



Santa Fe Express

"DIVISIONNAIRE"



The 35th Divisionnaire USPS 700-160

35th INFANTRY DIVISION

www.35thInfDivAssoc.com

JANUARY-FEBRUARY-MARCH 2020

NUMBER ONE

President's Message



Dear Fellow 35th ID Association members and friends,

Happy New Year's and I hope everyone enjoyed this Holiday season. I send my appreciation to the Executive Committee that met with me at the KSNG Museum to discuss various issues in November 2019. The committee decided that the Association will hold its annual conference in September 2020 in conjunction with the Division's September training assembly and dining out. Additionally, I want to thank COL Cal Warrem, 1st Vice President, who agreed to chair this year's conference committee. He will be scheduling a conference planning meeting in the near future. Please send your ideas or volunteer to participate in this year's conference planning to 35divassn@gmail.com.

Allow me to remind everyone of my initial thoughts: The executive staff, current association membership, and the currently serving Soldiers of the 35th Infantry Division must continue to research and account for 35th ID WWII Soldiers, seek membership and participation from Soldiers that served in the division since the post 1984 re-organization that includes Soldiers from Kentucky and Nebraska as well as Missouri and Kansas that have traditionally had a strong presence in the executive staff and membership. I am looking for committed individual from each state to serve on the executive committee to support growth from former and currently serving Soldiers from each state since the 1984 re-organization.

Additionally, there are a number of great things happening in our current formation and we must continue to recognize the currently serving heroes and share the great stories that they have from their service in peace keeping operation, support to our civil authorities, and recent support of contingency operations in Central Command. I encourage the membership to encourage Soldiers to share their memories from their participation in exercises, deployments, and current activities with the 35ID with a letter in the "Divisionnaire."

Lastly, we need to generate nominations for the Division's Hall of Fame. If you have a nomination for this very select community please contact BG (Ret) Ed Gerhardt, Chairman of the 35th Infantry Division Hall of Fame, to office@kngmuseum.org.

Please keep all of our Soldiers in your prayers.

Santa Fe – Leads the Way

Anthony V. Mohatt

35 ID Association President

Message from Commanding General Blaylock

I must open this article with congratulations and best wishes to MG Lee Tafarielli. MG Tafarielli announced his retirement effective 31MAR2020. He has provided significant support to the 35ID during his tenure as the Adjutant General of Kansas. I wish him the best in his future endeavors!

As we launch into a new decade, the 35th Infantry Division continues to build on our strong heritage. I have spent time researching our history to grasp the many great feats this division has accomplished. From the trenches of World War I through Operation Spartan Shield, the Soldiers of the 35th Infantry Division have risen to the cause and accomplished the mission. I have three exciting pieces of information to provide you early in 2020.



This spring, the 35th ID will continue to sharpen our saw as one of eighteen combat divisions in the United States Army. We are in the midst of three command post exercises to practice and refine operations between our three command posts in a decisive action type environment as part of large scale ground combat. Our training will culminate at the end of May in a War Fighter Exercise. This exercise stresses the division staff and its subordinate brigades staff to plan and execute plans against a near-peer opponent. As the lineage of our division has shown, we will certainly rise to this test!

The 35th ID along with the other seven National Guard infantry divisions is also going through something of a transformation. LTG Dan Hokanson, Director of the Army National Guard, has expressed a need to configure the National Guard force structure back into a combat division focused organization. To this end, the Army National Guard is organizing brigade combat teams, aviation brigades, maneuver enhancement brigades and sustainment brigades beneath each of the 8 National Guard divisions. It is important to note that these brigades will still maintain their current command and control relationships within their given states and will remain under the authority of the Adjutants General of their home state. The relationship with the 35th Infantry Division will predominantly be focused on training. The staff of the division will work with the staffs of the brigades to ensure they are trained and ready to deploy, to fight and win on any battlefield. It will be exciting to watch the division reform some old relationships and build new relationships with these brigades! More to follow on this topic in future editions.

If you are ever in the Leavenworth area, please stop by to say, "Hello". The new armory is beginning to take shape with foundations and walls going up this past fall. There is much to be done before the armory will be complete, but it is exciting to see this building finally come to fruition. The 35th will have a building of its own to continue the proud heritage of the Santa Fe Division.

As we now say in the division as a greeting and a farewell, "Win the Day! Santa Fe!"

MG Will Blaylock

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Please consider sponsoring the next edition.

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35th Division Association
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Topeka, KS 66605
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From the Executive Secretary

Executive Secretary/Treasurer Changes
COL (Ret) Geoffrey Lanning has agreed to become the Executive Secretary pending final Executive Council approval of nomination. I will stay on with the help of my wife, Betty, as Treasurer until we find a replacement for that position. The spitting of duties and locations have advantages. We can keep the main address and bank in Topeka where the museum is located and COL Lanning lives close to the 35th Headquarters in Leavenworth KS.

Membership, Donation and Reconnection
Last year, we asked for help in saving postage by renewing your membership and form with the form in the paper or in a life member and not donating, send an e-mail to us to help us verify your home address. This saves us mailing cost and time stuffing and mailing separate letters. Thank you to the 20% that did this in 2019. This year, 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. Even 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.

Donor Appreciation
We have captured the donations beginning in October 2019 to 20 January 2020. 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.

Fund Raising for 35th Division Colors for 'LES PORTES DE LA MEMOIRE - THE GATES OF MEMORY"
On behalf of the “Gates of Memory”, Guy Reichert has asked for a 35th Infantry Division Flag for the numerous ceremonies they perform through the year. Please consider adding a special donation for this cause when you return your donor slip. There is a line called “donation in recognition of” on the donor list or just add a note and amount you want to go for this fund. A full-size flag is well over \$500 depending on decision to include battle streamers. The full report of the organizations activities and all they do to keep our Veterans memories alive is on our website or available by E-mail at 35divassn@gmail.com.

Membership Email contact requested
I am transferring all email contact information to the 35th Association Email address. If you have not received an E-mail from that address 35divassn@gmail.com, I have either missed your email address you sent or it may be in your spam folder. If you wish, please provide this by email or on your donation/membership form. All group messages are sent undisclosed, so your address is not shared with anyone unless you give us permission to do so. For those that do not need the Divisionnaire mailed to them, we will send by electronic mail only, saving postage and printing fees.

Robert D Bloomquist
COL (Ret), Executive Secretary

Membership Renewal/Donation Form
Please respond to the Membership renewal/donation form enclosed in this “Santa Fe”, or sent to you electronically if we have your Email address on file. Even 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 35th and what you are doing now can be included if you want us to publish it in the next paper.

Notice to Officers and Executive Committee

“The following notice was sent to Officers and Executive Committee by postal or e-mail. If you did not receive this or you still need to respond, please contact the 35th Division Association by mail or email ASAP.”
35th Division Association Officers and Executive Committee,
Nomination Committee Vote by E-mail/Mail.
Anthony Mohatt, Association President, has requested a special nomination committee vote on the following recommendation from our current Executive Secretary: Please return your approval, disapproval (along with concerns) by email to 35divassn@gmail.com or to the Postal Address PO Box 5004, Topeka, KS 66605 by 28 Feb 2020.
Motion: Select COL (Ret) Geoffrey Lanning, Leavenworth, KS as Executive Secretary and keep COL (Ret) Robert Bloomquist as Treasurer.
Background: Bob Bloomquist asked to resign in Sep of 2018. This was published in the “Santa Fe” and again became an issue at the Sep 2019 conference. COL Lanning has agreed to this accept the Executive Secretary position as long as someone else was the treasurer. COL Bloomquist agreed to do until we can find a replacement.
This arrangement has many advantages.
COL (Ret) Lanning resides in Leavenworth, close to the Headquarters and has a long history with the 35th Division, one of these positions as Chief of Staff.
COL (Ret) Bloomquist lives in Topeka, the location of our 35th Assn address, Bank account and remains an Officer on the Museum Board.
No increase in employee expenses is required based on this proposal.
No other option was presented in the past 1.5 years.

Dillons Card

If you have a Dillons Card and shop at Dillons we encourage you to sign up for the Community Rewards program. We currently have 45 people signed up, which nets the Museum of the Kansas National Guard about \$1000 a year. At no cost to you, a portion of your sale will go to the Museum and signing up for this does not affect your fuel points.

The website is www.dillons.com/communityrewards. The Museum number is NQ286.

If you were previously signed up, you are still good.

Thanks.
Ed Gerhardt, BG (Ret)
President
Museum Board of Directors

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

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.

Deadline for the Next Issue of the Santa Fe Express is 7 April

Please send your favorite reunion stories and pictures to share.

CROSBY SINGS for 35 ID

Bing Crosby’s voice was the voice of America during the years of WWII. His crooning was everywhere—on the radio, in the movies and in huge venues. And for a few days in France in September 1944, his voice traveled directly to the ears of the Santa Feans.

Many of those who know the 35th Division history book remember the small photo of Crosby on the back of a truck near Nancy, three miles from the front. He was singing in a downpour under a tarp erected by the soldiers in the 35th ID.

Already a tireless worker on all fronts, Crosby signed up for an overseas USO troupe that took him to England and France. He was part of a five-person group that included two female singers and dancers, a comedian, a guitarist and an accordionist.

Dressed in USO khaki fatigues except for the female performers, they performed five 75-minute shows a day. The women had extra work because they changed into pretty dresses with nice hairdos for each performance. Work was interspersed with hospital visits.

One visit, to the 39th Evacuation Hospital at Sorcy-Saint-Martin, introduced the Crosby troupe to men of the 35th who had been wounded in the Moselle River crossing that led to the liberation of Nancy.

Details about the USO shows and other aspects of Crosby’s life during the war years of 1940-46 are told in “Bing Crosby: Swinging on a Star.” The recent book is by Gary Giddings, a recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship and Peabody Award.

The hard work and affability of Crosby are corroborated by a GI

who remembered Crosby’s stay at Vezelise, south of Nancy.

“We settled into Veselize with our tents pitched on the heights around the town,” recalled Cpl Reginald Stowe, Battery C of the 161 FA. “We spent most of our time in camp. Bing Crosby installed his CP in our camp. He stayed in the home of Felix Moreau, brewmaster of Vezelise, but he ate with our troops when he was not away.”

Moreau’s brewery had an enormous loading platform. Crosby’s troupe used it to entertain 2,000 men. The event was captured in photos by Lawrence Youngman, correspondent for the Omaha (Neb) World-Herald).

A veteran of the Flying Tigers, Edward Komyati, married Moreau’s daughter Marguerite. He remembered hearing that Crosby stayed in contact with the Moreau family after the war.

Gidding’s book mentions that Moreau gave Crosby a dozen eggs when he left Vezelise. The crooner appreciated them greatly.

Crosby traveled to Europe with Fred Astaire, his co-star in “Holiday Inn” They traveled on the French luxury liner “Isle de France” that had been converted to a troop ship. The liner designed for 1,500 passengers was refitted to hold 12,000 troops. Cosby was assigned to a cubicle barely large enough to hold a bed. He chose to eat with the troops in the mess that served two meals a day. Although seasick most of the time, he insisted on doing four one hour shows a day so all the troops could be entertained. The ship left New York City August 17 and arrived at Greenock, Scotland, August 25.

The entertainers traveled to

England where they made public appearances and met many dignitaries. Crosby did some recordings with Glen Miller. Then it was on to France.

The USO’s C-47 transported them to Cherbourg September 4. Crosby and Astaire did a few shows together and then split up. Crosby followed Gen. George Patton’s Third Army and Astaire went to the First Army under the command of Gen. Omar Bradley.

Those who know the route of the Third Army will have a general idea where Crosby performed. There is no definitive list. Sometimes the locations were decided at the last minute. At one time Crosby dined with Gen. Manton Eddy. Another time he was with MG Paul Baade when a firefight disrupted the show. Supplied coordinates suggest that the locale was near Saint Nicholas du Port.

Crosby returned to the United States on the Queen Mary. He arrived on October 8, 1944. He was a changed man. Formerly casual about press conferences, he realized that he had to bear witness to what he had seen in the hospitals and camps so close to combat zones. He took up all his previous commercial work and continued his patriotic work. His hope to tour the Pacific theater was mercifully cut short by the end of the war with Japan.

His artistry and hard work left an indelible mark on American popular history. “White Christmas” is the secular song that introduces the Christmas season.

On a personal note, I must say that Bing Crosby’s voice was the voice of a childhood that encompassed the war years. One of my earliest memories is the Pearl Harbor broadcast. It was regis-

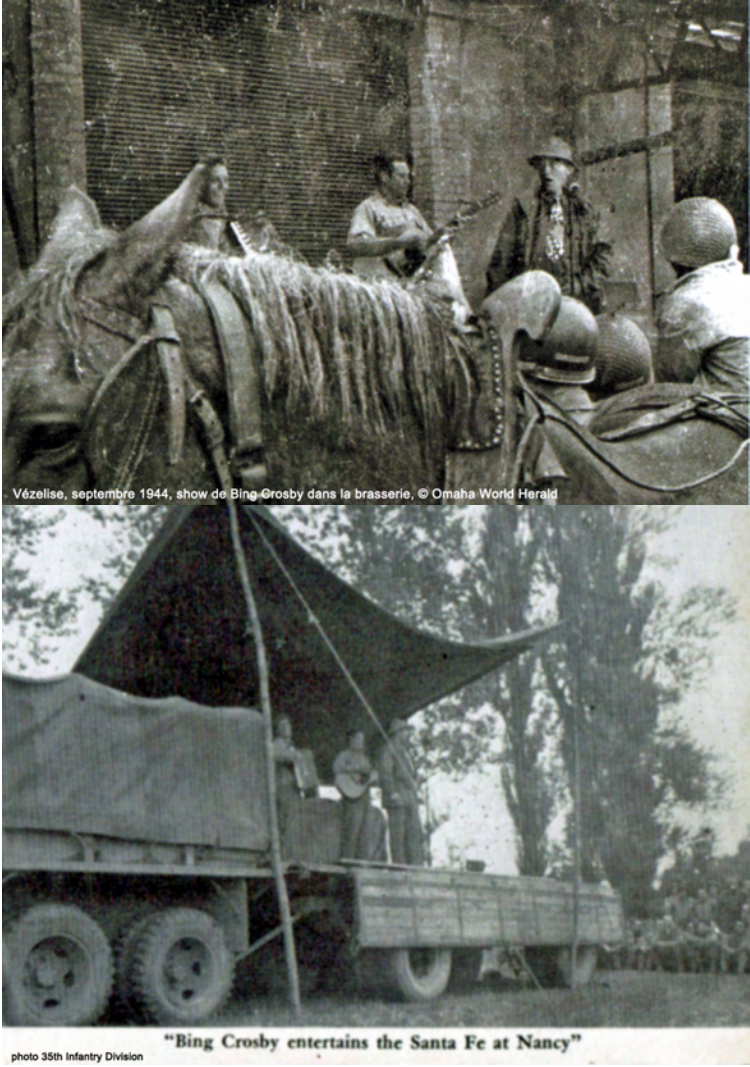
tered in my ears as we wrapped Christmas presents for Uncle John and his family. He was a member of the merchant marines and they were living in Honolulu. No one ever knew what happened to Uncle John. I first heard the term “shell shock” when it was applied to him.

Entertainment came from the radio where Crosby’s “Kraft Music Hall” was a must. My family went to the movies both for entertainment and so my mother could see the newsreels. She had a husband in the ETO and brothers in both Europe and the South Pacific, a nephew who was

a fighter pilot in European skies and a brother-in-law on Midway.

When I had a family of my own, one of my first purchases was Bing Crosby’s “Merry Christmas” collection released on vinyl LP in 1949. Now there is no family in the house for sharing favorite Christmas music. After reading Giddings book, I had to purchase Crosby’s “Merry Christmas” on CD for myself. It has been in print for some 70 years.

By Paula Evans Baker, daughter of Pvt. Richard H. Evans (F-134-35. KIAArmaucourt France September 30, 1944)



The Soldier’s Bible

Many 35th Division soldiers have carried a deck of cards, not only for entertainment, but as a Bible, a Prayer Book, and an Almanac. You have probably heard the story of the soldier caught playing cards during a church service, as it has also been told in song. The soldier said that he did not have a Bible or a Prayer Book, but that he did have a deck of cards. And then he told his story, beginning with the ace.

“When I see the ace, it reminds me that there is but one God. When I see the deuce, it reminds me of the Father and the Son. When I see the trey it reminds me of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

“When I see the four spot, it reminds me of the four evangelists—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. When I see the five, it reminds me of the five wise virgins that trimmed their lamps. There were ten, but five were wise and five were foolish and were cast out. When I see the six it reminds me that in six days God made the heaven and the earth. When I see the seven it reminds me that on the seventh day God rested from the great work he had created and hallowed it.

“The eight reminds me of the eight righteous persons that were saved when God destroyed the world—Noah and his family. When I see the nine, it reminds me

of the nine lepers that were cleansed by our Savior—there were nine out of ten who never returned thanks. When I see the ten, it reminds me of the Ten Commandments which were handed down to Moses on tablets of stone.

“When I see the king, I am reminded of the King of Heaven, which is the God Almighty. When I see the queen, I am reminded of the Queen OF Sheba, for she was as wise a woman as Solomon was a man. She brought with her fifty boys and girls all dressed in boys apparel, for King Solomon to tell which were boys and which were girls. King Solomon sent for water for them to wash. The girls washed

to their eyebrows and the boys to the wrists, so King Solomon told the difference by that.”

The soldier continued by saying, “When I count how many spots there are in a pack of cards, I find 365, as many days as there are in a year. On counting the number of cards in a pack, I find 52, the number of weeks in a year, and I find four suits, the number of weeks in a month. I find there are 12 picture cards, representing the number of months in a year, and counting the number of tricks, I find 13, the number of weeks in a quarter.

“So, you see Sir, a pack of cards serves for a Bible, an Almanac, and a Common Prayer Book.”

Unsung Heroes of the 35th Division

By BG Ed Gerhardt (Ret)

Named as the first inductee into the 35th Infantry Division Hall of Fame in 2009 was the “Unnamed Soldier.” The write-up for this reads:

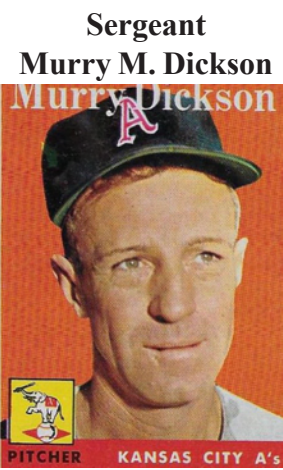
I am unnamed, but a veteran of service of the past, currently serving, or will serve in the future with the famed 35th Infantry Division. My deeds in service, nor my service to family, city, state, or nation may never be fully revealed for consideration as a member by name of the most honorable and distinguished 35th Infantry Division Hall of Fame.

I am known by those who loved me, and as such, with pride from my view, wherever it may be, I am proud to serve as an unnamed member of the 35th Infantry Division Hall of Fame.

It being, that those individuals had the vision for creating the 35th Infantry Division Hall of Fame and those individuals who are implementing the program selected me as the first inductee into this distinguished grouping of individuals with a 35th Infantry Division connection.

I shall always be proud in pronouncing my love for freedom, liberty, and the Santa Fe Division.”

Since 2009, sixty-six (66) soldiers have been inducted by name into the Hall of Fame, and inductions are continuing at the rate of three a year. However, many have not yet been recognized or nominated, some of their own choosing. Given below are brief comments on a few of these unsung heroes, who have not yet been nominated, selected at random.



Sgt Murray Dickson was a professional baseball player and pitcher for the St. Louis Cardinals prior to WW II. His entry into WW II was delayed so he could pitch for the Cardinals in the 1943 World Series. Assigned to the 35th Infantry Division, he landed with the 35th on Omaha Beach in July, 1944, fighting his way across Europe with the 35th, often maneuvering as a Scout behind enemy lines to locate the Germans. He was one of the first to see the Dachau Concentration Camp. After VE Day he pitched for the Santa Fe Indians during occupation duty. After WW II he played for the Cardinals, Phillies, Pirates, Yankees, and Kansas City Athletics. He died in Kansas City in 1989.



Keith Bullock of Kalamazoo, MI did not want to be nominated for the Hall of Fame. He always felt that there were others much more deserving. However, he served as the leader of the 137th Infantry Regimental Assn until his death in 2009. He served in the 137th Inf. as a Forward Scout during five campaigns in WW II, including the Liberation of St. Lo, Mortain, Laval, LeMans, Orleans, Montargis, Sens, Troyes, Nancy, and others. He devoted much of his life following the war to preserving the unit's history, organizing and attending reunions in the Michigan area, and taking an active part in 35th Division Assn. Conferences. In this he was assisted by his wife, Marge. His faithfulness resulted in his election as a PFC to President of the 35th Division Assn. in 1986.



On prominent display in the 35th Division Museum is the “Nun’s Flag,” courtesy of Chaplain Harry Washburn, 137th Inf. Regt regimental chaplain during WW II, When WW II fighting concluded, Chaplain Washburn was asked to find a large U. S. flag for Memorial Day services in Germany in May of 1945. Chaplain Washburn asked the nuns from a local convent near Hamlin, Germany, to make a flag, which they did using a foot-powered sewing machine, red stripes from captured Nazi banners, white stripes from bed sheets, and stars from the blue denim of their own habits. In appreciation for their work, Chaplain Washburn gave the nuns 20 lbs of sugar and 50 lbs of white flour, both of which they had not seen in over 5 years. The flag was used in 137th Regimental services following that 1945 event. Chaplain Washburn, who became a parish pastor following WW II in California and Utah passed away in 2002.

CPT Elbert S. Jemison, Jr.



Captain Elbert S. Jemison, Jr., of Birmingham, AL, served in Headquarters, 35th Infantry Division during WW II under the direct leadership of BG Edmund Sebree, receiving the Bronze Star and Combat Infantryman’s Badge. He later commanded a Reconnaissance Troop. A world class professional golfer before and after WW II, he carried his No. 8 club with him all the way across Europe. One photo in the 35th Division Museum shows him with Gen. George S. Patton and another shows him at a golf tournament with Pres. Gerald Ford, Alabama Coach Paul “Bear” Bryant, and professional golfer Arnold Palmer. For many years he organized golf tournaments for President Ford at Vail, CO. He passed away in 2013.

COL Arthur J. Ericsson



COL Arthur Ericsson of Emporia, KS first saw duty in the Mexican Border Campaign of 1916, then WW I in 1917-1918, and finally WW II in 1940-45. He commanded Co E, 137th Inf. during the battles of St. Mihiel and the Meuse-Argonne in WW I, being wounded in action. Following WW I he commanded the 137th Inf. Regt in the Kansas National Guard, and was mobilized in 1940 and promoted to Colonel. However, he was re-assigned to command a German and Japanese Prisoner of War Camp in Medford, OR (because of his age) and then as Commandant of the Military Police School in Europe. He served in the Kansas Legislature, served as a bank examiner, and was active in veterans activities in Emporia. He died in 1986.

MG Charles H. Browne Jr.



Following in the footsteps of his father, MG Charles H. Browne, Jr. of Horton, KS was the only person in the history of the 35th Infantry Division to have served in every enlisted and officer rank authorized in the Division. He joined the 35th Division in 1926 as a Private, and retired as a Major General in 1965, having commanded both the 35th Infantry Division and the 69th Inf. Bde. He received a battlefield promotion to Major during WW II. He was well-known in the field of newspaper publishing, and the “Santa Fe Express-Divisionnaire” is still published at his newspaper, “The Horton Headlight.” General Browne served as president of the 35th Division Assn. in 1958 and passed away in 1973.

COL Richard E. Eckert



COL Richard Eckert of Holton, KS, was activated as a Private with Co E, 137th Inf. Regt, in 1940, serving with the 35th Division at Camp Robinson, AR and in the Louisiana Maneuvers. He then attended Infantry Officer Candidate School at Ft. Benning, GA, and then “Jump School.” He served during WW II with the 11th Airborne Division in the Pacific Theater—the Philippines, Okinawa, and Japan. Following WW II he served on the 35th Division Staff, as Commandant of the Kansas National Guard Officer Candidate School, and as Chief of Staff for the Kansas National Guard. Following retirement he served several terms in the Kansas Legislature. He passed away in 2009.

Tom Tholen



A member of Co B, 137th Inf., Emporia, KS, Tom Tholen served in the 137th Inf. Regt through WW II, and was an active member of the 35th Division Assn. and the 137th Inf. Regt. He served as president of the 35th Division Assn. in 1992. Besides his long and dedicated service to Emporia’s National Guard, he was a successful businessman (insurance), civic leader, and musician, with his talents as a pianist often on display. In all this, he was ably assisted by his wife, Betty, who was always at the 35th Division Conferences until her death. Tom Tholen passed away in 2003.

Minutes of the 35th Association Executive Committee Meeting

Nov 16th, 2019, Museum of the Kansas National Guard

The President, BG Mohatt, hosted a meeting at the Museum to discuss various issues. This was announced by the Executive Secretary through E-mail along with reminders. Since we have Executive members coast to coast (literally), issues were sent for comments along with asking for any other topics that needed for discussed

Those Present: BG Mohatt, BG (Ret) Gerhardt, COL (Ret) Warrem, COL (Ret) Lanning, COL (Ret) Bloomquist, LTC (Ret) Boyer, MAJ Hapke, CSM (Ret) Putman, SGM (Ret) Holt

Financial Status of 35th Div Assoc.
Operating Fund: \$22,942 (This includes a \$15K CD with Corefirst Bank and Trust)
(Annual Trends: Nov 2018 \$26,301 Nov 2017 \$29.501)

Museum Operating Fund \$105,585 (Invested with USAA)

Membership: Appreciation was given to the 35th DIV Leadership for their support of the association that has a positive impact on new members. Currently, we have 465

(about half are life members), however, 74 members are past due and will receive one more reminder.

Received a recommendation from CSM (Ret) Newton that the 4 association awardees receive a free Annual Membership with their award during the presentation at the Dining Out.
(Approved)

35th DIV Association Website: A discussion on keeping the Website or to consolidate our information with the Museum website or the 35th DIV website was discussed. COL Carla Hale (website manager) provided detailed information and options for the committee. It was decided to maintain the website.

Conference Issues: MAJ Hapke briefed the date of the dining out as 12 Sep 2020 which coincides with training events. Location is yet to be determined, as options for other hotels in the area are being considered. After discussion on all events, the decision to consolidate the Annual and Executive Council Meetings was approved due to very few members at the Annual

meeting were not Executive Members. This allowed the time for a presentation by either the 35th DIV HQs or the WWII Orphans Saturday morning. A hospitality room for Saturday’s lunch meal and possibly open at other times depending on events was discussed and approved.

COL Cal Warrem, 1st Vice President, agreed to chair the conference committee. The next meeting is planned for early next year at a time to be decided once we know the location or the Dining Out. Suggestions for the Friday Trip, Presidents Reception and Saturday Morning Presentation are welcome. Please send ideas to the 35divassn@gmail.com or by mail. The projects/events below need coordinators, and most do not require you to live in the area.

- Liaison with 35th on Dining out.
- Memorial Service
- Awards
- Hospitality room (CSM Putman and SGM Holt has volunteered but more help is welcome)
- Memorial service coordination with 35th and Honor Guard.

- Registration desk, packets and name tags along with selling spirit de corps items
- Conference Program (Consolidation of information and getting printed)
- Request for Corporate Sponsors.
- Friday Trip
- Hall of Fame Reception (Cake, plates, punch etc)
- Hall of Fame (General Gerhardt has agreed to stay as Chairman)
- Presidents Reception

New Executive Secretary and Treasurer Discussion: As published in several Divisionnaires and discussed at conference (see minutes in the OCT “Santa Fe”), options for replacing COL (Ret) Bloomquist, who submitted his resignation in Sep 2018, was discussed. He has agreed to keep treasurer duties for a while if the option to split duties was the only way to hire an Executive Secretary. COL (Ret) Lanning is considering the position.
We are migrating E-mail distribution to our 35th Association account, so if you are reading this via the newspaper or by mail, please send an email to our association e-mail 35divassn@gmail.com so we can add you E-mail distribution.

Construction 35th ID HQ



It is an exciting time to be a member of the 35th Infantry Division! The Army National Guard is working hard to standardize its divisional units, training is evolving to sharpen the individual Soldier, and as always, our families and communities are the foundations we build our organization on.
I recently had the opportunity to attend the National Guard Leader’s Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas where we were briefed regarding the future training alignments and relationships that we will be developing over the upcoming months. These training alignments will give the division the opportunity to develop relationships with organizations and fully exercise every facet of the division staff in training as it would be required to if deployed.
In the individual training arena, the new Army Combat Fitness Test is the hot button, which will come on line this fall in October. The new test consists of six events: The Strength Deadlift, Standing Power Throw, Hand Release Push-up, Sprint Drag Carry, Leg Tuck, and the 2 mile Run. I have had the opportunity to take variations of this test throughout the experimental phase of this process. For those who haven’t, don’t worry

– the new test is not as difficult as it seems. With a little practice, there is no reason that any of us cannot pass it with flying colors.
Also, individual weapons qualification is getting a facelift, and becoming more challenging. The new qualification takes six tables to complete. PMI, written tests, hands on practice drills, hands on dry certifications, zero, practice and finally qualification are all part of the road to success for marksmanship and qualification. The goal is to produce highly trained marksmen left of ready; reducing lengthy pre-mobilization and post mobilization training calendars.
As we enter our first CPX of the new year (with a few more behind it), the 35th will begin a series of training events that will prepare us for the next warfighter. As our Soldiers, families, and employers enter this training cycle we will keep things in perspective. Thank you to all of the families of Soldiers past and present as we continue to build upon the rich heritage of the 35th Infantry Division.
Win the Day!
Santa Fe!

CSM Harold Whitley

Donations to 35th Division Museum Continue

Marge Bullock of Kalamazoo, MI has donated a roster of Co E, 137th Inf (WW II), a copy of the book Heroes of the Argonne: An Authentic History of the Thirty-Fifth Division in WW I by Charles B. Hoyt (originally from Roberta Russo, Palatine, IL); and a Smithsonian document entitled “Behind the Lines” by Greg Miller, which tells of a trip behind enemy lines in WW II to retrieve maps and documents from the Germans. They wound up getting 1200 boxes of information.
Michael Fein of Lynchburg, VA has donated several original press photos—the 35th Signal Co at Camp Robinson (1941), Gov. Alf Landon (KS) Reviewing Troops at Ft. Riley (1936), and 35th Division Soldiers at Camp Robinson (1941).
Esther Mayes of Wichita, KS has donated the Silver Star Medal, Purple Heart, and last V-Mail letter of her brother, 2d Lt Frank Gonzales, who was killed in action on Aug. 2, 1944. 2d Lt Gonzales is in the 35th Division Hall of Fame.
Larry Peters of Topeka, KS has donated a WW II artillery spotting scope.

SGM Tim Cochran of Auburn, KS has donated a collection of materials from the 35th Division deployment to Bosnia.
Norma Ardeson of Bozeman, MT has donated an WW I address book for Co M, 137th Inf.
Chaplain (COL) Ron Cobb, retired 35th Division Chaplain, of Holton, KS has donated a number of 35th Division T-Shirts and 35th Division caps for sale in the Museum Gift Shop.
Restoration of the Museum’s **M-170 Litter Jeep** is nearly complete, and it will be included as part of a Medical exhibit in the new Museum Exhibit Building. Restoration of the **M725 Kaiser Jeep Ambulance, the M-20 Command Car, and the OH-23 Raven Helicopter** are in progress. They too will be included in the new Exhibit Building.
MG Jack Strukel, Jr. of Topeka has donated a number of documents and items pertaining to the 35th Division Assn. and the 69th Inf Bde (Sep).
Matthew McGivern of Topeka has donated a Navigational Time & Distance Computer, Type D-4, used by U. S. Army Air Corps forces during WW II.

The white sheets of Hemroulle

Special to the Santa Fe Express

By Edouard Reniere – 15 December 2019

Born in 1938 in Brussels, Belgium, Edouard Reniere grew up in German-occupied Belgium. The war had a huge impact on him and his interest in the human stories of courage and sacrifice grew with the years. After early retirement, he stated research work from his home in Brussels. This consists in answering queries from veterans, families of American servicemen in their search for information

75 years ago, at dawn on the cold morning of December 16, 1944, the Germans launched their major offensive through the Ardennes Forest, in the lightly held sector of the US Army's VII Corps. The ultimate goal was the Antwerp Harbor where they hoped to choke off the vital Allied supply lines. The initial assault took the Americans by surprise and many units, most of them newly arrived in the region, with a majority of replacements who hadn't seen combat yet. Under-equipped, lacking sufficient tanks and artillery, they had to retreat or fight against superior forces.

Furthermore, the Allied ground forces could not rely on support from the air, as due to bad weather, the 8th AF was grounded from 20 to 22 December 1944. The situation changed when the largest ever 8th AF operation, Mission 760, could be launched on 24 December, with more than 2000 bombers (1884 effective) and 853 Fighters (813 effective) involved, more operations being flown in the following days.

At the start of the German offensive, without sufficient reserves, the Allied commanders could only rely on men from the two US Airborne Divisions, just back from Holland after the Market Garden Operation in September ("A Bridge Too Far"), the 101st and 82nd Airborne Divisions. On December 18, the 101st was hurriedly transported by trucks for an overnight rush to Bastogne, a vital crossroads and one of the main objectives of the Germans. The defense of Bastogne by the 101st presented a formidable obstacle to the German Fifth Panzer Army of General Hasso von Manteuffel. In the ensuing days the encircled troops of the 101st and elements of various other units engaged in vicious fighting. The 101st Division's 502nd PIR (Parachute Infantry Regiment) held positions on the north and northwest portion of the Bastogne envelopment.

In December 1944, the 3rd Army's clothing supply shortages had gone from "critical" to "extremely critical" as the 3rd Army had lost huge quantities of clothing and equipment. Logistical supply problems were made more problematic because supply stocks had been withdrawn behind the

Moselle River to guard against German capture. In the harsh winter conditions, especially in the Ardennes, the most urgent problem was winter clothing and equipment. Special winter clothing for tank and other vehicular units and overcoats for other troops were promised but did not arrive. An initial issue of sweaters was delivered to all units, but there weren't enough small and medium-sized raincoats, shelter halves, field jackets, mufflers, overshoes, sleeping bags. Snow camouflage became a field necessity and it was only on December 27 that the 12th Army Group delivered 450 snow suits to the 3rd Army, but for limited "forward patrol use" only. In the meantime, the 3rd Army used more than 2000 gallons of white paint and an equal quantity of linseed oil to spray helmets, leggings and raincoats. White cloth in itself was not available, but later more than 5000 mattress covers left the Reims depot and were made into expedient hooded snow camouflage suits by the 300th Quartermaster Salvage Repair Company. It was only in the course of January 1945 that the 3rd Army's snow camouflage problems became less acute.

The 1st Battalion of the 502nd PIR was commanded by Major John Douglas Hanlon, from Winchester, Middlesex County, Massachusetts. Hanlon had jumped behind enemy lines on D-Day June 6, 1944 and had been wounded in Holland in September 1944 during the Market Garden Operation. On December 22, 1944 the 1st Battalion was ordered to move to the small village of Hemroulle, about 2 miles northwest of Bastogne. The village counted a few farms and houses and was home to about 100 inhabitants. Like other members of the 101st, Hanlon's outnumbered troops lacked food, proper winter clothes, sufficient ammunition and armored support. The first snow fell on the night of December 22 and the US paratroopers became even more visible, thus more vulnerable, in their olive-green uniforms against the white backdrop. Faced with the sudden need for camouflage material, Major Hanlon called a meeting of his staff in one of the two dozen farm houses of the village. Someone suggested using bed sheets. Good idea, but the question was how on earth could they get hold of sheets in a hurry. So, Major Hanlon sent his executive officer, Captain Edward Fitzgerald to meet Hemroulle burgomaster Victor Gaspar, a man in his seventies with a large mustache and a round red face. Fitzgerald told Gaspar about the Battalion's needs, telling him that Major Hanlon had said that if his men could obtain the sheets,

"We'll return them when we can." Gaspar, whose village had twice been invaded by the Germans, the first time in 1914 and then again in 1940, didn't hesitate. He told Captain Fitzgerald to follow him across the road to the village church. There, Gaspar unwound the belfry rope and began to toll the bell. "The people will know", he said, adding "The ringing is a signal for them to come to the church."

As the first sound of the bell floated over the village, a surprised woman poked her head out of her house and listened. After wiping her hands on her apron, she put on a coat and started walking towards the church, the Eglise du Sacré-Coeur. Soon, others followed and singly or in small groups, some accompanied by their children, most of the villagers were on their way to the church. When they arrived, Monsieur Gaspar explained the situation, telling the people to bring the sheets the Americans needed for their camouflage... and to be quick about it. In his recollections, Hanlon wrote that a few villagers could not come. That was the case of Madame Eudoxie Collard, who couldn't leave her stove as she was too busy cooking a meal for the 60 people who had taken refuge in her cellar. But Monsieur Gaspar called in person on those who hadn't answered the bell's summons. In the meantime, villagers were already beginning to return with their bundles of sheets, which were stacked in the church vestibule. According to Hanlon later, there was never a word about his promise to return them, although the sheets were a scarce luxury in those hard times.

Once all the 48 sheet sets had been collected, they were quickly distributed to the Battalion's men. Hanlon wrote later that a few minutes after that, he began to realize "the folly" of his promise. The soldiers were quickly making the best, proper military usage of their camouflage, tearing out square pieces of the sheeting to make coverings for their helmets or cutting strips of linen to lay across their machine gun barrels. For their own covering, the men split openings in the sheets and slipped them over their heads, poncho-fashion. When all the tearing and stripping was done, they were a weird-looking and ghostly lot, but, although worried about his promise, Hanlon was satisfied that they were relatively well concealed and understood he could never hand the sheets back to the villagers.

On Christmas Day, the Germans launched a powerful attack on Hemroulle and Champs and Major Hanlon described the action as the

continued on next page



American soldiers in the Bastogne area



Better-equipped German soldiers



The Hemroulle church (severely damaged during the war, it was repaired in 1948)



A Browning .30-caliber machine gunner in the Hemroulle area, wearing part of a sheet



Two paratroopers outfitted with Hemroulle sheets



Lt Col. Thomas H. Sutcliffe (2/502), Major John P. Stopka (3/502) and Major John D. Hanlon (1/502) conferring near Bastogne – December 1944

The white sheets of Hemroulle

continued from previous page

most vicious he ever encountered. It was close in, immediate and he once was able to notice the markings on an enemy tank and could clearly make out the features of a dozen or so Nazi soldiers. At one point, he met one of his men, draped in his sheet, standing at the corner of a house with his eyes fixed calmly on six Nazis approaching from the rear. Hanlon asked the soldier how he supposed the enemy had got inside their circle. “Beats me,” came the answer, the soldier adding “but they’ll have a hell of a time getting out.” And so they did. The improvised camouflage was in some way paying off everywhere and Hanlon reported one bazooka team stationed at a crossroads watching a German tank closing in. The two men waited until the tank was within 50 feet of their position, then, with one perfect shot, they knocked it out. Suddenly, almost as if on signal, the fighting ended and an eerie calm came over the field, broken only with the crackling of burning tanks. Hanlon reports that his Battalion had a bag of 50 German prisoners and that the enemy suffered many casualties, with his Battalion’s losses considered “light”.

Although the 4th Armored Division’s tanks had broken the encirclement of Bastogne on December 26, the 502nd was involved in further combat, most notably at the beginning of January around the village of Longchamps a few kilometers north of Hemroulle. After the end of the Battle of the Bulge, the men of the 101st were relieved and sent back to the barracks at Mourmelon, near Reims, France, from where they had been trucked to Bastogne two months earlier.

After returning to the United States after the war, John Hanlon became a sports columnist for The Journal and Bulletin in Providence, NJ. Somehow, in the process of going on with his life, John’s promise to the people of Hemroulle went forgotten. That is, until one day in 1947, when he read an article about Bastogne and the Battle of the Bulge in a local newspaper, where there was a remark about the sheets not yet having been returned to the people of Hemroulle. Hanlon wrote the newspaper explaining that part of the story was his own fault. Readers started sending parcels of sheets to Winchester and Hanlon, together with some of his neighbors helped the city organize a “Sheets for Hemroulle” day, which was held on Sunday, November 23, 1947. The festivities began when two squadrons of Navy planes from Squantum Naval Air Base flew over Winchester in salute. As the roar of the planes subsided, church bells began tolling all over town and music from the chimes of the Winchester Unitarian Church filled the air as residents made their way to the high

school auditorium bearing gifts of clean white sheets for the citizens of Hemroulle. Altogether about 740 sheets were collected. The Associated Press and Life magazine covered the story and the Boston newspapers were there to record the day’s events, which were also carried far and wide by radio.

On February 21, 1948 “Jack” Hanlon returned to Hemroulle with the hundreds of donated sheets. The city had organized a “Journée Winchester” for the occasion. John himself rang the chapel bell this time and the villagers gathered, waving small American flags in celebration of “Winchester Day.” He then handed each family several sets of sheets as a smiling Mayor Gaspar looked on. The extra bedsheets were handed over to a Bastogne institution. John Hanlon was made an honorary citizen of the village of Hemroulle.

During his stay in Hemroulle, John Hanlon had the opportunity to pay back another “debt”, the one he thought he owed to Belgian Boy Scouts who had helped spearhead the 1944 sheet drive. He had learned that because of post-war shortages, not enough Belgian Boy Scouts could replace their old uniforms with new ones. So, along with sheets, Hanlon had brought a load of used Boy Scouts of America uniforms contributed by the Boy Scouts of New York.

In recognition of the generosity of Winchester residents and the strong support given by the town’s ten churches, the deeply touched citizens of Hemroulle wished they could find a way to express their gratitude. Their most precious possessions were the Stations of the Cross paintings, which had been hanging in their chapel since 1906. Before that, the paintings had been the property of the Sisters of Notre Dame in Bastogne, Belgium. The paintings had been traced back to 1820 and four of them had been badly damaged or destroyed during the war. Ten paintings, some pierced by Nazi bullets, were sent to Winchester and presented to the representatives of the churches at the high school auditorium, on January 7, 1951. A snowstorm prevented an envoy from the Belgian Embassy in Washington, D.C. from reaching Winchester that day. In his place, the Belgian consul, Dr. Navez, read a telegram from Ambassador Baron Silvercrux, which ended as follows: “These Stations, which endured the siege of Ardennes, may well reflect the sufferings we share in common. Let them remain in your churches as a token of our faith as well as our memories.” Reverend John P. O’Riordan, pastor from 1940 to 1952 of St. Mary’s church on Washington Street, Winchester, was one of the clergy present in the high school auditorium that Sunday in 1951 and received the ninth station, now hanging on the wall at the left front sidewall of St. Mary’s. The painting was restored in July 1998 under the pastorate of Rev. Richard Messina.

As a sports reporter, John had been sent to Russia in 1958 and covered the Rome Olympics in 1960. In September 1961, Hanlon took a leave of absence from his newspaper and he, his wife Joan (whom he had married in June 1951 in Cranford, New Jersey) and their children lived in England for a year. During their stay, John met a man from the “Readers’ Digest” London office and in the course of their conversation, he mentioned the sheet incident. The other reporter thought it would make a good story. As John didn’t remember all the details, he went to Belgium in April 1962 and stayed in Bastogne, visiting Hemroulle several times and speaking to most of the villagers there. The article was published in the December 1962 issue of “The Reader’s Digest”. In the 1970s, John Hanlon worked further for “The Providence Journal”, writing about life in Rhode Island. He played the small part of a partygoer in the 1974 film “The Great Gatsby” and continued to write for the newspaper until his retirement in 1982. In 1991, he was inducted in the Rhode Island Journalism Hall of Fame.

Born on 24 June 1917, in Winchester, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, John Douglas Henlon passed away from cancer on 14 April 1996. He was 78 years old and his obituary in the “Providence Journal” recalled that he had “captured life in Rhode Island with grace and honesty for 23 years.” John Henlon rests at the Hunt Cemetery in East Providence, Rhode Island.

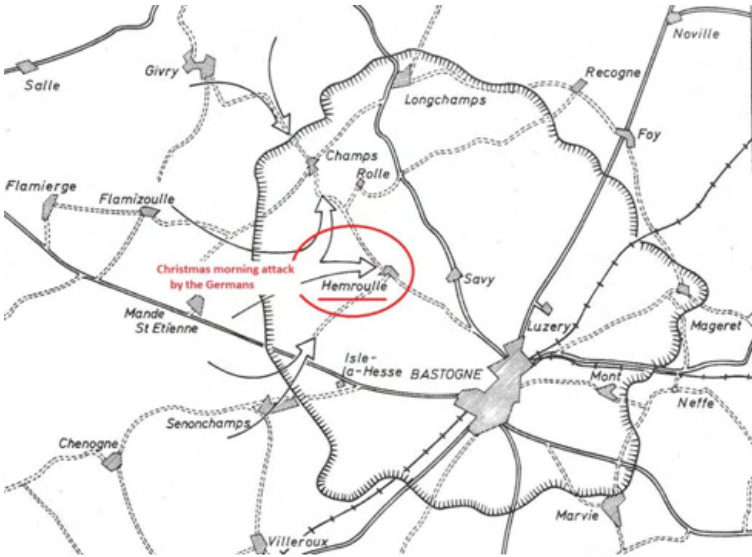
Note by Marilyn Jensen: We have talked to many 35th Division World War II veterans and all indicated that they had no winter camo or even bed sheets to camouflage them against the white snow. Many indicated that they felt like “sitting ducks” in their olive drab uniforms.



Why not?



Photo from “Boys’ Life”, July 1948, showing John Hanlon and a proud Belgian Boy Scout wearing a Boy Scouts of America uniform



Moving out



John Hanlon handing some sheets to Hemroulle burgomaster Victor Gaspar

Some of Major Hanlon’s men in a photo on the remembrance panel outside the Hemroulle church



% A 2014 report about the Hemroulle sheets at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o7Vq9s8-pIE>

% A video of Ellen Knight talking about Hanlon and her book “500 Sheets – Lt. Col. John Hanlon’s Debt of Honor”: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_OnRyZD4WqI

% Sources :

* LIFE 15 March 1948, pages 49-52, with photos in Winchester and Hemroulle (not copied here for copyright reasons): <https://books.google.be/books?id=HFEAAAAMBA&print-func=full-text&summary&act=OA-coverage&file>

* “The Battered Bastards of Bastogne” by George E. Koskimaki (2003 Casemate edition), pages 202-3

* “The 101st Airborne – From Holland to Hitler’s Eagle’s Nest”, by Mark Bando (Motorbooks International, 1995), page 115

International Liaison Committee Column

January 15, 2020

The association of L’Espace de Memoir Lorraine 1939-45 will join the rest of the western world in celebrating 75th anniversary of the end of WWII in Europe on May 8, 2020.

Also, the association will celebrate the 20th anniversary of its organization in March 2020. The 10th anniversary of the association’s museum will be observed in April 2020.

The museum, located in Vezelise south of Nancy, is the only WWII museum in Lorraine (northeastern France). The museum is cited in several travel guides and on the “must” list for military trainees. School groups plan visits as part of their obligatory study of WWII.

The museum is closed for the winter. It will be open April 25, 2020 to October 11, 2020. Special arrangements for visits at other times, especially by American families, may be arranged by contacting the museum’s website at www.espacedememoire.fr. The website is maintained and updated by Serge Julien. He reported that the site has had 34,000 hits since it began.

Two American families took advantage of the opportunity to contact the museum and its volunteers after the regular season closed.

Jennifer Bow, granddaughter of Nick Mentis (L-137), promised to return after an initial visit in 2018. She returned with her husband Curtis and daughter Eleni October 11, 2019 and brought the rest of the family with her. Two German students joined the group.

Jennifer brought several items from her grandfather for the museum. They included a service cap, a Stars and Stripes newspaper, a booklet of Prayers for Men in Service, three photos of Nick, a letter from Nick to his wife and a bundle of addresses. The items will be placed in a museum showcase when the museum reopens in April.

A lightning visit on November 15 brought relatives of Sgt. Frederick Easley of the 654 TD Battalion to Nancy and Vezelise. A photo of Easley riding on a tank destroyer in front of the city hall of Nancy on September 15, 1944, is considered the iconic photo of the Liberation in northeast France. Easley was holding a .50 caliber machine gun. The photo has been used in many Lorraine newspaper special editions. Charles and Seth Graves, nephew and great-nephew of Easley, are the latest family members to visit Lorraine.

Easley’s family did not see the photo until 2001. A nephew, Andy Graves, contacted a former member of the 654 TDB when he began researching his uncle’s death at Fossieux October 10, 1944. Ruggles Baker sent Andy the photo which had appeared in the National Geographic magazine in 1945. After viewing the photo, Graves placed it on the website of the 134 Infantry Regiment. This placement allowed Jerome Leclerc, animator of the Espace

museum association, to contact the family.

Andy has visited Nancy twice. His brother Charles and nephew Seth plan to return when there is time to visit Fossieux and the Lorraine Cemetery at Saint Avold where Easley is buried.

By coincidence, Charles Graves has been employed by the National Geographic magazine.

With the expansion of the Wreaths Across America Mission Overseas, wreaths were placed on the headstone of our war dead at the Luxembourg American Cemetery on November 30, 2019 and over 10,000 Wreaths on the headstones of our American Heroes at The Netherlands American Cemetery, on December 1st. In 2018 over 9,000 wreaths were placed at the Normandy American Cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer, France.

Wreaths Across America is a volunteer group of citizens who decorate the graves of soldiers at all the American Military Cemeteries across the United States. It began when Morrill Worcester of Worcester Wreaths found himself with a surplus of wreaths. Arrangements were made for the wreaths to be placed at Arlington Cemetery. The annual tribute went on quietly until 2005 when a picture was circulated on the internet. By 2008 they had over 300 locations with wreath-laying ceremonies in every state, Puerto Rico and 24 overseas cemeteries. Over 100,000 wreaths are placed on veterans’ graves annually.

Bram Temmerman, representing the 35th Division Belgium Living History Group, went to the American Cemetery at Hamm, Luxembourg on January 10 to visit the five 35th GIs buried there. There were six who were captured and killed by the Germans, with five being buried at Hamm: S/Sgt Wilbur C. Pyle, S/Sgt David I Bowen, S/Sgt Carl R. Sahli, Pvt Russel J. Johnson, Pvt Troy R. Bader. Temmerman placed a U.S. flag, candle and pictures at these gravesites. The sixth man, Robert Stone, was returned home to his family.

On the 11th of January, Bram attended a special religious remembrance service at the Church of Villers-La-Bonne Eau conducted by an Irish American Priest to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge. Temmerman says, “there were about 50 people in attendance. It was a beautiful and moving service, in a church where the benches still bear the shrapnel marks of the fighting.”

Directly following the church service, there was a ceremony at the 35th Division Monument in Lutremange. Flowers were placed at the monument and a new plaque was unveiled in honor of 1st Lt. Clement C. McGuire (HQ Company, 134th Inf. Reg.). Pat Shannon a relative who lives in Brussels was present together with his family. Mr.

Continued on next page
See International



Sgt. Easley of the 654 TD Battalion



Charles and Seth
Graves
in Nancy



Charles and Seth
Graves visit
L’Espace de
Memoire Museum

International Liaison Committee Column

Continued from previous page

Roger Baland the curator of the Monument site, was responsible for the program at Lutremange.

Earlier in the month, Patrick Beck of Luxembourg reported that there were a lot of things going on in Luxembourg: parades, exhibits, memorials. On December 13th there was a “wonderful event that had been organized at the Hamm Cemetery where a candle and flower had been set up in front of each single gravestone of the 5,072 Americans buried there. A ceremony was held in the presence of the Grand Duke of Luxembourg, Prime Minister Xavier Bettel and other Ministers of the Luxembourg Government, the King and Queen of Belgium, U.S. Secretary of Defense, Mark Espen, and representatives from France, Netherlands, UK, Canada, Poland and Germany. At the end of the ceremony the Grand Duke invited all the WWII U.S. veterans to a reception at the Palace in Luxembourg City.”

December 16th continued with several night vigils held all over the country; at Hoscheid, Schuman Crossroads, and Berdorf. At the famous Schumann Crossroads, the King of Belgium, the son of the Grand Duke of Luxembourg, ambassadors and military personnel from the U.S., UK, Belgium, Germany and Luxembourg attended the ceremony at the National Liberation Memorial. There was

heavy fighting for more than a month at this crossroad in 1944/45.

Further east in the Netherlands, the 75th Anniversary Liberation Exhibition opened on January 14, 2020. The exhibition will be open every weekend until March 15th and is dedicated to the allied troops that liberated this part of the Netherlands. The 35th Recon of the 35th Division had a special exhibit as they liberated the Dutch village of Herkenbosch on March 1, 1945. This was the same date the 35th liberated Roermond.

The Faces of Margraten event will be held again this year in May. The organization is creating a book with 100 stories of the 10,000 U.S. soldiers buried or memorialized at the Margraten Cemetery. Richard vanKessel received word that the story of Donald Giles of the 35th Division will be one of the 100 stories included in this new book. Richard says, “I am very proud of this, as his story and sacrifice will be saved for future generations.” Richard has adopted Giles’ grave at the cemetery. The legacy continues.

International Liaison Committee Co-Chairs

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

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



Memorial Service at the Monument to the 35th Division at Lutremange, Belgium



Gravestone of Troy Baden



Tribute to the six fallen soldiers at the Hamm Luxembourg US Military Cemetery by Bram Temmerman



75 Years Later, the Dog Tags of a 35th Infantry Division Soldier Killed During the Battle of the Bulge Unearthed and Returned

by Roberta Russo

Roger Taylor was a farm boy from Beloit, Ohio, a small town of less than a thousand people. Roger and Virginia Israel were engaged to be married when he was drafted. Now 94 years old, Virginia tells of their car ride to the train station when he left home. With his parents in the front seat, she whispered in his ear, “a penny for your thoughts.” As if by

premonition he replied, “My thoughts are going to cost me a lot more than a penny someday.” Roger never returned to marry his high school sweetheart.

Pfc. Roger W. Taylor was a rifleman in Company E, 134th Infantry Regiment. He joined the Regiment on Christmas Eve, December 24, 1944 at Metz, France. Earlier that month the 35th Infantry Division had fought its way across the Blies River into Germany, sustaining heavy casualties. Since landing on Omaha Beach July 5, 1944, the Division had fought continuously for 162 days. They were in Metz for some well-earned rest and to regroup.

Plans changed quickly when the Nazis launched their surprise counterattack in the Ardennes trapping the 101st Airborne in Bastogne. On Christmas day the 35th Infantry Division received orders to move early the next morning. Roger was one of hundreds of replacements who joined the Division that December. For many the Battle of the Bulge would be their first battle. For many others it would be their last.

On January 6, 1945, thirteen days after joining the 134th Infantry Regiment, Roger Taylor was reported missing in action (MIA). His unit had departed the town of Sainlez, Belgium heading north toward Lutrebois with the mission of protecting the Regiment’s right flank. He was last seen moving onto high ground when, according to the official MIA Report, “the Company was forced to withdraw to old positions before return of patrol. Man not heard of since.” His body was recovered in mid-February and identified by a personal acquaintance. This confirmed that he had

been killed in action near Lutrebois on January 6, 1945 when he was hit in the chest by shrapnel. He is buried at Luxembourg American Cemetery.

In November 2019, the Beloit, Ohio Historical Society received a telephone call from the U.S. Embassy in Paris. A French resident near Jarny, France had unearthed a group of 19 dog tags while doing some excavation. It is unknown how these dog tags got there but all were from soldiers who had died in the Battle of the Bulge. Roger was the only one from the 35th Infantry Division. Because Roger was an only child with no known relatives, arrangements were made to present his dog tags to the Beloit Historical Society in his hometown.

At a well-attended ceremony on Sunday, December 29, 2019, Col. Matthew Woodruff, Adjutant General’s Office of the Ohio National Guard, presented Taylor’s dog tags to Leland VanCamp, President of the Beloit Historical Society. Although Virginia, his WWII fiancée, had married and raised a family since learning of Roger’s death, she never forgot him. Her son Ken Bandy gave a moving presentation detailing Roger’s youth in Beloit and his military service.

A video of the “Remembering Roger” ceremony and presentation of his dog tags has been posted online. You can find it by searching YouTube for “Roger Taylor, 35th Infantry Division”. Thanks to Pete Donatucci for this video and the photographs.



Pfc. Roger W. Taylor



Roger Taylor with his fiancée Virginia Israel



Col. Matthew Woodruff of the Ohio National Guard presents Roger Taylor's dog tags to Leland VanCamp, President of the Beloit OH Historical Society



Ken Bandy with Roger’s dog tags

35th Division Hall of Fame Nominations Sought

Members of the 35th Division Assn., as well as others, are encouraged to submit nominations for the 35th Division Hall of Fame for induction in 2021. Nominators must sign the nomination form and provide data for future contacts.

At this time there are only seven (7) 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 35th 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 2021 class to be inducted will be inducted at the Annual 35th Div Assn Conference in 2021.

Send nominations to **BG Ed Gerhardt, Chairman, 35th Hall of Fame Committee, 125 SE Airport E. Drive, Topeka, KS 66619**, so as to arrive not later than 1 August 2020.

-----**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:

Words of a Combat Veteran PFC Keith Bullock

Forward Scout, Hqs Co, S-2 Section, 137th Infantry

World War II 1925-2009

An Intro From Marge Bullock, His Widow

It's not properly official to include illustrations of "why" Keith Bullock's personality was so endearing. Someone might describe him as freely honest - like an "elf" - thinking the long thoughts - phrasing them in the way of the plain person. He was never critical or obscene - yet engrossing to the point of not wanting to let him leave your presence. At least, I thought that. And it seemed that other people felt the same.

WW II in
Keith's
Words

Reunions

I had the question asked and I never could quite come up with the correct words put together to answer "Why these reunions?" The answer I found in a book named "Foot Soldier," written by someone who had experienced combat: "After the action was over - friendships would end suddenly, probably never to be shared again. The wartime relationships were like family love - nurtured by shared deprivation, hunger, of questioned survival, cold, wet anguish, stark terror, and at times sensitivity-shattering horror, crippling exhaustion, and personal triumph. Never again the sometimes nonsensical hilarity and crazy things that forged bonds never to be broken."



That's why.

Battle of the Bulge

We are up in The Bulge? Duty for Graves Registration is performed by a Black trucker. The previous day we, in the Infantry, had found a dead, solidly frozen German soldier in a sitting position. Prior to this incident, we had helped the American driver load bodies. We decided to have a little fun with him. We put an overcoat on our cool friend; then put him on the seat beside where the driver would sit.

The road ran downhill and sharply turned right. The truck took off - - - almost made it to the turn. The driver's door flew upon - - - the driver hit the ground running. When we were able, we ran down toward the truck. The driver was as White as a Black man ever gets. He said, "The sonna bitch leaned over on me."

So much for combat humor.

Gremercy, France - Sanctuary

Our advance is held up for lack of gasoline and artillery rounds. Shortage of artillery rounds is said to be due to John L. Lewis, head of U.S. union, who hauled union workers out on strike. We were quartered in the cellar of house along with some rats almost as big as small house cats. Down the

street is the local church with a wide set of steps. On these steps, one of our people is having a smoke. One round of German mortar come in, killing my friend.

So much for "Sanctuary!"

Gremercy, France - Outpost

Same town as above - - - out at our OP (Observation Post) - ahead of The Line a little.

out of the blue - - - the sound of a jeep horn !!! Cheeze - - - I ran back down the hill - - - damn near shot the stupid jerk. It turned out he was a rear echelon idiot bringing two Red Cross girls up to The Front so that they could say they had "been there." I walked the two girls back down to the town.

Can you believe it ever happened?

The Tank

Just to show why the Red Cross incident was so stupid - - - a couple of days later - - mid-afternoon - - - we were, we thought, observing our front from our OP when we heard the unmistakable sound of a tank. Yeah, there it is - - - not two hundred feet away. The tank gun is waving around seeming to be looking for me, personally. I grab the phone - - - told operator to put the Colonel on. I asked him if he or God could, please, send help AND be ready to shoot 'cause the Kraut tank is sure going to. More noise coming up the hill from the other direction.

It is a Sherman tank - - - one of our own. He is ready - - - gets a shot into the underside of the German tank (its only vulnerable spot—front up and belly exposed). We finish off the survivors.

I really hope - - - all the rest of my life - - - that no one - - - least of all nineteen-year-olds - - - would have to do what we did that day.

But no one seems to read and/or study history.

The Church Steeple at Rheinberg

We were about to cross the last big river - - - the last water barrier to the heart of the Reich. Bidding goodbye to Venlo, Holland, we headed for Rheinberg, arriving about dark. It seemed to disturb some of the German garrisoned there - and in their usual manner, they let us know it. While busy dodging chunks of iron, I went around a corner. A hand reached out. I damn near shot the arm off one of the Regiment's Chaplains. He was handing out copies of the T.S. Tickets. I gave him some advice about Infantry soldiers with quick trigger fingers and moved on.

Shortly before we actually crossed the Rhine there were many rather small firefights - - - not many big scraps. Lots of prisoners. I think of Ike's highway construction after he became president. Four lanes separated by wide median. That being full of 8 to 10 wide columns of men - all German prisoners - sometimes in a two-mile column.

My outfit: 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry

Regiment was stopped on the west side of the Elbe River, south of Magdeburg in the small village of Buch. This little spot was where I personally helped Artillery fire the last shot and made my last kill of WWII for me.

Also where I thought I just might have seen the Elephant the last time in this life.

An Observation Post was set up in the church steeple and I was to assist the forward observer as needed. Across the Elbe ran a road all across my viewing area. The Germans were very actively trying to get away from the Russians coming to meet us—some walking, some riding bikes, trucks, anything on wheels. The Forward Observer for the Artillery finally shows after shouting at me to let me know who and what he was - - - here he was, glasses askew, pretty well shloshed, I guess, St. alcohol.

"First?" What do you know about what we're supposed to do?" My reply, as I remember it, was something to the effect, "I'd been doing it since St. Lo—how about you. "Oh! - - - at about this point he pulls out a beautiful silver flask, "Have a shot."

We got along fine.

Into Germany

We start watching the parade on the other side of the river. I notice when a body shows from the right. This guy would count - usually to 5 or 6, make a mark on the sill of the steeple windowsill. Had me doing it too. Then he called his battery requesting one round on request.

Did this twice. If you have ever had a little experience and you are where you can see impact, you can see it.

This guy was good. He and I used a count of 6 — took 6 seconds for fire to impact. I called BOD on RD Observer and relayed fire ordinance. BOD on Bike, Fire, dirt kick under BOD. - - - Mission accomplished.

Last one I had anything to do with!

Next Day, Same Steeple

Observer still with me about the same amount of sober. We had been watching across the Elbe - - - not much action. We had decided to let the poor bastards get away from the Russians if they could. I'd been watching with my glasses for a couple of hours. I thought my eyes were seeing spots. They woke up - - - that was a plane low and fast. - - - ? German on one last go? It was coming right at our steeple. Must be Kraut. "Good Bye Me." Last minute, flips away. Big Red Star on tail.

Whew!

The End

The shooting is over. How long till we go home? That was the only subject for days.

Answer: not yet, guys. We have to do some clean-up work - or a little Occupation Duty.

Then we'll probably go and help the Marines with their job in Japan.

NEW LIFE MEMBERSHIPS 2019-2020

COL (R) STEPHEN H PIERCE
ROBERT G HUGHES

DONOR APPRECIATION

SEPT 20, 2019-
JAN 22, 2020

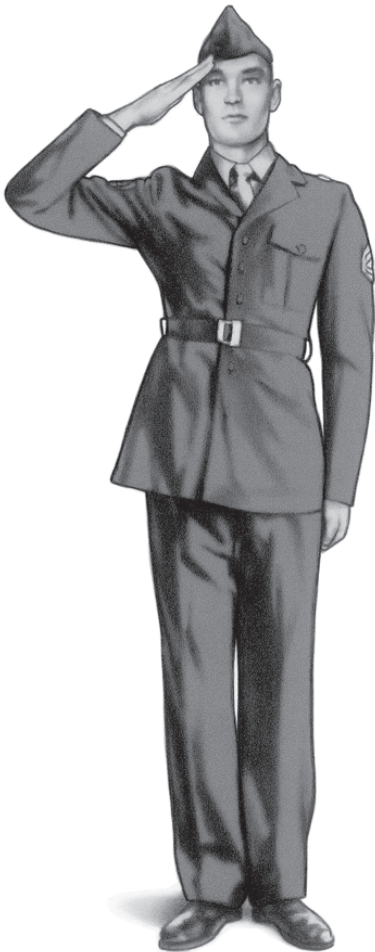
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*Nancy Krocki (Museum Op. Expenses)
*M. Eileen Schneider (Museum Op. Expenses, in honor of Robert R Holmes)





635TH ARMOR REGIMENT AND 137TH INFANTRY REGIMENT SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

On behalf of the Scholarship Committee I am announcing **four \$500 education scholarships** available from the 635th Armor Regiment and 137th Infantry Regiment Scholarship fund. The purpose of the fund is to provide scholarship grants to direct descendents, legally adopted children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of those that served honorably, to assist the recipients in attending accredited schools of higher learning. Applications will be accepted until **30 March 2020**.

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

- 1st, 2nd, or 3rd Battalions of the 137th Infantry Regiment.
- 1st or 2nd Battalions of the 635th Armor Regiment.
- 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment.
- 635th Tank Destroyer Battalion (WW II).

The primary criteria upon which grants will be decided include: Scholastics, aptitude and involvement in the many forms of extracurricular activities (in and out of school), participation in civic and community services, career intentions with a special emphasis on service to state and nation, and for consideration, “financial need”. Contact COL (Ret) Robert Bloomquist at bbloom843@aol.com or 785-969-7548 for the application form or questions about eligibility.

This joint scholarship fund evolved from the 635th Armor Regimental Scholarship fund held at the Topeka Community Foundation which assists in managing the funds and providing donors with proper documentation for their tax-exempt donation. Scholarships have been granted over the years to a wide range of students, to include descendants of WW II Veterans (635th Tank

Destroyer Battalion), and former and current members of the 635th Armor Regiment or 137th Infantry Regiment. Recipients of these scholarship funds have reflected immense appreciation for the assistance and have honored their recognition through exceptional effort in their post high school academic endeavors.

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

This and next year’s scholarships are made possible by the generous donations of MG (R) Jack Strukel Jr., LTC (R) and Mrs Larry Farmer and members of the 2-137th Combined Arms Battalion.

A major donation also came from the 17th annual Freedom Fest in Emporia, KS coordinated by

Emporia Main Street and CSM Steve Harmon. This event is a way for the local community to get involved with raising funds for the All Veterans Memorial, scholarships for active duty and veteran soldiers and their families and launch a soldier care package program for Kansas soldiers.

The committee in conjunction with the Topeka Community Foundation manages the 137th/635th Regiment Scholarship Fund. If you are interested in donating to this scholarship, you may contribute via the web site, www.topekacommunityfoundation.org or mail to Topeka Community Foundation, ATTN: 635th/137th

Scholarship, 5431 SW 29th Street, Suite 300, Topeka, KS 66614-4486. Contributions are income tax deductible and easy to accomplish. 100% of the administration fees are paid by investment return or covered by a board member, so your entire contribution goes to the scholarship.

If you want information on the committee representatives, periodic updates on the fund or scholarship applications please contact COL (R) Robert Bloomquist at 785-969-7548 or bbloom843@aol.com.

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



REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATION ‘LES PORTES DE LA MEMOIRE - THE GATES OF MEMORY’ FOR YEAR 2019/2020

For the year 2019, Reichert Guy represented the association in 43 ceremonies or commemorations. And 40 Outings for (19) grave sponsorship and (21) Accompaniments.

The association is doing well and is reassuring by its work as a Duty of Remembrance and by its membership:

- 01 posthumously honored member as a WW2 American Citizen TSgt Kenneth L. Faulkner.
- 01 posthumously honored member as a WW2 French Citizen Alphonse Sommer.
- 02 Honorary members of American nationality: Ms. Holli Harwell, President of the Association of the 137th Infantry Regiment and M. Mike Ven of Denver (Colorado)

We have 3 life-members American national:

- Ms Bowers Jensen Marilyn of Denver, Colorado
- Ms Frisenda (Ramirez) Victoria of St-Cloud, Florida
- M. Carl R. BUSH of Topeka,

Kansas - Army National Guard,

- 31 MEMBERS USA - FR - 26 French members;
- We sponsor Hellimer Primary School. (49 Children, 03 Teachers for this year)

The association reports in its reports 04 new members for the year 2019

- Ms Reichert Brigitte from Valmont (57)
- M. Peignier Emmanuel from d'Eulmont (54)
- M Alexandre André from Faulquemont (57)
- M. Breneur Jean Luc from Hellimer (57)

Editors Note: This is a short summary of a 26 page report including many activities and fascinating pictures. If you want the full report Emailed to you, please contact the Executive Secretary at 35divassn@gmail.com. We will also add the full report to our website.

The Season of Lent

by Chaplain (LTC) John Potter

Lent is an important time when Christians focus on personal sacrifice and ready themselves for the celebration of Easter. On the liturgical calendar, Lent runs six weeks from Ash Wednesday to Easter. It is a religious observance where Christians focus on fasting, sacrifice, and abstaining from different foods, acts, or luxuries.

I have to admit that observing Lent is new to me. It is more common among liturgical or “high church” faith groups. I was not raised in that tradition, but I have an appreciation for the concept of subtracting something in your life to grow closer to God. While many will give up meat, sweets, soda, chocolate, or doughnuts during Lent, I like the idea of adding a spiritual

practice in your life to grow closer to God. These practices can include daily devotions, a focused prayer time, creating a spiritual journal, volunteering at a charity, or performing community service projects.

Several years ago, I added a practice to help me grow closer to God. I read through the Book of Psalms. King David was a warrior and a proficient soldier. He knew years of battle and turmoil. He experienced great joy and rejoiced with reckless abandon. He also experienced dark times of sorrow, loss, and isolation. Through all of life’s ups and downs, he pursued God. There is much we can learn from that example and relationship.

While this approach may not be for everyone, the key is to find spiritual practices that

appeal to you and honor God. It is also helpful to find a practice that will test or stretch your faith. Don’t fall into a rut and do the same spiritual discipline year after year. That would deny you the growth and opportunity God wants from us.

As we get closer to Holy Week, may your spiritual practice draw you closer to God. Whether you are subtracting or adding a practice continue the daily journey toward the cross of Christ. Discover the great love that took Him there. See and understand the sacrifice of Jesus. Allow the atoning and redeeming work of Jesus to transform your life.

God bless you on your Lenten walk this year.

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



Museum Donor Form for 2019-20

Name: _____ Rank: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____ E-Mail: _____

(Street) (City/State/Zip)

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



_____ 2019-20 Major Donor Club Donation - \$100 or more (Name posted in Lobby)

_____ 2019-20 Annual Membership-\$25 per year (Name Posted in Conf. Room)

_____ Contribution for Museum Operations - Amount: _____

_____ Interior Brick - \$200 35 Div Wall? _____ Yes _____ No
(Inscription - 3 lines, maximum of 14 letters/spaces per line)



For 35th Division Wall? _____ Yes _____ No

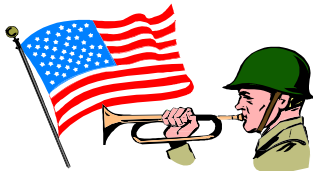
_____ Exterior Patio Brick - \$50 Unit Area: _____
(Inscription - 3 lines, maximum of 14 letters/spaces per line)



Payment Info: _____ Cash _____ Check _____ Credit Card

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____
Security Code on Back: _____ Zip Code of Billing Address: _____
(Note: Join by 1 Nov 19, receive membership for 2019 and 2020.)

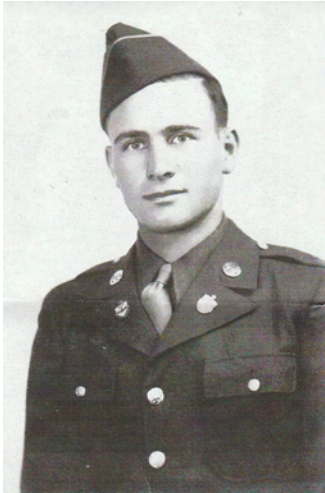
Taps



Anthony S. Masi, Jr.

On August 22, 2019, age 94. Son of the late Anthony and Rose (nee Cappelli). Beloved husband of 64 years to the late Elizabeth (March 20, 2012). Loving father to Rosemarie, Arlene and the late Anthony III (May 14, 2018). Adoring Grandfather to Cindy and Elizabeth (James III), great grandfather to Steven and James IV. Also survived by brother Alfred and many nieces and nephews. Preceded in death are siblings Nick (Mary), Marie, Freddy, Albert (Marie), Caroline (Sam), Mildred (Ralph). Born a farmer in Hammonton NJ; the love for farming never left him. Veteran, WWII-US Army Infantry, European Theatre, including the Invasion of Normandy. Moved to Philadelphia for the love of his life and worked as a US government employee. His family meant the world to him. He will be greatly missed.

Interment at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Hammonton, NJ.



Lonnie Ray Preslar Co. A, 134th Inf. Reg.

THOMASVILLE – Lonnie Ray Preslar, 95, died Wednesday, October 16, 2019, at his residence.

He was born June 16, 1924, in Anson County and was the son of the late Tommy F. and Bessie Preslar. He was a truck driver with FCX for twenty years and retired from Re-Jim, Inc. after thirty years of service, and was of the Baptist faith. Ray served in the U.S. Army during World War II, seeing action at the Battle of the Bulge and in the European Theater. He was awarded two Purple Hearts with one oak leaf cluster, EAME Theater Ribbon with three bronze stars, the World War II Victory Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Donna May Sink Preslar; three sisters, Rosa McWhirter, Pearl Rushing, and Vera Tweed; and three brothers, Grover Preslar, Ernest Preslar, and Walter Preslar.

Ray is survived by his three daughters, Debbie Sue Kiser of Greensboro, Nancy Caroline Patton (Todd) of High Point, and Tammy Ray Stroup (Craig) of Thomasville; four grandchildren, Brandon Lee Wilson (Melissa), Travis Matthew Kiser, Derrick Stephen Graves (Marissa), and Tyler Ray Stroup (fiancée, Emily); eight great-grandchildren; and sister, Betty Yandle of Monroe.

Thomasville resident who fought in WWII's Battle of the Bulge dies

By Harry Thetford Special to News & Record

This article originally appeared in the (Greensboro, NC) News & Record. Preprinted with permission.

Lonnie Ray Preslar, 95, a World War II veteran from Thomasville who drove a million miles as an over-the-road truck driver, died Wednesday.

Preslar fought in the Battle of the Bulge, after which he was hospitalized in England,



recovering from frostbite.

“I thought my recovery went very well, but the Army nurses kept telling me to stay in bed,” he recalled in an Oct. 8 interview. “I told them I would rather be back at the front than staying

in bed all time, so they obliged me.

“My hospital time was more stressful to the folks back home than it was to me — the Army misplaced my records and notified my parents I was missing in action.”

Not too long after returning to the front, Preslar was wounded in the face by shrapnel. “Medics covered half my face with a large white bandage, which I thought gave the enemy a nice target to shoot at,” he said.

After the Battle of the Bulge, he said, “we started advancing, taking prisoners, and kept the Germans on the run.”

After one skirmish, Preslar was ordered to take 12 newly captured prisoners to a holding area behind the lines. “I had misgivings about that, thinking that was too many prisoners for one man to keep up with — especially given the language difference,” he recalled. “I waved my rifle at them, and shouted, ‘I will mow you down if you get out of line!’ They knew enough English to understand that.”

All eyes were on Berlin as V-E Day — marking the Allied victory in Europe in 1945 — approached, Preslar said. “We were driven to get there before the Russians, even if it meant we had to walk until our legs gave way.”

Preslar’s 134th Infantry Regiment of the 35th Infantry Division dashed 295 miles in two days to reach the Elbe River before the Russians could, military records show.

Even so, permission to take Berlin was given to the Russians by higher authorities.

The 35th Infantry Division switched to occupation duties and mopping-up German strongholds that had been bypassed.

With a Bronze Star, two Purple Hearts, three campaign stars and a combat infantryman’s badge (which authorized an additional Bronze Star), Preslar had more than enough points for a speedy return to the States.

Preslar grew up on a farm in the Polkton community in Anson County with three brothers and four sisters.

“We grew cotton, corn and soybeans, plus we always had a large vegetable garden,” Preslar recalled. An older brother was already serving in the Army when Preslar was drafted at 19 in 1944.

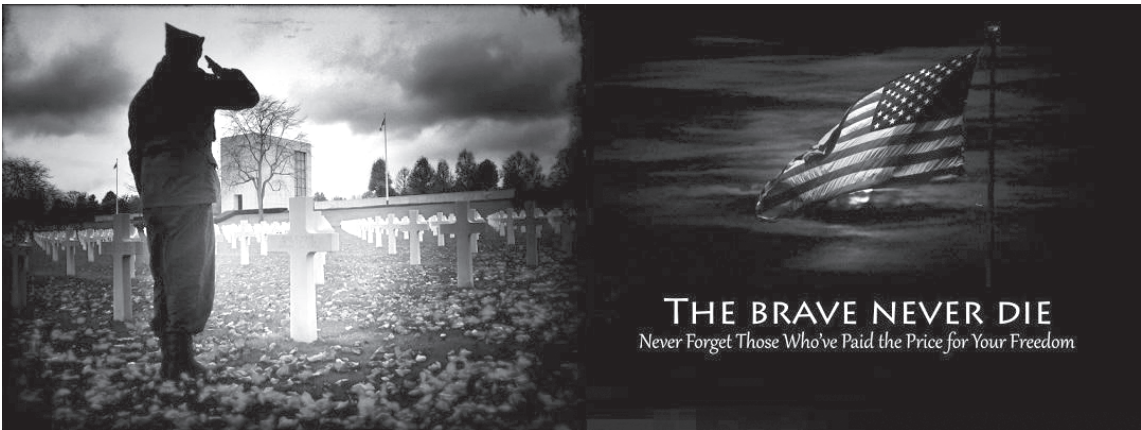
After the war, Preslar settled in High Point, found a job and a wife. He married Donna Sink on Nov. 15, 1947. She died in 2000 after 53 years of marriage. From this union came three daughters — Debbie, Nancy and Tammy — four grandsons and five great-grandchildren.

Preslar flew to Washington as a Flight of Honor participant in 2010. It was his first time in a plane.

Cumby Family Funeral Service in Archdale in handling funeral arrangements, which are incomplete.

Membership Renewal/Donation Form

Please respond to the Membership renewal/donation form enclosed in this “Santa Fe”, or sent to you electronically if we have your Email address on file. Even 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 35th and what you are doing now can be included if you want us to publish it in the next paper.



NEBRASKA NATIONAL GUARD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

75th Anniversary of
the end of World War II

France

July 14-25, 2020



Mail Call

Dear Sir,
My name is Glen Owen & I am researching on behalf of the American Military Cemetery in Margraten, Netherlands. The Faces of Margraten (www.degezichtenvanmargraten.nl) project strives to locate a picture of each U.S. soldier who now “rests-in-peace” in this beautiful Dutch countryside. Over 10,000 U.S. soldiers are adopted by Dutch families who treat our heroes as members of their own family!

I believe there are two soldiers from the 35 Infantry Division included in the Fields of Honor database (www.fieldsofhonor-database.com) without an appropriate picture.

My goal is to locate a picture of each of the following:

*Sgt Ross E Bringle (KIA 20 April 1945); #37005334, 219 Field Artillery, 35 Infantry Division

*PFC George Ratliff (KIA 8 Mar 1945); #38731123, 137IR, 3Btn, 35 Infantry Division



So far 28 of 48 Kansas soldiers in Margraten have been located in my effort. If you could please assist in my endeavor by locating & sending me a picture of these American Heroes? I would greatly appreciate it.

Sincerely,
Glen D. Owen, Lt Col USAF (Ret)
Glen.owen@hotmail.com
937-266-2267

Letter to the editor

Hello, My name is Kenneth Wheeler. I’m the historian and member of the Nitro WV World War One Museum Commission. We have just received an 130th Machine Gun Battalion uniform. I’m looking for any information on this unit. If you have anything to help us with our display it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you. Kenneth.

kenneth wheeler
<kenw19@yahoo.com>



Dear Friends,

Come join us on a once-in-a-lifetime trip to France to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II. The focus will be on the role of the Nebraska National Guards' famed 134th Infantry Regiment and its liberation of the country.

The trip will start off in Normandy along the beaches of D-Day and you will learn about how a Columbus, Nebraska native and soldier revolutionized amphibious warfare. The highlight of this area will be the liberation ceremonies in St. Lo and the touring of the hedgerow sites (Hill 122).


During the trip, we will pay homage to the fallen at Normandy American, Lorraine and Luxembourg American Cemeteries with official party wreath-laying and tours. Next stop will be the city of Nancy and another set of battlefield sites such as Sugar Loaf Hill, Fort Vincent, and the Flavigny Bridge.

Nancy is a beautiful city and promises great nightly entertainment while we are there. Next stop will be the Battle of the Bulge sites in Belgium. Visit historical battlefields around Bastogne: Luttrebois Memorial, Company M Hill, Battle of the Bulge Museum and Memorial. The trip will include scholars and academics on military history of the Nebraska National Guard in World War II. We will also take advantage of wonderful French cuisine, wine and art/culture along the way.


Our French guide is the best in France and has worked with our Nebraska groups in the past.

I look forward to seeing you on the trip.

Gerald D. "Jerry" Meyer
Colonel (retired), NENG Historian
Tour Host



Nebraska National Guard
Historical Society



ExecutiveTravel

Call Executive Travel's Group Department today at 402-435-8888.

Please share this with your association members. We did the trip last year. Covered the sites from World War II for the 134th Infantry....Omaha Beach-St. Lo- Mortain, Nancy, Luterbois/Bastogne, etc...

Great trip.
Jerry
Gerald D. "Jerry" Meyer
Historian
Nebraska National Guard Museum
712-269-1918 (my cell)

Here is the link:
<https://executivetravel.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Nebraska-National-Guard-Historical-Society-Tour-2020-NENG20-e-version-5.pdf>



**Deadline for the Next Issue
of the
Santa Fe Express
is 7 April**

Please send your favorite reunion stories and pictures to share.



Alfred: The Quiet History of a World War II Infantryman

I finally finished my book about my father's tour of duty during WWII. Even though the book centers on my father, it describes the reality of war in all five campaigns of the 35th Infantry Division. I used information from the following :

Santa Fe Express/Divisionnaire

Orval Faubus's (320th) *In This Faraway Land*

James Huston (134th) *Biography of a Battalion*

Murray Leff's (137th) *Lens of an Infantryman*

LeRoy Maleck's (137th) *What am I Doing Here?*

For nine years, I had conversations with Robert Phillips (D/320/35th) who was with my father (D/320/35th). I spoke with Ray Huckaby (134th) and Ben Lane (320th) and Joe Demler (137th) and others.

I have enclosed a series of photos. I understand that possibly none of them are appropriate for publication, but I will leave that decision up to you.

All are from my book, "Alfred: The Quiet History of a World War II Infantryman."

For further information, go to www.AlfredtheBook.com

Thank you for your consideration.

Thank you!

Louise Endres Moore

Daughter of Alfred N. Endres (D/320/35th)

KLMKMoore@sbcglobal.net

Alfred: The Quiet History of a World War II Infantryman



From the scrapbook of Robert Phillips (D/320/35): Alfred Andres [sic] and Louis Gogal in Munster, Germany, 1945 after the war.



"Griffiths" stacks Alfred Endres's arms with K-Rations in front of a muddy trailer in Pettencourt, France, fall of 1944. (D Company of the 1st Battalion of the 320th Regiment of the 35th Division)

Front row right is Alfred N. Endres (D/320/35). Second soldier in top row is Earl Lynch. Other names may include Mitchell, Horn, and Nelson. The photo was taken in the Vosges Mountains in January 1945 after the Battle of the Bulge.



According to Robert Phillips (D/320/35), Louis Gogal is on the right side of this foxhole. It is likely the soldier on the left side is Alfred N. Endres. The photo was "grabbed" from a National Archive video called "MUD" from www.wwiireels.com. It was taken during the excessive rains in the Greamecy Forest during the fall of 1944.



Alfred N. Endres (center) with Ben Lane on the right, Vosges Mountains, January 1945. William Notley's daughter believes her father is on the left.

BOOK REVIEW

by COL Roger T. Aeschliman, 35th Division (Retired)

Alfred: The Quiet History of a World War II Infantryman

By Louise Endres Moore
Henschel Haus Books

361 pages

Retail price: \$19.95

ISBN: 978159598-710-5

E-ISBN: 978159598-732-7

Audio book: 978159598-733-4

www.AlfredtheBook.com

Also Amazon.com

Many warriors who saw the worst of World War II came home to resume quiet, peaceful lives. Alfred Endres was one of those who tried to leave the horrors behind, and as a result, left his family and friends

with little knowledge of what he had seen and done. From occasional cracks in his armor of silence, his daughter pieced together the amazing history of a common man who suffered, endured, and survived to say – in his own way – war is a terrible thing.

Alfred was a simple farm boy from Wisconsin. He grew up speaking German and until the end of his days could not pronounce "th" so them and those came out like "dem" and "dose." Following induction into the Army he bounced around the country training and retraining, never settling into large deployable unit. Upon his arrival in Europe he was assigned to the 35th Division and fought with the

320th Regiment from beginning to end, surviving the bocage, St. Lo, Mortain, the drive across France, the Battle of the Bulge and then final months of the war in northern Germany, finishing at the Elbe River. Very few front-line troops survived the 400% casualty rate of the 35th Division's infantry companies. Alfred was one of the lucky ones.

The book takes us with the Division as it fights across Europe and exposes us to the major battles and why they were important. As we go, we learn more and more about the quiet and gentle Alfred, his close friends and his losses. We also get to hear the voice of his daughter, Louise Endres Moore, who began her research completely ignorant of military organizations, combat operations and even lacking much historical knowledge of World War II. With her unending thirst to understand the few short sentences uttered by her father about the war, she read,

researched, contacted other veterans of the 35th Division and asked experts for information and opinions.

This book is the result. Along the way Louise uncovered a mystery. She assumed her father to be with the 35th Division from the beginning. But he also mentioned one cryptic time that he landed on Omaha Beach at D-Day Plus 1, when artillery was dropping, machine guns were racking the sand and bodies bobbed in the waves. But the 35th Division didn't land at Omaha until a month later. Was Alfred confused in his old age? Louise offers an answer.

If you are a 35th Division family member with a quiet Alfred in your life, and you have always wondered what the war was like, or just need an introduction to WWII and the 35th Division, I cannot think of a better book for you. Weeping in reverence and gratitude, you'll be touched by Alfred's simple