



Santa Fe Express

"DIVISIONNAIRE"



35th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

www.35DivAssn.org

35DivAssn@gmail.com

JANUARY-FEBRUARY-MARCH 2025

NUMBER ONE

The 35th Divisionnaire USPS 700-160

Message from Commanding General Rueger

Members and Friends of the Association—
Greetings from the Soldiers and leaders of the Santa Fe Division! I would like to wish all of you a very Happy New Year as we start a new year filled with hope and joy that 2025 will be a great year for all.

I did not think the winter season was going to arrive, but it did with a vengeance with over a foot of snow and single digit temperatures. As I reflected on the weather here, I also thought of the efforts of the Santa Fe division eighty years ago during the Battle of the Bulge in the Ardennes region in Belgium. The battle occurred during one of the coldest winters in Europe, with freezing temperatures, snow, and ice. Facing harsh and grueling conditions, the Soldiers dealt with frostbite, trench foot, and hypothermia in addition to the other stresses of combat.

Fast forward to November, 2024, where Santa Fe Division Soldiers and leadership attended several more events commemorating the 80th anniversary of the liberation of several towns and areas of the Lorraine region in France. The Santa Fe delegation was hosted by Guy Reichert and the Association Les Portes de la Memoire - The Gates of Memory Association in Hellimer, France. Prior to the delegation arriving in France, on Veterans Day/Armistice Day, in Diffembach-les-Hellimer a plaque was dedicated to PVT George Lott and PFC Woodrow Hamilton, both from the 137th Infantry. Once arriving in France, the delegation first traveled to Morhange where a plaque was dedicated to MAJ Clyde Burke and MAJ Denny William for their actions on November 14th, 1944. After a nice visit to a very comprehensive museum complex, we then proceeded to visit the towns of Gerbecourt, Achain, Erstroff-Francaltroff; towns the Santa Fe Division liberated as the Division swept through the area.

Our next stop was at Fort Simserhof, which is a hardened bunker system as part of the Maginot Line. We spent a good part of two hours underground visiting this amazing system of bunkers and self-sustaining design, much like being in a larger submarine.

Our next stop was the American cemetery at Lorraine at Saint-Avoid, where we honored the 544 Soldiers of the 35th who rest there. The ceremony consisted of our delegation, the Gates of Memory Association and a French army unit. Despite the bitterly cold, rainy weather, it was a very moving visit of a very beautiful place, where the sacrifices of many Americans are solemnly commemorated.

We proceed directly to a small ceremony at the statue commemorating CPT Joseph Giacobello and PVT Julian Osborne in the town of Hellimer and finished the day with visits to the villages of Diffembach-lés-Hellimer, St-Jean de Rohrbach, and Hilsprich.



Every visit was punctuated with meeting the mayor and community members from each town, hearing the stories of the heroic actions of taken by the Soldiers of the Santa Fe Division, and being thanked for our forefathers contributing to the liberation of France. I want to thank Guy and the Gates of Memory Association for coordinating and supporting the multiple commemoration events all while being gracious host embracing us like family.

Back to current warfighting: We transitioned our Army Sustainment Brigade from Tennessee into a Division Sustainment Brigade (DSB). The transition to the DSB represents an important evolution in how we will fight and win in the future and part of a broader Army effort to prepare for large-scale combat operations. During October, the DSB changed their patch to now wear the wagon wheel as part of that transformation.

The Division Headquarters continues to build off the great Command Post Exercise with 1st Infantry Division last August. We are training very hard to prepare for a series of command post exercises this year culminating in August with a Warfighter. This is our practice for our Super Bowl next June where we will be evaluated on our proficiency to fight as a division. The world continues to show it is on the verge of regional instability that can spill into a global conflict. We must be ready to go if called to defend our nation!

Thank you for supporting the Division Association, our Solider and Families of the Santa Fe Division!

Win the Day — Santa Fe!
MG John Rueger

Message from Association President COL (R) Geoffrey S. Lanning

First, I want to extend the condolences of the association to the family of Angelo Demos. COL Demos, along with Jim Graff and Dick O'Brien were the last Veterans of World War 2 to attend the 35th Division Reunion and Conference. Eighty years ago, these members of the Greatest Generation were fighting in the savage battles on the approaches to the German Border. Their sacrifices led to the liberation and seventy eight years of relative peace in Europe. The Association will continue to remember and honor the history and sacrifices of these Great Americans.

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and New Years celebrations with Family and Friends. We are currently beginning the planning for the 35th Division Association Conference in conjunction with the Division Staff. The Conference will be held at the Division Headquarters on 5-6 September 2025. The first Planning Meeting will be held in February at the Division Headquarters on a date to be determined. Any suggestions or recommendations for the



Conference from Association Members is welcome. I look forward to working with the Executive Committee and Division Staff to conduct another successful Conference.

We are currently entering the 107th year of the 35th Division Association. We hope to expand the membership of the Association and recruit a new generation of leadership for the Executive Committee. I encourage every Association Member to recruit current and former Division Members that are not members of the association. We are especially seeking a new Executive Secretary/Treasurer for the Association. I look forward to working with association members to accomplish this.

**Deadline for the
Next Issue
of the
Santa Fe Express
15 May 2025**



**The 35th Divisionnaire
(USPS 700-160)**

Postmaster send address changes to Secretary, 35th Division Association, P.O. Box 5004, Topeka, KS, 66605. Second class postage paid at Horton, Kansas 66439.

Printed at Horton, Kansas, Published quarterly at 133 West 8th St., Horton, Kansas by the 35th Division Association.

Send all stories, notices, obituaries, photographs, etc. to 35th Division Assn., P.O. Box 5004, Topeka, KS 66605

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PRESENT AND FUTURE"**

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35th Division Association

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World War II Veterans visit in 1998 of their Combat trails in Boulaide, Luxembourg

Submitted by Marge Bullock

Two busloads of 35th Division World War II vets re-visited The Combat Trail of Their Battles from 6 July '44 to 27 April '45. One wonderful Highlight was the Magnificent Celebration of Welcome received in Boulaide, Luxembourg - where we were given a Tremendous Feast, and repeatedly toasted with delicious wine in their festively decorated (with fresh yellow broom) City Hall. The date was May 25, 1998 - commemorating Freedom from Domination brought to them by the 35th Division - along with the gift of a Crystal Goblet for each person present.

Here is a bit of history about Boulaide:

Boulaide (French pronunciation: [bul?id]; Luxembourgish: Bauschelt ['bæ????lt]; German: Bauschleiden) is a commune and small town in north-western Luxembourg. It is part of the canton of Wiltz, which is part of the district of Diekirch. As of 2023, it has a total population of 1,499. The commune is composed of three villages: Boulaide, which as of 2024 has a population of 754, Baschleiden, and Surré.

In 1976 the township erected a monument in honor of the 35th Infantry Division, who liberated the town during World War II.

Boulaide is also a part of the European Road of Freedom. This project was initiated by the Jewish Painter and Sculptor Otto Freundlich, who was killed in a German concentration camp during World War II. Together with his friend Jeanne Kosnick-Kloss he had planned to create two sculpture roads. The first one was supposed to go from North to South and they had called it "The road of human fraternity". The second one was supposed to go from West to East and its name was "the road of human solidarity and the memory of the liberation." At the intersection of the two roads in Auvers-sur-Oise in France they had planned to erect a high tower called "the Lighttower of Peace by means of the seven arts".

But Otto Freundlich could not carry out

his plans and so some 35 years ago, the German artist Leo Kornbrust took over the project and now the plans are to create a road of sculptures from the landing coast in France to Moscow in Russia. In

Boulaide this Road of Freedom is present through a group of wooden sculptures, created by the Luxembourgish artist Marie Josée Kerschen.



Monument in Boulaide, Luxembourg

New Exhibit at the Museum of the Kansas National Guard: The Army DUKW!



**Kansas National Guard Museum
Topeka, KS**

We are delighted to offer you a unique opportunity to witness the newest addition to our museum: the Army DUKW! This extraordinary piece of military history is now on display, and we extend a special invitation to everyone to come and see it up close.

Admission is free and open to the public Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 3 PM.

About the Army DUKW:

The DUKW, pronounced "Duck," was an amphibious vehicle used during World War II, the Korean War, and beyond. Designed to transport goods and troops over land and water, the DUKW played a crucial role in many amphibious operations. Its versatility and reliability made it essential to ensure successful missions, particularly during the D-Day landings and other significant campaigns.

We want to express our deep appreciation to the 45th Infantry Division Museum in Oklahoma City for their generous donation and cooperation in bringing this remarkable vehicle to our museum. Your support is instrumental in preserving an integral part of our military history for future generations to learn from and appreciate.

Additionally, thank you to the 731st Transportation Company for expertly transporting the DUKW to the Museum of the Kansas National Guard. Your efforts ensure that this vital piece of history is displayed for all to see.

Come and visit us to discover the fascinating history of the DUKW and explore other exhibits that showcase the rich heritage of the Kansas National Guard.

We look forward to welcoming you!

The Museum of the Kansas National Guard Open M-F, 9 A.M. to 3 P.M.

**Send all photos, stories, obituaries,
etc. for the Divisionnaire to:**

**35th Division Association,
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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 due yearly. This includes your 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.

35th ID first Medals of Honor

Submitted by Tom Arnhold

In the last edition of this publication, this author wrote about the first members of the Kansas National Guard to win the Medal of Honor. The first three Medal of Honor recipients in the Kansas National Guard received their awards for acts of bravery in the on April 17, 1899. CPL William Trembley, and PVT Edward White were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor on April 17, 1899, for performance above and beyond the call of duty, while serving with the 20th Kansas Volunteer Regiment in the Philippine Campaign of the Spanish-American War.

At the time that the aforementioned three men were awarded the Medal of Honor, the 35th Infantry Division did not exist. In 1917, 10,000 members of the Kansas National Guard and 14,000 soldiers from the Missouri National Guard were formed into the 14th Division. On August 5, 1917, the unit was mustered into federal service.

After spending seven months for training at Fort Sill, the division, consisting of 27,000 men was sent to Europe as part of the American Expeditionary Force, and its name was change to the 35th Division. Four of those 27,000 men would receive the Medal of Honor. The first two men to receive that award were Captain Alexander Rives Skinker and Private Nels T. Wold.

Skinker and Wold received their Medal of Honor for actions on September 26, 1918. Both men would die in the action, for which they received the Medal of Honor. They were members of Company I, 138th Infantry Regiment, 35th ID.

Skinker was a native of Missouri, born in St. Louis in 1883. He obtained a position with the Long Distance Bell Telephone Company, in whose service he remained for six years. In 1903 Alexander R. Skinker enlisted in Battery A, St. Louis Light Artillery. After five years' service with this company he obtained a discharge, having left the city in the interests of the telephone company. In the winter of 1916 he heard an address by the colonel of the First Missouri Infantry National Guards, in which the speaker, referring to the prospects of war with Mexico or Germany or both, pointed out the lack of officers and strongly urged that all young men who had any military training should join in forming an Officers' Training Corps.

Skinker and half a dozen others immediately accepted this offer and started a training corps. On the 16th of December 1916, he became first lieutenant and on the 29th of July, 1917, was promoted to the captaincy of the company. On the 11th of August 1917, Captain Skinker was married in St. Louis to Miss Caroline French Rulon-Miller, of Philadelphia.

On September 26, 1918, the 35th ID was assigned to attack in what became known as the Battle of the Argonne. Companies I and M were in front. On the first day of the battle at a dangerous place, Captain Skinker, taking two men and ordering the rest to keep



Captain Alexander Rives Skinker

themselves under cover, went ahead to find out the lay of the land and, if possible, to break up a machinegun nest. The enemy suddenly opened a heavy machine-gun fire, and he was killed. Major Comfort, who succeeded to the command of the 138th Infantry Regiment after the commander was wounded and second in command was killed, in his official report wrote:

"Captain Skinker, in his local area, not desiring to expose more men than were necessary, required his men to take cover, and personally set out with an automatic rifleman and a carrier to silence a machine-gun nest in his immediate front. The ammunition carrier was promptly killed, and Captain Skinker taking his ammunition continued on, firing the automatic rifle, until he met death himself, followed immediately by the automatic rifleman. Captain Skinker has been recommended for the Distinguished Service Medal, posthumous."

Major Comfort also wrote the bereaved parents as follows: "I looked upon his poor body lying where he fell in the road. His face bore the serene and peaceful expression of his waking hours." Upon more deliberate examination of the circumstances attending Captain Skinker's heroic death the commanding general decided that the Distinguished Service Medal was inadequate, and the Congressional Medal of Honor was awarded instead. This is the reward offered by military law for "bravery and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty." Skinker's body was returned to the United States and is buried in St. Louis.

One of the men that also won the Medal of Honor on that fateful day in 1918, was PVT. Wold. Wold was born on in 1895 in Winger, Minnesota, where he was raised by his parents, immigrants from Norway, along with his seven brothers and sisters and one half-sister. When he enlisted in the US Army from Minnewaukan, North Dakota, he would join Company I, 138th Infantry Regiment, 35th Division.

Wold's platoon was supposed to stay in contact with the nearby 137th Infantry Regiment but due to the thick fog, his platoon lost contact with both 137th and the 138th.



Private Nels T. Wold

Continuing on into the fog, Wold's platoon joined up with American scouts and was led by Lieutenant John Wingate in order to attack the Germans from behind and clear a path for the American advance. It was his actions once the fog had lifted that would earn him

the Medal of Honor. The citation reads:

He rendered most gallant service in aiding the advance of his company, which had been held up by machine-gun nests, advancing, with one other soldier, and silencing the guns, bringing with him, upon his return, 11 prisoners. Later the same day he jumped from a trench and rescued a comrade who was about to be shot by a German officer, killing the officer during the exploit. His actions were entirely voluntary, and it was while attempting to rush a fifth machine-gun nest that he was killed. The advance of his company was mainly due to his great courage and devotion to duty.

Because of Wold's actions, the rest of the group were able to charge the position that had killed him, defeat its occupants, and recover his body. His body was returned to the States and Nels T Wold is buried in the Elim Cemetery in Winger, Minnesota. He was 22 years old.

Captain Alexander Rives Skinker and Private Nels T. Wold, two men whose names are not well known in history, but who earned the Medal of Honor with the ultimate sacrifice of their lives.

Note From The Executive Secretary/Treasurer

Operating Funds: If you are a member, you have received or soon will be sent a membership/donor form asking you to continue your support and contribute to the associations operating or museum fund. We have published the value an association brings to a military unit; with the hopes you can see what your hard-earned money supports. If you are not a member and are reading this edition of the "Santa Fe," please consider joining. Our operating fund and membership have been in a downward trend. Publications, mailing, and support we offer has increased in cost like everything else. Unless you ask us not to, we will capture all donations and publish them in the paper.

Museum Investment: The investment set up by the association to help support the Kansas National Guard Museum which has a large section for the 35th Division History and Hall of Fame is performing well enough to fund our annual \$5,000 maintenance grant.

Hiring of an Executive Secretary and Treasurer: As I informed the Executive Council at the last reunion, I am resigning as the Executive Secretary/Treasurer once a replacement is found. This position is a blessing and has allowed me to meet and hear from so many outstanding Veterans and Families. I would not have had this opportunity if I had not taken the position. A shift in the paradigm of where the association is located and how an employee is reimbursed is probably needed if we cannot find someone to perform the detailed records my wife, Betty, does, and the editing, tax preparation, meeting prep, conference assistance and numerous duties that the Exec/Treasurer performs. A few of these duties that require ongoing support are listed for those that may be interested: Routinely check mail from post office, Cheddar Up and PayPal accounts, and emailing; Record and send receipts to donors, and categorize them in Quicken for monthly report to the Executive Council; Bank administration as needed; Reply, research, or find a person to answer inquiries about Veterans, History, etc.; Receive, review and file items for the newspaper; Order Sales items as required; Maintain Deceased list by Regiment; Maintain Excel Spreadsheet on all members; Balance checkbook and trust accounts; organize and prepare documents for financial meeting; Maintain and prepare Annual Tax Report information for Preparers; Attend as Rep on Museum Board (or find someone to represent the DIV); Early each year, print, stuff, and mail about 500 envelopes for our fundraiser; receive, edit and send articles to the editor for publication every four months; Conference prep as requested by the planning committee to include hotel contracts, transportation needs, make welcome packets, et.; Mail conference registrations to those not on the email list.

Questions about the report or those interested in the position can contact COL, (Ret) Robert Bloomquist, 785-969-7548 or email at 35divassn@gmail.com

35th Infantry Division Spotlight

Submitted by Doris Davis, Vice President of Military and Veterans Affairs, Battle of the Bulge Assn.

BRIEF HISTORY

The 35th Division was organized in 1917 at Camp Doniphan, OK, as a unit of the National Guard, with troops from MO and KS. It was inactivated in 1919, but Division HQ was reconstituted in 1935. It was reactivated December 23, 1940.

Training: Began at Camp Rucker, AL, April 1, 1943. Participated in the Second Army Tennessee Maneuvers from November 1943 to January 1944. Arrived to England 25 May 1944 for further training.

Overseas: Arrived July 5-7, 1944, Omaha Beach. Entered combat July 11 in the hedgerows north of St. Lo.

Major Campaigns: Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, Central Europe

Days in Combat: 264 days

Casualties: 15,822 (KIA 2,485); WIA 11,526; MIA 340; POW 1,471)

Distinguished Unit Citations: 7; Meritorious Service Unit Plaques: 22

Awards: Medal of Honor 1; Distinguished Service Cross: 44; Distinguished Service Medal: 1; Silver Star: 688; Legion of Merit: 10; Distinguished Flying Cross: 1; Soldier's Medal: 22; Bronze Star: 3,435; Air Medal: 133

Commanders: Maj Gen Ralph E. Truman (Oct 1938 - Oct 1941); Maj Gen William H. Simpson (Oct 1941 - April 1942); Maj Gen Maxwell Murray (May 1942 - Jan 1943); Maj Gen Paul W. Baade (Jan 1943 - inactivation)

Inactivated: December 7, 1945, at Camp Breckinridge, KY.

Re-established as a KS and MO National Guard Division in 1947.

The 35th INFD was featured in the 1970 film *Kelly's Heroes*.

BAPTISM BY FIRE: the 35th Enters Combat

The division entered combat July 11, 1944, joining the fight to liberate St. Lo. It entered St. Lo a week later.

During the Normandy breakout, the Santa Fe s rescued the "Lost Battalion" of the 30th Division.

After the chase across France, the 35th crossed the Moselle River on September 13 and liberated Nancy.



Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 137th Regiment, 35th Infantry Division move towards Unterbruch, 6 February 1945. Photo: U.S. National Archives

The division then fought its way across Lorraine, arriving at the German border on December 8.

THE 35TH INFD AND THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

After fighting their way across France, the 35th crossed the Blies River on the morning of December 12 and captured Habkirchen, Germany.

The enemy had fought ferociously along the way and the 35th suffered heavy casualties. The Division moved to Metz, France, December 22-23 for rest and rehabilitation. By this time, the Santa Fe boys had fought continuously for 162 days. On Christmas Day, 1944, the troops, billeted in warm buildings in the city, ate a hearty meal, and were given passes into the town. This rest did not last long. On Christmas night, the order to move was received and within 24 hours of leaving Metz they were in the thick of battle near Bastogne,

Belgium.

In the early morning hours of January 4, 1945, Co C, 134th Inf Regt launched an attack from the village of Marvie, toward Lutrebois, Belgium. They "jumped off" in the semi-darkness with the snow and wind driving in their faces, cutting visibility down to a minimum. Moving through knee deep snow in the bitter cold, they overran their objective and became trapped behind enemy lines. The German's attacked, killing 10, wounding and capturing many more. By the next morning, fewer than 40 of more than 120 men of Co C made it back to friendly lines, although a few others were able to return over the next several days.

On January 12, 1945, elements of the 134th Inf Regt cleared an area southeast of Lutrebois, Belgium. On January 18, the rest of the 35th INFD moved back to Metz, France. The 134th, now attached to the 6th ARMD, continued to fight in the Ardennes as Combat Team 134 until January 31, when they rejoined the rest of the Division in the Ninth Army sector in

Holland. While in the Ardennes, the 35th INFD suffered 449 battle deaths. VE Day, May 9, 1945, marked the end of 304 days in combat in World War II for the Division, during which it fought in five campaigns in France, Luxembourg, Belgium, Holland, and Germany.

TO LEARN MORE about the 35th ID, here are some websites:

www.coulthart.com/134

The official unit history: www.coulthart.com/134/35id-wwii/PresentingThe35thID-OCR.pdf

The History of the 35th Inf Div during the Battle of the Bulge (written by a military historian): [35th Infantry Division in the Battle of the Bulge - Ardennes \(coulthart.com\)](http://35thInfantryDivisionintheBattleoftheBulge-Ardennes(coulthart.com))

The reunion will be in Leavenworth, KS, September 5-6, 2025.

Deadline August 5.

To contact the division association: 35divassn@gmail.com

-Compiled by Roberta Russo, 35th INFD historian.

Edited by Doris Davis and Leon Reed

35th Division: Metz to the Bulge

Several veterans of the 35th Division shared their experiences in the Bulge over the years. In addition, John Kerner published a memoir, *Combat Medic, World War II*. In this excerpt, several 35th Division veterans discuss the division's brief rest stop in Metz and the abrupt end of this rest period.

Submitted by Doris Davis, Vice President of Military and Veterans Affairs, Battle of the Bulge Assn.

On December 20, the 35th was pulled out of the line and sent to Metz. The plan was to take a little time to absorb replacements, rest, and repair or replace equipment. After 162 days of near-continuous combat, the boys looked forward to the time away from the front lines.

It lasted about four days.

"It was Christmas Eve. We put up a Christmas tree and decorated it with all kinds of stuff, including cotton. The Christmas Eve meal includes turkey, cran- berry sauce, sweet potatoes, etc. I still do not know how they got it to us. During that wonderful dinner, we received word that all plans had changed. The Germans had broken through our lines, had surrounded

Bastogne, and were headed toward the sea. There would be no reinforcements, no rest, and no refitting."

"We were upset at having to leave Metz and our plans for a pleasant Christmas. Fortunately I had accumulated a good supply of warm clothes, and I needed them all. My truck had no doors, so that we were exposed to the air. I put on two suits of long underwear, two pairs of socks, wool pants and a shirt, a field jacket,



**John Kerner
320th Regiment,
Combat Medic, World War II**

an overcoat, two pairs of gloves, and a fur hat covered by my helmet. Still, I was none too warm."



Bob Hagel, L Company, 320th Regiment, "Keep the Road From Arlon to Bastogne Open," Bulge Bugle, February 1992

"We departed Metz early on the morning of December 26 by truck. We traveled all day in the rain and cold until sometime after dark when we were finally able to bed down in an old barn. We were awakened in the early morning by an artillery barrage (our own) and after a hasty breakfast we departed for the front line passing through several badly shelled towns, one of which was Bigonville, Luxembourg. This was the last time we had a warm meal or slept in anything other than a foxhole for the next ten days. The weather turned colder and it started to snow."

"The 35th Division's job was to keep the road from Arlon to Bastogne open so the Third Army and supplies could continue to flow north. We found out later that we were facing the infamous 1st SS Panzer Division and their orders were to cut the supply road no matter what the cost."

"We probably didn't move more than a mile or so in the next 10 days. Every day was almost the same. Around 2 p.m. we would attack the enemy position, push them out with small arms and mortar fire, dig in, fight off counterattacks, care for and carry back our wounded and bring up supplies. We were fighting in heavy pine forests and mountainous terrain with no roads. Everything had to be moved either by carrying it or pulling it on sleds that we had found in towns along the way."

"On the 26th of December, the 134th Regiment moved to the vicinity of Arlon, Belgium. From there we pushed on in conjunction with the 4th Armored Division to relieve the 101st Airborne Division that was surrounded in Bastogne.

We opened and held open the road so that supplies and ammunition could be brought into Bastogne... We fought in and out of Luxembourg and Belgium.

While I was with them we freed Bigonville and Boulaide in Luxembourg. In Belgium we liberated Tintange, Viller- La-Bonne-Eau, Lutremange (where we dedicated a plaque to the 35th Division and to General Patton on Saturday the 14th of September 2002), Lutrebois, and Marvie."



**Michael Linquata,
D Company, 134th Regiment,
"The Expendables,"
Bulge Bugle May 2012**

"We heard a lot of German when we entered the woods. We proceeded through the woods and discovered we were about 60 feet above a road where there was a large group of German Soldiers running for trucks, and an officer giving all sorts of directions. We did not start shooting because we were only too glad they were on the run. I returned and made my report to the Company Commander. He said, "Thanks, Sergeant. Get your men into a truck - we are moving out." After my next reconnaissance, there was a member of the Red Cross waiting for me and handed me a telegram informing me of the birth of our little daughter. Mother and daughter were both doing fine."

—**Norvin Vogel, Company L, 134th Regiment, "First Reconnaissance + Good News From Home," Bulge Bugle, February 2018**

"My daddy always taught me to never pray a selfish prayer if I expected it to be answered. My Mother and Daddy had lost two grandfathers in the Civil War and my Daddy had served in World War I. My Mother had lost her only brother in World War I. I was their only son with a sister serving in the Air Corps. I said, "Lord, spare my life and let me return home alive no matter what condition, one arm, one leg, or whatever gone, because my Mother and Daddy don't need to suffer any more heartbreak or sorrow from war. I thought further and I said, "Lord, I shall walk straight and upright the very best that I possibly can and live among my fellow man in peace and quiet if you will grant me this request." I prayed that over many times in the next couple of days, and a quiet calm came over me. That is not to say that I wasn't scared half to death most of the time, like all the rest of us on the line. But I was never too scared to do my duty as it was needed through the rest of combat."

—**Ray Huckaby, G Company, 134th Regiment, "A Soldier Remembers," Bulge Bugle, February 2008**

80th Anniversary of the Liberation of Orleans

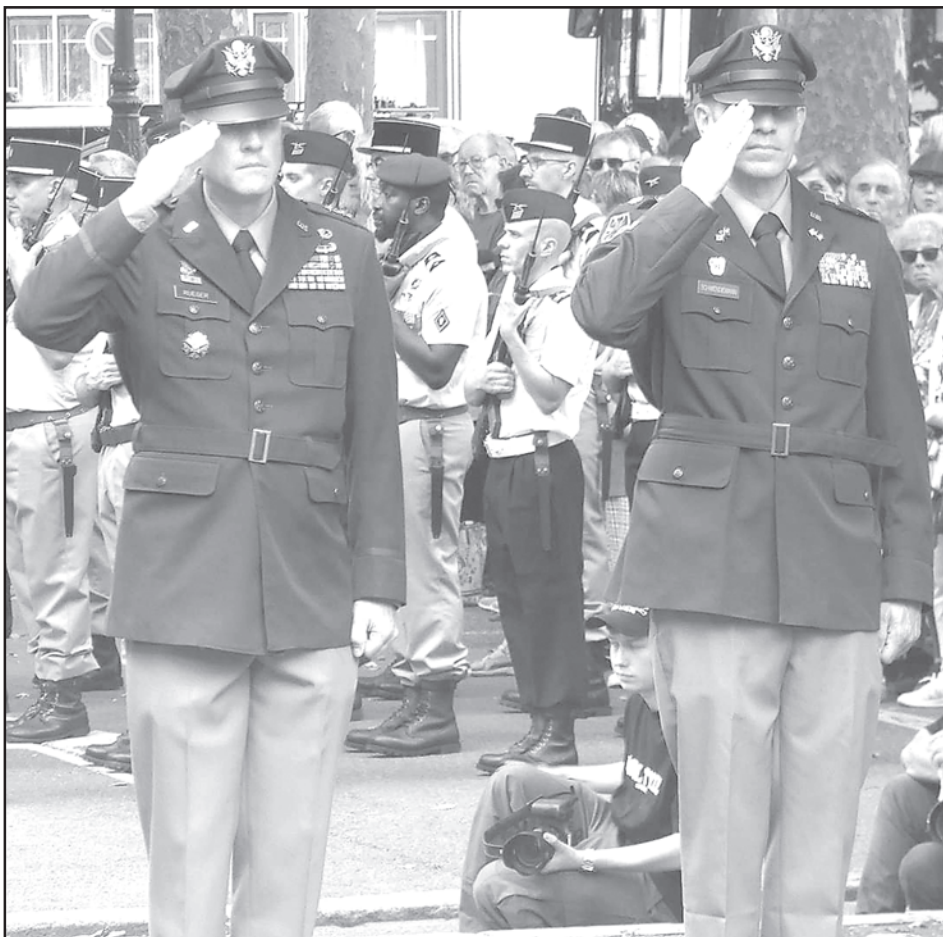
Photos fo taken on August 16th, 2024, for the 80th Anniversary of the Liberation of Orleans
Shared by Claude Rozet



Historical marker in front of Orleans City Hall saying the City was liberated by General Patton's Third Army on August 16th, 1944.



MG John Rueger with Mrs. Helen Patton, granddaughter of General George Patton



MG John Rueger and LTC Joseph Schwendemann, Commanding 52nd Strategic Signal BN stationed in Stuttgart; this batallion has a partnership with Orleans



MG John Rueger and Claude Rozet

Pvt. Charlie Bailey registration and enlistment found for family

Last December 2024, The 35th Div. Association received an inquiry by Douglas Kirk:

"I am looking for the date that my uncle Charlie Bailey {PVT} joined the division. He was in F company 137th Inf Reg and was killed on 26 Feb 1945 just East of the Roer River in Germany. His service #34837455. Any information would be greatly appreciated. Douglas Kirk, U.S army, retired"

Roberta Russo, the Association's historian, was able to find the information requested.

Charlie Bailey registered for the draft December 21, 1944 - (draft registration attached).

He was inducted into the Army June 26, 1944 at Ft McPherson Georgia - (enlistment record pictured below).

He joined Company F, 137th Infantry Regiment as a Rifleman (MOS 745) from the 18th Replacement Battalion on February 3, 1945 when the unit was in the vicinity of Braunsrath, Germany

He was killed in action February 26, 1945 in the vicinity of Huckelhoven, Germany. Below is an excerpt from 137th Infantry Regiment after action report for day of his death: 26 FEBRUARY 1945

The 137th Infantry crossed the Roer River by motor under cover of darkness, moved into Doveren, attacked at 0630 on foot to reach the line of departure, and then swung a thrust toward Houverath, Bruck, and Eastern Huckelhoven, against the stiff enemy resistance encountered during the day.

Reconnaissance elements moved forward

to Doveren and the foot elements of the regiment crossed the IP at Ball at 0330 and moved to the line of departure followed by the motor transportation. The entire regiment closed into the area by 0500 and Regimental Headquarters was established in Doveren, which at the time was subjected to a heavy enemy artillery barrage.

The 2nd Bn, led by Co "F," attacked in a column of companies. The advance was met by heavy mortar, artillery and SP fire. Co "F" moved through the woods east of Huckelhoven under mortar fire, while Co "E" with a platoon of tanks followed, proceeding along the road to the right of the woods. The battalion pulled up at the stream bed near the edge of the woods, dug-in, and blazed away at the enemy confronting it, as Co "H" supported the fire with long range machine

gun fire. When the 137th moved on toward Seidlung, 12 enemy soldiers came out of Huckelhoven and surrendered to Co "F".

The regiment received considerable mortar, small arms, automatic weapons, and artillery fire during the day from the enemy getting observation from a slag pile in Huckelhoven. The 3rd Bn, attacking on the right, captured the town of Houverath and moved on toward Bruck. Five hours after leading elements passed through Houverath, fifteen enemy soldiers were flushed from cellars in the town. Among the prisoners taken today were a captain, CO of the 1st Bn, 330th Infantry Regiment, 183rd VG (Volksgrenadier) Division, and a Lieut., 219th FA Regiment.

He was posthumously awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge 1 March 1944

THE U.S. NATIONAL ARCHIVES & RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
www.archives.gov Monday, December 23, 2024

Display Full Records

File Unit: Electronic Army Serial Number Merged File, ca. 1938 - 1946 (Enlistment Records)
in the Series: World War II Army Enlistment Records, created 6/1/2002 - 9/30/2002, documenting the period ca. 1938 - 1946. - Record Group 64 (info)

Brief Scope: This series contains records of approximately nine million men and women who enlisted in the United States Army, including the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps.

This series does not contain records of all World War II Army enlistees. You may wish to [View the FAQs](#) for this series.

Field Title	Value	Meaning
ARMY SERIAL NUMBER	34837455	34837455
NAME	BAILEY#CHARLIE#####	BAILEY#CHARLIE#####
RESIDENCE: STATE	43	GEORGIA
RESIDENCE: COUNTY	045	CARROLL
PLACE OF ENLISTMENT	4344	FT MCPHERSON ATLANTA GEORGIA
DATE OF ENLISTMENT DAY	26	26
DATE OF ENLISTMENT MONTH	06	06
DATE OF ENLISTMENT YEAR	44	44
GRADE: ALPHA DESIGNATION	PVT#	Private
GRADE: CODE	8	Private
BRANCH: ALPHA DESIGNATION	NO#	No branch assignment
BRANCH: CODE	02	No branch assignment
FIELD USE AS DESIRED	#	#
TERM OF ENLISTMENT	5	Enlistment for the duration of the War or other emergency, plus six months, subject to the discretion of the President or otherwise according to law
LONGEVITY	###	###
SOURCE OF ARMY PERSONNEL	0	Civil Life
NATIVITY	43	GEORGIA
YEAR OF BIRTH	24	24
RACE AND CITIZENSHIP	1	White, citizen
EDUCATION	1	1 year of high school
CIVILIAN OCCUPATION	316	Farm hands, general farms
MARITAL STATUS	6	Single, without dependents
COMPONENT OF THE ARMY	7	Selectees (Enlisted Men)
CARD NUMBER	#	#
BOX NUMBER	0856	0856
FILM REEL NUMBER	3.278	3.278

FORM APPROVED Budget Bureau No. 33-R012-42

REGISTRATION CARD (Men born on or after July 1, 1924, and on or before December 31, 1924)
(Also for the registration of men as they reach the 18th anniversary of the date of their birth on or after January 1, 1943.)

SERIAL NUMBER 1. NAME (Print) ORDER NUMBER
W 59 ~~Charlie~~ Bailey 12427

2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) Carrollton Carroll Ga.
Rte 2
(Town, township, village or city) (County) (State)

3. MAILING ADDRESS Same
(Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same, insert word same)

4. TELEPHONE None 5. AGE IN YEARS 18 6. PLACE OF BIRTH Carroll Ga.
DATE OF BIRTH Oct. 9 1924
(Month) (Day) (Year) (Town or county) (State)

7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Ernest Bailey - Rte #5
(Number and street) (P. O. number) (Town) (County) (State)

8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS Works for father - Farms
(Number and street or R. P. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)

9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OF BUSINESS Rte #5 Carrollton Carroll Ga.
(Number and street or R. P. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.

DSS Form 1 (Rev. 11-16-42) e16-21030-4 (OVER) Charlie Bailey (Registrant's signature)

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT

RACE	HEIGHT (Approx.)	WEIGHT (Approx.)	COMPLEXION	
White <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5'7"	135	Sallow	
Negro			Light	
Indian			Ruddy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Filipino			Dark	
Japanese			Freckled	
Other Oriental			Light brown	
			Dark brown	
			Black	

Other obvious physical characteristics that will aid in identification
None

I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

Helen E. Smith
(Signature of registrar)
Registrar for Local Board 1 Carroll Ga.
(Number) (City or county) (State)
Date of registration Dec. 21, 1942

Local Board No. 1 43
Carroll County 045
001

(The stamp of the local board having jurisdiction of the registrant shall be placed in the above space)
Courthouse
Carrollton, Georgia
U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16c-21630-1

The 35th Division in the Ardennes 1944-1945

Submitted by Mike H. Ven

December found the Allied Armies all along the western front pounding on the German West Wall. Disaster for the Nazis was imminent, only deception and a major counter offensive could turn the war into another chance for the Germans to stabilize their front

Von Rundstedt came up with a plan based on the "Blitzkrieg in the West" dated May, 1940. Assemble all armor and reserves in the Coblenz-Trier area, smash through the Ardennes Forest, then attack and conquer your enemies. This tactic, used in 1940 caused the Netherland Army to surrender in five days, the Belgian Army in nineteen days and completed the domination of all France in 43 days.

Now, in December of 1944, with time running out, Von Rundstedt, chose the same Ardennes area as in 1940. Spearheaded by the Sixth Panzer Army, the Germans started their offensive on December 16. Eruption and breakthrough by German armor and armored infantry destroyed or swept aside all immediate Allied resistance. The Germans kept fighting with one goal that was very important to them and the success of the offensive, the city of Bastogne.

Bastogne was a critical location, both for the Allied reconquest of the conquered areas and for the Germans in their attempt to break the American and British lines

Christmas, the tenth day of the German offensive, was spent by the 35th in Metz, France. This was the first real break the division had received since they landed in Normandy, one month after the invasion. Everyone gorged himself on turkey and had an opportunity to relax and get some much needed rest. On Christmas night the order to move out was received. The German armored breakthrough had made dangerous progress through the Ardennes and the 35th was transferred from the XX to the III Corps and sent to the vicinity north of Arlon, Belgium. The entire Division had moved more than 80 miles and was in the thick of battle within 24 hours after leaving Metz.

In conjunction with the 26th Division on the right of the 35th and the 4th Armored on the left, the plan of the III Corps was to attack, advance and relieve the surrounded American troops holding the important communications center of Bastogne. Limited information was obtained from elements of the 6th Cavalry Group, but a line of departure was established along the Sure River.

At 0800 on 27 December, the Division attacked in snow six inches deep. The 137th moved by truck along a road in the 4th Armored sector to a point southwest of Tintange in order to cross the river in friendly territory. Considerable gains were made until the town of Surre was reached. There the 137th met bitter resistance and only after a hard struggle was it able to capture the town.

The 320th ran into considerable difficulty in crossing the Sure River, but by wading in icy water waist deep, the 3rd Battalion got a company across in the afternoon. By dark the 2nd Battalion had captured the towns of Boulaide and Baaschleiden.



The division was attacked again and again. Neither side gave quarter. But the Santa Fe did not budge. In the opinion of many veteran 35th Division soldiers the Battle of the Ardennes was even more fierce than St. Lo. From 3 to 7 January, Division artillery under the command of Brigadier General T. L. Futch fired 41,385 rounds into enemy positions.

Next day little gain was made in any sector. The 3rd Battalion of the 137th drove to a hill southwest of Villers-la-Bonne-Eau where severe small arms, mortar, and artillery fire was encountered. The 320th took an important road junction. The 3rd Battalion of the 134th was brought up from reserve and relieved the 1st Battalion of the 318th Infantry Regiment, 80th Division.

On 29 December, the division continued to attack. The 137th made no gain. The 320th was locked in bitter battle for a farm southeast of the town of Harlange.

Then the division reserve, the 134th, was committed into cold, bleak, battle. Colonel Miltonberger attacked in column of battalions in order to give depth to his effort. The regiment fought with its usual tenacious Santa Fe spirit and soon the 1st Battalion moved into Marvie, three kilometers southeast of Bastogne, making contact with the 101st Airborne Division. This effort, coupled with that of the gallant 4th Armored, made certain that Bastogne was relieved of all encirclement.

The Germans launched a powerful counter-attack against the 134th and 137th on 30 December. Much credit for destroying the German armor around Lutrebois was due to the 654th Tank Destroyer Battalion and the 701st Tank Destroyer Battalion of the 4th Armored Division. In all they destroyed 11 tanks during this attack. The attacking forces were the 1st SS Panzer "Adolph Hitler" Division and the 167th Volksgrenadier Division. It was a brutal counter-attack and elements of Companies K and L of the 137th were cut off in Villers-la-Bonne-Eau.

The German objective in their counter-attack was to cut, at all costs, the Arlon-Bastogne Highway. All day and night the battle raged, finally with the assistance of the air corps and close proximity fuzed artillery, it was broken, and the elite 1st SS Panzer Division lay lifeless, broken and destroyed upon the field of battle.

On the last day of December, attempts to relieve the situation of K and L Companies, 137th, were in vain. They were finally given up for lost when it was learned from German

continued on page 9



Even in zero weather and waist-deep snow the Nazis fought with the most tenacity. The 1st SS Division committed many atrocities in the area defended by the 35th Division. Several American POW's were executed by this unit after being captured. January 13th, 6 soldiers of the 35th Division were found in the area of Lutrebois. They were all executed by the enemy. This day is known as "Disastrous Thursday, the murder of the six" in the Division's history.

Ardennes 1944-1945

continued from page 8

prisoners that they had either been killed or captured. The Nazis blasted holes in the walls of the houses from which the men fought and then turned flame throwers on the men inside. This was a blow that the Division vowed to avenge. The majority of the 235 men missing from the regiment that day were believed lost in this action. Their bravery and intense devotion to duty gave impetus to the Santa Fe spirit and determination to finish the war quickly as possible.

The Germans were fighting in excellent defensive terrain and good road networks. The

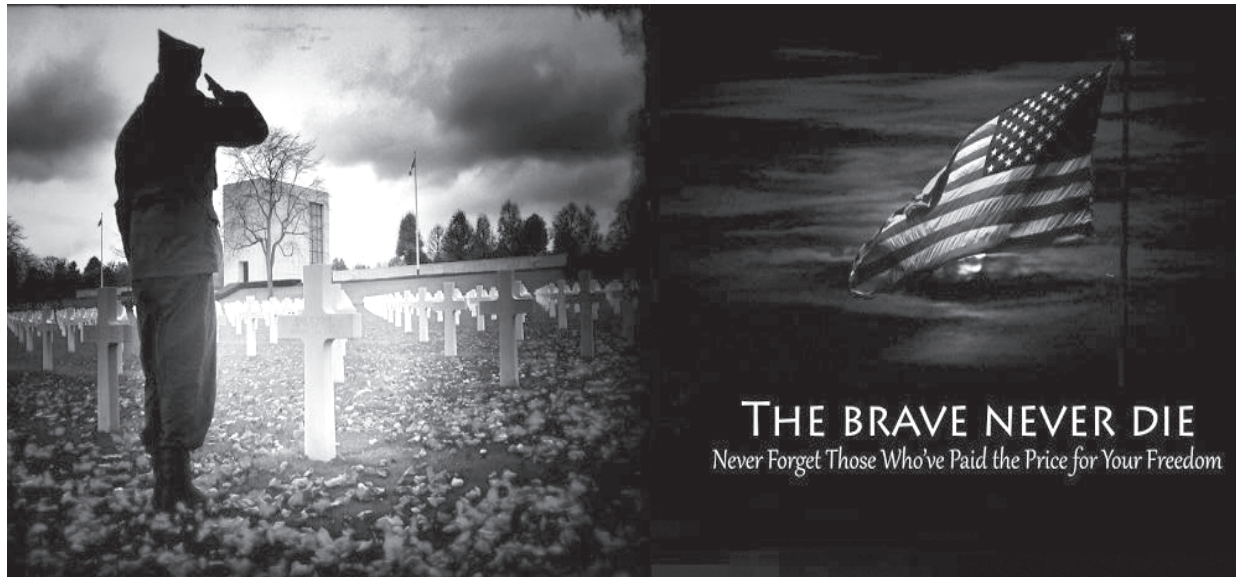
entire area was filled with towns and villages and every house was transformed into a miniature fortress. Every hill and every small woods had to be taken separately. The 137th fought for 13 days before it battered down the defenses of Villers-la-Bonne-Eau. It took five days of constant assault by the 134th to capture Lutrebois. Harlange was held by the Nazis even though the 320th put extreme pressure on it.

This was the last attempt from the Germans to brake the western front and push through towards Antwerp and take the harbor to cut off allied supplies. Never again would Hitler be able to launch an offensive in the west on such a scale. An admiring British Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill stated, "This is undoubtedly the greatest American battle of the war and will, I believe, be regarded as an ever-famous American victory." Indeed, in terms of participation and losses, the Battle of the Bulge is arguably the greatest battle in American military history.



Units identified on the 134th Infantry front alone were the 901st Regiment of the 130th Panzer Lehr Division; the 2nd Regiment of the 1st SS Panzer Division, and the 401st Artillery Brigade. Further identification were made of the 331st Regiment, 167th Volksgrenadier Division, and the 167th Division Artillery Brigade. Roughly, four German Divisions had attacked the 35th Division and had been beaten off.

From 27 December to 17 January, the 35th took 1,034 prisoners and killed and wounded as many more. The Santa Fe, fighting in freezing and bitter cold against a ruthless enemy, had performed admirably and the Battle of Bastogne was closed. Now the enemy's Ardennes penetration was reduced to a defensive bulge from which the Germans could only continue to retire under pressure.



**Deadline for the Next
Issue of the
Santa Fe Express
15 May 2025**

*Next conference to be held in
Leavenworth, Kansas
September 5-6, 2025
More information will be available in
the next issue of the paper.*

WWII Ring, Christmas Story from 1944

Submitted by Louise Endres Moore

Author of *Alfred: The Quiet History of a World War II Infantryman*

(This is just a warm Christmas story, which I know will be part of a previous edition, but my father (320th) received the gifted ring 80 years ago, near the end of January, en route to the Vosges Mountains. In the photo, my father (Alfred) is in the center, and Ben Lane is on the right. William Notley's daughter believes her father is on the left.)

Certain gifts are valued beyond their price; a very few are "priceless."

Fifty-seven years after World War II, I used the address from the back page of a tiny military booklet to find my father's friend from the war. When I spoke on the phone with Ben Lane for the first time, he said of my father, "I loved him like a brother. I was with him on Christmas Eve 1944."

I knew the story Ben was about to share. It was one of the few we had been told about the tour of duty of my father, Alfred Endres, and it involved a rose gold ring that said in French, "More than yesterday. Less than tomorrow."

Just before Christmas '44, the frigid

Battle of the Bulge erupted, and the 35th Division was rushed toward the Bastogne area. The troops stopped in Metz, France, to bathe for the first time in two months, receive packages from home, pick up replacements, and have the luxury of sleeping on a cot rather than in a foxhole. By General Patton's personal order, the 35th was allowed to stay a day longer for Christmas dinner because the troops had been on the front line continuously for the previous 162 days.

In Metz, the French manager of the bathhouse, Charles Dewald, confided in Ben and my father that he had nothing to give to his children for Christmas, so on Christmas Eve, the two soldiers quietly delivered their army rations of fruit and chocolate to the manager's home, leaving quickly so as not to be seen by the children. Ben said, "The manager started to cry and said he would see us when we came back from the fighting."

Fortunately both soldiers survived the Battle of the Bulge and returned to Metz where the manager of the bathhouse reciprocated gifts. My dad received the rose gold ring while Ben was gifted a medallion.

I was delighted to find Ben after 57 years, but my hope of reuniting the two aging friends fell apart because of health concerns. I wanted to find something joyful about the war since my father had never found anything good about it. I wanted him to be at peace and possibly to even feel a bit of pride. I had an idea.

My dad had told me that the manager of the bathhouse in Metz travelled to the United States to swim. How many international swimmers could there be in 1944?



Online I stumbled upon the International Swimming Hall of Fame in Florida. They had no records from 1944, but they kindly gave me the email for Fédération Française de Natation. From there, my request was forwarded to a man who would speak with some elders in Metz.

Eight days after I had initiated my search, an email arrived, "I think I have found 'our man'." With translations from English to French and French to English, I connected with one of the children who remembered the ring from 1944. He wrote to the soldiers, "I truly thank you for your kindness." To honor the soldiers for the gift they had given during that bleak Christmas of 1944, a basket of fruit and chocolate was sent to both my father and Ben.

During all my research to trace my father's tour of duty, finding one of the children from Christmas 1944 was probably the best gift I ever gave to my father. Indeed, it may have been priceless.



35th Division Hall of Fame Nominating Form for 2025

At this time, there are ten (10) nominations for the 35th Division Hall of Fame consideration in 2025. They are 2d Lt Burnett G. Bartley, CSM Gale D. Beck, PFC Martin H. Duehring, 2d Lt Theodore Dulchinos, 1st Lt Stevie F. Fox, Staff Sgt Craig Schoeller, Staff Sgt Ralph L. Shear, Sgt John R. "Bob" Sirk, Maj Norvin L. Vogel, and CPT Edwin S. Young.

Members of the 35th Division Assn., as well as others, are encouraged to submit additional nominations for the 35th Division Hall of Fame for induction in 2026. Nominators must sign the nomination form and provide data for future contacts.

Three things are required for the nomination:

1. The completed Hall of Fame Nomination Form below.
2. Separate page(s) of the biography of the nominee giving military service and emphasizing what the nominee did in service in the 35th Division and/or 35th Division Association to merit induction into the Hall of Fame.
3. A photo of the nominee

Supporting documents such as copies of award citations, listings of military awards, copies of his/her service records, letters of support, family information, civilian work, etc. are also appreciated.

The 2026 class to be inducted will be selected at the Annual 35th Div Assn Conference in 2025.

Send nominations to **BG Ed Gerhardt, Chairman, 35th Hall of Fame Committee, 125 SE Airport E. Drive, Topeka, KS 66619, or e-mail at office@kngmuseum.org** so as to arrive not later than 1 August 2025.

Hall of Fame Nomination Form

Rank/Title of Nominee:

Name of Nominee:

Address of Nominee (if living):

Name & Address of Next of Kin (if deceased):

Nominee Date of Birth:

Nominee Date of Death:

Nominee List of Military Awards:

Nominator Name:

Nominator E-Mail:

Nominator Address:

Nominator Telephone:

Echoes of Valor: Nebraska National Guard Returns to Bastogne 80 Years Later

**By Staff Sgt. Gauret Stearns
Nebraska National Guard**

BASTOGNE, Belgium – BASTOGNE, Belgium -- The Battle of Bastogne, a pivotal World War II clash that took place in the frigid Ardennes Forest in December 1944, is etched into military history lore.

In a historic battle of wills, German forces fought for control of the strategic city of Bastogne, which was defended by U.S. Soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division who had been cutoff and surrounded during Germany's final major offensive. It was a battle that captured the attention of the entire world.

Far less known, however, is the role that Soldiers from the Nebraska National

Guard's 134th Infantry Regiment played during the critical days of the battle. Battling against deep snow, frigid temperatures and near-constant German counterattacks, the efforts of the 134th Infantry Regiment Soldiers helped raise the siege of Bastogne, allowing relief to flow into the devastated city and its airborne defenders.

Eighty years later and a few degrees warmer, a new generation of Nebraska National Guard troops returned to Bastogne to honor the legacy of their predecessors and commemorate the anniversary of this hard-fought victory.

"Standing here in Bastogne, where these incredible men fought and sacrificed, is

incredibly humbling," said Spc. Joseph Kearney, one of five Nebraska National Guard members selected to participate in recent ceremonies commemorating the 80th anniversary of the pivotal battle. "It gives me a deeper appreciation for the history of our unit [2-134th Airborne] and the legacy we carry forward."

The 80th anniversary of the Battle of Bastogne was marked with solemn ceremonies and commemorative events. Current members of the Nebraska National Guard participated in tours, wreath-laying ceremonies at key monuments, had meetings with local citizens and even lodged in the very same building that a unit from the 101st Airborne requisitioned as a regimental headquarters during the war, Chateau de Rolley. They walked in the footsteps of the heroes of 1944, visiting the foxholes and battlefields where their predecessors fought and bled.

The five Nebraska National Guard service members on this commemorative staff ride were:

- Sgt. Maj. Joshua Meyers
- Tech. Sgt. Greg Rosener
- Tech. Sgt. Aprielle Deleon-Guerrero
- Staff Sgt. Gauret Stearns
- And Spc. Joseph Kearney

According to Pat Shannon, who coordinated the local participation by the Nebraska National Guard, the Battle of Bastogne was a brutal test of endurance and courage. Outnumbered and outgunned, the 101st Airborne held fast against relentless

German attacks, their defiant stand epitomized by General McAuliffe's famous one-word reply to a German surrender demand: "Nuts!" The situation grew increasingly desperate as supplies dwindled and casualties mounted. It was then that the 134th Infantry, part of General Patton's Third Army, arrived to break the siege, a moment that brought renewed hope to the exhausted defenders.

"The 134th's contribution to the liberation of Bastogne was crucial," Shannon said. "They fought with tenacity, pushing through heavy snow and fierce resistance to reach the town. Their arrival marked a turning point in the battle, allowing for the resupply and reinforcement of the 101st Airborne and ultimately contributing to the Allied victory in the Bulge."

The visit to Bastogne left a significant impact on the participating Nebraska Guardsmen while also serving as a powerful tribute to the shared history between the United States and Belgium, forged in the fires of World War II. It highlights the enduring importance of remembrance and the continued relevance of military service and partnerships around the globe.

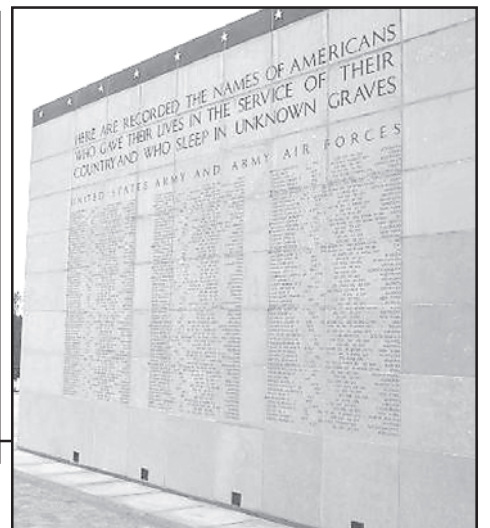
"You can read about World War II and the Battle of Bastogne in books and shows like Band of Brothers, but being here, seeing the terrain and the memorials, makes it real in a way I never imagined," Meyers said. "It's an honor to be here representing the Nebraska National Guard."



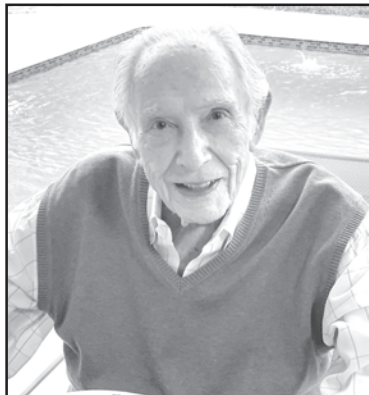
The Nebraska Soldiers and Airmen also travelled to the Luxembourg American Cemetery Memorial where they visited the graves of service members laid to rest there while also placing a wreath at the grave marker for Technical Sergeant John Cantoni, a Nebraska National Guardsman from Omaha, Nebraska. Cantoni was killed in action on Jan. 4, 1944, when his foxhole was struck by German fire as he and other members of his unit were defending Bastogne. He had been with the company for less than a week after recovering from wounds he received during the Battle of St. Lo in July 1944.



The service members participated in a wreath laying ceremony at a memorial honoring those who liberated the region from Nazi Germany. Joining them in the ceremony were local residents and officials from the city of Lutremange as well as the Timberwolves Remembrance Group Belgium, a reenactment group in Belgium.



Taps



COL (R) Angelo "Ange" Peter Demos

(Oct.17, 1924 – Nov. 7, 2024)

Angelo "Ange" Peter Demos was born on October 17, 1924 and passed away on November 7, 2024.

He was 100 years old.

Angel had an immeasurable zest for life and was positive, kind, and encouraging to everyone he met. Ange would often meet someone, ask them about themselves, and immediately tell them how great they were. He made everyone he met feel valued, appreciated, and loved.

One of Ange's proudest accomplishments was fighting for our country's freedom in World War II. As a World War II combat soldier, Ange fought in the greatest battle of the greatest war in U.S. history, The Battle of the Bulge. As a member of the 35th Infantry Division – part of General George S. Patton's Third Army – he fought in the Central Europe, Ardennes, and Rhineland campaigns in the European Theatre. Ange enlisted in the army as a private in 1942 and fought continuously in combat from October 1944 through May 1945. He remained in the reserves for more than thirty years where he rose to the rank of full bird colonel. As a reservist, he worked in intelligence at the Pentagon and later became the commandant for the 3387th Miami USAR School at The University of Miami. His many military accolades include The Bronze Star, The Legion of Merit, The French Legion of Honor. He is also a member of the 35th Infantry Division Hall of Fame and his picture hangs in the 35th Division Museum in Topeka, Kansas. Ange's experience of sacrifice and triumph in WWII imbued him with a hunger for life that stayed with him to his final breaths.

Angel was born in Trenton, New Jersey. His family eventually moved to New York where he was the president of his senior high school class. He proudly attended the University of Pennsylvania where he was president of his fraternity, Delta Tau Delta. At Penn, he also starred in several shows with

the Mask and Wig Musical Comedy Troupe where he was an accomplished actor and phenomenal singer.

Ange later attended the University of Miami School of Law. He was president of his law school fraternity, a member of ODK honor society, and director of the moot court. Upon graduating from law school, he had a successful law practice and was a member of the Florida Bar. Ange was a very prominent attorney in South Florida for seventy-one years.

In the community, Ange was a proud member of St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church in Miami. He served on the Parish Council for twenty years and was the president of the Parish Council for six years. He was also a lawyer for The Diocese of Atlanta, served on The Archdiocesan Council of North and South America and was invested as an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, the highest layman honor in the Greek Orthodox Church.

To Ange, family was life. Ange and his wife, Chrissie Demos, met on a blind date so colossally successful that it resulted in a sixty-one-year marriage. Chrissie managed Ange's successful law office until earlier this year when Ange finally retired at the age of ninety-nine. The couple have two accomplished daughters, and four wonderful grandchildren. Their elder daughter, Stephanie Demos, is a prominent local lawyer and co-founder of the Miami theater company, Zoetic Stage. Their younger daughter, Cynthia Demos, owns a media company and is a well-known Emmy Award-winning former local TV news anchor.

Ange's legacy of character, patriotism, love, and joie de vivre lives on in his wife and daughters, in his grandchildren, Katherine Demos-Brown, Jillian Demos-Brown, Brooke Rubino, and Gibson Rubino; with his sons-in-law, Christopher Brown and Matthew Rubino; and with his niece and nephews, Denise Demos, Mark Demos, Paul Demos, Andrew Demos, and Charlie Demos.

Colonel Angelo P. Demos was a proud American, a devoted church member, and a role model of a loving husband and great father. He loved being with his family, traveling, eating gourmet food, and attending musical theater. He died peacefully to the sound of grand old show tunes sung by those he most loved.

The viewing was on Tuesday, November 19, 2024 and the funeral was on Wednesday, November 20, 2024.

After the funeral on November 20th, the interment with full military honors was held at the South Florida National Cemetery in Lake Worth, FL, 33449.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral in memory of Angelo Demos at <https://pushpay.com/g/saintsophiamiami>.

www.stanfillfh.com/tributes.

Wilson Andrew (Andy) Reaves, Jr,

Wilson Andrew (Andy) Reaves, Jr, of Dallas, Texas passed away on December 25, 2024, at age 99.

Andy was born in Sheffield, Alabama, in 1925 to Katherine Greer and Wilson A. Reaves, Sr. He graduated from San Jacinto High School in Houston, Texas in 1944. He entered the Army in the same year and sailed across the Atlantic on the Queen Mary with thousands of other soldiers to Scotland. He served as a combat infantryman, fighting in a mortar squad with the 35th infantry division across France, Belgium, and Germany until the end of the war.

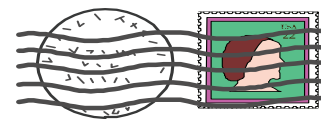
He attended the University of Texas, graduating in 1952 with a BS in ceramic engineering. He later earned a Master's degree in engineering management at George Washington University in Washington, DC. He had an extensive career as a ceramic engineer, working for the Naval Research Lab in Washington DC as a research scientist; DalTile; Texas Instruments, and Brown and Root, where he helped design fireproofing and insulation systems for petrochemical and nuclear power plants.

He married Toby Jean Greenway in Washington DC in 1957, and was the father of two daughters: Susan Elaine and Sally Joanne. He was a founding member of the Project Management Institute in Houston. He was a lifelong learner and enjoyed math, science, and anything having to do with computers. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife Toby, sisters Katherine Moore and Ruth Puckett and brother James Reaves. He is survived by his daughters Susan (Bob Whipple) and Sally (Tim Adams), nieces, and nephew.

Published by Legacy Remembers on Dec. 30, 2024

Pfc Wilson A Reeves, Jr. served in Company L, 320th Infantry Regiment

Mail Call



Bastogne 80th Commemoration of the Battle of the Bulge.

Hello Friends,

For the moment, here in Bastogne, we are celebrating the 80th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge with many organizations, in the presence of our King and Queen.

We have several historical reenactments, the civil and military parade and laying of flowers at the McAuliffe Monument and the Patton Monument. And also a magnificent sound and light show on the Mardasson Memorial with professional actors and more than 100 civilian extras, this was a show by Luc PETIT, a world famous entertainer who already made the job for the Paris Olympics 2024, for the Paris Tour Eiffel Anniversary,... Conferences, visits from American veterans who are over 100 years old, testimonies - conferences from Belgian civilians who experienced the battle, dedications from authors of books on the Battle (of which I was to be part but unfortunately, my poor health will force me to stay at home. I am very angry about it but I am incapable of assuming my modest contribution). The entire town of Bastogne is closed to car traffic and outdoor car parks with shuttles to the town center are provided. There's also the Perimeter March, an International Militaria Exchange, parachute jumps over the Mardasson Memorial, war-vintage aircraft flying over the city, Glenn Miller-style music concerts, female singers singing in the mood of 1944, bagpipers playing all over the town, the exhibition of the car in which Patton had his fatal accident and of course the usual presence of Helen Ayer Patton, granddaughter of the general. And all this will be accompanied by the traditional throwing of nuts from the balcony of the town hall which, this time will be carried out by the King and Queen of Belgium, the Grand-Duke and the Grand-Duchess of Luxembourg, the US ambassador in Belgium, the Vets and the Mayor of Bastogne. In short, it's the biggest event of the year in Bastogne.

This Sunday we'll have the parade in town of more than 400 vehicles of the war (tanks, jeeps, half-tracks, command cars, ambulance, motor bikes, trucks, coming from the collectors from Belgium, the Netherland, Great Britain, France, Germany, Luxembourg, even one is coming from New-Zealand, which will tour in the villages around Bastogne right after the City Parade. I already saw Santa in a jeep with five or six other jeeps riding in front of my house.

And unfortunately, I'm going to miss all of this. But at almost 80 years old, you have to expect 'misses'.

Kind regards,

Roger Marquet, Scientific Counselor of the Bastogne War Museum
(Submitted by Marge Bullock)

International Liaison Committee Column

CELEBRATIONS CONTINUE

Celebrations that began with the 80th anniversary of D-Day on June 6, 2024, continued through Fall and Winter in to 2025.

The Association of L'Espace de Memoire Lorraine 1939-1945 celebrated the liberation of Nancy, France (September 15, 1944) with a ceremony at the large stele honoring the 35th Infantry Division, especially the 134th Regiment. The terrible battle at the Pont de Flavigny is considered the beginning of the Nancy liberation.

Later, a group from the Association had a remembrance ceremony for Pvt Richard Evans (F-134-35). He was a replacement to Company F that was decimated at the Flavigny bridge. A plaque at Armaucourt (northeast of Nancy) honored Evans, his comrades who died in the Lorraine campaign and their American orphans.



Evans Family as Pvt Evans leaves for war.

Paula Evans Baker is one of those American orphans. Her father died at Armaucourt September 10, 1944. He received a temporary buried at Andilly Cemetery. His body was later repatriated to this hometown of Oklahoma City.

She was asked to be one of the Association members to write a memory of her loved one for the D-Day special edition of L'est Republicain. Jerome LeClerc, of the Espace Association, translated Paula's article into French and added 35th Division history. He found photographs to use, including one of the downtown Oklahoma City in the 1940s. Five photographs were used with the story. There was one of Jerome and Paula wearing their St. Maurice medals for service to the USA National Infantry Association. The photo dearest to Paula's heart if one of her and her parents. She is hugging her father's knees, obviously thinking, "Daddy, don't Go"

This month honored the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of the Battle of the Bulge in 1945. Pat Shannon, the 35th Division correspondent in Belgium writes the following: "Special guests at the 35th Division Memorial at Lutremange, Belgium, were soldiers and airmen from the Nebraska National Guard. Ceremonial duties were provided by the Timberwolves. The Timberwolves are a Belgium reenactor's group. The Timberwolves had a special ceremony in Lutremange on January 12th as well. A YouTube video is available if you want to watch the full ceremony. The City of Bastogne hosted a small drink at the Lutremange town hall following the ceremony of the Nebraska group. After the reception the group visited the Luxembourg American Cemetery to see Patton and his men's graves there."

See the article and photographs by Nebraska National Guard Staff Sergeant Gauret Stearns, elsewhere in this issue of the Santa Fe Express.

We also remember Marilyn Bowers Jensen's father, PFC Rex M. Bowers father of three who was in Company C 134th. He died in battle 80 years ago on January 25, 1945. There is a monument to the 12 men from Company C of the 134th Infantry Regiment Killed in Action at Weiswampach Luxembourg. The Nebraska group hopes to visit this monument and others to the 35th Division on another occasion.

International Liaison Committee

Paula Evans Baker, daughter of Pvt. Richard H. Evans, F-134-35, KIA 9/30/44 paulap5cox.net

Marilyn Bowers Jensen, daughter of PFC Rex M. Bowers, C-134-35, KIA 01/25/45 mbowersjensen@msn.com

Col. (retired) Thomas Arnhold, 35th Infantry Division, arnholdtom@gmail.com



Paula Evans Baker at Monument.



Espace de Memoire Members at Monument to Evans and 35th Division soldiers and their orphans.



Marilyn Bowers Jensen at Monument in Weiswampach Luxembourg to Company C men Killed in Action there.

35th Infantry Division Christmas Party 2024

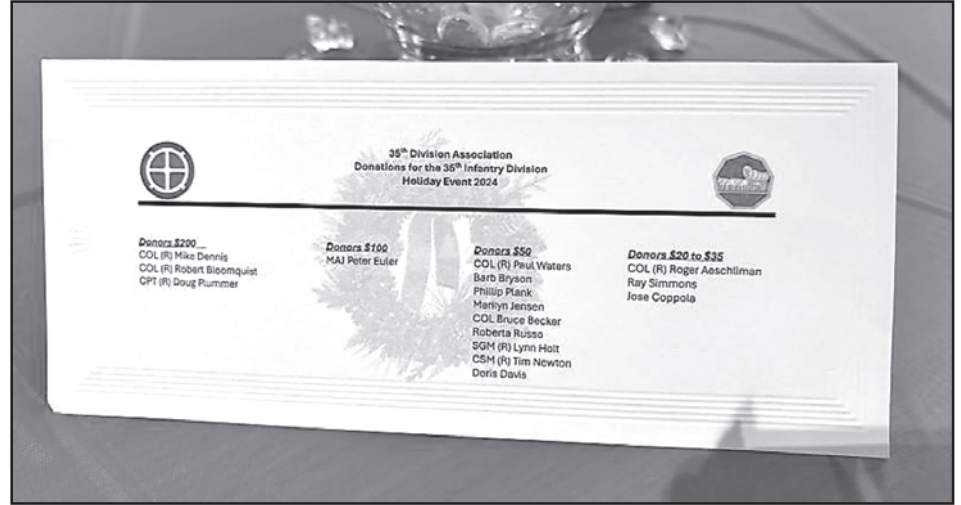
Last December 2024, the Association learned that the 35th Infantry Division was having a Christmas Dinner for the soldiers and their families. We sent a request to the members for whom we have an email address, to help with their expenses, and we received several donations. We were able to collect more than \$1000.

General John Rueger addressed the unit and families prior to the meal regarding the Value of the Association and what amazing support we gave them for this Holiday party.

Donations for the 35th Infantry Division Christmas Dinner 2024

COL (R) Roger Aeschliman
 COL Bruce Becker
 COL (R) Robert Bloomquist
 Barb Bryson
 Jose Coppola
 Doris Davis
 COL (R) Mike Dennis
 COL (R) Butch Dowse
 MAJ Peter Euler

SGM (R) Lynn Holt
 Marilyn Jensen
 CSM (R) Tim Newton
 Phillip Plank
 CPT (R) Doug Plummer
 Roberta Russo
 Ray Simmons
 COL (R) Paul Waters



Donor Appreciation List

October 2024 - January 2025

Donors \$1000

* The Breidenthal-Snyder Foundation

Donors \$200

- COL (R) Butch Dowse (Op. Expenses)
- Maggie Fenstermacher (Museum Op. expenses, Jim Graff memorial)).
- COL (R) Mike Dennis (Division Christmas Party)
- COL (R) Robert Bloomquist (Division Christmas Party)
- CPT (R) Doug Plummer (Division Christmas Party)

Donors \$100-\$140

- Rosemary E Corbett (Op. Expenses, Museum Op. Expenses, in recognition of Martin H Huschka)
- Bruce Hawkins (Op. Expenses)
- BG (R) Ed Gerhart (Conf. Sponsor)
- MAJ Peter Euler (Division Christmas Party)
- Roberta Russo (COL Angelo Demos Memorial, Division Christmas Party)

Donors \$50

- COL (R) Bruce Baker (Division Christmas Party))
- Barb Bryson (Division Christmas Party)
- Doris Davis (Division Christmas Party)
- SGM (R) Lynn Holt (Division Christmas Party)
- Marilyn Jensen (Division Christmas Party)
- CSM (R) Tim Newton (Division Christmas Party)
- Phillip Plank (Division Christmas Party)
- COL (R) Paul Waters (Division Christmas Party)

Donors up to \$35

- COL (R) Roger Aeschliman (Division Christmas Party)
- Jose Coppola (Division Christmas Party in honor of Jose Coppola, father)
- Ray Simmons (Division Christmas Party)
- Jay Frye (Jim Graff Memorial)

Letter to Members - January 2025

Life, current, past members and supporters of the 35th Division Association:

We are currently entering the 107th year of the 35th Division Association. We hope to expand the membership of the Association and recruit a new generation of leadership staff for the Executive Committee.

Please consider supporting the 35th Division Association by joining, renewing your membership, or donating to the association. Our membership has decreased significantly in the past years. By creating numerous ways to donate with PayPal, QR code or by sending a check, it is easier to support the Association. Most importantly, we have captured programs, listed below, that show the value of our non-profit organization for a Senior Military organization (35th Div) that has and will continue to deploy around the world.

Preserving the History of the 35th Division: The association was a driving force to build an addition to the KSNG Museum in Topeka, which houses an enormous number of displays and publications from World War I and II as well as the numerous deployments in the Balkans and the Middle East. Many of the WWII Veterans, widows and orphans, along with other recent members, raised 100K to help start the political process to raise funds and double the size of the museum.

The members created a 100K investment fund to support the museum with an annual contribution of \$5,000 since the creation of the 35th Annex of the museum.

The 35th Association library maintains the history of the past and the current successes of the 35th Division.

Assistance in Monetary support of the Dining Outs: The association sponsors the 4 awardees and spouses at each annual dinner. We also helped with costs in the past when the dinners were held off site.

Legal flexibility: As a non-DOD non-profit, the association has flexibility which a government organization does not have. The association can lobby agencies. A good example is gaining support from KS State representatives to help obtain funding for the museum mentioned above. Another example is the Commanding General's wish to sponsor a stretch of a road in Missouri a few years ago. The association was the venue to sign the contract with the state.

Network of knowledge: A great deal of knowledge is within our members. One example is our Historian, Roberta Russo, from Chicago, who has assisted with finding families to help match many MIA soldiers from WWII. Our international committee, which is composed of Orphans from World War II, maintains contact with those that help maintain historical sites of the 35th Division's battles in Europe.

For years the "Santa Fe Divisionnaire", our newspaper, was a method to spread news about WWII Veterans' life changes. We still have members across the United States that love to hear updates from the Division.

The 35th is a big part of the Army's contribution across the world and a strong association can help share and preserve those successes. We still publish a paper three to four times a year, which is the biggest part of our budget other than our support to the museum.

Association President

35TH Division Association

2025 NEW LIFE MEMBERS

CPT John Lednický
SGM Magen Albert

2025 NEW ANNUAL

MEMBER
Jimmy Price

35TH DIVISION ASSOCIATION PAST PRESIDENTS

*CHARLES I. MARTIN
*EARL A. BLACKMAN
*LUTHER TILLOTSON
*BENNETT CHAMP CLARK
*JAMES E. REIGER
*MG RALPH E. TRUMAN
*FRED HENNEY
*FRED WINDSOR
*DR. NEIL WILLIAMS
*FRANK E. BARR
*FRED R. FITZPATRICK
*MIKE SULLIVAN
*BG CHARLES H. BROWNE SR.
*HON. HARRY S. TRUMAN
*BG MAHLON S. WEED
*EDMUND J. MCMAHON
*MG BUTLER B. MILTONBERGER
*LTG JOE NICKELL
*JOHN B. COBB
*PETER S. MIRAVALLE
*WARREN L. OSGOOD
*WARREN C. WOOD
*GILBERT A. SCHREINER
*ORVEL E. FAUBUS
*W.E. KRAEMER
*L.D. KERR
*MG CHARLES H. BROWNE, JR
*LAUREN E. LINNEMAN*S.R. SECOR
*HAROLD L COLLIER
*JACOB A. MCGINNIS
*SIDNEY SILVERMAN
*HARRY W. JOHNSON
*TED WOODS
*MARVIN WITHERSPOON
*NICK A. GEORGIEFF
*ROBERT SMITH
DALE K. KEARNES
*DON DAVIS
*WILLIAM DICKSON
*COL CLARENCE E. WELLER
*PAUL E. BIRKENBAUGH
MAJ JOHN A. BAUSCH
*KENNETH A. CURTIS
*MRS. OLIVE TRUMAN
*RAY RAWLINGS
*COL FLOYD F. GINDER
*COL PAULA. FALL

LEO F. RUFKAHR
*BG THOMAS J. KENNEDY
*HORACE S. SEELEY
*CLARENCE BLAIR
*ROBERT F. BACHER
*COL ROBERT E. RICHARDSON
*COL MICHAEL P. SARRAS
PIERSON P. BROWER
*HOMER KURTZ
*CHARLES HOLSAPPLE
MAX A. HILER
*COL WILLIAM H.SACHS
*HUBERT D.BIEHN
*THOMAS E. THOLEN
*LTC CURTIS H. ALLOWAY
*MAJ ROBERT L. FOWLER
*MAJ NORMAN C. CAREY
*COL EDMUND R. CASEY
*BG WILLIAM J. MULLINS
*KEITH N. BULLOCK
*COL JACK M. SABATA
*COL ROBERT H.NEWBY
FRANK P. COLONNESE
*JAMES G.GRAFF
*ALAN G. MCLLAVINE
*ABELARDO R. NAVARRETTE
*COL ANGELO P. DEMOS
*JOHN F. WALSH
*RICHARD J. O'BRIEN
*JAMES G. GRAFF
*MG (RET) JACK STRUKEL
*CSM (RET) JACK L. ELLIOTT
MG (R) WAYNE PIERSON
BG (R) ED GERHARDT
COL (R) ROBERT D BLOOMQUIST
CSM (R) DALE L PUTMAN
MG (R) JOHN E DAVOREN
BG ROBERT E WINDHAM
COL (R) ROBERT DALTON
BG (R) ALEX E DUCKWORTH
BG ANTHONY MOHATT
COL (R) RON BOYER
COL (R) CALVIN WARREM
COL (R) PAULA WATERS
COL (R) GEOFFREY LANNING
(Current)
*DECEASED



Sig Sauer Pistol Raffle

Last year we conducted our first 35th Infantry Division Association Sig Sauer Commemorative M17 Pistol raffle. The winner was KaLynn Watchous from Topeka, Kansas. Her husband, David Watchous, served with HHC 2/635 AR, in the Kansas Army National Guard.

This year we will again be conducting a raffle for another 35th Infantry Division Association Sig Sauer Commemorative M17 Pistol. The tickets will be \$20.00 and only 500 tickets will be sold. The drawing will be held at the Association conference on September 6, 2025.



RS: SANTA FE, 35TH INFANTRY DIVISION
 LS: WIN THE DAY
 FONT: ADOBE GARAMOND PRO BOLD
 ENGRAVING TYPE: CONTRAST ENGRAVING

*NOTE: Location/size are approximate and for reference only. Final product may vary due to process.

<https://35-division-association-raffle.cheddarup.com>



The winner will be required to pass a background check and take delivery from a FFL. The association will cover shipping if required to transfer to winners FFL if not located in Kansas or Missouri.



35th Division Association

P O Box 5004, Topeka, KS 66605

Membership Renewal/Application Donor or Order Form (2024)

Name: _____ Rank/Title: _____
 (First) (MI) (Last)
 Address: _____ City/State/ZIP: _____
 E-Mail (Optional): _____ Telephone: _____

Indicate if you wish to receive the "Santa Fe" Paper electronically to save postage _____
 Organizations of Service with 35th Div. (69th Bde, 137th, 134th, 320th 161 etc.): _____

	<i>Amount Enclosed</i>
Annual Dues/ New Member Annual Dues E4 and below \$25	_____
Annual Dues/New Member Dues E5 and above and Civilians \$40	_____
New Life Membership, for WW II Veterans - \$75	_____
New Life Membership for All Others - \$200	_____
Donation for 35 th Div. Assn Operating Expenses	_____
Donation specified for the 35 th Museum Operating Expense	_____
Sponsor Edition of "The Santa Fe Express" - \$1000 and up	_____
Hall of Fame Expenses & Reception - \$100 and up	_____
35 th Div. Conference Sponsor - \$100 or more	_____
Donation in recognition of _____	_____
_____ 35 th Division Coin \$10.00 (\$12.00 if mailed)	_____
_____ 35 th Division Lapel Pin-- \$5.00 (\$6.00 if mailed):	_____
_____ Pin of DIV Patch with 35 th In Div. written on edge	_____
_____ Pin with DIV Patch only	_____
Total Amount Enclosed	_____

*Make Checks Payable to "35th Div. Association" and Mail to:
 35th Division Association, P O Box 5004, Topeka, KS 66605.

*Or use link to pay with Cheddar Up:

<https://35thdiv-memberships-and-donations-temp-73085.cheddarup.com>

