

101st Anniversary

NINETIETH DIVISION
ASSOCIATION



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President Col [R] Tad
McClung & wife, Carolyn

Official web site:

www.90thdivisionassociation.org

FINAL ISSUE BY RHODA REID

DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF

Henri` G. Levaufre - 1931 - February 22, 2019

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TopLeft: Floral Tributes to Henri
Lower left: Henri's grave marker
Right: 90th Division Floral Tribute with banner message below



Le Pavillon Hotel in French Quarter site of 2019 Reunion!

Insert in this newsletter has all the needed details to make your reservations!

101st Annual Reunion - July 25-28, 2019 - New Orleans, LA



Memorial Tribute to 90th French Historian, Henri G. Levaufre

By MG [R] J. Ron Sholar

Henri Levaufre – His Legacy and the 90th Division

As June approaches and with it the upcoming annual celebrations of victory for the Allies during WWII, we think once again about those who gave so much in the name of freedom. We offer particular thanks for those young American troops, many still teenagers, who as Tough Ombres of the 90th Infantry Division, stepped onto foreign soil and who during the ensuing months would march into history. It was a pivotal moment in the lives of those who were there in Normandy as it would surely be for our nation and the world.

It has been a veritable lifetime since those soldiers from the 90th Division disembarked from landing craft onto Utah Beach. And at D-Day plus 75 years, the eyes of the world are upon these men once more.

It was an incredible undertaking for the U.S. and its allied partners, one that General Eisenhower referred to as the Great Crusade. With victories achieved only through fiercely contested battles and campaigns, the war would exact a great cost in loss of human life. But there would also be a seemingly endless display of individual cases of breath-taking bravery and courage. Such are the results of war.

Following D-Day action on June 6th, the remainder of the division entered combat on June 10th. Progress through the hedgerows was excruciatingly slow but on July 27th, the 90th liberated the village of Périers. Périers, located a few miles inland from Utah Beach, was previously unknown to virtually all of the 90th soldiers who were there that day but it would come to hold special significance for many in the days and years ahead.

From that date forward, the story of Périers, the 90th Division, and Tough Ombre veterans would be inextricably linked. Decades later, during the dedication of the Four Braves Monument erected by the citizens of Périers, LTC Ed Hamilton, a Battalion Commander during the Normandy Campaign, addressed the loss of 90th Division veterans and referred to Périers as "this, our hometown in France."

The past year has been an especially tough one for the Association with the passing of several old friends who were not only long and loyal members of the Association but who were part of the historic relationship with Périers. Those of us fortunate enough to have known these men mourn their passing with each loss felt as if they were family by birth rather than by chance. You can read elsewhere in this newsletter about some who have now answered the call of TAPS.

And sadly, earlier this year, Henri Levaufre of Périers, passed from our ranks. It was Henri who over time, was most responsible for the incredible relationship between his village and the 90th. One can think of neither Henri nor Périers without recalling the other. Through the lens of history, we now have a much better understanding of what soldiers from the 90th Division did in Normandy, what they gave in Normandy. That awareness is sharper because of the contributions Henri made by listening to the veteran's stories and in his own unique way, sharing those with others.

[Continued next page]



Memorial Tribute to 90th French Historian, Henri G. Levaufre

continued from previous page

It would be impossible to adequately recount all that Henri contributed to the 90th. For those who are interested and who have not already done so, I strongly encourage you to read Henri's book, "*We Were at Normandy*", which is the story of the Normandy battles and the men who fought there.

In preparing this brief tribute to Henri, I reread portions of his book and was struck, as I had been previously, by his ability to cross what surely was and is a cultural divide, always finding just the right words to convey his heart-felt message about the 90th veterans.

Henri, who on occasion, described himself as a "little Sergeant in the French Air Force in the 50's" had a remarkable impact on the men who had experienced "*war from the ground up.*" In 1968, he began corresponding with veterans from the 90th and the first Americans from the 90th returned to Normandy in 1969. They would be the first of thousands who would make the pilgrimage.

At the invitation of the Association, Henri and Janete made their first trip to the U.S. in 1972 where they were guests at the reunion in Kansas City. It was more than a trip across the pond; it was a giant step in what would become a lifelong journey for the Levaufres. The initial visit would be followed by two dozen more stretched over the years, all of which included driving thousands of miles around the country and visiting 90th veterans and their families.

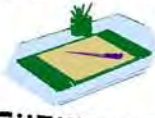
Commencing with the exchange of that first correspondence and continuing until his passing, Henri enthusiastically dedicated himself to answering veteran and family member questions about what, when and where things of interest had occurred. For those who were able to travel to Normandy to walk once again on paths that they had last travelled decades earlier, he served as guide, historian and patient translator for non-French speakers and that included most who made the trek. When due to the passage of time, "facts" were misremembered by visitors; Henri was there with his detailed maps and reports to help with the "ground truth" of what had actually occurred.

Over a period of 50 years, Henri and Janete welcomed all associated with the 90th to their home and table. No one from the 90th was a stranger and they hosted hundreds of 90th veterans and made arrangements for many others to stay in the homes of Périers citizens. Linda and I were fortunate to stay with the Levaufres on several occasions, each visit a cherished experience.

And, now we think about the legacy of this remarkable man. Of course, Henri never wore the 90th patch on an Army uniform; however, his ever-present, TO emblazoned bolo tie and red, veteran's "overseas cap" with the white TO patch were his trade-marks. Fittingly, his final resting place in Normandy is marked with the TO symbol.

Editor, Rhoda Reid, writes...

Dear 90th Members,



This is my FINAL Newsletter and message to the Association Members. It is bittersweet for me as I have been putting this newsletter together for many years, so now I will "take a little trip" down Memory Lane. Since 1993, I have put together a total of 74 Newsletters. From January, 1993 - December, 2000, I created 32 newsletters for the Artillery groups: 343rd, 344th, 345th, 915th. My first Newsletter for the entire Association was Spring, 2001, and through the years until now, I have created 42 Newsletters for the Association. The largest one I did, was 80 pages - Fall, 2009. There was a 56 page one in Fall, 2007 + many that were 48 pages. We had an abundance of Material: letters from our WW2 Veterans; letters from widows & other family members; letters seeking information on certain soldiers; mysteries that were solved; various veteran's special stories - the lists went on and on, and what a ride it was! The shortest one was 4 pages: Spring, 2016, when my beloved Jim went to Heaven May 9, and my world came crashing down. He was the life-blood of the Association - "Mr. 90th" - and it's because of him that I came to love the WW2 soldiers, their bravery, and all they stood for. There's so much more to the story.....

As the years flew by, our WW2 heroes began to "Answer the Call of Taps" in increasing numbers, and the letters and stories have dwindled down to almost nothing, except obituaries. I miss getting those letters and being able to put people together.... SO MANY of you have become dear friends over the years, and I still miss seeing you at Reunions. I miss those who have left this earth, that blessed me with their friendship. You all have enriched and blessed my life in ways I never could have anticipated - thank you!. Thank you so much for the contact from time to time, with several of you, and for the sweet notes of love and encouragement you have sent over the years. This journey has been like none other in my life, and the people I've met; friends I have made; and experiences we have shared, have changed and blessed my life more than I can ever properly express. It all began in February, 1989, when a mutual friend of Jim's and mine, decided we ought to meet, which was a year after Jim lost his first wife of 39.5 years. I have him to thank for introducing me to the 90th Division Association and the WW2 soldiers. He very persuasively and quickly got me involved in the Association - there was never a question whether I would or wouldn't do what he asked.....it was a given! My first Reunion was in 1989 in St. Paul, MN - probably 1500 in attendance. The first soldier he ever introduced me to was Jim Flowers [712th Tank Battalion], who had both legs blown off when the Germans bombed his tank - twice. Many of you knew him and his amazing story of courage and survival. He was just one of so many brave Tough 'Ombres that I met through the years. His last reunion was in Little Rock, 2002. He told us all it was his last - he passed away shortly after that reunion. It was at that same reunion that ALdo Freda, 357/A & Roy Hopper, 357/L were re-united for the first time since their WW2 days - what a tearful, yet joyous reunion for the two comrades - we all were in tears. Aldo passed away March 9, 2018 - Roy is still alive. Farewell, 90th! You remain in my heart - Love always, R.

Message from 2018-2019 President, Col [R] Thomas [Tad] McClung



Greetings to All Tough 'Ombres, family members and friends,

After what seemed to be a long winter, spring is here and with it another Association newsletter. We are approaching the 75th anniversary of D-Day, and our 101st year reunion won't be far behind. Rhoda is including the sign-up and hotel information once again and if you haven't already done so, I encourage you to sign-up quickly. With the World War II museum, world class cuisine, aquarium, Audubon Zoo, and wonderful local history it will be a memorable reunion with plenty of things to do for you and your family members. We will also have plenty of time for visiting with our association friends at the hotel, which is an excellent venue for us.

I would be remiss if I failed to note the passing of our French Historian, Henri Lefauvre. He will certainly be missed though his son, Christian is working hard to fill his shoes. They are such an important asset to our association. While I won't mention any by name for fear of missing someone, we also sadly continue to see the passing of our World War II members. Don't know how many of them will make it to this year's reunion but be certain to visit with those who are there.

As a final note, please remember to pay your membership dues, and if you can, make a contribution to the 500 club. We want to keep OUR 90th Division Association moving forward into the future. See you in New Orleans!

2 YOUR 2019-2020 \$40 DUES ARE DUE JULY! PAY NOW!!



CALL OF TAPS

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR REUNION ATTENDEES

343rd FA Bn - Sanderson, Kenneth R. - 1/31/19 ** **344th FA Bn - McGregor, Rev. Clemmie C.**, 102, HQ Btry - 12/17/18 ** **357th - Losito, Frank M.**, HQ & L COs - 8/11/18 ** **Pettit, Ray O.**, K CO - 6/19/17 ** **358th - Ridlehuber, Rev. Walter Tom**, 98, HQ/M/E COs - 1/21/19 ** **359th - Bayles, Wayne W., Sr.**, 96 - K & L 3Bn - 3/10/19 ** **Essler, Robert L.**, E CO - 10/27/18 ** **Hanlon, John R. [Jack]**, C CO 1Bn - 11/16/18 ** **Staley, Milton L.**, 99, L CO 3Bn - 1/19/19 ** **712th TK Bn - James. Francids H.** - 5/16/18 ** **773rd TD Bn - Blevins, Willard H.**, 95 - 1/27/19 **

 We also mourn the loss and honor the memory of these 90th Family:

Henri G. Levaufre, 90th French Historian - 2/22/10; **Dr. Michael Hertzog**, son and brother of Frank S. Hertzog and Frank A. Hertzog - 4/14/19;
Sandi Sanderson, wife of Kenneth Sanderson, 343rd - 2/11/19

New Members Added to 90th Roster!

Cox, Brett R. . ARCOM ** **Friend, Howard "Howdy" B.**, 359/D



A - All 90th Deceased veterans - by Glen Acre, RSC ** **D** - **DeWald, Merrill E.**, 343 FA Bn / B Btry - by daughter Linda DeWald Soukup ** **Dyke, Clifford**, 358/M - by widow, Jane R. "Daisy" Dyke & friend, Al Twisselman ** **H** - **Hanlon, John R. [Jack]**, 359/C 1Bn - by friend, Rhoda Reid ** **L** - **Levaufre, Henri G.**, 90th French Historian - by Ann Simma Decker & Rhoda Reid ** **Losito, Frank M.**, 357/HQ & L - by Rhoda Reid ** **Lynd, J.Q.**, 359/A - by John Phillips ** **M** - **Mc Gregor, Rev. Clemmie C.**, 344/FA Bn - by Rhoda Reid ** **McKnight, Lee Roy**, 359/I KIA - by sister-in-law, Ann Simma Decker ** **McNamara, Robert Patrick**, 358/L - KIA 7/7/44 - by Dan Sheridan ** **R** - **Reid, James R., Sr.**, 344/FA Bn HQ Btry - by widow, Rhoda Reid; Friends, John Phillips and June Robinson ** **Ridlehuber, Rev. W. Tom**, 358/HQ/E/M - by Ann Simma Decker ** **Robinson, Billy**, ARCOM - by widow, June Robinson ** **Rutherford, Joe T.**, 357/M - by widow, Gerry B. Rutherford ** **S** - **Staley, Milton L.**, 359/L - by Ann Simma Decker

1. DEADLINE FOR MEMORIALS TO BE IN THE REUNION BOOK IS FRIDAY, JULY 12.
2. MAKE SURE YOUR REGISTRATION FORM WITH CHECK REACHES RHODA REID NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, JULY 19.
3. THERE IS A SPECIAL WELCOME RECEPTION THURSDAY EVENING WITH A JAZZ COMBO AND CASH BAR.
4. NOTE! SEATING FOR THE FRIDAY AND SATURDAY DINNERS WILL BE DIFFERENT THIS YEAR. ON THE BACK SIDE OF THE REGISTRATION FORM, NOTE THAT THE TABLES WILL MOSTLY BE SQUARE AND SEAT 4 ONLY. IF THERE ARE MORE THAN 4 IN YOUR GROUP, WE MAY BE ABLE TO GET A FEW ROUNDS THAT SEAT 5 - DEPENDS ON THE HOTEL, AVAILABILITY OF SMALL ROUNDS, AND NUMBER OF PEOPLE. THERE MAY BE SOME OPEN SEATING, SO BE PREPARED!
5. A CHANGE THIS YEAR: THERE IS A GENERAL, ALL ATTENDEES RECEPTION SATURDAY EVENING - NO SEPARATE FIRST TIMERS/WIDOWS/WIDOWERS RECEPTION. IT IS CASH BAR AS USUAL.
6. BRING YOUR LANYARDS - EITHER THE RED ONES, OR THE WHITE ONES FROM THE 100TH REUNION LAST YEAR
7. ROOM RESERVATION DEADLINE: 7/1

NOTICE TO THOSE PLANNING TO ATTEND 2019 REUNION!
 If you are having difficulty connecting to the Le Pavillon Hotel special web address to register for a room reservation, simply go to our 90th Division website and find a quick link directly to the hotel's special 90th Room Reservation Reunion site. Thanks to our webmaster, Chris Guska, for creating this easy and efficient link. You can also call.

NOW is the time to pay \$40 Dues for 2019-2020!!



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	607TH 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 FLT
773RD TD BN	537TH AABN	90TH RCN TP	HQS & HQS COS

IN 5 CAMPAIGNS AND 316 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.



343rd

Ed.: Ken's Last Reunion was in 2016 at the DFW Airport South Marriott. Sandy's last Reunion was in 2015, which is when I think this picture was taken. They were a team!

Sanderson, Ken and Sandy - Both names are listed in "Call of Taps" [page 3] and will be read at the Reunion Sunday Memorial Breakfast. Ken and Sandy were faithful Reunion Attendees for many, many years. Ken passed away 1/31/19 & Sandi 2/11/19. They were a dear couple who always brightened reunions with their warm friendliness and active participation in all scheduled activities. We miss them!

359th

From Gary Borman, friend of Howard [Howdy] B. Friend, D CO: - "Enclosed please find an application and dues for Mr. Howard [Howdy] B. Friend, a WW2 Veteran we would like to gift with a membership the 90th Division Association. Per his Honorable Discharge, he was a Machine Gunner 604, Company D, 359th Regt., 90th Infantry. He graduated from high school on June 6, 2944 and was inducted into the Army the following week. He was severely wounded on January 9, 1945 as the 359th was working to take the town of Berle, Luxembourg on that day! He eventually was sent back to the states in March, 1945 and was discharged on May 21, 1946 following his rehab from his injury. At 93 years young, I know he will be so happy to be a member of your organization. Thank you. Gary Borman, friend." [Ed.: Gary and Howdy visited Berle and saw the 90th Monuments that Norbert Morbe created at his residence. Sadly, they were not at home when Howdy was there, so they never go to meet.]

359th



Herbert Reichlin, M CO, 3Bn

"This picture of me was taken on a 5 day Pass in New Orleans. That's why I am going to this year's Reunion. I am now at the tender age of 93." [Ed.: Herbert attended our 2017 Reunion in Fort Worth and was the speaker at the Unit s Lunch on Saturday.]

359th

Joseph T. Stangler, son of John, H CO, 2Bn - Dec. 5, 2018 - "Dear Rhoda, Always great to see your name on the newsletter. Sorry to make you chase me for payment. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We won't forget our 90th people - EVER! Love, Joe Stangler" [Ed.: Thanks Joe, for your kind note. This was my last time to "chase you" for dues payment, as I am stepping down from my position after the 90th's 101st Reunion in New Orleans. I truly will miss all the correspondence from so many 90th members. You all have been a part of my life for 30 years, and I don't take that lightly. I'm sure it will take time to adjust to the hole it will leave in my life. Like you, I won't forget the 90th family - EVER. Thank you for taking the time to write a note. These notes brighten my days!.]

773rd TD Bn

Barney Baker - "I served with the 773rd TD Bn attached to the 90th Infantry Division. Enclosed is a check for dues + extra \$\$ to be used as needed. Barney" [Ed.: Thank you, Barney, for your note! It's nice to still get letters from our WW2 veterans..]

ONE LAST REMINDER!

Your \$40 Dues are Due July 1!
The 90th is on a FISCAL year - 7/1-6/30



Geyer, Richard, son, Roland C. Geyer.

357/359 - "Dear Mrs. Reid, Enclosed is a check for dues /Donation.

My father [Roland Carl Geyer] landed on Utah Beach and went all the way through the campaigns until the end. He was awarded the Bronze Star and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

He returned to Kansas and was a farm equipment dealer in civilian life. He belonged to the American Legion. I have a pistol that he took off of a German prisoner late in the war.

He was affected by the combat. Subsequently, he suffered from nightmares throughout his life. He did retain a few friendships with a number of his fellow soldiers, and we have a number of pictures of his Army service that he left.

He was a great father and a hard worker in his civilian pursuits. He was a business owner, a dealer for J.I. Case Farm Equipment. I remember when his best "buddy" in the unit came to visit him from Texas, some years after the war....they had a wonderful reunion.

I remember one sad story that he told, that ...they captured a group of German soldiers late in the war, and one of them was twelve years old.

Thanks for your efforts in honoring the brave, unselfish soldiers who served in the 90th. Richard Geyer" [Ed. Thank you for your note, Richard. I always love to hear stories about the WW2 heroes. So many of our soldiers suffered through life with nightmares after the war.]

Matier, Marc. ARCOM - "Ms. Reid, Thank you for your 30 years of dedicated service to the 90th Association. Good luck in your new adventures."

359th

Bayles, Chelnesa Anne, daughter of Wayne W., Sr. K & L 3 Bn -Chelsea sent the letter below and the negative-like photos on the next page.. The first one is labeled, and the 2nd is also of Wayne's group, but no explanation was given. Chelnesa also sent a copy of her dad's death certificate. He passed away March 10, 2019 and was 96 years old. Born September.4, 1922.

March 23, 2019

Dear Sir or Madam:

My father, Wayne Warren Bayles Sr., fought bravely in World War II and received many ribbons and badges, including the Combat Infantry Badge, the Purple Heart, the Silver Star, and the Bronze Star. He didn't talk much about the war until he was in his 80's, but he eventually did a write-up that is somewhere in your computer files. When he talked to his adult children about it, he always started his stories with "I'm not a hero, and I was scared the entire time..." I think he was trying to impress on us that we don't want to go to war lightly, but to buck up and do it when it's important to family and country.

Dad was a great father as well as a good soldier, and taught us a great deal. One of the things he believed in was closure, so he asked me to write to you when he passed, so your records could be complete if you care.... He passed away on March 10, 2019. A copy of the death certificate is enclosed. The only error is the spelling of his mother's name. It was Lida, not Linda.

In going through the things in his dresser drawers, we found these two items that look like negatives from the war. We don't know if they are important to history or not, original or not, but we decided to pass them on to you and let the military decide their interest or value, rather than end up in a trash can in Jackson, Tennessee as we close out his affairs.

He will be buried at a future date in the Arlington National Cemetery. He already has a plot location, as he has an infant son there, in section #3-4460-D.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars was kind enough to send three men to his funeral on March 16th. One played taps; the other two folded the flag and gave it to my oldest brother. It was a moving ceremony. It is now on YouTube. If anyone wants to view it, search for Wayne Bayles Presentation of Colors.



[Bayles, Continued from previous page]

359th

Bayles, Chelnesa Anne, daughter of Wayne W., Sr. K & L 3 Bn - Wayne sent these negative like photos. The first one is labeled, so I don't know if the second one is of a 359th group or not. He also sent a copy of his dad's death certificate. He passed away March 10, 2019 and was 96 years old. Born September 4, 1922.



The 315th Engineers man assault boats to ferry us across the Neid River.





Stephen James, Son, Francis Henry James, 712th TK Bn Remembers His Father

EULOGY FOR FRANCIS HENRY JAMES GIVEN BY HIS SON, STEPHEN JAMES, AT THE MEMORIAL SERVICE IN OQUOSSOC, MAINE ON JULY 3, 2018

My Dad turned 96 in March. At the end of April, Linda and I visited with him at Sue's house in Florida. He asked me to play cards (rummy). He beat me in three straight games. I would say he was still pretty sharp at 96.

He grew up as a dairy farmer, married my mother (eventually became her caregiver and when he could no longer single handedly care for her, he would visit her every day in the nursing home). This care went on for almost 20 years.

He drove tanks in WWII. He served under General Patton and during the Normandy Invasion, he landed in France on D-Day +3. He was involved in the Battle of the Bulge. He was the only tank crew member able to walk away from one tank battle.

Returning home after the war, he attended the N.E. College of Funeral Directors and graduated with honors. He was a funeral director at several funeral homes in the Lewiston Auburn area. He successfully operated several small businesses. He was a past Master of the Square & Compass Masonic Lodge in Auburn and he was a huge Red Sox and Patriots fan.

My father was an interesting man. He loved his family, his grand kids and his great grand kids. Anyone that knew him knew that he had a great sense of humor and that he loved to tell a story. The older he got, the more he might tend to exaggerate but there was always some thread of truth in his story telling. I have a couple of examples.

While on the farm, he and his cousin, Steve Bartlette, were looking at a Model A truck that was leaking fluid (I think the truck belonged to the Bartlette Family). They decided to test the fluid to see if it was gas or water.

Someone lit a match. The truck was destroyed. As recently as two years ago when I asked the cousins who lit the match (we were at Becky's Restaurant), my father and Steve looked at each other and smiled--they each had a twinkle in their eyes.

During a tank engagement, my father said that he had to use the bathroom (there is no bathroom in a small, hot, cramped tank). He said this urge was the result of liberating a French wine cellar the night before. While he was behind the tank taking care of business, a white phosphorus shell landed nearby and he was struck in the butt by white phosphorus which severely burned his butt. He wouldn't put in for a Purple Heart because he did not want to explain how he had been wounded.

As a funeral director he had to occasionally transport bodies. One day he had to take one from Lewiston to Boston in a hearse. My mother packed him a lunch and put it in a shoe box. On his return trip to Maine, he was stopped for speeding on the Maine Pike. My father, being an enterprising storyteller, told the State Policeman that he was returning a cremated body for a funeral and that he was running very late. He pointed to the shoe box beside him and said it contained the ashes. He got no ticket and he even received a police escort to Lewiston.

My father taught me how to enjoy fishing and he always said that if you can get kids involved with fishing early in life, it will keep them out of trouble. He loved to fish and I hope I can pass that on to my grand kids. One of the last times I fished on Rangeley Lake with my father, he said to me, "This is where I want to die, right out here fishing." I said, "Let's not do that today."

His final resting place will be in Rangeley right next to his wife in the area he loved.

A Second Eulogy for Francis James, By A Friend - Next Page...



Eulogy for Francis Henry James, 712th TK Bn - March, 1922 - June 15, 2018

**A REMEMBRANCE OF FRANCIS HENRY JAMES, 712th TK BN, MARCH 20, 1922 TO JUNE 15, 2018
DELIVERED AT MEMORIAL SERVICE, OQUOSSOC, MAINE, JULY 3, 2018. BY ROBERT L. MEYER**

I first met Fran James here in Oquossoc exactly 18 years ago in the summer of 2000. I had dated his daughter, Suzan, for two years and Suzan invited me to come to Oquossoc and spend some time with her family at their log cabin complex on Mooselookmeguntic Lake. I was accepted with genuine warmth, acceptance and friendship which never varied in the 18 years that I knew him.

Fran was born in 1922, the same year as my Dad, although Fran was born in March and was six months older than my Dad, who was born in September. My Dad passed away from cancer at the young age of 57 in 1979. I have missed my Dad for so many, many years. Fran lived 39 years longer, passing away at the extraordinary old age of 96.

I cannot say that Fran was a substitute father for me -- because that was not how our relationship developed -- but I did derive great comfort over the years from having a friend who was not only from my father's generation -- but also from his same birth year.

Fran was a great story teller, whether describing his farm boy youth on the family dairy farm in Auburn, Maine, running away from the farm as a teenager for several months -- and returning to hear his Mom nonchalantly ask, "Where've you been?" or recounting his experience as a tank driver in General George Patton's Third Army in Europe during World War II.

My son, Ben, made a video interview of Fran some years ago which the James and the Mitchell families share as a permanent remembrance of Fran. I wrote a letter to Fran thanking him for his service in the US Army, in which my Dad also served. Fran and I shared an interest in history and I used to share my history books with him. Often I bought him history books in which I thought he would be interested.

In late April of this year I had lunch at a restaurant in Palm Beach with Fran and Fran Gervolino, Grandpa's wonderful helper who, together with Suzan, took such great care of Grandpa. At the lunch Grandpa asked me a lot of questions about me, my life and plans and we really had an interesting discussion about my answers as well as many other subjects. I came away appreciating how genuinely interested Fran was in me, as well as other people, and was touched by the regard in which he held me. The feeling was mutual.

Fran's cancer seemed to be a non-factor for his health for a number of years. Then suddenly, two weeks before he passed away, the cancer quickly overwhelmed him and the end was mercifully short. Suzan, her brother Stephen and Linda, and all five of Suzan's children were able to visit Grandpa in these last two weeks.

Later, in talking to Suzan about her Dad, I said, "I loved the Old Guy" --and I meant it.

One last story: In his latter years Fran told me on a number of occasions, "Bob, don't ever get old!" I always responded, "Yes, but consider the alternative!" Fran would always say, "Well, it may be much better!" He was referring to Heaven. Fran had Faith -- and was not afraid to show it. I am sure he is in Heaven now--fishing, feeding the ducks, telling stories and reunited with his beloved wife, Priscilla.

May The Memory of Francis Henry James Always Be A Blessing To His Family, His Friends And All Those Who Knew Him!



90th Members Out & About - & In the news! - 1



Ed. Note: WW2 90th Division Veteran turned 101 on 1/1/2019! Even though it is a few months later, readers, please send a note of Congratulations via the information at the bottom of the letter below. Thank you to Greg Barger for contacting us!

"My name is Gregory Barger and I live in Pawnee, Oklahoma.

REASON FOR CONTACTING THE 90th;

World War II Tough Ombre ALLENBAUGH, James Curtis S/SGT - Heavy Weapons - 359th Co H 90th, turns 101years old on 01January 2019

The State of Oklahoma just added him to the Historical Section for those who are 100 years old.

"Jim ALLENBAUGH still walks this day very proudly, of being part of the 90th. I meet with him every morning at the Tribal Cafe in Pawnee, Oklahoma around 07:15 (of course he arrives at 06:45 they open at 07:00), and he has breakfast and, & I have coffee as we both share our experience of the military and discuss the cow / calf cattle market, waiting for his son Joe to arrive around 07:30. His personal sharing of experiences is that which one does not find written in a book.

BOTTOM LINE:

His son and I would like to make this birthday to show and share our hearts with a Veteran who is one of many in life that made it possible for us to walk upon this land.

I beleive also this year will be the 101st gathering of the 90th and Jim begins his 101st year of Life upon this land. Look forward hearing from the 90th."

Gregory Barger (918) 924-0489

gkpawnee@gmail.com

son, Joe Allenbaugh (918) 851-5522



Ed.: I had a long, interesting conversation April 29 with Greg, and he told me Jim Allenbaugh is still active and walking on his own. He had a slight accident this winter that left him with 3 crackd ribs, but he seems to have recovered nicely and is back in his routine! Jim was in the same Regiment as J.Q. Lynd, but Jim was C Co., & J.Q was A Co.. Pawnee is not too far from Stillwater, so I wonder if they knew each other - both from the war - & after.... They both were/are in Agriculture and Farming. Joe hopes he can bring his dad to our 101st Annual Reunion in New Orleans - which would be awesome!

In Memory of Milton L. Staley, 99

In Memoriam
Milton L. Staley
 359th IR / 90th Infantry Division
 May 31, 1919 - January 19, 2019
 31 mai 1919 - 19 janvier 2019
 Friends of the 506th PIR
 101st Airborne Division



Milton Staley - passed away January 1, 2019 - 359/L 3Bn

Ed.: It was a sad day for the 90th family when we learned of the passing of Milton L. Staley. His first Reunion was in 2010 when we were in New Orleans. He came faithfully to Reunions after that first time and also made many trips to France, where he was always celebrated as a WW2 hero. Milton made many friends through these trips, and he was able to be at our 2018 100th Annual Reunion in San Antonio. I was not able to get a copy of an obituary to include in this newsletter. One of his dear friends, Marianne McGriff, wife of 90th WW2 Veteran, Carver McGriff, wrote a wonderful tribute to Milt, which she was able to read at his funeral service. Milt was one of the kindest, most gentle people you would ever want to meet. His twinkling blue eyes were full of mischief, and he had a great sense of humor. The reunions were not complete without Milt being present. He was a true Tough 'Ombre, who battled many health challenges, yet always managed to make a "comeback" and show up at Reunions. He will be greatly missed by all of us.

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

Burnett L. [Burnie] Sutter, 358/M receives French Legion of Honor Medal in December 3, 2018 Ceremony witnessed by family members + some 90th members.

There were newspaper articles in at least 2 newspapers, but there was no room to print them in this newsletter!

French Consul General speaks



MG [R] Ralph O. Doughty speaks



The French Consul General pins the medal on Burnie



Burnie Sutter family with Consul Gen.



Thank you, Sandy Richards for sending these photos!



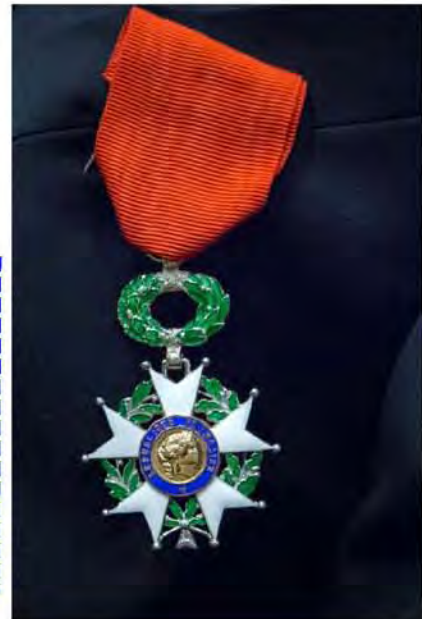
Sandra Richards and her Dad - several of you remember Sandy from her many years at Reunions with her Dad.



Above L-R:
MG [R] Ralph Doughty;
BG [R] James Spivey;
COL [R] William "Sandy" Westbrook,
90th Tough Ombres



web address for article:
starlocalmedia.com/friscoenterprise/news/frisco-veteran-declared-knight-of-french-legion-of-honor/article_7110674c-fbda-11e8-8562-b3519f1590fe.html
for news article





90th Members Out & About - & In the news! - 3



Burnette [Burnie] Sutter's, 358/M French Legion of Honor Award ceremony Event was printed in 2 Newspapers!!

From the Moline, Illinois Newspaper

He's 97 and will turn 98 come April. Few things surprise Burnett "Burnie" Sutter, a longtime Moline resident who now calls Frisco, Texas, home. Leave it to the French government to change that.

Sutter was surprised and honored recently when the French government gave him its highest military service award -- the French Legion of Honor Medal -- for the part he played in liberating France from the Nazis.

"A touching day," Sutter's daughter, Jodi Richards, said of the day her father, who served as a sergeant in the U.S. Army during World War II, received the medal. "A proud day as well."

According to a published report from the Frisco Enterprise, Alexis Andres, the French general consul based in Houston, Texas, made the presentation to Sutter in front of friends and family at St. Andrew United Methodist Church in Plano, Texas.

The French Legion of Honor was the brainchild of Napoleon Bonaparte. It was established in 1802 to recognize soldiers in service to France. Today, American veterans who fought in one of the four main campaigns of the liberation of France -- Normandy, Provence, Ardennes and Northern France -- are eligible to be decorated as knights of the Legion of Honor.

According to information provided by Richards and published reports, Sutter was a machine gunner in the 358th Infantry Regiment M Company Division under General George S. Patton during World War II. Sutter's division earned the nickname "Tough Hombres."

Sutter was also part of the American landing on Utah Beach in Normandy. He fought in many of the major battles across France and Germany, including the battle at Seves Island, Falaise Gap, part of Operation Cobra, and the Moselle River Crossing. He was known for manning his machine gun in the middle of the road in the battle to close the Falaise Pocket as German troops and panzer units tried to escape. Sutter was also one of the first 50 men to enter Czechoslovakia and part of the 90th unit, which liberated the Flossenburg concentration camp.

"My father never boasted about his role in World War II," Richards said of Sutter's efforts. "He did what was asked of him." After his service, Burnett returned to Moline and began a long and distinguished career with Kenny's Tire Service, a Quad-Cities auto-care staple for nearly 50 years. The Sutter family lived in Moline for over six decades before relocating to Texas.

Ed.: Burnie attended Reunions faithfully for many years until health made it not possible. I wanted to honor him with 2 pages.

ARTICLE FROM THE FRISCO ENTERPRISE [TEXAS]

Alexis Andres, right, the French Consul General of Texas, awards the French Legion of Honor medal to Frisco resident Burnie Sutter during a special ceremony December 3, 2018



It's been 73 years since Sergeant Burnett (Burnie) Sutter was discharged from the U.S. Army. This week, the Frisco resident was presented with the French government's highest military service award -- the French Legion of Honor Medal -- for his part in liberating France from the Nazis.

French Consul General Alexis Andres traveled from the Consulate in Houston for a gathering of Sutter's family and friends Monday at St. Andrew United Methodist Church in Plano.

The order was established in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte in order to recognize soldiers in service to France. Now, American veterans who risked their lives in World War II qualify to be decorated as Knights of the Legion of Honor. Veterans must have fought in one of the four main campaigns of the Liberation of France: Normandy, Provence, Ardennes or Northern France. "The order has remained the highest, most prestigious decoration in France. It is given solely as a recognition of merit of bravery, being open to men and women of all race and profession," Andres said. "The reason for this gathering is to declare (Sutter), officially, Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur - Knight of the Legion of Honor.

"Your life and military career prove that knight is a rank to which you are entitled. And today I have the honor to recognize the courage you displayed so many years ago on a land, my land, that was so foreign to you, and yet for which you were prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice."

Sutter, who lives at Bethesda Gardens Frisco, was a machine gunner in the 358th Infantry Regiment M Company Division (known as the Tough Ombres) under General George S. Patton during World War II.

According to information provided by Bethesda Gardens, Sutter landed on Utah Beach in Normandy and fought in many of the major battles across France and Germany, including the battle at Seves Island, Falaise Gap, part of Operation Cobra, and the Moselle River Crossing.

He manned his machine gun in the middle of the road in the battle to close the Falaise Pocket as fleeing German troops and Panzer Units tried to escape. Sutter was also one of the first 50 men to enter into Czechoslovakia and part of the 90th unit that liberated the Flossenburg Concentration Camp. For his service, Sutter was previously awarded the American Theater Ribbon, European-Africa-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with four bronze Battle Stars, two overseas Service Bars, and the Good Conduct Medal.

Remember When...!



Sent by Bill Hartmen, ARCOM

[Ed.: I had told Bill I would include this picture in the Fall Newsletter - but I forgot to put it in, so here it is now!]

WE CAN...
WE WILL...
WE MUST!

Franklin D. Roosevelt

BUY U.S. WAR SAVINGS BONDS & STAMPS NOW



During World War II, Pvt. William Birthold of the 90th Infantry Division rests before advancing in Luxembourg. ARMYMAGAZINE ARCHIVES

election by the people, "how this ends." Finally, the military must ask the president as commander in chief, "Tell me how this ends," so they know how best to achieve those ends.

A different conclusion can be drawn about every war ever fought, depending on the definition of winning and losing. This establishes why it is so critical to define the end before the war begins, and to clearly follow it. War is a fluid, complicated thing, and it isn't beyond reason for war aims to morph during a conflict, but at each of those points there must be a clear and understood process for the changed goals to be achieved as there was leading into the war in the first place. A change in war aims can seem like a new war in itself. ★

Capt. Michael Anderson is an infantry officer who has deployed to the Middle East, East Africa and Central Africa. He received a bachelor's degree from the University of Central Florida, where he also served as an assistant professor of military science, and a master's degree from Norwich University, Vt.

Remember When...2



Ed.: Note and pictures are from Michael Probasco of St. Charles, MO
The document was too many pages to include, but thought the readers would find these pictures of Interest.

Going through some papers from my father, I ran across the attached document titled "Brief History of the 90th Division." On the back of the last page, it says "from Harry." **Harry Probasco was my grandfather.** He lived in Lawton, OK when he adopted my father Thomas Probasco in the early 1930's. During WWI, my grandfather served in some capacity with the US Army, but I don't know quite how or where. I believe he was somehow associated with the 90th ID. I have attached two pictures of him. One of **Harry in 1917 in his military uniform** and one of him during **WWII at Ft Sill, OK receiving some sort of award.** I'm pretty certain he served on active duty in WWI, but only served as a civilian in WWII. He might have served in the 90th during WWI and MAY be the author of the attached .pdf document.

In any case, I thought your organization might be interested in the attached information. If you have any info about my grandfather serving in the 90th, I would be interested in hearing it. If you want the originals of the attached .pdf, I would be happy to contribute it to your organization.

Please let me know,

Michael Probasco

P.S. I retired from the US Air Force in 1997 and just happened to have served in the 90th Tactical Fighter Squadron at Clark AFB, Philippines in 1981.

Harry Prosbaco in 1917



As a Civilian in WW2



Remember When...3



Ed.: These pictures were sent to me by Michael Englehaupt, son of Robert, in these photos. Mike did not send any copy with the pictures, and we do not have a record of which Unit Robert served in. I sent a couple of emails to Mike, but did not receive a response. I also reached out to Norm Richards and Tyler Alberts, but also did not get back to me. I was hoping we could have more informatio on these pictures, other than the identification as to which one is Robert Englehaupt. So all we know is that they were from WW2 tinme frame, and we know which one is Robert

Robert Englehaupt at far left



Robert Englehaupt -from Germany



Robert Englehaupt front at bottom



Robert and his mother



Robert Englehaupt at left



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

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



WILLARD BLEVINS

Died January 27, 2019

CELEBRATING HIS LIFE AND SERVICE

Willard H. Blevens Sr. was born in West Jefferson, North Carolina to a family of farmers. He later moved to Jarrettsville, North Carolina where he attended high school, graduating in 1942. That same year, Willard was drafted into the United States Army. He served in the European theater as a squad leader with the 357th Infantry Regiment, 90th Infantry Division of General Patton's 3rd Army. Nicknamed the "Tough 'Ombres," Willard and the 357th Infantry Regiment participated in some of the most infamous battles of World War II, including the Battle of the Bulge and the D-Day Invasions.

Willard's service in Europe began in March 1944, when he and the 357th Infantry Regiment boarded the QSMV Dominion Monarch troop transport ship bound for Liverpool, England. On June 10, 1944, four days after the initial D-Day landings, Willard and the 357th Infantry Regiment crossed the English Channel to join elements of the 90th Infantry Division in France.

Soon after arriving, Willard and his regiment were tasked with taking the town of Pont-l'Abbé from German forces. During the battle for Pont-l'Abbé, Willard was struck by shrapnel from enemy artillery fire. After recovering from his injuries, Willard was able to regroup with his men at the front line and continued to serve with the 357th.

By December 1944, Willard and the 357th Infantry Regiment reached the Saar River. There, they were tasked with taking the French-German border town of Saarlautern. For several days they engaged in bitter house-to-house combat, successfully clearing the town of German forces.

On Dec. 16, German forces began their last major offensive operation in what would become known as the Battle of the Bulge. For several weeks, Willard and the 357th Infantry Regiment held out against the desperate German counteroffensive. The success of the 357th and other Allied forces during the battle became a pivotal moment in World War II, marking the end of Germany's capacity to effectively wage war. Later in life, Willard did not often speak of his experiences during the battle, remarking only that it was "very, very cold."

By March 1945, Willard and the 357th made their way into Germany and up to the Rhine River. On their approach to the Rhine, they were attacked by German forces. After being engaged by the enemy, Willard and several other members of his regiment took up a defensive position in a nearby building. There, he and his fellow soldiers were struck by a German rocket launcher.

Having been severely wounded in the attack, Willard was taken out of service and sent to the military hospital at Fort Story, Virginia. On May 8, 1945, while recovering at Fort Story, Willard received news that Germany had surrendered, marking the Allied victory in Europe.

Willard was discharged in October 1945 at the rank of staff sergeant and returned to his home in Hartford County. For actions during his service, Willard was awarded the Bronze Star for heroism and the Combat Infantryman Badge for participating in active ground combat. Willard also received two Purple Hearts in recognition of injuries sustained while engaged in enemy combat.

After completing his service, Willard began working for the Hopkins Motor Company Auto Shop in Bel Air, North Carolina. He eventually started his own auto shop, Vale Body & Fender Shop, which he ran until retiring in 2015 at the age of 92. Throughout his life, Willard remained an avid baseball fan, coaching his children's teams and serving as president of the local little league association.

On Jan. 27, 2019, Willard passed away at his home in Fallston, North Carolina at the age of 95.

We honor his service.

Ed.: This information was sent to me [Rhoda] by Bob Bauer, 12th Field Artillery /HDQ 3rd Battalion. Bob has been a faithful attendee at Reunions for many years. We hope to see him again in New Orleans. Thank you, Bob for sending this information to us. Willard Blevins was with the 773rd TD BN

Remember!

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SPECIAL SEGMENT 90TH SOLDIER'S STORY2



Clemmie Clay McGregor, 102

JULY 10, 1916 – DECEMBER 17, 2018

344th Field Artillery Battalion

Clemmie Clay McGregor age 102 died Dec 17, 2018 at his home in Frisco TX. He was a faithful husband to his bride Elsie Rosalee Johnson married on January 28th, 1942. This January would have been their 77th anniversary. Their love and devotion to one another and to the Lord was evident to all who knew them. He is preceded in death by his parents Frank Wilson McGregor and Mattie McGregor as well as their son Ron McGregor and their Daughter Marsha Miller. He is survived by his wife Elsie McGregor, his Daughters Debbie Ciabattoni, (Buddy Jaeger) Tereasa McGregor (Larry), and his sons Greg McGregor and Rick McGregor (Heather), 15 Grand Children, 28 Great Grand Children, 12 Great Great Grand Children.

He was a World War II Army veteran and was part of the "Tough Ombres Texas - Oklahoma Division". He landed on the beaches of Normandy in WWII on Utah Beach on Dday plus two and marched across France and Germany until the war ended. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge and eventually experienced a loss of hearing over the years due to enemy bombs. In his later years everybody experienced his infamous "microphone" which enabled him to hear. He had a quick wit and always enjoyed sharing a good joke with family, friends and even complete strangers. If it wasn't a joke, then it was poetry. However, he mostly boldly and unashamedly shared his faith with anyone and everyone he met throughout his life. He was also known for praying fervently for all his family members by name, including all his great, great grandchildren. He retired from Ministry after 57 years, having planted three churches in California and Nevada, and ministered to ten of thousands inmates at the Bexar County Detention Center in San Antonio TX for 25 years as a chaplain. He was known for ending his conversation with "are you ready for the Trumpet?" He will be greatly missed.

Viewing service will be held 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Thursday, January, 3 with Services held at Stonebriar Funeral Home on Friday, January 4 at 11:00 a.m. Interment to follow at the Dallas National Cemetery with Army Honors at 2:15 p.m..

A Reception will follow later that afternoon at Water Edge Lutheran Church at 5475 Coit Road, Frisco TX 75034.

"Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised". 1 Cor 15:51-52



Ed.: Clemmie McGregor was one of a kind and one of my favorite people [yes, there were a lot of favorites!]. Clemmie was special for a number of reasons: He was with the 344th Field Artillery, which was Jim's unit. He only came to reunions when they were in San Antonio, so I first met him in 1991 when Jim was President of the Association and we were newlyweds. He always paid his dues, but he didn't come to another reunion until we were back in San Antonio in 1995 when Traverse Hall was President. He always had his sweet, lovely wife, Elsie with him, and their love for one another was always evident. His next reunion was in 2001 in San Antonio.. O. Findly Brewster was President. I didn't see him and Elsie again until 2018 at our 100th Annual Reunion, and his son, Greg brought him and Elsie. His blue eyes always twinkled, and his vibrant Christian faith was ever present. When asked if he thought he would come to the 2019 Reunion in New Orleans, this was his reply: "Oh no, I will be with Jesus by then!" He knew in 2018 that his days left on this earth were short, as his organs even then were beginning to fail. But no complaints - just the radiance of who he was and his delight in his soon HOMEGOING to his Savior! Thank you, Clemmie for your vibrant, authentic faith! I'll see you in Heaven some day & Elsie also. We miss you!

