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Santa Fe Express

"DIVISIONNAIRE"



35th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

www.35DivAssn.org

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NUMBER TWO

The 35th Divisionnaire USPS 700-160

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

Eighty years ago, the 35th Infantry Division celebrated VE Day and ceased combat operations. In 264 days of combat, the Division suffered 2485 Killed In Action, 15,522 Wounded in Action, 340 Missing in Action and 1471 Prisoners of War. As we celebrate each Memorial Day, let us remember the sacrifices these men made.

We are finishing the planning for the 107th Association Conference to be conducted 5-6 September 2025, at Ft Leavenworth, Kansas. It will be a combined event with the 35th Inf. Division activities on the same weekend. The Division Change of Command, where BG Martin Clay will take over from MG John Rueger's leadership, will be conducted on Saturday morning.

This year we are holding the Executive Committee Business Meeting on Friday afternoon at the Division



Headquarters. On Friday night there will be a combined Associations President Reception with a Division Hail and Farewell event. The Hall of Fame Selection will be conducted Saturday Morning, followed by the Division Change of Command at the Fort Leavenworth Parade Field. The Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will be conducted in the early afternoon at the Division Headquarters, followed by the Induction Reception. The Dining Out will be on Saturday evening. We encourage all association members to attend.

Message from Commanding General Rueger

Members and Friends of the Association—
Greetings from the Soldiers and leaders of the Santa Fe Division! I trust everyone is glad to be past the winter months and enjoying the nice spring weather. It is already well into May and time for graduations, end of school, and looking forward to summer vacations.

Your division has been very busy preparing for a Division Warfighter Exercise which will occur in late July through early August. The Warfighter is a culminating training exercise that is used by the Army to train division and corps level headquarters for tactical operations on today's battlefield. In early April, we conducted a communications exercise to test all our systems and ensure they are able to communicate internally and externally. In today's operating environment, many of our adversaries can see our electromagnetic spectrum on the battlefield. Our technological footprint required for operations makes it difficult to hide and we must be able to operate under constant observation. We are leveraging new technology such as Starlink to reduce our electromagnetic signatures and be able to blend in more with the environment around us. These new assets allow us the ability to operate and not look like a division headquarters through the eyes of today's sensors and satellites.

In early May, the division conducted command post exercise #1, which allowed us to focus on basic staff processes for conducting operations, the ability to depart our assembly areas, conduct a passage of lines with a host nation, and conduct an attack against an enemy formation. To reach our objectives, we had to prepare for a water crossing, which is probably the most difficult and synchronized operation we will have to do. We used this exercise as a rehearsal for the Warfighter later this year. It was an opportunity to leverage a very large number of external partners to support us and evaluate areas we may need to focus on to improve our capabilities as we continue our readiness build.

As we continue to prepare for these exercises, the U.S. Army continues to look at ways to continue being the most lethal and ready land force in the world. There are many significant challenges we must face today. Budget pressures, growing threats from our adversaries, and the rapid increase of new technologies that can be used on the battlefield, specifically drones and artificial intelligence, require the Army to relook at how the Army is organized, equipped, and where future investment is needed to overcome these challenges. Our brigades will become more lethal as a result and the division headquarters will have more capability to employ that lethality on the battlefield. These changes ensure we will continue to remain the best fighting force.

Command Sergeant Major Istas and I were invited to the city of Wichita, KS for an engagement with a delegation from the city of Orleans, France. The event we attended was a commemoration of 2LT



Edwin Bleckley, a Medal of Honor recipient and Sante Fe Division Solider. The Bleckley Foundation secured a replica plane that LT Bleckley flew during the war and had been painstakingly restoring it to fight status. As many of you know, Orleans is a sister city with Wichita. Last year, we were able to attend commemoration events for the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Orleans, and this was our opportunity to thank the city again for hosting us. We are very appreciative of the Wichita Area Sister Cities for inviting us to the event. I would also like to thank the Bleckley Foundation Board for honoring the legacy of LT Bleckley.

Our aligned brigades in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kansas, and Missouri continue to do great things building readiness in their formations. We are leveraging many of these brigades in supporting our division training events, and the division headquarters is also supporting the brigade training events, to train together at echelon at every opportunity.

Finally, as we draw closer to Memorial Day, we honor the brave men and women who gave their lives in service to our country. Their courage, sacrifice, and dedication to protecting our freedom will never be forgotten. Let us pause to remember their legacy and express our deepest gratitude. As members of the military community, we carry their legacy with us, in our values, our mission, and our commitment to each other. We reflect not only on their loss but on the enduring strength and unity of those who continue to serve. May we live each day in a way that honors their sacrifice.

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

Win the Day -- Santa Fe!
MG John Rueger

*This edition of the
Santa Fe Divisionnaire
is sponsored by
Chaplain / COL (R)
Benjamin F Mirtz*

**Deadline for the
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15 September 2025**



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Association**

"FOR ALL 35th DIVISION - PAST,
PRESENT AND FUTURE"

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35th Division Association
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Topeka, KS 66605
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Kansas License Plates for military veterans

Submitted by Thomas Arnhold

If you are a military veteran, Kansas has a distinctive license plate for most of you. Upon proper application, the following license plate can be yours or your family's:

- An Army Veteran's Tag*
- A Navy Veteran's Tag*
- An Air Force Veteran's Tag,*
- A Marine Corp Tag*
- Bronze Star Medal Plate*
- Congressional Medal of Honor*
- Disabled Veteran (See also Form TR-103)*
- Ex-prisoner Of War*
- Families of the Fallen*
- Gold Star Mother Plate*
- Korean War Veteran Plate*
- National Guard (See also Form TR-129)*
- Operation Desert Storm Plate*
- Operation Enduring Freedom Plate*
- Operation Iraqi Freedom Plate*
- Pearl Harbor*
- Purple Heart*
- Silver Star Medal Plate*
- Veteran*
- Vietnam Veteran*

However, there are a couple of flaws in the current military license tags and two notable absences. Unlike most of the other tags, in order to obtain a National Guard tag, a Kansas Guardsman has to complete a form TR-129 and have it signed by his or her commander. That means that in order to get a National Guard license every year, one has to have the form completed every year and take it to your local county treasurer/tag department. Even retirees who desire to Keep a Kansas National Guard license after they retire must provide a completed TR-129 form that is signed by a Kansas National Guard commander. Then the completed TR-129 must be presented to the county treasurer.

For years, I have lobbied members of the Kansas Legislature to rectify this problem, so that members of the Kansas National Guard can present their ID card and retirees only have to present proof only ONE TIME that they retired from the KNG to the county treasurer.

The second issue is with the Operation Enduring Freedom Plate. When you read the title, it makes it sound as though and member of the KNG who served in Operation Enduring Freedom is entitled to this license plate. Wrong! This plate is only for those who served in Afghanistan. If you supported Operation Enduring Freedom while serving in Egypt, Bosnia, Germany or a myriad of other far-flung countries, you are not entitled to have this license tag on you motor vehicles.

There is also a tag that is glaringly absent- - a 35th ID tag. Folks, members of the 35th Infantry Division and retirees from our storied division should be entitled to proudly display a 35th ID tag.

Here is where I am asking for your help. Please contact the Governor Laura Kelly and your local state representative and senator and ask them to rectify the issues I have identified. In particular, ask them to create a 35th ID tag and a tag for all those who served in Operation Enduring Freedom, not just those who served in Afghanistan. If need be, send them a copy of this article. You can contact Governor Kelly by calling 877-KSWORKS (877-579-6757) or going to the following link: <https://www.governor.ks.gov/serving-kansans/constituent-services/share-your-opinion>. You can find your State Representative's contact information by going to <https://ksleglookup.org/#/>

For those of you living in Missouri and other states who served in the 35th ID and/or were in Operation Enduring Freedom, please consider requesting your elected officials to create a 35th ID tag.

Note From The Executive Secretary/Treasurer

Operating Funds: We appreciate the generous contributions throughout the year and during the recent annual fund raiser. Please review our donor list in this paper for all those that shared their treasure with us. It is our policy to list all contributions unless the donor wishes otherwise. If you contributed and were not mentioned, please accept my apologies and notify us through the Association Email. Although the number of those contributing did not increase, the size of the contributions and recognition to the passing of some legendary Veterans increased the amount received this year. The pistol raffle program has also improved our ability to continue operations. The last edition 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. Publications, mailings, and the support we offer has increased in cost like everything else.

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. Contributions received for the museum operations also assist and are much appreciated. If you have not visited the museum in Topeka, you will be overwhelmed at the quality and quantity of history the board members and volunteers deliver with no admittance charge.

Hiring of an Executive Secretary and Treasurer:

I have been requesting to resign entirely as the Executive Secretary/Treasurer once a replacement is found. This next person with a vision, passion and technical skills can enhance the value of the association. The association has great legal and membership by-laws to build from. This position is a blessing and has allowed Betty and I to meet and hear from so many outstanding Veterans and their 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. This is a paid position.

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.

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

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.

Ceo Bauer has spent his life making sure we do not forget

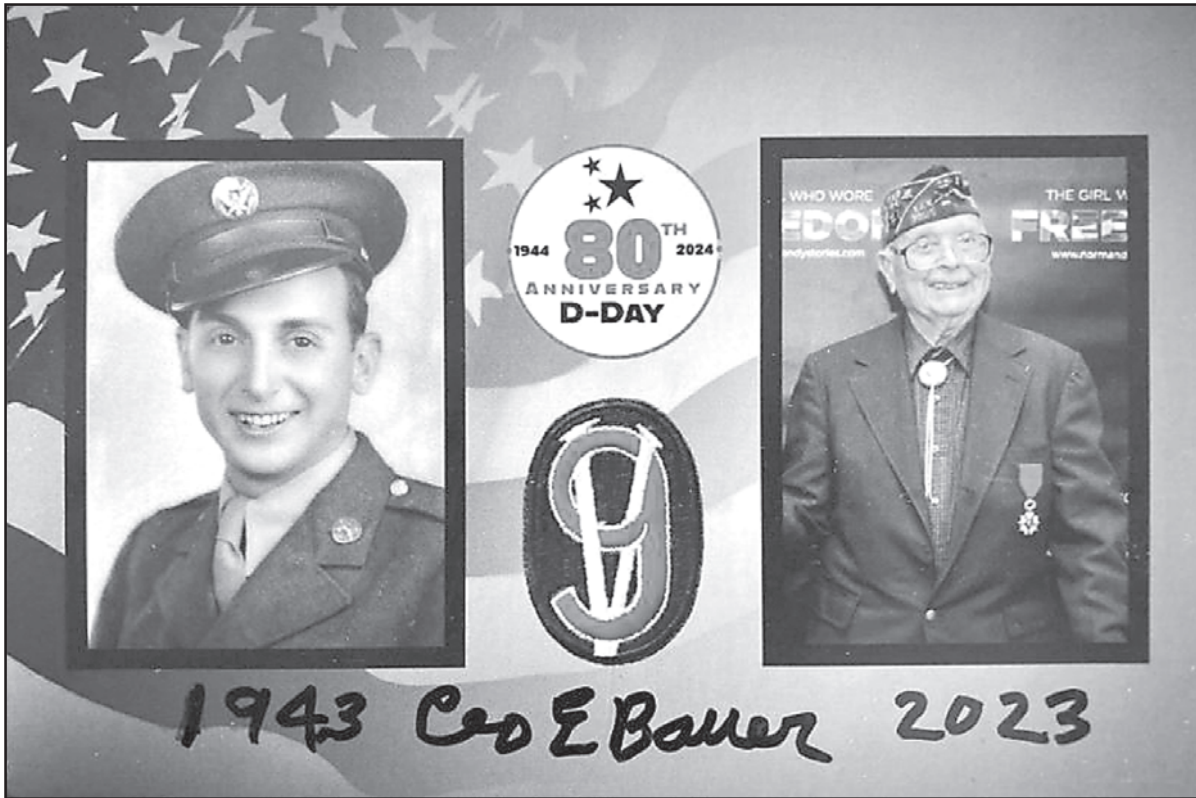
(Biography by the Eisenhower Foundation)

Ceo Bauer grew up on a farm in Carson City Michigan. He attended an in-room school and graduated from Carson City High in 1940. Bauer was drafted into the US Army in January of 1943 and served with the 35th Infantry Division.

He next joined the Army Specialized Training Program for basic engineering and in April of 1944 Bauer was assigned to Company I, 377th Infantry Regiment of the 95th Division. This division would later become known as the "Iron Men of Metz" for their liberation and defense of Metz, France.

Bauer's unit was the first to enter the city, they crossed the Moselle River and advanced to Bertrange, they faced heavy resistance and it was here that he received his "Million-Dollar" wound. In spite of heavy resistance, the 95th Infantry Division captured the city of Metz by November 22.

After spending 17 months recovering in military hospitals, Bauer was honorably discharged and has spent his life making sure that we do not forget our history by sharing his powerful personal story.



Please find enclosed my contribution in honor of Howard Berry, killed in action in late November 1494, a member of 1st Company 137th Regiment.

I trained with E- 137th, April to September 1943, and was a good friend of Howard. I knew him before I was drafted in January 1943. We both knew Rolland Hill. I'm Age 101, still motivating and doing veterans things. This past year my family got me to France two times for the 80th anniversary celebrations of liberation with the French and our Allies.

The first one in June was unbelievable beyond all expectations of we veterans. We were wined, dined, and honored like movie stars. Crowds, traffic jams, many US-WWII vehicles (trucks and jeeps), the people, especially kids wanting to touch you and talk! Just great! The second in November at Metz. I was wounded there. It was a lesser celebration but still great. Not many, if any, WWII vets there. I was the only 95th Division WWII vet present, so I was honored to speak for us veterans, and responded for our 95th Division and our US Military.

It's probable that there was no other WWII Veteran present from General George Patton's 3rd Army. My understanding is that the 35th was a Part of "Patton's 3rd" at Metz, and during the "Bulge". This June my family plans to get me to Normandy again for the 81st Anniversary celebrations. My Reason for going is that two Ceremonies are being planned: one honors 95th Div soldiers:

1. Steve Bodnar at a small French village chapel (600 to 800 persons) named Trevierres.

2. The second honors Howard Berry, E-137, at a small chapel in St. Lo. Rolland Hill is already honored there. Last June I requested that Howard be honored also (photo and military record). Rolland Hill is buried in the Normandy Military Cemetery at Omaha Beach. Our small delegation visited there in June last.


You will note above that at Age 101 my "writing" gets mixed up at times. Please straighten it if you elect to publish it in the Divisionnaire. "Vive La France and long live the United States of America and our Free World Allies".

Sincerely,

Ceo E Bauer, WWII veteran.

PS My phone number is 989-875-0293. Veterans and interested people may call me if they desire.

Hear about Ceo's million dollar wound in



Ceo E Bauer
1943
Ithaca, Michigan

World War II Veteran
France
Company I
377th Regiment
95th Infantry Division
The IRON MEN OF METZ

"Vive la France! Long live the USA"
-Ceo Bauer

This card given to French citizens Metz and Normandy About 4000 Total Many kids
Ceo E Bauer Feb 5, 2025

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www.documentaryfirst.com

Birth: May 21, 1923 |
Hometown: Carson City, MI
Current Residence: Ithaca, MI
Service Period: 1943 - 1946
Division: 377th Infantry Regiment of the 95th Infantry Division
Theater of Operations:
Northern France and Rhineland Campaigns
Decorations and Awards:

- Combat Infantry Badge
- Purple Heart
- Legion d'honneur France
- Good Conduct Ribbon
- Victory Ribbon
- European, African, Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with Two Bronze Campaign Stars American Theater Ribbon

D-Day Special

Pvt. Richard Harlan Evans (F-134-35)

By Paula Evans Baker (daughter of Pvt. Evans)

I can still hear my mother scream.

We walked into the living room of our home in Oklahoma City—my mother, my little brother and me. We had just come home from Sunday School and Church. Relatives stood facing us. My mother's oldest sister, her husband and the wife of my mother's youngest brother. Aunt Roberta recently arrived from Idaho, was living with us for the duration of the war. She received the telegram and called other relatives living in Oklahoma City.

My uncle held out a telegram. My mother, Nell, read that her husband had been killed on September 30, 1944, in Armaucourt, France.

I was eight years old at the time. Within a year, I determined that I would learn French, go to Armaucourt to learn what happened to my father and do something for international understanding. And I did.

"Dick" Evans was born in Oklahoma City December 17, 1912. His parents were Jesse Evan Evans of Shandon, Ohio, and Lela Fulton Evans of Terre Haute, Indiana. They moved to Oklahoma for better opportunities in a new state.

Dick was the youngest of five siblings, three brothers and a sister. Pictures show a happy childhood playing with children in the neighborhood.

An interest in religious matters was evidenced early. He earned a six-year perfect Sunday School attendance pin from Maywood Presbyterian Church in Oklahoma City. A friend from Company F-134-35 remembered Dick as "the Preacher." The younger troops came to him with their problems. An attractive personality, he was always telling stories and jokes.

Dick graduated from Central High School in Oklahoma City. He was a member of the National Honor Society, Indoor Track Team and Booster Club of school leaders. After classes he worked as an "office boy" for the First National Bank and Trust Company of Oklahoma City. That led to a career as an abstractor.

In 1944, when he was drafted, he was manager of the courthouse branch of the trust company. Among other war efforts, his office cleared the land to construct Tinker Air Force Base. His office was directly across the hall from the Oklahoma County Clerk's office. The abstractors had a lot of social events with the employees in the clerks' office. He met his wife to be, Nell Jackson, at an office picnic. They were married in 1935.

The United States entry into World War II was no surprise to Dick and Nell Evans.

They attended the World's Fair in New York City in 1939. Dick exited the Italian building and announced, "We're going to have to fight them!"

Nell's brother John and his family were living in the Pearl Harbor area in the summer of 1942. John's wife wrote that all shipping news was suppressed except for that from cruise lines.

Dick received his draft notice in March of 1944.

Married men with children were no longer exempt from the draft. Dick received a brief introduction to the army at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Then he was sent to Camp Roberts, California, for 17 weeks of Infantry training. A two-week leave in Oklahoma preceded his transfer to the European Theater of War.

Overseas travel on the "Queen Mary" was no luxury when the hammocks were hung eight-deep and occupied in three shifts.

Dick arrived in France August 27, 1944. He wrote his first letter from France to Nell on August 30, 1944.

"No book has been written nor film made that can describe the horrors and desolation of warfare," he wrote. "I passed through Saint Lo the other day, "he wrote. "No rat or mouse could have survived after what happened there."

His foxhole buddy, also from Oklahoma City, and Dick marched across France, sometimes wading through bloody streams. Occasionally they got a ride in a truck. They were forbidden to go into the towns they passed. Sometimes they did anyway with a French-Canadian trooper who could help them with language. The older infantry men saved their candy for the French children, remembering their families at home.

The buddies were separated when they reached the Replacement Depot at Verdun.

Dick was attached to Company F-134 Regiment- 35th Division at Fort de Pont Saint Vincent on September 13, 1944. The 134 Regiment received 113 replacement



troops to offset the losses experienced at the Battle at Flavigny Bridge.

The second Battalion was held in reserve to protect the west bank of the Moselle until it was motored to the Forest of Haye. The second and third battalions cleared out the Forest of the Haye in the morning of September 15.

The second battalion assembled in the vicinity of Saint Max on September 17.

After that it was on to Boxiers, Lay Saint Christopher, and Manhoue. Company F took possession of Manhoue on September 27 and destroyed two enemy tanks in the town.

Then came Han on September 29. Company F was down to 50 men. Ordinarily a company consisted of 200 men.

"Han, in enemy hands, was developing into a cancer for regimental defenses. Company F launched its attack at 1400. It flanked the village, cut it off from east and west, and finished the capture with street fighting" wrote Col. Butler Miltonberger, commander of the 134 Infantry.

"At 1645, F Company had control of Han. These were largely men who had come to refill the ranks of the Second Battalion after its misfortune at Flavigny," wrote Miltonberger. "Here was a commentary on the carryover of 'esprit de corps'. In a short time, that group of replacements had been assimilated into the regiment and caught its spirit."

Seventy-Four Nazi prisoners were taken, including three officers. Major General Manton Eddy visited Han, possibly the reason for the Dick described in his last letter to Nell.

On September 30, Dick wrote:

"It has been five weeks since I have heard from anyone. I am so dirty and my hands are so sore I doubt you would know me. I had some hot coffee and hot chow today. Keep this letter and when I get home, I will tell you how I got it."

Private Evans didn't get home. He took his letter to the command post to be censored. On his return, a shell struck an adjacent building. The shrapnel hit his throat and he died instantly. His body was retrieved a few days later. He was buried in Andilly temporary cemetery on October 5, 1944. Dick's body was repatriated to Oklahoma City in 1949. Forty-six years later, Nell lay beside him. She had missed Dick every day for the rest of her life.

Private Richard H. Evans earned a Purple Heart, a Bronze Star medal and other medals for Good Conduct, Service in the European Theater, Victory and Sharpshooting.

First men's basketball coach at KU served in World War I

Submitted by Thomas Arnhold

Dr. James Naismith, famous for inventing basketball and being the first men's basketball coach at the University of Kansas, was a member of the Kansas National, serving as a Chaplain. Dr. Naismith was born in Ontario, Canada on November 6, 1861. As an orphaned youth living with



his uncle and grandparents, he was an avid athlete, participating in various unorganized outdoor activities and, later at McGill University, in the organized sports of lacrosse, rugby, football, gymnastics, and soccer.

Upon graduation from McGill in 1888 (where he was awarded a gold medal for best all-around athlete), Naismith pursued a graduate in theology at the McGill-affiliated Presbyterian College. Somewhere in his time as a graduate student, he happened upon an organization that married his interests in theology and athletics: the YMCA.

While working at a YMCA in Springfield Massachusetts in 1891, Naismith, sensing unrest in his class of young adults, set out to devise a new game. Using the equipment available at his disposal and drawing from his childhood experience in a game called 'duck on a rock,' Naismith fashioned a game with a peach basket and soccer ball in which the goal of the players was to, through teamwork and finesse, lob the ball into the basket. A legend was born.

In 1894, Naismith married Maude Shermann, and in 1895 moved to Denver, Colorado, to become the Physical Education director at a YMCA there. It was in Colorado that, in 1898, Naismith obtained a medical degree from the University of Colorado Medical School. That same year, he left Colorado to become the assistant gymnasium director and basketball coach at the University of Kansas. Although he eventually became the only head coach in Kansas men's basketball history to compile a losing record Naismith's legacy was already cemented.

On March 18, 1915, at age 54, Dr. Naismith was appointed Chaplain of the 1st Regiment in the Kansas National Guard. On June 18, 1916, he was mustered into federal service and sent to Eagle Pass, Texas to minister to the troops. In order to keep troops from engaging in immoral behavior, he and Chaplain McKeever of the Second Kansas formed a baseball league. Dr. Naismith also found

time to modify the dimensions and rules of basketball for the soldiers. He enlarged the court and created a rule that baskets had to be at least ten

feet away from the ends of the court. He made these changes to speed up the game. Naismith and the 1st Regiment spent about three months on the border.

Naismith wanted to continue his military career as America entered World War I in April 1917. He considered applying for an active-duty commission as an Army chaplain, but there were two things working against him: he was 55 years-old in 1917, and was not an American citizen. He found another route to military service because the Army was woefully short of chaplains as it mobilized for war. A number of civilian agencies, such as the American Red Cross and Salvation Army, took up the slack by arranging for volunteer civilian clergymen to provide religious support to Soldiers, primarily at stateside posts and in hospitals.

In June 1917, Naismith went to work as a volunteer chaplain for the YMCA, another organization that assisted the Army with religious and morale support activities. He was one of a small group of lecturers that the YMCA employed to travel around the United States and conduct programs at training camps to strengthen the moral character of Soldiers. In September 1917, the YMCA sent Naismith to France, where he worked as one of the organization's "overseas secretaries" in the war zone. Based out of Paris, Naismith spent most of his time near the front lines, working to improve the social hygiene of the troops.

Naismith spent 19 months in France, a longer period of time than most American Soldiers who served overseas in World War I. After the armistice, he continued his service in Europe as the U.S. Army redeployed home.

On Thanksgiving 1918, he wrote a long letter home, in which he listed a number of things he was thankful for. One of them was: "the knowledge that I have tried to help the people of the world to make it a little better, and that I have tried to love my neighbor as myself."

Naismith returned to the United States in March 1919. He resumed his duties as athletic director of the University of Kansas, a position he held until his retirement in 1937. He died two years later.



International Liaison Committee Column

Our European friends continued celebrating D-Day through 2024 and into 2025. They are beginning to send reports of V-E celebrations in their communities.

The Association of l'Espace de Memoire Lorraine 1939-1945 is turning its focus to the return of prisoners of war in 1945 as this year's theme for its museum.

The museum, near Nancy France, is open Saturdays and some Sundays. Special arrangements can be made for Americans to view the only World War II museum in Eastern France. The web site is esacedememoire.fr.

Several members of the Lorraine association were featured in a special edition of three French newspapers for D-Day. Papers were *l'Est Republicain*, *le Republicain Lorraine* and *Vosges Matin*.

One American soldier was included in the 104-page publication. He was Pvt. Richard H. Evans (F-134-35). His daughter, Paula Evans Baker, is the American correspondent for the Lorraine association and a member of the international committee of the 35th Division Association. See her separate article elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter.

Richard von Kessel, The Netherlands correspondent for the 35th Division Association, was able to get us news about the May 4th and 5th Netherlands commemoration as it celebrated 80 years of liberation. The national Memorial Day was on May 4th and victims of World War II and beyond. Liberation Day was celebrated one day later, on May 5th.

Richard writes, "in my hometown of Roemond, a freedom meal was held on Liberation Day. About 300 fellow townspeople had gathered for this. My wife and two children, Liam and Dean, participated. Because of the anniversary year, some relatives of American soldiers were invited by the municipality of Roermond. Together with these relatives, we were taken by World War II military vehicles to the market square where the freedom meal was held." Roemond, Netherlands was liberated by the 35th Division on March 1, 1945, during Operation Grenade. The town was captured by the reconnaissance troop of the division, without a single shot being fired.

Richard continues "it was an impressive and beautiful weekend. Especially in these times with all the problems we currently have in the world we are more and more aware that freedom can't be taken for granted." Richard has adopted the grave of Donald L. Giles of the 320th Regiment of the 35th Division from Nebraska City who is buried at the Netherlands American Cemetery in Margraten.

Similar activities were held throughout Europe as the 80th Anniversary of VE Day was celebrated on May 8, 2025.

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



Richard von Kessel and his sons, Liam and Dean



Town square in Roemond Netherlands



Military vehicles



Liberation Day freedom meal in Roemond Netherlands



784th TB with 35th ID entering Venlo

Liberation of Venlo, Netherlands

Military Vehicle group in Venlo, Netherlands
 Submitted by Danny Pfennings
 Dutch Santa Fe Military Vehicle Association
 Venlo, Netherlands

The city of Venlo in the Netherlands was liberated on the 1st of March 1945 by the 35th Infantry Division, 320th Infantry regiment, with support of the 784th Tank Battalion (Company A). The official surrender of German forces in the Netherlands is celebrated on the 5th of May. To celebrate the 80th anniversary of peace, a play was written to be performed in Venlo. It was called “Eindelijk Vrij” (Free at Last). It featured personal stories of citizens of Venlo who witnessed the upcoming and start of the war and its daily struggle to survive during the war. And at last, the liberation of Venlo by the 35th Infantry Division.

The play was performed on a part of the old grounds of Fliegerhorst Venlo. During the war it was a German airfield. There were German fighter aircraft stationed for defending the industrial Ruhr area from allied bombers. After the Germans left the airfield, the Americans rebuild a part of the airfield and named it *Yankee 55*.

They also built a huge camp with tents on it and called it the *Venlo Hilton*

At first the theater play was intended to be performed for five evenings but due to great interest it was decided to do nine evenings. Each of the plays was attended by 1000 people. Members of the Dutch Santa Fe Military Vehicle Association supported the play each night with some of their private US WWII vehicles.

Support came also from a group called the Kitchen Boys. They made vegetable soup for the audience on original US army stoves from the war. After the liberation of Venlo, some of the 35th ID soldiers were accommodated in houses with Dutch families. The Army kitchen made soup for the hungry citizens of Venlo.



Venlo vehicles



Venlo Soup Kitchen



Venlo Play

The War in Europe is Over!

(35th Infantry Division- May 1945)

Submitted by Mike H Ven

One minute after midnight on 9 May 45, 335 days after the Allied forces stormed ashore in Normandy, the peace which Europe had dreamed of for nearly six years was a reality. This was the hour that all the world had yearned for, and the battle weary doughboys of the veteran "Santa Fe" Division were among the millions who drew a grateful breath at the end of bloodshed and destruction. Emblazoned on their minds was an indelible road map, showing 1600 combat miles which had let them through endless battle across France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Holland, and Germany.

The cessation of gunfire was not the cessation of the Santa Fe's role in the Victory in Europe. For the war's end brought occupation duties, the 35th's area of responsibility being the city of Hannover and surrounding countryside.

Coming as a surprise to the American troops, was the attitude of the vanquished German population. So long had they endured the round-the-clock bombardment and sleepless nights, that the actual end of suffering seemed as an unbelievable blessing. There was a spirit of cooperation and mild gratitude amplified by the presence of American troops, which seemed to give them, assurance that peace, although defeat, had really come at last. The thousands of displaced persons who slaved in German bondage for many long months, were simply uncontrollably exuberant in their rejoicing at liberation. They danced in the streets and even spat upon their former boss-drivers. The presence of armed Santa Fe men averted much wholesale retaliation.

The stay in Hannover area was a short one, for on 17 - 18 May units of the 35th Division were relieved of their governing and policing duties by British and the American 84th Infantry Division, and the Santa Fe was sent to Recklinghausen, Germany. After eleven days in that area the division gave the keys of Recklinghausen to the 3rd British Division, on 30 May 45.



Then followed the division's major occupation job. By motor and rail, it moved to the 15th Army area in the vicinity of Koblenz on 1 - 4 June to relieve the 66th Infantry Division in governmental and occupational duties. Sub-

ordinate units of the division were assigned areas and took over governments. The MG and CIC Teams began screening out the Jerries, registering residents, re-establishing some form of government, providing water, transportation and other public utilities. The job was a large and responsible one.

The 137th Infantry, arriving in the area, took on Military Government responsibilities, security and occupation duties in the Landkreises St. Goar, Zell, Cochern and Simmern. The 320th occupied Landkreises Neuwied, Altenkirchen and Koblenz. Division Artillery, with the 448th AAA AW Battalion attached, occupied Landkreises, Birkenfeld and Kreuznach. The 134th, having arrived first and early, was already at Mayer and Ahrweiler.

While the maximum number of troops were assembling for training to maintain a strong mobile reserve in each company or similar garrison unit, many members of the division took advantage of the Army's liberal policy of granting passes, leaves and furloughs. Many of the Santa Fe men went on some of the most desired of the world's sight seeing tours. Some were fortunate enough to select the direction in which they preferred to venture. Many chose a few days in Paris, some elected to take a week on the Riviera, some wanted to see England and Scotland, and a few even visited the Alps of Switzerland. All returned to their units possessed of unforgettable memories of the places known only in stories to the vast majority of Americans.

Now that the shooting was over everyone relaxed. But there were raids for contraband to be conducted in the Koblenz Sub-Area and many problems which required hard work. Even so, each found his opportunity for relaxation.

continued on page 9



The War is Over!

continued from page 8

An extensive athletic program was introduced, and within a short while the 35th boasted one of the finest baseball teams in Europe. The 35th Division defeated the 106th Infantry Division in a thrill-packed game at Koblenz when the "Santa Fe Stadium" in that city was dedicated.

The work and efforts of the chaplains of the 35th Infantry Division are worthy of commendation. Their spiritual ministrations, moral counsel, and religious guidance contributed immeasurably to the proper and complete preparation of the combat soldier for the effective and efficient performance of his duties. Their selfless and conscientious devotion to duty under the most difficult conditions and circumstances inspired self-confidence and hope. They held daily religious services, for large or small groups wherever conditions permitted; comforted the wounded and dying at the aid-stations and on the battlefields, and visited the soldiers at their gun-emplacements and in their foxholes. They also gave spiritual comfort to the sick and wounded at the hospitals, and rendered appropriate religious services for the dead at the cemeteries.

At all times the chaplains made themselves available for whatever ministrations or services that they might render, not only to soldiers, but to their families as well. Because of the confidence that was placed in them and the respectful positions that they held, the chaplains were able to help comfort the anxious and bereaved loved-ones of the many wounded and killed soldiers. In the special ministrations, they wrote several thousand letters of condolence to parents, wives, and relatives.

As a consequence of their work, the chaplains were regarded by the soldiers and their families as friends in time of need, and as consecrated men of God who walked by their side representing the things for which they fought.

The Information and Education program found many active participants while the division underwent a considerable amount of exchange personnel. High point men who would not be eligible for service with the 35th Division in the Pacific were transferred to units destined for eventual return to the United States for discharge and inactivation. Low point men were assigned to the 35th to replace those men with longer service.

On the 11th of July, the entire division, less the 137th Infantry Regiment, moved by motor and rail to Camp Norfolk Assembly Area, near Sommesous, France, arriving there on 12 July. At Camp Norfolk, the division received even more low point men to bring it up to full strength with men destined to fight on another front with the 35th Division. The 1st and 2nd Provisional Battalions were created to administer the newly joined men. On the 14th of August the long awaited news of the defeat of Japan was received. V-J Day was spent in mingled feeling of emotion and conjecture of the future of the Division. Beginning on 15 August, the division moved, in a four-day period, to the Port of Le Havre for transportation to England.

On 11th of July, the 137th assembled at Camp White Tie, near Brussels, Belgium. Here the regiment had the signal honor of acting as guard of honor for President Harry S. Truman, who was en route to the Potsdam Conference.

Following this duty the 137th sailed on the S. S. Cristobal on 23 August, arriving 31 August at Boston Harbor and Camp Myles Standish. From there the troops went on recuperative furloughs to assemble with other units of the division later at Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky.

The division, less the 137th, departed from Southampton, England, on 5 September, aboard the "Queen Mary" - the world's third largest liner afloat, and holder of the trans-

Atlantic crossing record. The Santa Fe arrived in the United States five days later, dropping anchor in New York Harbor on 10 September. From there the troops entrained for Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, and then scattered throughout the country on thirty and forty-five day furloughs.

The trip back from Europe aboard the Queen Mary, with its recreational facilities, library, post exchanges, news broadcasts, USO groups augmented by local talent and movies, made the voyage almost that of a peacetime tourist trip. Messing was excellent in quality and quantity, and the quarters, while necessitating double bunking, were adequate.

At Camp Breckinridge, the division's strength was quickly cut. High point men went back to civilian life, their

job finished. The low point men were transferred to other active units.

On the 7th of December, four years after Pearl Harbor, the 35th Infantry Division ceased to exist as a unit of the Army of the United States.

Thus ends the history of a combat division - the history of the men of the "Santa Fe," who accepted the great responsibility of carrying the fight to the enemy. Let us never forget their sacrifice.

Sources: Roberta Russo, WW2 National archive, 35th infantry Association and 35th Infantry Division Group Belgium.



Running to honor and remember 53 soldiers killed in the liberation of St. Lo, France in World War II

On Saturday, June 7th, runners at the Nebraska National Guard Museum in Seward, Nebraska, will be running to honor and remember 53 Nebraska National Guard soldiers of the 134th Infantry Regiment that were killed in the liberation of St. Lo, France in World War II. The 10th annual race is sponsored by the Berry Law Firm. It is hosted by the Nebraska National Guard Historical Society.

Key features of the race are the sentinels along the race course holding memorials to the 53 soldiers. Each sign remembers the individual soldier with the location of where they are buried. Almost half of those killed in the battle for St. Lo, France are buried in France at the Normandy American and Brittany American Cemeteries. Some of the sentinels are Gold Star Family members of those killed. Families have inscribed the memorials with notes to their loved ones. The distance of 5 kilometers (3.1 miles) is the distance the regiment fought over to take the city in 1944.

The race has nine age categories for male/female runners (0-12, 13-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79, and 80+). Medals for 1st and 2nd in each age group (M/F). There is also teams vying for the Berry Law Firm Trophy in these categories: High School JROTC, High School (M/F), Middle School (M/F), Military Unit, Family and Corporate. Teams are made of five members (count three for score). Runners can register online at: getmeregistered.com.

Prior to the start of the race, a singer will sing the National Anthems of the USA and France. United States and French flags are flown around the facility. The start and finish lines are at the Nebraska National Guard Museum. After the last runner

finishes, the awards are presented on the main floor of the museum. French food and drinks are also provided. People can visit the "Cornrow to Hedgerow 4D Experience" Exhibit in the museum.

The soldiers are also honored and remembered on the Liberation Tours hosted by the Nebraska National Guard Museum. Liberation Tour 2026 is set for next year (July 13-26). Interested in following in the footsteps of the 35th Division in World War II, you can inquire at Executive Travel (Lincoln, NE) at 888-549-1186 and ask for the Group Department ("Liberation Tour 2026").

If you have questions about the "Run to St. Lo 5K" or "Liberation Tour 2026" you can call the Nebraska National Guard Museum at 402-309-8763. You can follow the museum on Facebook at: Nebraska National Guard Museum.

The Nebraska National Guard soldiers of the 134th Infantry Regiment killed in the liberation of St. Lo, France:

- Allison D. Babb – Falls City – July 20, 1944 – Normandy American Cemetery
- Vernon L. Barnard – Cortland – July 16, 1944 – Normandy American Cemetery
- Ivan Q. Brown – Hastings – July 15, 1944 – Normandy American Cemetery
- Raymond J. Brzonkowski – July 15, 1944 – Normandy American Cemetery
- Donald E. Christensen – Omaha – July 17, 1944 – Prairie View Cemetery, Washington Co., NE
- Wayne A. Coxon – Grand Island – July 15, 1944 – Fort McPherson National Cemetery, Maxwell, NE
- Lewis E. Dailey – Hastings – July 17, 1944 – Normandy American Cemetery

- Emil Fendrick – Clarkson – July 15, 1944 – Schuyler Cemetery, Schuyler, NE
- William W. Frahm – Sunol – July 15, 1944 – Greenwood Cemetery, Sidney, NE
- Robert W. Fulton – Beatrice – July 19, 1944 – St. Joseph Cemetery, Beatrice, NE
- Marvin J. Geiken – Gothenburg – July 16, 1944 – Normandy American Cemetery
- Charles P. Gentile – Omaha – July 16, 1944 – Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Omaha, NE
- Lloyd R. Harvey – Ogallala – July 15, 1944 – Normandy American Cemetery
- Floyd W. Hawkins, Jr. – Beatrice – July 16, 1944 – Fort McPherson National Cemetery, Maxwell, NE
- Dale B. Horne – North Platte – July 15, 1944 – Fort McPherson National Cemetery, Maxwell, NE
- Norris L. Ivey – Raymond – July 16, 1944 – Oak Creek Cemetery, Raymond, NE
- Jacob Jacoby – Lincoln – July 15, 1944 – Normandy American Cemetery

continued on page 11

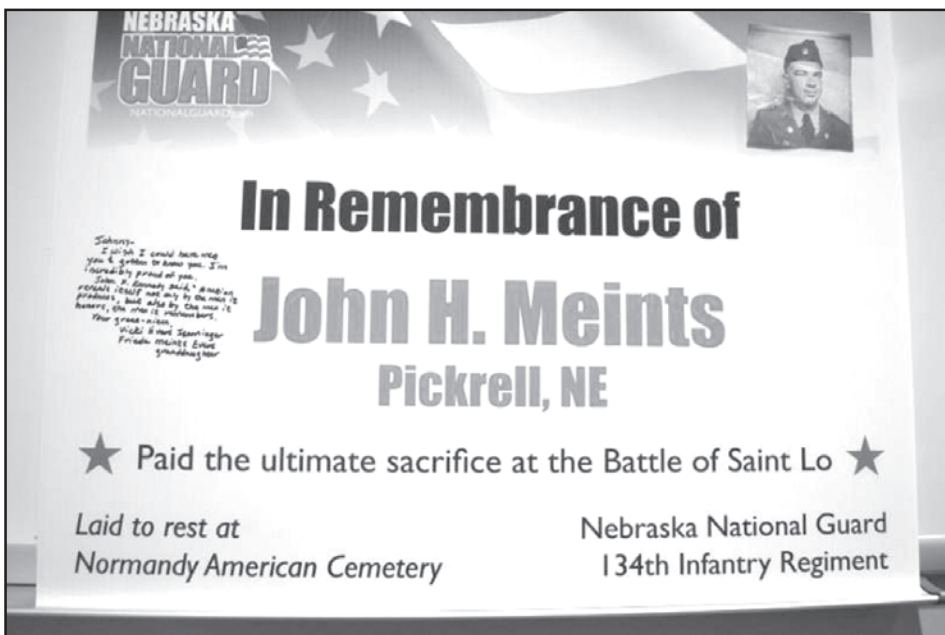


John H. Meints of Pickrell, Nebraska was serving with the 134th Infantry Regiment and was killed in the Liberation of St. Lo, France on July 15, 1944.



NENG Museum

The grave of John H. Meints at Normandy American Cemetery. Picture taken on Liberation Tour 2024 visit to the cemetery.



Memorial Sign held by sentinels at the annual "Run to St. Lo Memorial 5K and 1 Mile Run/Walk". This years' race is set for Saturday, June 7th.

Running-

continued from page 10

Howard H. Johnson – Alvo – July 17, 1944 – Alvo Cemetery, Alvo, NE

Harvey B. Langley – Beatrice – July 15, 1944 – Pleasant View Cemetery, Pickrell, NE

Lyle E. Lovelady – Omaha – July 18, 1944 – Normandy American Cemetery

Louis A. Marino – Omaha – July 16, 1944 – Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Omaha, NE

William A. McGinnis – Nebraska City – July 15, 1944 – Normandy American Cemetery

Harold G. McKay – North Platte – July 15, 1944 – Fort McPherson National Cemetery, Maxwell, NE

Ralph D. McManaman – Omaha – July 17, 1944 – Brittany American Cemetery

John H. Meints – Pickrell – July 15, 1944 – Normandy American Cemetery

Harold A. Meurrens – Omaha – July 27, 1944 – Brittany American Cemetery

Robert R. Miller – Lincoln – July 24, 1944 – Wyuka Cemetery, Lincoln, NE

William A. Nydegger – Beatrice – July 16, 1944 – Normandy American Cemetery

Walter F. Placek – Columbus – July 19, 1944 – Normandy American Cemetery

Vyrgel H. Putman – Lincoln – July 18, 1944 – Normandy American Cemetery

Virgil D. Reimers – Dannebrog – July 19, 1944 – Grand Island Cemetery, Grand Island, NE

Harry P. Saali – Peru – July 17, 1944 – Normandy American Cemetery

Hugo W. J. Schiebinger – Lincoln – July 22, 1944 – Normandy American Cemetery

Frank J. Schelbitzki, Jr. – Strang – July 15, 1944 – Ohiowa Cemetery, Ohiowa, NE

Jerome G. Sokol – Duncan – July 23, 1944 – St. Stanislaus Catholic Cemetery, Duncan, NE

Freddie A. Sorenson – Filley – July 15, 1944 – Crab Orchard Cemetery, Crab Orchard, NE

Charles P. Stevens – Beatrice – July 16, 1944 – Evergreen Home Cemetery, Beatrice, NE

Joseph G. Swendroski – Omaha – July 17, 1944 – Normandy American Cemetery

William E. Tombrink – Omaha – July 18, 1944 – Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Omaha, NE

Horace E. Van Houten – Taylor – July 16, 1944 – Brittany American Cemetery

Richard H. Wieser - Beaver Crossing – July 17, 1944 – Normandy American Cemetery

James W. Wilber – Big Springs – July 18, 1944 – Normandy American Cemetery

Leslie G. Wilson – Omaha – July 15, 1944 – Normandy American Cemetery

Floyd E. Whittaker – Blue Springs – July 15, 1944 – Blue Springs Cemetery, Blue Springs, NE

Wesley L. Stahlhut – Nebraska City –

July 15, 1944 – Wyuka Cemetery, Nebraska City, NE

James W. Nichols – Omaha – July 18, 1944 – Westlawn-Hillcrest Memorial Park, Omaha, NE

Orvan R. Anderson – Omaha – July 15, 1944 – Fort McPherson National Cemetery, Maxwell, NE

Vard D. Kuebler – Lincoln – July 18, 1944 – Golden Gate National Cemetery, San Bruno, CA

Robert H. Putman – Omaha – August 9,

1944 – Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Omaha, NE

Herman Spreier – Lincoln – July 15, 1944 – Wyuka Cemetery, Lincoln, NE

George J. Tiedje – Bennington – July 29, 1944 – German Cemetery, Washington Co., NE

Clarence M. Otto – Beatrice – August 16, 1944 – Christ Lutheran Church Cemetery, Pickrell, NE

Arlin G. Wenz – Utica – July 18, 1944 – Normandy American Cemetery




The Nebraska National Guard Museum
 201 North 8th Street
 Seward, Nebraska 68434
 Saturday, June 7, 2025
 Check in starts at 6am
 Race starts at 7am
 On-Line Registration Only: www.getmeregistered.com
 Enter: Run to St. Lo

10TH ANNUAL "RUN TO ST. LO MEMORIAL 5K AND 1 MILE RUN/WALK"

A Memorial Run to Honor the Fallen of St. Lo



Memorial Sentinels



The Nebraska National Guard's 134th Infantry Regiment played a key role in the Liberation of St. Lo, France in July, 1944 during World War II. The regiment suffered 53 NENG soldiers killed in the battle. Each one is remembered during the run by a sentinel holding a memorial sign. This memorial run is the best in the state! The course is flat and starts and finishes at the NENG Museum. Please sign up online!



Berry Law Firm Team Trophies



Medals



Age Group Categories (1st/2nd M/F)



NENG "Shadow Run"



RUN TO REMEMBER THE FALLEN



Normandy-American Cemetery

Corporate Sponsor:

The Berry Law Firm (since 2016)



Berry Law Firm Team Trophies:

Middle School
High School
College/University
High School JROTC
College/University ROTC
National Guard Unit



Kiwanis

Poster provided by a marketing grant from the Seward County Visitors Bureau



80th Anniversary of the Liberation of Orleans Brochure

En souvenir des 80 ans de la Libération d'Orléans
avec les remerciements de

Serge GROUARD
Maire d'Orléans,
Président d'Orléans Métropole

HÔTEL DE VILLE | PLACE DE L'ÉTAPE | 45040 ORLÉANS CEDEX 1 | TÉL. 02 38 79 26 00 | spm@orleans-metropole.fr | www.orleans-metropole.fr

The 35th Infantry Command team visited France in August in honor of the 80th Anniversary of the liberation of Orleans, a battle in which the 35th ID was instrumental. The command team's visit marked the first time a commanding general of the 35th ID, MG John Rueger, has visited Orleans since World War II. After their visit, the city of Orleans published this beautiful brochure about the event, and sent us a copy.

It contains many pictures from the events, including the visit from MG Rueger and Mrs Helen Patton, General George Patton's granddaughter.



CLUB FRANCO - AMÉRICAIN
Orléans - France



Dear friends,

On the 80th Anniversary of the Liberation of Orléans by the 35th Infantry Division from Kansas, the City of Orléans published this beautiful brochure about the event.

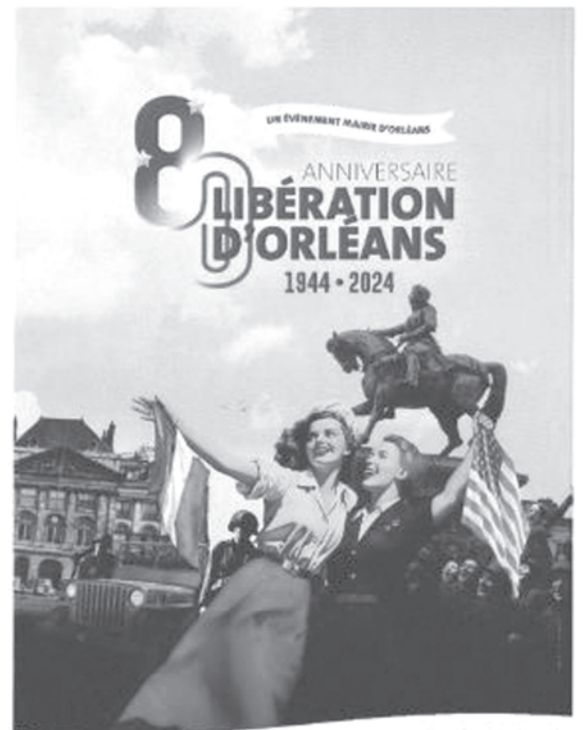


oût 1944 - 16 août 2024

We were grateful to welcome Major General John Rueger and Mrs Helen Patton (General George Patton's grand-daughter) to share the enthusiasm of the population of Orléans.

*Kind regards,
Claude Rozet*

FRANCE-U.S.A.-ORLÉANS
Claude ROZET
7 Impasse Paul Bert
45140 SAINT JEAN DE LA RUELLE
(France) ☎ et 📠 02 38 68 38 60



#012025



www.orleans.fr

Ici, c'est Orléans !





Parade Field Fort Leavenworth

The initial tent camp that would eventually grow to become Fort Leavenworth was established on this spot in 1827. The field was the epicenter of all post activity, and is still used today for major ceremonies including retirements and changes of command.

Structures that once ringed the Main Parade included offices, arsenals, stables, bachelor soldiers' barracks and the Kansas Territory's first post office. American Indian encampments were once a common sight, as the Parade hosted land negotiations between tribal communities and the federal government; in 1833, a major summit included representatives of the Delaware, Shawnee, Pawnee and Kickapoo.

Historic structures still lining the Parade include The Rookery, the oldest surviving building on Fort Leavenworth and the oldest continuously occupied residence in the state of Kansas. Famous former residents include General of the Army Douglas MacArthur, then just a lieutenant, and Andrew J. Reeder, the first territorial governor of Kansas. (Is this home haunted? It depends on who you ask.) On the east side of the Parade you'll also see the 1855 Syracuse Houses, named for the New York construction team used to introduce this cottage style out west.

Another mark the Main Parade has made on the area is the site of Fort Leavenworth's first flagpole. It was used as an early base of measurement, and places you can still explore today – Three Mile and Five Mile Creeks among them – were named for their distance from the flagpole.

<https://www.visitleavenworthks.com>

Wanted Hall of Fame Nominations for 2025

To be considered at the Annual Conference, nominations must be received by August 1, 2025. Nominations approved by the Hall of Fame Committee will be inducted into the Hall of Fame at the Annual Conference in 2026.

Members of the 35th Division Association, as well as others, are eligible to submit nominations for induction into the 35th Division Association Hall of Fame. Nominators must sign the nomination form and provide data for future contacts. Criteria for selection are given elsewhere in this Hall of Fame tab.

Mail nominating form, supporting documentation, and a photo of the nominee to BG Ed Gerhardt, Chairman, Hall of Fame Committee, 125 SE Airport E. Drive, Topeka, KS 66619.

See form on page 15

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



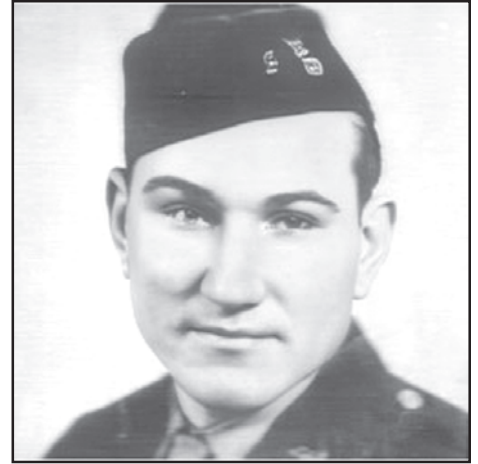
Pvt Palmer T Hanson 137th Infantry Regiment, Company F

Submitted by Roberta Russo

Palmer Theodore Hanson was born April 14, 1921 in Ortonville, Michigan. He registered for the draft on February 16, 1942, was inducted into the Army June 23, 1943, and entered active service August 13, 1943 at Fort Custer, Michigan.

He was a Rifleman in Company F, 137th Infantry Regiment, departed the U.S. for the ETO on May 12 and arrived in Avonmouth, England on May 24, 1944. He was billeted in Cornwall until sailing for France and landing at Omaha Beach in Normandy on July 8, 1944. He was captured by the Germans on October 30, 1944 near Chateau Salins, France and held as a POW for 24 days before he escaped and returned to his unit. Details of his capture and escape can be found in his Escape and Evasion Report. Pvt Palmer T Hanson suffered frostbite January 8, 1945 during the Battle of the Bulge in the vicinity of Villers-la Bonne-Eau, about 5 miles south of Bastogne, Belgium and spent some time recuperating in a hospital in Scotland before being invalided home. He was discharged from the Army November 15, 1945 at Fort Sheridan, Illinois. His awards include a Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman Badge, Distinguished Unit Citation, Good Conduct Medal, American Theater Ribbon, European African Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with 3 Bronze Battle Stars, and a WWII Victory Medal. He passed away June 25, 1995 and is buried at Andersonville Cemetery, Andersonville, Michigan.

(Thanks to his son, Ronald Hanson, for these pictures of his father)



Pfc Palmer T Hanson, his wife Christine, and brother James Lundie.



Retired General Officer Forum

Kansas National Guard leadership hosted the second annual Retired General Officer Forum at the new Joint Force Headquarters building on May 2.

Participants included three commanders of the 35th Infantry Division: Maj. Gen. John Rueger, retired Maj. Gen. Gene Krase and Maj. Gen. Vic Braden.

Donor Appreciation List

October 2024 - May 2025

Donors \$3,000

* The Breidenthal-Snyder Foundation (Fall edition of the Santa Fe Divisionnaire and Operating Expenses)

Donors \$1,000-\$1,300

* COL (R)/ Chaplain Benjamin F Mirtz (Sponsor of Santa Fe Divisionnaire May 2025, Op. Expenses, Museum Op. Expenses, Hall of Fame Expenses)

*COL (R) Bob and Betty Bloomquist (In Honor of WWII veterans, Division Christmas Party)

Donors \$500

*COL (R) Geoff Lanning (In Recognition of Jim Graff, COL Angelo Demos and Dick O'Brien)

Donors \$200

•Ceo E Bauer (Op. Expenses, Museum Op. Expenses, in recognition of Howard Berry, KIA, E-137)

•COL (R) Robert Bloomquist (Division Christmas Party)

•COL (R) Mike Dennis (Division Christmas Party)

•COL (R) Butch Dowse (Op. Expenses)

•Maggie Stein Fenstermacher (Museum Op. expenses, Jim Graff memorial)

•CPT (R) Doug Plummer (Division Christmas Party)

•Roberta Russo (COL Angelo Demos Memorial, Di-

vision Christmas Party, Op. Expenses, Museum, Op. Expenses, sponsor of new annual member)

•MG John Rueger (Op. Expenses, Conference Sponsor, in Memory of MG James F Rueger)

Donors \$100-\$140

•Judy Bradford (Op. Expenses)

•Rosemary E Corbett (Op. Expenses, Museum Op. Expenses, in recognition of Martin H Huschka)

•Bruce Hawkins (Op. Expenses)

•MAJ Peter Euler (Division Christmas Party)

•BG (R) Ed H Gerhardt (Conf. Sponsor)

•James Knight (Op. Expenses)

•Howard D Lippin (In Memory of Warren G Lippin, 137 Inf)

•CSM (R) Timothy Newton (Op. Expenses)

•COL James A Patton (Op. Expenses)

•Sue Sirk Landaw (In Recognition of John Robert Sirk)

•CPT (R) Ray Simmons (Op. Expenses, Division Christmas Party)

Donors \$80

•Richard C Miles (Op. Expenses, in recognition of PFC Chester C Miles)

Donors \$50

•COL (R) Bruce Baker (Division Christmas Party))

•Barb Bryson (Division Christmas Party)

•Doris Davis (Division Christmas Party)

•Annette Hall Roehrbein (In recognition of Edward O Hall)

•SGM (R) Lynn Holt (Division Christmas Party)

•Marilyn Jensen (Division Christmas Party)

•Terry E Meinke (Op. Expenses)

•CSM (R) Tim Newton (Division Christmas Party)

•Phillip Plank (Division Christmas Party)

•COL (R) Paul Waters (Division Christmas Party)

Donors up to \$40

•COL (R) Roger Aeschliman (Division Christmas Party)

•David Bear (Museum Op. Expenses)

•MAJ (R) Charles G Bredahl (Op. Expenses)

•Jose Coppola (Division Christmas Party in honor of Jose Coppola, father)

•Jay Frye (Jim Graff Memorial)

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

MAJ (R) Norman Cox

LTC (R) Joseph Walsh

COL Michael McCoy

NEW ANNUAL MEMBERS

Ronald Hanson

(Sponsored by Roberta Russo)

COL Timothy Marlar

LTC Robert Sands

Sig Sauer Pistol Raffle

Last year we conducted our first 35th Infantry Division Association Sig Sauer Commemorative M17 Pistol raffle.

This year we are again conducting a raffle for another Pistol. The tickets are \$20.00 and only 500 tickets are being sold.

The drawing will be held at the Association conference on September 2025.

(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)

<https://my.cheddarup.com/c/2025-35th-division-association-raffle>

(To date, about 50 tickets have already been sold. We thank COL (R) Bruce Becker for coordinating this fundraiser).

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

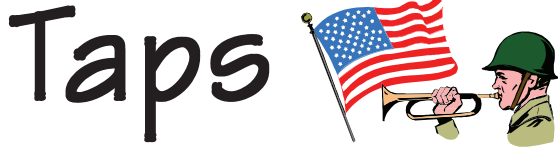


The winner will be required to pass a background check and take delivery from a FFL. The association will cover shipping if required to transfer to winners FFL if not located in Kansas or Missouri.



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.



Javier E. Ledesma

Javier was born in Nogales, Sonora, grew up in Douglas Arizona and moved to Tucson at the age of 16. He was drafted into the army as a student at Tucson High School to fight in World War II.

He was a proud member of the 35th Infantry Division. He fought in 4 major battle campaigns, including the Battle of the Bulge. After the war he returned to finish his high school degree and then graduated from the University of Arizona. He also earned his Master of Science in Education.

Javier taught biology at Rincon High School for over 35 years. He was one of the first Latino high school teachers in TUSD. In 2015 he was inducted into the Rincon High School Hall of Fame.

He was predeceased by his mother Carlotta, brother Hector, son Joey and wife of 73 years Elda. He is survived by his children Javier (Susan), Jennifer (Bob), Jerry (Vivienne), Jaime (Ginny), John, Elena and Monica (Jose).

The family would like to extend special thanks to Dr. David Whittman and Fresenius East Dialysis for their special care and love.

Services were held at East Lawn Palms Mortuary on Wednesday, February 26th, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.

PFC Javier E. Ledesma was a Rifleman in Company A, 137th Infantry Regiment



Jim Bray

Jim J. Bray, age 89 of Joplin, MO, Jim Bray passed away March 24, 2025, served 9 years with the 110th Combat Engineer Battalion, Kansas City

Jim was born on October 6, 1935 in Enid, OK, son of the late Earl J. Bray and Lois (Holliday) Bray. He grew up in Enid and graduated from Enid High School before receiving his degree in art from Phillips University in Enid. Jim was a sports enthusiast from the time he was little and had great memories and experiences. His passion for baseball started young, having traveled to the Gulf Coast with a very successful Failings sponsored little league team. He then later represented Enid in American Legion and All State baseball as well as played ball for Phillips University. Along with his sons, Tommy and Mike, Jim was an avid fan of both the Saint Louis Cardinals and the Kansas City Chiefs. Jim served 9 years in the Army National Guard and enjoyed describing his experiences with the 110th Combat Engineer Battalion, out of Kansas City, MO, which had a lot to do with blowing things up. Jim received a Special Commendation Award from the 35th Infantry Division for his teaching of demolition classes and field exercises, where he used his legendary creativity to design a unique approach to accomplishing the mission. Jim earned two Master's degrees from the University of Tulsa, one in 1969 and another in 1984. The Master's Thesis for his second degree comprised of completing a body of work entitled, The Vanishing Landscape. Many of the paintings Jim created from that point forward continued this theme: the masterful depiction of old homes and farmsteads, now abandoned, that from the highway we notice as they gently sink into the landscape over the years. Jim's creative style, whether watercolor, acrylic, or calligraphy, was consistently dramatic, unique, very structured and always satisfied a broad audience.

Jim's career began at Hallmark Cards in Kansas City, MO where he worked for 10 years, serving as Illustrator and Designer for Advertising and Sales Promotion, then as Art Director of the Contemporary Design Studio, and Art Personnel Recruiter. He won a number of awards of merit from the Kansas City Art Director's Club for various design projects for Hallmark Cards. In 1965, Jim was invited back to Phillips University to assist in further development of the Art Department as a faculty member. Initially an Assistant Professor, he soon also assumed administrative duties as Art Director for the Public Relations Department and eventually became Art Director for External Publications, until 1986, when he became Chairman of the Art Department. At Phillips, Jim taught Watercolor Painting, Calligraphy, and Life Drawing. He also taught Advertising Design, and was proud of the fact that his students developed not only expertise in finished production art, but also gained real world experience by completing design projects for the larger community. This was unusual for graduating art students to have achieved, and helped prepare them for future employment. During that time, the university won numerous First Place Awards and Awards of Excellence, as well as Sweepstakes Awards for Art and Design at the national and state level for university

publications. Jim also conducted watercolor short courses in Sweden, and led groups of



students for semesters in Sweden, and travel in Scandinavia, Europe, and the former Soviet Union as part of a student exchange program. He also led groups of alumni for international tours. While at Phillips, Jim also had the unique experience of teaching during the summer of 1991 at PUJ, Phillips University's new sister campus in Uji, Japan. In 1992, Jim accepted the position of Head of the Art Department at Missouri Southern State University in Joplin, MO. In addition to his administrative duties, he taught courses in watercolor, life drawing, painting and typography. He continued to teach classes at the Mulsjo Folkhogskola, a Swedish Folk School, as part of the Summer in Sweden Program, which he helped initiate in 1992. Jim attained Signature Status in the Oklahoma Watercolor Society and the National Watercolor Society. He won awards in national art competitions, often judged art competitions, and conducted workshops in watercolor painting and collage. Several of his works are featured in Gerald Brommer's book, Collage Techniques (WatsonGuptill, 1994).

Jim retired in 2004 from MSSU, but continued teaching art in Sweden for a number of years, traveling there over 25 times before he reluctantly had to stop due to health challenges. Jim was known as a vivid storyteller, loving to tell, retell and embellish stories of his incredible adventures while traveling and teaching. He had a lifelong fascination with trains and with World War II history. Jim's large train paintings were very popular, as were his paintings of planes. Collecting books and memorabilia related to the war was another passion, as was reading the real life stories of the people, equipment and missions involved.

Jim leaves behind many beloved family members and friends and will be greatly missed. In addition to his parents, Jim was preceded in death by his first wife, Sandra (Jones) Bray, and sister-in-law, Catherine (Cockrell) Bray.

He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Diana (Donnell) Bray of Joplin, MO; brother Allan Bray of Enid, OK; sons Thomas Bray and wife Nettie of Enid, OK, and Michael Bray and wife Jewel of Centerton, AR; stepdaughter Holly Evers of Guthrie, OK; grandchildren Nate Bray and wife Chasie, Ashley Favela and husband Fernando, Jessi Pickel and husband Matt, Shawn Bray, Jessica Cooper and Jennifer Abbott and husband Jeff, and Audrey Evers; as well as several great grandchildren.

Celebration of Life services were held. Interment of his ashes will be at a later date in Enid, OK. The family request that memorial contributions be made to the FURever Friends in Enid, OK care of Parker Mortuary.

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:

35th Division Association 107th Annual Conference and 35th Infantry Division Dining Out Registration

SEP. 5-6, 2025, 4 Wagon Wheel Way, Ft. Leavenworth, KS 66027

Name(s): _____ Unit: (CO/BN/ RGT/BDE) _____
 Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Special Donation:

- * HONORARY ATTENDEE – IF CANNOT ATTEND \$30.00 _____
- * CONFERENCE SPONSOR \$100.00 _____

#PERSONS TIME EVENT \$\$

FRIDAY, SEP 5th, 2025

_____	3:00PM-5:00 PM	Executive Committee Meeting (Association Committee Members) 35 th Inf. Division Headquarters	
_____	5:30PM-7:30 PM	Hail and Farewell/ President’s Reception, at Luigi’s 418 Cherokee St, Leavenworth, Ks (Pay on your own)	

SATURDAY, SEP 6th, 2025

_____	8:00 AM-9:30 AM	Hall of Fame Selection Meeting (Association Committee Members)	
_____	10:00AM-11:30AM	35 th Division Change of Command Ceremony (Ft Leavenworth Parade Field)	
_____	11:30 AM- 12:15PM	Lunch – 35 th Div. Assn. Conference Room, by Donation	
_____	12:30PM-2:00PM	Hall of Fame Ceremony & Reception (Shawnee B)	
_____	5:30PM-6:30PM	Social Hour	
_____	6:30PM	Banquet/ Dining Out– Awards & Program, hosted by 35 th DIV. (Buffet meal choice of Chicken Breast or Brisket). Civilian rate is the same as spouses’ rank.	
_____	PVT to SSG	\$35	\$ _____
_____	SFC to CPT	\$45	\$ _____
_____	MAJ-General Officers	\$55	\$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

*Make checks payable to: *35th Division Assn. Send to: P O Box 5004, Topeka, KS 66605.*
 *(If only attending the Dining Out, mail to: *35th DIV HQs: 35th Infantry Division, ATTN: CPT Hannah Byun, 4 Wagon Wheel Way, Ft. Leavenworth, KS 66027*)
 or on their website: <https://www.35id.org>
 *Deadline for Dining Out registration is 26 August 2025

HOTEL: Fairfield by Marriott, 1101 N 4th St, Ft. Leavenworth, KS 66048
 *Deadline for Hotel for special rate is 28 August 2025 (Direct to hotel)
 *(Hotel price: \$135 King Bed or Double Bed; \$145 King Suite)

Please respond for reunion activities by 25 August 2025



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.): _____

	Amount Enclosed
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>

