

# Blood and Fire

VOL. 1, No. 16

63D INFANTRY DIVISION, CAMP VAN DORN, MISS.

October 1, 1943

## DIVISION TO TRAIN IN COMBAT TEAMS

### News From Your Own Home Town

AS MEN OF 255T

DIER'S PL

### PLAN TO INSURE CLOSE HARMONY BETWEEN UNITS

BIG SPRINGS, Tex. (CNS)—When a tire blew out while he was transporting a bear from San Antonio to Phoenix, Ariz., the driver of the car applied to the local ration board for permission to buy a new tire. The board chairman refused his request claiming that the transportation of bears was not essential. "OK," said the driver, "I'll turn the bear loose." He got the tire.

BURBANK, Cal. (CNS)—Edith DeSiva, shapely showgirl modeling the midnight-to-morning "graveyard" shift at the Local Aircraft Co. has been named "Miss Graveyard of 1943" fellow workers.

DANVERS, Mass. (CNS)—Joseph W. Smithurst, Jr., Mrs. Essie Brown and Mrs. Elizabeth Smithurst recently.

EVANSVILLE, Ind. (CNS)—A 17-year-old boy was being hauled in the county jail for a burglary.

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. (CNS)—Unphotographed wood are Gary and his next model of Dr. Wassell's "The Great Escape" directed. Director of the picture is the gender of the picture and the long pants.

KALAMAZOO, Mich. (CNS)—No one in Kalamazoo has heard of Mrs. S. J. Stinebaugh, the most everyone in town who to meet her. Mrs. Stinebaugh was named Mrs. A. J. Stinebaugh for 1943 at a beauty contest in Palisades Park, N. J., said her home town was Kalamazoo but she isn't known around here.

## Bond Sales In Four Soar As 63d Stages

Helping to back the attack which their buddies overseas are carrying forward men of the 63d Division with their weapons and other equipment, aided authorities of four communities in putting their respective Victory Loan Drives over the top during the last week-end.

At McComb Brookhaven, Woodville and Baton Rouge, cavaliers of trucks hauling guns, weapons of war, and manned by soldiers in full field equipment, brought home to the populace the seriousness of the business in which this country is now engaged, and demonstrated how vital it is that the men at the front have the material with which to carry on the struggle



Brookhaven sees Display At McComb a similar scene. The originally scheduled parade last Wednesday was rained out.

On the first time the 63d and 63d Field Artillery Battalions paraded yesterday at full strength. Leaving their organic transportation behind the Artillerymen engaged in a formal drill parade. The 718th and 861st Battalions are expected to stage a similar parade today.

At the ceremony a small huge salute of death may be given. Featured in the ceremony are Lt. Brody, Lt. Bol, and Lt. Bol. Immediately after the ceremony the men were moved to an area part of IFC John Tucker, related how, on the trip across the Atlantic to participate in the landings at Oran he had neglected to clean his rifle. Ball air pot

complete harmony and understanding that will insure perfect coordination between the 63d Infantry and Artillery under the command of the 63d Infantry Commander. The 63d Infantry is now being equipped each company with a unit in the antitank

new method of allocation represents one of the devices to insure coordination between Infantry, Engineers, and Artillery by the Command and Staff School at Fort Benning, Ga. The new method of allocation

Old Method of Allocation is the change in the method of allocation of units and personnel for the Artillery and Infantry.

and teaming of the new units and personnel will now be coordinated so well with the conditions of the combat that the coordination will be perfect.

It may be noted that the 63d Infantry Division (this issue) is now being moved to an area part of IFC John Tucker, related how, on the trip across the Atlantic to participate in the landings at Oran he had neglected to clean his rifle. Ball air pot

## Dramatized Rehearses Weapons

behind the recreation hall where company guidons and colored markers directed the sections and platoons to the proper places for the signing of pledge cards and copies of the oath taken earlier in which they took the combat soldier's pledge. (Reproduced on this page.)

Oath of the Rifle

Opening the ceremony was a one-hour demonstration of light and heavy weapons in which their uses were explained and the importance of each detail stressed. This was followed by the administration of the Oath of the Rifle by Col. Tombaugh.

After that came the dramatization. Lt. Bol Brodsky, playing the

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# BLOOD and FIRE

## THE 63rd DIVISION ASSOCIATION

### OFFICERS

<i>President</i> .....	THOMAS A. HOCTOR
Div. Hq. — 60 Soundview St., New Rochelle, N. Y.	
<i>First Vice-President</i> .....	WILLIAM G. SMITH
253rd Inf. — 824 E. 254th St., Euclid, Ohio	
<i>Second Vice-President</i> .....	SEYMOUR FREEDMAN
253rd Inf. — 28 W. Maple St., Valley Stream, N. Y.	

### EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

#### Term Expires — 1954

CYRIL F. JOYCE .....	Div. Arty., 20 Terrace Ave., Hasbrouck Heights, N. J.
DONALD WATEROUS .....	255th Inf., 13 Lookout Road, Ardsley, N. Y.
WALTER LEE .....	253rd Inf., 24 Pleasant St., W. Barrington, R. I.
HAROLD GRAY, JR. ....	254th Inf., 131 Lenox Ave., Irvington, N. J.
EDWARD J. CRONIN .....	363rd Med. Bn., State House, Boston, Mass.

#### Term Expires — 1955

EDMUND A. MUSIAL .....	861st F. A. Bn., 2810 Kominsky Ave., Chicago, Ill.
THOMAS A. HOCTOR .....	Div. Hq., 60 Soundview St., New Rochelle, N. Y.
WALDO H. SHUMAKER .....	255th Inf., 3021 E. Harrison St., Decatur, Ill.
LEONARD SOKOLOVE .....	253rd Inf., 310 Bulletin Building, Philadelphia, Pa.
ROBERT CAPASSO .....	254th Inf., 10 Brook Ave., Boston, Mass.

#### Term Expires — 1956

ALFRED REHM .....	Div. Hq. & Sp. Trps., 519 E. 33rd St., Paterson, N. J.
THOMAS LISZKA .....	863rd F. A. Bn., 2325 W. 23rd St., Chicago, Ill.
EVERETT GRAHAM .....	253rd Inf., 10154 S. Wood St., Chicago, Ill.
JERRY ROSENBERG .....	254th Inf., 1570 Sherman Ave., Evanston, Ill.
GEORGE MOSES .....	255th Inf., 1902 Washington E., Charleston, W. Va.

## SO LONG, HOT SHOTS

It doesn't take long for a year to roll around. It's time again for the annual reunion and to change the guard. As your outgoing president, I want each of you to know how much I enjoyed serving you.

I must apologize for having produced only two editions of "Blood and Fire" but I must tell you also that we saved some money this year which, we hope, will help that publication to come out more frequently in years to come.

You know, it costs considerable money these days to produce a booklet such as this one. Then too, we must have the material from "YOU" with which to fill it. So, during the next season keep those newsy letters flowing to your new officers. Please pay your 1954-55 dues soon, now, so's this outfit can continue to carry on. Thanks fellows, and good luck to all.

TOM HOCTOR  
*President*

# BLOOD and FIRE

## GANGWAY, WE'RE ON OUR WAY!

WOW! Hold on to yer hats lads, we're off for NEW YORK and the biggest, best and zaniest Reunion the Hot Shots of the Blood and Fire Division will have attended to date.

When you read this, if you've been only toying with the idea of being present at this year's gallop, quit draggin' yer feet. Just grab the little woman, toss a few socks and shorts into a bag, wind up the old bus and head for Baghdad on the Subway.

Aside from the fact that New York is putting on its best dress cause it's the big Summer Festival and there's all sorts of bargains in the stores, etc., your 1954 Committee has gone all out to give you a whopping good time.

By the time most of you read this we'll have been on the TV (July 17) presenting Bud Collyer of "Beat the Clock", CBS, Channel 2, with an award for having a fine show. That's coast to coast too, Saturdays.

When you walk into the dinner dance Saturday the 24th, you'll meet the lovely ROXANNE of that same show. She'll be our "Miss 63rd for 1954," and, girls, keep a tight hold on the arm which drug ya in, because this is soooome Dish! Yipee!

Well there'll be sightseeing, ball games, a cocktail party, prizes galore, including a 64 piece, count 'em, 64 pieces, set of silverware for some lucky girl and guy to lug home along with the baggage.

General Louis E. Hibbs, our division commander, General Frederick M. Harris and our beloved assistant division chaplain, Father Guinan, will be on hand to say a few words also a countless number of guys named "Joe."

There'll be dancing to the music of one of New York's finest bands, Dutch Adler's, there'll be entertainment, there'll be, aw why go on, come on to 'N Yawk and enjoy it all. Here's the program for

## Friday — Saturday — Sunday — July 23, 24, 25

### AT HOTEL NEW YORKER

#### FRIDAY, JULY 23

8:00 A.M.—8:00 P.M. .... Registration  
8:00 P.M. .... Mixer, Music, Beer, etc.

#### SATURDAY, JULY 24

8:00 A.M.—5:00 P.M. .... Registration  
10:00 A.M. .... Business Session  
2:00 P.M.—5:00 P.M. .... Shopping, Tours, Baseball Games, etc.  
6:30 P.M.—7:30 P.M. .... Cocktail Party  
7:30 P.M.—? ..... Dinner Dance

#### SUNDAY, JULY 25

10:00 A.M. .... Business Session  
(Election of officers, Naming of site for '55 reunion, memorial services)

# BLOOD and FIRE

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## STRICTLY PERSONAL

### DIVISION HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

It won't be any time at all now before many of us will be at the back slapping stage as we meet at the New Yorker.

From Col. Frederick M. Harris, who, as Brig. Gen. Harris was our assistant division commander, comes the word that his tour of duty in Japan has ended and he'll be back in the States for the reunion. While in Japan he met Maj. Gen. Edward J. McGaw, who was our artillery commander. Gen. McGaw is commanding the Korean Communications Zone.

Last time we heard from Gen. Hibbs, he was at Mirror Lake, New Hampshire. Illness in his family prevented his being with us in Chicago but we have his word he'll do everything possible to join us in New York. He had many kind words to say about the men of the Division and their splendid morale.

From our former Division chaplain, Col. William E. Patrick, a long letter from Long Beach, Calif., where he's chaplain of the Navy Family Chapel. He says it's a bit funny for an old army man to head a bunch of Gobs. He wants to be remembered to all his old friends in the 63rd, especially Father Guinan.

Our former Chief of Staff, now Brig. Gen. Earl G. Wheeler, writes his regrets at not being able to join us at New York. He's in Naples, or was, the last time we heard. He sends his best regards to all men of the Division.

Another chaplain, the Rev. Norman Olsen, writes from 68 Rockridge Road, Waltham 54, Mass. Mr. Olsen is now hospital chaplain with the Veterans Administration at Bedford, Mass. He'd like very much to hear from his many friends in the Division.

Harry Goodman, formerly G-4 Section, 63rd, writes from Philly that he'll try hard to inspire his many friends from that city to attend the New York shindig. Hope to see you also, Harry. Paul Smith, who was with G-2 Section, is a hard man to prod into action according to his wife. She writes that "Hell would freeze over and all the little devils would come skating home," before Paul would sit down and write a letter. She sat down and wrote asking that we make a reservation for two at the New Yorker for the reunion and that was the FIRST reservation in our hands too.

Dr. Meyer P. Gottlieb, former Division Dental Surgeon, is a member of the Association. He is at 1419 Bryant Building, Kansas City, Mo. . . . Marvin P. Macy, 4852 W. Hutchinson Street, Chicago 41, who wielded a baton with the Division M.P.'s is now a mechanical engineer . . . and last October Jim and Alice McCabe, of Philly (he was in G-4 Sec. Div. Hq.) had another addition to the family. Her name is Alice too. . . . We should see Herman Rosenstein, former 263rd Engr. Bn., at the reunion, he only lives out in Rockville Centre, Long Island.

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George Potoky and Paul Minotty; George hails from Route 2, Highland Avenue, Warren, Ohio, and Paul from 401 W. Jersey Avenue, Pitman, N. J., deserve a paragraph all to themselves. Both were members of the 763rd Ord. Co. and they have been keeping alive the interest among their former associates in the Association and the Division. They recently produced a news letter calling attention to the reunion. Grand work gentlemen!

And, lo and behold, the Recons are on the march! Had a note from J. J. McMannimen, 624-A Roosevelt Avenue, Bellevue 2, Pittsburgh, Pa., who says he's sure going to be at the reunion. He says a lot of the Recon boys would like to sign up with the Association and we hope he briefed them on the facts.

Francis A. Campbell, of 18 Marion Street, Walpole, Mass., an Ordinance man says he'll sure be with us in New York. . . . Richard K. Hyney, Jr., 204 Kent Street, Albany, N. Y., was in Co. A, 363rd Medics. He waxes enthusiastic about the forthcoming reunion and hopes to see many of his former pals in New York, he refers especially to Attorney J. Leonard Rockey, of 100 North La Salle Street., Chicago, who was at the 1953 reunion in his home city and we hope he'll be with us again in July.

Arnold Spector, who was in the 253rd before his transfer to Div. Hq. to be with Special Service, is handling our entertainment. Arnold puts on shows for some of the big business outfits throughout the country including General Motors. While in Detroit last winter, he visited with Don Pablo, who is the orchestra man at the Hotel Cadillac. . . . Paul Taubman, who used to make a piano talk, owns the Penthouse Restaurant, at 30 West 59th Street, while Remo Pisani, a television actor, has been in all sorts of Teeveey shows. He married one of the famous Demarco sisters and they recently had a little girl. Congrats to both.

### **253rd INFANTRY**

#### **HEADQUARTERS COMPANY — 1st BATTALION**

Jim Gaynor, who lives at 50 Davies Avenue, Dumont, N. J. and who is in the insurance business in lower New York, plans to stop by and look up some of his buddies at the New Yorker. . . . Norman Kaphan, 28 Marine Avenue, Brooklyn, who was radio chief with the outfit, is also planning to attend. . . . Ralph J. Smith, who served with the Med. Det., 1st Bn., lives way out in Portland, Oregon. Says he's delighted to be a member of the Association and to read "*Blood and Fire*", names and places bring back lots of memories. His only regret is that he can't be with us in New York. Well, there may come a day. . . . Col. M. O. Edwards, former CO, is Deputy Cmdr., Korean Civil Assistance Command. Sorry he won't be with us.

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## SERVICE COMPANY

Wally Fischer, now an insurance man, has offices at 1005 Grand Avenue, Kansas City, Mo. He was regimental supply sergeant and must have a large list of acquaintances. Hope to see him at the reunion. We're pretty sure of greeting Ward F. Siegrist, who was also in Sv. Co. but who later transferred to Co. B and then was "shipped out" of the 63rd to join the 28th in France. Ward still likes his 63rd affiliations and will ride over to New York from 62 Delmar Avenue, Glen Rock, N. J. for the occasion. He'll have been in a new home only a few weeks too. He formerly lived in Yonkers, N. Y. . . . Abe Green, former medic, is now with his father who is a funeral director, at 927 Grand Street, Bridgeport, Conn. . . .

## COMPANY A

This is just to remind Pete Kohler, 58 Mina Avenue, Clifton, N. J., not to let that new son of his let him forget about the reunion in New York. . . . Gill Stevens is anxious to hear from all his former A Co. associates. He's at 16745 Gilchrist, Detroit 35, Mich.

## COMPANY B

Ed Sullivan, of 50 Beecher Avenue, Waterbury, Conn., is quite enthused over the coming reunion. He says there's lots of former members of the 253rd in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York and New Jersey and he's offered to help spread the news. Many thanks Ed. . . . Gabe Illovsky, 2530-30th Road, Astoria, L. I. will surely be at the reunion, he's almost within walking distance.

## COMPANY C

We can only report that Bertil C. Leckstrom, 936 Warren Avenue, Brockton, Mass., is a member of the Association. He wasn't very communicative when he joined up. Hope he'll drop down to the reunion.

## COMPANY D

We're glad we listed the notice of the reunion in the mags of both The American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars. We have had many inquiries through those sources. Hugh C. Dunn, 1212 N. Rutherford, Macon, Missouri, is one of those who saw the announcement in the Legion's publication. He's particularly interested in hearing from any men in his former company and of obtaining addresses, if possible . . . perhaps Al Riesenburger, 1622 Iris Drive, Columbus, Ga., can help Hugh. Al was in D. Co., too, but left the Division to attend OCS at Benning. After making his bar he was assigned to the 25th Division in the South Pacific. He still considers the 63rd "His Division," however. He wants to know the addresses of Bob Upchurch, who came from somewhere in Virginia, and John E. Frefer, who was commissioned overseas. Anyone help this chap out?

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Another D Co. man, Bill Curtin, Box 387, Uncasville, Conn., writes he will try his darndest to get to the reunion. Hope he'll bring others with him . . . last year Warner "Frenchie" Esneault, of Gramercy, Louisiana and Tom Murphy, of Chicago, appointed themselves a committee of two to round up all C Co. men for this year's affair. Wonder how they're doing?

### COMPANY F

The above pair and any others in the 253rd, will have to step some to match William G. "Smitty" Smith, who now lives at 824 E. 254th Street, Euclid, Ohio. "Smitty", first vice-pres of the Association has been working all winter on rounding up chaps from F. Co. His latest letter tells us he expects to have the largest representation from any one company in New York . . . we've heard from several members of the outfit already. Mrs. Beatrice Tripp, wife of Russell Tripp, 55 Ocean Street, New Bedford, Mass., writes her husband is quite a procrastinator when it comes to answering mail. She says he does hope to get to the reunion and adds, "I certainly hope WE can make it." We'll say, amen, to that one . . . "Smitty" says Lonnie L. Roach, Jr., Rt. #1, Chapel Hill, N. C., is doing medical research for the U. of N. C., has 135 acres of land and a six year old girl. . . . Big John Bradley, the very much liked 1st Platoon Sgt. lost his home and all its contents last Christmas while he and the family were away. The good people of Warren and Niles, Ohio, helped the family get started again. Sgt. Bradley's address is Stillwagon Road, Rt. 5, Niles, Ohio.

These lines were on a card "Smitty" received at Christmas from Edmund Cambra, P. O. Box 166, Pepeekeo, Hawaii:

"Aloah, a long time has passed since those days of the Blood and Fire Division but memory of the men who fought to keep Democracy and Freedom in our beloved country shall never be forgotten. I've often wondered what has happened to many of my friends.

Today, as I sit here at home, I can recall memories of those days, of men who welcomed a Hawaiian boy into their outfit and treated him as one of them.

May God bless and watch over those living and dead, who so gallantly gave their lives so that we and our beloved ones can enjoy this Christmas. . . . I wish and pray that some day I'll be able to see all of you again," and to that too, we say a fervent "Amen."

### COMPANY G

Henry Steinhauer, 17 E. 138th Street, Chicago 27, who with five other members of his company attended the Chicago hoe down last year, says all five are planning to be with us in New York come the 23rd, 24th and 25th. Henry says he's going to drive to New York, stopping in Birmingham, Mich., to pick up Clark Atley and wife . . . he sent us a list of additional names too . . . we'll be waiting for ya Henry. . . . Sgt. First Class John Rogalewicz, whose

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permanent home is 411 W. 41st Street, N.Y.C., was due to leave Esslingen, Germany, in April for home. He says he'll be at the reunion and that's grand!

### COMPANY H

This news also comes through the energetic "Smitty." He says, "Hear from the C.O. every once in a while, R. L. St. Clair, 4543 Newton Avenue, N. Minneapolis, Minn. If he can get away from the bank of his long enough we're liable to see him in New York. What's the matter with old "H" Co., anyway, we never hear from any of you guys?" Yeah, whatsamatta?

### COMPANY K

Coupla guys from K Co. wrote briefly. Al Field, 901 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Mass, says he will be in New York during convention time and he's looking forward to a pleasant time. Walter Kruta of 1478 Pint Breeze Place, Far Rockaway, N. Y., will also be there plus many more.

### COMPANY L

Everett Graham, 10154 S. Wood Street, Chicago, is the guy we mentioned in the last edition of B & F who smuggled a diary all through his service career with the 63rd. If you'll remember he mentioned the arrival time of the recruits at Van Dorn (all pause a moment in silence) September 3, 1943. Ev says they all worked around the clock but then received three-day passes, happy three days! Ev will be with us, he says, and will be ready to help in any way possible. Boy, will we be glad to see you, Graham.

### CANNON COMPANY

Everything has been going along rippingly until now. We had a sharp note from Ralph W. Moore, 741 California Terrace, Chicago 14, to the effect that his company wasn't even mentioned in the post-convention edition of B & F. Ralph, by the way, worked mighty hard at the convention table. We've already apologized to him personally, but just so's the company gets in this time, we again say, we didn't overlook Cannon Co. a-purpose.

### ANTI-TANK COMPANY

At least there'll be one man at the reunion from this outfit. Richard W. Joyce, 97 Hilton Avenue, Maplewood, N. J. should find no difficulty in making it to Manhattan come July 23. He says he's looking forward to the reunion and we hope he'll have many others to join him.

## 254th INFANTRY

### HEADQUARTERS COMPANY — 1st BATTALION

A real old timer in the Division was the then T/Sgt. John DiVeglia, who joined the outfit at Blanding and continued with us until de-activation. He's



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now Captain John DiVeglia, Hq. Co. C, 101st Engr. Combat Bn., Massachusetts National Guard, State Armory, Lynn, Mass. He's very anxious to attend the reunion and we hope he'll make it.

Col. Stanley R. Putnam, who led the 254th from September to December, 1943 (Yikes, it's ten years ago!) transferred to the Retired Reserve last October and is living at 133 Wall Street, Schenectady, N. Y. He says he hopes to be with us in New York this time. Hope so too.

### SERVICE COMPANY

Woodrow W. Ely, who was with us during our ups and downs, lives at 205 Grandview Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa. He is with Gulf Oil Corp.

### MEDICAL DETACHMENT

From Gerard Blackburn, 3111 Home Avenue, Marion, Ind., we received a clipping from the Indianapolis Star headlined: "Army Captain Adopts Himself a Family of Youngsters for Thanksgiving Day Dinner."

The story tells of the generosity of Capt. Harry Tennant, 38-year-old commander of the 5,027 Enlisted Detachment at Fort Benjamin Harrison. Capt. Tennant "has no family with whom to share his blessings at Christmas so he adopted a family for the day," the article reads.

"His youngsters were a dozen school-age children from under-privileged families, provided through the cooperation of the Salvation Army. They came from all sections of the city, they represented many creeds and colors," the article continued.

Gerard Blackburn calls attention to the fact that Captain Tennant was M/Sgt Tennant attached to the 254th Med. Det. and was later transferred to Co. K. We certainly hope the Captain will be able to make it to the reunion.

Gil Robbins, 40 Arlington Place, Middletown, N. Y., is planning to be with us at the New Yorker and is passing the word along to some of his friends. Alvah M. Kenah, 209 Midland Avenue, East Orange, N. J., he was a master job in the Det, is making plans also, hope to see all of you guys.

### COMPANY A

Albert G. DeBliss, 3 James Street, Baltimore, Md. sent us a list of former members of his company and expressed the hope he'll see them and many more at the reunion. Here they are: Miles Fliegger, Box 175, Mt. Pleasant, Pa.; John E. Rand, 310 N. Vine Street, New Castle, Pa.; Steve Miller, Greenlawn Avenue, Brookside Park, Waner, Ohio; Bernard Drowin, 9 Campbell Street, Waterville, Maine. Well, Al, we sent 'em all notices and we hope they'll be there.

### COMPANY C

Bob Carr, who recently changed his address to 508 West Taylor, Kokomo, Ind., (that name always intrigued me) says he's now married and district sales manager for Chatfield Paper Corp., takes in all central Indiana too. He wants

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some of "Those Siegfried Busters," to write him. . . . Howard Landergott, 1661 S. 69th Street, West Allis 14, Wis., is winding up the old bus to head for New York and he wants company. . . . Carl Scharrer, Sr., 3706 Elmora Avenue, Baltimore 13, Md. was snuffing up a bowl of soup in a local restaurant when he struck up a conversation with none other than Eddie Miller, who used to drive Father Guinan on his errands of mercy. Eddie, who'll talk to anybody, struck up a conversation with Carl and they found out they both served in the Blood and Fire Division. Carl allowed as how he sure wants to be at the reunion, Eddie says he'll be there too.

### COMPANY D

Last time we mentioned Jack Shumate, he was a forest ranger out in Arizona. He's still in the same business but he's at Luna Ranger Station, Luna, New Mexico. He says if any of you fellows head west on Highway 66, stop at the office of the Coconino National Forest in Flagstaff and he may be around the vicinity. Boy, that chap must have plenty of time to think! Jack, by the way, says the Elk season gets under way in October, then the deer season. Jack had a tussel with a mountain lion last fall and, along with some other hunters, tried to lasso the critter out of a tree but the varmint hung itself.

Jack says Jim Dines, who was in D Co., is coaching and teaching at the high school in Hurley, N. M., Hugo Boetcher lived in Frohna, Mo., and Maurice Etcheson writes occasionally from Vandalia, Ill. Many thanks for the news, Jack and maybe, just maybe, we'll see you sometime. In this din around New York we often long for the silent places.

### COMPANY E

Frank J. Donovan, 63 Oak Street, East Hartford, Conn. sends us some interesting shorts about former company personnel. Sgt. Bob Boyer, says Frank, is showing how it should be done at General Electric in Pittsfield, Mass. . . . Dick Gavin, from company Hq., has entered a monastery in the mid-west. . . . It's now Maj. Fritz Kroesen, Brw. Corps. APO 47, C/o PM, San Francisco, Calif. . . . Dan Sheehan and the little Sheehans are adding class to Natick, Mass.

### COMPANY F

From the representatives of Co. F, silence, save for Sam Nyer, who is associated with the Nyer Theatre Co., 44 E. Summer Street, Bangor, Maine. Sam says he'll be at the reunion for sure.

### COMPANY G

Just Ollie A. Mellem, 5429 Kingston, Dearborn, Mich., is the only one to uphold the honor of G Co. and get it into B & F. Ollie says he'd like to hear from some of his buddies, so, if anyone knows anyone from G, pass this along.

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## COMPANY I

We received quite a fill in from Andy Oreschak, who, until late last year was living in Akron, Ohio. Now Andy lives at 2730½ Missouri Avenue, South Gate, Calif. He's with the Firestone Tire and Rubber Co. (Just imagine all the free advertising we give in this booklet.) Andy says: "Around these parts the 63rd Infantry Division insignia is prominent. Yesterday I took a stroll through the Long Beach area and the 63rd Division ranked second only to the Navy 'patrolling the avenue.'"

Last September Andy took sort of a grand tour. He visited Vincent McFarland, in Huron, S. Dakota, Harold K. Pierce of Seattle, and stayed some time with Tom Adams and family at Cornwallis, Oregon.

Another junket prior to his hitting the wagon tracks for the Coast led him to New York City, where he visited Abe Kanig.

Shaking the dust of Gotham from his feet he headed South and had himself a time, sure enuf. He says there was a giant reunion in Laurens, South Carolina at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Seab E. A. Reeves. A show of hands at this affair disclosed the following men from Item Co., according to Andy: Charles H. Jenkins, of Columbus, Ga., and J. Clement Coss (company cmdr.), of Columbia, S. C. Also on hand, was Gordon Gatlin, of Laurens, formerly with Mike Co., 254th. After that bingh, Andy got himself to Kentucky where he rested with Jack B. Otto, of Fort Thomas. Evidently Thanksgiving Day didn't prove all of that for Andy, because he seems a bit hazy about what went on during the morning hours. Yes, Andy, this does improve on Bashio Specio's communique, but maybe Bashio'll come through with more. . . . Here's a chap Andy missed on his northwest tour, Harold K. Pierce, 8226 Sunnyside Avenue, Seattle 3, Wash. Well, it's a new address, maybe Harry wasn't there when the Oreschak special went through.

## MEDICAL DETACHMENT — 3rd BATTALION

Harry Evans, 147 North Main Street, Milltown, N. J., says he'll try to make the reunion. Living in Milltown he can almost fall outa bed and into the New Yorker with no trouble at all. I'm surprised at that word "try", Harry.

## COMPANY H

Looks like some of the boys, and I hope I'm one of them, will be in for some interesting bull sessions at the reunion. Alex DiPesa, who has seen some of the new Germany, and who lives at 76 Lodge Street, Milton 86, Mass., says he'll be glad to discuss his impressions of the "new Germany" at the reunion. . . . Gerson Felder, 1 Marshall Street, Irvington, N. J., says he'll be with us representing "H" too.

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### COMPANY K

Had a long and informative letter from John E. House, who reviews his activities with the 63rd, noting that he had been transferred to the 36th (who wasn't) in June 1945. However, from there John says he went to the 11th Armored until he came home in February 1946. Says he was in charge of the officer's mess at Stuttgart and time wasn't too dull there. He's at his home now, 903 Cayuga Street, Rome, N. Y., and is a member of the VFW, which, he says, has a home like one of those German castles. Some rich chap owned it once and all the paintings, etc., fell to the VFW. John says he's been an officer twice in the post. . . . John would like his former comrades to know he visited the home of Pvt. Richard Butler, of Carthage, N. Y., an aid man with Co. K, who gave aid to Lt. Clyde Vaughn, of Stevensville, Va., when he was hit and eventually died. He was the first officer of K Co. to give his life, according to John. He has also visited the grave of S/Sgt. Tony Grieco, buried in Rome. He was an only son. John certainly has made many of his days Memorial Day. He has not forgotten. . . . Another K Co. man, Lawrence B. Walters, 73 Lake Street, Angola, N. Y., expects to be with us when we hoist our glasses.

### COMPANY M

Only one representative is "present or accounted for." John D. Erhardt, now an associate with the law firm of Becker, Loeb and Becker, writes from 1307-10 American Bldg., Cincinnati, Ohio. We hope to see him in New York.

Lt. Col. Arch Hamblen, Jr., a captain in the 254th, was the exec of the 160th Inf. of the 40th Div. in Korea. He should be in the States by now.

## 255th INFANTRY

### HEADQUARTERS — 1st BATTALION

Col. Paul E. Tombaugh, 3261 Arcadia Place, N. W., Washington, D. C. was at the last reunion in New York in 1950 and hopes to make it to the same spot this year. He's practicing law in the District.

Another former 255th commander, Col. James E. Hatcher, who now lives at Rt. 2, Ijamsville, Md., writes that he has been writing his observations while in action with the 254th and 255th Inf. regts. He has offered it to B & F for condensed publication. Hope our successor to the job of editing this affair will take advantage of the offer and print Col. Hatcher's reminiscences. They should make interesting reading.

From London comes a brief note from Lt. Col. Robert C. Forbes, formerly of the 1st Bn., 255th. Col. Forbes is U. S. Liaison officer at the British Staff College, Camberley, England. Says he sees a Blood and Fire patch now and then but not as many as he'd like to see. Wishes us to give his best regards to the gang.

## B L O O D   α n d   F I R E

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This name has a habit of popping up in the accounts of at least three 63rd units. Lt. Col. Charles Sajben, Jr., formerly S-2, 255th. He also was in the 1st Bn., 254th and Asst. A. C. of G-2, Div. Hq. Now he's in command of the MISO units in New Jersey and lives at 345 Avenel Street, Avenel, N. J. Says that after the war he traveled 8,000 miles visiting former buddies. Says he derived untold pleasure out of seeing them, shaking hands and hearing the sound of their voices. That's comradeship for you . . . we hope he makes it a grand slam by attending the reunion and it's quite certain he will be there. . . . Lt. Col. Allen Burdett, a captain in the 255th, is the G-2 in the 7th Div. in Korea. Lt. Von Rembow, a former enlisted man in Lt. Col. Burdett's company, is now a member of the U. S. Army postal service in Pusan. He and the Colonel had a get together recently.

Daniel Brust, 408 E. 18th Street, Brooklyn, N. Y., is a chap who has been looking forward to being at the forthcoming reunion. He was with Hq. and Hq. Co., and he's anxious to hear from his former buddies. He lost several addresses of men in his old company, so we hope the boys will cooperate.

Paul Gettings, 1442 Dorr Street, Toledo, Ohio, is planning on being with us come July 23, 24 and 25. He was with the 1st Bn.

### COMPANY A

Gerald Millsaps, 503 Woodmont Avenue, Huntsville, Ala., is going to be disappointed I know, when he reads this edition of B & F because for some reason he expected to see a history of the 255th in print. Unfortunately, save for Col. Hatcher's observations which he is compiling, of the 255th in action, we know of no "history" of the regiment in existence. If there is one, it's quite probable B & F editors will consider using it in condensed form.

John Stoll, 26 Horatio Street, New York City, will have no trouble making the reunion from where he lives.

### COMPANY B

Remus Miserendino, 300 Hayward Avenue, Mount Vernon, N. Y., who is serving on the Reunion Committee, says he saw several ex-255 Inf. men and has heard from others. Says he had a letter not long ago from Calvin Mason, now stationed at Ft. Cambell, Ky.

He says he called on the former CO, Louis Viehl, who lives in Croton Falls and is a member of the N. Y. State Police.

Remus sent along several names and addresses including Bill Lawson, 41 Gould Street, Stoneham, Mass., Armand Rossetti, 32 Barret Street, Burlington, Vt. and Frank Lema, 958 4th Street, Santa Monica, Calif.

Israel Taffet, of Brooklyn, is looking forward to the big clambake at New York. We hope that Brooklyn, by the time the reunion arrives, will not have seceded from New York City over the Giants-Dodgers series.

# BLOOD and FIRE

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## COMPANY F

A terse note from Donald E. Charles, 709 S. Skinker Blvd., St. Louis, Mo., says he hasn't seen any of the "troops" in several years. If he can make it to New York he is sure to see many of his former comrades from F Co. He's with the American Barge Line Co., Jeffersonville, Ind.

## COMPANY H

Bob Ferguson, Jr., of 204 Altondale Avenue, Charlotte, N. C., is with the Dixie Tag & Envelope Co., of Charlotte. . . . Grant Simmonds, Jr., is living at 6002 Hawthorne Street, Cheverly, Md. . . . Don Waterous, our reunion chairman, was in H Co. too, remember?

## COMPANY I

George Moses, a member of our Executive Council, and one of our hard workers, will be with us in New York for the reunion. He has been a big help to the Association during the past year.

## COMPANY K

From K Co. Vurnal Charles, 445 Main Street, East Hartford, Conn., says he's looking forward to attending the New York gathering. Says he's been prevented from making the others so he feels this will be a particular treat. . . . Oscar Nelson, executive vice-president of the United Carbon Co., of Charleston, W. Va., the home of George Moses, wishes to be remembered to all his old friends in K Co. He recommends George's Restaurant, The Lobby, at 1902 Washington Street, East.

## COMPANY M

The man who did our cover for this edition is well known to the men of his company and the regiment at large. He did some fine paintings during the orientation program at Van Dorn and is now assisting us on the reunion committee. We refer to Frank Frollo, now in the advertising business in New York City.

## CANNON COMPANY

Although there are a few of the men of this outfit around, we have only heard from John J. O'Brien, 30-75 34th Street, Long Island City, N. Y. He plans to be with us. Cecil Carmichael, who used to do some scribbling for the regiment while at Van Dorn, is now getting paid for it. He's with Benton & Bowles, the big NYC advertising firm.

That's all for the 255th. Sorry it can't be more but we can only tell you about the fellows we hear from or hear about. If you want your unit news to be comprehensive you have got to send us the information.

# BLOOD and FIRE

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## RED LEGS

### DIVISION ARTILLERY

Maj. Gen. Edward J. McGaw, he was upped in grade recently, is now commanding the Korean Communications Zone, APO 234 C/o Postmaster, San Francisco. "Blood and Fire" editors received a letter from the General recently, in which he says he's inherited a big job. His command runs the railroad, ports, hospitals, depots, all non-tactical communications, oil pipe lines, does all construction work and provides all higher echelon maintenance and repair for all types of equipment.

General McGaw sent along considerable information on former members of the 63rd still in service. Says he just missed Lt. Col. Chester Anderson, former S-3 63rd Div. Arty. In Korea he was assigned to the IX Corps artillery. Also noted that Lt. Col. Clarence F. Ax, former liaison officer, 862nd F. A. Bn., is doing G-3 work for Hq. AFFE, Japan. M/Sgt. James D. Goodsen, ex-1st Sgt., C Btry, 863rd F. A. Bn., is the chief clerk in the Inspector General's office in Gen. McGaw's headquarters but will be reassigned shortly in the States.

We certainly thank the General for his interest in the old outfit and for keeping us posted on the movement of so many of our former comrades in arms who are still in service. The General listed several others also and we have included them in news of their former regiments.

## 861st F. A. BATTALION

### HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

This may be old news to many but to some at least, it will be new. It's the story in brief of the heroism of a former officer of the 861st, Maj. John Fralish. The story appeared in "The Armed Forces Journal" last year under the title "They Fought to Save Their Guns." It had to do with the bloody retreat of the 2nd Div. back in November 30th, 1950 in Korea.

It is rare that a 155 outfit is left behind to do rear guard action but such was the case with Fralish's 503rd F. A. Bn. of which he was S-3. When the 503rd was ready to pull back the road ahead was a sea of mud. High ridges on either side were crawling with Chinese Reds and Baker Btry. in the lead, was ambushed with the loss of all equipment and personnel save 22 men. The road block caused by this tragedy halted the entire column.

It was in the midst of this chaos that Fralish took command and by his ingenuity managed to bring back remnants of the 503rd plus three other artillery groups and an ack-ack team.

Extreme endurance is not common in all men but Fralish had it plus the guts to plan and help execute an orderly withdrawal. Instilling courage in the men and mustering all available weapons, he was soon giving the Reds a taste of their own medicine. It was a horrible nightmare but those who managed to

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survive owe their lives to Major Fralish. His mates in the 861st want him to know they consider him the living spirit of the heroic Robinson.

Present at last year's reunion and looking forward to the forthcoming shindig were Bob Greenwood, Ward Harig, Rudy Holan, "Mac" MacKenna, Gordon Boyd, Charley Wilkerson, Art Lee and Ed Musial.

Art Lee does a wonderful job keeping the boys informed on doings of the Artillery with his "News Letter." He also aides the Association by urging his pals to attend the reunions. . . . Close behind is Ed Musial, who has been of great assistance to the national president this year. We look forward to seeing many of these men in New York.

Carl Buck, 7 Ridge Street, New Haven, Conn., is seeking information on the whereabouts of Robert McCormick, who was in the Personnel Section, 861st. Anyone having the word, pass it on to Carl who'll be at the reunion. . . . Ed Gill, Jr., Genese, Penn., wishes to say hello to all men in the wire section. . . . Rudy Holan, 1144 W. 17th Street, Chicago, says hello too.

Harold A. Harmon, 3233 St. Vincent Street, Philadelphia, writes his appreciation for news of his former buddies and of the Association.

Harold is now with the "Bulletin", the newspaper in Philly which "nearly everybody" reads. He is 40 per cent disabled having gotten into the line of sights of a Jerry machine gunner while acting as an FO. Says he didn't get to the Chicago "Hub-bub" but he wants to make New York, hope he does. . . . Charles W. Herrick is in the lumber business at Bernardston, Mass. . . . Walt McGinley, 321 Sherwood Road, Union, N. J., will be at the reunion, as will Allen S. Kilmer, 4201 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D. C. Frank A. Miller, West Point Pleasant, N. J., is also planning.

### SERVICE BATTERY

Maj. David H. "Pop" Riel, is back in civilization again and is parked at the National Guard Armory, Absecon Boulevard and New York Avenue, Atlantic City, N. J., which shouldn't be too hard to take. He's been quite helpful to this office in sending information on former Hot Shots. We hope to see him this month.

### BATTERY A

When Lyle Henderson, of Gillespie, Ill. came to Chi last year, he was disguised behind quite a bit of tapestry. Lyle grew quite an impressive beard for a celebration they were having in his home town.

Somehow or another, a chap whom Lyle had befriended in Germany and who had migrated to the U. S. after the war, got wind of Lyle's presence in Chi and met him at the hotel. He embraced Lyle warmly and they had a regular old hoe down.

The chap, John Vasich, was a prisoner of the Germans when Btry. A was near Ridhause. Henderson, in advance of his outfit, saw what he thought was



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a German soldier legging it across the fields. Lyle threw up his rifle and shouted "Halt!" The "German soldier" turned out to be Vasich, a Yugoslav, who had been captured by the Krauts.

After his "capture" Vasich refused to leave Henderson and followed him on his transfers cooking for the Americans. When Lyle returned to this country the two corresponded until 1950 when Vasich came to this country. Henderson secured employment for the man through a friend in Chi. When Vasich read of the 63rd reunion at the La Salle he was there bright and early for the reunion. Hope Lyle makes it to New York but he'll be without the beard, I reckon.

Bill Egan, 445 Savin Avenue, West Haven, Conn. is all primed for the reunion. He's been very helpful. Henry E. McNally, 523 Buchanan Street, NW, Washington, D. C. is coming up also.

### BATTERY B

Leon Gillett and John Gainer and their respective wives, were at Chi last year. John is with Ford in Detroit and wants a reunion there. Well, you can always organize a Chapter, John, and promote the thing. Bernard Brooks gave up cooking when he left the army. He's now in the printing business and offered his services to the Association which made us feel good.

## 862nd F. A. BATTALION

### HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

John D. Holm, of 757 S. 1st Avenue, Springville, Utah, is an ardent fan for the Association but, inasmuch as he lives out in Utah, he doesn't get much chance to get to a reunion. He asks when we plan to hold one in the West. Well, it seems most of the personnel came from the northwest, mid-west, some from the south and some from the west. We must hold these reunions in centers where our personnel is concentrated. Anyway, why don't some of you guys in Hq. Btry. write to John.

### BATTERY A

We heard from Ed C. Bragg, 5932 Graywood Avenue, Bellflower, Calif., and John P. McGarr, Jr., Route 1, Plainview, Texas. Both a long, long way from New York. . . . Last year at Chi, George Hall, 1309 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Ill., stepped to the refreshment stand at the hotel and there met Ben Rynkus and Cyril Joyce. All three were at Ft. Sill together back in Van Dorn days.

### BATTERY B

Jean F. Thierry, Wenona, Ill., is a "Gas Jockey" specializing in fixing truck tires. He manages to take time out for the reunions. He and the missus have made 'em all and we look forward to seeing them in New York.

# BLOOD and FIRE

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## BATTERY C

M/Sgt. James D. Goodsen, former top kick, is the chief clerk in the Inspector General's office of Gen. McGaw's headquarters in Korea.

## 863rd F. A. BATTALION

### HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

Edward F. Winter, 1000 13th Street, N., W. Cedar Rapids, Iowa and Martin P. O'Brien, RFD 1, Oldewood Drive, Falls Church, Va., write to say howdy. Bill Keene, now lives at 1014 Getz Avenue, Schenectady 3, N. Y. Hope he'll make the reunion.

## BATTERY C

Burdett Heun, RFD 1, Oswego, Ill., is another of the nomads who returned to the scene of his incarceration. He and his wife visited the site of Van Dorn. Says there were plenty of foundations. Saw the foundation of his old orderly room, and the mess hall, which brought back memories of KP and then took one of those roads off the main highway over which we trudged on many a hike. Says the road is so bad now even troops would have a hard time making it. Hope Burdett can make it to New York. The roads are much smoother and no packs to jackass either.

## 718th F. A. BATTALION

### HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

Col. Frederick T. Unger, former CO, now commands the I Corps Artillery. . . . Maj. Shaima, former lieutenant in Hq. Btry., is the artillery advisor to the 8th Div. of the Korean army. . . . Lt. Col. M. K. Schiffman, is the exec to G-2, Hq. 8th Army. . . . Cyril Joyce, member of the Executive Council, from Hasbrouck Heights, N. J. passes on some information which should be of interest. Cyril says, Bill Wood from Washington State is the vice-president of a bank in Montesaro. . . . Frank R. Heath, Jr., Auburn, Mass., is also a bank exec and a finance officer in the Reserve, to boot. . . . Herk Hinkel, New York City, is a real estate broker.

## BATTERY A

Horace A. Somes is the only member of this group to report. He lives at New Lisbon, N. J. and says he missed going to Chicago. New York being nearer, he hope to make it to the big town, July 23, 24 and 25.

## BATTERY C

A sad tale is unfolded by Peter Odorfer, 1616 McCully Road, Pittsburgh, Pa. Pete says he never knew there was a Division Association until he received

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a notice from us. He says he's lost all contact with former buddies too. Pete goes on to say, with a note of optimism, that New York being his home state, he has hopes of getting to the reunion. We hope so too, Pete.

From the Battery commander, Bob Dondaville, who now lives at 5407 Tampa Avenue, Tarzan, Calif. (only in California could they coin a name like that, Tarzan), comes a very flattering letter. He allows as how he used to enjoy B & F while in the Division and feels it will be equally good now. Thanks, Bob. He runs a restaurant, by the way.

This wraps it up for this edition of B & F, fellows. We've used all the material sent us and we thank each of you who wrote for taking the trouble to do so. Remember, your editor or editors can not do any kind of job at all unless you supply the information about yourselves and your comrades.

### WITH THE CHAPTERS

It's time to say a few well deserved words about our chapters in Philadelphia, Chicago, Cleveland and Boston.

Frank Esslinger, Irv Schlocker, Larry Sullivan and a host of others gave us a great reunion in Philly in 1952 and they're still doing a great job of helping keep interest alive in the 63rd.

The same holds true for Jerry Rosenberg, Ed Musial, Tom Liszka, Wilbur Davidson and the Chicago gang. They saved the Association last year and they're still going strong.

Up Boston way Ed Cronin, our former president and Bob Capasso, who worked hard to compile the new By-Laws, have organized a Bay State chapter. Out in Cleveland Bill "Smitty" Smith, has been fighting hard to keep the boys together. All these fellows deserve the thanks and cooperation of former 63rders in their respective sections. We hope sincerely for their continued success.

### COVER BY FROLLO

We are fortunate in having in our Association many men who made outstanding successes as artists either in the commercial field or in comics.

This editon's cover was executed by Frank Frollo, whom many members of the 255th Infantry will remember for the splendid mural "Combat Soldier", which he drew on the entrance wall to CT Blue's Rec Hall-at Van Dorn. At that time Frank was a T/5 in M Co.

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### In Memoriam

In loving memory of the 980 men of the 63rd Infantry Division who laid down their lives on the battlefields of Europe and in memory of all former members of the Division who have since passed away, these lines are dedicated.

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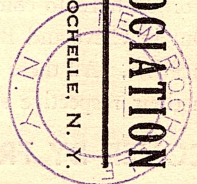
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