



# Santa Fe Express

## "DIVISIONNAIRE"



The 35th Divisionnaire USPS 700-160

35th INFANTRY DIVISION

www.35thInfDivAssoc.com

JANUARY-FEBRUARY-MARCH 2019

NUMBER ONE

### Minnesota history: The kid who won America's greatest honor 100 years ago

Tim Nelson · Sep 26, 2018



The entrance marker for Elim Cemetery outside Winger, Minnesota, where Nels Wold, one of Minnesota's 72 Medal of Honor recipients, was re-interred in 1921, after a battlefield burial in France. Dean M. Henney

Just weeks from the end of World War I, a 22-year-old private, first inducted into the army in Crookston, Minnesota, took on a German machine gun emplacement near Cheppy, France.

It was the opening day of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, the final push to end World War I and the deadliest battle in U.S. military history. It was Nels Wold's fifth such attack of the day.

He'd already captured nearly a dozen German troops earlier and jumped into a battlefield trench to rescue a comrade about to be shot by a German officer. Wold killed the officer instead. The private from Minnesota silenced four other machine gun emplacements that day.

"He kept on volunteering to individually attack those machine gun nests, justifying it by stating that he knew how following the first one," said Dean M. Henney, a 14-year Marine veteran of much newer vintage, but a fellow native of Winger, Minnesota, the tiny town of about 200 people in the state's northwest corner, where Wold was born.

Henney, 60, and a management consult-

ant, lives there now. He is a student of Wold's heroics.

"I heard about it as a kid. It fascinated me as a native of northwestern Minnesota," Henney said.

Wold wasn't so lucky the fifth time around. He was finally shot by German gunners. His comrades battled back, knocked out the gun and retrieved Wold's body. Accounts differ on whether he survived any time at all, or was killed instantly, but he didn't survive that September 26th, a century ago.

"His actions were entirely voluntary ..." reads his citation for the Medal of Honor. "The advance of his company was mainly due to his great courage and devotion to duty."

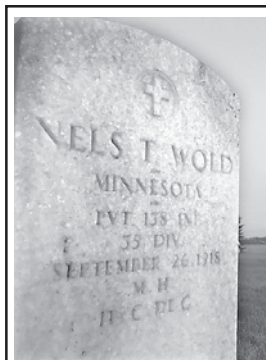
It was one of 72 Medals of Honor won by servicemen with Minnesota connections.

Wold, though, wasn't even the only soldier from Winger to die that day. Selmer Ekre, one of 87 Winger men to serve in World War I, died in the same battle.

Both their names are listed, as are the other Great War veterans, on a memorial put up in Winger in 1925.

There are no statutes or other memorials to Wold's heroics.

He was buried first in France. Major General Leonard Wood went to Winger in 1919 to present the medal to Wold's family, Henney said.



The marker placed on the grave of Nels Wold in Winger, Minnesota, in 1921. Dean M. Henney

See pages 4 & 5 for more on Pvt. Nels Wold

## President's Message

The Association President

I feel it is appropriate we say thank you and good luck to the Commander, 35th Infantry Division, Major General and Mrs Braden. The Change of Command date is pending but most likely prior to our next edition. His biography and description of the mobilization assets he influences are impressive. As evident with the recent deployment to the Middle East, the Division Headquarters mission to deploy and command Active, Guard, Reserve, and in some cases multi-national organizations is challenging.

We have not decided on a conference time and place. I want to see what opportunities come from the new Division Commander's plan and training schedule. My hope is to coordinate the reunion during a 35th event to ensure the soldiers can join us for evening activities.

As you will see in the Secretary's notes, Colonel (Ret) Bob Bloomquist has asked we find a new Executive Secretary. He notified the Executive Council at the last reunion and

has again asked we energize this so we can have his replacement work the next reunion. He has done a wonderful job cutting cost, maintaining a solid operating budget and obtaining corporate sponsors, but there is still much to do. We may have to change the paradigm on how the business element of the association is run in the future..

The Division has asked for our assistance in the future to help secure a Memorial of some kind when they move into their new complex at Fort Leavenworth. Associations like ours are great assets due to our taxable contribution status and outreach. We will keep you updated as this moves forward.

Please consider nominating yourself for Executive Council positions. We need more participation from the soldiers serving or recently served in the 35th Division. This will help influence how we move the organization to increase relevancy to the younger generation.

BG (Ret) Alex Duckworth  
President, 35th Division Association

### 35th Infantry Division Commanding General



Maj. Gen. Victor J Braden

The 35th Infantry Division is one of eight divisions in the Army National Guard. The 35th Infantry Division enjoys a training alignment with the 33rd Infantry Brigade, Illinois; 45th Infantry Brigade, Oklahoma; 48th Infantry Brigade, Georgia; 67th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade Nebraska; 142nd Fires Brigade, Arkansas; 35th Aviation Brigade, Missouri; 110th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Missouri; and 287th Sustainment Brigade, Kansas.

Major General Vic Braden is the Commanding General, 35th Infantry Division. His prior assignments and deployments include serving as the Deputy Commanding General, Army National Guard, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; Senior Advisor for the 205th Afghan National Army Corps, Kandahar, Afghanistan in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM;

and Commander, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment, Tuzla, Bosnia, as part of STABILIZATION FORCE 13. He has served in other command and staff assignments in Germany, Korea, and various locations in the United States. In addition, he deployed to Southwest Asia in support of OPERATION DESERT STORM/DESERT SHIELD in 1990 and 1991. In his civilian profession, Major General Braden is the leader of the Kansas Attorney General's Criminal Litigation Division, which focuses on the prosecution of murderers, major illicit drug traffickers, and child predators. As a prosecutor with more than 19 years of experience, he has handled numerous high-profile murder cases in Kansas, including those that qualify for the death penalty. Major General Braden earned his Juris Doctor from Washburn University's School of Law in 1998 and received a National Security Fellowship from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government in 2005. He is the 2008 Pratt Community College Alumnus of the Year, a 2011 Leadership Kansas Graduate, and the 2016 Kansas County and District Attorneys Association's Associate Prosecutor of the Year. Major General Braden and his wife, Marla, have two daughters, Chelsea and Emily, and two grandsons, Noah and Jacob. Concerning his hobbies, Major General Braden enjoys swimming, running, and shooting hoops. His personal interests while deployed include making short video clips for his grandsons called "swimming with Opa" and "basketball with Opa."

This edition of the Santa Fe Express is courtesy of the  
35th Division Association  
Operating Fund



Please consider sponsoring the next edition.

**The 35th Divisionnaire**  
(USPS 700-160)

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

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

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

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PRESENT AND FUTURE"

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## From the Executive Secretary

### Membership, Donation and Reconnection

Please respond to the Membership renewal and donation form enclosed with all mailings of the "Santa Fe", or sent to you electronically if I have your Email address on file. There will not be a separate mailing. The method of an insert saves us valuable funds. **If you are a Life Member and don't wish to donate, please complete the form or E-mail (35divassn@gmail.com) to let us know you are still there.** If we don't receive anything, valuable time and stamps are needed to follow up to ensure you are receiving the paper and still want it. A short note on what your connection is to the 35<sup>th</sup> and what you are doing now can be included if you want us to publish it in the next paper. Those that respond are generous with donations, however, less than 20% have responded in the past.

### Distribution of the Paper

We see more and more newspaper publications going to online only, but do not worry, **we will continue to print the paper** if we continue to have funds and enough article submissions to make it cost effective. Thankfully we have great support in both categories, but we are always looking for ways to cut costs, so will move towards online only for those that do not want the paper copy. We have added a line to the response form for online only if you prefer to receive it online.

### Donor Appreciation

We have captured the donations beginning in October 2018 to 18 January 2019. If your donation arrived after the cutoff for the paper, we will include it next time. Our objective is 100% of our donors received a tax-deductible receipt and unless instructed not to, will include 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.

### Resignation as Executive Secretary

As I informed the Executive Council at the reunion, I am resigning as the Executive Secretary once a replacement is found. This position is a blessing. I have met and heard from so many outstanding Veterans and Families I would not have had I not taken the position. The term Colonel (Retired) is misleading, as I am only retired from Active Duty. I still teach National Security as an Adjunct Professor with a local University and support the Army as needed on several contract. We still run a small property business as well as Treasurer and board member for the Museum. I simply can't spend the time required to do the level deserved. I could not do what I do without my wife's support in the treasury portion of the association, but the paper and reunion issues are time consuming and usually hit at the worst time for me. We may need to change how business is done and where the address of the association is. Splitting duties between a treasurer and executive secretary and/or moving the main address from Topeka where the museum is located to Leavenworth (35<sup>th</sup> Headquarters) are ideas. I'll be sending out more details and options to the Officers and Executive Council. If someone is interested, contact me for duty description.

COL (Ret) Bob Bloomquist

#### NEW LIFE MEMBERS

SGT Lauren E Swensson

CW3 Steven R Grove

#### NEW ANNUAL MEMBERS

Corp. James R Davidson

SGT Evan T Andrews

#### 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.

## Inducted into Hall of Fame



**WWII Veteran PFC  
Arthur Germano**

**By Arthur Germano, Jr.**

My father, WWII veteran, PFC Arthur Germano, 320th Regiment, First Battalion, Company C, was inducted into the 35<sup>th</sup> Hall of Fame in September 2018. I made my way from Boston to Kansas City for the ceremony that I would not have missed for the world. It was an experience that I will never forget. I have been honored to be his son all of my life. Everyone I interacted those few days in Kansas City could not have been any nicer and accommodating. Each thanked me for my father's service and made this son feel so welcomed. It filled my soul with an enormous sense of pride. Such an impressive group of attendees - our veterans, retired and current military and all their family members.

At 19 years of age my father landed in Normandy and participated in the campaigns of Normandy, Northern France and the Rhineland. His baptism into combat was in those deadly hedgerows in Normandy. He was awarded the Bronze Star, a Presidential Unit Citation (Battle of Mortain), and the French Legion of Honor and French Cross of War among other commendations.

Dad passed away on his birthday in April 2016 at the age of 91

and after 67 years of marriage. My mother, Louise, was 92 at the time and was always so proud of my father's service that I told her I would submit his nomination for the 35<sup>th</sup> Division Hall of Fame. Dad did not achieve induction in his first year of eligibility but did the second.

I was so happy to share the news with my mother last year when I was informed of his induction and then present her with his Hall of Fame certificate when I returned back East. I shared my experiences and photos with her and she was so proud of me for having submitted my father's name. I told her the pride she felt should continue be directed to my father's memory as he was the one who served this country with honor as a combat infantryman in the 35th.

My mother just passed away three days before this past Christmas 2018 on December 22. I am so glad she got to see the love of her life be inducted into the 35<sup>th</sup> Hall of Fame. It meant a lot to both of us. I was given several Hall of Fame lapel pins at the induction with my father's name engraved. I attached one to her gown with an American flag lapel pin and also included a photo of Dad in his Army uniform. My father had a 35<sup>th</sup> lapel pin and his favorite 35<sup>th</sup> hat placed over his heart when he was buried with honors. My father's service in the 35th ended up shaping both their lives (and ultimately mine) and they both had a profound respect for all of our military. Both now rest together for eternity in Calverton National Cemetery in New York.

I thank the 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and the 35<sup>th</sup> Division Association Hall of Fame Committee for being an important and vital chapter in our family story and that filled a 35<sup>th</sup> veteran's wife with pride and joy in her final days.

## Deadline for the Next Issue of the Santa Fe Express is 10 April

Please send your favorite reunion stories and pictures to share.

#### Executive Council

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

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

# International Liaison Committee

January 10, 2019

M. Jean-Francois Percy, President of the 35<sup>th</sup> Division Normandy Association, and its members, are preparing to welcome participants of the Nebraska National Guard Museum Society Tour group. A 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Liberation of Saint Lo Tour has been planned by the Society for July 15-25, 2019. The tour is designed to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the liberation of cities by members of the Nebraska National Guard's famed 134<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment in World War II. They plan to pay homage to the sacrifice and courage at Normandy, Lorraine and Luxembourg cemeteries to lay a wreath for the warriors from Nebraska who are buried there. They will follow the route of the 134<sup>th</sup> from Normandy across France, to the Bulge historic sites at Lutrebois and Bastogne, continuing to the Rhine River. The tour proved to be so popular that it sold out in a matter of days. A second tour is being planned for 2020, A Victory Celebration. The Tour is being planned by Colonel (ret) Gerald D. Meyer, Nebraska National Guard historian.

The Espace de Memoire Association had many events and exhibits for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of World War I. Their activities will be highlighted in the next issue of the SFE.

Guy Reichert, President of the Gates of Memory Association, held many activities in Hellimer, France, to commemorate the liberation of Hellimer, France by the 35<sup>th</sup> Division on November 11, 1944. Many of you met Guy at the 35<sup>th</sup> Division Association Reunion in Kansas City in September.

Many events were held throughout Belgium and Luxembourg to remember the out-

break of the Ardennes Campaign, the Battle of the Bulge. Bram Temmerman of the 35<sup>th</sup> Division Association – Belgium, and his friends attended two events in December. One was in the Village of Foy-Notre-Dame. There was a ceremony to remember the fighting in the area. The other event was in the village of Grandmenil near Manhay, where they attended ceremonies at the new museum there.

In Luxembourg, Patrick Beck of the 7<sup>th</sup> company of the 35<sup>th</sup> Division Association, reports "that there were several ceremonies around Luxembourg to remember the horror of the war, the sacrifices of brave men and the misery that was brought to the people of Luxembourg in December 1944."

On December 16, 2018, Patrick reports, the USVF held their ceremony at 6:30 a.m. in the Village of Hoscheid. The local firefighters had set up wood log torches. Many people, young and old alike, showed up in the cold early morning. The local choir performed the anthems. After a prayer by the Priest, speeches were delivered by USVF President, Dan Reiland, Municipal Councilor Georges Majerus, MG Gronski, Deputy Commander of US Army Europe, and a member of the U.S. Embassy. The ceremony closed with a wreath laying and taps.

Quadrige, a military vehicle collector association, had set up a World War II living diorama in a stable just across the square. Those attending enjoyed a breakfast, offered by the community at the local Hotel des Ardennes.

The National Liberation Monument located at Schumann Cross Roads near the town

of Wiltz was the site of another huge ceremony with a color guard. Among the attendees were Luxembourg Government representatives, mayors from local communities, patriotic associations, and a group of students from the college at Wiltz.

CEBA also had their annual ceremony at Cervaux at the famous GI Monument, with many people and representatives attending.

Richard van Kessel of The Netherlands reports that at this moment all over Europe, preparations are in full swing for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation. Richard is participating on a committee to begin the planning for this big event.

We wish all of our friends in Europe a Happy New Year and thank them for their remembrances in 2018.

International Liaison Committee Co-Chairs

Paula Evans Baker, daughter of Pvt. Ri-

chard H. Evans, F-134-35, KIA 9/30/44 [dicknell35@hotmail.com](mailto:dicknell35@hotmail.com)

Marilyn Bowers Jensen, daughter of PFC Rex M. Bowers, C-134-35, KIA 01/25/45 [mbowersjensen@msn.com](mailto:mbowersjensen@msn.com)



**Team CEBA meets MG Gronski and his staff at Vigil at Clerveaux Luxembourg**



**Quadrige group at Vigil at Hoscheid, Luxembourg on Dec. 16, 2018**

## Lest We Forget – Co C, 137<sup>th</sup> Soldiers of WW II

Company C, 137<sup>th</sup> Infantry, World War II, has 355 exterior bricks in a separate section at the 35<sup>th</sup> Division Museum patio, Museum of the Kansas National Guard, in Topeka. Plat Sgt Kenny Faulkner, originally from Salina Kansas, and others were behind this effort when the Museum was built.

Following World War II, he was instrumental in the many Co C Reunions, and, until his death in 2013, Co C always had a separate Hospitality Room at 35<sup>th</sup> Division Reunions. He was inducted into Class I of the 35<sup>th</sup> Division Hall of Fame in 2009. Following his civilian retirement, he and his wife, Effie, traveled the country in their motor home, visiting the members of World War II's Company C all across the country. A cloth-bound book in the 35<sup>th</sup> Division Museum chronicles these travels.

He loved the men in Company C, and in his later years he wrote a booklet describing the many soldiers who passed through Company C during the war. Most of his comments were positive, but some were negative. Given first below are some of the positive descriptive comments on some of these soldiers.

Charley Shine – He was my LT when we went into combat. He was a good man and I

liked him very much. He got hit early in the war.

Dean Sinclair – He was one of the nicest fellow you would want to meet. He was a good soldier that got hit the same morning that I did. I helped carry him to the aid station.

Walter Newman – He was our Company Commander and at the age of 22 he led us into combat. I think he was the best CO we ever had.

Richard Krebs. He was a small fellow in stature. He did not like the Army and he let you know it. He was a good soldier.

Howard Hardy – Everybody knew the happy-go-luck Bugler of Company C. I thought he lost all his marbles because he used to volunteer to go on all the patrols. After the war we became good friends.

Floyd Kaechele – He was happy-go-lucky and liked by most of the men. He enjoyed shooting craps and was the only man I know who would laugh when he lost. He was a good soldier in combat.

William Prather – He was an onery young fellow and was good on the machine gun.

Bob Adams – He was one of the best soldiers Company C ever had. He was easy going and some of the other fellows played

jokes on him, but he was the best First Sgt in the regiment during combat.

Ira W. Austin – He loved to gamble and was a sports enthusiast. He worked his way up through the ranks, took a platoon into combat, and got a battlefield commission.

Merlin Eason – He was very thin, but was a big chow hound.

Lewis Smith – A good soldier, he was on the rough side. He always wanted to play pinochle with us, and we let him as we always got his money.

Edward Waller – He was a darn good soldier that came in from Coldwater, KS. He was pretty intelligent and I got to know him pretty well.

Dilver Hickman – He went into combat in my platoon. He was a good soldier, and got killed on one of the first days. He was a strong, good-looking soldier.

Eugene Kay – Lt Kay led the first platoon into combat and got killed early in the war. He was a good officer, and was well-liked by his men.

Robert Welliver – He was one of the onery soldiers in the states, and overseas he was a killer and enjoyed it.

Plat Sgt Faulkner had good comments about everybody, but a few cynical descrip-

tive comments, names left out, were included.

"He was a likeable fellow who should never have been in the Army."

"He was another fellow that got out of the Army on a Section 8."

"He used to get drunk every Saturday night and would get real mean. After the war he got killed by someone and they found his body on the railroad tracks."

"He brown-nosed his way to First Sergeant, but was not liked by most of the men and there were several that said that when they got into combat they would shoot him. He never gave me any trouble."

"He was too old and over the hill. At the time I was put in his platoon I just said, 'Is this the best they can come up with?'"

"He was a griping, cussing, complaining soldier who had a heart attack in the Company C street while policing the area. He probably was swearing when he died."

"He was the orneriest of all Company C men. He wasn't the meanest, but was in trouble all the time."

"He was the company bitcher—from the time he got up until he went to bed."

"He was on the small side and was a run-about."

# Into the Fray

## Pvt. Nels T. Wold, 35<sup>th</sup> Division World War I, Medal of Honor

Dean M. Henney, Winger, Minnesota, October 7, 2018

This is an interesting endeavor, mentally delving back one century, piecing together dates, images, photographs and shared tales of the legendary Nels T. Wold. A fellow native of the tiny northwest Minnesota railroad town of Winger. We would have been neighbors.

Today, for those of us who care, the centennial marking the end of World War One looms large. Thoughts of the grand Meuse-Argonne Offensive, the largest battle in U.S. history, resulting in 26,277 deaths and 95,786 wounded in a six-week period. The battle commenced when the fields of northwestern Minnesota were in harvest, the farmers busily threshing crops with teams of horses and drawn equipment, short-handed because so many men had volunteered or been drafted to serve when the United States entered the war.

During 1917-1918, at a time when our population numbered something more than one hundred and three million, two million men volunteered and three million more were drafted. Multiply these numbers by three to grasp what it all would mean in 2018. These young men had heard the reports from Europe going back to the war’s beginning in the summer of 1914. Through newspapers and family correspondence they understood what was at play. Back then, even small town newspapers carried international news stories. The era’s sheet music was rife with calls to arms, to patriotic fervor, to right the wrongs in Belgium and join the cause in France. Our society and forces were motivated to join the fray.

Following stateside training at now-forgotten encampments and eastward bound ocean convoys they arrived safely at European ports, having been securely escorted to reduce the U-boat threat. They stepped down the gangplanks, moved to designated training centers and then forward in quick marches to the well-worn trenchlines. These “doughboys” presented a robust and very welcome force of reinforcements, arriving at a rate of 10,000 per day by the summer of 1918. During their training the 35th Division was visited by famed British cartoonist Captain Bruce Bairnsfather, nicknamed “Warlord of Humor.” According to author Clair Kenamore:

“I took Capt. Bruce Bairnsfather, the English artist, and some British writers down to look at the division once, and they all said they never had seen better looking soldiers.” (p. 242, From Vauquois Hill to Exermont, A History of the 35th Division.)

**A Small Potato**’ was originally published in The Bystander magazine on 3 April 1918 and **‘He Soon Found It’** was published in The Bystander on 1 May 1918.

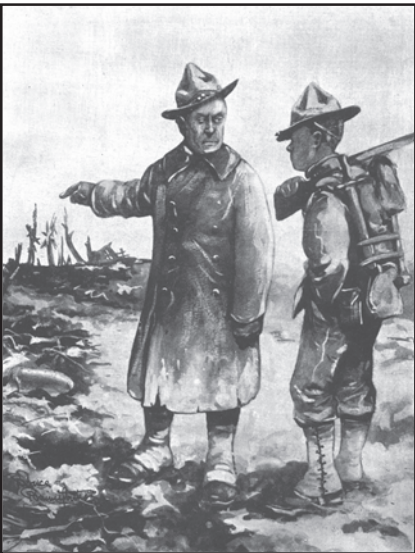
(Cartoons by famous English artist Capt. Bruce Bairnsfather, courtesy of Mark Warby at [www.brucebairnsfather.org.uk](http://www.brucebairnsfather.org.uk).)

The time had arrived for a massive push against the arrayed forces of the German Empire.

Nine American divisions moved forward on 26th September 1918. From left to right, the 77th, 28th, 35th, 91st, 37th, 79th, 4th, 80th and 33rd (pg. 88, From Vauquois Hill to Exermont,



**Cartoon “A Small Potato”**  
by English artist  
Capt. Bruce Bairnsfather



**Cartoon “He Soon Found it”**  
by English artist  
Capt. Bruce Bairnsfather

A History of the 35th Division, Clair Kenamore, 1919). The 138th faced the highly seasoned German Empire 52nd division as they sought to secure their objective near Cheppy, France. The formidable enemy, in defensive posture, counted on their infamous MG08/15 crew served machine guns, which had a 500-600 rounds per minute rate, with a 2,000 yard effective range. The nests were manned by five to eight soldiers.

On the leftmost edge of the 35th was Private Nels T. Wold’s unit, Company I, 138th Infantry. One man amongst 1.2 million fellow Americans.

On the backside of a granite monument in the Winger Memorial Park are the names of 87 local men who served in the war, and on the front the names of the seven who died. Four from disease, three in combat, two on the opening day of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. One justifiably famous, the other, Selmer Ekre from Sletten Township, all but forgotten. My farm home is in Sletten Township.

During my youth Selmer’s brother lived along the nearby township road, less than a mile north. One letter Nels wrote from France was to friend Olaf Snustad. Mr. Snustad lived at my farm one hundred years ago.

Growing up on this little farm was an adventure start to finish. Playing soldier with my older brother, outfitted in old uniforms, wearing real helmets and web gear, carrying rifles. Whenever a thunderstorm rolled through my imagination conceived a massive battle during the Great War. Steep farm ditches? Trenches. On summer days when the crop-spraying biplane raced across the fields it became a Spad, Neuport, Sopwith Camel or Fokker Triplane.

Many of these youthful memories stayed with me during my days, weeks and months of officer training, at the beginning of the 1980s, in the Marine Corps. Tactical thoughts, knowledge that so very many others had endured far more challenging physical tests and faced combat in all its forms. In 1990 during the accelerated month-long train up for Operation Desert Shield, a significant part of our training involved chemical warfare preparations. I recall discussions that our upcoming battles might, in fact, resemble elements of the WWI trench warfare. Operation Desert Storm put an end to that notion.

What intrigues me about Private Wold on his first and last day in combat is the sheer tactical excellence he displayed in individually knocking out four German machinegun nests. His fortitude and zeal, his fieldcraft and surety. How did he do it? Was he carrying an issued Springfield or Enfield rifle or the French Chauchat light machine gun he’d been trained on? Did he and fellow soldiers wear the sleeveless leather jerkins favored by many of the British Tommies?

Someday in Las Vegas I might chance to see a magic show, perhaps David Copperfield. I doubt very much that focused mental acuity on my part will provide any glimpse into how this or that trick was accomplished. The same question: how did he do it?

Reading copies of Nel’s letters sent and received have certainly provided insights into his mindset, personality and descriptive talents. He shared humor, for instance hs mention that another fellow with the same name was in his unit. To differentiate our man from Winger was labelled “Wold #1.”

Once deployed his letters were censored by Captain Alexander Rives Skinker, the other 35th Division Medal of Honor man to die on September 26th. The saddest letters are the missives mailed by his siblings, writing in September and October 1918, wondering why he had not written.

In numerous photographs of Nels his watchful, intense eyes betray an alert intelligence. I once asked the late Winger resident Clara Espeseth about Nels and she said “oh my, what a handsome boy. The last time I saw him he said ‘*I’m going to bring the Kaiser’s head back on a silver platter.*’”

He died trying, a slim silk ribbon of red, white and blue around his wrist.

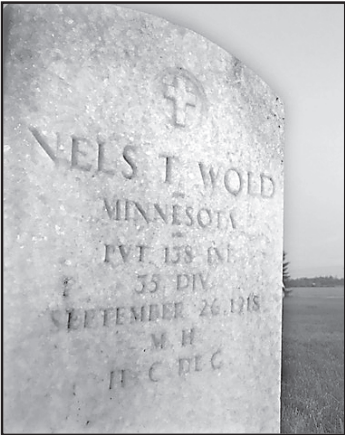
“My research continues into the lives, exploits and battlefield actions of Private Nels T. Wold and Captain Alexander Rives Skinker.” Dean Henney



Pvt Nels T. Wold



Captain Alexander  
Skinker



Pvt Nels T. Wold headstone in  
Winger, Minnesota

# Nels Wold’s Glorious Death

“transcribed from the history of the 35<sup>th</sup> in World War I telling about the action which resulted in his death”.

“... Dead ahead was Cheppy<sup>1</sup>, almost invisible, but presumed to be the stronghold. Thompson took M Company straight ahead into Cheppy. This action, one of the most reckless in a day full of reckless deeds, was also one of the most successful. Good luck marched beside the Captain. The fog, which was everywhere on the field was working units into hopeless confusion was almost as thick as night in Cheppy. The company passed by the very ports of pill boxes and dugouts, which at the time they believed to be deserted.

They were, in fact, doubtless all armed and manned, but in the dense fog, the German gunners were unable to tell who the advancing troops were until they were virtually on top of them, and then it was wiser to keep very still, and let them pass by. ...

Then there was Nels Wold, who came from Minnesota, but whose forebears must have sailed the seas in the good old days when every youth went a-vikinging, and every maid wore two long braids of yellow hair. ...

Nels Wold suggested that he be allowed to investigate by cautiously creeping upon it. Wingate agreed, and putting his men under cover, waited for the Scandinavian to creep around to the rear of the position. It seemed a long wait, although it was but a few minutes. There was a rattle of shots in the thicket. Then three Germans with hands aloft walked out with Wold behind them, motioning to his comrades forward. There had been only five men at the guns. He had killed two and captured three. ...

Five times that day, Nels Wold, volunteering each time and pointing each time to his increasing list of victories as the reason he should have the assignment, five times he went forth single handed against machine gun nests. Four times he killed or captured the gunners, took the guns and waved his companions that all was well. Each nest cleaned out was a great power for evil removed from the path of the American army. How many lives his daring saved only Le Bon Dieu knows. The fifth time was the last. It was behind the camouflage screen alongside a road. He advanced alone, made an opening in the camouflage, and started through, when machine gun bullets got him. He fell inside the camouflage. The “Big Swede” did not come back to the breached camouflage to wave his hand, and Wingate knew what had happened. He had every man look to his weapons, creep as near as possible to the machine gun nest, and from a knelling start, to charge the guns. They went over without a yell or shout, like good workmen, and cleaned the place thoroughly. No prisoners were taken there. They carried Nels Wold’s body out into the open, laid it straight, and by his side struck up his rifle,

fixed bayonet driven into the ground, that the burial squad might find him. Then they went ahead.

Our republic devised a Congressional Medal of Honor as the reward of superlative deeds of daring, for gallantry beyond the call of duty, and of such merit as to demand a conspicuous and special fame. Neither Gen. Pershing nor Gen. March can wear this medal, but Nels Wold won it and the general order bestowing it upon him has been read to every unit of the army overseas.”

From: From Vauquois Hill to Exermont: A History of the Thirty-Fifth Division of the United States Army, by Clair Kenamore, Grand Publishing Company, St. Louis, Missouri, 1919, pp. 101-105.

Note: No exact date is given for the event described, but other sources indicate it was September 26, 1918.

*Transcribed by Marilyn Bowers Jensen*

(Endnotes) <sup>1</sup> **Situated in Verdun, Meuse, Lorraine, France**

Nels T. Wold was born December 24, 1895 in Winger, Minnesota. He died September 26, 1918 (aged 22) near Cheppy, France. He is buried in Elim Cemetery, Winder Minnesota

He joined the Army from Minnewaukan, North Dakota and served as a private in Company I, 138<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 35<sup>th</sup> Division. He was trained as a Chauchat gunner. was a private in the 138<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 35<sup>th</sup> Division.

Medal of Honor Citation reads: He rendered most gallant service in aiding the advance of his company, which had been held up by machine gun nests, advancing, with 1 other soldier, and silencing the guns, brining with him upon his return 11 prisoners. Later the same day he jumped from a trench and rescued a comrade who was about to be shot by a German officer, killing the officer during the exploit. His actions were entirely voluntary, and it was while attempting to rush a 5<sup>th</sup> machine gun nest that he was killed. The advance of his company was mainly due to his great courage and devotion to duty.

# Remembering the 110<sup>th</sup> Medical Battalion in World War II

Master Sergeant Ferdinand Brodfuehrer was the Sergeant Major of the 110<sup>th</sup> Medical Battalion during World War II. He had been a charter member of the Nebraska National Guard unit, having enlisted on June 8, 1924. He became the First Sergeant in 1929 and retired as the 110<sup>th</sup> Med Bn Command Sergeant Major in 1945 following World War II. Throughout his time in the unit he kept a handwritten journal of the unit, both in peacetime and in war, This was compiled by his son, Richard Brodfuehrer in 1990, along with unit rosters and other 110<sup>th</sup> Med Bn information. A copy is available in the 35<sup>th</sup> Division Museum library.

After spending 1941 at Camp Robinson, AR, the 110<sup>th</sup> Med Bn moved to Fort Ord, CA. Here they spent a few weeks, until sent to Camp Luis Obispo for coast protection from a possible Japanese invasion. Here the battalion handled over 3,000 patients per month Then in March of 1943 they were sent to Camp Rucker, AL, where they participated in the Tennessee Maneuvers. From here they went to Camp Butner, NC and then to Camp Kilmer, NJ.

Boarding the Edmund B. Alexander on May 8, 1944, they reached Liverpool, England on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May. They were boarded in Bodmin, an old Cornish town. On July 6 they boarded LST’s and LCI’s, crossing the English Channel to Omaha Beach, France. By July 13 they had received their first battle casualties at the Battle of St. Lo. Battles and casualties followed at Cloyes, Orleans, Chateaudun, and Nancy. At St. Max, France, they took over two large school buildings for the Clearing Stations and Field Hospitals. Passes were authorized to Nancy and, by quota, to Paris.

On November 23 Thanksgiving dinner was served at Marhange. MSG Brodfuehrer reports that this was a fine meal with turkey and all the trimmings, with plenty for seconds. Battles followed at Puttelange and Sarreguemines, and by Christmas Day they were at Metz, France.

Following a terrific Christmas dinner on Dec. 25, they headed for Bastogne on Dec. 26 to handle casualties as a result of the Battle of the Bulge. By Jan. 29, 1945, the Battle of the Bulge was over, and they occupied an old Priest’s school at Cadier, Holland. On the 6<sup>th</sup> of February they crossed the German border into Gangelt, Germany. Following a period of rest from March 13 to 26, they crossed the Rhine and made it to the Elbe River. Here many Germans swam the river in order to escape the Russians and give up to the Americans.

From July 8, 1944 through May 31, 1945, a total of 25,978 casualties wee cleared

through the 110<sup>th</sup> Med Bn Clearing Station. This included U. S. & Allied soldiers, civilians, displaced persons, and 1,053 prisoners of war. The battalion itself had 32 injured, 67 wounded, 11 killed, and 2 missing in action, for a total of 112 casualties. Unit members received 8 Silver Stars and 92 Bronze Stars.

Some excerpts from SGM Brodfuehrer’s journal:

“I have seen quite a few Germans, both in prison camps and coming through the medical station, and they look just as hurt as our own men and about twice as scared. Most of them are very young and have had quite a bit of service in the Army.”

“You have probably read of the big plane raid over here with 3,000 planes bombing the front lines. It was a steady roar for almost two hours, wave after wave, and the group was shaking all the time as each wave would drop its bombs. Prisoners were afterwards coming in with burst eardrums from the noise, and I saw one that couldn’t talk. Sure glad WE have the air power!”

“I passed through a city I would guess about the size of Lincoln (Nebraska), and I didn’t see one building that hadn’t been hit by bombs. Went through at night and you just get a chill looking at all the damage, just parts of buildings sticking up, and no noise, not a round or person about, no lights—just a deserted city.”

“We crossed the Rhine. Here in the heart of Germany we do not see the starving people, as there were in France, Holland, Belgium, and Luxembourg. The people have plenty and dress better, more likely, than the folks back home. There are some who have suff3red through loss of a loved one, but the worse we have seen are the prisoners of the camps liberated by our troops. Some of these, half starved, half clothed, and mostly all just half alive men—French, British, Americans, Russians, Poles, and many others, including the political prisoners of Germany—look less like men that that you can picture. These are the ones who had to suffer. The stories they told, the scare they showed, and the evidence we have seen are beyond the story phase. They should be forgotten, except when the high court makes the final decision on what to do with the big shots of this country.”

## “Reminder” Save operational expenses!

Return your membership/donation form by 20 February 2019, or call or Email to let us know you are receiving the paper. If we don’t hear from you by 20 Feb, we will follow up with a letter using money we could spend elsewhere.



# The 35th Division in the Ardennes Offensive 1944-45

(By Mike H Ven)

It’s been 74 years that the Germans launched their last big offensive on December 16, 1944 that is better known as the Battle of the Bulge. The Battle of the Bulge was a major German offensive campaign launched through the densely forested Ardennes region of Wallonia in Belgium, France, and Luxembourg. The German offensive was supported by several subordinate actions including Operations Unternehmen Bodenplatte, Greif and Währung. Different forces referred to the Battle of the Bulge by different names. The Germans referred to it officially as Unternehmen Wacht am Rhein (“Operation Watch on the Rhine”) or usually Ardennenoffensive or Rundstedt-Offensive, while the French named it the Bataille des Ardennes (“Battle of the Ardennes”). The Allies called it the Ardennes Counter-offensive. The phrase “Battle of the Bulge” was coined by contemporary press to describe the way the Allied front line bulged inward on wartime news maps and became the most widely used name for the battle.

On 26 December the Division moved from Metz to the area N of Arlon along the Belgium-Luxembourg border. Here it was to assist in the Third Army drive into the S flank of the enemy salient. For the operation, the Division was placed under the control of III Corps. The 654th Tank Destroyer Battalion was again attached to the Division. On 27 December, the Division attacked N without reconnaissance from positions along the S bank of the Sure River, with the 137th Infantry on the left, and the 320th Infantry, on the right, with the 134th Infantry in division reserve. The 4th Armored Division was on the left and the 26th Infantry Division on the right. The attack moved off at 0800. The 137th Infantry moved by truck along a road in the 4th Armored Division zone to a point SW of Tintange in order to cross the river in friendly territory and made considerable gains until it reached Surre. There it met bitter resistance and only after a hard struggle was it able to capture the town. The 320th Infantry experienced difficulty in crossing the Sure River. Resistance from the N banks of the river was very strong but the 3d Battalion, on the left, managed to wade elements across by noon. The 2d Battalion got a company across during the afternoon. Later the resistance lessened and by dark the 2d Battalion was in Boulaide and Baschleiden, and the 3d Battalion was moving N. At 0600 on 28 December, the 35th Division continued its drive against the S flank of the enemy salient. The 137th Infantry made only slight gain during the day. The 2d Battalion made small gain to the N of Surre and the 3d Battalion drove to the hill SW of Villers-La-Bonne-Eau where very heavy small arms, mortar, and artillery fire was encountered. The Battalion’s attempts to enter the town were all repulsed. Then, to assist the 3d Battalion, the 1st Battalion moved out of Regimental reserve to the left of the 3d Battalion. On the 29th, the Division launched another attack at 0800. The 1st

and 2d Battalions, of the 137th Infantry, pushed to the N edge of the Surre Woods while the 3d Battalion made little gain in its drive into Villers-La-Bonne-Eau. Meanwhile, the 320th Infantry’s 2d Battalion was engaged in bitter battle with enemy around a farm SE of Harlange. The attack of the 3d Battalion met equally stiff resistance S of Harlange and gained little ground. The 134th Infantry came out of Division reserve and attacked N and NE. The 3d Battalion, already committed, pushed toward Lutrebois and seized most of the town by dark. The 1st Battalion moved into Marvie, three kilometers SE of Bastogne, where it made contact with elements of the 101st Airborne Division in besieged Bastogne pocket. The 2d Battalion moved to fill the gap between the 3d Battalion and the 3d Battalion, of the 137th Infantry. The enemy on the morning of 30 December launched an extremely heavy counterattack with tanks and infantry of the 167th Volksgrenadier and 1st SS Panzer Divisions against the 137th and 134th Regiments. Companies K and L, of the 137th Infantry, in the town of Villers-La-Bonne-Eau were surrounded by elements of the enemy and very heavy pressure was placed against the rest of the Regiment. The 134th Infantry, hit hard by this counterattack, held its positions throughout the day. The 320th Infantry, missed by the counterattack, jumped off at 0800 but met very strong resistance from Harlange and the farm SE of the town. The counterattack, which had the mission of cutting the Arlon-Bastogne highway, was repulsed. The infantry in repulsing it had much assistance from the air corps and artillery. The enemy was continually strafed and bombed and subjected to severely heavy artillery fire. On the last day of December, the Division’s attempts to attack met with little success. Attempts to relieve the situation of K and L Companies, of the 137th Infantry, failed and the companies were given up for lost when it was learned from POW’s that the companies had been destroyed or captured.

During the morning of January 1st, the 134th Infantry had its Battalions dig in to prepare positions for defense in case of a

counterattack. In the afternoon it attacked at 1330. The 1st Battalion drove to positions beyond the crossroads about a kilometer SE of Marvie and the 2d and 3d Battalions advanced toward Lutrebois, seizing part of the town by dark. The 137th Infantry, with the 1st Battalion of the 320th Infantry attached, also attacked at 1330 but, because of considerable enemy infiltration, was unable to gain ground. On its right flank, it had Company C defending and during the day the Company repelled several small counterattacks. Elements of Companies K and L, cut off in Villers-La-Bonne-Eau during the last days of December, remained surrounded in the town. A 1230 attack by the 320th Infantry (less 1st Battalion) against the well-defended farm SE of Harlange resulted in only slight gain as the enemy maintained its stubborn defense there. Striking fast and hard, the 1st Battalion of the 137th Infantry cleared the enemy from the woods W of Villers-La-Bonne-Eau and assisted Company F in driving the enemy from the woods S of the road junction W of Villers-La-Bonne-Eau on the 2nd of January. Push-

ing N in the same woods was Company E which after a hard struggle drove far enough into the woods to make contact with Company F. The 3d Battalion of the 137th Infantry and the 1st Battalion of the 320th Infantry remained in assembly areas behind the lines. In its attack against the strongly defended farm SE of Harlange, the 320th Infantry failed to gain. Extremely heavy automatic and small arms fire was encountered. During the afternoon P-47 Thunderbolts bombed and strafed enemy tanks and infantry in the area N of Harlange. During the night of 3 - 4 January the 1st Battalion of the 134th Infantry moved to the woods about two miles N of Lutrebois. At 0700 the Battalion attacked to the SE to seize the road junction NE of Lutrebois. Company B, moving fast, captured hill 540 along with the enemy Battalion Commander and his Headquarters. Company C drove several hundred yards beyond the objective and became engaged in a heavy fire fight with the enemy. In an attempt to make contact with the 3d Battalion to the

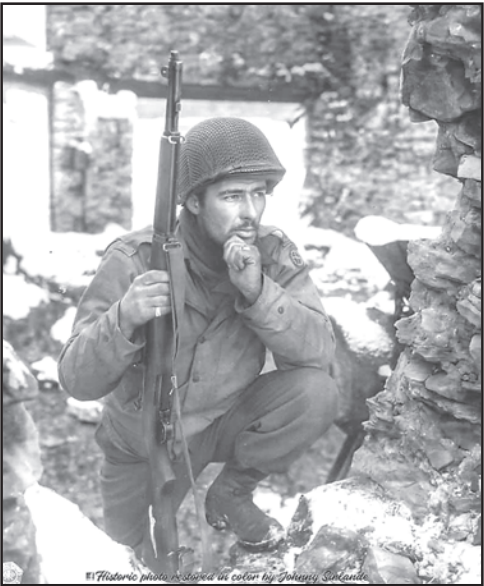
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.30 cal machine gun nest near Lutrebois



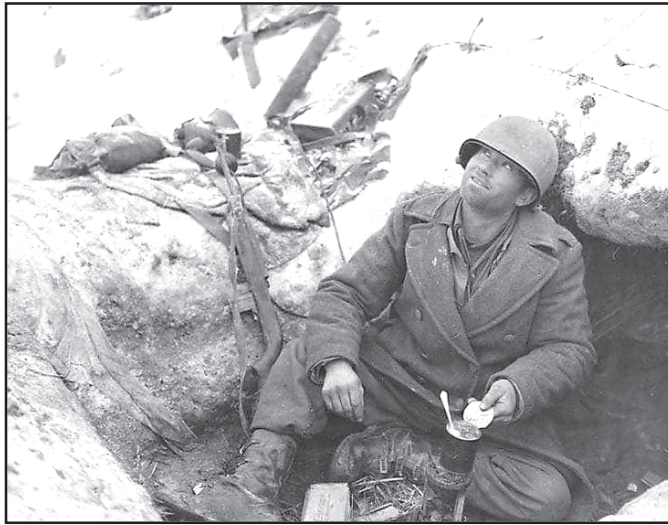
137th IR approaching Lutrebois



SGT Liman of the 134th IR in Lutrebois



137thIR on Jan 9, 1945

TSGT Laurence Gettings of the  
320th IR in his foxholeSGT Holmes, 320th IR fighting  
the cold in the Ardennes

## Ardennes Offensive—

continued from page 6

S, Company A attacked at 1340 and two hours later was up with Company B but had not made contact with the 3d Battalion. Company C, fighting alone in front, was cut off, but 43 men and one officer managed to return to American lines during the night. The 3d Battalion, meanwhile, having cleared the remainder of the enemy from Lutrebois attacked NE from the town to make contact with the 1st Battalion. The 2d Battalion tried to advance but was unable to move forward because of enemy patrols and infiltration parties maintaining constant pressure on its right flank. The 137th Infantry attempted to drive closer to Villers-La-Bonne-Eau but gained only a few hundred yards. Extremely heavy fire was met and enemy tanks operated in the Regimental zone. With the aid of tanks from Company C of the 735th Tank Battalion, the 320th Infantry's 2d Battalion captured the farm which the enemy had so bitterly defended. With the 3d Battalion, it then advanced to the woods N of the farm. From there Company E, supported by tanks, attacked Harlange and seized several houses in the E edge of the town. At 1730, however, a heavy counterattack drove the Company and its supporting tanks from the town. On the 5th, the 134th Infantry's 1st Battalion switched its attack to the NE. The 2d Battalion continued to hold its positions, guarding against enemy infiltration attempts. The 3d Battalion crossed the open space E of Lutrebois and moved to the W edge of the wood NE of the town. Counterattacked by enemy dressed in American Soldier's uniforms, it withdrew to the E edge of the town. The 1st Battalion of the 320th Infantry was relieved from attachment to the 137th Infantry and attached to the 134th Infantry during the afternoon. Little gain was reported by the 137th Infantry. The 1st Battalion was relieved by the 3d Battalion and began moving to positions behind the 2d Battalion. As soon as the 1st Battalion took up its new positions, the 2d Battalion attacked to the E and cleared enemy infiltrating through the draw to its front. The 320th Infantry continued its bitter fight in the vicinity of Harlange. During the afternoon its 2d Battalion repelled a counterattack of three tanks and considerable infantry and spent the remain-

der of the day reorganizing its positions. The 3d Battalion's attack through the woods E of Harlange against increasing resistance gained little ground. On the 7th of January, after an unsuccessful attempt to capture positions astride the Lutrebois-Lutremange road, the 2d Battalion of the 134th Infantry held along a line short of the road. The 1st Battalion of the 320th Infantry, still trying to come abreast of the 1st Battalion of the 134th Infantry, attacked during the afternoon but made no progress. The remainder of the day the Regiment continued to maintain pressure against the enemy. The 137th Infantry continued to hold its positions and shuffled its line after relieving elements of the 28th Cavalry Squadron on its right flank, Company C of the 735th Tank Battalion was relieved from attachment to the 320th Infantry and attached to the 137th Infantry. In the 320th Infantry sector, the remainder of the 101st Infantry and elements of the 6th Cavalry Group relieved the 2d Battalion, and the Regiment moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of Bastogne, where it was to be attached to the 6th Armored Division. The situation remained the same for a few days. The 134th Infantry pushed forward very little but succeeded in reducing a strong point on January 10th. At midnight the 2d Battalion of the 320th Infantry was attached to the Regiment. This placed the 1st and 2d Battalions of the 320th Infantry under control of the 134th Infantry. The rest of the 320th Infantry remained attached to the 6th Armored Division. In its attack, the 137th

Infantry's 1st and 2nd Battalions attempted to move around the enemy left flank in the vicinity of Villers La Bonne Eau and advanced a few hundred yards. The 3d Battalion moved into position on the left of the 1st Battalion to protect the Regiment's left flank and maintain contact with the 134th Infantry. During the afternoon, the 1st Battalion encountered heavy resistance and made no gain. The 2d Battalion, however, drove hard into much-shelled Villers-La-Bonne-Eau, seized the town and the high ground to the NE. The situation in the Division sector began to loosen the day after as the enemy started slowly to move back. Continuing the attack at 0800, the 134th Infantry drove against scattered resistance

to positions about 500 yards short of the Regimental objective. The 1st Battalion secured the left flank of the Regimental zone with one company, while the 2d Battalion remained in Lutrebois clearing the woods NE of the town. The 137th Infantry's 2d Battalion attacked through Lutremange, taking the high ground N of the town from the withdrawing enemy. The 1st Battalion also drove forward. This brought the 137th Infantry to its pinched out objective. The next day, the 134th Infantry moved to its objective in the woods SW of Bras, where it made visual contact with elements of the 90th Infantry Division. The 1st and 2d Battalions of the 320th Infantry were relieved from attachment to the 134th Infantry at 1300 and attached to the 6th Armored Division, where they rejoined their Regiment. The 137th Infantry assembled during the afternoon in its sector. Company C of the 735th Tank Battalion was relieved from attachment.

The 134th Infantry moved the 1st Battalion to an assembly area vicinity of Salvacourt-Hompre, closing at 1730 on the 13th and the 2d Battalion to vicinity of Chaumone-Hollange-Grandrue, closing at 2100. The 3d Battalion remained in position at the tip of the Division's pinched out boundary line and maintained contact with the 6th Armored Division and the 90th Infantry Division. The 137th Infantry remained in its assemble area, and the 320th Infantry remained attached to the 6th Armored Division. The Division continued rehabilitation and maintenance and conducted some combat training the next few days and moved back to Metz, France. The 35th Infantry Division (less CT 134) remained in Metz until 23 January, when it moved by motor to vicinity of Bidestroff and Chateau-Voue, in France, where it passed to control of XV Corps and Seventh Army. They would return to the front and began relief of elements of the 100th and 45th Divisions. The 137th Infantry relieved the 398th Infantry, of the 100th Infantry Division, in the area E of Soucht. The 320th Infantry relieved the 274th Infantry (of the 70th Infantry Division) in the area E and NE of Wingen. This sector was approximately 15 miles S of Saareguemines, the area where the Division, during December, had fought its way into Germany.

The Battle of the Bulge was one of the most severe battle that the Division encountered. It paid a big price with a lot of casualties. One of the most horrific discoveries was on January 13.. On January 13th, the grave registration detail was called upon to clear Lutrebois because an Artillery Battalion was setting up positions in that area. They discovered a sinister fact. Six soldiers were found in the woods, all killed by a small arms bullet from close range. After investigation, it was clear that the six soldiers were executed by the enemy after they were captured. The grave registration detail who did the discovery was led by Lt Eldephonse C. Reischel (3rd Battalion, 134th HQ assisted by PVT Andrew Baumgartner, PVT Erwin C. Choate and PVT J.P. Brown. The victims were all from the 134th Infantry Regiment:

S/SGT Carl R. Sahli - C company  
S/SGT David I. Bowen - C company  
S/SGT Wilbur C. Pyle - C company  
PFC Robert L. Stone - C company  
PVT Russell L. Johnson - C company  
PVT Troy R. Bader - G company

Four of the soldiers had been wounded when they were captured, their wounds dressed with American bandages, but a small bullet hole through each of their heads showed that they later had met instant death from a small arms weapon fired at close range. The other soldiers had no other wounds but only the same kind of bullet holes in their heads. Overcoats, field jackets, webbing and shoes had been removed from most of them. Personal items such as pay books and dog tags were found on the remains of the soldiers. All 6 soldiers were reported as MIA (Missing in Action) between January 5-6 1945. Their date of death was "guessed" after examinations of the bodies and based on reports from previous battles. S/SGT Sahli, S/SGT Bowen, S/SGT Pyle, PVT Johnson and PVT Bader are buried at the American War Cenetery in Luxemburg. PFC Stone is buried in the United States. This day is known as "Disastrous Thursday, the murder of the six" in the Division's history.

Let us never forget the sacrifices and the difficult circumstances that these brave man had to encounter to stop this last attempt from Hitler's army to regain power in Europe. May God bless their souls.

# Duckworth Honored at Hiawatha Veterans Day Ceremony



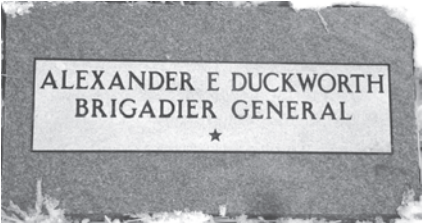
LTC Andrew Parker, Commander 2d Bn 130th FA, Hiawatha, Ks reads the citation for BG Duckworth. BG Duckworth is on his left.

Homer White American Legion Post 66 in Hiawatha, KS hosted their 21st annual Brown County Veterans Day dinner on Saturday, Nov. 10, at the Hiawatha National Guard Armory.

A short ceremony was held outside the building at 5 p.m, to honor Gen. Alexander E. Duckworth (R) by unveiling his stone in the General’s Walk, near the main entrance. The stones recognize personnel who served with the unit and achieved the rank of General Officer.

Attendees were treated to a hardy home-cooked country baked ham meal, with all the fixings. After the meal, the program speaker was Brigadier General (R) Alexander E. Duckworth from Lees Summit, Mo.

Post 66 Commander Col. William Vonderschmidt (R) was Master of Ceremonies. The current commander of the 2nd Bn 130th Field Artillery, LTC Andrew Parker gave a few short comments about the status of the battalion.



L to R, Steve Winter, past Commander of Homer White Post 66 Am. Legion, BG (R) Alexander Duckworth and his wife Shelly, Master of Ceremonies, COL (R) Wm Vonderschmidt, also Commander of Homer White Post 66 Am. Legion, LTC Andrew Parker, Commander 2d Bn 130th FA and Robert Sines, Public Affairs Officer for Homer White Post 66 Am. Legion.

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



## Museum Donor Form for 2019

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For 35<sup>th</sup> Division Wall? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

\_\_\_\_\_ Exterior Brick - \$50  
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(Buy Interior Brick, Get Free Exterior Brick)

(All 2019 Members, Major Donors, Brick Orders, & Perpetual Sustaining Membership Payments Receive a 2019 Museum Challenge Coin)



## 35th Division Hall of Fame Nominations Sought

Members of the 35<sup>th</sup> Division Assn., as well as others, are encouraged to submit nominations for the 35<sup>th</sup> Division Hall of Fame for induction in 2020. Nominators must sign the nomination form and provide data for future contacts.

At this time there are only five (5) carryover nominations from this year for consideration next year..

### Three things are required for the nomination:

1. The completed Hall of Fame Nomination Form below.
2. A separate page(s) biography of the nominee giving military service and emphasizing what the nominee did in service in the 35<sup>th</sup> Division to merit induction into the Hall of Fame.
3. A photo of the nominee

Supporting documents such as copies of award citations, listings of military awards, copies of his/her service records, letters of support, etc. are optional.

The 2020 class to be inducted will be inducted at the Annual 35<sup>th</sup> Div Assn Conference in 2020.

Send nominations to **BG Ed Gerhardt, Chairman, 35<sup>th</sup> Hall of Fame Committee, 125 SE Airport E. Drive, Topeka, KS 66619**, so as to arrive not later than 1 August 2019.

### -----Hall of Fame Nomination Form-----

Rank/Title of Nominee:

Name of Nominee:

Recipient of : Medal of Honor: ☐  
Dist. Svc Cross: ☐

Address of Nominee (if living):

Name & Address of Next of Kin (if deceased):

Nominee Date of Birth:

Nominee Date of Death:

Nominator Name:

Nominator E-Mail:

Nominator Address:

Nominator Telephone:

# Taps



**William Strukel**

**Brother of MG (Ret) Jack Strukel**

William (Bill) Walter Strukel, 85, of San Tan Valley, AZ passed away Dec. 4, 2018, in Mesa, Arizona. Bill was born at Cockerill/Mulberry, Kansas, to Rose and Jack Strukel Sr. Bill attended Cockerill Grade School, Arma High School, (Crawford County) and Kansas State University of Pittsburg, KS majoring in Social Science.

He served in the U.S. Army from 1953–1958 as a Combat Engineer and was an overseas veteran. He was Honorably discharged with the rank of sergeant in 1958.

Bill married Janice Prideaux and had a son, William Eric Strukel, now a Medical Doctor in the San Diego, CA area. Bill and Janice later divorced.

While Bill was in college, county leaders encouraged him to run for Sheriff of Crawford County. He was elected for three terms, 1962, 1964 and 1966 by overwhelming vote. In February 1967, he re-

signed as the Crawford County Sheriff and was appointed by Governor Robert Docking to become Chief Enforcement Officer for the State of Kansas Alcoholic Beverage Control. He held that position until 1986, when he took a medical retirement. Upon retirement, Bill received the prestigious Director's Award from the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. (Elliott Ness of Untouchables and prohibition era fame was also a recipient of this award).

In 1966, Bill was the co-author of the Officer's Handbook, a guide for Kansas law enforcement officers. The purpose of this handbook was to educate Kansas Lawmen and serve as a guide to assist them in carrying out their duties.

Beginning in 1964, Bill held various offices with the Kansas Sheriff's Association. In 1967, at the age of 33, he was voted a "lifetime member" in the Kansas Sheriff's Association. He served as Editor of the Kansas Sheriff's Association Magazine which was printed quarterly, from 1964 through 1970.

In 1968, Bill was elected vice Chairman of the Kansas Law Enforcement Commission to create mandatory police training for all full time Kansas police Officers. In 1969, he was elected Chairman of the Commission and was re-elected continuously as Chairman until July 1, 1982.

He married Darlene (Branda) Parmenter on July 23, 1983. They lived in Topeka while serving as ABC CIO, and then moved to Fresno, CA. After Darlene retired from the Veterans Administration in Fresno, they moved to Arizona in September 1993, and resided in Apache Junction, Payson, Fountain Hills, and finally San Tan Valley, AZ.

Bill was a member of the American Legion and VFW in Pittsburg, Kansas. He was a member of Desert Chapel United Methodist Church, Apache Junction, AZ and many law officer associations.

He is survived by his wife, Darlene, of the home; his son, Dr. William Eric Strukel, M.D., Granddaughters, Sophia and Sabine; and Eric's mother, Ms. Janice Merritt, all of San Diego, CA; His Brother, Major General (Ret) Jack Strukel/Janet Gayle of Topeka, KS; Nephew, Jack Ed/Elizabeth Strukel, Corvallis, OR.; Nephew, Steven/Debra Strukel and Family of Lansing, KS; Niece, Robyn Lynn Pilcher, of Corvallis, OR; Cousins Harry Strukel of Girard, KS, and Ron Beatty/Sandi of Pleasant Hill, MO.

A Celebration of Life included "Military Honors."

## Richard Allyn Frantz

Father of Peggy Weddle and son of Kathryn Frantz.

Richard Allyn Frantz, 61, of Salina, passed away Sunday, Dec. 2, 2018, at his home. Richard was born in McPherson, June 18, 1957, and attended McPherson public schools. He was a graduate of Gallaudet University, Washington, D.C. After graduation, he worked for the United States Patent and Trademark Office, an agency of the Commerce Department, as an editor-writer. Richard had multiple disabilities but lived independently his entire life.

Richard is survived by his mother, Kathryn Frantz, of Lindsborg; brother, Carl Daniel Frantz, of Redmond, Wash.; sisters, Judy Pilewski (Edward), of Lindsborg, Shirley Miller (Bill), of Salina, Peggy Weddle (Mark), of Manhattan, and Susan Achenbach (Scott), of Lindsborg; and many nieces and nephews, great-nieces and nephews, and other relatives and friends. Richard was preceded in death by: his father, Carl Frantz Jr.; and sister-in-law, Janet Frantz.

## Lloyd R. Barnett

Company C, 137<sup>th</sup> Infantry

Services for Lloyd Ray Barnett, 93 of Jackson will be held at 1:00 PM on Saturday September 29, 2018 at the North Chapel of George A. Smith and Sons with Dr. Edgar Pierce officiating. Interment will follow in Hollywood Cemetery. Lloyd died September 26, 2018 at Jackson Madison County General Hospital surrounded by his family.

Mr. Barnett was born on October 12, 1924 in Parsons, TN the son of the late Oscar Lee and Emma Raye Conger Barnett.

Lloyd retired from the Tennessee National Guard as Chief Warrant Officer 3 after 30 years of service. He was a deacon and an active member of East Union Baptist Church. Mr. Barnett was a decorated World War II Veteran serving in the European theater.

He loved to hunt and spend time with his family.

Mr. Barnett is survived by his loving wife Bobbie Faye Stanfill Barnett, a brother, Guy Barnett; children, Tony Barnett (Charlene), Rilla Staples (Randy), Rick Barnett (Vicki), Amber Jackson (Lynn); grandchildren Michelle Stamey, Blake Staples, Brooke Pugh (Thomas), Lauren Hatley (Marc), Colin Barnett (Nikki), Evan Barnett (Theresa) and Jake Fain. He is also survived by nine great grandchildren. Other than his parents Mr. Barnett was also preceded in death by an infant son, Robin Kelly Barnett, Brothers, Ausby Barnett and S.D. Barnett; sisters, Marie Brown and Ruby Simmons.

Pallbearers were his grandsons; Blake Staples, Colin Barnett, Evan Barnett, Jake Fain and sons- In-law, Randy Staples and Lynn Jackson.



## Mail Call

December 17, 2018

Dear Sirs:

I regret to inform you that my father, Lloyd R. Barnett, a member of your association, passed away on September 26, 2018 at the age of 93. He had been ill for some time and had been in the hospital for two weeks. He was proud to be a member of your association and a proud WWII veteran. He was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. We miss him dearly.

I'm sorry I haven't been able to contact you sooner, but my responsibilities of seeing after our mother's needs, as well my own work, demanded too much of my time. Please remove his name from your list of active members. Thank you for keeping in touch with him for so many years. Lastly, I want to thank all of you in the association for your selfless service to our great country. God bless the USA.

Sincerely,  
Tony Barnett  
28 Summer Tree Drive  
Jackson, TN 38305

## Dr. John A. Kerner to celebrate 100th Birthday

35th Association Members,  
My father Dr. John A. Kerner (Kapstein) turns 100 years old on Febuary 9th. He inducted in Class IV-2012, 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Hall of Fame. I had the distinct honor to be in Kansas City to witness his induction, Everyone was so gracious, helpful, and supportive of my dad and my family. He was a Combat Medic in WWII and also received the French Legion of Honor Medal from the President of France for his service.

He also donated 2 of his books he wrote to your museum including "Combat Medic World War II". Here is my dad's picture with my mom—in the background is a framed article from the San Francisco Chronicle highlighting him getting the Legion of honor award from the French president.

Dr. John A Kerner Jr.



**"Reminder" Save operational expenses!**  
Return your membership/donation form by 20 February 2019, or call or Email to let us know you are receiving the paper. If we don't hear from you by 20 Feb, we will follow up with a letter using money we could spend elsewhere.



*April-May-June*  
issue of the  
**Santa Fe Express**  
Deadline 10 April





## Membership, Donor and Purchase Form

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Rank/Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**(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 35<sup>th</sup> Div (i.e. 69<sup>th</sup> Bde, 137<sup>th</sup>, 134<sup>th</sup>, 320<sup>th</sup> 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 35<sup>th</sup> Div. Assn Operating Expenses

### Donation specified for the 35<sup>th</sup> Museum Operating Expense

**Sponsor Edition of “The Santa Fe Express” - \$1500.00**

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

### 35<sup>th</sup> 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 35<sup>th</sup> Inf Div in WW II”**

**By Murray Leff - \$12.00**

**35<sup>th</sup> Division Coin - \$12.00 (\$10.00 no mailing needed)**

**35<sup>th</sup> Division Lapel Pin – \$5.00 (\$4.00 if no mailing needed) :**

**Pin of DIV Patch with 35<sup>th</sup> In Div written around edge**

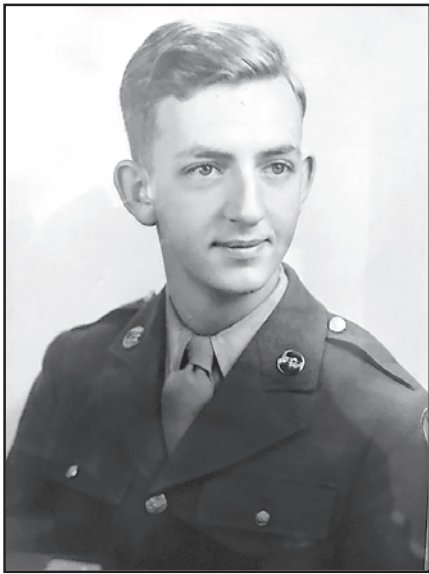
### Pin with DIV Patch only

**35<sup>th</sup> Division Ceramic Mug \$15 (7.00 if no mailing needed)**

## Total Amount Enclosed

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

# Pfc. John W. Conley, Anti-Tank Company, 134<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment



I recently received an email from Justin Vickers about his great-uncle Pfc John W. Conley who served in 1st Platoon, Anti-Tank Company, 134<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment. When Nancy, France was liberated on September 15, 1944, John Conley befriended a 16-year-old French boy named Jean Morel. At the time Pfc. Conley was 19 years old, the youngest member of an anti-tank crew stationed near the boy's house. Three months later he was killed in action. At the time of his death, December 20, 1944, the 134th Infantry had crossed the Blies River into Germany and was fighting in the vicinity of Habkirchen where Pfc. Conley was killed by an incoming artillery shell.

Mr. Jean Morel visited the United States in 1985 to pay tribute to his friend John Conley. The following article describing that visit appeared in Good Housekeeping Magazine.

Submitted by Roberta Russo, daughter of Pfc. Harry A. Krantz, Medical Detachment, 134<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment. Email: roberta.russo@yahoo.com

### In Search of a Friend - Good Housekeeping Magazine - 2000

In June of 1985, I visited my cousin, Susan, in Wilmington, NC. Her mother, my Aunt Sara, had recently moved from Chattanooga, TN to Wilmington because of health problems and failing eyesight. I had been there only a short time when my aunt said, "Tell Donna about the Frenchman."

In March 1985, Sara had responded to a knock at the door, finding a man she had never seen before, asking about her brother John, in heavily accented English. John Conley had been killed in the vicinity of Foldersviller, France on December 20, 1944. He was just 19 years old and the only son of my grandparent's five children (my mother, Mildred, who died in 1967, was one of John's sisters). The stress of my Aunt Sara's failing health and eyesight had taken its toll and she became

very upset and asked the man to leave. The next day, he phoned her and got the same results. A few days later, she received the following letter:

#### Dear Mrs. Smith:

I have now returned to my hometown, Nancy, in northeastern France, after spending almost two weeks in Chattanooga. The reason I came to Chattanooga was to pay a tribute to the memory of someone who has been dear to my heart ever since I met him very shortly and very long ago, indeed. It's your brother, John, I'm referring to, and I would like to explain to you my story. It may seem very old, but to me it's not a matter of time, as I keep in my memory the very fresh souvenir of John, his face enlightened with sweet smiles and full of kindness.

We met for the first time on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September, 1944 when the soldiers of the Third U.S. Army of General Patton liberated Nancy. We had been occupied by the Germans during four long years of starvation and fear, and this day of liberation meant the end of our sufferings and the beginning of our hope for a better life. To us, American soldiers were like Angels delivering us from Hell.

John was stationed in the front of my house with a group of five or six other soldiers. They stayed for three or four days before leaving and going further toward Germany.

I was a little over 16 then, and John was also very young. He was so nice to us little Frenchmen, teaching us English words from his phrase book, and we enjoyed his company so much. We kept surrounding him all the time, always wanting to talk with him. The other soldiers didn't seem to mind. John was the youngest of them all, and these days were made of joy and friendship. Although it was a very short period, each moment was so full of happiness, it seemed time had ceased to move.

When John left, he had promised to come back if he could. And he left me his address, both civilian and military. He also gave me a picture, taken in front of his house with his Dad and brother-in-law in Chattanooga.

And John came back! About a month after - he didn't stay very long - two or three hours. He told us the German troops were fighting very hard and that some of the G.I.s who were with him in front of our house had been injured or lost their lives in the fierce combat. I accompanied him back to the

truck station, and he left after I promised I would write him. He also told me he would write me after the war was over, when he would be back home in America. And then he left. I never knew what became of him after that.

I was supposed to write but did not master English very much at that time. I prepared a letter but did not send it. I was afraid it was not well-written. I still have it - and when I looked at it, it reminded me of John. And time passed by, and I was wondering what became of him.

I retired when I was 60, and being that I could travel and go to Chattanooga, I began to save money for the trip. I am not a rich man, but my pension rate is not bad by French standards, as I have worked many years.

I decided to find out about John; he was only three years older than myself, and I thought that even though so many years had passed by, he would like to meet me. Perhaps he had forgotten all about our encounter. But it did not really matter, as the simple fact of seeing him and talking with him would be one of the greatest joys I could imagine in my life. And I decided to search for him.

I learned from the Chattanooga City Hall that no one with the name of Conley was living anymore at 500 Wells Street. They advised me to write to the Veterans Association in Chattanooga. I called there and they told me I should check with the Department of Veterans Affairs in Nashville.

I wrote in June and received the bad news in October in a letter stating that John was deceased on December 20, 1944. I felt miserable. With the help of the Veterans Center, I found at the Chattanooga Public Library the obituary published in the newspaper. I learned that John was killed not very long after I left him at the truck station in 1944. I don't remember the date, but I could see John as clearly as if it had been only yesterday.

Thanks to the wonderful people in the Veterans Center who located John's grave in Rock Spring Cemetery in Georgia, I was able to make this journey and go to this little space of land where John is resting now, close to his mother and Dad. I was very moved when I read the in-

scription on the stone: "Died that others might live in peace", and I thought how much in debt I was, for what he had done. Coming to his grave was the least I could do.

I wanted to see the place where John had spent his life before he came to France - and with the help of my friend (who invited me to stay at his home) we went to Wells Street. People told me that the house had burned and that a sister of John's was living close by on Forrest Ave. I decided to try to see you and express all the sympathy, all the respect I felt for the family of John. And it would have been so dear to my heart to know about John's life.

But it was quite unexpected for you. And now I understand how you felt, being disturbed in your sleep and not knowing what the matter was about - with a man telling a story of the past, very long ago, over 50 years back. But you see, to me it was very important. I apologize for creating some troubles in your life. I called you afterward and again it was very disturbing for you.

I am going to leave you now, hoping you will understand how I feel and ready to give you any further information you would deem necessary about myself.

I wish you, with all my heart, health and happiness, very heartedly, your friend.

**Jean Morel**

After returning to Michigan I wrote Jean a letter telling him about my Uncle John and enclosed a few snapshots. John Conley was buried in France - a white cross marking his grave. In 1948 his parents, Thomas and Maude Conley, brought their only son home to be buried in Rock Springs, GA. My grandmother wore her Silver Star on her clothing for the rest of her life.

Jean was able to return to the United States in March 1997, and visited in Wilmington with Susan and Sara. I traveled from Michigan to meet him. We are still corresponding.

### 35TH ASSOCIATION DONOR APPRECIATION OCT 2018 to JAN 2019

These are donations made in **addition** to the Annual or Life membership. We value the treasure you give to help the organization. Please notify the Exec Secretary if we incorrectly captured your donation.

#### Donors \$500 and above

\*Ronald J Paskey (Op. Expenses in recognition of PVT Joseph M. and Rose Paskey)

#### Donors \$200 to \$250

\*Patricia Harwell (Conference Sponsor in recognition of TSGT. Ken Faulkner)

#### Donors \$100 to \$149

\*Arthur Germano (Op. Expenses)  
\*LTC (R) Ricky L Dodson (Hall of Fame)  
\*MG (R) Jack Strukel Jr. (Conf. Sponsor)  
\*COL (R ) Cal Warrem (Hall of Fame)

#### Donors \$50 to \$99

\*Kathy Graff Esker (Op. Expenses in recognition of James and Alice Graff)

# The North Platte Canteen

Love and food for all

A great nation is defined by its ability to pull together in times of need, by the willingness of the people to rally in support of those who put their own lives on the line, whether in war or a natural disaster. The women of North Platte, Nebraska, and many other towns in the area, stood as a shining beacon of that greatness during World War II.

On December 17, 1941, shortly after the nation's entry into the war, a group of locals went to the North Platte railroad station with gifts and food. They had heard news that the 134th Infantry Regiment of the Nebraska Army National Guard would be travelling through toward an unknown destination. Those present had friends, husbands, brothers and sons in the regiment and they wanted to give them one last gift before they shipped off to the war.

The train was supposed to arrive at 11 a.m., but only showed up at 4:30 in the afternoon. Even then the soldiers onboard weren't the ones expected. Rather than Nebraskans, the boys on the train were from Kansas. After a few moments of confusion, the locals decided they weren't going to take their food home. These men, too, were somebody's sons and they too deserved a show of love and support on their way to the war.

26-year-old Rae Wilson worked at a

local drugstore and went to the station in hopes of seeing her brother. She was so moved by what transpired that she wrote a letter to *The Daily Bulletin* the next day, suggesting that North Platte should extend the same welcome to all soldiers traveling through. The idea was taken enthusiastically up by area residents, leading to the creation of the Canteen.

The project was fully supported by volunteers and donations, except for a single 5-dollar bill sent by President Roosevelt. The baskets of food were originally prepared at a hotel across the street and passed to soldiers through the doors and windows of trains. However, the president of Union Pacific, who was also a local resident, soon allowed the initiative to use the depot's vacant lunchroom. 55,000 volunteers from 125 communities, some as far as 200 miles away, chipped in. Vouchers were saved up and used to buy ingredients like sugar, butter and coffee. Gas vouchers were pooled so farmers could take their produce or fried chicken to the canteen. Shortages forced people to get creative: duck and turkey eggs were substituted for chicken eggs and molasses was used in lieu of sugar and syrup for popcorn balls.

With war industry kicking in, trains started arriving at a rate of 24 or more a day and the Canteen volunteers worked

continued on page 13



Platform girls with their baskets



Soldiers helping themselves to the contents of a basket in the doorway of a train car



Sailors enjoying a glass of milk at the Canteen



A cake for two (or presumably more) at the North Platte Canteen



Servicemen rushing into the canteen

## The North Platte Canteen

continued from page 12

in groups from 5 a.m. till past midnight. Soldiers had 10 minutes to get off the train and rush into the canteen, where they'd be plied with pheasant, turkey and beef salad sandwiches, deviled eggs, cookies, doughnuts, coffee and cigarettes. Soldiers who happened to have their birthdays were given angel food cakes.

Meanwhile, other volunteers helped hurried soldiers write quick letters, send telegrams and place long-distance phone calls to their families. "Platform girls," teenagers 16 or older, stayed at the platform and gave popcorn balls and other snacks to soldiers who couldn't get off their train. Many of them wrote their names and addresses on the paper the balls were in so a lonely soldier could write them letters from abroad. The seeds of at least two marriages were planted this way.

In one particular month of 1945, the following food items were recorded:

- 40,161 cookies
- 30,679 hard-boiled eggs
- 6,547 doughnuts
- 6,939 cup, loaf and birthday cakes
- 2,845 pounds of sandwich meat

The Canteen served over 6 million service personnel during the war. For many, who had never traveled before, the quick stop was an unexpected relief on a tense, fearful voyage towards danger. Uncountable soldiers in North Africa, Italy, France or the Pacific would take a moment during a lull in battle to fondly reminisce with his comrades about the food they were served in North Platte.

The Canteen's activities also meant a lot to Nebraskans, though in a different way. Between the First World War and World War II, the rural Midwest was generally considered an isolated

rustic area with no interest in affairs of the rest of the nation. The Canteen, however, along with other acts of war support such as a Nebraska-wide scrap metal drive, proved the Midwest's patriotism and generosity, helping create what became the Heartland's cultural identity in the 1950s.

After the war, the North Platte Canteen continued to serve soldiers on the way home for another half a year, until it was closed down on April 1, 1946. The following day the last of the volunteers were clearing out the depot a final time, when a train full of returning soldiers pulled into station. The locals had nothing but their own coffee but there was no doubt in their minds about what to do: they shared it with the boys in uniform.

You can learn more about how the public rallied behind and supported the war effort on our World War II tours to Western Europe and the Pacific Theater.



Getting ready to meet the next rush of soldiers



Servicemen and servicewomen of different ranks and branches of service mingling at the Canteen's buffet



Removing the sign of the Canteen in 1946



PFC Clifton Hall accepting a whole cake from volunteer Lyda Swenson



Two volunteers sharing their goods by a train

## Original Poster for 1920 Reunion

Sent to us from California by D Jungmeyer.

# 10,000 BUDDIES In Topeka, September, 26-7-8 35th Division Reunion

*The whole affair will be spoiled for one of these if YOU are not there*  
**MEET YOUR BUDDY IN TOPEKA**

### 1920

SEPTEMBER 26  
Registration Day

SEPTEMBER 27  
Meet Your Buddy  
Day

SEPTEMBER 28  
Big Noise Day



### 1918

SEPTEMBER 26  
Vaquitos Hill  
Bois deBouignol  
Varennes-Cherpy  
Very

SEPTEMBER 27  
Chaudron Farm  
Charpentry-Bauloy

SEPTEMBER 28  
Montre bean Wood  
Exermont

Speeches by Presidential Candidates, the Governors of 4 states and 2 U. S. Senators.  
Barbecue, Vaudeville, Street Carnival, Street Dances, Picture Shows,  
Musical Comedy and Boxing Bouts

*The Second Three Big Days of Your Life*

## Keep Alive the Spirit of the 35th

# Museum of the Kansas National Guard

125 SE Airport E. Drive  
Topeka, KS 66619

## Memberships

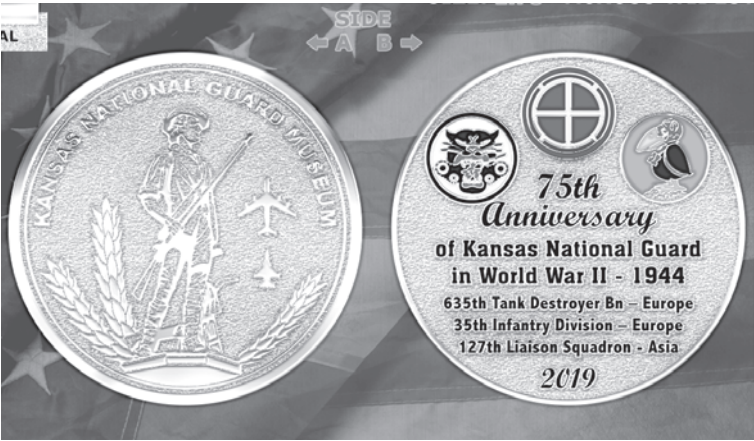
The Museum of the Kansas National Guard Life Memberships are called Perpetual Sustaining Membership. They cost \$1200 or \$120 a year for 10 years. All who purchase a Perpetual Sustaining Membership will receive a Bronze Plate in the Museum Lobby and engraved Interior and Exterior Bricks.

Annual Memberships are \$25.00 and members are billed annually in November. For a donation of \$100 you can become an Annual Member and are listed as a 2019 Major Donor in the Museum Lobby.

Interior bricks are sold for \$200, and with that you also receive an exterior patio brick. For \$50 you can purchase an engraved exterior patio brick.

All who become Annual Members, Major Donors (\$100&up), make Perpetual Sustaining Membership payments, or purchase a brick receive a 2019 Museum coin. New coins are minted each year for the Museum membership drive. This year’s coin commemorates the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Kansas National Guard in World War II—the 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, the 635<sup>th</sup> Tank Destroyer Bn, and the 127<sup>th</sup> Liaison Squadron (Commando) of the Kansas Army Air Corps (which served in the China-Burma Theater).

Please donate or order by using the form enclosed in this edition, or you may go online to the Museum website, which is [www.kansasguardmuseum.org](http://www.kansasguardmuseum.org) and pay through Pay Pal.



## 2019 Museum Long Range Goals

1. **Extension of the MTAA Lease**—Current lease ends 2042.
2. **Covers, Buildings, Shelters for Outside Equipment Exhibits**—Construction of metal buildings to house outside equipment.
3. **New Addition to Museum**—Construction of more exhibit, storage, and exhibit prep space.
4. **Interactive, Hands-On, and Electronic Exhibits**—More simulators and electronic exhibits.
5. **Fulltime Staffing** - Curator and Operations Director
6. **Marketing & Advertising**—Advertising—External & Internal
7. **Increase Museum Memberships**—Annual, Major, Perpetual
8. **More & Better Museum Events**—Monthly, Quarterly, etc.
9. **Water Line to Shop**—Run water line to shop building.
10. **Continue Emphasis on Fundraising**—Pursue grants, wills, trusts, IRA RMD/s, corporate and organizational sponsorships, major donations, & memorials.

## Exterior Patio Brick Orders

<b>Military Officer Association Of Kansas</b>	<b>Patricia Faulkner Harwell</b>
<b>In Memory of SFC David Lee Lorenzen</b>	<b>Robert E. Harwell</b>
<b>CW4 Ronald E. &amp; Diane Mullinax</b>	<b>BG John Rueger And Family DCG 2018</b>
<b>CW3 Larry Grosfield 2d Bn, 130<sup>th</sup> FA</b>	<b>Jay Stevenson CPT FA Bugler</b>
<b>CW5 Bob &amp; Sabine Schnelle</b>	<b>Craig Duehring Son of Martin &amp; Shirley Duehring</b>
	<b>COL Peter Jaramillo 2-137<sup>th</sup> Inf “Father Pete”</b>

## 2019 Calendar of Events

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Wed. 6 Feb   | - Quarterly Brown Bag Luncheon – 12 Noon – MSG Jeremy Byers “Kansas National Guard in World War I” |
| Wed. 13 Feb  | - Museum February Coffee – 9 a.m.  |
| Sat. 2 Mar   | - Retiree/State of the Guard Briefing – 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.   |
| Wed. 13 Mar  | - Museum March Coffee – 9 a.m.   |
| Wed. 3 Apr   | - Topeka Area Fulltime Retiree Luncheon – 11 a.m.  |
| Wed. 10 Apr  | - Museum April Coffee – 9 a.m.   |
| Wed. 1 May   | - Quarterly Brown Bag Luncheon – 12 Noon   |
| Wed. 8 May   | - Museum May Coffee – 9 a.m.   |
| Sat. 8 June  | - Heartland Military Day – 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.  |
| Wed. 12 June | - Museum June Coffee – 9 a.m.  |
| Sat. 29 June | - Korean War Veterans Day – 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.   |
| Wed. 10 July | - Museum July Coffee – 9 a.m.  |
| Wed. 7 Aug   | - Quarterly Brown Bag Luncheon – 12 Noon   |
| Wed. 14 Aug  | - Museum August Coffee – 9 a.m.  |
| Wed. 11 Sep  | - Museum September Coffee – 9 a.m.   |
| Sat. 5 Oct   | - Girl Scout “Girls in Aviation Day” – 8 a.m. – 12 noon  |
| Wed. 9 Oct   | - Museum October Coffee – 9 a.m.   |
| Wed. 6 Nov   | - Quarterly Brown Bag Luncheon – 12 Noon   |
| Wed. 13 Nov  | - Museum November Coffee – 9 a.m.  |
| Wed. 11 Dec  | - Museum December Coffee – 9 a.m.  |

## Recent Museum Artifact Donations

- Vietnam War Collection of LTC Bill Macey—SGM Tim Cochran  
TA-312 Field Telephone & Switchboard Accessory Kit—Unknown  
1951 35th Div Assn Reunion Program—Dick Spain  
KNG Driving Medal, 1923—MSG Jeremy Byers  
Morning Reports, 60th Engr Combat Bn, WW II—Roberta Russo  
M1A1 Abrams Tank Model—Larry Madden  
WW II Art Print Collection by George Withers, WW II Artist for Gen Eisenhower & “Stars & Stripes”—Brian Withers  
Drill Sergeant Collection of SFC Harris Rakestraw, Jr.—Ethelene Rakestraw  
Uniform Collection, U. S. Army—1SG Robert McAmis  
Set of WW II Time-Life Books—Ben Perdue  
Uniform, OCPw/Boots from Middle East Deployment—MG Vic Braden  
Sarge-The Veteran’s Best Friend Book—Paula Baker  
Nazi Armband and Pittsburgh Sun Newspaper, dtd Aug. 15, 1945, Declaring End of WW II—Ed & Tina Crocker  
U. S. Army Uniforms, Vietnam Era—Jim Northrup  
Santa Fe Express, May 1945—COL Bob Dalton  
Sun, Wind, & Dust Goggles & Manuals—SGM Tim Cochran  
1884 Springfield Trapdoor Rifle & Cartridge Case—Cliff Harvey  
Flight & U. S. Army Black Jackets, 1985 137th Trans Co (Hv Hel) Yearbook—CW4 Leonard Peck  
Cartridge Casing & Photos from Vauquois Hill (WW I – 35th Div)—CSM Tim Newton  
Collection, WW II, Personal Artifacts—SGT Bill Olson,  
Co I, 137th Inf—Bill Olson & Joanna Branam  
Framed Roster-Co C, 137th Inf, WW - James Bausman  
Photo, Co C, 1st Bn, 137th Inf, Camp McCoy, WI, 1964, CPT Richard Myers, Commanding—MSG David Kennedy  
Uniforms—Fatigue, Class A, Dress Blue, Service Cap—Terry Falck  
Belt Buckle, Encased—69th Inf Bde—Unknown  
Signal Generator, WW II era—Stanley Jakes  
1968 Kaiser Jeep Vietnam-Era Ambulance—Purchased on E-Bay by Museum for \$3,850

## 35<sup>th</sup> Division Wall Brick Orders

<b>Patricia Faulkner Harwell</b>	<b>Robert E. Harwell</b>
<b>Bg John Rueger And Family DCG 2018</b>	<b>Martin &amp; Shirley M. Duehring 35<sup>th</sup> Div Co H WW II 1944-46</b>

# Judge William A. Smith

William A. Smith was born on December 30<sup>th</sup>, 1888 to Henry Miller Smith and Lucy Anna (Boles) Smith and grew up in Valley Falls, Kansas where his high school principal encouraged him to become active in the literary and debating societies. After graduating, he attended Washburn University School of Law and was admitted to the Bar the same year he received his law degree, he started practicing law in Valley Falls, Kansas. On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1916, William A. Smith enlisted with Company B of the Second Regiment Kansas Volunteer Infantry and served in Texas along the Mexican border. While serving his country along the Mexican border, his friends actively campaigned for him and he was subsequently elected as the Jefferson County attorney. He served as county attorney briefly before he was once again mobilized for active duty in 1917 for the Great War which was raging on in Europe.

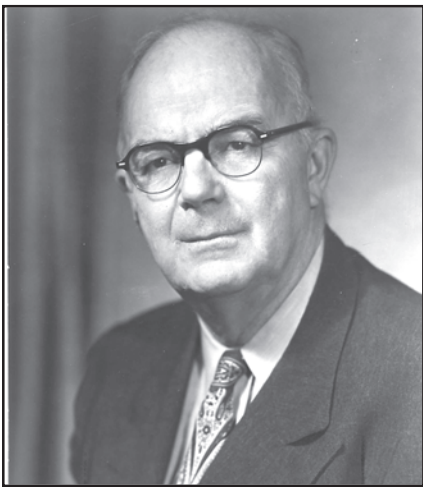
On October 1, 1917, varying units of the Second Kansas, Third Kansas, and Fourth Missouri Regiment joined together to create the 139<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment and assigned to the 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. William Smith, now 1st Lt. William Smith, was a platoon leader Company B and during the Meuse Argonne offensive, he was promoted to captain on October 1, 1918 and commanded Company B.

The 139<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment trained at Camp Doniphan, Oklahoma (now Fort Sill) with the rest of the 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. On May 7, 1918, the 139<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment arrived in England and began training and transit for combat in France. On September 26, 1918, the 139<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment started their participation of the Meuse Argonne offensive. As part of the 70<sup>th</sup> Brigade, they attacked to the Argonne sector and assaulted the German positions. By October 1, 1918, the 139<sup>th</sup> was relieved by elements of the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division after sustaining 65% casualties.

On August 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 1955 at Oskaloosa, Kansas, Veterans of Company B 139<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment held a reunion for those who participated in World War 1. In attendance of the 60 Veterans of Company B was “Cap’n Bill” Smith, the man who commanded the company into battle during the Meuse Argonne Offense. As part of the reunion, “Cap’n Bill” Smith was the honored guest speaker and his fellow Soldiers paid homage to him with the following tribute to him below:

Everyone in Kansas is familiar with William A. Smith, Justice in the Kansas Supreme Court the last twenty-four years, however, few people know the heart and mind of the man behind that title. No one, even his closest associates of today, can ever appreciate more fully his genuine humane qualities than the men of Company B, 139<sup>th</sup> United States Infantry, who served under his command in battle.

The writer finds himself woefully inadequate to express completely the tribute that should be written of him. But there is satisfaction in the knowledge that what is said about “Cap’n Bill” will surely be a part of the thinking and acclaim of the men of



Company B. “Cap’n Bill” may not have been the best scholar of military strategy, but there can be no question of his thorough understanding of his Soldiers and the men whose lives depended on his leadership. He was most capable of exercising authority sternly when it was required, yet he was able to do it with kindness and a display of confidence, that assured his men he knew where he was going.

We well remember September 27<sup>th</sup>, 1918, the second day of the battle in the Argonne, the going had been tough, all day long we lay pinned in our foxholes, covered with mud and water, enemy fire too hot to make the slightest advance. We had actually moved ahead perhaps fifty yards. An order came for the Company to be part of an attack on the village of Charpentry, 5:30 PM. Promptly at the time set, “Cap’n Bill”, mud from head to foot, with one shirt sleeve torn off at the elbow, rose to his full stature and with a forward motion of his hand high above his head, yelled, “Come on men, we’re gonna’ have a helluva’ fight.” Down over the hill he went with Company B, those still able to go, right at his heels.

Today, if “Cap’n Bill” were to make that call again, in the face of any emergency, no matter how dangerous or hazardous, every man of Company B yet alive would follow him anywhere. He knew us, his heart devoted to our safe return if humanly possible. Yet, he was able to face personal disaster if necessary. He has never lost a fight, he never gives up when the going is tough and he never will. To the last man, even those who were almost his equal in age, he was our second father.

CPT. William A. Smith was the honored speaker for the reunion and the following comments were recorded in the Memories of the Reunion:

“My service with Company was the high point of my life. Time and time again in my mature years I have gone over the stirring events of those days. I made many mistakes as a commander, but they were always mistakes of the head and not the heart. I never soldiered with any other company except Company B, either as an enlisted man or officer, so my judgement may be biased. The picture I have of you, however, is that you were the grandest company in the American Expeditionary Forces. I am proud and fond of every one of you and I pray God’s blessing on you all.”

On return from his service during World War 1, he was appointed assistant attorney for the Kansas Utilities Commission. For a brief period he was a commissioner for the Court of Industrial Relations and he became an Assistant Attorney General of Kansas in 1922. In 1926, William Smith ran for Attorney General for the State of Kansas and was the only candidate out of seven to denounce the Ku Klux Klan. He was elected and then re-elected in 1928. During his tenure as Attorney General, William Smith continued to oppose the Ku Klux Klan and worked to revoke its corporate charter.

In 1930, William Smith became a Kansas Supreme Court Justice which he served for 26 years. On March 1, 1956, William Smith became the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Kansas. Chief Justice William Smith resigned from the court in 1957 due to health reasons. At the time of his

resignation, Justice Smith had written 1,031 opinions. He was a part time lecturer on Public Utilities at Washburn Law for two years shortly after joining the Court. For many years, he and his wife, Ada, lived across the street from Washburn University where they often boarded rooms to law students. Justice Smith passed away on July 22, 1968.

Though the Honorable William A. Smith passed away decades ago, he was not forgotten. In 2012, the Washburn University School of Law Alumni Association recognized him with their distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award. Those present to receive his award was his great grandson Josh Holden, and grandchildren Merri Smith Holden, Don Smith, and Sarah Smith Barr.

Justice Smith was the first of three generations of Washburn lawyers. Two sons and two grandchildren have also graduated from Washburn University School of Law.



Ada and Captain Bill



William A. Smith



Judge in military uniform