

The Private Who Cracked The Siegfried Line

March 16, 1945 — just ten years ago — was a raw, overcast day on the German border. At 6 o'clock in the morning, the 254th Infantry Regiment of the 63rd Division (I was commanding M Company) trudged in ragged single file out of the town of Ennheim. Our destination, just 1,500 yards ahead, was the Siegfried Line — Germany's "impenetrable West Wall."

We didn't know it, but we were about to conquer the world's most fearsome fortification through the amazing ingenuity of a nameless private!

Into the Siegfried Line, extending along the frontiers of Holland, Belgium, Luxemburg and France to the Swiss border, Hitler had poured 6 million tons of concrete and 3 million rolls of barbed wire. It had taken 532,000 men, working in relays day and night, to build reinforced-concrete bunkers, pillboxes and tank traps. The Fuhrer believed in it — completely.

Now we were spearheading an American drive to crack the southern sector of the Line and overrun the Saar, Germany's industrial heartland.

To the north, the First Army had already crossed the Rhine; Patton's tanks were slashing across the plains of Germany toward Bavaria. But all this meant nothing to us. Our war was here. We had a tough part of the Line to crack, and it was still as sound and strong as the day the war started. (The Pentagon vouches for the fact that the author's regiment was the first of the Seventh Army to reach the Siegfried Line — Ed.)

Our plan was simple. Under cover of night we hoped to slip through the Line by way of a wooded draw and hit from the rear. But it didn't work out that way. For as the gray dawn broke, we found ourselves strung out over a long hill, staring the enemy in the face!

With knots in our stomachs — there wasn't a man who wouldn't admit he was scared — we drew closer. Up and down the line you could hear whispers, "Looks like a trap." There wasn't a sound.

Then to our amazement, one enemy soldier arose from his trench, threw a blanket from his shoulders and leisurely stretched in the brisk, tense air. They hadn't seen us! But he soon did, and took off like Paul Revere.

It was obvious now that we wouldn't "slip through." Thirty minutes later it seemed that the whole German First Army had awakened. It was raining artillery shells!

Shortly we were within "throwing distance" of their pillboxes. Some of them, we learned later, could have qualified as small hotels. Two or three stories deep, several even had cooking facilities and sleeping quarters for troops. Built mostly underground, they had grass and brush growing on top — excellently camouflaged. Some even were covered by houses and trees. All were connected by tunnels or trenches.

These emplacements were built in groups of six or seven to cover the draws and likely avenues of approach. Mutually supporting, each was protected by the machine-gun fire of two or three others. So the logical procedure of attacking one at a time wouldn't work; we had to take them as a group.

The way to capture a pillbox — we had been trained — was to close up the enemy guns by continuous firing of machine guns and automatic rifles, then send one man forward with a "pole charge." (A pole charge consisted of 15 to 20 pounds of TNT tied on the end of a stick, hobo-fashion. By sticking the sharpened end in the ground, the TNT could be propped against the pillbox. It had worked in the Pacific, we were told.)

By 10:40 A.M. we had recouped from the artillery shelling, had three pillboxes closed up and a man was crawling forward with his pole charge. He pulled the fuse and ran.

With ears still ringing, we peered — and could hardly believe our eyes. The only damage was a chip, slightly larger than an apple! Bewildered, the explosives man wanted to try the pole charge again. And again he got just a chip.

So the battalion commander called for "bazookas" (2.38-inch rockets) which, according to the manual, would penetrate 12 inches

By Charles E. Ball, C.O. Company M, 254th Infantry Regiment

of masonry. They, too, bounced off like bean shooters. It turned out that the walls and tops of these pillboxes were 4 to 12 feet thick!

On each side wall was a small opening — a foot square on the inside, fanning out to about 5' x 5' outside. Covering the small opening inside was a steel door four inches thick. Soon as we stopped firing, it would fly open and a machine gun would roll out to spray the area with about 600 bullets per minute. We could "close the door" with machine-gun fire any time we wanted, but it was afternoon now and our ammunition supply was dwindling.

Frustration reigned. Here we were at the Siegfried Line . . . in it . . . practically on top of it! But we were helpless. Tanks couldn't get within a mile, because of tank traps, dragon's teeth, anti-tank guns and rough terrain.

As time rocked along — mid-afternoon — the situation grew a little amusing. "Where's the dragon?" called out a Texas Sergeant, who had gained quite a reputation for easing tension during deathly circumstances.

Siegfried, legendary hero, once killed a dragon on the east bank of the Saar River, thus winning the magic ring and the helmet of Tarnhelm. This made him invincible in battle. And that's where the Siegfried Line got its name.

During the lull, the Colonel was approached by a confident Corporal: "Sir, see that open vent pipe sticking out the top . . . how about me dropping a grenade down it?"

"Best idea of the day," the Colonel replied. So with machine gun fire we closed all three pillboxes again and the Corporal worked forward. Confidently, he dropped the grenade and jumped.

Two seconds later . . . out it rolled right by the Corporal's feet — wounding him. The Germans, apparently anticipating such a stunt, had a trap door in the vent, with a chute that rolled objects like grenades out the side.

For a while we just waited — some lay prone in little depressions for cover — while the battalion commander and staff cogitated on what to do next. We kept enough rifle fire knocking on the pillbox doors to keep their guns quiet and permit us cautious movement.

It was perhaps a half hour later that a meek ammunition bearer, carrying a bangalore torpedo, approached his commanding officer. "Sir, he said, "this won't roll out. Let me try it."

(A bangalore torpedo, 2 1/8 inches in diameter and five feet long, is something like a drain pipe packed with nine pounds of TNT. These torpedoes can be screwed end to end, and are built for pushing ahead of you to blow a path through mine fields or barbed-wire entanglements.)

So with our machine guns blazing again, the Private ran 30 yards and then on hands and knees climbed the big mound. We watched the kid with hearts in our throats. Nervously, he stuck his bangalore down the vent, pulled the fuse and jumped into a nearby trench.

A few seconds of tense waiting . . . then a dull boom like a giant fire-cracker in a vinegar barrel.

All was quiet for a few minutes, except our automatic weapons to the immediate right and left that kept the adjacent bunkers shut up. We crept around the pillbox and found that the safest place was behind it, for those of us who were not actually shooting.

Then the big rear door slowly opened — like a vault door in the Chase National Bank. Two German soldiers staggered out with hands in air. One had a burned face, the other, a bleeding nose. "Our Comrades will have to be carried out," they said.

The lowly Private had done it! He had found the "key" to the strongest part of the "impenetrable West Wall!" Taking the remaining five bunkers in this group was a routine 30-minute job.

(In our country it would cost from \$20,000 to \$50,000 to build one of these pillboxes. And just to think that for another \$4 the Germans could have put a top on that vent!)

But darkness soon overtook us, and with it came counterattack after counterattack. By midnight our battalion was completely surrounded and we were on the defensive, fighting for our lives. Ironi-

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cally, it now seemed to be we who were defending the Siegfried!

Fighting for the next two days was fierce. But we had opened a gate. After an explosives team blew out a few dragon teeth, a bulldozer filled tank traps and our armor poured into the Saar. Then followed the Seventh Army's historic link-up with the Third and the rat race to the Danube.

The Private? Well, in the confusion and excitement that followed, he was absorbed in the battle. I haven't been able to find anyone who remembers his name. He was just a G.I. without even a First Class Private chevron. But to him an untold number of Allied soldiers owe their lives.

(This article from the April, 1955 issue of PATHFINDER was sent to us by Robert H. Joseph, I & R Platoon, Headquarters Company, 253rd Regiment.)



D.A.V. MEMBERSHIP AWARD —

Francis A. Ambig, Cannon Company, 253rd Infantry Regiment, left, Norristown, Pa. Chapter 25 Disabled American Veteran's Commander, is presented with the National Commanders' Membership Team 1971-1972 Award at a Chapter meeting. Making the presentation is Andrew J. Long, immediate past commander of Chapter 25. The Norristown Chapter secured more than 50 new members.

WILLIAM G. SMITH — Company F, 253 — 7528 Primrose Drive, Mentor Lake, Ohio, 44060 . . . on a recent vacation to Baton Rouge, Smitty set up a reunion of Company F men in that area and also of other 63rd'ers who wished to attend . . . says that he had a swell time even though the response of his men was not "too good" . . . those from Company F that made it were HAROLD DWYER, Metairie, La., JAMES KING and family, Corinth, Ms., RICHARD HOLMES and wife, Lake Charles, La., WALTER MORSE and wife and daughter, Vidor, Tx., FRANK MYRICK and son, Waco, Tx., MAX HOLTSCLOW and wife, Carthage, Il., CHARLES CHERRY and wife, Selma, Al., and JOHN CREWS (Congressional Medal of Honor Awardee) and son, Oklahoma City, Ok. . . others attending were J.M. Lamkin, A Battery, 861st F.A. from Arcaia, La. and WARREN (FRENCHY) ESNEAULT, Company C, 253, Gramercy, La. . . Smitty said that he had notes and phone calls from others that could not attend . . . says that Baton Rouge, like all cities, has certainly changed . . . and wouldn't you know Smitty forgot to take his camera when they went to downtown Baton Rouge, to LSU and to New Orleans . . . while in Baton Rouge, Smitty received a phone call from home informing him that Carl Salupo of Company H, 253 had died . . . Phil Lachance traveled from Lansing, Michigan to Wickliffe, Ohio, where Carl lived, and attended the funeral and presented a flag to Mrs. Salupo on behalf of the division . . . and Smitty, like Murray Moore, is still tracking down additional men from Company F . . . he is asking for up-to-date rosters and will receive them just as soon as we get them from Ed Fowle . . . Smitty was planning a trip to Hartford, Ct., to help with the planning of the possible next site for our national reunion . . . Del Conroy, also of Company F appears to be "headin' it up" . . . May 5 and 6 were listed as dates for an area meeting . . . (in Hartford at the Sheraton) . . . (Apr. 13)

JOHN GRAVES — Company H, 255 — 1255 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20036 . . . John writes that the Archives have been moved to a suburb or Suitland, Md., the Washington National Records Center . . . details will be found elsewhere in this publication . . . John has asked for a copy of our mailing list as he says he has a great idea on contacting "the guys" . . . as he says, we are all getting older and wonders if any of us have ever thought about who would be the last man to attend a reunion — all along! . . . that's something to think about . . . John is still an "eligible" bachelor . . . (Mar. 15)

PATRICK CERBO — Headquarters Battery, 718th — 13 D, Village Mall, Jamesburg, NJ, 08831 . . . Pat and his wife Jennie are now living in a beautiful adult community (Rossmoor) with golfing and swimming, etc., at their disposal . . . and they really love it . . . they have three daughters, Patti, Anne and Frances . . . also one grandson, age 9, who is a real joy to them . . . Pat is in the trucking business . . . (Mar. 12)

EARL C. McWHORTER — C Battery, 862nd — Route 3, Belton, S.C., 29627 . . . we have no family status on Earl who was the supply sergeant in C Battery . . . he is in the service station maintenance and supplier business and writes that he hopes to see us all in Chicago . . . he attended the last reunion in Chicago in '62 and in Miami in '63 . . . (Mar. 12)

JOHN DELIBERT — Company H, 254 — 496 Caroline St., Rochester, N.Y., 14620 . . . John is now retired having formerly worked for the city of Rochester . . . he is the father of three children, Anne, Andrew and Joseph, all married . . . no other news to report . . . (Mar. 12)

GEORGE GARDNER — Company K, 253 — Lothrop Ave., West Harwich, Ma., 02671 . . . George and his wife Elsie will be at the Chicago Reunion in spite of the fact that the end of July is his busiest season of the year . . . George is the Superintendent of the Water Department and water consumption is exceptionally heavy at that time of the year with lawnsprinkling and outdoor pools, etc. . . . George says that he hopes K Company will have the largest attendance of any unit at the Chicago reunion . . . rounding out the Gardner family are sons Leonard and Gerald . . . (Feb. 22)

WILLARD R. HEIDENREICH — C Battery, 863rd — R.D. 7, Butler, Pa., 16001 . . . Bill is a machinist and he and wife Agnes are parents of Bill and Tom . . . no other news this time from the Heidenreichs . . . (Mar. 10)

NEWS FROM . . .

ALEX C. KAEMPFER — 763rd Ordnance Co — 3800 So. Decatur Blvd., No. 276, Las Vegas, Nv., 89016 . . . Alex is the Official Court Reporter for the District of Nevada at Las Vegas . . . quite a title . . . he is looking ahead to retirement though "yesterday" seems like a dream; what happened in World War II, the friendships, the heartaches, the worries and tensions and the time lost from civilian society, etc. . . . he won't be able to attend our reunion but sends along his best wishes to all and hopes that we have a successful affair . . . Alex is a Life Member of the association . . . he and his wife Cora are parents of Jon, Chris and Gary . . . number one son is going to go into business when he is through school; number two hopes to become a lawyer soon; and number three is currently doing student teaching and expects to become a teacher in two years . . . Cora is working for Jessie Emmett Realty Co. in Las Vegas . . . says that any 63rd'er planning on moving out that way can get some real assistance from Cora when it comes to finding a home . . . but the prices are high . . . Alex says that the 763rd Ordnance were always where the bullets were the thickest . . . in the boxes . . . (Mar. 31)

LAWRENCE F. PAUCH — Service Company, 253 — 5510 Orchard Ave., Parma, Ohio, 44129 . . . no news from Larry and his wife Rita who are parents of Karen, Eileen and Paul . . . Larry is a steelworker with the Jones and Laughlins Steel Company . . . perhaps we'll hear more later on from the Pauch's . . . (Mar. 15)

LOUIS RUZICKA — Headquarters Battery, 862nd F.A. — % Mail Room, V.A. Hospital, Walla Walla, Wa., 99362 . . . Louis, who is a mail clerk was sure glad to see his previous "news" in the February issue of the Blood and Fire . . . he would like to hear from other members of the battery . . . he wasn't with the division very long, only from September of 43 till June of 44, but still has a great love for the division and its members . . . he and wife Eleanor are parents of Donald, Marie, James and Nancy . . . (Mar. 15)

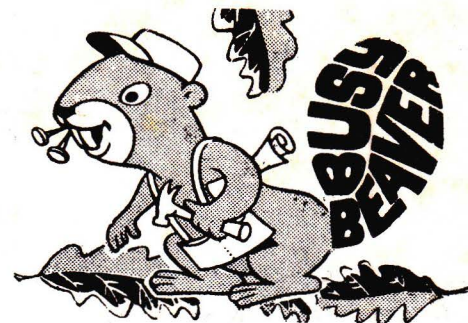
VINCENT MORICONE — Company F, 253 — 139 Bay 37th St., Brooklyn, N.Y., 11214 . . . Vince is still working for the N.Y.C. Transit . . . he and wife Gloria are still looking to making another reunion . . . they have three children, Steven, Vincent and Donna Marie . . . one son out of college, one in and their daughter is in seventh grade . . . (Mar. 31)

WILLIAM MAXEY — Company C, 254 — 146 Morris Ct., Scranton, Pa., 18504 . . . Bill writes " . . . don't have any money in your house. Burglars broke down my cellar door and stole three to four hundred dollars in old coins. Four cigar boxes full . . ." . . . Bill is a welder and truck mechanic and he and wife Alice are parents of Karen and Enid . . . we're sorry to learn of their misfortune and hope that the culprits will soon be apprehended . . . (Mar. 15)

JOSEPH B. SUTTON — Headquarters Co., 253 — 665 Chestnut St., Bridgeville, Pa., 15017 . . . Joe and his wife Betty are planning on being in Chicago too . . . at least according to a letter from Al Safra- nek, our 2nd Vice-president who is working feverishly on helping to set up the reunion . . . Joe is a supervisor for the General Electric Company . . . he and Betty are parents of Joseph, Jane and Jennifer. . . . (Mar. 31)

CARLYLE FOSBRINK — Cannon Company, 254 — 1915 Shelley St., Murfreesboro, Tn., 37130 . . . received a note from Carlyle's wife Dorothy giving us a correction on their address . . . Carlyle is a Sales Representative for the Industrial Appraisal Company of Pittsburgh, Pa. . . . the Fosbrink's have one son, Thomas . . . no other news this time . . . (Mar. 31)

MERYL DELTON HAINES — A Battery, 863rd — Rt 2, Mora, Mn, 55051 . . . this is the first that we have heard from Meryl in a long, long time . . . Meryl is a carpenter plus his wife's right arm in what was at one time a hobby with her . . . now a full time greenhouse business . . . he would like to get in touch with any other A Battery men in his area, about 65 miles north of the Twin Cities on highway 65 . . . that's all the news this time from the Haines . . . Oct. 25, '72



WALTER KRUTA — Company K, 253 — 5 Orchard Drive, Woodbury, N.Y., 11797 . . . not much in the way of news from Walt who is in the Insurance and Investments business . . . he and wife Barbara are parents of James, Kenneth and Russell . . . hope to have more news from the Krutas later on . . . (Feb. 7)

VINCENT L. FUERY — Division Hq, Postal Section — 20 Robert St., Attleboro, Ma., 02703 . . . Vince writes that he got his usual Christmas card from a family that he had met in Bad Mergentheim and along with it was a wedding picture showing three generations: the grandmother, whom Vince had met, the mother who was about Vince's age and the granddaughter, who was the bride . . . Vince states that the town of Bad Mergentheim has grown and that the place where the Division Hq had their mess is now gone and a super-market stands in its place . . . that's Vince's news . . . we have no personal "history" on him at all . . . (Feb. 7)

JAMES H. JONES — Medical Detachment, 254 — 380 West "K" St., Benicia, Ca., 94510 . . . Jim learned of the 63rd Association via the American Legion magazine last year . . . wanted to get to the Philadelphia reunion but couldn't make it but will try to make Chicago if his health will permit it . . . he joined the 63rd at Camp Van Dorn (lucky guy) . . . in July of '45 he went to U.S. Forces in Austria until February of '46 and then discharged in March of '46 . . . his home was in Memphis, Tn at that time . . . he and his wife Iva went to California later on where he went to work for the U.S. Government as a fireman until his retirement in 1968 . . . they have a son Jimmy who is a graduate of the University of California . . . a big 63rd Welcome to the Jones family . . . (Feb. 7)

FRANK J. HOLUB — Headquarters Battery, Division Artillery — 5229 W. 24th Place, Cicero, Il., 60650 . . . Frank was one of the "early birds" to join the division and writes that he remembers well the famous words of the late General McGaw, "Can Do" . . . in scanning over the back copies of the Blood and Fire that were sent to him, Frank has had a hard time of finding news from other members of the Headquarters Battery . . . he would like to locate CAPTAIN KING who at one time owned a movie theater in Denver, Colorado . . . 1/Sgt COHEN and M/Sgt MILLER who was the supply sgt. . . . Frank used to put on some of the shows at the Service Club in Natchez that was operated by the Elks Club of Natchez . . . also he used to run the radio program on Sundays for the Eola Hotel . . . he was a very good friend of DON PABLO . . . Frank and his wife LaVerne are planning on being at the Chicago reunion and hope to see many other headquarters men there too . . . we have no occupational or children status on Frank and LaVerne . . . (Feb. 7)

ALFRED CELLUCCI — Service Battery, 863rd — 31 Hamlin Lane, Needham, Ma., 02192 . . . no personal news from Al and his wife Claire . . . he did inform us of the death of CAPT. JOHN P. McGARR . . . his death was noted in the previous edition of Blood and Fire . . . we're hoping that the Celluccis will be able to attend another reunion real soon . . . Sept. 2, '72

TEXAS GERMAN — A Battery, 718th F.A. — Box 342, Connell, Wa., 99326 . . . coming to Chicago from Connell, Washington will be "Tex" and will meet CHARLIE GRUBBS of Toledo, Ohio and HAROLD COIE of Nyack, New York . . . that will be a great time we know . . . Tex is a farmer and is also in the fertilizer business . . . Tex has also informed us of the death of HERMAN C. POWELL, A Battery, 718th . . . Tex and his wife Barb are parents of Roxie and Richard . . . we'll see the German's in Chicago . . . Jan. 7, '73

MEMBERS WHO ATTENDED AT THE SHERATON CHICAGO—OAKBROOK

763rd ORDNANCE

Dick Croucher, 710 Gratiot St., Alma, Mi.
Al Edwards, R.R. No. 2, Russellville, Mo.
A. W. Kidwell, 1271 Sandpiper Lane, Napierville, Il.

63rd RECON TROOP

John C. Berkholz, 233 Peninsula Rd., Minneapolis, Mn.
Sam Fittante, 27761 Gail Ave., Warren, Mi.
Robert Jacobson, 4533 17th Ave. So., Minneapolis, Mn.

63rd QUARTERMASTER

Karl Gable, 320 S. Jackson St., Bluffton, Oh.
Edward Oznowich, 1013 Barkston Dr., Highland Hts., Oh.

263rd COMBAT ENGRS.

Fred Vateky, 523 Westview Ave., Ridgefield, N.J.

363rd MEDICAL BN.

Wilhelm Nebel, Co. A, R.D. 3, East Stroudsburg, Pa.
Alfred Rehm, Co. A, 117B Hinchman Ave., Wayne, N.J.
Len Rockey, Co. A, 3054 N. Kolmar Ave., Chicago, Il.

DIVISION ARTILLERY

Frank Holub, Hq. Bty, 5229 W. 24th Place, Cicero, Il.
Howard L. Polston, Hq. Bty, 5930 N. Merrimac Ave., Chicago, Il.
Howard Olson, 62 Chestnut Ave., Clarendon Hills, Il. (no battery listed)

718th FIELD ARTILLERY

Harold Cole, A Bty, 65 North Greenbush Rd., West Nyack, N.Y.
Texas Germain, A Bty, Box 342, Connell, Wa.
Charles Grubbs, A Bty, 457 S. Wheeling St., Oregon, Oh.
Vincent Hannon, A Bty, 3019 Timber Dr., Lansing, Mi.
William Hoover, A Bty, 963 E. Poplar St., York, Pa.
Harvey A. Heyden, A Bty, 15 Glenbrook Dr., Prospect Heights, Il.
Ralph Szymanski, A Bty, 12955 Wormer, Detroit, Mi.
Ray Oltmann, B Bty, 90 Riddle St., Rochester, N.Y.
Chris Davison, C Bty, P.O. Box 275, Pahokee, Fl.
Lester Frohlich, C Bty, 33 Morris Pkwy, Valley Stream, N.Y.
E. H. Kaminski, C Bty, 450 Paige St., New Kensington, Pa.

861st FIELD ARTILLERY

Gordon Boyd, Hq Bty, 614 S. 4th St., Springfield, Il.
Richard L. Dooley, Hq Bty, 874 Denier Pl., Cincinnati, Oh.
Rudy Holan, Hq. Bty, 3412 S. Maple Ave., Berwyn, Il.
Rev. Peter H. Kunnen, Hq Bty, 1011 Dakin St., Lansing, Mi.
Arthur W. Lee, Hq Bty, 210 Union Bank Bldg., Bellvue, Oh.
Edward J. Martin, Hq Bty, 222 W. Berkshire Ave., Lombard, Il.
Walter J. McGinley, Hq Bty, 451 Churnwood Rd., New Providence, N.J.
Ed Musial, Hq Bty, 8129 S. Madison, Hinsdale, Il.
Charles W. Southerlan, Hq Bty, 6 Fisher Dr., Bloomington, Il.
Gilbert Pasquini, Sv. Bty, 613 N. Elm St., Hinsdale, Il.
Albert Safranek, A Bty, 4112 W. Potomac Ave., Chicago, Il.
Mrs. Amelia Tavalaro, Widow of Richard Tavalaro, A Bty, 154 Wahl Ave., Inwood, N.Y.
Brig. Gen. Charles M. Young Jr., A Bty, 3400, Old Dominion Blvd, Alexandria, Va.

Clifford Ferding, B Bty, Elk Point, S.D.
Leon J. Gillett, B Bty, 9242 Hartel, Grand Ledge, Mi.
Clinton Maves, B Bty, 924 Raddant Rd., Batavia, Il.
Walfred A. Pruner, B Bty, 1019 Minnesota, Hancock, Mi.
Willis H. Sandbrink, B Bty, 809 Westside Dr., Aurora, In.
John H. Wirkku, C Bty, 812 Ash, Hancock, Mi.

862nd FIELD ARTILLERY

Griffith H. Amies, Hq Bty, 2541 Oak Knoll Lane, York, Pa.
John Corwin, Hq Bty, 5757 Hithergreen Dr., Dayton, Oh.
Edward F. Fowle, Jr., Hq Bty, 332 Dayton Ave., Springfield, Oh.
Marriott G. Haines, Hq Bty, 371 Highland Ave., Vineland, N.J.
Francis Kovach, Hq Bty, 1046 W. 19th St., Lorain, Oh.
Glenn M. Johnson, Sv Bty, 418 Ingleside Ave., Aurora, Il.
John Rich, A Bty, 1415 S. Ridgeland Ave., Berwyn, Il.
John Wodoslawsky, (no bty) 524 Westland Drive, Greensburg, Pa.

863rd FIELD ARTILLERY

Frank Domkoski, Sv Bty, 2633 Lombard Ave., Cicero, Il.
Donald J. O'Malley, Sv Bty, 3311 W. 83rd Pl., Chicago, Il.
Glenn O. Sine, Sv Bty, 2815 Chateau Way, Holt, Mi.
Robert H. Rowe, A Bty, 533 Rose Hill, Springfield, Il.
Meryl Haines, A Bty, Rt 2, Box 134, Mora, Mn.
Vincent C. Immel, A Bty, 3733 Lindell, St. Louis, Mo.
Thomas Mullen, A Bty, 3815 Green Acres Rd., Philadelphia, Pa.
Mrs. Henry Benthous, Widow of Henry Benthous, B Bty, 712 Maple, Pana, Il.

Ralph E. Earley, C Bty, 1814 W. Pasadena, Flint, Mi.
Eldred C. Strobel, (no battery) 560 Deer Path, Glen Ellyn, Il.
Jimmy L. Butt, (no battery) 1860 Smyers Dr., Benton Harbor, Mi.

253rd INFANTRY REGIMENT

Daniel J. Canestraro, Reg Hq, 104 Gertrude Ave., Solvay, N.Y.
Fred Harnisch, Sv Co, Rt. 2, Box 91, Westfield, In.
John L. Ethier, A-T Co, 311 E. Oakside St., South Bend, In.
Harold Anderson, Med Det, 524 E. Walnut, Genesco, Il.
Walter Bochenek, Med Det, 1658 W. Cortland, Chicago, Il.
Gene Johnson, Hq 1st Bn, 309 N. Yellow Spring St., Springfield, Oh.
Joseph E. McElroy, Hq 1st Bn, 85 Minnesota Ave., Buffalo, N.Y.
Orville Helmbold, Co A, 6930 S. Claremont, Chicago, Il.
Edmund Hooven, Co A, 111 Thunder Circle, Cornwell Heights, Pa.
Francis McGowan, Co A, 97 Morrisson Ave., Somerville, Mass.
Gill S. Stevens, Co A, 16745 Gilchrist, Detroit, Mi.
Jerry Davidson, Co B, 3915 Orloff Ave., New York, N.Y.
Edward Sullivan, Co B, 50 Beecher Ave., Waterbury, Ct.
Mag Froberg, Co C, Rt. No. 2, Granville, Oh.
Rodman F. Backus, Co C, Pine St., Vineyard Haven, Ma.
Vernon A. Altberg, Co C, 860 S. Cody St., Lakewood, Co.
Marty Schopp, Co D, 317 N. Water, Rochester, Il.
Billy R. Slagle, Hq 2nd Bn, 233 W. Bodman, Bement, Il.
Gordon Myers, Hq 2nd Bn, 306 Red Cedar Dr., Levittown, Pa.
Joseph B. Sutton, Hq 2nd Bn, 665 Chestnut St., Bridgeville, Pa.
Charles A. Cherry, Co F, 2128 Selma Ave., Selma, Al.
Del Conroy, Co F, 131 Overbrook Rd., West Hartford, Ct.
John Crews, Co F, 1324 S.W. 54th, Oklahoma City, Ok.
Walter J. Dilbeck, Jr., Co F, 7304 Upper Mt. Union Rd., Evansville, In.
Albert Fernow, Co F, 719 14th St., Till City, In.
Peter M. Finnie, Co F, 8254 S. Sacramento, Chicago, Il.
Max Holtsclaw, Co F, R.R. No. 3, Carthage, Il.
Phil LaChance, Co F, 1521 So. Genesee Dr., Lansing, Mi.
John Luta, Co F, 7938 S. Troy St., Chicago, Il.
Frank Messick, Co F, 1018 West Elm St., Linden, N.J.
William Payne, Co. F, 135 W. First St., Niles, Oh.
William G. Smith, Co F, 7528 Primrose Dr., Mentor Lake, Oh.
Gerald B. Stegemeyer, Co F, 407 Eoden, Tilton, Il.
Richard Woodhams, Co. F, 120 Bristol St., Canandaigua, N.Y.
Norvel S. Boyd, Co K, 3641 N. Penn, Indianapolis, In.
Richard J. Bruno, Co K, 234 E. Rice, Owatonna, Mn.
William Cormier, Co K, 131 Warner Rd., Kensington, Ct.
Francis Enoch, Co K, 2245 Cornelia St., Washington, Pa.
Ray H. Fink, Co K, Tripoli, Ia.
George Gardner, Co K, Lothrop Ave, West Harwick, Ma.
J. B. Harrison, Co K, Tenacre-Box 632, Princeton, N.J.
George J. Henry, Co K, 119 Ivyhill Dr., Matawan, N.J.
Andrew Jacko, Co K, 7255 Hartland Rd., Fenton, Mi.
Murray Moore, Co K, 5329 Sheridan Rd., Youngstown, Oh.
Don Nellessen, Co K, 2237 E. 3rd St., St. Paul, Mn.
Lester W. Utterback, Co K, 2272 Middlebelt Rd., Orchard Lake, Mi.
Wilbur Vieth, Co K, R.R. No. 1, Beason, Il.

THE 25th ANNUAL REUNION

K MOTOR HOTEL, JULY 26, 27, 28, 1973

254th INFANTRY REGIMENT

Gerald Blackburn, Med Det., 3111 Home Ave., Marion, In.
 James H. Jones, Med. Det., 380 West "K" St., Benicia, Ca.
 Edwin J. Kocinski, Med Det., 3034 N. Monitor Ave., Chicago, Il.
 Dwight H. Early, A-T Co., 825 James Ct., Wheaton, Il.
 Herbert Sink, A-T Co., 10701 S. Keating, Oak Lawn, Il.
 Charles L. Cadle, Hq Co 1st Bn, P.O. Box 212, Tyler Heights,
 Charleston, WV.
 Harry L. Henn, Hq Co 1st Bn, 208 S. 4th St., Mt. Vernon, Il.
 Frank Blazofsky, Co A, 22001 Stratford, Oak Park, Il.
 George Perro, Co A, 1615 Glover St., New York, NY.
 Art Johnson, Co B, 11 S. 5th St. W., Aurora, Mn.
 Harvey B. Burris, Co. C, 11 Elm St., Stroudsburg, Pa.
 Nick Castronova, Co C, 132 Christie St., Lenonia, NJ.
 John P. O'Neill, Co C, 8121 S. Tripp St., Chicago, Il.
 Francis Chicoine, Co D, Elk Point, SD.
 Harold Dorn, Co D, 3434 W. 218th St., Matteson, Il.
 Nicholas P. Pileggi, Co D, Box 6, Croton-on-Hudson, NY.
 Warren Richart, Co D, Box 112, Urbana, Iowa
 Charles Stewart, Co D, 86 Balsam Rd., Wayne, NJ.
 Richard Seyller, Hq Co 2nd Bn, Rt. No. 2, Box 104, Prophetstown, Il.
 William Gold, Co E, 4011 Kings Hwy, Brooklyn, NY.
 Meryn Riley, Co E, RR No. 1, Box 101, Cowden, Il.
 William J. Scott, Co E, 407 S. Walnut, Sycamore, Il.
 Ben De Berg, Co F, Kesley, Ia.
 John T. Brandt, Co G, 404 S.W. 4th St., Atlanta, Il.
 William Martin, Co G, Valley Road, P.O. Bos 28, Ingomar, Pa.
 Delyle Olson, Co G, Hollandale, Ws.
 Joseph Panicucci, Co G, 7340 Iris Ave., Hanover Park, Il.
 Robert Ross, Co G, 306 East Story, Bozeman, Mt.
 Glenn R. Browne, Co H, Rt. No. 3, Box 20F, Milford, Il.
 Stanley B. Bush, Co H, 3601 Adams St., Bellwood, Il.
 Irv. Schlocker, Co H, 935 Princeton Ave., Philadelphia, Pa.
 James Settineri, Co H, 411 Wells Ave., Syracuse, NY.
 Lawrence Sullivan, Co H, 248 Rector St., Philadelphia, Pa.
 Robert G. Hagemann, Hq Co 3rd Bn, 519 E. Signal Hill Rd., Barrington, Il.
 Jerry Rosenberg, Hq Co 3rd Bn, 381 Sunset Ridge Rd., Northfield, Il.
 Joseph J. Sokolowski, Hq Co 3rd Bn, 476 Brace Ave., Perth Amboy, NJ.
 Earl W. Tremaine, Hq Co 3rd Bn, P.O. Box 155, La Grange, Il.
 William Byrnes, Co I, 8027 S. Sacramento, Chicago, Il.
 Vincent McFarland, Co I, 9829 Overbrook Ct., Leawood, Ks.
 Leon D. Mowrer, Co I, 2431 Garden St., Joliet, Il.
 George I. Peters, Co I, 3616 Canterbury St., Harrisburg, Pa.
 Robert E. Burke, Co K, 433 S. Gilbert Ave., La Grange, Il.
 Robert R. Cron, Co K, 450 Westbrook Rd., Dayton, Oh.
 Lawrence B. Walters, Co K, 306 N. Main St., Angola, N.Y.
 Elmer R. Wolff, Co K, 3920 Elm St., Downers Grove, Il.
 Frank Kuzmanic, Co L, 5700 W. 91st St., Oak Lawn, Il.
 Harold J. Metz, Co L, 1516 So. 7th Ave., Kankakee, Il.
 Ray Prothman, Co L, R.R. No. 3, Albion, NB.
 Hartwell Edmondson, Co M, 2N 165 Bernice, Glen Ellyn, Il.
 Lester D. Lennan, Co M, 4148 Coggins St., Flint, Mi.
 Oscar G. Lindemann, Co M, Rt. No. 1, Valders, Wi.

255th INFANTRY REGIMENT

Wilbur Davidson, Regt'l Hq, 9311 Harding, Evanston, Il.
 Clarence A. Cozart, Med Det, Box 37, Rockwell, NC
 Glenn Kauffman, Med Det, R.D. No. 2, Etters, Pa.
 Dr. Charles Richards, Med Det, 211 South St., Auburn, NY.
 Howard J. Carter, A-T Co, 219 Bates, Earlville, Il.
 Earl Kipp, A-T Co, 3333 Osler Ave., Saginaw, Mi.
 Harold H. Miller, A-T Co, Box 51, Terra Alta, WV.
 Olen Wesner, A-T Co, 17233 St. Rd 23, Granger, In.
 Russell A. Kraemer, Sv Co, 71 Mulberry Ave., Garden City, L.I., NY.
 William Reitz, Sv Co, 515 Packer St., Sunbury, Pa.
 Waldo H. Schumaker, Can Co, 3021 E. Harrison, Decatur, Il.
 Jim Albright, Hq Co 1st Bn, 601 5th St., Jellico, Tn.
 Horace Fyfe, Hq Co 1st Bn, 34 Gordon St., Ridgefield Park, NJ.

Al Heineman, Hq Co 1st Bn, 7401 Creekwood Dr., Columbia, SC.
 Donald O. Parry, Co A, Rt. 1, St. Edward, Nb.
 George Halkowitz, Co C, 6046 Crain St., Morton Grove, Il.
 Don Binkley, Co D, 5104 Adella, Toledo, Oh.
 Jack Kerins, Co D, Tam O'Shanter, W. Middlesex, Pa.
 Elwin Nugent, Co F, 2N164 Pearl Ave., Glen Ellyn, Il.
 Claude Atkins, Co G, Box 65, Berrian Center, Mi.
 Vincent T. Vento, Co G, 1751 45th St., Brooklyn, NY.
 Vincent R. Lee, Co H, 5185 Salidor Ct., Dayton, Oh.
 Edward Witt, Co H, 422 Winfield Blvd., SanAntonio, Tx.
 Charles Beaver, Hq Co 3rd Bn, 604 Second Ave., Tarentum, Pa.
 Ted Bryl, Hq Co 3rd Bn, 4980 So. Brookdale Dr., Greenfield, Wi.
 Jim DeFalco, Hq Co 3rd Bn, 442 S. Craig Pl., Lombard, Il.
 Walter K. Drake, Hq Co 3rd Bn, 205 N. Gardner, West Frankfort, Il.
 George Roelandts, Hq Co 3rd Bn, 7722 Kilbourn, Skokie, Il.
 Oscar Semit, Hq Co 3rd Bn, 2553 N. Lavergne, Chicago, Il.
 William R. Von Dietsch, Hq Co 3rd Bn, 89 Secor Blvd., Pearl River, NY.
 Robert Beeks, Co K, Rt. No. 3, Ft. Recovery, Oh.
 Nick J. Pann, Co K, 1919 N. Lewis Ave., Waukegan, Il.
 Joe Smigielski, Co K, 2176 Scott Rd., Northbrook, Il.
 Harold Threlkeld, Co K, Box 160, Shelbyville, Mo.

NOTE: Several men "signed in" after the registration desk was closed on Saturday evening . . . Registration forms were not filled in for them and thus we do not have their names for publication on this listing.

DON'T FORGET YOUR DUES ARE NEEDED

NEWS FROM . . .

REV. JAMES A.M. HANNA — Company I, 254 — The Manse, Oak Hill, Ohio, 45656 . . . Jim, as he signs his letter, has in his possession a copy of the Souvenir Edition of the Blood and Fire that was published in Bad Mergentheim, Germany . . . says he would be willing to “bet” (a minister, betting?) that it is possibly the only one in existence as the paper is so fragile and thin . . . but it is still readable . . . here are some of the contents . . . the 1st page shows our troops lying in rubble, superimposed by a soldier becoming a civy . . . drawing done by Charles Markman . . . associate editors were T/5 Elmo O. Stafford and Pfc. James Adthead . . . other contributors also listed . . . a nice shot of “War Ends” and “Peace” of T/Sgt. Jerome T. Flynn of Lexington, Ky and S/Sgt. Manning Hamilton of Boston . . . the Chaplain’s Corner was written by the Division Chaplains, William E. Patrick and Fr. W.J. Guinan, Ass’t Division Chaplain, also had an interesting article . . . an excellent sheet of photos and write-ups of General Harris, Colonel Wheeler, Colonel Warren, Lt. Col. Spiegel, Lt. Col. Lashley, General Hibbs, and General McGaw . . . the “Story of Blood and Fire” . . . a pictorial history of the division in combat . . . deactivation . . . “The Promise Fulfilled” . . . Germany in ruins . . . photos of various service clubs . . . the “Carmen” show of the 253rd . . . “Vets of 254 tell tall tales of Past” . . . picture of Division Baseball Team . . . “Combat Veterans from Battle Wise Divisions Now Wear Blood and Fire Patch for Trip Home” . . . photo of 63rd Division band in Bad Mergentheim . . . WAC’S To Take Over Hotels Vacated by 63rd in Mergentheim” . . . a good drawing of a “Frustrated Fraulein” by Kerwin . . . this paper was among other army days remembrances that Rev. Hanna mentioned in his letter . . . he is now in his 23rd year of ministry at his present church, the Oak Hill Presbyterian . . . he has wanted to get to one of our reunions, but something turns up each year that prevents him from doing so . . . (Mar. 31)

CHRIS DAVISON — C Battery, 718th F.A. — P.O. Box 275, Pahokee, Fl., 33476 . . . Chris fully intends to be in Chicago this year . . . plans on making it a three-in-one trip as he is scheduled for a week’s course at the Occupational Safety and Health Act Training Center which he believes is near the reunion site . . . from Chicago he hopes to go to Wisconsin from where his family departed for Porto Rico in 1904 . . . has some newly-discovered relatives in Wisconsin whom he has never met . . . Chris has been in contact with a couple of our “current” generals and has received replies from them: Lt. General F.T. Unger (Retired) and Major General George W. Putnam, Jr., Director of Military Personnel Policies . . . Chris received a very surprising but welcome call from a former Battery-mate, E.H. KAMINSKI, 450 Paige St., New Kensington, Pa., 15068 which incidentally is just across the river from Secretary Charlie Beaver . . . in fact Charlie works at Ben’s Inc., in New Kensington . . . Kaminski was at the reunion in Pittsburgh and did not see anyone from his outfit and when Chris’ name appeared in the February Blood and Fire, Kaminski got on the phone immediately . . . they had a nice, long telephone visit . . . Kaminski was shipped out as an infantry replacement, went into the Bulge as a 3rd Army replacement, was wounded, recovered and returned to the same outfit. . . Kaminski is planning on going to Chicago this year . . . and Chris is working extra hard to get some of the 718th boys there too . . . Chris, who is engaged in the sugar-cane business, says that things are hopping in Florida . . . the state is well into an all-time record sugar cane crop . . . the yield this year for the state will be around 900,000 tons of sugar and Chris’ mill will produce about 9% of the total . . . he runs labor camps for a peak of 900 men; 200 at one location, 700 at another and over 400 in one building . . . authorities say that Chris’ camps are the only ones that don’t give them any trouble . . . only one arrest for drunkenness in twelve years . . . not Chris, the men . . . in addition to caring for all West Indian workers from date of arrival to date of departure, he is also safety director for the whole company and runs a self-insured program for workmen’s compensation . . . his wife Marina continues as Business Manager for the local Ford



agency . . . young Chris is with a consulting engineer firm in West Palm Beach where he has become their specialist in interstate-highway design . . . a fine newsletter from Chris for which we say thank you . . . and we will be looking forward to seeing him in Chicago . . . (Mar. 31)

FRED WHARMBY — Company E, 255 — 180 W. Orchard St. Allendale, N.J., 07401 . . . Fred says that he is a very poor writer but has finally gotten around to it . . . Fred works in the postoffice and following a hectic Christmas season he took a vacation and headed for Long Beach, Cal. . . mentioned he had a fine letter from Mrs. Thomson, widow of the late Colonel Thomson . . . Fred had sent a picture of the Colonel to Mrs. Thomson . . . after coming back from California, he set out again, this time for Florida and had a real ball! . . . while in Florida he found a drinking buddy and after a few under the belt they started talking about their service days . . . the other guy put in 20 years and is retired . . . and I AND BEHOLD HE WAS A 63RD’ER . . . HOYT WEEKS, Company I, 255 . . . Box 275, Anna Maria, Fl., 33501 . . . and Fred had a letter from EUGENE PINTO, also of Company E . . . Gene is now living in Delivan, Ca. . . Fred didn’t know this when he went to California otherwise he would have looked him up . . . not knowing how to stand in the way of dues, Fred sent in a nice check to keep in good graces . . . (Mar. 31)

STEEG M. HYDEHN — Headquarters Battery, 861st F.A. — 111 Kenilworth Dr., Wheeling Il., 60090 . . . Steeg writes that he hopes to make the ’73 reunion . . . he and wife Rita have no children, just a German Shepherd dog and a talking parakeet . . . Steeg is a supervisor for a finance company . . . married for 37 years (to the same woman) and has been with the same company for 25 years . . . served in several capacities including V.P. . . . (Mar. 31)

LTC ALBERT L. SMITHSON, JR. (Ret) — Company F, 254 R.R. 1, Dresden, Maine, 04342 . . . Al and his family, wife Toni and Thomas, Krystyn and Kathleen moved to Dresden in August of ’73 for semi-retirement . . . they will be moving again in June of ’73 to a new home on the Sheepscot River, Whitefield, Maine . . . he would like to hear from other Company F members in his area . . . said he had a letter from Maj Gen Frederick J. Kroesen, Company E, 254 who is the Commanding General of the 82nd Airborne, Ft. Bragg, N.C. . . . Al is a teacher and an administrator . . . (Mar. 31)

MICHAEL R. GANNETT — Company I, 255 — 7310 Meadow La Chevy Chase, Md., 20075 . . . Mike is a Foreign Service Officer with the Department of State in Washington . . . we had a slight “mix-up” of our records as to the unit Mike was with in the 63rd and he had to “set us straight” . . . even he was mixed up in trying to remember his file of Army orders shows that he joined the 63rd on April 1, 1945 and was assigned initially to Headquarters Company, 255, then he was transferred on June 3 from Company I to Service Company of the 255th and that he left the 63rd on August 13 for the Group Control Council . . . says that before becoming a person in officer he served with some other company and that is where the confusion comes in . . . we had him listed as being with Company M . . . he had contacted the people at Carlisle Barracks in relation to getting the memoirs of Colonel Hatcher published but unfortunately the time has passed for the histories of units from World War II to be prepared for publication . . . a copy of these memoirs are in the possession of the association secretary - better mention that Mike’s wife’s name is Charlotte or she is liable to send the secretary a “foreign service” . . . (Apr. 4)

NEWS FROM

ARLIN B. WARREN — Headquarters Company, 3rd Bn., 255 — West Street Ext., Charlestown, N.H., 03603 . . . Arlin, who we believe was the sergeant major of the third battalion, is now semi-retired and works in a local building supply store . . . he is a “new-comer” to the association having learned about it while vacationing in Texas and visiting with an old friend, OSCAR SMITH (unit unknown) of 1516 Christine, Wichita Falls, Tx., 76302 . . . Arlin and wife Arline are parents of Joyce and Richard . . . Joyce is married and is the Head Nurse of the Special Nursery at Boston Hospital for Women in Boston . . . Richard is a graduate of Colorado State University and is with the VISTA program on the Navajo Reservation in Arizona . . . the Warrens have contacted the secretary and were looking forward to receiving copies of the “Blood and Fire” from previous years and maybe seeing “news about some of our old friends” . . . welcome aboard Arlin! . . . (Mar. 25)

JOHN E. KEEFE, JR., — Headquarters Battery, 862nd F.A. — 71 Mareeta Rd., Rochester, N.Y., 14624 . . . no news for this time from John and wife Dorothy who have one son Alan . . . John is the Managing Editor for a lawyers co-op publishing company . . . (Mar. 25)

CHARLIE “PETE” VAUGHN — Company I, 254 — Box 609, Anthony, NM, 88021 . . . Charlie was with the 63rd, both in Mississippi and overseas . . . he is another of our recent “newcomers”, having been added to our mailing list just in February of this year . . . after leaving the service he joined the United States Department of Justice and is now retired . . . and his wife Gay is also retired from the telephone company . . . they have lived in Anthony for 25 years and their future plans are not complete as of his writing . . . they have one daughter, Jackie, who lives in Trinity, Texas and has three children . . . a big 63rd welcome to the Vaughns too . . . (Mar. 25)

WALTER SCHOPPMAN — Company G, 255 — 801½ W. Jefferson St., Ft. Wayne, In., 46804 . . . no news from Walt the tailor . . . that’s what he does for a living . . . probably is always keeping somebody “in stitches” . . . doesn’t live too far from the Windy City so perhaps we’ll see him at the reunion in July . . . no family status on Walt but believe he is also a bachelor . . . (Mar. 25)

EUGENE WHITE — C Battery, 718th F.A. — P.O. Box 243, Hawthorne, N.Y., 10532 . . . Gene has changed jobs and is now associated with the Grasslands Hospital in Valhalla, N.Y. . . . he and wife Ann are parents of Michael, Gregory, Suzanne and Sharon . . . he was formerly General Superintendent of the Playland Amusement Park in Rye, N.Y. . . . (Mar. 25)

EDWARD C. BRAGG — A Battery, 862nd — 10040 Faywood St., Bellflower, Ca., 90706 . . . the Bragg family, Ed, wife Barbara, daughter Linda and son Bill are all teachers . . . Ed and Barb are looking forward to retirement and they may possibly be able to attend one of our reunions . . . no other news from the Brags at this time . . . guess they don’t have any “bragging” to do . . . (Mar. 25)

WILLIAM BEDNAR — Headquarters Battery, 861st — 73 Pulaski St., (Buttonwood) Wilkes Barre, Pa., 18702 . . . Bill writes to inform us of his correct address . . . also to let us know that he has a new position with the Postal Service . . . and the change came just at the right time as he had been scheduled to go to school at the University of Oklahoma during the latter part of July which would have prevented him from attending the reunion . . . however, his new job which is foreman of mechanics will cancel out that school session and probably will be scheduled at a later date allowing Bill and his new wife to be in Chicago . . . he is “scouting” the Pocono Mountains area for a possible reunion site for 1974 . . . this was discussed at Philly last year . . . Bill was married shortly after Christmas to the lady he had at the Philly reunion and they honeymooned in Florida for two weeks . . . our congratulations to them both . . . (Mar. 31)

RUDOLPH MEDVES — Medical Detachment, 254 — 1720 E. 230th St., Euclid, Ohio, 44117 . . . no news at all from Rudy and his wife Anna . . . Rudy is a machine operator for TRW Inc. . . . as a Medic, he was with Company B, 254 . . . (Mar. 31)



GILBERT ROBBINS — Medical Detachment, 254 — 21 Florindana Dr., De Bary, Fl., 32713 . . . Gil is a licensed male Practical Nurse and works in the hospital emergency room . . . he and his wife Eleanor are kept busy in their spare time with the De Bary Little Theater, acting . . . Gil is treasurer and Eleanor is the president of the group . . . they are the parents of one son, Timothy . . . (Mar. 31)

JOHN K. RICH — A Battery, 862nd F.A. — 1415 S. Ridgeland Ave., Berwyn, Il., 60401 . . . John, who is a tool and die maker, just learned of the association last fall and writes that he will be at the Chicago reunion . . . he and wife Phyllis are parents of Joan and Nancy . . . we are sure glad to welcome the Rich family into the association . . . (Mar. 31)

ROBERT E. BURKE — Company K, 254 — 433 South Gilbert Avenue, La Grange, Il., 60525 . . . Bob and wife Ceil are one of our newcomers to the association and they got into it right with a Life Membership . . . they are in the Plumbing and Heating business in La Grange, Brookfield and Western Springs area . . . any 63rd’ers in that area who need some of this type of work done be sure to contact Bob . . . Bob was a sergeant in K Company . . . hope they make it to Chicago . . . (Mar. 31)

HARRY E. MAXWELL — Cannon Company, 253 — 28 Castleton Avenue, East Greenbush, N.Y., 12061 . . . Harry is Director of Personnel with CMP Industries, Inc., . . . he and wife Marjorie have one daughter Peggy . . . he writes that nothing is new with him . . . just one year older . . . (Mar. 31)

ARTHUR C. JOHNSON — Company B, 254 — 11 South 5th St. W., Aurora, Mn., 55705 . . . another new member joins the ranks . . . Art had gotten “wind” of the upcoming Chicago reunion and wrote to Ed Musial our president who in turn gave Art all the details and also the secretary’s name and address, whereupon Art sent in his bucks for membership . . . no other news from Art at this time, but we’re sure to hear more later on. . . . (Mar. 31)

LTC GARLAND C. BLACK, JR (Ret) — Company G, 255 — 5306 Easton Drive, North Springfield, Va., 22151 . . . Colonel Black sent us along some names of former 63rd’ers whose names were checked against the mailing list and as a result we have added an additional four names: IRVING W. HILL, Service Co., 255, 322 Wright Ave., Carle Place, L.I., N.Y., 11514; ROBERT P. REAGAN, Headquarters Battery, 861st F.A., 2524 Key Largo Lane, Ft. Lauderdale, Fl., 33312; LTC. ROSS VICK, Company F, 255, 1625 Wooded Acres Dr., Apt. 109, Waco, Tx., 76700; RICHARD T. BULL, Service Company 255, 4104 Vancouver Ave., Prince George, Va., 23875 . . . also he sent in the name of JACK JOHNSTON, Company A, 255 whom we had on our list . . . Jack lost two legs, one below and one above the knee, in a minefield in Germany . . . Further, at the time of his writing, Garland stated that General Hamblen, our main speaker in Philly, was recuperating from surgery, in the Walter Reed Hospital . . . we trust that the general is continuing to improve . . . as for Garland himself, he was in G Company and Regimental Headquarters, 255 but went to France and Germany with Service Company, 255 . . . at the end of April, ’45, he became a division Liaison Officer, G-3 Sec., Div. Hq. . . in Korea he was the C.O. of Company A, 180th Infantry, 45th Infantry Division and lost his right leg below the knee in December of ’51 . . . he was transferred to the Signal Corp and retired in April of ’65 . . . he is now a Department of the Army civilian in the Pentagon . . . a fine newsletter too from Gary . . . we have no family info at this time . . . (Mar. 31)

NEWS FROM . . .

JAMES E. SONNEBORN — Company C, 253 — 5911 Northgap, San Antonio, Tx., 78218 . . . effective May 1, Jim was transferred to San Antonio under the reorganization of the Army and the Army Medical Department . . . his job was relocated to the new U. S. Army Health Services Command at Ft. Sam Houston . . . they, Jim and wife Sara, have bought a new home down Texas way and are looking forward to the new area and the new assignment . . . son James is a captain in the USAF in Europe and just recently became engaged . . . they also have a daughter Suzanne . . . we have quite a few members in the San Antonio area . . . maybe they can arrange a get-together . . . (Mar. 15)

MAJOR GENERAL FREDERICK J. KROESEN — Company E, 254 — Headquarters 82nd Airborne Division, Ft. Bragg, N.C., 28307 . . . after a long absence, General Kroesen is back on our mailing list . . . he is the commanding general of the 82nd . . . and also the General is one of our latest Lifetime Members . . . he and wife Rowene are parents of Karen, Frederick and Gretchen . . . would like to see him at one of our reunions . . . he's been around a bit and we're sure that he could tell some tall tales . . . his permanent address is 46 Riverbank, Burlington, N.J., 08016 . . . (Mar. 15)

GEORGE PERRO — Company A, 254 — 1615 Glover St., N. Y., N. Y., 10462 . . . George is an assistant manager for First National Stores, Inc. . . . writes that he just hopes to see some old buddies at the reunion in '73, so it sounds like he and his wife Evelyn are planning on attending . . . asked about more info on the flying (airport location in relation to the hotel) and also on driving directions . . . Diane, Gene and William round out the Perro household . . . (Mar. 15)

VINCENT R. LEE — Company H, 255 — 5185 Salidor Ct., Dayton, Oh., 45431 . . . Vince is married to a German girl, Lore, whom he met while he was a War Crimes Investigator after the war . . . he served with the United States Marines in 1950 and '51 . . . he is a graduate of Marshall College in Huntington, WV and has had various jobs including teaching and investigative work . . . and get this, his hobby is SKY DIVING . . . he is now a Claims Representative for the Westfield Insurance Company . . . after WW II ended in Europe, he volunteered to go to the Pacific with the Rangers but the war ended in the Pacific before his transfer came through . . . he has in his possession a letter from "Ike" in relation to this . . . Vince and Lore have four children, Michael, Thomas, Patrick and Patricia . . . and the Lees are new members of the association so a big 63rd welcome to them all . . . (Mar. 15)

GEORGE I. PETERS, Sr — Company I, 254 — 3616 Canterbury Rd., Harrisburg, Pa., 17109 . . . George and his wife Esther made their first reunion last year in Philly and enjoyed it so much that they sent in early reservations for Chicago plus a booster ad in the reunion program . . . George is a Payroll Accounting Clerk for the Bethlehem Steel Corp. and he and his wife are parents of Kathy, Betty, Susan and George, Jr. . . . (Mar. 15)

DR. ADIN R. MERROW — Medical Detachment, 253 — 250 Glenwood Ave., Leonia, N.J., 07605 . . . "Doc" is a psychiatrist and from his report is quite busy being the Chief of Medical Services of the Kings County State School for the Mentally Retarded and is Assistant Director of the Riverdale Mental Health Clinic, both of which are located in New York City . . . recently moved to Leonia after battling the city life for 20 years . . . he and his wife Marjorie have two children, James and Elsa . . . Elsa is a 5½ year old foster child who was abandoned by her mother in a bar because it was believed that the child was mentally retarded which proved to be false. . . . the child, according to Doc, is not only NOT mentally retarded, but is quite bright . . . she suffers from Cerebral Palsy and is able to walk with the aid of a walker . . . she is a happy, delightful, independent and imaginative child . . . and she taught herself the alphabet by watching that popular TV program, "Sesame Street" . . . and reading Dr. Merrows letter we could just see the gleam in his heart and eyes over this lovely child . . . our best wishes to Doc in this wonderful undertaking of devoting his life to those less fortunate than most . . . (Mar. 15)



DR. MARCUS J. SMITH — Company A 363rd Medical Battalion — P.O. Box 1812, Santa Fe, N.M., 87501 . . . Doc is a practicing physician and also a part time writer . . . married to Carol, they have produced three offspring, Patricia, Frederick, Peter and Andrew . . . he is a new member of the association having learned of it through a friend who gave him a copy of the Blood and Fire . . . and his first dues remittance was for a Life Membership . . . he has written a book which tells about the activities of a displaced persons team during the spring and summer of 1945; the team was composed of 63rd Division soldiers and he was the medical officer, detached from Co. A., 363rd Medical Battalion . . . it begins in a little town of Kleinschlitterdorf, then to the attack on the Siegfried Line, the push to the Rhine River, the surrender of Heidelberg, the division Hq in Mosbach, to Schwabach then six weeks at the Dachau concentration camp and later the return to the 63rd Division Hq in Bad Mergentheim . . . anyone interested in obtaining a copy of the book should contact Dr. Smith at the above address . . . (Mar. 12)

HAROLD K. PIERCE — Company I, 254 — P.O. Box 81805, San Diego, Ca., 92138 . . . no news from Hal and his wife Jessie who are parents of Mike and Steve . . . Hal is an attorney in San Diego and keeps in touch with several of our men on the west coast . . . (Mar. 12)

EDWARD A. DANFORTH — Company B, 253 — 7238 N. 34th St., Omaha, Neb., 68112 . . . Ed is the district manager for the Colony Paints, Inc., . . . he and wife Lillian are parents of two married daughters, Sandra and Susan and they also are grandparents twice . . . he is in good health, at least from the outside, and is still wondering who really won W. W. II . . . but as they say, no one every really wins, it's just that you don't lose . . . (Mar. 12)

WALTER K. DRAKE — Headquarters Company, 3rd Bn., 255 — 205 N. Gardner, West Frankfort, Il., 62896 . . . Walt and his wife Elizabeth are both retired and had hoped to do quite a bit of traveling but illnesses to both of them have "sidelined" them for a while . . . says that he just might make it to Chicago for the reunion . . . (Mar. 12)

GEORGE A. APPELT — A Battery, 863rd — 3211 Main Way Dr., Los Alamitos, Ca., 90720 . . . George was the motor sergeant in A Battery . . . recently, while looking at new houses, he and his wife Frances came across another couple and in the matter of their conversation, they discovered that the other man was also a 63rd'er but never knew of our association . . . so we've added the name of GEORGE SOPER, P.O. Box 333, Sunnymead, Ca., 92388 to our mailing list and hope to hear directly from him in the near future . . . Soper started out with the Infantry and was later transferred to the band according to Appelt who is General Manager for a Dodge dealership in Fullerton, Ca. . . the Appelts have three children, two of whom are married, and there are also two grandchildren, 1½ years, and 3 months . . . the Appelts would like to see one of our reunions held in California or Las Vegas . . . in closing, Mrs. Appelt, who wrote the letter, stated that the Sopers were very much enthused about the association, just as though they had found a long lost relative . . . (Mar. 12)

DR. PAUL J. BRINKWORTH — Hq Co. 3rd Bn, 255 — 5 Fairlawn Drive, East Aurora, N.Y., 14052 . . . no news at all from "Doc" who is a dentist . . . we recently received his 1946 address and "gave it a shot" . . . sure enough, it is still good . . . at least we presumed it to be his 1946 address, but we could be wrong . . . at any rate we are happy to have "Doc" with us . . . (Mar. 9)