



Santa Fe Express

"DIVISIONNAIRE"



The 35th Divisionnaire USPS 700-160

35th INFANTRY DIVISION
www.35thInfDivAssoc.com

APRIL - MAY - JUNE 2017

NUMBER TWO

35th
Infantry
Division

100th
Anniversary

An entire Kansas Guard division deploys for the first time since WWII

By Nick Viviani

TOPEKA, Kan. (WIBW) — The last time the entire 35th Infantry Division Headquarters was deployed America had not yet dropped the bombs that ended WWII, the Cold War was still on the horizon, and the fight against terrorism had not taken center stage.

But, all that doesn't matter this weekend, when the brave men and women of the 35th head to the Levant and Persian Gulf as part of Operation Spartan Shield. Approximately 500 soldiers are heading to the Middle East to enhance ongoing security operations.

According to the U.S. Army, this is the first time since 1944 the entire 35th Infantry Division Headquarters has been activated. Elements of the unit were sent to Bosnia and Kosovo in 2003, 2007, 2013, and 2014.

A deployment ceremony for the 35th Infantry Division was held Saturday, April 29, at Lansing High School.

The division is just a few months away from marking 100 years since most of the Kansas Guard, and members of the Missouri Guard, were combined and federalized into the 35th Infantry Division, the Army noted. The first commemoration was held a few weeks ago at the Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, with representatives from dozens of countries in attendance.

Hotel Reservations

REMINDER: August 8, 2017 is final day to register at Conference Contract Prices

Call 866-932-6214 or follow this link, to view the reservations website: <https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/100thAnniversaryDivisionofthe35thConference>

If you call, ensure you inform them you are with the 35th Association. If for some reason they will not give you the contract price of \$99 plus tax. Contact COL (Ret) Robert Bloomquist at rbloom843@aol.com or 785-234-2688. Please let him know if it was phone or website and who you talked to if you have that information.

<http://www.sheratonkansascityhotel.com/gallery>

SEE PAGE 2 FOR DETAILS!



President's Message

Greetings members,
family, and friends.

I hope all are well and you are enjoying a great spring season. As the clock continues to tick forward in 2017, much has transpired and much is in front of us.

On Saturday, 29 April, I had the honor of attending the deployment ceremony for the 35th Division at the High School gymnasium in Lansing KS. The place was packed, in fact there was no parking available anywhere in the vicinity of the school. In attendance, and addressing the soldiers, family, and friends in the crowd were state leaders and both the Kansas and Missouri Adjutant Generals. . The Division Commanding General, MG Vic Braden, spoke pointedly about the importance of this deployment to the national interests of our nation and thus the importance and relevance of the 35th Infantry Division; yesterday, today, and tomorrow. The Division is now at Fort Hood receiving intensive pre-deployment training and will move from there to assume their mission in the Middle East. I also want to say that the media did extensive coverage of the deployment ceremony and video is available online as well as the 35th Infantry Division Facebook page. I want to again say how encouraged I am by the level of collaboration and interest we currently have with the Division; we will continue to interact closely with the rear detachment leadership during the course of the deployment.

...

Our 100th celebration and reunion draws closer and closer. We will be lodging at the Sheraton in Crown Center. Crown Center is a great place that brings together world class shopping, dining, lodging, entertainment and history (such as Union Station and Science City) in a venue where you can walk to all without ever going outside. It even has a natural waterfall. Crown Center is located across the street from the Liberty Memorial and National WW-I museum; all have great websites that are very descriptive.

When published, our agenda will reflect a visit to your museum in Topeka on



BG Bob Windham

Friday and touring the National WW-I museum the first part of Saturday; you will find it to be extremely interesting, a real national jewel. The Hall of Fame in the afternoon and a formal dining out that evening will help us celebrate the 100th Anniversary of this Great Division. Given our change of location this year, you will see some costs are higher...this was unavoidable...but you will also find some costs lower. I am truly looking forward to the event and to seeing you there.

I understand that many have been expressing interest in helping get the word out to your local media. We will have a media blitz coming in the months ahead; if you have media partners who would like to partner with us, please provide their full contact information. If you would like to generate media exposure, please feel free to do so. In the meantime, I ask you to take a look at our Facebook page (35th Infantry Division Association), keep an eye on it as it will become more active and relevant over the months to come; ask your social media friends to visit it too.

September will be here soon and there is much left to do; it will be a great event. As always, a big thank you to our volunteers and our donors-we couldn't do any of this without you. Mark your calendars, 7 to 10 September, 2017, Kansas City, Missouri, I look forward to seeing you there!

BG (Ret) Bob 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
Former Cdr, KS Army National Guard
Past Deputy Cdr, 35th ID

Immediate Past President:

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

1st Vice President:

COL (Ret) Robert Dalton
69th Bde

2d Vice President:

BG (Ret) Alex E Duckworth
35th Div, DIVARTY

3rd Vice President:

BG Anthony Mohatt
Currently Cdr, KS Army National Guard
35th Div, 635th Armor

Chairman, 35th Museum Trust

MG (Ret) Jack Strukel, Jr.
69th Bde, 137th and 635th

Chairman, 35th Assoc. Hall of Fame

Ben Weber
Family or WW II Veteran

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

Outreach Committee:

Murray Leff, Committee Chair
E-137th, WWII

COL(Ret) Cal Warrem, Vice Chair
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**

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

100th
Anniversary

**35th
Infantry
Division**

7-10 September

**SHERATON KANSAS CITY HOTEL AT CROWN CENTER
2345 MCGEE STREET, KANSAS CITY, MO 64108**



Located in the Crossroads District, connected to the Crown Center Shops and a short stroll from Union Station and Liberty Memorial. We're just minutes from the Power and Light and Downtown business districts. With 85 acres of shops, restaurants and attractions just outside our door, we're one of the most convenient hotels for discovering the best of Kansas City.

Crown Center is the Midwest's premier family destination, thanks in large part to our collection of Attractions & Theaters.

- **Two world-renowned family attractions, the SEA LIFE Kansas City Aquarium and LEGOLAND® Discovery Center.**
- **Hallmark Cards sponsors the FREE Hallmark Visitors Center and Kaleidoscope, where children and their families create amazing art.**
- **We're a hub for live theatre with the nationally recognized Coterie Theatre and Musical Theater Heritage, whose intimate settings bring alive the American Musical as never before!**
- **During the winter, we've got the city's only public, outdoor ice skating rink in the Crown Center Ice Terrace.**

In addition to what you'll find within our complex, the rest of the Crown Center District offers even more to see and do, including Union Station, the National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial, and The Money Museum at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. There's something here for the whole family!



Executive Council

CSM Tim Newton, CSM (RET) Jack Elliott, Paula Evans Baker, LTC Hank Morgan, MG(Ret) M Wayne Pierson, CSM (RET) Dale Putman, CSM (RET) Viviano Reveles, Roberta Russo, Ben Weber, Margaret Fenstermacher, Kathryn Frantz, Victoria Frisenda, Lloyd Frey, James Graff, Holli Harwell, Pat Cook, Patricia Faulkner Harwell, Marilyn Bowers Jensen, COL (RET) Mike Lind, CSM (RET) William Luse, Debra Hardy Bittles, Judy Bradford, CW4 (RET) Carl Bush, CSM (RET) Charles Johnston, CSM (Ret) Joe Romans, Marilyn Graff Smith, all past Presidents.

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 \$25.00 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.

**From the Executive Secretary,
COL (Ret) Robert Bloomquist**

Deployment of the 35th Division Headquarters: First and most important, I want to extend my pride and best wishes to the deployed soldiers of the 35th Division. Who would have guessed that on the 100th Anniversary of the Division, these Patriots would be preparing to go to the Middle East. The support and interest from the Division in its Association has risen to levels that gives me confidence the association has a bright and valuable future. Due to a donation in honor of the deploying soldiers, I have set up a category of funds for the purpose of supporting events for the soldiers while deployed if someone is interested. I hope we can capture their story in the next editions of the "Santa Fe".

Reunion of the 35th Division. I hope you plan to attend this reunion. As the President illustrated, this is a fabulous hotel in what I consider the best location in Kansas City. The price the hotel gave us is amazing for this area. We have been successfully negotiating every aspect of the reunion from the start of the hospitality room on Thursday to the formal Military Dining ceremony on Saturday night. Please **call the ho-**

tel before 8 August to reserve the exceptional rate. We will mail Registration forms and details as well as publish this in the next Divisionnaire by the end of July.

Donor recognition: Thank you to all those donors that have made this organization possible. My wife Betty volunteers a great deal of time to list donors for the Divisionnaire to ensure you are recognized for your support of treasure. If we missed you, accept our apologies and let us know. I want to thank MG (Ret) Jack Strukel Jr. and Janet Gayle for another generous donation. In addition to the \$6500 to the museum fund noted in the last paper, he has donated a collector pistol and case as a fund raiser. Details are in this edition.

Next Edition of the "Santa Fe" Keep the great articles coming. The information sent this time is the most I've seen for a while. Expect the next edition to have information about the 35th Divisions Deployment and Upcoming reunion. **The due date for article submission is July 3.** Contact me at bbloom843@aol.com or 785-234-2688 if I can help in any way.

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. IN addition to WW I and WW II History, stories of the 35th Division's recent contribution to the War on Terror, response to natural disasters and community involvement are needed.

Next Edition

Please watch for the next edition approximately 30 July, 2017. Let us know if you don't receive it. If you have any suggestions or feedback of any kind, send a note to the Association address or e-mail the COL (RET) Robert Bloomquist at bbloom843@aol.com.

**Planning Committee of the
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, 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.

**Deadline for the Next Issue
of the
Santa Fe Express
is July 3**

Please send your favorite reunion stories and pictures to share.

Former pitcher honored with park sign

Dickson served the 35th Division in Europe during WW II

Taken from the Leavenworth Times

By MARK ROUNTREE /

mrountree@leavenworthtimes.com

A former Major League Baseball pitcher from Leavenworth has been immortalized with a sign in Ray Miller Park.

Murry Dickson is now only the eighth Leavenworth person to be honored with a sign at the park.

The others are basketball star Wayne Simien, recording artist Melissa Etheridge, Olympic marathon star Amy Hastings, composer/conductor John Leavitt, recording artist Randy Sparks and Medal of Honor recipients Roger H.C. Donlon and Charles C. Hagemeister.

"They are all renown people in their own right," said Leavenworth City Commissioner Mark Preisinger.

Why this is important

Only eight people with Leavenworth connections have been recognized with a sign in Ray Miller Park. Who decides which Leavenworthians are so honored, and what's the criteria?

Simien, Hastings and Leavitt also are recognized with signs next to Earl Lawson Elementary School.

Who decides which Leavenworth legends will be so honored, and what is the criteria?

The city of Leavenworth has a sign recognition policy that includes several criteria.

The honoree should have been born, raised or had a longtime presence in the Leavenworth community.

Priority is given to people who have achieved success on the state or national level and made contributions to the Leavenworth community throughout their life.

Who pays for the signs?

Applicants pay for the signs and the city erects the signs at no cost, said Melissa Bower, spokesperson for the city.

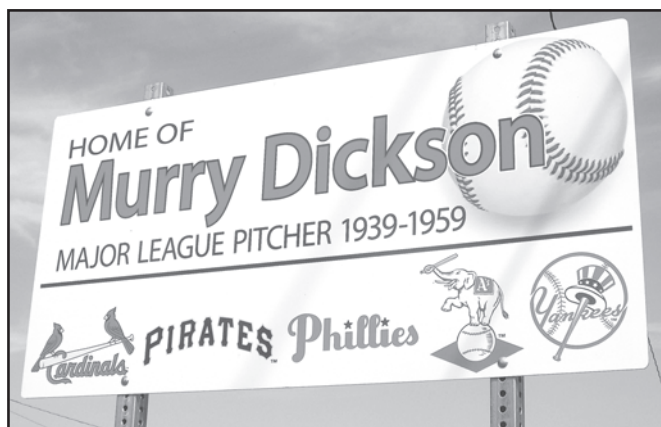
Who comes up with the designs for the signs?

The applicant is responsible for the design of the sign. Dickson's sign features an oversized baseball and the logos of the teams for which he played. Etheridge's sign is fashioned in the form of a guitar, representing the singer/songwriter's performing career.

The signs are designated to be placed on the west side of Ray Miller Park and the right-of-way along Fourth Street near the VA Medical Center entrance, as well as the grassy area next to Earl Lawson Elementary School.

The Leavenworth City Commission discussed its sign recognition policy at an Aug. 16 study session. Commissioners agreed to bring suggestions for the policy to a later study session, which has not as yet been scheduled.

The Leavenworth City Commission accepts requests for sign recognition. Applicants must submit a request in writing to the city clerk and provide background



information and justification as to why a recognition sign is warranted.

The application must be approved by the Leavenworth City Commission.

Preisinger said there are other notable Leavenworthians who should be considered for a park sign, including Melvin Lister, a former Leavenworth High School track star who competed in the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney, Australia, and the 2004 Summer Games in Athens, Greece.

Dixie Dickson and Betty Lou Nakata, Murry Dickson's nieces, came up with the idea to honor their uncle with a park sign. Nick Dominguez, Murry Dickson's great-nephew, also had a hand in the application process.

"We are happy to get the permission from the Leavenworth City Commission for the sign," Dominguez said of the \$250 metal sign.

Keith Barnwell, nephew of Dickson,



Murry Dickson played for 18 seasons in the big leagues and was a decorated combat soldier in the Army during WW II.

Photo Illustration Courtesy of Keith Barnwell

perhaps knows more about the former big league baseball player than anyone. Barnwell wrote and self-published a biography of Dickson in 1988.

In September 1989, a long, comprehensive article about Dickson was written by Barnwell and published in the Leavenworth Times.

Dickson was named Leavenworth's top male athlete of all time in a special edition last year in the Times.

Dickson, who died in 1989 at the age of 73, was a right-handed pitcher for 18 seasons in the big leagues in the 1940s and 1950s for five different organizations, including two stints with the St. Louis Cardinals.

He pitched in three World Series as a member of the 1943 and 1946 Cardinals and the 1958 New York Yankees.

He won 172 games, including a 20-win season in 1951 for the Pittsburgh Pirates. He was voted to the All-Star team in 1953 as a member of the Pirates.

He was known as a workhorse pitcher. He pitched more than 3,000 innings and had a 3.66 ERA in his career.

Dickson spent two years in the Army. He earned four battle stars serving in the 35th Division in Europe during WW II.

He was born in Tracy, Missouri, but moved to Leavenworth as a child and attended Leavenworth High School.

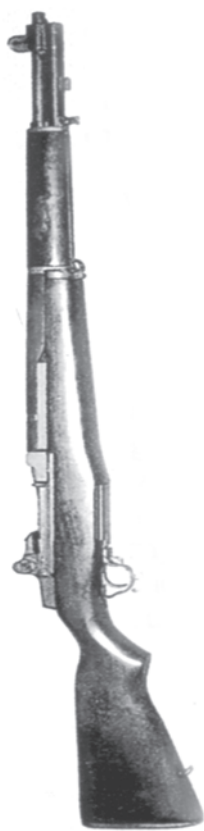
In WW II we, in the 35th Division, felt... the Shovel was as important as the Rifle!

Why? We were attacking almost every day. This put us out in the open while the enemy was hidden. We could only shoot our rifles into trees and windows while their artillery had a perfect view of us. This resulted in our suffering three times the casualties from enemy artillery than small arms. Our only protection was to dig into the ground. If an enemy shell exploded only 10 feet away, it would mean we had 10 feet of solid earth to protect us.

While some photographs show troops carrying their shovels (entrenching tools) on their back packs, we had them in an easy to reach canvas pouch attached to our cartridge belts. Here we could reach them instantly, even at hearing the scream of an incoming enemy shell, as we hit the ground. There were times when resistance was intermittent so that we started to dig in several times in the same day. The calluses on my hands lasted long after I got home. And then *there* were times these shovels made it possible to survive in muddy foxholes, day and night, in all kinds of fierce weather.

As to our M1 Garand rifles...they gave you the confidence that you could hit anything you could see. While the enemy had to work a bolt for each shot we could shoot eight times without taking your finger off the trigger. When several soldiers were firing at the same time the volume of fire ;was awesome.

Murray Leff, E-137





Members of the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee recommended the full Senate approve promotion of Kansas Army Guard Col. John Rueger, left and Kansas Air Guard Col. David Weishaar to brigadier general. (Tim Carpenter/The Capital-Journal)

Senate panel urges promotion of National Guard officers

The Topeka Capital-Journal
March 15, 2017
By Tim Carpenter

A Senate committee unanimously voted to endorse confirmation Wednesday of two colonels in the Kansas National Guard to one-star general.

Members of the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee recommended the full Senate approve promotion of Kansas Army Guard Col. John Rueger and Kansas Air Guard Col. David Weishaar to brigadier general. The Kansas Army Guard has about 5,000 soldiers, while the Kansas Air Guard has a force of 1,200.

“I’m confident that they are the right leaders to shape the defense of our nation,” said Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, the Kansas adjutant general and the highest-ranked officer in the Kansas Guard. “Both of these fine officers are dedicated, loyal Kansans and dedicated, loyal Americans.”

Rueger, of Lenexa, is deputy commanding general of the 35th Infantry Division, which is preparing to deploy within the next 60 days to Jordan and Kuwait. He deployed in 2009 as a battalion commander in Egypt

and recently served as commander of the 130th Field Artillery Brigade in the Kansas Guard. He also holds a civilian job with CenturyLink near Gardner.

“I’ve prepared for my entire career to be a senior leader in the Kansas National Guard,” he said. “As a senior leader, we’re called upon to be professionals.”

Rueger is a son of the late Maj. Gen. James Rueger, who served as Kansas’ adjutant general.

Tafanelli said the plan was to complete Senate affirmation of Col. Rueger’s promotion before deployment.

Weishaar, commander of the 184th Intelligence Wing at McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita, has been a full-time member of the Kansas Air Guard since 1985.

“I’m very fortunate in that I get to command a wing,” he said. “We primarily concentrate on three things: intelligence analysis, cyber operations and command and control functions. We got your sons, your daughters, your neighbors out drilling with us every day of the week doing great things for the state and nation.”

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



New Association
Annual Members:
Robert A Rush

It’s Not Too Late!

If you haven’t joined as a 2017 member, 2017 Major Donor, or Perpetual Sustaining Member, or wish to purchase an exterior or exterior brick, it’s not too late. Please use the form included with this Newsletter.

New Association LIFE members:

Theodore R Graff
MAJ Joseph L Schmitz
CPT Benjamin J Pimpl
COL (R) Lyn Smith
George G Peshkin (WWII)
Dorothy A Rodriguez
SSGT Edward F Hayes

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

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 2017

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)



_____ 2017 Major Donor Club Donation - \$100 or more (Name posted in lobby)

_____ 2017 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 2017 Members, Major Donors, & Perpetual Sustaining Membership Payments Receive a Free Museum Coin)

Combat at St. Lo – July 16-17, 1944

By Sgt Maurice Markworth

Sergeant Maurice Markworth was with the 2nd Squad, 1st Platoon, Co. L, 134th Infantry during the battle for St. Lo. This summary describes some of the combat on July 16-17, 1944.

He was the Assistant Squad leader. The Squad Leader was S/Sgt Charles P. Gentile.

“I don’t think our officers or our intelligence realized how many Germans were set up in their defensive positions on July 16. I think that they just underestimated the German defenses.

Those hedgerows were just one fortress after another. They had excellent defenses set up in the hedgerows—they dug their foxholes and positions in the length of the hedgerow and then just cut out a small hole through which they could fire. You just couldn’t see them with the smokeless powder they had. You could not tell where they were firing from in order to place counter-fire. So about all we could do was to spray the area, you know, hoping to hit them or to make them withdraw or something. So that is what we were doing when Charlie (S/Sgt Charles P. Gentile, my Squad Leader) got hit.

In between these fields there were like huge ditches—these ditches were five or six foot deep and they were real, real wide. The fact is you could drive wagons or vehicles down these ditches and they were so deep that you couldn’t crawl up out of them, really.

When we moved forward, Charlie went up first. He had help to get up and I went and helped each of our men get up over the top of this hedgerow and then our lieutenant (1st Lieutenant Francis Greenlief) helped me get up and then I helped pull him up. This was a complete, open area into the next hedgerow and it was about almost a block, I would say, across this field and wide open and ahh, the machine guns and the artillery and, well, they were just devastating. It was time to take off again.

Charlie got up into the next hedgerow, an orchard, and I’m not sure whether, if he got shot with a machine gun or if a sniper hit him. When I saw he was hit, I went over to him and he was doubled up on the ground right there and praying. Then I said: “Are you okay, Charlie?” and he just kind of just fell. So I called the medic, which was Pvt. Robert Milanovic, our company medic, and he came over and, of course, I went on, I mean I couldn’t stop and take care of him. There were other men.

So I went back down the hedgerow, and I looked up over the top and I was trying to see over, and I came back down and PFC Jones, Ralph Jones, from the Kansas City area, was right behind me and he said: “What did you see?” I said “Well, I didn’t

see any Germans and I kept moving. So, he looked up over the hedgerow and when he did, he got shot right through the eyes. I was just a second –THAT close –and I would have been the one who got the shot.

We moved on down and we kept firing. Chalmer Thompson was on the BAR team. I had the BAR team. Chalmer Thompson was the gunner, and Melvin Peavlor was the assistant gunner, and Private Work was the ammunition carrier. So we moved on down and we would raise our guns up over the top of the hedgerow and fire into the next hedgerow because there were Germans back there.

I told this lieutenant to get some tanks up here, or get some artillery or air support or something because these machine guns were wiping us out. So he said “Well you hold the men here.” And he took off. So I don’t know whatever happened to him. I never saw him after that. I thought maybe he got killed or something, but I don’t know. But I understand he made it through, and became Company Commander, and now I understand that he is a Brigadier General, retired. So maybe he learned, but he was sure inexperienced when he was leading us and I, I have always felt kind of bitter towards him for not waiting there, you know, or something, because he was very aggressive and I think he thought that he was going to win the war by himself, see, and as he did, he lost his whole platoon.

I had what they call a “grenade launcher” on my rifle, and so I took my grenades and put them on the launcher and fired all of my grenades. I also had two, what they call “white phosphorous grenades” that you could use for smoke or to start a fire. We were almost out of ammunition, so I fired those two over in the direction that the Germans were. I thought, well, if they do call for aircraft support they would know where the Germans were so they could come down and strafe them, or they would serve as a point for the artillery or our mortars to fire on so they could fire in that direction.

But we were out of ammunition. We were there against the hedgerow waiting for reinforcements to come up, you know, and help us or relieve us, or get some tanks. After a while, a German officer stood up, sprayed the area near us with a submachine gun and demanded our surrender. He could have killed us instead.

The four of us were captured and Thompson was wounded. He had been wounded in his leg. After we got over the hedgerow, we had to carry him. I carried him up one side of the hedgerow and this Private Work carried him on the other side of it. And the Germans took us on back to a collection area back there. They took Thompson to a first aid station. I was wounded. I had shrapnel wounds in my hands and I had lost the hearing in one ear

from the artillery and mortar shells, but I could still walk and everything. I wasn’t injured in my legs. But they took Peavler, Work and I back with three guards.

We started on back. They began with the processing and we went on back and they interrogated us and took us to a collecting point with, oh it must’ve been 75 or 80 other prisoners there too.

Sgt Markworth, following capture, processing, and travel, then spent most of his internment (1944-45) in Stalag III-C, Alt Drewitz bei Kustrin, Neumark, Brandenburg, Germany, northeast of Berlin near Poland. He was liberated by advancing Russian troops. Upon liberation, he escaped to Poland, where he met up with members of the Polish underground, who ferried him back to American Army lines. Markworth later became a Chief Warrant Officer 4 in the United States Army.

The following are comments from Charles “Chuck” Gentile, who is the nephew of Markworth’s Squad Leader, S/Sgt Charles Paul Gentile, who was killed in the battle of St. Lo:

Because I think it helps complete Mr. Markworth’s summary, the following excerpt is from a letter that I sent to him recently. It describes what I found about the Squad’s members. The information came from the Company’s Morning Reports and from records available on-line from the National Archives:

A number of years ago, you sent me a letter with a list of the people that you believed were assigned to your squad around July 14, 1944. If the records that I have looked at recently are correct, you were very close to being absolutely right.

Besides you and my uncle, S/Sgt Charles P. Gentile, there was Ralph C. Jones. Sadly, you know his story—killed in action on the way to St. Lo

The others you thought were in your squad were:

PFC Albert E. Grobe (Scout).
PFC Chalmer D. Thompson)
PFC Melvin L. Peavler
(BAR Team captured with you)
Private William Work)
Private Harold Russell
Private Henry Sterner
Private Joseph Roll
Private Claude B. Webb
Private Eugene DeNucci

According to the records I found, Webb had been moved to the 1st Platoon by the time the 134th entered combat. He was LWA-Lightly Injured in Action on Aug. 13. DeNucci was moved to the H.Q. platoon.

They were replaced in the squad by Privates Alton M. Priest and Gilbert Neese.

Obviously, you know what happened to some of these men since they were with you.

PFC Melvin L. Peavler, Serial No. 37157546, from Kansas, was held at Stalag 13B, Wieden, Bavaria.

PFC Harold E. Russell, Serial No. 34078844, from Louisiana, was held at Stalag 4B, Muhlberg, Sachsen.

PFC Chalmer D. Thompson, Serial No. 37250215, from South Dakota, was held at Stalag 7A, Moosburg, Bavaria, along with Private William F. Work, Serial No. 13075529, from the District of Columbia.

Albert Grobe fought into St. Lo and was promoted to Staff Sergeant on July 20. He was LWA –Lightly Wounded in Action on July 30 and returned to the Company on Sept. 2. He was LWA-Lightly Wounded in Action again on Sept. 30, but didn’t return to the Company.

PFC Joseph Roll, Serial No. 33203737, was listed as slightly sick and not on duty on the 16th. He returned to duty the next day, got sick again, and was listed as lightly injured in action on Aug. 13, 1944.

Private Henry W. Sterner, Serial No. 33514112, suffered non-life threatening wounds on July 16. After healing, he returned to the Company on Oct. 13. He was promoted to PFC on Nov. 5, but was wounded again on Nov. 13, along with a great many others. He didn’t return to the Company.

Private Alton M. Priest, Serial No. 34823365, was lightly wound in action on July 30.

Private Gilbert Neese, Serial No. 37154112, was LWA-Lightly Wounded in Action on July 17. He returned to duty on July 22, was promoted to PFC on Nov. 11 and made it through the war with Company L.

Private Robert Milanovich, the medic who attended S/Sgt Charles P. Gentile, was wounded either later that day or the next. (He was shot in the chest.) He was in a foxhole with Co. L.’s Weapons Platoon commander, 1st Lt. Dwight F. McCollister, who was lightly wounded, when others came upon them. They were both hospitalized and both recovered, although it doesn’t appear that they returned to the Company.



**Deadline for the
July-Aug-Sept
issue of the
Santa Fe Express
is July 3**

What Am I Doing Here?

The Story of LeRoy Maleck

“What Am I Doing Here?” This is the title of a book written by Dr. LeRoy R. Maleck, telling of his experiences as an enlisted medic with the 137th Inf Regt during World War II. The rest of the book’s title is **“True Adventures While Serving 1172 Days in the U. S. Army During WW II.”** A copy of the book has been provided to the 35th Division Library by his son, Tom L. Maleck of Galesburg, IL.

Born in 1922, he grew up in depression-era Chicago, then enlisted, with a waiver, in the Army in 1942. He completed basic training at Camp Grant, IL. Of his entry physical, he says “A lot of of “sick” jokes were passed around. If you are warm and can move, you are in. They shined an otoscope in your ear, and you are in so long as the light didn’t pass through your head, and shine out the other ear. It was rumored that they had once inducted an armless man and a blind man. They were paired together for water pumping duty. The blind man worked the pump handle and the armless man observed to tell when the buck was full. This is the Army.”

“One day on our way to the Mess Hall, my buddy, Jim expressed his hunger, ‘I’m so hungry I could eat sheep’s manure.’ When we got into the chow line we asked the door attendant what was being served. He said, ‘kidney stew.’ We figured they must have heard Jim so we got out of the chow line and hurried to the PX, where we garbaged up on snack foods.”

Following basic training, he was allowed to try OCS, but didn’t make it. He says, “On one secret surprise inspection I was given three demerits for having my overshoes out of place. I had never been issued overshoes! This wasn’t for me.”

He was then trained as a medic and sent to California, where he was assigned to the Medical Detachment, 137th Inf, 35th Division late in 1942. He treated the usual training problems and hangovers there until shipped to Camp Rucker, AL in April of 1943. From there he went to Camp Butner, NC, then to the West Virginia Mountain Maneuvers, where he was involved with the unfortunate drowning incident.

Camp Kilmer, NJ was the next stop, where he shipped out to England on the SS Thomas H. Barry on May 4, 1944. Then on July 4, 1944 he departed Falmouth, England across the English Channel to Omaha, where, after clearing the beach his section encountered its first German mortar fire the next day. “We treated the wounded as best we could, then put them in collecting station ambulances for transport to the rear. Our unit’s casualty count the first day was 12 killed, 96 wounded, and 18 missing in action.”

“As we moved toward St. Lo,” he says, “A strange thing was happening. We were starting to get many CE-Combat Exhaustion cases. We were kept busy trying to calm them down, offering food and drink.



LeRoy R. Maleck is shown in 1943 while on leave near Antioch, IL. With him is his Aunt Mame in front of Maleck’s Store and Tavern.

Our leader, Captain Hogg, was a country doctor in Kansas before the war who had been activated with the 35th Division in 1941. Many units sent their CE patients to the rear. Captain Hogg, instead, treated them with calm and respect, made sure they were fed and comfortable, and gave each two sodium amytal capsules to induce sleep. The next morning, after a good night’s sleep, most were handed back their M1 rifle, told to “Go get em!”, and escorted back to their units. Strangely, the epidemic of CE cases was slowly halted.”

As the battle of St. Lo progressed, Captain Hogg told his Medics to “Act like screw-ups Go out onto the battlefield to

retrieve casualties making all the noise you want. Act brave. Use plenty of sulfa powder on the wounds. Carry the Red Cross flag with you high at all times. Be casual.” Apparently the Germans bought it, as they rarely fired on the 137th Medics.

Many casualties were treated at the battle at Saarguemines. Maleck says that at one time he and Colonel Tommy McConnell were out front. “Col McConnell, unlike many commanders, led from the front. Suddenly our own artillery began shelling us. Col McConnell got on the phone and threatened the Artillery officer with castration performed with a dull spoon if one more single round was fired on them. The firing ceased!”

By Christmas Day they were at Metz, where Maleck had the opportunity to hear General Patton give one of his pep talks. “Patton got very religious for a short period. That was followed by a good ‘pep talk,’ referring to the Germans as S.O.B’s and that there were only about 60,000 of them out there, just waiting to be killed. So, Merry Christmas, and God be with you! Very early the next morning, we boarded trucks and jeeps and took off for Belgium to eagerly search for those “Kraut” S.O.B’s that were just waiting to be killed.”

The Battle of the Rhineland followed, and his best friend in the Medical Detachment, Sgt. Herman was killed near Bruch. They were stopped near the Elbe River to let the Russians go on into Berlin. “While in that town on the river, we had many German soldiers bearing white flags cross the

river in small row boats. They came to surrender, as they were fleeing Berlin, where they feared angered Russian soldiers who were destroying the city. We had order not to accept the surrender of any German soldier, unless he had brought along an American prisoner of war. So we sent them back across the river, and hours later and from then on, each German soldier brought one or more American soldiers with him. The uniforms of our happy released Americans were exceptionally clean and actually pressed. But very few had shoes or boots. Most of them wore wooden shoes! Some had been prisoners since being captured in North Africa almost two years before.”

Following war’s end and a period of occupation duty, Sgt Maleck returned to Boston from LeHavre, France on the SS Cristobal. After brief processing at Camp Miles Standish, he took the train home to Chicago. Arriving near his home on a streetcar, he says “When I got off at Whipple Street I was half running with the duffel bag on my shoulder as I climbed the steps of the front porch and pressed the door bell button. I waited and a woman came to the door. It wasn’t my Aunt Theresa. I wondered what had happened, and I gasped, ‘Where is Theresa Cook?’ She smiled as she replied, ‘She’s probably at home, two doors down at 2718. You just have the wrong house!’ I made it home and Aunt Theresa gave me a wonderful welcome. That evening I had my first taste of Chicago pizza. I think I’m going to enjoy this ‘civilian life’ thing.”

Maleck went on to become a Doctor of Osteopathy, where he continued serving his country and community for many years.

Taking bids on "Golden Spike" revolver

MG Jack Strukel Jr. and Janet Gayle have donated a Cased Colt Single Action Frontier Scout revolver, “Golden Spike” , 1869-1969 Commemorative, .22 cal., 6” barrel, blue finish with gold cylinder and ejector rod housing. The intent is to raise funds by selling to highest bidder, with a \$500 minimum. Bids are accepted until 4:00PM on 9 Sep 2017. It can be seen at the KS National Guard Museum in the 35th Division Annex. Search the internet for additional details on this collectors item.



Bids can be entered at the museum, or mail your bid, phone number and E-mail contact to:

35th Division Association
ATTN: Golden Spike Revolver
P.O. Box 5004
Topeka, KS 66605



Letter to the Editor

from Marge Bullock

The original copy of this document is CHAPTER II of six chapters. It was placed in the Corner Stone of the Federal Building, 812 North 7th Street, Kansas City KS on February 12, 1960. Tom Tholen, B-137, of Emporia, KS received the information on that date. He passed it on to Keith Bullock in 1995.

35th Division Action in WORLD WAR I (1917 - 1918)

April 6, 1917, the United States declared war on the Axis.* The veterans of the Mexican Border Incident expected an early call, but it was not until **August 5, 1917** that the Kansas National Guard was ordered to federal service. The 1st and 2nd Regiments were to assemble at Camp Doniphan, Fort Sill, Oklahoma where Kansas and Missouri National Guard units were to be merged into the 35th Infantry Division.

On **October 2, 1917**, the 137th Infantry Regiment came into existence by the merger of the 1st and 2nd Kansas Regiments. The other regiment of the 69th Brigade of the 35th Division was the 138th Infantry of Missouri. The 3rd Kansas Regiment was consolidated with the 4th Missouri Regiment to become the 139th Infantry Regiment.

The first winter in federal service (1917-1918) was the most severe that was ever recorded in the Great Plains area. The planners who designated Camp Doniphan as a southern camp caused much physical hardship to the members of this regiment during its first winter. After a short six months of intensive training, the units of the 35th Division departed for embarkation. The German Army had broken through the Western front and was threatening Paris. Upon arrival at New York City, the 35th attracted much attention as each dough boy wore the conventional cavalryman’s chin strap on his campaign hat. The wind of the Plains area made this a necessity. The Division became known in the New York press as the Chin Strap Division from the West, or the “Cowboy Division.” The citizens of the metropolis concluded that the Kansans of the 137th were cow punchers or ranchers.

The Regiment arrived at England on May 7, 1918, and in two days passed into the French port of Le Havre. Here the Kansans were introduced to the famed “40 and 8” Pullman accommodations. They moved to northern France to train with units of the Expeditionary Force.

After several weeks of intensive training, the 3rd Battalion was the first to reach the front lines—moving into the trenches on **June 18, 1918**, near the shattered towns of Metzeral and Sondernach. The Kansans received their baptism of fire during the night of **June 22, 1918**, when the Germans staged a raid on their lines. The attack was repulsed without casualties. The Regiment was no longer a green untried unit.

On **August 14, 1918**, the Regiment was shifted to a new sector east of

Ferardner which had the reputation of being very quiet prior to the Kansans’ arrival. The 137th did its best to increase the activity along this front. The Hun retaliated with shrapnel, gas shells and attacks on the American trenches. Following this minor action, there was a lull in activity until the Regiment moved on **September 1, 1918**, to Blainville for a brief rest.

After a series of night marches which ended on **September 12, 1918**, in the densely wooded area near Nancy, the Regiment arrived in time for the early morning artillery preparation which launched the first major American offensive. It was destined to wipe out the Saint-Mihiel salient which the Germans had driven into the Allied line in 1914.

Following the offensive of Saint-Mihiel, the Regiment started toward Argonne where the allies were preparing another offensive. **The Regiment was assigned the sector which contained the formidable Vauquois Hill which was a butte-like barrier rising above the plain. The hill stood like a sentinel of death in the path of the Kansans. It bristled with concrete fortifications and machine gun nests. Its chalky slopes were dirty gray color with dark streaks indicating the German trenches.**

Repeated French assaults on Vauquois Hill had been beaten back with heavy losses. The hill was regarded as impregnable. The French declared that the 35th was to be used as a “sacrifice” division. The attack was preceded by a three hour bombardment where field guns were massed hub to hub to blast the German positions. After a bitter attack, with the 137th leading the 69th Brigade, the hill was taken and the advance continued.

The morning of **September 28, 1918**, the Germans had recovered from the surprise. They had brought strong reinforcements into their line. They launched a stubborn counter attack on hastily prepared positions of the 137th but were finally repulsed with considerable loss.

Following heavy artillery bombardment, the 35th Division continued the advance against increasing enemy pressure to the Montrebeau Woods area. The Regiment was then relieved by elements of the 1st Infantry Division.

The 137th, in five days of action, had taken every assigned objective but had suffered extremely heavy losses with 107 killed, 38 dead of wounds, 1,060 wounded, and 88 listed as prisoners or missing. This represented **46%** of the men engaged. The Regiment withdrew to the Argonne for a well earned rest.

By mid October 1918, the 137th again moved into the line near Verdun. This was a relatively quiet sector. The action consisted of patrol activity and exploratory raids until early November 1918. At that time the Division was moved to-

ward the Saint-Mihiel area to join a large France-American force which was being massed in preparation for an offensive on the fortress of Metz. This offensive never developed. The Armistice of **November 11, 1918**, prevented another mass slaughter.

Members of the Division welcomed the information that they were not scheduled to join the Army of Occupation. They thought that this would mean an early return to the United States. Much later, as the dreary winter wore on, the Kansas Regiment was still billeted in the stables around Sampigny. This decision was questioned for want of diversion. The monotony of winter was broken only by a Division Review by General John J. Pershing and the Prince of Wales on February 17, 1919. The parade ground was a duplicate of the one in Kansas City, Missouri, where the 1st and 2nd Volunteers marched in review before General Grant in 1880.

Receiving orders to return to the United States, the Division marched down the Champs Elysees in Paris to the tune of “The Old Gray Mare.” The Regiment departed from Brest harbor on April 11, 1919. It docked in New York on April 23, 1919. Many Kansans met

the returning guardsmen. Trail’s end was Camp Funston, Kansas. After parading in Topeka, the members of the Regiment received discharges on May 9 and 10, 1919.

* In World War 1, there were no axis and allies like in WW2. There was a block called the Triple Entente, that was originally conformed by Great Britain, France and Russia. Later as the war continued many countries around the world like the US and Brazil joined it. The other block were called the Central Powers, which was formed originally by the German, Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman Empire. As the war continued Bulgaria also join the Central Powers.

**35th DIVISION
ASSOCIATION
NEW HALL OF FAME
NOMINATING FORM**

See page 16. It can also be found at the following web address:
http://www.35divassn.org/nominating_form.aspx

Kansas Finds Every Photo for Their Vietnam Fallen

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) is pleased to announce that Kansas has become the 18th state to find every photo for their Vietnam fallen. The achievement comes after the photo of U.S. Army Pfc. Robert Girdner was submitted by Janna Hoehn and Jim Reece on Monday, Dec. 5.

Girdner’s photo was collected as part of VVMF’s Wall of Faces effort, which aims to put a face to the more than 58,000 names inscribed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Submitted photos are currently seen on VVMF’s virtual Wall of Faces, where family and friends can share memories, remembrances, and photos.

627 Kansas service members lost their lives during the Vietnam War and now every one of them will be remembered for generations to come.

Girdner was from Shawnee Mission, Kansas and made the ultimate sacrifice in the Kien Hoa province of Vietnam on April 4, 1968. The young soldier was two weeks shy of his 20th birthday.

To date, more than 49,000 photos have been collected for the Wall of Faces and fewer than 9,000 photos are still needed to complete the effort. Kansas joins 17 other states in finding every photo for their fallen. The completed states include:

Alaska	Maryland	Nevada	South Dakota
Colorado	Minnesota	New Mexico	Utah
Hawaii	Montana	North Dakota	Washington
Idaho	Nebraska	Oregon	Wisconsin
			Wyoming

VVMF has dedicated Wall of Faces volunteers around the country who help locate photos of those who served and sacrificed. Volunteers Janna Hoehn, Jim Reece, and Dan Brodt worked diligently on the state of Kansas.

Putting a face to every name helps further preserve the legacies of all the service members with names inscribed on The Wall.

If you have a picture of a loved one or fellow veteran whose name is on The Wall, please help VVMF honor these individuals by submitting a photo. VVMF encourages the public to submit as many photos of each individual as possible.

Along with the virtual Wall of Faces, photos and stories of the more than 58,000 veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice during the Vietnam War will also be displayed at the future Education Center at The Wall.
<http://www.vvmf.org/news/article=Kansas-Finds-Every-Photo-for-Their-Vietnam-Fallen>

International Liaison Committee Column

April 10, 2017

The duty to remember and honor was accepted by a third generation when family members of a 35th Division hero visited his memorial in Normandy in March.

Lt. Col. Alfred Thomsen, (HQ) and the third battalion of 134 regiment he commanded, are honored with a stele at Le Mesnil-Rouxelin, near St. Lo. The book, "Biography of a Battalion" by James A. Huston, is dedicated to Lt. Col. Thomsen. Both are members of the 35th Division Hall of Fame.

The great-granddaughter and great-grandson of Lt. Col. Thomsen, Katie and Conner Bell, and their aunt Julie Thomsen Elges, (granddaughter of Lt. Col. Thomsen) placed flowers at the stele. Jean Francois Percy, president of the 35th Division "Santa Fe" Normandie association, organized the presentation. Other 2017 officers of the association are Andree Chan, vice president; Yann Renaud, treasurer, and Frederic Hamel, secretary.

Those present, in addition to the Thomsen family, were Francine Lacour, Renee Hinet, Muriel Housset (mayor of Le Mesnil Rouxelin), Rene Hinet, Georgette Dewoghelaere, and Percy. The association is anticipating a ceremony in Mortain June 2 in which the historical marker of the 35th Division will be placed beside one of the 30th ID.

Percy hopes that American visitors to France for the 100th anniversary of the American entry into WWI will also stop in Normandy.

In the northeast corner of France, the association "L'Espace de Memoire Lorraine 1939-1945" is preparing to open its museum April 29 for the summer months. The American entry into WWI will be the theme. Various new donations to the museum also will be featured.

Association member Isabel Mangin is featured in a five-page article in "Cible" magazine under the Arms and History section. The article features her experiences as Gen. George Patton's interpreter from the time 3rd Army Headquarters were established in Nancy until her fiancé was liberated from POW camp in Germany. Her release at that time was part of the original interpreter agreement. She remembered the general as very strict but thoughtful. He required her to wear a necktie like the rest of the staff, but taught her to tie it himself.

The entire article may be read on association's website <http://www.espacedememoire.fr>. English translation may be available. If not,

there are numerous photos and cartoons to be viewed. One cartoon was drawn by George Baker, the artist of the "Sad Sack" cartoons. It depicts the general, his dog "Willie," and various office personnel—surrounded by red tape.

While rejoicing at the attention paid to one member, the association mourns the passing of friends of the association and veterans from other countries.

Elmar Diez, a friend of the association for more than 10 years, died Feb. 26, 2017. Elmar's father was a member of the German army who died of wounds following the battle at Flavigny, Sept. 10-11, 1944. Elmar, his twin Volkmar, and brother Roderick were among the first to subscribe to a fund to replace the bronze plaques to 35th Division members stolen from the Flavigny bridge. He explained the donation as an honor to the Americans who liberated his country from Nazism.

Diez was eulogized as militant for peace, ecology and reconciliation. He participated in a reconciliation ceremony with Charlotte Goldberg, who lost most of her family at Auschwitz and Paula Evans Baker, whose father was among the replacement troops who was assigned to F-134-35 after the Flavigny battle. Pvt. Richard Evans was killed 19 days later.

The reconciliation ceremony was held after the presentation of the St. Maurice Medal for civilian service to the Infantry to Jerome Leclerc, animator of the Espace association, in 2008.

At a dinner meeting the night before the ceremony, Paula and Elmar learned that both had studied French to learn what had happened to their fathers. Paula's father was first buried in a temporary cemetery at Andilly before repatriation. Elmar's father was buried at Andilly after it became a German cemetery. Both grew up accompanying their mothers to their fathers' graves.

The association is also mourning the death of Ed Farris, (G-134-35) who helped dedicate the 35th Division stele at Flavigny and later sent two granddaughters, Caitlin, and Molly, to visit the site. (See obituary elsewhere in the paper). Vic Cassipi, a veteran of the RAF, had been a frequent visitor to museum that displayed pieces of his Lancaster that crashed in Lorraine.

The U.S. Veterans Friends of Luxembourg will once again place a single rose on each of the graves at the American Military Cemetery in Hamm, Luxembourg. This tradition started in 1992 and continues to this day.

In May, Memorial Day services will be held at overseas cemeteries around the world. The hallowed grounds of the ABMC cemeteries serve as examples of the reverence and respect given to Americans who served and died as a member of the Armed Forces. Now on the 100th anniversary of the declaration of War on Germany on April 6, 1917, many special exhibits and events are planned.

As the members of the 35th Division Association plan for their 100th

anniversary, we are reminded of the great sacrifices which our American soldiers continue to make.

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



Memorial to Lt.Col Alfred Thomsen



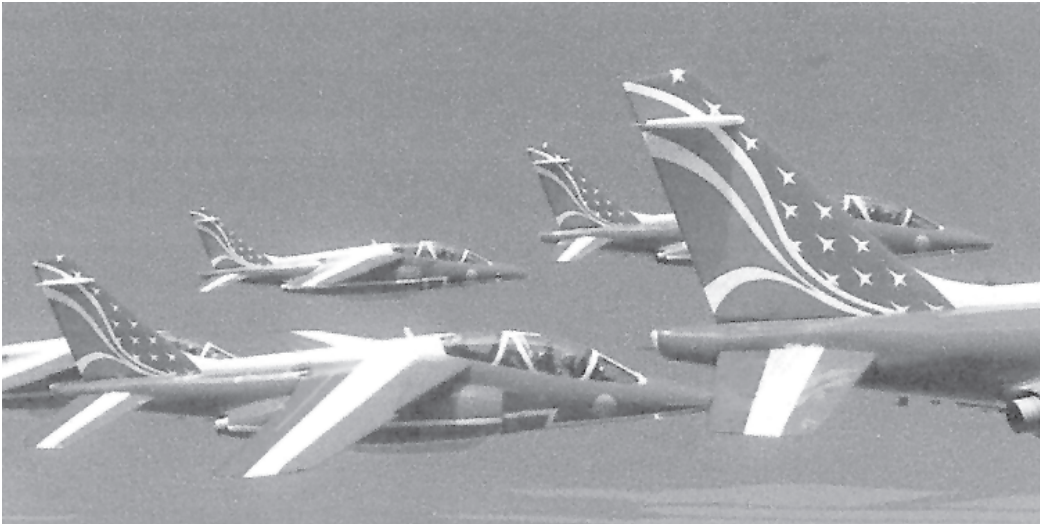
Katie Bell, Connor Bell and Julie Elges, granddaughter and great grandchildren of Thomsen



The Thomsen family with members of the 35th Division Normandie Group



Hi Sir ,
Here is the itinary of the French Fighter Team visiting the USA to commemorate the Centenary of the Entrance of the United States of America in WWI in April 1917 .
Best regards,
Claude ROZET

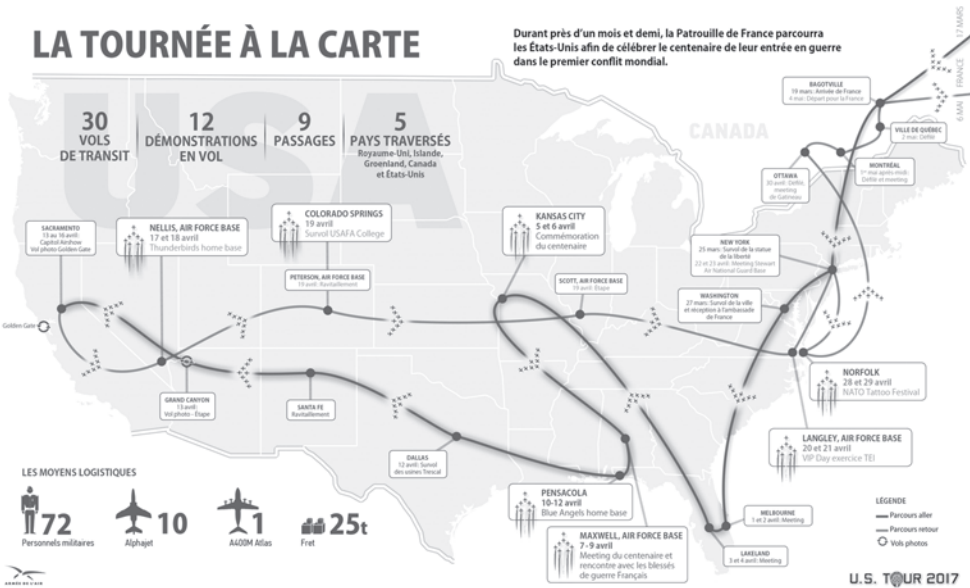


Une première depuis 31 ans: la Patrouille de France en tournée américaine



10 *Alphajet*, 1 *A400M*, 72 personnels et 25 tonnes de fret, pour 12 démonstrations en vol, 2 rencontres et 9 survols! La Patrouille de France sera reçue aux USA pour la première fois depuis 31 ans (elle avait passé sept semaines sur place en 1986). Cette fois, ce sera pour célébrer le centenaire de l'entrée en guerre des Etats-Unis le 6 avril 1917.

La PAF sera en Amérique du Nord du 19 mars au 4 mai. Elle se rendra aux USA via l'Ecosse, l'Islande, le Groenland et le Canada.



Recollections of World War II

PFC Florentius M. Zach, Service Company, 134th Inf Regt, of Pierce, Nebraska recalls his combat days of World War II by saying “I don’t miss the life I had to lead in the Service, but I do miss the friends I made there. I remember a lot of it as a bad dream which good friends helped me to get through.”

As he passed through Europe in World War II, he kept brief notes in a diary about most of them. Below are some of his most memorable.

Omaha Beach – We dug “maneuver holes” after leaving the beach. These were six inches deep with the dirt piled around the edges to make them look deeper. After sundown we saw fireworks like we had never seen before. From then on we dug fox holes two to four feet deep!

St. Mere Eglise – First bombing—kitchen area and truck.

St. Lo – We entered St. Lo as the town was still burning. There was only room for vehicles to travel one way down the street in all the rubble.

Le Mans – Germans sent us leaflets welcoming us to the area.

Ladan – Here we taught some young Frenchman some unmentionable words. It was a riot the way he pronounced them in French. Then some ladies came by. They weren’t happy!

Nancy – The 134th got credit for capturing the fourth largest city in France. We got a pass and went into town and had a 3-course meal. Enjoyed same very much.

Amelicourt – All I remember is artillery coming in, and artillery going out.

Lindstroff – A rich, smelly village. Air-burst artillery.

Puttelange – Our Division was just entering Germany—near Sarreguemines, and we were relived here by the 44th Division. We pulled back in order to prepare to transfer to the area where the Battle of the Bulge was taking place.

Metz – Had a wonderful Christmas Day dinner, but before dark we were on a dark, dreary convoy up and into Belgium. It was

winter at its worst.

Bastogne (Belgium) – We stayed in a large schoolhouse basement. Incessant artillery fire.

Bombaye – Saw and heard our first buzz bombs!

Geilenkirchen – The town was still smoking and burning. Later in the day a tank convoy came through on their way to the front. The tanks were many in number and in a great hurry to get where they were going.

Venlo (Holland) – Germans didn’t want to leave town, and we lost two trucks in the area.

Rheinberg – Moved up to a large woods beside the Rhine river. There were many convoys lined up to cross the Rhine on a newly built pontoon bridge. Artillery was heavy. The bridge was more stable and solid underfoot than I had expected. Heard my first jet plane fly over—like the crack of a whip—lucky for us the Germans didn’t have more than a few of them. Af-

ter crossing the Rhine we stayed in ditches along the roadside for shelter and safety.

Dinslaken (Germany) – From here on we slept in basements. German first floor homes were built like fortresses, built with I-beams 1-15 inches apart, with cement in between.

Hanover – The war was over and we moved to Hanover. We had our first , somewhat formal, retreat ceremony. You can’t imagine how sentimental it was to hear the Star Spangled Banner played, even if it was only a recording, and to see the flag raised and brought down. It was a tearful experience, our minds and memories at rest with the turmoil at an end at last. Later, I had a chance to go to Paris for three days. It was interesting: Arc de Triumph, Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame, Hall of Mirrors, Napoleon’s Tomb, etc.

After the war he made it home, got married, had children, and spent most of the remainder of his life with his wife and family at Jamestown, New York.

35th Division Museum Activities Continue

35th Division Archives Receives Boost

Rick Callendar of Welch, WV has donated an extensive collection of World War II documents pertaining to the 35th Infantry Division to the 35th Division Museum Library. These have been sent through Roberta Russo of Palatine, IL, 134th Inf Regt Historian, who has scanned and digitized them to CD's before forwarding them to the 35th Division Museum.

A partial listing of the many documents is given below:

“World War II Honor Lists of Dead and Missing” for each state, with 35th Division Soldiers listed separately

“Combat History of the 137th Infantry Regiment in World War II”

Administration & Disposition Reports for the 110th Medical Battalion in World War II

3 ea – “Thom’s Combat Diary of Company L, 137th Inf Regt, by Claude W. Thom

General Orders for Hqs, XVI Corps, 1944-45 (Partial)

List of KIA-DOW, 137th Inf Regt, WW II

2 ea – Rosters, 35th Infantry Division, POE to POE, WW II

“Journal of a Rifleman” by Ralph S. Lilly, 137th Inf Regt

Obituary List, 137th Infantry Regiment

“The Operation of 3rd Bn, 137th Inf, at St. lo, 11-15 July 1944” by Major Budd W. Richmond, 3rd Bn Operations Officer

“Journal of the 3rd Bn, 137th Inf Regt, WW II” by Mo Hannan & Don Lyons

After Action Reports, 137th Inf Regt, WW II

Unit Journals, 137th Inf Regt, WW II

General Orders, 137th Inf Regt, 1943, 1944, 1945

General Orders, 106th Evacuation Hospital, 1944 and 1945

General Orders, 35th Inf Div, 4 Jan 45 to 7 Dec 45

Group Photo, Hqs Co, 137th Inf Regt, 2 Jan 41

App. 50 Photos – 35th Inf Div in Training, Normandy Campaign, Battle of the Bulge

After Action Reports, 110th Med Bn, 1944-45

Captain Sidney Strong “World War II Diary

Prisoner of War Data File for 137th Inf in WW II

“Life and Times of Co L, 137th Inf Regt” by Donita Hatfield

“WW II in Company C, 137th Inf Regt” by Ken Faulkner

“The Eye’s Have It” by Howard S. White, Co A, 320th Inf Regt

“A Military Life and Experience” by Guy Yeargin, Co L, 134th Inf Regt

“35th Infantry Division Marching Song” Newspaper, “Stars and Stripes,” July 13, 1945, with article on 137th Honor Guard for President Truman

“World War II Experiences” by Noel Long

“The Promise” by Rev. Lawnie Coffman

“GI’s Remember” by Ralph Shear

“Reflections of a Combat Infantryman” by James Graff

35th Infantry Division History and Commanders

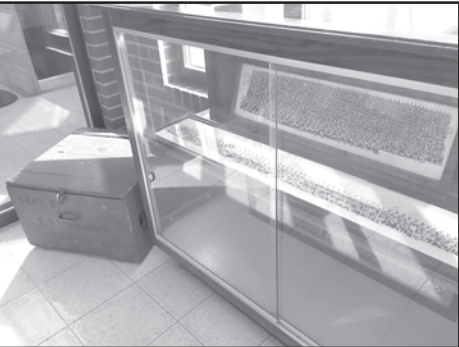
Book ‘ “Thirty-fifth Division, Camp Robinson, Arkansas, 1941”

35th Division Improves exhibits at Headquarters

The current Division Chief of Staff, COL Bush sent pictures of exhibits started at the HQs. The intent is to have a rotating display from the 35th Museum in Topeka “.... to use some current items to establish the link from the past to the present Division. We’ve also got a couple of work orders in for some better display items—wagon wheels, display cases, current division photos, etc. . . . “



35ID pennant



WWI photos



WWI uniform

DONOR APPRECIATION

Oct 2016-May 2017

These are donations made in addition to the Annual or Life membership

(Your contribution is appreciated. If we errored in capturing your donation in any way, accept our apology and contact the Executive Secretary)

Donors \$5,000 and above

*MG (R) Jack Struckel, \$6500 for Museum Fund

Donors \$1,000 and above

*Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation(Divisionaire)

Donors \$500 to \$999

*CSM(R) Allen C Kirby (Renew Life membership, Op. Expenses, 35th, Museum, Hall of Fame. In Recognition of 137th Inf Bn)

Donors \$200 to \$499

*LTC Thomas C Barnett (Conference Sponsor to recognize “The Deployed of the 35th ID)

*Paula Evans Baker (International Mailing and Conference Sponsor)

*Judy M Bradford (Op. Expenses)

*LTC (R) Dave Hruska (Hall of Fame, Conf. Sponsor)

*Allen Kirby (Hall of Fame, Op. Exp., 35th Museum, in Recognition of 137th IN)

*Ben Weber (Hall of Fame, Recognition of MG Ed Sebree)

*Fred and Kathy Esker, and James and Alice Graff (In Memory of COL James Huston)

Donors \$150 to \$199

*Jeannette Price (Conference Sponsor, Recognition of: Joseph A Price Jr)

Donors \$100 to \$149

*Col Roger Aeschliman (Conference Sponsor)

*Roy Albert (Renew Life Membership, Op. Expenses)

*Wade C Beadle (Op. Expenses, 35th Museum)

*1st SGT Richard O Blatz (Op. Expenses)

*Kenneth Close (Op. Expenses)

*Pat Cook (Conference Sponsor)

*Kathy and Fred Esker (Op. Expenses, 35th Museum)

*Maggie S Fenstermacher (Conference Sponsor)

*Charles R Gentile (Museum Fund)

*BG (R) Ed Gerhardt (Conference Sponsor)

*LTC Troyce Gill (Renew Life Membership)

*James Graff (Op. Expenses)

*Theodore R Graff (renew Life membership, Op. Expenses)

*Ist LT Paul Honaker (Conference Sponsor)

*LTC Homer W Kurtz (Hall of Fame)

*COL John W Rueger (Op. Expenses)

*Roberta Russo (Conference Sponsor)

*Mark and Peggy Weddle (Conference Sponsor)

*COL (R) Cal Warrem(Museum and Op Expenses)

*Richard O’Brien (Sponsor)

*CW4 Carl Bush (Sponsor)

Donors \$50 to \$99

*Gary L Beadle (Op. Expenses)

*Andree Chan (For Santa Fe Divisionnaire)

*COL Tony D Divish (Op. Expenses)

*Carol Lynn Freeman (Op. Expenses)

*Diana D Hardison (35th Museum)

*Terry Meinke (Op. Expenses)

*Van Vandermotten (Recognition of COL Rex Bartlow)

Donors up to \$49

*Joe Ayers

*LTC Bruce A Becker

*Gregory T Bell

*Marge Bullock (Memory of Keith N Bullock)

*SFC (R) Delbert Edwards

*Edward DiBianco

*Joyce Fitzgerald

*PFC Lloyd S Frey

*Robert L Hagel

*Jack Harakal III (Recognition of Joseph Toth)

*Lynne Heckler (Memory of CSM Frederick H Parks)

*Herb W Jackson

*CPT John A Kerner

*S/SGT Willie E Lambert

*PFC Javier E Ledesma

*Louise E Moore

*LTC Robert Mott (Recognition of Tom Tholen)

*MAJ Bob Paoli

*PSG Robert Protheroe (Memory of COL George T O’Connell)

*Dorothy A Rodriguez

*Barbara Shoemake (Op. Expenses)

*Forrest Strickler

*Jim J Trigg (Recognition of Kleber M Trigg Jr.)

*Isabella Miles (Op. expenses)

*Lynn Hecker (Recognition of Frederick H Parks)

*Russell W Duller

*Martin H Duehring

(Conference Sponsor) is a \$100 or more donation.



Lest We Forget – 134th Inf Regt in World War II

The 35th Infantry Division Museum has received a collection of World War II experiences assembled by Charles “Chuck” Gentile, an attorney in Business Law in Omaha, Nebraska. His uncle, S/Sgt Charles P. Gentile, Co L, 134th Inf Regt, was killed in action on July 16, 1944 near Emelie, Normandy, on Hill 122 during the approach to St. Lo, France. Written by the heroes themselves, these stories provide a heroic, impressive, and sometimes shocking portrait of the 134th in World War II.

Perhaps the most well known is “The Taking of St. Lo - Lah We Lah His” written by MG Francis Greenlief and originally published in the July 1, 1994 edition of “National Guard” magazine. In this article, Greenlief, then a 1st Lieutenant Platoon Leader in 1st Platoon, Co L, recalls, in great detail, the agonizing and victorious battle for St. Lo. Greenlief later became a Major General and served as Chief of the National Guard Bureau.

Another, more detailed, story is entitled “Normandy and Beyond,” written by Tech Sgt Verlyn J. Carpenter of 1st Platoon, Co A, 134th Inf Regt. Carpenter, from Nebraska City, NE. Included with his story are photos, with captions, of the entire war experience of the 134th Inf Regt from Camp Robinson; AR through other posts in the United States; the battles of St. Lo, Mortain, and Nancy; his leg wounds from machine gun fire; his hospital experiences in England; and his discharge at Ft. Leavenworth, KS on Oct. 22, 1945. He then went back to California to marry the girl he had met while the 134th was stationed at Ft. Ord. Her father died the night before they were to marry, but they married anyway, buried her father, and returned to spend their lives in Nebraska.

Ernest F. “Ernie” Kammerer served throughout the war in Co B, 134th Inf Regt, and his story is entitled “World War II As I Remember It.” His story, too, begins at Camp Robinson, AR, and continues through the campaign in Europe with the 134th. He was wounded, spent time in England, rejoined Co B, and eventually arrived back in New York City on the Queen Mary with his unit on Oct 5, 1945. His story is filled with anecdotes like “One night the Germans shelled our chow line, making it impossible for most of us to get anything to eat. Now that’s enough to make you really want to fight!” He was awarded the Bronze Star.

Of the stories, “Reflections on Being a Prisoner of War” by Pvt. Paul Blochlinger, Co E, 134th Inf Regt is the most touching. He was captured on Sept. 11, 1944, and held in a German POW camp, Stalag 2A, in Neubrandenburg, Mecklenberg, Germany until liberated by the American Army in 1945. He discusses how he was captured at the battle at Flavigny Bridge, his long march into Stalag 2A, the wretched conditions and lack of food in the Stalag, and the despair he and his fellow prisoners fought continuously and eventually conquered. When released, he weighed 92 pounds, but after a steady diet of eggnog after his release was able to regain his health. Throughout his captivity it bothered him that he didn’t know if his parents knew that he was alive or not and that he might be court-martialed for getting separated from his unit before captivity. His summed up his thoughts as a prisoner with the quote, “They bruised my body and tortured my soul. They stripped me of my dignity and denied me my humanity. They crippled my mind and crushed my spirit. But only you,



T/Sgt Verlyn Carpenter served with the 134th Inf Regt all during WW II. After discharge in 1945 he returned to California to marry the sweetheart he had met while at Ft. Ord in 1942.



T/Sgt Buster E. Brown, Co L, 134th Inf is congratulated by LTC Waarren Wood upon receiving the Distinguished Service Cross for heroic actions at St. Lo.



Capt Francis Greenlief, shown with Sgt Weeks, was a First Lieutenant Platoon Leader with the 134th during the battle of St. Lo, July 15-18, 1944.



CW4 Maurice Markworth, then a Sgt in Co L, 134th Inf Regt., was captured at St. Lo, and spent much of his internment in Stalag IIIC. He was liberated by advancing Russian troops, then escaped to Poland, where the Polish underground got him back to American lines.



Paul Blocklinger was a POW of the Germans after being captured at Sept. 1944.



Soldiers of Co L, 134th Inf Regt, are shown near a blown-up jeep on the road from Villiers-Fossar to St. Lo.

America, can break my heart, if I’m not rescued.”

Tech Sergeant Buster E. Brown, Co L, 134th Inf Regt, was from Omaha, NE. His story tells of silencing two German machine gun nests single-handedly, although wounded in the knee and shoulder, during the battle at St. Lo. At the time a Private who carried a BAR (Browning Automatic Rifle), he saved the lives of many other members of Co L and was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the nation’s second highest combat decoration. After recovering from his wounds he suffered another shrapnel wound to his right knee in 1945 and that ended his fighting career. Following the war, he returned to Omaha and worked in lawn and landscaping until his death from cancer in 1991. Prior to his death, when asked if he wanted to return to Normandy he said, “No. I’ve seen enough of it.”

A speech at Gettysburg, PA, by Chief Warrant Officer 4 Maurice J. A. “Mark” Markworth, tells his story of combat in World War II. A Sergeant in the 1st Squad, 1st Platoon, Co L, 134th Inf Regt, he tells of the battle for Hill 122 during the advance on St. Lo. After being pinned down with the the BAR team he was leading, wounded, and out of ammunition, Sgt Markworth was cap-

tured, along with three others from his section. He spent most of his internment in Stalag III-C, before being liberated by advancing Russian troops. Upon liberation, he escaped to Poland, where he met up with members of the Polish underground, who ferried him back to American Army lines. His company, Co L, authorized 187 men, lost a total of 590 killed and wounded during the war. A firsthand account of Markworth’s combat and capture is told in a separate article.

The story of a blown-up jeep on the road from Villiers-Fossar to St. Lo, France, is also told, complete with the photo, by Tech Sergeant Robert L. Fowler, Co L, 134th Inf Regt. The photo was taken near where S/Sgt Charles P. Gentile was killed. A German mine had blown up an American tank, and when the 134th jeep tried to go around, it hit a mine. The driver was killed as the jeep landed on its top. Fowler recounted in 1997 that “My friend, John Real, our Company Supply Sergeant, was in the next vehicle behind him. I imagine he spent a little time on his knees that night.”

In an article entitled “A Doctor in the Front Lines: WW II in the ETO,” Captain John R. Matthew, M.D. of Company A, 110th Medical Battalion, tells of their role in treating the wounded during

the battle of St. Lo, Mortain, Nancy, and other battles. Company A was the attached medical unit to the 3rd Battalion, 134th Inf Regt, and Capt (Dr.) Matthew was the physician who treated the mortally-wounded SSgt Charles P. Gentile.

A story by T/4 Samuel Wolk, Hq Co, 134th Inf Regt, who was Jewish, tells of obtaining fresh eggs from a German family who was totally petrified when he told them he was Jewish because they thought he would kill them. They didn’t, of course, and the next day were given more eggs by the German family.

Walter Snellen’s recollections of battles of the 134th include an anecdote when he was eating K-rations one day in the shadow of a German tiger tank. Suddenly there was an explosion as an 88mm round, apparently in the breach, “cooked off” and was propelled in his direction. Fortunately it missed, and Snellen didn’t die until 1996, long after he had returned to his native Massachusetts.

Capt. Elbert B. O’Keefe’s article in “The Infantry Journal” of June, 1945, entitled “Artillery was the Answer” tells how when the Germans lowered the barrels of their flak guns and aimed them directly at the attacking 134th Inf Regt soldiers, the supporting 127th Field Artillery had the answer. They employed both direct and indirect fire against the flak guns to keep them suppressed.

The operations of the 134th Inf Regt in the attack of hedgerow defenses at St. Lo, 15-18 July 1944, is also told in an Infantry monograph published by the Infantry School at Ft. Benning, GA in 1950. The operation was detailed in hourly summaries by Maj Oliver H. Bruce, who served as a Battalion S-1 in the 134th.

Private Patrick M. Caputo, Co I, 134th Inf Regt, was wounded in action on Dec. 16, 1944 as the Battle of the Bulge began. As Co C fought its way near the city of Habkirchen, Germany, Pvt Caputo and another soldier volunteered to take ammunition to the forward elements of the unit. As they crossed Mandelach Creek by footbridge at 2:40 a.m. German machine gun fire killed the other soldier. Pvt Caputo delivered the ammunition, then returned to Co I, where he and company medics again moved forward and retrieved the slain body from the bridge.

Sgt Robert H. Lippincott, Co E, 134th Inf Regt, joined the unit as a replacement during the battle of St. Lo. In an anecdotal story he tells of removing a beautiful brass plaque from a fancy house in Normandy (The plaque was that of a Count.) as he moved toward St. Lo. Pinned down by machine gun fire, he abandoned his pack to move more quickly. The plaque was in the pack, which was never recovered, and he says that “I never became a Count!” He says that he’s still looking for it. He took a piece of 20mm shrapnel in his back as the Battle of the Bulge began in December and it was not until the war had ended that he was able to rejoin Co E at Hanover, Germany.

In a story called “Veteran Gets Medal 53 Years After Normandy,” Private Roger A. Lucas tells of receiving a “Medal of Liberty” and a citation from the President of the province of Lower Normandy for his part in the Normandy Campaign. The awards were given him in 1997. He was a member of the Ammunition & Pioneer Platoon, Hqs, 1st Bn, 134th Inf Regt. He says that “With the heat and the bodies and everything, you never forget the smell of war as long as you live. They say that war is glorious. I can’t see that. War is hell.”

Kansas National Guardsmen support annual Freedom Fest event



137th INFANTRY REGIMENT

137th News

By Capt. Rory Mele
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Banners displaying photographs of veterans from all military branches lined the street that led to the south end of Emporia. There, veterans and civilians, young and old, made final preparations to compete in the Spur Ride at the 14th annual Freedom Fest held at All Veterans Memorial Park Nov. 6, 2016.

“Freedom Fest is a celebration of veterans in the city of Emporia, which is the founding city of Veterans Day,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Steve Harmon, coordinator of Freedom Fest. “The Spur Ride is our starting event that attracts around 250 participants and roughly 200 spectators from Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Colorado and Oklahoma.”

The Spur Ride is a competitive community gathering event that is part of the All Veterans Tribute week began in 2003 by volunteers to honor all veterans and their families, according to the Emporia Main Street volunteers’ website.

Freedom Fest included individual events such as the 5K Freedom Run/Walk and a 16-mile or 40-mile Freedom Ride, where participants bike through the Flint Hills at their own pace. It also included a timed competition called the Dirty Kanza/635th Armor Regiment Spur Ride. Participants in the Spur Ride had to complete the 5K run, the 40-mile Gravel Grinder bike ride and the Spur Readiness Test, consisting of five mili-

tary-style obstacles, within 3 hours and 40 minutes.

The event attracted men and women of all ages, including participants like Shawn O’Mara, who competed in the event last year and wanted to race again.

“I fully embrace this celebration for our veterans,” said O’Mara, a participant on the Dirty Kanza Promotions team, “and I’m proud of our city for embracing Veterans Day and all vets.”

The race this year also welcomed a first of its kind team that included Capt. Timothy Hornik from the Blind Veterans Association and his guide, Lt. Col. Matthew Battiston, both retired cavalry Soldiers who met as students at the University of Kansas Veterans Association and decided to prepare together for this event.

“I had done the Spur Ride last year and I completed the Dirty Kanza 200-mile bike race earlier in the year,” said Battiston. “Tim had heard about me riding through the KU Veterans Associations and had asked me to start riding with him in the mornings.”

Hornik, who lost his sight in a service-connected injury after taking direct fire from a sniper, completed each event by holding on to Battiston’s arm or shoulder and listening to verbal instructions. The most challenging part was the 40-mile Gravel Grinder on a tandem bicycle through the gravel roads of the Flint Hills. Hornik was already an avid runner, but they both started biking in the mornings before school. They started biking 15 miles and increased their distance over the next four to five months, eventually leading to their involvement in the Spur Ride.

Hornik and Battiston said that they enjoyed the event, the association with other participants, and the support they received throughout the competition. Their goal is to get a few more teams from the Blind Veterans Association into the Spur Ride next year.

The success of the event can be credited to the diversity of its participants and to the many volunteer organizations, sponsors and individuals who worked together to make the event run as safely and efficiently as possible.

The proceeds from major sponsors help run the event, said Ben Schubert, coordinator of the 5K Run/Walk event. Volunteer groups from the local university provided community service, troops from the Boy Scouts of America helped with crowd control and safety on the run, and local organizations offered food and drinks to participants and volunteers throughout the event.

Company D, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment has been providing support for this event for several years, according to Lt. Col. Jason Nelson, battalion commander.

“We have a more robust role this year by providing 15-20 personnel to support running the Spur Ride event and assisting with aid stations on the run and the bike trails,” said Nelson, who also presented participants with their awards at a final ceremony.

Participants were called to formation where first time racers received a shiny new spur and those competing for a second time received a leather spur strap to attach to their first-year prize. Along with these awards, participants were encouraged to come again next year and to challenge their friends.

“We have a lot of dreams and plans for this event,” said Harmon. “Currently, we are looking to expand the Spur Ride portion of this event which will give participants a taste of what it’s like to go through an actual Spur Challenge with a cavalry or armor unit by hosting, here in Emporia, a true Spur Challenge that anyone in the military across the nation can participate in.”

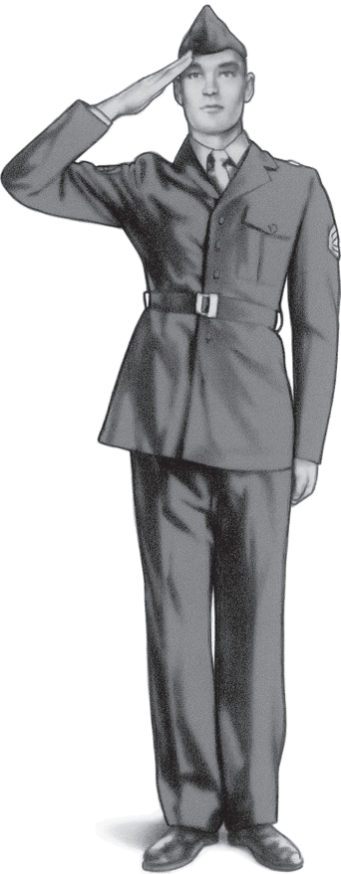
Harmon explained that a Spur Challenge for a Soldier or trooper is very extensive, lasting more than five days. Participants get very little sleep and must rely on each other to get through the event, which includes a physical fitness test, range qualifications, a ruck march, multiple go/no go stations on warrior tasks, and the chance to demonstrate their leadership skills.



Retired Lt. Col. Matthew Battiston and retired Capt. Timothy Hornik, Blind Veterans Association, compete as a team in the Spur Ride at the 14th annual Freedom Fest in Emporia.



Runners take off on the 5K Run/Walk at the 14th annual Freedom Fest in Emporia. (Photos by Capt. Rory Mele, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



REMINDER:

Last day to register for hotel is August 8, 2017

Call 866-932-6214 or website:

www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/

100thAnniversaryDivisionofthe35thConference

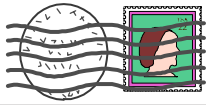
Two Opportunities to Support the Museum Without Cost to You Dillon’s Community Rewards

If you have a Dillons Card, sign up for the Community Rewards program at www.dillons.com/communityrewards. The Museum number is 85714. At no cost to you, a portion of your sale will go to the Museum.

Thrivent Choice

If you do business with Thrivent Financial (Insurance & Investments), you can designate “Thrivent Choice” dollars to the Museum, by locating the Museum on the list and selecting it for free Thrivent Choice dollars.

Mail Call



ASALUTEANDATHANK YOU — JEAN MIGNON

Those words are the title of an article which appeared on PAGE 36 in the Summer 2016 edition of the TWENTY-NINER NEWSLETTER. The article was written by The Reverend John Schildt, National Chaplain of the 29th Infantry Division. This is the first paragraph:

A little man with big heart, a man with a smile and a wealth of knowledge. A warm friend and one of St. Lo's distinguished citizens. That's Jean Mignon.

In Saint Lo, Sunday, the second of October 2016, official homage was paid to Jean for his years of devotion to La Chapelle de la Madeleine and what it signifies. Among those officially present were approximately fifteen Americans, members of the Association Saint-Lo-Roanoke 44, the mayor of Saint Lo and elected officials. In the presence of Jean and the others, General Theodore Shuey of the 29th Division presented a Plaque of gratitude to Jean in appreciation of his devotion and dedication to the memory of the soldiers who liberated Saint Lo. Local and Regional Press were there and articles with photos of the General presenting the Plaque subsequently appeared.

John was a boy when his family had to flee to safety several times during the combat for liberation. Memories of these battles stayed with him throughout his life and civil service for the City of

Saint Lo. Articles were published in our own Newsletter, providing details about Jean's devotion to the restoration of an abandoned chapel as a Museum dedicated to the men of both Divisions. Perhaps some of you have visited La Chapelle de la Madeleine. Perhaps some of you have met Jean. If so, I believe you will have found the results of this one man's efforts to be a veritable monument to American Veterans of both divisions. Jean has met with veterans whenever possible and has given lectures, interviews, etc. for the Press and Public. Sadly, with age and failing sight, Jean has found it necessary to step down from active leadership involving the Chapel; however, those who know what Jean has done over the years have not forgotten.

The Reverend Schildt closed his tribute to Jean with the following words, which I quote:

(p.s.: Should the 29th be the only ones to honor Jean for his dedication and hard work in the spirit of Peace and Love?)

March 1, 2017

Dear Editor;

Enclosed is an article I wrote containing information about the most recent honors awarded to Jean Mignon - this time by the 29th Infantry Division. I hope you will publish this information for your readers.

I am preparing as well, a brief article about an honor in tribute to Murry Monroe Dickson, professional athlete in Major League Baseball, Sgt. in WWII, and carpenter in off-seasons. I will send this to you shortly for publication.

Yours truly,
Anna Jovanovich

Dear 35th Div,

I am trying to find out if the families of Eldred S. Graham and Harold K. Lester are still involved with the 35th Division.

Eldred S. Graham was a member of B company, 134th Infantry, joining on 21 July 1944. He served until captured by the Germans when he finished the war as an EPW. I believe he was from Mississippi.

Harold Lester was a member of C Company, 134th Infantry, joining on 21 July 1944 also.

I am trying to get this information because I have two (2) photographs of these two individuals posing with my uncle, Lacy M. Hamblin, who was killed 10 Dec '44 at Foldersviller.

I believe these two guys were "pioneers" as my uncle was when he first was assigned to the 134th. The probably went through "pioneer" training together at Camp Fannin, Texas.

Would like to know if the families have any information on their service and friends they may have made. My contact info is: Randolph Fair, 1712 Pinewood Dr., Huntsville, AL 35806, 256-603-5025, randy.fair@knology

My father is Cleo Schroeder, is currently in a nursing home. He wanted me to send a picture of his tombstone with the 35th Division emblem. I think all of his dues are paid.

Connie Dehnart
6992 Road 12
Ottawa, OH 45875



Apr-May-Jun 2017 Page 13

Letter to Editor

I wanted to see if you could help me with some historical information about the 35th Division. My grandfather was Fred Windsor who knew Harry Truman. I had heard about their friendship/acquaintance over the years. My mother has recently been put into hospice at 89 years old and I have been going through some of her things and came across this newspaper article written in June of 1947 from the St Joseph News-Press which was where I was born.

The article says that my grandfather and Harry Truman both served as past presidents of the 35th Division Association. Do you have any way to verify when they might have been presidents and have any additional information?

As I am aging learning more about my past is important but 3

out 4 of my grandparents died from 1962 to 1966 when I was 6 to 10 years old so remembering him in person is getting harder and my mom did not tell me much about some of his relationships with people but I know he was well connected in the local veteran community.

I wish I had discovered some of the information I have found years before now when I could have asked more questions.

Attached is a picture of the article.

Thank you for your time.

Regards,
Tom Bohner
Integrated Solar LLC
23005 N. 15th Avenue Ste 101
Phoenix, AZ 85027
Phone 623-869-0561
Fax 623-869-6029
cell 602-692-5774
email tbohner555@aol.com
web www.integratedsolar.com

Fred Windsor to Sit With President

Fred T. Windsor of St. Joseph has been invited to sit on the platform of the 35th Division Association reunion tomorrow with President Harry S. Truman. Both the President and Mr. Windsor are past presidents of the 35th Division Association. Both served with the 35th division in World War I.

Mr. Windsor's invitation was extended by Col. Mahlon S. Weed of Kansas City, Kan., president of the association. The reunion began today in Kansas City and will continue through Saturday.

W. B. Smith of Savannah, Hal Beardsley of Chillicothe and Charles H. Browne of Horton, Kan., are members of the executive committee of the association. Tom Morton, Nebraska City, is second vice-president, and Col. L. Curtis Tierman of Fort Leavenworth is chaplain.

Edmond J DiBianco

20 Fanwood Court
Palm Coast Florida 32137-8113
Dale of Birth; Feb. 1 1916

Served with 35th Division 134
Regiment Company D
Army Serial Number: 32909348
Combat Infantry Badge
Bronze Battle Star Normandy
Campaign
Bronze Battle Star Northern France
Campaign



The Government of France awarding membership in the American France Legion of Honor for his participation during WWII freeing France from her enemies.

29 March 2017

RE: Enclosed post card postmarked Little Falls, Minn., 1940 [cannot read month—might be August?]

Hand-written message:

Dear Aunt Frances & Uncle Ed:
Just a little army atmosphere for you with this card.

These kind of anti-tank guns work along with our Infantry regiment. Camp is tough but so far O.K. We move out tonight on a five-day battle against the regulars who are completely mechanized.

Hope Emporia & all the folks are alright. Jerry is just fine—I think he even thrives on this army life. Be good everybody & now I'll close so I will have my pack rolled in time to move.

/s/ Tom

-Frances and Edward Tholen were my paternal grandparents in Emporia, KS.

-Thomas ("Tom") Tholen of Emporia was my father's 1st cousin—his father John Tholen



(Emporia) and my grandfather Edward Tholen were brothers.

-Jerry Tholen, also of Emporia at that time, was Tom's younger brother.

-Army unit would have been Emporia's B Company, Kansas Army National Guard (don't know a battalion or regiment number, but very likely part of 35th Division?).

-Tom served in WWII with that

unit and became 1st Sergeant of a B Company which fought in the Ardennes—Battle of the Bulge.

-After WWII, Tom mustered out of the Army, but organized B Co. (maybe other, larger unit?) reunions in the Emporia, KS area for many years.

Lawrence A. Tholen Jr
7611 E. Oneida St.
Wichita, KS 67206-3822

Taps

Frank B. DiCarlo

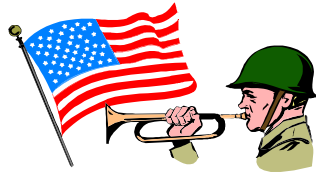
Co. G,
320th
Infantry



Frank B. DiCarlo, 93 of Valley Stream, N.Y. passed away peacefully on Sat. Jan. 28, 2017 in his home. As one of the "Greatest Generation", Frank volunteered and served in the Army Air Force and the U.S. Army from October 13, 1942 through November 5, 1945 when he was honorably discharged. During his service he spent nearly 300 days in front line combat serving in Company G of the 320th Infantry Regiment, 35th Infantry Division which helped relieve the 101st Airborne trapped in Bastogne, Belgium. Frank was awarded a Bronze Star for his service. His regiment was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation. On May 8th, 2012 Frank was awarded the French Legion of Honour-Chevalier (Knight) at a presentation ceremony at West Point Military Academy. The 35th Infantry Division suffered more than 200% casualties, killed and wounded during the war; Frank was one of the lucky few. He returned home to Brooklyn, New York and became a skilled glazier installing windows in many iconic New York City Skyscrapers including the World Trade Center. He met his future wife Antoinette ("Terri") Basil, in 1950, moved to Valley Stream, where they raised 6 children. He owned and operated his own successful glass business.

After retiring, Frank volunteered his time at local soup kitchens, hospitals and was very active in the Valley Stream Civilian Patrol.

He is survived by his six children, Thomas (Donna) of Manhasset, NY. Connie (Roger) of Whangarei, New Zealand, Jeanne of NY, NY, Louis (Linda) of Valley Stream, NY, Francis of Hermosa Beach, Ca., and Mary (Gary) of Valley Stream, NY.; nine grandchildren, one great grandchild; his brother Vincent (Dorothy). He will be remembered with his lifetime of adventures, fun times and jokes.



Charles E. Law

Sept. 14, 1925 – Feb. 7, 2017

Charles E. "Dobie" Law, 91 of Upper Long Run Rd. Salem departed this life on Tues. Feb. 7, 2017 in the United Hospital Center. He was born on Sept. 14, 1925 at New Milton a son of the late John and Dessie Martin Law. On October 13, 1945 he married Joy Mae Pratt Law who preceded him in death on July 28, 2009. They had celebrated 63 years and 9 months of marriage.

Surviving are two daughters, Carole June Lattea and husband Daril L., Shirley Jean Lattea and husband Richard, three sons, Charles L. "Chuck" Law, John Arthur Law and wife Rita M., Nelson Law and wife Vicki L. all of Salem, five grandsons, Rondel S. Lattea and wife Fabiana, Indianapolis, In., Joey W. Lattea and companion Kim, Buckhannon, Jason E. Lattea, Nelson D. Law and companion Grace, Jeff Davis, one granddaughter, Melanie Kimble and husband Mike, all of Salem, great grandchildren,, Kaden W. Lattea, James, Payton, Ashton and Colton Howell, Zach and Emily Davis, Andyara Morette, Brent Collins, Andrew and Andrea Burgess; and several nieces and nephews. Dobie is the last surviving member of his immediate family being preceded in death by one grandson, Daril Edward Lattea, one sister, Clarice Leonard, two brothers, Paul and Howard Law.

Mr. Law was retired from Dominion/Hope as a Well Tender with 34 year's service. He was a WWII Army Veteran serving in the 35 Infantry Division in France and Germany. "Dobie" was a member of Hurst Chapel for 65 years where he had served as Trustee, Sunday School Superintendent, Adult Sunday School Teacher and Song Leader. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping and spending time with his family.

Interment in the K of P Memorial Park, Salem with full military graveside rites accorded by the Combined Doddridge County Veterans Organization.

Noel Dudley Lehman

Noel Dudley Lehman, 93, of Baltimore, Ohio, passed away Sat. Jan. 21, 2017 at Fairfield Medical Center.

He was born outside of Carroll, Ohio on July 5, 1923 to Alfred Leroy Lehman and Cora Ellen (Vickers) Lehman. Noel grew up on a farm outside of Baltimore, Ohio on Pleasantville Road and graduated from Liberty Union High School in 1941. He served in the U.S. Army 35th Infantry Division on the European front in World War II. During his service Noel earned a Silver Star for bravery and 5 Bronze Stars. He retired from Jeffrey Mining and Manufacturing/Dresser Industries just shy of 40 years of service.

Noel met Nellie Jean Snider when he was 7 and she was 5 at her Grandpa Ardo Snider's farm which adjoined the Lehman farm. They were married on September 26, 1945 and were fortunate enough to celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary before her passing on December 18, 1995.

Noel was a member of Baltimore United Methodist Church and Baltimore VFW Post 3761. Being a farm boy Noel loved to garden, mow grass and plow snow, and do carpentry work.

He is survived by his daughters, Melissa McMullen (Chris Mager) of Baltimore, Ohio, and Melinda (Roger) Ansel of Lancaster, Ohio, brother-in-law Robert Snider, and many nieces and nephews, special friends, Dorothy Davis, and Shelby McQuiston, who he and Jean considered like their "third" daughter.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his infant son, Mark Dudley Lehman, his siblings and their spouses, Lester (Ruby and Clara) Lehman, Anna (Samuel) Chalfant, and Irene (John) Schweitzer, his father-in-law and mother in law, Everett and Blanche Snider, his sisters-in-law and brother-in-law, Patricia and Robert Green and Donna Snider, and special friend, Helena Scarberry.

Burial in Maple Grove Cemetery, Baltimore where the Baltimore VFW Post 3761 conducted military honors.

John Walter Lindley Sr.

Jul 22, 1922 - Feb 4, 2017

John Walter Lindley Sr. was born July 22, 1922 at Pauls Valley, OK, to Margaret Hoover and Jesse Tyree and died Saturday, February 4, 2017 at The Springs in Muskogee, OK.

John grew up around Holdenville, OK, and lived in the country. He was an excellent gardener. John served his country in the U. S. Army during World War II and was a decorated combat veteran. Upon discharge from military service, he attended Oklahoma University and was always an avid OU fan.

On April 4, 1949 he married Della Pauline White in Drumright, OK. They had two sons and three daughters.

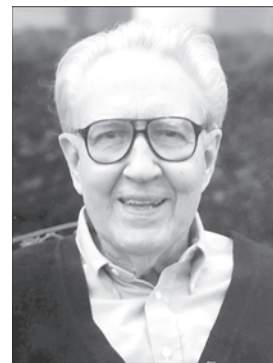
John lived most of his adult life in Tulsa, OK, where he was employed by McDonald-Douglas and RCA Service Company as a radio communication technician. He was of the Baptist faith.

John was preceded in death by his parents, Jesse Tyree and Margaret Hoover; son, David Lindley; and two brothers.

Survivors include his wife, Pauline; son, John Walter Lindley Jr. (Barbara); three daughters, Paula Imhoff (Steven), Loretta Bower (Kirk), Deborah Dolph (Dorian); four grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Edward A. Farris

Co. G, 134th Infantry



Edward A. Farris, 96, of Frankfort, Kentucky died Saturday, 4 March 2017. He was a native of Adair County, Kentucky whose education at the University of Kentucky was temporarily interrupted by his call to service. As a member of UK's Enlisted Reserve Corps, in 1942 Farris attended basic training at Fort Wolters, Texas. As a member of the 35th Inf Division, he arrived in the Normandy hedgerow country as a replacement in July, 1944 and was assigned as an Infantry sergeant to 2nd Battalion (Company G), 134th Inf Regiment. He fought across France until knocked out of action by a mortar round just east of Nancy, France on 13 November 1944. Farris' account of the Flavigny Bridge battle - Moselle River crossing - has been entered into the archives of the President Harry Truman Library

as part of the divisional history of the 35th.

Farris returned to his native Kentucky, and with the help of the GI Bill, completed his degree and worked as the chief of staff for two Kentucky governors during the late 1940s and 1950s. He was a classic behind the scenes political operative who was motivated solely by the public interest and never by money or self-interest. Farris played key roles in supporting integration in the state after the U.S. Supreme Court ruling Brown v. Board of Education and reforming school finance, establishing the state park system, funding rural roads and rural electrification programs for Kentucky. Later, Farris served three Kentucky governors as their Alcoholic Beverage Commissioner. He is survived by a son, Larry Farris (Texas); two daughters, Linda Beasley (Missouri) and Cathy McGaughey (Kentucky); his sister, Jessie Jones (Kentucky) and several grandchildren and many great-grandchildren.



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

Obituary for Dr. James Alvin Huston

James Alvin Huston of 300 Langhorne Lane, Lynchburg, passed away March 9, 2017. He was the son of James Alva Huston and Nettie Caskey Huston. He is survived by his wife of 33 years, Anne Marshall Huston; a daughter, Nita Diane Woodruff and her husband, Jeff; a stepdaughter, Anne Elizabeth Exum; a daughter-in-law, Dianna, and ten grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; his sister, Lois Ann Huston; his first wife, Florence Webb Huston, his son, James Webb Huston, and stepson, William Elliott Bippus, Jr.

He was born in Fairmount, Indiana, March 24, 1918. He received A.B. and A.M. degrees at Indiana University; his Ph.D. at New York University; completed a term at the University of Oxford (St. John's College); with further study at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland. His doctoral studies were interrupted by four years in the Army during World War II where he was Infantry platoon leader, company commander, battalion intelligence officer, and battalion operations officer, U.S. and European Theater of Operations, 134th Infantry, 35th Division.

He was Professor of History at Purdue University for 26 years, with two interims as Visiting Professor of Foreign Affairs, Director of European Studies at the National War College in Washington; and one interim as Ernest J. King Chair of Maritime History at the Naval War College in Newport, R.I., and two years as Historian in the Office of the Chief of Military History, Department, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

In 1972 he became Dean of the College and Professor of History and International Relations at Lynchburg College and was awarded Dean Emeritus upon his retirement. He was also Director of the Lynchburg College Symposium Readings Program (classical readings, writing, and speaking across the curriculum), Editor of The Agora, journal of the LCSR Program, and after "retirement" Director of the Westover Honors Program.

His professional books include Combat History of the 134th Infantry, Biography of a Battalion, Across the Face of France: Liberation and Recovery, The Sins of War, Out of the Blue; U.S. Army Airborne Operations in World War II; One for all: NATO Strategy and Logistics; Outposts and Allies: U.S. Army Logistics in the Cold War; Guns and Butter, Powder and Rice: U.S. Army Logistics in the Korean War; Logistics of Liberty: American Army Services of Supply in the Revolutionary War and After; A Hoosier Sampler (An Anthology). He has had over 80 professional articles and 60 book reviews published,

and has presented numerous papers and lectures, including Guest Lecturer and Discussion Leader, European-Atlantic Movement, Worcester College, University of Oxford; the Inter-American Defense College; the Foreign Service Institute (Department of State), Army Logistics Management College, Army Logistics Center, Command and General Staff College, Army Transportation, Army Ordnance Center.

He wrote an historical novel, Counterpoint: William Henry Harrison and Tecumseh, and with his wife, Anne Marshall Huston, two novels: Violet Storm, A Novel of South Carolina During Reconstruction and Double Cross Fire (a World War II adventure tale). He was also Editor of War and Peace for Lynchburg College's Symposium Readings: Classical Selections on Great Issues.

At Lynchburg College he was named Distinguished Faculty Scholar of the Year. Later, in his honor, this award was renamed the James A. Huston Scholar of the Year Award. He was also a Nominee for Sears Award for Teaching Excellence and Faculty Leadership at the College. Lynchburg College named one of its newest dormitory buildings The Huston House. While at Purdue University he received the Best Teacher Award.

Additional honors included membership in Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Eta Sigma, Alpha Phi Omega, Omicron Delta Kappa, Phi Delta Pi, Phi Delta Kappa, and inclusion in Who's Who in America, Directory of International Biography, International Scholars Directory, and Directory of American Scholars.

In 2014 he was inducted into the Army's 35th Division Hall of Fame.

In October 2008 President Sarkozy of France awarded him the Chevalier de La Légion D'Honneur (Knight) with the ceremony of presentation at the Invalides in Paris in June, 2009. The following day, on Omaha Beach, June 6, he celebrated the anniversary of D-Day with President Obama, President Sarkozy. Prince Charles and Prime Minister Gordon Brown of Great Britain, and Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada.

In 1984 he received The Outstanding Civilian Service Medal from the Department of the Army. During World War II he was awarded the Bronze Star and Oakleaf Cluster.

Reserve duty included Headquarters Army Field Forces and Continental Army Command, Fort Monroe, Virginia; Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, Army General Staff, Washington, D.C.; Consultant, School of Systems and Logis-

tics, Air Force Institute of Technology, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio; Aerospace Studies Institute, Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, Logistician, U.S. Army Logistics Management Center, Fort Lee, Virginia; Colonel, USAR (Mobilization designation: Deputy Chief, Theaters Division), Office of Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, Washington, D.C. When he retired from the Army he had achieved the rank of Colonel.

He was a member of the American Historical Association, the London Institute of World Affairs, International Studies Association, International Institute for Strategic Studies (London), Organization of American Historians, American Military Institute, Southern Historical Association.

In Lynchburg, he was a member of the Rotary Club (two terms on Board of Directors, one as President), The SpheX Club (one term as President), and the Military Order of World Wars (one term as President), and Euclid Christian Church. He attended St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Forest.

While in Lafayette, Indiana, he was a

Frederick H. Parks

21, February 2017

Dear Col. Robert Bloomquist,

My Dad CSM Frederick H. Parks passed away on August 3, 2016. Birthday April 7, 1918. He was 98 years old.

Enclosed is a picture of him in his Army uniform at age 77 years old. He will be missed so much!

I have ordered 2 DVD's which can be mailed to Lynne Heckler, 3113 Flax St., El Paso, TX. 79925. Phone # 915-598-2585, c-phone 505-358-9549.

Sincerely,
Lynne Heckler (daughter)

Frederick H. Parks
Fred Parks, 98, passed away August 3rd, 2016.

Fred Parks, 98, was born in Eureka, Ks. on April 7, 1918.

As a child he attended a one room school house, then left to serve his country proudly in the United States Army.

He was a D-Day Invader in WWII, and a prisoner of war. He continued life in the military and served in the Korean & Vietnam War. He is a decorated soldier and hero.

He loved camping in Colorado, restoring old vehicles, dancing and enjoying family and life. His loving wife Louise Parks passed away in 2010.

He was buried at Fort Bliss National Cemetery with Military Funeral Honors.

member of the Rotary Club; Lafayette Geographic Society (President); Parlor Club of Lafayette (President); Federated Church of West Lafayette (Board of Trustees, two terms; Board of Elders (Chairman, Vice-President, and President of the Congregation). Board of Higher Education, Disciples of Christ Christian Church, and the Committee on the Ministry, Disciples of Christ Christian Church.

His travels included over 25 trips to Europe, as well as the Far East, including Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan, and Bermuda, Panama, and the Caribbean.

The family will receive friends on Tuesday, March 14 from six to eight o'clock at Diuguid Funeral Home on Wiggington Road. A memorial service will be held in Snidow Chapel, Lynchburg College, on Wednesday, March 15 at two o'clock. Ministers conducting the service will be the Rev. Bill Bumgarner and Chaplain Stephanie McLemore. Prior to the service a graveside burial with military honors for family and friends will be at the cemetery at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Forest with the Rev. Bill Bumgarner officiating.

Those wishing to make memorial contributions please consider Lynchburg College and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church.



Fred Parks in his Army uniform at age 77 .



June, July, August issue of the
Santa Fe Express

Deadline 3 July





35th Division Association
Format and Content Required for Hall of Fame Nomination
Effective for Nominations Submitted in 2017



The following information is required in the order shown.

Date: _____

Nominee: (Must have a service connection with the 35th Infantry division at any time from 1917 to date.)

Name: _____

Rank: _____ Military unit: _____

(Must be a unit of the 35th Infantry Division or a unit attached or assigned to the 35th Infantry Division.)

Address, if living: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Date of Death: _____

Date of Honorable Discharge: _____

Military Awards. (Check all that apply; attach copy of citation):

☐ Medal of Honor ☐ Silver Star Medal ☐ Purple Heart

☐ Distinguished Service Cross ☐ Legion of Merit

☐ Distinguished Service Medal ☐ Bronze Star Medal

Next of Kin, Family Member or Friend (if nominee is deceased):

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Personal History: Briefly explain nominee's family, siblings, education, place of birth _____

Enlistment, Training and Deployment: Briefly explain when the nominee joined the Army, where he trained and where he was deployed. _____

Why the Nominee Deserves to Be Selected to the Hall of Fame: Provide a written narrative describing how the nominee contributed significantly to the achievement, tradition or history of the 35th Infantry Division and/or the 35th Infantry Association. Describe how the nominee contributed to his community, state or nation. _____

Attach a listing of sources, such as combat histories, letters, documents and maps, which support the nominee's significant contribution.

Nominator: (Members of the 35th Division or others may nominate a Hall of Fame candidate.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Submit Nomination Packet: To be considered at the 2017 Annual Conference, nominations must be received by 1 August 2017. Mail nominating information, supporting documentation and a photo of the nominee to:

Ben Weber
Hall of Fame Committee
6510 Suson Oaks Drive
St. Louis, MO 63128

Nominations approved by the Committee in 2017 will be inducted into the Hall of Fame at the 2018 Annual Conference.

Questions: Contact Ben Weber at 314-849-4022 or bweber131@att.net

The Bridge at Flavigny, an Inferno

Flavigny Bride Battle.docx

(pretty much as published in The State Journal, Frankfort, Kentucky newspaper on Sept. 20, 1981)

Edward A. Farris, distilled spirits administrator for the Kentucky Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, was a 22 year-old sergeant in Gen. George Patton's Third Army as it raced across France in 1944.

On Sept. 10, 1969, the 25th anniversary of a battle in which Farris' infantry battalion was virtually destroyed after taking a bridge at Flavigny (France), Farris wrote an account of the battle and sent it to his commanding officer. Here is the account of that battle and the replies he received from two retired generals who had a part in the fighting.

Farris, an Adair County native, entered the Army in 1942 from the University of Kentucky, where he had been a member of the Enlisted Reserve Corps. He and 1,000 other recruits from UK, and the then-Eastern and Western state colleges were sent to Camp Walters, Texas for training. In 1944, Farris sailed to Scotland on the Queen Elizabeth and within a few weeks after D-Day, landed on Omaha Beach where he was assigned to the 134th Infantry Regiment near St. Lo.

Farris says he has never been able to determine the exact number of killed and wounded at the Flavigny Bridge. "The battalion was decimated and it took massive replacements before it could go back into combat," he says. An infantry battalion in World War II had 800 – 1,000 men.

Because the 35th Division was President Harris S. Truman's division in World War I, the secretary of the division association has asked Farris to provide his account of the battle at Flavigny Bridge to the Truman Library at Independence, Missouri.

Dear General Miltonberger:

I am a former member of Company G – 134th Inf. Reg. I joined the unit as a replacement in the Normandy hedgerow country in late July, 1944, and fought across France until a mortar knocked me out on a cold November day in our difficult and bloody fight to take that tough little French village, Anchain.

On September 10, 1944, our unit was moving across somewhat open and rolling countryside and, as I recall, we were occasionally hit with mortar fire, and long-range machine gun fire held us up several times during the day. We waded a small creek or two during the date and late in the afternoon we approached a high bluff overlooking the Moselle River.

A highway with bridge intact crossed the river at this point. I was standing near our company commander, Capt. John Creech, and heard his report to battalion and the various conversations that preceded the order to move across the bridge. A very spectacular artillery barrage was directed across the river, raking the bluffs and bottom land on the far side. It was late enough in the afternoon dusk and the

shadows of the bluff to make the barrage look like a real inferno.

We were sure nothing could survive at the far side of the river to impede our crossing the bridge. However, as it was so often the case, the Germans were still able to fight back. As the first platoon started across the bridge, after we had descended a rather high cliff, an enemy machine gun began to inflict casualties. Dead and wounded were on the bridge and the sparks from ricocheting bullets made this a ghostly place.

But, finally we got across and moved up the road on each side of the embankment for several hundred yards. In due time a loud explosion or two occurred back at the bridge and soon heavy artillery rounds began to hit in the bridge vicinity. Soon, ahead several hundred yards, we began to hear Germans talking and moving toward us. I judge it was near midnight, and we started to retreat toward the mouth of the bridge and behind the protection of the canal bank.

The Germans began talking loudly out in front of us. It seemed they were taking a roll call, though I knew no German and am only surmising. But they were out there in force and began to move toward us.

We opened fire, with each shot clearly visible in the pitch blackness. Soon, they had wounded screaming for help and the fire fight lessened. Then, they seemed to regroup and come at us again. They were repulsed for the second time. Soon we heard tanks and slowly they approached the bridge. Bright flares were being sent up and the tanks and – or artillery began to hit nearby, almost jarring us into the canal. We could not reach anyone via walkie-talkie, and with the tanks and German troops almost on top of us, I remember hearing Capt. Creech loudly shout, "Every man for himself." With this, I recall, Sgt. Hoover, who spoke German fluently, indicated to the nearby enemy that we were attempting to surrender.

Needless to say, total confusion existed. I was torn between risking capture and trying to escape. I probably would have attempted surrendering, but by bending down very low, I got a little protection from what I thought was the river bank. One of the flares went up again, and I noticed that it was a narrow canal in which I was partially standing. I immediately threw my rifle in, ripped my leggings off, took my field jacket off, threw my steel helmet away and with my helmet liner in hand jumped into the water and began to swim.

Men were trying to surrender, some were being hit by machine gun fire, some were jumping into the water and calling for help, others being fired upon while attempting to swim across. I made it by sheer luck and will power, by getting my chest on my helmet liner and using the buoyancy it offered. Just as I thought I was going to go under from total exhaustion, an overhanging tree limb came within reach and I struggled to the far bank. I ran

a short distance and fell into a clump of tall weeds and underbrush.

As I recall, we had been on K rations for days, and on that particular day we had a box of K rations for lunch and this was 14 hours or more later. Seldom out of contact with the enemy and his mortar fire, soaked from head to foot in the chill of a September night, capped off with one of the truly nightmarish experiences of the war, I think I spent the remainder of the night – guessing it to be two or three hours until dawn – in a state of shock and violent shivers.

The Moselle River was only a short distance and I knew I had to get across it to make my escape secure. Also, I knew I had to find the most favorable place to cross or I would not make it in my weakened condition. As I walked quietly, I heard low voices just around a slight bend in the river and immediately recognized that two Americans were in my same predicament. I made my presence known; we found a shallow rapids and succeeded in getting safely across.

Setting out on a course we believed to have been roughly in the direction from which we had come the day before, we walked until about noon and come upon an outfit that had heard about the disaster. They gave us hot food and put us in a jeep bound for CP (Command Post). When we arrived, you had the three of us come into your CP. As I recall, you were dug in a short distance in front of well camouflaged and dug-in artillery pieces. You asked for a report on just what happened, saw that we got dry clothes and that night, we were back with the remnants of our companies.

During those long weeks and months of combat, there were many close calls and weird and fantastic experiences, but none that equaled this in scope, numbers of men involved in a limited area and what seemed to be such total destruction in such a short time.

Col. Miltonberger, I admired your leadership and I can also say that you had a lot of brave and willing young men.

The foregoing is my personal recollection of what happened and what I did in surviving. It is as factual and free of any kind of exaggeration as I can make it. I would appreciate and be ever grateful for you comments, or resume, or a kind of wrap-up explanation of this event as seen from your vantage point. For instance, I never knew the battalion's losses. I have attended two 35th Division reunions but have never seen anyone who was taken prisoner that night and have often wondered how many of them survived the war.

Your comments will always be among my most highly-cherished memories.

Edward A. Farris

Dear Edward:

Your well-written letter and your almost total recall was one of the most interesting I have received over the years. I have had a great many men write me as to

their interesting combat experiences, but I am sure yours is one of the best.

Your details of the events leading up to and the resulting capture and loss of the bridge at Flavigny is excellent. You mention you would like to hear of some of the details preceding the action at the bridge. We had approached the Moselle River with battalions abreast with your 2nd in the center and the 1st on your left.

Your battalion CO was Lt. Col. (then Major) Frederick C. Roecker Jr., a young West Pointer – age 25 – and an excellent officer. He called me that afternoon as he sited the bridge and town from the high ground above the river. I told him to make his plan and I would call him as soon as I could check with CG 35th Division.

I quickly got the go-ahead and told Roecker to get going. You have described the events as seen by you at the bridge. The crossing itself was highly successful, but I was unable to get support to you in time to hold the bridge head our battalion had captured. Meanwhile, Col. Roecker was seriously wounded and the bridge was blown by the Germans and so, that was that.

I am well aware that the return of the officers and men back from the bridge head was every man for himself, and I was greatly concerned that anyone would make it back. When we assembled the remnants of the battalion the next day, there were a pitiful few who were left. It became necessary to withdraw the battalion and completely reconstitute it.

As further information, later I was called to General Patton's CP where the general gave the regiment high praise for the action – we had drawn the Germans into rushing all available help from along the river and that made it possible to cross the other regiments of the division with little opposition.

Incidentally, there is an official war department picture of the 2nd Battalion 134 crossing the Madon River on that same morning. It is published in the official history of the 134th Infantry Regiment as is also a full account of the action at the bridge at Flavigny.

Maj. Gen.

Butler B. Miltonberger (Ret.)

North Platte, Nebraska

Dear Ed:

General Miltonberger just sent me a copy of the letter you wrote on the Flavigny Bridge affair. I enjoyed reading it very much and it brought back memories of a bitter fight but also of a grand outfit – the 2nd Battalion, 134th Infantry.

I was the battalion commander that night until wounded and evacuated. Someday I may write my memories of that evening. I remember it well. I do know that the 2nd Battalion soldiers were the best. All we really needed that night were the reinforcements that were supposed to come but didn't.

Again, my sincere thanks for the privilege of reading your account of the battle. I am now retired, but like all old soldiers, enjoy thinking back!

Brig. Gen.

Frederick C. Roecker (Ret.)

Ventura, Calif.

Memories of my father--Edward A. Farris Co. G, 134th Infantry

Dear Sir,

I have been given your name and email address to send my father's obituary.

He had a long journey but I would like to think those whose path he crossed were left for the better.

Please see the attachments and feel free to use any, all, as much or as little as you so desire.

(I have no pride of authorship so any editing you deem necessary is fine with me).

Best regards,

Larry S. Farris



Edward Allen Farris - Dad--80th birthday

This was written to honor my father, Edward Allen Farris, on the occasion of his 80th birthday, December 19, 2000 in Frankfort, Kentucky. But more importantly, it was written so that his children and their children and even his great-grandchildren (though, at the moment, they are too young) can understand the significant events of his early adulthood. What he witnessed and what he survived in his tour of combat across France must always be remembered by his progeny.

On a subway in Moscow, I watched as an elderly man in a dark suit, very worn, no tie, entered our car. Immediately Natasha jumped up and offered her seat to the man. I knew what had happened even though I hadn't spied the "clue" yet...ahh...there it was, a small red colored ribbon (medal) pinned to his old suit coat lapel: he was a veteran of The Great Patriotic War. Such is the respect and gratitude of the young Russian generation.

Dad, please forgive me if my recollection is not 100% accurate but I want to piece together a few tidbits of information I've collected over the past 30+ years.

First of all, I think it's very important for your children and grandchildren to understand you, especially your early adulthood. For those of us who have (thankfully) never had to experience the absolute terror and petrifying horror of combat, I want to thank you for maintaining your humanity.

As some of us have experienced the deep sorrow and sense of loss at the death of a brother or sister, so too, did Dad. Fifty-six years ago, perhaps only three or four miles distant from his own fighting position, a bullet fired from a German rifle found its mark: in the neck/chest area of his 19 year old brother, Marvin. Dad, thank you for maintaining your humanity. I know at 23, it was hard to loose your brother.

Thank you for not cutting off the fingers of dead German soldiers to collect their gold rings – like the boy from Ohio. Thank you for maintaining your humanity.

We also offer much thanks to "Sheep Dip" for shooting and killing that young Nazi soldier a few feet from you in the forest and keeping you alive. Again, thanks for maintaining your humanity.

We can barely imagine the fear and confusion of being shot at. The normal "ordered" world ceases to exist when your company commander suddenly realizes your position is surrounded and being over run by an enemy that's trying to kill you, and he yells, "every man for himself."

Dad, please know that all your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren are truly thankful that those machine gun bullets striking all around you in the Moselle River, did not find their mark. Thank you for your humanity.

And last, while you may not believe in "miracles", some of us do. I choose to believe the day of your advance in eastern France, where it was bitterly cold with two or three inches of snow on the ground, it was yet another miracle that the mortar round which killed the American soldier five feet in front of you and knocked you unconscious...how was it possible that you laid in the snow for several hours until the medics found you, that you did not go into shock and die from this severe exposure? I choose to think this was a miracle and not just because you were destined to have a son (me) ten years later!

I hope your children and grandchildren know you a little better now.

Dad, with all you've experienced in your life: thanks for maintaining your humanity.

Just a short postscript to answer a couple of your questions; "Sheep Dip" was Mr. Charlie Linville of Johnson City, TN. On the occasion cited above, Dad's M-1 rifle was fitted with a grenade launcher (which made the actual rifle incapable of firing bullets). Since they were walking through a forest, where obviously it wouldn't be very wise to launch grenades, Dad was soon "highly motivated" to remove the grenade launcher after the German infantryman charged Dad and was just a second or two from shooting him. Thankfully, 'Sheep Dip' shot first.

Larry S. Farris

Dec. 18, 2000

After a German mortar shell knocked my father out of action on 14 November 1944 in eastern France and his evacuation by a 35th Division medic to a French barn, where he was attended by a captured German doctor, my father eventually made his way back to England to recover. Time pasted, the war ended, he returned to Kentucky to finish his schooling at UK (on the GI Bill as my Dad fondly recalls), married a good looking gal from southern Kentucky and they moved to Washington D.C. so he could "work on his Masters" in Political Science. The memories and attendant horror of combat began to fade and be replaced by those experiences that make life worth living. New wife, baby on the way: life was looking up! And then there was the day at Union Station in Washington D.C.....

In eastern France, the Americans lay in a slight depression along one side of the rather large, open field facing German gunners in a forested tree line along the other side of the field, perhaps three hundred yards away. Dad was an infantry sergeant in Patton's Third Army, 35th Division, 134th Regiment, Company G and guessing at the date, this experience must have happened sometime around mid-September 1944. As the American infantry unit temporarily held up, it got to be later in the afternoon when a white flag was first spotted in the distant tree line. Dad was lying prone (as were all the guys, keeping an eye on the tree line) on the slope leading up to the field. He was with the company commander and the radioman. The company commander gave the order to not fire at the barer of the white flag. With the greatest caution the German soldier baring the white flag slowly exposed himself; once he came to understand the Americans were not going to fire on him, he made rapid progress across the open field, towards my Dad's position. My Dad described this young man as having blonde hair and blue eyes and no more than seventeen years old. This boy spoke some broken English to the company commander and showed the captain some American dog tags. He got his message across that they (the Germans) had a badly wounded American soldier and they had no doctor or medic to attend him. He was asking for the Americans to send over a medic to help this soldier. The CO called their medic up to join him, my dad and the radioman. After much discussion, it was finally decided the Germans probably needed a medic themselves and they had just pulled the dog tags off a dead American. Of course this young blonde German boy swore up and down that was not the case. Dad said at that time, the CO tried his damnest to talk this boy into surrendering and not going back across the

field. This boy would have none of it – he just knew the Fuhrer was about to save Germany with his "wonder weapons." So the boy returned. The Americans stayed in place that night and by the morning, the Germans had retreated east out of the forest, not to be seen.

The facts are such that there actually was a severely wounded American soldier and the young, blonde German soldier turned out to be a very compassionate individual who was given permission by his commander, to continue his untrained nursing of the American. The badly wounded American did survive, due in no small part to efforts expended by the young German. How do we know all this?

It's known because of one of those incredibly, weird, miraculous flukes that seem to happen in life (and perhaps, most especially with combat situations). You see, quite some time later (in fact, about a year and a half later), that wounded American soldier found himself waiting on a bench in Union Station when he was approached by some civilian guy who happened to have noticed the 35th Division patch on his shoulder. That civilian guy was my dad. He noticed the shoulder patch and went over to just make some small talk with this fellow and mentioned he was in the 35th Division also. The fellow began to explain to my Dad, why he was still in uniform so many months after the war had ended. Turns out, he had spent a long time in the hospital recuperating after having been severely wounded. Well... you guessed it. ...one thing lead to another, and pretty soon those two combat veterans had that field in France narrowed down, roughly the date narrowed down and the clincher for both was their recollection of that young, blonde German boy. My Dad told him, he had seen his dog tags before and told him, his version of the story involving the young German soldier. The wounded American soldier (I never knew his name), related his version of the story to my father. He told my Dad, that boy did come back across the lines and the Germans evacuated the forest area later that night. The young German boy had asked his commander if he could continue to look after the American and the German CO had given his permission. He took care of the wounded American for the next three or four days until he was turned over to a German doctor and hospital. He was later handed over to an American hospital and then to one in Washington D.C. He told my Dad, that young German boy had saved his life.

Larry S. Farris, May 2014

Finally took the time to write this story down; one of a few WWII stories Dad has related over the years.



**(Make Checks Payable to 35th Div Assn and Mail to
35th Division Association, P O Box 5004, Topeka, KS 66605)**

Veteran receives Bronze Star 60 years after combat

Concord resident presented with honor for meritorious service in World War II
By Amy Chen, staff writer

At night, 79-year-old World War II veteran Martin Duehring is 18 again.

He dreams he wields a .30-caliber machine gun as German soldiers race toward him.

"All at once, you run out of ammunition and they're coming at you with bayonets," Duehring said. "I wake up just before they stab me."

Sixty years after fighting on the front lines during World War II, Duehring has been recognized with a Bronze Star.

The medal ends decades of anonymity for Duehring, a modest man who never told his parents or three sisters that he fought in combat areas.

"I didn't want them to worry," he said. "When I did write, I told them everything was fine."

In truth, the five months he spent in the 320th regiment of the 35th Infantry Division tested both his strength and his faith.

"I prayed continuously and I think that's what saved me," Duehring said. "I just prayed the 23rd Psalm, 'The Lord is my shepherd,' over and over again. There was no heathen in the foxhole. We all prayed but not everyone made it."

Duehring said he grew up in rural Wisconsin, where his father sold tractors and other farm machinery. He expected to take over the family business but was drafted on his 18th birthday.

After graduating from high school, he spent four months in Texas for infantry training. Then in November 1944, Duehring was deployed overseas and assigned to a machine-gun squad.

"I was told the average life span of a machine gunner on the front lines was 1.5 minutes. Isn't that a hell of a thing to say?" Duehring said, shaking his head at the memory. "I was 18. It scared the daylights out of me ... I never forgot that."

Duehring, who grew up speaking German at home, also had to reconcile his guilt.

His grandparents had immigrated to the United States from Germany in the 1880s.

"That's what made it hard to kill your own people," Duehring said. "I said to the sergeant, 'I can't do this.' He said, 'Kill or be killed.' That was the answer."

Duehring's division traveled through France, Belgium and Holland and ended up in Germany, 40 miles from Berlin.

During the war, he fought in three major battles, including the Battle of the Bulge, where bombs fell from the sky "like turkeys in the shooting gallery."

He also endured subzero temperatures, trudging through 2 feet of snow. He learned to huddle with other soldiers to

keep warm, and his rations, which included hard biscuits, a can of Spam and four cigarettes, were meant to last a few days at a time.

Decades later, even the dimness of movie theaters reminds Duehring of nights spent in the woods, cupping his hands around a cigarette to hide its glowing tip.

"I don't like being in the dark now," Duehring said. "I was in the dark on the front lines."

Hollywood versions of World War II skirmishes also make Duehring squeamish.

He sat through "Saving Private Ryan" but turned off the HBO miniseries "Band of Brothers."

"Too gory," he said. "It just brought back too many memories. I couldn't take it."

After the war, Duehring finished his two-year military service at Fort Campbell, Ky.

He then returned to Wisconsin to work for his father, married in 1948 and had two children. After divorcing 10 years later, Duehring remarried in 1960 and moved to Concord, where he raised three more children.

Duehring then began a 26-year career with the U.S. Postal Service as a mail carrier, retiring in 1987.

Although he joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars, 35th Infantry and Combat infantrymen's associations, Duehring rarely mentioned the war.

"He kept it locked up inside him," said Shirley, his wife of 45 years.

By his 40s, Duehring had lost most of his hearing. He also developed stomach pains, which he later learned are related to post-traumatic stress. Then the nightmares surfaced.

"I had them right after I got out of service for a month or so," Duehring said of his dreams. "When I got married, they went away."

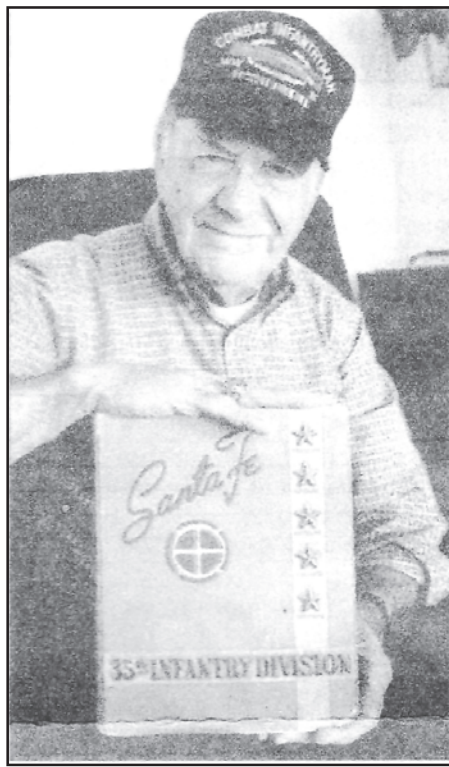
"But when the kids were grown up and I had time on my hands, it started all over again."

About three years ago, he joined the Concord Veterans Center, where he attends group counseling sessions twice a month.

"They tell you to bring it out and get it out of your system, but you never fully get it out," Duehring said. "It's always with you."

Doctor-prescribed sleeping pills now help keep the bad dreams at bay. He also has begun writing down his wartime experience for his 11 grandchildren and great-granddaughter.

Duehring has not visited Germany since the war, a fact his family hopes to change.



Martin Duehring 1: Martin Duehring spent five months with the 320th regiment of the 35th Infantry Division.

"I want him to be able to see that what he did over there with all the other World War II veterans did make a difference," said Duehring's oldest son, David, who presented his father with the Bronze Star during a March 24 ceremony at the veterans center.

The medal, though awarded 60 years late, is tangible affirmation that "he was there, that he served with distinction and honor," said David Duehring, 55 a lieutenant colonel in the Maine Army National Guard.

The Bronze Star now hangs in a mahogany case, next to family photos on the living room wall.

Duehring also keeps a photo of his squad in his bedroom. In the faded photograph, his 19-year-old self smiles back at him.

"I feel lucky to be here," Duehring said. "I thank the good Lord for that every night."

(Note from Mrs. Duehring: My husband is laid up with cancer surgery and will have to have more.)



Martin Duehring 2: In a photograph from 1945, Martin Duehring, bottom right, is shown with members of his heavy-duty machine-gun squad.

