



Santa Fe Express

"DIVISIONNAIRE"



The 35th Divisionnaire USPS 700-160

35th INFANTRY DIVISION
www.35thInfDivAssoc.com

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2015

NUMBER FOUR

Six Heros Inducted Into Hall of Fame and Three Selected For Induction in 2016.

Photos and News of Events on pages 4 & 5.

35th Division Awardees

Congratulations to Spc. Larry Garry, recipient of the "Command Sgt. Maj. Jack L. Elliott Junior Enlisted Award," Staff Sgt. David White, recipient of the "Platoon Sgt Kenneth J. Faulkner NCO Award," Cpt Charity Summers, recipient of the "Cpt. Walter Harrington Company Grade Award," and Maj. John Sherrill, recipient of the "Col. Angelo P. Demos Field Grade Award."

Command Sgt. Maj. Jack Elliott (Ret) presents Spc. Larry Garry with the "Command Sgt. Maj. Jack Elliott Junior Enlisted Award," during the 98th annual 35th Infantry Division reunion banquet



Staff Sgt. David White is awarded the Platoon Sgt. Kenneth L. Faulkner NCO Award during the 98th annual 35th Infantry Division Association Reunion

Victoria Frisenda presents the "Cpt. Walter Harrington Company Grade Officer Award," to Cpt. Charity Summers during the 98th annual 35th Infantry Division Association reunion



Col. (Ret) Angelo Demos awards Maj. John Sherrill with the "Col. Angelo P. Demos Field Grade Award," at the 98th annual 35th Infantry Division Association reunion

President's Message



Greetings all. I can't tell you how much I enjoyed our 98th Conference and want to thank all those who traveled a great distance to attend, as well as those whose personal efforts and contributions made it possible. It was a pleasure to meet so many of you for the first time and renew relationships with many friends from many years ago. I understand the panel event was well done, the museum visit was enjoyable, and I was touched by the testimony and personal stories shared at the Friday evening President's Reception. Everyone enjoys a good mystery and that was very true Saturday. I particularly enjoyed getting to know our Orphans better as well as understanding all that is happening with our International Friendship Group. It is good to know that the contributions and sacrifice of the 35th Infantry Division remains well recognized and appreciated by our European friends. And the Hall of Fame induction was a great event, well done.

I want to thank the leadership, and current members of the 35th Infantry Division for their attendance and participation and ask for your involvement to continue to grow in the future.

For those of you who could not attend the conference, or those I did not get a chance to speak with, a little background about myself. I am an OCS graduate and thru the years have enjoyed numerous opportunities to wear the Santa Fe patch with pride. Most of my assignments were with the 35th Division Artillery and I was honored to serve as the Assistant Division Commander of the 35th from 2013 to 2014. I am a traditional citizen soldier with a civilian job as a Regional Director of Network Enterprise Centers in the Mid-West. When in uniform, I currently serve as the Commander of the Kansas Army National Guard.

As I stated when accepting the gavel, I am humbled to serve in the capacity of President. During my tenure I hope to focus on three things. First, increasing membership. Second, filling our VP seats with individuals who will be ready to take the reins and lead our organization into the next century of its history, and finally, shaping our 100th Conference into a memorable and notable event of national recognition.

It all has me looking forward to our 99th, a decision must be made soon on the location. I thank those of you who provided feedback to me on your preferred location. I have also been passed some email feedback that was given to COL (R) Bob Bloomquist. At this point in time, feedback has overwhelmingly been to hold it in Kansas City; the feedback has not been unanimous, but it has clearly overwhelmingly pointed to Kansas City thus far. If you have suggestions, please make your preference known immediately as a decision must be made soon in order to proceed with event planning, cost estimating and reservations.

Again, I am honored to be your President and I look forward to when we will all meet again.

BG Robert Windham



This edition of the Santa Fe Express
is courtesy of the

35th Division Association
Operating Fund

Please consider sponsoring
the next edition.

The 35th Divisionnaire (USPS 700-160)

Postmaster send address changes to Secretary, 35th Division Association, P.O. Box 5004, Topeka, KS, 66605. Second class postage paid at Horton, Kansas 66439.

Printed at Horton, Kansas, Published quarterly at 133 West 8th St., Horton, Kansas by the 35th Division Association.

Send all stories, notices, obituaries, photographs, etc. to 35th Division Assn., P.O. Box 5004, Topeka, KS 66605

Division Association

"FOR ALL 35TH DIVISION - PAST,
PRESENT AND FUTURE"

President:

BG Robert E. Windham,
Cdr, KS Army National Guard
Past Deputy Cdr, 35th ID

2nd Vice President:

COL (Ret) Robert Dalton
69th Bde and Past Assoc. Exec. Secretary

Immediate Past President:

MG (Ret) John E. Davoren,
Past CDR, 35th ID

Chairman, 35th Museum Trust:

MG (Ret) Jack Strukel, Jr.

Chairman, 35th Assoc. Hall of Fame:

BG (Ret) Ed Gerhardt

Chaplain:

CH/MAJ Richard Dunn,
Asst. Chaplain, 35th ID

Historian:

Richard J. O'Brien, H-137th WWII

Sergeant-at-Arms:

CW4 (Ret) Carl Bush, 69th Brigade

Judge Advocates:

COL (Ret) Angelo P. Demos,
E-137th, WWII

Publicity Chairman:

Murray Leff, E-137th, WWII

35th Div. Assoc. Publishing Board:

COL(Ret) Cal Warren,
635th AR, and 69th Bde

Secretary/Treasurer:

COL (Ret) Robert D. Bloomquist
635th AR and 69th Bde

35th Division Association

PO Box 5004

Topeka, KS 66605

785-234-2688

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Send all correspondence relative to change of address to Secretary, 35th Division Association, P.O. Box 5004, Topeka, KS 66605. Be sure to include old and new address (with new ZIP number) and 35th Div. unit.

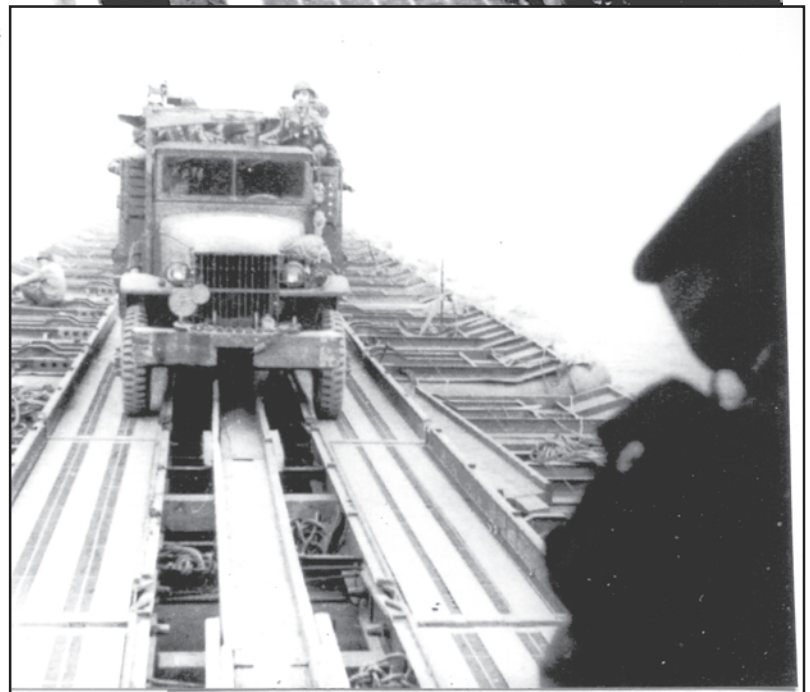
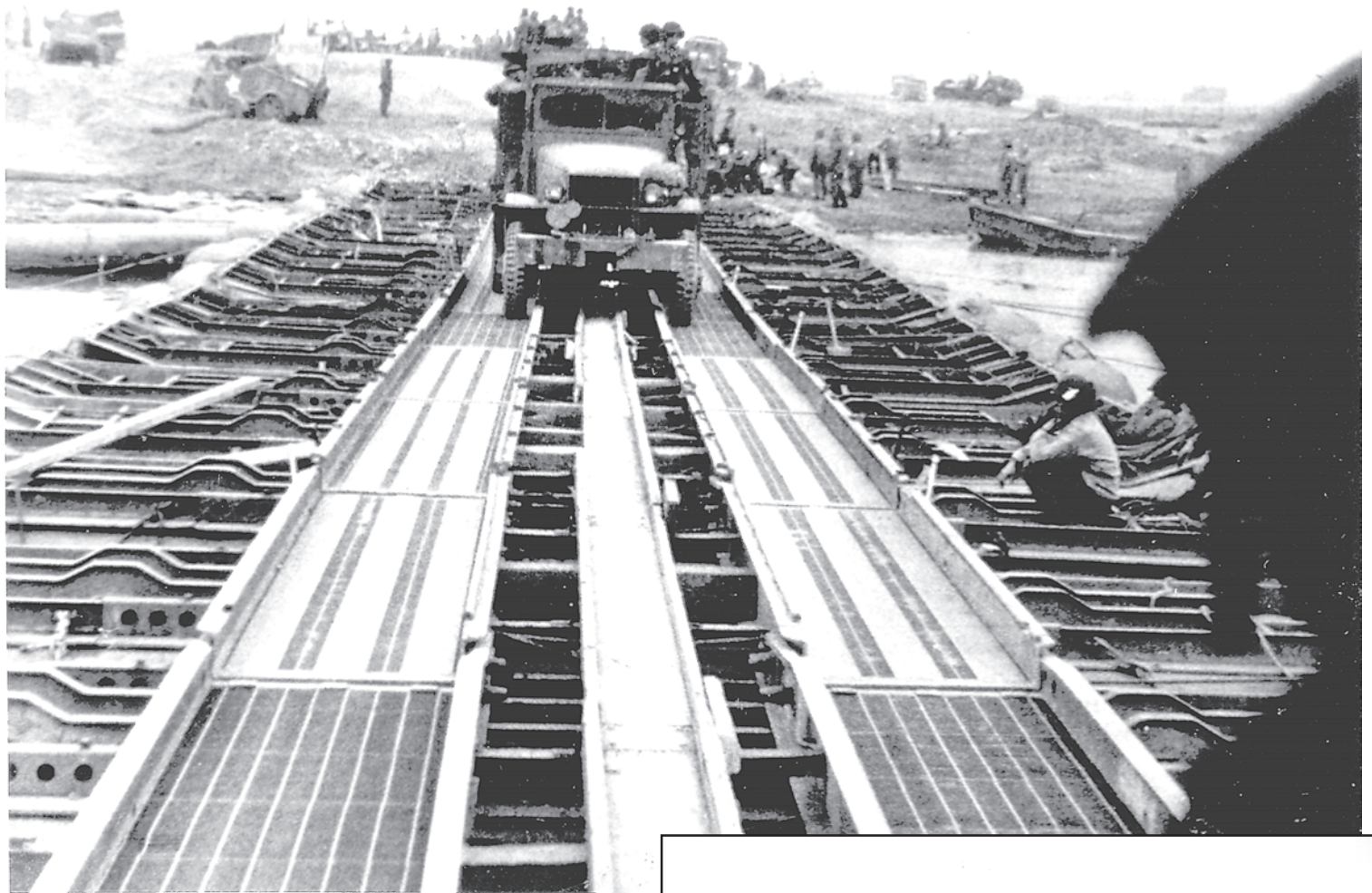
NOTICE

Membership dues for the 35th Division Association are \$25 per year. This includes your yearly subscription to the 35th Divisionnaire paper which is published quarterly.

Make checks payable to the 35th Division Association and mail to Secretary, 35th Division Association, P.O. 5004, Topeka, Kansas 66605.

*Send all photos, stories,
obituaries, etc. for the
Divisionnaire to: 35th
Division Association, PO
Box 5004, Topeka, KS 66605*

35th Historic Crossing of Rhine



Under Smoke & Over The Rhine !

March 26, 1945 A few days before we captured the town of Ossenberg which lies on the western side of the Rhine River. Only the year before the thought of crossing this ultimate symbol of the German Nation would have been an impossible dream. Back then the Nazis controlled nearly all of Europe.

Above: We start this historic crossing of the Rhine River on a pontoon bridge while other units wait their turn. **Right:** We are enveloped in a smoke screen which protects us from aerial bombing and artillery fire. Once across we will spearhead an attack that will take us through the heart of Germany to where we will meet the Russians and end WW II.

Murray Leff 137 - E

**Deadline for the
Next Issue
of the**

**Santa Fe
Express
is 5 February 2016**

**Please send your favorite reunion stories
and pictures to share.**

WANTED for the Divisionnaire...

Your most memorable story of combat!

Search back in your memory and write down every detail in the order in which it happened. If you can't type it yourself get one of your grandchildren to type it for you.

Maybe you were a P.O.W.... We want to know about it.

If you were hit, tell us how it happened.

If you were on a patrol or raid that didn't go right, tell us about it.

If you had an unusual encounter with a civilian, tell us. If anything unusual happened in combat, we want to know. If there was an attack you remember more than others, tell us all about it. Be sure to include pictures if you have any.

Send your story to: Editor

35th Division Association P.O. Box 5004 Topeka, KS 66605

We will try to print it in the Divisionnaire as soon as the schedule permits.

Murray Leff E-137



134th INFANTRY REGIMENT

134th News

I was looking at a map that Marilyn Jensen sent me and I never realized before how long the 35th was the northern most American unit from the time we crossed the Roer River at Hilfarth on Feb. 25,

1945 until we stopped at the Rhine. When we captured Geldern, Germany we were deep in the British lines. I remember seeing and talking to a British officer and when we approached Reinberg on the Rhine we were deep in British territory. Geldern was the farthest north any American outfit got. The British relieved us there. We captured Geldern on March 3. The spring-summer issue of Vanguard Magazine features a 35th Div. vet (patch on blouse), but does not identify him.

Marsha Rawlings sent me pictures of the latest bird she has tamed-a bluejay. It eats out of her hand and flies about in the house.

July 28, 1945 was the day a U.S. bomber crashed into the 79th floor of the Empire State Bldg. I remember seeing the hole when we sailed into the harbor on Sept. 10, 1945 on the return of the 35th on the Queen Mary.

In the latest Divisionnaire is a picture of the liberation of Venlo, Holland. On March 3 my company C 134 left Venlo and drove to and captured Geldern, Germany. If you look at the map, it was well within the British zone. My squad leader, Asst. BAR man and the 3rd platoon guide were all wounded when a jeep hit a mine. They were on the same tank as I was on that day.

August 6, I had a call from Lloyd

Frey, one of our C Co. buddies, who lives in Lancaster, Pa. On Aug. 28 we attended a funeral at Camp Butler in Springfield for a man whose engineer battalion erected the pontoon bridge that the 35th was on crossing the Rhine. Had a good reunion in Kansas City. Only 4 WWII vets could attend, but a good turnout of National Guard, our war orphans and Roberta Russo and friend who maintain our 35th web-site.

Alice and I were joined by daughter Marilyn Smith and grandson Theo Graff. The Hilton is a good place to stay with good accommodations.

Jim Graff



320th INFANTRY REGIMENT

320th News

Thank you to all that planned and put the conference together. You all did a great job! The location was ideal for me, non-stop flight, easy access to the hotel, small airport, since I come from Florida the weather is never ideal but what the heck you can't have everything.

It is always wonderful visiting with old friends and making new ones. MG (retired) Jack Strukel welcomed us as we entered the Kansas Museum. It was so good to see you again Jack, and in the place you love so much. I have fond memories of the banquets past where you'd stand up with a microphone in your hand and encourage us to donate to the museum whether it was a dollar or 10,000. Samuel O'Brien would stand up and say he'd donate 10,000. if you could raise that much that evening. I know others were involved and donated much however Jack, Sam and Angelo Demos are fixed in my mind.

Another special moment I remember is dancing with your bride. It's funny the things we remember.

I always become emotional at some event during the reunion, this time it was during the Hall of Fame inductees. Nina Cameron's dedicated a poem to her dad, Sergeant Lawnie Coffman, her words denoted feelings of a warm loving attachment to her dad....I was deeply moved.

Private First Class Murray Leff's told us of a friend who had been killed, a story he never shared with anyone.

I was honored to accept for Captain Samuel G. O'Brien, Cynthia (daughter) felt badly that she wasn't there to personally accept the award. She did express honor and appreciation on behalf of her family.

Many people attended the event to honor the inductees. A special thank you to BG (retired) Ed Gerhardt for all the work you do to put this event together.

Did everyone see COL (retired) Bob Bloomquist busy at every event? One thank you is never enough...all that energy.

Clearly there are many to thank. Thank you to all who contributed to making it a very memorable reunion that ran smoothly.

Daughter of Victoria Ramirez Frisenda

320, K Co.

137th News



2-137th Combined Arms Battalion Dining Out Planned

The 2-137th Combined Arms Battalion 2016 Dining Out will be Jan 16, 2016 at the "Courtyard by Marriott" in Junction City, KS (310 Hammons Dr. Junction City, KS 66441; 785-210-1500). Final agenda and registration will be posted on the 35th Association Web Site as they come available. The 137th Infantry Regiment has a proud history in the 35th Division. Today's 2 Battalion, 137th Regiment Combined Arms Battalion (CAB) consists of both Mechanized Infantry and Armor with very capable organic support units, giving the Army a lethal fighting machine and ability to respond to Civil Authorities for emergencies if needed.

Chaplain's Corner

CH (MAJ) Richard Dunn, 35th ID Deputy Chaplain

SGT Lawnie Coffman was among the heroes inducted into the 35th Divisions Hall of Fame last month. SGT Coffman served in WWII from 1939-1945 with the 137th IN Regiment, 35th ID, in the European Theater of operations. At the induction ceremony we received an overview of his battlefield exploits. The following week his family graciously sent me a copy of his memoir, "My Leg of the Race." What a story! Of the many stories in his book, perhaps the most inspiring involved the account of his severe combat wound sustained in November, 1944. SGT Coffman received a direct hit from a German 20 millimeter shell in his left shoulder. He recalled a promise that he made to God, just prior to losing consciousness, that if he survived he would work for Him for the rest of his life. The first medic that arrived at his side gave him up for dead. Thankfully, a second medic saw some signs of life in him. When he awoke, he was on an operating table in Paris. His narrative account tells of his struggle to heal in the months after that life-changing injury. He also describes how he kept his promise to God, spending the rest of his life in pastoral ministry. God only knows how many lives Rev. Lawnie Coffman went on to touch through those years of service to God and others.

I recall a line from a Bible study I used in my church many years ago, "God does not waste pain." Experiencing separation from

family and homes is bad enough for those who have experienced deployments. It is a painful time for the service member and also for their loved ones. Few of us can fully empathize with the kind of pain endured by those critically injured on a battlefield. How would we react? Would we make promises to God as Lawnie Coffman did?

Of course, no one is exempt from painful and dark moments in this lost and broken world. We have all known, and perhaps are struggling right now, with all kinds of painful challenges in life. We must make choices as to how we will navigate through such times. A helpful tip from Lawnie's favorite Bible verse: For the Mighty One has done great things for me. (Luke 1:49) This is just as true for us as it was/is for Lawnie! There are many other assurances and truths given to us in Holy Scripture, and we always benefit from frequently meditating on His Word. As we do, we realize that even in the darkest of situations we can know that God is still in control. He has a plan and a purpose for us, and He still wishes to do great things through us. In other words, He will not "waste the pain" we're going through if we react to our trials by faith as Lawnie Coffman did. What great things will we choose to do for God as we surrender to his plan in both good times and in bad? May God richly bless you as your personal memoirs unfold, and may others experience blessings through you!

**35th DIVISION
ASSOCIATION
HALL OF FAME
NOMINATING FORM
(see page 5)**

SIX HEROS INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME



Family members of **Sgt. Lawnie Coffman** accept the 35th Infantry Division Hall of Fame certificate during an induction ceremony held Saturday September 12, 2015 in Kansas City MO. Maj. Gen. (Ret) John Davoren, 35th Infantry Division Association President, presents the certificate to the late Sgt. Coffman's wife.

Family members of **Master Sgt. Bernard Deghand** accept the 35th Infantry Division Hall of Fame certificate during an induction ceremony held Saturday September 12, 2015 in Kansas City MO. Maj. Gen. (Ret) John Davoren, 35th Infantry Division Association president, presents the certificate to Master Sgt. Deghand's wife.



Pvt 1st Class Murray Leff (Ret.) and his family accept the 35th Infantry Division Hall of Fame certificate during an induction ceremony held Saturday September 12, 2015 in Kansas City MO. Maj. Gen. (Ret) John Davoren, 35th Infantry Division Association president, presents the certificate to Mr. Leff.

Maj. Gen. (Ret) John Davoren, 35th Infantry Division Association president, presents the 35th Infantry Division Hall of Fame certificate to the late **Cpt Samuel G. O'Brien** during an induction ceremony held Saturday September 12, 2015 in Kansas City MO. Accepting the award on behalf of the O'Brien family is Victoria Frisenda.



Maj. Gen. (Ret) John Davoren, 35th Infantry Division Association president, presents the 35th Infantry Division Hall of Fame certificate to the family members of **Pvt. 1st Class Halbert Olson** during an induction ceremony held Saturday September 12, 2015 in Kansas City MO.

Maj. Gen. (Ret) John Davoren, 35th Infantry Division Association president, presents the 35th Infantry Division Hall of Fame certificate to the family members of **Staff Sgt. Jack Ulmer** during an induction ceremony held Saturday September 12, 2015 in Kansas City MO.



35th Hall of Fame Committee Names 2016 Inductees

Based on the decision of the 35th Division Assn. Executive Committee, three individuals were selected for induction into the 35th Division Hall of Fame in 2016. They are

Second Lieutenant Erwin R. Bleckley

Second Lieutenant Erwin R. Bleckley, a native of Wichita, Kansas, received the Medal of Honor posthumously for heroic actions as a Field Artillery Forward Observer in finding and assisting the "Lost Battalion" of the 77th Division during World War I. He was killed in the crash of his biplane while delivering supplies to the unit. He had enlisted in Battery F, First Field Artillery, Kansas National Guard, which became part of the 35th Infantry Division at Camp Doniphan, Oklahoma upon mobilization for World War I. He later joined the 50th Aero Squadron, Army Air Service, serving with distinction until his death. He was buried in France, near the place where he was killed.

Captain Joseph B. Scully

Captain Joseph B. Scully commanded Company F, 2d Battalion, 134th Infantry during the march into Europe, prior to being mortally wounded by mortar fire in action in Normandy, France, on July 28, 1944. He had landed on Omaha Beach with his unit on July 6, 1944, and led the unit in the attack on St. Lo. He was posthumously awarded the Silver Star and the Purple Heart for leading his unit, first on a counterattack against the Germans, then on a reconnaissance patrol through hostile fire to obtain valuable information on enemy positions and strength. Then, although slightly wounded, he led his unit on a 700-yard advance in the battle which followed and led to his death by mortar fire on July 28, 1944.

First Lieutenant Lyle J. Bouck, Jr.

First Lieutenant Lyle J. Bouck, Jr., was one of the youngest officers in the U. S. Army during World War II, and was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star, and the Presidential Unit Citation for heroic actions in leading his Intelligence & Reconnaissance Platoon in a delay of the attacking German Sixth Panzer Army during the Battle of the Bulge. He was mobilized with the 35th Infantry Division in 1940, serving with the unit from Camp Robinson, Arkansas to California, before completing Officer Candidate School and joining the 99th Division as an Intelligence & Reconnaissance Platoon leader. Captured during the action, he was released as a Prisoner of War in 1945, and returned to his hometown of St. Louis.



Deadline for the

**Jan-
Feb-Mar**

issue of the

**Santa Fe Express
is February 5**

Support your museum and show your pride in the 35th by adding your name to the 35th Division Patio. (See Brick order form page 10 or 16).

Hall of Fame Committee Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2015

The 35th Division Hall of Fame Committee met at 5 p.m. on Thurs, Sept. 10, 2015, in the Kansas City Airport Hilton Hotel, Kansas City, Missouri. Members present were:

- 134th Inf Regt- Jim Graff

137th Inf Regt- Angelo Demos

320th Inf Regt- Victoria Frisenda

69th Inf Bde- Jack L. Elliott

35th Inf Div - MG John Davoren

Arty/DivHq/Spt Units- Calvin B. Warrem

Orphans/Widows/Families- Marilyn Jensen
- Post WW II Retirees- Carl Bush

Recently Retired- Ed Gerhardt

At Large- Ben Weber

At Large- Murray Leff

At Large- Pat Cook

Also present was COL Robert Bloomquist, 35th Div Assn. Secretary.

BG Ed Gerhardt, chairman, called the meeting to order and reviewed the criteria for selection into the 35th Division Hall of Fame from the Rules and Regulations. It was emphasized that

1. Primary consideration should be given to extraordinary meritorious service in the 35th Infantry Division (which includes organic and attached units) and is supported by wartime or peacetime service accomplishments which reflect merit beyond that of being routine.
2. Secondary consideration should be given to service rendered in war and peace to the 35th Infantry Division, the 35th Division Association, and other services outside the military community, but which reflects favorably upon the nominee’s service to the community, state, and nation, the 35th Infantry Division, the 35th Division Association, and uniformed services of our nation.

The selection process was reviewed, emphasizing that each member would vote for three (3) candidates this year, as approved by the 35th Division Assn. Executive Committee, with candidates required to have a minimum of seven (7) votes for selection, with re-voting until that occurs. It was further emphasized that nominees not selected will again be considered the following year, and for five consecutive years if not selected. Upon non-selection after five consecutive years, the nomination will be revised or withdrawn, although it may be resubmitted.

A total of 19 nomination packets were submitted. Nominees considered included PFC Lewis Barondeau, 1LT Erwin R. Bleckley, 1LT Lyle J. Bouck, Jr., SSG Roy B. Crumley, Jr., 1LT Frank Gonzales, SSG Carl F. Hancock, SSG Frank Holmes, PFC Ralph S. Lilly, COL Charles A. Lindbergh, PSG Noel Long, PFC Augustine Martinez, LTG Joe Nickell, SGT Francis T. Premaza, COL William H. Sachs, Jr., CPT Joseph B. Scully, SSgt Ralph L. Shear, MG Ralph E. Truman, TSgt Norvin L. Vogel, and SGT John P. H. Warner.

Members of the Committee were given the opportunity to make comments on any of the nomination packets, and several clarifying comments were made.

Following review of and voting on the nomination packets, the following were selected for 2016 induction into the 35th Division Hall of Fame:

- 2LT Erwin R. Bleckley
- 1LT Lyle J. Bouck, Jr.
- CPT Joseph B. Scully

The confidentiality of the committee process was emphasized, as well as the names of those selected, until the announcement at Saturday evening’s banquet.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ed Gerhardt
Ed Gerhardt, BG (Ret)
Committee Chairman

Hall of Fame Honor Shared



This is truly a great honor and I would like to thank everyone concerned. I would like to share this honor with another member of “E” Company in the 2nd Battalion of the 137th. His name is Howard Keplinger. Incidentally, two past Presidents and our current President were all in the 2nd Battalion of the 137th.

On October 1st, 1944, I arrived at Gremercy Forest in France as a replacement. It was late in the afternoon and soon would be dark. I was told to dig a foxhole because we would

be getting incoming enemy artillery that night. As I started digging, Howard, who I had never seen before, joined me in furiously digging my foxhole. Sure enough, the next morning I saw how the trees around us are all shattered from the previous night’s bombardment. Howard was that kind of guy.....always helping when he could.

Three Battle Stars later brought us to March of 1945. We were attacking this town, when we were hit with the most intense concentration of artillery you can image. I was covered with glass and plaster but I wasn’t really hurt. Howard was killed.

For the last 70 years he has been lying under this white marble cross. And the crosses behind him seem to go on forever. It was a matter of chance. I could be there and he could be here. I have lived a full life. He has a white marble cross. If it had been me it would be a white marble Star of David.

What about Howard’s mother? When I walked through the door when I came home, my mother never said a word. She just rushed at me...threw her arms around me and would not let go. She held me... and held me ...and held me...and held me...and would not let go! I knew then and I know right here and now the agony she felt all the time I was in combat. And so I know that Howard’s mother carried that agony all the rest of her life as did 400,000 other American mothers...400,000! How can you even get your head around such number?

Why?...Why?...Why was Howard Keplinger robbed of the full life that I am having? Now, 70 years later, there are people who don’t really know what happened then. There arose an evil in Europe so extreme there is nothing in all recorded history that even comes close. They were the Nazis. Sadly, to some people today they are simply the enemy we defeated in WW II and nothing more.

Today we have ISIS who seem to take delight in killing people by the dozen on TV.

Seventy years ago the Nazis murdered innocent people first by the hundreds, then by the thousands and finally by the millions. The Nazis had nearly all of Europe under their unbelievably cruel heel. And it was only a matter of time when we would be next. The 35th Division can take great pride in making a truly significant contribution in eliminating this incomprehensive evil. It’s with a heavy heart I have to accept the fact that Howard Keplinger had to pay the price for all of us. I won’t forget him. I can’t.

Thank you!
MURRAYLEFF
BELLEROSE,NY

35th DIVISION ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME NOMINATING FORM

Members of the 35th Division Association, as well as others, are eligible to submit nominations for the 35th Division Association Hall of Fame for induction in 2016. Nominators must sign the nomination form and provide data for future contacts.

The 2016 class to be inducted will be inducted at the Annual Conference in September, 2016.

Send nominations to **COL Robert Bloomquist, 35th Hall of Fame Committee, P O Box 5004, Topeka, KS 66605**, so as to arrive not later than 1 August 2016.

Hall of Fame Nomination

Rank/Title:	
Name of Nominee:	Recipient of : Medal of Honor: <input type="checkbox"/> Dist. Svc Cross: <input type="checkbox"/>
Address of Nominee (if living):	
Name & Address of Next of Kin (if deceased):	
Nominee Date of Birth:	Nominee Date of Death:
Supporting Information on Nominee: (Provide brief narrative and attach materials as desired, including a <u>photo</u> of the nominee.)	
Nominator Name:	E-Mail:
Address:	Telephone:



35th Div Belt Buckle (“Santa Fe Leads the Way”)
(for standard belts up to 1.5 inches wide) \$20.00



35 th Div Belt Buckle (35th Div Patch, for military style Belts, 1 1/8 inch wide) - \$20.00

Taps



William Collier Notley

William Notley, formerly of Elkins Park William "Bill" Collier Notley, formerly of Elkins Park, passed away at Foulkeways on September 1, 2015 at age 91. A Celebration of his life, in the manner of of Friends on Sunday, Oct. 18, 2015, 2:00 PM at Foulkeways, Gwynedd, PA.



**Dick O'Brien, Jim Graff and William Notley
St. Lo 2014 July 25**

On September 23, 2015 I learned that William Notley passed away. This news has really saddened me; I have great memories of Mr. Notley especially for him helping me get my dad medals. He worked hard, wrote letters, he never gave up, he encouraged me and was always there when I needed him.

The last time I saw him was last year in St. Lo and pictures were taken of three good friends of the 35th. I met his wife Hilda and his daughters... we all reminisced, our time was well spent. Dick O'Brien, Jim Graff and William Notley were honored by the people of St. Lo, as were the orphans.

May his soul rest in peace and my most sincere condolences to his family.

Victoria Ramirez Frisenda

Herschel Loyd Wilbanks



Herschel Loyd Wilbanks, 91, Walnut, MS. passed away Sept. 14, 2015 at Magnolia Regional Health center.

Herschel was born Oct. 23, 1923, to Loyd and Leola Hughey Wilbanks.

He was a farmer and a surveyor for FSA Agriculture Office. Herschel served his country as a member of the U.S Army, 137th Infantry, 35th Division, Company C during WWII. Among his awards were

EAME Theater ribbon w/ 4 Bronze Stars, WWII Victory Medal, 2 Purple Hearts, the French Legion Of Honor, and St Maurice Award (Centurion). He was a member of Veterans of Foreign War, Blind Veterans Association, American Legion, Cattleman Association, member of the Alcorn County School Board for 18 years, and Purple Heart Association. He was known for his intelligence, dry wit and for caring so much for everyone. He had honor and grace and was well loved and respected.

He was preceded in death by his wife Francis Settlemyres Wilbanks; son, Loyd Hughey Wilbanks; his parents; brother, Horace Wilbanks; sister, Marie Wilbanks; sister-in-law, Jettie Wilbanks; and step-mother, Willard Wilbanks.

He is survived by son Danny H. (Dorothy), daughter Linda (Glen) Newman, 6 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and special aunt, Ottawa Dawkins.

Burial was at County Line Baptist Church Cemetery, Walnut, MS. with Military Honors.

Dear Sir,

It is with a heavy heart that I must inform you that Joe A. Carmichael has passed away. My Dad was always a proud member of the 35th Division and some of my favorite moments were spend with him and his friends at the reunions. A copy of his obituary is included as part of this correspondence.

Regards,

Allan Carmichael

Austin, Texas

Honored to be a son of a fighting member of the 35th

Joe Allen Carmichael

Joe Allen Carmichael passed away on June 28, 2015 in Needville, TX. Joe was born on Jan. 26, 1924, in East Bernard, TX, to George N. and Grace McConnaghy Carmichael. He had three siblings: Margie, Bob and Bill.

Joe grew up in East Bernard and graduated from East Bernard High School and The University of TX. in Austin. During World War II, he served with the 35th Army Division. He entered Europe from Utah Beach a few days after the D-Day invasion and was later wounded at Hilsprich.

On June 13, 1953, he married Sue Ross in Goldthwaite, TX. They had two children: Nancy and Allan.

Survivors include his wife Sue; his daughter Nancy Ashy and husband Tom of Victoria, TX; his son Allan Carmichael and wife Carolyn of Austin, TX; grandchildren Blake Joines of McKinney, TX; Carrie Rietti and husband Luis of Austin, TX; Kathleen Carmichael of Austin, TX; Caley Carmichael of Austin, TX; and numerous nieces and nephews.



**Obituaries/
Notices of
PassingLife
Member of our
Association.**

Patricia O'Brien

Feb. 2, 1927 - Sept. 2, 2015



Patricia B. O'Brien passed peacefully on Sept. 2, 2015 at the age of 88.

Her husband of 63 years, Dick, as well as her children, relatives, close friends, and caregivers surrounded her in her last days.

Patricia was born on Feb. 2, 1927 in Los Angeles, CA. to Mathias and Bernadette Becker. She had three brothers, Ralph, George, and Paul; and one sister, Rosemary.

She was an excellent student, and received a scholarship to attend St Marys Academy in Inglewood, CA. Later, she attended Mount St Marys College in Los Angeles, where she studied microbiology and graduated magna cum laude.

After college, Pat worked at the lab of a local hospital. One day she went to a friend's backyard party, and met Dick O'Brien, a young WWII veteran. They married one year later.

As newlyweds, they built their first house in Lakewood, and attended St. Pancratius Church. Soon afterwards, the children started to arrive.

With a growing family, they moved to the new community of Redondo Beach and became founding members of St Lawrence Martyr Church in Redondo Beach.

Her husband Dick and children, Molly Phillips, Teri O'Brien, Catherine O'Brien, Julie O'Brien, Tom O'Brien, Mary Csere, Mike O'Brien, and Eileen Anderson, are grateful for the love and support Pat received at this time.

She will be missed by her sons in law John Phillips, Csaba Csere, and Robert Anderson, and her daughter in law Kim. Her grandchildren, Ian and Sean O'Brien, Shannon Becker O'Brien, Madeline Csere, and Mimi Anderson were the light of her life.

She loved lans wife Katie, and looked forward to the birth of her first great granddaughter.

Lt. Col U.S. Army Robert (Bob) L. Ham

Aug. 19, 1930 - May 23, 2015



Lieutenant Colonel Robert (Bob) Lloyd Ham, 84, of Colorado Springs, Colorado passed away Saturday, May 23, 2015 surrounded by family and friends. He is survived by wife: Bernice M. Ham, children: Terri Lynne Henderson of St. Joseph, MO, Alan Robert Ham (Darla) of Westminster, CO, Timothy Ham of Colorado Springs, CO, and step-son: Robert Warmbir (Jennifer) Temecula, CA, 9 grandchildren, 4 step grandchildren, 21 great grandchildren and one great great-grandchild.

Robert graduated from Atchison High School and married Lorene Clem in 1949. They were married for 42 years. While he was in Atchison, KS he was Commander of the National Guard, before being sent to Fort Carson Colorado prior to being deployed to Vietnam with 199th Light Infantry Brigade. He retired, after his successful 35 years in the Army, receiving the National Defense Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal with star, Combat Infantryman Badge, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal w/ Device 1960, Bronze Star Medal w/ 2 Oak Leaf Cluster, and Air Medal. Bob was also a fifty year member of the Atchison, KS Mason Lodge, a member of the VFW, American Legion and Sertoma, where he was District Governor of Southern Colorado.

He is preceded in death by his father: Robert C. Ham, mother: Gladys Ham, first wife: Lorene Ham and son: Gary Ham.

He enjoyed his family and friends, traveling, golfing and military organizations.

Celebration of Life services were May 30th. Interment at Fort Logan National Cemetery with full Military Honors.

Surely we all want to know of a 35th Division comrade's passing.

**Obituaries...
an important part
of the**

**35th
Divisionnaire**

Mail all obituaries to
Col. Robert Bloomquist, 35th Division,
Box 5004, Topeka, KS 66605

Colonel Bloomquist and Colonel Dalton,

I am writing on behalf of my grandfather Glenn W. Farrell. He asked that I type and send to you a letter that he wrote about his friendship with Frank Beadle. I have attached this letter for your review and for submission to the 35th Infantry newsletter Santa Fe Express. My grandfather was heartbroken to hear of Frank’s passing and misses him dearly. He has received good news recently that he will receive the French Legion of Honor medal in a ceremony November 11th, 2015. We are all looking forward to that day to celebrate with him. Please let me know that you have received this letter and if you have any questions. Have a wonderful day!

Kimberly Rich
Granddaughter of Glenn Farrell
Graham, NC

Memories and Friendship to Frank Beadle

To the editor,

Frank and I met in 1944 at Camp Hood, Texas. We were assigned to the same barracks. We were unpacking our bags and started a conversation. From there we would talk to each other more often and finally started going to the P.X. together. We were always together when we would go out training together, whether it was on the rifle range or field problems. I think we caught K.P. together once or twice. After about twelve months of training at Camp Hood we had orders to go to mountain maneuvers in Nashville, Tennessee. We met there and trained in snow and mud until we were told we would be shipping out by convoy to Camp Butner, N.C. I cannot remember what month it was but I told Frank that it was about 35 miles from my home. I think this made him happy because he could go home with me some on weekends. I remember we spent the first night camping in some man’s muddy corn field. Best I can remember we pitched tents close to each other. The next day we loaded up for Camp Butner. Frank and I talked about N.C. and going on pass together to my home.

When we got to Camp Butner and were assigned barracks, we were assigned to the same barracks. We were lucky again and it seemed the Lord wanted us to be together. We did things together and seemed to do a lot of training together. Frank and I would get a weekend pass and go into Durham or maybe come home with my wife. I remember one day Frank and I went to look at the board to see if we had a detail coming up like K.P.,

guard duty, or latrine duty. I remember one day on latrine duty I told Frank when the inspector officer came I was going with him to the end of the toilets and holler “commodes attenhut”. Frank said we would get into some trouble if I did. We did not.

The Company was going to go to Virginia on mountain maneuvers. The names were called out who would not go and why. It seemed like our names would never be called but finally my name was called out that I would stay and be on K.P duty. Frank was not called out so he had to go to Virginia. I kidded him that I would be eating warm food and sleeping in a warm bed. I think they were gone a week. A few months later we went to Camp Kilmer and from there were shipped out to Lizard Point, England. We finally got back together in England and we would walk to different places just to get out.

The day finally came and we went to Plymouth and went on Normandy Beach. I believe they said we were fourth or fifth wave. I was finally assigned my first job as a scout. I would go down main streets to see if I would draw any fire from snipers. As a scout I would have to go behind Germany lines for whatever the C.O. wanted to try and find. The 30th infantry had an officer that came over and asked the C.O. if someone could try to find ten men and an officer. I was under a bridge in Saint Lo and he sent after me. I was asked to go find these officers and after finding them, I found a way to get them out safely. A Company then had eight replacements lost and I

was sent to go find them. I found them behind Germany lines but they had been put down as they came through an opening from one hedgerow to another. I checked them and all were dead.

A few months later I got hurt and was flown to a hospital in England. After about two months, I went to an MVA outfit for therapy and two months later I was shipped to a VA hospital in the States. I was given a Disabled Discharge and sent home. Months later Frank came home and somehow we got each other’s phone numbers.

We started calling each other about every eight to ten nights checking on each other. We did this from about 1946 or 1947 until May 21, 2015. He called me on May 21st to wish me a happy birthday and we talked for about 30 minutes. My birthday was the next day. Two days later on May 23rd, I received the worst call I could ever get. His son called early in the morning and said Frank had passed away suddenly. This ended 71 great years between Frank and myself but I still remember him as the greatest friend I could have ever had. I know we will meet again someday.

Glenn W. Farrell
Graham, North Carolina

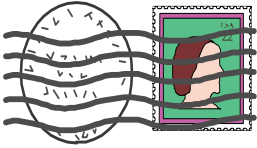
Dear Members of the 35th Division Assn,

It is with great sadness that I send you this information about my husband, friend and my all. Bob always enjoyed any chance he had to be with fellow guardsmen, or any military organization he felt worthy of being part of. The 35th took Bob in as one of your, their own in honorary form and he was proud to call each of you friend. Please let those in attendance of this year’s conference know of the death of my Hero who always was the wind beneath my wings: Robert Lloyd Ham


Thank you 35th Division for your service to our great country and God Bless America.

Regards,
Bernice Ham


P.S. Enclosed a check for \$100.00 to honor Bob at your conference.



Mail Call



Kathryn Travis



Kathy Travis' dad
James T Gurley

35th Infantry Division Orphans Network

I am the new born in the pic, 8-15-44, with my mother, sister, and Grandmother. My father was killed in France on 9-11-44. My son Seth took me to France, for Memorial Day this May to connect with the place my father died.

Kathryn E. Travis

Honorary Conference Attendee
and One New Membership

August 4, 2015

Dear Colonel Bloomquist,

My grandfather is Glenn W. Farrell. He served in World War II in the 35th Division, 134th Regiment, Company I. He is unable to attend the 35th Division Association conference next month so he would like to be recognized as an honorary attendee. I would also like to join the 35th Division Association as his granddaughter. Please find enclosed a check for \$50.00 to cover one honorary attendee for the conference next month and one new membership.

My grandfather has enjoyed the Santa Fe Express newsletter and looks forward to conversations with you and Colonel Dalton.. After the death of his close friend, Frank Beadle, my husband and I offered to take him to the 35th Division Association conference and he was looking forward to going. His health, however, is preventing him from making the trip. I am hoping that his health improves and there is a chance that we can make it to the conference next year.

Kimberly Rich
Granddaughter of Glenn Farrell
Graham, NC

Next issue of the

Santa Fe Express

Deadline 5 Feb 2016



Please Consider -That Final Personal Tribute to the 35th Division and It's Association

Among the most loving tributes an individual can leave to the future for their loved ones and organization is financial support that is helpful after our being called from this earthly kingdom. Members and friends of the 35th Division Association are encouraged to visit with their family and their family lawyer whereby the 35th Division Association will be included in their final will or trust. Such support can be tremendously important to maintenance of the Association into the future and ensure the planned 35th Division Association Museum space at the Kansas National Guard Museum in Topeka, Kansas, is adequately funded to support its mission and goals as a place of memories, education, and respect for the sacrifices of soldiers and their families.

Questions on this topic can be addressed to Colonel Robert A. Bloomquist (Executive Secretary/Treasurer), PO Box 5004, Topeka, KS 66605 or MG Michael Ryan (Judge Advocate), PO Box 205, Clay Center, KS 67432

International Liaison Committee Column October 8, 2015

71st Anniversary commemorations continue in Europe. In August, the 35th Division Normandie group held a special ceremony at the Memorial to Lt. Col. Thomsen at Le Mesnil Rouxelin. He was the commander of the 3rd battalion of the 134th infantry regiment in World War II. He was lightly wounded on July 17 and then fatally wounded on July 30, 1944. He died 16 days later in England. A memorial was dedicated to him at the village of Le Mesnil Rouxelin in 2009 by the Normandie group.



35th Division Normandie Association members at the monument to Lt. Col. Thomsen at Le Mesnil Rouxelin. Fourth from the right is Andree Chan, President

An “exceptional season” of visitors, surprises and honors ended with champagne at the WWII museum at Veselize, France, in early October. The large turnout on the 2015 closing day brought the visitor tally to more than 800 persons for the museum of the association of L’Espace de Memoire Lorraine 1939-45. Several visitors brought large items such as shell casings that are fueling ideas for next year’s exhibits. The museum will reopen at the end of April, 2016.

Members of the association will continue monthly meetings at the museum “club-house” through the winter. The website at espacedememoire.fr remains active. It has experienced more than 16,000 hits during the past few years. English translation is available at the site.

The association and museum that it sponsors continues to grow in regional esteem. The mayor of Nancy, France, invited Jerome Leclerc and the association to provide an exhibit to herald the 71st anniversary of the “Return to Liberty” in September. The exhibit extended last year’s history lesson provided by the salute to the Liberators, especially the 35th Division. This year’s exhibition highlighted the role of the Resistants in the overthrow of the Nazis at the end of WWII. It was held in the Grand Hall of Nancy. The opening day of the exhibit included a panel of Resistants, including Isabelle Mangin, interpreter for Gen. George Patton. She is an active member of the Espace association.

The 35th Division was also remembered with a mannequin dressed in a 35th division uniform. Effects pertaining to the death of Sgt. Edward C. Bond, I-134, near the airport at Malzeville was displayed. They included a photo, the death telegram and official sympathy letters. Roberta Russo purchased them on E-Bay to photograph for her website at www.coulthart.com/134/index.htm. She then gave them to Leclerc for the Espace museum. Items pertaining to war may not be offered on French E-Bay. Friends outside of France alerted Leclerc to the availability of a copy of “the mural” at the Nancy Rest Center depicted in the last edition of the “Santa Fe Express.” The same drawing may be viewed in the 35th Division Association wing at the Kansas National Guard Museum in Topeka. It also was featured in the “Liberty” exhibit in the Nancy Grand Hall.

The liberation month of September in the Lorraine region of France was celebrated at Agincourt with the dedication of a memorial to members of the 35th Division who died in that region. The inscription on the memorial reads: *In grateful memory of the soldiers of the 1st and 3rd battalions, 134th Infantry Regiment, 60th Engineer Combat Battalion, 161 Field Artillery Battalion, 737th Tank Battalion and 654th Tank Destroyer, who gave their life for our freedom*. Sixty nine names are inscribed on the monument. Fernand Nedelec represented the Espace association at the dedication. Additional details and photographs are provided elsewhere in this issue in a separate article submitted by Mike Ven of Belgium.

Earlier in the summer, the Espace museum was visited by 15 American students from the Experiment in International Living. They lived with host families in Lorraine to improve their French. Students praised the diversity of exhibits. They imagined that their grandfathers might have used such equipment in WWII. Program directors plan to make a return visit next year.

Francois Prunin, his wife Ketevan, infant son, and his friend Nicolas George, visited the museum as part of three week tour devoted to 35th Division locales. Prunin and George have a site devoted to the 35th Division. They are based in the Lyon region, although the 35th didn’t pass through that area.

A large group of flag bearers, elected officials and townspeople joined association members at the annual ceremony at Flavigny Bridge to remember the Santa Feans who

perished during the “night of hell” on September 10-11 1944. Research into this disaster kindled the conversations that led to the creation of the Espace de Memoire association. Drawing on American publications and local witnesses, Leclerc wrote a booklet about this disaster. Among the speakers at the event was a German orphaned by the battle. Elmar Diez placed flowers at the 35th Division stele to remember the Allied soldiers who died to deliver his country from Nazism.

Annual ceremony at Flavigny Bridge to remember those who perished during the “Night of Hell” Sept 10-11, 1944



Elsewhere in France, Guy Reichert’s new organization, Gates of Memory, continues to add new sponsors to their adoption program. The two latest members to adopt 35th Division graves at the St. Avold Cemetery are Pierre Sommer and Sabine Lang. They have adopted the graves of PFC Edmond C. LaSalle from California; Sgt. Francis P. Ford, Pennsylvania; Sgt. Edgar G. Jennings, Pennsylvania; Sgt. Lloyd R. Richcreek, Michigan; and Sgt. Earl R. Zimmerman from Oregon.

The sponsors are referred to as marraines in French, meaning godmother or sponsor. Parrain is the male equivalent. In France, during World War I, young women were encouraged to write soldiers as their “marraines” and send small items to cheer them. There is an entire exhibit in the World Palace of Peace at Verdun dedicated to the marraines.



Guy Reichert, Sabine Lang, and Pierre Sommer at the American Military Cemetery at St. Avold. Lang and Sommer have adopted 35th Division soldiers’ graves.

U.S. Veterans Friends – Luxembourg will be holding their annual meeting at the American Military Cemetery at Hamm, Luxembourg in November. As always, they will pay special tribute to our 35th Division servicemen buried there. Members will also be in attendance in Wiltz, Luxembourg, in late November when Corporal Richard Brookins of the 28th Infantry Division reenacts his 1944 role as St. Nicholas. Just before the outbreak of the Battle of the Bulge, Brookins donned the St. Nicholas attire and distributed treats, consisting mostly of things in the GIs’ packages from home, to the children of Wiltz. Brookins has returned to Luxembourg on several occasions. His story is the subject of a book, *The American St. Nick*, by Peter Lion. A Luxembourgish language version is now available. A new documentary by the World War II Foundation will be premiered in Wiltz.

The overseas groups provide an invaluable service to 35th Division veterans, families and researchers. Their affiliation with the 35th Division Association is greatly appreciated. If you would like to contribute to the cost of mailing the Santa Fe Express to these friends, please send your check to the 35th Division Association and indicate it is for international mailings.

International Liaison Committee Co-Chairs

Paula Evans Baker, daughter of Pvt. Richard H. Evans, F-134-35, KIA 9/30/44
dicknell35@hotmail.com

Marilyn Bowers Jensen, daughter of PFC Rex M. Bowers, C-134-35, KIA 01/25/45
mbowersjensen@msn.com

71st Annniversary Commemorations Continue in Europe

THE BATTLE OF SUGAR LOAF HILL NEW MEMORIAL FOR THE 35TH IN AGINCOURT-FRANCE, DEDICATED SEPTEMBER 20, 2015

Submitted by Mike Ven, 35th Division Association - Belgium
Mike Ven, Bram Temmerman and Guy Reichert, three members of the European liaisons for the Association, went to Agincourt, France on September 20, 2015, to participate in the ceremony to dedicate a new Memorial to the 35th Division. Mike and Bram are from Belgium, and Guy is from France. This new monument is a reminder of the battle that took place from September 16th till September 21st 1944.

The battle is known as Sugar Loaf Battle because the hill they had to take has the shape of French “Pain de Sucre”. The hill is situated on the outskirts of a typical French village called Agincourt. This was not the same Agincourt known to history through the exploits of Henry V in the Hundred Years’ War, but its association with the field of battle was much more real to the men of the 35th. Effective defensive fires poured from Agincourt toward the advancing skirmishers as they came into sight over the western nose of Pain de Sucre. A high velocity tank gun scored a direct hit on one of the supporting Sherman tanks, and it stopped dead and burst into flames. 2nd Lt. Gerald M. Hassel of Wyoming, field artillery observer, hurried forward in order that he might bring effective artillery fire on the enemy positions; but he too came under the fire of the enemy tank and was killed in the attempt. Capt. Francis C. Mason sensed that this was a critical point, and he knew that the only way to reduce the effectiveness of the enemy fire was to keep moving forward. He carried men of Company B along with him; 1st Lt. Kjems and Company A remained on his flank, and supporting tanks stayed with them. They swept into Agincourt and began routing the Nazis at close range. American tankers gained revenge in knocking out a dreaded German tank in the streets.

Even on forcing entry into the town, the issue had not yet been settled. That remained for decisive action on the part of heroic individuals, our soldiers of the Division. We lost a lot of men due to the severe resistance of the Germans and that’s why local French resident Emmanuel Peignier decided to create this new monument. The Mayor of Agincourt, Mr. Denis Lapointe gave Mr. Peignier the green light.

We are honored that the people of Agincourt made it possible to make this new monument. The ceremony to unveil the monument was very respectful with several distinguished guests. Mr. Peignier started the ceremony with a historical review of the battle.

After the historical review, it was time to unveil the monument. It was dead silent when Mrs. Patricia Flamme, Mr. Peignier and the Mayor of Agincourt removed the improvised curtain to inaugurate the monument. Mrs. Flamme is the correspondent for the Sugar Loaf Battle Association, and has been in contact with family members of soldiers who fought for the liberation of her town.

The Mayor of Agincourt, Mr. Denis Lapointe, showed his gratitude by telling everyone how important this monument is to show the people of his town that they can never forget the tragedy of war.

Mike Ven, our Belgian Liaison spoke on behalf of the Association. His words were very clear:

“Dear friends, Ladies and Gentlemen, distinguished guests.

It is a tremendous honor to stand here with you today among all the people who share the respect for the men of the 35th Infantry Division who participated in the liberation of this region here in France and especially Agincourt.

A lot of soldiers died fighting here so it is a difficult duty we face today, paying tribute to those killed in the cause of freedom. The brave men we honor made the ultimate sacrifice for liberty and that’s why we have a moment of respect for their lost lives by remembering them today. Their passage is marked with headstones and tiny flags that flutter in the breeze on the American cemeteries here in France. Their names are carved into the tombstones and memorials for all eternity to show this generation how high the price of freedom is. They will be forever in our memory.....forever in our heartsand we will be forever thankful to them! While we can never truly repay the debt we owe our heroes, the least we should do for our brave men is to ensure that their legacy continues

We, the people of the 35th Infantry Division Association, are very pleased that these remarkable men are getting the recognition they deserve for their role in the liberation of Agincourt and its surroundings.

Please accept our gratitude for everything you all did to make this memorial possible. The Mayor, Emmanuel and everyone involved made it possible that those who died for your liberty are forever remembered. Their names are carved in stone, in this beautiful memorial, to remember all the people and visitors of Agincourt that their freedom they have today was not free.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU AGINCOURT AND GOD BLESS OUR SOLDIERS!”

After laying down flowers and playing the National Anthems we had a moment of silence to remember those who were there and those who never came back and payed the ultimate price.

The people of Agincourt also organized an exposition about the battle with a lot of authentic World War 2 military items and civilian displays of how life was during these days in September 1944.

Several military vehicle groups were there to get the feeling of the September days. The European Liaisons were able to drive to the top of Sugar Loaf Hill with a M8 Greyhound to overview the area around Agincourt. Great day, great people, great cause! Thank you Agincourt



Left:
Emmanuel Peignier,
President
Sugar Loaf Battle
Association



Right:
Mr Denis Lapointe,
Mayor of Agincourt.



The new 35th Division monument in
Agincourt



Mme Flamme, Mr Lapointe and Mr Peignier
Unveiling the monument



L-R Bram
Temmerman,
Guy
Reichert
and Mike
Ven

Liberation of Orleans Commemoration

September 28, 2015

Dear Sir, dear Bob,

As you may know, each year, we commemorate the Liberation of Orleans area by soldiers from the 35th Infantry Division, on August 16th, 1944.

The City of Orleans was liberated by the 137th Infantry Regiment, that is why we have got a partnership with the City of Wichita KS. I went a few times to Wichita in the past years.

I enclose three photos of the ceremonies this last August 16th. The US soldiers sharing our memories were from the 52nd Signal Battalion stationed in Stuttgart, Germany. I would be pleased if you could get these photos in the next edition of “The Divisionnaire”. The photos have been scanned, but if you prefer them on paper, please let me know and I will post them to you.

Best regards,
Claude



ARTENAY near Orleans War
Memorial LTC. Delton Nix Jr
Addressing the Village Audience
and flag holders



ORLEANS
From left to right
CSM Woody Carter, 52nd Signal Bn
LTC Delton Nix, CDR 52nd Signal Bn
Claude ROZET, Franco-American Assoc.
Major B. McDowell, X.O. 52nd Signal Bn



ORLEANS: Victory Memorial
Left to right
Mr Mallet, Veterans Association;
LTC Delton Nix Jr, CDR 52nd Signal Bn;
Major B. Mc Dowell, XO. 52nd Signal Bn;
Olivier CARRE, Mayor of Orleans

The Soul of the Mémorial de la Madeleine shuts down.

(Actually, the words of this headline in French, as it appears in the St. Lo edition of *La Manche* are more poetic than this English translation conveys. The words in French express a sense of loss and departure, something that is surely felt in this situation.)

I have written several articles about JEAN MIGNON since I first met him. Each time, the facts convey how much Jean has done to commemorate the actions of the 35th and 29th Divisions, who together, liberated St. Lô.

There is more than one local and/or regional article concerning Jean’s decision to retire. Each presents the known facts: Jean was born in 1930, took over the assignment of restoring the chapel in 1995, and succeeded in transforming it into a real museum. In this article, I summarize what appeared in two different French newspapers.

Jean Mignon was Deputy Mayor when the city of St. Lo decided to restore the 12th century chapel. After retiring from public service in 1995, Jean began to devote his time to the making of a museum dedicated to honouring the soldiers who had liberated the city. In the beginning, the collection contained objects from the war years, and photos taken of the 29th Division in action. It was not easy to find objects, and Jean remembers virtually rummaging through drawers. It was by chance that Jean found a flag in a ruined building that was city property. Over the course of time, Jean received state flags, and when a 35th Division visiting General saw there were none of the Division, he arranged to have photos and flags sent. Over the years, more were obtained, and the flags of all participants are now on display.

In his 20 years of involvement with the chapel, Jean has received more than 20,000 visitors, on the average of 1,000 per year, with peaks of visits during the grand ceremonies. Jean has received visiting scholars, school classes, and veterans and/or their families who have told him their stories. Jean has seen many in tears, and has found particularly emotional the visits of widows who have viewed photos of their loved ones lost in battle.

Another article dealt with Jean’s retirement through his perspective. The first sentence sums up the feelings of those aware of Jean and his work:

“After 20 years of good and loyal service, Jean Mignon will no longer visit the place dedicated to the liberation of the city. It is difficult to replace someone who has himself lived through the events.”

Born in St. Lo in 1930, an elected official from 1977 to 1995, Jean Mignon has since become the Director of the Memorial de la Madeleine. However, this Summer, the 85 year old decided to close an adventure of 20 years.

Throughout the years, Jean has become a reference for many Americans and has relearned English, walked through former battlegrounds with veterans, or guided their families. One of the more memorable visits came from a German soldier – not many of them visit. He told his story to Jean and added that his first reaction, after being wounded in the right arm had been: “I will not be able to play tennis again!”

At his home, there is a blue folder with correspondence from the US over 20 years. In their letters, many veterans have thanked their “Dear John.” To give thanks, some have enclosed gifts, sometimes in money, but often more solemn – flags, photos. Over the years, the collection of the Memorial has filled, and the knowledge of its guide has grown, thanks to the veterans’ memories. But all this work has taken time and energy. Jean reached his decision.

No one is irreplaceable. Jean Mignon has done even a bit more than anyone else when it comes to speaking about July 1944. His successor, no matter how cultivated, will be unable to bring the living touch of those who experienced the events that he is telling.

1995 – 2015 Twenty years!

Du haut des remparts, No. 16 (Association des Amis des Musées Municipaux de Saint-Lô)
*This magazine is issued 3 or 4 times a year, containing reports of cultural interest to members of The Association of Friends of the Municipal Museums of Saint-Lô. Jean Mignon contributed the following article (with several photos) about La Chapelle de La Madeleine, which has been transformed into a place of memory.**

It has been already twenty years since, recently restored, the Chapelle de la Madeleine was opened to the public. The Chapel invited, from then on, those who wanted to visit, and remember those men who came to battle, a certain day in June 1944, thousands of kilometres from their homes, in a country they did not know and to liberate a land in which, the two Normandie cemeteries combined, close to 15,000 of them rest forever.

At the suggestion of Hubert Godefroy, Curator of the Museum of Beaux-Arts of Saint Lô, the Mayor accepted the use of the Chapel to shelter a proposed memorial.

The idea took hold. But the nature and content of such a project would demand reflection, and the preparation, already engaged, of ceremonies and diverse manifestations, called for to mark the 50th anniversary of D-Day would not permit its realisation in 1994.

The inauguration took place the following year, and since, at that time, a dozen or so veterans of the 29th American Infantry Division were already in Normandie, it was they who cut the ribbon, 12 May 1995.

The Memorial was open, but it lacked the time to become known and recognized, especially among the different tourist organizations charged with, among other things, to make known the sites and museums treating the events of 1944.

Such as it is presented today, it reflects the generosity of Americans and the interest which it bears. Thus, one can see, alongside the photos, documents, and other diverse objects, the flags of the units having fought on the front of Saint Lo and notably for the 29th and 35th Divisions, the flags of each and of their three respective regiments. Also present is the flag of the Cadets of South Carolina, where the future officer Thomas Dry Howie attended.

It is with honor and pride that we have received gifts from civilian and military individuals as well as numerous veterans, these emblems behind which these Gils led the hedge wars and fought on our dirt roads, fields, and in our cities.

On its side, the city of Saint-Lo facilitated a better presentation of the exhibition by providing the Chapel with furnishings of quality better adapted than that for which it was previously disposed.

As well, on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of D-Day, the Chapel was able, with considerable financial assistance, to acquire a diorama. It consists of a representation, in relief, the surroundings of Saint-Lo attained by the 29th and 35th Divisions on the 17 of July, as well as the points of penetration in the city, liberated the next day at the end of the afternoon.

Arriving in large numbers, all along these 20 years, our American friends, veterans and tourists, have always shown to be very moved by the homage rendered by the city of Saint Lo to its liberators.

They have shown evidence of this often by words well chosen registered in the Guest Book. And when the time comes to leave, the handshake, the prolonged accolade, the tearful look are the kinds of signs one cannot mistake.

On their side, our compatriots are not less sensitive to this gratitude manifested by the Chapel and it is often with a certain contemplation that they discover it.

Today it is there to aide generations to come to never forget these men who came to fight on our land to defend the values all the more precious as they remain always fragile: peace and liberty.

Thirteen photos and a few sentences have been omitted.

Translations by Anna Jovanovich

35th Division Association Orphans at Kansas City Banquet



Here are 35th Division orphans at the association’s banquet in Kansas City Sept. 12, 2015. Left to right are Paula Evans Baker, Maggie Stein Fenstermacher, Victoria Rameriz Frisenda, Marilyn Bowers Jensen and Pat Rowe Cook.

Paula, Victoria and Marilyn are wearing medals of St. Maurice (civilian rank) bestowed by the National Infantry Association for their service to the US Infantry.



The Gavel Handoff



Col. Bob and Mrs. Dalton receiving a thank you gift for their hard work as executive secretary



ATTENTION
5 February 2016
is the Deadline for the
January-February-March
issue of the Santa Fe Express



635TH ARMOR REGIMENT AND 137TH INFANTRY REGIMENT SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

On behalf of the Scholarship Committee I am announcing three \$500 education scholarships available from the 635th Armor Regiment and 137th Infantry Regiment Scholarship fund. The purpose of the fund is to provide scholarship grants to direct descendents, legally adopted children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of those that served honorably, to assist the recipients in attending accredited schools of higher learning. Applications will be accepted **until 10 February 2016.**

Eligibility for scholarships is linked to honorable service of parents and/or grandparents in the following past and present military organizations:

1st, 2nd, or 3rd Battalions of the 137th Infantry Regiment.

1st or 2nd Battalions of the 635th Armor Regiment.

2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment.

635th Tank Destroyer Battalion (WW II).

The primary criteria upon which grants will be decided include: Scholastics, aptitude and involvement in the many forms of extracurricular activities (in and out of school), participation in civic and community services, career intentions with a special emphasis on service to state and nation, and for consideration, “financial need”. Contact COL (Ret) Robert Bloomquist at bbloom843@aol.com or 785-234-2688 for the application form or

questions about eligibility.

This joint scholarship fund evolved from the 635th Armor Regimental Scholarship fund held at the Topeka Community Foundation which assists in managing the funds and providing donors with proper documentation for their tax exempt donation. Scholarships have been granted over the years to a wide range of students, to include descendants of WW II Veterans (635th Tank Destroyer Battalion), and former and current members of the 635th Armor Regiment or 2-137th Infantry Regiment. Recipients of these scholarship funds have reflected immense appreciation for the assistance and have honored their recognition through exceptional effort in their post high school academic endeavors.

The Scholarship Program is managed by former members of the 137th Infantry and 635th Armor Regiments along with Infantry and Armor Officer and Enlisted representation from the 2-137th CAB, Headquartered in Kansas City, KS.

This year’s scholarships are made possible by the generous donations of the following supporters. The following categories represent the cumulative level of their contributions since the creation of the scholarship: (Gold: Over \$1500), (Silver: \$500 to \$1500) and (Bronze: \$100 to \$499)

Gold
MG (R) and Mrs Jack Strukel Jr.
LTC (R) and Mrs Larry Farmer
Silver

SGM Patrick Cullen
CSM (R) Joe Romans
Bronze
LTC and Mrs Robert Stinson
LTC (P) Roger Aeschliman
SGM (R) Viviano Reveles
LTC (R) Ricky Dodson
LTC (R) Gregory Mittman
SGM (R) Robert and Marilyn Johnson

COL (R) Calvin and Terri Warren

COL (R) Robert Dalton
COL (R) and Mrs Lyn Smith
LTC (R) Duke Hester

The committee in conjunction with the Topeka Community Foundation manages the 137th/635th Regiment Scholarship Fund. If you are interested in donating to this scholarship, you may contribute via the web site, www.topekacommunityfoundation.org or mail to Topeka Community Foundation, ATTN: 635th/137th Scholarship, 5431 SW 29th Street, Suite 300, Topeka, KS 66614-4486. Contributions are income tax deductible and easy to accomplish. 100% of the administration fees are paid by investment return or covered by a board member, so your entire contribution goes to the scholarship.

If you want information on the committee representatives, periodic updates on the fund or scholarship applications please contact COL (R) Robert Bloomquist at 785-234-2688 or bbloom843@aol.com.

Robert D Bloomquist
Colonel, US Army (Ret)
Committee Chair

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation
(All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

1. Publication Title 35th Divisionaire	2. Publication Number 7 0 0 - 1 6 0	3. Filing Date 9-18-15
4. Issue Frequency quarterly	5. Number of Issues Published Annually 4	6. Annual Subscription Price
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®) PO Box 269 Horton KS 66439		Contact Person Lori Vertin Telephone (include area code) 785-989-4415
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer)		

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank)

Publisher (Name and complete mailing address)
Kansas Chief Publishing & Printing Inc

Editor (Name and complete mailing address)
Horton Headlight PO Box 269 Horton KS 66439

Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address)

10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box ☒ None

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address

12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)
The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes:
☒ Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months
☐ Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)

13. Publication Title 35th Divisionaire		14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below July 22, 2015	
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)		1000	1000
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	970	954
	(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	2	2
	(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®		
	(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)		
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))		972	956
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies included on PS Form 3541		
	(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies included on PS Form 3541		
	(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail)		
	(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)		
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))			
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		972	956
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))		28	46
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)		1000	1000
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)		100%	100%

* If you are claiming electronic copies, go to line 16 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership
☒ If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed ☐ Publication not required.
In the **October 2015** issue of this publication.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner
Lori Vertin
Date
9-18-15

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).



137th Infantry and 635th Armor Regimental Scholarship Selection Board

Years ago, MG (Ret) Strukel, Jr. and group of 635th Armor leaders created an Educational Scholarship for the descendants for the 635th Armor Regiment and 635th Tank Destroyers. It was recently expanded to include the descendants of the 1st, 2d and 3rd Battalions, 137th Regiment. If you have connections to either regiment and are willing to help score applications, either on site in Kansas or through E-mail, please consider volunteering.



Augustine Martinez Had Rare Prisoner Exchange



Augustine G. Martinez was born in Santa Ana, California, on May 24, 1925, to parents who had immigrated from Mexico. He attended school in Santa Ana, graduating from Santa Ana High School in 1943.

He was inducted into the U. S. Army at Fort MacArthur, San Pedro, California on July 13, 1943, then transferred to Camp Wallace, Texas for Anti-Aircraft Artillery basic training. From there he was transferred to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, then to Camp McCain, Mississippi. He was then sent to back to Camp Kilmer and shipped to Glasgow, Scotland, and then to England. In July of 1944 he was assigned to Company I, 137th Infantry, 35th Division as a replacement rifleman in France following the battle of St. Lo.

He remained as a rifleman in the hedgerows near Nancy, France. On the early morning of September 16, 1944, he and his company crossed the Moselle River, then a field that was well-defended by the Germans. Automatic machine gun and mortar fire came from the nearby woods and two men in the unit were lost. With considerable effort they were able to take the woods, but were soon ordered back to let the artillery pound the woods.

At that time, Martinez says that he saw a lot of confused soldiers, some of whom who were being killed by friendly artillery fire. When the artillery lifted they went back into woods, and a German tank, coming directly at Martinez, fired a round at him, blowing his foot away. The rest of his story is best told by him.

"I found myself about 200 feet out of the wooded area when all hell broke loose. Our tanks, their tanks, all in the battle, with no one able to get to me. I saw GI's running back, GI's crying and hurt, and I had to lay there overnight with a kid laying next to me crying. There was nothing I could do for him. Now I don't know what became of this kid.

"From the afternoon of September 16 to September 18 I laid there. Some time on the morning of the 18th, some Gerrys (Germans) picked me up. I must have been in real bad shape because one of them kept shaking his head. I remember asking for some water. They gave me some, but pulled it away because I was drinking too much. Ants were crawling on me, and my lips were chapped, dry, and bleeding.

"The next thing I remember was one of the German soldiers calling out. Soon two soldiers came out of the woods carrying a stretcher, and carried me back into the woods. We got to a small farmhouse and they put me on the ground. A German officer, who could have been a Medic, came up to me, pulled out a surgical instrument, cut off part of my fatigues, and started to cut flesh and what I believe was part of what was left of my foot. When he had cut it off, he threw it aside, then rolled me over and gave me a shot on the buttocks. Another officer then came in and wanted to know to what unit I was attached. I gave him my name, rank, and serial number. He asked me again and I repeated the same information.

"They then put me on an open bed truck, along with four others, all Germans. I noticed that one of the Germans was in real bad shape, breathing hard, and coughing up- blood. I began to panic. I figured that if this guy kicks the bucket, what are they going to do to me. A German guard kept staring at me.

"We just drove and drove. The roads were bumpy and it was very painful, as there were no painkillers—nothing. When the truck finally came to a stop they got me off and took me to a little white building. By now I was in excruciating pain. A large man and a young girl came up to me and put me on a table. The man looked straight at me, and, speaking very good English, said "Start counting backwards." I smelled ether and didn't remember a thing until I woke up. I still smelled ether, and the young girl placed an old gray towel on my forehead. My leg had been wrapped with paper bandages. I found out later that they had given me a guillotine amputation. The doctor apologized by saying that several inches of my leg above my ankle had to be removed.

"The pain was awful and there didn't seem to be anything they

could do. The young girl kept wiping my forehead with water. I was moved into a very small room. I think they felt sorry for me because I was so young, but they were very humane with me."

Martinez's next stop was a castle that had been converted into a prison camp, Stalag 5. He crawled for the first week, and then began to hop around because he had no crutches. His weight dropped to 89 pounds on one bowl of barley soup a day. He says that his leg was "so swollen it looked like a picnic ham." Most of the others in the camp also were injured.

After four months, he and some other prisoners of war were taken to Switzerland and exchanged for German prisoners. He was free to go home. By January of 1945 he was in Halloran General Hospital, Staten Island, New York, then sent to Bushnell General Hospital, Brigham City, Utah, in February of 1945. He was discharged from the Army in September of 1945. But he couldn't bring himself to go home to Santa Ana. He had written to his mother that he had a leg injury, but couldn't bring himself to tell her that his leg was gone. After several days some friends and his brother came looking for him and forced him to come home.

He says, "I just didn't want them to see me that way, and it was really devastating to my mother and my young brothers to see me without my foot." Everyone wanted to see him, but he didn't want to see anybody. The Santa Ana newspaper, now the "Orange County Register," ran a story on him, saying that he was the first wounded serviceman from Orange County to come home.

After his discharge, he worked as a cobbler, then became a machinist and built a career making engines for model airplanes. He worked with Hispanic rights and veterans groups throughout his life.

In 1998, he and his wife, Eloise, along with their daughters Corrine Hernandez and Elaine Tellez, returned to Europe to visit the World War II battlefields that affected his life so immensely. They saw the Moselle River, which Martinez had crossed as a soldier, and a church in St. Lo where he had once spent the night.

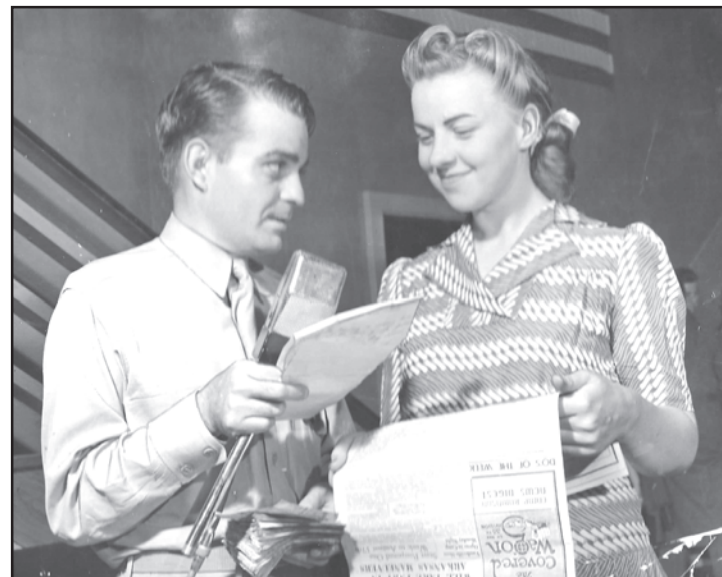
He is especially proud of his service in the 35th Division, and I Company, 137th Infantry.

35th Division Conference Banquet in KC



Al Navarette said "The pfc talks with the two star general" Wow!!! He was so thrilled.

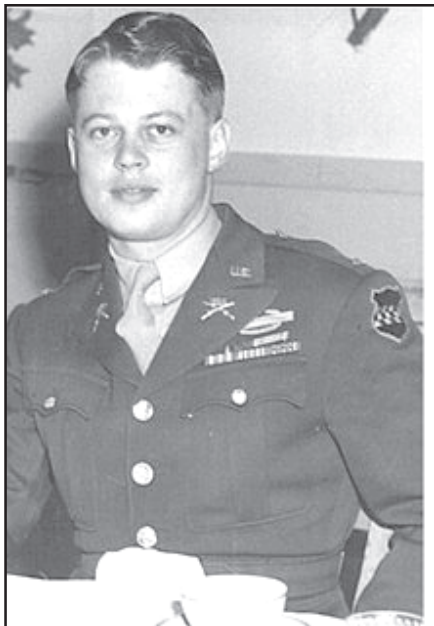
Miss Irma McGuire Keeping 'em happy



Miss Irma McGuire, is interviewed by Pvt John Sarber, 35th Inf Div, at Camp Robinson, AR for the 35th Division daily newscast. She had traveled 650 miles from Nebraska City, NE to tell 35th Div soldiers about a club she and other girls in Nebraska City, who had sweethearts at Camp Robinson, had formed. The club was meeting weekly "to devise ways and means of 'Keeping 'em happy.'" – Photo donated by Michael Fein, Lynchburg, VA



Lyle Bouck – Recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross



Lyle Bouck, Jr., born in St. Louis, Missouri, was one of the youngest commissioned officers in the U. S. Army and a recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross. He had enlisted in the 35th Division at age 14 in 1940.

His father was a carpenter, and Bouck grew up during the Depression, moving frequently with his family. With four siblings, (Robert, Bernice, Eugene and John) they often lived in homes with only one bedroom and no indoor plumbing or electricity. Bouck enlisted in the National Guard at age 14 so he could earn one dollar per drill day to help his family. He was never asked his age. He was rapidly promoted to Supply Sergeant at age 16, making more than most of his civilian friends.

On December 23, 1940, the 35th Infantry Division was activated for one year of federal duty. His unit participated in the Texas-Louisiana maneuvers of 1941. Bouck was assigned responsibility as Transportation Sergeant for the regimental Headquarters Company and performed very well. While attending a transportation course, and just before their federal duty was completed, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. Their active duty status was indefinitely extended and Bouck's unit was sent to protect California against a possible enemy invasion.

When he was later deployed as part of an advance unit to the Aleutian Islands, he volunteered to attend Officer Candidate School, the newly created Parachute School, or the Army Air Corps. An offer to attend Officer Candidate School arrived first, and Bouck was transferred to Fort Benning, Georgia for four months of intensive training. On his first day there, he was ordered to drill his men. Bouck performed well enough to draw the attention of his commanding officers. He graduated fourth in his class of 57 officers on August 25, 1942. The top ten graduates of each class were retained to teach the next class at Fort Benning, and Bouck was assigned to teach small unit defensive tactics. He spent a year at the school before he was transferred and assigned to the 99th Infantry Division for deployment to Europe. He was now assigned as an Intelligence



and Reconnaissance Platoon Leader, 394th Infantry Regiment.

His division arrived at Le Havre, France, in early November, 1944. By mid-November, without any battle experience, they were in the Ardennes, where they relieved the 60th Regiment, 9th Infantry Division. For the next few weeks his Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon established and maintained regimental listening and observation posts and gathered information. As they were not trained for direct combat, they were kept from direct engagement with the Germans. Bouck earned the Combat Infantryman Badge during this period. The platoon consisted of two nine-man reconnaissance squads and a seven-man headquarters section who worked in the 394th regimental S2 section. Their mission was to conduct reconnaissance up to and through the German lines, including missions to capture German soldiers in order to obtain intelligence about the enemy forces' disposition.

Eventually, the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon from the 394th Infantry Regiment of the 99th division was the most decorated platoon of World War II for action on the first morning of the Battle of the Bulge defending a key road in the vicinity of the Losheim Gap. Led by 20-year old Lieutenant Lyle Bouck Jr., the second youngest man in the unit, the unit of 18 men along with four U.S. Forward Artillery Observers from Battery C, 371st Field Artillery, held off an entire German battalion of over 500 men during a 10-hour-long fight, inflicting 92 casualties on the Germans. The platoon seriously disrupted the entire Sixth Panzer Army's schedule of attack along the northern edge of the offensive. At dusk on 16 December, about 50 German paratroopers finally flanked the platoon and captured the remaining 15 soldiers. Two who had been sent on foot to regimental headquarters to seek reinforcements were also later captured, and a member of the forward artillery observation platoon assisting the platoon was killed.

Due to the capture of the platoon's soldiers and the blur of events during the first week of this massive campaign, the U.S. Army did not recognize the platoon for its

courageous deeds for thirty-seven years. On October 25, 1981, the entire platoon was recognized with a Presidential Unit Citation, and every member of the platoon was decorated, including four Distinguished Service Crosses, five Silver Stars, and ten Bronze Stars with V for Valor.

The I&R platoon members who were able to walk were sent east into Germany. After two days of walking through the cold, Bouck and the remainder of his platoon were loaded into a boxcar in the village of Junkerath. They spent 11 days traveling into the heart of Germany, as the POW camps were overflowing with Allies. Their unmarked trains were prime targets for Allied aircraft, who attacked the train on December 21, killing and wounding several POWs. The POWs were allowed off only once, and were given only a few slices of bread and some water to drink during the entire trip.

Bouck and his men were finally imprisoned in Stalag XIII-D in Nuremberg and later in Stalag XIII-C in Hammelburg, where the non-commissioned and enlisted men were split, with the officers sent to Oflag XIII-B. The men barely survived, most suffering from the advanced effects of malnutrition. When Task Force Baum from Patton's 4th Armored Division raided the camp, Bouck pretended to be a field grade officer and accompanied the task force as it attempted to return to the front lines. Almost the entire task force was captured or killed, and Bouck was returned to prisoner of war camps for the remaining days of the war.

They were finally freed by the 19th Armored Infantry Battalion, 14th Armored Division, during the successful drive to Hammelburg on April 5, 1945.

Bouck considered the wounding of most of his men and the capture of his entire unit a failure. He only later learned that because his platoon prevented the lead German infantry elements from advancing, armor units were backed up behind them for miles during the entire day. Wilhelm Mohnke, in charge of the Sixth Panzer Army, had charged his best colonel, Obersturmbannführer Joachim Peiper, commander of the 1st SS Panzer Division, with leading the push to Antwerp. The unit was delayed 12 hours by horrendous road traffic, blown bridges, and ultimately the tenacious defense of the American soldiers, led by First Lieutenant Bouck. The eighteen men's day-long battle had not only prevented the German infantry from advancing, but held up the entire 6th Panzer Army behind them. Instead of reaching the Meuse River on the battle's first day, the Germans went almost nowhere. The entire northern wing of the German attack fell hopelessly behind schedule, never to recover.

Author Alex Kershaw said that, "Had they not stood and held the Germans and halted their attack, or rather postponed it for a crucial 24 hours, the Battle of the Bulge would have been a great German victory." Bouck attributed the unit's success to the fact that all of his men were expert marksmen. The excellent defensive

terrain, the extra weapons Bouck acquired, and their prepared and well-concealed defensive positions contributed significantly to the massively disproportionate casualties they inflicted on the Germans. The inadequately trained and inexperienced German troops also attacked across an open field in waves that made them easy targets for Bouck and his men.

Due to their capture and the general chaos of the Battle of the Bulge, the unit's story was not well known. When Lt. Bouck was freed as a prisoner of war, he was too weak to file a combat report, and didn't think much of what the men had done. "We were in those foxholes and ... what we did was to defend ourselves and try to live through it," he said.

After the war ended, Bouck returned to St Louis and was reintroduced to a fifth grade classmate, Lucille Zinzer. They married on April 27, 1946. Bouck attended the Missouri Chiropractic College on the G.I. Bill and graduated in 1949. He practiced for nearly fifty years, until 1997. They had 5 children, Daniel, Diane, Denise, Douglas and Dwight. Two of his sons served as U.S. Navy pilots and the third followed his career as a chiropractor. He was a charter member of the Concord Village Lion's Club and served as its president. His unit's actions were largely forgotten or unknown. Of his war experience, his wife Lucy said, "He never talked about it. Never."^[5]

In 1965, the U.S. Army published a multi-volume history of World War II, *The Ardennes: The Battle of the Bulge*. Author Hugh M. Cole mentioned Bouck's platoon in passing, which upset platoon member William James (Tsakanikas). He contacted Bouck and encouraged his former commanding officer to get his men their proper recognition. Bouck contacted his former division commander, Major General Walter Lauer, who nominated Bouck for a Silver Star. In June of 1966, the Silver Star arrived in Bouck's mailbox, but no other man had been recognized, which upset Bouck. He was shortly afterwards interviewed by John S. D. Eisenhower, son of General Eisenhower, for his book *The Bitter Woods*, in which the actions of the unit were told in detail.

On October 26, 1981, after considerably lobbying and letter-writing by Bouck, members of the unit were finally decorated. Fourteen of the 18 members were present. Secretary of the Army John O. Marsh hosted the ceremony. Every member of the platoon was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation. Four members were given the Distinguished Service Crosses, five Silver Stars, and ten Bronze Stars with V devices, all for their 10-hour struggle with an entire 500-man strong German battalion.

In 2004, the book *The Longest Winter* was published documenting the defensive actions of the platoon. Bouck cooperated with the author, Alex Kershaw, but imposed one condition, "I told him that other authors never wrote about the other men in the platoon, just me. I said I wouldn't talk to him unless he promised that he'd also write about the other men."

If you are not a member of the Kansas National Guard and 35th Division Museum, please consider joining. Your membership will not only help support the museum financially, but also keep you updated with the Museum Newsletter. This is a superb facility that maintains your history through exhibits, the Hall of Fame, and the 35th Division Library.

Museum of the Kansas National Guard
Home of the 35th Division Museum
125 SE Airport E. Drive
Topeka, KS 66619
785 862-1020 or office@kngmuseum.org



Museum Donor Form for 2016

Name: _____ Rank: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____ E-Mail: _____
(Street) (City/State/Zip)

_____ Perpetual Sustaining Membership – \$1200 or \$120 per year for 10 years
(Inscription - 3 lines, maximum of 14 letters/spaces per line)



_____ 2016 Major Donor Club Donation - \$100 or more (Name posted in lobby)

_____ 2016 Annual Membership - \$25 per year (Name Posted in Conference Room)

_____ Contribution for Museum Operations - Amount: _____

_____ Interior Brick - \$200
(Inscription - 3 lines, maximum of 14 letters/spaces per line)



For 35th Division Wall? _____ Yes _____ No

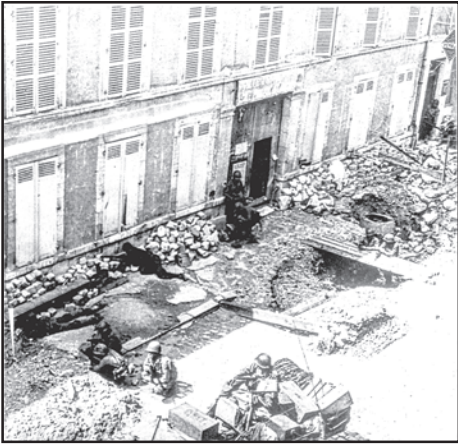
_____ Exterior Brick - \$50
(Inscription - 3 lines, maximum of 14 letters/spaces per line)



For Which Unit Area? _____

(Buy Perpetual Sustaining Membership, Get Free Interior & Exterior Brick)
(Buy Interior Brick, Get Free Exterior Brick)
(All 2016 Members, Major Donors, & Perpetual Sustaining Membership Payments Receive
a Free Museum Coin)

Liberation Orleans France 8-16-1944



Combat team "S" led by BG Sebree included the 137th and units from 4th Armored, 737 Tank BN, 654 TD, 127th Artillery completed the task force.

The goal was the key town of Orleans 80 miles away and German units of unknown strength to be eliminated. Unlike the hedgerow fighting where we had 300 to 600 casualties a day, this was a mobile thrust thru disorganized and retreating German units utilizing the main roads we bypassed some units and in 2 days of fighting with low casualties we approached the suburbs of Orleans.

Entering the city from several directions we pushed the Germans across the Loire River capturing 42 soldiers and liberating the city despite artillery fire from across the river.

The French were delighted to be free and swarmed our vehicles with unrestrained enthusiasm.

These pictures taken by an unknown French photographer taken from the front angle as we moved into the city.



Put your talents to work!

Project coordinators and Committee Chair Volunteers Needed

The members of the 35th Division Association have very diverse and exceptional talents. Even though many are geographically dispersed across the US and Europe, the use of technology enables us to use these talents to improve the organization. Please E-Mail COL (R) Robert Bloomquist at bbloom843@ol.com (preferred) or call 785-234-2688 if interested in any of these positions below or other ways to help the association.

Planning Committee of the 99th and/or 100th

Reunion of the 35th Division

BG Windham has expressed his vision and desire for the 100th Anniversary of the 35th Division in 2017 to be as grand as the milestone the Division has reached. If you are interested in the planning of this Reunion or next year's reunion, we can use the help. Much of the success of the last reunion was due to feedback, ideas, and energy from members outside the geographical area.

35th Division Association Website Coordinator

A Website coordinator is needed to update the Website with current news and announcements. The information for the Website will be provided electronically, so the position only requires updating the Website and enhancing the level of information to our members.

35th Division Association Hall of Fame

BG (Ret) Gerhardt announced his resignation as Chairman of the Hall of Fame Committee at the conference. His exceptional service and dedication will not be easy to replace. This position Chairs the Hall of Fame Selection Board and organizes the Hall of Fame Ceremony. This includes contacting family of those to be inducted and preparing presentations for the ceremony.

Thanks to Contributors

Thanks to the many submitted articles to the Santa Fe "Divisionnaire": This is history and every experience shared in this publication is kept at the 35th Division Museum Library. Years from now, people will research these documents and be amazed at what was accomplished by the 35th Division and our great Veterans contributions to society. Please keep the stories coming.

35th Division Brick
Order Form

E-Mail: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Note: Inscriptions are limited to 3 lines, maximum of 15 letters/spaces per line.
Interior Brick- \$200.00 ea.

Inscription: _____

Exterior Patio Brick- \$50.00 ea.

Inscription: _____

Amount Enclosed (\$200 per brick): _____

Mail to:
Museum of the Kansas National Guard.
P O Box 19285

Donor Appreciation
October 2014-October 2015

These are donations made in the amount of \$50 or more to the association programs beginning in October of 2014. Accept our apologies if you were overlooked and please contact the Executive Secretary, Robert Bloomquist by mail, phone 785-234-2688 or E-mail at bbloom843@aol.com for corrections.

Donors \$1,000 and above

Breidenthal-Snyder Foundation
(Conference Sponsor)

Company G Reenactors (Conference Sponsors)

Donors \$750 to \$999

Donors \$500 to \$749

United States Automobile Association (Conference Sponsors)

Donors \$200 to \$499

Judith Bradford (Operating expenses)

Jack and Alice Brauntuch (Conference Sponsors)

Curtis and Pat Cook (Conference Sponsors)

COL (R) Angelo and Chrissie Demos (2 Conference Sponsors, plus \$100 to operating expense in memory of Patricia O'Brien)

MG (R) Phil Finley (Conference Sponsor)

BG (R) Ed and Dorothy Gerhart (Conference Sponsors)

James and Alice Graff (Conference Sponsors and Hall of Fame donation)

Marilyn Bowers Jensen (International Mailing and donation)

MG (R) Wayne and Margaret Pierson (2 Conference Sponsors plus funds toward operating expenses)

Roberta Russo (Memorial for Harry Krantz and Conference Sponsor)

Ben Weber (Conference Sponsor)

Robert and Patricia Harwell (Conference Sponsor)

Tom and Lana Barnett (Conference Sponsor)

Donors Sponsors \$150 to \$199

Paula Evans Baker (Conference Sponsor and donation for International mailings)

Mary Enyeart (Memorial for Lauren Enyeart and Lathen Guy East)

Donors \$125 to \$149

LTC Roger Aeschliman (Conference Sponsor and Donation)

COL (Ret) James Huston

Donors \$100 to \$124

CW4 (Ret) Carl Bush (Conference Sponsor)

LTC Leslie Chambers

COL Russell Conrad (Operating Expenses)

COL (R) Bob Dalton (Conference

Sponsor)

Bernice Ham (Conference Sponsor in memory of LTC Robert Ham)

Patrica Harwell (Conference Sponsor)

Charley Johnston (Conference Sponsor)

Abelardo Navarrete (Conference Sponsor)

Richard O'Brien (Conference Sponsor)

Ronald J Paskey (Conference Sponsor)

CSM (R) Dale Putman (Conference Sponsor)

MG (R) Jack Strukel Jr Conference Sponsor)

MG (R) Michael Ryan (Conference Sponsor)

John Walsh (Conference Sponsor)

COL Robert and Betty Bloomquist (Conference Sponsor)

Cal and Terri Warrem

Donors \$50 to \$99

Gregory Bell in memory of Thomas Bell

Andree Chan

Fred and Kathy Esker

Margaret Fenstermacher

Charles Gentile (Operating Expenses)

John Lindley (Operating Expenses)

Barbara Shoemake

SGT Steven Weick (Operating Expenses)

BG (R) Alex Duckworth (Operating Expense in addition to Life Membership)

LTC Matt Bedwell (Operating Expense)

Honorary Attendees

contributing to conference

CORP Eugene Adams

COL (R) John Andrew

Marjorie Bullock

PFC Attwell Burgess

MG (R) Phil Finley

Glen Farrell

Kathryn Franz

Jody Gottschamer

Robert Holmes

Dr. James Huston

Ellen Newman

LTC Roger Ramsel

CSM (R) Joe Romans

John Rueger

SFC Richard Stoops

Chris Mac Tingom

Gary Ulmer



35th Division Association
P O Box 5004



Membership Renewal/Application for Membership/Donor Form

Name: _____ Rank/Title: _____
(First) (MI) (Last)

Address: _____ City/State/ZIP: _____

E-Mail (Optional): _____ Telephone: _____

Organizations of Service with 35th Inf Div (i.e. 69th Bde, 137th Inf, 161 FA): _____

_____ Amount Enclosed

Annual Renewal Dues or New Member Annual Dues - \$25.00 _____

Life Member Dues for WW II Veterans - \$75.00 _____

Life Member Dues for All Others - \$140.00 _____

Special Donation for 35th Div Assn Operating Expenses
(\$10, \$50, \$100, \$500, \$1000, \$5000 or Any Amount) _____

Edition of "The Santa Fe Express Divisionnaire" - \$1500.00 _____

Hall of Fame Expenses & Reception - \$100 & up _____

35th Div Conference Sponsor - \$100 or more _____

I want to purchase: (will be mailed to you) _____

CD – "A Living History of the 35th In Div in WW II"
By Murray Leff - \$12.00 _____

35th Division Coin - \$12.00 (\$10.00 no mailing needed) _____

35th Division Hat - \$15.00 _____

35th Division Lapel Pin – \$3.00 _____

35th Div Belt Buckle ("Santa Fe Leads the Way") _____

(for standard belts up to 1.5 inches wide) \$20.00 _____

35th Div Belt Buckle (35th Div Patch, for military style _____

Belts, 1 1/8 inch wide) -\$20.00 _____

Total Amount Enclosed _____

(Make Checks Payable to 35th Div Assn and Mail to