



★ CAMP BLANDING ★ CAMP VAN DORN ★

Blood and Fire

63rd Division Association, Inc.

• ARDENNES / ALSACE • RHINELAND • CENTRAL EUROPE •

VOL. 61, NO. 1

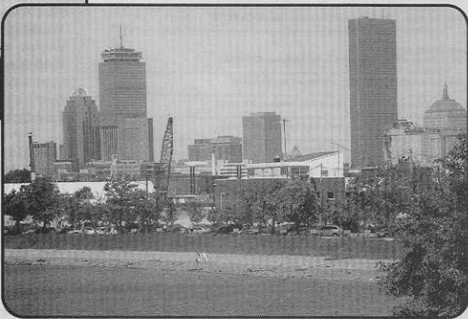
MOROCCO, INDIANA 47963

FEBRUARY 2009

BUNKER HILL MONUMENT

**61ST
BOSTON,
MASS.**

**AUGUST 12 -
AUGUST 15,
2009**



BOSTON SKYLINE

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 has completed all the preparations for the 63rd Division's annual convention, which will be held in Boston in August. We hope that as many as possible of the 63rd members as well as the 63rd USAR members can come and visit historical Boston for the next annual reunion.

Boston is the place where our national history began and we will attempt to make as many historical visits as possible within the time frame of our reunion.

History tells us that from 1630 when the Puritans landed in New England until the end of the 17th century, Boston was the largest town in Colonial America.

In 1770, in an effort to control unruly unrest because of the Stamp Act, British soldiers fired and killed five colonists, in what was called the Boston Massacre. On December 16, 1773, tea was dumped in Boston Harbor and British suppression began, resulting in 1774 of the First Continental Congress meeting in Philadelphia voting in favor of armed resistance.

On April 18, 1775, Paul Revere rode from Boston to Concord warning of the British marching on Concord (from the lanterns in the Old Church - 'one if by land and two if by sea'). And in the first battle on Lexington Green, British soldiers clashed with civilian minutemen and eight volunteers were killed and the war was on with 'the shot heard round the world'.

The British attempted to capture Boston in the Battle of Bunker Hill on June 17, 1775. On March 17, 1776 by fortifying Dorchester Heights, George Washington drove the British from Boston and Boston was recaptured by American Militia and British troops, and their Tory sympathizers were banished. The Declaration of Independence was first publicly read from the Old State House on July 18, 1776.

We will have tours going to all these historic sites as well as our scenic seashore. A "Freedom Trail" marked in red brick provides a walking tour of all the above inner city landmarks with each stop representing a chapter in American history with vivid reminders of events that led to American Independence.

Complimentary shuttle buses will be provided by the Hotel, to the University of Massachusetts and the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, which are one mile from the Hotel.

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

President continued

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

We will have a bus tour to Plymouth Rock and to Plymouth Harbor to see a replica of the ship *Mayflower* and board the ship for a view of the interior of the ship and the quarters the Puritans endured on their trip to America.

If you so desire, you can make a private motor tour to the City of Quincy to visit the home of the second president, John Adams and the home of the sixth president, John Quincy Adams.

Also private trips to Salem, with the famous house of seven gables, and the beaches in Rockport and Gloucester are a short drive North of Boston. Cape Cod with beaches, shops and the sand dunes of Cape Cod National Seashore are a short drive South.

Our oldest universities, Harvard in 1663 and Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1861, are close in Cambridge. There are 60 colleges and universities in and around Boston with close to 250,000 students attending regular sessions.

We will have a busy reunion with plenty to see and an opportunity to stay with your buddies in all the planned activities. Our hotel is located within three miles of the center of the City of Boston. We will have private buses available for the bus tours departing from our hotel and the hotel is central to public transportation so that private sightseeing is readily available.

We hope you can come early and leave late so you can see all that Boston and New England has to offer. Try and make this reunion a time to rehash your WWII experiences with your buddies as well as acquaint yourself and your family with all the history that we have to offer.

The hotel registration form and the reunion registration form is included in this issue and we request that you forward the forms before the cut-off date so we can plan the rooms and tours for those that will be our guests for the reunion.

From the editor . . .

Donna LaCasse

Wow!! What a winter most of us have endured! It seems to me that it has gone on forever, and I am not one to complain about that over which I have no control! I guess maybe I am just suffering from cabin fever, because we were housebound for so many weeks.

On Friday night after Christmas, Harold began having black out spells, ended up in intensive care, sixty miles from home and underwent surgery for a pace

maker implant. With the ice, snow and below zero temperatures, travel to and from Lafayette was no easy task, so it was nice to finally get him home. He is now able to drive, feed the cats, get the mail and torment me! It seems so nice to be back to normal!!

Many thanks for sending articles for the *Blood and Fire*. Thanks also for sending pictures you are willing to share with the readers. Everything will be used as space permits.

If this issue seems to have fewer pages, it is because we are getting low on available funds in which to publish and mail the *Blood and Fire*. Yes, we do have the Certificate of Deposit in reserve for just such emergencies, but I don't want to remove funds from the CD before September, which is renew time. We save money by waiting until September, so maybe this issue will have to be a "tighten your belt" publication.

Donations from Life Members would help defray the cost of printing and mailing the publication, as would donations from all the members, but donations are just that, donations freely given without pressure from the editor or any of the officers of this Association.

Also, a forwarding address and/or a notice of death would be helpful when trying to save postage. I guess we have to have a broad mind and a thick wallet when it comes to our *Blood and Fire* publication. A broad mind might be accepting fewer pages with each issue and a thick wallet might have to come from the members!

Enjoy your copy of the February issue, and I hope "a whole bunch of people" will plan to be in Boston in August. All the information is included in this issue.

A Memo from the Secretary . . .

Donna LaCasse

Bob Capasso and his crew have their plans all made for the reunion in August - I just wish I was as prepared! It seems as though the older I get, the behind I get, and all that spare time I was going to have "someday" is not going to happen!!

Thankfully things are falling into place once again. I am not moving any faster, but at least I am moving.

I had a very busy fall - sent out over 300 dues-due letters after putting the November issue of the *Blood & Fire* to bed, then spent December and January receiving responses, sending back dues cards and watching the near-empty bank balance grow!

I also spent some quality time with my husband after his pacemaker placement took place and that is why I am a little behind in my 63rd responsibilities.

To those members who have not responded to the dues-due letter, please do so as soon as possible. I hate

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event and total the amount. Send that amount payable to **63RD DIVISION ASSOCIATION**, 145 Nichols St., Norwood, MA 02062. In the form of check or money order (no credit cards or phone reservations). Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. All registration forms and payments must be received by mail on or before **JULY 13, 2009**. After that date, reservations will be accepted only on a space available basis. **Make a copy of this form before mailing.**

CUT OFF DATE: JULY 13, 2009

		\$ Per Person	# of People per reg	Total
REGISTRATION FOR 2009 REUNION				
(Widows of 63rd Vets do NOT pay registration fee)				
Reunion Registration		\$35.00		\$35.00
			NUMBER ATTENDING	
Wednesday, August 12				
Meet Your Buddies, Cash Bar, Snacks	7:00pm-11:00pm	Free		Free
Thursday, August 13				
City Tour, Harbor Cruise	9:30am-3:30pm	\$35.00		\$
Thursday, August 13				
Buffet Dinner, Cash Bar	7:00pm-11:00pm			
Please choose entree:				
Fresh Roasted Turkey		\$32.00		\$
Boston Schrod		\$32.00		\$
Children Plate (chicken fingers & fries)		\$10.00		\$
Friday, August 14				
Bus Tour Plymouth	10:00am-2:00pm	\$25.00		\$
Friday, August 14				
Shopping & Dinner Tour	6:00pm-9:00pm	\$15.00		\$
Saturday, August 15				
Executive Council Meeting	9:00am-10:00am			
Memorial Service	10:00am-10:30am			
Business Meeting (Ladies invited)	10:30am-12:30pm			
Saturday, August 15				
Lunch on your own	12:30pm-2:00pm			
Shuttle Bus to J. F. K. Library	2:00pm-5:00pm	Free		Free
Saturday, August 15				
Cocktail Party Cash Bar	6:00pm-7:00pm			
Dinner / Dance	7:00pm-11:00pm			
Please choose entree:				
Roast New York Sirloin, Au Jus		\$36.00		\$
Filet of Sole w/seafood stuffing		\$36.00		\$
Children Plate (chicken fingers & fries)		\$10.00		\$
GRAND TOTAL DUE TO 63RD DIVISION ASSOCIATION				\$

Name: _____ Nick Name _____ Unit/Co. _____
 Spouse Name _____ Guest Name _____
 Street Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Method of Transportation to Boston: Plane (Yes)
 Auto (Yes)
 Person to contact in Emergency: _____
 Phone Number: _____

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY

- Cancellation of refund activities made prior to cut-off date will result in a full refund.
- Cancellation made after the cut-off date will be refunded to the fullest extent that the commitments and guarantees do not result in a liability by the Association.
- Cancellation of your hotel reservation does not cancel your reunion activities.

OFFICE USE ONLY
 Check # _____ Date Rec'd. _____
 Name Tag Completed _____
 Package Completed _____

Celebration of Life



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

Ted L. Baginski – AT 254, died November 15, 2008. He lived in the Indiana Veteran's Home in West Lafayette, Indiana since 1982. Prior to his move to the Home, he was employed by US Steel, Gary Works, as an overhead crane operator and a truck crane operator.

Hartley G. Batchelder Jr. – A 255, died June 16, 2008. His widow, Juaneta, lives at 34 Forest Avenue, Bridgton, ME 04009-1344.

Mordica Bauman – SV 255, died May 16, 2007. His widow, Irma, lives at 49 West 12th Street, New York, NY 10011.

Father Edward Bawiec – HQ 63, died October 17, 2008. *Read his obituary elsewhere in this issue.*

Rex Beavers – A 253, died July 23, 2008. His sister-in-law, Jerry Turner reported his death. She lives at 2897 Glen Ellen Drive, Des Moines, IA 50317.

Roy Bengston – AT 253, died November 8, 2007. His widow, Alice lives at 5800 Saint Croix Ave. N, Apt C 627, Minneapolis, MN 55422-4697.

Hugo S. Boettcher – D 254, died January 26, 2008. His widow, Corine, reported his death. She lives at Box 81, Frohna, MO 63748.

Charles L. Cadle – HQ 254, died August 3, 2008. His daughter, Charlene Hollifield, lives at 143 Devonwood Dr., Marion, NC 28652.

John H. Cassinelli – AT 254, died November 21, 2008. He was not a member of the Association. Paul Schewene sent the newspaper clipping of John's death.

Carlton Guy Core – K 253, died October 24, 2008 at the age of 82. *Read his obituary elsewhere in this issue.*

James A. Eck – FA 862, died October 26, 2008. His daughter, Margery, reported his death.

Lawrence Ernest – F 253, died January 29, 2009. His widow, Phyllis lives at 5955 N. Lake Dr., White Fish Bay, WI 52317. *Read his obit elsewhere in this issue.*

Joseph H. Fennel – I 255, died March 25, 2008. No further information was available.

Robert Follick – C 255, died November 10, 2008. His sister, Margie Hermann reported his death. No further information was available.

Walter C. Hubbard III – H 254, died December 30, 2003. No further information was available.

Keith Johnson – C 254, died October 11, 2008. His

widow, Delores, lives at 178 Circle Drive, Springville, IA 52336. Myra Devereaux and Martin Beer reported his death.

William (Bill) Kraemer – A 255, died March 24, 2005. No further information was available.

William C. Matis – HQ 255, died May 2001. His daughter, Elizabeth Mason, reported his death. Bill lived at 9506 Longview Dr., Ellicott City, MO 21042.

Kenneth Miller – G 254, died November 25, 2005. His widow, Ellen, lives at 10027 Calvin Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15235-1629.

Anthony Mucciolo – SIG 563, died January 11, 2009. His widow, Josephine lives at 419 E. University, Burbank, CA 91504.

Wilbur L. Mumford Sr. – M 255, died December 9, 2008. No further information was available.

Gordon (Shorty) Myers – HQ 253, died November 28, 2008. *Read his obituary elsewhere in this issue.*

Harry Nicolson, Brig. General, retired, died October 24, 2008. His widow, June, lives at 4004 Manhattan Circle, Sacramento, CA 95283.

Robert E. (Roy) Parke – B 254, died June 5, 2008. No further information was available.

Glen Rovenhagen – M 255, died August 13, 2008. His widow, Janice, reported his death. She lives at 2040 Manhattan Road, Joliet, IL 60433.

James A. Shriver – MED 363, died November 29, 2008. His widow, Julia, lives at 1543 Larkspur Dr., San Jose, CA 95125.

Albert G. Smith – HQ 255, died January 3, 2009. His widow, Paula, lives at 504 Alward St., Warsaw, IN 46580-2901.

Alfred H. Swackhamer – A 253, died October 6, 2008. His widow, Charlotte, reported he developed a staph infection during another operation on war-wounded knee in 2006. *See his obituary elsewhere in this issue.*

Alvis Teague – I 255, died October 3, 2008. His widow, Naideen, lives at 1048 Carlson Dr., Burton, MI 48509. Surviving with Naideen is one daughter.

Carlton Togstad – HQ 253, died January 2008. No further information was available.

Louis Warmouth – C 253, died January 2, 2009. His widow, Margaret, lives at 406 N. Magnolia St., Sumter, SC 29150. *Read his obituary elsewhere in this issue.*

Willard Whittaker – FA 862, died August 22, 2008. His widow, Marjorie, reported his death. She lives at 8123 Blue Heron Dr. E., # 210, Wilmington, NC 28411.

OUR HISTORY: THEN AND NOW

by Bill Scott, 1-Dec-2008

e-mail: wjs631@comcast.net

New orders for history items are going through the usual variety of different items. When you consider that there are over 1125 different items that can be ordered by our members, their immediate family members, relatives, museums and historians you can see that new patterns develop as time goes by. Recently there have been interesting orders from Germany and Spain. It seems that the quickest and most efficient money transfer from there is through Western Union and various US banks, and some other businesses. Even some bankers are not familiar with that system. Lots of time and money is lost when a check is sent from another country and the sender's bank is not part of a US bank.

We are seeing more interest in the history items from descendants of the 63rd men who haven't learned much from the men, or the relatives were not interested when the man was still alive. There are more 63rd men who are now writing about their time in the 63rd and other outfits.

The varieties of some of the items sometimes poses strains on the amount of inventory to keep available for the orders coming by mail or for showing at the table at the reunions.

It is good that we can offer some of the items in printed or copied form and on CDs, with DVDs likely to follow. That may make it likely that you will see some of them at future reunions from a laptop computer instead of, or in addition to the paper options.

Editing the data in the recorded unit rosters, the alphabetical listing gotten from the rosters, and the serial number listing derived the same way takes much time and effort that never seems to end. It is crucial that the editing get done to reduce the number of errors while we are still alive. Data from the wartime *Blood and Fire* issues presents another large set of problems that cannot often be solved when the names are not correct or have no full first names because of the use of the initials. Men who use their middle name now, or a new name are another way of making it difficult to tie history to then and now.

The whole data problem is like doing the family genealogy back a number of generations. I think that working with my wife on our family genealogies over a number of generations was likely a factor in my initial

interest in helping with the 63rd history.

When I finish this history update I will finish packaging the copied 63rd unit morning reports for July, August, September, October, and November 1944. They likely contain the most transfers between units, along with men coming into and leaving the 63rd. It looks like there are over 20,000 sheets of paper that will be sent to the Army Heritage and Education Center (AHEC) in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, to join the ones from the combat months that were sent there several years ago. There are lots more to be sent after they are found in the large collection of 63rd items and organized. The Occupation months of 1945 have a few details about unit locations in the reports to record in the itinerary file before they are packaged and sent to the AHEC.

I recently received a copy of a 1975 book "Destination Berchtesgaden" which was written, published and printed in the United Kingdom as a "saga of the U.S. 7th Army" in World War II. The writers were John Frayn Turner and Robert Jackson, who were well-known British military authors. The ISBN is 0 7110 0603 2-99/74. It was published by Ian Allan Ltd., Shepperton, Surrey, and printed in the UK by *The Garden City Press Limited*, Letchworth, Herts.

It was sent to me by Thomas J. Korczynski, son of Roman J. Korczynski who was in H-253 and died in 2003. I have not had much time available to read much of the 192 pages and maps, but I have found the 63rd Division mentioned on 13 pages so far, with not all shown in the index.

It covers the complete route from the 1943 invasion of Sicily, through France and Germany to Hitler's "Eyrie" at Berchtesgaden.

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.

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

COMPUTER DATA PRINTOUTS AND COPIES

PLEASE PRINT!

UNIT #1 UNIT #2 COST/EACH
Company, Battery, HQ?

1943-45 Unit Roster of Men (W/rank, serial no., dates, medals, casualties, deaths, etc.)			\$4 ea.
Today's Unit Address-Phone list (for members only)			\$2 ea.
1945 Unit Medals List (w/WWII home towns)			\$2 ea.
1944-1945 Unit Itineraries (in Bn. group)			\$3 ea.
Alphabetical List of CAMP BLANDING CADRE MEN with data			\$5 ea.
Today's Address & Phone List of CAMP BLANDING CADRE MEN (for members only)			\$2 ea.
Today's Address & Phone List by State (for members only)	State #1	State #2	\$2 ea.
1,030 Killed in Action, Died of Wound, & Non-Battle Death	ALPHA		\$5 ea.
KIA, DOW, NBD, with all known men shown and sorted by	ALL UNITS		\$5 ea.
KIA, DOW, NBD, best viewpoint	Sorted by DATE, organization, unit		\$5 ea.
Casualty Summary compiled to date for ALL units with 8 categories			\$3 ea.
2007 Alpha list #35 with data on casualties, deaths, units, serial numbers, cadre, 70,258 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 Homburg, Langmeil & Grunstadt			\$5 ea.
1:100,000 KARLSRUHE map that shows Bad Wimpfen, Heilbronn & Stuttgart			\$5 ea.
1:100,000 ELLWANGEN map from Waldenburg & Schwabisch Hall to Oberbobingen			\$5 ea.
1:25,000 MOGLINGEN map shows from Obergroningen to Oberbobingen			\$5 ea.
8.5" x 14" 1:250,000 map shows from Mannheim to Rothenberg and Heilbronn			\$1 ea.
HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS			
2nd Bn. -253 4-12 April 1945 events, rosters & Pres. Unit Citation award			\$14 ea.
Regimental histories for January-May 1945 in binders. Cited 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 & 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	Ruptured Duck pin	7th Army Patch pin
			\$4 ea.
Europe Africa Middle East pin	WWII Victory Medal pin	Army of Occupation pin	\$4 ea.
Full Size Expert Infantry Badge	Full Size Presidential Unit Citation Badge		\$5 ea.
63rd Inf. Div. deluxe bola tie with black cord	gold cord		\$10 ea.

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

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

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

95 of 1943-45 <i>Blood & 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 _____

Deaths . . .

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

DEATH OF SPOUSE

Margaret Falkenstein, widow of Joseph P. Falkenstein, H 253, died January 2008. Joseph died January 5, 1998.

Rosemary Schlocker, wife of Leo M. Schlocker, Associate Member, died September 18, 2008.

Kathleen Slate, wife of Herb Slate, H 254, died November 18, 2008. He lives at 118 Hailsboro St., Gouernvour, NY 13642.

Tillie Tirelli, widow of Louis Tirelli, C 253, died March 21, 2008.

Ramada Inn Boston update

The Ramada Inn is located at 800 Morrissey Blvd. in Boston, Massachusetts 02122. The telephone number is 617-287-9100 or 800-886-0056. It is located three miles from the center of the City of Boston and five miles from Logan International Airport. It is one mile from the University of Massachusetts Campus and the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum.

It is in combination with Comfort Inn in the next block and both have a combined total of over three hundred deluxe accommodation rooms equipped with voice mail, safes, irons and hair dryers.

If you are coming in to Logan Airport - after you have retrieved your luggage at the baggage area - pick up the direct telephone line to the Ramada Inn at the same baggage area and let them know your airline terminal name/number. Ramada Inn will give you the hourly schedule of the next complimentary shuttle bus that will transport you the five miles to the hotel.

There is also free scheduled shuttle bus service for the return trip back to the airport. Make a return reservation shortly after signing at the Ramada Inn so there will be sufficient transportation for the large number that will require transportation.

There is also free scheduled shuttle bus service every half hour to the public transportation lines for access to the center of the city and to the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum. There is free on-site parking, a family center, billiard, bowling, game room and outdoor pool.

Free deluxe continental breakfast, with an

extended menu, is provided each day from 6:00 AM until 10:00 AM, on the first floor of the Inn. Free WiFi in each room, and free cable with HBO, fifty premium and business channels.

Lost Sheep Need To Be Found



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

Charles A. Albrecht, Associate, Life Member 1557, 2286 Willow Creek Cir, Chula Vista, CA 91915.

Eben N. Feenstra, E 254, Life Member 1906, 1105 Main St., Aliquippa, PA 15001.

Lucille Heck, Associate, 910 Norwest Dr., Carbondale, IL 62901-5329. Husband, Harry Heck, AT 63, Life Member 1343, died February 19, 2003.

Edward Holzer, A 255, Life Member 1191, 8080 Harbor Creek Dr., Mentor on The Lake, OH 44060-2069.

Doris Moose, Associate, 1007 - 230th Ave, Stephen, MN 56757. Husband Lloyd Moose, HQ 863, died March 1, 1993. Life Member 960.

Marjorie Prothero, Associate, 4926 N. Stone St., Spokane, WA 99207.

Lisa Reed, Associate, 1206 State Highway 37C, Messina, NY 13662. Husband David Reed, F 253, died May 28, 2006.

Donald Sessink, MED 254, Life 714, 2196 Nandi Hills Tr., Swartz Creek, MI 48473-7903.

Steve Waricka, D 255, Life Member 1073, 2215 Della Lane, Anaheim, CA 92802-4509.

Leeanna White, Associate, 2510 Lundman Dr., Hutchenson, KS 67502-1806. Husband John M., AT 254, Life Member 1020, died July 1, 1999.

61ST REUNION BOSTON – AUGUST 12 – 15, 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 19th 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 50th floor panorama of City and suburbs.

Trinity Church of Romanesque in style consecrated 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 (35th 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.



USS CONSTITUTION



OLD FARNEUIL HALL MARKETPLACE BUILDING

WALKING TOUR OF "FREEDOM TRAIL"

A walking tour of Boston's "Freedom Trail" begins at the Visitors Information Center in Boston Common near Tremont Street – the 44-acre park, bounded by Beacon, Charles, Boylston, Tremont and Park Streets. The trail leads through 23 of Boston's historic sites and follows most of the sites that are on our motor City Tour.

It is simple to follow: red bricks or granite stones embedded into the sidewalk form a line that guides you from place to place and in some places, the red line is painted onto the sidewalk or street. Each stop represents a chapter in American history with vivid reminders of events that led to American independence.

The Boston portion may take most of the day if you tour the attractions.

Charlestown Portion: The Bunker Hill Monument and the Museum of the battle with the British on June 17, 1775. The U.S. Constitution 44-gun frigate launched October 21, 1797, which has a compliment of Navy personnel on board.

The Charlestown portion may take a half-day if you tour the ship and take in the many sights in the Charlestown Navy Yard.

AUTOMOBILE DRIVING TOURS

It is a thirty-minute drive to the adjoining city of Quincy, with the house of the second president, John Adams; and the house of the sixth president, John Quincy Adams.

It is a one-hour drive west to Lexington and Concord where the "Shot Heard Round The World" occurred on April 19, 1775. It was the first conflict with British – drove British back and forced retreat to Boston.

A two-hour drive South leads to Cape Cod, with beaches, shops and sand dunes of Cape Cod National

Seashore.

It is a two-hour drive North to the City of Gloucester (fishing center from 1623) and with the Sleeper-McCann house of 40 rooms containing 18th and 19th century American and European decorative arts and furnishings; the City of Salem which was the capital of the Massachusetts Bay Colony from its founding 1620-30, and where the witchcraft trials were held in 1692, and the City of Rockport with artists' colony and the oldest building on Cape Ann Built in 1658.

BOSTON BOAT TOURS

Sight seeing cruises of Boston Harbor and the Boston Harbor Islands are available with transportation on your own from the Hotel to Long Wharf or Rowes Wharf.

Boston Inner and Outer Harbor Cruise is a 90-minute tour beginning at 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM. Cost is \$15.00.

Sunset Cruise at the Harbor at sunset with USS Constitution's sunset cannon serenade beginning at 7:00 P.M. Cost is \$15.00.

A forty-five minute boat tour on the USS Constitution will begin at 10:30 A.M., and will take place each hour until 4:30 P.M. Cost is \$10.00.

Liberty Fleet of Tall Ships is a two-hour cruise on the 80-foot, 125-foot Liberty Clipper ship. Sightseeing fare is \$35.00 to \$70.00.

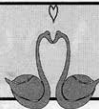
Whale Watch tour is a four or five hour cruise to Stellwagen Bank Marine Sanctuary beginning at 10:30 A.M. Cost is \$25.00.

Lighthouse Cruises are on August 2, August 9 and August 16. Can see over ten of the oldest lighthouses on the coastline. Cost is \$36.00.

A Lunch Cruise is available on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 11:00 A.M. This two-hour cruise offers a plated, three-course menu and costs \$55.00.

The Ferry service from Boston to Provincetown, Cape Cod is 90-minutes beginning at 8 A.M. From Boston the schedule is 1 P.M. and 5:30 P.M. and from Provincetown, 10 A.M., 3 P.M. and 7:30 P.M. Cost is \$54.00. A three-hour ferry cruise is \$23.00.

Happy Anniversary



March

- 2: Juanita & Richard Wanamaker - K 254 - 1945
- 4: Rowene & Frederick Kroesen - E 254 - 1944
- 5: Jo & Martin Beer - L 253 - 1948
- 7: Barbara & Craig Ethier - Associate - 1981
- 10: Franceska & Donald Meeker - L 253 - 1951
- 12: Donna & Harold LaCose - F 254 - 1948
- 12: Beryl & Pasquale Scorzelli - A 255 - 1946
- 14: Marjorie & Jacob Gesek - FA 861 - 1953
- 14: Bertha & Walter E. Harmon - G 253 - 1947
- 18: Jacquelin & Charles King - SV 254 - 1946
- 22: Juanita & Junior McDaniel - G 255 - 1947
- 30: Joyce & Paul Schwene - Associate - 1994

April

- 2: Joyce & Andrew Kidwell - ORD 763 - 1949
- 2: Leota & John J. Toom - FA 718 - 1941
- 6: Lucille & Levy O. Collier - D 255 - 1950
- 6: Barbara & Sherman Kumpf - FA 863 - 1947
- 8: Betty & Ralph J. Almstrom - I 253 - 1962
- 9: Helen & Donald Ivie - USAR - 1947
- 13: Dale & Donald Lindstrom - FA 718 - 1957
- 14: Gwynn & Tom Malan - A 255 - 1946
- 19: Gloria & Mario Antoci - E 253 - 1947
- 19: Marilyn & Jeffrey Rushing - Assoc - 1985
- 24: Mary & Sam Fittante - RECON 63 - 1954
- 24: Brenda & Nicholas Piazza - MED 254 - 1981
- 30: Eleanor & Stanley Kozlowski - I 255 - 1949

May

- 1: D'Arline & Charles Driemeyer - I 253 - 1954
- 2: Audrey & Ralph Alexander - G 253 - 1953
- 4: Vertalee & Bill Pillsbury - HQ 63 - 1946
- 5: Marie & Joseph Pacelle - K 253 - 1944
- 5: India & James Rathburn - I 255 - 1951
- 6: Ann & Sam L. Redfield - G 253 - 1961
- 7: Antoinette & Robert Barnard - FA 861 - 1959
- 8: Marlene & Walter Pucher - B 255
- 9: Helen & Edwin Smith - ENG 263 - 1948
- 13: Lillian & Ernest D. Howard - HQ 253 - 1948
- 15: Jean & James S. Settineri - H 254 - 1948
- 15: Rosemary & Wm. Smeigh Jr. - Assoc - 1948
- 16: Charlotte & Herb Schneiderman - AS 254 - 1949
- 16: Olga & Michael Grib - B 255 - 1953
- 21: Margo & Bill Shirer - MED 263 - 1949
- 24: Fannie & George Millis - HQ 63 - 1952
- 24: Marie & Benedict Parenti - L 255 - 1952

- 25: Lourene & Elmer Bellor - HQ 255 - 1946
- 28: Mary & Charles Dolan - A 254 - 1949
- 28: Marlene & Ray W. Peterson - HQ 255 - 1947

June

- 1: Nancy & Bob Ross - G 254 - 1946
- 2: Ernestine & Allen Agnew - H 255 - 1950
- 2: Herminia & Stephen Shores - MED 363 - 1951
- 4: Vertalee & William Pillsbury - HQ 63 - 1946
- 5: Clede & John Dumont - HQ 63 - 1948
- 6: Del & Clare Gerity - C 253 - 1947
- 6: Dolores & Bill Davis - G 254 - 1947
- 6: Marjorie & Charles Ewart - AT 253 -
- 6: Mary & Edgar Torrence - G 254 - 1942
- 6: Vera & James F. Jordan - HQ 254 - 1944
- 7: Donna & Edward Fowle - FA 862 - 1944
- 7: Gladys & Joe Perez - C 253 - 1952
- 7: Rachel & Donald Reents - FA 863 - 1969
- 7: Ruth & William Murray - AT 718 - 1944
- 7: Lacey & Melvin Stahl - E 255 - 1951
- 9: Mary & Jan C. Mennig - USAR - 1979
- 10: Elaine & Angelo Davis - F 254 - 1949
- 12: Catherine & Glen Foster - A 253 - 1946
- 12: Thea & Wm. Beckett - HQ 254 - 1942
- 15: Nancy & Tom Cone - Associate - 1974
- 18: Nathalie & Irving Gittleman - RECON 63 - 1953
- 22: Claire & Bill Hughson - Associate - 1947
- 22: Betty & Marvin E. Karr - C 253 - 1948
- 23: Joan & James Casey - L 255 - 1951
- 23: Helen & Linwood Fogg - C 255 - 1950
- 24: Gwynne & David Bonifield - Associate - 1978
- 25: Ernestine & Allen Agnew - H 255 - 1950
- 25: Marion & Charles H. Malloy - MED 255 - 1955
- 25: Marion & Albert Safranek - FA 861 - 1944
- 26: Dorothy & Robert Gross - HQ 253 - 1949
- 26: Florence & Sheldon Toder - CN 254 - 1952
- 27: Joan & Lewis Germain - L 254 - 1952
- 28: Kit & Carl Anderson - E 253 - 1947
- 28: Edith & Edward Karcheski - B 254 - 1941
- 28: Mae & Domenick Pecchia - H 255 - 1947
- 30: Iva & Richard Schulz - FA 718 - 1956
- 30: Eileen & Robert Titterington - K 255 - 1948
- OMITTED FROM FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES**
- 2: Edith & Earl Stirm - HQ 253 - 1947
- 22: Juanita & Jr. McDaniels - G 254 - 1947
- NO DATE GIVEN**
- Erna & Tom McDonald - HQ 254 - 1953
- Dorothy & Daron Vaughn - L 253 - 1949

A word from your buddies . . .

253rd Regiment

Wilbur T. Braithwaite, Company A, sent this message: "Jane and I are doing well. She is the stronger of the two of us. Whoever said, 'Men are the strongest sex', was way wrong! I am sending you a poem written five years ago as a tribute to the local boys who served in Desert Storm, and recently those who served in Iraq." (*Read Freedom's Fragile Flower Survived in this issue*)

Claude W. Denison, Company A, reported the death of his wife, Dorothy on April 28, 2008, after she suffered a massive stroke at age 85. Claude is 89. They had celebrated 67 1/2 years of marriage.

George C. Clark, Company B, had this to say: "Nothing new to report. I am still alive and kicking. Keep up the good work."

Calvin A. Prince, Company F, wrote: "I know the names of many I served with but have no telephone number and no address. I can't travel much, but I can use the phone or write a letter. My phone number is 763-757-1156 - call me!"

James M. Ernster, Company G, made this comment: "It is great to stay in contact!"

Buster G. Davenport, Company C, wrote: "Pray for our country and keep your chin up. You are doing a good job."

Louis Maslinoff, Company G is wondering how many men of the 63rd are left?

Gaylord A. Betcher, Company K, reported he is still doing fine at 90-plus and is still living on the farm.

Donald Meeker, Company L sent this message: "Greetings to all my SMOAK Woods buddies."

Daron Vaughn, Company L, and his wife, Dorothy, will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary in February 2009.

254th Regiment

Charles H. Dolan, Company A, had this to say: "We will celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary in 2009. I would be pleased to hear from anyone who may remember me." (His nickname is Bud).

Herb Schneiderman, Company A, sent this note: "Your newsletter gets better all the time!!"

Joseph W. Thoman, Company B, wrote: "Just recovered from congestive heart failure, but still going at 93 years! Looking forward to some big changes next

year with President Obama!!"

Morris Passo, Company C, had this to say: "My wife and I celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary on February 21, 2008. Our grandson is completing his Internship as an Anesthesiologist at NY University Hospital."

Robert T. Ziemke, Company D, said he would see us all in Boston!

Alf L. Crutchfield, Company I, sent this message: "We both enjoy the *Blood and Fire*. Thank you for a good job all these years. Enjoyed seeing your picture in the latest edition. We are both doing fairly well, just can't travel much."

Floyd Hornbacker, Company SV, sent this message: "We're hangin' in and hangin' on! I bowl two or three times a week and Anna writes poems and stories about her childhood to give to our grandchildren. Time flies!"

255th Regiment

Franklin T. Hepner, Company A, made this comment: "All is well since I moved to Delaware."

Lewis B. Disbrow, Company B&E, wrote: "My wife Bernice and I are still enjoying life. We play bridge two or three times a week and after playing over 50,000 hands, I still trump my partner's ace! Enjoy plays, movies, gym, hobbies, family and dirty stories. I am a teenager at 86! We thought the tour of Indianapolis was great!"

David D. Montgomery, Company E, had this to say: "We are doing just fine. We enjoyed the Indianapolis reunion and hope to be able to go to Boston. I am 83 and Betty is 75, and we can go anywhere we want to go so far. Hope to see you all in Boston."

Allen Agnew, Company H: His wife, Ernestine, reported Allen is suffering with a brain tumor.

Stanley A. Kozlowski, Company I, wrote: "Received my November issue of the *Blood and Fire*. Enjoy reading it several times. Eleanor and I are still in fair to good health. Keep up the good work, thank you and God bless you."

Edmond Simmons, Company I, is suffering with Parkinson's and is having trouble writing. His wife, Vadona, died October 2, 2008.

John Zaugg, Company K, wrote: "I am doing quite well all things considered. Had 5-Bypass surgery

A word from your buddies . . .

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

263RD ENGINEERS

February 2007 and had surgery June 2008 for blocked carotid artery in my neck. I will be 85 next April."

John W. Brown Jr, Company K sent his dues and said he hoped to see everyone in Boston.

Robert L. May, Company K, had this to say: "I am now 82 years old. I went through several hurricanes this year and came out pretty good. It was about as bad as combat."

John F. McKenna, Company M, wrote: "All is well. Do not get to see anyone from the outfit any more but enjoy reading the newsletter."

MED 363

David Mark Torsell Sr., Company A wrote: "You have done an outstanding job with our *Blood and Fire* magazine. I got a new great-grandson on November 8, 2008. My number six little boy. Robert Alexander Glenn weighed seven pounds and thirteen ounces and we will spoil him well! I only have two great-granddaughters so far."

Walter F. Gavigan, Company C, sent this message: "At this new address there are about 35 vets in residence. We tell war stories. One is about the 11th Airborne Division and named to spearhead invasion of Japan. He says H.T. saved his life."

John F. Troy, Company L, had this to say: "I look forward to each and every edition of the *Blood and Fire* and read it from cover to cover. Many thanks. Keep up the good work; good health and happiness through the New Year."

Nicholas Piazza, 254 Regiment would like to hear from members of the 254th Regiment Orchestra. His phone number is 702-243-8850.

QUARTERMASTER

Jack Mayrsohn reported: "I am still here!"

63RD BAND

Raymond B. Harcksen, 7700 Fox Road F-309, Hughson, CA 95326, would like to know if there are any living band members. If so, please contact him at this address or phone 209-883-3357.

Stanford Rayne, Headquarters Company, wrote: "My wife, Helen and I celebrated our 65th wedding anniversary on December 2, 2008. I am 87 years old and feeling my age! I heartily endorse the work of the 63rd Infantry Division Association."

HEADQUARTERS

Harry Goodman reported he is still around at age 95.

Robert S. Olney, 253 Regiment, had this to say: "I want to say hello to Wayne Lawrence. I hope you are in good health. I just turned 85 on November 15, 2008.

Harold Youngsman, 253, wrote: "I am from Worcester, one hour from Boston. The (reunion) plans look to have many enjoyments. May our God grant us many blessings."

Ralph Smith, 255, sent this message: "Thanks for the great job with the newsletter. I just traded in my right hip for a Titanium one. I am in touch with Joe Straka and Bob Christman from our Battalion Intelligence Squad. I am still practicing law in New York City—57 years!"

FIELD ARTILLERY

Albert Safranek, A Battery, wrote: "My wife has been in Health Care since February 2008. I was also in the hospital with a hip fracture but am doing fine. Hey, I don't hear or see letters from the 861st FA Bn A Battery in the *Blood and Fire!* I do hear from Walter Johnston who lives in Georgia."

USAR

Douglas Shaheen, A Battery, 863 FA, sent this message: "I cannot thank you enough for the very fine work that you do. God Bless all my comrades in the 63rd Division."

Leo M. Schlocker had this to say: "My wife, Rosemary passed away September 18, 2008 and we all miss her very much. We met in the third grade and were married 63 years."

A Word from buddies ...

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

Associate Member

Betty Bonifield wrote: "It was so good to see you all at the Indianapolis reunion. As usual, IMOK did a tremendous job hosting the affair. My two girls and I had a great time. I am doing well here at Friendship Village in Pittsburgh."

Emma Zell Knighton sent this message: "Camp Van Dorn is wonderful!! We thank the 63rd for all you have done for. Wish all of you could visit us."

Nan W. Landers had this to say: "I live in Woodville, Mississippi, 13 miles from Camp Van Dorn. I attended dances at the camp in my late teens with some of the other girls. We also had dances in Woodville on Friday night and Sunday afternoon. Let me not forget Saturday night unless there was a dance at the camp. The boys were all so nice!"

Marjorie Prothero wrote: "I miss seeing everyone. I am doing pretty well for an old lady of 85. I still dress myself and get around good. I still bowl on a ladies' league. It's fun! Hello to all I know."

Janet M. Casey sent this message: "The 63rd means so much to me and what Roy did for our country along with all the others - God has been good! God's Blessing all all!"

Robert A. Lucas sent greetings from his brother, William J. Lucas, 255th Anti-Tank, who is 82 years old. William lives at Southwestern Veterans Center, 7060 Highland Dr., Room 426B, Pittsburgh, PA 15206.

from the secretary ...

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

removing names from the membership roster and I don't like to be the cause of you not receiving the next issue of the publication.

Ready for some more good news? We are facing another increase in postage the first day of May! Do you suppose the mail service will be better? This also means more money is needed in the till. Donations are always welcome and a money tree in the back yard would be a sight for sore eyes!

I am looking forward to my first trip to Boston - not only will I be seeing old faces and meeting new friends, I will be able to see and visit with our first-born grandson who is a music librarian at the New England Conservatory in Boston. So we have two reunions at the same time and it just doesn't get much better than that. God is good!

Hey, have a great spring, enjoy good health and make your reunion plans early. If you put off sending in the forms, you might forget and miss all the fun and games!

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

Meet your President and Vice President . . .



President Bob Capasso and his wife, Jean



Vice President Bob McCourt and his wife, LaFaye

HOTEL REGISTRATION FORM

RAMADA INN - AUGUST 12 - 15, 2009

----- CUT HERE AND MAIL TO: -----

Ramada Inn
800 Morrissey Blvd
Boston, MA 02122

Attn: 63rd Division Association - Group Code **INDI**

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone No. () _____ Sharing room with _____

Arrival Date _____ Time _____ AM/PM: Dep Date _____

SPECIAL REQUESTS: Wheelchair accessible room _____ Non smoking _____

Queen Bed _____ Two double beds _____ (Bed type not guaranteed)

RATE: \$129.00 + tax (currently 12.45%). Rate honored two days before and after reunion dates, based on availability.

CUT OFF DATE: July 13, 2009. Reservations received after this date will be processed on space available basis, at the prevailing public rate.

GUARANTEE: Reservations must be guaranteed by credit card for first night lodging (no personal checks accepted)

_____ MC _____ Visa _____ AM Express _____ Discover

Credit Card Number _____ Expiration date: _____

CANCELLATION POLICY: Deposit refundable if reservation cancelled twenty hours before arrival date.

SIGNATURE (same as credit card holder)

In Memoriam

EDWARD BAWIEC



Father Edward Bawiec, HQ 63, died October 17, 2008. He was ordained June 6, 1954 in Peoria, Illinois and had pastured at St. Mary's in DePue; St. Anne's in East Moline; Queen of the Holy Rosary Church in LaSalle; Immaculate Conception In Streator; St. Valentine Church in Peru, all Illinois churches.

CARLTON GUY CORE

Carlton Guy Core, K 253, died October 24, 2008 at the age of 82. He was a graduate of Marietta College with a Petroleum Engineering Degree. Survivors include his wife, Helen; three daughters, Lois Wink, Conny Core and Lynn Pyburn; two granddaughters; two grandsons and two great-granddaughters. Helen lives at 116 Hampton Dr. W., Sequin, TX 78155

LAWRENCE ERNEST

Lawrence Ernest, F 253, died January 29, 2009 at the age of 83. Larry represented a classic story of small town boy makes good. He was the oldest of five children and assumed the eldest male role when his father died in 1938. He helped run the family farm and look after his younger siblings.

He joined the army on September 1, 1943 and was honorably discharged December 17, 1945. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Wisconsin and worked as a chemical engineer in the wastewater treatment industry.

He and his wife, Phyllis, were married 61 years and were the parents of six children. The five surviving children include Kathy and Greg Huijbregtse; Judy Sackett; Patty and Joe Vanden Plas; Jennifer and Dave Peltz; Tom and Bob Ernest, and grandchildren, Kristin, Jason and Joana, Brian, Travis, Kyle, Lindsay, D.J., Shannon, Michelle, Bill, Sammi and Elizabeth. He was preceded in death by one son, Andrew.

Over the past ten years, Larry had been exploring his military past, and now his son Tom is sorting through

his extensive files, trying to put together a general picture of what things must have been like in the winter of 1944 and 1945. The files have helped fill in a lot of blanks, but he is still looking for contact with anyone who knew Larry in order to find out what they could tell him about his father's experience from firsthand knowledge.

Please contact Tom Ernest at 1405 W. Portview Dr., Port Washington, WI 53074; home phone 262-268-9989; cell phone 262-339-4391; email address ternest@wi.rr.com or ernest@muhs.edu

GORDON MYERS

Gordon (Shorty) Myers, HQ 253, died November 29, 2008 at the age of 83. He earned a bachelor of science in electronics from Temple University while working at the Frankford Arsenal in Philadelphia. He retired as an electronic technician GS-11 from Naval Air Development Center in Warminster after 36 years of service.

Survivors include his wife, Betty; his children, Donna and Dennis Bauer; Carol and Mark Becker; Jeffrey and Valerie Myers; Glen and Joyce Myers; grandchildren; great-grandchildren; one brother and two sisters; a sister-in-law and many nieces and nephews. Betty lives at 306 Red Cedar Dr, Levittown, PA 19055.



JAMES A. ECK

My father, James A. Eck passed away October 26, 2008 and was buried with full military rites, including the army representatives playing taps and presenting his grandson with the American Flag. I just want you to know my father was a dedicated American and he was proud to have served in World War II.

Margery K. Eck, daughter

In Memoriam

ALFRED H. SWACKHAMER

Alfred H. Swackhamer, A 253, died October 6, 2008 at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center following an extended illness. He was 85 years young. He was a manufacturer representative for ESCO Cabinet Co. of West Chester when he retired in 1968. Survivors include his wife of 62 years, Charlotte; three sons, Gary and Katie Swackhamer; Ronald and Linda Swackhamer; Tim and Joni Swackhamer; one daughter, Julie and Denny Culver; three sisters; nine grandchildren; eight



great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews. Charlotte lives at 3825 Pennsylvania Ave., Erie, PA 16504.

GLEN ROVENHAGEN

(Janice Rovenhagen would like to share the poem that was read at Glen's funeral, as he requested)

Do not stand at my grave and weep; I am not there.
I do not sleep. I am a thousand winds that blow; I am the diamond glints on the snow. I am the sunlight on ripened grain; I am the gentle autumn's rain. When you awaken in the morning's hush, I am the swift uplifting rush of quiet birds in circled flight. I am the soft star that shines at night. Do not stand at my grave and cry. I am not there; I did not die.

LOUIS WARMOTH

Dear Heroes of the 63rd Infantry Division,

It is with profoundest regret and deepest sorrow that we must inform you of the death of one more of your brotherhood, our father, Edward Louis Warmoth, Tsgt, Co C, 253rd Regiment.

Dad passed away on January 2, 2009 after a brief stay in the hospital, which he protestingly entered under his own steam. A couple of days later he died in

his sleep with family present. He was at peace with his God and fellow man and had a peaceful passage.

Daddy was more proud of his association with the heroes of the 63rd Infantry Division than any other of his many accomplishments in his long and fruitful life. Daddy had his 93rd birthday on December 26, 2008, which he spent surrounded by his loving and admiring family.

As his children, we grew up with the stories of the many feats of heroism performed by his Brothers In Arms, the men of the 63rd. We know many of the names of the men, as well as we know our own. Especially we know the men of Company C, 253. He spoke of all as Brothers and Comrades. We speak the names reverently and know you as heroes. You helped our father come home!

Sincerely and lovingly, the children of Louis Warmoth; Lou Warmoth Jr., 5116 Anglers Pond Lane, St. Johns Island, SC 29455; Meg Warmoth Player, 728 Creekside Drive, Somter, SC 29150; Frank Warmoth, 436 W. 61st St., Kansas City, MO 64113.

MORDECAI BAUMAN

Mordecai Bauman died May 16, 2007. He was not ill, just "had to leave" as he put it. Somehow he knew he was dying. He was 95 years old, proud that he lived longer, and well, than anyone else in his family.

He had a wonderful career as a singer and educator. We produced a film about Bach together and accomplished a great deal during our 66 years living and working together. For 25 years we founded and directed a summer school in the arts for teenagers; Indian Hill, in Stockbridge, Mass., and number among our alumni great achievers in all the arts: music, dance, theater and art. Many of them are still in touch with me and remember Mordy, as we all called him, with admiration and love.

Irma Bauman, 49 West 12th St., New York, NY 10011.

ALBERT G. SMITH

My husband, Albert Smith passed away January 3, 2009 after a long illness with Alzheimers, prostate and bone cancer. We celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary on October 3, 2008. We were married after the war in Germany and I was called a "War Bride." We were the parents of a son, a daughter and we have

In Memoriam

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

one grandson.

He was very proud to have served in the Army and was a proud veteran. He was awarded the Bronze Star, and two Purple Hearts. He would talk about the war to anyone who would listen. His memory of everything else was gone, and until a year ago, he enjoyed his *Blood and Fire* magazine very much.

All he ever wanted was a military funeral wearing his uniform, a wish I was able to fulfill.

Paula K. Smith, wife

ANTHONY MUCCILO

Anthony Mucciolo, died January 11, 2009. He was 95 years young and passed peacefully in his home as was his wish.

He served in the 563rd Signal Company in 1944 and 1945. His jeep ran over a land mine on April 16, 1945. A photo of the jeep after it hit the mine, and other photos from the era, appear on the family website: www.mucciolo.net.

My mom, Josephine, and my dad attended several reunions and enjoyed re-acquainting themselves with his Army buddies.

Mike Muccilo, son

TILLIE TIRELLI

My mother, Tillie Tirelli, wife of Louis Tirelli, C Company, 253, died March 21, 2008, after a long struggle with Parkinson's disease. I have fond



DORINE BUNGERT
DIED MAY 20, 2008

memories of attending reunions with Mom and Dad and would like to continue receiving the *Blood and Fire* newsletter.

Linda Herrman, daughter

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.

— Notice —

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

**DEADLINE FOR
THE
MAY 2009
ISSUE OF THE
BLOOD AND FIRE
IS ON OR BEFORE
APRIL 1, 2009**



BLOOD AND FIRE PHOTO GALLERY



Left to right,
John Vitello and Cpl. Meyers



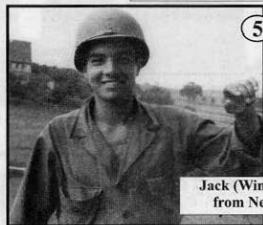
Left to right,
Sal Genova and Sgt. Vittum



Left to right: Unknown,
Sal Genova, Verlin
Miller and Unknown



Verlin Miller
from Muncie, Indiana



Jack (Wimpy) Garafano
from New York City



Sgt. Keener

The above six pictures of "the guys" from G 254 does not reflect all of the hero buddies that I served with during the war, but they all deserve recognition for their valor. Perhaps because I was only an 18-year old, with not much experience in life is the reason I can't recall all the names of the men, the details of our battles or the names of the towns, but the weapons platoon of G Company - 254 certainly did our damage to the German Army.

Sgt. John "Pop" Vitello from Connecticut took care of me and instructed me. He was my parent away from home. God Bless his soul. (2) I am relaxing with Sgt. Vittum; (3) this picture was taken just after we took the town of



BLOOD AND FIRE PHOTO GALLERY

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

Mannheim. I am the one with the carbine; (4) Miller was from Moonsey (Muncie ?), Indiana; (5) Garafano was my best buddy. We dug many a foxhole together! I have had no contact from him since the war's end; (6) Keener, I think, re-upped and became an officer.

I loved the outfit and am very proud to have been a soldier in the 63rd Infantry Division. I cherish my memories of the days with my old buddies, both the good and the bad and I love all you guys. God Bless.

Sal Genova



DINERS SHARE TABLE AT REUNION

The above picture was submitted by Associate member, Marilyn Combs. The group shared a table at the Indianapolis reunion last August. Seated are Lillian Mulcahy, Associate member and Otto Metzger, C 254. Standing (left to right) are Fred and Charlotte Sess, HQ 253; Patty Palumbo, Associate; Henry and Marilyn Combs, Associate; Stanley Rusinek, AT 254; Arthur Russell, H 254; Vin Stratton, 1/Lt. H 254, Chaplain.

*Celebrates
90
Years!*

Gaylord Betcher, K 253, was 90 years young when this picture was taken on March 17, 2008.



Soldiers & Sailors Monument in Indianapolis taken by Dick Mertes during the August reunion.

*August
2008
Reunion*



Scottish Rites Cathedral in Indianapolis taken by Dick Mertes during the August 2008 reunion.



Indianapolis Speedway taken by Dick Mertes while on the city tour during the August reunion.

Fortunes of War

By John H. Bradley, A 253

Since this Christmas Day, 1944 was so different from any other I have had, I remember it quite well. It was a clear but very cold morning with lots of snow on the ground.

Company A of the 253rd regiment was positioned along a dike, which paralleled the West bank of the Rhine River but some distance from the actual river. Our company headquarters was in the little village of Seltz, a few hundred yards back of the dike.

On Christmas morning a platoon from A Company was ordered to explore the low ground in front of the dike and a couple of islands in the Rhine that lay along the river's West bank. At this point we had had no contact with the enemy that I knew of.

I was in Company A and was the communications (actually) radio operator on this patrol that was sent out to explore the area described above. I carried the company's SCT300 radio on my back - about 25 pounds. It had a greater range than the hand held walkie-talkies.

We set out from the village after breakfast as daylight was just dawning and walked out to the dike. We traveled over the flat ground to what was a side stream of the river. We crossed this to the first island we explored using some flat-bottomed wooden boats, which we "borrowed." They had been sitting on the bank. Then we waded across a shallow channel, which separated this first island from the larger second island. The main stream of the Rhine was to our East as we scouted northward to this island's end. I was surprised to see how swift the current was in the main stream of the river.

We hadn't progressed too far when we heard a shot. This was the only shot we heard all day, and we didn't know where it came from. This was unusual because I learned later that those on the dike heard a lot of shots being fired and even some small artillery or mortar shell explosions.

As we explored along, I got two calls on the radio. I didn't answer either one because the Day Code was not what I had been given.

Anyway, we completed our scouting and the whole platoon returned to the dike the way we had come. We encountered no enemy or evidence of any. Unfortunately, one boat load of our men capsized and

they got a very cold bath! Sgt. Al Swackhammer was one of these men. Al told me about this when - by chance - I met him at the 63rd Infantry Division Convention in Minneapolis in 1993. He told me that in addition to this misfortune he also missed out on the Christmas dinner served that evening.

When we got back to the dike, Captain Nance met me and he was not happy: "Why didn't you answer our calls?" he said. I told him I had received several calls loud and clear but I never heard the correct word so I wasn't about to respond. "Oh," he said and walked away. It turned out that nobody had given me the new code word to be used that day.

Looking back now, I can understand what Captain Nance must have gone through that day. This patrol MAY have been his company's first "combat" mission. And he probably heard the shootings others on the dike heard. And then he may have heard their false report that all was lost and that the enemy (who we had never seen) had destroyed us. And, then he didn't hear from me!

Anyway, I guess he forgave me for my radio silence because I continued to work with him as company messenger for the rest of the short time I was with Company A.

On January 9, 1945 I was in a head on jeep collision in an early morning snow storm while delivering the company's morning reports and stuff to battalion headquarters in Sarreguemes and was sent off to various hospitals with a broken knee joint and eventually discharged from the Army.

Fortunes of War!

**Plan Now to Attend
the 2009 Reunion
August 12 - 15
Boston,
Massachusetts**

***Oops! I Goofed!!***

Like all human beings, I can goof big time! Even with proof reading, I don't always find all the mistakes before we go to press, so please excuse the following "goofs" that appeared in the November issue of the *Blood and Fire*.

The date of the annual reunion in Boston is August 12 to August 15, 2009. President Capasso reminded me there have been no plans for Sunday, August 16, except to vacate the hotel and return home.

On page 2: Elected officers should be for 2008 and not 2007 and the first name of the Second Vice President is Joseph and not John. Also, National Secretary/Treasurer should appear above the name Donna LaCosse. Bob Capasso is the reunion treasurer and reunion president.

On page 4: Celebration of Life, first column, tenth paragraph, the widow of Alfred Rehms, Evelyn lives at 66 Parkway, Rochelle Park, NJ 07662.

If other goofs occurred, I did not find them - if you see any, please feel free to let me know so I can correct them.

Hold off on buying plane ticket

On a news program several days ago, it was stated that Southwest Air Lines had announced they would begin flying into Boston instead of the remote locations they now use.

As of now, no date has been announced nor have any fares been announced. Usually when they enter a new market, they set very attractive promotional fares and the other carriers usually meet those fares.

I will be holding off on our ticket purchase until this thing shakes out. Keep in mind, the pricing concerning dates and fares is purely my own speculation and is for information only.

Bob McCourt, First Vice President, 2009 reunion

~~~~~  
**Plan Now to Attend  
 the 2009 Reunion  
 August 12 - 15  
 Boston,  
 Massachusetts**

## **Ads needed for Souvenir Ad Book**

Several ads for the 2009 Reunion Souvenir Ad Book have been submitted, but many more are needed if the book is to be a success.

It always helps when ads arrive early, so please help support this project by using the form found in this issue of the *Blood and Fire*, and send greetings, honorary messages, memorials, or for a reason of your own, real soon. Please note, the deadline for sending information for the book is earlier this year because the end product will be mailed to Boston instead of being hand delivered.

## **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.

~~~~~

If man evolved from monkeys and apes, why do we still have monkeys and apes?

WW II Vets meet after 63 years

(information taken from North County Times, California)

In October 2008, Jim Stephens, F 253 and Jim Young, 222nd Regiment, 42nd Rainbow Division, met at the home of Stephens for a long over-due meeting.

Young, after reading a story about Stephens and his war experiences in the *North County Times* and *The Californian* in March, called Stephens to chat about their shared experiences at the Dachau concentration camp near Munich, Germany. Both soldiers were at Dachau at the same time, one arriving from the northwest and the other arriving from the northeast, however they did not meet at this time.

Following the phone call, the two knew they had to meet in person, so Young traveled to Carlsbad, California last October for a visit in Stephen's home.

Stephens, 87 and Young, 86, shared stories, pictures, and other memories that occurred 63 years ago in Germany. They both had "searing" memories of what they saw after liberating the Dachau concentration camp. They saw a train loaded with bodies that had

been shot by German SS troops.

"I can talk to you from now until doomsday, and you will never be able to understand what we saw at Dachau," said Stephens. "There are things from when I was in combat that I barely remember, but I can never forget what I saw at that concentration camp."

The "guys" also talked about how they learned of the death of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and they shared stories of where they were when Germany surrendered, of their combat experiences, how their hearing was damaged, their Bronze Star recognitions and Presidential Unit Citations.

They also talked about the soldiers they met with nicknames such as Hollywood Harry and Mess Kit Louie, as they swapped war stories over pastries and coffee at Stephens' home.

It was fun for them to meet and share their experiences, and the two new friends kept talking and talking about "the good old days." Sixty-three years is a long time and they had a lot of catching up to do.

White parade marshall . . .

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

right hand, when a 90 mm shell struck his left arm and the bill of his helmet. The leather interior of his helmet skinned his head as the helmet was blown off. After being treated by a medic, White began walking to the battalion aid station about three miles away. He eventually was transported to a hospital in Paris where a physician from his hometown and home church treated him. Dr. Harvey McConnell wrote his wife about White's condition and she took the letter to White's parents, so they knew about his injury before his parents could be notified by the Army.

White returned home and began his 30-year stint with the Department of Agriculture. He and his wife Trudy, have been married 57 years and have three children, Bill, Thom, and Betty Burton. They also have eight grandchildren. Since retiring, his hobby has been his sharpening service.

"I love to be doing something and I believe this has a lot to do with longevity," said White, "If you just keep on going and don't quit, you can make it."

New Members

Jerry and Linda Drinski, PO Box 325, Lake Village, IN 46349. Owners of Design Graphics, they made and donated 500 sword and flame magnets to give away at the Indianapolis reunion. They are associate members.

Linda Herrman, daughter of Louis Tirelli, C 253, lives at 27 Waterview Drive, Ossining, NJ 10562. She is an associate member.

Janet R. Malouin, daughter of William J. Schultz, T/Sgt, HQ Battery, Artillery Battalion, lives at 6A West Hill Drive, Westminster, MA 01473-1142. She is an associate member.

Russell E. Park, USAR, lives at 30 Catspaw Cape, Coronado, CA 92118-3234.

James T. Wright, USAR, lives at 23202 Evalyn Avenue, Torrance, CA 90505.

**PLAN NOW TO ATTEND
THE 61ST REUNION
AUG. 12 - 15, 2009**

26 63rd Infantry Division and 63rd Readiness Command preserves history



Participating in the presentation of the historical documents were, left to right, Major Krista Vaughan, the school principal, Bob McCourt and his two grandsons.

Robert McCourt, I&R 254, and first vice president of the 2009 reunion, recently learned that the elementary school in which his two grandsons attend did not have replicas of the Declaration of Independence, the first page of the Constitution of the Bill of Rights, on prominent display at the school.

After an extensive search, he obtained the large reproduction of these historical documents. Recently a local battalion joined the 63rd Regional Readiness Command and it agreed to participate in the effort.

On October 20, 2008, in the name of the 63rd Infantry Division and the 63rd Regional Readiness Command, the reproduction of these documents were presented to the school. Major Krista Vaughn, S2-S3 of the 63rd Regional Readiness Command and Bob McCourt participated in the presentation.

FREEDOM'S FRAGILE FLOWERS SURVIVED

By Wilbur T. Brathwaite, April 4, 2003

From the cliffs of Normandy
to bleak deserts of Kuwait,
From the Land of Morning Calm
to rice paddies of Da Nang,
Freedom gave a desperate cry when
storm troopers crashed her gates,
Violating human rights,
"iron-fisting" rules of state,
Governed by dictatorships,
preaching false democracy,
Shrouded in hypocrisy.

From the Death March of Bataan
to the Death Camp of Dachau,
From a Palace in Iraq
to the Wall of East Berlin,
Despots plundered with their swords,
leaving wounds both deep and raw,
Spreading fear and crushing hope
as their leaders smiled in awe,
Driven by philosophies
killing all free-agency,
Treading on humanity.

From the beaches of the West
to the breakers of the Keys,
From Alaska's icy ports

to the bayous of the South,
Soldiers answered Freedom's call,
raised Old Glory in the breeze
Bringing hope to the forlorn
captive peoples overseas.
Fighting for a worthy cause,
valuing all human life
In Survival's deadly strife.

Sons of Liberty born free,
daughters raised with tenderness
Tended to the dying foe
as a brother of the fold,
Knowing Freedom's price is dear,
bought with blood and deep distress,
Hunger, pain, fatigue and more –
worst a haunting loneliness.
Gaining high ground, digging in,
flying flaked skies, fording streams,
Sacrificing treasured dreams.

Thus a story did unfold
over sixty years of time,
Grandpas, sons, granddaughters too,
left a heritage for you,
Written page by page with tears,
sweat and blood in every clime,
Chronicle through heartthrob-years,
tells of honor, faith sublime.
Freedom's precious flower survived –
May her emblem ever wave,
O'er a land both free and brave.

- Letters and Opinions -

SEEKING INFORMATION

Is there is anyone reading this issue of the *Blood and Fire* who served in the group that participated in the Army Day Parade on April 6, 1946 in San Francisco, California? I remember the 717 Tank Battalion participating in this event. I would like to hear from you, so please contact me at 6041 Road K, Hebron, NE 68370.

Darrol Schlieff, K 253

PURPLE HEART FOREVER STAMP INFO

Early in 2008, a bill was introduced in Congress to create the Purple Heart Forever Stamp, eliminating the need to keep reissuing such stamps with specific postage rates. As long as the U.S. Postal Service must decide whether to reissue the stamp, it may be retired from circulation.

The Perpetual Purple Heart Stamp Act sought to create a stamp that would forever honor U.S. service members killed or wounded in combat. The American Legion endorsed the legislation but, the Purple Heart Forever Stamp can no longer be created via legislation, since congressional committees on oversight and government reform no longer consider such bills.

National support, directed at the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee, to convince the Postal Service to issue the "forever" version of the Purple Heart stamp is needed.

Letters of support should be mailed to the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee, % Stamp Development, U.S. Postal Service, Suite 5013, 1735 N. Lynn St., Arlington, VA 22209.

(this information was submitted by John Down, F 254)



SHORTY LIVED HIS DASH

I have enclosed a copy of *How To Live Your Dash* that was read at Shorty's funeral and I would like

to share it with all of you. Shorty lived his dash!!

He beat so many of his health issues, the last one going into remission for his leukemia. The man up stairs said, "not this one, I have other plans for you." His death was quick and he didn't lay and suffer. A severe deep brain hemorrhage took him and there was nothing they could do.

Betty Myers

(Editors Note: The poem read at Shorty's funeral can be found elsewhere in this issue of the *Blood and Fire*.)

CAMP VAN DORN RESPONDS TO DONATION

On behalf of the Camp Van Dorn WW II Museum, please allow me the opportunity to express our thanks to you for your nice donation to the museum.

The support such as you allows the museum to continue to serve as a viable historical and educational entity in the area as well as a tribute to the many veterans who served our country so gallantly.

Mike Stewart, Secretary

HUSBAND SERVES AS PARADE MARSHALL

I thought you might be interested in the enclosed article about my husband, Wilson Carisle White, Jr, who was chosen to be the Marshall in the Veterans Day parade last November. We made a trip to Europe several years ago with others of the 63rd Division – a very moving experience for the veterans and their wives. After that, we were able to attend a couple of the other reunions, but we have had conflicts that prevented our attending annually.

Carisle greatly enjoys the newsletter and would send his greetings if he knew I was sending this to you! He would be embarrassed to send it himself, but our children and I are very proud of him and of all those who have defended our country. We think his story is typical of many in "the greatest generation."

Trudy White

(Editors note: White's story can be found elsewhere in this issue of the *Blood and Fire*.)

- Letters and Opinions -

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

HENRY SHARTZER SENDS BRIEF NOTE

Henry Shartzter, AT 253, celebrated his 95th birthday in December. He still drives, is very active in his church and enjoys morning coffee with friends. He has moved to this new address: 207 Pearl Street, Litchfield, KY 42754.

HARVEY J. HEINLY IS IN FAIR HEALTH

Harvey J. Heinly, I 255, was 83 years young on January 26, 2009. He and his "bride," Anna, were married October 29, 1950 and happy to inform you that they have celebrated their 58th anniversary. He and Anna have four grandchildren. He was presented with the Purple Heart on January 4, 1945.

How To Live Your Dash

by Linda Ellis

I read of a man who stood to speak
At the funeral of a friend.
He referred to the dates on his tombstone
From beginning....to the end.
He noted that first came his date of birth
And spoke the following date with tears.
But he said what mattered most of all
Was the dash between those years.
(August 17, 1925 - November 29, 2008)

For that dash represents all the time
That he spent alive on earth...
And now only those who loved him
Know what that little line is worth.
For it matters not, how much we own;
The cars...the house...the cash,
What matters is how we live and love
And how we spend our dash.

So think about this long and hard....
Are there things you'd like to change?
For you never know how much time is left,
That can still be rearranged.
If we would just slow down enough
To consider what's true and real,
And always try to understand
The way other people feel.

And be less quick to anger,
And show appreciation more
And love the people in our lives

Like we've never loved before.
If we treat each other with respect,
And more often wear a smile....
Remembering that this special dash
Might only last a little while.

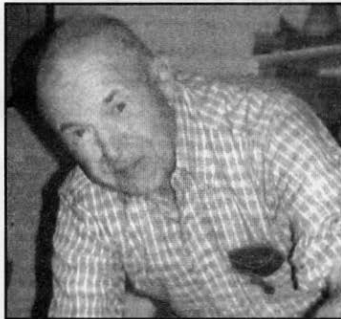
So when your eulogy's being read
With your life's actions to rehash....
Would you be proud of the things they say
About how you spent your dash?
(read at the funeral of Gordon "Shorty" Myers and
submitted by his widow, Betty Myers)

61st Reunion
August 12 thru
August 15, 2009
Boston, Mass.



Carlisle White serves as Veterans Parade Marshall

(taken from *The Union Daily Times*, November 1, 2008)



CARLISLE WHITE

Because of his importance to the community and his participation in Veterans Day activities, Wilson Carlisle White, Jr. was asked to serve as the Parade Marshall during the Union County Veterans Day Parade last November. White, who lives in Union, South Carolina; has worn his uniform and walked in the parade for many years, said he felt honored to be named as the Marshall for the 2008 parade. He is 85 years old and served in E Company, 255th Regiment, of the 63rd Infantry Division.

White and his two siblings served in the military – his older sister, Mary graduated from Erskine College, taught for a year and then joined the WAVES. She later married Tom Gettys, a long-time congressman from South Carolina. T.H. White III, sixteen years younger than Carlisle, attended Erskine for a year before being drafted. He was shot through the neck by a sniper while looking through the hedgerows in France and later was hit in the back by a mortar shell in the Hurtgen Forest. He

survived both injuries, returned home and was killed six weeks later in an automobile accident.

Carlisle was 17 when he entered Clemson University in 1940. During his junior year, and concerned about the draft rumors, he withdrew from college, returned home and joined the Army. He was sent to Camp Wolters, Texas for basic training after which he was chosen for an Army Special Training Program, and sent to Texas A&M for more testing. He then went to Syracuse University for six weeks and after completing that training, found himself on a liberty ship on Thanksgiving Day in 1944. He landed in Marseilles, France and the first week in December was when he entered battle area with the 63rd Infantry Division.

He spent four months in combat, the first two months with the 63rd Infantry Division. When an emergency arose with the 45th Division at Reipertsviller, where the Germans annihilated the 157th regiment, calls were sent for replacements that had combat experience and White drew the "shortest straw." It was a low blow to be chosen to join the 45th Division, when he had been with the same fellows training for slightly over a year, and had made good friends in the 63rd.

During the four months of combat the shower truck came to the men twice! Because White had on the same uniform four months, he has never stopped appreciating modern conveniences. "I love waterworks in a house," said White during an interview for a newspaper in which he was featured last November.

In late March, his group traveled to Aschaffenburg Germany, where the mayor of the town was a die-hard Nazi who had continued to execute his own people for not posting resistance to the advancing Allied Army. White and his "crew" were told a portion of Patton's Army had gone through this town with tanks and had reported no resistance. People at that time were armed with small rifles and would not have "taken on" the tanks. Pretending to be taking a moonlight walk, the soldiers were about three or four blocks into the business district when the firing from windows and off the roofs began. The guys went back across the bridge; the Air Force came in and bombed the town, and the tanks that were on a hill outside town let go with mortars.

The next day the men went in, searching houses for resistance. At one house, White, after checking out the cellar, returned to the first floor when he was told an American tank could be seen from the window. White knew there were no tanks, but looking out the window, could see a tank behind one of the buildings. It was a captured tank whose white star had been painted over with the German cross. He asked for a bazooka man, which turned out to be an 18-year old boy who was afraid of being seen! White had him load the bazooka, fired a shot but missed the target. The bazooka was reloaded and this time the "projectile hit the front of the tank, but the person in the tank fired right back, taking the whole window out and sending White and his men back to the cellar!

After several more rounds from the tank hit the house, White started up the cellar steps with his rifle in his

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