



THE BLADE



A Newsletter of the 63d Infantry Division Association, USAR

Volume 19

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Number 1

Presidents Message

The other day I took the time to really read the Army newsletter “*Echoes*” which is sent to retired soldiers, surviving spouses & families. In it I found a number of things that I think our membership needs to know about.

For a start there will no longer be AKO accounts for retirees after March 31, 2014. If you were using an AKO email address for myPay notifications you now need to change to a commercial email address. The end of the AKO accounts means that you will have to sign-up for **DS Logon** which according to *Echoes* “is a relatively new, secure, self-service logon ID that allows Department of Defense (DOD) and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) members and their affiliates access to real-time, personalized information on government websites using a single username and password.” This will be the only method for users to access their personal information on secure DOD and VA websites. To get a DS Logon on account go to:

<https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/dsaccess/>.

Echoes also reported that thousands of “gray area” Soldiers fail to get their retired pay as they have not provided U.S. Army Human Resources Command (HRC) with valid mailing addresses. The result is that about half of the retired pay applications are returned unopened. If you know someone who is about to turn 60 and should be getting a retirement check you might remind them to update their retired records at HRC every time they move by calling (888) 276-9472.

Echoes also reports that the Army has recently modified how retirees’ list their retired

status. In a new policy published on May 17 in Army Regulation 25-50, *Preparing and Managing Correspondence* retired Reservists are put on an equal footing with Soldiers who retired from active duty. The AR says “Retired military should follow the same rules as active personnel, except that no organizational or branch of the Army will be shown. Show retired status after the grade as follows:

*All Army personnel, active or reserve component, retired for service, age, or physical disability and all personnel on the Army of the United States Retired list, including regular Army personnel and nonregular Army personnel on the Temporary Disability Retired List will use ‘USA Retired (A.B. Smith, COL (USA Retired)).’

*All personnel on the Officers Honorary Retired List will use “U.S. Army Retired (Hon).’

*All Reservists assigned to the U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) Control Group (Retired) will use ‘USA Retired.’

*Army retirees serving as DA civilians will not use or refer to their military grade or rank except when referring to their personnel retirement actions.”

There is much much more in this SEP-DEC issue of *Echoes* than I can report here. Go to www.armyg1.army.mil/retire for more information.

Have a safe and happy holiday season. I’m looking forward to seeing you next year.
Chuck Ebner BG (USA Retired)

IN MEMORIAM

(For full obituary, go to
www.63rdinfdivusar.com)

Edward D. Doughty, LTC, (USA Retired)
28 March 1914 to 7 November 2012

Charles Harris Clark III, LTC, (USA Retired)
May 10, 1922 – April 1, 2013

Jesse Lee Raymond CW4 (USA Retired)
August 26, 1932 - July 17, 2013

Ira Gerald Clary Sr. LTC (USA Retired)
November 30, 1939 - August 16, 2013

63RD INFANTRY DIVISION **ASSOCIATION (USAR) HOLIDAY** **PARTY 2013**

The annual Holiday Party co-hosted by the 63rd Infantry Division Association (USAR), several Reserve Officers Association (ROA) chapters and ROAL clubs in the Greater Los Angeles Area, and alumni of the 6386th and 6302d Reinforcement Training Units (RTUs), will be held from 1130 until 1430, Saturday, 7 December 2013, at the Sizzler Restaurant, 1401 N Harbor Blvd, Fullerton, CA 92635, (714) 738-5018.

Officers, warrant officers, and enlisted personnel, members of the 63d Infantry Division Association (USAR), ROA and ROAL, AFA/AUSA/MOAA/AUSN/MCRA members, retired military personnel, 6386th and 6302d RTU alumni, members and alumni of other RTUs, military widows, orphans, and their guests are invited.

Dress will be casual. Guests will proceed through the normal Sizzler guest line to order and pay for their food, then proceed to the large, private banquet room reserved for the party. This Sizzler is located north of downtown Fullerton. From the 405, 22, 5, or 91 freeways, proceed north on Harbor Blvd, past downtown Fullerton, to the Sizzler on the

left (west) side of Harbor Blvd. From the 57 freeway within Fullerton, proceed west on Chapman Ave, then north on Harbor Blvd. From the 60 freeway, proceed south on Fullerton Road (that becomes Harbor Blvd in Orange County). Watch out because Fullerton has its own street numbering system divided north and south by Commonwealth Avenue.

A gift exchange will be conducted, with participation optional. Gifts should be in the range of \$10-15 per participant. Each participant in the gift exchange will be given a number. Numbers will be drawn. Each winner will have the choice of taking and unwrapping a new gift from the pile or taking a gift that another winner has unwrapped. The winner whose gift was taken has a similar choice of taking and unwrapping a new gift from the pile or taking a gift that another winner has unwrapped. Each gift can be taken from another winner only one time.

We look forward to seeing many old friends at this holiday party. Bring your appetites and your cheer. And join us in the festivities.

If you have any questions, contact COL Alfred M. Diaz, USA (ret), alfred_diaz@hotmail.com, (951) 567-5886.

The Sizzler at 1401 N Harbor Blvd, Fullerton, is located north of downtown Fullerton at the fork of N Harbor Blvd and Brea Blvd.

Caution, Harbor Blvd in Orange County goes through many cities with several repetitions of street numbers. For example, there is a similar address in the city of La Habra, just north of Fullerton. And there is also a similar address in Anaheim, just south of Fullerton. In addition there are two major east-west thoroughfares named Chapman, one that passes through Fullerton and Placentia, and another that passes through Anaheim and Garden Grove.

Another caution is that there used to be a second Sizzler in Fullerton on Yorba Linda Blvd, east of the 57 freeway, near the border between Fullerton and Placentia. The Sizzler on Yorba Linda Blvd was closed several years ago, but may still be in the databases of some GPS navigators.

A POEM WORTH READING

He was getting old and paunchy
And his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the Legion,
Telling stories of the past.

Of a war that he once fought in
And the deeds that he had done,
In his exploits with his buddies;
They were heroes, every one.

And 'tho sometimes to his neighbors
His tales became a joke,
All his buddies listened quietly
For they knew where of he spoke.

But we'll hear his tales no longer,
For ol' Joe has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer
For a Veteran died today.

He won't be mourned by many,
Just his children and his wife.
For he lived an ordinary,
Very quiet sort of life.

He held a job and raised a family,
Going quietly on his way;
And the world won't note his passing,
'Tho a Veteran died today.

When politicians leave this earth,
Their bodies lie in state,
While thousands note their passing,
And proclaim that they were great.

Papers tell of their life stories
From the time that they were young,
But the passing of a Veteran
Goes unnoticed, and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution
To the welfare of our land,
Someone who breaks his promise
And deceives his fellow man?

Or the ordinary fellow
Who in times of war and strife,
Goes off to serve his country
And offers up his life?

The politician's stipend
And the style in which he lives,
Are often disproportionate,
To the service that he gives.

While the ordinary Veteran,
Who offered up his all,
Is paid off with a medal
And perhaps a pension, small.

It is not the politicians
With their compromise and ploys,
Who won for us the freedom
That our country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger,
With your enemies at hand,
Would you really want some cop-out,
With his ever-waffling stand?

Or would you want a Veteran
His home, his country, his kin,
Just a common Veteran,
Who would fight until the end.

He was just a common Veteran,
And his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us
We may need his likes again.

For when countries are in conflict,
We find the Veteran's part,
Is to clean up all the troubles
That the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honor
While he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage
At the ending of his days.

Perhaps just a simple headline
In the paper that might say:
"OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING,
A VETERAN DIED TODAY."

My Custom D-Day Euro Tour

By COL James D. Wisenbaker

In June 2011, I took a “Custom Europe Tour” to celebrate the 67th anniversary of D-Day landings. I’d always wanted to go, and my wife saw an opportunity to provide me a great gift, for me alone (she said she’d have to work)! Since it was a pre-canned military tour, we didn’t get to follow Route of 63rd from Marseilles, into Germany. It did, however provide glimpses into some of the key events of the European Theater.

The tour started in Paris in June, and went to the D-Day landing beaches, where we witnessed huge swells and miserable rainy weather that was similar to the 1944 assaults on the beaches. That June weather in the channel was significantly worse than anything we expected, and very different from June in the US. Weather was so bad it cancelled a drop by Airborne Infantry Detachment from Vincenza, Italy that was to re-create 82nd and 101st’s drop behind landing beaches (Utah & Omaha). The greatest thing was the amount of events and re-enactors that were everywhere in celebration. It was funny, however, to hear all the re-enactors speaking French! Given a British Tour guide, we couldn’t miss British zone, which rung hauntingly with sound bagpipes, all over their zone. After hearing the lingering melody, it was easy to see why the English classified them a “Weapon of War” and outlawed them to Scots. From the beachheads, we followed the track of the Allied armies into Germany, itself.

We went on to Verdun, to see something that can never be forgotten. Our guide reminded us that Verdun emerged as a key terrain to war in both WWI & II. The most awesome stop was the Ossuary (Bone Repository of unidentified remains) in the center of a huge cemetery that showed sacrifice of French & their colonies in WWI. This memorial was flanked by the “Trench of Bayonets”; dedicated by US Infantry to the well-disciplined French soldiers of WWI. This was a reminder of those buried in the long Verdun trenches, patiently waiting for the

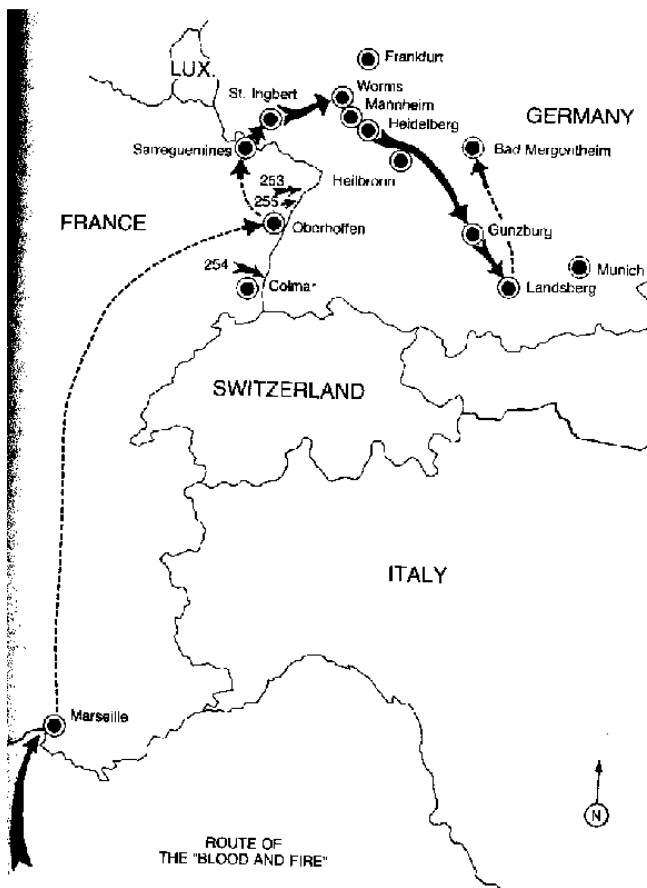
command to assault with fixed bayonets. A huge German Artillery barrage had kicked up such amounts of earth, it showered their trenches and buried them alive. Above the ground, only their Bayonets indicate where each Unknown Soldier is interred. The fact the “Poilus” didn’t break ranks or run, they waited in trench with weapons at ready; so impressed our Doughboys that they contributed to the memorial outside the original trench. This was a unique tribute to the NCOs of the era that maintained the morale and readiness in the trenches, even under such inhuman conditions. Words cannot accurately describe the impact of that sacrifice. For me, it was closely akin to the first realization of the sacrifice of those on Corregidor Island, after witnessing the devastation that’s still apparent there.

We continued following the cross-channel assault toward Germany, including stopping at Ike’s “little Red Schoolhouse” in Reims, France where the final Surrender was signed by the Germans. The city still preserves the Maps showing the final situation, detailing Germany’s increasingly desperate condition in 1945. Despite the situation, the German Staff repeatedly tried to bully Ike’s Chief of Staff, Beetle Smith, into a separate truce so they could turn on the Russians and fight their last, final battle.

We continued following a trail from Reims through Luxemburg to Frankfurt, nearly parallel to the route thru Heidelberg, Worms, Mannheim that 63rd took during WWII. Our midpoint was Nurnberg (Nuremberg, Germany), just Southeast of Wurzburg, end of 63rd’s occupation zone. We continued thru Munich (Munchen) for sights and onward to end of Germany. At the end of the war, the 63rd and the Seventh Army were directed to thrust southeast to cut off the German Retreat to the “Fortress Zone” in the German/Austrian Alps, expected to be Hitler’s final stand. This area was centered on the town of Obersalzberg on German/Austrian boarder. Our tour ended there, stopping by the “Eagle’s nest” or Kehlstein Haus on the top of the mountain in Berchesgaden. Our guide also took us to the site of Hitler’s main house

("Berghof"), at foot of the Kehlstein hill, although this was totally destroyed by victorious Allies at end of WWII. The Eagle's Nest was so far up hill, that it wasn't found or destroyed, thus remained intact for many years, and is now a tourist attraction. Most interesting were the under-girding of tunnels of the area, interconnecting was the official Hitler Residence with the private residences of Goring, Bormann, other Party functionary's homes and the SS Barracks. We accessed these tunnels thru Hotel "Zum Turken". They were obviously prepared for extensive bombing and fighting in that area.

Conclusion: Wonderful trip, even though I didn't get to see the 63rd's avenue of advance into Germany. It showed much of the fight and effort made by allies in European Theater, bringing life into the fighting and sacrifices of the soldiers in the ETO in WWI and WWII.



Route of 63rd into Germany

The Merger of the 63rd Associations

The merger of the 63rd Infantry Division Association, USAR and the 63rd Infantry Division Association, WWII is still being discussed. We have passed a change to our Constitution and Bylaws at our April Annual meeting that will allow the two groups to merge. There are a wide difference in demographics, meeting and printing schedules and formats and basic culture of the two groups that need to be resolved. We will report on this when there is a change of status.

Check our Web Site !

We publish the BLADE only four times a year, so if you want to find out which of our members have passed away in time to go to their memorial services (Locations and times are included when available), or what the status of the merger is between the BLADE publications, we have the web site available to our members. Our address is <http://63rdinfdivusar.com>. On the web Site, we also have the Association Officers pictures, History of the Division, information on the upcoming Annual Reunion Meeting with Application forms or a synopsis of a past Annual Reunion Meetings, back issues of the BLADE and Annual Report (You must have a PDF Reader, Adobe or equivalent on your computer to read some of the material. You can download a free PDF reader at: <http://www.foxitsoftware.com/downloads/>)



"Only the Dead Have Seen the End of War"

By Captain Samuel F. Wright, JAGC, USN (Ret.)
Law Review 13072, May 2013

General of the Army Douglas MacArthur, in his famous 1962 "last roll call with you" speech to the cadets at the United States Military Academy. General MacArthur attributed these words to Plato, the ancient Greek philosopher, but there is no record that Plato ever said or wrote any such thing. The 20th Century philosopher George Santayana apparently first used these words on page 102 of his book *Soliloquies in England*, published in 1924. General MacArthur was not the first person to misattribute these words to Plato. Britain's Imperial War Museum (opened in London in 1936, just 12 years after publication of Santayana's book) also uses these words and misattributes them to Plato.

Santayana is better known for his equally profound statement that "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." That statement first appeared in Volume I of his 1905 book titled *Reason in Common Sense*.

Q: I read with great interest your eloquent article titled "A Reasonable Burden" published on page 14 of the May-June 2013 edition of *The Officer*. In your article, you pointed out that the burdens on civilian employers, caused by military service of employees, are small compared to the infinitely greater burdens (sometimes the ultimate sacrifice) made by that tiny sliver of the Millennial Generation that currently serves in uniform, whether Active, Reserve, or National Guard.

I am a life member of ROA and a retired Army Reserve Colonel. After I was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in 1965, through Army ROTC, I served on active duty for four years, including a year in Vietnam. For the next 26 years, before I retired in 1995 with 30 years of commissioned service, my military service (and the service of the officers and enlisted

members that I commanded) was generally limited to one weekend of drills per month and two weeks of annual training (usually in the summer) per year. When Saddam Hussein's Iraq invaded and occupied Kuwait in August 1990 and President George H.W. Bush drew "a line in the sand" and responded forcefully, I volunteered to come back on active duty, but the Army told me that I was too old.

Even in the "strategic reserve" days of the 1970s and 1980s, there was a lot of resistance from the civilian employers of my unit members. Civilian employers frequently asked me to reschedule unit training obligations or to excuse specific members from participating, because these obligations necessitated absences from civilian jobs that the employers found inconvenient. Now that the "strategic reserve" has been transformed into the "operational reserve" and the demands upon the individual reservist have increased exponentially, the conflicts with civilian employers must also have increased exponentially.

Now that our country's participation in Iraq has ended and Afghanistan is winding down, and now that the defense budget is severely constrained, perhaps the burdens on civilian employers will be substantially reduced. What do you think?

A: I think that the pace of military operations involving the National Guard and Reserve will slacken somewhat, but we are never going back to the "strategic reserve" of "weekend warriors." With the constrained budget of the Department of Defense (DoD), our nation's reliance on the Reserve Components will likely increase still further.

With a severely constrained DoD budget, the imperative for the foreseeable future is to preserve as much military power as possible with the limited resources that are available. The way to do that is to put a higher percentage of service members in the Reserve Components, where their capability approaches or equals (and in some cases

exceeds) that of their full-time counterparts, at a fraction of the cost.

I invite the reader's attention to the article titled "Draft report touts reserves as bargain" by reporter Andrew Tilghman on pages 6 and 8 of the *Navy Times* issue dated May 27, 2013. Mr. Tilghman wrote:

"The Defense Department is preparing to send a controversial report to Congress that explains in detail how Reserve-component troops are substantially cheaper than active-duty members — an official analysis that is likely to fuel a growing debate about the future shape of the all-volunteer force.

Based on a two-year study conducted within the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the report marks the military's first attempt to provide an itemized cost for the active and Reserve components in an effort to help determine what mix of forces can provide the most efficient use of taxpayer dollars.

According to a draft copy of the report obtained by *Military Times*, the Pentagon analysis concludes that Guard and Reserve troops not only are cheaper when in drilling status but also when fully mobilized, in part because their overall compensation is lower when taking into account noncash benefits such as retirement accrual and health care.

Moreover, the overall costs for outfitting units with reservists are lower because part-time troops do not tap many military perks such as family housing, DoD schools, installation-based family support and the moving stipends that active-duty troops get every few years when they are reassigned, according to the draft report.

For example, an Air Force master sergeant from the active component costs taxpayers a total of \$129,000 per year, while an Air Force Reserve master sergeant mobilized for a full year costs \$107,000, according to the report."

For more than 90 years, ROA has pushed for cost effective national defense through a

strong and ready Reserve Component. Our purpose, as set forth in our 1950 congressional charter that was revised and reaffirmed by Congress in 2009 is as follows: "The purposes of the corporation [ROA] are to support and promote the development and execution of a military policy for the United States that will provide adequate national security." Title 36, United States Code, section 19101 (36 U.S.C. 19101).

Our promotion of national defense through a strong and ready Reserve Component goes back 28 years earlier. On October 2, 1922, General of the Armies John J. Pershing spoke to 140 Reserve officers—veterans of the "Great War" or "the war to end all wars" that had ended just four years earlier, on November 11, 1918. General Pershing and the 140 officers who attended the ROA organizational meeting at his request recognized that referring to the just concluded "Great War" as "the war to end all wars" was a dangerous conceit, and they established ROA to speak for the need for national preparedness. Indeed, an even greater war began just 17 years later when Adolph Hitler's Germany invaded Poland on September 1, 1939.

Our country's participation in Afghanistan will likely end next year, as President Obama has promised, but Afghanistan is no more "the war to end all wars" than was World War I. Statesmen in the Continental Congress *declared* our nation's independence on July 4, 1776, but it took another five years of hard fighting by the founding members of our nation's Army, Navy, and Marine Corps to *secure* our independence at the Battle of Yorktown on October 19, 1781. As we celebrate Memorial Day on Monday, let us all remember that Americans in each succeeding generation, down to our own day, have been called upon to make great sacrifices to preserve the freedom won by our founding fathers in the Revolutionary War. That process has not ended and likely never will end because *only the dead have seen the end of war.*



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