



CENTURY SENTINEL

VOLUME 25, NO. 2 SUMMER 2010

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by CW4(R) Hobert Judd

Greetings: It seems like 2010 is moving along in high gear. With the passing of time we see many changes in our lives. For example, some members of the Association have lost love ones very close and special to them, others have experienced accidents, severe and sometimes terminal illness and others are suffering from the downturn in our economy. Our prayers and condolence goes out to these members and their families.

A special thank you to all who participated in our pickle packing this quarter. We continue to receive cards and letters from our deployed troops thanking the Association for remembering them and the articles really meant a lot. Let's continue to pray for our troops.

Planning for the year 2010 annual meeting on 27-28-29 August at the Holiday Inn located at Hurstbourne Lane on I64 is well underway. The banquet meeting scheduled on Saturday evening will be conducted in a more relaxed manner. Instead of having a formal presentation as in years past, we plan on having some of our guests/members make a few remarks. Attendees will be able to sit where and with whom they desire. They will also be able to move freely about the room and talk about old times with former military members and friends. In our planning, we tried to keep the cost to a minimum. Procedures for registering are further explained in this newsletter.

Since the 100th Division will be relocating to Ft. Knox in 2011, this will probably be the last chance for the Association as a whole to visit the Headquarters 100th Division at Bowman Field and view our museum. Let's make this truly a time of reflection and remembering by inviting your former division comrades to attend our last hurrah. I'm looking forward to seeing you there!

*****ANNUAL MEETING***
LOUISVILLE, KY
AUGUST 27-29, 2010
INFORMATION INSIDE**

COMMEMORATION OF THE LIBERATION OF BITCHE

By Lt. Col. Francois Ratinaud
100th Training Division (Operational Support)

BITCHE, France — Ten World War II veterans from the 100th Infantry Division returned in early May to France and Germany to take part in events commemorating the Armistice of 1945, victory in Europe and the liberation of Lemberg, Germany, and Bitche and Rimling, France. Brig. Gen. Patricia Heritsch, commander of the 100th Training Division (Operational Support) and Lt. Col. François Ratinaud, a 100th Soldier who speaks French, represented the command.

One of the many victory commemoration events that took place was a reception at the town hall in Bitche. The 100th Infantry veterans fought 65 years ago to liberate the townspeople of Bitche and the battles left deep scars, both literally and figuratively, said World War II veteran John Bocas. "I was shot in the leg on the day before the liberation of Bitche, on 15 March 1945," said Bocas, who was then a lieutenant. "I was giving an order when I was wounded in the leg by a sniper in the woods south of the city."

Bocas, who made the effort to speak French, said he would not have missed the tribute for anything in the world. Even though he was recuperating from a broken leg, he came with crutches and ten members of his family. "This reception is beautiful," he said. "What do I feel? Watch my eyes." Bocas' eyes were full of emotion and tears, as were those of veteran Robert Flohre, who came from Ohio to Bitche for the first time.

"It is truly grandiose, much better than what I imagined," Flohre said. "In 1945, I was stationed outside the city in the Schiesseck sector. I arrived in Bitche by Jeep. The first thing I remember seeing is obviously the Citadel, but I also remembered seeing the Church." The veterans met with students of the College of Saint Augustin, enjoyed a concert at the auditorium Espace Cassin, tours of museums and cemeteries, and vibrant celebrations of the armistice at the monuments honoring the war dead in each city. They were the center of attention everywhere they went.



Retired Army Colonel John Halver described to the Army's 100th Division commander, BG Patricia Heritsch, the events that took place at the railroad bridge site in Lemberg during the Nordwind offensive. Halver was a 2LT platoon commander when he fought there in 1945 and he showed Heritsch the foxhole he fought in during a battle with Nazi forces (photo by LTC Ratinaud)

At Saint Augustin, the veterans were greeted by two history teachers and spent the morning among about 50 seventh grade students. The school, which is attended by both middle school and high school students, dates back to 1731. Everyone gathered in the library where Lise Pommois, a retired English professor who organized the activities for the veterans, had a presentation depicting the March 1945 liberation of Bitche and the battles that occurred at Saint Augustin School.

During a question and answer session between the students and the veterans, which lasted more than an hour, there was a flow of sympathies, historical curiosity and a recognition that came to light. The morning ended around a "verre de l'amitié" (friendship glass) after a guided tour of the school grounds in which the young people received an education on the historical importance and heritage of their school. The

veterans' day ended with a two-and-a-half hour concert organized by the Harmonic Orchestra of the region of Bitche at the auditorium Espace Cassin. The concert was accompanied by a slide show depicting the veterans from 1944 to present day. The veterans and their families spent the next morning at the Citadel of Bitche, where the veterans raised a U.S. flag over the Citadel after a short ceremony in the courtyard in front of a plaque dedicated to the 100th Division. The veterans received a guided tour through the catacombs with a Citadel historian and a reception followed.

That afternoon the ceremonies got underway with a mass that was translated in English, followed by a ceremony in front of the Bitche town hall. Attending were elected representatives of the region, a French color guard and troops, and a U.S. color guard.

Lt. Col. Dominique Malivoire, commander of the French Mechanized Infantry Battalion stationed in Bitche, along with Heritsch, conducted a review of the troops. As tradition has it, the French Secretary of Defense's speech was read to the audience followed by a speech from Gerard Humbert, the Mayor of Bitche, and wreaths were placed at the monument dedicated to the war dead. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the dignitaries approached the veterans to personally thank each one individually for the sacrifices they made and for honoring the village with their attendance. "Their memories are vivid, their mind intact," Humbert said. "Days like this are important to remember so that this war is the last."

The official day of the armistice was a busy day for all involved. The veterans were picked up at the hotel in a convoy of antique World War II-era jeeps and trucks by volunteer re-enactors dressed in appropriate time period uniforms. They traveled by convoy to six different sites: the Maurice Lloyd monument in Lemberg Forest, Lemberg City Hall, Hasselfurth Pond, Rimling City Hall, Fort Schiesseck and a parade in the streets of Bitche.

At Lemberg Forest, the story of Pvt. 1st Class Maurice Lloyd still lives. Lloyd was in his foxhole as the Germans advanced. He was killed during the ensuing battle and it was assumed since it was German territory the Germans were taking care of the bodies. By the time the Americans recovered their lost ground later in the winter, new snow had fallen, concealing Lloyd's body, and he was listed as Missing in Action. The Americans didn't search the area and instead went far beyond in pursuit of the enemy, which had pulled back to Bitche. It was not until 1976 that a hiker found Lloyd in his foxhole, still clutching his rifle.

In this remote area of the forest, accessible only through dirt roads, the mayor of Lemberg, Fernand Henrich, praised the veterans for their sacrifices and expressed his appreciation and respect for them for making the trip there on the occasion of the commemoration ceremonies.



Ten Veterans from the 100th Infantry Division who traveled to Bitche with their family members were honored guests during the ceremony in Bitche (photo by LTC Ratinaud)

John Halver, a retired Army colonel, recalled the day he lost many of his friends on and around that same remote hill in Lemberg. Then a second lieutenant, Halver received orders as platoon commander for Company F, 2nd Battalion, 399 Infantry Regiment, to defend a railroad bridge near Lemberg on Dec. 8, 1944. That afternoon, Nazi forces attacked with three light tanks armed with double 20 mm cannons and infantry. "I did not come back for 60 years," said Halver, who finally decided to make the return trip with his comrades from the 100th. He compared his experiences to a root canal. "Do you really want to remember a root canal?" he asked. "I lost a lot of my friends here."

Halver lost about half his platoon in the battle. Despite its losses, his platoon managed to defend the bridge and take out two of the tanks. The last tank was destroyed by artillery called in during the fight. Halver helped Heritsch into a foxhole he fought in during a battle with Nazi forces on that hill. Today, the foxhole looks nothing like it did in 1944. The trench that shielded him from enemy fire is now partially filled with dirt; the surrounding fields are now forests. Yet Halver walked straight to it.

Everyone loaded back into the historic vehicles to continue the journey toward the village of Lemberg. As the vehicles made their way through the streets of Lemberg, a warm reception awaited the veterans in front of the town hall. The festivities continued after the reception, when the veterans traveled to the Auberge du Lac at Hasselfurth Pond and shared lunch with each other and their family members.

The convoy continued on to Rimling, where the appreciation and respect shown for the veterans was immense. The

appreciation of the people of Rimling could be seen in the children who lined up to take their picture with the veterans, and it was felt in the pressing crowds, eager to get closer to their heroes. At the ceremony that took place in front of Rimling town hall, the community integrated the youngest generation with the veterans.

The children played an integral role in the ceremony, greeting the veterans as they exited their vehicles and escorting them to their seats, where each veteran was handed a rose. The ceremony opened with the children's choir singing, followed by the French and American anthems. The children took turns reading the names of the 25 civilian victims from Rimling and the names of the 26 Soldiers from the 100th Infantry Division who gave their lives there. During the reading of the names, children placed a white rose at the base of the monument for the civilian victims and a red rose for each of the 100th Soldiers.



A young French girl placed a rose at the plaque honoring the 26 soldiers from the 100th Infantry Division who gave their lives at Rimling (photo by LTC Ratinaud)

The veterans and their party moved on to Fort Schiesseck, a key defensive bastion in the Maginot Line. The French Army classified Fort Schiesseck as a "gros ouvrage," or great work. Dug to a depth equivalent to five stories into Schiesseck Ridge, just two kilometers northwest of the Citadel in Bitche, Fort Schiesseck was part of the "Ensemble de Bitche," considered to be one of the strongest, if not the strongest, sector of the Maginot Line.

Back at Bitche, the one of a kind convoy of more than 40 historic vehicles continued on with the veterans aboard. They paraded through the streets at the end of a long day as the crowds gathered with French and American flags to welcome them. The vehicles stopped at Rue de la 100eme Division, a

street named after the 100th Division. A lady came out of her house to show a newspaper article with a picture of her and her sister that appeared in the paper the day they announced Bitche was liberated.

Now known as the “Sons of Bitche,” the 100th Infantry Division veterans are aging and many don’t think they’ll be able to return again. Whether or not they come back, they will not be forgotten here, nor will they be forgotten by the current members of the 100th Division, Heritsch said.

“They are our history, and they have pretty much set the standards for us,” she said. “The things they were able to accomplish in World War II were just phenomenal. It is important to know what their history is and be proud of the history of the 100th Division and make sure that we carry on that tradition of high standards.”

“Pickle Packing” THE NEED IS STILL THERE

by MG(R) John Tindall

In April AOC volunteers again met at the Division HQ to sort, pack, address, and send boxes of food stuff, personal hygiene items, treats, and personal notes of encouragement to all 100th Division soldiers serving in harm’s way in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“Pickle Packing”, as part of the AOC’s Support Our Soldiers (SOS) program, has literally touched hundreds of 100th Division soldiers who have been mobilized in the defense of our nation and has reminded them, in a small way, that we at home honor their service and recognize their sacrifice. Thanks to all the AOC volunteers who gave of their time, talent, and treasure to make this program the reality it has grown to be.

Plans are in place to do some more “Pickle Packing” during our annual convention. Convention participants during Saturday’s session will assemble and pack more boxes and write more notes.

Watch for a reminder email in mid-August and look for the exact time and place on your Annual Convention Program.

Come join us both for the enjoyment of seeing old friends and maybe making a few new ones while showing your support of the brave men and women of the 100th Division who continue to serve and sacrifice for our nation. “PICKLE PACKING” is “FUN” !!!!!!!

If you cannot be there in person, consider sending a TAX DEDUCTIBLE check to the AOC, PO Box 34393, Louisville, KY, 40232. MAKE SURE YOU MARK IT FOR "Pickle Packing"!!!!

PATRIOT DAY CEREMONY

by MSG Diane Mattingly

A Patriot Day ceremony will take place at 100th Training Division (OS) headquarters in Louisville on Saturday, Sept. 11 at 10 a.m. during the unit’s battle assembly.

The guest speaker will be retired Command Sgt. Maj. Ray Lackey, a former command sergeant major of the 100th Division. Lackey was assigned to the Pentagon as the command sergeant major of the U.S. Army Reserve when it was hit during the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. He retired in 2002 after 32 years of active and reserve service.

The 100th Band from Fort Knox will perform at the ceremony. Also participating in the ceremony will be Louisville Metro firefighters and police officers. A reception will follow the ceremony in the drill hall.

All 100th Association members and their families are invited to attend.

THE CHAIRMAN’S FOXHOLE

by MG(R) William E. Barron
AOC Board Chairman

As many of you know, AOC Vice Chairman John Tindall and I are decisively engaged in the growth and expansion that is going on at Fort Knox Kentucky as a result of both the Base Realignment and Closure Act of 2005 and Army Transformation. Finally, after three to four years, all the power point briefing slides of the past are now turning into real people with names, faces, children and automobiles on Hwy 31W between Elizabethtown and Fort Knox. High adventure has arrived in Harding County!

Some AOC members who will read this newsletter have been going to Fort Knox for as long as I have which is around 44 years (May 1966) and a few even longer. Let me tell you that there is a new face to Fortress Knox. Yes, the Armor School is departing for Fort Benning, Georgia to combine with the Infantry Branch in what will be called the Maneuver Center of Excellence taking with it a piece of Army History but in its place at Fort Knox will come the Army’s Human Resource Center (HRC) of Excellence with some 4,300 employees converging here from Alexandria, Virginia, St. Louis, Missouri and Indianapolis, Indiana and other parts of the country.

In addition to the HRC’s almost 900,000 square foot, brand new office building other new Headquarters buildings are being built or renovated for other FORSCOM units to include the 3d Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division known as

the “Duke Brigade” with some 3,400 soldiers; the 3d Expeditionary Sustainment Command ; the 19th Engineer Battalion and the 233d Transportation Company. The U.S. Army Accessions Command commanded by LTG Benjamin C. Freakley moved to Fort Knox from Fort Monroe, Virginia on 27 May replacing the Armor School and Center as the Senior Mission Command at Fort Knox beginning a new chapter in the history of Fort Knox. Army Reserve Commands that are now (or soon will be) assigned to Knox include the 11th Aviation Command; the 8/229th Attack Helicopter; the 84th Training Command; the 100th Division (Operational Support);the 70th Division and the 108th Drill Sergeant School.

In summary, by the end of September 2011, a net increase of over 5,000 new military, civilian and contractor positions will arrive at Fort Knox along with some 8,000 dependents. The Department of Defense will have spent over \$850 Million dollars in new construction and renovation at Knox to prepare for the growth dictated by the 2005 round of BRAC. These new jobs will result in an increase in annual payroll at Fort Knox of some \$400 Million dollars per year.

If you have time to take a day and visit Fort Knox, please do. You will be amazed at the changes. In fact, I am told that only 4-5 World War II wooden barracks are left on the entire post....maybe that is a good thing. Call me up and if I’m not committed I will give you a personal tour.

This morning, wife Kelly and I attended the first of seven Company Graduations of the 2010 ROTC Leader Training Course on Brooks Parade field at Knox. The breeze was cool and the Parade Field looked at it’s best. The future of America’s Army never looked better than what I saw this morning in the eyes of those young Cadets..... at the same time I realized that I am getting a bit long in the tooth compared to these youngsters.

Following today’s ceremony, I made the comment to the new Garrison Command Sergeant Major at Fort Knox, CSM Voller, that people who have never been in the Army don’t know what they are missing. Each of you reading this know what I mean.

Make sure that you put the AOC’s 30th Annual Reunion on your calendar for 27-28 August 2010 in Louisville, Kentucky. This years meeting will be slow paced and relaxing with a focus on renewing old friendships with fellow Soldiers of the Century
See you there!
BB

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**ASSOCIATION OF THE CENTURY
P.O. BOX 34393
LOUISVILLE, KY 40232
www.the-century.org**

CURRENT CIVILIAN STATUS

Last Name, First Name, MI	Rank/Grade

Street Address	Country

City, State & Zip	

()	_____
Phone	E-Mail Address

CURRENT MILITARY STATUS

Current Unit of Assignment (If assigned to the 100 th Division)	Position

Last 100 th Division Assignment (if not assigned to the 100 th Division)	Position

Date Last Assigned	Retirement Date

AGREEMENTS

- I submit: () New () Renewal
- () Annual Membership- \$15.00*
 - () Life Membership- \$160.00
 - () Installment Life Membership- \$160.00/ 4 annual payments of \$40.00
 - () Associate Annual Membership- \$15.00*
 - () Associate Life Membership- \$160.00
 - () Installment Associate Life Membership- \$160.00/4 annual payments of \$40.00

I agree to promote the Association of the Century and comply with its By-Laws.

Signature/Date

All life membership funds are invested. Only the yields of such investments are used for supporting the various activities of the Association of the Century. When you pay for a Life Membership, you leave a legacy for the future support of the 100TH Division.

* Annual Membership is not prorated and due on 1 January each year

SCHEDULE OF ANNUAL MEETING EVENTS
ASSOCIATION OF THE CENTURY, INC. THIRTIETH ANNUAL MEETING
HOLIDAY INN HURSTBOURNE-LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY
AUGUST 27-29, 2010

Visit www.the-century.org for Annual Meeting Updates

Friday, August 27, 2010

1400-1800 AOC Registration Booth – 1st Floor, Holiday Inn Hurstbourne
 1500- Hotel Check In, First Floor Lobby, Holiday Inn Hurstbourne
 1430-1530 AOC Board of Directors Meeting, Preakness Suite, Holiday Inn Hurstbourne
 1530-1730 Hospitality Room, Preakness Suite, Holiday Inn Hurstbourne
 1830-2200 Kick-Off Cookout, Poolside, Holiday Inn Hurstbourne
 2200 - Open Time

Saturday, August 28, 2010

0700–0800 Breakfast on your own
 0800-1200 AOC Registration/Membership Booth-1st Floor, Holiday Inn Hurstbourne
 0830-1130 Final Visit 100th Division Headquarters, Bowman Field - POV
 1200-1300 Lunch Carriage Room, Holiday Inn Hurstbourne
 1300-1430 AOC Annual Business Meeting-Carriage Room, Holiday Inn Hurstbourne
 1430-1730 Open Time for those not attending Business Meeting, enjoy suburban Louisville
 1430-1630 Hospitality Room, Preakness Suite, Holiday Inn Hurstbourne
 1730-1830 Reception, Ellis-Turfway Ballroom, Holiday Inn Hurstbourne
 1830-2200 Banquet and Program, Ellis-Turfway Ballroom, Holiday Inn Hurstbourne
 2200- Open Time

Sunday, August 29, 2010

No Events Scheduled- Breakfast on your own – Hotel check-Out Time is 12:00P.M.
 Thank you for attending and have a safe trip home
 See you next year!

Notes:

Events in blue require pre-registration

Room Reservations must be made directly with Holiday Inn. Toll free number for Hotel reservations is 1-800-HOLIDAY or local (502) 426-2600. A block of rooms are under Association of the Century. Refer to code AOT.

Dress for Events:

*Friday Poolside Kick-off Cook-out: Resort Casual
 **Saturday visit to 100th Division Headquarters: Civilian: Casual
 ***Saturday Reception and Banquet: Military – Mess Dress, Blues, Class A uniform
 Civilian- Tuxedo, Business Suit, Sport coat and Slacks

HOTEL RESERVATIONS FOR THIRTIETH ANNUAL MEETING

Make your reservations for this year's Annual Meeting directly with Holiday Inn Hurstbourne Louisville, KY. Their number is (502) 426-2600 or 1-(800) HOLIDAY. Reservations must be made by no later than Friday, August 13, 2010. Be sure to ask for corresponding Block Code: AOT. The rate of \$79.90 plus taxes applies for single/double occupancy.. DON'T WAIT!

**ASSOCIATION OF THE CENTURY
THIRTIETH ANNUAL MEETING/REUNION
HOLIDAY INN HURSTBOURNE - LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY
AUGUST 27-29, 2010**

2010 REGISTRATION FORM

(You may also register online using your credit card at www.the-century.org)

Yes, I/we plan to attend the 30th Annual Meeting: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ Is this your first Meeting? _____

Rank/Grade: _____ Branch: _____ Active/Retired: _____

Current or Last Unit of Assignment with the 100th Div.: _____

Spouse/Guest Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Tel: () _____ E-mail Address _____

Expected Day/Time of Arrival: _____ Would you prefer to receive future issues of The Century Sentinel
by E-Mail saving the AOC the postage expense? Yes _____ No _____

MEETING ACTIVITIES

Registration Fee:

E-6 and above - \$15.00, E-5 and below - no charge.....\$ _____

Friday, August 27th Events:

Evening Pool-Side Kickoff Cook Out – Holiday Inn -----Number _____ @ \$22.00/ea.....\$ _____

Saturday, August 28th Events:

Lunch – Carriage Room, Holiday Inn -----Number _____ @ \$15/ea.....\$ _____

Evening Reception, Banquet, Holiday Inn Ellis-Turfway Ballroom -Number _____ @ \$35/ea.....\$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT REMITTED.....\$ _____

Event tickets purchased will be in your packet at the AOC Registration Desk. **Deadline for Registration is Friday, August 13, 2010.** Mail Registration form and check Payable to “Association of the Century” to:

**SGM MAURICE ALLGEIER
8503 BUCKING TRAIL COURT
LOUISVILLE, KY 4029**

Association of the Century, Inc.
P.O. Box 34393
Louisville, KY 40232-4393

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #1383
LOUISVILLE, KY

The Benefits of Membership

Serving members for nearly 60 years.

Check Out Everything Fort Knox Federal Has To Offer!



- Higher Rates on Savings
- Lower Rates on Loans
- Apply Online for a Loan
- No Closing Cost Mortgages
- Home Equity, Auto & Signature Loans
- Fee-Free Checking
- Free Online Account Access
- Free Check Card/ ATM Card
- Free Worldwide ATM Access*
- Free Online Bill Payment**

AOC members are now eligible for membership!



FORT KNOX FEDERAL
CREDIT UNION™

People Helping People

502-942-0254
270-765-8659
800-285-5669

www.fortknoxfcu.org

* Submit ATM receipts for refund of any transaction fee up to 4 per month. See website for complete details. **Free with combined savings, checking, or loan balances of \$2,500 or more as calculated on the first day of each month.