

94th Anniversary

NINETIETH DIVISION

ASSOCIATION



ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

ASSOCIATION HEADQUARTERS
JAMES R. REID, SR., EXECUTIVE SEC'Y. / TREASURER
RHODA S. REID, NEWSLETTER EDITOR AND
ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY / TREASURER

FALL 2011

2011-2012 President - Arthur C. Meier, II

At right: Arthur and Amy Meier
Huntsville, AL



Official web site:

www.90thdivisionassociation.org

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90th Photographer
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Fairfax, VA

Make your Hotel Reservations NOW for the 2012 Reunion! Register by phone or online!

President Art Meier: "Greetings to WWII, Desert Storm, War on Terrorism (Iraq and Afghanistan), "Tough 'Ombres", family members, associates, and friends of "Tough 'Ombres". Veteran's Day just passed a few weeks ago. Ninety-three years ago, it was called Armistice Day, and the Original "Tough 'Ombres" believed they had fought the war to end all wars. Amy and I salute all the "Tough 'Ombres" who have served or are now serving our country. Thank you.

The 93rd Annual Reunion in Bloomington, MN was a resounding success. Thank you Tom! The unplanned interaction between the Harrisburg Girls Softball team and the reunion, particularly, with Dr. Jack Terry & David Yeger [both survivors of Flossenburg Concentration Camp] is a hallmark. Photographs of the reunion are posted on the association website.

It was decided at the reunion to move the 2012 reunion from Little Rock, Arkansas to the Fort Worth, Texas area. Jim, Rhoda, and I spent a couple of days scouting out locations, and decided upon the Marriott DFW Airport South. Transportation from the hotel to many local areas of interest is possible. Grapevine also has a lot to choose from, and transportation from there to Fort Worth is another option. However, we encourage you to attend 90th programs at the hotel. Early planning for the reunion has begun. At the Friday Family lunch, we will have a presentation by Dr. Jack Terry and Dr. David Frey on Flossenburg and The Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at West Point, NY. Jack Terry was instrumental in the establishment of this Center. Jack told me that Jorg Skreibeliet, the director of the Memorial in Flossenburg may also attend. The 312th Army Band will once again perform on Friday night, so bring your dancing shoes! DFW is a central site for "Tough 'Ombres". The Division formed in Camp Travis, Texas (now part of Fort Sam Houston) for WWI. In WWII, it re-formed in Camp Berkeley, TX (outside of Abilene). During Desert Storm, 32 separate units from Detachments to Battalions were deployed from the 90th ARCOM, most of them from Texas towns and cities. In the last 10 years, many from Texas wearing the T/O patch have also deployed.

ARE YOUR DUES PAID? The dues and donations through the 500 Club are the life-blood of this organization. When you receive this newsletter, treat it as a reminder of Payday. You received your pay from the Pay Master and right next to him was the First Sergeant collecting for some cause. The dues allows us to publish a newsletter, which is the primary means of communication. Some organizations, have disbanded newsletters and are going paperless via the internet. We are not there yet, but we are moving parallel. The newsletter will be posted (less address and phone numbers of members) on the Association Website, and if members would notify the newsletter editor of their preference (when you send in your dues), then we could reduce the number of mailings. The default, if there is no stated preference will be to receive a mailing. Find us in Facebook, by Searching "90th Division Association". Please send thoughts and suggestions, not only for the reunion next summer, but also for helping the Association to remain active and relevant to members. But, you **ALL NEED** to pay your dues so we can function!

Amy and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible next August 2-5 in Fort Worth, TX. We wish you all a joyous Holiday season." [ED. NOTE: The 90th website has Reunion Information and a link to make your hotel reservations online! The same information is on a free-standing insert in this newsletter, so get your reservations in EARLY!]

94th Annual Reunion - August 3-5, 2012 - Marriott DFW Airport South - Ft. Worth, TX

90th Division Association 2012 Reunion Information

Marriott.
DFW AIRPORT SOUTH

DATE: AUGUST 2-5
Phone: 817-358-1700

4151 Centreport Boulevard
Fort Worth, TEXAS 76155



DFW Airport Marriott South



Lobby

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

HOTEL LOCATION:
VERY CENTRALLY LOCATED NEAR
DFW AIRPORT;
SOUTH OF E/W HWY 181 & JUST
EAST OF N/S HWY 360

ROOM RATE: \$89 + approx. 15% tax
[1-4 people]

FREE HOTEL SHUTTLE FROM / TO
DFW AIRPORT

FREE PARKING FOR THOSE
DRIVING

YOU CAN ALSO REGISTER
WITH THE HOTEL ON-LINE -
SEE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW....

THIS CAME FROM THE DFW AIRPORT MARRIOTT SOUTH, so call THEM with any questions!

Online room reservations are just a click away with ResLink! -just click on the link below and follow instructions:

[http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/dfwam?
groupCode=INFINFA&app=resvlink&fromDate=7/30/12&toDate=8/7/12](http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/dfwam?groupCode=INFINFA&app=resvlink&fromDate=7/30/12&toDate=8/7/12)

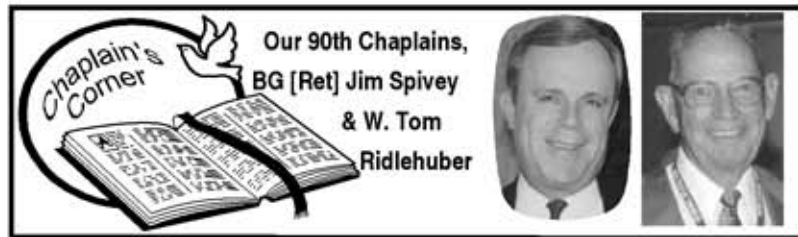
Editor, Rhoda Reid, writes...

Dear 90th Members,



This edition is months late, as you all know!

You also no doubt have heard of "Murphy's Law"... "anything that can go wrong WILL go wrong"! - Well, Murphy and his Law visited the Reid house big time - two computers "died"; the new computers would not accept our existing printers or my Newsletter program; printers had to be replaced [still can't get either to print out the brown envelopes the dues membership cards are sent out in]... Suffice it to say, the fall has been more than challenging and frustrating as we had to deal with all the difficulties. That said, the "Fall Edition" is now in your hands, and as you read through this, you will, as always, see multiple reminders to **PAY YOUR DUES!** Without members paying dues, there will be **NO MORE NEWSLETTERS!** As of this writing, out of 2300 names, **1,776 have NOT paid 2011-2012 dues!!** The 90th Association cannot continue to send out a newsletter with so **FEW** of you paying your \$20. To those who **HAVE** paid, **THANK YOU!** To those who have given extra to the \$500 Club, a **DOUBLE THANK YOU** - if not for you, there would be no newsletter this time. I have been limited to 24 pages, **BUT** I broke the rule with this one as it is 36 pages + an insert. I have "cleaned out" the files with information you all sent in, with the exception of 1 very long "Soldier's Story" of a deceased veteran. **SO,** I'm asking that you not send long obituaries - it's not an easy task to try to shorten them to fit the available space. Also, from here on, if you send something and you have **NOT** paid your dues, don't look for it in the newsletter. It isn't fair to those who pay. There now! Have I scolded you enough?? Putting this together is an arduous task & enormously time consuming - this issue has been particularly difficult. Now on to other things..... The 2012 Reunion Information insert gives you what you need to know in order to make your hotel reservations, so you are encouraged to do this earlier rather than later - you can always cancel your room if events happen to prevent you from coming. The Marriott DFW Airport South Hotel is totally delightful, & we will "own" the hotel for our reunion. The staff has bent over backwards to take care of our group & is excited about our coming. Your Executive Secretary/Treasurer, **JIM REID,** did his usual magnificent job of negotiating the incredible room rates plus lots of little "extras" thrown in. All you Texans... this is partly for you - we need a **GREAT** turnout for this reunion - you won't be disappointed! Please encourage your family members to join you - the one page with reunion pictures [6] shows you that we truly are a multi-generational **FAMILY** group - **FRIENDLY** too! Make a note that the 2013 reunion will be at the same hotel, God willing. Yes, it gets more emotional each year as the number of WW II veterans continues to dwindle. The legacy must be carried on, so we need both WW II family members + succeeding 90th veterans, including 90th Sustainment Brigade soldiers to join the Association & support it with their attendance at reunions & in paying yearly dues - only \$20 per fiscal year. **HAVE YOU PAID?**



From Chaplain Bg [R] Jim Spivey....

DARE TO IMAGINE

What will the new year 2012 bring? What is just around the corner? What thoughts are running through your mind right now? Thoughts of anxiety and dread—or thoughts of hope, and peace, and joy? Thoughts that drain your spirit, or thoughts that stretch your imagination? Thoughts that cause you to shrink from tomorrow, or thoughts that enlarge the boundaries of your faith? What does God have in store for you and your family? And what does He want you to do for Him and for others?

Hopefully, many wonderful opportunities lay ahead of us during the coming year—but probably there will be many challenges too. That's life, with all its surprises! The good news is this: God is more than able to help you meet every challenge, and He has more than enough resources to accomplish everything He calls you to do.

A key to being filled with hope and joy and peace during the coming year is to keep your eyes focused on the God of hope. His resources are limitless. His abiding presence is never ending. He is the source of abundant hope. When we seem to be at the end of our ropes and completely at our wits end, if we look to Him as the source of our strength and rely on His Spirit to renew us from day to day, He will supply us with more than we can imagine or need. The Bible promises that He 'is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us' (Eph. 3:20-21)

So what thoughts are running through your mind now? What dreams do you have for the coming year? God will honor those dreams for you and your family—if you trust in His power to provide and if you have faith in Him as the God of hope—if you are faithful to do whatever He calls you to do. Trust God—dream big—and work hard! And ask Him to help you stay squarely in the center of His will. This fits His promise: If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.' (Jn 15:7). When we stay in the center of His will, our desires will fit His purpose, and His provision will more than meet our needs. If we do these things, the coming year will be one of incredible hope and indescribable blessings. God will do more through us than we dare to imagine.



90th - Corbin, Glenn, HQ - 315th Eng. - Cohen, Albert H., B CO - 8/26/11
- Roberson, Israel Foy [85], C CO - 4/16/10 - 344th FA Bn - Budmayr,
Louis W. - 2/10 - 345th FA Bn - Cebula, Joseph, B Btry - 357th -
Gingerich, Clyde A., HQ - 7/9/11 - Lindner, Joseph A., HQ - 11/10 -
Smith, Robert G., B CO - 1/28/11 - Treiling, Kenneth, D CO - 358th -
Byzewski, Adam John, G CO - 9/23/11 - Godfrey, C.W., M CO - Harris,
Max F. [85], D CO - 6/3/11 - Lung, George, C CO - 2/22/11- Mohanna,
William [Bill], G CO - 4/13/11 - Nolan, William H. [90] - 6/2/11 - Perry,
William M., K CO - 3/1/11 - Syverson, Charles R. - 12/20/08 - Volk, George,
B CO - 7/10/10 - Wilson, Ira W., Med Det. - 12/08 - 359th - Brown,
James H. [87], E CO - 5/4/11 - Cole, Orville - 6/30/10 - Cornett, Alan G.,
Sr.[93], G CO - 8/30/10 - Doyle, George, A CO - 7/1/11 - Koester, Andrew
G., HQ - 9/13/07 - Martin, William D., G CO - 6/29/05 - Prejean, Ray, F CO
- 2011 - Stieler, William E., HQ 3Bn - 11/7/11 - 537th AAA - Breshears,
John H., AAA - 773rd TD Bn - Hekele, Joseph [Joe] T. [93], - 10/10/10 -
Lahodny, Leon W. - 9/18/10 - Michaels, Joseph M. - 12/24/10 - 790th ORD
- Petersen, Earl A. - 8/8/08 - 915th FA Bn - Fred, Loren E. - Von
Gerichten, T. C., A Btry - Unit not Listed - Festa, John Catta - Minor,
Thomas - Owens, William A. -

Obituary of George Doyle sent in by Betty Lamont [Thank you, Betty!]

NOTABLE LOCAL DEATHS 359 A CO

George T. Doyle, decorated veteran, Parma Hts. 'watchdog'

Battling back from many wounds, George Thomas Doyle won three Bronze Stars and four Purple Hearts in Normandy, the Battle of the Bulge and elsewhere.



The head wounds finally sidelined him and weakened his left side for life.

He later led a pressmen's local and helped revise Parma Heights' charter.

Back home, he married Kay Dalton,

Doyle died July 1 at home in Parma Heights. He was 86.

Doyle

"There was no more patriotic man ever born than George Doyle," said Martin Zanotti, former mayor of Parma Heights.

moved to Parma Heights with her and spent 39 years on the presses of World Publishing, the Newspaper Enterprise Association and Avery labels. He was a long-time president of Cleveland Printing Pressmen and Assistants Union 56.

Doyle never ran for office but spoke at most council meetings.

For years, he seldom spoke about World War II. Then his name appeared in Cornelius Ryan's famous book "The Longest Day." A teacher noticed it and invited Doyle to Normandy High School.

"He was a watchdog," said Zanotti. "He'd read up on every issue."

Doyle was raised near West 105th Street by a father wounded in World War I. He graduated from West Tech High School in 1943. A year later, under fire on D-Day, he climbed down a cargo net for the first time.

He began to speak widely and serve in several veterans' groups. He and Kay visited Normandy many times and hosted a Normandy couple here.

"We were poorly trained," he told Mentor author Tom Swope in "Legacies: Stories from the Second World War." He figured the earliest troops got the least training because they'd take the most losses anyway.

He served on a 2008 charter commission in Parma Heights that successfully proposed wards, term limits and more. The city honored him with a George T. Doyle Day.

Doyle said he later earned a medal for insubordination, leading his squad to safety over a lieutenant's objections. During a year in Europe, he was wounded in the shoulder, stomach and back and twice in the

Survivors include his wife, five children and nine grandchildren. Zabor Funeral Home handled arrangements. He was buried at Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery.

Reminder!

Address Change and / or Death Notice

- * If you are **NOT** receiving all the 90th Division Newsletters
- * If you **ARE** receiving the 90th Division Newsletters and do **NOT** want to receive them
- * If 90th Division Newsletters keep coming to a **DECEASED** person

It means the Association has **NOT BEEN NOTIFIED** of the proper changes! It not only upsets you, it also costs the Association \$\$\$ to have newsletters returned - or sent to people no longer living.
PLEASE NOTIFY THE REIDS OF ANY AND ALL CHANGES!

NOTICE!

THE "WITNESS TO WAR FOUNDATION" seeks to preserve the stories of WW2 Veterans - you can contact them by googling them on the internet.

ALSO..."THE DR. HAROLD C. DEUTSCH WORLD WAR II HISTORY ROUND

TABLE" is interested especially in veterans from Minnesota. Contact DON PATTON

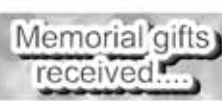
www.mn-ww2roundtable.org

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON INDIVIDUAL DECEASED PERSONNEL FILES [IDPF's]

From Norm Richards, 90th Assistant Historian - "You can now e-mail requests for IDPF's.....requests now go to Ft. Knox, KY, instead of Alexandria, VA - Email requests to: foia.hrc@conus.army.mil> In your request, include the following information: Cite the FOIA - NAME - RANK - UNIT - DATE OF DEATH Regards, Norm"

Your 2011-2012 Dues were due July 1!

Have YOU PAID \$20 for 2011-2012??



IN HONOR OF: Kennedy, Clyde, 915/FA Bn, Bronze Star Awardee - by good friend, John J. Berky, Ph.D.: **Memorials sent with no recipient name listed:** Bames, Harry W., 358/D; Evans, Jack L., 357/K; Prichard, Earl W., 358/I; Reichlin, Herbert, 359/D; Reinbeau, Billy D., 359; Riddlehuber, W. Tom, 358/E; Seybert, Andrew F.; Schlesinger, Otto J., Jr., 343/FA Bn; Shellabarger, Raymond H., 344/FA Bn; Valentine, Jim

A -- Ahlquist, Folke A., 537/AAA - by widow, Walburga G. Wahlquist **** Arnhold, Henry A.**, 359/M - by widow, Vera D. Arnhold **** B -- Blocker, Doug**, 915/FA Bn - by comrade, John J. Berky, Ph.D. **** Bragg, Eldridge**, 358/L - by son, David Bragg **** Bremer, Ludolf**, 359/L - by son, Paul C. Bremer **** Bulger, Richard H.** ["Doc"], MD, 358/Med. Det. - by daughter, Jane C. Bulger **** C -- Calvin, Ed**, 915/FA Bn - by comrade, John J. Berky, Ph.D. **** Cancellieri, Joseph T.**, 537/AAA - by widow, Arline D. Cancellieri **** Cardinal, Joe**, 915/FA Bn - by comrade John J. Berky, Ph.D. **** Clelland, Bob**, 915/FA Bn - by Comrade, John J. Berky, Ph.D. **** Clemens, Frank R.**, 357/E - by daughter Patti L. Clemens Peterson **** Cohen, Leonard**, 537AAA/B - by buddy, Gilbert S. Unger **** Congleton, Lucien H.**, 359/HQ - by son, Robert C. Congleton **** Cook, Jack**, 790 ORD/LM - by good friend, Betty M. Petersen **** Crenshaw, Mrs. Marianne L.**, 345/FA Bn Honorary - by widower, Col [R] Leon Crenshaw **** D -- Davis, Clarence E.**, 357/M - by widow, Annas K. Davis **** Deis, Ed**, 915/FA Bn - by comrade, John J. Berky, Ph.D. **** DeLuca, Angelo**, 358/A - by Norm Richards [son, Clyde A. Richards] **** Dishman, Haskell E.**, 358/HQ&C - by son-in-law, Henry Paul O'Neal **** E -- Elstrom, Carl G.**, 357/HQ - by widow, Clara Elstrom **** Estes, Col [R] Cliff**, ARCOM - by friend, Col [R] O. Findley Brewster **** F -- Fannin, Joseph K.**, 357/L - by niece, Cynthia C. Soller **** Felice, Rudy**, 915/B - by comrade in arms, Robert J. Fitzpatrick **** Flowers, 1Lt. Jim**, 712/Tk Bn - by friend, MG [R] David R. Bockel **** Francis, A. W.**, 357/HQ - by daughter, Mary C. Francis **** Fred, Loren**, 915/FA Bn - by comrade, John J. Berky, Ph.D. & buddy, Clyde B. Kennedy **** G -- Gingerich, Clyde A.**, 357/3Bn - By son-in-law, Weldon Mersiovsky **** Glenn Benjamin H.**, 357/AT - by widow, Sharon R. Glenn **** Griffith, S/Sgt. Burl R.**, 357/L - by nephew, Charles Burl [Chuck] Griffith **** Gruntz, Louis G.**, 712/Tk Bn - by son, Louis G. Gruntz, Jr. **** H -- Hamilton, Lt. Col Edward S.**, 357/HQ - by daughter, Diana Hamilton Cowell & MG [R] David R. Bockel **** Hammer, S/Sgt. John W.**, 359/L - by nephew, Earl J. Currie **** Harris, Max F.**, 358/D - by widow, Donna Harris **** Hellman, Leo**, 915/FA Bn - by comrade, John J. Berky, Ph.D. **** Hill, Harold**, 358/F - by Norm Richards [son, Clyde A. Richards] **** Holly, Mike**, 358/K - by foxhole buddy, Robert M. Levine **** Hunstiger, Eugene**, 358/I - by Douglas W. Pace **** Hunt, Leslie R. "Russ"**, Company Commander 357/G - by comrade, Thurman E. Gibson **** K -- Kimmel, William**, 357/M - by widow, Anna M. Kimmel **** Knudsvig, George**, 915/FA Bn - by comrade John J. Berky, Ph.D. **** Koester, Andrew G.**, 359/HQ - by widow, Lucille Koester **** Kueker, Arthur F.**, KIA, 357/I - by sister, Esther K. Wise **** L -- Lamont, Dane W.**, 345/FA Bn - by widow, Betty M. Lamont **** Lamun, David**, 357/I, beloved unit buddy - by Aldo A. Freda **** Larsen, Paul E.**, 359/C - by daughter, Helen Larsen Birchall **** Lascio, Fred**, 359/HQ - by Robert C. Congleton [son of comrade, Lucien H. Congleton] **** Long, George**, 357/HQ - by daughter, Mary Long Staszewski **** M -- Maanum, Leon** 359/HQ - by son, Gary A. Maanum **** Martin, Alden D.**, 359/L - by son, Ronald E. Martin **** McCall, Hobby H.**, 359 2Bn - by son, Hobby H. McCall, Jr. **** McCharen, Edward Lake**, 359/L - by niece, Dorothy [Dot] McCharen Weathersby **** McGuire, Fred L.** Unit ? - by daughter, Dell McGuire Johnson **** McKnight, T/Sgt. Lee R.**, 359/I - by brother, Charles [Chuck] E. McKnight & Niece, Barbara D. Wells-Kime **** McNamara, Robert P.**, KIA 7/7/44, 358/L - by buddy, William [Bill] Rhodes **** Meyer, Peter D.**, 357/AT - by son, Charles H. Meyer **** Miller, Laverne W.**, 358/HQ - by nephew, David W. Miller **** O -- Oldani, PFC Charles T.** 358/G - by nephew, David L. Oldani **** Overholser, Joe**, 790 ORD/LM - by good friend, Betty M. Petersen & buddy, Gilbert S. Unger **** P -- Papp, John**, 358/F - by widow, Phyllis Papp **** Procell, Vernon**, 357/G - by niece Dorothy P. Creason **** R -- Richards, Clyde A.**, 358/D - by son, Norm Richards **** Rossick, John**, 358/K - by good friend, John W. Johnson **** Rovenhagen, Glen E.**, 358/M - by widow, Janice L. Rovenhagen **** Russell, Plt. Leader, Lt. Hap**, 357/K - by buddy, Murray Lifschultz **** S -- Scharf, Robert**, 358/ H., "good buddy - the BEST" - by Arthur V. Lundberg **** Schnnapieco, Domenic**, 357/K - by buddy, Chester F. Sinclair **** Schwartz, PFC Theodore**, 357/A - by son, Peter Schwartz **** Shepherd, Carl**, 537AAA/B - by buddy, Gilbert S. Unger **** Sherfy, Kay**, 90th/HQ - by son, Dennis K. Sherfy **** Shifflet, Joseph T.**, 359/M - by widow, Nellie W. Shifflet **** Shostrom, Earl**, 358/I - by comrade, Andrew J. Cooper & Douglas W. Pace **** Silbert, Bill**, 358/A - by widow, Elsa D. Silbert; Grant A. Martin & Norm Richards **** Socha, Roman**, 357/I, beloved unit buddy - by Aldo A. Freda **** Soderbeck, Ted**, 358/M - by Platoon buddy Gus Ciriello's son, Augie P. Ciriello **** Speese, Andrew J., III**, 357/K - by son, Andrew J. Speese, IV **** Staruk, Walter**, 344/HQ - by widow, Catherine A. Staruk & friend, Clem C. McGregor **** Stenger, Sylvester [Wes]**, 357/HQ - by widow, Viola [Vi] L. Stenger **** Sweeney, Thomas P.**, 358 - by widow, Florence C. Sweeney **** T -- Talbott, LtG Orwin G.**, 90th Commander - by Honorary Member, Dr. Joy V. Bliss **** The men of 359/C** - by comrade, Alois F. Ropelewski **** Turner, Lavern**, 358/M - by Augie P. Ciriello [Platoon buddy Gus Ciriello's son] **** W -- Wigton, Irving**, KIA 2/19/45, 358/E - by friend, Vernon Schmidt **** Williams, Harry C.**, 357/E - by good friend, Frank M. Losito & Norm Richards **** Winterbottom, Harry V.**, 359/I - by nephew, Richard A. Mathews

SUPPORT YOUR 90TH DIVISION ASSOCIATION!

You are challenged to keep your membership in the 90th Division Association current by paying your yearly \$20 dues. By doing so, you help to ensure that the sacrifices and valor of all those who wore or are currently wearing the T/O patch while serving our country since WW I are not forgotten. Please encourage your relatives and friends to join the Association in keeping their sacrifices and memories alive. There is a dues payment form in each newsletter and on our web site www.90thdivisionassociation.org, so if you have NOT paid 2011-2012 dues, NOW is the time!

- As a reminder...we operate on a FISCAL, not calendar year, and those dates are: July 1 - June 30.

That means the 2011-2012 year is half over 4 and only 521 of 2298 on the roster HAVE paid up!!!

Reunion Reflections...1

REUNION DEMOGRAPHICS

TOTAL REGISTERED ATTENDEES: 236

[excluding 18 Band members]

FIRST TIMERS: 65

[NOT including Band Members]

FAMILIES WITH 4 OR MORE: 18

Batinich, Mitch [358/E] - 25

Bliss, Rosanne [359/HQ HON] - 5

Hall, Raymond [315/Eng.] - 5

Hertzog, Frank S. [345/FA] & Frank A. [ARCOM] - 11

Kennedy, Clyde [915/FA] - 5

Paepke, Carl A. [359/H] - 4

Powell, Eldon [359/D] - 7

Rasmusson, [the late Harry] [315/Eng HON] -6

[Rasmusson, Saveraid, Sebring]

Ridlehuber, W. Tom [358/E] - 6

Schmidt, Vern [358/E] - 5

Sholar, MG [R] J. Ron [RRC] - 4

Spillar, Stanley [357/Med] - 8

Staszewski, Mary [357/HQ HON] - 9

Stone, Victor [315/Med HON] - 5

Strus, Helen Leroux [358/B HON] - 6

Thompson, George [359/M] - 10

Wigton, Chester [358/E Hon] - 4

NOTE: The TOTAL number of 90th Veterans is identified below and by unit

UNIT DEMOGRAPHICS

[includes friends and family members - does not include Band]

***TOTAL 90th VETERANS [WW II, ARCOM, RRC, SB]: 38**

315/Eng & Med - 21 [1 Vet]

343 - 7 [1 Vet]

344 - 2 [1 Vet]

345 - 12 [2 vets]

357 - 36 [6 Vets]

358 - 69 [10 Vets]

359 - 57 [9 Vets]

537 AAA - 2 [0 Vets]

90 Sus Brig - 3 [1 Vet]

915 - 5 [2 Vets]

ARCOM - 7 - [3 Vets]

RRC - 4 [1 Vet]

Signal CO - 2 [1 Vet]

General Honorary - 8

There were other veterans in attendance that were not from the 90th - not separately identified

STATE DEMOGRAPHICS: 28 STATES

[does not include Band]

AL - 4

IA - 17

KY - 6

NC - 1

OH - 4

TX - 20

FRANCE - 1

AZ - 1

ID - 4

MA - 3

ND - 2

OK - 6

UT - 2

S. WALES - 2

CA - 10

IL - 14

MI - 18

NJ - 11

PA - 5

VA - 1

CO - 12

IN - 2

MN - 56

NM - 2

TN - 2

WI - 3

FL - 6

KS - 1

MO - 13

NY - 7

Reunion Reflections... 2

Re-cap of Reunion Events



Only room for 1 page of photos, so these are the defining events of a very special reunion in Bloomington, MN - there are many WONDERFUL photos on the web site, so take a look! All photos by Al Twisselman - SUPER job, Alan - THANKS!



Former Flossenburg prisoner, Dr. Jack Terry & wife Louise; Steven Yeger & his father, David Yeger [David also interred at Flossenberg - emotional presentation



Jack Terry captivates Harrisburg team & 90th attendees with his story - amazing!



Girls' Softball team from Harrisburg, PA

Carmen Alberts "talks" to youngest reunion attendee, just 2 weeks old!



Irv Kaine pins Iraq battle streamer on T/O Flag Sat. night



Pres. Tom Ingram shakes hands with Girls' Harrisburg softball team coach as she thanks him.



Thank you note from Harrisburg Softball team 8-7-

TO: ALL THE VETERANS AND PARTICIPANTS OF THE 90TH DIVISION ASSOCIATION REUNION PROGRAM

THE HARRISBURG, PENNA. RBI SOFTBALL TEAM ~~TO~~ THANKS EVERYBODY IN YOUR ORGANIZATION FOR ENCOURAGING, AND LOVING US AS PART OF YOUR FAMILY! WE WILL NEVER FORGET THE TIME YOU TOOK OUT OF YOUR LIVES TO MAKE US BETTER CITIZENS! WE NOW CAN GO BACK HOME AND BE BETTER PEOPLE AND HELP OTHERS THROUGH YOUR TRUE STORIES AND MEMORIES! ONCE AGAIN, THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS! WE HAD A LOT OF FUN TOGETHER, YOUNG AND OLD! LOVE YOU GUYS

COACH, Les Mangus



Oldest attendee at 95, Irvin Kaine



Mary Staszewski receives the coveted "Denby Steel Award" for service to the 90th Division Association.



Youngest attendee is 2 weeks old!



New Members Added to 90th Roster!

Anderson, Tom, friend of BG [R] James Spivey, ARCOM -

Bassen, Dennis G. cousin, Melvin Gertz, 315th Eng. - winter.

Batinich, Pete - grandson of Mitch Batinich, 358/E

Boeddeker, Dennis - grandson of Mitch Batinich, 358/E

Budmayr, Leslie F., son, Louis W. Budmayr, 344th -

Conte, Samuel, 359/C -

Cooney, Charles A., unit ? [sent in by Bill Sisk, 915th]

Cox, Ricky + sons, Ryan & Keith, 357/K Hon

Hertzog, Dr. Michael & Mary Anne, son, Frank S. Hertzog, 345th

Jester, Janet Sue, daughter, Wes and Vi Stenger, 357/HQ

Long, George, Jr., son, George Long, Sr., 357/HQ & sister, Mary Long Staszewski

McNamara, Rev. Bob - son, Robert P. McNamara, 358/L KIA 7/7/44 -
[sent in by Bill Rhodes, 358/L]

McNamara, Debra, granddaughter, Robert P. McNamara, 358/L KIA 7/7/44 -

[sent in by Bill

Rhodes, 358/L]

Mersiovsky, Weldon, son-in-law, Clyde A. Gingerich, 357/HQ

Meyer, Charles H., son, Pfc Peter D. Meyer, 357/AT

Millard, Dave - grandson of Mitch Batinich, 358/E

Orriere, Vincent - [see column at left] - Vice President, Mayenne-WW2 Association -

Polka, Neil J., son, Frederick J. Polka, 315 Eng. -

Pulliam, Kenneth, nephew, S/SGT Max H. Pulliam, 359/H -

Rizor, Robert L., 358/F 2 Bn -

New Members Added to 90th Roster!

Rondeau, Tristan - [see Information Wanted 1 righ column] -

Straka, John A., son, John A. Straka, Jr.-

Whalen, Patricia A., daughter, Charles Cooney, Unit ? -

Yeger, Steven C., son of David, Flossenburg Survivor -

Weber, Ph.D., David E., Associate Professor, Department of Communications Studies, University of North Carolina Wilmington

FROM 90TH HISTORIAN, TYLER ALBERTS



Dear Members, The coming reunion is back on my home turf and I plan to use all of my resources to have a big set up like we had in Irving for 2008. If you were at that reunion, you can remember we really pulled out the stops and it was fantastic. At this coming reunion, there will be vehicles, museum displays, a special video featuring 90th veteran interviews, and some very good historical presentations on Flossenburg and various 90th Battles.

I am, as always, looking for more artifacts for display at the museum. I still need more photos, uniforms, equipment, weapons, helmets, and battlefield souvenirs. If you have these items and they are just gathering dust in your attic or closet, please dig them out and let me use them for educational purposes. All of our veterans fought hard for our country; we must preserve their stories and their history; and the children must learn of their efforts if our country is to continue. Please make arrangements that your military items and history are cared for now, because later may just be too late. Respectfully, Tyler Alberts [Ed.: If you missed Irving in 2008, DON'T MISS 2012!!]

SHOCKING INFORMATION...DISGRACEFUL!!
1,776 OF 2,300 have NOT PAID 2011-2012 \$20 Dues! 7 That's \$35,520 lost revenue to the 90th Association!

HISTORY OF THE MAGINOT LINE

WRITTEN BY MARC HALTER
DRAWN BY BRIAN B. CHIN



Here is some material about our graphic novel, "History of the Maginot Line". Page 46 refers to the attack of Fort Hackenberg by the 90TH, november 1944 - This English comic book can be purchased on AMAZON. [Ed.It may not be large enough to be readable, but you get the idea. This is one page from the book, History of the Maginot Line]

THE NAZI TRANSFORM THE MUNITIONS STORAGE MAGAZINES AND UNDERGROUND TUNNELS INTO FACTORIES. FORTS HACKENBERG, HOCHWALD, INSTRICH, AND MICHELSEBERG ARE USED TO BUILD AIRCRAFT MOTORS OR RIFLE PARTS. OTHER FORTS LIKE SINSERHOF AND MOLVANGE SERVE AS MATERIAL STORAGE DEPOTS.



1943: IN TUNISIA, THE AFRIKA KORPS AND ITALIAN TROOPS USE THE CASEMATES OF THE FORMER FRENCH MARTH LINE TO HOLD OFF FOR ONE MONTH AN ATTACK BY THE BRITISH EIGHTH ARMY WHO HAS COME TO LIBERATE NORTH AFRICA.



IN NOVEMBER 1944 THE AMERICAN ARMY CROSSES THE MOSELLE RIVER. THE GERMANS HUNKER DOWN INSIDE FORT HACKENBERG AND FIRE ON THE 90TH INFANTRY DIVISION. BLOC B IS NEUTRALIZED BY THE AMERICAN HEAVY ARTILLERY AND TANKS. IN DECEMBER, THE WEHRMACHT HOLDS OUT IN FORTS SINSERHOF AND BOESSECK. THE 44TH AND 100TH INFANTRY DIVISIONS, SUPPORTED BY THE AIR FORCE AND THE ENGINEERS, TAKE SEVEN DAYS TO CAPTURE THE FORTS.



deceased at Mezières
Monsieur Maurice DEMANGE
Maire Honoraire de Mezières-les-Metz
Ancien Conseiller Général
Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur
Médaille Militaire
Médaille de l'Ordre National du Mérite
Croix de Guerre 1939-1945
Médaille des Evadés

à Mezières-les-Metz, le 24 novembre 2011.

Les obsèques seront célébrées le mardi 29 novembre 2011, à 10h30, en l'église St Michel à Mezières, suivies de l'inhumation à l'ancien cimetière de Mezières.

Monsieur DEMANGE

From Jean Pascal Speck: Maurice Demange the previous mayer of Mezieres les Metz was a loyal support of the 90TH during his tour in Moselle. He passed away yesterday 11/25/11 - Many veterans will still remember him.

Jean Pascal Speck & his 2 daughters in Berlin



I just wanted to say hello from Berlin
I was there with my both daughters Aurelia and Caroline , discovering the capital of Germany and the remains of the cold war and those of WW2. This young generation has no idea of the European history. My plan is next year to attend your reunion in Fort Worth 2012. My second job is now publisher . We created with Pascal Moretti a small company about historical books. We had yet published a graphic novel with Brian Chin about the history of the Maginot Line -three versions , French, German, English www.moselleriver.org It could be purchased with Amazon.com; Maginot and also by Casemate. In another email, I will explain to you a project that is important to us : as told by a comic book the exploits of the 3rd Army in Lorraine and nearby in 1944-45. This book could be ready for the 70th anniversary 2014 or in 2013. My best wishes to all of you and family - Merry Christmas! Jean Pascal Speck



Information Wanted!



Information Wanted!



Editor's note: We received emails from these 2 gentlemen who are unknown to each other - both sent the picture - can you help? Tristan is a paid member of the 90th Division Association.



I run worldwar2database.com (linked below). We get 1.3 million visitors a year, mostly kids studying WWII. I investigate NARA photos and try to find out what happened to the people in them.

This photo was taken at the southern edge of Chambois, on the 21st of August 1944 by a Signal Corps photographer. It shows 13 soldiers, probably from 359th Inf., posing in the front of a German panzer tank with a captured nazi-flag. I am looking for the identify of any of these men.

I'm sorry, I was assuming you knew about this post http://www.90thdivisionassoc.org/forum/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=981 which mentions your name. I thought someone had already submitted the photo and I was simply providing a clearer copy. On that thread, your historian suggested the submitter forward the photo to you. The submitter believes it's "359th Inf. Perhaps 2nd or 3rd Bns., or the AT CO." The original NARA caption reads: **Lined up in front of a wrecked German tank and displaying a captured swastika, is a group of Yank infantrymen who were left behind to "mop-up" in Chambois, France, last stronghold of the Nazis in the Falaise Gap area, 08/20/1944"**

I am a young French student who lives in Normandy, near Argentan and Chambois and I am looking for information regarding the involvement of the 90th Division in the **Falaise Gap, on late August 1944**. I have already collected documents, photos, accounts from French civilian witnesses of the battle and also started contacting a few 90th veterans and their relatives. I would like to know new stories and clarify some points about the entire 90th Division in the Falaise Gap. If you remember the period from 13th to 21st August, 1944, if towns like **Le Bourg Saint Leonard, Chambois, Nonant Le Pin, Exmes, Haras du Pin, Oméel, Sainte Eugénie, Silly en Gouffern, or, Bon Ménéil** remind you of something, please, do not hesitate to contact me.

Thanks for your help! I've asked NARA for more information. *"I found photographer Bill Tomko's family, but they didn't even know the photo existed."* - Jason McDonald -

My coordinates :

<http://www.worldwar2database.com/> WWII Multimedia Database

*Tristan Rondeau
1, venelle de l'Orne
61200 ARGENTAN
France*

<http://www.ninesisters.com/> CVL Light Carriers

<http://www.dayofthekamikaze.com/> November 25, 1944 Suicide Attack

<http://unforkids.com/> Geography Portal

<http://www.mfaproductions.com/> Company Website



Information Wanted!



INVITATION TO A SPECIAL MEMORIAL DEDICATION IN JUNE, 2012 - MAYENNE, FRANCE TO 3 TOUGH 'OMBRES - FROM VINCENT ORRIERE - Vice President, de l'Association

- "I am so proud for this 2nd year to be on your Association. My name is Vincent Orriere, I live in France, and I am doing historical research on the 90th Infantry Division in Mayenne, August 1944. I would like to honor the Tough 'Ombres Memories. I'm in contact with Norm Richards, Carver McGriff, and Milton Staley. My Association, Mayenne-WW2, we will dedicate a memorial for three Tough 'Ombres, from Service Company, 357th Infantry Regiment, of the 90th Infantry Division. They are: Tec.4 Harry Wright, KIA August 6, 1944; Captain Paul White, MIA, August, 1944; and WO William Bell, SWA, August 6th, 1944. We will be so honored if you and the 90th Infantry Division Association could be with us for the dedication. The date will probably be on June 9, 2012. The program will probably be this: On the morning of June 9, visit Mayenne City and Sainte-Suzanne with the Military and Civil French Authorities on the step of the 90th Infantry Division. In the afternoon, dedication of the Memorial in Memory of Tec.4 Harry Wright, KIA; Captain Paul White, MIA; and William Bell, SWA. All 3 of these Tough 'Ombres were ambushed on a jeep by a German patrol on August 6, 1944, in La Bazouge-Des-Alleux, between Mayenne and Sainte-Suzanne. It will be a great honor to see you at this dedication. Do you know other Tough 'Ombre veterans who will be interested in coming to this dedication? I would like to know too if it's possible to have a 90th Infantry Division Flag at the dedication? The United States of America will be represented by the American Embassy [maybe Lt. Col. John Lacy, USAF, but not sure]. In November, 2011, I will do an historical travel on the step of the 90th Infantry Division in Normandy. If you want more information about this dedication, I could send you some documents. [Ed.: See lower, right column for June 2012 schedule!]

Cohen, Randy L., son, the late Albert H. Cohen, 315/B Eng. - Cohen Enterprises, Inc. -

"My father, Captain "Big Al", was in the 90th Army Corp of Engineers. I know he was all over Europe during WW II. His medals were very hard earned and well deserved. As a little kid, I remember seeing his Bronze Star and Purple Heart, but I believe he also earned a Silver Star. I have yet to find them again. I cannot imagine that there are many left from his great era. I miss him greatly. I saw your pamphlet on his desk. I simply don't know anyone I could possibly ask...but is it possible to find any pictures of him in the Army? Hoping for a response, RLC - Randy L. Cohen."



Information Wanted!



Dumas, Lynda, daughter, ? Dumas, 358th -

"The 90th Division website came up for me from viewing the 1944 March Camp Wheeler photo of Glenn W. Goss [358/C] on your website. It is possible my father may be in that photograph. I have been in touch with Glenn A. Goss & attempted to send an email to your website, but it said there was an error & to contact the webmaster. It is possible the picture below is my Dad. I have only a first name & state he was from & hope someone would recognize this soldier. Do you know if all the soldiers of CO C 6th Bn would have been assigned to the 90th Div. as Glen W. Goss was? Do you have any idea how many companies and Battalions were assigned in a yearly time period from the Army infantry camps? Thank you for any information you can provide. Sincerely, Lynda Dumas"



Do you know this WWII Soldier?

Possible relative looking to identify this soldier named Private Bill from PA. Picture taken at Camp Wheeler, GA about 1944.

FROM VINCENT ORRIERE [see upper left] SCHEDULE FOR JUNE 9, 2012 MEMORIAL DEDICATIONS IN MAYENNE, FRANCE

- 9:00AM - Breakfast Reception with the Mayor and French Authority at Mayenne City Hall
- 10:30AM - Memorial Commemoration in Mayenne of James D. McRacken, 315th Engineer Bn
- 11:30AM - Depart for Sainte-Suzanne for Reception and Memorial with the Mayor and French Authority where a speech given by the late Lt Col Edward S. Hamilton, CO 1st Bn, 357th Inf. will be read in front of a U.S. Flag
- 12:30PM - Lunch in Sainte-Suzanne
- 2:30-3:00PM - Depart for La Bazouge-des-Alleux
- 4:00PM - Dedication of the Monument in Memory of Tech.4 Harry Wright [KIA]; Captain Paul White [MIA]; and WO William Bell [SWA], Service CO 357th Inf. Regiment
- 5:00PM - "Glass of the Friendship"

The American Embassy will be represented, and all 90th veterans & their families are invited. An invitation card will be sent during the



TOUGH 'OMBRES TALES

News from veterans of the 90th Division



Ed.: This section contains letters received from veterans only. "Family Album" has letters from family members.

THE TOUGH 'OMBRES COMBAT TEAM

UTAH BEACH TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA

357th INF REGT	343rd FA BN	315th ENGR BN	90th QM CO
358th INF REGT	344th FA BN	807th TD BN	790th ORD CO
359th INF REGT	915th FA BN	315th MED BN	DIV BAND
712th TK BN	345th FA BN	90th SIG CO	90th MP PLT
773rd TD BN	337th AABN	90th RCN TP	HQS & HQS COS

IN 5 CAMPAIGNS AND 318 DAYS OF BATTLE, MARKED BY GREAT COST OF PRECIOUS LIVES AND EXTRAORDINARY VALOR, THE TOUGH 'OMBRES ACCOMPLISHED EVERY MISSION, SHOULDER TO SHOULDER WITH AMERICAN, FRENCH AND OTHER ALLIED UNITS, THEY LIBERATED EUROPE AND MADE A BETTER WORLD.

90th

Bauer, Bob, 12th Artillery/HQ 3Bn -

- "Glad to hear

you all are doing well. Enclosed are my dues + a little extra for the 'kitty' [500 Club]. I won't be at the 2011 reunion as I'll be on the road about that time headed to Ft. Lewis, WA. I'm taking my grandson's sailboat to him. I've spent the last year and a half restoring it for him. I'm trying to get it finished and out to him in early August since he is due to deploy back to 'Indian Country' in late summer. This will be his 5th deployment to combat duty. He is in the 2Bn, 75th Ranger Regiment. My best to all. Bob" [Thank him for the 90th for his service to our country - we pray for safety & a safe return.]

315th

Roberson, Alice, widow, Israel Foy, C CO. -

Israel Foy Roberson

NORTH RIDGEVILLE — Israel Foy Roberson, 85, of North Ridgeville, passed away Friday, April 16, 2010 at his home.

He was born February 2, 1925 in Springfield, Ohio, and has lived in North Ridgeville for 4 years, moving from Lakewood and most recently Strongsville where he had lived for 30 years.

He was the owner and operator of the SOHIO Gas Station/service station in Olmsted Falls for over 50 years. He served in the U.S. Army in France, where he was wounded. He received the Purple Heart for his injuries, along with the EAME Ribbon and 3 battle Stars. He was a member of the "Tough Ombres" 90th Division, Co. 315C. He was a current member of the Safari Club

International and the Clifton-Gaston Allen Masonic Lodge, Lakewood, for over 50 years and American Legion Post 403, Olmsted Falls.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years Alice M. (nee Wilson) Roberson, 4 daughters: Kathleen (David) Rybarczyk of Phoenix, AZ, Linda Champion of Hinckley, Ohio, Diane Roberson of Louisville KY, Barbara Grist of Tucson, AZ. 2 sons: Arthur (Cheryl) Roberson of Avon Lake, and Bruce (Judy) Roberson of Overland Park, KS, 15 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren and 1 brother, John (Bobbie) Roberson.

Friends will be received on Wednesday, April 21, 2010 for an 11:45 AM memorial service at Misencik Funeral Home, 36363 Detroit Rd, Avon, with pastor Liz Krall officiating. Interment Western Reserve National Cemetery, Rittman, Ohio. Memorial contributions may be made to the Crossroads Hospice, 9775 Rockside Road, Suite 270, Valley View, Ohio 44125.

[Ed.: Obit was scanned from a newspaper copy, so is not the best.]

344th

Mastromonaco, Domenick [Dom], C Btry

- "We still hope to attend another reunion..

Where is 2012 reunion being held? We are doing pretty well for a couple of old timers - hope to hear you are doing very well too! Miss seeing you. Keep well! Love, Dom and Ann" [Ed.: We miss seeing you too!!]

Warner, John

- "My wife passed away Dec. 12, 2010, so I sold everything and

moved to an Assisted Living Home. I am 90 years old and in good condition. I enjoy the news letter. I am proud to have served our country and with the fine men of the 90th Division. I miss Felix Lipinski. I was a Forward Observer with Dom DeAngelo across Europe. He was a good soldier. You two are doing a fine job." [Ed.: We miss all 344th buddies!]

345th

Crenshaw, Lt.Col. Leon

- "Regretfully, I am

unable to attend the 2011 Reunion. I wish you a successful affair. Please extend my love and best wished to all. Love, Le" **[written by his daughter, Linda Mazzucchi]**... "Our Dad had a difficult winter and is having much more trouble getting around. Jenny was going to escort him to the 2011 reunion in MN, but he finally decided he could not manage the trip. He had a prolonged illness after returning from New Orleans reunion in 2010 - which I also think influenced his decision not to attempt to fly. He's going to miss seeing you and his other pals very much. We wish all of you safe travels and a successful reunion. God bless you for your dedicated efforts on behalf of the veterans. Fondly, Linda" [Ed.: We all missed you and love you, Leon!! - The 345th group was not complete without you.]

357th

Busterud, John, HQ.

"My book,

'Below the Salt' is now available in an electronic edition from Hibris & also Amazon. Hope you are well. I still play golf every morning and am enjoying life at Smith Ranch. Also still giving my slide show to Rotary Clubs, etc."

Tough Ombre Tales - Page 2



357th [con't.]

Foye, Donald, E CO.

- "Hi - Sorry to say, as of now I guess we have attended our last reunion. I never got over the stroke I had in St. Louis in 2003." [sic. the year Don was Association President] "Everything works OK, but I'm slower and I don't feel like traveling - must be old age. I guess my eyesight isn't good either. Find enclosed check for my dues + - should be enough - use the rest for whatever you wish. Don Foye [Ed.: The entire Foye family was involved for many years with the 90th, and their son, Dennis, created the first website the 90th Division Association had. We still miss all of you at the reunions and wish all of you the very best. Take care of yourselves.]

Gedaro, Rocco ["Rocky"], C CO.

- "Hi you two! Sorry for being late with my dues. Enclosed are my dues and a little extra. I am a victim of **'Old age and sickness go hand-in-hand'**, although I can look down and see the grass, rather than looking up at its roots! Thanks for doing a great job on the newsletter. Love Rocky"

Geuss, Gerard A., G CO.

- "Sorry about my dues. Had a little problem - have a stent in my stomach area that was leaking. Had to go into the area and seal off a vein. This was done about May 18. Hope all is well with you and your family. If you see Lt. Claude Lovett, tell him I said hello. Good luck and God Bless you and yours. Jerry Geuss, - Thanks, Rhoda - for me, the newsletter is **great**. I enjoy it very much." [Ed.: We have not seen Claude.]

Kujanik, Joseph A., G CO.

[Ed.: Joe's letter has been edited sue to space restrictions.]

"Enclosed is my check for dues + a little extra. I can understand the problem and frustration that you have in this 90th Division Association publication. I am still involved in the promotion of safety belt usage. Since I retired 25 years ago from Northern Indiana Public Service Company, I have spent a lot of my time promoting this buckle up logo, with 2 American flags on 6"x12" plates for use on the front end of vehicles in our state and am trying to get the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles to promote this. In the state of Indiana, state license plates are on the rear end of the vehicle only. In researching this project, it appears that this logo of a trooper looking over the fence of a house with the plain words, 'BUCKLE UP' is most acceptable. Another one, 'BE SAFE - BUCKLE UP' is underlined in red. Recently, the people at **'The Trade Winds Sign Shop'** are making the background yellow, which brings out the sign much better. We have a lot of these Buckle Up signs posted throughout Lake County, IN; the Indiana Toll Road; some in Porter & LaPorte Counties; and I've been told some are on Rte. 57 in Illinois and St. Joe, Michigan. ... We, as members of the 90th Association, appreciate the wonderful newsletter that you produce, and the work required to produce it." [Ed.: Joe also had included a drawing of his latest project - hummingbird feeders, which he has been researching.]



McGriff, E. Carver, M CO. -

- "Dear New Friends, I'm a member now, having spent my adult life not knowing you guys exist. So glad I found you. I attended my first reunion in New Orleans in 2010 and met many fine people. I was wounded and captured in Beau Coudray, France on July 7, 1944, M CO, 357th Regiment." [Ed.: This letter was written in January of 2011 but was never in the newsletter. Carver is a retired Methodist Minister and took 40 people from his church on a tour of Normandy in September after taking a tour with his daughter, son-in-law & 2 grandsons there in June. This August, he returned for his second reunion & brought his lovely and charming wife, Marianne, who is now a member also. Carver offered the Invocation at the Saturday Unit Lunch. We are delighted to have them both as members and look forward to seeing them in 2012!]

Minde, Theodore [Ted], A CO. 1Bn -

- written 6/20 - "I am chagrined that only 28% of the Tough 'Ombres carried on the 90th Division roster, contribute. Perhaps it is the economy or old age [senior moments], or they'd rather not remember their individual experiences while in the ETO. I am proud of being a member of A Company, 357th Inf. Regt., 90th Division - even as a very young replacement. But I shall always remember members of my squad [4th] and the selfless dedication of those who served. Wish I could devise some plan to encourage some of the 72% to pay dues - only \$20 annually. Good luck to you both. We shall not be at the 2011 reunion since my hearing has deteriorated so that I am unable to participate in simple conversations. Love to all Tough 'Ombres, Ted Minde" [Ed.: We are at a loss as to how to motivate roster members to pay dues. There is always an announcement below "Call of Taps" on page 3 of each newsletter, BEGGING readers to keep us up-dated and let us know if they wish to be dropped from the newsletter mailings. We TRY! - BOTTOM LINE: If more don't pay dues, we cannot continue to put out a newsletter.]

Muhar, Nick P., HQ CO. -

- "As far as I know, there are only 2 left in HDQ Co., 357th Inf., namely Forest Erickson - 92 years -

and Nick P. Muhar - 94 years [me]. If there are any others, please contact us! We landed on Utah Beach, Normandy on D-Day" [Ed.: Both Nick and Forest are paid-up members of the 90th Association!]

Roberts, Robert [Bob] Roberts, I CO., 3Bn -

- "My grandson, Stephen Parent of Unionville, CT & I will not make the 2011 reunion in Bloomington, MN - Lots of medical problems. Have a great reunion.

Bob Roberts"

Joe at Tradewinds Sign Shop - signs sell for \$12 + postage. Proceeds from sign with flags go to charitable & non-profit organizations or causes. [see lower left column.]



357th [con't.]

Stamatis, Peter C., f CO., 28n

- June 26: "I hope you are feeling well and are eager to go to our reunion in Bloomington, MN. I started to write you a little note, but it was a bit morbid, so I quit. Anyhow...!! I hope and ask the Lord, to all the two of you to have the strength to be able to do the great job you do - running our 90th reunions - for many more years to come. We have always had good presidents and, I am sure, many other good volunteer helpers. But we all know that it is you, James & Rhoda, who keep the reunions running so smoothly. Not sure I can come to the reunion, but I shall send you the registration form in ample time...if I can. Regards, Peter C. Stamatis" [Ed.: Pete and his son, Mark were indeed at the reunion and participated in the program at the Saturday evening dinner by leading the Pledge of Allegiance for the group. It's always a delight to have them at the reunions!]

Walters, Charles, A CO. -

- Note from his wife, Marilyn: "Charles has Alzheimer's and is now at Big Bend Woods Health Care Center. Your 90th Division paper is one of the few things he really enjoys. Marilyn Walters" [Ed.: If any readers know Charles, why not send him a note to the address above, and Marilyn can take it to him. Our prayers are with you, Marilyn, in this difficult time.]

358th

Byzewski, Adam John, 359/G - deceased 9/23/11 - OBIT sent by daughter

- "My dad was a member of the 90th Division Association. He received the Spring newsletter. He passed away Friday, September 23. I hope you can put his obituary in your newsletter. He was proud to be a Tough 'Ombre up until his passing. I will miss my best friend and the best man that God put on this earth forever."

[Ed.: Due to space limitations, the obit was edited down]

Adam J. Byzewski, 94, of Manvel, ND passed away Friday, September 23, 2011 at the Good Samaritan Cancer Center, Larimore, ND.He entered the U.S.

Army on March 31, 1942 at Fort Snelling, MN and served in the African Middle Eastern Theater of War. During

WW II, he served with the 90th Infantry Division as a Radio Operator. Adam was aboard the Susan B. Anthony when it sank while crossing the British Channel. He was wounded on June 14, 1944 on Utah Beach during the Invasion of Normandy, and was hospitalized in England for six months. After recuperating, he went back into combat as infantry for a total of two years overseas. He was awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star. He was honorably discharged from military service on December 15, 1945 at Camp McCoy, WI He returned to Warsaw, ND and continued farming after his discharge. He married in 1955 in Grand Forks, ND and continued farming with his brothers in Manvel and Warsaw until retiring in 1980. He also worked for American Crystal Sugar Co. during the harvest. He was a member of St. Timothy's Catholic Church and served as an usher for many years. He served on the Manvel Town & Park Board and was the Manvel Fire Chief for 27 years. He also volunteered with the Boy Scouts of America & was a lifetime member of the VFW, E. Grand Forks, MN; a member of the Disabled American Veterans; past member of The Eagles Club and the Forty & Eights. He enjoyed collecting toy tractors, ball point pens, caps, campaign buttons & playing pinochle. He is survived by several family members."



Cooper, Andrew J., 358/I 3Bn -

- "Enclosed you will find my 2011-2012 dues, a 500 Club donation, and a memorial to Earl Shostrom. Earl & I served together in CO. I, 358th Inf. Rgt. of the 90th Inf. Div. for a short time. Earl was wounded and sent back to the states. I learned just recently that he had passed away. The story of his death and pictures in the recent 90th newsletter were appreciated but sad to read. You might be interested to know that I am a good friend to & related by marriage to 90th Div. 2010-2011 President Tom Ingram. Kind regards to both of you. Keep up the good work. We will not make the 2011 reunion - "too old" - I'm 91 & Mary Agnes is 88. Sincerely, Andy"

Dixon, Clem, 358/HQ

- "I want to thank you folk for all you are doing for the 90th people. I am doing fair - I'll be 90 August 3, 2011 Thank you again. Enclosed is a check for 2 years dues [2011-2012 & 2012-2013]."

Harris, Mrs. Donna, widow, Max F., 358/D 3Bn

"Max passed away on June 3, 2011. He was a member of the 90th Division. He served in CO. D, 358th Infantry Regiment. Max served from August 7, 1944 through June 27, 1946. I have enclosed his dues for 2011-2012 and a donation. Donna Harris"

Max F. Harris, 85, crossed the finish line, June 3, 2011 at the



Lutheran Life Village. He was born on January 23, 1926 to the late Fred and Velma (Stoutenberry) Harris. He was a WWII Army veteran, a member of Am.

Legion Post 296, VFM 10006. He retired after 24 years of services as a paymaster at BF Goodrich. He leaves behind his wife of 62 years, Donna J. (Butler) Harris; children, Connie (Gary) Waters Elwood of Wolf Lake, IN, Kevin M. (Carole) Harris of Ft. Wayne, Polle (Pat) Knight of Byron Center, MI, John A. (Kim) Harris of Albion, IN, Julie A. (Tim) Jackson, of Byron Center MI; 17 grandchildren, and 10 great grandchildren. Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by a son, Kelly J. Harris. A celebration of his life will held at 11:00 am on Tuesday, June 7, 2011 at Elzey-Patterson-Rodak Home for Funerals, 680 Old Trail Road, Ft. Wane with calling one hour prior to services. Visitation hours will also be from 2-4 and 6-8 on Monday, June 6, 2011 at the funeral home. Burial will take place at Catholic Cemetery following funeral services with Post 215 of Lagrange providing military rites. Memorials may be made to St. Jude's Children Hospital and Parkview Home Health & Hospice.



Lord make me an instrument
of Thy peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master:
grant that I may not so much
seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning
that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying
that we are born to eternal life.

2011-2012 Dues Reminder!

Check your mailing label - are you PAID UP? IF your label says DUES NOT PAID 2011-2012, you OWE the 90th Association \$20 - Send it TODAY - no DELAY



358th [con't.]

Hollenbeck, Charlie, 358/C 1Bn -

- "Sorry to be so late with dues. Will not be able to make the 2011 Reunion. Hope you had a good one. Charlie"

Jackel, ED, 358/F

- [This was sent by Ed's daughter, Stephanie Jackel -

**"WORLD WAR II
VET ED JACKEL PUBLISHES SECOND BOOK"**

"At 93 years 'young', Ed Jackel is delighted to have recently published his second book, a novel. **65 AND GOING** tells the story of David Sanders, at 65 a widower who decides to leave his home & 'go by myself, and where and when I want to. I won't have any destination. It will be fun traveling without a definite goal or schedule.'

His journey takes him through the Southeastern United States, exploring back roads, meeting interesting and unusual people, and having a variety of experiences. Along the way, David encounters some truths about himself and proves that a 'senior citizen' can still be resourceful and independent. **65 AND GOING**, 189 pages, can be ordered from Blue Water Press: <http://bluewaterpress.com/65> for \$15.95 + applicable tax and shipping. Orders can be placed by credit card, check, or Money Order. Jackel, who has lived in Atlanta since 1951, will celebrate his 94th birthday in November, 2011. He survived 140 consecutive days of combat in General Patton's 90th Division during World War II. Fighting through France and Germany in the 358th Regiment F CO., Jackel was awarded 3 Purple Hearts and a Silver Star medal for his actions under enemy fire. He enjoys his apartment at the Atlanta Jewish Towers as well as activities around the city with friends and family."

Jacques, Vernon T., 358/F -

- "Good to receive the T/O paper. I always look at it from cover to cover. I have paid dues and contributed to the 500 Club since it started. It's bad so few pay dues now. I'm 94 - I can't pay forever! Yours truly, Vem" [Ed.: Thank you, Vem! Yes, more need to pay dues or there won't be any more newsletters. Readers, see article on Vem on the first page of "Veterans In the News" later in this newsletter - and - check your mailing label to see if dues are pd.]

Mace, Maurice E., 358/D

"Sending dues and donation - I am in pretty good health to be nearly 90 - on the go every day. I enjoy getting the newsletter about the 90th. I won't make the 2011 reunion. Mace"

Martin, Grant A., 358/A 1Bn

- "I am sorry to have not paid dues on time. Grant has been in and out of the hospital since May. He is improving but is still very weak. I am sending a Memorial for Lt. William Silbert - he was Grant's Lt. when both were captured by Germans on January 20, 1945. Grant has been on dialysis for almost 2 years. He enjoys the newsletter but almost all are now gone to a better place. Thank you. Noda W. Martin"

Pace, Douglas [Doug], 358/I 3Bn -

- "Thanks for another newsletter. Doug & I enjoyed it but sorry we had to be reminded

about our dues. We were also sorry to read in the 'Call of Taps' that Eugene Hunstiger and Earl Shostrom had passed away. We sat with them and their wives at the 1994 Reunion [our first]. They made us feel welcomed. We will be unable to attend the 2011 Reunion. 'Old Father Time' has made it difficult to travel long distances and Minnesota is a 'far piece' from Texas. Enclosed is our check for dues. Your hard work is appreciated. Annette and Doug Pace" [Ed.: Hopefully you can make the 2012 reunion!]

Patrilla, V.L., 358/K

- "This has been a hectic and very busy Fall. Not much time to relax. Enclosed you will find my dues and a couple of 'Kraut Killer' Badges that I had made for the uniforms of K CO., 358th Regt. I tried to make one, but the cloth unraveled so bad I gave up and had one of my ex students make them on a machine. Give them to the Historian [Tyler Alberts]. I was in Co.K 358th as a rifleman to start & then a light 30 cal. machine gun Sgt. from Bastogne till the end of the war. These were worn on the right side of the jacket or on the shirt pocket of the uniform. V.L. Patrilla"

Petty, Darrell, 358/G -

- "I sincerely hope this finds you both well and happy and rested up from the last reunion. Of course, knowing you, I'm sure you have already started working on the next one! I am sorry to be late with my dues and the 500 Club money. But, find enclosed a check for my 2011-2012 dues and a little for the 500 Club. I realize that some old 'T/Oers' maybe can't pay extra for the 500 Club, so maybe the extra bit will make up for one of them. I wish it could be more. I surely miss getting to the reunions, but I think about it when it's on and my heart and prayers are there with all of you. I am printing this letter as I can no longer write so it's readable. I miss seeing all of you and the feelings I get when I'm there. I talked to Elza Coffey some weeks ago, and is is doing fairly well. He had a stroke but seems to have recovered so far. He said he doesn't get the newsletter anymore & he does not know why" - [INSERT: by Editor - Elza IS on the mailing list, so I don't know where his newsletters are going since they haven't come back to us. I need to know if he gets this one! We do have his correct address.] "My wife requires almost full time care now as a chemical spill from the local refinery in Newcastle, WY where we lived so long, took almost 70% of her lungs to Silicose Fibrosis. That's why we moved to Thermopolis - to get away from that chance again. It got to me too but not as bad. I also have a Downs Syndrome daughter who also requires extra care. So I am the care-giver & house keeper, and it's a full time job. I've had to learn a lot and adjust to it. I am very glad to have the V.A., and they have been very good to me. I have a 100% Service Connected Disability rating with them, so my medical needs are pretty well taken care of. But Jean's Medicare doesn't cover all of hers. Between my VA pension and our combined Social Security, etc., we keep our heads above water. It helps we own our house and everything else is clear. - No payments! I close with a wish and a prayer for your good health and happiness - you two have worked so hard for the 90th. I thank you with all my heart. You are great. Take good care of yourselves and each other too. Your 90th buddy, Darrell" [Ed.: I MISS you at the Reunions - wow! your plate is full! God bless you all!. Readers: why not send Darrell a note of friendship and encouragement??? Let him know we care!]



358th [con't.]

Razo, Frank, 358/AT

"I almost decided to stop my dues. But after reading the stories of all those great guys about their experiences ... it brought back many memories of those awful times we went through in the "Remember When" pages. Here are my dues for 2010-2011 & 2011-2012. Please keep me on your list. Is there anyone on the mailing list of 358/AT CO.?" [Ed.: Dear Frank, Your letter touched my heart, and I thank you for paying your dues and "sticking with" the Tough 'Ombres. I checked our roster, and there are 5 other names that show 358/AT CO - However, we have many on our roster whose unit we don't know, so there may be others. Of the 6 of you so identified, 4 are active, dues paying members. For you I make this special exception - I will list here the names, addresses & phone numbers, if shown, of the 5: George Colby -

John J. Day, Jr.

Mervin Hogg -

Carmen Pariso

Simon

Eksouzian

Rhodes, Bill, 358/L -

[Ed.: Bill sent one of his poems and also a bit of information about Robert McNamara who was KIA and a fox hole buddy of Bill's. You will find Robert's story on "Soldier's Story 1" which his granddaughter sent.

'Bill Says Goodbye

At age 93 I'm already at the station just waiting for the train.

I marvel at the Lord's creation and try hard not to complain.

I can hear the whistle blowing, I see the train coming around the bend

If I can get on that train I hope I find a friend.

If the train bound for Heaven stops in Salinas, I hope to get on board.

I pray I'll be allowed to go to Heaven to worship Jesus our Lord.

So maybe now it's time to say goodbye to each family member & friend
as life's long journey comes to an end.

I don't know exactly when, But may God richly bless you all
and I say Amen.

On the back of my train ticket these words are engraved,

'All who call on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

Walker, Walter, 358/A -

"Here are my dues. I know I am behind, so this should get me even, and then you can drop me from the roster. I have my own health problems and probably won't be here next year. I have lost all of my fox hole buddies [Triano, DeLuca, and others], and it hurts to think back of those days. Yours truly, Walt Walker" [Ed.: This letter broke my heart - how about some Tough 'Ombres sending him a note]

Weathersby, Dorothy, niece of E.L. McCharen

"Dear Rhoda, I didn't know this gentleman, but happened to note he was a 90th veteran. Hope all is well with you. I always look forward to the newsletter! I probably won't make the 2011 reunion. Regards, Dot Weathersby" [Ed.: Thanks for sending this obituary!.]

Obituary of William Nolan, 358th - sent by Dot Weathersby

William Nolan Jackson

William H. Nolan, 90, passed away Thursday, June 2nd, at the Hospice Unit of the V.A. Medical Center in Jackson. A graveside service is planned for Thursday, June 9th at 10:00 a.m. at Wright & Ferguson's Parkway Memorial Cemetery in Ridgeland. Visitation will be held from 6:00-7:30 p.m. on Wednesday evening, June 8th.

Mr. Nolan was a native of Philadelphia, PA, but lived in northeast Jackson for 49 years. He attended Overbrook High School in Philadelphia, University of Georgia in Atlanta and the Atlanta Law School. He served as an infantry platoon leader in France during World War II with the 358th Regiment, 90th Infantry Division. He was awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart with Three Clusters, Combat Infantryman Badge, and the Croix de Guerre. After retiring from the U.S. Army, he was an executive with the General Services Administration for many

years. Mr. Nolan was a member of Briarwood Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Nolan was preceded in death by his parents William & Marye Nolan of Philadelphia, PA and his wife of 51 years, Kathleen Tumlin Nolan. Survivors include one daughter, Karen Nolan Manzini and husband Marco of Johns Creek, GA and Parma, Italy; one son, William H. Nolan and wife Marian of Scott City, KS; grandchildren Richard C. Nolan of Playa Vista, CA, William Rane Nolan of Cambridge, England, and Lara Manzini Mattana and husband Pierpaolo of Woodbury, MN; two great-granddaughters, Giulia and Giorgia Mattana and one

cousin, Joseph Turtzo and wife Diane of Villas, NJ. Memorials may be made in the name of William H. Nolan to the Mississippi State Veterans Home, 4607 Lindbergh Drive, Jackson, MS 39209 or Briarwood Presbyterian Church, 620 Briarwood Dr., Jackson, MS 39211.

WRIGHT & FERGUSON FUNERAL HOME

Jackson, MS
TUE
TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2011 ■ THE CLARION LEDGER ■ 7A

359th

Callahan, William E., HQ 1Bn

"I am sorry that I am late. My wife was sick with cancer, and she passed away Jan. 13, 2011. I miss the reunions but my health won't allow me to attend anymore. Wishing you great health and success. Yours Truly, William E. Callahan"

Cole, Mrs. Frances, widow, Orville Cole,

"June 22 - Today when the newsletter came from the 90th Div., I realized that I had not notified you that another hero was gone - Orville Cole. I'm sending you his obituary. The facts about his service record are accurate because Orville had been seriously ill 15 years before, and we had the foresight to write the first part of his obituary then. Later on, some of his memories were not so accurate [as far as the family could figure]. But his great nephew [a Junior in high school] did a good job of interviewing Orville, and it is a nice thing for the family to have, because Orville seldom talked about those years. He refused to go to Washington, D.C. to see the WW II Memorial. Finally someone said to him 'Is it because of those memories?' He said 'Yes, I don't want to remember all that killing.' But he is enjoying Heaven now!! Sincerely, Frances Cole" [Ed.: Obit. on following page - I'm sorry we could not print his story due to space limitations in the newsletter, and it is quite lengthy.]



359th [con't.]

Obituary of Orville Cole



Orville Cole, 90, of Forest City, Iowa, died Wednesday, June 30, 2010 at the Good Samaritan Society in Forest City.

Orville Cole, the son of George and Clara (Nerem) Cole, was born January 20, 1920 near Roland. He was baptized and confirmed at Salem Lutheran Church in Roland. He graduated from Roland High School in 1939 and worked on the family farm with his brother. He served his country during WW II

in the U.S. Army from 1942 until his honorable discharge as Staff Sergeant in 1945. Orville served in the 90th Division, 358th Infantry, Company C and took part in the battle and campaigns of Normandy, Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central Europe. He received the European-African-Middle Eastern Theatre Ribbon with four Bronze Battle Stars, a Bronze Service Arrowhead, three overseas service bars, a service stripe, a Silver Star for bravery, Purple Heart medal with first and second Bronze Clusters and a Combat Infantry badge. He was wounded at Normandy, Meuse/River and at the Belgium Bulge. Following his discharge, he returned home to farm until 1950 when he moved to Forest City. At the age of 33 he accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior. On February 1, 1954 he married Frances Smith at Calvary Baptist Church parsonage. For a short

time he operated a restaurant and worked for several farmers. Between 1958 and 1961 he worked for the Forest City Public Schools as custodian. Then the family moved to Ames where Orville was employed at the school system and post office. In 1973 they moved to a farm near Boone where he was instrumental in starting and building the Berean Baptist Church. He served faithfully as a deacon and in many other capacities. He retired from the post office in August of 1983 as head of maintenance. In August of 1991, he and Frances returned to Forest City and in 1993 moved to a farm east of town. Due to ill health, they moved to Ames in 2005. He was a member of Heartland Baptist Church in Ames and Calvary Baptist Church in Forest City.

Orville is survived by his wife, Frances, of Ames; two sons, Craig Cole of Overland Park, KS and David (Ruth) Cole of Ames; two grandchildren, Jonathan and Hazael Cole; a sister-in-law, Jeanne Cole of Mason City; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Mary Beth Cole; daughter-in-law, Aviloh Cole; two sisters, Abbie Peterson and Morna Olson; and four brothers, Arnold, Virgil, Ernie and George Cole.

Petersen Lund Funeral Home
www.petersenlundfh.com

Stieler, William E., HQ, 7991 M-37

sent by his

daughter, Shirl Popp



- "August 5 - Enclosed you will find Dad's check for his 2011-2012 dues. He was hoping to be able to personally hand you his check at 93rd Annual Reunion, in

MN. However, several health issues prevented him from attending. As of 6/10, Dad is now a double amputee. The right leg was blown off many years ago, of course, on December 13, 1944 while fighting the Germans. Then, due to major circulation issues, his left leg was recently removed surgically, above the knee. There are also a few other other health issues that he is currently dealing with as well. However, his biggest challenge is his declining age! Dad turned 95 years young on August 1, and he and Mom also celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary together on March 28, 2011!! He never complains about any pain or discomfort...he's just one Tough 'Ombre!!! Thanks to you both for all that you do for the 90th Division Association...all year long! Your diligence and patience in putting the newsletter together is awesome. It's obvious to we, the readers, that it's a labor of love on your part. Dad's eyesight is now failing him, but he still looks forward to receiving each issue of the T/O newsletter. Sincerely, Shirl Popp" "Nov. 25, 2011 - "Hi Rhoda - Just a quick note to say "Hi" and we also wanted to share with you that Dad passed away the morning of November 7, 2011. I'm enclosing a copy of his obituary as it appeared in our local papers. Mom is doing well. She is almost totally blind now, so we have the same care-givers taking care of her each day, whom we had coming into their home when Dad was still alive. Then I take over in the evenings and on the week-ends, with the daily upkeep and responsibilities that go along with her in-home care. We've put together a Military Memorial Service for Dad, that will take place at noon Dec. 10, 2011 at the VFW Hall in Marfette, MI. We hope all is well with you and yours, and that you're staying healthy

and active, and enjoying the peace and beauty that each day brings your way. Love, Shirl, Ron & Gin" [Ed.: Bill was one of my heroes, and it was always a delight for me to see him at reunions. Such a special Tough 'Ombre - I am very sad for all of us, but thrilled for him that he is now whole again and in Heaven. But I will always remember you, Bill!!!!] - OBITUARY below edited due to space limitations in this newsletter.

MESICK, MI: William Ernest Stieler, 95, of Mesick, was surrounded by his loving family as he passed on to life eternal on November 7, 2011, while residing in the quiet surroundings of his home in Mesick. Bill was born Aug. 1, 1916 in Berkley, MI and was raised there along with his 8 siblings and 2 adopted brothers. He graduated from Berkley High School in 1934; married Virginia R. Jones of Birmingham, MI on March 28, 1941. He attended undergraduate school at Michigan State College until being drafted into the 90th Infantry Division of the U.S. Army. He was shipped to Europe where he served the next five years in training and combat during WW II, under the direction of General George S. Patton. Sgt. Bill Stieler unfortunately left his right leg on a battlefield somewhere near the Saar River in Germany and was subsequently boarded onto a military hospital ship bound for the U. S. He eventually ended up back in Michigan. In 1948 Bill & his wife settled in Marlette, MI where he worked as an accountant for McMann Metal Works & Marlette Mobile Homes. In 1954, he and Ginny started a drapery window treatment business in the basement of their farm house. This business grew and expanded over the next 30 years & was known as "Quality House Custom Draperies". More than 60 employees shipped draperies nationwide. By the time he retired in 1984, his continued research and development resulted in the acquisition of two drapery hardware patents. During the '70s, Bill learned the art of 3-track snow-skiing which eventually led him around the country as a handicap ski instructor. His newfound passion for skiing motivated him to officially establish the "Midwest Handicap Ski Association". A tribute to his efforts can still be viewed at the National Ski Hall of Fame in Ishpeming, MI where there is a permanent display of the "Stieler Cup", which he founded. It is an award that is presented annually to the top men's three-track skier in a national competition, which is sanctioned by the Michigan Adaptive Sports Network. In 2005, Bill was officially inducted into the National Handicap Ski Hall of Fame at a formal ceremony in Dearborn, MI, sponsored by Wright & Filippis. After closing their successful manufacturing business, Bill and Ginny spent several years exploring the USA in a Motor Home. They later settled for 24 years in N. Ft. Meyers, FL where they enjoyed many activities. One of those was his pursuit of a childhood interest in trains and steam engines. He joined the Railroad Train Village and Museum at Lakes Park in Ft. Myers and was instrumental in the designing, funding, and building of a state-of-the-art railroad museum with adjoining children's playground. In 2008, as a tribute to his vision and effort, "The William Stieler Library and Archives Room" in the museum, was named in his honor. In 2009, due to advancing age and the physical challenges that come with it, they moved back to Mesick, MI. Bill will always be remembered for his independence and optimistic attitude [con't. next page]



359th [con't.]

Stieler Obituary [con't.] - toward life's daily challenges in spite of all his physical limitations, etc. His positive self-esteem was an invaluable asset to his successful aging. He leaves a legacy for generations to follow through his many written and published books which provide a history of personal family stories and experiences. He is survived by his wife, Ginny; a brother & 3 sisters; a daughter & 3 sons; 11 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and 2 great-great grandchildren+ many nieces and nephews. A Military Memorial Service and luncheon is scheduled for December 10 at the Marlette VFW Hall in Marlette, MI

Dewitt Wells, 359/K

- Dewitt sent the following photos & information:



First in Flight Entertainment

Www.FirstInFlightEntertainment.com

Dewitt signed up the CEO of First In Flight Entertainment as a new 90th Hon. Member. This is an "Andrew Sisters Tribute Show First In Flight Entertainment" that travels around the U.S. putting on shows especially for veterans. He loved the show!



Dewitt also sent the picture below.



"The Greatest Generation"

90th Infantry Division
"Tough Ombres"

Brown, James - Obituary, sent by his widow, Marie

- James H. Brown, 87, of Watseka passed away on Wednesday, May 4, 2011 at Iquois Resident Home in Watseka. Jim was born in Sheldon, IL on October 18, 1923. He was a graduate of Sheldon High School, class of 1941. Prior to joining the Army in January, 1943, he was employed as a clerk in the Post Office. Upon completion of basic training, he was assigned to the Infantry School at Fort Benning, GA and later transferred to the Army Air Force where he spent 11 months with the 25th Bomb Group in England. In January, 1945, during the Battle of the Bulge, Jim, along with 6 other volunteers from the 25th Bomb Group, returned to the U.S. Army and were assigned to the 90th Infantry Division. He was a Rifle Squad Leader on CO. E, 359th. His citations included: Combat Infantry Badge; Bronze Star Medal; American Campaign Medal; European Theater Medal with One Silver and One Bronze Battle Star; Good Conduct Medal; and Victory Medal. Jim celebrated a final victory lap with other WW II veterans on an Honor Guard Flight to Washington, D.C. in August, 2010. He attended St. Joseph College and the University of Miami. He was employed more than 40 years in Personnel/Human Resources Management for a number of area companies, retiring from UARCO, Inc., in May, 1990. After 1 year of retirement, Jim became a part-time bartender at the Buckhorn Inn and Miss Karol's in Watseka. He was also involved in many other clubs and organizations during his life. He was a 19 year member of the Unit 9 Board of Education & served as President and Secretary. He was a past Commander of American Legion Post 23 and a lifetime member of VFW Post 7450. He was a long time member of Shewami Country Club and the University of Miami Hurricanes Club. He proudly served as a Board member for the 25th Bomb Group and was a member of the 90th Division Association. He married Janice Johnston of Watseka on January 23, 1949, and after her death in 1977, he married Marie Redman of Champaign, IL on May 22, 1981. She survives him, along with 2 sons; 3 daughters; 11 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren; and a brother-in-law & sister-in-law.



773rd TD BN

Johnson, Ward C.

"Sorry I'm so late with my dues, but my 90s [age] are catching up with me. Have had some blood trouble & in & out of hospital."

Swift, George. B CO.

"Good show. From a Navy town, I have to educate them what a Tank Destroyer was. They think I'm referring to a ship! - These Anchor Clankers...."

915th

Dick, William [Bill] - sent by his niece, Dorine Walsh - "It has been quite awhile since I last wrote you. This note is regarding my Uncle, Bill Dick. He is no longer living at his home in Florida. His new address is here in Rochester at his son's home. The address is:

- Uncle Bill had [con't. next page]

**YOUR \$20 2011-2012 DUES ARE PAST DUE!!
SEND YOUR CHECK TODAY IF NOT PAID!**



915th [con't.]

Dick, William [con't.] - some health issues this past spring and just wasn't feeling up to par. I drove him back up to Rochester the first part of May and, within a few days of being back, he went out to lunch, took a drive to the lake afterwards, and on the way back to his residence, he fell asleep, crossed over into oncoming traffic and was hit by another car. Both he and the other driver were not hurt seriously, but Uncle Bill was kept in the hospital for a week. They went over him with a fine toothed comb and sent him home with oxygen as his level was down in the 80s. He is now doing very well and exercising every day, but in the wake of the accident, his car was totaled and he has given up driving. Being that he just turned 90 + the accident, he made the decision for his benefit as well as the other drivers on the road. He will be selling his home in Florida as soon as I can get down there in October and get it emptied of his personal things, plus a little sprucing up. My husband passed away from cancer in December, so I have the time to go down and do what has to be done for as long as it takes. We [Uncle Bill and I] do hope that all is well with you. Sincerely, Dorine Walsh"

Kennedy, Clyde B.

"Thank you very much for your note thanking son Craig, daughter Karen, and me for leading the Pledge of Allegiance at the Friday night Reunion Banquet. It was a great honor to us for having been asked, and we very much appreciate your thoughtfulness. We are enclosing a snapshot, but there may have been others. We enjoyed the Reunion, as usual - the 31st reunion that Marie and I have attended. Our first one was in Kansas City in 1955. I was sent to Camp Barkeley a few days before the Division was activated --- so I was with the 90th all the way until I started home in November, 1945. I had enough points to receive my discharge earlier, but I stayed in Germany so that I could furlough to England in September to marry Marie. As I probably told you, Marie and I, plus our son and daughter and a couple of close friends, flew to England in September, 2010 where Marie and I celebrated our 65th anniversary with friends and many of Marie's relatives. All the best to you and yours, Clyde"



From right:
90th veteran,
Clyde Kennedy,
son Craig, and
daughter, Karen
lead the Pledge of
Allegiance

The T/O Brand on cattle owned by Clyde Kennedy of Granada, CO
[Ed.: Hope you can see the T/O insignia in upper right of cow's anatomy, near the tail - cool!]



Novelli, Ross J.

"Thanks many millions for your assistance to others. Enjoyed the Spring issue, but it was one of my saddest. God bless you and Jesus protect you as I can see all of the effort required for such an issue. - Vic Rizzo & I were always in contact. I was so surprised to hear of his death. On page 14 of the Spring issue a message from Harvey Safford, another of my contacts. He mentions Ralph L.W. Schmidt of the 915th. Was Ralph on our 90th Assoc. membership rolls, now or ever? Please advise." [Ed.: I have rosters going back to 06-07 but not before then - no R. W. Schmidt was listed.] "As Safford mentions the Normandy ambush when James A. Costain, Lt. Col. C.O. of 915th FA Bn was killed - I was there and so was 2Lt. Ralph Schmidt. There were 6 of us. Ralph said the Col. was hit - didn't know if dead. I told Ralph we had to split up or one machine gun burst could get us both. I sent him back and was trying to analyze the situation for 20 minutes - no action - I jumped over the hedgerow and returned to the outfit, after the Inf. Bn. could not help us. I returned with Lt. Ray Wright after Lt. Schmidt departed, and we adjusted artillery fire, to no avail. Inf Lt. Tuffy [Ben] Respass crawled by me with blood gushing from his forehead and left through the same opening that Schmidt had departed from. Harry Safford found the story in the hospital as a patient when Schmidt and Respass were patients. I can never forget it - NEVER! After the ambush, I never saw Ralph Schmidt again and could not find him after the war.May our Heavenly Father watch over and protect you and yours in your service to self and others - this we ask in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. With warm regards, Ross Novelli" [God bless you too, Ross! I enjoyed our conversation on the phone a few months ago!]

Schwartz, Millard

- "Enclosed find my check for dues. I served with A Battery, 919th Bn, 94th Div. in Schwandorf, Germany where I was assigned to pick up reports each week from the many little towns in the area from the Mayors who had to report each week to our Battery C.O. I was a buck Sgt.. In December, we moved to Marselle, France, and we sailed home to N.Y. on the Blue Ridge V. Ship and arrived at Camp Shanks, NY Christmas Day, then transferred to Camp Attenbury, IN where I received my discharge. I enjoy reading the T/O newspaper. I worked for the Riocal" [Ed.: sp?] "Electric company for 40 years - 1946-1986. I retired and now live at a retirement complex. Mary and I married in Nov., 1943 just before going to Europe, so it will be 68 years Nov. 27. I'm 90, and in fair health. Sincerely, Millard Schwartz"

RRC / RRG

Hanrahan, Bg [R] Phil, CMDR

"Thanks for all you do every day for the 90th Family. BG [R] Phil Hanrahan"

Rodgers, Maj. Wendy - 4422 Fm 67 -

"I regret that I won't be able to make the 2011 reunion. This will be the first one I've missed since becoming a member. I hope everyone has a great time. I'll be thinking of everyone while I'm attending my weekend battle assembly on those same days. God bless you both. Wendy" [Ed.: We missed you, Wendy! We hope to see you in Fort Worth for the 2012 Reunion, God willing.]

THIS ENDS THE T/O TALES SEGMENT FOR THIS EDITION!



Letters From Family Members of 90th Veterans

This section offers news from 90th widows, children, grandchildren, relatives and friends

The Widows Write....



Elstrom, Clara L., 357th -

"Sorry I will not be attending the August Reunion. In March of this year, I was diagnosed with lymphoma, so my life was completely turned around. I am thankful for some wonderful care-givers and that I am able to live at home. Thank you for the dedication and hard work. I enjoyed many reunions here and two in Europe. My check is enclosed for dues and the 500 Club plus a Memorial. Please remember me in your prayers. Clara Elstrom" [Ed.: This is sad news, and many of us will remember you in our prayers.]

Hekele, Betty, widow, Joseph T. "Joe" Hekele, 773rd TD Bn -

"I am writing to let you know that Joe Hekele is no longer with us as of October 10, 2010. He had enjoyed reading the newsletter of the 90th. Joe was not with the 90th during the Battle of the Bulge. He was Commander of a tank with the 773rd TD Bn. Sorry this took so long to send. Thank you again. Betty Hekele, widow"



Hekele, Joseph T.
"Joe"
Age 93, of Maplewood
Beloved Husband, Father and
Grandfather



Died Oct. 10, 2010. Survived by wife of 64 years, Betty; sons, Tom (Jackie) and Bob (Kimberly) Hekele; 5 grandchildren, Rae Ann (Stu) Nelson, Jeffrey, Erin, Emily and Kyle Hekele. World War II veteran. Tank commander with 773rd Tank Destroyer Battalion. Bronze Star and Good Conduct Medal. He was an avid deer hunter and fisherman. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 AM Wed., Oct. 20, 2010 at St. Jerome's Catholic Church, 380 E. Roselawn Ave., Maplewood, MN 55117. Visitation 1 hour prior to the Mass. Private interment Fort Snelling National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials preferred.

Jedele, Helen, widow, Loren, 357/F -

"It's a long time since we talked, but I always enjoy your newsy newsletter. I always read each page to the end, and sometimes I review it again. I have so many good memories of all the reunions I have been privileged to attend since my first one in San Antonio, TX in 2001. With slightly failing health, I hope I can continue a few more years. My daughter and her husband are driving me to the August reunion in Bloomington. I hope you are both in good health and holding your own. Getting older is not easy, but it's attitude that counts, and we need to always count our blessings. Do take care and God Bless - Helen Jedele" [Ed.: Helen, you are one of my favorite people, and you always bless me with your up-lifting notes! It was a delight, as always, to visit with you at the reunion, and we sure hope to see you next year in Fort Worth, TX!]

Koester, Lucille, widow, Andrew G. Koester, 359/HQ 3Bn -

"The enclosed check is in Memory of my husband, Andrew G. Koester who died of prostate cancer Sept. 13, 2007. He enjoyed your reunions. He was so proud to be a Tough 'Ombre. He was a member of VFW and a Battle of the Bulge group. Please do not send me any more newsletters as it is an expense for you! Thank you."

Lahodny, Marjorie, widow, Leon W., 773rd TD Bn

"I received the Ninetieth Division newsletter and need to inform you that Leon passed away September 18, 2010. He always enjoyed reading the articles and went to some of the reunions with the Tank Destroyer members. Would you please take him off your mailing list. Sincerely, Marjorie Lahodny"

Lamont, Betty, widow, Dane W., 345/FA Bn -

"Sorry to say I won't be making the 2011 Reunion in MN, but I'll be thinking about everyone. I hope to make it to the 2012 Reunion." [Ed.: Betty is so good at sending us articles that we would otherwise never know about, and she sent the one about the final laying to rest of Pvt. Donald Owens whose story we have profiled in past issues. You will find the "last chapter" of his story on the "Remember When 6" page of this newsletter.]

Olejniczek, Helen, widow, 358/L

"Sorry my dues check is late - I was in the hospital and then spent 4 months in a nursing home." [Ed.: We are glad to hear you are back home, Helen!]

Overholser, Ruth S., widow, Spencer "Joe", 790/ORD -

"It just occurred to me that now I must pay dues for the newsletters. I know Spencer was a life member, but he has been gone for over two years. I do apologize and hope you will understand. The newsletter is just that! GI friends Gil Unger and Bob Diede. As you said, most of the issue carries obits, but it is the only way to keep up with what's happening. You are to be complimented and thanked for all you do and have done. I am 93 and had a serious stroke in 2006, so life is not what it used to be! My writing is about illegible, sorry to say. So my 'jumping up and down' days are long gone. But I am here and thank God for being with me. Thank you for all you've done for so many of us. Best wishes and God's blessings."

Petersen, Betty M., widow, Earl, 790/ORD LM Co. -

"My husband, Earl A. Petersen, died in August, 2008, and I don't believe we paid his dues that year or the subsequent years. I'm enclosing a check for those dues + an additional sum as a Memorial to Jack Cook and Joe Overholser as they were good friends to Earl. "Pete", as we called him, was good friends of the 790th Ordnance [LM] Company as having served with Sgt. Major Jack Cook in the Panama Canal Zone in the early 1960s. He attended most of the 790th Reunions until his death, even sponsoring one in Colonial Williamsburg, VA. Pete felt the 90th Division should be kept alive as well as the Second Division which he served with during his two tours in Korea and two tours in Vietnam during his 30 years of U.S. Army service. Thank you for accepting this donation of back dues and the Memorial." [Ed.: Thank YOU, Betty!]

Silbert, Elsa, widow, Bill, 358/A

"You do a wonderful job with the newsletter. I know it is a lot of work. Even though Bill has passed away, I would like to remain a member of the Association. While I have canceled our reservation for Minneapolis this year, hopefully I can join you next year. I have included with my dues a donation in Bill's memory." [Ed.: Elsa, we are delighted you wish to continue your membership and look forward to seeing you in Fort Worth for the 2012 reunion!]

[More letters from widows on the following page...]

Family Album

Other

family, cont....

Tamagni, Louise, widow, John, 344/FA Bn -

- "Do hope you both are well. I am fine and keep busy with my case garden and Amaryllis. I wonder if your Amaryllis that you got during your visit with us so many years ago are still flourishing? I think a good portion of Salinas have my bulbs. This year they did exceptionally well due to our rain. Enclosed is my check for dues + a little more. Use it where you need it most. Stay well and God bless you both. Louise" [Ed.: Sadly, we no longer have the Amaryllis, but they bloomed beautifully for several years and were always a source of delight and wonder for me [Rhoda] as I marveled at God's handiwork in them!]

Thomas, Rosemary, widow, Joe, 345/FA Bn -

- "What a delinquent I am, and it doesn't seem to be getting any better. When I received the usual newsletter, I questioned myself and began to ask myself when and what I was doing and my whereabouts didn't take long - hospital, for a new pace maker and complications arose & light side effects continue. That was followed by pneumonia, and those side effects - you can tell writings are getting better, but so much for the latest medications to be used by everyone. I'll try to do better. Every so often, Lee Crenshaw and I keep in touch. He keeps me informed about Frank A. Hertzog. I miss everyone, and I know that Joe does too. The 90th Reunion was his favorite activity. Rosemary Thomas"



Family Album... Other Family Members



Bulger, Jane C., daughter, Richard H. "Doc", 358/Med Det -

"I do hope this finds you both well and enjoying your summer [sic written in June]. Once again...thank you for all your hard work - we would be lost without you. Take care and know you are special and greatly appreciated! Fondly, Jane" [Ed.: Thank you for kind words.]

Birchall, Helen Larsen, daughter, Paul Larsen, 359/C

July 8 *Greetings - Enclosed are my dues, etc., and once again, I thank you for all the work you do for the 90th Division. I'm sure you're preparing for the reunion to be held soon. We are unable to make it again, but am hoping for 2012. I'm waiting to hear of the location, and hopefully it will be near San Antonio, and we could visit my husband's brother and sister-in-law. Things are good here - my folks' farm was bought by a young couple that plan on milking 800-1000 cows! I'm sure my Mom and Dad are guiding them from above! The gal is making homemade bread in my Mom's kitchen, just like my Mom used to do. And she is making cheese - two different kinds - a white cheese and a blue cheese that looked delicious! It's great to see all the activity and young energy going into the farm. I live across the road, and I'm glad it's still a farm and not houses! Time for me to start my day. Hope this finds you both well, and thank you again for everything. Love, Helen Larsen Birchall"

Burelbach, James and Romaine, niece, George F. Wathen, 359, KIA 1/16/45 - Battle of the Bulge

- "Our family has decided to have a marker made for our Uncle - to be placed at the foot of his parents [our grandparents] and our mother and aunt's graves in St. Peter's Church Cemetery, Waldorf, MD. The marker is not completed yet, but we will see it next time we go east in 2012. Thought you might be interested. We lived with our uncle [a bachelor] & grandparents for a time. Sincerely, Romaine" [Ed.: We met Jim and Romaine at a social event held at our mutual bank about 2-3 years ago and had a great time discovering the 90th connection!]

GEORGE F WATHEN
DEC 16 1907 JAN 16 1945
S/SGT 359TH INFANTRY REG
90TH DIVISION
KILLED IN ACTION
BATTLE OF THE BULGE
BURIED
LUXEMBOURG AMERICAN CEMETERY

Deluca, Frank, brother, Angelo J. Deluca, 358/E -

- "Enclosed is a check for dues + a little extra. I do so enjoy reading the bulletin from front to end. Some very interesting men and women telling of their experiences during war time. Sincerely, Frank"

Heritage, COL USA [R] Melvin L., son-in-law, 1Lt/ Joseph M. Michaels, 773rd TD Bn -

- "It is with great sadness that I inform you of the passing of my father-in-law, 1Lt. Joseph M. Michaels, 773rd Tank Destroyer BN, on December 24, 2010 in Venice, FL. He had been in assisted living there for about 9 months - enjoying it immensely - when he took a sudden turn for the worse and died on Christmas Eve at the age of 92. You and his Association friends will be pleased to know that in his last 9 months, he engaged in many discussions about the ETO with fellow WW II veterans at the facility. He got out his 90th Inf. Div hat from a previous association reunion; a copy of the unit history; and a number of mementos to show fellow residents and staff as they swapped stories. He remained a proud association member to the end. Sincerely, COL [R] Melvin L. Heritage"

Hess, Donald F., son, Frederick J., 315/Med Bn

- "Here are my dues plus - thank you very much - excellent job - Don Hess"

Huber, Dorothy Wirhol, daughter, C., Wirhol, 915/FA Bn -

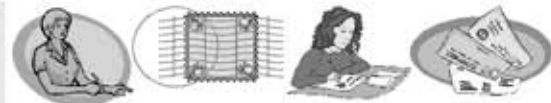
- "Sorry I'm so late with my dues. This year has flown by more quickly than previous! God Bless, Dorothy [Wirhol] Huber"

Hunter, Louise Carter, daughter, Francis Edward Lord, 357/F, KIA 11/10/44

- "I've been meaning to write and tell you how much the trip to France in 2010 meant to me, my husband and our two daughters. We were able to drive to the cemetery where my dad is buried - what an emotional experience, from seeing the vast expanse of markers to the playing of TAPS in his memory. Our daughters said they always knew there was a World War II, but now it has become very real and personal. I want to send a personal "THANK YOU" to all the veterans of my Dad's unit. Fondly, Louise S. Carter"

Munson, Sarah MacVey, daughter, Brownie L. MacVey, 359/C -

- "I am the daughter of Brownie L. Mac Vey. He has been gone for 16 years now, and my mother, Florence Mac Vey has kept in contact with the 90th [con't. next page]



Munson, Sarah Mac Vey [con't] - Division all along. Mom passed away the week of June 12-18. I don't know if you would like her obituary for your records or not. I have attended many 90th reunions during my lifetime. It is my desire to remain in contact and continue to pay dues. If it is possible, I would love to have a list of the C CO folks that you have on your roster. I hold lots of fond memories of my travels with Dad to all the wonderful places. We went to: San Antonio back in the 60s; Omaha; Oklahoma City; St. Louis; Dallas; and many times in the Twin Cities. Thanks so much for keeping the 90th alive for generations! Sarah Mac Vey Munson*

Orriere, Vincent -

- "Please, received with this letter my \$30 International dues for the 90th Division Association. I'm so glad to be in the 90th Div. Assoc. for the 2nd year. In the following sentence, I would like to describe for you the project of my **Association, Mayenne-WW2**, to honor 3 Tough 'Ombres killed and wounded in Mayenne on August 6, 1944. **Association Mayenne-WW2** is an **Association** dedicated to remembrances and the duty of memory of World War II in the department of La Mayenne [France]. One of the main work of the **Mayenne-WW 2 Association** is the census of American soldiers dead on the ground of the department during World War II, and to honor their memories. For many months of historical research, with the help of Norm Richards and French civilians, we would like to honor the memory of three men from the Service Company, 357th Regt., 90th Infantry Division. In August 6, 1944, **Tec 6 Harry Wright** [driver], **Captain Paul White**, and **Warrant Officer William Bell**, were in a Jeep. All three were integrated into Service Company, 357th Infantry Regiment, 90th Infantry Division. They were ambushed by a person patrol on the evening of August 6, 1944, at the crossroads of the operation, in the village of La Bazouge-des-Alleux, while they were leaving Mayenne over to go near Sainte-Suzanne. **Tec 6 Harvey** was Killed In Action; **Captain Paul White** was Missing In Action; and **William Bell** was seriously wounded. To pay tribute to the 3 T/Os, in June, 2012, we will dedicate a Memorial. It will be composed of a granite stone on which is affixed a plaque bearing the name, surname, date of birth, and date of death. Beside this Monument will be a wood panel with a bench and photographs chronicling the lives of the 3 soldiers and the circumstances of the ambush. This Monument and the ceremony will be built with consent of the municipality of La Bazouge-des-Alleux; French Authorities; and the American Embassy of France. We will also visit 3 major areas of the 90th Infantry Division in Mayenne; Sainte-Suzanne; & Charmes. We invite the 90th Inf. Div. Assoc. veterans and members to come. Please could you publish this project in the 90th Division Association Newsletter and on your website. If you have any questions, please write me by letter or email [shown above], and I will be glad to answer you. I'm in touch with Norm Richards, E.. Carver McGriff [357/M], and Milton Staley [359th]. Best regards, Vincent" [Ed.: If any of you is interested in attending, we recommend you contact either Tyler Alberts, 90th Historian, or Norm Richards, 90th Assistant Historian for further information. Vincent also has a posting on "Information Wanted 2"]

Perkins, Darleen, granddaughter, Bearl H. Mitchell, 359A -

- "I don't believe I'll be able to make the 2011 reunion, although it was a lot of fun last year in New Orleans. Hope you are doing well. All the best to you! Darleen" [Ed.: We hope to see you in Fort Worth for the 2012 reunion.]

Phillips, John & Anne -

- "Thank you once again for yet another memorable and wonderful 90th Div Reunion at Minneapolis. The warmth of friendship and love shown to us by the 90th Family gets stronger each year. As you have experienced yourselves no doubt, the saying of goodbye gets harder and more emotional at the end of each reunion. We so missed saying a personal and heartfelt goodbye to you both there at the hotel on the morning of your departure back home. My heart was ruling my head that morning - too many goodbyes. God willing, we'll all meet up again next year at the Fort Worth Reunion. Take care, stay safe and God Bless you both. Know that you are constantly in our prayers. God Bless America. With Love and Fond Regards, John and All the Family" [Ed.: We love you all too!]

Saveraid, Linda, daughter, Harry Rasmusson, 315/Eng.

- "Thanks for all you do! LOVE the Newsletter! Linda"

Terry, M.D., Jack, POW Flossenburg Concentration Camp -

- "Dear Rhoda, Thank you very much for your nice note and clipping. I also received copies of documents from the International Tracing Service. It seems to be the most documented tragedy in history - the Holocaust. Louise and I have talked about what a significant weekend it was being with the real heroes of WW II. For me, it is always an emotional trip - it brings me back to 1945. I look forward to 2012 in Ft. Worth. Best regards to Jim. Fondly, Jack" [Ed.: For non-attendees at the 2011 reunion, the highlight of the weekend was the presentation by Jack and fellow prisoner-of Flossenburg [first-timer at the reunion], David Yeger. Jack, you and David and your family members are all SO loved by the 90th family - you ARE part of us, and we are humbled and honored that you choose to spend time with us. It was a delight to finally meet your lovely wife, Louise - she's adorable!]

Waterstrat, Richard, nephew, Cpl. Norman W. Waterstrat, WW I, 357/K -

"It gives me a great deal of pleasure to forward my membership dues plus an extra gift to help your newsletter. Every time I receive a copy, it warms my heart. I love to read the stories - these men of the 90th Division are the same dedicated men that they have always been. Keep up the good work. Dick"

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MOLA & THOMAS
915 MEDINAR BLVD.
CHICAGO, ILL.

HUMAN STATUE OF LIBERTY
18,000 OFFICERS AND MEN
AT
CAMP DODGE, DES MOINES IA
COL. WIL. NEWMAN, COMMANDING
COL. RUSH S. WELLS, DIRECTING.

Email from Christian
Levaufre in France -
Jim Reid says it has to
be from WW I because
soldiers are wearing
knickers. !!

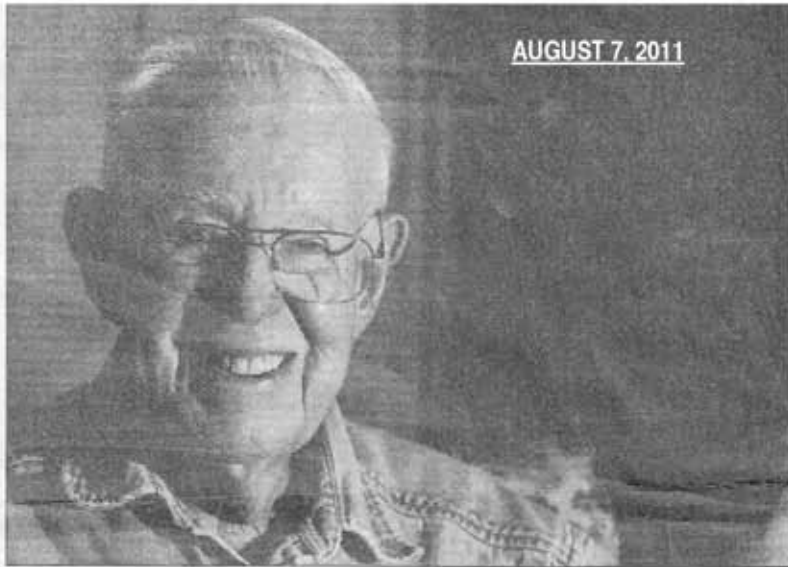
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90th Members Out & About - & In the news!



Jacques, Vernon, 358/F -



AUGUST 7, 2011

STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN MCGLOSHEN

'Tough Hombre' gave backup to D-Day invasion

BY DANIEL SUDDEATH

Daniel.Suddeath@newsandtribune.com

Vernon Jacques was on the ground in France less than two weeks after the allied forces landed in Normandy via the D-Day invasion on June 6, 1944.

Jacques was a member of the U.S. Army 90th Infantry Division, which was nicknamed the Tough Ombres by Gen. George Patton, as most of the outfit consisted of soldiers from Texas and Oklahoma.

His unit made its way into France through one of the beach heads cleared during the initial D-Day wave, and eventually his division dug-in near Abbeville where they stayed in a holding pattern for several days.

The troops kept watch over the area, and part of the assignment included a watch patrol of two soldiers who were directed to man an outpost near a set of woods.

On July 1, 1944, Jacques was on duty at the outpost with another soldier when the German artillery rounds started to strike nearby.

"They started shelling down in the woods in front of us," said Jacques, a 93-year old New Albany resident who has lived in the city his entire life outside of his service time in Europe.

As trained, Jacques and his fellow soldier took shelter in a ditch by the outpost. They heard several rounds explode, yet the soldiers remained un-

harmed.

Then the last shell Jacques recalled being fired struck a tree near the ditch, and a piece of shrapnel from the mortar round hit his left leg.

While Jacques' counterpart didn't receive a scratch, he was badly wounded and in need of immediate medical care. The shrapnel had entered his leg, and a tourniquet was applied by Jacques' fellow soldier to try and abate the bleeding.

The shrapnel entered Jacques' left leg near the ankle, and the damage extended almost to his knee as it sliced an artery in two.

Though his leg was saved, he has a 30 percent disability in the limb. A distinct scar marks the wound, and Jacques can only raise his left leg a few inches off the ground.

Despite the injury and the subsequent months of physical therapy, he considers himself fortunate.

"It could have hit me in the body somewhere and killed me, so it was lucky I got hit in the leg," Jacques said.

After he recovered, Jacques was reassigned to the Air Force in France where he worked on planes and gliders before being discharged in 1946. A Purple Heart recipient, Jacques said he never really considered the peril he was in while serving in the European theater.

"When you're there, everything is new every day and you don't have time to be scared," he said.

"This was in our local paper on August 7, 2011 - Purple Heart Day. This year, there was a lot said about the Purple Heart. Thanks. Vern"

State of Indiana



Senat

Senator Ron Groome
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Committee
Commerce & Economic Development
Health & Provider Services
Public Health Subcommittees
Homeland Security, Transportation & Veterans Affairs
Public Safety Subcommittees
Transportation Subcommittees

August 9, 2011

Mr. Vernon Jacques

Dear Vernon,

I wanted to take the time to personally acknowledge your incredible acts of heroism and bravery during your service in World War II. It is because of noble men and women like you that this great country enjoys the freedom that it has today.

I have heard the many stories of the horrors of this world war, but no one can comprehend the unbelievable destruction and violence that you, as a soldier, endured at such a young age. I am truly inspired by your generation of soldiers that were drafted to the war, and went willingly with the heart of a servant. Your sacrifice is greatly appreciated and it is my hope that this country will always work to uphold the freedoms that you and your fellow soldiers fought so hard for. As your state senator and a fellow American, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for my independence.

Again, you have my sincere gratitude, and if I can ever be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Ron Groome
State Senator

IMPORTANT!



ACTION! NEEDED NOW!

Check your mailing label! IF your label says, "DUES NOT PD '11-'12" ...

Send your \$20 TODAY!

ALSO...send extra for the 500 Club!



If more people don't pay dues...no more newsletters!!



90th Members Out & About - & In the news! - 2



Smith, Christina, daughter, the late Joseph A. Lindner, 357/HQ -

- sent this information: "I was

reading the Spring Edition of the T/O newsletter about the awarding of the French Legion of Honor. My father, Joseph A. Lindner was in the 357/HQ and was one of those special people who received the medal and was named a 'Chevalier'. Enclosed is a picture of the medal as well as an article written on the local paper. I would love for it to go into the T/O newsletter Thank you very much a proud daughter of a Toug'n 'Ombre.. Christina Smith"

Chris Smith had just about given up hope that her father would receive the Legion of Honor Medal, the most prestigious decoration in France, when, finally, after a year and a half, she got the letter advising her that he did.

It was Chris's husband, Jim, who made the application for her father, Joseph A. Lindner, a World War II veteran who resided at The Verandah in Carnesville with his wife, who still lives there.

"When we told him last summer he said, 'That will be interesting,'" Chris said with a smile.

A German by birth, Joseph came to the United States when he was 7 with his grandmother Oma and five siblings, Chris said. Joseph wanted to join the war effort during WWII.

"Only the Army would take him," Chris said.

Joseph, an MP, and translator in Gen. George Patton's Division, ended up in Normandy, Metz, and Chambourg and the Battle of the Bulge.

He went through France to the German border, even helping to capture his hometown of Windischenbach, all at the age of 19.

Those accomplishments put Joseph, who had already been honored with several medals, including the Bronze Star, in the running for the Legion of Honor medal.

"You had to have been in Normandy and spent time going through France, as he did in Metz and Chambourg, to receive the medal," Chris explained.

Chris said she felt that she was almost positive her father would not receive the medal. Only 100 are given out each year. She said when they went to the French Consulate, her father went through his time in France from the time he landed in Normandy through the six months it took him to get to the German border.

"They [the French Consulate officials] talked about how the battle of each town was so horrific, which is why they give the



JIM AND CHRIS SMITH accepted the French Legion of Honor Medal on behalf of Chris's father, Joseph A. Lindner.

He began with Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802 to acknowledge services rendered to France by persons of great merit and includes entitlement of knighthood for France.

It can only be applied for by a living veteran which further worried Chris that her dad would not receive the award as he died in November.

However, since he applied for it prior to his death, he was still a viable candidate.

Chris received the letter on Jan. 4, informing her that by decree signed by the President of the French Republic on July 28, 2010, her father had been named a "Chevalier" of the Legion of Honor.

The award, the letter advised, testified to the President of the French Republic's high esteem for her father's merits and accomplishments.

In particular, it is a sign of France's true and unfor-

gettable gratitude and appreciation for his precious contribution to the United States' liberative role in the liberation of France during World War II.

"I don't know what it took so long for them to let us know," Chris said.

She received the letter Feb. 28, letting her know the medal was her disposal.

"They did a special ceremony for Jim and I," she said. "They usually do a ceremony in May in Lanta."

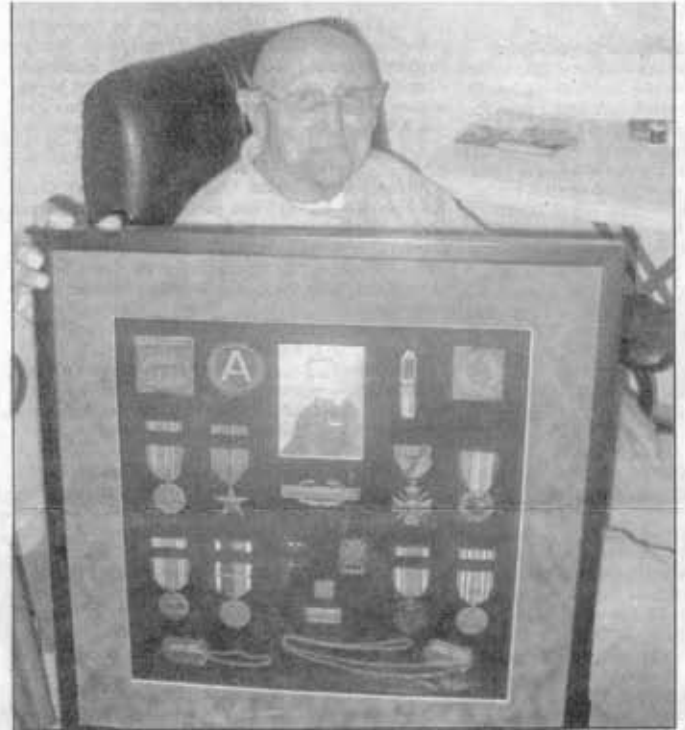
Chris wanted to receive the medal early to take to her father's funeral, she said, which will be in April in West Virginia.

"He will have a military burial," she said, "with his family."

And he will have the Legion of Honor Medal with him.

"He will know," she said. "He will know he has it."

[Ed.: Christina is not a member of the 90th Division Association, and we invite her as well as any & all family members of 90th veterans to join the Assoc.]



THE LATE JOSEPH A. LINDNER shows off some of his medals from World War II. Lindner was recently awarded the French Legion of Honor posthumously.

A WWII hero's family gets his final reward



To join the 90th Assoc., all you need to do is: Fill out the Dues Form [last page of newsletter] & include \$20 !



Wiley, Jerry, nephew Captain Robert B. McHolland,

358/K -

- "Enclosing

two articles about my Uncle Bob [Capt. Robert B. McHolland, K CO, 358th Inf. Rgt.] that you might be able to use in the newsletter. Both articles are about the donation of an old French pistol that was returned with my uncle's belongings after the war. The pistol had remained in the possession of my uncle's family. When I wrote the biography of my uncle, 'Captain Mac', I included many of the letters he wrote back home. One letter which he wrote to his first cousin, Dorla Millikin, of Claremore, OK in late October, 1944, he instructed his cousin to 'tell the Mayor of Claremore I have a very antique French pistol I am saving for his collection of guns'. At the time I was writing the book, I was so engrossed with gathering of information and putting it together, I overlooked the potential significance of what my uncle had written in this letter. It was not until sometime last year when I was traveling through Oklahoma and noticed a sign along the Interstate near Claremore about a 'JM Davis Gun Museum' that something clicked inside my head that told me there might be a connection between what my uncle had written in that letter in October, 1944 and this gun museum. After doing a lot more digging, I discovered that my uncle and JM Davis [the mayor of Claremore in the early 40s, did indeed know each other. Mrs. Davis owned a hotel on the main street of Claremore. The hotel had a coffee shop and Mr. Davis was known for the amazing gun collection he had begun displaying at the hotel. My uncle had traveled to Claremore several times before the war to visit with his aunt, uncle and cousins who lived there. His relatives lived only a couple of blocks from the Davis Hotel, so it became evident that he had become acquainted with Mr. Davis. Much later on, Mr. Davis donated the collection to the people of Claremore, and a foundation was established to maintain and administer the gun collection. Mr. Davis died in 1982, and the collection is now housed in a large modern facility and administered by local interested citizens. Once I had gathered all this information, I believed that the 'antique French pistol' clearly belonged in the gun collection in the JM Davis Gun Museum. I spoke with family members who all agreed that the gun should go to the museum. It was at this point that I contacted the museum. They accepted the donation and now have a special exhibit that tells the story of how the gun finally got to its intended destination -- 67 years later. Thank you for ALL you do for the Association. It is greatly appreciated by me and many more of the Tough 'Ombre Family. Sincerely, Jerry Wiley" [Ed.: the second article is on the following page. Thanks, Jerry, for this great story!]

Tulsa World Local Sunday, June 12, 2011

Antique pistol has big backstory

• The gun's donation keeps a promise dating back to World War II.

BY RHETT MORGAN
World Staff Writer

CLAREMORE — Killed in World War II, Army Capt. Robert McHolland couldn't keep the promise he made to a Claremore hotelier in 1944.

So 67 years later, McHolland's nephew is keeping it for him.

Jerry Wiley is donating to the J.M. Davis Arms & Historical Museum an antique French pistol earmarked for J.M. Davis in a wartime letter.

"These are the pieces of history," said Wayne McCombs, executive director of the museum. "These are just tools that people use. But the stories that go with them are just fascinating."

McHolland's tale is a doozy, spanning continents and spawning a book by an adoring relative.

Here's the short version. In an October 1944 letter from

ABOUT THE GUN

On display: Starting June 24 at the J.M. Davis Arms & Historical Museum. It will be displayed with Davis's first gun, a muzzle-loading shotgun given to Davis in 1894 by his father. Davis was 7 years old.

The basics: Museum curator Jason Schubert estimates that the McHolland pistol was manufactured in about 1840 in France. It was a typical self-protection gun for the time. Judging from the engraving, it likely was made for a person of some wealth.



This is the 1840 cap-and-ball gun that will be displayed at the J.M. Davis Arms & Historical Museum. MIKE SIMONS/Tulsa World

France to his cousin Dorla Milliken, who lived in Claremore, McHolland wrote: "Tell the mayor of Claremore I have a very antique french pistol I'm saving for his collection of guns. I've carried it all over France but I can't mail it home because you can't mail firearms even if it is too old and

rusty to fire anymore." McHolland, a native of Hurley, Mo., used to drive his Model A from Missouri to Claremore to see his Uncle James and Aunt Elva Milliken, who lived only a few blocks

SEE GUN A21

GUN:

A drive through Oklahoma spurred the donation.

FROM A17

from the Davis-owned Mason Hotel, which at that time housed his gun collection, Wiley said.

Davis served two stints as mayor, the last time from 1933-43.

"I'm sure he was interested in Mr. Davis," Wiley said. "He was probably a character, anyway. And they got to know each other."

McHolland was killed in Nov. 24, 1944, in Germany. His goodwill toward Davis would go unfulfilled for decades.

"He (Wiley) was really kind to donate it to us because it means so much to his family," McCombs said. "It was the last thing he (McHolland) wrote home about."

McHolland and the war

Lt. Robert McHolland landed at Utah Beach with the 90th Infantry Division in early 1944. He first served as a platoon leader with Com-

THE MUSEUM

The J.M. Davis Arms & Historical Museum, 330 N. J.M. Davis Blvd. in Claremore, is home to more than 13,000 firearms. The collection also includes beer steins, swords, knives, household antiques, boot-jacks, local cattle brands and animal horns.

John Monroe Davis used to display his catalog of arms at the Mason Hotel, which he owned and operated. In 1962, the J.M. Davis Arms & Historical Museum opened to the public, with support of the state of Oklahoma and an independent foundation.

It is open 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays. From April through October, hours are 1-5 p.m. Sundays. The museum is closed Sundays from November through March.

For more information, visit tulsa-world.com/gunmuseum.

pany M of the 358th Infantry. Months later, he was promoted to captain, taking over command of K Company. On his last leave before

going overseas, McHolland spoiled Wiley and his younger brother with ice cream and candy, Wiley said. He was 4 years old when the family received a telegram in December 1944 that McHolland was missing in action.

"I could tell something was amiss," Wiley said.

The remains of McHolland, who was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for heroism, were initially buried in a German military cemetery before final interment in a U.S. military cemetery in France. In McHolland's personal effects was an 1840s-era pistol that he acquired as his unit pushed across France in 1944 as part of Gen. George Patton's Third Army.

Thirty to 40 years ago, Wiley's attorney brother — named Robert after his uncle — had the gun mounted and displayed in his office. When Robert Wiley became a Missouri circuit judge a few years back, he took down the firearm as he helped Jerry Wiley with his book about McHolland.

Robert Wiley offered the gun to his brother about three years ago, Jerry said.

The epiphany

In researching his book —

"Captain Mac: War Hero, My Hero" was self-published in 2008 — Jerry Wiley pored over all the correspondence McHolland sent home from the war front.

Then last summer, as Wiley and his wife drove to California, he noticed an Interstate 44 sign that advertised the J.M. Davis Arms & Historical Museum.

"There may be a connection here," Wiley said he told himself a few months later.

Remembering the McHolland-to-Milliken letter, Wiley said he accessed a city of Claremore website and found a listing of past mayors. One of Davis' tenures matched the time frame of McHolland's trips to Oklahoma.

"It took a while for everything to register and think. This is the gun, and that is the place," said Wiley, 70. "He didn't mention Davis's name. He just said, 'Tell the mayor.'"

"I started wondering, and one thing led me to the other."

A Vietnam veteran, Wiley served as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army Infantry. He said he wore his Uncle Bob's captain's bars while on active duty.

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The Daily Progress

50¢

CLAREMORE

claremoreprogress.com



J.M. Davis Arms & Historical Museum Executive Director Wayne McCombs said the French pistol will be displayed with the first gun ever collected by J.M. Davis.



The hotel run by J.M. Davis was near the home of relatives of Capt. Robert McHolland. McHolland met Davis, saw the gun collection and picked up an antique gun he wanted the Claremore mayor to have.

PROGRESS PHOTO/Joy Hampton

...Last Gun

Continued From Pa

Last gun donated to J.M. Davis Museum

By JOY HAMPTON
jhampton@claremoreprogress.com

J.M. Davis never got to see the cap and ball mid-eighteenth century French pistol which became the last gun added to his historic collection. He never saw it because even though it was donated by him in 1944, the gun only came into the possession of the J.M. Davis Arms & Historical Museum this year.

The museum houses the world's largest gun collection. By comparison to some of the pieces housed in the museum, the little French pistol is not particularly noteworthy for its historical or monetary value as an antique firearm, but the story that accompanies it is priceless.

The story we know of the French pistol starts in 1944. War was raging in Europe, and Gen. George Patton was leading the Third Army across France.

U.S. Army Captain Robert McHolland of Hartley, Mo., was a commander of K company, Third Battalion, 358th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division. He was engaged in serious combat during that march through France but he didn't forget family and friends back home.

McHolland had relatives in Claremore. In one particular letter, he wrote to his cousin, Dorla Dean Milliken, that he had picked up the muzzloader while fighting in France.

"Tell the mayor of Claremore I have a very antique French pistol I'm saving for his collection of guns," he wrote. "I've carried it all over France, but I can't mail it home because you can't mail firearms, even if it is too old and rusty to fire anymore."

In the late 1930s and early 1940s, McHolland had been a regular visitor of the Jones and Elva Milliken family of Claremore. The Millikens were his aunt and uncle and lived near the Mason Hotel.

The letter to Dorla Dean Milliken is believed to be his last as, sadly, he was killed in action in Germany on Nov. 24, 1944.

McHolland was posthumously awarded the

Distinguished Service Cross for heroic action during combat.

After his death, McHolland's personal effects were shipped to his sister, Roxabel Wiley.

Among the listed effects was a "flint pistol." Roxabel did not know of her brother's intentions and eventually gave the pistol to her son. It was cleaned and mounted on a "velvet-like" background according to McHolland's nephew and biographer, Jerry Wiley.

How Wiley put together the puzzle pieces and helped the pistol find its way to the museum is another story.

Wiley was gathering information for "Captain Mac War Hero, My Hero," his uncle's biography.

"I was about four years old when my mom, who was next of kin got the telegraph," said Wiley, remembering how hard the news of his Uncle Bob's death hit the family.

His mother, who never cried, was sobbing as she called the other family members to inform them her brother was dead.

To Wiley, McHolland was Uncle Bob, a favorite because he gave the four-year old Wiley attention and candies when he visited.

Growing up in the small town of Hartley, Wiley heard through the years what a great guy and war hero his uncle had been.

"I always wanted to know all about him," said Wiley, who started gathering information about his uncle over the course of the years. Eventually a family member suggested he write a book about McHolland's life.

And so, he did.

"I wrote the biography, starting about three or four years ago. As a part of this were all of these letters..." said Wiley. "A central part of the book are these letters."

With the letters and a "very detailed history" of McHolland's unit Wiley was able to track his uncle's progress through France.

"One of the last letters he wrote to his cousin in Claremore, Dom Dean Milliken," said Wiley.

As a visitor to Claremore, McHolland was near the Mason Hotel where he met J.M. Davis and saw the original gun collection.

The Milliken's lived at 303 North Missouri Ave. "He drove down on Route 66 (to visit Claremore)," said Wiley.

So Wiley knew of the Claremore connection and had the letter mentioning the gun, which his brother had given him after he started work on the biography, but he hadn't thought much about it.

"We were driving last summer to San Diego, Calif.," said Wiley. "When we were driving on the interstate, I saw that sign for the J.M. Davis Museum. It didn't click immediately."

But the sign got Wiley to thinking.

"I was in the process of connecting the dots," said Wiley. "I kept thinking about it after we came back."

He did a computer search and found the museum's web site.

"I had hit paydirt with J.M. Davis, but who is J.M. Davis?" he said. "Something made me pull up the city of Claremore, so I pulled up the

"Tell the mayor of Claremore I have very antique French pistol I'm saving for his collection of guns. I carried it all over France..."

— written by Capt. Robert McHolland of Hartley, Mo. to Dorla Milliken of Claremore

Claremore website. That's when I really found out."

Wiley clicked on the page for former mayors, and there was J.M. Davis. That's when Wiley realized that had to be the mayor who collected guns that his uncle had talked about in the letter.

"I wrote a letter to the

museum commission," Wiley. "That was back October or November."

He sent the letter to chair of the museum commission.

"I thought it was interesting,"

Commission Chair Higgins. "It has a great behind it."

The pistol was presented to the J.M. Davis Arms Historical Museum by family of Capt. R

McHolland in honor service and in "loving memory of the ultimate sacrifice made in serving his country in World War II."

Executive Director McCombs said this "It is to be donated to the collection will be displayed next first gun ever collected, or sentimental favorite.

That new exhibit open June 24 just in time to celebrate what would be J.M. Davis's birthday on June 27.

After all these decades the little French pistol found its way home mayor of Claremore collection.



See LAST GUN page 2

Remember When...!



SENT BY PATRICIA DONOHUE

- [Ed: I was not able to find any further information that came with this photo, so if some was sent, I apologize for somehow misplacing it. Perhaps the sender is hoping someone will recognize the photo & when it was taken. She did not list a phone number, so you would need to send her a snail mail response.] What is clear - it's B Company, 357th, Headquarters group. The names were on the back of the photo.]



Co. B, 357th INFANTRY, 90th DIVISION
("HEADQUARTERS GROUP")

PHOTO TAKEN AUG, 1945 AT WALDSASSEN, GERMANY.

LEFT TO RIGHT

FRONT ROW — APPLE, SMITH, OLIVER (THE C.O.), "LITTLE CAESAR" LAWTON,
LABAUVE (EXEC. OFF.), RECTOR, AND TESORO.

SECOND ROW — JUNEMAN, PERRY, STRAUSS AND "THE CHIEF" DERRISAW.

THIRD ROW — DOUGLAS, ROWE, BUXKEMPER AND SINIARD.

FOURTH ROW — FOLKS, "60" FERNANDEZ AND DONOHUE.

Remember When...2

Guerra, Janice Leroux, [daughter of Helen Strus Leroux, who is the widow of Harry

A. Strus, 358/A, KIA July 7, 1944 in Normandy, France]

[Ed. note: Janice is the half-brother of Harry A. Strus, Jr., son of Helen and the late Harry A. Strus. She and Harry brought their mother, Helen, to her first reunion this past August in MN - a once-in-a-lifetime event for the family. We were honored to have them with us. Janice sent the information below, with the exception of the picture of Harry's grave-marker cross at the American Cemetery in Normandy, which was sent by **Henri Levaufre**, our French Historian. Thanks, Janice!]



Harry Strus gravesite - Omaha Beach, France



Forest Lake Times

Washington County, Minnesota
September 14, 1944

Pfc. Harry Strus of Hugo Killed in Action in France

Word was received from the War Department on August 20, that Pfc. Harry A. Strus, of Hugo, was killed in action on July 7, in France.

Pfc. Strus, Co. B, 358th Infantry, left for service in the Armed Forces on February 16, 1942, from Fort Snelling. He received his basic training at Camp Wolters, Texas, and was stationed in California until February, 1944. He went overseas in March of this year.

Harry August Strus was born on October 30, 1917, in Tipton, Iowa. He was the youngest son of Emma and August Strus. His parents preceded him in death.

He and Helen Marie Peloquin, of Hugo, were married in La Mesa, California, on October 10, 1942. He is survived by Helen and their one-year-old son, Harry.

He is also survived by four sisters and two brothers: Bertha (Howard) Clingman; Ella (Robert) Jones, of Minneapolis; Lola (Paul) Schueler, Willmar; Laura (Robert) Cross, Orchard, Iowa; Herman (Allie) Strus, White Bear Lake; George (Selma) Strus, South St. Paul.

Harry and Helen's Story: "After their marriage, they rented a small house in Laguna Beach. Little Harry was born the next summer, July 16. After Harry went overseas, Helen moved back to Hugo. When his letters stopped coming in July, she knew something had happened to him. Not until September did the dreaded telegram arrive, confirming that he had been killed. Many years later, the postman's daughter told her that telegram was the hardest thing he ever had to deliver. Today, Mom [Helen] is almost 94 years old. "Little" Harry and his wife, Rosemary, have 3 children: Mary, Kenny, and Eric, as well as 5 grandchildren: Daniel, Samantha, Cassandra, McKenzie, and Kiah. Of Harry's 6 siblings, one sister remains. Lola is 102 years old and still lives by herself in her own home. The Strus family kept Helen in their lives all these years. Nieces and nephews Dorothy, Lenora, Leo, and Tom, still treat her with much love and respect. In 1997 Tom visited Omaha Beach and brought back pictures of Harry's gravesite. It was the first time she ever saw what it looked like. In 1989, my father [Leroux] passed away. In 1998, Helen had a stroke. The doctor didn't give us much hope. Though she could no longer take care of herself, she survived. In 2006, our handi-capped sister, Claire, died unexpectedly. Sge had a brain aneurysm at ages 1 and 6, and a lifetime of health problems, but she was always cared for at home, and she had a wonderful life. It didn't seem possible that Mom wouldn't die of grief for her, but again, she survived. It was so good that Mom, son Harry & his son, Eric, and his cousin, Dorothy, wee all able to attend the reunion. I was especially happy for my brother. Thanks to everyone who works so hard to keep the memory alive of those who fought to keep our country free and safe - those who came home and those who didn't. God bless them, their families, and all of you. Janice Leroux Guerra, daughter of Helen Strus Leroux"



Harry & Helen Struss wedding day!

[more pictures next page]

Remember When...3

Struss, Harry - continued - Additional information sent by Janice Leroux Guerra [daughter of Helen Strus Leroux] ... Below left: Harry Struss and his son, Harry Jr.



Personal note from the Editor: When I met Janice and her family at the Reunion in August, one of the first things that "struck me" was how carefully and prettily Janice had fixed her mother's hair for this special occasion. She was all "cuted up", with her beautiful snow-white hair pulled back and a frilly, lovely pink ribbon bow & flowers perched at just the right angle on top. It was obvious that a lot of love was evident between daughter and mother! It should be a wonderful reminder to all of us that as our parents age, we need to give back to them with love, kindness and care all that they gave to us - and more - when we were young and helpless. I was blessed to have conversations with Janice weeks after the reunion, and she is a model example of how this should be done.

Cards in Memoriam

High Flight

by Pilot Officer John Gillespie Magee, Jr.

*Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds - and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of - wheeled and soared and
Swung.*

*High in the sunlit silence hov'ring there,
I've chased the shouting wind along,
And flung my eager craft through footless halls of air.*

*Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue I've topped the
Windswept heights with easy grace where never lark, or
Even eagle flew.*

*And, while with silent, lifting mind, I've trod the high
Untrespassed sanctity of space, put out my hand,
And touched the face of God.*

*The best way to judge a person
is to wrap a tape measure
around their heart.*



CLAIRE MARIE LEROUX

June 16, 1949 - Sept. 3, 2006

Hello, little sister. You've been gone for 5 years already. I look at pictures of you when you were small, with your sweet and innocent face, and it makes my heart ache that you're not here.

Through all the years of your life your face was always sweet, and innocent, and beautiful. I wish I could see it again.

I miss you every day, little sister, and I always will.

Love, Janice

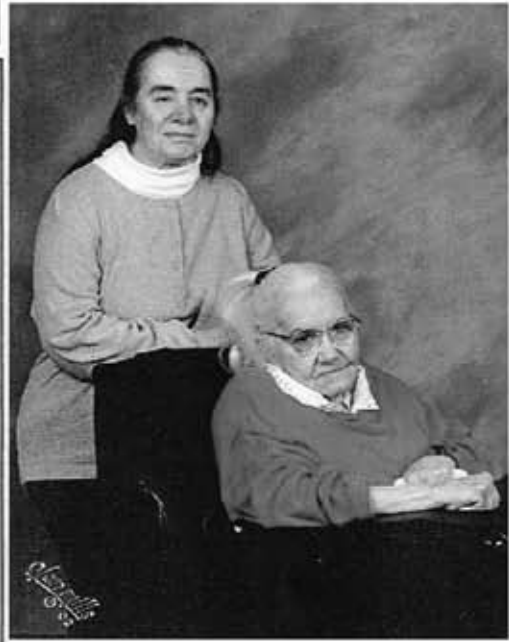
Prayer of Solace

May Christ support us all the day long,
till the shadows lengthen,
and the evening comes,
and the busy world is hushed,
and the fever of life is over
and our work is done.

Then in His mercy
may He give us a safe lodging
and holy rest and peace at last.

Amen.

(attributed to John Cardinal Newman)



Above: Claire Marie Leroux and her mother, Helen Strus Leroux - **At Left:** Tribute to Claire from her sister, Janice - **Below:** Janice pays tribute to her late father, Helen's 2nd husband

In Loving Memory
Of My Father
ERVIN D. LEROUX
Sept. 5, 1908 - August 1, 1989

Remembering you every day, Dad
Especially on your Birthday.

Miss you always,
Love, Janice



Remember When... 4



Sent by Bruno Ehlich via Vern Schmidt [358/E - Fresno, CA] This is Bruno's story of his days as a Hitler Youth & his capture by the 357th Reg't. in April, 1945. Bruno wants the 90th to know how much the 90th Division has affected his life from then to the present. Because the full copy is long, it is on two pages. But it is a wonderful story that was important to get it in this edition. I did my best, Bruno! Bruno is so hoping to attend another reunion - hopefully in 2012. We hope so, too, Bruno! Rhoda Reid, Editor.

BRUNO'S STORY: "THE 357TH INF. REG. CO A plus TDs versus SS 3.5 ANTITANK PAK - A HITLER YOUTH SURVIVAL STORY" - "I, Bruno Ehlich, a member of the 90th Division Association, will describe what happened in Bavaria, Germany in 1945 just days before the war ended. I was at the time a nine year old school boy with no military training, pulled out of the class room and forced to attend a basic two week military training and then sent out in the trenches. My story starts on April 20, 1945 in Leuchtenberg, a small village located atop a three hundred meter cone shaped hill 25km south of Weiden on the main route towards Cham, and approx 35km from the notorious Flossenburg Concentration Camp, and about 12km from Vohenstrauß. -- While sitting at the table that morning, an incoming shell from a Tank Destroyer hit the Burgermeister's [Mayor], now the Wehrmacht's HQ, missing us by 25 feet and caved in our kitchen table. The mayor's house was on fire and burned out the complete roof. During the night of the 22nd or 23rd of April, the Wehrmacht and SS packed up and retreated towards Cham, so by morning, they had all left. To defend this small village, 250 old Volksturm men and 50 Hitler Youth + Pimpfe [9-12 yr. olds] were told to man the trenches and weapon pits, and by noon they all had taken their places in them. Early in the afternoon, CO A 357th Inf. Reg. attacked the trenches, and the fighting was more in favor of the defender as we had clear shots down the hill and in the woods. My brother [7] and I [9] were told to run ammo boxes and belts 500 feet down to the weapon pits. Arriving in one of them, my brother stood up, and in that split moment, a bullet hit the tree behind my brother's head sending wood splinters everywhere. Dropping the ammo, we retreated back towards the village, being careful not to raise our heads over the trenches. My brother had a massive asthma attack and was taken to the Red Cross hospital which the retreating Wehrmacht had left. Late in the afternoon, we lost many Volksturm and Hitler Youth, but they held off the 357th. Late in the afternoon the 357th retreated towards Micheldorf over the river Luhe. Next morning [April 24], CO A arrived back at the foot of the hill and started to attack. Again, the Volksturm and Hitler Youth forced the 357th to fall back again towards Micheldorf, but not for long. About 800 feet down the hill, the Volksturm and Hitler Youth had advanced now and established a new defense position 200 feet from the bridge which spanned the river Luhe. They positioned 5 3.5 antitank guns in a semi-circle covering the bridge and surrounding woods across the river. Each gun was manned by 4 to 5 Volksturm men or Hitler Youth. About 13 1/4 hours later, the first of 5 M4 Sherman tanks arrived without infantry support. By that time, I had to report to #2 gun emplacement as an ammunition carrier, since my job was to take the shells out of the metal boxes and pass on to the loader what color shell he needed. I remember those shells had different colors on the glass tip - green, yellow, red - but I have forgotten what all that meant. My job was only to pass them to the loader as requested. By now we could see some GIs behind the Tanks. # 4 gun opened up and hit the second Sherman on the turret; then we loaded and fired at the first Sherman, only to see our shell glance off and disappear into the woods with a mighty large bang. To our surprise, all Shermans retreated towards Micheldorf, but not for long as they came rumbling back supported now by many 357th Infantry. [Story continued on next pg.]

**BRUNO EHLICH,
8 YEARS OLD -
1944
LEUCHTENBERG,
BAVARIA,
GERMANY**



**Photo Below:
GERMAN 3.5
ANTI-TANK GUN
THAT FIRED ON
U.S. 4-4
SHERMAN TANK**



Remember When...5



AN FYI: Bruno was featured on page 5 of the Spring, 2011 Newsletter [Information Wanted 1]. Also, Bruno attended his first and only [so far] 90th Division Reunion in 22005 in Corpus Christi, TX, the year Art Meier was President. That was also the year of Hurricane Katrina, and that reunion almost didn't happen due to "threats" of another hurricane expected to hit the Texas coast. By God's Divine Intervention, no hurricane!

Bruno's Story continues... *#s 4 & 5 gun emplacement were hit and wiped out. I was about 20 feet behind our gun just about to pick up a yellow tipped shell, when a blinding flash and bang hit me right in the face, and the force of the shell blast threw me ten feet into the nearby trees. Blood was running out of my nose and my hearing was only 50%. Looking toward our gun emplacement, I could see the 3.5 anti-tank gun upside down and the men laying face down not moving, but one was moaning and waving to me to run. I had no pain, and I was so pumped up, I ran and ran towards the village and the castle [ruin]. The Castle of Leuchtenberg ruin was used by the SS as a storage facility of stolen goods and possessions of the inmates from the Flossenburg Concentration Lager. Arriving at the foot of the castle, I saw many GIs from the 357th jumping over the walls and into the castle grounds. Since I had known this castle for nearly two years, I knew the quick way out and into the village, so I ran down the middle road of the castle grounds. I could hear those GIs yelling at me to stop, but I did not, and only then could I hear the impact of bullets hitting the walls beside me. I was sure they did not mean to hit me as I was only a small boy in a Hitler Youth uniform, but I got peppered by stone shrapnel. Running towards the castle's main gate and to the church, I rounded a street corner and WACKO, some black GI had me by the throat and lifted me two feet off the ground. I could only croak to let me go as he dragged me in front of the M4 Sherman which had arrived by then, and I was told to answer questions about the whereabouts of all the villagers and part of the Volksturm and Hitler Youth. Most of them were by now prisoners of war, and I snitched and told them where all those villagers were hiding in the cellars of the castle. I spent several weeks with the GIs and can say as mascot, I was treated like a son. I was fed and clothed with a small GI uniform and taken to the notorious Flossenburg Concentration Camp to see for myself the horror that the 3rd Reich did to those inmates. I was finally re-united with my Mum and brother and later, my father, a prisoner of the 90th who came home and told us that he was so well looked after and was also asked to come to the USA since he was a mechanical engineer and spent many hours working on tank engines. Mum was given Red Cross parcels by one very, very kind officer of the 357th which fed us for weeks to come. I would like to thank all of you in the 357th and 90th Inf. Division for the kindness you have shown me and my family and saved us from further trouble. You have all saved us. God bless the 90th and God Bless America. Here is an official letter written by an Old Hitler Youth who now resides in Grafenwoehr as the curator of the Grafenwoehr Military Museum in Bavaria... This is his statement: **"Grafenwoehr Military Museum Bavaria [Oberpfaltz] January 01, 2005 -**

Mr. Hossel, a former Hitler Youth, writes about the conflict on or about the 24th of April, 1945 at approximately 1200 hours, by the 357th Inf. Reg. A CO on or near the bridge which connects Micheldorf and Leuchtenberg ... This is as follows: On the 24th of April, 1945, the 357th Inf. Reg., CO A arrived at the edge of Leughtenberg and Micheldorf at about 1300 hours. During the afternoon, the 357th Inf. Reg. CO A captured Micheldorf which lies at the foot of the mountain and the village called Leuchtenberg, They captured 100 German soldiers. The PAK [Panzer Abwehr Cannon] anti-tank Gun which was located on the edge of the forest, was hit and destroyed as I have seen this at the age of 12 with my friend. We were hiding in the forest not far away from Bruno Ehlich's gun emplacement, and we observed the whole incident of that skirmish exactly as Bruno told it. There were 5 SS soldiers badly wounded as we could observe. The bridge on the River Luhe was covered by another PAK with 2 Hitler Youth gunners and 1 ammunition carrier PIMPF, all attached to the standard Wehrmacht. PIMPFE is a very, very young grade of Hitler Youth. This youth was Bruno as established. The attack of the first U.S. tank M4 was stopped by them and the U.S. armor, including the PIMPFE. Bruno retreated upwards toward the castle to the village of Leuchtenberg after their PAK was destroyed. Then A CO, 357th advanced towards the castle following the retreating German boys. After that, Mr. Hossel and his friends also retreated up towards the castle. Yours truly, OLAF MAILER, Museum Director I/C - Grafenwoehr, Bavaria" P.S. After so many years, the story may get a bit confused, but it's all true. We are old men, reflecting on the past - One day, the Great Judgment Day will come - some of us got mixed up with the good and the bad. God Bless you all. Bruno Ehlich [Ed.: God Bless You, Bruno!]*



The article, below was sent in by Betty Lamont & was in the "Plain Dealer" newspaper on June 19, 2011

SOLDIER

FROM B1

Strangers help find family of WWII soldier

Thomascik took the Owens question to Westlake Porter Public Library, where he met reference associate Sue Bennis, who was intrigued by the challenge of locating Owens' family.

Bennis said she approached the task by employing the same resources she uses as a genealogist, only instead of going from the present to the past, she dug from past to present.

She checked city directories, marriage and death certificates, census and cemetery records. "One step led to another, but between each step were one or two dozen things that led nowhere," she recalled. "I was starting to get frustrated, but I just felt this compulsion and couldn't stop."

Many times, she said, just telling Owens' story opened doors (and records) that normally would have been kept closed to her.

Along the way she got assistance from Thomascik and Myra Stone, a James Ford Rhodes High School librarian who researched Owens' school records.

Together they assembled a portrait of Owens, who attended the school from 1940-43, then left before graduating to enter the service at age 18.

Thomascik found Ken Rasmussen, a classmate of Owens'. Rasmussen, 87, of Westlake, remembered Owens as "a good-looking guy; I was kind of in awe of his looks. He was the athlete of the school — a good basketball player as well as a better football player."

Despite the challenges, it took Bennis less than a week to locate Lois Owens, 85, living in Mobile, Ala. She'd married Owens' brother, Gerald, after the war.

"It was unbelievable," she recently said. "I still sit here just thinking, 'How did they ever find us?'"

She remembered that Owens' family took his death hard. Her husband died in 2004 and never

got a chance to say goodbye to his fallen brother.

But she will, in a planned trip to Arlington for Owens' burial in August.

"The good Lord left me here on Earth to do something, and I think this is it," she said. "I feel so honored to be able to do this for the family, because I know how [his death] broke all their hearts."

She visited Cleveland in 2009 to accept Owens' posthumous degree from Rhodes High School in a ceremony that Stone helped arrange.

Stone also created a display dedicated to Owens at the school library. "I have found a way to say thank you to my parents' generation by helping bring Donald home," said Stone, whose father served in the Army during World War II.

"The one thing I've learned from this is how much people really, really care," she added.

To Rasmussen, who served with the Army in New Guinea and the Philippines during World War II, Owens' return is good news.

But he also noted that "it's just the tip of the iceberg" when considering there are still more than 73,000 U.S. troops missing from that war — including a guy from his outfit who was apparently eaten by a crocodile. "All they found was his helmet, rifle and belt," he said.

Thomascik said he was struck by the number of people who eventually got involved in the effort to find Owens' family. "Everybody here just took it and ran with it," he said.

"It's a wonderful story of wonderful people," he added. "My goal was to just let every World War II veteran know that people still care."

Bennis looks back on the effort as "just so compelling. I grew up cuddled in my father's arms, watching World War II movies. He was in the Coast Guard."

"I've been doing genealogy for 25 years and I've helped people find fantastic things," she added. "But nothing has even come close to this. Absolutely nothing."

"It's just so gratifying."

To reach this Plain Dealer reporter: balbrecht@plaind.com, 216-999-4853

Caring of strangers helped find family of WWII soldier

BRIAN ALBRECHT
Plain Dealer Reporter

For more than 60 years, the remains of 19-year-old Donald D. Owens of Cleveland lay just where a German Panzer tank had put them.

On Oct. 9, 1944, during World War II combat in France, the Panzer fired a shell into Owens' M10 tank destroyer, reducing it to a burning pile of twisted steel and an ultimately forgotten gravesite.

But during the past eight years, the efforts of people here and abroad who never knew Owens have brought him home to his family, with burial planned at Arlington National Cemetery on Aug. 23.

Someone knew someone who knew someone who could help, and no one ever questioned why.

The chain of caring started in 2003 when a Frenchman, Gerard



Owens in high school

Louis, found a GI's identification tag in the forest near Luneville, France. In 2006 and 2007 he worked with the U.S. Joint Prisoners of War, Missing in Action Accounting Command in recovering the remains of three crewmen, including Owens, of that ill-fated tank.

Owens' military records listed his hometown, but his family had long since left the city.

So the Frenchman contacted someone he knew, who knew someone with the 90th Infantry Division Association in St. Louis, who called an association member here — Duane "Duey" Thomascik of Westlake.

SEE SOLDIER | B5

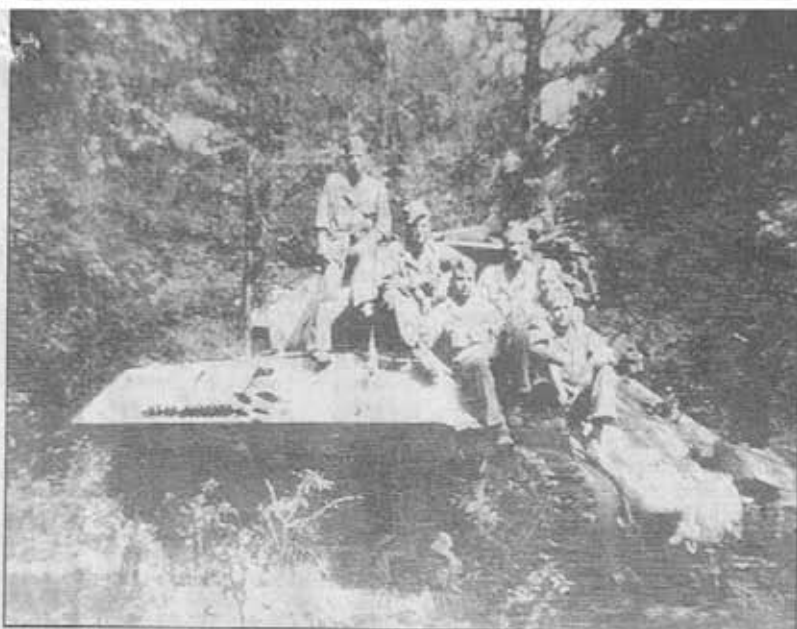


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE OWENS FAMILY

Pvt. Donald Owens, third from left, with his tank crew. Owens, 19, of Cleveland, died in his tank during combat in France in World War II, and his remains went undiscovered for more than 60 years.

SPECIAL SEGMENT 90TH SOLDIER'S STORY...1

Ed.: This segment contains more lengthy stories of individual 90th Veterans.



McNamara, Deb, g-daughter, Robert P. McNamara, 358/L, KIA 7/7/44

"67 YEARS AND THREE GENERATIONS LATER..." - "67 years & 3 generations later, I learn firsthand the details of the last months & hours of my grandfather's life through a series of conversations with WW II veteran **Bill Rhodes**, who was with my grandfather right before he died. I look at my father, my brother and my son - the living issue of Pvt. Robert Patrick McNamara, Sr., who was killed by a mortar shell while in a foxhole on Hill 122 in Normandy, FRANCE the night of July 7, 1944. I quietly marvel at the powers that be, the ebbs and flows of life and connections that bring me to a phone call at 4:30 PM on August 3, 2011, from 93 year old veteran, Bill Rhodes, one of the last survivors from 358/L Company who is still alive - a man who trained & fought side by side with my grandfather until the last moments of his life. **'Is this the granddaughter of Robert P. McNamara?'**, he says when I answer the phone. Yes. Yes it is... We connect serendipitously through a website page where his war memoirs were published. He'd mentioned my grandfather here, writing about how my grandfather had visited his foxhole the night he was killed. It was a pitch black night, & he wondered how my grandfather had even found his way. They'd talked about the good old days & how my grandfather was a Golden Glove boxer in Cleveland, OH. He He took a swig from Rhodes can- teen. At the last minute, he traded foxholes with another soldier, **Alfred Sheridan**. Shortly thereafter, my grandfather was killed during the onset of the infamous Battle of Hill 122 - some of the worst fighting those in the war would know. Sheridan and Rhodes lived on to tell the story: The training in England with

tents pitched on a hillside overlooking the Channel; the nighttime jaunts to English teahouses in search of food; the startling announcement that it was already D-Day; the rope ladders off a cliff into the ships; the landing together in assault boats on Utah Beach, Normandy; 200 men started together, & within 5 weeks Rhodes & Sheridan were 2 of only 27 men to survive in CO. L. - My grandfather was already a husband & a father. I listen with awe to Bill Rhodes tell of the last wanderings of his life - the father my Dad never knew & the man who was my grandmother's first love. Here are the genes my son, Rowan's wiry body has also inherited: the genes of a Golden Glove boxer from Cleveland, OH - This story points to the tragic mark of a whole generation of boys and men lost to war. One particular story, my story, a human story. The story of who came and went before. The story of a genealogy. The story of loss. It's a testament to memory, and the indelible mark of death on our lives. The details shared are vivid. The pangs of regret live on. It's a story that transcends space & time - an uncanny & unexpected chance for my grandfather to speak through the words of another veteran who was by his side. It's as if I heard directly from him. **'This was a slice of my life...This was the end no one knew about but always pondered...These were my actions. This was the tragic close - so normal: a drink of water from a fellow soldier's canteen & a chat about the old days... This was war. It all ended in a foxhole, some four weeks after crossing the English Channel into France...'** --- This is also a story come full circle. It so happens that the man who posted Bill Rhodes' s memoirs online is the son of **Alfred Sheridan**, the other veteran who was with my grandfather the night he died. Sheridan and McNamara switched foxholes. McNamara died and Sheridan lived. Shereidan's son, **Daniel**, tells me that in the 1980s, shortly before his father's death, his father cried, saying, **'It should have been me, not McNamara.'** Rhodes tells me he felt badly his whole life about this foxhole switch. A crazy twist of fate meant life for one, death for the other. A simple switch at the last minute determined the course of history for at least our two families. And now, the Sheridans and the McNamaras connect. We give each other blessings. The son thanks my grandfather, and all of us, on behalf of his whole family. He only wishes his father were alive to speak with us. We all agree: something has come full circle. Here we all are, **67 years and three generations later**, creating a web of story and connection in the year 2011, where the tides of history ripple in our bones and minds - converging in this rare and precious moment of revelation and homage: A mystery of life would have us meet to share a story that was waiting to be told. Survivors include: Deborah; brother, Robert L. McNamara; father, Robert P. McNamara, Jr.; & grandmother, Rhea Luciano." [Ed.: What a moving story Deborah tells with wonderful word pictures. This newsletter has often printed submissions & poems that Bill Rhodes has written, and I am the blessed recipient of occasional phone calls from Bill. Those who know him can attest to his generous gift of himself, his time, his phone calls, letters, and personal interest in so many. He tells me often that he is eagerly waiting for the Lord to take him to his Home in Heaven. When that event takes place, a big hole will be left here on earth. My comfort, though I have never met him face to face, is that one day, I WILL meet him in person - in Heaven. Thank you, Deborah, for sharing this poignant story. Deborah is a new member of the 90th Div. Assoc. For more information, contact Deborah - information above.]

SPECIAL SEGMENT 90TH SOLDIER'S STORY...2



Pulliam, Kenneth, nephew, S/SGT Max H. Pulliam, 359/H.

net - [Ed.: Kenneth is a new 90th Division Association Honorary member and sent this information about his uncle.

Serving This Community For 140 Years

Memphis Democrat



Max Pulliam, of Memphis, was killed in action July 21, 1944, in France shortly after the D-invasion at Normandy.

In a time when most information is just a mouse click or two away, it was a chance review of an old box of paperwork that allowed the last of his line to learn the fate of one of his ancestors from more than 60 years ago.

Kenneth Pulliam knew that his uncle Max had served during World War II. But neither his parents, nor his grandparents ever talked about what happened to the former Memphis resident.

When his grandparents, George and Lena Pulliam, passed away, many of their belongings went to their daughter, Madalin Pulliam Tippet, who was affectionately known by most family members as "sis".

When Madalin passed away in October last year, family members gathered

for a memorial service in Memphis and shared family tales, including some stories about Max.

Still, remaining family members were left with few details about the serviceman who had passed away. That all changed, when Madalin's son, John Tippet, of Lancaster, happened upon a box of his grandmother's items that had been left to his mother.

John quickly recognized the significance of the find, and contacted his

cousin, Kenneth, the head of the last remaining Pulliam household, who now resides in Monona, WI. Ken and his son, Zach, of DeForest, WI, carrying on the Pulliam name.

"I couldn't believe what he had found," said Kenneth. "That one box contained uncle Max's story. It was filled with letters he had written to his parents, including the final note prior to his passing."

S. Sgt. Max H. Pulliam, was killed in action on July 21, 1944, the day before his 26th birthday.

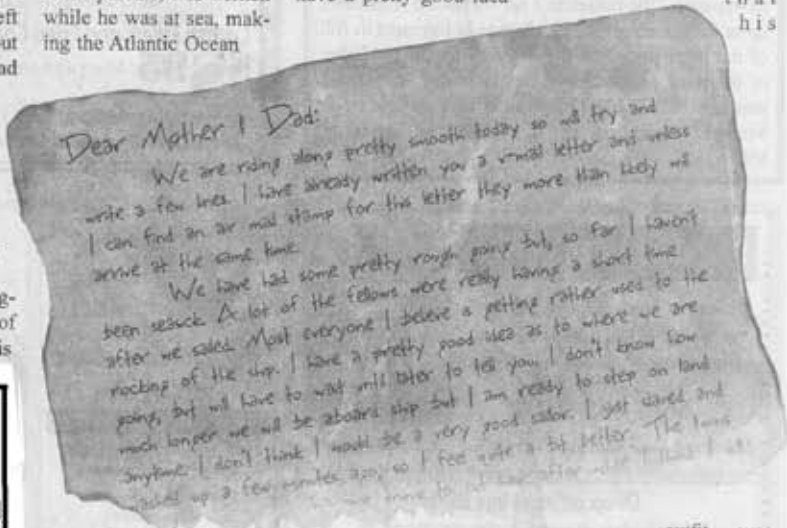
Max enlisted in the U.S. army during World War II, joining the cause in 1936, receiving his training at Camp Barkeley, TX, starting March 23, 1942. He earned the rank of staff sergeant upon completion of basic training. His unit was transferred to Fort

Dix, NJ, in preparation for departure to the European war theater.

One of his last letters to his parents, was written while he was at sea, making the Atlantic Ocean

ter to George and Lena. "We've had some pretty rough going, but so far I haven't been seasick... I have a pretty good idea

that his



crossing, outfit was going to be part of the D-Day assault on Normandy. The men of the 90th hit the French beach in June as to where we are going, but will have to wait until later to tell you." Max and H Company of the 359th Infantry were at-

HISTORY REVEALED

WWII Vet's Story Retold in Long-Lost Letters

1944 and fought for fifty-three consecutive days.

"They landed among the first, took the staggering blows of the prepared German might and came back with even more decisive blows of their own to sweep across France and onto Hitler's front porch," said the unit's commanding officer, Major General J. A. Van Fleet in an article prepared by the Army publication Stars and Stripes, produced by the Information and Education Division, Special and Information Services, ETUSA. The publication is available for viewing on line at lonesentry.com, an internet collection of information from the European Theater of World War II.

Published reports, indicated that Max's 359th Infantry was aboard the troopship Susan B. Anthony, which struck a mine and sank. Miraculously the soldiers were able to wade ashore without a loss. His unit crossed the beach to reinforce the 4th Division.

Max and the 359th remained with the 4th Division until June 10th, when they rejoined the 90th near Picauville, France, joining the 357th and 358th, forming the center of a push through the hedgerow defenses beyond Normandy.

The Stars and Stripes article described the following days after helping take Utah beach - "the units ploughed through the hedgerow defenses of Normandy in the famous dash to the important rail junction of Le Mans, and to form part of the Falaise pocket at Chambois that brought terrible disaster to a frantically fleeing Nazi army."

"Odds had heavily favored the Krauts. Hedgerows were hard-packed, root-filled walls of earth four or five feet high, overgrown with thick hedges and trees. Ditches lined the earthen walls, and the enemy was entrenched in well-prepared positions. The terrain was well known to the occupying Germans."

"Automatic weapons and small arms were in the first row. Mortars held the second. Eighty-eights backed them up. Flanking hedgerows concealed more automatic weapons and mortars dug in under brush and covered with logs and dirt."

"When our troops ventured into a field, machine guns opened deadly cross-fire, followed by mortars peppering the area. Those lucky enough to get back to the hedgerows' protection were harassed by

The Editor had to re-configure this newspaper clipping in order to fit all the article on these two pages



SPECIAL SEGMENT 90TH SOLDIER'S STORY...3



MAX PULLIAM STORY CONTINUED...

88's zeroed in on the trees above them."

Max made it through 42 days of some of the hardest fighting on the war front, earning some R & R at the rear of the advance.

According to his obituary published in the Memphis Democrat newspaper, during his reprieve, Max penned a letter home, highlighting the fact that he would be one-year older the following day.

Sgt. Pulliam never got to celebrate that birthday.

On August 8, 1944, George and Lena Pulliam received that dreaded post from the War Department. They were informed their son, Max, had been killed in action in France on July 21, 1944.

Family members noted this was the time that Lena started putting all of the previous correspondence from Max as well as incoming mail about him into a box, the same box that was uncovered more than 60 years later.

"My cousin John passed the box on to me in October," Kenneth stated. "It had been sealed away since Max's death, meaning no one had read any of these letters in 67 years."

Amongst the correspondence in the box was an answer to the family's question of what happened to Max. Not until months after his death did the family find out what transpired

on that day in France.

In February, 1945, a letter arrived at the Pulliam home in Memphis from T. Sgt. Evans C. Rutledge.

"I do not know how to start this letter, but Max and I were the best of friends," his comrade wrote to Max's parents. "'We had the same job, worked together, lived together, shared our fun and our hardships and I want to say, I never knew a nicer, kinder, or a more considerate man in my life.'"

Rutledge went on to explain that Max was killed by an artillery attack. The shelling claimed the life of Sgt. Pulliam and two others who were sharing a fox hole.

"They did not suffer a bit. It was instant," Rutledge shared with the parents of his best friend hoping to lessen the blow.

The letter was written to the Pulliams while Rutledge was in England on furrow. He later returned to his unit, which by this time was in Germany.

Kenneth Pulliam, upon uncovering the letter, immediately went to work searching for more information about his uncle and his WWII comrades. He found some information on Rutledge, who is currently listed as residing

in Crystal City, TX, at the age of 102, but has been unable to make contact.

The box contained several other letters from Max, as well as a number of notes of condolence from fellow soldiers following his passing.

Max Pulliam was initially buried in the cemetery at Blosville, France, one of six graveyards for servicemen killed in the Normandy Invasion.

Four years later, his remains were returned to the states and in April, 1948 he was finally laid to rest in the Memphis Cemetery.

Sixty-seven years later, Max has been uncovered again, but this time only in the words of letters long ago sealed away by a grief stricken mother.



Max Pulliam was a member of a mortar team in H Company, 359th Infantry and was part of the D-Day invasion that turned the tide in World War II.

Shockley, James A., 359/ 3Bn

- THE VALLEY OF DEATH -

"At the first days of the Falaise Gap, later called *'The Valley of Death'*, the battle was furious. The Platoon Leader, Lt. Canright, called me over and told me to see that Sgt. Strickley got back to 3rd Battalion aid as he

was painfully wounded [his elbow was shattered]. I started back with Stickley - it was very hot and Stickley was sweating big drops of perspiration. It seemed like forever before we got to a large grassy field with dozens of wounded men of the 3rd Battalion. As soon as one of the Docs saw us, he came over to Stickley and hurried off with him. As they left, I looked around and saw at my feet a large man with a G.I. blanket over his lower body - he was looking at me and trying to talk. It seemed he wanted something, so I bent over to see if I could hear what he was saying. As I did so, he reached for my rifle [I was the only one there with a weapon], and I heard him say, 'SHOOT ME - KILL ME, FOR GOD'S SAKE!' I told him I could not do that. At that moment, he writhed in pain, and the blanket fell off - his legs were gone from above the knees! The bloody stumps were bandaged with blood soaked bandages. The Doc who had looked back [as he reached a group of others] and saw what was happening, hurried back to where I was with the man on the ground and said, *'Don't worry about him - we have given him a shot of morphine and will give him another one soon.'* He pointed to two German soldiers over by a tree and said, *'Would you take them back to Headquarters? They just came in to give up.'* This I did. ... I often wonder what ever happened to Sgt. Stickley and the man with the terrible leg wounds. I believe both Lt. Canright and Sgt. Stickley were from Kansas City. Yours, James A. Shockley" [Ed.: Stories we need to hear!]



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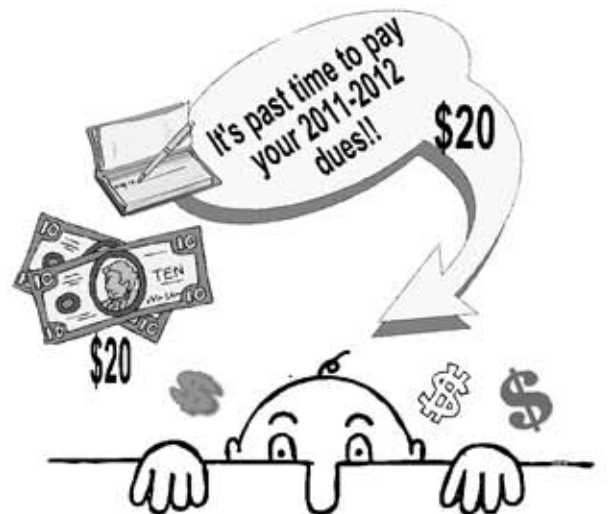
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