

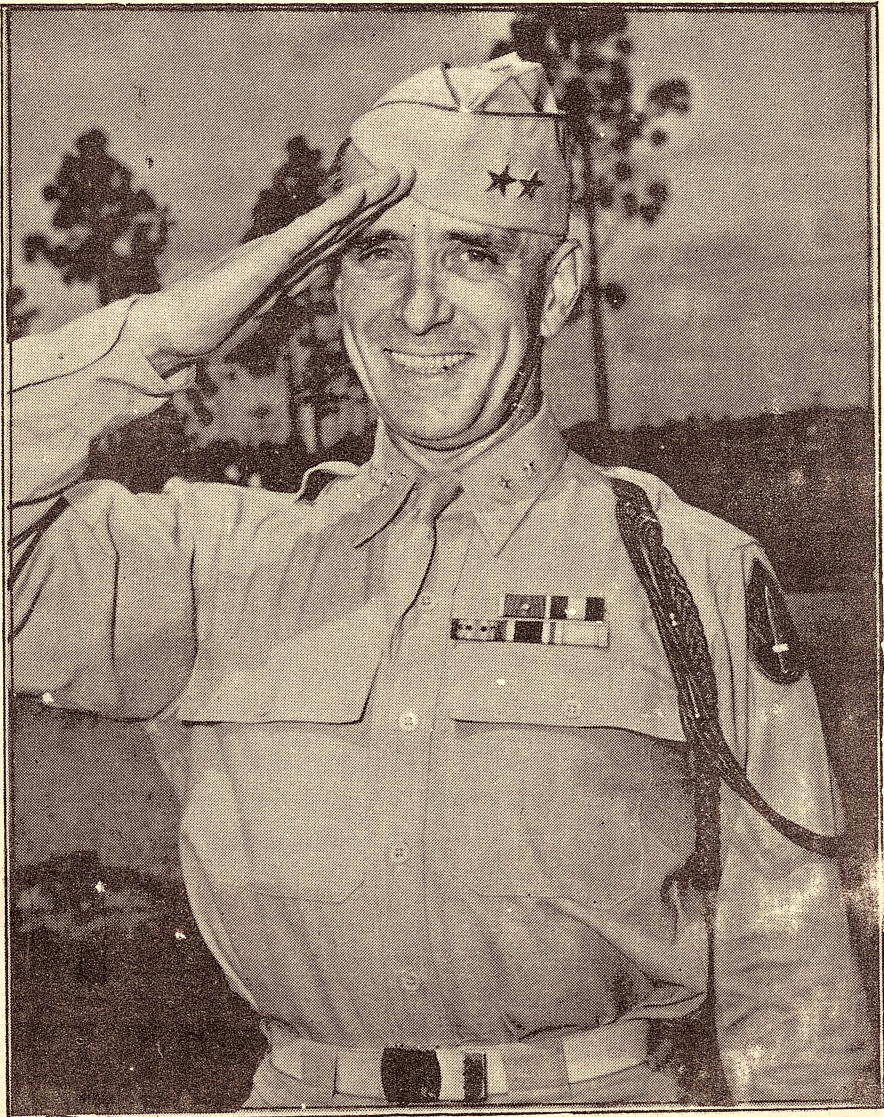


Blood and Fire

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VOL. 5, NO. 5

OCTOBER, 1952



LOUIS EMERSON HIBBS, Major General, USA (Ret)

BLOOD



& FIRE

A SALUTE FROM A "BLOOD AND FIRE" MAN

LOUIS EMERSON HIBBS, Major General, USA (Ret)

Distinguished Service Medal; Silver Star; Purple Heart with Oak-Leaf Cluster; French Fourragere; Croix de Guerre with Palm.

Born; 3rd October, 1893. Graduated from West Point in 1916. Commanded Artillery Battalion, 1st Division and Artillery of II American Corps in World War I. Twice wounded in action. Commanded Artillery of 36th Infantry Division for a year prior to being assigned to create 63rd Infantry Division. After VE Day commanded Fort Sill for a year before being sent to organize a new Philippine Division. Invalided home and retired for physical disability in February 1947. Married, has one son who fought with the Marines for three years in the Pacific. Home address: Mirror Lake, New Hampshire.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE 63rd DIVISION ASSOCIATION

With this reunion number of Blood and Fire, my greetings to all you treasured comrades of the 63rd! I am sorry that critically important personal business kept me away from Philadelphia at the last moment, for I had been looking forward to renewing contact with you.

I am tremendously moved to see that the blithe and valiant spirit of the great team that we built—you and I but mainly you—still characterizes Blood and Fire. This is your doing—keep it so! You who sacrificed so much, to gain so much in the end, have a stake in the country that only you can know. And only you can appreciate how vitally necessary it is that we achieve the solution of the great issues that threaten our country—particularly that we achieve the peace of the world for which you fought.

Much of the world is crying in its beer, and many of our own people. This is not the way of Blood and Fire. You who have lived one world conflict, know that another, and civilization perishes. Our country needs the active leadership and guidance that you can supply from your experience and spirit—each of you in his own circle, big or small.

Seven years ago we thought that our team's job was done—but it wasn't, and isn't. Our association keeps some of the team together and keeps the flame of its spirit alight. There's still work for you to do. You did a magnificent citizen's job as soldiers—while a world applauded and marveled—now meet the challenge of doing the soldiers job as citizens!

See you in Chicago !

LOUIS E. HIBBS,

Major Gen., USA (Ret)

BLOOD



& FIRE

A Letter From Your President

At the recent reunion of the 63rd Division Association which was a smash success, a good time was had by all. I was deeply moved by the members more than words can say, for their confidence. When for the first time a President was reelected in the Association when there were so many capable and qualified men to fill the job. I was only sorry that so many of our Association was unable to be present but I am sure that next June in Chicago, we will have a large turn-out. I was very pleased and thankful for the effort that the Philadelphia Chapter assisted in making the 1952 reunion a success. I have received so many letters from members saying how sorry they were because they could not make the reunion. But promised to be in Chicago in '52.

Have just completed a telephone conversation with General Hibbs and the General told me that he was very sorry about not being able to attend the reunion, but important business in Texas prevented him from making this reunion but if at all possible he would be with us in Chicago.

Getting back to this reunion this year. It was a most successful one - best we have had yet. There were lots of members there that were disappointed because they didn't get to see more of their old buddies. But we all hope that the next one will be the biggest and best yet. And it will be if we all get behind it and PUSH!

All of the members of the Association would like to thank our Past President, Edward J. Cronin for his splendid job in handling the Master Of Ceremonies post, thanks Ed.

It would be nice if all the members could drop Edward Miller, (the Association Chaplain) a few lines to cheer him up. Ed, as most of you know, was a popular figure around our past reunions, but due to the illness of his wife who is in a Baltimore hospital, Ed couldn't make it this year. Mrs. Miller, although very ill, insisted that Ed go to the reunion. Thanks, Mrs. Miller, we are lost without Ed. We sincerely wish you a speedy recovery and a rapid return to good health. We look forward to seeing your smiling face in Chicago next year.

And with this, I again thank every one who attended the reunion, and look forward to meeting you and your wives at the Chicago rally next year. So thanks again, the best of health to all. Be sure to notify me if you change your address.

Till the next issue, I remain

Sincerely yours,

LESTER A. NOEL

Lester A. Noel
President
63rd Division Association



AN EDITORIAL

At this writing, I would like to thank each and every one that attended the reunion and the ones that would have attended if they could of possibly have done so. I would also like to thank each one personally for their confidence and trust in me. I only hope that during my term in office, that the membership in the Association will increase so that our next reunion will be the largest and best one that we have ever had. I would like to thank all the ones that have written me since my return from Philadelphia.

I am doing and will continue to do my utmost to increase the membership in the Association. So far I have mapped out the list by States and have five states completed and ready to mail. I know that the fellows that receives the list will get in contact with the ones on their list and in that way will grow and the 1953 reunion in Chicago will be the "reunion of reunions." With the kind of help I expect to get from each member

of the Association, we will have the largest and best service Association that's in the country today. So to all the members that receive the list, — get behind and push! We stuck together before and we will continue to do so. I'm depending on your help and without it I would be lost.

Just as soon as arrangements are made at the hotel and the date has been set, all members will be notified. After enjoying the recent reunion in Philadelphia, I am already loking forward to the coming one in Chicago.

I am hoping you will all enjoy this issue of the "Blood and Fire" as much if not more than you did the last ones.

With kindest personal regards,

I remain,

Sincerely,

LESTER A. NOEL

President

63rd Division Association

—PUT ME ON THE MAILING LIST—

TO THOSE CONCERNED!

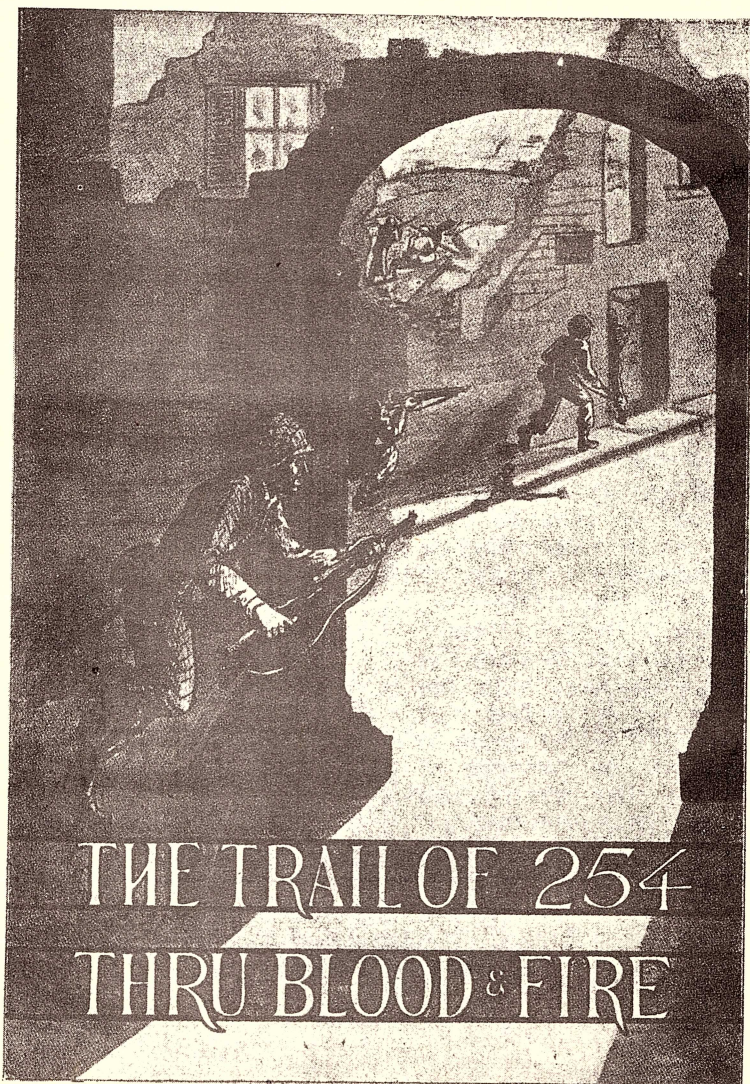
If you are not in good standing as of June 1953, please send in your DUES!

NAME.....

STREET ADDRESS.....

CITY..... STATE.....

COMPANY or BATTERY.....



THE TRAIL OF 254
THRU BLOOD & FIRE



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.

Chapter III

JEBBSHEIM

Just before midnight on January 24th the first elements of the 28th Division began arriving to relieve us on position. By noon of the 25th the entire regiment was assembled in the Colmar Forest Area northeast of Ostheim. The First Battalion was greatly understrength, "A" having only 120 line troops, "B" depleted to 80, "C" to about 120 and the machine gun platoons of "D" with less than half of their full strength. The Third Battalion had also sustained a large number of casualties, although to a lesser degree. Only the Second Battalion remained in good operational strength.

Our stay in the Colmar Forest was destined to be a short one, however, for another mission lay ahead of the regiment. It had become apparent as the month of January drew to a close that the hub of resistance, the key to the entire Colmar Pocket was the well fortified town of Jebbsheim, France. The village itself is laid out in a way highly advantageous to the defender. The principal artery of the town is a north-south street with stone buildings on either side. Branching off at both ends of the Main Street are two parallel ones leading west. Weapons located in the houses along these streets can effectively cover with crossfire almost all the area to the west of the town. Along the street and road leading northwest heavy concrete bunkers had been built in an arc extending above the northwest street, a row of pillboxes defended to the north while other steel reinforced emplacements at the southern end completed the strong defensive system.

So swiftly had come the decision for the regiment to attack Jebbsheim that when the regimental staff and battalion commanders returned from Third Division Headquarters it was already the hour set to launch the attack, 1600. There was time for only the barest briefing possible to the commanders. As we moved out of the Colmar Forest, most of us knew only that the First and Second Battalions were to be employed initially, with the First Battalion on the right maintaining contact with the



15th Infantry, who had the previous day cleared the area east of the Ill River, pushing toward Reidwahr in its southward drive. The 2nd Battalion on the left linked itself with the 1st DMI by reconnaissance elements. The 3rd Battalion had been designated as regimental reserve, to be used on Third Division orders only.

At 1600 the two battalions moved out, each maintaining a two company front - the First on the right side of the northwest road, and the Second on the left side. We were led to believe that the operations of the 15th Infantry insured us an easy approach to the line of departure, this proved untrue. Shortly after crossing the Ill River more than fifteen hundred yards short of the line of departure, we received fire from machine guns and small arms in the northern end of the Bois de Jebnheim as well as heavy artillery from the vicinity of Jebnheim.

Sub-zero temperature combined with a fierce north wind which whipped the deep snow into a frenzy of blinding ice particles slowed our advance to a painful crawl as we fought our way through artillery and rocket barrages to the line of departure. This was reached at about 2100, and already the effect of the cold and exertion began to show on us; the First Battalion especially suffered, their complete lack of sleep and rest for so many hours making resistance very low.

Because of the difficulty which we encountered, our formation was changed at the line of departure to a column of companies in each bat-

talion. The advance on the road west of the Blind River, became even more difficult under the machine gun, rifle, and pistol fire. We found that a detachment of French troops had taken the burning buildings of Jebnheim Mills. Even though we realized the danger of falling debris, shells directed on the Mills, and the perfect outline our bodies made against the bright flames, many of us were more than willing to take the chance as we huddled for a few minutes as close to the fire as possible. This was reportedly one of the coldest nights of the entire winter; warmth seemed more important than safety.

At about 2230 "G" Company, leading the Second Battalion, crossed the Blind River. With two platoons abreast, one either side of the road, the unit moved toward the town. After advancing a few hundred yards, the company lost contact with the First Battalion on the right and stopped.

In the meantime, the First Battalion was running into difficult obstacles. "A" Company, leading, waded across the icy, swift-flowing river. Emerging on the west bank, the company was pinned down by accurate heavy machine gun fire. Contact was lost as the men of "A", soaked from the waist down, crawled through the deep snow. Company "B" inched its way from behind and finally contacted "G". Both companies then moved along the northwestern approach to the town. After another hour of slow advance, at 2030 the two companies came within 400 yards of the outlying bunkers. Here they



were completely pinned down as fire rained on them from three directions: the Bois de Jepsheim to the south, the vicinity of Gussenheim to the north, and the bunkers of Jepsheim to the east. Mortar fire was placed on the bunkers but was ineffective. A patrol sent southwestward to silence the machine guns in the Bois De Jepsheim met with failure as frozen weapons failed to work for their frozen owners. So intense was the small arms and artillery fire brought to bear on us that even after a fifteen minute barrage by four battalions of field artillery, the resistance was still so heavy that we could advance no further. At 0430 the two leading companies began to withdraw toward the Blind River. The Second Battalion formed a defensive arc around the eastern side of Jepsheim Mills while the First Battalion took positions in a ditch several yards west of the north-south road. . .

Surely, this night was the most miserable the regiment ever experienced. Each man had carried only one blanket into the attack, and most of these had been soaked when we crossed the Blind River. All of our clothing was wet either from the stream or from the snow melted by our bodies by our body heat as we lay in it. This had now frozen to our skin. No fires could be lit. Those of us not on guard prayed, slept and waited morning. Somehow, the night finally ended.

The following day, we counted our casualties and made plans for the attack on Jepsheim again that evening. It was getting dark on the evening of January 26th when

the Third Battalion moved out of Riedwihr. Company "I" was in the lead as the troops crossed the little stream just east of Riedwihr. This unit's mission was to clear the patch of woods just north of the Riedwihr-Jepsheim road. Company "L" was to turn off the road to the south and clear the upper half of the forest which lay on that side. "K" was to keep to the right of "L" and sweep the southern half of the woods. "I" sent its three rifle platoons forward at 1700, two platoons abreast, one to the rear. The two leading platoons came under mortar and small arms fire, but were unable to reach the eastern edge of the woods. The reserve element was fired on and pinned down by a well emplaced machine gun at the stream junction to the north. Two squads sent to silence the gun were unable to close in on the weapon, but it was finally eliminated by mortar fire. Defensive positions were then placed along the east edge of the woods and the company remained here that night.

The attack of "L" began at 2100. Meeting little resistance the company turned south off the road, then pushed eastward, intending to advance to the east edge of the forest. However, a large clearing in the center of the woods was mistaken, in the darkness, for the fields beyond. When the Company arrived at this clearing, it went into defensive positions. Company "K" jumped off and pushed due south through the western portion of the forest. The advance was successful until the company was within a short distance of the



clearing. At this point "K" encountered heavy fire from the southern edge of the woods, mostly consisting of high velocity, flat trajectory fire. Unable to proceed, the company fell back to Riedwihl leaving one platoon in defensive positions at the point of farthest advance. Meanwhile, the attack on Jebnheim had started at about the same time the northern half of the town to the 2nd Battalion, and the southern half of the town to the First Battalion. Company "F" passed through and left company "G", which was to protect the left flank. Company "E" remained as Battalion reserve in the defensive positions occupied the night before by one of its platoons. Company "C" with Company "A" following, launched the First Battalion's attack. Company "B" initially to the rear of the other companies, was to stand by until they had cleared then strike the southern part of the town.

Companies "C" and "F" waded through the deep snow toward the bunkers which had turned them back the previous night. Moving along the northwest road toward the junction at the western approach to the town, the Battalions again met a furious hail of fire about 500 yards from the defending emplacements. This was just like the night before—88m fire from three directions, automatic weapons from the bunkers, and small arms from dug-in positions around the pillboxes. Slowly they moved forward, inching their way through the snow, trying to reduce the fortifications with well-aimed bazooka fire. This was suc-

cessful with the exception of one bunker which had two-foot thick walls and the rockets ricocheted into the air. The tank destroyers were brought up and fired point blank through the thick walls of the bunker and rendered it possible for capture by Company "F" men.

Company "A" and "C" which was greatly understrength from the previous four days battles, joined Company "F" for the final push into town. At 2400 we saw one of the most awe-inspiring scenes most of us can recall as 8 Battalions of artillery laid a concentration into Jebnheim which lasted for 15 minutes. As we watched it seemed as if the village, laying peacefully asleep one moment, became nothing but a massive sheet of flame the next. By 0100, January 27, Company "F" and remnants of the First Battalion cleared the northwest streets of the town in a three-hour battle. Since little activity was observed in the southern part of town we believed that Jebnheim was clear except for snipers. Company "G" began the task of clearing the north-south street and soon discovered that our surmise had been far from right. The fight was of the most severe type possible—house-to-house, room to room. Before proper defense at the lower square could be prepared, a strong counterattack developed from the enemy position, and the depleted unit was driven back through sheer weight of numbers and fire power. The counterattack was finally repulsed at the upper square. January 27th will be long remem-



bered by many of us as one of the days that make young men grow old in battle, and the older men grow older—period!

The next two days was spent in bitter street fighting. We were joined by a French unit which helped repulse two counterattacks by the enemy. Together the two units made plans to continue the advance at 0400 the following morning. Just before the Companies began their attack, three Germans entered our lines and asked Company "E" to surrender, saying "We know you have only a company here and we have a battalion" The men of Company "E" opened fire in answer and began the last and most bitter fight for the possession of Jepsheim.

The enemy was being supplied and reinforced by the road leading north into Jepsheim from Muntzenheim. To cut this road and to provide a base of fire for "I" striking Jepsheim from the south, the Third Battalion left its position in the Bois de Jepsheim at 1130 that day. Leaving Company "K" in reserve, Company "I" and "L" moved out along the road. Arriving at the bridge over the small creek, Company "L" turned south along the west bank to provide a base of fire for Company "I", which was to move southeast, by-pass the tip of Jepsheim, and turning sharply north, strike the enemy in the vineyards just east of the German occupied houses. Heavy fire from these houses caused a change in Company "I's" operation. A flank attack was decided upon. The unit moved in by the road leading west from the southern end of town. A

French tank encountered on the outskirts was persuaded to assist them and the newly formed tank-infantry team attacked enemy strongpoints on the west side of the north-south street. At the time of their arrival, the fight between the Second Battalion and the enemy in his remaining houses was particularly violent. Compressing the Germans into these few houses below the southern square had necessitated the commitment of the remaining elements of the First Battalion as well as the reserve company of the Second Battalion. From the houses, from the bunkers, and from the foxholes in the vineyards southeast of the street crossing, the enemy resisted fiercely with automatic weapons while 88mm guns poured fire on the attackers. The impact of Company "I", coupled with the blows being delivered by the Second Battalion, broke the German's desire to resist further. At about 1630 they began to march out of their foxholes, first in small groups of five and ten, then in larger groups, to surrender. The total was about 450, most of whom were members of the 136th Mountain Regiment.

Jepsheim, itself, was now taken. The cost had been high, but well worth the price we had paid for it. According to statements of prisoners of war, the town had been used as a corps headquarters. It was not until later that we learned that the Third Division had not expected us to be able to capture this stronghold. The question as to why our determination was so strong, our fighting so fierce, in



taking this town was probably best answered by one PFC who said, "If you think I was going to stay out in some damn foxhole full of snow while the Krauts were living in nice, warm cellars, you're crazy."

(to be continued in next issue)

DO YOU RECALL ?

Do You Recall !

The Switzerland tours, with the American atmosphere, good food, lovely girls and the beautiful mountain country? In September 1945 after the war was ended, many of us enjoyed the tours to Switzerland on a quota basis. Some came back with the report that the Swiss chocolate was superior to the American brands and still others gave the female species a higher rating.

Do You Recall !

The announcement on the American Forces Network at 2000 hours August 15th, 1945 that of the six divisions alerted for movement to the United States that the 63rd Division was top on the list.

Do You Recall !

The 253rd Boxing Bouts especially between Pvt. Bill (One-Eyed Looie) Company "L" and Sgt. Kelly (Rebel) Hammond, Company "L". Pfc. Mike Pape, Company "B" and Cpl. Vic James, Company "L", were top notch fighters with the leather also.

Do You Recall !

The stories that used to float around the Division? The one about the chicken or "The Chicken Story" was good. As some of the fellows tells it: "Some time ago, a few of us were sitting

around the orderly room when a good looking little chicken opened the door and walked in. She strolled past the desk, giving us the glad eye, wiggled her shapely little tail at us a couple of times and proceeded to crawl under the GI bunk for the CQ where it was nice and warm. She sat there for a few minutes, laid an egg, and without a word walked back across the room, wiggled her little tail, and went out the door. The next day and every day that followed, the little Chicken went through the same routine, and none of us ever egged her on, because she always got under the bed or GI Bunk and with no trouble at all, lays a nice fresh egg and takes off. We have investigated the matter a little more thoroughly and have decided that the egggs are fertile—but we can't find that damned rooster anywhere."

Do You Recall !

"Oaks and Acorns", a book published by Block Publishing Company, and written by none other than Chaplain (Captain) Aaron Kahan? Chaplain Kahan was Regimental Chaplain of the 254th Infantry during its siege in the Colmar Pocket and other days when the 63rd Division was making history.

Do You recall !

The opening of the Regimental NCO Club in downtown Kunzelsau in the Blocke Hotel? The beer, American liquor, Cognac and wine was rationed and every time you bought a drink in addition to paying for the drink you had to have your card punched. Ration card—that is.

UNIT NEWS

DIVISION HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Since the March issue of Blood and Fire came out, the letters have certainly been pouring in. Letters were received from every state in the Union, asking when another issue of the "Blood and Fire" was coming out and all kinds of question about the Renunion in Philadelphia which has just passed. Many of the personnel of Division Headquarters who are still on active duty were unable to attend the Renunion due to previous engagements or duties in military service.

One was Colonel A. W. Widmer, who departed from Washington in the latter part of June for the Far East Command. His present address is; Office Of The Comptroller, GHQ, Far East Command, APO 500, % PM, San Francisco, California.

Sure got a nice letter from Thomas A. Hocter, 60 Soundview St., New Rochelle, N. Y., a former member of the 255th Anti-Tank Co. is in the pro-Frank B. Mulligan, 15 Union St., New Rochelle, N. Y. who was a member of Company M, 254th Infantry and Salvatore Zaffino, 204 Elm St., New Rochelle, N. Y. a former member of the 255th Tnti-Tank Co. is in the process of trying to get a Chapter organized in New Rochelle, N. Y. Sure will be glad to help out Tom!—and I'm sure the fellows around there will too.

—o—

SPECIAL TROOPS

Received letters from members of the Special Troops. One in particular was from Doc. John D. Townsley, Jr. who's present address is 2618 Campbell St., Kansas City, Missouri. John stayed over there for nine years and has watched the country turn from a war-torn, defeated people to a country which is now standing on its feet again and doing an excellent job. In one of his letters he mentions some of his experiences after the war. Part of his letter is quoted as follows: "Around 1949, I took my little German Volkswagen and drove back over every foot of ground our unit had walked, crawled and rode. I was alone except for my dog—so I had plenty of time for meditation and reminiscense. I took pictures of the old Siegfried Line and especially of a tank which was still there near Omershein, it was right on the ridge about 200 miles from the first pillbox. I remember seeing many of our gallant boys fall right in this vicinity during the afternoon and evening of that particular assault." Doc goes on in his letter and I would sure like to be able to quote more of the many letters received but the Blood and Fire could not begin to write information about each mem-



17 FEB 1945
 ACROSS THE SARRE INTO GERMANY.

GERMANY
 SARRE WOODS
 SARRE R.
 FRANCE

15-21 TWO BELTS OF THE SIEGFRIED MARCH LINE CRACKED WIDE OPEN FOR THE ARMOR... FIRST BREAK IN THE LINE SEVENTH ARMY FRONT

24-25 MARCH 1945 63d DIVISION ARTILLERY SUPPORTS RHINE CROSSING

30 MARCH 1945 63d EXPANDS BRIDGEHEAD ATTACKING SOUTH THROUGH HEIDELBERG AND MANNHEIM, THEN TURNING EAST.

BRIDGEHEAD
 NECKAR R.
 HEIDELBERG

3 APRIL 1945 17th RIDGE HERE





254
255
30 MILES
NECKAR R.
JAGST R.
Kocher R.
Kraillsheim
254th INF ON OUTSIDE OF THE WHEEL, FIGHTS FOR 15 MILES APRIL 4 DAY. DIVISION ON 30 MILE FRONT.

10th ARMORED
Heilbronn
Kocher
255
10 APRIL 255th INF DRIVE ACROSS THE KOCHER PUTS 10th ARMORED ACROSS... HEILBRONN LINE FALLS

18-22 APRIL 1945
ROAD BLOCKS AND DELAYING ACTIONS


SS DIVISION CUT TO RIBBONS BY 253d INF.

23-25 APRIL
RAT RACE TO THE DANUBE
Gunglburg
Moggingen 63

25 APRIL 253d AND 254th FIGHT ACROSS THE DANUBE
Danube River
Leipheim
Gunglburg

30 APRIL 253d AND 255th FARTHEST SOUTH AGAINST ALAS... CROSS HERTACH AND LECH RIVERS... CAPTURE LANDSBERG.
WERTACH R.
LANDSBERG
LECH R.

BLOOD & FIRE



ber of the Association.

Eddie C. Miller of the Division Chaplain's office writes that he really enjoys the Blood and Fire and wants to know where a lot of the fellows are. To give more information he even suggested raising the dues to 5 dollars. Ed, we will try to give you all the information we can on the present dues.

Charles Blue sends in his dues and a change of address. He is now at 12 Richlee Court, Mineola, L. I. New York. Also received a letter and dues from A. B. SEE. He is at Laurelton, New Jersey. That's near Baltimore and he says he sees lots of the 63rd Division Special Troops buddies in and around Baltimore. Heard from Dick Hyney from up Albany, New York. Sends in his dues and address which is: R. H. Hyney, Jr., 204 Kent St., Albany 6, New York.

A notation was run in many magazines and publications in April of this year concerning the Association and the Reunion. It got lots of results too. W. F. Williams, at 750 Washington St., Cumberland, Md., writes in that he was very interested in the Reunion and the Association. Maybe we need more publicity—eh? Glad to hear from you and thanks for writing.

Heard from Leslie Anders, who is Historian, Engineer Historical Division, Baltimore, Md. He was telling about his annual leave, lunching with Dick Mankin of Company G, 253rd Infantry in Emporia, Kansas. He says Dick is whiz-bang lawyer and really going places. Les is writing the history of the Corps of Engineers in the CBI Theater.

—o—

763RD ORDNANCE COMPANY

The news from former members of the 763rd Ordnance Company was weak this month. Received one letter with a big heading, as follows: Paul A. Gross, Attorney and Counselor at Law, 420 Lincoln Rd., Suite 505, Miami Beach, Florida. Anyone down Miami Beach way give Paul a ring on 58-5901. The only other member heard from in the 763rd Ord. Co., was George (Rumor) Potoky. He is still wanting to get together and have a rough softball game. He lives at Route 2, Highland Avenue, Warren, Ohio.

—o—

263RD ENGINEER BATTALION

Clarence Grenberg, who lives at 1010 So., 3rd Street, Philadelphia, Pa. and who was First Sergeant of Hq. & Service Co., sends in his dues for the next two years and a list of names of former members. Thanks, Clarence. Any former members of the 263rd Engineer Battalion interested in some of their buddies,—write me.

Brig. Gen. E. J. McGaw is now Corps Artillery Commander at Camp Carson, Colorado, and hasn't been back from Iceland very long. In one of his letters he says he looks back on the time of the activation of the 63rd Division until August 1945 with pride and affection.

BLOOD



& FIRE

DIVISION ARTILLERY

Brig. Gen. Carl H. Jark writes us from the 1st Cavalry Division Artillery in the Far East. He is presently in command of that outfit. He notified us that Major Robert E. Plett, formerly with the 718th FA Bn., is now S3 of the 77th FA Bn. in the Far East Command. He also mentioned that Major Glen Pohl, formerly with the 253rd is now assigned in Headquarters Far East Command.

—o—

253RD INFANTRY HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS CO.

Moses R. Box is down at Randolph Field, Texas for B-29 Crew Training. He is married now and maybe starting a family. He was with the Message Center of Hq. Co., 253rd. Peter Zill who was with Hq. Co., 253rd Infantry, now resides at 1267 Shadiun Ave., Bronx 6, New York.

—o—

SERVICE COMPANY

Received a big letter from Howard Connolly who is now living at Longview Rd., Livingston, New Jersey. We understand Larry Witte is with N.A.M. in Radio City. Sidney Weissner is connected with Real Estate in the Bronx and we also understand Irving "Hoppe" Hopkins is with CBS in New York City. These fellows in Service Company really get around.

—o—

HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Most of the fellows out of Headquarters and Headquarters Company just send in their dues and that's it. Oh yes, R. W. Joyce did write a pretty nice letter from 97 Hilton Avenue, Maplewood, New Jersey.

—o—

MEDICAL DETACHMENT

Ralph J. Smith formerly of 1st Bn. Aid Station, 253rd Infantry Regiment, is now living up in Portland, Oregon. I believe it is 1845 N.W. 23rd Place. Norman C. Carlson writes in and sends his calling card. It is now Norman C. Carlson, M. D., Newport Harbor Medical Center, 3455 Via Dporto, Newport Beach, California. He was Regimental Surgeon of the 253rd Infantry. Major or Doctor William I Davis who was with the 255th Infantry lives at Mound, Minn now.

—o—



COMPANY A, 253RD INFANTRY

George M Brickles and Milton Brickles, both of Hunt, West Virginia were reminded of the Association through reading the Legion Magazine. They are now members in good standing and Milton say he would like to hear from all of his old buddies in Company A, and especially those in I Platoon. Marvin Horowy sends in a nice list of former members of Company A. Martin Belzer, 7920 18th Ave, Brooklyn N. Y., Leon Kestenbaum, 2nd Ave D, New York City, Vernon Hubbard, 409 7th Ave, Wilmington Delaware, Gerald and Vincent Mazurkiewicz, 1743 W 2nd St. Brooklyn N. Y. Leo Roby, Rout 1, Sheldon Missouri, Ken Paul 1 Norsband Ave. White Plains, N. Y. and Clement Surprenant, 16 Cutter Ave. W, Somerville Mass. Anyone living near these fellows and knew them or knew of them be sure and look them up.



COMPANY C, 253RD INFANTRY

Got a big letter from Thurman Haston, and the Heading said HASTON'S RADIO and TV CENTER, 232 East Main St. McMinnville, Tenn. Anyone down that way needing any Radio or TV work done just look up Thurman. Harry Sailsbury is up in Rochester Minn. A. M. Peterson Jr, lives at Highland Road, Pottstown, Penna. Had a letter from James W Hayes, 6 Cedar Ave. Jamaica Plain 30, Mass. and he wants to locate Yor Hor Chin of Company F.



COMPANY D, 253RD INFANTRY

Anyone out in Marquette, Michigan be sure and look up Frank C Donckers. All you have to do is go down Washington St. and watch for DONCKERS MARQUETTE, "THE HOME OF FINER CANDIES."

We are expecting to hear from lots of the fellows in Company D by the next issue of Blood and Fire. Frank has written a lot of them and we are trying to contact some here at Association Headquarters.



COMPANY F, 253RD INFANTRY

If you happen to be in Brewster New York and get a ticket just look up Sgt. Louis Vechl. He is at State Police Headquarters there. While you are up that way, you may go by and see Robert H. Miller's three boys. He lives at 7 Catherine St. Danburg Conn.

Members of Company F have their get togethers all over the world



Just recently Major Robert M. Kemp, (formerly Personnel Officer Capt.) and a few others like Edward R Rinaldi, Larry Witte, Sid Weisner, Harold Connolly and "Hoppy" Hoplins, all had luncheon together at the Headquarters Restaurant in New York. I heard from so many fellows in Company F, that I don't even have space to mention their names.

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COMPANY H, 253RD INFANTRY

Received a nice letter from Gerald Higgins. Oh yes that's GERALD HIGGINS SR. He stresses that SR. Must have a little Higgins. Said he wanted some information on the 63rd Infantry Division and didn't know where to get it so he wrote the V. F. W. Magazine and they told him where the headquarters was and who the President is. This Division Association is really becoming well known.

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COMPANY L, 235RD INFANTRY

As I've said before, the 63rd Division Association is really getting to be well known. Got a letter from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post No. 2192, West Babylon, Long Island, New York and none other than Herbert L. Post is Commander. Lots of the fellows in Company L have been sending in their dues but no news. Let's have more news fellows—where you live and what you are doing. Don't forget to indicate what organization you were with in the 63rd.

—o—

COMPANY K, 253RD INFANTRY

J. Burnwell Harrison, who was First Sergeant of Company K, sends in letter with some names of former members like, L. E. Duquette, 50 N Main St. Northfield, Vermont, and David Anderson, 2421 Belvedere Ave. Charlotte, N.C., J.B. is up in Princeton, New Jersey. He is manager of TENACRE Real Estate.

—o—

COMPANY M, 253RD INFANTRY

James E. Merritt, Jr., vice-president of Planters Wholesale Grocery Clarksdale, Mississippi, sends a nice list of fellows that were in Company M. Names like Joseph W Abel, Hasting, Penn, Vernon V Lamberton Minnesota, Henry Myers, Brooklyn, N. Y. and several others which are too many to mention.

Mr. Charles R Davenport, (Former 2nd Lt.) is now with Ryukyu Civil Administration, A P O 719, % PM San Francisco Calif. These fellows that were with the 63rd really get around whether still in Uniform or in civilian jobs.

—o—

BLOOD



& FIRE

254TH INF. HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS CO.

Robert C. Capasso, now has a sign or shingle just outside of 6 Beacon St. Boston 8, Mass which reads ATTORNEY AT LAW. He tells us that SFC James J. Hughes, Cp. Crawford, Comp. Suc. Co., 8016th AU, APO 309 % PM San Francisco Calif. is interested in hearing from some of the fellows of the 254th, especially Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

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CANNON COMPANY

Had a nice letter from Elwood Ducan who lives at 1232 College Ave. Indianapolis, Ind. and says he is trying to locate some of his buddies of Canon Co. 254th Inf. Regt. to be sure and write him.

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ANTI-TANK COMPANY

Wililam D. Lundburg withthe Carter Oil Company in Cut Bank, Montana, is trying to locate Jim Creal, former commander of the Anti-Tank Co. 254th Inf.

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HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS CO.—1ST BATTALION 254TH

Thomas H. Beagle has a lumber company in Danville, Pennsylvania. He also has two little girls and they live at 801 Ave. "G" Riverside Pennsylvania.

We understand that Lt. Colonel Archer Christensen, former Battalion Executive Officer is presently at Fort Benning Georgia.

Doctor Hillis Rittenberg has his optometrist office in the Milliron's Building, at 501 South Broadway, Los Angeles, California.

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COMPANY A, 254TH INFANTRY

Most of the Mail from Company A, were just dues and letting me know they expect to attend the reunion. Albert G. DeBliss, and Domenick J. LaVacca said they sure would love to see some of their old buddies.

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COMPANY B, 254TH INFANTRY

I see where Joe Lonear is with the Air Training Battery Command School at Fort Sill Okla. Wants some of his old buddies in Baker Company



to get in touch with him. Got a short letter from Alex G. Redwing and listed his address Veterans Administration Hospital, Ward 6 - A, Madison 5, Wisconsin. Don't know whether he works there or a patient there.

—o—

COMPANY C, 254TH INFANTRY

I understand Bud Lovejoy, who lives at 1500 Deleware Ave. Buffalo New York, was a traitor to the Army after he got out. Yeah, he went off and married a WAVE. She out-ranked him during the war and I think she does now too. They have a couple of kids now though, they will be the ranking ones later on.

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COMPANY E, 254TH INFANTRY

D. M. VanSant gives his address as; 16474 Webster Rd., Berea, Ohio, and is a Certified Public Accountant. Maj. F.J. Kroesen is with the 504th Airborne Inf at Fort Hood, Texas. We received a nice letter from him and he says he's sold on Airborne Duty. He was with the recent Operation Long at Fort Hood Texas.

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COMPANY F, 254TH INFANTRY

Harold A. Doen now lives at 217 Fontenac Rd., Marquette, Heights, North Perkin, Ill. He was one of the many fellows that was with Company F, from Camp Van Dorn Mississippi until the Siegfried Line break through. Harold K. LaCrosse lives in Mocacco, Indiana. Sends in a list of some members of the 63rd division such as Orville Oehler, Norway, Iowa Joseph Sherry, Audenreid, Penn., Mike Pilla, 313 Barley St., Camden, N.J. Richard Armstrong, 219 West Town St., Norwichtown, Conn., and Walter Cys, P.O. Box 3, Madison, Maine.

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COMPANY H, 254TH INFANTRY

I understand Lt. Thomas P. Coughlin has just recently returned from Korea. He is up in Indian Town Gap, Penn., and lives at 253 S. Main St, Pine Grove, Penn. Irvin Schlocker also lives up that way, at 209 Poplar St. Philadelphia Pa. In fact he is Treasurer of the Philadelphia chapter of the 63rd Division Association. Lee Bunkers of the Company H is out on a farm in Dell Rapids, South Dakota.

—o—

HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS CO., 3RD BN. 254TH INF.

A. M. Burdette, Major Burdette that is, and Arch Hamblen have completed a years tour with the 508th Airborne Regimental Combat Team. They are attending Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth Kansas now.



Harold J. Evans writes me from 147 North Main St., Milltown, N. J. As you remember he was with the Medics and here is a quotation of part of his letter: "Do you remember the little town outside of Bergeim, France, your L Company was outposted for a while? You guys had the nicest variety of wines in those big barrels, that was the building where you located your kitchen. I had to find Capt Bessinger one day to see if he had any sick call or casualties and finally found him in an old barn waiting for a chicken to settle down and lay an egg." Harold is the Evans Insurance Agency.

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COMPANY I, 254TH INFANTRY

Andrew Oreschak now lives at 183 Hollininger Ave, Arkon Ohio. He sure wrote a nice letter with loads of news. He became associated with Firestone Tire and Rubber Co. at Akron after graduation from Ohio University in February 1951.

Dr. Seab E. A. Reeves (Former Lt of L Company) is practicing medicine at the Greenville General Hospital, Greenville, South Carolina.

Thomas F. Adams is at 2023 Monroe St., Corvallis, Oregon. He is comptroller of Oregon State College. (Former Major in 3rd Battalion, 254th Infantry.)

Captain J. Clement Cross and Lt. Van L. Roy both have been called back to AD and pulled a tour in the Far East or Korea. Van was wounded in Korea and the last we heard he was still in the hospital in Japan. Capt Cross is off Active duty again and is General Sales Manager of the Bell Bakery Plants in North Carolina.

J. Arthur Hanna is now Rev. Hanna, and with a Presbyterian Church in Oak Hill Ohio.

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COMPANY K, 254TH INFANTRY

Had a letter from Raymond Grzybowski, 61 - 45, 55 Drive, Mespeth, L. I., N. Y., Grady M. Esco, Lexington, Ga., and Lawrence (Bill) Walters, Angola, New York. Bill Walters has the Walters Agency, Real Estate and Insurance in Angola. Oh yes, George R. Burgard is located at 209 E. Portland St. Mechanicsburg Pa.

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COMPANY L, 254TH INFANTRY

Had some nice letters from fellows of Company L and had some letters of complaint. One of the fellows didn't understand why the History of the 254th contained so little about Company L. It is almost impossible to write about each company when so much happened to each and every com-



pany. The Companies in my estimation were all hit the same in one way or another. Some of the fellows writing in were; Leo R. Strebel, Jim Warren, Vic Konarshi, and George E. Parker. I said this was just some of them. Many I did not mention.



COMPANY M, 254TH INFANTRY

Major Arch Hamblen who has been mentioned before in this column sure wrote a nice letter was bringing back old memories about his First Sergeant Hon who was killed and many other fellows of this Company.



HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS CO., 255TH INFANTRY

Oscar T. Smith lives at 2553 N. Lavefgne Ave., Chicago, Ill. He is a former T Sgt with Hq Co and says that he and his wife look forward each to the Association's Convention.



SERVICE COMPANY, 255TH INFANTRY

Alex H. Seigal who lives at 1372 Hawthorne St. Pittsburg, Pa. says he sure would love to hear from some of the fellows in Service Company or any of the fellows in the Division.

Erastus N. Ross, Jr. (former Captain in Service Company) is in the general merchandise business in Pelahatchie, Mississippi, and sends an invitation for any member of the Division and especially those from the 255th Infantry to drop by when down Mississippi way.



ANTI-TANK COMPANY, 255TH INFANTRY

Raymond Sabellies who was Staff Sergeant in the Anti - Tank Co 255th Inf writes in from Hopewell Junction, New York and says he wants to see more about the Division.



CANNON COMPANY, 255TH INFANTRY

Hiram E. Cotton writes in from 2719 Elizabeth, Zion, Illinois, and says any of his buddies up that way look him up.



MEDICAL DETACHMEMNT, 255TH INFANTRY

Received a nice letter from Robert Morris Smith who is Clerk of the Chancery Court, Lowndes Co., Columbus, MMississippi. Part of his letter is

BLOOD & FIRE

as follows: "I should like very much to know if Sergeant Freeman of the Medical Det 255th Infantry made it through all right. I surely hope so and if he should be in touch with the Association, I would like for him to know how very grateful I am for his coming to my aid when I was wounded 16 February 1945. My leg was shattered by machine gun fire and I was lying behind a small tree—not too happy by the way, and Freeman came down the hill, did what he could for me and got out from there without a scratch. Sounds simple enough, but the enemy machine gun fire was heavy and mortar shells were falling thick and fast. Not all the Medics in my outfit were endowed with the courage Sgt. Freeman displayed that day."

Alton L. Harvey was another of the many Medics who made an nice showing of themselves in combat. Unfortunately, Alton was hit on March 4th in 1945.

Jim Albright is down in Jellico, Tennessee. We understand he is Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Second District at Jellico Tenn.

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COMPANY A, 255TH INFANTRY

J. S. Waltzer who is at 21 E. 21st St., Brooklyn 26, New York, says he wants a list of all the fellows in Company A, and wants to have the largest membership in the Association. A couple other fellows like Gerald Millsaps, Gordon Scott and Pat Scorzelli writes in about the same idea. Good luck to you fellows in Company A and come on with the dues and the News.

—o—

COMPANY B, 255TH INFANTRY

It seems that Company B of the 255th Infantry sure went in for the Hosiery Business. Eric Wagner is with the Viking Hosiery Co and Israel M. Taffet is with Artistic Hosiery Company. However, Fulton Stone, Sr remained in the service.

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COMPANY D, 255TH INFANTRY

George Vecellio writes in from Vecellio's Service Station and wants to know what happened to all of the fellows in First Battalion. He said sure not all of them got killed because they were the hardest fighters in the Division.

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HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS CO , 2ND BN. 255TH INF.

Herman E. Albright writes in from 1321 Miami Chapel Rd., Dayton, Ohio. He goes on to tell about making the Motor Convoy from Camp Blanding to Camp VanDorn, Mississippi. He said they were sure rough days but at times—things were sure tough over there, but he said he wouldn't trade his experiences and memories with fellows of the 63rd Division for all the money in the world.

BLOOD



& FIRE

COMPANY E, 255TH INFANTRY

The only person of Company E, writing in was Clarence E. Jack, who is associated with Brust Door & Plywood Company, Huntington, W. Va. Says he would love to hear from some of the fellows in Company E, especially — Joseph F. Leonard from Texas.

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COMPANY F, 255TH INFANTRY

Windall N. Aguillard, at Rt. 1, Box 187, Jenings, Louisiana, writes in and wants the next reunion to be held down in New Orleans. He was formerly the First Sergeant of Company F.

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COMPANY G, 255TH INFANTRY

Sorry to hear that Gary Black is in the hospital. He is a regular Army Captain now and was wounded in Korea while serving as Commanding Officer of Company A, 189th Infantry, 45th Division.

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COMPANY H, 255TH INFANTRY

John B. Monier lives in Greensburg, Penna., and Paul George at Westmoreland City, Penna. John is connected with Pennsylvania Rubber Co. but don't know what Paul is into now.

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HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS CO., 3RD BN. 255TH INF.

Charles S. Beaver, was the only one of his outfit that wrote in and gave any news. He is now at 604 Second Avenue, Tarentum, Pennsylvania.

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COMPANY I, 255TH INFANTRY

William D. Sawyer, at 149 Riverside Drive, Collins Park, New Castle, Delaware, writes in and tells us that it was just 7 years ago, April 2, 1945, that a 240 MM shell stopped eight of Company I, fellows in Sensheim, Germany. He says that he would like for Lt. William Dalton who saved his life, 1st Sgt. York, Staff Sgt. Richmond from Chicago, and Sgt. (The Greek) Aguilos, to write him or get in contact with him.

BLOOD & FIRE

COMPANY K, 255TH INFANTRY

William W. Brister is now a Warrant Officer, Jr. Grade, with the Mississippi National Guard at Water Valley, Mississippi. He also lives at Route 5, Water Valley, Mississippi.

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COMPANY L, 255TH INFANTRY

Eric O. Wagner, is now at 226 Cambridge Avenue, Englewood, New Jersey. He sent in a letter but the news was scarce.

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861ST FIELD ARTILLERY

The article about Sergeant Crews in the March issue of "Blood and Fire" read as though he was the only Medal of Honor winner from the Division, however that isn't true. First Lt. James E. Robinson, Jr., who was with the 861st FA was also a winner. The Medal of Honor was awarded Lt. Robinson by General Order 117, War Department, dated 11 December, 1945. His remains are now interred at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

Dave Riel reminded us of this from Formosa, he didn't say what his military purpose was over there in Formosa but at the present time he was trying to teach the Chinese to eat with one chop stick

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862ND FIELD ARTILLERY

R. J. Frang, is now Assistant Finance Officer at the Veterans Administration Hospital, in Miles City, Montana. F. M. Kovach, writes in from 1046 W. 19th Street, Lorain Ohio, and lets us know that he is still a true "Blood and Fire" soldier.

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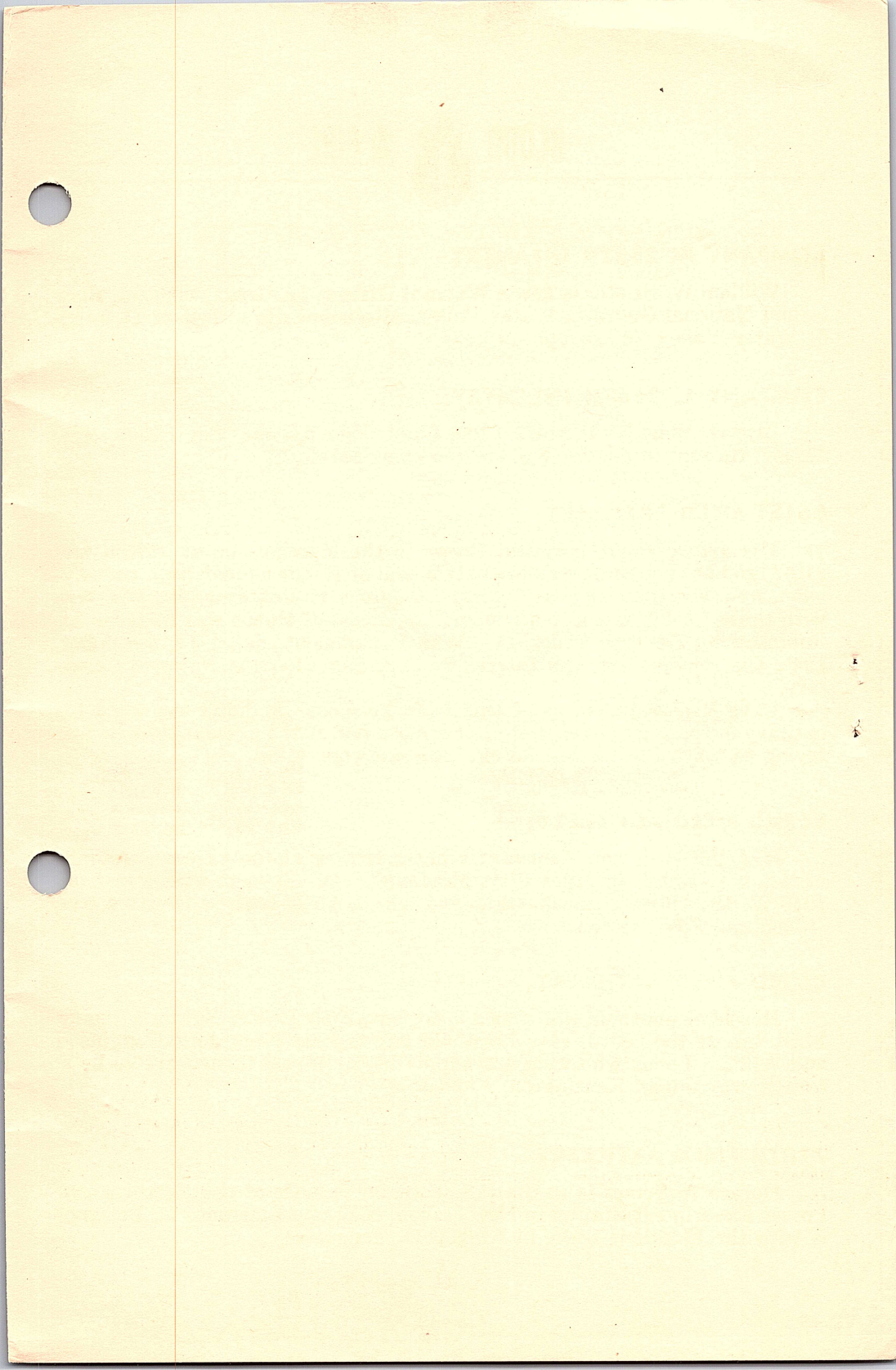
863RD FIELD ARTILLERY

Harold Grauerholz who was Liason Sgt. then Survey Sgt. and finally First Sgt. of the 863rd, says he would like to hear from John Tomlinson and William Lones who were the supply boys. Harold turned out to be a farmer way out in Kensington, Kansas.

—○—

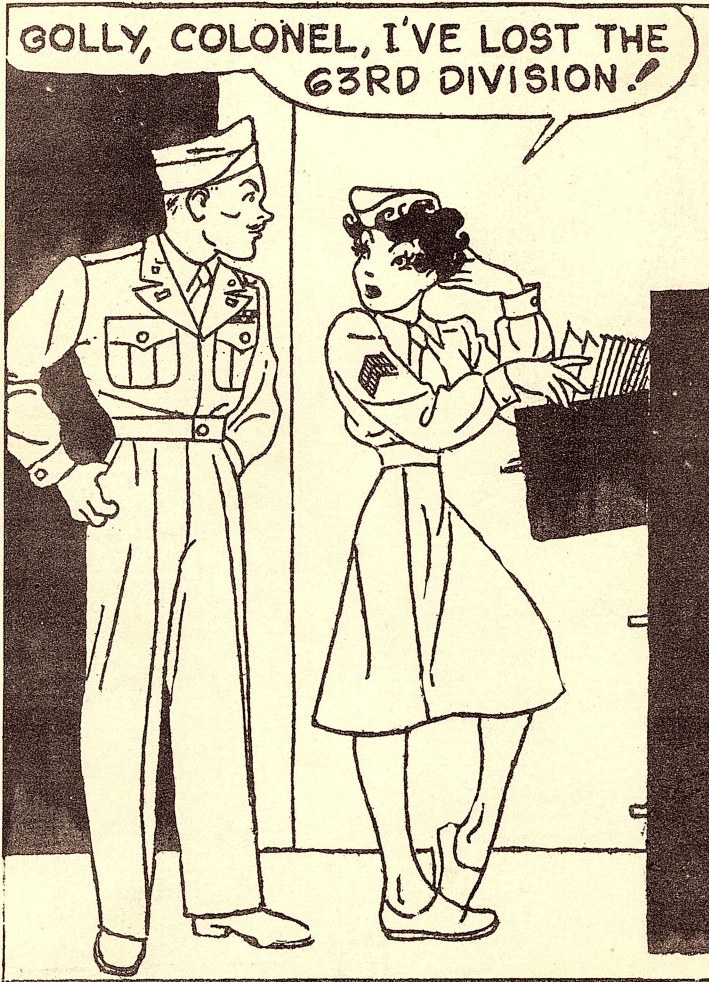
718TH FIELD ARTILLERY

Horace A. Somes is in the U.S. Forestry Service at the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station in New Lisbon, N.J., and Lawrence M. Bellaney is with the Firestone Store in Kingsport, Tennessee.



Plan To Attend The Chicago Reunion

(Plans are now being made for Hotel and date of Reunion)



63rd

Peter C. Kohler
56 Mina Avenue
Clifton, N. J.

LOCKHART 1
HUNTINGTON, W.V.

