



★ CAMP BLANDING ★ CAMP VAN DORN ★

# Blood and Fire

63rd Division Association, Inc.

• ARDENNES / ALSACE • RHINELAND • CENTRAL EUROPE •

VOL. 60, NO. 1

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# 60

## 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

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## FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT ...

by John Dietrick

Best wishes and health for the new year to all of the 63rd Infantry Division family.

In our type of Association as the membership depletes, the income depletes and it is not replaced. The bulk of income is derived from the dues paid to the Association. During the past years our membership has decreased from a high of 3600 members to the present 1200 members.

Prior to the drastic drop in membership, decreases were replaced by new members and Associate members. To continue an excellent operation, both income from annual dues and life membership was used to maintain operations and quality. This income also was the major source to publish the *Blood and Fire* Magazine.

Through the past several years annual dues of \$15.00 have not been increased. During the years I have seen several Unit Publications and none can compare to our *Blood and Fire*. The cost to subsidize the *Blood and Fire* was reduced slightly during the past several years due to decreases in membership. This was offset by higher costs for stamps, paper, publishing and other items. Even though we have a membership of about 1200, only part of these members pay dues since the remainder are Life Members. Our membership decreases about ten percent per year, which will increase drastically in the next few years.

We are not asking for any increase in annual dues or additional money from Life Members, but we are asking if you are able and willing to make a donation of a few dollars that can be included along with dues, items sent to the *Blood and Fire*, correspondences with the *Blood and Fire* or correspondences with the National Secretary/Treasurer and Editor. Checks can be made to: 63rd Infantry Division Association, Inc.

Please support the Ad Book for the 2008 Convention.

We hope you will be able to join us in Indianapolis, Indiana for our 60th Anniversary Convention in August 2008.

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

## A Memo from the Secretary . . .

Donna LaCrosse

I am rather sick of winter this year! It seems as though we have had snow or rain forever and the wind does not stop blowing. People have been telling me spring is just around the corner, but they have not told me which corner!!

I did not feel well in November and from the last half of December to the middle of January, I really didn't care what anyone did as long as they left me alone! Now I am back to be my mean old self and loving everyone!! I am also playing the game of 'catch-up,' a game I really don't like playing – any season!!

Most everyone responded to the dues notice I sent out late fall and the messages you sent, plus the money for dues, were most welcome. I love receiving those notes you take the time to send with your checks. I wish everyone would take the time to tell me something! Now it is almost time to send the second notice – to those who did not respond the first time – and I am hoping for more responses.

If you are in doubt about your dues situation, just ask me and then you will know.

I also want you to know that I spent \$17 of your money this week!! Shame on me, but I needed a storage file to store records in and not have to dig them up out of an over-flowing drawer when I needed them. This filing system is plastic, has two drawers with hanging files and the "thing" is on wheels. When I got it home, I found out the hanging files did not come with it! Maybe next week I can spend some more of your money!

I also want to thank those who have already sent in ads for the Ad Book. Those who send ads and can not attend the reunion, will receive a copy of the book, so keep the ads coming – this is our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and we would like to have a nice full book for people to take home with them.

Hope you enjoy this issue of the newsletter and will plan on attending the August reunion in Indianapolis.

## From the editor . . .

Donna LaCrosse

Wow!! What a mess we had getting the November issue of the *Blood and Fire* to all of you!! I am still not sure they were all delivered!!

November is just not the month to be sending third class mail. It just gets put on the "back burner" at the post office and the Christmas mail is delivered first. I don't have an answer for this problem unless it would be sending the *Blood and Fire* out in October and that still might not make a difference.

I do know that the publication goes into the Wabash post office as soon as it is printed and addressed. From there on, I have no control over what happens.

I need to be notified if you do not receive your issue and then I can send one first class. Otherwise you will have to beat your postmaster over the head with a wet noodle to find out why your magazine is laying off in one corner waiting until they have a "full day" so they can send out the third class mail.

Many thanks to all of you who sent Christmas cards and email greetings. They were all appreciated and I am sorry I did not respond earlier but had a bit of a health problem and when I felt like I was going to live, it was too late to send my cards!

I will be celebrating 80 years of taking up space in this world in a few weeks and the "kids" are planning to have a luncheon in my honor, so I have that happy event coming my way. It will be a happy occasion because not every one reaches the age of 80 and I feel like one of the chosen ones! Our second foster grandson is being married the first of August, which will make that month a busy one with the reunion also in August. Two granddaughters were married recently – one the Friday before Christmas and the other one on January 8. Our family just keeps growing!!

I hate to keep "harping" on this, but would you please send me your war experiences so I can publish them in the *Blood and Fire*? I know there are stories out there and I also know some of you don't feel as though you can write your own story, so why not tell someone what you did and when you did it so they can write your story for you? I know it would be an effort to do this – I live with an F-254'er who doesn't seem to have the time to dictate his story to me! He has time to take me out to lunch, work puzzles with me, help me figure out computer problems or watch television with me but, there is no time to talk about the war!! Maybe I am not forceful enough – or don't know how to nag him into talking to me!!

Enough of my silliness – keep smiling – keep healthy and keep my mailbox full to overflowing with your wonderful messages!!

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## 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

# Celebration of Life



*The following deaths were reported after the November issue of the Blood & Fire was printed. Please notify the secretary when you hear of the death of a person from the 63<sup>rd</sup>.*

Louis R. Cammarosana – HQ 863, passed December 24, 2006. He lived at 16 Edgewood Drive, Katoanah, NY 10536

Alfred P. Ciullo – C 253; passed January 20, 2009 in his home at 90 Crane Street, Fall River, MA 02721. He is survived by his wife, Catherine.

Clarence A. Conklin – AT 254 – Life Member #508, passed June 7, 2007. He lived at 4643 Owl Creek Road, Frankfort, OH 45628.

Clement E. Dasch – E 253 – Life Member #1693, passed November 29, 2007. His wife, Betty, lives at 160 Montgomery Blvd., New Concord, OH 43762.

William Egan – AT 861 – Life Member #633, passed January 2007. His wife Catherine lives at 9663 SE Little Club Way S., Tequesta, FL 33469-1373.

Luke T. Granier – E 253 – Life Member #1408, passed July 2007. He lived at PO Box 400, St. James, LA 70086.

Leonard E. Harpst – HQ 2254 – Life Member #1914, passed November 30, 2007. His wife, Mary Louise, lives at 10688 St. N., St. Petersburg, FL 33716.

Roy W. Howard – HQ 863, passed December 9, 2007. He lived at 1800 E. 67<sup>th</sup> St. #355, Tacoma, WA 98445.

Clarence E. Jack – E 255 – Life Member #63, passed September 2007. He lived at 1035 Jackson Avenue, Huntington, WV 25704.

Joseph S. Mack – L 254; passed September 5, 2007. His wife Joanne lives at 66392 US 31, Lakeville, IN 46536.

Wiley Newman – A 253 – Life Member #925, passed October 24, 2007. He lived at PO Box 222, Pigeon Forge, TN 37868.

David W. Redmayne – E 255, passed September 19, 2006. He lived at 4917 Croaks Road J-3, Royal Oak, MI 48073.

Frank A. Segredin – HQ 255 – Life Member #1243, passed October 30, 2006. His last Blood and Fire was returned. No address is available.

Paul Shandey – K 255 – Life Member #1715, passed July 31, 2002. He had resided at 1406 Sugar Maple Lane, Houghton, MI 49931.

William R. Slagale – Hq 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn 253, passed November 1, 1999. This was recently reported by his

grandson, Tim Mulvaney.

Irvin L. Smith – HQ 255; passed March 19, 1997. No further information was available.

Norman Walton – AT 862 – Life Member #1354, passed October 19, 2007. His wife Ardith lives at 1716 N. Summers Road, Imlay City, MI 48444.

Charles Weise – AT 862 – Life Member #1647, passed October 24, 2007. His wife, Emily, lives at 101 Meadowview Drive, E. Windsor, CT 06088.

Frederick C. Yauchzy – H 255 – Life Member #1494, passed date unknown. Death was reported by the Post Office. He lived at PO Box 456, Silver Springs, NY 14550.

Edward Zareski – L 253 – Life Member #1555, passed December 15, 2007. He lived at 419 Reservoir Road, New Britain, CT 06052.

Charles Dolski, C 253 – Life Member 1221, passed away February 14, 2008. He lived at 25 Harbor Road, Morganville, NH 07751.

Robert Le Marbe, G 253 – Life Member 1459, passed away January 20, 2008. His widow, Lucille, lives at 6271 Jonquil, Waterford, MI 48327.

## DEATH OF SPOUSE

Theresa Armbruster, widow of Rudolph Armbruster – M 255, passed June 2, 2007.

Virginia W. Cadle, wife of Charles L. Cadle – HQ 254, passed December 6, 2007. Charles lives at 143 Devonwood Drive, Marion, NC 28752.

Doris Cameron, wife of Herbert L. Cameron – FA 862, passed August 29, 2007. Herb lives at 117 W. Lee Ave., R#6, PO Box 3, Yadkinville, NC 27055.

Kay Howard, wife of Roy Howard – HQ 863, passed October 17, 2007. He died December 9, 2007.

Jez Linscott, wife of Dr. John "Jack" Linscott – A 253, passed December 5, 2007. Jack lives at 18290 Timber Trail Drive, Marysville, OH 43040.

Gertrude Loucks, wife of Howard Loucks – D 254, passed July 6, 2007. Howard lives at PO Box 107, Heuvelton, NY 13654.

Lounora Turner, widow of Leon E. Turner – C 255, passed February 2007.

Dorothy "Dottie" Young, widow of Pop Young, died November 27, 2007.

Margery R. Hamblen, former wife of the late Arch Hamblin, died February 1, 2008.

**INDIANAPOLIS MARRIOTT EAST**  
317-352-1231

The Indianapolis Marriott is located at 7202 East 21st Street, Indianapolis, IN 46219. Please contact the Hotel directly for accurate driving directions. At the Marriott you will discover a rare blend of elegant decor, midwestern hospitality, and exceptional facilities and services. There are 255 guest rooms, which were completely remodeled in 2001. The Hotel is just six miles from downtown, ten minutes via the interstate. All attractions & the airport are easily accessible due to hotel proximity to interstates 1-70 & 1-465 on the east side. There are indoor and outdoor pools, a health club, sauna, whirlpool, and exercise room. Valet and dry cleaning services, safety deposit boxes, in-room iron/ironing board, and morning complimentary coffee in the lobby are just a few of the services offered for hotel guests' convenience. Hotel parking is free and ample. Check-in time is 4:00pm and check-out is 12:00noon. The hotel offers handicapped accessible and nonsmoking rooms, which are based on availability. Please request these special accommodations when making your reservation. Indy Steak & Rib serves American cuisine for breakfast, lunch, and dinner in a cordial environment that invites relaxation. Room service is available.

Carrie Limousine Service provides Shuttle Service to and from the hotel. Please call (317) 241-7100 for information and reservations. The current fare is \$31.00 per person one way, prices are subject to change. They are located outside of the baggage claim area at the airport.

RV parking is allowed for guests of the hotel. There are no hookups on the premises. Indianapolis KOA Campground is approximately ten minutes from the Indianapolis Marriott. For information, please call (317) 894-1397. For reservations, please call 1-800-562-0531 at least a month in advance. Indianapolis KOA is located at 5896 West 200 North Greenfield, IN 46140.

Should you need to rent a wheelchair for the reunion, ScootAround rents both manual and power wheel chairs by the day and week. Please call their toll free number at (888) 441-7575 for details. All prices quoted include delivery fees.

Vendors, Schedules, and Prices are subject to change.

-----CUT HERE AND MAIL TO THE HOTEL-----

**63rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION - HOTEL RESERVATION FORM**

**REUNION DATES: AUGUST 20-24, 2008**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SHARING ROOMW/ \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TEL. NUMBER (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ MARRIOTT HONORED GUEST CARD # \_\_\_\_\_  
ARRIVAL DATE \_\_\_\_\_ APPROX. TIME \_\_\_\_\_ DEPARTURE DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
# OF ROOMS \_\_\_\_\_ # OF PEOPLE IN RM. \_\_\_\_\_ HANDICAP ACCESS \_\_\_\_\_ SMOKING \_\_\_\_\_  
NON SMOKING \_\_\_\_\_ KING BED \_\_\_\_\_ BEDS \_\_\_\_\_ If room type requested is not available, nearest room type will be assigned.

**RATE:** \$94 + tax (currently 15%). Rate honored 3 days before/after official reunion dates, based on availability.

**CUTOFF DATE:** 07/17/08. After this date, reservations will be processed on space & rate availability.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** Deposit is refundable if reservation is canceled by 6pm on your arrival day. All reservations must be guaranteed by credit card or first night's deposit enclosed.

\_\_\_\_\_ AMEX \_\_\_\_\_ DINERS \_\_\_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_\_\_ MASTER CARD \_\_\_\_\_ DISCOVER

CREDIT CARD NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE (regardless of payment method) \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Indianapolis Marriott, 7202 East 21st Street, Indianapolis, IN 46219, \*\*Attn: Reservations\*\*

# OUR HISTORY: THEN AND NOW

by Bill Scott, 31-Dec-2007

e-mail: wjs631@comcast.net

I am still not caught up with all the 63rd things that I wanted to do since the 2007 Tacoma reunion. I had hoped to get all the November 1944 unit morning reports data recorded on the rosters by now, but with the many data details I am only through the three infantry regiments and starting on the 718th Artillery units. It has been the most complex data insertion with all the transfers in and out of the division then, plus the many going between units. I hope to get the rest done before printing the unit rosters and alphabetical lists for display at the 2008 reunion. There will still be much editing to do after that.

At this time the total names on the 63rd rosters and the attached units is up to 70,252, and the 63rd section now has 97.51% with serial numbers which does not change easily.

You see some interesting patterns of new men that were transferred into the 63rd and then they were moved around in a few units and then moved out. That was done at Camp Van Dorn or around Christmas 1944 in France when many men who were mostly privates were moved to the 3rd Army or to other divisions in the 7th Army. They were likely viewed as marginal in use to their units in combat, so it was a quick opportunity to eliminate them by the unit COs. It would be interesting to see how those men survived being with yet another division in their first combat operations where they knew no one, as their chance of being with another man from the same 63rd unit was unlikely.

At that time some of us were at Camp d'Oberhoffen, France, where we were busy getting places to sleep cleaned up. Some of us got to have showers and others were lucky to get some beer. I did not know that a great many men had been moved out of the outfit there as I had arrived at Van Dorn about 3 weeks before we left for New York, and I knew but very few men in the platoon. I think that was a common situation at that time.

It looks like there will soon be a new generation wearing the Blood & Fire patch. The organization will be a Jrotc unit at a high school in Virginia that will use them to honor those that do the best in their training there. They will also be tested on their knowledge about our division. They first contacted Fred Clinton on the 63rd website. 20 division patches and a history CD were sent to the MSGT there. When Fred Clinton and I know more I will report more to you. The website will likely begin to get even more seekers of our history as shown there to educate themselves about the division and the various units.

More 63rd men and their relatives are research-

ing their history. A lot of them are doing it after the man has died since many of them did not talk about their war experiences and the various aspects of our history. Some men are finally beginning to look into some of the history items to see what they did not know before now. It shows that others are often interested in our history, but do not tell us about it until it is too late. Sometimes the ones in the family tree don't care until it is too late. I am not being critical when I say that, as different people look at the genealogy research from different views.

The website has proven to be an excellent attraction for many of those who are curious about the division and then find it. Some find it by accident or on the advice of their friends who roam the Internet. Fred Clinton's efforts are now continuing to produce great results for us and the ones who look at the website. It is often the first link in the chain that often leads them to get items that we now offer to help them in various ways.

With new printers I am now forced to learn to use some more computer programs that are designed for use with the 1998 Windows operating system that is the last that lets one use DOS programs with it. It makes life a little more complicated, but I can produce things in a different way that we can like better in most cases.

The recording of morning reports and editing has put the total number of men on the rosters at 70,252 with the 63rd group at 97.51% with serial numbers. Editing often results in the elimination of a line which had a name with the wrong spelling and/or no serial number. This makes the number of lines less, and the percentage with serial numbers rises.

To this date there have been 24,019 history items given to museums or sold to members, museums, and others since the start of the 1993 reunion.

On the order pages an item that has been on the website for a long time is being added now. It is for a copy of the General Order for an award to individuals, such as the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Combat Medic's Badge, Silver Star Medal, Soldier's Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart Medal, etc. They are usually on legal-size paper and the cost will be \$2 for each award.

**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 Saarbrucken 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 Obergroningen 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.
General Order Copies for awards to individuals, such as badges and medals			NEW \$2 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. "QUINTAESSENTIA" (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 &amp; 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 __, Raptured 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 &amp; 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.

January 2008 Form #63

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

Mail To: BILL SCOTT, 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



# TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

## CITY TOUR

Thursday, August 21

Board bus for a driving tour of Indianapolis, home to the American Legion since 1919 and the Amateur Sports Capital of the World. The professional guides will give you an informed narration of the past and present as you ride by the State House, the RCA Dome (home of the 2007 Superbowl Champs), Lucas Oil Stadium (the Colt's future home), and Meridian Street, where the Governor's mansion is located. Also see the Indiana World War Memorial that pays homage to the Indiana men killed in World War I, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. Also located there is the Medal of Honor Memorial. A stop will be made at the Scottish Rite Cathedral, judged in its early days by the International Association of Architects to be one of the most beautiful buildings in the world. Enjoy free time and lunch on your own at Circle Center Mall. Proceed to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Hall of Fame Museum with one of the world's largest and most varied collections of racing, classic, and antique passenger cars. See thirty-two Indy "500" winning cars on display and view the half-hour film depicting the history of the track. For an extra charge you may board the Speedway buses for a spin around the track (weather and race schedule permitting).

9:00am board bus, 3:30pm back at hotel

\$42/Person includes bus, guide, and admission. Lunch on your own.

## CONNER PRAIRIE

Friday, August 22

Today we'll leave the 21st century behind. Arrive at Conner Prairie, a living history museum. The first stop is the theater for an introduction and short film. Enjoy a boxed lunch at The Eatery, Conner Prairie's Restaurant, before beginning your tour of the re-created 1836 pioneer village. You'll be able to chat with the doctor, the innkeeper, the blacksmith or the baker about life, religion, or politics of their day. Don't miss the Pioneer Adventure area, where you can try your hand at 19th century activities such as candle dipping, weaving, or barn dancing! Visitors may choose to tour the historic estate of William and Elizabeth Conner for an additional charge. The minimum for this tour is 50 people.

10:30am board bus, 3:00pm back at hotel

\$59/Person includes bus, guide, lunch, and admission.

*Driver and guide gratuities are not included in the tour prices.*

*Please plan to be at the bus boarding area at least five minutes prior to the scheduled time.*

*All trips require a minimum of thirty people, unless otherwise stated.*

### CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY FOR ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC.

For attendees canceling reunion activities prior to the cut-off date, Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. (AFR) shall process a full refund less the non-refundable AFR registration fee (\$7 per person). Attendees canceling reunion activities after the cut-off date will be refunded to the fullest extent that AFR's vendor commitments and guarantees will allow, less the non-refundable AFR registration fee. Cancellations will only be taken Monday through Friday from 9:00am until 5:00pm Eastern Standard Time, excluding holidays. Please call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion. Canceling your hotel reservation does not cancel your reunion activities.

# Tour descriptions ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

## TIMELINE

### CITY TOUR

August 21

9:00 – Board bus for a driving tour of Indianapolis - Please be sure to include time at the Medal of Honor Memorial.

12:00 – Lunch on your own and free time at Circle Center Mall. Please offer suggestions for lunch.

1:30 – Reboard bus for Indianapolis Motor Speedway Hall of Fame Museum. Please provide details for those wanting to board the Speedway buses for a spin around the track (weather and race schedule permitting).

3:00 – Reboard bus to return to the hotel by 3:30pm.

### CONNER PRAIRIE

August 22

10:30 – Board bus for Conner Prairie.

11:00 – Arrive at Conner Prairie.

11:30 – Enjoy a lunch at the Eatery.

12:30 – Tour the re-created 1836 pioneer village.

2:30 – Reboard bus to return to the hotel by 3:00pm.

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## Headquarters - 2nd Battalion - 254

### Taken at Wickershiem, Germany



This picture, sent by John Gramolini, was printed in the November 2007 issue of the *Blood and Fire*.

Thomas E. Glunt has identified Larry Johnson, fourth from the left in the back row; next to him is Sgt. Hart. Next to the Derban, who is holding the flag, is Ferd Mueller. Richard Zeese is the second man from the left side of Mueller and Tom Glunt is the next person in that row of men.

**63RD INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION  
AUGUST 20-24, 2008  
INDIANAPOLIS MARRIOTT EAST**

**Wednesday, August 20**

- 2:00pm - 7:00pm - Reunion Registration Open  
2:00pm - *History Room* open during the duration of the reunion  
Dinner on your own  
7:00pm - 11:00pm - "Meet Your Buddies Reception" with cash bar, snacks, and soft listening music

**Thursday, August 21**

- 8:00am - 8:30am - Reunion Registration Open  
9:00am - 3:30pm - CITY TOUR (description follows)  
4:00pm - 5:00pm - Reunion Registration Open. Additional hours will be posted at the reunion, if necessary.  
Meet your Buddies Ready Room open  
6:00pm - Cash Bar  
7:00pm - 10:00pm - Group Dinner and entertainment

**Friday, August 22**

- 8:00am - 10:30am - Board of Directors' Meeting  
10:30am - 3:00pm - CONNER PRAIRIE (description follows)  
Meet your Buddies Ready Room open

**Saturday, August 23**

- 9:30am - 11:30am - Women's Social to include a Continental  
9:30am - 12:00pm - Breakfast Men's Business Meeting  
1:30pm - 2:15pm - Memorial Service  
6:00pm - 7:00pm - Cash Bar Reception  
7:00pm - 11:00pm - Banquet begins, followed by dancing

**Sunday, August 24**

Farewells and departures

**63rd Infantry Registration**  
**August 20 - 24, 2008 - INDIANAPOLIS, IN**

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event and total the amount. Send that amount payable to ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. in the form of check or money order. Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. Returned checks will be charged a \$20 fee. You may also register online and pay by credit card at [www.armedforcesreunions.com/63inf](http://www.armedforcesreunions.com/63inf). All registration forms and payments must be received by mail on or before July 17, 2008. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing. Please do not staple or tape your payment to this form.

**Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.**  
**PO Box 11327**  
**Norfolk, VA 23517**  
**ATTN: 63<sup>rd</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION**

**OFFICE USE ONLY**

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Date Received \_\_\_\_\_  
 Inputted \_\_\_\_\_ Nametag Completed \_\_\_\_\_

CUT OFF DATE: JULY 17, 2008	\$ PER PERSON	# OF PEOPLE	TOTAL
Join us in Indianapolis!		Per Registration	
<b>REGISTRATION FOR 2008 REUNION</b> (Widows of 63rd Vets do NOT have to pay the registration fee)	\$ 35		\$ 35
<b>WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20</b> ..... 2:00pm - 7:00pm Reunion Registration			
<b>WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20</b> ..... 7:00pm - 11:00pm Meet your Buddies, Cash bar, snacks, soft listening music	FREE	# attending	FREE
<b>THURSDAY, AUGUST 21</b> ..... 8:00am - 8:30am & 4:00pm - 5:00pm Reunion Registration			
<b>THURSDAY, AUGUST 21</b> ..... 9:00am - 3:30pm City Tour	\$ 42		\$
<b>THURSDAY, AUGUST 21</b> CASH BAR ..... 6:00pm - 7:00pm GROUP DINNER (CHICKEN PICCATA) ..... 7:00pm - 10:00pm	\$ 28		\$
<b>FRIDAY, AUGUST 22 BOARD MEETING</b> ..... 8:00am - 10:30am			
<b>FRIDAY, AUGUST 22</b> ..... 10:30am - 3:00pm Conner Prairie	\$ 59		\$
<b>SATURDAY, AUGUST 23</b> MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING ..... 9:30am - 12:00pm			
<b>SATURDAY, AUGUST 23</b> WOMEN'S SOCIAL <i>Including Continental Breakfast and Entertainment</i> .... 9:30am-11:30am	FREE	# attending	FREE
<b>SATURDAY, AUGUST 23</b> MEMORIAL SERVICE IN HOSPITALITY ROOM ..... 1:30pm-2:15pm			
<b>SATURDAY (EVENING), AUGUST 23</b> COCKTAIL PARTY CASH BAR ..... 6:00pm - 7:00pm DINNER/DANCE (Assigned Seating) ..... 7:00pm - 11:00pm			
<i>Please choose your entree for the Saturday Banquet:</i> Prime Rib	\$ 36		\$
Grilled Salmon	\$ 36		\$
<b>GRAND TOTAL due to Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.</b>			\$

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ NICK NAME \_\_\_\_\_ UNIT/CO \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE NAME \_\_\_\_\_ GUEST NAMES \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST TIME ATTENDEE? ? YES ? NO

CITY, ST, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PH. NUMBER (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

MUST YOU BE LIFTED HYDRAULICALLY ONTO THE BUS WHILE SEATED IN YOUR WHEELCHAIR IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN BUS TRIPS? ? YES ? NO (PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE AVAILABILITY).

EMERGENCY CONTACT \_\_\_\_\_ PH. NUMBER (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

For refunds and cancellations, please refer to our policies outlined at the bottom of the reunion program. **CANCELLATIONS WILL ONLY BE TAKEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 9:00am-5:00pm EASTERN TIME (excluding holidays)**. Call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion.

# Happy Anniversary



## March

- 2: Juanita & Richard Wanamaker - K 254 - 1945
- 4: Rowene & Frederick Kroesen - E 254 - 1944
- 5: Jo & Martin Beer - L 253 - 1948
- 5: Susan & Dave Biba - Associate - 1977
- 7: Barbara & Craig Ethier - Associate - 1981
- 8: Betty & Shorty Myers - HQ 253 - 1952
- 12: Donna & Harold LaCosse - F 254 - 1948
- 12: Beryl & Pasquale Scorzelli - A 255 - 1946
- 14: Marjorie & Jacob Gesek - FA 861 - 1953
- 14: Bertha & Walter E. Harmon - G 253 - 1947
- 18: Jacquelin & Charles King - SV 254 - 1946
- 22: Juanita & Junior McDaniel - G 255 - 1947
- 30: Joyce & Paul Schwene - Associate - 1994

## April

- 2: Joyce & Andrew Kidwell - ORD 763 - 1949
- 2: Leota & John J. Toom - FA 718 - 1941
- 6: Lucille & Levy O. Collier - D 255 - 1950
- 8: Betty & Ralph J. Almstrom - I 253 - 1962
- 9: Helen & Donald Ivie - USAR - 1947
- 13: Dale & Donald Lindstrom - FA 718 - 1957
- 14: Gwynn & Tom Malan - A 255 - 1946
- 19: Gloria & Mario Antoci - E 253 - 1947
- 24: Mary & Sam Fittante - RECON 63 - 1954
- 30: Eleanor & Stanley Kozlowski - I 255 - 1949

## May

- 1: D'Arline & Charles Driemeyer - I 253 - 1954
- 2: Audrey & Ralph Alexander - G 253 - 1953
- 4: Vertalee & Bill Pillsbury - HQ 63 - 1946
- 5: Marie & Joseph Pacelle - K 253 - 1944
- 5: India & James Rathburn - I 255 - 1951
- 7: Antoinette & Robert Barnard - FA 861 - 1959
- 8: Marlene & Walter Pucher - B 255
- 13: Lillian & Ernest D. Howard - HQ 253 -
- 15: Jean & James S. Settineri - H 254 - 1948
- 16: Charlotte & Herb Schneiderman - AS 254 - 1949
- 16: Olga & Michael Grib - B 255 - 1953
- Margo & Bill Shirer - MED 263 - 1947
- 24: Fannie & George Millis - HQ 63 - 1952
- 24: Marie & Benedict Parenti - L 255 - 1952
- 25: Lourene & Elmer Bellor - HQ 255 - 1946
- 28: Mary & Charles Dolan - A 254 - 1949
- 28: Marlene & Ray W. Peterson - HQ 255 - 1947

## June

- 2: Ernestine & Allen Agnew - H 255 - 1950
- 5: Cleda & John Dumont - HQ 63 - 1948
- 6: Del & Clare Gerity - C 253 - 1947
- 6: Dolores & Bill Davis - G 254 - 1947
- 6: Marjorie & Charles Ewart - AT 253 -
- 6: Mary & Edgar Torrence - G 254 - 1942
- 6: Vera & James F. Jordan - HQ 254 - 1944
- 7: Donna & Edward Fowle - FA 862 - 1944
- 7: Gladys & Joe Perez - C 253 - 1952
- 7: Rachel & Donald Reents - FA 863 - 1969
- 7: Ruth & William Murray - AT 718 - 1944
- 7: Lacey & Melvin Stahl - E 255 - 1951
- 10: Elaine & Angelo Davis - F 254 - 1949
- 12: Catherine & Glen Foster - A 253 - 1946
- 14: Dorothea & William Beckett - HQ 254 - 1942
- 15: Nancy & Tom Cone - Associate - 1974
- 21: Rosemary & Leo Schlocker - USAR - 1945
- 22: Claire & Bill Hughson - Associate - 1947
- 22: Betty & Marvin E. Karr - C 253 - 1948
- 23: Joan & James Casey - L 255 - 1951
- 23: Helen & Linwood Fogg - C 255 - 1950
- 24: Gwynne & David Bonifield - Associate - 1978
- 25: Marion & Albert Safranek - FA 861 - 1944
- 25: Marion & Charles H. Malloy - MED 255 - 1955
- 26: Dorothy & Robert Gross - HQ 253 - 1949
- 26: Florence & Sheldon Toder - CN 254 - 1952
- 27: Joan & Lewis Germain - L 254 - 1952
- 28: Kit & Carl Anderson - E 253 - 1947
- 28: Edith & Edward Karcheski - B 254 - 1941
- 28: Mae & Domenick Pecchia - H 255 - 1947
- 30: Iva & Richard Schulz - FA 718 - 1956
- 30: Eileen & Robert Titterington - K 255 - 1948

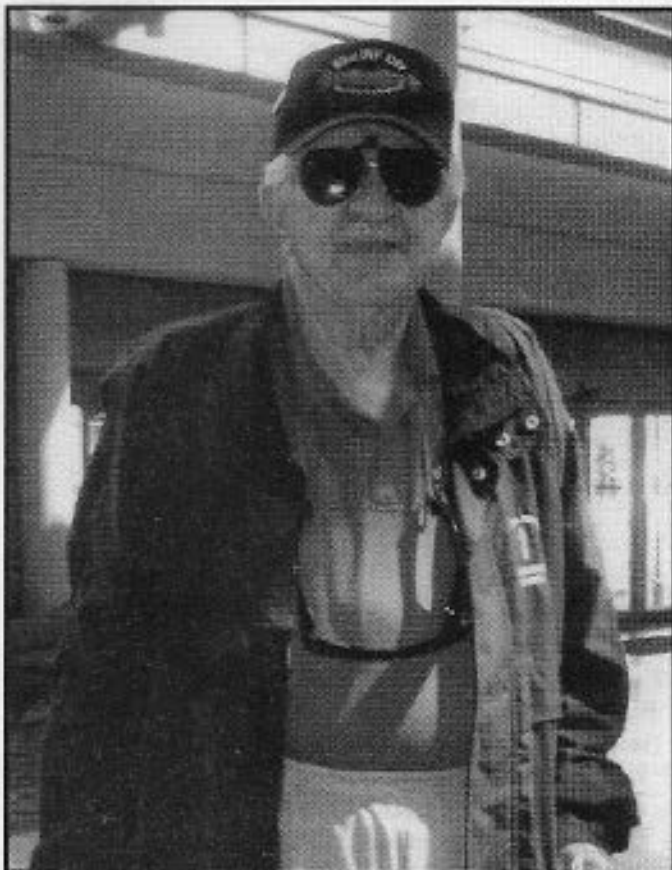
# Notice

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

# Tacoma Reunion Highlights



*Martha Diaz, wife of Al Diaz - USAR, with Ray Egan as Willis Boatman. He entertained the ladies at their Saturday Brunch in Tacoma.*



*Angelo A. Christopher - D 254 - enjoyed the Tacoma reunion last August.*



*Rachael and Bill Robinson - G 253 enjoyed seeing old buddies at the Tacoma reunion. Seen behind them are Donna and Harold LaCosse.*

# A word from your buddies . . .

## 253 Regiment

Claude W. Denison – A Company – sent this message: “I had a bad heart attack on October 25, 2007 and was in the hospital for five weeks. I am very much better now but not able to do much. Dorothy and I have been married 67 years.”

George C. Clark – B Company – wrote: “I am working on an article for the newsletter. Will send it soon. Hope it won't lose too much in editing. Keep up the good work and happy holidays.”

Buster G. Davenport – C Company – said: “Everything is o.k. My wife died ten years ago. We raised two children – a teacher and a lawyer/judge.”

Elliott W. Amon – E Company – sent this message: “Sorry, I forgot to pay my dues. It's hell to get old!”

Carl V. Anderson – E Company – had this to say: “Kit and I had a great trip to Branson this fall. Saw several great shows. We will be going to Indiana for Christmas and see our great-grandson, who is a year old already.”

Asa Patton – F Company – wrote he was looking forward to the 2008 reunion in Indiana.

Received this note from Sue Rock: “We are both in bad health. Roy – G Company – had a stroke in March. He was in the VA Hospital eleven days and in a nursing home from March 19 until June 22. He also has eye problems and many other problems. He and I both have to use a walker.

Robert Almstrom – I Company – sent this note: “We have one son, one daughter, two grandsons, one granddaughter, one great-grandson and one great-granddaughter and everyone is happy!!”

Raymond T. Vallinger – I Company – said: “I am still here!! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.”

Gaylord A. Betcher – K Company – wrote “I will be 90 years old on March 17, 2008 and am a World War I sibling. I am a 62-year Charter member of the Mazeppa, Minnesota Legion Post 588. I am also a member of Zumbrota, Minnesota Veterans of Foreign Wars 5727 and a member of the Mazeppa Honor Guard. I still live on the farm, cook my own meals but I do have a little problem walking very far. Otherwise, I feel fine.”

Joseph E. Pacelle – K Company – wrote: “Enjoy the *Blood and Fire*. Thank you for your loyalty. My regards to all my 63<sup>rd</sup> guys.”

Paul E. Killion – L Company – sent this message: “I thank God for a healthy, happy year. Our 27<sup>th</sup> grandchild, Emily Mary, arrived in June to Eileen, our youngest of nine children. God's Blessings to all my brother veterans and their families. Have a great 2008.”

Gerald A. Geuss – L Company – wrote: “Susan and I were married 60 years in December. Not too many left from Camp Van Dorn, Mississippi in September 1943. Sgt. March, Sgt. Madden, Cpl. Meeker and Cpl. Noto.”

Ernest D. Howard – HQ Company – sent this message: “I joined the 63<sup>rd</sup> at Camp Van Dorn, Mississippi and was with the unit in Europe and until it disbanded.”

Harold Youngsma – HQ Company – wrote: “I lost my spouse on February 3, 2007 and I became 90 years old on April 30, 2007. I now live in Assisted Living Whitcomb House. Thank you for caring. You must also be a servant of Jesus. A blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.”

Gordon (Shorty) Myers – HQ Company – was short and to the point: “Still above ground and smiling!”

## 254 Regiment

Gerald R. Mattson – A Company – wrote: “Ramah and I are caretakers of 60 apartment units. That keeps us busy. We were married 61 years July 18 and we are both in good shape for our age. I hear and write to Col. Raymond Restani. He was my Company Commander in Combat WWII.”

Helen Parke, wife of Robert E. Parke – B Company – sent this note: “Despite his dementia, Robert is in good health.”

This greeting came from John and Letizia Lowther – C Company: “Merry Christmas to all the members of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division.”

Carlton J. Naegele – C Company – sent a brief note saying he and Betty celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on October 25, 2007.

Joseph P. Matrile – C Company – is 81 years old and he and Elizabeth have been married 53 years.

Hugo Boettcher – D Company – sent this message: “How time flies. Yesterday I received notice that my *Blood and Fire* dues were due! I sure do love to breeze through that paper. I will be 90 years old on December

# Tacoma Reunion Highlights



*Andrew Aarhus - AT 255 (left), chats with David "Monty" Montgomery - E 255, during a rest period at the Tacoma reunion.*

## A word from your buddies . . .

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

15. That 25 mile, eight-hour forced hike we took at Camp Van Dorn, Mississippi is showing its side effects – at least I feel kinda stiff all over! Connie and I are doing o.k. We are both like the old gray mare – not like we used to be! Hello to all my buddies.”

Robert Williams Sr. – F Company – sent this message: “I am 81 years old and married 59 years. Did you get the paper clipping of the 83<sup>rd</sup> going over the Siegfried Line I sent you? I look forward to getting the *Blood and Fire Magazine*. Hope the reunion comes East one of these years.”

Sal Genova – G Company – sent this note: “Hi Guys! I am still hanging in there; my wife Edith is in a Nursing Home and I visit her everyday. I am now living with my son and his wife in my own extension on his house and am doing good. I have not been receiving any editions of the *Blood and Fire Magazine*. The last one I received was November 2006 and I would like to catch up on the rest of the issues. I would like to hear from any of Company G, 254<sup>th</sup> men. I am in touch with Verlin Miller and Chuck Renner's widow, Carol. Happy Holidays to all.”

James Settineri – H Company – said: “Hope to see

you at the next meeting!”

Richard J. Mertes – R & I Companies – wrote he would see us all in Indianapolis in August.

Alf L. Crutchfield – I Company – said: “We celebrated 60 years of marriage in Kansas City, MO. Both Imogene and I are doing well. Thanks for everything you and the others do to keep the Association alive.”

Lewis S. Germain – L Company – wrote: “Oh, how I miss the conventions, but illness keeps us home. Give my best to Fred Clinton.”

Fred Consolmagno – G Company – had this to say: “Sorry we couldn't make the Tacoma bash. Little too much travel. Hope to make Indianapolis in 2008. Audrey attended the Kentucky reunion but wasn't listed with my name. I turned 86 years young on October 31!! We were married 58 years on July 9, 2007! Regards to all.”

Venanzio Poccia – M Company – sent this message: “Sorry I couldn't make the Tacoma reunion but will plan for Indianapolis and then Boston.”

James F. Jordan – HQ Company – wrote: “I think

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 17



# A word from your buddies . . .

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

often about my platoon and wonder who might be still with us."

Lyle A. Atwood - HQ Company - had this to say, "I was a Cadre member from the 98<sup>th</sup> Division to the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division at Camp Blanding, Florida. I received a commission when the Division was at Alsace, France and assigned to the 29<sup>th</sup> Division AT as a 2<sup>nd</sup> LT."

Edward Karcheski - HQ 254 - sent this message: "We are so far doing fine. We have celebrated our 66<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. We now have ten grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren. As for me, I have a hobby of making sailboat-cover wagon feeder bird houses. Life is good here."

## 255 Regiment

Franklin T. Hepner - A Company - said he was doing well for an old guy! He sent holiday greetings to everyone.

"Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Sorry we have not been able to attend the last two or three reunions. Missed seeing you all. God Bless!" Michael Grib - B Company.

Wilbur E. Ahlvers - B Company - wrote: "Doing volunteer work with the VAMC Roseburg City Art Center, County Arts and am painting designs and pictures myself!"

Ernest Klimek - D Company - said he and Mary had a very good time at Tacoma and are looking forward to going to Indianapolis this August.

Frank R. Tedesco - E Company - would like to know more about members of September 1, 1943 E Company, 255<sup>th</sup> Regiment, 4<sup>th</sup> Platoon. His address is 366 Cleveland Ave., West Berlin, NJ 08091.

David D. Montgomery - E Company - had this to say: "We are doing good for our ages. I am 82 and Betty is 74. I joined the 63<sup>rd</sup> in July 1944 at Camp Van Dorn, Mississippi, went overseas with the 255<sup>th</sup> Regiment and stayed with it until August 1945. I was a BAR man in the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon through the whole thing. We enjoyed Tacoma and hope to see you in Indianapolis."

Allen Agnew - H Company - wrote "Thanks for all the time and effort you are contributing."

Leonard L. Kiang - I Company - sent this note: "My brother-in-law, my niece, my nephew and their families hosted an 86<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving birthday dinner in my honor! Upon leaving, I tripped in the parking lot

and landed on my right side, but went home for ice cream and cake. I am still in limbo!! I am severely crippled with Rheumatoid Arthritis and have filled out a new claim with the VA to up-grade my service-connected disability. May God Bless all of you for the year 2008."

Roy W. Peterson - HQ Company - wrote: "Still fighting the daily battles. As one old fellow said, 'getting old is not for sissies.' We still have pretty good health and are able to take care of ourselves. I had cataract surgery and now have 20/20 vision in both eyes. How about that?! Reading vision is a problem and requires some reading glasses. Have lost contact with platoon members except Jack Bayer and his wife, Mickey and with Al and Pat Binko. We talk regularly on the phone. Appreciate all you do for the Association, so keep smiling! Merlene's Macular Degeneration is about the same."

Paula, wife of Albert G. Smith - HQ Company - sent this message: "I am writing for my husband, who has been in a nursing home because of Alzheimer's and bone cancer. He enjoys the *Blood and Fire* Magazine so very much. He always smiles and reads it over and over, because he forgets what he reads. On October 3, we celebrated our 59<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary."

George Dodson - K Company - had this to say: "Thanks for remembering about my dues. I will try and keep records for the next membership dues. Please keep our grandson and all the men and women in Iraq in our thoughts and prayers."

Benedict Parenti - L Company - sent this message: "Marie and I are still hanging in there! Still able to get around, in spite of all the aches and pains. Have a happy Christmas and a New year."

Elmer J. Bellor - HQ Company - reported: "I went to Traverse City and rode on the float with the WWII vets. I am in good health at the age of 88 years and on the go every day. Lourene and I will celebrate our 62<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary in May."

Vincent Koch - M Company - said September 8, 2007 marked 64 years since he had been assigned to the 63<sup>rd</sup> at Camp Van Dorn. He was part of the 63<sup>rd</sup> team through the entire war.

Ralph K. Smith, Jr. - HQ Company - wrote: "I am still in touch with Joe Straka of Louisville, Kentucky and Bob Christman of Lake Charles, Louisiana. Both were great scout/observers with the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Battalion."

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

# A word from your buddies . . .

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

Kent L. Scholl – HQ Company – had this to say: “Thanks to all of you who keep the Association going. You do a good job with publications, etc. I wish I could do more.”

## CN Company

Sheldon Toder – 254 – sent this plea: “I need a Blood and Fire insignia to attach to my car's bumper. The last one became unglued and fell off – the insignia, not the bumper! Please send me one!”

(The decal has been sent)

## Med. Tech

Leslie Anders – Special Troops – sent this message: “Our ‘main event’ this year consisted of our 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. The ‘event’ took place when I married Mardellya Soles at her home near Windsor, MO., during my time as a dispensary manager for the Engineers at Fort Leonard Wood. We reared two talented daughters, have five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.”

John F. Troy – 254 – sent a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year wish to everyone.

Walter L. Stoner – 363 Company – wrote: “I just broke the Guinness record for aches and pains!”

James A. Altimari – 363 – sent this note: “Glad you reminded me to pay my dues. At my age, I don't buy green bananas! I am 94 years old, I'm in good health and still driving my car.”

## Engineer 263

Donald J. Liptak – B Company – wrote: “It's been an awful long time since Camp Van Dorn, Mississippi. I was only 19 years old at that time; now I am 84 and still going. Just taking one day at a time.”

## Field Artillery

Merlin L. Myers – 861 Company – would like to hear from someone in Hq Btry 861 FA. His address is 115 Louchs Street, York, PA 17403.

Albert Safranek – 861 Company – and his wife, Marion sent Merry Christmas and happy New Year

greetings to everyone.

Albert O. Kidney – 863 Company – sent this brief message: “Nothing new to report at this time.”

Richard P. Schulz – A Btry 718 – wrote: “I was a member of the Wire Communications Section of my Battery A. We laid and maintained field wire between our howitzers and the O.P. Our squad had about a dozen men. I don't know of any of our men who are still this “topside of the grass.” They were a great gang!”

Gerald J. Bungert – C Company, 718 – had this to say: “After VE Day, I was transferred to Military Government in Stuttgart. Seven months later, I was transferred to the Field Artillery, Battery C to replace Cpl. Gailo. I left for home in April 1946, was discharged at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin and went back into the Insurance business. I sold my interest in the business in 1987. It has been 20 years of golf, bowling and skating! My health is good but not so for my wife, Dorine.”

## Division Headquarters

Earl Dean Williams – 862 – sent this message: “I still live at 912 Biljac Street, Las Vegas, NV 89145 and would love hearing from anyone who remembers me. Is H. Simmes still living? Also, William E. Burrwell? He was with the 253<sup>rd</sup> but we shared an apartment with he and his wife at McComb, Mississippi in 1944. We somehow lost their address in our last move.”

John F. Dumont – Div. Arty – wrote: “I am 82 years old, a retired school principal and an active amateur radio operator (W8YML) and Military affiliate Radio Station (Navy, Marine Corps; call sign NNNOKRQ). Sincere thanks for the outstanding job you do for our association. God Bless.”

## USAR

Leo M. Schlocker wrote: “I am a friend of Irve Schlocker and next door lives Col. (retired) Don Forden, another good friend. I'm retired CSME9, from USAR and an Ex-POW of WWII. I was captured January 7, 1945 in Belgium. I was with the 17<sup>th</sup> Air Borne, 513<sup>th</sup> Co. D. I volunteer at the Loma Linda VA Hospital and have approximately 8,000 hours now. I retired from LAPD in 1968 and retired from LAX City of LA in 1997. I am one-hundred percent disability with health problems.”

# - Letters and Opinions -

## WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM BUDDIES

I lost three buddies— Joe Treola, Gus Sciafarmi and John DeStefans. My other buddy, Ed Zariski and his wife are in a nursing home.

As for me, I am in fairly good health. I still play golf once in a while and enjoy watching sports, mostly golf.

Rose and I were married sixty years on September 7. We lost our only child, a daughter, and we have two great-granddaughters.

If anyone remembers me, I would like to hear from them. I was in Panama for two years prior to going to Germany.

Michael Cairo, Company L, 253  
231 So. Regent St., Port Chester, NY 10573

## LIVING AT FRIENDSHIP VILLAGE

Things are going well for me here at Friendship Village. I have been here for one and a half years now and feel very much at home. I miss our old life, especially Dayle, but feel very fortunate to have such a nice place to continue my life.

Betty Bonifield, widow of Dayle Bonifield

## HUSBAND PASSED AT HOME WITH FAMILY

My husband, Joseph S. Mack, I. 254<sup>th</sup> died on September 5, 2007 at home with his family caring for him. He suffered with prostate cancer and Alzheimer's. We were married fifty-three and a half years when he died. We were blessed with three sons and one daughter. He loved getting the *Blood and Fire* and read every issue.

Joanne K. Mack

## FATHER SERVED IN K COMPANY 253

I am the oldest son of Rudolph Jandak, K Company, 253, who was shot by friendly fire on Christmas Eve, 1944. He is still living and can be

contacted at Grand Victorian, 12565 W. Renaissance Circle, #307, Homer Glen, IL 60491.

Randy Jandak

## MARIE GERBINO IS ASSOCIATE MEMBER

My husband, Anthony Gerbino, HQ 253, passed away March 2001. As his wife, I am keeping up his dues.

Marie Gerbino

## VISIT CAMP VANDORN MUSEUM

Wish you all could visit the Camp Van Dorn Museum. We appreciate all of you and all you have done.

Emma Zell Kington, bookkeeper

## WAR EXPERIENCES TOO LONG

The newsletter is very good, but some of the war experiences are too long and only appeal to those in that unit or in the area.

Harold J. O'Neill—SIG 563

## NOTE MY CHANGE OF ADDRESS

I have moved to 2212 N. Kiowa Blvd. #118, Lake Havasu City, Arizona to be near my family. Please change my address on the mailing label.

Bernice Verone, widow of Gilbert J. Verone, FA 862

## GRANDSON IN MARINE CORPS

I had written about my husband's death in 1998. I also told you our son served in the Marines during the Viet Nam War and now our grandson has done two tours in Iraq as a Marine.

Nan Landers, widow of Arlton D. Landers—Band

# - Letters and Opinions -

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

## HUSBAND ENJOYED BLOOD AND FIRE

My husband, Bill Van Cleve – MP 63 – died on August 4, 2007. He enjoyed receiving the newsletter. He had a military funeral and it was very impressive. He enjoyed corresponding with Donna when he had his computer going.

Mary Van Cleve

## WHITE REPORTS DEATH OF FRIEND

My good friend, Clarence Jack, Company E – 255, died in September 2007. Those who trained with him at Camp Van Dorn will remember him as an expert country music guitar player. He lost the use of his legs in combat and was confined to a wheel chair the rest of his life. He never lost his cheerful spirit. He was a native of West Virginia.

Wilson C, White, E 255

## WILL SHARE ARTICLE FROM NEWSPAPER

Our local newspaper did an article on my WWII service and I am sending you a copy, if you should want a story.

Walter E. Harmon, G 253

(note: story will be published when space permits)

## BROTHER KILLED IN ACTION

My brother, Pfc. Wayne S. Smeigh – E 253 – was killed in action on April 8, 1945 in Stein Germany.

William E. Smeigh Jr.

## REPORTING DEATH OF HUSBAND

My husband, Rowe W. Maxwell – MP – died June 15, 2007.

Sara Maxwell

## THANK YOU FOR THE PHOTO DISPLAY

Thank you for the photo spread in the November issue of the *Blood and Fire*. I am sending a donation to help with expenses.

John Gramolini – HQ 254

## SENT DUES AND DONATION

Thanks so much for all your work on the newsletter. Along with my dues, I am sending a donation to help in case more “machinery” goes down. I am a former Junior High Social Studies, Life Science (or whatever else they needed) teacher. Charles was a local school superintendent and then moved into the Hardin County (Ohio) County School Education office as a County Superintendent. He had a deep love for all the guys he fought with and never forgot their names or friendships.

Carol A. Renner – widow of Charles Renner – G 254

## OLD AGE IS CATCHING UP WITH ME

I love getting the *Blood and Fire* magazine. Old age is catching up with me – I was 84 on September 9. But I still drive. I am on a ladies’ bowling league, which is fun and I try to keep my house clean. My hands are shaky so don’t write so good anymore. I sure do miss going to the meetings, traveling to other towns and meeting some of our old friends. Hope most old buddies are still getting around and are doing pretty good. Take care and happy holidays.

Marjorie Prothero, widow of Clarence, A 253

## SON FOLLOWED IN DAD'S FOOTSTEPS

I am the son of Frank Smania, E Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, 254<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division. I served with the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn 81<sup>st</sup> FA, 56 FA, B&E, 7<sup>th</sup> Army at New Ulm, Germany, 1971-1972, one of the towns Dad fought through in 1945.

Eugene Smania

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# - Letters and Opinions -

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## TACOMA REUNION TOO FAR TO TRAVEL

I finally met Donna in Kentucky and was glad. Sorry we did not make it to Washington this year; it was a little too far for us to drive and I can't fly. Ruth Sandbrink said it was good but the crowd was off. We are all getting older!!! I am sending a picture taken in 2000 from Ellis Island when we were there in August before they (the towers) were destroyed on September 11.

Sybil Nails, widow of Buron Nails, B 861

## REPORTING DEATH OF HUSBAND

Please be advised of the death of my husband, William Egan - A 861. He died in January 2007 of skin cancer and heart complications. Bill was awarded two Bronze Star for bravery in action.

Catherine Egan

## HUSBAND OF 56 YEARS PASSES

Just wanted you to know that Norman Walton passed away on October 19, 2007. He really looked forward to each issue of the *Blood and Fire*. We were the parents of two sons, the grandparents of five, and the great-grandparents of two.

Ardith Walton

## CHARLES WEISE PASSES

Please be advised that Charles Weise, 101 Meadowview Drive, E. Windsor, CT 06088, passed away October 24, 2007. He looked forward to the magazine and reads it cover to cover when it arrived.

Emily Weise, widow of Charles - A 862

## WIFE PASSES DAY AFTER ANNIVERSARY

Sorry to have to inform you that my wife, Gertrude passed away July 6, 2007, the day after our 59<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

Howard Loucks - D 254

## FORMER BOARD MEMBER PASSES

James E. Sonneborn - C 253 - former board member of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Association, passed away October 28, 2007. During the war, he was awarded the Bronze Star, the Combat Infantry Badge, and other service medals. Following the war, he was commissioned an officer in the United States Army, was assigned as an infantry officer and later as a public information officer. He retired from the Army in 1965. In 1966 he returned to government service as a Department of the Army civilian at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington and retired from civil service in 1987 as the Deputy Chief of Public Affairs. Survivors include his wife, Sara of 63 years; one son, James D. Sonneborn and wife Dianne; one daughter, Suzanne McGinn and husband Neil; and three grandsons, Jonathan McGinn, Timothy and Zachary Sonneborn.

James D. Sonneborn - Associate member

## MOVED TO MAKE COMMENTS

Thanks again for a very interesting issue of the *Blood & Fire*; I am moved to make a few comments.

I share Bill Scott's thoughts about the series "The War" and learned something, too. I, too, felt very lucky and must admit, teary watching it. I remember some very hard battles but also long periods of watching and waiting in cold, rain and snow. Then too, this was a movie and it is the action shots that hold viewers. I was grateful that I was not in the Pacific.

I found the fine details in Charlie Rhodes continued story so moving, real to life, and the homecoming.

It seems that Hal O'Neill's service with the 83<sup>rd</sup> Signal brought him all over Europe and into the thick of it before most of us. I would say we were close only one time near Schwabach-Hall. When I first saw the Beaches I was amazed about the scope and trials of those landings. He tells of so many gems. I was amused by the Revenge of the Creamed Oysters that apparently creamed a lot of men in the company that night. I recalled my first meal in a mess hall in Benning - open walls thick with "palmetto bugs" during the day. Thereafter, I always made sure not to sit next to a wall. I

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# - Letters and Opinions -

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guess we were close at one time!

I think we ignored Patton's non-fraternization order before it even came into effect. I do remember he was criticized for shaking Goering's hand so maybe this was his ill-considered reaction.

I can understand Hal's "take no prisoners" stance. He may consider himself lucky that he did not fall into the hands of like-minded opponents. I contrast his attitude with that of my buddy, John Pribram. John had to flee Czechoslovakia as a youngster, subsist southern France for a time before coming to the States and eventually to the 63<sup>rd</sup>. John sacrificed a leg in the Colmar pocket yet came to reconciliation in a truly Christian response. I guess not everyone can walk that road.

I enjoyed the culinary triumphs of the Kitchen Crew. How welcome hot meals were that winter! The pictures at Weikersheim and elsewhere bring back memories. Keep them coming.

See you all in Indy in August.

Edgar Moutoux - G 253

## INFORMATION REQUEST FOR PFC MEDEDITH J. PHILLIPS, CO I, 255 REGIMENT

I am an Associate member and I am requesting information concerning my cousin, Pfc. Meredith J. Phillips (also known as John M. Phillips). As I understand, based on a letter dated May 25, 1944 from Adjutant General I.W. Lippman, John M. Phillips and Pfc Meredith J. Phillips were the same person. It seems at one point John Phillips may have attached to the HQ Co., 63<sup>rd</sup> Division and he may have had a reduction in rank.

Pfc. Phillips entered the service in 1944 at Ft. Oglethorpe, Ga. He was from Oliver Springs, Tennessee and his parents were James M. Phillips and Elsie D. Phillips. At the time he entered combat he was a member of Co. I 255<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment and was a combat engineer (at least according to his grave marker in Tennessee). He was killed in action on February 7, 1945 in the vicinity of Bliesbruck, France. The cause of death was a single fatal wound to the head. One of the persons who furnished information concerning Pfc Phillips' death was Pvt. Joseph Ruggiero.

I am interested in obtaining more details

concerning my cousin. The search for information has taken the better part of twenty years and any information that members of this Association can provide is greatly appreciated.

Edward Phillips  
713 Little Tail Way  
Wake Forest, NC 27587  
Telephone: 919-426-5254 (cell)  
919-562-1945 (home)  
e-mail: ephillips3@hotmail.com  
or: Edward.phillips@embarq.com

## ABOUT MY FRIEND, JOE

This is in regard to my conversation with you on the telephone a few weeks ago.

My friend, Joseph J. Mazei died August 23, 2007. The November issue of the *Blood and Fire* had his last name spelled incorrectly and the year of his death was wrong. His wife, Rose, is also deceased.

He was a faithful member of the St. Augustine Church. Colleen Popowicz, secretary of the St. Augustine Church gave the address of 500 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Royersford, PA 19468, attention of Diane Gorrell, if someone should wish to contribute to a memorial.

Joe and I joined the 63<sup>rd</sup> Division in July 1944. We were in the 3<sup>rd</sup> squad, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon, Company K, 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn. 253 Regiment. He was a good soldier. Joe was irreverent, sarcastic, funny and one of a kind.

With Joe by my side, or behind my back, I always felt safer. He did his job well. I am glad I knew Joe Mazei.

James N. Mauldin

## DEATH OF FATHER REPORTED

I am saddened to have to tell you that my father, Sgt. George Murchio, D 254, died peacefully this past January 31. Dad was very proud of his service to his country, and especially proud of the men he served with. Among the names I can never forget are: Lt. Col. Tucker, Lt. Van Bockem, Sgt. Rose, Sgt. Estrella and Sgt. Bionda.

George Murchio

# - Letters and Opinions -

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## COLLECTING STORIES IS MY PROJECT

In 1998, I began my project to collect stories from World War II veterans and/or their families, for the purposes of preserving and presentation to today's youth, adults and future generations before these memories will one day no longer be available.

My collection of over 215 World WEWas II stories has received appreciation and recognition from the General Patton Memorial Museum at Chiriaco Summit in California where it is exhibited during special events.

Please contact me to discuss the details of my project, and how you can be an important source of World War II history by telling your story about your personal military service and sacrifices. Please be assured that all information is not sold or given out to the public.

Participant references and testimonials regarding my work are available.

Peter D. Minix - [pdmmm@msn.com](mailto:pdmmm@msn.com)

## NEED INFORMATION ABOUT BROTHER

I would like any information concerning my brother, S/Sgt. Albert M. Bisinger who was a member of the I Company of the 254<sup>th</sup> Regiment. Al was killed in action on January 25, 1945 according to the notification from the War Department. I would also appreciate any information about his complete military history. I can't seem to get any official facts from War Department files. At the time of Al's death I was fighting in the pacific theatre in the Army Infantry.

Edwin C. Bisinger  
1239 Westchester Blvd.  
Westchester, IL 60154

## SEEKING INFORMATION FOR THESIS

I am currently working on my master's thesis at Empire State College, a division of the State University of New York. The subject of my thesis is the changes in memory concerning WWII.

My Marine father, who passed away in 2003, was never at a loss to relate interesting, and often humorous, stories of his time in New Zealand and Hawaii, but the only times he would speak of his combat experiences was in his nightmares. I was intensely interested in why it was that dad would wake up screaming and so, I spent the better part of my life studying the war to better understand not only his experiences, but what it was that shaped the man who raised me.

What I plan to do is study the ways in which the memory of the war has changed throughout the years. I intend to gather information from news stories, popular entertainment including memoirs, novels, movies and television, and from the participants themselves. It is the latter to which I address my request to you.

Post-World War II survey information I need includes name, zip code, date of birth, service information, post war information and comments. For a survey form, please contact me as soon as possible.

Ralph DeCarpio  
PO Box 472  
Round Top, NY 12473-0472

## OUR PRESIDENT A GREAT GUY

Our president, John Dietrick, crawled with me to feel for, and to be sure that there were no booby trap wires on the way to the river so that the boys would not get caught by the Shuh mine as they advanced.

John Dietrick was a great friend to have and be trusted during the war.

Curtis Delahoussaye

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### NOTICE

Deadline for the May issue of the *Blood and Fire* is on or before April 1, 2008.

### 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 3/4")

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 3/4")

1/8 PAGE  
\$20.00

3 LINE  
BOOSTER  
\$10.00

SPONSOR  
NAME  
(EACH)  
\$2.00

## August 20 thru 25, 2008



2008 Indianapolis, Indiana

### 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 LaCosse*  
Post Office Box 86  
Morocco, Indiana 47963

Ad Copy: (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY) \_\_\_\_\_

Ad Size: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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



# - Letters and Opinions -

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## REPORTING HUSBAND'S DEATH

I am writing this note to let the *Blood and Fire* (staff) know that Alfred P. Ciullo of 90 Crane Street, Fall River, Mass. passed away January 20, 2008. He was with Company C 253.

He was a very good man and wonderful husband; he will be missed a great deal. We were married 57 years and I have a lot of good memories.

He was very proud of serving in the U.S. Army and would talk about it quite often to me.

Catherine Ciullo

## INFORMATION YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE

May I offer one bit of information and that is to properly identify the Combat Engineer Battalion and the Medical Battalion?

The Combat Engineer Battalion's number was 263 and the Medical Battalion's number was 363. Each

battalion had four companies; A, B, C, and Headquarters.

I am grateful for receiving the *Blood and Fire* - it has never been better!!

Ivan "Sonny" Charitan

## LIFE MEMBER RECENTLY PASSES

I am writing to let you know that my husband, Robert Le Marbe passed away January 20, 2008. He was a very proud member of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Division, C Company 253.

Also I am wondering what I need to do to continue to receive the *Blood and Fire*? My children and grandchildren would read the magazine with Robert and we would like to continue receiving it.

We were married 54 years and although Robert was in a lot of pain the last couple of years, he was a very proud disabled WW II veteran and will be missed by all.

Lucille La Marbe

## 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 November issues of the *Blood and Fire*. If you can help, please call, write or email the secretary/treasurer.

Alan Beck - Associate Life member #1861; 257 Park Place Way, Alabaster, AL 35007.

Clarence P. Eddy, Jr. - I 254 - Life member #1295, R#1, Box 279, New Port, PH 45768.

James E. Hug - H 255 - Life member #904; 1400 Wildwood Avenue, Blue Springs, MO 64015.

Maurice D. Kahoe - F 253 - Life member #1109; 5018 So. Main St. #16, Cedar Falls, IA 50513.

Willard T. McGuire - TA 822 - Life member 776; 2200 Ponderosa Street, Silver City, NM 88061.

Phyllis Nugent - Associate member; 721 Albany Road, Lexington, KY 40502. Husband, Charles T. Nugent - B 863 - Life member 578, died December 5, 1989.

Joseph Panicucci - G 254 - Life member #174; 11626 N. 107<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Sun City, AZ 85351.

Benjamin A. "Pat" Patrozzio - HQ 63 - Life member #431; 19847 N. 91<sup>st</sup> Lane, Peoria, AZ 85382.

## *New Members*

Carl N. McCarron has become an associate member of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Association. His father was Hazen A. McCarron - MED 363. He and his wife, Wanda live at 7501 Whitewood Drive, Ft. Worth, TX 76137-1442.

Jan C. Mennig is a new member from the USAR in

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## Molly Dey, Director of Operations, announces new registration policy for members

Armed Forces Reunion Planners 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 information directly, instead of through a third party provider (as with most other planners).

This ensures that AFR (Armed Forces Reunion) 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.

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 1-800-562-7226 (or email at [mollydey@afri.com](mailto:mollydey@afri.com)).

## New members ...

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California. He and his wife, Mary live at PO Box 1205, Mariposa, CA 95338-1205.

Robert O. Wederath, HQ and K 255, lives at 3050 W. Franklin Terrace, Franklin, WI 53132. His daughter, Jacky Powell, sent his dues and said he was planning to attend the August reunion in Indianapolis.

## World War II Book Project

Associate Member Ed Phillips is requesting volunteers for interviews, which are needed for his book project. The project has been underway since late 1999 and is focused on American involvement in the Second World War starting with the Japanese attack on the facilities at Pearl Harbor and ending with V-J-Day.

The book will chronicle the effort of the individual servicemen in both combat and support roles liking such action to the overall success of the war effort.

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## 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.

Sixty years ago this year, the 63<sup>rd</sup> Division Association held their very first reunion! What better reason would you need to inspire you to send a message honoring those still living; a memorial to those who have passed away and/or a happy tribute to your friends in the Association?

We have received several messages already and we expect many more to come via snail mail in the next few weeks. Will you help?

Our goal is to make the 2008 Ad Book the largest in size than it has ever been and in order for this to happen, your help is needed!

## World War II project ...

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The individual stories will be told in a manner that maintains focus on historical accuracy, chronology and the ebb and flow of battle in the different theaters of operations.

Given his cousin's membership in the 255<sup>th</sup>, Ed is especially interested in telling the story of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Division.

If you wish to volunteer for this project please feel free to contact Ed as follows: Edward Phillips, 713 Little Tall Way, Wake Forest, NC 27587. Telephone is 919-426-5254 (cell) and 919-562-1945 (home) and the email address is [ephillips3@hotmail.com](mailto:ephillips3@hotmail.com) or at [edward.phillips@embarq.com](mailto:edward.phillips@embarq.com).

## World War Two in rural America

By Harold O'Neill

We did not bother with food rationing stamps because each house and farm had a garden, poultry and some had hogs or dairy cows. At times there were shortages of coffee, tea, sugar and pepper. Spare parts for farm machinery and cars were hard to get, along with gas rationing.

Some fertilizers became scarce along with tires. City folks had food stamps, meatless Tuesdays, meat, butter and other foods rationed. Some people saved their gas and drove sixty miles from the city to our area to buy poultry, bacon, dairy cattle beef, corn and some vegetables.

An undertaker used his hearse to visit farms where he bought old or sick cows that were cut up and put in the coffin for the trip back to the city. Police usually stopped traffic and waved the hearse on. The meat was stored along with "customers" until it was sold to local butchers. Someone talked and the hearse made no more trips.

The two local Boy Scout Troops had regular collections of lard for explosives, paper and scrap iron. They went door to door at farmhouses with a hand pulled trailer. During the night local graveyards lost their cast iron fences and small bridges lost their guardrails to scrap hunters.

A housewife qualified for food stamps because she had no garden, poultry or a store of canned foods. A few weeks later she had a kitchen fire and the cellar was flooded. When the Fire Department pumped out the water they found the cellar lined with shelves stocked with canned goods. She not only lost her food stamps, but the opening of a can became an adventure – the water had washed off most of the labels on the cans and on the shelves!

During my one and only leave from the Army before going overseas, I helped sort mail as usual, since my mother was the Postmaster. The weather was cold and I put a sack of mail containing small packages and letters by a radiator. The small packages contained illegal butter shipments that melted and soaked the letters. Two other parcels oozed blood and they were illegal meat shipments. The family cat did not like the odor of old cow meat so a farm dog down the road – who could digest anything – had another treat!

Church groups and social clubs made wool scarves, mittens, and care packages for the troops. During the Battle of the Bulge it was very cold, so I wrote home

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 33

## Preservation of WW II military items

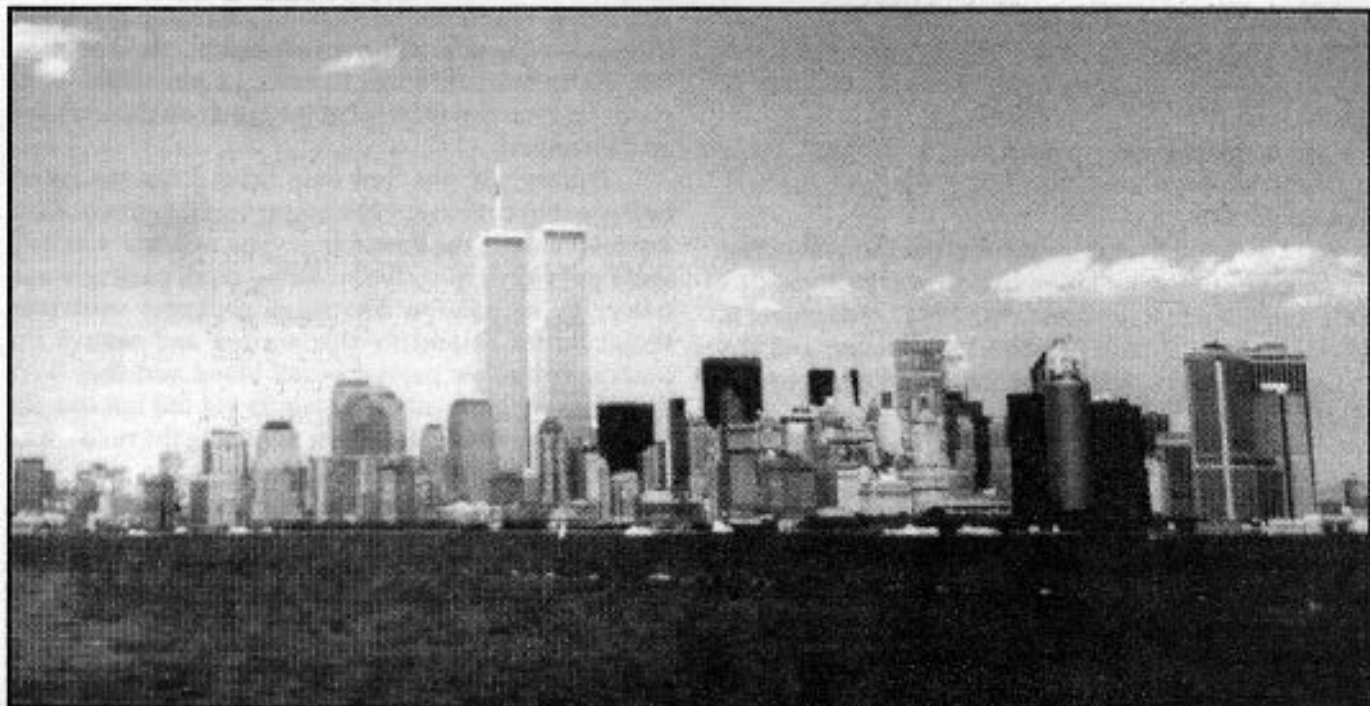
In addition to preserving veteran's stories for his book, Associate Member Phillips also preserves military items from the Second World War, including U.S. and foreign uniforms (combat and dress), equipment, web-gear, headgear, footwear, patches and helmets, occupation money and the like.

If you are interested in helping Ed with this effort it will be greatly appreciated. All items donated are retained for the purpose of sharing the history of the war with the public on patriotic holidays and with local school children during lectures on the history of the war.

Ed will cover expenses to package and ship any donated items. Please let him know if you have any items you wish to donate or sell. You may contact Ed as follows: Edward Phillips, 713 Little Tall Way, Wake Forest, NC 27587. Cell phone is 919-426-5254; home phone is 919-562-1945.

Email will reach him at [ephillips3@hotmail.com](mailto:ephillips3@hotmail.com) or at [edward.phillips@embarq.com](mailto:edward.phillips@embarq.com)

# *Twin Towers ... August 2000*



*Sybil Nails, widow of Baron Nails - B 861- sent this photo taken of the twin towers in New York in August before they were destroyed on September 11, 2000.*

## *After the capture ...*

*This picture was taken on April 2, 1945, one day after the capture of Heidelberg and crossing the Neckar River.*

*Submitted by Ralph Smith - Hq Company, 2nd Bn, 255.*



# Anniversaries celebrated



1942

*Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Scales married 65 years.*



2007

Joseph T. Scales, HQ 862, and Louree celebrated their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on November 2 with a family reunion. The couple met in Fort Sumner.

They have five children, counting spouses, Josephine and Leon Towell; Lenora Scales; Cecil and Ouida Scales; eight grandchildren; eighteen great-grandchildren and eight great-great-grandchildren.

## *Couples celebrate 60 years of marriage in 2007*



*Charles C. Rudibaugh Jr. - SV 253 - and Helen celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on October 18, 2007.*



*Dolores and Bill Davis - G 254 - celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 6, 2007.*



## *Enjoy tour of Indian Village*

*Totem Pole at the Indian Village where reunion attendees visited during the Tacoma reunion. The totem pole is the large structure in the center of the picture!! Featured with the pole, left, Harold LaCosse, F 254; John Downs, F 254 and Vince Liquori, I 253*

## *Soldiers identified*



This picture was also in the November issue of the *Blood and Fire*, and was submitted by John Gramolini.

Thomas Glunt has identified Ralph Lane as being the first man in the row of kneeling soldiers and directly behind him is Ferd Meuller.

# Cherry Festival highlights



The Veteran's Float featured at the Cherry Festival in Traverse City, Michigan, July 2007. Elmer Bellor, 255th, is seated fifth from the right. Elmer has an "X" on his shirt.



William Marcus, left, with Lourene and Elmer Bellor at the Cherry Festival in Traverse City, Michigan in July 2007.

Both men were in the 255th Regiment and met in Washington, D.C. when they dedicated the WW II Monument.

# Sailed overseas on the SS Saturnia

by Lyle Atwood - HQ 254

I left the United States on November 24, 1944; received my Battlefield Commission on January 18, 1945 and was assigned to the 315<sup>th</sup> Infantry of the 79<sup>th</sup> Division at the same time.

My first experience aboard a large Ocean Liner was when I was sent overseas during World War II. At the time I was ordered to Camp Shanks, NY for my Port of Embarkation, and was put aboard the SS Saturnia, an Italian luxury liner.

This was a large ship, 600-feet long and 100-feet across the center. As we eased out of New York harbor, we found that we were headed east. That meant Europe. The Saturnia was the largest ship in the convoy of twelve, all loaded with combat troops. The sight of the Atlantic Ocean was awe inspiring to say the least. Especially for a country boy from Nicholas Run. It being a cool fall day, I spent as much time as I could on deck to take in the sights.

It was to take seven days to reach southern France. Along with us were six British Corvettes for protection. During the day they stayed a far distance from our convoy but at night they came in close. The Corvettes had depth charges aboard and would drop them in case of German U Boats (Submarines). As the Statue of Liberty disappeared from our sight I more and more realized that I was leaving my home in America, without any knowledge of when I might return, if ever. This leaves a very empty feeling in your mind. Thoughts of home and family come to the realization that you may never see them again.

As the trip continued there was much to do and your mind was occupied with the job at hand. I had a platoon of men to think about and take care of. The table of organization called for at least a Second Lieutenant or better to take charge of the communications for the Infantry Battalion. This had not been filled so I as a Staff Sergeant was in full charge. I liked my job and had a good compliment of men to take care of the job at hand. They had been well trained and were ready to go. I liked every one of them and I believed they trusted and liked me.

The Atlantic Ocean is a beautiful work of nature. Some times it would be as calm as a small pond, then it could get as rough and dangerous as the worst wild animal, putting the fear of God in your heart! A pretty sight is to see the moon rise up out of the water in the evening and just as exciting is the sun rising in the morning. Of course the setting of each was just as beautiful. The world is a wonderful work by God. I can't understand why there are so many wars. It seems

that men could get along with each other and enjoy God's creations. Life could be so happy and good! However, there was a world war going on and we were on our way to do our part to help and to stop it.

Army units usually have a chaplain and ours had a Jewish Rabbi. This is quite unusual because there are more Catholics than any other denomination in the service.

Because of this the Rabbi was amiss as to what to do regarding religious services for those not of his faith. He came to me one day and asked what could be done and wondered if I would help. Not being a man of the cloth my first thought was to have the men say the rosary. That is what I did and it worked. The Rabbi was a very good person and was liked by all. I have thought of him many times and wondered where he went and to what area.

After the war was over I was in a billeting office in Berlin waiting to be assigned a room when a man entered the office and I knew in a minute he was a chaplain. At that moment he recognized me and even remembered my name. He was that same Jewish Rabbi that was the chaplain aboard the ship on our way to Europe! Small world. I wish I knew what happened to him.

Our trip was quite uneventful as far as any enemy action. As we approached the continent of Europe we entered the straight of Gilbralter. It is fairly narrow so the ships lined up and were ready to go through one at a time. This was done under the cover of darkness. As we went through the Straight of Gilbralter, we noticed that Algiers, a city in Algeria, Northern Africa, had all of its city lights on. Of course they were not at war with anyone. However, it was as strange sight as most of the world was in darkness.

It was a clear night and the Rock of Gilbralter was very visible. It is a large land mark and a sight that is not easy to forget. We entered the Mediterranean Sea and turned north toward the coast of France. It is a t off

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## ~~~~~ 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).



# Sailed overseas . . .

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 32

very large body of water but as calm and blue as a lake. We were between Italy on the east and Spain on the west. A very beautiful experience! As we entered the harbor of Marseilles, France there were large ships on their sides. They had been caught in dock and were bombed and sunk. When we docked we unloaded immediately and began moving inland and north. When we were inland enough we stopped and made camp. The next move was to send men back and get our equipment off the ships and bring every thing to where the troops were. With this having been done, the next morning we moved along the boarder of France and Italy. It was winter and it began to get cold.

Every night at precisely 10 P.M., the Germans would send a plane over and it would go down the coast of France. Supposedly it went all the way down to the coast of Africa. At least it seemed to be gone long enough to make that flight. Then it would return and go back to Germany. I suppose it would return to Frankfurt or Berlin. It was a little annoying at first; then we realized it was a reconnaissance plane and probably would not do any harm except gain information.

We began moving East along the Southern border of France. As we approached the Vosges Mountains, winter really began to set in. Snow was about two feet deep. We were the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division and we moved along side of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division on our right flank and the Moroccan French Division on our left. On the right of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division was the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, which bordered Switzerland. We were all moving toward the Rhine River. The mountains were covered with large trees and at the high points of many mountains there would be a castle at the very top. What a view from that vantage point! The Artillery positioned themselves on as much of a high spot as possible and of course the Germans did the same thing. So much of their time was spent firing back and forth at each other. War is crazy sometimes!

But not for long. We went on line and began the rigors of war. My job was to see to it that communications between our Infantry Companies and others in our Battalion were connected. We did this by laying telephone lines between the Command Post and each company. The lines were connected to a switchboard at Headquarters Company and it was manned 24 hours a day. We also maintained radio contact with the Company Commanders and Battalion and Regiment and so on. It was a very good connection with all the Commanders and it worked very well. The men had been trained well and all did a good job. We

also maintained a message center where we could decode all messages that came from the enemy. All messages were in code and had to be changed to plain message.

These messages came in as morse code and were in five digits all jumbled up and through a decoding devise, were put in sentence form and readable. We moved forward through the mountains to the edge of the Rhine River. It was still very cold and the patrols from the German side would walk across the river at night. The Americans set up giant searchlights and directed them to the clouds, the lights would then reflect onto the ground, making artificial moonlight. That made it tougher for the patrols to come across.

It was while we were in Colmar that I was ordered to the rear to receive a Battlefield Commission to Second Lieutenant. Quite a reward for me, and one that I was to cherish the rest of my life. To me, it was a great honor. The great change was that I would not go back to my troops and the 63<sup>rd</sup> Division. I was assigned to the 79<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and back on line a little father north. Something different for me was being assigned to a Heavy Weapons Company, 81 MM Mortars. The first night there, I talked to the men so they would know who was giving them orders and directing their mortar fire. They were a good group and very knowledgeable about their duties.

We got along well and gave the Germans hell with those 81 mm Mortars!

## *World War 2 in America ...*

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

asking for mittens and a scarf. They arrived the following June! I did not wait, but traded my finger gloves and some cigarettes to a German prisoner for his fur lined mittens and fur vest. He then told me he would see the U.S.A. before I did because he was to be shipped across the Atlantic!

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## - 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.

# A Striking Comparison of Colmar, France

By Bob Capasso, I&R 254th

The battles of Colmar, France by the 254th Regiment while it was attached to the 3rd Infantry Division in January 1945 and the City of Colmar today - is set forth in the following:

Two reports - "Presidential Unit Citation Received, Colmar, France" and the "French Croix de Guerre with Palm" were taken in its entirety from the 63rd Division website 63rd Inf Div, Com.

The newspaper report "the City of Colmar, France Today" was submitted by Robert G. Mc Court of the I&R 254th who is the transportation coordinator of the Massachusetts Committee.

254th Infantry Regiment - Page 10



## Presidential Unit Citations Received Colmar, France



By direction of the President of the United States of America, the *Presidential Unit Citation* is awarded to the 3rd Infantry Division with the following attached units: 254th Infantry Regiment, 63rd Infantry Division. Fighting incessantly, from 22 Jan to 6 Feb 1945, in heavy snow storms, through enemy infested marshes and woods and over a flat plain crisscrossed by numerous small canals, irrigation ditches, and unfordable streams, terrain ideally suited to the defense, breached the German defense wall on the northern perimeter of the Colmar bridgehead and drove forward to isolate Colmar from the Rhine. Crossing the Fecht River from Guemar, Alsace, by stealth during the late hours of darkness of 22 January, the assault elements fought their way forward against mounting resistance. Reaching the Ill River, a bridge was thrown across, but collapsed before armor could pass to the support of two battalions of the 30th Infantry on the far side. Isolated and attacked by a full German Panzer brigade, outnumbered and outgunned, these valiant troops were forced back, yard by yard. Wave after wave of armor and infantry was

hurdled against them but despite hopeless odds the regiment held tenaciously to the bridgehead. Driving forward in knee-deep snow, which masked acres of densely sown mines, the 3rd Infantry Division fought from house to house and street to street in the fortress towns of the Alsatian Plain. Under furious concentrations of supporting fire, assault troops crossed the Colmar Canal in rubber boats during the night of 29 January. Driving relentlessly forward, six towns were captured within 8 hours, 500 casualties were inflicted on the enemy during the day, and large quantities of booty seized.

Slashing through to the Rhine-Rhone Canal, the garrison at Colmar was cut off and the fall of the city assured. Shifting the direction of attack, the division moved south between the Rhine-Rhone Canal and the Rhine toward Neuf Brisach and the Brisach Bridge. Synchronizing the attacks, the bridge was seized and Neuf Brisach captured by crossing the protecting moat and scaling the medieval walls by ladder. In one of the hardest fought and bloodiest campaigns of the war, the 3rd Infantry Division annihilated three enemy divisions, partially destroyed three others and captured over 4000 prisoners and inflicted more than 7500 casualties on the enemy.

254th Infantry Regiment - Page 13



## French Croix de Guerre with Palm



*254th Infantry Regiment awarded French Croix de Guerre, 41 years after battles took place.*

Headquarters Department of the Army General Orders 43, 1950 awarded the French Croix de Guerre with Palm to the 3rd Infantry Division and attached units. The citation read as follows:

**3RD INFANTRY DIVISION**  
254th Infantry Regiment attached  
**FRENCH CROIX DE GUERRE WITH PALM,**  
awarded under Decision No. 508, 15 March 1945, by the President of the Provisional Government of the French Republic, with the following citation:

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# A striking comparison . . .

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 34

An elite Division which has remained faithful to the traditions of courage and sacrifice which it had already made during the last war, when it won the nickname "Rock of the Marne". Under the vigorous impetus of an energetic chief and skilled maneuverer, General O'Daniel, it fought without interruption for 169 days, from the Mediterranean beaches to the banks of the Rhine. Placed under the command of the Commanding General of the 1st French Army, for the operations of the Alsace pocket, it contributed greatly, by the power of its repeated attacks, to the victorious battle of Colmar. During the nights of January 23 to 24 January 1945, it succeeded in crossing, by surprise, the Fecht and Ill rivers and in taking the first enemy position, in spite of a violent snowstorm and a field of action sown with the obstacles. Allowing the adversary no respite and pushing its action harder and harder, it crossed the Colmar Canal in order to circle and conquer by sheer fighting, the city of Neuf-Brisach, thereby cutting one of the two remaining routes of retreat left to the German troops still defending the Colmar region. It captured during these actions, more than 4000 prisoners, thus concluding brilliantly the series of glorious operations which took place from the Mediterranean to the Rhine.

(In 1986, the Department of The Army General Order 45 amended the 1950 order to add the 254th Infantry Regiment as an attached unit for the period 28 December 1944 to 6 February 1945, thus making the men of the 254th recipients of The French Croix de Guerre with Palm.)

**As Alsace is known for foie gras, visitors can expect top restaurants to feature the dish as an appetizer.**

***Do visit Colmar, but don't rush through this Alsatian gem***

*By Felicity Long*

**D**evotees of the Alsace region of France know that Colmar is one of its most beautiful cities, and, as such, deserves

more than a rushed visit. But thanks to Colmar's proximity to Strasbourg (50 miles separates the two cities), it is an appealing side trip for those with even just a day to spare.

With this in mind, I recently visited the city for a day, filled with great expectations. After all, Colmar's reputation is such that to miss it during a trip to Alsace is akin to a first-time visitor to Paris passing up the Eiffel Tower.

From first glance, the town, with its Hansel-and-Gretel architecture, cobblestone streets and colorful tile roofs, did not disappoint. Photo opportunities were abundant, including picturesque squares; a surprisingly large pedestrian zone surrounded by medieval and Renaissance buildings; and flower-covered, tiny bridges over a network of mirror-like canals.

Considering that Colmar is in Alsace, a region that has changed hands many times, often violently, between France and Germany, the city is remarkably well preserved. That's despite having seen action in both world wars.

## Back in time

The Old Town, or La Vieille Ville, is the place to start any serious exploration of Colmar. Visitors can see the sights just by wandering this section of the city, but if you have time to see one historical building, the one to choose has to be le Maison des Tetes on Rue des Tetes, a century home that, as its name implies, is decorated with more than 100 statues of heads. It now serves as a hotel.

Next door is the premier art venue in the city, the Unterlinden Museum, situated in a Dominican convent that dates back to the 13th century. The convent was a hotbed of Rhine mysticism in the Middle Ages. During the French Revolution, its nuns fled and the building fell into ruin for a century and a half.

The Unterlinden was saved in the mid-19th century by local scholar Louis Hugot and has been in operation as a museum since 1953. While there is a nice selection of decorative arts and sculptures in the museum, those pressed for time should head directly to the Isenheim Altarpiece, an eerie 16th century work by painter Mathias Grunewald and sculptor Nicolas de Hagenau. The multipaneled piece depicts the crucifixion of Jesus Christ in grim detail when closed and his resurrection in bright colors when open.

To preserve the work and keep people from

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 36

# A striking comparison . . .

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 35



Colmar is famed with a network of scenic canals cutting through gingerbread houses.

For dessert I had the rhubarb confit with orange zest and mascarpone with strawberry sorbet, but I could also have chosen creme brulee or fresh figs stuffed with pistachio cream.

Because Alsace is serious wine country, all this bounty was accompanied by regional wines, in my case a Pinot Gris Grand Cru Hatschbourg 2003 and a Pinot Noir Rouge d'Alsace C. Lorentz/Bergheim 2003.

Food lovers who want to buy local products will find shops in Colmar designed for just that purpose, including foie gras at La Ferme on Rue des Tetes and Munster and farmer cheeses at La Fromagerie Saint-Nicolas on Rue Saint-Nicholas.

But given its location on the Alsace Wine Route, the shops catering to oenophiles abound, including Au Coeur du Vieux Colmar on Rue Schwendi, Maison Martin Jund on Rue de l'Ange and Vins et Cremants d'Alsace on Rue du Stauffen.

Visitors to the wine shops, known in France as caveaux, can taste various vintages and purchase bottles packaged for travel.

Anyone visiting Colmar who can stay overnight should make every effort to do so, as the architectural treasures of the city are illuminated at night.

Even better, plan a stay during the Colmar International Music Festival, which takes place in July and draws international musicians for several days of performances.

In winter, the top event is the Christmas Market from the end of November to Dec. 31, featuring music, dining and an open-air ice skating rink.

For more on tourism in Colmar, visit [www.ot-colmar.fr](http://www.ot-colmar.fr) or [www.tourisme-alsace.com](http://www.tourisme-alsace.com).

opening and closing the panels, the panels are exhibited separately for easier viewing.

Another top attraction in the city is the Bartholdi Museum in the birthplace of favorite son Auguste Bartholdi, famous for creating the Statue of Liberty. The museum exhibits statues, busts and original models of the artist's works.

Another well-known Bartholdi work, a statue of a young boy, graces the Schwendi Fountain in Colmar's Old Town.

## Dining in Colmar

Like any Alsatian city worth its salt, Colmar takes cuisine seriously, and I made time during my stay to pay homage to the regional fare.

As Alsace is known for foie gras, you can expect top restaurants to feature the dish as an appetizer.

In Alsace, there is a German influence in cooking and in the names of dishes. A local specialty is baeckeoffe, a hearty meat-and-potato stew. Kougelhopf is a cake made with raisins, almonds and cherry brandy.

I dined at Le Rendez-Vous de Chasse, a one-Michelin-star restaurant in the Best Western Grand Hotel Bristol across from the rail station.

Sure enough, my appetizer was foie gras served with apricot chutney, but I could also have tried the venison starter with celery and walnut salad or frog and wild mushroom ravioli.

Main course choices included lobster ravioli, pheasant with braised cabbage or a rack of lamb with a tomato tart.



The courtyard of the Bartholdi Museum, dedicated to one of Colmar's favorite sons.

# History is interesting subject

by James N Mauldin - K 253

History is such an interesting subject! I was commissioned as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. on February 27, 1945; almost simultaneous, before I was discharged as a Staff Sergeant. However, the date is February 15, 1945.

In August of 1945, I was in the hospital at Bad Mergantheim, Germany to have a piece of metal removed from my cheek, a souvenir of wounds received in Mock Muhl, Germany on April 5, 1945.

At the hospital I was offered a Purple Heart, but I declined, saying I had received one when I got the original wound in April. "Well, you can have another." I declined. The basis of this long tirade, I contacted Fred Clinton asking him to follow up on the hospital record regarding this incident. The reply was – I was there for Trench Foot!!

From our landing at Marseillaise on December 8, 1944 until the end of the war on May 8, 1945, there were five, maybe six, Battle Field Commissions in K Company 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn., 253 Regiment, 63<sup>rd</sup> Division. There was one where the man left K Company? I was commissioned on February 17, 1945 and there were three others after that. I mention in that myself and the other three remained with the company.

This seems unusual. How many others were there in the Division? Wonder what the percentage might be for the many Divisions that were on the Continent at that time?

While we landed on May 8, we were recognized as a Division in February (I think). The 3<sup>rd</sup> BN or 253 attached to the 44<sup>th</sup> Division and the 254 to the 45<sup>th</sup> or 36<sup>th</sup>. The 100<sup>th</sup> Division in there somewhere.

Regarding History. In the November issue of the Blood and Fire, Harold O'Neill mentioned that General Patton was the originator of the non-fraternization order. That issue was more compound than that, it probably originated in the States and the origin went back before the landing on the continent.

One consideration that was proposed (considered?) about Germany for the period after the war was to make them an Agricultural nation. I seem to recall this reportedly came from the Secretary of War Woodring. With Mr. O'Neill, I agreed – it was an unworkable plan that was doomed to failure.

In our Division we had a Major who was on the Court Marshal Board and his one verdict, regardless, was 20 years; and let someone up above review.

One such incident, our Platoon was billeted in a Post Office in this small Village and about 300 feet from the Tauber River. The young Frauleins, well aware of

the non-frat rule, would gather on the bank, on our side of the river, disrobe and put on a bathing suit. It was May, the birds were singing, the flowers were blooming and the hormones were raging...guess.

One day, the above mentioned Major came to our Platoon to inspect. Doom! We walked around the Post Office and the rail cars loaded with ammo we were guarding, and then he spotted the girls in the river. I inwardly wept. Here this poor devil had gone through the war without being seriously wounded or killed, and was now facing 20 years of hard labor!

The Major said: "Soldier, come up here. 'Teh Verstehe Nicht. Verstehen Side English? Neil! Women Side Her."

The guy stood up and I thought oh dear God he will have on Khaki shorts! Thank the good Lord he had on civilian bathing trunks! To this day I do not know where he got them!

As we walked away the Major said to me, "He sure looks familiar. Are you sure you don't know him?" I answered, "Major, I have never seen this guy in my life." I never doubted that the good Lord forgave me for that lie.

We had a Captain in Company K who was wounded the same day I was – more seriously and now deceased, once remarked to me after we had observed some incidences: "There are three things you can do with the American GI, you can look at him; you can laugh at him; and you can cry."

When I look at that last sentence I feel like doing the same.

I will be 88 years old on my birthday and I feel very fortunate. I am most times reduced to: Pray for Peace – Keep the Faith – and drink Scotch whiskey!

## Misunderstanding?

Hitler and Goering were riding in a limo through farm country when the car hit and killed a pig. Hitler told Goering to go to the farmhouse and offer to pay for the pig.

Goering returned five minutes later with a puzzled look and carrying two large sausages and four bottles of beer.

Hitler said, "Tell me exactly what you said."

Goering replied, "I told the farmer, Heil Hitler, the pig is dead."

## *Miller visits Switzerland as a replacement in 254th Regiment, Company C*



I joined the 254<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Company C on April 1, 1945, as a replacement. We were pulled off the front lines about April 29. Toward the end of May I was sent to the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, because I did not have enough points to be sent home.

When the war was over in September 1945, I was sent to Headquarters Company, SHAEF, in Frankfurt, Germany as a file clerk. Within three months, I was chief file clerk.

We were given an opportunity to go to Switzerland for a week. My visit was in Lucerne, Switzerland.

In April I had enough points to be shipped home and was discharged in May 1946. The Captain of our company at SHAEF said he would make me a Master Sgt. if I would stay in. I declined!

*Harvey S. Miller - C 254 - taken November 1945 while on leave in Switzerland.*



## 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.

## Moving?

Please 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.*

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 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., Tuscon, 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 

# *Enjoy some of the different sites in Indianapolis during the 2008 Reunion*

- ~ The USS Indianapolis CA-35 National Memorial
- ~ The Civil War Museum
- ~ The Congressional Medal of Honor Memorial
- ~ Beef & Boards Dinner & Theatre
- ~ Indianapolis Zoo & White River Gardens
- ~ Fountain Square
- ~ The Children's Museum of Indianapolis
- ~ Conner Prairie
- ~ Hall of Fame Museum
- ~ NCAA Hall of Champions
- ~ White River State Park
- ~ Easley Winery
- ~ Indiana World War Memorial and Veteran's Memorial Plaza
- ~ American Legion Mall
- ~ University Park
- ~ Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument



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

## **63rd Division Association**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

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

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### **CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

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