



# *Santa Fe Express* "DIVISIONNAIRE"



35th INFANTRY DIVISION

www.35DivAssn.org

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OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2024

NUMBER THREE

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## Message from Incoming Association President COL (R) Geoffrey S. Lanning

I am honored and humbled to serve as this year's Association President and look forward to continuing COL (R) Water's hard work in reinvigorating the Association. I am a proud former member of the 35<sup>th</sup> Division. Forty years ago, I was one of the original members of the staff that reactivated the Division Headquarters after a twenty-one-year absence from the force structure. I served as the Deputy G3, Commanded 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 635<sup>th</sup> Armor and served as the Division G3. I participated in three Warfighter Exercises, multiple combined arms exercises and training events. In all these actions, I had the honor to work beside the dedicated and professional officers and soldiers of the "Santa Fe" Division.

Forty years ago, we began the battle hand off from the "Greatest Generation" to their Progeny. We are now in the process of passing on the history and traditions of the 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division to the next generation. We must remember that the Division is creating new laurels as they have completed multiple deployments in pursuit of the interests of the United States. We appreciate the support provided to the Association by MG Rueger and the Division Staff.

The Association's mission is to serve all members of the Association and preserve the history and traditions of our Division. While doing this, we continue to enjoy the camaraderie of old comrades and meeting new ones from serving soldiers. We face the challenge of harnessing so-



cial media to assist in recruiting younger members to the Association and make it relevant to them through our activities. I ask all members of the Association to rise to the occasion and preserve our heritage for another one hundred years. "SANTA FE"

## Message from Outgoing President COL (R) Paul A. Waters

Greetings Fellow Association Members,

I would like to thank each and every one of you for the support over the last year. The recent Hall of Fame induction, Annual Meeting and Joint Dinner with the Division were successful, and fun was had by all. The Hall of Fame Induction, always a somber event, was well attended and led by BG-R Ed Gerhardt, a pillar of the KSARNG and a tireless advocate for both the 35<sup>th</sup> ID Association and the KSARNG Museum.

We have moved the ball down the field on many of our technological initiatives which mean that paying for dues and fund-raising activities like our recent pistol raffle can be done electronically. The pistol raffle went well, and I look forward to next year's offering as we intend to repeat the event again. Much thanks to Vice President COL-R Bruce Becker for this idea.

I would like to specifically thank COL-R Cal Warrem for his sage advice and guidance as the past president, I could not have done the job without him, and I diligently followed the azimuth he provided and continued down the field. I would also like to single out Betty Bloomquist, who manages the joint treasurer duties with her husband COL-R Bob Bloomquist. Keeping the books of our organization is a thankless job! Lastly, I extend my best wishes to my successor, COL-R Geoff Lanning, who I have known for some time from our time together at the Mission Command Training Program.



I know that Geoff will continue to fight the good fight!

I will continue to stay involved as the Past President and have volunteered to take over the Membership Committee; I feel that we have many brothers and sisters out there to bring into the Association and look forward to the effort.

See you on the High Ground!  
COL-R Paul Waters,  
Past President,  
35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division  
Association

## Message from Commanding General Rueger

Members of the Association—  
Greetings from the Soldiers and leaders of the Santa Fe Division! As I sit here and reflect on the summer activities, I am reminded that today is the first day of Fall. It is hard to believe the summer is over and we are racing towards the end of the year.

Your division has been very busy and training very hard over the summer to achieve our readiness objectives. To prepare for our August Command Post Exercise with IID, we designated our June Annual Training to focus on: 1) establishing the command posts at Fort Leavenworth, 2) stand up our new Command Post Computing Environment (CPCE) system, and 3) conduct a communications test between Fort Leavenworth and Fort Riley. We then conducted the August CPX at Fort Riley as our 2nd Annual Training. This was our rehearsal for our Warfighter train-up and it allowed us to set up our systems and conduct division operations, co-located with 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division operating as part of a Corps in our training scenario. This was very valuable to us to see what gaps we may have and where we should focus over the next 12 months.

In August, myself, CSM Istas, and my Aide de Camp MAJ Dice were fortunate enough to attend the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Orleans, France by elements of the Santa Fe Division. This was an amazing series of events, and we were very honored to be in attendance and participated in several ceremonies that commemorated the liberation of Orleans. I want to again personally thank the city of Orleans and others who hosted and supported us throughout our trip. It was an incredible experience that we will never forget. In early September, another delegation led by BG Clay and several Soldiers were able to attend events in Barenton and Saint Georges de Rouelley. We have one more planned set of events in November at Morhange to round out these commemorations.

We are just coming off a great, albeit very busy weekend where the Division Association activities were held at the headquarters building in Fort Leavenworth. We started the day with a national award going to the Bill and Brenda Komma family as they were recognized as the family of the year! This was followed by the activation ceremony for the 35<sup>th</sup> Division Artillery. This was a very important milestone for the division as we now have an organic DIVARTY to mass fires and increase our lethality to prevail on today's battlefield. We then transitioned into the Hall of Fame. I continue to be impressed and humbled by those individuals inducted into the 35 ID Hall of Fame. It was an exceptional ceremony and well attended by the families of the inductees. Finally, we ended the day with an amazing and well attended dining out.

That same weekend we conducted a Readiness Symposium with our aligned brigades, the division staff, and leadership. We brought in two keynote speakers, LTG Beagle, Commanding General of the Combined Arms Center as well as MG Baldwin, the acting Director of the Army National Guard. Both speakers set the stage for the Army of 2040 and where we are going and how that impacts the division going forward.

Thank you for supporting the Division Association and the Santa Fe Division and have a great fall season!

Win the Day — Santa Fe!  
MG John Rueger





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"FOR ALL 35<sup>th</sup> DIVISION - PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE"

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**35th Division Association**  
PO Box 5004  
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913-772-8130

# 35<sup>th</sup> Division Association Executive Committee Annual Reunion Report 6-7 September 2024

This report covers the activities of the annual reunion held in Fort Leavenworth, KS. The business meeting notes were sent to those present for review and edit. Established procedures are to publish in the first “Divisionnaire” after the event and will serve as record of the conference.

There was a consistent theme of optimism, great support from the 35<sup>th</sup> Division Commanding General and his staff and positive momentum of awareness of the added value that the association provides.

**Friday 6 Sep.**  
A van and driver were provided by the 35<sup>th</sup> Division to start the activities with a trip to the Amelia Earhart Hangar Museum in Atchinson, KS. That evening the President’s Reception was hosted by COL (R) Paul Waters in Historic downtown Leavenworth, KS, and it included the Commanding General and Command Sergeant Major of the 35<sup>th</sup> Division, along with retirees, senior staff and association members.

**Saturday 7 Sep.**  
Members Present for the business session were COL (R) Paul Waters, BG (R) Ed Gerhardt, COL (R) Geoffrey Lanning, COL (R) Calvin Warrem, COL(R) Bob Bloomquist and wife Betty, COL(R) Bruce Becker, LTC (R) Doug Jacobs, LTC (R) Ron Boyer, Marilyn Smith (134<sup>th</sup> Regiment), CSM (R) Dale Putman and spouse Judy, and CPT (R) Doug Plummer.

**President’s Report.** (COL (R) Paul Waters)  
COL (R) Waters reported progress in converting paper to digital transactions using the QR code now available on the Association Webpage and encouraged continuing to implement technological improvements. He recommended we reactivate the Membership Committee and volunteered to be the chairman. He will facilitate outreach to former members, to include the Bosnia Deployment Contingent.

He identified a possible replacement for the Secretary /Treasurer for the Association and encouraged them to fill the position. We will send representatives to the Kansas and Missouri NGAUS Conferences to recruit new members. We discussed sending an Association Representative to PFC Coleman’s funeral, a MIA of WW II. (Details are included in Historian report). We will form a committee to plan for the 2027 Conference when the Division Headquarters will be deployed. He proposed we have an Association Open

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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 due yearly. This includes your 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.

house at the 35<sup>th</sup> Division Museum at a future date.

**Executive Secretary’s Report.** (COL(R) Geoff Lanning)  
During the last membership mailing, we sent reminders to members whose dues were not up to date. We purged those who were in arrears from the mailing list as cost savings. In 2027, the Division HQ will be deployed during the conference timeframe. We need to plan for it.

**Treasurers report.** (COL(R) Bob Bloomquist)  
Operating Funds: The financial health of the organization allows for continued business, but not as usual, due to declining donors currently supporting the organization. As of the 30 June 2024 fiscal year for our filing, the operating account was \$21,712, a sufficient balance left in checking and the remainder in a CD. There is a significant downward trend for the past several years. This year’s raffle fundraiser will help; however, the negative trend above would be worse if we returned from three to (4) four papers per year which run about \$1,200 per publish. We continue to capture all donations for publication in the Santa Fe Newspaper and continue to offer categories as an option for members:

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

We continue to use the conference sponsorship donations to fund the awardee, plus guest, the band members, and re-enactors. For the past several years, these donations have not met the expense of this sponsorship.  
All donors are important to us. Unless they choose not to be recognized, we post their names on paper, in the conference program and at the dinner.

The Museum Capital Improvement Fund  
balance was \$102,864.30 at the close of the fiscal tax year and remains healthy, largely due to contributions dedicated to the maintenance of the museum and positive gain on the investment. We have a category of donations to donate specifically to the trust. We maintain a \$5,000 contribution to the museum annually. The account is invested in a conservative to low-risk account to grow while accepting little market risk.

We need to reinstitute requests for grants to assist in financing the association. This has historically been a key fund-raising method part of the Executive Secretary’s duties and must be part of the new hires specified duty.  
**Nominating Committee:**  
The list of Officers and committees is on the second page of the “Santa Fe Divisionnaire” indicating the normal upward progression of the

Presidents and Vice Presidents. There were new nominations for 2d and 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Presidents: CPT (R) Doug Plummer and LTC (R) Doug Jacobs. COL (P) Paul Waters volunteered and was approved to chair a membership committee. The outreach committee chair remains open with more discussion to follow at the next Presidents meeting. With COL (R) Geoff Lanning moving into the Presidents position, COL (R) Bob Bloomquist agreed to return temporarily to the Executive Secretary/Treasurer position until a replacement is found for both these duties.

**Historian’s Report (Roberta Russo)**  
MIA Project  
Pfc William B. Coleman: Burial arrangements are being planned for former MIA, Pfc William B. Coleman, 134th Infantry Regiment, who went missing 1 November 1944 in the Gremecey Forest near Nancy, France. He was initially buried at Luxembourg American Cemetery as Unknown Soldier X-4 before being positively identified using DNA technology. He will be buried at Mobile National Cemetery in his home state of Alabama, date to be determined. More information will be provided once the plans have been finalized.

60th Engineers Combat Battalion MIAs:  
In early June 2023, three Unknown Soldiers (X-6224, X-6225, and X-6226) were exhumed from Lorraine American Military Cemetery in Saint-Avold, France. All evidence indicates that these 3 soldiers were members of the 60th Engineers Combat Battalion. Their remains were initially recovered at Ajoncourt, France, near where several truckloads of landmines exploded, wounding 14 men and killing 33, 14 of whom are still missing. Families of 10 of the missing Engineers have submitted DNA samples and The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) laboratory is in the process of conducting DNA and other forensic tests. Because of the circumstances of their deaths, there is a strong possibility that their remains have been co-mingled, making identification a more difficult and lengthy process. Test results will be shared with the Association as soon as they are available.

There are 42 remaining 35th Infantry Division MIA’s from WWII, 10 from the 134th Infantry Regiment, 9 from the 137th Infantry Regiment, 9 from the 320th Infantry Regiment, and 14 from the 60th Engineers. This is an on-going project to locate our missing that includes reviewing the files of current Unknown Soldiers looking for clues to their identity and contacting the families of the missing to encourage them to submit DNA samples.  
134th Infantry Regiment - 35th Infantry Division Research Center Website - [www.coulthart.com/134](http://www.coulthart.com/134)

When this site was originally launched about 25 years ago, it initially only included information about the 134th Infantry Regiment. Over the years, its scope has expanded to include all WWII 35th Infantry Division

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# Annual Reunion Report–

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units. Historical documents such as Morning Reports, After Action Reports, Unit Journals, unit histories, maps, photographs, General Orders and individual award documents for all units have been added. The website also provides a point of contact for relatives and friends of 35th Infantry veterans seeking information about their service and research assistance.

**International report.**  
Committee Paula Evans Baker, daughter of Pvt. Richard H. Evans, F-134-35, KIA 9/30/4 [paulap5@cox.net](mailto:paulap5@cox.net) ,  
Marilyn Bowers Jensen, daughter of PFC Rex M. Bowers, C-134-35, KIA 01/25/45 [mbowersjensen@msn.com](mailto:mbowersjensen@msn.com)  
and Col. (retired)Thomas Arnhold, 35th Infantry Division, [arnholdtom@gmail.com](mailto:arnholdtom@gmail.com)

The International Committee continues to develop a network of 35th Division friends across Europe. They meet our traveling 35th Division friends and take them to the battlefields, museums, cemeteries, and honor them with receptions and tributes. They provide research for family members whose ancestors served in the 35th Division. Using GPS they locate and document the battlefields. They receive copies of the Santa Fe Express and frequently submit articles for publication. Celebrations of the 80 th Anniversary of D-Day have preoccupied our Europe friends this summer. These international friends have attended many 35th Division reunions in the U.S. and are great source of information for anyone wanting to know about the 35th Division’s past conflicts. Friendships are currently taking place between deployed members of the 35th Division and allied service members who they have met on their many deployments. The Division is a great embassy for goodwill and for spreading the history of the Division in the past, present and future. In summary, the International Committee of the 35 th Division Association is continuing its work. The Committee listens, helps, and shares. It supplies assistance to the Division’s overseas friends when requested. The activities honoring the Division are shared with readers of the Santa Fe Express. Members of the committee help with research, travel tips, and internet introductions to friends who can help them with their pilgrimages.

**Hall of Fame Committee Report.** Although the full report from BG (R) Ed Gerhardt’s minutes are posted in a separate section of the October edition of the “Santa Fe Divisionnaire”, a special recognition and thanks are appropriate here. To BG Gerhardt, for his years of dedication to this very resource intensive project. The Hall of Fame in our museum is a treasure of stories from great heroes from the 35<sup>th</sup> Division. To COL Warrem and his wife Terri for his years of financing and supporting the Hall of Fame reception. This year, with the recent passing of Jim Graff, his daughter, Marilynn Smith, traveled to the Conference and during the Hall of Fame ceremony presented a tribute to this Hall of Fame Inductee and two-time President of the organization. She also presented a generous contribution in his honor from family and friends of this very special WWII Veteran and supporter of the Association.

**Museum Report:** BG (R) Ed Gerhardt’s report for the Kansas National Guard Museum is posted in a separate section of the October edition of the “Santa Fe Divisionnaire”.

**Special Projects:**  
A pistol raffle organized by COL (R) Bruce Becker was successful and generated more than \$2,000.00 for the Association. The winner was drawn at the Dining Out, which was KaLynn Watchous (David) served with HHC 2/635 AR. They live in Topeka. David Watchous served in the Kansas National Guard  
COL (R) Becker also created a “Cheddar up” QR Code and link for easier membership and donation payments. This has already been used by some people.

**Future Conferences:**  
There was positive discussion on the future location in Leavenworth during the 35<sup>th</sup> Division training events due to the amount of visibility to soldiers and cost-effective facilities, as well as fantastic hospitality from the 35<sup>th</sup> Division Staff. In addition to planning next year’s conference, the 2027 President will form a planning committee for the 2027 Conference since the 35<sup>th</sup> Division HQs will not be available. We will conduct an Executive Committee Meeting quarterly at the KSNG Museum.

The meeting was adjourned for lunch with a special thanks to CSM Dale Putman and his wife Judy for providing the Meat and to COL Waters for the sides and tableware.

**Re-enactors Display, Awards and Dining Out**  
The other activities for the reunion will be captured for record in the October 2024 edition of the “Santa Fe Divisionnaire” in separate articles providing pictures and narrative.

COL (R) Geoffrey Lanning  
Executive Secretary, Incoming President

### 35<sup>TH</sup> Division Association

#### 2024 NEW LIFE MEMBERS

CSM Kenneth C Brown  
\*COL (R) Calvin B Warrem  
Michael J Puccio  
\*Mike H Ven (Sponsored by Marilyn Jensen)  
MAJ Michael Sprigg  
(\*Previously Annual Members)

#### 2024 NEW ANNUAL MEMBER

Rachel Grasmick (Sponsored by Roberta Russo)

## Soldier’s Medal Award

Submitted by Tom Arnhold

On July2, 1926, Congress passed legislation establishing the Soldier’s Medal which is awarded to any person of the Armed Forces of the United States or of a friendly foreign nation who, while serving in any capacity with the Army of the United States, distinguished himself or herself by heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy.” (Army Regulation 600-8-22). To date, approximately 18,520 Soldier’s Medals have been awarded, including 32 awarded to members of the 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in World War II.

Several Members of the 35<sup>th</sup> ID received the Soldier’s Medal for their brave acts on November 9, 1944. Soldiers of Company G, 137<sup>th</sup> Infantry regiment set up guide wires across an icy stream with a strong current in France to assist soldiers crossing the stream. Two men crossing the stream lost their grip on the guide wire and were pulled down stream. PVT Peter J. Cimini, PVT Leroy W. Anderson, and PVT Alfred S. Hickelheim plunged into the icy water and rescued the two soldiers that were swept downstream. PVT Cimini was later killed in action.

In another heroic incident, on June 9, 1945, an ammunition train loaded with ammunition for 24-inch howitzers caught fire. PFC William E. White, PVC Edward D. Spencer, SSG Domingo Rodriguez, PFC William Larison, 1LT Robert I. Huey.

CPL Carl McMillen and SFC Enmon Dorsey were awarded to Soldier’s Medal for their quick action on April 16, 1945. A fellow soldier’s clothes were soaked in gasoline when a spark ignited his clothes, and he was engulfed in flames. McMillen and Dorsey rushed from an adjoining room and extinguished the flames by throwing the burning soldier to the floor and rolling him.

Most of the incidents that resulted in a soldier being awarded the Soldier’s Medal in World War II involved water or fire. Crossing swollen rivers and streams with heavy packs and military equipment was difficult at best. Soldiers fording streams could be easily swept away or fall in a “hole” in the river. Those crossing rickety bridges or pontoon bridges could easily lose their balance and fall in. The heavy equipment and wool uniforms made it nearly impossible to survive, if one fell into the stream.

For example, on December 11, 1944, in Germany, a pontoon bridge sagged in the middle from the weight of several heavily laden soldiers. The bridge sagged

*Deadline for the Next Issue of the Santa Fe Express is 15 January 2025*



so much that it went under the water three feet. Several men crossing the river were swept away. 2LT Wayne Gilmore was carrying valuable equipment across the river. After delivering the equipment safely, he plunged into the water and saved three drowning men.

PVT Eddie Connelly received the Soldier’s Medal for his heroism on April 20, 1945. PVT Connelly and several other soldiers were destroying an enemy ammunition dump that was captured, when he and his squad leader were struck with Shrapnel. Although faint with loss of blood, PVT Connelly applied a tourniquet his badly injured squad leader, saving his life.

Although not a member of the 35<sup>th</sup> ID, one of the most famous winners of the Soldier’s Medal was comedian Marty Allen. He earned a Soldier’s Medal while in Italy during World War II for stopping a fire in a plane that was being refueled. He saved the lives of the men boarding the burning plane by driving the fuel truck away, returning on foot to the plane, and then putting out the fire by rolling over the flames with his body in uniform. His actions were later honored with a full-dress parade.

In an infamous and sad event, Hugh Thompson Jr., Lawrence Colburn, and Glenn Andreotta were awarded the Soldier’s Medal for their intervention in the My Lai Massacre (1968), which included threatening to fire on their own comrades if they did not stop the killings.

More recently, SFC David Berry, a Member of the Kansas National Guard, was awarded the Soldier’ Medal for stopping near Wichita and pulling a man from a burning automobile. Law Enforcement started that if SFC Berry had not acted, the man in the burning car would certainly have perished. Sadly, SFC Berry was killed by an explosive device in Iraq on February 22, 2007.

The Soldier’s Medal is just that, a medal for heroic soldiers who commit brave acts in non-combat situations. We can all be proud of those who have been bestowed this award.



# National Guard’s 35th Infantry Division command team remembers, honors 80th anniversary of liberation of Orleans, France

By Lt. Col. Margaret St. Pierre, 35th Infantry Division

The 137th Infantry Regiment of the 35th Infantry Division began their journey from the Mortain sector, making their way towards Le Mans and then advancing south to Orleans, France in the summer of 1944.

They encountered little enemy aircraft activity and managed to proceed southeast without any major interruptions. The convoy moved through various towns and encountered enthusiastic civilians in Le Mans. The city had minimal damage from its recent capture, and the regiment settled in a bivouac area just east of Le Mans for the night.

The following day, the regiment, operating as Task Force S under the command of Brigadier General Sebree, proceeded on its mission to seize Orleans, situated sixty-five miles south of Paris. The journey to Orleans was cautious, with stops made to screen for hostile resistance along the way. They encountered evidence of recent enemy losses, including destroyed equipment and abandoned motor pools. As they continued eastward, the regiment reached Coulmiers, observing fires to the northeast caused by American airmen targeting enemy installations and transportation. Casualties were reported, and patrols were sent out to gather intelligence on the approaching objective, as the enemy still occupied Orleans.

On the morning of August 16th, 1944, the regiment began its advance on Orleans. The 2nd and 3rd battalions encountered some resistance resulting in casualties, particularly at the woods between Coulmiers and Ormes.

Despite these challenges, the 1st and 3rd battalions captured a large enemy machine shop, while the 2nd battalion reached the outskirts of the city and eventually seized the city hall. Although they faced machine gun and artillery fire during the capture, the regiment sustained very few casualties and successfully captured Orleans, taking 42 prisoners.

Eight decades later, members of the 35th Infantry Division, including Major General John Rueger, the current commanding general of the 35th Infantry Division, and his division command sergeant major Rob Istas, had the honor of revisiting the town of Orleans, France, to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the 35th Infantry Division’s successful mission in liberating the town. What makes this trip especially important is that this is the first time the commanding general of the 35th Infantry Division has been back to Orleans since its liberation.

Throughout the trip, the team had the privilege of engaging with the local community, and the command team had the unique opportunity to speak with individuals who were present in Orleans during its liberation 80 years ago.

“The Orleans people are the reason it was important for the command team to be present for the liberation celebration,” said 35th Infantry Division Command Sgt. Maj. Rob Istas. “The residents of Orleans shared their experiences as though it happened yesterday. It was almost overwhelming. Hearing about their experiences was emotional and powerful and left me feeling grateful and humbled.”

“It was surprising to hear stories, see pictures of the past, and feel the gratitude towards the American soldiers for the liberation from the Germans,” continued Istas. “Many people took pictures of us in our uniforms and were emotional over meeting us.”

The team participated in a number of historic-themed events throughout the trip, and celebrated the promotion of Maj. Dustin Dice, aide-de-camp, with the statue of Joan of Arc as the backdrop.

“We were able to immerse ourselves in a vivid and historically accurate military camp reenactment, gaining a deeper experience of Soldiers from the past,” said Dice. We also had the honor of participating in a parade showcasing a remarkable display of World War II-era military vehicles, which added an exciting and captivating element to our visit.”

Dice said one of the truly special and significant experiences of the trip was the division participation in the dedication of a park honoring General Patton, with the distinguished presence of his Granddaughter, Helen Patton.

“This momentous occasion allowed us to pay tribute to a revered figure and gain insights into his lasting legacy,” said Dice.

“One of the moments that sticks out to me was after the parade,” recalled Istas. “The command team was standing watching the people in their period dress, when a small older woman holding a picture walked over with her son. Her son told us that she was 8 years old when the 35th Inf. Div. Soldiers came to Orleans. The picture she was holding



The 35th Infantry Division Commander Maj. Gen. John Rueger, Command Sgt. Maj. Rob Istas, and Aide-de Camp Maj. Dustin Dice take a photo with an Orleans resident in Orleans, France August 16. The command team visited France in honor of the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Orleans, a battle in which the 35th Infantry division was instrumental. The command team’s visit marked the first time a commanding general of the 35th Inf. Div. has visited Orleans since World War II. The woman is holding a photo of herself as an eight-year-old girl, posing with the 35th Infantry Division soldiers who liberated her city on August 16, 1944



35th Infantry Division Command Sgt. Maj. Rob Istas poses in a historic military vehicle during a parade in honor of the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Orleans in Orleans, France August 16. The 35th Infantry division was instrumental in the battle, which took place September 16, 1944. The command team’s August 14-18 marked the first time a commanding general of the 35th Inf. Div. visited Orleans since World War II.

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The 35th Infantry Division commander Maj. Gen. John Rueger, Command Sgt. Maj. Rob Istas, and Aide-de Camp Maj. Dustin Dice, along with several Orleans city officials, pose with a statue of Joan of Arc in Orleans, France August 16.

# Liberation of Orleans, France—

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was of herself with those Soldiers. Her son asked if we’d take a picture with her, and of course we said yes. The expression on this woman’s face and the emotions she displayed while taking a picture with us is one I will never forget.”

Members of the division and the Kansas Army National Guard will send representatives to several more historic battle sites this fall in continued honor and recognition of the legacy of the 35th Infantry Division soldiers who fought and died in World War II, and in support of the organizations and individuals in France who remain active in helping to keep their memory alive.



FRANCE  
ETATS-UNIS

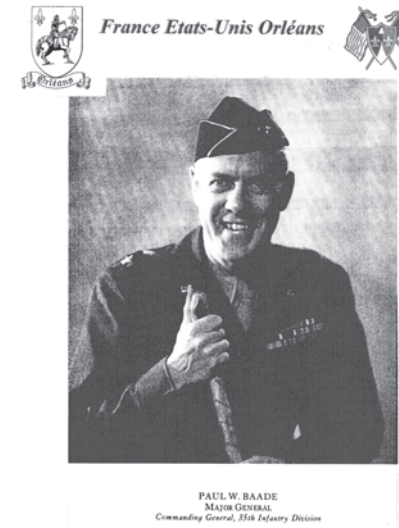
August 26th, 2024

Dear friends,

Here is the Franco-American Ass.  
Newsletter for Orleans members.

M.G. John Rueger's visit to Orleans for  
the 80th Anniversary of the Liberation of  
Orleans by the 35th Infantry Division  
was a great time for us.

Best regards, Claude Rozet



35<sup>th</sup> Division Association  
P O Box 5004, Topeka, KS 66605

## Membership Renewal/Application

### Donor or Order Form (2024)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Rank/Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate if you wish to receive the “Santa Fe” Paper electronically to save postage \_\_\_\_\_  
Organizations of Service with 35<sup>th</sup> Div. (69<sup>th</sup> Bde, 137<sup>th</sup>, 134<sup>th</sup>, 320<sup>th</sup> 161 etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

	Amount Enclosed
Annual Dues/ New Member Annual Dues E4 and below \$25	_____
Annual Dues/New Member Dues E5 and above and Civilians \$40	_____
New Life Membership, for WW II Veterans - \$75	_____
New Life Membership for All Others - \$200	_____
Donation for 35 <sup>th</sup> Div. Assn Operating Expenses	_____
Donation specified for the 35 <sup>th</sup> Museum Operating Expense	_____
Sponsor Edition of “The Santa Fe Express” - \$1000 and up	_____
Hall of Fame Expenses & Reception - \$100 and up	_____
35 <sup>th</sup> Div. Conference Sponsor - \$100 or more	_____
Donation in recognition of _____	_____

- \_\_\_ 35<sup>th</sup> Division Coin \$10.00 (\$12.00 if mailed) \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ 35<sup>th</sup> Division Lapel Pin-- \$5.00 (\$6.00 if mailed): \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ Pin of DIV Patch with 35<sup>th</sup> In Div. written on edge \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ Pin with DIV Patch only \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

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

\*Or use link to pay with Cheddar Up:  
<https://35thdiv-memberships-and-donations-temp-73085.cheddarup.com>





# D-Day’s Legacy Sands

## Omaha Beach Sand Retains Evidence of the Invasion on June 6, 1944

**By Earle F. McBride and M. Dane Picard**  
*(Originally published in EARTH Vol. 56 (No. 6), p. 38, June 2011. All text and image courtesy of © EARTH Magazine; Copyright © 2011, American Geological Institute.)*

**Article submitted by Majorie L. Bullock**  
Before dawn on June 6, 1944, more than 160,000 Allied troops began storming the shores of Normandy, France, in what would be the turning point of World War II. Troops poured out of planes and off ships along an 80-kilometer stretch of coastline. More than 5,000 ships and 13,000 airplanes supported the ground troops. The battles were bloody and brutal, but by day’s end, the Allies had established a beachhead. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower said the operation was a crusade in which “we will accept nothing less than full victory.” Less than a year later, the Germans surrendered, and the Western Front of World War II came to an end.

Omaha Beach – where 35th Division soldiers came ashore on July 7, 1944 – was the code name for one of the five Allied landing points on D-Day. The 8-kilometer-long beach faces the English Channel, and was the largest of the D-Day beaches. Today, the only visible indications of the horrific battles fought at Omaha Beach are some concrete casements above the beach and nearby cemeteries that quietly mark the thousands of lives lost.

If you look a little closer, however, you will see that there is more to the legacy than just the memorials: The sand at Omaha Beach retains remnants of the devastation. A study of the sands revealed bits of shrapnel, and iron and glass beads that have been reworked by the English Channel’s waters over time, a microscopic record of the battle.

**THE BATTLE**  
Capturing Omaha Beach was the objective of U.S. Army forces commanded by Lt. Gen. Omar Nelson Bradley. They numbered 34,250. The U.S. and British Royal Navies provided sea transport. Strategically, this landing was necessary to join American forces at Utah Beach to the west and British forces at Gold Beach to the east.

The Germans were ready for the Normandy invasions. In early June 1944, German forces under the overall command of Field Marshal Erwin Rommel occupied strong points along the northwest coast of France, entrenched in high ground above the beaches of Normandy. At Omaha Beach, arching bluffs as high as 60 meters offered strategic positions, and the Germans left no part of the beach uncovered. The entrances of gullies, running from the shore to the bluffs, were especially fortified with soldiers, 7,800 men of the German 352nd Infantry Division, commanded by Gen. Dietrich Kraiss. Rommel’s plan was to stop any invasion at the water line, which he and Kraiss

believed was possible. Very little went as originally planned for the Allies. Most of the landing craft missed their target; many of them never reached the beach at all. The pre-landing Naval bombardment was ineffective and likely inadequate, killing few Germans (but many cattle). Engineers struggled to remove obstacles. At Omaha Beach, for many hours, Allied troops could not get off the beach, and the landing nearly failed. It was the most tenuous of all Normandy landings. At one point, Bradley considered evacuating his forces. But in the end, the invasions succeeded. Despite losing more than 9,000 Allied forces on D-Day, the invasions opened up a path for 100,000 Allied troops to march across Europe, pushing back the Germans as they went.

**THE BEACH**  
Forty-four years after D-Day, on the morning of June 8, 1988, we visited Omaha Beach. Like most visitors, we started at the War Memorial. The thousands of small white crosses and Stars of David evoke the ghosts of those who perished in the battle. From there, we wandered down to the beach itself. Bound at each end by rocky cliffs, Omaha Beach is a gently sloping tidal area; on average there are about 275 meters of land between low and high water marks. The beach looks pristine. It rained the night before our visit, and it was still raining as we hiked through the sand. Fragments of mollusk shells glistened, and water ran through rills. As collectors of sand and sandstone around the world for more than five decades, we never miss an opportunity to gather sand. So as we walked, we bent down and scooped up sand samples at the high-tide point. Little did we know what we would find when we got home and started studying the sand.

**THE SAND**  
When we returned to our labs, we examined the sand using several microscopes: a binocular optical microscope, a polarizing optical microscope and a JEOL scanning electron microscope, each of which provides different information on grain size, shape, roundness and composition. A thin section of the sand revealed a large number of angular opaque grains that were magnetic...we concluded that the metal and glass particles were human-made particles generated from the explosions of munitions during the Normandy landings. Earle F. McBride and M. Dane Picard  
The sand is light-gray, well-sorted, subangular to subrounded, fine to medium-grained and dominantly detrital quartz (78 percent), with about 9 percent feldspar, 4 percent carbonate grains (bioclasts and limestone clasts), 3 percent heavy minerals, and 2 percent chert and other rock fragments: Although beach sand varies widely, the sand composition of Omaha Beach reflects typical sand eroded from sedimentary rocks inland and carried to the shore by the Seine

continued on page 7





## D-Day Legacy Sands— continued from page 6

and several small rivers. But the sand also contains some artifacts that took us a while to recognize.

A thin section of the sand revealed a large number of angular opaque grains that were magnetic. Shard-like, they were only slightly rounded. Some were well-laminated. These grains were also associated with small spherical beads of iron and glass. At first, we were uncertain of what we were looking at. However, in a few days, we concluded that the metal and glass particles were human-made particles generated from the explosions of munitions during the Normandy landings. After further testing, we determined the sand does indeed contain 4 percent shrapnel and trace amounts of beads of metal and glass. Because waves and currents on any given day can selectively concentrate sand grains of a given specific gravity, we cannot be certain that our sample is representative of the entire beach, that shrapnel grains make up 4 percent of Omaha sand as a whole.

We found that the shrapnel grains range from very fine to coarse sand size (0.06 to 1.0 millimeters) and display a variety of shapes and degrees of roundness. Nearly all of them retain their original nonspherical shapes, but all grains, even the most shard-like, have had some of their sharp edges blunted as can be expected by abrasion in the swash zone of a beach (the area where waves break, carrying sediment up onto the beach and dragging it back into the water). The coarsest grains generally have undergone more rounding than finer grains. The majority of grains have a laminated structure visible under magnification.

The shrapnel grains have a dull metallic luster, except where red and orange rust survives on parts of grains protected from abrasion. They display various degrees of roughness, due to microporous surfaces produced during iron production and post-explosion corrosion. Corrosion products such as hematite, other iron oxides and biofilm made by iron-oxidizing microbes coat almost all surfaces, even those not visibly covered by rust.

In addition to the shrapnel, we also recovered 13 intact spherical iron beads, five hollow broken ones and 12 glass beads. The iron beads range in size from 0.1 to 0.3 millimeters in diameter. Most of them display a shiny luster on their outer surfaces and are nearly free of corrosion products.

The glass beads are remarkably uniform in size, between 0.5 to 0.6 millimeters in diameter, and are almost all spherical. The surfaces of beads are mostly smooth, with a few scattered divots, rare scratches and conchoidal spall pits. The beads are composed of clear glass, but they have various degrees of cloudiness, depending on the abundance of bubble inclusions.

Interestingly, the glass is not a pure silica glass, like one might expect to see. Energy dispersive spectrometer data show the presence of small amounts of calcium, sodium and magnesium, in addition to silicon and oxygen. We soon figured out the source of the unusual glass components and the other strange bits in our sand sample.

### HOW THE GRAINS GOT THERE

It's probably not surprising that we found shrapnel and glass and iron beads in the sand at Omaha Beach. The hardness of shrapnel ensured its survival in the sand. But what's interesting is that the disparity in degree of rounding of shrapnel grains of the same size shows that, although originating on the same day and barring no major differences in hardness, the grains have not all had the same abrasion history and have not undergone continuous abrasion on the beach. It appears that some grains spent variable amounts of time in residence on the storm beach, the coastal berm, or an inner-shelf setting.

We think the glass and iron beads that we found were formed by munitions explosions, glass beads from explosions in the sand and metal beads from explosions in both the air and in the sand. Such explosions would have been hot enough, at least 1200 degrees Celsius, to melt iron and heat quartz. Michael Martinez, supervising forensic scientist for Bexar County, Texas, says bomb explosions commonly produce hollow metal beads: Heat melts the iron, causing it to rain down in little pieces.

The explosions on their own probably wouldn't have been enough to melt the quartz and form glass, but sodium and calcium present in seawater would have lowered the quartz's melting temperature, allowing it to melt along with the iron upon explosion. It is likely that the scratches on the exterior of the glass beads formed while the beads were soft and undergoing turbulent rotation and impact with other particles just milliseconds after the explosion that generated them. Divots and chips formed from impacts with other particles after the glass had solidified, although whether this occurred in the air following the explosion (most likely), or on the beach, is uncertain.

### LASTING TRUTHS

Not all of the sands from the D-Day beaches resemble the sand at Omaha Beach. Sands from Utah Beach, where the combat was less fierce, had no shrapnel in the sample we collected. We haven't checked the other landing sites.

It is of course not surprising that shrapnel was added to the Omaha Beach sand at the time of the battle, but it is surprising that it survived 40-plus years and is doubtless still there today.

Exactly how long the shrapnel and glass and iron beads will remain mixed in the sand at Omaha Beach is uncertain. Iron on its own can probably survive beach abrasion for hundreds of thousands of years. But the combination of chemical corrosion and abrasion will likely destroy the grains in a century or so, leaving only the memorials and people's memories to recall the extent of devastation suffered by those directly engaged in World War II.

About the Authors: McBride is a professor emeritus at the University of Texas at Austin. Picard is a professor emeritus at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. Both are sedimentary petrologists students of sedimentary rocks, the most common rocks on Earth's surface.

## 35th Infantry Division re-activates National Guard artillery brigade



**35th Inf. Div. commander, Maj. Gen. John Rueger presides over the re-activation ceremony for the 35th Inf. Div. Artillery Brigade September 7, at the Eisenhower Auditorium, Lewis and Clark Center, Fort Leavenworth, Kan**

### Story by Maj. Benjamin Pimpl, 35th Infantry Division

FORT LEAVENWORTH, Kan. – The colors of 35th Infantry Division Artillery were unfurled during an activation ceremony September 7, at the Eisenhower Auditorium, Lewis and Clark Center, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

35th Infantry Division commander, Maj. Gen. John Rueger, presided over the ceremony as the uncasing of colors was conducted by Col. Rodney Seaba, "Copperhead" commander and Command Sgt. Maj. Gerald Gibson.

The 35th DIVARTY has a history steeped in valor and service, dating back to 1917 when it was initially organized at Camp Doniphan, Oklahoma as the 60th Field Artillery Brigade. With several reorganizations and re-designations to meet the challenges of the Army between 1919 and World War II, the 35th DIVARTY demonstrated its adaptability and resilience.

The DIVARTY was deactivated from federal service in 1945 and reactivated again in December of 1948 in the Kansas Army National Guard until deactivation in 2004. This reactivation signals once again its vital importance to the division's overall operational capability to prevail in large-scale combat operations.

"[This is] a significant milestone for our organization, the reactivation of the division artillery; yes, the king is back!" said Rueger. "The standing up of the [35th] DIVARTY is an affirmation that we need this capability in the Army National Guard division's to be able to stand up to our adversaries."

Looking to the future, the evolving nature of warfare is evident, with modern conflicts becoming increasingly more complex and dynamic. The role of the DIVARTY is not just critical, but indispensable. It serves as the backbone of the division's firepower, providing essential support for large-scale combat operations across multiple domains.

"In the modern battlefield, the division has become the unit of action, in the primary formations around our operations center," said Rueger. "It is within this framework the DIVARTY plays a pivotal role. The DIVARTY is not just another component of the 35th Inf. Div., it is the backbone of our firepower."

Partnerships also play a pivotal role in the modern-day Army. The three components that make up the Army - active duty, national guard, and reserves - require synchronization. The 35th Inf. Div.'s alignment with the 1st Infantry Division provided that synchronization at its first command post exercise conducted during its annual training in August at the Mission Training Complex, Fort Riley, Kansas.

"Our partnership with active duty [1st Inf.] DIVARTY also exemplifies the full army partnership approach," said Rueger. "The 35th Inf. Div stands shoulder to shoulder with our active duty counterparts, bringing the full range of our experiences, knowledge, and firepower."

"Copperheads, King of battle, Win the Day....Santa Fe!"

The reactivation of the 35th Inf. DIVARTY is an ongoing operation which began a year and a half before its ceremony today.

"Some eighteen months ago when I came to the [unit], it was a DIVARTY of one," said Seaba. "What you see today is a testament of the Kansas Army National leadership ability to fill the ranks."

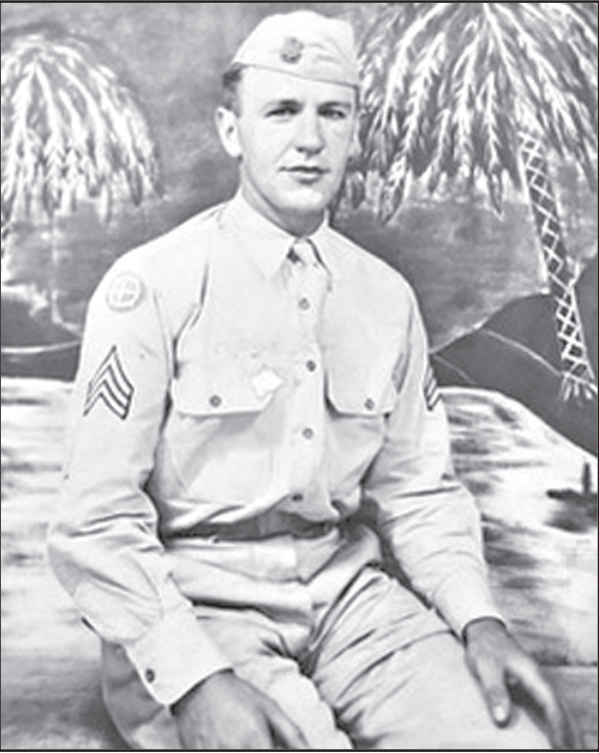
Prior to his assignment as the DIVARTY commander, Col. Seaba commanded the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment and was recently the Director of Plans Operations and Training for Kansas Army National Guard. He graduated from The United States Army War College in June 2020.

"As we look to the future, let us remember the past lessons, and carry forward the values that have defined our divisions' artillery for generations," said Seaba. "Honor, integrity, and purpose of oneself. Together, as members of DIVARTY, let us continue the proud legacy of our units and our noble traditions of our armed forces."



# Schultz, Tholen, & Winslow Inducted into 35<sup>th</sup> Division Hall of Fame

Second Lieutenant Victor W. Schultz, Warrant Officer Thomas E. Tholen, and Sgt James T. Winslow, Jr. were inducted into the 35<sup>th</sup> Division Hall of Fame in a ceremony during the Annual Conference at Ft. Leavenworth on Sept. 7, 2024.



**Second Lieutenant Victor W. Schultz**  
1919 - 1944

2d Lt Victor W. Schultz, Company C, 137<sup>th</sup> Infantry, received the Silver Star for gallantry in action in the battle at St. Lo, France on July 17, 1944, and was wounded in the battle at Mortain, France on Aug. 13, 1944. He was awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge on Sept 1, 1944, returned to duty on Sept 29, 1944, and given a battlefield commission from Tech Sergeant to Second Lieutenant on Sept. 30, 1944. He was killed in action on Nov. 8, 1944 at Jallaucourt, France. He was awarded a Silver Star Oak Leaf Cluster for his actions in the battle in which he lost his life. He is buried at Lorraine American Cemetery, Saint-Avoid, France, and is memorialized at Hillside Cemetery, Ripon, Wisconsin near his home.



**Warrant Officer Thomas E. Tholen**  
1919 - 2003

WO Thomas E. Tholen served in the 137<sup>th</sup> Inf Regt and 161<sup>st</sup> FA Regt throughout WW II. Enlisting in Co B at Emporia, KS he was mobilized in 1940, trained with the unit until landing on Omaha Beach on July 7, 1944, and fought with the unit across France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany. He received a commission to Warrant Officer in the fall of 1943. Discharged at war's end in 1945, he returned to Emporia where he became a prominent businessman and community leader, raising six children with his wife, Betty. He was active in the 35<sup>th</sup> Division Assn following WW II, serving as president in 1972. He walked many of his Co B veterans to the grave until his own death in 2003. He is buried in Emporia, KS.



**Sergeant James T. Winslow, Jr.**  
1924 - 2010

Sgt James T. Winslow, Jr. served as a Machine Gunner in Co L, 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn, 137<sup>th</sup> Inf Regt, during WW II, receiving the Bronze Star Medal for heroic actions during the battle in the Gremecey Forest, Fresnes, France on 29 Sep 1944. As a Squad Leader, and while wounded in both legs, he protected the withdrawal of his men. For his wounds, he also received the Purple Heart. He received an Oak Leaf Cluster for the Purple Heart in a subsequent battle, as well as the Combat Infantryman's Badge. Following WW II, he served on Occupation Duty in Europe as a Military Policeman. He married his wife, Josephine, and they had three children. He died on Dec. 4, 2010, and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

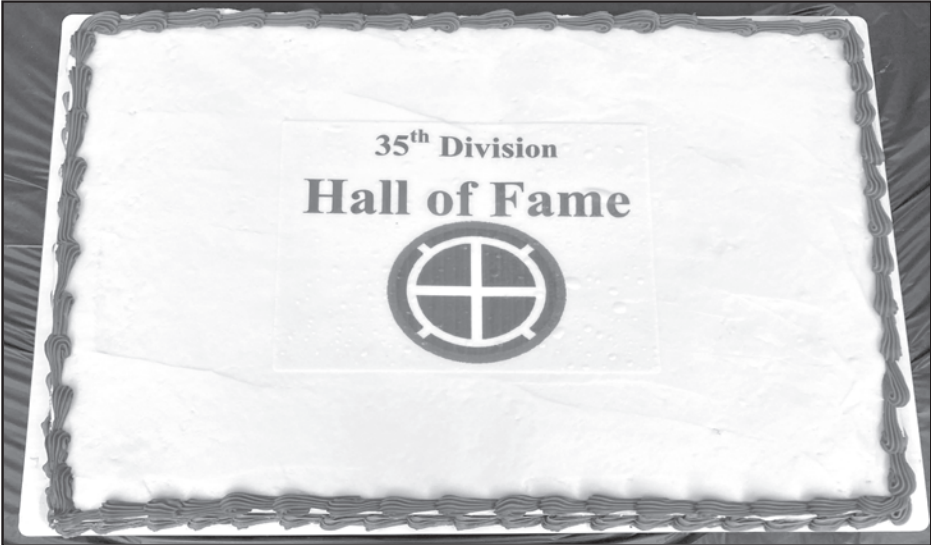


**Family members of Warrant Officer Thomas E. Tholen and 2nd Lt. Victor W. Schultz (KIA) were in attendance to accept the award at the HOF ceremony. Pictures credit to Sgt. 1st Class Dakota Helvie.**





MG John Rueger gave remarks at the beginning of the Hall of Fame ceremony



Hall of Fame cake at the reception following the ceremony.

## 35<sup>th</sup> Division Museum Report

Submitted by BG (R) Ed Gerhardt

**Major new exhibits during the past year included:**

Touch Screen Exhibit on “History of 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division”  
Touch Screen Exhibit on “Deployments in the Global War on Terrorism”  
Touch Screen Exhibit on “The Kansas National Guard in Action”  
Construction of six new covers over outside equipment  
M-4 Sherman Tank, DUKW Amphibious Vehicle, 1942 Ford/Willys Jeep,  
M944A1 Mobile Shop Truck, 19<sup>th</sup> Century U. S. Army Freight Wagon

**Major events during the past year were:**

Heartland Military Day in June-WW II Battle Re-enactment, Band Concerts,  
Equipment Displays, Pancake Feed, Civil War Cannon Drill, Cookout Meal  
Retiree/State of the Guard Briefing in March w/Noon Meal  
Vietnam Veteran Recognition Day in March – Pancake Feed, Program  
Korean Veteran Recognition Day in July – Pancake Feed, Program  
Girl Scouts Girls in Aviation Day in September  
Family Trunk or Treat in October  
Free Veterans Pancake Breakfast in November  
Free Veterans Holiday Luncheon in December sponsored by Lewis Toyota  
Four Quarterly Brown Bag Luncheons with Speakers  
Monthly Coffees

**Total Visitors in 2023** – 19,348

**Open and/or Events** – 349 days during the Year

**Museum Membership** as of 1 Sep 24:

Annual Members	- 243
Annual Major Donors (\$100 & Up)	- 164
Annual Minuteman Donors (\$1000 & Up)	- 6
Perpetual Sustaining Members (\$1200)	- <u>290</u>
Total	- 703

## Minutes of Hall of Fame Committee Meeting

The 35<sup>th</sup> Division Hall of Fame Committee met at 0845 hrs. on Sat, Sept. 7, 2024 in the Conference Room, 35<sup>th</sup> Division Headquarters, Ft. Leavenworth, KS.

Members present were BG (Ret) Ed Gerhardt, Chairman; COL Paul Waters; COL (Ret) Cal Warrem; COL (Ret) Bob Bloomquist; COL (Ret) Geoff Lanning; COL (Ret) Bruce Becker, LTC (Ret) Doug Jacobs; LTC (Ret) Ron Boyer; MAJ Chris Connell; CSM (Ret) Dale Putman; CSM Rob Istas; and Marilyn Smith.

BG Ed Gerhardt, chairman, called the meeting to order and reviewed the criteria for selection into the 35<sup>th</sup> Division Hall of Fame from the Rules and Regulations. It was emphasized that

1.Primary consideration should be given to extraordinary meritorious service in the 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (which includes organic and attached units) and is supported by wartime or peacetime service accomplishments which reflect merit beyond that of being routine.

2.Secondary consideration should be given to service rendered in war and peace to the 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, the 35<sup>th</sup> Division Association, and other services outside the military community, but which reflects favorably upon the nominee’s service to the community, state, and nation, the 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, the 35<sup>th</sup> Division Association, and uniformed services of our nation.

The selection process was reviewed, emphasizing that each member would vote for three (3) candidates this year, with candidates required to have a minimum of seven (7) votes (a majority of the committee present) for selection, with re-voting until that occurs. It was further emphasized that nominees not selected will again be considered the following year, and for five consecutive years if not selected. Upon non-selection after five consecutive years, the nomination will be withdrawn, although it may be resubmitted after revision.

A total of thirteen (13) nomination packets were submitted. Nominees considered included PFC Lewis A. Barondeau, 2d Lt Burnett G. Bartley, COL Rex Bartlow, CSM Gale Beck, PFC Martin H. Duehring, 2d Lt Theodore Dulchinos, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Stevie F. Fox, Jr.; 2d Lt Kenneth L. Gaines, Staff Sgt Craig Schoeller, Staff Sgt Ralph L. Shear, Sgt John R. “Bob” Sirk, T/Sgt/Maj Norvin Vogel, and CPT Edwin S. Young.

Following review of and voting on the nomination packets, the following were selected for 2025 induction into the 35<sup>th</sup> Division Hall of Fame:

PFC Lewis A. Barondau  
COL Rex H. Bartlow  
2LT Kenneth L. Gaines

The confidentiality of the committee process was emphasized, as well as the names of those selected until the announcement is made by the 35<sup>th</sup> Div Assn president.

The meeting adjourned at 1035 hrs.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Ed Gerhardt, BG (Ret) Committee Chairman

## 35<sup>th</sup> Hall of Fame Report

**The three 35<sup>th</sup> Division Hall of Fame inductees for 2024** are 2d Lt Victor W. Schultz, 137<sup>th</sup> Inf (KIA-WW II); WO Thomas E. Tholen, 137<sup>th</sup> Inf (WW II); and Sgt James T. Winslow, Jr., 137<sup>th</sup> Inf (WW II).

**There are 13 nominations to be considered for induction in 2024.** They are PFC Lewis Barondeau, 2d Lt Burnett G. Bartley, COL Rex Bartlow, CSM Gale Beck, PFC Martin Duehring, 2d Lt Theodore Dulchinos, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Stevie Fox, 2d Lt Kenneth Gaines, SSgt Craig Schoeller, SSgt Ralph Shear, Sgt John “Bob” Sirk, and CPT Edwin S. Young.

**Hall of Fame expenses** were:

Frames for Inductee Certificates	- \$60.00
Mats for Hall of Fame Photos	- \$72.06
Engraving for Inductee Pins	- <u>\$15.09</u>
Total	\$147.15



# Barondeau, Bartlow, and Gaines Selected for Induction into 35<sup>th</sup> Division Hall of Fame in 2025

PFC Lewis A. Barondeau, COL Rex H. Bartlow, and 2LT Kenneth L. Gaines were selected by the 35<sup>th</sup> Div Hall of Fame Committee for induction into the 35<sup>th</sup> Division Hall of Fame at the 2025 Annual Conference.

Submitted by BG (R) Ed Gerhardt

**PFC Lewis A. Barondeau**  
**1920 - 2008**

PFC Lewis A. Barondeau, Anti-Tank Section, 134<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, was a WW II veteran of the battles of Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, the Rhineland, and Central Europe, serving with the unit from 1942 through the end of WW II. A native of South Dakota, he received the Bronze Star Medal, Good Conduct Medal, WW II Victory Medal, EAME Medal, Combat Infantryman’s Badge, French Legion of Honor, and Distinguished Unit Badge, serving as an anti-tank weapons operator, driver, and mechanic. Discharged after WW II, he returned to farming in his beloved South Dakota, raised a family, and remained active in 35<sup>th</sup> Division Assn. and local community activities. He passed away in 2008 and is buried in Sunset Memorial Gardens, Aberdeen, South Dakota.



**COL Rex H. Bartlow**  
**1932 - 2014**

COL Rex H. Bartlow, a veteran of the Korean War, served as the first Chief of Staff of the 35<sup>th</sup> Inf Div, following its reactivation in 1984. He was the key leader in the organization of the multi-state 35<sup>th</sup> Inf Div, with Hqs & 137<sup>th</sup> Inf in Kansas, the 134<sup>th</sup> Inf in Nebraska, the 149<sup>th</sup> Armor Regt in Kentucky, the 35<sup>th</sup> Avn Bde in Colorado, and the Div Spt Com in Missouri. Born in Oklahoma, he enlisted in the OKARNG at the age of 17 and soon saw action in Korea during the Korean War. He later joined the KSARNG, becoming an Engineer officer and later commander of the 891<sup>st</sup> Engr Bn and the KSARNG Facilities Officer, where he was key in building the new 35<sup>th</sup> Div Hqs at Ft. Leavenworth. COL Bartlow passed away on Dec. 26, 2014 and is buried in Highland Cemetery, Ottawa, Kansas.



**2nd Lieutenant Kenneth L. Gaines**  
**1925 - 2008**

2LT Kenneth L. Gaines received the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, and Bronze Star for heroic actions as an Asst. Squad Leader in March and April of 1945 while serving as a Sergeant in Co B, 320<sup>th</sup> Inf, 35<sup>th</sup> Inf Div. He also received the Purple Heart for wounds sustained at the battle for St. Lo. After being discharged at the end of WW II, he re-enlisted in 1946 and then fought with the 24<sup>th</sup> Inf Div in Korea. He received a battlefield commission, then received a serious head wound on Aug. 30, 1950, for which he received a second Purple Heart. He was medically discharged on Feb. 29, 1951 at the rank of Second Lieutenant. He spent the remainder of his life in his beloved Georgia, passing away on Nov. 5, 2008. He is buried at White Chapel Memorial Gardens, Duluth, Georgia.

## 35<sup>th</sup> Division Hall of Fame Nominating Form for 2025

At this time, there are ten (10) nominations for the 35<sup>th</sup> Division Hall of Fame consideration in 2025. They are 2d Lt Burnett G. Bartley, CSM Gale D. Beck, PFC Martin H. Duehring, 2d Lt Theodore Dulchinos, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Stevie F. Fox, Staff Sgt Craig Schoeller, Staff Sgt Ralph L. Shear, Sgt John R. “Bob” Sirk, Maj Norvin L. Vogel, and CPT Edwin S. Young.

Members of the 35<sup>th</sup> Division Assn., as well as others, are encouraged to submit additional nominations for the 35<sup>th</sup> Division Hall of Fame for induction in 2026. Nominators must sign the nomination form and provide data for future contacts.

**Three things are required for the nomination:**

1. The completed Hall of Fame Nomination Form below.
  2. Separate page(s) of the biography of the nominee giving military service and emphasizing what the nominee did in service in the 35<sup>th</sup> Division and/or 35<sup>th</sup> Division Association 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, family information, civilian work, etc. are also appreciated.

The 2026 class to be inducted will be selected at the Annual 35<sup>th</sup> Div Assn Conference in 2025.

Send nominations to **BG Ed Gerhardt, Chairman, 35<sup>th</sup> Hall of Fame Committee, 125 SE Airport E. Drive, Topeka, KS 66619, or e-mail at [office@kngmuseum.org](mailto:office@kngmuseum.org)** so as to arrive not later than 1 August 2025.

### 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:

Nominee Date of Death:

Nominee List of Military Awards:

Nominator Name:

Nominator E-Mail:

Nominator Address:

Nominator Telephone:



# Reenactors display artifacts and memorabilia

The G Company, 137th infantry 35th Division Reenactors brought their impressive timeline display of war artifacts and memorabilia from WWI to Desert Storm:

*Joe Tylor, LTC (R) Dave Hruska, Dan Fullerton and Rick McClellan.*



During the 35th Division Annual Dining out, the colors were brought in by current soldiers and by our reenactors together.



A few members of the 35th Div. Association visited the Amelia Earhart Hangar Museum in Atchison, KS. It was part of the 106th Annual Conference’s first day activities.





# “Relief of Human Suffering”

*This was written and submitted by Jim Ricker, grandson of Homer D. Ricker who was involved in the rescue of the Children from the Chateau at Han in September, 1944.*

May 28, 2023: *The children were a mixture of excitement, anticipation, and nervousness when the Americans arrived in front of their building. All were young - some in their early teens - but most were under age ten. They were students at a facility that specializes in caring for children experiencing unique personal and family challenges; however, unlike the youths who occupied that same building more than 79 years earlier, this time the children knew the Americans were coming.*

*They had made personalized paintings and cards to welcome us, often displaying symbols like doves, laurel branches, peace signs, and the American flag. Others featured words like “peace,” “libre” (free), and “très merci!” (many thanks). One highly-spirited student even scrawled a very American “Peace... Love... and Rock-and-Roll!” across his paper. They gathered around us with their teachers, excitedly thrusting their artwork towards us and speaking in French while we expressed our thanks in English. But despite the obvious linguistic and cultural differences, the message was clear: The children were extremely appreciative of what the American soldiers had done decades earlier for their “chateau,” their tiny village of Han, and the residents when “The Baby Patrol” formed on the cold and damp night of September 29, 1944.*

Han is approximately 15 miles north-east of Nancy, France, and is largely surrounded by broad, open fields and the meandering Seille River. In September of 1944, it was occupied by German troops while American forces held a neighboring town to the southeast. For the Americans to retain their position, the 35th Infantry Division of Patton’s 3rd Army was called upon to advance on Han and take it from the Germans. A battle of this nature would undoubtedly involve mortars and other heavy artillery from both sides, likely resulting in widespread devastation of the small buildings that dotted the Han village. On the evening of the planned American movement westward toward Han, an American Civil Affairs officer obtained intel from residents that 81 children were being kept safe in a chateau that served as a church in the heart of the village. Their families had sent them there from Nancy to protect them from the dangers they faced during the German invasion of the Lorraine region. The officer turned to Company A of the 134th Infantry Division and asked for



**John Ricker, son of Homer, strolls behind his two grandsons along the perimeter of the field where the Baby Patrol made their 1,000-yard trek.**



**Homer D. Ricker, Jr.  
H-134-35 Soldier**



**Homer D. Ricker, Jr., husband father**



**Bulkhead stairs leading to the Chateau basement where children were huddled**

volunteers to sneak into the chateau under the cover of darkness, extract the children, and bring them to safety. This would require an approximate 1,000- yard-long trek across an open field with only minor tree cover to reach the chateau, then attempt to remain undetected while they made the same trip back with the children in tow. If at any point they were discovered by the Germans, the Americans knew they would face heavy fire and artillery, possibly while in possession of dozens of young children. Ten men from the 134th stepped forward to volunteer, many of them parents themselves with similarly aged children back home. They were guided by a French liaison officer and supported by my grandfather, Cpl. Homer D. Ricker, Jr., a machine gunner from Company H, who would provide suppressing fire should the rescuers be detected. Ricker was the father of two children back home in Lynn, Massachusetts – Shirley, age 7 and my father, John Ricker, who would turn 1 shortly before Christmas later that year. “The Baby Patrol” set out on their mission from the commune of Manhoué lo-

cated on the opposite side of the Seille. The team stealthily advanced westward across the marshy field after 9:00 that evening and managed to arrive undiscovered near the chateau a short time later. My grandfather, lying low in the damp field with his machine gun perched before him, decided to join the team entering the chateau to help the rescue team evacuate the children. When they entered the chateau’s basement, they discovered the children huddled in a small, dark space with a low, arched roof made of concrete. To their surprise, only two of the children were over the age of 4. Most of the children were without shoes, partially dressed, and understandably scared when the American soldiers descended the bulkhead stairs with their flashlights. The soldiers urged them to remain quiet, gathered the smallest of them up in their arms, and assembled small groups of toddlers who could follow them (quietly) back up the concrete stairs and into the precarious evening air.

They exited the basement in groups, spaced about 100 to 150 feet apart, with each group having to stop frequently so the children on foot could catch up. It was not long before the inevitable occurred and they were discovered by the nearby German troops. They were fired upon by mortars and artillery with little to protect them from the onslaught. All the American chaperones could do was hunker down, cover the children, and wait for the moment when they could slowly continue their dangerous 1,000-yard journey across the field. At the end of that field, their fellow troops waited at a small footbridge that would take the children across the Seille, onto trucks, and back to safety. The groups inched along in the darkness, temporarily interrupted by the flash of exploding munitions, and not knowing if they were the only ones to still be on the run. Miraculously, every child and their brave rescuers eventually arrived at the bridge without injury. Reportedly, not one of the children cried during the mission,

**continued on page 13**



“Relief of Human Suffering”

continued from page 12

despite being hastily abducted by strange military men, being improperly dressed for the conditions, and subjected to the chaos of mortar fire exploding around them. One by one, all 81 children were transported across the Seille, loaded onto American trucks, and rushed back to the newly liberated city of Nancy. Every member of The Baby Patrol would forever be heralded by the people of Han as heroes, even if the event would never appear in military records because it wasn’t a formally planned mission. As far as military history was concerned, it never happened. The 81 children and their families, however, would know better.

A letter written to my grandmother by my grandfather’s friend and co-machine gunner that night described the moment as follows:

“I saw “Rick” give his gun up to another man and take off to the flank. Moments later he returned with three children, carrying one in each arm, the other pig-aback, and believe me none of them even whimpered. The children were bundled up by him in partial blankets, field jackets, and just about anything he could find and sent back to the battalion. When I asked him to account for himself by sticking his head out unnecessarily, his answer was ‘Relief of human suffering’.”

I mentally noted the similarities and juxtaposition of two sets of young children when we approached that same chateau as visitors in May 2023. Both groups had found their way there due to unique and extenuating circumstances involving issues at home, yet the former group was frightened and had to remain silent while the latter had the freedom to be loud and boisterous. I was accompanied by three other “Ricker” men that day – my father, John, along with my son and that of my sister. Four lives in a long list that were all made possible by Cpl. Ricker. My father, aged 80 at the time of our visit, had made several previous trips to Belgium over the years, often including visits to Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery and Memorial where his father and 7,991 other brave American soldiers are laid to rest. He had visited the Ardennes, spoken at various ceremonies, and made friends with the amazing people of Bastogne who continue to honor and revere the American soldiers who provided them with the freedom they enjoy to this day. This trip to Han, however, was special. My father had poured over numerous books, articles, stories, recollections, and other artifacts in a lifelong attempt to gather information about a man he never really knew – his father. But the opportunity to almost literally follow in his footsteps, to walk the same field along the Seille, and to share the same space you knew he had occupied was something vividly and powerfully different. It was as close as you could come to being together again.

Our gracious hosts that day sent the

children back to their daily routines and provided us with a tour of the school. The first stop, of course, was the basement. As we approached the bulkhead door on the side of the building, I could not help but think about how the rescuers found it in the dark or what the energy outside the building must have been like that night. My father would later recall how surreal it was to descend those same basement stairs as his father had. In the cool, dark basement, he stood there visualizing his father readying the children for the escape and recalling how calm they had remained throughout it all. His appreciation of the event was surpassed only by the pride he felt being the son of such a brave and honorable man.

After the tour, we headed across the street to the infamous field. I wondered to myself, “*Did he enter it here? If not, then where, exactly? Was this dirt road just a path back then? Did the path exist at all? How tall (or short) were these trees?*” Regardless of such factors, the associated challenges of sneaking through the darkness with three children clinging to you could not have been easy for a beanpole of a man who probably didn’t weigh much more than 160 pounds. Being a 31-year-old banker from New England did not require one to be a large man; however, to become a member of The Baby Patrol, there was a prerequisite to possess a large heart within that slender frame.

During our walk, I took up a rear position as our group peacefully wandered along a path that skirted between the field and the Seille. The birds chirped, the grasshoppers buzzed, and the leaves rustled gently as we were permitted to stroll along at a safe and comfortable pace. Quite the dichotomy from a certain evening in late September 1944. Experiencing it was as serene as it was surreal. Most importantly, it allowed me to watch my father take it all in. As a young man, you often identify your father as unshakably strong and ready for any situation. As a 55-year-old, I was prepared to see my dad be something slightly different that day. He was permitted to shed the Cloak of Invincibility as I watched him quietly experience such unusual and vulnerable emotions for the first time. My father never had the chance to talk with his dad, nor grow into adulthood by walking in his shoes. Cpl. Homer D. Ricker, Jr. was KIA three months after the rescue on December 31, 1944, in the area of Lutrebois, Belgium. It was not only the last day of the calendar year but also the last day of the war for a true American hero. That afternoon in May 2023, however, I listened to their silent conversation as they finally walked side-by-side through that field. We never discussed it afterward, but it meant a lot to him. My father, after all, was human. He has suffered. And this opportunity brought him great relief. Above all else, though, he and the children of the chateau are truly libre.

Source: <http://www.coulthart.com/134/time.htm>



Maj. Gen. John Rueger, Commanding General, 35th Infantry Division provided remarks during the opening of the 2024 Division Dining Out event at the Division Headquarters in Leavenworth, Kansas. (Picture by Sgt. Evan Anderson)

During the event 4 awards were given to deserving current soldiers of the Division.

Dining Out Celebration and Awards

Command Sergeant Major Jack Elliot  
(Junior Enlisted Award)

SPC Jordan Berry transferred to DET 1 HSC from the Active component. He immediately integrated himself into the unit and demonstrated outstanding leadership and initiative by developing a PT plan in short notice and efficiently trained 47 Soldier’s. His efforts directly and positively impacted the upcoming record Army Combat Fitness Test increasing the number of passing scores overall. SPC Berry throughout his recent time with DET 1 HSC has conducted various trainings encompassing Soldier combat readiness tasks and battle drills 1, 6, and 8. His thoroughness, attention to detail, and knowledge shared has increased unit effectiveness as a whole and demonstrated his overall expertise as a Soldier and future NCO. We would like to nominate SPC Berry to be recognized for his exemplary performance as a junior Soldier that demonstrates and lives the Army Core Values.

Platoon Sergeant Kenneth Faulkner  
(Non-Commissioned Officer Award)

SSG Krista Jenkins has been instrumental in keeping the JAG Section on task and organized as the acting section NCOIC during MSG Hajney’s absence. Her proactiveness keeps the JAG Section running smoothly and efficiently. While at ALC SSG Jenkins distinguished herself by making the commandants list in a field of mostly active-duty paralegals. SSG Jenkins also wrote a persuasive essay on whether President Barack Obama had authority to order and execute Operation Geronimo, that was selected as top essay in her ALC Class and will be on display at the JAG NCO ACADEMY.

Captain Walter “Hank” Harrington  
(Company Grade Officer Award)

CW2 Joshua Ferro continues to be an important leader in C Co. He often wears many hats in the G6 and continues to set the example of what a true well-rounded leader is. His strong leadership skills, technical knowledge, and presence is felt wherever he is needed. Chief Ferro continues to leverage his prior operator knowledge to assist C Co and its operators when needed, reducing external needs for FSR and has fostered an environment of critical thinking and risk taking with appropriate mitigations. This has resulted in out of the box troubleshooting which has led to significant operator training and confidence. He continues to steward the profession of a Signal soldier.

Colonel Angelo Demos  
(Field Grade Officer Award)

MAJ Oliver Weeks – MAJ Weeks has displayed incredible flexibility, technical expertise, and initiative over the past year. In anticipation of the impending departure of the current Analysis and Control Element (ACE) Chief, he has transitioned into the role of acting ACE Chief by spearheading training, representing ACE interests during conference calls, addressing Soldier issues, and actively participating in company leadership planning processes – all while concurrently successfully executing his assigned duties as Collection Management Chief and his appointed duty as the Intelligence Oversight Manager. His ability to seamlessly absorb and assimilate new information and responsibilities while maintaining the highest quality of product production and Soldier care is a testament to his impact within the 35<sup>th</sup> ID.



# International Liaison Committee Column

## 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D Day Remembrances

If you are a Facebook follower you have probably seen the many ceremonies and tributes in Europe remembering the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day and know that many others are anticipating their celebrations as time goes on.

And through the years, some of our friends have shared their memories of that day. We would like to share a few memories we have heard and the effect the Liberation had on these friends.

Sadly, the adults who remember that special event have passed on.

**Ed, in Belgium**, was eight years old when he saw his father jump on a table to reach the radio hidden behind the ceiling. The father was in tears as he exclaimed “They’ve come! They’ve come!”

As an adult, Ed worked with a group of Belgians who researched downed pilots in their country. They learned who reached safety and what happened to the people who saved them. Reprisals were worse than for people who had hidden radios.

**Andree, near Saint Lo**, was a young teen when her cousin was killed by a bomb from an Allied plane.

“It had to be done,” she said.

“The concussions from the fighting around Saint Lo were so great that the coffins erupted from the ground,” Andree and her husband, Maurice, later recalled.

Andree became a fierce supporter of the 35th Division. She pressured authorities to include plaques for the 35th on the buildings that had previously honored only the 29th Division. The two divisions arrived from different directions. She and her husband Maurice welcomed veterans, listened to their stories and passed them on. “

Andree and Maurice attended a 35th Division meeting in Arizona to invite veterans and families to visit Normandy.

Official events, and festivities are occurring this month in Brussels, Belgium; Luxembourg City, Luxembourg; and in Mesch, Netherlands to mark the liberation. Little did they know in 1944 this would be the first liberation, with the Battle of the Ardennes occurring in December requiring a second liberation in 1945.

### International Liaison Committee

Paula Evans Baker, daughter of Pvt. Richard H. Evans, F-134-35, KIA 9/30/44  
[paulap5cox.net](mailto:paulap5cox.net)

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

Col. (retired)Thomas Arnhold, 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, [arnholdtom@gmail.com](mailto:arnholdtom@gmail.com)

## Mail Call

Letter to the 35<sup>th</sup> Division Association  
from Ceo E Bauer

Ceo E Bauer donated \$200 dollars earlier in the year and sent this letter:

I am a Combat Wounded World War II Veteran, France, as rifleman in I-377-95<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. In 1943, I was in training at Fort Rucker, Alabama in E-137-35.

Max Middleswart and Howard Berry were my two best friends in the rifle company and both unfortunately lost their lives in 1944.

I’m age 102 (May 21, 2024)

My best wishes,  
Ceo E Bauer

Letter to BG (R) Ed Gerhardt  
Ed,

Thank you for the invitation. I will not be able to attend. Please accept this check to help with the exhibit. My father, Tom Tholen, would be very pleased that the museum is honoring National Guardsmen.

Mary Ann Tholen Burr



## Deadline for the Next Issue of the Santa Fe Express 15 Jan 2025



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# Donor Appreciation List

## October 2023 - August 2024

**Donors \$1000**

- David and Ann Abbott (In honor of SFC Jim G Graff)
- PFC (R) James G Graff (Op. Expenses, Museum Op. Expenses, Hall of Fame, Conference Sponsor)
- The Breidenthal-Snyder Foundation

**Donors \$700**

- COL (R) Geoffrey Lanning (Op. Expenses, Museum Op. Expenses, Conference Sponsor)

**Donors \$400-\$500**

- Marilyn Jensen (Op. Expenses, International Mailing, in honor of Rex M Bowers, Honorary Attendee, sponsor for a Life membership for Mike Ven)
- LTC (R) Ricky L Dodson (Op. Expenses, Museum Op. Expenses, Hall of Fame, Conference Sponsor)

**Donors \$200-\$300**

- COL (R) Roger Aeschliman (Op. Expenses, Conference Sponsor)
- Ceo E Bauer (Op. Expenses, Museum Op. Expenses, in memory of Max Middleswart, E-137, KIA in France 1944).
- COL (R) Bob Dalton (In memory of COL (R) Craig Crane)
- Carol Lynne Freeman (Museum Op. Expenses, Santa Fe paper sponsor, in recognition of LTCOL Carol John Freeman)
- BG (R) Ed Gerhardt (Conf. Sponsor)
- BG Nicholas Jaskolski (Op. Expenses)
- COL (R) Cal Warrem (Op. Expenses, Hall of Fame)

**Donors \$125-\$150**

- COL Ronald L Cobb (Op. Expenses, in recognition of COL/CHAPLAIN Terry Murray)
- Donald P Dulchinos (Conf. Sponsor, Op. Expenses)
- Bruce A Hawkins (Op. Expenses, Museum Op. Expenses, in recognition of Captain Arthur N Getz)
- Roberta Russo (Op. Expenses, in recognition of PFC James Graff)
- Pamela C Thomsen (Op. Expenses, Museum Op. Expenses, in recognition of PFC John Pergolizzi, WWII

**Donors \$100**

- COL Thomas C Barnett (Conf. Sponsor)
- Paula E Baker (Op. Expenses)

- Wade Beadle (Museum Op. Expenses, in recognition of Frank Beadle, I Co, 134<sup>th</sup>)
- MG William Blaylock (Conf. Sponsor)
- Judy Bradford (Op. Expenses)
- COL (R) Tony D Divish (Op. Expenses)
- CPT John H Evers (In memory of 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt Ed Young)
- Paul A Honaker (In memory of 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt Carlan D Honaker)
- 1<sup>st</sup> LT Richard W Lind (Museum Op. Expenses)
- Douglas Plummer (Conf. Sponsor)
- MG John Rueger (Conf. Sponsor)
- COL (R) Willard B Snyder (Op. Expenses, Museum Op. Expenses)
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- COL (R) Bruce Baker (Op. Expenses)
- COL (R) Bob Bloomquist (In honor of Jim Graff)
- Arthur C Germano (Op. Expenses, Museum Op. Expenses, in recognition of Arthur Germano, 320<sup>th</sup>)
- Diana Hardison (Museum Op. Expenses)
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- Phyllis A Steinhour (In honor of Jim Graff)

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- COL (R) Stephen Pierce (Op. Expenses)
- CPT (R) Ray E Simmons (Op. Expenses)

# Special Acknowledgement and Appreciation September 2024

We wish to thank and recognize the following individuals for their contributions and support:

Additional Donations in honor of James G Graff memorial (Not included in the last donor list). The Association received more than \$2000 total in his memory.

·Benjamin Goffin, Francis Goffin and their family	\$60
·Jeffrey and Cinda Dorgan	\$25
·Marilyn B Jensen	\$200
·Jerry Shaw	\$50
·Valerie Reynolds	\$100
·James Reed	\$35
·John Bretz	\$25
·Mary Fricke	\$50
·Mark Gordon	\$100
·Lynn Frasco	\$50
·James Kunken	\$25
·Anthony Esker	\$50
·Kevin Murphy	\$100
·David Opperman	\$50
·“Croft Fertilizers”	\$100
·Dennis Kunken	\$25
·Marilyn K Smith	\$50
·Mary Ann Butler (Hall of Fame Expenses in honor of Tom Tholen)	\$50

Special Donation from Louise Endres Moore of two 35<sup>th</sup> Div. themed t-shirts and a book about her father Alfred Endres, WWII. (Alfred, The Quiet History of a World War II Infantry man)

Special Donations of meats, sides, cake, tableware from COL (R) Cal and Terri Warrem for the Hall of Fame reception and from CSM (R) Dale and Judy Putman, and COL (R) Paul Waters, for the Conference lunch.

We appreciate the hard work and beautiful performance of the band members who played in the Conference events:

SGT Andrew Leslie, SGT Evelyn Peat, SGT Spencer Strickling, SPC Joshua Daniels, and SSG Ethan Patterson.

We also appreciate the participation of the Reenactors, G Company, 137<sup>th</sup> infantry 35<sup>th</sup> Division, who brought their timeline display of war artifacts and memorabilia from WWI to Desert Storm:

Joe Tylor, LTC (R) Dave Hruska, Dan Fullerton and Rick McClellan.

## Note From The Executive Secretary/Treasurer

I accepted the board’s request to perform the duties of the Executive Secretary position and continue treasury duties until a replacement can be hired for both positions. I held this combined position in the past for many years after Colonel Dalton’s long distinguished service. I have been involved with the 35th Division Association since 2007 and served as the Executive Secretary/Treasurer following my year as a President in 2013.

My affiliation with the 35th Division was when the 635th Armor Battalion, 69th Brigade was organized under Division after it was reactivated. I have been retired from Active Guard status since 2008 and currently hold an assistant professor position at the Command and General Staff College, Army University.

Anyone involved in the day-to-day operations of the association knows that my wife Betty is instrumental in maintaining the treasury records, the membership roster, postal correspondence, etc. With her help, and the continued support from the Executive Council, taking on the additional role as Executive Secretary is manageable until a new hire is found.

I want to thank Colonel Geoff Lanning’s past dedication as the Executive Secretary and his continued service as this year’s President.

COL (R) Robert Bloomquist





PFC (R) James Glenn Graff



James Glenn Graff, 98, died August 11, 2024. “Jim”, a lifelong residence of rural Middletown, Illinois, was born on August 20, 1925 to Wilhelmine (Husterberg) and Glenn W. Graff. Jim was a graduate of Middletown High School then attended Lincoln College until 1944 when he was inducted into the United States Army during World War II. He proudly served in the 35th Division, 134th Infantry Regiment, Company C, and saw action in the Battle of the Bulge, Holland, crossing of the Rhine River, the Ruhr Pocket, then ending at the Elbe River near Berlin. He returned to the U.S. in the Spring

of 1945 to Fort Camp Campbell, serving in the 5th Division, and honorably discharged later that same year. Jim was awarded several medals for his bravery and service, including two Bronze Stars, a Purple Heart. Jim wrote a book called Reflections Of A Combat Infantryman which is a very personal and real account of his time in the Army.

Jim returned to Logan County and attended the University of Illinois studying agriculture. However he left college after one year, as he had an opportunity to return to his family home outside Middletown to begin farming. Jim married Alice Last on September 12, 1948. They continued to work and live on the farm for all but the last few years of their lifetimes, raising four children. Jim was a true steward of the land and a keeper of livestock. He was also a true citizen serving many roles including: teaching Agriculture classes in the GI School, a trustee of the Middletown Volunteer Fire Department, served a term on the Middletown School Board, served 25 years on the Menard Electric REA board, a faithful member of the Middletown Methodist Church, a lifelong member of the Middletown American Legion and a member of the New Holland and Greenview Masonic Lodge. Jim also was a lifelong member of the 35th Division Association, serving two separate terms as its president, and a member of the 35th Division Association ‘Hall of Fame’. Most importantly, Jim was always available to help the lives of many, no matter what their need. Although Jim accomplished much in his lifetime, he was most proud of his military service.

Jim was a history buff which led to his being a founding member of the Reactivated Civil War 114th Illinois Infantry Regiment in Springfield, Illinois and the Springfield Civil War Round Table. Jim and Alice loved Polka dancing and traveling throughout the United States and the World. Jim never met a stranger, having acquaintances across the Globe.

Jim is survived by his four children: Ann Abbott (David), Marilyn Smith, Kathy Esker (Fred) and William (Judi). He also leaves behind eleven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Alice, stepsister Glenna Hagney, son-in-law Joseph Smith and great grandson James M. Esker.

A visitation will be held at the Holland Barry & Bennet Funeral Home in Lincoln, Illinois on August 25, 2024, from 2:00PM to 5:00PM. The Funeral Service will be held at 10:00AM on August 26, 2024 at the Lincoln Christian Church in Lincoln, Illinois. There will be visitation with the family at the church one hour before the Funeral Service. Internment with Military Honors will be at the Irish Grove Cemetery.

For those who wish to honor Jim, Memorial donations should be sent to the 35th Division Association, PO Box 5004, Topeka, KS 66605.

1st SGT Carlan Honaker



Carlan David Honaker, 93, Topeka, Kansas, master woodcarver, passed away Sunday, July 28, 2024.

Carlan was born November 16, 1930, in Platte City, Missouri, to Arthur and Mary Dorothy Beck Honaker and grew up in Weston, Missouri. Carlan served in the Kansas National Guard attaining the rank of 1st Sgt. in the 35th Division. During the great flood of Topeka in 1951, Carlan stood guard at the Sardou Bridge for which he received a citation.

On June 23, 1950, Carlan and Lois Irene Honaker were united in marriage enjoying 74 years together!

Carlan was self-employed as a Public Accountant for

many years. He was past president of the Public Accounting Association of Kansas and had been a member of many civic organizations including sitting on the boards of Sheltered Living and the Crittenton Home. He was a member of the Arab Shrine, Scottish Rite and Golden Rule Lodge 90.

Carlan was a master woodcarver who studied with a master woodcarver in Austria. Carlan’s beautiful work adorns prestigious places; he carved the Scottish thistles on the doors of the governor’s mansion and the seal of the Kansas Supreme Court which hangs in that courtroom. He taught woodcarving at Doane College in Crete, Nebraska for years.

Carlan was a wonderful man, knowledgeable, talented, and fun. He was dearly loved and will be greatly missed.

Grateful to have shared his life are his wife, Irene Honaker; children, Carla Honaker, Carbondale, Paul Honaker (Becky), Topeka, Karen Burns (Paul) Dayton OH, and Brian Honaker (Dayana) Knoxville TN; 17 grandchildren; 39 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

Carlan was preceded in death by his grandson, Nash Gilbert, and his brother and sister-in-law, Ronald and Donna Honaker.

35th DIVISION ASSOCIATION TAPS 2024

Submitted by COL (R) Cal Warrem

PVT Joseph Carlton Hinman Jr.	134 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment
SSG (R) Elizabeth M. Houser	HQ, 35 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Division
MAJ Justin Dean Hackett	2BN, 137 <sup>th</sup> Infantry
Joseph “Ben” Weber	Chairman, 35 <sup>th</sup> Div Assoc. HOF Committee
COL (R) Craig W. Crane	2BN, 137 <sup>th</sup> Infantry
PFC James Graff	134 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment
1SGT Carlan David Honaker	35 <sup>th</sup> Division
CPT Mike Nelson Ford	69 <sup>th</sup> BDE
MAJ Terry L. Harvey	2BN 137 <sup>th</sup> Infantry
Richard Bull	1BN 635 <sup>th</sup> Armor
John J. Sopinski	2BN 137 <sup>th</sup> Infantry
Mary Ann (Engles) Eggleston	Wife of COL (R) Jerry Eggleston
SGT (R) Smamuel “Bud” Blackburn	1BN 137 <sup>th</sup> Infantry
SSG (R) John R. Miller	69 <sup>th</sup> BDE
Douglas A. Westerburg	2 <sup>ND</sup> 130 <sup>th</sup> FA
MSG (R) Raymond C. “Sarge” Babcock Jr.	2BN 137 <sup>th</sup> Infantry
MSG (R) Terry L. Selock	69 <sup>th</sup> BDE
SFC (R) Roy Wittmer	2BN 130 <sup>th</sup> FA
Betty Wellman	Mother of SFC (R) Dave Wellman,
	SFC (R) Roy Wellman, SSG (R)
	Jim Wellman, & CW4 (R)
	Kathy Wellman 35 <sup>th</sup> DIV
Mark Anthony O’Brien	1BN 127 <sup>th</sup> FA
CW4 (R) Jerry “Jack” Means	1BN 137 <sup>th</sup> Infantry
CSM (R) Joseph R. Reyes Jr.	2BN 137 <sup>th</sup> Infantry
Roger Emil Crubel	1BN 635 <sup>th</sup> Armor
CW4 (R) Charles “Charlie” F. Griswold	69 <sup>th</sup> BDE/2BN 130 <sup>th</sup> FA
Michelle Colene Parrish	Daughter of CH (LTC-R) Larry Parrish
	& Mary, 69 <sup>th</sup> BDE
MSG (R) Robert L. “Bob” Stevanus	1BN 127 <sup>th</sup> FA
LTC (R) Michael Thomas Kennedy	69 <sup>th</sup> BDE, Son of BG (R) Thomas
	“Tom” Kennedy
Bernard D. Ohlsen	2BN 137 <sup>th</sup> Infantry
Wesley Joe Johnson	1BN 161 <sup>st</sup> FA