



★ CAMP BLANDING ★ CAMP VAN DORN ★

# Blood and Fire

## 63rd Division Association, Inc.

• ARDENNES / ALSACE • RHINELAND • CENTRAL EUROPE •



MARCH 2015

### Commanding General of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division

Without a doubt, I believe, General Hibbs was the Greatest Combat Commander of World War II. Even though he was an Artilleryman, he was ever mindful of his Infantry, seeing that they had the best training and equipment possible. It was his training methods that earned him the "Nickname" of "MESS KIT LOUIE". During the summer of 1944 he moved all units from the comparative comfort of primitive barracks into the field under combat conditions. The field kitchens were set up and we lived in the field as though were in combat, mess kits and all.

This met with much resentment from the "Troops" and so the "Nickname" "MESS KIT LOUIE", became his unofficial title. General Hibbs felt that enduring the discomforts of combat in training prepared us for the time when the situation was real. As he said, "You have experienced it all beforehand." As we realized what he was doing, we accepted it and the title became more one of endearment than of resentment. Another thing he initiated was the "Smiling Salute". Rather than

render the mechanical salute used by the Army in general, we rendered a snappy salute, looking the Officer in the eye and with a broad smile and a cheery "Good Morning Sir". The response would be in the same manner with, "Good Morning Cpl., Sgt., or whomever." This was a big factor in upgrading morale and we were known as the "Happy Soldiers".

General Hibbs had the complete loyalty and support of his "HOT SHOTS", as he fondly called us. Our military record in France and Germany bore out the wisdom of his training and leadership.

\*\*Written by Waldo H. Schulmaker, CWO USAR (Ret)



# A Fond Farewell to the 63rd Division Association, Inc.

All good things must come to an end. Unfortunately, it is time to say our goodbyes to the Association that has stayed together over 65 years. Many members have gone and too few remain to carry on the tradition of the 63rd Division Association.

To the Greatest Generation we thank you for your fight for our freedom. Thank you "Hot Shots" for keeping the memories alive through the comradery of brothers and family by providing the platform of yearly reunions. Many lasting friendships now exist among the children of the 63rd because of your persistence to keep the Association going.

The Association has decided to dissolve/disband the 63rd Division Association, close the books, publish the final issue of the *Blood & Fire* and distribute any remaining funds. We have included in this final issue of the *Blood & Fire*, information as to the why and how things will be carried out to make this happen.

The why is obvious to all of us. Over the past several years, our numbers have declined drastically and travel is challenging, making it difficult to hold the annual reunions. Consequently, we are moving forward to close the books. Once the *Blood & Fire* has been published, mailed and all the invoices are paid, the balance of the remaining funds in the 63rd Division Association Inc. bank account will be distributed according to the By-Laws.

We have held together as long as we could, but now is the time to bring it to a close. We can say it has been fun renewing old friendships and making new ones. We have stayed together through the decades of reminiscing, laughing, crying and just having fun. It has all been good!

Farewell, until we meet again! God Bless You,

The 63rd Division Association Inc. Officers

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Visit the 63rd Infantry Division Website at <http://www.63rdinfdiv.com> to find detailed history of the 63rd Infantry Division. You will find a listing of unit awards, descriptions of battles, a listing of battle and non-battle deaths, a description and view of all 63rd Infantry Division memorials and many other items of interest. There are also pictures of 63rd Infantry Division soldiers in training, combat and on occupation duty.

You will also find a list of memorabilia items for sale, information on inquiries from members and relatives searching for information about members and buddies. There is also an alphabetical listing, by unit, of 63rd Infantry Division Association members at this time (March 2014), as well as a listing of related websites and other information interest to veterans.

Webmaster, Fred Clinton (D254th Inf.) is seeking photos and memorabilia images to be added to the website.

Send photos by email to [joyclint@comcast.net](mailto:joyclint@comcast.net) or by regular mail to:

Fred Clinton  
102 S. Jenkins Street  
Alexandria, VA 22304

***The final issue of the Blood & Fire is dedicated to Donna LaCosse***

**Thank you for your dedication to the 63rd Division Association Inc. and the love you put into the positions you held. Thank you for the endless hours you devoted to editing the *Blood & Fire*, to the Secretarial and Treasurer's duties to keep the Association organized and running smoothly.**

**You are truly missed by all.**

## ***Policies Relating to Dissolution of the Association By-Laws of the 63rd Division Association Inc.***

All liabilities will be paid promptly from the general funds available. Sufficient funds will be set aside for printing and mailing a final notice to all remaining members advising them of disposition of assets, files, flags and memorabilia items.

Funds remaining after settlement of all liabilities will be disposed of as follows:

1. Thirty (30%) percent of remaining funds to the Camp Van Dorn Museum in Centreville, Mississippi.
2. Thirty (30%) percent of remaining funds to the Camp Blanding Museum, Camp Blanding, Florida to be used in the perpetuation of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division display of the museum and for perpetual care of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Memorial in the Camp Blanding Memorial Park for as long as such funds shall last.
3. Thirty (30%) percent of remaining funds in the Army Museum currently planned for construction at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.
4. Ten (10%) percent of remaining funds in the Freedom Foundation, Valley Forge, PA to be used in the perpetual care of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Memorial located on the grounds of The Freedom Foundation for as long as such funds shall last.

All flags in possession of the Association and other memorabilia items, with the exception of the American Flag, will be donated with all supporting accessories to the Army Museum currently planned for Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Should the Army Museum not be in position to accept these flags and/or memorabilia items will then be offered to other military museums in the following order:

1. The Infantry Museum, Fort Benning, Georgia
2. The Camp Blanding Museum, Camp Blanding, Florida
3. The Camp Van Dorn Museum, Centreville, Mississippi

American flags in possession of the Association, if in serviceable condition, will be donated to a school or nonprofit organization as determined by the Executive Council. If not considered serviceable, the American Flags will be disposed of by destroying in

accordance with acceptable procedures.

All single copies of various historical files and photographs will be donated to The Army History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, PA.

Duplicate copies of various historical files and photographs will be donated to the following museums in the order stated:

1. The Army Museum currently planned for Fort Belvoir, Virginia
2. The Infantry Museum, Fort Benning, Georgia
3. Camp Blanding Museum, Camp Blanding, Florida
4. The Camp Van Dorn Museum, Centreville, Mississippi

## ***Past Reunion***



Past Reunion

1<sup>st</sup> Row - Left to Right, top: Lt. McConnell, Sgt. Etcheson, Sgt. Pink, PFC. Bender, Col. Clinton  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Row - Left to Right, bottom: Sgt. Ziemke, Sgt. Wise, T/5 Fox, Capt. Shumate, Major Bundick

## 63<sup>rd</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance October 19, 2012 \$ 5,777.03

### INCOME

|  |                 |                  |
|--|-----------------|------------------|
| Transfer from National Treasurer<br>Donna LaCosse October 31, 2012 | \$15,656.94     |                  |
| Dues, Memberships & Donations                                      | <u>2,534.20</u> |                  |
|  | 18,191.14       | <u>18,191.14</u> |
| Total Income   |                 | 23,968.17        |

### EXPENSES

|   |                 |                     |
|---|-----------------|---------------------|
| November 2012 Blood & Fire                                |                 |                     |
| Printing  | 2,080.58        |                     |
| Postage   | 467.56          |                     |
| Bonding 2013 & 2014                                       | 514.00          |                     |
| Postage   | 29.62           |                     |
| Return Check  | 30.00           |                     |
| Service Fee   | 4.50            |                     |
| National Museum US Army<br>Historical Foundation Donation | <u>5,000.00</u> |                     |
|   | \$ 8,126.26     | ( <u>8,126.26</u> ) |
| Balance as of February 4, 2015                            |                 | <u>\$15,841.91</u>  |

# Celebration of Life



**Ralph G Fox, Jr** passed away January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015. He served in Cannon Co and I Co, 254th Regiment. Presidential Unit Citation for 3rd Bn/254th French Croix de Guerre for 254<sup>th</sup>.

**Maurice Reagan**, passed on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014, 254th Infantry Regiment.

A life-long Texan who lived and worked a few years in Ohio where he met Joan, the love of his life, Maurice was born in Waring and grew up in Van Raub and Leon Springs, the son of a railroad section chief. His parents were Claude C. Reagan, Sr. and Eddie Lee (Lackey) Reagan. His brothers, Claude C. Reagan, Jr. and James Milton Reagan, predeceased him. His lovely wife Joan passed away June 20, 2013. Maurice served honorably and ably in the U.S. Army during WWII with the 63rd Infantry Division in Germany, and was awarded two Bronze Stars for bravery in battle. He then came home to marry Joan in Ohio where they were both working at Wright Field. Together in Ohio and then San Antonio they raised four children. He is survived by Susan Hicks (husband Jack), Michael (wife Marianne) Martin, and Deborah Daniel, and former son-in-law Jim Daniel, as well as 8 grandchildren and one great-grandchild; a 9th grandchild predeceased him. Maurice worked at Kelly Air Force Base from 1952 until early retirement in 1970. He and Joan enjoyed their leisure time together in their travel trailer around Texas and the US, and visiting Germany and England with old friends. Maurice also loved to hunt and fish with his good buddy Dan Peterson, who died a few years ago. He co-owned a Cessna 172 with two friends, and enjoyed making cross-country trips and taking friends and relatives for rides in the local area. Maurice and Joan had many good friends everywhere they went. He enjoyed meeting up with his 63rd Division veteran buddies at reunions around the country. He was someone you could count on for advice and assistance if you even indicated you were involved in a project. He loved to help people. He was a good cook, often taking over the turkey and cornbread dressing duties at Thanksgiving and Christmas. He made great "mouse pancakes" for his grandchildren. He was polishing his visitors' headlights and filling the birdbaths until the last few months before his death.

**Mons Leslie (Les) Hansen**. 92, of Phoenix, passed away the afternoon of December 30, 2014 in John C. Lincoln Hospital of pneumonia complications. Born August 8, 1922 in Chicago, Illinois to parents J. Leslie and Doris Nelson Hansen. During his years at the University of Illinois he was a member of TKE Fraternity and ROTC. Fearing he would miss the war in Europe he left College to join the Army. He served in World War II from May 30, 1944 until April 29, 1946 as First Lieutenant with the 254th Infantry Regiment, 63rd Infantry Division in the European Theater receiving The Bronze Star, The Silver Star, Combat Infantry Badge and Purple Heart. His professional career started with Darling & Co. in Chicago. In 1956 he was hired by C.J. Patterson Co., Kansas City in the ARK Bread Division (later Holsum Bread), was transferred to Wichita by C.J. Patterson Co. and in 1962 became President of Arotex Uniform Co. The family moved to Phoenix in 1964 and Les began his real estate career in commercial real estate with J. Leslie Hansen & Sons. Realizing his interest was in residential real estate, working with sellers and buyers, he started M. Leslie Hansen Realty in April, 1966 as President and Designated Broker. The company grew in a few short years to five offices with many agents. Les became very active in the Real Estate Associations and was President of the Phoenix Association of REALTORS in 1974. He served as First and Second Vice President and chaired six different Board Committees. Les was a Director for the Arizona Association of REALTORS and served on the Membership Committee of the National Association of REALTORS. Les was named 1968 REALTOR of the Year and was the 1984 Dean B. Service Continuing Achievement Award winner and the recipient of the Forty Year Emeritus REALTOR Award. He held the Professional Designations of CRB and GRI. After closing M. Leslie Hansen Realty in 1990, Les joined Realty Executives as an Associate Broker and recently was inducted into the Realty Executives Hall of Fame for 24 years of service. His Civic endeavors included being a member of the LEAP Commission (Leaders for Education and Advancement of Phoenix), the Encanto Kiwanis, Orpheus Male Chorus, Inter City Committee of the Phoenix Chamber of Commerce

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and a Life Member of the Phoenicians. He taught Principles of Real Estate at the School of Business at ASU and was involved in the Boy Scout movement. Les enjoyed fishing and hunting and was an avid reader until macular degeneration took his eyesight in 2011. He then listened to books on tape from the Library of Congress. Les was very active at Faith Lutheran Church serving on the Council for several terms and as President more than once. Les gave true meaning to the term "active member" throughout his years at Faith. He and his beloved wife Madaline met while singing in the Choir and were married at Faith on October 17, 1981. Les was preceded in death by his parents, his first wife Gloria, his brother John Thor, and his sister Joy Brown. He is survived by his wife Madaline, sister Joan Gorges (Al, deceased) children John David, Lynne Louise, Joan Elizabeth (Rob), Joy McRae (Gerry) and Sharon Lynn. Grandchildren Travis Leslie, Chase Bradley and John William. A memorial service celebrating Les' life will be held at Faith Lutheran Church, 801 E. Camelback Road on Saturday, February 14th at 10:00 a.m. Reception immediately following in Parish Hall. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to Faith Lutheran Church.

**Roger W. Heather**, Died Nov. 17, 2014. Age 89. (1925 - 2014), loving husband of Gloria P. Heather (nee Symmonds) for 61 years. Beloved father of Tim (Paula) Heather, Chris (fiancé, Anna) Heather and Lynne (Tom) Toensmeyer. Devoted grandfather of 5 grandchildren and great-grandfather of 6. Dear brother of the late Loren Heather and Juanita Brown. Roger served as a great father and role model, one of Cincinnati's finest pipe organists and pipe organ designers, having been organist/choir director at the Presbyterian Church of Hamilton, Ohio for 30 years and Twin Towers Retirement Community in College Hill for 49 years, and having served also as Dean of the Cincinnati Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Between 1959 - 1987, he designed over 25 Greater Cincinnati Schantz pipe organs. During World War II, he served as a combat infantryman as a member of the 63rd Infantry Division in France and Germany, during which time he spared the life of a cornered German soldier, in the closing days of the war. He was the recipient of the Bronze Star for heroic conduct in battle.

**William J. Lucas**, 1st Squad, 1st Platoon, Anti-Tank Company, 255<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the 63rd Div. on September 28, 2014 at Southwestern Veterans Center, Pittsburgh, PA at the age of 88.

**Quinten Sella**, passed August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014, F254, of Grand Rapids, MI, a decorated WW II veteran, passed over into the new life on Friday, August 1, 2014. He was preceded in death by his parents Christopher and Mary. Surviving are his caring wife of 38 years Jan (Falkner); children Christopher Q. (Melissa) Sella, Mary Sella (Drew Corwin), Sue (Richard) Little; stepchildren Robert (Lauri) Hall, Julie Roblin, Marianne (Calvin) Brush and Clark Hall; 20 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren; six siblings Mary Gioia, Theresa Skrabis, Paul (Dale) Sella, Tony (Wanda) Sella, John (Arlene) Sella, and Russell Sella; and many nieces and nephews. He was a member of the 63rd Infantry Division U.S. Army Association. He was owner of the Glass Bar for 27 years until 1982. A Committal Service with full military honors under the auspices of the Kent County Honor Guard will be held Tuesday, 11:00 AM at Resurrection Cemetery, 4100 Clyde Park SW, Wyoming, MI.

**Tom Lazare**, of Melbourne, Florida, I254, passed away July 12, 2014.

**Wilson Carlisle White, Jr.** passed on March 13, 2014. He was with E Co, 255 Regiment and later with the 45th Infantry Division, E Co 157 Regiment.

Carlisle was born in Chester, SC, on September 14, 1923, the second child of Julia Phillips and Wilson Carlisle White. He was a graduate of the Chester Schools and attended Clemson College from 1940 - 1943, joining the U.S. Army midway through his junior year. Forever marked by his service as a combat infantryman in the European Theatre of World War II, Carlisle was a Purple Heart veteran serving first in the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division and later in the 45<sup>th</sup>. He was named Parade Marshall of the Veteran's Day observance in Union, SC, in 2008.

Like many others of the Greatest Generation, Carlisle returned to college after the war, graduating from Clemson in January 1949, and set about establishing a life of integrity and service. He married Gertrude Henry in 1951, and they had three children: William Henry White, Betty Cecile White Burton and Thomas Henry White IV.

Carlisle worked as a Soil Conservationist with the US

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Department of Agriculture serving in Chesterfield, Pickens, Oconee, Calhoun and Union counties in South Carolina, Washington DC, Fairbanks AK and Richmond, VA before retiring to Union, SC in December of 1981. In September 2012 he and Trudy moved to Clinton where they made their home at Clinton Presbyterian Retirement Community. Carlisle loved vegetable gardening and was also the proprietor of Union Sharpening Service. He traveled to 49 of the 50 states and nine foreign countries, but spent most vacation times working on his family's cottage at Bonclarken, Flat Rock, NC, where family members continue to enjoy happy times.

Carlisle was reared in the Chester Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church where his grandfathers served as minister and Sunday School Superintendent, respectively, and he remained faithful to the Presbyterian denomination wherever he lived. He was elected an elder in both the ARP and Presbyterian USA churches; he taught Sunday School, sang in the choir, served as a deacon and scoutmaster, worked on presbytery committees, and was a delegate to the General Assembly as well as being "chief cook and bottle washer" at many church functions as long as he was able. Respected for his work ethic and utter dependability, Carlisle will also be remembered for his warm welcoming smile, his rapport with young children and his many unique stories.

Carlisle is survived by his devoted wife of 62 years and his loving children; nine grandchildren, Henry Bolding White, Catherine Prentiss White McDaniels (Corey), Sarah Cecile Burns, Anna Lee Carlisle Burns, Kelsey Ann White, Caitlin Thomas White, Shelley Elizabeth Burns, Geoffrey Nelson Burns (Dina), Mary Ann Kay Todd (Jesse); Great-grandchildren Samuel, Isabel and Emilia Burns; his beloved sister Mary Phillips White Gettys of Rock Hill; and treasured nieces, nephews and extended family. He was pre-deceased by his parents, his brother Thomas Henry White III and his sister Louisa Bobo White Muldrow.

**Stanley A. Kozlowski**, age 87, was called by his Heavenly Father Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2014, with his loving wife of 64 years by his side. Along with his wife, Eleanor Maturkanic Kozlowski, he will be forever loved and missed by his four children, Stanley M. (Laraine), of North Huntingdon, Karen Petrus (John), of North Versailles, Edward J. (Paula), of North

Huntingdon, and Kevin R. (Sherry), of McKeesport. Born May 15, 1926, he was the son of the late Ignatius and Pearl Kozlowski. One of nine children, Stan's surviving siblings include brothers, Harry and Raymond, of McKeesport, also brother, Joseph, residing in France. He also leaves behind his five grandchildren, Amy (Henry) Callithen, Jeramie (Mandy), Jacqueline, Michael and Steven; additionally three great-grandsons Logan, Lance and Ethan; and loving nieces and nephews. He was a lifelong McKeesport resident and graduated from McKeesport High School class of 1944. Stan served our country on active duty during World War II as a member of the 63rd Division - 7th Army in Europe. He was a member of American Legion Post 701 in White Oak. After marrying Eleanor in 1949, he secured a cable splicer's position with Bell Telephone that was to be his career for 38 years. A proud American of Polish decent he was a lifelong member of the then St. Mary Czestochowa Parish, now Corpus Christi Church in McKeesport. As part of his parish life participation, he was very active in the Holy Name Society, receiving awards in both 2001 and 2003 for "Life Service." He enjoyed the annual fruit basket delivery program and decorating the church for major holidays. An avid Civil War enthusiast, his favorite places to explore were the battlefields at Gettysburg. Friends will be received from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Friday at the JAYCOX-JAWORSKI FUNERAL HOME INC., 2703 O'Neil Blvd., McKeesport. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at noon Saturday in Corpus Christi Church with the Rev. Stephen A. Kresak as celebrant. Interment will follow in St. Mary's Polish Cemetery, White Oak.

**John A. Dietrick II**, 87, of Defiance, passed away on Friday, January 31, 2014 at the St. Vincent's Mercy Medical Center, Toledo, OH. He was born on February 2, 1926 to John and Gertrude (Conway) Dietrick in Napoleon, OH. In 1951 he married Elizabeth Maxy Lynch, who preceded him in death in 1989; in 1993 he married Judith Merz, who survives. John was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, Lion's Club, Elk's Lodge, Rotary International all of Defiance, and the American Legion, Napoleon OH. He was a 1943 Napoleon High School graduate and a 1950 Xavier University graduate. John had worked in accounting for GM before becoming branch manager of the Napoleon First Federal, then becoming Corporation President for First Federal of Defiance until his retirement. He was a proud WWII US Army veteran serving with the 63rd Infantry Division Blood and Fire in Germany. John was a former member of

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the Defiance College Board of Directors. John is survived by his loving wife, Judith Dietrick of Defiance, OH, 3 daughters, Christine (Phillip) Lewallen of Bonita Springs, FL, Mary Pat (Kevin) Schultz of Cleveland, OH, Peggy Beth Towns of Ft. Wayne, IN, 2 sons, John A. (Debbie) Dietrick III of Tampa, FL, Luke E. (Michelle) Dietrick of Ft. Wayne, IN, 10 grandchildren, Matthew Lewallen, Amy Lewallen, Mary Beth Dietrick, David Dietrick, Beck Schultz, Keri Schultz, Virgil Towns II, Ariel Towns, Charlie Dietrick, and Samantha Dietrick, and one great-granddaughter, Layne Lewallen.

**Pfc Richard Walter Sprouse, Sr.**, 88, who was in Company H of the 253 Regiment of the 63rd Infantry passed away yesterday, December 15th, 2013 in Sun City Center, FL.

**Pfc Aubrey Ash**, A Company 253d Infantry Regiment passed away on 4 August 2013.

**Sergeant Leon Zlotnick**, 254 B, passed July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013. He was always proud of the men he served with.

**James Stephens**, passed July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013, 92 years, Co F, 253 Inf. Regiment.

**Pfc George B. Mattox**, Headquarters 3d Battalion 254th Infantry Regiment, passed on July 5, 2013. George Bankston Mattox was born December 14, 1925, and grew up in Enterprise, Alabama. Living in a small, southern town during the Depression, his life was fairly simple. He did well at school, played sports, and worked in his uncle's grocery store until he was drafted. After the war, he attended Emory University and then Emory Law School. He was recruited by the Harrison Company, a publisher that specialized in law books. He moved up in the company until he was a co-owner.

From the obituary submitted by a local ADA-

*Under his supervision and tutelage the Harrison Company produced a prodigious number of works, including but not limited to: Georgia Real Estate Law and Practice, Georgia Criminal Trial Practice, Agnor's Georgia Evidence and Georgia Appellate Practice. George enjoyed deep and enduring relationships with such eminent legal scholars and writers as Professor William Agnor, Judge William*

*Daniel and George Pindar.*

*George was an erudite Southern gentleman who regarded his authors as members of his family. George finished this illustrious career only in 2002 when the Harrison Company was purchased by the West Publishing Company.*

*Georgia attorneys are greatly indebted to George B. Mattox because through his efforts they have available to them as fine and thorough a set of legal reference materials as have been published in any jurisdiction in the United States.*

He developed friendships with his authors, who were the likes of attorneys, judges, law professors and deans, and a few members of US Congress. He wasn't fond of flying, so when he needed to visit an author, he would take a business trip by car. He often took me with him, and I loved it! I got to meet all kinds of interesting folks, most of whom had been asked to write a book based on their expertise in a particular field. I got to visit university campuses all up and down the east coast, and even ate the famous Bean Soup in the Senate Dining Room. Some of my fondest memories with my Dad are riding in his car for hours, listening to 40's music, and stopping at every historical site along the way.

Dad loved working at the Harrison Company - I never once heard him complain about it. He rarely missed a day, and finally stopped working at age 77, when he sold the company.

After retirement, he spent much of his free time doing his favorite pastime - reading. He turned his dining room into a reading room, and there he would sit and listen to either Classical or Big Band music and read to his heart's content. I inherited his love of reading, and we would pass books back and forth. (I still sometimes catch myself setting a book aside for him!)

He had a son in 1957, another in 1965, and then me, his daughter, in 1969. He was a very supportive father, driving us to all sorts of activities, and recitals, tournaments, etc. all over the southeast. He was also a doting grandfather. All four of his grandchildren called him Pappy, and adored him.

They say our lives are shaped by our experiences. The two things that I believe most shaped the man my father became are growing up in the south during

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the Depression, and fighting in the war. He had all sorts of great stories to tell about the unique character of life in a southern town. He gave me a glimpse into a way of life that has all but disappeared, where a man walking the railroad tracks would share his last bit of bread with the man he'd just met. And he told me many stories about the war, some of them so funny I'd cry, and others that broke my heart. His "buddies" were everything to him. There was a bond that sustained him through an unsustainable time. I wish I could have met and thanked every last one of them. They kept my father safe and sane and they kept him alive. I don't know how to repay that.

Dad once told me about something that happened a few years after the war had ended. He had taken his date to a show, and while they were finding their seats, he spotted someone he knew. It was someone from his unit. The two men rushed to each other, and neither of them able to find words, they simply embraced. Dad said they were overcome with emotion and all they could do was stand there and hug and cry. He'd been reunited with a buddy.

Dad was a brilliant man, and stayed sharp until his heart started to give him trouble when he was 87. He fought valiantly to stick around a little longer, and I'm so glad he did. I was with him when he passed away peacefully in his sleep, July 5, 2013.

A few years ago, my brother took Dad back to some of the places the Blood and Fire division had been stationed during the war. He revisited some battle sites, visited some of the towns he'd been in, walked some of the German streets again. He wants to go there again - he asked me to take some of his ashes there. Almost 70 years of life between WWII and his death, and that place is still the one he wants to go to. Blood and Fire is calling him home.

Lauralai Mattox

George  
Mattox, (In  
back on right,  
Germany  
April 1945)



**PFC. Henry J. Gotherman** passed June 14th, 2013. He was a Gunner in the 63rd Infantry Div., 255th Infantry Div., Co."G" . He was Purple Heart and The Bronze Star Medal recipient.

**S/Sgt Stanley J. Pajka** passed on May 26, 2013. He was extremely proud of his service in the 63rd Div. Anti-Tank Company and let us know the division had seen service in the mid-East. He received the Purple Heart and a Bronze Star. He spent some time in a candidate program for prospective airmen and was offered the opportunity for OCS, but chose to stay with the men from his unit. He was given a field commission while deployed in Europe.

**Albert Safranck**, FA 861, of Sacramento CA, passed on May 14, 2013, 92 years.

**Roland J. Dandurand**, age 91 died last Tuesday, April 8th, 2013 after a long battle with congestive heart failure. He was a patriot par excellence. He loved his country and had fond memories of his days in the Army. Certainly not the fighting but the camaraderie with his buddies and his time in service. He did love his 24 hour leave to see Paris.

Until the 50th Reunion of D-Day, Dad never spoke of his time in the Army. He never wanted to talk about it. That changed when they were showing reunion footage and he spoke to my son, not me. Years later, he started his memoirs of his time and we, his children each have a copy which I shall cherish until I die.

My dad was just a soldier but believed in the cause of good versus evil. Hitler's Germany was evil. You might want to remove his name from the Internet Newsletter mailing list.

**Paul C. Smania**, passed away on March 10, 2013. He had gone thru Basic Training at Camp Van Dorn and was assigned to HQ & HQ Battery, 862nd Field Artillery, 63rd Infantry Division for a time. He was at Van Dorn from 15 Sept 1943 thru 4 March 1944. He was transferred out and eventually served in the Pacific with the 251st Field Artillery. He resided in Wayzata, Minnesota at the time of his death.

**George A. Fait**, age 86, passed away Saturday, March 9, 2013 after a long illness. He was born May 13, 1926 in Riplinger, WI, the son of Edward and Sophie (Swetz) Fait. During his childhood, George and his brother Larry had the dubious distinction of

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meeting the notorious gangster Baby Face Nelson at a local gas station where he bought the boys sodas. After graduating from Wilmot High School, George enlisted in the U.S. Army and served with distinction in the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division, 255<sup>th</sup> Regiment, M Company. The most moving experience of his life occurred at the end of WWII in Germany liberating Heidelberg and one of the Landsberg concentration camps, as depicted in the mini-series, *Band of Brothers*.

He attended the University of Wisconsin at Madison and graduated with a BS degree in Insurance from the Commerce School. After starting his career at the Hartford Insurance Company, George founded Capitol Indemnity Corporation in 1959. He served as its President and CEO, building the company to \$150 million of revenue with over 250 employees until its sale in 2002.

George and his family settled in Shorewood Hills in 1956 and served as Village President from 1969-1973. During his tenure the Village acquired the Post Farm Park and built the Shorewood Hills Swimming Pool complex. Philanthropy was very important to George. He was one of the Founding Families of the American Family Children's Hospital and donated generously to many local charities including the United Way, the University of Wisconsin and Henry Vilas Zoo. His hobbies included hunting and fishing and he was an avid Wisconsin Badger and Green Bay Packers fan.

Survivors include his children, Leslie (Jim) Farmer of Winnetka, Illinois, Joel (Rhonda) Fait of Middleton, Wisconsin, Diane (Frank) Zillner of Middleton, Wisconsin; a sister, Virgiline Schulte; grandchildren Rick and Bill Farmer, Cole, Dean and Blake Zillner, Kyle and Drew Fait and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother Lawrence; and former wife Marjorie Fait.

**Clarence B. Gerity, 91**, of Powell, Ohio passed away on Wednesday, February 6, 2013. He was a decorated Veteran of the U.S. Army WWII awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. Clare retired from AT&T in New York. He was preceded in death by Delphine, his wife of 62 years. He is survived by sons, Thomas C. (Pamela) of

Madison, MS and William C. (Carolyn); grandchildren, Paul (Marney) Dees, Molly (Vince) Finney and Emily (Justin) Plessinger; and four great-grandchildren. Because services will be private, the family suggests that, in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project, 4899 Belford Road, Suite 300, Jacksonville, FL 32256.

**Carl Jackson, 94**, of St. Paul, Minnesota, passed away in February 1, 2013. He was a Platoon Sgt. Company "A", 253 Infantry Regiment.

**Herbert Sess**, 7 January 2013. He was survived by his wife Charolotte Myra (Moomey) Sess. 63rd Infantry Division Association and during WWII was assigned to Headquarters 253d Infantry Regiment.

**Edward Piasta**, passed December 22, 2012, a true representative of the Greatest Generation, passed away in Orange at the age of 86 after suffering a debilitating stroke. Ed was born on July 17, 1926 in New Britain, Connecticut to Polish immigrants Josef A. Piasta and Sarafina Stypulkowski Piasta. The family soon moved to Southbridge, MA, where Ed grew up on a farm in a Polish-American section of an ethnically diverse New England industrial town. Early on, Ed developed a love for flying. With World War II raging he was accepted for Naval Air Cadet training but by the time he and his class of 1944 graduated, the military had an over-supply of pilots. Thus, upon high school graduation, Ed enlisted in the Army. After training and at the same time the Allies were bogged down at the "Bulge", Private Piasta was among thousands of replacements rushed to Le Havre, France. He served as a lead scout in the 63rd Armored Infantry Division as it smashed through the Siegfried Line and raced across Germany to the Danube, culminating in the defeat of Nazism. After his release from active duty in 1946, Ed briefly returned home to Southbridge but soon headed west to attend flight school in Tulsa, OK. He started his flight training at the Spartan School of Aeronautics and was later hired as a mechanic at American Airlines in Tulsa. While there, he met a young student nurse at St. John's Hospital. Her name was Bette Jane Rice. They fell in love and later married and soon afterwards, had two children, Joe and Mary. In 1953, Ed was accepted to and graduated from American's flight engineer school. This resulted in a move for him and his family to Chicago. Two more children, Fran and Karen followed. In 1957, Ed and Bette moved their family again, this time to Orange. Ed crewed on the DC-6's, DC-7's, 707's, 747's and DC-10's out of LAX. Bette

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worked as a nurse at St. Joseph's Hospital and Western Medical Center. Meanwhile, they added their final two children, John and Polly. They were leaders at Holy Family Church and School, with their kids eventually graduating from Marywood and Servite High Schools. Post retirement, Ed and Bette moved to Paradise, CA to be near their dispersing children followed by Gig Harbor, WA and finally Phillips Ranch. Ed did part-time work as a flight instructor. In 2000, they celebrated their 50th anniversary with their clan of six children and their spouses along with their 21 grandchildren. In addition to his flying, Ed was a classic "jack of all trades," whether it be a photographer, a barbecue chef or "Mr. Fix-it" attending to the fleet of Volkswagens in the yard. He was gregarious and loved by all who met him. And most significantly, he became a "professional" fan of all of his talented grandkids in their sports, plays and academic events, where Ed could be usually seen in the front row with his high-grade camera. Unfortunately, in 2006 Bette died of a stroke. In 2009, Ed remarried an old friend and widow, the former Marikay Gausselin. He moved back to Orange, where he lived with Marikay until several illnesses and an eventual stroke took him. Ed is remembered as a man of great faith, patriotism, courage and spirit! Living for God, family and country was his lifelong focus. Ed was predeceased by his wife of 56 years, Bette Jane Rice and is currently survived by his wife, Marikay; his sister, Dorothy Houde of Los Gatos; his children, Joseph A. Piasta II of Santa Rosa, Mary Cole of Porterville, Frances Liebel of Phillips Ranch, Karen Hawkey of San Rafael, John Piasta of Villa Rica, GA and Polly Borgelt of Rancho Cucamonga; the following grandchildren, Lee Liebel, Mary Piasta Valluzzo, Edward A. Piasta II, David Hawkey, Ann Piasta, Daniel Hawkey, Ciara McClanahan, Joseph Piasta, Theresa Otto-Piasta, Chenin Doiron, Stephanie Prince, Eric Vadalma, Sarah Hawkey, Andrew Liebel, Steven Piasta, Frank Piasta, Deana Borgelt, Joan Piasta, Lindsey Borgelt, John D. Piasta, and Aaron Hawkey; and great-grandchildren, Rex McClanahan, Robert Valluzzo and Constantine J. Valluzzo.

Enlisted in the Army and entered duty in the summer of 1944 as part of the last high school class that fought in WW II. Obviously, D-Day had just occurred in Europe. He trained at Camp Blanding, Florida in the Okeechobee Swamp and was slated to go to the

Pacific Theatre. But then, at Christmastime the Ardennes Forest campaign (aka. The Battle of the Bulge) commenced in Europe, he and his comrades' training cycle was shortened, and he as well as about 60,000 other soldiers were boated across the Atlantic as replacements.

He was assigned to the storied 63<sup>rd</sup> Armored Infantry Division, Seventh US Army, and for a time attached to Third US Army. He entered combat as an 18-year-old private, rifleman, in about February 1945 at the end of the Bulge and commencement of the push through the Siegfried Line into Germany. With his comrades, he fought as a lead scout across Germany, the Danube and the German surrender in May 1945. He faced his closest encounter with death in his first hour in combat, and saw hellacious encounter during the ensuing months. His division in its March from France to Czechoslovakia liberated and then conquered more territory than any other American division in the war.

After the surrender, his unit trained to be a lead element in the invasion of Japan. And after that service soon proved unnecessary due to Japan's surrender in August 1945, he stayed in occupation duty until summer 1945, when he returned to New Jersey and was discharged. He has always spoken with great pride for his service; we have all looked to him as one of the many heroes who ensured our freedom. Pfc Edward Piasta, was assigned to L Company, 253d Infantry Regiment, 63rd Infantry Division on 15 April 1945. He was at that time a Private. He was promoted to Private First Class on 12 May 1945. On 24 August 1945 he was reassigned to the 100th Infantry Division for duty in the occupation forces in Germany.

**Carl Sirola**, passed away in December 2012, of the 255 AT Co. Carl was a member of Mike Tompson's dad's unit and a faithful reunion attendee until it became impossible for him to travel.

**Elton C. Coleman PFC**, Co. B, 861 FA.63rd infantry Division, passed away on Dec. 28, 2012. His wife, Sandra Coleman, Huber Heights, OH 45424. I was privileged to have known Bud, who said few words about his military service.

**James Edwin Graham**, of Decatur, Mississippi, passed away October 13, 2012. CPL James E. Graham, Company K253. He received the Legion of Honor from France. He was selected and awarded

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"Chevalier" of the Legion of Honor. The French Consul General expressed his sincerest sympathy and over-night expressed the medal and the certificate with a letter stating that he was sincerely sorry that the recognition came late, but that he was proud of his service to his country. He was a life member of the division and was proud, as we all were, of his service with the 63rd ID, 353rd, Company K.

**Harold F. Osborne**, passed August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012 of Waycrest, Georgia survived by Nell Osborne.

**Mike Jugan**, passed on July 26, 2012, MED253, survived by his wife, Jane. He was a charter member of the Kimberton Lion's Club, was a member of Mt. Pickering Masonic Lodge #446, and served as Chaplain and a past-Master of the Kimberton Grange. Mr. Jugan worked as a sheep farmer, auctioneer, and operated his own barber shop in Kimberton for over 50 years. He enjoyed time with his family and providing sheep shearing shows for school children. We will remember how much fun we had when he was the auctioneer at the 63<sup>rd</sup> Division Reunions.

**Sgt Edward J. Mathis**, G Company 254th Infantry Regiment called today to advise me that her husband, Ed, died last 27 July 2012.



**Arthur Russell**, age 94, of New Lebanon, passed away Sunday, June 24, 2012. He was born April 5, 1918 in Brethett Co., KY, to the late James and Mima Russell. Arthur served in the U.S. Army during WWII, 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division, I255. He was preceded in death by his wife, Lillie Russell; sons, Arthur Russell Jr., James H. H. Russell, Arnold

Russell, Donnie Russell and Eugene Russell; daughters, Peggy Combs, Catherine Russell and Mildred Combs; and 9 brother and sisters. Arthur is survived by his children, Jeff (Carol) Russell, Darryl Russell and Jo Ann Caldwell; 16 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren; and many other relatives and friends including special friends, Edna Combs, Hager and Marilyn Combs.

**Benedict A. DePrater**, 86, of St. Marys, PA died at his home on Thursday, June 21, 2012, surrounded by his family. He was born Sept. 16, 1925 in Riceville Corners, PA, a son of the late Edward and Rosa Frey DePrater. On May 4, 1946 in St. Mary's Church, he married Phyllis Auman DePrater, who survives.

Mr. DePrater had been a resident of St. Marys since returning from the war. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, having served during WWII with the 63rd Infantry Division, Blood and Fire, from 1943-1945. He received the European African Middle Eastern Service Medal, WWII Victory Medal and the Good Conduct Medal. He was also awarded a Purple Heart after being wounded in action in 1945. He was buried with full Military Honors on June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2012 in Saint Marys, PA. He retired from Stackpole Carbon Company in 1982 after more than 42 years of service.

In addition to his wife of more than 66 years, Phyllis Auman DePrater, he is survived by a daughter, Linda Ferris of St. Marys; three sons, Stephen DePrater and his wife Doris of St. Marys, David DePrater and his wife Mary of Johnsonburg, and Bradley DePrater and his wife Mary Ellen of Valley View, Texas; eight grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by four sisters, Frances, Anita, Edna and Grace; four brothers, Quentin, a WWII casualty, William, George and Andrew DePrater; a grandson, Dwayne Ferris; and a son-in-law, James Ferris. He was the last member of his immediate family.

**Gill Stevens**, passed January 28, 2012 in Detroit VA Hospital, Detroit, MI.

**Joseph S. Mack**, 66392 US 41, Lakeside, IN 46436.

**John R. Blanks Sr.**, 185 Cory Dr., Macon, GA 31210-5129.

**William R. Bower**, 615 Priestley Ave. #25, Northumberland, PA.

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**William Brackett**, 9181 Leland R., Ooltewah, TN 37368.

**Lt. Jack Shumate**, D/254 died December 2011. He is survived by his wife from Avis.

**Loren "Dutch" Karickhoff**, passed August 8, 2011.



**John L. Wilson**, passed away at the age of 88 in January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Preceded in death by his loving wife Rose Avellino Wilson and is survived by son, Lewis A. Wilson, II, daughter Nancy E. Jensen and Grandson Kenneth J. Jensen, III. Pfc John L. Wilson was assigned to D Company, 254th Infantry Regiment, 63rd Infantry Division on 6 June 1944 while the unit was at Camp Van Dorn,

MS. He came from the Cushing General Hospital, Framington, MA where he was performing duties as an Orthopedic Mechanic.

In early November 1944 his unit departed Camp Van Dorn, MS for movement to Camp Shanks, NY. At this time he was a Sergeant. After a couple of weeks of processing and training at Camp Shanks, the regiment departed the New York Port on 25 November 1944 for movement to the European Theater of Operations. His unit sailed on the Italian Cruise ship Saturnia, a ship captured by the British and converted to a troop ship. They arrived in Marseilles, France on 8 December 1944 and remained in a staging area for a few days. On 15 December 1944 Sgt. Wilson was promoted to Staff Sergeant. His regiment departed Marseilles for movement to Camp Oberhofen near Bischweiler, France. They travelled by rail and vehicle arriving on 20 December 1944. Shortly thereafter the regiment was attached to the 3d US Infantry Division in the area of Colmar, France. The 3rd Infantry Division was attached to the First French Army at that time. His unit entered combat on 1 January 1945 in the area of Kaysersberg, France.

After participating in two major battles in the area, (Hill 216) and (The Battle of Jepsheim) the regiment returned to the area of Sarreguemines, France to rejoin the other elements of the 63rd Infantry Division. While in combat in the Colmar area, his regiment was awarded a Presidential Unit Citation

and much later in the 1980's received recognition from the French Government in the form of a French Croix de Guerre with Palm. Citations for both of these awards can be found in the 254th Infantry Regiment section of the 63rd Infantry Division web site.

In March 1945 his battalion was the spearhead unit of the Seventh US Army to break through the German West Wall (The Siegfried Line) in the vicinity of Ensheim, Germany. For their heroic actions during this engagement the First Battalion, 254th Infantry Regiment (S/Sgt Wilson's battalion) was awarded a second Presidential Unit Citation. The citation for that award can also be found in the 254th Infantry Regiment Section of the 63rd Infantry Division Web site.

After breaking through the German West Wall into Germany the Regiment attacked to the East towards Heidelberg and then to the South East until they crossed the Danube River at Leipheim, Germany towards the very end of April 1945. Shortly thereafter the division was pulled off of the line and moved back to the Rothenburg, Germany area for a rest and security duty. Before the regiment could return to the front the war in Europe was over.

In August 1945 S/Sgt. Wilson was reassigned to the 19th Reinforcement Depot for duty with the occupation forces in Germany. S/Sgt. Wilson was awarded the Silver Star Medal for heroism in battle. He was also awarded a Combat Infantryman Badge.

**George Strawbridge**, passed in 2010, HQ 253, from San Antonio, TX.

**Robert W. Apperson**, passed December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

**Pfc Morton Klein**, our WWII comrade passed in 2005. He loved the 63<sup>rd</sup>.

**Dr. William D. Brackett**, passed in 2004.



**2d Lt Rolf K. Hopewell** retired as Capt. and passed on April 13, 2001. He was assigned to Headquarters 63rd Infantry Division in early August 1943 while the unit was still at Camp Blanding, Florida. Later (27 Jun 1944) he was reassigned to L Company 253d Infantry

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Regiment when the unit was at Camp Van Dorn, MS. He was reassigned from L Company 253d Infantry Regiment on 8 August 1944.

**Richard E. Kuhlmann**, born 14 Dec. 1924, died 27 June 1995. Pfc Kuhlman was assigned to F Company 253d Infantry Regiment, 63rd Infantry Division on 9 April 1945 while the unit was located in the vicinity of Herbolzheim, Germany.

Pfc. Kuhlman was lightly wounded in action (shrapnel in back of neck) on 16 April 1945 while the unit was located in the vicinity of Erkardtsweiler, Germany. He was not medically evacuated for this wound. It was treated in the unit and he remained on duty. Pfc. Kuhlman was awarded a Purple Heart Medal by 63rd Infantry Division General Order #125. Pfc. Kuhlman was reassigned from F Company, 253d Infantry Regiment on 15 August 1945 to the 3rd Reinforcement Depot for occupation duty in Germany. He was located at Tauberbischofsheim, Germany at the time of his reassignment.

**Ralph Whittaker**, passed away from cancer in 1991, served with the 254th during the war; according to the roster he was in both company L and M at one time. I was just hoping to find anyone who might know more about my uncle and his service or remember him personally. , before I was old enough to appreciate what he and his comrades did for us all.

### **Spouses and Children of 63<sup>rd</sup> Veterans**

**Michael Jeffrey Collier**, passed December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014 surrounded by family. Mike was a Vietnam Army Veteran who served there with the 25th Army Division (Tropic Lightning). He spent eight years plus on active duty and retired in 1993 from the Illinois National Guard with a total service time of twenty-two plus years. He was a recipient of the Bronze Star for Valor and The Purple Heart. He is survived by his wife Mary Fran (Byrnes) Collier and six children. He is the son-in-law to William "Bill" Byrnes I254. He loved attending the 63rd Blood and Fire reunions.



Ruth Sandbrink

Ruth N. Sandbrink, 92, passed away Monday, September 22, 2014.

She was born Sunday, November 20, 1921 in Sidney, Nebraska, to Clay and Clara (Brauer) Laker.

Ruth is survived by her son Steven (Connie) Sandbrink, Greendale, Indiana and her

daughter Barbara (Dave) Elder, San Antonio, Texas; her sister, Dorothy (Ray) Nienhueser, Sidney, Nebraska; grandchildren, Mike Sandbrink, Matt Sandbrink, Judi Sutton and David Elder; great grandchildren, Dustin Elder, Camille Barmore, Tristan Elder, Taelynn Elder and Gabe Sandbrink; and great grandchild, Brayden Elder. She was preceded in death by her parents, Clay and Clara Laker, her husband Willis and a great granddaughter, Taylor Elder.

Ruth was a longtime member of St. John Lutheran Church, Aurora, Indiana. In previous years Ruth was very active in her political life, serving as Dearborn County Chairman of the Republican party for several years. Ruth was also awarded the Council of Sagamores Award of the State of Indiana. She was very proud of the fact that she attended the 63rd Infantry Division Association with her husband for over 40 years. Ruth loved to play cards and she also enjoyed collecting elephant figurines.

Friends will be received 5:00 - 8:00 PM, Friday, September 26, 2014 at the Rullman Hunger Funeral Home, Aurora, Indiana.

**Donna LaCosse**, passed January 1, 2014, wife of Harold LaCosse. The Memorial Service to be conducted on 4 July 2014 at the Community Center at Mt. Ayr, Indiana, located in Jackson Township, Newton County, Indiana.

Donna Schanlaub LaCosse, 85, of Morocco passed away on New Year's Day. Donna, the daughter of Earl and Mary Ann Schanlaub, was a life-long resident of Newton County graduating from Mount Ayr High School in 1946. Donna spent many years as a scout leader and was awarded the Silver Fawn for her work with Cub Scouts. Her passions were journalism and

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food. Those interests were combined in a recipe column she wrote and edited for the *Morocco Courier* and the *Newton County Enterprise*. An avid history buff, Donna was active with the Newton County Historical Society and helped compile the *History of Mount Ayr and Jackson and Colfax Townships* which was published in 2013. Donna served as the National secretary-treasurer of the 63rd Infantry Division Association of World War II Veterans for many years and edited the "*Blood and Fire*", the Association's newsletter. She was also long-time secretary/treasurer of the Mount Ayr Alumni Association. Extremely creative, she spent her life crafting and sewing for her own amusement as well as the enjoyment of others. Donna never met a stranger or turned away a friend.

Donna is survived by her husband, Harold. They would have celebrated 66 years of marriage in March. They have three children: Roger (Linda), Ron (Ann), and Gina (Scott), and one foster son, Jeff (Annette); grandchildren, Damian, Micah, Danny, Brandy, Natasha, Jennifer, Bob, Bill and Briann. Foster grandsons, Derek and Brock. Grandson, Jaman preceded her in death. She and Harold had 15 great-grandchildren. Surviving siblings are Francis (Bud), Audrey, Judy, and Larry.

## *Messages from the 63<sup>rd</sup> Veterans and Associates for the Final Blood & Fire - all good and wonderful things must come to an end.*

### **OUR HISTORY....Karin Froberg-Marzano**

The 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Association owes a huge "THANK YOU" to those men who have searched, recorded and made available the history of the "*Blood and Fire*".

Michael Baymor, G3-Air, Division Headquarters  
Magnus L. Froberg, Company C – 253<sup>rd</sup> Infantry  
William J. Scott, Company E – 254<sup>th</sup> Infantry  
Frederick C. Clinton – Company D – 254<sup>th</sup> Infantry  
And all who have contributed their own personal accounts

Our historians have preserved the integrity of the division history by maintaining facts and removing the fiction. Future generations can today access this information in libraries and museums across the country as well as on the website

**Marian Froberg**, passed on Friday, December 27, 2013. Mother of Karin Froberg-Marzano, David and Cathy Froberg.

**Lahoma Baymor**, 93, of Radcliff, KY, died Friday, Feb. 22, 2013, at Kensington Manor in Elizabethtown. She was a retired supervisor and teacher at Fort Knox Community Schools. She was a member of the Kentucky Congress of Parents and Teachers, the Retired Officers Association Auxiliary member, MOAA, Fort Knox Officers' Wives Club, the International Group of Fort Knox, The Potted Few Garden Club, National Council of Garden Clubs and a life-member of The Kentucky State Garden Club. She was preceded in death by her husband, Michael Baymor.

**Margaret K. Schultz**, passed away February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013, wife of T/5 William J. Schultz, Hq Div Arty, 63d Inf Div.

**Evelyn Rehm**, wife of Alfred Rehm passed on January 4, 2013. They were both lifetime members of the 63rd and enjoyed going to the reunions and renewing old acquaintances there.

**Norma Mauldin**, wife of Jim Mauldin, passed January 13, 2013.

**Ethel Gollither**, the wife of Zurka A. Gollither, passed November 28, 2012.

[www.63rdinfdiv.com](http://www.63rdinfdiv.com).

My father said that "when speaking, it is imperative that everything come full circle". That being said, in this, the final edition of the "*Blood and Fire*" it is then fitting that we end this way...

29 August 1945

The last official publication date of the wartime "*Blood and Fire*." It was Volume 3, Issue Number 28.

The editorial said:

"The guns of the Blood and Fire Division have been silenced; the men who fought with the 63d through France into Germany have been scattered to the four corners of the ETO. Some fortunate ones have already gone home. Others will never see home

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again. To those left behind in Alsace, at the German border, on the banks of the rivers, in the forests, at the mighty Siegfried Line, the men who battled and died with the division, we pay our respects. They did a job. They did it valiantly and courageously, ever true to the traditions of a free nation and the spirit of a fighting unit.”

“Time will heal the wounds, mental and physical, of a long and difficult war. But the pleasant memories will remain – memories of true friends, of jolly times, of jobs well done and lessons well learned. In years to come you can say proudly and fondly, ‘I fought with a combat outfit. I fought with the 63d!’”

From *The 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Chronicles*:

7 September 1945

“The Blood and Fire Division was restaffed with “high point men” from other divisions and other branches of the Army, and on the 7<sup>th</sup> of September it moved to Camp Lucky Strike at LeHarve, France, in preparation for the return trip to the United States.”

Camp Miles Standish, Massachusetts

29 September 1945

“On the 29<sup>th</sup> of September 1945, at Camp Miles Standish, Massachusetts, the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division and the 253<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Regiment were inactivated according to General Order #49.”

“The 254<sup>th</sup> and 255<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiments were returned to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, and on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September 1945, they, too, were inactivated”

Twenty years ago in February my father passed away. In his honor I lift a glass and say “Skol” to the Hot Shots of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division...To those who fought and died...and to those who fought and lived.

\*\*Thank you for our Freedom! ....Karin

### Remembering the 63rd

This is in memory of my parents, Willis and Ruth Sandbrink.

Early memories started in the early 1960's with trips to Indianapolis over July 4 to visit with the Tepe, McCord and Jones families. I think I was too young to understand and appreciate these reunions. The

real journey for Willis and Ruth began with a reunion in Washington D.C. in the mid 1960's. From that point on, there were yearly trips to the 63rd reunions and many IMOK chapter spring and fall events. I remember Dad always planned a bar and Mother would take snacks for a small cocktail party in their room before the final banquet. These trips continued until Dad passed away in 1995 (on the day that he had been wounded in Europe fifty years earlier according to Mother). Dad had received a Purple Heart, Silver Star and Bronze Star. I remember an article in our hometown paper on one of the anniversaries of the awards and asked Dad what he had done to receive them. His reply, "Those are things that men don't talk about." That seemed to sum up a lot about that generation. They had a job to do and got it done. I really think that the reunions were a way for the veterans to connect and heal. From there grew lasting friendships. After Dad was gone Mother and several other widows of the group decided to continue attending the reunions and started a tradition that continued until the last reunion.

Mother proudly attended over 45 consecutive reunions. I was honored to be with her for the last several. The 'kids', as I called our generation, had become a big part of planning the reunions to make sure the veterans still had that time together. Sadly the reunions have ended but countless friendships remain.

Mother passed away on Sept. 22, 2014. At that time she was still planning one last trip to Natchez, Mississippi to visit the places she had stayed while Dad was stationed there. I hope to take that trip this summer. Some of you may remember Mother's 'little brown book', her history of those reunions that she and Dad had attended. I'll be looking for it when I go through her desk this summer.

Thank you to everyone who made the 63rd such a wonderful part of our family memories.

\*\*Barbara Elder, 1739 Weil Rd. Marion, TX 78124

### Where has the time gone?

Is it just us or does it feel like there is so much more to share? Over two decades ago Mike began a quest to find some of his dad's Army buddies in order to learn about his dad's World War II service. Mike's dad, T/5 Jim Thomson served with the 255th AT Co.; he passed away when Mike was thirteen years old. Finding the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Association was like

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striking gold. It seems like yesterday that we entered the day room for the first time not knowing a sole.

Upon arrival at our very first reunion at Denver, Colorado, we were waiting to sign the 255<sup>th</sup> Regiment flipchart at registration, when a man in front of us turned toward us. When he caught sight of Mike, he said, "You're Jim Thomson's son". That man was SSgt. Harold Miller of the 255<sup>th</sup> AT Co.

SSgt. Miller recognized the face of a fellow soldier and friend in the young man standing before him. As Mike and Harold spoke, Harold pulled from his pocket a WWII GI's pocket note pad that had Mike's dad's name and address written in Jim Thomson's handwriting! SSgt Miller had carried Jim Thomson's information as well as the information from all of the other men in his platoon and company for all those years. SSgt. Miller introduced us to a small group of 255<sup>th</sup> AT Co. Veterans, their wives and families. It wasn't long until we met men from all the different regiments and units within the 63rd Inf. Div. What a pleasure it has been to look forward to visiting with old friends and making new friends at each reunion. We never anticipated the profound impact each of you would have on our lives.

As we sat to write this message to you it was very obvious that the list of those to thank is too long. The dedication and love it takes to keep any organization going this long is immeasurable. We do want to take the opportunity to thank all of the individuals who spent countless hours coordinating past reunions, juggling the finances, putting together the *Blood and Fire* throughout the years, maintaining records and transporting the massive collection of historical materials, keeping the membership data updated, establishing and maintaining the Association's award winning website and lovingly coordinating the annual memorial service. By establishing the association in conjunction with your enduring commitment over the years, you have perpetuated the history of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Division for years to come.

There is great irony in the fact that time felt suspended while attending a 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry reunion and yet the time went by too quickly. It didn't matter if we were in the day room pouring over regimental histories or trying to stretch the wee hours of the banquet. Our time spent together was never long enough. It has been a great honor to be invited into

your inner circle. We may never experience such camaraderie again. We will always cherish your esprit de corps. Our summers feel incomplete without a 63<sup>rd</sup> reunion to attend. How we wish we could pull up a chair in the day room and continue the reminiscing. We miss the opportunity to gather together to memorialize those that have gone on before us. We know in our hearts that when the final note of Taps is played for the last time, we will have one grand reunion for all times.

We'll be looking forward to the warmth of your welcoming embrace and seeing your smile light up as cherished friends walk through the door. Until we meet again may your days be filled with grace and your path lead to great joy.

\*\*With great affection, Mike and Donna Thomson

### A few words for the final issue of the *Blood and Fire*.

I joined the 63rd Division Association the 1st or 2nd year after it was organized and attended the 3rd reunion held at Cincinnati, Ohio.

Then, while finishing my college education and starting a family, I attended Division reunions sporadically until 1980 or so.

I also attended ICompany 254th. Reg. reunions for a dozen years until they were disbanded after our Company Commander, Captain Coss' death.

While attending the second European tours organized by Roger Johnson, my wife and I met Ed Fowle and we were invited to attend a chapter reunion of the IOK. A short time later Michigan veterans of the 63rd Infantry were invited to attend those Chapter reunions and it became the IMOK Chapter.

Attending these chapter reunions in Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Kentucky as well as National Reunions has been a highlight in my post war life. The *Blood and Fire* has documented these occasions in an excellent fashion due to the excellent editorial work done by Donna and Harold LaCosse.

My hat's off to Ed Fowle for his years of leadership and his daughter, Judy for her assistance in the last few years, also to Bill Byrnes' daughter, Mary Fran for serving as Treasurer. Thank you so much.

Finally, it's a sad day to witness the demise of the publication which has made it possible for former comrades-in-arms to find one another and to recall old memories, both happy and sad.

\*\*Mel Goebel, I Company 254th Regiment,  
63rd Infantry Division  
7250 Hayward Road, Delton, MI. 49046

## Messages . . . - from page 17

**It has been a great ride!** Miss the reunions, see you in heaven.

\*\*Bill Byrnes, I-254

### **Comments from Marsh Allen:**

I still like to keep in touch with the Division members even though it is shutting down. I doubt I know anyone there now. Helen and I are both able to get around but are really slowing down. Doctor appointments are getting closer together. Vision getting worse with macular degeneration. Neither of us drives at night anymore.

\*\*Marsh Allen, 253-851-3843

[mallen2321@centurytel.net](mailto:mallen2321@centurytel.net)

### **Message from Kitty Forrest, Public Relations**

On September 9, 2012 the Philadelphia Chapter of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Association met at Harry's Savoy Grill in Delaware for its final meeting. There were 29 present – 4 of our Veterans, other members, family and friends. We enjoyed an excellent brunch, took time to remember those we lost during the year, and enjoyed socializing. It was unanimously decided that we would finalize our bills and then donate our remaining funds to Disabled American Veterans.

Our President, Allan Romanoff, and all the planning committee were thanked for their service of years past. We will miss our comrades and our many great times together.

Thank you. Kitty

### **Regarding the closing of 63<sup>rd</sup> WWII Association.**

It is tough to see the toll of time. However, that is the cycle of which we are all a part; a cycle of which we cannot stop nor escape. One of the highlights of my career was as commanding general of the 63<sup>rd</sup>. I am not just fortunate, but truly blessed, to have been able to spend time with those who established the 63<sup>rd</sup> unit heritage and set the standards.

\*\*Mike Schweiger, Retired

### **63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division.**

From the first time I called Ed Fowle to ask him about the association I felt welcomed completely. As often as I could, I made it a point to join the members at their meetings. Joyce and I will miss everybody we have had the pleasure to know.

We wish everyone all the best and hope to see you

all again.

\*\*Paul & Joyce Schewene, Associate Member

### **Thank you, 63<sup>rd</sup> Division Association**

One of the best times in our family's life has been to be with the 63<sup>rd</sup> family while attending the annual reunions, being able to see old friends and making new friends at many of the reunions. It was always a good time. We were privileged to see many places and do things that we may never have had the chance to do if not for the 63<sup>rd</sup> Reunions. For all of this I am blessed.

As the years passed, I was honored to be more involved with planning the reunions and working closely with the IMOK to put together reunions that hopefully everyone would find different, exciting and enjoyable in the short 3 or 4 days they had with their friends. Hopefully, the mission was accomplished and everyone had as much fun as I did.

This is the most difficult message I have ever written. There are so many things that I want to say, but the words don't seem to come to express exactly how I feel. So, I will just thank you all for everything, and to those who served and fought for our country and for our freedom – I thank you!

\*\*Judith "Fowle" Schaefer

## PFC John L. Wilson



PFC John L. Wilson, D Company, 254th Infantry Regiment, 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division  
Fort Devens, MA 1941

When John was making orthopedic braces

## Military Experience

written by Lawrence Levine, 254th Regiment of the 63rd Division

\*\*\*\*\*

I enlisted at the age of seventeen and a half years to serve as an ASTRP<sup>1</sup>. They sent me to the Virginia Military Institute. I adjusted fairly well for there were compensations. I was the first among my friends to go. This made me suddenly important – the letters, the envious lines. It also raised my selling points among the women various. There were the packages from home and the family. I felt strong when I wrote of the hours on the drill field in the sun, the physical training and the forced marches lightly. I wanted to be strong. The place was fitted out with adequate stables. I took advantage of this and learned to ride. This brought me confidence and a greater feeling of camaraderie with the other horsemen. We BELONGED – were set aside in our special universe; we were becoming aristocratic in our tenacious fumbling with the sophistries of the Special. Our term lasted three months. We were sent home to await orders for assignment to Basic Training. After Basic we were to return to school again. I can remember no difficulties during my stay at VMI<sup>2</sup>. Perhaps we were kept so busy and sleep was precious; again perhaps the uniform bleached my uniqueness into the background of the variegated browns where all my petty fears and problems received other directions. I was proud and had every reason to be. My training at VMI was idealized. We were *the* Tin Soldiers. I knew nothing of the real – had no insight into what war was except that it was noisy. I was soon to learn.

I received my Basic Training as an Infantryman in Alabama<sup>3</sup>. Here in a jungle in the shadow of the Mechanical Giant evolution is reversed. En masse men slither under vines and kneel before altars of fire and breathe steel and live under rocks; I learned to be a soldier – real weapons and real miles – the salt encrusted fatigues – the longing for cool and the struggle for warmth – the languid Sundays – the soft women – and always the hills.

My adjustment was good here. I showed good leadership ability and was made an acting sergeant. I felt all along that I would return to school after Basic – but then in the final stages of training B. lifted the flap of our tent and said that he had just heard that we were all going overseas. Another rumor, I thought. Another rumor! After three days of Delay en Route, four days at Kilmer<sup>4</sup>, and six days on a big ship, I was drowsing on a stiff backed seat in a many-windowed-sooty English train bound for South Hampton and France.

---

1 I believe this refers to service in the Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP)

2 Virginia Military Institute

3 Fort McClellan, Alabama

4 Camp Kilmer, New Jersey

The 254<sup>th</sup><sup>5</sup> was billeted in the mountains that stand between France and Germany. (From atop the peaks a Frenchman shouts, "I am a Frenchman." A German booms from the other side, "I am a German," and the valleys echo, "*Vive le difference*.") The snow was deep ... inside a tall stone building we sat around a can of Sterno; there was a long French bread and a bottle of diluted wine; the veterans spoke of the combat the days gone and those yet to come. I sat there awed and scared. We were awakened near dawn. The cold was as intense as the cannon fire. We were to pick up some prisoners and escort them back. We were given orders to not treat them roughly. (Was this a myth they were creating? ... I was scared of them.) We walked along a road for about ten miles – I saw the destruction and I was sick – the white fields gaping at the sky with muddy mouths – the torn horses and the rubble houses – the desolated MP standing at a turn. We stopped for a break. Soon we heard the rumble of the trucks. They passed us in a spray of snow – they were loaded with sullen grey men. These were the prisoners we were to escort. I cursed their mothers ... I was learning fast.

The next day was filled with advice ... "if you want to keep your health on the lines you be goddamn sure to keep  
- more on page 20

## ***Military experiences . . .*** - from page 19

your pockets buttoned because those Krauts will lob a mortar right in there” ... “some poor slob will have to police the area for you” ... “when those 88s start to come, never stick your a-- out of the hole” and ... “million dollar wound” ... (this seemed reasonable).

The next afternoon Captain S.<sup>6</sup> called the company together, we were to take Jepsheim. He showed us the maps. I felt sick and I tried not to show it by being loud and boisterous. I ate chow with gusto even though each mouthful remained in my throat too long.

We set out with the beginning of darkness. It was bitterly cold. The road was slippery in the snow and men slipped and the steel helmets rattled. Soon we passed the artillery ... no greetings were exchanged except the silent nod of gratitude to the long, black-throated chorus preparing our advance. Off to the left an automatic weapon flashed. The entire column embraced the earth. The bullets buzzed over our heads and smacked into the trees. The nausea grew as the twigs fell. When we got up to continue our march, legs felt weaker and something pulled at my stomach. When the weapon flashed again, it pulled tighter causing me to emit a strange sound in my throat. By dawn we were shivering on the line of departure. I listened to our shells whirl overhead. I was beginning to grow accustomed to the sudden starts of fear and the strange "tickling" in my stomach. I was awaiting the order to move with impatience, and I became so tired that I didn't care a damn – I wanted to get the thing over with – my throat was dry and in my nose I dreamed of a cool fragrant apple. We moved forward on an azimuth plotted by some luminary far in the legendary rear – have reached phase line able, another pin on a map – then suddenly a flash and a sucking explosion – Schu-mine hidden in the snow.... “Good-God-dear-Christ my foot is gone med-IC”... and they placed another pin. I followed in the footsteps of the man before me thanking God that I was far behind in the column ... I was learning fast. The exploding mine seemed a signal for from far off on the rim of a hill long tongues roared and I thought of dragon tongues and the long paper party toys that shot out and buzzed when blown upon. We watched them and as they arched towards us we hit the ground and I burrowed deeper into the snow with an urgency that I couldn't control and punctuated with sobs that left my throat taut. The earth was cold and unyielding and I couldn't shut out the sudden explosions or the anguished cries for the medics. The earth stopped rocking and I lifted my head. I saw someone give the signal to move forward. I waited until some others had gotten to their feet. We could see the burning village before us taunting the colorless dawn with fiery fingers. Suddenly, the enemy opened up. We could see their weapon flash in the half light. From behind us our automatic began to fire, and under their cover we advanced forward swiftly. I became intoxicated with the rush and the savage noise – I reeled forward – a well-placed grenade.

*Kommen Sie 'raus*<sup>7</sup>, you bastards, *Nix Schiessen*<sup>8</sup>!” It made me more drunk to see the frightened men. The ditches, the wire, the bitter smell of the smoke me-DIC... the silent signals, "You cover me ..." the shell landing close and the glance of houses shivering as if viewed by a furnace suddenly opened. By night we had taken the town. High Casualties. Tiredness I had never known. The patrols endless. Death hovering like a space ship. In the morning the jeeps loaded with dead move to the rear; people appear from out of the landscape and we move off, leaving the fields a little more fertile. On it went – the dread expectancy, anxious waiting – numbing fatigue – the cravings something cool and fragrant or something to erase the quiet because it became unique and disturbing – then the patrols – then the dull routine in the rest camps.

I was wounded in the last big push – the one that smashed the God of the Rhine, Siegfried<sup>9</sup>. This night was so

<sup>5</sup> 254th Regiment of the 63rd Division

<sup>6</sup> Captain Scruton

<sup>7</sup> Come out

<sup>8</sup> Don't shoot

<sup>9</sup> The Siegfried Line

## **Military experiences . . .**

- from page 20

fashioned that some of the farmers in the outfit spoke of other springs in other worlds. We reached an impasse<sup>10</sup>. We moved off the road and I got into a firing position and began to seek out targets. Suddenly there was a blinding flash. I saw familiar scenes peopled in places that I had known and loved. I heard low moans before me and from behind someone pleaded for a medic. I was on my back, my helmet gone. I blinked – I couldn't see. I sat up sharply terror rising, was I blind? No blood, only blood – a head wound – pressure points. I tried to lift my left arm, it was heavy and sticky and tingling. My jacket was soaked. When the bleeding stopped I took my wound tablets. The rest of the company moved on. I tried to stand – I was unsteady – the medic told me to try for the rear; one and a half miles down the road was the forward aid station for the walking wounded. He was busy with other men torn and still. Whit<sup>11</sup> was dying, "Whit can you hear me," there on the side of the road; "He's going fast," in the dark in the infant spring. I met some other casualties and we helped each other back. I was scared and my head felt light and I never thought that I would make it. The medic looked at my arm and whistled. He poured the white wonder powder on. "Can you make it down the stairs" as he pointed in the direction of a draped framed doorway. "Sure." I passed out. Here's how it was. As I inched down the stairs my ears began to ring and things lost their color. Gradually, light began to fail me and I began to see things thru a black veil, and the veil thickened, and my legs were no longer mine ... "KAFFEE<sup>12</sup>? Kaffee" a smiling woman held a chipped cup. I was on top of a pile of mattresses – there were other casualties and I floated slightly from the morphine my arm throbbed – "Levine, I didn't know you were hit so bad," the medic spoke. Sleep again.

In the morning they carried me out on a litter. I saw the long line of tanks. One tanker looked down from steel perch – I tried to smile heroically – he grinned weakly and looked the other way. Two Krauts grabbed the litter and began to walk down the road to the jeeps on the other side of hill. Some mortar shells landed off to the left – "*Mach schnell*"<sup>13</sup> bastards!" A Kraut ran from the woods to the right (mysteries) ... a hundred rifles craned and he fell soundlessly ... Great sport ... Rear aid station – plasma – "You'll be back to Brooklyn soon." "Don't raise the kid's hopes."

I was lying on a wheeled contrivance in a vaulting overheated hall. My throat was dry and for some deep reason I couldn't get any water. I slept most of the time. Sometimes I was awakened by, "*Wasser*"<sup>14</sup>, "*Wasser*" from the PWs<sup>15</sup>. Presently a nurse came along and gave me an injection. Soon another came by and wheeled me to an operating room. I looked around; there were four other men on tables in the corners – they looked dead – I saw a surgeon sawing an arm. I was scared. "Now this will be very pleasant; just breathe naturally," a soft voice close to my ear. They put the mask over my face and I heard the full throated whisper of the vapors. The sweet smell was sickening; I breathed deeper – well let's go, let's get this thing over with – I could no longer feel my arms and legs – my head was whirling and there was a ringing in my ears and my stomach felt funny. "Goddam you nurse," I thought, "You said this thing was going to be pleasant." She had betrayed me. Then I let go with a violent flow of expletives in her direction – I was slowly drifting in a vortex to the bottom of a huge barrel. When I reached the bottom, I heard laughter roll down the sides and through caverns. "What is that?" "It is the devil laughing at you for all your sins!" came the answer like an echoed echo. I was terrified and I think that I actually saw a devil smirking. It seems that I wasn't as inarticulate as I thought, and someone was having a little joke. (More fertilizer for my poison plant.)

A few weeks later I flew home – slightly battered. I re-met the family. My intellectual level had fallen to such a degree that my evaluation of a pair of curtains that my mother had made was a long drawn out.

<sup>10</sup> Outside of Eschringen, on the road to Enshiem

<sup>11</sup> Julius Whittington

<sup>12</sup> Coffee

<sup>13</sup> Make is snappy

<sup>14</sup> Water

<sup>15</sup> Prisoner of War

## ***Military experiences . . . .***

- from page 21

"Gahdammm!" I went back to Virginia<sup>16</sup>, and after a few months of tortuous treatment was discharged.

I returned to school. My mind was a blotter. I was capable of great concentration and was able to grasp things readily. I became eloquent, and did very well. Then the bubble burst; the poison had eaten into the dam and weakened it. I was sitting in a class – it was a two hour lecture – everyone was intent and no sound except the high pitched voice of the emaciated long ghoulish gesticulator at the head of the class who was wildly extolling something ridiculous. I became aware of my heart beating faster – accelerating – something wrong with my heart – and the betting noise became a wild torrent – a psychotic ratchet wheel – while my face grew cold and my hands and feet numb. I could hear the rushing in my ears – the walls and ceiling began to move and stifle me and the words at high frequency became darts. "My heart; it's my heart;" I walked out of the class. I hurried home because it seemed the safest place going through a few of these episodes along the way. The next day, I went to see a doctor, and told him that I was suffering from severe headaches and asked would he help me. He made the routine examination and said that I was all there except that my heart was rather rapid, I told him that I was jumpy. He prescribed a sedative. I paid him and left. After this I had trouble sitting in one place for any length of time. The walls of the rooms threatened me and the silences enhanced the beating of my heart. This extended to any periods that involved waiting. It was torture to have to wait for trains. At times I found myself obsessed with the overwhelming fear that somehow I was going to pass out or faint. I didn't do well in any of my courses for that term for instead of listening to the lectures I would sit terrified. My palms would sweat and I could actually feel my face blanching at times. There were few movies that I could sit through. I had to MOVE. My hours were fraught with terror. This lasted for a few weeks. Then I began to realize that this pattern would never permit me to live a normal life; would never permit me to reach the objective that I had set. I couldn't allow this to happen. I could never see myself as the form of a man shivering in a corner – avoiding. I had to meet; to see; to find out. I could never permit myself to become a statistic ... I reached new heights in determination ... I walked where Giants walk ... for a while. I didn't improve immediately. I found that one needs more than determination. I then began to seek the reasons. (By this time I was enough of a scientist to know that there must be reasons.) I searched back into the dimly lit halls. Painfully at first and in times when I least expected, revelations rose. I remembered the terrifying episode on the operating table and found in this a reason for my fear of becoming unconscious. This was reinforced as I somewhat painfully remembered the unpleasant feeling of blacking out in the aid station. And it was not until I sat down to prepare this paper that I saw the full story. Of course, I feared for my heart for a thousand years ago people entered a terrible state, which I couldn't understand because of it; the greatest terror of my childhood revolved around this sun. When I saw the doctor it was to reassure myself about the soundness of my heart. The fear of becoming unconscious is intimately woven into the chain of my first terror. For the heart was the vehicle by which people enter this province.

All in all I found that writing this was a valuable experience, for through it I have come to a better understanding with my furniture<sup>17</sup>...

Laurence Levine, date unknown, originally untitled  
Footnotes and title by Russell Levine, August 7, 2014

<sup>16</sup> McGuire General Hospital, Richmond, Virginia

<sup>17</sup> I have no idea what this last sentence possibly means

# Items of Interest

From: Fred Clinton [mailto:joyclint@comcast.net]  
 Sent: Sunday, December 16, 2012 10:23 AM  
 To: USARMY Ft Leavenworth TRADOC Mailbox LDE  
 CGSCWEB Inbox  
 Subject: CGSC Website Feedback

Sir: The contents of this message is for your librarian:

My name is Fred Clinton and previously I sent a set of CD's to you that contained the digitized files of the 63rd Infantry Division (WWII). Recently, due to declining membership in our association, we have decided to dispose of all of our division related records. Among those records is a collection of a variety of maps dated in the 30's and 40's relating to Europe and specifically Germany. The condition of these maps is Excellent to poor. Would you be interested in these maps? If so, please let me know where to send them. Thanks and Merry Christmas. Colonel Frederick C Clinton

Reply to above message:

Hello Sir:

I remember receiving the cd-roms and our conversation. We have had a couple of students use the materials for their research projects. We would be interested in the maps if you would like to send them to us. My address is below. I have attached the gift form if you would fill it out for us.

I am glad to hear from you and hope you are doing well. Thank you and Merry Christmas to you!

Sincerely,

Kathy Buker  
 Chief, Special Collections/Digital Project Manager  
 Combined Arms Research Library  
 250 Gibbon Ave.  
 Fort Leavenworth, KS 66027  
 913.758.3161

## Calendar Blends History, Art, Soldiers' Stories

The general motif established in earlier editions of the annual calendar remains popular among recipients and will be repeated in the *National Museum of the United States Army 2014 Calendar*.

"Our 2014 calendar will be patterned after earlier editions, with Soldier artwork being used each month to illustrate a particular event in Army annals, and photos of Soldiers whose service histories indicate they were or are in some way associated with the event," said Jenna Truax, Army Historical Foundation's (AHF's) Direct Marketing Coordinator.

Truax said that the 14 pieces of artwork covering the period from World War I to the ongoing Global War on Terrorism were selected from approximately 16,000 Soldier-artist paintings and sketches maintained in the Office of the Chief of Military History's Army Art Collection.

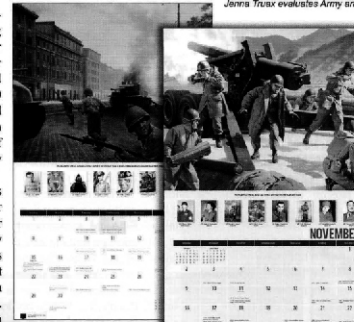
"The 104 Soldiers whose photos appear throughout the calendar are considered worthy proxies for all Soldiers associated with the event being featured each month," Truax explained. "They were selected from over 97,000 men and women currently enrolled in the Foundation's *Registry of the American Soldier* that eventually will be enshrined in the Museum."

The introductory pages of the calendar will preview some of the stories that will appear on the indoor pylons of the *Soldiers' Stories Gallery*, including those of SGT Curtis G. Culin III and CPT Kimberly N. Hampton.

Culin was personally commended by Eisenhower and awarded the Legion of Merit for his ingenuity; he invented the Rhino plow, which fit on the front of a tank and cut through the hedgerows surrounding the Normandy beachhead. He later lost a leg to a land mine in the Huertgen Forest but survived the war.



Jenna Truax evaluates Army artwork for use in the calendar.



Hampton, a helicopter pilot with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, deployed to Iraq in 2003 in command of an air cavalry troop with eight aircraft and 30 Soldiers. She was the Army's first female aviator to die when her OH-58 Kiowa aircraft was downed by enemy ground fire in Fallujah.

"These are the kinds of stories that

will resonate throughout the Museum—stories of ordinary men and women who have done extraordinary things for their fellow Soldiers, their Army, and the nation," notes AHF's Executive Director BG Creighton W. Abrams, Jr. (USA-Ret.) in the introduction to the 2014 calendar. "These personal accounts will offer Museum visitors an invaluable perspective on how much our country owes to its Soldiers and its Army."

Founding Sponsors can expect to receive their copy of the *National Museum of the United States Army 2014 Calendar* in late October or early November.



# BRICK PROGRAM

*Path of Remembrance*

## Paving the Way for Army History

The Army Historical Foundation (AHF) has launched the National Museum of the United States Army Brick Program to "pave the way to Army history."

To be inlaid along the *Path of Remembrance* that will lead visitors from the parking area to the Museum's main entrance, the personalized bricks offer Museum supporters and the general public an opportunity to ensure the special soldiers in their lives are honored through a lasting tribute on Museum grounds.

"These commemorative bricks will also serve as ideal stage-setters for the Museum's central theme—soldiers' stories," said Kerri Kline, AHF's Director of Donor Initiatives and Museum Relations. "And that theme will be reflected as soon as visitors approach the *Path of Remembrance* to witness the tributes to the soldiers whose personal stories of service and sacrifice helped shape our Army and our nation."

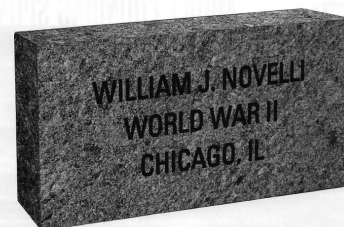
Kline explained that besides honoring individual soldiers, the bricks can be inscribed with specific Army units, unit mottos, in memoriam tributes, and the names of Army families, Department of the Army civilians, and Museum and Army supporters.

"Only letters and numerals, though—no graphic symbols or logos," Kline added.

The bricks will be made of high-quality Mesabi black granite and inscribed in charcoal-colored lettering. Available in 4" x 8" and 8" x 8" sizes, orders are being taken now, with early purchasers being given prime placement along the *Path of Remembrance*. The bricks will be installed in time for the Museum's grand opening celebration.

Kline also noted that both full-size and miniature brick replicas, complete with a "National Museum of the United States Army" brass plaque, can be ordered as gifts for personal display. "Orders for the replicas will be produced and mailed immediately to ensure that honorees are aware before the Museum's opening that a brick will commemorate their Army service," Kline said. [E]

For more information on the Army Museum Brick Program's *Path of Remembrance*, visit [www.armyhistory.org/bricks](http://www.armyhistory.org/bricks) or call 855-ARMY-BRX



The Registry of the American Soldier  
**ARE YOU REGISTERED?**  
[www.armyhistory.org](http://www.armyhistory.org)

Your story will be preserved here...  
 register today.

The National Museum of the U.S. Army recognizes the service and sacrifice of the American Soldier at home and around the world, at war and during peace.

The *Registry of the American Soldier* provides an opportunity for anyone who served in the U.S. Army to have his or her name and service history placed on record at the Museum. If you served, you need to be in the Registry!

You may also register the names of family members or friends, if they currently serve, or have served in the U.S. Army.

This is a unique way to document your or your family's service. You control the content and can change or add information at any time!

The Registry will be on permanent display at the Museum, and remain accessible via the internet for those who cannot visit in person.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
 The National Museum of the U.S. Army  
 (800) 506-2672  
[www.armyhistory.org](http://www.armyhistory.org)

## VETERANS' HALL *Program*



Veterans' and military service organizations, reunion groups, and other service organizations are encouraged to get involved in this special opportunity to forever honor their membership in the National Museum of the United States Army's Veterans' Hall through a unique sponsorship program.

The Veterans' Hall will provide a unique setting to honor the service and sacrifice of America's veterans. It will serve as a multi-purpose space for veterans and other organizations to host reunions, meetings, dinners, and official functions in a patriotic atmosphere. The Hall will also showcase artwork, artifacts, the interactive *Registry of the American Soldier*, and will host a variety of educational outreach initiatives including presentations, demonstrations, and lecture series.

### GET INVOLVED!

*Veterans' Hall recognition opportunities begin at \$2,500.*

Contact us today!  
 (800) 506-2672  
[www.armyhistory.org](http://www.armyhistory.org)



## Donation to The National Museum Of The U.S. Army

The 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division has made a donation of \$5,000.00 to The National Museum of The U.S. Army. The 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division will be remembered with a memorial marker along the promenade entryway to the museum, which will have a replica of the monument that is in place at Fort Blanding in Starke, FL.

The museum will be located on grounds of Fort Belvoir, Virginia which is thirty minutes south of Washington D.C. The purpose of this museum is to serve as the home of U.S. Army history and Soldiers' stories. The museum will encompass 238 years of Army history through an Experiential Learning Center, Gallery Overview, Soldiers' stories, Army & Society Gallery, which explores the unknown symbiotic relationship between the Army, its civilian government and the people and Veterans Hall which will be available to veterans and their families to host reunions and various other activities.

More information on the museum can be found at [www.armyhistory.org](http://www.armyhistory.org) or by writing the Army Historical Foundation, 2425 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22201. They are hoping to break ground this spring. Their letter acknowledging the 63<sup>rd</sup>'s donation follows on page 25.





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# THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE U.S. ARMY

August 26, 2014

63rd Infantry Division Association  
Attn: Mary Fran Collier  
10812 S. Kenneth Ave  
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Army Historical Foundation, let me express our thanks for your generous contribution of \$5,000 toward the National Museum of the United States Army.

Your contribution is important in helping us build this lasting tribute to the American Soldier, educating the American public on the service and sacrifice of all who have ever worn or are wearing the Army uniform. When the Museum is complete, it will become a show place of steel, bricks, and mortar. Through its exhibitions, programs, and extensive grounds, the Museum will showcase that the history of the Army permeates the American experience—not just through the creation and defense of the nation, but also through exploration (geographical, medical), major engineering projects, social, and educational initiatives (integration and the GI Bill).

The National Museum will embody the heart and soul of the some 30 million American Soldiers who have worn the Army uniform. It will be a place to continue to honor the American Soldier past, present, and future, and it will be an educational experience that will remind every visitor of the important role the Army has played in our nation's history. *Army history is American history.*

The National Museum would not be possible without your generous support. We hope that you will continue to follow our progress and remain involved in bringing about this long overdue tribute to the U.S. Army and the American Soldier.

Sincerely yours,

Creighton W. Abrams, Jr.  
Brigadier General, USA-Ret.  
Executive Director

3029911ACK14-5P

The National Museum of the United States Army will be located in the National Capital area on the grounds of beautiful Fort Belvoir, Virginia, less than 30 minutes south of Washington, D.C.

The Museum will be an experience that will engage visitors of all ages emotionally and intellectually in the Army's history and heritage, allowing them to experience what it is like to be a Soldier. As the Army's national landmark, the Museum will be the home of United States Army history and Soldiers' stories, providing the environment where veterans, families, and the general public can reflect, remember, and enjoy the enduring spirit of the United States Army.



**Billing Information**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (Day) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment Information**

I would like to donate to the National Army Museum. \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 I wish to pay with:  Visa  Master Card  Discover  AMEX  
 Credit Card number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp: \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable to: National Army Museum Fund

**Brick Information**

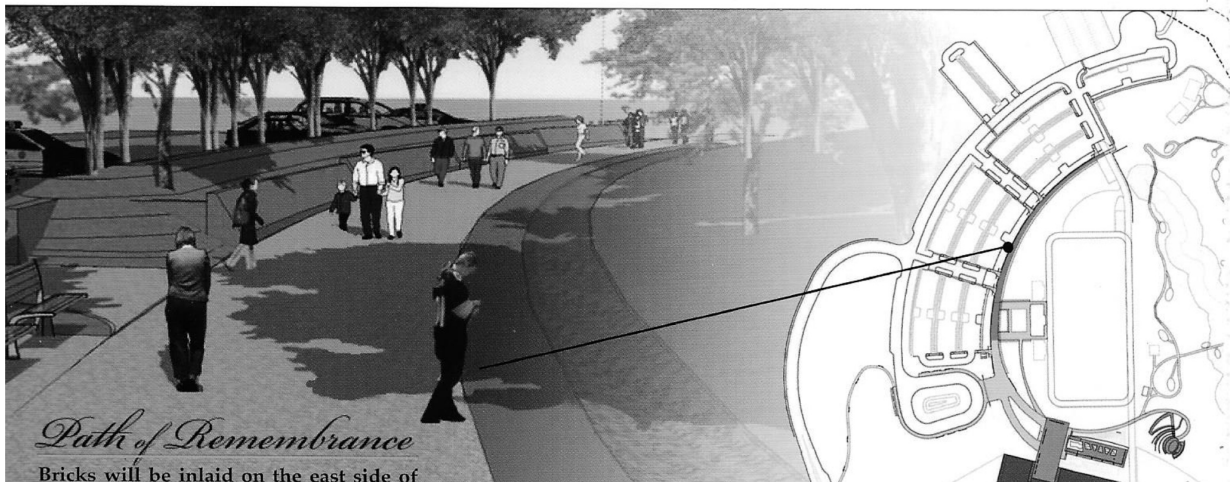
|                           |                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 4" x 8" Brick             | _____ x \$250.00 = \$ _____ |
| 4" x 8" Replica           | _____ x \$59.50 = \$ _____  |
| 4" x 8" Display Case      | _____ x \$39.50 = \$ _____  |
| 2" x 4" Mini Replica      | _____ x \$37.50 = \$ _____  |
| 2" x 4" Mini Display Case | _____ x \$32.50 = \$ _____  |
|                           |                             |
| 8" x 8" Brick             | _____ x \$500.00 = \$ _____ |
| 8" x 8" Replica           | _____ x \$93.50 = \$ _____  |
| 8" x 8" Display Case      | _____ x \$49.50 = \$ _____  |
| 4" x 4" Mini Replica      | _____ x \$48.50 = \$ _____  |
| 4" x 4" Mini Display Case | _____ x \$35.50 = \$ _____  |

Replicas and display cases can only be purchased with a 4" x 8" or 8" x 8" brick.

Bricks inlaid at the National Army Museum are tax deductible.

**Total Cost: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

DBRK-BR13



*Path of Remembrance*  
 Bricks will be inlaid on the east side of

**Regarding the letter below:**

**INVITATION TO ALL 63<sup>RD</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION – WWII VETERANS**

If you are interested in attending the April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Festival and are able to travel, please contact Fred Clinton at [joyclint@comcast.net](mailto:joyclint@comcast.net) for more information asap.

**Battle of Buchhof 70th Anniversary Memorial Service and Historical German-American Friendship Festival**

Dear Mr. Fred Clinton,

As the organizers of our annual "Battle of Buchhof" memorial service, I want to inform you and all of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division of this year's 70th anniversary memorial service and our International Veterans Associations' historical first time ever German - American Friendship Festival immediately following the Memorial service on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April 2015.

I have contacted the Rathaus (City Hall) in Neuenstadt and called for a meeting on Tuesday morning, the 3rd of February 2015, starting at 1000 hours in the Rathaus. I have invited the Community Relations coordinator, Frau Stephanie Cleaton of the U.S. Army Garrison in the Stuttgart Community, who works for the Garrison Commander, to be present at this meeting, and she has confirmed that she will be there to represent the U.S. Army in Stuttgart and that the Army will support our International Veterans Associations' efforts in carrying out our annual memorial service with an Honor Guard Team and guest speaker.

And, according to Frau Sonja Bauer from the Neuenstadt am Kocher Rathaus, the Mayors of Neuenstadt a.K., Stein a.K, Oedheim and Herr Herrman Belz from Buchhof will also be present for this meeting. My Vice Commander, Willie J. Summers from Nürnberg will also be there to support us. I have also informed them that our Veterans Association would like to invite a few American Veterans that fought there in 1945, to come over to be with us during this honorable occasion as our Guests. I cannot 100% promise you this but, at this meeting I will push for assistance in providing for a comfortable hotel, food and transportation. And I will do my best to get donations to help pay for the cost of flights in order to get here.

One member of our IVAN e.V., is Herbert Kilper, and he is the manager of the Neckarsulmer Brauhaus, which is our International Veterans Associations' Garrison home (In the Tonne room), and he has informed me a few minutes ago on the phone that he would provide for the Hotel rooms for all those Veterans that will come. Here is the web link to the Neckarsulmer Brauhaus, Restaurant and Hotel. <http://www.neckarsulmer-brauhaus.de>

What I need from you now Mr. Clinton, is who and how many WWII Veterans that are State-side and would like to be here for this 70th anniversary of the Battle of Buchhof Memorial Service and historical first time ever German-American Friendship Festival on the battle grounds?

I will also see to it that each WWII Vet has one of our IVAN e.V. Members always present to help and support them with translations and other special needs. I would appreciate your assistance in letting me know ASAP who would like to fly over. I will need the names and any other info that would prepare us for their visit back to their old battle grounds once

## **Invitation ... Battle of Buchhof . . . .**

- from page 27

again. I can also assure you that the German media, the Stars & Stripes Newspaper and AFN will be there to record this historical event.

I am looking forward to hear from you in the near future and wish you and your Comrades all the best of health.

Respectfully,

Larry D. Nichols  
Garrison Commander  
International Veterans Association  
Neckarsulm e.V.  
Holunderweg 7

“Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth”  
Ecclesiastes 11:9

Regarding the letter above:

**INVITATION TO ALL 63<sup>RD</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION – WWII VETERANS**

If you are interested in attending the April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Festival and are able to travel, please contact Fred Clinton at [joyclint@comcast.net](mailto:joyclint@comcast.net) for more information asap.

\*\*\*\*\*

**63<sup>rd</sup> veterans with a Michigan connection** you may be interested in the efforts underway to build The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial. On top of the more than 600,000 residents who served in the armed forces, countless others served on the homefront where Rosie the Riveter and the Arsenal of Democracy were born. The state of Michigan has officially recognized the memorial as the state’s tribute to its contributions during WWII. Please visit [www.michiganww2memorial.org](http://www.michiganww2memorial.org) for more information, including how to buy a personally engraved brick to be installed at the memorial. You can also contact me directly (Russell Levine, [russell.m.levine@gmail.com](mailto:russell.m.levine@gmail.com) or 248 398 3069).

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Tony and Me...**

- from page 35

In loving memory of my dad, PFC Joseph Anthony Pulichene,  
63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division, 255<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Company L



# Books Written by Family of 63<sup>rd</sup> Veterans

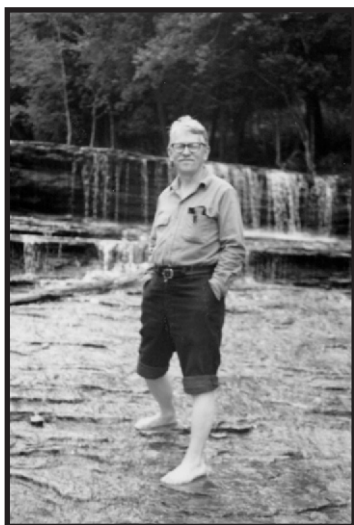
Joseph Zimmerman's, of Company L of the 255<sup>th</sup> Regiment, granddaughter Tammy Zimmerman has written and published a book about her grandfather. Much of the book follows his and the 255<sup>th</sup>'s journey through France and Germany from February to the end of the war.

## “Blinded By His Shadow” – Tammy Zimmerman

Joe Zimmerman led just an ordinary life. His story sounded like that of thousands of men across America. He never sought glory. All he desired was the opportunity to live, love, work and raise a family. But in his ordinary way, he became a great man. His lasting influence, though silent, powerfully shaped the lives of his family with a nearly blinding force. He became a man who stood for what was right, a man who never shirked his duty, a man who's overwhelming yet hidden legacy will inspire all who read his story.

You can go to the website to order the book ([www.BlindedByHisShadow.com](http://www.BlindedByHisShadow.com)) or call Tammy at 316-734-8709.

When my father, **Joe Ted Miller**, died in 2006, my sisters and I found a box full of letters he had written home during his service during WWII. We knew that these letters existed, but didn't know that there were over 300 of them, written from Camp Blanding, Camp Van Dorn, the battles of the ETO, and time after the war in Paris and Germany. Dad served in the communications platoon of the 254<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry. He carried the radio on his back during battles at the Colmar Pocket and Siegfried Line. He earned medals including a Bronze Star. But his letters rarely considered these central issues of war. Instead, they focused on the many aspects of his life in the military: food, PX, movies, biographies of friends and platoon-mates, training activities, travelogues, the behavior (good and bad) of officers, ruminations on right and wrong. Dad later had a career as a newspaper editor, and even did some reporting for the *Blood and Fire* newsletter while in Europe. His writing skills show in his letters and fill his reports with a wealth of objective detail, as well as articulate reflections on his feelings about his experiences. The book I wrote based on these letters – *War Makes Men of Boys: A Soldier's World War II* – considers the ways my father was influenced by the war in all phases of his life including family, friendship, work, and morality. It is a coming of age story based on Dad's letters but informed by all we know about the complicated path individuals



Joe Ted Miller

take as they navigate the turning points thrown at them by external events and internal struggles.

**KATHY MILLER, AUTHOR OF THE BOOK - *War Makes Men of Boys: A Soldier's World War II*. If you would like to read Kathy's book, you can order from the website listed below.**

[http://www.amazon.com/War-Makes-Men-Boys-Williams-](http://www.amazon.com/War-Makes-Men-Boys-Williams-Ford/dp/1603448152/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1422727334&sr=8-1&keywords=war+makes+men+of+boys&pebp=1422727340124&peasin=1603448152)

[Ford/dp/1603448152/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1422727334&sr=8-](http://www.amazon.com/War-Makes-Men-Boys-Williams-Ford/dp/1603448152/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1422727334&sr=8-1&keywords=war+makes+men+of+boys&pebp=1422727340124&peasin=1603448152)

[1&keywords=war+makes+men+of+boys&pebp=1422727340124&peasin=1603448152](http://www.amazon.com/War-Makes-Men-Boys-Williams-Ford/dp/1603448152/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1422727334&sr=8-1&keywords=war+makes+men+of+boys&pebp=1422727340124&peasin=1603448152)

# Books written . . .

- from page 29

## Joe Ted Miller

Photo



Joe Ted Miller in Europe. Credit Courtesy of Kathy Miller

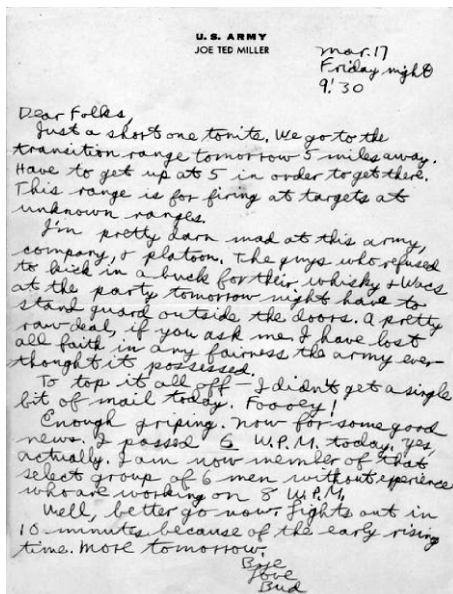
My dad, Joe Ted Miller, was typical of many young G.I.'s in the European theater in the closing months of World War II. He had been trained as a radio operator at Camp Blanding in Florida and Camp Van Dorn in Mississippi. He landed in Marseille, France, early December in 1944, weeks after his 19th birthday. With the 254th Battalion of the Third Infantry Division, he participated in the fight for the Colmar Pocket and was with one of the first units to break through the Siegfried Line. He was a "low-pointer" at the end of the war and was stationed in Paris and Versailles for many months before shipping home. He was awarded a Bronze Star,

but like most soldiers thought more about his buddies and just getting through it all than about bravery and big ideals.

Dad was not typical of most G.I.'s, though, in one way. Early on in his time at Camp Blanding, he wrote to his parents in Urbana, Ill.: "Like you suggested, Mom, I've decided to keep a diary — but in a different way. I'll write you a letter each night, if possible, and then you can save the letters — that is, if you want to do so." And over the next 25 months, he kept that promise and 318 letters survive to this day starting with induction at Camp Sheridan and ending with an excited missive: "Break out the flags and Pepsi-Cola, Mom. Your son is coming home."

The letters are sometimes handwritten, sometimes typed; often on letterhead made for him by his printer father; and full of mundane details of army life, descriptions of training and troop movement, gripes about and appreciation for officers, occasional homesickness and philosophical musings. His first Christmas in Europe, in the bitter cold of the Alsace Lorraine region of France, he wrote from Camp Oberhoffen ("Ever

Hope"): "I've been doing some thinking, and come to the conclusion that I'm pretty lucky in some ways. There are a lot of men lying in foxholes who would love to be sitting by this little stove as I am doing now, typing by the light of a portable generator. I had plenty of food, I have a nice soft straw mattress to retire to, and I am in no immediate danger. From here we can hear guns rolling all the time from the front, but none of it reaches us."



Photo

Credit Courtesy of Katherine Miller

Dad died in 2006, and my sisters and I feel pretty lucky in some ways, too. He was never one to talk about his experiences in the war. He wanted to put that behind him and move on with his career as a newspaperman. But his letters remain to introduce us to that teenager we never knew, to chronicle his experiences, and to show us the ways in which the war shaped the man he became.

Submitted by Kathy Miller, Phoenix

# THE ROAD TO BERLIN

America's Journey of  
Courage and Sacrifice

Dedication Ceremony for Road to Berlin: European Theater Galleries within  
Campaigns of Courage: European and Pacific Theaters  
Friday, December 12, 2014

63rd Infantry Division Association - To whom it may concern:

On behalf of The National WWII Museum in New Orleans, I would like to ask you to nominate one 63<sup>rd</sup> Division WWII European veteran to represent the Division at the Grand Opening Dedication of phase one of Campaigns of Courage: European and Pacific Theaters – *Road to Berlin: European Theater Galleries*. The veteran nominees/individuals will be among the first to experience this remarkable new exhibition space.

The dedication ceremony and ribbon cutting will take place Friday, December 12, 2014 in the US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center. The 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. ceremony will be a poignant event that is the focal point for national media as we recognize selected WWII veterans from each major campaign in the European Theater of Operations. Immediately following the ceremony, the invited veteran and guest will be able to tour the new galleries and join us for lunch.

Thank you for your unit's service to our country, and we look forward to receiving your nomination shortly.

Best regards,



Gordon H. "Nick" Mueller, PhD  
President and CEO

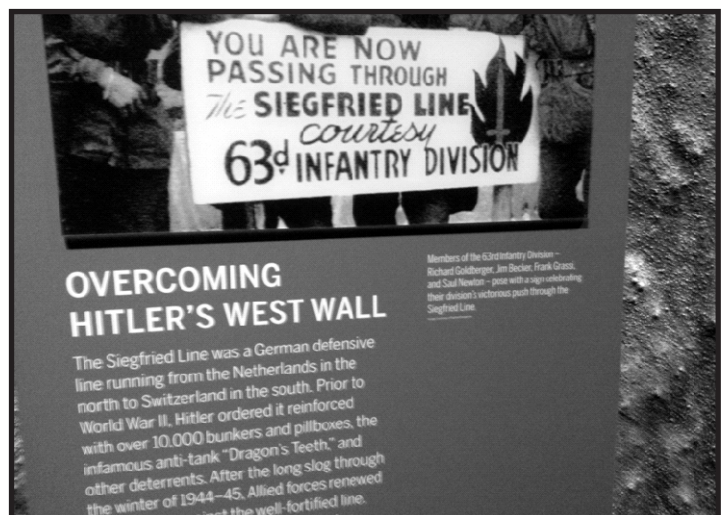
Fred Clinton was the nominee for the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Association and agreed to attend the Grand Opening Dedication of phase one of Campaigns of Courage: European and Pacific Theaters – *Road to Berlin: European Theater Galleries*.

These are his comments regarding the experience:

"It was an impressive ceremony with about 100 WWII veterans in attendance in addition to a few hundred more guests."

"I was not as impressed with the actual content of the displays in the new exhibit area. It seemed to be concentrated on D-Day and The Bulge. There was very little said about the battles south of the Bulge particularly the Colmar Pocket. Further the area of our advance through Germany and the Danube River was identified as the French area of combat."

"When discussing the breakthrough of the Siegfried Line they did include the picture of our sign announcing passing through the line courtesy of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division."



# 63d Infantry Division History and Memorabilia

Matters relating to the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division History will be handled by Fred Clinton even after the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Association closes the books and fades away.

Fred will be available to answer your history questions about the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division until further notice. Fred can be reached by e-mail at joyclint@comcast.net and by regular mail at 102 S. Jenkins Street, Alexandria, VA 22304.

Fred will also be the source for several memorabilia items relating to the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division. The items available for sale can be found at the following web site address:  
[www.63rdinfdiv.com/memorabiliapage1.html](http://www.63rdinfdiv.com/memorabiliapage1.html)

For those of you who do not possess or use the internet the following is a list of items available:

**CDs and DVDs:**

- History of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division CD: .....\$15 plus \$3 S/H
- History of each organic element of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division CD: .....\$12 each plus \$3 S/H
- WWII issues of the *Blood and Fire* newspaper CD: .....\$10 plus \$3 S/H
- 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Orders CD: .....\$10 plus \$3 S/H
- Morning Reports relating to each organic element of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division CD: . \$10 each plus \$3 S/H
- Pictorial History of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division CD: ..... \$10 plus \$3 S/H

**DVDs with combination of the various CD listed above. Contact Fred for pricing.**

**Challenge Coins for the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division and for the 254<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment**

Challenge coins for the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division and the 254<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment are available as follows:

- 1-5 coins: \$15 each, includes plastic case and shipping.
- 6-10 coins: \$13 each, includes plastic case and shipping.
- 11 or more: \$12 each, includes plastic case and shipping.



254th Infantry Regiment coin-Side A    254th Infantry Regiment coin-Side B    63d Infantry Division coin-Side A    63d Infantry Division coin-Side B

At this time I am not in position to provide coins for the other organic units of the 63rd Infantry Division because of the costs of the original dies which run around \$600 each. I purchased the dies for the coins above in 2004 and they remain available for me to order in quantities of at least 50 each.

Also available for sale are 8"x11" Combat Infantryman and Combat Medic certificates for \$6 each including postage.

Combat Business cards are also available for \$10 including postage - includes 10 combat business cards similar to the images below:



Cards can be produced for any unit and can include two medals in lieu of unit insignia. Cards are the size of a normal business card.

If you have any questions about any of the memorabilia items or about



## 63d history and memorabilia . . .

- from page 32

the history of the 63d Infantry Division, please contact Fred Clinton (e-mail: joyclint@comcast.net) or by regular mail at 102 S. Jenkins Street, Alexandria, VA 22304. Telephone: 703-751-7548

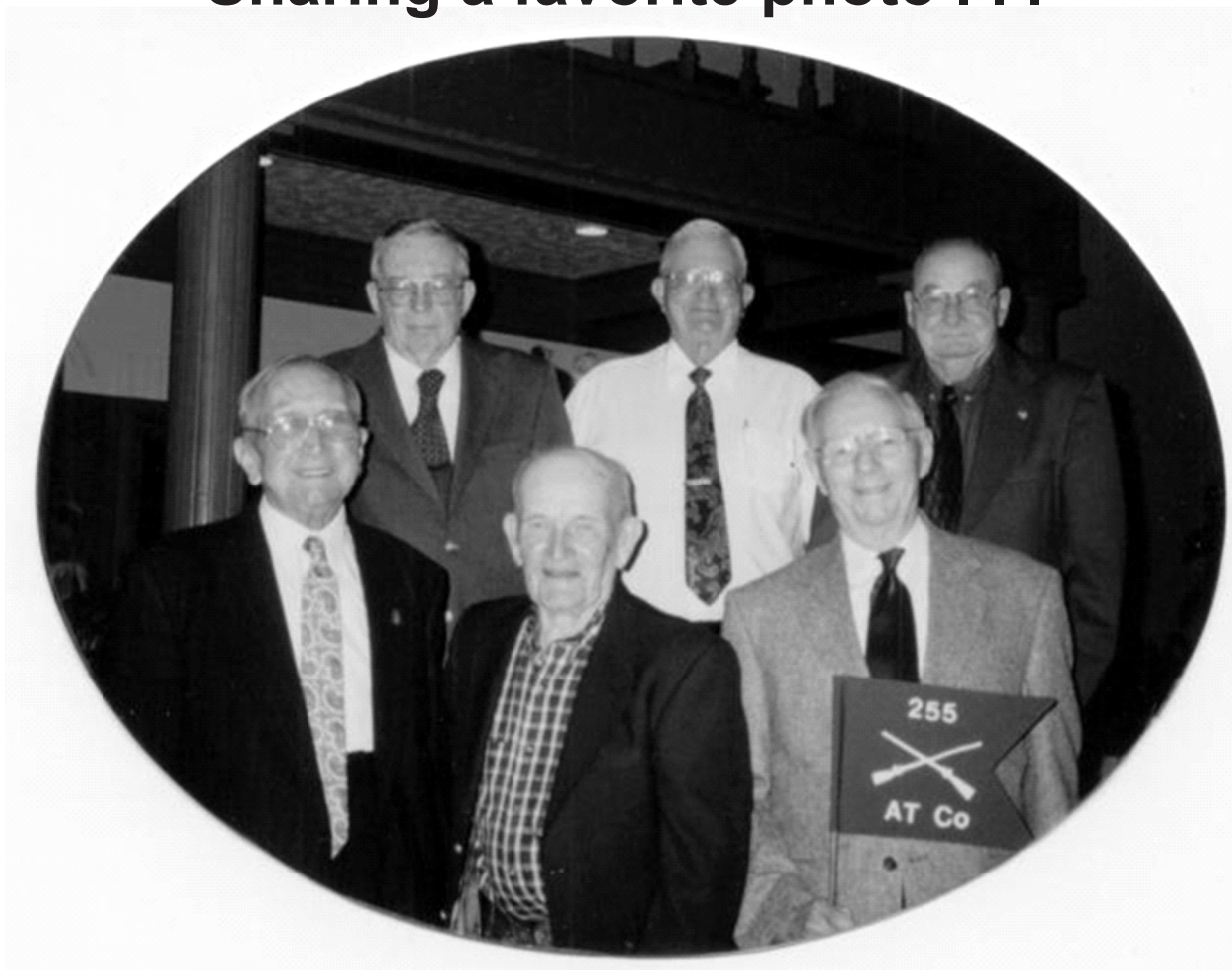
Funds collected for memorabilia items will be used to defray material costs, postage and maintenance cost of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Web Site. Funds collected in excess of those costs will be donated to the Camp Van Dorn Museum in Centreville, MS and the Camp Blanding Museum in Camp Blanding, Florida.

### GERMAN HISTORIAN LOOKING FOR VETERANS OF THE BATTLES IN AND AROUND LEIPHEIM, GERMANY:

Herr Michael Jordan who lives in the vicinity of Leipheim, Germany is writing a history of the battles in that area at the end of April 1945. He would like to make contact with any 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division veteran who participated in that battle and would be willing to provide personal experiences during that time.

You can contact Herr Jordan by e-mail at [jordan@hs-ulm.de](mailto:jordan@hs-ulm.de)

## Sharing a favorite photo . . .



One of Mike and Donna Thomson's favorite photos from a past reunion.

Top, Left to Right – Carl Sirola, Kenneth Erickson, Harold Black

Bottom, Left to Right --  
Harold Miller, Maurice "Red" Hendrickson, and Olen Wesner  
Stanley Pickowitz was in attendance but not in the photograph.

## Information Request from Russell Levine

Russell Levine is looking for anyone with information about his father, Laurence ("Larry"), who served with the 254<sup>th</sup> regiment in Company B from January 30, 1945 to March 15, 1945 when he was WIA in the Siegfried push, near Ensheim. He was in the second patrol.

He served with Sergeant Julius Whittington ("Whit") who was KIA on March 15, 1945. Russell is also looking for anyone with information on Julius Whittington's next of kin. Whittington was from Rapides Parish, Louisiana.

Other soldiers serving with Levine were a corporal named "Mario" and a man named "Phil." They served under Lieutenant Lee and Captain Scruton. Levine served as a runner for Scruton for some period of time. Scruton was WIA in the same incident that Levine was WIA and Whittington was KIA.



**Laurence Levine, 1945**

Attached is a wartime picture of Levine and a picture of an unknown soldier who may have served with him.

Please contact Russell Levine if you have any information about Laurence Levine, Julius Whittington, the unknown soldier or anyone who might have served at the same time. Russell can be reached at [russell.m.levine@gmail.com](mailto:russell.m.levine@gmail.com) or 248 398 3069.

**Unknown, 1945? Does anyone recognize this soldier pictured at left?**

## Does Anyone Remember John?

(Pictured at right):

John L. Wilson, S. SGT., 63<sup>rd</sup> Division, 254<sup>th</sup> Infantry  
Regiment, Company "D"

Entered into service

September 1942 – Orthopedic Mechanic

April 1943 – Active Duty

Ardennes, Central Europe, Rhineland

January 1946 – Left for U.S.

If anyone remembers John, please contact his daughter at:

Nancy Jensen

73 Margaret Dr.

Gallston Spa, NY 12020

(518)885-5739

Nejen27@hotmail.com



# Tony and Me

By Joe Pulichene

The question for today is what is the connection between Tony Bennett and me?

Give up?

Well... It all came together on June 19, 2013 when I attended a Tony Bennett Concert at the Denver



B o t a n i c Garden. To set the stage, it is an informal outdoor venue with no assigned seats, in fact no seats.

Typically, you lay on blankets or sit in your own folding chair that can be no more than 26 inches tall, bring a picnic basket, your favorite beverage and listen to music in the glorious evening weather that only Colorado can offer.

That is when our eyes met ... me and Tony .... and he threw me a kiss. Now it is getting good, you might be saying to yourself.

What drew Tony's attention to me was a sign I held up. This was very uncharacteristic of me to draw such attention but I had to. I was driven by a very powerful need to create this moment and I wasn't going to miss this opportunity.

Truth be told, this was the second night in a row I saw Tony but the first time I chickened out! So on the way home from the first night's concert with some trepidation but welcomed encouragement from a friend, I stopped at the local Walgreen to buy a white poster board and wide tipped magic markers. I rushed home and created a rudimentary sign that a first grader would make fun of.

The sign was not in color and not fancy at all. It simply read ..... "63<sup>rd</sup> INF. DIV 255<sup>th</sup> INF REG".

You see .... Tony Bennett, then Anthony Benedetto, served during World War II in the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division, 255<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment at the same time my dad, Joseph Anthony Pulichene, another skinny Italian kid from NYC, served. Although they were in

different Companies and most likely never met, there was still a connection for me. So out of respect for Tony, my dad, and all the others who served with them, I had to honor them in this awkward way and at that moment.

Now my plot unfolds. Having been there the night before, I planned where to sit for maximum exposure. The concert was proceeding beautifully. Even at age 84, Tony was at his best and the crowd was loving him. People were dancing, singing and enjoying every word he sang and every note the band played.

After building up the nerve to hold up the sign, I waited for the right moment when he was looking right at me. The moment came. It took Tony a brief second and then he smiled. He looked at me, waved, gave me the thumbs up and threw me a kiss. I was totally thrilled and felt like a kid, grinning and beaming with delight.

When Tony finished his song, he pointed to me and the sign and explained to the audience the connection ..... that he served in 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division, 255<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment during WWII. I can't remember all he said since I was frozen by the limelight but Tony was visibly appreciative of the gesture.

However, I was a little disappointed that he didn't call me up on stage to join him in a duet. Maybe next time.

I have to admit ..... that was one of the most meaningful moments in my life. Not because Tony threw me a kiss, although that was pretty awesome, but because I was able to honor him and my dad and let them know that they and the other WWII veterans were not forgotten, especially those in the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division! You boys are of a treasured generation that had sacrificed and accomplished so much. Your families and friends will not forget you and what you did for us so that we can freely and safely enjoy an outdoor concert on a beautiful summer evening.



God bless you all!

## Awarded the French Legion of Honor medal



### Colonel Raymond Restani

I want to share the great news. My father just heard that he will be awarded the French Legion of Honor medal. I have attached the letter he received last week. You were such a great help to us last summer when we asked you for details regarding the battles in France. Thank you so very much. My father is very happy and we are all very proud.

Photos of my father's Legion of Honor ceremony. It was held last month on April 19, 2013 in Durham, NH. Many family members and friends attended. The young man in the photos with my father is Mr. Fabien Fieschi, the French Consul General based in Boston.

Best, Yvonne (Ray's youngest daughter)

*Ambassade de France  
aux Etats-Unis*

*L' Ambassadeur  
363*

Washington, January 31, 2013

Dear Mr. Restani:

I am pleased to inform you that by decree of President Hollande on January 21, 2013, you have been appointed a "Chevalier" of the Legion of Honor.

This award testifies to President Hollande's high esteem for your merits and accomplishments. In particular, it is a sign of France's infinite gratitude and appreciation for your personal and precious contribution to the United States' decisive role in the liberation of our country during World War II.

The Legion of Honor was created by Napoleon in 1802 to acknowledge services rendered to France by persons of exceptional merit. The French people will never forget your courage and your devotion to the great cause of freedom.

It is a true pleasure for me to convey to you our sincere and warm congratulations.

In order to determine a date and time when the insignia could be bestowed upon you, please contact our Consulate in Boston ([timothy.deer@diplomatie.gouv.fr](mailto:timothy.deer@diplomatie.gouv.fr), +1 (617) 832 4412). In the meantime, please find enclosed a brief fact sheet, which explains in more detail the award you will receive.

Once again, my heartfelt congratulations.

Sincerely,

  
François Delattre

Mr. Raymond Restani  
5 Gerrish Drive  
Durham, NH 03824

# *Thank you . . . . .*

## *63rd Division Association Members*

There are many to thank who have worked so hard from the time of the 1<sup>st</sup> reunion and the development of the Association and are unknown to me. I have learned so much about them during my research to complete this final issue of the **Blood & Fire** and I have tried to include some of the messages left to us by them.

I will address my thanks to the individuals who over my time with the Association have helped me do the best job I could do.

So, of course, I will begin with my parents, Edw. FA254 and Donna Fowle. I have learned so much from both of them about faith, life, hope and respect. Dad introduced us to the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division by taking us to the annual Association reunions. We met so many wonderful people who we love and are part of our family. Thank you Dad for the opportunity to carry on when you could not, it is my pleasure to represent you.

I thank the IMOK members for allowing me to be a part of their lives and to help wherever I was needed. I truly miss your kindness and friendship.

Thank you, Donna and Harold LaCosse. I learned so much watching you as you handled being secretary to both the IMOK and the National Association, as well as handling the treasury of both. Editing the **Blood & Fire** was a full-time position, to say the least, and you handled it superbly. I am so happy that we were able to have many discussions to help me put together the November 2012 issue. I hope that experience has helped me with the final issue. Many thanks to Harold for all of your support.

Thank you, Fred Clinton. Oh my, what would we do without you? You are my go to man with your awesome knowledge of the history of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division, your computer skills and your website. You are a fountain of knowledge. Thank you for keeping the website up and going and for all of the members to send you information regarding their fathers, mothers, and grandparents and their history/photos.

Thank you to the past and present Board of Directors and Officers, you led the way for the Association.

Thank you to Alfred Diaz (USAR), and Beverley and Milton Houghton (USAR) for serving on the 63<sup>rd</sup> Division Association Inc. Board of Directors and offering your insight and knowledge. It has been a pleasure to know you and to work with you.

Many thanks to the children of the 63<sup>rd</sup>. Without you none of this is possible, the information and support you provide has been uplifting and positive.

Thank you for bringing you parents to the reunions. Thank you for continuing to come after your fathers and grandfathers had passed. Everyone enjoyed having you there as you are the descendants of the generation that fought so valiantly to preserve our freedom.

Thank you to all of you who have volunteered to help at the reunions and throughout the year.

Thanks to all of you who sent in articles and photos of your fathers and grandfathers for the **Blood & Fire**. It is always good to reminisce.

I would like to thank those who have helped with some specifics:

## Thank you . . . - from page 38

- A big thank you to Roger LaCosse and Gina Iseminger for all of your help with putting together the boxes of information and compiling and sending all of the data for the roster of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Division Association. Without you, none of this would be possible today.
- Mike and Donna Thomson (father Jim Thomson) for always being there with suggestions and support, specifically computer issues, assisting Fred with the website as Assistant Webmaster, and by putting so much energy into the Association.
- Karin Froberg-Marzano, (father Mag Froberg) where do I begin? Thank you for stepping in to organize the Rochester Reunion, for all the boxes of history sent to Fred Clinton and to me, and thank you for being Bill Scott's Assistant Historian.
- Mary Fran Collier (father, Bill Brynes), wow, how do I thank you? You are always there to be my much needed sounding board, helping get through all the questions to come up with great solutions. Thank you for taking on the treasurer's duties once Donna was unable to carry on. You have deep rooted feelings for the Association and help make decisions to enhance the organization.
- Barbara Elder (father Willis Sanbrink). Thank you so much for all your help with the IMOK sponsored Reunions. You were always eager to help and so much fun to be around. Thank you for bringing Ruth to the later years' reunions. She was quite the lady, and so enjoyable to talk to and laugh with.

Finally, I would like to thank my husband for his patience, as I have devoted so much time to our 63<sup>rd</sup> family. He is an Army Veteran (Vietnam) and his father Army WWII (Pacific Theatre). I know he understands the commitment to our Veterans and my determination to honor all of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Veterans in this final edition of the **Blood & Fire**.

Thank you for the amazing experience. I have enjoyed every moment. Until we meet again.

*God Bless You All!*

Judith "Fowle" Schaefer

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

63<sup>rd</sup> Division Association Inc.

614.560.1140

[jschaf1@columbus.rr.com](mailto:jschaf1@columbus.rr.com)

## A Final Thank You

Thank you Morris A. and Pamela K. Barlow owner/manager, co-owner, layout and design/AR-AP of Rensselaer Printco, for all of their help with the editing, printing and mailing of the **Blood & Fire**. They worked with Donna LaCosse for many years and have helped me so much with the November 2012 issue and this final issue. There are no words to express my gratitude for your understanding and kindness.

Judith "Fowle" Schaefer.

## A Farewell Message from the Children of the 63<sup>rd</sup>

You don't forget because you remember the special moments that are sacred signals to your memory. A casual but a powerful farewell, as we continue to hear Frank Sinatra singing: "*I'll be seeing you....*"

I'll be seeing you  
in all the old familiar places,  
that this heart of mine embraces,  
all day through.

In that small café,  
the park across the way,  
the children's' carousel,  
the chestnut trees,  
the wishing well.

I'll be seeing you  
in every lovely summer day,  
in everything that's light and gay,  
I'll always think of you that way.

I'll find you in the morning sun,  
and when the night is new,  
I'll be looking at the moon,  
but I'll be seeing you."

Thank you for giving so much love to the children of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division. God bless you Hotshots and God Bless America!

*(Taken from the memorial celebration presented by Albert Sidney Britt, III to the veterans of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division in Rochester, NY on 13 August 1999.)*

## **As a final reminder . . .**

**Visit the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Website at <http://www.63rdinfdiv.com>** to find detailed history of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division. You will find a listing of unit awards, descriptions of battles, a listing of battle and non-battle deaths, a description and view of all 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division memorials and many other items of interest. There are also pictures of 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division soldiers in training, combat and on occupation duty.

You will also find a list of memorabilia items for sale, information on inquiries from members and relatives searching for information about members and buddies. There is also an alphabetical listing, by unit, of 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Association members at this time (March 2014), as well as a listing of related websites and other information interest to veterans.

Webmaster, Fred Clinton (D254th Inf.) is seeking photos and memorabilia images to be added to the website.

Send photos by email to [joyclint@comcast.net](mailto:joyclint@comcast.net) or by regular mail to:

Fred Clinton  
102 S. Jenkins Street  
Alexandria, VA 22304

### **INVITATION TO ALL 63<sup>RD</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION** **– WWII VETERANS**

**If you are interested in attending the April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Festival and are able to travel, please contact Fred Clinton at [joyclint@comcast.net](mailto:joyclint@comcast.net) for more information asap.**

## **Additional contact information . . .**

Following is additional contact information for anyone in need:

Contact: Judith Schaefer  
e-mail: [jschaef1@columbus.rr.com](mailto:jschaef1@columbus.rr.com)  
phone: 615-560-1140

***May God  
Bless Each  
And Every  
One Of You!***

# 63rd Division Association

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Judith Schaefer**  
**6153 George Fox Dr.**  
**Galloway, OH 43119**

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