



★ CAMP BLANDING ★ CAMP VAN DORN ★

Blood and Fire

63rd Division Association, Inc.

• ARDENNES / ALSACE • RHINELAND • CENTRAL EUROPE •

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and much more!

Will there be or will there not be . . .

An annual reunion in 2012? That is the main topic for discussion to come before Board members when they meet at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Indianapolis on August 19, 2011.

After the Board deliberates on this issue and arrives at a decision, a proposal as to continue or terminate annual reunions will be placed before the general membership for a final vote.

This is the 63rd reunion of the 63rd Division Association. Not having a 64th reunion to attend is something most would rather not think about. Yet, we must remember everyone is aging, travel is not always easy, and money is sometimes scarce.

Leadership is another factor to consider. If reunions are to continue, someone needs to step up and volunteer to be the chairperson, form a committee and plan the affair. Ed Fowle has done this for two years and should not be expected to do this another year without a break.

There are many factors to consider if reunions are terminated. You should seriously consider the pros and cons of having a reunion or not having a reunion before casting your vote.

Comments on this issue can be sent to a Board member or to the secretary.

A reunion can take place even if only two people attend. Seeing each other and talking to each other should be the most important part of the gathering.

But, hey, this is just my opinion and my vote does not count.

Donna LaCosse

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

ELECTED 2011 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT EDWARD FOWLE - FA862 332 Dayton Ave. Springfield, OH 45506 937-325-1990	SECOND VICE PRESIDENT JOHN "JACK" R. LINSKOTT - A 253 18290 Timber Trail Drive Marysville, OH 43040 937-642-6576
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT JUDITH SCHAEFER - Associate 6152 George Fox Drive Galloway, OH 43119 614-878-6440	NATIONAL SECRETARY/TREASURER DONNA LaCOSSE P.O. Box 86 Morocco, IN 47963 219-285-2861
REUNION TREASURER MARY FRAN COLLIER - Associate 10812 S. Kenneth Ave., Oak Lawn, IL 60433 708-425-7785	

APPOINTED 2011 OFFICERS

HISTORIAN WILLIAM J. SCOTT - E 254 407 S. Walnut Street Sycamore, IL 60178 (815) 895-3967	ASSISTANT HISTORIAN KARIN FROBERG-MARZANO 180 Welsh Lane Granville, OH 23023 (740) 587-1705
WEBMASTER FREDERICK CLINTON - D 254 102 S. Jenkins Street Alexandria, VA 22304 (703) 751-7548	ASSISTANT WEBMASTER MICHAEL THOMPSON 7648 Lake Shore Drive Quinton, VA 23141 (804) 932-9688
BLOOD AND FIRE EDITOR DONNA LaCOSSE P.O. Box 86 - Morocco, IN 47963 (219) 285-2861	

DIRECTORS

Term Ending August 2011

Edgar Moutoux, 505 E. 82nd Street Apt. 4G, New York, NY 10028 Telephone: 212-744-4418.....	253
John Downs, PO Box 254, Gilmantown, NH 03237.....	254
Wayne Armstrong, 271 Burns Drive, Westerville, OH 43082 Telephone: 614-890-5455.....	255
Gale Hammond, 4171 Marquis Way, Salt Lake city, UT 84124 Telephone: 801-277-7056.....	FA 863
Leonard Zimmerman, 3715 Ridgfield Rd., Lansing, MI 48906 Telephone: 517-321-2950.....	Sp. Trps.
Theodore Paulsen, 5248 Valley View Rd., Rancho Paos Verdes, CA 90275 Telephone: 310-541-2575.....	USAR

Term Ending August 2012

Herman Fabiani, 820 Balmoral Court, Inverness, FL 34453 Telephone: 352-637-2290.....	253
William Byrnes, 9645 Kedvale, Oaklawn, IL 60453 Telephone: 708-346-0632.....	254
David Montgomery, 114 Buckhorn Rd., Derby, KS 67037 Telephone: 316-788-2716.....	255
Archie Kumasaka, 2002 Windrow Dr., Princeton, NJ 08540 Telephone: 609-919-9649.....	HQ 863
Howard VanSchoor, 8192 Forest Lane, Mentor, OH 44060 Telephone: 440-946-9330.....	SIG 563
Alfred M. Diaz, 1254 Camino del Sur, San Dimas, CA 91773 Telephone: 626-966-8001.....	USAR

Term Ending August 2013

Vern Altberg, 289 W. Jamison Cir. #5, Littleton, CO 80120 Telephone: 720-283-4486.....	253
Leroy Bird, 4255 Sycamore St. SE, Iowa City, IA 52240	254
Kenneth Erickson, 35373 W. Creek Rd., Wallace, NE 69169 Telephone: 308-387-4518.....	255
Marsh Allen, 7714 Chinhook Ave., Gig Harbor, WA 98335 Telephone: 253-851-3843.....	FA 861
Thomas Chatham, 74 Darby Cay, Vero Beach, FL 32966 Telephone: 561-778-2699.....	QM 63
Beverly Houghton, 11307 Martha Ann Drive, Los Alamitos, CA 90720-3805 Telephone: 562-596-1408.....	USAR

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT ...

Edward F. Fowle, Jr.

"My fellow hotshots",

This will be my last chance to entice all of you to gather at what could be the last 63rd Reunion, of our "Great 63rd Infantry Division". We all know what our Commander General Louis Hibbs said about us and our accomplishments in WW II and I am sure that he would be equally proud of our efforts to keep alive the spirit and devotion to our "Fallen Comrades."

I don't think that when our Division was reactivated in 1948 as a National Guard in California that it would evolve into what it is today. Just think about it, 63 years of service to our Beloved Country, Our Blood & Fire Patch has been worn on the shoulder of thousands and thousands of men dedicated to the service of our Country. We Salute all who followed us with a "Job Well Done".

We have heard that the Dedication Ceremony of the Command Headquarters Building in Moffett Field California was a memorable one. Marsh Allen, the President of our Association for our Reunion in Tacoma, Washington attended as did William E. Byrnes and his daughter Mary Fran Collier and her husband of Oak Lawn, Ill.

This year's Reunion Committee has been hard at it and I am sure those who attend will be more than satisfied with the affair and the accommodations of the Crowne Plaza.

I am taking this opportunity to express my feelings and fond memories of my many years as a contributing and active member of this Association. I was fortunate to meet and know men, their wives, and children from almost all of the units in our Division who were from all over the U.S.A. In my book they are a great and glorious group of mankind, the best. I think Tom Brokaw probably said it best "You are the Greatest Generation".

As the leader of the I.M.O.K. Chapter, I want to thank all who came to the gatherings which we headed up. We felt it an honor to bring all together to visit with old buddies and their families. The Chapter always tried to pick a good facility in a location where we could all have fun and visit places of interest. We all hope that we succeeded.

I pray that you will all have a great summer and come to the reunion in August in Indiana.

Edward F. Fowle, President

A Memo from the Secretary . . .

Donna LaCrosse

This has been a busy six months for me. When board members voted to decrease dues to ten dollars a year and offered a subscription to the *Blood and Fire* of fifteen dollars a year to all members, annual and life, the change threw several people into a tizzy.

Annual dues members thought that if they paid dues, they would receive the magazine. Several life members didn't want to pay a fifteen dollar subscription fee.

A few annual members sent twenty five dollars thinking they now owed dues plus a subscription fee.

There were those who said there were not enough interesting articles in the *Blood and Fire* to warrant paying a subscription fee. Others said they didn't want to miss an issue because of all the interesting stories.

I have not been quick to remove the names from the mailing list – for one reason, I have not had time to do that and another reason was to give everyone a chance to digest the new changes and remember to send their subscription fee.

When the November issue of the *Blood and Fire* in

ready to be mailed, I hope to have all the names of unpaid members removed. So you are being given a few months grace which will not meet the Board of Director's approval. But I have had ten lashes with a wet noodle before and I can do it again if push comes to shove.

I am also late sending out dues cards and hope to accomplish this as soon as this issue of the *Blood and Fire* goes to press.

I am asking all members to send their dues and subscription fees in as soon as possible so I can make an up-to-date report at the August reunion.

Please, all life members, send your subscription fee right now, don't wait because you will miss the publication in November. That is the absolute deadline.

See you at the August reunion.

FOR LADIES ONLY . . .

Be sure you enjoy a buffet breakfast at the hotel before going to the ladies' meeting on Saturday morning of the reunion.

No food will be offered at the meeting, only coffee, tea and water will be available.

The war experiences of LTC Jesse Ott

by LTC Jesse Ott

When war broke out for the U.S.A. on 7 December, 1941, I was working as a retail clerk in a Sherrel's liquor store in Bakersfield, CA in the southern San Jaquein Valley.

At the time I was married to my high school sweetheart who was pregnant with our first child. The store I worked in was just across the street from the Southern Pacific Railroad yards where some of my friends worked.

They suggested I apply for a job with the railroad because they needed men. I did so and was told by the yard boss I needed a Selective Service Board (commonly called a "draft board") classification lower than 1-A to be hired.

I went to the Selective Service Board to ask for a classified rating. This, of course, brought me to their attention with a need to give me a classification sooner than later.

I soon received notice to appear for a physical exam with about 50 other men. Many of them told the examining doctors they had physical problems that would preclude them from serving in the Army, which was using up men at a high rate because of the fierce fighting in the Pacific and in North Africa.

When my turn came for my physical exam, the doctors asked me what kind of physical handicaps I had, I told him none that I knew of. At that he almost fell off his chair in surprise because he hadn't heard that kind of reply from any of those who had preceded me.

A few days later I received my classification, 1-A, the most eligible for service with a date to report back to the draft board. When I reported there were 40 or 50 other draftees. We were loaded on a Greyhound bus and headed for Los Angeles, CA where we were deposited at the Federal Building on Spring Street.

After another more thorough physical exam we were sworn into the Army of the United States. We were given 10 days to put our affairs in order. At the end of the 10 days we were bussed back to Los Angeles, put on a street car of the Red Car Line and taken to Fort MacArthur for processing into the Army. This amounted to being assigned barracks, issued uniforms, given all kinds of vaccinations, tested every day for I.Q. aptitudes and the regiments of standing to attention, marching in step and how to properly make your bed.

The various test determined where we were assigned. The bulk of men were assigned to the infantry

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A word from your buddies . . .

253rd Regiment

HUBERT WILLIS: I am 85 years old and in good health. My wife, Roberta and I will celebrate our 65th anniversary on 4-4-11. We wish you good health and much happiness.

ROMA MOORE: Pretty good health for old man. Will be married 64 years come December 24th. Some times are pretty busy. I work with the D.A.V. color guard. I enjoy the book very much. Good luck to all.

CHARLES MOSKOWITZ: My years of service U.S. Army 11/27/42 - 4/1/46. The last year of my service was a replacement in the Infantry. We fought in Central France and Central and Southern Germany. Please send to me another Lifetime Membership card.

GEORGE R. McINTOSH: Life Member. Have made two meetings, St. Louis and Nashville. Graduated from college in 1949. Retired from National Life & Accident Ins. Co. 1946 - 1991. Became tennis coach at Lipscomb University for the men/women teams from 1993 - 2000. Played tennis most of my life winning over 80 tournaments - singles and doubles. Completely retired now - 84.

LACY W. BLUE: Retired attorney, practiced law in Charlotte, N.C. for 45 years.

PAUL A. SOUCY: I am now 85 years of age and not as sharp as I used to be. I am proud to say my wife and I have been married 64 years this October and still madly in love. I want to thank you for the great job you're doing. God bless you and three cheers for the *Blood & Fire* magazine.

254th Regiment

IRV SCHLOCKER, H-254: I am doing well. My leg is infected but I have no pain. My cell phone is 424-237-5727. Would love to hear from my buddies.

EDWARD J. MATHIS, SR., G-254: Wedding anniversary date or not. It is 31 May. Was married 1952. Also our birthdays are 13 November for me and 21 April for my wife.

HAROLD OSBORNE, G-254: I am not able to travel but alert for 86 years.

WILLIAM PINK, D-254: Our son Dan passed away December 11th, heart attack. He was 56 years

old and a reg. brick layer. He had two daughters and six grandchildren. Our children are supposed to outlive us!

BILL J. MOSS: Bill is now a patient at the Veteran's Hospital near where we live. We will celebrate our 65th anniversary in August. He is 86 years old. I am Jean, Bill's wife.

CHARLES C. HATHAWAY, Company B: BA Forestry, University of Connecticut, worked in Rocky Mt. region for 31 years; retired 1980, hosted upper midwest 63rd division twice in Black Hills area, living in assisted living, married 63 years to high school sweetheart, four kids, 6 grands, 1 great-grandchild. My dad, Charlie, is legally blind. He received battlefield commission in Germany Rothenberg - signed at Badmerganstein. Thank you so much for supporting them. - daughter Sue.

CHARLES HARDING: My wife and I married soon after discharge (medical - total and permanent disability, wounded January 29, 1945 Jebshimi, France, L co. 254th Mortar Crew leader). Married May 1, 1946, 2 p.m. and will celebrate our 65th wedding anniversary May 1 this year 2011. Have four children, all college grads. Does *Blood & Fire* have any information on Harris and Minnie Goldman? Not been able to contact them recently.

JOHN HULLA, Co. G: Now 85, I joined 3rd Platoon, G254 late January 1944 in the Vosges Mtns. as a replacement rifleman. Somewhere along the route from France through the Siegfried line and finally across Germany into Liepheim I became messenger from Capt. Lenig to Lt. Loomis.

255TH Regiment

CHESTER LAPA, F 255: My wife and I will be married 59 years in February 2011. We have 3 daughters, 6 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. I enjoy the *Blood & Fire*. Keep it coming. Due to health problems, can't attend reunion.

ERNEST J. VAN DE MARK, G 255: I will be 85 years old this month, and am in very poor health, but I sure enjoy reading the *Blood & Fire*. Wish my wife and I could attend one of the reunions (our one and only was in Branson, MO) but that's physically impossible. Our best wishes to all for a happy and healthy new year.

A word from your buddies . . .

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

ABRAHAM LEVY, G 255: Abraham will be 95 July 27. Celebrating with family in Long Beach, N.J. Children Jess, Daniel and Jane, all married, six grandchildren, two married. Abe played tennis till he was 92. Traveled and visited areas in Europe where he fought. Received a battlefield commission - went from private to lieutenant - bronze star, Purple Heart. Has some vision problems but still plays bridge. Celebrated 62 years of marriage to wife Marilyn. Loves *Blood & Fire!*

MARK NAWAKOUSKI, G 255: I am a life member of the 63rd Division. I am 86 years old in fairly good health. I must write fast before my fingers get tired. We got home from a trip to Florida to visit with our son. He's the one you helped plan our trip through Germany some years ago. We got back to Butler on January 21st in time to watch the Steelers win their big game and enjoyed every minute of it. So today we opened our post office box and got a month's mail. Happy to see our copy of the *Blood & Fire Magazine*. I want to send my \$15.00 in today and make the most of it. I also want to keep my news to keep coming to me. It is the most enjoying news to get. So sorry for the great men that are not with us anymore. About me: I got a case of hepatitis in the service. I spent about a month in a hospital in Ejjinal, France and got out about three weeks before the war was over and I was glad to get that over with. I was a medic before I was transferred to the 63rd Infantry and after the war was over I was back in the medics and to train to go to Japan. The Division went back to the states and I was left for another seven months in the medics because I didn't have enough points to be discharged. I got 3 orange stars, Purple Heart and C.B. in 1987. So that's why I had to be in service so much longer. So be it. I married my wife in 1947 - September 20 of that year. We have 3 girls and 2 boys, 9 grandchildren and 5 great - 3 boys and 2 girls. My wife now 83 and has had 2 hip replacements and a year ago Jan. 19, 2010 had a heart valve replaced. We are both fairly good healthwise.

Field Artillery

LESLIE H. JOHNSON, Bty B, 861, F.A. BN: Nothing much to tell about myself. I am now 95 years old and in good health. I do have arthritis in knee and ankle and find it quite difficult to maneuver. However, I am quite happy to have nothing worse. I look forward for news. Best wishes to all!

Headquarters

DAVID SCHAEFFER, HQ 63: After arriving May 1943 to Camp Blanding, FL as a member of the Cadre from the 98th Inf. Div. to activate the 63rd Inf. Div - I served as assistant division QM until June 1944 at Camp Van Dorn, MS - when I was ordered to Fort Sam Houston to serve as a staff officer in the newly activated Tenth Army HQ - formed to be the commanding unit of the April 1, 1945 invasion of Okinawa and ensuring campaigns a different kind of war than the 63rd experienced. Best wishes!

Med

JANE AND MIKE, Med 253: Enclosed is our check of \$15 for our subscription to the "*Blood & Fire*". We so look forward to receiving each issue. Always enjoy the many happy memories when we read about the past reunions. Mike and I are both doing well and looking forward to the Indianapolis reunion in August. We so enjoyed the Ohio reunion. Just missed so many of our friends who couldn't attend. It is our hope that some of those will be able to attend this year. Hope these lines find you having a good day We are ready for spring but sounds like there may be more snow Thursday or Friday. Thanks for your labors of love to the 63rd. God bless!

JOHN D. HARMON, Medic 363: I am 91 years old. I still farm - just plowed my garden to begin planting, and I have a small herd of cattle. I am in great health for my age and get about fairly well. I love to share my war stories.

Associate Members

VIRGINIA MAGGIORE, widow of Matt, Cpl.: Thanks for giving us the opportunity to keep receiving the *Blood and Fire*. I don't know what the number is. My husband, Matt, has been gone nearly three years. I read the issues cover to cover.

LILA GOLD, widow: Was happy to receive the *Blood and Fire*. It is a job well done. I am enclosing my check so I can continue receiving the paper. Bill was always happy to entertain the troops. They enjoyed him doing so and he loved being with his buddies. Take care. Be well and thank you.

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A word from your buddies . . .

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TOM KORCZYNSKI, Associate Life Member #1851: I'm enclosing a check for \$50 for 2 years subscription. You can use the remainder as you can see fit. Thanks so much for continuing to publish a great magazine. I always enjoy reading about America's greatest generation. Best regards.

ORD 763

DWIGHT E. KLEIST, JR.: I will always want any info about the 63rd Div. Enclosed is my check for \$15.00. Thanks. I hope I won't forget next year if I'm still here. I'm 90 years old now. Ha, ha.

Lost Sheep Need To Be Found



The November issue of the Blood and Fire was returned because it could not be delivered. Following are the names and the last known addresses of those who did not receive their magazine. If you have information concerning these individuals, please let me know.

Joseph Afaricano, 342 Minute Rd., Union, NJ 07083.

Richard Cook, 1440 N. Lake Shore Drive # 8H, Chicago, IL 60610

Jean Denault, 810 Trapelo Rd, Belmont, MA 02478.

Salvatore Dirubbo, 450 Boulevard, Peekskill, NY 10566.

Robert Freiwald, 21 Wilcox Rd., New Brunswick, NJ 08801.

Keith Hinsman, 6520 Mendota Ave, Middleton, WI 53562.

Aldine Hoover, R#1, Box 241, Patton, PA 16668.

William Hughson, PO BOX 955, St. Michaels, MD 21663.

Charles Jeffrey, 3206 Bert Kouns Lane,

Shreveport, LA 71118.

George Michna, 11 Dudley Hts., Albany, NY 12210.

Thomas Miller, 960 Blvd Heron Ct, Belleville, IL 82223.

George Murphy, 1951 Grandhaven Dr. # 127, Murrills Inlet, SC 29576.

Peg O'Neill, 1201 N. Harrison # 218, Wilmington, DE 19806.

William Sears, RR2, Freeville, NY 13068.

Edna Shaw, PO Box 128, Wallaceton, PA 16876.

Jean Thierry, 409 S. Walnut, Wenona, IL 61377.

Josephine Vento, 1 Acorn Rd, Apt. A, Manahawkin, NJ 08050

Bobby Wallace, 1086 Terry Gatesville Rd, Crystal Springs, MS 39069.

Ralph Weaver, 318 Williams Ave, Walnut Port, PA 18088.

Meyer Weinberg, 2000 S. Ocean Blvd, #108, N. Palm Beach, FL 33480.

Anne Weiss, 1301 W. Maitland Blvd. Apt. 217, Maitland, FL 32751.

Thelma Welte, 300 Elm Street, Westville, NJ 08093.

Letter to the Editor . . .

Dear Donna,

A year ago, almost to the day, I sent you the brilliant obit my sister Annie wrote, which you so kindly published in the *Blood and Fire*. Our dad, Herbert Schneiderman, died March 13, 2010.

If I've made the deadline for this next announcement in the *Blood and Fire*, great. If not, of course, it's understood; it's very late notice. On the other hand, this may be old news to you, I am just making sure it gets out there unless my sister already sent you the info:

We are going to inurn dad's ashes this Monday, April 28th at 9:30 a.m., with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

Many thanks!

Rachel Schneiderman

**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 _____
1:27,000 colored map of the 63rd's SIEGFRIED LINE area w/forts and 103 hour battle penetration			\$7 ea. _____
1:25,000 BLIESKASTEL map that shows Kirkel, Wurzbach, & Biesingen			\$5 ea. _____
1:100,000 KAISERSLAUTERN map that shows Homburg, Langmeil & Grunstadt.....			\$5 ea. _____
1:100,000 KARLSRUHE map that shows Bad Wimpfen, Heilbronn & Stuttgart.....			\$5 ea. _____
1:100,000 ELLWANGEN map from Waldenburg & Schwabisch Hall to Oberbobingen.....			\$5 ea. _____
1:25,000 MOGGLINGEN map shows from Obergroningen to Oberbobingen.....			\$5 ea. _____
8.5" x 14" 1:250,000 map shows from Mannheim to Rothenberg and Heilbronn			\$1 ea. _____

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

2nd Bn.-253 4-12 April 1945 events, rosters & Pres. Unit Citation award			\$14 ea. _____
Regimental histories for January-May 1945 in binders, copied from monthly combat reports: 253rd __, 254th __, 255th __:.....			\$13 ea. _____
General Order Copies for awards to individuals, such as badges and medals			NEW \$2 ea. _____
Reprint of 135-page 1986 softcover book. "With the 63rd Infantry Div. in WWII" by Col. James E. Hatcher of 254th and 255th.....			\$20 ea. _____
Unbound Xerographic copy of 1945 history & index for "The Trail of 254 Thru Blood & Fire" by Harris Peel, Vernon Kile, Algernon Keith & John Sontag.....			\$7 ea. _____
Bound English copy, w/o photos, of "LA BATAILLE DE JEBSHEIM" booklet of French residents' statements about the horrors. Written by Jean Scherer, and translated by Wm. C. Carter. 140 pages.....			\$20 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.....			\$50 ea. _____
Jan-Apr 45 Combat Unit Journals of Hq 1st Bn-254 by date, hour, minute in binder.....			\$16 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. ___

-----DVDs FOR MICROSOFT WINDOWS SYSTEMS-----

Organization histories w/63rd photos, 63rd Div. general orders, combat unit morning reports, unit rosters, 63rd Div. pictorial history, WWII Blood & Fire issues, all as listed above to get organization information together on one disk for ease of viewing and storage at a lower cost.

253rd ___, 254th ___, 255th ___, Artillery ___, 263rd Engineer & 363 Medical Bns. ___\$30 ea. ___

Special Troops: HQ&HQ Co., Band, MP, QM, Recon, Signal, Ordnance ___ all with the "Chronicles"\$30 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 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 2011 Form #71 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

Happy Anniversary



JULY

- 1: Carol Ann & Jim Crum – HQ 253 – 1951
 3: Joyce & John J. Best – L 254 – 1953
 Irene & Vernard O. Riggs – D 255 – 1946
 4: Melba & George Dodson – K 255 – 1951
 7: Mamie & Douglas Shaheen – FA 863 – 1946
 8: Rita & Louis Maslinoff – G 253 – 1953
 9: Audrey & Fred Consolmagno – H 254 – 1948
 13: Charlene & Gene Hollifield – Assoc. - 1991
 14: Mary & Ernest H. Klimek – D 255 – 1956
 15: Margery & Joseph Olinde – H 253 – 1950
 Wanda & Harold G. Heavins – A 254 – 1946
 16: Naomi & Gordon Rintoul – L 255 – 1983
 17: Jo & Thomas Lazare – I 254 – 1948
 18: Jane & Wilbur Braithwaite – A 253 – 1952
 23: Carolyn & Sam Taylor – F 254 – 1949
 26: Alberta & Melvin Gobel – I 254 – 1980
 Helen & Robert E. Parke – B 254 – 1943
 ??: Grace & John Harmon – MED 363 – 1947

AUGUST

- 5: Imogene & Alf L. Crutchfield – I 254 – 1947
 Josephine & Harold D. Betts – HQ 253 – 1943
 7: Helen & John Bradley – A 253 – 1954
 11: Helen & George Putman – FA 718 – 1995
 12: Arlene & Robert Williams – F 255 – 1948
 13: Helen & Max Gourley – C 253 - 1948
 Deatra & Jonpatriock Anderson – USAR – 1995
 14: Iona & James A. Gregg – I 253 – 1947
 Helen & John H. Bradley – A 253 - 1954
 15: RaeAnn & Donald L. Wirth – USAR – 1958
 16: Gina & Scott Iseminger – Assoc. – 1975
 18: Betty & David Montgomery – E 253 – 1950
 19: Jean & Bill J. Moss – B 254 – 1946
 Janice & Glen Rovenhagen – M 255 – 1951
 20: Lillian & Dick Mertes – I&R 254 – 1949
 Marion & Anthony Nargi – Band - 1960
 22: Della & Lewis Disbrow – E 255 – 1940
 23: Susan & William J. Stratton – Assoc. – 1975
 25: Billie Jean & Jack H. Haight – HQ 255 – 1956
 26: Dorothy & Robert L. May – K 255 – 1950
 27: Laura & Arthur W. Harckham – HQ 253 – 1949
 29: Gertrude & Ernest Morrell – L 253 – 1958
 30: Cele & Bill Scott – E 254 – 1949

SEPTEMBER

- 1: Jan & Quintin Sella – F 254 – 1977
 2: Irene & Seymour Kunis – F 255 – 1950
 Anna & Rocco F. Stango – RECON 63 – 1950
 Jean & John W. Brown – K 255 - 1950

- 3: Angela & Carmine Soranno – K 253 – 1949
 Marianne & Robert Koller – Assoc. – 1994
 5: Mayellen & Joseph Thoman – CN 254 – 1941
 5: Anne & Kenneth Greene – HQ 63 – 1949
 Gayle & Richard A. Glazer – USAR – 1970
 6: Viola & Harold Black – AT 255 – 1947
 7: Rose & Michael Cairo – L 253 – 1947
 8: Germaine & Roland Dandurand – G 255 – 1945
 Betty & Bob Anderson – B 255 – 1946
 Margaret & Donald B. O'Neill – D 254 – 1986
 9: Angeline & Howard Diepenhorst – MED 253 – 1947
 Patricia & Joseph B. Mueller – SV 861 – 1950
 10: Catherine & Frank Tedesso – E 255 – 1949
 11: Kathy & Richard Flaig – Associate - 1965
 12: Eva & Harold Hibbs – HQ 718 – 1948
 15: Corine & Hugh Boettcher – D 254 – 1946
 16: Villa & Harold Black Sr. – AT 255 – 1947
 Jean & Kent Scholl – HQ 253 - 1950
 18: Peggy & Robert Michajla – FA 718 – 1942
 20: Lois & Lee Axsom – G 253 – 1952
 Sue & George McIntosh – E 253 - 2002
 21: Brenda & Nicholas Piazza – MED 254 – 1989
 22: Cherri & Len Zimmerman – C 263 – 1943
 23: Nancy & Ralph Fink – AT 254 - 1960
 27: Virginia & Leamon J. Harvey – C 254 – 1952
 Maggie & Robert E. Herzler – SV 255 – 1946
 30: Janna & Edward Phillips – Associate – 2000

OCTOBER

- 1: Louise & Rune Josephson – FA 718 – 1950
 7: Marilyn & Henry Comb – Assoc. – 1961
 Cindy & Jimmy Montgomery – Assoc. – 1979
 8: Tobi & Jack Mayrsohn – QM 63 – 1950
 Dorothy & Herbert B. Houghtaling – HQ 253 – 1949
 9: Mae & Garrett Hocksema – M 255 – 1946
 Bernice & Carlton Peck – K 255 – 1949
 Vivian & Robert Cohlmeier – C 363 – 1948
 Peggy & Joe Kerns – E 254 - 1948
 10: Betty & Rudy Lencioni – F 254 – 1951
 Anna Lee & Murrell Grant – K 253 - 1946
 11: Marlene & Anthony Dondona – H 255 – 1953
 12: Dorothy & Claude Denison – A 253 – 1940
 13: Elsie & Roy E. Sjoblad – HQ 253 – 1945
 15: Flora Nell & Kenneth Gordon – Associate - 1948
 16: Jean & Russell R. Hill – HQ 253 – 1949
 17: Mardellya & Ray L. Anders Jr – Sp Tr 63 – 1942
 18: Helen & Charles Rudibaugh Jr – SV 253 – 1947
 Louise & Lecile D. Self – HQ 255 – 1941
 Mary Lou & Jack Kerins – D 255 - 1947

Happy Anniversary



- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

20: Patricia & James R. Pritchett – HQ 254 – 1979
 Margaret & John J. Morgan – AT 255 - 1951
 23: Carol & Fred Bing – HQ 63 – 1983
 24: Frances & Joseph DeClerk – C 255 – 1953

27: Georgee & Albert Kidney – FA 863 – 1941
 30: Lois & Charles G. Sunyak – G 255 – 1983
 31: Evelyn & Olaf E. Miller – AT 253 - 1945

A soldier died today

- submitted by F.R. Magness, C-254

He was getting old and paunchy
 and his hair was falling fast,
 And he sat around the Legion,
 telling stories of the past.

Of a war that he once fought in
 and the deeds that he had done;
 In his exploits with his buddies,
 They were heroes, every one.

And, tho' sometimes to his neighbors
 his tales became a joke,
 All his buddies listened quietly
 for they knew where of he spoke.

But, we'll hear his tales no longer,
 For ol' Billy has passed away,
 And the world's a little poorer
 for a Soldier died today.

He won't be mourned by many,
 Not even his children or his wife.
 For he lived an ordinary,
 very quiet sort of life.

When politicians leave this earth,
 their bodies lie in state,
 While thousands note their passing,
 and proclaim that they were great.

Papers tell of their life stories
 from the time that they were young
 But the passing of a soldier
 goes unnoticed, and largely unsung.

Is the greatest contribution

to the welfare of our land,
 Some jerk who breaks his promise
 and cons his fellow man?

Or the ordinary fellow
 who in times of war and strife,
 Goes off to serve his country
 and offers up his life?

The politician's stipend
 and the style in which he lives
 Are often disproportionate,
 to the service that he gives.

While the ordinary Soldier,
 who offered up his all,
 Is paid off with a medal
 and perhaps a pension (Small).

It's so easy to forget them,
 for it is so many times
 That our Billys, Bobs, and Jims,
 went to battle, but we know

It is not the politicians
 with their compromise and ploys,
 Who won for us the freedom
 that our country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger,
 with your enemies at hand,
 Would you really want some cop-out,
 with his ever waffling stand?

Or would you want a Soldier ...
 his home, his country, his kin,
 Just a common soldier
 who would fight until the end.

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

A soldier died . . . - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

He was just a common Soldier,
and his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us
we will need his like again.

For, when countries are in conflict,
we find the Soldier's part
is to clean up all the troubles
that the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honor
while he's here to hear the praises,

Then at least let's give him homage
at the ending of his days.

Perhaps just a simple headline
in the paper might say
"Our country is in mourning--
A Soldier died today."

A VETERAN IS SOMEONE WHO, AT ONE POINT IN HIS LIFE, WROTE A BLANK CHECK MADE PAYABLE 'TO MY COUNTRY' FOR AN AMOUNT "UP TO AND INCLUDING MY LIFE". THAT IS HONOR

Remembering the war

I remember loading our trucks on railway flat cars and then the long train ride down to Florida. I don't think many men in the 63rd were aware of where we "began".

In early 1944, I was transferred to a rifle platoon because of some misdemeanor the Captain did not like. Then in April of 1944, I was sent to Liverpool, England as a rifle replacement. In mid-June I landed on Utah Beach and went through the whole Normandy campaign. Curiously the first person I saw on the Beach was a fellow who trained with us in Van Dorn! He had been wounded and was in bandages. I spoke to him but cannot recall his name.

I survived the Normandy campaign in great part to the training I received with the 63rd Quartermaster because I knew how to drive and handle a 2 1/2 ton

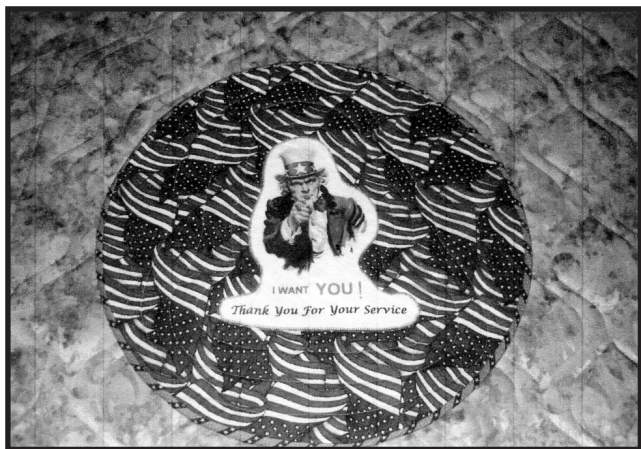
truck ... and replaced a driver who was killed by a shell!

You ask for more war-life stories, of which all survivors have plenty. However, I send you a short recap of a visit I made to the American Cemetery with one of my sons. I showed him about where I landed on Utah and the "hedgerow" county which made the Normandy battles so fierce and so long drawn out. It only ended the 3rd week of August. Per the official figures of the U.S. War Dept. the battle caused 230,000 casualties -- that is U.S., British, Canadian, Polish and French. I was likely to survive and wanted my son to visit Normandy, the Beaches and get a first-hand understanding of what the U.S. soldier had to overcome!

Again my thanks for the *Blood and Fire*.

Michael A. Habermann

Hot Shots receive Uncle Sam mats



March 23, 2011

This 17-inch diameter quilted patriotic mat depicting Uncle Sam saying THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE was created by Jim and Sandy Uhl, adopted Hot Shots and friends of Verlin and Lillian Miller. Both couples are from New Mexico.

Eighteen of these mats were made and given to the Hot Shots at Smitty's Fox Co. March mini-reunion held in Baton Rouge, LA.

Many thanks to the Uhl's from all the Hot Shots. -- submitted by Herman Fabiani

- Letters and Opinions -

TIME TO “CLOSE THE BOOKS”

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE 63RD INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION: I am composing this to broach the subject of dissolving our division Association.

This year will be the 63rd reunion of the 63rd Division. In my opinion, this can be the ideal time to “Close the Books” on our long and successful existence – to make a point – last year there were only 45 attendees. It’s questionable as to the numbers of our members will make it this year.

The subject of dissolution is well covered in our by-laws and the copy of this portion will be included with this article (if Donna can find space).

Bob McCourt, I&R, 254th Infantry.

ABOUT MY LIFE

I married Miss Margie Anderson in 1946 who I had met at a service club dance at Camp Croft, S.C. in 1943. I went back to college in 1946 and graduated in 1949. We had 3 sons all of whom graduated from college and are married. I started working for Army Quartermaster Corps in 1951, but due to a reduction in force, I transferred to the Office Chief of Engineers where I worked for 11 years. I then transferred to the Office Chief of Staff, Army. I worked in the Pentagon for 10 years. Having received another promotion, I transferred to HQ Army Material Command where I worked until I retired. During my career, I started as an entry level GS7 and retired as Chief of the Inventory Management office, US Army Material Command as a GS 15.

When I returned from overseas, I joined the active reserves and was assigned to the 317th ABN Inf. Regt. In 1953, I transferred my branch of service from Inf. to the Corps of Engineers. At the same time I transferred my reserve assignment to Mob Des Unit No. 23, Office Chief of Engineers and was given an assignment which was closely related to my civilian job. With the reorganization of the Army in the sixties, my reserve assignment was transferred to the Army Material Command. At this time I was working for The DCSLOG in the Pentagon and was told by The DCSPER, also in the Pentagon that to be promoted to Lt. Col. I had to go to Command and

General Staff College part time for three years and to night school at Ft. Myers for 5 years. I declined because DCSLOG would not release me from my civilian job. I was subsequently placed in the retired reserve. On My 60th birthday I was placed in the retired Army.

At present I am a widower and have been since 2007. My wife is buried in Arlington Cemetery where I also will be buried. I live in Leisure World, a large gated retirement community in North Eastern Montgomery County, MD. I have a nice 3 BR apartment just off the 4th Tee of the golf course. I am 88 and in a month or so will turn 89. I enjoy golf and flying model radio controlled airplanes. My brother, BG. Wallace C. Magathan, Jr. is 90 and lives with his wife in Charleston, SC. My oldest sister Elizabeth, 87, lives in Rancho Palos Verdes and my youngest sister, Barbara, 84, lives in Gainesville, FL. We four are in reasonably good health and hope to remain so for some years to come.

David H. Magathan

SERVED WITH INFANTRY IN EUROPE

I have been the sole caregiver for my ailing wife for the past 4 years. It has not been possible to maintain perfect contact with the divisional organization, though I try to support it as I can.

I am one of the near originals who served with the infantry in Europe in the latter days of the war from November ‘44 to its end and into a few months of occupation. I am a weekly volunteer at the VA Medical Center here in Roseburg, now into my 11th year. Not many of my vintage left.

I started service with the 63rd as a Pfc. and held the same rank through discharge in Feb. of ‘46.

I commend all of the volunteers who hold the 63rd together. It was a great one while I served with them in Europe.

W.E. Ahlvers (AKA Bill) - B255

ENJOYS BLOOD & FIRE

I greatly enjoy the Review and hope to be around

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- Letters and Opinions -

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

to read many more issues. Although I will not be able to attend the upcoming reunion, I will be with you in spirit.

I am a life member, although my military time was split between the 63rd and the 9th Divisions.

The *Blood & Fire* issue always says Camp Blanding and Camp Van Dorn where I trained in 1943 and early 1944.

What seems to be forgotten is that the 63rd Quartermaster Company trained at Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky prior to our transfer to Camp Blanding.

Michael A. Habermann

SEARCHING FOR A COPY OF B& F DATED 10/76

During the last reunion in Indianapolis, I asked if you or anyone else had a copy of *Blood and Fire* dated 10/76?

You asked me to send you an e-mail but I'm not sure you received it. There was a listing that Bill Scott had prepared which referenced that my father was in that issue. If you, or if there is anyone that you know of that might have a copy of it, I would greatly appreciate it.

If there is any cost associated with getting a copy of it and mailing to me, I would reimburse you for the expense. I hope you are able to help me with this. I seem to continually hit a wall in finding information regarding my father.

Janet R. Malouin

LIKES IDEA OF DOWNLOADING "BLOOD & FIRE"

I started this letter several times but had to leave town and so to continue I was checking my e-mail and was surprised to see Mr. Clinton mention that the *"Blood & Fire"* of May 2010 is ready for downloading and so clicked on and started the printer and got it all printed, all 40 pages or so!

Will this be permanent? I think it's a great idea and hope it saves money. I have no idea what this will cost.

I am fairly new on using a computer (about 4 years) and it is when I first learned that the 63rd Inf. Div. is mentioned in a computer. My granddaughter was

showing me how it operated, etc., etc. and she asked me what I would like to see. I mentioned the 63rd Inf. and I was hooked from then on. To me it is amazing! Also how Mr. Clinton and the rest of the staff keep adding more and more info!

I'm all for downloading of the *"Blood & Fire"* but not all members have computers? Yet their grandchildren most likely have and give them a chance to help grandpas out! Maybe I shouldn't mention the above, but heck, I can't lose for trying!

Enclosed is a donation for the 63rd Div. Fund.

P.S. The e-mail by Fred Clinton, dated 5/23/10, titled *"Let Us Remember Memorial Day"* was awesome and I forwarded a copy to all my friends.

And good luck on the reunion.

John E. Rogalewicz

RELAYS EVENTS OF DUTY

After the war ended we started Occupation Duty near Bad Mergentheim.

In July 1945 I was transferred to the 29 Regiment in Frankfurt. Selected by points to move closer to having enough points to going home.

The 29th Regiment was a guard unit for Gen. Eisenhower and Gen. Patton.

Left Frankfurt in April 1936 and started home. Discharged at Camp Atterbury, Indiana.

Carl V. Anderson

The Reunion I Liked The Best was . . .

The best reunion, I would say without a doubt, that the one in Rochester, N.Y. was the one that was my best.

I got to meet my buddies, their spouses and children. After that I like to see what the different states have to offer and it seems that Rochester had everything.

I like all the reunions and look forward to going no matter where they are.

I also enjoy the way you are doing things with the *Blood and Fire* news and everything else – so keep up the good work.

John Downs, F254

Honored to be a Veteran's Day speaker

The small city of Madeira, Ohio has been the hometown of my family dating back many generations. We love this community and share the activities, some of which have been observed for over 100 years. Among the important events each year has been the veterans day -- in our middle school building with 5th and 6th graders attending, along with adults who paced the hall.

On November 10, 2006, I was honored to be a speaker and it was special for me to be able to tell the story of another Madeira veteran. His name is John Dumont, and until a few years ago, neither of us knew we both had served in the 63rd. John is Madeira's well-known retired principal of Madeira's elementary schools. Both of our kids attended his school 2 blocks away in the 1960s.

Following is the talk that I gave 5 years ago. It was not an outstanding address, but it describes how the two of us got our particular assignments in the 63rd. Recently John and I had a long talk about our years in Europe. After discussing it we thought other people might like to know how a couple of kids got assignments in the right place at the right time with the experience that met the needs.

I don't think John has been active in IMOK, but I believe you may know of his record.

Mary Lou and I hope to make it this time to Indianapolis in August.

Veteran's Day at Madeira Middle School, 11/10/06. Russel DeMar.

Good morning:

For a few minutes try to imagine how it might have felt 65 years ago when our country entered WW2.

In 1941, I was just a young teenager in Madeira High School. In those years everyone was aware of wars already in progress between Japan and China on one side of the world, while Germany was attempting to conquer Europe on the other side.

In the 1940's most people were convinced that our country would be forced to take part of those conflicts. But there were some who believed we should not be involved at all. The majority of us began to understand that, what happens anywhere in the world can affect all of us living on any continent.

And sure enough, on December 7, 1941, Japanese planes bombed Pearl Harbor without warning in a devastating attack that sunk our ships and took thousands of lives.

To be perfectly honest, as a young kid I didn't know

much about Pearl Harbor. I wasn't sure I could locate it on the map, but on that Sunday afternoon, we all learned that Pearl Harbor was our large naval base in Hawaii.

Immediately after Pearl Harbor, our country began to prepare for war in a big way. It was a tremendous effort, perhaps the largest mobilization the world had ever seen. Not only were we to fight Japan, but also the Germans who were ravaging Europe.

The people in this country came together with a sense of unity that was astounding. Thousands of men and women were ready to go do their part, whether it meant joining the military, or working extra hours in munitions plants or aircraft factories. Whatever they could do on the home front, people made the effort!!

All able bodied men 18 years or over were subject to be drafted into the military, but many chose not to wait; some of my own schoolmates who had already turned 18 volunteered right away to join the Army.

Throughout our country we began to run short of many materials that had always been readily available to us -- such items as sugar, gasoline, rubber tires, and other items. They became scarce as the war effort caused shortages and many had to be rationed. To be sure there was some grumbling, but nearly everyone accepted the shortages.

In December, 1943, when I turned 18, it became my turn to join the Army. Within 10 months I had completed basic training and was assigned to the 63rd Infantry Division. We were soon shipped overseas and found ourselves on the battle lines in France and Germany.

At this point I'd like to interrupt for a minute . . . to share with you a personal story:

When I was very young, my mother always amazed me that she could use a typewriter without looking at the keys. So when I entered high school I wanted to take typing classes. My friends made fun of me, "Awe, you just want to be in a class with all the girls" -- you see, back in the 1940's, before computers or electric typewriters, it may be that typing classes were reserved for those taking commercial courses.

I must admit I enjoyed being with the girls . . . but the two years of practice with a typewriter gave me a skill that turned out to be very helpful. In the Army, I was assigned to a regimental headquarters staff keeping personnel records, typing daily reports of personnel transfers, incoming replacements, etc.

My personal story gets better . . .

While I was still in high school typing classes, there was another young man, fairly close to my age, who had become fascinated with Ham Radio. Those were the

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

Veteran's day speaker . . .

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

years before amateur radio operators could transmit audibly, so this young man became skilled in using Morse code with a telegraph key to communicate.

It happens that in-field artillery operations in wartime, the ability to transmit in Morse code was an important talent -- to be able to communicate with advanced observers, to assure accuracy when firing artillery shells.

So it happens that this young man, like me, found himself with a skill that became important in artillery fire. In the Army he was assigned to the headquarters artillery battery with my own outfit, the 63rd Infantry Division. With 14,000 men in an infantry division, it isn't surprising that the two of us never met.

Well, after the war, this same guy returned home to complete his education, and later became an important part of life right here in Madeira.

You know, it wasn't until just one year ago, we both discovered we had served with the same infantry division in France and Germany.

It happens that this man is with us here today. His name is familiar to most of us. Please join me in giving him a big salute -- Mr. John Dumont, please stand up.

Going back again to 1944 -- while we were in Europe, our division faced some difficult fighting, in contact with the enemy for weeks without stopping. Finally, the Germans were on the run in Europe, and the fighting in

the Pacific was also progressing, you probably know the rest of the story . . . along with our allies, we defeated Germany and Japan before the summer of 1945 had ended.

That war took the lives of thousands of men and women. But we stood for what this country stands for, thanks to everyone who participated in the effort --

While Veteran's Day is set aside to honor those who served in the military, I believe this day must also recognize the thousands of citizens on the home front who did not wear uniforms, but served our country so well.

Sixty years ago, after that long and costly war, we hoped the world could remain in peace, but as you know that has not been the case.

It is my hope and prayer that our country might face our current problems. As united in resolve as we were 65 years ago -- with everyone pulling together to overcome the terrorists who now threaten us.

I hope I've given you a little of the feeling of how it felt so many years ago to be a part of our Armed Forces. Most importantly, we must all honor the memory of those who gave their lives so that we may continue to enjoy our beautiful country.

Thanks for inviting me today.



Teddy joins the 63rd!!

Thomas E. Glunt of Burney, CA writes that his daughter's Vermont Teddy Bear (pictured at left) has decided to join the 63rd!

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.

Hotel Registration Form
Crowne Plaza, Indianapolis Airport – August 18 – 20, 2011

Mail or Call:

Crowne Plaza Indianapolis Airport
2501 South High School Road
Indianapolis, IN 46241
317.244.6861

Attention: 63rd Infantry Division Association (mention when making reservations)

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone () _____ **Sharing room with:** _____

Arrival Date _____ **Time** _____ **Departure Date/Time** _____

SPECIAL REQUESTS:

King Bed _____ Two Queen Bed _____ Two double beds _____
 Wheelchair Accessible room _____ *Crown Plaza is a smoke free environment!*

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

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

Breakfast Buffet included in the price of the room. Coupons will be issued at check in

Free Parking

FREE SHUTTLE FROM INDIANAPOLIS AIRPORT: When you arrive at airport baggage claim call **The Crowne Plaza Indianapolis Airport -317.244.6861** to send shuttle to pick you up at arrivals outside baggage claim.

CUT OFF DATE: July 28, 2011. 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 24 hours before arrival date.

SIGNATURE: (same as credit card holder)

**63RD INFANTRY DIVISION REGISTRATION
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
AUGUST 18 - 20, 2011**

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event & total. Send that amount payable to **63rd Infantry Division Association, 10812 S. Kenneth Ave., Oak Lawn, IL 60453**. 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 28, 2011**. 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 28, 2011

			# Attending
Thursday, August 18th			
Meet Your Buddies	7:00pm-11:00pm	No Charge	Free
Friday, August 19th			
Board of Directors Meeting	9:00am-11:00am		
Please register for Vaudvillities and Bingo:			
Vaudvillities Performance	1:30 - 2:30pm	No Charge	Free
BINGO with prizes	3:00 - 5:00pm	No Charge	Free
Cocktails - Cash Bar	6:00 - 7:00pm		
Speaker with presentations	6:30pm - 7:00pm		
Dinner Theatre Buffet	7:00 - 10:00pm	\$50.00	\$
Saturday, August 20th			
Men's Meeting	9:00am-11:00am		
Ladies Meeting with entertainment	9:00am-11:00am		
Memorial Service	11:30am-12:30pm		
Cocktails - Cash Bar	6:00pm-7:00pm		
Dinner/Dance	7:00pm-10:30pm		
Please choose dinner entrée:			
Amish Roasted Chicken		\$42.00	\$
Roast Beef Tenderloin		\$48.00	\$
Pecan Crusted Salmon		\$44.00	\$
Children's Plate (chicken tenders)		\$12.50	\$
REGISTRATION FOR 2011 REUNION			
63rd Infantry Division Association Males		\$35.00	\$
(Widows of 63rd Vets do NOT pay registration fee)			
Affiliate Members		\$35.00	\$
GRAND TOTAL DUE TO 63RD INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION			\$

Name: _____	Nickname: _____	Unit/Co. _____
Spouse Name: _____	Guest Name: _____	
Street Address: _____		
City: _____	State _____	Zip: _____
Shuttle from the airport to the hotel:	Plane: ()	Free Shuttle - Contact #: 317.244.6861
	Auto: ()	
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 _____	

Hot Shots enjoy mini reunion

March 23, 2011

We did it again, another Smitty's Fox Co. Hot Shots glorious mini-reunion was enjoyed by all at the Ramada Inn in Baton Rouge, LA March 14th to the 19th, 2011.

On Monday the Hot Shots started to arrive and gather in the Hospitality room.

This was supposed to be the last official organized reunion due to everyone getting older and harder to get around.

During the men's meeting on Tuesday, a motion was made that if Fabiani organized another reunion a vote would be taken to see if the Hot Shots wanted one. After discussion on the subject, the motion was seconded. Fabiani accepted the charge but stipulated that it would be held in Branson, MO. A vote was then called for where it was carried unanimously.

Date for next year's reunion is March 19th to the 24th, 2012. More information will be forthcoming as plans are jelled.

On Wednesday, Joe Aguzzi did his annual treat of taking the Hot Shots to Drusillas Seafood Restaurant for oysters or anything their pallet desired.

In the evening we were shuttled to Centreville, MS by a 28 passenger bus and driver supplied by Doug Traylor's son-in-law Bruce Chitton.

We arrived at the Museum at 4:30 p.m. During our tour we noticed many changes and new artifacts added.

The Museum is in excellent condition. THANKS to all the volunteers that make it possible.

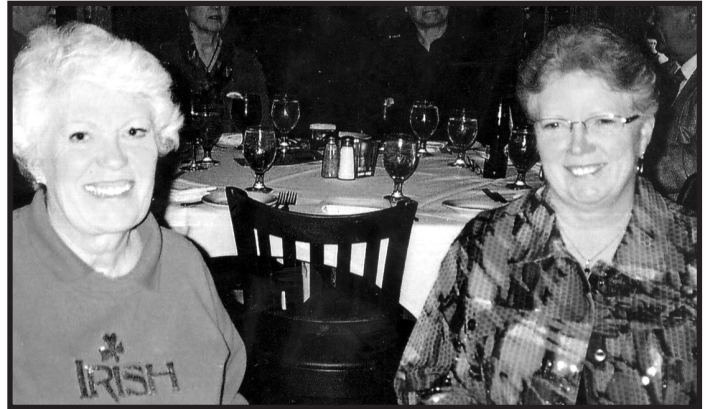
We then went to the church hall where we were greeted by about 75 townfolks to enjoy dinner with them. With the 28 Hot Shots we totalled about 103.

Fabiani greeted and thanked the folks for the 10th invite to their dinner and the fine southern hospitality bestowed upon us Hot Shots over the years.

The obituary was ready for our dearly departed comrade, Dr. Mack Castleberry.

A generous donation was made to the Museum by the Fox Co. Hot Shots in honor and memory of Dr. Mack Castleberry. A beautiful framed plaque was made for Dr. Castleberry by Herman Fabiani expressing his feelings toward Mack but was unable to give it to him before his passing. It will be mailed to Mrs. Patti Castleberry.

An updated portrait of our Congressional Medal of Honor recipient John Crews of Fox Co. 253rd Regt. and citation written on parchment paper was professionally framed and presented to the Museum by Fabiani.



Two sisters – (left) Sheryl Bennett and (right) Trudy Smidler



(Left) Shelia Keenan, friend of (right) Peggy Von Pentz – always at National and Mini Reunions.



Eleanor Bullock

2011 mini reunion was dedicated to Eleanor and Dan Bullock, posthumously.

Daughter Eileen Riggs and mother (right) Eleanor Bullock



- CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

Mini reunion . . .

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

Thursday evening we had our banquet at Ruffino's Restaurant. Before dinner we had a candlelight memorial ceremony for Dr. Mack Castleberry and all U.S. Armed Forces personnel who have given the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

This year's mini reunion was dedicated to Eleanor Bullock and Dan Bullock was honored posthumously. Dan and Eleanor were adopted into Smitty's Fox. Co. Hot Shots back in 1991 and they have had a wonderful camaraderie with Smitty's Hot Shots. Eileen Riggs, Eleanor's daughter has driven Eleanor to the reunions for the past 9 years since Dan's passing and has become one of us Hot Shots.

Friday was a free day where the men fought the war all over again and the women went shopping.

Saturday Hot Shots said their good-byes and farewell till we meet again next year in Branson, Missouri. God willing!

Many thanks go to the Hot Shots who have contributed money to replenish the depleted company fund so that we have another Mini Reunion in Branson, MO on March 19th to the 24th, 2012.

Submitted by:

Herman Fabiani

Fox Co. 253rd Regt.



(Left) Emma Zell Knighton, volunteer at Van Dorn Museum. (Right) Joe Aguzzi.



Candlelight memorial form Dr. Mack Castleberry and all U.S. Armed Forces who have given the ultimate sacrifice for their country.



Three Fox Co. Hot Shots – (left) Bob Bane, (middle) Herman Fabiani and (right) Joe Aguzzi.



Mother and daughter – (left) Betty Montgomery and (right) Jennie Montgomery

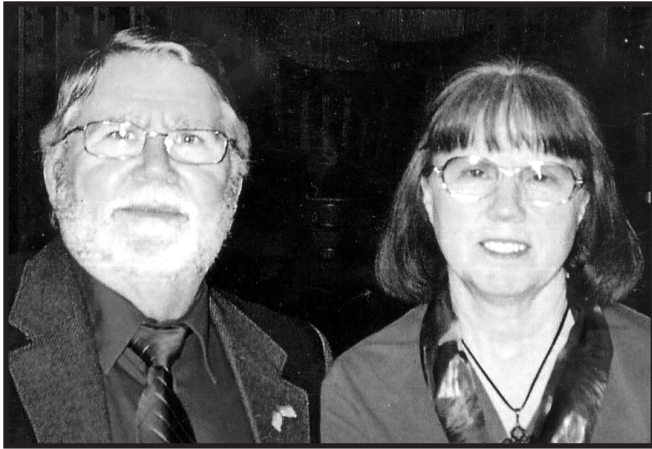
– Notice –

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.

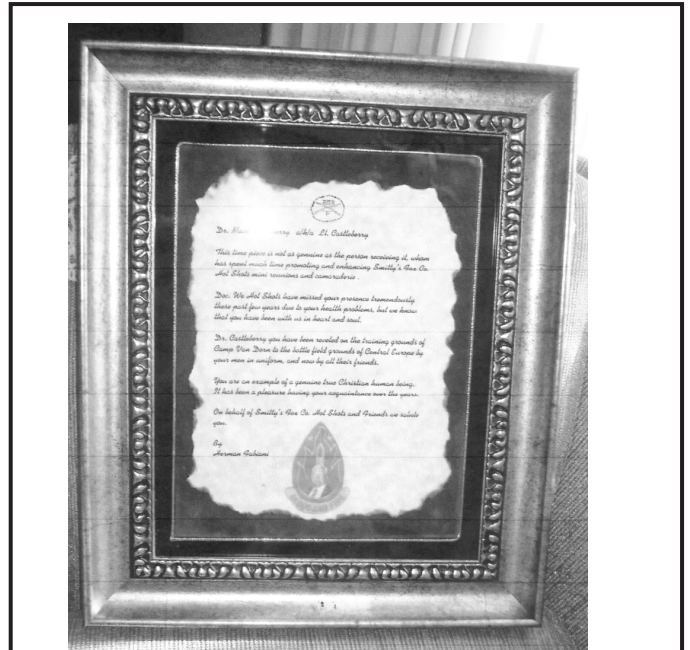
- CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

Mini-reunion . . .

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19



Harold and Linda McKeegan



Dr. Mack Castleberry a/k/a Lt. Castleberry

This time piece is not as genuine as the person receiving it, whom has spent much time promoting and enhancing Smitty's Fox Co. Hot Shots mini reunions and camaraderie .

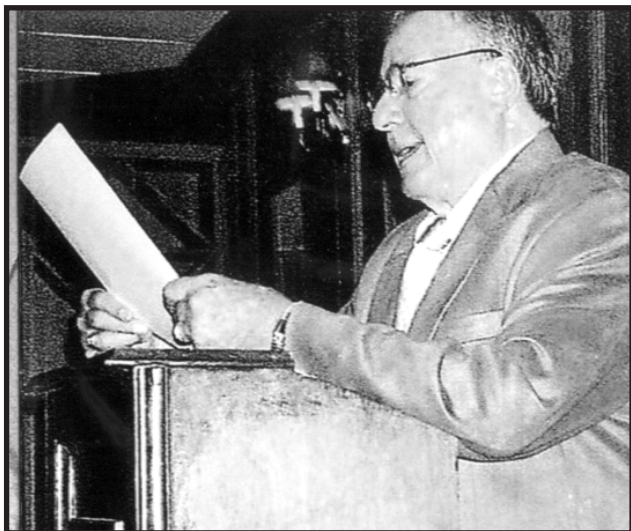
Doc. We Hot Shots have missed your presence tremendously these past few years due to your health problems, but we know that you have been with us in heart and soul.

Dr. Castleberry you have been reveled on the training grounds of Camp Van Dorn to the battle field grounds of Central Europe by your men in uniform, and now by all their friends.

You are an example of a genuine true Christian human being. It has been a pleasure having your acquaintance over the years.

On behalf of Smitty's Fox Co. Hot Shots and Friends we salute you.

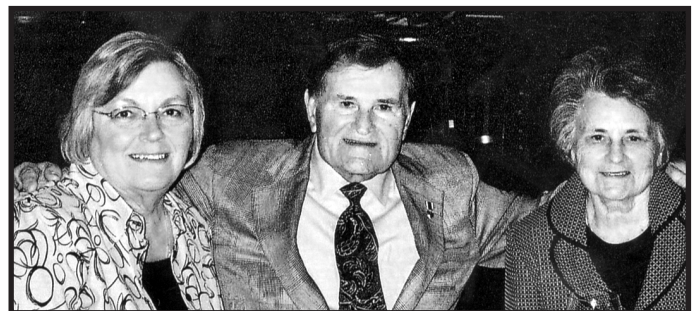
By
Herman Fabiani



Herman Fabiani reading Dr. Mark Castleberry's obituary at Fox Co. 253 banquet.



Bob and Phyllis Bennett



(Left) Karen Fabiani – (Middle) Joe Aguzzi – (Right) Margaret Aguzzi

A tribute to our veterans

By Mike Habermann

D-Day is etched indelibly in America's memory. Films, TV programs, features, art works, all have made D-Day and the subsequent fighting in Normandy a permanent part of our history.

The American Cemetery near the Omaha Beachhead is a moving witness to the valor and sacrifice of the young American soldiers who fought those battles.

In late April of 1984, I took one of my sons to France to visit the French side of his family and to visit the invasion beaches and the Normandy battle fields that I trod in July and August of 1944. I wanted him to understand and appreciate the conditions and the terrain over which the battles were fought. The summer of 1944 remains an important part of my formation. To understand me and the generation I am part of, this visit was an enlightening experience for my son.

My memories are of the rain, the surrounding hedgerows, and sickly sweet smell of death rising from the fields every evening, and the huge U.S. bombing attacks initiating the Cobra breakthrough. The sound of our artillery firing over our heads and the more frightening clap of the German 88's slamming into the nearby earth.

The sight of a B17 hit and tumbling from the sky and the terrifying descent of a damaged U.S. fighter plane just whizzing over my head to disintegrate in a shattering crash just a short distance away. The rows of dead Germans, their dead horses, and the huge disorder of guns and equipment strewn along the roadsides after the breakout. These and the great destruction of French towns and the devastation of the countryside are the realities I lived through.

My son and I walked along Utah Beach, and I tried to locate the area where I landed two weeks after D-Day. We then drove the route from Ste Mere Eglise to Monteboirg and Valognes after which we doubled back to the American Cemetery.

We walked between the rows of markers reading the names of the men buried beneath. I looked for, and found, many names from the Infantry Division in which I had served. We were standing before one of the crosses when a group of young French children gathered close to us. The youngest were from ten and twelve years old with blond Norman hair and milky-white innocent faces.

The group leader and teacher was a man in his late 30's or early 40's. My son and I both speak and

understand French. We listened to the teacher who said to the children, "These young soldiers came all the way from L'amerique." He stretched out his hand and pointed west. "They came here to liberate you. These soldiers fought and died so that you could live free as you do today." He said these words and many more describing the history of the invasion. Then he read the names and dates on the crosses, making comments on the ages of the soldiers buried there. The young teacher expressed himself with great emotion and persuasiveness.

He and his group were now beside us. I could not resist thanking him for what he had said to his students. I told him that I was deeply moved because I had participated in the Normandy campaign and that many men from my Division were among those lying there. At these words he became highly excited and called to his group, "Oh, mes enfants, mes infants, come here. This man fought in the battle against the Germans. He helped to free us and to liberate France."

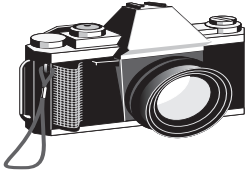
I was so overwhelmed with emotion that tears came to my eyes. I could no longer control my emotion. I grabbed his hand, shook it hard and I thanked him. Then I dashed away to the wall overlooking the Channel and broke down sobbing.

I am still moved by this incident and the remarks of that teacher. I love France. The cathedrals, the countryside, the cottages buried in flowers, Paris and the Seine but above all, I cherish the memory of this unexpected wonderful tribute to the American soldiers who lie beneath the soil of Normandy.

Ads needed for Souvenir Ad Book

Ads for the 2011 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.



BLOOD AND FIRE PHOTO GALLERY

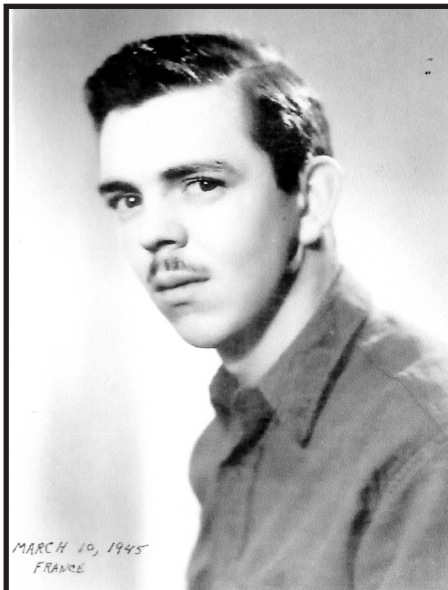
Then and now . . .



George C. English - Germany, 1945
(This picture was taken just before he was promoted to S/Sgt. on the battlefield)

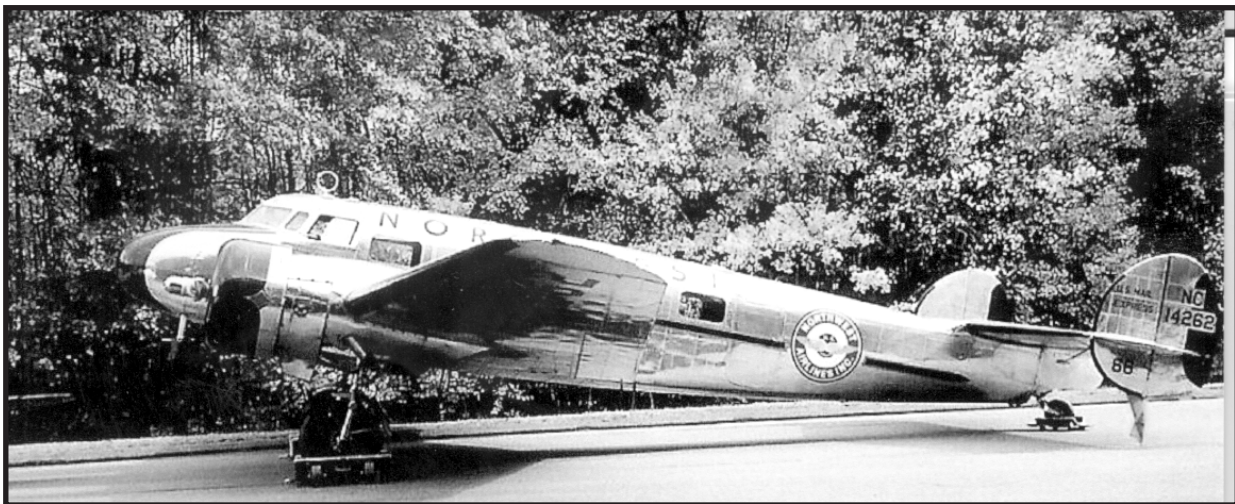
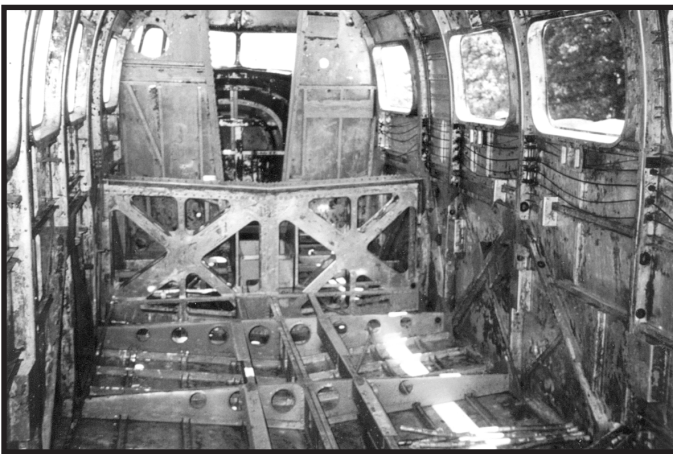


George and Victoria English,
Pleasantville, New Jersey - 2011



Pictured at left is John F. Troy of Atkinson, NH March 10, 1945. Pictured (center) is John with his daughter Kathleen Lawrence, the youngest of five – 3 boys and 2 girls. John lost his wife 14 years ago on January 28, 1977. Pictured at right is John chosen Irishman of the Year 2007, city of Lawrence, MA, Division 8, Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Depicted stages of the Lockheed Electra Model 10 A



Pictured (top left) shows the fuselage of the airplane being delivered to the New England Air Museum from the storage building located several miles from the museum. All other parts were delivered by truck. In the top right photo - cleaning the fuselage. Middle left photo shows the interior of the cabin when received. Middle right photo shows the interior of the cabin when restored. And the above photo features The Lockheed Electra Model 10 A, as it looks today. —photos submitted by William Taylor of Manchester, CT.

The horrors at “Tombstone” Quarry

Submitted by Claude A. ‘Laramie’ Larrabee

We had a lot of trenches and foxholes spaced in the woods, several hundred yards from the stone quarry.

My legs were cramped from sitting in our trench. It was an unusually quiet night and there was a beautiful full moon shining - so I took a stroll to stretch my legs.

I heard what sounded like a horse-drawn wagon coming from the quarry. Before I could take a look, something hit a tree about 3 inches above my head. It had to be a sniper with a silencer on his rifle.

As usual, I hit the ground and rolled to the left and right, four more rounds dug up the dirt near me, but missed. Luck was with me that time.

A few nights later we were pounded by a heavy barrage of mortars, screaming meanies, and the artillery shells were set to explode 30 feet above the ground.

Flack and tree branches came raining down on us. A green AF replacement was in the trench with me. Swackhamer and Muncie were in the trench next to us. Swackhamer was badly wounded in one leg. After he was evacuated, I was asked to take his place as squad leader. I didn't want to make any quick promotions so I refused the offer and chose 'Frenchie'. He could question the French in the area about enemy activities and movements. Some days later, the order was to make a frontal attack across a wide open field into the quarry which cost us a lot of good men.

'C' Company lost most because they were the first to cross. When I went across there were many wounded and dead bodies laying on the ground.

Two prisoners were throwing dead bodies on a jeep drawn trailer. I poked my rifle in their ribs and said 'Gently'. They quickly got the message. Of one thing I am certain, we were all very glad to leave that morbid place.

I was always glad to be a member of the Association.

Contributes father's memorabilia to museum



My name is Warren Werntz, son of John H. Werntz.

My father was in the 63rd Division (Blood & Fire) 255th Regiment. I want to tell you about a great experience I had on his behalf.

I took my mother, Aline Werntz and my wife to visit the Camp Van Dorn World War II Museum in Centerville, Mississippi.

I was very proud to talk to the museum staff about my father and my mother, who worked at the camp. I was very happy to visit the museum. In the back of the museum was a wall that had different soldiers' pictures on it. I asked if I could mail them a photo of my father for the wall. They said 'yes'.

Pictured is a photo of my father that they put up on the wall. I want everyone to know I was so proud of the museum to honor my father that way. He was a very humble man and I know he would be happy for what we did. I looked around the museum and I sent them some war relics that I know they did not have. Example: my father's Bronze Medal Citation, Camp Van Dorn pictures, special orders 109 issues to my father at Camp Van Dorn.

I was also lucky enough to have two copies of my father's anti-tank company picture so now that one is on the wall as well.

I wanted to let everyone who was at Camp Van Dorn know that you have a great little museum and very dedicated and enthusiastic people who work there.

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 25

Father's memorabilia ...

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

My father's picture is now on their wall of fame and it will be a day my mother, wife, and myself will never forget. So if you get a chance to visit the museum or support them with stories, please do it.

Always, remember to keep history alive. We need to tell our stories, show our stuff and remember your great service to your country.

Warren Wertz
Life Member
Son of John Wertz

Stories needed

If you enjoy reading about your buddies and what they remember about the "good old days" during the war, perhaps you would share your experience with the readers. Even the wives and widows have been telling me how much they enjoy those articles.

Please send me your story so I can use it in the *Blood and Fire*. If your husband is no longer with us and he left behind a story about his experiences, please send that and it will be included in a future magazine.

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

Would like to hear from mechanics of Maintenance Section of 254th regiment



Charles R. King writes ... "Look forward to receiving *Blood & Fire*."

"In looking thru my many papers, etc., found this picture of the Maintenance Section of 254th Infantry Regiment - Mechanics that is.

Some of those mechanics may still be living. I would really like to hear from any if you use this photo."

Charles R. King
SV Co. 254th Inf. Motor Officer
12272 River Road
Richmond, VA 23238 - 6100

Stories needed ...

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

Life stories, not just war stories are always welcome, so get busy and share some of your "antics" with us!

Donna LaCosse, Editor

downloading.

Floppy disk: What you get from stoking too much firewood.

Modem: What you did to the hay fields.

Hard drive: How you get home in the winter season.

Keyboard: Where you hang your keys.

Software: Plastic eating utensils.

Laptop: Where the little kids feel comfy.

Country computer guide

(Credit Karen Ann Bland of Grove, Kansas who offered these helpful country definitions for the computer illiterate.)

Log-on: Making the woodstove hotter.

Log-off: Don't add any more wood.

Monitor: Keeping an eye on the wood stove.

Download: Getting the firewood off the pickup.

Megahertz: Happens when you are not careful

2011 REUNION AUGUST 18-19-20 INDIANAPOLIS, IN

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

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.

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.

Invited to Veteran's Day ceremonies

Dear Mr and Mrs Anderson
 If you could come to our
 Veterans Day program I
 would love it! It is at
 Waterville primary school on
 November 9th Sat 2-5pm.
 If you have your uniform,
 you can wear it. Please
 invite other veterans that
 you know. PLEASE let
 our Mom know how many
 people are coming. Our
 phone number is (419) 441-
 2146.
 From Abbev and Sam



Carl Anderson asked by Abbey and Samuel Eiben to Veteran's Day event.

by Carl V. Anderson

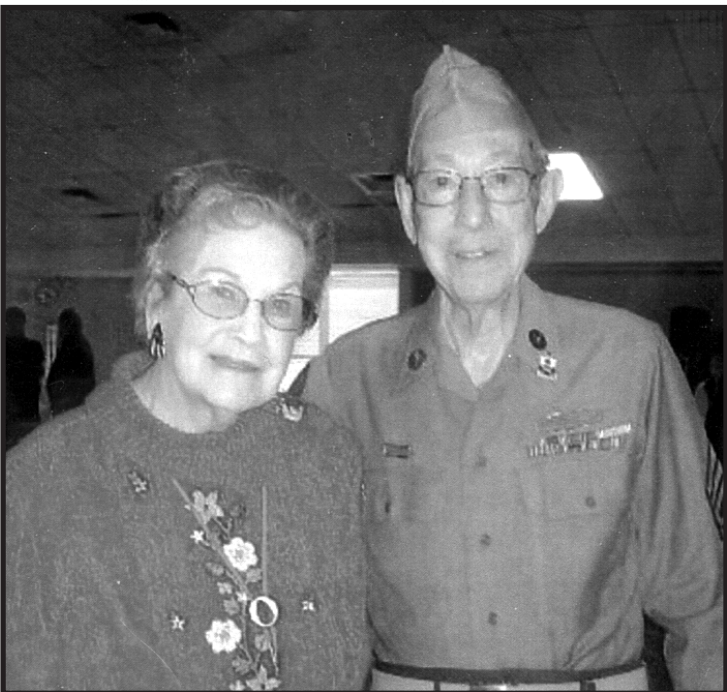
After the war ended we started Occupation Duty near Bad Mergentheim.

In July 1945, I was transferred to the 29 Regiment in Frankfurt, selected by points to move closer to having enough points to going home.

The 29th Regiment was a guard unit for General Eisenhower and General Patton.

I left Frankfurt in April 1946 and started home. I was discharged at Camp Atterbury, Indiana.

I am shown in my original uniform from World War II.



Kathleen and Carl Anderson ready to go to Veteran's Day program - Photo taken on Veteran's Day 2010.

Invited to Veteran's Day . . .

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27



THEN – Carl V. Anderson- May 8, 1945 in Paris, France



NOW – Carl V. Anderson ready to go to Veteran's Day - 2010

Conversation at Veteran's Day program with Sgt. Lome from Iraq.



'Blood and Fire' Division in action

WITH THE UNITED STATES ARMY, Feb. 9 (AP) - The presence in France of another young United States Army Division, the 63rd "Blood and Fire" division, was disclosed today.

New York, Pennsylvania and New England men make up the biggest proportion of the rolls. Three infantry regiments and a headquarters detachment went into the line Dec. 22, 1944, and four artillery battalions and remaining units have just joined the division on the front.

As French ground forces were pushing the German remnants into the Rhine at a point 18 miles southeast of Colmar, it was announced that 13,885 prisoners had been taken in the Colmar pocket since Jan. 28.

Doughfeet of the 28th Division, which with French elements took Colmar seven days ago, said the Germans had plenty of pillboxes along the eastern bank of the Rhine across from lower Alsace.

S-Sgt. Daniel Guilfoyle, of Shortsville, N.Y., a patrol leader, said, "They're on the d--- bank 15 or 20 feet from the river and about 400 yards apart."

In the 7th Army sector north of Strasbourg, the towns of Herrlisheim and Offendort, scenes of bitter fighting in recent weeks, have been evacuated by the enemy and the 7th now holds a front on the Rhine southward from Drusenheim, which is still in enemy hands. Drusenheim is eight miles southeast of Haguenau and a mile from the river.

Two new American divisions -- the 63rd and the 70th -- were revealed today in action with the 7th Army. The 70th (Trail Blazer) Division, commanded by Maj. Gen. Allison J. Barnett, was organized and activated in Oregon and has been with the 7th Army since the last week in December.

The 63rd, called the Blood and Fire division, is commanded by Maj. Gen. Louis E. Hibbs. The outfit, activated in June, 1943, at Camp Blanding, Fla., went into the line in France on Dec. 22.

This article is from the Boston Herald.

Eddie was with the 7th Army after leaving boot camp at Van Dorn and was sent to the front.

He was wounded on March 15, 1944 and spent a long recovery in Walter Reed after field hospitals 10 & 35, a hospital in Paris, France where he left for Washington as a litter patient.

Another soldier that never said a word about the war. He was very proud to be a veteran of World War II.

Betty Bahestrieni

wife of Edward Bahestrieni, K-255

Check out the Oliver Winery while attending the reunion

ON YOUR OWN

SOMETHING TO SEE AND DO WHILE ATTENDING THE 63RD INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION REUNION IN INDIANAPOLIS:

The Oliver Winery is located about 45 miles south of Crowne Plaza Hotel at the airport. The address is: 8024 North State Road 37, Bloomington, Indiana 47404. Telephone: 812-876-9309. www.oliverwinery.com.

It is Indiana's largest winery, and the grounds are very lovely. It is open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day. There is no charge. There is a very large building in which they have wine displays and various selections of wine-related accessories and specialty foods. They have gourmet cheeses and freshly baked bread. In the center of the room is a very large bar for wine tasting. Just outside in the back is a large cement patio area with numerous tables and chairs. There are tours available, so please check the website for information.

There is a free shuttle from the hotel to the Oliver Winery. If you decide and want to go to the winery, please check at the front desk for the shuttle. We will have a sheet to sign up for the shuttle -- we will let you know when the bus is full (holds 28). Friday morning or Saturday afternoon will be available.

Pity, The Snake

(Read this out loud)

Pity was a snake, only so big. Pity lived in a pit with his mother. One day Pity was hissing in the pit when his mother said, "Pity, don't hiss in the pit, go outside of the pit to hiss." So Pity went outside of the pit to hiss.

Pity was hissing all around when he finally leaned over and hissed in the pit. Pity's mother heard Pity hissing in the pit and said, "Pity, if you must hiss in a pit, go over to Mrs. Pot's pit and hiss in her pit."

Pity went over to Mrs. Pot's pit to hiss in her pit, but Mrs. Pot was not at home so he hissed in her pit anyway. While Pity was hissing in Mrs. Pot's pit, Mrs. Pot came home and found Pity hissing in her pit. She said, "Pity,

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 33

Celebration of Life



Lt. Lawrence McKelvy (Mack) Castleberry, Fox Co. 253rd Regiment, died February 4, 2011. His widow Pattie, lives in Sherman TX. His death was reported by Herman Fabiani.

Joseph Mack, died on September 5, 2007. His widow, Joanne, lives at 66392 US Highway 31, Lakeville, IN 46536.

Francis B. Enoch, Co. K 253rd Infantry Regiment, died December 25, 2008. His death was reported by his nephew, D.W. Clayton.

Coleman L. Burns, Medic 363, died on December 13, 2010.

Ralph Earley, died May 23, 2010. His death was reported by his daughter, Lorraine Demeter.

John J. Dooley, H254, died on April 6, 2011. His death was reported by his companion Joan Renninger.

Robert Owens, HQ253, was reported deceased by his daughter, Dion Owens. No other information was available.

Henry Schartzler, age 97, Anti-Tank 253, of Litchfield, KY, died March 2, 2011. His death was reported by his daughter Carolyn Elmore.

Harold W. Black, 255th Infantry Anti-tank division, died March 14, 2011. His wife of 63 years, Viola Black, resides at 265B Federal Street, Montague, MA 01351.

Wallace M. Barringer, G 254, died October 11, 2009. He fought in the "Battle of the Bulge" at age 18. His wife of 57 years, Marion, lives at 31262 Country Way, Farmington, MI 48331.

Dale Graham, part of the 254th Infantry, 63rd Division, whose unit arrived at Normandy, just days after the initial invasion, died on April 5, 2011. His death was reported by Thomas E. Glunt, Burney, CA, Hq. Co. 2nBN 254th.

Glen O. Brandon, 1st/Sgt., A253 63rd Inf., died November 1987. His death was reported by his wife, Josephine Brandon, 26575 Ann St., Richland, MO 65556.

Richard "Dick" Kogler, M254, died April 27, 2011. His widow, Fern Kogler, resides at 1555 Castleberry Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70815. His death was reported by John D. Erhardt and no other information was given.

Robert Apperson, E253, died December 11, 2009. His death was reported by his son, Craig Cramer. No other information was given.

Norman Walton, C-862/863, died in 2007. His death was reported by his widow Ardeth Walton, 1716 H. Summers Road, Imlay City, MI 48444.

PFC John S. Sharrer, Jr., A.T.C. 253 Inf., died November 9, 2010. His death was reported by his son John S. Scharrer III.

Eslie Howell, B254, has been reported deceased on December 27, 2010.

William Hankinson, A 254, Life 1840, recently passed away. His death was reported by his son Ken Hankinson.

Arthur Pinkham, Med 363, died May 10, 2010. His widow, Margaret Pinkham lives at 106 Colts Pond Rd., Oxford, CT 06278.

Fred C. Sain, Rifleman Company, died August 27, 2010 at the age of 83.

Kent P. Kratz, HQ 255, died November 12, 2009. His death was reported by his wife Betty Kratz, 12041 Douglas Cir., Omaha, NE 68154.

Edward W. Furbee, A 861, died March 3, 2011. His death was reported by his cousin William S. Blackburn, 17 So. Lake Drive, Barkersburg, WV 26101.

George Strawbridge, HQ 253, died in 2011.

Ernest J. Van DeMark, G255, died February 8, 2011.

Charles Crowley, C253, died Feb. 24, 2011.

DEATH OF SPOUSES

Charlotte Boling, wife of Walter Boling, F253, died April 1, 2011. No other information was given.

Belenda Crowley, wife of Charles Crowley, C253, has passed away.

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

Winter is on my head, but eternal spring is in my heart.

– Victor Hugo, French Novelist

Welcome To Indianapolis

Elevate Your Getaway!

The Circle City has it all, take a look....

You might already know that Indy hosts the largest single-day sporting event in the world, and that our zoo is ranked Top 10 nationally. You might even know that our legendary children's museum is the world's largest. But did you know that there are over 200 restaurants, Circle Centre Mall and the beautiful Central Canal within walking distance once you are downtown?

To elaborate: Two downtown landmarks, Monument Circle (The Soldiers and Sailors Monument) and Indiana War Memorial Plaza are great urban spaces. The 24 acre plaza, like Washington, D.C.'s National Mall, gives Indy the distinction of devoting more acreage to honoring veterans than any other city ... it's second to D.C. in number of war memorials. In the Civil War, 75 percent of eligible men from Indiana joined the Union, second only to Delaware per capita ... And since then, Indiana's war casualties have numbered double the national average. So, please ... visit the Plaza!

Downtown boasts three remarkable pro-sports venues: The Lucas Oil Stadium is home to the Indianapolis Colts, Super Bowl champs in 2007; Consecro Field House is home to NBA's Indiana Pacers and WNBA's Indiana Fever. The Indianapolis Indians play AAA baseball at Victory Field, our beautiful new stadium. Nearby also visit NCAA Hall of Champions, The National Collegiate Athletic Museum.

See in close proximity, our triple accredited zoo, exhibiting exotic animals within 5 different living habitats. Also the aquarium there with the world's only underwater dolphin viewing dome!! Then just next door inside, see the Hilbert Conservatory and be amazed by free-flying butterflies each summer.

Next you might want to try out the White River Junction Train Ride ... a 10 minute ride winding all around the zoo, where you will see animals of many kinds and the other facilities that keep the zoo running.

Perhaps you'd rather enjoy the 1 1/2 mile riverside promenade along the canal, or better still, rent a paddleboat and see the city from the water, OR visit the IMAX theater which delivers 2D and 3D films to a six and a half story screen!!

Next door to the Park grounds are the Congressional Medal of Honor Memorial and the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art a wonderful museum, and be sure to climb into an authentic stage coach on the lower level before leaving.

Want to shop? Circle Centre Mall is just a block or two east where you can visit Nordstrom's and Carson Pirie Scott department stores as well as many specialty shops.

Hungry? If you don't want to eat in Champs or the Food Court at Circle Centre, just step outside and take advantage of the many wonderful restaurants Indy has to offer.

Feeling tired? Then take a carriage ride around the city offered by Blue Ribbon Carriage Co. and Yellow Rose Carriage.

How about taking the kids to the World's Biggest and Best Children's Museum! This is not just for kids see 100,000 artifacts and get this! ... a 27 foot tall water clock. The 43 foot tall Fireworks of Glass Tower will blow you away! Also, a great Dinosphere exhibit. See for yourself by going to childrensmuseum.org

If you are inclined to get out of the city a little way, how about visiting The Indianapolis Museum of Art? The main building contains changing and permanent exhibitions ranging from ancient artifacts to contemporary masterpieces.

Don't leave the Indianapolis area without visiting the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Capital of the World! In the Hall of Fame Museum you will see one of the most diversified collections of antique classic passenger autos and racing cars in the world! Take a look at the famous 500 mile track.

Of course, there are many more places to visit, such as Connor Prairie, a "hands on" pioneer village where families of today explore and discover what it was like to live and play in Indiana's past.

We have much, much more to offer, so please come and check us out!

2011 REUNION
AUGUST 18-19-20
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Jesse Ott war experiences . . .

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

which has the highest casualties because there are more infantry than any other branch of service, some were sent to the signal corps, some to the engineers.

I, along with several others, were assigned to Field Artillery, whatever that was. Many of us were sent to Camp Roberts, near San Luis Obispo, CA, some to infantry basic training. Basic artillery training was a 17-week course, when we arrived there, but it was cut short because of the urgent need for replacements.

When we arrived at Camp Roberts the first thing that happened to us was another physical exam which included vision and dental. The doctors had our records from the processing we had at Fort MacArthur.

The doctor asked me if I would like to attend Officer Candidate School. I didn't know anything about the Army but that sounded better than peeling potatoes and pushing a wheel barrow, so I answered, "I guess so" and that was the last I heard of that. My I.Q. test score must have been high enough to give me a chance at a commission.

The 17-week basic training cycle was suddenly lowered to 10 weeks and at the end of 7 weeks several recruits were transferred NCO school. At 8 weeks more men were sent out to divisions as replacements. After 9 weeks a few of us were transferred to an O.C.S. prep school in another part of the Field Artillery school.

There we were drilled in the ways and techniques of commanding troops in drilling formations as well as an introduction to the type of subjects we would study in O.C.S.

Our graduating class of O.C.S. prep school were shipped out to Fort Sill, Oklahoma where the Field Artillery School is located. We were assigned to O.C.S. Class #58 and began training 1 January 1943. I had been inducted into the Army on 9/11/42 so it was a short tour of duty between my induction as a private to O.C.S. as a corporal. I guess you had to be an NCO to attend O.C.S.

We graduated 1 April 1943 after 90 days of a tough grind of pressure 24/7 from the time we started training until we graduated as 2nd Lts.

Our joke of the day on the graduation was that the folder handed to us would not be our commissions but a paper saying, "April Fools – you failed".

Again, most of the new 2nd Lts. were shipped out to units that needed officers. Some of us were kept at Fort Sill to attend specialized training such as Survey, Recon., or Battery Executive Officer course where I was assigned. The Battery Executive Officer commands the Howitzer position and conducts fire

missions in support of the infantry, armor or other.

He also is second in command of the Artillery Battery and commands the battery when the Battery Commander is absent.

The 3 Infantry Regiments sailed for Europe late in 1944. The Artillery and special troops followed in early January 1945 from New York Port of embarkation. Some of us were lucky to get passes into New York City to see the ball drop at the stroke of midnight New Year's Eve.

We were fortunate to sail on a modern luxury liner that was fast enough to sail solo to Marseilles, France. Of course, the retreating Germans had sank a number of ships in the harbor so our ship couldn't reach the piers, so we anchored out and got our personnel and equipment ashore on rafts – solid wood deck supported by floats and propelled by outboard motors. Our bivouac area was on a bare hill with not a sprig of vegetation as far as one could see. Even the poles supporting the electric lines were concrete. The ground was frozen as solid as rock. We built fires in empty 55 gallon fuel drums. The weapons and vehicles had been protected from the salt sea air with heavy coats of cosmoline, a grease so thick it had to be removed with kerosene -- but not here. It was so cold the cosmoline would resist all efforts to remove it. We finally had to heat the kerosene in 5 gallon containers over open fires to get the cosmoline off the equipment. (Don't try this at home because of the extreme fire danger.)

From Marseilles we motored north with full combat equipment ready for use. Upon arrival at the front we went into positions in the area of Soargemines and other small towns with "Soar" in their names. I put my 4 Howitzer firing battery into position and began firing missions handed down by Battalion fire direction center.

As the infantry advanced we displaced forward and continued close support of the 1st Infantry Battalions 255 Regiment. In the 63rd Infantry Division we had one of the closest artillery support of any unit in the Army. Each light (105mm) Howitzer was direct close support of an infantry regiment. The three 105mm Howitzer batteries supported an infantry battalion. "A" Battery of the 863rd F.A. Battalion supported an infantry battalion. We, the artillery had a Forward Observer and crew with each infantry company. This meant there were only two officers left with each artillery battery – the Battery CO and the executive officer at the Howitzer positions. This arrangement with me and "A" Battery lasted only a week or two before we lost all our

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Jesse Ott war experiences . . . - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 32

Forward Observers to wounds inflicted by the enemy in the battle of the quarry.

The 1st Battalion, 255 Infantry jumped off on an attack to eliminate a German salient into our front line, 3 companies abreast, "A" Company on the left. "A" Company reached its objective with Bob Young, "A" Company commander, 20 riflemen and 5 men of a mortar crew. This was a wooded hill about 300 or 400 yards in front of our front line. The hill was surrounded by open ground covered by enemy fire.

"B" and "C" Companies were caught in a rock quarry under German artillery fire. It was an unattainable position because each German shell blew out hundreds of rock fragments which multiplied the killing and wounding effect of each shell.

When "B" and "C" companies pulled out of the quarry back to their own lines, there were only 55 riflemen and 2 first lieutenants left of the two companies.

I was pulled out of the firing battery and sent forward with a crew to be forward observer for the remnants of the remains of 1st Infantry Battalion which then consisted of Capt. Young, 2 1st Lieutenants and 85 men.

I surveyed the area by foot with Capt. Young and picked out probable routes of German attack. After plotting these on my map I called them in to Battalion Fire Direction Center and determined with them concentration numbers so that in case of attack I could call fire the attacking enemy by just giving the concentration number. In the defense or in the attack the situation is so fluid that seconds can mean the difference between success and failure.

Pity the snake ...

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if you must hiss in a pit, don't hiss in my pit; go to your own pit and hiss."

This made Pity very sad, and he cried all the way home. When Pity got home, his mother saw him crying and said, "Pity, what's the matter?"

Pity said, "I went over to Mrs. Pot's to hiss in her pit but Mrs. Pot was not at home, so I hissed in her pit anyway. Mrs. Pot came home and found me hissing in her pit and said, "Pity, if you must hiss in a pit, go to your own pit and hiss, don't hiss in my pit."

This made Pity's mother very angry and she said, "Why that mean old lady! I knew Mrs. Pot when she didn't have a pit to hiss in!"

We held out on the objective for three days, repelling counter-attacks every day until relieved by a larger unit. (A note here about the close coordination between the 63rd Division Infantry and artillery. General Hibbs was an artillery officer and knew from a long Army career how potent could be artillery close support of infantry.)

The rest of my combat days were served as a Field Artillery Forward Observer. After a few fierce battles supporting the infantry, there always seemed anywhere from 2-6 men near me to protect me from enemy small arms fire. They must have wanted their artillery support. I really think they were trying to ensure that their close artillery supporting fire continued. That fire sometimes prevented them being overrun by the attacking enemy and sometimes making it possible to achieve their objective when they were attacking the enemy.

Once we had broken the German's prepared defensive positions, we began to advance in miles instead of yards. During the night the enemy would retreat in haste to prepared positions farther back into their territory. They would leave a rear guard to delay us. Then as we attacked, they faded away and ran to their rear to join their comrades in their prepared positions.

The next day we would attack against little or no opposition and reach the new German defensive line late in the day. Here they would fight us to a standstill until darkness halted our attack. During the night they would again withdraw to prepared defenses further back. This would go on for several days before we finally destroyed them or they retreated farther back into Germany. The German Army knew their war was lost and were trying to survive until war was ended.

Finally the Germans opposing us retreated so fast and so far that we couldn't reach them before dark. Then someone at division or corps hit upon the idea of using our anti-aircraft searchlights to illuminate the battlefield so we could continue our pursuit of the Germans on into the night until we reached their positions.

These searchlights were idle most of the time because by then the German Air Force (DerLiefthaffe) had been destroyed. The searchlights were adjusted to "flood" so they could be used to bounce their brilliant light off the clouds. This lighted up the battlefield as bright as a full moon so that we could see well enough to continue advancing. This was a two-edged sword – while we could see where we were going, it made us

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Jesse Ott war experiences . . . - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33

stand out as dark silhouette that the enemy could use as targets that should be easy to hit with rifle or machine gun fire.

First Battalion 255 Infantry was assigned its sector of the Siegfried line which straddled a paved road. The road was cleared for traffic but could be blocked at will by steel anti-tank barriers. Company "A", as usual, was the spearhead of this attack.

Company "A" led the advance to a small village of a half-dozen houses about a half mile from the Siegfried fortifications where we held up for the night. The next day we had a tank destroyer with a high velocity 76mm gun pull up within 100 yards of the pillbox guarding the left side of the road crossing the Siegfried Line. It poured point blank fire at the gun embrasure facing our troops. It withdrew and another took its place. This one didn't fair as well as the first one because a German "88" artillery-round hit it and set it afire. I don't think any of the crew escaped.

By this time this had transpired it was getting late in the afternoon before Company "A" and "B" jumped off in the attack. In the confusion of battle, the units lost contact with each other, so we were pulled back out of the Siegfried Line back to defensive positions a couple hundred yards in front of it.

The next day a self-propelled 155 man "Long Tom" gun was brought up to within a hundred yards and used up its load of ammo on the same pillbox.

This bombardment was finished early in the day so as soon as it pulled out we attacked our sector and took it again. This time Company "B" passed through our sector and attacked the flank of their sector and its pillbox.

This bombardment was finished early in the day so as soon as it pulled out, we attacked our sector and took it again. This time Company "B" passed through our sector and attacked the flank of their sector and its pillbox.

Company "B" took its objective and was organizing its defense when friendly artillery began to rain down on them. Immediately called my fire direction center to cease fire and was informed that they weren't firing and none of our division artillery was firing there either.

It must have been Corps or Army artillery firing on our troops. I asked our fire directions center to find out who was firing and get it stopped. There was an artillery liaison plane flying slowly back and forth behind our lines. I knew there was an artillery

observer up there directing that fire. I reported this and in a rage at this senseless slaughter of our own unit I told my fire direction center to get the firing stopped or shoot that "son-of-a-b----" down. About the time I told them that the C.O. of Company "B", who was standing atop the pillbox he had captured waving his field jacket at the plane to show it was one of our units he was shelling, had his head blown off by a round that exploded near him. The firing soon stopped but not before the needless loss of the lives of some good men.

This time we stayed on our objectives.

Our advance to the small village before we reached the Siegfried Line was across open rolling country. Because there was no enemy in sight, we advanced in single file column. We had covered a lot of grounds when we finally reached a gentle rolling hill which we were crossing on a small cattle trail.

The platoon commander was leading the column while I was marching with the squad leader of the second squad. All of a sudden two German soldiers in a camouflaged slit trench we hadn't seen, shot the platoon leader in the back after he had passed their position. They immediately stood up without their weapons to surrender. Poor choice. They should have surrendered before shooting our platoon lieutenant in the back.

After we reached the village, we dug in for defense. We occupied a slope facing the houses of the village with a towed 57mm anti-tank gun near the corner of the first house and sited to cover the road that ran through the village and past our dug-in positions.

All of a sudden a German light tank pulled into position the other side of the village and began to fire into our position.

I immediately radioed by fire direction center for fire on the tank giving them map coordinates that would place the first round about 400 yards past the village so I could walk succeeding rounds back toward the tank. Tanks were deathly afraid of our artillery fire.

I couldn't get the fire of any of our division artillery so my fire mission was passed on to some other outfit's artillery. Now artillery adjustments are made with only one piece to conserve ammunition. When the fire is on the target, all howitzers in the battery are used to fire for effect.

Finally the words "on the way" were radioed to me so I would know that the round had been fired. In a few seconds I heard the round, which makes a sighing noise as it travels through the air, and it was going to fall short. I yelled to our men to "hit the dirt" before

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Jesse Ott war experiences . . . - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 34

dropping into my fox hole. I remember thinking, “Oh, my God! I’ve killed some of our own men.”

The round landed between the trails of the anti-tank gun directly in front of me. I immediately yelled “cease fire” into my radio and began to look for casualties. Thankfully there were none but the tank beat a hostly retreat.

The round had blackened the anti-tank gun and put some dents in everything behind the gun shield.

In looking in the direction the tank had gone, I saw a single file of enemy soldiers retreating over a gentle hill toward the Siegfried line fortifications. I figured if I could eliminate a few of them it would be that many fewer we would have to fight later. Again all our artillery was firing missions for other units. By the time my turn came to fire it was too late. The retreating Germans were on the far side of the hill out of sight.

While reporting from A Battery gun position to Company A, 1st BN. 255 Infantry Regt., I passed 3 brand new Sherman tanks sitting in the field where Company A had crossed to attack their objective. Because I had accompanied the 55 men and two 1st Lts. to join Company A at night, I had not had a chance to examine the damage to them. They looked perfectly good when I had first glimpsed them.

After we were relieved and came down off our objective, I took a close up look at the tanks. I found they had been destroyed by a German anti-tank gun. One had been set afire by the round that hit it. The intense heat from the explosion and the gasoline in the fuel tank must have killed the crew instantly because they were just ashes. I think they died instantly so they didn’t suffer the agony of dying in a slow fire. The other two tanks didn’t show much damage from outside, so the crew must have been killed by shock waves and metal shrapnel bouncing around inside the crew compartment. These two looked like they could have just been built and were sitting in the factory yard waiting to be shipped out.

The infantry troops stripped them of all useful items including the weapons and small arms ammo.

One of the members of a 61mm mortar crew had taken a new Thompson caliber 45 machine gun out of one tank and was carrying it awkwardly while carrying his part of the mortar assembly.

As I was not to confident of the accuracy of my issue .45 caliber automatic pistol, I agreed to trade my pistol and holster for the tommy gun. This tommy gun had two clips – one 20 round clip and one 30 round clip taped together so that when one clip was emptied you could eject it, flip the taped-together clips 180° and

have the other clip inserted and the gun firing with only a firing interruption of a few seconds. This gave you 50 rounds of 45 caliber ammo before you had to reload the clips.

This weapon was most accurate on single shot and on full automatic was not accurate in bursts of three rounds. The reason was the tendency of the barrel to climb to the right as the weapon was fired. If you fired more than three rounds at a time, chances were from the fourth round onward you would just be wasting ammo shooting at the sky.

I had kept the 30-round clip in firing position, but had never fired the weapon. After we had secured our sector of the Siegfried Line, I walked back to the near village where my forward observer crew’s jeep was located for something. On my way back to the line position, I decided to test fire my tommy gun. I cocked it, pointed it at a small sand bank and pulled the trigger. Nothing happened. I removed the clip and found that the hole in the clip that the locking pin engaged to hold the clip in place had been used so much that the hole was elongated into an oval and didn’t hold the clip high enough into the breech for the bolt to pick up a round and shove it into firing position. I had no source of a new clip so I solved the problem by holding the front of the gun up by pushing up on the clip with my left hand instead of holding it up by holding the wooden forestock of the gun. It worked very well.

I think we held our positions in the Siegfried Line a couple of days. I remember wondering why we weren’t continuing our attack which had been going on for days. I didn’t know it at the time and didn’t find out until I found out about the 63rd Infantry Division Association in 1994 or 1995. In one of the pieces of literature available, I learned that after our fiasco of taking our sector of the Siegfried Line the first time and when darkness fell and caused us to lose contact with the other units, our incompetent regimental commander had been fired and Col. Hatcher had replaced him. The change of command and subsequent changes in some staff positions gave us in the front line a little respite from the constant advancing we had been doing.

(To be continued – some day!)

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.

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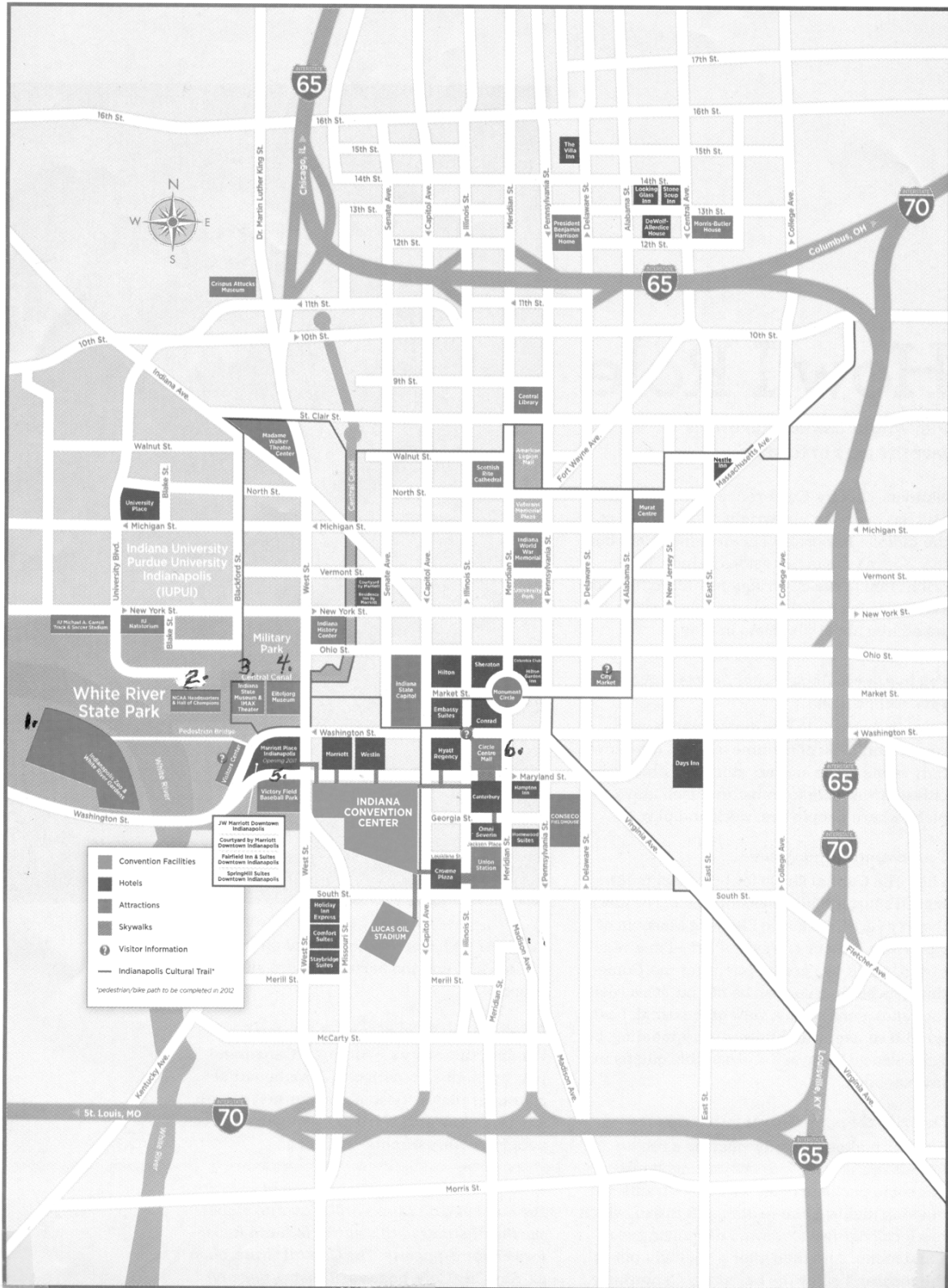
www.members.aol.com/forvets/dd214.htm.

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5. Victory Field 6. Circle Centre Mall

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