

99th Anniversary

NINETIETH DIVISION

ASSOCIATION



NOTE!! ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

ASSOCIATION HEADQUARTERS

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SPRING 2017



President COL [R] Arthur C. Meier, II & wife, Amy Meier

Official web site:

www.90thdivisionassociation.org

DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF

James Robert Dennis, Jr. - December 30, 1923 - January 15, 2017

Editor Note: [Jim was President of the 90th Division Association in 1998 - Fort Worth, TX](#)

James Robert Dennis, Jr., 93, of Fort Worth, passed away Sunday, January 15, 2017. Memorial Service: Thursday, 2:00p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 800 W. 5th Street, Fort Worth. Memorials: In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at www.stjude.org/donate - or - Justice Ministries at First United Method Church of Fort Worth. James was born December 30, 1923 in Jacksboro to James and Seletta Dennis. He attended school in Jacksboro and graduated from Texas A & M in the class of 1944, with a degree in agriculture. James served in the Army's 90th Infantry Division in WWII as a 2nd Lieutenant, in the 345th Field Artillery Battalion. He was awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart. He later served in the Texas National Guard from 1947 and retired as a Major in June,



1967. James returned home to work for his mother at the Jacksboro Gazette-News, becoming Owner/Publisher in 1950, before selling in 1970. His father died in 1935, when he was barely 11. From 1970-1977, James sold insurance mutual funds and operated a Hallmark store. From 1976-1996, he worked as a substitute teacher for the Fort Worth ISD. James was married to Mary Lou Moore of Fort Smith, AR in June, 1950, and they had four children. She passed away in September, 1967 after a long illness. The children were ages 7-14. Business conditions and competition made it timely to sell to a competitor, so he could meet the needs of the children. In 1974, James married Carlene Malmstrom, who was a widow and teacher. She became a diagnostician for the deaf school in 1974 and Principal of Mary Louise Phillips from 1975- 1993 when she retired. The blended family had 8 children, 4 of whom lived at home. They were blessed with 42 years together. Jim organized National Guard Battery in 1947 and was Battery Commander for a 2nd time when called to active duty. His family started the restoration of Fort Richardson in Jacksboro. At the time of his death, he was a volunteer for Citizens on Patrol; an usher at Bass Hall; and traveled as much as possible. He had an ongoing interest in schools and in rebuilding Jacksboro Highway in Northwest Tarrant County and also Southwest Parkway and Highway 121. Jim was preceded in death by his first wife, Mary Lou; sons, Bob and Bill Dennis; stepson, Don Malmstrom; and brother, William Dennis. He is survived by his wife, Carlene; children, Joanna Dennis Duran; Roy Dennis; Cary and Cindy Malmstrom; and Christi Tyrell; eleven grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; brother, Rodgers Dennis of Abilene; and sister, Elizabeth Ledbetter of Rockport.

Editor note: At the 1998 Reunion, Jim's wife, Carlene, introduced the first "Friday Ladies' Lunch." The men were "miffed" they weren't invited, so they were "allowed" to attend - a few did. At the 2000 Reunion in Charlotte, NC, it was so popular for women & men, it was re-named the **FRIDAY FAMILY LUNCH!**

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99th Annual Reunion - July 28-30, 2017 - Fort Worth, TX

Editor, Rhoda Reid, writes...

Dear 90th Members,



NEWS FLASH!

First, the good news: **THANK YOU** to the 386 who paid 2016-2017 Dues! - All \$\$ above the \$30 go to the **500 Club**, which also helps to sustain the Association - **More donors are needed!** There is **NOT** good news to report when it comes to members paying annual dues. In fact, it is abysmal - With a roster now down to 1195, only 386 paid dues! Again, this is NOT enough to sustain the costs of putting out Newsletters. Why have dues payers dropped so dramatically? I don't know. Is it because our best supporters have been our WW2 veterans, and so many are now deceased?? Sadly, all other members - especially the post WW2 T/O Patch wearers, are NOT "carrying the baton forward" by paying the yearly \$30 dues. Even relatives of our WW2 veterans have slacked off and are not paying.

NOTICE! I AM IN THE PROCESS OF "CLEANING UP" THE ROSTER BY CHECKING EACH NAME TO SEE THE LAST TIME DUES WERE PAID. IF DUES HAVE NOT BEEN PAID FOR 2 YEARS OR MORE, THAT NAME WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE ROSTER. IN EVERY NEWS LETTER, YOU ARE GIVEN NOTICE ON MOST PAGES, TO CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL & SEE IF YOU OWE DUES. **REMEMBER!** - THE 90TH OPERATES ON A **FISCAL**, NOT CALENDAR YEAR: JULY 1-JUNE 30 - SO DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE BEGINNING OF 2018 TO PAY DUES THAT ARE NOW DUE, BEGINNING JULY 1. PLEASE let me [Rhoda] know if your veteran is deceased and/or if you want your name removed from the roster. Too many letters get returned, which costs \$\$.

URGENT



ALL READERS! PAY ATTENTION! ARE YOU ONE OF THE MANY WHO IS "STASHING" 90TH LANYARDS AND BADGE HOLDERS AT YOUR HOUSE??? EVERY YEAR OUR SUPPLY DWINDLES, AND WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH FOR EACH ATTENDEE TO HAVE ONE! WE WILL **NOT** BE BUYING MORE FOR THIS YEAR. SOOOOO.....WHETHER OR NOT YOU ARE COMING TO THE REUNION, WE ARE BEGGING YOU TO DO A SEARCH AT YOUR HOUSE AND SEND ANY AND ALL T/O LANYARDS YOU MAY FIND TO: RHODA REID - 17 LAKE SHORE DRIVE - WILLOW BROOK, IL 60527-2221. PLEASE DO THIS ASAP, SO THEY CAN BE BROUGHT TO FORT WORTH IN TIME FOR THE REUNION. BY DOING THIS, **MAYBE** WE WILL HAVE ENOUGH FOR EACH PERSON TO HAVE ONE!! SEND TODAY!!

Message from 2016-2017 President, Col [R] Art C. Meier, II



Greetings, 90th Division Association Members:

July 28-30, we will be gathering at the DFW Airport South Marriott in Fort Worth, TX, for the 99th Annual Reunion of the 90th Division Association. The Legacy of remembering and honoring all those who have worn the T/O Patch continues with each reunion, and we look forward to our annual gathering.

The Reunion always opens with a ceremony at the noon Family Lunch on Friday [July 28]. For those arriving Thursday, the 27th, the Registration Desk will be open for a couple of hours that afternoon. If you have never been to a 90th Reunion, there are Lunches and Dinners Friday and Saturday, with a cash bar preceding each evening Dinner; programs at each meal; a Saturday evening widows, widowers, and First Timers Reception; and a Memorial Breakfast Sunday morning that includes a Memorial Address; Reading of Call of Taps since last year's Reunion; and the Passing of the Gavel to the incoming President for our fiscal year 2017-2018.

Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, the hotel will provide transportation to Grapevine for those who want to shop.

This year, there will be an excursion on Saturday afternoon from 2:00-6:00PM to the Fort Worth Stockyards and a Military Museum there. Many of you know that the 90th Historian, Tyler Alberts, has operated a 90th Museum in Fort Worth for many years. That museum has now been relocated to the Stockyard area, where it will be more accessible to the public. Tyler will still be bringing many items to the hotel for the Reunion. We will visit the "new" museum and then we'll watch the "Cattle Drive" where the Long Horn cattle are driven by "Drovers" [cowboys]. A link to that event is: <https://www.fortworth.com/the-herd/> - The charge for this trip is \$20 per person and is a listed event on the enclosed Reunion Registration Form. **It is limited to 24 people, so sign up early!** You will be back at the hotel by 6:00PM in time to refresh prior to Dinner.

We encourage you to attend this 2017 Reunion. It's always an enjoyable time with our WW2 veterans; the widows, children, grandchildren, other relatives, succeeding T/O Patch wearing veterans, and friends. If you've never attended a Reunion, this is the year to make it a **FIRST TIME!** - **ALSO:** Remember! Your annual \$30 dues for our fiscal year of July 1 - June 30, 2017-2018 are now due. The Dues Payment Form is a part of this Newsletter as is the Reunion Registration Form. Both are also available on our website: www.90thdivisionassociation.org.

YOUR 2017-2018 \$30 DUES ARE DUE JULY 1! PAY NOW!!



90th - Coupe, Gaston, RECON - 03/29/17 -- **Leatherwood**, Elbert, RECON -- **Schoenfeld**, Harold, RECON - 12/28/16 -- **315th - Jensen**, Melvin W., Med. Bn -- **344/FA Bn - Mastromonaco**, Domenick - 03/19/17 -- **345/ FA Bn - Dennis, Jr.**, James R. - 01/15/17 -- **Minucci**, Walter J., [98] C CO. - 07/01/16 -- **Selin**, Arne R. "Pete", HQ - 08/24/16 -- **Wibstad**, Owen A., Med. - 07/23/11 -- **357th - Bozarth, Sr.**, Harold, B CO. - 02/15/17 -- **Coleman**, Paul T., A CO, 1Bn - "Recently" -- **Hale**, James, G CO. - 2013 -- **Hawk**, Harold W., K CO. - 06/16 -- **Lasinsky**, Walter P., I CO. - 01/13/17 -- **Mayhall**, Van R., C CO. - 01/11/15 -- **358th - Gertz**, Melvin J., E CO. - 2016 -- **Hollenbeck**, Charlie A., C CO. -- 02/06/17 -- **Burnett**, Conner, L CO. -- **Watson**, Thomas E., I CO. - 2013 -- **359th - Callahan**, William E., "Bill", HQ 1Bn - 10/10/16 -- **deRosa**, Leonard J., F CO. - 10/17/16 -- **Lynd**, J. O., A CO. - 03/21/17 -- **Thompson**, George M., M CO. 3Bn - 11/11/17 -- **Wondra**, John William, A CO. - 01/11/15 -- **537/AAA - Jennings**, James R., B CO. - 12/06/13 -- **712/TK Bn - Studen**, George - 12/28/13 -- **773TD Bn - Finnegan**, Robert J., D CO. -- **Johnson**, Ward C "Bud" - 10/22/16 -- **Maida**, John -- **790/ORD - Bryant**, Rufus E. - 2013 -- **RRC - Ellis**, COL [R] Lester, HQ -- **Unit ? - Butler**, John F., 01/16 -- **Koket**, John - 2008 -- **Reed, Jr.**, Walter R.



In Honor of Rhoda Reid - by Dr. Joy Bliss

A - 343rd - by COL [R] Arthur C. Meier, II ** **Arivello**, Sgt. Walter J., 357/B 3Bn, 4th Plt. - by Christopher B. Harrod ** **B - Ballew**, Bob, 344FA Bn - by daughter, Judy M. Needham ** **Burns**, Major Robert F., 90th JQ - by daughter, Marie-Therese Burns ** **C - Cancellieri**, Joseph, 537/AAA - by friend, Lois B. Unger ** **D - Dyke**, Clifford, 358/M - by widow, Jane (Daisy) Dyke and friend, Sandi Richards ** **E - Ellis**, Col. Lester C., RRC - by widow, Mary R. Ellis ** **F - Flowers**, Jim, 712TK Bn - by friend, MG [R] David R. Bockel ** **H - Haley**, T/Sgt. William B., 357/B, 3Bn, 4th Plt. - by Christopher B. Harrod ** **Hamilton**, LTC. Edward S., 357/HQ - by friend, MG [R] David R. Bockel ** **Hess**, Frederick J., 357/Med Det. - by daughter, Sharon Wallace ** **L - Lehtinen**, Sgt. Wendell E., 357/B, 3Bn, 4th Plt (KIA France, 1944) - by Christopher B. Harrod ** **Lewis**, Millard Rex, 357/Mewd Det. - by son, James F. Lewis ** **M - Munson**, COL Merton E., 344/HQ - by son, Merton E. Munson, Jr. ** **O - Oldani**, PFC Charles T., 358/G 2Bn - by nephew, David L. Oldani ** **R - Reid**, James R., Sr., 344/HQ - by widow, Rhoda S. Reid and friend, Marianne McGriff ** **Rovenhagen**, Glen, 358/M - by widow, Janice L. Rovenhagen ** **S - Schmidt**, Dona, 1st wife of Vern Schmidt, 358/E - by the late Charlie A. Hollenbeck ** **Sheridan**, Allred D., 358/L 3Bn - by son, Daniel A. Sheridan ** **Stone**, Victor, 315/Med Det. - by widow, Christeen M. Stone ** **T - Thompson**, George M., 359/M 3Bn - by daughter, Faith and family ** **U - Unger**, Gilbert, 537/AAA - by widow, Lois B. Unger

New Members Added to 90th Roster!

Ashbrook, Cierra J., great-granddaughter, PFC Marshall A. Holcomb, 357/E
Burditt, Kevin E., nephew, Robert J. Finnegan, 773TD Bn
Lamb, Deborah, daughter, Merle Johnson, 344FA Bn, HDQ. Btry.
Platter, Dorothy, daughter, John Barylski, 790 ORD
Younger, Christine, daughter, Randolph B. Johnson [Pigeonier/truck repairs]

Postcards from the Army Historical Foundation of the coming National Museum of the United States Army



Aerial photo of the National Army Museum construction site in March, 2017



Progress!
 The first walls erected!
 Targeted for completion and opening in 2019



Medal of Honor Garden - A dedicated outdoor area near the Veterans' Hall, will honor recipients

Artists rendition of completed National Museum in Historic Fort Belvoir, VA





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.



344th

Clark, Ray - "I was inducted into the Army on July 16, 1943 and discharged January 2, 1946. I joined the 90th Division in November, 1943 and landed on Utah Beach D+2, embarking at Newport, Wales on the 'Susan B. Anthony'. I have attended several reunions and deeply appreciate all the efforts to honor the service of my fellow patriots. November 11, 2002, I was awarded the French Legion of Honor Medal at a ceremony with others in Phoenix, AZ. Due to some type of "technical difficulties" on jurisdiction of the French Consulate in Los Angeles versus San Francisco, I was given a "Diplome" and told it would be forthcoming. All these years later, still have not received & wondering if someone could help me." [Ed.: This was written in 2015 - Ray's dues are paid, but so far, I have been unable to reach him by phone - contact Rhoda Reid if you can help.]

345th HQ CO

Arne R. '(Pete)' Selin



Selin, Arne R. "Pete" age 98, of Maple Grove, formerly of Brooklyn Center. Passed away on August 24, 2016. Preceded in death by parents; wife, Anita; sisters, Bernice and Beulah; brothers, Ed, Roy and Kenny. Survived by sister, Beatrice; many nieces, nephews, family and friends. Pete served in the US Army during WWII and was a lifetime member of the Charles Knaeble VFW Post 494 in Crystal. Memorials: donations to your favorite charity. Interment Fort Snelling National Cemetery. Memorial service Wednesday 8/31, 11:00 am, with visitation 1 hour prior at: [Washburn-McReavy.com](http://www.Washburn-McReavy.com) (<http://www.Washburn-McReavy.com>) Glen Haven Chapel 763-533-8643 5125 West Broadway,

357/D

Shaffer, Charles A., Sr. went to Washington, D.C. March 3, 2015 to receive the French Medal of Honor. He was also named a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor when he received the beautiful medal. [Ed.: Many our WW2 vets are recipients!]

345th C Co.

Walter J. Minucci

Walter J. Minucci passed away peacefully in his sleep July 1, 2016. He had just celebrated his 98th birthday.



Mr. Minucci

He was born May 17, 1918, to Frank Minucci and Antonia Silva Minucci in Prescott, Arizona. They lived at the Senator Mine. His father worked in several mines in the area. Walt's dad brought his wife to Prescott when she was due to have her baby. They checked into the Arizona Hotel on Montezuma Street, which is currently the restaurant "Far From Folsom." This is where Walt was born, on historic Whiskey Row. Walt's family moved into Prescott in 1919 where they bought the hotel across the street from the train depot. Walt told many stories about watching the trains come into town.

They were married at Camp Buckley in Abilene, Texas. Walt was part of the Greatest Generation. He was part of the D-day invasion and landed on Utah Beach as part of the 90th Division. In addition to Normandy, he fought in the battles of Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central Europe. He received the following decorations and citations: Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal, American Theater Campaign medal with five Bronze Stars, a Bronze Arrowhead for D-day, three overseas service bars, one service stripe and a French-given Victory Ribbon. After his honorable discharge in 1944 he came back to Prescott and went back to work for Alabama Freight Lines. He bought Bucky O'Neil's Surplus Store located on Cortez Street in 1947 and sold it in 1978.

first wife, Leota, Walt married Alma Jo Stevens in 1996, and gained three daughters. He is survived by them; six step-grandchildren; and six step-great grandchildren; along with nieces and nephews. Walt was preceded in death by Leota and Alma Jo, his parents; four sisters; and one brother.

Walt attended Washington School and graduated from Prescott High School in 1937. He played quarterback for Prescott and loved to attend and watch the Badgers play.

Walt was very active in the community and loved Prescott. He joined the active reserves from 1949-1963 and was its chairman to build the current VFW building. He served as Commander of Post 541 and was the All State Commander of the VFW. Walt was a member of the Snooki People and served as chief (1955-1966). After the death of his

A visitation will be held from 9:15 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Saturday, July 16, 2016, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 150 Fleury St., Prescott, with Funeral Mass to begin at 10 a.m. Burial will be at Mountain View Cemetery at noon.

In lieu of flowers please make memorial contributions in Walter's name to American Legion, Post 6, 202 S. Pleasant St., Prescott, AZ 86303, to help honor our veterans.

Arrangements made by Ruffolo Wakefield Funeral Home.

Information provided by survivors.

From daughter, Terri Tatum: Thank you for putting this in the Newsletter. Walt always looked forward to info from the 90th! Thank you for all your work honoring our great soldiers



2017-2018 DUES ARE DUE JULY 1!



357/B

Bozarth, Sr. Harold "Ike" - January 6, 1925- February 15, 2017 - NJ



Harold 'Ike' Bozarth, Sr. of Mount Holly, died peacefully on February 15, 2017. He was 92. Ike shed his blood for his country and dedicated his life to his family and community. He joined the U.S. Army in 1943 and served in the European Theater as part of the 90th Infantry Division, 357th Regiment's D-

Day operation in Normandy. After being wounded twice, he received 2 Purple Hearts and was honorably discharged as a Private First Class. For over 50 years, he was a pillar of the Fire Service in Burlington County, serving as Chief of the Mount Holly Fire Department and Chief Engineer of the Relief Fire Company. Ike was also instrumental in founding the Burlington County Fire Academy in Westhampton. He was a Life Member of Relief Fire Company in Mount Holly; Life Member of Smithville Fire Company in Easthampton; and a member of the Lumberton Fire Company and Westhampton Fire Department.

Ike [also known as 'Ikey'] was a master mechanic and master welder, retiring from Lumberton Township Public Works in 1990. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, trips down to the shore and visiting family and friends. He could be found most days, even until recently, tinkering in his garage and working on anything with an engine.

Born and raised in Mount Holly, he was the youngest of 11 children and a lifelong resident. Ike was a dedicated, hardworking man who loved his family. He was the devoted husband of the late Mary Virginia [Buccello] Bozarth and also preceded in death by his 10 siblings. Pop Pop loved spoiling his grandchildren and great-grandchildren whenever they would visit. He loved telling stories about fire-fighting, surviving the war, and growing up in Mount Holly. He will be greatly missed by his family and the entire community.

Ike is survived by his children, Harold, Jr. [Linda] of Westhampton; John, of Delran; Mary Virginia Carty [Richard] of Mount Holly; and Thomas, Sr. [Jane] of Mt. Holly. He is also survived by his 14 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. Funeral services will be held 10:00 A.M. Monday, in the Perinchief Chapels, 438 High Street, Mt. Holly, where friends may visit with the family from 5:00-8:00 P.M. Sunday, and from 9:00 A.M. until time of service Monday. Interment with Military Honors will be in St. Andrew's Cemetery located on Pine Street in Mount Holly.

358/H

Waters, John Dewitt - "My name is John Dewitt Waters. I live in Hickory, NC and will be 93 years old in August. I served in WW2 with the 358th Infantry Regiment, 90th Infantry Division, Company H, 3rd Army. If anyone served with me and would like to give me a call, my phone number is 828-256-2902. Thank you. Dewitt Waters" [-Ed.: Any readers remember Dewitt or served with him or know someone who did? Pick up the phone and give Dewitt a call. Wouldn't that be wonderful? We've lost so many of our WW2 vets that the possibility is very slim - but maybe, just maybe.....!]



358/C

Hollenbeck, Charlie - 4/20/1920-2/06/2017 [Idaho]

Charlie Allen Hollenbeck passed away Monday, Feb. 6, 2017, at the Idaho State Veterans Home, at age 96. Charlie was born April 20, 1920, on Montgomery Ridge in Anatone, to George and Ethel (Cannon) Hollenbeck. He graduated from Asotin High School in 1938. On March 14, 1942, Charlie married Ora Mae 'Pete' Peterson in Lewiston. Charlie was proud of his military service and entered the military in 1942. He joined the Army Air Corps and was stationed in Watton, England. He later volunteered for the Army infantry and crossed Central Europe, fighting all the way to the Czech border and liberating the Flossenburg concentration camp in the process. During his military service he received the Bronze Star, among numerous other medals.

Charlie was proud of his service in both the Army Air Corps and Army infantry. Until recently, he was active in the 90th Division (Tough 'Ombres) reunions and attended many with his wife, Pete, until her death in 2003. He later attended with his sons.

Upon returning from the war in 1945, he began working for Pottlatch Forests Inc., later becoming a master carpenter while building homes and additions to St. Joseph Hospital, the Catholic church in Clarkston and a Washington Water Power building in Spokane, to name a few. He later became a job superintendent for Northwestern Construction in Spokane.

Charlie was a charter member of the Crankers Club. He enjoyed restoring antique cars. He was very proud of his 1914 Ford Model T, 1924 Buick and 1929 Chevrolet. He also was a member of the Lewiston Elks, where he held a lifetime membership and was honored as Elk of the Year in 1990-91. He was the Veterans Volunteer award winner for 2003-04. He volunteered for the Idaho Veterans Assistance League, raising money for the Lewiston veterans home. This year, he received the Spirit of Freedom Award, presented by Sen. Mike Crapo. He enjoyed fishing and won the 1988 steelhead derby.

He is survived by twin sons Lonny (Judy) of Post Falls, Idaho, and Larry (Alice) of Lewiston. He also is survived by seven grandkids, 16 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife in 2003; brothers Dick and Jack Hollenbeck; and sisters Mary Lockhart and Jane Doolin. [Ed.: Charlie attended many reunions for years and was a wonderful, kind, soft-spoken gentleman - He was special!]

Close friend, Vern Schmidt [358/E] wrote the following: "Charlie was one of the first men in the gate at Flossenburg Concentration camp on April 23, 1945. Camp Survivor, Dr. Jack Terry, met Charlie at our 2009 Reunion for the first time. They hugged, shed some tears, and Jack said, 'You're my Liberator'. Charlie found 5 photos in the SS guard house at Flossenburg, all showing atrocities on inmates. In 2011, a book, 'Love Crime', by a German author, contained these 5 photos and credits Charlie Hollenbeck for the reason for his book, as these photos were returned to Flossenburg in 2006., where research identified the inmate on the photo linking him to a child he fathered during his time as a slave laborer. I met the author when in Germany September, 2016 and have a copy of his book. It's only available in German. I have the original photos. The Bucherwald Museum enlarged the photos, and they were on a traveling museum throughout Germany."



357/I

Lasinsky, Walter P. - AZ - February 16, 1925 - January 13, 2017



Walter P. Lasinsky, "Katz", 91, died at home January 13, 2017, following a brief illness. He born in Emest, PA February 16, 1925, to the late Charles and Constance Lasinsky. He was preceded in death by: brothers Charles, John, Frank, Joseph, Stanley; sisters Connie, Mary, Helen, and Bernadine. He is survived by the

love of his life and wife of 70 years, Jessie [Trexler]; son, David [Mary Beth] of Nanty Glo, PA; daughter, Barbara, of AZ; grandchildren Maraya, of Arlington, VA; Annie, of Vancouver, BC Canada; and Eric [Lane] of Colver, PA; brother and sister, Irene and Bill of Nanty Glo; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He grew up in Nanty Glo, entering the coal mines at age 13. At age 16, he enlisted in the Army, unbeknownst to his mother. He was an infantry rifleman who served in the European Theater, including Utah Beach on D-Day + 1, and the Battle of the Bulge. He was a highly decorated WW2 veteran.

He worked in the local mines and was one of the best fast-pitch softball players in Western Pennsylvania, playing well into his 40s. He was an adventure seeker and bungee jumped and skydived in his 70s. "Katz" was a fearless man of large stature, who lived, worked and played hard [another nickname was "Big Moose"]. He, Jessie and Barb relocated to Thatcher, AZ in 1978. He religiously took his 4 A.M. daily hikes out in the desert, taking along food for the wildlife. He was able to return often to Nanty Glo to visit his son and family. He especially enjoyed coming in the spring when he could hike for miles, pick ramps and May apples and soak in the "green" of the Pennsylvania mountains. He was a member of the Greatest Generation and will be sadly missed by family and friends. His grandchildren could not have had a more loving or generous Pop Pop. Funeral mass was held January 20 at St. Rose of Lima, and burial was in Salford. Prayers and good thoughts will be appreciated. [Ed.: A note from his widow, Jessie stated: "Please enter in your 90th Division magazine. He suffered nightly as he had frozen feet from the war, and his legs burned all the time." - Wow! - And yet he loved to hike!]

359/B 1st Bn

Minutolo, Peter P., [from wife, Virginia] - "Dear 90th Division friends, Peter & I attended a reunion in 1960 in NY City. We made a number of friends who we kept in touch with for many years and enjoyed the reunions and continued interest over the years. Peter is now 92 years old, in a nursing home and continues his interest in the 90th. He was later awarded the Bronze Star for his role in WW2. He is very alert, and if anyone wants to send a card, just send it to our home address, and I will give it to him. Here is the address: 102 Magnolia Loop - Port Orange, FL 32128-6728 - Yours Fondly, Virginia Minutolo [Ed.: Readers? Even if you don't know Peter, I am sure he would be delighted to hear from someone in the 90th! Get out your pen and paper - or a card - and bring some joy to Peter with a note!]

359/F

deRosa, Leonard J. "Lenny" - MA - March 31, 1926- October 17, 2016



Leonard J. "Lenny" deRosa, age 90, passed away peacefully in the Tower Hill Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Canton, Massachusetts on Monday, October 17, 2016. Born in Boston, Massachusetts on March 31, 1926, he was the son

of the late Michael and Adeline (Parente) DeRosa. He was raised in the West End of Boston and graduated from Boston English High School, Class of 1944. After graduation, Lenny enlisted in the United States Army and proudly served his country during World War II. He was stationed in the European Theater of Operations with the 90th Infantry Division, taking part in the Battle of the Bulge. Upon his return home, Lenny returned to Boston and joined the Boston Typographical Union, Local 13.

He married his wife, Thelma H. Dunne, on July 24, 1949 and they made their home together for a short while in Cambridge before moving to Brookline in 1950. In 1953, Lenny and Thelma settled in East Walpole, Massachusetts. Before this move Lenny took a position with the Boston Globe. While working for the Globe, he maintained his membership with the Local 13 and also joined the Franklin Typographical Society. In the late 1950s, Lenny began taking courses to earn his Bachelor's Degree at Boston University, graduating in 1960. After receiving a teacher's certificate from Suffolk University in 1967, he took a teaching position at Holbrook High School, instructing students in various business classes.

Lenny retired from Holbrook High School in 1988 and from the Globe in 1996. After his retirement from the Globe, Lenny became a snow bird, spending six months a year in Naples, Florida and the other six months in Falmouth and East Walpole, Massachusetts. Whenever he was back in Massachusetts, he would spend time working for the union, finally retiring in 2008. He enjoyed traveling, taking memorable trips to Europe and the Caribbean. As a proud US Veteran, he was a member for life of the VFW Post in Norwood and he enjoyed attending the 90th Division reunions whenever he could.

Beloved husband of the late Thelma H. (Dunne) deRosa; Loving father of Peter L. de Rosa of East Walpole; Paul M. deRosa [Barbara Beech] of East Walpole, and Kingston H. deRosa [Gayla] of Missouri; Devoted brother of Alice deRosa of Boston; Nicholas deRosa of Dennis; the late Mary deRosa; Vera deRosa, Ella deRosa, Anthony deRosa, and Michael deRosa, Jr. He is survived by many nieces and nephews.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated in Saint Mary's Church, 176 Washington Street, East Walpole on Tuesday, October 25, 2016 at 10:00 AM. Interment will follow in Saint Francis Cemetery in Walpole.

2017-2018 \$30 DUES ARE DUE JULY 1
This Newsletter's mailing label shows PD or NOT PD



Lynd, Dr. J. Q. - 359/A Obituary: February 11, 1922 - March 20, 2017

Dr. J. Q. Lynd passed from this life on March 20, 2017, at the age of 95. He was born February 11, 1922, near Joplin, MO. Although he lived in Stillwater at the time of his passing, Dr. Lynd felt very much at home on his farm north of Perkins. He loved being on the farm to develop and improve his herd of cattle and his grazing pasture systems—it was a daily ritual for many years to spend time on the farm. Family and friends were sometimes taken aback when they visited the farm with Dr. Lynd and saw him wrestle calves (while in his 80s and 90s) to affix ear tags or otherwise tend to them. Dr. Lynd led a remarkable life. He retired as a Professor of Agronomy from Oklahoma State University in 1992. Although this was the culmination of a 44-year teaching and research career in Agronomy and Soil Microbiology, he continued to go to the office on week days and remained engaged in his work. Many of his graduate students became prominent scientists in the USA and around the world—he took great pride in them. Dr. Lynd conducted a lifetime of research on nitrogen fixation, pesticide degradation, aflatoxin antibiosis, chemical inhibition of *Aspergillus Flavus* and soil microfloral antibiosis to Aflatoxin. He received numerous teaching

and research awards, and was awarded prestigious grants from the National Science Foundation, USDA, American Cancer Society, Biomedical Research Foundation, plus numerous corporations. He authored or co-authored more than 150 major scientific journal articles. He was highly respected in his field, and lectured at scientific conferences in the USA and internationally. During WWII, J. Q. Lynd served in the Army with the 90th Infantry Division, under General George C. Patton. He landed on Utah Beach in Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944. He was severely injured during the battle for strategic Hill 122 near Periers, France, in July 1944, and received a Purple Heart. In October 2014, Dr. Lynd received the French Legion of Honor Medal for his WWII service to help liberate France. This is France's highest decoration, and it conferred Knight Rank to Dr. Lynd (or "Sir Lynd"). He had tremendous affection for his 90th Division "Family" (which includes some close friends in France) and he attended reunions when he was able to go. J. Q. Lynd married the love of his life shortly before going to war. His wife, Fairy Muriel (Coffin) Lynd, passed away in 1988. They had two children. Dr. Lynd's son, Joel Quentin Lynd, of Henryetta OK died Nov. 9, 2004. Dr. Lynd is survived by his daughter, Dr. Donna Lynd Ward (husband Sid); Grandson, Erik Ward (wife Jamie), Great-Grandchildren, Elijah, Jeremiah, & Erika, all from California. Also Grandson Ben Ward (wife Yam), Great-Grandchildren, Hannah and Mickey, from Thailand. Dr. Lynd was blessed with a caring, loving family, and despite the distance, they made many trips to Oklahoma, to spend time with "Dad/Grandpa." Dr. Lynd also had a very good friend, who was like a son, Dennis Beyl, of Perkins, OK. A Celebration of Life service was held in Stillwater on April 14, 2017, at Bennett Chapel on the OSU Campus. Dr. Lynd's ashes were interred in the Fayetteville National Cemetery, with full military honors. **** From a close friend and colleague, MG [R] J. Ron Sholar:** "There are many things that could be said about J.Q. He was passionate about his research and teaching and was an internationally recognized soil microbiologist. However, for all of the accolades he received for that work, he was equally proud, maybe more so, of his service in WW2. He and his wife, Fairy, attended many 90th Reunions together, and like so many others at those gatherings, he would be proudly wearing that red T/O hat. That will be a treasured memory for most of us. In October, 2014, Dr. Lynd received the Knight in the French Order of the Legion of Honor in recognition of his service to France during WW2. Despite his advancing age and the passing of decades since he had last worn a uniform, he treasured that recognition. Earlier, it had been my privilege to nominate him for the award and then to speak during the presentation ceremony. With family, friends, former students, fellow veterans, and representatives from France present, it was a very proud moment for him, and it was so for all of us. He was a true Tough Ombre." [Ed.: I met him at a few reunions he attended after he lost his wife. He shunned the spotlight and kept a low profile, but was friendly.]

Johnson, Ward C. "Bud", 773/TD BN - January 18, 1920 - October 22,

2016 - Ward C. "Bud" Johnson, 96, of Idaville, IN & a member of "the greatest generation" passed away peacefully, Saturday, October 22, 2016, surrounded by his family. He was born January 18, 1920 in Minneapolis to the late Frank and Ida (Foss) Johnson. He married Elizabeth G. Fisher on June 27, 1946, & she preceded him in death October 29, 2009. Ward was a graduate of Washington High School in Sioux Falls, SD and went to work for a wholesale grocery company until he was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1942. He served with the 773/TD BN in WW2 & landed on Utah Beach shortly after D-Day. The 773rd was later recognized as the unit that destroyed the most German tanks during the European Campaign. It was during WW2 that Ward met his wife, Betty, who was an Army nurse stationed in England. He was honorably discharged after the war after achieving the rank of Warrant Officer. He was the recipient of the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Presidential Unit Citation, & the Croix De Guerre Avex Palm from France. In 1948, he joined the Anti-Aircraft Battery of Monticello, where he served for three years as Master Sergeant, & often recalled that Monticello was "safe from enemy fire" during those years.

In 1948, Ward and Betty moved to Idaville to Betty's father's farm & names it Sioux Monti Farm, deciding to give farming a try. It was there they raised the 5 children: Jeff, Julie, Janet, Jayne, & Jodi, instilling values of hard work, discipline, & education. He believed in investing in children and took pride in serving many years as a 4-H leader and served [in the face of opposition] on the Consolidation Board for Twin Lakes School Corporation, knowing it would bring better educational opportunities for rural students. He later drove Bus #12 for 25 years for the Twin Lakes School Corporation. Ward was a member of the American Legion, & a 68 year + member of Unity Masonic Lodge No. 130 F&AM of Sioux Falls. He proudly received a 50 Year Award in 1999. He was proud of his Swedish heritage, his time with the U.S. Army in WW2, and especially his family, which he bragged "was the best family around". Survivors include his children: Jeff [Lynn] Johnson; Julie [Bill] Partridge; Janet [Jack] Faker; Jayne [Brian] Burton; Jodi [Mark] Traub; grandchildren, Jorie Faker; John Faker; Jeff [JT] Faker; Kevan [KC] Johnson; Kerry Johnson; Andrew Burton; Eric Traub; and great-granddaughters, Kice, Braelyn and 7 Paetyn Johnson; and great-grand-son, Brooks Johnson.



359/A

John William WONDRA - MN - Passed away January 11, 2015



"Jack", age 88, of Roseville, MN, passed away on January 11, 2015. Graduate of Monroe High School and University of St. Thomas. Army

Veteran of WW2. Employed At Brown and Bigelow for 17 years and 17 year employee of the Minnesota Star and Tribune. Preceded in death by Helen, his beloved wife of 55 years, and parents, William and Agnes Wondra. Survived by brothers, William [Marie; and James [Betty]; sons John [Roxane; Michael [Claudia]; and daughters Mary Wondra; Patricia Washbusch; and Ruth [Steve] Oczak; 9 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren, all; of the St. Paul area. Mass of Christian Burial 11 A.M. Friday, January 16 at St. Stanislaus Catholic Church [398 Superior Street, St. Paul], followed by a reception. Private interment Calvary Cemetery. Visitation 4-8 P.M. Thursday at the Roseville Memorial Chapel [2245 N. Hamline Ave.] and one hour prior to Mass at church on Friday. Memorials preferred to Disabled American Veterans and Catholic Charities of St. Paul.

359/HQ

William "Bill" Edward Callahan April 2, 1923 - October 10, 2016

William Callahan, October 10, 2016, age 93, of Clarkston, formerly of Novi. Beloved husband of the late Martha. Dear father of Nancy Vachon, Thomas [Caroline]; Rosemary



Callahan and the late Richard. Proud Grandfather of 6 and Great-grandfather of 7. Funeral service 11am Saturday, October 15, 2016, at the O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home 41555 Grand River Avenue. Mr. Callahan was a Veteran of the United States Army, serving during WW2 in the 90th Division Tough Ombres of Patton's 3rd Army, in 5 campaigns. He was an avid fan of the Detroit Tigers and Detroit Lions. Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Memorial contributions to charity of one's choice.

Herzberg, Arthur, 359/A - "You can add my name to the list of those who've received the French Legion of Honor Medal. The date for a formal presentation is yet to be determined." [Ed.: We hope he has actually received it as this note came some time ago, but we haven't heard from Art since.]

Shaw, Kevin, grandson, SSGT Herbert W. Shaw, 357 & nephew, George Von Roeder, 357th, who compiled the "Short History of the 357th Infantry Regiment" - "I spoke with Jim Reid in early Feb., 2016 & received good information from him in planning a trip to France & Germany with my father to follow in the footsteps of my grandfather. I hope to learn more about his Purple Heart which he received in a field hospital Dec. 4, 1944 I was also surprised in my research to learn that my uncle George Von Roeder, who married my grandmother's sister, wrote the short story of the 357th! We met many people at the D-Day celebrations and also had a wonderful visit with Henri, Christian & their wives. I was honored to be able to speak with Jim before his passing. He was a great help, and I will always be grateful to him for his kindness to me. Thank you!"

359/M 3Bn

Thompson, Jr., George M. - Died November 11, 2016

George M. Thompson, Jr., WW2 Veteran Dies on Veteran's Day



George Miller Thompson, Jr. died peacefully on Nov. 11, 2016 at the age of 91. A member of the "Greatest Generation", it is fitting he passed on Veterans Day. George, a member of the Army's 90th Infantry Division (the "Tough Ombres") was part of the D-Day invasion and fought at the Battle of the Bulge. He helped liberate Flossenburg Concentration Camp, and was a recipient of the Bronze Star, Purple Heart and the French Legion Medal of Honor awarded to him personally by French President Sarkozy in 2007 at the French Embassy in Washington, D.C.

He leaves behind his cherished wife of 58 years, Anne Flanagan Thompson; his daughters, Beth Boggs and husband Jack of Houston, Texas, Faith Thompson and husband John Hunnewell of Dunellen, New Jersey and Kara Russo and husband Richard of Milton. Also survived by eight grandchildren: Rachel, William, Kevin, Abigail, George, Christopher, Grace and Laurel Anne; two sisters, Phyllis Chagnon and Charlotte Nault and many nieces and nephews.

Raised in Everett and Melrose, he was the son of Eva and George Miller Thompson, Sr. and is predeceased by his sisters Priscilla Thompson, Elinor Gately and Barbara Granger.

George and Anne settled into Anne's home town and made Milton their home in 1958, raised their three daughters and immersed themselves in the town's history and politics.

George M. Thompson Jr.'s life was filled with service to his nation and his town. He was most proud of his 40 years of perfect attendance serving as a Milton Town Meeting Member and working alongside Anne for 30 years instilling a love of local history in Milton school children by either dressing as patriot Daniel Vose or giving tours of the Lincoln Cabin and Milton Powder House. If you ask any of the now grown fifth graders they will tell you their fondest memory of the Milton Tours was holding the Civil War muskets at the Powder House with Mr. Thompson.

George was an active member of Boston Local 12 Plumbers and Pipe-fitters Union, the 90th Division Association, Milton Historical Society and the Blue Bell Tavern Society. A parishioner at St. Elizabeth's, he was a church lector and Eucharistic Minister. **[George Receives French Legion of Honor Medal 11/02/07 from French President]**

VETERANS HONORED — President Nicolas Sarkozy of France (center) enthroned World War II veteran George Thompson of Milton, after awarding him the Legion of Honor medal during a reception at the French ambassador's residence in Washington yesterday. Seven World War II veterans from the United States were also awarded the medal.





Letters From Family Members of 90th Veterans

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

The Widows Write...

Condde LaCasse, Rose C. - daughter, SSGT. Percy L. Conde, 359th CO -

"This dues form has sat on my desk for months because I was determined to not mail it until I found time to include a note about my trip to France in November, 2014. Through the ninetieth Association, I learned of the French Group who hosted the 70th Anniversary Celebrations of the battles along the Moselle River. As part of Patton's Third Army, my father fought through that area. My daughter and I joined the French Association Moselle River 1944 for a few days and had a wonderful experience. For me, it was a time of mixed emotions, sadness because my father died many years ago and was not present to see the peaceful, rural countryside that he had slugged through fighting the Germans in every village and torn-up field. I also appreciated the hospitality each village gave our group, from the smallest school children to the elderly, walking with a cane. Everyone tried to tell us they still remembered and valued the American forces who drove out the Germans and gave them back their freedom. Many of the French asked if 'the soldier in my family died in the war or came back home to the U.S.'. That was a question I did not expect, but one that made me realize how the war was experienced in their families. - One eighty-year old spent a long time telling me how, as a ten-year old, he and his siblings had to stay in the basement of their stone farmhouse while the fighting went on around them. His father had been forced into the German army, so his mother ran the farm. Everyone hid in the basement during the day, but he looked through the slits in the foundation to see American boots walking nearby. Afterwards, he heard a German tank, and he was afraid the tank would kill the American soldiers, but later he learned that did not happen. The day after the fighting stopped, his mother left the children to milk the cows and walked three miles to the village. She came back very happy because the Germans had left the area, and the locals were meeting in the center of the village. Their family hurried to join the group, where everyone was singing and singing and singing. By the next day, they had organized a celebration.

Without the work of the 90th Division Association, my daughter and I would never have had such a great experience. We have lots of pictures and many happy memories of our time in the Moselle River area thanks to this organization." [Ed: What a poignant story - thank you for sending it. My apologies for not getting it in the Newsletter sooner!]

Stone, Christeen - widow, Victor, 315/Med. Det. - "Thank you for staying on to help. Sad to learn of your loss of your husband, Jim. My Vic has been gone for six years now. Sad to hear of some of the year's losses. The Med buddies of Vic are all gone now. - I had laser surgery, so vision still not seeing well right now. I am in excellent health, other than two bum knees. I was 96 in October, 2016. I am still living in my own home and enjoying my 6 great-grandchildren - two more due in March, 2017. They are ages 5 years to newborn [the one in October]. Josh, the oldest grandson, named his firstborn Victor Stone Olsen. God Bless. Christeen"

Stone, Christeen [cont.] - [Ed.: Vic & Christeen attended reunions for many years and most of the time, they brought various family members with them, which was great. It's people like Vic and Christeen that I still miss seeing - those were great days! Christeen, you are one amazing lady! I wish for you continued good health and independence. Thank you for writing!]

Holcomb, Marvin, son, PFC Marshall A. Holcomb, 357/E - "My daughter

Alice, is finally expressing some interest in her grandfather being a Tough 'Ombre, and that makes me feel good, of course. Cierra, the grand daughter, at the ripe old age of 17, and a high school Senior on top of that, has probably said something along the line of "okay". Having said that, I feel that getting the younger generation interested, is imperative to keep alive the knowledge of what my father and many other men and women did, so that we had the choice to vote for the next leader of this great country in November, 2016. I have to get off my soapbox, or my philosophy will go on and on! The clippings I sent are to make the information available to any and all interested parties. I feel as long as anyone can get in touch with the 90th Association, that would, for the most part, be where the main source of information is found. If they should want to inquire about something specific to my dad, I will be glad to field that type of question. I should have said in answer to your question to just keep the contacts directed your direction, and you have th information to get in touch with me should the need arise. Thanks for all you are doing. Marvin Holcomb." Ed.: The below information also came from Marvin:

PFC Marshall A. Holcomb
357th/357th/CO E



J. McCORMICK IS KILLED IN ACTION

A telegram was received Monday by Mrs. Johnnie McCormick from the Adjutant General that her husband, Pfc. Johnnie McCormick, was killed in action in France June 25. Mrs. McCormick received a telegram early in July stating that he was killed in action in France on June 25. No other information was received until the notice of his death. The telegram only stated that the War Department reported to recently Mrs. McCormick that her husband had been killed in action June 25 and that a letter of more details would follow. Pfc. McCormick had been in the service for about two years. He went over sea early last year. It is presumed that he went in to action in France on "D" day, but as yet nothing authentic has been received relative to his service. Pfc. McCormick was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Vance McCormick of Paducah. His wife is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Kuhn. She has been working at Hahn-Taylor Shop for several

McCormick, JohnnieD., dies 23-July-1944, Private First Class, 359th Infantry Regiment, 90th Infantry Division, U.S. Army, Texas, Plot D, Row 27, Grave 5, Purple Heart - "Though I did not know Johnnie McCormick, I did know Mrs. McCormick. My mother and she were good friends & somewhere, I have and hope to locate, a picture of mother, daddy [PFC Marshall A. Holcomb] standing on a sidewalk in Abilene, TX with Johnnie and Mrs. McCormick." [Ed.: If anyone can add to this information, they can email Rhoda at: reids90thdivisionassoc@comcast.net or send a note via regular mail to Rhoda Reid, 17 Lake Shore Drive - Willowbrook, IL 60527 - 2221 - Thank you, Marvin, for this fascinating bit of history that we otherwise would not have known]



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

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



[The late Charles Shackelford's, 358/G story, sent by his daughter, Marcia Shackelford Rudzik](#)

Here is an account of Charles Shackelford's (my father) experiences with the 90th division during World War II. If you can use this in the Tough 'Ombres news please do. It would mean a lot to our family. Please let me know if I should send it to someone else.

Thank you for any help you can give us.

Sincerely, Marcia Shackelford Rudzik

Charles Shackelford lived on a farm outside Booneville, MS. At age 19, he was inducted in the Army. (He was given a one-year deferment because he grew food, which was important for the cause.)

In August of 1944, Shackelford arrived at Camp Robinson, AR, for 16 weeks of basic training. He was granted 7 days' leave and reported to Camp Kilmer, NJ. Camp Kilmer was a holding place until enough soldiers arrived to be shipped overseas.

On Jan. 1, 1945, Shackelford boarded the Queen Mary and headed for Glasgow, Scotland. About 10,000 men were on board for the 7 day journey. Most experienced seasickness during the trip.

They arrived in Scotland on Jan.7. There the soldiers boarded a train going to Liverpool, England. "We were headed for the front lines as replacements for those lost in the Battle of the Bulge," Shackelford said.

During the night they crossed the English Channel and arrived in Le Havre, France. From there they traveled by Army trucks to Belgium. These trucks were open, and this being one of the worst winters in years, they almost froze.

Arriving in Belgium, they spent the night with a civilian Belgium family and slept on the floor. At this point they could hear the big guns in the night.

The nearest they could get to the front lines was 4 or 5 miles. The remainder of the journey was made on foot. They saw bombed German tanks and vehicles along the road as they marched to meet their company, the 82nd Battalion, 358th Infantry Division.

Shackelford was a Browning automatic rifleman or BAR. This gun held 20 rounds of ammunition and was quite heavy.

on the second day of combat the soldiers crossed the Maginot Line that was built by France along the German border before the war. Marching along the way they experienced skirmishes with the enemy and marching was slow.

On the third day, they passed the Siegfried Line into Germany. As they pressed into Germany, driving back the enemy, they did a lot of marching at night.

Shackelford was on night patrol with a handful of other soldiers. They crawled or walked in darkness, scouting for enemy locations. The troops would march this patrolled ground the next day. The snow was knee deep and days would pass with no feeling in their toes.

By Feb., they were able to cover more ground as the Germans retreated and more were taken as prisoners.

By the end of the war they were at Pilsen, Czechoslovakia. After a few days there Shackelford and other soldiers were sent to Germany for training to go to Japan. Before the training was completed, Japan surrendered.

Shackelford was put on guard duty as a military policeman in Bad Tolz, near Munich. He pulled guard duty until he received an emergency leave in March, 1946. His grandmother was seriously ill.

After his 7 days' leave he reported to Camp Benning, GA where he spent the month of July. In August he went to Camp Shelby, MS, and was discharged as a corporal.

Shackelford returned to Booneville, MS, and married his high school sweetheart, Sue Rowland. They moved to Bolivar, TN, in 1953, and opened Bolivar Milling Co., a feed and grain business. After 25 years he sold the business and bought a cattle farm. He retired after 10 years of farming.

Shackelford and his wife, Sue, had 2 children, Marcia and Eric. Eric died in 1971 in a truck accident. Sue died in 1983, of cancer. In 1985, Shackelford married Bernice Lax Maxwell. He and Bernice resided in Bolivar until his death in 2014, due to complications from neuropathy resulting from frostbite incurred during the frozen winter in Germany.

Shackelford is quoted as saying, "We who served in combat know the price of freedom and what it takes to keep it. I wouldn't want to do it again, but I wouldn't take anything for the experience."

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



Ropelewski, Alois F., 359/C, PA - Two Stories that were published in his local newspaper - #1 of 2

Fight for Hill 122 took heavy toll

By BILL MCKINNEY
Morning News staff reporter

Bazookaman Al Ropelewski remembers Hill 122 as "a hell of a fight."

It was such a hell of a fight that the men of his battalion became the first unit of the 359th Regiment, 90th Infantry Division, to win the blue Presidential Unit Citation on the right breast of their uniforms.

The 1st Battalion won it for extraordinary courage in the face of the enemy during the capture of a heavily defended German observation point on the Normandy Peninsula.

The battle began almost a month after the D-Day landing.

Ropelewski credits Major LeRoy R. Pond with the heroics, but the citation credits the entire battalion, first for taking the hill against superior enemy numbers and then for holding it while being cut off from reinforcements.

"Pond just refused to surrender," Ropelewski said.

The Erie man — now living on Parade Street Boulevard — spent 122 consecutive days on the front lines, was wounded several times and was later decorated. He called the German defense of Hill 122 and their later counterattack "fanatical."

The battle began July 3, 1944 and continued into July 8.

By the time it ended, Ropelewski said, one of the First Battalion's companies was down to 57 men from a beginning force of about 200. Officers and non-commissioned officers, anyone looking like leaders, were dropped fast.

"On July 3 we went into the attack, moving up slowly. We had artillery, our own shells, bursting over our head.

"We lost our lieutenant and his runner when they went into a draw and ran into an ambush. I saw my platoon sergeant cut down by machine gun fire. We had to just keep on going."

Ropelewski, part of Charlie Company, and the rest of the battalion started out on a level plain leading up to the hill. At one point he found himself behind a big tree, caught in a crossfire between two machine guns.

"I tried to line one of them up with the bazooka but they'd keep firing and I'd have to duck back. They had me pinned in good. I was lucky that tree was there.

"Then Major Pond came up and took at least one of the guns out with a hand grenade. He threw it so hard his field glasses came back up and hit him above the eye. He needed stitches.

"I don't know what happened to the other gun. It stopped firing, too."

Pond would die months later, killed in the Saar Valley.

First Battalion moved across the plain, through a murderous draw, into a swamp directly below Hill 122, all the while kept low by barrages of German 88mm artillery.

"Just the concussion from a tree burst could kill you," Ropelewski said.

The U.S. Army Signal Corps started laying wire to keep up with the battalion's advance. By July 5, the battalion, having



Al Ropelewski points to a photo of himself published in the Stars and Stripes newspaper during World War II.

waded through a swamp that was sometimes neck deep, was moving up Hill 122.

Scouts were sent ahead making their way through the heavy brush and small trees.

"I spotted a wire in the high grass and told a kid who got killed later that I didn't think it was ours, not on this side of the hill.

"It was German communications wire and I told him to cut it up."

Ropelewski said the 3rd Battalion was engaged in tough fighting on the left flank of the hill while the First was on the right flank.

"We didn't seem to be having trouble getting up there, not like the Third," he said. "I looked around and saw we were all bunched up. I said to one of the officers I didn't like what I saw. We were out in the open and weren't having any trouble.

"Lt. Parrish sent word to move. No sooner were we over a hedgerow, the Germans opened up on us. I was buried when a shell hit on top of the hedgerow I was behind."

Ropelewski's Charlie Company captured the top.

When they did, he said, they found a heavily fortified observation post with periscopes that looked out over both Utah Beach where Ropelewski landed and bloody Omaha Beach.

"You could see those beaches like you were looking across the street,

they were that powerful."

At some point when the unit was surrounded, he said, his commanding officer tapped him to help him hunt any enemy tanks in the vicinity.

"We didn't see tanks but we spotted the Jerrys setting up mortars. I planted my bazooka against the side of a hedgerow and used it like a mortar. We got a direct hit and ran like hell."

It wasn't until July 8 that elements of the 8th Division broke through the German ranks to relieve the captors of Hill 122. By that time Company M of the regiment's 3rd Battalion had been captured.

"Both the 1st and 3rd Battalions were pretty well chewed up," Ropelewski said.

Chewed up, but victorious.

In securing their division's entire right flank, Ropelewski and his buddies in the 1st Battalion beat hard-fighting, experienced German paratroopers and SS troops.

They did it without the support of tanks, tank destroyers or anti-tank guns.

2017-2018 \$30
Dues are due
July 11 Time to pay up!
The Association cannot survive if the members don't pay dues - AND contribute to the 500 Club.
It is these two factors that pay for the newsletter.

REMEMBER! The 500 Club

The 90th Division Association also needs your contributions - any amount above the \$30 Annual Dues - these donations go to The 500 Club and are tax deductible.

These funds also help to maintain the Association and make it possible to print the Newsletter. Any amount of \$250 or more receives a letter from the Association stating the amount that can

be used when you file tax returns. The 90th Division Association is a 501-C3 not-for-profit Organization. So when you send in your dues payment, add extra to be put in the 500 Club. The members of the 500 Club receive a separate card from the dues card & have their names listed in the Reunion Program Book each year.



Ropelewski, Alois F., 359/C, PA - Two Stories that were published in his local newspaper - #2 of 2

Deafening noise and exploding trucks set the scene for Erie man on Utah Beach

By BILL MCKINNEY

Morning News staff reporter

It's been 60 years but Al Ropelewski of Erie still can't think of D-Day 1944 without remembering that gold wedding band.

Ropelewski was 22 years old when he waded ashore at Utah Beach, barely able to keep his head above the choppy water for all the combat gear he carried.

By the time he made shore he was tired and worn out. He had carried a bazooka and six rocket-propelled rounds for it, his rifle and ammunition, and his fatigues were soaked.

Then a German 88mm shell hit an ammunition truck as it began rolling off a landing craft. Any exhaustion Ropelewski felt was forgotten.

"When that ammo truck got hit I swear my feet never touched the sand. I was up and running and looking for cover.

"The noise was deafening and it just kept exploding as more rounds caught."

Ropelewski spotted a wall and hole beside it and jumped in.

"There was this other guy in it, leaning over the side

of the hole. I asked him how things were going.

"He didn't say anything. He was dead. I looked and saw a gold band on his finger. The poor guy was married; he had a family back home waiting for him.

"It made a big impression on me. I don't know why but that ring is never out of my mind for very long."

Ropelewski was a private first class and part of the third wave to assault Utah Beach. He was in one of two battalions from the 350th Regiment, 90th Infantry Division, assigned to support the U.S. Army's 4th Division.

As his 200 man company fought its way across France and into Germany over the next 13 months, it took such heavy casualties that its roster turned over 13 times. Ropelewski was wounded by a shell burst on July 13, 1944, but continued with his unit, spending 122 consecutive days on the front lines.

It began, though, on June 5, 1944, with a truck ride to a docking area in England that he and some of his friends had written off as "a dry run," until they found themselves in the middle of the English Channel at night.

Like a lot of other veterans who made that boat ride,

Ropelewski remembers that it seemed to take a long time to reach their destination.

"When it turned light and you could see out in the channel, there were boats as far as the eye could see. Over 4,000 of them, stretching all the way to the horizon."

He saw destroyers cutting in and out close to the shoreline. One sank after hitting a mine.

The bombardment from the great guns on the battleships was something he'd never seen before. "You could actually see the rounds coming out of the barrels; they were that big. They looked like choo-choo trains."

Later, as his battalion pushed inland, Ropelewski and his friends would see the holes those shells made in the earth — "You could put a house in them."

Not everything went as planned with the landing. Currents in the channel pushed the light landing boats some 2,000 yards away from where they were supposed to be, Ropelewski said.

Also, by the time his outfit landed, courtesy of the U.S. Coast Guard that piloted his landing craft, most of the GIs were seasick.

Even so, he found out later his landing was a lot easier than those made on Omaha Beach with its looming cliffs and continuous enemy fire.

"When we got out, the water was over my head. I yelled at guys to bounce up and down to get to shore, not to inflate those inner tubes we had. With all the weight we were carrying, I know some of us would have turned over and drowned."

The technique worked.

Ropelewski and his unit stayed on the beach for only a short time before being ordered inland where they again found themselves knee-deep in water. The Germans had blown some dams and flooded inland areas, effectively covering up land mines.

Special pioneer units were brought in to find and stake the mines so the infantry units could continue inland.

"I didn't sleep for 72 hours," Ropelewski said. "Then I found a slit trench and conked out. It was raining. If a sergeant hadn't woke me up, I'd have drowned."

Even in the worst of conditions, there are sometimes elements of humor.

For Ropelewski, it was seeing a certain Protestant chaplain who had always kidded the men about "keeping our socks dry and our butts down."

"It really isn't funny, I suppose, but you had to be there. When I saw him, he'd been shot through both cheeks of his rump. He was a funny guy and even he saw the humor in it."

Inland from the beaches were hedgerows, some 10 feet tall, walls of stone and earth with shrubs on top separating each field from the next.

Germans would dig into the walls to create defensive positions, forcing soldiers to fight them one hedgerow at a time.

Their first real tough battle came about a month after the landing, a three-day-long assault to take Hill 122 where Germans troops had established an observation post and fought hard to keep it.



Al Ropelewski was featured in this Stars and Stripes issue. His file # is 46.

IMPORTANT REMINDER!

If a newsletter is coming to your house, and the addressee is now deceased, you need to notify Rhoda Reid at the return address in the upper left corner, so the name can be removed from the roster & save the Association SSSS!

If you are not going to pay dues or if you want your name removed from further mailings, you also need to notify Rhoda Reid at the address in the upper left corner!

Alois sent this note in July, 2016
I'm 94 now - As far as I know THERE ARE TWO SURVIVORS STILL ALIVE FROM ORIGINAL COMPANY
SGT. RHEUBEN CREEKBAUM AND
SGT. ALOIS ROPELEWSKI
SGT. CREEKBAUM WAS WITH FINCH ON UTAH BEACH FOR CO. C.

2017-2018 \$30 Dues are Due July 11

Check your mailing label to see if you have paid for 2017-2018 - If not, SEND CHECK TODAY!

2018 - the 100th Annual Reunion!

San Antonio, TX - Here Comes the 90th Division!



100TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION TO BE IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

**Announcement from: MG [R] J. Ron Sholar, President -Elect for 2017-2018 &
Reunion Location Committee Chairman**

We are very excited to announce that the 2018 reunion of the 90th Infantry Division Association will be held in San Antonio, Texas, the ancestral home of the 90th Division. From Jul 27 to 29, Tough Ombres, past and present, their families and those with ties to the 90th, will gather at the iconic Menger Hotel in downtown San Antonio to celebrate a century of service to country.

Amazingly, this will be the **100th Anniversary Reunion** for the association. Few other military organizations can match the 90th's long and distinguished history.

The 90th's ties to San Antonio run deep. Camp Travis, a WWI Army post, was situated a few miles from downtown San Antonio and it was here that the 90th Infantry Division was formed in 1917. San Antonio is also home to Ft Sam Houston for which construction began in the middle 1870s. Over the years, many Tough Ombres have trained on this venerable old post.

The 100th anniversary reunion promises to provide the enjoyment and fulfilment that comes from sharing time and memories with others who love the 90th. There are other reasons to attend as well. This historic southern Texas city is home of the Alamo, the symbol of Texas independence; the Riverwalk, which is often described as the crown jewel of the city; and the Tower of the Americas, the soaring monolith built as the theme structure for the 1968 World's Fair. San Antonio features landmark restaurants serving distinctive Tex-Mex cuisine sure to please the most discriminating tastes. It offers an opportunity to learn lessons from our past and a glimpse of the future and is sure to increase appreciation for the rich history of this region of our country.

This historic gathering will honor Tough Ombre soldiers of all generations. Please join us in San Antonio for this once in a lifetime celebration.



Menger Sidewalk View

MENGER HOTEL



Street View of the Menger Hotel



Beautiful Victorian Lobby



Near the Alamo



Another View of the Courtyard



The Pool in the Courtyard



A View of the Courtyard



View from the Street



ALAMO - just steps from the Hotel!



There are numerous styles of sleeping rooms!



Only a 2 block walk to the San Antonio Riverwalk!



The 90th Division Room Rate for 2018 is \$130 + 16.75% tax per night - start planning now for coming to this once-in-a-lifetime Reunion! More information will be in the Fall Newsletter



