



Santa Fe Express

"DIVISIONNAIRE"



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35th INFANTRY DIVISION

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NUMBER FOUR



Maj. Gen. Victor Braden, 35th Infantry Division commander, visits with Kuwaiti Land Forces leadership prior to Operation Spartan Thunder at the Kuwaiti Land Forces Artillery Brigade Headquarters Aug. 14. Operation Spartan Thunder is a bi-lateral military-to-military training exercise aimed at expanding joint capabilities and strengthening interoperability."

US, Kuwait boom with Operation Spartan Thunder

08.31.2017

Staff Sgt. Jeremy Miller
35th Infantry Division

CAMPARIFJAN, Kuwait – U.S. and Kuwaiti Land Forces recently concluded Operation Spartan Thunder, a bi-lateral military-to-military training exercise aimed at expanding joint capabilities and strengthening interoperability, Aug. 14, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

Soldiers assigned to the 169th Field Artillery Battery and Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery Regiment, worked with their KLF counterparts to test the processes of their individual fire missions. Working with the U.S. Hi-Mobility Artillery Rocket System and the Soviet Heavy Multiple Rocket Launcher systems, U.S. Forces successfully communicated targets to the KLF for fire missions, while the KLF successfully passed targets back to the U.S. to process.

"To my knowledge this is the first time a bi-lateral training exercise like this has taken place between the U.S. and KLF with these systems," said Maj. John Sweet, the 169th Field Artillery Kuwait team lead.

"We were able to successfully send target information from our field artillery headquarters to a joint fires coordination cell," said Capt. Michael Sprigg, 130th HIMARS Field Artillery commander. "From there it was transmitted to the KLF artillery liaisons officers, then to their firing units and finally to their 9A52 SMERCH rocket launchers. We conducted numerous 'dry fire' missions in order to exercise and perfect the process."

Through hands-on learning, Spartan Thunder helped U.S. and KLF artillery as-

sets by establishing tactics, techniques and procedures for processing, clearing and executing field artillery fires in a joint environment. While the 130th FA focused on target acquisition and coordinating calls for fire, the 169th FA Bde., practiced facilitating airspace clearance for KLF artillery – an essential task for any coalition bi-lateral fires team.

"The biggest take away for my unit during this operation was communication," said Sweet. "Commanders, fires cell LNOs, master gunners and launcher crews all had the ability to work beside their respective counterpart and communicate and establish their individual processes."

"In addition to the technical processes and the information-sharing formats that we refined during Spartan Thunder, we were able to build partnerships with our KLF artillery counterparts," said Sprigg. "It's one thing to conduct meetings and seminars with each other; it's quite a different thing to go out to the field together and integrate our processes in real-time."

Operation Spartan Thunder not only continued the relationship of U.S. and KLF forces but also took the knowledge, training ability and expectations to a whole new level.

"We accomplished all of our training objectives, even the most ambitious ones," said Sprigg. "The exercise really exceeded our expectations."

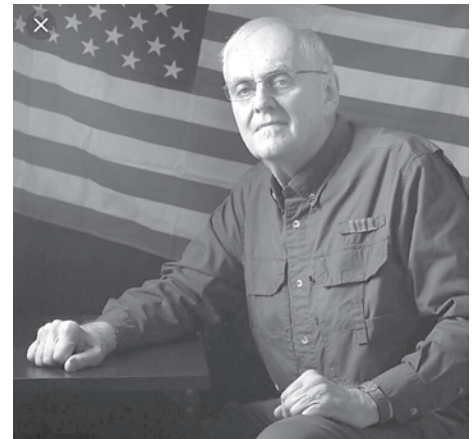
"During our combined after action review the question was asked from both U.S. and KLF when we would have the ability to conduct a live fire training exercise together," said Sweet. "This enthusiasm really shows the accomplishment we had here."

President's Message

I am humbled to be the new president for our 35th Division Association. Before I can address the Program Year 2018, I have to marvel at the success of our 100th Anniversary Reunion at the Sheraton-Crown Center, KCMO, September 7 through 10, 2017. Many thanks to our past president BG (Ret) Robert Windham for his stellar leadership and guidance through the Association's Program Years 2016 and 2017. He brought us to the 100th Anniversary mark of the United States' entry into World War I and the formation of the 35th Infantry Division. President Windham then led us through our 100th Annual Reunion of the 35th Infantry Division Association, a most notable celebration. Thank you General Windham.

I heartily thank COL (Ret) Bob Bloomquist and his wife, Betty for the arduous work in preparing for the Reunion and then providing the operations and coordination required for the success that it was. Thank you Bob and Betty. And out thanks to Ben Weber for his outstanding service as chairman of our 35th Division Association's Hall of Fame 2017. His dedication to the history and honored soldiers of the 35th ID made this the premier event of our Reunion. Ben is a Life Member of our Association and the nephew of General Edmund Sebree, WWII, Hall of Fame, Class of 2010. And then there was our American Flag held high by the Color Guard of G Company 137th Infantry, Reenactment Society. Dave Hruska and his reenactors provided the 100th Anniversary WWI "Doughboy" Color Guard for the Memorial Service and Reunion Banquet. Our hallowed Flag was in proud hands during this Step-Back-in-Time Color Guard. The G Company reenactors also provided a great display of military uniforms and historic weapons. Thank you G Company, 137th Infantry Reenactment Society.

Now for a special thanks to our WWII heroes. The greatest generation of the 20th Century was proudly represented at our reunion by Angelo Demos, E Company, 137th Infantry and Jim Graff, C Company, 134th Infantry. Both WWII veterans are members of the 35th Division Hall of Fame. And we honor Angelo's wife, Chrissie; and Jim's wife, Alice. Very special ladies who were accompanied by three



Col Bob Dalton

generations of their families. We of the Association salute all of you.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 35th Infantry Division based at Ft. Leavenworth is now deployed to the Middle East. We wish them God Speed and a safe return. They are committed so that we may remain free and safe at home. God bless them. When the 35th Division returns, our Association is wanting to coordinate our next year's reunion with the Division Dining Out in the fall of 2018. Then the Association will coordinate with Division staff as to possibilities of a joint event. By November we should be able to announce the dates and location of our 2018 Association Reunion. For planning purposes we will also be considering alternative sites.

At both the executive board meeting and the general meeting, we discussed our need to reach-out to those soldiers presently serving in the 35th Division. We need them to carry forward the proud lineage and histories of the 35th Division and the 35th Division Association. How do the active soldiers communicate in today's world? Face-Book, E-mail, texting! I was made aware (like a tap of a two-by-four between my eyes) this generation of soldiers doesn't read newspapers! Shows me how just old-fashioned I have become. A handshake among the generations is required. We will reach out. More information in the next edition of the Divisionnaire.

I look forward to 2018!

Col (Ret) Bob Dalton, 69th Separate Infantry Brigade. Tested, Proven, Proud

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Please consider sponsoring the next edition.

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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

Minutes of 35th DIV Association Executive Committee, Nominating Committee and Annual Meeting conducted on 8 and 9 Sep 2017

1st Submission in October 2017 Edition or Santa Fe for review and comment.

I've consolidated the outcome of the actions taken at the Executive Committee, Nominating Committee and Annual Meeting by subject area. This seems prudent given the issues discussed by Executive Council Members were presented and discussed at the Annual Meeting for approval.

Review & Approval of the 99th Minutes from Kansas City, MO written by COL (Ret) Robert Bloomquist were published in the Santa Fe Express following the 2016 reunion. It was moved and approved to accept those minutes as written.

Treasurer's Report: Presented by COL (Ret) Bob Bloomquist, Treasurer. The financial health of the organization allows for continued business as usual provided those generous donors currently supporting the organization continue to do so. The treasurer reported that the operating account is \$37, 260. The treasurer has continued to capture all donations for publication in the Santa Fe and continues to offer categories as an option for members.

1. Donation for 35th Div Assn Operating Expenses
2. Sponsor Edition of "The Santa Fe Express" - \$1000.00
3. Hall of Fame Sponsor - \$100 & up
4. 35th Div Conference Sponsor - \$100 or more
5. Donation in recognition of a loved one.
6. Donation specified for the 35th Museum Operating Expense to offset the amount of money we draw from our Museum Investment Account to pay for our share of operating the museum.

REUNION NOTE

"From the Editor: Due to the large quantity of deployment stories and shortage of stories received about the conference at the time of print, we will capture more conference pictures and any stories received in the next edition."

Executive Committee

MG M Wayne Pierson, BG (Ret) Ed Gerhardt, CSM (RET) Dale Putman, CSM (RET) Viviano Reveles, Roberta Russo, Ben Weber, Margaret Fenstermacher, CSM Tim Newton, Paula Evans Baker, Kathryn Frantz, Victoria Frisenda, Lloyd Frey, James Graff, Holli Harwell, Patricia Faulkner Harwell, Marilyn Bowers Jensen, COL (RET) Mike Lind, CSM (RET) William Luse, Judy Bradford, CW4 (RET) Carl Bush, Pat Cook, MG (Ret) John E. Davoren,, Curtis Cook, Mike Ven, Marilyn Smith, COL Chris Mickan, COL Dirk Christian, 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.

sponsible.

KSARNG/35th Division Museum Report:

As of 3 Sep 2017, the Museum Trust has \$96,230.96. The account is spread generally into two low risk income producing mutual funds with USAA. We have a category of donations now to donate specifically to the trust which several have. MG Strukel donated \$6500 and a few other donations to the trust of close to \$200. COL Bob Dalton reported that the 35th Association Financial Committee approved to continue the \$5,000 annual support to the Kansas National Guard and 35th Division Museum. There was discussion on keeping this fund separate from the Operating Fund. Maintaining MG (Ret) Strukel as chair to maintain his oversight and guidance was approved. There were comments in reference to the dedication and driving force of MG(Ret) Strukel and the desire to leave his name as the head of the Committee. COL Calvin Warrem, COL Robert Dalton and COL Bloomquist were tasked with oversight of the fund and researching a legal way to ensure the account is kept separately from the Operations Fund.

A verbal report discussed the continuation of educational events at the museum and comments were made about the excellent newsletter that BG (Ret) Gerhardt, (President, Museum Board) publishes. If you do not receive this museum newsletter that includes events, new

exhibits, etc, consider joining the museum (Application is in each Divisionnaire) It was also noted that the 35th Association has great representation on the Museum Board of Directors: These are BG Gerhardt, CW4 Bush, COL Bloomquist, COL Warrem and COL Dalton.

Outreach Committee Report (formerly publications committee): Murray Leff, Chairman was absent from the conference, however the following issues were introduced and discussed. We currently have approx. 500 members receiving the DIVISIONNAIRE newspaper which is our largest expense. In addition, complimentary papers are sent to several units that are assigned to the 35th Division in Kansas and Missouri. It was discussed and decided we would continue with 4 issues per year of the Divisionnaire. The cost ranges from \$1200-\$1400 depending on size, time of article preparation, and number/location of recipients. For example, extra copies for 35th units deployed in Kuwait and Jordan to help with membership will increase the cost.

International Committee Report: Marilyn Jensen/Paula Baker discussed all the amazing projects our 35th Supporter overseas have done. These are captured in each edition of the Divisionnaire. They mailed "Save the Date" postcards to our European friends informing

See "Minutes" on page 13

Next Edition

Please watch for the next edition approximately 25 January 2018. 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. We would like comments or articles about the conference. Please include a JPG photo with your comments.

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.

Deadline for the Next Issue

of the

Santa Fe Express

is 6 January, 2018

Please send your favorite reunion stories and pictures to share.

35th Division AssocHall of Fame Committee Meeting Minutes, Sept. 7, 2017

Chairman Ben Weber opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. Members present were:

RepresentingMember
320th Inf. Regt. Victoria Frisenda
69th Inf. Bde. Col. Bob Dalton (Ret)
35th Inf. Div. BG Bob Windham (Ret)
Orphans, Widows,
Families Marilyn Jensen
35th Division
Soldier Col. Chris Mickan
At Large Roberta Russo
At Large Pat Cook
At Large Ben Weber

Also present was association member Curtis Cook who was appointed election official to tabulate the votes of committee members.

The chairman presented a schedule of previous Hall of Fame nominees and their status. In accordance with Hall of Fame rules, one nominee was withdrawn from consideration due to not being selected after five consecutive years. This nominee can be resubmitted after three years. There were six nominees within the past five years who are eligible for selection at this committee meeting. In addition, there were three new nominations submitted for consideration this year, resulting in a total of nine eligible candidates.

The chairman reviewed the criteria for selection to the Hall of Fame and the selection process, as outlined in the Rules. Each committee member will vote for three candidates. To be selected, a candidate must receive a majority of five votes from committee members present, with re-voting until that occurs. Eligible nominees this



year were the following:
Pfc. Lewis Barondeau
Pfc. Arthur Germano
Capt. Joseph Giacobello
Staff Sgt. Frank Holmes
Maj. Gen. Lloyd Krase
Platoon Sgt. Noel Long
Staff Sgt. Ralph Shear
Maj. Ernest Slusher
Tech Sgt./Maj. Norvin Vogel
Committee members then reviewed the credentials of each nominee. When the voting was concluded, the following candidates were selected for induction into the 35th Division Hall of Fame:
Pfc. Arthur Germano
Capt. Joseph Giacobello
Maj. Ernest Slusher
The names will be announced at the conference banquet on September 9, 2017. These soldiers will be formally inducted into the Hall of Fame at the 2018 Conference of the 35th Division Association.
The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Ben Weber, Chairman
September 13, 2017

35th Hall of Fame Committee Names 2018 Inductees

By Ben Weber

At the 100th Annual Conference of the 35th Division Association, the Hall of Fame Committee selected three distinguished soldiers for induction into the 35th Division Hall of Fame. These individuals will be inducted at a special ceremony to be held during the Association's 101st Annual Conference in the fall of 2018.

Pfc. Arthur Germano 1925 - 2016

Pfc. Germano was from New York and served in Company C, 320th Infantry Regiment. He was 19 years old when he landed on Omaha Beach in July, 1944. He was a veteran of the Normandy, Northern France and Rhineland Campaigns and he engaged in the bloody, hard-fought battles of St. Lo, Mortain, Nancy and the Gremercy Forest. His battalion received Distinguished Unit Citations for its dramatic rescue of the 2nd Battalion, 30th Infantry Division caught in a desperate fight against German tanks and SS infantry. For five months, Pfc. Germano suffered the extreme hardship of combat against a fierce enemy until he could no longer walk due to a serious case of trench foot that hospitalized him four months near the end of the war. Pfc. Germano was awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge and Bronze Star Medal.

Capt. Joseph S. Giacobello 1919-

Capt. Joseph Giacobello from Mount Union, PA entered combat in July 1944 as a 2nd lieutenant in Company F, 137th Infantry during the battle of St. Lo. He was awarded the Silver Star for leading a patrol against heavy enemy fire while wounded. In September, in the face of enemy fire, he led an assault on a Moselle River dam and infiltrated enemy positions to obtain information allowing his battalion to secure the bridgehead. He was awarded his second Silver Star. After his company commander was wounded, he took command of his company and led an attack on the village of Hellimer. During this encounter, he was wounded, receiving his second Purple Heart. In December, he earned the Distinguished Service Cross when he and two enlisted soldiers assaulted an enemy-held factory and for three hours, fought a superior enemy force. During the battle, Capt. Giacobello killed two enemy soldiers in hand-to-hand combat.

Major Ernest W. Slusher 1875-1957

Maj. Ernest Slusher was a physician in Kansas City, MO when he entered World War I as Regimental Surgeon, 140th Infantry, 35th Infantry Division. He served in the Vosges Mountains of eastern France and battles in the St. Mihiel, Argonne and Verdun Sectors. Working with his regiment north of Baulny during action of September 26-October 1, 1918, he was severely gassed. He continued at his work until he collapsed and was carried to a dressing station for treatment. Without authority, he went back to his regiment where he worked all night and into the next day caring for the wounded until he collapsed a second time. He waited until he had partially recovered and then returned to duty in the field. Throughout his ordeal, he continually exposed himself to enemy fire. For his extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty, Maj. Slusher was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.



International Liaison Committee Column

September 20, 2017

Separate special events bookended the weekend preceding the ceremony for the Liberation of Nancy, France, 73 years ago. Placement of wreaths and military honors took place at Laxou, west of Nancy, on Sept. 16th. That was one day later than the liberation by Task Force Sebree.

Headlining the long weekend of September 9-11 was the dedication of a new library at the museum of "L'Espace de Memoire Lorraine 1939-45," Vezelize. The Association inherited the personal collection of Jean-Louis Etienne, considered the leading historian of World War II in Lorraine. The bequest was followed by a hectic six months of fundraising to purchase a portable building to house the library, installation of a concrete floor for the library and many hours of volunteer work to prepare the library for inauguration Sept. 9.

More than 150 persons, including government officials and the family of Jean-Louis Etienne, attended the ceremony. Since that time, numerous other books and other documents have been added to the collection in response to the publicity about the library.

September 11, 2017, marked the 20th anniversary of the inauguration of the large 35th Division memorial outside the bridge at Flavigny on the Moselle. Despite the pouring rain, a large group of flag-bearers and supporters of the "duty to remember" turned out to honor the men of the 134 Regiment and Combat Engineers who died at the bridge. The event was particularly poignant this year, following the recent death of Roland Prieur, retired superintendent of Epinal Cemetery. Prieur was an active member of the association of l'Espace de Memoire from its very beginning. He was bilingual and held both French and American passports. A more complete obituary will follow in the next issue of the Santa Fe Express.

In mid-July, the museum welcomed the daughter and grand-daughter of Cleon A (Art) Helmer, HQ-320. Anna Marie Malta, Art's daughter, and her daughter, Alexandra, were following Helmer's footsteps through eastern France. Helmer was a technician 4th grade.

When he mustered out in October, 1945, he had earned both silver and bronze stars.

The museum of l'Espace de Memoire was recommended to the Helmer family by Francois Prunin, president of "35 Division Memory." On his website, "35infantrydivision-memory.com" one may view many photos of Helmer, including him and his friends on bivouac in Gremecy Forest in October, 1944.

On July 4, the museum association welcomed 17 young American students who were participating in the "International Center of Exchange" at Richardmenil. This was the second year for the organization to bring students to visit the museum. They stay with families in the region. As a surprise treat, the students ended their day with a viewing of the Tour de France as it passed by nearby Laloueuf.

A welcome surprise to the museum crew of volunteers this summer was the addition of Thibaut Beluch. He was assigned to the museum in the spring as an intern for his history degree at the University of Lorraine. He installed the showcases for the Great War of 1914-18. He stayed on to lend a hand where needed, from welcoming visitors to readying the library for inauguration day.

The museum closed for the winter on Oct. 7. It will reopen in April 2018.

Patrick and Martine Beck of Luxembourg recently accompanied Mollie Taylor and her husband, Henry, to the American Military Cemetery at Hamm, Luxembourg. She is the niece of Lt. James Copeland, Company C, 134th Infantry Regiment. She was there to pay her respects to her fallen hero uncle who was Killed in Action on January 4, 1945. For more of the story see Patrick Beck's article elsewhere in this issue of the SFE

Richard van Kessel from The Netherlands has a new baby boy, named Dean. He joins mother, Linda, and big brother Liam. There were lots of "aahhs" at the Reunion at we looked at beautiful Dean on Facebook.

We received many, many notes from our international friends offering their congratulations to the Division on its 100th anniversary. All are

actively involved in remembering the 35th Division during World War I and II and regret that they were not able to attend the 100th anniversary reunion. Claude Rozet and Francois Bernard were guests at the American Embassy in Paris on June 29, to remember the 241st Independence Day of the United States. We were disappointed that Guy Reichert from Hellimer had to cancel his plans to attend the reunion at the last minute. See you next year, Guy. All of our friends send their thoughts and prayers for the safety of our 35th Division service members who are now on active duty.

We thank our European friends for their notes of congratulations and for their support of the 35th Division Association. It was a great Reunion, and we wish they could have joined us.

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



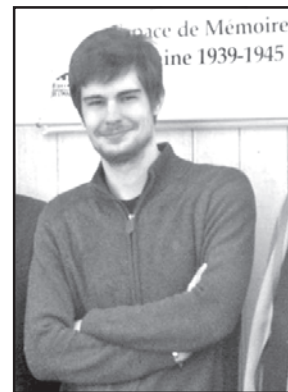
Memorial at 35th Division monument outside the Bridge over Moselle



Family members of Jean-Louis Etienne who donated his World War II book collection to Museum



Daughter and Granddaughter of Art Helmer visit Museum



Thibaut Beluch intern at the Museum

Niece visits her uncle's grave for the first time

Submitted by Patrick Beck, Luxembourg correspondent



Mollie visits the memorial plaque in St. Lo, France

This June Jim Copeland asked me if I could meet his cousin Mollie Taylor and her husband, Henry, who had plans to travel to Luxembourg. She is the niece of Lt. James Copeland (C-134-35) who was Killed in Action on January 4, 1945. This was her visit to the grave of her uncle.

Martine and I got in touch with Mollie Taylor and finally met her and her husband, Henry, on a sunny morning in July at the gates of the cemetery at Hamm.

It was very emotional for Mollie to visit her uncle's grave 2nd Lt James Copeland for the first time. Mollie told us about her uncle James and his son Jim, whom I had met on many occasions.

After the visit to the cemetery, we decided to travel towards Bastogne, to walk in the footsteps of her uncle. After an hour's drive on the same highway once taken by the 35th Division on its race towards Bastogne, we followed the narrow roads through dense forest and this time in the tracks of the 137th Inf.

Tuntange, Surré, past Villers-la-bonne-Eau and finally we reached Lutrebois in the sector of the 134th Inf.

From a height, outside of Lutrebois, with the help of a map, I gave some explanations about the battle of Bastogne in general and about the 35th's part.

Finally, we focused on the 134th and the fatal attack of Jan.4 1945, during which Co. C while overrunning its objective suffered severe casualties and 2nd Lt James Copeland was killed in action.

Next stop was hill 540 and its remaining trenches and foxholes within the woods of Lutrebois.

These woods being so peaceful nowadays, especially on a sunny and warm afternoon, it was hard to figure out what it must have been like during the bitter cold and snowy winter day of Jan.45 with a fierce battle raging all around.

We paid tribute to all the fallen heroes and visited the 35th Division's Memorial at Lutremange and the Mardasson Memorial at Bastogne.

Time got short and thus we made our farewells after sharing a good cold Belgian beer with our new friends at some local bar in the center of Bastogne.



Mollie and Henry Taylor visit the grave of Lt. James Copeland C-134-35 In Luxembourg Cemetery

Contemplating the loss of the last GI from World War II

by Dr. Lawrence Hergott

Adolph Lesser, 84, is one of the dwindling number of World War II veterans.

Upon entering his room for the first time, it was the patient's large chest scar that caught my eye. As he, elderly and stout, sat partially robed in St. Joseph Hospital Coronary Care Unit bed 403, the coarse lesion on his pale skin dominated his appearance. His was a thick and disfiguring scar, post-traumatic, and implied chance and urgency; yet, considering its location and his longevity, reflective of some luck in the end.

"Where did you get that?" I asked gently. "Two Jima," the patient flatly replied, expert at ending such discussion. After another gaze at the scar, I countered, "You know, we must never forget what you guys did for us." As a withdrawn stare suddenly overtook the patient's face, a barely perceptible mist came to his eyes. Just as rapidly, a profound sense of humility came to me, aware then of being in the presence of valor.

I still have no idea why a cardiology consultation took such a turn - or where my sudden expression of gratitude to the veteran came from. I am not a World War II devotee, had not been thinking about the GIs who fought in that war or the families who



supported them, and the encounter with the patient preceded the recent books and movies about them by at least a year. The surprise my comment elicited in me, and the response it generated in him, did result in much further thought about the GIs. Is sense some unfinished business with them - for me personally and our society as a whole.

With WW II veterans dying at a rate of 30,000 per month, time is running out on even the last GI. Having entered the world early in the course of one century, he now quietly prepares to withdraw with the dawn of the next. Swept into his young life's perilous challenge with a body that was strong and sustaining, he now likely deals with its

natural degeneration in mobility, endurance, cognition, sight - fortunate if he is not as alone as he was in the most hazardous moments of his initial great challenge. Efforts then spent defending the liberty of the masses, he now deals with the loss of some personal freedoms that disease and degeneration bring. Who is the last GI, and what does he mean to us?

Then I met the patient with the chest scar. I have interviewed dozens of GI patients and friends in Colorado since, with each interaction reinforcing the idea that what they did long ago has had an ongoing yet previously underappreciated effect on the entire course of my life. And, that I am in their debt - though that was never suggested by them.

Remarkably vivid memories and feelings remain in them for their wartime experience. Also striking is the contrast between how much that period continues to dominate their thoughts and how little it means to most of the rest of us. During a conversation following his office visit recently, one 78-year-old pulled from his wallet a bright red card with an imprint of the rising sun dated Sept. 2, 1945, signifying that he was on board the US Missouri for the signing of the official Japanese surrender. He had carried the card on his person every day for more than half a century. "My kids don't care anything about this stuff," he said. "When I die this will be thrown away."

A Normandy veteran suffering from a recent stroke - who also fought in the Battle

of the Bulge, liberated concentration camps, and made it to the Elbe River - was visited in his home in Greeley. One of his most prized WW II artifacts - among several dropped onto his kitchen table - was a pocket-sized copy of the New Testament with a tin front cover. Given to him in December 1941 by his wife of three weeks, he carried it in his left shirt pocket for the duration of his marches and battles, "To protect my heart from a shell," he related, literally and metaphorically.

Sentimentality does not come easily to these men. It surfaces most readily when they are reminded of comrades they served with or kindness done to them as a result of their time in the military.

"I had seven brothers," the stroke patient said, "and the men I served with were even closer to me."

As you visit with them, it is apparent that each GI was deeply affected by the war experience. One veteran, who could have had a deferment as a farmer but enlisted because, in his words, "this was a totally righteous war," was ordered to reregister in 1949. He did so as a conscientious objector, recalling that his family and friends understood but the rural Colorado draft board didn't. "How can you be a CO when you spent three years in the Army?" the board member asked. "That's why," he answered.

The evolution of my personal connection to GIs continued recently during an incidental visit to Normandy. Driving toward Omaha Beach for the first time you are at least partially prepared for the somber feeling to be experienced there. Unexpected is the beauty of the place - surely one of the world's most spectacular cliff coasts.

Walking amidst the grave markers of the American cemetery, you are confronted with the painful reality of the sacrifice of very young men on this and other sacred ground. Being with the slain soldiers generates a wish to express your gratitude for their sacrifice in your name. Leaving them, there, is difficult. But you realize that they must stay and you must go.

For me, a commitment to two things shortly followed: to express my gratitude when I could to their fellow soldiers still among us; and, to never take for granted the things for which these brave men gave their lives.

"When I awaken, I have a different thought each morning, not the same one I would have if my family and I were not free. Our kids are healthy, educated and on their way to using their natural talents. There is no one watching us. We can go where we want, do what we want within the mild constraints of a civilized society, and not only think but say what we want. Our beliefs are our own, and our right to express them, or not, is protected by the very foundation of our country. I have worked very hard for a long time to be a good doctor and have been able to live out the dream of my youth. Had you not been courageous, I could not say these things. I owe a lot to you and those who went before and beside you. I want to thank you personally for that. I will never forget what you did for my family and me, and I will never take for granted the things for which you sacrifice.

The End is Near!



We watch as German civilians plant a white flag in their yard and shake hands with each other to celebrate surviving the war.

This is as far as we will go!



April 19, 1945 - Grieben, Germany - The Elbe River is just over the rise of ground. We are dug in all along the river bank. The enemy may be just on the other side of the river. We are close enough to Berlin to see their search lights at night. The Russians will meet us, the war will be over for us and we will pull back to go on occupation duty.



In a foxhole on the Elbe River, waiting for the Russians, I am preparing a K-Ration meal. I am holding a canteen cup with water. On the front lip of the cup a can of meat is suspended by its opening key. Underneath is a burning K-Ration box. Powdered coffee goes into the hot water.

Murray Leff E-137

The town's population feels its safe enough to watch us take over.

Museum News

50th Anniversary of 1968 Mobilization to Be Observed

The year 2018 marks the 50th Anniversary of the mobilization of the 69th Infantry Brigade for the Vietnam War. Other Kansas National Guard units mobilized that year were the 184th Tactical Fighter Group of the Kansas Air National Guard (mobilized and sent to Korea for the Pueblo Incident) and the 995th Ordnance Company.

Several events are being planned in May to mark the event, including a panel presentation on Wed, May 2 at the Museum’s Quarterly Brown Bag Luncheon, a social on Friday night, June 8, and special activities during the Museum’s Annual Heartland Military Day on Sat, June 9.

The 2018 Museum commemorative coin will feature the mobilizations and will be given to all who purchase Annual (\$25) or Perpetual Sustaining (\$1200) Memberships to the Museum, make donations to the Major Donor Club (\$100 and up), or purchase interior (\$200) or exterior (\$50) bricks.

If you wish special notice of all 50th Anniversary activities contact the Museum at office@kngmuseum.org or 785 862-1020 (museum phone) or 785 221-9934 (cell phone).

The 69th Infantry Brigade (Separate) came into existence in 1963 when the 35th Infantry Division was inactivated. It became a divisional brigade again when the 35th Infantry Division was reactivated in 1984 at Ft. Leavenworth, KS. It was again inactivated in 1995 when the 130th Field Artillery Brigade was formed.

Upon mobilization in May of 1968, the 69th Inf Bde (Sep) was sent to Ft. Carson, CO, where it became a brigade of the 5th Infantry Division (Mech). Upon arrival it was commanded by BG John W. Breidenthal, who later became an Asst. Div Commander for the 5th Inf Div (Mech), and COL Thomas Kennedy assumed command of the Brigade at Ft. Carson. The 69th Inf Bde at that time included the HHC, 69th Inf Bde; the 1st & 2d Bns, 137th Inf; the 2d Bn, 133rd Inf (Iowa ARNG); the 2d Bn, 130th FA; the 169th Spt Bn; Troop E, 114th Cavalry; the 169th Avn Co, and the 169th Engr Co.

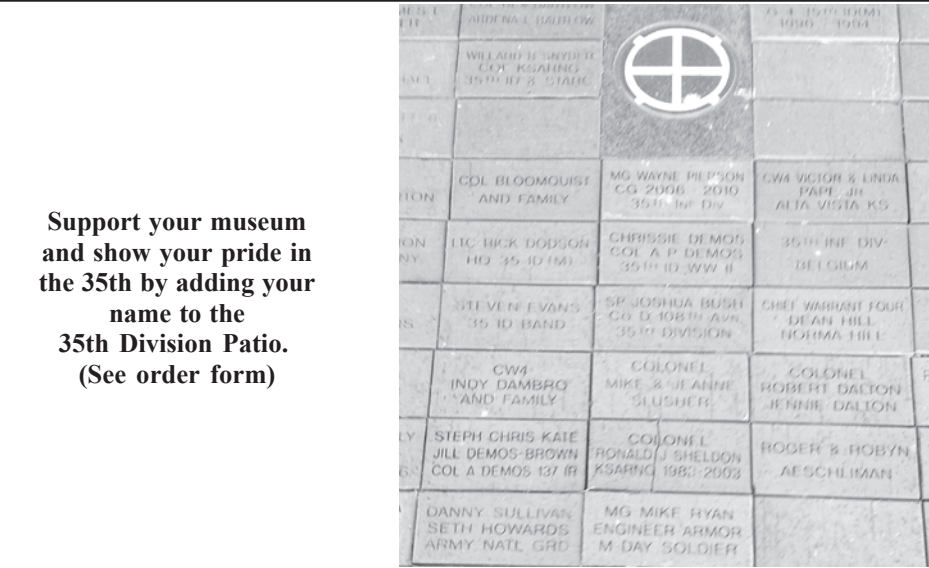
The 69th Bde flag stayed at Ft. Carson, but 2,397 of its soldiers were levied as individual replacements into units fighting in Vietnam, with 42 soldiers paying the ultimate sacrifice.

In November of 1969, the 69th Inf Bde returned to home stations. It was released from active duty on Dec. 13, 1969, and reverted to its National Guard status.



A special edition Ceramic Mug was designed by Mike Ven for the conference. Unfortunately the vendors machine broke down and mugs were late. Only a limited supply of these were made, so if we run out, it will take another 3-4 weeks to fill your order. These will be available for \$7.00 at the 35th HQs in Fort Leavenworth, KS and the 35th Museum in Topeka, KS.

35th Division 100th Special Edition Ceramic Mug \$15. (7.00 no mailing needed)
“to order use enclosed new membership/donor form found in paper.



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

Donations to 35th Division Museum

Morning Reports, S-1 Journals, and General Orders, 320th Inf Regt, WW II and Photos, S/Sgt Gerald Jacobsen, 134th Inf Regt, WW II Identification & Return – Roberta Russo

WW I Trench Art, WW I, 75mm Shell “Souvenir de Lorraine” – Terry Meinke Scrapbook/Photo Album, 137th Inf Regt, 35th Inf Div, WW II & Later, Large – Marge Bullock

320th Inf Regt After Action Reports & Autographed Copy, In a Faraway Land, Orval Faubus – Louise Moore

Book, Khaki Komeddy, WW I – LTC Darrell Loyd

Veteran’s History Project Interviews (16) CD’s & Hard Copy – Payton Harmon G-2 Booklets & Manuals, 35th Inf Div – COL Dale Soderstrom

WW I Souvenir Kerchief of COL Arthur Ericsson – Edith Bronson

Photo, Framed, Large, 35th Div WW I Headquarters, Camp Doniphan, OK – Michael Maloney

WW I Semaphore Signal Flags – BG Jonathan Small

Recent 35th Division Exterior Brick Orders

Major Alex Frisenda

Cynthia Brooke
Gib Matt Rubino
COL A. P. Demos

69th Bde
CSM Dale Putman

S/Sgt Gerald Jacobsen
M Co 134 IR 35 ID
KIA 7-15-1944

Martin Duehring
Concord, CA WW II
Co H 320 Inf CIB BS

David M. Duehring
Lt Col Retired
Maine Nat Guard

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

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(Inscription - 3 lines, maximum of 14 letters/spaces per line)



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_____ 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)



U.S. Soldiers assigned to the 35th Infantry Division cheer after the battalion run, marking the start of Santa Fe week on Sept. 4, 2017. Santa Fe week marks the centennial anniversary of the 35th Inf. Div. which first stood up at Camp Doniphan, Oklahoma, Aug. 25, 1917.



Soldiers assigned to the 35th Infantry Division compete in the corn hole contest during Santa Fe week at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Sept. 9, 2017. Santa Fe week marks the 100th anniversary of the 35th Inf. Div. which first stood up at Camp Doniphan, Oklahoma, Aug. 25, 1917.

(U.S. Army photos by Staff Sgt. Jeremy Miller)

‘Santa Fe Week’ centennial

By Staff Sgt. Jeremy Miller
35th Inf. Div. Public Affairs

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait— Soldiers of the 35th Infantry Division participated in a variety of week-long social activities and events from Sept. 4-10 in recognition of their recent 100 year anniversary, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

‘Santa Fe Week’ began with a battalion run, which ended with Soldiers getting “cooled down” by the Arifjan Fire Department.

Maj. Gen. Victor J. Braden, 35th Inf. Div. commanding general, gave a few remarks to the troops gathered at the conclusion of the run.

“The US Soldier is unique in the fact that no matter what the odds are on the battlefield, they will find a way to win,” said Braden. “Our will to win is a testament to our strength, both mentally and physically, and is the greatest contributor to our success.”

Other events in the week-long celebration included a medallion hunt, a movie night featuring Kelly’s Heroes, a camp-wide 5k, and an organizational day that featured a number of friendly competitive events.

“It was a good change of pace,” said Col. Dirk Christian, 35th Inf. Div. engagements chief. “Everything was really well-organized and I think everyone had fun getting out of the office and participating.”

The last day of Santa Fe Week included a three-point shoot-out, a horseshoe competition, a dodgeball tournament, a Humvee pull, and a barbecue cook-off.

Thanks to the Kansas City Barbecue Society and several Kansas City barbecue companies, the 35th Infantry Division got to celebrate, Kansas City style,” said 35th Inf. Div. Fires Sgt. Maj. James Fenton, also a KCBS master judge. “We received several care packages full of sauces, rubs, shirts, hats and more.”

During the centennial celebration, US Army Capt. Alex Adelman, an aviator assigned to Headquarters Support Company, 35th Inf. Div., reflected on the perseverance of Soldiers who served before him.

“The men and women who came before us had to do more with less than we are blessed with,” said Adelman. “Even those from Desert Storm had significantly more challenging conditions with fewer sophisticated tools than what we have today.”

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Van, 35th Inf. Div. deputy commanding general, says the history of the Santa Fe Division from World War I resonates loudly while currently deployed in the Middle East.

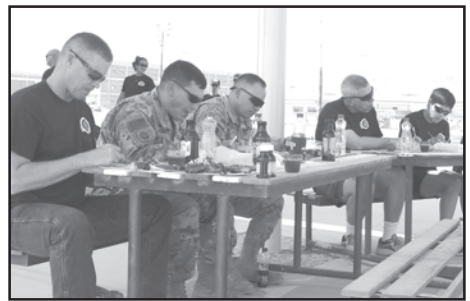
“One hundred years ago, Soldiers from Missouri and Kansas were activated to serve in the ‘war to end all wars’,” said Van. “Today, our Soldiers are again deployed, serving the nation in the calling of their time.”

The 35th Inf. Div. was organized Aug. 25, 1917 at Camp Doniphan, Oklahoma as a unit of the National Guard with troops from Missouri and Kansas.

During the same week that the celebration was held in 1945, the 35th Inf. Div. was in Europe and began to set its battle sights on Nancy, France. On Sept. 10, 1945 the 35th attacked the German line, then synchronized its assault with the Third Army at Metz on the German border.

Sgt. 1st Class Robert Jorgensen, a combat engineer assigned to the 35th Inf. Div., says the most valuable asset today’s Soldier can learn from our predecessors, is honor.

“Whether they volunteered, were drafted or joined under extenuating circumstances, they did their jobs to the best of their abilities,” said Jorgensen. “Many made the ultimate sacrifice for their country, their units, and even their battle buddies. After many thousands of casualties, they still pressed on to victory.”



Soldiers assigned to the 35th Infantry Division judge several participating team’s barbecue during the centennial celebration of the Santa Fe Division at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Sept. 9, 2017. The judges taste pork, chicken, and beef with several variations of prepared sauces and rubs. Santa Fe week marks the 100th anniversary of the 35th Inf. Div. which first stood up at Camp Doniphan, Oklahoma, Aug. 25, 1917.



Sgt. 1st Class Antwon Morris, assigned to the 29th Infantry Division, prepares to shoot a basketball during the three-point shootout during Santa Fe Week at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Sept. 9, 2017. Santa Fe week marks the 100th anniversary of the 35th Infantry Division which first stood up at Camp Doniphan, Oklahoma, Aug. 25, 1917.

2016 Chief of Staff Army Award for Maintenance Excellence

LEAVENWORTH, KS,
UNITED STATES

07.26.2017

Story by Staff Sgt. Jeremy Miller
35th Infantry Division

Fort Leavenworth, Kansas - The 35th Infantry Division has won the Chief of Staff Army Award for Maintenance Excellence (AAME) for training year 2016, medium category, Army National Guard. A Department of Defense Maintenance Symposium is scheduled for later this year, at which time the trophy will be presented.

The AAME Program is conducted each year to recognize Army units and/or activities that have demonstrated excellence in maintenance operations. Each unit is evaluated on their effectiveness ensuring that Soldier competency is maintained. Assessments of each unit in the categories of attitude and effective leadership are rated with a benchmark based on those of past winners, and the tenets of exceptional maintenance processes that were exhibited are validated and ranked.

Sergeant Jamie Shomaker, production control at Field Maintenance Shop 7, said she worked with maintenance to keep the services up to date and while preparing the unit for deployment.

“The most difficult part of the process was trying to prepare for mobilization while transitioning to G-Army, just after learn-

ing the new system, and the inspection at the same time,” said, Shomaker. “Having an inspection while trying to ship equipment separated our manpower immensely.”

The purpose of the program is to improve and sustain field maintenance readiness, assess the maintenance component of unit readiness, improve efficiency and reduce waste.

This results in recognizing exceptional maintenance accomplishments or initiatives by ensure the best units compete and provide positive incentives for extraordinary maintenance efforts, said 35th Infantry Division, Chief Warrant Officer 5 Kevin B. Harsch, G-4 maintenance officer.

“Competing in the Logistic Excellence Award program has allowed the division to focus on our organizational maintenance program,” said, Harsch. “Competing in AAME has joined team efforts across the division from operator, to the supervisor, to the commander level to achieve readiness and efficiencies.

The 35ID is also one of two units selected to represent the entire Department of the Army in the Field Level Large category for the Department of Defense Phoenix Award.

The Phoenix Award is the highest maintenance award in the DoD. Two Army units compete against each other with unit representatives in the large category from each



Soldiers assigned to the 35th Infantry Division supply and maintenance section pose for a photo at Ft. Leavenworth, KS., on March 17, 2017. The 35th Infantry Division won the Chief of Staff Army Award for Maintenance Excellence (AAME) for training year 2016, medium category, Army National Guard. (Courtesy Photo, Released) KS, UNITED STATES, 03.17.2017, Photo by Master Sgt. Mark Hanson, 35th Infantry Division

component in the military. The Office of the Secretary of Defense will announce the Phoenix Award winner in September.

“Winning the Army Award for Maintenance Excellence is a credit to the efforts of our Missouri and Kansas Soldiers, and

so many logisticians on both sides of the state line,” said Colonel Matthew Bedwell, 35th ID G-4 Officer. “The reality that we won it while deploying the division headquarters makes it that much more remarkable.”



Spc. Jeremiah Robinson, 35th Inf. Div., administers care to fellow CLS student Maj. Jon Bellers during a hands-on training portion of Combat Lifesavers course Aug. 24, 2017. Offered by the medical section of the 35th, the CLS training aimed to teach basic tactical combat casualty care to non-medical personnel and prepare them to respond to medical emergencies under stressful conditions.

(Photos by U.S. Army Capt. Margaret Ziffer)



Spc. Nathan Shannon, combat medic, 35th Infantry Division, assists Spc. Nikotye Hale in evaluating fellow classmate “casualty” Capt. Timothy McDonald during a hands-on training portion of Combat Lifesavers course Aug. 24, 2017. Offered by the medical section of the 35th, the CLS training aimed to teach basic tactical combat casualty care to non-medical personnel and prepare them to respond to medical emergencies under stressful conditions.

Learning to save lives through CLS

08.24.2017

Story by Capt. Margaret Ziffer
35th Infantry Division

AMMAN, Jordan - There’s not a cloud in the sky as the mid-day sun beats down on soldiers wearing their improved outer tactical vests and helmets as they jog laps around a football field at a base outside of Amman, Jordan Aug. 24.

“Boom!” yells Spc. Nathan Shannon, combat medic with the 35th Infantry Division, indicating to the exhausted soldiers that their location has been hit with an artillery round, and there are now casualties.

This is the last day of Combat Lifesavers course, a 40-hour program that teaches tactical combat casualty care to non-medical personnel. This final exercise was all about giving students a hands-on evaluation of all the skills they learned earlier in the week.

“Often times, this course is delivered “by the book” and includes mostly classroom instruction,” said Shannon. “But we really wanted to do a lot of hands on training.”

So after the classroom portion and the written test, the 35th Inf. Div. medical team set out to simulate the conditions soldiers would face in a combat environment.

As the soldiers run over to their casualties – in this case, other students given simulated wounds using make-up – they are tested on a number of skills they are likely to encounter on a battlefield, such as placing tourniquets, treating chest trauma, maintaining airways, applying pressure dressings, treating for shock and hypothermia and general patient evaluation.

“We want people to think, ‘when I treat a casualty, I’m not necessarily going to be ready for it,’” said Shannon. “It is going to be an unexpected event. I’m going to be tired from running around. So this type of training really gets in into their heads that this is not going to be easy, things may not always happen by the book.”

“We try to emphasize to the students that they are going to stress out, they are going to panic,” said Shannon.

Normally, the ratio of medical professionals to non-medical personnel in any given population is rather high. This is the main reason that CLS training is a critical piece of maintaining unit readiness.

“Less than 5% of normal unit populations are medical professionals,” said Sgt. 1st Class Robin Anderson, medial non-commissioned officer in charge. “So if a medical emergency occurs, there is only a small chance that there is going to be a medic anywhere near them. And by the time the medic arrives, it may be too late.”

Training more people on CLS essentially creates a pool individuals with basic medical skills so that they can act as first responders, should an incident occur when the medical staff isn’t present.

“Having trained combat life savers increases the chances of that casualty surviving their injuries,” said Anderson.

Aside from giving students with the knowledge of basic medical skills, CLS is also an opportunity to familiarize students with standard-issue medical equipment.

“The Individual First Aid Kits that they issue soldiers today are really fancy,” said Anderson. “There’s a lot of life-saving equipment in there. But if people don’t understand how to use it, it doesn’t do any good.”

“I think all of the students are more comfortable with their equipment now and they are better prepared for the stress that is going to accompany a real-life situation,” said Anderson.

Having armed them with the information and training of the CLS curriculum, the medical team hopes their students will feel more confident in their ability to respond in an emergency.

“I hope this training will let people know that we take our jobs very seriously and we want everyone to be safe,” said Shannon. “By teaching CLS to students, they too can be prepared to help potential casualties and save lives.”

35th Infantry Division patching ceremony

PERSIAN GULF

08.05.2017

Story by Staff Sgt. Jennifer Milnes?
35th Infantry Division ? ?

35th Infantry Division soldiers serving in support of Operation Inherent Resolve conducted their patching ceremony Aug. 5, 2017.

The day marked the 100th anniversary of the 35th Inf. Div. being activated for federal service.

35th Inf. Div. Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Victor Braden, and Deputy Commanding General, Brig. Gen. John Rueger, presided over the ceremony, where the “combat patch” was placed on the Soldier’s right shoulder.

“Not since World War II has the entire division headquarters deployed as a two-star command and earned the right to wear the 35th combat patch,” said Rueger. “It is very humbling and an honor to wear the 35th patch, which was worn by so many from the greatest generation. Many serving in the 35th from WWI paid the ultimate sacrifice and we are deeply honored and proud to wear this patch.”

Maj. Gen. Braden awarded Brig. Gen. Rueger his combat patch, followed by 35th Inf. Div. Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Newton and Command Sgt. Maj. Terrence Hankerson.

Rueger and Hankerson worked their way through the formation, patching and congratulating each of their Soldiers’ hard work and dedication.

“The team has performed beyond expectation,” said Rueger. “Our Soldiers have worked extremely hard leading up to this point with several training events.”

Aug. 5, 1917, the 35th Inf. Div. was activated for federal service and organized at Camp Doniphan, Oklahoma, as a unit of the National Guard with Soldiers from Kansas and Missouri in preparation for World War I. The Division fought in both World War I and World War II as well as missions in Bosnia, Kosovo, and now the Arabian Gulf and the Levant.

The Santa Fe cross, a symbol used to identify the Santa Fe Trail where the unit initially trained, was designated as an identifying device for the unit by Headquarters, 35th Division General Order 25, dated March 27, 1918.

“I, like anyone in the Division, am proud to be part of an organization that has stood the test of time and is still relevant 100 years later,” said Rueger. “When the Division was formed, it was the calling of the time for that generation that fought in World War I. Fast forward to 2017, and times have changed, but this is the calling of our generation. We are glad to be a part of it.”



Brig. Gen. John Rueger, 35th Infantry Division deputy commanding general, patches 35th Inf. Div. Soldiers serving in Southwest Asia August 5, 2017. Soldiers of the division received their combat patches on the 100th anniversary of the division being activated for federal service for WWI. PERSIAN GULF, 08.05.2017, Photo by Staff Sgt. Jennifer Milnes, 35th Infantry Division



Brig. Gen. John W. Rueger, 35th Infantry Division deputy commanding general, patches 35th Inf. Div. soldiers serving in Southwest Asia in support of Operation Inherent Resolve August 5, 2017. Soldiers of the division received their combat patches on the 100th anniversary of the division being activated for federal service for WWI. PERSIAN GULF, 08.05.2017, Photo by Staff Sgt. Jennifer Milnes, 35th Infantry Division



Maj. Gen. Victor Braden places the 35th Infantry Division combat patch on Brig. Gen. John Rueger during the patching ceremony August 5, 2017. The date of the ceremony also reflects the 100th anniversary of the division being activated for federal service during WWI. PERSIAN GULF, 08.05.2017, Photo by Staff Sgt. Jennifer Milnes, 35th Infantry Division

Legacy lives on as 35th Inf. Div. celebrates 100 years

08.11.2017
Story by Capt. Margaret Ziffer, 35th Infantry Division

CAMPARIFJAN, Kuwait – Activated August 5, 1917, as part of the Kansas and Missouri Army National Guards, the 35th Infantry Division recently celebrated its 100th year.

Since its initial activation, soldiers of the 35th have served our nation in various conflicts and operations around the globe, from World War I and World War II to Bosnia and Kosovo.

The division is currently continuing this tradition of service to the nation. In June, the 35th deployed to Southwest Asia in support of Operations Spartan Shield and Inherent Resolve – making it the first time the 35th has deployed as a division headquarters in over 70 years.

Remembering the past

“The 35th is one of the oldest divisions,” said retired Brig. Gen. Robert Windham, former deputy commanding general of the 35th Inf. Div. and current president of the 35th Infantry Division Association. “In World War I, the 35th was key to the Allied victory. They fought in places like Muse-Argonne and Alsace Lorraine. They lost many soldiers; they had Medal of Honor recipients. In World War II, the 35th was one of the three most highly decorated units. They fought in the hedgerows in Normandy, they were in Saint Lo, the Battle of the Bulge.”

Even 100 years later, the actions and history of the division still hold personal importance to some current members of the division.

“My grandfather was one of five farm boys from Council Grove, Kansas,” said Maj. Todd Leeds a 35th Inf. Div. engineer. “When World War II started, they realized they would be drafted one way or the other. But if they would enlist, they would at least get some say in what they got to do. So my grandfather joined the Army Air Corps; his youngest brother enlisted in the 35th Infantry Division.”

Leed’s great uncle, Corporal Archie D. Leeds, went on to serve with the 35th Inf. Div. in France, where he was awarded the Silver Star Medal for his meritorious actions in 1944, shortly after being killed in action.

Today, Leeds and his brother Maj. Derek Leeds, have served with the division for a little over a year.

“For us, it’s a family legacy thing,” said Leeds. “Just within my immediate family, we have folks that have served within the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps. I also have a second cousin who was in the divi-

sion. So the Leeds family definitely has a history with the 35th.”

Windham’s history with the 35th also spans many years. Not only did he serve with the division as a general officer near the end of his military career, he also spent time with the 35th as company commander towards the beginning.

“The first time I put on that blouse again, with the division patch on it, and I saw myself in the mirror, it brought back a whole lot of good memories,” said Windham. “It’s hard to describe the feeling. There’s just so much history, that you are compelled to give it your best shot. It’s just such an honor to be affiliated with the division.”

That history has included several significant contributions in the years since the world wars, some less often associated with the division.

“A lot of people don’t realize this, but the 35th was the headquarters for the National Guard presence after Hurricane Katrina hit,” said Windham.

The 35th additionally commanded Task Force Eagle’s multinational-division-north in Bosnia and Herzegovina and provided a detachment for Task Force Falcon for the NATO Kosovo Force 9 mission.

“If you look at it, the history of the 35th is the history of the Army,” said Windham.

To help remember that history, Leeds and his family have kept several mementos by which they remember Cpl. Leeds, including some letters and a watch, along with some other artifacts that belonged to their great uncle during WWII.

“Remembering what the division has done over the years is important for two reasons,” said Windham. “To memorialize it, but also to help stay connected with veterans.”

The 35th Infantry Division Association hosts an annual reunion for past and present division service members, their families and others whose lives have been reached by the division.

“When I went to my first reunion, I sat next to combat veterans from World War II, to widows and orphans,” said Windham. “There is this whole diverse group that you would never meet if you don’t participate. It’s an honor. It’s amazing.”

Looking to the Future

Looking ahead, the division still has much of its current deployment rotation before it, which provides an opportunity for its current members to carry on the tradition of service overseas.

“I am really excited that Derek and I were able to deploy with the division,” said Leeds. “We are both excited and proud to earn the 35th Infantry Division combat patch.”

“When you deploy and they have that patching ceremony where they put that combat patch on your shoulder, you are really proud,” said Windham. “But I think along with that comes some personal responsibilities, such as ensuring that the legacy, the history, lives on.”

Even after the current deployment ends and the 100th anniversary is a milestone long since passed, the relevance of the division in the lives of those who served in it will remain.

“Typically, you deploy, – and this is especially true for citizen soldiers – everyone goes home, in all different directions. You are focusing on your family and your civilian career. After a deployment, members of the unit might not feel the urge to get back together for years.”

But trying to reconnect later on is not always easy. This is where, Windham says, the importance of organizations like the 35th Infantry Division Association comes in.

“The time will come when you will want to reach back out and see some of those faces that you deployed with,” said Windham. “The Association is a place to help you do that.”

Not only does Leeds plan to stay connected with the division by joining the association when he returns home, but he also says that it is possible that he and his brother won’t be the last of the family to serve with the division.

“Going forward, someday, when my son and my daughter are grown, if military service is something they decide to pursue, I hope they get a chance to serve with the 35th,” said Leeds. “I hope we can continue that legacy.”

And the legacy does indeed live on.

“The history of WWI and WWI veterans – those are magnificent stories and people,” said Windham. “Although we are celebrating the past 100 years, I have to salute all the current members of the 35th. They are the ones who are now writing the first chapter of the next 100 years.”



Maj. Todd Leeds puts a 35th Inf. Div. combat patch on his younger brother, Derek Leeds Aug. 12, 2017. The brothers earned the patch while serving in support of Operation Inherent Resolve in Southwest Asia with the division.
(U.S. Army photo by Capt. Margaret Ziffer) CAMP ARIFJAN, KUWAIT, 08.11.2017, Story by Capt. Margaret Ziffer, 35th Infantry Division

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School supplies: an unlikely means of bringing communities together

AMMAN, Jordan – When you think “back to school,” a lot of things may come to mind, like shopping for new clothes, packing school lunches and juggling extracurricular activities.

However, getting an opportunity for community relationship-building is likely not one of them.

But that was exactly the focus for a group of U.S. service members and soldiers of the Jordan Armed Forces – Arab Army when they decided to get together for a community-service project with a school supplies theme near a military training center outside of Amman, Jordan, Aug. 18.

It all started when Brig. Gen. John Rueger, deputy commanding general of the 35th Infantry Division, and Brig. Gen. Ahmad Kaiber, commanding officer and general director of King Abdullah II Special Operations Training Centre, decided they wanted to get the troops involved in giving back to a local Jordanian community.

The community that resides just outside of the special operations training center, an international facility that provides up-to-date training in counter-terrorism, special operations and irregular warfare tactics, techniques and procedures, seemed like a good place to start.

“We can be very noisy neighbors,” said Ayman Masri, law enforcement training manager at KASOTC. “KASOTC is a training facility and live fire is being used. So the local community is the recipient of all that noise.

We wanted to show our appreciation to them for all their patience.”

“We knew we wanted to partner with a community outside of a Jordanian military facility” agreed Maj. Dena Goble, Civil Liaison Detachment Team 59, one of the primary coordinators of the event. “Military communities often have to tolerate annoyances like increased noise from aircraft or ranges as soldiers train. Additionally, the local communities are the eyes and ears of the training center and can provide security feedback.

Because they live there, they know when there is someone there who doesn’t belong, and they will report that information.”

And so the militaries put their live-fire training on hold to focus on a new target: providing school supplies to the children of the local community that lives outside KASOTC’s gates.

“We have a large community that lives on the eastern side of KASOTC, called the Khalileh Tribe, who have been very supportive of KASOTC since its creation,” said Masri. “The tribe is very well-known in the area.

We agreed that the kids would be a good beneficiary of such a project.”

To get the project off the ground, the event coordinators reached out to Spirit of America, a non-profit dedicated to supporting the safety and success of Americans serving abroad and the local people and partners they seek to assist, to help fund donations of school supplies like notebooks, pencils, rul-

ers and backpacks for 200 children.

“The project hit on two key factors,” said Goble. “One is the relationship building and strengthening the partnership between the U.S. and Jordanian militaries.”

Masri agreed that cooperation between the two militaries was an important initiative.

“It is His Majesty’s vision to build relationships with allied forces,” said Masri. “The U.S. forces in Jordan are here to support Jordan. Doing things like this helps us show that U.S. forces here are part of a coalition that works very closely with Jordan Armed Forces.”

After the school supplies were delivered to KASOTC, U.S. and JAF service members had a chance to interact as they spent an evening together stuffing the backpacks with supplies in preparation for handing them out to the children.

The second goal of the project was about strengthening relationships within the community.

“Doing things like this shows that we all have the same concerns for the welfare of children,” said Goble.

That mutual concern for the welfare of children also helps explain why ‘back to school’ was selected as the theme of the project.

“There are great benefits to helping provide school supplies,” said Goble. “It is critical that kids have the opportunity to go to school anywhere in the world. School supplies alone may not give that to them, but any incentive helps. In this situation we have vulnerable children who are at risk for becoming part of a lost generation when it comes to education based on the population growth and the overwhelmed school system.

Goble emphasized that in order to mitigate those risks, facilitating access to education is essential.

“It is about developing critical thinking skills necessary to question right from wrong and giving them options and opportunities to thrive,” said Goble. “This all begins with having the basic necessities to participate in the educational experience.”

The day of the event, representatives from both the U.S. and the JAF turned out to meet with the community and deliver the school supplies to the neighboring community.

“I think despite any cultural differences, everyone loves their kids,” said 2nd Lt. Ty Roberts, 35th Inf. Div., who participated in the distribution of school supplies. “So having the opportunity to hand those school supplies out allows us to show the parents that we care about their kids too.

“It was hugely special just to see their faces light up when you handed them something,” said Roberts. “It was great to be able to do something nice that they appreciated and to have an opportunity to engage in dialogue with that community, it was great to interact with children. I think they enjoyed it, but I really enjoyed it too. The look on their faces was thank you enough.”



2nd Lt. Ty Roberts, 35th Infantry Division, helps hand out school supplies and candy to children of the Khalileh Tribe during a community engagement event near the King Abdullah II Special Operations Training Centre Aug. 18, 2017. The project was a cooperation between U.S. service members in Jordan and the Jordan Armed Forces – Arab Army and aimed at building strong relationships between the armed forces and local community members.

(Photos by U.S. Army Capt. Margaret Ziffer) JORDAN, 08.18.2017, Photo by Capt. Margaret Ziffer, 35th Infantry Division

More photos of the event can be found on the 35th Infantry Division’s Flickr page at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/35thininfantrydivision/albums/72157684344408772>



Maj. Dena Goble, Civil Liaison Detachment Team 59, makes a new friend as she helps hand out school supplies and candy to children during a community engagement event near the King Abdullah II Special Operations Training Centre Aug. 18, 2017. The project was a cooperation between U.S. service members in Jordan and the Jordan Armed Forces – Arab Army and aimed at building strong relationships between the armed forces and local community members.

Brig. Gen. John Rueger, 35th Infantry Division deputy commanding general, and Brig. Gen. Ahmad Kaiber, commanding officer and general director of King Abdullah II Special Operations Training Centre, meet with children from a local community while handing out school supply donations Aug. 18, 2017. The project was a cooperation between U.S. service members in Jordan and the Jordan Armed Forces – Arab Army and aimed at building strong relationships between the armed forces and local community members.

Santa Fe Division Blazes the Trail

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – Soldiers assigned to the 35th Infantry Division conducted a two-week long training exercise called Operation Blaze the Trail, in order to sustain deployment readiness on August 22, 2017. The training event consisted of two phases. The first phase focused on individual soldier readiness training, while the second phase transitioned Soldiers to provide operational support to the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division during their command post exercise.

The mission focus for phase one was to maintain combat power and readiness through collective and individual Soldier task training. The field environment training allowed the 35th Inf. Div. to support theater operations as needed while honing individual Soldier skills to meet today’s complex combat environment.

“Soldiers need to push themselves to their limits while training,” said Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Van, 35th Inf. Div. deputy commanding general. “Proper training and repetition builds second nature responses in the field – you don’t get a second chance when the enemy brings the fight and you’re unprepared.”

Soldier training consisted of individual weapons familiarization, land navigation, night vision goggle familiarization, communications training, drivers training, and chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive training. All events were conducted in a round-robin fashion.

“Soldiers have a great opportunity to gain confidence in their individual task training,” said 1st Sgt. Lance Tipton, Headquarters Support Company first sergeant.

“As Soldiers gain speed on common task training, they are preparing themselves for the next level of responsibilities in their career,” Tipton said.

The first phase of Operation Blaze the Trail ended August 30th as Soldiers from the 35th began setting up to provide observer controller/trainer support to the 3-1 CAV during their command post exercise. Supporting the 3-1 CAV consisted of providing trainers from across the 35th division staff who guidance and mentorship in various warfighter functions.

Trainers from the 35th sent simulated battlefield scenarios to 3-1 CAV Soldiers over electronic communications systems to test their enemy acquisition capabilities.

The desired outcome is for the warfighters to properly identify enemy targets and engage them on the battlefield with accuracy and speed.

“It’s critical for the 35th to support the 3-1 CAV commander’s training intent for the exercise,”



Soldiers assigned to the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division conduct Paladin live fire exercises during Table XVIII command post exercise at Udairi Range, Kuwait, August 30, 2017. Table XVIII challenged Soldiers to communicate, properly identify and engage enemy targets during battlefield scenarios.

UDAIRI RANGE, KUWAIT, 08.24.2017, Photo by Staff Sgt. Jennifer Milnes, 35th Infantry Division



said Col. Dirk Christian, 35th Inf. Div. senior observer controller/trainer officer in charge. “We want to ensure the 3-1’s leadership has a clear picture of their combat readiness. Their success is our mission,” said Christian.



A Soldier assigned to the 35th Infantry Division fires a Beretta pistol at the M-9 pistol range during Operation Blaze the Trail at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Aug. 23, 2017. The week-long training exercise was created to help maintain basic Soldier readiness while deployed to Southwest Asia. Tasks included in Operation Blaze the Trail consist of M-4 rifle familiarization, M-9 pistol qualification, and land navigation.

UDAIRI RANGE, KUWAIT, 08.24.2017, Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeremy Miller, 35th Infantry Division

A Soldier assigned to the 35th Infantry Division performs M-4 weapons familiarization at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Aug. 24, 2017. Operation Blaze the Trail began Aug 21, 2017. The week-long training exercise was created to help maintain basic Soldier readiness while deployed to Southwest Asia. Tasks included in Operation Blaze the Trail consist of M-4 rifle familiarization, M-9 pistol qualification, and land navigation.

UDAIRI RANGE, KUWAIT, 08.24.2017, Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeremy Miller, 35th Infantry Division



Soldiers assigned to the 35th Infantry Division hoist a field communication antenna while at the rifle range during Operation Blaze the trail at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Aug. 22, 2017. The week-long training exercise was created to help maintain basic Soldier readiness while deployed to Southwest Asia. Tasks included in Operation Blaze the Trail consist of M-4 rifle familiarization, M-9 pistol qualification, and land navigation.

(U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Jeremy Miller) CAMP BUEHRING, KUWAIT, 08.22.2017, Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeremy Miller, 35th Infantry Division

Caregiver training provides rejuvenation for religious support teams overseas

JORDAN
07.21.2017
Story by Capt. Margaret Ziffer
35th Infantry Division

AMMAN, Jordan – A 35th Infantry Division religious support team linked up with ministry teams from 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment and 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division out of Camp Buehring, Kuwait, for a multi-day “Care for the Caregiver” training outside of Amman, Jordan, July 20-22, 2017.

The training, which focused on spiritual resiliency, self-reflection and self-care for unit chaplains and chaplain assistants also provided an opportunity for the ministry teams to experience some historic biblical sites firsthand.

Maj. Brett Barner, chaplain with 1-148th Bn. and one of the organizers of the event, said that the idea behind the event was for chaplains and chaplain assistants to visit some historic sites and participate in the training, and then return to their individual units and share their training and experiences with other members of their units.

Barner explained that in addition to education, spiritual resiliency and enhancing the spiritual fitness of their units, the benefit of this training is that it helps caregivers return care for others better.

“A lot of times as caregivers, we

are the last people that we take care of,” said Barner. “We are very much focused on others and forget to take care of ourselves sometimes. These site visits were organized to give the caregivers some time to invest in themselves, too.”

This sentiment was echoed by 35th Infantry Division Chaplain, Maj. John Potter.

“Burnout, secondary trauma, compassion fatigue – these are very real for people who are providing counseling,” said Potter. “So part of the purpose of the engagement was to take a knee, to do some self-evaluation. Ask, ‘Am I giving myself what I need so that I am best able to help others? How can I make myself a better asset as a chaplain or chaplain assistant?’”

The first day of the training included site visits to numerous sites referenced in the Bible, including the place of Jesus’s baptism, the hill where Elijah ascended into Heaven, and Mount Nebo, where Moses overlooked the Promised Land.

“There’s a lot of history in the region,” said Barner. “We are stepping in the places where these people that we study and have devoted our lives to use to walk. When you see these sites in person, they make such a lasting impression on you. That is going to allow us to explain, instruct, and educate others in a better light.”

The ministry teams had the opportunity to take part in communion while at Mt. Nebo, and one of the chaplains was even baptized in the Jordan River.

“The first day was really about the importance of spiritual fitness and spiritual health,” said Barner. “To be able to practice some of the Christian ordinances of baptism, and communion with fellow brothers and sisters of faith is always a joy.”

Another important stop was the ancient city of Madaba, which is home to the Roman Catholic Church of St. John the Baptist, the Greek Orthodox St. George’s Church, and an Islamic Mosque - all standing within blocks of each other.

“A story that is often missed is the story of Madaba and how Christians and Muslims have lived together there in peace and harmony for hundreds of years,” said Potter. “That is a success story that Jordan has that is unfortunately unique in this part of the world. But how wonderful that it exists.”

“Even in Islam, Moses, Jesus, John the Baptist, Elijah are all in the Quran,” said Barner. “There is often a lot of overlap between the two faiths.”

That story of peace in Madaba was juxtaposed with the theme from the second day of the training, which focused on conflict and conflict resolution and included a site visit to Jerash,

one of the best-preserved Roman cities in the Near East.

“Day two we are reflecting on being in a time in the world that is full of conflict, stress, strife, war,” said Maj. Potter, who explained how conflict resolution is applicable to peoples’ daily lives and interactions with one another.

“When two people are on different sides of an issue, how can we bring them closer together?” said Potter. “How can we resolve conflict better as chaplains? How can we teach others how to resolve conflict better?”

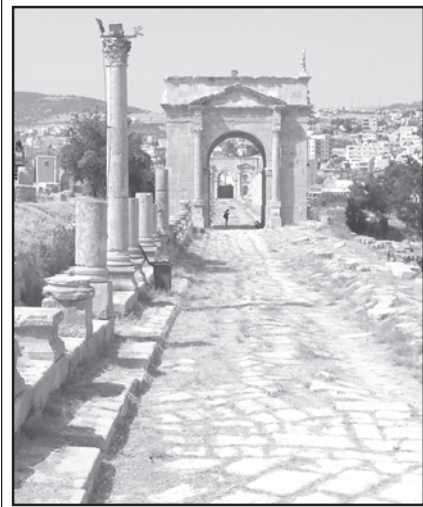
Potter hopes that he will get an opportunity to share some of the lessons learned on site visits with more 35th soldiers in the future and encourages

soldiers to always continue striving for personal and professional curiosity.

“Spiritual resiliency is very important for many of the soldiers in our unit,” said Potter. “For some these sights might be historic, for some it may be about learning more about their faith, enhancing their religious education.

But to see the actual sites, to say that I can point to Matthew chapter four - and this is where it happened - is incredible.”

“There are so many things that you just can’t see at home in Kansas and Missouri,” said Potter. “It can only be done in this part of the world.”



Religious support teams from the 35th Infantry Division and 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment visited the ancient city of Jerash, Jordan, during a multi-day “Care for the Caregiver” training which focused on spiritual resiliency, self-reflection and self-care for unit chaplains and chaplain assistants July 20-22, 2017. (Photo by U.S. Army Capt. Margaret Ziffer) JORDAN, 07.21.2017, Photo by Capt. Margaret Ziffer, 35th Infantry Division



*Thanks to our
CO G,137th
Re-enactors for
all their support
during the 100th
35th Div
Conference*



Order of St Maurice Awards



**Ben Weber, Mike Ven and Holly Harwell
were recipients of the Order of Saint
Maurice, (Civis) for their support of the
35th Division Association.**



Pinned Down in a Water-Filled Ditch!

Murray Leff E-137

Below:
March 26, 1945 - We attacked at dawn but did not get very far before being pinned down by machine gun fire. Below my squad is taking cover in a water-filled, road side ditch.

At Riight:
A moment later I stood up to get a better angle when I heard a shell coming in. On my way down I clicked the shutter causing the blurring. Note the first man has his head buried in the mud while his feet are in the water.



March 27, 1945 – A few miles east of Dinslaken, Germany. We started our attack but did not get very far. A sudden burst of automatic fire passed over our heads. We immediately dived into this water-filled road side ditch. (See above) The man in front of me has his fee in the water and is hugging

the side of the ditch. After some time the firing stopped so I stood up to get a better picture. I was about to snap the shutter of my camera when I heard a shell coming in. On my way down I did snap the shutter. This accounts for the blurriness of the picture. (See Right) Now the man in front of me has his

head buried in the mud. His feet are still in the water. Along with the thousands of other Jewish combat soldiers I felt there was no alternative to winning WW II. In the picture above you can see a RAINCOAT folded over the left side of the cartridge belt around the waist of the man in front of me.

This raincoat is often all he has to protect him in all kinds of weather day and night. Next is a CANTEEN which may be only one third full due to rationing if water, which is very heavy, had to be hand carried up to a hard to reach position. Last is a SHOVEL to dig foxholes which

is all he has for protection from enemy artillery which accounted or 75% of all casualties. All this plus rifle and ammunition was required for combat in WW II. Photos were extracted from “Lens of an Infantryman” by Murray Leff “E” Co. 137th Reg.

them of the date of the 100th Anniversary Reunion, followed by letter of invitation and registration information from General Windham. It was much appreciated. We have 20 individuals or groups in Europe who honor and support the activities of the 35th Division Association. There were numerous compliments for all those that work so hard overseas to keep the memories of the Division's contribution in the Wars alive.

Historian's Report: Dick O'Brien was absent due to health issues this year. COL Dirk Christian sent an E-mail from Kuwait volunteering to help with history issues.

Next Reunion The topic of the 101th Reunion in 2018 was discussed, several options were discussed. Since the 35th is scheduled to be home next year, they may want to host the dining out in conjunction with the conference. If that is the case, it may be in a location close to the Headquarters, Leavenworth Kansas or the Kansas City Airport area. If they decline to host the Dining out due to mission requirements, Oklahoma City and a few other states were discussed.

Awards: Articles on the award recipients are coming in the Oct or January 2018 edition of the Divisionnaire. The Patron Saint Awards and Leadership Awards given were:

Order of Saint Maurice (Civis) Ben Weber, Mike Ven and Holly Harwell were recipients of the Order of Saint Maurice, (Civis) for their support of the Division Association.

35th Division Leadership Awards

*CSM Jack Elliott Outstanding Enlisted Award: SPC Gavin Stroud

*Platoon Sgt Kenneth Faulkner Outstanding NCO Award: SFC Shawn Rockers

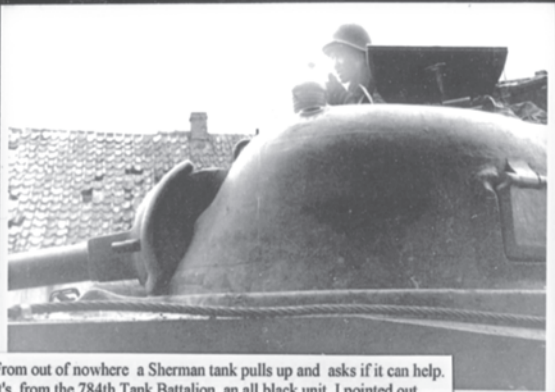
*CPT Walter R. "Hank" Harrington Outstanding Leadership Award: CPT Barry A Gomes

*COL Angelo P. Demos Outstanding Leadership Award: Maj Zachary Rolf, and Maj Peter McCann

New Business: A recommendation to provide deployed soldiers with a \$100 Life membership was discussed. The investment of increased involvement by current soldiers versus long term financial burden of a \$100 life membership was discussed. The President, BG Windham, recommended a free one-year membership to all deployed soldiers. His proposal was to "award" each currently deployed 35th Division soldier with a one year free membership. This would entitle them to an e-copy of our newsletter, not a hard copy. We would provide the 35th Division leadership with the membership form for this initiative and they would be responsible for engaging the soldiers and returning the completed membership forms to us prior to their redeployment to CONUS. The form would require them to provide their contact information, to include phone and email address; it is a fact that every soldier has an email address if not a personal address. This information would allow us to make contact twice during their year of membership; first contact to thank them for their service and welcome them to association and second to solicit their renewal of membership. This obviously creates work for the association and it was discussed that obtaining or hiring an intern could address the workload associated with this increased membership. He also mentioned the opportunity to partner with Kansas State University in obtaining an unpaid intern to work 20 hours per week during their summer break. The motion to award a one year free membership to deployed soldiers was voted on and passed.

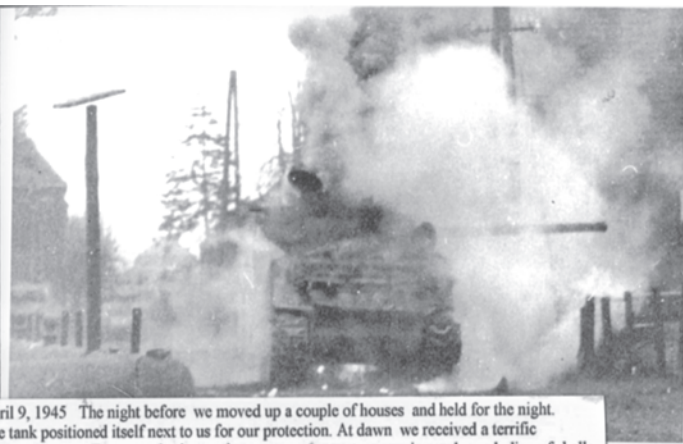
The Fight for Ossenberg

March 8, 1945 We are attacking a town on the Rhine River. Fire from the right forced us to stop at a house.

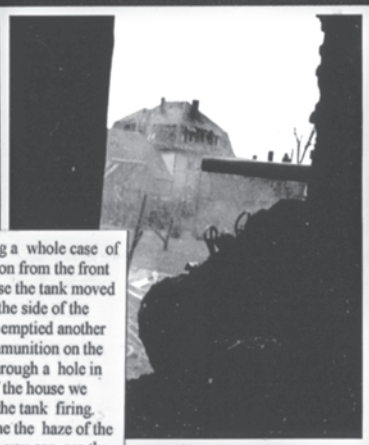


1 From out of nowhere a Sherman tank pulls up and asks if it can help. It's from the 784th Tank Battalion, an all black unit. I pointed out where the firing was coming from and the tank opened fire on it.

3 April 9, 1945 The night before we moved up a couple of houses and held for the night. The tank positioned itself next to us for our protection. At dawn we received a terrific artillery barrage. For several minutes there was a constant screaming and exploding of shells. Under cover of this very heavy fire, the Germans were able to roll an 88 MM gun out into the open and deliver very accurate fire on all visible targets. It was how the Germans were able to hit this tank and our company CP with such accuracy. I took this picture from behind a stone wall as the tank was exploding and burning. There were 2 soldiers still in the tank.



2 After firing a whole case of ammunition from the front of the house the tank moved around to the side of the house and emptied another case of ammunition on the enemy. Through a hole in the side of the house we could see the tank firing. Through the haze of the gun smoke you can see the houses from which we were being fired upon.



4 April 10, 1945 The next day. This self timed picture shows the tank still smoldering. Two 88 MM shell holes are visible in the tank, one in front of me and the other behind. I won't forget the two men still in the tank.



The Fight for Ossenberg

Photos
by
Murray
Leff



5 Above Within seconds after it hit the tank, the same "88" hit our CP (Command Post). This is a self-timed picture showing me looking into the doorway of the CP.

At Right I see everything is covered with plaster dust. Leaning against some wreckage is a dismembered leg. Shredded trousers are hanging from it. Of the eight casualties two were killed. One was a good friend of mine.



6 I am pointing to a shell hole that was made at dawn the day before, during that terrific barrage. We were asleep in this house underneath the window when one of the shells made the hole I am pointing to. We were showered with plaster and glass but were not hurt. The shell tore apart the window, the wagon wheel and the roof.



Murray Leff E-137

7 March 11, 1945 It's now safe to walk around. At the beginning of the attack the man in front of me fired a shot. I could not see what he was shooting at. It seems he hit this German who then slid down behind a rise in the ground out of my sight. Now the man who shot him led us back to where it happened.

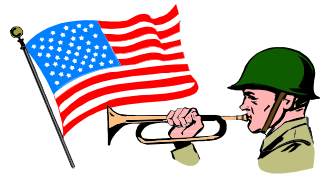


Among this dead German soldier's possessions was a photo of him as a civilian. What waste!





Taps



Wayne E. Carver



Wayne E. Carver was born son of Mary Belva Siegrist and Rev. Robert Tolatha Carver. He was born on February 4, 1921 in Logan, Kansas. He passed July 29, 2017 in Colorado Springs at the age of 96.

Wayne served in the Army from Feb 3, 1941 through the duration of WWII. He was in 5 big battles: Normandy, North France Campaign, Rhineland, Ardenness (Battle of the Bulge), and Central Europe. He is entitled to wear the American Defense Service Ribbon, European-African Middle Eastern Theatre Campaign Ribbon, 2 Overseas Bars and was awarded 5 bronze stars for the above mentioned campaigns and a good conduct medal. He was 9 days lost under AW 107. And he has a marksman badge for a Carbine 9.

After the Army, he drove a truck for Town Talk Bread and then drove a gasoline tanker for Hill Oil and Petco for 28 years. Then he became the terminal Manager for Petco for 13.5 years before retiring.

After retiring he volunteered at the Rehab Center for Memorial Hospital for 12 years. He remained very active, went to the YMCA 3 times a week and walked in the mall with his friends 5 times a week. Those who knew him knew he always had a new joke and liked to tease.

He married Dora Mae Ogle and they were married for 70 years. They had three children.

He is survived by daughters Kathy Lynn Carver/Bohuslavsky (Kevin Bo), and Linda Munson (Jerry Munson), 5 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-granddaughter.

He was preceded in passing by his parents and his two brothers, Malin Francis Carver and Ivil Lee (Bud) Carver and by his son Terry Wayne Carver who passed away in 2011.

Andree Chan



With great sadness, we have to announce the passing of Andree Chan, former president of the "35th Division-Santa Fe-Normandie" association. Mss Chan lost her battle with cancer Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017, and was buried today at the LaMeuffe Cemetery. She was laid to rest beside her husband, Maurice.

Andree was eight years old on D-Day. Despite the saturation bombing of near-by Saint Lo that killed her cousin, she said: "It had to be done."

Andree and Maurice were devoted supporters of the 35th Division. They flew the American flag at their longtime home at LaMeuffe. They were known and loved by the 35th Division veterans and families both for their hospitality in Normandy and their visits to 35th Division reunions.

The Chans accompanied the Santa Fe veterans when they returned to the Saint Lo area. When the veterans ceased to come, they transmitted the veterans' first person memories to families that came later. They were particularly close to Dr. James Huston, author of "Biography of a Battalion." The Chans worked tirelessly to assure that the 35th Division's accomplishments were remembered in the Saint Lo area.

Thanks to Andree's perseverance, the emblem of the 35th Division joined the emblem of the 29th Division on the historic wall around Saint Lo. It was also attached to the post-war Saint Lo hospital.

Andree and Maurice attended 35th Division reunions in Phoenix and Topeka. At the latter they participated in ground-breaking for the 35th Division Association wing of the Kansas National Guard Museum. At the latter reunion, they were awarded the medallions of the Order of St. Maurice (civis) for their service to the US Infantry.

Picture: Mr and Mss Chan (left on the picture)

Submitted by Mike H. Ven
September 22 at 7:43pm

Robert E. Windham
BG (Ret) US Army
President, 35th Div. Assoc.
Aug. 8, 2017
Dear Sir,

I am enclosing my mother's obituary. She passed away on June 12, 2017. She was well known for years as a member of Kenny Faulkner's Co. "C", 127th div. We attended reunions yearly for many years. My father, John D. Grady, passed away May 4, 2014. They were married 70 years.

One of their biggest events of the year was the reunion. They always attended until they were 90+. All of our veterans from this Company "C", are now deceased and I believe we have one widow left, Jean Granger (Alvin R. Granger). Thank you for all you do for this association.

Sincerely,
Julia Henning, daughter
550 S. Yale
Wichita, KS 67218

Reba J Grady

Sept. 30, 1921 - June 12, 2017

Reba J Grady, 95, of Wichita, KS. passed away peacefully on Monday June 12, 2017 in Wichita.

Reba was born the daughter of Charles and Bertha Legan) Davis

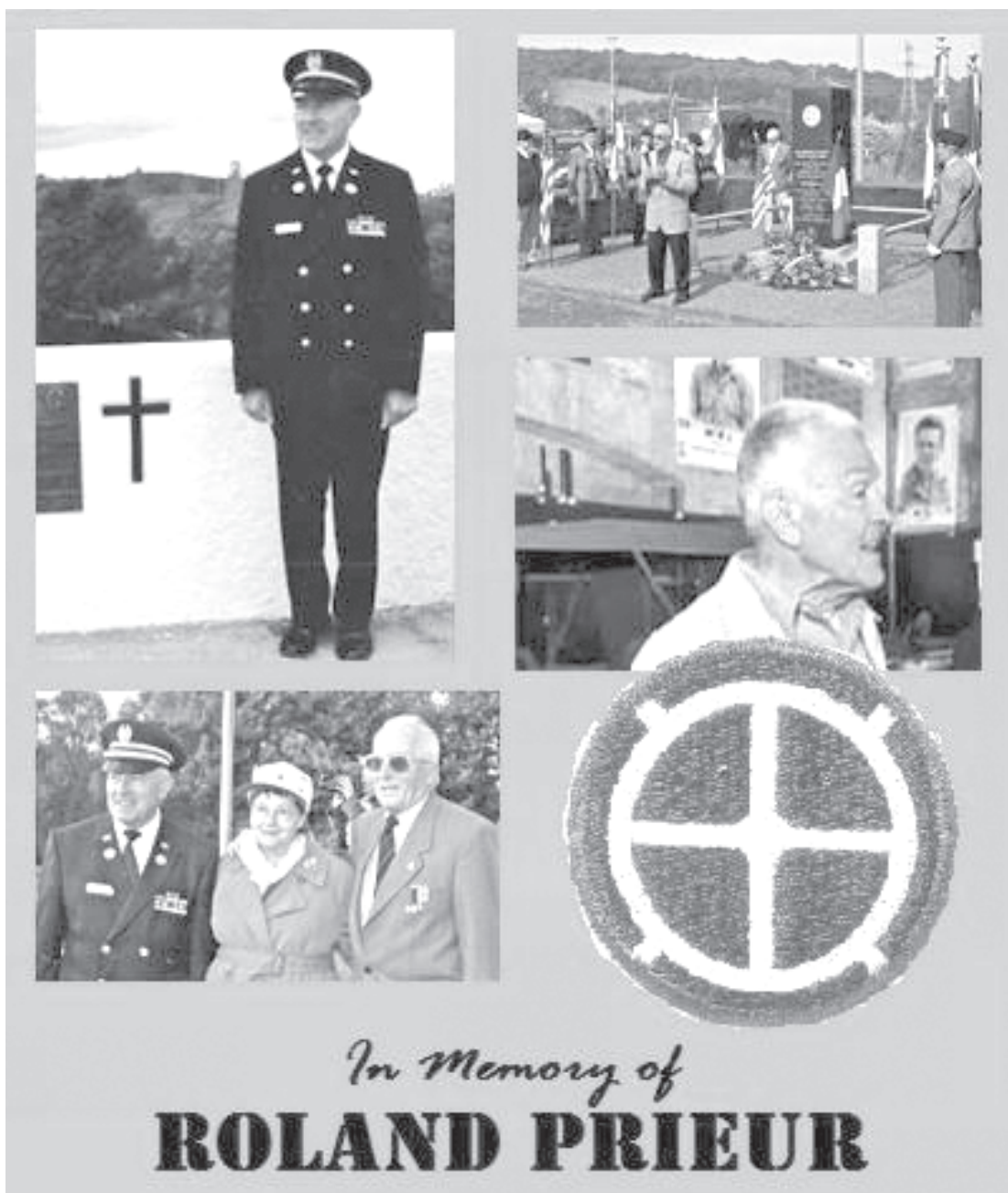
on September 30, 1921 in Beaver, OK.

Reba and John Grady were united in marriage on February 12, 1944 in Wichita. Together they celebrated 70 years of marriage before his passing in 2014.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; daughter, Jacquelyn Peirick; and siblings, Tom and Jim Davis.

Survivors include her loving children, Jill Cline, Julia Henning, 14 grandchildren, 30 great-grandchildren and 20 great-great grandchildren.

Burial at Lakeview Cemetery, Wichita.



Submitted by Mike Ven

Mr Roland Prieur, a friend of the 35th Division Association and former superintendent of Epinal Cemetery in France has died.

He was a big help to preserve the history of the division and one of the founders of the Flavigny Bridge Monument. His kindness, elegance, devotion and competence made him the perfect guide and interpreter. He had dual-French nationality and was perfectly bilingual. He was an enormous help to Jerome Leclerc from the French Association "Espace de Mémoire Lorraine" to getting the monument at Flavigny established and providing French translations from English for Jerome's book about the disaster of 10-11 Septembre 1944. Roland tried to meet with any touring group from the 35th Division overseas when they were visiting France. Many will not remember his name, but will remember his presence.

To his wife Marie, to his son Michael, and to all his family, we offer our most sincere condolences.

January, February, March issue of the

Santa Fe Express

Deadline 6 January, 2018

S/SGT Gerald L. “Jerry” Jacobsen

Missing in Action-WWII; Coming Home After 73 Years
April 19, 1917 - July 15, 1944

Hello All,
I returned home from S/Sgt Gerald Jacobsen’s funeral yesterday and wanted to share a few photos with you. General Windham and Colonel Mickan attended as representatives of the 35th Infantry Division. I know their being there meant a lot to the Jacobsen family. It was a very moving ceremony with many in attendance. My best guess is that there were about 200 people there. The Minnesota National Guard provided the honor guard and they did a wonderful job. There was a fly-over of WWII war planes that flew the “Missing Man” formation. Of all my life’s experiences I can honestly say that this is one of the most meaningful to me.

Roberta Russo



Card from flowers



me and Brad Jacobsen
(Gerald’s nephew who worked so hard to have his uncle identified)



S/Sgt Gerald Jacobsen’s casket and honor guard



Flowers from the 35th
Infantry Division Association



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



Membership Renewal/Application,
Donor or Order Form

Name: _____ Rank/Title: _____
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“Missing Man” fly over



General Windham, me, Colonel Mickan

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	Amount Enclosed
Annual Renewal Dues or New Member Annual Dues - \$25.00	_____
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I want to purchase: (will be mailed to you)	
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By Murray Leff - \$12.00	_____
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___ Pin of DIV Patch with 35 th In Div written around edge	_____
___ Pin with DIV Patch only	_____
___ 35 th Division Ceramic Mug \$15 (7.00 if no mailing needed)	_____
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