



Santa Fe Express

"DIVISIONNAIRE"



The 35th Divisionnaire USPS 700-160

35th INFANTRY DIVISION

www.35thInfDivAssoc.com

JANUARY-FEBRUARY-MARCH 2018

NUMBER ONE



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Carol Sprawka, 35th Infantry Division, poses with the portrait she painted of World War II Medal of Honor Recipient Staff Sgt. James Ira "Junior" Spurrier Dec. 22, 2017. The painting now hangs at the 35th Inf. Div.'s forward deployed headquarters in the newly-dedicated Spurrier Conference Room, renovated and named for the division's historic figure.



Sgt. First Class Lloyd Anderson, 35th Infantry Division, poses with the painting he completed depicting the five brigades of Task Force Spartan Dec. 22, 2017. The painting now hangs at the 35th Inf. Div.'s forward deployed headquarters in the newly-dedicated Spurrier Conference Room, named in honor of World War II Medal of Honor Recipient Staff Sgt. James Ira "Junior" Spurrier.

(Photos by Master Sgt. Mark Hanson)

Division history commemorated in conference room dedication

By. Capt. Margaret Ziffer
35th Infantry Division Public Affairs

CAMPARIFJAN, Kuwait - Soldiers of the 35th Infantry "Santa Fe" Division held a ceremony dedicating a conference room in honor of a historic figure at the division forward-deployed headquarters building Dec. 22.

The newly remodeled Spurrier Conference Room was named in honor of Staff Sgt. James Ira "Junior" Spurrier, Company G, 134th Infantry Regiment, 35th Infantry Division, who received the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions while serving in World War II.

Prior to the renovations, the conference room was due for some updates.

"You could say it was a neglected conference room," said Col. Timothy Bush, chief of staff, 35th Infantry Division. "But it was right in the middle of our office space and we wanted it to reflect the pride and professionalism of the current division."

So the division staff organized a committee of Soldiers who took steps to make improvements. Updates included a fresh coat of paint, new chairs and a conference table, and original artwork courtesy of some of the unit's own artists.

"I wanted to have a space that we can take pride in and see and use every day where the history of the division comes alive," said Bush. "I wanted the unit to connect to our record of achievements of bravery and selfless service - to emphasize the

long lineage of the 35th Infantry Division by creating a tangible connection to a hero from the past."

That connection to the past and celebration of accomplishments came in the form of two large paintings. One painting capturing the division's current mission depicts the five brigades that fall under Task Force Spartan, which the 35th oversees, painted by Sgt. First Class Lloyd Anderson.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Carol Sprawka completed the painting representing the division's past - a portrait of Spurrier.

"I'm honored to be a part of this," said Sprawka. "This is part of our history. As I did some research to complete this painting, I learned a lot about the 35th that I didn't know. So hopefully, someone will see the painting and be encouraged to learn about it too."

During the invocation at the dedication ceremony, 35th Inf. Div. Chaplain Maj. Richard Dunn remarked that it is the hope of the division that the facility will assist future units in their ongoing efforts to promote national security and regional stability.

"We ask, Lord, that this room, dedicated in Staff Sgt. Spurrier's honor, will long serve as a consecrated space for planning, shaping and reporting on future operations, many of which remain known only to you at this time," said Dunn.

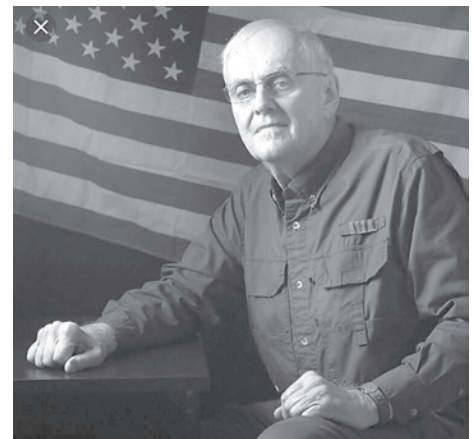
Following the invocation, both Ander-

continued on page 10

President's Message

I stand in awe at the accomplishments of our WWII 35th Division veterans. As part of the "Greatest Generation of the 20th Century, our 35th soldiers fought hard and won. They fought for the Flag, families and friends. Friends in this case were the GI's sharing foxholes and keeping each other alert and alive. They fought and marched with each other. They formed the squads that made the platoons, the platoons made the companies, the companies made the battalions, which made the regiments which made the 35th Infantry Division. As printed on our US coinage, "E Pluribus Unum" - Out of Many, One. The many soldiers became one with the 35th Division. All of those who served, all of those who were wounded, and all of those who made the extreme sacrifice, must not be forgotten. I thank our wonderful 35th Division Association members for capturing personal and unit histories. Our International Committee and our Orphans lead the way along with contributors of Letters to the Editor, and contributing writers with articles and photographs. There is a proud History of the 35th Division from the time of "Goodbye, Dear. See you in a year!" to the 8th Day of May 1945 when Germany unconditionally surrendered to the allies.

I am always humbled when I think of and when I write of my generation's war - the Vietnam War. In the early 1960's the Department of Defense eliminated Eight Army Divisions, one of which was the 35th Division. Within the restructure of forces, the 69th Brigade (Separate) stood up in the State of Kansas. The Brigade held the lineage of the WWII



Col Bob Dalton

35th Division, and was commanded by a Brigadier General.

On 11 April, 1968 a Presidential Order federalized the 69th Brigade and sent the brigade to Fort Carson, Colorado to be phased into the 5th Division (Mechanized). Brigadier General John W Bridenthal commanded the 69th, and Colonel Thomas J Kennedy was the deputy Commander. The main body of the 69th Brigade arrived at Fort Carson, Colorado, on 23 May 1968. By mid- July a levy of individuals from the brigade was initiated. The personnel levies continued until 2,301 officers and enlisted were ordered to South Vietnam for assignment to combat units from the southern delta to the northern mountains. 31 of the 69th Brigade soldiers were Killed in Action on their tours of duty. 3 soldiers were killed in training accidents.

In Washington DC, there are the grand

continued on page 10

From the Executive Secretary

Greeting Patriots, Happy New Year to all; My thoughts and prayers go out to all those Soldiers deployed and their families separated from them in the Global War on Terror.

2018 Conference:

As of now, there is no date locked for the conference. The return activities from the deployment and Mission requirements may push the event into October. We are honored to have the 35th Division hosting the Military Dining Out this year. The location is not confirmed but the Kansas City area is central to the units in Kansas and Missouri. We will get you the information as soon as it is confirmed.

This edition of the Santa Fe Express is courtesy of the



35th Division Association
Operating Fund

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The 35th Divisionnaire (USPS 700-160)
Postmaster send address changes to Secretary, 35th Division Association, P.O. Box 5004, Topeka, KS, 66605. Second class postage paid at Horton, Kansas 66439.

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

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

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From the Executive Secretary

continued from page 1

Donor Appreciation
All members should have received the membership and donor letter recently. We have captured the donors as of 30 Jan 2018 for the paper. Our objective is 100% of our donors received a tax-deductible receipt and included on our donor list. If for some reason you do not see your name on the donor list or receive a receipt, we want to know. Your hard-earned assets are appreciated.

Request for Information from researchers
There are several requests for assistance in this paper. We receive many requests for information and or research. I attempt to E-mail anyone that may have information or be able to help and publish in the paper once permission is granted, but that is the limit of research I can do.

Articles for the paper
Thank you to all of you that contributed articles to this edition. The Santa Fe cost us about \$1500 an edition, so please help fill it up with news of 35th Veterans, families and events to inform those from the East to the West coast and overseas. I appreciate the Public Affairs soldiers of the 35th Division for including their success stories.

COL (Ret) Bob Bloomquist

Congratulations to our New Life Members

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WHEN THE MUSIC STOPPED

Submitted by Joe Trupiano, St. Louis, MO.

(For those who are unaware: At all military base theaters, *The National Anthem* is played before the movie begins).

This article is written by a Chaplain in Iraq:

I recently attended a showing of “Superman 3” at LSA Anaconda. We have a large auditorium that we use for movies as well as memorial services and other large gatherings. As is the custom at all military bases, we stood at attention when *The National Anthem* began before the main feature. All was going well until three-quarters of the way through *The National Anthem*, the music stopped. Now, what would happen if this occurred with 1,000 18-to-22 year-olds back in the States? I imagine that there would be hoots, catcalls, laughter, a few rude comments, and everyone would sit down and yell for the movie to begin. Of course, that is, only if they had stood for The National Anthem in the first place. Here in Iraq, 1,000 soldiers continued to stand at attention, eyes fixed forward. The music started again, and the soldiers continued to quietly stand at attention. Again, though, at the same point, the music stopped. What would you expect 1,000 soldiers standing at attention to do? Frankly I expected some laughter, and everyone would eventually sit down and wait for the movie to start. No! You could have heard a pin drop while every soldier continued to stand at attention. Suddenly, there was a lone voice from the front of the auditorium, then a dozen voices, and soon the room was filled with the voices of a thousand soldiers, finishing where the recording left off: “And the rockets’ red glare, the bombs bursting in air, gave proof through the night that our flag was still there. Oh say, does that Star Spangled Banner yet wave, o’er the land of the free, and the home of the brave.” It was the most inspiring moment I have had in Iraq, and I wanted you to know what kind of U. S. Soldiers are serving you! Remember them as they fight for us!

Next Edition
Please watch for the next edition approximately May 10. 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.

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 16 April

Please send your favorite reunion stories and pictures to share.

Santa Fe Trail Continues throughout the Levant

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

AMMAN, Jordan- A lot can happen over the course of several months. For the Soldiers of the 35th Infantry Division currently serving in the Levant region of the Middle East their overseas rotation has allowed them opportunities to continue to build on the ever-expanding relationship between the U.S. and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

These opportunities have lent themselves to shaping future endeavors by strengthening combined combat-readiness, developing deeper partnerships, maintaining mission readiness, and ultimately fostering an environment of mutual respect and understanding of cultures.

Building combat readiness through bilateral training

During their mission, Santa Fe Soldiers have worked closely with their Jordan Armed Forces counterparts to enhance cooperative military training and ultimately strengthen the combined combat-readiness for both militaries. One of the main cooperation initiatives that the U.S. and Jordan conducts is the Jordanian Operational Engagement Program. The JOEP is a 10-week program where Jordan and U.S. Soldiers train on a variety of weapons system, including the M113 Armored Personnel Carrier and Mechanized Mortar Vehicle, Javelin, M-4 rifle and the M110 semi-automatic rifle.

Capt. Tom Williams, 35th Inf. Div. plans officer for the JOEP, says the collaborative efforts between the two countries has promoted not only military knowledge but also a more in-depth cultural understanding.

“The Jordanian Operational Engagement Program allows Jordan and U.S. Soldiers to develop personally and professionally while on the firing ranges, having a meal together or just sharing military life experiences.”

The JOEP is the largest training program out of the U.S. Embassy in Amman, funded by the Counter Terrorism Partnership Fund. Through this program, the U.S. has committed to advising and assisting Jordan as it remains vigilant and ready to defend its people against potential threats of violent extremism.

With every completion of a JOEP cycle, Jordan and U.S. Soldiers have a better understanding of how each country builds and maintains combat readiness.

Building better partnerships through information exchanges

In addition to the JOEP program, Soldiers of the 35th and the JAF interact together during a variety of other subject matter expert exchanges.

One such reoccurring exchange is a series of legal studies engagements. These events allow JAF and U.S. Forces to share information regarding rules of engagement, international law and how the U.S. Army military justice system applies to Soldiers serving in austere environments.

“We’ve held five legal symposiums with Jordanian military judges to exchange ideas on the practical application of operational law concepts when advising commanders,” said Maj. Spencer Curtis, 35th Inf. Div. Judge

Advocate General officer. “These collaborative efforts allow Jordan and the U.S. to make intelligent and informed decisions as to how we should be operating in a joint environment.”

Curtis says the 35th’s Jordanian counterparts are eager to gain understanding of how the U.S. codifies its laws and regulations from a military stand point. They are additionally interested in comparing fundamental rights in both systems, like the right to an attorney, while contrasting the differences between the two systems, like the U.S. trial by jury system.

Contributing to the partnership exchanges, the 35th Inf. Div. military intelligence section planned and participated in over 50 hours of intelligence subject matter expert exchanges with the JAF intelligence directorate. Topics discussed included intelligence preparation of the battlefield, the military decision making process and geospatial engineering.

Maj. Charity Summers, 35th Inf. Div. intelligence officer, said it has been rewarding to collaborate with her Jordanian counterparts.

“We’ve conducted over 50 intelligence engagements with the Jordanian Directorate of Military Intelligence and supporting organizations,” said Summers. “Additionally, we’ve contributed to the planning and execution of a staff-wide, trilateral, multinational table-top exercise to include the first ever joint assessment with Jordan.”

Building and maintaining mission readiness through collaborative projects

Through continued planning efforts, the engineers, not only built partnerships, but literally changed the landscape in the Levant by managing the buildout of new vertical and horizontal construction projects. These engineering feats helped create infrastructure to support the coalition partnership between the Jordan and U.S. armed forces.

Maj. Todd Leeds, 35th Inf. Div. engineer officer, said the working collaboration between the Royal Jordanian Engineer Corps and U.S. engineers is essential to help defend Jordan’s borders and protect against threats. “Two REC battalions and U.S. engineers emplaced a barrier protection system around 17 separate border towers, which totaled three-thousand two-hundred meters,” said Leeds. “This separates the most dangerous portions of the border against external threats to Jordan.”

Yet another measure for maintaining mission readiness for the 35th came from the communication and information technology support sections. Because communication is critical to the success of any organization, having fully-functional equipment to support the mission in the Levant is paramount.

Capt. Edward Maidment, 35th Inf. Div. deputy communications officer, said keeping software safe from viruses and other malicious programs is the key to operating consistently in the digital age.

“We’re currently updating over two-hundred-thirty computers to combat software issues and maintain the Soldier’s ability to push vital information,” says Maidment. “Our

team also managed six digital communications networks, commercial internet connection for over 300 users and implemented a tactical communications solution to provide data and voice over internet provider (VoIP) phone services for use in emergencies.”

Although the 35th communications team does not frequently interact directly with the JAF, their continued services help support all other sections to enhance their partnership initiatives.

Building lasting relationships through cultural understanding

While 35th Soldiers were hard at work, time did become available for Soldiers to appreciate the ancient historical sites throughout the country of Jordan.

Maj. John Potter, 35th Inf. Div. Chaplain, says visiting these treasured places provides knowledge and perspective regarding how the world has taken its shape throughout history.

“Jordan has preserved valuable ruins which depict part of human history,” says Potter. “Seeing the preservation of the Roman Amphitheatre in Amman, mosques, Byzantine churches and the ancient architecture of Petra is a testament to how revered these monuments are to Jordan and the entire world.”

Spc. Stephanie K. Fordyce, intelligence specialist, 35th Inf. Div., says visiting these historical locations help her understand the

strength of one’s personal foundation of life and allows them to understand their JAF partners on a much deeper level.

The 35th has been provided many opportunities across the Hashemite Kingdom to engage and interact with both the military and the people of Jordan. But the partnerships and relationships built over the past few months could not have been built without the mutual respect and generosity shown by their Jordanian counterparts.

Command Sgt. Maj. Terence Hankerson, 35th Inf. Div., says his experience in Jordan has been a tremendous opportunity to work with international military peers building partnerships, mutual trust and respect.

“This is a once in a life time opportunity to work with the welcoming citizens of Jordan,” said Hankerson. “The Jordanian and U.S. Soldiers are training hard to help secure a bright future for the people of the Hashemite Kingdom.”

Brig. Gen. John Rueger, 35th Inf. Div. deputy commanding general, says that collectively, the citizens and civil and military leaders of Jordan have been gracious hosts.

“It has been our honor and privilege to work with the Jordan Armed Forces-Arab Army,” said Rueger. “Everywhere the 35th has been we’ve been treated warmly and welcomed by the citizens of Jordan.”



Legal professionals from the Staff Judge Advocate section of the 35th Infantry Division participated in a subject matter expert exchange with lawyers from the Jordan Armed Forces – Arab Army at a base outside of Amman Sep. 11-14, 2017. The exchange focused on topics like law of armed conflict, the Geneva Conventions and Rules of Engagement. Photo by Capt. Margaret Ziffer



Sgt. Ramon Crayton, 35th Inf. Div., performs final checks on a mobile communications system before it becomes operational in the Levant, Nov. 3, 2017. Crayton is part of the communications cell and responsible for helping provide Soldiers the means of digital systems throughout the Middle East. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Jeremy Miller)



A U.S. Soldier operates an excavator while Jordanian Royal Engineers guide the operator to fill HESCO barriers Aug. 2017. The Soldiers are collaborating as part of the partnership between Jordan and the U.S. to ensure the safety and security of the Hashemite Kingdom. Photo by Master Sgt. Mark Hanson

International Liaison Committee

January 5, 2018



Photo : Ville de Nancy

Isabelle Mangin interpreter to General George S. Patton dies at age 99.

September's enthusiasm over the opening of the new WWII library for the museum of l'Espace de Memoire Lorraine 1939-45 was dampened in October.

Isabelle Mangin, considered the "dean" of the association, died Oct. 15, 2017. She was a few weeks short of her 99th birthday. A recipient of the French Legion of Honor, Mme. Mangin was known to members of the 35th Division Association as the interpreter of Gen. George S. Patton. When possible, she liked to greet members of the 35th Division association as individuals or tour members. Most recently, she graced the grand ceremony that welcomed the 2014 "Santa Fe" group at the City Hall of Nancy.

Isabelle, nicknamed "Matou," was a student of English and German when she began her work with the French Resistance during the 1940s. She committed numerous acts of disobedience. Some included explosives and trains and clippers and wires. (Privately, she told Paula Baker how she stole a document stamp from a German official's desk. She made several visits to his office, pretending to explore opportunities to study in Germany. On her final visit, she quietly edged the seal off the corner of his desk.)

Following the liberation of Nancy on September 15, 1944, Isabelle was selected to be Gen. Patton's interpreter. He was taken aback at the tiny, fiery young woman at first, wanting to know "who is this kid?"

She aced her first assignment, finding locksmiths. The Germans locked doors and took the keys when they retreated from Nancy. Isabelle remained as the interpreter for the General for eight months, following him from Lorraine into Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany. As agreed at the beginning of the assignment, she was relieved from duty when the prison camp that held her fiancé, Francy, was liberated in Germany.

"Matou" remained a staunch admirer of the general to the end of her days. However, sometimes she admitted that she wished he hadn't been as strict a protector as he promised her parents he would

be. She would have liked to have done more dancing with the GIs. Her enthusiasm for American jazz lasted throughout the years.

Isabelle was a member of the association of "L'Espace de Memoire Lorraine 1939-45," from its beginning. She was the ribbon-cutter at the opening of the Espace museum. She was vice president of Lorraine Resistance, an accredited translator for court proceedings and a brilliant English teacher at the esteemed Pointcare high school.

A Fulbright Scholar, she earned her master of English degree at the University of Washington, Seattle. She cherished her class ring. She also cherished her Challenge Coin of the 35th Division.

"Matou had a rebellious character, a naughty smile and a unique voice," recalled Jerome Leclerc, animator of the Espace association and museum.

Although the museum closed after the first weekend in October, association members have remained busy.

Some attended the dedication of the stele marking the 100th anniversary of the first three soldiers of the American Expeditionary Forces to fall in WWI. Association member Jean-Paul Seichepine was instrumental in this activity at Bathlemont, near Luneville. The American soldiers were from Company F of the 16th Regiment of the AEF.

The first memorial was destroyed by Nazis in WWII. The ceremony was attended by a representative of the US embassy in Paris and the consuls general of the United States and Germany from Strasbourg.

In December, the Espace association organized an exhibition for the annual Christmas fair at the landmark Hill of Sion. Some 90 exhibitors including crafts persons and agriculture specialists assembled for the fair. It was served by shuttle buses from the city of Nancy.

Volunteers have also been working on weekends and holidays to catalogue, shelve and care for the numerous acquisitions for the Jean-Louis Etienne documentary center. The largest collection of World War II books in Lorraine is housed in a separate, climate-controlled building outside the museum. As the bequest was publicized, other families searched their shelves and storage spaces to enlarge the collection. The media office of the Department (state) of Meurthe et Moselle made numerous donations. Other significant gifts were the complete works of Charles deGaulle and items from the collection of Edouard Reniere of Belgium.

History student Thibaut Beluche was named one of nine departmental recipients of awards for outstanding youth in sports and volunteerism. Thibaut spent two weeks working with the museum in the spring of 2017. His internship was required for his history degree from the University of Lorraine. He set up the

World War I exhibit featured in the summer. However, he became so interested in the museum activities that he remained involved. He donated countless hours to set up the Jean-Louis Etienne center. He helped with the physical labor of setting up the shelves and shelving books. Then he developed software for the library.

The museum is located across the railway station at Vezelise, 20 miles south of Nancy. The website is www.espacedememoire.fr. Contact in-

Continued on page 5
See International



Stele to American soldiers from Company F of the 16th Regiment, World War I 1917-2017



Thibaut Beluche shelving books in the library of Espace de Memoire Museum



Display of complete works of Charles deGaulle



Isabelle Mangin poses with American soldiers during World War II

**Intenational Liaison Committee
Continued from page 4**

formation is available through the website. English translation is available. Visits for American veterans and families may be arranged privately. The museum will reopen to the public in April 2018.

Every year on December 6th, children throughout the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg await the arrival of St. Nicholas. This year was no exception. This annual event has become even more special through the years with the appearance of Richard Brookins or a member of his family. Brookins was a twenty-two-year-old corporal with the 28th Division who donned the St. Nicholas attire in 1944 and handed out treats to the children of Wiltz, Luxembourg. The story can be found in the book, American St. Nick by Peter Lion. Marilyn Jensen received the book as a gift from Luxembourg friend Patrick Beck and found Richard's son, Donald, living near her in Denver, Colorado. A family friendship developed.

The outbreak of the Battle of the Bulge was remembered at Schuman Crossroads "National Liberation Memorial" near Wiltz on December 16, 2017. The 35th Division is honored on the Memorial. Members of the Luxembourg Government and representatives from the U.S. Embassy were in attendance as well as, color guards of the Luxembourg Army and U.S. Air Force troops stationed at Spangdahlem U.S. Air Base in Germany. Other memorial services were held at Hoscheid, organized by the Commune of Parc Hosingen and U.S. Veterans Friends.

To mark its 45th anniversary, Circle of Studies on the Battle of the Bulge (CEBA) organization organized an education program on Saturday, December 9th. The event was held at the Clervaux Castle, where on December 17th and 18th, many Allied troops were billeted gearing up to launch a counterattack in the Battle of the Bulge. PFC James Graff's (C-134-35) uniform is on display at the Museum in the Clervaux Castle. CEBA also had a booth at the Clervaux Christmas market. Every visitor who could name the commander of the Sherman Tank that stands in the Clervaux Castle Courtyard got a complimentary Apple-Jack and cookies.

Bram Temmerman, a member of the

35th Division Belgium living history group, reports that they participated in a remembrance walk in December organized by the 2nd Armored Division to remember all those who fought in the Battle of the Bulge. People from all over Europe and even some Americans joined up for this event. Bram and his friends walked in the footsteps of the 4th Infantry Division. The route of the walk was based on After Action Reports of the 4th Infantry Division and passed through the towns and forests where they fought in the winter of 1944/1945. After the walk, Bram and Vince De Saedeleer visited the Luxembourg American Cemetery to pay their respects to our 35th Division servicemen buried there. Bram has adopted the grave of Pvt Troy Bader (G-134-35) who is buried at Hamm.

This January, we remember our 35th Division soldiers who were casualties in the Battle of the Bulge: 1,393 missing and captured, 2,071 wounded, and 594 Killed in Action.

Richard van Kessel will be attending Memorial Day services at the American Military Cemetery in Margraten in May. As always, he will be visiting the grave of Donald Giles (G-320-35), from Nebraska City, Nebraska. Sgt. Giles died on April 16, 1945, of wounds he sustained on the 15th of April, as Company G crossed the Saale River to hold the bridge head. Richard has adopted Giles' grave and makes several visits to the cemetery each year to pay his respects. This year, he will take his two sons with him to continue the family tradition. If there are any special photographs which you would like from the Margraten Cemetery, Richard has offered to take photos. Email him at richardvankessel@ziggo.nl

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

Forrest Strickler's Return to Europe

Dear sirs:

I am enclosing my renewal fee and a local papers' article about me and a recent trip I took. I was with the 106th division and a SGT. with 62 men, all 18 and 19 yrs. old. We were told to take the little village of St. Vith. We took it but 3 days later the Germans with white parkas took it back. We lost 8 men. As you know, the 106th div was left to guard prisoners and never a combat outfit again. When it was over, I was given 2 weeks rest and then sent to the 35th, service company of the 134th. I went on with you and was chosen one of the honor guards for Pres. Truman at the Potsdam Conference because he was in our DIV. as Capt. Truman in WWI of a battery of the 134th. I revisited the Potsdam Bldg. and it is in excellent repair and kept just as it was when we were there. I was given a wonderful welcome. The article is in error as it stated I was with Eisenhower and should have said Pres. Truman. I had a map of the various skirmishes 'til the end and Pres. Truman brought us back on the Queen Mary.

I moved here to Bella Vista, Ark in 1986. I have been in our local honor guard for 34 years, retiring last year. I was in the Illinois 44th DIV. and attained the rank of Warrant Officer I for several years while getting my accounting degree. I did the payroll for the Division for several years. I'm so glad the 35th Div. has kept in active duty and that I'm a part of it.

Yours truly, Forrest J. Strickler



Pictures sent by Louise Endres Moore, of memorials to 35th Division, taken by US embassy in Luxembourg in 2004

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Oct 2016-Sep 2017

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Oct 2017 to Jan 2018

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Anything received after 30 January 2018 is not included. If you believe your donation was received prior to this date and do not see your name, please contact the Executive Secretary.

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These photos are from the National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial in Kansas City.

A visit/tour of the museum was one of the activities offered during the 35th Division Association 100th Annual Conference. Several people signed up for the tour.



Elliot Herring “My Story”

It all started in Jan 1943 at Ft. Dix, N.J. when I entered the Army. Only a short stay at Dix and then a 5 day train to San Louis Obispo, CA. there I joined “F” Co. of 134th Infantry, 35th Division.

The 35th Division was a Nebraska National Guard outfit that was a federalized and brought up to full strength with replacements from larger cities in the United States.

Company “F” was from York, Neb or small farm town and all the men knew each other very well. Now comes outsiders from the big cities, NY, Chicago, Phil, etc. the original boys from York and their officers and Non Coms stayed together. When York men came in late on a pass, it was covered up and now AWOL even if they were 3 days late. After all they grew up together and looked out for each other.

We outsiders were the last to get promotions. There was one other Jewish man, Mel Goldberg from Chicago in our company. We were both subjected to Anti-Semitic remarks. Most in the Company never saw a Jewish person before and all they know is stories of what they heard from other people. I was asked where are my horns, yes that’s right 1943!!

I can truthfully say the more Co F men got to know me the better the relationship was. Christmas time Mel and I took details the KP so that the men can celebrate Christmas.

We trained at several camp in the States that include Camp Rucker in Alabama, Camp Butler in N.C. and even winter maneuvers in Tenn and W.V. So now we are a fighting machine. Sometime in March-April 1944 we deployed. Belfast and noticed that sun never

seem to set (Double British Summer Time). It got dark about 11:30 PM and bright again at 3 AM.

The troupes ships headed south and we embarked and took a train to St. Ives Cornwall, SW England.

We were billeted in a local hotel, straw mattress on view mess, but it was dry. Not much to do, a little marching no real training except some lectures.

D day, the 6th of June I like to say I and my company was “on the beach.” We were playing touch football, but we saw the armada of ships and knew something was up. Later we learned of the invasion.

Our time would come soon enough. No knowing if the Germans would use gas we got our orders to go but we had to dress in special gas clothing (it was uniform treated with chemicals that did not let the gas get to our skin). It also did not let our body breath!! Hot!! Also gas masks, mine was fitted with eyeglasses but there was no way I could sight through my rifle. Another Pentagon blunder!

We had a train ride with lots of delays to a port of embarkation and small troops ships to France July 4, Omaha Beach. This is D +29 and the beach was very secure, we never got our feet wet, there was a floating dock for us to walk ashore.

Lots of sunken ships from D Day, no sign of the German Air Force and only in the distance did it sound like war.

We marched and marched at last we got rid of our gas clothing and what a relief. Our regiment and Division relieved a Division that was on the line and fighting began for us and so did the killing and wounding of our men. Now living on “K” & “C” rations and

very little water and a hot meal was only in our dreams. But we did get one ever so often and it was good.

Next was the famous battle of St ho. This was Normandy and hedgerow country and the Germans were very well entrench in the ancient hedgerows. Bloody fighting and death all about us. Mel Goldberg, got killed (years later in Chicago I got to meet his mother and she wanted to know for sure if he was dead, he was. Also wanted to know if she should bring his body home from France and I told her not to. It would be like him dying again).

We are now part of Gen. Patton’s 3rd Army. After St ho things are moving fast. Germans are retreating back to Germany, and our troops are right after them. We can’t march fast enough, so each squad goes on a tank, little resistance. Germans throw up their hands and 2 G.I.s hold them until the MP take them in as POWs. We later get caught up to our squad.

This goes on until Sept 10, 1944. We are at the Mosselle River. Reconnaissance says there are no Germans on the other side of the river, we are to make a night crossing.

Remember our basic diet is C&K rations, little water, no bulk, just to keep us alive. We do not have BM every day as normal people, but every 5-6 days or more and when nature dues call, you have to do your thing. And so it happened to me, I told Hugo I have to “go.” Went a few yards away and tree bursts were coming in, i.e. shells were bursting in the trees. Very scary. I did my thing and a burst did knock off my glasses and I stumbled around looking for them and when I found them they were crushed. Now I am blind, without glasses I just could make-out the big

E on eye charts. I keep calling for Hugo and my squad but they must have left the area.

Now I am really scared, nervous and alone. Those tree burst and I am running away from the river to find help. The bushes are tearing my skin and uniform and alone. How long it took to get to an Aid station I don’t know. They fixed me up, gave me food and smokes and glad to be with people again.

Sometime later I was sent to a field hospital. There I was not sick or hurt enough to stay there, I can’t go back to my company (no glasses). So they sent me to Division Rear.

Division Rear is where all the cooks, clerks, mail, supplies, etc. was. There the Company clerk filled out the forms for me to get new eyeglasses. What to do with me?

Put Herring in with the cooks they can always use an extra man. Great! The company clerk had a good reason also. There was always extra and surplus rations, sugar, coffee, bread, milk. I gave him these rations and he traded it with the French local for wine, calvados, cognac etc. Everybody had what they wanted, me no combat, dry place to sleep, plenty of food and staying alive!

Division rear had its own power supply, we had movies one night, I went and sat up front. If you had to fight a war this is the way to do it.

In 5 or 6 weeks my new glasses did arrive. Nothing was said when the Company Chef gave them to me and so I stayed alive to write this story.

Of my Company F only a handful of combat men survived without getting killed or captured or wounded. I was one of them!

YOU SAVED MY LIFE

Dr John A. Kerner Story

Probably because I am well past 98 years old and facing a major heart operation, I have been thinking of what were important events in my life. One such event was brought to mind only recently.

My phone rang and a voice asked, “Is this Doctor Kerner?” “Yes.” “Did your name used to be Kapstein?” “Yes.” “You saved my life.?”

I asked him about this statement, and it brought to my mind the event about which I hadn’t thought. It was probably much more important than I had realized.

The caller told me about the event. Then he said that he had been hunting for me since the war. Recently a friend loaned him a book COMBAT MEDIC WORLD WAR II in which I explained how I had changed my name from Kapstein to Kerner after that war. He had been hunting for Kapstein. The event follows.

When the 35th Infantry Division landed on Omaha Beach in World War II, I was a medical officer in the 110th Medical battalion. Shortly after we fought our first major battle after leaving the beach, I was ordered to take over the battalion aid station of the 2nd battalion of the 320th Infantry. The two medical officers in charge had both been casualties and they could only spare one to replace them. I had had little experience with

the division and had never been on maneuvers. I knew little about the job I was to do. The first battle had been a disaster for us with many casualties and no significant progress. I had been working taking care of wounded brought to the collecting station where I had been assigned.

The new job put me in command of all the aid men in the battalion, our job was to set up an aid station as close to the front as possible. If there was any combat, we were to find the wounded give them immediate care most often including a shot of morphine and a cigarette, Stop bleeding if possible and get the wounded man to our aid station for more first aid often including starting an I.V. of plasma.

Our second offensive was more successful and I had to move our aid station. I certainly needed the help of the senior sergeant in finding a good spot. We went in one of my two jeeps with a couple of id men. We came to a field surrounded by hedge rows. There has been obvious fighting in the area. In the middle of the field was a soldier in obvious distress. We stopped to pick him up. At that point we noted a crude notice. It was a large piece of paper mounted on a piece of lumber: BEWARE MINES. At that time we had

no experience with mines, but we knew a bit about them.

Obviously, we wanted to pick up the wounded man, but it looked like he had been wounded by a mine. I did not feel at ease in asking one of my men to go to the aid of the wounded man. So I decided to go to get him if possible. I got out of the jeep and carefully worked my way toward the wounded man. I looked at the ground, but I was not sure what look for, I thought, I might see some sort of trigger or some evidence of replaced turf. I got to the man. The lower part of one leg had been blown off still connected by a thread of skin. I cut that bit, sprinkled a bit of sulfa powder placed a dressing and most important, controlled the brisk bleeding with a couple of Ace bandages which I had the men carry. I gave the man a shot of morphine and a cigarette, and sorted trying to drag him out. At that point the men with me saw the route I had taken and carefully came to help. We got the man on a litter along with part of his leg in its combat boot. We put him on the jeep hood held the litter with clamps we had installed. Found an ambulance that had trailed us and sent him to the rear. That was the last I heard from the man until recently.

The remarkable thing about all of that was

the way I was treated. I was the only commissioned officer in that group of Combat Medics, but from that time I was accepted as one of them. I got the sort of respect that a commander should get for the first time in my life. I did not appreciate that event at the time. I learned how important it was to have the respect of my command. Up until that in college, medical school, internship, I was usually low man in the order. I continued in command then and after the war I knew how to be a resident, to be a chief, and chief of staff. Only now, at the age of 98, do I appreciate that it all started in that mine field.

John Kerner
35th Hall of Fame 2012



**Deadline for the
Apr-May-June
issue of the
Santa Fe Express
is April 16**

Museum News

Significant Improvements Being Made to Museum

During the winter several improvements, financed with government funding, are being made to the Museum of the Kansas National Guard, Home of the 35th Division Museum, a recognized U. S. Army museum.

The Museum’s HVAC system has been upgraded with eight new energy-efficient furnaces and nine new air conditioning systems and all new controls. New energy-efficient LED lighting has been installed throughout the Museum, and exhibit cases are being upgraded to LED lighting with lights purchased by the USP&FO and installed by Museum volunteers under the supervision of COL Bob Staiert (Ret).

The original part of the Museum, which opened in 1997, including offices and exhibit areas, has received new carpet and paint. Restrooms and the small kitchen area have been painted.

A Parade Ground Reviewing Stand has been constructed, complete with concrete floor, ceiling, and electricity. The project was begun by the 226th Engr Co in an Annual Training status in 2017, and completed by a contract with KBS Constructors.

New outside exhibits include a M-916 Light Equipment Transporter, a M-936A2 5-Ton Wrecker, a M919A2 5-Ton Dump Truck, and a M-1114 Up-armored Humvee. A M-14 light Armored Personnel Carrier has been received on loan from the Combat Air Museum and is now on exhibit. The F-4 Phantom has been painted by the 190th Air Refueling Wing and returned to the Museum.

Schedule Set for 50th Anniversary Recognition of 1968 Mobilizations

In recognition of the 50th Anniversary of the 1968 mobilizations of the Kansas National Guard, several activities are planned in 2018. All who were mobilized and their families are welcome at all events, as well as surviving members of Guardsmen who were mobilized. This is primarily designed as an informal reunion.

May 7 Museum Quarterly Luncheon

The May 7, 2018 Quarterly Brown Bag Luncheon will feature a Panel Presentation on the 1968 mobilizations.

June 8-9, 2018 Activities at Museum

- Fri, June 8** – Social Time – Sharing Time, Group Discussions, Presentations, Informal Time, Social Hour, and Dinner
- Sat, June 9** – Pancake Breakfast-Heartland Military Day
- Sat, June 9** – Informal Discussions and Presentations (Band Concerts, Reenactments, Vietnam Veterans Chapter 604, etc.)
- Sat, June 9** – Cookout Meal at Noon

All events and activities are free. However, reservations for the Friday evening meal at the Museum are needed. You may let the Museum know how many by e-mailing at office@kngmuseum.org or calling 785 862-1020 (Museum). **Sponsors** are Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, Breidenthal-Snyder Foundation, USAA, Thrivent, & Caterpillar.

Exhibits & Displays

Several exhibits on the mobilization are on display: 50th Anniversary Exhibit (184th TFG, 69th Inf Bde, 995th Ord Co), 184th Pueblo Crisis Exhibit, 69th Bde at Ft. Carson, 69th Bde Soldiers in Vietnam

Photo albums, documents, collections, running slide show of photos from the 1968 Mobilization are also on exhibit.

Donations to 35th Division Museum

WW II Hand Grenades – Mark Hanson

WW II Documents & Artifacts – Estate of SGM Gale Beck

Framed Print of Gen. John J. Pershing, WW I – James Suwalski

Radio Sets & Power Supplies – MAJ Pleasant Park

Field Glasses, Afrika Korps – BG Jon Small

69th Bde Collection – MG Jack Strukel, Jr.

Recent 35th Division Brick Orders

**Company B
1st & 2d Bns – Friends
635th Armor Regt**

**1SG William Roach
HHB, 2d Bn, 130th FA
Hiawatha, KS**

**John H. Evers
M/Sgt CO H-137
Capt CO G-137**

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



Museum Donor Form for 2018

Name: _____ Rank: _____ Telephone: _____

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(Street) (City/State/Zip)

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



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

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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 2018 Members, Major Donors, & Perpetual Sustaining Membership Payments Receive a Free Museum Coin)

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





Armored Fighting Vehicle



Light Equipment Transporter

**New
Museum
Exhibits**



5-Ton Wrecker



Up-Armored HUMVWW



5-Ton Dump Truck

President’s Message—

continued from page 1

WWII Monument and the Vietnam Wall Monument to honor both the living and the dead of these respective wars. I admit it took courage for me to get to the wall for the first time. Courage and a shove from behind by a brother in arms who had previously seen the Wall and knew what to expect. It hurt to look up the names. A second visit to the Wall hurt a little less. Our fallen soldiers and nurses of the Vietnam War are honored properly.

And now to note those of the 35th Division who are making history today. We salute our 35th Division warriors of Headquarters and Task Force Spartan currently serving in the Middle-East in support of Operation Spartan Shield. The 35th Division “Santa Fe” combat patch is worn proudly by the soldiers. They face complex international challenges. They face danger. They are prepared for war. Major General Victor Braden is the commander of the 35th. The 35th Division Association is proud of you and we extend an offer of membership within the shadow of the Santa Fe Cross. We honor you and wish you God Speed for a safe return. We will gather with you during our fall Reunion 2018.

As a parting note, I hereby make a personal pledge to reach out and find at least two 69th Brigade veterans for recruitment into our 35th Division Association. We of the 35th Division Association know we have something good going for us. Let’s spread the news!

COL (Ret) Bob Dalton
69th Brigade – Tested, Proven, Proud

Division History—

continued from page 1

son and Sprawka received coins from 35th Infantry Division commanding general, Maj. Gen. Victor Braden, for their efforts.

While the division may not be certain of the future, digging into Spurrier’s story did uncover a small, previously forgotten piece of their legacy. Spurrier’s records reveal that his time serving in the Army, dotted with episodes of confrontations with senior leaders and periods of absence without leave, is not a story one would expect to result in the achievement of such a prestigious award.

However, the classic tale of the underdog is one that many in the division see as a fitting representation for the current division.

“He was certainly no boy scout,” laughed Bush. “But he was an unconventional figure who was able to think on his feet, adapt to a changing environment, and make the best of a situation.”

“I think he is a great example for all of us and his story still speaks to how the division operates today in many ways,” said Bush. “I would like for people to think of the 35th division that way today - that we can get the job done, we are going to do it in a way that surpasses everyone’s expectations.”

Staff Sgt. Junior J. Spurrier’s official Medal of Honor citation reads:

General Orders: War Department, General Orders No. 18 (March 15, 1945)

The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Staff Sergeant Junior James Spurrier, United States Army, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving

with Company G, 134th Infantry Regiment, 35th Infantry Division, in action against the enemy at Achain, France, on 13 November 1944. At 2 p.m., Company G attacked the village of Achain from the east. Staff Sergeant Spurrier armed with a BAR passed around the village and advanced alone. Attacking from the west, he immediately killed three Germans. From this time until dark, Staff Sergeant Spurrier, using at dif-

ferent times his BAR and M-1 rifle, American and German rocket launchers, a German automatic pistol, and hand grenades, continued his solitary attack against the enemy regardless of all types of small-arms and automatic-weapons fire. As a result of his heroic actions he killed an officer and 24 enlisted men and captured two officers and two enlisted men. His valor has shed fresh honor on the U.S. Armed Forces.

Deployed Soldiers of 35th Division Awarded Membership to the 35th Division Association

The President, Executive Council, Veterans and Families associated with the 35th Division Association thank you for your service to our nation. They have awarded deployed soldiers a yearly membership to the 35th Division Association.

Your membership helps maintain the mission of the Association along with enhancing communication of the 35th through the “Divisionnaire”, 35th Association Website and 35th Div. Museum located at the Kansas National Guard Museum in Topeka, KS. The Association assists to foster, preserve, and promote the proud heritage of the 35th Infantry Division, which was formed in 1917, fought in France in World War I and again fought across Europe during World War II.

Along with your current deployment to the Middle East, the 35th served as the lead peacekeeping headquarters in both Bosnia and Kosovo. Many units and individuals of the 35th Division have also recently served in Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Horn of Africa. In addition, response to Natural disasters and preparation to support civil authorities to protect the homeland is an additional but vital role in the fight to keep America secure.

Please complete the information below to start receiving the edition of the “Santa Fe”. You may send in the membership letter electronically to 35divassn@gmail.com, or mail to 35th DIV Association, P.O. Box 5004, Topeka, KS 66605.

Name: _____Rank/Title: _____Unit: _____

Address: _____City/State/ZIP: _____

Military E-mail: _____Telephone(Optional): _____

Civ E-mail: (Optional) _____



The ‘35th Infantry Division Marching Song’ was produced and copyrighted on March 23, 1944 during the 35th’s final preparations to embark for Europe. It was written by Lt. Col. M.A. Solomon and arranged by Chief Warrant Officer L.D. Sites and Sgt J.W. Ahlin. The song was dedicated to Major General Paul W. Baade, the 35th Infantry Division commander during that time. (Photo courtesy of U.S. Library of Congress, copyright number 12773)

Photo by Master Sgt. Mark Hanson

A musical history reclaimed

KUWAIT
09.22.2017
Story by Master Sgt. Mark Hanson
35th Infantry Division

The recent mobilization of the 35th Infantry Division to the Middle East, along with its corresponding centennial anniversary, has instilled a renewed sense of pride and interest in the Division’s long heritage and history. While most of the division’s history is annotated and catalogued across volumes of historical battle-field entries, one piece of the Division’s history had remained a mystery.

Cpt. Jennifer Denkler, a personnel officer assigned to the 35th, noticed that during ceremonial events, the 35th didn’t have their own song to play.

“The 101st Airborne Division has ‘Rendezvous with Destiny,’ and the First Infantry Division has ‘The Big Red One,’” said Denkler. “I bet we had our own song at one point in time.”

‘Marching songs,’ written and dedicated to returning units were not uncommon during World War II. During the late 1930’s and 1940’s many people globally had ra-

dios in their homes, and songs dedicated to deploying troops became increasingly popular.

“Nearly every unit at a Division level would have a marching song,” said Master Sgt. Jeremy Byers, the Kansas National Guard state historian. “The 29th Infantry Division, the National Guard division that the 35th replaced in Kuwait, has a well-known song called ‘The Boys of the Blue and Gray,’ that was written during World War I.”

The 35th Div. too, had a marching song composed during World War II, however only the lyrics had ever been located. The sheet music and any audio recording had been lost to time – until Capt. Denkler started researching.

“I asked former veterans of the 35th and a few Army National Guard historians who gave me the lyrics to ‘The 35th Infantry Division Marching Song,’” said Denkler. “But I was told that the sheet music had been ‘missing in action’ for years.”

Determined to find the music and complete a missing part of the 35th’s history, Denkler began doing some online research.

She eventually stumbled upon a copyright number for the song.

“With the copyright number in hand, I contacted the Library of Congress’s archive division, requesting their assistance,” said Denkler. “Two days later, a music reference specialist in Washington D.C., had emailed me a digital copy of the sheet music.”

The ‘35th Infantry Division Marching Song’ was produced and copyrighted on March 23, 1944 during the 35th’s final preparations to embark for Europe. It was written by Lt. Col. M.A. Solomon and arranged by Chief Warrant Officer L.D. Sites and Sgt J.W. Ahlin. The song was dedicated to Major General Paul W. Baade, the 35th Infantry Division commander during that time.

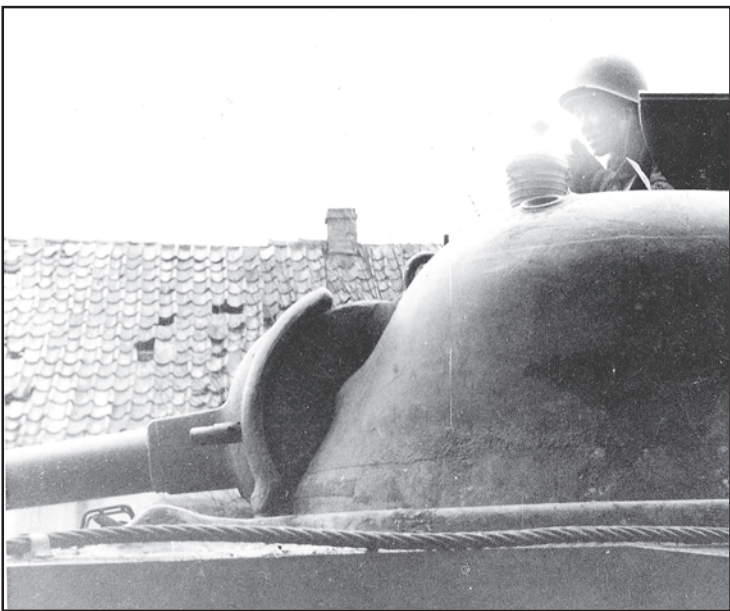
“This is an amazing find for the 35th,” said Byers. “The Kansas National Guard Museum in Topeka, which also holds the 35th Infantry Division Museum, has massive archives of photos, film reels, biographies, and documents stemming back to WWI – this really adds something special to that collection.”

“I’m just glad that I was able to complete that missing piece of our history,” said Denkler. “All that is left to restore it fully, is to have someone compose and record it!”

“WWII battle story”

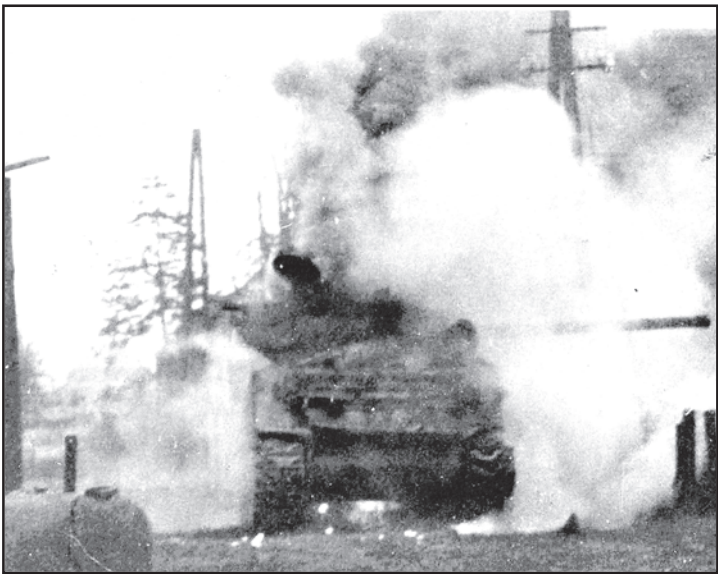
Ten years ago, Murray Leff published a collection of battlefield photographs shot with a camera he carried while serving in Europe as an Army infantryman during World War II. These images are from his book “Lens of an Infantryman” A World War II Memoir with photographs from a Hidden Camera”.

A) We had attacked at dawn and the fire from the enemy increased as we advanced. We finally took refuge in a house. We could not move. I was outside when a huge Sherman tank appeared out of nowhere. The hatch of the tank opened and a soldier’s head popped out. I was surprised to see it was black man and he said two words that give me a start when I hear them now. He simply asked, “NEED HELP?” I told him we were getting fire from the buildings in back of ours.



A few days before I had traded some cigarettes for a camera with which I took the black tanker’s picture. Here you see him talking to his headquarters, I think for permission to help us. In WW II all the black soldiers I saw were in supply units. The Air Corps had a squadron of black airmen that got a lot of publicity, but I never saw any mention of the black tankers that supported us.

B) The following day started, at dawn, with a deafening crash of artillery that startled us awake. I was sleeping under a window when a shell exploded right under it. I was showered with glass, masonry and clouds of plaster dust but I was not hurt. The attack was very intense but it did not last long. When I thought it was over I got up and looked out the window. I could not believe what I saw. It was our tank exploding and burning. After a while I decided to take a picture of it. This I did; crouching behind a stone wall.



C) The next day all was quiet so I ventured outside. The tank was smoldering with wisps of smoke still coming out of it. Very obvious were 2 88MM shell holes in the side of the tank. The German 88MM gun was the most feared gun they had. Its super high velocity and resulting sound and destructiveness put it in a very special class.



By using the self-timing device on the camera I was using, I was able to take a picture of the tank. The next day other units had passed us by so I decided to take another picture. This time there was a chaplain taking the burned bodies out of the tank. The chaplain seeing me getting ready to take a picture said “You don’t want a picture of this!” He was right I didn’t!



D) Now I used the self-timer on the camera to take a photo of myself in front of the window under which I was sleeping when that tremendous artillery barrage started. I am pointing to the shell hole in the ground created by the shell that sent all that plaster and glass all over me. You can see that the window frame was torn up and there are shell holes all over the side of the building.

**I’m 95 now.
How should I think
about the time I was 22
shivering in a muddy
foxhole, as shells
exploded around me ?**



Clods of dirt, thrown into the air, rained down on me as close hits threw them in the air. Would the next one mean a gold star in my folk’s front window?

Three guys in my squad had that distinction. One was killed on November 8, 1944 as General Patton resumed an interrupted attack. The second was killed in the Battle of the Bulge. He was so new I never learned his name. The last one was unique in that I was able to contact his family.

As I think about these three, I realize how lucky I was. I have had a full life. True, I have lost many in my family and that is a void that can never be filled. But, at the same time, my daughter became a grandmother and I now have three GREAT grandchildren!

There are times, at night, in the winter, when I look out of the bedroom window and see snow covering everything. I imagine how it would feel to go out and dig a foxhole. The Battle of the Bulge is still in my head...and I imagine how it would have felt then to think about sleeping in a dry, warm bed like the one I am about to get into.

Sure, I have conflicting emotions about the past but that doesn’t stop me from trying to enjoy the present.

Murray Leff E-137

Butterflies and Resurrection and Healing

Ronald Lee Cobb

Winter is a difficult time. Every winter my Seasonal Affective Disorder makes me feel like dropping out of school or work or life. The 35th Division had been in Eagle Base in Tuzla for many months. It was fall and winter was coming. President Clinton had just left Srebrenica. When he arrived there from the United States there was a real possibility that extremist Serbs would try to assassinate him. It was a great relief to me to see him leave our NATO command alive. Clinton had been in Srebrenica, Bosnia-Herzegovina as a part of the dedication ceremony for the Srebrenica cemetery where approximately 10,000 men and boys had been murdered in cold blood and buried in mass graves. Upon taking office President Clinton had vowed never to be involved in needless wars overseas but when he saw Bosnian citizens being systematically slaughtered in a vicious “ethnic cleansing,” it reminded him of the systematic slaughter of the Jews under Hitler and he took action. The Serbs thought they could disobey American military forces like they did our inactive NATO military allies who were actually in the country during the massacre. The Serbs were wrong. We told the Serbian military command not to move tanks or artillery pieces, but they did not listen. We had to destroy over 150 tanks and artillery pieces before they realized that the United States was serious and that the needless bloodshed simply had to stop. The 35th Division discovered three more mass grave sites when we are in command and control of the worst ethnic cleansing areas in northeast Bosnia. I had to counsel young, traumatized U.S. Army soldiers who had to guard those mass grave sites. The Serbs were coming into some of the gravesites and lifting out Bosnian bodies with backhoes and trucking them all over that area so the slaughter would look less horrific than it really was. The Bosnians began DNA testing on the bodies and they were able to recover and some families were

even able to bury their own kin. During the 35th Division’s rotation there, we watched the muddy, soggy area where the victims were murdered turn into a beautiful graveyard. Day after day after day unending lines of body after body after body were buried. Winter was coming and my depression and sorrow at the needless slaughter was increasing. I was in the cemetery and sat down on concrete bench and watched grave after grave being dug. Then something surprising happened. A yellow butterfly with blue spots on its wings began to flutter around me. Even in my depression and sorrow it caught my attention. Then I remembered all the butterflies I had seen in the stained glass windows of churches. Butterflies are symbols of the resurrection and joy in the life to come. That little butterfly and its beauty brought me peace and hope, even at the very site of the massacre that was now the large, new cemetery. Years later in northeast Kansas, thousands of miles from Srebrenica and Tuzla and Eagle Base, winter was approaching and my typical Seasonal Affective Disorder was beginning again. I had lost several family and friends in death. As I stood outside our barn overlooking Banner Creek Lake a glimpse of yellow caught my eye. I saw it was a yellow butterfly. I instantly remembered the first butterfly thousands of miles away. As it drew closer I saw that it had beautiful blue spots on its wings. God’s creation always brings healing to me but this was something more. It again symbolized hope and love and resurrection and healing. I am grateful that even now in winter as I write these words I have hope and more peace. Just remembering those two butterflies every winter calms me. I hope reading this story brings hope and healing to you. The butterflies remind me of a simple but profound poem. This poem also brings healing to me like two butterflies with beautiful blue spots who twice have come into my life, “Life is real. Life is earnest and the grave is not its goal. Dust to dust and ash to ashes was not spoken of the soul.”



To S-2 Section - from Duece

**S2 3RD BN 137th Inf
35 Division**

What’s with all you jokers? How come you’re all asleep?
Harry get your ass up, we’ve got to roll the jeep.
Got a mission to accomplish, so come along with me.
The stuff I’m going to show you is quite a sight to see.

There’s Eugene he’s your leader, a whiskey drinking kid.
For all the nearby women, this kid puts in his bid.
The mustache he is wearing makes Eugene look quite rough.
He says he’s not conceited, just thinks he’s quite the stuff.

There’s Buck the lazy doughboy, who always wears a smile.
Thinks laying on his buttocks is the only thing worthwhile.
How he ever talks his wife into marrying him
is a mystery that’s hidden neath his ever present grin.

Benoit is in the corner, he’s writing to his folks
and making dirty digs about Jack Sprague’s rotten jokes.
When it comes to chow and sleeping, he’s always at his best,
but always gets his job done, just like all the rest.

And Gus the Kraut, a rare one, one of Brooklyn’s bloody gang.
He always screws the gang up with his bloody Brooklyn slang.
He is kind of short and squatty, but you can bet your life,
when Gus is quiet he’s thinking of his ever loving wife.

That fellow Ellis Jackson, he’s a lazy lad you know.
His heart remained in Limey Land but Jackson had to go.
He’s headed back to England and his gal when this is o’er.
The hills of North Dakota is what he’s going to show ‘er.

And Goldie from Chicago, a pal of Al Capone.
His kids is what Goldie is fond of, and I know he’s all alone.
The little woman told me Goldie’s second fiddle now.
For unlike his graying patter, Goldie’s kid is a wow.

There is Mac from Massachusetts, who always drove a cah.
He took to drinking liquor in a place he called a bah.
We think we’ll educate him, make his English fairly good.
But Mac just keeps on talking, we’d not change him if we could.

The cowboy from the badlands his past is rather vague.
Stories about his women keep coming from this Sprague.
Though they’re not too clear, who worries, it’s quite a lot of fun
to listen to his raw jokes when all the work is done.

And Harry he’s the driver and always on the go.
You think that Duece hates walking the way he pesters Crow.
His Jeep just keeps on rolling though it’s missing bolts and nuts.
And Harry always answers when the Duece says “Lets go, Butts”.

This is the Section S-2. Brother, what a sorry lot.
And this poem that I have written is lousy with the rot.
But of all the different outfits and of all the people who,
I could work for ... I’d rather be the Duece of S-2.

**Hope some of the guys are still with us.
William W. McWha**

**Pvt. 1st class
Co. L & S2**



35th Division Association
Format and Content Required for Hall of Fame Nomination
Effective for Nominations Submitted in 2018



The following information is required in the order shown.

Date: _____

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

Name: _____

Rank: _____ Military unit: _____

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

Address, if living: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Date of Death: _____

Date of Honorable Discharge: _____

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

- | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medal of Honor | <input type="checkbox"/> Silver Star Medal | <input type="checkbox"/> Purple Heart |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Distinguished Service Cross | <input type="checkbox"/> Legion of Merit | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Distinguished Service Medal | <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze Star Medal | |

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

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

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

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

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

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Submit Nomination Packet: To be considered at the 2018 Annual Conference, nominations must be received by 1 August 2018. Mail nominating information, supporting documentation and a photo of the nominee to:

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

Nominations approved by the Committee in 2018 will be inducted into the Hall of Fame at the 2019 Annual Conference.

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

Request for Information

Dear Col Bloomquist,

My Name is Rhonda Cagle and I am the granddaughter of Everett Deon Cagle who was enlisted in the 137th infantry 35th Division and fought in the Meuse-Argonne battle. I never knew my Grandfather as he died before I was born. He was gassed in the war and had major health problems when he returned with his lungs. He did marry and had five children one of those being my Father Charlie Deon Cagle. My father tells me Everett was in and out of hospitals after the war due to being gassed (mustard) the rest of his life, it was hard for him to take care of the family. My grandfather died when he was 56 at an army hospital in Livermore, Ca. I am trying to learn about him and his life and would like to know if the Museum has any pictures of this infantry or of my Grandfather. I am putting together a book for my family on him and his service to his country and if you could help me with any information I would be so grateful.

I whole heartily give you permission to publish my request for information. I hope very much to hear something from the people you have reached out to below but as for now have not been contacted. I really want to find out more information on my Grandfather and the War he fought in.

Thank you for your help in this quest.

Sincerely,
Rhonda Cagle
rcagle@slacker.com or phone: 858-943-5063
Granddaughter of: Everett D. Cagle
United States Army
May 26, 1918 to May 16, 1919
Honorable Discharge

To 35th Division
PO Box 5004
Topeka, Kansas

Jan. 24, 2018

Enclosed is my personal check for \$100.00 as a contribution to be used as

Operating Expenses	\$50.00
Museum operating Expenses	\$50.00.

I'm a former member of E-137 dutring training in USA and a Life Member of our 35th Div. Association.

I served overseas in Europe with the 95th Infantry Division and am a Life Member of their Association.

I kept your letter and dues notification to share with 95th Asso- ciation Members as we need guidance in our fund raising efforts.

My Best wishes
Ceo E. Bauer



Our Association is adding 2 memorial benches – one with legend to honor our commander, General Harry Twaddle, and one with legend to honor our Medal of Honor Recipient, Andrew Miller (KIA) of Manitowoc, Wisconsin.

Request for Assistance

Patrick M. Crouse SGM (R) is requesting information or assistance on Award Upgrade to Medal of Honor for Joseph S. Giacobello, WWII Company Commander Company R, 137th Inf Rgmt, 35th Inf Div.

If anyone can help with information, research or legislative issues, please contact SGM Crouse.

SGM Crouse believes Joe’s extraordinary actions in 1944 merit an upgrade, however it will not be reviewed as the awards are written. There has to be new and compelling evidence to merit a review and possible upgrade. He is doing exhaustive research at the National Archives looking for operational reports from the 35th, Third Army, Corps, etc, but needs first-hand testimony if possible.

Patrick M. Crouse
SGM (R) US Army,
1412 Wigeon Way 201
Gambrills, Maryland 21054
410.562.6673
hcrouse3@comcast.net

Request for Information

I received a call from a woman from Arkansas, Olivia Olson, Avoca, Ark. 1228 Phone number 479-366-7228. For information of 3 members of the 35th who escaped a German prison train and headed south towards the Black Sea.

My wife and I had heard this story before and had met these men at a reunion years ago. One man’s name was Orton. A number of American P.O.W.s and a large number of Germans had been liberated and captured by these Russians. They were put on the train and headed for Russia. Some of the Germans and some Americans got together and decided they didn’t want to go to Russia. Working together they captured the train. The Germans went one way and 3 G.I.’s, one of whom couldn’t walk, stole a horse, got some boards and made a sled of sorts for the disabled G.I. and headed for the Black Sea.

They reached it and got passage to England and were free.

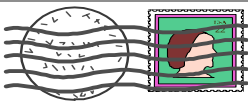
This woman, Olivia Olson of Avoca, Ark. 1228 somehow got possession of a book of one of the 3 and my name and address were in their possession and she called me.

One of these men’s name was Orton, I remember.

Would you put this material in the next Divisionnaire? Maybe someone else will remember these men.

We are following up on the story and will keep you abreast of it.

Sincerely
Jim & Alice Graff



Mail Call

Veterans of Underage Military Service

Submitted by Joe Trupiano, St. Louis, MO.

Official Publication of Veterans of Underage Military Service, Inc. Founded 1991 by Alan Stover Nov-Dec 2017-Army-Navy-Marine Corps-Air Force-Coast Guard-Merchant Marines, Vol. 27, No.6

Editor’s Note: The following information is available on our Web Page at OldVUMS.Com, for those of you who were not aware, and for those members who have computers but have not found this site. The Web page also includes other information such as: Organizational; Reunions; VUMS Books; Commander’s Corner; Past Commanders; Quartermaster Items; Membership Applications; and Information on how to contact us.

HISTORY

The Veterans of Underage Military Service was incorporated in Ellicott City, Maryland in 1991 by Allan Stover. He obtained policy letters from all military branches stating clearly that underage veterans and military retirees have nothing to fear for enlisting underage. We provide free copies of “Underage Veterans Handbook and Government Policy on Underage Veterans” to any underage veteran.

The IRS and the U. S. Postal Service recognize us as a Non-Profit Veterans Organization wherein 90% of our members are war veterans. No officer or member receives any pay from the organization.

We are a unique association of individuals who, as patriotic youngsters circumvented recruiting requirement, altered various documents, etc. in order to serve in the Armed Forces of the United State of America.

Our members are a rare breed, kids who enlisted underage, and we are very proud to have served without being asked, ordered or coursed into serving. Whereas we once kept it a secret that we manipulated the system, we now strongly proclaim it a badge of honor to be an underage veteran.

Official Publication of Veterans of Underage Military Service, Inc. Founded 1991 by Allan Stover
Jul-Aug 2016-Army-Navy-Marine Corps-Air Force-Coast Guard-Merchant Marines, Vol 26, No. 4

RULES FOR SALUTING UNITED STATES FLAG

Law Now Allows Retirees and Veterans to Salute Flag

Traditionally, members of the nation’s veteran service organizations have rendered the hand-salute during the National Anthem and at events involving it only while wearing their organization’s official head-gear. The National Defense Authorization Act Of 2008 contained an amendment to allow un-uniformed service members, military retirees, and veterans to render the hand-salute during the hoisting, lowering or passing of the U. S. Flag.

A later amendment further authorized hand-salutes during the national anthem by veterans and out-of-uniform military personnel. This was included in the Authorization Act of 2008, which President Bush signed on October 4th, 2008.

Here is the actual text from the law:

SEC. 595. MILITARY SALUTE FOR THE FLAG DURING THE NATIONAL ANTHEM BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES NOT IN UNIFORM AND BY VETERANS.

Section 301(b)(l) of title 36, United States Code, is amended by striking subparagraphs (A) through (C) and inserting the following new subparagraphs:

- (A) Individuals in uniform should give the military salute at the first note of the anthem and maintain that position until the last note.
- (B) Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute in the manner provided for individuals in uniform; and
- (C) All other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their hand over the heart, and men not in uniform, if applicable, should remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it over the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart.

Note; Part (C) applies to those not in the military and non-veterans. The phrase “men not in uniform” refers to civil service uniforms like police, fire fighters, mail carriers, - non-veteran civil servants who might normally render a salute while in uniform. (Article courtesy of Marine Corps League, Cooper State Detachment 906, Prescott, AZ)

Taps



George R Allin Jr.

May 22, 1920 - November 25, 2017

Retired Army Colonel George R Allin, Jr. of Arlington, Virginia, died on November 25, 2017 at Brookdale Arlington Assisted Living.

Col. Allin was born in Washington, D.C.

A 1942 graduate of West Point, Colonel Allin served in five major campaigns with the 35th Infantry Division in Europe in World War II; he served with the 8th U.S. Army artillery during the Korean War, and with the II Field Force (corps) Artillery in the war in Vietnam in 1966-67.

In 1947, he married Mary Erwin Davis of Washington, D.C. There are six surviving children, twelve grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

After retiring from the Army in 1968, he was employed by the Arlington (VA) County Public Schools for nearly 14 years as Director of Auxiliary Services, retiring in 1983.

He was an active member and past president of the Arlington (Host) Lions Club; he worked as a volunteer for the Travelers Aid Society at Reagan Washington National Airport, and for Arlington Hospital. He was a past president of both the Civil War Round Table of D.C. and the Revolutionary War Round Table of D.C. He was also a member of the George Washington Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Colonel Allin was buried at West Point, New York.



Viviano “Rev” Reveles

Viviano “Rev” Reveles, of Topeka, passed from this life on October 22, 2017.

He was born October 13, 1929 the son of Andreas and Camilla (Alvarado) Reveles.

Rev was active in the U.S. Army, serving in Germany during the Korean Conflict. He also served many years in the Kansas National Guard. He was promoted to the highest rank of Command Sergeant Major for the State of Kansas, serving under the Adjutant General of Kansas. Rev received many awards and medals during his career. He was also very active in community services.

He served in various capacities in Federal Civil Service from Company Clerk to Operation and Training Sgt. Major from 1953 to 1985, and as an Assistant Supervisor for Riojas Enterprise, Inc. from 1996 - 2000.

Rev married Betty Buso on April 7, 1950. She predeceased him on September 15, 1996. He married Judith Anneler on October 14, 2000. She predeceased him on February 27, 2003. Rev is survived by a son, Anthony (Melissa) Reveles, of Topeka, a brother, Pete (Marilyn) Reveles, sisters Candelaria (Charles) Alvarado and Esther Buso, all of Kansas City, Kansas, and another sister, Maggie (Donald) McEachron, of Tonganoxie, KS. Also surviving are his five grandchildren, Anthony, Andrea, Julian, Kari, and Cassandra as well as his companion, Betty Purcell.

He was also preceded in death by a son, Ruben Reveles, his parents, and siblings, Andreas, Ruben, Joe, Dolores Cruz and Mary Sanchez.

Interment: Topeka Cemetery with Military Honors.



Tribute to Adolph J. Lesser

June 21, 1915 - Jan. 6, 2008

Adolph John Lesser was born in Loveland, CO to John D. and Anna M. (Bath) Lesser. He was the second youngest of eight sons and one daughter. Adolph’s parents were Volga Germans who immigrated to the United States in 1913 from Frank, Russia.

Music was always present in the Lesser household and frequently Adolph would tag along with his two older brothers who were musicians in Russia. He bought his first piano accordion for \$200.00 during the Depression. He eventually was able to afford to take the bus to Denver every week to take lessons from Tony Ferraro, who later became an NBC Radio studio artist. He also studied with Alfred Antonio, Sr, who came to Loveland every week to teach.

At age 15, Adolph started his own band and within a year had an organized band, playing over KFKA Radio in Greeley, CO. at 6:30 every morning. The radio show offered great exposure for Adolph and the band and they traveled extensively throughout Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska playing for weddings, proms, county fairs, and barn dances.

On Dec. 12, 1941, Adolph married Cecilia Stratman in Kimball, NE. and he left for the Army on Jan. 7, 1942, exactly one month after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Initially stationed in California, Adolph entertained his fellow servicemen and also played in night-clubs with local West Coast groups. Adolph was then deployed to the European Theatre with the 35th Division until the war ended, earning five battle stars including the Invasion of Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge. The Queen Mary, now permanently docked in Long Beach, CA., provided transportation home from Europe, during which time Adolph played with a western band for two shows a day on the ship.

In 1945, home from the service for only two weeks, Adolph played six weddings for six nights straight. The demand for Dutch Hop music was so great after the war that Adolph and dear friend, Bill Schmidt, opened the Garden City Ballroom near Greeley, CO. The ballroom was a great success and offered big band and western dances during the week, polka dances on Saturday nights, and was usually reserved for weddings on Sundays. 1950 was a big year for Adolph, when Columbia Records put the Lesser band under contract. Adolph had a booking agent and his recordings were heard on major networks throughout the United States. After six successful years with the Garden City Ballroom, Adolph and his friend sold the ballroom and Adolph built a music store on South 8th Avenue in Greeley. Lesser Music was the cornerstone for young people all over Northern Colorado who wanted to study the accordion. When the rock and roll craze hit, Adolph added guitar teachers and had a successful business selling guitars and amplifiers as well as accordions.

Adolph received many honors throughout his musical career. He was inducted into the Colorado Polka Hall of Fame as the first living member in 1976. He was honored with the European-American Music Award for his lifetime achievements at the Grand Polka Festival in Las Vegas, Nevada in September of 1999. He was inducted into the International Polka Hall of Fame in Chicago, IL in Aug. of 2001 and was also inducted into the World of Music Hall of Fame in Las Vegas, NV. on Sept. 11, 2001.

Adolph’s career as a musician and entertainer spanned some sixty-five years before his stroke in 1996, but Adolph remained one of the most prominent music figures in the Rocky Mountain region and is affectionately known as “The Old Master”. While the highlights of his career have been many, Adolph would tell you that his fondest memories would have to include all of the people he met, the many friends he made, as well as the many talented musicians with whom he has worked and shared the stage over the many years.

Mr. Lesser died Jan. 6, 2008. Survivors include his daughter, Cyndi Babish, of Denver, CO.; his beloved dachshund, Willie; two sisters-in-law, Lydia Lesser of Loveland and Esther Lesser of Caldwell, ID.; many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by: his parents, John and Anna Lesser, seven brothers (John, Conrad “Coonie”, Fred, Henry, George, Jake, and Dave) one sister, Annie Frank, his wife Cecilia, and his son-in-law Tony Babish.



April-May-June issue of the
Santa Fe Express

Deadline 16 April





Organized August 25, 1917

Name: _____ **Rank/Title:** _____

(First) (MI) (Last)

Address: _____ **City/State/ZIP:** _____

E-Mail (Optional): _____ **Telephone:** _____

Indicate if you wish to receive the “Santa Fe” Paper electronically to save postage_____
Organizations of Service with 35th Div (i.e. 69th Bde, 137th , 134th , 320th 161 etc.):_____

	Amount Enclosed
Annual Renewal Dues or New Member Annual Dues - \$25.00	_____
New Life Member, Dues for WW II Veterans - \$75.00	_____
New Life Member, Dues for All Others - \$140.00	_____
 Donation for 35th Div. Assn Operating Expenses	 _____
Donation specified for the 35th Museum Operating Expense	_____
Sponsor Edition of "The Santa Fe Express" - \$1500.00	_____
Hall of Fame Expenses & Reception - \$100 & up	_____
35th Div. Conference Sponsor - \$100 or more	_____
Donation in recognition of _____	_____

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

___ DVD – “A Living History of the 35th Inf Div in WW II”

By Murray Leff - \$12.00

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

___ 35th Division Hat - \$15.00

35th Division Lapel Pin – \$5.00 (\$4.00 if no mailing needed) :

___ Pin of DIV Patch with 35th In Div written around edge

___ Pin with DIV Patch only

___ 35th Division Ceramic Mug \$15 (7.00 if no mailing needed)

35th Division 100th Edition Mug \$15 (7.00 if no mailing needed)

Total Amount Enclosed

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