



THANK YOU!

HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED

Cross Plains soldier gives all

Wanda English Burnett
EDITOR

A Cross Plains family received a telegram from the United States Army Air Force that no parent ever wanted to receive. Mr. and Mrs. William Mann of Cross Plains, learned that their son, Charles, was reported missing in battle over Italy around May 2, 1945.

Another letter dated 14 June 1945 would tell the

in the plane with their son.

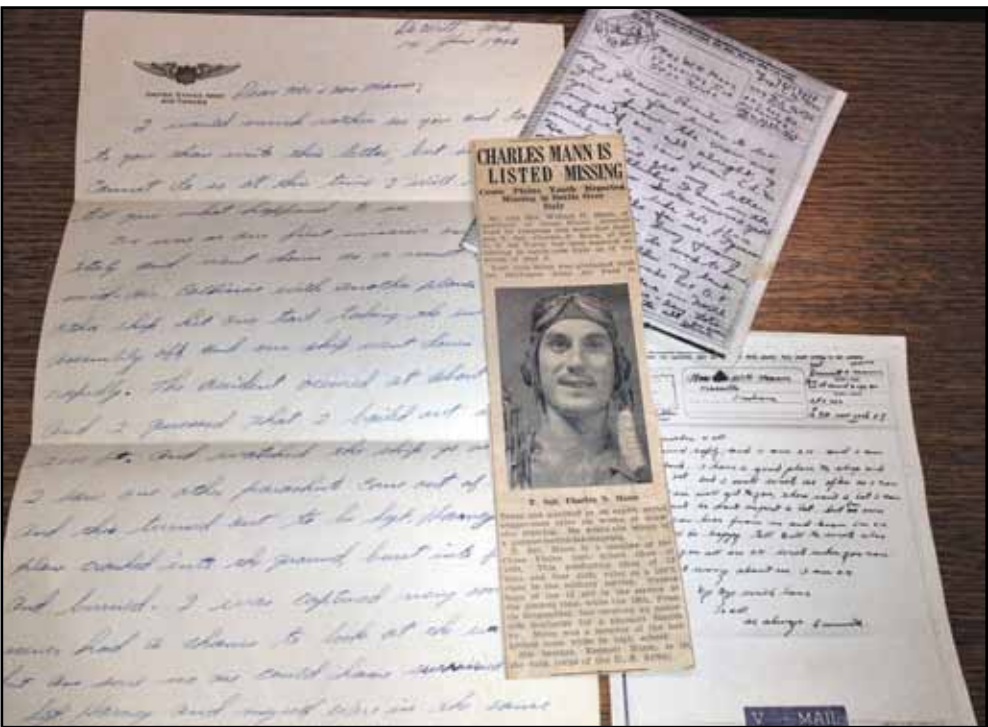
Henderson told how he bailed out at about 12,000 feet and watched the plane go down. He said he was captured very soon after landing, but not before he saw the plane burst into flames. He said he was sure no one survived. Another person parachuted out of the plane, which was Sgt. Harvey. He too was captured.

A consolation to the fam-

somewhere in North Africa. It read in part, "Tell father not to work too hard. Give all the folks my best regards. I will make out o.k." The parents didn't know what the future would hold, but, the letters were preserved and are still a reminder today that communication is important. It was in Charles' handwriting and has been preserved all these years.

Charles Mann was an uncle to Phil Mann, who still lives in Cross Plains. He shared this information with the newspaper after he was given original paperwork from a third cousin recently. Phil noted that his uncle was buried in a mass grave in St. Louis, Missouri, with other remains of those who gave all for our freedom. He said his grandmother was ill at the time of the service, but, his grandfather took a movie camera and went to the ceremony, recording it for his wife. These letters written 75 years ago came to Phil as a solemn reminder of war, but, a welcome thought that his family, along with many others, took part in preserving democracy.

The fallen soldier graduated from the Harlingen Army Air Field in Texas and quali-



Memorabilia means the world to Mann's family.

fied as an expert aerial trigger-man after six weeks of intensive training. This was published in this newspaper. The article also noted that Charles "wears the wings of a gunner-technician-sergeant." He was a member of the Cross Plains graduating class of 1939 where the class was rated as a "100% class in the military service". He was also a member of the basketball team in high school.

The Mann family has done their part in securing the way of life Americans enjoy today. Charles and his brother, Emmett, who is Phil's father, served in World War II. Emmett was in the tank corps of the U.S. Army and landed at Omaha Beach on D-Day. He also served in the Battle of the Bulge. Phil was in the Army Engineers, his son Joe was in the Air Force and daughter Susannah served in the Army National Guard for eight years.



T. Sgt. Charles N. Mann

ily was found in these words, "You may rest assured that the accident was not the fault of anyone on our crew and that all the boys were doing their job well."

A telegram from Charles on April 8, 1944 said he was all right. He said he was still

LAUGHERY

Valley Ag

**336 N. Buckeye St.
Osgood, IN**

**(812) 689-4401
(800) 221-9731**

SALUTING
Our Veterans

Thanking Our Veterans

SUMMERS METALS LLC

**Structural Steel
Gases & Welding Supplies
CNC Plasma Cutting
Custom Welding Repair
& Fabrication**

**315 Wilson St. • Osgood
812.689.7088
summersmetals.com**

Thanking our Veterans

BROWN & KRESS, D.D.S.

**Christopher R. Brown,
D.D.S., M.P.S.
Daniel J. Kress,
D.D.S.**

**823 S. Adams
Versailles
(812) 689-5151**

Honoring our Veterans

STRATTON-KARSTETER FUNERAL HOME

**1114 South Ripley Estates Drive • Versailles, IN
812-689-1171 • www.skfuneralhome.com**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

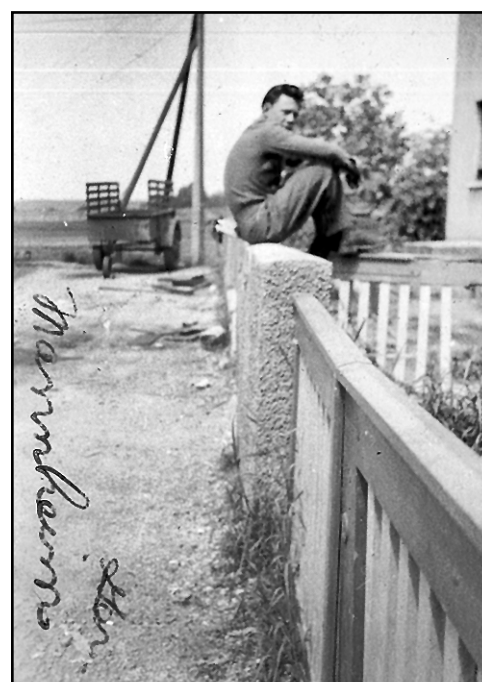
WWII veteran thankful for 'full life'



Ralph Hermesch in uniform.



Ralph with a buddy he met in Germany from Indianapolis.



Ralph in Mannheim, Germany.



Hanging out in an Army truck.

Wanda English Burnett EDITOR

Ralph Hermesch, 93, has a philosophy that has worked well for him all these years. He says he's had a full life, worked hard, and "if you're gonna' do a job – do it right!" He was raised around the St. Maurice area and now resides in the rural countryside near Millhausen. He said as a kid growing up most people were poor and corn was a penny a bushel. "Times were different-people were different," he reflected, saying once his mother sent his brother to the store, which was about a mile and a half away, on his tricycle to get chocolate! He said it was a gravel road.

When Ralph was a teenager he said kids went to work on the farm, helped their parents or did whatever job they could to make ends meet. "It was during the depression, and we all just had to work." At the tender age of 16, he left home and went to Dayton Ohio, where he worked at Wright Patterson Air Force Base as a civilian. Then, when he turned 18, Uncle Sam called. He was plunged into World War II and took his initial training at Camp Walters in Texas.

The trip from here to Germany was one he described as grueling, and said he was "seasick every day".

The ship would sway and dip with the ocean currents and there was nothing but water as far as the eye could see. But, that wasn't the worst Ralph would see. When he arrived in Munich, Germany, he was sent to the town of Dachau, which was about 10 miles northwest of Munich. There the infamous Dachau concentration camp was located. This was established by the National Socialist Nazi government and it is known as the first concentration camp for political prisoners.

"It was a horrible place – so many dead bodies" was all Ralph could say before he became emotional about the horrors of war that he was exposed to upon arrival in Germany. He couldn't really talk more about the Dachau Camp, only saying thousands, yes, thousands of people died there. He couldn't dwell on such a horrifying thing that people would do to each other.

Ralph was raised in a farming family, went to mass every Saturday night, and couldn't imagine war on the level he was exposed to. "Well, really, none of us knew what war was, we were just kids," he noted.

While Ralph respects the people who lost their lives for no reason, he didn't dwell on something he couldn't do anything about. At one



point in his stint in the Army he was in Stuttgart - home of Mercedes-Benz. "Now that was something," he remembered, saying he had a Master Sergeant who owned a Mercedes and he let him drive it. While serving in the Army, he was a Mess Sgt., taking charge of the kitchen duties and serving 680 meals every day. There he met a girl from Czechoslovakia. "She was really nice," he said as his eyes twinkled. But, alas - he lived through the war torn area he served in and thanks to President Harry Truman, he came home. "I love that man," he said as he pounded his fist on the table

in the home that dates back to the 1800's. "He dropped the atomic bomb on Japan, and that was it!" The war ended and soon Ralph was on his way home. But, not before he was able to take some time off and visit the countries of Switzerland, Rome and more.

Something that was sad to Ralph, was the fact he is of German descent and some of his relatives were fighting in the same war. "It doesn't seem right," he noted. He went back to Germany in 2009 to visit and saw relatives and the old church where his great grandfather was baptized. He said he

wouldn't trade that experience for a million dollars.

When Ralph returned home from his tour of duty, he didn't dwell on the past. He forged ahead, took courses from Purdue University on the GI bill and married Marie Hodapp in 1951. Together they raised nine children. His family is important to him. He is proud that every one of them has careers, are hard working and upstanding people. He is also proud of his grandchildren, 22 in all, and great grandchildren, which number 34.

His family makes his eyes twinkle when he talks about them and raising corn is another heartbeat of his. He said he specialized in raising corn and once produced 150 bushel per acre, which is nothing now, he says. "Back then, it was huge." He farmed no less than 300 acres, drove a school bus and sold Funk's Seed Corn and woodstoves.

Ralph still lives on the family farm he bought from his father and is surrounded by 233 acres. He says the best thing he and his wife did was to travel to all 50 states and took a cruise to Alaska. He's flown in a helicopter over Mt. Rinear and saw the Northern Lights. His mother and father, Robert and Kathryn Hermesch married in 1924 and Ralph is the oldest of four brothers, Walter of Napoleon; Don and Bobby,

who live in the Greensburg area.

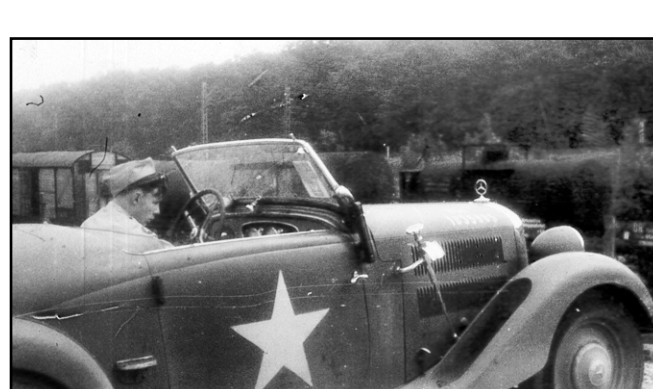
Last year he made 86 bluebird houses and has given them all away. It's a hobby that keeps him busy. He also does crossword puzzles everyday and has a certain type he likes. He says he's lived a "full life".

When Ralph was 79-years-old, his doctor told him he needed a little more exercise. So, he didn't hesitate. With his daughter-in-law, Cindy, who was already walking daily, he joined in and soon was walking four miles a day. "We've walked over 25,000 miles," he laughed. He says longevity runs in his family and remembers an aunt who lived to be 104. He says he drinks a little Jack and water every day, and stays active, when asked the secret to living a long life. He wasn't sure if there was a secret to living a long life, but admitted, "I didn't behave all that well and smoked a pipe!" (That was a younger Ralph.)

Editor's note: Dubbed as The Greatest Generation, those who served in World War II are a humble group. When I have interviewed them, they are never sure why their story is significant. However, this generation helped free the world from tyranny and like veterans of other wars, feel like they just did what they were called upon by their country to do.



Ralph and Marie on their wedding day in 1951.



Ralph enjoyed driving this Mercedes in 1945.

812-654-2224
Intersection of SR 350 & Hwy 101
Milan, IN

Honoring our Brave Veterans

Batesville Dental

Bradley P. Broughton, DDS
Cynthia A. Ledermeier, DDS
Family & Cosmetic Dentistry Including
Invisalign & Lumineers
No Interest Financing Available
NEW PATIENTS WELCOME
Evening & Saturday Appointments Available
(812) 934-3651
www.batesvilledental.com
391 Northside Dr. • Batesville

Happy Veterans Day From
OSGOOD AMERICAN LEGION
POST #267
We honor your dedication and service to our country!
120 S. Elm St., Osgood • 812-689-4644

INDIANA FARM BUREAU INSURANCE®
Owen Menchhofer
Osgood
Cell: 812-756-0160

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

THANK YOU!
Hoosier Hills Quilts of Valor
is honoring local veterans.
For information contact Chris Combs at
The Quilter's Nook, 812-689-0980,
82 Hill Street, Versailles, IN 47042.

Pence welcomes Cyber Battalion to Indiana

Recently, the Army National Guard announced that the Secretary of the Army will station the 127th Cyber Protection Battalion in Indianapolis. Indiana was selected out of eighteen states competing for this significant achievement. As the seventh largest Army National Guard contingent in the nation, the Indiana National Guard will join the U.S. Cyber Command's mission pool by fiscal year 2022.

"I am honored to welcome the 127th Cyber Battalion to the Hoosier state," said Congressman Pence. "When I visited Atterbury-Muscatauck back in August, it was clear that the Indiana National Guard's existing capabilities, programs and infrastructure make the Hoosier state an ideal location for a cyber battalion. Indiana's Sixth District boasts the Department of Defense's only live, full-scale cyber range, and I join the Army National Guard in congratulating our distinguished Hoosiers in uniform on this outstanding achievement."

Background

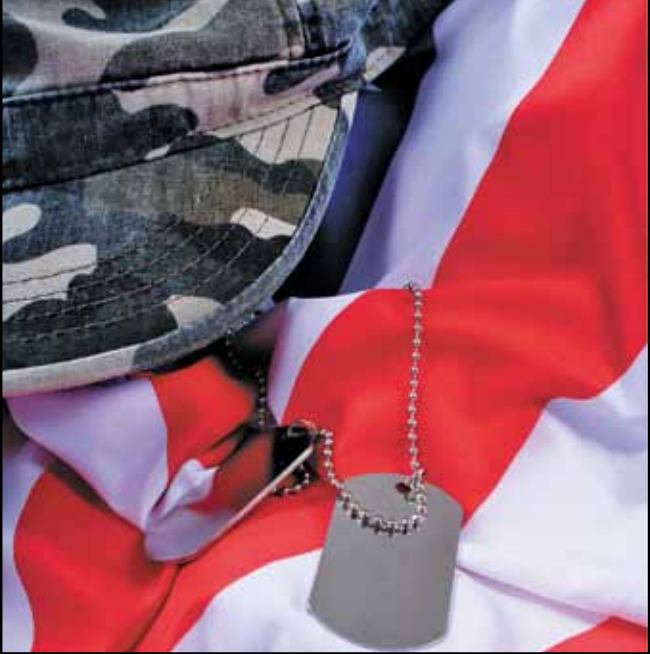
The Indiana National Guard has an extensive record of joint action with State and Federal entities in the cyber domain, including participation in the Indiana Executive Cybersecurity Council and the Indiana Fusion Center. The Hoosier state is proud to be home to cyber force structures such as the Muscatatuck Urban Training Complex (MUTC), the Defensive Cyber Operations Element (DCO-E), Cyber Protec-

tion Team 172, and were selected as a finalist for the stationing of an additional Army National Guard force structure.

In addition, the Indiana National Guard owns a 12,000 square foot sensitive compartmented information facility at the Indiana Intelligence Center in Indianapolis with over 200 seats – more than enough to support a cyber headquarters battalion. With the Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) Crane within close proximity, the leading national experts on cyber security and hardware assurance are only a stone's throw away.

As a pillar in our community, Atterbury-Muscatauck's academic collaborations with Ivy Tech Community College, Indiana University, and Purdue University provide unprecedented access to cybersecurity educational curriculum and resources. The Ivy Tech Cyber Academy is conducted on the ground at the Muscatatuck Urban Training Complex.

On September 10, 2019, Congressman Pence delivered remarks on the House floor in strong support of the Indiana National Guard's proposal to station a cyber battalion in Indiana.



Vietnam Marine to speak at Holton Christian Church

The Holton Christian Church would like to invite the members of the community to join them for a very special Veterans Day service. On Sunday, November 10 they will be joined by a very special guest speaker, Frank Henager.

Frank Henager is one of a kind. His joy of sharing the Gospel of Christ is contagious. He serves as an Elder at Bright Christian Church and has a passion to serve others. He has gone on numerous mission trips both domestically and overseas. He loves to teach children and has been very active at Whitewater Christian Service Camp over the years. One of the many hats that Henager wears is one of veteran of our armed forces.

Henager was in the marines from 1967-1971 during Vietnam. His father was in the marines during WWII and his oldest brother was in the marines during Vietnam as well as his next youngest brother who was in the army but not during war.

His son, Frank James Henager, Jr., is a Sgt. with the US Army. Frank Jr. joined the Army right after he graduated from Harrison High School in 2002. He has served with the 82nd Airborne, 101st Airborne and then went on to graduate from the Defense Language Institute. His Arabic language and advanced training led him to service with the 3rd Special Forces Group, and is currently serving as an AIT Platoon Sgt. at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California.

Henager was deployed six times and had numerous medals which include two Purple Hearts and three Bronze Stars and one with Valor.

The title of Henager's Veterans Day message is "Strong Godly Military Family". The public is invited and especially all local veterans to come and be inspired by his message.

There will be a meet and greet breakfast at 10 a.m. followed by the service at 10:30.

Versailles American Legion Veterans Day activities

The Versailles American Legion has announced it's activities for Monday, November 11.

All veterans, members of the military, legionnaires, and the community are invited to participate in the Veterans Day activities.

Members of the Auxiliary, S.A.L. and the entire Legion family are welcome. Monday, November 11, there will be a Veterans Day breakfast at 8 a.m. at South Ripley High

School on Benham Road, Versailles. Following the breakfast at 8:45 a.m. a program will be presented by the students at South Ripley.

At 10 a.m. a Veterans Memorial Service will be held at the Ripley County Veteran's Monument on the Courthouse Square in Versailles.

Everyone is welcome to participate in these events. You are encouraged to help celebrate this important day.

Benefits information session to be held at Post #464

On Saturday, November 9 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. the St. Joseph American Legion Post 464 in Brookville will be hosting an information session for all Legionnaires, SAL and auxiliary. The topics discussed will cover the benefits of American Legion membership: accident insurance protection, temporary financial assistance and national emergency fund.

A basic seminar on Social Security for all member who may have questions regarding their current or future benefits will also be held.

A light lunch with non-alcoholic beverages will

be provided. Join them for this informative and education session and socialize with fellow members as they prepare to recognize Veterans Day the following Monday, November 11.

American Legion Benefits discussion will be presented by Ken Hylton, Post 464 Membership Coordinator/Executive Committee and Ripley County Veteran Services Officer.

The Social Security discussion will be presented by Lonny Barnett, Post 464 Adjutant and Edward Jones Investments Financial Advisor, Bright.

***Southeastern
Indiana R.E.M.C.
salutes our present
& past employee
veterans & all
veterans
everywhere!***

**Southeastern
Indiana R.E.M.C.**

**712 S. Buckeye St.
Osgood, IN
812-689-4111
www.seiremc.com**

**Saluting
our Veterans**

**THINKING ABOUT
BUYING OR SELLING
A HOME?**

As an experienced real estate agent, I have knowledge of our local market, and can help make your next real estate transaction stress free.

Thank You to All of Our Veterans • Semper Fi

DOUG SMITH
Realtor®
812-212-1160
dhsmith@sibcycline.com
www.sibcycline.com/dhsmith

**Civista Bank salutes
our country's service
members and Veterans.**

With appreciation for your service, we're proud to offer all active military members and Veterans Civista Compass Checking with no monthly service charge or minimum balance required.

Simply choose direct deposit of your payroll or retirement benefits into a Compass Checking account and enjoy the savings – including shopping, dining and travel discounts.

**CIVISTA®
BANK**
Focused on You

Visit **civista.bank**
or your local branch
to learn more.

e-statement is account standard.
Paper statement may be substituted for \$2.00 monthly fee.

Member FDIC



How Memorial Day and Veterans Day differ from each other

Memorial Day and Veterans Day each honor the military, though the two holidays are not the same. Memorial Day, which is celebrated annually on the last Monday in May, honors the brave men and women who lost their lives while serving in the American military. Many communities host memorial ceremonies honoring their fallen soldiers on Memorial Day, ensuring such soldiers' bravery and sacrifices are never forgotten. While many people now view Memorial Day weekend as the unofficial start of summer, the weekend should not be celebrated without also pausing to reflect on and recognize the military personnel who lost their lives in defense of freedom and the American way of life.

Veterans Day is celebrated annually on November 11 and recognizes all men and women who have served in the military. Veterans Day coincides with Remembrance Day, which is celebrated by the Commonwealth of Nations, an association of 53 member states with connections to the British Empire. Though Veterans Day and Remembrance Day are each celebrated on November 11, the latter recognizes armed forces members who died in the line of duty, making it more similar to Memorial Day than Veterans Day. It's not uncommon for people to recognize fallen soldiers on Veterans Day, but many use the holiday to express their appreciation to existing veterans.

Explore the history of Veterans Day

Service members make numerous sacrifices in defense of their countries. While the debts to service members may never be the kind that can be repaid in full, paying tribute to veterans, on Veteran's Day and throughout the year, can be a great way to show them just how much their efforts are appreciated.

Veterans Day begins with Armistice Day

Veterans Day is a byproduct of the end of World War I, when Germany and the Allied Nations signed the Treaty of Versailles, formally ceasing fighting and establishing terms of peace. On November 11, 1919, the first anniversary of the signing of the treaty, the first Armistice Day events were held. Armistice Day was initially a legal holiday to honor the end of World War I only, states History.com. The United States Congress passed a resolution in 1926 for an annual observance, and November 11 became a national holiday starting in 1938. However, in 1954, after the country had been embroiled in both

World War II and the Korean War, Congress amended the Act of 1938 by renaming the commemoration "Veterans Day" to honor veterans of all wars.

Veterans Day in October?

According to Military.com, for a short time, thanks to the Uniform Holiday Bill, which in 1968 established three-day weekends for federal employees by celebrating national holidays on Mondays, Veterans Day was moved to the fourth Monday of October — the first being October 25, 1971. However, many people did not agree with this decision, continuing to honor the holiday on the original date. In 1975, President Gerald Ford signed a new law that returned Veterans Day to November 11 beginning in 1978. Since then, parades, memorial events, volunteer efforts, and other celebrations revolving around veterans have been held on November 11.

Veterans around the world

Many countries, including the United States, celebrate veterans on or near November 11. America's

closest neighbor to the north, Canada, commemorates veterans on Remembrance Day (also November 11), as does the United Kingdom. Britain also has Remembrance Sunday, which is the second Sunday of November. Remembrance Day also is called Poppy Day, when people of the Commonwealth member states wear a red poppy flower in honor of military members who have died in the line of duty.

Paying tribute

There are various ways to honor veterans on Veterans Day and Remembrance Day. Federal government closings, educational efforts in schools, parades, and visits to military hospitals or cemeteries may take place. In Europe, it is common to observe two minutes of silence at 11 a.m. every November 11.

Veterans Day and its sister holidays mark the honoring of veterans of all wars, with a particular focus on living veterans. It is a day to celebrate the dedication and selflessness of hardworking military men and women.



Thanking
Our Veterans

REALTY EXCHANGE
812-689-7110 • 812-756-0797
408 W. US 50 • Versailles, IN
realtyexchangerealtors.com



*Honoring
our Heroes*
November 11th
**VETERANS
DAY**





"We Are The Difference"
405 Eads Parkway East
Lawrenceburg, IN 47025
Phone: (812) 537-3000
www.haagfordsales.com

