

★ CAMP BLANDING ★ CAMP VAN DORN ★

# Blood and Fire

## 63rd Division Association, Inc.

• ARDENNES / ALSACE • RHINELAND • CENTRAL EUROPE •

VOL. 59, NO. 3

MOROCCO, INDIANA 47963

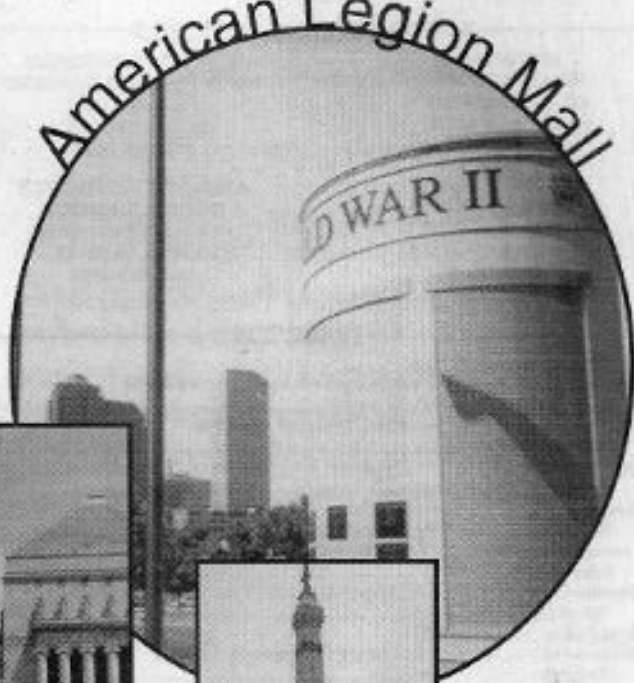
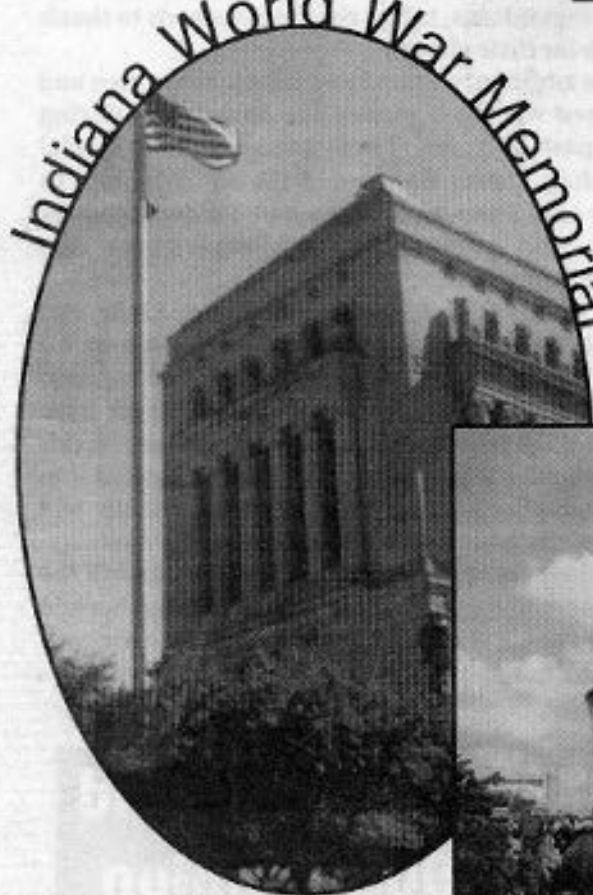
NOVEMBER 2007



# 60TH REUNION

Indiana World War Memorial

American Legion Mall



University Park

Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument

# INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

AUGUST 20 - AUGUST 25, 2008

# Blood and Fire

Published by the 63rd Division Association to perpetuate the memory of our fallen comrades, to preserve the Esprit de Corps of the division, to assist in promoting an everlasting peace.

Three Issues Annually

## ELECTED 2007 OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

**JOHN DIETRICK**  
788 Deerwood Drive  
Defiance, OH 43512  
419-782-1542

### FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

**CARL ANDERSON**  
876 Cherry Lane  
Waterville, OH 43566  
419-878-8986

### SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

**JOHN (JACK) LINSKOTT**  
18290 Timber Trail  
Marysville, OH 43040  
937-842-6576

### TREASURER

**CLARE GERITY**  
9841 Oxford Circle  
Powell, OH 43065  
614-793-9469

### NATIONAL SECRETARY/TREASURER AND BLOOD AND FIRE EDITOR

**DONNA LaCOSSE**  
P.O. Box 88  
Morocco, IN 47963  
(219) 285-2861

## APPOINTED 2007 OFFICERS

### HISTORIAN

**WILLIAM SCOTT**  
407 S. Walnut Street  
Sycamore, IL 60178  
(815) 805-9067

### WEBMASTER

**FRED CLINTON**  
102 So. Jenkins St.  
Alexandria, VA 22304  
(703) 751-7548

### ASSISTANT HISTORIAN

**KARIN FROBERG-MARZANO**  
180 Welsh Lane  
Granville, OH 43020  
(740) 587-1705

### ASSISTANT WEBMASTER

**MICHAEL THOMSON**  
7840 Lake Shore Drive  
Guntton, VA 23141  
(804) 932-9688

## DIRECTORS

### Term Ending August 13, 2008

Edgar Moutoux, 565 E. 82 <sup>nd</sup> Street, Apt. 4G, New York, NY 10028 Telephone: 212-764-4418.....	253
William Scott, 407 S. Walnut Street, Sycamore, IL 60178 Telephone: 815-897-3967.....	254
Domenek Peczka, 730 N. Spring Street, LaGrange Park, IL 60526 Telephone: 708-579-0274.....	255
Edward F. Fowle, 332 Dayton Avenue, Springfield, OH 45506 Telephone: 937-325-1990.....	Sp. Trps.
Leonard Zimmerman, 3715 Ridgefield Road, Lansing, MI 48906 Telephone: 517-321-2950.....	FA
Theodore Paulsen, 5248 Valley View Rd, Rancho Paos Verdes, CA 90275 Telephone: 310-541-2575.....	USAR

### Term Ending August 13, 2009

Herman Fabiani, 820 Balmoral Court, Inverness, FL 34453 Telephone: 352-637-2290.....	253
William Byrnes, 9645 Kedvale, Oaklawn, IL 60453 Telephone: 708-346-0532.....	254
David Montgomery, 114 Buchhorn Rd., Derby, KS 67037 Telephone: 316-788-2716.....	255
Archie Kumasaka, 2002 Windrow Dr., Princeton, NJ 08540 Telephone: 609-919-9549.....	Sp. Trps.
Howard VanSchoor, 8192 Forest Lane, Mentor, OH 44060 Telephone: 440-946-9330.....	FA
Alfred M. Diaz, 1254 Camino del Sur, San Dimas, CA 91773 Telephone: 626-966-8001.....	USAR

### Term Ending August 13, 2010

Vern Althoff, 289 W. Jamison Cir. #5, Littleton, CO 80120 Telephone: 720-283-4486.....	253
Leroy Bird, 4255 Sycamore St. SE, Iowa City, IA 52240 .....	254
Kenneth Erickson, 35373 W. Creek Rd., Wallace, NE 69169 Telephone: 308-387-4518.....	255
Marsh Allen, 7714 Chinook Ave., Gig Harbor, WA 98335 Telephone: 253-851-3843.....	FA 861
Thomas Chatham, 74 Darby Cuy, Vero Beach, FL 32966 Telephone: 561-778-2699.....	QM 63
Donald Wirth, 4554 Cordoba Way, Oceanside, CA 92056 Telephone: 760-639-3969.....	USAR

## FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT ...

by John Dietrick

We congratulate, and we thank those members of our Association for accepting their offices, directorships, and appointed positions for the 2007 - 2008 year. The names appear in the Masthead of this issue of the *Blood and Fire*.

We would also like to thank those, who year after year, have spent hundreds of hours to keep our Association active and well informed. In alphabetical order they are: Fred Clinton, Webmaster; Karin Froberg-Marzano, Assistant Historian; Donna LaCrosse, Secretary, Treasurer and Editor; Bill Scott, Historian and Michael Thomson, Assistant Webmaster.

If you happen to see any of the above mentioned at a Reunion or contact them through correspondence, take a couple of seconds to thank them for their efforts.

In addition, we must pay tribute to the men and women who have guided the Association during the past 59 years. There seems to be a special bonding among the men of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Division. In your mind you know that your fellow members have also suffered through experiences and hardships of war.

The IMOK (Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Kentucky) Chapter, under the leadership of Ed Fowle, is in the process of planning the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion to be held in Indianapolis, Indiana from August 20 to August 23, 2008. Please record this date now - if you don't it may be forgotten - in your daybook or on your calendar. Details will appear in future issues of the *Blood and Fire*.

I just thought --- 63 years ago this month the Infantry Regiments of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Division embarked from the shores of the United States to participate in the European Theater of Operation!

**Plan Now to Attend  
the 2008 Reunion  
August 20 -  
August 25  
Indianapolis, IN**

## A Memo from the Secretary . . .

Donna LaCrosse

Another reunion is behind us and the next one is in the planning stage. My how time flies when we are having fun!!

If you were unable to attend the festivities in Tacoma, you missed a great time. The weather was perfect and the hosts were the greatest! Marsh Allen and his crew worked hard before and during the affair, to provide sightseeing and hotel comfort for all of us who did attend and we thank them very much for their efforts.

Everything went well in most cases – Donna and Ed Fowle, their daughters, Judy Schaeffer and Jackie Potts, and her son, Brian were without their luggage for two days. The people at Wal-Mart knew these people by their first names before their bags arrived from the airport. Cele and Bill Scott's bathroom flooded and they had to pack up again and change rooms; and Helen Glovas fell on Saturday, broke her hip, underwent surgery and had to spend several extra days in Tacoma. This was one reunion she will never forget!

In August of 2008, we will all travel to Indianapolis, Indiana for the 60<sup>th</sup> reunion of our Association. Plan now to attend; come and enjoy Hoosier Hospitality and visit the great capitol city of Indiana.

In order to help defray expenses at the next reunion, you might want to consider buying space in the Souvenir Ad Book to send a message to a friend, a memorial to someone deceased, or to honor a fellow member. There is always a page in the *Blood and Fire* with the information you need in order to determine the size message you want to send.

All you annual members of the Association need to be thinking about sending your dues to me before January 1. Donations from Life Members are also appreciated and new members are always welcome.

Until next time, keep warm and keep well. Happy Turkey Day, Happy Hanukkah and a very Merry Christmas to all of you.

---

## RECEIVED TWO COPIES?

If you received two copies of this issue of the *Blood and Fire*, please notify the editor as soon as possible. You don't need two copies and we don't need the added expense.

Thank you so much.

Donna LaCrosse

## From the editor . . .

Donna LaCrosse

Greetings from the mid-west! As you all are aware, the *Blood and Fire* is late this month – it was late going to the printer because of a few health problems by both the people who live in this House of Confusion. I think we are both on the mend and will soon be back to normal, if we can figure out what normal is.

Also, I kept thinking the Armed Forces Reunion Planners would send information about the 2008 reunion but that didn't happen. You will have to wait until February to make your plans to attend the reunion in Indianapolis, Indiana from August 20 to August 23.

I also need stories from all of you who have not sent stories to be printed in the *Blood and Fire*. Hey, guys, this is your publication!! If you don't send information for this magazine, you may end up with no issues in your mailbox!! That doesn't sound like a good plan to me! I don't care how short your story is, or how long, it is needed. A really lengthy article may be edited to include less information but I don't intend to "cut" an article if I can help it.

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 44

## The Danube

.....by Harold O'Neill, 83<sup>rd</sup> Signal

From April 23 to April 25, we captured Schwab-Gaund and Mosslingen and now the "Rat Race" was for the Danube River. When we reached the Danube River, we dug in while the enemy was throwing mortar shells. I dug my foxhole alone this time and about four feet deep. The ground was like sand and, since I felt ambitious, especially when the shelling started, I started to dig a little deeper. One of the sergeants came over and seeing how deeply I had dug, said, and I quote, "If you dig any deeper, I'll have to charge you with desertion."

Well, the bridge was finally completed and we took off across it in trucks – a well done job by the engineers. The 253<sup>rd</sup> and 254<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiments had fought across the Danube River and captured Leipheim and Gunzburg. My regiment, the 255<sup>th</sup> was a little luckier.

We rode for sixty miles and met no enemy resistance. We did get a few shells to the left of us and everybody jumped out of the trucks and hit the ground under the trucks. We stopped at a small town that night and took over some houses for the men to stay in. We only stayed there for about two hours, before we got orders to take off again. I was picked first for guard duty that night and didn't get any rest. While I was on guard duty, I

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

# Celebration of Life



*The following deaths have been reported since the Tacoma, Washington reunion.*

Manuel Pas Afincio, G 254, passed away May 24, 2007. He is survived by his wife, Bobbie Jean; two sons, Ernest and Larry; two step-children, Barbara and Steven; four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Archie Brown, AT HQ, passed away September 2007. He is survived by his wife, Florence.

Harold J. (Holly) Butler, K 253, passed away November 23, 2006. His wife, Carole, lives at 2410 W. Shawnee Drive, Chandler, AZ 85224.

Edward A. Decker, K & M 254, passed away September 30, 2007. He is survived by his wife Margaret, and two daughters, Ellen and Karen.

Myron Jennings, E 254, passed way September 2, 2007. His caretaker, Sue Howard lives at 183 Geer Mountain Rd., South Kent, CT 06785.

Robert B. Lemieux, B 254, passed away August 28, 2006. His wife Joyce lives at 3911 Ellen Street, Muskegon, MI 49444.

Frank M. Mahoney, F 255, passed away August 7, 2007. No further information was available.

Joseph J. Mazel, K 253, passed away August 23, 2006. His wife, Rose is also deceased.

Harold Purrman, B 253, passed away September 24, 1986. No further information was available.

David W. Redmayne, AF 862, passed away September 19, 2006. He lived at 4917 Croaks Road, J-3, Royal Oak, MI 48073.

Ralph J. Smith, Medic 253, passed away in 1982. No further information was available.

## DEATH OF SPOUSE

Helen Louise Oehler, wife of Orville Oehler, F 254, passed away October 5, 2007. Mail will reach Orville at the home of his daughter, Kathy Kelly, 2533 So. Cleveland St., Sioux City, IA 51106.

James E. Sonneborn, C 253, of 5911 Northgap, Windercrest, TX 78238, passed away October 28, 2007 following a battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife, Sara; a son, James D., a daughter Suzanne and three grandchildren.

John C. Woodroof, I 253, passed away September 15, 2007 at the age of 81. His widow, Freida Woodroof lives at 3413 NW 67<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City, MO 64151.

Vincent Tramuta, K 255, passed away October 5, 2007 at the age of 88. His widow, Josephine Tramuta lives at 1005 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, West Babylon, NY 11704.

James L. Bender, SIG 563, passed away October 8, 2007 at the age of 87. Condolences may be sent to his son, James Dennis Bender at 100 Riverside Pl. #303, Covington, KY 41011.

## Great reunion in Tacoma

*By Marsh Allen, Past President*

We had a great reunion here in Tacoma for the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Association of which I was the president.

We did not have as many attend as we would have liked but 108 people showed up and everyone enjoyed the festivities.

We had a nice tour of Blake Island, which featured an Indian feast, and we took a trip to Fort Lewis to see the equipment and visit with the soldiers.

Our Memorial Service was held in the Chapel at Fort Lewis on Friday after which we enjoyed a nice lunch on base.

Many thanks to all those who did attend. We hope to see you all in Indiana in August 2008.

**2008 Reunion**  
**August 20 - August 25**  
**Indianapolis, Indiana**

## NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF THOSE ATTENDING THE WASHINGTON REUNION

Andrew L. Aarhus	AT 255	615 W. Scott St.	Aberdeen	WA	98520
Marsh & Helen Allen	FA 861	7714 Chinook Ave.	Gig Harbor	WA	98335
Vernon & Donnis Altberg	C 253	289 Jamison Circle #5	Littleton	CO	80120
Leroy & Karol Bird	M 254	4255 Sycamore St. SE	Iowa City	IA	52240
Edward & Bonnie Bundick	D 254	7809 Emerald Dr. SW	Lakewood	WA	98498
Herbert Cameron	FA 862	117 W. Lee Ave. Rt. 6, Bx 3	Yadkinville	NC	27055
Angelo Christopher	D 254	5140 Lewis Point	Col. Springs	CO	80917
Tom Christopher	Guest				
Wayne Crosser	HQ 863	8435 Mission Blvd	Riverside	CA	92509
Alfred & Martha Diaz	USAR	1254 Camino Del Sur	San Dimas	CA	91773
Robert Dick	G 253	2912 Vista Butte Drive	Las Vegas	NV	89134
John Downs	F 254	PO Box 254	Gilmanston	NH	03237
Barbara Elder	Associate	1739 Will Road	Marion	TX	78124
John & Ruth Erhardt	M 254	8248 Sunfish Lane	Maineville	OH	45039
Kenneth & Bonnie Erickson	AT 255	35373 West Creek Road	Wallace	NE	69169
Mary Jo Haggi	Guest				
Floyd & Barbara Exeter	K 253	7801 Emerald Drive	Lakewood	WA	98498
Richard & Mary Fiedler	A 253	1645 S. 272 <sup>nd</sup> St. #132	Federal Way	WA	98003
Edward & Donna Fowle	FA 862	332 Dayton Ave	Springfield	OH	45506
Homer Fry	G 253	224605 E. Cochran Rd.	Kennewick	WA	99337
Steven & Helen Glovas	K 254	2218 Covington Ave	Bethlehem	PA	18017
Ethel Golliber	Associate	1323 G. Street	Washougal	WA	98671
Viridie Golliber	Associate	284 Shorewood Ct.	Fox Island	WA	98333
Kenneth & Flora Nell Gordon	Associate	PO Box 176	Liberty	MS	39645
Louis & Mary Hernandes	I 254	8331 Tyler Cir.	Huntington Beach	CA	92646
Martin Hernandes	Associate	210 Coastline Drive	Seal Beach	CA	90740
Roy & Catherine Howard	HQ 863	1800 E. 67 <sup>th</sup> St. #355	Tacoma	WA	98445
Donald & Helen Ivie	I 253	PO Box 287	Idleyld Park	OR	97447
Baruch "Barry" Jacobson	E 253	3554 S. Huntington Loop	Kennewick	WA	99337
Michael & Jane Jugan	MED 253	1551 Franklin Drive	Pottstown	PA	19465
Jugan children	Guests				
Charles Kirchhoff					
George & Pat Kiska	A 253	PO Box 192-46 Taylor	Woodacre	CA	94973
Ernest & Mary Klimek	D 255	14060 Henry Ruff	Livonia	MI	48154
Walter Krull	K 255	211 Polly Hubbard Road	St. Albans	VT	05478
Walter Krull Jr.	Guest				
Harold & Donna LaCosse	F 254	PO Box 86	Morocco	IN	47963
Harry & Lucia Lansu	B 254	34743 Ford Road	Westland	MI	48185
Chester & Agnes Lapa	E 255	9 Glenoak Street	Greensburg	PA	15601
Phillip LaVorgna	Associate	3223 West 4460 South	Salt Lake City	UT	84119
Mark Lindeman	Associate	14513 South Shore Dr.	Valders	WI	54245
Vince Liquori	I 253	3029 Via Conquistadores	Navarre	FL	32566
Robert & LaFay McCourt	I&R 254	1101 Saint St NE	Albuquerque	NM	87112
Elmer McKee	D 254	225 Fine View Road	Camp Hill	PA	17011
Otto & Nina Metzger	C 254	496 CR 360	Medusa	NY	12120
David & Betty Montgomery	E 255	114 E. Buckthorn Rd	Derby	KS	67037
Jim & Cindy Montgomery	Associate	15874 SW Ponderosa Rd	Rose Hills	KS	67133
Edgar Moutoux	G 253	505 East 82 <sup>nd</sup> St. Apt 4 G	New York	NY	10028

# OUR HISTORY: THEN AND NOW

by Bill Scott, 4-Oct-2007

e-mail: wjs631@comcast.net

I am not caught up with all the 63rd things that I wanted to so since the 2007 Tacoma reunion. The L thru Z parts of the #35 alphabetical list have finally been printed, copied, and sent to Donna LaCosse with the A-K copies. Another L-Z set was sent to Ed Fowle to be held in reserve for the 2008 reunion in case there is a problem getting the #36 set there. They will be stored with the 2007 set of unit rosters and the rest of the items that are being sent by Marsh Allen.

The 2006 set of rosters, itineraries, and the #34 alpha list are being sent to Mildred Field in Centreville, MS for display in the Camp Van Dorn Museum. They are the last items that were printed on the wide greenbar computer paper on an IBM printer that I bought about 13 years ago for my items and the 63rd printouts. It finally went dead this spring after a couple of repairs and no parts available. It has been replaced by an HP 9800 wide inkjet printer paid for by the History Fund. This meant the use of a different program for printing and the use of 11x17 white paper and new binders for the unit rosters and the summaries, along with some other items. It all led to great delays in getting the stuff ready to go to Tacoma. The prints are easier to read on the rosters and the alpha list, but the cost has increased some. The greenbar paper and the ink cartridges were getting difficult to find, and their quality was suffering.

When we returned from the reunion my printer that I used with the Internet failed with no repairs possible, so I bought myself another HP 9800 so the e-mails could resume without 63rd cost.

Soon after that the 63rd Inf. Div. History HP 4-function machine failed and no repair was possible. I eventually got an Epson Cx5000 machine for the 63rd that will be used as a black and color copier for now, with the Windows 98 operating system making it edgy to print with lots of the new models of printers. With twin sales and discounts the machine cost was likely less than a set of ink cartridges.

I hope that is the last of the device problems for a long time! They have all been given to a recycling group that comes here several times a year for a truckload of old computers and other machines that might be repaired or taken apart for recycling.

Over the past week and a half I have been watching the WWII video "The War" by Ken Burns on our PBS station. It has made the memories come back about lots of items of my history mixed in with all kinds of other levels. There are lots of things I did not know and others that I might have forgotten. The one error that has

come to view was the home of the Sullivan brothers which was Waterloo, IA, not Fredricksburg, as shown in the series about the Navy.

The series will resume in many places over the next several weeks in Oct. and Nov.

I was very much hoping that they would dwell some on the 7th Army and "The Other Bulge" when the 253rd and 255th were put into the path of the German attack to try to separate the 7th from the 3rd, plus do the same between the 7th and the French 1st Army which contained the 254th with the US 3rd Division at that time.

There was very little about the great attacks on the Siegfried Line by any of our armies. The Rhine River crossing was barely mentioned and shown with General Patton getting ready to add his water to the river.

I thought that the Colmar Pocket would at least be mentioned, but that did not come up. There were so many fronts in that war and so many battles of all sizes so it can be understood how it would be a great test to get as many in as possible.

Those of us from our outfit that are reading this and watching the video are all likely to rightly feel lucky that we are still alive and watching. Each of us will have our own memories of the war and our luck in surviving it then, and the years since then. I had so many lucky breaks in my assignments and transfers that it makes me smile. The times that I was hit or nearly hit by fragments, shells, or bullets and escaped death or very serious wounds amazed me then and now, and I am sure that lots of you feel the same.

I hope to finish the research of the unit morning reports with the Nov. 1944 ones, and then do lots of editing to get some issues resolved.

I hope to get more of the 1943 ones sent to the Carlisle, PA, Army museum for permanent storage and research base. The 11 x 17 printouts of the unit rosters and other data will make it easier to furnish copies to a number of the museums that have an interest in our history and data. I wish I had a phone book that would have all the military museums listed. The existing ones will soon have another Army museum that several of you have been talking about for some years.

Hope to see you at Indianapolis next summer.

**August 20 - August 25  
2008 Reunion  
Indianapolis, Indiana**

PARTIAL data compiled so far by 63rd Historians and helpers from AVAILABLE records

## COMPUTER DATA PRINTOUTS AND COPIES

PLEASE PRINT!

UNIT #1

UNIT #2

COST/EACH

	Company,	Battery, HQ?	
1943-45 Unit Roster of Men (W/rank, serial no., dates, medals, casualties, deaths, etc.).....			\$4 ea.
Today's Unit Address-Phone list (for members only).....			\$2 ea.
1945 Unit Medals List (w/WWII home towns).....			\$2 ea.
1944-1945 Unit Itineraries (in Bn. group).....			\$3 ea.
Alphabetical List of CAMP BLANDING CADRE MEN with data.....			\$5 ea.
Today's Address & Phone List of CAMP BLANDING CADRE MEN (for members only).....			\$2 ea.
Today's Address & Phone List by State (for members only).....	State #1	State #2	\$2 ea.
1,030 Killed in Action, Died of Wound, & Non-Battle Death.....	ALPHA		\$5 ea.
KIA, DOW, NBD, with all known men shown and sorted by.....	ALL UNITS		\$5 ea.
KIA, DOW, NBD, best viewpoint.....	Sorted by DATE, organization, unit		\$5 ea.
Casualty Summary compiled to date for ALL units with 8 categories.....			\$3 ea.
2007 Alpha list #35 with data on casualties, deaths, units, serial numbers, cadre, 70,230 names.....			\$65 ea.

## MAP COPIES

11" x 17" 1:1,000,000 map of entire area of 63rd combat WITHOUT trail of 63rd units.....			\$1 ea.
1:200,000 1939 map of ALSACE, Lorraine, & SAAR areas thru Siegfried Line area.....			\$5 ea.
1:50,000 map of COLMAR Pocket & Vosges Mtn. area in France for 254th guys.....			\$5 ea.
1:20,000 map of SW 1/4 of COLMAR map area w/Kaysersberg, etc. for 254th guys.....			\$5 ea.
Three 1:25,000 maps from S. of Sarreguemines to Saarbrücken w/great detail.....			\$13 set
Two 1:25,000 maps of the 63rd's SIEGFRIED LINE area w/forts, from 1/45 aerial photos w/legends.....			\$13 set
1:25,000 BLIESKASTEL map that shows Kirkel, Wurzbach, & Biesingen.....			\$5 ea.
1:100,000 KAISERSLAUTERN map that shows Homburg, Langmeil & Grunstadt.....			\$5 ea.
1:100,000 KARLSRUHE map that shows Bad Wimpfen, Heilbronn & Stuttgart.....			\$5 ea.
1:100,000 ELLWANGEN map from Waldenburg & Schwabisch Hall to Oberbobingen.....			\$5 ea.
1:25,000 MOGGLINGEN map shows from Obergröningen to Oberbobingen.....			\$5 ea.
8.5" x 14" 1:250,000 map shows from Mannheim to Rothenberg and Heilbronn.....			\$1 ea.

## HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS

2nd Bn.-253 4-12 April 1945 events, rosters & Pres. Unit Citation award.....			\$14 ea.
Regimental histories for January-May 1945 in binders, copied from monthly combat reports: 253rd, 254th, 255th.....			\$13 ea.
Reprint of 135-page 1986 softcover book, "With the 63rd Infantry Div. in WWII" by Col. James E. Hatcher of 254th and 255th.....			\$20 ea.
Unbound Xerographic copy of 1945 history & index for "The Trail of 254 Thru Blood & Fire" by Harris Peel, Vernon Kile, Algernon Keith & John Sontag.....			\$7 ea.
Unbound inkjet color copy of 1945 "Victory in Europe" booklet.....			\$5 ea.
1943-45 combat history of 263rd Engineer Combat Bn. by Bill Snyder in binder.....			\$65 ea.
Jan-Apr 45 Combat Unit Journals of Hq 1st Bn-254 by date, hour, minute in binder.....			\$10 ea.
Ray Restani's Report of A-254 Attack at Eschringen, Germany, 15-Mar-45 in binder.....			\$8 ea.
Short 1943-45 History of Hq 1st Bn-255 with "after action report" in binder.....			\$8 ea.
Unbound Germany's Siegfried Line history, details, drawings, & photos.....			\$5 ea.
Unbound History 7th U.S. Army, 15-Dec-44 to 25-Jan-45, "The Other Bulge".....			\$4 ea.
Unbound 1944 "I am a Doughboy" booklet on inf. co. & plt. equipment, weapons, & training.....			\$4 ea.

## PATCHES, can be ironed on or sewn on caps, jackets, etc.

(A) 3.5" x 2.3" 63rd Infantry Division for uniform.....			\$4 ea.
(B) 2.5" x 1.45" 63rd Infantry Div. with "BLOOD & FIRE" below.....			\$3 ea.
(C) 2.66" x 2.35" 63rd w/"BLOOD & FIRE" and "63rd INFANTRY DIV." below.....			\$4 ea.
(D) 2.25" high x 3.5" wide US flag.....			\$3 ea.
(E) 2.5" high x 3.5" wide 63rd Division Siegfried Line sign patch.....			\$5 ea.
(F) 3.5" high x 3.5" wide 253rd Infantry Regiment w/motto "QUINTA ESSENTIA" (The Quintessence).....			\$5 ea.
(G) 3.6" high x 3.4" wide 254th Infantry Regiment w/motto "DEATH BEFORE DEFEAT".....			\$5 ea.
(H) 3.5" high x 3.0" wide 255th Infantry Regiment with motto "COR FERREUM" (Heart of Steel).....			\$5 ea.

-----1.2" CREST PINS w/2 clutch pins-----

253rd Infantry Regiment with motto.. "QUINTA ESSENTIA" (The Quintessence).....	Not avail.
254th Infantry Regiment with motto.. "DEATH BEFORE DEFEAT".....	\$5 ea.
255th Infantry Regiment with motto.. "COR FERREUM" (Heart of Steel).....	\$5 ea.
Colored pin description w/honors & 63rd Div. emblems.....253rd __, 254th __, 255th __	\$1 ea.

-----HAT PINS & BOLATIES-----

63rd Inf. Div. Patch pin ____ Combat Infantryman Badge pin ____ Combat Medic Badge pin ____	\$4 ea.
Ranger Badge pin __, Silver Star Medal pin __, Bronze Star Medal pin ____	\$4 ea.
Purple Heart Medal pin __, Presidential Unit Citation Badge pin __, Infantry pin ____	\$4 ea.
MP pin __, POW Medal pin __, Field Artillery pin __, Corps of Engineers pin ____	\$4 ea.
Quartermaster pin __, Signal Corps pin __, Ruptured Duck pin __, 7th Army Patch pin ____	\$4 ea.
Europe Africa Middle East pin __, WWII Victory Medal pin __, Army of Occupation pin ____	\$4 ea.
Full Size Expert Infantry Badge __, Full Size Presidential Unit Citation Badge ____	\$5 ea.
63rd Inf. Div. deluxe bola tie with black cord __, gold cord ____	\$10 ea.

-----UNIT & ORGANIZATION AWARDS COPIES-----

Presidential Unit Citations copy: 2nd Bn.-253rd __, 1st Bn.-254th __, 3rd Bn.-254th ____	\$2 ea.
Pres. Unit Citation narrative for 3rd Bn. and Co. A & B-253rd Inf.....	\$1 ea.
French Croix deGuerre w/Palm for 254th Inf:.....8.5" x 11" \$5 ea. __, 11-5/8" x 17" \$10 ea. ____	

-----COMPACT DISKS FOR MICROSOFT WINDOWS SYSTEMS-----

95 of 1943-45 <i>Blood &amp; Fire</i> issues __, 63rd Div. General Orders for medals, etc. ____	\$10 ea.
853 page updated "Chronicles" history book w/photos, rosters, alpha list.....	\$15 ea.
Histories w/photos, rosters, & other info: 253rd __, 254th ____	\$12 ea.
255th __, All Artillery __, 263rd Engineer & 363 Medical Bns. ____	\$12 ea.
Special Troops: HQ&HQ Co., Band, MP, QM, Recon, Signal, Ordnance ____	\$12 ea.
Combat Months Unit Morning Reports 12/44- 5/45: 253rd __, 254th __, 255th __,	\$10 ea.
Artillery __, 263rd Engineer & 363 Medical Bns. ____	\$10 ea.
Special Troops: HQ&HQ Co., Band, MP, QM, Recon, Signal, Ordnance ____	\$10 ea.
63rd Pictorial history w/1,000+ stateside, combat & occupation scenes.....	\$12 ea.

-----CAPS-----

Bright white cap with red bill and adjustable red rear net.....	\$10 ea.
Light blue cap and bill, with adjustable blue rear net for spring, summer or fall.....	\$10 ea.
Light blue cap and bill, with solid light blue adjustable rear for fall or winter.....	\$10 ea.
The new 63rd patch emblem has "BLOOD & FIRE" and "63rd INFANTRY DIV," like the "C" patch on the other page.	

-----CHALLENGE COINS-----

1.5" 63rd Infantry Division Antique Bronze Challenge Coin with plastic pocket case.....	\$10 ea.
1.5" 254th Infantry Regiment Antique Bronze Challenge Coin with plastic pocket case.....	\$10 ea.
1.5" 254th Infantry Regiment Brilliant Gold Challenge Coin with plastic pocket case.....	\$10 ea.
3.5" x 3.5" x 1.25" Dark Blue Coin Presentation Case.....	\$5 ea.

October 2007 form #62

Check # \_\_\_\_ TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_

Mail To: BILL SCOTE, 63RD DIV. HISTORIAN, 407 S. WALNUT ST., SYCAMORE, IL 60178-2234

(Make check or money order to: 63RD DIV. HISTORY FUND) - - - PLEASE USE ADDRESS STICKER OR PRINT CAREFULLY

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ UNIT(S): \_\_\_\_\_  
 STREET: \_\_\_\_\_ APT. \_\_\_\_\_ P.O. BOX: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
 SPOUSE: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 I AM THE: \_\_\_\_\_ OF \_\_\_\_\_

(SON, GRANDSON, DAUGHTER, BROTHER?)

63RD VET'S NAME



# Annual Historian's Report for 2006 - 2007

The annual unit rosters that were printed for this reunion showed a net gain of 290 men's names with rank, serial number, unit, and other data from the recent research of the 1944 unit morning reports. The total names, as shown on the attached summary page, including the attached units in combat, now have reached 70,231 with the 63rd section showing 97.48% with a serial number versus 97.35% last year.

The research has enabled the transfer of 9 names from the various unit unknown rosters in the data summaries to known unit rosters. The research also has shown two additional previously unrecorded deaths of men who were stationed at Camp Van Dorn with the 63rd Division.

A great deal of additional data on the dates of men's arrival and leaving units is the greatest addition in the last year. It adds some additional evidence on who was where and when for those who want to know those facts about themselves, or someone they knew, or by some relative of a man. There are a lot of men who never told us about all the units that they were in with the 63rd, and you sometimes will wonder if they remember all of them, or possible they did not know all the rosters that they were listed on with the 63rd.

There is only the month of November 1944 unit morning reports to be researched before extensive editing will be done to try to eliminate problems with misspelled names, use of middle name instead of first name by many men, plus those who changed their last name without telling us. There are other numerous Blood & Fire entries over all these years where someone has entered the wrong unit for the 63rd man that leads to horrible confusion. If the military records do not show the man in that unit, it is likely that it should not be ignored, but changed. Most of them are items that show the wrong regiment or battalion. The sports articles are the worst examples.

With Fred Clinton's skills and the data inherited, plus the combat morning reports acquired a few years ago, we now offer CDs for the updated "Chronicles" book, the wartime *Blood & Fire* issues, the histories of the regiments, the artillery group, and the support battalions, a pictorial history of the 63rd, and the combat months morning reports of all the units. There may be additional data and photos in some of the CDs for late 2006 and 2007 issues.

The current number of items that have been bought from us or donated by us to museums now totals over 23,713 items.

One decision that will need to be addressed within the next year concerns the disposition of the existing rosters and other printouts from 2006 that have now

been obsoleted by the new 11 x 17 series with the information that is shown in different print type with gridlines in the new heavy binders. Some of the private information is retained in the computer and on certain CDs but not printed for various reasons. I have thought about various museums that I have visited or have learned about from Fred Clinton and other members. We value your suggestions so a decision could be made at this reunion or the one in 2008. I do not feel that I should make the decision alone.

We had great interest in the history items for sale at last year's reunion. I greatly appreciate the help of my wife Cele, Karin Froberg Marzano, Fred Clinton, and a few others at the history item table that resulted in great acquisition by our members.

William J. Scott

3rd 63rd ID Association Historian

---

## Barracks Life

by Harold O'Neill, 83<sup>rd</sup> Signal

At Army basic training the single story, wood barracks without interior finish, toilets or showers had two pot bellied, soft coal stoves for heat with six widely spaced, dim lights hanging from the open attic. These temporary (since World War I?) buildings held sixty wooden cots with rope springs and corn shuck (noisy) mattresses. A single toilet-shower building served four of these barracks. Soot from the stoves was a constant problem and so was the hauling in of coal, stoking and taking out the ashes.

I drew a bed next to a stove and a light. I occasionally rented my bunk to all night card players who used blankets to block the light after Lights Out. I slept in a card player's bunk.

For about a week we had noticed a strange odor in our barracks and at the morning Roll Call, One of our Tennessee boys was drunk. This had us stumped until smoke began to come up through the floor. Underneath the barrack was a boarded-in crawl space and the smoke was from a still built by the Tennessee G.I. He laid there most of the night draining a canteen cup as fast as the liquor dripped from the coil. The mash was from fruit and other items from the Mess Hall. The Army does not like entrepreneurs!

One night I awoke near midnight to hear men swearing and men running outside in their underwear or less. I thought they were crazy until it hit me. I

# Historian's Financial Report to Council for 2006 - 2007

From 30-Jun-2006 to 30-June-2007 I have recorded the following:

30-Jun-2006 Checking Account balance .....	\$1,402.34
Orders for book, printouts, maps, patches, pins, CDS, etc., plus included postage donations, new patches and caps, and bank's correction .....	\$4,157.75
Available cash .....	<u>\$5,560.09</u>
Expenses:	
Postage & shipping out .....	\$358.57
Hatcher books .....	\$324.56
Copying of 8.5 x 11 and 11 x 17 sheets, plus office supplies such as paper, printer and copier cartridges, envelopes, binders, tapes, index tabs, report covers, cartons + Nat'L Veterans News Network and CDs .....	\$1,140.04
Repairs of IBM printer used for rosters, etc. ....	\$205.00
HP9800 inkjet printer with large size capability .....	\$267.87
Twelve 3-ring binders for 11x17 paper for rosters and other history items to replace the wide green bar items .....	\$334.62
Patches along with 3 new caps .....	\$669.25
Refunds and transfers to Treasurer for dues .....	\$37.50
Long distance phone calls .....	\$45.90
Travel to DeKalb and Rockford .....	\$97.40
Expense Total .....	<u>\$3,480.71</u>
30-Jun-2007 Checkbook balance .....	<u>\$2,079.38</u>

The sales pattern was different this fiscal year with some of the older items not moving as before, but sales at the Kentucky reunion were the best that I can remember with the advantage of having the history room and the history items for sale in the same room with the space for people to sit and talk, along with Fred Clinton producing computer printed items nearby also.

There were also more repairs and replacement problems than usual.

# Reunion attendees ...

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Ross & Roberta Niebergall	A 254	1244 Bellevue Drive	DeKalb	IL	60115
Joseph & Nancy Palmer	C 255	1802 Norwood Drive	Midland	MI	48640
Richard Parrack	Associate	260 Sherbrook Blvd	Upper Darby	PA	19082
Robert Parrack	Associate	226 E. Main St.	Elkton	MD	21921
Margaret von Pentz	Associate	110 Hasbrouck Road	Goshen	NY	10924
Jackie Potts	Associate	327 W. First Street	Springfield	OH	45504
Brian Potts	Guest				
Wilmot Presley	FA 861	4801 N. State St. Spc. 9	Ukiah	CA	95482
Dorothy Richards	Associate	4806 NW 26 Terrace	Tamarac	FL	33309
William & Rachel Robinson	G 253	811 North Street	Tacoma	WA	98403
Miryam Rubenstein	Associate	6149 N. Rockwell St.	Chicago	IL	60659
Stanley Rusinek	AT 254	2545 E. Roma	Phoenix	AZ	85016
Ruth Sandbrink	Associate	609 Westside Drive	Aurora	IN	47001
Sima Savitt	Associate	13253 Holmes Pt. Dr. NE	Kirkwood	WA	90834
Judith Schaefer	Associate	6153 George Fox Drive	Galloway	OH	43119
William & Cele Scott	E 254	407 S. Walnut Street	Sycamore	IL	60178
Samuel & Peggy Spangler	HQ 254	6 Olde Plantation Drive	Fredricksburg	VA	22407
Sam & Han Sue	K 255	1035 West Drive	North Merrick	NY	11566
Daniel Watson					
Tom Weathers	Associate	625 189 <sup>th</sup> St. Ct. E.	Spanaway	WA	98387
Matthew Weathers	Associate	625 189 <sup>th</sup> St. Ct. E.	Spanaway	WA	98387

NOTE: If you attended this reunion and your name is not listed, please notify the secretary as soon as possible so all the records can be brought up to date.

## Barracks life . . .

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

dashed outside to run for the latrine building, but it was full to overflowing. The creamed oysters we had for supper were tainted and over a hundred men were vomiting, had diarrhea, or both! I staggered into the shower to clean off, but two medics put me in an ambulance. The Post Hospital was jammed and extra doctors were awakened. One decided that I had a swollen appendix and I was put into a small room. An hour later I felt emptied of all traces of the oysters and went looking for a bathroom to wash. When I came out I couldn't find my room so took the first vacant bed I saw. No one missed me and I was sent back to the training area in time for noon chow.

I still have the appendix, but do not care for creamed oysters!



*One customer failed to tip the doorman who then said, "If you should lose your wallet on the way home, remember, you didn't pull it out here."*

## Did You Know?

by Harold O'Neill, 83<sup>rd</sup> Signal

During World War II the Russian Army had more men in actual combat from each Division than any other Army. The average U.S. division had ten percent of its manpower on the fighting line and ninety percent in support or in reserve. The Russian soldier received no pay, no leave, no mail, or PX service. If wounded, he might get some medical care; if ill, none.

During an attack, all supply, whether by trucks or pack horses, had three priorities – one, ammo; two, fuel; three, food. The average Russian could stand the cold on less food than their enemies. Transport was also reduced by having infantry assigned to protect tanks, ride to battle on the tanks.

U.S. and other foreign equipment had problems in Russia. Most of their tanks had treads too narrow for the deep Russian mud. The Germans found this out the hard way and adapted. One U.S. item was very useful – American trucks, especially the deuce and half. Of course, to the Russian soldier they came from some remote Siberian city called Detroitky according to the Russian language instruction plate on the dash.

# Deceased members remembered at 2007 Memorial Service

Following is a list of members who were reported as deceased from August 2006 to August 2007.

- Leo Vern Addington - HQ 254 - March 14, 2006  
 Victor C. Albrecht - A 255 - July 21, 2007  
 Arthur G. Ash III - SV 863 - August 19, 2006  
 James Baehren - B 253 - May 17, 2007  
 Rodman Backus - C 253 - June 23, 2006  
 William J. Bell - K 253 - March 18, 2007  
 John (Jack) G. Bruce - MED 63 - August 1, 2006  
 Dan Bulovick - MP 63 - July 18, 1972  
 Robert Carey - I 253 - November 25, 2006  
 Kenneth L. Chase - AT 253 - September 13, 2006  
 Robert J. Collins - A 263 - March 8, 2006  
 John T. Conard Jr - B 255 - January 9, 2007  
 Cecil F. Cornish - AT 363 - January 21, 2007  
 Darrell Daugherty - K 255 - December 1m, 2006  
 Edward R. Day - L 255 - 1986  
 Ernest J. DeCelles - ENG 263 - January 8, 2006  
 Thomas C. Dokken - M 254 - August 2006  
 Richard M. Elchik - F 254 - April 11, 2005  
 Gilbert Ernster - B 255 - August 18, 2006  
 Richard Fagenstrom - F.G.H 253 - Dec. 23, 2006  
 Harold E. Fagg - C 255 - March 4, 2002  
 Louis E. Flaig - C 254 - March 29, 1995  
 Norbert S. Forcheskie Sr - H 255 - Feb. 15, 2007  
 Frank J. Frolo - M 255 - 1981  
 Albert J. Gaeta - B 255 - August 7, 2006  
 Bernard Gallagher - AT 253 - December 8, 2005  
 Roy Games - C 861 - July 26, 2007  
 Stafford (Steve) Gaudin - C 253 - Sept. 14, 2000  
 Leamon J. Harvey - CN 254 - December 9, 2006  
 Wesley S. Heimer - A 254 - January 20, 2007  
 Maurice Hendrickson - AT 255 - January 15, 2007  
 Richard F. Herdman - MED 253 - October 26, 2006  
 Darrell H. Hite - Reconn 63 - 1972  
 Spencer Hockaday - FA 861 - August 8, 2001  
 Robert T. Holdren III - E 253 - July 31, 2006  
 David W. Hunt - HQ 254 - February 16, 2007  
 Richard E. Hunter - Band - January 23, 2006  
 Thomas M. Hunter - K 253 - October 15, 2006  
 F. Paul Huseman - D 253 - January 11, 2006  
 Frank Izell - C 861 - January 23, 2006  
 Solomon Jacobson - Band - May 1, 2007  
 Marvin Johnson - A 254 - 2004  
 Robert H. Joseph Sr - HQ 253 - October 30, 2006  
 Donald M. King Sr - I 253 - February 12, 2007  
 Edward King - Associate - June 4, 2006  
 Gerald E. Kurth - C 253 - May 28, 2007  
 Nolan Wallace Lee - K 253 - October 18, 2006  
 Reginald Lingerfeldt - K 255 - November 8, 2000  
 James Lyke - M 255 - March 2006  
 Theodore S Maffitt Jr - H 254 - January 19, 2007  
 Chester W. Maciorowski - G 254 - June 4, 2004  
 Charles A. Marsch - HQ 253 - February 6, 2006  
 Rowe W. Maxwell - MP 254 - June 16, 2007  
 Albert A. McCoy - B 263 - February 5, 2006  
 Edward L. McGrath - K 254 - March 26, 2007  
 Robert A. Michajla Sr - C 716 - August 4, 2007  
 Harold Miller - AT 255 - November 2006  
 Joe Ted Miller - HQ 254 - March 6, 2006  
 Vincent A. Moricone - F 253 - September 17, 2006  
 Francis J. Morin - Associate - 2004  
 William G. Murphy - SV 253 - April 20, 2006  
 Walter W. Nervi - E 255 - March 2006  
 Robert F. Newton - C 255 - December 2005  
 Fred A. Nourse - HQ 63 - May 22, 2007  
 Paul Obel - B 255 - September 4, 2006  
 Nick J. Pann - K 255 - July 2, 2007  
 Nicholas J. Paolicelli - A 255 - July 13, 2007  
 George W. Pferdecort - SV 254 - December 4, 2006  
 Thomas E. Quinn - A 255 - June 15, 1987  
 Wilford Raymond - H 253 - July 6, 2002  
 Charles E. Renner - G 254 - September 5, 2006  
 Pasco "Sam" Roman - K 254 - December 9, 2006  
 Halkey K. Ross - HQ 63 - December 23, 2006  
 Harry G. Rouse - ORD 763 - December 31, 2006  
 Robert E. Sayles - HQ 254 - April 2007  
 Wayne L. Scott - C 253 - August 20, 1976  
 Robert W. Selton - C 253 - November 2006  
 Paul Shandey - K 255 - July 31, 2002  
 Durphy J. Shoats - L 253 - October 19, 2006  
 Joseph H. Simard - H 255 - September 5, 2006  
 Theodore Soderback - H 253 - March 2004  
 Joseph Sokolowski - HQ 254 - April 25, 2006  
 Joseph A. St.Laurent - L 255 - March 17, 2007  
 John T. Strzelecki - I 254 - March 17, 2007  
 Rex Thornley - K 254 - July 10, 2007  
 Edward B. Walker III - HQ 862 - April 28, 2006  
 Frederick P. Weber - L 253 - December 28, 2006  
 J. Benjamin Williams - F 254 - November 1, 2006  
 James E. Wilson - MED 263 - January 2, 2006

## Deceased members remembered . . . . .

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

### DEATH OF SPOUSE

Dorothy Mae Blount, wife of Eugene Blount - E 255, February 23, 2007

Dr. Carol Charitan, wife of Ivan "Sonny" Charitan - ENG 263, February 6, 2007

Joan Crawford, wife of Jim Crawford - , February 2007

Jenny Eighmy, wife of Howard Eighmy - I 254, January 7, 2007

Aurelila Follick, wife of Robert Follick - C 255, March 2005

Catherine Foster, wife of Glen Foster - A 253, July 18, 2006

Sylvia Golub, wife of Herbert Golub - HQ 63, April 23, 2007

Mary Hurst, wife of Naaman W. Hurst - K 253, September 17, 2006

Billie Jean Johnson, wife of Preston E. Johnson - B 254, December 2006

Lillian Jones, daughter of Brig. General E. J. McGraw - date not known

Rita Maslinoff, wife of Louis Maslinoff - G 253, June 30, 2007

Jane Neilson, wife of Donald Neilson - K 255, August 10, 2006

Marcia L. Tatarunis, wife of Alphonse M. Tatarunis - CN 255, February 21, 2007

Verline Williams, widow of Paul Williams - K 255, July 8, 2007

John E. Callaghan, I 253, 41 Livingston Avenue, Pittsfield, MA 01201.

Veryl E. Carney, M 255, 35118 Denny Drive #147, Zephyrhills, FL 33541.

W.C. Chambers Jr., K 255, 14469 SW 34<sup>th</sup> Terrace Road, Ocala, FL 34473.

Alphonse DiBenedetto, HQ 863, 391 Edgewood Avenue, New Haven, CT 06511.

George Kangas, 2557 Georgetown Avenue, Toledo, OH 46313.

Vincent Laudoni, I 255, 10 Athol Street, Islip Terrace, NY 11752-1602.

Robert C. Pitcher, L 254, 1210 W. Progress Drive, Hayden Lake, ID

Betty Rine, Associate, 6411 16<sup>th</sup> Street N., St. Petersburg, FL 33701. Her husband, Bill was F 253.

Frank A. Segredin, HQ 255, 428 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, NJ 07089. (A note placed by the post office department on the returned *Blood and Fire* indicated Frank had passed. Can any one verify this?)

Mickey Snyder, Associate, 3765 Hopkins Avenue 8, Titusville, FL 32780. Her husband, William, was ENG. 263.

Mary Alice Sullivan, Associate, 12501 Village Cr. Drive #123, St. Louis, MO 63203. Her husband, Francis, was M 254.

## To Bleed and Burn

by Harold O'Neill, 83<sup>rd</sup> signal

This town that was across the way from our positions, was but a few hundred yards. The enemy probably stayed there at night. Our artillery shelled them every night and we used phosphorous shells. They would hit the ground and then burst, throwing fire all around the place. We stood in these positions along the Saar River for nearly a month but nothing much happened. We waiting for the summer to set in. When that arrived, the 7<sup>th</sup> Army would be ready to take off.

The 63<sup>rd</sup> *Blood and Fire* division was to land on German soil. This was my division; the division that originated from the Casablanca meeting, where President Roosevelt stated that its name should be carried to the enemy and make him "bleed and burn" for his crimes. It sure did!

We should have made it even hotter for them. We were too easy with them. Once the Germans made a wisecrack - they told us that they would supply the fire and that we would supply the blood. They should have known we wouldn't retreat. They know now!

Once we got started, we didn't stop until we were

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

## Lost Sheep Need To Be Found

We need new addresses for the following people. Listed below are the last known addresses taken from the returned *May* issues of the *Blood and Fire*. If you can help, please call, write or email the secretary/treasurer.

John J. Calzetta, HQ 255, 16 Kent Road, Glen Rock, NJ 07452.

## To bleed and burn ...

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

relieved by the 36<sup>th</sup> Division on April 26. We had sighted the Bavarian Alps. The rough part was from February until May. A never ending race against the enemy, to catch and destroy him! Yes, we were too easy on them – we took prisoners; we should have killed them all! What good are prisoners? The Germans would have their positions all set up and waiting for us. They would pick us off as we got closer to them. Then when they were cornered, they would surrender.

We should have killed them all!

## The Rat Race

by Harold O'Neill, 83<sup>rd</sup> Signal

We stopped at night and slept at the top of a wooded cliff over-looking a great deal of open land. Boy, it sure was a wonderful sight to see! I sure hated the woods – they were a good defense for the Jerries. Also, open land meant that our tanks could be used. We built shelter with logs and slept underneath them.

The next morning we took off and hit the open land. We walked for a while and then got orders to dig in. Well, we didn't dig long before we got orders to take off again. To the left of us we heard a shot and we all hit the ground. It was nothing. One of the fellows tripped and his rifle went off. Finally we got orders to sit down and rest as we waited for trucks, which took us outside the town called Schwab-Hall.

On April 10, just before we had reached Schwab-Hall, my infantry regiment, the 255<sup>th</sup> drove across the Kocher River, broke through the Heilbronn line and let the 10<sup>th</sup> Armored through. We didn't meet any enemy resistance in those positions outside of Schwab-Hall. I remember at that time that I had a box of pancake flour that was left over from one of my packages. We got a piece of tin and build a fire underneath it. I mixed the flour with water and poured it into the tin plate. We had pancakes that day.

I remember the foxhole we dug that day. Usually there are two fellows to a foxhole, that is why I say "we" most of the time. Boy, it sure was cozy! We dug about three feet deep and then laid wood across the top. That gave us our roof. On our roof and floor we put straw. We also covered the straw on the roof with dirt for camouflage reasons. We didn't want the Jerries to disturb us!

From April 18 to April 22, we came across many road blocks and plenty of delaying action by the enemy. We were on the "pursuit march" now – we marched on

foot, on our own and borrowed wheels, on the backs of tanks! Boy, they sure stuck us on those tanks – like a bunch of stamps. Through Wurttemberg and Bavaria, we harried the broken Germans, who, though definitely withdrawing, turned at bay more than once and even managed savage armored counter attacks.

## Visit Website to find detailed history of 63rd Infantry Division

Visit the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Web Site page at <http://www.63rdinfdiv.com> to find a detailed history of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division. Included is a listing of unit awards, descriptions of battles, a listing of battle and non-battle deaths, descriptions and views of all 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division memorials.

There are also over 1,000 pictures of the men in training, in combat, and on occupation duty.

You will find a list of all memorabilia items for sale, information about reunions, and inquiries from members and relatives searching for information about members or buddies, plus an alphabetical listing by unit of all 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Association members, a listing of related web sites and other information of interest to veterans.

Webmaster Fred Clinton, D 254, is seeking photos and memorabilia images to be included on the web site.

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. Fred's phone number is 703-751-7548.

All items will be returned when processing has been completed.

Wishing everyone  
a Blessed and  
Happy  
Thanksgiving!

# A word from your buddies . . .

## 254 Regiment

Leo Langenback, B Company sent this message: "I am trying to find information about the U.S. Navy Units that were in Europe under U.S. Army orders. The Navy was used to shuttle men and equipment across the Rhine River and to other places in Europe. Any help would be greatly appreciated. At present my health is not the best. I have a defibulator in my heart to help me keep going as long as the batteries hold out! I am 81 years old and my wife of 58 years deserves the Medal of Honor!! We have three sons, one daughter and seven grandchildren! All veteran's wives, young or old, deserve some sort of medal for helping their spouses get through another day."

George H. Fodor, Company E, suffered a stroke recently and is now in a nursing home. His wife, Alice, wrote that George served three years in World War II and received a Bronze Star for carrying a wounded man through enemy fire to reach the Medics. They live in Huntingdon, Pa.

Edgar C. Torrence, Company G wrote: "At age 96 I am still going strong; taking an active role in church, community and Retirement Community programs and activities."

Ray Gordon, M Company sent this message from California: "I have been carried as on full membership however, I moved to this retirement home last winter and didn't send my change of address. Please renew my membership so I can continue my *Blood and Fire*. I can only report that considering the age, I am still vertical and ventilating! But nothing better at this time. I send my best wishes to all the troops."

## 255 Regiment

Jack Kerins, Company D, of Hermitage, Pa. sent his dues and made this comment: "You do a beautiful job of keeping we old soldiers happy!"

Richard Gutierrez, Company D, sent this message from California: "At the age of 81 I am doing fine and am keeping in touch with two very nice members of my platoon."

Stanley A. Kozlowski, I Company wrote: "Look forward to reading the *Blood and Fire* every three months. We are both in fairly good health for being 78 and 81 years old! Still live in the same house for 57 years - do our own work and keep busy."

Frederick J. Bellwood, K Company, sent this note: "We are doing o.k. Have minor problems. Ginny and I just celebrated our 61<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary on June

30. Hi to all - we think of you often."

## Med. Tech.

Walter F. Gavogan, C Company 363 sent his dues and a "big hello" to the men in his company. He lives in New Jersey.

## Field Artillery

Daniel J. O'Connell, 862, wrote: "Life has been very good. Wonderful wife and family. We have been blessed with two loving daughters and one grandson. Lucky to have enjoyed my career as an Electrical Engineer. Now loafing in retirement!! Regards to all."

## Division Headquarters

Herbert Golub sent this message: "I am sad to report that my wife, Sylvia, after 55 years of a wonderful marriage, passed away April 23, 2007. My best to you and your family."

## Associate Members

Betty Selden, widow of Carl, HQ 63, wrote: "My husband Carl died January 27, 2005 but I am trying to keep up on the news through the *Blood and Fire*. I sure miss him."

This note came from Bill Stratton: "My dad had a good friend from the 63<sup>rd</sup> by the name of Charles Schultz. His wife's name was Dorothy and they were both very active in the 63<sup>rd</sup> Association, especially the Philadelphia Chapter before moving to Florida. I know Dorothy passed away and I spoke to him a few years ago but have now lost touch. He was living in the Tampa/Clearwater area of Florida at that time. His health was not good so I assumed he had passed away but I am not sure. Anyone with any information about Charles would be appreciated. Donna LaCosse has my address."

Merry Christmas  
and Happy  
New Year  
to one and all!

**BLOOD AND FIRE ANNUAL REPORT 2007**  
**November 2006 – August 2007**

**NOVEMBER 2006**

Composition and Printing	\$2,502.34
Postage	458.60
Trips to Rensselaer mile	16.00 - 40 miles round trip, two trips= 80 miles at \$.20 per
<i>Blood and Fire</i> Returns	51.56
Cost for November 2006	\$3,028.50

**FEBRUARY 2007**

Composition and Printing	\$2,300.52
Postage	418.78
Trips to Rensselaer mile	16.00 – 40 miles round trip, two trips= 80 miles at \$.20 per
<i>Blood and Fire</i> Returns	59.67
Cost for February 2007	\$2,794.97

**MAY 2007**

Composition and Printing	\$2,218.02
Postage	411.83
Trips to Rensselaer mile	16.00 – 40 miles round trip, two trips= 80 miles at \$.20 per
<i>Blood and Fire</i> Returns	33.27
Cost for May 2007	\$2,679.12

**COST FOR NOVEMBER, FEBRUARY AND MAY     \$ 8,502.59**

These totals do not include the re-mailing of the *Blood and Fire* to those who did not receive a copy in the first mailing. I do not write a check to the post office for each transaction – Harold pays those fees and then I write him a check two or three times during the year.

**NOTE:** Trips to Rensselaer were to take, and bring back, pictures for the *Blood and Fire*.

**EDITOR OF BLOOD AND FIRE**  
*Donna LaCosse*



# Financial Report 2007

July 31, 2006 – July 31, 2007

July 31, 2006: Checking Balance	\$ 24,801.88	Includes Compound Interest
Certificate of Deposit	\$ 23,263.17	Includes Interest
July 31, 2007: Checking Balance	\$ 18,943.11	Includes Compound Interest
Certificate of Deposit	\$ 24,417.55	Includes Interest

**TOTAL ASSETS: \$ 43,360.66**

Deposits:	\$ 8,464.00
Income:	\$ 8,464.00
Expenses:	\$ 14,810.26

## INCOME LISTED

Dues Paid:	\$ 5,355.00
Donations:	\$ 1,884.00
Ad Book:	\$ 1,225.00
Total Income:	\$ 8,464.00

## EXPENSES LISTED

Postage:	\$ 385.24	
Office Supplies:	627.17	
2006 Reunion, Scott	920.65	
2006 Reunion, LaCosse	865.80	
Materials to Tacoma, Scott	223.26	
Flags to Tacoma, Fowle	217.00	
2007 Luncheon Deposit	300.00	
Balance on 2006 Reunion	519.66	
Seed Money	2,000.00	
Charter Renewal	15.00	
Bonding Insurance	233.89	
<i>Blood and Fire</i>	8502.59	Composition, printing, postage, returns

**TOTAL EXPENSES: \$ 14,810.26**

# - Letters and Opinions -

## LIFE MEMBER RECEIVES NO MAGAZINE

My children paid my life membership as did the children of Peter Hansen, but I have never received the *Blood and Fire*. Peter is my brother-in-law and we were in the same twelve men Squad in the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division, 254 Regiment. Peter was in Mississippi and I was shipped over as a replacement and sailed on the Queen Mary in January 1945. Pete and I were from the same hometown. I joined the 63<sup>rd</sup> and was assigned to the same Squad that Pete was in just prior to the drive to the Siegfried line in Germany. I would like to receive the magazine and will try to make the next reunion if possible and my health holds out.

Howard P. Miller

## REPORTS DEATH OF HUSBAND

Regretfully, I must inform you of the death of my husband, Robert A. Michajla, Sr. He passed away on August 4, 2007 from lung cancer. After 40 radiation treatments and a rough year, he fell and broke his hip, and lived just six days after that. It seems ironic that his funeral was held during the 63<sup>rd</sup> Division Association reunion in Tacoma. I would appreciate future correspondence as Bob's army life was very important to him. He was very proud of his three children, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Peggy L. Michajla  
111 NW 191<sup>st</sup> Street,  
Seattle, WA 98177

## INFORMATION YOU REQUESTED

A good year for me was 1947. I started my insurance career in July and am still part-time, so that makes 60 years! We celebrated our 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in October. I joined Kiwanis in 1957 and received my 50-year pin in October. I was 86 in July, and for my age, I am in good health.

Charles C. Rudibaugh  
Service Company 253

## PRESENCE BLACKBALLED BY DOCTOR

My presence at the reunion this year has been blackballed by Doctor because of area height. See you all next year! Beth and I have just celebrated our 67<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Boy, time flies when you are having fun! Thanks for working so hard for everyone.

John R. "Buck" Blanks

## SEEKING INFORMATION

It was a pleasure to meet some of you Hot Shots in Tacoma. I am just sorry I didn't come out for the entire reunion, but did not know about the reunion until I saw the article in the local newspaper. My grandfather, John Thomas Greany was born August 20, 1912. His wife's name was Margaret and his daughter's name is Irene. Below is a picture of my grandfather. If anyone has information about him, please contact me.

Daniel V. Watson  
253-686-4533



# - Letters and Opinions -

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

## DAUGHTER REPORTS FATHER'S DEATH

My father, Rex Thornley, passed away July 10, 2007 and I would give anything to see my proud father standing with his friends at the reunion. He would have walked up to each of them with tears in his eyes, followed by a mighty hug that only they would understand. He had great memories and he remembered the heart break of the war. Some of my dad's stories were fun and at times, funny. But the stories never told were the most painful for him. He never had to say a thing – just the look in his eyes, the expression on his face would bring tears to my eyes and an ache in my heart. As much as we loved him, we could not take that pain away. He was the greatest man I have ever known!

Charlene (Sherry) Thornley Welch  
360-642-3210

## ENJOY READING BLOOD AND FIRE

I still get my paper from you all and enjoy reading it. I see my husband lost a good friend – Harold Miller. He was very good about coming to the reunions – only missed two! I can never attend the reunions because I am on oxygen 24-hours a day. I have a problem breathing.

Sharline J. Lewis

## INFORMATION NEEDED ON UNCLE

My uncle, Joseph J. Mazei, K 253, was called to his eternal reward on August 23, 2007. Since Uncle Joe kept his time in the service mostly to himself, I sure would like to hear from anyone who can tell me about this period of his life.

George Simko  
researchone1@sbcglobal.net

## ANOTHER WIERD STORY

Here is another wierd story! In 1934 Hermann Goering was asked by the Reich Forestry Service if it would be OK for Fur Farm near Kassel to release a batch of furry, bushy-tailed critters into the wild for a new game for the German hunters to shoot. Goering said OK. This turned into another introduced species gone wild, as the raccoons became an ecological disaster all over Europe to this day. It is estimated that over a million raccoons live in Germany even though hunters and auto kill thousands a year. It is believed that it is only a matter of time until the Nazi raccoons cross the English Channel, something Hitler could not accomplish!!

Thomas E. Glunt

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 41

## *Lot of liberties taken*

by Thomas E. Glunt

The recent article about Dave Perko and the high school girl's interview in the May 2007 issue of the Blood & Fire was very interesting until I got to the part about Sam Nye and Tommy Delion. A lot of liberties were taken with the story. A whole book was written about the subject: *Blood From A Stone* by Yaron Svoray and Richard Hammer May 2003.

The real story was about the 40 diamonds, rough cut, some as big as walnuts, and Tommy and Sam. These (diamonds) were buried in their foxhole overlooking Sarreguemines on a ridge overlooking the town. The rest of the loot was split up with their squad when they showed up.

I sent Bill Scott a copy of the book. It is out of print, but I was able to find another copy, which I got signed by Sam Nye who lives in Maine.

The diamonds were finally found in the foxhole on July 10, 1999 and ended up as a donation to the Holocaust survivor's charity. No one knew the value of the diamonds or the exact location where they ended up.

The History Channel did a story on the Diamonds – some of their photos were in the book.

# Student – Soldier – Survivor

by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Charles D. Rhodes Jr. Retired

*Continued from the May 2007 issue of the Blood and Fire*

So, with that decision made, we headed for the sack. The day had been a lulu; one that would be hard to top. Tired as I was, my mind kept on retracing the flow of the day and I finally fell asleep as the sound and scenes of that remarkable day gave way to badly needed rest.

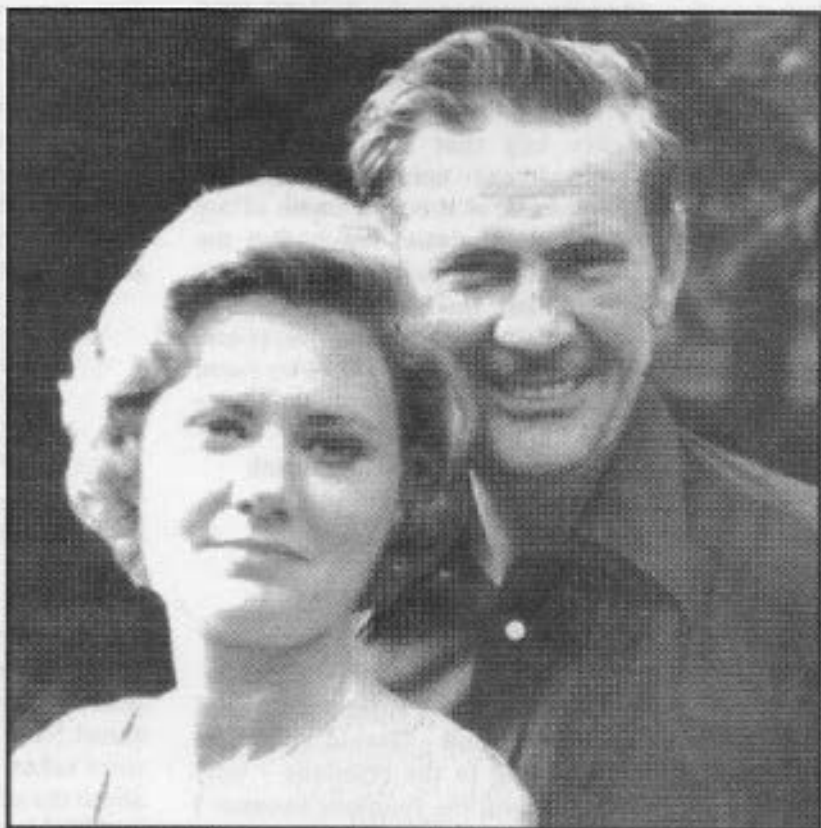
The morning of July 4 the three of us were furnished transportation to New York City. We had no specific goal other than enjoying the day. While the war in Europe was over, war in the Pacific wasn't and it seemed there was a sort of guarded air still prevalent as evidenced in the newspaper reports. We luckily stumbled across a nice appearing restaurant shortly after noon.

After being seated and given a menu, a gentleman came to our table, stood there looking at us for a moment, then in a combination statement/question said: "You just got back, didn't you?" I don't know why but Rogers and I froze up and the reply came from Pilla through that gritty, gravel sound he made as he spoke. The gentleman strained to understand him and the look on his face brightened as he said he understood. Better yet, he was the owner and insisted on treating us. It seemed he had every waiter currying our table! I could hear July 4<sup>th</sup> type music being played in the background and we were humbled and honored by this demonstration. As we turned to leave, he attempted to salute us. It obviously wasn't a good military salute but it was a great salute given from the heart.

Being a holiday, most businesses were closed so we just walked, looked and paused here and there to rest our feet, ask questions or seek directions. Our stamina was beginning to wane, and as our weariness grew we found ourselves standing at the entrance of the Waldorf Astoria Hotel. Evening had arrived so we decided this was

as good a place as any to end our day in style, dining in what would be termed a world-renowned site. Harry James and his band were advertised as playing there so we made our way to that location. We were early, but that was okay – we needed to rest our feet and Rogers needed to relieve his back pain. While we were being seated, Harry James passed by, stopped, and then came over to where we were standing. He seated us just short of the bandstand, and said everything was on the house. We were treated like true, blue celebrities! At each break he came over and asked what number we would like to hear. He introduced us and tied our presence in with the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Before we left, he made arrangements for our transportation back to Shanks. It was a great day!

The morning of July 5<sup>th</sup> signaled the breakup of the relationship developed between the three of us. Our destinations were determined by each medical case and we were all scheduled to fly out that morning. Pilla and I were put on a flight to Atlanta, Georgia and Rogers was to fly to California. We wished each other the best and boarded our planes. That was my last contact with Rogers. The flight to Atlanta was nothing to write home about; the plane was crowded and the hot summer air made for a bumpy ride. Pilla and I didn't try to talk, mainly because the noise level was too much for his voice to overcome. When we reached Atlanta, we were escorted to a hotel for an overnight stay. Since we had had no noon meal, we had an early evening meal, then made our way to the room



*Charles and Frances Rhodes*

# Student – Soldier – Survivor

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

where were talked about what was going to happen now. We had different flights the next morning so we wrapped up our shared experiences and hit the sack.

When I woke up the next morning, Pilla was already up, sitting on the end of his bed. He motioned for me to get with it, so I rushed through my morning things, dressed and we went to breakfast. I knew we were to fly out early and my flight was scheduled to leave first. It was time to say goodbye to Pilla. I will always remember that face and I am sure I will never forget his recovering voice sound. I was taken to the field to board the plane to San Antonio, Texas. It was kind of like the famous line in the TV program *Rawhide* – “head ‘em up, move ‘em out.” This was the next to last leg of my journey home.

This time the flight was a piece of cake, smooth as silk! There was a lot of room to stretch my legs and, other than the noise of the engines, it wasn't half bad. Even better, we had sandwiches and cold drinks at lunchtime! When we landed at Lackland Air force Base, we were loaded in military ambulances and driven to Brook General Hospital at Fort Sam Houston. This was a huge hospital for military personnel and I would be a hospital patient all over again. I rode in the cab of one ambulance and this time I could fully enjoy the trip. I was put in a large ward, where everyone was an ambulatory case. We were each given a specific bed number as well as a small “mandatory” booklet explaining the do's and don'ts at Brook General. We were given freedom to use the telephone and at the first opportunity I called home. It was late enough in the day so that my dad was there as well as mom. It felt good to hear their voices and to know I was so close to home, even though it would be several days before I was given leave. When I hung up the phone, I felt like we were still connected.

For several days I was checked every way imaginable! They made x-rays, they evaluated my breathing; measured the capacity of my right lung at varying times of the day. They put me on a monitor measuring the strength of my right arm where the exiting bullet tore away muscle and flesh. There were several doctors who interviewed me and they kept making notes that they said were put in my record. And, then I was given a 30-day leave. I didn't waste time contacting Lackland to catch a flight to Barksdale. The hospital getting me a ride to Lackland was a big help and I climbed into the plane, huffing and puffing, but I was on my way home at last! I had been to Barksdale many times over the years; it was just across the Red River from Shreveport. My dad took the family there for a tour when it formally opened back in the thirties. But this

time I was the one airborne, coming in on a wing and no doubt the result of prayer.

As was the case with returning GI's back then, everyone was so amenable. It was like they couldn't do enough for us. As I got off the plane my heart was racing. The driver of a nearby jeep offered me a ride, which I readily accepted. He asked me where I was headed and I said home, 2626 Lakeshore Drive in Shreveport. He said: “Hey, I'm sure I can get an okay to take you to downtown Shreveport.” When he dropped me off I could hardly thank him enough. There I stood, in my hometown and for a moment, I just took it all in!

I got on a trolley and made sure it ran the same trail that I remembered; then I sat down and stared like a sightseeing visitor would be expected to do. The closer we got to where I would get off, the harder it was to stand it! When the trolley finally got to that spot, I stood up and made my way to the exit and as I stepped off and away, the trolley made it's usual 45-degree turn to the left and I had an unobstructed view across the street. On the corner was a small Italian grocery store where my mother sometimes traded, and there she was, coming out of the store carrying a bag of groceries in each arm! As I was crossing the street, I shouted at her and when she saw me, both groceries bags went flying. There we stood on the corner, crying and hugging while the owner of the store was racing around gathering up groceries as fast as he could while intermingling his own Italian utterances of welcome. We stood there for the longest time until we realized the need to finish repossessing the remaining scattered groceries. Our home was across the street, only four blocks away. We made our way there with damaged goods but that moment when we first saw each other will never be equaled.

I opened the front door and let mom in but I paused to take a deep breath and realize how fortunate I was to have survived. Recall of the day of my platoon's ambush flashed through my mind. I determined not to appear like some scarred and wounded veteran bearing horror stories. As I walked through the door, I knew the meaning of HOME was what we fought for. I hugged my mom again and we finally carried the two bags of groceries into the kitchen. This was a room where my mother had no equal. We sat at the breakfast table briefly until I felt I was emotionally prepared to call dad. When he answered the phone he kind of choked up; then he closed shop and was soon coming in the back door. The earlier scene was created again, a little different I guess, more like man to man but no less

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

# Student – Soldier – Survivor

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

affectionate. Then my brother came home. Brothers are not nearly as demonstrative as sisters, but this was not what could be termed an occasion to be symbolized by gender. There was no lack of hugs or restraining of tears, but rather lots of slaps on the back and hardy squeezes.

In no time the word was out. The telephone kept ringing and any number of family friends came over to because the phone line stayed busy. What a day! My uncle E.P. Hunt worked for the Shreveport Journal newspaper and he came over to get a photo and sketched our a minimal report about my return, plus a highlight about my being wounded. Somehow he got the story in the next day's afternoon edition.

I was very fortunate, first a student, then a soldier, now a survivor. I had 30 days leave to do whatever I wanted. One thing I wanted was to buy a car. Dad, owning a wholesale auto parts store shopped around for me. One of his customers had a white 1941 Ford Tudor sedan. Ironically, when we went to pick it up on July 23, we had to wait one more day! Louisiana law required an individual to be 21 years old to own an automobile. I would turn 21 the next day, so I carried the paperwork to my dad's banker and asked him to hold them until the next day. We drove back to the bank early the next morning, completed all the legal to-do's and I walked out a proud automobile owner.

I spent my leave doing a whole lot of nothing. Charles Jones, one of my close friends, came home about the same time. He was captured during the Battle of The Bulge and we talked a little about our war experiences but mostly we just sat and talked! One morning mom reminded me that my 30-day leave was about to run its course. I got on the telephone, called Brooke General Hospital, asked for an extension and received a telegram the next day granting me a new 30-day leave. Armed with that good fortune, I took mom with me to east Texas where dad's sisters lived on farms near the small town of Lindale. All but one of my cousins there were in the war in Europe. Each had a story to tell and fortunately none were killed or seriously wounded. We were driving back home when the news of Japan's surrender came. I felt a tremendous sigh of relief knowing that the lives of thousands of American troops were spared.

Time swiftly passed and the second leave was coming to an end. Leaving home this time was not painful; I felt I would be back pretty soon. I drove to Brook General Hospital where I was re-admitted and it was almost like I had never left. I was in the same ward and most of the patients were the same ones that were there the day I left on leave. Each morning I was examined by one or

more doctors but was free most afternoons. I took the opportunity to see some of the sights, in particular the Alamo. I went to a movie or two and visited the Fort Sam Houston Officer's club a couple of times.

Then came the day for me to appear before the medical reviewing board. When my name was called, I went in and was asked to sit down. There were several officers seated at a long conference table. I recognized one or two of the doctors. They duly identified the lengthy history and medical details of my wounds. Finally the officer-moderator, read what he stated to be the board's decision – I was to be medically retired in rank, meaning 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. and I was fully eligible for medical services, medications, etc. at any military facility. At first I was alarmed and requested permission to query the board. I asked if there was something seriously wrong with me that I had not been made aware of and they said "no" and explained that as I got older the collective combination of all the physical wounds to my body would gradually impair and limit me physically. They referred to all the tests they had run and numerous notes of my tending doctors saying they were not just giving me something, I deserved it! The hearing ended, I stood up, saluted and then exited. That was it! They retired me and I was free to go home when the final separation orders were ready. I picked the papers up early the next morning, got in my little Ford and was driving out when I spotted, of all people, Mitchell, my second jeep driver standing at the bus stop. I pulled over and we visited until his bus came. He had a noticeable limp but insisted he was fine. Here then, was another survivor of World War Two.

As I drove away that day, numerous adventures followed but none to bear the significance of the Student – Soldier – Survivor years.

ADDENDUM  
DATED MARCH 25, 2006

I began writing an account of my World War II experiences in January 2001. Since the completion of that undertaking I received what can only be termed a monumental jolt – the welcome, startling news that the driver of my jeep on the day my unit was ambushed in Germany, April 2, 1945, was very much alive.

I recorded in my account that Meyers was killed in that action. On September 9, 2004 I received an e-mail from Audrey Meyers stating she was writing for her husband, Jim Meyers, who thought the two of us were involved in the referenced ambush. Considering the span of time between April 1945 and September 2004, this had all the elements of a miracle.

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

# Student – Soldier – Survivor

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

In the ensuing passage of time, we exchanged many letters, e-mails and telephone conversations. I told Jim about my WWII writings and that I thought he was killed the day we were ambushed, just laying there by the Jeep, motionless. He said he was too scared to move.

In just over six months, March 2005, Jim began taking radiation treatments. Our conversations were limited and communication was primarily by e-mail with his wife. On May 16, 2005 Jim died. It seems only fitting that this remarkable event of life after my recording his death some 59 years earlier be included as a part of my WWII experiences.

---

## War Story – My Military Travels

By Donald L. Freese

December 7, 1941 – Little did I know how that historical day would affect my future. I was 18 years old, a senior in high school, and planning my college education. I paid little attention to the daily news, thinking it did not affect me – how wrong I was!

In June 1942 I graduated from Central High School Fort Wayne, Indiana. In July I started school at a local business college in public accounting. My goal? Certified Public Accountant. My “friends and neighbors” had other plans for me and I got an A I draft card – bummer!!

January 1943 I found myself at Camp Perry, Ohio. I passed my physicals, etc, got my shots, uniforms, that famous duffle-bag, and off I went to Camp Gordon, Georgia in the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Corp. Artillery. I was assigned to the forward observer section and after basic training we went on maneuvers in Tennessee. It was while there I received my transfer to aviation cadet training. Hello Gulfport Field Mississippi, and Kessler Field for training.

A few months later I was off to Moore Field Mission, Texas. I was there for a couple of months, then in January 1944, I was off to Oklahoma University for college training and basic flight training.

April 1, 1944 was my “day of infamy.” Orders came out that all former ground force men were to transfer back to ground forces. I was just to start my basic

training!!!!!!!

Guess where I transferred to next???? 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division, I Company 253 regiment. A few days later I was sent to 861<sup>st</sup> FABN, Battery A and here I would stay – Camp Van Dorn, Mississippi.

I was made gunner first section Battery A until the war ended in Europe August 1945. I spent my 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, February 10, 1945, in Alsace France and I fell into a slit trench going back to the bivouac area. The good part was that Captain Young saw my problem, had the supply sgt. get me a new uniform from inside out! That was the greatest birthday present I ever got!!

I transferred to 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in Stuttgart, Germany, headquarters Bn. And, finally in April 1946, I was on SS Westerly on my way home!! I was discharged as Tech 4 and was home in Fort Wayne! END OF WAR STORY.. Oh, I will always thank God that it was the 63<sup>rd</sup> Division I was in – a great outfit, greater men and buddies!!

---

## A Soldier's wish list

..... by Paul Vermillion

*(This is a soldier's wish list while serving in the front lines in an Infantry Rifle Company in France and Germany during combat. I wrote this on D-Day 2007 - 63 years after it happened!)*

You wish the war would end now.

You wish the man who invented the 88 was blessed with excruciating, painful, hemorrhoids.

You wish you had joined the Navy.

You had something to eat besides K-rations.

You wish you had a nice comfortable, warm, dry bed, to sleep in tonight instead of this wet, freezing, muddy, foxhole.

You wish you had a thick steel cover to fit over your foxhole when we were to survive artillery tree bursts.

You wish you had been classified 4E.

The idiot who plans and orders all the patrols, had to go along with each and every patrol.

You could spend several hours in a nice bathtub full of hot water.

You could put on new clothes every day, or more often, when needed.

You had some hay to line your foxhole with now.

If married, to be sleeping with your wife, and hope no one else is, while you are gone from home.

If not married, to live long enough to get married.

You hope the Kraut who is shooting at you right now, had a lot of “Maggie's Drawers” when he was in Basic Training.

To taste Mother's home cooking again.

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

## A soldier's wish list

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

The next bullet, shrapnel, or mine doesn't have your name on it.

We wish we could receive some combat experienced replacements when, and if, they ever arrive.

We wish we could transfer our worst officers out and replace them with some better ones.

You wish your company would be replaced and go to the rear for at least a few days of R&R.

You hope the sniper who is taking a head on you right now, would accidentally fall out of the tree.

You wish you could enjoy a large, hot, juicy T-bone or Sirloin steak, at least one more time in your life – today would be great.

You wish you were selected to go to Paris for three days and nights leave.

You wish Germany would surrender when they know they had lost the war.

All the incoming artillery shells would be duds.

See a movie and enjoy some popcorn.

The foxhole you dig tomorrow, would be easier and more comfortable, than the one you are digging today.

Hope the letter you are opening is not a Dear John letter.

You can't remember how long it has been since you enjoyed a Coca Cola, a cold glass of milk, and a bowl of vanilla ice cream.

You wish you had more points after the war, so you could go home sooner.

When finally ready to be discharged and the Army Recruiter asks you if you want to re-enlist, you also had the option to kick him in the butt.

A Company 253

## My memories of 22 months with 63<sup>RD</sup>

By Vernon A. Worster, G 254

I have a lot of memories of the 22 months I spent with G 254 and would like to share them with you while I am still able, though a little shaky.

I was inducted into the army with Sam Nyer in Brewer, Maine. Sam was responsible for the movie "Blood From A Stone."

When we arrived at Camp Van Dorn, Sam went with F Company, and I went with G Company.

I remember Sargermine and the Saar Valley – all the trees the enemy fell across the road, then they blew up all the bridges and G Company had to walk all the way. We took a couple of prisoners in one little town and I

was elected, or volunteered, to guard them.

As G Company disappeared, I started getting some strange thoughts, like we didn't search the forest, they could be full of the enemy with "burp guns." I got the prisoners on what was left of a blown bridge and tried to make them understand that if anything happened, they would be the first to go.

We waited there about two hours, which seemed like two weeks when we finally heard a motor running. I wondered if it was friend or foe and was happy when it came into view with my buddy Cerpax at the controls. We sat the prisoners on the hood and I got into the passenger seat, and that is the way we caught up with G Company.

Shortly after that, we met a mobilized Infantry Unit from 102<sup>nd</sup> AF, with fenders and glass missing. It was full of holes and they were sure glad to see G Company. They had a load of prisoners who ran into the forest when enemy snipers shot the truck driver and guard.

The celebration comes to mind when we got the news of Germany's surrender!! The Army of Occupation was the best summer of my life!!

## Concordville, PA. site for May meeting of Philadelphia Chapter

By Kitty Forrest

In May, 2007, the Philadelphia Chapter members enjoyed three-day weekends in Lancaster, Pa., Wilmington, DE. and at the Holiday Inn Express in Concordville, Pa.

We had an inspiring visit to the Constitution Center and city tour in Philadelphia with a brunch and a show in Media, Pa.

We always hold a memorial service for those lost to us during the year, celebrate birthdays, weddings and anniversaries, enjoy games and an auction, and always have delightful evening entertainment.

We welcome anyone who would like to join us for these events. For information, contact Allan Romanoff at 1640 Dogwood Dr., Garnet Valley, PA 19061.

*A Veteran – whether active duty, retired, national guard or reserve – is someone who, at one point in his life, wrote a blank check made payable to "The United States of America," for an amount of "up to and including my life."*

*That is honor, and there are way too many people in this country who no longer understand it.*

Author Unknown



## Philadelphia Chapter has fall meeting in Atlantic City



*By Kitty Forrest*

Forty-four members and friends of the Philadelphia Chapter of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division met at the Resorts Hotel in Atlantic City, NJ on September 16, 2007.

After visiting with friends and a short business meeting, we all enjoyed an excellent buffet.

An evening show was available and an option to stay in Atlantic City a day before the meeting or a day after the meeting.

A spring mini-reunion is being planned for May. Details will be forthcoming.

## *Gordon talks about Camp Van Dorn Museum during the recent reunion*

At the reunion in Tacoma, associate member Kenneth Gordon of Liberty, Mississippi, who lives sixteen miles from the site of Camp Van Dorn told how he, a 17 year old school boy, worked all summer of 1942 helping build Camp Van Dorn before he entered service for three years in the U.S. Naval Air Force.

Gordon and his wife, Flora Bell, have served as volunteer attendants on the staff of the Camp Van Dorn Museum at Centreville, Mississippi, since it was dedicated on March 19, 2005, to the honor and memory of the brave men and women who trained and worked at the camp and the important part they, and the camp played in the winning of World War II.

The 63<sup>rd</sup> Division and its veterans have played a highly significant and prominent role in the development, furnishing, and support of the museum as evidenced by the many items and pictures on display.

The museum is housed in a beautifully renovated old small town bank building with a new brick addition at the rear for offices, restrooms and storage. The

museum building cost approximately \$400,000 of which \$75,000 was local matching funds, all of which is paid in full. There is no debt.

A number of 63<sup>rd</sup> veterans were present at the dedication and many have visited. Some have taped interviews that have been preserved in the files. Local citizens have hosted annually a dinner for members of the Fox Company of the 63<sup>rd</sup> who holds a mini-reunion each year in Baton Rouge.

In his remarks at the business session, Gordon handed out museum brochures and asked that all 63<sup>rd</sup> veterans visit the museum if possible and that any support that they could offer the museum in the way of gifts or artifacts would be greatly appreciated and treasured.

Gordon can be contacted at PO Box 176, Liberty, MS 39631. Phone #601-645-9000.

*Happy Holidays!*

# Wire team assigned duties for laying telephone lines

*By Hal O'Neill, 83rd Signal Company*

The first Division Headquarters, I recall after landing in Normandy, was in a thick woods of evergreen trees just outside the town of Carentan. My wire team was assigned to run one line to each of the main parts of Division Headquarters – Commanding General, Chief of Staff, G-1, G-2, G-3, G-4, etc. Included in the Headquarters was a German sniper whose task was made easy by so many officers using a strip of white tape on their helmets to show they were a Lieutenant, or two strips for a Captain. The sniper was eventually found and shot.

Our next Division Headquarters was in open farm country in a big farmhouse with barns and out buildings. The Germans did not have an O.P. like they did in Carentan, but figured some unit would use the buildings and put four 88 shells into the area every couple of hours. I was connecting phone lines to the Division switchboard under a staircase when a shell went through the room overhead and landed in the garden. It was a dud and I was covered with plaster dust. I had been sleeping under our wire truck, but was not there when the front bumper was caved in by another dud. The men who removed it told us that the shells were made at the Skoda Works in Czechoslovakia and had been sabotaged.

The Division War Room then decided that the next Division Headquarters would not be in a building or in the woods. The Engineers moved to a big open field four miles or so east and dug over twenty holes. Each had props to hold up sheet metal covered with two feet of earth and labeled a sign for each hole CG, C of S, G-1, and so on. A hole in the center of the field was Division Switchboard. This area was now Division Advance and when it became Division Headquarters, the present Division Headquarters would become Division Headquarters Rear. A Lieutenant, a Sergeant, and two Privates set up the switchboard and ran lines with field phones to each hole, and we had two lines back to the switchboard at Division Headquarters. At mid-day the CG arrived in an armored Recon vehicle – a six-wheeler with quarter-inch armor and a 37mm cannon. The CG told us that the Division Headquarters would move to our location the next morning and then he left.

As the sun sank we began to see soldiers in ones and two walking west. Some had their weapons and others did not. Some appeared unhurt and others were

walking wounded. The sound of small arms fire grew closer and the Lt. decided to leave. He would tell us when to withdraw. Near dark I was sitting on top of the hole roof eating a K-ration and watching over thirty men heading west when four German mortar shells landed – one at each corner of the field. The surviving men ran toward the center of the field as I got back in our hole just ahead of four more Mortar landing in the center of the field. There were screams and calls for Medics as more shells landed. The Sergeant and I were alone since the other Private drove the Lieutenant's jeep.

I was operating the switchboard as men taking cover in the holes saw phones and asked to be connected to a Medic. A major in a hole at the east end of the field asked if I could contact Division Headquarters? I could and he told me to stay on the line in case a mortar shell cut the line. I got him the Chief of Staff at Division Headquarters and heard the Major say his battalion was being pushed back and he had lost contact with units on his flanks. He needed help – reinforcements and artillery NOW! We had learned to tell the caliber of a shell by the sound – 105, 155, German 88, etc. If you heard it you were safe – if not you were dead.

Then we heard a new sound – Wump, Wump – like a subway train. Huge explosions in the fields east of us shook the ground and the Sergeant and I were covered with dust. The heavy fire continued into the night and the German attack was stopped. We were told later that the battleship Texas had used her 14-inch guns to break the German attack.

We never saw the Lieutenant again – according to the grape vine, he had the German measles and had been returned to England. Later the Sergeant received the Bronze Star and he told me that the Lieutenant was to receive a Silver Star. I was happy to be intact!

I received a commission after WWII and my Reserve Unit was put on Active Duty during the Post Office strike of 1970. I was a Captain with thirty men and was told to move the mail at the Grand Central Station Post Office in Manhattan, New York City. Within a few days we had sorted the piled-up Mail and began deliveries to our area. My men returned with gifts of liquor, candy, perfume etc from grateful storeowners and businessmen. We brought them checks and new orders.

After the strike was over, my men received letters of commendation and I received a medal. I call it my Post Office Medal!

# Can someone identify the pilots?

By Bernard "Barney" Lucas

I had a very nice visit on July 20 with Jim Crawford, Tech Sgt. headquarters Battery, Division Artillery Air Section. Jim will celebrate 90 years yet this year. His wife, Joan, passed away back in February, and he is looking to close his house and move in with a daughter.

He brought many old pictures with him, including three that I copied and enclosed for the *Blood and Fire*. There are two aerial photos taken in June 1945; one of plane No. 41-E in which he is the passenger, piloted by Lt. James Townsend of the 863<sup>rd</sup> FA Battalion. The other is of plane 41-E, where Walter Feinman is the passenger and he did not recall who the pilot was. The third picture is of Jim in the German sports plane in which Lt. Harry Green crashed and was killed. Another pilot was with him but we do not recall his name. The fourth picture is of Jim and me taken July 20, 2007.

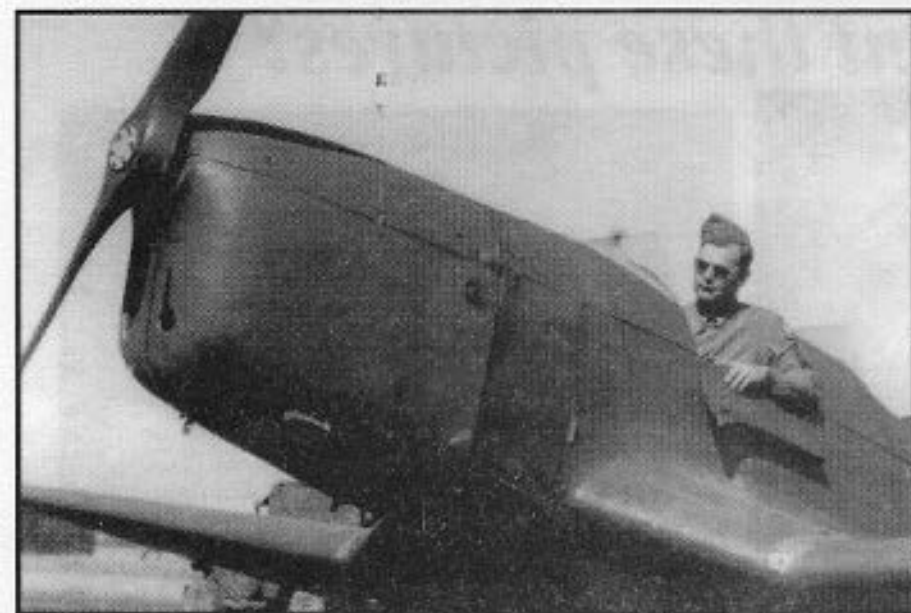
Jim and I are the only two enlisted members, and Marsh Allen is the only pilot we know of now of the Air Section. The quality of the pictures is not great, but we hope you are able to publish them in the *Blood & Fire* in hopes there are some other Association members out there who can identify the unknown pilots and/or let us know the present whereabouts of Walter Feinman.

My wife, Florence, and I are fairly well. We will celebrate our 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 23. Our three children and five grandchildren are scattered around the country. We have lived four years now in an Erickson Retirement Community, Fox Run Village, and know it is the best move we ever made.



(Left to right) – Barney Lucas, Jim Crawford (07/20/07)

Hoping someone can help us identify the pilots, locate Walter Feinman, or any other Air Section members. Please drop me a line at Bernard Lucas, 41130 Fox Run Road #522, Novi, MI 48377-4814. [Bernard.Lucas@att.net](mailto:Bernard.Lucas@att.net) is my e-mail address.



Crawford in German sports plane – crashed and killed Harry Green and?

## Can someone identify the pilots?

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

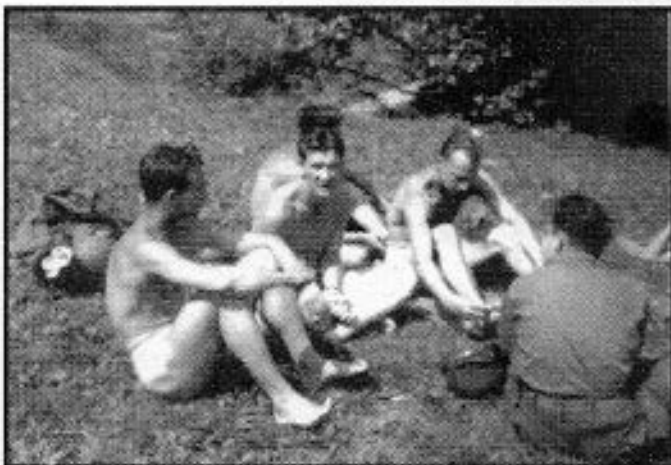


*Passenger is Walter Feinman ....  
Pilot unknown*

*Passenger is Jim Crawford . . . .  
Pilot is James Townsend*



## Who sent these pictures?



*Man in center is Tom Murphy and the man on the left is Lou Warmoth. Do the other three have names?*



*The man in the center is Lou Warmoth - the man who sent the picture is on the right - who is the man on the left?*

# This kitchen crew was the very best

by Aubrey M. Rogers, Muncie, Indiana 47304-4328

The accompanying photo is of that Kitchen Crew. It was taken in Wertheim. Germany sometime in May, 1945 right after the war was over and we were on occupation duty. The two little fellows in the lower left of the photo, not in uniform, were displaced persons (I believe they were Polish) that we picked up. They traveled right along with us, worked hard, lived good, and were glad to be with us.

This Kitchen Crew was the very best!! We always ate better than the existing conditions usually allowed. They were creative and resourceful. They would throw a hand grenade out on a frozen pond, which blew a big hole in the ice. Then threw another hand grenade in that hole, which promptly sank to the bottom and exploded. Stunned fish would float to the top, and this crew would go out on the ice with big stainless steel caldrons and home-made nets – throw back the “rough fish” (carp etc) and keep the good ones – enough to feed about 200 guys. Of course we also ate our share of chicken and eggs, taken only if the property where we found them was unoccupied.

We had a Regimental Commander, Col. Morris O. Edwards, affectionately called “Mo” that was much loved – very popular with the men right down in the ranks. They trusted him!! As Capt. Herbert B. Houghtaling Jr., Co Hdq Co and S-1, traveled through the rubble of Mannheim, Germany in his jeep, a little veal calf stumbled from the rubble onto the street and stopped, spraddle-legged, appearing to be shell shocked. Mannheim had just undergone a complete saturation bombing by the Air Force and was in total ruins. Corporal Dale Howard, our driver, stopped the jeep. Also riding in that jeep was myself, and our mess Sergeant. I am sorry but I can't remember his name. Anyway, the mess Sergeant dismounted, pulled out his .45, and shot that calf right between the eyes. He slit the calf's throat with his trench knife, picked it up, and draped it over the spare tire, and we drove on. It is funny now that I think back on it, but not a word was said by any of us in that jeep throughout this entire episode.

The German troops facing us had lost the battle and had retreated several miles. This gave us an opportunity to set up outposts, fix a hot meal, and get some rest. This super kitchen crew dressed out that veal calf, and we had veal cutlets for supper that night!! Boy, Oh Boy, were they ever good! As it happened. Col “Mo” dropped by to visit our command post, and we invited him to join us for supper. The Mess Sergeant set up an empty wooden orange crate and made a table for the



Colonel. He set a plate on it with a nice hot veal cutlet for the Colonel, who sliced off a piece of the cutlet, and was just about to put it in his mouth when he stopped and said, “Say, where did you men get this veal? You haven't been looting have you?” The Mess Sergeant said, “No Sir Colonel. That little calf ran out in the street back there in Mannheim and got hit by some

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 30

## The Danube ...

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

picked up some limburger cheese and bread. I also picked up some lard, wrapped up in paper, and stuck it in my pocket. I was going to use that for cooking purposes. We traveled in trucks that night and it was a bit crowded. The lard was useless after that ride! Lucky for us, we did move out of that town because it was bombed that night.

We stopped at another town the same night and stayed there for two days. All we did while we were there was to get into position at night and guard our new gains.

## Kitchen crew ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

artillery, so we dressed it out." Colonel "Mo," still holding the slice of cutlet on his fork said – "I bet it was 45 caliber artillery. This sure is good! Don't let me catch you men looting now!"

On another occasion, we had occupied a small village and were "buttoning up" for the night – setting up outposts – and were getting hot food and some sleep. This same very popular mess sergeant had found a nice bed with a feather tick cover on the second floor of this house and proceeded to strip down to his wool "Long John" underwear and get some sleep. Just as he was about to crawl in bed, he heard this 88 artillery shell coming it. They made an unmistakable sound, which, by that time, we were all very familiar with. The Sergeant dove for the stairway! He would have undoubtedly been killed except for the fact the shell was a "dud" and didn't explode. However, that shell hit a big coal-burning heating stove in the room and demolished it. A door off that stove hit the Sergeant in his posterior just as he reached the head of the stairway. The impact threw the Sergeant down the stairs, out the front door, and into a dirt street. Numb from the impact

and somewhat in shock, the Sergeant got up, brushed off the dirt and checked to see if he had any missing parts, when several of his buddies rushed up to help.

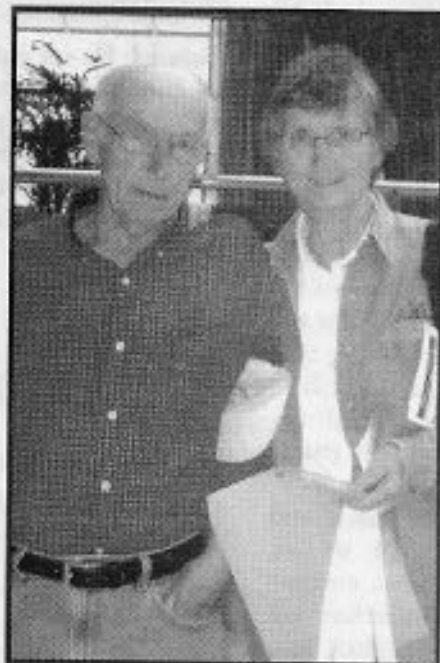
Captain Houghtaling heard the commotion and come out to see what had happened. He gave the Sergeant a "dressing down" and told him, "Sergeant, you are the best damn Mess Sergeant in this Division, and for personal reasons I want you to take better care of yourself. If I ever catch you sleeping on a second floor again, I will Court Martial you!"

The Sergeant had a way of chilling the powdered milk we got in our rations. He would get clean ice off a pond and chill the milk it to where it tasted very much like fresh milk. You hear jokes about how the Army made cooks out of truck drivers, and truck drivers out of cooks. Well, in this case the Army had this wonderful guy doing what he knew best how to do. I wish I could recall his name. Sergeant, if you are still among the living, I would be delighted to hear from you. I would also like to hear from any of the other guys in this photo. I just turned 89, and wonder why I am still here! I still live at 301 S. Normandy Drive, Muncie, IN 47304-4328.

## Several enjoy Tacoma Reunion



*Helen Anderson with new member, Martin Hernandez.*



*Joe and Nancy Palmer*



*Helen and Steve Glovos*

# Several enjoy Tacoma Reunion



Barbara and Floyd Exter



Bonnie and Ed Bundick



Peggy von Pentz, left and Ethel Gollhofer

## Luxemburg

by Harold O'Neill, 83<sup>rd</sup> Signal

I don't know who were the first American troops to enter Luxemburg City, but an 83<sup>rd</sup> Division officer, who thought he was, got me in trouble. My two buddies and I were in the Division Headquarters Advance Communications Team waiting just outside Luxemburg City until we could move in and set a new Division Headquarters Communications Center. During the morning local civilians told us that the Germans were gone, so the three of us walked into the city.

The street signs were in German - Adolf Hitler Strasser, Der Herman Goering Platz, etc. The gutters by the sidewalks held hundreds of metal pins inscribed, "Hiems In Reich" (Home in Germany). Hitler had annexed Luxemburg as part of Germany.

At an outdoor café we ate red, white and blue Victory ice cream. I don't know what it was made of, but oily strings went from the plate to your spoon with each mouth full. Venders had been selling black and white pictures of the German retreat just a few hours earlier. They showed them piling into trucks and riding

bicycles.

Several English speaking civilians, seeing our uniforms, came up to show us their Maquis membership cards, (the French underground resistance movement) and to ask questions. The Maquis cards were a joke - no underground group carries I.D. Street signs were coming down to be replaced in French - Avenue of the Liberation, FDR Place etc. Centuries of living in the middle between France and Germany made them adept at switching sides.

As we ate our lunch, a column of U.S. military vehicles

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 35

### NOTICE

It is no longer necessary for Life Members to pay a surcharge of five dollars annually. That policy was in effect for one year, and that year ended in 2004.

# AD BOOK RESERVATION FORM

CUT-OFF DATE  
JULY 1, 2008

PRINTED BOOK SIZE ( 5-1/2" x 8-1/2")

FULL PAGE ..... \$60.00

1/2 PAGE ..... \$35.00



1/4 PAGE ..... \$25.00

FULL PAGE = \$60.00 (4 1/4" x 7 1/4")

HALF PAGE = \$35.00 (4 1/4" x 3 3/4")

1/4 PAGE = \$25.00 (4 1/4" x 1 3/4")

1/8 PAGE = \$20.00 (2-3/8" x 1 1/4")

1/8 PAGE  
\$20.00

3 LINE  
BOOSTER  
\$10.00

SPONSOR  
NAME  
(EACH)  
\$2.00

## August 20 thru 25, 2008



2007 Tacoma, Washington

**63rd Division**

**Association** BLOOD and FIRE

• ARDENNES • CENTRAL EUROPE • RHINELAND

### "HOT SHOTS" WE NEED YOUR HELP

As you may know, the money collected from the Ads in the Souvenir/Ad Book is used to help off-set some of the reunion expenses.

Most of the money defrays the cost of the band, free beer, soda and entertainment during the reunion.

With prices constantly increasing, we are asking for your support to help us keep the reunion cost down for our retired members.

So would you please place an ad in the Souvenir Ad Book?

Make check(s) payable to:  
**60TH REUNION 63rd DIVISION ASS'N.**  
and mail to:

*Donna LaCrosse*  
*Post Office Box 86*  
*Morocco, Indiana 47963*

Ad Copy: please mail to back of \_\_\_\_\_ Ad Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit Served With: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized By: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# KNOW YOUR BUDDIES OF THE 63RD REGIONAL READINESS COMMAND

By Bob Capasso-I&R 254th

At the 58th Reunion held at Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky in 2006 the members of the 63rd Infantry Division (USAR), and its successor organizations, as well as its subordinate units, were admitted as full membership in the 63rd Division Association.

The guest speaker at the recent 59th Reunion of our Association held at Tacoma, Washington was Major General Paul E. Mock, the Commander of the 63rd Regional Readiness Command.

In addition to the inspiring speech by General Mock, he presented several additional items of information that will give us knowledge of the history of the Readiness Command as well as the effort that our new buddies who hold the Blood & Fire insignia are doing in our behalf.

The following is submitted from the items received from the General at Tacoma, Washington:

## 63D Regional Readiness Command

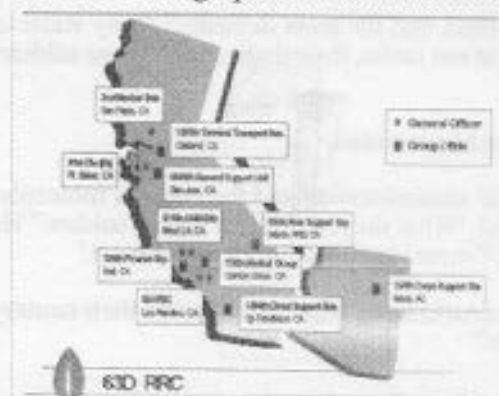
### 63rd INFANTRY DIVISION

The 63rd Infantry Division (ID) was officially activated 15 June 1943, at Camp Blanding, Fla. World War I veteran Brigadier General Louis E. Hibbs was named its first commander. The division arrived in Marseille, France in December 1944. World War II highlights include:

- Capturing the "Colmar Pocket," a German stronghold after eight days of fighting in icy weather.
- Breaking through the Siegfried line, girded with bunkers and minefields.
- Helping capture Heidelberg, Germany.
- Defeating the elite German 17th SS unit.

The 63rd ID returned home after the war and was inactivated on 27 September 1945. It was later reactivated during the Korean War and reassigned to the Army Reserve.

### 63d RRC Geographical Command Structure



### INFANTRY DIVISION TO READINESS COMMAND

The 63rd Infantry Division was redesignated as the 63rd U.S. Army Reserve Command in 1968. During Operation Desert Shield/Storm, more than 2,500 officers and Soldiers responded to the presidential call-up of reservists. Twenty-two units were called to active duty, with fourteen deploying to the Persian Gulf.

In April 1995, the command was changed to the U.S. Army 63rd Regional Support Command (RSC) with boundaries realigned with federal agencies. In subsequent history, the command:

- Deployed numerous units to Bosnia and Kosovo in the 1990s in support of peace-keeping operations.
- Mobilized and deployed several thousand Soldiers to Afghanistan, Kuwait, Iraq and other areas in support of the Global War on Terrorism after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

• Was redesignated as 63rd Regional Readiness Command (RRC) in 2003 as part of its new mission.

The 63rd RRC is commanded by Major General Paul E. Mock, and provides support to active Army missions in specialties including transportation, military police, intelligence, medical and others. Soldiers in the command are assigned in California, Arizona and Nevada.

August 2007



- CONTINUED ON PAGE 34



AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

## NEWS ARTICLES

### Army Reserve Transforms in Unstable Climate

By Staff Sgt. Christine L. Andreu-Wilson, USA Special to American Forces Press Service

ORLANDO, Fla., Aug. 7, 2007 - The Army Reserve is changing from a strategic reserve to an operational force, that force's top general said.

The difference between a strategic reserve and operational force is that the Army Reserve will follow a more predictable routine, Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stultz explained in a recent interview with Soldiers Radio and Television. Soldiers will be able to plan to deploy once every five years, he said.

"We are deployed in about 18 to 20 countries around the world. There are reserve soldiers in Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo, Germany, Panama, Belize, Djibouti, Africa, and Korea. We are engaged around the world as a force," Stultz said. "The reserve components have so much capability that the (active) Army relies on."

Though the Army Reserve has a 205,000-soldier force, more than 180,000 reserve soldiers have been mobilized, Stultz explained. There are 25,000 to 35,000 Army Reserve soldiers mobilized routinely, Stultz said.

"If we're going to be an operational reserve, we've got to look outside of the box that we're living in right now," Stultz said. "We are no longer a one-weekend-a-month, two-weeks-in-the-summertime force. What we are now is an operational reserve. That means on a predictable basis you will be expected to be called up and mobilized to deploy to defend your nation. Our goal is to get to a five-year model."

Stultz explained that officials hope to support soldiers by providing a more holistic approach to reservist service. This means providing and maintaining "continuity of support, continuity of care for their family while you're using this soldier on a repeated basis," he explained.

"What I can't do is expect a family to switch health care every time the soldier gets off of active duty. We've got to figure out a way to say that families are going to have continuous care," Stultz said.

The general said he is working on concepts that embrace a cost-share approach to employee benefits in which an employer of a mobilized reservist would receive financial incentives to continue to pay for benefits for a deployed soldier. But he stressed these were merely conceptual notions.

Aside from restructuring the force and reinventing the partnership between employers and the Army Reserve, Stultz said, warrior citizens must revamp their mentality.

"We had an Army that was built around the Cold War mentality," Stultz said. "Now, we're going through the process of changing the military. With the invasion into Iraq, we mobilized the Reserve in 2003 and have utilized the force non-stop since then," he said.

Reengineering the Army Reserve is an arduous undertaking given that the force has to transform itself while it fights the global war on terror, Stultz said. But he credits its people with the progress being made in Army transformation.

"Today's Army Reserve is the most professional, most competent, best trained, and the most dedicated Army Reserve force we've ever had," Stultz said. "I am in awe of the soldiers that we have in our ranks, their dedication. These soldiers are professionals."

Stultz also spoke of his recent trip to Iraq and his interaction with two soldiers he promoted.

"I promoted two soldiers with master's degrees. One had a degree in public administration and the other in molecular biology," Stultz said. "A month ago, I spoke with a young (specialist). I said, 'What do you do for a living, soldier?' He said, 'I am a pilot for Continental.' I said, 'What are you doing here?' He said, 'I'm serving my country, sir. I love it.'"

"That's who's in our ranks right now," the general said. "These are dedicated Americans who want to serve their country and see the Army Reserve as a way of doing that and maintaining their career."

(Army Staff Sgt. Christine L. Andreu-Wilson is assigned to the 204th Public Affairs Detachment.)

# Luxemburg . . .

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

passed by loaded with high ranking 83<sup>rd</sup> Division officers. One of the officers saw us and had the company CO threaten us with being deserters. I pointed out that it would be pretty stupid to join the enemy who was losing and why would we linger for lunch on a main street? So we were given company punishment for sightseeing without permission.

We were to dig a six by six by six hole without stopping until completed. The ground was like iron and it took about 18 hours to dig. We had plenty of support from our comrades who provided food, smokes, candy and blankets. The hole was inspected and the CO dropped in a cigarette butt before ordering us to refill it.

Moral - In the future, eat lunch in a café on a side street.

## *An Army travels on its stomach*

by Harold O'Neill

While cruising off the French coast near Normandy as guests on the John Greenleaf Whittier, the Recreation Director provided games of chance, up chucking (over the rail, please) and recollections. We were down to one meal a day due to a storm delaying our landing at Omaha Beach. The gamblers stakes were not money. But for FOOD! Some players gobbled their winnings immediately.

Recollections involved recalling all the pubs we had visited between Liverpool and Southampton. All names had to be verified by others and the G.I. with longest list would get all the free drinks he could hold upon our return to England, if ever. An old list survived - The Peacock, Green Man, Boot and Slipper, Bottle and Glass, Prince of Wales, Duke the Dorset, White Hart, Black Dog, Brewers Three, Newcastle Arms and Red Lion. No locations are given, but anyone visiting England today could do a bit of research.

Another recall gave involved food, not of home, but of England - bangers and mash, boiled elderly mutton, etc. The game was cancelled because too many players needed to visit the rail (upchuck).

And then someone found the emergency rations in a lifeboat. All lifeboats were quickly stripped clean.

Upon landing and with no Mess Section in sight, we dug vegetables from gardens in an abandoned village,

stewed a chicken in a helmet with the paint burnt off and survived.

The Message Center Section invited us to share their Special Stew. It was a washtub full of meat, Spam, vegetables and gravy. The calf someone shot was so tough it had to be taken out of the stew. Later we learned about aging meat - beef and venison. We also learned not to use a 50 Caliber Machine Gun on a deer - the cooks claimed it made too many bone splinters.

We had a debate on the odd shaped bones from the stew - dogs? No, cat. Never rabbit, raccoon, maybe? Another argument. No raccoons in Europe. Oh Yeah! Herman Goering imported them before the war. But that is in Germany, we are in France. They roam!! But roaming raccoons are Italian! The argument broke up. My guess was Belgian Rabbit; those large bunnies kept in cages in people's back yard until they reached maximum weight.

But no problem - in those days we could digest anything!

---

*Happy Holidays!*

---

## - Notice -

Please support the reunion committee by sending an ad for the Souvenir Book. There is an Ad Book Reservation Form in this issue of the *Blood and Fire* for you to use and the address of Donna LaCosse.

## *Notice*

**DEADLINE FOR  
THE FEBRUARY 2008  
ISSUE OF THE  
BLOOD AND FIRE  
IS ON OR BEFORE  
JANUARY 1, 2008**

# Patton

by Harold O'Neill, 83<sup>rd</sup> Signal

My first contact with General Patton was in England when he made speeches to the Division's top NCO's and the officers on the soon-to-be invasion of France. Signal set up the PA system so I heard him – lots of four letter words and, "use your bayonets on the enemy tanks."

The Division was assigned to Patton's Third Army in France and it guarded the Loire River as well as the Red Ball Highway supplying Patton's tanks. Some tankers thought Patton was hell-on-wheels; others felt he would use them in his drive for glory.

We had heard of the needless deaths in the race to take Messina in Sicily before Montgomery's British troops. I was happy to be in the infantry. Despite it being June, he ordered all troops to wear neckties, an impossible edict to enforce. We carried neckties in our pockets to wear when passing MP's or strange officers.

Later, in the city of Luxemburg, Patton made several visits to our division Headquarters with his ivory pistols and sometimes with the Duke of Luxemburg.

The newspapers made a big thing of Patton urinating in the Rhine River, but it was not an isolated incident. Headquarters clerks and MP's saw him use a window in the Division Headquarters buildings to urinate.

Our Division was sent to the Aachen area under 9<sup>th</sup> Army command and later fought in the Battle of the Bulge. The press lauded Patton's dash northward to the Bulge, but General Simpson's 9<sup>th</sup> did as much dashing southward. General Simpson was not colorful and got less press attention.

After Germany surrendered, the Division was sent to

occupation duty in Bavaria once more under Patton's command. We were warned of a surprise inspection of the entire Division and it's equipment by General Patton. Dozens of snow chains were dragged behind a truck on a gravel road to make them shiny, the tires of our trucks were painted with brake fluid to make them look new (it was bad for the rubber and wasted brake fluid), all tools cleaned of oil and polished for layout on new canvas by each vehicle.

We lined up at attention as the great man came by in a jeep with a handrail so he could stand while returning salutes. We estimated he inspected our vehicles, equipment and 300 men in about fifteen seconds! His vehicle never stopped, just headed in a cloud of dust for the next unit. It took days to re-oil tools, repack and store equipment.

Patton then issued his infamous, "No Fraternization Order." No troops were to speak with, or socialize with, German civilians. A few NCO's and officers used it as a means of working off a personal spite or to get a promotion.

One afternoon when three of us were caught on the side of a highway talking with German girls, we explained we were lost and asking directions. The MP's snickered and left. In towns, some English speaking German girls taunted us with, "Hey, Yank, I'm talking to you and I can get you court-martialed!" Most were kidding and thought Patton's order a joke. There was an increasing amount of critical press coverage that forced Patton to withdraw the order. Rumor had it that he was told to do so by General Eisenhower.

## CAMP ROBERTS, CALIFORNIA – SUMMER 1943



Submitted by Charles D. Rhodes, Jr.

photos  
submitted  
by  
**Charles D. Rhodes, Jr.**



  
**Military Training Certificate**  
RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS

This is to certify that Rhodes, Charles D.  
has successfully completed the prescribed course of instruction in the Basic  
course Junior Division, Reserve Officers' Training Corps,  
in which he was enrolled from September 12, 1938, to June 1, 1941, and  
that he is qualified to perform the duties of a 2nd Lt. officer in the Organized Reserves.  
Given at Fort Benning, Georgia this 1st day of May  
in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty-one

Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

W. T. Goldberger  
Major Army  
Professor of Military Science and Tactics

U. S. ARMY, WASHINGTON, D. C.      U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE



Practicing for the Star Spangled War Bond show to be staged in the gym-armory Monday night are the GI Joes of Company G, ASTP.



## INFILTRATION COURSE CAMP VAN DORN, MISSISSIPPI



*Lying down in front is Mauser.  
Row 1: Gramolini - ? - ?, Webber - Stetsko - James  
Back Row: Olsen - ? - ? - ? and Tootikian*



*From left to right - Glen Mi Gill, John Gramolini, Charlie Derbin somewhere in Germany.*



**A.T. Platoon 2nd BN. 254**  
*Right to left: Bob Colburn - Alan Marcher - Ore Easton -  
? - ? Kneeling: John Gramolini - ? - ?*



**CAMP VAN DORN, MISSISSIPPI**  
*Left to right - John Gramolini - Bob Colburn - Steve Stetzko - Paul Aldrich*



**Pictures are compliments of John Gramolini. He does not remember everyone by name so, if you are in any of these pictures, please let the Editor know.**

*Headquarters Co. 2d Battalion - 254th Reg. [at Platoon 2nd] Squad - somewhere in Germany*

# Headquarters - 2nd Battalion - 254

Taken at Wiekershiem, Germany



*Charles Derban is holding the flag. Others pictured are: Mouser, McGill, Marcher in the front row; Kirchen, McWilliams and Colburn in the second row; standing is Olsen. If you are in this picture, please let us know and tell us where you are located in the group.*

## Headquarters Co. 2nd Battalion 254th Inf. Regiment at Tank Platoon - 63rd



*In front of a bar - after we took the town - in Germany. (Left to right) Alan Marcher - Russell Stever - John Gramolini. I've forgotten the last two.*



*Waiting to move up Hdq. Co. 2nd Battalion - 254th at Platoon 2d Squad on the move in Germany.*

**Pictures are compliments of John Gramolini. He does not remember everyone by name so, if you are in any of these pictures, please let the Editor know.**

# Important announcement from AFR!

November 7, 2007

Mr. Ed Fowle  
63rd Infantry Division Association

Dear Mr. Fowle:

AFR is pleased to announce that beginning in 2008 your members will be able to register for your reunion online and pay by credit card! We actually had the software created from scratch and thus have complete ownership of our online registration format. When members register they will be giving us their information directly, instead of through a third party provider (as with most other planners). This ensures that AFR will maintain the highest integrity with data and the ability to customize the registration site to the needs of each group. We will accept Master Card, VISA, and Discover cards. We will be unable to accept credit card payment over the phone or via the postal service. Members, however, will be able to pay for activities on-site with a credit card if an AFR full-time employee is present at the reunion.

Your Event Planner will provide you with the specific web address for your group, and will also place this information on the reunion registration form and reunion program. Aside from allowing online registration, this is an entirely new registration system for AFR. Forms received via the mail will be entered into the same database as online registrations. This will allow reunion chairmen to access live registration reports at any time. Groups will be given their own website links such as:

[www.armedforcesreunions.com/yourgroupname](http://www.armedforcesreunions.com/yourgroupname).

AFR has always strived to provide the best pricing in the industry and we do not inflate activity prices. We have not accepted credit cards in the past because we did not want to increase costs to everyone in order to cover the expense of credit card usage by a few. In order to cover these user fee expenses we will therefore be charging a modest "convenience fee" of \$6 per registration form for those who register online. This fee will ONLY apply to online registrations. Subsequent changes to an existing online registration will not be charged this fee. This is a one-time transaction fee, not

a per person fee.

Should you have any questions regarding this new service, please don't hesitate to call me at 1-800-562-7226 (or email at [mollydey@afri.com](mailto:mollydey@afri.com)). Thank you for your business, and we look forward to providing this added service to your group in the coming years.

Sincerely,

Molly Dey  
Director of Operations  
Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.  
322 Madison Mews  
Norfolk, VA 23510 757-625-6401 x 304  
757-627-3807 fax  
[mollydey@afri.com](mailto:mollydey@afri.com)  
[www.armedforcesreunions.com](http://www.armedforcesreunions.com)



Lou Warmoth

*Who  
sent  
these  
pictures?*

*States he  
can't remember  
the town that had  
the swimming  
hole.*

## ~~~~~ Need to replace your DD 214?

A website has been established to provide veterans information on how to replace lost, destroyed, or never-issued DD 214's.

The website is:

[www.members.aol.com/forvets/dd214.htm](http://www.members.aol.com/forvets/dd214.htm).



# - Letters and Opinions -

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

## REPORTING DEATH OF FRIEND

John C. Woodroof, 81, died September 15, 2007 in Kansas City, Missouri. He was a member of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Squad, 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, I Company, 253<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Division. He was the husband of Freida Woodroof.

In late February 1944, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of the 253<sup>rd</sup> Regiment was placed in a mobile reserve to be used where it might be needed.

On January 1, 1945, the Battalion, including Co. I, was moved to an area near the town of Haguenau. Its mission was to cover the withdrawal of the 71<sup>st</sup> Regiment of the 44<sup>th</sup> Division. They were being attacked by the German 17<sup>th</sup> SS Panzer Division, which was causing many casualties.

The 71<sup>st</sup> Regiment withdrew during the night, and the Battalion was scheduled to withdraw through their new defensive line the following night. Company I phone lines were cut by a two-hour artillery barrage before midnight. This resulted in I Company not receiving the order to withdraw. In the early hours of January 3, the German Infantry and tanks attacked and many members of Company I were killed or wounded and some of the men were taken prisoner.

John was wounded and was one of those taken prisoner by the Germans. He was released at the end of the war. In 1995, during heart surgery, something went wrong and he became blind.

He and Freida came to the Kansas City Reunion in 2005. She lives at 3413 NW 67<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City, MO 64151.

Maxey Brooks Patterson

## DEATH OF FATHER REPORTED

My father, Vincernt Tramuta, died October 5, 2007 at the age of 88. Condolences may be sent to his wife, Josephine Tramuta, 1005 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, West Babylon, NY 11704.

He was very happy years ago to find many of "his boys" through your organization and looked forward to each and every issue of the *Blood and Fire* publication. He was able to attend at least one of the reunions that were held and be reunited with some of the men that he fought beside more than 50 years ago,

some of whom corresponded with him regularly after that.

Being a master carpenter by trade, he had built a large shadow box in which he displayed his military medals, photos and emblems, including, of course, those representing the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division. The shadow box, along with his favorite hat bearing the *Blood and Fire* emblem and pins, were proudly on display at his wake.

Thanks for your work in keeping the bravery and dedication to the country of my father's generation alive through your organization.

Jack Tramuta

## OBIT FOUND IN CLEVELAND PAPER

The following obit was seen in the October 14, 2007 issue of the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* newspaper:

James L. Bender, 87, died October 8, 2007 in Hamilton, MT. He was life long resident of Lakewood and Westlake, OH. He was the father of J. Dennis and Lee; daughter-in-law, Carol Schilling; the stepfather to seven and grandfather of Andrew and David. A graduate of the College of Wooster, he was a World War II veteran and a member of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division.

Sent by Howard VanSchoor

## *Business meeting minutes ...*

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 42

Edgar Moutoux made a motion the comments about Camp Van Dorn Museum be published in the *Blood and Fire*. Al Diaz seconded the motion and it carried. Gordon said he would write an article for the next issue of the *Blood and Fire*.

With no other business to come before the group, Al Diaz made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Bob McCourt and carried.

Donna LaCosse, Secretary

# Minutes of the business meeting held in Tacoma, Washington

The 59<sup>th</sup> annual business meeting of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Association took place at the Tacoma Sheridan Hotel in Tacoma, Washington on Saturday, August 11, 2007 at 10:15 a.m. The Color Guard presented the colors, the pledge to the flag was repeated and Rev. Johnson gave the invocation.

The minutes of the 2006 reunion were read and a correction was made to include two USAR members, Howard Eighmy and Theodore Paulsen, to the list of Executive Board members. Al Diaz made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected; Elmer McKee seconded the motion and it carried.

As Historian, Bill Scott reported there were several men in the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division who did not report all the units they were in while serving, therefore a complete record is not available. He also reported the printer he has been using to print the green and white wide-bar records is no longer working, therefore he purchased a printer with history department funds, as instructed by Marsh Allen. Ed Fowle made a motion the report be accepted; Ed Bundick seconded the motion and it carried.

The treasurer presented the financial report, stating the assets for the Association totaled \$43,360.66. This includes the Certificate of Deposit plus interest. Ed Fowle made a motion the report be filed for audit. Vern Altberg seconded the motion and it carried.

LaCrosse reported \$8,502.59 was spent to send the three issues of the *Blood and Fire* this year. Ed Bundick made a motion the report be accepted as given; Al Diaz seconded the motion and it carried.

The slate of officers for 2008 include John Dietrick, president; Carl Anderson, first vice president; John Linscott, second vice president; Ed Fowle, director and Clare Gerity, treasurer. A motion to accept the slate of officers was made by Moutoux and seconded by Leroy Bird. Motion carried.

Ed Fowle made a motion to re-elect Donna LaCrosse as secretary/treasurer for the ensuing year. The motion was seconded by Ed Bundick and it carried.

Bill Scott was re-appointed Historian and Donna

LaCrosse was re-appointed Editor of the *Blood and Fire* with a motion made by Al Diaz and seconded by Edgar Moutoux. Motion carried.

Ed Fowle reported the 2008 reunion would be held in Indianapolis, Indiana at the Marriott East Hotel on August 20 through August 25. The room rate of \$94 per night, plus tax, would be good three days in advance of the reunion and three days after the affair is over. Parking will be free and the hotel restaurants will offer a ten-percent discount to those eating in the hotel. All the information will be in the February and May issues of the *Blood and Fire*.

Bob McCourt made a proposal the 2009 reunion be held in Boston. All those plans will be made by the reunion committee. Al Diaz made a motion the proposal be accepted and Elmer McKee seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Al Diaz moved the Miscellaneous Administrative Provisions in the Association's Bylaws be amended to increase the mileage reimbursement rate for the secretary/treasurer, editor and historian from 20-cents per mile to the business use of personal vehicles deduction rate authorized and updated periodically by the Internal Revenue Service. Vern Altberg seconded the motion and it carried.

President Allen thanked the officers and the directors who faithfully served the Association this past year. Out-going directors include Vern Altberg, Elmer McKee, Jim Kontoules, Tom Chatham, Harold Cole and Howard Eighmy.

New directors include Vern Altberg, 253; Leroy Bird, 254; Kenneth Erickson, 255; Marsh Allen, Field Artillery; Tom Chatham, Special Troops and Donald Wirth, USAR.

Kenneth Gordon spoke about the Camp Van Dorn Museum and told of the work that has been done and will be done in the Museum. He invited members to make a trip to Mississippi for a tour of the museum and to meet the volunteers who are faithful workers at the facility.

# Executive Council meeting held at Tacoma, Washington in 2007

The 59<sup>th</sup> annual Executive Council meeting was called to order by President Marsh Allen at 8:01 on Saturday, August 11, 2007 in the Tacoma Sheraton Hotel. Ed Fowle opened the meeting with prayer.

Members present were Vern Alberg, Ed Bundick, Al Diaz, Ed Fowle, Elmer McKee, David Montgomery, Edgar Moutoux, Bill Scott and Donna LaCosse. Others attending included Ken Erickson, Bob McCourt, Jim Montgomery and Harold LaCosse.

The minutes of the 2006 reunion were read and approved with one correction: the word *time* should be deleted from the last line of the first paragraph on page two (2) of the 2006 minutes. The last sentence should read: "Bundick asked that the USAR members be accepted into the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division membership as full members with voting rights." Al Diaz made the motion to accept as corrected, Ed Fowle seconded the motion and it carried.

LaCosse reported the income for July 31, 2006 to July 31, 2007 was \$8,464.00 and the expenses were \$14,810.26. Assets totaled \$43,360.66 in the checking account and certificate of deposit combined. Al Diaz made a motion the treasurer's report be filed for audit, Ed Bundick seconded the motion and it carried.

Bill Scott presented the Historian's report which included adding 290 men's names to the roster. Ed Fowle made a motion the report be accepted as presented, Elmer McKee seconded the motion and it carried.

Because of the need prior to the reunion, President Marsh Allen granted Scott permission to purchase a new printer and binders for the rosters that will replace the obsolete printer and binders Bill has been using. The cost was \$612.49. This was in agreement with board members.

In the Blood and Fire report, LaCosse reported a total of \$8,502.59 had been spent on the three issues of the Blood and Fire. Al Diaz made a motion the Blood and Fire report be accepted as given; Elmer McKee seconded the motion and it carried.

Bob McCourt questioned the amount of 20 cents per mile being allowed for traveling expenses for the secretary/treasurer, editor and historian. A discussion

ensued, after which Al Diaz moved the Executive Board recommend adoption by the general membership, the following amendment to the Miscellaneous Administrative Provisions in the Association's Bylaws: "That the Association's Bylaws be amended to increase the mileage rate using IRS guidelines." Edgar Moutoux seconded the motion and it carried.

Ed Fowle presented the following slate of officers for the 2008 reunion: John Dietrick, president, HQ 253; Carl Anderson, vice president, E 253; John Linscott, second vice, A 253; Clare Gerity, treasurer, C 253; director, Ed Fowle, FA 862. Al Diaz made a motion to accept the slate of officers, Vern Alberg seconded the motion and it carried.

Fowle reported the reunion would take place at the Marriott East Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana from August 20-23 with a room rate of \$94 per night plus tax. This same price is being offered to those who want to come three days in advance of the reunion and/or stay three days after the event. Parking will be free and a ten-percent discount will be available at the hotel restaurants. Plans have been made to have the Hospitality Room, the History Room and the Registration Room in the same area, if not in the same room. Armed Forces Reunion Planners will do the "leg work."

Bob McCourt, in the absence of Bob Capasso, presented a proposal to hold the 2009 reunion in Boston. Capasso has made several plans for the reunion, which will not involve the Armed Forces Reunion Planners. Members will be staying at the Ramada Inn with free shuttle service to and from the airport, which is only five miles from the hotel. The Ramada Inn offers a free breakfast, including pancakes and scrambled eggs. Because of this historical site, McCourt commented this would be a perfect time to bring the whole family. Al Diaz made a motion to accept the proposal; Edgar Moutoux seconded the motion and it carried.

During a discussion concerning the payment of rooms for the secretary/treasurer, editor and historian when they attend a reunion, Fowle reminded board members that it was decided in 1995 that if not enough

## From the editor ...

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

It also helps our financial situation when a change of address is reported. It costs double postage when a copy of the *Blood and Fire* is returned with "No Forwarding Address" stamped across the label. If the forwarding order is still in effect, the postmaster will forward the magazine and send me the new address. There is no double mailing with this procedure. If the order has expired (and there is a time limit on this) the magazine is returned to me with the new address and that is when I do the double mailing.

The names on the "No Forwarding" magazines that are returned to me are listed in the "Lost Sheep Need To Be Found" column with hopes someone can tell me where these people are now living. When there is a death with no surviving spouse, the magazine is often returned to me with "deceased" written on the label but I have no date of death for my records.

By the time I get all this straightened out, it is time to send the next issue to the printer!! So, just hang in there, you will receive your copy of the *Blood and Fire* in due time. Now, relax and enjoy.

And, a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all. Stay warm, stay well and stay happy!!

## Executive council . . .

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 43

complimentary rooms were available from the hotel, the money for their rooms would be taken from the Association Treasury.

Board members recommended Donna LaCrosse be re-elected secretary/treasurer and re-appointed editor of the *Blood and Fire*. Board members also recommended Bill Scott be re-appointed as Historian.

LaCrosse gave each board member a copy of the Association Bylaws that had been revised by Bob Capasso and included all the amendments made to the Bylaws during the past few meetings. This revised copy will be printed in the *Blood and Fire* when space is available.

When LaCrosse asked where would be a good place to send all the old records of the Association for safe keeping, board members thought her attic was a good place! Scott said he would inquire at the museums to see if those records are the kind the museums want to be responsible for. In the mean time, they stay in her attic.

At 9:50 a.m., Edgar Moutoux made a motion for

adjournment; Elmer McKee seconded the motion and it carried.

Donna LaCrosse, secretary/treasurer

## *Blood And Fire insignia is not our private insignia*

.....by Robert McCourt, I & R 254

Over the past several years the Association was unable to agree to open membership in the Association to the members of the 63<sup>rd</sup> reserve units. Finally, at the 2006 reunion, and by vote of those present it was decided. Our membership is now open to any, and all who have worn, and now wear the *Blood and Fire* insignia. This is not our private insignia - it belongs to the United States and is now under the capable stewardship of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Regional Ready Reserve Command.

It is my firm feeling it is up to us to honor and respect personnel who now wear this patch to invite them to accept our invitation to join us.

I have asked to receive information on all of the reserve units now assigned to the 63<sup>rd</sup> and I ask all who read this to personally, and collectively extend our best wishes to all members, past and present of the various components of the 63<sup>rd</sup>. Please do what you can in your own way.

Please remember not a single one of these patriotic Americans was selected by his friends and neighbors to serve this country. Each of them walked on her/his own volition through the door which is always open and announced willingness and desire to serve. They willingly accepted the risk, and indeed, there have been casualties.

Many states, mine included, have enacted legislation to supplement the death benefit of the Federal government. In the New Mexico case the additional amount to the designated survivor is \$400,000. If your state doesn't have such a benefit contact your local state representative or senators.

When the roll of units is received I will again ask that information be disseminated to everyone, and not just to those who are fortunate enough to attend reunions.

Another suggestion: This is not a place to discuss or express political opinions.

If any of those who read this have opinions or suggestions as to the best way to get our thoughts and feelings out to the active units, please send your comments to the *Blood and Fire* editor.

# Happy Anniversary



## November

- 2: Louree & Joseph T. Scales, HQ 862 - 1942
- 4: Barbara & Wilford E. Wachter - G 255 -1950
- 11: Florence & Gennoro Parrella - FA 817 - 1961
- 12: Rita & Arnold D. Perko - F 254 - 1962
- 17: Elsie & Serge H. Freeman - H 255 - 1987
- 17: Harriet & Lester Smallwood - HQ 255 -1946
- 21: Lillian & Gilbert J. Pasquini - 1942
- 22: Ann & Hugh Fox - M 254 - 1986
- 30: Susan & Gerald A. Geuss - L 253 -1947
- 30: Mary & Elton H. Rogers - E 253 - 1957

## December

- 1: Diana & Larry Moore - Associate -1973
- 8: Mary & Robert S. Olney - HQ 253 - 1984
- 9: Catherine & Vernon S. Morgan - L 255 - 1946
- 11: Mary Lou & Russ DeMar - HQ 255 -1948
- 12: Helen & George Spaeth - MED 253 -1939
- 17: Yolanda & John F. McKenna - M 255 -1949
- 17: Sue & Tim Wade - MED 363 -1939
- 18: Inge & Harold A. Steffens - M 253 - 1948
- 19: Mary Lou & William E. Taylor - HQ 253 - 1947
- 22: Mary & Bill Van Cleave - E 253 -1951
- 23: Louise & Bill Ahlvers - B 255 - 1961
- 30: Betty & Moses R. Box - HQ 253 -1951

## January

- 1: Doris & Herbert Cameron - FA 862 -1949
- 1: Kay & Tony Douglas - I 253 - 1956
- 1: Virginia & Charles Cadle - HQ 254 -1946
- 3: Bonnie & Ken Erickson - AT 255 - 1945
- 11: Bonnie & Edward Bundick - D 254 -1946
- 27: Ginny & Wayne Lawrence - HQ 253 - 2001

## February

- 2: Rhea & Lloyd Philipps - C 253 - 1949
- 6: Joan & William R. Creamer - HQ 253 - 1944
- 9: Caryl & Herbert Hubble - B 255 - 1952
- 10: Barbara & Roy Lermond - HQ 254 - 1946

- 14: Cortlun & Robert Clayton - C 255 - 2000
- 14: Debbie & Warren F. Neumann - C 253 - 1978
- 14: Yvette & Curtin Delahoussaye - HQ 253 - 1998
- 18: Jana & Edward Phillip - Associate - 2000
- 21: Edyth & Kenneth R. Mancini - G 254 -1943
- 22: Jane & Howard L. Hannum - AT 255 - 1957
- 26: Frances & Charles Rhodes Jr. - H&I 253 -1960
- 27: Elva & Walter L. Stoner Jr - MED 353 - 1949
- 28: Karin & David Marzano - Associate - 1986

## New members

Darold C. Rice, D 254, lives in East Lansing, Michigan. He took his basic training at Camp Van Dorn in September 1943 to January 1944. He volunteered to join the combat Division with a promise of a ten-day furlough. He returned from his furlough in January 1944, went by train to the 90<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division at Ft. Dix, New Jersey. He was on a ship to England in March 1944, landed "D" Day in Normandy, June 6, 1944.

Katherine Miller, associate member, is the daughter of Joe Ted Miller, Headquarters 254, who passed away March 6, 2006. Katherine is working on a book that charts his transition from "boy to man" through an examination of his correspondence to his parents and other materials. She lives in College Station, Texas.

Tom Weathers, associate member, lives in Spanaway, Washington and is the son of the late Coy Tyree (Jack) Weathers, who was in Company A 255.

Matthew Weathers, associate member, is the son of Tom Weathers and the grandson of "Jack" Weathers. He also lives in Spanaway, Washington. Matthew and his father, Tom, attended the reunion in Tacoma.

Richard Flaig, associate member, lives in Cincinnati, Ohio. He is the son of Louis E. Flaig, Company C 254.

Richard M. Parrack, associate member, lives in Upper Darby, Pennsylvania and is the nephew of Harold H. Miller, Anti-tank Company 255. Richard has attended the past four reunions with his uncle, who died November 2006 at the age of 94. Richard was present at the Tacoma reunion in Washington.

---

*One customer failed to tip the doorman who then said, "If you should lose your wallet on the way home, remember, you didn't pull it out here."*

# Military career of Ralph Lavorgna



*Philip Lavorgna with his horse, taken in the 1930's at either Fort Devens, Massachusetts or Plattsburg, New York.*

Ralph Lavorgna was born to Philip and Frances Lavorgna on December 18, 1904 in New Haven, Connecticut. He enlisted in the U.S. Army on March 16, 1923 in New Haven, for a three year enlistment and was stationed with the HQ 94<sup>th</sup> Division in Boston, Massachusetts.

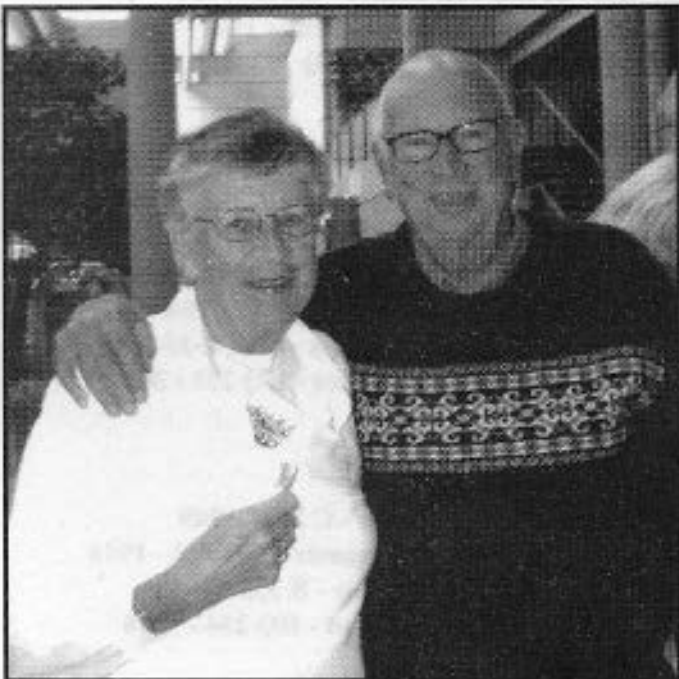
He was promoted to Corporal on May 17, 1924; promoted to Staff Sergeant on July 31, 1924; appointed 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Quartermaster Corps Reserve on March 9, 1931, and appointed Warrant Officer on March 25, 1937. He transferred to the Adjutant Generals Department on July 25, 1939; was promoted Master Sergeant on September 22, 1939 for movement to Panama on October 19, 1939 at Fort Davis in the Canal Zone.

Lavorgna was appointed 1<sup>st</sup> Lt...AG Reserve on November 6, 1940 and was called to active duty at France Field in the Canal Zone for six months. He was then promoted to Warrant Officer (Junior Grade) on September 13, 1941. He was promoted to Captain on June 24, 1941; promoted to Major on February 11, 1943 (10 months); promoted to Lt. Colonel in 1944 (39 months), and was promoted to Colonel in 1944 (1 month).

He retired on March 18, 1947.

*Submitted by son, Phil Lavorgna*

## Couple enjoys Tacoma reunion



*Ruth and John Erhardt, pictured at right, attended the 2007 Tacoma, Washington reunion.*

## Moving?

**P**lease let us know six weeks before you move what your new address will be. Be sure to supply us with both your old and new address. Copies we mail to your old address will not be delivered by the Post Office and we must pay 70¢ for each returned *Blood & Fire*, and pay \$1.36 to mail a copy to your new address.

*Please remember to notify the Editor when you send out your "Change of Address" Cards.*

**Important -  
Change of Address, etc.**

Please send ALL CHANGES, (address, zip, phone, death notice, new and discontinued membership, etc.) to:

Donna LaCosse, P.O. Box 86,  
Morocco, IN 47963

**Did You  
Remember To Pay  
Your Dues?**

**CUT  
THIS  
OUT** 

## STAMPS FOR VETERANS


Tear off all stamps - yes, the cancelled ones from envelopes, etc. and save them in a bag.

When you have a pouch of postage, mail it to: "Stamps for Veterans" send to:


SO. ARIZONA VA HEALTH  
CARE SYSTEM VETERANS  
NATIONAL STAMP & COIN CLUB SC #135  
3601 S. 6th Ave., Tucson, AZ 85723

**60th Reunion  
August 20 thru  
August 25, 2008  
Indianapolis, Indiana**



  
**HELPFUL  
TELEPHONE  
NUMBERS**

DEPT. OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
VA BENEFITS - 1-800-827-1000

VA LIFE INSURANCE  
1-800-829-8477 

**63rd DIVISION ASSOCIATION DUES FORM**

PLEASE PRINT OR USE MAILING LABEL

TO: DONNA LaCOSSE, P. O. BOX 86, MOROCCO, IN 47963

Name \_\_\_\_\_ 63rd Unit \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ P.O. Box \_\_\_\_\_ Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Wife's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Dues \$15.00  \$30.00 2 yrs.  DUE ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1 EACH YEAR

Tell us about yourself \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Many enjoy 2007 reunion



*George Kiska*



*Mary Jo Hagge  
(daughter)  
and Bonnie and Ken  
Erickson*



*Robert and LaFaye  
McCourt*

2008 Reunion to be held at  
Marriott East Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana  
August 20 - August 25

## 63rd Division Association

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Donna LaCrosse, Secretary/Treasurer  
Post Office Box 86  
Morocco, Indiana 47963

PRSRST STD  
NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
WABASH, IN  
PERMIT NO. 233

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

To ensure prompt delivery of the 63rd Blood and Fire and all mail, please advise National Secretary of any change.