

Moselle Memories..7



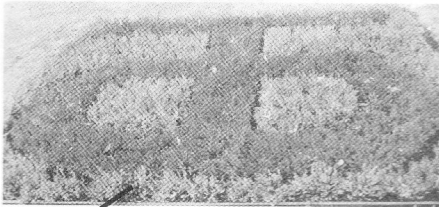
Another sumptuous lunch after the reception!

Some of the satisfied veterans & family outside the hall where we finished that great lunch: L - R: Amy Meier, Jim Reid [backs to camera], Art Meier, MG Ron Sholar,

Ray Shellabarger, John Miller, Connie Chamberlin, Steve Miller, ?, Clyde Phelps [side to camera], WW II re-enactor, local French citizens



Next stop: Village of Terville...



Green
grass
& red
TO



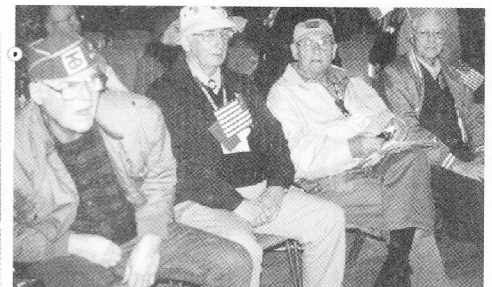
You can see the work that went into this celebration!

At right: MG Sholar with the Mayor of Terville who gave a most inspiring speech!

Below: the Junior Firemen



Tom Ingram & Kristen Pauk along with the Mayor of Terville, place a wreath at the Monument to the war dead - very meaningful to both!



Inside, for the Mayor's Speech & presentation of gifts to the veterans: Clyde Phelps, Bill Sisk, Harry Barnes, Darold Rice



The Mayor & Tom Ingram

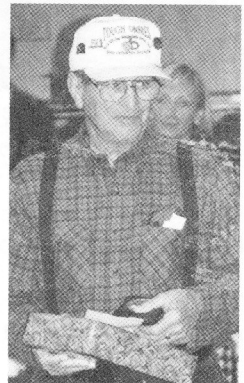
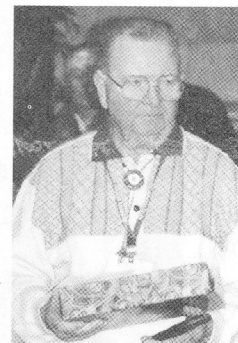


George Greene



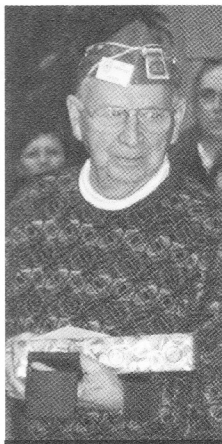
The Mayor & Irv Kaine

At Right: Art Meier
& John Miller



Maselle Memories .8

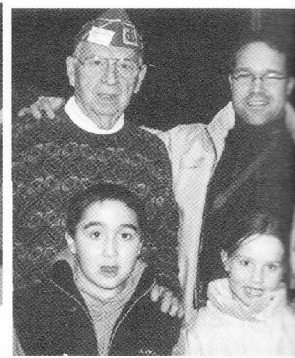
A little more of Terville...



Jim Reid, Ed Seidle & Norm Richards



Jim Reid signs his name & with a French family- the boy wants to be a soldier



Sunday, the group was divided into five tours - Reids were on #4

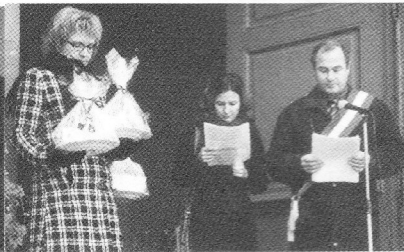
Round trip : ONE : BOUSSE, METZERVISSE, METZERESCHE, VOLSTROFF

Round trip : TWO : MALLING, KERLING

Round trip : THREE : HOMBURG, BUDANGE, ABONCOURT, BETTELAINVILLE, LUTTANGE

Round trip : FOUR : BUDING, INGLANGE-ELZANGE, VALMESTROFF, DISTROFF

Round trip : FIVE : OUDRENNE, BUDLING, MONNEREN, VECKRING, KLANG, KEMLICH



Buding Mayor & assistants give gifts

Jim Reid, Irv Kaine & Mayor of Buding placed a wreath At Right: ?, Merv Hogg, Irv Kaine Clyde Phelps, & Jim Reid



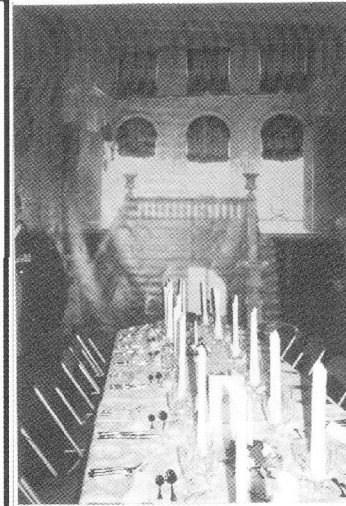
Merv Hogg, & Clyde Phelps with Mayor of Elzange [?]



The Editor apologizes for not being able to properly identify each separate village - the notes taken...?

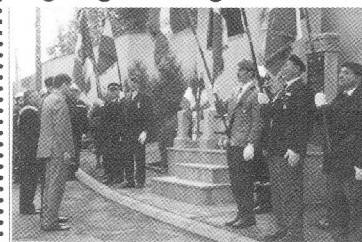


MG Sholar with a Mayor & Jim Reid & Merv Hogg at right - at left a 95th Vet.



Steve Miller, Connie Chamberlin & father, Ray Shellabarger - The gym was totally transformed into a stunning ballroom that was ornate & elegant

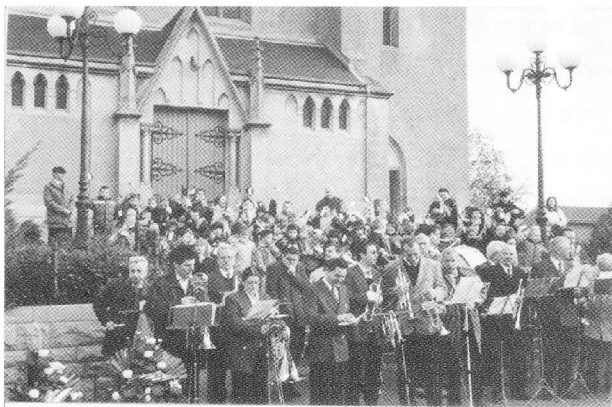
Inglange-Elzange - Valmstroff [ed. not clear on which is which]



With local children: MG Sholar, Harry Barnes, Merv Hogg, Clyde Phelps, Irv Kaine [barely visible behind young boy], Jim Reid & 95th Veteran - There was a young people's band that played both the American National Anthem & the French National Anthem

Moselle Memories.9

Next Stop - Distroff - The Mayor is a personal friend of Walt & Catherine Staruk [344th] who couldn't be there in Nov.



The singers & instrumentalists that greeted us



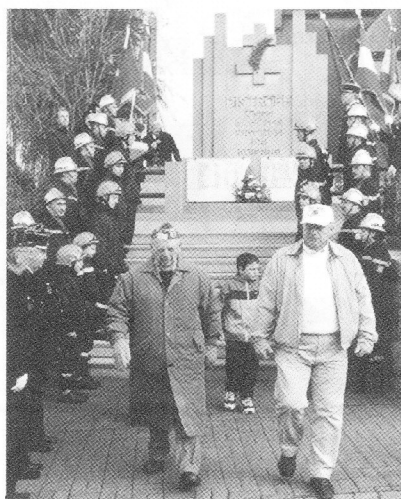
Junior Firmen line the path to the monument for the War Dead



Our wonderful RRC Color Guard
They were great at every stop!



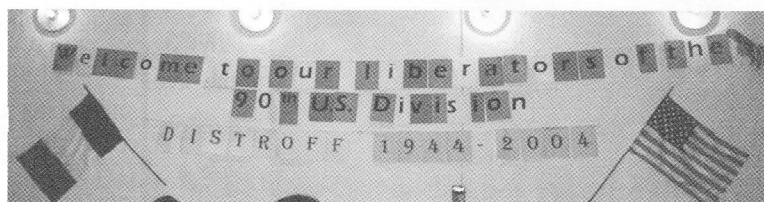
MG Sholar & Jim Reid



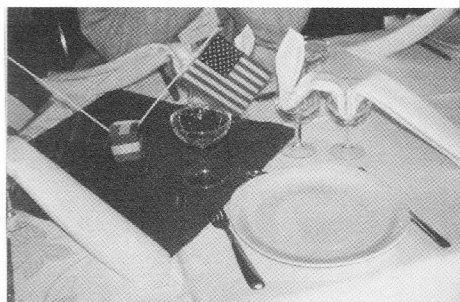
Jim Reid & Norm Richards placed the wreath at the War Dead Monument



The Reids with Distroff Mayor Yves Aschbacher, his daughter, & his wife, Josianne - They arranged quite a lunch for us all!

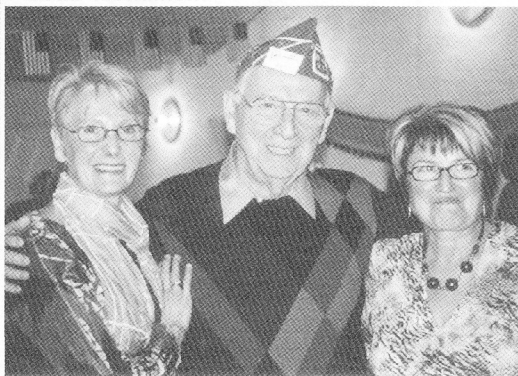


Welcoming banner in the hall where we were fed a delicious lunch!



Above: a place setting for the lunch.

At right: Jim Reid & 2 new French friends, Jeannette Scharff, & ?



Jim Reid & Irv Kaine had a great time making friends with lovely French ladies!

Irv Kaine offers his thoughts: "The trip was really great. My late wife was a travel agent for more than 20 years, so I am not a stranger to travel, and this trip was really fantastic. From the moment we got off the train at Thonville until we got back to the good ole' USA, just about everything went smoothly - especially after the greeting I got the first time I got to France, when as a point man, I was one of the first GIs to enter Thionville. We were greeted by German machine gun fire & it took us all day to advance 2 city blocks. Everything was just excellent - the greetings we received at all the towns we visited & all the ceremonies & speeches were fantastic. I had to build another frame & a shelf to display all the medals & mementos we were given. I was very impressed with the cemetery in Luxembourg & the way it was maintained. I was also happy I was not in it! The trip was just magnificently planned & carried out. I thank the Moselle 1944 Committee for a wonderful, one of a kind, once in a lifetime adventure. I will also say that Thionville was not the small 1944 town I remembered, & I couldn't find Adolf Hitler Strasse where I was wounded & received my 1st Purple Heart. **19** No one knew where it had been. So I didn't see where I was hit."

Moselle Memories 10

After our memorable experience in Distroff, including a fabulous 3 hour lunch [!!], it was time to move on to Metzervisse, the town of Moselle River 1944 President, Pascal Moretti [also Police Chief of this town] for the ceremonies honoring the veterans and Joseph Stobbe, who inadvertently "started" all these commemorations [see pages 9-10]. After the street ceremonies & dedication of the new "Square Joseph Stobbe", we all moved to another building for a reception & a look at a schoolroom of the 1940s where one of the French citizens had been the schoolmaster in his youth. From there we walked to the village hall for another delicious but light meal, more mementos for the veterans, & dancing to live music - Does it get any better than this? Another spectacular, busy day of events.



WW II re-enactors pose with Jim Reid



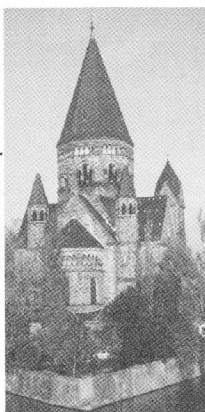
At right: Moselle River 1944 Committee Members are honored at the dinner - at left in Town Square: Pascal Moretti, Jim Reid, General Scholar, Metzervisse Mayor



Dancing to the live music was a great way to end a great day

Monday, Nov.

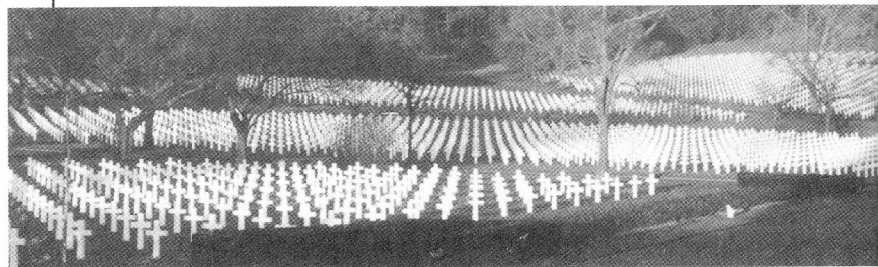
15, all groups went to Corny sur Moselle; had a lovely lunch in the city of Metz; visited the American Cemetery at St. Avold & were hosted in the evening by Alain & Elisabeth Gozzo & the "Thanks GIs" Organization in Corny for yet another delicious meal. We sang "God Bless America" for the Gozzos.



St. Avold - Two small views

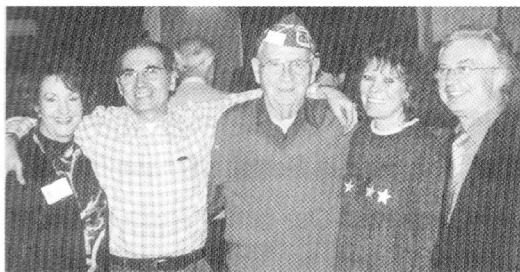


Excerpt from Norm Richards comments: "This trip was humbling, exciting, emotional, & yes, even tiring. Yet, it is another reason why I'm so glad to have found the 90th Association. I will never forget the smiles, hugs & thanks we received. Seeing the French schoolchildren in Cattenom lining several blocks, each child waving American Flags as our bus passed through the streets, was a very emotional experience. Thank you, Pascal Moretti!"



From Kristen Pauk: "It's hard to get back to reality. Each of us left a part of our heart over there. I will never forget the trip, and I WILL go back. Thank you to Mike Coleman 20 for finding where my father was wounded and taking me there. Thank you France."

Moselle Memories .11



"Association Thanks GIs" founders, Alain & Elisabeth Gozzo with Reids & village President



"Letter to my Liberators - by Elisabeth Gozzo, Association THANKS GIs - Corny, France"

Dear Liberators, dear American Friends, We want to give expression to our deepest gratitude to you for what you did for us in 1944. We know the terrible cost of our freedom: after four years spent under the cruel Nazi boot, France was bloodless; French people daily lived the humiliation, the fear, the denunciations, the threat of torture and the concentration camps. It was a nightmare...AND THEN, YOU CAME! In an irresistible impulse, you appeared like a fabulous sunbeam after a terrible four-years-long-night, like a blessing from God. You wrote a page of our history, and without any doubt, it's the most beautiful. You offered us the most wonderful present in the world: LIBERTY! - But at what price? All these young Americans sacrificed in the spring of their lives, all the inhuman suffering which wounded your bodies and your souls, and what you endured, rend our hearts and pains us. We are so indebted to you. We have for you the highest respect. You are our dear liberators. We'll never forget you, and our gratefulness for you is deep and endless. You are graven in our hearts. Thank you whole-heartedly, Thanks GIs. God bless you all - God bless America. We love you."

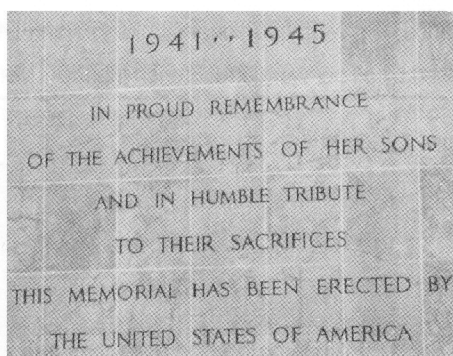
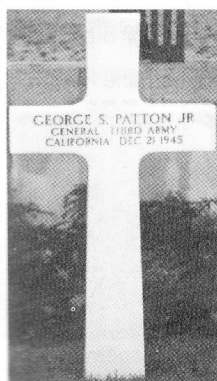
Tuesday, Nov. 16 - Luxembourg - Cemetery at Hamm - then to Berle` for a ceremony & reception hosted by U S Veterans Friends Luxembourg with Norbert & Romaine Morbe` & the U S Ambassador to France & his wife



Ray Shellabarger's Tribute: "Moselle Salute - A toast to the men who are with us today - May

their memories never grow dim. Remember them well, all our buddies that fell - And the news that was always so grim. The price that was paid to save cities and towns - is hard to describe

here this way. We remember the joy on the faces set free from the tyrant who started the fray. Our cause was worthwhile, and through each troubled mile, we struggled to finish the chore. Though the end was in sight, we continued the fight to end that most terrible war. We also pay tribute to those who were foes, and the valiant battles they fought. They gave it their best, in that awesome test of fearful and frightening woes. We trust time will let us try to forget the blood and the tears that were shed. Some always survive and come home alive to tell all the stories of war. Let's hope that's enough - even though we were tough, We really don't need any more!!"



Moselle Memories 12



The sign that greeted us as we drove into Berle - Several of our veterans had been to Berle on prior trips & were already friends of Norbert & Romaine Morbe



Our wonderful hosts & friends, Norbert & Romaine Morbe & their daughter who is headed for college



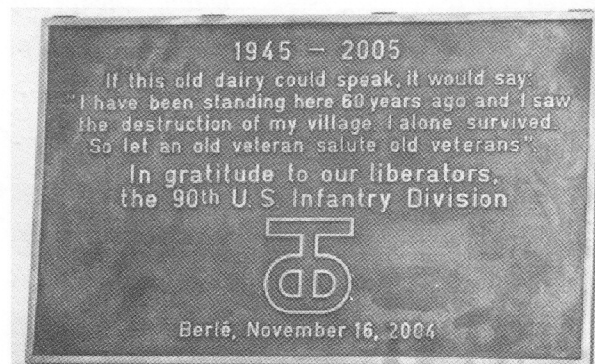
The US Ambassador to Luxembourg & his wife



Merv Hogg writes: "This trip was truly a once in a lifetime experience in that it was organized and conducted by the local people with out benefit of major national figures & professional organizers. Pascal Moretti, the prime mover of this affair, and his committee are to be congratulated & thanked for the excellent job they did. To go into a detailed account of each town we visited & the receptions we received by the local people & especially the children, would

make this report very lengthy. I can only say that those who could not go with us missed an experience that they would never forget, and under the current circumstances, an opportunity to enjoy the friendship of the people of France. I give my personal thanks to Henri Levaufre for a personal favor that he did for me and my ailing back. The Association has indeed been blessed by all our wonderful French friends. Merv & Lorraine Hogg"

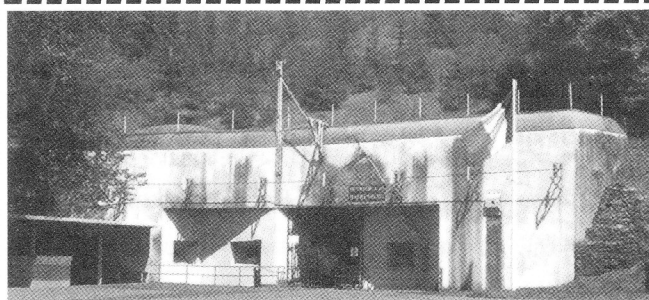
After Corny, some of the group went on to Berle for more Ceremonies & the dedication of a new plaque to the 90th on the only building [a dairy] left standing in Berle after the liberation from Germans. Our hosts, Norbert and Romaine Morbe of the US Veterans Friends Luxembourg, and the US Ambassador to Luxembourg & his wife, also gave mementos to the veterans along with tasty sandwiches, beverages, good music & comederie - Merci!



The new Plaque that is placed on the 1 standing building in Berle after the town was liberated.



Our veterans: L - R - ?; Art Meier; Jim Reid; Tom Ingram; Irv Kaine; U S Ambassador; Ed Seidle; Bill Sisk; Harry Barnes; Darold Rice in front of the new Plaque on the 1 standing building after Berle was liberated.



A post card picture of the entrance to Fort Hackenberg that didn't get put on an earlier page.



People before the speeches and wreath placement

Moselle Memories 13

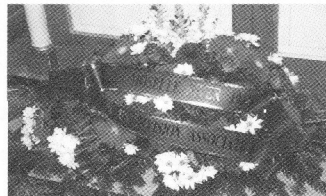
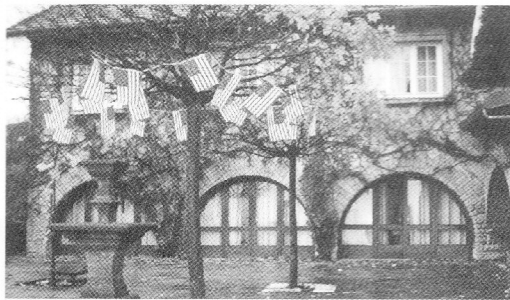
It is Tuesday evening, and we are back in Thionville for the farewell festivities and program. We are at a lovely old restaurant up the hill from L'Horizon Hotel that is owned by Jean Pascal Speck's brother. There is plenty of wine and champagne, delicious snacks, and the Allegretti Chorale of Thionville entertaining us with beautiful music both in French & English. It is a poignant evening tinged with sadness because we know this is the end of a most unforgettable week of events that will give us memories of a lifetime. We are thrilled with our new French friends, and sad because we know we must leave them. Wonderful people of the Moselle region, we will never forget you & we hope to see you again!



Host, Jean-Pascal Speck listens to the Allegrette Chorale



Above & Left: the singers - At Right: the Director of the Chorale



Flowers that graced the lobby of the L'Horizon Hotel during our visit

From Connie Chamberlin [daughter of Ray Shellabarger]: "I was fortunate to be able to accompany my father on the November, 2004 trip to the Moselle Region of France. Prior to arriving there, we spent a great week in Paris & visited Utah Beach where I got a real lesson on the essence of the trip. A taxi driver we had at one point grabbed my father's hand & shook it vigorously & told him it was an honor to meet him. He thanked him profusely for all he & other Americans had done 60 years ago. It was the beginning of a very emotional trip for both of us. From the time our train pulled into Thionville & we were met by the French Color Guard, to the farewell dinner & all of the towns & receptions in between, the French people bestowed overwhelming gratitude on these returning GIs & their families. The receptions in each town we went to were warm & heartfelt with copious amounts of excellent French food, wine, and champagne. The memorials themselves were very impressive & certainly larger than I would have expected. Indeed, I was most fortunate!"

From Lisa Harris [daughter of Joseph Stobbe]: "As we departed the town of Thionville I became quite emotional. It hit me really hard at what these WW II heroes had done. I am so appreciative to these veterans for serving our country & ultimately our world. They left the comfort of the States to fight a war for people they did not know. They risked their lives for a noble cause. Never again will I spend a Veterans Day the same. I will reflect on the extreme sacrifices our soldiers made. I have come to love the Moselle River area & the good people who live there. They all treated us like royalty & I feel they showed us their heartfelt appreciation for what our brave soldiers did 60 years ago. I have no words to express my gratitude to the veterans of the 90th Division. I can't imagine the price you had to pay. Thank you - you are the "Greatest Generation."

The Terrace of L'Horizon Hotel that looks over the city of Thionville - beautiful!
23

