

BLOOD and FIRE

Our Honored Member for the March issue of the Blood and Fire whose picture appears on the cover of this issue.

—o—

There is a very modest boy, I should say a very modest man that lives at 1506 S. Rockwood, Oklahoma City, Okla. During World War II, this fellow came into the service to do his part as a lot of other boys were doing, he was assigned to Company F, 253rd Infantry Regt., of the now famous 63rd Infantry Division. On behalf of the 63rd Division association and all of its members, we are very proud to have had you as a member of the 63rd Division during the war, and a member of the 63rd Division association during peacetime. It is an honor for me as president if the 63rd Division association to make this announcement to its members;

The President of the United States of America, authorized by an Act of Congress, March 3rd 1863, has awarded in the name of The Congress, the Medal of Honor to.

STAFF SERGEANT

JOHN R. CREWS, A U S

for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty in action with the enemy:

Staff Sergeant Crews, 38397573, Company F, 253rd Infantry Regiment, displayed conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty April 8th 1945 near Lobenbacherhof, Germany. As his Company was advancing toward the vil-

lage under heavy fire, an enemy machine gun and automatic rifle with rifle support opened up on it from a hill on the right flank. Seeing that his platoon leader had been wounded by their fire, sergeant Crews, acting on his own initiative, rushed the strong point with two men of his platoon. Despite the fact that one of these men was killed and the other was badly wounded, he continued his advance up the hill in the face of terrific enemy fire. Storming the well dug-in position single-handedly, he killed two of the crew of the machine gun at point blank range with his M-1 rifle and wrested the gun from the hands of the German whom he had already wounded. He then with his rifle charged the strongly emplaced automatic rifle. Although badly wounded in the thigh by cross fire from the remaining enemy, he kept on and silenced the entire position with his accurate and deadly rifle fire. His actions so unnerved the remaining enemy that seven of them surrendered and the others fled. His heroism caused the enemy to concentrate on him and permitted the company to move forward into the village.

—o—

Here are some facts about John R. Crews, he is now married, and is the proud father of one son now six years old and two daughters, one five and one six months, he is employed by Wilson & Co., as assistant foreman, in the Hydrogenated Oil Dept., at Oklahoma City. He would appreciate hearing from the members who knew him, or any former member of the Division.

BLOOD and FIRE

AN EDITORIAL

As this is the next to the last issue of the "BLOOD AND FIRE" before the reunion on August 22nd, 23rd and 24th at the Hotel Sylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, I would like to caution the members in good standing and the former members of the association that its our intention to publish the BLOOD AND FIRE booklet four times a year. To have the July issue published it will be necessary to start soliciting the dues for 52 and 53 around the first part of April of this year. If you mail in your dues you will receive your membership card marked paid until June 1953. If I don't receive the dues to have the "BLOOD AND FIRE" published there will not be a July issue. This is all I have to say on the financial matters.

Now our next subject will be on the news for the "BLOOD AND FIRE." Two out of three letters that I received had only checks for their dues in it. The members don't say anything about themselves or any of their old buddies. Most of them will not even tell me what unit they are in. If I'm to keep the records straight, I must have the unit you were assigned to. Let me know such things like: If any of your old buddies that were in the division has passed away; if you

have any children; (That is if you're married); what kind of work that you are doing; if you have struck it rich after you left the service. Let me know anything that has happened to you in the past six years. So lets have that news fellows. Most of all—if you change your address, please let me know because around 75 copies of the "BLOOD AND FIRE" returned to me. In many cases the members move to another address, and forgets to notify the National Headquarters and in some instances left no forwardin address. Don't keep all this information to yourself fellows. Some of your old buddies may want to write to you.

I do hope that you will like this issue. Its much larger than the December issue and I hope that you will enjoy it much more than you did the last one. Trusting to see you all in Philadelphia in August, and if you want to make sure of your room, I suggest that you mail the reservation card that you received in this issue as soon as possible because we are expecting the largest turnout of them all.

With kindest personal regards, I remain,

sincerely,

LESTER A. NOEL, President
63rd Division Association.

BLOOD and FIRE

DEDICATION

This page is dedicated to the memory of former members of the 63rd Infantry Division who now are deceased.

JOSEPH A. PATSKY, home address: 705 West 6th Street, Los Angeles, California.

CAPT. JOHN A. TATE, formerly of Company I, 255th Infantry, was killed in action while fighting in Korea, last May.

1ST LT. WALTER RICHARD WOOD, formerly of Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 254th Infantry was killed in action last July, while fighting with the 24th Infantry Division.

ROBERT C. JONES, of Domeo Farms, Route No. 1, Romeo, Michigan.

Correction to the December issue, to the announcement of Lein Nicholas, it should have been, Nicol Lein of 45 Dodge Ave, Dodgeville, N. Y., who was former Sergeant Major, 63rd Division Artillery, and later on t Battlefield promotion. This correction was sent in by Brig. Gen. McGaw.

The above former members of the Division have departed from our midst, but they will always be honored and revered by the National Association of the 63rd Division and all of its members, which stands as a memorial to their mortal deeds. We of the Association extend our most heartfelt condolences to members of the families of these men who have passed into the great unknown.

THE TRAIL OF THE 254TH INF., THRU BLOOD AND FIRE

JOSEPH H. WARREN, Colonel
Commanding Officer

MARION W. SCHEWE, Lt. Colonel,
Executive Officer

ROBERT E. TUCKER, Lt. Colonel,
Commanding Officer 1st BN.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, Lt. Colonel,
Commanding Officer 2nd BN.

DONALD R. MITHESON, Lt. Colonel,
Commanding Officer 3rd BN.

A UNIT HISTORY

Dedicated to every man who has ever assigned to our unit. But above all it is dedicated to those who fell on the long road to victory. It is with the hope that these men will be remembered, not for the war in which they fought, but for a new lasting peace for which they died that this book recounts the history of the 254th Infantry.

COMAR POCKET

On the first day of the first month of 1945, the free people of the world together prayed that this year might end the great slaughter of the war in Europe. For them it was a new dawn of hope, of faith, and of rededication to the task that lay before them.

For the 254th Infantry, too, January the first was a day different from all others: for most of us it was our first day of combat. We did not go into battle as a regi-

BLOOD and FIRE

ment, but rather as battalions and companies attached to units of our foster parent, the Third Infantry Division. Whether we were in the group attached to the 30th Infantry in the vicinity of Kaisersburg (our first Battalion, Antitank Company, and I & R Platoon), or in the group attached to the 7th Infantry in the vicinity of Lapoutrois (our Second Battalion with Service and Cannon Co's), or in the group attached to the 15th Infantry in the vicinity of Bergheim (our Third Battalion and Regiment Headquarters), all of us had much the same reaction as we moved toward the front line to relieve those on the defensive.

Many of us were assimilating what we had been told about our mission. We were about to be engaged in one of the most bitter campaigns of the entire War in Europe: the Colmar Pocket. The First French Army, under the command of General d'Arme'e Laitre d'Tassigney, had compressed the enemy in that part of the Vosges Mountains surrounding the French city of Colmar until the German lines had become a virtual ring of steel engulfing it, the adjacent towns, the juncture of the Rhine-Rhone Canal, and all that territory east of the Rhine River. At this time, the Nazis were emplaced in all the most strategic positions this mountain studded region afforded; in addition to this, they had ample supplies of men and materials. Including much armor, to indefinitely hold this ground.

At twilight we began our march toward the front in order to effect our assigned relief under the cover of darkness; involuntarily the pace

quicken'd as if our feet were attempting to keep step with our fast beating hearts. We were three thousand; our thoughts were a million. Homes, families, wives, conversations, books, feet, and guns ran through our minds singly or simultaneously. While one of us thought of his wife, another recalled a passage from ALL Quiet on the Western Front. Yet each of us had two things in common: a question and a certitude. We wondered how we would react in combat; we knew we were scared.

An old soldier would have recognized us instantly as what we were: a fresh, green outfit "going up" for the first time. But a veteran would not have laughed at us. We were about to learn something that each man must experience for himself. Combat defies description. No man can impart to another what it is really like.

Slowly the light ebbed until there was only the dark and the cold and a fragment of a moon. We talked in whispers as our stomachs began to feel, like bottomless pits mounted on legs of rubber. Occasionally someone would attempt a joke such as "Man, my foxhole's gonna be so damn deep they'll have to gimme a campaign ribbon for the CBI." These were met either by silence punctuated only with the sound of heavy boots automatically rising and falling on packed snow or by low, mirthless laughter which lasted too long.

We watched, our eyes hypnotized, as for the first time we saw in the distance the reddish burst of flame as big guns sent hundreds of pounds of explosives into the night, the blinding flash of phosphorus

BLOOD and FIRE

skyward, the dazzling light of flares which hung in the sky for a few moments lighting a havoc-wrought, seemingly deserted world, the arched fall of machine gun tracers looking like red rain blown by a driving wind.

Sounds — new sounds—assailed our ears, adding to this, our first vision of men engaged in mutual destruction. There was the constant, patterned monotony of heavy shells rocking the air at exact intervals wearing themselves cut as the echo bounced from hill to hill, the hissing of high velocity shells ending in a sharp report the fantastic screech of screaming meemies” that made us instinctively want to lay on the ground & dig a hole. This we saw and heard and felt, and as it filtered through three thousand minds there came to each of us a different impression. That night a thousand questions were answered and a thousand more raised. We discovered how men lived at the front. Command posts were placed in cellars of destructed buildings and those of us on line spent our first night in a foxhole. A shell would scream overhead and we would fall to the ground hugging the earth as if she were our lover. A lifetime would pass until the shell crashed harmlessly hundreds of yards away.

Then slowly we would rise, dust the snow from our clothes and grin sheepishly at our comrades who were also grinning sheepishly. This continued until, as a last resort to maintain self-respect, we paid no attention to the shells. Soon one would hit fairly close and the whole

process would repeat itself again.

We found that nights on the front are filled with strange noises and that no man can trust his eyes. We watched as the first patrol left our lines to seek contact with the enemy, for hours we strained our senses trying to make them out as they returned. Every sound seemed man-made, a twig cracking was an enemy infiltrating. We punished our eyes until the distant trees began to pass ammunition to each other, the ruins of buildings moved forward on tank treads, and the concertini wires crawled up with machine guns.

“As different as day and night” became a gross actuality. We found that life during the daylight hours was simple, almost pleasant. Most of us lived in cellars which, although crowded, were warm and could be made livable by the addition of articles salvaged from ruined houses. Canned fruit, vegetables, and even meat left by the inhabitants greatly augmented our “10-in-1” or “C” rations. We were in the heart of the wine country and each cellar had its huge casks and bottle racks filled with old and new Rhine wine. Only the outposts were manned. For those not on duty there was little to do except eat and sleep.

At night we fought the war. From twilight until after dawn we lived in a world of death, destruction, and danger. The night was filled with explosives and flares and magnified sounds. We sent patrols to infiltrate the enemy lines, the Germans sent patrols to enter ours. It became a gambling game with life and death as the stake.

BLOOD and FIRE

We saw men die and we realized how thin was the thread on which our lives dangled.

And continually we learned. We could differentiate between an 88 and a 76. We knew when to hit the ground and when it was unnecessary.

We discovered when to lie and when to move. We could ascertain between the enemys machine guns and ours, his rifle and ours, his tanks engine and ours. We could tell our own patrols from his. Ours made more noise.) We found our enemy was smart and that he had good equipment. In short, we were becoming veterans.

Not all of our time, however, was spent on the line. After a week or ten days at the front we were given two or three days rest in one of the shell-scarred towns several miles to the rear. It was here that we first discovered the "Goums," or French Moroccan soldiers. These characters, looking like the background in a story from the pages of Arabian Nights," were the most ferocious fighters and childish men most of us had ever met. One of the most valuable possessions of these long-robed soldiers was a flashlight. Only batteries exceeded these instruments in desirability as the fortunate owners of both walked in front of their pack mules testing the light every few moments by shining it in their eyes. After making sure it worked they would grin broadly, showing rows of milk white teeth, and shout the only English expression they knew, "O. K. Joe."

During these rest periods, too, we learned much from the veterans of the Third Division. They never

seemed to mind taking time to tell us about something we wished to know. If we became seasoned fighters in less time than the average regiment, it was probably due to the interest taken in us by this organization.

We were sent from one sector to another to give us as much variety of experience as possible. It was also during this period that we received a pamphlet sent to "Blood and Fire" by the Germans. The receipt of this filled us with wrath. If the Germans had known the effect of their propaganda, they would probably have saved the effort.

HILL 216

At last, after three weeks of mastering the defensive arts, we were assigned an offensive mission—we were to take Hill 216. Field Order Number 1. Issued on January 20, 1945, indicated the plans of the Regimental Commander for the seizure of this well defended knoll. The First Battalion was designated assault element and assigned a thousand yards front extending from a point south of Mittelwihr, eastward from the easterly power line. The battalion, two companies in a line, was to rush forward to the north bank of the Weiss River and establish defensive positions from the junction of this stream and the power line eastward to the Fecht River and thence northward to the highway bridge. An outpost line was to be pushed forward from the Weiss River to a distance of some thousand yards of the main disposition while the bridge was to be secured by not less than one platoon.

BLOOD and FIRE

During this action, the Second Battalion was to continue to hold its defensive position facing eastward along the Fetch River. The 3rd Battalion was to stand by in regimental reserve, although Company L was assigned the mission of patrolling and outposting to the front upon the attainment of the Weiss River line.

Two days before the attack was to be made the First and Third Battalion were released from their defensive positions and brought to rear areas west of Mittelwihr for training. Here those of us in these two units were briefed on the task which awaited us. We found on the map that Hill 216 is located southwest of the alsatian town of Beniwahr about four miles north of Colmar. We knew (some from having been on the line in that vicinity) that there were strongly prepared positions on the flanks of the hill and a reinforced defensive arc running generally parallel to the Bennwihr - Ingersheim Road. Although there was some tension as the time for the attack drew nearer, a great deal of this was dissipated as we became "armchair strategists." Around each map a group of us would gather and a mild discussion would begin; soon, however, fists would pound the table as each of us realized that the rest of those present did not understand what really should be done. The endangering of the flank in our planned zone of advance by the powerfully held German stronghold of Chateau de Schoppenwihr became the major argument. Those who believed the attack of the 7th Infantry in their zone would command the attention

of the defenders disputed with the more pessimistic of us. All preferred to forget that twice the hill had been unsuccessfully attacked by other units. During the early morning hours of Jan. 23rd the First Battalion (less C Company in reserve) marched from the assembly area near Beblenheim to the line of departure. It was still snowing and a bitter wind seemed to tear unhampered through combat pants and layers of sweaters ending in field jackets. Our new shoe - pacs were warm but uncomfortable to walk in, even on the soft snow; nevertheless we were thankful for them. As we wound along the narrow road to the line of departure we looked like a column of hooded ghosts in our snow capes. Company B led the column and proceeded to the eastern half of the battalion front; A followed to the western half. At fifteen minutes before "H" hour, 0700, the Third Division as well as the organizational and attached artillery began firing a preparation. We lay in the snow and watched as the big shells flashed against the snow clad hill.

As we saw the destruction rained on whatever was out there waiting, we remembered what the Third Division doughs had told us, "An Infantry may be the hero to a lot of people, but when you're to shove off in the attack, the artillery is the hero! "hero!"

Minds and bodies became tense as we awaited the signal to move forward.

We had seen some of war but always it had been we who awaited the enemy in our defensive positions; now it was his turn to wait

BLOOD and FIRE

in a hole, ours to attack. For the Nth time we checked the bolt on our rifle, or adjusted the weight of our mortar ammunition, or made sure our K-rations were properly tied.

"OK, let's go!" Before we knew it we were moving forward, a lot of the tenseness had left us, and we had begun our first attack.

Silently and unseen we moved through the deep snow, our capes blending perfectly with the world of white which surrounded us. For a few moments after we heard the dull explosions and saw our comrades lying on the ground, we did not realize what was happening. No shell scream, no mortar whistle accompanied the burst. Then our minds began to work once more and we recognized this barrier the crafty Germans had erected — a field of the tiny, foot-shearing Schu-mines. The heavy snowfall of the preceding days coupled with brisk winds had perfectly hidden the mines and the footprints of the soldiers who laid them. Together the two companies began to cross the mine-field, in the only way that a mine-field can be crossed — slowly, grimly, probing each step before moving, with a foot of a leg or a life the penalty for a misstep.

The explosions of the mines alerted the Germans and mortar fire began to pour into the mine-field. This was clearly directed from the top of the hill and came from weapons in the woods south of the Weiss River.

The concentration was extremely heavy and B Company began to receive large numbers of casualties from this shelling as well as from

the Schumines. As the light became better, machine guns opened up from their positions along the road at the base of Hill 216 while snipers on the northern slope of the hill aimed their deadly fire on the men picking their way through the mine-field.

Finally, in order to avoid a direct frontal assault on the positions at the base of the hill, the company "gave way" to the east and started working southward with its left flank about five hundred yards west of the river. Fire came in increasing intensity from the Chatteau de Schopperwihir and from the woods along the Fecht River — small arms, machine guns, and 88's. Pinned down by this curtain of fire the advance of the company after 0800 was tortuously slow. So heavy was the resistance and so high the casualties that at 1000 it was decided to employ Company C on the left flank.

A Company, on the battalion right flank, was making better progress. Although many men fell from the Schu-mines, the mortar shells consistently dropped behind the advancing units. As the companies neared the top of the hill, machine gun, machine pistol, and rifle fire became devastating in its accuracy. Courage in the face of superior fire power coupled with heavy small arms, machine gun, and mortar fire poured into the German positions on the north slope of the hill forced the enemy to vacate this line. By 0900, A had reached the crest, the first platoon in the lead, the second in echelon to the left rear, and the Third following shortly behind. When the

BLOOD and FIRE

units crossed the peak they found enemy dug in the south slope. Even more intense fire than they had received from the north slope met them here as they began again to work their way through another thickly sown minefield. Direct fire from small arms and machine guns in the wooded area south of the Weiss River added to the torrent of fire which the determined Germans threw in an effort to halt the attack. Casualties mounted as men fell from the exploding shells, the accurate small arms, and the fiendish schu-mines. Nevertheless, the company continued to advance and by 1230 had reached the east-west road on the southern face of hill 216. Between this position and the river there was an open field, undoubtedly mined and swept by direct fire from the woods along the Weiss River.

Considerably depleted by casualties, the company found further advance to be impossible, the unit commenced digging in.

Company C, in reserve at Mittelwahr was alerted at 1000 and by noon the line of departure used by the other company earlier in the morning was crossed. Sniper and machine gun fire from the Chateau and the woods below it were received almost immediately. By the time Company C had worked down to B's firmer position, the latter unit had pushed forward. A group of riflemen had inched toward the machine gun nests and silenced the guns. B was moving forward again. As they came to the east-west road, the second platoon spread to the right to gain contact with A, while a small group from the first platoon,

following the edge of a vineyard, pushed toward the Weiss River. Contact was made with A by B's Second Platoon at 1430. The other platoon pulled to the west of the north-south road and using an abandoned enemy CP formed a defensive line facing east. The leading element of C had not proceeded far along this road before it met B group returning from the river, still under small arms fire. C, therefore, built up a defensive line east of the road facing the Fecht River.

At about 1400 it became apparent that the now depleted First Battalion without assistance would be unable to reach the Weiss River before dark. The Third Battalion, therefore, was alerted and moved out at 1650. Only two rifle companies were available to that unit for the operation, company L remaining in regimental reserve. In addition, K was short one platoon which had been employed since early morning on the First Battalion left flank and was still pinned down by fire from the Chateau. Leaving the assembly area near Beblenheim, I and K proceeded along the east side of the Bennwahr-Ingersheim road between the two power lines. The advance of both units was slowed down considerably by a mine field encountered on the approach march. Probing their way through this under continued small arms and machine gun fire, I Company proceeded, under intense fire from the south bank of the Weiss River, to the junction of the eastern power line and this stream. Here, after trend-

BLOOD and FIRE

ing eastward, the men dug in at about 1900.

After I had cleared in front of A, K moved out eastward along the road. On turning south the company came under heavy machine gun and mortar fire from below the Chateau. Cautiously the unit crossed the minefield as the screen of shrapnel coupled with the sharp crack of well aimed bullets made the man want to leave the single path being probed through the mine studded area. With the aid of well placed mortar fire, K reached the Weiss river at its junction with the Fecht.

Upon arriving at this point, about 2100, the company deployed west along the bank toward I. as K began to dig in, the lack of the detached platoon was strongly felt, at midnight a group from Company B was inserted between the two Third Battalion companies.

The night following our first attack came and suddenly all the death we had seen, the noise we had heard, the fear we had felt descended on us like an avalanche, leaving us only cold and wet and exhausted.

Our first day of attack was over. Even through our tiredness we realized that each of us was a wiser man than he had been the day before.

We knew that battle was not glorious, we knew that our minds had been left with an imprint that even time could not fully erase, we knew that we had been through something that none of us would ever be able to adequately describe.

That night both I and K companies were harrassed; I by small

arms fire from position across the river east of the bridge, K by mortar and machine guns in the woods to the left front. I sent a two-squad patrol around its right flank and across the river. These men found and assaulted six foxholes, K discovered that the mortar fire was coming from was being directed from an OP, after placing artillery on the position, the harassment was eliminated.

Only one further action remained for the regiment to complete its mission around Hill 216 — that of "mopping up" the west bank of the Fecht River down to its junction with the Weiss. At 0940 C jumped off from its defensive position of the night before to complete this task and to contact the right flank of the 7th Infantry just south of the Chateau. As C began moving through the open fields which separated them from the thin strip of woods on the west bank of the river, heavy fire from machine guns and 88's pinned the company down about 800 yards from the river. So intense was this fire that it became necessary for friendly artillery to lay smoke. With this cover the company was able to gain the edge of the narrow strip of woods along the river by 1400.

Upon completion of this, we had accomplished our first offensive mission. The green of our reputation lost another coat of its vanishing brilliance. A new feeling of pride surged through us — a pride born of combat—replacing the cold and the fatigue. Tested in fire, the regiment proved that it could fight beside the veteran units of the famous Third Division. There was

BLOOD and FIRE

never a day after Hill 216 that our heads did not rise just a little higher when we said, "I'm from the 254th Infantry.

(to be continued in next issue)

PERSONAL NOTES

(Some of the contributors to this issue of Blood and Fire are new, some are old, but all kinds of news this time, but we're cleaning up as many of the letters as we can. We need new poop, regardless we would like to hear from each and every member. So you guys read this stuff and hurry up and fill our files again. When you write don't only send your name and address and unit that you were in, send some news about yourself or former members of the Division. We print what we get, so let's have more material for the next issue.)

DIVISION HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

We have received a very nice card from our beloved General Hibbs, whose address is Los Fresno, Texas, he was unable to attend the Cincinnati, reunion, but if physically able, he will be at the Philadelphia reunion I was very happy to forward Father Guinans letter for you General. If I can be of any service to you, please call.

Martin Chrapciak has sent in a nice letter along with a list of name and addresses, also his three bucks, he lives at 89 Parkway, Maywood, N. J. if you would care to write. Thanks, Martin, see you in Philly.

Harry Goodman, G-3 Sect., Div. Hq. write in a nice letter was not

able to make the Cin. reunion, but will be at the next one, thanks for the cartoon, will try and get it in one of the issues, before August.

FLASH

Al Lewin who was with Division I & E both here and abroad, who later went to Armed Forces Radio in Paris, is now a script writer in Hollywood. He wrote that he did the script on "Call Me Mister," starring Betty Grable and Dan Dailey. The movie had an Army locale and he sort of immortalized the 63rd in celluloid by using incidents from his experience with the outfit but for military reasons used the number 163rd. Al lives at 8352 Fountain Ave., West Hollywood 46.

Thomas A. Hocter sent in his address, No. 60 Soundview Street, New Rochelle, N.Y. He also sent in the news about Al Lewin, it was good to hear from you, Thomas let's hear from you more often.

Paul C. Smith, has sent in his three bucks, and a very nice letter. I am sorry, Paul, that you had so much trouble hearing from the Association, before, but that will not happen again, hope that you liked the last issue. Paul was in Division Hq. G-3, Section, his home is at 24 Norwick, Manor, Youngstown, Ohio. See you in Philly, I hope, Paul.

SPECIAL TROOPS

Have received from D. B. Grot-haus, his three bucks, and a letter, saying the reason that he never attended the reunion was because of sickness, but he will be at the next one, his address is 1518 Northgate

BLOOD and FIRE

Road, Baltimore 118, Md. Hope that everybody is well and in the best of health by now D. B.

Wilbur C. McCormick, has wrote in from 2659 Frederirk Ave., Baltimore 23, Md. a very nice letter, he will try and make the reunion, come next August. Wilbur would like to hear from sime of you reconnar. I received that letter that you mailed to Washington, on November 4th, Wilbur.

Another reconner. Would like to hear from some of his old buddies. He told me so. Old J. J. McMannimen, 624A, Roosevelt Ave. Bellevue 2, Pittsburgh, Penna. and expect to see them all, at Philadelphia next August. Don't let him down, recon.

Have received a card from Harold E. Uhrig, 4703 Guilford Ave., Indianapolis 5, Ind., inquiring about the boys in the 63rd recon., will some one write and have him to come on in to the Association. please.

63rd Quartermaster Company

One of the oldest members of the 63rd Quartermaster, has wrote in, and sent his three bucks. Would like to hear from some of the boys. Robert F. Griffith, of Troy Hills Road, Whippany, N. J. Troy was in the 63rd Quartermaster from the time that it was activated until it was deactivated.

563 Signal Company

Abraham Klein has wrote in from 67-29 136th Street, Kew Garden Hills, Flushing, L. I., N. Y., would like to hear more about the

Association. You signal boys get on him, and get him in, you have his address, so have him in Philadelphia, next August.

363 Medical Battalion

Charles C. B. Richards, Md., of 197 W. Genesee Street, Auburn, New York, has sent in his three bucks. I don't know just what unit he was in. If they don't tell me when they write, I am lost. So, fellows, help me out. When you write, tell me your unit. The Doctor will be at the reunion, we hope.

Old ex T-5 Elbert H. Hosey, from down in good old Memphis, Tenn., is doing very good, yep old Hosey has a grocery store now and has got his nose to the grindstone. We hope that he will get his nose up in the air, and take 10, and bring some of those groceries to Philadelphia. Elbert lives at 910 Goodman Road, Memphis, Tenn. Be seeing you, Hosey, and thanks for the names and addresses. Send me some more.

Dick Hvney has wrote in and sent in his three bucks and hope that all former members of the Division are doing likewise. Thanks for a very nice letter, Dick. Some of you boys write to Dick at 204 Kent Street, Albany 6, New York. Dron down and see Rocky. I wrote to him, but at this time no answer.

763rd Ordnance Company

Raymond W. Oakley has wrote a big long letter, and I must say he has more addresses than any one that I know of. If you don't locate him at 2040 Boulevard, Jersey City 5, N. J., just write to 80 Park Place

BLOOD and FIRE

Room 3335, Newark, N.J. Anyway thanks for a nice letter and lots of news. If the other boys would like to write that, we would have a Blood and Fire that would be as large as Gone With The Wind. He also is interested in forming a chapter in around Jersey City, so their challenge to the members in that area, let me hear more on this, fellows. I will furnish the names and addresses. Write and let Oakley know if you are with him. He also writes about Paul A. Gross who just opened his law office at 420 Lincoln Road (Suite 505) Miami Beach, Fla. So if any of you boys want Legal advice or are in some kind of trouble. you know who to see. Best of luck Paul.

Joseph H. Donohue who is now a member of the New York National Guard. He is now a Warrant Officer. Address New York National Guard, Pine Camp, New York. This Headquarters has wrote to him, but have not had an answer from him at this printing. He also was in Division Arty. while in the 63rd. Hope to see you at Philadelphia, Joe.

The old former Motor Sgt. also has wrote in. You guessed it. -SSgt. John D. McDermott, now lives at 1056 First Street, Nanty-Glo. Pa. Drop him a card some of you 763rd. He will I know be at the reunion, it is in his back door. See you in August, John.

Francis P. Campbell (from our past president, Edward Cronin, way) sent in his three bucks. Thanks a lot, Francis. Try and contact more of those Mass. boys and have them at Philly. Campbell

lives at 74 Rose Street, Jamaica Plain, Mass.

263rd Engineer Battalion

Here we have another Counsellor at Law in Leo D. Burrell, who makes his home at 16 Rugby Road, Cedar Grove, N. J. Leo has just found out about our association. Welcome to the group, Leo. Hope to see you at Philly.

At this time we would like to thank Mrs. Walter Griffin for sending in Walter's dues. She said in her letter that she wanted to give Walter a Membership Card for Xmas. I don't know of any better Xmas present that he could have received, than a membership, in the 63rd Division.

She also said that Walter and her had visited Willard F. Smith of 8368 Arch Ave., University City 14, Mo. When she wrote me about Willard, that gave me another name and address. Yes, Willard has sent in his three bucks. By the way, Walter Griffin's address is Route 7, Box 81, Vancouver, Wash. Write to him boys, I believe he could take his vacation, next August, if you know what I mean. Willard Smith said he would be there.

Neslon E. Ward has wrote in wanting to know about the Association, and he would like for some of his old Buddys. to write to him. His address is, 2816 116th Street, Toledo 11, Ohio. Let's get him lined up for August boys, what say.

R. L. Littleton, from down in North Carolina way, to be sure Box 101, Pembroke, N. C., would like very much to hear from some of the boys from C, Company.

BLOOD and FIRE

DIVISION ARTILLERY

Headquarters has received a very nice letter from Howard W. Olson, of 2045 Webster, Topeka, Kansas. Howard has sent in his three bucks, and now a very happy man, because he knows that he is now a member, in good standing, in the world's greatest service Association, with his old buddies. Hope to see you, come August. In Philadelphia, Howard.

Henry L. Markley of 205 Pleasure Road, Lancaster, Pa., has sent in his three bucks, and I am sure that he will be at the reunion this year, which is real close you know.

Colonel John Mesick has sent in his dues from Carlisle Barracks, Penna. Hope they don't find your name and send you orders, Colonel. we would like to have you at the reunion. We know that it is very hard for our former officers that remain in the service to attend all of the reunions, but we are glad that Washington gives us a break now and then and lets some of our leaders have the opportunity to make a reunion now and then.

Now here's a break; if any of you Division Arty. men want to build a home, one of your former members is a big lumber man up in Mass. Yep old Charles W. Herrick of old Northfield Road, Bernardston, Mass. has written in and would like very much to hear from some of you guys from Hdq. Btry. to write. If any of you talk him out of enough lumber to build a house let me know and I will try. At the prices now, who wouldn't.

253rd Infantry Headquarters and Headquarters Company

Richard M. Davis has written in from 1107 Rullison, Cincinnati 38, Ohio said to tell Bob Joseph and all the fellows around Philadelphia that he would see them at the reunion this year. Richard is doing a lot of traveling around in Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky. Dick, how do you do it? A new town every night.

Service Company

Have just heard from the Mad Butcher from Service Company, Sylvester A. Herbst, he wrote from 4807 28th Ave., Long Island City 3. N. Y. said he would see us in Philly.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company

We have heard from Aubrey M. Rogers who is now a First Lieut. and lives at 2812 E. 16th Street, Muncie, Ind. At this writing he is not a member of the association. so some of you boys that know him start writing. Yes I have answered his letter. We would like to see him—you know when.

Medical Detachment

Abraham L. Green has sent in his three bucks and tells us that Chaplain Kahn was visiting Bridgeport and he looked him up and they had a reunion of their own. This time no T. S. slips were issued. Green's address is 927 Grand Street, Bridgeport, Conn., if you would care to drop him a line. I would tell you where he works,

BLOOD and FIRE

but I will let you find out for yourself.

Company A, 253rd Infantry

Peter C. Kohler of 58 Mina Ave., Clifton, N. J. has dropped us a note with his dues and said he was looking forward to receiving the Blood and Fire and will be at the next reunion.

We see that L. W. Woodward is doing very good — the last report. He is now manager of the Lloyd A. Fry Roofing Company at Waltham Mass. His address if you would care to drop him a line is 233 Mass. Ave. Apt. 414, Arlington 74, Mass. Keep up the good work L. W. Hope to see you next August. One of the best letters that the association has received is from Remus J. Misrendino of 300 Hayward Ave., Mount Vernon, N. Y. He states in his letter that his former C. O., Louis Vichl is a state trooper at Brewster, N. Y. The Association does not have Louis Vechl on the list, so some of the boys around Brewster get on the job and look Louis up, he may not know about us. Remus also wrote that he was very pleased with the December issue of the Blood & Fire. Thanks a lot for your letter Remus, hope to see you in August.

Company C, 253rd Infantry

Bertil C. Leckstrom of 936 Warren Ave, Brockton 32, Mass., has sent in his dues and is looking forward to seeing a bunch of his old buddies at the next reunion.

Don Taylor of 1997 High Street, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, has written in. Would like to hear from some

of the old gang of Company C.— Drop him a card boys.

Company D, 253rd Infantry

Frank C. Doncker Jr. is doing very good also — we see by the heading of his letter. — Donckers Marquette. Well the best in what ever you have undertaken may be Frank. But one thing for sure — be at our next reunion. Hope that you have received membership card by this time and also the B. & F. Harry Cariskis home address is 147 Hewgs Street, Brooklyn 11, N. Y. Harry has sent in his three bucks, thanks a lot Harry, but next time write me a few lines about yourself so I can give you a good write-up.

Company E

Maurice L. Liberatore of 280-282 Newark Avenue, Corner Third Street, Jersey City 2, N. J. has written in a very nice letter, we thank you a lot Maurice. The association is growing. We have around one hundred new members that never knew that there was an association until this year. Again let me thank you and hope that you enjoyed the issue of the Blood and Fire.

James E. Breinich of 505 Lake Street, Sandpoint, Idaho, has sent in his three bucks, but that is all. No news about himself. If they do not tell me there is nothing I can write.

Company F

Well here is the Champion outfit of the association and it is due to

BLOOD and FIRE

one member of that Company. There are not enough words that you could say to thank the former 1st Sgt. of Co. F. He works day and night writing to the men. Company F leads all other units in membership. So the staff of the Association takes off their hats to William G. Smith of 572 E. 351st St., Willoughby, Ohio, for his undying devotion to the association. With members like him how can the association fail. You will see more about Company F in the editorial.

Here is another one for Smitty, he sends in the dues for Warner F. Carlisle (Jap) of 838 N. E. 20th Ave., Portland 14, Oregon. Jap is Carlisle's nickname. Jap stayed in the service and is now stationed at the University of Oregon Dental School. He is married and has a girl two years old. Here is another one he sent in; Robert J. Scott of 946 N. Highland Ave., Indianapolis 2, Ind. Here are two more he sent in; John E. Bradley of M. C. 52, Warren, Ohio; and Arnold W. Preece, P. O. Box 3234, Indio, Calif. Brad was the 1st Platoon Sgt. and now has 4 kids. He is a bricklayer contractor. Preece was the 3rd Platoon Sgt., and later a Lt. He has 2 kids one 7 years and one 2 months. He has a ranch in the Ciachella Valley below the San Bernardino Range. And another one, Leonard B. Sokolove from 510 Bulletin Bldg. City Hall Sq., Philadelphia 7, Pa.— and another; Roland Paquette, 132 Orange Street, Manchester, N. H. Smitty has one more that he sent in but I am saving that one for last.

Edward R. Rinaldi has sent in his check with a very nice letter. Said he enjoyed the last issue of

the Blood and Fire, and that he will try his best to be at Philly come next August. Rinaldi's address is 453A Central Ave., Jersey City, N. J. Have also received a letter from Tony Margotta of 2587 Spruce Street, Union, N. J., thanks, Tony for your letter.

I was waiting to get more information on this next one that Smitty sent in, but at this writing we have not received the information that we want but we will write more in the next issue. Anyway we are very proud & honored to have him as a member of the association. He is the only member of the 63rd Infantry Division to receive the Medal of Honor. He is John R. Grews of 1506 S. Rockwood, Oklahoma City, Okla. I hope by the next writing that we have more information on this so we can give you all of the facts.

Company C

We have received from Richard Mankin, lawyer of 14 Wet Sixth Avenue, Emporia, Kansas, his check, and we thank him a lot and hope to see him at the next reunion.

We see by the letter that Robert E. Robinsin has remained in the service. It is now M/Sgt., Robert E. Robinson, 14810 Irving Avenue, Dolton, Ill. He was 3rd Platoon Sgt. in the 63rd. Best of luck, Bob, and hope to see you again soon.

We received a letter from Capt. Frank C. Rose, who also remained in the service. His address is; Company I, 39th Regt. 9th Division, Fort Dix, N. J.

BLOOD and FIRE

Also heard from 1st Lt. Wayne Reynolds who was with the 822 Tank Destroyer. Capt. Rose would like to hear from former members of Company G where he was C. O. Lt. Reynolds address is the same as Capt. Rose if you would care to write.

Just received a letter from John Rogalewicz, he is back in the service, and in Germany. His address is 7848th Ord. Maint. Group, APO 154 care P. M. New York, N. Y. Hope that you return in time for the reunion John. I forgot to say John is a Cpl. now.

Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion

Have just received a letter from Max H. Nieman of 14125 Northern Blvd., Flushing 54, N. Y. He would like to hear from Newell Britt but I don't have him in the association files, so if any of you boys know where Britt lives, let Max know. Also send his name and address to me and I will write to him.

Albert G. Muller has sent in his dues but no information about himself, only his address, 337 Florence Ave., Hillside, N. J. Write me more the next time, Albert.

Company K

Walter Kruta has written in and gives his address as: the Columbian National Life Ins. Co., 44 Court Street, Brooklyn 2, N. Y. Sorry Walter about the misunderstanding but hope to see you at the next reunion. Maybe we can get it straightened out there, hope so.

Melvin P. Silverman is a new

member in the association. This is the first time that he knew about the Association. Would like to see some of his old buddies at the next reunion, said he would be there.

Company L

George F. Lacey has sent in his check for his dues and would like to hear from some of his old buddies. His address, 9 Mill Street, Charlseton 29, Mass. Thanks for the Xmas card, George, sorry I never had the time to send you one. I have so much work here I don't have time to eat. See you at Philly, I hope.

Everett J. Graham has sent in his dues but no information on himself.

Let me know boys, let me know. His address is: 10154 S. Wood St., Chicago 43, Ill.

Company M

J.E. Merritt Jr., has sent in his dues but that is all. His address is care of Planters Wholesale Grocery, Clarksdale, Miss. That is all except he was also a former member of Company G. 253rd.

Russell S. Tripp has written in and sent his dues but failed to tell us what Company that he was with, so that is the reason that he is on the bottom. Let us know your Company, Russell. He lives at 38 Ocean Street, New Bedford, Mass. —Well that is all for 253rd at this time.

BLOOD and FIRE

254th Infantry. Headquarters and Headquarters Company

We have received word that Herbert H. Bailey is now in Korea if you would care to drop him a line just mail it to 3632 Frederick Avenue, Baltimore 29, Maryland, and Mrs. Bailey will forward it on to him.

I have just been informed that Neal H. Demskie of RFD No. 2, Fairview, Lewistown, Pennsylvania, would like to see some of his old buddies in Philadelphia come next August in the lobby of the Hotel Sylvania.

Walter J. Phillips who comes from No. 1, Romoneda Street, Bay St. Louis, Mississ ippi has sent in his dues but forgot to tell me what unit he was in, so I'm placing him with Headquarters Company. Let me know your unit Walter.

Thomas A. Hoctor of 60 Soundview Street, New Rochelle, New York wrote in and gave me Frank Mulligan's address but never gave his unit, so I'm placing him with Headquarters Company.

Here is another one who didn't tell his unit. R. Gordon Hanley, of 556 North 5th Street, Reading, Pennsylvania. Some of the letters with the above names and addresses were sent to Washington and then were forwarded on to me.

I have just received a very nice letter from Robert C. Capasso, Attorney at Law, of No. 6, Beacon Street, Boston 8, Mass. He has just found out about the Association and has offered his cooperation in forming a local chapter around Boston. There's your start, you boys up there in Boston. That's

two of them now. Ed Cronin you know where to find him, so let's get on that and see if you can do as well as Philadelphia has done with their local chapter. Thanks Robert for your offer. You will have a lot of "Blood and Fire" on our hands very soon I'm thinking.

254th Medical Detachment

Doctor M. P. Orloff of 4712 S. Ashland Avenue, Chicago 9, Illinois has sent in his dues and we hope that he will make the reunion come August.

Gerald F. Blackburn of 3111 Home Avenue, Marion, Indiana has sent in his dues and a nice letter. Gerald tells us he is working in one of the Veteran's Hospitals at Marion and likes his work very much. He tells us that the training that he received while in the service helps him a lot at the hospital. Keep up the good work Gerald, the boys in the hospital need you. Thanks for the comments about the December issue of the "Blood and Fire." I hope that you will like this one as well.

Service Company, 254th

James P. Pace has sent in his dues but never gave me any news to write about, so that is about all I can say for Service Company at this time. Hope we have a lot more news for the next issue. It's up to the members of each unit, if they send me the news I will publish it. I forgot to tell you, Pace's address is 3541 Ridge Crest Drive, Jackson, Missssippi. I may also add, James has already paid his dues for next year. Thanks again, James.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion 254th

Just like Service Company. The only one who has written in, was John F. Bowen of 96 Perry Street, Apartment B 7, New York 14, New York. Thanks for your three bucks John and we'll see you at the reunion.

Company A, 254th Infantry

A few days ago I received a large envelope. I think it was a 8 x 10 $\frac{1}{2}$. I said "Boys, I've got a lot of news now for Company A." When I opened it, there it was, three little lines, on a large sheet of paper and this is what was written: "My old outfit was Company A, 254th Infantry," and was signed Major Raymond Restain, Operation Office, The Infantry School, Fort Benning, Georgia. Of course I'm only kidding. Thanks for the letter Major, and also your dues. If you see any more of those former "Blood and Fire's" down there, get on to them to send in their addresses and former units.

Company B, 254th Infantry

R. E. Hoover, of 100 South 36th Street, Camden 5, New Jersey, has written in and sent his three bucks. Said he liked the December issue of the "Blood and Fire." Thanks, and I hope to see you in Philadelphia next August

We have heard from C. C. Hathaway, who after coming out of the service, attended four years at the University of Connecticut and now is employed by The United States Forestry Service. He is now

married and has a daughter, who was born last fall. Said he would like to hear from some of the boys. Best of luck Charles and try and make the reunion if possible.

Company C. 254th Infantry

1st Lt. Ben F. Dobyys Jr., has sent in a very nice letter and his dues from up where its cold and I mean its cold. Yes, old Ben's up Alaska way for a tour of duty but expects to be back in time for the reunion. Ben would like to hear from some of you. It gets very lonesome up there, so drop him a card fellows. His address is: Lt. Ben F. Dobyys Jr., ASN 0558791, B Btry. 147 F. A. Bn, AP0 949 care Postmaster, Seattle, Washington.

Fred Martell has written to the Washington address and gave his address as 131 Washington Street, Poughkeepsie, New York. Some of you who live up that way get him in the Association.

Medical Detachment, 3rd Bn.

Raymond R. Mainini of 70 Water Street, Milford, Mass., has written in and sent his three bucks and has offered to send his list of names and addresses. I'm waiting for them Raymond and hope that you will make the reunion If you're close to Boston, go in and see Mr. Cronin. If the Chapter is organized they will need all the help that they can get—See you in August.

Company E, 254th Infantry

Had a very nice letter from Howard (Howdy) Wilcox, who is doing very well for himself. He is con-

nected with the Indiana University Foundation, Memorial Union Building, Bloomington, Indiana. He sure has helped the Association out. He gave me the address of Lt. Van Sant who is now a paid member of the Association. He also sent in some news about James Crow who is now in his third year at West Point. He also sent news about Colonel Bryan, who is now raising grapefruit deep in the heart of Texas. Oh yes, I just received Colonel Bryan's dues in the mail today. I had lost the Colonel's address until Wilcox wrote me. He would like for Company E or any member of the 2nd Battalion 254th to drop him a card and let him know their whereabouts. He is now Executive Director of the Foundation. He also is Executive Officer of the 152nd Infantry, 38th Division, Indiana National Guard. Thanks Wilcox for your offer to help. You have already helped loads and if I need you I sure will be calling on you. If I could get letters like this one, publishing the "Blood and Fire" would be easy—Hope to see you in Philadelphia.

Daniel M. Van Sant of 16474 Webster Road, Berea Ohio, has sent his dues and some names and addresses. One of them was John Seay of 3503 Blodgett, Houston, Texas. He sure would like to hear from Fritzie Kroesen, George Roguson, Mac P. White, and Warren Maupin. If anyone knows their address please send them to me and I will pass them on to Dan. I will write them also about the Association. I nearly forgot to tell you, Van Sant married that girl from Baton Rouge and they now

have two children, a boy and a girl and expecting another one soon. Hope it's a boy Dan. Van says he will try and make the reunion if possible — Try hard Dan.

Company F, 254th Infantry

Harold K. LaCrosse has sent in his dues and a nice letter telling us about his visit with old Ben Deberg and Walter Cry down Iowa way during the summer. Said he hoped to be at the reunion with his wife and son. On your travel, if you are in this part, visit the National Headquarters of the best service association there is today.

M. E. Doppo of Arthur, Illinois, has written in wanting information about the association. Doppo now has his own business, a clothing store, at Arthur, Illinois. Drop him a card fellows. Tell him you'll meet him at the reunion.

Arnold D. Perko wrote in and said he thought he was the only 63rd Division man within 50 miles of Ashland, you can never tell where the 63rd men are. They may be your next door neighbor. Arnold is in the feed store business in Ashland, Ohio, so any of you boys down that way with a lot of cows and horses look up old Perko. He will be at the reunion come August. His address is 401 Vine St., Ashland, Ohio, so drop him a card.

If any member of the 63rd Division happens to be around West Enfield Drive-in Theatre, in West Enfield, Maine, your membership card will get you a free movie at the Drive-in Theatre. It is managed by none other than Sam Nyer. He makes his home at 15

BLOOD and FIRE

Maple Street, Bangor, Maine. Said he would try and make the reunion. Best of luck on your new job Sam, see you in August.

Company C, 254th Infantry

F. S. Stover sure wrote in a nice letter. Said he would like to hear from the members of the 3rd Platoon and would certainly be in Philadelphia for the reunion. His address is Kings Highway, North Haven, Connecticut. Drop him a line G Company and meet him in the lobby of the hotel in August.

Company H, 254th Infantry

I received a letter that will sure get some action. A former member of Company H wrote and asked for the address of Alfred Hard who was also a member of Company H. He said in his letter that he borrowed \$15.00 from Alfred in Paris back in 1945 and he would like to repay him. He would also like to hear from any of the boys from Company H, so drop him a line H Company. Maybe you can talk him into coming to the reunion. If any of you have Alfred Hard's address, send it to me and I will let John know what it is. I forgot to tell you who the fellow is. It's John A. Monaham of 591 Diamond Street, San Francisco 14, California.

Gerson Felder has also sent in his dues. His address is 282 Hawthorne Avenue, Newark 8, New Jersey. Thanks Felder, we'll be expecting to see you at the reunion. Gordon E. Kerr you know, is now a member of the State As-

sembly of Illinois. Yep! Old Gordon has gone up in the world His address is Gordon E. Kerr. 51st Senatorial District, Brookport, Illinois. He will see us in August.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion

Elmon S. Rice Jr., wrote in sending his dues and a list of names and addresses, we sure thank you Elmon for both. If any of you would care to write to Elmon just send it to Elmon S. Rice Jr., Cartersville, Georgia.

We have received a nice letter from Lewis G. Groebe whose address is 77 West Washington St., Chicago 2, Illinois. Lewis is connected with Ungaro & Sherwood, Attorneys and Counsellors, at the above address. Lewis didn't tell us this but sent a clipping from the Chicago Daily Tribune, dated January 9, 1952. This is what the clipping says: quote "Stephen I. Goncezy, (who was a former member of Division Headquarters) was voicing a measure of respect for the authenticity of detail in "Decision Before Dawn," the motion picture version of George Howe's Novel, "Call It Treason." It's the story of the OSS operation in which American Army Intelligence sent German Prisoners of War into the Reich in its last days, as spies. Goncezy was a part of the project as a Sergeant in the 7th Army," unquote. Now the story of the picture was that it was made up of the complete route of the 63rd Division through Mannheim, Heilbronn, Wuerzburg, Crailsheim, Nuernberg, Aalen, Augsburg and

BLOOD and FIRE

Munich. So if any of you boys would like to bring back old memories, go & see the picture, "Decision Before Dawn." Thanks for your letters and news about Gonczy. I would like to have his address to get him to become a member, would like to see you both at the reunion too.

Company K, 254th Infantry

A very nice letter was just received from John E. House of 903 Cuyuga Street, Rome, New York. John was telling us that he is now Chaplain of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Two of our former members of the Division that gave their life over there were brought back to Rome, New York for burial and he attended their funeral. They were S. Sgt. Stanley Szur and S. Sgt. Tony Greco, both of Rome, New York. John would like to hear from Thomas Luizzi, Red Miller and Dalton Hall. If any one knows of their address please send them to me and I will send them on to John. John expects to be at the reunion this year.

Bernard Schneider who lives at 2285 Grand Concourse, New York 53. New York, has sent in his dues and would like to hear from a lot of the boys from Company K.

Company L, 254th Infantry

Purcell Marshall of Hanover, Virginia, one of the cooks from good old Company L, has sent in his dues. I'm hoping to see him at Philadelphia come August.

Sergeant Jesse Phelps who is now in Germany dropped a line.

Suppose he never had enough before and went back for more, or maybe he had something to go back for, I wonder? Well, Jesse tells us that he expects to be back in time for the reunion and would like to see all the gang at the Hotel Sylvania on August 22, 1952. He said in his letter that he has met a lot of the boys from the 63rd and they get together now and then for a talk about old times. He would like to hear from all the boys out of Company L. His address is Sergeant Jesse Phelps. RA33630839, Company F, 26th Infantry Regt. APO 139, care Postmaster, New York, New York, drop him a line fellows.

I have received dues from George E. Parker whose address is 27 North Gladstone Avenue, Margate, New Jersey. Thanks for your letter George and I hope to see you in Philadelphia, if you know of any more of the gang have them write me.

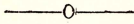
Had a very welcome Christmas card and letter from Old Victor Konarski who lives very close to our past President. Ed Cronin. His address is Post Office Box 1526, Springfield, Mass. Thanks a lot vic for your offer to help. I will see what I can do. Mr. Cronin has written to most of them and a lot of them have sent in their dues. Hope to see you in August. As President of the Association. I'm very sorry to have so few of my own outfit represented in this issue of the "Blood and Fire," but I will see what can be done about it in the future issues.

BLOOD and FIRE

Companf M, 254th Infantry

William K. Renner has sent in his dues from 246 Church Street, Sunbury, Pennsylvania. Said he expects to be at the reunion. I wonder if his former First Sergeant will make it? I'm waiting, Sipsy.

Alfred K. Hulem, 1315 North Beckley, Dallas, Texas, has sent in his dues with a very nice letter. Alfred said that he will be at the reunion and would like to see all the old "Gang." Will you meet Alfred in the hotel lobby, boys? OK, its a date.



255th INFANTRY REGIMENT Service Company

Received a letter from Robert E. Herzler of 26 North 30th St. Richmond, Indiana but no printable news.

Cannon Company

Frank E. Dean sent in his dues from 714 North, Jefferson Street Robinson, Illinois—but no news.

Sebastian Pietropinto sent in his dues and said if any one cared to write they could send it to him in care of E. J. Carswell, 1810 Lenox Road, Schenectedy, N.Y.

Anti-Tank Company

Received a nice letter from Peter Mercurio of 355 Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn 2, New York.

Medical Detachment . .

William Menser wrote and said he would like to hear from of his

old buddies. His address is 19702 Stout, Detroit 19, Mich.

George Lance also wrote in, sent his dues and said he would like to hear from anyone in his old outfit. His address is 1006 Pennock Ave., Nashville, Tennessee.

Company F, 255th Infantry.

Donald E. Charles of 709 South Skinker Blvd., St. Louis 5 Missouri wrote in and sent his dues. He has sent in his dues so many times he was about ready to give up, since he had never received his membership card. I hope that by now he has his new one.

James J. McBride lives at 1155 Sanger Street, Philadelphia 24, Pa. if anyone cares to write him.

Received a letter from RFD 1, Box 204, Kingston, New York, and it was signed by James J. Rua.

Got a letter from Robert L. Schepps, 2504 Beverely Road, Brooklyn 26, New York, telling us he would be at the reunion. See you in Philadelphia in August Bob.

Jack Daugherty from our host city of this years' reunion has written in and sent a nice list of names and addresses. Thanks, Jack we'll see you in August in the lobby. Jack's home is at 4621 North Rosehill Street, Phila. 20, Pa.

Claude Collier has sent in his dues from Vandalia, Missouri, % Western Auto Assoc. Store. Good luck, Claude.

Company I, 255th Infantry

Leonard D. Slzensny now lives at 518-B East Gale Street, Angola, Indiana.

BLOOD and FIRE

James V. Richards notified us he lives at RFD 3, Angola, Ind.

Company K, 255th Infantry

Ray Hintz has written in. Said he would like to hear from anyone His address is 112 West Main, Flora, Indiana.

Capt. John W. Brown who is now on his way to Korea, said if anyone cared to write him they could send it to his home address 253 W. Crystal Lake Avenue, Haddonfield New Jersey. Best of luck on your trip, Captain.

Michael R. Gannet has sent in his dues from Bureau of European Affairs, Department of State, Washington 25, D. C.

Company L, 255th Infantry

Cecil L. Johnson has sent in his dues. Cecil is now located at 1416 Colorado, Kansas City 1, Missouri.

Bernard Coyne of 104 Avenue A, Pittsburg 21, Pa., has written in and said he would like to hear from some of the old gang.

Bernard M. Serlin sent in his check and would like to hear from some of you. His address is 21 East 37th Street, New York 16, N. Y., how about someone dropping these fellows a line.

Ted Schaupp is only two blocks from the hotel where the reunion will be held. You may contact him at S. C. Johnson & Son Inc., Terminal Com. Bldg., 401 North Broad Street, Phila. 8, Pa.

Well I've come up with a letter with some news in it. It came from Bernard G. Pastor. He tells me he hopes to be in Philly this August.

Bernard is married now and lets us know that he is the father of triplets. The association congratulates you Bernard. We are proud of you and hope they are all boys, if you wanted them that way.

I have contacted all the members of the Division and many letters returned. If you have some addresses, send them to me and I will contact them as soon as I get their new address.

Company M, 255th Infantry

Capt. Abraham S. Lincoln has has returned to the service. He sent in his dues from 703rd AAA Gun Bn., Fort Hancock, N.J. Drop him a line fellows. you can never tell when you will have the same address.

861st F. A. Battalion

Gordon Boring sent in his dues from 617 Lammont Street, Johnson City, Tennessee and said he hoped to see the gang in Philly come next August.

Robert G. Mohoney has written in from 780 Elm Avenue, Wyndmoor, Philadelphia, Pa.

Raymond F. Mascio will be in Philadelphia for sure, his home is at 28 Roselle Avenue, Pleasantville New York.

862nd F. A. Battalion

Capt. John H. Merce, Jr, wrote us from down Florida way, said he would like to hear from Lt. Samuel. "OK", Lt., drop the old man a card.

The Captain don't know if he will make the reunion this year or not,

BLOOD and FIRE

in combat in Korea. Sorry to hear this Burdette. Let me know Goodson's first name and his home address if you have it. We would like to write his family. Keep the news coming Burdette, hope to see you at the reunion.

John B. Harvie, Jr. of 42 Verplanch Ave., Beacon, New York has written in and said he would like to hear from anyone that cares to write.

Jack McGarr Jr. wrote in. He not only sent in three bucks but six bucks. Thanks, Jack. Some of you drop him a card. I'm sure that he would like to hear from the old gang. He is down deep in the heart of Texas. Down at Rt. 1, Plainview, Texas.

718 F. A. Battalion

Joseph J. Bavasso of 146 President Street, Troy, New York, sent in his dues and said he expects to be at the reunion.

Mike McKillop has written a news letter about former members of his unit and mailing it out to them. A very nice job Mike, and keep it up. Mike's address is 317 Hamilton Avenue, Riverhead, N.Y.

James O'Gorman wrote a very nice letter to us. Thanks a lot Jim. He tells us that he was married by

Father Guinan in May 1950 and now has a baby boy. Congratulations, James my boy, and may he be President when he grows up. James is employed by the Benziger Brothers Publishers in New York. He said he would be at the Convention and expects to see all of the members of the 718th. Yes, his wife and boy will be there too. James lives at 1912 Hennessy Pl. Bronx 53, New York, if you care to drop him a line. We will see you in the lobby James.

W.W. (Old Bill) Woods has written in a most welcome letter from 621 Broadway East, Montesano, Washington. He ran into Don Selberg out there in his home town. Don is working at a service station is married and has made his home there. Better get on Don about the Association, Bill. I haven't heard from him yet.

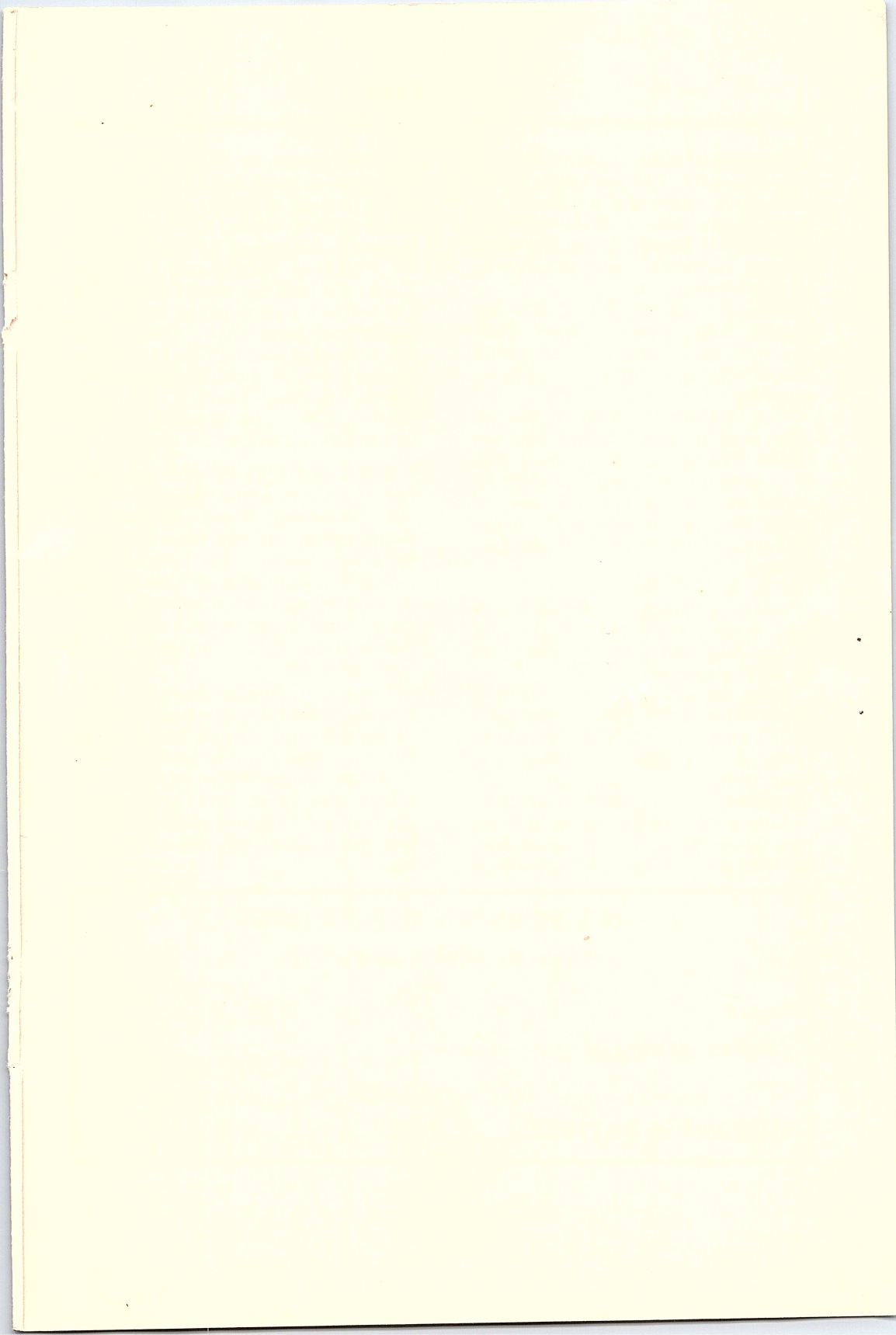
Horace A. Somes, Box 63, New Lisbon, New Jersey, promises to be in Philadelphia. Hopes to see all of the gang there in the lobby.

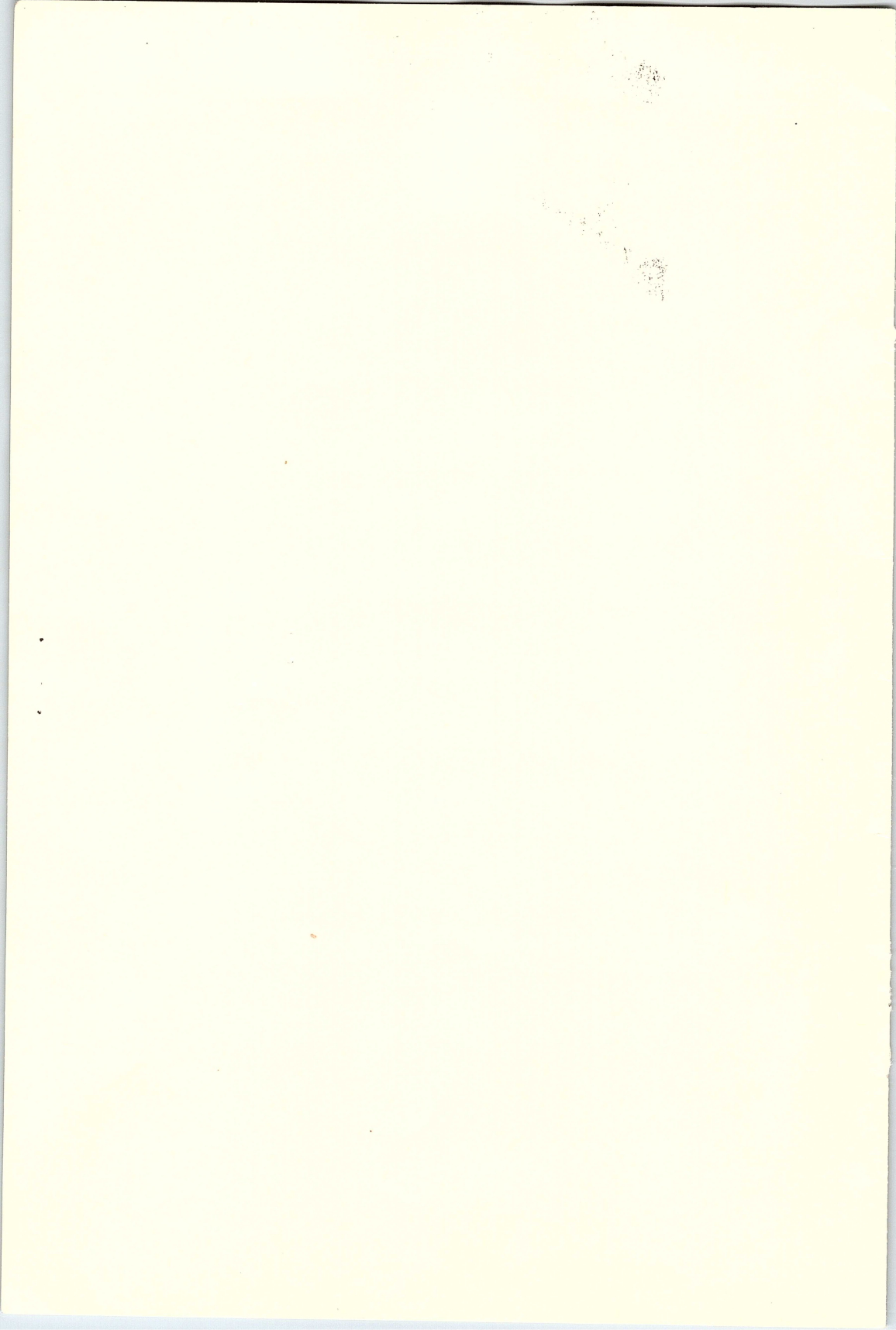
Arthur C. McMullen of Magnolia Farm, Pinehurst, North Carolina, sent in his dues but didn't include any news about himself or anyone else.

—PUT ME ON THE MAILING LIST—

Here's My \$3.00 Dues For '52

NAME.....
STREET ADDRESS.....
CITY..... STATE.....
COMPANY or BATTERY.....





THE [illegible] OF [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

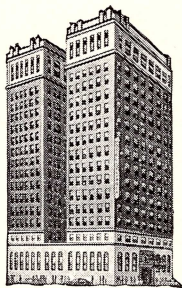
[illegible]

BE SEEING YOU AUGUST 22, 23, 24

AT

HOTEL SYLVANIA

Peter C. Kohler
56 Mine Ave
Clifton, N.J.



HOTEL SYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

Office of the President,
63rd Inf. Division Assn.
P. O. Box 2094,
Huntington, W. Va.



LOCKHART H
HUNTINGTON, W. VA.

