



★ CAMP BLANDING ★ CAMP VAN DORN ★

Blood and Fire

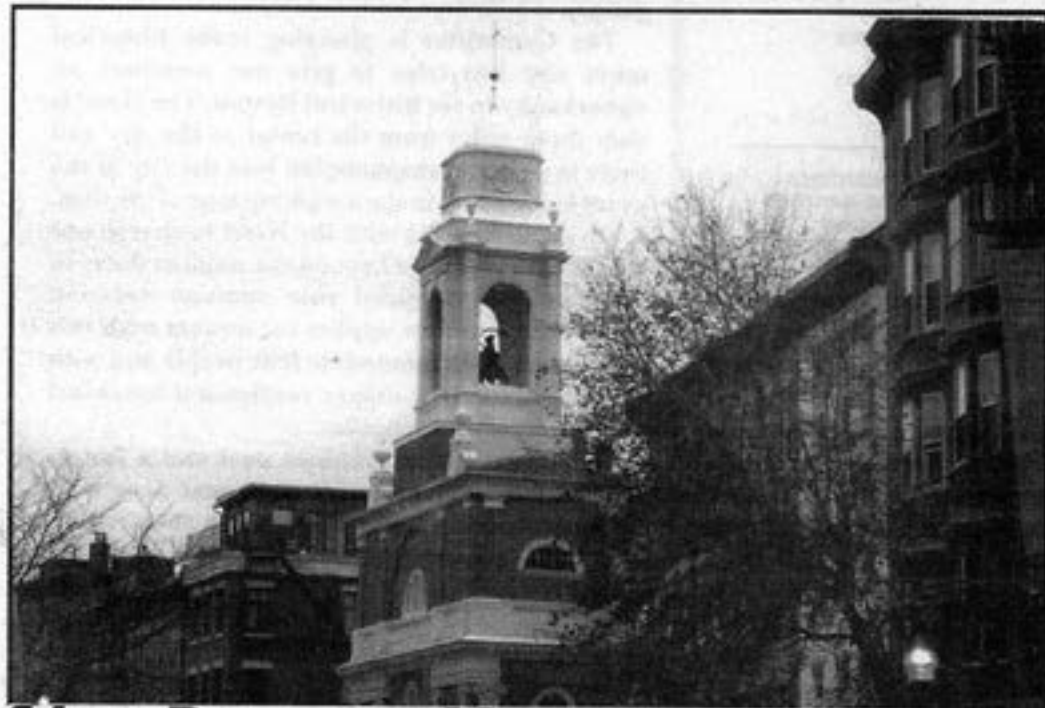
63rd Division Association, Inc.

• ARDENNES / ALSACE • RHINELAND • CENTRAL EUROPE •

VOL. 60, NO. 3

MOROCCO, INDIANA 47963

NOVEMBER 2008



OLD
NORTH
CHURCH

61ST BOSTON, MASS. — AUGUST 12 - 16, 2009



PAUL
REVERE
HOUSE

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 Robert Capasso

The Massachusetts Committee Welcomes the 63rd Division and the 63rd USAR members to the 63rd Division's 61st Reunion to be held in Boston in August 2009. The last time we had a reunion in Boston was in 1955 when the sixth annual reunion was held here and the association was in its early formative stage and now we are returning in our 61st reunion year (where have all those years gone?).

The Committee is planning many historical tours and bus trips to give our members an opportunity to see historical Boston. The Hotel is only three miles from the center of the city and there is public transportation into the city in the event you want to make a walking tour of the sites.

We are arranging with the Hotel to charge one rate that may extend beyond the reunion dates so you can plan to spend your summer vacation here. The same rate applies for a room with two beds that can accommodate four people and with the complimentary deluxe continental breakfast the rate is very reasonable.

The Hotel has an outdoor pool and a fitness area. There is a recreation area next door with billiards, bowling and games, which should keep the grand-kids busy.

There are three sandy public beaches in the area that can be reached for an afternoon dip in our Atlantic Ocean. In addition "Castle Island" (which is really a peninsular) off South Boston which has a recreational area overlooking Boston Harbor and is only two miles from the hotel.

Our remodeled waterfront museums offer a different source of leisure vacation with the completion of a \$47-million expansion of the Children's Museum and Institute of Contemporary Art with a 325-seat theater glass walls facing Boston Harbor.

The Bunker Hill Museum in the City with a \$3.7-million renovation of the 163-year old Bunker Hill Monument. A 360-degree cyclorama mural, commemorating the Battle of Bunker Hill, with more than 100 images of the battle, and the monument. Right on the same waterfront the ship U.S. Constitution, launched in 1797, is the oldest active ship in the U.S. Navy.

Boston Harbor cruise and cruises for whale watching completes the Harbor adventure along with a ferry ride to Spectacle Island of a 14-year rehabilitation project of more than 3 million

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

from the president ...

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

cubic yards of dirt, gravel and clay turning the 105-acre island with five miles of walking trails and panoramic views of the harbor.

I have taken the unusual step in publishing the Tour Descriptions in this issue which were planned almost a year ahead of the reunion date. The descriptions sound like an advertisement for a vacation tour – and that is exactly which it is – with a little different twist.

When you go with a tour, you mix with a bunch of people of different ages, backgrounds and various interests. With the 63rd tour, you mix with people of your same age group and with an affinity and camaraderie that binds us by having been together in the States, France, Colmar and Germany. It is a relationship that is indefinable but is enduring and heartfelt.

Having been together through so much and so long ago gives us the opportunity to relive the times, whether it was good or bad, and to realize that we all experienced the same thing at one time.

I have had comments from 63rds who complain that they never see anyone from their old outfit at these reunions. Well, that may be, but everyone is a 63rder and at our age, what really counts is that we are together again and it makes us rethink those events in days long gone by.

All the motor tours that are planned will give us a chance to be together and meet new friends. This relationship will last long after the reunion is over.

We recommend our members extend their stay and use the Hotel as the base for the many trips that can be taken. Cape Cod National Seashore has many public beaches with sand dunes and can be reached in a two-hour drive. North of Boston, with its Cape Anne has Salem, Gloucester and Rockport that can be also reached in a two-hour drive.

We will announce hotel and tour rates in the next issue of the *Blood and Fire* so you can start to prepare for your summer outing to 'The Spirit of America' here in Massachusetts.

RECEIVED TWO COPIES?

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

Thank you so much.

Donna LaCrosse

From the editor . . .

Donna LaCrosse

Greetings from Indiana! Fall is in the air and the mice are looking for a warm winter haven. I just don't know why they picked our house. We have been invaded with the uninvited guests and have gone on a trapping spree.

We first bought traps that refused to "snap" and the peanut butter bait was gone almost before the trap was out of Harold's hands. Four days later, and a half jar of peanut butter gone, we decided we needed to get a different kind of trap. In our town, one just does not go down to the store and purchase mouse traps! One grocery store and one auto parts store is as much as we have to offer.

So, off to the WalMart store in the neighboring town for new traps. We now have five less mice in the house!! We also have peanut butter left just in case we see tracks of more mice!

Harold left the breezeway and the small garage door open one day last week and a cat we didn't even know was a mother, moved her three little babes into the garage. Now the doors remain open just far enough for the entering and exiting of another kind of furry animal. I am not sure I can handle all this excitement!

So much for my prattle – I know you are asking yourself what mice and kittens have to do with editing the *Blood and Fire*, but I like sharing my life events with you guys – it is more fun to write prattle than to write about how much time I spend getting this publication ready, how much it will cost to publish and how I have to fret about you receiving your copy without undue delay.

I have been so happy getting stories from you and hope you continue to send them to me. I certainly don't want this to stop – I need something interesting to put on the pages of your magazine. Pictures are always welcome, and newspaper clippings are also nice to receive.

The *Blood and Fire* went together quite nicely this time – my aim was to get it in the mail before the holiday mail rush began. If you remember last year, it was late in January when some of you received the November issue. I hope you all know I have no control as to when you will receive the publication because the government won't let me manage the postal service!

Sending a change of address is very important. It always seems as though we have more issues returned because people have moved and not left a forwarding address, or the forwarding address time has expired. At times the post office will stamp "deceased" on the magazine and return it to me, but they never tell me

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 25

Celebration of Life



The following deaths were reported after the May 2008 issue of the "Blood & Fire" was printed. Please notify the secretary when you hear of the death of a person from the 63rd.

Perry L. "Bam" Bridges, MED 255, passed August 9, 2008. His son, Perry L. Bridges Jr. reported his death.

Harvey A. Carrow, A 254, passed April 19, 2008. He lived at 8 Perry Park Lane, Kinston, NC 28501. John Burney reported his death.

Robert E. Crane, H 254, passed August 28, 2008. His widow, Sophia, remains at Fairfield Glade, TN. Their former address was 125 Eagle Lane, Crossville, TN 38558.

James J. Driscoll, H 253, passed August 6, 2008. His wife, Agnes lives at 148 Foester, San Francisco, CA 94112. His son, Robert. Reported his death.

Jerry Harrison, D 254, passed March 17, 1998. His grandson, Josh Watson reported his death.

Robert E. Herzler, SV 255, passed March 16, 2008. His widow, Maggie, lives at 509 E. Mill Valley Road, Palatine, IL 60074-3715.

Theodore Katsavos, REC 63, passed February 25, 2008. His widow, Aphrodite, lives at 11485 Oakhurst Road #1200-306, Largo, FL 33774.

Joseph H. Leighton, H 254, passed in 1961. His niece, Dana Leighton, reported his death.

Matthew F. Maggiore, FA 863, passed June 22, 2008. His widow, Virginia lives at 162 Curry Avenue, Turtle Creek, PA 15145.

Alfred Rehm, Med. 253, attached to F 253 and later was in A 363, passed August 5, 2008. His daughter, Marilyn, reported his death. His widow, Evelyn, lives at 310 Runnymede Dr. #210, Wayne, NJ 07470.

Henry Wade Talbert, M 253, passed June 9, 2008. His wife, Joan, lives at 36018 Palestine Rd., Albemarle, NC 28001.

DEATH OF SPOUSE

Dorine, wife of Gerard Bungert, FA 718, passed May 2, 2008. He lives at 6521 Eldorado Drive, Morton Grove, IL 60053.

Purple Heart, Bronze Star Medal, and Oak Leaf Cluster.

He has been honored by the Irwin Memorial Blood Bank and the Veteran's Administration Medical Center for his donation of 15-gallons of blood. He volunteered his time over eight-years to the veterans at the VAMC. He was also a member of the St. Finn Barr's Senior Club and the Mission YMCA.

Jim is survived by his wife, Agnes, of 57 years, seven children, and ten grandchildren.

NOTICE 253RD AND 255TH

We have been without challenge coins for the 253rd and 255th since the coins were offered for the 63rd and 254th several years ago.

Fred Clinton arranged for those and bought the first order, then sold the remaining coins to the history effort. We would like to be able to get the other two items for those who would like them. We don't have the final quotes on the cost of the dies and the coins at this hour.

It appears that we should order a smaller quantity in only one of the colors. We would choose the antique bronze. Our estimated price would be about \$20 each. We would also order more 63rd ones at the same time.

If you would like to order these new 253rd and 255th coins that I have described above, please send me a letter or email to the addresses sown in two places in the *Blood and Fire* that you are reading.

If we get enough interest we could then order the dies and coins, which would be shown in the following *Blood and Fire* issues and on the website.

Bill Scott, Historian

~~~~~  
Grandparents can take their teeth and gums out.

Grandparents don't have to be smart!

Usually Grandmothers are fat, but not too fat  
to tie our shoes!

## James J. Driscoll

James J. Driscoll, H 253, passed away peacefully on August 6, 2008. He served in World War II; earned the

**FINANCIAL REPORT 2008**  
August 1, 2007 – July 31, 2008

**Opening Balance – Checking Account**

**\$ 18,943.11**

**Add: Income:**

|                        |          |
|------------------------|----------|
| Interest Check Account | 210.12   |
| Dues Paid              | 5,040.00 |
| Donations              | 2,496.00 |
| Ad Book                | 2,495.00 |
| Ad Book Donations      | 558.00   |
| 2007 Reunion Return    | 569.93   |
| Check Overpay          | 2.00     |

**\$ 11,371.05**

**\$ 30,314.16**

**Less: Expenses**

|                   |                                                        |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Telephone:        | \$ 33.93                                               |
| Office Supplies:  | 192.12 – envelopes, memo pads, letterheads, dues cards |
| Postage Stamps:   | 248.00                                                 |
| Scott Reunion:    | 3,199.66 - 2007                                        |
| LaCrosse Reunion: | 2,454.37 - 2007                                        |
| LaCrosse Salary:  | 600.00                                                 |
| Seed Money:       | 2,000.00                                               |
| Charter Renewal:  | 15.00                                                  |
| Bond Insurance:   | 233.89                                                 |
| Camp Van Dorn:    | 400.00 – 2006 and 2007                                 |
| Camp Blanding:    | 400.00 – 2006 and 2007                                 |
| Robert McCourt:   | 88.82 – 2009 Reunion Items                             |
| 2007 Ad Books:    | 705.16                                                 |
| Marsh Allen:      | 549.92 – shipping and tipping fees                     |
| Scratch Pads:     | 215.50 – 2008 reunion items                            |
| Blood and Fire:   | 9,030.25                                               |

**TOTAL EXPENSES: \$ 20,366.62**

**Balance – Check Account**

**\$ 9,947.54**

**Opening Balance – Certificate of Deposit**

**\$ 24,417.55**

**Add Interest**

**1,285.55**

**Balance – Certificate of Deposit**

**\$ 25,703.13**

**TOTAL ASSETS:**

**Checking Account: \$ 9,847.54**

**Certificate of Deposit 25,703.12**

**\$ 30,650.66**

*Donna LaCrosse*  
*Treasurer*

# OUR HISTORY: THEN AND NOW

by Bill Scott, 11-Sep-2008

e-mail: wjs631@comcast.net

The Indianapolis 60th reunion history room visitors spent much time looking at the latest unit roster and alphabetical list printouts using the Excel spreadsheet computer program. I was hoping that would happen. The sales of the history items was very good with the table in the same room with the items of history, plus Fred Clinton with his computer and printer and near the check-in table.

The reunion sales pattern is directly dependent on those factors as shown over the last ten years of sales. When the history display is somewhat hidden away our members can't see the stuff, and the interest dies. The number of sale items available has also played a part, as you might expect.

During the reunion city tour we were viewing the tremendous number of items on display at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Hall of Fame Museum when I heard my name being paged. When I checked with them I was told that our associate member Scott Wilcox wanted me to see a certain display.

That was a huge trophy for the winner of the 500 mile race of 1919 which was won by Howard S. "Howdy" Wilcox, Sr. He was the father of Howard S. "Howdy" Wilcox, Jr. who was my first combat company commander of E-254, and grandfather of Scott Wilcox.

Howdy, Sr. started racing there at the Inaugural 500 in 1911. He raced there all the years between except when there was no racing in World War I. He was the first pole winner in 1915 at 98.90 mph.

He was the first to make a qualifying lap over 100 mph. He was killed in a race on another track on September 4, 1923.

This explains why Howdy, Jr. was very involved at the Speedway for many years. It also led to his starting the Indiana University Bicycle 500 in 1951.

I had some great help from Ed Fowle's family, my wife Cele, Karin Marzano, and Mike Thomson, in getting the history room set up, selling history items, and getting the displays organized for packaging, etc. Some of the map displays with frames and clear covers that got damaged in shipping by UPS and FedEx were not shown. I hope to have more damage resistant map covers ready for the 2009 Boston reunion.

Getting the seven flags and the many history displays from one reunion site to the next one was

getting more complicated each year, and one never knew if the one who had them at their residence would be able to get them to the next location if there was a health or death problem.

The members and their family members who have not looked at the history rooms in detail over the years may not know what is on display and how it is organized, so I thought I would now tell some of the details.

We like to have room for at least 10 round tables, and another 5-6 rectangular tables against a wall for display of the map copies, large photos, and other items.

The round tables are set up so there is one for each of the infantry regiments, one for the artillery units, one for the Special Troops, the support battalions, and attached men in the combat months.

Those five tables have the unit rosters on 11 x 17 paper in large blue binders for all known men who served in those units in the entire 1943-45 years.

Another round table has the copies of the wartime *Blood & Fire* issues in binders that each have several months of 1943-45.

Another round table has the latest copies of the alphabetical listing with 17 columns of data from the rosters. There are 6 binders to spread the weight around and let more people look for information at once. There is no duplication of the letters in the binders.

One table has the booklets about the three WWII campaigns that the 63rd was in with the 7th Army, and the 254th with the French First Army for several weeks.

There are other tables for pictures, photos, and booklets that include all kinds of data, information and copies of our stuff. There are other items on the tables that could fit into the room.

To make it easier for people to find some of the data there are multiple copies of the abbreviation list, the history data summaries, the casualty summaries, and a few other items that might not be at every reunion.

Fred Clinton brought the pile of John Graves' collection of photos, letters, and other data that he has donated to the 63rd History group. Fred put some stuff

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

## COMPUTER DATA PRINTOUTS AND COPIES

PLEASE PRINT!

|                                                                                                 | UNIT #1<br>Company,                 | UNIT #2<br>Battery, HQ? | COST/EACH |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| 1943-45 Unit Roster of Men (w/rank, serial no.,<br>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 CAMPBLANDING CADRE MEN with data                                           |                                     |                         | \$5 ea.   |
| Today's Address & Phone List of CAMPBLANDING 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, 70,258 names |                                     |                         | \$74 ea.  |

## MAP COPIES

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

## HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS

|                                                                                           |       |             |          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------------|----------|
| 2nd Bn. -253 4-12 April 1945 events, rosters & Pres. Unit Citation award                  |       | \$14 ea.    |          |
| Regimental histories for January-May 1945 in binders, copied from monthly combat reports: |       |             |          |
| 253rd                                                                                     | 254th | 255th       | \$13 ea. |
| 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.. "QUINTA ESSENTIA" (The Quintessence)..... | Not avail.                           |
| 254th Infantry Regiment with motto.. "DEATH BEFORE DEFEAT".....                | \$5 ea.                              |
| 255th Infantry Regiment with motto.. "COR FERREUM" (Heart of Steel).....       | \$5 ea.                              |
| Colored pin description w/honors & 63rd Div. emblems.....                      | 253rd __, 254th __, 255th __ \$1 ea. |

## HAT PINS &amp; BOLA TIES

|                                                                                             |          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 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 de Guerre 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.  |

July 2008 form #64

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



**BLOOD AND FIRE REPORT 2008****NOVEMBER 2007****48 Pages – 1,772 Copies**

|                                  |                                           |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <b>Composition and Printing:</b> | <b>\$ 2,396.32</b>                        |
| <b>Postage for Mailing:</b>      | <b>608.61</b>                             |
| <b>Travel:</b>                   | <b>16.00 – taking pictures to printer</b> |
| <b>Blood &amp; Fire Returns:</b> | <b>28.13</b>                              |
| <b>Blood &amp; Fire Re-mail</b>  | <b>30.85</b>                              |

**NOVEMBER TOTAL: \$ 3,079.91****FEBRUARY 2008****40 Pages – 1,785 Copies**

|                                  |                                           |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <b>Composition and Printing:</b> | <b>\$ 2,210.68</b>                        |
| <b>Postage To Mail:</b>          | <b>596.92</b>                             |
| <b>Travel:</b>                   | <b>16.00 – taking pictures to printer</b> |
| <b>Blood &amp; Fire Returns:</b> | <b>39.75</b>                              |
| <b>Blood &amp; Fire Re-mail:</b> | <b>24.14</b>                              |

**FEBRUARY TOTAL: \$ 2,887.49****MAY 2008****48 Pages – 1,750 Copies**

|                                  |                                           |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <b>Composition and Printing:</b> | <b>\$ 2,342.70</b>                        |
| <b>Postage To Mail:</b>          | <b>623.04</b>                             |
| <b>Travel:</b>                   | <b>16.00 – taking pictures to printer</b> |
| <b>Blood &amp; Fire Returns:</b> | <b>33.27</b>                              |
| <b>Blood &amp; Fire Re-mail:</b> | <b>47.84</b>                              |

**MAY TOTAL: \$ 3,062.85****TOTAL COST: \$ 9,030.25****NOTE: Travel to Rensselaer is 40 miles round trip. I made two trips each time @ \$.20 per mile.*****Donna LaCrosse***  
***Editor***

**DECEASED ROSTER 2008**

Manual Pas Afinacao – G 254 – May 24, 2007  
 Wayne M. Baty – E 253 – February 23, 2008  
 James A. Bender – SIG 563 – October 8, 2007  
 Albert M. Bisinger – I 254 – January 25, 1945  
 William L. Bostwick – HQ 254 – May 6, 2006  
 Perry L. Bridges – MED 255 – August 9, 2008  
 Archie Brown – AT HQ – September 2007  
 Harold J. "Holly" Butler – K 253 – Nov. 23, 2006  
 Sherman M. Byrd – A 254 – March 31, 2008  
 Louis R. Cammarosana – HQ 863 – Dec. 24, 2006  
 Alfred P. Ciullo – C 253 – January 20, 2008  
 Clarence A. Conklin – AT 254 – June 7, 2007  
 Clarence A. Cozart – MED 255 – December 4, 1984  
 Clement E. Dasch – E 253 – November 29, 2007  
 Edward A. Decker – K & M 254 – Sept. 30, 2007  
 Charles Dolski – C 253 – February 14, 2008  
 Ronald O. Dunlap – B 863 FA – September 2006  
 William Egan – AT 861 – January 2007  
 William I. Farmer – CN 255 – June 14, 2008  
 Joseph H. Fennell – I 255 & E 255 – March 25, 2008  
 Luke T. Graniera – E 253 – July 2007  
 Leonard E. Harpst – HQ 254 – November 30, 2007  
 John Hazelton – HQ 253 – January 29, 2007  
 Harry H. Heck – AT 63 – February 19, 2003  
 Roy Howard – HQ 863 – December 9, 2007  
 Ralph L. Immings – HQ 255 – April 3, 2003  
 Clarence E. Jack – E 255 – September 2007  
 Myron Jennings – E 254 – September 2, 2007  
 Robert J. Johnson – SV 862 – March 10, 2008  
 Wright Johnson – D 253&E 255 – 2002  
 Theodore Katsavos – RECON 63 – Feb. 25, 2008  
 Ralph Lazar – D 254 – January 11, 2008  
 Joseph Harlan Leighton – H 254 – 1961  
 Robert LeMarbe – G 253 – January 20, 2008  
 Robert B. Lemieux – B 254 – August 28, 2007  
 Joseph S. Mack – L 254 – September 5, 2007  
 Matthew F. Maggiore – B 863 – June 22, 2008  
 Frank M. Mahoney – F 255 – August 7, 2007  
 Kenneth R. Mancini Sr. – G 254 – February 20, 2008  
 Rowe W. Maxwell – B 254 – June 16, 2007  
 Joseph J. Mazai – K 253 – August 23, 2006  
 George J. Mitchell Jr. – G 253&F 254 – Mar. 26, '94  
 George Murchio – D 254 – January 21, 2008  
 Joseph Panicucci – G 254 2005  
 Michael J. Pilleri – G 255 – March 24, 2008  
 Harold Purman – B 253 – September 24, 1986  
 David L. Reed – FA 862 – June 2008  
 David W. Redmayne – AF 862 – September 19, 2006  
 Alfred Rehm – F 253 – August 5, 2008  
 Julius Ruffutola – K 255 – December 2007  
 Steve Sabarich – B 253 – May 16, 2007  
 Frank A. Segredin – HQ 255 – October 30, 2006

Paul Shandey – K 255 – July 31, 2002  
 William Shumway – DIV HQ – 2006  
 Maurice E. Sink – C 254 – February 22, 2008  
 William R. Slagle – Hq. 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. 253 – 1999  
 Joseph Smigielski – K 255 – 2008  
 Irvin L. Smith – HQ 255 – March 19, 1997  
 Ralph J. Smith – MED 253 – 1982  
 James E. Sonneborn – C 253 – October 28, 2007  
 Alex Strecker – K 255 – no date given  
 Lester Swallow – H 255 – January 9, 2008  
 Henry Wade Talbert – M 253 – June 9, 2008  
 Emlen H. Tharp Jr. – A 363 MED – Feb. 1, 2006  
 Vincent Tramuta – K 255 – October 5, 2007  
 Norman Walton – AT 862 – October 19, 2007  
 Charles Weise – AT 862 – October 24, 2007  
 John C. Woodroof – I 253 – September 15, 2007  
 Frederick C. Yauchzy – H 255 – no date given  
 Edward Zareski – L 253 – December 15, 2007

**DEATH OF SPOUSE**

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

Mrs. Lyle Atwood, wife of Lyle Atwood, HQ 254 – died 2006.

Mary Byrnes, wife of Bill Byrnes, I 254 – died April 30, 2008

Virginia Cadle, wife of Charles Cadle, HQ 254 – died December 6, 2007.

Doris Cameron, wife of Herbert Cameron, FA 862 – died August 29, 2007.

Jackie Conroy, wife of Delbert L. Conroy, F 253 – died June 2008.

Neola Cozart, widow of Clarence A. Cozart, MED 255 – died March 17, 1999.

Margery R. Hamblen, former wife of the late Arch Hamblin, M 254 – died February 1, 2008.

Jean J. Heck, widow of Harry H. Heck, AT 63 – died June 19, 2007.

Kay Howard, wife of Roy Howard, HQ 863 – died October 17, 2007.

Mary C. Lanfrit, widow of John Lanfrit, HQ 254 – died February 15, 2008.

Margaret Lindemann, widow of Oscar Lindemann, HQ 254 – died June 16, 2008.

Jez Linscott, wife of Dr. John "Jack" Linscott, A 253 – died December 5, 2007.

Gertrude Loucks, Wife of Howard Loucks, D 254 – died July 6, 2007.

Gladys Myers, widow of George W. Myers, HQ 253 – died January 2007.

Helen Louise Oehler, wife of Orville Oehler, F 254 – died October 5, 2007.

## Deaths . . .

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Rose Panicucci, wife of the late Joe Panicucci, G 254 – died no date given.

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

Dorothy "Dottie" Young, widow of Pop Young, G 253 – died November 27, 2007.

## Our history . . .

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

into the website and some went to Camp Van Dorn, MS. It will take me a while to sort through the stuff when I am not working on orders or getting the morning report files ready for shipment to the Army History and Education Center in Carlisle, PA, which is high on the priority list.

Fred is working on getting quotes for adding challenge coins for the 253rd and 255th to our listing, and adding to our small stock of 63rd coins before the next reunion.

## Boston: Helpful information

There is a complimentary shuttle from Logan Airport to the hotel, five miles.

There is complimentary transportation every half hour to trolley and subway to the city.

A complimentary continental breakfast is available at the hotel with extended menu provided daily from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Whale watch tours or Boston Harbor tours are available on own schedule.

Walking tour of Boston's Freedom Trail, which passes many of the city's historic sites, is simple to follow – red bricks or granite stone imbedded into the sidewalk and some places, in redline painted onto the sidewalk or streets. Trail begins at Boston Common, the oldest public park – 1634.

Italian, Chinese, Japanese, and other specialty restaurants are available on your own schedule in the city.

Thirty minutes drive from the hotel to the adjoining City of Quincy with the house of John Adams, the second president, and house of John Quincy Adams, the sixth president.

One hour auto drive West to Lexington and Concord, where 'Shot Heard Round The World'

on April 19, 1775, first conflict with the British, drove British back and forced retreat to Boston.

Two hour drive south to Cape Cod with beaches, shops and sand dunes of Cape Cod National Seashore.

Two hour auto drive north to city of Gloucester (fishing center from 1623) and city of Rockport's artists' colony.

## Ramada Inn site for 2009 reunion

The Ramada Inn Boston has been selected as the host hotel for the 2009 reunion. It is located at 800 Morrissey Blvd, Boston right along the shoreline to Boston Harbor.

It is five miles from Logan International Airport and three miles from the center of the city of Boston, and one mile from the University of Massachusetts, with the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum.

Ramada Inn provides free scheduled van service to and from Logan Airport and also free scheduled van service to the nearest subway station for public transportation to the city and free scheduled van service to the J.F. Kennedy Library and Museum.

The hotel provides free deluxe continental breakfast, with an extended menu, from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. daily right in the area of the main lobby of the hotel.

A motor tour of all the historic sites on the Freedom Trail in the City of Boston is planned but a subway ride by public transportation to the same historical sites will allow more time for an in-depth review of history and why Boston is called the 'Spirit of America.'

There is an outdoor pool and a 44-lane Bowling Center with Pocket Billiards and Family Fun Center adjacent to the hotel. There are three public beaches nearby that can be an attraction for sun and sea. The Boston City tour will include a short harbor cruise but extended harbor cruises are also available.

With the savings in cost for daily breakfast during the hotel stay and savings in taxi fare to and from the airport and low cost for public

# 61<sup>ST</sup> REUNION

## BOSTON – AUGUST 12 – 16, 2009

### TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

*Thursday, August 13, 2009*  
(9:30 AM – 3:30 PM)

#### **City Tour with Harbor Cruise (Boston established 1630)**

Along the historical sights of the Freedom Trail, Bunker Hill Monument (221-foot obelisk) and museum (battle with British June 17, 1775), Old North Church (oldest church building 1723) (Lanterns in bell tower warning on how British were to march to Lexington), the Old State House where the Declaration of Independence was first publicly read on July 18, 1776.

US Constitution (Old Ironsides) launched October 21, 1797, a 44 gun frigate. Oldest commissioned ship in world. Faneuil Hall: Original building built in 1742 where meetings were held. Includes North & South Markets and an adjacent Quincy Market, a renovated 19<sup>th</sup> century complex containing over 70 specialty shops & restaurants, produce stands and retail pushcarts. Street performers entertaining continuously.

Short Harbor Cruise of Boston Waterfront: Lunch on your own at Union Oyster House, America's oldest restaurant.

Includes Bus and Harbor Cruise, narrated tour and return to hotel by 3:30 P.M.

*Thursday, August 13, 2009*  
(7:00 P.M. – 11:00 P.M.)

Buffet Dinner at Hotel, Cash Bar, soft Music and Dancing.

Recreation complex at adjoining building, including bowling, billiards and games.

*Friday, August 14, 2009*  
(10 A.M. – 2 P.M.)

#### **Bus Tour Plymouth (40 miles)**

Plymouth Rock – pilgrims landed December 1620. Rock is protected by granite portico. Self guided tours on Pilgrim Path of 20 historical sites. Mayflower II – a reproduction of ship that brought Pilgrims to America. Tours of the vessel and exhibition on the dock. Lunch on your own; many fine restaurants on the dock area.

Return to hotel by 2 p.m.

*Friday, August 14, 2009*  
(6 P.M. – 9 P.M.)

#### **Shopping and Dinner Tour**

Bus transportation to Copley Square in Boston. Prudential Center at Copley Square of 52-story, 28-acre complex of shops, restaurants, plaza and covered walkway. Skywalk Observatory at Prudential Center on 50<sup>th</sup> floor panorama of City and suburbs.

Trinity Church of Romanesque in style concentrated in 1877. Dinner on your own. Many fine restaurants in the center. Return to hotel by 9 p.m.

*Saturday Afternoon, August 15, 2009*  
(2 p.m. – 5 p.m.)

Complimentary Shuttle from hotel every half hour to:

John F. Kennedy (35<sup>th</sup> president) Library & museum. Admission is \$10. One mile from hotel. Next to University of Massachusetts campus. Last film one hour and ten minutes before closing.

## 63rd Infantry Division Association Historian's report for 2007 - 2008

The annual unit rosters that were printed for this reunion showed a net gain of 27 men's names with rank, serial number, unit, and other data from the recent completed research of the fall of 1944 unit morning reports. The total names, including the attached units in combat, now have reached 70,258 with the 63rd section showing 97.62% with a serial number versus 97.48% last year. The small number of new names was caused by solving a number of misspelled name entries from records and the wartime *Blood & Fire* issues.

The research has enabled the transfer of 9 names from the various unit unknown rosters in the data summaries to known unit rosters.

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

With Fred Clinton's skills and the data inherited, plus the combat morning reports acquired a few years ago, we now offer CDs for the updated "Chronicles" book, the wartime *Blood & Fire* issues, the histories of the regiments, the artillery group, the special troops, and the support battalions, a pictorial history of the 63rd, and the combat months morning reports of all the units. There may be additional data and photos in some of the CDs for late 2007 and 2008 issues.

The current number of items that have been bought from us or donated by us to museums now totals over 24,000 items.

The old rosters and other printouts from 2006 that were obsoleted by the new 11 x 17 series with the information that is shown in different print type with gridlines in the new heavy binders were sent to the Camp Van Dorn Museum in Centreville, MS. Some of the private information is retained in the computers but not printed for various reasons.

The next few weeks or months will be used to get the 1943 and 1944 morning reports before Dec. 1944 packaged and sent to the Army History and Education

Center in Carlisle, PA. After that there will more editing from the 2008 alpha lists after HA to refine data, get missing data for men into their correct roster, if possible, and find more info that will get misspelled names corrected, along with some missing serial numbers in some units.

After that a new serial number index will be formed, and more editing will be done if there is time.

William J. Scott,  
3rd 63rd ID Association Historian  
16-August-2008

### *Ramada Inn . . .*

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

transportation, the hotel rate is a reasonable expense for the reunion and is highly competitive with the rates of hotels in the center of the city.

Further information can be obtained directly from the hotel at 617-287-9100 or 800-886-0056, and on the inter-net at [www.bostonhotel.com](http://www.bostonhotel.com).

### *New members found at the Reunion*

Three people attending the Indianapolis reunion became associate members of the Association and one person not attending the reunion became a new associate member, compliments of a good friend.

Cass Arthur, at 128 Eastside Drive, Brandon, MS 39047. His father was Homer Arthur, K 253.

Mac Arthur, 1300 Highway 25 South, Lena, Ms 39094. His father was Homer Arthur, K 253. Mac is a big brother to Cass.

Pat DeClercq, 3609 Elwood Ave, South Bend, IN 46628-1429. Her brother was Richard Noble, C 253. Richard was Killed In Action on April 7, 1945.

Mark Lindemann, 14513 S. Shore Drive, Valders, WI 54245. His father was Oscar Lindemann, M 254. Oscar passed away December 7, 2002 and Oscar's widow, Margaret passed away June 16, 2008.

# 63rd Infantry Division Association Historian's Financial Report to Council for 2007 - 2008

From 30-Jun-2007 to 30-June-2008 I have recorded the following:

30-Jun-2007 Checking Account balance.....\$2,079.38

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Orders for books, printouts, maps, patches, pins,<br>CDs, etc., plus included postage donations, new<br>patches and caps, and pins' refund.....                                                                                          | \$2,596.40        |
| Available cash.....                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <u>\$4,675.78</u> |
| Expenses:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                   |
| Postage & shipping out.....                                                                                                                                                                                                              | \$374.38          |
| Printer cable for History HP 9800 printer.....                                                                                                                                                                                           | \$31.16           |
| Copying of 8.5 x 11 and 11 x 17 sheets, plus<br>office supplies such as paper, printer and<br>copier cartridges, envelopes, binders, tapes,<br>display magnifiers, report covers, checks +<br>Nat'l. Veterans News Network and CDs ..... | \$1,426.36        |
| Repairs of History computer & change to 1998-SE.....                                                                                                                                                                                     | \$70.00           |
| Epson CX5000 printer, copier & scanner to replace<br>HP 4-function machine that died.....                                                                                                                                                | \$43.21           |
| Patches and pins .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | \$493.69          |
| Long distance phone calls.....                                                                                                                                                                                                           | \$33.10           |
| Travel to DeKalb.....                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | \$13.95           |
| Expense total.....                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <u>\$2,485.85</u> |
| 30-Jun-2008 Checkbook balance .....                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <u>\$2,189.93</u> |

The increase in cash will soon be used to replace inventory that is low for various items.

The sales pattern was different this fiscal year with some of the older items not moving as before, and sales at the Tacoma reunion were the worst in recent years with the small attendance. There were also more repairs and replacement problems than usual for the equipment that has been in service for many years. I paid for the new HP 9800 printer that replaced an HP printer that I owned that is on my computer that is connected to the Internet so the 63rd computer is not exposed to possible problems.

William J. Scott,  
3rd 63rd ID Association Historian  
28-July-2008

## NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF THOSE ATTENDING THE INDIANAPOLIS REUNION

|                                                                                                |                              |                 |    |       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|----|-------|
| Joe & Margaret Aguzzi F 253                                                                    | 1500 Yale Street             | Cleveland       | MS | 38732 |
| Marsh and Helen Allen FA 861                                                                   | 7714 Chinook Avenue          | Gig Harbor      | WA | 98335 |
| Vern & Donnis Althberg C 253                                                                   | 289 Jamison Circle #5        | Littleton       | CO | 80120 |
| Ralph F. & Betty Altman K 255                                                                  | 555 Demmler Drive            | Pittsburgh      | PA | 15237 |
| Renee Amend Associate                                                                          | 461 17 <sup>th</sup> Street  | Dunbar          | WV | 25064 |
| Carl & Kit Anderson E 253                                                                      | 876 Cherry Lane              | Waterville      | OH | 43566 |
| Wayne & Linda Armstrong C 255/A 253                                                            | 271 Burns Drive              | Westerville     | OH | 43082 |
| Cass Arthur Associate                                                                          | 128 Eastside Drive           | Brandon         | MS | 39047 |
| Mac Arthur Associate                                                                           | 1300 Highway 25 South        | Lena            | MS | 39094 |
| Aubrey Ash A 253                                                                               | 8664 Dover Street            | Leeds           | AL | 35094 |
| John Ware, guest of Aubrey Ash                                                                 |                              |                 |    |       |
| Jack Bender D 254                                                                              | 220 Bromfield Road           | Kettering       | OH | 45429 |
| Leroy & Karol Bird M 254                                                                       | 4255 Sycamore St. SE         | Iowa City       | IA | 52240 |
| Betty Bonifield Associate                                                                      | 1290 Boyce Rd. A311          | Pittsburgh      | PA | 15241 |
| William Byrnes I 254                                                                           | 9645 S. Kedvale              | Oak Lawn        | IL | 60453 |
| Sue Byrnes, daughter-in-law to William Byrnes                                                  |                              |                 |    |       |
| Robert & Jean Capasso I&R 254                                                                  | 145 Nichols Street           | Norwood         | MA | 02062 |
| Elmer & Jean Chalcraft D 253                                                                   | RR 1 Box 169                 | Ellery          | IL | 62833 |
| Angelo Christopher & Tom D 254                                                                 | 5140 Lewisia Pl.             | Col. Spr.       | CO | 80917 |
| Frederick C. Clinton D 254                                                                     | 102 S. Jenkins Street        | Alexandria      | VA | 22304 |
| Robert & Vivian Cohlmeier C 363                                                                | 108 Oak Park E.              | Centralia       | IL | 62801 |
| Mary Fran Collier Associate                                                                    | 19812 S. Kenneth Ave         | Oak Lawn        | IL | 60453 |
| Henry & Marilyn Combs Associate                                                                | 169 Quinn Road               | W. Alexandria   | OH | 45381 |
| Nancy Bonifield Cone Associate                                                                 | 1421 Greenfield Crossing Ct. | Ballivan        | MO | 63021 |
| Fred & Audrey Consolmagnu M 254                                                                | 410 Blisswood Village Dr.    | Ludlow          | MA | 01056 |
| Jim & Carol Ann Crum HQ 253                                                                    | 5358 Green Hills Drive       | Brownsburg      | IN | 46112 |
| Alfred M. Diaz USAR                                                                            | 1254 Camino Del Sur          | San Dimas       | CA | 91773 |
| Robert Dick G 253                                                                              | 2912 Vista Butte Drive       | Las Vegas       | NV | 89134 |
| John & Judy Dietrick HQ 253                                                                    | 788 Deerwood Drive           | Defiance        | OH | 43512 |
| Lewis Disbrow & Bob E 255                                                                      | 1034 Ashwood Trail           | Decatur         | IL | 62526 |
| Charles & Helen Dismer G 253                                                                   | 3231 38 <sup>th</sup> Avenue | Rock Island     | IL | 61201 |
| John Downs F 254                                                                               | PO Box 254                   | Gilmanton       | NH | 03237 |
| Barbara Elder Associate                                                                        | 1739 Will Road               | Marion          | TX | 78124 |
| John & Ruth Erhardt M 254                                                                      | 8248 Sunfish Lane            | Maineville      | OH | 45039 |
| Kenneth & Bonnie Erickson AT 255                                                               | 35373 W. Creek Rd            | Wallace         | NE | 69169 |
| Lawrence Ernest E 253                                                                          | 5955 N. Lake Drive           | White Fish Bay  | WI | 52317 |
| Herman & Karen Fabiani F 253                                                                   | 820 Balmoral Court           | Inverness       | FL | 34453 |
| Ralph & Nancy Ann Fink AT 254                                                                  | 8203 Raintree Drive          | College Station | TX | 77845 |
| Edward & Donna Fowle HQ 862                                                                    | 332 Dayton Avenue            | Springfield     | OH | 45506 |
| Ralph G. Fox CN 254                                                                            | 255 N. 1100 E.               | Zionsville      | IN | 46077 |
| Karin Froberg-Marzano Associate                                                                | 180 Welsh Lane               | Granville       | OH | 43023 |
| Melvin & Alberta Goebel I 254                                                                  | 7250 Hayward Road            | Delton          | MI | 49046 |
| Richard & Kathryn Hackett H 254                                                                | PO Box 194                   | Centerville     | PA | 16404 |
| Gale Hammond FA 863                                                                            | 4171 Marquis Way             | Salt Lake City  | UT | 84124 |
| Gina Sue Iseminger Associate                                                                   | 2414 E. Southport Road       | Indianapolis    | IN | 46227 |
| Baruch Jacobson MED 253                                                                        | 3554 S. Huntington Loop      | Kennewick       | WA | 99337 |
| Carlos Jacobson; Nick and Crystal Jacobson and daughter Lydia Marie, guests of Baruch Jacobson |                              |                 |    |       |
| Hubert Johnson E 255                                                                           | 733 Plate Street             | Kokomo          | IN | 46901 |
| Michael & Jane Jugan MED 253                                                                   | 1551 Franklin Dr.            | Pottstown       | PA | 19465 |

## Attendees at reunion .....

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

|                                                        |           |                                         |                  |    |       |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------|------------------|----|-------|
| Brenda Keeling                                         | Associate | 450 21 <sup>st</sup> Street             | Dunbar           | WV | 25064 |
| Ernest & Mary Klimek                                   | D 255     | 14060 Henry Ruff                        | Livonia          | MI | 48154 |
| Marianne Bonifield Koller                              | Associate | 246 Packland Drive                      | Rochester Hills  | MI | 48307 |
| Walter Krul                                            | K 255     | 23 Hillside Drive                       | North York Mills | NY | 13417 |
| Walter Krul Jr and his sister, Beverly                 |           | Voos                                    |                  |    |       |
| Archie & Ruth Kumasaka                                 | HQ 863    | 2002 Windrow Avenue                     | Princeton        | NJ | 08540 |
| Harold & Donna LaCosse                                 | F 254     | PO Box 86                               | Morocco          | IN | 47963 |
| Harry & Lucia Lansu                                    | B 254     | 34743 Ford Road                         | Westland         | MI | 48185 |
| Mark Lindemann                                         | Associate | 14513 South Shore Dr.                   | Valders          | WI | 54245 |
| John Linscott                                          | A 253     | 18290 Timber Trail Dr.                  | Marysville       | OH | 43040 |
| Vince Liquori                                          | I 253     | 3029 Via Conquistadores                 | Navarre          | FL | 32566 |
| Robert & LaFaye McCourt                                | I&R 254   | 1101 Saint Street NE                    | Albuquerque      | NM | 87112 |
| Donna McKee                                            | Associate | 110 Thornwood Lane                      | Slippery Rock    | PA | 16057 |
| Greg McKeon                                            | L 253     | 10388 Tophill Dr.                       | Hartland         | MI | 48353 |
| Richard & Lillian Mertes                               | I&R 254   | 110 East Back Bay Rd                    | Bowling Green    | OH | 43402 |
| Otto Metzger                                           | C 254     | 496 County Route 360                    | Meduso           | NY | 12120 |
| David & Betty Montgomery                               | E 255     | 114 E. Buckthorn Road                   | Derby            | KS | 67037 |
| Jim & Cindy Montgomery                                 | Associate | 15874 SW Ponderosa Rd                   | Rose Hills       | KS | 67133 |
| Leonard Mote                                           | G 255     | 413 W. County Rd. 600 N                 | Kokomo           | IN | 46901 |
| Edgar Moutoux                                          | G 253     | 505 East 82 <sup>nd</sup> Street Apt 4G | New York         | NY | 10028 |
| Louise Mulcahy                                         | Associate | 22 Allston St. #312 Box 76              | West Medford     | MA | 02155 |
| Joe & Nancy Palmer                                     | C 255     | 1802 Norwood Drive                      | Midland          | MI | 48640 |
| Patricia Palumbo                                       | Associate | 10 Gloria Road                          | Georgetown       | MA | 01833 |
| Brooks & Kathleen Patterson                            | I 253     | 1023 Keystone Lane                      | Clemson          | SC | 29631 |
| Donenick & Mae Pecchia                                 | H 255     | 8550 W. Grand Ave. #402                 | River Grove      | IL | 60171 |
| Peggy von Pentz                                        | Associate | 110 Hasbrouck Road                      | Goshen           | NY | 10924 |
| Joseph & Gladys Perez                                  | C 253     | 521 Princeton Greens Ct                 | Sun City Center  | FL | 33573 |
| William & Delcie Pink                                  | D 254     | 168 Pink Road                           | Slippery Rock    | PA | 16057 |
| Carol Snyder, guest of William Pink                    |           |                                         |                  |    |       |
| Van Poccia                                             | M 254     | 8015 Willow Way                         | Raytown          | MO | 64138 |
| Kevin Poccia, son of Van Poccia                        |           |                                         |                  |    |       |
| Jackie Potts                                           | Associate | 327 W. First Street                     | Springfield      | OH | 45504 |
| Brian Potts and Angie Potts, guests of Jackie Potts    |           |                                         |                  |    |       |
| Jeanne Riedel                                          | Associate | 2948 W. First Street                    | Springfield      | OH | 45504 |
| Stanley Rusinek                                        | AT 254    | 2545 E. Roma                            | Phoenix          | AZ | 85016 |
| Arthur Russell                                         | H 254     | 142 Leeann Drive                        | Dayton           | OH | 45427 |
| Joan Henderickson, guest of Arthur Russell             |           |                                         |                  |    |       |
| Ruth Sandbrink                                         | Associate | 609 Westside Drive                      | Aurora           | IN | 47001 |
| Paul Schewene                                          | Associate | 608 Oak Street                          | Newport          | KY | 41071 |
| Edmond & Patricia Schmitt                              | E 253     | 6009 E. Walnut St.                      | Evansville       | IN | 47715 |
| William & Cele Scott                                   | E 254     | 407 S. Walnut St.                       | Sycamore         | IL | 60178 |
| James Sellers                                          | Associate | 2675 Bates Lane                         | Willoughby       | OH | 44094 |
| Fred & Charlotte Sess                                  | HQ 253    | 7028 Clovernoll Dr.                     | Cincinnati       | OH | 45231 |
| Judy Schaeffer                                         | Associate | 6152 George Fox Drive                   | Galloway         | OH | 43119 |
| Sam & Peggy Spangler                                   | HQ 254    | 300 Westminster, #534                   | Winchester       | VA | 22603 |
| Kenneth & Alvina Stirnaman                             | L 253     | 154 Spring Valley Dr.                   | Perryville       | MO | 63775 |
| Leon & Joann Krichdoerfer, guests of Kenneth Stirnaman |           |                                         |                  |    |       |
| Vin Stratton                                           | H 254     | 981 Kathryn Street                      | Indiana          | PA | 15701 |
| Sam & Han Sue                                          | K 255     | 1035 West Drive                         | North Merrick    | NY | 11566 |
| Sam & Carolyn Taylor                                   | F 254     | 237 Carolina Meadows Villa              | Chapel Hill      | NC | 27517 |

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## Attendees at reunion .....

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

|                                                          |           |                             |                  |    |       |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|------------------|----|-------|
| Alice Thomson                                            | Associate | 1045 N. W. End Blvd Lot 319 | Quakertown       | PA | 18951 |
| Michael & Donna Thomson                                  | Associate | 6748 Lake Shore Dr          | Quinton          | VA | 23141 |
| Anna Weber                                               | Associate | 11069 Ravenwood Ct.         | Pinkerington     | OH | 43147 |
| Robert Wederath                                          | HQ&K 255  | 3050 W. Franklin Ter.       | Franklin         | WI | 53132 |
| Peggy & Edgar Skynaski & Peep, guests of Robert Wederath |           |                             |                  |    |       |
| Raymond Wise                                             | D 254     | 239 Kenna Drive             | South Charleston | WV | 25309 |
| Rhonda Wolverton                                         | Associate | 310 North Pointe            | Danville         | IN | 46122 |
| Robert T. Ziemke                                         | D 254     | 880 Center Street           | McKeesport       | PA | 15132 |
| Scott Wilcox & mother                                    | Associate | 4024 Brookville Road        | Indianapolis     | IN | 46201 |

NOT: If you attended the reunion and your name is not listed, please notify the secretary as soon as possible.

## New procedures effective July 1, 2008

*Submitted by Fred Clinton*

In order to apply and be qualified for an award of the Bronze Star Medal as a conversion award based on your Combat Infantryman Badge or Combat Medic Badge, you must have your discharge papers showing the award of the CIB or CMB or a copy of the General Orders making the award.

Requests for this award must be initiated either by the individual or his primary next of kin (Spouse, Eldest Child, Mother/Father, Oldest Sibling or Eldest Grandchild in that order). If a relative you must state how you are related to the individual to whom the award will be made.

Send your request to the US Army Human Resources Command, ATTN: AHRC-PDP-A, 200 Stovall Street, Alexandria, VA 22332-0471. Expect several months for your request to be processed in that the office responsible for final processing at Department of the Army is also responsible for processing awards for soldiers serving in Iraq.

Make a copy of your discharge or General Order and send it along with a letter as follows:

US Army Human Resources Command  
ATTN: AHRC-PDP-A  
200 Stovall Street  
Alexandria, VA 22332-0471

Dear Sir:

Under the provisions of AR 600-8-22, paragraph 3-13d, request is made for a conversion award of the Bronze Star Medal (BSM) for (insert your name, rank and serial number here)

(If not being submitted by the Service member indicate here what your relationship is to the deceased member)

Documentary evidence is enclosed to substantiate the award of the (Combat Infantryman Badge or Combat Medical Badge) on (date) entitling me (or him) to be the BSM as a conversion award.

Please mail orders and award to the following address (insert your mailing address).

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,  
Your Signature

Enclosure: DD Form 214 (Discharge Form) or General Order.

*NOTE: If you do not have proper documentation, contact me at [joyclin@comcast.net](mailto:joyclin@comcast.net) or Bill Scott, 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Historian at [wjs631@comcast.net](mailto:wjs631@comcast.net) It is possible that one of us may be able to find the orders awarding you the CIB or CMB.*

*Yuletide Greetings!*

The logs are on the fire, the snow is on the ground and the very best holiday wishes are on the way to all of our many friends and neighbors! – The Officers of the 63rd Infantry Blood and Fire.



# Minutes of the business meeting held in Indianapolis

The 60<sup>th</sup> annual business meeting of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Association took place at the Marriott East Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana on Saturday, August 23, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. The pledge to the flag was repeated and Rev. Vin Stratton gave the invocation.

The minutes of the 2007 meeting were read and approved with a motion made by Herman Fabiani and seconded by Joe Aguzzi.

The financial report was filed for audit when Herman Fabiani made the motion and it was seconded by Marsh Allen. The treasurer reported the assets for the Association totaled \$ 30, 650.66.

Historian Bill Scott reported the sales pattern was different this year with some of the older items not moving as they had before. Sales at the Tacoma reunion were worse than in recent years with such a small attendance. He said there were more repair and replacement problems than usual. His expenses for the year totaled \$ 2,485.85, which leaves a total of \$2,189.93 in his checking account. That money will be used to replace inventory. Al Diaz made a motion the report be approved and Edgar Moutoux seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Bob Capasso made a motion that all the records the Historian has on computer disks be duplicated and a copy be given to the secretary, and that that disk be updated annually and given to the secretary. Richard Mertes seconded the motion and it carried.

The editor reported the total cost for three issues of the *Blood and Fire* was \$ 9,030.25. In November 2007, 1,772 copies were printed; in February 2008, 1,785 copies were printed, and 1,750 copies of the May issue were printed. Archie Kumasaka made a motion the report be accepted, Herman Fabiana seconded the motion and it carried.

The elected officers for 2009 include Robert Capasso, president; Robert McCourt, first vice; Joseph Freitas, second vice, and Donna LaCosse, secretary/treasurer. Richard Mertes made a motion the slate of officers be accepted, Joe Aguzzi seconded the motion and it carried.

Herman Fabiani made a motion the following officers be appointed for the ensuing year: Bill Scott, historian; Karin Froberg-Marzano, assistant historian; Fred Clinton, webmaster; Mike Thomson, assistant webmaster and Donna LaCosse, editor of the *Blood and Fire*. Archie Kumasaka seconded the motion and it carried.

All officers and board members were recognized for their dedication to the Association.

Bob Capasso presented his plans for the 2009 reunion to be held in Boston from August 12 until August 15. The hotel has been secured; the tours have been finalized and the city of Boston has been alerted!

Ed Fowle spoke on behalf of the IMOK Chapter when stating the 2010 reunion would probably be held in the mid-west. The chapter is willing to host the affair, but have not had time to complete all the plans. The cities of Dayton, Ohio and Newark, Ohio are being considered. Al Diaz made a motion the proposal be accepted, Bob Capasso seconded the motion and it carried.

Leroy Bird asked that when the chapter made the plans for the next reunion, it take in consideration that not everyone can get around easily and many have difficulty taking the tours where there is a lot of walking. Fowle said they were concentrating on that problem and Bird's request would be taken into consideration.

In his history report, Bill Scott said the unit rosters showed a net gain of 27 men's names with rank, serial number, unit, and other data from the recent completed research of the fall of 1944 unit morning reports. He also said a great deal of additional data on the dates of men's arrival and leaving units is the greatest addition in the last year. Bob Capasso made a motion the report be accepted; Richard Mertes seconded the motion and it carried.

Robert Capasso requested a list of active members be compiled by the secretary and be made available to him prior to the 2009 reunion. LaCosse agreed to send him a list of the active members.

President Dietrick read a poem he received from Joseph Scales, who had written the poem for Donna LaCosse. It was a nice tribute to her and came as quite a surprise.

Fred Clinton and Bill Scott each received a personalized clock made, and presented, by Herman Fabiani. Both men were honored for their dedication to the association. Instead of numbers on each clock, the letters of the first and last name of the honored men appeared around the face of the clock.

The new board members volunteered by the members present from their units included Edgar

# - Letters and Opinions -

## FATHER HAS PASSED

I am writing to sadly inform you of the passing of my father, Kenneth R. Mancini Sr. on February 20, 2008. Dad served in G 254 throughout all of the unit's front line service in late 1944 and 1945. He received a field commission to 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenant sometime in early 1945.

During the last few years he spoke a little more freely about his experiences (which he never did when we kids were young). He spoke mostly about his regiment's attachment to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division during the Colmar action and specifically about the fighting in Jebshiem. The miserable winter weather during that time made a lasting impression; we never could get him to even consider a camping trip the rest of his life.

In any of your readers remember my father and could share their memories, I would welcome their letters or e-mails at [krm17@aol.com](mailto:krm17@aol.com).

Kenneth Mancini Jr.  
17 Framingham Rd  
Edgewater Park, NJ 08010

## PLANNING TO ATTEND INDIANA REUNION

Sybil Nails, widow of Buron Nails, FA 861, and his daughter, Martha, with her husband, Rick Pickowitz, the brother of Stanley Pickowitz, AT 255, are planning to attend the 60<sup>th</sup> reunion in 2008. Martha and I met during the Denver reunion and have been married for five years. We hope to be reunited with all our old friends and 63<sup>rd</sup> members.

Rick Pickowitz

## MOTHER DIED APRIL 2008

The past year from March 2007 through April have been hard for Dad and Mom, Bill and Mary Brynes. Mom had some problems with her health and we lost her April 30, 2008. She put up a great fight and she was planning on Indy in August. We are all lost at the moment but Dad and I are planning on Indy in August.

Mary Fran Collier

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP

I want to thank several members of the Association for their help in understanding the history of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Division, combat in the Second World War and the fate of my cousin, P.F.C. Meredith J. Phillips, Co. I, 255<sup>th</sup> Regt., KIA February 7, 1945.

My gratitude to Edmund Simmons, who answered my interview request, and provided me with detailed information concerning the events leading up to my cousin's death in combat, while facing the enemy. I can never thank Mr. Simmons enough. I appreciate his friendship with my cousin and his call for the medic on that fateful day. Mr. Simmons, while his own life was in peril, waited there defending his position, also receiving wounds until help arrived to provide whatever aid possible to Pfc. Phillips after my cousin received his fatal wounds. I truly believe Mr. Simmons' actions are nothing short of heroic. A simple thank you will never be enough.

Second, I must thank Co. H.J. O'Neill, 63<sup>rd</sup> ID/83<sup>rd</sup> ID, who also answered my request and responded to my interview questionnaire concerning his experiences during the war. My continued gratitude to Col. O'Neill for the selfless help he continues to provide in his efforts to recruit other veterans for my book project.

In addition, I must thank Col. Frederick Clinton for providing me documents concerning I Company's actions from February 1, 1945 through February 28, 1945, including documents showing my cousin listed as MIA, and his award of the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

I must also thank Historian Bill Scott for putting up with my many calls seeking additional information concerning my cousin. Finally, last, but certainly not least - I must thank the Editor, Mrs. Donna LaCrosse for publishing my initial request that led to my understanding of my cousin's fate and bringing closure to a twenty-year quest.

With most sincere gratitude  
Edward Phillips  
Associate Member

# - Letters and Opinions -

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

## WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM BUDDIES

I served in B 253 during World War II. I knew Ray Ewens who was killed by sniper bullet just after I took his picture at the edge of our two-man foxhole. I am willing to send a copy of this photo to friend or family member upon request. You may contact me at [dkd35@earthlink.net](mailto:dkd35@earthlink.net). I am also interesting in hearing from anyone from my former unit in combat, or at Camp Van Dorn.

Eugene Cannava

## WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR HELP

I would appreciate your help in any way. We would love to find out more about our uncle Theodore Gniass, from men who served with him in the 63<sup>rd</sup> Recon. My mailing address is Shirley Hedges, 6151 Versailles Rd., Lake View, NY 14085. My telephone number is 716-627-1156.

## FATHER WAS PERRY L. BRIDGES

I am writing to notify the Association of my father's passing on August 9, 2008. Perry L "Bam" Bridges of Bogart, Georgia served as a medic with the 255<sup>th</sup> Regiment. As his son, I heard many stories of the 63<sup>rd</sup> and know that the bonds my father established within the Division were life-long, strong, and dear to him. Our home always had memorabilia from the 63<sup>rd</sup> and my sister, brother, and I learned early the heritage of the *Blood and Fire*. Please retire my father from your rolls and discontinue future mailings of your newsletter.

Perry L. Bridges Jr.

## MATTHEW F. MAGGIORE PASSES

This is to inform you that my husband, Matthew Maggiore, passed away June 22, 2008, one month shy of his 83 birthday. His health declined these past two years. He was on dialysis, had broken his femur bone, and had brain surgery for a tumor, plus a few other ailments.

He was called to active duty September 1943 and sent to Camp George C. Meade, Maryland. Then he was sent to Camp Van Dorn and was in the Field Artillery 863. He also spent time in Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He left the States from Camp Shanks, New York in December 1944 and landed in Marseille, France. He spent 14 months in Europe and returned home February 1946 as a Corporal.

Matt received several medals, including the Purple Heart and the Bronze Medal. He was a proud Veteran, and he did get to see the WWII Memorial in April 2005.

We celebrated our 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary two weeks preceding his death.

Matt retired in 1988 from the Bettis Atomic plant in West Mifflin, PA, and we did a lot of traveling for twenty years.

He was the father of two daughters, Deborah and Beverly. He also had one grandson, Robert Peacock; one brother, Louis; one sister, Betty Kral, and their families.

We keep in touch with several of his buddies and their wives over the past sixty years.

Virginia Maggiore

## SUGGESTED REUNION SITE - MISSOURI

Have you ever considered Springfield, Missouri as a site for one of your reunions? We are easily accessible by major highways and interstates, and your guests can experience all the typical city amenities without the typical city hassles. According to *Business Travel News*, Springfield is one of the most affordable convention cities in the nation.

Based on where you have been in the past, I am

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# 60th reunion highlights . . . . .



*Peggy von Pentz, standing, is telling the Montgomery family how great the 60<sup>th</sup> 63<sup>rd</sup> banquet is going to be. Seated, left to right, Cindy, Jim, Betty and David Montgomery.*



*Having fun and waiting to be fed! James (Sam) Taylor, F 254, his wife, Carolyn and John Downs, F 254 share laughs at the Indianapolis reunion.*

## Letters and opinions . . .

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

confident that University Plaza Hotel & Convention Center could successfully be your host. In addition to first class service and accommodations, we have very competitive group rates. We are just steps from Jordan Valley Park and downtown, which has over 50 restaurants and entertainment venues.

Dee Palmer, Sales Manager  
417-522-1160  
[www.upspringfield.com](http://www.upspringfield.com)

## JAMES J. DRISCOLL HAS PASSED AWAY

My father, James J. Driscoll, H 253, passed away on August 8, 2008. He was proud to have served with the 63<sup>rd</sup> and he was his son's hero. He was a life member and I will subscribe to keep up on things.

Robert Driscoll

## Business meeting minutes . . .

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

Moutoux, 253; Sam Spangler, 254; Wayne Armstrong, 255; Gale Hammond, Field Artillery; Leonard Zimmerman, Special Troops, and Theodore Paulsen, USAR.

Herman Fabiani made a motion to adjourn; Joe Aguzzi second the motion and it carried. Rev. Vin Stratton dismissed the group with prayer.

Dismissal Time 11:01 A.M.

Donna LaCrosse, Secretary

## Hasn't missed a reunion in 43 years!!!



*Ruth Sandbrink attended her 43rd consecutive reunion for the 63rd Infantry Division Association.*

*Pictured with Ruth is her daughter, Barbara Elder of Texas and IMOK member, Paul Schwene of Kentucky.*

SEASON'S  
GREETINGS!  
*Have a  
delightful  
holiday!*



# Wayne M. Baty passes

# 60th reunion highlights . . . . . ▶▶▶



**Wayne Murlin Baty**  
November 20, 1925 -  
February 23, 2008

Wayne M. Baty, E 255, passed away in Tempe, Arizona on February 23, 2008 following a battle with Merkel Cell cancer. He was 82.

He received his basic training at Fort Hood, Texas and proudly served his country in Europe during WWII. He was awarded two Bronze Stars and two Purple Hearts during his service in the Infantry.

After the German surrender, he was assigned to the *Stars and Stripes*, the Army's newspaper. He was stationed in Paris for six months before returning to the states.

He went for his PhD Degree at the University of Southern California and became a Professor there. He later moved to Arizona State University and retired there as Emeritus Professor in 1987. He also became a very successful author of College textbooks.

Wayne is survived by his wife, Maxine, of 61 years, and his two sons and their families.



18 years old - 1944 U.S. Army  
Combat Infantry - Europe



## Crystal bowl recipient

Karin Froberg-Marzano is the recipient of a crystal bowl, presented during the 60<sup>th</sup> annual reunion held in Indianapolis. Making the presentation is Bob McCourt. Karin designs Christmas cards each year and sends them to members of the Association.

## A Little Ditty

*By Steve Shores, Co. A, 363rd Medical Bn.*

She never dug a fox hole  
She never fired a gun.  
She never sailed an ocean  
Or joined in Vicksburg fun.  
Instead she chose the 63rd  
To be her joy in life.  
Recalling memories deep and proud  
Of love and grief and strife.  
Four Star General Donna  
Blood and Fire her game.  
Atten-shun buddies stand real tall  
Salute this Noble Dame.

**Plan Now to Attend  
the 2009 Reunion  
August 12 - 16  
Boston,  
Massachusetts**

# Whispers From The Attic: theme for ladies' brunch program

The IMOK committee for the Ladies program held on Saturday morning of the reunion followed the theme, "Whispers From The Attic," using white tablecloths featuring iron-on snapshots taken at previous reunions, and people in by-gone days, as well as those who annually attend the reunion. Each table held a different centerpiece; an item that came from the attic where it had "rested" for the several years. The ladies enjoyed the music of a Dixie Land Band and then traveled back in time as Gina (LaCosse) Iseminger presented the following program on "Whispers From The Attic."

"World War II ended in 1945 and I was born in 1957, a full twelve years later. My father's shared memories of the war were few and those few centered on the more humorous day-to-day experience. My mother and father became engaged and married after his return from Germany so there were no stories of delayed romance or dramatic events as she waited for the return of her man.

Basically, I grew up with no shadow of war or effects of war to influence or shape my personality or sensibilities. What appreciation I gained for the sacrifice of the men and women who served and the ones at home who awaited their return was discovered and nurtured - not from my parents who lived it - but rather whispers from the attic.

I loved to visit our attic. Something about the "tucked away" stirred my imagination and fed the beginnings of romance in my soul. Touching the material possessions of the lives my parents lived before I was me, connected me ever more strongly to who they were now. My father's dress uniform hung from the rafters in a bag meant to preserve it. His duffle bag sat beneath it on the floor. To one side was the trunk my grandfather used in France during World War I and gave to his son to use in Germany in World War II. Inside the trunk I discovered the medals and news clippings and other trappings of the young man who served his country and had become my father. I spent hours searching the contents of that old trunk and imagining the history lived out of which they were the



The four ladies responsible for the successful Women's Branch held on Saturday morning of the Indianapolis reunion were (from left to right): Gina Iseminger, Rhonda Wolverton, Judy Schaeffer and Donna Fowle.

result. I asked questions of the one who lived the history; received brief and selected answers and was encouraged to move on from the trunk to other discoveries.

I turned my attention to the other side of the dress uniform and found my treasure in the cedar chest that rested there. Beneath the tissue paper upon which gloves of wrist and elbow length of various colors resided were hats! Nearly a dozen of wondrous, fabulous hats! Dad's medals had stirred me, but my mother's hats ignited me! Where I had in silence lifted my father's life from the trunk to examine and ponder and then laid carefully back to rest again; I, with glee, snatched the hats from their coffin and danced them about the attic before placing each one in turn upon my head in an ecstasy only understood and appreciated by other women who have a passion for fashion.

Dad may have been reluctant to share his memories of his medals and war loot. But mama was eager to share her life lived under the brims and nettings of her chapeaus in the attic. No fashionable woman of that era, I was told, would ever have ventured either up or down town without a hat to grace her head. Demure, subdued caps with netting were

## Whispers From The Attic: . . . -CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

worn to funerals and other solemn occasions while wide brims and gloriously colored plumes were favored at church and other gala celebrations. Whether simple or elaborate, business styled in an almost masculine look or ultraly feminine; hats ruled the day. Gloves certainly had their place, handbags their prominence and fashionable footwear always a must, but hats were the star. They were to ladies' ensemble then as lights are now to a Christmas tree. Both are dressed without them, but the hat on the woman just as the lights on the Christmas tree provided the sparkle. The hat was the WOW!, the exclamation mark, or the solemn period on the occasion to which it was worn. It defined mood, importance of occasion, position, status, and just the pleasure of being a woman.

I was allowed to play with mama's hats just as I was allowed to clomp around in her heels and take pretend tea wearing her gloves, sometimes with a boa draped about my neck. At the end of play, however, the hats were returned to the attic to slumber beneath tissue paper in the cedar chest. They belonged to a time gone by. I used to visit them often, sitting cross-legged on the floor before the open chest holding one or another in my hands, setting them now and again upon my head, imagining the life my mother lived under them. I knew the hats did not define the character of the woman, or finery of fashion reveal the finery of a soul, but I did contemplate as I held what once my mother wore, the nature of the woman she had become and was.

She was joyful and loving, embracing life as a gift to be celebrated. She lived each day fully in the now, not mourning the past or anticipating the future. She was kind and generous with the bounty God had given her. She understood the curiosity and nurtured the imagination of the little girl with whom God had entrusted her. She was a woman to be admired, respected and modeled. That is what the attic whispered to me as I handled my mother's hats.

My father's trunk sits beneath the window in my den; his medals safely ensconced within. One son has possession of both his dress uniform and duffle bag. I don't really know what happened to the hats in the attic. I'm sure the ones that survived my childhood were given away to someone who would use them. I don't have any of them, but I do not mourn their passing for they served their purpose. They fueled my play, sparked my imaginings, and helped reveal a woman of character to me; perhaps even created some of her same character within me.

I still love hats, and gloves, and hat-pins, and handbags, and shoes, and fashion in general. I collect them and display them, find joy in them and a certain



*These old boots graced the center of one of the tables at the Women's Branch. They are really "Whispers From The Attic".*



*A decorated hat box is an added attraction on one of the tables at the Women's Branch.*

amount of grounding in their presence in my home. They remind me of the whispers I heard in the attic and aid me in speaking aloud the lessons learned there. I sometimes wear the hats I display, not in pride, but in awareness that a lady's hat can speak volumes about her character. Although a hat does not the woman make, a woman can certainly make the hat. It's all in the way she wears it."



Happy Holidays to one and all!!



## A Memo from the Secretary . . .

Donna LaCrosse

The reunion is over for another year and was a very successful event from my point of view. It was great seeing all those members who did not get to attend the Tacoma reunion, and to meet the people who were attending for the first time.

There was sure a lot of walking!! I had my horse (my walker) with me – the kind that has a seat on it, so I walked a while, then sat a spell. One nice thing about sitting was having people walk by, stop and chat before going on. I did not offer my seat, and I didn't even feel guilty not doing so!!

Plans for going to Boston for the 2009 reunion are in the final stages, so you will want to start making plans to attend in August.

For me, it seems as though we just get through with one reunion and it is time to get things ready for the next one! The older I get, the less days there are in the year!!

An unusual thing happened during the Indianapolis reunion. A couple came by the registration table and asked for their packet of information. We could not find their name anywhere, but they were insistent they had paid for the reunion and the money had gone astray. Diane, our Armed Forces Reunion Planners representative, took their name, we gave them their "freebees" and as Diane was making a note to check on this situation when she got back to her office, a man walked by and asked this couple when they had arrived. They told him they had just now gotten there and then he asked why they were standing at that table. When the couple explained to him their check had gone missing and they would talk to him after they had conducted the business at hand, he informed them they did not pay for their reunion. At this time we all discovered the couple belonged to the Navy reunion just down the hall!!

It is about time for me to send out dues-due letters to those who are on the annual roster. If you think you owe dues, send me a check and I will save at least one stamp for the association.

Other than sending dues letters, there is not much to report at this time. It seems I am always busy with 63<sup>rd</sup> business – mainly because I don't work as fast as I once did. In fact, the older I get, the be-hinder I get.

Until next time, have a great fall and holiday season. Send those stories!! We need them for the *Blood and Fire*.

## About the Souvenir Ad book

The 2008 Souvenir Ad Book was much thicker than the ad books have been in the past few years. This was because you supported the book by sending in messages and paying for the space you used. You did a great job!! Can it be bigger in 2009? Let's try!

It always helps when the ads come in through out the year and not just before the deadline. So, please help support the book again this year and start sending your messages in the form of memorials, honors, congratulations and/or whatever real soon. If in doubt as to what you should say, let Donna LaCrosse know and she will send you a copy of the 2009 book. Look for the page with all the information in this issue of the *Blood & Fire*.

The deadline for 2009 Souvenir Ad Book will be earlier because the finished books will have to be sent to Boston instead of being hand delivered.

As usual, the money will be used to help defray the expenses of the Meet Your Buddy Night.

## from the editor . . .

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

when that person died. Keeping me informed of deaths is also very important if I am to do my job correctly.

Have a great holiday season – treat the trickers; enjoy the family turkey day and be ready for that jolly old man in the red suit. Here's wishing you a very good and healthy winter.

## ~~~~~ 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).

**PLAN NOW TO ATTEND  
THE 61ST REUNION  
AUG. 12 - 16, 2009**

  
Happy Holidays to one and all!!

# Eight brothers returned to Peekskill, New York

Submitted by Henry Roberts, D 254

(The following information was taken from an article written by Matthew Jablonski for a local newspaper, *The Star*)

From his family's four-bedroom apartment in downtown Peekskill, James Roberts watched his brothers say goodbye to his parents. One-by-one, their country called them, and one-by-one they left for war. James was too young to be shipped off to fight in Europe or the South Pacific, so it was that he remained home with his parents.

Edward was scheduled to be called first. Before he could be drafted, he enlisted and left to fight in the South Pacific in 1942. Soon after, Charlie, the "happy-go-lucky" prankster, left for Europe, and then it was Anthony's turn. He was called "Pants" because his trousers kept increasing in size as the years went on. Henry, known as "Moon" (nicknamed because his face glowed after coming in from the cold), was followed closely behind by Stanley, Albert (Olley) and Leonard.

Seven brothers hugged their dad and kissed their mother goodbye, and James was there to see them all off. His main concern was for his mother, who thought they would not all come home again. Their mother did not cry when she kissed them goodbye, she just sent them on with her blessings. Their dad gave them a hug and told them to serve their country proudly.

Before the war ended, James enlisted in the Air Force and younger brother, Francis later fought in the Korean War. Nine Roberts boys served in the military during the two wars. Eight returned home safely. Charlie, known as "Runt," was killed when a truck he was in hit a mine.

When asked by the government if Elizabeth wanted the body of Charlie sent home, she said she could never be sure his body was in "the box" and asked that he be buried with his friends in France.

"Pants" had been shot in the elbow, but came back alive; "Olley" was taken prisoner during the Battle of the Bulge and he returned home; Henry won a bronze star for a heroic battlefield act and he returned.

John and Elizabeth Roberts made a sacrifice for America that went unrecognized until Peekskill Historian, John Curran did research on the family and recently presented a plaque in their honor to the city of Peekskill. Nine of their sons were in the military; eight

returned home. Curran found, in his research, only six families in the country's history had nine members serving in the military at one time. One family had ten members serving.

John and Elizabeth had 13 children – two girls and 11 boys – a baker's dozen for a father who made his living as a baker in Peekskill in the 1920's, 1930's and 1940's. The family lived in an apartment in a city where no one locked their doors. The people were friendly, and the streets were filled at night. A short to the store took almost two hours because one had to stop and talk to friends along the way.

John Roberts Sr. died of a heart attack in 1945.

Other than Charlie, all the boys came home and the family eventually picked up where it had left off. Most moved back into the four-bedroom apartment and lived there until Elizabeth succumbed to cancer in 1950.

As of this time, there are two brothers still alive, Henry and Francis, and they remain as close as ever. They have always been a close family, and that's the way they are going to stay.

## Can anyone help?

I have received a request from one of our members for a copy of the ship *Saturnia*, that he thinks appeared in the *Blood and Fire* about two years ago. I have searched through all the issues I have in my file and have even engaged the help of my husband, who also was on that ship, and we can't find the picture anywhere.

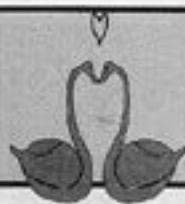
If any of you have back issues and can locate that picture, please let me know as soon as possible so I can send this man a picture of the *Saturnia*. He has been so patient with me and I have looked so long and so hard that I feel I almost know what is in all the past issues without turning a page!

Your help will be much appreciated.

Editor, Donna LaCrosse

## Happy Thanksgiving!

# Happy Anniversary



## November

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

## December

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

## January

- 1: Doris & Herbert Cameron - FA 862 -1949
- 3: Bonnie & Ken Erickson - AT 255 -1945
- 7: Jane & Mike Jugan - MED. 253 - 2006
- 7: Josephine & Vincent Tramuta - K 255 - 1950
- 11: Bonnie & Edward Bundick - D 254 - 1946
- 21: Marian & Merlin L. Myers - FA 861 -1939
- 27: Ginny & Wayne Lawrence - HQ 253 - 2001

## February

- 2: Rhea & Lloyd Philipps - C 253 - 1949
- 6: Joan & William R. Creamer - HQ 253 - 1944
- 9: Caryl & Herbert Hubble - B 255 - 1952
- 10: Barbara & Roy Lermond - HQ 254 -1946
- 14: Cortlun & Robert Clayton - C 255 - 2000
- 14: Debbie & Warren F. Neumann - C 253 -1978
- 14: Yvette & Curtin Delahoussaye - HQ 253 - 1998
- 14: Jean & Elmer Chalcraft - D 254 - 1948
- 18: Jana & Edward Phillip - Associate - 2000
- 21: Edyth & Kenneth R. Mancini - G 254 -1943
- 22: Jane & Howard L. Hannum - AT 255 -1957
- 26: Frances & Charles Rhodes Jr. - H&I 253 - 1960
- 27: Elva & Walter L. Stoner Jr - MED 353 -1949
- 28: Karin & David Marzano - Associate - 1986

## 60th reunion highlights . . . . .



### Where's dinner?

Margaret and Joe Aguzzi, with Karen Fabiani, patiently wait for their food at the 60<sup>th</sup> 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division banquet in Indianapolis.

# Lost Sheep Need To Be Found



*We need new addresses for the following people. Listed below are the last known addresses taken from the returned May 2008 issue of the Blood and Fire. If you can help, please call, write or email the secretary/treasurer.*

Richard J. Brooks, 3372 Dunescroft Ct., Keswick, VA 22947.

Douglas Ferguson, 4041 Grange Hall Road, Lot 17, Holly, MI 48442-1918.

Florio Kahnberg, 197 W. Nicklaus ave, Kalispell, MT 59901-2773.

Leon Kaye, 5219 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., San Diego, CA 92117-2206.

Richard Kerschner, PO Box 34, Drums, PA 18222.

Joseph Mack, 66392 US 41, Lakeside, In 46436.

Ralph Moore, 202 Jacob Albright Dr., Johnstown, PA 15904-2328.

## The last laugh . . .

*by Hal O'Neill*

The Division Headquarters was scattered in tents in a thick forest shortly after we landed in Normandy to relieve the Airborne. It was a beautiful June morning when we heard a strange "Wo-Wo" sound overhead. We were about to enjoy our first shelling by German 88's. The contact fused shells exploded in the treetops and the shrapnel fragments bounced down through the branches to the ground.

This made the shelling usually harmless. At first we headed for a slit trench or foxhole a few cautious souls had dug. Some trenches had men three deep; others got under vehicles. After hourly shellings of four rounds each time (the 88 battery had four guns), we began to ignore it. Outside of a few holes in the tents and a few men burned picking up pieces of shell casing for a souvenir, we were unhurt.

"Numbers" Nolan was sitting under a tree writing to his girl. He got his nickname because in civilian life he was an Information Clerk in a big city train station. He had memorized hundreds of their schedules and when one of us was on leave back in the states, he could tell us what train to catch. Late in the afternoon, a small sliver of steel shell casing struck Numbers in the back of his left hand.

Three of us half dragged him, despite his protests it

was nothing, to the Division Surgeons' tent. The Colonel seemed delighted to see us and carefully cleaned and dressed the small wound. He then had the four of us stand at attention while he made a speech about Numbers being the first of the Division's heroes and pinned a medal on him. We saluted and left.

The medal was heart shaped with a purple ribbon. We told Numbers it was one the Colonel had gotten for perfect attendance at Sunday school. We had never heard of the Purple Heart at that time. Numbers was happy with the medal since he had a new topic to write about to his girl.

We forgot about this medal until the war ended. Then, under the point system for discharge, Purple Heart holders received five extra points. Numbers went home two months ahead of most of us.

He had the last laugh!!

**Plan Now to Attend  
the 2009 Reunion  
August 12 - 16  
Boston,  
Massachusetts**

# Historian and Webmaster honored



*Fred Clinton, Webmaster, on the left and Bill Scott, Historian, received personalized clocks during the business meeting held at the recent reunion.*

*Herman Fabiana, who made the clocks and presented them, is shown in the center of the picture.*



**WHO ARE THEY?** – *This picture was taken at Camp Van Dorn many years ago. If anyone recognizes anyone in the picture, please let us know. Bob Daly and Michael Cairo are in the picture somewhere!*

# Response to open letter from Jeffrey A. Neberman

by Edward Phillips

First, let me apologize to the 63<sup>rd</sup> Division Association and its members for the stir my request concerning the acquisition of WWII memorabilia and artifacts has caused for one of our members. I had no intention to "shock or appall" any member of the Association, including a fellow associate member. My intent was to simply ask for items that could be donated or purchased so that I might assemble a small collection commemorating the 63<sup>rd</sup> Division. Further, the purpose of any collection that I assemble is to preserve the memory of the Division by sharing that collection with those members of the public that are interested in understanding history of the war. However, in making this request, I never intended to denigrate the Association or the memory of my cousin P.F. C. Meredith J. Phillips, Co. I, 255<sup>th</sup> Regt. who was killed in action on February 7, 1945.

I too believe museums should in fact be the repository of many of these items; however, museums like individuals can dispose of items in their holdings through trade and auctions. The question of whether the donated material will be held in perpetuity always exists whether the material is given to an individual or given to an organization such as a museum. As a result, I have told many of my friends who are WWII veterans that their material should in fact be passed to members of their families who are interested in keeping the items for posterity. This is where such items truly belong.

However, please bear in mind that the disposition of any items is really the concern of the veteran since the decision is ultimately his to make.

If a veteran decides to share items with a museum, it might be done as a loan where the family retains ownership or if some guarantees are made in a contract that ensure the continued display of any donated items. Again, the focus should be on preservation, but some consideration should be given to the veteran and their family.

However, what Mr. Neberman fails to highlight in his retort to my request is that there are items that never make it to museums or even personal collections. Instead, items such as uniforms, equipment, photos and the like have been thrown away or disposed of through other means. I think this is exactly what Mr. Neberman and I hope to avoid, we just have different approaches.

Also, as a licensed attorney in three states – I can assure the members of the Association that I have never obtained any military item or military artifact through fraudulent means and have never sold any item ever donated to me by a veteran.

Some of the items in my care include a uniform from a member of Merrill's Marauders and a B-17 pilots' first set of wings that were pinned on him when he graduated from flight school. The B-17 pilot is also a recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross.

## *Just exactly ... who is who??*

*Hubert Johnson, E 255, is seen kneeling in the front row, second from the right. Others include Robert Handly, Leonard Jones, George Nichols, Carmen Aquino, Kid Delanarc, Norman Wood, Homer Cornett, Bill Dahlen and Ray (Roy) Cattanes. Hubert does not remember who is who in the picture.*



# IMOK Chapter members have May mini

Donna and Harold LaCrosse hosted the IMOK Chapter meeting in Indianapolis on May 20, 21 and 22, 2008. Members stayed at the LaQuinta Inn, next door to the Marriott East Hotel where the annual Association meeting will take place in August.

Attending the meeting were Carol Ann and Jim Crum, Bill Davis, Judy and John Dietrick, Donna and Ed Fowle, Helen and Max Gourley, Judy Schaeffer, Paul Schewene, Cele and Bill Scott, Rhonda Wolverton, and the LaCrosse duo. Gina and Scott Iseminger of Indianapolis met with the group for dinner on Tuesday evening. Roger LaCrosse came from Louisville, Kentucky, and his sister, Gina Iseminger joined the group for lunch on Wednesday.

Dinner on Tuesday evening took place at the Lincoln Square, just a short walk from the hotel.

Following dinner, and a walk back to the Marriott, a business meeting was held with Ed Fowle presiding. A representative from the Marriott said the room in which we were meeting was large enough to serve as

Hospitality, Registration and History Room. Everyone was happy with this much space to use!

Except for the Women's Brunch, there was not a need to discuss anything pertaining to the reunion since the Armed Forces Reunion Planners were making, or had made the plans.

Wednesday found the ladies making mint cups from vintage-looking fabric for the brunch on Saturday. Judy Schaeffer is making tablecloths featuring photos of members attending reunions of the past and Gina Iseminger will provide a centerpiece for each table. The ladies of the IMOK Chapter were asked to provide cookies for the hospitality room, or to give a monetary donation to help defray other costs.

After hugs and goodbyes, everyone left on Thursday morning with hopes of a great reunion in August.

## 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.

## It is the Veteran . . .

It is the VETERAN, not the preacher, who has given us freedom of religion.

It is the VETERAN, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of press.

It is the VETERAN, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech.

It is the VETERAN, not the campus organizer, who has given us freedom to assemble.

It is the VETERAN, not the lawyer, who has given us the right to a fair trial.

It is the VETERAN, not the politician, who has given us the right to vote.

It is the VETERAN, who salutes the Flag.



## 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  
JUNE 1, 2009

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 3/4" x 7 3/4")

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

1/4 PAGE = \$25.00 (4 3/4" 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 12 thru 16, 2009



2009 Boston, Massachusetts

### 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:  
**61ST REUNION 63rd DIVISION ASS'N.**  
and mail to:

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

Ad Copy: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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



# Philadelphia Chapter enjoys reunion

by Kitty Forrest



Twenty-three members of the Philadelphia Chapter met for an exciting mini-reunion May 2-5 in Concordville, Pennsylvania at the Holiday Inn Express. Evening entertainment included the Barbone Jazz Group with music we know and appreciate.

On Saturday we enjoyed a production of "The Merry Widow" with a professional cast and an old-time movie with popcorn in the evening.

Sunday a lavish brunch on the ship Moshulu at Penn's Landing in Philadelphia, with a later guided tour of the National Liberty Museum featuring glass sculptures and inspiring displays of freedom and liberty. Our own 63<sup>rd</sup> Medal of Honor recipients are in their computer.

We will be gathering in Atlantic City on September 21 for our annual luncheon, show, and business meeting. Join us! Contact Allen Romanoff, 1640 Dogwood Dr., Garnet Valley, PA 19061.

## Left Marlene Dietrick stranded on the dance floor

by Al LaVecchia

I was in Co. E, 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, 253. Angelo Pilla was my captain.

When I arrived at Camp Van Dorn, I was placed with Sgt. John Poggi in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon. Because of my short stature, I was placed in the back of the Platoon, and that wasn't where I wanted to be! I marched up to Sgt. Poggi and told him I didn't like being in the back and I was going to prove I belonged in the front! By the end of Basic Training, I was in the front as Platoon Guide.

When we arrived in France, we had our first taste of battle in the Alsace Lorraine area. After we successfully moved into Germany, I became the Platoon Sgt. and John Poggi got a Battle Field Commission to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Unfortunately we lost a lot of good men in all the battles we fought.

In the last battle we attacked the town of Stein, which was an ammunition area for the Germans. Both Capt.

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

## Marlene Dietrick . . . .

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33

Pilla and Lt. John Poggi were wounded and sent back to recover. We were given a 90-day wonder from the states to take command of our company. He ordered me to take a squad of men to determine the German's strength where we were fighting. By this time I had gone into a stressful condition and refused the order. A week or so later, the war ended and the new Lieutenant had me busted to a PFC.

We were staying in a little town in Germany when Fred Wayne from Special Services came looking for anyone who could sing and dance. They were putting together a show to entertain the troops. I immediately volunteered and we put together a show, which was a burlesque version of the opera *Carman*, using all GIs. We put the first show on in a town called Tauberbischofsheim and it went over very well. After that, we entertained other troops waiting to be sent home. We played in Berlin, Paris, Rome, Vienna and

several areas all through Europe where our men were waiting to be sent back to the states.

When we played in Berlin, Marlene Dietrick came into Berlin to check on the status of her relatives. She was asked to perform for the troops in the Berlin area, and since we were in the only theater left standing, it was agreed to have her perform between the second and third act of our show. We were not happy about this and I hid a few props she was going to use in her performance. Needless to say, her act didn't go over very well. She was also asked to be a guest at an International Ball given in her honor. We of the *Carman* show were invited along with our band led by Marty Faloon. Having had too much to drink, I asked her to dance and she agreed. I left her stranded on the dance floor by telling her she couldn't dance that well. The band could not continue as they were all laughing so hard!

# How I remember Camp Van Dorn in Mississippi

by Joseph T. Scales

In the summer of 1942, I was with the 7<sup>th</sup> Division. The division was in desert maneuvers, and at the end of the maneuvers, a cadre was selected to start a new division. We were sent to Camp Van Dorn in Mississippi and started the 99<sup>th</sup> Division. We arrived at Camp Van Dorn in September 1942. Some of the members of the cadre were allowed to take turns to go on furloughs, and I took my furlough on October 28, 1942. I hitchhiked from Camp Van Dorn, Mississippi to Clovis, New Mexico. It took me 30 hours to arrive in Clovis on October 31, 1942. While on furlough, I married Louree Craig on November 2, 1942. I returned home November 8, 1942, and all furloughs ended in January 1943.

During this time, the contractor crews were working on building in the camp. The building was built up off the ground, and there were no walkways in the camp, which was badly needed. The camp needed walkways because when it rained the mud was knee deep! There was a lot of work that needed to be done on the walkways around the buildings, and since there were a lot of building materials around the camp, the cadre helped themselves to the two by four's and built

walkways all over the camp. As we were receiving recruits, we were still working on the walkways.

In January 1943, we started receiving recruits; they were very young 18 and 19-year olds, and they came in all hours of the day. At Camp Van Dorn, we used coal stoves to cook on. One morning we were told since there would not be any recruits that day, we were to clean our stoves and then we could have the day off. We finished cleaning the stoves around 8 a.m. and as we were leaving the mess hall, the duty officer met us at the door and announced there would be 1,000 recruits in for lunch at 12 noon.

We fired up the three coal stoves with large ovens. The roast beef was frozen and had to be put in the ovens immediately, potatoes were baked in their jackets, hot coffee was brewed in a 20-gallon pot, the salad had to be made, and the bread sliced. All this as they stoked the coals on the stoves so they would be white hot. Lunch was served at 12 noon. After the recruits were assigned to their companies, I returned to my outfit, C Battery Field Artillery of the 924 Battalion.

In May 1943, volunteers were asked for cadet

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 36

## Ex-President Dietrick speaks out

We would like to thank the *Blood and Fire* members who attended the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion. We realize that for many of our members, this was a struggle and hardship, both mentally and physically. We also appreciate the support given by those who were unable to attend the reunion, but called and wrote notes in support.

We also thank Ed Fowle, reunion chairman, and his family in producing a fine reunion, and Donna LaCrosse and her family for the reunion booklet, day to day operations and many other items. Even though the attendance did not match the size of prior years, it seemed that there was much more mingling and visiting among the members. The stories are getting better and better!

We tip our hat to the staff of Marriott East Hotel in Indianapolis for the fine service and hospitality, and to the Armed Forces Reunions, Inc., Norfolk, Virginia for working with us to provide a pleasant reunion.

Among those helping to support me (mostly mentally) during my term as president, I would like to thank Donna LaCrosse and Ed Fowle. Thanks also to First Vice President, Carl Anderson; Second Vice President, Jack Linscott; Treasurer, Clare Gerity, and National Secretary/Treasurer and *Blood and Fire* Editor, Donna LaCrosse.

Others who helped are Bill Scott, Historian; Fred Clinton, Webmaster; Karin Froberg-Marzano, Assistant Historian; Michael Thomson, Assistant Webmaster; Vin Stratton, Chaplain and our Directors.

We hope we did not miss anyone, but if we did, we say "many thanks" to everyone including Henry, the Bell-hop.

Please give thought to attending the reunion in Boston, Massachusetts next August. Details will follow in the future editions of the *Blood and Fire*.

The Ad Book this year was much larger than it has been in the past and we appreciate you supporting that project. Please consider placing an ad in the book for this next year.

In closing, I am proud to have had a small part in the history of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Association.

*John Dietrick*

*It's a small world . . .*



Cool City Band leader, Roy Geesa, posed with Donna LaCrosse during the banquet-dance held Saturday night at the reunion.

Geesa and LaCrosse graduated from the same high school – she in 1946, he in 1966, and they lived in a community where everyone knew everyone, regardless of the difference in age.

This meeting was a complete surprise – neither one knew the other would be participating in the gala.

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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 LaCrosse.

***Notice***  
**DEADLINE FOR THE  
 FEBRUARY 2009  
 ISSUE OF THE  
 BLOOD AND FIRE  
 IS ON OR BEFORE  
 JANUARY 1, 2009**

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*Happy Holidays!*

# Remembering Camp Van Dorn . . . .

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 34

training for the Army Air Corp. There was a bulletin on the bulletin board saying: "Anyone wishing to transfer to the Air Force sign here." I thought this was a joke so I added my name to the list. I thought, what the heck, it is a day off. Seventeen volunteers signed up and went to Baton Rouge, Louisiana to take the test. Only three of the seventeen men passed the test, and I was one of the men accepted into cadet training.

In order to get into the cadets, we had to have had two years of college, however the Army ran out of young men with college educations who could pass the physical examination. The Army started taking men who could pass the mental and attitude tests, and sent those men to college. On October 1, 1943, I arrived to attend the University of Missouri at Columbia, Missouri. My classes were from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with 30 minutes off for lunch. The classes were five days a week for six months.

After finishing the classes, I started preparing to take my solo test for my pilot licenses. General

Marshall, chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff, realized the need for more ground troops in Germany. We were sent back to ground forces, and in March, I was sent back to Camp Van Dorn, Mississippi, where I joined the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division and was assigned to the artillery battalion.

The 63<sup>rd</sup> was a brand new division, and in the fall of 1944, we prepared the weapons – the howitzers (a 105mm cannon) and all the other paraphernalia for traveling by ship. The howitzers had to be protected from the sea salt water, so they were rubbed with heavy grease.

In September 1944, I was offered a furlough. I used it to take my wife, Louree, back to Elida, New Mexico to stay with her parents while I was in Germany. In all, I spent eighteen months in Camp Van Dorn.

After Christmas of 1944, I went by troop train to Camp Shank, New York, where I was with the Headquarters Battery of the 862<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery Battalion of the 63d Division.



*This picture was submitted by Joseph Zeiner.*

*It was taken February 9, 1945 in Willerwald, France while waiting for engagement with the Germans.*

# A word from your buddies . . .

## 253<sup>rd</sup> Regiment

James Gregg, I Company, sent this message: "On April 15, 2007, I had double by-pass heart surgery. By November 9, I had completed chemo and radiation for bladder cancer. Now I am doing really well." James lives in Bend, Oregon.

Michael J. Cairo, L Company, had this to say: "I am 87 years old and in fairly good health. I just received a letter that made my day! It came from Seymour Freedman, who was with me when I got hit by a flare in Germany. The minute I saw the address, I recognized the name. It was good to be remembered." Michael lives in Port Chester, New York.

Rev. James M. Ernster, L Company, enjoys Fred Clinton's email material. The minister lives in Belgium, Wisconsin. His email address is [vrnie@verizon.net](mailto:vrnie@verizon.net)

Roy J. Rock, H Company, wrote: "We are both in bad health. I have to use a walker to walk. Can't get out much and can't do little things around the house. I was injured in WWII at age 19. I am depressed as I never thought life would be like this!." Roy lives in Hodgenville, Kentucky.

## 254<sup>th</sup> Regiment

Jasper Miller, Headquarters Company, wrote: "I am writing to tell you that I enjoy getting the *Blood and Fire* each three or four months. I like to keep up with my buddies from Company G and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Headquarters.

I am unable to both physically and financially to attend the annual reunions now; that is the reason I like the publication.

On July 3, 2008, Georgia and I observed our 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

I keep in touch with those I served with in the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division. We served together from August 1, 1944 to September 1945." Jasper lives in Maynardville, Tennessee.

Vernon A. Worster, G Company, sent this message: "I was born January 27, 1919; Louise was born August 24, 1921 and we were married in 1937. We have six children, 21 grandchildren, 48 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren. We were fighting from house to house in Jebshiem on my 26<sup>th</sup> birthday. Everyday it was front line except three days R&R in

DeJona, France. I am doing well at 89 1/2, but lonesome. Louise is sick and blind and I am tied with housework, lawn and garden. Would like to hear from somebody that went all the way from February 1944 to May 1945 with G 254." Vernon lives in Prentiss, Maine.

Richard J. Mertes, I and R Company, has been retired since October 1, 1985. His comment: "Best job I have ever had!" Richard lives in Bowling Green, Ohio.

Gerrit Hoeksema, M Company, wrote: "My grandson just enrolled in Valley Forge Military Academy. My wife, Mae, and I are doing well. We were married 62 years on October 9, 2008."

## 255<sup>th</sup> Regiment

Melvin Stahl, E Company, had this to say: "I retired after 39 years with Procter and Gamble. Most of my time is spent taking care of Lacey. Best wishes to all." Melvin lives in Memphis, Tennessee.

Richard Gutierrez, D Company, wrote: "I am doing fine at 82. Would like to say a hearty 'hi' to Jack Perkins and Calvin Mason." Richard lives in West Covina, California.

Roland Dandurand, G Company, has not been in good health for the past six months. Email him at [rolandjd@aol.com](mailto:rolandjd@aol.com). He lives in Boynton Beach, Florida.

## MED 363

Benjamin F. Butler Jr, A Company, had this to say: "My wife, Dorene G. Butler died January 21, 2008. She was 87 years old. I am 97 and still hobbling along." Benjamin lives in Greensboro, North Carolina."

## Associate Member

This note came from Richard Parrack: "My uncle was T/Sgt Harold H. Miller, Anti-Tank Company with the 255<sup>th</sup> Regiment. He died in 2006 and his picture was in the Ad Book last year. You (Donna) and I met at the reunion in Tacoma, Washington and you were kind enough to give me extra ad books. Many thanks." Richard lives in Upper Darby, Pennsylvania.

Nancy Holdren sent this message: "I am an associate member and widow of Robert Holdren III,

## Word from buddies ...

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 37

who died July 31, 2006. We always enjoyed the *Blood and Fire* and I would like it continued. Thanks for your hard work." Nancy lives in Pocomoke City, Maryland.

This note came from Joyce Miller, sister to Arthur A. Watson, who is buried in France: "Greetings from Red Lodge, Montana. Colors are changing and fall is in the air. Red Lodge always welcomes the snow, as the Ski Hill likes to start after Thanksgiving! Thanks for all who work to keep this great association going!"

## Oops! I Goofed!!

In the February issue of the *Blood and Fire*, the town where the late Lewis R. Cammarosana lived was incorrectly spelled. Kotonah is the correct spelling. See Celebration of Life, page 4.

Following are corrections for the "goofs" made in the May 2008 issue of the *"Blood and Fire"*.

Page 2, Directors listing, Archie Kumasaka served in the Field Artillery, not Special Troops. Howard Van Schoor was in Special Troops and not in the Field Artillery.

Page 28, second column 2, Want to Preserve article: Camp Van Dorn email address is incorrect. The correct address is [info@vandorn.org](mailto:info@vandorn.org)

Page 34, first column, past secretary/treasurer, 1986 - Charlie Beaver filled that position, not Murray Moore. Merlyn Witt, widow of Ed Witt, sent this information.

Same page, second column, Editors: Donna LaCosse served from 2005 to 2008, not 20054 as listed on that page.

Page 39: headline, second line, Single Company should be Signal Company.

Page 40, first column, fifth paragraph, twenty-six were dinner guest, not just six people!

## New members

Cass Arthur, son of Homer Arthur Jr., K 253, attended the Indianapolis reunion and at that time, became an associate member. He lives in Brandon, Mississippi.

Mac Arthur, whose father was Homer Arthur Jr. of K 253, also joined the association as an associate member when he attended the Indianapolis reunion. He lives in Lena, Mississippi.

Patricia DeClercq lives in South Bend, Indiana. Her brother was Richard Noble, C 253, who was killed in action April 7, 1945.

Robert Driscoll, son of the late James J. Driscoll, lives in Sacramento, California. His father passed away August 6, 2008.

Lt. Col. Howard CW Geck, USAR, was deployed to Iraq in September and will remain there until November 2009. During his stay in Iraq, he will receive his mail at his parents address, 4601 Larchmont Drive NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Mark Lindemann has been coming to the reunions for many years. His mother, Margaret, passed away this spring. His father, Oscar Lindemann, M 254, passed December 7, 2002. Mark lives in Valders, Wisconsin.

Edward A. Piasta, L 253, lives in Pomona, California. His email address is [Edward.piasta@ca.it.com](mailto:Edward.piasta@ca.it.com).

James R. Pritcher (Jim), USAR, was on active duty from January 1956 to June 1957; returned to Southern California and joined Hq & Hq Company, 254<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. He spent two years with the unit, then was assigned to the 311<sup>th</sup> Logistical Command. Later he was assigned to the 63<sup>rd</sup> ARCOM. His last assignment in the reserve was Deputy Commandant of the 6222<sup>nd</sup> USAR School. He was promoted to Colonel in 1984 and left the active reserve. He had a four-year old son and wanted to spend more time with him and the other children. During this time he was a teacher at Lincoln Junior High and a Math instructor at Santa Monica College in the evening.

Calvin A. Prince, F 253, lives in St. Paul, Minnesota. His granddaughter, Christina Kocholek, sent in his membership application.

John Simshauser, 2 Bn Hq 255, came to the 63<sup>rd</sup> Division in July 1944 at Camp Van Dorn. There he was in the AP Platoon (Ammo & Pioneer) and went to Camp Shanks where he boarded a Liberty Ship for Marseille, France. From Marseille, he went by train to Hagenu in eastern France. That was where they lost Lt. Frank Waldner to "friendly fire." Several others in the platoon were slightly wounded and two were captured by a German patrol, and ended up as POWs. John lives in The Villages, Florida.

# *Executive Council meeting held in Indianapolis in 2008*

The 60<sup>th</sup> annual Executive Council meeting took place Friday, August 22, 2008 at 8 a.m. at the Marriott East Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana. Ed Fowle opened the meeting with prayer.

Board members present were Marsh Allen, Vernon Alberg, Alfred Diaz, Kenneth Erickson, Herman Fabiani, Edward Fowle, Archie Kumasaka, David D. Montgomery, Edgar Moutoux, and Bill Scott. Officers attending were John Dietrick and Donna LaCrosse. Others included Bob Capasso, Fred Clinton, Robert McCourt, Michael Thomson and Harold LaCrosse.

Bill Scott presented the Historian's report with Alfred Diaz making a motion the report be accepted. Edgar Moutoux seconded the motion and it carried. Bill informed the group that the Alpha List would not be duplicated next year.

Minutes of the 2007 meeting were read and approved. Alfred Diaz made the motion, Herman Fabiani seconded the motion and it carried.

The financial report showed \$35,060.66 in Association assets. Al Diaz stated the interest on the Certificate of Deposit should be shown on the report as income. The correction will be made. Al moved the report be filed for audit, Marsh Allen seconded the motion and it carried.

The *Blood and Fire* report showed \$9,030.25 was spent on publishing and mailing the three issues. A total of 5,307 copies were printed. Marsh Allen made a motion the report be accepted, Vern Alberg seconded the motion and it carried. Al Diaz reminded the editor the rate of travel should be changed to comply with the IRS rate, which is presently forty-two cents a mile, instead of the twenty-cents per mile allowed in the Association By-Laws. This increase in travel rate was voted on at the 2007 meeting.

Al Diaz made a motion the following slate of officers for 2009 be presented to the general membership for consideration and vote at the Saturday meeting: president, Robert Capasso; first vice, Robert McCourt; second vice, Joseph Freitas; secretary, Donna LaCrosse, and treasurer, Robert Capasso. Archie Kumasaka seconded the motion and it carried.

Appointed officers to be voted on by the general membership include historian, Bill Scott; assistant historian, Karin Froberg/Marzano; Editor of *Blood & Fire*, Donna LaCrosse; webmaster, Fred Clinton, and assistant webmaster, Michael Thomson. Al Diaz made the motion, Ed Fowle seconded the motion and it carried.

A bill from Design Graphics was presented for the 63<sup>rd</sup> logo magnets that were used as a give-away at the reunion. Five hundred magnets were made at no charge to the Association. Council members suggested a thank you note be sent to the young couple who own the business and a business ad be placed in the 2009 ad book for free, plus the couple will be treated to dinner at Association expense. Edgar Moutoux made the motion, seconded by Al Diaz and carried.

Robert Capasso presented further plans for the 2009 reunion to be held in Boston August 12 to August 15. Several tours have been planned with the Gray Line Bus Company in charge. Ramada Inn Boston will be the host hotel and is located on the waterfront. Hotel rate will be the same three days before and three days after the reunion.

Ed Fowle presented the mid west as a site for the 2010 reunion, with IMOK Chapter hosting the affair. Marsh Allen said he thought further reunions should be held in the mid west, since the distance would be less for members to travel from out-lying areas. A definite site has not been selected as of this date, however there are points of interest in eastern Ohio, Indiana, including southern Indiana and perhaps Kentucky. Al Diaz made a motion the site of the 2010 reunion be held in the mid west and the selection be made by the IMOK Chapter members. Marsh Allen seconded the motion and it carried.

During a discussion concerning the materials Bill Scott "carries" to the reunion, Ed Fowle said he would not have materials sent to Boston until two weeks before the 2009 reunion.

Robert McCourt made a motion the meeting be adjourned; Edgar Moutoux seconded the motion and it carried.

# Need help locating buddies

By Bernard "Barney" Lucas



Earlier in August, I went to visit Jim Crawford, Tech Sgt. HQ Battery Div Arty, at his home in Eastpointe. Jim's family had a big 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party for him last April, but he didn't attend because of a suspected heart attack. He recovered quickly and is doing all right now. This is a picture of the two of us at Jim's sons' machine shop.

Marsh Allen, Jim and I are the only members of the Air Section that we know about. I still correspond with Leonard "Ben" Ferace and Carl Kimmerling of Div Arty HQ Battery.

I will be 85 come October. My wife, Florence, and I still enjoy reasonably good health and enjoy the easy living at our Erickson Fox Run Retirement Village. Last April we had a great-granddaughter addition to our family.

Hoping someone can help us locate any other Air Section and HQ Bty Div Arty members. Please drop me a line at 41130 Fox Run Rd. #522, Novi, MI 48377-4878 or email me at [blucas@ml.rr.com](mailto:blucas@ml.rr.com).

## We get culture

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

During the transition from war to occupation the 83<sup>rd</sup> ended up in southeastern Bavaria on the frontiers of Czechoslovakia and Austria. One sunny afternoon, three of us in a jeep overtook a convoy on the Autobahn heading south. It was a mixture of German Army trucks, civilian three-wheel trucks with a motorcycle engine over the single front wheel, German jeeps, French sedans burning charcoal and motorcycles with sidecars. Such convoys were not unusual and we began passing the slow moving vehicles. Two of us were asleep and the driver half asleep with the dash throttle pulled all the way out and the speed odometer reading sixty.

Suddenly the driver yelled and hit the brakes - there were girls on the convoy! Young, pretty, smiling, waving girls!

General Patton had decreed no fraternization with German civilians, but we didn't care. An MP road checkpoint stopped the convoy and we stopped too. The men and women (no children) spoke broken German with a strange accent. One of the buddies was Czech and he solved the mystery. We had a portion of the

Royal Hungarian Symphony Orchestra and part of the Imperial Hungarian Ballet. They had been entertaining Hungarian and German troops in Russia and were now attempting to return to Hungary. They needed gasoline, charcoal and food to continue their journey. We agreed to provide them in exchange for a concert and ballet.

Truck drivers from QM Signal, MP's etc, pooled their talents to acquire the fuel and food. We informed our buddies and by evening had an audience of a few hundred, including officers. Beer, wine and Schnapp's joined the party and for some it lasted till dawn. The convoy then left for Hungary.

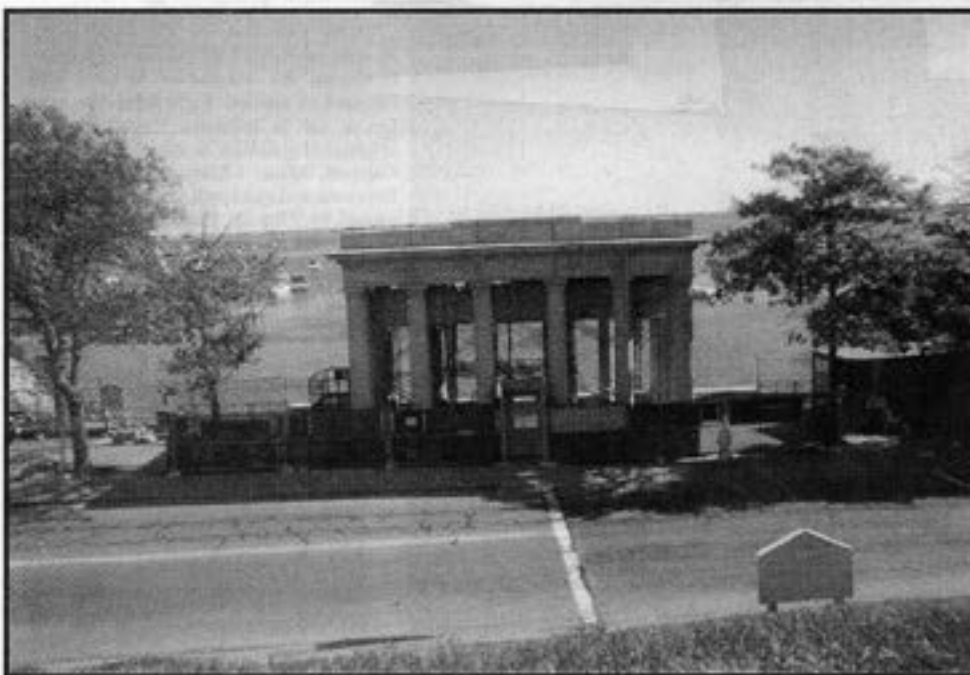
Upon returning to our unit, the acting CO charged the three of us with illegal fraternization and a court martial. We pointed out that it applied to German civilians and we had fraternized with Hungarians.

It ruined his day!

Happy Holidays!



## PREVIEW OF TOUR OF PLYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2009



### PLYMOUTH ROCK

#### *America's cornerstone*

Plymouth Rock is the symbolic stepping stone from the old world to the new.

Plymouth Rock's existence was first recorded in 1715, when it was described in the town boundary records as a "great rock". The only testimony of the rock's attribution, however, was given by Thomas Faunce, elder of the Plymouth Church, who in 1741 identified the rock as the place where the Pilgrims first landed.

Faunce received his information from his father, a passenger on the *Ann* in 1623, who presumably heard it firsthand. The occasion is recounted by James Thatcher in his "History of the Town of Plymouth", written in 1832.

Colonial America, unlike Europe, had no traditions ready-made, no historic memory, so there was a need for patriotic images around which citizens could unite. In the late 1700s, the desire to have a concrete symbol of the forefathers quickly established the rock in the popular consciousness.

Plymouth Rock became one of the earliest shrines and places of pilgrimage for Americans. It served as the symbol of The Landing, the origin of Plymouth Colony and, by extension, the rest of New England and the entire nation.

The Plymouth Rock in the portico on the waterfront is approximately one-third its original size. Over the years the rock has been in various locations (including in front of Pilgrim Hall), where it was easily accessible to souvenir hunters who chipped away pieces. Part of the rock – equal to the piece that's under the portico on the waterfront – is in the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C.

Tens of thousands of Americans visit Plymouth Rock each year, affirming the importance of the idea of Plymouth Rock in the American consciousness for more than three and a half centuries.

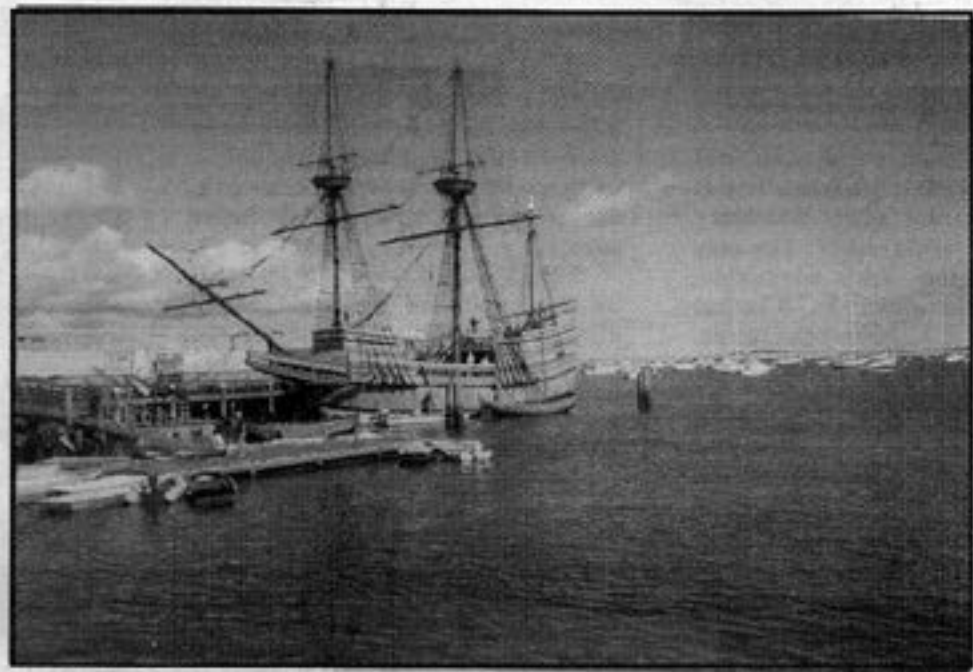


## MAYFLOWER II – REPLICA OF ORIGINAL MAYFLOWER

### HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS

#### Mayflower II

Having celebrated its golden anniversary last year, the Mayflower II is a well-researched replica, built from the same Devon oak in Brixham, England, as the original Mayflower. It was sailed here by Captain Alan Villiers in 1957 as an international good-will project and is now owned by Plimoth Plantation. Costumed role players tell the story of the voyage and point out interesting details.



# Answers to questions about the walking part of the Boston Reunion

*by President Robert Capasso*

A few short notes to give you some idea of what is planned in Boston to keep walking to a minimum:

The bus monitors will be instructed to reserve the first five rows on the bus for anyone having difficulty walking.

I have not included a tour of the Plymouth Plantation for the very reason – a long walk over gravel roads.

The Ramada Inn is a small hotel with no meeting rooms. The meeting rooms are right next door at the Phillips Old Colony Restaurant which is owned by the same people. A hospitality room will be provided at the hotel for refreshments – so no walking.

The Buffet and Dinner are at the restaurant next door, which is attached to the inn – so again, no walking.

The City Boston Tour is really a motor drive along all the historic sites on the Freedom Trail. There are about twenty tour sites that we will pass. Any member can go back and take a walking tour of the same sites at a later date.

We are trying to make only two stops on this tour. The first will be at the US Constitution so that a visit can be made on the ship. If all works out – we can board a vessel to take the harbor tour. But this has not been worked out with the tour company yet, and they may require that we make another stop at one of the larger wharfs to board the vessel.

The second stop will be at Faneuil Hall Marketplace where some members may want to walk to Paul Revere's House and the Old North Church which is just up the street. Or, just take in all the sites at Faneuil Hall and then lunch at the Oyster House. The buses will be parked right off the square, which will not entail much walking to board the bus for the trip back to the hotel.

The Plymouth Tour also does not make for any walking. The bus will drop off just the main street and we can walk to Plymouth Rock. The Mayflower II is just about one hundred yards along the wharf from the Rock. The restaurants are right across the street from both of them if you want to have lunch there – and remember that the City Dinner tour is scheduled for that evening.

There is not much time to take in the other historical sites in Plymouth, which requires a lot of walking, but with such a short stop, a view of the harbor should satisfy most.

The Dinner Tour to the center of Boston on Friday night also does not require much walking. The bus will park right off the square and the shops and all the first class restaurants are right down the street. I got the idea of this from the Kentucky reunion when we went on the Dam on the river to site-see and eat on the wharf.

The shuttle bus on Saturday afternoon will take us right at the door to the JFK President's Library and Museum. Not much walking. If you do not want to see all the exhibits and just visit the building. And the University of Massachusetts Campus is right on the water there at Dorchester Bay.

## *Teen interested in autographs and stories from WW II veterans*

*by Kyle Nappi*

My name is Kyle Nappi. I am 18 years old, and live in Ostrander, Ohio. I have a big interest in history, specifically WW II. I collect military medals, patches, badges, insignia, field gear, and a very unique thing, veteran photographs. I have a collection of autographs from military veterans who served during WW I, WW II, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War, and the present war in Iraq.

I have been interested in history for over six years, and I have collected the autographs and stories from nearly 1,600 veterans in 20 countries. The oldest veteran is currently 112 years old and the youngest enlisted at age 14. I have autographs from Pearl Harbor survivors, D-Day veterans, airmen, POWs, USS Indianapolis survivors, Holocaust survivors, and even German soldiers!

In June 2007, I was interviewed by PBS, to talk

## Teen interested . . .

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 43

about my collection for an interview, that was to be shown online (YouTube). After that, I was interviewed for *The Columbus World War II Road Show*. They mentioned that it was to come on, in central Ohio, before some of the episodes of Ken Burns' "The War". You can find this interview on YouTube under "Kyle Nappi".

I was recently interviewed by the American Legion for an article that will appear in their August magazine. Here is an internet link to the online article (different from the magazine article, which appear in August).

[http://www.legion.org/whatsnew/publications/new\\_sletter/story?id=635](http://www.legion.org/whatsnew/publications/new_sletter/story?id=635)

There have been several other people who have taken time to post my request online and in newspapers. There are far too many for me to list, but you can go to Google or Yahoo and search "Kyle Nappi" to find most of them.

Recently, I also have the privilege of going to Washington, D.C. during the early part of March. I was invited to the Pentagon for a Ceremony honoring WW I veterans, and was able to meet with the last American WW I veteran, Frank Buckles.

I would appreciate hearing from the veterans who are interested in providing me with an autograph and/or a story. You can contact me by writing me at 1890 Warren Road, Ostrander, OH 43061 USA. My phone number is 740-363-8095 and my email address is: [knap607@yahoo.com](mailto:knap607@yahoo.com)

My main purpose for writing this is to share with you that there are people from my generation who do remember the past and the sacrifices that were made for our great country. I would greatly appreciate it if you could pass the word around that I would like information for my collection. Thank you very much.

# The enemy, regardless of age or circumstances, is an eligible target

by Irving Gittelman

I have always had the feeling so many others perished in situations far more involved than anything in which I participated. There is, however, a personal motive behind the situation I plan to relate.

The three platoons of the 63rd Recon Troop were assigned to lead regimental task forces. Each platoon led one regiment. We would take on any situation, which arose unless it was greater than we were equipped to handle. Then the infantry riding on top of the tanks following us would come in.

On this occasion, we were led by one of our M8 armored cars while we followed directly behind in one jeep where I covered with my 30-caliber machine gun. Suddenly a panzerfaust aimed at the M8 barely missed and exploded beyond us. The column stopped and since those who fired the weapon disappeared beyond exposure to my machine gun, all of us who could grabbed hand weapons and went after the enemy. I was the first to spot the well-camouflaged group behind a craggy knoll and emptied my rifle from the hip. Everyone else joined in momentarily. When all was over, we discovered the enemy were Hitler Jugend in their very early teens. I had no qualms about my

actions and could only think that a more accurately aimed panzerfaust would have left us helplessly watching four friends burn to death in the vulnerable armored car.

We learned that in war, one has responsibility for his friends and for himself. The enemy, regardless of age or circumstances, is an eligible target.

General Sherman first spoke of such things during and after the Civil War, and I wish the United States were in a position to be less apologetic in the present conflict.

**61st Reunion  
August 12 thru  
August 16, 2009  
Boston, Mass.**



# John Downs, Master Carver



*Several pieces of "art" done by John Downs.*



*Wood Chopper – carved by John Downs for the Gilmanton Old Home Day Art Show held in August.*

John Downs, F 254, is a self-taught wood carver who has been "playing in the wood pile" for about twenty years. He has been to a few classes, but seems to like his own methods of carving the best. He likes teaching himself, and making his own mistakes.

About a year ago, John started the "Woodside Carvers" Club in New Hampshire, where the members meet each Thursday morning to chat and carve. The club is for the novice or the master, men and women, and for ages 18 to 108. He hopes to be still carving at the age of 108!

He has been known to bring a "hunk" of wood and his tools to the annual reunions, and when time allows – or sleep won't come – he can lose himself in his favorite past time, doing what he likes to do best.

On August 16, 2008, he entered carvings in the Art Show at the Gilmanton Old Home Day celebration and walked away with a couple of blue ribbons.



*Another Blue Ribbon to add to the Downs' Collection.*

# Thirty points and you're out!

By Gale Hammond, FA 863



Finally the war was over. Soldiers were rated with points showing their service. I got one point for each month I was in the army; one point for the number of months over seas, and five points for each major campaign I was in. That totaled thirty points.

Since I was a replacement, my points were low. Those with high points got discharged. Those with low points were put in a combat team to invade Japan. I was being prepared to invade Japan.

In preparation for the Japan tour, two assignments were given. One was to paint insignias on our helmets, and one was to mount bayonets on our carbines. I got the paint job – my buddy got the bayonet job. Now, think what this meant – we were going to invade Japan, only this time we would be using bayonets. My buddy could not stand that thought and shot himself.

My unit got as far as the port of La Harve to board the ship for Japan, when the atomic bomb was dropped, ending the war. While that bomb killed many people, it certainly saved hundreds of thousands of American lives, as well as Japanese lives. I was one of those who were saved.

Finally my turn came to go home for discharge. On

the ship we had “abandon ship drills” in case of trouble. We became very good at grabbing our life jackets and rushing to the outside deck. After several days of drilling, I was in the gallery having dinner when the signal came. I thought that this was just another drill and went on eating. A few minutes later, a second signal sounded. This time all the navy cooks and kitchen help dropped what they were doing and rushed out. I now realized that this was not just another drill!

The ship was on fire! I rushed to the outer deck and stood there watching the sailors pouring water on the decks and side of the ship. There was nothing but water as far as the eye could see and no ships in sight to help. For more than an hour we stood there expecting to go over the side at any moment while the navy fought the fire. Here I had survived the war, and now I was going to drown on the way home! Fortunately the fire was finally put out and we returned to our bunks. I had been saved again!

I remember the day when the war was over and I was on the ship pulling into the New York Harbor. We could see that grand old lady, the statue of Liberty, holding high the flame declaring “Liberty to all the land.” The ship docked, I went down the gang plank, and as I reached the last step, I hesitated for a second and then jumped with both feet onto good old US soil. I had survived the war – and I had not met an “untimely death.”

How proud I was that I had been able to serve my country – a country that gives freedom to all.

*(Gale Hammond lives in Salt Lake City, Utah. He is 83 years old and goes to work in his Toy and Hobby Store every day. He also volunteers as a guide in the local church history museum.)*

*Pictured (upper left) – PFC Gale Hammond.*

*Pictured (bottom left) – Gale Hammond (right) and Burdette Heun (left).*

*Pictured (upper right) – Gale Hammond is shown on the left.*

*Pictured (bottom right) – Bredette Heun is shown on the upper right of photo.*

*Merry Christmas  
and Happy New Year!*

## 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.*

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

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

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

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

**CUT  
THIS  
OUT** 

### 63rd DIVISION ASSOCIATION DUES FORM

PLEASE PRINT OR USE MAILING LABEL

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

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\_\_\_\_\_

## STAMPS FOR VETERANS

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

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

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

**61st Reunion  
August 12 thru  
August 16, 2009  
Boston, Mass.**



  
**HELPFUL  
TELEPHONE  
NUMBERS**

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

VA LIFE INSURANCE  
1-800-829-8477 

\_\_\_\_\_

# 61ST REUNION

## BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

### AUGUST 12 THRU AUGUST 16, 2009

Address:  
 Old North Church  
 193 Salem St.  
 Boston, MA



Address:  
 Paul Revere House  
 19 N Square  
 Boston, MA



## 63rd Division Association

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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 WABASH, IN  
 PERMIT NO. 233

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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