



★ CAMP BLANDING ★ CAMP VAN DORN ★

Blood and Fire

63rd Division Association, Inc.

• ARDENNES / ALSACE • RHINELAND • CENTRAL EUROPE •

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MAY 2010

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SAVE THESE DATES!

**AUGUST 18 THRU
AUGUST 21, 2010**

My thoughts about content of Holocaust book

by Ray W. Peterson

I have had the opportunity to review a new book about the Holocaust. The title of the book is *The Liberators: America's Witness to the Holocaust*. It was written by Michael Hirsch and published by Bantam/Random House Books.

I wish to convey to the Association members a few of my thoughts about the content of this book.

My understanding is that the purpose of this book was to identify the liberation of the concentration camps and publish all of their eyewitness accounts in this book. This did not happen.

The author of the book had a request in the *Blood and Fire* magazine for anyone involved in the liberation of a camp to contact him for a personal interview. I responded to his request and was interviewed by telephone. I also provided him with other names of 63rd Division personnel who were involved in getting proper recognition for our Division at the National Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C.

Twelve (12) 63rd Division liberators were interviewed by the author. Five (5) of these eyewitness accounts were not published in the book. Mine was one of these. When I confronted the author, I was told my eyewitness account was invalid. The detailed description of the camp which I, supervisor, Hearl Hagie, scout, and William Turanski saw on April 28, 1945 was not valid. He said a so-called expert on Concentration Camps told him no such camp existed in the Landsberg area.

The interference here is that I fabricated a lie. This in turn makes me a liar! I do not appreciate being called a liar. I know on that day in April, the three of us and

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 37

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.

This past year I have been looking through all the records I have retained of all the past reunions of our Association. The first I was able to attend was in 1969, and I have missed three since then.

My thoughts through these records brought back a wave of memories of the great and wonderful people we have met and the beautiful places we have gathered. I realized that it has spanned over forty-plus years. My only regret is that I had missed the first twenty-two years.

The *Blood and Fire* during that time kept me informed of all the Association activities and kept me a dues paying member. We should all thank God for the members who kept printing it. As we all know it is its life that has helped to keep us together and alive.

The 62nd reunion is all shaped up and waiting for your arrival. I am really looking forward to it and to seeing you all again; hopefully some "lost sheep" will attend as well as some new members. I hope that you will make every effort to meet with us at the Holiday Inn Fairborn. It is a great facility and right in the heart of our activities.

The young lady in charge of our pre-registration – our daughter Jackie Potts – informed me that she received the first registration in the middle of March. I hope this is a good omen that we will have a great turnout.

We must all face the fact that due to our problems with age, ability to travel, health and limited income, both personal and Association wise, we are coming to a time when we can no longer support our annual reunions and keep printing the *Blood and Fire*. We will be discussing this, and other possible alternative actions at the Board meeting and at the Business meeting. I am sure you can all understand that our expenses have been exceeding our income for the past several years and our reserve funds are rapidly disappearing.

But enough of that. Come and join us in August. Bring your better-half, children, grandchildren and greats! The program is fun and educational and will give you enough time for all "those windy talks" and visiting with old and new friends.

So, to all of the "greatest generation" and those associated with you, "may your Maker deal kindly with you" til we meet in August.

From the editor . . .

Donna LaCosse

This the last issue of the *Blood and Fire* before we head off to Ohio for the annual reunion. Board members will need to discuss the financial situation of the Association and the general membership will need to vote on making changes, if the Board members think a change is necessary.

This should not keep you from sending a war story, a message for your Buddies column or a letter to the editor. And, you could send all three along with a donation (if possible), to help defray the expenses. As long as there is a *Blood and Fire*, and I am the editor, there will be stories from the Hot Shots on the pages of this magazine.

I wish I could paint you a rosy picture of our future; one of sunshine and green grass; a beautiful water fall and a stream flowing through the meadow; happy people and thin people; old people and young, and trees that grow leaves of money Nice dream but it is not going to happen!!

I did remove half the money from our certificate of deposit and placed that into the checking account, and renewed the certificate for fourteen months, but that money won't last forever. What do we do when the renewed certificate has to be used to continue with the publication of the magazine? Where do we go from here?

Several years ago, a special committee was appointed to look into our future and develop some ideas that would be of a benefit to the Association. They came up with a set of policies for the membership to consider adopting. One of those policies was to ask the Life Membership for a surcharge of five dollars per year to help defray expenses.

This policy was not agreeable to everyone, so the policy was rescinded. Several members who sent their surcharge later wrote and asked that their money be returned and the request was granted.

Was the committee correct in forming a plan that would work? I think so – they are appointed to plan for the good of the Association and they did what they were asked to do.

Life members paid \$40 many years ago for a membership that would last a lifetime. Little did they know the cost of meeting expenses for the Association would be changing so quickly in so short a time.

The *Blood and Fire* is our big expense, so naturally the biggest concern is “what do we do about the publication? What is the best way to handle this? Are we willing to change?”

One suggestion would be to ask members to subscribe to the publication. A subscription fee could

be used to pay reunion expenses and for office supplies. This made a lot of sense to me, but then I am only the Editor and have no voting power.

Do we drop one issue, and publish just two issues of the *Blood and Fire* each year instead of the usual three issues?

These suggestions have not been presented to the Board of Directors for discussion or for consideration, so don't panic yet!

Each time I send a *Blood and Fire* and it is returned to me because it has a wrong address or was sent to a deceased person, I pay the post office between seventy-five cents and a dollar to claim the magazine so I can have that information for my files and so I can remove their name from the mailing list. If the forwarding address is still active, the post office will change the address, send the publication to the person to whom it was intended and then they send me a copy of the back page of the magazine with the address change, which helps me keep the addresses up-dated, however I still pay the post office for this service.

When a copy of the *Blood and Fire* is damaged in the mail and a member does not receive his or her publication and asks me to send another copy, it costs the Association four dollars and ninety cents to send that copy in an oversized envelope. That ruins a five dollar bill!

Each issue of the *Blood and Fire* costs approximately \$3,100. That does change according to number of pages and number of people on the mailing list. Postage has increased four or five times just since I was appointed as editor, and I don't see the powers that be decreasing the price of postage since they have a good thing going for them. If anything, there will be more increases as time goes by.

Just remember, before a change can be made, members will need to vote on this issue and the By-Laws will need to be amended. Are you sure you want to make a change? For the good of the Association, it is something to think about.

A Memo from the Secretary . . .

Donna LaCosse

Early in March, I sent fifty (50) dues-due letters to those members who forgot to pay their dues in 2009. According to the Association By-Laws, those who do not pay their dues by January 1 each year, are to be dropped from the mailing list. I did not abide by the by-laws this year, thinking the dues would be paid as soon as the holidays were over.

Now I am between a rock and hard place – I don't want to remove names from the mailing list but I feel I

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: 63rd 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) _____

**63RD INFANTRY DIVISION REGISTRATION
FAIRBORN/DAYTON, OHIO
AUGUST 18 - 21, 2010**

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event and total the amount. Send that amount payable to **63rd Infantry Division Association, 327 W. First St., Springfield, OH 45504**, in the form of check or money order (no credit cards or phone reservations.) Your canceled check will serve as your confirmation. All registration forms and payments must be received by mail on or before July 26, 2010. After that date, reservations will be accepted only on a space available basis. Make a copy of this form before mailing.

CUT OFF DATE: JULY 26, 2010

| REGISTRATION FOR 2010 REUNION (Widows of 63rd Vets do NOT pay registration fee) | | \$ Per Person | # of People per reg. | TOTAL |
|---|-----------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Reunion Registration | | \$35.00 | | \$35.00 |
| Number Attending | | | | |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| Wednesday, August 18 | | | | |
| Meet Your Buddies | 7:00pm-11:00pm | | | Free |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| Thursday, August 19 | | | | |
| Air Force Museum Tour | 9:00am-3:00pm | \$15.00 | | \$ |
| Wright Cycle/Huffman Prairie Tour | 9:00am-1:00pm | \$15.00 | | \$ |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| Thursday, August 19 | | | | |
| Buffet Dinner/Entertainment/Cash Bar | 7:00pm-10:30pm | \$34.00 | | \$ |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| Friday, August 20 | | | | |
| Board of Directors Meeting | 9:00am-11:00am | | | |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| Friday, August 20 | | | | |
| Monte Carlo, games, snacks, entertainment | 3:30pm-7:00pm | \$10.00 | | \$ |
| Dinner - Buffet & Entertainment/Cash Bar | 7:00pm-10:00pm | \$35.00 | | \$ |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| Saturday, August 21 | | | | |
| Men's Meeting | 9:00am-11:00am | | | |
| Ladies' Meeting/Entertainment (Reservations) | 9:00am-11:00am | | | |
| Memorial Service | 11:30am-12:30pm | | | |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| Saturday, August 21 | | | | |
| Cocktails - Cash Bar | 6:00pm-7:00pm | | | |
| Dinner/Dance | 7:00pm-11:00pm | | | |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| <i>Please choose entree:</i> | | | | |
| Prime Rib with Au Jus & creamed horseradish | | \$40.00 | | \$ |
| Chicken w/Champagne Mushroom Sauce | | \$37.00 | | \$ |
| Atlantic Salmon with Lemon Dill Sauce | | \$38.00 | | \$ |
| Children's Plate (chicken strips, fries, vegetables) | | \$12.00 | | \$ |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| GRAND TOTAL DUE TO 63RD INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION | | | | \$ |

| | | | | |
|---|----------------------|---|--|-----------------------|
| Name: _____ | | Nickname: _____ | | Unit/Co. _____ |
| Spouse Name: _____ | | Guest Name: _____ | | |
| Street Address: _____ | | | | |
| City: _____ | | State: _____ | | Zip: _____ |
| Method of Transportation to Fairborn/Dayton: | Plane: (Yes) | Shuttle: Contact Kris Davis (937)431-4603 | | |
| | Auto: (Yes) | \$40.00 Dayton Airport to Holiday Inn Fairborn | | |
| | | MAKE ARRANGEMENTS IN ADVANCE | | |

Emergency Contact: _____
Phone Number: _____

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

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

OUR HISTORY: THEN AND NOW

by Bill Scott, 16-Apr-10

e-mail: wjs631@comcast.net

It is nice that the current tax paper labor is over and the 63rd duties can be worked on again.

The April 2010 VFW magazine has a great article about the new National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center at Ft. Benning, Georgia, that opened 18-Jun-09 at a cost of \$100 million. It has 190,000 square-feet on a 200-acre site in Patriot Park. This is all next to Columbus, GA.

The pages show a lot of photos of the various exhibits. The premier exhibit is known as "The Last 100 Yards" about the infantry battles during the Revolutionary War, Civil War, World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The date on casualties shows that in the 44 months of WW II the total Army ones were 823,483 with 661,059 infantry for 80%. Our research shows the 63rd total was 13,725 or 1.67% of the total, or 1/60.

For more information, contact:

The National Infantry Museum
1775 Legacy Way, Columbus, GA 31903
(706) 685-5800

www.nationalinfantrymuseum.com

It is a great leap forward compared to the old museum which was not very good in my opinion when I visited it on our way home from one of our Florida reunions, which I believe was in 1994.

I recently received an order for a few items from Philip A. Lavorgna, who is an associate member and the son of Col. Ralph Lavorgna, who was in the cadre and in the HQ & HQ Co. of the 63rd, and was cadre for two other outfits before the 63rd.

While talking with Phil about some details of the order he mentioned that his father had gotten the Legion of Merit for his duty in the 63rd but it did not show on our records. The date periods were 15 June 1943 to 7 December 1944 and 9 April 1945 to 28 April 1945.

The same was true of the records on Col. Earle G. Wheeler who was also in the 63rd HQ & HQ Co. after being in the cadre. The date periods were 2 January 1945 to 14 February 1945 and 23 March 1945 to 28 April 1945.

Phil then made copies of his father's military records that show the details that were not available to us before that would have helped, but the location of their duty after the war did not put the records in the 63rd Division files. The awards will now show up where people can see them in prints and CDs. The total number of the known Legion of Merit awards for 63rd men has now gone from 3 to 5.

We have no easy way of knowing about any other awards for 63rd duty that are on hidden General Orders of other HQs. in the summer of 1945, or later.

Many men and their families do not always keep the papers and copies that would show these kind of details like the Lavorgnas did.

Maybe this will encourage more people to look into those hidden files of their fathers.

As usual the editing and adding goes on. I hope to be able to print many pages for the August reunion, since that did not look too necessary for the 2009 one. The total number of names is now down to 69,478 with 97.76% with serial numbers.

I hope to be able to bring the group of maps in their new frameworks for better control of the damage from moving and the display area. We will also be able to look at files on the laptop computer that Karin Froberg-Marzano has at her home for backup for this desktop one that has older Windows 98 that allows the use of older programs for my use.

The printing will redo the rosters, and the alpha listing which will then be copied for the display books.

The IMOK group is hosting the reunion this year, and is the only chapter of the 63rd Association that has survived after all these years. It appears that there will be a reunion in Nebraska next year.

After that we will be interested to see where the future reunions are held for us. It might be good to have the reunions in the IMOK area somewhere that would let the 63rd Secretary-Treasurer-Editor Donna LaCosse and the Historian Bill Scott or Assistant Karin Froberg-Marzano not have to travel so far and expensively. I've been thinking that the area around Indianapolis might be a good choice. If you couldn't drive there, the airport is very well situated and a taxi could take you to a nearby hotel or motel that would be the reunion location.

The IMOK group has mini reunions in each summer and fall and when they host a reunion they can test the location in an easy way while enjoying themselves.

When Michael Baymor, Magnus Froberg, and I were working on The 63rd Infantry Division Chronicles book, we met in the city of Indianapolis several times to get our coordination efforts in order and get the book out on schedule. That worked out quite well for us who lived in Kentucky, Ohio, and Illinois.

Enough thoughts for now. Completing an order is next.

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

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 t 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. ___
 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. ___

April 2010 form #68

Check # ___ TOTAL \$ _____

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

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

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

(SON, GRANDSON, DAUGHTER, BROTHER?)

63RD VET'S NAME

**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 19th, 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 20th, 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 . . .

253RD REGIMENT

Lloyd Phillips, C Company: Married to Rhea for 61 years and we have 24 grandkids. I had a pacemaker put in on January 26. I also have diabetes and macular degeneration, but am doing okay.

Dr. Thomas E. Perrin, Cannon Company: Retired from dental practice and have lived in the same house for over 40 years. Mary Lou and I have two daughters, one of whom is deceased; two grandsons and one granddaughter; and have been married to the same wife for 52 years. Hope you can read this, I can't! You are doing a great job. During life, I have sailed the Great Lakes, hunted elk out west, moose in Canada, traveled to the UK, Ireland, Soviet Union, Spain, Portugal, France, Germany, and Mexico. Too old for that stuff now! During the years both Mary Lou and I have enjoyed reading the *Blood and Fire*. I probably have about 30-plus years worth saved in the basement. I attended one meeting held in Detroit in the 50's and another in Ohio. I know how hard it is to keep a group like this going so thanks again to all the officers and you especially.

Thomas O'Farrell, E Company: Thanks very much for sending me the two articles by Clarence Gerity. I would also like to thank you for all you do for the Association. It must take a lot of work putting an issue of the *Blood and Fire* together and getting it in the mail. *(Everything you do can be fun if you make it so! Donna)*.

Louis Maslinoff, G Company: I am in pretty good health. Sorry to read about the reduction of our unit. My wife, Rita died in 2007.

Aubrey M. Rogers, HQ: Here are my dues and a little extra for expenses. The current issue of the *Blood and Fire* had some very interesting articles in it. I want to contact Ray Peterson, HQ 255 about his article on page 21. I have always resented the fact that Patton took all the credit for liberating the Landsberg Concentration camp. I am enclosing a copy of my story about that, and Ray is the first other person that told "how it was". I am anxious to get a copy of that book. You may print my story in the *Blood and Fire* if you wish. *(Thanks Aubrey, your story is in this issue.)*

254TH REGIMENT

Harold G. Heavin, A Company: My wife and I just had our birthdays. Wanda is 82 and I am 84. We are both doing fine. Where can I get some new license plates with 63rd Infantry Division on them? *(The*

Association no longer has license plates to sell.)

Carlton J. Naegele, C Company: Retired as Fire Chief in Geneva, New York. Still kicking, but not very high!

Claude Williams Jr., L. Company: I am responding to your request for *Blood and Fire* donations. Enclosed is my check. I enjoy reading each issue. Keep up the good work.

Ira Birchta, Cannon Company: Enclosed are dues for two years - hope we last that long!

Floyd P. Hornbacker, SV: I will be 86 in May and married 66 years on June 5. I still bowl twice a week and golf occasionally. We have six grandchildren. My wife, Anna is a writer of family experiences and loves baseball. We wish everyone well!

James Settineri, H Company: Jean and I enjoy reading the news in the *Blood and Fire*. It is great to keep in touch even at 88 and 87 years of age.

Fred Consolmagno, M Company: Sorry we are so late with our dues! We had a hectic February but the old mind finally got in gear! Hope all is well with you. We are looking forward to golf.

255TH REGIMENT

Franklin T. Hepner, A Company: Moved from Washington, D.C. area in 2005. Enjoy living in Delaware near beaches and casinos. Keep pretty active after a surgical procedure and cataract surgery in 2009. I was 87 in February.

Richard L. Gutierrez, D Company: I was very sorry to hear about the death of John (Jack) Kerins. He was a great guy and my Platoon leader. We kept in touch. Calvin Mason who was in our platoon passed away in 2008. His step-daughter informed me. Donna, you do a great job. Enclosed, my dues and a donation.

Roland Dandurand, G Company: 2009 is a year best forgotten. Spent most of the year in the hospital and am not too strong. I am not moving around very much but I am still alive!

FIELD ARTILLERY

Peter F. Quinn, 718: I am retired from Shell Oil and live in Houston, although I am originally from New York City. I made the reunion in Jacksonville, Florida but limited leg functions keep me in Texas. I admire your efforts in publishing the *Blood and Fire*. I am a Life member but am happy to donate because I want

Should be entitled

By *Claude A. Larrabee, A253*

I think this article should be entitled “Watch on the Rhine, December 25, 1944”.

I was just an 18 year old, dog faced rifleman at that time and it was just after the crack of dawn on Christmas morning. I was sitting in a foxhole on top of the dike and was watching the river’s edge for any enemy action on the West Bank. I heard an aircraft flying overhead and it wasn’t “Bed Check Charlie”, he only flew over our positions at dark to take infra-red films for Recon purposes.

This was a transport plane. All of a sudden a shower of aluminum foil came down to screw up our radar. It had to be an important mission or the Krauts wouldn’t waste the metal. A few minutes later an order came down from Headquarters to send our squad of riflemen to search for the paratroopers. I think a radio operator named Bradley came with our squad.

We searched the general area for an hour or more before we came to a small farm. We searched the barn completely and found nothing unusual. Then some old

lady came out of the farm house with a large bucket in each hand. She walked slowly down the hill until she reached the well where she filled the buckets with water.

Our squad leader, Al Swackhammer kept grilling her to try to find out if she saw any German troops in the area. Of course she was afraid to give us any information or the enemy would punish her harshly if they found out. After the grilling, the old lady was frightened and trembling so badly, I was afraid she was going to have a stroke or heart attack. So I smiled at her and said, “Good morgan Ma Ma,” and that calmed her down. So I took the buckets of water from her, and walked beside her back up to the farm house. I set the buckets on the porch and some of the men went in to search the house but found nothing suspicious.

It was late in the day when we got back to our lines. In spite of all our time and efforts, we came back empty handed and that was very discouraging, but our reward was that all the Christmas dinner was gone, and our squad ended up feasting on K-rations.

Secretary’s column . . .

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

have no choice.

Of the fifty letters I sent in March, I received dues for 2009 and 2010 from 14 members; five letters were returned to me as moved and left no forwarding address, and the remaining 31 members did not respond.

Those I did not hear from, have been removed from the mailing list and will not receive this issue of the newsletter.

So far this year, I have not had time to send dues-due letters to those who have not paid their 2010 dues. Therefore, I am asking each of you annual paying members to perform an exercise for me that will not hurt and will only take a minute of time!

Reach into your hip pocket, take your wallet and open it to the place you keep all your membership cards. Remove the 63rd Infantry Division membership card and read the date on the bottom of the left-hand side of the card. There will be a membership number and the date. If it does not say 2010 (or above that year) you should get your checkbook and write a check for \$15 to pay for 2010 and get it in the mail as soon as possible. See, that

didn’t hurt a bit, did it?

As soon as this issue of the *Blood and Fire* goes to press, I will be getting reports ready for the Board Meeting at the Annual Reunion in August. It seems as though the reunions come closer together every year! Must be an age thing!

Hope to see more members in Ohio this year – I missed seeing you in Boston and hope you are able to meet with us this year.

This memo is quite lengthy as is the Editor’s column, but I thought you might like to know what is going on under the three hats I wear!

Have a great summer and stay well.

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.

Happy Anniversary



JULY

- 1: Carol & Jim Crum, HQ 253, 1951
- 3: Joyce & John Best, L 254, 1953
- 3: Irene & Vernard O. Riggs, D 255, 1946
- 4: Melba & George Dodson, K 255, 1951
- 5: Isabelle & Earl Dean Williams, HQ 862, 1944
- 7: Mamie & Douglas Shaheen, FA 863, 1946
- 8: Rita & Louis Maslinoff, G 253, 1953
- 8: Alice & Edward Stolpa, FA 718, 1944
- 9: Audrey & Fred Consolnagno, H 254, 1948
- 13: Charlene & Gene Hollifield, Assoc., 1991
- 15: Wanda & Harold Heavins, A 254, 1946
- 15: Marjorie & Joseph Olinde, H 253, 1950
- 16: Grace & John Harmon, Med 363, 1948
- 16: Naomi & Gordon Rintoul, L 255, 1983
- 17: Jo & Thomas Lazare, I 254, 1948
- 18: Jane & Wilbur Braithwaite, A 253, 1952
- 20: Lillian & Dick Mertes, I&R 254, 1949
- 23: Carolyn & James Taylor, F 254, 1949
- 26: Alberta & Melvin Global, I 254, 1980
- 26: Helen & Robert Parke, B 254, 1943

AUGUST

- 5: Josephine & Harold Betts, HQ 253, 1943
- 7: Helen & John H. Bradley, A 253, 1954
- 11: Helen & George Putnam, FA 718, 1995
- 12: Jean & Bill Moss, B 254, 1946
- 12: Arlene & Robert Williams F 255, 1948
- 14: Sona & James A. Gregg, I 253, 1947
- 15: RaeAnn & Donald I. Wirth, USAR, 1958
- 16: Gina & Scott Iseminger, Assoc., 1975
- 18: Betty & David Montgomery, E 255, 1950
- 19: Janice & Glen Rovenhagen, M 255, 1951
- 20: Marion & Anthony Nargi, Band, 1960
- 22: Bernice & Louis Disbrow, E 255, 1940
- 23: Susan & William Stratton, Assoc., 1975
- 25: Billy Jean & Jack Haight, HQ 255, 1956
- 26: Dorothy & Robert L. May, K 255, 1950
- 27: Laura & Arthur W. Harckham, HQ 253, 1949
- 29: Gertrude & Erneset Morrell, L 253, 1950
- 30: Cele & Bill Scott, E 254, 1949

SEPTEMBER

- 1. Jan & Quinten Sella, F 254, 1977

- 2. Jean & John W. Brown, K 255, 1950
- 2: Anna & Rocco Stango, Recon., 1950
- 3: Marianne & Robert Koller, Assoc., 1994
- 3: Carmine & Angelo Soranno, K 253, 1949
- 5: Gayle & Richard Glazer, USAR, 1970
- 5: Anne & Kenneth Greene, HQ 63, 1949
- 5: Maryellen & Joseph Thomas, CN 254, 1941
- 6: Viola & Harold Black, AT 255, 1947
- 7: Rose & Michael Cairo, L 253, 1947
- 8: Germaine & Roland Dandurand, G 255, 1945
- 8: Betty & Bob Anderson, B 255, 1946
- 8: Margaret & Donald O'Neill, D 253, 1986
- 9: Angeline & Howard Diependorst, Med 253, 1947
- 9: Patricia & Joseph Mueller, SV 861, 1950
- 10: Catherine & Frank Tedesco, E 255, 1949
- 11: Kathy & Richard Flaig, Assoc., 1965
- 12: Eva & Harold Hibbs, HQ 718, 1948
- 18: Peggy & Robert Mikhail, FA 718, 1942
- 20: Sue & George McIntosh, E 253, 2002
- 22: Cherri & Len Zimmerman, C 263, 1943
- 23: Nancy & Ralph Fink, AT 254, 1960
- 27: Virginia & Leaman J. Harvey, C 254, 1952

OCTOBER

- 1: Louise & Rene Josephson, FA 718, 1950
- 7: Marilyn & Henry Comb, Assoc., 1961
- 7: Cindy & Jimmy Montgomery, Assoc., 1979
- 8: Dorothy & Herb Houghtaling, HQ 253, 1949
- 8: Tobi & Jack Mayrsohn, QM 63, 1950
- 9: Bernice & Carlton Peck, K 253, 1949
- 9: Peggy & Joe Kerns, E 254, 1948
- 9: Vivian & Robert Cohlmeier, C 361, 1948
- 9: Mae & Garrett Hoeksema, M 255, 1946
- 10: Anna Lee & Murrell Grant, HQ 63, 1946
- 10: Beth & Damian Iseminger, Assoc., 2009
- 11: Marlene & Anthony Dondona, H 255, 1953
- 12: Dorothy & Claude Dinison, A 253, 1940
- 16: Jean & Russell Hill, HQ 253, 1949
- 16: Elsie & Roy E. Sjoblad, HQ 253, 1949
- 18: Helen & Charles Rudibaugh, SV 253, 1947
- 18: Louise & Lecile D. Self, HQ 254, 1941
- 20: Patricia & James H. Pritchett,, HQ 254, 1979
- 20: Margaret & John J. Morgan, AT 255, 1951
- 16: Betty & Rudy Lencioni, F 254, 1951
- 23: Carol & Frederick Bing, HQ 63, 1983
- 27: Georgee & Albert Kidney, FA 863, 1941

A word from your buddies . . .

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

you to keep up the good work – we don't have much longer to go!

Ervin D. Glover, 718: I am 84 years old; am a minister and still preaching the Word of God. I retired from public work. Thank you for sending the *Blood and Fire* magazines.

Al Safranck, 861st: I just got off the phone talking to Bill Scott and he answered the questions I was going to ask you. I also told him that I visited the 63rd Regional Rediness Command in California and talked to the men. I told them I was with the 63rd Infantry Division and how we got the name of Blood and Fire. They were so glad that I talked with them. They were so happy to hear about the division. If any of you go to California, visit them; they would like that. I want to ask you if you are going to stop sending the *Blood and Fire* newspaper? I asked Bill if the Chicago Chapter is still active and he said no. I have a new pacemaker and am doing very good. (Al, I will only give up sending the *Blood and Fire* if the Board members vote to appoint someone else as Editor. Donna)

Douglas Shaheen, Company 863: Please sign me up for a one year subscription to the 63rd Division Association and use the rest of the money where it is needed. I want to thank you and compliment you on the excellent work that you have been doing with the *Blood and Fire* publication. It becomes more important each year as we get older. After World War II, I joined the National Guard and went on active duty during the Korean War, then I graduated from regular Army Officer School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma and completed my military retirement in the National Guard. I would like to hear from any member of the A-Btry. 863rd FA Bn., 63rd Infantry Division.

MEDICAL

Ray Leslie Anders, 363: Enclosed my dues for 2009 and 2010. My personal affairs have deteriorated greatly since the death in September 2008 of my dear wife of 66 years. She would have celebrated her 92nd birthday on April 10, 2010.

QUARTERMASTERS 63

Robert L. Wilson: I was sorry to read in the February issue of the *Blood and Fire* that you are suffering a financial shortage. That suggests to me that our membership is dwindling. A trend that will continue to flood as we of the Greatest Generation inexorably die off. At some point we are going to have to

recognize that there won't be enough of us left to make any gathering worthwhile. That's when it's time to face reality and close down this Association. The work that all the officers do on our behalf is appreciated. Enclosed is a donation for the Association.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Imogene Crutchfield, widow of Alf Crutchfield: I am enclosing Alf's obituary. He passed away April 26, 2009. I would like to continue membership because my family and I enjoy the book (*Blood and Fire*) so much.

Elizabeth V. "Betty" Myers, widow of Shorty Myers: I have so many fond memories of our 63rd reunions but unfortunately most of our close friends have passed away. My first reunion was in 1952, the year Shorty and I were married. That was many moons ago! The Philadelphia Chapter is still active and planning a trip to Atlantic City in September.

Yvonne Rappaport, widow of Norman Rappaport: Sorry the dues payment got lost in the shuffle! I wonder how that saying got started? I am sorry to inform you that Norm died in 2008 and I miss him very much. All my memories are good ones of the more than half a century we spent together. He was buried with military honors in Arlington Cemetery. The 63rd Infantry Division meant a lot to Norm and I'd like to keep getting the news of his buddies. Thanks for all your good work for the Association.

Carol Ann Renner, widow of Charles E. Renner: Find enclosed a check for four years dues. We appreciate all your hard work. Thanks.

Rick Pickowitz: I would like to get in touch with Harold Miller's family – Robert or Richard Parrack. (Richard lives at 260 Sherbrook Blvd., Upper Derby, PA 19082-4619).

Edward Phillips: I am the son of John M. Phillips, Company I, 255th Regiment. Dad was killed in action February 7, 1945. I am a solo practitioner of law in Wake Forest, NC.

Nan W. Landers, widow of Arlton D. Landers: So sorry I am late with my dues. Seems as though I do this often. I have no excuse, maybe old age! I miss Al and wish I could hear from someone who knew him.

Smitty's 40th mini reunion held in Branson

Smitty's 40th Mini Reunion took place at the Lodge of the Ozarks in Branson, Missouri beginning March 22 and ending March 27, 2010.

The event was dedicated to posthumously memorialize Max and Milly Holtsclaw for their highest attendance to Smitty's Mini Reunions since inception.

Fifty-one people attended the event. Holtsclaw's three daughters, Sharon, Patty and Connie; two sons-in-law; four grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren and 33 of Smitty's Hot Shots were present. This was quite a tribute to Max and Milly.

During the week Hot Shots spent their time going to various shows, shopping, or visiting in the Hospitality room.

On Friday, March 26, the group met at the Land and Sea Restaurant for their banquet.

A candle memorial was held for six of their departed comrades, followed by a ceremony to memorialize Max and Milly Holtsclaw.

A framed memorial was given Post Mortem to each of the Holtsclaw girls to commemorate the occasion. It was three frames into one. The top frame read:

**AWARDED POSTHUMOUSLY
SMITTY'S FOX CO. 253 HOT SHOTS
ACKNOWLEDGES AND HONORS
MAX AND MILLY HOLTSCLAW
HIGHEST ATTENDANCE TO
SMITTY'S MINI REUNIONS SINCE
INCEPTION**

The middle frame is a portrait of Max and Milly and the bottom frame is a certificate of Max's service to his country.



Photo of the first frame on the plaque.



Picture of Max and Milly Holtsclaw was on the second frame of the plaque.



A certificate of Max's service to his country was featured as the third part of the frame.



Pictured is the complete memorial framed and presented to the family.



A group picture, minus a few, of those attending the Mini Reunion in Branson, Missouri, March 2010.

Mechanized dandruff and more . . .

By Harold "Hal" O'Neill, Signal 83rd

The 83rd Division was pulled out of Germany and sent southwest across Holland into northern Belgium. Bumper to bumper military vehicles stretched for miles on a road on top of a dike surrounded by flooded fields. Air cover patrolled overhead and when a vehicle broke down, it was pushed off into the ditch or field.

I was transferred to a messenger jeep that now required three men instead of two. The MP's stopped us repeatedly to ask about the winner of the World Series or Betty Grable's leading man in some movie. This was to detect English-speaking Germans in our rear areas.

We wore long johns, wool shirt and pants and mackinaws instead of overcoats. Finger gloves were useless, so we traded with German prisoners for their fur-lined mittens and a rabbit-fur vest. The cost was only a few cigarettes. I wore three pair of socks with size 12 boots instead of my normal size nine. Towels with eye holes protected our face. Wet feet meant trench foot and frost bite was a problem. We usually had a pair of socks drying from an arm-pit warmth and growing a beard helped.

The messenger jeeps ran between the Division Headquarters and the three infantry regiment Headquarters. With units on the move, the information was often out-of-date and we spent two or three days on the road before returning to Division Headquarters. Thirty-five year old Pop did most of the driving and I did the navigation. Teen-aged Elmer did a lot of sleeping. We rotated sitting in the back seat since it was the coldest spot.

The army issued single blanket sleeping bags, so we stopped at an aid station to pick up the blankets with the least amount of blood stains. Outdoors or in a building, we put six or seven blankets underneath and as many above. Only our boots were removed for sleeping.

One bitter night we parked between two blazing buildings for extra warmth and another time we slept on the second floor of a windmill. Heavy Elmer collapsed the staircase so Pop and I used our two ropes to get down. We threatened to put him on a diet.

Near the end of the Bulge we picked up an illegal trailer that had no lights or brakes. It carried a small pot-bellied stove, stove pipe, briquettes of coal dust and molasses or something, a 220-volt radio, a 110-volt radio, souvenirs, wine for Pop, rations, a tarp for a ground sheet, army overcoat or mackinaws depending on how close we were returning to

Division Headquarters and extra cigarettes or coffee when we passed a farm with people still living there.

None of us even caught a cold and we were happy when we told to head to a coal mine for delousing and showers. The lice came from sleeping in the barns and were known as mechanized dandruff.

Pictures to share?

Lee Archer and William Auerbach, co-authors of *Panzerwrecks*, a series of military vehicle books about wrecked German tanks would like your help providing information for future books.

They need copies or scans of private photographs of wrecked German tanks and/or other vehicles that were taken by those who were there.

If you have pictures to share, please write to: William Auerbach at *Panzerwrecks*, PO Box 2332, Monroe, NY 10949-2332, or e-mail Lee at lee@panzerbach.com

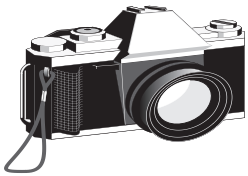
***Deadline for
November 2010
Blood & Fire
is October 1, 2010***

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



BLOOD AND FIRE PHOTO GALLERY



Maxine Baty, widow of Wayne Baty, E 255, sent this picture that was a gift from Melissa Kilbride, granddaughter of T/Sgt Dennis Killbride.

Kneeling, lower left is Pfc. Wayne Baty, T/Sgt. Dennis Killbride in the left rear, 2nd Lt. Joseph A. Beauregard (center) and unknown soldier.



Front row, from left to right: st Lt. Isidore Pollevoy, 2nd Lt. Joseph E. Beauregard, Pfc. Wayne Baty and 1st Sgt. Victor D. Miodzik.

Standing in back is S/Sgt. Ronald Schokl, E Company 255.

Taken in Germany 1945. Maxine Baty contributed the picture.



Front row, left to right, 1st Sgt. Victor D. Miodzik and Pfc. Wayne Baty.

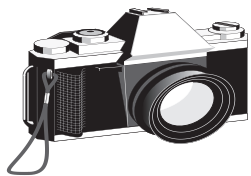
Rear, left, 2nd Lt. Joseph E. Beauregard and right, S/Sgt. Ronald Schoch, E Company 254.

Taken in Germany 1945. Maxine Baty contributed the picture.

**MORE PHOTOS
ON PAGE 18**

— Notice —

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



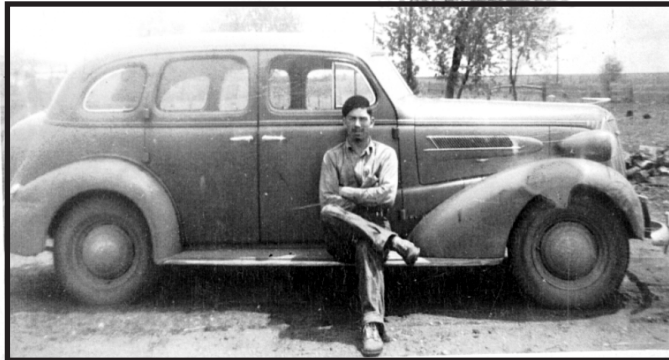
BLOOD AND FIRE PHOTO GALLERY



Gerald Bungert of Morton Grove, Illinois sent this picture.

Left to right is: Cpl. Bungert, Cpl. Gillespie and Cpl. Sellers.

Picture was taken in Alsace on February 2, 1945.



Imogene Crutchfield sent this picture of a man who is sitting on the running board of a car. Could his name be Pierce?



Pictured here are Alf Crutchfield on the left and Robert K. DeArment on the right.

Both men were in I Company 254. Alf was inducted on December 7, 1943 and discharged on May 19, 1946.

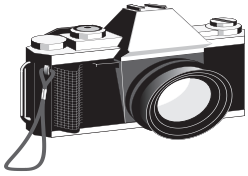
Imogene Crutchfield submitted the picture.

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.

**MORE PHOTOS
CAN BE FOUND
ON PAGE 19**



BLOOD AND FIRE PHOTO GALLERY

Celebrating 60th Anniversary

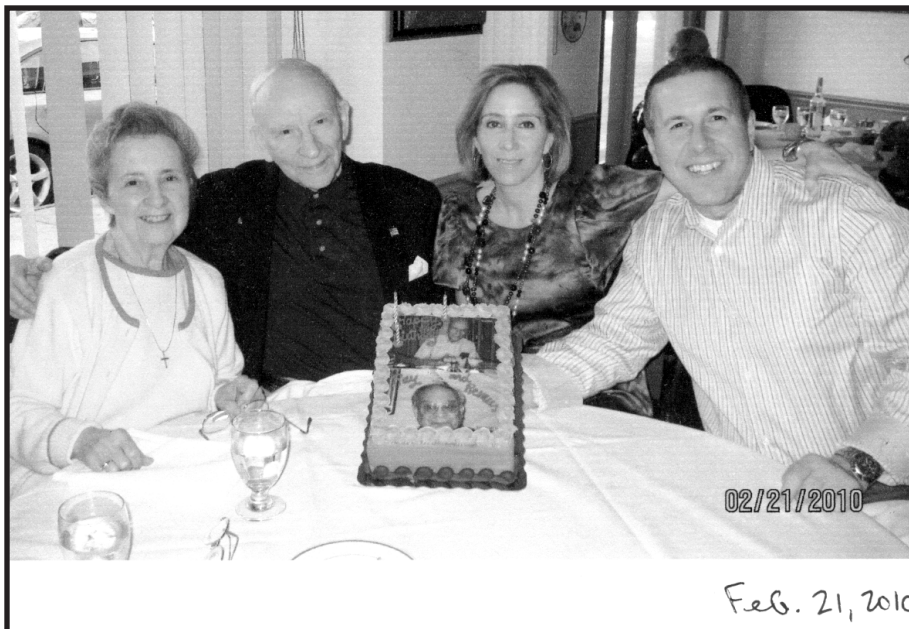


Remus (Ray) and Annette Miserendino of Mt. Vernon, New York will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on June 11, 2010.

Ray, who served from 1944 until 1946 in the 63rd Infantry Division in B Company 255th Regiment, celebrated birthday 84 in February and Annette became 80, also in February.

Despite some pretty challenging health issues for Annette, which included a total shoulder replacement after a fall and most recently, a double bypass, both are still very active. They volunteer several days a week at their local senior center, visit friends on a regular basis and they go shopping, so it is very difficult to keep track of this on-the-go couple.

Cards will reach them at 630 Gramatan #31, Mt. Vernon, NY 10552.



In the above photo: Remus and Annette Miserendino were married June 11, 1950.

In the bottom photo: Annette and Remus, seated with their daughter, Marie Zambardi and her husband, Steven as they celebrated "Ray's" 84th birthday at a dinner on February 21, 2010.

In Memoriam

EDWARD HENRY BUNDICK



Edward Bundick, D 254, died February 18, 2010 in Tacoma, Washington. He was 87 years old.

He enlisted in the Army in 1943 and retired in 1967 at a Major in the Finance Corps. After retirement from active duty, Ed worked civil service for the army, retiring for the second time in 1984 as Deputy Director of Quality for

the Army's Finance Center in Indianapolis, Indiana. He was the recipient of the Bronze Star and the Legion of Merit.

Survivors include his wife of 64 years, Bonnie Mae; one son, Lee Edward and his wife Wendi; and three grandchildren, Edward Henry II, Joseph Lee, and Emily Nichole. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Nancy Carroll.

J.C. COOLEY

J.C. Cooley, E 255, C 253, L 255 and SV 255, died January 14, 2010 at the age of 87. He was the recipient of two Bronze Stars for bravery in combat at the Battle of the Bulge.

He graduated from Texas A&M in 1946 and was involved in banking and real estate for many years. He also owned the San Antonio Spice Company.

Survivors include his wife of 60 years, Elouise; two sons, Chris Cooley and wife Debbie, Craig Cooley and wife Diana; four grandchildren, Randy Cooley and wife Megan, Christopher Cooley and wife Elizabeth, Jennifer Cooley Peace and husband Tyler, and Kathy Cooley; two great-grandchildren, Noah and Hank Cooley and expected soon, a great-granddaughter Abby Marie Peace.



ALF LEROY CRUTCHFIELD



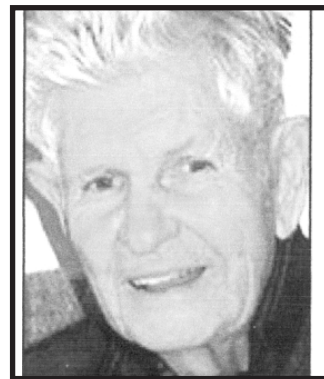
Alf Crutchfield, I 254, died April 26, 2009 at his home at the age of 83. Shortly after his 18th birthday, he joined the army and was discharged in April 1946.

He was employed as a truck driver for the O.E. Woods Lumber Company and later by Hope Lumber in Tulsa. Fishing, camping, gardening and keeping a beautiful lawn

were his favorite hobbies.

Survivors include his wife, Imogene; one son, David Crutchfield and wife Adrenne; one daughter Janis Gills and husband Joe; three grandchildren, Matthew Crutchfield and wife Lynn, Jeffrey Gills and wife Julie, and Codi Jean Ruth and husband Tony; three great-grandchildren, Colin Crutchfield, Emalee Ruth and Bobby Ruth. One son, Clay Crutchfield, preceded him in death.

MAX GOURLEY



Max Gourley, C 253, 83, died March 3, 2010 at St. John's Medical Center in Anderson, Indiana. He graduated from Gaston High School and worked for 35 years for Indiana Bell Telephone Company.

He and his wife, Helen, were married in Germany on August 13, 1949 and she survives.

Also surviving is one daughter, Linda Norris and husband; one son, Rex Gourley and wife Nancy; four grandchildren, Todd Goodrick and wife Bunny, Stephanie Goodrick and husband David, Karen May and husband, Joe, and Monica Cameron; and five great-grandchildren.

In Memoriam

GEORGE KISKA

George Kiska, A 253, died January 6, 2010, after a brief illness. He served in the Army during World War II, then re-enlisted and served in the Korean War.

George grew up in Carnegie, PA, and was the oldest of eight children. Following his discharge, he moved to California.

He was employed as a letter carrier in Mill Valley, California, retiring in 1986. He married Patricia in 1974 and she survives.

Other survivors include a step-daughter, Suzanne Brokaw and husband Ken, one step-son, Robert Cod and his three sons, Paul, Sam and Roger.

HENRY H. LAUCHLEY, JR.

Henry H. Lauchley, Jr., C 2253, age 88, died April 6, 2010 in Houston, Texas. He was a veteran of WW II and the Korean War. He retired from Brown and Root as Mechanical Engineer.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Carlee; two daughters, Rosalind Brown and Carla Coke and husband, John; one son, Kevin Lauchley and wife Melody; grandchildren, Lynette, Matthew and Andy Brown; Chelsea, Samuel and Shelby Coke and Alex Sanchez.

STANLEY RUSINEK

Stanley Rusinek, 83, died August 12, 2009 in Phoenix, Arizona. He was one of nine children. As a member of the US Army, Stanley served in both World War II and the Korean War.

In the early 1950s, he moved to Phoenix and worked as a machinist and inspector for AirResearch Manufacturing Company.

He also had his own successful upholstery business.

On September 10, 1980, he married Jean Russ and she died May 11, 2008.

Survivors include one brother; two children; three step-sons; four grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

HERBERT SCHNEIDERMAN

Herb Schneiderman, 92, died March 13, 2010 at his home in Brunswick. He enlisted in the Army on October 15, 1941, where he remained until the end of the war in September 1945. As a young man, he played

guitar in New York City and while in the Army.

In 1949, he became a newscast writer for ABC Radio; married his wife Charlotte on May 16, 1949 and then worked for over 25 years for the Voice of America, moving with his family from New York to Washington, D.C.

Until two months prior to his death, Herb could stand up at the piano and play *St. Louis Blues* next to his grandson.

Herb was a man who picked up trash as he walked along the streets in Washington; a man who talked to everyone from every walk of life with respect that each deserved.

Survivors include his wife, Charlotte; two daughters, Rachel Schneiderman and Annie Valliere; son-in-law, Robert Valliere; grandchildren, Bethany and Dave Roderer, Leah Valliere and husband Mike Buescher, Rose Valliere and Lewis Valliere; great-grandchildren, Nate, Alex and Tom Roderer.

NORMAN J. SCHUETT

Norman Schuett, 89, died February 20, 2010. His favorite possession was a 63rd Infantry Division hat that he wore all the time.

He served in the Army from 1940 until 1945; then he served as an electrical engineer for the Corps of Engineers and retired in December 1979.

After retirement, Norman and his wife, Mary Jean moved to Sun City where he was a President and Vice President for the Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc. and Board of Directors. He also served as Secretary and Treasurer for the local Disabled American Veterans. He was an avid golfer.

Norman is survived by two sons, Michael (Judy) Schuett and Patrick (Rita) Schuett; seven grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. His wife, Mary Jean preceded him in death.

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

2010 REUNION

The 2010 National Reunion will take place in Fairborn, 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.

In Memoriam

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

MELVIN 'JACK' SLOPEY

Melvin 'Jack' Slopey, 87, of Cape Haze, Florida, died November 25, 2009.



Prior to serving in the Army, Jack worked as a welding foreman in the Draven Shipyard in Wilmington, Delaware, helping to build victory ships.

After his discharge, he worked as a truck driver, welder, mason, general contractor and later was owner of the Forest Park Mobile Home Park.

Following his move to Florida in 1983, he and his wife became very active in the Windward community where he was one of the early organizers of a group who helped make newcomers welcome.

Jack always had a project to work on and was passionate about making remote-controlled models. He also liked to play pool, golf and enjoyed boating.

Survivors include his wife, Louisa; two sons, Brian and Greg; their wives, Meg and Patricia; two granddaughters, Amber and Shannon and his beloved dog, Cricket.

SAMUEL GEORGE SPANGLER

Sam Spangler, HQ 254, died January 31, 2010 in Winchester, Virginia at the age of 88.

On May 11, 1942, Sam graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and its ROTC, and received his commission in the US Army, and orders to active duty.

Following basic training at Camp Croft in South Carolina, he stayed to help train recruits in heavy weapons. He was promoted to Captain and sent to advanced officer's training at Fort Benning, Georgia and from there, he joined the 63rd Infantry Division in Camp Dorn, Mississippi in October 1944. He was awarded the Bronze Star with Cluster and the Combat Infantryman Award.

Following the war, Sam was a farmer and cattleman, and was a developer of industrial and commercial real estate in the Fredericksburg, Virginia area.

He is survived by his wife, Charlotte (Peggy); five children; six grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

He regularly attended 63rd Infantry Division reunions, often treating his 'buddies' to a rendition of 'Bloody War', a WW I song he learned as a boy.

WALTER B. KRUL

Walter B. Krul, 88, K 255, died May 1, 2010 while under the care of Hospice at Kingsway Arms Nursing Center in Schenectady, New York.

He worked at the CCC Camp in Brookfield, New York in 1939 and 1940. Then he enlisted in the Army in 1943, as one of five brothers who also served in World War II.

Walter served 18 months as a search light and switch board operator in the jungle position in Panama before joining the 63rd Infantry Division in France and Germany. He received the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

He was employed by Oneida Bleachery and then Griffis Air Force until his retirement.

Walter's wife, Mary died in 2004 after 49 years of marriage.

He is survived by two daughters, Beverly Voos and husband Jarad, Rose Anne Szwedo and husband Paul; one son, Walter J. Krul and wife Marcella Kay; and grandchildren, Jessica Czchowski and husband David, Jason Voos, Paul, Rebecca and Thomas Szwedo.

New historian named at Moffett Field

Thomas Christianson is the new historian of the 63rd Regional Support Command located at Moffett Field, California near San Jose.

He would like to be involved with the 63rd Infantry Division and learn more about the rich history of this Division during WWII.

In a September 2010 ceremony they are going to dedicate a new Headquarters building and are inviting veterans to make the trip to join them and be part of the ceremony.

Perhaps as plans are formulated, Mr. Christianson will provide more information on the website for those who might be considering attending.

- Letters and Opinions -

ENJOY READING EXPERIENCES

I have just finished reading the February issue of the *Blood and Fire* and enjoyed it as I always do. I particularly appreciate the articles from members of the division telling of their experiences during the war years.

I am one of those Life members who contributed a mere \$40.00 when I joined the Association many years ago. Life has been good to me and my family, so am enclosing a check to help in the expenses of publishing the *Blood and Fire*. Please keep on doing the many things that you must do to put each issue together. Since I edit a semi-annual issue of a little paper for one of my volunteer organizations, I can sympathize with you as you strive to get each issue out.

I have not attended but one of the annual meetings for two reasons. The first one is that my wife and I (and frequently our children and grandchildren) spend two months every summer high up in the mountains in western Colorado. The second reason is that I only know one other member of the Association and that happens to be Bill Scott who lives about 25 miles west of me. I have talked with him several times.

My wife, Hazel, and I are both 92 years of age. We move a little more slowly now, but are in reasonably good health. We have three children living in three different parts of the country and six grandchildren, but only one is married. I retired 27 years ago after working for the Wm. Wrigley Jr. Company (chewing gum) for a little over 44 years.

Best wishes to all of the members and associates of the 63rd Infantry Division.

Art Clauter, SV 253

WIFE IS RECUPERATING NICELY

My wife, Annette, has come a long way since breaking her shoulder in three places on March 19, 2009. This past January she had open-heart surgery for a double by-pass, plus had a stint put in. So far, she is

doing quite well, getting stronger day by day. She turned 80 on February 2 and I reached the 84 mark on February 21. I am doing quite well, thank God.

This coming June 11, we will be married 60 years. Where has the time gone?!

I really like the new look of the *Blood and Fire* and am enclosing a donation to help with the financial situation. To not having this (magazine) to look forward is hard to comprehend.

We won't be able to make the Ohio reunion - Annette can't walk that well yet.

Remus (Ray) Miserendino, B 255

LOOK FORWARD TO EACH B & F

Received my *Blood and Fire*, which I look forward to as well as my children do. I noticed that your newest great-granddaughter, Miss Belle, was born on her great-grandfather's 84th birthday. That was my 85th birthday!

Michigan has had better weather than Indiana this year. Ice fishing ended up early due to the disappearance of ice on our lakes. It was fun while it lasted!! It will soon be turkey season. I guess you can tell I am a hunter and fisherwoman!

I saw in the *B&F* that Ann and Sam Redfield had an anniversary. He was the one person my husband often spoke of, and I have a picture of Sam and several letters he wrote to Robert in the photo album I made for my family.

Enclosed is a donation in memory of my husband, Robert, G 253 and to help keep the *Blood and Fire* going. Good luck and have fun at the reunion in Ohio.

Lucille Lemarbe, Associate

LOOKED FOR LOST SHEEP

I went to Hemet yesterday (March 13) and checked on Lost Sheep member, Charles Thomas. They have him as living there some time ago, but no record of

- Letters and Opinions -

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

where he is or what happened. We are disappearing fast.

Wayne Crosser, HQ 863

Years ago I paid for a Life Membership and for the past several years, have felt that I am free loading, so please accept my donation to help with expenses.

A. Duane Corn, Sig. 563

FEEL I AM FREE LOADING

Thank you and Bill Scott so much for your efforts for the good of the Association. Your hours of input must be great in number.

Have you been carded?

Looking for information

Jeremy Strubhar, grandson of John G. Strubhar, ORD. 763, is looking for information concerning his grandfather's time in Europe during the war.

He is interested in learning as much as he can from those who served with his grandfather.

Jeremy's address is 1118 North Pointe Drive, Normal, IL 61761. His telephone number is 1-309-830-2930.

This house of confusion was headquarters for a wreck looking to happen the past few months and I am asking your forgiveness as well as your patience.

If you sent your dues to me and did not receive a dues card for the year 2010, please tell me when you sent your check – we have had a few problems with mail delivery – and I don't want to be remiss in sending the cards to those who have paid for this year, or for future years.

Donna LaCosse

Thank you so very much

A great big thank you to all the members, annual members as well as life members, for your generous donations. It is so nice to know there is help out there, all one needs to do is ask.

Being short of funds will be an ongoing situation for this Association whose membership is dwindling day by day. More and more of our loved ones are expiring and there are not enough new members to make a big difference in the bank account growth.

So, thanks again and keep on giving so this Association will not expire. --Donna

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

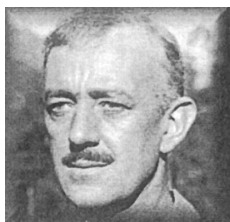
Send to Donna LaCosse, PO Box 86,
Morocco, Indiana 47963.

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

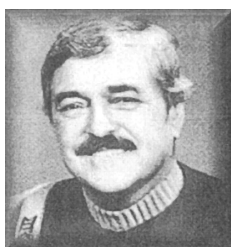
Real Hollywood heroes

Submitted by Sal Genova, G 254

The real actors of yesteryear loved the United States. They had both class and integrity. With the advent of World War II many of our actors went to fight rather than stand and rant against this country we all love.



L i s t e d
 here are but a few, but from this group of only 18 men came over 70 medals in honor of their valor, spanning from Bronze Stars, Silver Stars, Distinguished Service Croix, Purple Hearts and one Congressional Medal of Honor.



Alec Guinness (Star Wars) operated a British Royal Navy landing craft on D-Day.

James Doohan (Scotty on Star Trek) landed in Normandy with the U.S. Army on D-Day.



Donald Pleasance (The Great Escape) really was an R.A.F. Pilot who was shot down and held prisoner and was tortured by the Germans.



David Niven was a Sandhurst graduate and Lt. Colonel of the British Commandos in Normandy.

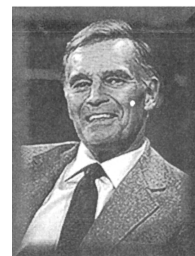
James Stewart entered the Army Air Force as a private and worked his way to the rank of Colonel. During WW II, Stewart served as a bomber pilot. His service record crediting him with leading more than 20 missions over Germany, and taking part in hundreds of air strikes during his tour of duty. Stewart earned the Air Medal, the distinguished Flying Cross, France's Croix de Guerre, and seven Battle Stars during WW II.



Clark Gable (Mega-Movie Star when war broke out) was beyond draft age at the time the U.S.



entered WW II, Cable enlisted as a private in the AAF on August 12, 1942 at Los Angeles. He attended Officer's Candidate School at Miami Beach, Florida and graduated as a second lieutenant on October 28, 1942. He attended aerial gunnery school and in February 1943, he was assigned to the 351st Bomb Group at Polebrook where he flew operational missions over Europe in B-17s. Captain Gable returned to the United States in October 1943 and was relieved from active duty as a major on June 12, 1944 at his own request since he was over-age for combat.



Charlton Heston was an Army Air Corps Sergeant in Kodiak.

Ernest Borgnine was a U.S. Navy Gunners Mate 1935-1945.

Charles Durning was a U.S. Army Ranger at Normandy. He earned a Silver Star and was awarded the Purple Heart.

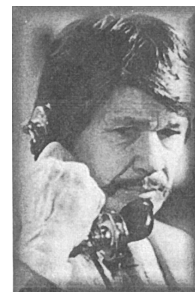


Charles Bronson was a tail

gunner in the Army Air Corps, more specifically on B-29's in the 20th Air Force out of Guam, Tinian, and Saipan.

George C. Scott was a decorated U.S. Marine.

Eddie Albert (Green Acres TV) was awarded the Bronze Star for his heroic action as a U.S. Naval officer aiding Marines at the horrific a battle on the Island of Tarawa in the Pacific November 1943.



Brian Keith served as a U.S. Marine rear gunner in several actions against the Japanese on Rabal in the Pacific.



Lee Marvin was a U.S. Marine on Saipan during the Marianas campaign when he was wounded earning the Purple Heart.

Hollywood heroes . . .

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

John Russell enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1942. He received a battlefield commission and was wounded and highly decorated for valor at Guadalcanal.



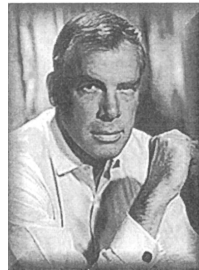
Robert Ryan was a U.S. Marine who served with the O.S.S in Yugoslavia.

Tyrone Power (an established movie star when Pearl Harbor was bombed) joined the U.S. Marines, was a pilot flying supplies into, and wounded Marines out of, Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

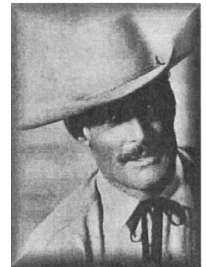


Audie Murphy, little 5 feet five inches tall and 110 pounds was a guy from Texas who played cowboy parts. He was the most decorated serviceman of WWII and earned the Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, two Silver Stars, Legion of Merit, two Bronze Stars with "V," two Purple Hearts, U.S. Army Outstanding Civilian Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, two Distinguished Unit Emblems, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern

Campaign Medal with One Silver Star, Four Bronze Service Stars (representing nine campaigns) and one Bronze Arrowhead (representing assault landing at Sicily and Southern France), World War II Victory Medal Army of Occupation Medal with Germany Clasp, Armed Forces Reserve Medal,



Combat Infantry Badge, Marksman Badge with Rifle Bar, Expert Badge with Bayonet Bar, French Fourragere in Colors of the Croix de Guerre,



French Legion of Honor, Grade of Chevalier, French Croix de Guerre with Silver Star, French Croix de Guerre with Palm, Medal of Liberated France, and Belgian Croix de Guerre 1940 Palm.



Changes to our regular web site notice

Visit the 63rd Infantry Division Website at <http://www.63rdinfdiv.com> to find a detailed history of the 63rd Infantry Division. Included in the over 580 pages of the website is a listing of unit awards, descriptions of battles, a listing of battle and non-battle deaths, a description and view of all 63rd Infantry Division memorials and many other items of interest.

There are also over 2800 pictures of 63rd Infantry Division soldiers in training, combat and on occupation duty.

You will also find a list of memorabilia items for sale, information about reunions and inquiries from members and relatives searching for information about members and buddies. There is also an alphabetical listing, by unit, of active 63rd Infantry Division Association members, a listing of related websites and other information of interest to veterans.

Webmaster, Fred Clinton (D 254th Inf.) is seeking photos and memorabilia images to be added to the website.

Send photos by e-mail to joyclint@comcast.net or by regular mail to:

Fred Clinton,
102 S. Jenkins Street
Alexandria, VA 22304.

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

All items will be returned when processing has been completed.

Last day of the war: My story

by Rudy Kutlesa

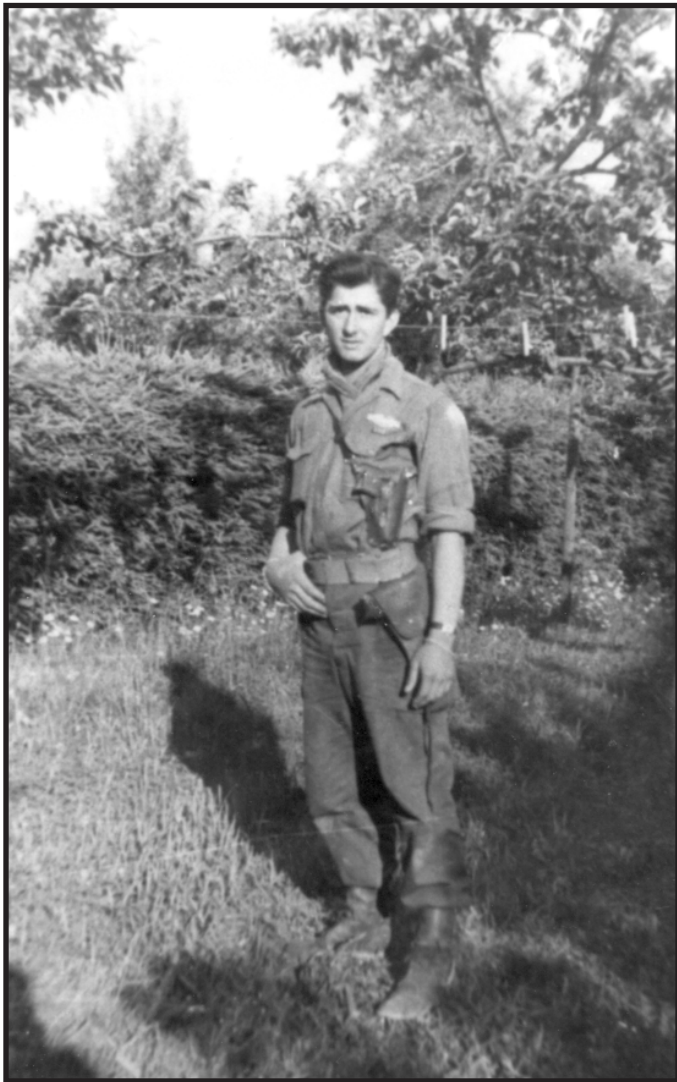


Photo of Rudy Kutlesa on April 28, 1945 in Rothenberg, Germany.

The dates are April 25 and April 26, 1945, the last days of the war for the 254th Regiment of the 63rd Infantry Division. The location was the Danube River at Leipheim, Germany.

On April 25, 1945, we rode on the trucks most of the day with a few stops from sniper fire. At around 3:00 P.M., we arrived at the Danube River. I was a member of B Company, 3rd Platoon, 254th Regiment. B Company was on the left side of the bridge, C Company was on the right side of the bridge, giving cover for A Company, which was the head company to cross.

They got about a platoon across when the Germans

blew the bridge, but that turned out to be a bad job! The Engineers came up and placed planks on each end of the bridge so we could get across.

Getting through Leipheim went well. No fighting in the town itself. I thought all the Germans had moved out of the town to counter attack us later, which they did. When we got to the end of the town, we saw a hospital on our left and were told that there was an airfield on the other side of the hospital, which we could not see from where we were. After we were there for about thirty minutes, a German scout car came out from between the hospital and the airfield with about six Germans in it.

T/Sgt. Boudrie jumped on an anti-aircraft multiple machine gun with four barrels on it and fired all four barrels on the German scout car. The car kept zig-zagging all the way out until they got into the woods. I am sure Sgt. Boudree hit somebody in that car.

After that incident, we were told to move out. It was getting to be about 5:00 P.M. and at that time Sgt. Boudree took a bunch of us guys and told us where to dig in. I was put in a position where I could see the town of Gunzburg and it was burning pretty good. Off to my left about 30-feet were two soldiers from D Company, mounting a 30 Cal. water cooled machine gun. I started to dig a slit trench fast and the best I could, because way out in the field toward Gunzburg we could see German soldiers in the distance and they had their rain tents on them.

We could not see their weapons on them so we had to hold our fire. Somebody, and I don't know to this day, told us to hold our fire until there was a shot fired. The Germans got to about 200-yards when somebody fired and all hell broke loose. Within 30-seconds machine gunner from D Company got hit on the top of his head and was wounded badly. I heard later that he did not make it. In the meantime, the Germans were crawling on their hands and elbows, and at this time it was getting quite dark when somebody yelled out to "pull back." A bunch of us did pull back toward the bridge when Capt. Lee (B-Company commander) told us to stop and re-organize.

During this time I lost contact with my squad leader, S/Sgt. Kross. Then I hooked up with T/Sgt. Boudree and we went up the street that led from the bridge. We went about 200-feet up when we heard the sound of tanks squealing and it sounded like they were coming our way. So T/Sgt. Boudree and I made a left turn and jumped a fence into an empty field. We went about 100-feet, turned left and ran into a wooden fence. S/Sgt.

Last day of the war . . .

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

Collette, who was in the lead, kicked the wooden spokes out and went through the fence. There was a German soldier on the other side who shot and killed S/Sgt. Collette, then T/Sgt. Boudree shot and killed the German soldier. After that, we went to our left down the road and met Plt. Leader 2nd Lt. Van Rockern, where we picked a house for the command post. I spent the night behind a concrete pillar. Later I heard there was another counter attack, but it was not in our area.

When morning came, I was told we captured a lot of German soldiers. I went to take a look at them so I could see who we were fighting. When I got there, I could not believe my eyes. They were all between 15 and 16 years old and 50 to 60 years old and a lot of the young ones were crying. It turned out we captured around 700 soldiers.

Later that day, on the 26th of April, we mounted trucks and were on our way to Rothenberg on-the-Taber River. Then we spent our time on guard duty until the war ended on May 8, 1945.

Altogether, B-Company had 24 casualties at Leipheim – 11 killed and 13 wounded – which I think might be the most casualties for one day of combat in all of the 63rd Division in WWII.

The eleven gallant soldiers of B Company, 254th Regiment, who gave their lives on the last day of the war include: Pft. Robert Cole, S/Sgt. Jack Collette, Pfc. Hugh Dingle, Pfc. Frank Flamia, Pfc. David Gelsten, Pfc. Lenly Grigsby, Pfc. James John, T/Sgt. Raymond Jones, S/Sgt. Richard Nesser, Pvt. James Price and Sgt. Charles Theiss.

Does your campground have a BC?

A little old lady who was rather old-fashioned, always quite delicate and elegant, especially in her language was planning a week's vacation in Florida with her husband, so she wrote to a particular campground asking for a reservation.

She wanted to make sure the campground was fully equipped, but didn't quite know how to ask about the toilet facilities. She just couldn't bring herself to write the word "toilet" in her letter. After much deliberation, she finally came up with the old-fashioned term BATHROOM COMMODE.

But when she wrote that down, she still thought she was being too forward. So she started all over again and rewrote the entire letter referring to the bathroom commode merely as the BC. "Does the campground have its own BC?" is what she actually wrote.

Well, the campground owner wasn't old-fashioned at all, and when he got the letter, he just couldn't figure out what the woman was talking about. That BC business really stumped him.

After worrying about it for awhile, he showed the letter to several campers, but they couldn't imagine what the lady meant either. So the campground owner, finally coming to the conclusion that the lady must be asking about the local Baptist Church, sat down and wrote the following reply:

"Dear Madam, I regret very much the delay

in answering your letter, but I now take pleasure in informing you that a BC is located nine miles north of the campground and is capable of seating 250 people at one time. I admit it is quite a distance away, if you are in the habit of going regularly, but no doubt you will be pleased to know that a great number of people take their lunches along and make a day of it. They usually arrive early and stay late. It is such a beautiful facility and the acoustics are marvelous. Even the normal delivery sounds can be heard."

"The last time my wife and I went it was six years ago, and it was so crowded we had to stand up the whole time we were there. It may interest you to know that right now a supper is planned to raise money to buy more seats."

"I would like to say it pains me very much not to be able to go more regularly, but it surely is no lack of desire on my part. As we grow old, it seems to be more of an effort, particularly in cold weather."

"If you decide to come down to our campground, perhaps I could go with you the first time you go, sit with you, and introduce you to the other folks."

"Remember, this is a friendly community."

Gomer Pyle of World War II

by Donna LaCrosse

James Crum, HQ 253, grew up in Jeffersonville, Indiana and graduated from high school in the spring of 1944. There was a war going on and all the young guys were being drafted - they had no choice, sooner or later, they would get a notice from Uncle Sam that it was time to cut the apron-strings.

After graduation, his parents told him he did not have to work that summer. It would probably be his last summer of freedom because "the draft would get him and he would be off to war." The idea of not working sounded like a great treat to Jim, so he relished the idea of doing whatever it was he wanted to do at any given time.

That summer recruiters were coming around all the time - talking to the young guys about "joining" a certain branch of the service, and Jim, getting tired of the waiting game, decided to enlist in the Air Force.

During the testing procedure, he was given a color blind test and failed it completely. The Air Force did not want someone who could not tell one color from another!

When he told his mother that he failed the color blind test, she told him that explained why, when he was little, he colored the horses purple instead of brown. She was pleased to finally know why he colored every thing wrong, but Jim liked to believe it was because all the crayons had been used and worn down until there were just little bits and pieces of crayon left in the "butter tub." Since all the wrappings had been removed from the crayons he could not read the color of the crayon and he sure couldn't tell the color by looking - didn't everyone think purple horses were pretty?

The Navy was his next choice, but before going for the testing, he went to the Louisville, Kentucky library and studied the color blind chart until he knew it by heart.

At the testing area, he was doing great on the color blind test until about halfway through the test when he grew tired of "remembering" and decided to "wing it" the rest of the way. When the testing was finished, the recruiter told him it was the strangest color blind test he had ever seen - Jim got all the hard answers correct and missed all the easy answers. He failed that test and he also failed getting into the Navy.

Jim went to the Army in September 1944 and had his first military job when he got on the bus headed for Camp Atterbury. An officer handed him a piece of

paper and told him to keep the paper until they reached Camp Atterbury and give it to the first man who got on the bus when it stopped. Mission accomplished.

He took his basic training at Camp Fandon, a small camp near Bastrop, Texas. They knew where they were when they were off base because all the urinals in the public bathrooms they had an occasion to use, had a sign over them saying, "Please flush the urinals, Bastrop needs the water."

Jim didn't like the Army - he didn't like the food and he didn't like the weather. He just wasn't a happy camper! He would not eat for two or three days and then he would be so hungry he had to eat something even if it was greasy. One good thing about eating, he didn't have to chew the food and he didn't have to swallow; it just slid down his throat without any action on Jim's part.

Finally Thanksgiving arrived and Jim thought he would get a good meal on that holiday! The day of the feast arrived with Jim and his platoon out in the field where it was raining cats and dogs. Their turkey with all the trimmings was served on big metal trays and by the time it reached the men, everything was water-soaked and he just couldn't choke it down. So much for a holiday feast!

Wearing what they called sun-tans, Jim and his buddies would line up for inspection before they left for a weekend in town. One Saturday, the inspector asked him what that spot was on his shirt. With color blindness being a factor, he didn't see the spot so answered, "What spot, sir?" and the officer told him not to get smart with him and he could just spend the weekend in camp.

When the next weekend arrived, Jim put on the same shirt, not realizing it was the same one, and the officer asked what the spot was, to which Jim answered, "Well sir, it's there." That made two weekends he had to spend in camp.

During basic training, Jim was trained to climb



James D. Crum

Gomer Pyle . . .

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

a pole, wearing spurs, and string wire for the communication people. When he reached Europe, there were no poles to climb, only uneven ground on which to string the wire.



Jim Crum and his Purdue University souvenir, Carol Ann.

There were several Japanese soldiers in his platoon and of course they were short men as was Jim, so he spent a lot of time with them. When it was time to practice marching with rifles, all the tall guys lined up in front

and the short men were in back. The two short men at the very back of the formation had to run to the head of the line and guard the crossings and when all the soldiers had passed, the "shorties" fell into formation until it was time to guard the crossings again. Not all the men marched at the same time, and Jim never did march! He and his buddy was kept busy either running or standing still.

Jim went overseas on the Queen Elizabeth. It took five miserable days and nights of being seasick most of the time before they arrived where they were suppose to be.

One day it was his turn to ladle out the soup. This batch of soup would not lay quietly in that big old pot and Jim was in no condition to chase it all around the pot. He would start to dip and the soup would go up the opposite side; he would move the ladle to where the soup was, only it wasn't there and Jim was not handling this very well! Finally he gave the ladle to the guy behind him and said: "This is the way we are going to handle this. You dip out your soup, hand the ladle to the guy behind you and he can do the same. Do this all down the line until everyone has soup." Problem solved.

Another day, all the men were called up on deck. Jim had no desire to do that so he stayed below and listened to the activity on deck. When he heard the officers tell the men to put the life boats in the water, Jim decided he had better see what was going on, so he grabbed a Reader's Digest and when he got to the top of the stairs, an officer asked him, "What is going on?" Jim answered, "Well, sir, the Captain and I are going down with the ship." A smart mouth does

not get you brownie points in the Army!

On the last day of the "cruise" Jim felt less sick and went up-top to get some air. While there he saw one of his childhood buddies and they spent a couple of hours talking about the good old days back home. Two days later, he was told his buddy had been killed.

After reaching Europe, Jim spent a lot of time on guard duty. One time he was given the responsibility of standing guard at a cross road which was really a "Y" in the road and direct the tanks down the same road. Things were very quiet, so Jim decided to take a nap. After a while he awakened to a lot of noise and there were the tanks going down the wrong road. He ran out in the road, stopped one of the officers and told him the tanks were going down the wrong road. They would have to turn around and get on the correct road.

When asked why he wasn't there when the tanks arrived, Jim said he had to use the bathroom and the tanks got there before he got back to his guard post. Needless to say, the officer was not very happy with this soldier's actions and told Jim he would be dealt with later. Later never came. When he returned to the barracks, he was asked how it went and he answered, "just fine, they all went down the same road."

Another time when he was on guard duty, a jeep went by with an officer sitting in the front seat so Jim saluted him, only it was the wrong way to salute! The jeep stopped, the officer came back to where Jim stood with his rifle and told him he didn't salute the regular way when holding a rifle. The correct way to salute when armed was to stand at attention with the rifle in front and arms crossed over the rifle. O.K., that was easy enough. And, since there was no activity going on, Jim found a five-gallon can to sit on and when the jeep came back, Jim saluted the correct way, only he forgot to stand! Another dressing down came from the officer - two during the same guard duty stretch!

There were probably more antics Jim could have told about, but he ended the interview by saying that after arriving back home again, he got a GI Bill to pay his way to Purdue for a further education. This was a good deal for Jim, who wanted to go to college but lacked the funds to do so. But, he said, the best deal was that he met Carol Ann while attending Purdue, and things just could not get much better than that for the Gomer Pyle of World War II.

Ernie Pyle: Roving Reporter

A possible story about Ernie Pyle as a feature article in the Blood and Fire was suggested by Robert "Bob" McCourt, HQ 254, of Albuquerque, New Mexico. When he gave me material for such a story in 2004, I filed it away to be used later when needed. That time was for this issue and when I un-filed the material, I discovered the articles were copyrighted and, not being able to contact the three authors for permission, I decided to go to the web site and use what material I could uncover with bits and pieces of the material Bob gave me to write this article. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I enjoyed writing about the man behind the type writer.

Ernie Pyle was not a soldier nor was he a sailor. Even though he was not in the military, he could have been considered a military man. He was at home in a fox hole with pen and paper instead of a rifle, but that was later in his life.

Ernie was born in a small white farmhouse near Dana, Indiana, on August 3, 1900. Dana is north of Terre Haute, Indiana, near the Illinois border. He wrote in one of his later columns that he was not born in a log cabin, but did start driving a team of horses in the fields when he was nine years old.

He attended Indiana University for three and a half years, majoring in journalism, but a few months before graduation in 1923, he dropped out of college to work as a cub reporter on the LaPorte (Indiana) *Herald-Argue* newspaper.

It wasn't long before he was hired as a copy editor by the *Washington Daily News*, where he met his future wife, Geraldine, Jerry to her friends, and they were married in 1926.

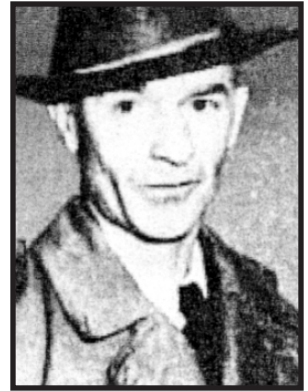
Pyle quit his job, used all his savings to purchase a Model-T Ford roadster, and the young couple began the first of their many driving vacation trips together around the United States.

For two years they crisscrossed the United States. When Ernie had gathered enough material to write a story, they would find a hotel where he could "gather his thoughts together" and settled in for how ever long it took to put together a column. While Ernie wrote, Jerry read and worked crossword puzzles and when his column was finished, Jerry would type his final manuscript. And the next morning the couple would take off again for the next part of their motor-vacation.

Their vacation ended in New York City where Pyle worked as a copyreader on the *Evening World* and on the *Evening Post*. In 1928, he returned to the *Washington Daily News* as a telegraph editor, then aviation columnist, and from 1932 to 1935, he was the

managing editor.

Pyle began working for the Scripps-Howard chain of newspapers in 1935, but it wasn't long before Ernie tired of his desk work and decided to venture out as a roving reporter. For the next six years he and Jerry, whom Pyle always referred to as "that girl who rides with me," traveled over 200,000 miles, visited every country in the Western Hemisphere but two and crossed the United States at least 30 times. They stayed in more than eight hundred hotels, flew in sixty-six different airplanes, rode on twenty-five different boats, walked two hundred miles, wore out five sets of tires and paid approximately \$2,500 in tips.



In every town and city they visited, even through-out the countryside, Pyle found a story to write for his column. He wrote about relief, old men with wooden legs, a leper colony, Devil's Island, and a column about difficulty with zipper-pants. He wrote his column as though he was writing a letter to a friend back home - simply and sensitively. Pyle's words revealed the world to millions of people who could never make such trips as he and Jerry made.

In 1940, Ernie and Jerry built their home in Albuquerque, New Mexico. They had decided that as the years of wandering rolled over them, they had begun to sense something was lacking in their lives and realized they had become human whirling dervishes! They had been foot-loose and fancy-free for many years and now it was time to have a place they could call home.

Pyle lived in their new home briefly while on vacation from the war. By now his fame was so wide, and his column in such demand, that he couldn't remain in one place very long even if he wanted to and he had to always move on and always keep writing.

Jerry's years in their new home were the worst of times. She attempted suicide twice. Her mental health had deteriorated since their days in Washington, and for the next several years she fought a losing battle with depression and substance abuse. They did travel together from time to time but Ernie spent most of his time traveling and living alone.

Celebration of Life

The following deaths were reported after the February 2010 issue of the Blood & Fire was printed. Please notify the secretary when you hear of the death of a person from the 63rd Infantry Division.

Wayne Briggs, SV 63, died August 4, 2007. Sue Smith reported his death. Her address is 212 Park Row, Flora, IN 46929.

Edward H. Bundick, D 254, died February 18, 2010 at the age of 87. *Obit on Memoriam page.*

J.C. Cooley, E 255, C 253, L 255 and SV 255, died January 14, 2010 at the age of 87. *Obit on Memoriam page.*

Al Leroy Crutchfield, I 254, died April 26, 2010 at the age of 83. *Obit on Memoriam page.*

Albert Edwards, Ord. Company, No date given. Notice received from Jack E. Edwards.

Charles Eubanks, C 253, is deceased. The post office at West Point, MS reported his death. No further information was available.

Max Gourley, C 253, died March 3, 2010 at the age of 83. *Obit on Memoriam page.*

Frank N. Holton, F 253, died October 22, 2005. His last known address was 20 Herritage Hill Dr., Georgetown, OH 45121-9462. No further information was available.

George A. Kiska, A 253, died January 6, 2010. *Obit on Memoriam page.*

Ernest Klimek, D 255, died January 29, 2010. He was buried in the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, Michigan. His wife of fifty-three years, Mary lives at 14060 Henry Ruff St., Livonia, MI 48154.

Peter C. Kohler, A 253, died July 10, 2009. His widow, Mary, lives at 18 Ivy Court, Clifton, NJ 07012. His son, Kevin reported his death.

Henry Lauchley, FA 718 and C 253, died April 6, 2010. His auto-immune disease flared up quite rapidly and he could not fight it off. *Obit on Memoriam page.*

Henry Markley, Div. Art, died March 2008. Death reported by Tim Saylor. No further information was given.

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., Pitman, NJ 08071. *(The address was incorrect in the February issue of the Blood and Fire. His family requested a correction be placed in this column in the May issue).*

Earl F. Parker, Med 254, died January 22, 2010 at their home in Durham, North Carolina. He was 95 years old. His health was failing but he died suddenly. He and his wife, Frances, were married sixty-seven years and were the parents of two sons. Frances lives at 2600 CroasDaile Farm Parkway, Apt. A 123, Durham, NC 27705-1354.

Willie B. Pickette, G 255, died December 14, 1999. His son, Bruce, reported his death. No further information was available.

Norman Rappaport, K 254, died in 2008. No further information was available. His widow Yvonne lives at 3225 Atlanta St., Fairfax, VA 22030-2127.

Stanford Rayne Jr., B 253, died November 10, 2009 at the age of eighty-eight. He and his wife, Helen, had been married sixty-six years and have two sons, Alan and Robert. Helen lives at 614 State Street, Natchez, MS 39120.

Stanley Rusinek, AT 254, died August 12, 2010 at the age of 83. *Obit on Memoriam page.*

Herbert Schneiderman, A 254, died March 13, 2010. His wife lives at 25 Thornton Way #110, Brunswick, ME 04011-3267. *Obit on Memoriam page.*

Norman J. Schuett, SV 861, died February 20, 2010 at the age of 89. *Obit on Memoriam page.*

Melvin 'Jack' Slopey, B 255, died November 25, 2009 at the age of 87. *Obit on Memoriam page.*

Samuel Spangler, HQ 254, died January 31, 2010. At the age of 88. *Obit on Memoriam page.*

Walter B. Krul, K 255, died May 1, 2010, at Kingsway Arms Nursing Center. *Obit on Memoriam page.*

Wilbur T. Braithwaite, A 253, died April 12, 2010. No further information was available.

DEATH OF SPOUSE

Florence Aquillard, died August 2008. No further information was available.

Helen Glovas, wife of Stephen Glovas, K 254, died November 2009. They were both members of the North East Chapter of the 63rd Infantry Division. No further information was given.

Louise Mulcahy, widow of James T. Mulcahy, HQ 253, died March 23, 2010 from a brain tumor. Her daughter, Patricia Palumbo, lives at 10 Gloria Road, Georgetown, MA 01833.

Alice Thomson, widow of James C. Thomson, AT 255, died January 5, 2010. *Obit on Memoriam page.*

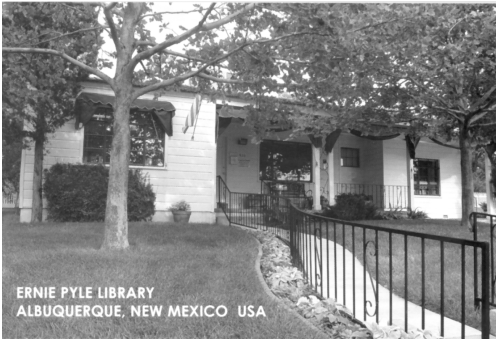
Sue Yarbrough, wife of Ervin Yarbrough, C 254, died December 26, 2009. They were married 64 years last July. His address is PO Box 363, Terry, MS 39170.

Ernie Pyle . . .

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Pyle was a loner and an alcoholic, and a life on the move suited him well. He often said his home was where his extra luggage was and where the car stopped, and where he happened to be getting his mail at that time. His home was in America.

In the fall of 1940, Pyle flew to London to report on the Battle of Britain. His vivid, grim accounts of



England under Nazi German bombings tore at his reader's hearts, and Pyle felt good doing that.

Pyle, who

described himself as "the little fellow, who weighed 108 pounds, ate left-handed, was 28 inches around the waist and had a little hair left, was convinced he needed to forget writing about the little stuff and get on to reporting bigger things.

He soon became a seasoned war correspondent, and when American troops arrived in England, Pyle lived with them in Ireland, went into combat with them in Africa and his columns communicated all the hurt, horror, and homesickness the soldiers felt. He also marched with American troops in Sicily and Italy and landed with them in Normandy, France.

His writings about the fighting men appeared to millions of American readers in some 300 newspapers in the United States.

Through the war Pyle spoke the ordinary GI's language and made it a permanent part of American folklore. *Here Is Your War* and *Brave Men*, published collections of his columns, quickly became best-sellers and were purchased by Hollywood as the basis for a motion picture on Pyle's wartime career entitled "GI Joe."

Although his writings never glorified war, Pyle helped Americans to understand the true heroism and sacrifices of the GIs in battle.

In January 1945, Pyle left this house for the last time. He had done very little writing in the house; he was so distracted by people that he checked into a hotel to write.

He left to report on the war in the Pacific. He didn't really want to go; he had already achieved fame

and wealth, and he had frequent premonitions of death. He said, "I feel that I've used up all my chances, and I hate it. I don't want to be killed. I've got to go and I hate it." So, he journeyed across the Pacific to begin writing from foxholes again because there was a war on and he was part of it.

He landed in Okinawa with the Marines and trudged along the trails with the foot soldiers.

On April 18, 1945, while riding a jeep toward a forward command post on the Island of Ie Shima to cover the front-line combat, Ernie Pyle was hit by a Japanese machine-gun bullet in his left temple and died instantly.

President Harry Truman best summed up Pyle's meaning to the World War II generation of Americans when he said, "No man in this war has so well told the story of the American fighting man as American fighting men wanted it told....He deserved the gratitude of all his countrymen."

Pyle was memorialized as a G.I. Joe action figure in June 2002, as part of Hasbro's "G.I. Joe D-Day collection." The collection marked the 58th anniversary of the Allied Invasion of Nazi-occupied France. There is some debate as to whether Pyle would appreciate the memorial, but Hasbro's marketing director, Derryle DePriest, believes, "He really considered the heroes to be those men he wrote about, but in doing what he was doing, Ernie Pyle was just as much a hero."

Ernie Pyle, born in 1900 and died in 1945, was America's most beloved and famous war correspondent during World War II. His sympathetic accounts of the ordinary GI made him the champion of American fighting men.

Jerry died seven months later and since 1947, the modest, wood frame house, the only home Ernie and Jerry ever owned, has been the Ernie Pyle Memorial Library - the very first branch of the city's public library system. It is on a corner lot in a quiet residential neighborhood, surrounded by adobes. Ernie chose a wooden structure to remind him of his childhood home in Indiana.

The library, like the house, is small and there isn't much Pyle material: there are some pictures, a few manuscripts, news clippings, copies of Ernie's books, the gloves he wore through the African campaign, and a bust of Pyle.

A tourist attraction, the library is used by locals. Pyle's bedroom is now the non-fiction room. The bathroom is the periodical room and is known as the "Best Restroom Reading in the West."

(pictured above is the home of Ernie Pyle now known as the Ernie Pyle Library in Albuquerque, New Mexico).

Lost Sheep Need To Be Found



The following members have moved and left no forwarding address or they have expired and their death has not been reported.. Listed is their last known address. If you have information about any of these members, please notify the secretary.

Merton Bergman, A 254, 53 Bow Road, New Centre, MA 02459.

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

James E. Hutson, Associate, 127 Liberty Street, Ashboro, NC 27203-4620.

William Light, C 254, 2208 Lester Drive NE, Apt 425, Albuquerque, NM 87112-2640.

Edward Meininger, SIG. 563, 205 Homochitto Street, Natchez, MS 39120.

Rhae Melcom, Associate, 7008 Knotts Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32210-6818.

Bibiano Morales, C 861, 2054 W. Reales Road, Tucson, AZ 85646.

Carlton R. Peck, K 255, 3 Okaro Drive, Apt. 3, Schenectady, NY 12303.

Melvin E. Risley, ENG. 263, 404 Burger

**PLAN NOW
TO ATTEND THE
2010 REUNION
AUGUST 18 THRU
AUGUST 21
IN OHIO**

Street, Box 331, Twisp, WA 98856.

Bryon Rude, HQ 718, 8512 State Ave., #57, Marysville, WA 98270.

George E. Spaeth, MED. 253, 1515 The Fairway #555, Rydal, PA 19046.

NEW MEMBER

M. Dolores Milhous lives at 3510 Turtle Creek Blvd, Suite 10E, Dallas, TX 25219. She is the daughter of Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, 1st Lt. James Edward Robinson, Jr., who died April 1, 1945 while serving as a field artillery forward observer attached to Company A, 253 Regiment near Untergriesheim, Germany.

She would like to hear from anyone who might have known her father. Her telephone number is 1-214-526-1466.

LOST SHEEP FOUND

Filex Malano, F 254, has been found at 22C Kirby Road Apts., Saratoga, New York 12866.

*Have a
safe summer!*

~~~~~  
*A thoughtful mind ... sees not the flag only,  
but the nation itself.*

— Henry Ward Beecher  
~~~~~

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.

Landberg concentration camp for Jews

By Aubrey M. Rogers, T/Sgt, US Army

This is what I remember about my unit, the 63rd Infantry Division of the Seventh U.S. Army, capturing the town of Landsberg, Germany on April 28, 1945 and liberating the Jewish prisoners held in the concentration camp on the edge of that city.

I was the Sargeant Major of the 1st Battalion of the 253rd Infantry Regiment, 63rd Infantry Division of the 7th U.S. Army which was commanded by Lt. Gen. Alexander M. Patch. Ironically, General Patch was my first commanding general when I was assigned to the famed 1st Cavalry Division, the oldest regular army unit still existing at the time of this writing. They now have units in Iraq. All West Point graduates wanted to be assigned to that unit at some time during their career. Just to mention a few, McArthur, Patton, Eisenhower, and Bradley, all served in the 1st Cavalry.

I joined the 1st Cavalry Division September 23, 1941 while it was on maneuvers in Pickett County, Louisiana. The chief umpire of those maneuvers was a Major by the name of Dwight David Eisenhower who was later to become the supreme commander of the European Theatre of Operations WWII, and ended up a five-star General of the Armies, and then President of the United States. Little did we know where the war would take that Major we first saw in Louisiana.

We sailed from New York November 23, 1944, arrived in Marseilles, France December 8, 1944 and were attached to the U.S. 7th Army. We fought our way through southern France and Germany, and arrived at the outskirts of Landsberg, Germany the morning of April 28, 1945.

My unit, the 253rd Infantry Regiment, was in reserve (at the rear of the advance) as was the 254th Regiment. Our other Regiment, the 255th fought their way towards Landsberg, and at mid-morning they reached the LANDSBERG CONCENTRATION CAMP, a concentration camp for Jews, where it rapidly mopped up any remaining guards. They proceeded into the city and neutralized any further resistance there. As soon as the camp was overrun by our troops, staff officers from Regimental Headquarters, including two Chaplains, immediately arranged for food and medical attention for the inmates.

Until we could arrange for these supplies, inmates who still were able to walk promptly staggered toward the city in search of food, holding onto fences or any available object to support their weakened legs.

Later in the city, these human wrecks could be seen clawing about for any possible scraps of garbage that could be found. They were so accustomed to inhuman abuse, at the approach of any able-bodied person they cringed and threw their arms over their heads as though to ward off a blow, and were so emaciated and filthy they hardly resembled human beings.

Thinking they might be diseased, we were afraid to touch them, so just stayed at a distance and watched over them. We tried throwing them candy bars and our canteens filled with water, but they fought so furiously over it, we stopped that and waited until our medical units arrived equipped with surgical gloves and masks. We were informed by some of the survivors that all women and children had been put to death long before our arrival, and that about half of the remaining male population of the camp had been murdered by small arms fired the day before we arrived. They also told us that just before our arrival, SS guards had engaged in an orgy of sadistic tortures and murders.

One inmate told of a dump truck loaded with living human beings that was backed up to a burning building and the live cargo dumped into the flames. One man said that when women and children were killed in the gas chambers, their surviving fathers and husbands were forced to enter these chambers and carry out bodies of their loved ones.

The daily mortality rate must have been extremely heavy. Nine died of malnutrition the morning of our arrival. Many were physically incapable of crawling up the few stairs to ground-level from the dugouts in which they had been living. In these underground hovels they slept on wooden shelves devoid of any bed clothing. Those able to walk sloshed about the hovels through human excreta that covered the floor. We were told that one of these hovels was set aflame by the SS guards that morning, and those persons that were able to crawl up the stairs were then clubbed to death as they emerged from the flames.

We stayed that night in the city, mostly in residential homes and adjoining out buildings setting up a command post and a radio for communications with our rifle companies and higher headquarters. The civilians were very cooperative and glad we were there - offering us good food and shelter. They were just as repulsed as we were at the sight of the camp inmates, so basically stayed a distance from them and waited for help to come, just as we did. In fact, we told them to do this. Most of us by that time could speak enough

Landberg . . .

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German to make ourselves understood, and could pretty well understand what the Germans were saying.

We were relieved from combat duty at 7:00 AM the following morning, April 29, by the 142nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd U.S. Army, commanded by General George Patton. We heard later that when General Patton viewed the concentration camp, instead of his usual rough-and-ready combat attitude, he actually broke down and cried. Then regaining his composure, he sent staff officers into the city and brought the Mayor and all able-bodied civilians to his campsite where they were made to view the scene, work alongside our medical crews, personally attend to the inmates needs, and bury the dead. The Mayor reportedly told Patton that he had no idea what was happening at the camp, that they were kept away all this time by SS guards. Patton found this hard to believe.

All during combat, mail we received from the states was three to four weeks old. There was no television but we did get some information by short-wave radio in the rear echelon. We mostly depended on our own newspaper, *The Stars and*

Stripes that was published daily by the military, and usually got down to the front line troops the second or third day. This was the main way we kept up with what was really going on - in other words - THE BIG PICTURE.

Well, about three days after we got back to Werheim, Germany for occupation duty, here came the *Stars and Stripes* with big headlines, GENERAL PATTON'S TROOPS LIBERATE THE LANDSBERG GERMANY CONCENTRATION CAMP FOR JEWS. Trust me! It never happened that way. By the time Patton's troops arrived at Landsberg the following morning, April 29, IT WAS ALL OVER. My unit, the 63rd Infantry Division, U.S. Seventh Army, liberated that camp, and I was right there! Patton's people did finish securing the area, evacuated the inmates to hospitals and buried the dead. Let's give him credit for that.

A note of irony about the city of Landsberg, Germany: In the heart of the city stands the famed walled prison where Hitler was imprisoned following the Munich Beer Cellar Putsch. This is where he wrote the book *Mein Kampf*, that informed the world of his plans to become Der Furer and rule the world!

The traveling canteen cup



Ed Fowle, who served with the 862nd Field Artillery Battalion, not only fought in a long, hard war, but found time to document his travels through Europe.

During a free minute, here and there, he etched the names of places he had been during that day or week, depending on when he could find the time to etch.

Not having paper at his disposal, Ed did his etching on this metal canteen cup. By the time he returned to Springfield, Ohio, after the war was over, he had a well traveled cup with a map of the war etched in names on all sides and the bottom of his cup.

Among the names recorded forever, not only on the cup but in Ed's mind are the French towns of Lyon, Dijon and Siltzhiem that brings back memories of marching over pure mud in February

1945. The ankle-deep mud was mixed with gasoline - a smell not soon forgotten.

Babytown, officially Auershachel, was where Hilter, in his efforts to breed a purer strain of the Aryan race, mated men and women with blond hair, blue eyes and the "finest racial traits." The place was almost in total ruin by March when Ed's unit experienced the first real effects of artillery fire.

After Babytown came Bliesransbach and Ensheim and, the Siegfried Line where they endured three days of constant bombardment before the German positions crumbled and the enemy was on the run...again.

Pink champagne was liberated near Kukel and enjoyed during a brief period between battles, and crossing the Rhine River on a barge bridge was a hairy ride. Early morning of March 28, in a small town of Fendenheim, they set up communications in a small house occupied by a woman and two small children.

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The traveling canteen cup . . .

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They were all afraid until the men gave the children candy and assured the woman they were the good guys. She later told the unit that her husband's brother was a prisoner of war in Kentucky.

In the town of Osterbrook, the unit found a train load of political prisoners who had been packed, 40 to 50 men in each box car for five days with no food or water. Some had died; others were too weak to stand.

The late April crossing of the Danube River with German units taking cover behind flood bunkers will remain a memory in Ed's mind forever. After that battle was over, the flood plane was littered with hundreds of dead or wounded Germans.

At Scherstettin, they saw a mass of surrendered

Germans. Not a pretty site; not a pretty memory.

In May, the unit moved to Schweigern, passing through Hitler's super highways on the way. The Germans had made a beautiful airstrip by removing the center grass and covering the ground with green cement. Ed remembered that back in the trees and on each side of the highway, there were about 300 aircraft combat ready. They were the new jet aircraft 262 and they never got off the ground due to no fuel.

From there the unit proceeded to LeHarve, France, and with the war in Europe over, Ed headed home to his high school sweetheart who had become his bride seven days before he headed off to Europe and his canteen cup etchings.

King for a day . . .

by Hal O'Neill, Sig 563

The hot table rolled back into the kitchen, so I followed, out of curiosity, to see what happened to the food. Fifteen children at the back door made it disappear. Hot food restocked the rolling hot table and when I pointed out no one else was up, I was informed the Master required hot food every twenty minutes from seven to eleven when there were guests. I was afraid the children would burst, but the head cook fed shifts of different children. About this time the Master appeared and was surprised to see me.

"For a Yank, you hold your liquor well," he said, "I have a headache that a ride will cure it. You are welcome to join me if you like." I was an indifferent rider and asked for a docile mount. I had never been in an English saddle before.

As we rode off, another youth joined us and followed on foot. When we reached a hilltop to look at the Brahma cattle, the Master snapped his fingers and the youth ran off. When he returned a few minutes later, he had an ice bucket and two Mint Juleps. During the rest of our ride, the youth brought more drinks and was then given instructions for lunch.

After lunch, we left for camp and I had been King for a Day.

Holocaust . . .

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

members of an Intelligence and Reconnaissance (T&R) patrol over ran a camp with a moat-like water pond in front of the barbed wire fence. The entrance to the camp was over an arched bridge with wire mesh fencing stretched out below the bridge to prevent escape by jumping into the water. The expert apparently disagrees with this. I am sure one of the line companies, Medic units following our patrol path would have seen that same slave labor camp. If anyone remembers such a camp please contact me.

I want to assure the Association members that I know beyond a shadow of a doubt what I said and saw is true. Hardly a day goes by that images of that camp do not come into my mind.

I have related my eyewitness account to hundreds of fifth grade students and my account has not varied one iota.

One hundred forty-six (146) liberator names are shown as having been interviewed by the author. Fifty-five (55) of these eyewitness accounts (37%) were discarded for some reason. I am concerned that these personal eyewitness accounts are probably lost forever, because of the age of these liberators.

A good portion of the concentration camp history has been discarded in the write-up of this book. I hope these liberators will continue to bear witness of what they saw whenever and wherever they can.

(Roy's address is 3258 N 100 E, Ogdon, UT 84414-1542. His telephone number is 801-782-7633).

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