir/Ad Book.

The money collected for Raffles & Ad Book are used to help cover the cost of;

- Free Beer, Soda and Ladies Coffee & Danish.
- Buses; helps defray some of the bus rental cost.
- Dance Band for our evening socials.

*Thank you for your valuable assistance.*

Make check(s) payable to:

43rd REUNION, 63rd INF. DIV. ASSOC.

and mail to:

Edmund Hooven *Ad Book Chairperson*

1024 Burnley Court  
Bensalem, PA 19020

NOTE: For any photos sent that are not screened (halftone), there will be an extra charge to prepare photo for printer.



AD COPY *(Please print clearly)*

AD SIZE:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ UNIT SERVED WITH: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized by: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_



63RD ACTIONS DURING THE MID APRIL 1945 BATTLE OF WALDENBURG CASTLE



# CHAPTER NEWS



OUR 10th  
ANNIVERSARY..  
MAY 3-4th..



1991

FLORIDA CHAPTER....Pres. Bill Snyder  
Our mini reunion in Ormond Beach, Oct. 19-20th, had a good turnout including two new members, Bill & Ethel Wallace, and Bob & Nita Smith. We were very fortunate on our boat ride to St. Augustine that the weather was beautiful and the waters were calm. As a "land lubber" that's the way I like it, wouldn't want to feed the excellent breakfast & lunch we had on the boat to the fish. To you folks who didn't attend you missed a good one. Our thanks to Charlie Stewart who was our host for the weekend.

**10th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FLORIDA CHAPTER...** will be held at the same motel and month that we were formed as a Chapter in 1981 by the "dirty dozen", the Holiday Inn, in Osprey, Florida.

As hosts, Miriam and I are planning a special evening for you all on Friday night. If any of you out of state hotshots are still in Florida, or back up North, join us for our 10th Anniversary blowout.

Dates: Friday & Saturday **May 3-4th** depart on the 5th. At the **HOLDIAY INN SARASOTA SOUTH/VENICE..** 1660 So. Tamiami Trail, Osprey, Fl. 34229..(813) 966-2121 All rooms are \$50.00 per nite plus tax. Cut off date is April 19th. Please send your reservations in early.

Saturday nite: Cocktails 6:00 PM-7:00 PM Your choice for dinner, Pork or Broiled/Baked fish, catch of the day. Vegetables potato rolls & butter, coffee or tea. Desert, chocolate chiffon pie. Price: \$12:40, includes tax and tip. Dinner checks, to be sent to Nate Spiegel, 3715 Lokai Pl., Sarasota, FL 34232, by April 29th. **There will be no refunds on cancellations on either room or food, after April 29th.**

Our newly elected officers are, Pres:

Bill Snyder, VP: Tom Chatham, Treas: Nate Spiegel.

**FOOTNOTE: MAKE OUT ALL DINNER CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE FLORIDA CHAPTER 63rd DIV.**

Nate...

\* \* \*

PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER....

PRESIDENT: IRVIN SCHLOCKER

The Phila Chapters Fall-Mini Reunion at Kutsher's Country Club in the New York Catskill was attended by 62 people on October 19-20, 1990.

A good time was had by all. The food (3 meals a day) was excellent, the free evening entertainment was great, the weather could not have been better.

Four new members joined the Phila. Chapter; Walter & Charlotte Boling, Harry & Margaret Murphy, Thomas & Iona Pinchbeck and John & Helen Wein. We welcome them.

At our Saturday business meeting, the One-Free-Person Hotel Rebate was raffled off in six \$20.00 prizes, which were won by Merlin Oswald, Guy Introni, Al See, Barney Forrest, Albert Conti and Vincent Staskewicz.

Al & Marge See donated their \$20.00 prize to the 43rd Nashville Reunion Fund. We sincerely thank them for their generosity. We are now taking reservations for our Spring Mini-Reunion at Lily Langtry's Buffet and our Fall Mini-Reunion, location to be announced in the May Issue. Anyone interested please contact, Irvin Schlocker, 935 Princeton Ave., Phila., PA 19111, or phone (215) 342-1488.

Al Conti...

\* \* \*

UPPER MIDWEST CHAPTER....

President: Keith Johnson

Iowa is hosting the next Mini-Reunion, which will be held on Thurs., Fri., & Sat. June 6-8, at the Ironman Inn, in Iowa City. Registration sheets will be sent to all members of the Upper Midwest Chapter and anyone else requesting one. If you would like to get on our mailing list send your name address and phone number to: Arthur C. Johnson C. Johnson, Sec., 11 South 5th St. West, Aurora, MN 55705.

Arthur C. Johnson...

**1991 DUES ARE NOW DUE!**

chapter news continued....

CAL/WEST CHAPTER RENO REUNION COMMITTEE:

HOPE ALL HAD A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON. ON NOVEMBER 23,1990 THE DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING I ALONG WITH BETTY FLEW TO RENO, NEVADA TO LOOK OVER THE SITE FOR OUR 1992 RENO REUNION. THE WEATHER IN NOVEMBER WAS 39DEGREES AND DROPPING TO 19DEGREES IN THE EVENING. THE AIR WAS SO CLEAR AND CLEAN, THE MOUNTAIN CAPS WERE FULL OF SNOW, IT SO PRETTY AT THAT TIME OF YEAR. A STORM CAME IN ON SUNDAY AS WE WERE GETTING READY TO GO TO THE AIRPORT TO COME HOME. THEY CLOSED THE AIRPORT DUE TO THE STORM SO WE WERE UNABLE TO GET OUR FLIGHT OUT. WE HAD A LAY OVER UNTIL 2:00 P.M. THE FOLLOWING DAY.

THE HOTEL GAVE THE SAME ROOM WE HAD, AT NO CHARGE!! YOU ASK DID I DO ANY GAMBLING ? YES, HOW DID I DO? I HELD MY OWN. BETTY PLAYED THE SLOTS. HOW DID SHE DO? SHE IS A WINNNER.

THE NAME "RENO THE BIGGEST LITTLE CITY IN THE WORLD" IS SO TRUE. THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS TO DO. PLACES TO SEE LAKE TAHOE, CARSON CITY, PONDEROSA RANCH MORE TOO FOLLOW IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE BLOOD & FIRE.

WISHING ALL THE HAPPINESS AND HEALTHIEST NEW YEAR !!

JOHN & BETTY SANTANGELO

\* \* \*

FOX CO. 253rd Inf....

"Old Sarge"...."Smitty Smith

Everyone enjoyed their stay at the Pocmont Lodge in Bushkill, PA., and wanted to come back again this year. Have set up the following for Oct. 7-11th, Monday thru Friday, that's for 5 days and 4 nights at \$225.00 per person (double occupancy), or 4 days & 3 nights Oct. 8-11, 1991, Tues. thru Friday, at \$180.00 per person. Even for a couple of days it will be around \$45 per day. It will cost \$20.00 more for a single room. If interested I will need a deposit of \$70.00 for your room. By the number of incoming reservations I will know how many rooms to reserve. The package consists of entertainment, meals, etc. all you have to do is get there.

Send your reservations to William Smith, 52 Palm, Madison, OH 44057. .... Would appreciate your contacting me by July 1991.

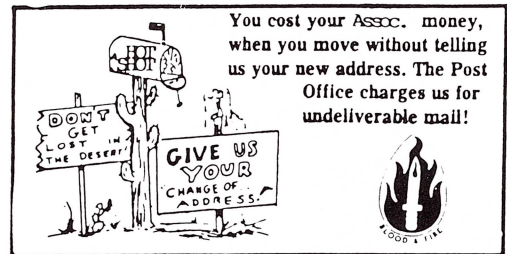
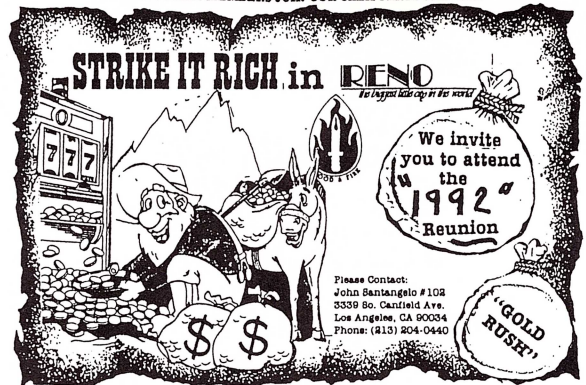
Smitty

\* \* \*

REUNION...43rd Infantry "Winged Victory Division...September 6-8 1991, at the TREADWAY HARTFORD HOTEL, Route 372 (exit 21 off I-91) Cromwell, CT 06416..... For details contact: Howard F. Brown, 150 Lakedell Dr., East Greenwich, RI 02818...

Dues are now due for 1991

WESTERN STATE MEMBERS JOIN OUR CALIFORNIA CHAPTER



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



REGIMENT LISTINGS....

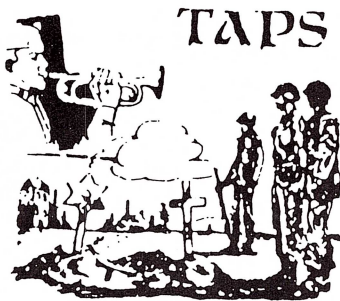
If you would like a listing of YOUR REGIMENT, remit \$2.00 to cover the reproduction cost and mailing write to: Lydia Liszka, 19 W 565 Deerpath In., Lemont, IL 60439.



PATRIOTISM CAN BE CONTAGIOUS... SPREAD IT AROUND...







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!"

WALLACE "WALLY" GILDERDALE

Died Dec. 29, 1990.....Co "K" 253rd Inf.  
350 Cornwall Bridge Rd., Sharon, CT 06069

SAMUEL DeHAVEN

Died Sept. 21, 1989....Co "A" 253rd Inf.  
RR# 1 P.O.Box 317, Eaton, IN 47338.....

D.A. MELCOM, JR

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

FRANK SUNSERI

Died June 7, 1989.....Div. Arty.  
1012Cumberland Pl., San Jose, CA 95125..

JAMES C. HARVEY

Died May 1, 1981.....HQ Co 253rd Inf.

OVA B. MEDLEY

Died May 17, 1975..HQ Co 1stBn 253rd Inf

RAYMOND MINFORD

Died July 1, 1981..HQ Co 1stBn 253rd Inf

PETER ROMANO

Date Died 1990.....63rd Recon  
Last known address was a VA Hosp. in NJ

CAPTAIN CHARLES MAC DONALD

Died Dec. 4, 1990.....Co "C" 254th Inf.  
Arlington, VA.....

Correction:

JAMES C. WARREN

Died July 28, 1990.....Medics 254th Inf.  
RR# 1 Box 112, Bluford, IL 62814.....

RUSSELL M. DESCAMP

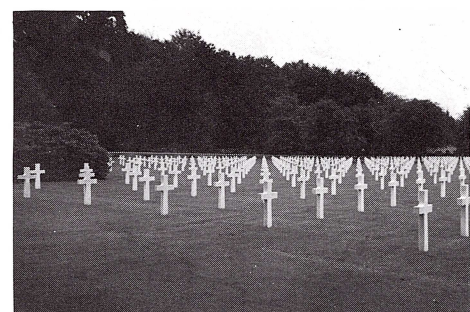
Died July 27, 1990.....Co "I" 254th Inf.  
201 Kennedy Ave., Munhall, PA 15120.....

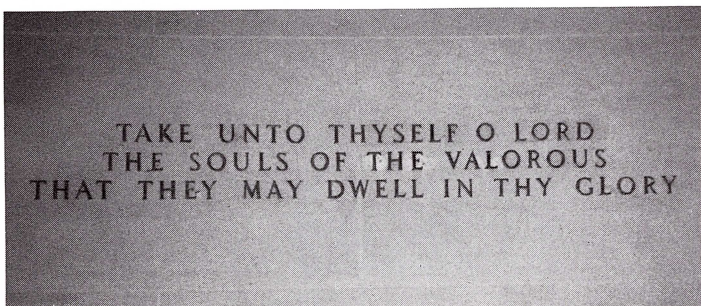
Please Note:

When informing your editor about a departed comrade, please make sure I have the correct information, to avoid any embarrassments to the family and myself. Thank you.....Nate

There a number of listings in the TAPS column of men who passed away sometime ago. I listed them in this issue, but will discontinue doing so, as they may have been listed before, and others the association has no records of them ever belonging to the association, or their units they were attached to.

The following pictures were sent in by Calvin Fisher, HQ Co. 3rd Bn. 253rd Inf. They were taken on July 1990, at the Epinal Military Cemetery in France.





**MacDonald, Col. (Ret.) Charles B., 68, a military historian, died Dec. 4 at home in Arlington, Va., of cancer and lung disease.**

Col. MacDonald entered the Army in 1942. He commanded a rifle company during the Battle of the Bulge. He was awarded a Silver Star and a Purple Heart.

His book about his World War II experiences, *Company Commander*, published in 1947, sold more than 1 million copies and remains in print. It is still read at the U.S. Military Academy and other military service schools and ROTC units.

After his book was published, Col. MacDonald joined the staff of the U.S. Army Center of Military History. He wrote two official Army histories of World War II and co-authored another. He was chief of the European section, deputy chief histoan and at retirement, was deputy chief historian for Southeast Asia.

His latest book, *A Time for Trumpets: The Untold*

*Story of the Battle of the Bulge*, was published in 1984.

He retired from the Army Reserve in 1980.

Survivors include a daughter, Moire Queen; a son, Bruce; a sister; and three brothers.

Burial was at Arlington National Cemetery, Va.

PERSPECTIVE

The events of almost a half century ago when American Troops engaged the German Army on the European Continent, invite reflection upon experiences now graciously relegated by fading memory to the forgiving shades of twilight.

Dates and statistics - names and places - battles and casualties - the victories and the defeats, are all now documented, and none require recitation.

Tempting it is nevertheless, to view again those experiences, now filtered by time, fermented in subsequent events, and sculptured by maturity.

In the day-to-day drudgery of infantry warfare - there was seldom perception of individual performance as being heroic, or even unusual. One simply acted, performing those tasks for which he had been trained, the same as did every other man.

Each intellect was assailed with the hard lesson of life's tenuousness, the precept of the possibility of life's abrupt termination - was necessarily mastered in days, hours, or even minutes.

*continued on next page...*

*TAPS continued...*

SYDNEY J. MONTGOMERY

Died Nov. 30, 1990....Co "M" 254th Inf.  
4023 Hartfort Drive, Garland, TX 75043

EDWARD McAVOY

Died Oct. 26, 1990.....Co "A" 253rd Inf.  
34 DiCicco Rd., Waterbury, CT 06705.....

Motivation to overcome  
 paralyzing fears  
 arose from feelings  
 of loyalty and duty,  
 not necessarily to country,  
 but to those dear  
 and loyal friends  
 who labored all around.

On rare occasions  
 in times of respite,  
 waves of unit pride  
 or patriotism,  
 if you will,  
 warmed the spirits,  
 to shared feelings of  
 common destiny.

But the strongest  
 and prevailing  
 emotion still surviving -  
 not the least  
 diminished  
 by time or  
 space -  
 is the love -  
 unremitting and  
 never-ending,  
 radiating  
 among those comrades,  
 who shared  
 those days and nights -  
 a love that has enriched our lives  
 far beyond  
 any entitlement.

We crave no parades  
 no recompense  
 no artifacts  
 no souvenirs -  
 to remind us  
 of those events.

The long-silent  
 and rusted  
 artillery pieces  
 in the court house  
 square  
 seem a mockery  
 of the actuality  
 of our shared experiences.

We claim only the privilege  
 to shed tears  
 when the mournfull  
 call of "Taps"  
 reaches our hearing.

We desire only the  
 opportunity to walk -  
 sometimes alone,  
 in the forests, or  
 the mountains,  
 and to think  
 about -  
 and fondly remember  
 our friends,

and

to come together,  
 in reunion,  
 whenever possible,  
 so long as we are able.

John D. Erhardt  
 1988  
 M-254

## NASHVILLE REUNION AUGUST 14-18, 1991



UPPER MIDWEST CHAPTER...  
 HOTSHOTS & THEIR WIVES AT CRAZY HORSE  
 CUSTER, SD June 10, 1990

**RENO**  
*the biggest little city in the world*

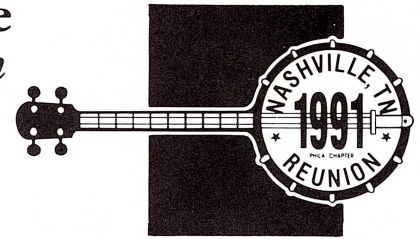


Co A men @ Orlando reunion  
 1990. ( L - R ) Front:  
 King-Jackson-Vermillion-Cardella-  
 Yuskavich-Ash-Prothero-Eckert-Brown.  
Back:  
 Lacy-Beavers-Schwartz-Swackhammer-  
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 If you want to attend these events, you must send in your advance payment by **JUNE 8, 1991**



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 63rd Infantry Division  
 Association  
 43rd Annual Reunion  
 August 14 to 18, 1991**



Name: _____	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: (____) _____
<b>Please Check <input type="checkbox"/> if this is your first reunion.</b>	

	COST PER PERSON	NUMER ATTENDING	TOTAL COST
<b>Make check(s) payable to 43rd Reunion, 63rd Inf. Div. Assoc.</b>			
<b>Return this form &amp; check to:</b> ALBERT J. CONTI 143 E. Roosevelt Blvd. Phila., PA 19120-4284	REGISTRATION FOR 1991 REUNION . . . . .	\$20.00	\$20.00
	DUES: National . . . . .	\$5.00	MEMBER ONLY
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<b>DONATIONS: "HOT SHOTS" WE NEED YOUR HELP.</b> The state of TN forbids the selling of raffle or lottery ticket. Please include a donation to help us pay some of the bills.	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	
<b>WEDNESDAY EVENING, AUGUST 14 (MEET YOUR BUDDIES)</b> Music, Free Beer, Soda & Dry Snacks, Cash Bar . . . . . 7:30 pm to ? . . .	MEMBER \$5.00	( )	
<b>THURSDAY DAYTIME, AUGUST 15 (3 in 1 Package) RAIN OR SHINE</b> 1- Visit Opryland Theme Park . . . . . 8:30 pm to 2:30 pm 2- Grand Old Opry Show (Doors Open at 2:00 pm) . . . . . 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm 3- Bus Transportation . . . . . Shuttle (5) buses will leave Hotel for Opryland Park every 1/2 hour from 8:30 am to 12 noon. Return trip; enough buses will be available for everyone to return at the same time; 5:30 pm sharp. CHILDREN UNDER AGE 3 ARE FREE: must sit on parents lap to avoid paying \$9.69 bus fare.	ADULT \$43.00* UNDER 49" TALL \$33.89*	( ) ( )	
<b>SECOND DAY OPRYLAND THEME PARK TICKETS.</b> Available when you buy first day tickets only. Your own transportation required. . . . . CHILDREN UNDER AGE 3 ARE FREE	ADULT \$11.00* UNDER 49" TALL \$6.00*	( ) ( )	
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<b>SATURDAY DAYTIME, AUGUST 17</b> MEMORIAL SERVICE (Prior to Men's Meeting) . . . . . 9:00 am to 9:45 am Men's Business Meeting . . . . . 10:00 am to 1:00 pm Ladies Social Meeting (Refreshments) . . . . . 10:00 am to 1:00 pm	FREE	( )	FREE
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The Grand Ole Opry is demanding full payment (\$4,956.00) BY APRIL 15, 1991 for Thursday's Matinee Show Tickets, we have reserved.

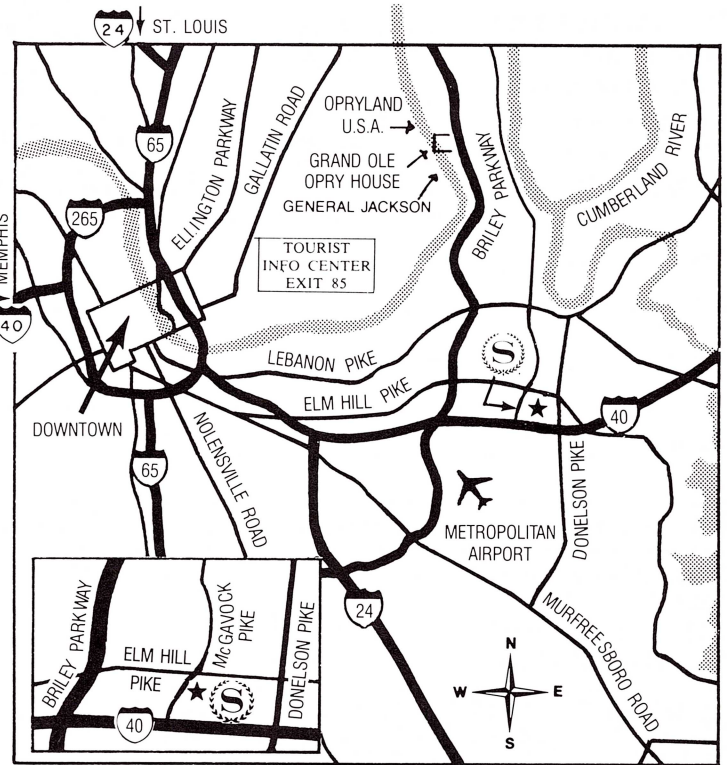
**WE NEED TO KNOW NOW, HOW MANY TICKETS YOU NEED!**

You DO NOT have to send in any money with this order. All we need at this time is an accurate ticket count. Send in full payment with your registration form by June 15, 1991. WE DO NOT WANT TO LOSE MONEY, buying more tickets than we need.

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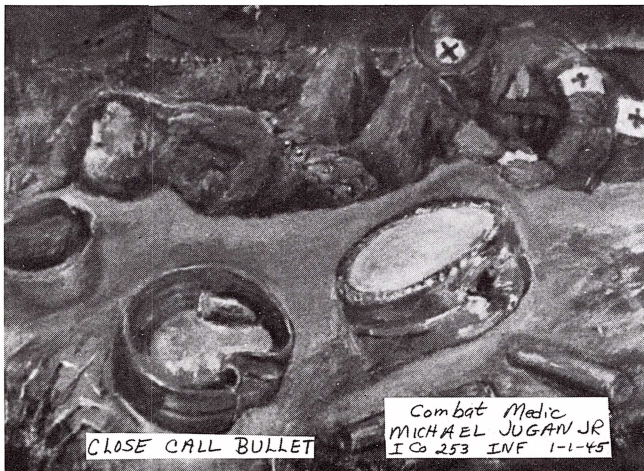
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George McIntosh, 43rd Reunion, Nashville Representative.



ANTI TANK 254th Inf.



Combat Medic  
 MICHAEL JUGAN JR  
 I Co 253 INF 1-1-45



Communications Platoon Regt. HQs 255th Inf

## The Siegfried Line -- A Personal Experience

--by Jack E. Jaloski

On or about March 12, 1945, our unit, Co. E-255 Infantry, was drawn back from its position on the line at the Bleis River and transported by truck convoy to Sarreguemines, France. At the time, average rifle company squad strength was down to about seven to nine men from what would normally be twelve.

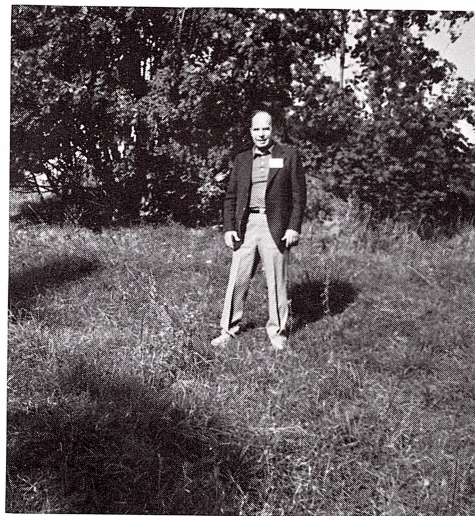
Prior to leaving foxhole positions on the Bleis, my squad was assigned to maintain an Observation Post from a three storied granary in Frauenburg overlooking that narrow river where we remained for about three weeks. Just as every combat infantryman had at least one town he can never forget, my anathema was Frauenburg in the Alsace section of France where loyalties were uncertain. It was separated from Habkirchen, Germany by a blown-out bridge and the sixty feet width of the Bleis River. Enemy positions were dug into the river bank and also maintained from buildings on their side. At night German patrols operated on our side and were known to make contact with civilians - the few we permitted to remain in town to oversee their livestock and personal interests. Day and night we were often subjected to enemy machine gun, mortar, sniper and occasional rocket and artillery fire without warning. Our casualties and fatalities became very personal there because we were so dependent on one another. Our frustration grew because we could not call upon weaponry to deliver punishment. Because of the "Bulge" our artillery had been used up until June, we were told, and could only be directed on a target of five or more enemy personnel. Finally, the Germans burned us out by using incendiary mortar fire to deny us the buildings facing the river.

As squad leader of the second squad, second platoon, my unit fit the average with casualties caused by snipers, severe winter cold and lack of replacements. The weather began to moderate and as we arrived in Sarreguemines -- far from the front -- morale immediately warmed. Smiles, which I had not seen for some time, beamed everywhere. Squad leaders were summoned to company headquarters and assigned replacements. We were told it would be a good opportunity for the men to get acquainted with one another, particularly with the new men, before returning to the line. We were also ordered to spotlessly clean all equipment and prepare for a thorough inspection because soon we would go into the offensive.

Shortly afterwards I was summoned back to company headquarters and assigned to an interview with a second lieutenant I had never before met. He stated that the purpose of our session was to determine the facts regarding a disagreement I had had with a company officer several weeks before while we were on the line in Frauenburg. The act was construed as insubordination.

As the normal consequence, I was reduced to PVT, and reassigned to the third platoon. Although I had been regular cadre when the division developed in Van Dorn and was assigned to the Replacement Training Groups as cadre, I had always been squad leader of the second squad, second platoon. In Van Dorn I survived seventeen weeks of basic training three times, nine weeks of advanced training twice, and maneuvers in Louisiana before going to Europe. I also had earned, through proficiency and physical agility, the coveted Expert Infantryman's Badge. In Sarreguemines I lost all past identity because I knew few members of the third platoon and few knew me. The only positive result was that the platoon was headed by T/Sgt. Dennis Kilbride, with whom I had served on patrol and for whom I had high regard. Needless to say, my morale was very low, causing me to remain aloof rather than to take advantage of the short respite to learn names and faces.

The following pictures are of Jack Jaloski and what was the Siegfried line..... 9/29/87



2

In Sarreguemines our company was overstaffed: we had 215 men instead of the normal complement of 187. Squad leaders reported to the company commander, Captain Whipple, and after a short briefing returned to give word that, on this, the 14th day of March, 1945, the entire Seventh Army was going into the offensive, with the 63rd Division leading the point. The 3rd Division was on the left flank, the 45th Division on our right. The 255th Regiment of the 63rd would be one of the lead attack regiments, with Company E leading it. We drew much ammunition.

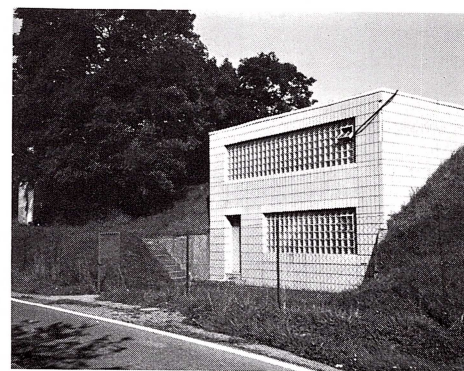
On March 14 we left Sarreguemines and marched east during the late evening toward the Bleis River. After dark we observed other units setting up along the road. Field hospitals, food kitchens, and other specialized units had erected their tents and spotted their supplies. There was little conversation as we moved toward our forward assembly area. About 11:00 p.m. we arrived in a high wooded area above the Bleis River, made up light packs and waited for the word. Suddenly, division artillery turned on ten large floodlights, aimed at the low hanging clouds across the Bleis and began a rolling barrage up and down the mountains on the German side. I had never before seen such an artillery display. As we waited in the woods for H hour, - hour of attack, a preconstructed wooden bridge was lowered into place across the Bleis River by a huge cherry picker. Soon the word was given and we left in column towards the bridge as the barrage continued just after midnight. When the barrage ended, we crossed the bridge into Germany about half an hour later.

It seemed impossible that any Germans could have survived that barrage, but they did -- and some held and fought. One after another we eliminated machine gun positions which set up their own demise by opening up. Grenades were our most effective weapons in the darkness and as we drew closer to the top of the mountain the Germans changed tactics and used knives instead with some effective results. In the meantime, there was a solid column of infantry that had snaked up the mountainside behind us and as far as one could see in the direction of our forward assembly area from where the attack began. Just before dawn we were instructed to dig in and hold for a counterattack, but none came. Soon afterwards we attacked again with little resistance.

Coordination of field artillery with infantry on the move was a real morale builder. Pockets of resistance were hammered and silenced with few casualties on our side. This brought a welcome change from the despair we felt during the winter campaign, when German snipers seldom scored other than fatal shots. We were now taking real estate, and that, too was bringing the war closer to an end.

Sometime after noon on March 17, 1945, after advancing in open squad column on a predesignated azimuth, we could see the dragon teeth of the Siegfried Line on the opposite hillside or plateau. We proceeded parallel across an open field under harassing mortar fire and arrived in a wooded area overlooking the small town of Ommersheim. Instructions were given to dig in, for we would have a full day to observe the fortifications before attacking. I dug a very deep slit trench, lined it with fir branches, climbed in and fell fast asleep. In a way, it was nice to have only myself to worry about, rather than having to spot each squad position, check ammo, converse with and reassure each squad member, and keep communications functioning.

The nap lasted only a few minutes, for soon my squad leader was rounding us up for a briefing by the platoon sergeant, Dennis Kilbride. We were informed that "some officers" had reconnoitered the Siegfried Line and that it was "virtually a prize for the taking." Plans were revised and we were to attack immediately. Our platoon, the third platoon of Company E, was divided into two demolition teams. Each man was designated a specific task. Some would carry bangalore torpedo sections, others would place and detonate them. These torpedoes would open up the staked down barbed wire, which was about twelve feet in depth between the dragon teeth and pillboxes. Other bangalores would open up the rolled barbed wire barriers, detonate shoe mines and/or other barriers along



the way. I was assigned to be pole charge man for the second demolition team, which would overrun the first team if there were any snags.

3

We had been told in Sarreguemines that we would have at least twenty-four hours to observe and study the Siegfried fortifications before attacking, and that our role was to provide close-in support to combat engineers who would reduce the barriers and pillboxes. Apparently all plans were changed: there would be no combat engineers, and our company's mission was to penetrate the Siegfried and take the pillboxes covering the main road so the armor could pour through. The 10th Armored Division was in direct support and their tanks and equipment began to converge in and about Ommersheim.



Our unit slipped down from the hillside and into Ommersheim. It seemed to be a strange place for a town -- any town -- somewhat hidden in a ravine. Inside the town, the buildings were all made of fieldstone, and each one, including the church and bell tower, seemed to be constructed as a fortification, even though the town was about a quarter mile in front of the Siegfried Line. Apparently it was a product of the feudal system, where peasants lived in congested towns with narrow streets and worked the outlying fields. Fertile land had a higher priority for farming than for use as real estate.

Our platoon was directed to about the center of Ommersheim, where I saw one of our largest tanks snugged up against a building. It must have been a General Grant -- I had heard about them but had never seen one. What a monstrosity! It stood about one and a half stories high and provided a huge target. With the Ardennes/Alsace experience behind me, I felt sorry for the tank crew and fortunate to be an infantryman! My thoughts about that were quite brief because someone handed me a makeshift pole charge and a Thompson submachine gun, the likes of which I had never fired. It was a well constructed weapon and quite unlike a "grease gun."

In Van Dorn, Mississippi I had had some special training with demolitions, including the use of primacord, plastic C-16, satchel charges, cone shaped charges, fulminate of mercury capsules as detonators, and time fuses and rigging. The cadre group I trained with also developed its own applications. The pole charge given me in Ommersheim was identical to the one given to Davis, the other pole charge man in the first demolition team. The charge consisted of about twenty, one pound units shaped like butter, which were taped around a platform comprised of three narrow boards of used lumber, weakly held together with two cross boards. About the middle

of the platform, a seven foot 2 x 2 was secured to serve as a pole for the charge. Primacord played out of the charge, secured by tape and fed down to the fuse assembly, which provided about four minutes of time fuse to the primacord. A pull fuse device was attached to the time fuse. It was a poorly constructed assembly, considering the wear and tear it was to sustain before use. Transporting it to assure no malfunction was my dominant thought.



We were given more information as we formed a loose rank before Major Thompson, our battalion executive officer. "E Company will advance out of town on the road toward the Siegfried Line, move left at the top of the hill and through the apple orchard there. Tanks and armor of the 10th Armored Division will furnish close support along the road approaches. E Company will build a base of fire on the dragon teeth with the first and second platoons and machine gun sections of the fourth platoon. The third platoon, made of two demolition teams will move forward to destroy the pillboxes. Heavy artillery will be in direct support and provide concealment." After the briefing, Major Thompson came over to Davis and me, shook hands and wished us good luck. We assured him we would deliver.



4

Following church services held for various religious denominations during which Catholics received Last Rites, the company lined up and marched to the top of the hill where instructions were given to lie down and wait for orders to move out. It was about five or six o'clock in the afternoon. We knew we would sustain many casualties and I wondered if I would have a fateful rendezvous with death near this small German town whose name I did not even know yet. I guess others felt the same way because everyone was very quiet. Then, just as if someone had given a silent order, we all shifted toward a life-size image of Christ on the cross. We all knelt and prayed openly under that huge cross on the hill above Ommersheim.

Action began with our artillery rounds sailing over and hitting beyond the pillboxes. E Company proceeded by platoon through the apple orchard and across a rolling field, under cover of white phosphorus smoke. I was near the end of the column where I had a fairly good view of all of the action. Two of our 155mm self-propelled Howitzer guns were pouring armor-piercing shells from about 200 yards directly into the low dome-shaped pillboxes. They had little effect. Once the shells hit, a small cloud of white dust would emit and the solid projectile would continue on a new course. A half track supplied these six inch shells, which were so big I could see

them leaving the gun and impacting on target. To my right, a Sherman tank moving slowly along the paved road took a direct hit from a German 88 and, with track locked, was driven back about fifteen feet, pinning a dead German artillery horse against a small bank. Two more Sherman tanks to my near right but to the left of the road near the orchard were also hit, but were able to pull back. That was the last I saw of the tanks that day. As the 155s continued their barrage, another German shell made a direct hit, instantly killing Captain Whipple, our company commander, as well as a captain who was a forward observer for the artillery and an enlisted man with 300 radio on his back. Two others were wounded by the shell, but I do not know how badly.

The German artillery seemed very selective regarding its targets and was quite effective. For a brief period before we reached the dragon teeth, the Germans barraged us, but that ceased when one of our L-4s (Piper Cub) artillery observers appeared. Soon afterward the L-4 played cat-mouse with two Messerschmitts that attempted to shoot it down as it would drop like an elevator. Everyone fired at the ME-109s.

As the first platoon reached the dragon teeth, it began its base of fire by shooting directly into the embrasure of the pillboxes. Then the second platoon moved into place to the right of the first, with a narrow section in between where the third platoon's demolition teams could carry out their tasks. The bangalore crews did a very neat job of opening up the ankle-high and rolled barbed wire. By this time things were working smoothly and we were all anxious to carry out our tasks -- Davis and I in particular. As we moved toward the dragon teeth, I cradled the platform carrying the charge and kept the Thompson slung tightly across my back so it would not slip. I dragged the pole like a skid, constantly checking the fuse assembly to make sure it was protected. The only way Davis and I could get through the offset rows of dragon teeth was to stand straight up and carry the charge out flat across the tops of the teeth. I knew many of us would be MIAs if a tracer hit that charge.

The distance from the dragon teeth to the first row of German pillboxes was approximately 150 yards. The second row of pillboxes was offset and about thirty yards behind the first row. The purpose of the second row was to protect the flank and rear of the first in case of penetration.

Davis, with no weapon other than his pole charge, crawled very quickly toward the first pillbox, while I hung back about 30 yards. The rest of the platoon lay behind me. As Davis



approached the embrasure from the left he soon realized he could not utilize the pole on the charge because the pillbox was dome-shaped and the pole was too long for use as an anchor. The embrasure was only about eighteen inches above ground level so he placed the platform (about 3 1/2' x 1 1/2') of the charge sideways so that the narrow end was resting on the ground. The fuse assembly used to detonate the charge was at the other end of the pole - about seven feet away. Apparently realizing he had spent a great deal of time exposed, he tried to pull the fuse by taking it on the run but the entire fuse assembly pulled off into his hand. He threw the fuse assembly in disgust just as he was wounded. I never saw Davis again.

I wasted no time in moving to where Davis had placed his charge. To my left I could see down to a steel door leading into a deep trench from the pillbox that did not seem to go anywhere. The top of the door was about three feet below ground level. If I attempted to place the charge against the door, I was afraid it (the charge) would fall apart when I tried to get it down into the trench. I opted to use it with the charge Davis had placed at the corner of the embrasure -- if there was to be any chance of getting a hole through the pillbox. That location on a pillbox is where protective design has to give way to function -- the traverse of an automatic weapon -- and is probably its weakest spot.

The embrasure, only about knee high, had been closed with a steel plate by those inside the pillbox. Our base of fire from the dragon teeth had kept it closed and caused Davis and me some distraction, as impacting bullets ricocheted off the concrete. I held the fuse assembly with one hand and pulled the detonator with the other. Then all hell broke loose. German artillery began raining in where fellow members of the third platoon had been lying in wait behind me. They were no longer there, but had somehow disappeared! Knowing Davis' fate, I ran more to my left and dove to the ground, facing the dragon teeth. My Thompson sub machine gun was lying far to my right, where I'd left it before placing the charge. As I began sliding toward it, both charges went off. I knew I had to move fast now to spray the inside of the pillbox, but to my amazement, forty pounds of explosives had done too little damage for me to assault it! There was a little hole, too small to crawl through, to the left side of the embrasure as I faced it. Feeling quite frustrated with the inadequacy of the total effort that was now spent without success, the strange disappearance of fellow members of the third platoon, and the growing intensity of the German artillery, I took a tight, prone position with the Thompson and emptied the two magazines that I had around the small hole. to be cont'd. next issue..

History Room, 1989

Inconspicuous, it lay  
Among mementoes, maps, medals;  
A Sixth Army History.

Eight-by-ten glossy,  
Black and white--  
Was it February, 1945?

Somewhere in Germany.  
Does it matter--town or date?  
Good composition--shot from above.

Jeep and trailer,  
Four or five, standing straight,  
Weapons at sling arms.

And, to the right  
Four more--no helmets,  
One in elfish Alpine hat.

Two held the arms;  
Two held the feet,  
The head fallen back.

Loading or offloading,  
Did it matter,  
After all?

Blood smudge on the cheek,  
Jaw hanging slack,  
The face of death.

On the trailer, boots  
At crazy angles over the edge,  
Ponchos over shoulders, faces.

Later, over Anchor beer,  
I asked another,  
"Did you see. . .?"

"Yeah, A Co. 253rd;  
Got the hell shot out. . .  
Did ya see the other face?"

"On the trailer;  
Can't hardly see it;  
Turn it quarter ways."

I went again, three times,  
To the History Room,  
Each time, looking over my shoulder.

Wm. Albright



## Army detonates artillery shell found by loggers

By The Associated Press

LIBERTY, Miss. — The ground shook and windows rattled in this Amite County town, but it wasn't an overdue earthquake.

Army experts Wednesday night detonated a three-foot-long, 155-millimeter artillery shell found by loggers in the mud of a military base abandoned since World War II.

"It's probably been lying there since '45," Amite County Chief Deputy Ray Austin said.

"It's a good thing it wasn't on Dec. 3 or people would have thought the earthquake had come," he said. "We've had several calls about the explosion."

The round, fired during training maneuvers at Camp Van Dorn, apparently landed backward in soft soil and didn't detonate, Austin said.

When two officers from the Army's

Bomb Disposal Team at Fort Polk, La., arrived and saw the size of the shell, they decided not to dig it up but to put two timed fuses on it.

After flagging an escape route, Austin and deputy Tim Wroten waited with flashlights to guide the Army men out. Once the fuses were lighted, the group took shelter behind a logging skidder parked about a quarter-mile from the site.

Austin said he thought the officers were kidding when they urged him to hide under the skidder.

"When I saw them dive under that skidder, I became a believer," he said.

One couple said it rattled their windows, Austin said. He heard shrapnel rain down through the trees.

Camp Van Dorn spanned several miles in Amite and Wilkinson counties. Residents periodically unearth shells untouched since the 1940s.



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**RICHARD W. SPARROW**.....Associate Member  
1063 Canterbury Lane,Chapel Hill,NC 27514

**JACK W. AINSLIE, SR.**.....Unit N/A  
8 Miller Dr.Box 352 Lyndonville, NY 14098

**NICOLAS GENTILE**.....63rd Recon.  
9820 SW 128th St., Miami, FL 33176.....

**JAMES E. HODGES**.....Co "B" 253rd Inf.  
2010 Colonial Dr., Savannah, GA 31406....

**FREDRICK H. RUGGLES JR.**Co "C" 263rd Eng.  
1 Granger Ln. Box 761 Canaan, CT 06018...

**ARTHUR POHLEMEYER**...2ndBn HQ 254th Inf.  
440 S. South St., Wilmington, OH 45177...

**PETER C. GREGGERSON**...1stBn HQ 253rd Inf.  
4463A Arco Ave., St. Louis, MO 63113.....

**ANDERS H. LAURENE**....3rdBn HQ 254th Inf.  
Rt 5 Box 315, Mocksville, NC 27028.....

**THURSTON G. CHANDLER**.....HQ 254th Inf.  
500 Wyoming Circle, Mobile, AL 36606.....

**RICHARD SCOTT**.....HQ 254th Inf.  
106 Tower Lakes, Lake Wales, FL 33853....

**FRANK CAGGIANO**.....Co "C" 254th Inf.  
1456E. 66th St., Brooklyn, NY 11234.....

**R. DAVIS**.....Unit N/A  
1925 S. Central Ave.#179Lakeland,FL 33803

**CHARLES M. LUCAS**.....Co "A" 253rd Inf.  
11615 W. Dixie Shore Dr., Crystal River,  
FL 32629.....

We welcome back into the fold, the above new members. I am sure there still are many **LOST SHEEP** who don't know that our association exists.



**GRAND OLD OPRY**....**THE REUNION COMMITTEE NEEDS TO KNOW, HOW MANY TICKETS YOU NEED OFFER EXPIRES APRIL 12, 1991. DO NOT PROCRASTINATE, OR YOU WILL LOSE OUT. Fill OUT THE FORM ON PAGE 13, AND SENT IT TO AL CONTI.**





## Hot Shot Mail Bag



**SHERMAN M. BYRD...**Co "A" 254th Inf..R 1, Box 145, Perrysville, IN 47974..Sherman joined the 63rd at Van Dorn in Sept. '44 from Camp Walters, TX. Went overseas and stayed with the unit until it disbanded. He was discharged May 22, 1946. He retired from the V.A. Medical Center, Danville, IL after 30 years. Wilma is probably keeping Sherman busy in his retirement.

**CASIMER A. BEBAK...**Co "M" 254th Inf..... Casimer & Gertrude have recently celebrated two happy occasions, their **50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**, and becoming **GREAT GRANDPARENTS. CONGRATULATIONS FROM US ALL AND MANY MORE TO COME!**

**ARCH McNALLY...**HQ 253rd Inf..1025 E. Manhatton Dr., Tempe, AZ 85282..Arch joined the 63rd in June '44 as a radio operator in Regimental HQ. Maintained communication with Battalions. At the latter part of the war, he was assigned to motorized Recon., operating behind the German lines. At the end of the war he joined the cast of G.I. Carmen.

**HENRY H. LAUCHLEY, JR...**HQ Btry. 718th FA 5915 Belrose Dr., Houston, TX 77035-Henry became un-retired on Dec. 30, 1990. He was offered a great package to return to work on an Engineering design of 60" Treated Seawater Pipeline and Waterflood Project for Saudi Arabia. The additional good news is, that the engineering design is being done in Houston, TX. Henry doesn't have to worry about out running those Scud missiles, and can throw away that gas mask.

**HELEN L. HASTINGS...**widow of Paul who was with the 563rd Signal Co, would love to hear from anyone who remembers her husband Paul. Start writing men!

**CLYDE RICHARDS...**Co "M" 254th Inf..He apologizes for not making the company photo, and writes that it brought back many memories. Krull, Poccia and Reaves were in his squad, and several others...

were in his platoon. Gen. Hamblin and Clyde were in the hospital in Vittel, France at the same time...Clyde resides at...1505 Tiffin, Des Moines, Iowa 50316.

**WILLARD L. SMITH...**HQ Co 3rd Bn 253rd Inf. Av. dos Carvalhos 6 & 8, Rinchoa, 2735 Cacem, Portugal...for mailing purposes use the following address: **W.L. SMITH, COL.** Ret., Gen. Del. Box R, APO, NY 09678-0001 Willard writes that he is completing his 44th year in education and his 15th year in Portugal where he serves as Director of the American International School of Lisbon, Portugal. He also mentioned that in November 1979 he completed 37 years of active and reserve service. He retired as a Col. and received the Legion of Merit at the time of his retirement. He would welcome letters from any members of the Anti Tank Squad and particularly from Dick Toner and John Misko. Willard hopes to make the reunion in Nashville.

**S.H. CHUCK FREEMAN...**Co "H" 255th Inf. 1460 Country Hill Rd., Nipomo, CA 93444..Chuck retired as a Professor in physical education. Was baseball coach at Camino College Torrance, CA. Graduated U.S.C. '50, played pro ball with the Boston Braves farm system for a couple of years. He and Elsie moved to central Calif. August '88. Writes novels and plays golf.

**MAURICE J. LIBERATORE...**Co "E" 253rd Inf. 8 Rushmore Dr., Brick, NJ 08724..Maurice is enjoying retirement, he and Camille travelled to Germany & Switzerland last summer. Passed thru some towns the 63rd "visited", and what a difference 45 yrs. make. He and Camille hope to make Nashville

**CARL V. ANDERSON...**Co "E" 253rd Inf..876 Cherry Lane, Waterville, OH 43566..Carl & Kit are both now retired and are playing as much golf as they can. They are members of the I.O.K. Chapter, and enjoy the great times they have at their meetings. It seems the Blood & Fire is a good conduit for the lost and found dept. Carl writes that he has found some long lost friends in the B & F. He & Kit will see us in Nashville.

**REMUS (RAY) MISERENDINO...**Co "B" 253rd Inf. 630 Gramatan Ave., Mt. Vernon, NY 105-52..Ray joined the 63rd in Feb.'45 in Sarrguemines, and was lucky enough to see the end in Landsberg. He was John Deba's ass't B.A.R. man. Is very proud to have served with the 63rd. He even has his unit on his license plate. Would like to hear from men in his company.

**FLOYD J. McNEILL...**Co "B" 253rd Inf..687-205 Juniper Way, Susanville, CA 96130... Floyd is sorry to have missed the 42nd Annual Reunion in Orlando. He had already sent in all his reservations, but found out he had cancer and would be starting chemotherapy, he had to cancel out. He is happy to report that the cancer was caught early, and the excellent care that he received at the Reno, NV Veterans Hospital did the trick. Tests now show the cancer to be in remission. Our "Prayers" are with you Floyd, and hope in the near future you and Dee will be able to join us at one of our Annual Reunions.

**RAPLH M. LARSON...**(son of S/Sgt. Forest G. Larsen, Co "A" 263rd Engr.) 2378 Queenston, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118...In Honor of his Dad, he has sent in \$5 dues for 1991. Ralph is now serving as an Operations officer for the US Army Reserve attached to the Cleveland Ohio Recruiting Bn. He is interested in hearing from anyone who remembers his father.

**FRANK W. MARSHALL...**Fire Direction Center HQ Btrys 863rd FA..3230 42nd Ave.W Seattle WA 98199..Frank was assigned to the Fire Direction Center of HQ Btry 863rd FA and he was also a jeep driver for Col. Britt. In late Nov.'44, he was on a final training exercise at Van Dorn, S/Sgt. Vincent Immel and Frank were forward observers directing 105 mm howitzer fire when through some strange error, we experienced in-coming artillery rounds on his position. Immel was not hurt but Frank was hit in the leg, stomach and arm by fragments from one of the rounds. After this incident, he spent the rest of the war in various stateside hospitals. His right arm was most seriously injured and after 14 reconstructive operations, he now has quite a usable "wing". He was discharged from the hospital and the Army in Sept.'46. He has maintained contact with Immel over the years but lost contact of all others. That's no problem Frank, join us our reunion in Nashville in August, I am sure you will find old buddies.

**THOMAS F. McAULIFF...**Co "L" 253rd Inf... P.O.Box 963, Milford, PA 18337..Thomas & Doris are looking forward to meeting lots of Co "L" buddies in Nashville, so don't disappoint him.

**RALPH LUTZ...**Co "K" 253rd Inf...2 Cherokee Circle, Rochester, NY 14624..Ralph joined the "K" Co, three days after the war was over. He thinks he was the youngest man in K Co., he was 18. He stayed with the Co., until it was deactivated in the fall of '45. He was in the machine gun section of the 4th Pltn. He was later sent to another unit, and never had the occasion to see any of the 63rd men again. A year ago Ralph had a stroke, and has recovered without having any impairment. Ralph, Murray Moore, and the rest of "K" Co. will be happy to have you join them in Nashville, they will help you fill in the blank spaces after you left in '45.

**WILLIAM Mac FARLAND...**Co "F" 253rd Inf.. 154 Nancys Ln., King of Prussia, PA 19406. Bill has been with the 63rd from Sept.'44 to March'46.....Enjoys reading all the news in the Blood & Fire & is still working but is now seriously thinking about retiring, as he became 65 in January He and Doris, who have been married for 46 yrs. have never attended a reunion. If you retire before August Bill, you have no excuse for not taking Doris to Nashville. Get those overnight bags ready Doris, so Bill has no excuses. (Thanks Bill for the pics, of the 63rd monument in Valley Forge, I have them, and have inserted them sometime ago into the B&F)

**HARRY B. NOLEN...**Co "M" 254th Inf..3717 46th Ave. So.#17, St. Petersburg, FL 33711 Harry is retired from the Post Office, and moved to Florida in 1976. Served as Cadre in Blanding and Van Dorn. Was assigned to the 35th Div. overseas. He was wounded in the Battle of the Bulge, Dec. 31, 1944 and spent 2½ years in hospitals.

**LONDON R. WALKER...**Co "K" 254th Inf..Rt 1 Box 273, Maurertown, VA 22644..Landon was a replacement in Jan.'45, and was wounded April'45 by a machine gun bullet. He is a retired Rural Mail Carrier.

#### **NASHVILLE REUNION..AUG. 14-18, 1991**

**JOSEPH D. ERENIUS...**"B" Btry 718th FA... P.O.Box 343, 11 Sartell Rd., Grafton, MA 01519..Marjorie is doing the writing, to let us know that Joe has been hospitalized since Oct. 12th, with two major operations. An aneurysm on the aeorta. Marjorie hopes to have him home by the time the Blood & Fire goes to press, but the doctors are making no promises. Marjorie are "Prayers" are with you, for Joe's full recovery.

**"SUPPORT OUR TROOPS IN DESERT STORM"**

**RENO**  
*the biggest little city in the world*

**RAYMOND R. MAININI...**2nd BN 254th Medics..55 Purchase St., Millford St., MA 01757..Raymond had a bout with Leukemia 11 years ago, but as he puts it, "with the help of the GOOD LORD, and a good doctor I am still around". He retired 18 months ago. Two years ago Raymond and Sally visited Jebbsheim, Ribeauville, and the Colmar area. It's beautiful country, and brings back lots of memories. They hope to make one of our reunions.

**LEO BURRELL...**Co "C" 263rd Engr.. 7 Lakes, Box 3236, West End, NC 27376..Leo retired from law practice in NJ, and moved to NC. He became bored and restless, took the NC Bar exam, passed it, and now is practicing law part-time. Still enjoys golf and tennis, and is enjoying both worlds. Go for three Leo and take Mollie to our 43rd Annual Reunion in Nashville.

**THOMAS I. WILSON...**Co "M" 253rd Inf 8364 Sunnyside Rd., Sandpoint, ID 83864..Thomas is retired and living on Lake Pend Oreille, after 38 years with the USDA, Soil Conservation Service. Joined the 63rd in Sept.'43 at Van Dorn. He and Irene attended their first reunion in San Francisco, and hope to get to Reno. What happened to Nashville in '91?

**JEROME L. JACOBSON...**Co "C" 254th Inf...61930 Petunia Dr., Joshua Tree, CA 92252..Jerome looks forward to receiving the Blood & Fire. In the Oct. issue, he was saddened to read about the death of an old

buddy J.L. Adler. They were close friends for years before the war in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. They were in basic training together, and stayed together until Jerome got hit in April'45. Lost contact with J.L. and never saw him again. There was seven of them from Eau Claire. Jesse Knisely got K.I.A. in the Colmar pocket. Four more have died in the meantime. Jerome those memories linger on until that final day, some good, some bad. Congratulations to you and Doris on your 52 years of married bliss.

**THE FOLLOWING ARE LOST SHEEP WHO FOUND THEIR WAY HOME**

**WILLIAM A. PILLSBURY, M.D....**317 Chapelwood Lane, Lutherville, MD 21093-HQ 63rd Bill is a lost sheep who never knew we had an association until he saw one of our emblems on a car. He then heard from Bernard Custodero, who filled him in on the details. He joined the 63rd in 1943 as part of the original cadre from the 98th Div. to Camp Blanding, FL to form the 63rd. Remained with the 63rd until after the war, when he went to the 6th Corps. HQ. Was a Staff Sgt. in G-1 Div. HQ, under Lt. Col. John E. Brooks, JR. Over the years he has kept in touch with a few of his old buddies, Father Guinan, M/Sgt. John McAvoy and M/Sgt. Ray Pisani but he never knew of the assoc. After the war he resumed his college education, and went to medical school, and practiced medicine until his retirement in 1988. (As for your old photos Bill, send some to me, and if I can use them in the B&F I will do so.....Nate)

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

**63rd DIVISION ASSOCIATION DUES FORM!!!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ 63rd Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**ANDERS H. LAURENE.**..HQ Co 3rd Bn 254th Inf..Rt 5, Box 315, Mocksville, NC 27028..Anders was discharged in 1945, and served two hitches in the inactive reserves '45-52. Was Prof. of Chemistry at Bradley U. 1952-55. From 1955 to '80 he worked for RJR Tob. Co., and is now retired. In 1988 & '89 he revisited areas in the Alsace area and Germany. He also listed quite a number of buddies he had during combat. Anders I expect you too take Jane to our big bash in Nashville, this August, and meet some of your old buddies.

**FREDERICK H. RUGGLES, JR.**..Co "C" 263rd Engrs..1 Granger Lane, P.O. Box 761, Canaan CT., 06018..Fred joined the 63rd in '43. Detached in August '44, and sent to Alaska. After discharge, graduated NYU in Civil Engr. and worked for U.S. Georlogical Survey. Is now retired to the hills of NW Connecticut. He found out about our assoc., when he saw one of our insignia's on the window of Harold Smith's truck. We now expect too see you in Nashville

**JAMES E. HODGES.**..Co "B" 253rd Inf. 2010 Colonial Dr., Savannah, Ga. 31406..Jimmy joined Co B as a replacement for a platoon that was captured. Was wounded on April 20th 1945. Rejoined the outfit on June '45 in Wertheim, Germany. After 45 years he found Manny Campaniro who was wounded on the same day, and rode in the same ambulance to a Field hospital. What a Reunion! Your on a roll Jimmy. **What a REUNION IS COMMING UP IN AUGUST.**...be sure you and Anne join us.

**ROBERT C. SMITH.**..Co "D" 254th Inf. 664 Ponce DeLeon Ave., Coca, FL 32927..Bob enlisted in July '43, took his basic training with the 63rd, then was assigned to the 83rd Div. Was wounded in Jan.'44, and was captured by the 17th SS on July'44. He escaped and contacted the 80th Inf. Div. April'44. He later became a civilian Airline aircraft inspector, and commercial pilot, and retired in July 1985. He and Kathryn joined the Florida Chapter at our last mini-reunion in Ormond Beach.

\* \* \*

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS IN DESERT STORM .....

**ROY L. STEVENS.**..Co "D" 254th Inf..1418 10th St., Lawrenceville, IL 62439..Roy worked for Texaco for 35 years, 17 as a pipe-fitter and for the last 18 years as a maintance foreman. He retired eight years and spends most of his time relaxing on an old porch swing. He also did a lot of fishing, but gave that up. Visited with Maurice Etcheson, and Hugo Boetcher, two of his old buddies from days gone by. He would like to hear from other old buddies ..... Come on Roy save the postage take Ruth to Nashville, and see them there.

**HENRY (HANK) MEYERS.**..Co "M" 253rd Inf... 6 Deerview Lane, Asheville, NC 28804.... He enlisted (ERC) 1942-to ASTRP 1943, Syracuse U. Went to Camp Walters, TX 1944 for his basic training, and joined the 253rd in July '44 at Van Dorn. Went overseas with Task Force Harris, and was wounded at check point #9, 16 April '45. Rejoined the Division until it broke up, and went to the 100th Div., and then to the 3rd Div. Nashville is just down the road apiece from you Henry. You and Elaine can join us there in August.

**ROBERT J. JOHNSON.**.. SV Btry 862nd FA..710 Bob joined the 63rd at Van Dorn, Sept.'43 Btry "B" 863rd FA. Went to SV Bty in May '44, and served with the unit until after V.E. Day. Was a Chevrolet & Oldsmobile dealer for 30 years. Retired in 1980. Did not know about a 63rd Div. Assoc. until recently. Bob and Donna have a lot of catching up to do. See you both in August

**JOHN J. MORGAN.**..Anti Tank 255th Inf.15734 Portis, Northville, MI 48167..John is retired after 30 yrs. in the transportation business, and 10 yrs with General Motors. He was with the 63rd from mid 1944 to Sept.'45, when the Division was disbanded. He was company clerk.

**KENNETH M. FAUS.**..Unit N/A..143 Forest Hill Dr., Avon Lake, OH 44012..Ken enjoys reading all those letters of experiences that happened to others on that fateful day of April 6,'45, the day he go shot in the chin. He would like to share some of his own memories at a future date, and wishes that he knew about our association earlier. Ken, you can make up for lost time by joining us is Nashville.

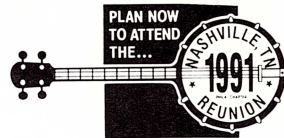
**NASHVILLE REUNION  
AUGUST 14-18, 1991**



## 63rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

REUNION DATES: Wednesday, August 14 - Sunday, August 18, 1991  
DEADLINE FOR GUARANTEED ROOMS: JULY 12, 1991

Reservations received after July 12, 1991 are accepted on a space available basis only!



### CHECK (✓) ROOM ACCOMMODATIONS PREFERRED:

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SHARING ROOM WITH \_\_\_\_\_ NO. OF PERSONS \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NO. ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

MONTH	DAY	YEAR

ARRIVAL TIME

MONTH	DAY	YEAR

ARRIVAL DATE  
Check In Time - 3:00 PM

DEPARTURE DATE  
Check Out Time - 1:00 PM

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**Blood and Fire**  
**63rd Division Association**  
**NATE SPIEGEL, Editor**  
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