



“WINGED VICTORY DIVISION”

# BULLETIN

43d INFANTRY DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION-HEADQUARTERS, HARTFORD, CT VOL 58 NO 1 JAN-MARCH 2011

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## IN MEMORIAM

### HERBERT J. WOOLSTON

(169th AAA)

Herbert passed on December 31, 2010 in Hampton, Virginia. No other details available.

### JAMES D. TEODOSIO

(102d Infantry)

James passed away on August 29, 2009. He served at Camp Pickett after the National Guard was activated. He is survived by his wife Margaret. No other details available.

### ROMEO M. COTE

(103d Infantry)

Romeo, 90, died on August 13, 2010 at d'Youville Pavilion, Maine, with his family at his side. Romeo served in the 43d Division from 1941-1945 where he was the recipient of the Purple Heart and Bronze Star Combat Medal. He worked for Lewiston Crushed Stone, Leavitt Lumber and with Leopold Gagne as a carpenter as well as serving in the U.S. Army Reserves until his retirement. Romeo enjoyed carpentry, camping, hunting, fishing, playing cards and most of all his family. Romeo is survived by his wife of 37 years, Jeannine of Lewiston, 6 sons, 3 daughters, 3 step-sons, 3 step-daughters and many grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

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## 65th Reunion Update

### WOW! 65 YEARS! JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL REUNION

**DATE:** Friday August 12 through Sunday August 14, 2011

**PLACE:** Hartford Marriott Rocky Hill, 100 Capital Boulevard, Rocky Hill, CT 06067-3575.

**DATE:** Friday, August 12, 2011 through August 14, 2011

**ROOM RATES:** Same as last year at \$99.00 per night....we haven't arranged for the room block yet, so hold off making your reservations until our next newsletter

**RAFFLE:** We'll be holding a raffle again this year. If anyone would like to donate a raffle item, please let me know by mail or email.

**MORE NEWS COMING!** Our next newsletter will include the reservation form, and other details. Hope to see you in Connecticut in August!

**ENTERTAINMENT:** The George Manstan Big Band will be back again with their live music!

Lena & John McDonough Sr  
cutting the rug at the last 43d Connecticut Reunion



**IN MEMORIAM Cont'd****WILLIAM ARCIPRETE**

(M Co, 169th Infantry) Bill, 82, died on January 3, 2011 in Huntington, NY. He was a retired NYPD Detective. He is survived by his wife Mary. Bill was on the Softball Team in Munich, Germany, 1952.

**LORIMER "LARRY"**

**DUNKLEE** (43D Quartermaster) Larry, 79, passed away on December 28, 2010. He was a high school ALL-State Basketball Player, and went on to attend Boston University after receiving a basketball scholarship, and later played semi-pro basketball. Larry served with the 43d in Germany during the Korean War. He worked for the Telephone Company for 28 years and had been the owner of the former Locust Leaf Motel before retiring. He was a past member and President of the North Kingston Chamber of Commerce and the North Kingston Rotary. Larry was an avid wood turner and enjoyed making furniture. He also enjoyed gardening, winemaking and golfing. He leaves his wife Mildred of 57 years, his son David of West Greenwich, his daughters Elizabeth of North Kingston, and Terri of Elverson, PA; 8 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

**Carmine "Gabby" V. Rivera**

( C - Company, 118th Eng) Carmine, 89, of Greenville, RI passed away on January 31, 2011 at Miriam Hospital in Providence, RI. "Gabby" served as a Staff Sergeant during WWII where he was severely wounded.



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**The Life of an Infantry Man**

**by Glen Spear**

I am a soon-to-be 90 year old WWII veteran and I was assigned to the 43d Infantry Division, 169th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Battalion, Company K. We fought in four campaigns and three invasions which were Guadalcanal, New Georgia, New Guinea and Luzon.

As a combat infantryman, I will never forget the men I fought with that never returned. The experiences will never be forgotten. I personally think that we should set aside a few moments each month to remember all who have lost their lives fighting for our country. They are the only reason we are here today.

I was in combat and survived 30 months of jungle fighting and the memories still surface daily. Jungle fighting is done mostly with rifles, grenades, mortars, flame throwers and bazookas. Combat is many things. Jumping from a boat into neck-deep water with falling artillery and machine gun fire. We hit the beach flat on our stomachs, firing our files and throwing grenades. Dense jungles lie beyond the beach. We feel our way through the underbrush while drawing the enemy's fire. The enemy fights a delayed battle with hidden machine gun nests and snipers everywhere. They would tie themselves in trees to make even more difficult to spot them. You always have close calls with artillery and falling shells. There are always casualties and we all pray tomorrow will be better.

Then we have to dig foxholes every time we stop for a period of time while waiting for orders. Most of the time they had water in them due to frequent rains. Besides the enemy, insects and large lizards were our greatest concern while in a foxhole. The only time we would get a change of clothing was every 2-3 months maybe. Our food consisted of Spam and crackers. We ate when possible, and we ate the same thing every meal so there was no surprises. I dislike Spam to this day!

I was in the field hospital several times, once for jungle rot. There were always medics assigned to each company to care for the wounded. Any wounded had to be carried out as no vehicle could get close.

Combat taught me a very important lesson: Never Give Up. If you give up, you will never know what God's plan for your success is. I would like to dedicate this article to all young people to encourage them to never give up. I enjoy giving talks to schools and other organizations to pass along words of encouragement.



Brothers ( L to R ) Vernan & Glen Spear meet on Luzon, Philippines. Vernan was 11th Airborne, 188th Paratroop Infantry, Glen in 169th Infantry, Co. K, 43rd Infantry Division.

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## GENEROUS MEMBERS

### Life of an Infantryman continued

I would love to hear from anyone who was, or knew someone who was, in the 169th Infantry Company K from 1942-1945. I have been unsuccessful so far locating anyone.

Glen Spear can be reached at: 8800 Spoon Drive, # 114, Indianapolis, IN 46219

or via Email at: glenspear@att.net

### MEMBER'S LETTERS

Your editors appreciate your emails and letters with photos and stories. It helps keep our newsletter interesting, so we look forward to hearing from you about your experiences in the 43rd, or even afterwards.

Have you visited a place you were stationed? Found some interesting photos while cleaning out that back room closet? Or just have a story to tell like members Glen Spear and Frank A. Bell, Jr. in this issue?

### NEW 43RD WEB SITE

We have been quite busy working on rebuilding the original 43rd Infantry Division Veterans Association web site that was hosted on Yahoo.com.

It is now up and running and can be visited at:

[www.winged-victory.org](http://www.winged-victory.org)

It has most of the original content on it, and it has been expanded with a new Guest Book section, an archive section for the last few 43d Bulletins for those that would like to view them in color, and an ongoing section of 43d unit crests.

If anyone has photos or documents that would be of interest for the web site, please feel free to mail them in. They will be returned.

The Association would like to thank the following members for their generosity and continued support:

**Frank J. Mongillo**

**William Whittier -  
Scholarship Fund**

**Mrs. Emily Zajaczkowski -  
In Memory Of: Zodislaw (Jack) Zajaczkowski**

**Frank Kojzar -  
In Memory Of: Bill Arciprete, Co.M, 169th Inf.**

**Donald Beckman -  
In Memory Of: All who served in the 743rd Ordinance Company during WWII.**

**Mrs. Virginia Mackie -  
In Memory Of: Col. John Higgins Sr. who was an army buddy of Capt. George W. Mackie, 169th Infantry.**

**Dot Wahl -  
In Memory Of: Charles H.E "Bud" Wahl, 103rd Infantry**

**Miss Jeanette Hershey -  
In Memory Of: her brother Robert L. Hershey Jr.**

**Jack V. Gilmore -**

**Robert Lang -**

**George H. Donlin -  
Donation for 43rd Memorial Monument & Brick Walk**

**Howard F. Brown Col. (ret)  
Donation for 43rd Memorial Monument & Brick Walk in Honor of his daughter Linda Higgs**

**Stanley A. Seward -  
Donation for 43rd Memorial Monument & Brick Walk**

**Roy Kernal -  
Donation for 43rd Memorial Monument & Brick Walk**

**Chris Kochem -  
Donation for 43rd Memorial Monument & Brick Walk**

**Mrs Gloria (Andrew) Holda -  
Donation for 43rd Memorial Monument & Brick Walk**

## IN MEMORIAM Cont'd

In January of 1995, he was finally awarded the Silver Star for "Gallantry in action" against an enemy of the United States and was also awarded a Purple Heart. Carmine was the President and chairman of the Board of Directors of the Davisville Credit Union from 1955 to 1966. He retired from the Federal Government in 1966 and moved his family to Los Angeles, CA, where he was the National Vice President and West Coast Director of the National Association of Government Employees. Gabby then went on to become the President of Teamster Local 911 in Los Angeles. He is survived by his wife Doris (Paxton), his children Steven Rivera of California and Deborah Ferrante and her husband Vincent of West Warwick, RI. Gabby attended many 43rd Reunions.

**Zdzislaw "Jack" Zajackowski**  
(SV Battery, 206th Field Artillery)  
Jack, 82, of Inverness, Florida, died on November 17, 2010 at Citrus Memorial Hospital after a long illness. Zdzislaw was born in Lodz, Poland in 1928 and had many stories about growing up as a teenager during WWII.

Jack served at the Warner Kaserne, Munich, Germany in 1952. He was discharged with the rank of Corporal.



He is survived by his wife, Emily, two children who they adopted from Poland, Joseph, of Paramus, New Jersey, and Maria from Hackensack.

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## New Zealand Bride - With A Twist

Michael Jones, son of Jewitt D Jones, Co A, 43rd Cavalry Recon Troop sent in some photos of his dad back in the land of the Kiwi. While a soldier bringing home a "war bride" is not uncommon, usually the bride is a local gal. Diasy Wier Breen was born in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1909. Eventually she went to Nursing School in Switzerland, and ended up in New Zealand running a Boys School. Jewitt and Diasy met at a local party, and some time later were married in New Zealand. Michael's older brother Dixon was born there in Hamilton in February, 1945. Jewitt returned to the states first, and after finding employment at a nuclear power plant in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, both his wife and son made the nearly month long trip from New Zealand to Tennessee.



Jewitt & Diasy Jones on their wedding day. New Zealand



Jewitt Jones in New Zealand

## 43rd DIVISION MEMORIAL & BRICKWALK UPDATE

We now have a total of 102 bricks, and our goal is 200 bricks or the equivalent in monetary donations. We would like to thank everyone that have placed an order or sent in a monetary donation specifically for the Memorial Project. This is a separate project, spearheaded by David Thiede, and 43rd Association funds are not utilized in any way for this endeavor.

Remember, if a Memorial Brick purchase is a little steep, we can always use a small \$5.00 or \$10.00 donation to help us reach our goal. We would like the Memorial complete in time for our 65th Reunion being held in August, 2011 in Rocky Hill, CT.

If anyone has any ideas on how we can give this project more exposure to meet our goal, please contact David Thiede.

**IN MEMORIAM Cont'd**

We have recently learned of the death of the following members of the Division. They were not current members of the Association. Unit, date, and place of death.

**John "Jack" Hamilton 74**

(192d F.A Battalion, "C" Battery)  
Ridgefield, CT

**Solmino L. "Sonny" Rinaldini 89**

(169th Infantry)  
New Britain, CT

**Leonard Corfiati Sr. 81**

(169th Infantry)  
Southington, CT

**Alfonso "Al" Cicerone 89**

(43d Infantry Division)  
Cranston, RI

**Earl Harold Webster, Sr. 86**

(43d Infantry Division)  
Johnston, RI

**Matthew Vollucci, Sr. 92**

(118th Engineer Battalion)  
Providence, RI

**William "Bill" Norton 91**

(103d Infantry Regiment)  
Augusta, GA

**James "Jim" William Cox 84**

(192d Field Artillery)  
Cos Cob, CT

**Francis, Z. Durand 93**

(43d Infantry Division)  
Woonsocket, RI

**Charles Eirman**

(172d Infantry / 169th Infantry)  
Pawlet, VT

**Joan Loring Wing 61**

Rutland attorney December 8, 2009  
The daughter of Gen. Leonard F. Wing Jr, and grand-daughter of Gen Lenonard F. Wing Sr.



In November, 2010, we received a note from member Herbert Paley of Mullica Hill, New Jersey. It seems his yearly dues check that he sent in July was never canceled. When he sent in a new check he wrote at the bottom: Enclosed is \$2.00 for a 43d Bumper Sticker. A deer hit the bumper. Both the bumper and deer are departed.

"Jack" Zdzislaw Zajaczkowski ( see page 4 obituary ) moved to Warsaw from the town of Lodz, Poland when he was 5 years old. Six years later, the Germans rolled through and a young Jack found himself in the middle of World War II. During the 1944 uprising, he was captured and sent to a Hanover, Germany work camp.

At the wars end, the American forces released everyone and they were told they could go back home. In their journey to Poland, the group met refugees returning to the American lines, as the Russian Army was taking everything they had including shoes and clothing.

At age 17, Jack went to work for the Third Zone, American Graves Registration Command, European Theater Area, U.S Army as a PFC. He was a crane operator, and traveled to Belgium, France and Luxemburg burying American G.I.'s. They also guarded German prisoners.

A Catholic charity from New York came to their camp and signed up 300 Polish young men to come to Long Island to work on farms; but before leaving, they took part in loading planes during the Berlin Airlift. Their farm work contract was for one year, and after that they were free to head out on their own with one stipulation; if war broke out, they would have to return to active duty in the U.S. Army.

Jack returned to the Army in 1951 and was shipped back to Germany where he served in the 206th Field Artillery, 43rd Infantry Division on the German - Soviet border.

Upon discharge from the Army, he came back home to his adopted country and married Emily, settling down in Orangeburg, New York.

**43rd MAGAZINE ONLINE FUNDRAISER**

In the last issue of the 43rd Bulletin, we mentioned that we have added a "Magazine subscription" web site to help with our Memorial Monument fundraising. Many thanks to Association member Raul Hidalgo for purchasing four magazines online. He got four magazines at a great price, and we received 30% of his order amount as a donation. And after ten magazines purchased ( total subscriptions purchased, not individual ) we then receive 40% of the order amount.

So if you are about to renew a magazine subscription anyway, why not check it out? Magazines make great Christmas gifts also.

The web address for this magazine subscription is:

[www.efundraisingonline.com/43dInfantryDivisionMemorial](http://www.efundraisingonline.com/43dInfantryDivisionMemorial)

We appreciate all the help!

## Flint Kaserne Memories

by Frank A. Bell, Jr.

I was a private in B Company, 118th Engineer Combat Battalion. We arrived in Germany in November, 1951 on the transport ship "General Hershey", the ship that collided with the liner Maipu in the English Channel.

We were stationed in the Henry Kaserne in Munich. Reports were coming in from Korea that our heavy anti-tank mine was not powerful enough to cut the tracks of the AT-34 "Joseph Stalin No 3" heavy tank. A one pound block of TNT hooked up with primer cord to the mine did the trick nicely. A group of us were sent to Bad Tolz for about six weeks to instruct members of the 169th Infantry on how to modify heavy anti-tank mines. All classes were held out in the snow, away from the Kaserne. After we gave the instructions we backed away and detonated each altered mine. We only gave classes 3-4 times a week and had the rest of the time off. It was good duty.

The Flint Kaserne was certainly an impressive building. I remember the Olympic swimming pool and the fine library. I visited both often. After a few weeks, we returned to the Henry Kaserne in Munich. That would be my home except for a few months in Ansbach at Signal School in the summer of 1952. I always carry fond memories of the Flint Kaserne and charming little Bad Tolz.

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Frank mentions the Maipu in the article above, and we just happen to have a photo in our files.

The Gen. M.L. Hershey sailed from Hamton Roads Port of Embarkation, VA on October 26, 1951. It was due into Bremerhaven, Germany at 10:00 am on November 5, 1951. A dense fog had settled into the area during the early morning making visibility non-existent. As the ship steamed on towards port, fog horns bellowed into the mist.

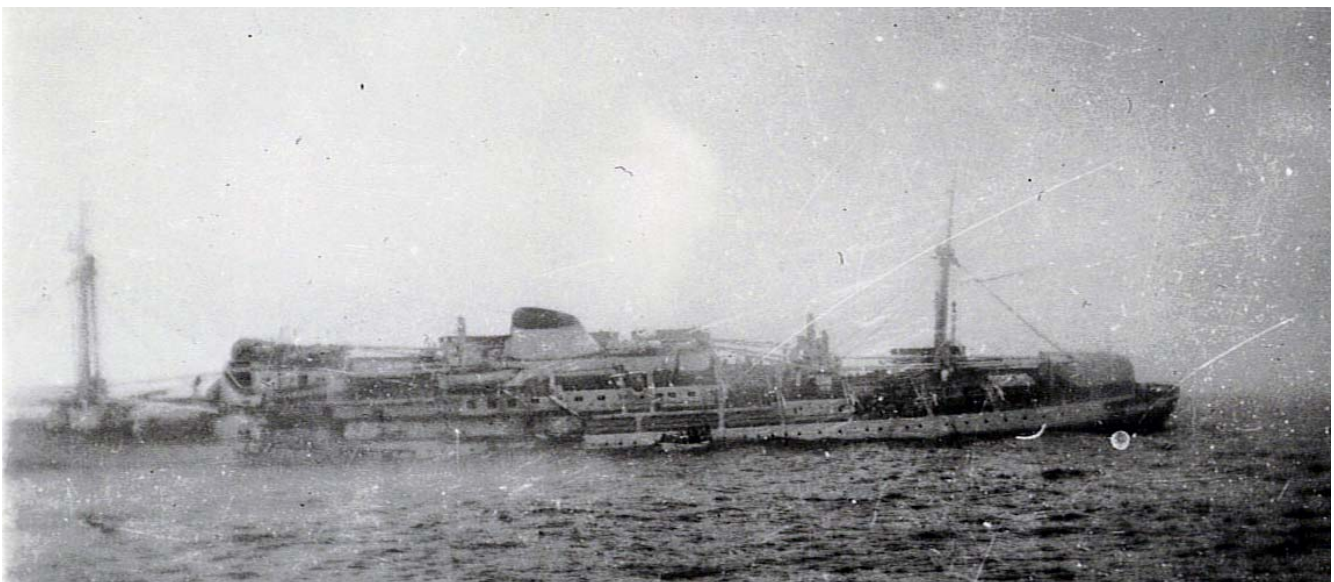
At 7:30 am, about three hours out and just off the Frisian Islands, another ship's fog horn rang out from just off the starboard side of the Hershey. There, coming out of the fog just 100 yards forward, was the Argentine passenger liner Maipu, carrying 250 crew and passengers.

The Captain of the Hershey veered sharply to starboard in an attempt to cut inside the liner's path, but it was too late. A crushing noise echoed throughout both ships. The Hershey rammed the Maipu on her port side at a 45 degree angle and tore her nearly midway to stern. As the Hershey reversed engines and backed away, the Maipu listed immediately to port. Both ships had life boats in the water within minutes, and all crew and passengers aboard the Maipu were rescued by 1:00 pm.

Cpl. Alfred Costa noted that one woman from the Maipu came aboard the Hershey "all decked out," with a fur coat and a corsage, "and that was about all."

The Gen. M.L. Hershey steamed into Bremerhaven, Germany at 4:00pm.

Argentine Liner Maipu listing in the fog.      Photo Courtesy of Chester Ambruso - 192nd FA



## NOTES & NEWS CONT'D



Norman E. Williams 1941

Virginia Willams sent in a photo of the 43d Band down at Camp Blanding, 1941. She states that it was a National Guard band that enlisted as a unit. Most of the men served in the Pacific.

Her husband Norman, went to OCS and was an AAA Captain when honorably discharged in March of 1946. Norman passed in 2003.

The band had several reunions over the years, thanks to Dan & Lee Giavanucci. Many of the members were lifelong friends.

The complete band photo is on page 8.

While doing research on Gen. Wing's pre-WWII days, I came across an article from a Vermont National Guard newsletter dated February, 2010 called The Green Mountain Guard. We contacted them and they were kind enough to send us the photos used here of Leonard F. Wing Sr in the Pacific. Many thanks to Sgt. Elizabeth Strauss, State Public Affairs Office, Camp Johnson and Maj. William McKern, 3/124th Information Operations for their help.

Leonard was born in Ira, Vermont on November 12, 1893. After graduating from Rutland High School in 1910, he attended Norwich University and then went on to study law. He attained admission to the bar in 1917. After enlisting in the Army during The Great War, now called the First World War, Leonard served at Fort Ethan Allen, Vermont; Fort Gordon,

Georgia; and Fort Dix, New Jersey. After completing Officer Training, he received a commission and attained the rank of First Lieutenant. Attached to the 2nd Infantry Replacement Regiment as a supply officer, he was discharged at Fort Dix in December of 1918 at the war's end.

Returning to Rutland, he served as Rutland's City Attorney from 1919 to 1921, and then as Rutland's City Judge until 1925.

In 1919, Leonard joined the Vermont's National Guard 172nd Infantry Regiment. In 1933 he received a promotion to Colonel as the 172nd's commander. As commander of the 86th Infantry Brigade, Wing was promoted to Brigadier General in 1937. The 86th was at that time a subordinate command to the 43rd Infantry Division.



General Leonard "Red" Wing at his desk in the South Pacific during World War II. This is a section of a larger photo on display at the Rutland armory.



From left to right -- I Corps Commander Major General Innis P. Swift, Vice Admiral Daniel E. Barbey, Commander 7th Amphibious Force, Major General Leonard F. Wing, Commander, 43rd Division. January 3, 1945, aboard USS Blue Ridge. Army Medical Department photo.



Virginia Williams sent in this photo of the 43rd Band at Camp Blanding, Florida in June of 1941. Virginia was able to list 8 out of the 25 members—if anyone recognizes someone, please send us a note.

Front row seated, L to R—

Unknown, unknown, unknown, unknown, unknown, unknown, Harry Clark; Band Leader, Bob Clark, Bert Clark, unknown, unknown, unknown, unknown.

Back row standing, L to R—

Unknown, unknown, unknown, unknown, unknown, unknown, Al Cardozo, Henry D'Amico, Dan Giavanucci, Norm Williams, unknown, unknown, Jim Fleck.

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