

94th Anniversary

NINETIETH DIVISION

ASSOCIATION



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SPRING 2012

2011-2012 President - Arthur C. Meier, II

At right: Arthur and Amy Meier
Huntsville, AL



Official web site:

www.90thdivisionassociation.org

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90th Photographer
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Immediate Past President
Fairfax, VA

THIS ISSUE IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF JOE ENGLE, 358/M

Editor's note: The 90th Division received word that our much loved **Joe Engle** passed away on **January 13, 2012**. For new readers, Joe was our Reunion Memorial Breakfast Speaker for more than 25 years & was well known for his passionate, inspiring orations. I am sorry to report that we did not receive any further details or an obituary, so we have no information to print. However, we honor him and his service not only to his country in WW II, but also to the 90th Division where he showed his loyalty and dedication by attending reunions each year and blessing us all with his powerful Memorial Breakfast speeches for so many years. We therefore dedicate this issue to his memory. In civilian life, he was a lawyer and he lived in Philadelphia, PA.

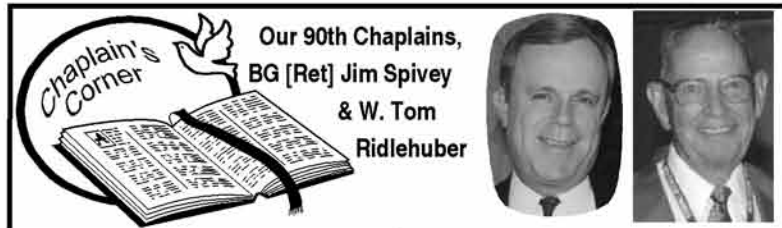
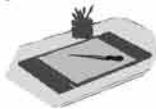
President Art Meier: "Greetings Tough 'Ombres: We are rapidly approaching the 94th Annual Reunion. Please make your hotel reservations early to guarantee you secure a room. Be sure to complete your Reunion reservations ON TIME! This means they need to be mailed to the Reids in time to reach them by **JULY 21**. The last couple of months, I have been communicating with some of you via email and have been encouraged in the positive responses received. There are 3 "free standing" inserts in this newsletter: 1. A dues payment form [dues for 2012-2013 are due July 1]; 2. A two-sided Reunion Registration form; 3. A two-sided page with Reunion Information on one side and messages from the recently installed Commander of the 90th Sustainment Brigade, COL David Hammons; an important message from 90th Historian, Tyler Alberts; and a special note from Christian Levaufre, 90th Assistant French Historian. Tyler will have his "90th Mobile Museum" set up at the reunion and some army vehicles in the parking lot on Saturday. The general format for the reunion remains the same as in past years. There will not be a program at the Thursday evening dinner, but there will be programs with all other meals [Friday & Saturday lunches and dinners]. Dr. David Frey from West Point will speak at the Friday lunch, and also on the program with him will be two Flossenburg Concentration Camp survivors, Dr. Jack Terry and David Yeger. Many of you had the honor of hearing Jack's and David's stories at last year's reunion, and we are glad they can be with us again this year. The Executive Committee meets Friday afternoon and the General Membership meeting will be Saturday afternoon. On Friday night, the 312th Army Band will entertain us for the 5th consecutive year! The Saturday dinner speaker will be COL David Hammons, followed by the raffle and the now traditional Karaoke. You will have plenty of time to explore the Greater Fort Worth area, if you wish, but we encourage you to participate in the lunches and dinners as that is the main purpose of our reunions. You will notice in the Newsletter that a change in policy has occurred concerning the publishing of contact information. In order to protect the privacy of our members; addresses, phone numbers, and emails will no longer be listed. [see explanation on page 2 Editor's letter & page 3- right column.]

There is a notice on page 15 about the 90th Sustainment Brigade's change of Command on March 3rd. Outgoing Commander Peter Malik transferred the Flag and Command to COL David Hammons. Be sure to read COL Hammons message on one of the inserts. He is not new to the T/O patch, as he had been a previous Battalion Commander under the 90th RSC. Also on page 15, there is a special notice about the late MG Rudder, one of the Commanding Generals of the 90th Reserve Division following WWII, who is being reconsidered for the Medal of Honor. Amy and I look forward to seeing many of you at the 94th Reunion. If you can't make it, you could send a note to the Reids for posting on a bulletin board. God bless you all!

94th Annual Reunion - August 2-5, 2012 - Marriott DFW Airport South - Ft. Worth, TX

Editor, Rhoda Reid, writes...

Dear 90th Members,



Our 90th Chaplains,
BG [Ret] Jim Spivey
& W. Tom
Ridlehuber



The 94th Annual Reunion of the 90th Division will be here soon! Important information for attendees: 1. PLEASE have your reunion reservation to the Reids NO LATER than July 21 as we make name tags & do assigned seating for Fri. & Sat. eve dinners prior to leaving town. We leave town [driving] to Fort Worth a week before the reunion! 2. PLEASE - if you have any of the red T/O lanyards [that clip to your badge holder] at home...BRING THEM WITH YOU TO THE REUNION! 3. Make your hotel reservations early to be sure you have a room. Check out the insert page in this newsletter that has Reunion Information to learn what all is being planned for the reunion & also interesting things to do in the Fort Worth area. HOWEVER, it is important that we have good attendance at the various meals because special programs are being planned with YOU in mind. This hotel is a special place, and the 90th group will "own" the hotel for the week.. The lobby area is lovely and will serve as our general "hospitality room". Historian, Tyler Alberts, will have his "mobile museum" set up in a special room and also will have military vehicles in the parking lot on Saturday. It will be exciting to see what all he has planned, so bring the grandkids with you! -- On another subject, with this issue, there is a change in policy re: listing of addresses, phone #s & email addresses in the newsletter. Since 2001, when I was given the job of putting the newsletter together for the Association, it was a perfect way for veterans to find and contact one another. Sadly, we have learned that individuals not associated with the 90th have been able to get copies of newsletters and have contacted some of our veterans, asking for artifacts, etc. - which we HOPE would be given instead to our own 90th museum. So, from this issue on, no more personal information will be shown - only the Unit and CO. If you wish to contact someone, PLEASE CALL THE REIDS [630-789-0204] or email them at the address on the front page of this newsletter. IF you do NOT object to your information being shared, you need to send a note to the Reids, so we have that permission in writing. We have always guaranteed we would protect your personal information. For those who don't know...the newsletter is posted on the web site [sans personal info], so you also have access to it there. We will still MAIL the newsletter to you as that is the #1 way to remind you whether or not your dues current. That information is shown above your address label, so check it out! Extra reunion registration forms can be printed off the web site. FINALLY...it is TIME to pay 2012-2013 Dues!! DID YOU KNOW?...ONLY 620 of 2260 took the time to pay 2011-2012 dues!! Disgraceful!

From Chaplain Spivey: **THE SKY IS FALLING!** -- Here we go again—another election year! We are told (again) this is THE most important election of our lifetime. How we vote will *seal* our future. America will never be the same after November! Or so the politicians would have us believe. They say if we don't put them in power, we are headed towards irreversible disaster. The sky is falling! One side warns that spiraling unemployment rates, gas prices, crippling national debt, and looming inflation are pushing us to the brink of economic meltdown. Big government is assaulting personal liberty and is hiking taxes to support an out-of-control welfare state. The other says millions of Americans have little or no health coverage. Corporate greed is rampant, the gap between rich and poor is growing, and the upper class is not paying its fair share. The environment is at risk unless we stop global warming and develop alternative sources of renewable energy. Yes, the sky seems to be falling! Oh, who will rescue us from our peril? For whom should we vote in November? Meanwhile, another important vote is about to occur. In June, nine persons will make one of the most significant decisions during our lifetime. Will the Supreme Court agree the government can *require* everyone to buy into a national health scheme—and forever change the nature of American healthcare and our fundamental relationship as private citizens with our government? Or will it strike down the law and risk being accused of violating the separation of powers between the three branches of government? How does all this make you feel? It makes me feel helpless. After all, will my one vote in the general election really make a difference? And what can I do about a Court decision that may profoundly affect my whole life—a decision in which I don't even have *one* vote? Can I really keep the sky from falling? How helpless and powerless I feel! Well, as usual, there is bad news, and there is good news. The **bad news** is that none of these politicians or justices can rescue us from our 'peril'. The **good news** is the situation is not as bad as it seems. We have been in worse straits than this. What about the gas rationing, long lines at the pump, and double-digit inflation in the 1970s? What about Pearl Harbor? What about the Great Depression? The **better news** is we *can* do something about our situation. The Bible says, "The effective prayer of a righteous person can accomplish much" (James 5:16). God hears and answers our prayers! Yes, we *should* vote in November, but meanwhile we *must* pray. If millions of Americans will get serious about asking God to intervene and help us, He will do it. The **best news** is He has *promised* to do so: "If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land" (II Chronicles 7:14). Don't be alarmed by those who warn that only they can keep the sky from falling. No! Only God can do this! And we should not fret too much even when He *does* let the sky fall! Tuesday evening a couple of weeks ago, thirteen tornadoes hit Dallas-Fort Worth. But not a single life was lost! Explain that to me! Yes, politicians stepped in *after* the storm: they declared DFW a 'disaster area' and arranged the relief work. But when the sky actually fell, it was only God's mighty hand that harnessed the storm and spared life. The **very best news** is we can always trust Him to answer our prayers, to do what is best for us, to hold up the sky, and to make His radiant mercy shine through even the darkest clouds when the sky does fall.

IT'S TIME TO PAY YOUR 2012-2013 DUES!!



90th - Curtis, Donald T., 90 - SIGNAL CO, 2011 - **Gremour**, Russell - HQ - **Hughes**, William P., 90 - ARTY, 10/05/11 - **Thele**, William E.. 09/02/07 - **112th MEDICS - Wurm**, Dr. Melvin A. - D CO, 01/14/11 - **166th FA Bn - Achtzehn**, Sgt. Charles E.. - 1Bn, 03/07/11 - **343rd FA Bn - Marshall**, Fred W. - HQ - **344th FA Bn - Edwards**, Willard H. - **Ortiz**. Ursulo - SV CO, 02/05/11 - **345th FA Bn - Knoll**, Clement J. - **357th - Bergman**, Frederick Peter - 2Bn, 03/23/11 - **Cannon**, Calvert - SV CO - **Cook**, James G. - C CO - **Henry**, George B. - F CO, 04/11 - **Smith, Jr.**, Charles Byron, G CO - 10/04/11 - **358th - Corns**, Lt. Robert T. - H CO - **Engle**, Joseph - M CO , 01/13/12 - **Henry**, 1Lt. William J. - K CO, 03/20/11 - **Mateyko**, John - M CO, 01/09/12 - **Naber**, Kenneth - A CO - **Rubino**, Bill - L CO - **359th - Barrowman**, Clarence Ray - **Briley**, Wilbur M. - HQ/3Bn - **Burgess**, Rev. Robert J. - M CO - **Farrell**, Leonard F. - M CO, 07/22/11 - **Gadeken**, John - G CO, 01/31/11 - **Kittelson**, Edward - B CO - **790th ORD - Carroll**, William S., 12/27/11 - **Flach**, Walter E., Sr., 03/15/10 - **981st ORD - Tracy**, Ted H., 12/11 - **Unit not Listed - Barnard**, Rollin, 07/02/09 - **Conte**, James - **Frankenfield**, Joseph Paul, 01/17/11 - **Huber**, Donald E. - 04/06/04 - **Potter**, Edward F., 05/84 - **SPECIAL MENTION: Day, Mary Ann**, former Navy WAVE & wife of Johh J. Day, Jr., 358/ST - 10/20/11

All 90th Deceased Vetean - by Cletus Swihart
Cook, Jack, 790th/ORD - by Betty M. Petersen
Ditmore, Hubert C., 344/FABn - by great hephew, Robert H. Ditmore
Ebarb, Henry Lee, 359/A - by son, Dr. Henry A. Ebarb
Henry, William John, 358/K - by son, William John Henry, III
Katschman, Forrest L., 358/F - by son, Michael D. Katschman & grand-daughter, Amy M. Katschman
Overholser, Joe, 790/ORD - by Betty M. Petersen
Pappas, George C., 359/G - by nephew, George S. Pappas
Roberton, William J., 359th - by son, Dennis J. Roberton
Whitley, John Marshall, Unit ? - by son, Rolf M. Whitley

New Members Added to 90th Roster!

Abney, Beverly S., 357/AT Hon. - granddaughter, William L. Faulk
Baillie, Ellen M., Unit ? Hon - daughter, Raymond M. Northam
DeLosSantos, Charlie B., 357/A Hon - son, Charlie DeLosSantos
Deuer, John, 315/Comb. Eng. Hon - son, Captain Henry J. Deuer
Ditmore, Robert H., 344/FA Bn Hon - great nephew, Hubert Carl Ditmore
Ebarb, Dr. Henry A., 359/A Hon - son, Henry L. Ebarb
Falcon, Antonio, 359 Hon - nephew, Raul Garza
Flach, Jr., Walter E., 790/ORD Hon - son, Walter E. Flach, Sr.
Heer, Bernard D., 519/ARCOM
Henry, III, William J., 358/K Hon - son, William J. Henry, Jr.
Lane, Brandon C., 359/C 1Bn Hon - great nephew, PFC Johnnie C. Likes
Trevino, Jose, 359 Hon - nephew, Raul Garza
Weber, Dr. David E.. 90th Hon - [University of North Carolina Wilmington]
Whitmer, Boone A., 359 Hon - nephew, Jeff Whitmer
Willman, W. Ed, 343/HQ Hon - son, Lloyd C. Willman

NOTE!! AS STATED ON PAGE 2 "EDITOR'S LETTER" COLUMN, THE NEWSLETTER WILL NO LONGER INCLUDE ADDRESSES, PHONE #s & EMAIL ADDRESSES, AS INFORMATION HAS REACHED US THAT PEOPLE NOT ASSOCIATED WITH THE 90TH ARE SOMEHOW GETTING COPIES OF OUR NEWSLETTERS AND CONTACTING VETERANS, OFTEN WITH SOLICITATIONS FOR MEMORABILIA. WE GUARANTEE YOUR PRIVACY AND PROMISE NOT TO SHARE YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION OR "SELL" THE ROSTER. IF YOU WANT TO REACH SOMEONE, CONTACT THE REIDS BY PHONE: 630-789-0204, OR EMAIL THEM AT reids90thdivisionassoc@comcast.net

Reminder!

Address Change and / or Death Notice

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

It means the Association has **NOT BEEN NOTIFIED** of the proper changes! It not only upsets you, it also costs the Association \$\$\$ to have newsletters returned - or sent to people no longer living.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE REIDS OF ANY AND ALL CHANGES!

NOTICE!

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

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

TABLE " is interested especially in veterans from Minnesota. Contact **DON PATTON** at: 7220 Fleetwood Drive - Edina, MN 55439 - Home: 952-941-5700 - Cell: 612-867-5144 - email: coldpatton@yahoo.com - or - www.mn-ww2roundtable.org

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

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

Your 2012-2013 Dues are due July 1!!

Did YOU PAY \$20 for 2011-2012??



 From Irma Madis in France - long-time friend of the 90th: her email: arthurirma@gmail.com - her son's email: madisgilles@orange.fr - "Dear Rhoda and James, Thank you for the information you sent to me. I wish you and to all the members, veterans and families, a happy new year and mostly a good health. You are always welcome to come to Lorraine. My husband, Arthur Madis, member of the Moselle River 1944 and a flag bearer of gendarmerie died on 19 May, 2011. I send you some pictures from him in memory of his engagement to the veterans. My son, Captain Gilles Madis, and I are still in contact with some of them. Good luck for your reunion in August, 2012. Irma Madis" [Ed. note: Jim and I met Arthur & Irma Madis in 2004 when in France for the 60th commemoration of the 90th Moselle River Crossing. They are well known for their hospitality to veterans! The Spring, 2011 newsletter printed a letter on page 18 from Irma along with a picture of her & Arthur. We did not know he had died on May 19, so he never saw the letter & picture. Those of us who met you will always remember your warm and gracious hospitality, & we know many have visited you since 2004 and have been treated royally. Irma, you are loved by all our veterans & family members who know you!]



General Assembly of Moselle River Association - Moselle River Assoc. President, Pascal Moretti , & Irma Madis presenting the book, "Living the Dream in Eastern France" by 95th Div. veteran Dr. Douglas Beakes who wrote about World War II and the stay of U.S. veterans in Lorraine. [June, 2010].



Right & below: Ceremony at Stuckange. The mayor, Mr. Rein, gave Irma a plaque sent by Dr. Douglas Beakes & the 95th Division for her & husband, Arthur - members of "Moselle River" . Arthur was a flagbearer of gendarmerie during all the ceremonies of the November, 2004 commemorations of the Moselle River Crossing in WW II. Son, Captain Gilles Madis is at right & he also assisted the veterans in 2004. The Madis family has kept contact with many of the veterans who were in France in 2004.

REPUBLICAIN LORRAIN
 Samedi 10 Septembre 2011

Irma et Arthur à l'honneur



Irma a tenu à associer Arthur, shéfi de la dernière fête country de Stuckange, à la cérémonie. Photo RL

Moment d'émotion lorsque Thierry Rein, le maire, a profité de la fête country et des pavols américains à Stuckange, pour répondre à la requête du Docteur Douglas Beakes, historien américain spécialisé dans les conflits du XXe siècle et auteur de plusieurs livres sur la venue des vétérans US dans la région. Celui-ci dans une longue lettre lui a demandé de remettre au cours d'une cérémonie officielle une plaque à un couple de Stuckangeois, Irma et Arthur Madis, qui a énormément œuvré pour développer le devoir de mémoire des Français vis-à-vis des libérateurs américains lors de la dernière guerre.

Hélas, Arthur nous a quittés le 19 mai dernier. C'est donc Irma, accompagnée de ses enfants, qui a reçu le présent sous les ovations de la foule. Membres de Moselle River, et anglophones parfaits, ils ont assuré les traductions lors de la venue des vétérans américains et en particulier ceux de la 95e division d'infanterie avec qui ils ont gardé des attaches et ont effectué plusieurs séjours aux États-Unis. Leur fils, Gilles, a d'ailleurs repris le flambeau au sein de Moselle River.





TOUGH 'OMBRES TALES

News from veterans of the 90th Division



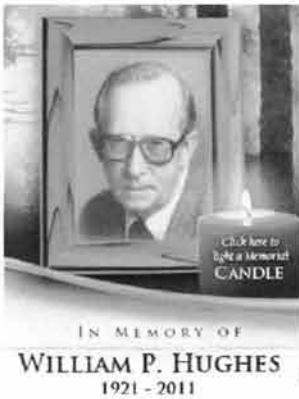
Ed.: This section contains letters received from veterans only. "Family Album" has letters from family members.



EDITOR'S NOTE: As a reminder, the newsletter will no longer publish addresses, phone #s or email addresses due to "pirating" of some of our members' information by individuals not associated with the 90th. Should you wish to contact anyone who has a letter in this newsletter, just call the Reids at the number on the cover of the newsletter.

90th ARTY

Hughes, William P., 90 years - OBITUARY



William P. Hughes, of Missouri, died Wed., October 5, 2011 at Parkside Manor. He was born April 7, 1921 and married June 7, 1951 to Eleanor Sophia Volkmer, who survives him. He worked as a civil engineer at Black and Veatch Consulting Engineers, retiring at age 62. He served in the 90th Division of the United States Army during WW II and was the President of the 90th Association in 1975. Other survivors include a son, Ron [Diana]; 3

grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren; and 2 nephews.

Katz, Sam - "I am privileged to still be alive and have the pleasure of writing this annual check to the Association. Once again I want to recognize the value I personally believe and thousands more--your value to the 90th Division the last several years. Wish you both [Jim and Rhoda] a HAPPY AND HEALTHY 2012 AND BEYOND."

Thele, William E. - Tec 5 HQ Btry - OBITUARY - William Edward "Bill" Thele, 91, died in a care center, Sunday, September 2, 2007. He was the 8th of 10 children born to his parents. He attended a one room school, and after graduating, he helped with the family truck gardening business. He also completed a carpenter's apprenticeship while a teenager, and while in the Civilian Conservation Corp completed Foremanship training. He worked as an instructor and manager of building maintenance until called to active service at the beginning of WW II. He married his wife in August, 1942 while stationed in Abilene, TX before going into combat. He served in the HQ Btry of the 90th Division from D-Day to the end of the war. After the war, he went to work for his brother, Lawrence, and they worked together until they both

retired in 1981. As part of his work, he did beautiful restoration work in many Historic homes in his area and also did precision finish work in new buildings. He built his own home and helped in the construction of homes for many of his relatives over the years. He also made children's toys, furniture, and birdhouses for family and friends. In his spare time, he farmed a small acreage and eventually established a large orchard that all of his children and grandchildren helped to nurture. This gardening experience led him to become actively involved in the Natural Foods Organization where he served as President for many years. He promoted and practiced organic farming and gardening. He was an avid reader his whole life, and he epitomized the phrase, "necessity is the mother of invention". If he needed a tool and didn't have it, he would make one. He was a member of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church and an active supporter of Notre Dame Schools. He had many other accomplishments. Mr. Thele is survived by 3 daughters; 1 son; 10 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren; 2 sisters; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife on June 10, 1999 one infant daughter; his parents; 4 sisters; 3 brothers; and several nieces and nephews.

Wurm, Dr. Melvin A., 112th Medics, Company D - OBITUARY - [sent in by daughter-in-law, Julie A. Rhodeback] - "Dr. Melvin A. Wurm, age 90, longtime Center Village veterinarian, passed away Friday, January 14, 2011, at home with his family. He was born November 10, 1920, graduated from Harlem High School, and received his veterinarian degree from Ohio State University. Melvin was a decorated U.S. Army veteran of WW II, serving as a medic with Company D, 112th Medics of the 90th Infantry Division. He participated in the second wave into Omaha Beach during D-Day at Normandy and then in Northern France. He was awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star with Oak Leaf cluster, and 2 Purple Hearts with an Oak Leaf cluster. He enjoyed a lifelong passion for animals, serving the needs of animal owners and farmers in the area for over 45 years. Beef and dairy cows were his specialty. He and his family also owned and operated the Soho Gas Station. He was a member of the Harlem Grange; OSU Alumni Assoc., Veterinary Medical Assoc., and the Harlem Twp Boys Breakfast Club. He treasured time spent with his family along with hunting and fishing. His true passion was gardening. He will be [con't. next page]

Tough Ombre Tales - Page 2



90th ARTY [con't.]

Wurm OBITUARY [con't.] - remembered for his honesty and generosity. He is survived by his wife of 45 years; 5 stepchildren; 6 grandchildren; 7 great grandchildren; a brother; and 3 sisters. He was preceded in death by 3 brothers. A memorial service was held at Harlem Road United Methodist Church." (his daughter-in-law wrote in her letter that he was proud to be a member of the T/Os!)

315th

Bamesberger, Ervin, Engineers - "We are sorry that we haven't been able to attend reunions for the past few years. Traveling days are pretty much over for us due to health issues, but as long as I am here, I want to pay my yearly dues & give a donation to the 500 Club. Thank you. Ervin" [Ed.: The Assoc. thanks you, Ervin, for your loyalty and for paying yearly dues. Readers! How about all those of you who read the newsletters and never bother to pay dues??? Huh? Are you out there???)

Deuer, Henry J. "Duke", Combat Engineers - OBITUARY - "Deuer, Henry J., "Duke", age 91, passed away at his home, Wednesday, April 6, 2011. Henry was a veteran of both WW II and Korea. In WW II, he was in the 90th Infantry under General Patton. Duke was a recipient of 1 Silver Star, 2 Bronze Stars, and a Purple Heart. He was the owner of Dumar Typsetting from 1963-1981. Duke was preceded in death by his first wife, Bea, in 1987 and a second wife Pat in 2001, as well as a son, Thomas, in 1962. Duke is survived by a son and daughter-in-law; a step-daughter and her husband; 2 grandchildren; and 1 great-grandson. He is also survived by many cousins, nieces and nephews. A mass of Christian burial was held at St. Anthony Church. A special thank you to Bright Star and Hospice of the Miami Valley for their excellent care of Duke."

344th

Ortiz, Ursulo - from daughter, Lucilla Ortiz Baca - "Please find attached the obituary of my father, Ursulo Ortiz who passed away February 5, 2011. He was a member of the 90th Division and attended several reunions. Sorry it took so long to get this out. We miss him SO much! He was a real inspiration to everyone he know. Thank you."

D-Day veteran known for local businesses

Santa Fean freed Jewish prisoners during WWII

By Bob Quick
The New Mexican

Funeral services are scheduled Friday for Ursulo V. Ortiz of Santa Fe, a World War II veteran who landed at Normandy, fought his way across France during that country's liberation and later helped free Jewish prisoners from concentration camps in the former Czechoslovakia.



Ursulo Ortiz

Ortiz died Saturday after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease. He was 92.

After the war, he returned to Santa Fe and worked at Bruns Army Hospital and then at Los Alamos National Laboratory for 26 years. "He ultimately worked his way up to managing the lab's supplies," his son, Reynaldo Ortiz, said Wednesday.

He also grew his family's weaving business in Chimayó, the village where he was born in 1918 to Ursulo and Anita Velarde Ortiz, who descended from some of the earliest Spanish settlers in the 1700s.

In addition, he bought residential and commercial real estate in Santa Fe, including Barrel House Liquors in the Solano shopping center on West Alameda Street. "He told me he worked at the lab so he could borrow money to buy real estate and work in his dad's (weaving) business," Reynaldo Ortiz said.

Ortiz Obit. [con't.]

Daughter Lucilla Ortiz Baca said her father had graduated from El Rito High School in 1938. "It was known as the American-Spanish Normal School way back then," she said. He worked in the family's

mercantile business before joining the U.S. Army at the war's outset, serving from Jan. 5, 1942, until Oct. 20, 1945. He was a member of the 736th Field Artillery Battalion.

When Ursulo Ortiz landed at Normandy on June 6, 1944, Reynaldo Ortiz said, "the biggest fear was drowning. He didn't know how to swim, and he had all his equipment on. Many of the guys were shot in the water or drowned."

Years later, his son said, "I took him to see *Saving Private Ryan*," director Steven Spielberg's motion picture about D-Day and the battle for Normandy. "He said it was very realistic, but he didn't recall the blood. It brought a lot of memories back to him."

Ursulo Ortiz took part in the liberation of Paris and marched in the victory celebration, his son said. "I took him back there eight years ago," Reynaldo Ortiz said. "He hadn't been to Paris since liberation. I drove him down the Champs Elysées to see the side streets he marched down."

Near the end of the war, Ursulo Ortiz's unit pushed into Czechoslovakia and was ordered to help free Jewish prisoners from the Nazi concentration camps.

"It was very frightening. He couldn't believe how hungry they were," his son said. "They let the prisoners go into a nearby village and take what they wanted."

Ursulo is also survived by his wife, Carlotta T. Ortiz, his son Dennis M. Ortiz, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

A rosary is scheduled at 7 p.m. this evening at Rosario Chapel in Santa Fe, to be followed by a funeral Mass at 11 a.m. Friday at Holy Family Parish in Chimayó. Burial will follow at the Nuestra Señora de Dolores Cemetery in Chimayó.

Contact Bob Quick at 986-3011 or bobquick@sfnmexican.

357th

Agosto, Louis P., A CO - "Enclosed find a check for dues for 2011-2012 & 2012-2013. Keep up the good work. Lou Agosto"

Ellison, Vernon, CO A - "Please find enclosed my check for payment of my 90th Division Association dues for 2011-2012. I grew up around Abilene, Texas, and lived there when the 90th trained at Camp Berkeley. As a matter of fact, I was working for Foremost Dairies and carried milk to the 357th Inf. while they were in training there, and I was assigned to CO A in Germany February, 1945.. So my hat is off to the 90th. Vernon Ellison"

Phillips, Vance - K CO HON - "During the summer of 2011, I met Norm Richards while sitting in my car, waiting for my wife, Patricia. She was in Sally's buying products for her hair. Mr. Richards approached his car which was parked next to mine. He wore a cap with T/O military insignia emblazoned on it. I shouted to him, 'Say there! Is that a Texas/Oklahoma 90th Infantry Division cap you're wearing?' - 'Yes, it is', he answered. During WW II, that was my Dad's outfit. Mr. Richards told me it was also his dad's outfit. I told him my Dad never came home, and we never got to see each other. It turns out that Mr. Richards is the Assistant Historian for the 90th Inf. He had taken the job because the men of the 90th Inf. were too old to do the job anymore. I gave him all the information about my father. I knew absolutely nothing about Company K or the 90th Inf. I only knew William L. Phillips of Missouri had fought in the Hedgerows of France. He was killed June 19, 1944 and is buried in France. A few days later I received a call from Mr. Richards. 'Vance, I have names and addresses of three men from Company K who are still living.' I contacted all three by telephone. All three men are in their 90s. Two of them could remember almost nothing. But when I contacted Bill Munsch, he was alert and interested in my story. [con't. nxt pg.]

Tough Ombre Tales - Page 3



357th [con't.]

Phillips, Vance [con't.] - "We began writing each other. He had a copy of his and my dad's outfit made and sent it to me - no easy task for a man in his 90s!

The picture arrived, and there was my dad - young and strong and handsome. Only 5 men to his left stood my new-found friend, Bill Munsch of Allentown, PA. So, after almost 70 years, I've been able to fill a void in my life.

Thanks to Bill and his wife, Marjorie. I'm 67 years old now. I have 3 grown children and 10 grandkids. Hopefully, my father will one day meet us all. Vance Phillips" [Ed. note: This letter would normally be in the Family Album section, but is included with the 357th mail as a tribute to Vance's father, the hero he never got to meet. Thank you, Norm and Bill for giving this son a priceless gift - information about his father.]

Smith, Jr., Charles Byron G CO - OBIT. - sent by daughter, Louise Smith



ORONO - Charles Byron Smith Jr., 92, husband of the late Julia A. Smith, died Oct. 4, 2011, at an Orono health care facility. He was born April 30, 1919, in Orono, the only child of Charles Byron Smith and Cora (Buchanan) Smith, who died young. He was lovingly brought up by his stepmother, Beryl Perry Smith, who later adopted him. Charlie attended Orono public schools, graduated from Orono High School in 1936 and the University of Maine in 1941, with a Bachelor of Science in poultry husbandry. He later earned a Master in Education degree in education at Maine, followed by a sixth year and additional graduate studies at the University of Connecticut. He was a member of Alpha Gamma Rho and served four years in ROTC - and OTCS, graduating as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Infantry. He trained in California, Louisiana, Arizona, and Abilene, Texas, where, as a first lieutenant, he became commander of G Company, 357

Infantry Regiment of the reactivated 90th Division. While in Abilene, Texas, he married Julia Alice Smith, college classmate from Parsonsfield. The 90th Division trained in England and entered France on D & 2 Day, serving under Gen. George Patton across Europe - two Moselle River Crossings - to Czechoslovakia. Charlie was discharged in 1945 as a major in the U.S. Army Reserve with three Purple Heart awards, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star with V for valor, the Division Award Croix de Guerre, plus numerous awards for engagements. He was a life member of OMOR American Legion Post 84 and served for several years in its once nationally recognized honor guard. Charlie taught vocational agriculture for eight years at Hermon High School, where he also taught On The Farm training courses - government program, to local veterans engaged in or returned to farming. He was Hermon's first fire chief & then a volunteer group, Cub Scout Master, school building committee member for the new elementary school, and farmed 200 acres in Hermon. He taught in a three-man Vo-Ag program in New Salem, Mass., before joining a regional vocational agriculture center at Woodrow Wilson High School, Middletown, Conn. He later became director of audiovisual services for the city of Middletown (Conn.) school system until he retired to his hometown of Orono in 1978. He was an active reader for years. In Orono, Charlie carried on part time farming on his father's and grandfather's farm on Main Street. He was active in the Legion, the Methodist church, Orono Public Library, Orono Historical Society, and Page Farm and Home Museum. He belonged to Maine Sons of the American Revolution, Lynde Lodge - later transferred to Orono, and Anah Shrine. Years of camping and summer gatherings at Perik-O-Rock Landing on Pushaw Lake were the strongest bond in Charlie's life and family. Later retirement years had been made more comfortable and pleasant for Charlie and his family by friends and family in the Orono community, and by the loving and caring staff at Dirigo Pines Inn, Orono. Charlie was predeceased by his wife, Alice, in 2009. He is survived by their six children, Dianne Blackmer of Jefferson, Iowa, Peter Smith and his wife, Kathy, of East Hampton, Conn., Leigh Smith and his wife, Gretchen, of Seattle, Dana Smith and his wife, Jan Kristo, of Orono, Louise Smith and Carmen DiBuono of Orrington, and Brian Smith and his wife, Susan, of Bangor; six grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and several cousins. A service of remembrance will be held 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 8, at Brookings-Smith, Orono Chapel, 72 Main St., Orono, with Pastor Steven Smith, of Orono United Methodist Church, officiating. Friends may call 1 p.m. until time of the service Saturday.

358th

Day, Jr. John J., AT CO - "Dear Rhoda, It is a sad day to say, but another one of the "greatest generation" has passed on! I would like it if you could publish this announcement in the next printing of the newsletter. Thank you - Sincerely, John J. Day, Jr." [Ed.: Here it is, John - Our sympathies to you.]

OBIT - "Mary Ann (Gross) Day, wife of John J. Day, Jr. from the 358th Anti-Tank Company, left us to be with her Maker on October 20, 2011. Mary Ann was in the NAVY, enlisted in the WAVES in 1943 and was real proud to be part of the greatest generation & also 4 generations of NAVY - her father, Edward J. Gross, was in WW I in the submarines; her two brothers, Edward and Thomas, were also in the NAVY in WW II as corpsman and cook, respectively. Her two sons, James [served in Vietnam] and John, III [Persian

Gulf] are retired NAVY SEALs; two grandsons, John IV is actively serving as a Yeoman 1st Class, Air Warfare Specialist stationed in Texas; and Joshua, who is in the active reserves in the submarines. Mary Ann and I attended the 69th Annual Reunion, which was our first of many reunions which she attended with me - I would say that she is a Tough 'Ombre also." [Ed.: What a legacy, John! Yes, I'm sure everyone would agree she was definitely a Tough 'Ombre! - thank you for sending the information. Her name is in "Call of Taps"]
Henry, 1st Lt. William J., K CO - A note from his son, John: "1st Lt. William J. Henry died March 20, 2011, just after his 90th birthday. He was the last living officer of the 5 officers of K CO." ---: "First Lieutenant William J. Henry, 0461526. Co. K, 358th Infantry, 90th Division, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy in FRANCE. On July 3, 1944, Company K, 3rd Battalion 358th Infantry, was attacking south of the vicinity of LES SABLON, FRANCE, when they were stopped by extremely heavy enemy mortar and automatic weapons fire. Lieutenant HENRY, heavy weapons platoon leader, went forward under fire with a sound-powered telephone to adjust the fire of his platoon. As he reached the hedge from which he was to observe, he was severely wounded by enemy mortar and small arms fire. Despite these wounds, he stayed at his position directing fire, with complete disregard for his own safety, and would not accept evacuation until his mission was accomplished. The conspicuous gallantry of Lieutenant HENRY and his courageous devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the military service of the United States."

Knieser, Alfred [Al] G. - "Thank you very much for putting me in touch with Norm Richards. He was a great help and a fountain of information. I really enjoy your newsletter. Keep up the fine work. Al Knieser"

Mateyko, Capt. John, M CO - from his daughter, Barb Bunting - "I am one of John Mateyko's daughters, and I met you at the 2006 & 2007 Reunions [I think those were the years...]. This note is to let you know that my father passed away on January 9, 2012 at the age of 92. I've attached the information from his obituary. He very much enjoyed reading the newsletter regularly, and he enjoyed his time at the reunions and keeping in touch with his Army friends. Thank you for all that you do to keep this organization and newsletter going. It is very much appreciated. Thank you again - Barb Bunting" OBIT: John Mateyko, of Glenview, January 9, 2012. Beloved husband of 60 years to the late Frances. Loving father of Frances [the late Bruce Nelson] Mateyko; Barbara [Dan] Bunting; and Mary [Don] Schroeder. Proud grandfather of Erik [Ronni], Blake, and Tiffany [Dave]. Dear great-grandfather of Sam, Tate and Jack. Fond uncle of many nieces and nephews. John served as an army captain with the 90th Division during WW II. Visitation Thursday 4-8pm at the N.H. Scott & Hanekamp Funeral Home and Friday 9am until time of funeral mass at 10am at St. Catherine Laboure Church, Interment Memory Gardens."

Traylor, Clarence, I CO - "Thanks for sending the 90th newsletter. I enjoy reading it. The story of Bruno Ehlich was interesting to read because we had a run-in with them just a few days before the war was over. I'm still looking for anyone that might remember me. There were not many of [con't. next page]

2012-2013 Dues Reminder!

Check your mailing label - are you PAID UP? IF your label says DUES NOT PAID 2012-2013, you OWE the 90th Association \$20 - Send it TODAY - no DELAY

Tough Ombre Tales - Page 4



Traylor, Clarence [con't.] - my friends who survived the war. I'm sorry my dues are late - I can't remember to send them. Thank you - Clarence"

359th

Briley, Karen - daughter, W.M. "Doc" Briley, HQ -

"I enclose for your information, the program for the service for my Dad, Wilber M. Briley. Thanks, Mr. Reid, for your service in the Military. I have the utmost honor and respect for all service providers; those present, veterans and those who are no longer with us today. Thanks so much - The Daughter of a Tough 'Ombre, Karen Briley."



W. M. "Doc" Briley, 92, Tulsa resident, entered eternal life Monday, December 6, 2010 at Saint Francis Hospital. He was born June 11, 1918 to Daisy (West) and Benjamin Briley in Figure Five, AR. He served in W.W. II with the 90th Army Division named "Tough Ombre" and received the Bronze Star during the Normandy Invasion. He was a member of the Skelly Drive Baptist Church, 32nd Degree Mason and Civitan International. He owned and operated a specialty advertisement company. He is preceded in death by his beloved wife, Loretta, daughter, Marsha, one brother and three sisters. He is survived by his children, Karen Briley, Gary Briley and Gaye Marrs, a brother, Theron Briley, five grandchildren and one great-grandchild. The family expresses their gratitude to the Claremore Veteran's Center's Medical Staff. Memorial Service will be held 1:00 P.M. Friday, December 10, 2010 at Skelly Drive Baptist Church and he will be laid to rest beside Loretta at Memorial Park Cemetery in Tulsa. Memorial Contributions may be made to a charity of your choice.

Cohen, Alvin "Al" M., M CO - "Enclosed is an obituary from the February 16 Albany Times Union for a former member of the 359th Regt., 90th Division. He lived in the Albany area, and I never knew it. I thought if you put it in the bulletin, someone may have known him. Hope you both are feeling well. We are both fine. Hoping to see you at the next Reunion. Wishing you the best, Al Cohen" [Ed.: Thanks, Al for the clipping (shown below). He was not on our mailing roster, so he probably never knew about the 90th Association.]

Barrowman, Clarence

Ray
VOORHEESVILLE -- Clarence Ray Barrowman passed away on February 14, 2012 after a brief illness. Clar-

ence was born May 7, 1923 in Syracuse, N.Y. He was the son of the late William Elmer Barrowman and Beryl Schuff Barrowman. He was raised in Albany and attended Albany High School. Clarence was drafted into the US Army in 1943. He served in the 359th Infantry, 90th Division of the 3rd Army during World War II. He was awarded the Silver Star, Purple Heart, and European Theater Ribbon with five battle stars. He received a battlefield commission as a second lieutenant in the midst of intense fighting. After the war ended, he was part of the occupying force in Germany until December of 1945.

Clarence married Margaret Fryer on April 2, 1943. Margaret predeceased Clarence in June, 2011. After World War II, they settled in Voorheesville and raised four children. Clarence worked for the General Electric Company in Schenectady in the steam and gas turbine divisions for 37 years until his retirement in 1984.

Clarence was the husband of the late Margaret Fryer Barrowman. He was the brother of Donald (Dianne) Barrowman of Florida. He was the father of Raymond Barrowman of Guilderland, Paul (Sharon Meeker) Barrowman of Voorheesville, Nancy Barrowman of Ravenna, and Roger (Theresa) Barrowman of Glenmont. He was the grandfather of Benjamin (Lauren) Barrowman of Voorheesville, Robert Barrowman of Utica, Bethany Barrowman of Glenmont, and William Barrowman of Glenmont. He was the uncle of Robin Brendel, Donna Lee (James) Quinn, Susan (Art) Draeger, and David Russ. He was the great-uncle of Tara Sparks, Sean Quinn, Jeffery and Daniel White, and Beth Skoldberg.

Clarence was a big sports fan with a special passion for baseball. Summer family vacations in Cape Cod and winters in Florida with his wife and friends after retirement were favorite times. He will be most remembered as an unassuming, decent man. He lived his life with quiet courage, humility, and responsibility. He was a caring son, brother, husband, father, uncle, and friend and an adored and respected grandfather.

A funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, February 18, 2012 at St. Matthew's Church, Mountainview St., Voorheesville. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be sent to Community Hospice of Albany, 445 New Karner Road, Albany, NY 12205.

Lutz, Walter, C CO - "Dear Jim & Rhoda, Received the newsletter with the shocking notice that payment of dues was lacking. For the record, I am one of those that missed making a payment. I'd like to tell my story: On Dec. 12, 2010, I fractured my hip. The repair that followed used pins for re-attachment. That repair did not work. My son says that during the period from Dec., 2010 to March 20, 2011, I was 'hanging on'. Finally in October, 2011, they decided to remove the pins and replace with a complete new hip. The pain is gone, and I am trying to walk without a walker. WOW!!! Enclosed is a check to cover 2 years dues. Regards - Walt & Dot" [Ed.: Oh my, Walt, what a time you have had! You have every good reason for not paying dues - you are blessed to be with us still, and we are glad to hear you are doing so much better. You are a Tough 'Ombre for sure and we wish you a complete and full recovery - soon!]

Qualls, Lloyd C., B CO - "I'm Lloyd Qualls of B CO., 359th. I trained with 75th Inf. Division; was sent to Polk, LA; then to Brickenridge, KY; then to Ft. Meade, MD; then Lounton, MA; then to Glasgow, Scotland; from there to Wales, then England. Was put on a boat, waiting for D-Day; attached to 4th Division; went in on Utah Beach; sent back to guide in the 90th - met some friends I knew in school in Oklahoma & stayed with them. Col. Leroy Pond was from Arkansas & we got along fine. My first 197 days I went through --- my feet got frozen, after getting a bayonet in my left hip and captured - escaped and spent 2 months in the hospital. The doctor said feet are for walking, and not for that. Transferred to 93rd Bomb group as a gunner on a B-24. The war ended and 10 days later I was on Queen Mary and on my way home, from camp Shanks, NY to Beale, CA. From there to Sioux Falls, SD. Missed being shipped to S. Pacific, and was sent to Colorado Springs, CO, then to Pueblo as my records went to S. Pacific. Spent 5 months there before my service records were returned then to Lawry Field in Denver. CO - Discharged in Denver - all in 2 years, 8 months. That wasn't all. They kept me in active reserve for 3 years, but had to be in 8 years, 8 months, but got letter exiting time 1 yr more - total time 9 yrs., 8 mos. + 5 more camps. I passed my 90th birthday last year and still going strong. I have no aches or pains, drive every day, drink a lot of coffee [about 3 quarts daily]. The last reunion I went to was in Ft. Worth, TX. Best of luck to all concerned. I wish I had the secret antidote - would like to have phone call or contact by mail." [Ed.: Had difficulty deciphering some of the handwriting, so not sure everything is correct as written here - my apologies for any errors.]

ARCOM

Aldrich, Jim - "Enclosed are my dues for the up-coming fiscal year. I'd suggest not sending the 90th newsletter to folks unless they are paid up. I don't get any other magazines unless I have paid in advance for it. Perhaps that way you'd get a higher percentage of people paying their dues in a timely manner. Hope all is well with you. And THANK YOU for doing all you're doing to keep the 90th Association functioning. Best regards, Jim" [Ed.: Several people have recommended we not send the newsletter to those who have not paid. However, it's the label on the newsletter that lets people know whether or not they have paid, and without that reminder, they would have no way of knowing. With the advancing age of our WW II veterans, I know that memory lapses contribute to the problem, and there is no answer for that. Veterans and/or family members need to let us know if a name should be removed from the roster - Post office returns do help.]

LATE NEWS!
Received 4/25 - PLEASE pray for our beloved friend, JOHN PHILLIPS in Wales who had surgery 4/19 & is back in the hospital after a small stroke. Daughter says he is doing well, but his speech is affected right now. His heart is set on coming to the reunion...and we WANT him there! PRAYER WORKS!



Letters From Family Members of 90th Veterans

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

The Widows Write....

Hissem, Beatrice, 166th/FA - sent a copy of the obituary of Sgt. Charles E. Achtzehn, Battery G, First Battalion, 166th Field Artillery

Charles E. Achtzehn Normalville

Charles E. Achtzehn, 93, of Normalville, died Monday, March 7, 2011, in Excelsa Health Westmoreland Hospital, Greensburg. He was born April 1, 1917, in West Newton. Mr. Achtzehn was formerly employed as a pharmaceutical salesman. He also owned and operated the White Way Inn Restaurant in Youngwood for many years. He was a veteran of the Army, serving as a sergeant in World War II. He was a member and past commander of American Legion Post 401 and he was the 31st district Chaplin of the American Legion in Westmoreland County. He also served as the essay chairman in Pennsylvania for the American Legion. He is survived by his companion, Beatrice Hissem; his stepchildren, James Hissem and his wife, Verna, of Normalville, Joyce Fredrick and her husband, Timothy, of Jacksonville, Fla., Patty Lander and her husband, Bert, of Carlisle, Linda Richter and her husband, Pete, of Normalville, Jayne Smith, of Canton, Ga., Beverly Keyser and her husband, Larry, of Scottsdale, and Carol Shreve and her husband, Scott, of Normalville; 33 stepgrandchildren and 22 step great-grandchildren. He was the last surviving member of his immediate family. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his wife, Elizabeth "Betty" Achtzehn; one son, Keith D. Achtzehn; and several brothers and sisters. Friends will be received from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday and Friday in the CLYDE BROOKS FUNERAL HOME INC., corner of Municipal Building Road and Route 711, Melcroft, where services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday with the Rev. William "Ed" Nicholson officiating. Interment will follow in the West Newton Cemetery. The American Legion District 31 of Westmoreland County will conduct a military service at 3 p.m. Friday in the funeral home. To sign the guest registry, please visit

Roberson, Alice, widow, I. F., Roberson, 315/C - "Thanks for all you do to keep the 90th going. My husband died April 16, 2010."



Family Album... Other Family Members

Abney, Beverly Stanford, granddaughter, William Leonard Faulk, 357/AT

- "My grandfather is William Leonard Faulk, who served in the 357th AT Co from Camp Berkeley to War End. Thank you so much for the information on the 2012 Reunion. I will block those days off and look for more info to follow. Thank you so much for your time. I really appreciate the help. Beverly"

Baillie, Ellen M., daughter, Raymond M. Northam, Unit ? - "My father, Raymond Max Northam, was a 90th vet. He died in 1993, but my mother continued to receive the newsletter. She has now passed away, and I would like to continue the membership. Thank you - Ellen Baillie"

Corns, Robert, 358/H - nephew, Robert T. Corns - sent the obit of his Uncle, Robert Theodore Corns [next column]

Robert T. Corns Obituary

Robert Theodore Corns

HARLINGEN, TX. — Robert Theodore Corns, 90, passed away Wednesday, February 17, 2010 at Retama Manor Nursing Home.

Robert was born on October 27, 1919 in Harlingen to Ivan and Ida Mae Corns. He was a graduate of Texas A & M University class of 1941. He served in the US Army where he was a 1st Lt. He earned many medals during his WWII service including 2 Bronze Stars, the Purple Heart and many other ribbons and medals for valor. He was wounded on Omaha Beach, as well as crossing the Rhine River and he also fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

Robert was also a former resident of the Weslaco area, where he was a longtime farmer. He was a Land Appraiser for the State of Texas. He also was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Harlingen and a former member of the First United Methodist Church of Weslaco.

Robert was considered to be an outdoorsman with his interest being golf, boating and fishing. He applied this interest to his farming and being a member of the Coast Guard Auxillary.



Robert was considered to be an outdoorsman with his interest being golf, boating and fishing. He applied this interest to his farming and being a member of the Coast Guard Auxillary.

He is survived by nieces and nephews; Emily Jo Goulden of Arlington VA, Maurine Williams of Houston, TX, Bob Corns of Mansfield, TX, Jerry Corns of Woodland Park, CO, Carol Ann Schwarzenbach of Hot Springs, SD and Wade Wilson of Lubbock, TX.; sister-in-law, Pat Lyle of Rapid City, SD. He was preceded in death by his wife, Georgia Sue Corns, parents, brothers, Isaac Cox Corns and Joseph Barr Corns.

Currie, Earl J., 358/L, nephew, John W. Hammer - "Enclosed is a check for dues payment for the 2011-2012 term + extra for the "general fund" of the 90th Division Association. I am pleased to be a member. I was especially gratified by the assistance of one of the Association's archivists in locating the daily report of operations on the battlefield for July 11, 1944, the date my uncle, Staff Sergeant John W. Hammer, was killed on Hill 122 [358th Infantry, Company L]. Thank you for the time and effort you provide in leading the 90th Division Association Best wishes for the new year. Sincerely, Earl J. Currie"

Ditmore, Robert H., 344/FA - great nephew, Hubert Carl Ditmore - "Dear Mr. Reid, First, I want to apologize for having dropped out of existence. We have had four deaths in the family, all of which, I believe, occurred since I last spoke with you. In addition to that, I have been in and out of the hospital. Needless to say, I have been a bit preoccupied. I finished the semester with an "A" on my paper and in the class itself. I have not yet received my copy back from the professor, but should have it back sometime next week. Once I have it back I will make any corrections he has suggested and send a finished copy to you, should you still like to have one. I cannot begin to tell you how appreciative I am for all of your help. You have spent your personal time and money helping me with this project. Thank you, Miss Rhoda, [con't. next pg.]

DUES PAYMENT ALERT! \$20
DUES ARE NOW DUE FOR 2012-2013
FISCAL YEAR - 7/1 - 6/30 PAY NOW!



Other family, con't....

Ditmore, Robert [con't.] - for the time and effort you made in copying materials for me. I doubt seriously I will ever be able to repay the two of you fully for your kindness. There were others who graciously gave of their time to tell me their stories and share their thoughts with me concerning my project. BG Raymond Bell and Mr. Frank Losito allowed me very insightful and useful interviews. Mr Tyler Alberts and Mr. Norm Richards both steered me in the direction of information which aided me in my research. Mr. Henri Levaufré, while I did not have the honor of speaking with him, provided much useful information in his book, "We Were At Normandy". Getting to know the 90th Division through interviews, casual conversation with you gentlemen, books you have all recommended, 90th Division newsletters, etc., has been a breathtaking journey for me, one I will never forget. I am enclosing a check for my dues if you will accept my application for membership. If you accept my application, I would like to honor my great uncle, Cpl. Hubert Carl [Shady] Ditmore, by joining the ranks of the association. - All of your were immensely helpful. Here is a short biography of my uncle: Hubert Carl Ditmore was born February 27, 1923 in Hydro, Oklahoma. He passed away January 9, 2001 at his home in Elk City, OK. He was attached to the 344th/FA Bn, 90th Infantry Division during World War II. He never talked much about his experiences during the war, but when he did, it was obvious that he had been greatly affected. It was also clear he was proud to have been a part of the 90th Infantry Division, a Tough 'Ombre. During the war, he was awarded the Silver Star and Bronze Star for valor, something most of his family, including myself, did not know until after his death. Uncle Shady and I were very close, even though he was really my father's uncle and my great uncle. He taught me how to shoot and hunt, how to drive a car at 9 years of age, and a tractor at 10. He was a competitive marksman and set records while competing for Weatherby Firearms. He was a horseman and raised racing quarter horses - horses were a passion of his. He was small of stature, but possessed a huge heart. He was also a true American and loved his country greatly. He was, is, and always will be my hero."



About 4 years before entering the war.



Shady later in life.



Robert Ditmore [Left] -

This was taken about 4 years before I retired.

Very Respectfully,
Robert"

04/05/2005

Pappas, George S., nephew,

George C. Pappas, 359/G -

"Sorry I'm late with this. I just found my form in a pile of papers. Maybe you have a poster board or something like it, so I added a photo of my Uncle [shown at right]. Thank you - George S. Pappas"



Weber, Dr. David E., Associate Professor, Department of Communication Studies, University of North Carolina Wilmington -

"Dear Mr. Reid: During the past day or two, I have been sorting through and organizing digital photos of some travels I completed in recent years. When reviewing the photos from a 2008 visit to Europe, I came across a photo I snapped at the American Cemetery in Normandy. It depicted a portion of the Star of David marking the grave of a Jewish WW II serviceman. I am Jewish and wanted to photograph a Jewish soldier's grave, and randomly selected what turned out to be the resting place of a 90th Division soldier, PFC David Tenenbaum. I wondered what the Internet would perhaps be able to tell me about this fellow. I did find out some information. Then, this morning, I sent a copy of the photo to a 90th Division Association email address and asked if anyone had any information about PFC Tenenbaum. Mr. Norm Richards emailed me shortly thereafter to report a great deal of information about the soldier, as well as to share with me some ideas for whom I could contact for even more information. This afternoon we exchanged some more email on the subject. I am sure that Mr. Richards has plenty do to as the Assistant Historian of the 90th Association - not to mention in roles he has outside of your organization! - Yet, he warmly and enthusiastically helped a stranger [me] find out about another stranger [PFC Tenenbaum]. I am little by little getting to know a man, PFC Tenenbaum, who probably was the age of my students, perhaps younger, when he died as part of a vast liberation army and force for good in the world. This makes the war and the sacrifice at its heart that much more real to me. In appreciation of Mr. Richards' assistance that has led to this very moving experience, please accept the enclosed check as a donation to your organization. Best wished to the 90th Division Association in its endeavors! Sincerely, David E. Weber"

Whitmer, Boone, nephew, Jeff Whitmer, 359th - "Dear James, Enclosed is a payment for "Battlefield Surgeon". My uncle, Jeff Whitmer, was in the 359th. He passed away a few years ago. His funeral was the largest attended funeral I have ever been at. So little is written about the 90th. I enjoy reading about the 90th and the histories of WW II. So much of what we have today was forged in WW II. Thank You - Boone A. Whitmer"

Food for thought: a quote sent in from MG [R] Ralph Doughty [ARCOM] & 90th Association 2002 President: "**Be more concerned with your character than your reputation, because your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are.**" - John Wooden

A Reminder: IF YOU DO NOT OBJECT TO YOUR ADDRESS, PHONE #, & EMAIL BEING GIVEN OUT, YOU NEED TO CONTACT THE REIDS - BY PHONE, EMAIL, OR BY SNAIL MAIL & GIVE YOUR CONSENT.



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



Everett E. "Buster" Cost - 358/L 3Bn

Page A-4, THE LIBERTY GAZETTE, Wednesday, December 15, 2004

EDITORIALS/LETTERS/



'Tough O'mbries'

J.R. 'Bob' Jamison

Bullets and shells were waiting on the beaches and beyond on the shores of Normandy. The shoulder patch "TO" Tough O'mbries, was no exception. The year was 1944. America waited almost breathlessly for the outcome when General Dwight D. Eisenhower said, "Let's Go!"

The weather was questionable but no less so than the previous months when it was virtually impossible. Ironically, this led to the opinion of many Nazi observers as to the fact that the "Invasion" was likely a hoax. The facts finally showed that none less than the famous General George S. Patton was creating just that. He caused such an enormous assault team of rubber tanks and airplanes troops and equipment, false audio transmissions that it would be no doubt the invasion would be to the near shores of Calais, France. Wrong!

Allied forces were to land on D-Day on many parts of the French Western Front. Axis forces were elsewhere, other than those in charge of the actual defenses, which were on the ready. Hitler was asleep, not to be disturbed. General Rommel was at home in Germany. June 6, 1944 the largest armada of ships became visible off the shores of France in fog and rain.

Suddenly, the world was awakened that Allies were to begin an invasion of Hitler's dream of becoming the world dictator to be the challenge of the century. Previously the United States 8th Air Force and the mighty famed RAF pounded Hitler's dream to a nightmare.

Country boys like Dayton's own, E. E. "Buster" Cost was one of those that was wide eyed and ready to take on what ever they had to offer in the name of our country and freedom. Of course, Cost as many others of his well-trained doughboys knew little of what was ahead of them, but in the soldier's tradition, they did what was had to be done...without question.

Cost, along with a fellow infantryman (now unknown) fought from hedgerow to hedgerow shortly after they landed on Normandy Beach, France. They shared a foxhole after constant attacks and counter attacks by the Germans. A lull in the fighting inspired them to jointly write a poem. Neither knew why but it shows the feeling that only those who have survived combat can really know.

The poem, as I copied it, read like this:

"HEDGEROW HELL"

I always thought France a land of romance.
A lonely place in which to dwell.
But from a strictly G. I. standpoint,
It's plain old hedgerow of Hell!

Yes the country is nice and pretty,
The roads, rivers and farms look well.
But with a Jerry behind every bush,
It makes it a land of hedgerow of Hell.

They completely surround each little field,
And a lot of our soldiers fell.
Cleaning out this awful place
That we called hedgerow of Hell.

We fought and died for every foot of ground.
And the people thought us swell
To make this land again their France...
But to us it will always be the hedgerow of Hell!

From hedgerow to hedgerow Cost and his buddies fought. They were headed up France to Mayenne, Chamois, Chateaudun, Orleans, Fontainebleau and Paris. Then on to Epernay, Reims, Verdun and Luxemburg. Fighting the "impregnable" Maginot Line of WWI, they bounced drove from Stuttgart, Germany to rescue their own at none other than the "Bastards of Bastogne". The great General McAuliffe told the Germans "Nuts" to their demand for surrender.

The mighty "TO", Tough O'mbres", headed to Bastogne, Belgium. There with the force of other than George Patton on the opposite side, they surrounded the Germans that had surrounded Americans at Bastogne. The rest is history.

Buster Cost still has burning feet from having been frozen in the forest of that horrible winter in Belgium. They still ache at night to remind him of what he and many other Americans did to liberate the many POW camps commanded by the German SS troops.

Though severely wounded back during the invasion he still can joke describing his tongue flapped laughingly out the side of his face of which was left of German shrapnel. Or when his sergeant smilingly said he could always tell where Cost was because his foxhole was so deep he could just see the smoke from cheap French cigarette smoke steaming out the hole.

In the tradition of the American soldier, Marine, Airman or Sailor, weather in Europe, Asia or elsewhere, I believe America lives in the minds of our keepers. This is not unlike the heroes such as E. E. "Buster" Cost of Dayton and countless others that gave everything they had and others more that in doing so will always keep our nation free!

Bob Jamison is a freelance writer. His recent book, AIRPLANES, ALLIGATORS AND HI-FIN BLUES is available at The Gazette, Just For You, local libraries and Prosperity Bank in Dayton. Or jbobalong@yahoo.com



From Louis Gruntz, Jr., 712/TK Bn: "I have sad news. My mother, **Audry's** long battle with diabetes ended in renal failure **April 20**. She is now reunited with my Dad. She & Dad enjoyed many good times with all of you at various reunions over the years. I believe those were some of the best times of her life."



REUNION ATTENDEES!



If you are **NOT** a first time attendee... **Remember to bring any red T/O lanyards you have at home!!**



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

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



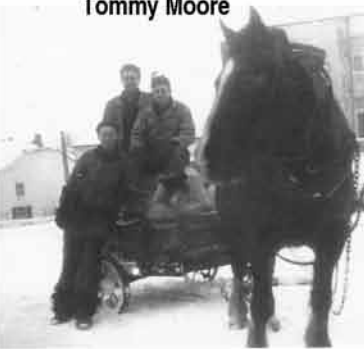
Waters, John Dewitt, 358/H 3rd Bn - "I joined the army at the age of 18 in March, 1943 and was discharged in October, 1945. I landed June 7, 1944 at Utah Beach, the Nazi occupied coast of France. From there, I served in battles under General Patton in Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes, and Central Europe. I remember Sergeant Hill as my Staff Sergeant and Sergeant Strickland as my Tech Sergeant. I was the gunner of 81 mortar with CO H, 358th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Battalion. I still remember the hedgerows, the river crossings, the cold wet snow, and the Battle of the Bulge. I hated the river crossings - especially the Moselle River. The engineers could not keep a bridge in due to the Germans busted the dam. Belgium saw the coldest weather. It snowed for 2 weeks, and our planes could not fly. When the weather broke, the sky was full of bombers. I was in the hospital for 3 weeks with pneumonia, and I lost my hearing in one ear and most of it in the other ear. When I got back to my outfit, they told me I was promoted to Squad Leader, and THE WAR WAS OVER! I had enough points to get out, so I came back to the U.S. with another company as Staff Sergeant. It was Company C, 704th Tank Destroyer Battalion. I received a Good Conduct Medal GO #6; an EAMET Campaign Medal with 5 Bronze Service Stars with 1 Arrowhead. I have included with this letter a list of the guys in my Company H, 358th Regt., 90th Division and also a list of the guys in our CO H upon returning. This list was given to me by Harrison Ward who lives in NC. This list shows KIA, wounded, captured. My name was not on this list - was added at the bottom as *'not present when picture was taken'*. This was due to my coming home with a different company. I have also included pictures of me and other men that served beside me. Names are on the back of these pictures. Their names are: Kermit Bowmaster, Junior Combs, William Pope, Wayne Maxheimer, and Tommy Moore. There are several faces that I no longer remember. I am now 88 years old and will be 89 in August. My wife passed away April, 2010. We had the privilege of attending the dedication of the WW II Memorial in Washington, D.C., but I have never been able to attend the 90th Reunions. I enjoy reading the articles in the 90th Association booklet, and I am including my dues. I hope to read my article and see my pictures some day. I sent an article and pictures about 4 years ago and nothing was ever published. John Dewitt Waters: [Ed.: My sincere apologies to you, John, for not printing your information from before. My excellent...but SHORT...memory gives me no recollection of any information you sent, so I don't know if I was overloaded with info to print or exactly what happened. BUT....HERE IT ALL IS NOW!]



John Dewitt Waters



Tommy Moore



Kermit Bowmaster ? standing;
John Dewitt Waters, front
sitting; back sitting, ?

far left standing: Edmenson ?;
Midle standing: John Dewitt
Waters; far right standing: ?
kneeling: Tom Stinson ?



John Dewitt Waters - Belgium



Left: ? Right: John Dewitt Waters



L. - R.: William Pope; Wayne Maxheimer;
?; John Dewitt Waters

Front left: Kermit
Bowmaster ?; front
middle: Combs ?;
front right: John
Dewitt Waters;
Back middle: ?





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



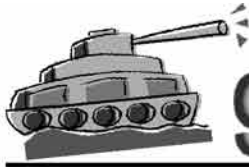
Ed.: The following Veteran's story was sent in to be published in the Post Reunion newsletter, but it was too lengthy to be included. The story is written by the great nephew, based on his interviews with the since deceased veteran - his death notice was in the Post Reunion newsletter: Orville Cole, 359th

Greg Thompson: "I interviewed my great uncle, ORVILLE COLE, on my mother's side of the family, about his personal experience as an infantryman in World War II. Through my Grandma Virginia, we arranged to meet at his house on Christmas Eve as soon as my family arrived in town to visit my Grandma. However, when we got to Grandma's house, we found out that he was in the hospital being treated for pneumonia. His wife, Frances, told me that he still wanted to talk with me and that I should come and visit him in the hospital. When I got to his hospital room, he was lying in bed receiving oxygen & IV fluids and looking at an old book. When he realized I was there, he smiled and said he was glad I came - and he struggled to sit up on the edge of the bed so that he could share the book with me as we talked. I am going to tell his story as best as I can remember it." {Ed.: A couple of corrections were made.}

A World War II Infantryman's Personal Story - ORVILLE COLE:

"Orville was drafted on April 3, 1942 and returned home in October, 1945. He was first sent to Camp Barkeley in Texas for training until early 1943. He originally was a member of the 45th Infantry, but he was one of those soldiers that were reorganized into the 90th Infantry Division. This Division was made up of soldiers primarily from Texas and Oklahoma. [sic: info was corrected] During their training time they did maneuvers two times in Louisiana and one time in the desert of California. From their California location, they were sent to Fort Dix near Trenton, New Jersey. Here they waited for their orders to be shipped overseas. Once in Liverpool, England, they went by train to Wales in April or May. While they were in England and Wales, they didn't know what was happening or where they were being sent. It was all a big secret. Finally on June 1, they started moving. They were on the move on the 2nd and 3rd. On June 5th, they loaded into boats to go across the English Channel. Part of his regiment went in on D-Day to Omaha Beach. His regiment went in on the second day on Utah Beach. They went onto Utah Beach at night. They could see dead bodies floating in the water around them. They bivouacked their way through the hedgerows. At 6 a.m., in the light of day, they started walking to the front lines. They found Germans hiding in the hedgerows. The first day while fighting in the hedge rows, they didn't get very far before two of their officers were killed. He didn't know why the Lord was good to him even though he was not being a very good Christian. He and his sergeant and another soldier from his platoon got lost from their company and hooked up with another company, B Company. They had taught them during their training that if they got lost to stay with whatever company they found, to not try and find their own company. They might be killed trying to find their assigned company. All of the other men in his company were killed that day. - When he was not found with the rest of his company, he was listed as missing in action. He knew his mother would not worry because he had sent her a note before they started attacking the hedgerows to let her know that he was alive. He stayed with the B Company. On June 11, 1943, he was walking through a ditch that was filled with wires and booby traps. Somehow the soldier in front of him tripped a wire, a grenade exploded, and Orville went flying. He went so high that he could see all the Germans hiding ahead of them. When he landed, he landed flat with his rifle in front of him and his two grenades at his side. He never lost consciousness, but he did hurt his 'back end' with

the blast. He remembers trying to stand. When he found out he could stand, he took off running. He asked the first guy he met to put a bandage and sulfur on him. [Every infantryman carried a bandage and some sulfur to treat wounds in the field.] The first guy passed out when he looked at his wound. A sergeant from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, came over and patched him up. He got up and started walking again as quick as he could go, over the rough ground. Some medics came by in a jeep and stopped and told him he was too hurt to walk, so they put him on a stretcher. He remembers them asking him if he thought he could hold onto the front of the jeep as they placed the stretcher on the fender and took off in a big hurry for cover. He ended up in a staging area and then moved to an EVAC hospital. From there, his wounds were dressed, and he was taken to England to recover. From June 13 until October 15, he recuperated from his wounds. On October 20, he rejoined his Division in the field. -- When he caught up with his regiment, they had just crossed the Moselle River into Alsace Lorraine. Here at the flooded river, they met Germans hiding in the fox holes. When it stopped raining, they saw a lot of Germans. He said they had quite a battle. The second day, they had new officers because the ones from the day before had been killed in battle. When they went to cross the river, the new Lieutenant was going to shoot a rifle grenade into a house. He missed the window and hit the house. Shrapnel flew everywhere. Orville got a piece of shrapnel in his leg, but he kept going. Because he was injured, he became a medic. They lost many men that day, but they took the town. From there, they moved on. They were marching for several days until they came to the city of Dillingen. They took the city and had a big battle. In the city, they found a packing house. Here they found a ham, and they had a really good meal. He cooked for the whole group. But all too soon, they were finding many more Germans. - Now was the Battle of the Bulge. They were told to surrender, but they didn't. Then they were told to build a swinging bridge over the Moselle River. They were wearing full packs and carrying their rifles. When they crossed over the swinging bridge, they all had to keep time and step with the swing of the bridge so that no one would fall. When they got over the bridge, they did not stop. They just loaded on up, kept moving, and went to the front line. From there, they went into Belgium by going through Luxembourg. -- The journey to liberate Belgium was very dangerous. When they got to Luxembourg, the Germans had the towns well fortified with tanks. The Americans would move forward and come into the towns at night. One of the houses [con't. next page]



SPECIAL SEGMENT

90TH SOLDIER'S STORY...3



Orville Cole story [con't.] - they went into had quite a few Germans. They captured all of them. In most of the houses, the families had their cattle right in the house with them. Once they were watching a house that had a hay stack sitting beside it. They had watched it all day. Then for a split second at the end of the day when the sun was setting, they saw a reflection against the side of the house. One of the Americans decided to fire his machine gun into the haystack, and they killed the 15 German soldiers that were hiding there. Those Germans were probably waiting for darkness to kill the Americans. In another Luxembourg town, they saw a tank sticking out of a window. When Orville noticed the tank, the gunner had already fired at him. Orville heard a noise, turned his head toward the noise, a bullet zipped past his head, bounced off a stove pipe, and grazed his back. A medic pulled the bullet out of his skin with a knife and put a band aid on it. He kept fighting. They blew up the tank and liberated the village. The people came up from the basement and whooped and hollered at them. They were very happy. -- The soldiers kept walking. It was dead of winter. They walked over the Rhine River, and when they got over the river, they saw a jet flier. He was flying so low you could see the pilot. They did that so that they didn't get detected. On their march, they kept cleaning up the small villages of their tanks. They they came to the pill boxes. These dam things were made of concrete and were about two feet thick with slots where the soldiers looked out. They were left over from World War I. The pill boxes only had slits on the one side and a steel door on the other. They overlooked a ravine. Across the ravine was a prisoner of war camp where they were making air craft. What Orville and some of the other men would do is sneak up and slip a charge in front of the steel door and blow the door off. These charges were dangerous, but without a stick, you could use the match to heat your coffee. Once the door was off, you could take the pillbox. Often, there was a lot of ammunition inside the pillbox. -- Next, they went into the Dragon's Teeth. These were also made in World War I. They were 6 - 8 feet high and 6 - 8 feet across. The tanks could not get across them. So they just drove around them. Surprisingly, they met with little resistance there, though all along the way there was a lot of fighting. Most of the time they had walked, but now sometimes they were able to ride on the tops of the tanks. -- When they got into Czechoslovakia, they got to rest a little bit, but they were still fighting. Roosevelt had made a deal with Russia that the U.S. wouldn't take Berlin. So Roosevelt sent his soldiers to sit there and wait for Russia to go to Berlin. His Infantry division made their headquarters in Prague. His Regiment stayed in a small village in rural Czechoslovakia for a few days, waiting for the war to end. While they were there, they would take jeeps out into the countryside to see if they could find any Germans that were still out there. Right before the war was over; they found their last bunch of Germans. They were 15 or 16 year old boys, some unarmed, that were hiding in a barn. They were shaking so hard they came out with their hands up, saying '*Don't shoot!*' He said they referred to this kind of

German soldier as 'cannon fodder'. -- My great Uncle Orville said that going to war changed him. He was a green 22-23 year old man from an Iowa farm that had always been around many caring family members. When he approached Utah Beach that night and saw all the dead bodies floating in the water, he knew his world was going to change. He felt he got so nothing bothered him - that he got so hard to everything, but that was the way the army wanted you to be - numb to most feelings. As you swept through the countryside, you '*didn't spare any horses*'. -- Some other feelings he shared was that he was proud to serve under General Patton. Patton was in charge of the Third Army, and he had a mind-set that commanded '*follow me!*'. Patton also told them, '*don't worry about the rifles, get the tanks, now let's go!*', and he would move to the front of the line with the soldiers. 'You just don't find a better commander than that', Orville commented. Most of Orville's officers had been killed during the march, so most of the time his group was led by an Air Force paratrooper that had landed near them one day in battle. - One of the most dangerous tasks for the infantry was to make bridges. This put them out in the open and very vulnerable. Anti-aircraft guns would try to protect them as they worked quickly to make the bridges. Most of the time, they would blow up the bridges after they crossed them because it took too much time to tear them down, and they didn't want to leave them for the enemy. The engineers got to be very resourceful at finding the supplies to make bridges or to make what they had into a bridge. -- He also remembers Christmas Day, 1944. He had dug a foxhole about 2 feet deep & 7 feet long. He lay down on top of his gun. At daybreak, when he got up, his gun was frozen to the ground. His clothes were stiff with ice, but he didn't hesitate. He just picked up his gun and took off. If he had hesitated, he would have been dead. Many soldiers got trench foot, and some of them had their toes just fall right off. The saying among the men was to throw away your mess kit and get more socks. You could always eat with your hands, but it was hard to walk without your toes. He also told about how when a screaming eagle came over, the noise could give you a concussion. If you opened your mouth, you would live, but if you left your mouth closed and the eagle was too close, you would die. -- Orville also reflected on having crossed the Moselle 3 times. He said the Germans had blown up everything they could, especially the last days of the war. The town of Frankfurt, Germany, was completely destroyed. He would sometimes notice how beautiful the countryside was with the valleys and mountainsides. But it was something you didn't dare think about very often or you might die from daydreaming. Even after the war officially ended, they had to be very careful. The Germans often would set up guns in the front of churches [camouflaged], and the snipers would shoot at them. This was especially true in Luxembourg and Czechoslovakia. -- On his way back to the United States, he rode first on a tanker; then the SS John Erickson that had been captured by the Germans; and finally on a Norwegian cruise ship designed to hold 1,000 people [con't. next page]



SPECIAL SEGMENT 90TH SOLDIER'S STORY...4

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

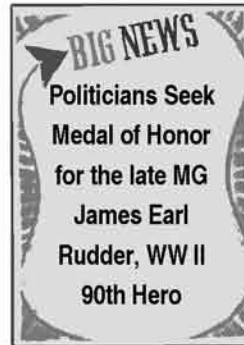


Orville Cole story [cont.] -[capacity], but there were 5000 men on the ship. Many of the men were sick as there were no real bathrooms or fresh air for most of them. On the way into the U.S., they stopped in Newfoundland because in a storm, the ship had broken, and the midshipmen had tied it together with rope to get it into port. -- In Newfoundland, they were greeted by the Red Cross. This made him and several other men around him very uneasy. The reason was because before a battle, there really wasn't any chaplain around, but the Red Cross would appear. They would bring doughnuts, give you all the cigarettes you wanted, or sometimes bring you bad news from home. Sometimes they would offer a prayer for safety in battle. So seeing the Red Cross that close to home made them very uneasy, but this time there was no big battle pending or bad news. **[NOTE ADDED BY ORVILLE'S WIDOW, FRANCES: "I'm not sure about the correct order of events here. Maybe he rode on 2 ships back from overseas because of the first ship breaking apart. But what I think is that Orville was on the Norwegian cruise ship going OVER to England. Frances Cole"]** -- When he got back to the U.S., he was discharged out of Illinois, and he went right back to the farm. It made him mad to see people striking for more money instead of being grateful for what they had and that they had not been sent to Europe. From the Veterans Administration, he got a small disability payment for his injuries. Eventually, he was awarded several ribbons for bravery; a Silver Star; 2 Bronze Stars; and a Purple Heart. All in all, he said that in his Division, the 90th Infantry Division, *3889 lost their lives in battle [KIA; died of wounds; died of injuries]; casualties 6/6/44 - 5/9/45: total men treated by all medical units was 25,988; Missing In Action: 2660. **[* editor corrected the numbers given by Orville Cole - taken from the book, 'History of the 90th Division in World War II']** He felt for some reason, the Lord let him return to his family, and he has never forgotten that choice." - as told to his great nephew, Greg Thompson



90th Sustainment Brigade Change of Command

On Sunday, March 4th at nine o'clock in the morning, there was a Change of Command Ceremony in *Freedom Hall Gymnasium* at Camp Joseph T. Robinson, North Little Rock, AR. Colonel Peter W. Malik retired, and Colonel David M. Hammons was given Command of the 90th Sustainment Brigade. MG [R] James Ron Sholar was the official representative of the 90th Division Association at the ceremony. There will be an up-date of the activities of the Sustainment Brigade at our 94th Reunion August 2-5 in Fort Worth, TX



James Earl Rudder, as a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army, led a Ranger unit ashore on D-Day. The Rangers had to climb tall cliffs to disable German artillery.



MG James Earl Rudder, shown here with Lyndon B. Johnson, is widely credited with Texas A&M's transformation into the modern university it is today. Many admirers believe his military exploits during World War II make him deserving of the Medal of Honor. An initial push for the honor failed.



Excerpts from article by Stewart Powell: "After WW II, MG Rudder Commanded the 90th Infantry Reserves in TX. He also served as mayor of Brady, TX and Texas land commissioner. He has long been honored for transforming Texas A & M from an all-male military-oriented institution of 7,000 in the late 1950s into a desegregated, co-educational, world-renowned university system of more than 50,000. Rudder's monument stands on the Texas A&M campus, as does the 11 story Rudder Tower.

"The D-Day exploits of the 34 year old Army Lieutenant Colonel earned the 1932 A&M graduate the **Distinguished Service Cross**, second only to the Medal of Honor for battlefield valor. The decoration honored Rudder's steely leadership under fire leading 225 commandos up the German-held precipice in 1944 to seize a promontory, thought to shelter six 155mm howitzers capable of firing shells 14 miles along the landing beaches packed with allied troops. Immense hurdles loom for elevating Rudder's World War II status, including partisan politics, potential resistance by past recipients of the Medal of Honor, and perennial bureaucratic pitfalls that can sidetrack coveted awards for valor. The Medal of Honor has already been awarded to 464 GIs for service during WW II - including 266 posthumously. This campaign is being led by politicians who are A&M graduates. ...Rudder died from a cerebral hemorrhage in 1970 while serving as President of the Texas A & M University System, and prominent graduates are joining forces to persuade the Army and ultimately the President of the U.S. to award Rudder the Medal of Honor." They face a daunting task as "not a single Ranger received the Medal of Honor during that war - they were just expected to do the extraordinary." [Ed.: **NOTE: This information was sent to us by Col [R] O. Findley Brewster [ARCOM].** Thank you, Findley! **Jim Reid has a nephew, Ted License, who is a graduate of Texas A&M**]

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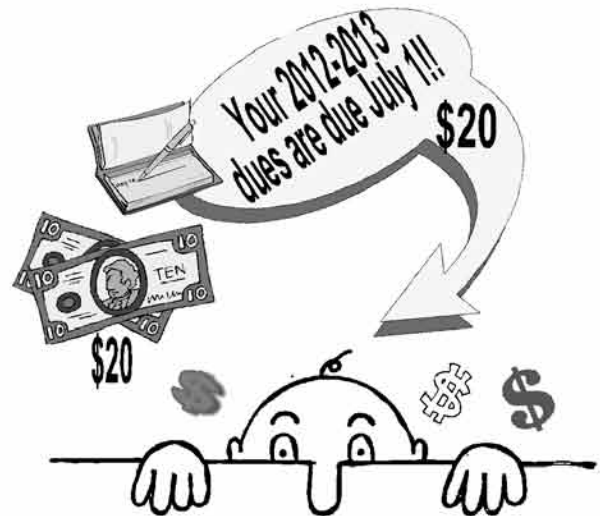
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