



★ CAMP BLANDING ★ CAMP VAN DORN ★

# Blood and Fire

## 63rd Division Association, Inc.

• ARDENNES / ALSACE • RHINELAND • CENTRAL EUROPE •

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**SAVE THESE DATES!**

**AUGUST 18 THRU  
AUGUST 21, 2010**

## IMOK members gather in Winchester, Indiana for spring 2009 meeting

The Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Kentucky Chapter members gathered in Winchester, Indiana for their May, 2009 meeting with twenty-one members and one guest attending. Rhonda Wolverton and her daughter, Debbie, hosted the affair.

After checking in at the Randolph Inn and Suites on Tuesday, May 12, members greeted each other in the Hospitality Room for a good, old fashioned gab fest, bringing each other up-to-date with the latest "scoop" and sharing events that happened during and after the war.

All too sudden, it was time to car pool to D and J's for a buffet dinner, after which the group returned to the hospitality room for a brief meeting. Several suggestions pertaining to the 2010 annual reunion were discussed and it was decided to plan less tours and have more activities take place at the hotel. Under the leadership of Judy Schafer and her committee, the ladies will enjoy a breakfast meeting on Saturday morning while the men have their business meeting. She also has a few ideas for in-hotel entertainment, but nothing carved in cement. At this early "point in the game", things seem to be shaping up rather nicely.

Just as most everyone had retired to their rooms, Kit Anderson fell and had to be taken to the hospital, where she remained until four o'clock Wednesday morning. She had several stitches inside and outside her mouth, and suffered bruises on top of bruises! After Carl had his breakfast on Wednesday morning they began their journey back to their home near Toledo, Ohio.

The first tour of the day was to the Ghyslain Chocolate Factory in Union City, about a fifteen minute drive from the hotel. A short video and a one

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# 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 ...

*Edward F. Fowle, Jr.*

The I.M.O.K. Chapter of our 63rd Infantry Division Association is hosting our 62nd Annual Reunion. The Holiday Inn Fairborn, which is in the Fairborn/Dayton, Ohio area, is a great facility and was remodeled and refurbished in 2009. The Inn has been the site for many military reunions and has built their operations to meet the many and varied conditions required to make successful reunions.

The Inn is located in the heart of the home of the US Air Force and is between Dayton and Fairborn, Ohio. Dayton is also the home of the Wright Brothers and is known as the birthplace of aviation.

All attending will have the opportunity to visit the World Famous National Air Force and Space Museum and the Home and Museum of the Wright Brothers. We have also planned on-site activities to entertain all in attendance. On Saturday, during the Men's Meeting, the Ladies' Meeting will provide entertainment and fun for all in attendance.

The History Room/Hospitality Room will be open throughout the reunion. There will be plenty of space to read our history and to sit and visit. Snacks and beverages will be available while you visit.

One of our associate members, Mrs. Judith Schaefer, has volunteered to do all the organizing and planning of our activities. "You can tell she was never in the Army." She is planning many different, surprising and fun things for all (young and old).

I promise my best to give you a great and memorable reunion. Remember, it takes all of you to attend and participate for it to be a success.

I want to thank all of the men of our Association who have agreed to serve and be officers for the year of 2009/2010. We have a long line of dedicated men who have served this Association down through the years. All were dedicated to keeping alive the memory of our fallen comrades and to keep alive that purposeful spirit that all 63rd men have carried since the birth of our great 63rd Infantry Division.

You will find the Holiday Inn Fairborn Reservation information and forms as well as the Reunion Registration Form in this issue of the *Blood and Fire*. Please fill it out and return it at your earliest convenience.

## From the President ...

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

I look forward to seeing all of you at the 62nd Reunion of the 63rd Infantry Division Reunion Association on August 18th-21st, 2010.

*Edward F. Fowle, Jr.  
President 2010*

## From the editor . . .

*Donna LaCosse*

I don't know about you, but for me, this has been one long, cold winter and I am so ready for spring. I don't like sweat and I don't like bugs; I don't care for lightening and wind scares me, but even those things I can tolerate better than bitter cold winds and ice!

I have even wondered if I might not be part bear!! A few months of being in a nice warm bed with a few dozen books at my fingertips sounds darn "good" on this second day of February, 2010. I will clarify this by saying I want to be in good health and I want the option of staying there or getting up.

In other words, I want something perfect and that is not going to happen in this lifetime!

Now we stop dreaming and get to the down-to-earth stuff. Our expenses keep going up and our income continues to decline. The number of annual dues' paying members does not create enough revenue to support the *Blood and Fire*, therefore we rely on donations to help fill the gap.

Life members, many years ago, paid forty dollars for membership in to the Association so they would not have to worry about paying dues - that forty dollars was a great help at that time and we were able to purchase a Certificate of Deposit so the Association could have a cushion to fall back on if and when it was needed.

Thank goodness that money was available because I needed to cash the CD, put part of the money into the checking account and purchase a new CD with the remainder of the money in order to pay for the November issue of the *Blood and Fire*. Now it is time to pay for the February issue of the *Blood and Fire* and we still have the May issue, and we will be out of money again, unless the annual members pay their dues real soon, and we have more donations.

I know this sounds like doom and gloom, but you need to know where we stand financially so you can help financially.

Feel free to send a donation to help defray expenses if you so desire - every dollar helps!!

## A Memo from the Secretary . . .

*Donna LaCosse*

It has been a few months since I last wrote this column, and so many things have happened in this House of Confusion, beginning with our not having fall at all - we went from summer to winter before we really had time to think about it! And, winter is not becoming spring quickly enough to suit me!!

On November 15, our little Trenton Thomas was born; Belle Kathleen arrived on December 7 and Madalynn Elizabeth made an appearance on January 24. We now have five great-grandsons and four great-granddaughters. Our family is growing!!

Our baby, Gina and her husband presented us with our first grandchild, Damian on my 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, thirty-two years ago; Gina's son, Jaman and his wife made her a grandmother for the first time on December 7 when "Miss" Belle was born on great-grandpa's 84<sup>th</sup> birthday. How cool is that?

I still have not mastered my new computer, so the headaches happen on a daily basis. We finally broke down and went for high speed service instead of the old dial up system and I am still not making much progress.

Our refrigerator laid down and died after soaking the kitchen carpet. That was a fun time too. It took a shop vac to draw the water out of the carpet and three days to dry it with a fan running full blast each day. This sort of thing should happen to younger people!!

I am late sending out dues due letters this year but that job will get done in the near future. Everyone who is not a life member, should send in their dues as soon as possible. And, if you feel in the mood, send a little extra for the kitty. Every donation is appreciated.

Keep the war stories coming - I have used most all the stories that have been sent to me and I need more!!

My new e-mail address is [haroldlacosse@att.net](mailto:haroldlacosse@att.net)

## OOPS! I GOOFED!!

On page 13 in the November issue of the *Blood and Fire*, under February anniversaries: Caryl and Robert Hubble, B 253, married in 1952 is the corrected information.

On page 41, Celebration of Life, Vincent Fealy, B 253, is alive and well!! I am very happy to report that he wrote me a note with this most welcome news.

In the May 2009 issue of the *Blood and Fire*, on page 13 under anniversaries, Grace & John Harmon, Medical 363, are listed with no wedding date. Their daughter advised me they were married July 16, 1948.

If there are other mistakes, feel free to contact me.

My new e-mail address is [haroldlacosse@att.net](mailto:haroldlacosse@att.net)

## Hotel Registration Form

### Holiday Inn Fairborn – August 18-21, 2010

**Mail or Call:**

**Holiday Inn Fairborn  
2800 Presidential Drive  
Fairborn, OH 45324  
937.426.7800**

**Attention:** 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Association (mention when making reservations)

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone** (        ) \_\_\_\_\_ **Sharing room with:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Arrival Date** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time** \_\_\_\_\_ **Departure Date/Time** \_\_\_\_\_

**SPECIAL REQUESTS:**

Queen Bed \_\_\_\_\_ Two double beds \_\_\_\_\_ Wheelchair Accessible room \_\_\_\_\_  
Non-smoking \_\_\_\_\_ Wheelchair Rental \$57 by week or day \_\_\_\_\_

**RATE:** \$99.00 per room + State and Local Tax (12.5%).

\*The rates are for 3-day pre and/or post convention.

**SHUTTLE FROM DAYTON AIRPORT:** There is no official Holiday Inn shuttle service, but arrangements can be made in ADVANCE with Kris Davis (937.431.4603) and a cab will be waiting for your party at the airport. The cost of the pre-arranged Antons cab is \$40 paid on arrival at the hotel, or if you prefer, can be placed on your room charge. If you grab a cab at the airport it will be \$60 or more to the hotel. *If you need this shuttle - Make arrangements in ADVANCE.*

**CUT OFF DATE: July 26, 2010.** 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 \_\_\_\_\_ American Express \_\_\_\_\_ Discover \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** Cancellations must be made by 6:00pm the day of arrival.

**SIGNATURE:** (same as credit card holder) \_\_\_\_\_



# OUR HISTORY: THEN AND NOW

by Bill Scott, 24-Jan-2010

e-mail: wjs631@comcast.net

The numerous orders for history items have finally been completed after a busy holiday season for that activity. People from the next generations are increasingly searching for information and items of the visual kind to learn more about the 63rd men's months with the 63rd. The men are not always open about their time with the 63rd and/or the descendants are finally wondering about some things of interest.

The recording of the data goes back to when we were working on the Chronicles history book in 1988-1991, and the new recording of orders started at the reunion in 1993.

The number of names on all the 63rd unit rosters for the period from June 1943 to September 1945 now is 69,519 and 657 for the attached units. The serial number percentage for the 63rd in now 97.71%. At this moment the known 63rd dead before combat and since leaving the units totals 9,007, with 233 dead of the attached men.

The total deaths in Europe were 1,030 with 408 of them buried in our cemeteries over there. We had 13,727 casualties for all the categories.

The people who have not seen sheets that contain this sort of the reunions or with orders will not

have other details either.

When it comes to medals the following details will help your info:

- 2 Medal of Honor,
- 9 Distinguished Service Cross,
- 450 Silver Star Medal +23 attached, 3 Legion of Merit,
- 27 Soldier's Medal +3 attached,
- 5,297 Bronze Star Medal +132 attached, 5,016 Purple Heart Medal +37 attached, 68 Air Medal +2 attached,
- 1 British Military Cross,
- 2 British Military Medal,
- 1 French Legion of Honor, and 15 French Croix de Guerre.

To date I have addresses for 4,414 men. There are 2,093 known addresses for survivors of 63rd men. These all include duplicates from men being in more than one unit. Keeping this info up-to-date is almost impossible without the help of Donna LaCosse every so often.

I now have to go back to editing of information about each individual entry on the alphabetical listing which I hope to update before the August reunion. This will help to eliminate some of the likely spelling errors on names from the wide variety of sources.

## *Proposal made for 2011 National Reunion*

Archie Kumaska has made a proposal to host the 2011 National Reunion in New Jersey. He presented the proposal during the meetings at the Boston reunion but board members felt he did not have enough information at that time. They asked him to report his findings to the editor and have those printed in the *Blood and Fire*.

He is suggesting the Princeton, New Jersey area, with tours of battle fields and other points of interest in that area.

Board members will consider this proposal, and the proposal from Kenneth Erickson in Nebraska, at

## **New members**

Jerome A. Young, F 255, of 5486 N.W. 21<sup>st</sup> Ave., Boca Raton, FL 33496, found Fred Clinton's web site recently and was pleased to find out about the Association. Welcome to the Association.

*(Editor's note: Jerome asked for a Life Membership but, unfortunately that is no longer possible.)*

the August 2010 meetings.

Please take note that this proposal is not for the year 2010 - that reunion has been scheduled to take place in Ohio. We certainly do not want to confuse anyone!

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

**Ads for the 2010 Reunion Souvenir Ad Book are needed.**

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.

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

-----COMPUTER DATA PRINTOUTS AND COPIES-----

PLEASE PRINT!	UNIT #1 Company,	UNIT #2 Battery, HQ?	COST/EACH
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 Saarbrucken w/great detail .....	\$13 set _____
Two 1:25,000 maps of the 63rd's SIEGFRIED LINE area w/forts, from 1/45 aerial photos w/legends.....	\$13 set _____
1:25,000 BLIESKASTEL map that shows Kirkel, Wurzbach, & Biesingen .....	\$5 ea. _____
1:100,000 KAISERSLAUTERN map that shows Homburg, Langmeil & Grunstadt.....	\$5 ea. _____
1:100,000 KARLSRUHE map that shows Bad Wimpfen, Heilbronn & Stuttgart.....	\$5 ea. _____
1:100,000 ELLWANGEN map from Waldenburg & Schwabisch Hall to Oberbobingen.....	\$5 ea. _____
1:25,000 MOGGLINGEN map shows from Obergroningen to Oberbobingen.....	\$5 ea. _____
8.5" x 14" 1:250,000 map shows from Mannheim to Rothenberg and Heilbronn .....	\$1 ea. _____

-----HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS-----

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

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

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

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

253rd Infantry Regiment with motto.. "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. \_\_\_

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

95 of 1943-45 *Blood & Fire* 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 and bill, with adjustable white rear net for spring, summer or fall..... NEW .....\$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 bag .....\$10 ea. \_\_\_  
 1.5" 254th Infantry Regiment Antique Bronze Challenge Coin with plastic pocket case.....\$10 ea. \_\_\_  
 1.5" 254th Infantry Regiment Brilliant Gold Challenge Coin with plastic pocket case.....\$10 ea. \_\_\_  
 3.5" x 3.5" x 1.25" Dark Blue Coin Presentation Case.....\$5 ea. \_\_\_

October 2009 form #67

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

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 I AM THE: \_\_\_\_\_ OF \_\_\_\_\_

(SON, GRANDSON, DAUGHTER, BROTHER?)

63RD VET'S NAME



**63RD INFANTRY DIVISION REUNION OF THE  
63RD INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION  
REUNION AUGUST 18 - 21, 2010  
FAIRBORN, OHIO**

**Tour Descriptions**

**Thursday, August 19th, 2010**

**(9:00am – 3:30pm)**

**National Museum of the United States Air Force**

The National Museum of the United States Air Force traces its birth to 1923 at McCook Field near Dayton; it moved to Wright Field in 1927. The museum closed from 1940 to 1955 due to urgent need for administrative space to support the war effort.

The Museum is set up on a self-touring basis. However, a guided Heritage Tour is conducted for the public every day at 1:30 p.m. The tours usually last about 2 hours and are free. The Heritage Tour begins in the Early Years era and continues chronologically through the Cold War era. Reservations are not required; just meet the tour guide at the entrance to the Early Years Gallery.

**The Presidential Hangar and Research, Test and Development** Hangar is located on the active part of Wright-Patterson AFB. The Museum provides bus transportation. The bus runs continuously, seating is limited, so please check in at the information desk upon arrival to sign up for a seat. A current picture still is required. This information is based on current procedures and is subject to change.

Photography or videotaping of aircraft and exhibits in the Museum is encouraged.

Because the Museum uses exhibit lighting, the use of flash equipment indoors is recommended.

Wheelchairs and electric carts are available for indoor use at no cost. Availability is first come, first served.

**Museum Galleries**

Early Years Gallery (History of earliest flight)

Air Power Gallery (World War II story)

Modern Flight Gallery featuring the Korean War/Southeast Asia War

Cold War Gallery

Missile and Space Gallery

Presidential and Research and Development/Flight Test Galleries

Outdoor exhibits which include:

World War II Control Tower, Nissen Hut and Memorial Park

Lockheed C-141C Hanoi Taxi

Lunch on your own in the Museum Cafe (wide variety of fast food selections, menu has several salad choices).

**OR**

## Tour description . . .

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

**Thursday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

**(9:00am -1:00pm) Buses Depart 8:30am**

**The Wright Cycle Company complex (Guided Tour)**

The Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center features two floors (elevators/handicapped accessible) of exhibits on the Wright's printing business, bicycle repair/manufacturing business, and their aviation legacy. It also features a 30-minute film on the Wright brothers and an 18-minute film about the renowned African-American poet Paul Laurence Dunbar. Dunbar attended high school with Orville Wright and worked with both Wilbur and Orville for a short time in their printing business. The Wright Cycle Company building is one of five bicycle shops that the Wrights operated in Dayton, Ohio.

**The Huffman Prairie Flying Field Interpretive Center (Guided Tour)**

Also, features a short film on the Wright brothers and the history of the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. The exhibits focus on the history of the Wrights after their 1903 success in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina and how their invention and innovation led to the legacy that Wright-Patterson Air Force Base has today. The Huffman Prairie Flying Field is located a few miles from the Interpretive Center and takes 20-30 minutes to tour. The field has a replica of the Wrights' 1905 hangar, catapult system, and the interurban trolley stop that the Wrights used to access the field from downtown Dayton. The Huffman Prairie also features the largest remnant grass prairie in the state of Ohio.

Lunch on your own.

**Friday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

**(3:30pm - 7:00pm)**

Monte Carlo, Live Entertainment and Dinner

B 6 Wheels (Black Jack, Texas Holdem, Roulette Tables)

Card Games with your buddies

Board Games provided

Visit with all your buddies and meet our new associates

Snacks/Soda/Water/iced tea provided

Prizes

Live Entertainment

# A word from your buddies . . .

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

John C. Harth, B Company: "Getting old fast!! Still operate hay bine in the summer. I am an army buddy of Max Gourley."

Robert A. Hubble: B Company: "In the November issue of the *Blood and Fire*, page 11 in the February Anniversary column, I am listed with the wrong first name and Regiment."

Max Gourley, C Company (*note from the editor*): Max has developed a few heart problems and has been in and out of the hospital several times this fall and winter. He did meet with the Lunch Bunch on February 3, with his granddaughter doing the driving.

Clement Capasso, D Company: "My wife is in a nursing home - she lost her memory. I am going for chemo treatment for lung cancer, but we are hanging in there!"

Carl V. Anderson, E Company: "I joined the 63<sup>rd</sup> at Camp Van Dorn in 1943. I stayed with unit in the 4<sup>th</sup> Platoon until the war ended. In August 1945, I was sent to 26<sup>th</sup> Regiment in Frankfurt, Germany and guard duty for General Eisenhower. I started my trip home in March 1946."

John Rogalewicz, G Company: "The new format for the *Blood and Fire* magazine looks great!!"

Hubert Ushold, G Company: "Turned 94 on November 18 and still have my driver's license."

Maxcy Brooks Patterson, I Company: "Kathleen and I have attended the reunions since 1995 when it was held in Cincinnati. We have enjoyed seeing old buddies and making new friends. We didn't make it to Boston due to my health problems during 2009. I had a heart attack in March which resulted in surgery. Stents were inserted and I spent nine days in the hospital. I was still having problems and in August, I had a pacemaker put in. In October, my gall bladder was removed due to other problems. I am now feeling much better. I had my 84<sup>th</sup> birthday on January 3, 2010 and Kathleen and I will celebrate our 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on April 1."

Carmine Soranno, K Company: "My wife, Angela and I were married 60 years on September 3, 2009."

Rev. James Ernster, L Company: "Good to see so many involved."

Nick P. Kapisis, M Company: "I lost my home during Hurricane Katrina and am now fighting battles with two cancers. I am 84 years old and live with my son. I have ten grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. I lost my wife on our 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, February 3, 1981. Would love to hear

from other M-Company members. I was a radio man for Forward Observance; graduated from Bradley University in 1950; worked for Eastern Airlines from 1950 to 1962, and was a travel consultant from 1962 to 1989. God bless you all."

Wayne A. Lawrence, Headquarters: "Turned 86 on November 28. Still work four days each month as an Insurance Instructor at an Insurance School."

## 254 Regiment

Joseph Matrале, C Company: (a note from wife Betty) "Joe and I will be married 56 years. We think of all our buddies, especially those who are no longer with us. Joe is very proud to belong to the 63<sup>rd</sup> Division."

Vernon A. Worster, G Company: "I am one of the original rifleman that first took basic training at Camp Van Dorn. After that was over, I went to Communication School where Captain Lenig chose me as his messenger. The Captain let me use my own judgment most of the time. I was the one who saw the first white flag when the Germans surrendered in Jebshiem. I was near Sgt. Haraold Osborn at that time and he said "cover me I'll take over," and he told the German soldiers they would have to use their own medics. I will soon be 92 years old."

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

Ernie Klimek, D Company (a note from wife Mary) "Ernie spent seventeen days, from November 23 to December 9, in the hospital and now needs oxygen 24-hours a day. His spirit is good and he has no pain. We reminisce about our great times at the reunions."

David D. Montgomery: E Company: "We are doing good for our age. We had a good Christmas with our kids and grandkids. We enjoyed the Boston reunion and plan to go to Dayton, Ohio in August. Hope to see you there. I am sending dues for Jimmy and me with a little extra for the Association."

Ray W. Peterson, Headquarters Company: "It seems like 2009 slipped by quickly. Maybe that has something to do with getting old! Merlene and I are still getting along pretty good. We are able to take care of ourselves. Merlene needs a lot of help with daily tasks because of macular degeneration but does remarkably well. I am so happy to be able to help her. We have been married 62 years."

# Nothing to do with the war

*By Albert O. Kidney*

After being relieved by an another division, we were pulled back from the front a week or so before the Germans surrendered.

The "powers that be" were coming up with all kinds of things for us to do to keep us busy until they could figure out what they were going to do with us.

We were billeted in close proximity to an old bombed-out German military facility of some kind. There wasn't a darn thing there. But they put some of us to guarding the place twenty-four-hours a day. There was a gravel road that went all the way around the outside perimeter of the place. We didn't know how far around the place it was, but it was quite a long distance.

When we were on guard duty, we were on duty for two hours and off duty for three hours, around the clock.

I was teamed up with a fellow by the name of Ryan, who was from Schenectady, New York. We had a jeep and I was the driver. It was a nice, warm, pleasant spring morning and we were tooling along 15 or 20 miles an hour around the place, just getting in our time, when Ryan said, "You know, I never learned to drive. Would you show me how to drive this thing?"

I showed him how to use the clutch and shift the gears, and use the accelerator and the brake. He caught on to that right away and did a good job, so I let him drive for the rest of our shift.

After our three-hour layover, and we were back on duty, Ryan wanted to drive some more. After a time, he started speeding and he got to weaving back and forth across the road, so I said, "Better hold her down a little, Ryan." Instead of taking his foot off the accelerator and just letting the jeep slow down on its own, he **STOMPED ON THE BRAKE** and that darn jeep flipped over upside down right in the middle of the road!

It threw me clear and I lit on my hands and knees.

Ryan wasn't badly hurt but his legs were pinned under the steering column and he couldn't get his legs out from under the jeep. I somehow managed to lift that side of the jeep enough so that he could pull his legs out. There wasn't anything we could do but sit there and wait until our relief showed up.

When the officer of the day finally showed up with our relief shift, I don't think he could believe his eyes when he first spotted that jeep bottom side up in the middle of the road. He stood up in his vehicle so he

could get a better look!

The first thing he said when they reached us was to ask if we had been drinking. Ryan took full responsibility for the accident and told them exactly what had happened.

To my knowledge there was never any disciplinary action taken. The jeep wasn't badly damaged – the windshield was broken, the steering wheel was bent out of shape, and all the engine oil had leaked out. They put in a new windshield and a new steering wheel on it and it was back in service.

I have often wondered if Ryan ever took up driving again after he got out of the service?

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## *Unwrapped gifts*

Persons are gifts which are sent to us .... wrapped. Some are wrapped very beautifully. They are very attractive when we first see them. Some come in ordinary wrapping paper; others have been mishandled in the mail. Once in a while, there is a special delivery. Some persons are gifts which come very loosely wrapped; others wrapped very tightly. But the wrapping is not the gift. It is so easy to make this mistake. It is amusing when babies do it.

Sometimes the gift is very easy to open up; sometimes we need others to help. Is it because they are afraid? Maybe they have been opened up before and thrown away.

You are a person, so you are a gift, too. A gift to yourself. You have been given to yourself.

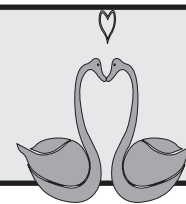
Have you ever really looked inside the wrappings? Maybe you've never really seen the wonderful gift that you are. Could such a gift be anything but beautiful?

And you are a gift to other persons. Are you willing to give yourself to others? Do others have to be contented with the wrappings?

Never permitted to enjoy you ..... the gift?

*Anonymous*

# Happy Anniversary



## March

- 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 LaCosse - F 254 - 1948
- 12: Beryl & Pasquale Scorzelli - A 255 - 1946
- 14: Marjorie & Jacob Gesek- FA 861-1953
- 14: Bertha & Walter E. Harmon - G 253 -1947
- 18: Jacquelin & Charles King - SV 254 -1946
- 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
- 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 -
- 15: Jean & James S. Settineri - H 254 - 1948
- 15: Rosemary & Wm. Smeigh Jr. - Assoc - 1948
- 16: Charlotte & Herb Schneiderman - AS 254 - 1949
- 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
- 5: Cleda & John Dumont - HQ 63 - 1948
- 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
- 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

**2010 REUNION  
AUGUST 18 THRU  
AUGUST 21  
IN OHIO**

# A word from your buddies . . .

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Stanley A. Kozlowki, I Company: "I still enjoy reading the *Blood and Fire*. Eleanor is recuperating after having had knee replacement on October 5. But, life is still good! God Bless."

Robert Titterington, K Company: "I just turned 85 on January 4!! I am in good health and work with seniors in my church. I enjoy the *Blood and Fire* very much. Keep up the good work."

John Zaugg, K Company: "I'm living with my daughter now. I lived by myself for three years; had bypass heart surgery in 2007, and had carotid artery surgery in 2009. I joined the 63<sup>rd</sup> Division January 1945 when I was 20 years old. I will be 86 in April 2010. I am doing well now."

Gordon Rintoul, L Company, (a note from wife Naomi):

"Gordie has really been through the wringer! He is now in a nursing home in Farmington Hill, Michigan and is under Hospice Care. He is losing weight and is confused most of the time. I go every day to see him and pray he has a good day."

## HEADQUARTERS

Jim Crum, 253 Regiment (note from the editor) Jim is dealing with macular degeneration in both eyes. He is doing well except when it comes to driving, but he is content to sit back and leave the driving to Carol Ann!

George W. Millis: "I am approaching 85!!!"

## RECON

Sam Fittante, "Hope to make the reunion in Dayton, Ohio in 2010. Wish to see more of the 63<sup>00</sup> RECONs there."

Lawrence R. Traver, "I was in the army from 1942 to 1945, was in mechanical contracting for twelve years and with the municipal government for thirty years. Retired in 1988. Lost my wife in 2002, spent eight years with the local First Aid Squad and sold my home in 2007. I am now living in South New Jersey with one of my son's family, and still hanging on!!"

## FIELD ARTILLERY

John Toom, 718: "We have moved from Iowa to

Texas!"

"Getting away from the Iowa winter but it is snowing here in Houston today (December 4)!!?? Enjoy reading the different stories in the *Blood and Fire*. Keep up the good work!"

## USAR

Howard Geck: "I am currently in the Army Reserve with the 63<sup>rd</sup> RSC for our facility here and recently back from my second deployment in Iraq. Good to be home. Thank you for the great newsletter."

## ANTI TANK

Henry Shartzter, 253 Regiment: "I celebrated my 96<sup>th</sup> birthday on December 31. I am in good health and drive every where I want to go. My health is so good I only take a fluid pill a day! Am looking forward to having my 100th birthday!! I am having a good life!"

Bill McCabe, 255 Regiment: "Got my *Blood and Fire* today (December 28) and enjoyed it as always. Congrats on your new great-granddaughter. The new cover on the magazine is great!"

## MEDICAL

Benjamin F. Butler, 363: "My wife, Dorothy, died about three years ago. I am 98 years old and still hobbling along and I am still driving."

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Betty J. Bonifield, Widow of Dayle Bonifield, L Company 253: "I don't know about attending the next reunion in Ohio; it is a "wait and see" thing! Hope to see you there."

Joseph J. Valicenti, "I am the son of Joseph Valicenti, who was in K 255 in 1945. He is now deceased."

Bernice Verone, widow of Gilbert J. Verone HQ 862. "I so enjoy the *Blood and Fire*. My husband, Gilbert, is still with me in the memories he had with his buddies."

Anna Weber, widow of Frederick P. Weber: "I enjoy the *Blood and Fire*. Wish I could have gone to Boston - I heard from some 63<sup>rd</sup> folks at 'holiday time' and am hoping to find a ride to Dayton in August."

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

# *My military experience*

*By Duane L. Franz*

At age 17, I attempted to enlist in the Navy, but was rejected for poor eyesight. However, the Army was not that fussy and at 18, I was drafted and sent to Fort Sheridan for three days and then sent to Camp (now Fort) Hood, Texas for basic training IRTC-Infantry Replacement Training Center. We spent seventeen weeks training in the summer of 1944 in central Texas and it was very hot!! The training was rigorous but I didn't find it very difficult - in fact it was challenging. I turned down limited service in the Navy that the draft board offered me (I did cheat on the eye test) as I was with millions of others who wanted to do the best for our country.

After basic training, all eighteen-year-olds were shipped to Camp Van Dorn, Mississippi and we went on a two-week furlough, then returned to camp. I was assigned to left rifle group, 1<sup>st</sup> squad, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon, C Company, 254<sup>th</sup> Regiment, 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division. After additional training (not very long) we were shipped to Camp Shanks, New York. There we made our final preparations for overseas. The mess hall fed 4,000 each meal and our whole company of 187 men pulled KP at one time!

I drew three eighteen hour passes to New York City - on one we went bike riding in Central Park. On our second pass, my buddy, Joe Harper, who had been a page boy in the U.S. Congress, and I met two girls in the Bronx. I have no idea how we wound up there. We made a date for what was our last pass and went to a downtown movie, "*Frenchmen's Creek*." Our dates were Theresa and Annette. After the movie we took the girls home and their folks sent out for baked goods. I was amazed that at that hour (quite late) that stores were still open. New York in wartime!!

We shipped out on an Italian luxury liner, M.S. Saturnia, a trip that took two weeks. We could only go as fast as the Liberty Ships in our convoy. Most of the soldiers were seasick but I had a great time -- I should have been a sailor!!

We landed in Marseille, France early December, 1944 and began our trip north in "40 & 8" boxcars. These were boxcars designed to carry 40 men or 8 horses. We did not have forty men in our group but there were boxcars - no facilities, heat or anything. We pulled off on a siding and unloaded the kitchen car for meals and whatever else - trees, bushes, etc.

On January 1, 1945, we went on line. We relieved an element of the Third Division on a quiet defensive position in the Colmar Pocket - a unit of Germans on the French side of the Rhine River that had to be removed.

We each spent two days in a foxhole and one day in the Platoon Command Post. However, on January 9, we were being shelled quite heavily when a mortar round hit our foxhole, not in it or we'd both be dead. We were both wounded; Wally McIntosh from Detroit was hit in the foot and I was hit on the right wrist and right thigh. We limped to the Command Post and while we were waiting for the medics and a jeep, a shell burst outside the window wounded our platoon guide and our medic. Remember the medic. We were evacuated and eventually I was in a tent hospital in LaHaye De Puit in Normandy, Peninsula.

When I was ambulatory, I went on sick call to get my teeth checked and made an appointment! The day before my appointment I was awakened at 6:00 A.M. and told I was shipping out at 7:00 A.M. I had taken my heavy wool overcoat to a lady in town to have it shortened to fingertip length, so I hurried into town only to find out she was away for the weekend! I thought I'd have to pay for the coat but I never did.

We traveled third class as long as we were on the hospital roster to a Replacement Depot at Etames, south of Paris. Again the same thing happened to my new dental appointment.

When I reached the Seventh Army Replacement Depot and I saw the dentist using a foot treadle to operate his drill, I thought I might get my head shot off, why worry about my teeth!! Later when I was a bed patient in Chicago, I had a Major with a Captain as his assistant, check my teeth. I kept my next appointment.

When I rejoined my regiment in February, I learned that Joe Harper had been killed. To this day I am sorry I didn't write the girls in New York to thank them.

On March 3, 1945, our company was called upon to take the small town of Hartingshof. It was just a feint to make the Germans think it was a major offensive; the real attack was later down the line. We had all the machine guns in the battalion, a self propelled gun and about a dozen P-47 fighter planes strafing the town. Interestingly, as we marched along before the attack, empty 50-caliber shells were falling around us. At 1:00

# *My military experience continued*

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

P.M., we went through our main line of resistance, past L Company foxholes, took some shots at a German about 900-yards away (no hope of hitting anyone at that distance from a standing position) and started running and firing from the hip.

The worst thing you can do is run through a minefield but that's what we had to do. The machine gunner was off to our left and I never did see him. We leaped a small stream and ran into barbed wire strung through the bushes. I was laying down when I saw the bullets kicking up the dirt just below my feet but, before I could draw them up enough, a bullet struck my lower right leg. I was bleeding profusely and used a dull trench knife to tighten a tourniquet on my thigh. A paratrooper I met at the Replacement Depot had given me the knife.

A soldier, Johnson, who transferred from Transportation had been shot not far from me out in the open and the gunner continued to shoot him when he ran out of targets. Our medic (remember him?) was coming down the hill treating the wounded when he stepped on two land mines. He lived a couple of hours calling for help from me, another wounded man beside me and our platoon guide, who was in the ditch by the stream. With the machine gun shooting at the wounded, nobody dared move. The medic received the Silver Star for his bravery and the machine gunner had not shot at the medic. I did not have a watch so I had to guess when 15 or 20 minutes had passed before I loosened the tourniquet and the bleeding had finally stopped.

After dark the soldier with me got up and walked out so I thought sure help would be coming. Just in case help didn't come, I started crawling to the ditch where our wounded Sgt. was and after sharing my cigarettes with him, I continued crawling but he chose not to go with me.

We were shelled pretty heavily that night and I swear that I could detect the gun that was firing at me out of the four or five that were firing. As Willy and Joe said, I tried to get as close to the ground as I could but my buttons kept getting in the way!! A shell landed very close to me and I thought I had been hit again, but instead I crawled into the shellhole and slept a little as I knew there wouldn't be any mines there. By daylight I had reached a road we had crossed so I hid in a ditch as I didn't know if the Germans had returned.

About 9:00 A.M. I heard voices coming from the valley I had come from, and I knew I should have stayed there! Men from L Company left their foxholes to come for us. They had only blankets to carry me on so I told them I had a broken leg. They went to a ruined house where they found a door and used that to carry me. There were six men, which was good because there were no handles on the door. They spelled each other off as they carried me to the Battalion Aid station.

From there I was processed through three more hospitals until I reached the 1<sup>st</sup> General Air Evac where I was loaded on a C-54 to the Azores, Newfoundland, and reached Mitchell Air Force Base, Long Island on March 19. And, I was still 18 years old!!

From there I flew to Chicago to Vaughn General Hospital in Hines Park, Illinois. As I became more ambulatory, I was moved to Percy Jones Hospital in Fort Custer, Michigan. There I met my future wife at a Service Club dance, and we have been married 62 years. So for me, this horrible war had a happy ending and I was discharged in April, 1946.

My time in the Army and in combat was short but very intense and I am proud to say I answered my country's call to arms.

## A word from your buddies . . .

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Eugene F. Smania: "My father was Frank E. Smania, who was with the 63<sup>rd</sup> from February 1945 until the end of the war. I served in the army in 1971-1972 in Vim, Germany, one of the towns Dad passed through in April 1945."

Evelyn Miller, widow of Olaf E. Miller, Anti Tank: "My husband passed away November 1, 2009. He had been undergoing treatment for throat cancer for two years. We were married 64 years on October 31, 2009. Please continue to send me the *Blood and Fire*."

## 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



# Brooks' Army experience

*By Maxcy Brooks Patterson*

When Pearl Harbor was bombed on December 7, 1941, I was 15 years old. I had my 18<sup>th</sup> birthday on January 3, 1944 and was drafted in February. On February 25, 1944, I became an army private at Fort Bragg, North Carolina and was sent to Camp Walters, Texas for seventeen weeks of Infantry Basic Training, and to this day I remember six-foot, 200 pound Sgt. Bowman, who was my drill sergeant. He was a Texan - a regular army man, wounded three times, tough but good. He knew what it took to become a good soldier. I have always felt what he taught me contributed to my survival in combat.

After I finished basic training, I was sent to Camp Van Dorn, Mississippi and was assigned to Company I, 253<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division. This was in July of 1944.

Some of the things I remember about Camp Van Dorn were the tar paper quarters, the latrine in a separate building, eating out of a mess kit at all times (outside, not in the mess hall), the extreme hot and humid weather, the rain and the mud, long hikes with full equipment, weekend passes to Baton Rouge and New Orleans, the tough combat training, and the long wait to board troop trains taking us to Camp Shanks, New York.

We left New York harbor on November 27, 1944, headed for Europe on the Liberty Ship "Sea Robin." It was part of a convoy on many ships. We were escorted by naval war ships who were always on the look-out for German subs.

The trip was pretty rough on me as I was seasick about half of the twelve days on the water.

When we left Camp Van Dorn, only our three infantry regiments were sent. Our supporting units were left behind.

During the last few days of December, our battalion moved to a position near Gros Rederching. We became attached to the 71st Infantry of the 44<sup>th</sup> Division. We would be used as a mobile reserve to give assistance in any locality where help was needed.

On January 1, 1945, our battalion, including the Second Platoon, began moving in position to cover the withdrawal of the 71st Infantry Regiment. They were being ripped apart by the German tanks, artillery, and infantry. Traveling by trucks, we moved through Haguenau, France. After passing through the village, we departed from the trucks and walked up the dirt road. We could hear exploding artillery shells and intermittent machine gun fire. It became very frightening for our group as we realized we were moving closer to our first action. As we walked along

the roadside, we met many ambulances and jeeps moving away from the battle area. They were loaded with bloody and bandaged American soldiers, and it made us wonder what was ahead as we could hear the firing of weapons in the distance. Reality struck home; this was no longer a training session, but was the real thing.

The 71<sup>st</sup> withdrew on the night of January 1, and set up a new line about one mile behind us. We were due to withdraw early on the night of January 3, but our company didn't get the orders to do so.

The battle we were involved in during the night of January 3 (my 19<sup>th</sup> birthday) was one of the toughest and the bloodiest of the war for the Second Platoon. Six of our men of the second squad were killed and an unknown number of our platoon were wounded. This would prove to be the most casualties in a single day that our platoon would have. During the action, Mike Jugan, our medic, was shot through the mouth, captured, and later released by the Germans. Tony Douglas tells of Harvey Grice being shot through the mouth and spitting out the bullet.

There are times in my dreams now, when I see white uniforms and hoods of the German soldiers advancing through the snow as they attacked our positions. An enemy tank that roared by only a few feet from my foxhole somehow in the darkness failed to see me.

As of February 6, 1945, we were no longer attached to the 44<sup>th</sup> Division. We returned with all other units to the 63<sup>rd</sup> Division.

On the morning of February 19, our company was dug in near the edge of some woods that were located in the Bliesbruck, Germany area. At daybreak, members of the company command post, that was located behind us, realized some German soldiers were in the woods also. Thinking it was only a German patrol, Lt. MacDonald and the third squad of the Second Platoon were sent to capture or kill them. I had become the 3<sup>rd</sup> squad leader and promoted to S/Sgt. As we moved to the top of a terrace in the woods, we were greeted by automatic weapons fire. Lieutenant MacDonald (our company executive officer) was killed instantly. When we realized there were many more enemy troops than we first thought, we called for additional help.

The battle became so furious that the blood of the surrounded German soldiers could be smelled in the morning air. Their SS officers would not allow them to surrender. We could hear the officers yelling "Heil Hitler" to keep them fighting. Once the officers had been killed, the remaining soldiers surrendered. Some 75-percent of the original Germany Company were

## Brooks' Army experience continued

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

killed or wounded. I took two pistols off the bodies of SS officers that day. This area was later named Smoak's Woods after Lt. Col. John Smoak.

During the last days of February and the first few days in March, we were in the Kleinblittersdorf, Germany area. The Third Battalion, that included our Second Platoon, was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for the defeat of the Germans in bitter fighting around that area.

Toward the middle of March, we began preparations for the attack on the Siegfried Line. The Siegfried Line was a mass of fortifications that Hitler had boasted no one would ever be able to penetrate. It had three lines of defense, each contained tank obstacles - pill boxes - barbed wire machine guns and mortar emplacements. There were underground tunnels connecting the lines of defense.

As we waited our turn to attack the last belt of the Siegfried Line, our platoon watched the other regiments of the 63<sup>rd</sup> fight their way through the fortifications. On March 20 our company penetrated the last line of defense. We took many prisoners and much equipment during this operation. A great number of the men of the 63<sup>rd</sup> were killed or wounded.

Early on the morning of April 9, we continued the attack eastward toward Lampoldshausen. There was only a small amount of opposition. As we approached the town, German resistance increased. By fighting house to house, we were able to clear the town by midnight. The price was high for the Second Platoon and I Company. Our former platoon leader and friend, Lt. Tom Peters, was killed in the fighting. He had been promoted to Company Executive Officer after Lt. MacDonald was killed. A sniper killed Lt. Peters as he moved around a corner in the street.

The Second Platoon had been involved in front line activity, against the enemy, from December 22, 1944 until April 29, 1945. During this period, most of our original platoon members had either been killed or wounded.

From early April until late April, we fought the Germans in many small towns and faced heavy resistance in some and very little in others. During this time we occupied a Concentration Camp that the Germans had just fled from. We found many bodies stacked in piles near the incinerator. Others were alive - looking like skeletons - just skin and bones.

At the end of April we were relieved by another unit which allowed us to move to a rest area. While we were there, the war ended in Europe on, or about, May 7, 1945.

My company was then assigned to occupation duty for three months in Wetheim, Germany, on the Maine River. Our unit was then disbanded and I was sent to the European Headquarters in Frankfurt, Germany. I became duty sergeant for an area that was housing for about 2,000 troops who worked at the headquarters.

On January 8, 1945, I was wounded by a German "88" round as it landed about ten feet from me. I was kneeling in the snow when the round came in almost ripping my overcoat from my body. The overcoat probably saved me from getting a more serious injury. I spent two days at a field hospital where they removed pieces of shrapnel from my left shoulder. I then returned to my unit.

The town of Bitche, France was probably the most destroyed town that we saw during the war. As we entered the town, shortly after a tank battle had taken place there, we witnessed total destruction. Every building had been destroyed or damaged. There seemed to be a hundred disabled German, French and American tanks in the streets. The streets and doorways were littered with the bodies of many German soldiers. We learned that over a period of a few days, five tank battles had been fought in the streets of Bitche.

Things we don't forget: how young most of us were and how we loved each other like brothers, and then seeing so many of them killed or wounded.

After 65 years, many of the experiences from this period are as if they occurred yesterday - many of them have been forgotten through the years.

Some of the things I remember about Frankfurt, after the war: (1) trips to Switzerland, Belgium and Paris, (2) taking my first plane ride in General Eisenhower's plane, (3) seeing General George Patton leaving the Frankfurt train station. He was a magnificent officer in his shiny boots, glistening helmet liner, and pistols at his side, (4) visits to the USO, and (5) the destruction of Frankfurt caused by the bombs from American and British planes.

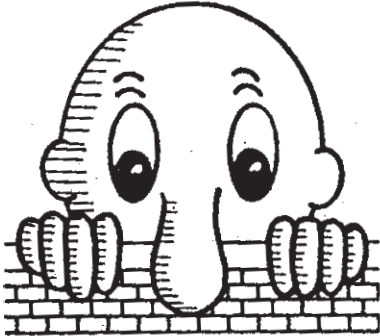
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*Torrential rainstorms were knocking down power lines all over town. That meant that a customer service representative for the electric company had to dispatch repairmen to the different areas of the town.*

*When one lineman called a customer for her correct address, he was told she was at Post Office Box 99.*

*The weary lineman replied, "Madam, I will be coming to you in a truck, not an envelope."*

# Kilroy is here



(Written by Nick Reston and Robert Loefelbein; reprinted with permission of *Off Duty/America*; submitted by Harold O'Neill)

In the initial invasion of a certain Pacific atoll during World War II, Marines in the first wave were greeted on the beach by a sign: "Kilroy was here." A group of amphibious sailors moored overnight just offshore in a landing craft were the suspected Perpetrators.

Kilroy is one of a few genuine American legends.

Some say he's the twentieth-century Paul Bunyan for whom no place is inaccessible and no deed impossible. "Kilroy was here" was lettered 305 feet atop the torch of the Statue of Liberty, for example, and scribbled on the high girders of New York's George Washington Bridge. It was also neatly carved into the handsome wooden railings of the old luxury liner "Queen Elizabeth."

Kilroy's story begins during World War II, where, on faraway islands and in forgotten ports, his name greeted GI's and fliers, in Europe, Africa, Australia, New Guinea, the Philippines and on hundreds of islands on the farthest rim of the Pacific. Kilroy endorsed his former presence.

Wherever GI's kicked up dust or slogged through mud, Kilroy's trademark was sure to appear. He was often the first to hit the beach, and he certainly reached some places even the toughest avoided.

The impudent announcement that "Kilroy was here" decorated walls and any other handy surface from Hitler's "Eagle Nest" at lofty Berchtesgaden to the depths of a volcanic crater in Hawaii.

There's even a Kilroy Island somewhere in the far Pacific. Since its discovery in 1944, the island has given cartographers nothing but headaches. No two maps show it in the same location, and some don't show it at

all. It seems to lie somewhere in the open sea between Hawaii and the Soviet Union. Accuracy is not for Kilroy.

Kilroyisms are spread over the world from Brazil to Pakistan - the mark of Kilroy became the symbol of the speed and scope of global warfare. Kilroy phrases have been spotted on the Capitol dome in Washington, D.C., and the battleship "Pennsylvania," on which the puckish words were found after it had been blasted by the atomic bomb test at Bikini.

Beside a chow line at a naval base in the Philippines was inscribed: "Kilroy starved to death waiting in this line." On a latrine door on Leyte Island was marked, "Kilroy, personal." The last page of the Paine Field library book in Everett, Washington, bore the terse reminder, "Kilroy read it first." Even one of the Okinawa airport jeeps, used to bring planes to designated hangers, couldn't escape the phantom scribbler. Below its checkerboard "Follow me" sign on the back was scrawled, "to Kilroy."

So it was really no surprise when a CBI tractor turned up on Guam with a name like "Kilroy's Kat," or when a "Kilroy Station" started broadcasting to United Nations forces during the war in Korea. The station began life somewhere south of Seoul with nine enlisted men under the charge of one officer. It operated from a two-and-a-half ton truck, and was probably the only mobile station in the world set to broadcast commercial programs. It was nicknamed "Kilroy Station," because neither its staff nor its listeners knew where it would be located next.

On the wall of a small room at Canton Island Airfield, way out in the Pacific waters, a pilot scribbled a triumphant "I was here before Kilroy" on the flight tower. What happened? After returning from his next flight, this cryptic taunt had appeared beneath his own bit of wit: "like hell you were, I was here when this was only a gleam in the CO's eye. Kilroy."

Others tried. On Kwajalein Atoll, newcomers read: "No grass atoll, no trees atoll, no water atoll, no women atoll, no liquor atoll, no fun atoll." But then came the needle - the next day "he" had written a P.S.: "I just didn't pause atoll. Kilroy."

According to the story from an American air base in Japan, the ubiquitous, legendary, veteran had the last say there. Too. Someone had rhapsodized on a barracks wall,

Slap your hands and jump for joy, For you were here before Kilroy.

Beneath it quickly appeared, Sorry to spoil your

# Kilroy is here continued ...

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

little joke, I was here, but my pencil broke.

- Kilroy -

Only John Rogers Airfield in the Hawaiian group succeeded in combating the graffiti menace, and even there it was a passive sort of resistance. Nailed on the administration building door was a slotted box, a pad of paper, a pencil stub and a sign. The sign stated, "Kilroy has been here. Don't comment on the walls. Write what you have to say on the tab and drop it into the box."

Although records are, as you might guess, a bit sketchy in details, the Army was quick to grab credit for Kilroy's exploits. They claimed he started his World War II writing career after landing in South Africa. He later appeared in the Indian city of Karachi (now in Pakistan) and near the end of the war, he surfaced in China after flying "The Hump" from India.

The Air Force was not going to let the Army take all the glory for Kilroy's adventures. They claimed an Air Force sergeant named Kilroy was responsible for scrawling the message on all those beachheads, just to keep the infantry in its place. The Air Force never could explain, however, what one of its sergeants was doing hundreds of miles from the nearest airbase.

Yet the infantry did find "Kilroy was here" drawn on the beaches at Casablanca, Gela, Anzio, the Philippines and Okinawa. They also found his marks in hundreds of French towns and on Alpine Mountaintops.

When the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division stormed Utah Beach at Normandy, they found Kilroy's name emblazoned on a German pillbox. More than ten miles away at Omaha Beach, and at the same time, the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division found that Kilroy had beaten them to another troublesome pillbox. Kilroy could move more quickly when the situation demanded.

On at least one occasion, he managed to make monumental good sense. When American troops scoured the blasted ruins of Hiroshima after the war, they discovered several signs proclaiming, "Kilroy doesn't want to be here!"

But the washrooms of the world provided Kilroy with his most fertile environment, and a few in the United States haven't born Kilroy's well traveled signature. When President Truman, the Soviet leader, Stalin, and Great Britain's Prime Minister Attlee sought relief from the pressing demands of the Potsdam Conference in 1945, they found that their top security washroom had already been visited by Kilroy and his marker.

Kilroy lore contains vague hints of a whirlwind

romance with the Indian princess who now rests in the Taj Mahal, although evidence suggests that Kilroy preferred to devote his heart to the glories of American womanhood. He must have spread his heart rather thin because thousands of American homes during the war bore the proud motto, "Kilroy's girl lives here."

How did the redoubtable Kilroy get his start? The explanations are almost as varied as tales of the mystery Warrior's exploits. An Air Force version makes the first Kilroy a frequently missing man whose irate commander was foiled in tracing him by means of the "Kilroy was here, there and everywhere" technique.

Still another story has the original Kilroy as missing from a special detail. When the missings' names were posted, he indignantly wrote a denial under his name with the now familiar phrase.

So many people wrote the U.S. Army's Adjutant General in Washington asking who Kilroy was that he announced to the Associated Press in 1948 that, after combing through the Army's files on 10 million ex-GI's, he could only conclude, "As far as we're concerned, Kilroy doesn't exist."

Of course, the verdict is open to dispute.

Especially since a large percentage of these 10 million ex-GIs claim to have some personal knowledge of the original Kilroy and how he started his literary career. There is, however, one piece of factual evidence.

When the war came in 1941, a shipyard inspector in Boston wanted to make sure that his boss knew he was on the job. To show his superiors how efficient he was, he chalked his name on the side of all the tanks, planes, ships and crates of material that were his responsibility. And all of this war material, bearing the proud autograph of the diligent James I. Kilroy of Boston, found its way to every corner of the earth. The soldiers took up this catchy signature - and soon the watchful eye of Mr. Kilroy covered the globe.

It's possible that we may never know the identity of "Kilroy." But one thing is for sure - Wherever you go, you'll find that he was there first.

## *Urges and feelings*

*A father spoke to his son, "It's time we had a little talk my son. Soon you will have urges and feelings you've never had before. Your heart will pound and your hands will seat. You'll be preoccupied and won't be able to think of anything else. But don't worry, it's perfectly normal .... it's called golf."*

## - *Letters and Opinions* -

### *Book completed about Holocaust*

Michael Hirsh has recently completed his book about the Holocaust. It is entitled 'The Liberators: Americas' Witness to the Holocaust.' Hirsh interviewed 150 GI's" including myself and several other 63<sup>rd</sup> Division members. The book is being published by Bantam/Random House and will be out in March 2010.

As you may remember, the 63<sup>rd</sup> did not get credit for liberating the concentration camps near Landsberg, Germany. It took a lot of effort to document our efforts on 28 April 1945 to liberate those poor wretched souls from those camps and not be given credit where credit was due. The effort to set the record straight was well worth it.

*Ray Peterson, HQ 255*

### *Anniversary date incorrect*

My father, John Harmon, Sr., 363<sup>rd</sup> Medical and his wife, Grace, celebrated 61 years of marriage on July 16. The anniversary date is incorrect in the newsletter. It should be July 16, 1948. My husband and I recently took my parents to Washington, DC for a few days and I have a photo of dad with Sen. Bob Dole at the WW II memorial.

*Brenda Eidson*

### *Clinton's encyclopedic knowledge*

I write, not only to thank Fred Clinton for his superb work as WEBMASTER, but to call attention to his great generosity in responding to inquiries from 63<sup>rd</sup> veterans and perhaps others as well.

Over the years I have had more than one occasion

to seek Fred's help and he has responded, ever-willing to share his encyclopedic knowledge

*Treacy Gibbens (Franklin I)  
563<sup>rd</sup> Signal Company*

### *Thanks for the "Blood and Fire"*

I do so love to read the *Blood and Fire* from front to back when I receive it. My husband, Daniel Boone Bullock and I attended National reunions, beginning in Lansing, Michigan, through the years until St. Louis. We met his squad leader and foxhole buddy both in Lansing so that was a memorable reunion! Many may remember the six-foot Arkie who brought five-pound bags of rice from our local mill and put on the check-in table. He was Anti Tank 253rd all through France and Germany. When he returned to the United States in August 1945, we were married September 23, 1945.

For 20-plus years we attended Smitty's Co F, 253 reunion in Baton Rouge in April each year and we were adopted by F Company.

Dan's heart gave out three days after returning home from this meeting March 30, 2000. After full military honors, he is resting in our local cemetery just two miles from our home he came to in 1945.

We were blessed with two sons and two daughters.

The boys farm our acreage raising rice, soybeans and white wheat. Our Duck Hunting Club is still in existence with their input.

*Eleanor Bullock*

### *Awarded two journalism prizes*

Congratulations on the bigger and better *Blood and Fire*.

I was recently awarded two prizes for international journalism by the Los Angeles Press Club; a first prize in the entertainment feature

# - Letters and Opinions -

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

category and a third prize in the news feature category. Earlier in 2009, the Society of Professional Journalists honored me with its Distinguished Journal Award.

After my discharge in 1946, I attended UCLA and the University of California, Berkeley, but took a year off in 1948 to serve in Israel's War of Independence as a squad leader in an anti-tank unit. The Israelis did everything wrong, according to U.S. Army manuals, but won all the battles. In 1950, I was recalled by the US Army for the Korean war, but lucked out and edited an army newspaper at the Presidio in San Francisco.

I worked for thirty years at UCLA as a science writer and communications director, but kept up a parallel career as a journalist. I now write for six general and Jewish newspapers and magazines in Los Angeles, the United States and overseas.

My wife, Rachel, and I have three daughters and eight grandchildren, and one of our daughters, Alina, writes a regular column for the *New York Times*. I will be 84 by the time this item is published. I swim almost every day and play tennis on weekends.

As they used to tell us, "Keep your mess kit clean, dig your foxhole deep, stay away from loose women and you'll live a long, healthy life."

*Tom Tugemd, H 254*

## *Want to express my regrets*

I am writing to express my regrets that this Association may be about to disband, but I understand that the members of the original members are getting too old to travel very much any more.

If my wife Georgis and I live until July 3, 2010, we will celebrate our 62<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary.

In addition to not being able to travel very much, I do travel (drive) to church, to the grocery store and to the doctor.

I joined the 63<sup>rd</sup> Division on August 1, 1944 and left September 1945. I was transferred to the 80<sup>th</sup> Ordinance Headquarters and assigned to the supply room. I was promoted to T/5 in April 1946 and

returned home in May 1946.

I retired from the University of Tennessee in June 1987 and now I just sit around doing nothing. I may be moving some time next spring or summer due to the road widening in the near future.

*Jasper D. Miller, HQ 254*

## *Are you still singing?*

Were you or a relative a member of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Division Chorus that sang on the radio at Camp Van Dorn in 1943?

The Chorus was not a unit, but was drawn from the entire Division. We sang for seven Sundays in a row from seven to seven-thirty PM in competition with an unknown - Jack Benny.

The show opened with ten men of the Chorus saying, "63<sup>rd</sup> Division" and then all followed with, "Blood and Fire." The General made a speech about the fighting, and we sang songs for our Allies - We sang the same songs and the General made the same speech each Sunday. The Division band provided the music.

If you were a member of the Chorus, or a relative was, please let Donna know.

*Harold O'Neill, 563 Signal Company*

Also, if you are a TSO (Trans-Siberian Orchestra) fan and plays rock opera, please let me know. An example would be Beethoven with rock music arrangements.

*Hal O'Neill, Sig. 563*

## *Making a major move*

I am making a major move in my declining years to a Senior Independent Living Complex in Houston, Texas, not far from where I live. I am in pretty good health physically, but for declining eye sight and hearing. I will be 89 in October (2009). Most of my reading and writing is done under magnification. Please change my mailing address I don't want to miss getting the *Blood and Fire!*

*Joseph Zeiner Anti Tank*

## IMOK members gather . . . - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

hour tour of the facility was most interesting, especially the sample of one piece of candy per person.

Lunch was enjoyed in the dining room at Ghyslain's with chocolate fumes invading every breath of air inhaled! Of course, members had to exit the building by passing through the display room, and it was another thirty minutes before everyone was ready to leave, and that is when the chocolate fumes took over the air inside the vehicles! It was a profitable day for the owners!!

Next on the agenda was a drive to Silver Town and a tour of the Mint. Browsing in this show room was most interesting as was the tour of the facility. Members seemed to be quite content to stay inside while Mother Nature dampened the earth with a huge rain shower.

By this time, everyone was ready for a cup of coffee and a piece of pie, so a mad dash to the vehicles and a drying off with the heaters running full force, it was back to Winchester and a stop at Mrs. Wick's restaurant. This was another place where fumes took over the dining room and it was difficult to decide on what kind of pie you wanted to taste. There were no free samples at Mrs. Wicks, but plenty of pies that were ready to take up residency elsewhere! Many a car left Winchester on Thursday with coolers packed with pies!!

Even after having pie at Mrs. Wicks and more visiting in the hospitality room, members were ready to see what the new Randolph Steak House offered on their menu. This restaurant was just completed and opened for business three days earlier so the service was a little unorganized but the food was good. No one had a reason to complain as they returned to the hotel and gathered in the hospitality room for last minute chatting.

Following breakfast on Thursday morning, members packed up and headed to their own homes after hugs and a promise to meet again in the fall.

Those attending the mini reunion were Kit and Carl Anderson from Waterville, Ohio; Carol Ann and Jim Crum, from Brownsburg, Indiana; Judy and John Dietrick from Defiance, Ohio; Donna and Ed Fowle from Springfield, Ohio; Alberta and Mel Goebel of Delton, Michigan; Helen and Max Gourley of Pendleton, Indiana; Donna and Harold LaCosse of Morocco, Indiana; Jack Linscott of Marysville, Ohio; Judy Schafer of Galloway, Ohio; Joyce and Paul Schewene of Newport, Kentucky; Elsie and Howard Van Schoor of Mentor, Ohio; Rhonda Wolverton and her daughter, Debbie of Danville, Indiana.

## Members of IMOK Chapter travel to Michigan for fall meeting

Alberta and Mel Goebel, Jan and Quint Sella hosted the 2009 IMOK fall meeting in Marshall, Michigan from September 23 to September 25. Twenty-two members were present.

Attending were Kit and Carl Anderson of Waterville, Ohio; Alberta Beeks of Fort Wayne, Indiana; William Davis of Canfield, Ohio; Judy and John Dietrick of Defiance, Ohio; Donna and Ed Fowle of Springfield, Ohio; Ann and Hugh Fox from Lancaster, Ohio; Clare Gerity from Powell, Ohio; Alberta and Mel Goebel of Delton, Michigan; Donna and Harold LaCosse from Morocco, Indiana; Naomi and Gordon Rintoul of West Bloomfield, Michigan; Judy Schafer of Galloway, Ohio; Jan and Quint Sella from Grand Rapids, Michigan; Elsie and Howard Van Schoor from Mentor, Ohio.

Members arrived at the Holiday Inn Express on Wednesday afternoon, registered, unpacked and then

gathered in the hospitality room for refreshments and a catch-up of over-the-summer news.

Dinner that evening took place in Denny's, a "neat" diner housed in a streetcar and found just in front of the hotel. No driving and a very short walking trek to reach the diner.

After dinner, members returned to the hospitality room and chatted until their eyes would no longer stay open.

Thursday morning they all enjoyed a leisurely breakfast in the hotel and just stayed there all morning!! In other words, members took over the hotel and had a wonderful time doing so!

Since this was a laid-back get-together, everyone just relaxed and enjoyed being with each other.

After lunch, several members drove to the

# Members of IMOK chapter . . .

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

Honolulu House in Marshall for a two-hour tour of that building erected in 1860, and then they did some shopping in downtown Marshall.

Thursday evening a sit-down dinner was enjoyed in a private dining room at the famous 100-year-old Schulers Restaurant. While waiting for the meal to be served, a man came into the private dining room, looking lost and unsure of himself, but seemed to think he was in the right company. He singled out Donna LaCrosse, who immediately recognized him as Hubert Johnson, a member of the 63rd Division and invited him to have dinner with the group, however, he declined and said he had very little time to spend as he was homeward bound to Kokomo, Indiana and hoped to reach his home before dark.

After returning to the hotel, a brief meeting was held in the hospitality room, with Judy Schafer chairing the women's meeting. The ladies made plans to serve refreshments in the hospitality – history room during the 2010 annual meeting in Fairview, Ohio next August. The women will either provide cookies or

donate money for the napkins, cups, etc. that will be needed at that time. A donation can be sent to Donna LaCrosse, who will purchase the “extras”. The ladies will also provide muffins, juice and coffee at the Ladies' Breakfast on Saturday morning of the reunion.

The annual reunion in Boston was discussed with members suggesting changes that could be made to enhance the agenda for the 2010 reunion. The 2009 reunion was well planned by Bob Capasso and his committee, however, a large hospitality room was needed and the ladies' breakfast was greatly missed.

Those members who attended the annual meeting in Boston were Donna and Ed Fowle, Al Klingler, Donna and Harold LaCrosse, Jackie Potts, Brian and Angie, Judy Schafer and Elsie and Howard Van Schoor.

Following breakfast on Friday morning, members bid each other good-bye and began their trip home. Hopefully they will all meet again in May to make last minute plans for the annual meeting in August.

## *The chicken that saved America*

*(submitted by Harold O'Neill, Signal 83)*

In the War of 1812 the British fleet attacked Washington D.C. and burned the White House and our capital, but President Madison and the Congress escaped to New York City. The British then tried to capture New York, but were repulsed by the guns all around New York harbor. Their next plan was to enter New York from the rear. They would come down from Canada, cross Lake Champlain, float down the Hudson River and walk in through the unprotected back door.

September 11, 1814 – The Americans had a few ships on Lake Champlain at Plattsburgh Bay. As the British approached, the American sailors were fearful. They knew the British had more ships, bigger ships, bigger guns and more of them. The American sailors had not seen action before (except for Master Commandant Thomas Macdonough) whereas the British Navy had fought battles around the world.

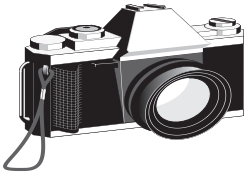
The American sailors wondered if they could survive. The first shot fired by the British blew apart the chicken coop on the deck of the Saratoga. The chickens were kept on board to supply eggs and fresh

meat for the crew. Out of the rubble a rooster stepped forward, raised his head and crowed loudly. The American sailors saw this, gave a cheer, went to their guns and fired an answering salvo.

The Battle of Lake Champlain didn't take long. The American guns caused such destruction that the British surrendered. The remaining British fleet gave up their expedition and went home. America was saved by that brave chicken. This is a true story, according to

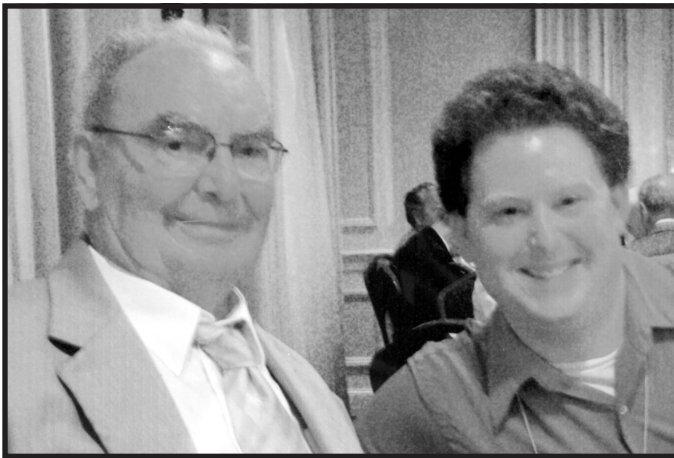
**DEADLINE FOR THE  
MAY 2010  
ISSUE OF THE  
BLOOD AND FIRE  
IS ON OR BEFORE  
APRIL 1, 2010**





## BLOOD AND FIRE PHOTO GALLERY

# 2009 Boston Reunion highlights



*Harold LaCrosse, F 254, and his grandson, Damian Iseminger share a moment with each other during the Saturday night "gala" of the Boston reunion. Harold lives in Indiana and Damian lives in Boston.*



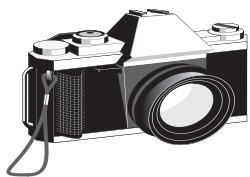
*Betty and David Montgomery traveled from Kansas to attend the Boston reunion.*



*All dressed up and ready to eat! James "Sam" Taylor and his wife, Carolyn "gabbed" awhile with Vince Liquori while they waited for the food to be served. The Taylors live in North Carolina.*



*At the Saturday night banquet, the Jukan family waited for the serving to begin! Mike Jukan is on the left, his wife, Jane is seated next to him; Jane's son, Ken Batdrof is seated on Jane's left; Mike's daughter, Kathy Batdrof is seated next to Ken and they are joined by friend, Al Klingler. Ken and Kathy were married first and years later, Jane and Mike were married. Now Jane and Mike can share their grandchildren. The Jukan family reside in Pennsylvania and Al lives in Ohio.*



## BLOOD AND FIRE PHOTO GALLERY

# 2009 Boston Reunion highlights



*After the banquet on Saturday night of the Boston reunion, Del Conroy and Bob Capasso wait for the “say cheese” order before the camera started clicking and flashing.*



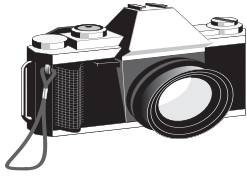
*Ed Fowle and his daughter Judy Schafer try to decide on a song to sing during the Wednesday night “Buddy” get together.*



*Scott Nicholson on the right, and his son enjoy the Thursday night festivities during the Boston reunion. Scott’s mother missed most of the reunion do to a stay in the Boston hospital. She did return to the hotel on Saturday.*



*All ready to face the camera, four of the “hot shots” stand at attention (?) for the group photograph. Left is Edgar Moutoux, Vernon Altberg, Bill Byrnes and Jim Kontoules.*



# BLOOD AND FIRE PHOTO GALLERY

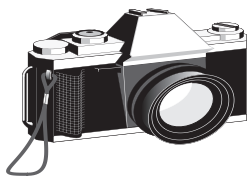


*A visit to the Mayflower was part of a most interesting tour during reunion time in Boston.*

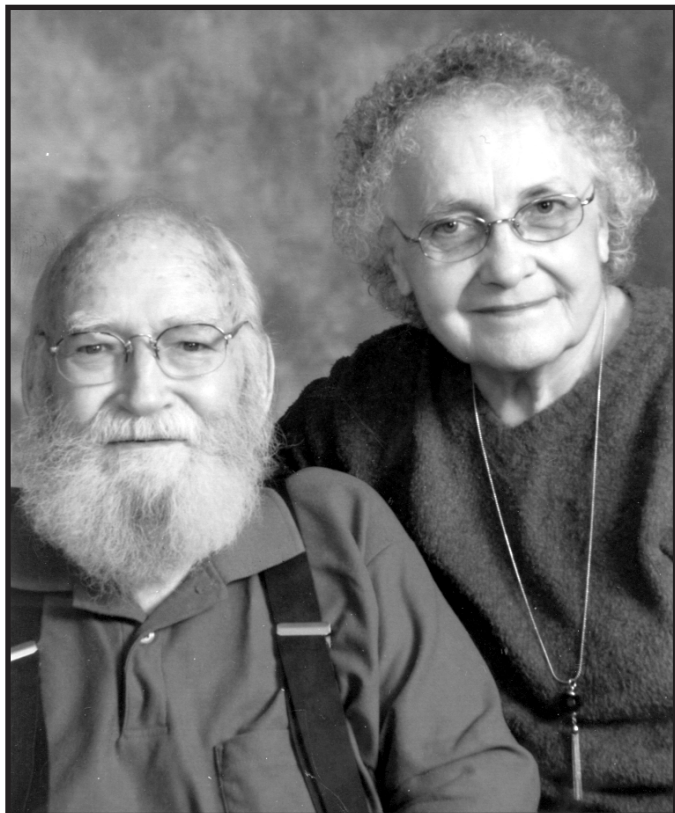
## *2009 Boston Reunion highlights*

*Peggy von Pentz enjoyed visiting with "old" friends during the Thursday night buffet dinner.*





# BLOOD AND FIRE PHOTO GALLERY



*Leroy Bird and Karol pose for a Christmas 2009 picture. They missed the Boston reunion but plan to be in Ohio in August. Leroy is wheelchair-bound now, so there will be no dancing for him. The Birds live in Iowa.*



*Benjamin "Pat" Patrizio and his bride Marie pose for a wedding picture in 1945. They recently celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary.*



*This picture (at left) was taken in Frankfurt, Germany in 1946, when Ralph M. Morales was 23 years old.*

**Please send in your old or recent photos to be placed in the *Blood & Fire* photo gallery each quarter.**

**Send to Donna LaCosse, PO Box 86,  
Morocco, Indiana 47963.**

# 63rd Infantry vets host reunion

*(Story by Sgt. Scott Akabewucg, 63<sup>rd</sup> RRC Public Affairs)*

They came from all over America - California, New York, Texas, Ohio, Minnesota and Florida, to name a few - to gather in Boston for the 63rd Infantry Division Association's annual reunion.

It was fitting this 61<sup>st</sup> reunion, originating in 1948, took place in New England, the cradle of the American Revolution. These men courageously carried on the legacy of their forefathers, who had fought so valiantly against the British by carrying the fight for freedom to the fields of Europe during World War II.

One of them at the August event was E. Vincent Stratton, who has attended about 30 of these reunions. Stratton has since become an ordained minister and was an Army chaplain before he retired. He was a platoon leader with H Company, 254<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment of the 63<sup>rd</sup> during his combat time in Europe.

Stratton, 85, realized the significance of the event as he looked around the room at his brothers-in-arms who had braved the gauntlet of the Siegfried Line before crossing into Germany, in essence, sealing the Nazis' fate as they retreated into the fatherland.

"I think this is an amazing thing - a connection between combat men," said Stratton, who was decked out in his dress green uniform. "They come with canes and wheelchairs, but these are relationships they don't give up."

Even family members of those who have already passed away attend the annual event to carry on the traditions of those gone, but not forgotten.

"They care about each other's families, know each other's names," said Stratton. "They never forget."

For Stratton, the Army was a natural progression for him as he came of age growing up in Stillwater, Okla. "I grew up as a warrior," he said, "Growing up in the Dust Bowl made us tough."

The countless hours of imaginary combat with his childhood buddies and his achievements on national-champion rifle teams as a youth prepared him for being a soldier, he said.

"We'd make rubber band guns," said Stratton, with a laugh. "My brother actually came up with a rubber-band machine gun. It was neighborhood combat."

However, nothing could prepare him for what he would encounter in the fields of Europe after arriving overseas. Stratton earned a Combat Infantryman Badge, as well as a Bronze Star with a "V" device for valor for his actions during his 18 months of combat.

According to Stratton, the French Underground resistance was of tremendous help to Allied troops. "They did a fine job," he said, "When we got in there, they fought alongside us."

The taking of hills and clearing of French towns and villages were daily occurrences for Stratton and his men as they pushed the Germans back across the Rhine River. In fact, the men of the 63<sup>rd</sup> fought with such ferocity, they surprised some of their brethren from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division, who they were attached to, he said.

"I think we surprised some people that fresh troops could fight so well," said Stratton. "But we were well-trained and ready to go."

After 18 months of combat, it was over. "The Russians had done their job from the east and we had done ours from the west," said Stratton.

During the memorial ceremony in the morning, Stratton sat at the front of the room and rang a ceremonial bell as the names of each man who had passed away over the past year since the 2008 reunion in Indianapolis were read.

There were approximately 130 members in attendance this year.

While this was more somber, the evening brought the formal dinner and along with it, handshakes, hugs, backslaps and plenty of laughter as the men of the 63<sup>rd</sup> congregated with each other and their respective families as music from a live band filled the air with a festive atmosphere.

For Al Klingler, a private first class and Browning Automatic Rifleman with B Company, 254, his most vivid memories from the battlefields of Europe were his first and last days of combat, he said.

"We had to take a hill that was heavily fortified by the Germans," said Klingler. "They told us to dig foxholes and stay in them while the shelling went on." "If this was the Cleveland native's introduction to war, his final battle was just as memorable," he said.

"As we were crossing the Danube River, the bridge blew," said Klingler. Apparently not all the enemy forces were quite ready to wave the white flag.

"The 17<sup>th</sup> Panzers weren't going to surrender," he said.

"But they didn't do a good enough job blowing the bridge, so we got across anyway." After some fierce fighting, the remaining Nazis were routed.

This was the first time the event had been held in

# 63rd Infantry vets . . . . . - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

Boston since 1955 and for Bob Capasso, director of this year's reunion, it was a long time coming for his hometown to again serve as host.

Capasso was a corporal with the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Company of the 254<sup>th</sup>. He earned a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart during the war.

"A close affinity has developed between all of us because of these reunions," said Capasso. "It revives the war years by getting us all together."

After breaching the Siegfried Line, it was Capasso's unit who was tasked with going out and scouting ahead of the main body of troops, he said.

"After we broke through into Germany, we'd just go forward until we got shot at," he said. "A patrol of us would go out in a jeep until we made contact with the enemy. Then, we'd report back to their location."

At times, said Capasso, considering what sparse remaining German resistance there was along the way, it was like a peaceful ride through the countryside.

Despite the fact about 1,000 men of the 63<sup>rd</sup> were killed during their time in combat, the "Blood and Fire" Soldiers accomplished their mission. "We were the first division to cross the Siegfried Line," said Capasso.

A job well done, indeed.

As dinner was served, the music continued, along with the war stories.

James Kontoules, of nearby Lynn, Mass., assigned to Headquarters Company of 1st Battalion, 255<sup>th</sup> Infantry, was ecstatic to be in attendance.

"I enjoy this," said Kontoules. "It's great just to meet these people."

Of course, along with the camaraderie also come memories that would just as soon be forgotten - images that are burned into a man's mind for the rest of his days.

Kontoules told the story of himself having a conversation with another soldier a few foxholes down on the Siegfried Line.

An artillery barrage rained in on them and they took cover in their respective fighting positions. Once the shells had impacted and done their damage, Kontoules emerged only to see smoke emanating from the foxhole of his fellow soldier. He picked up his rifle and ran over to check on his comrade.

What he saw, he'll never forget.

"He was 15 feet away and had been (killed) by the explosion," said Kontoules. "I remember thinking 'I just hope I make it.'"

Perhaps nobody in the entire room had a story to tell like Otto Metzger, a Medusa, N.Y. native and

corporal with C Company of the 254<sup>th</sup>

During combat at the Siegfried Line, Metzger was knocked unconscious by an incoming shell. Despite the fact he had no visible wounds, medics quickly began loading him into a body bag thinking he was dead when he suddenly regained consciousness, he said.

"A sergeant came to get my dog tags when I finally came to," said Metzger. "I said to myself, 'What the hell am I doing here?'"

The craziness didn't go away.

"They put me on a jeep and sent me back to the line," said Metzger. "When I got back, my first sergeant said to me, 'What are you doing here? You're already dead!'"

Easy to laugh about now, but even the person closest to him never knew about what had taken place that day. "My wife didn't even know for 50 years," he said, with a laugh, "She only found out about it when someone brought it up at one of these reunions."

Mike Jugan, 84, from Kimberton, Penn., a combat medic with I Company of the 253<sup>rd</sup> Infantry was at the Battle of the Bulge when he was shot through the jaw while tending to a wounded soldier. He was also hit in the side and suffered from trench foot.

"I laid there, looked up and said, 'Lord, you're not going to let me die out here,'" said Jugan. "I saw a bright light and to this day, I don't know if it was artillery or God trying to tell me something."

His collection of wounds would keep him hospitalized for three years. But that was after the war.

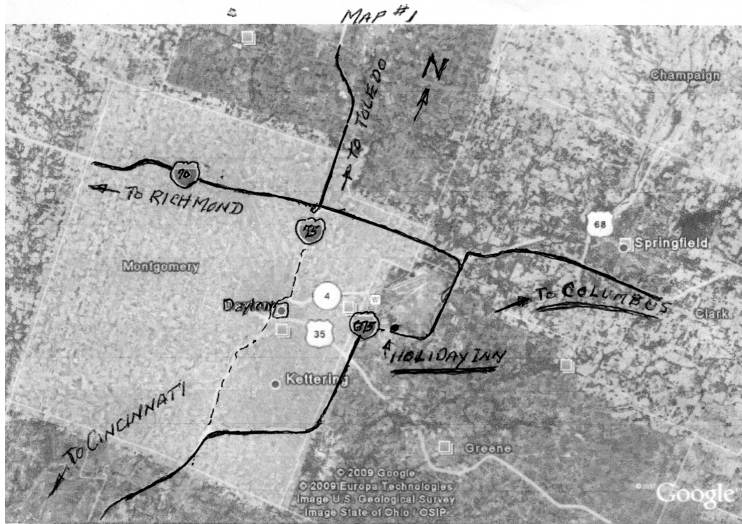
During this particular battle, Jugan was captured by the Nazis and was bandaged up, ironically, by a German Medic. Then, he was asked to help save a German commander who had been wounded seriously.

"I was on top of a tank when I saw the planes coming in once the clouds lifted and said to myself, 'I got to get the hell out of here,'" he said. "It's a good thing I did because the Army Air Corps pounded the hell out of them."

There is no telling how many more of these reunions will take place, due to the age of the participants, but next year's is already in the works for Ohio.

On one muggy summer evening in Boston, each and every man in the room had a story to tell - these are just a few until next year.

*(This article, published in the Commemorative Edition of The Blade, was submitted by Bob Capasso for publication in the Blood and Fire)*



**HIGHWAY DIRECTIONS TO HOLIDAY INN**

**- ALSO SEE PRINTED MAPS -**

From the west on I-70 exit on to I-675 south bound also from the east on I-70 exit on to I-675 south bound

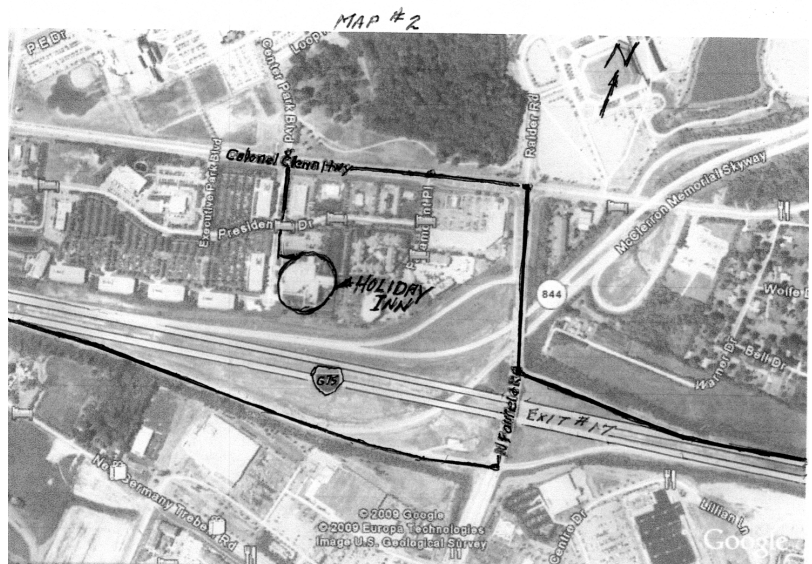
From the north on I-75 exit on to I-70 east bound and exit on to I-675 south bound. Proceed to exit #17 at N. Fairfield Rd.

At the traffic light, turn right and proceed to next light. This is Colonel Glenn Highway, turn left and proceed to second traffic light. This is Center Park Blvd. Turn left, go two blocks. Holiday Inn is on your left.

From the south on I-75 exit on to I-675 (north or east bound).

Proceed to exit #17 at N. Fairfield Rd., turn left and proceed north to traffic light at Colonel Glenn Highway, turn left and proceed to second traffic light. This is Center Park Blvd., turn left, go two blocks. The Holiday Inn is on your left.

**Annual  
63rd Infantry  
Division  
Association  
Reunion  
August 18 -  
August 21, 2010**



# *How Rommel's African Corp was driven out of Egypt*

The British had been driven back into Egypt by the Germans and might have to fall back further due to lack of water. The only oasis was a pond in the rear of the German lines.

A British unit oppose the Germans near the pond had brought their mascots – a flock of geese.

One evening, the geese, seeking water, flew over the front to land in the pond. During the night, it was very cold in the desert and the pond froze around the feet of

the geese.

The next morning, the geese flapped their wings and flew the pond over the front to land in the British rear. The sun melted the pond and the British had water. The Germans had to withdraw from Egypt to obtain water.

*(I cannot recall where I heard this, but if you have a better story, please contact the editor. – Harold O'Neill, Signal 83).*

## *Does your family have a fire escape plan?*

### Some tips and suggestions for a safe home:

A fire breaks out in a home or apartment every 45 seconds – killing about 4,500 people every year and injuring more than 20,000 others.

That's why it is important to develop and practice a family fire-escape plan.

A family escape plan consists of:

- Sketching the layout of each floor, including windows, doors and stairways.

- Working out two escape routes, if possible, for each room. Mark them clearly on the sketch, and make sure there are no obstructions blocking the routes. Make sure every family member is familiar with the routes.

- Assigning a family member to help the elderly or very young escape.

- Designating a place outside the home for everyone to meet in case of fire. (Once outside, count heads, stay together, and don't go back inside for personal belongings.)

- Holding fire drills, including some at night, so everyone will know what to do in an emergency.

## **– 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.

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*A band performing at an outdoor concert kept playing even though the crowd had dwindled down to one man. Finally, a tired musician told the man that if he left, they could all go home.*

*"It's up to you," he said, "I'm just waiting to put away all these folding chairs."*

## **2010 REUNION**

The 2010 National Reunion will take place in Ohio – a hop, skip and jump from Dayton.

The place to gather is the Holiday Inn in Fairborn.

Date of the reunion is August 18 - 21.

**send all articles  
and photos to:  
Donna LaCrosse  
PO Box 86  
Morocco, IN 47963**

## **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.



# Bartholomew shares his pictures



*Bartholomew with “Lady” and Christy with “Feet”, our adopted dogs we took on hikes. Taken December 5, 1943.*

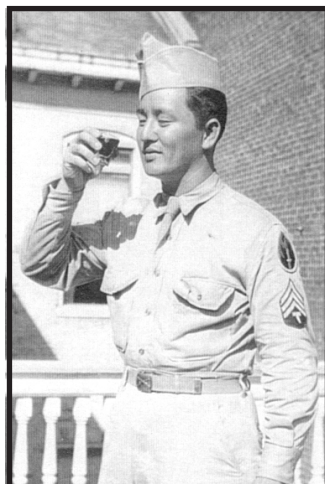
*(Pictures contributed by Robert Bartholomew)*



*Shown in this picture are some of the guys visiting in town: Legate, Lash, Liliankamp and Collins.*



*December 5, 1943. Lt. Lorglia, our Platoon Leader.*



*Mess Sergeant Park of Ranger Platoon.*

I was in the 63rd Division Ranger Platoon from its beginning in July 27, 1943 at Camp Blanding, Florida until the ending at Camp Van Dorn, Mississippi, thirteen months later.

I was in the Anti-Tank Platoon in Division Headquarters for awhile, then I was sent to Infantry O.C.S. at Fort Benning, Georgia. After I graduated, I

served in several training camps before I was sent to Japan.

I served in the 81st Division, then the 11th Airborne Division in the Occupation Forces in Northern Japan until I had earned enough points to be discharged.

The Ranger Platoon was composed of a mixture of great guys. I hope we saved many lives due to some of the demonstrations, instructions, etc. that we presented. I know that we all learned a lot serving in the Ranger Platoon.

While in the service, they called me “Sergeant Cy” – why I don’t know. Maybe because I had a southern Ohio accent!

When I entered the service, my dad said it would be whatever I made of it. He was right.

I hope you all enjoy the pictures; some were taken at



*December 5, 1943: Christie and Liliankamp.*

## Celebration of Life



### DEATH OF SPOUSE

Delores Davis, wife of William Davis Jr., G 254, died November 25, 2009, following a lengthy illness with several years of being in and out of the hospital and residing in a nursing home.

Dorothy McGrath, wife of Robert J. McGrath, Sig. 562, died February 5, 2008. Robert lives at 120 Haines Ave., Linwood, NJ 08221.

Louise Worster, wife of Vernon Worster, G 254, died March 8, 2009. She and Vernon had been married 71 years. He lives at 1612 Park Street, Prentiss Twp., ME 04487.

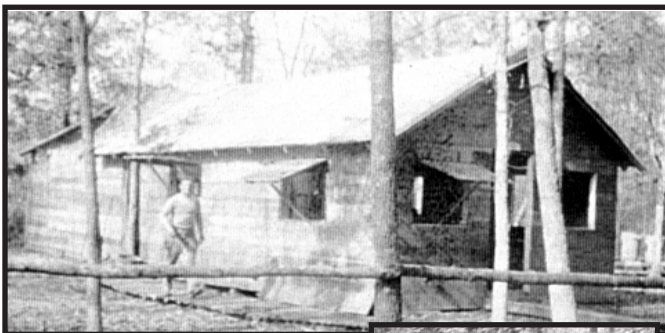
- CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

## Bartholomew photos . . .

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33



*Chow time at Camp Van Dorn.*



*Liliankamp and I, with the help of Savelli, built this Mess Hall and Kitchen.*

*Christie going for a stroll in the woods.*



# Lost Sheep Need To Be Found



*The following people did not receive the November 2009 issue of the Blood and Fire. They either moved and did not notify the secretary/editor of their new address; they moved and left no forwarding address, or they expired and no one reported their death. The addresses listed below are the last known addresses the secretary/editor has. If you know where these members are, please call 1-219-285-2861, or write Donna LaCosse at PO Box 86, Morocco, IN 47963, or e-mail [haroldlacosse@att.net](mailto:haroldlacosse@att.net) with that information.*

Leon Hartelk, FA 718, Life member 966; 215 S. 4th St. Felices, LaSalle, CO 80645-3034.

Carl H. Gwenuis, I 254, Life member 106; 61305 Range Road # 262, Spruce Grove, ABT7Y13, Canada.

John Konen, K 253, Life member 1337, 7609 Hampshire Dr. N.E., Cedar Rapids, IA 52402-6979.

Karl Lybrand, CN 255, Life member 147, 411 E. O'Neal St., Wells Point, TX 75169P.

Fred Nelson, HQ 255, Life member 912, 1020 Mosogee Road, Cantonment, FL 32533.

Robert Nunn, Associate member, Life member 1909, 11 Tomalyn Hill Rd., Nontville, NJ 07045-9938.

John J. Owenn, L 254, 491 Shecjder Cut-Off, Fallon, NV 89406-2308.

Anne Redd, Associate member, 4830 Kennett Pike #6, Wilmington, DE 19807-1866.

William Tuminella, C 862, Life member 1432, 3311 Lynnray Dr., Doraville, GA 20340-4417.

William Williams, RECON 63, Life member 899, 847 Gephart Dr., Cumberland, MD 21502.

## 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).

# In Memoriam

## *Victor Goyette*



Victor Goyette, E 255, died September 3, 2009, at the age of 85. He was a member of the first graduating class from Notre Dame High School in 1943 and served in the Army, where he received a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star.

He worked for the VA Hospital in White River Junction for 28 years before retiring in 1983. Then for 15 years, he was a volunteer at the VA Hospital where he accumulated more than 3,500 hours of service.

His wife, Anita, preceded him in death.

Survivors include three sons, Dennis and Patricia Goyette; Robert and Susan Goyette; John E. and Karen Goyette; six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

## *Russell R. Hill*



Russell R. Hill, HQ 253, died July 15, 2009 at the age of 87. He was a retired Heavy Equipment Operator for the New York State Department of Transportation.

A soft spoken proud soldier who never talked much about his wartime experiences did receive the Bronze Star and the Prisoner

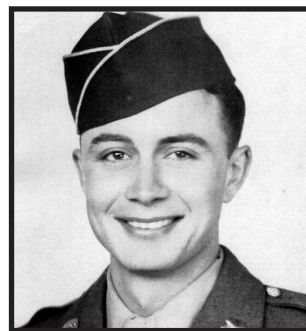
of War Medal.

He was married to wife Jean for over 59 years when she died February 18, 2009. Survivors include one son, Russell R. Hill Jr. and his wife, Bonnie; a granddaughter, Jodi Keegan and husband Joseph and a grandson, Keith Hill.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

*“Let us not love in word . . . but in deed and in truth.” – I John 3:18*

## *Grady M. Esco*



Grady M. Esco, K 254, died May 9, 2009 at his home in Winterville, GA. He was 84 years old.

He received his basic training for Infantry Replacement at Camp Wheeler near Macon, GA. and was later assigned to the 63rd Division.

Survivors include his wife, Fay; one sister, and two brothers.

1944 - 1945

God saw he was getting tired  
 And a cure was not to be  
 So He put His arms around him  
 And whispered “Come to Me.”  
 With tearful eyes we watched him suffer  
 And saw him fade away.  
 Although we loved him dearly  
 We could not make him stay.  
 A wounded lung stopped working  
 Hard working hands now rest.  
 God broke our hearts to prove to us,  
 He only takes the “Best.”  
 (author unknown)

## *John H. “Jack” Kerins*

John H. “Jack” Kernis, D 255, died June 26, 2009 of natural causes while in the hospital of Sharon Regional Health System in Hermitage, Penn. He was 97 years old.

After graduating from Farrell High School in 1929, he gained employment at the former Gulf gas station in Farrell; a facility he ended up owning while managing two other stations for the Gulf Company.

While serving in the Army, he was awarded the Silver Star, the Purple Heart and a battlefield commission to a Lieutenant.

Jack took his family on a tour of the old battlefields of France and Germany in 1966, at which time he located the exact position of a foxhole that he took cover

## In Memoriam

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 35

in for 14 days in the countryside of a small town in Germany.

After his stint in the war, he returned home to marry Mary Louise Hickey on October 23, 1947. Following a honeymoon, he brought his bride back to Farrell where they purchased the O'Shanter Golf Club, and golf became a way of life for his family.

He is survived by his wife; two sons, John M. and Kimberly Kerins, and, Richard T. and Paula Kerins; and three grandchildren.

### William A. Pillsbury, Jr.

William A. Pillsbury Jr., M.D., HQ 63, a retired physician, died February 1, 2009 at the age of 86.

He was educated at the University of Oregon and Loyola College; graduated from the University of Maryland School of Medicine in 1952.

He practiced family medicine in Timonium, MA from 1954 to 1973; he was the plant physician of the Bendix Corporation in Towson from 1954 to 1971. In 1973, he became Medical and Safety Director at the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company, retiring in 1988.

Dr. Pillsbury was a school physician at the St. Paul School for Boys and an instructor at Villa Julie College for many years.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Vertalee; four children, Vertalee P. Fordham, Laurel K. Pillsbury, William T. and Joyce Pillsbury; five grandchildren, Theodore H. Kozak, William C. Fordham, William A. Pillsbury, Leann R. Guccione and Hope M. Guccione; two great-grandchildren, Isabelle A. Fordham and William J. Fordham.

### Sylvan Moskowitz

Sylvan Moskowitz, L 255, died November 2008 in Westwood, New Jersey. He was 85 years old.

After his discharge, he earned a Bachelors and a Masters Degree from Columbia University and taught Math and Science for 35 years. He retired to a full life of volunteering and travel.

Survivors include his wife, Thelma; a daughter and son-in-law; a son and daughter-in-law and three grandchildren.

### Richard A. Wanamaker

Richard E. "Dick" Wanamaker, K 254, died October 3, 2009 in Colerain Township, Cincinnati, Ohio. He retired in 1968 as Marketing Director for William Powell Valve Company.

Surviving is his wife of 64 years, Juanita, one son, Richard Jr. and his wife Peggy Wanamaker; three grandchildren, Carrie, Christopher and Peter; one brother, William. One daughter, Cherri Lynn preceded him in death.

### Frank A. Magyer

Frank A. Magyer, MED 363, died June 22, 2009 at the Oradell Healthcare Center in Emerson, New Jersey, at the age of 88. After serving in the Army during WWII, he joined the Army Reserves Intelligence Division until his retirement as a Major in 1965.

He began teaching science in 1958 at Cliffside Park Jr. High School in School 4, where he met and married his wife, Gloria, a first grade teacher. He later joined the staff at Fort Lee High School, after which he joined the staff at Northern Valley Regional High School in Demarest as a guidance counselor until he retired in 1985.

Frank was active in many civic, service and educational associations; was a member of the Emerson Senior Citizens, VFW and American Legion, the Fairlawn Amateur Radio Club and the New Jersey Chrysanthemum Growers. He also served on the Emerson Planning, Election Board and is a former president of the Board of Health.

Survivors include his wife, Gloria; two daughters, Denise and Carla and three grandchildren Alex,

### Frank Schaafsma

Frank Schaafsma, F 253, died July 9, 2009 in Lake Placid, Florida. He was 91 years old.

He was a project engineer with The Illinois Bell Telephone Company in Chicago for 40 years, and was a member of the Telephone Pioneers.

He was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Sebring.

He is survived by two daughters, Janice (David) Buckley, Martha Schaafsma; one brother, Ted (Gloria) Schaafsma; three sisters, Grace Brennan, Dorothy (Gil) Stoller and Alice Haack.

## Celebration of Life



*The following deaths were reported after the November 2009 issue of the Blood & Fire was printed. Please notify the secretary when you hear of the death of a person from the 63<sup>rd</sup>.*

Carroll Black, D 253, died May 16, 2009. No further information is available.

Harold G. Booth, M 253, date of death unknown. Further information not available.

Walter V. Cowley, B 254, died April 8, 2000. No further information is available.

Leo Feagin, D 254, died in 1994. No further information is available.

Victor A. Goyette, E 255, died September 3, 2009. Obit listed on Memoriam page.

Saul Hanin, E 254, died July 19, 2009 at the age of 89. His death was reported by Annette Miller, 204 Sea Oats Dr., Apt. A, Juno Beach, FL 33408

Russell R. Hill, HQ 253, died July 15, 2009. Obit listed on Memoriam page.

Frank N. Holton, F 253, died October 22, 2005.

His widow, Carol, lives at 20 Heritage Hill Dr., Georgetown, OH 45121-9462.

Robert J. Jackson, HQ 254, died July 1, 2009.

His widow, Barbara lives at 30 Apostle Rd., Somerset, MA 02726.

Forrest L. Keever, E 255, died November 13, 2009 at the age of 93. His daughter, Judy Keever lives at 242 Edgewood Cr., Morgantown, NC 28655-8021.

George Kiska, A 253, died January 6, 2010. His widow, Patricia lives at PO Box 192; 46 Taylor, Woodacre, CA 49473.

Seymour Kunis, died August 12, 2009 of lung cancer. He had been on oxygen for six years. His widow, Irene, lives at 360 E 72<sup>nd</sup> St, New York, NY 10021.

Alfred Lachman, HQ 255, died December 29, 2004. Byrnes & Guidera Law firm reported his death.

Airlie V. Mayfield, E 254, died September 2008. No further information is available.

August J. Mazzerello, C 253, died April 1968 from kidney disease. His nephew, Anthony White reported his death.

John Meehan, L 254, died December 14, 2009 after a very brief and very valiant fight against cancer. His last known address was 324 Florence Ave., Willington, DE 19808.

Olaf E. Miller, AT 253, died November 1, 2009.

His widow, Evelyn, lives at 10067 Greylock Way, Knoxville, TN 37931.

Vernon Morgan, 255, died October 27, 2007 on his 88<sup>th</sup> birthday. His widow lives at 1390 Jewell, Ferndale, MI 48220.

Robert Olney, HQ 253, died October 8, 2009 after a series of strokes. Death reported by his widow, Mary E. Olney, 37402 Castleberry Ave., Zephyrhills, FL 33541.

Andrew Oreschak, I 254, died October 27, 2009. Obit listed on Memoriam page.

Gennaro F. Parrella, FA 718, died November 4, 2009 after an illness of almost three years. His widow, Florence lives at 175 Lindberg St., Manhasset, NY 11030.

John Ritter, I 254, died in 2006. No further information is available.

## In Memoriam

### Andrew Oreschak



Andrew Oreschak, I - 254, died October 27, 2009 at the age of 87. He joined the Army in 1940 and was wounded in the Siegfried Line in Germany. He was the recipient of the Bronze Star, Silver Star and the Purple Heart.

In 1947, he was medically discharged and the following year found him on the campus of Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, where he graduated in 1951. He was first employed by the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company and was later transferred to their plant in the Los Angeles area. He was later employed by the Quintron-Systems Inc. and retired in 1990.

He and his wife Virginia were married in June 1960 and she survives. Other survivors include his son, Michael; a sister, Margaret Peterson; step-daughter Carol (Terry) Zdun; granddaughter Kim (Sam) Warner, and four great-grandchildren, Tiffani, Chloe, Clark and Cambria Wagner.

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

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

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# 62ND REUNION AUGUST 18 THRU AUGUST 21, 2010 IN OHIO



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**62nd  
Reunion  
August 18 -  
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