



Santa Fe Express

"DIVISIONNAIRE"



The 35th Divisionnaire USPS 700-160

35th INFANTRY DIVISION

www.35thInfDivAssoc.com

JANUARY-FEBRUARY-MARCH 2021

NUMBER ONE

Message from Commanding General Blaylock

Welcome to 2021! For the time being, it looks much like 2020, but we plan and train for a better future! The 35th ID has continued to train in spite of COVID-19. We have our sights set clearly on our next command post exercise (CPX) known as CPX 2. The unit has been provided access to brand new barracks to allow most Soldiers to stay right behind our current armory. This is a definite benefit to the Soldiers and to the unit as a whole. Our new armory construction seems to be picking up speed. While we haven't moved in as early as we had expected, it looks like we will have access sometime this spring. This will be a great and fitting new home for the 35th! I have had the pleasure to walk through and look at the construction. It really is coming along well.

Concerning COVID-19, we have found ways to work around the virus. We continue to train by implementing as many safeguards as possible. Soldiers wear masks, we maintain distance as much as possible, and regularly clean our areas. During exercises, we limit Soldiers moving between command posts and work to keep shifts separated as much as possible. The virus has definitely stretched us, but it has also forced us to use our command systems to better maintain distance and protect each other. As we make plans for our upcoming War Fighter Exercises (WFX) in June, we are hopeful we can all get vaccinated to better mitigate risk of infection. Short of that, we will continue the prac-



tices we are implementing now.

The 35th is working with our newly aligned brigades, part of the Aligned for Training (AFT) initiative, to identify best practices for us to train together. We are working to provide input to Unit Training Briefs while working with the state headquarters of each brigade. This summer, we plan to have cells at two of our brigades to build relationships and provide support during their Combat Training Center (CTC) rotations at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) and the National Training Center (NTC).

Unfortunately, we aren't training with our AFT units for our WFX. Instead, we have different brigades from as far west as Hawaii and as far east as New Jersey participating in the WFX. Units for the exercise are coming from Hawaii, New Jersey, Wisconsin, Oregon, Maryland, Utah, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Indiana, Kentucky, and Pennsylvania. We seem to have the majority of the country covered!

By the next edition, we should be complete with CPX 3 and preparing for the actual WFX. The 35th is going through exciting times as we train to fight and win on any battlefield.

Win the Day! Santa Fe!
MG Will Blaylock

President's Message

Happy New Year's! I hope that you and your family have enjoyed the holidays as much as Jennifer and I did. 2020 is finally over, and it is time to start the new year off on the right track.

It is time to set goals. It is time to plan for the future. And it is time to take action towards becoming the best version of yourself. In my opinion, one of the most important steps you can take to start the New Year off right is by keeping yourself active. You can do this in a safe manner by volunteering to be on the Association's Executive Council or assisting with recruiting corporate sponsorship, membership, or serving on committees to support the annual association meeting. Please contact COL (R) Geoff Lanning, association's executive director, or myself if you have any interest in providing your time to promote the association, 35divassn@gmail.com.

I send my appreciation to the executive council that attended the virtual meeting on Saturday January 23, 2021. The details of this meeting are forthcoming in the near future, but I congratulate LTC (R) Ron Boyer on his selection and confirmation as he assumes the role as the association President and COL Paul Waters on his selection and confirmation as he assumes the role the 3rd Vice President for the association. I have served with both for many years at the Division Headquarters and know their passion and energy for our charter to foster and promote the memories. I look forward to working with both of them and the executive Council in the years to come.

I also want to thank COL (R) Geoff Lanning, association's executive director, and COL (R) Robert. Bloomquist, association's treasurer, for their continued efforts with the association and the mentorship that they provided me during my military career and as your Association President.

Please keep all of our Soldiers in your prayers and please adhere to CDC guidelines during these challenging times.

"Win the Day, Santa Fe!"

Anthony V. Mohatt

Past Association President



Anthony V. Mohatt and family

This edition of the Santa Fe Express is courtesy of the

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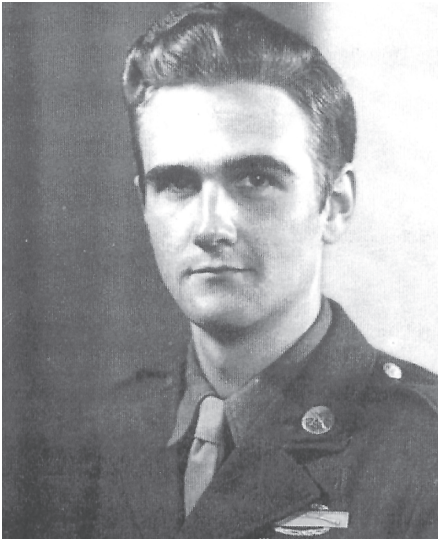
Three Selected for 35th Division Hall of Fame in 2021

PFC Keith N. Bullock (WW II-137th Inf), MAJ Norman C. Carey (WW II-320th Inf), and 2d Lt John H. Fling (WW I-138th Inf) were selected for induction into the 35th Division Hall of fame in an e-mail ballot conducted in December, 2020. The selection was done by a 12-member committee appointed by BG Anthony Mohatt, 35th Div Assn. president. Members of the committee were Ed Gerhardt (Chairman), BG Anthony Mohatt, Victoria Frisenda, COL Ron Boyer, Cal Warrem, Roberta Russo, Mike Venn, Carl Bush, Marilyn Smith, Geoff Lanning, Paula Baker, and Marilyn Jensen. They will be inducted on Sept. 11, 2021, during the Annual Conference at the Kansas City Airport Hilton, along with the three 2020 selectees: MAJ William Denny (WW II-134th Inf), CPT Otto L. H. Hine (WW I-139th Inf), and TSgt Clarence "Click" Kemper (WW II-137th Inf).



Major Norman C. Carey
1918-2008

MAJ Norman C. Carey, an Ohio native, commanded Co A, 320th Inf, from Dec. of 1944 until the end of WW II. He was awarded his first Silver Star for gallantry in action at Reinheim, Germany, during the Battle of the Bulge, and his second Silver Star a short time later for heroism during a battle at Oubourcy, Belgium when his company captured an entire German battalion. He remained in the Army Reserve at the end of WW II, reaching the rank of Major. An attorney for the rest of his life, he served as president of the 35th Div Assn. in 2002, was active in many community organizations, and was inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame. He died in 2008 and was buried in Springfield, Ohio.



Private First Class Keith N. Bullock
1925-2009

PFC Keith N. Bullock, Hqs Co, 137th Inf Regt, served in front line combat with the 35th Inf Div for 264 days and 1600 combat miles during WW II. He saw action from St. Lo, France to the push into Germany as a Forward Scout in the 137th Inf Regt S-2 Section, constantly patrolling, calling in mortar and artillery fire, and providing information on German Army activities. He was awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Good Conduct Medal, and others. After the war in was active in the 35th Div Assn until his death in 2009, serving as president in 1998. He was also the leader of the 137th Inf Regimental Assn until his death, organizing reunions and ensuring that the 137th Inf Regt heroes were not forgotten.



Second Lieutenant John H. Fling
1892 - 1972

2d Lt John H. Fling, Co I, 138th Infantry, received the Distinguished Service Cross for his leadership under fire and while wounded during the battle of the Meuse-Argonne at Cheppy, France, on Sept. 26-27, 1918. As the unit's First Sergeant, he took over when the company commander was killed, withdrew and reorganized the unit, and then advanced it over a gassed area, even though he couldn't wear a mask because of his wounds. Commissioned a 2d Lt after WW I action ended, he also received the French Croix De Guerre, the Purple Heart, and the WW I Victory Medal for action at the Meuse-Argonne, St. Mihiel, and Defensive Sector. A Kansas City business owner after the war, he died in 1972.

Comments from Executive Secretary

35th Division Assoc Conference and Hall of Fame Ceremony
We are still planning on conducting the 2021 Conference on 10-12 September 2021 at the Airport Hilton Hotel at MCI. The event will include the general membership meeting, the Hall of Fame Induction for the 2020 and 2021 selections and the 35th Division Dining Out.

35th Division Association Executive Committee Meeting
We conducted a virtual executive committee meeting on 23 January 2021. The committee approved LTC(R) Ron Boyer as the new president and the selection of COL Paul Waters as the third vice president. On behalf of the 35th Division Association, I extend our thanks to BG Mohatt for his service as Association President during his challenging period as President.

COL(R) Geoffrey Lanning
Executive Secretary

Donor Appreciation Oct 2020 - JAN 2021

All donations are appreciated. Unless asked not to, we will publish your gift as our way of thanking you. If we missed your name or did not send you a receipt, please let us know. You can contact the 35th Association by email, 35divassn@gmail.com or treasurer bbloom843@aol.com.

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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.

Srebrenica, then and now: 25th anniversary of massacre

By Thomas Arnhold

Mention 9/11 and almost every American will immediately know what you are talking about.

In the Balkans, and particularly in Bosnia, the name Srebrenica is instantly recognizable. The 25th anniversary of the Srebrenica massacre was recently observed. Beginning July 11, 1995, approximately 8,000 Bosniak (Predominantly Muslim) men and boys were murdered there. Srebrenica is a town of about 15,000 located in the easternmost part of Republika Srpska, an entity of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is a small mountain town, with its main industry being salt mining and a nearby spa.

During the Bosnian War, Bosnian Serb forces targeted Srebrenica in a campaign to seize control of a block of territory in eastern Bosnia and Herzegovina. Their eventual goal was to annex this territory to the adjacent republic of Serbia. To do so, they believed, required the expulsion of the territory’s Bosniak inhabitants, who opposed annexation.

From late 1992 to January 1993, Bosniak forces under the command of Naser Orić launched military incursions into Serb villages around Srebrenica that were held under Serb control. These operations resulted in the murders of Serb civilians as well as soldiers, though the number of casualties has been subjects of controversy. From the Serbian perspective, these casualties are sometimes presented as the motivation behind the Srebrenica massacre due to a desire for revenge.

In April 1993, the United Nations (UN) had declared the besieged enclave of Srebrenica—in the Drina Valley of north-eastern Bosnia—a “safe area” under UN protection.

In March 1995 Radovan Karadžić, president of the self-declared autonomous Republika Srpska (Bosnian Serb Republic), directed his military forces to “create an unbearable situation of total insecurity with no hope of further survival or life for the inhabitants of Srebrenica.” By May a cordon of Bosnian Serb soldiers had imposed an embargo on food and other supplies that provoked most of the town’s Bosniak fighters to flee the area.

On July 6, 1995, with Bosnian Serb forces advanced on Srebrenica from the south and burning Bosniak homes along the way. Amid chaos and terror, thousands of civilians fled Srebrenica for the nearby village of Potočari, where a contingent of about 200 Dutch U.N. peacekeepers was stationed. Some of the Dutch surrendered, while others withdrew; none fired on the advancing Bosnian Serb forces. On July 11, Bosnian Serb military leader, Ratko Mladić, strolled through Srebrenica and, in a statement recorded on film by a Serb journalist, said, “We give this town to the Serb nation... The time has come to take revenge on the Muslims.”

On July 11, 10,000 men and boys and thousands of women and children were rounded up. The women, children and elderly were bussed to a Bosniak area. Beginning July 12 and lasting until July 16, The



Srebrenica graves



President Bill Clinton greeting 35th ID Troops



Srebrenica coffee cups

Bosnian Serb Army murdered 7,800 men and boys, although the exact number may be much higher. The bodies were buried in mass graves.

In September and October 1995, the Bosnian Serb Army, to hide traces of the Srebrenica crimes used heavy tractors and backhoes to dig up mass graves and moved the disinterred remains to distant sites, many of which were later located by U.S. intelligence experts using satellite photographs. By early 2010 the International Commission on Missing Persons, a non-governmental organization established in 1996, had used DNA samples to identify more than 6,400 individual victims.

The 35th Infantry Division to deployed to Bosnia as a peacekeeping unit, taking command of Stabilization Force 13 (SFOR 13) and Multinational Brigade North, or MNB (N) on March 23, 2003 and remained in command until October 2003. On September 21, 2003, while the 35th was in command, former President Bill Clinton hon-

ored the dead and condemned the “genocidal madness” that ravaged this tiny hill town. SFOR 13 provided security for the ceremony.

Widows at the 2003 ceremony, which officially opened a museum and cemetery, were not entirely pleased to see Mr. Clinton, who became committed to ending the Bosnian war only after it had waged for nearly four years and after the outbreak of “ethnic cleansing” here.

So far, 47 people have been sentenced by the Hague Tribunal and courts in the former Yugoslavia to more than 700 years in prison, plus four life sentences, for Srebrenica-related crimes, including a genocide conviction for former Bosnian Serb political leader Radovan Karadzic. Former Bosnian Serb military chief Ratko Mladic is currently appealing against his life sentence for the Srebrenica genocide and other crimes. Appeals hearings in his case have been postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic, however.

No convictions for Srebrenica crimes have been handed down in the past 12 months, but five more Srebrenica-related trials are underway at the Bosnian state court. Despite survivors’ testimonies, official documents and Hague Tribunal verdicts stating that three Bosnian Serb military police units were involved in capturing Bosniaks from Srebrenica and escorting them to mass execution sites, their commanders have never been charged.

The Bosnian prosecutor’s office is currently investigating 17 Srebrenica-related cases with a total of 67 suspects.

On July 10 of this year, volunteers poured strong Bosnian coffee into more than 8,000 small porcelain cups called *fildžani*. The cups honor the men and boys who were murdered at Srebrenica. A ceremony commemorating this horrible event was held, but was muted because of the Covid19 pandemic. The survivors still grieve the loss of their loved ones, 25 years later.

National Native Americans Memorial Dedicated

Submitted by Paula Evans Baker
The long-awaited National Native Americans Memorial was dedicated in Washington DC on Veteran’s Day in November, 2020.

For the first time, a national memorial recognizes the enduring and distinguished service Native Americans have given the United States for more than 200 years. Indigenous people have participated in every branch of the United States military since the American Revolution.

The memorial stands in front of the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of the American Indian on the Mall in the nation’s capitol.

The interactive sculpture is a stainless-steel circle balanced on an intricately carved steel drum. The design incorporates water for sacred ceremonies, benches for gathering and reflection and four-foot lances where veterans, tribal leaders and others may attach fabric for prayers and healing. It is open for free 24 hours a day. Tours are available through the internet.

According to the 2010 Census, there were 150,000 veterans identified as American Indian and Alaska and Hawaii Natives. The USO reports that Native Americans serve in the US Military at five times the national average.

The memorial was the unanimous choice of judges who viewed more than 120 submissions. The designer was Harvey Pratt, a Vietnam War veteran and internationally known Cheyenne and Arapaho artist based in Guthrie, Okla. Pratt was a forensic artist for the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation after a more than 50-year career in law enforcement.

Pratt recruited his wife Gina and his son Nathan for input on his project. He also had advice from Hans and Torrey Butzer who designed the Oklahoma City National Memorial.

COVID-19 concerns usurped lavish coverage of Veterans Day programs and the ceremonies themselves.

Here in Oklahoma where I live, indigenous news is always important news. Eligible persons are not required to live on reservation land. (Tribes define their own membership eligibility.) Reservation lines are still denoted on maps and are of tremendous legal and financial importance.

Every patriotic event has at least one tribal color guard. Pow-wow entries are always led by the warriors, both male and female. I recently toured the museum of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation in Shawnee Okla. They are a branch of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation of Mayetta, Kans. A large assembly room in the Shawnee museum is ringed with showcases of uniforms worn by Potawatomis who fought for the United States.

Many Oklahomans have Native American blood although their ancestors may not have filed for headrights. My late husband, Vietnam veteran Bill Baker, MD., was descended from a 100 per cent Cherokee in North Carolina who fought in the American Revolution. My Cherokee ancestors did not join my pioneering ancestors until 50 years later. I do not know what they did in long-ago wars. But I attended Sequoyah Grade School. I learned what the United States’ indigenous people contributed to United States history. I am delighted that their service is recognized on a national level.



Uniform in Museum



Museum of American Indian

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 2021

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For 35th Division Wall? _____ Yes _____ No

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



For Which Unit Area? _____

(All Who Donate or Purchase Bricks Receive a 2021 Museum Coin)

International Liaison Committee

October 7, 2020
and January 7, 2021

Our support groups in France are moving back in action slowly and carefully. They are obeying the varied demands of ongoing quarantine.

The “Santa Fe Normandie” group had ceremonies July 17 at Mesnil- Rouxelin, July 18 at Saint -Lo, and August 1 at Torigny-sur-Vire. At the latter site they emphasized remembrances of the 110th Medical Corps for its valiant performance. The 110th medics aided some 20 civilian refugees wounded at a farm. They were hit by a German shell. Twenty-four people were killed.

On September 27, the group decorated graves at the Saint James Cemetery in Brittany. They were unable to decorate the graves at Colleville-sur-Mer in Normandy because of quarantine constraints.

The ceremony at Saint-Lo was especially heartening to the “Normandie” group. The 35th Division first saw battle at nearby LaMeauffe and association members live in that area.

Correspondent and president Jean-Francois Percy made a new contact with an American tied to the 35th Division. A dog wearing a coat with American and 35th Division insignia caught Percy’s eye. Then he met the dog’s owner, Patrick Shannon. Shannon lives in Belgium and is researching his Uncle Clem and the action on Hill 122. Lt.

Clement C. McGuire was from Wisner, Nebraska and served with the HQ 1st Battalion, 134th Infantry Regiment. He earned two bronze stars, the first at the strategic crossroads of Saint Lo, and the other during the Battle of the Bulge. He was recently honored with a memorial plaque at the Monument to the 35th Division at Lutrebois. Patrick Shannon and his dog, Buddy the Liberty Dog, live in Kraainem Belgium. Patrick obtained a grant from the U.S. Embassy Brussels to provide funds to pay for Belgian schools to visit Bastogne and its museums. He works for Federal Express Europe, and is a new member of the 35th Division Association.

Shannon acquainted Percy with the website provided by Roberta Russo, www.coulthart.com/134/index.htm. It is a gold mine of information about the 35th Infantry Division, containing history books, members information, day reports and newspaper articles.

In return, Percy shared information provided by 1st Lt Floris M. “Dick” Garner to Andree and Maurice Chan. Garner and family members visited France several times. The Chans collected information about battle sites from returning veterans. Andree Chan was instrumental in promoting the addition of the 35th Division insignia to the memorial wall in Saint-Lo.

The “Santa Fe Normandie” association will have its annual general assembly (required by French law) on November 7. That date will mark the 10th anniversary of six members of the group receiving the Order of Saint Maurice (civis) for their service to the United States infantry.

In eastern France, the Lorraine museum for WWII reopened June 6. It was to remain open on Saturdays and some Sundays until the end of October because of the late opening in the spring.

Quarantine placed strict control over the number of entrants into the museum created by the association of l’Espace de Memoire de Lorraine 1939-45. Nevertheless, the museum stayed busy all summer with viewers. They waited their turns in chairs placed outside the building in the large front yard. New items were added to the museum throughout the summer.

Ceremonies for the Liberation of Nancy

(September 15) were curtailed but carried on in limited ways.

Association members stood under umbrellas in the rain October 2 for the funeral service celebrating long-time member Paul Richard. Aged 80, Richard had suffered from a debilitating illness. He was active in the association until the middle of 2019. After that he kept in touch by telephone, seeking news of activities and friends.

Those who visited museum events would have noticed the man with the gentle smile sitting quietly. Richard was a long-time member of the association. He was a member of the executive committee. His interest and knowledge of military affairs caused him to be selected as a flag bearer for ceremonies.

“Paul had a particularly attractive personality,” remembered Jerome Leclerc, president of the Espace association. “He was an expert in several areas including aviation and jazz. He could identify airplanes by the sound of their motors.” With his passing this Fall, his expertise will be missed by Association members and visitors.

U.S. Veterans Friends – Luxembourg lost one of its Executive Board members this summer with the passing of Henri Schmit. Henri Schmit was born in Pentage, Luxembourg, on November 8, 1945, on the heels of the end of the War in Europe. He grew up seeing the destruction of his country and hearing the stories from the elders of the dif-

ficulties they endured during the war. The duty to remember burned brightly within. He was on the Board of USVF for 20 years, and its Vice President since 2001. In 2015 he received the St. Maurice Award at the Civis Level. He was married and had two daughters, and two grandchildren. His pleasant attitude and duty to remember will be missed by members of the organization and his American friends.

Throughout Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherland, restrictions have cancelled all ceremonies, memorial services and annual meetings including those to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the end of the war. Special services at all overseas cemeteries were cancelled this year. Research and exhibits are planned for the near future. All report it is otherwise “quiet on the home front.”

We draw your attention to the article, “Srebrenica, Then and Now” (elsewhere in this Newsletter). Col (Retired) Thomas Arnhold’s knowledge of international relations during current deployments of the 35th Division adds a special perspective

International Liaison Committee

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

Col. (retired)Thomas Arnhold, 35th Infantry Division, arnholdtom@gmail.com



Close up of Memorial to Col Thomsen



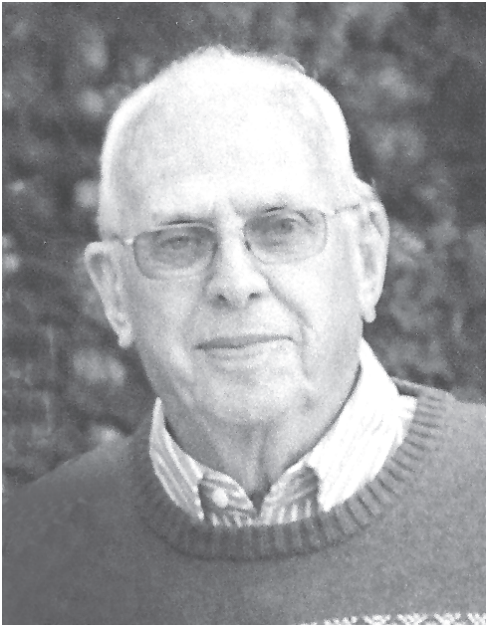
Normandie 35th Div Association members at the memorial to Col Thomsen



Normandie 35th Division Association members at Torigny-sur vire



Normandie 35th Division Association Members at Saint James Cemetery



CSM Robert G. Johnson 1-635th Armor.

Robert G. Johnson, age 90, of Manhattan, died January 7, 2021, at the Good Shepherd Homecare and Hospice House in Manhattan.

He was born June 15, 1930, in Randolph, Kansas, the son of Carl John and Carrie Rosalie (Pultz) Johnson.

On March 18, 1951, in Riley County, Kansas, he was married to Marilyn F. Dettmer.

Mr. Johnson served for more than 40 years in the Kansas National Guard and retired at the rank of Command Sergeant Major.

Bob was a member of the Blue Valley Memorial United Methodist Church, Masonic Lodge # 134 Clay Center, KS, Civil War Reenactment Group, American Legion Post #17, and the Riley County Historical Society.

Bob and Marilyn traveled to Africa many times and loved to watch and photograph wildlife. He had volunteered as a Docent for both the Sunset Zoo and Konza Prairie.

Bob was preceded in death by Marilyn on September 15, 2016. He was also preceded in death by his six siblings: Lois Beckman, Doris Whitaker, Geneva Bergsten, Iona Harris, Carl and James Johnson.

Survivors include his two children: Cynthia A. Kite and her husband Timothy J. of Onaga, KS, and Kent R. Johnson and his wife Lana J. of Maple Hill, KS; four grandchildren: Ashlyn A. Kite-Hartwich and her husband Cody, Martina Beseau Johnson, Timothy Beseau and Tiffany Beseau-Clayton; and five great-grandchildren: Wren and Griffon Hartwich, Jordan Johnson, Zeke and Zane Clayton.

Private family graveside services were held at the Randolph/Fancy Creek Cemetery with Reverend Kevin Larson officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made to either Sunset Zoo, Riley County Historical Society, Kansas Army National Guard Museum or Blue Valley Memorial United Methodist Church. Contributions may be left in care of the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home, 1616 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, KS 66502.

MAJ (R) Craig Stewart

MAJ (R) Craig Allan Stewart, who resided near Charleston, Arkansas, died Saturday, January 9, 2021, at his home.

MAJ (R) Stewart was a member of the 1st Battalion, 127th Field Artillery.

He was born December 11, 1960, in Fort Benning, Georgia, to Earl Joseph Stewart and Shirley May (Hawkins) Stewart. He was 60 years old. He was preceded in death by his father, Earl Joseph Stewart; and a brother, Charles "Chuck" Joseph Stewart.

Craig served in the U.S. Army for four years, and was a retired Major after twenty two years in the Kansas Army National Guard. He worked in sales for Crain Industries in Fort Smith for several years and later on for Experian. He was an avid golfer and bowler. He was a faithful deacon, adult Sunday School teacher, and member of Hosanna Free Will Baptist Church. He loved his fam-

ily very much and he will be missed by everyone who knew him.

A graveside service, with full military honors, will be held at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 13th, at Fort Smith National Cemetery in Fort Smith, Arkansas, under the direction of Brotherton Brothers Funeral Home and Flower Shop in Charleston. Officiating the service will be the Rev. Randy Moore.

He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Kay (Humerickhouse) Stewart; a daughter, Katie Holloway and husband Mark of Charleston; two sons, Matt Stewart and wife Rachel of Charleston, and Erick Stewart of Charleston; his mother, Shirley Stewart of Ottawa, Kansas; a sister, Debbie Jenkins and husband Mark of Waverly, Kansas; a brother, Chris Stewart and wife Amy of Richmond, Kansas; four grandchildren, McKenna, Daeton, Maelee, and Kade.

Donations may be made to Hosanna Free Will Baptist Church, P.O. Box 641 Charleston, AR 72933.

www.brothertonbrothersfuneralhomes.com.

Carol Vonderschmidt

Carol is the wife of COL (R) William Vonderschmidt and the mother of CW2 Allen Vonderschmidt (130th Field Artillery Brigade)

Carol Lee (Springer) Vonder-schmidt, 80, of rural Hiawatha, passed Friday morning, January 8th, 2021 at her home with her family around her. Survivors include her best friend and husband, COL (R) William (Bill) Vonderschmidt of the home. Also surviving are five children: Kevin Knudson of Topeka, Michael (Linda) Knudson of Topeka, Kim (Michal) Lewis of rural Paola, Lea (James) Winter of LeCompton, KS, and Wm. Allen Vonderschmidt of Gardner, KS, 11 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren; sisters: Judy (Ralph) Runnebaum of Manhattan, Sharon Baker of Moscow, Idaho, Bonnie Springer of Westmoreland, KS

Celebration of Life Service was at Northridge Church, 316 Lincoln, Sabetha, KS, on January 12. The family suggests memorial contributions made to the Carol Vonderschmidt Memorial Fund, sent in care of Chapel Oaks Funeral Home 124 S 7th St., Hiawatha 66434.

www.chapeloaksfuneralhome.com

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:

Address of Nominee (if living):

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

Nominee Date of Birth:

Nominator Name:

Nominator Address:

Recipient of : Medal of Honor:

Dist. Svc Cross:

Nominee Date of Death:

Nominator E-Mail:

Nominator Telephone:

☐

☐

Taps



COL (R) Thomas E. Johnson

COL (R) Thomas E. Johnson, age 71 of Basehor, Kansas passed away Tuesday, 8 December 2020. He was born 13 December 1948 in Norfolk, NE to Louis and Eileen Johnson. He married his high school sweetheart, Janet, in 1968 and they celebrated 52 years together. He grew up in a farming community, worked for his father's construction company and in 1976 was selected to become a Firefighter for the Norfolk Fire Division. He served as a professional Firefighter for eight years and loved every minute of the job.

Colonel (Retired) Thomas E. Johnson received his commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in 1976. He served in command assignments from Platoon Leader through Battalion Command. Colonel Johnson mobilized and deployed with the 35th Infantry Division to Bosnia in 2003 and served as the Ground Force Commander for US Forces. He deployed to Iraq from 2006 to 2007 and commanded a Team of Advisors who worked with the Iraqi Security Forces in Northern Iraq. During this deployment he was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Star Medal and Iraqi Campaign Medal. During his career, he was also awarded the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with 6 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with 5 Oak Leaf Clusters plus numerous awards and citations.

After leaving the Army, he worked as a Department of Defense Military Analyst at Ft. Leavenworth, KS. He was active in the Holy Angels Catholic Church and was a past Grand Knight of Columbus Council 3146 and the founding Faithful Navigator of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus Assembly 3629.

He was preceded in death by his parents, sister (Patricia Gilbreath) and brother (Robert Johnson).

Colonel (Retired) Thomas E. Johnson is survived by his wife, Janet, and three daughters; Lynn Robertson, Grimes, IA, Kathi Ingham, Overland Park, KS, and Paula Dunham (husband Matt Dunham), Portland, OR. Seven grandchildren, Christian and Skylar Robertson, Caitlin, Sarah and Landry Ingham, and Emily and Quinton Dunham.

The rosary was prayed at Holy Angels Catholic Church in Basehor, KS on Saturday, 12 December. Mass of Christian Burial followed. Family burial service was at the National Cemetery in Leavenworth, KS.

Memorial contributions to American Cancer Society, 1st Infantry Division Scholarship Fund, or Wreaths Across America.

www.aldenharrington.com



Private William W. McWha

William W. McWha passed away on December 7 2020. He was born in Lynn, Mass. He served as a private in the 137th Infantry Regiment, 35th Infantry Division. He fought with the Division during WW2 in Normandy, Northern France, The Rhineland. The Ardennes and Central Europe. He was awarded the Bronze Star and The Purple Heart with one Oak Leaf Cluster. After WW2 he lived in Enfield, CT for the majority of his life.

Marjorie Bush (wife of CW4 (R) Carl Bush)

Marjorie L. Bush, 82, of Topeka, passed away on Monday, October 26, 2020. She was born January 5, 1938 in Waterville, Kansas, the daughter of Louis and Pauline (Zulauf) Nemechek.

Marjorie graduated from Topeka High School. She was employed by the State of Kansas for many years before retiring. She attended Walnut View Christian Church and was a member of the Order of Eastern Star.

Marjorie married Carl R. Bush on September 15, 1957 at the Third Presbyterian Church in Topeka. He survives. Other survivors include children, Linda D. (Carl) Weaver of Kansas City, Kansas, Richard E. (Tonya) Bush of St. Mary's, Kansas, David S. Bush of Topeka, five grandchildren, Natasha, Joshua, Patrick, Anna and Laura, nine great-grandchildren, Zachary, Alexis, Xavier, Lauren, Christian, Sarah, Jonathan, Julianna and Nathaniel and her sister, Loretta Cagle.

Services were Friday, October 30, 2020 at Dove Southeast Chapel, 2843 SE Minnesota Ave. Burial was in Mount Hope Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be given to the Museum of the Kansas National Guard, 125 SE Airport Dr., Topeka, Kansas 66619 or to the Walnut View Christian Church, 3634 SE 37th St., Topeka, Kansas 66605.

To leave the family a special message go to <https://www.dovetopeka.com/Obituary/190747/Marjorie-Bush/Dove-KS>

Lloyd S. Frey

Lloyd S. Frey, 95, of Woodcrest Villa, Lancaster, and formerly of Manheim, died on Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at the Mennonite Home, due to numerous strokes. Born in West Lampeter Township, he was the son of the late Sylvester A. and Florence Kline Frey. Lloyd was married to Audrey Ackerman Frey. His first wife was the late Ruth Fuhrman Frey; and they were married for 63 years. He was a



faithful member of Lititz Moravian Church, where he served as the head usher and candle maker and served on many committees. For over 45 years, Lloyd worked as the supervisor of building maintenance for Armstrong World Industries. He was a Veteran of the United States Army, 134th Infantry Company C, 35th Division, where he proudly served his country in Europe during World War II and was a participant in the "Battle of the Bulge," receiving two Bronze Service Stars. Lloyd was a lifetime member of both the Hope Fire Engine and Hose Company #1 in Manheim and the American Legion Post 581. For over 40 years, he faithfully served as a member of the Manheim Ambulance Association. He was also a member of the Manheim VFW, Post 5956; Chiques Rock Moose Lodge, Post 307 of Elizabethtown; Manheim His-

torical Society; Keystone Rovers Square Dancing Club and the Travel Timers Camping Club. He enjoyed spending time in the woods, camping, hunting, gardening, eating breakfast out with Armstrong retirees, Romeo at Lititz Moravian Congregation, and attending the Moravian and Woodcrest Villa Men's breakfasts. Lloyd played softball for the Manheim Old Timers League until age 79; he also played baseball as a youth for the town of Smithville and was known as Lloyd "Doc" Frey. In his later years, he participated in the Lancaster Senior Games, winning gold, silver and bronze medals until he was 93 years old. He also served as President of the Woodcrest Villa Woodshop for many years.

Surviving in addition to his wife, Audrey, is a daughter, PeggyLynn Myers-Himmelberger, wife of John Himmelberger of Landisville; two sons, David L. Frey, partner of Athanasia Lambros, of Newton, NJ; Timothy S. Sr., husband of Karen Malachuk Frey, of York; two stepsons, Lester Ackerman, Jr., and spouse, of Charlotte, NC and Todd Ackerman, of Columbia; Eight grandchildren: Eric, Lori, Alison, wife of Ryan Armstrong; Keith, fiancé of Tiffany Patton; Hillary, Casey, husband of Christina; April, wife of Chuck Aurentz and T. Scott, husband of Hali; three step grandchildren: Emilee, Rachel, Christopher; 18 great-grandchildren, a step great-grandson and a great-great-granddaughter. Preceding him in death a son, Alan M. Frey; a stepdaughter, Jeanette Stein Ackerman; two brothers, LeRoy K. and Paul M. Frey, and a sister, Betty Jane Fridinger.

Lloyd's Memorial Service was held at the Buch Funeral Home, 21 Market Square, Manheim, on Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 11:00 AM. Interment was in Lititz Moravian Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent in Lloyd's memory to the Manheim Fire Company at 83 South Main Street, Manheim, PA

17545, The Manheim Historical Society at 210 South Charlotte Street, P. O. Box 396, Manheim, PA 17545 or the Benevolent Fund, C/O Kim Peters, Development Coordinator, Mennonite Home Communities, 2001 Harrisburg Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601. To send the family online condolences, please visit, www.BuchFuneral.com.



Deadline for the Next Issue of the Santa Fe Express is 7 April, 2021

Please send your favorite reunion stories
and pictures to share.



Shares history of 1st Battalion

Submitted by Pat Shannon
Brussels / Belgium

Hello Col Lanning,

It was a real honor to be sponsored by Marilyn Bowers Jensen as a member of the 35th Association (Oct-Nov-Dec edition of the Sante Fe Express).

Marilyn's and my paths crossed about a year ago during the commemorations of the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge. Marilyn's father Rex Bower was KIA in the last days of the Battle of the Bulge. My Uncle Clem McGuire was the 1 LT Communications Officer - for the 1st Battalion, 134th Regiment, 35th.

Over the last few years I have been researching combat history of Clem and the 1st Battalion and I have found some interesting stories that might be of interest to the Sante Fe Express.

There are a couple of factors that have helped out my research. The first is that Clem had a camera with him and he saved photos that cover his training days in California to the chateau they stayed in Koblenz, Germany during the occupation. Secondly I reside in Belgium (I work for Fedex Europe) so I have had the opportunity to make a number of visits to Bastogne and Normandy and to see first hand the battlefields, museums and monuments. Thirdly I served in the US Army (101st Air Assault) as a Arabic linguist , 98G radio interceptor so I have a good understanding of signals intelligence - which gave me an appreciation of the task that the Communications Section had in establishing secure communications with the front line troops.

Concerning my Uncle Clement McGuire and the Battle of the Bulge:

Before the War Clem was a telephone wireman in Nebraska (very much in the spirit of a "Wichita Lineman", but from Wisner, NE...). When he joined the 134th in 1941 Clem was assigned to the Communications Section. Clem went into St Lo as a Technical Sergeant and left the Battle of the Bulge as 1st Lt Communications Officer. He served in every battle, received two battlefield commissions (2nd Lt after St. Lo and 1t Lt during the Bulge), and awarded two Bronze Stars (one Oak Leaf Cluster). His Unit was

awarded two Presidential Unit Awards (St. Lo for the 1st BN) and Battle of the Bulge (for the 134th Regiment).

One of Clem's proudest accomplishments was in the Ardennes Campaign (Battle of the Bulge). Clem wrote in a letter that the 1st Battalion was, "the first Infantry to reach elements of the American troops encircled in that Sector". It is important to note that at the height of the Battle of the Bulge the outcome of the war was very much in doubt. In the first days of the Battle the Germans captured an entire US Division, the 106th, and six thousand US soldiers were taken prisoner and led off to the German POW camps. One of those soldiers was Kurt Vonnegut who wrote about his experience as a POW and the bombing of Dresden in his book "SlaughterHouse-Five. Another important fact about Bastogne was that this was the first time that African American soldiers were awarded a Presidential Unit Award (333rd Artillery Battalion). The remnants of the 333rd, which had provided fire support for the 106th, joined up with another Afican American Artillery Battalion (969th) in Bastogne. These batteries provided vital support to the 101st on the perimeter.

The situation was dire, Patton wrote in his diary on January 4th 1945 - "we can still lose this war" . Hitler's gamble to break through the US and British Armies in December 1944 completely caught the Allies flat footed (the Allies thought the Germans were whipped much to their surprise). Hitler had kept the plans limited to only a select group of trusted generals. He also did not use the Enigma encoding machine which the Allies had managed to break and used to their advantage in the Normandy and Falaise gap / Mortain battles. After the first few days of fighting, there were 10,000 US troops (10th Armored, 969th, 333rd and 101st) trapped inside the perimeter of the Bastogne. Thousands of soldiers and civilians were taking shelter in the basements of the city. The 101st medical hospital (326th Airborne Medical Company) which was setup on the perimeter, was shot up and captured by the Germans . The 10th Armored medical aid station, in the center of the town, was bombed Christmas Eve. Amongst those killed in the medical center was a Belgian civilian nurse named Renée

S N 82					HEADQUARTERS 134TH INFANTRY	FROM 1430 30 Dec 44 TO 1830 30 DEC 44
					UNIT	JOURNAL
TIME		SERIAL NO.	TIME DATED	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC. (DAY AND DATE)	DIS-POSITION	
IN	OUT					
1430		71	30 Dec	I&R OP #1 located at 551489.	S,M,G-2	
1432		72	"	1 Co Ohml mortars attached to Regt..	S	
1440		73	"	CO 3d Bn calls in situation. Reports Co E has made contact with them. TD Plat Ldr reports they have knocked out 6 enemy tanks..	S,M	
1445		74	"	Commo reports 1st Bn is now in by wire with 101st Air Borne.	S	
1450		75	"	CO 1st Bn checks on his supplies. Advised that they are on the way. Also advised of the situation of 2d and 3d Bn.	S	
	1500	76	"	CO calls situation report to G/S.	S,G/S	
1515		77	"	Ln-1 reports to OP for overlay of our situation.	S	
1520		78	"	Air again hitting enemy tanks in assembly area.	S	
1525		79	"	CO 3d Oml Op reports to OP. Will coordinate fires with 161 FA..	S	
1535		80	"	CG visits OP to discuss situation..	S	
1548		81	"	Supplies have been delivered to 1st Bn..	S	
1549		82	"	OP #1 reports enemy arty hitting rd fr 574489 to 56995000.	S	
	1550	83	"	60th Engrs ordered to lay mines in front of troops.	S,T	
	1555	84	"	CG lvs OP..	S	
1558		85	"	OP #1 reports 4 columns of smoke coming fr area of air strikes..	S	
1600		86	"	Asst S-3 returns to OP with 4th Armored situation. Also advises that 6th Armored will move into assembly area tonight..		

The snapshot above is of activity in the 134th Regimental Unit Journal gives some sense of what was happening on December 30th, 1944

Lemaire. US Soldiers were billeted in her family's house and when they found out that she was a nursing student they talked her into helping in the medical unit. With the destruction of the main medical unit in town the wounded were piling up in the basements with limited medical staff and supplies. The artillery units had to ration their ammunition. The Nazi advance beyond Bastone had stalled and was being pushed back but Bastogne stuck out as a island of resistance. Hitler was incensed and demanded that all efforts be taken to capture the city.

It was at that moment that the 35th Division approached Bastogne as the point guard alongside the 4th Armored Division. The 4th Armored and 35th opened up a slim corridor (a two lane highway) into the town. This was used to bring out the wounded and to bring in supplies. As the 35th secured the road into Bastogne, the communications team

ran the first wire to the 101s local telephone network through foot deep snow and continual German tank and artillery barrages. The Battalion was "in by wire" on December 30th and the 101st and 10th Armored were now connected into Patton's Third Army.

Getting into Bastogne was just the start of the campaign. The 35th then fought alongside the 101st to repulse the final assault by Hilters SS Panzer Division (Lutrebois was the graveyard of the 7th Panzer Company, 1 SS Division - see book by Tiemann). of close air support when the skies cleared) and then pushing the Germans off of the hills southeast of Bastogne on January 10th - with a massive artillery barrage and the first combat use of POZIT artillery - radar sensing artillery shells that exploded above the German fox holes. The 35th Division was pretty battered by mid Janu-

continued on page 9



Lt Weesner North Platte - Lt Clem McGuire - Lt Murray Missoula MT Clem is wearing US Army Tanker overalls - probably from the 4th or 6th Armored men.



Holberg - Sgt Roy Lamfe - PFC Jim Kearns - PFC J Bole
Note: that PFC Bole is wearing an officer's jacket with epaulettes.



A gang from the Anti Tank Platoon



Clem and " Lt George Worth - the Hungarian who speaks all languages. George Worth was Hungarian Jew. His family fled Europe when the Nazis took over and he ended up in New York City, where he enlisted into the US Army. Lt Worth arrived in Normandy just after the Battle of St. Lo was assigned to A Company, 134th as an Infantryman / Scout. But when the Battalion discovered that he spoke German, Hungarian etc. he was transferred to the HQ 1st BN, where his language skills were used, most likely in radio intercepts, and interrogating prisoners. After the war Mr. Worth continued his sports passion of Fencing and competed at four Olympic Games for the US Olympic team— in 1948, 1952, 1956, and 1960



Staff Sergeants (HQ/1st BN) Walter Wieckhorst and Clyde McGuire "



Cpt Robert Karlovich and T Sgt Ed Gracina (spelling?) from Regmt
Note: Cpt Karlovich is wearing a Sergeants jacket.

" Lt Shade BN Med officer - a real joe "
Clem had a great admiration for the Medics.
Notice the number of telephone lines running into the barn / HQ telephone center.



ary and much of it was relieved and sent south. However the 134th (Combat Team Miltonberger) was assigned to the 6th Armored Division until January 25th to push the Germans back to the Siegfried line.

So to sum up:
the 134th Regiment went into Bastogne with the 4th Armored, fought alongside the 101st , then pushed the Germans back with the 6th Armored Division. No other infantry unit replicated that action.
At the end of the Battle of the Bulge Clem took these photos of the men of the HQ 1st BN. Most of these men had served together since St Lo.

The price of freedom
The price of victory was extremely high. The survival rate of a front line infantryman was only a few weeks. Rex Bower, from Idaho and a father of three young children, was one of those who paid the ultimate price for freedom. Private Bowers was assigned to "C" Company, 134th on January 8th. He was one of 42 new recruits that had been rushed over to fill the depleted US ranks. A few days prior (January 4th) Charlie Company was nearly wiped out when the 134th's assault met head on with the 1st SS Panzer attack on the village of

Luttrebois to the southeast of Bastogne. Of the 120 soldiers that went out that day only 37 returned to the American lines that night (Bergstrom). The new recruits only had two days to integrate with the units when on January 10th, the 134th, along with the 320nd Regiment and elements of the 6th Armored, swept through the woods in the high ground above Luttrebois (map below). After surviving that assault into the German lines, Bowers was promoted to Private First Class (on Jan 15th). On or about that day the 134th was then assigned to the 6th Armored to pursue the retreating German Army.

At the end of the Battle (January 25th), while assaulting through snow covered fields in front of the village of Weiswampach, Luxembourg, Private First Class Bowers was killed alongside one of his officers and nine of his comrades. Pfc Bowers had beat the averages by a few days and was starting his third week in combat.

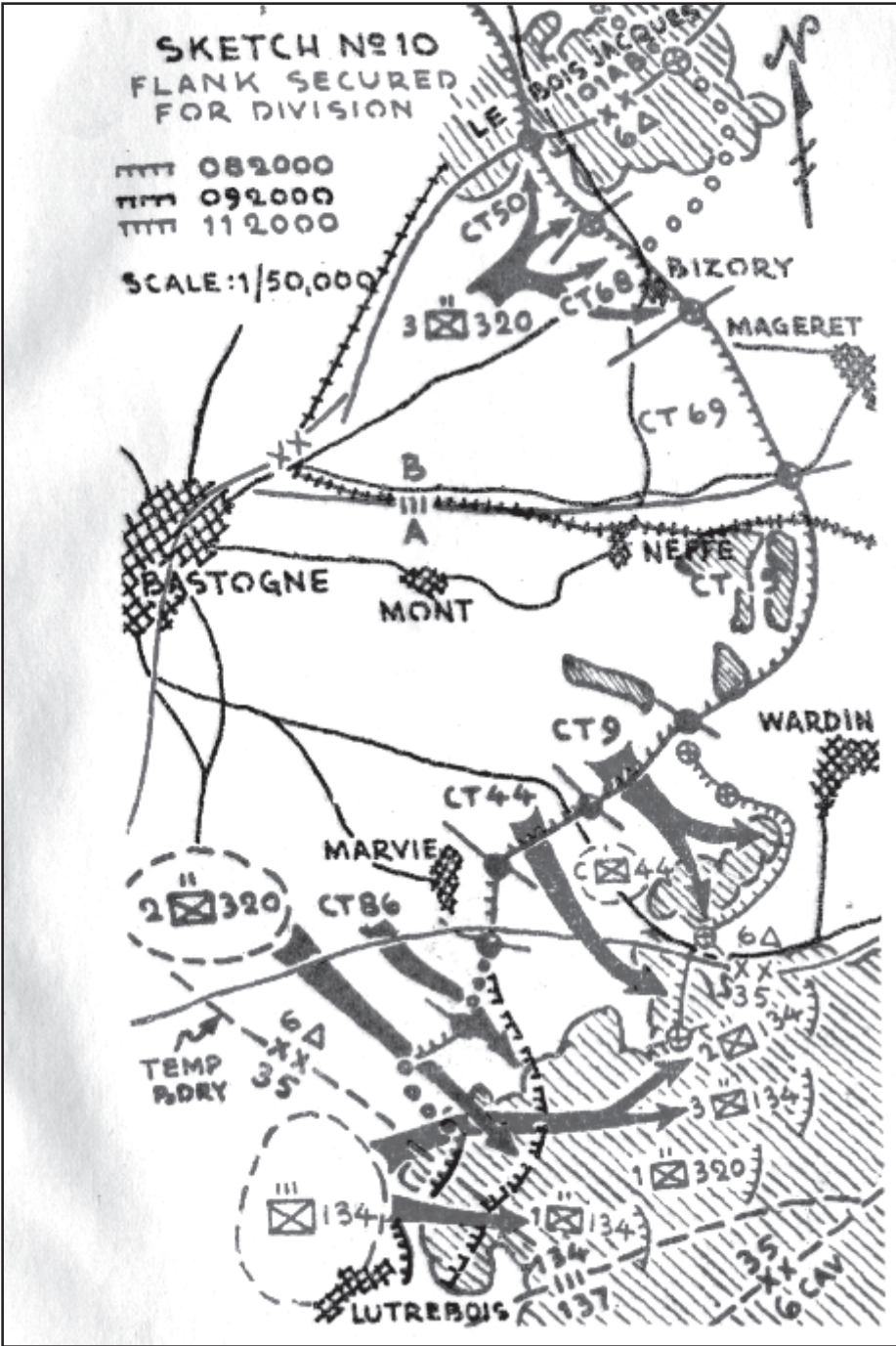
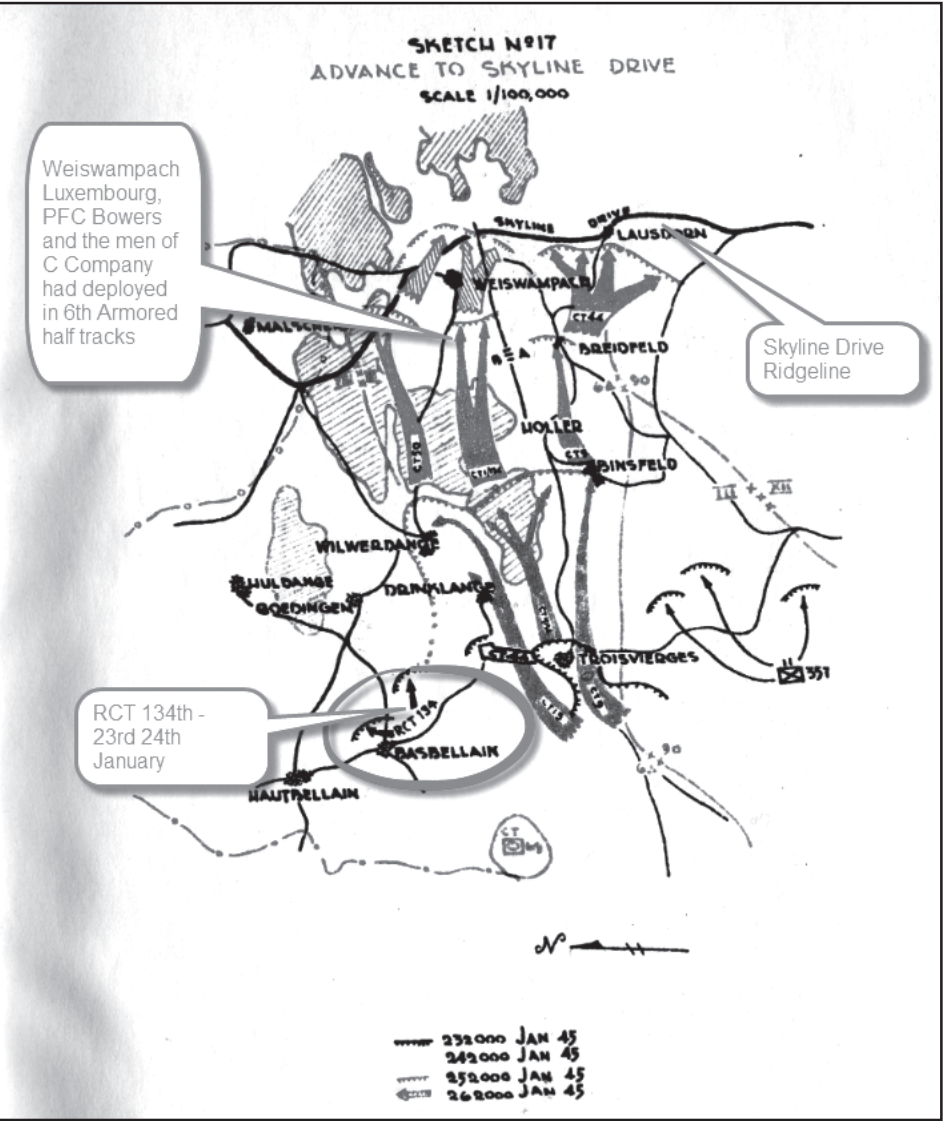
134th vs the SS
With the defeat of the well armed and fanatic SS soldiers the men of the 35th knew that the end of the war was near. The 35th had been fighting the

Germans for six months from St. Lo to the Ardennes and had finally come head to head with the SS Panzers and prevailed. In St Lo they faced determined opposition in the 352nd Infantry Division but the SS were not able to join the fray because they were held up around Caen by the British (and by Hitler's conviction that Normandy was just a fake and the real invasion was going to happen further north at Calais). In Mortain the 1st BNs,134th motor pool was shot up by SS Panzer tanks. They survived that surprise attack and helped stop the Germans to form the Falaise gap, but the blood had been drawn. It was in the snow swept fields of the Ardennes that the 134th, with highly effective coordinated communications with artillery and air support, destroyed columns of SS Panzer tanks. Hilters elite and much feared bodyguard (Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler ""LAH SS"" - please see link below) were withdrawn from the field. The regular German Army (Wehrmacht) were left behind to protect the retreat of the

broken and defeated SS Aryan Supermen. The war was over...

On January 20th after a "regular North Dakota blizzard" (Super6th link p. 185) and a short pause in the fighting, Clem was able to write a letter to his family. My mother, who was editing a family newsletter that was sent to her eight brothers serving all over the world, was surprised by what Clem had written. In my Mother's letter dated February 10th, 1945, she wrote " In the letter from Clem, dated January 20th, he said that the war news had taken a definite turn for the better and quote "maybe your next letter will say "I'm sure glad that the war is over"" . I only wish that could be true ! "

It would take another three months until the suicide of Adolph Hitler and the unconditional surrender of the Germany Army that the war would finally come to end.





The 1st Battalion HQ were big fans of the new FM radios as well , when needed... (Clem on the left - somewhere in France, after St. Lo).

On VE Day there were a lot of celebrations but there were also many tears. My Mother who was working in a bomb making plant in Nebraska, wrote to her brothers: On VE Day, "They closed the schools, all of the stores and most of the churches had services in the afternoon... Father Neuburger conducted a wonderful sermon. A share of the people sat there and cried (me among them) and after it was all over I felt like I had been to a funeral instead of a service for Peace."

The role of communications

Running through this whole story is the importance of communications to the front line troops. Secure telephone wires allowed the Battalion HQ to coordinate the actions of the Infantry companies, call in artillery (from regiment, division or corps) or get close air support. Both sides, the Allies as well as the Axis, overestimated their opponents radio direction finding capabilities. It was commonly held belief that if you talked on the radio you were inviting an artillery barrage - so the fighting units preferred secure telephone communications. The early FM radios that came into use in WW2 had limited capabilities in towns and over hills. Additionally because you were talking in the "open" on radios anyone could pick up your conversation. Radio messages had to be short and cryptic. Talk-

ing on the telephones was a completely different story. You could express yourself much easier and scream and curse to get your point across without giving away the gravity of your situation to the enemy.

The importance of the communications network to a battalion commander was described very well by Major John Glover in his book "The Clay Pigeons of St. Lo" .

The communications system.... was wonderful. Any man in the outfit who could get to a phone or a radio could call for any kind of support he might want. He could adjust both artillery and mortar fire, through company and battalion, or he could report the presence of an enemy patrol. Every platoon and every outpost had a soundpower phone with field wire leading back to their company command post; from there the channel went up the line. Communications was infinitely better as long as the wire stayed in... the biggest advantage of this network was in the artillery and mortar work... This network of communications enabled three men to keep accurate, minute-by-minute track of all that was going on over the entire front, covered by nearly 600 men. From this one spot they could direct the lives of all of those men, actors in the most thrilling and awful drama of all time.

As a side note...Major Jones was the 1st Battalion Commander, 115th Regiment, 29th Division (he took over command of the 1st Battalion after the 29th was about halfway to St. Lo). His book, in my opinion, dismissed entirely the efforts of the 35th in general and the 134th in particular in the capture of Hill 122. But that is a whole other story...

To give an idea of the importance that the wired communications played in the Battle of Hill 122 St. Lo, the first

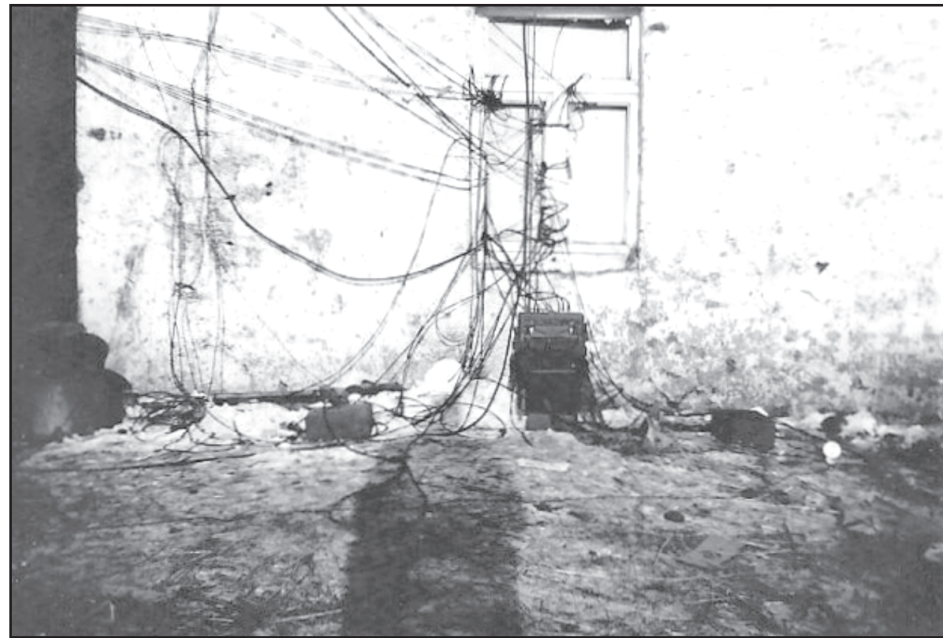
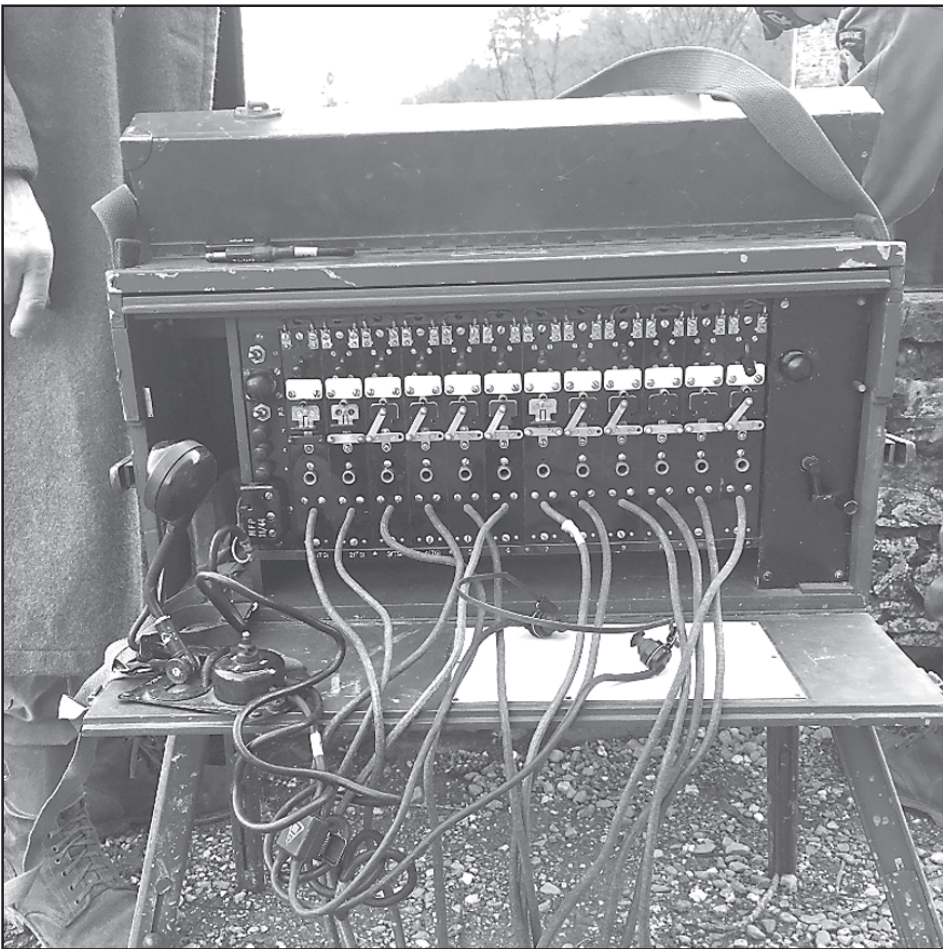
Silver Star (posthumously given) was to Pfc George Meyers, Bravo Company 134th. Pfc Meyers was " a company runner and volunteered to repair battalion communication wire...without regard to his own personal safety". In fact ten of the twenty-two awards given under this first General Order (the first after Hill 122) were given to communications related actions.

It is probably not too much to say that the battalion telephone exchange was one of the most effective (and least appreciated) tools in the arsenal of the US Army in WW2. It brought together infantry artillery, and airpower into a cohesive whole that annihilated the Axis

forces.

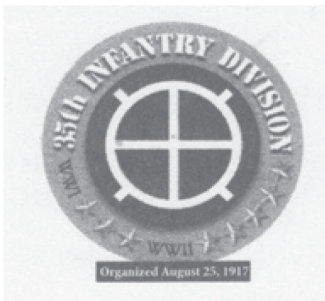
It is interesting to note that the Oct-Nov-Dec edition of the Sante Fe Express - Message from Commanding General Blaylock - mentions that the soldiers in "in our headquarters are testing our ability to communicate via satellite systems and the "old school" FM systems. We must be ready to operate in a digitally contested environment."

The times and technology have changed but the basic need for secure communications has not diminished. If anything it probably has increased, as we face a global battlefield and scattered, siloed fighting elements.



The lines running into a switchboard.





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(First) (MI) (Last)

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