



## *Blood and fire*

To bleed and burn  
in expiation of their crimes against humanity  
was promised to, and planned for our enemies  
by the United Nations  
at Casablanca  
in 1943.

Born that year,  
the

### *63d Infantry Division*

wears the symbol of that promise,  
is engaged in its sure  
and joyous execution.

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Your Board of Governors meets at least once each quarter to consider ways to further the objectives of the Association in enhancing the programs vital to meeting the mobilization readiness of the Army Reserve: and, to conduct such other business that may come to the attention of the board.



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# Committee For The National Interest

There is certainly no paucity of matter of great concern for consideration by our Committee for the National Interest. To enumerate all that demands attention would require a report far greater than can be published in our annual book, therefore this report will be limited to the most critical matters.

To start with let us look at today's world wide situation:

1. Ethnic conflicts world -wide have been and continue to be running rampant. The United States Government (at least Washington thinks it has) been called upon to resolve these conflicts, but does not have either the expertise or political will to accomplish the task.
2. Relationships among the major powers are not harmonious. Both overt and covert trading in war-making materials exists out of purely self serving motives, and thus possibly placing in jeopardy other nations.
3. If trade disputes among major economic powers are not resolved in accordance with a sense of common interest, they will create international disorder and animosity.
4. There has already been produced an isolationist backlash among the American people. The aborted efforts in humanitarian intervention in Somalia, Bosnia, Rwanda, and Haiti have resulted in expenditure of scarce funds and needless loss of American lives. The American people have shown that they will not accept a risk of major sacrifice unless convinced that our national interest is at stake.

These four conditions have contributed to the cause of warfare ever since Hannibal crossed the Pyrenees with his herd of elephants. In the 1930s and the first two years of the 40s world ethnic conflicts (Germany, Italy, China, et al); benign relations among major powers; major national and international economics; and in the United States and other countries, isolationism and a weak military (a sure sign of weakness and indifference) was the formula for the start-up of World War II.

Did the end of the Cold War give us reason to believe that we need no longer to be concerned about our national defense and security? Lets take a look:

1. In the early 1980s we were able to quickly reverse the disaster of a weakening and ineffective military, and by 1990 we had the best trained, best equipped, and highest quality personnel in the military history of any nation. Witness Desert Storm!



# Annual Meeting 1994

## Guest Speaker

### Yvonne S. Files



awarded a Certificate of Merit, signed by General Dwight Eisenhower from SHAEF.

In addition she has received a number of awards and citations from military societies including the following:

Honorary Membership in the Royal Air Force Escaping and Evading Society, Citation of Remembrance USAF Escaping and Evading Society, Citation of Honor by the Order of Daedalians, Patrick Henry Medallion by the Military Order of World Wars.

In 1955 she was honored by Ralph Edwards on his "This Is Your Life" television show. Several of the additional guests on the show were Allied airmen she had hidden in her home in Antwerp during the German occupation.

She came to the United States in 1952 and obtained U.S. Citizenship. In 1970 she married LTC Roger B. Files, USAF. After his retirement in 1973, they lived in Los Angeles atop the Santa Monica mountains and have now moved to Air Force Village West in Riverside. COL Files was also our guest. Mrs. Files has written a book, The Quest For Freedom-Belgian Resistance in WWII.

The 63d Infantry Division Association, USAR, was honored to have as our speaker for our 1994 Annual Meeting, Mrs. Yvonne S. Files. Mrs. Files was born in Antwerp, Belgium as Yvonne de Ridder and was active in the Belgian Resistance during WWII from 1941 to 1944. Her activities included espionage, sabotage and the sheltering of Allied airmen in her home in Antwerp.

She was betrayed and was arrested by the German SS in July 1944. She was held in solitary confinement and was subjected to daily interrogations and beatings. She was condemned to death by hanging but was liberated just 10 days before the execution date.

Mrs. Files has been awarded a number of decorations; six medals from her native Belgium, three from France and King George's Medal from England (For Courage in the Cause of Freedom). This is the highest medal England can award to a civilian for wartime service. She was

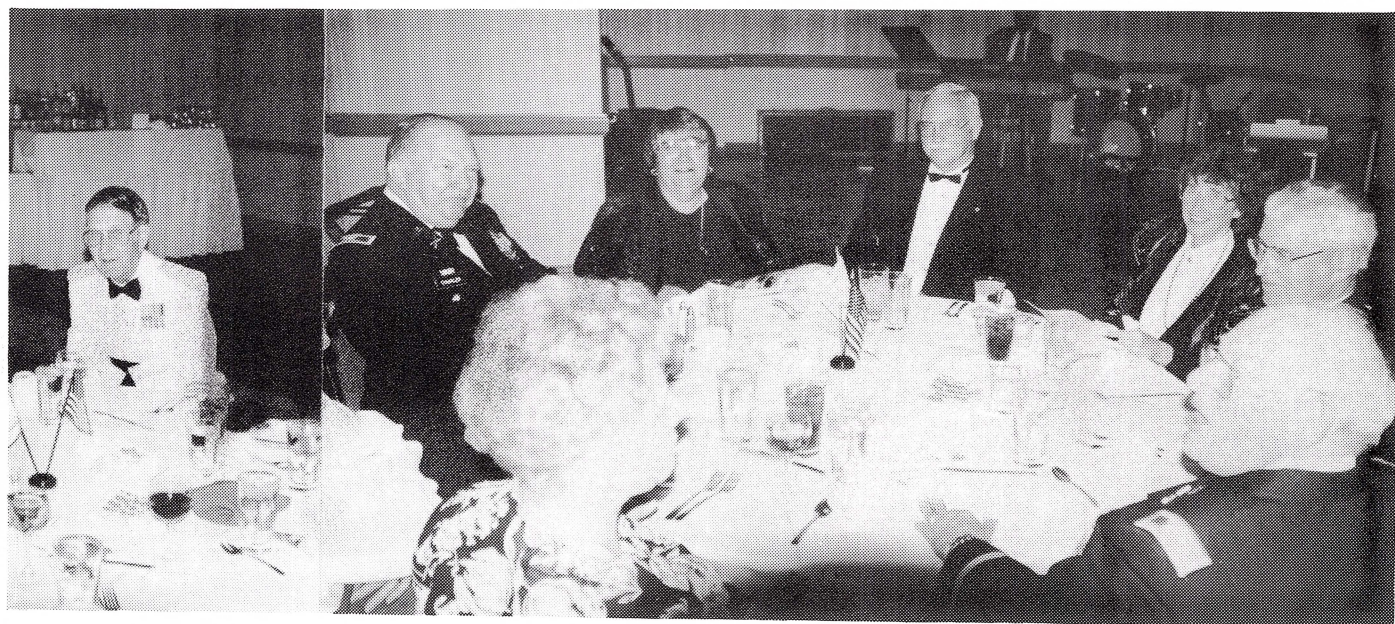




# Annual Meeting 1994





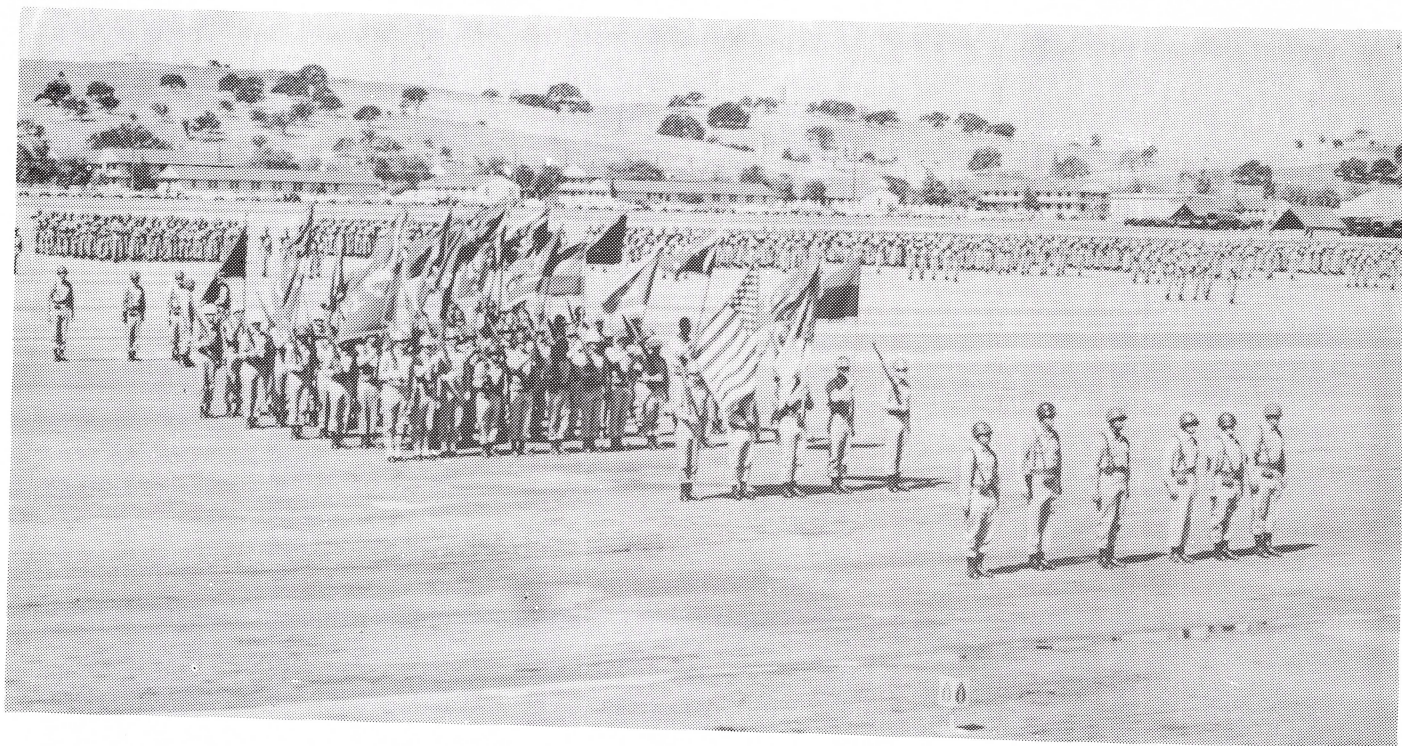




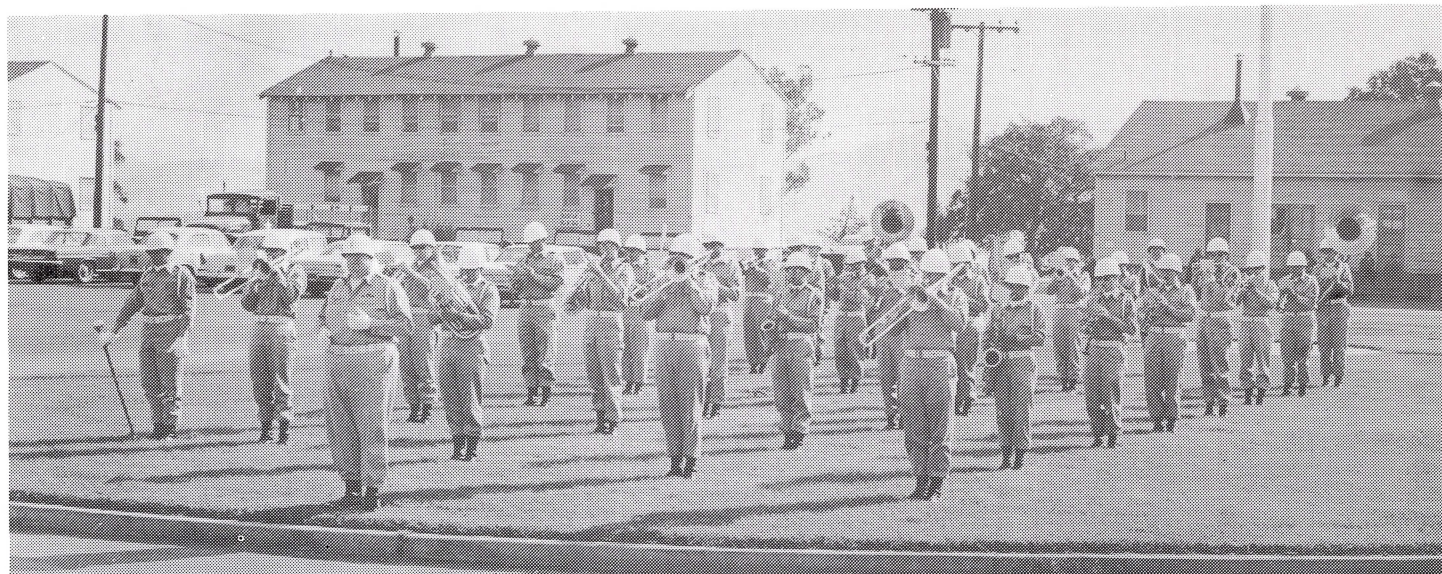




# Remember When. . . . .













# Whooze Nuze. . . .



COL ALFRED MENDONCA, retired, G-3 section, says he **finally** threw in the towel and retired from being a realtor with Prudential the past ten years. In October, Jan and I visited our son in Oldmar, FL. He was recently transferred from Hawaii. We spent six weeks visiting and baby sitting his son while he was away on business trips. Our other son living in Jacksonville, FL chnaged jobs and moved to St. Petersburg so they are now four miles apart. I am enjoying full retirement although busy with church activities.

CSM ROBERT J. BARBER, retired, SGM Support Command. I love retirement. We took a trip by motorhome thru Nevada, Idaho, oregon and down the coast back home. Also spent a little time in Palm Springs.

MG WILLIAM J. HIXSON, retired CG, 63d Infantry Division USAR, sends his best wishes and greetings to members of the Association.

CPT CARL A. GARNETT, II, retired and is settled permanently in Lake Sarda, Northern Italy, since October 1993. My wife Gerlinde is originally from Friedberg, Germany. We have five children, three live in California and two in Colorado. We also have six grandchildren. We travel several times a year, mostly to European countries and plan to return to the United States this coming winter. We also have plans to visit various parts of Africa. We enjoy going to musical events. Europe is the culture center of the world. We especially enjoy Musikanten Stadl prpgrams in Austria and Germany. We extend our best regards to all our friends in the 63d.

COL JAN MENNIG, retired, now a consultant on security problems. He says he is paid to have fun to contribute to training and security programs. I have several out-of-country trips scheduled for this and next year. I'll also get in some fishing. The rain this year will help keep the vineyards happy and ensure a good crop. The hills are really beautiful. The water in Yosemite is beyond

description. Best wishes to all.

RADM BENNETT S. SPARKS, retired, USCGR. In Oct/Nov 94, 30-day trip to Ireland writing a study of Irish Republic Reserve Forces for ROA. Apr/95 appointed by Governor Wilson and approved by the California Senate as a member of the California Veterans Board, which meets monthly. It is an advisory board to the Governor, the Legislature and the director of the Department of Veterans Affairs. State law assigns the Board three major functions; to determine policies for Department operations; to consider and decide appeals by applicants for California veterans benefits; and to participate in setting interest rates for Cal-Vet loans. Jul/Aig 95 attending CIOR in Rome, Italy as a U.S.Delegate with my wife Betty. 1991-1997 Trustee, Reserve Officers Association.

COL MILTON I. BREMER, retired, CO 3d Bn 31st Infantry. Still active on the Board and editing "The Blade". I continue to do volunteer teaching three days a week and enjoy our two grandchildren as often as possible. Our three children gave Sylvia and me a fiftieth anniversary party in August. The family came from around the country and it was great. We are planning a Panama Canal trip later in the year.

LTC DONALD L. WIRTH, retired, CO Co B, 163d Signal Battalion. and retired from Rockwell International. Our current interests are travel, camping and round dancing. We went to Northern California and Oregon last June for dancing and visiting old friends, including Ron Townsend, former CO of Co C, 163d Signal Bn. We attended the National Square Dancing Convention at Portland near the end of June and toured the Columbia River Gorge, Mt. St. Helen, Mt. Rainier, Mt. Hood and the Olympic Peninsula after the convention. Rae Ann and I still dance three nights a week and one or two weekends a month. We sing in the church choir when in town and are catering for the Marriage Encounter weekends. I enjoy participating in the 63d Infantry Division Association Board of Governors meetings. This fall we will travel to the east coast on a four month trip to visit our son Thomas, who enlisted for four years of active duty at Ft. Bragg, and to see the fall colors.

LTC HAROLD F. PELLEGRIN, retired, XO 2d Bde, and our long-time Association Secretary, to whom every member owes a tremendous thanks, is recovering from major heart surgery and we have hopes that it will be rapid enough to see him at our Annual Meeting. He literally has kept our administration and finances, as



get "green flashes" quite often. Last December we were able to get by and see Howard and Jenny in Banning and last weekend got a good medical report from the Eighth Coast Guard Family that was vacationing at Barbers Point and the Hale Koa from Scott AFB. Last month, we spent a week in Tahoe looking at property and visited some old friends of ours from Ft. Ord basic training days. The side trip to Presidio of San Francisco was interesting with the new commissary. The pre-school at Barbers Point where Judy teaches has about another year of life with the Navy although with each of the base closures and drawdowns there is a long list of caveats. I am deeply involved in V-E Day ceremony on May 8 and am constrained from traveling in August due to my publicity duties with the V-J Day ceremonies on September 1, 2 and 3. We are making plans in Hawaii for a visit from the White House and a number of international and national leaders. We expect about 800 media. All veterans from around the world are invited to the activities and can march in our parade on Saturday, September 2 down Waikiki. Hope to get off the island before our visit to Southern California in December.

LTC DURWOOD D. HICKS, retired, Adjutant General. Another year in "paradise" Leisure World, Laguna Hills, CA. I am Captain of the American Legion Color Guard participating in all local military holiday services. Rifleman in Legion of Honor Unit of El Bokal Shrine Temple, marching in parades all over Southern California, active volunteer in Orange County Republican political programs, after extensive ancestral research, I was certified and accepted by The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution ( SAR ). Records show my great-great grandfather Joseph DeGroat, was a soldier (Pvt) in the Albany, New York Militia, Continental Army. My busy wife June, was installed as President of the Republican Club of Leisure World for 1995 (some 800 members) making it one of the largest Republican Clubs in California. She wields a large gavel. Meanwhile, we are still dancing and golfing. I was saddened to hear of the passing of Earle Frady. Our friendship dates back to the 13th Armored Division where we both were Signal Officers in the Signal Company.

LTC KENNETH R. LINDLEY, retired, DivARTY S-3 Section. Last December, we moved to Fallbrook in Northern San Diego County. We are enjoying the rural atmosphere. We have 20 avocado trees, 7 lime trees, and a few other trees plus a small garden to keep us active. Still find time for golf, travel and sundry other endeavors.

MAJ HAMILTON C. SMYTH, retired. Retired from Wm S. Hart School District as Superintendent for over 16 years and with a total of 35 years service in Public Education. In March of 1994 I was elected to a four year term on the City Council for the City of Santa Clarita.

LTC IRVING C. MYERS, retired, G-5, Volunteer at El Toro Navy/Marine Relief Society. Sept/Oct 1994 we spent 23 days touring Turkey--great experience/fascinating country/ for centuries the crossroads of East and West/ North and South; historical site of a dozen different civilizations back to thousands of years BC. Turkey is southern-eastern anchor of NATO. In May 1995 we are going on a three week tour of China, 10 days by ship, the rest on land. Then in August to spend 1 week in Santa Maria at Elderhostel studying plays and drama. Life in Laguna Hills Leisure World is not dull--something happening all the time--golf, cards, photography class. Lucille volunteers at the library; Irv doing NMCRS work with Leisure World Knitters; both of us volunteering at El Toro Thrift Shop.

LTC STANLEY T. HOVERSTEN, retired, Ass't G-3. Attended CIOR in Belgium last year and plan to attend the conference in Italy this year.

CPT ART ESTERBROOK, retired, S-3, 163d Sig Bn. Spent nine days during the winter at Mammoth with my adopted son Daniel, who is a double amputee, but is an excellent skier. Dan lost an arm and leg as a result of a motorcycle accident. Since his accident, he has rebuilt a 1950 Chevy pick-up truck and is now starting to rebuild a 1969 Rambler Station Wagon. We also got a new Blazer with 4-wheel drive for next ski season.

SGM HOWARD B. EIGHMY, retired, HHC 3/27 Inf. Retirement a time of leisure--not so. I have found I keep just as busy as I did when working. I have enjoyed working with members of the Board of Governors of our Association, in planning our annual meeting and finding nominees for next years Board of Governors. I have also been involved with the Bingo group here at Sun Lakes Country Club as Vice

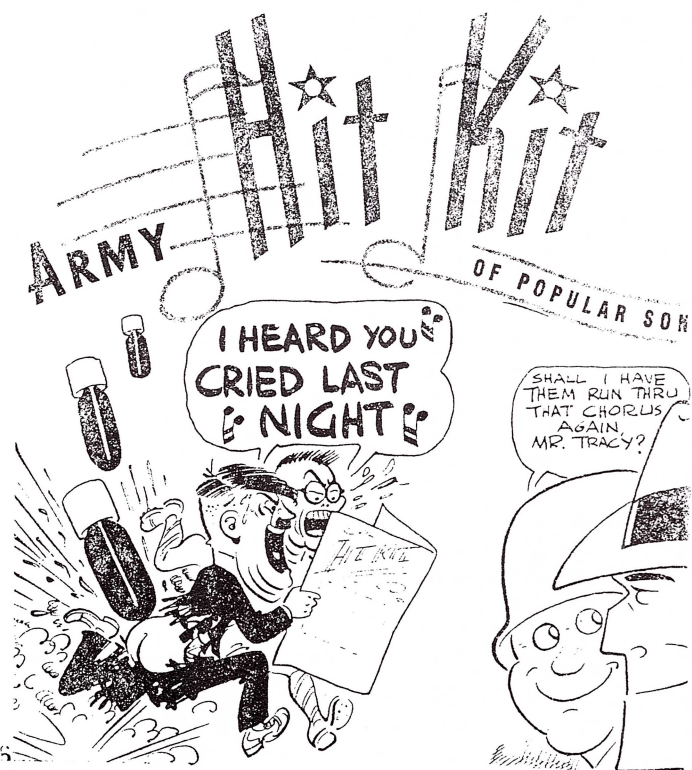


COL THOMAS V. CHANDLER, retired, Ass't G4. Still have the little record and phono shop and now in a larger and much better location. I am a slave to the usual medications of old age and diabetes but manage to work each day. I must repeat part of my message to you from last years report. Some very serious thought should be given for my replacement in putting together your annual report, and a repository for all of the documents, photos and films as well as other Division material. I am very pleased that the Board of Governors has authorized the production of our Vital and Pertinent Information Record for the benefit of all concerned. Now is the time to take whatever cut in your busy schedule necessary to fill it out and tell those involved where and what it is. Believe me, much needs to be done that you don't even realize until things happen. My personal advice is don't leave your loved ones with a blank document and not the information they need. The reproductions of the labels on the transcriptions suddenly were presented with a collection of records at our store a few months ago. I did not know they were in existence, but I did know of a regular LP made by the band and a few are still around. Nice to know we made a contribution to the AFRS Master library.



## COL Pat Pattinson Assn Historian Passes

COL NOEL B. PATTINSON, retired, XO DivArty. Answered the final roll call this past year. Pat was your 63d Infantry Division Association Historian, just one of the many contributions he made. He completed a notebook with publications, actions taken, our annual report and any other document reflecting an item of value to be noted for that year. The books are with the rest of the photos, films, and other material still retained by the Association. Pat was a fine soldier, a real leader and was there to help or teach at any time. He was a fine friend and associate. He was always there to call and remind us of coming events or reports due. He made our meetings when I knew it was difficult and painful, but his devotion and interest drove him to participate. He met with many of us quite often when we had sessions looking to the future, and perhaps even wondering if there was a future or positive reason to take our time and funding in an exercise of futility. He would say we need to keep a strong reserve and the fire would again be lit to continue and to suggest methods for that voice to be heard. He was a fine man and will be missed by all of us.





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