

THE SATURDAY EVENING
POST

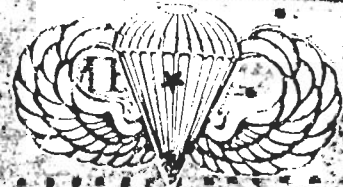
SEPTEMBER 12, 1942 10c

January 1993

WINGS

of
the...

596
PCEC



MUST BRITAIN GIVE UP INDIA?

BY
EDGAR SNOW

★ **COMPLETE NOVEL**

BY ROBERT CARSON

596 Parachute Combat Engineer Company

596 Parachute Combat Engineer Company

1943-1993

GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR

" W I N G S "



Official Publication of the
596th Parachute Combat Engineer Company



1993



SPECIAL

50th ANNIVERSARY

ISSUE

M
E
M
O
R
I
E
S

GENE MARKLE---Chief Engineering Officer (CEO)

BOB VERDI-----Junior Engineering Officer

CHARLEY PUGH--Editor
3532 Park Hill Drive
Fort Worth, TX 76109

JOE D. MILLER-----President-517th PRCT Association

BOB DALRYMPLE-----Vice-President-517th PRCT Association

HANK SIMPSON-----Director-517th PRCT Association

50 YEAR OLD "SATURDAY EVENING POST" AIRBORNE COVER

Full color, 11"x14", reproduction of the cover of the 12 September 1942, Saturday Evening Post - Suitable for framing - Great conversation piece - Two types are available -

Photo processed @ \$17.95 or Reproduced print @ \$12.95

Price includes postage and handling, and will be shipped via certified mail in heavy mailing tube. Mail order and check payable to COL R H TUCKER CHAPTER to -

Secretary, Col R H Tucker Chapter,
6100 Tyburn Street,
Camp Springs, Maryland 20748-2435



Quantities Limited - Send for yours today!

Enclosed check in amount of \$ _____ is payment for:
____ Photo processed copies @ \$17.95 each
____ Reproduced prints @ \$12.95 each

Ship my order to -

PRINT Name _____

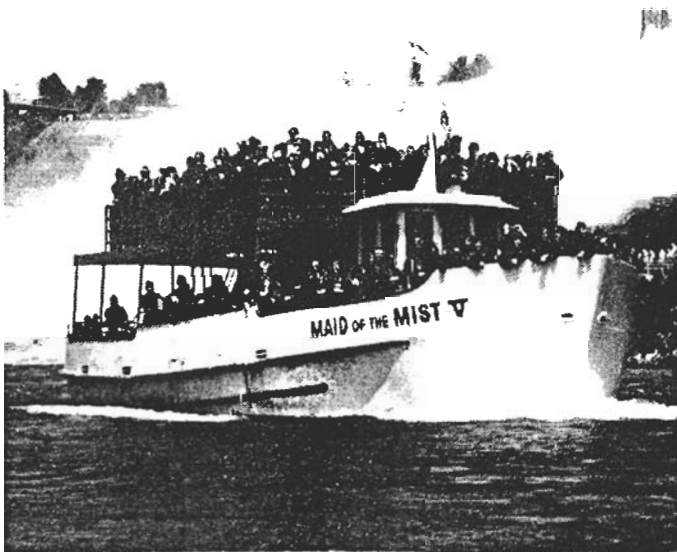
Address _____

City _____

State & ZIP _____

Allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.

517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team Association



Reunion 1993

The reunion scheduled for Niagara Falls, New York, May 17 - 18- 19, 1993 is more than just a meeting of old combat troopers, it is the celebration of the birth of our Combat Team.

The Combat Team began with the activation of the 17 Airborne Division on March 14, 1943. For the majority of us Camp Toccoa would have been the appropriate place to hold this reunion...but their hotels aren't large enough to hold us, the tar paper shacks we lived in, the battalion mess halls and latrines are gone.

So Niagara Falls it is...and a good time will be had by all.

So the theme will be "Let's celebrate our birthday...our Fiftieth. For some of us 1943 also is the year we got married...so some of us can also celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary. A second honeymoon, of sorts. We booked for:

Saturday, May 15, 1993.....100 rooms

Sunday, May 16, 1993.....200 rooms

Monday, May 17, 1993.....350 rooms

Tuesday, May 18, 1993.....350 rooms

Wednesday, May 19, 1993.....350 rooms

Thursday, May 20, 1993.....Departure Date

at the Radisson Hotel Niagara Falls located at Third and Old Streets, Niagara Falls, New York 14303.

The special rate for rooms during our reunion, and a few days before and after, is \$65.00 (single or double), plus a 7 percent New York State Tax and a 4 percent occupancy tax.

The city has a parking ramp adjacent to the hotel, which charges a fee, however on the next block is a public parking ramp with free parking. The City ramp could be expensive if you move your car in and out during your stay. There is plenty of free parking in the area.

At this reunion we will have a women's luncheon at pool side and at the same time the men will hold their biennial meeting, which also will be a luncheon meeting.

The Birthday Party on the final night will be held at the Convention Center which is across the street from the hotel. We will walk to the Convention Center via an Escalator down to the tunnel then a walk to the up Escalator to the Ball Room of the Convention center.

This reunion we are using USAir as our official carrier for our reunion attendees. USAir currently offers 55 flights and 5,350 seats to Buffalo daily. Travel is valid on U. S. Air between May 14 - 22, 1993. Frequent Traveler members will earn a minimum of 750 Frequent Traveler miles when flying USAIR to the meeting.

The hotel has a tour desk set up where individuals may purchase tours they desire. The State of New York has a pass that allows a visitor to participate in all the Niagara Falls events and area. More on this at a later date.

517th Regimental Combat Team plans to return to Europe to celebrate our 50th Anniversary of combat, September - October, 1994

In order to continue our preliminary planning for the Regimental Combat Team's return to Europe, it is vitally important that the planners receive the following information:

1. I / We _____ of _____ plan to participate in our return to Europe Celebration.
Name (s) Unit 517, 460, 596 (Inc.: Co. or Btry)

2. I / We plan on: (Check appropriate Box (s) a. or/and b. below)

a. Three week package: includes air from Continental United States to Europe - Arrive in Belgium, Bus tour from Belgium to Nice in southern France with appropriate stops and visits en route and (air) return to Continental United States from Nice, France. Package will include Hotel, Continental Breakfast, Baggage Handling (in Europe only), Bus transportation during tours and from Airport to Hotel and return to Airport en route home.

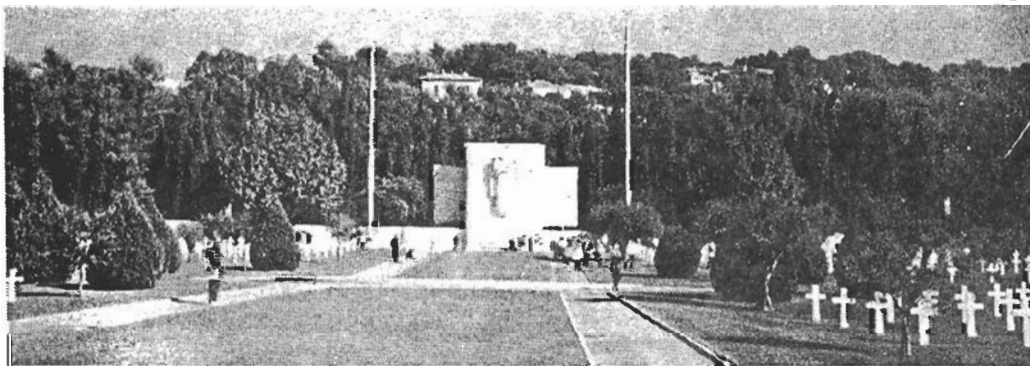
b. Italy, one week extension. First Class rail from Nice to Rome, Hotel, Bus from railroad station to Hotel, Continental Breakfast, Bus during tours, Baggage handling fees (in Europe only). Return to Continental United States from Rome airport.

Italy extension Cost over and above cost of tour listed in a above .

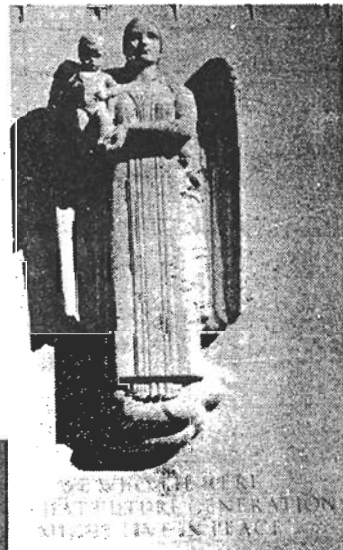
Please mail this questionnaire to: Secretary, 517 P. R. C. T, 18630 White Pine Circle, Hudson FL 34667.

Be aware: To obtain the best possible price for this tour we are planning on a minimum of 120 participants. As plans materialize, specifics of events will be published in future issues of the Thunderbolt.

It is early, as far as tour agencies are concerned, to start giving us firm prices for 1994. Frank is working on this aspect and as rates finalize we will correspond with each individual who has indicated interest. This information will also be published in the Thunderbolt.



Rhone American Cemetery, Draguignan, France...Charles Pugh Photos



Henri Chapelle American Cemetery Belgium



Charles Pugh Photo

Registration Form - 517 Parachute Combat Team Reunion - Niagara Falls, NY

May 17 - 20, 1993

Please Print

Name _____ Guest _____
Unit _____ Battalion _____ Company or Battery _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Registration fee includes Luncheon, Banquet and Hospitality Room.

Registration fee - \$ 45.00 per person. X \$45.....Total\$ _____
No. of

Niagara Tour - \$29.00 per person. X \$29.....Total \$ _____
No. of

Grand Total.....\$ _____

Write check in the amount of your Grand Total, make payable to 517 PRCT Reunion and mail to the headquarters at 18630 White Pine Circle, Hudson, FL 34667.

* We plan to arrive _____ and will travel by - plane - train - privately owned vehicle.
date/time circle one

* We presently are planning to have personal pick up at the Buffalo Airport and also to return to the Airport after the reunion. dates of personal service will be during the date of the reunion, 17-20 May 1992. A small donation will be expected to help pay for the cost of this service.

Reunion Itinerary

Saturday, May 15, 1993 - Early Arrivals

Meeting - Ball Room at 12 noon
Hospitality room will open after
the General Membership Meeting

Sunday, May 16, 1993

Registration - 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Hospitality Room - 2:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 19, 1993

Hospitality Room - 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Niagara Falls Tour: 0900 - 1200
Banquet Dinner and Birthday Party
at the Convention Center -
6:00 p.m. Cocktails - No host bar
Dinner promptly at 7:00 p.m.

Monday, May 17, 1993

Golf - Time to be announced
Registration - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Hospitality Room - 2:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Hospitality room will open after the Banquet
(Please wear your badge at all times. Your badge is your
ticket to participate in the reunion activities.)

Tuesday, May 18, 1993

Registration - 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Ladies Luncheon - Pool side - 12 noon
Men's General Membership/Luncheon

Thursday, May 20, 1993 - Departure

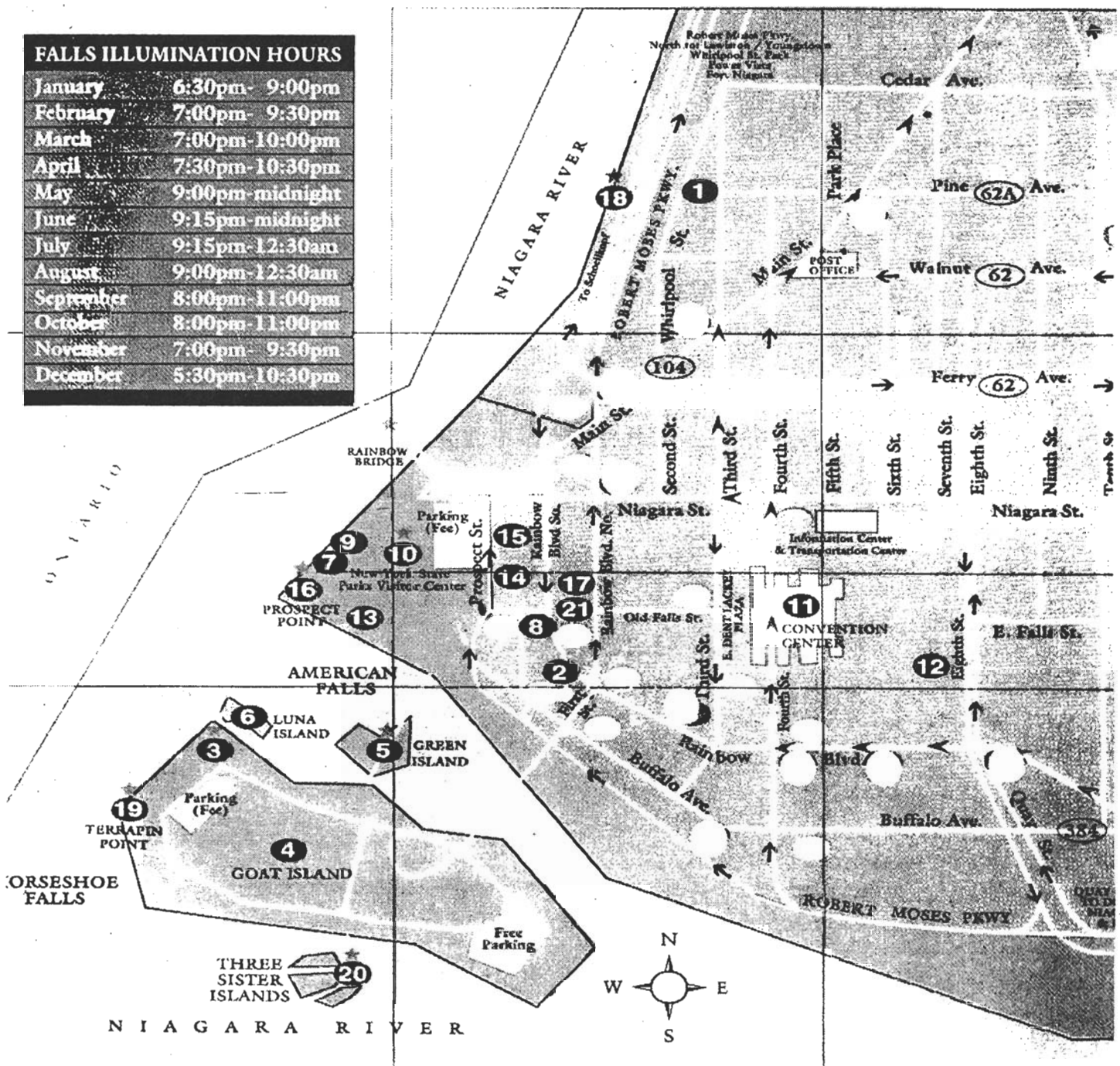
Complete Niagara Falls Tour...All the highlights on the American and Canadian side of the Falls. The tour will start on the Canadian side of the Falls, stopping at the beautiful Floral Clock, Whirlpool overlook, and the Table Rock area where your group can stand right next to the Canadian Horseshoe Falls, plus exclamation to the top of the Skylon Tower in Canada to see the falls from 520 feet up.

Then over to the American side to Goat Island which separates the American and Canadian side of the Falls.. Take a walk on the beautiful three sister's islands where we will have a breathtaking view of the upper rapids. Then a ride on the World-Famous Maid of the Mist Boat. Tour will last about 4 1/2 hours. Tour begins at 0900 and ends on or about 1430.

"Laissez Les Bon Temps Rouler"

LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL - IN DOWNTOWN NIAGARA FALLS

FALLS ILLUMINATION HOURS	
January	6:30pm- 9:00pm
February	7:00pm- 9:30pm
March	7:00pm-10:00pm
April	7:30pm-10:30pm
May	9:00pm-midnight
June	9:15pm-midnight
July	9:15pm-12:30am
August	9:00pm-12:30am
September	8:00pm-11:00pm
October	8:00pm-11:00pm
November	7:00pm- 9:30pm
December	5:30pm-10:30pm



- | | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Aquarium of Niagara Falls | 7. Maid of the Mist | 13. Niagara Reservation St. Park | 18. Schoellkopf Geological Museum |
| 2. Artisans Alley | 8. Native American center | 14. Wax Muscum of History | 19. Terrapin Point |
| 3. Cave of the Winds | 9. NYS Observation Tower | 15. Lighting-Oxy. Chem. Center | 20. Three Sisters Islands |
| 4. Goat Island Park | 11. Convention and Civic Center | 16. Prospect Point | 21. Wintergarden |
| 5. Green Island | 12. Gret Lakes Gardens | 17. Rainbow Center (Outlet Mall) | |
| 6. Luna Island | | | |

Radisson Hotel

At the International Convention Center

Third and Old Fall Street
P. O. Box, Falls Station
Niagara Falls, NY 14303-9988

517 Parachute Combat Team Association

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

If sharing room please state name _____

Date of arrival _____ Date of Departure _____

Check in....3:00 p.m.---Check out 12 noon...Reunion rate, single/double \$65.00 + tax

All reservations must be made on this form. Please enclose check for the first night's lodging . A written confirmation will be sent to you upon receipt.

We (517) have reserved a block of rooms to be held until 4 weeks prior to the opening of our reunion. The hotel will accept reservations on a first come basis at the contracted rate... \$65.00 (single or double) + taxes.

Cut off date for making reservations at this rate is April 17, 1993.

USAir

USAir begins with you

Air Transportation

USAir

USAir begins with you

USAIR has been designated as the official carrier for the attendees of the 517 Parachute Combat team Annual Reunion, May 16 - 20, 1993, in Niagara, Falls, New York. Airport serving Niagara Falls is in Buffalo, New York.

Together, USAIR and USAIR Express offer more than 4,800 flights daily to more than 260 cities.

For our meeting, USAIR and USAIR Express offers 55 flights and 5350 seats daily. Of course, USAIR Frequent Traveler members will earn a minimum of 750 Frequent Traveler miles when flying on USAIR to the reunion. Travel is valid on USAIR between May 14 - 22, 1993.

To obtain the most current flight and fare information, call the USAIR Meeting and Convention Reservation Office at 800-334-8644, 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Once your reservations are confirmed, USAIR will mail the tickets to you or suggest several other convenient methods of purchase.

If you normally use the services of a travel agent or corporate travel department, please have them place the call for you.

Refer to Gold File Number 51700006



(7)



REMEMBER CAMP MACKALL



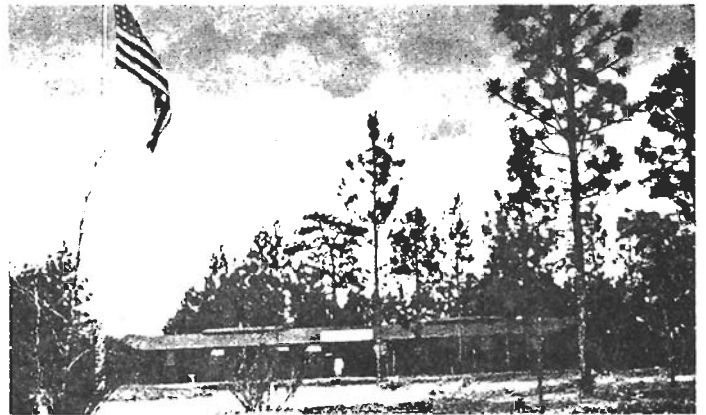
Typical Street, Camp Mackall, North Carolina



All purpose recreational building, Camp Mackall, North Carolina



Typical chapel, Camp Mackall, North Carolina



Post Headquarters, Camp Mackall, North Carolina



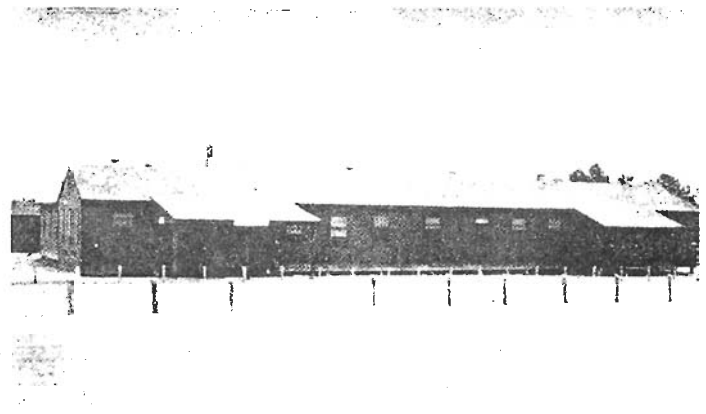
Typical theater, Camp Mackall, North Carolina



Division Headquarters, Camp Mackall, North Carolina



Street scene and one of the Division headquarters, Camp Mackall, N.C.



Station Hospital, Camp Mackall, North Carolina

PARA-PHRASES — From the Editor.....

It has been a long time between issues of WINGS-----too long. With your help with news items about you and your family as well as recent and WWII photographs, it is my sincere intention to resurrect WINGS on a regular schedule----quarterly with sufficient input from our members and at least semi-annually if your assistance is not forthcoming. We have about \$550 in the bank prior to paying the printing and posting expenses for this issue. Those expenses will make a substantial dent in the bank balance, so your help with a few dollars will be greatly appreciated. How much? Whatever you feel like sending from \$1 up to but not exceeding \$20. Thanks in advance for your support----most especially for your support with material and information to be used in our publication.

In this issue you will find an updated roster of 596ers with addresses and telephone numbers. Please let me know if you find any errors or omissions and keep me informed in the future of any change in your address. If you have an unlisted phone and don't mind, send me the number.

Recently ,while making corrections in our 596 membership roster, I found that I had conflicting and confusing addresses for a few members. One of those was Pop Spencer. I had one address for him and Bill Lewis had another. So I sent a post-card to both addresses asking Pop which one was correct. A few days later I received the following letter from Pop that I hope he won't mind my sharing with you. I think it is a Classic just like it's author. A collector's item, also.

Hi Charlie,

Well I was certainly surprised to get two letters from you on the same day! I called the Old Man (Moses) and told him. He laughed and said I should write more. So, I am writing to tell you thanks. I never write to anyone. I call the Old Man once or twice a month. As you know, my wife wrote the War Department and they had the Army have Col. Zais make me write to her----a total of three letters. So I am answering your letter. This will make the fifth letter I have written since the war. The 'Kid', my wife Mary, has had eye surgery and is doing well.

Charlie, I enjoyed hearing from you. Here is my correct address:
[REDACTED]. We are living in the same house, but I sold a realtor some of my land. He cut a new street, so our address changed. Phone No. [REDACTED]

Thanks for writing. Pop Spencer

Most of you know Clark Archer----he probably knows more about the history of our Combat Team than anyone else and he continues his search and quest for more information. He would like an answer to the following questions : Did a platoon of the 596 go out of Soissons with the 1st Bn of the 517 PIR? If so, which platoon was it?

During the Manhay attack, the 3rd Bn.(H and I Companies) of the 517 PIR were supported by a squad from the 596 PCEC on 27 Dec 1944. Which squad or platoon was this? Please take a few moments to send an answer to either or both questions to Clark Archer, [REDACTED] or call him at [REDACTED]. Please exercise your memory muscles and see if you can dredge up this information.

There are three words in the English language that end in GRY. Two of them are HUNGRY and ANGRY. Can anyone out there tell me the third? There will be a very desirable prize to the first correct answerer.

The paratroop units were highly selective - it was "hard to get in, but easy to get out".



15 April 1943 was the official activation date of the 596th Parachute Combat Engineer Company. To be more accurate it was the activation date of the forerunner, Company "C" of the 139th Airborne Engineer Battalion. In any case, 1993 marks an important birthday in the continuing life of the 596th. We can all celebrate this signal and singular occasion in our own way but I hope as many of us as possible will make the official celebratory event our biennial Combat Team reunion in Niagara Falls, NY, this coming May 17-20. You will find a registration form and other information about this reunion elsewhere in this issue. Please don't procrastinate---let's once again have the largest Company turn-out at this reunion. We have other special reasons to be at this one. For one thing, our current President of the Combat Team, Joe D. Miller, will be receiving much deserved recognition for his work in getting a generic airborne postage stamp issued in 1944 as well as plaudits for his leadership of our Combat Team during the past two years. For another thing, the incoming President is going to be Bob Dalrymple. His leadership during the next two years will no doubt reflect great credit on the 596 PCEC as well as upon himself. We need to be there in force to show our support and pride in his selection. A third reason to be at this reunion is directed to the many 596ers who live in the northeast and have not yet been to one of our reunions. I'm hoping you men will take advantage of this proximity and come to be a part of a 'homecoming', an Airborne spiritual revival, and a heartwarming embrace of long friendships and unforgettable memories---not all of them unpleasant by any means.

Our Executive Secretary Bill Lewis with the help of Frank Grbinich and others is planning and arranging and organizing a European tour for our Combat Team members for 1994---the 50th anniversary of our entry into combat and of our combat jump into southern France. This tour will take us to many places in Belgium and to the south of France and will be one of the most memorable and meaningful vacations of your entire life. I urge your consideration of this momentous and nostalgic sojourn.

1944 - 1994...Fiftieth Anniversary Tour of the World War II Battlefields rapidly approaching

We did have a good response considering the short deadline you received to send in the form declaring interest in the '94 Tour.

As of this date (October 29, 1992) the following are interested in joining us on our 50th Anniversary Tour of the Battlefields in 1994:

Name	Number	Unit
Dave Barry & Jule	2	D
Gene Brissey & Edie	2	E
Bob Brooten & Gwen	2	
B-460		
Gordon Champlon & Alta	2	E
Gonzallo Chlco	2	3rd Bn
John Fraser & Barbara	2	A
C. W. Gordy Jr., & Evelyn	2	
C-460		
Robert T. Greene	1	
Hqs. 460		

Sal Incontro & Frances	2	
D-460		
Doc Keen	6	B
Sug Lawrence	1	Hq.1
John Lissner & Veronica	2	F
Dallas Long & Mrs.	2	G/Hq
Jim McCafferty & Marian	2	
D-460		
Charles Pugh & Anne	2	596
Herb Reichwald & Marie	2	596
Harry K. Saunders	1	E
Al Sobel	1	C
Frank Streed & Alice	2	Med
William Bill Sanford	1	Hq.1
Ms Sue Stricker	1	Hq.1
Leo Turco & Joyce	2	
A-460		
Bill Uleman	1	Hq.2
Bob Vaught & Pat	2	I
Curtis D. Williams	1	Hq.1

This brings us a total of 45 with the first mailing after the 3rd Quarter Issue

Although we do enjoy ourselves on these anniversary trips, it isn't all fun and games.

We meet with the townspeople in the different areas in which we fought. We, while conversing with them, give them insight to what we endured during that period and they in return brief us on their activities during the great war.

They also guide us to the battle areas we are interested in. Many of them have been studying the terrain and our troop movements and some have more knowledge of what went on than some of us individuals.

Usually in a battle each trooper knows what transpires to his immediate front and flanks...years later we piece these together and get the big picture.

We haven't been able to get a firm figure this date, but have faith, we will come up with a fair tour cost.



Airborne



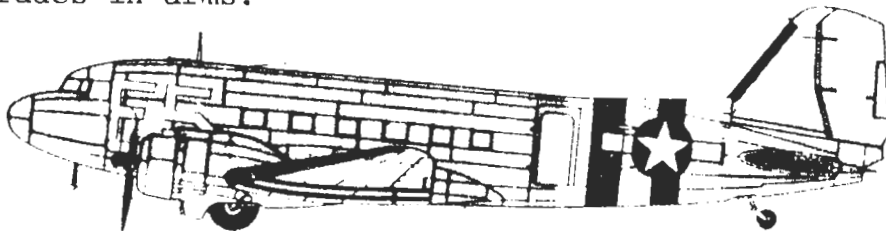
In a pre-Christmas newsletter for his "I" Company, 505 PIR Assn. fellow troopers, First Seageant Howard P. Melvin (4 combat jumps) wrote the following message that I think all of us can relate to. (During the Christmas of 1944 in Belgium, the 505 PIR and the 517 PRCT were situated side-by-side.):

"We all remember the days of battle when there always was a doubt if we would make the next Christmas.

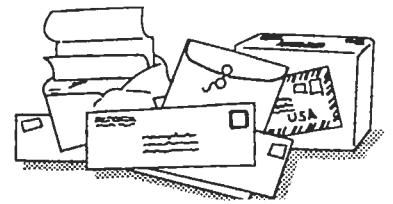
Remember well our ETO slogan, 'Home Alive in Forty-Five!'. When I left for the USA in April 1945, it was for a 30 day furlough---then to a Pacific Theatre assignment where their phrase was, 'Golden Gate in Forty-eight!'. Fortunately the atomic bomb cut three years off that saying.

Every year at this time, my mind returns to Christmas 1944. We were taking it in the Bulge! Weather had grounded our air cover since the 505 entered the battle on 17 December. Christmas morning broke clear. All day the sky was filled with allied aircraft. Enemy planes that attempted to halt this air assault were quickly destroyed. It was the first time that I was sure of victory in Europe. We saw a British Spitfire in a wild descent; cheered as the pilot bailed out and his parachute opened; and were exhilarated as he stumbled through the snow toward our lines as we yelled friendly greetings. A jubilant Tommy said, "How did you get here? Our intelligence has you miles to the rear." we replied, "The 82nd Airborne is always ahead of everyone." His answer, "What bloody luck to land among the bloody best!"

SO--HERE WE ARE TODAY! For this Yule Time as we gather our loved ones around the table to share a bountiful dinner and the special love and fellowship of the season----let us Salute those who made it possible for us to be here and to remember with Holiday Greetings our remaining comrades-in-arms!"



Mail Call



Hi, Charley and Ann,

It was great hearing from you even if your primary purpose was tracking me down. I do appreciate your interest, and this is to confirm that my current address appears ~~above~~ ^{BELOW}. We hope it will be a valid one for a long time.

In March of this year we bought a place and, like most used houses, there are a various odds and ends which need to be taken care of before we have it the way we want it. Anyway, we are enjoying being homeowners for the first time in our married life.

We officially retired from the Foreign Mission Board in February, 1991 after nearly 36 years in Africa. But somehow retirement still eludes us. I was doing some supply preaching and did an interim pastorate of about five and a half months. Then in May a church asked me to come as their interim pastor. It ended by the church extending a call for me to be their regular pastor. I asked them if they realized I was three years older than their former pastor who had retired at 65. They assured me it didn't matter and I have accepted their invitation. It is a small church in the Blue Ridge mountains and about 20 miles from our home. It was organized in 1851. We are really enjoying the time with them.

Mary's Mom died about a year after we got back to the States. Her Dad lives only one and a quarter miles from us. He takes all his meals with us and stays here at night. He will be 95 this coming March.

Our daughter, now forty years of age, is in her second year of medical school at Medical College of Virginia. Our older son, Tommy, also lives in Richmond and works with Reynolds Metals in the field of quality control. Roy, our youngest, is living in Wisconsin and is computer programmer for a company which installs automatic food processing units. It is chaffing to have children in work where we are limited in our ability to talk intelligently with them.

I'm still getting out to play golf about once a week, and in good weeks, I sometimes get in an extra nine. Someday I gonna take a vacation and play till I'm tired of it.

Well, Mary and I are to speak this evening at a banquet and talk about mission work in Africa. I only have about an hour to bathe, shave, and get ready so I'd better sign off now and get with it.

We wish you and Ann a wonderful Christmas and the very best in every way for the New Year.

Sincerely,

TOM & MARY SMALL

Mail Call



Here are some excerpts from a recent letter from HOMER L. McROY:

"I will be 68 on Jan. 6. I have a few health problems but so far nothing real serious. I have good days and bad days.

I see Sgt. Walker on occasion and he seems to be in pretty good shape. Living in the same town, we should see each other more than we do. I'm single---never got married. I have 2 sisters and four brothers still alive."



If you have changed your
address
please notify the Editor

596
PARACHUTE
COMBAT
ENGINEER
COMPANY

HERB REICHWALD writes:

Marie and I are just fine. I'm still busy restoring cars and enjoying it. Our two kids are north and south of us--Minnesota and Illinois----so being in the middle and living on a lake, we get together quite often. We are very fortunate in having 6 grandkids----naturally the best on the world!

We attended the "mini reunion" in Minneapolis the fall and the guys who organized it did a wonderful job. We really enjoyed ourselves and left a "contribution" to the Indians at their Mystic Lake casino.

Hopefully, we will make Niagara Falls if things go well. But we are definitely planning on the trip to Europe in '94 as we want to visit Germany again at the same time. I did write to Gerald Astor but I didn't feel qualified to give him details ----being a replacement and joining the 596 at the time that I did, it is hard for me to really recall in sequence what happened. But I did try.

Hope all is well with you and your lovely wife, Ann, and we hope to see you soon.

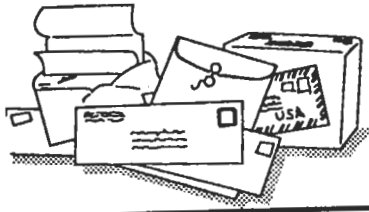
BOB ANDERSON writes:

Last year we had a nice visit with Al Schornberg and wife while they were in Mesa, AZ.

Our oldest son spent 10 years in the Navy and now farms in Michigan. My second son spent 2 years in Viet Nam and now works for the railroad in Chicago. Our daughter is married and they farm in western Nebraska near Big Springs. Our last child is an electrician and recently, while working in a grain elevator, the man-lift failed and he and another boy fell ninety feet. He can't do much even two years after the accident.

We have enjoyed good health. We retired in 1985. We get to Chicago and Michigan every summer. Our grand-daughter is a senior in high school and is our athlete. She has made state track meet every year and hopes to this year. We take in every meet. The other five grand-children are from kindergarten to freshman in high school. We also follow them whenever possible.

Hope all is well with you and with you a Merry Christmas. BOB



Mail Call

Dear Charley,

14 December 1992

Thank you very much for your telephone call of a few days back. No--I am not dead--though some of my friends may differ with that opinion. Also, thanks for the Christmas card.

To fill in where the phone call left off; the family is about the same, just getting older. Alice (wife) in good health, still married to me, which says something about her stupidity. Oldest daughter married to a Norwegian, one son, who spent a good part of the summer with us. Nest daughter--not married-- spends most of her time dictating or trying to, our lives. She lives close by. Only son, married, lives in L.A., Calivornia, has one child, girl, new--two months--and will be with us for Christmas.

As I mentioned on the phone, I am retired. I joined the Maryland Defense Force at the time of retirement, a little more than ten years ago, as a Captain. From a company CO to Bn.S-4 to Bd S-3 to L/O HQ. As you can see, attrition at our age takes a fearful toll. I am currently a Ltc. Asst. Chief of Staff, HQ.

Almost all of the states have a defense force, state guard, or whatever else they may wish to call themselves. Some are very active such as Texas, Maryland, Virginia, and California, to name but a few; and some states are just getting organized. I highly recommend that any 517,460, or 596er who has the time to serve to do so with his local defense force as the defense force can use their expertise. I must warn you, however, the pay stinks, abig zippo and sometimes even if you are called up. Tor the most part you would be paid, per Army rank, if activated. But take heart, the General gets no more than you under normal circumstances.

The Maryland Defense Force has been used for a variety of reasons and a mixed bag of locations for the past few years. There have been areas to close off, areas in which to look for lost people, traffic to direct, parades to parade in, etc. etc., but our biggest job is ongoing, assisting the National Guard in any way possible.

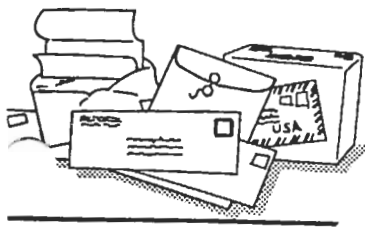
I have gained a great deal of pleasure from my association with the Force. There is the satisfaction of accomplishment, of helping your state and the comradship that goes eith any military organization. I must warn there are differences in my present military and that of the past. This one is total voluntary. In other words should one give and order, it best be worded to appeal to the recipient's desire to do what is asked for should he take offense, he may get mad, pick up his marbles and go home--and therewould be little you could do about it. (Editor: John, that sounds like my kind of military unit.)

I hope this letter brings you up to date. I truly hate to disappoint you in that I have not expired yet, least I hope I have not. Charley, have a fime Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

John L. Randall



PS: The State Defense Force Association of the U.S.A. will hold it's meeting in October here in Annapolis. Should any 517 RCT people be coming this way, tell them to look me up.



Mail Call

10 December 1992

Dear Charley,

This will be short but I promise a longer note within a week. I was away visiting my daughter in Oregon when your letter arrived. So, I am way behind with everything. I also will get a letter off to Gerald Astor this weekend..

Kaye passed away this summer after a couple of tough months and I mean tough. I have had a very difficult time adjusting to the new life without her being here. I'm over the hump now and am getting the new life going.

In my promised letter to you I also will give you my decision in regard to the "WINGS" publication. I'm leaning to a "yes"

My best to you and Ann,

Ed Phillips



Skipper Wayne Norwood writes as follows:

We have had a busy year and are shifting our base of operations to either the Bahamas or to Belize. Our oldest grandson has one of our boats in Belize at this time and we are considering taking the other one down within a couple of months.

In case you haven't heard, we have offered a standing invitation to join the "Knot Known" at no expense at NO Name Harbor near Miami for a cruise to Unnamed Harbor on Eluthera for an unspecified length of time. The only requirement is to give me at least six months lead time and come with only one duffle bag.

Oddly, we haven't had many takers so far. Wayne

Betty and Bob Wilkerson wrote the following in July, 1991:

"Dear Charlie, Just a brief note to let you know that Bob and I will not be in Reno with the 596th reunion. It is with deep sorrow that we cannot attend.

In February, our son and his wife were on vacation in Jamaica when she was taken ill with a very rare lung disease, 'Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis'. Its' cause is unknown. She was put in intensive care on their return. Only through open lung biopsy was the cause of her illness discovered. She was immediately put into a paralyzed state and a tracheostomy was performed. for 3½ months we stood by her bedside for the support we might give her. She was never able to communicate with us again except to blink her eyes in answer to a question. It was devastating to watch this beautiful 43 year old slip away from us. We lost her on June 9th.

We are still in a state of grief and I am sure we will be for a long time to come. We are just not in a party mood right now so we are staying close to our son for any help we can give him. Will truly miss seeing all of you.

We missed the Washington get-together because Bob had very major prostate surgery and wasn't well enough to come. Glad to say he is fine now.

Please remember us to all the guys and their ladies and we will be there in thoughts. hopefully we will make the next reunion."

The BATTLE FOR BRITAIN COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL

3rd SEPTEMBER 1939 - 8th MAY 1945

A
Commemorative
Medal
available to all those
who participated
in the
Battle for Britain

On Sunday September 3rd, 1939 the air raid siren signalled the beginning of the Battle for Britain. Across the nation the people braced themselves for a war for the future of the land they loved and the freedom they cherished.

From that fateful day it was a war which embraced the whole nation. The defeat of the Luftwaffe by the Royal Air Force during the Summer of 1940 removed the direct threat of invasion but it was a phase in the march to victory achieved by the concerted efforts of the whole nation. Winston Churchill's exhortation to confront the enemy in every possible place and manner not only required the utmost effort from the Armed Forces but from the population as a whole. The people contributed to victory through their work for a multitude of reserve and voluntary organisations, through the production of war materials and by maintaining the public utilities and services essential to the war effort and by prayer and vigilance throughout the nation and Commonwealth. They were also wonderfully supported by the armed forces of Allies and by many individuals from other Nations who joined the United Kingdom Armed Forces. As we now approach the 50th Anniversary of the start of World War II a war we did not want to fight yet could not possibly afford to lose a fine commemorative medal has been struck as a reminder of those dark days and the peace and freedom this Nation has enjoyed ever since.

This superb commemorative issue with appropriate clasp(s) is available to anyone who served in World War II in any of the following organisations, each which can be designated on the medal riband by a clasp(s). It can also be provided to the dependants of those who served who wish to honour the memory of their loved ones and, without a clasp, to those who witnessed those historic times.

Royal Navy	The Army	Royal Air Force
Fire Services	Air Raid Precautions	Merchant Navy
Royal Observer Corps	Police Forces	Local Defence Volunteers
Home Guard	Red Cross	St John Ambulance
NAAFI	Womens Land Army	RNLI
Essential Services	Coast Guard	FANY
Womens Volunteer Service	Air Transport Auxiliary	

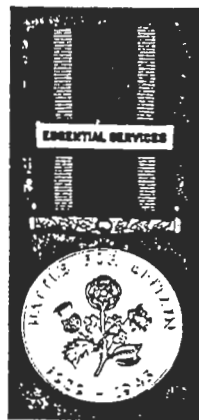
ALSO

The Armed Forces and Civilian Volunteers of the following who served in or with the armed forces of the United Kingdom.

CANADA	AUSTRALIA	NEW ZEALAND
SOUTH AFRICA	RHODESIA	WEST INDIES
U.S.A.	FRANCE	BELGIUM
SEYTHRIANIS	DENMARK	NORWAY
POLAND	CZECHOSLOVAKIA	LUXEMBOURG
	CHANNEL ISLANDS	

This is a medal that you are eligible to have and to wear (miniature) on military ceremonial occasions---Veteran's Day, Memorial Day, etc.. Unfortunately you must pay for the actual medal. They are available in full size and in miniature and can be charged to your Visa card. The British pound Sterling is worth about \$1.60 US. You can find out the exact rate of exchange from the international department of your local bank. Medals have been authorized for US servicemen of WWII who served in Europe during the war by several countries, Poland, France, Italy, Yugoslavia, and Belgium. Some of these countries have issued two such medals in honor of US servicemen who helped to liberate them. These medals must also be purchased. If you are interested in more information about what is available, the costs, and address of the sources, please see page 25 of this issue. Charley Pugh (16)

The medal is struck in plated base metal to the same high standard of finish as present-day national medals and decorations. The medal is, of course, commemorative and may only correctly be worn below official decorations and not as an addition to them. The medal is supplied complete with a black leatherette covered presentation case lined inside with red velvet and white satin. The case is stamped "Battle For Britain Commemorative Medal" in gold.



Obverse
England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are signified by an heraldic symbol showing respectively the rose, thistle, daffodil and shamrock, encircled by the words BATTLE FOR BRITAIN 1939-1945



Reverse
St. Paul's Cathedral as seen through the smoke and fumes of the Blitz during the night of 29th December 1940

Riband

The 12mm wide woven riband comprises a central band of green symbolising the countryside of the United Kingdom, bordered by a narrow red stripe which is emblematical of the fire and danger of the Blitz and towards each edge a band of light blue and black representing the continuous day and night struggle for survival and eventual victory.

Suspender Bar

Depicts oak leaves emblematical of virtue and strength

Clasps

The names of the organisations to which the medal holder belonged can be shown on a clasp which is attached to the riband. There is room for up to three clasps to be worn.

← U.S.A.



APPLICATION FORM

This prestigious commemorative medal is available to those who served the Nation during the Battle for Britain 1939-1945 as well as those who witnessed the events or wish to commemorate loved ones.

All profits will be donated to the Lord Dowding Sheltered Housing Project and the Research Into Cancer Immunology Fund.

Please supply

Commemorative Medal(s) @ £22.50

Complete with one clasp(s) @ £25.00

..... **U.S.A.** (clasp title)

Extra clasps @ £2.50 each

..... **U.S.A.** (clasp titles)

These prices include V.A.T. and postage in the U.K. and, for overseas customers, packing and postage by air mail.

I enclose £..... remittance.
Please make cheques/postal orders payable to RAFAMACS LTD., the distributing agents for the medal.

Please debit my Access/Visa

Account No.

Expiry Date /

Please use Block Capitals

NAME

ADDRESS

..... Post Code

Signature Date

Post to:
RAFAMACS LTD.
(Distributing agents for Commemorative Promotions Ltd.)
9 The Hollies, Graiseley Row,
Wolverhampton, WV2 4HJ.
(Telephone No: 0206-577881)

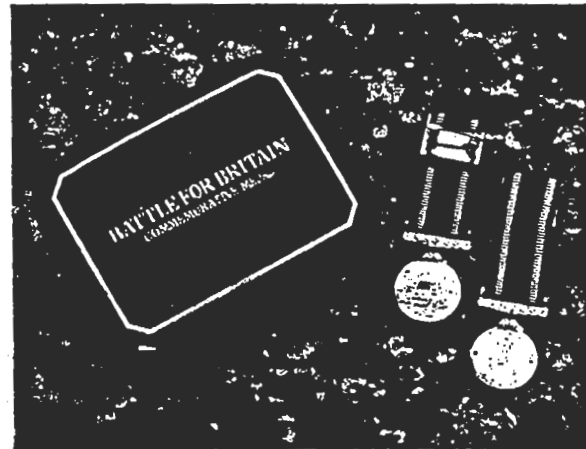


Commemorative Promotions Limited is a company set up under the auspices of The Royal Air Forces Association to trade in commemorative products.

It covenants all of its profits to Registered Charities.



BATTLE FOR BRITAIN MINIATURE Commemorative Medal



RAFAMACS Ltd., proudly announce the availability of a MINIATURE of the Battle for Britain Commemorative Medal.
Supplied complete with an attractive black and gold presentation case.

RAFAMACS Ltd. IS THE TRADING COMPANY OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION

Please supply Miniature Medal/s @ £12.50 each.

I enclose cheque for £

Please debit my/Visa/Access account number

Expiry Date /

Please use block capitals.

Name

Postcode Signature Date

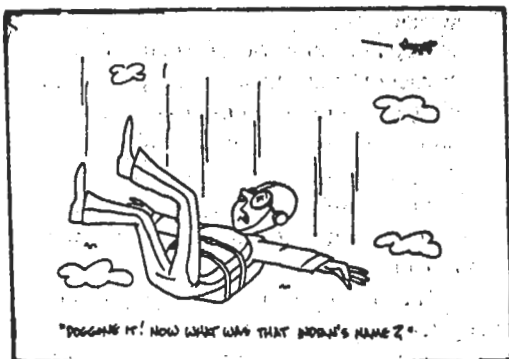
Post to: RAFAMACS Ltd., 9 The Hollies, Graiseley Row, Wolverhampton, WV2 4HJ. Tel: 0902 311957

Printed by Hargrett, Wolverhampton, WVB 6AA. Telephone: 0422 88811.

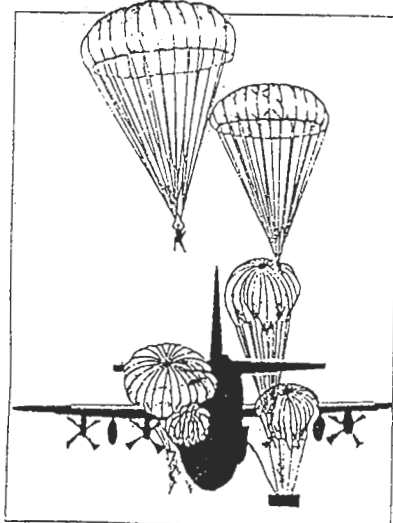
PARA-PHRASES

Bill Lewis has been discouraging individual Companies of the Combat Team from setting up separate hospitality rooms, contending, with some justification and logic that the Combat Team Hospitality Suite is large enough for everyone; is well stocked; and promotes more and wider camaraderie. For the past couple of reunions, the 596 has cooperated with that request but we have found ourselves, on both occasions, forced to have a Company meeting in someone's bedroom that was not nearly large enough to accommodate the number of people. Our Company elects it's own officers at each reunion and we give awards and recognition to members of our group and for at least one afternoon and evening we need to meet with just ourselves and family members for some ,what I like to call, '596ing'. Without our own hospitality room or suite, we never all can get together in one p/ace at the same time and this diminishes the pleasure we get from the reunion. All of us spend time visiting with our many friends of the 517 and 460 in the Main Hospitality Suite and that is also a very important part of our reunioning but to really do our vitally necessary '596ing' we must have some time together in a more private setting.

I talked recently with 596 Chief Engineering Officer Gene Markle about us reserving a room for the 596 Hospitality and Attitude Adjustment Room at our hotel in Niagara Falls in May and he told me that he and our second in command, Bob Verdi, had already made the decision to do this.



1993



"If it moves, tax it.
If it moves again,
regulate it.
If it continues to
move, subsidize it.

— author unknown

WANT YOUR MEDALS?

NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER
Entitlement to Awards Division
9700 Page Boulevard • St. Louis, MO 63132

Gentlemen:

Please send to me, at the address below, my Government issued Medals and Entitlement to Awards Letter.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____

BRANCH OF SERVICE _____

DATE OF ENLISTMENT _____

SERIAL NUMBER (Service #) _____

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER _____

_____ signed _____ date
Print in all information in the appropriate blocks and mail to:

National Personnel Records Center
Entitlement to Awards Division
9700 Page Boulevard • St. Louis, MO 63132
Send a copy of both sides of your Discharge papers.

AIRBORNE

POETRY

THE REUNION

From all across the land they came,
with just one thought in mind
To share again the memories
of the days left behind.

'Tis almost fifty years ago that they
stood on foreign soil
And said good-bye to friends they'd
known, in blood and sweat and toil.

They are Fathers, Husbands, Friends,
of many different kinds
But just for now they're veterans of
another war and time.

Theirs is friendship forged in danger,
and tempered under fire
But these are combat soldiers, and
fighting men don't cry.

They bow their heads in tribute to
those not here today
Those men who once they knew as
friends, who fell along the way.

Their ranks are growing thinner now,
the passing years will tell
But they are soldiers, everyone,
who served their country well.

And so they meet, embrace and talk,
and remember days of yore
For theirs is just a deep desire,
to see their friends once more.

This may be their last reunion,
for some it is the last good-bye
Till they meet again in Heaven-
At the great Reunion in the sky.

Copied from the Summer 1991 issue of the
PARAGLIDE, 82nd Airborne Division Assn.

THIS BEAUTIFULLY CONCEIVED AND CRAFTED
POEM SHOULD MAKE YOU WANT EVEN MORE TO
BE IN NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK, 17-20 MAY 1993.

Wilson's Corollary: An expert is a person who avoids
the small errors while sweeping on to the grand fallacy.



1943 - 1945
517 Parachute Infantry Regiment
460th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion
596 Parachute Combat Engineer Company
442 Anti Tank Company (Glider)
Company D, (4.2) 83rd Chemical Battalion (Glider)



STATUS ON AIRBORNE MUSEUM

There has been much talk recently about the construction of an Airborne Museum. General James J. Lindsay (U.S. Army Ret., former C.G. of the U.S. Special Operations Command), is spearheading this operation.

At the present time, through the efforts of Gen. Lindsay and other airborne leaders, aided by Congressional friends and Fort Bragg area business leaders, Congress has agreed to fund the museum to the tune of \$4,000,000. The additional funds needed, approximately \$8,000,000 have yet to be sought or obtained.

We do need an Airborne Museum. We need a museum that will cover all of the Airborne units, Divisions, Combat Teams, Regiments, Battalions, Companies, Rangers, FSSF, Special Forces, Airborne Command, Korean War Rangers, World War II Glider Pilots, OSS, etc., etc. In other words, we need a museum that will cover and include all units that fit under the generic umbrella of "AIRBORNE".

The limited plans that have been released to date sound and look good. There is only one problem and that is the proposed name of the museum. Gen. Lindsay plans to call it the "Airborne/Special Operations Museum". Nine of the ten units that were part of the 50th Anniversary Airborne Foundation, and who have replied to my inquiry as to their

unit's position on this proposed name, have indicated that they prefer that the museum be called the Airborne Museum or the Airborne Heritage Museum. While they are proud of the Special Operations personnel, they have indicated that they do not think it proper to single out Special Operations and put it on the title of the museum.

At the Board of Directors meeting in New Orleans, this matter was discussed at some length, and it was the unanimous feeling of the members of the Board that the museum should be called Airborne Museum or Airborne Heritage Museum. Ed Siergiej and your Editor were appointed as a committee of two, to relate the Board's feeling to Gen. Lindsay, and to keep on top of future action, both as to the name of the museum and other activities regarding the museum. A copy of our letter to Gen. Lindsay is reproduced below. If you support the position of your Board of Directors why not drop Gen. James Lindsay a line? Address it to Gen. James Lindsay, US Ret., President, Airborne Museum Foundation, Post Office Box 70455, Fort Bragg, NC 28307 0455.



Joe Quade

Joe Quade served on the Executive Committee of the USA Airborne 50th Anniversary Foundation that planned, organized, arranged financing, and conducted the Golden Anniversary Celebration of Airborne in Washington, DC in 1990. He has been a leader in the Airborne community for many years and is the Editor of THUNDER from HEAVEN, the publication of the 17th Airborne Division Association, our parent organization.

The Airborne 50th Anniversary Celebration was in the planning and organizational stages for three years. The verall cost was about **\$380,000** and the Committee (composed of one representative from each Airborne organization--about 21 of us) had to raise that money. Each of us served at our own expense. Many of the unit reps lived in the immediate vicinity of Washington, DC where we met every 90 days for three years, but a few of us had long commutes that involved three days for each meeting and plane fare and hotel bills. It cost me in money spent plus lost income about \$20,000.

Fortunately we were able to raise the necessary funds for the Airborne Birthday Celebration and we have ended up with more than \$11,000 plus 800, as yet unsold, Airborne 50th Anniversary books.

(Continued on next page)

17TH AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

"THUNDER
FROM
HEAVEN"

(OFFICIAL PUBLICATION)

EDITOR:
JOE QUADE
23 WESTMINSTER DRIVE
MONTVILLE, N.J. 07045
(201) 263-2433
FAX (201) 263-2433

GENERAL JAMES LINDSAY
PRESIDENT, AIRBORNE AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS
MUSEUM FOUNDATION
POST OFFICE BOX 70455
FORT BRAGG, NC 28307 0455

AUGUST 13, 1992

DEAR GENERAL LINDSAY,

THE 17TH AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION HAS JUST CONCLUDED A MOST SUCCESSFUL REUNION IN NEW ORLEANS. THIS WAS OUR 35TH CONSECUTIVE REUNION AND WAS ATTENDED BY 350 TROOPERS ALONG WITH A LIKE NUMBER OF FAMILY AND GUESTS. NEXT YEAR WE WILL HOLD OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION IN THE CATSKILLS OF NEW YORK STATE, AND IN 1994, WE WILL MEET IN PINEHURST, NC.

A GREAT DEAL OF DISCUSSION WAS DEVOTED TO THE PROPOSED ALL AIRBORNE MUSEUM WHICH YOU ARE HEADING. IT WAS THE UNANIMOUS DECISION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS THAT THE MUSEUM SHOULD BE CALLED AIRBORNE MUSEUM OR AIRBORNE HERITAGE MUSEUM. THE ADDITION OF THE WORDS 'SPECIAL OPERATION' IN THE TITLE WAS AGAIN UNANIMOUSLY REJECTED.

THE OFFICERS AGREED UPON THE LOCATION BEING AT FORT BRAGG. THEY WERE MOST INTERESTED IN HOW THE IDENTITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL UNITS, IN OUR CASE THE 17TH AIRBORNE DIVISION, WOULD BE PROVIDED FOR AND MAINTAINED, IN THIS GENERIC MUSEUM. WE ARE MOST ANXIOUS TO HAVE A 'SPOT OF OUR OWN', SO THAT THE GLORIOUS, BUT TIME LIMITED (1943-45) HISTORY OF THE 17TH AIRBORNE DIVISION WOULD BE PERPETUATED IN HISTORY.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY EDWARD J. SIERGIEJ AND I WERE APPOINTED TO BE THE REPRESENTATIVES TO YOUR NATIONAL BOARD OF MUSEUM FOUNDATION.

AIRBORNE

Joe Quade
JOE QUADE
Thunder from Heaven

ARDENNES • RHINELAND • CENTRAL EUROPE



(Continued from page 20)

Our original plan was to give any excess funds to the new GENERIC(?) Airborne Museum that was recently partially funded by the Congress and is to be constructed in Fayetteville, NC. The plans for this museum are in the formative stages at this time. Many of us in the Airborne community are not pleased with the attitude of the curator, Gen. James Lindsay (Ret) or his proposed name for the museum or his concept of the way in which the museum will be set up. Therefore, we are polling the Airborne units that are affiliated with the Airborne Foundation to determine to whom they wish us to donate the funds. The Internal Revenue Service mandates that the recipient(s) be non-profit 501(c3) and we, of course, prefer that the recipient(s) be associated with the military, preferably Army Airborne. There are other Airborne museums to whom the money might be donated but not one of them is generic. This point is particularly important to independent Airborne units such as ours and the 509th, 508th, 551st, etc.. The 517th PRCT is on record as favoring the division of the remaining funds proportionately by numbers of members in each unit and returned to those units.

We plan to mail the remaining 800 books to Army military libraries and schools throughout the United States. It would take another two or three years to sell them all and we want to wind up the affairs of the Airborne Foundation. We have already given more than five years to this project and we think this is enough and would now prefer to devote our time and energy to other things. We are proud to the result of our efforts and we feel honored to have been asked by our Airborne brothers to be responsible for putting this singular and historic event together but it is now time to finish our business and close out the Foundation as we were initially instructed. The Airborne 50th Anniversary book is the definitive history of all Airborne units and will be a valuable reference source for military historians in the future.

Charley Pugh

A MATTER OF POLITICAL MATH

The following definition of the various "isms" has been making the rounds.

Socialism: You have 2 cows. The government takes one and gives it to your neighbor.

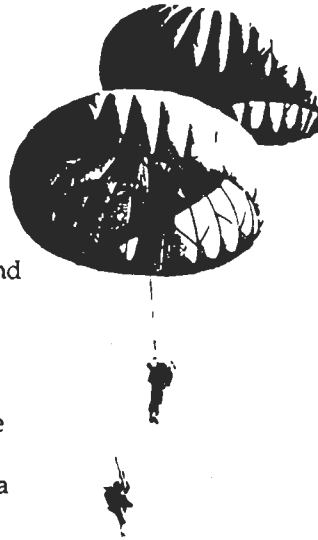
Communism: You have 2 cows. The government takes both and gives you the milk.

Fascism: You have 2 cows. The government takes both and sells you the milk.

Nazism: You have 2 cows. The government takes both cows and shoots you.

New Dealism: You have 2 cows. The government buys both cows, shoots one, milks the other one and throws the milk away.

Capitalism: You have 2 cows. You sell one cow and buy a bull.



A TOAST FOR 1993

Here's to those we love, and may blessings be bestowed on them.

And here's to those that love us, and may blessings be bestowed on them.

And here's to those who love us not. We would ask that their hearts would be turned.

But if their hearts would not be turned, we would ask that their ankles be turned,

So that we would know them by their limp.

Cheers.

CASUALTY ASSISTANCE: In the event of the death of an ARMY veteran, the next of kin should immediately call (703) 325-7990 - Casualty Assistance Office, (Collect), to obtain information concerning procedure to receive military assistance regarding any burial benefits or burial expenses authorized, and interment in a national cemetery. The Casualty Assistance Office is staffed and operational 24 hours daily - 365 days a year. However, before calling have the veteran's Discharge Certificate or DD Form 214 available to provide required information to the Casualty Assistance Office, the Funeral Director and Military Cemetery Superintendent. KNOW WHERE THESE DOCUMENTS ARE STORED - BE SURE THEY ARE READILY AVAILABLE

This issue of WINGS has many more pages than you can expect with future issues. Because of the long time interval since the last issue, there is a backlog of material. The content and size of future issues will depend to a large extent on each of you. Please drop me a few lines about yourself and your family and a photo or two from either the present and/or past. Your reminiscences from our 1943-45 years together would be of interest to us all. So let me hear from you and WINGS will be more interesting and meaningful to all of us.

LES ARCS

THE PARATROOPERS'
TRIANGLE !!

La Motte

THREE VILLAGES UNITED FOR A COMMEMORATION

(Newspaper "VAR-MATIN"
Fr. Nov. 20th '92

Mr Georges MEISSONNIER (who is the Mayor's brother in LES ARCS) has invited a group of WW II Veterans who had lived the glorious hours of Operation "DRAGOON" to meet at LES ARCS City Hall; Mr LEOCARD, an Associate Member of the 517 PRCT, was with them. The meeting took place on Monday, Nov. 17th. The idea is to prepare the 50th Anniversary of those glorious events of August 15th 1944 by a memorable Commemoration. As the greater part of the paratroopers jumped in the triangle LE MUY, LA MOTTE, LES ARCS, the Veterans with Mr MEISSONNIER decided to get in touch with their neighbors in LE MUY and LA MOTTE, so that the three villages may join in the celebration of that anniversary.

There may be as many as 3 or 400 American Paratroopers here in August '94.

Thus, that meeting was the very starting of an ambitious plan; the neighboring villages with their mayors and Veterans will certainly agree to take part in the ceremonies.

A very good idea; we will follow its realization.

Dear Comrades-in-Arms,

You have just read above the translation of a clipping of a PROVENCE Newspaper : "VAR-MATIN" about the 50th Anniversary of Operation "DRAGOON". You can see that people intend a big celebration in August, that is on the very anniversary of the glorious days of 1944.

I do know that August may be very hot in PROVENCE; there may be a lot of traffic on the roads when so many Europeans are holidaying on the Riviera. I do know, too, that travels and hotels are more expensive than in October or even in September. But the 50th Anniversary -- after the 40th & the 45th -- is to be the greatest of all because a lot of us -- thanks God ! -- are still in pretty good health to celebrate August '44. We all know that there may be fewer Veterans on the 60th Anniversary...

Let us not deceive the French Veterans who are ready to welcome us in mid-August 1994 ; Of course, as it had been done in the past years, in 93, 95, 96 etc... large groups will always be welcome any time throughout the year !

Brotherly regards,

Aimé
Aimé S. Léocard

Le Muy

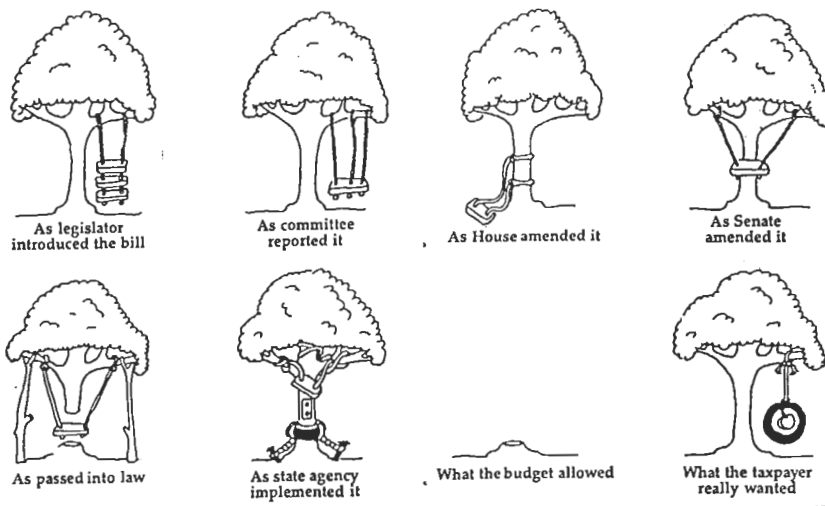
CAN WE TALK ?

Health permitting, these members of the 596 should be able to attend the Niagara Falls Reunion. It is unlikely that we shall have another reunion this near to them for a long time, if ever again. With this nucleus so nearby to draw from, the 596 may enjoy the largest reunion attendance ever. Wouldn't that be GREAT!!! Try to be a part of it.

Mike Bulino---PA	Sal Ciulla---NY	Dennis Diamon---NY	Pat Kelly---NY
Bernard Freiberg---PA	Ned Hosterman---PA	Ernie Kosan---PA	Al Kunzer---NY
Joe LaLiberte---NY	Ed Larivey---NY	Jack McConnell---PA	Ed Phillips---ME
James MacFadden---PA	John Moon---NY	Francis O'Lone---PA	Ray Poe---PA
Vince Podrasky---PA	Don Saunders---NY	Hank Simpson---NY	Elmer Szakacs---NY
Edgar Wurch---NJ			

Reprinted with permission of the Texas Municipal League

The Legislative Process



Allan Goodman wrote as follows in September, 1991:

Dear Charles and Ann, We were very sorry to miss the Reno-Sparks reunion but just had too much going on to do everything last summer. Things have finally quieted down. We delivered our Grandson(David Pereira) to Cal-Poly University, San Luis Obispo, last Sunday to begin his college studies in Industrial Engineering and we are alone again.

Our month of June in Colombia was very interesting. My son-in-law's Mother is one of eleven children, many of whom are prominent in government, military, and medicine, and so German has 42 first cousins. All the Aunts, Uncles, etc. wanted to entertain us so we were busy. The four brothers belong to different clubs so I had to play golf on each course. The caddies were as good as Scotland's and could club me after watching my game for a couple of holes. The top caddy fee was equivalent to \$4.50. Food and all labor related services are very cheap.

The major thing we accomplished, other than seeing our two Grandson's graduate from High School, was that the biggest drug lord in Colombia(Escobar) surrendered when he heard somebody from the 517/596 was in the country. In Addition, all the guerilla revolutionary groups stopped fighting and went to Venezuela where they participated in the re-writing of the Colombian Constitution. There are still some minor conflicts going on but if they don't settle perhaps you two would go back with us and that should really do the trick. All in all it was a great trip, beautiful country and countryside but still a third world in the sense of the haves and have nots. Seventy percent of the area is the Llanos(plains) area which is inaccessible ^{by} road most of the time and undeveloped. Lots of new oil being discovered so German and his brothers' businesses are doing fine.

Hope you can make Palm Springs mini-reunion. Love to you both.

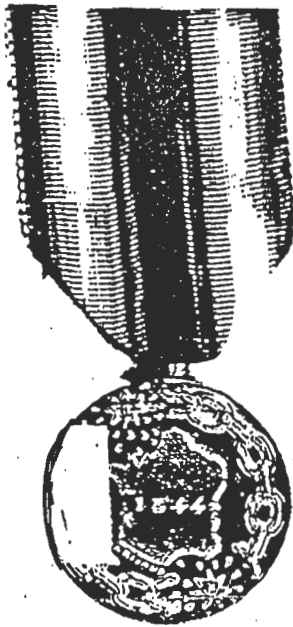
RENO, NV 1991



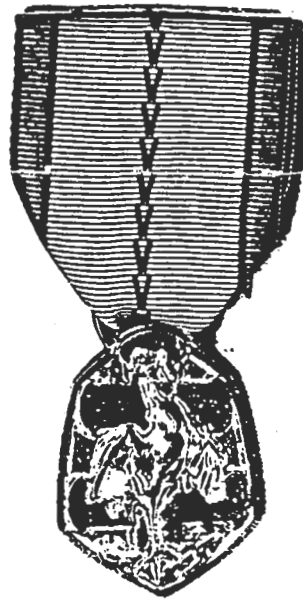
First Row L to R--Ventoza, Saunders, Eddy, Verdi, Conger, Simpson
Second Row L to R--Moses, Roberts, Miller, Shull, Ward, Horrigan, Pugh, Leocardi
Third Row L to R--Bulino, Christian, Dalrymple, Markle, Madison, Lucy

medals

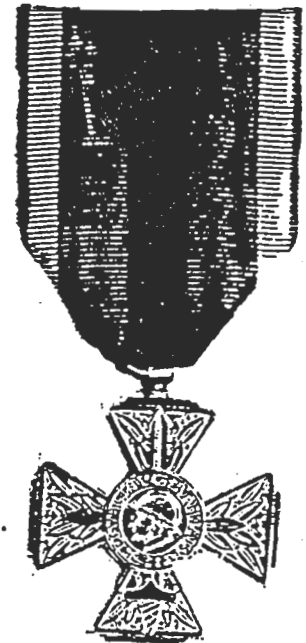
Here are six medals that have been issued by European countries to honor Allied servicemen who participated in their liberation in WWII. The price is listed under each one. Service ribbon bars are available for each one for an additional \$2.50 each.



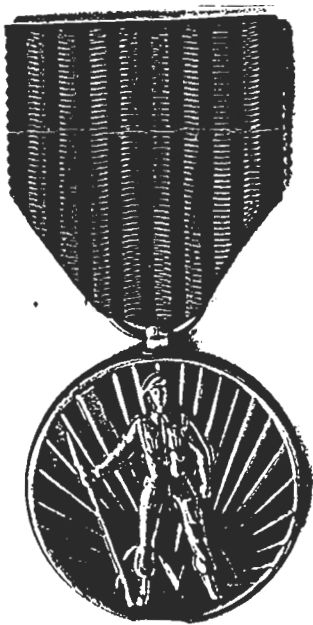
Medaille de la France Liberee \$18



Medaille Commemoratif Francaise 1939/1945 \$17

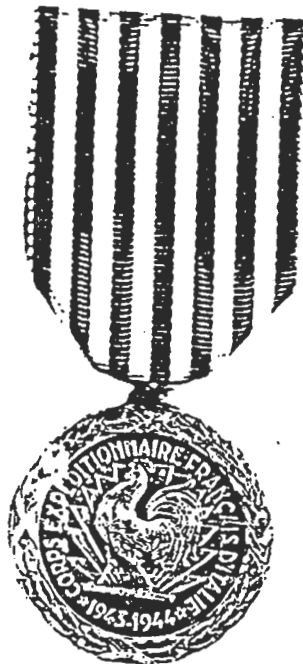


Croix du Combattant Volontaire 1939/1945 \$19

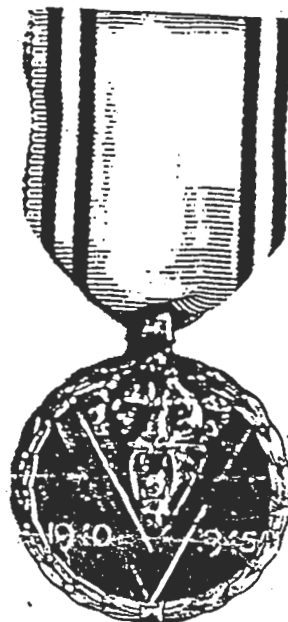


MEDAILLE DU VOLONTAIRE 1940-1945 (Belgium)

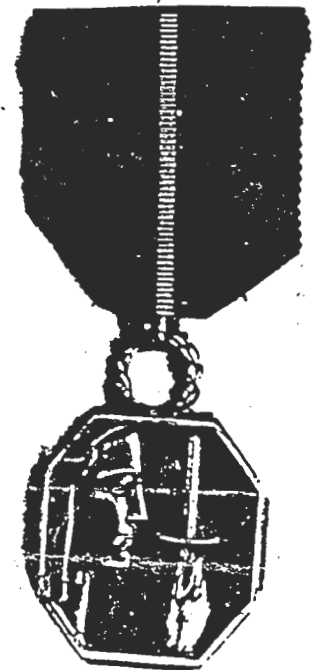
Price to Member \$21.00



Medaille de la Campagne d'Italie \$19



Belgian Commemoratif Medal \$20



Medaille de la Reconnaissance (Gratitude) Belge \$22

and the Belgian Croix de Guerre

These medals as well as the French Croix de Guerre are available to you thru membership (\$5.00 dues) in the American Order of the French Croix de Guerre, Inc., 141 East 44th St., Suite 604, New York, NY 10017. You need to inform the President, Stephen Kovach, what unit you served with in Europe during WWII. That will probably be sufficient and he will probably not ask for a copy of your discharge paper. Mr. Kovach can tell you the cost of the French Croix de Guerre and any other foreign medals issued since the war for which you qualify.

596 PARADE MARCHERS---Washington,DC----7 July 1990

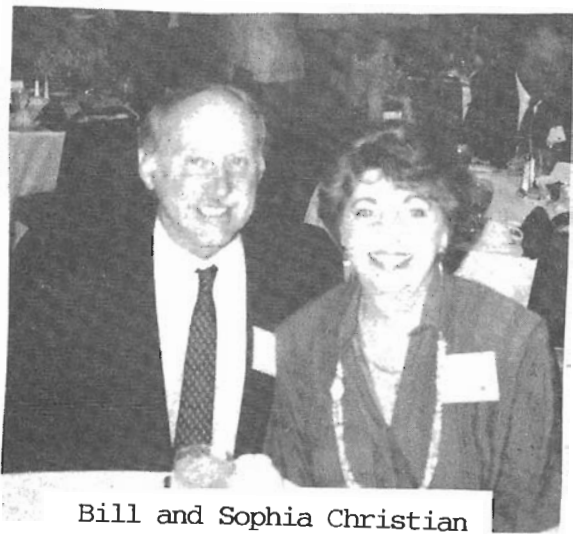


L to R--Saunders, Shull, Ward, Bramley, Jim Lyon, Simpson, Conger, Miller, Wes Williams, Bulino, Goodman, Dalrymple

WASHINGTON, DC----1990



Seated L to R--Conger, Wes Williams, Saunders, Bramley, Bulino, Ward
Standing L to R--Dalrymple, Pugh, Simpson, Shull, Miller, Jim Lyon, Goodmen



Bill and Sophia Christian



Mary Ann Madison & Gene Markle



Don Smith



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

COMPANY B of the 11th Airborne Division stationed in Germany was sent on a two-day march. The weather was cold and rainy, and the roads soon turned to mud. The battalion commander, a colonel, marched with the troops, first with one group and then another. On this moonless night, most of the men didn't recognize the colonel with his rain gear on and military insignia covered up. One miserable private leaned toward him and said, "Can you believe some idiots actually make a career out of this?"

—Contributed by Jennie B. Vandiver



Bill & Gloria Hudson



Lyle Madison, Allan Goodman, & Bill Hudson



Russ and Mary Pearson

Attorney Mickey Moses (begat by our Moses)
with wife, Cyndi, and children

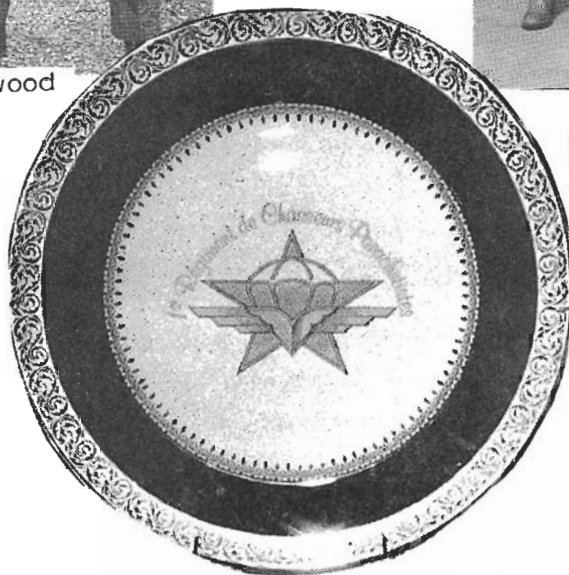


Pop Spencer, Moses & Jim Greenwood

COME TO NIAGARA FALLS IN MAY TO HEAR MOSES' SON MICKEY TELL HOW HE CAME UPON HIS DAD IN THE HOTEL IN RENO, WANDERING THE HALL IN HIS UNDERWEAR, LOCKED OUT OF HIS ROOM.



Therna & Bernie Barnes with Don Saunders--June 1991

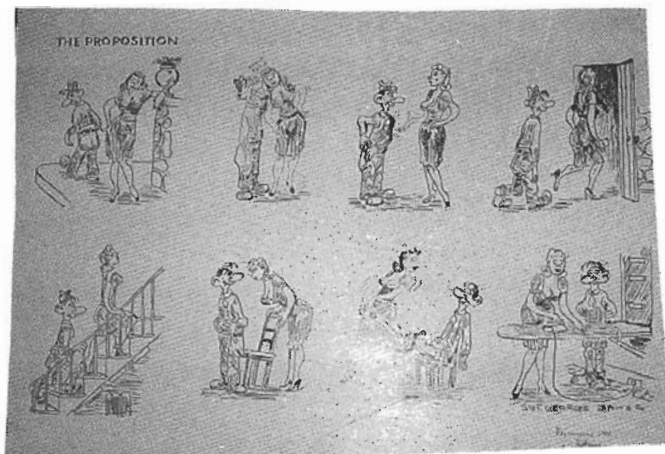


1er Regiment de Chasseurs Parachutistes

We are all Honorary members of this French Regiment and wear the Wings shown on this plate.



Shipley & Roy Herren



THE PROPOSITION---Sad Sack



Herb Larson and Ann

DO YOU REMEMBER?



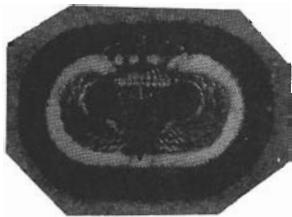
Saunders & Herrera



Clarence Hatlestad



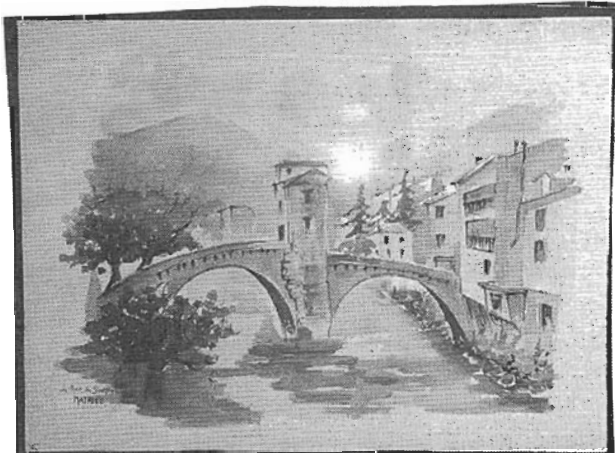
Sterling(?) & Thomas



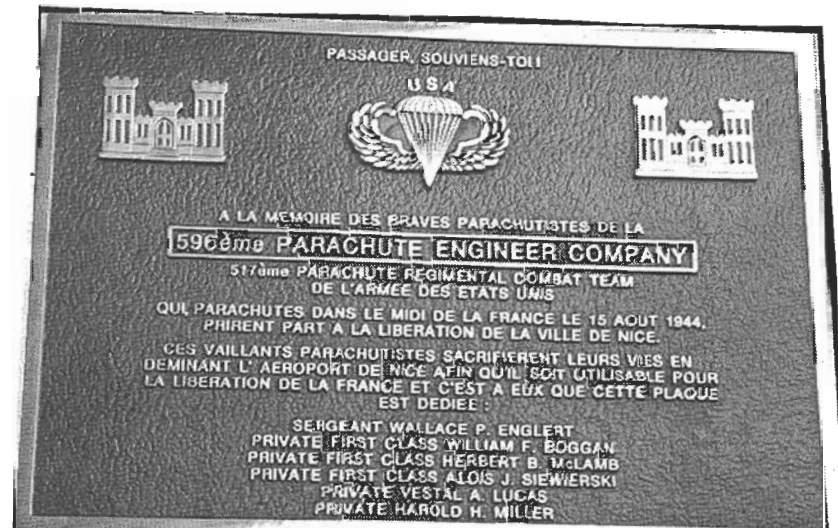
THE VERY BEST



52 YEARS OF AIRBORNE!!!!!!



Painting of the Bridge at Sospel, France



Bronze Memorial Marker at entrance to airport main terminal at Nice, France

DO YOU REMEMBER?



Louis Barbera with Thompson sub-machine gun, watched by Bernard Lyon—Camp Mackall



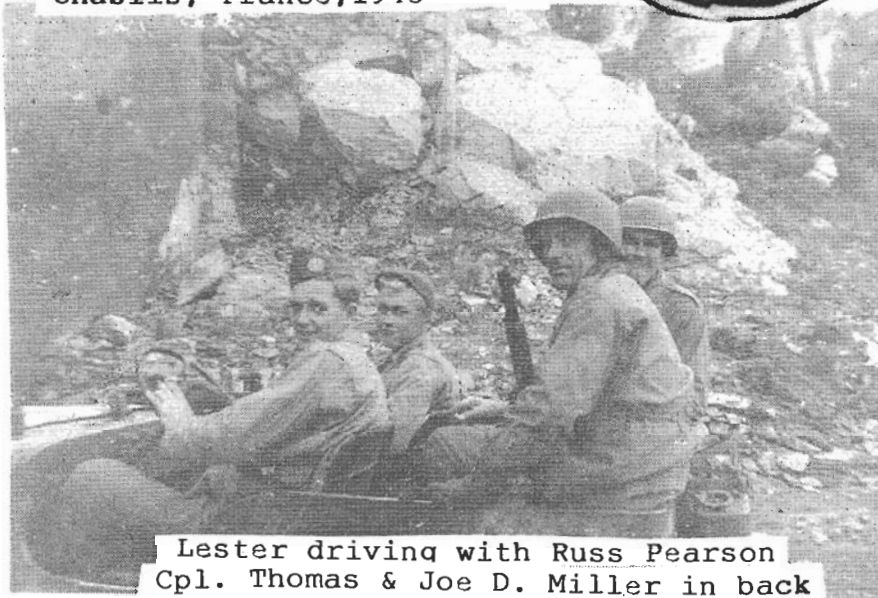
George Ayling



Jim Lyon on right
Who's on left?
Chablis, France 1945



Lt. ? , Lt. Dillard, Lt. Hild
Chablis, France, 1945



Lester driving with Russ Pearson
Cpl. Thomas & Joe D. Miller in back



Podrasky & Saunders



TAPS



"I am so sorry to have to tell you that my dear husband, Dick Nosky, passed away unexpectedly of a heart attack last June 11. I am sorry he did not get to a reunion but he so enjoyed all of your correspondence. He read and kept it all. Thanks." FRANCES M. NOSKY

Re: Merrill W. Seeley (Army Serial No. 37 562 243)

Dear Dr. Pugh:

First I will introduce myself and then explain the nature of my letter. I am Merrill Seeley's daughter. He was a paratrooper for the United States Army in World War II, Corporal, Company B, 307th Airborne Engineer Battalion, 596th Airborne Engineer Company (see enclosed discharge papers).

The purpose of my letter is to inform you he died May 2, 1991 of cancer. He received the quarterly publication *The Thunderbolt*. My mother gave me your name and address from Dad's files when I asked her if she wanted me to write this publication and inform them of Dad's death. Your name, I assume, was isolated because you and Dad were in the same engineer company (596th). I don't understand all the military jargon and numbers on his papers. My mother's name is Dorothy Mae (Anderson) Seeley. There are five children in our family: Jeffrey Allen, Lewiston, MA; Michael James, Ashtabula, OH; Shirley Roxanne Cox, Highlands Ranch, CO; Jill Marie Berry, Cincinnati, OH.

Dad did not talk to me much about the service but he did tell some interesting stories ever so often from times in France and the Battle of the Bulge. It's sad how you never know how much you love your parents until they're gone.

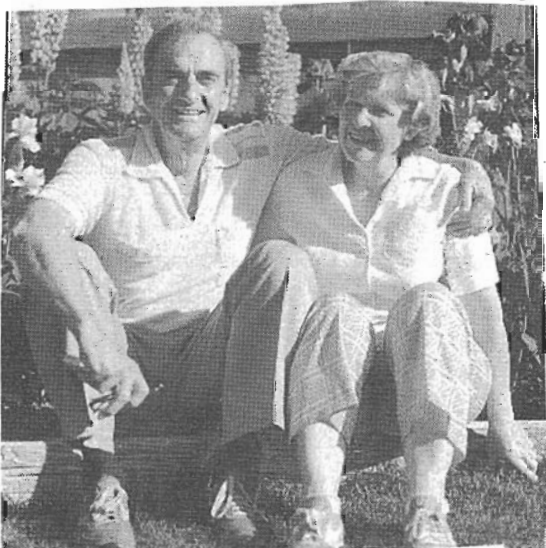
I will write the magazine itself and inform them of Dad's death and send a check as we still wish to continue receiving the pamphlet but I wanted to write you individually since your name was in Dad's files.

Jamie Lynne Suman
6281 W. Elmhurst Avenue
Littleton, CO 80123

Sincerely,

Jamie Suman

January 24, 1992



Merrell Seeley & Dorothy Mae



Melrose & Warren Sandberg



TAPS



MAY 1, 1992

DEAR DR. & MRS. CHARLES E. PUGH,

I AM WRITING IN REGARDS TO MY FATHER JAMES W. McEANENEY, Jr. HE PASSED AWAY MAY 1, 1991 AFTER FINDING OUT SIX MONTHS EARLIER THAT HE HAD INOPERABLE LUNG CANCER. MY FATHER LOOKED BACK ON HIS SERVICE TO HIS COUNTRY DURING WORLD WAR II WITH PRIDE AND WAS ALWAYS GLAD TO RECEIVE YOUR INFORMATIVE LETTERS AND BULLETINS AND CARDS CONCERNING THOSE DAYS HE SPENT IN THE 82ND AIRBORNE.

DUE TO MY MOTHERS ILLNESS (SHE PASSED AWAY JULY 15TH 1990 AFTER A LONG BATTLE WITH DIABETES) HE WAS NEVER ABLE TO ATTEND ANY OF THE REUNIONS YOU SPONSORED THOUGH I THINK THEY BOTH WOULD HAVE ENJOYED ATTENDING HAD CIRCUMSTANCES BEEN DIFFERENT. MY PARENTS WERE MARRIED FOR 42 YEARS AND HAD 4 DAUGHTERS AND A SON (WHO IS WRITING TO YOU NOW). THEY IN THEIR OWN WAY INSTILLED IN EACH OF US A HEALTHY RESPECT FOR GOD AND OUR COUNTRY AND ALTHOUGH WE SOMETIMES DON'T AGREE WITH THE THINGS THAT HAPPEN IN OUR COUNTRY (SUCH AS LEGALLY BEING ABLE TO BURN THE AMERICAN FLAG THAT MEN LIKE YOU AND MY DAD FOUGHT FOR) WE STILL THANK GOD THAT WE HAVE BEEN BORN AND RAISED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THE GREATEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD.

I AM SORRY TO HAVE TO WRITE TO YOU UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES BUT I HOPE THAT THIS YEAR AND ALL THE YEARS TO COME BRING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY HAPPINESS AND GOOD HEALTH.

SINCERELY YOURS,

James W. McEaney III
JAMES W. McEANENEY
III

2425 WALDEN COURT
YOUNGSTOWN, OH 44509

W. Leatham

SALT LAKE CITY — Warren Jensen Leatham, 70, of Salt Lake City, died Friday, March 29, 1991, at the University of Utah Medical Center.



He was born March 21, 1921 in Wellsville, a son of Robert P. and Alverta Jensen Leatham. He married Evelyn Acenas June 16, 1978, in Irvine, Calif.

He attended schools in Cache Valley and graduated from Utah State University with a degree in engineering. He was a veteran of World War II and received a citation from the French government for his part as a paratrooper in the French liberation. He was also a project manager of several major irrigation projects around the world.

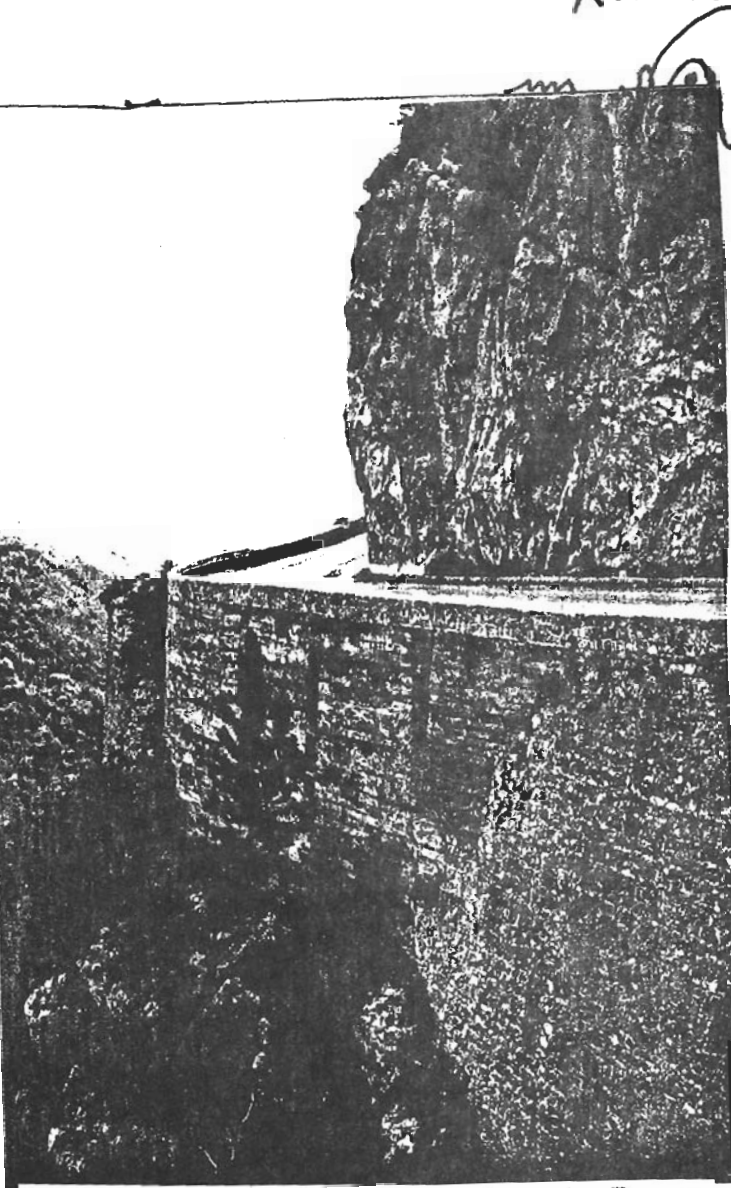
He represented the United States government in many conferences and seminars in many parts of the world and worked on projects in such places as Haiti, India, Turkey, Philippines, Guatemala, Egypt, Kenya, Mali, Cameroon, Afghanistan, Upper Volta, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the United States. He received a number of recognitions and accomplishments from the United States government. He received the Outstanding Service Award for serving as an engineering resource for President Nixon's Special Agricultural Development Team in Turkey, October, 1973.

He is survived by his wife, of Salt Lake City; two sons, Kevin Leatham, Salt Lake City; and James Leatham, San Diego, Calif.; one daughter, Tami Ristau, Trenton; two stepsons, Raymond Leatham, Portland,

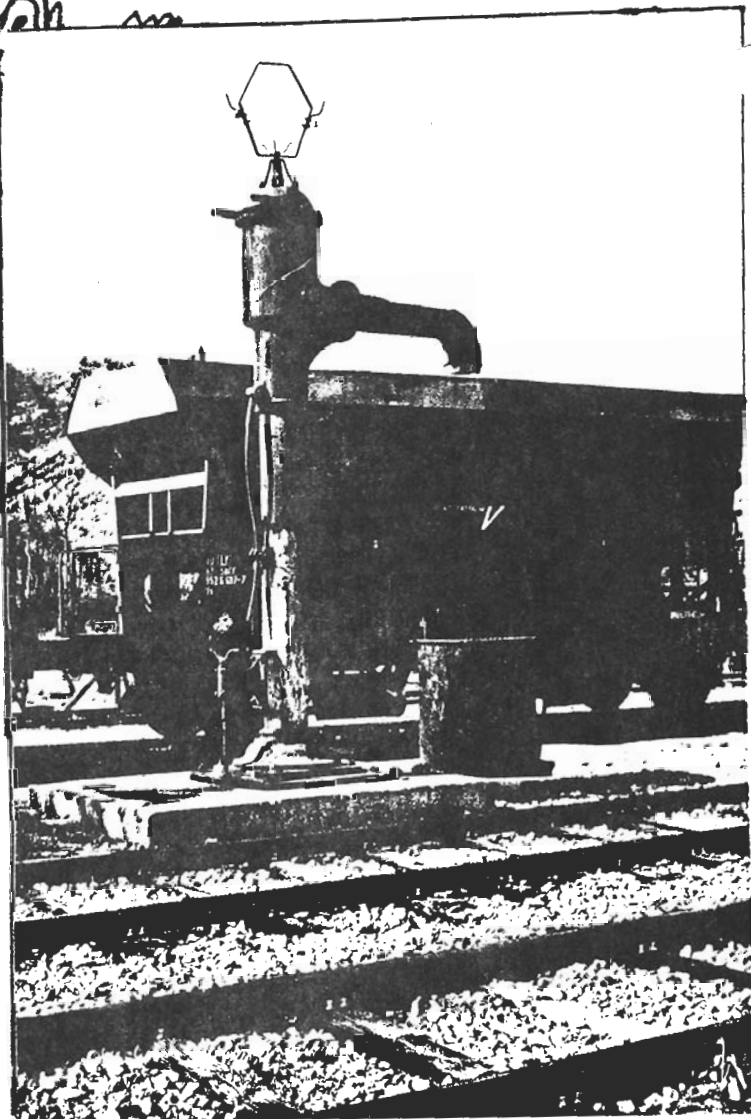
Ore.; and William Leatham, Palmer, Alaska; two brothers, Robert P. Leatham, Sacramento, Calif.; and Lyndon J. Leatham, Boise, Idaho; two sisters, Veneta Nielsen, Logan; and Alverta Rucker, Burley, Idaho; and seven grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a son, William Leatham; one sister and two brothers.

Funeral services will be at noon Monday in the Allen-Hall Mortuary Chapel, 34 E. Center Street, Logan. Friends may call at the mortuary Monday from 10:45 to 11:45 a.m. Burial will be in the Wellsville Cemetery, with military rites by the American Legion.

KILROY WAS HERE



"Blowout" on L'Escarene-Col de Braus road. This was repaired to pass-ability in September, 1944 by the First Platoon. (Photo Oct. 1989)



Bob Verdi's shower in 1944 at the L'Escarene Gare (Railroad Station) (Photo Oct. 1989)

Editor's Note: I'm sorry that I can't remember who sent me these photos.

Editorial Comment: I recently received a newsy letter from Ralph Clink, former 517 PRCT Chaplain, in which he said that he is still mentally and physically active and busily functioning as a Minister. One sentence in his letter particularly caught my attention, "I find that everything is going in HIGH gear and I only have LOW left; however, I am thankful for that".

*** This issue has 50 pages---one page for each year of the existence of the 596 PCEC.***

TODAY'S ARMY

I just heard a radio news reporter say that at Fort Bliss, Texas, the Army now permits soldiers to have alcoholic beverages in their barracks and an occasional overnight guest will be permitted. This is to be the new Army-wide policy. Just one more bit of proof that we were born too soon.

LATE Mail Call



Additional commentary from the Editor:

Our reunions, especially for the 596 group, are enjoyable and successful to a much greater degree because of the enthusiastic support of our wives. They have maintained or developed and deepened friendships among themselves that are a joy for the husbands to behold. Their enjoyment of one another at the reunions doubles our own pleasure.

We know how lucky they are to have married the Cream of the Crop-----well, if that is a slight exaggeration, there is no question that we 596er men are possessed of a great talent for finding and winning charming, intelligent, forbearing, and altogether lovely mates. Join me in raising a glass of good cheer to them and to ourselves for our perspicacity----whatever that means. Hail to our Chiefs!!!! Herb Larson writes as follows: Dear Chas. & Ann, You always send the most beautiful cards and I appreciate being remembered as one of "the old 596 gang". I often think of the 596th and have many pleasant memories of just a lot of good guys who worked in harmony. I feel badly about missing the reunions but invariably something comes up to prevent our going and they are most often problems over which we have no control----health,, etc.. Ann and I continue to "hang in there" and God willing, we have our 50th wedding anniversary in January. May you keep up your tremendous efforts for the 517th PRCT and the 596th and God Bless. Herb

Don Saunders writes as follows: It was good to hear from you when you called. I received your letter and wrote to the Astor fellow who is writing the book about the 517th PRCT. and gave him quite a bit of information about the 596th. We are looking forward to Niagara Falls in May. We told Bill Lewis we would help if we could be of any assistance. It is only a three hour trip for us from our new home. Keep in touch. Don
Editor's note: Don and Jan are wintering in Pharr, Texas and Punta Gorda, Florida, and have a newly constructed home in New York and live on the road a lot of the time in their Airstream. They are really nomadic. They also stop by to visit with a lot of 596ers as they motor around the United States. They visit Thelma and Bernie Barnes annually. No one is more devoted to 596ers than Don.)

Dr. Jim Lyon writes: Had a good dental year, Went to San Antonio for the Academy of General Dentistry meeting where my son received his AGD Fellowship. Then to New Orleans for the meeting of the Academy of Forensic Dentistry and then on to Berlin, Germany for the Federation Dentaire Internationale. I'm working Mondays and Tuesdays only----the reunion in Washington, DC was great! Beat regards. Jim

Jack (Red) Guthrie writes: Have a great 1993! Agnes had kidney failure and is a permanent dialysis patient at University of Virginia Medical Center 3 days every week, but hopefully I can arrange to make Niagara Falls in the spring and you all will be there. Jack.

Thelma Barnes writes: Dear Friends, Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year. I Hope all of you are well. Bernie is still at hallmark Nursing Home. We got a new contract for him from the V.A. for his care for the rest of his life. I had surgery the first of December, but I am on the mend now. We Will be celebrating our 49th year together on the 22nd of December.

Our son and his family are doing better. We just want to say thank the Lord for giving us another year together. God bless you all and let us hear from you. Love and Prayers, Thelma and Bernie

Bob and Garnet Dalrymple write that they are well and busy. They travel a lot to keep in touch with family and friends around the country. Their next "adventure" will be a trip through the Panama Canal, 19-31 January, on board the "Crystal Harmony" liner. Bon Voyage!

FIVE NINE SIXERS ALL



Marie & Bob Verdi



Charley & Ann Pugh, Jim Lyon, Winston Shull



Phillips, Pearson, & Bramley



Corey Gibbon & Al Goodman



Kyle Kenyon & Don Saunders---June 1991



Ray & Mary Hild at home---1990



Shipley & Williamson

Editorial comment: The mini-reunion each spring in Palm Springs, CA is delightful in every way but for 596ers the most enjoyable part of all is the annual evening cocktail party at the home of Dick Bramley. You just have to be there to experience it to understand how much fun we 596ers have when we get together, especially at the Bramley Bash---Thanks Dick.



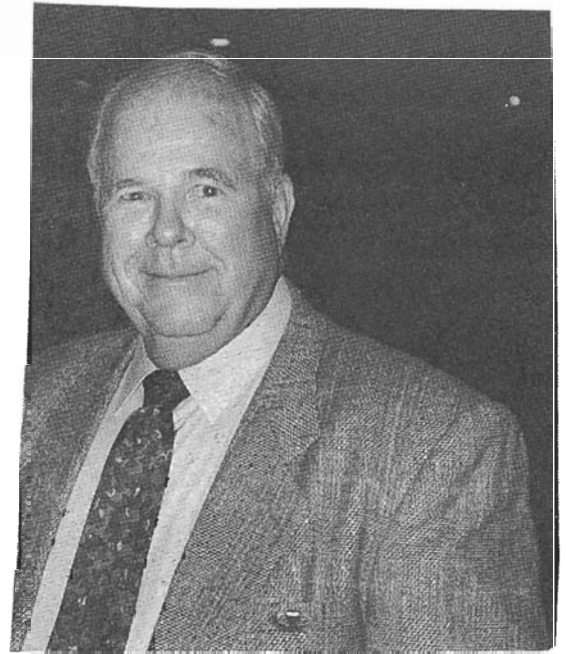
Mike & Catherine Bulino



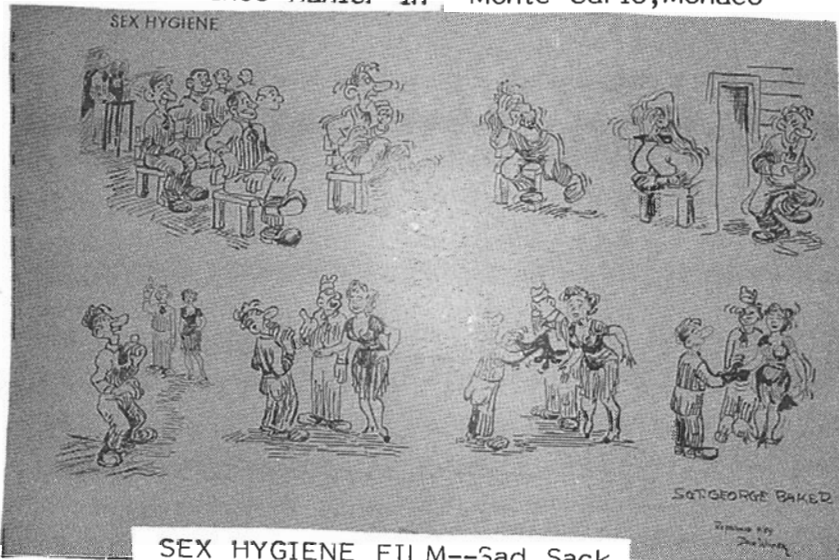
Gen. Dick Seltz, Joe A.C. Williams, Ginny Seltz



The Congers, Dalrymples, Hudsons & Pughs visiting the Palace of Prince Ranier in Monte Carlo, Monaco



Joe D. Miller
El Presidente of 517 PRCT

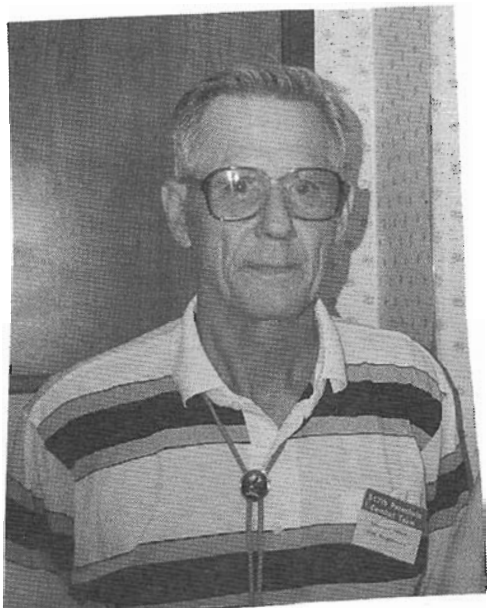


SEX HYGIENE FILM--Sad Sack



Mary Ann Madison & Jan Saunders

THE GANG'S ALL HERE!!!!



George Shull



Ed & Jean McKinley



Hal Roberts & Mary Horrigan



Marie & Bob Verdi



Joe Herrera & his Airborne Son



Markle, Wilkerson & Moses

REUNION FUN TIME



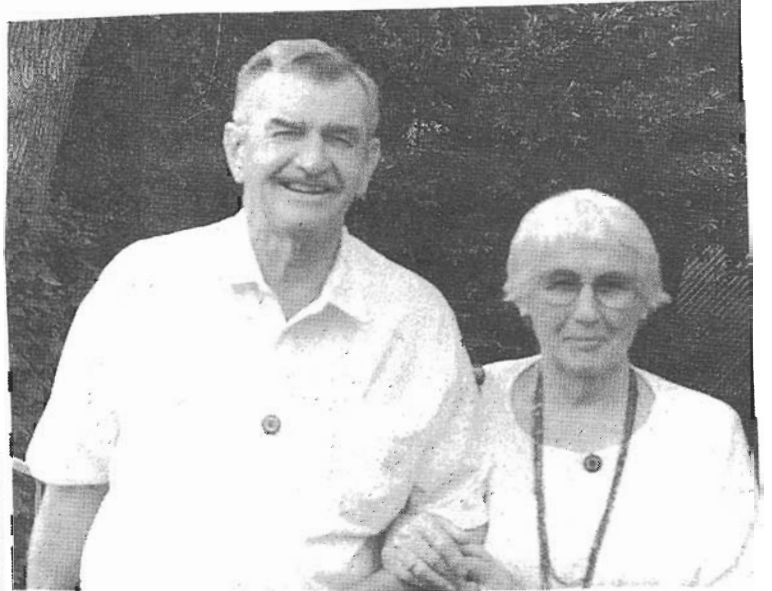
Shull, Botts, Kosan, Miller, Shipley, Phillips



Edie & Joe Miller, Ann Pugh



Ernie & Judy Kosan



Bob & Garnet Dalrymple



Aimé Leocard of
Draguignan, France



Marie Verdi, Elaine Markle, Sophia Christian

Seated L to R--Verdi & Phillips
First Row L to R--Senter, Markle, Bulino, Ventoza, Shull, Saunders, Williams,
Botts, Zubricky, Don Lassen of "Static Line", Pugh
Second Row L to R--Starck, Pearce, Miller, Reichwald, Roberts, Francine & Leo
Carrier of Belgium, Moses, Podrasky, Mitchell
Third Row L to R--Sandberg, Bramley, Hosterman, Ward, Goodman, Simpson, Kosan,
Hild, Szakacs



(40)



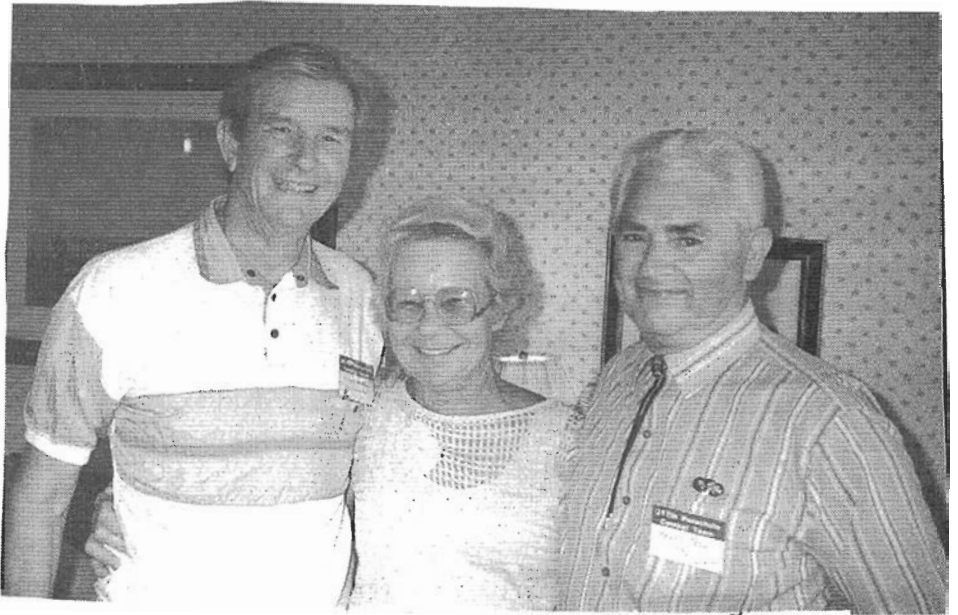
Hank & Marian Simpson with Grand-daughter



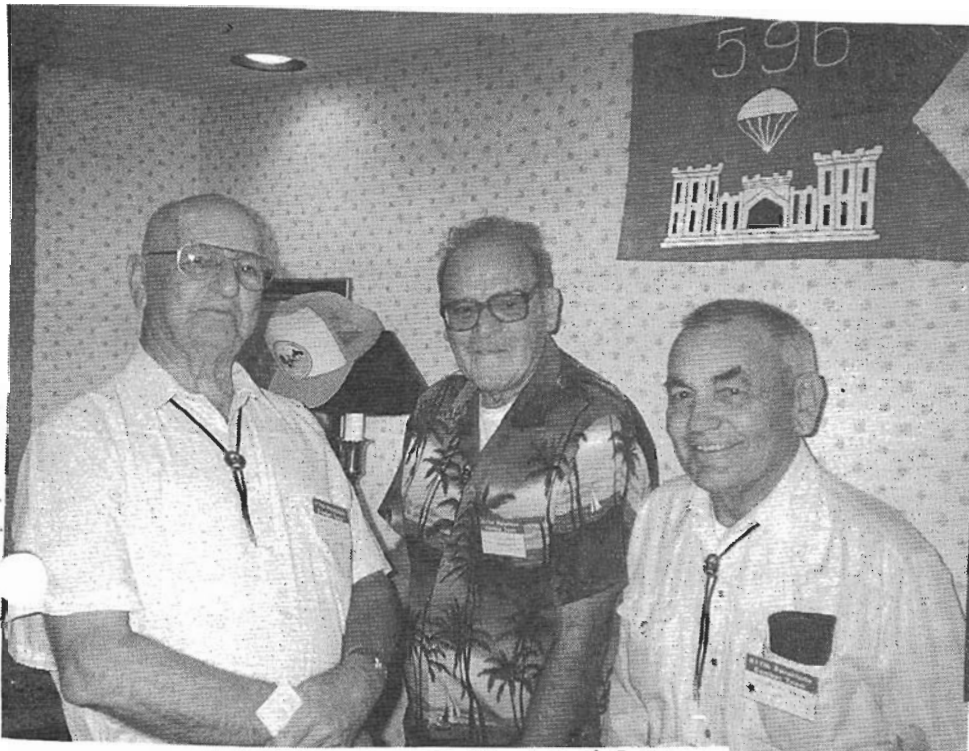
Don & Jan Saunders-



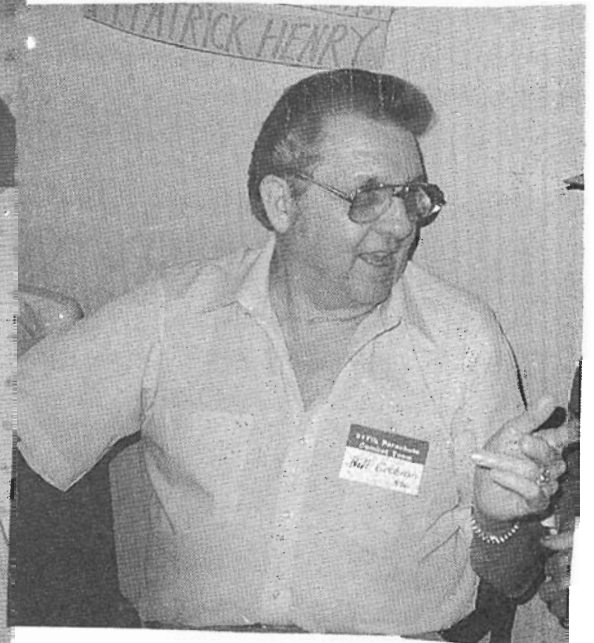
Vince & Joan Podrasky



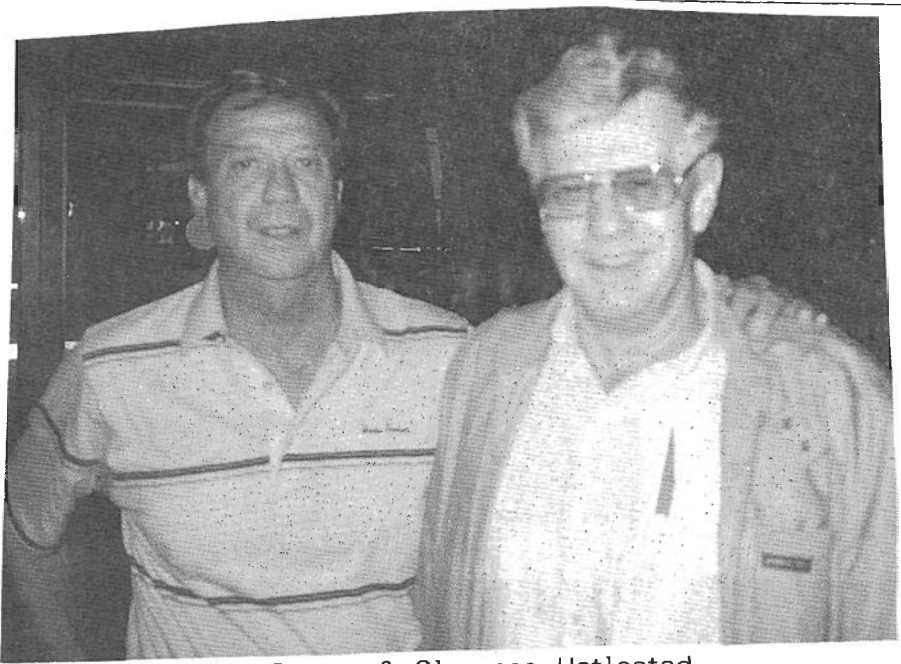
Gene Markle, Polly & Hal Eddy



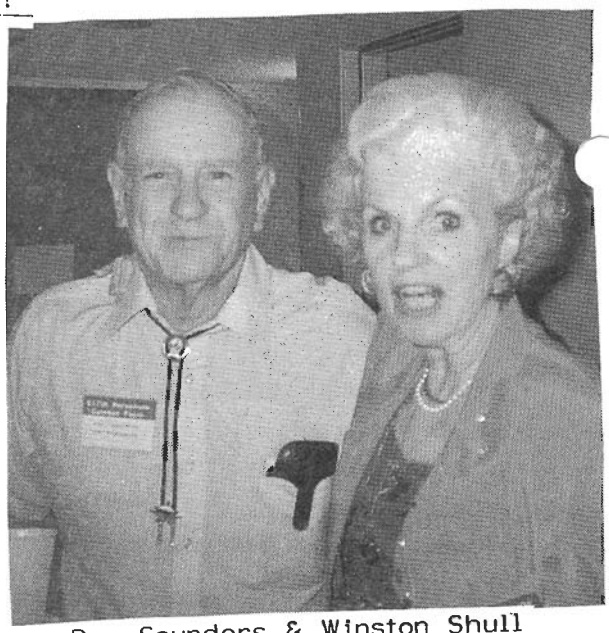
Brooks Moses, Al Ward & Hal Bean



Bill Cochran



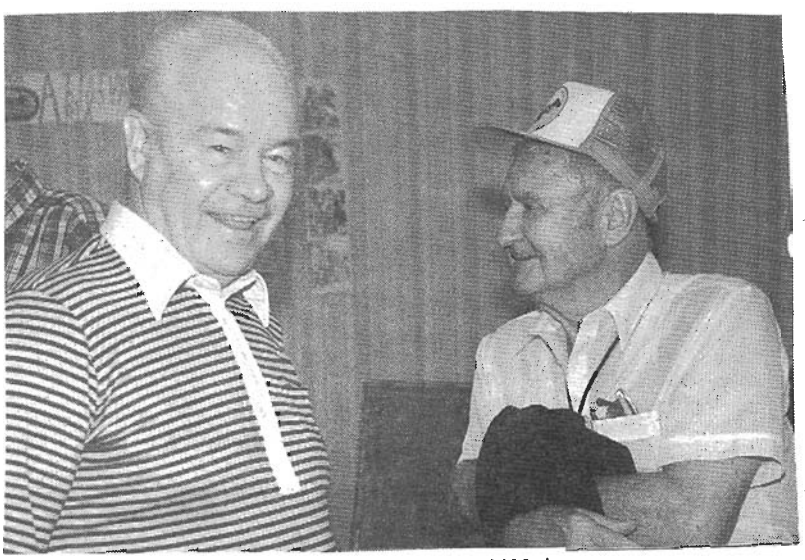
Joe Senter & Clarence Hatlestad



Don Saunders & Winston Shull



Dick Bramley, Allan & Alice Goodman



Ed Horrigan & Ray Hild



Wes & Gladys Williams, Mary Jo & Gene Hyman



Jeanne Roberts, Laverne Ventoza, & Elaine Markle

THE CHALLENGE

About 80 of our 596ers have attended one or more reunions of the 517th PRCT. A few others have attended one or more mini-reunions that are held each year at various places in the country. At most of the biennial reunions of the Combat Team, the 596th PCEC wins the honors for the Company with the largest attendance. This is a record connoting a cohesive spirit that is admired by the other Companies in the Combat Team. It is a record that we 596ers continue to try to perpetuate and one in which we take great pride. Company "D" and Company "F" of the 517th PIR are particularly competitive for this achievement and recognition. With your presence in Niagara Falls in May, we will continue to leave them enviously and frustratedly in second and third place.

FOR SALE

PARACHUTE used once and never opened. BR 5----- ask for Gerald S.
—Adv. in the Dallas Times Herald.

Or his heirs.

The years have taught some sweet, some bitter lessons, none wiser than this, to spend in all things else, but of old friends to be most miserly. LOWELL

DEDICATION

This issue of WINGS is dedicated to the memory of my close friend, Dan Campbell, Executive Director of the 82nd Airborne Division Association, who succumbed recently to cancer. His devotion to the Airborne was unsurpassed by anyone I have ever known. His work over the past years for the 82nd and for the entire Airborne community is deserving of the highest accolades. His work on the U.S.A. Airborne Fiftieth Anniversary Foundation Committee was crucial to the success of that entire operation. Dan was an outspoken, clear thinker. He was a team player but he was a natural leader to whom all listened because he usually had something important to bring to any discussion. Everyone respected his judgment but more attractive than that was the depth and breadth of his character. Some men of greatness never receive widespread acclaim. Dan Campbell is certainly held in the highest esteem by his Airborne peers. His name deserves to be engraved deeply on the Roster of Airborne greats in the Pantheon of Airborne illustrious troopers. Dan will be sorely missed by friends and family and by the 82nd Airborne Division Association. I am a better man from my association with Dan.

Charley Pugh

DAVE BRYANT'S PEOPLE 'N-PLACES



Military Mettle: Loyal reader Ann Pugh of Fort Worth and her dentist husband Charley returned recently from a gathering of World War II heroes. Ann is still chuckling over her encounter with a high school basketball player whose team was staying at the same hotel in Reno, Nev., as the ex-GIs and their wives. Ann writes: "The hotel was full of the WW II 517th Parachute Combat Team guys who had liberated southern France and gone on to fight in the Battle of the Bulge. Everyone wore the group's ID name badges, including spouses. I was in an elevator alone when the basketball player stepped on. He looked at my Parachute Combat Team ID, puzzled. Then he quipped: "Lady weren't you just a little bit too old for Desert Storm?" "

Good judgment comes from experience.
Experience comes from bad judgment.

Experience is a hard teacher. She gives the test first, the lesson afterwards.



AIRBORNE



What Manner of Men Are Those Who Wear the Maroon Beret

They are firstly all volunteers and are toughened by hard physical training. As a result they have that infectious optimism and that offensive eagerness which comes from physical well being. They have jumped from the air and by so doing have conquered fear.

Their Duty lies in the van of the battle. They are proud of this honour and have never failed in any task. They have the highest standards in all things whether it be skill in battle or smartness in exertion of all peace time duties. They have shown themselves to be as tenacious in defense as they are courageous in the attack. They are in fact, Men apart every man an Emperor.

Of all the factors which make for success in battle, the spirit of the Warrior is the most decisive. That spirit will be found in full measure in the Men who wear the Maroon Beret.

Be Proud
Stay Airborne
Montgomery of El Alamein

PARATROOPER United States Army

The United States Army paratrooper has added luster to the proud and honored traditions of the American fighting man. His heroic exploits during World War II and in Korea are listed among the greatest feats of American arms, and have earned him the respect and admiration of soldiers everywhere.

It is particularly important that we preserve the spirit and traditions of our airborne units, for in any war of the future the role of airborne forces will be a highly important one. If we are to offset the numerical superiority of our potential enemies, we must have extremely mobile forces ready to move on a moment's notice in the defense of our Nation's interests. They must be tough and highly conditioned both mentally and physically, aggressively minded, and eager to carry the fight to the enemy. These qualities have always been a characteristic of our airborne troops. It is essential that they be maintained.

M.B. Ridgway
General United States Army
Chief of Staff

THE PARATROOPER

"The ultimate pay-off of airborne operations is the battle on the ground where our successes in Europe were the result of the rugged fighting qualities of the Airborne Soldier...
... He was young, bold, rowdy and sometimes offensively swaggering. Yet when the cards were down, he was the most soul-satisfying comrade that a man could want on the battlefield."

Maxwell D. Taylor,
General United States Army
Former Chief of Staff



AN AIRBORNE MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



January 1993

It doesn't seem that long ago that we were planning our trip to Reno for the 517th PRCT reunion. Those of us who attended had a great time as usual. There is always the thoughts about those that could not attend for various reasons and the wishes that they would be able to join us at the next one. Through the Thunderbolt, we are all aware that next reunion will be at Niagara Falls in May. We hope the troopers of the 596th that could not join us in Reno will make an extra special effort to be with us at Niagara Falls. There is still time to make reservations.

It was a great honor and privilege for me to be elected as Chief Engineering Officer for The Company in Reno. The first eighteen months or so have been a snap, but it seems that most of the responsibility is getting ready for the next reunion. That time has arrived and we have made some plans for the reunion in May.

Those who attended in Reno will remember the problem with the one consolidated hospitality room for all members of the combat team. The 517th PRCT will have two rooms (one smoking and one non-smoking) at the Falls, but it was the consensus of the Engineers at Reno that we should have our own place to meet.

To satisfy those desires we have arranged to have a 596th Engr. hospitality suite on the third floor of the Raddison Hotel during the reunion. It will be open on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday (May 17,18 &19). The room number and time of opening are not available at this time but we'll let you know ASAP. This arrangement will not, of course, exclude us from use of the Combat Team's hospitality rooms.

For the troopers that have not attended a reunion, let me assure you that it is not just sitting around telling war stories, although there are a few. In addition to the events arranged by the reunion committee, the Engineers have always found other things to do in and around the convention site. Come and find out.

Before closing I want to thank Charlie Pugh for taking on this enormous task of publishing Wings once again. He deserves all our support. Drop him a line and let him know how you're doing. We are all interested and through Wings he can let us know. While you're at it, include a few stamps to help with the mailing. He does a great job and I'm sure you appreciate it as much as Elaine and I do.

See you at the Falls.

Gene Markle

Cole's Axiom: The sum of all intelligence on the planet is fixed.
Regrettably, the population is growing.



Honoring The Battle of the Bulge Veterans

"There is one thing you dar enot forget and that you must keep eternally engraved in your heart. It is the memory of those men who came from far away, from overseas and clung to the ground, fighting one against ten, falling down under bombing and shelling for the name of LIBERTY.

And when you will pass before a military cemetery, when you will see the little white crosses adorning the tombs of the soldiers of Baugnez, of Steumont, of Rochefort and of so many little villages of the Ardennes, from the depths of your heart cry to them...Thank you".

Andre' Defer, Belgian Writer

BATTLE OF THE BULGE FACTS

Where: The heavily-forested Ardennes region of eastern Belgium and Northern Luxembourg.

When: December 16, 1944 - January 25, 1945

Who: More than one million men:

*600,000 Americans (more than the combined Union/Confederate forces at Gettysburg) - 3 American Armies and 6 Corps (equivalent to 31 division)

*55,000 British - 3 British division plus contingents of Belgian, Canadian and French troops

*500,00 Germans - 3 German Armies and 10 corps (equivalent to 26 divisions)

Causalities: American - 81,000 including 19,000 killed; British - 1,400 including 200 killed; German - 100,000

Equipment: 800 tanks lost on each side; 1,000 German aircraft.

Three powerful German armies plunged headlong into the rugged mountains and dense forests of the

Purple Heart Medal

The Department of Defense has announced the Purple Heart's new position in the hierarchy of military medals. The new position of the medal, or ribbon, will be between the Bronze Star Medal and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

Ardennes determined to break the American line of defense, and trap the allied forces in Belgium and Luxembourg.

They met fierce opposition the minute they engaged the thinly spread American line and paid a heavy price for every inch of ground they gained.

The battle raged for three consecutive days until powerful allied reinforcements arrived to join the fighting and keep the Germans from breaking through.

The fighting then continued for four weeks in bitter cold and snow and all the Germans could accomplish was to put a small bulge in the line. And at the end, the line held firm, and the Germans suffered a terrible loss of men, tanks and planes.

Those who fought in the Battle of the Bulge will never forget it. The Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge (VBOB) was organized to make certain that it will never be forgotten.

The Malmedy Massacre, which occurred during the Ardennes Campaign, was the worst atrocity committed against American troops in Europe during the World War II.

WW II veterans who were awarded the Ardennes Campaign Battle Star are eligible for membership in this organization as well as members of their families, and history buffs.

The Ardennes Campaign - 16 December, 1944 through 25 January, 1945 - known at the Battle of the Bulge, was the greatest American battle of World War II and involved over one million men.

In addressing the house of Commons following that battle, Sir Winston Churchill said: "This is undoubtedly the greatest battle of the war and will, I believe, be regarded as an ever-famous American victory."

It was one of America's greatest hours in the field of battle and helped turn the tide of war.

At least three sites will be proposed for the 1995 reunion--- Kansas City, Bismark, ND and Pinehurst/Fayetteville, NC. Our own George Shull is the mover and shaker behind the NC proposal. Drop Bill Lewis a note as to which you favor at 18630 White Pine Circle, Hudson, FL 34667.

(46)

How to:

Obtain Copies of Lost 214's

Write a letter to Commander, ARPERCEN, ATTN: DARP-PAS-EVS, 9700 Page Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63132-5200

Obtain Lost Decorations or Awards

Write a letter to Commander, ARPERCEN, ATTN: DARP-PAS-EAW, 9700 Page Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63132-5200

Inquire About VA Insurance

Call 1-800-669-8477 or write VA Insurance, PO Box 8079, 5000 Wissahickon, Philadelphia, PA 19101 (east of Mississippi), or Federal Building, Fort Snelling, St. Paul, MN 55111

Inquire About US Soldiers' and Airmen's Home

Call 1-800-422-9988 or (202) 722-3337 or write USSAH, Admissions Department, 370 N. Capitol Street, Washington, DC 20317-0001

Veterans' Benefits Handbook Available

"Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents," one of the federal government's best-selling publications, has been updated and is now available from the U.S. Government Printing Office.

Published by the VA, the 96-page handbook describes such VA benefits as medical care, education, compensation, pension, life insurance, home loan guaranty, vocational rehabilitation and burial assistance. It also explains the eligibility requirements for each program and outlines claims procedures.

The handbook, which sells for \$3.70, is available postpaid from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402-9325, stock number ISBN 0-16-036128-1. To order with a credit card, phone (202) 783-3238.

POW Medals Available

The Pentagon yesterday announced the offering of a new Prisoner of War medal, featuring an eagle ringed with barbed wire and bayonets, to honor some 142,000 U.S. troops captured in four wars.

"The medal will be issued at no cost to any person who was taken prisoner of war and held captive after April 5, 1917," the Defense Department said. The medal can be awarded posthumously to legal next-of-kin.

A toll-free telephone number -- (800) 873-3768 -- has been set up for those interested in the medal.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

(The Chaplain's Address at the Memorial Luncheon)

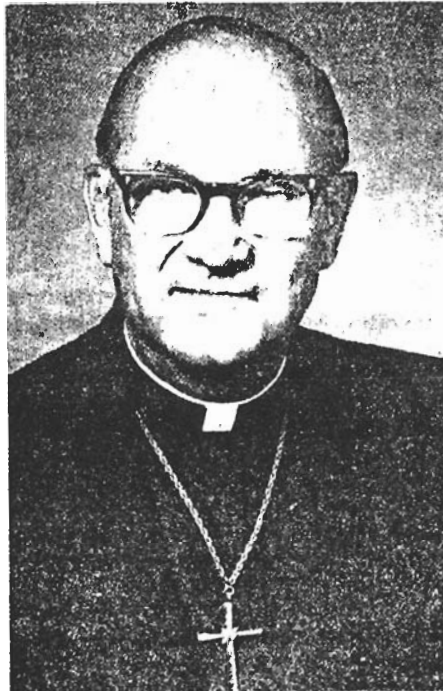
This is the anniversary of the Airborne in the U.S. Army. No one said it aloud, but everyone knew that it was an elite force specially trained to defend and protect the freedom of our nation. Because it was a volunteer group, its heritage dates back to the Minute Men of our Revolution, who were the first to leave their homes and volunteer to fight against a vastly superior army in order to preserve their English birthright of freedom. The Declaration of Independence was based on the Magna Carta, which in turn was based on the Jewish feast of Hanukkah, which celebrates the victory of Judas Maccabees and his guerrilla bands of patriots over the large well-equipped army of the Syrians in 165 A.D.

That was the first war for religious freedom, fought successively and solely by volunteers 2100 years ago, and it is part of our Judeo-Christian history. This nation then has its roots in religious freedom. Our forefathers saw it as our gift to the world. A few years ago Time Magazine summed up that national feeling: "Because we are free we can never be indifferent to the fate of freedom elsewhere." Patrick Henry cried out in the throes of the Revolution: "You have trampled on the rights of mankind long enough." Since 1776 America has been the voice of hope for all mankind.

Fifty years ago a new breed of soldier was introduced into the army -- they were tough, fearless, courageous and highly trained. They fought as individuals or as a team. When a regiment was spread over the south coast of Sicily, Axis Sally reported that ten American airborne divisions had been dropped on the island.

For fifty years the record of this new breed of soldier has been impeccable. They were volunteers, and that made them champions of liberty. I have been by his side from Africa to Berlin. I know him well in peace and war. I have commended his soul in death, and I have rallied his spirit in life.

I wasn't at Corregidor, but I choose that action to illustrate the daring and the bravery of the paratrooper. Here their assignment was to open up the freedom of the seas, that narrow neck of water permitting sea traffic to enter Manila Bay. Col. Jones, commanding the 503rd RCT, was made the Bock Force commander with a Bn. from the 34th Regt. The island is like a sea monster with a bulbous head. That head has an elevation of 550 feet topside. Huge barracks faced the parade ground of 325 yards X 25 yards, and there has to be fifty yards between impers. There was a golf course of 350 yards X 185 yards, edged by a sharp cliff



Association Chaplain
Reverend Dr. George B. Wood

rising 500 feet up from the rocky shore. The night of February 14-15, 1945, the Air Force pounded that topside till 10:30 AM, making huge boulders out of concrete bunkers. H-hour brought in one Bn. with a 25 mile an hour wind and 500 foot cliffs surrounding the drop zone. The D.Z. was large enough for six jumpers only in contrast to the normal stick of 18 men at one time. It took two more passes to get the men on the ground, Col. Jones going out with the second pass after he had given a change in flight orders to compensate for the 25 mile an hour wind (13 knots is considered the safety limitation for a jump). On that first jump, wind currents caused streamers, men were shot in mid-air by snipers, and six men hit the cliff's edge and fell the 500 feet to their deaths. On that one jump 25% of the parachutists were KIA. The second echelon came in at 12:40 PM and the Japanese were ready for them with accurate ground fire. 2,050 troopers lived to continue the fight at a cost of 210 casualties, far less than the 50% loss that was expected.

Across the Atlantic we remember the 34 bodies lying in the hot sun of Sicily. We remember PFC. Baldwin whose body was found in an Italian tankette drawing the fire of German tiger tanks, which split his body in six pieces, and we remember the 210 men who were shot out of the

sky by our own navy. We remember Salerno, Naples, the Volturno, and Anzio, where our departed comrades received the nickname, "Devils in Baggy Pants." There were the men hanging in the trees at St. Mere Eglise, and Lt. Wray, who was killed in the action of knocking out an enemy machine gun singlehandedly. There were the familiar names of Bastogne, Werbermont, Chevron, Cheneux, and Trois Point where hundreds of men were killed and piled high at collecting points on the snow-covered ground of the Ardennes.

Today we gather to memorialize 50 years of Airborne activity and achievement, 50 years of pride and spirit, 50 years of determination mingled with sorrow and sadness. The spirit of the Airborne is the essence of man's drive for freedom. It is that unbridled determination to express the unfettered freedom, which is of God.

Down through the ages man has cried out for freedom. The history of the world has been linked to the desire for freedom. Eastern Europe is today's example; China will soon follow. The drive for freedom of expression cannot be wiped from the mind of man.

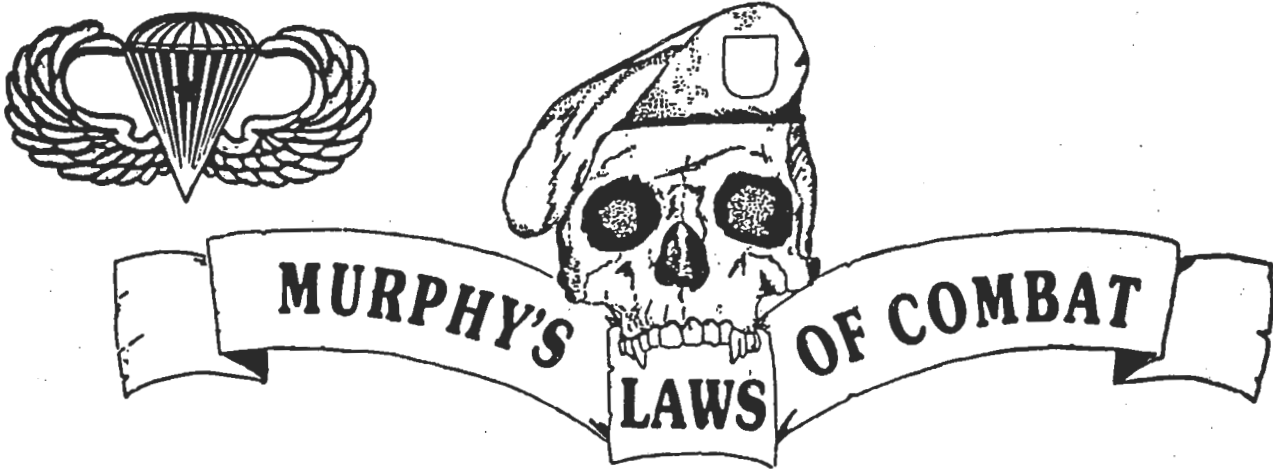
Let there be no doubt. Parachuting and freedom are synonymous. The trooper thrills to his responsibility. He stands ready to take that freedom to any part of the world. The paratrooper carries on a great tradition. He has the bravado of a man who walks on air. He was a hero before he faced the enemy. That is the esprit, the mystique, the spirit of the men of the Airborne.

So look around you, fellow troops, you are sitting in a room full of heroes, the spirits of the past are here. They were seekers of truth, lovers of freedom, champions of liberty. You and your departed comrades are a different breed, because you are airborne, marked by the mystique of that word.

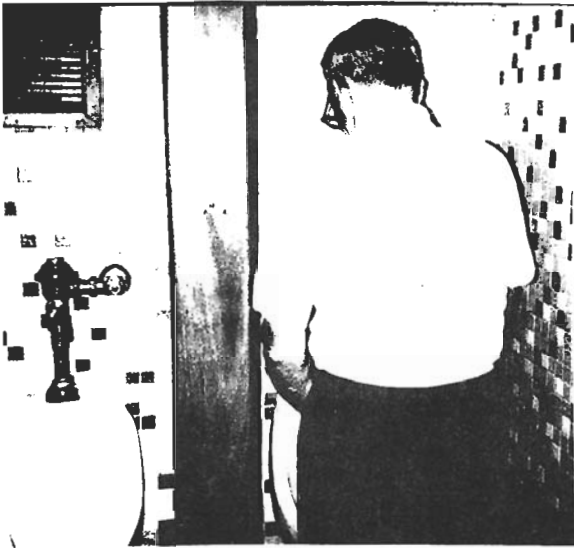
Ladies and gentlemen, arise to honor our dead.

PARAGLIDE





1. You are not a superman.
2. If it's stupid but works, it isn't stupid.
3. Don't look conspicuous - it draws fire. (This is why aircraft carriers are called, "Bomb Magnets".)
4. When in doubt, empty your magazine.
5. Never share a foxhole with anyone braver than you are.
6. Never forget that your weapon was made by the lowest bidder.
7. If your attack is going really well, it's an ambush.
8. No plan survives the first contact intact.
9. All five-second grenade fuses will burn down in three seconds.
10. Try to look unimportant because the bad guys may be low on ammo.
11. If you are forward of your position, the artillery will fall short.
12. The enemy diversion you are ignoring is the main attack.
13. The important things are always simple.
14. The simple things are always hard.
15. The easy way is always mined.
16. If you are short of everything except enemy, you are in combat.
17. When you have secured an area, don't forget to tell the enemy.
18. Incoming fire has the right of way.
19. Friendly fire - isn't.
20. If the enemy is in range, "SO ARE YOU!!!!"
21. No combat ready unit has ever passed inspection.
22. Beer math is: two beers times 37 men = 49 cases.
23. Body count math is: two guerillas plus one portable plus two pigs = 37 enemy killed in action.
24. Things that must be together to work, usually can't be shipped together.
25. Radio's will fail as soon as you need fire support desperately.
26. Anything you do can get you shot - including doing nothing.
27. Tracers work both ways.
28. The only thing more accurate than incoming enemy fire is incoming friendly fire.
29. Make it tough for the enemy to get in and you can't get out.
30. If you take more than your fair share of objectives, you will have more than your fair share of objectives to take.
31. When both sides are convinced that they are about to lose, they are both right.
32. Professional soldiers are predictable, but the world is full of amateurs.
33. Murphy was a grunt.

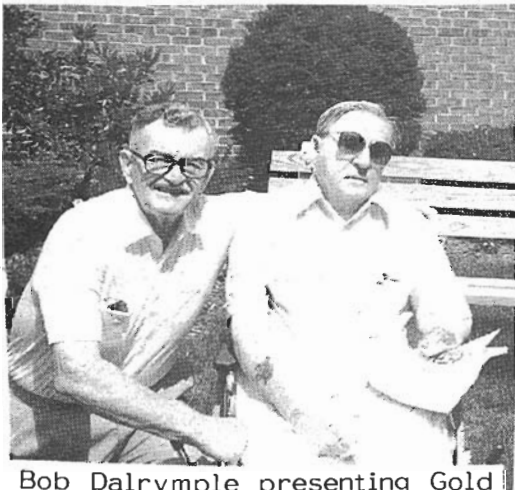


Bob Dalrymple tending to business

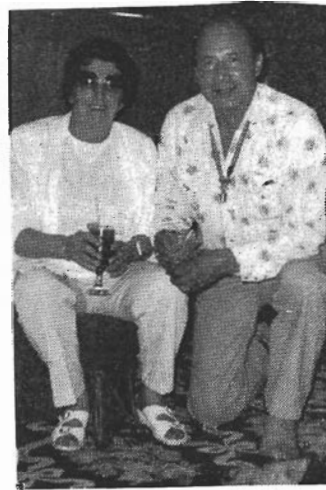
THERE
ARE
MORE
THAN
NINETY
PHOTOGRAPHS
IN THIS
ISSUE.



Marge & Bill Conger



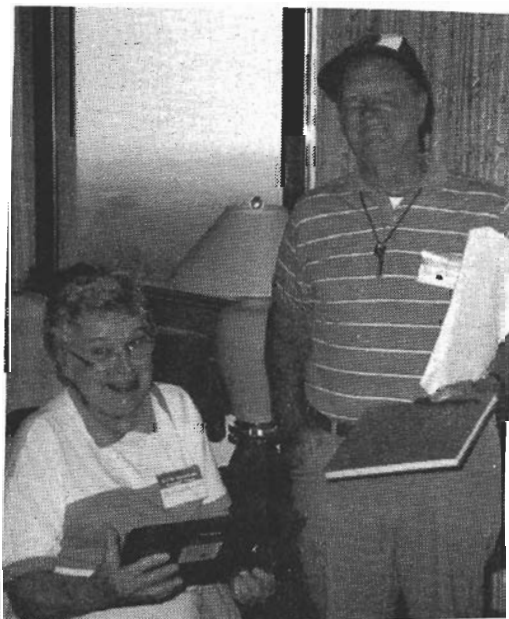
Bob Dalrymple presenting Gold
50th Anniversary Parachute
Wings to Bernie Barnes



Laverne & Manny Ventoza



JoAnn & Jim Lyon



Betty & Bob Wilkerson

The back
cover
of this
issue
has a
place
for
your
name and
is
suitable
for
framing.
Thank
Clark
Archer
the
Artist



Peter & Rose Zubricky



**517 PARACHUTE
COMBAT TEAM**



Attack

▪ *Italy* ▪ *France* ▪ *Belgium* ▪ *Germany* ▪

: Force 40 Award:



**This man fought whenever, wherever,
and with whomever his lot was cast...**

596 COMBAT ENGINEER COMPANY