



# Santa Fe Express

## "DIVISIONNAIRE"



The 35th Divisionnaire USPS 700-160

35th INFANTRY DIVISION  
www.35thInfDivAssoc.com

JANUARY - FEBRUARY - MARCH 2017

NUMBER ONE

# 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## of the 35th Infantry Division

7-10 September

SHERATON KANSAS CITY HOTEL AT CROWN CENTER  
2345 MCGEE STREET, KANSAS CITY, MO 64108

Located in the Crossroads District, connected to the Crown Center Shops and a short stroll from Union Station and Liberty Memorial. We're just minutes from the Power and Light and Downtown business districts. With 85 acres of shops, restaurants and attractions just outside our door, we're one of the most convenient hotels for discovering the best of Kansas City.



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In addition to what you'll find within our complex, the rest of the [Crown Center District](#) offers even more to see and do, including [Union Station](#), the [National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial](#), and [The Money Museum](#) at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. There's something here for the whole family!



This 2nd edition of the Santa Fe Express this year is courtesy of the  
**Prairie Band  
Potawatomi Nation**

The 35th Division Association is grateful for their generosity.

## President's Message

Greetings members, family, and friends.

I hope all are well and had a great holiday season. We have a great year in front of us with many major events and milestones to recognize. For both the association and the 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, who have been called upon to write another chapter in their long history. And for a fact, this year,...although still new...has been very very interesting for our nation as a whole.

As the Division begins its preparation and train-up for deployment, the leadership of the 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division has been very proactive in enhancing its relationship with the association. They have in-



BG Bob Windham

invited us to participate in a number of events, a community town hall broadcast live on facebook, and I will be speaking to the soldiers and their family members at a resiliency event in Kansas City in February. It will be a great opportunity to enlighten many to our association, what it does, what it represents, and who it serves. I am really encouraged by the partnership and collaboration we currently have with the Division.

Our 100<sup>th</sup> celebration and reunion approaches and will be here before you know it. COL(Ret) Bloomquist has been working the lodging and logistics piece hard, and he and I have had numerous discussions with the staff at the National WWI museum. Final details not yet set and the discussion/negotiation continue. Once locked in, and it should be soon, we will share with you and I believe it will be a good plan, enjoyable, memorable, and appropriate for the occasion. ...

I look forward to announcing the details soon, to celebrating the culmination of 100 years of history making while at the same time marking the start of the next 100 years of history and association. As always, a big thank you to our volunteers and our donors-we couldn't do any of this without you. Mark your calendars, 7 to 10 September, 2017, Kansas City, Missouri, I look forward to seeing you there!

BG (Ret) Bob Windham

## 35th Division deploying to Persian Gulf

Public Affairs Office

The 35th Infantry Division Headquarters, located in Leavenworth, Kansas, has received notification for a deployment to the Persian Gulf and Levant regions. Approximately 500 Soldiers from both the Kansas and Missouri National Guard will be activated in support of Operation Spartan Shield beginning in mid-2017 to enhance ongoing theatre security operations.

"Our nation has, once again, called upon the Soldiers of the 35th Infantry Division to take on a demanding task to support the national security goals of the United States," said Maj. Gen. Victor J. Braden, commander, 35th Infantry Division. "As Americans, we relish the challenge and, through su-

perb training, we will thrive."

Elements of the 35th Infantry Division deployed in 2003, 2007, 2013 and 2014 to support peacekeeping operations in Bosnia and Kosovo. This is the first time since 1944 the entire division headquarters has been activated.

"This is a calling that requires intensive preparation, specialized education, and continuous learning and development of skills," said Braden. "It will require the support of our families, our communities and our employers to ensure our mission's success."

The 35th Infantry Division is one of 18 divisions in the Army and one of eight divisions in the Army National Guard.



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- Division Association**  
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**Topeka, KS 66605**  
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*Send all photos, stories, obituaries, etc. for the Divisionnaire to: 35th Division Association, PO Box 5004, Topeka, KS 66605*

## From the Executive Secretary, COL (Ret) Robert Bloomquist

Hello Fellow Patriots, I want to update you with where we are with membership, the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion planning and the 137<sup>th</sup>/635<sup>th</sup> Scholarship fund. I ask you to think about how you can help with either increasing memberships or with the conference.

**Membership:** We have mailed over 560 of the President’s letter and membership/donation forms. We ask that you respond to this letter even if you do not wish to donate (if a life member), or wish to no longer be a member. This helps us keep our database current. You can help with membership by spreading the word about the organization. Once you are finished reading the Santa Fe paper, take it to the local Veterans organization, VA hospital, museums or elsewhere people may be interested. The leadership of the 35<sup>th</sup> Division has helped us by increasing our numbers with new members joining and as a partner in our missions that overlap (IE, preserving our history and opening communications to all those interested in the 35<sup>th</sup>.)

**Conference:** We are negotiating the best deal we can get to hold the reunion in the Crown Center location at Kansas City. This is a marvelous part of the city that is normally very expensive. As of the time of this writing, we have a \$99 a night rate approved which is almost unheard of in the area. Since this is the 100<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary, it must be special; however, to be special, we need a lot of help to publicize, organize and run the event. In addition to our usual robust conference events as the Hall of Fame, memorial service and business meetings, other special affairs at the 35<sup>th</sup> Division Museum in Topeka and the WW I Museum next to the hotel are planned. Much of the assistance is possible from a long distance, so please don’t feel you can’t help in you are not in the local area.

We can use help in overall publicity or in your particular geographic area of influence. Spreading the word in local papers in the spring and summer is needed. Another objective is to have the Mayors of Topeka and Kansas City issue a proclamation and hopefully even the Governors of Kansas and Missouri.

The Formal Dinner with all its special proceedings is also very resource intensive. Finding entertainment for the dinner, protocol of seating, awards and programs require a lot of effort and time.

**137<sup>th</sup>/635<sup>th</sup> Regimental Scholarship:** I was honored years ago to accept an invitation to Chair the Scholarship Program. I am happy to say that in the last six months, several generous donors and two fund raising events by the leadership of the 2-137<sup>th</sup> has raised over \$2000. On behalf of the soldiers of these regiments, I thank General Jack Strukel Jr and his wife Janet Gayle for the \$1,000 donation recently received. The 137<sup>th</sup> has a long history with the 35<sup>th</sup> Division and the 635<sup>th</sup> Armor was in the 35<sup>th</sup> Division assigned to the 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade. General Strukel led the initiative to start this educational scholarship years ago and since then, this program helped many very talented students associated with this group with educational expenses.

If you are interested in donating to this scholarship, you may contribute via the web site, [www.topekacommunityfoundation.org](http://www.topekacommunityfoundation.org) or mail to Topeka Community Foundation, ATTN: 635th/137th Scholarship, 5431 SW 29th Street, Suite 300, Topeka, KS 66614-4486. Contributions are income tax deductible and easy to accomplish.

**Executive Council**  
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CHANGE OF ADDRESS  
Send all correspondence relative to change of address to Secretary, 35th Division Association, P.O. Box 5004, Topeka, KS 66605. Be sure to include old and new address (with new ZIP number) and 35th Div. unit.  
NOTICE  
Membership dues for the 35th Division Association are \$20.00 per year. This includes your yearly subscription to the 35th Divisionnaire paper which is published quarterly.  
Make checks payable to the 35th Division Association and mail to Secretary, 35th Division Association, P.O. 5004, Topeka, Kansas 66605.

## Combat Medic World War II

The Editor  
The Santa Fe Express  
Sir:  
Recently, I received a small clipping about experiences with American troops in World War II. It made me think that we know about The 35th’s successes in battle, but little has been written about our experiences before we landed on Omaha Beach. I enclose some parts of chapters 4 and 5 in my book COMBAT/MEDIC WORLD WAR II.  
Sincerely,  
John A. Kerner, M.D.  
35th Division Hall of Fame 2012

**From the Editor,**  
John Kerner, M.D. of San Francisco, CA., and a prestigious member of the 35<sup>th</sup> Division Hall of Fame 2012, has submitted excerpts from his book, Combat Medic World War II. Excerpts from Chapters 4 and 5 are included here:

**Excerpts:**  
Our ship was the H.B. Alexander, a large vessel seized from Germany during World War I and into which we were jammed like sardines. With five other officers, I was assigned to a stateroom designed to accommodate two. We felt lucky that we had an outside room, though the portholes had to be closed at night. The enlisted men were much more

### Memories Of D-Day

Editor — Forty years ago the Americans came over to England. They came in long truck convoys through our city roads, our village streets and our leafy country lanes. The Yanks are coming for D-Day. I was one of those lousy limey kids with the perpetual cry "Got any gum, chum?" The trucks would sometimes stop in our road and the guys would eat their canned meat and beans heated up under the bonnets of the trucks. We kids thought you guys were great, the generous way you dished out gum and sweets (sorry, candy) to us, we had very little sweets or chocolate in England during the war. Sometimes the convoys didn't stop and we waved as you sped on your way — even then, when you couldn't stop you threw gum and chocolate for us from your fast moving trucks. You were nice guys, friendly guys and even as kids of 10 years old we knew many would not be coming back. My late mother and father thought the world of Americans and America, and now my wife and I still do. If any veterans wish to exchange greetings I will be pleased to hear from you. Forty years on after D-Day I still remember and send greetings, good wishes and grateful thanks. GERALD C. GARMAN 526 Penn Road Wolverhampton West Midlands WV4 4 HU, England

See Combat Medic on page 3.

## Thanks to Contributors

Thanks to the many submitted articles to the Santa Fe “Divisionnaire”: This is history and every experience shared in this publication is kept at the 35<sup>th</sup> Division Museum Library. Years from now, people will research these documents and be amazed at what was accomplished by the 35<sup>th</sup> Division and our great Veterans contributions to society. Please keep the stories coming. IN addition to WW I and WW II History, stories of the 35<sup>th</sup> Division’s recent contribution to the War on Terror, response to natural disasters and community involvement are needed.

## Next Edition

Please watch for the next edition approximately 12 May 2017. Let us know if you don’t receive it. If you have any suggestions or feedback of any kind, send a note to the Association address or e-mail the COL (RET) Robert Bloomquist at [bbloom843@aol.com](mailto:bbloom843@aol.com).

## Planning Committee of the 100<sup>th</sup> Reunion of the 35<sup>th</sup> Division

BG Windham has expressed his vision and desire for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 35<sup>th</sup> Division in 2017 to be as grand as the milestone the Division has reached. If you are interested in the planning of this Reunion, we can use the help. Much of the success of the last reunion was due to feedback, ideas, and energy from members outside the geographical area.

### Deadline for the Next Issue of the Santa Fe Express is 10 April 2017

Please send your favorite reunion stories and pictures to share.



# The Saga of Company A

**Foreword – The following poem was written for the 44<sup>th</sup> Reunion of Company A, 137<sup>th</sup> Infantry, by Harry Straley, and has been submitted by the family of CSM Gale Beck, Company A historian, who passed away four years ago.**

Come all you swains from the Kansas plains.  
Now gather round the table.  
If you have the time, I'll tell you in rhyme  
Of the war and Company Able.

On a day in May we slipped away  
With all that we could carry.  
When the day was gone, we were safely on  
The good ship Thomas Barry.

We swayed like drunks in those four-high bunks,  
But we stayed upon the ball, though,  
Commodores were rare when we got male de mer  
And the GI's hit us, also.

Like a silent ghost around Ireland's coast,  
It seemed we'd go on forever.  
Then we headed south till we reached the mouth  
Of Shakespeare's famous river.

We drank some toasts with our English hosts  
Along the coast of Cornwall.  
Then we got our orders to leave British borders  
And attack on Hitler's west wall.

In Normandy's orchards and hedgerows,  
We got our baptism of fire.  
But we pushed through the ruins of St. Lo  
And on to Torgny sur Vire.

Some dreadful days were behind us  
When we left the Normandy region.  
And we "busted our butts for old Blood and Guts"  
When we joined with Patton's legion.

The convoys were seemingly endless.  
Day and night through sunshine or rain  
We took our chances through Avranches  
To the bloody hills of Mortain.

We reached Orleans on a Saturday  
And dug our foxholes in a park.  
Took a terrible shelling on Sunday  
In this birthplace of Joan of Arc.

We continued to drive to the eastward  
Through Troyes, Chartres, and Le Mans.  
There was nothing to stop our drive forward  
To Montargis and Nancy from Sans.

Our supplies were reduced, I remember,  
And things were not going so well  
On that moonlit night in September,  
When we crossed the chilly Moselle.

East of Nancy we dug in and waited  
For supplies we seemed never to get  
And when early winter fell on us  
We were miserable, muddy, and wet.

Our progress was measured and painful.  
It seemed only yards at a time,  
Through mud and rain we crossed Lorraine  
And took the city of Saareguemines.

We crossed the Saar into Deutschland.  
Then, for reasons no one would divulge,  
They headed us north into Belgium  
To the battle now known as "The Bulge."

When "The Bulge" was finally ended  
And Hitler's last gamble had failed,  
And the holes in our lines had been mended,  
We licked our wounds though we had prevailed.

Our service was over with Patton  
But our future seemed no more secure,  
When we crossed the Rhine River with Simpson  
And joined the attack on the Ruhr.

Through Dortmund, Gladbeck, Recklinghausen,  
We smelled the lilacs of spring.

To Emscher, Heinsburg, Geisenkirchen  
We couldn't be stopped by a thing.

And when we came down into Hamelin town,  
We were just as polite as could be, sir.  
We all tipped our hats to the thousands of rats  
The Pied Piper drowned in the Weiser.

We'd learned never to take the foe lightly,  
But we knew that we had them for sure,  
When a whole German Army surrendered  
As they double-enveloped the Ruhr.

On the Elbe, VE Day was quiet.  
It seemed that our job there was done.  
Our thoughts turned again to the homeland,  
The world knew our war had been won.

Then we went south on occupation.  
There was plenty of beer, schnapps, and wine.  
We found rest and recuperation  
While we kept the "Watch on the Rhine."

We had no reason in Rhineland to tarry,  
When they called us to Brussels to snatch  
A peep at "Give 'em Hell Harry,"  
Who once wore the Thirty-Fifth patch.

At Camp Lucky Strike we processed for home.  
Our spirits were never higher  
From Le Havre we started to cross the foam.  
Each day the States became nigher.

It must have been about sundown  
When we glimpsed the American shore,  
And we walked down the gangplank in "Beantown,"  
Thank God we were stateside once more.

Then we scattered like leaves in October,  
When seized by the wind and the rain.  
Our days in the Army were over,  
And we were civilians again.

Then the forties and fifties sped by us.  
And the sixties and seventies and then,  
We looked at ourselves in the eighties  
And saw some gray-headed old men.

Yes, our May may have turned to December,  
We may be old and arthritic, and yet,  
There are some things we'll always remember,  
Though some we might like to forget.

I remember Normandy's murderous hedgerows,  
The ice-covered roads to Bastogne,  
The utter destruction of St. Lo,  
And the battle-scarred spires of Cologne.

I can still taste those ghastly C-rations,  
Near the burp-guns and eighty-eights plain,  
Smell the flowers that bloomed by the roadsides,  
Feel the dampness and mud of Lorraine.

I remember Gremecy Forest,  
The wine and the beer of Coblenz,  
The loneliness of the foxholes  
And the bone-chilling cold of Ardennes.

As memories flash back by the thousand,  
Through the mist of the past I can see  
The desolation of Deutschland,  
And the sidewalk cafes of "Paree."

And now when we happen to think of the war,  
Let us pause to utter a prayer  
For those who came back, but especially for,  
The ones we left over there.

So break out the Calvados—step up to the bar,  
Pour us a round and let's toss  
One last toast to our comrades, wherever they are,  
Who wore the Santa Fe Cross.

# Combat Medic World War II

Continued from page 2.

crowded with their bunks in tight layers. Early the next morning, we moved out, and a convoy formed around us. Our ship was the flagship and the largest in the convoy, so we were assured of some comfort. However, it also was the best target. There were thirty or forty others, including a number of freighters which also probably had troops aboard.

There were ships as far as the eye could see. In the center were transports like ours. Beyond them were freighters, and patrolling around the convoy were assorted warships most of which looked to us to be destroyers. On two occasions on our trip freighters were hit with torpedoes. We could see plumes of dark smoke, and then we could hear the crunch of depth bombs Those sights and sounds put a certain amount of fear into us, who had never been in combat. We were reminded emphatically that there was a real war going on..

The trip to England was quite long and not unpleasant. Because we were trying to avoid submarines, we did a zigzag course; so, it took us two weeks to cross the Atlantic. We went north along the coast of Ireland to Liverpool, where we landed at night.

The city had been bombed repeatedly, and there were fires burning; though they seemed under control. There was blackout, of course. We saw some British soldiers and tossed them oranges and cigarettes. They had not seen oranges in years. American cigarettes were still quite rare. They threw us English coins. It was late at night, but to our surprise, there were Red Cross girls handing out coffee and doughnuts, cigarettes gum and lifesavers. We enjoyed seeing the girls more than their gifts. It had been weeks since we had seen a girl.

Bodmin was wonderful. The railroad station was surrounded by rhododendrons My group was taken to a school house just outside of town on a hill looking down on Bodmin. We set up a temporary camp in the building. There were cots, some bathing facilities, and a mess area of sorts. There was no sign of war there, except for us.

It took a while to meet any of the local citizens, but the children tagged after us Yanks with insatiable curiosity. Theirs was equaled by mine. I was intrigued by such things as the label on our lavatory, W.C. in gold letters; the shoulder of a road was a "verge," the sign requiring a left turn said, "Deny yourself a turn to the right." The small steam engine with little noise and no smoke traveled on a roadbed flanked by great hedges of rhododendrons in full bloom, and giant rose vines grew over the fronts of old stone houses.

We spent considerable time getting our vehicles ready to land. Because of the likelihood that we would have to land in shallow water, it was necessary to make the engines waterproof and to extend the exhaust pipes vertically about six feet so that they would clear water. We also practiced endlessly getting in and out of various types of landing craft. For the most part, it was planned that we would land from LCTs (Landing Craft, Tanks), fairly large flat bottomed craft which would hold three or four vehicles with trailers.

There were also small landing craft for the infantry and aid men (Higgins Boats), also equipped with ramps which were to drop in shallow water so that the men could go ashore. These smaller craft were to be carried on the larger ships and put in the water off shore. To get into these smaller craft, the men would have to climb down the heavy rope nets on which we had practiced. This work was not easy, because both the mother ship and the small craft were moving, and the men were loaded down with equipment. We medical officers also had to practice this maneuver. There were practice beaches which were supposed to be similar to those in northern France where we were to land. This whole business of training to land under fire caused more than a little anxiety. We hoped we would not be the first to go.

The next day things began to change. Our division was reviewed by General Eisenhower, Winston Churchill, and George Patton. As they went down the ranks we were amazed to see this group of leaders. Churchill sort of slouched along, Eisenhower was neatly dressed in rather simple uniform with four stars, Patton was more elegant with jodhpurs and boots and three stars. Churchill and Eisenhower spoke to about every third man. Patton was not permitted to say a word, it seemed. (We did not know that he had been in some trouble.)

General Eisenhower came to me, and said, "Where are you from soldier?" I replied, "San Francisco, sir."

He said, "I was stationed at the Presidio there. I enjoyed the city very much. Good luck."

"Thank you, sir."

It was exciting to be addressed in this way, and I never would forget it. However, I wondered if we were to be the first wave ashore, having been honored by this top ranking group. I hoped not.

Later in the day, we practiced climbing down the side of a ship on a rope net, and loading and unloading on landing craft of various types, and reviewing our previous training. On the following day, we rechecked our equipment for, it seemed, the twentieth time.

The next day, when we heard that no gas had been used against landing troops, I took an illegal action. I unpacked some of my heavy gas decontamination equipment, and replaced it with as much liquor as I could buy in the town at the officers' mess and elsewhere. This move proved to be one of the best decisions I ever made.

# Letter to NFL Commissioner

Col Jeffrey A Powers USMC (Ret) letter to NFL Commissioner - Motto Monday September 19, 2016

“Legends and heroes do NOT wear shoulder pads. They wear body armor and carry rifles”

When I joined the VUMS I was told that it was a non-political organization and I want it to remain so. The

reason I am publishing this article in the newsletter is I feel that it is not political but all about patriotism.

I heard a jock last month say he would not honor our (lag as it is a flag of war. It is a flag of freedom. Also

now we have jocks refusing to stand and honor the flag. I will never watch a game where these jerks are

allowed to play, nor will I purchase any of the sponsors products. (See next page)

We have seen too many of our veterans come home draped in this flag to even think about dishonoring it!!

USMC Retired Colonel Jeffrey A. Powers said it best in his letter to Football Commissioner Roger Goodell so

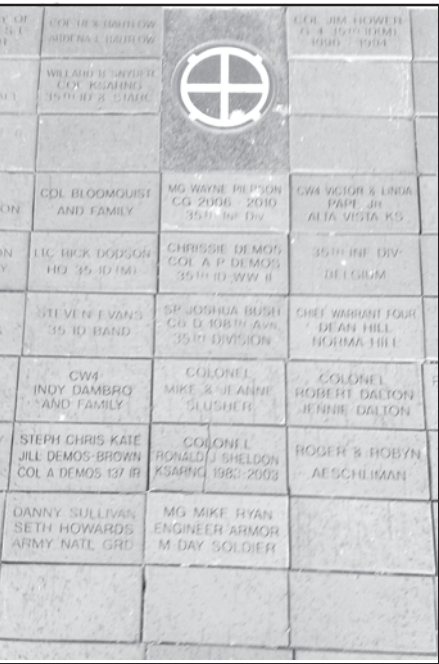
I’m passing it one to you. – Commissioner:

I’ve been a season pass holder at Yankee Stadium, Yale Bowl and Giants Stadium.

I missed the ’90-’91 season because I was with a battalion of Marines in Desert Storm. Fourteen of my wonderful Marines returned home with the American Flag draped across their lifeless bodies. My last conversation with one of them, Sgt Garrett Mongrella, was about how our Giants were going to the Super Bowl. He never got to see it.

Many friends, Marines, and Special Forces Soldiers who worked with or for me through the years returned home with the American Flag draped over their coffins.

Now I watch multi-millionaire athletes who never did anything in their lives but play a game, disrespect what brave Americans fought and died for. They are essentially spitting in the faces and on the graves of real men, men who have actually done something



Support your museum and show your pride in the 35th by adding your name to the 35th Division Patio. (See order form)

for this country beside playing with a ball and believing they’re something special! They’re not! My Marines and Soldiers were!

You are complicit in this!

*You’ll fine players for large and small infractions but you lack the moral courage and respect for our nation and the fallen to put an immediate stop to this. Yes, I know, it’s their 1st Amendment right to behave in such a despicable manner. What would happen if they came out and disrespected you or the refs publicly?*

I observed a player getting a personal foul for twerking in the end zone after scoring. I guess that’s much worse than disrespecting the flag and our National Anthem. Hmmmmm, isn’t it his 1st Amendment right to express himself like an idiot in the end zone?

Why is taunting not allowed yet taunting America is OK? You fine players for wearing 9-11 commemorative shoes yet you allow scum on the sidelines to sit, kneel or pump their pathetic fist in the air. They are so deprived with their multi-million dollar contracts for playing a freaking game! You condone it all by your refusal to act. You’re just as bad and disgusting as they are. I hope Americans boycott any sponsor who supports that rabble you call the NFL. I hope they turn off the TV when any team that allowed this disrespect to occur, without consequence, on the sidelines. I applaud those who have not.

**Legends and heroes do NOT wear shoulder pads. They wear body armor and carry rifles.**

They make minimum wage and spend months and years away from their families. They don’t do it for an hour on Sunday. They do it 24/7 often with lead, not footballs, coming in their direction. They watch their brothers carted off in pieces not on a gurney to get their knee iced. They don’t even have ice! Many don’t have legs or arms.

Some wear blue and risk their lives daily on the streets of America. They wear fire helmets and go upstairs into the fire rather than down to safety. On 9-11, hundreds vanished. They are the heroes.

I hope that your high paid protesting pretty boys and you look in that mirror when you shave tomorrow and see what you really are, legends in your own minds. You need to hit the road and take those worms with you!

Time to change the channel.  
*Col Jeffrey A Powers USMC (Ret)*

Deadline for the

**Apr-May-Jun 2017**

issue of the

**Santa Fe Express**

is **April 10**

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Send your story to: Editor

35th Division Association P.O. Box 5004 Topeka,KS 66605

We will try to print it in the Divisionnaire as soon as the schedule permits.

Murray Leff E-137

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# Topeka Army veteran fought, ate, lived with South Vietnamese troops

Veteran: U.S. Senate ‘defunded’ support to South Vietnam

More than 40 years after the Vietnam War ended, veteran Bob Dalton doesn’t know whether the South Vietnamese army troops he fought with — including his best friend — survived the war.

Does he wonder what happened to them? “Absolutely,” Dalton, 73, said this week. “I have no way of knowing.” Dalton was in his 20s when he last saw infantry officers Maj. Nguyen Nhung and Lt. Nguyen Nam, the best friend.

“I don’t know what happened to my friends,” Dalton said. “I assume they were killed. I don’t know.”

Dalton, of Topeka, has read that some South Vietnamese troops were executed when the war ended in April 1975. Others were placed in “retraining camps,” which were concentration camps, and others were restricted to working in menial labor in post-war Vietnam. Still others may have moved to the United States after confinement for 15 years.

Dalton enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1968 after a friend of his from Independence Junior College was killed by an enemy Claymore mine.

“I read his obituary in the Independence (Kan.) newspaper,” Dalton said. “I said, ‘It’s time to join.’”

## Civilian to soldier

Born in Independence, Dalton graduated from Independence High School and attended the junior college for a year before he transferred to Utah State University. He graduated in 1965 with a degree in conservation and wildlife and worked at the university lab before he enlisted.

After graduating from Officers Candidate School, Lt. Dalton was a mortar platoon leader at Fort Carson, Colo., for five months. “Vietnamization” started to shift the fighting to South Vietnamese troops as American troops were withdrawn from the war.

Dalton underwent training to become an adviser to a battalion in the South Vietnamese army’s 25th division.

From 1969 to 1970, Dalton was a 25-year-old U.S. Army lieutenant who was in Combat Assistance Team 99, a four-member unit. The team commander was a major or captain and other members were a lieutenant, a sergeant and a radio-telephone operator.

“We ate what the Vietnamese ate,” Dalton said, including rat, cat, dog and cobra. “I was trained in the (Vietnamese) language.”

When he met the Vietnamese major, “I greeted him in Vietnamese. Maj. Nhung just beamed and he came to me and shook my hand,” Dalton said.

The title “adviser” was something of a misnomer because the South Vietnamese troops Dalton fought with in the 25th Division were well trained and had been fighting for 25 years. They knew what they were doing, Dalton said.

“I didn’t advise them,” Dalton said of the 4th battalion of the 46th Regiment. Rather, his job was to patrol with the South Vietnamese troops, then act as a liaison to call in American air strikes, helicopter gunships and artillery fire on enemy troops. They also ra-

died for medevac choppers to airlift out the wounded.

Dalton thought highly of the South Vietnamese troops he served with.

“They were great troops,” Dalton said. “They respected Americans.”

Lt. Nguyen Nam, his best friend, “would lead from the front,” Dalton said. “He was a gutsy combat soldier.”

Dalton recalled when he and Nam were taking a break in a village called Cho Nui.

Dalton glanced at a small 16-year-old Vietnamese fisherman walking past them, and Nam poked Dalton in the ribs, motioned to the fisherman and said, “North Vietnamese.” Nam ordered some South Vietnamese troops to retrieve the youth.

The teen fisherman turned out to be a 24-year-old North Vietnamese Army lieutenant, who was a sapper, Dalton said. The sapper was scouting the village for a potential attack.

What tipped off Nam?

Nam noticed the sapper had a military haircut, and Nam hadn’t seen him in the village before, Dalton said.

## Cambodia

American troops invaded neighboring Cambodia in May 1970, but Dalton’s unit and some long-range reconnaissance units were in Cambodia the month before. American B-52s bombed the area.

“Those B-52s were hell on the enemy,” Dalton said. “They would leave a crater 30 feet deep and about 30 feet wide.”

## The Seawolves

“The baddest guys out there were the (U.S.) Navy Seawolves,” Dalton said, referring to the gunships armed with 50-caliber machine guns and rockets packed with flechettes, tiny darts.

“They would monitor our radio waves,” then come to our aid, Dalton said. “They were the bravest. They were always there: ‘We’re about three minutes out and we’re coming in.’ They saved our bacon so many times.”

## Critters

Dalton has some vivid memories of animals in Vietnam. Before his tour, he had studied animals in Vietnam, but he missed the saltwater crocodile. In the field, he was taking a brief bath in a water-filled shell hole.

“I put my rifle up, jumped in and as soon as I got in there with my bar of soap, (the crocodile) popped up and was looking right at me,” Dalton said. “It was not a big one, but it scared the hell out of both of us. I did not know it was there.” Dalton leaped from the shell hole and lobbed a grenade in the water, but the crocodile had already fled.

In troop bunkers, soldiers kept a Burmese python, a constrictor, to eat the rats infesting the quarters. Dalton recalls waking to find a cobra — a venomous snake — curled next to him to stay warm.

“It was spooning with me,” Dalton said. “We ate the cobra for breakfast the next day.”

## The photographs

Dalton carried a 35mm camera in a canteen pouch to take photographs.

In one, he is in a helicopter which is firing machine guns at enemy ground troops. In the upper half of the photo, water spouts are

kicking up from machine gun rounds fired into a small stream about 75 feet below the chopper.

Only much later, Dalton noticed an enemy soldier hiding under the clear water in the photo’s foreground.

Another photo shows three enemy Viet Cong soldiers in custody, two of them women and one wounded man.

The male soldier had been rigging a decades-old World War II-era grenade as a bobby trap when it exploded, blowing off one hand, shredding fingers on the other hand and striking an upper leg.

Dalton aided the wounded soldier.

During the war, Dalton received the Bronze Star, the Air Medal for more than 20 combat insertions, the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Bronze Star. Why did he receive the Cross of Gallantry?

Dalton and Nam “were facing a machine gun, and we took it out,” Dalton said simply.

## After the fall

The Vietnam War ended in April 1975 when the North Vietnamese army overran South Vietnam.

Dalton said South Vietnam was betrayed when the United States broke the Paris treaty and didn’t provide support and supplies to the South Vietnamese military to continue

fighting as promised.

In short, the U.S. Senate “defunded” the war, Dalton said.

“We lost the war we never lost (before),” Dalton said. “We lost it politically, not in arms. If you don’t plan to be victorious, don’t get into it.”

The victors bull-dozed the South Vietnamese soldier cemeteries, which was devastating, Dalton said. In the predominantly Buddhist South Vietnam, a big emphasis is placed on ancestors, Dalton said.

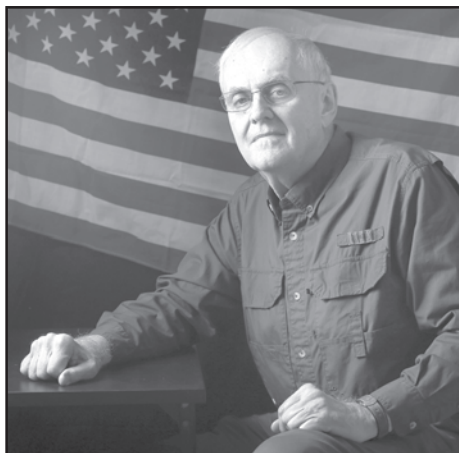
“The North Vietnamese bulldozed all the soldiers’ cemeteries. It was (done) to destroy their ancestors,” Dalton said.

## The return home

After returning from Vietnam and three years in the army, Dalton joined the National Guard in 1973 and retired as a colonel in 1999 with 29 years in the service. He was the Army National Guard chief of staff for Gen. Jim Rueger in the Kansas National Guard and was inducted into the Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame at Fort Benning, Ga.

**Veteran recommends books on Vietnam War**

“ARVN: Life and Death in the South Vietnamese Army,” by Robert K. Brigham  
“Abandoning Vietnam: How America Left and South Vietnam Lost Its War,” by James H. Willbanks



**Bob Dalton was an American advisor to a South Vietnamese Army battalion during the Vietnam War. Dalton, 73, is from Topeka.**

(Thad Allton/The Capital-Journal)



**During a break. Lt. Bob Dalton snacked on sugar cane. American advisors ate what the South Vietnamese soldiers ate. Note Dalton’s M-16 rifle and radio.**

(1969 file photograph/Submitted)



**Dalton sometimes carried an M-79 grenade launcher when on patrol. This empty shell from a grenade launcher and a North Vietnamese medal, the equivalent of an American Bronze Star, make up a display piece Dalton has. Dalton picked up the medal on a battlefield.**

(Thad Allton/The Capital-Journal)



# 35th Infantry Division Conducts Command Post Training

By: Spc. Stefanie Fulcher

Soldiers of the 35th Infantry Division, from the Kansas and Missouri Army National Guards, continued preparations for their upcoming overseas deployment during two separate five-day command post exercises (CPX) held at Camp Clark, Missouri.

“One of the commander’s training objectives is to centralize operations and to be expeditionary,” said Col. Jeff Van, 35th Infantry Division deputy commanding general operations.

As such, the 35th division left the comfort of Leavenworth and deployed its mobile command post to Camp Clark. The reason to conduct the CPX at Camp Clark as opposed to Leavenworth, was better simulate a real deployment, where both states could combine to accomplish a shared mission to enhance the overall collective readiness of the unit and support systems.

“We decided to change what’s been normal in the past of doing the collective training at Fort Leavenworth,” said Van. “And instead deploy our headquarters to a centralized site that would be easily accessible for both States to enhance collective training and better support.”

The exercises, held in both December and January, are a continuation of training efforts built from lessons learned at last summer’s warfighter exercise held in Leavenworth, Ks. As opposed to a large-scale warfighter exercise, which included multiple elements from various Active, National Guard and Reserve units across the country, these CPXs consist only of 35th Inf. Div. Soldiers.

“The CPXs serve to establish a baseline of division readiness that allow us to tailor training for future command post exercises,” said Col. Timothy Bush, 35th Infantry Division chief of staff. “It’s really an incredible opportunity that allows us to go through multiple rep-

etitions of a specific battle drill and better familiarize all staff personnel with their individual functions.”

The first CPX, conducted in December, gave the Soldiers of the 35th the opportunity to fine tune those individualized practices while simultaneously creating a more cohesive team.

“Information in this environment does not just flow vertically up and down the chain-of-command - it has to flow laterally to each section that might benefit from that information,” said Van. “If you don’t exercise this, it won’t just come over night.”

Taking what was learned from the experiences of the first CPX, 35th division leadership had a better idea of areas needing focus as they moved into the second CPX in January.

“We took the smaller pieces that needed work, and went through a crawl-walk-run process,” said Van. “This not only allows us to better ourselves through individual functions but be able to re-evaluate ourselves and improve our overall process as we move forward.”

Moving forward requires 35th division Soldiers to remain not only tactically proficient in their professions, but to become their very best. Leadership within the 35th has managed to spearhead this challenge by incorporating an aggressive and compressive training plan that includes extended drill periods, language courses and increased communication within the organization itself.

The continuity in training and increased frequency in practice have been staples in the division’s success, allowing for accelerated learning.

“Repetition is key,” said Van. “And these efforts will be seen when we arrive overseas and are ready to tackle a 24-hour cycle of supporting those brigades that we’re commanding.”



Maj. Gen. Robert P. White, 1st Armored Division commanding general, and British Brig. Gen. Frazer Lawrence, 1st Armored Division deputy commanding general, discuss tactics and the current training scenario with Col. Jeff Van, 35th Infantry Division deputy commanding general operations, during Command Post Exercise 2 at Camp Clark, Mo. on January 9, 2017. Soldiers of the 35th Infantry Division, from the Kansas and Missouri Army National Guards, are continuing their preparations for an upcoming overseas deployment.



Maj. Gen. Victor J. Braden, 35th Infantry Division commanding general, gives an operational overview to Maj. Gen. Robert P. White, 1st Armored Division commanding general, during Command Post Exercise 2 at Camp Clark, Mo. on January 9, 2017. Soldiers of the 35th Infantry Division, from the Kansas and Missouri Army National Guards, are continuing their preparations for an upcoming overseas deployment.



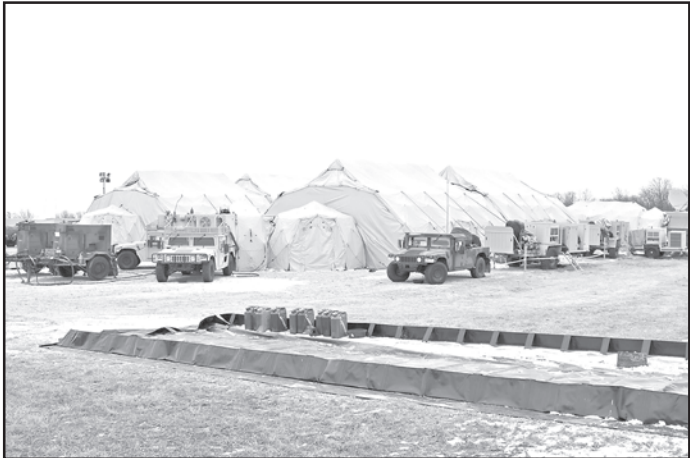
Army National Guard Director Lt. Gen. Timothy J. Kadavy (right) receives a tour by Col. John W. Rueger, 35th Infantry Division deputy commanding general, during Command Post Exercise 2 at Camp Clark, Mo. on January 9, 2017. Soldiers of the 35th Infantry Division, from the Kansas and Missouri Army National Guards, are continuing their preparations for an upcoming overseas deployment.



Army National Guard Director Lt. Gen. Timothy J. Kadavy visited Maj. Richard Dunn, during Command Post Exercise 2 at Camp Clark, Mo. on January 9, 2017. Soldiers of the 35th Infantry Division, from the Kansas and Missouri Army National Guards, are continuing their preparations for an upcoming overseas deployment.



Army Maj. Kristi Woods, Army Warrant Officer Alex Jones, and Army Maj. Theresa Wagner build a map for war gaming on January 8, 2017 at Camp Clark, Missouri during the 35th Infantry Division’s CPX 2. The importance of building



Division-Main-Coic



35ID-Photo

## New 35<sup>th</sup> Division Museum Bricks

Glenn W. Farrell  
WW II 35 ID  
I Co, 3d Bn, 134 Regt

Captain  
Robert Phillips  
D Co, 320<sup>th</sup> Inf

Pvt R. D. Stein  
C 134 35<sup>th</sup> ID  
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## Take a closer look inside your Museum of the Kansas National Guard

Help us celebrate the Museum of the Kansas National Guard’s 20th Anniversary in February

The Museum of the Kansas National Guard has much to offer Guardsmen and their families, Guard units, schools, community organizations and the public in general.

Since 2010 it has also been the home of the 35th Infantry Division Museum.

What the Museum Offers

The museum offers a quality visitor experience with 36 pieces of equipment outside and more than 125 exhibits inside. The museum is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and admission is always free.

It offers both a research library and a reading library. The research library contains historical information from all wars in which Kansas Guardsmen have been involved. It contains photo albums, document files, unit histories, original documents from World War II and a variety of unit booklets.

The reading library contains hundreds of military history books. Files on individual soldiers are not included in the collection, but some Soldier records from both world wars are accessible on request.

The museum has a large multimedia conference room, which seats 100 plus. This room is available for all types of Guard meetings, family activities, Boy and Girl Scout activities, 4-H activities, organizational meetings and special events. The museum has hosted three weddings, three funerals, Scout campouts, Girl Scout days, STARBASE, promotion ceremonies, and countless changes of command, birthday, anniversary, promotion and holiday parties, family reunions, luncheons, breakfasts and other events.

Patriot Field is located on the museum grounds and it can be used for parades, ceremonies, campouts, picnics and other outdoor activities.

Inside The Museum

The 35th Division Museum area features exhibits on the 35th Division’s formation and combat in World War I, its heroic involvement in the European Theater battles of World War II, and its most recent deployments to Bosnia, Kosovo, and in the Global War on Terrorism.

Both wings of the Kansas Air National Guard, the 190th Air Refueling Wing and the 184th Intelligence Wing, are featured in the Air National Guard gallery in the center of the museum.

Featured are its various missions over the years, and the Kansas Air Guard’s involvement in World War II, the Pueblo Crisis, the Cold War, and the Global War on Terrorism.

The museum includes the Kansas National Guard Hall of Fame gallery and the 35th Division Hall of Fame.

Notable exhibits in the museum include the “M\*A\*S\*H” Swamp tent from the television series, an original oil painting of Adolph Hitler taken from a German Officer Club in 1945 by a 35th Division Soldier, the Virtual Parachute Descent Trainer formerly used by Kansas Air Guard units and now available for use by museum visitors, an extensive weapons gallery,

and a “Snowgoose” unmanned aerial vehicle.

Also featured are exhibits on “Sports Figures in the Kansas National Guard,” “Women in the Kansas National Guard,” “The Kansas National Guard at Haskell,” “Partnership for Peace,” “IEDs and Land Mines,” “Rations in the Military,” “State Emergency Duty,” and other special topics.

Multiple case exhibits feature the Civil War, Indian Wars, the Spanish-American War, the Mexican Border War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and the Global War on Terrorism in Bosnia, Kosovo, Africa, and other places.

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## Thank you!!

Our special appreciation to Major General Jack Strukel Jr. and Janet Gayle for their generous \$6500 donation to the 35<sup>th</sup> Division Museum Fund. This donation helps support the association’s mission to preserving our history and educating our citizens on the 35<sup>th</sup> Divisions accomplishments throughout the last 100 years. “

### Two Opportunities to Support the Museum Without Cost to You Dillon’s Community Rewards

If you have a Dillons Card, sign up for the Community Rewards program at [www.dillons.com/communityrewards](http://www.dillons.com/communityrewards). **The Museum number is 85714.** At no cost to you, a portion of your sale will go to the Museum.

#### Thrivent Choice

If you do business with Thrivent Financial (Insurance & Investments), you can designate “Thrivent Choice” dollars to the Museum, by locating the Museum on the list and selecting it for free Thrivent Choice dollars.

### 35<sup>th</sup> DIVISION ASSOCIATION NEW HALL OF FAME NOMINATING FORM

See page 16. It can also be found at the following web address:  
[http://www.35divassn.org/nominating\\_form.aspx](http://www.35divassn.org/nominating_form.aspx)



# International Liaison Committee Column

January 9, 2017

Celebrations and a final goodbye marked the last quarter of 2016 for the association of L'Espace de Memoire Lorraine 1939-1945.

The last opening of the season for association's museum, near Nancy, heralded a long-anticipated visitor. Daniel Martelli, the nephew of Cpl. Thomas J.J. Downing, arrived at the end of October to visit the place where his uncle died. He toured the museum first. Then he traveled a short distance to Flavigny on the Moselle River to visit the 35th Division stele. He viewed the plaque for his uncle and the 60th Combat Engineers on the Flavigny bridge. Lastly, he visited the lock-house where his uncle died. The plaque for Tom Downing and the engineers was a long-held dream of the late Patrick Brennan. He hoped to memorialize his best friend and recover contact with Downing's family. Both goals were accomplished.

Martelli brought his uncle's Silver Star for saving men wounded in the disastrous battle at the bridge, his Purple Heart and his photo for museum display. Following his tour of the museum, Martelli wrote:

"What a wonderful museum detailing the war in Europe/Lorraine/France. Excellent tour and explanation of all the artifacts. Thank you," Daniel Martelli.

Among the association members greeting Martelli at the museum was Francois Cardot. He is the son of the late Andre Cardot, instigator of the 35th Division stele at Flavigny. Martelli was accompanied by Eric Jawurek, his internet correspondent for the past three years. The two visited Cpl Downing's grave at the American Lorraine Cemetery at St. Avold before traveling to the Nancy area.

The long-delayed presentation of the French Legion of Honor medal to Isabelle Mangin, Gen. George Patton's interpreter, occurred Dec. 20, 2016. The presentation followed her 98th birthday by 17 days. The award was announced on July 14, Bastille Day. However, Isabelle fell and broke her hip before it could be presented. The presentation was made at her rehab facility by Nancy officials with medical staff and friends present.

Isabelle, designated the "Dean" of the Espace association, worked in a French Resistance group from 1940-43. She transmitted and decoded messages and carried out more physical assignments. After the 35th Division lib-

erated Nancy, she became Gen. Patton's interpreter. She served for six months, until the prison camp that housed her fiancé, Francy, was freed. Then the General sent a limousine to retrieve her fiancé and released her from his service.

After the war, she earned a master's degree in English on a Fulbright Scholarship at the University of Washington in Seattle. She taught English at the prestigious high school of Henri-Poincare in Nancy. She was also an accredited translator for the appellate court in Nancy. She is vice president of Lorraine Resistance and is an enthusiastic member of the Espace association.

The president of Lorraine Resistance, Marie-Jeanne Bleuzet-Julbin, died in mid-December, 2016. For members of the 35th Division, she might be best remembered as a woman who saved many Santa Fean lives. For citizens of Nancy, she was the young woman who helped save the magnificent buildings of the "Paris of the East" in September, 1944. She delivered the message that the Nazi soldiers had evacuated Nancy. No advanced bombardment nor great battle was needed.

Seven days after the liberation of Nancy, on September 22, 1944, the commanding general of the 35 Division, MG Paul W. Baade, saluted the members of her Resistance network with:

"During the period of September 4 to September 15, under difficult and dangerous circumstances, your service was able to forward to us information which allowed us to proceed in our advance with a minimum of casualties. Your information was timely, accurate, precise and helped us to make important and favorable tactical targets."

This work and that of others in her network of "Brutus" was recognized in a civic ceremony in Nancy on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of D-Day. The Thirty-Fifth's Lt. Col. John Hoyne of Salina, Kansas, participated in the ceremony. He was in Europe as part of the entourage for President Ronald Reagan to participate in the D-Day ceremony in Normandy.

Lt. Col Hoyne returned to Kansas with the Gold Medal of the City of Nancy and the astonished memory that he received the medal from a woman he never expected to see again.

He remembered a night of September 10-11, north of Toul, when a young woman arrived "soaked

to the skin as if she had just swum across the river. She had a message sewn in the shoulder of her brown jacket. I always wondered how she was."

The message warned about all the armor and enemy troops in the vicinity. The general staff debated "for and against" moving forward. The decision made allowed the unit to save many lives.

Lt. Col. Hoyne received his gold medal from Mme. Bleuzet in her capacity as assistant mayor of Nancy. In her distinguished career that followed years in law school she became the first female president of the bar association in Nancy. In her Resistance days, she carried messages from Nancy to Paris in trains filled with German soldiers.

The Espace association finished the year with participation in the regional Christmas Market held at Sion. They manned an information table about the association.

Information about the Espace association's activities may be seen on the website "http://espacedememoire.fr." English translation is available. To date the website has received nearly 22,000 visitors.

Guy Reichert, President of the "Gates of Memory" organization and his associates have put together an exhibit featuring the 35th Division at Morhange. Pictures of the exhibits and content are contained elsewhere in this issue of the Santa Fe Express.

Patrick Beck of Luxembourg reports that "In Luxembourg there were many ceremonies held on December 16th to remember the outbreak of the battle known as the Battle of the Bulge: The USVF-Luxembourg held their traditional Night Vigil at Hoscheid at 6:00 a.m. with a delegation from the U.S. Embassy. Other ceremonies were held all over the western and northern part of the country by former members of the Grand Duke's Guard, a Night Vigil by the Friends of Patton's 26th Yankee Infantry Division Association, and another ceremony by the Center for the Study of the Battle of the Bulge (CEBA).

The National Liberation Memorial Association had their traditional ceremony at the famous battlegrounds of Schuman Crossroad next to the town of Wiltz. Attendees were: members of the Luxembourg Government, Ambassadors of the United States, Britain, Germany, and Belgian Embassies, and several military attaches, a U.S.

color honor guard, and an Honor Platoon of the Luxembourg Army.

At Bastogne, a perimeter walk was organized by the town. Many hikers did the ring walk as every year. There were exhibits of World War II tanks and vehicles at Bastogne Barracks.

The Bastogne Ardennes 44 Museum located at Bras just about eight miles from Bastogne will close its doors soon. Should you like to have a last look at their collection, go to their website [www.bastogneardennes44.com](http://www.bastogneardennes44.com). The collection will go to the Mu-

seum of La-Roche-en-Ardenne and not sold at auction."

We received the sad news today that Joseph Schoetttert died last week at the age of 83. He was a founding member of CEBA and an active member of the Board for the last 40 years!

Finally, we want to wish Constant Goergen, founder and honorary President of the USVF-Luxembourg a Happy Birthday on this the occasion of his 80th birthday. Constant has done so much to honor the veterans of the 35th Division. Happy Birthday, Constant.

## International Liaison Committee Co-Chairs

Paula Evans Baker, daughter of Pvt. Richard H. Evans, F-134-35, KIA 9/30/44 [dicknell35@hotmail.com](mailto:dicknell35@hotmail.com)

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



**Daniel Martinelli (left), Francois Cardot and Jerome Leclerc**



**Isabelle Mangin at Legion of Honor Ceremony**



**Lt. Col John Hoyne and Marie-Jeanne Bleuzet at 1984 Celebration in Nancy**



**Marie Jeanne Bleuzet Julbin**



**Constant Goergen on his 80th Birthday**



**Constant Goergen with 35th Division veteran Capt. Walter Harrington**





## WWII Photos

A historical story.

By Mike Ven  
4 January, 1945

### 35th Infantry Division

During the night of 3 - 4 January, the 1st Battalion of the 134th Infantry Regiment moved to the U-shaped woods about two miles north of Lutrebois. The Battalion attacked to the southeast to seize the road junction northeast of Lutrebois in the morning. Company B, moving fast, captured hill 540 along with the enemy Battalion Commander and his Headquarters. Company C drove several hundred yards beyond the objective and became engaged in a heavy fire fight with the enemy. In an attempt to make contact with the 3rd Battalion to the south, Company A attacked around 1340 hrs and two hours later was up with Company B but had not made contact with the 3rd Battalion. Company C, fighting alone in front, was cut off, but 43 men and one officer managed to return to American lines during the night. The 3rd Battalion cleared the remainder of the enemy resistance from Lutrebois attacked northeast from the town to make contact with the 1st Battalion. The 2nd Battalion tried to advance but was unable to move forward because of enemy

patrols and infiltration parties maintaining constant pressure on its right flank.

The 137th Infantry attempted to drive closer to Villers-La-Bonne-Eau but gained only a few hundred yards. Extremely heavy fire was met and enemy tanks operated in the Regimental zone. The attack was launched at 0800 hrs and Company A was on the road junction by 1045 hrs in the morning. The 1st Battalion closed into an assembly area in the rear of the 2nd Battalion zone in the afternoon. The 3rd Battalion was assembled in Livarchamps, with Company I on the roadblocks. Company G was holding its 700 yard frontage in the Surre Woods with its CP in Surre.

With the aid of tanks from Company C of the 735th Tank Battalion, the 320th Infantry's 2nd Battalion captured the farm which the enemy had so bitterly defended. With the 3rd Battalion, it then advanced to the woods north of the farm. From there Company E, supported by tanks, attacked Harlange and seized several houses on the east edge of the town. Towards the evening, however, a heavy counterattack drove the Company and its supporting tanks from the town.



**134th Infantry Régiment dans la zone de Lutrebois**



**320th Infantry Régiment et le 735th Tank Battalion dans la zone de Harlange**



**137th Infantry Régiment dans la zone de Villiers La Bonne Eau**

## LIBERATION OF MORHANGE EXHIBITION IN FRANCE.

Mr. Reichert Guy, Mr. Zampiero Laurent and Mr. Sommer Pierre organized a temporary exhibition about the liberation of Morhange, France and its surroundings. There were displays, mannequins and authentic material about the battles and the towns that are liberated, all displayed in several decors that were created to make it all look authentic. Guy Reichert, President of the Association "Les Portes de la Mémoire - The Gates of Memory" helped out, displaying the history of the 35th Division. They had already 177 visitors on first weekend of the exhibition. Another great effort of the French people to keep the memory of our great Division alive.



**Guy Reichert (L) & Zampieri Laurent (R)**



**Willy's Jeep with trailer**



**GI in a barn**



**Several personal items used by GI's**



**Poster of the Event**



**2 GI's in the field**



**35th ID GI Mannequin**



**German with MG42**



35<sup>th</sup> Division Museum Activities Continue

The 130<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery and the 35<sup>th</sup> Division

The 130<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment began World War I as the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment, Kansas Field Artillery, Kansas National Guard, headquartered in Topeka. Batteries were located at Topeka, Lawrence, Pittsburg, Kansas City, and Wichita. On October 1, 1917, after mobilization for WW I at Camp Doniphan, OK, the unit was re-designated as the 130<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, a part of the 35<sup>th</sup> Division's newly-formed 60<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade. They were equipped with the 155mm howitzer.

On May 19, 1918 they embarked on the U.S.S. Ceramic for France. They docked at Liverpool, England on May 31, and on June 8 they landed at the port of LeHavre. By August 13, 1918, all three battalions were ready for combat, occupying a sector in the Geoges Mountains. Here they fired 1,059 155mm shells into the villages behind the German trenches. On Sept. 1 they were relieved by a French artillery unit.

For the next 10 days they endured a series of night marches in the rain, ending up in the city of Nancy, just prior to the battle of St. Mihiel, in which they saw no action. Their next move was to Fornicourt, right on the Hindenburg line, in preparation for the battles in the Meuse-Argonne sector.

The attack began when the move from Vauquois to Exermont began, with the 130<sup>th</sup>

providing part of the massed fires in support of the attack on Sept. 27. From its position in Varennes, they fired 5,053 shells, pounding the German lines. The 130<sup>th</sup> lost 5 men killed in action and 31 wounded, most from bombing attacks from German airplanes. On Sept. 30 they were relieved by the 1<sup>st</sup> Division Artillery and moved back south-east of Verdun, where they were on Armistice Day, Nov. 11, 1918.

On Jan 28, 1919, the 130<sup>th</sup> re-joined the 35<sup>th</sup> Division in Commerce, France, then on Feb. 17 entrained for LeMans, France, their embarkation point. They sailed for home on April 13, 1918, arriving in New York ten days later. From New York they went west in two sections—some to parade in Kansas City, Lawrence, and Topeka, and the rest to parade in Wichita and Pittsburg. They arrived at Camp Funston, Fort Riley, Kansas on May 1, and were discharged on May 9 and 10.

In 1920 they were reorganized as the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn, Field Artillery, Kansas National Guard. On July 1, 1933, they were again changed to the 130<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery and disposed of its horses to become a truck-drawn Field Artillery regiment.

The 130<sup>th</sup>, now composed of two battalions, was mobilized for active duty on December 23, 1940 as part of the 60<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade, 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and sent

to Camp Robinson, AR. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor they were sent to the west coast to defend against a Japanese invasion, serving at Fort Ord & San Luis Obispo, along with the rest of the 35<sup>th</sup> Division.

On Feb. 3, 1942, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 130<sup>th</sup> FA was reorganized and re-designated the 219<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalion. This unit would then serve for the remainder of the war as a part of the 35<sup>th</sup> Division Artillery, fighting its way across Europe.

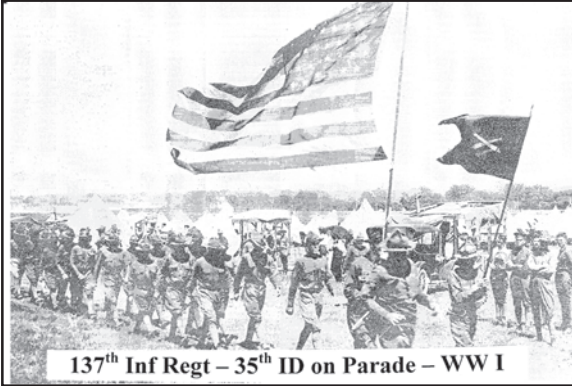
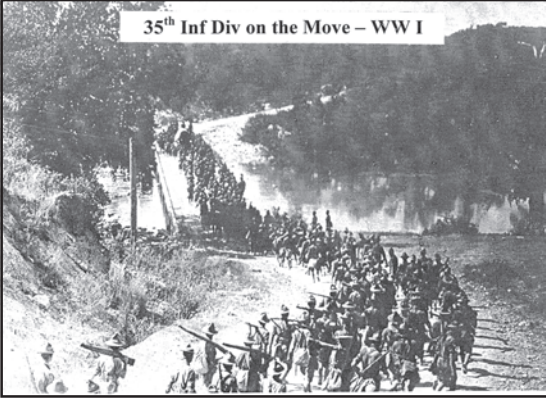
At the same time, the 2d Battalion, 130<sup>th</sup> FA was reorganized as the 154<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery. They remained in California for several months, then moved to the Aleutian Island chain to help protect Alaska against a Japanese invasion. It spent a year in the defense of Adak Island, Aleutians, then was returned to Fort Benning, Georgia, where it was used in the capacity of a training battalion for the rest of WW II. When Franklin D. Roosevelt died, the 154<sup>th</sup> FA was sent to Washington, D. C. to lead the president's funeral parade.

The 154<sup>th</sup> was then ordered to California, where it was to be shipped to the Pacific Theater. In August of 1945 they boarded ships in California for transport to the Pacific. Several weeks later they were anchored off the coast of the Philippines when the

atomic bomb was dropped on Japan. They never got off their ship, except for periods of R & R in the Philippines, only a few hours at a time. Eventually they shipped out for home, and after eight weeks on board the ship arrived back in the United States. It was inactivated on January 1, 1946 at Camp Stoneman, California.

After the war the lineage of the 130<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery was reconstituted in the Kansas National Guard, and two units were formed. The 130<sup>th</sup> Armored Field Artillery Battalion was formed in the Kansas National Guard in western Kansas and the 154<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalion was formed in northeast Kansas.

In 1959 the two units were combined again as the 130<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery. The 1<sup>st</sup> Bn, 130<sup>th</sup> FA was located in western Kansas and was a nondivisional unit. The 2d Bn, 130<sup>th</sup> FA was located in northeast Kansas and became a unit of the 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. In 1963, when the 35<sup>th</sup> Division was inactivated, it was placed in direct support of the 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade. In 1968 it was mobilized with the 69<sup>th</sup> for the Vietnam War, and many members saw combat as individual replacements in Vietnam. In 1977 the 2d Bn, 130<sup>th</sup> FA received the M110 8-inch SP howitzers, and their days as part of the 69<sup>th</sup> Brigade and 35<sup>th</sup> Division came to an end.





# The 35<sup>th</sup> Division in World War I

As the year 2017 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the entry of the 35<sup>th</sup> Division into World War I, it is important to recount the participation of the “Santa Fe” in “The Great War.”

## World War I Begins

On June 28, 1914, the Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife, Sophie, were assassinated by a Bosnian Serb, Gavrilo Princip. As a result, Austria declared war on Serbia. Russia then joined the war in support of Serbia. This caused Germany to declare war on Russia, and then France.

Germany then invaded Belgium. Great Britain sided with Serbia, France and Russia, and declared war on Germany on August 4, 1914. Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and the Ottoman Empire became the Central Powers, and Great Britain, Serbia, France, Italy, Belgium, and Russia became the Allied Powers.

The war settled into the trenches in 1915 and 1916. On April 6, 1917, the United States joined the Allied Powers to fight in WW I. Under the command of Maj Gen John J. Pershing, more than 2 million U. S. soldiers fought in France.

## Mobilized for WW I

A total of 10,000 Kansas and 14,000 Missouri Guardsmen were mobilized for Federal Service on Aug. 5, 1917, and sent to Camp Doniphan (near Ft. Sill), OK. Here they were reorganized into 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division units.

## 35<sup>th</sup> Division Organization – WW I

<b>69<sup>th</sup> Inf Bde</b> 137 <sup>th</sup> Inf Regt 138 <sup>th</sup> Inf Regt 129 <sup>th</sup> Mach Gun Bn	<b>70<sup>th</sup> Inf Bde</b> 139 <sup>th</sup> Inf Regt 140 <sup>th</sup> Inf Regt 130 <sup>th</sup> Mach Gun Bn
<b>60<sup>th</sup> FA Bde</b> 128 <sup>th</sup> FA Regt 129 <sup>th</sup> FA Regt 130 <sup>th</sup> FA Regt 110 <sup>th</sup> Trench Mortar Btry	<b>Divisional Troops</b> 128 <sup>th</sup> Machine Gun Battalion 110 <sup>th</sup> Engineer Regt. 110 <sup>th</sup> Field Signal Bn Headquarters Troop Division Trains

At Camp Doniphan they trained for seven months, learning rifle marksmanship, bayonet drill, gas mask training, the basics of maneuvering in combat, military drill, and adjustments to military life. During that time they were commanded by Maj Gen William Wright and Brig Gen Lucien Grant Berry.

By the end of April they were judged ready for combat and began the trip to France.

## First Taste of Combat

On May 7, 1918, they landed in England and then on May 10, 1918 at LeHavre, France. They were sent to a quiet sector of the Vosges River on the “40 & 8” boxcars (40 men and 8 horses). Seeing little action, they made several raids into German lines to capture German prisoners. During this time they were again commanded by Maj Gen William Wright, and then Brig Gen Nathaniel McClure.

The first action for the 35<sup>th</sup> Division was at St. Mihiel, France. On Sept. 1, 2018, they moved to Foret de Haye as part of the First Army Reserve, while the units on the front lines took the town of St. Mihiel. In the reserve they could not see the enemy. However, they did receive significant shell fire.

Next up was the battle over the Meuse River and the Argonne Forest.

## Battle of the Meuse-Argonne

Two hundred French trucks moved the 35<sup>th</sup> Division to the left flank of the First Army Corps on Sept. 25, 1918. Commanders of the 69<sup>th</sup> & 70<sup>th</sup> Brigades were relieved and replaced by Regular Army Colonels.

Artillery prep began at 2:30 a.m. on Sept. 26, and at 5:30 the 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry units moved out, capturing Vauquois Hill and Cheppy Very, an advance of 3 miles. The attack continued on Sept 27, 28, and 29. By the morning of Sept. 30 they advanced on Exermont, but were forced back. By the afternoon of Sept. 30 they had taken heavy casualties and were relieved by the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division.

## Alsace & Lorraine

The battles of Alsace 1918 and Lorraine 1918, for which the 35<sup>th</sup> also received battle streamers, included the successful attempts to retake the Alsace and Lorraine areas of France from the Germans.

After removal from the line on Sept. 30, 1918, the 35<sup>th</sup> Division marched to Vavincourt, then relieved the French 15<sup>th</sup> Division on Oct. 14 near Verdun. They served under the French Army until Nov. 6, 1918, which was their last day in combat. By this time, Maj Gen Peter Traub was in command of the 35<sup>th</sup> Division, and he was followed by Brig Gen Thomas Dugan later than year.

They were then reassigned to the Second American Army and were preparing to make an attack near Metz when the Armistice was signed on Nov. 11, 1918.

## Home Again

The 35<sup>th</sup> Division returned to the United States on April 23, 1919. The units were demobilized at Camp Funston, Kansas three days later, and “Welcome Home” parades were held in both Kansas and Missouri.

The 35<sup>th</sup> Division had suffered 1,480 deaths, 6,001 wounded, and 167 captured, a total of 7,648 casualties, with most of these casualties sustained in the battle of the Meuse-Argonne.

The entire U. S. Army suffered over 117,000 in the battle of the Meuse-Argonne.

## Medals of Honor

**Capt Alexander Skinker**, who served in the 138<sup>th</sup> Infantry, received the Medal of Honor for actions during the Meuse-Argonne offensive on Sept. 26, 1918. While leading an automatic rifleman and a carrier in an attack on a German machine gun position. Capt Skinker was killed when, after the ammo carrier was killed, he picked up the ammunition and continued through tan opening in the barbed wire before being cut down by German fire.

**Pvt Nels Wold**, a member of Company I, 138<sup>th</sup> Inf, was also killed on Septer 26 when he volunteered four times to single-handedly attack German machine gun nests. He was killed by German machine gun fire which concealed a fifth emplacement.

**2LT Erwin Bleckley**, who entered the war with the 35<sup>th</sup> Division Artillery, but later joined the 50<sup>th</sup> Aero Squadron, Army Air Service, also received the Medal of Honor. He was killed in the crash of his biplane after locating and delivering supplies to the “Lost Battalion” of the 77<sup>th</sup> Division.

All three are members of the 35<sup>th</sup> Division Hall of Fame.

## Weapons & Techniques of World War I

World War I, the first “modern” war, was the first large scale war of the industrial age. It pitted not just the military forces of belligerent nations, but their science and industrial might as well.

Due to this, WW I was the first war to make large scale use of many of the weapons and techniques we still use today, albeit in more primitive forms.

These include the airplane, the tank, modern field artillery, advanced machine guns, trucks, gas and gas masks, body armor, trench warfare, and trench whistles (for communication).

# Update on Possible Identification of a WWII 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division MIA

By Roberta Russo

You may remember reading an article in the July-Aug-Sept 2016 Divisionnaire about the possible identification of a 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division MIA. Evidence discovered in old Army files pointed to the possibility that Unknown Soldier X-481 buried at the Normandy American Cemetery in France was actually S/Sgt. Gerald L. Jacobsen, Company M, 134<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment. S/Sgt Jacobsen was last seen July 15, 1944 about 9 miles northwest of St. Lo, France while serving as a forward mortar observer.

This evidence was presented to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) and reviewed by their Anthropologists and Historians. These experts agreed that Unknown Soldier X-

481 was very possibly S/Sgt. Jacobsen. They also identified 3 other MIAs as possible matches: Pfc Marlin Talley, Company B, 320<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment and 2 men from the 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.

Although the Jacobsen family submitted a DNA sample some years ago, they were never told about the link to Unknown Soldier X-481. When they learned about this connection, they filed an official request to have X-481 disinterred for DNA testing. Their request and follow-up inquiries went unanswered for months. Part of the delay was because of a DPAA policy not to disinter an Unknown Solider unless DNA samples were available for at least 50 percent of the possible matches. Upon learning about this policy and the

other possible matches, these 3 families were located and all submitted DNA samples.

Jeff Baillon, an Investigative Reporter with Fox TV News 9 in Minneapolis (Jacobsen’s home town) aired a news story about the Jacobsen family’s plight. He accompanied Gerald’s widow and sister on a visit to Ft. Snelling where a memorial marker had been erected. During the interview, they spoke about their need for closure and desire to have Gerald returned to Ft. Snelling for burial. Several Senators and Congressmen also intervened with appeals to the DPAA.

I am happy to report that the DPAA, Department of Defense, and American Battle Monuments Commission approved the disinterment request in mid-

November. Unknown Soldier X-481 was disinterred on November 21, 2016, flown with an escort to Offutt Airbase in Nebraska and then taken to the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory. Testing will most likely take 2 to 3 months. Hopefully, after 70 plus years, one of our 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division fallen will return home for final burial.

# MIA





137th INFANTRY REGIMENT

# 137<sup>th</sup> News

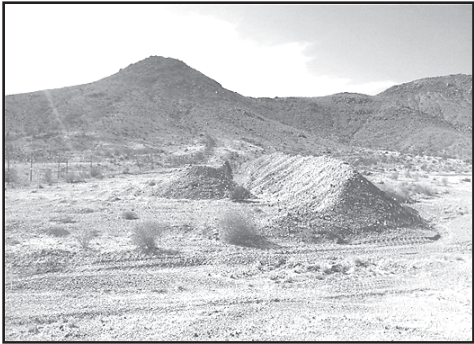
On December 4, 2016 the 2<sup>d</sup> Combined Arms Battalion, 137<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment leadership and staff traveled to Fort Irwin, California in order to participate in the Leadership Training Program (LTP). They conducted this training with the 155<sup>th</sup> Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT) of the Mississippi Army National Guard in order to better prepare commanders and staffs for their upcoming training rotation at the National Training Center (NTC). The 2-137<sup>th</sup> CAB personnel spent eight days at Ft. Irwin participating in the rigorous training the program had to offer. This included seminars and practical exercise on the Military Decision Making Process (MDMP), tactics and doctrine, and Troop Leading Procedures (TLPs). By design, this training program assists battalion and brigade leaders to better prepare for their upcoming NTC Rotation.

The daily schedule for the commanders and staff was specifically tailored to increase proficiency and develop them in their leadership and staff roles. Although the staff spent most of each day in section-specific classes and seminars, they spent the evening hours working through MDMP. Meanwhile, the company commanders spent numerous hours conducting Tactical Exercises Without Troops (TEWTs) and reconnoitering the NTC training area, otherwise known “the Box”. This gave the commanders a glimpse at what to expect from the terrain and environmental conditions for future planning. All of those involved in the exercise also received the opportunity to speak with the coach-mentors who taught the classes and were available for one-on-one mentorship, discussions, and lessons learned. Lieutenant Colonel Jason Nelson, Commander of the 2-137<sup>th</sup> noted that, “It was a great training opportunity for the staff to improve their skills and build cohesion with the company commanders.”

While the training required long hours and detailed work, it provided an excellent learning opportunity for all who attended. The LTP also produced an excellent opportunity to get to know and learn from all the battalions within the 155<sup>th</sup> ABCT. The time

and effort put forth at the LTP laid the groundwork for the leadership and staff to be successful in their roles, both individually and collective, at the National Training Center later this year.

Submitted by 2LT Megan Reed, Battalion Adjutant



## The Bridge at Remagen

By Murray Leff

Shortly after V-E Day we were moved to our Zone of Occupation. Our route took us along the Rhine River. Our train stopped at the town of Remagen where the above picture of me was taken. Never before or after was I ever so thin. K-Rations kept you from starving but not much more.

This photo of me was taken under the Remagen station sign because of what happened here only a few months before. During the War forcing a Rhine crossing seemed an impossible dream. It was reported that all the bridges across the Rhine River were destroyed. For centuries the Rhine was considered an obstacle impossible to cross.

The last bridge across the Rhine near the town of Remagen was all set to be blown, and in fact some of the explosives did go off, but it was not enough to bring the bridge down.

On March 8, 1945 elements of the 9<sup>th</sup> Division reached the bridge and unexpectedly found it still standing.

Without hesitation the Americans launched a full scale attack while the Germans scrambled to set off some unexploded charges.

Racing across the bridge against machine gun fire, the Americans cut the wires to the explosives. They were quickly followed by every combat unit in the vicinity, establishing a bridgehead that probably shortened the war by several weeks.

The Germans used everything they had to destroy the bridge. Americans did everything they had to prevent it. The Americans positioned the largest concentration of anti-aircraft guns in WW II. They shot down 30% of the 367 German planes that attacked the bridge. The Germans even fired 11 V-2 rockets at the bridge to no avail.

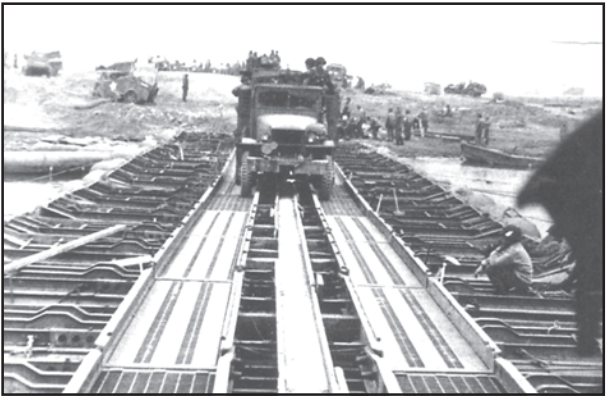


Photo I took as 35th crossed the Rhine,.



320th INFANTRY REGIMENT

# 320<sup>th</sup> News

Today, Saturday, November 12, 2016, I was walking my dog at the lakefront. My mind wondered, I had thoughts of my dad and the effects of war. In the background the veteran’s parade was taking place. Young cadets chanting, drums rolling, people standing up honoring our flag and veterans. In other parts of the country they are burning our flag. My emotions take control, sadness, tears, anger and disgust at how people react; always with violence.

I recall the time I first said my dad’s name out loud for the first time; it was during a rose ceremony in Bronson, I could not articulate his name after all Maximiliano Secundino Ramirez is a mouth full. I’m not saying I never thought of him but in my household his name caused sorrow. In a Spanish household his name caused emotional pain, drama and fear. So dad became my own personal memory, which started to fade as the years went by. I looked up at the night sky every night to find him and I did in the moon. He sat there protecting me and I diligently spoke to him. I asked him to return, why did he leave, didn’t he love me, etc. Then as everything else you grow up and your childish ways leave you however

the pain, the longing never does.

I remember going to the train station to see him off, whereabouts unknown to me. Mother holding my sister and me. I kept my eyes on dad. I was, and still am, so proud of this man who seemed so powerful in his uniform. No one else existed except my dad. Whenever dad was coming home I would hear him whistling as he approached the door. I would jump with excitement as any 2 year old would for my daddy, my hero was home. Before he returned to training we’d practice his march “hep two three four,” I was determined to be an expert by the time he returned.

Daddy never returned, he was KIA October 2, 1944 I was three and an expert chanter. I didn’t understand the tears, the emotions that adults were displaying but I knew things would never be the same. Many children lose their dads, mothers for different reasons and many to war. If only our leaders would learn the affects have on war. Wars of love and hate, wars of the unknown, all sides are affected.

My last thought was; respect, honor and God are slowly fading. I didn’t feel my thoughts were negative but a personal message to get on my knees and pray, even to the man in the moon, more often for our country. Will you?

Addendum: Since the writing of my Veteran Day thoughts so many holidays have passed. I hope you all had many blessings during these days and for this year to come.

Sincerely,  
Victoria Frisenda daughter of Maximiliano Ramirez



# Remembering 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Royal A. Offer

**by Mark Kirkland**  
Royal Offer passed away peacefully February 5, 2016, in Longmont, Colorado, three months shy of his 99th birthday. He was predeceased by his loving wife, Clarice Offer, of nearly 60 years.

Born in Nebraska. Offer served in the 35th Division as a rifle platoon leader with the K-320<sup>h</sup> in Europe. He crawled over the side of a troop transport ship, down a rope ladder, into a landing craft and waded ashore on Omaha Beach, July 6, 1944, one month after D-Day. He served under Commanding Officers who included Curtis Alloway and Homer Kurtz. He saw frontline combat for the duration of the war, and after the fighting ceased he served during the occupation of Germany.

Offer received the Silver Star Medal, the Bronze Star Medal and the Purple Heart Medal. He received a rare Battlefield Commission from Sergeant to 2nd Lieutenant. He also earned the Infantryman's Badge with Wreath and all five battle stars on his ETO ribbon. He served in combat in all major battles with the 3rd and the 9th Armies, including the bulge. He said that the "return home" point system "went out the window" because of his officer's commission.

I first heard about Royal Offer through my late stepfather. Omer "Whit" Whitwell. As a then 21-year old fellow platoon leader. Whit looked up to Royal, who was 6 years Whit's senior with months of combat experience. After Whit suffered multiple wounds, including a shot to his abdomen, the two buddies kept in touch by writing letters for a couple of years, but eventually lost touch with each other after the war.

My stepfather passed away in 1998 and while going through boxes in my mother's garage I came upon a 1945 letter written to Whit by Homer Kurtz which mentioned Royal. I found the 35th Division website and through correspondence I met James Graff. I shared Homer's letter with Jim who put me in touch with Homer who then introduced me to Royal. After nearly 60 years, it pleased Royal to hear what his old buddy had done in his post-army career.



I had the pleasure of Royal's friendship for over a dozen years. My wife's family lives in Denver. Co., so I was able to visit Royal once or twice a year, and we spoke often by phone. I enjoyed hearing stories of his years with the 35th Division and particularly his memories of Whit. They had each led platoons under Homer, and they gave the enemy hell and they raised hell together when they were off duty—mostly carousing and drinking.

It gave Royal great pride to have served his country. He would say, "I'm glad I did it... but I wouldn't want to go through that again." At one of the half-dozen reunions I attended in the early 2000's. Curt Alloway said, "Royal Offer was one of our very best platoon leaders."

In his youth Royal was class president, he was a state-level trumpet player and he was a high school and college athlete: basketball, football, tennis and baseball. He helped his father run a grocery store and

witnessed his father lose three farms during The Great Depression; something he never forgot. Later in life he enjoyed watching sports on television. He read three newspapers daily and was a successful stock investor.

Royal was the most self-reliant man I've known. He was a minimalist. He never forgot the value of simplicity, integrity,

honesty, hard work, and the importance of friends and family.

I was touched that Royal kept a photograph of Whit on his bookshelf. Royal. Whit and I shared a special two-generation friendship that spanned 70 years.

See Obituary on page 15.



**Royal Offer and Homer Kurtz, Past President 35th Division WWII Scrapbook assembled by Royal's wife Clarice**



**Royal A. Offer, Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart & Battlefield Commission**

Photo Mark K.

**Current Soldiers May Receive a Free 35<sup>th</sup> Division Product to show your pride when you join the association that helps communicate your success and maintain your history.**

**\*DVD – "A Living History of the 35<sup>th</sup> In Div in WW II" By Murray Leff**

**\*35<sup>th</sup> Division Coin**

**\*35th Division Hat**

**\*35<sup>th</sup> Division Lapel Pin**

**\*35<sup>th</sup> Div Belt Buckle ("Santa Fe Leads the Way") (for standard belts up to 1.5 inches wide)**

**\*35 th Div Belt Buckle (35th Div Patch, for military style Belts, 1 1/8 inch wide**



**Lapel Pin**



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

**Membership Renewal/Application,  
Donor or Order Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Rank/Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
(First) (MI) (Last)  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Organizations of Service with 35<sup>th</sup> Division: \_\_\_\_\_  
(i.e. 69<sup>th</sup> Bde, 137<sup>th</sup>, 134<sup>th</sup>, 320<sup>th</sup> 161 etc): \_\_\_\_\_

	Amount Enclosed
Annual Renewal Dues or New Member Annual Dues - \$25.00	_____
Life Member Dues for WW II Veterans - \$75.00	_____
Life Member Dues for All Others - \$140.00	_____

Donation for 35 <sup>th</sup> Div Assn Operating Expenses	_____
Donation specified for the 35 <sup>th</sup> Museum Operating Expense	_____
Sponsor Edition of "The Santa Fe Express" - \$1500.00	_____
Hall of Fame Expenses & Reception - \$100 & up	_____
35 <sup>th</sup> Div Conference Sponsor - \$100 or more	_____
Donation in recognition of _____	_____

I want to purchase: (will be mailed to you)  
DVD – "A Living History of the 35<sup>th</sup> In Div in WW II" By Murray Leff - \$12.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
35<sup>th</sup> Division Coin - \$12.00 (\$10.00 no mailing needed) \_\_\_\_\_  
35<sup>th</sup> Division Hat - \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
35<sup>th</sup> Division Lapel Pin – \$3.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
35<sup>th</sup> Div Belt Buckle ("Santa Fe Leads the Way") (for standard belts up to 1.5 inches wide) \$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
35 th Div Belt Buckle (35th Div Patch, for military style Belts, 1 1/8 inch wide) -\$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_  
(Make Checks Payable to 35<sup>th</sup> Div Assn and Mail to  
35<sup>th</sup> Division Association, P O Box 5004, Topeka, KS 66605)



# Taps



## Maj. Gen. Colin Charles Campbell (Ret.) Former Commander 35 Infantry Division

Retired Maj. Gen. Colin Charles Campbell, 85, of Edina, Ill., passed away Saturday, Dec. 17, 2016, in Columbia.

He was born Sept. 11, 1931, in Chicago, a son of Virgil Hone and Genevieve Ellis Campbell. He was united in marriage to Ann Sue Rogers on June 8, 1953, in Kirksville.

Mr. Campbell attended rural schools in Knox County, graduated from Edina High School and graduated from the University of Missouri in 1953. Mr. Campbell was an entrepreneur with interest in farming, agribusiness and environmental services. Mr. Campbell enjoyed the time spent in Texas, reading, camping, cooking and watching Fox News.

Colin C. Campbell served his country in the United States Army for 10 years and 18 years in the Army National Guard for a total of 28 years of service, obtaining the rank of major general and was commander of the 35th Infantry Division.

Surviving are his wife, Ann Sue Campbell of Edina; two daughters, Sarah Baker and fiancé, Aaron Vansickle, of Hurdland, and Mary Campbell of Kirksville; three grandchildren, Jessica Ann Rudd, Joseph Colin Rudd and Justin Hone Rudd; one great-grandson, Bradley Foster Reardon; one sister-in-law, Gloria Rogers of Fort Worth, Texas; one niece, Tracie Coons; and one nephew, Trent Rogers.

Mr. Campbell was preceded in death by his parents.

## Donald R. Neill 134th Infantry

Donald Raymond Neill, a member of the 134th Inf. From Jan. 1943 to Nov. 1945, died Thursday October 20th, 2016.

His wife Lucille, of 54 years, preceded him in death in 1996. Donald, born March 26, 1921 in Detroit, Mich., was the only son in a family of five of David and Ida Neill.

He is survived by his two children – Nancy (Robert) Koss of Grand Rapids, MI., and Donald G. Neill of Phoenix.

Grandchildren Sandra (John)P Grzybek, of Grand Rapids, Robert (Jennifer) Koss of Greenville, S.C. and Melissa Neill of Phoenix.

Great grandchildren Mac and Maddie Grzybek, Brody and Holden Koss and Andrew Ladouceur.

Don retired from the Detroit Fire Dept. as a Battalion Chief and lived in the Wayne County area, Detroit and Trenton, all but the last 12 days of his life where he died peacefully at 95 ½ at Lakeside Vista Assisted Living in Holland, MI.

He enjoyed airplane model making all of his life and the over 700 models, all to the same scale, he made were donated several years ago to the Hoosier Air Museum in Auburn, Ind.

He traveled many times with his wife to England, France, Belgium and Germany,



where he revisited areas from the war. After her death, his explorations took him to Hawaii, Russia, Morocco, Israel and the Great Wall of China.

Educated for twelve years at Holy Redeemer School and 2 ½ years at the University of Detroit, he enjoyed reading along with subscribing to numerous military magazines, airplane publications and the like.

His family is grateful for his service, along with the other millions of brave soldiers, to whom we, the younger generation, must always remember.

God Bless Them All

Nancy Koss  
Jenison, MI.

Dear Sir or Madam,

I regret to inform you that CORPORAL JOSEPH BIEHLER (M 320th) passed away on August 16, 2016. Joe was never one to really talk about his World War II involvement but I know how very proud he was of our Country and his service with the "35th". Several years ago, he and his wife, Betty, traveled to one of the division reunions. I know from conversa-

tion I had with him it was very special to him and he greatly enjoyed catching up with friends of his and other members of the division that he met. All of you should be very proud of your service to our Country and the 35th!

Sincerely yours,  
John Kievit

Estate Administrator and Executor

## Joseph E. Biehler M320th

Joseph E. Biehler, 94, of Clifton died peacefully on Tuesday, August 16, 2016 with close family at his side. Born in Paterson, Joe resided in Clifton for most of his life. He is a US Army Veteran of WWII who participated in the Normandy Invasion with the 35th Infantry Santa Fe Div. and was awarded a Bronze Star, a Distinguished Service Medal and the Legion of Honor Medal from the French Government. Joe was employed as a driver for the Okonite Co. in Paterson, the Delarich Corp in Clifton and North Jersey Livery Co. in Clifton prior to his retirement. He is a 60 year member of Clifton Masonic Lodge and a Distinguished White Apron recipient. Joe is also a member of the Clifton Craftsmen's Club, Paterson Valley Forest #33 TCL, American Legion Post #8 and the Deriter Club all in Clifton. He is survived by his loving wife of 68 years, Betty (Kievit), by loving nieces and nephews, John Kievit and wife, Gwen, Peggy Woodruff and husband, Alan, Patty Beehler and husband, Maynard, Robert Kievit and wife, Judy, Carole Fernandez and husband, Paul, Tom Kievit and wife, Kyle, Marlene Romanowski and husband,



Kevin, Cathy Thorgerson and husband, Peter, Aaron Kievit III, Tom Walsh and wife, Maureen, Janice Cobin and husband, Marsh, Dale Kuhn, and Jack Colombo and wife, Doris, and by multiple loving grand nieces and nephews, including Christopher and Jamie Kievit who were ever so close to him throughout their lives. Joe is predeceased by two sisters, Audrey Dresen and Evelyn Walsh and by a nephew, Harold "Butch" Nardini.

## James Anthony Healy

James Anthony Healy, 98, died Saturday, October 29, 2016, at Country Meadows-Leader Heights. He was the loving husband of Rose J. (King) Healy who died in 1989 and the late Ruth (Spira) Healy.

James was born on August 24, 1918, in Brooklyn, NY, a son of the late James Godwin and Mary Anna (Keller) Healy. He retired from the NY School of Printing as a Guidance Counselor. He was a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Dallastown, as well as a Eucharistic Minister. James taught Driver Education for

AAA in PA until early 2000. James was a retired Major in the U.S. Army during WWII, dedicating 19 years in the Army reserves as well, and was the recipient of a Bronze Star in 1944.

Surviving are two sons, Thomas J. Healy and his wife, Elizabeth of New Freedom, and James Healy and his wife, Lynne of Green Valley, AZ; five grandchildren; six great-grandchildren. James was preceded in death by a sister, Evelyn A. Bernardo; a brother, Howard Healy; and a dear friend, Joan Czubek.

## Dr. Lyle J. Bouck Jr., D.C. 2016 Hall of Fame Inductee

Friday, December 2, 2016

Beloved husband of the late Lucy Bouck (nee Zinzer); dear father of Diane (Dennis Simcik), Denise, Douglas Sr. (Diana), Dwight (Patricia), and the late Daniel Bouck; dear grandpa of Jennifer, Joel, Meghann, Nicole, Cori, Doug Jr., Nicholas, Jessica, Rachel, Christopher, Daniel Jr., Anna, and Lexi; dear brother of Eugene (June), the late Robert, Bernice, and John (surviving Mary Lou) Bouck; dear great-grandpa of ten; dear uncle, great-uncle, cousin, and friend.

Surely we all want to know of a 35th Division comrade's passing.

**Obituaries...**  
an important part  
of the

**35th  
Divisionnaire**

Mail all obituaries to  
Col. Robert Bloomquist, 35th Division,  
Box 5004, Topeka, KS 66605



## George F. Mongold Co B, 134th Inf.

George F. Mongold, 95, Perry, KS, died peacefully at home January 11, 2015.

George was born northeast of Silver Lake on July 19, 1919, to Hiram and Lillian (Goodrich) Mongold.

George graduated from Silver Lake High School in 1940, where he played football, basketball, baseball, and was a member of the F.F.A.

He served in the 35th Infantry Division during WW II from 1941 to 1945, where he landed just days after D-Day; fought in the Battle of the Bulge; and Siege of Bastogne. He was honorably discharged as a T/Sgt., receiving many honors including European Theatre Ribbon, Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Unit Badge, the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

George married Helen L. Uhl on August 30, 1947. They made their home in Jefferson County. George and Helen had two children; daughter, Bernita, and son, Terry.

George enjoyed farming and raising cattle for many years while working at Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company. He retired from Goodyear in 1984, after 38 years. After his retirement he worked at Earl's Café in Grantville for many years, then part-time at K-Mart in North Topeka for 15 years.

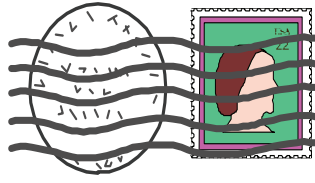
He was preceded in death by his parents and five siblings, also his daughter, Bernita, on September 9, 1998, and his wife, Helen, on April 17, 2001.

George is survived by his son, Terry (Cindy) Mongold, Perry; two grandsons: Jeff Tryon, Poplar Grove, IL, Nick Mongold, Perry; two granddaughters: Lisa Mongold, Grantville, and August Ponte, Shreveport, LA; and five great-grandchildren.

## Royal A. Offer

### Royal's self-written Obituary

Royal A. Offer, 98, of Longmont, died February 5, 2016 at Beatrice Hover Assisted Living. He was born May 5, 1917 at Hickman, Nebraska to John and Telma Offer. On September 23, 1943 he was married to Clarice L. McPherson of Adams. NE. Clarice preceded him in death on May 18, 2001. Mr. Offer was employed by the U.S. Postal Service in Omaha, NE from 1941 to 1973. Upon retirement he and his wife moved to Longmont, CO. He spent nearly 5 years in the U.S. Army both in the States and in the European Theatre, during WWII. While in combat in Europe he received a battle field commission; was awarded the Silver Star for Gallantry in Action; the Bronze Star for Heroism in ground combat and the Purple Heart for wounds received in action. Royal was a member of the First Congregational, United Church of Christ. He is survived by his niece Sonya Struthers of Homer, NE.



## Mail Call



### FRANCO-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION IN ORLEANS, FRANCE

Dear Sir ,  
We hope you had a good time at Thanksgiving. Here in Orleans , we were 50 guests for our Thanksgiving lunch !!  
Here are some pictures for the coming issue of *THE DIVISIONNAIRE* :  
**Liberation of Orleans by the 137th Infantry Regiment 35th Infantry Division on August 16th 1944 .**  
**The franco-american friendship ... 72 years later ! :**  
**LTC Daniel WOOD , Commander of the 52nd Signal Bn addressing the population of Artenay , near Orleans, to remind the links between our two nations and that 2017 will show the Centennial of the entrance of the USA in WWI .**  
**AND**  
**children meeting soldiers from the 52nd Signal Bn stationed in Stuttgart, Germany .**  
Best regards,  
Claude



## Letter to the Editor

I have written 2 articles. One is about Jean Mignon again. He was awarded a medal by the 29th Infantry Division for his single-handed work in establishing and maintaining *La Chapelle de la Madeleine* in Saint Lo. The other is about Murry Dickson, in whose honor an official highway sign was erected.

Could you please tell me to whom I should send these articles, if it is not still you? I would appreciate it, as I think the readers would also appreciate learning this information.

Once again, thanks for your attention and for any assistance you can provide.

Sincerely,  
Anna Jovanovich  
[dawville@aol.com](mailto:dawville@aol.com)

November 1, 2016

Dr Sirs,  
My brother KIA at the battle of St. Lo, August 4, 1944.  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Marvin N. Keith, Jr.  
134<sup>th</sup> Inf.,  
Company I  
35<sup>th</sup> Division #0446748  
In the Oct. Nov. Dec. 2016 publication of the Express was the most complete telling of the battle of St. Lo I have been able to know about.

It is written by BG Ed Gerhardt.

Could you put me in touch with anyone to give me more detail of this battle?

Joe C. Keith  
1220 Brownwood  
Malvern, AR. 72104  
Ph. (501) 332-2257  
Thank you,  
Joe C. Keith

## Witness to War Foundation

Witness to War is excited to announce the completion of our 2,000th interview! Since 2001, we've been working hard to capture the stories of our combat veterans, which might otherwise be lost to time. We could not have reached this incredible milestone without the help of our many volunteers, friends of the Foundation, partners, and of course, our humble and gracious veteran participants! Thank you to those who have believed in and supported our mission. We could not save these memories without you!

Stay in Touch We're always adding new content to the website, so please make sure to visit us often, and spread the word to family, friends, and veterans you might know!

Thank you for your continued support of the Witness to War Foundation!

Best Regards,

Tom Beaty (Founder), Emily Carley (Director), & Martin Madert (Interviewer)

Jan-Feb-Mar issue of the  
**Santa Fe Express**  
Deadline 10 April 2017







**35th Division Association**  
**Format and Content Required for Hall of Fame Nomination**  
**Effective for Nominations Submitted in 2017**



**The following information is required in the order shown.**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominee:** (Must have a service connection with the 35th Infantry division at any time from 1917 to date.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Military unit: \_\_\_\_\_

(Must be a unit of the 35th Infantry Division or a unit attached or assigned to the 35th Infantry Division.)

Address, if living: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Death: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Honorable Discharge: \_\_\_\_\_

Military Awards. (Check all that apply; attach copy of citation):

☐ Medal of Honor

☐ Silver Star Medal

☐ Purple Heart

☐ Distinguished Service Cross

☐ Legion of Merit

☐ Distinguished Service Medal

☐ Bronze Star Medal

Next of Kin, Family Member or Friend (if nominee is deceased):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Personal History:** Briefly explain nominee's family, siblings, education, place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

**Enlistment, Training and Deployment:** Briefly explain when the nominee joined the Army, where he trained and where he was deployed. \_\_\_\_\_

**Why the Nominee Deserves to Be Selected to the Hall of Fame:** Provide a written narrative describing how the nominee contributed significantly to the achievement, tradition or history of the 35th Infantry Division and/or the 35th Infantry Association. Describe how the nominee contributed to his community, state or nation. \_\_\_\_\_

Attach a listing of sources, such as combat histories, letters, documents and maps, which support the nominee's significant contribution.

**Nominator:** (Members of the 35th Division or others may nominate a Hall of Fame candidate.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Submit Nomination Packet:** To be considered at the 2017 Annual Conference, nominations must be received by 1 August 2017. Mail nominating information, supporting documentation and a photo of the nominee to:

Ben Weber  
Hall of Fame Committee  
6510 Suson Oaks Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63128

Nominations approved by the Committee in 2017 will be inducted into the Hall of Fame at the 2018 Annual Conference.

**Questions:** Contact Ben Weber at 314-849-4022 or [bweber131@att.net](mailto:bweber131@att.net)