

German class sends greeting to Elton Oltjenbruns

Written by Holyoke Enterprise



Students from a high school in the city of Gardelegen, Germany, gather for a picture to be sent to Holyoke's Elton Oltjenbruns to honor him as part of the 102nd U.S. Infantry Division that came across the Gardelegen massacre in 1945.

With the help of Elton Oltjenbruns of Holyoke, author and historian Torsten Haarseim was able to complete a book earlier this year recounting the WWII massacre that took place in his hometown of Gardelegen, Germany.

Oltjenbruns was part of the 102nd U.S. Infantry Division that discovered massacre in a barn where more than 1,000 concentration camp prisoners were burned alive.

On Saturday, Nov. 2, Haarseim was accompanied by 86 students for a class project to the site of the massacre that took place at the barn on April 13, 1945. During the day, Haarseim gathered the students for a photo to send to his friend in Holyoke.

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