



Rhein Main Post GR



Covered in this Months Newsletter:

- Commanders Message
- Post Officers
- December's Meeting info
- Winterize your vehicle
- Holiday History
- Buddy Check
- Creative ideas
- COVID19 Information
- Christmas Eve on the Front
- News From Around our Post
- Information about the Post

Postfach 2837, Moerfelden Walldorf

Holiday Issue 2020

Commander's Message

Greetings fellow Comrades,

My prayers and best wishes go out to all of you and your families. I hope and pray you and your families are doing well. I know times are worsening as this Virus seem to increase among us each day. I ask that you all take this virus seriously and wear your masks. We must reach out to our brothers, sisters and their family members. Also lets remember that we have brothers and sisters living on the streets and in their homes alone. We must come up with ways to help them.

Until a member of our post reminded me at our meeting this week I had forgotten that we have disable vets and vets living alone. If you know of someone living alone, please reach out to them. If there is anyone having trouble with shopping for food, clothing, etc. please contact myself or one of our post officers and we will do our best to assist you.

You can contact me : Quincy Foster at qcfoster@yahoo.com.

Have a Happy and Safe Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!
God Bless!!!!!!!



Commander Quincy Foster



Elected Officers of Post GR05

- Post Commander: Quincy C. Foster
- 1st Vice Commander: Richard Perez
- 2nd Vice Commander: Terry Woodard
- Adjutant: Bruce Cole
- Chaplain: Joe A. Davis
- Sergeant at Arms: Juan Barrencchea
- Judge Advocate: Ernie Cojoe
- Finance Officer: Santos Alvarado
- Historian: Johnny Arriaga
- Executive committee member: Walter Becker



Click on picture to go to the Post's Facebook



Upcoming Post Meeting



Our next meeting will be held:

12 Dec at 1400

Location: Flying Dragon, in Der Trift 5-7,
64546 Walldorf.

(Pending current COVID situations, this might turn to a virtual meeting. Please check our FB for more information!)

All Members are asked to arrive at least 30 mins early for social hour and all Veterans are welcome to come and visit!



An Important Message about Winter Driving

Cold weather will be on us shortly and safety is #1! One important step we can all take to prepare ourselves for the safe winter driving is to make sure you have the proper tires. Your car's winter tires should be at least 1.6 millimeters (0.04 inches) deep in tread. How can we easily figure this out? Use a 2 Euro coin to measure and if the silver edge of the coin disappears, you're good!



Also look for this symbol on your tires: →



If caught with the wrong tires, you could fined a hefty price! One good suggestion is to talk to our fellow Legion member, Comrade Ernie Cojoe. For only \$18 he can assist you in a winterized check on your vehicle, potentially saving you thousands! Keep safe everyone and lets hope for snow!

Contact rheinmaingr05@outlook.com for more information

Holiday History



- * Though it's thought of as a Christmas song, "Jingle Bells" was first written for Thanksgiving. James Lord Pierpont originally composed his song in the 1850s and called it "One Horse Open Sleigh."
- * Because "Hanukkah" is a Hebrew word translated into English, there really isn't a correct spelling. Some say there are as many as 16 or 17 correct ways to spell the holiday, the most common being Chanukkah, Chanukah, Hannuka, Hannukah, and Hanukkah!
- * Candy canes originated in Germany! A choirmaster originally gave the candies to young children to keep them quiet during long church services.
- * During World War II, The United States Playing Card Company joined forces with American and British intelligence agencies to give out decks of cards as Christmas gifts that happened to also help allied prisoners of war escape from German POW camps. Individual cards peeled apart when moistened, to reveal maps of escape routes.

We Are all in This Together! COVID Buddy Check Time!

BUDDY CHECK: NOW MORE THAN EVER

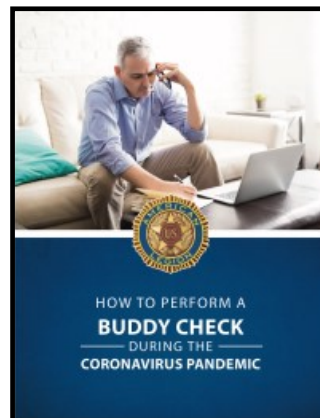
With the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic that is affecting us all, the Buddy Check program is perhaps more important now than ever before. The idea is to connect with veterans who may need assistance but don't know where to go or who to ask.

The American Legion Family already reaches out to fellow Legionnaires at this time of year but now we must do more. It's not enough to simply pick up the phone and call the veterans you know.

We need to check on ALL VETERANS in each of our communities to be sure they are safe, feeling OK and have access to health care and services. If we hear of someone in need, we can offer someone a ride, deliver groceries or supplies and, in short, be there for them.

Some people won't ask for help. Encourage members of your post to reach out and offer assistance to other veterans in your area. Please be particularly attentive to seniors, a population that is especially vulnerable to the harmful effects of this virus.

The important part is to let the veterans in your community know you care and can provide assistance. **It's what we do for our battle buddies.**



This article is from American Legion Online.
Click on the photo for more information!

Creative Ways to stay Connected!

- Start a virtual book club?: If you love a good book, why not start a virtual book club with friends or family? Using a video calling service, such as Skype or Zoom, you could share ideas of various books, or read and discuss the same title. Millions of books can be downloaded online, for example, on [Google Books](#) or [Open Library](#).
- Take a trip to the museum – from your sofa!: You can also take the opportunity to feel more connected with the local community, and culture, by exploring [Google's art and culture collection](#). The compilation offers virtual tours of more than 500 top worldwide attractions.
- Live workouts and virtual PT sessions: A variety of gyms, fitness studios, and classes are running live-streamed workouts, that you can do right from your living room. A few examples are [Nike Training Club's](#) community workout classes which live-stream every Saturday on YouTube.
- Virtual quiz night: Various virtual quiz events are also being hosted online, which anyone can be a part of. One example is the [Virtual Pub Quiz](#) YouTube channel which streams quizzes twice a week.
- Keep connected and keep smiling: Facebook also has various community groups that you can join, so you can connect with people in your area. A program in the UK called [Bupa Buddy](#) is offering to listen! From 0800 to 1830 M-F and 0900-1230 on Saturdays, there is a friendly buddy to chat about anything, from hobbies and interests to beyond. From Germany to UK: #00 44 808 271 3679

Updated local COVID-19 Information

Important links/information are below to help keep you informed of current COVID trends. Let's keep safe, healthy, and protected!

- For a current heat map of Germany that displays areas with high infection rates, click [HERE](#)
- For a current list of countries considered international risk areas, click [HERE](#).

An English version is at the bottom of the page.



- To learn more about each EU country's public health measures, border status, and facility reopening's, click [HERE](#)

Christmas Eve at the Front

by Don Keith

Story from The American Legion website: click [HERE](#) for more information

The night before Christmas 1943, millions of Americans sat before their radios, the dial lamps offering a bit of cheer, awaiting a show scheduled to begin at the top of the hour.

Cabbies, on a typically slow night, parked nose to tail along curbs, engines idling to keep warm and at the ready for the occasional fare, their dashboard radio receivers switched on. In barracks at induction centers and on bases around the country, men awaiting training or preparing to head overseas gathered near any available radio speakers, ready to hear what promised to be a very special broadcast – one that featured some of their brothers-in-arms already over there, at or near the front.

It was one of those rare media events, usually reserved for President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "fireside chats." On that one winter night, all four major U.S. radio networks – CBS, NBC Red, NBC Blue and Mutual – devoted their airwaves to a single program featuring several amateur singers and musicians, along with jokes and sketches.

At 10 p.m. in New York, the announcer on the NBC networks began by apologizing that their regular Friday evening shows – "Amos 'n' Andy," "Bill Stern's Sports Newsreel," "Fred Waring in Pleasure Time" – would not be broadcast that night, pre-empted by this special holiday presentation.

That radio broadcast, "Christmas Eve at the Front," gave U.S. audiences a real-time glimpse of soldiers and sailors deployed around the globe that holiday season, and for those service members, it was the opportunity to speak to the folks back home via the fastest-growing mass medium of the day.

At that time, more than 90 percent of Americans had access to a broadcast radio. News and entertainment programming on the air was, for the first time, rivaling newspapers as the medium of choice for news and entertainment. Even those who could not afford to subscribe to a paper could usually find a radio to listen to. Important programming attracted huge audiences. Many of FDR's "fireside chats" reached more than 70 percent of the country's population. Those were Super Bowl-like numbers.

Stephen Early, FDR's press secretary, had little trouble persuading his boss of the power of radio when he delivered his first nationwide address into a microphone in 1933, while the United States was still in the throes of the Great Depression.

"It cannot misrepresent or misquote," Early said. "It is far-reaching and simultaneous in releasing messages given it for transmission to the nation or for international consumption."

On that Christmas Eve in 1943, a live audience gathered in a radio studio in Hollywood, Calif., ready for the broadcast to begin promptly at 7 p.m. local time. The show was scheduled to air in what was already being called "prime time" across all four U.S. time zones. Those in the audience that night, coached to applaud and laugh when prompted by lighted signs, or those who dialed into the program on radios across America, had little idea of the months of planning by technicians around the globe to make the show possible.

Those engineers were attempting something thought impossible only a few years before: bringing live voices from various spots around the world to a single point and broadcasting them to eager listeners at home. The first trans-Atlantic telephone cable was still a decade away. Communications satellites were the stuff of science fiction. This big show depended on relatively new technology and the vagaries of shortwave signal propagation.

It was an all-star production, and likely would have commanded high listenership even without its technical and heart-tugging aspects. The show was actually the idea of the military, which believed a real-time broadcast would be a tremendous morale boost not only for the fighting men, but also for their families back home, separated during this holiday season by an awful globe-spanning war.

When it came time to select the program's primary host, the choice was obvious. At the time, Bob Hope's network radio show commanded huge audiences each week. He had started his showbiz career on the vaudeville stage, and by 1934 was already working in radio and the movies. His first major film was "The Big Broadcast of 1938," in which he introduced the song "Thanks for the Memory." It became his theme, closing hundreds of Hope's USO shows between 1941 and 1991.

However, the first voice heard in the 1943 Christmas Eve broadcast is not Hope's. Following a rousing orchestra rendition of "Jingle Bells," an announcer introduces distinguished actor Lionel Barrymore, whose portrayal of Ebenezer Scrooge in the annual radio production "A Christmas Carol" made it appropriate that he be a part of "Christmas Eve at the Front."

Even so, his deep, sad voice sounds almost out of place after the peppy musical introduction: "Well, it's Lionel Barrymore here in Hollywood, and here it's Christmas Eve, the third our country's experienced in the war. But tonight, I'm not going to play the part of Scrooge."

Instead, Barrymore promises to take listeners "by the hand to the side of your loved ones fighting at every quarter of the globe" – including Italy, North Africa, New Guinea, Guadalcanal, New Caledonia, China ("where it's already Christmas"), India, Panama, Alaska, Pearl Harbor and even "some of the ships of our Navy." Then the actor introduces Bob Hope, "whose name is synonymous with joy to the GI."

"The guest conductor of this worldwide tour," as Barrymore describes him, immediately picks up the pace and the show is on. Greeted with loud applause, Hope quips, "Thanks, relatives!" As usual, the comic's jokes are topical: "It has been so cold in the Midwest that even the Republicans are waiting for the 'fireside chats.'" Then, after a few zingers, the most challenging part of the production begins.

The first stop is Algiers in North Africa. The signal fades a bit at times, but an unidentified voice tells us it is just after 3 a.m. as he reads from a prepared script. He informs listeners that this will for the most part be a typical day for the men working there.

Continued on next page.....

.....Continued from last page

A soldier from Sheffield, Ala., comes on mic and, in a deep Southern accent, talks about how he and his fellow troops spent Christmas Eve so far from home.

It is difficult for us today – accustomed as we are to high-definition live communications from anywhere on the planet – to imagine how impressive this short, wavering presentation was to millions sitting in living rooms around the country. Indeed, most had recently heard Edward R. Murrow as he dramatically described the Nazi bombing of London live, as it happened, using a shortwave transmitter. But the voice the audience was hearing this night was that of a soldier, a regular guy, whose distant transmission wraps with, “We return you to America.” There may well have been some wishful thinking in those five simple words.

Bing Crosby, Hope’s usual foil and movie partner, joins the broadcast then, along with the Army Air Force Orchestra, singing “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen.”

Some of the segments that night came through so clearly that, based on their technical quality, they were almost certainly pre-recorded, most likely using either wire or metal tape- recording technology. That was especially true of the reports from an aircraft carrier and a battleship, the latter from which a sailor sings a beautiful tenor version of “Gesu Bambino.” Of course, the names and locations of those ships were never given on air, nor were those segments ever portrayed as anything but live and in the moment.

Except for atmospheric noise and some fading, most of the remote shortwave transmissions are surprisingly listenable. Others are difficult to understand. Some transmission paths did not work at all.

At one point, when nothing came through from Alaska, someone off-mic is heard saying, “No copy,” meaning if there is a signal, it is not readable. Another time, the listening audience can hear someone saying, “Go ahead, Panama,” since those standing by at most of the far-flung spots could not actually hear the broadcast to which those back home were tuned in. They had to be prompted over the shortwave radio circuit to begin their presentations.

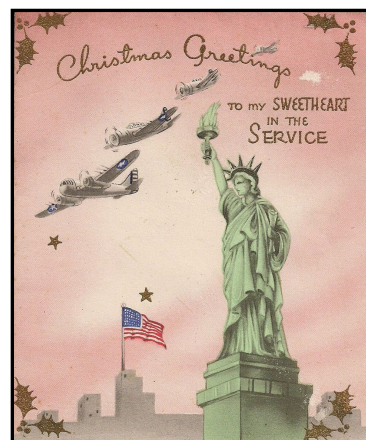
Knowledge of shortwave propagation was quite limited in those days. That portion of the radio spectrum was still an unfamiliar quantity, mostly occupied by “ham” radio operators. Such long-distance radio transmissions were subject to not only seasonal variations but could even fluctuate day-to-day or hour-to-hour. Northern latitudes are especially problematic. Such glitches were likely an anticipated possibility for the broadcast. Hope, Crosby and crew handled it smoothly, ad-libbing, until they could verify there would be no bit from that “quarter of the globe.” Each time a signal from some distant part of the world was not able to make the trip, they moved on to the next segment. The planned 90-minute broadcast ended 15 minutes early because of the missed segments.

About 45 minutes into the program is a message from FDR, recorded earlier in the day. In his typically calm, strong, and positive voice, he reports on recent talks with other world leaders, discussing not only the continued progress in the war but what will happen when the fighting ends. He also announces that the new supreme commander of America’s war effort in Europe will be Gen. Dwight Eisenhower. Speaking for about half an hour, the president in effect delivers yet another inspirational “fireside chat.” It is clear from this segment that he president does, indeed, understand the power of this still relatively new medium, and that the right words and intonation can positively affect the mood of the country.

The Army Air Force Orchestra concludes the program with “The Star-Spangled Banner,” and the NBC announcer again apologizes for the network having pre-empted “Amos ‘n’ Andy.” It is difficult for us today to imagine what effect this broadcast might have had on its listenership across the country. We know a large audience tuned in, though there appears to be no ratings information available. We also know it was one of the first times in which people from so many points of the globe were able to speak live on a radio broadcast, letting their fellow Americans hear –in real time – what life was like where they were and how they were spending the holiday.

Despite expected technical hitches, this historic broadcast almost certainly accomplished its goal.

Families felt a bit closer to their loved ones – more than 3.5 million Americans were deployed overseas at the time of the show – on this special night of the year “Christmas Eve at the Front” can be heard today in its entirety – blemishes and all – online, including on [YouTube](#) and the [Old Time Radio Downloads](#) site.



News From Around Post GR05

Question about TRICARE?

Our fellow comrade, Terry Woodard, shared information on our Facebook page about the Select Enrollment Fee's for TRICARE beneficiaries: Group A retiree's, survivors, and family members. You can find more information by clicking on the picture below and learn about the program 'ACT NOW':



Memorial visit to our Veteran's



This Veteran's Day, our Past Post Commander, Santos Alvarado, went to cemeteries in the local Morfelden-Walldorf and Wiesbaden area to place American Flags for our departed comrades.

Thank you Santos for you're dedication to the memory of our Veteran's!

Click the flags to visit our Post's Facebook

Page:




Frank Phillips

**American Legion
VA accredited representative**

09802 83 2269
Call for appointment
Wednesday & Friday: 1300-1600


Francis.Phillips2@va.gov

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
USAG ANSBACH MPD/VSO
UNIT 28721BOX 6511
APO AE 09177
OFFICIAL BUSINESS



Nomination for our fellow comrade, Colonel (Ret) Gail S. Halvorsen for the Presidential Medal of Freedom! →

Click on the picture below to learn more about his story!

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 22, 2020

Master Sergeant Eugene Carvotta, USAF, Retired
Bartelso, Illinois

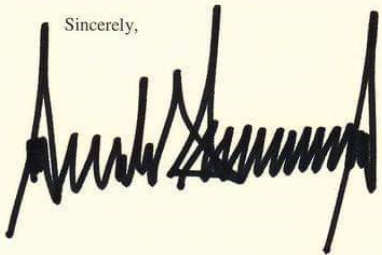
Dear Sergeant Carvotta,

Thank you for your recommendation of Colonel Gail S. Halvorsen for the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

This letter acknowledges receipt of your recommendation, which will receive the proper attention. As the highest civilian medal, the Medal of Freedom is reserved for those who, in my estimation, have made especially meritorious contributions to the United States.

I appreciate your suggestion and will consider it when I select the honorees.

Sincerely,



Please submit any announcements or items for the newsletter to Comrade Krueger, Editor.

Request must be submitted no later than by the 20th of the month for the next edition @ rheinmaingr05@outlook.com

Address:
Rhein Main Post GR05
Postfach 2638
64537 Moerfelden-Walldorf



Rhein Main Post GR05 received Temporary Charter on Oct. 18, 1972 then received their permanent charter on Apr 6, 1973 in the German State of Hessen. GR05 has contributed various donations to organizations such as Fisher House, CWF, and Legacy Fund. We currently support veterans from around the Rhein Main area and in addition having members based in the United States.

Join our FB page to keep up to date with our Post!

