



596 PARACHUTE COMBAT
ENGINEER COMPANY
JULY 1982



ROSTER



517 PARACHUTE COMBAT TEAM ASSOCIATION

OFFICERS

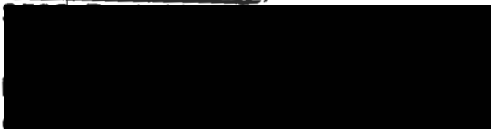
Honorary President-----Col. Rupert D. Graves



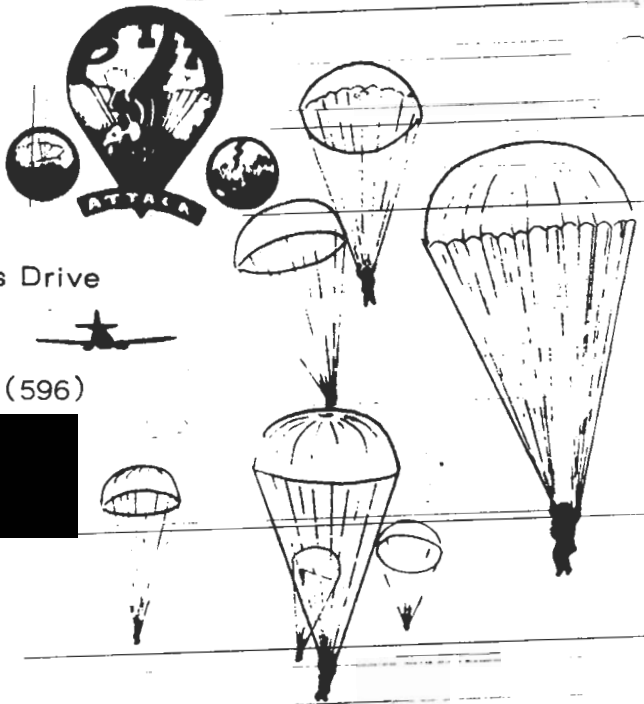
President-----Clem "Tex" Lowe (Co. C)



Vice-President-----Charles E. Pugh, D.D.S. (596)



Sectry-Treas/Editor----Bill Lewis



BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Richard Miller (460)



Dick Spencer (Co. G)



Joe A. C. Williams (Co. B)



Cameron J. Gauthier (460)

Immediate Past-President



Henry S. (Hank) Simpson (596)



Frank Grbinich (Co. A)



If you have any suggestions, questions, complaints, ideas, information, etc. that you feel would help you or the 517 Combat Team Assn., please write or call one of your officers or directors. Your interest and participation are welcomed. Teamwork was an important attribute that helped us to earn the reputation as an outatanding combat unit and it is that same trait that helps us to be just as outstanding in our peacetime endeavors.

These two men are in charge of local arrangements in San Mateo, CA for the August 1983 Reunion. If you have any questions, suggestions, ideas, requests, etc., please get in touch with one of them:

Bill Davis



JUMPMASTERS

Col. John W. Chism



Ⓡ Robert E. Anderson (Avis)

Box 424
[Redacted]

Ambrose W.(Buck) Buchanan *

[Redacted]

Robert W. Dalrymple
(Garnet)

[Redacted]

George Ayling (Lee)

[Redacted]

* Michael Bulino(Catherine)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Ⓡ Bernard F. Barnes (Thelma)

[Redacted]

Ⓡ Bill Christian (Sophie)

[Redacted]

Ⓡ Earl Dillard (Edith)

[Redacted]

Ⓡ Richard B. Bartholomew (Florianne) Sal Ciulla

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

William R. Doane ✓

[Redacted]

Harold R. Bean

[Redacted]

Bill E. Cochran (Beverly)

[Redacted]

Cornelius (Connie) Driscoll
(Glence)

[Redacted]

Joseph W. Bennett

[Redacted]

Willard H.(Bill) Conger
(Marge)

[Redacted]

Ⓡ Harold L. (Hal) Eddy
(Polly)

[Redacted]

James Benson (Dot)

[Redacted]

Charles R. Courchaine

[Redacted]

Robert Egler

[Redacted]

Charles M. Bonaventura

[Redacted]

Robert L. Dail

[Redacted]

Alfred E. Emerick

[Redacted]

James R. Botts

[Redacted]

Ralph W. France (Virginia)

[Redacted]

Richard L. Bramley

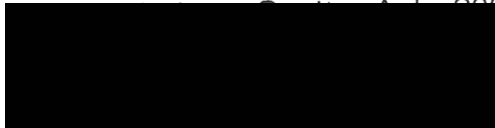
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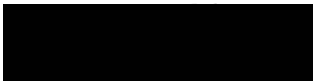
✓ Bernard S. Frieberg (Zella)



Winter Home



Glenn Gainer (Ruth)

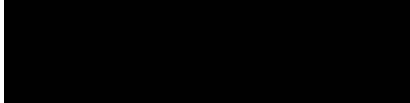


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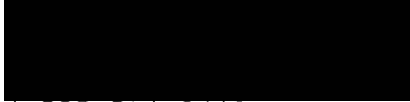
Louis Gelen (Vera)



Corey F. Gibbon (Annie Loyd)



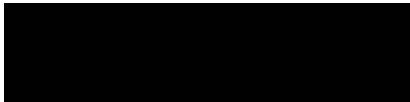
Ⓢ Al Goodman (Alice)



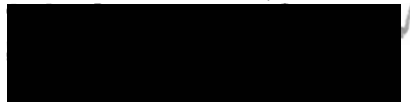
Donald A. (Jack) Goudie



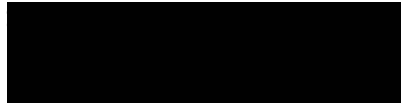
Jack R. Green



James O. Greenwood (Hildred)



Max W. Grona (Maxine)



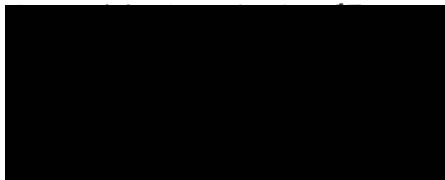
John (Jack) Guthrie



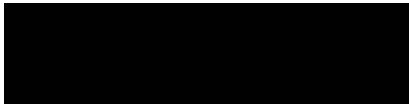
Ⓢ Alton W. (Judge) Harrell



Clarence T. Hatlestad
(Donna Mae)



Marion Leroy (Roy) Herren
(Naomi)



Ray Hild (Mary)



✓ Ned R. Hosterman (Maybelle)



Ⓢ Bill Hudson (Gloria)



Ⓢ Lester E. (Gene) Hyman
(Mary Jo)



Murray B. (Monk) Johnson



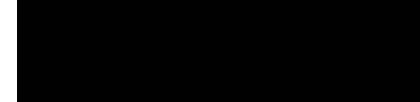
Kyle F. Kenyon (Shirley)



Ernest C. Kosan (Judy)



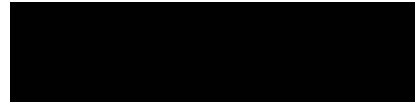
Ⓢ Mike F. Kovach (Violet)



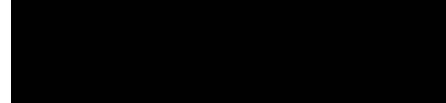
Alfred Kunzer -- *Betty*



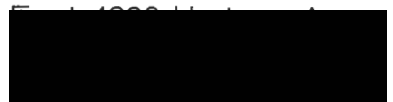
Robert E. Kuston



Edward J. Larivey



Peter W. Lannen (Josephine)



Herbert V. Larson (Ann)

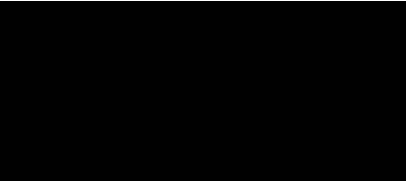


ROSTER-----continued

Warren J. Leatham (Evelyn)



Dr. Bernard W. Lyon (Kathy)



John A. McConnell



George E. McCook



James W. McEanney (Maye)



Carl Lee McIntyre



*check
annapolis?*

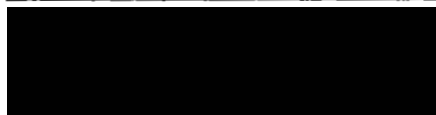
Edward T. McKinley (Jean)



Homer L. McRoy



James M. MacFadden (Ruth)



* Lyle S. (Gus) Madison
(Mary Ann)



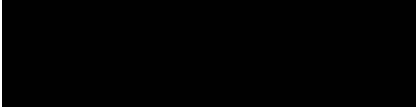
Joseph J. Malone



Gene Markle (Elaine)



Warn R. Meares (La Rue)



Joe D. Miller (Mary)



* George W. Mitchell (Deen)



* James M. (Brooks) Moses
(Mary)



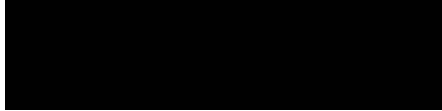
* James H. Nolan



Wayne B. Norwood (Aimee)



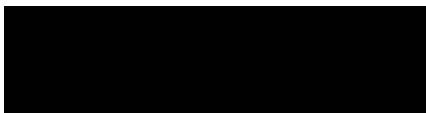
Richard J. Nosky



Francis J. O'Lone (Peggy)



* Russell Pearson (Mary)



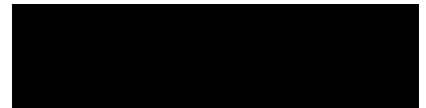
* Edward Phillips (Kay)



* David Pierce (Olga)



Vincent D. Podrasky (Joan)



Ray E. Poe (Gloria)



* Dr. Charles E. Pugh (Ann)



or Office



ROSTER-----continued

John L. Randall (Alice)

[Redacted]

Herbert A. Reichwald (Marie)

[Redacted]

Marvin A. Rigdon (Ann)

[Redacted]

Paul Roberson

[Redacted]

Harold A. Roberts (Jeanne)

[Redacted]

James M. Rogers

[Redacted]

Raymond R. Sampson (Ann)

[Redacted]

Warren E. Sandberg (Marilyn)

[Redacted]

Don Saunders (Marian)

[Redacted]

Melvin P. Schneider

[Redacted]

Al Schornberg (Andrée)

[Redacted]

George "Speed" Sebring

[Redacted]

Merrill W. Seeley (Dorothy)

[Redacted]

Joseph F. Senter (Pat)

[Redacted]

Dennis Shipley

[Redacted]

George H. Shull (Winston)

[Redacted]

Henry (Hank) S. Simpson
(Marian)

[Redacted]

Tom G. Small (Mary)

[Redacted]

Donald E. Smith (Kathleen)

[Redacted]

Joe Smith

[Redacted]

Glenn C. Spangler (Agnes)

[Redacted]

B.E. (Pop) Spencer (Mary)

[Redacted]

Lloyd H. Spencer (Harriet)

[Redacted]

Art G. Starck (Jean)

[Redacted]

Hugh D. Sterling (Marje)

[Redacted]

T.J. Sumpter (Oleta)

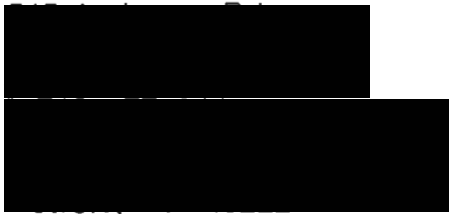
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Marshall H. Turner (Devona)

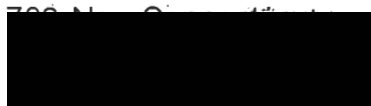
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David Twight



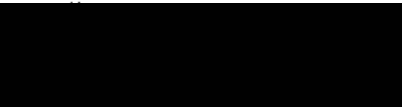
Wesley G. Williams (Gladys)



George W. Williamson (Mary)



Robert Wilson



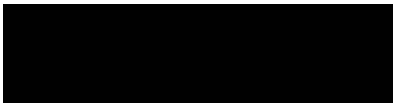
William F. Winterling (Frances)



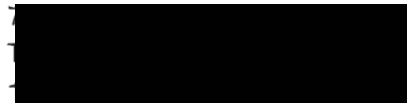
Leo Wrobleski



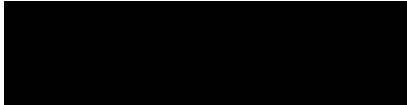
Thomas J. Young (Ruth)



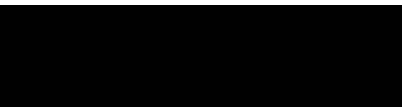
George T. Walden



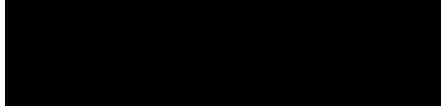
Leonard I. Walker



Peter C. Zubricky (Rose)



John M. Whiteman (Marilyn)



Robert C. Wilkerson (Betty)



IN MEMORIAM

- John R. Berryhill
- Jack W. Boyer
- John Celecz
- Walter K. Charlton
- Adolph A. Correa
- Milton O. Dorman
- Carroll W. Dorothy
- Frank R. Ennis
- Bill Fisher
- Jesse Floyd
- Al Foley
- Clyde V. Hoffman
- Dr. John T. Holbrook
- Gorda L. (Tommy) Landrum
- Peter Liberatore
- Ralph Longstreth
- Durland (Bucky) McCauley
- Elias Nolan
- Robert E. Powers
- Charles Ryznic
- Don Sherman
- Ira Van Dyke
- Walter Wasiurka
- John Whalen
- William Wickersham
- Fred H. Zavattero

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SEND ANY CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO THE EDITOR




517

PARACHUTE COMBAT TEAM

LEST WE FORGET

The Halls of Valhalla

1st Lt. George E. Flannery-----Italy	FOR GOO AND	COUNTRY	
PFC Francis T. Ropyak-----Italy--			
Pvt. Harry L. Springer-----Italy			
Pvt. Henry Wikins-----Jump area So. France			
Sgt. Howard D. Jaynes, Jr.-----Var River Valley--So. France			
PFC Ernest R. Coffelt -----Var River Valley--So. France			
Pvt. Leonard Mathis-----Var River Valley--So France			
Pvt. Patrick L. Michaels-----Mountain above Nice, France			
PFC William F. Boggan-----Nice, France Airport			
Sgt. Wallace P. Englert-----Nice, France Airport			
Pvt. Vestal A. Lucas-----Nice, France Airport			
PFC Herbert B. McLamb-----Nice, France Airport			
Pvt. Harold H. Miller-----Nice, France Airport			
PFC Alois J. Siewierski-----Nice, France Airport			
Pvt. George (Pappy) Jones -----Belgium			

"If you can forget my death, then I have died in vain."

"To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die."

"We who live are here because someone else isn't, by the unfathomableness of fate."

What do you think about organizing the 596 to a certain degree----to the extent of electing officers to serve between Reunions, a two year term? It would divide the work load between a few people. It might get some new and better ideas promulgated. It might generate more widespread interest in the affairs of our group. It is one other way of recognizing and expressing our appreciation for work and intetest previously rendered-----we elect him to a formal title so he can do it some more. To this end I am enclosing a ballot which I hope each of you will take the time to fill out and return to me as soon as possible.

Super Sleuth Brooks Moses has recently located Harold C. Johnson, [REDACTED]. Tel: [REDACTED]. Harold has been in the construction business for the past 30 years. For the last several years he has had vision problems due to cataracts. He and wife Hazel have no children. He had spoken to no 596er since 1945 until Brooks called him on the phone.

THINGS I HAVE LEARNED IN A HALF CENTURY OF LIVING -----Charles Pugh

1. Perseverance accomplishes more than ability.
2. Good health is the greatest wealth.
3. The most satisfying and lasting things you can buy with money are happy memories.
4. If you think man is inventive and has made great progress, remember there has been no new sin in the past 5,000 years.
5. I'm not as old or as wise at 50+ as I originally expected.
6. Beware of people who wear sunglasses indoors.
7. Contrary to popular belief, pain and death are not the worst things in life. The worst thing is loneliness. The next worst thing is to be ignored..
8. The power of believing (positive thinking) is greater than most people realize.
9. Real beauty comes from within.
10. Patience is the hardest lesson to learn and the easiest to forget.
11. There are as many perfect children as there are perfect parents.
12. A good mate in marriage is one of life's greatest blessings.
13. One of the hardest things to do is let your children go.
14. You are entitled to a few idiosyncrasies. Enjoy them.
15. Fortunately, man's happiness is not dependent upon an understanding of women.
16. Most things that trouble and worry people are (a) things that haven't happened (b) things they cannot control, (c) their own pride or selfishness.
17. My definition of a liberated woman is one without menses. A liberated man is one who doesn't have to shave. Why didn't God let man's beard stop growing after menopause or let his facial hair fall out and his cranial hair stay there? God didn't make alot of mistakes, but there certainly is ample reason to question His perfection.
18. Enrich your life by generously sharing your most important possessions - love, affection, friendship, concern, sympathy, consideration, smiles, understanding, kindness and pleasantries. You will help others through such generosity but you will be the principal beneficiary.
19. Set goals, short term and long term, and write them down. Look at them periodically. These goals can be changed but it is important to have a road map for your life. You will understand better where you are trying to go and you will recognize when you get there.
20. Try to keep some balance in your cross of life between work, worship, love and play.

This is to remind you that the WW2 photographs you took to Orlando and forgot to take home with you will be waiting for you in August 1983 at the San Mateo Reunion.

In June I visited with Earl and Edith Dillard in Dallas at their daughter's home. We spent an enjoyable couple of hours reliving some WW2 days and looking at some of his photos and memorabilia.

An attempt to locate additional 596ers is being made through the Veterans Administration Regional Offices in the state from which each man entered the service. That effort should shake out a few more of our buddies.

I talked to Bob and Garnet Dalrymple after they arrived in Montana in June. They have settled in for the summer. Bob's painful problem with herpes Zoster is getting much better. He suggested that I make a clear distinction between what he is suffering with and venereal herpes---they are not the same thing.

POETRY CORNER

submitted by
Mary & Ray Hild

PARATROOPER'S ODESSEY

High on the deck of a flying wreck
A paratrooper stands;
He stares straight ahead and listens
with dread
As he waits those final commands

There's a green light's glow and a
shout: "Let's go!"
As he leaps straight into space;
There's the thrill of the drop--the
hard opening shock
And starlight shows fear on his
face.

A quick sigh of relief, then he thinks
of the grief
To be met when he reaches the
ground.
Then he looks far below, for a safe
place to go
From the shells that are bursting
around.

There's a rip and a slash, and hard
jarring crash
And his canopy bangs from a tree.
Though in a poem I can't show it:
'twas hard ground and I know
it,
'Cause the guy in the 'chute was me.

In a state of collapse, I unbuckled
my straps
And I shakily rise from the sod;
No bones are broke; the night is a
cloak
And I offer a prayer to God.

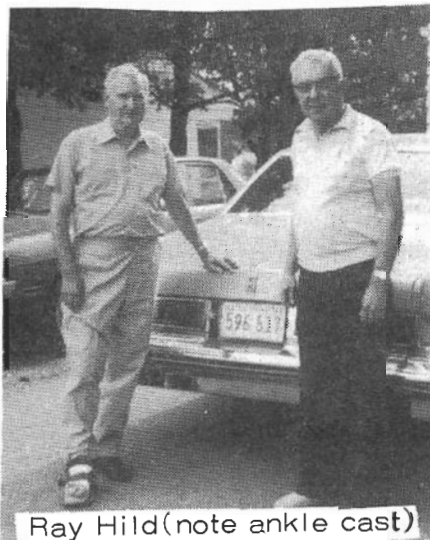
Then an enemy gun sends me off on
the run,
As I busily hunt our CP
You can think what you please, but
I'm weak at the knees
'Cause the Jerries are hunting for
me.

They say in this war, that we are
fighting for
All the good things in life and for
freedom
But the crazy galoot in the silk para-
chute
Won't live so long as to need 'em.

--Pic. Charles Flament



Art Starck, Mary & Ray Hild



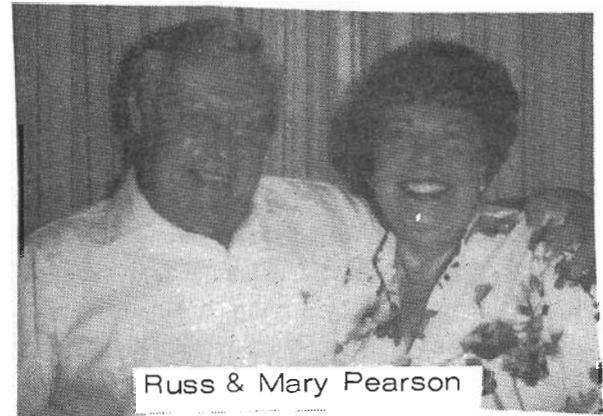
Ray Hild (note ankle cast)
& Art Starck



George Ayling and ?? (then)



Driscoll & Egger (then)



Russ & Mary Pearson



Sgt. Claude Mills (then)

I met Clark Archer (517) in April at the Airborne Awards Festival in Atlanta. For some time previously I had corresponded with him and talked with him on the phone about his historical research on the 517 Combat Team. When I met him he asked, "Are you an Esquire man or a Kiwi man?" As you remember, we seemed to be about equally divided concerning how best to shine boots and our allegiance to one paste or the other was strong indeed and the source of much disagreement. Clark has a wonderful but somewhat mischievous sense of humor and can recount many humorous anecdotes from our military years and since. For the Orlando Reunion, Clark made the beautiful large (4 ft. by 8 ft.) 517 PRCT cloth logo that he installed behind the registration desk in the hotel lobby. During the three days of our meeting, several of our members found out that Clark was responsible for this beautiful artwork and expressed their admiration of it to Clark. Jokingly, Clark told each of these men that the logo could be his to keep after the Reunion was ended. He gave it to Joe Williams and to Phil Offenhauser and to several others with each one believing it was being given to him alone. In truth, Archer intended to actually give it to Bill Davis to take back to California with him to use at the San Mateo Reunion in 1983. Early on the morning of departure, Clark went to the lobby to get the logo but what he found in its place was a bedsheet hanging where the logo had been and scrawled on it with lipstick was "Too late sucker!". Who has the logo is still a mystery---perhaps it will turn up in California in 1983.

Another Clark Archer story: At the sand table briefing in Italy prior to the southern France invasion jump, the towns in the south of France were given code names on the sand table in order to keep the objectives and the invasion area a secret. The code names were Texas towns such as Dallas, Ft. Worth, Austin, Houston, Etc.. One of the 517 platoon sergeants was given the objective for his platoon to take a town with the code name, "Dallas". As all the platoon sergeants were leaving the briefing tent, this fellow turned to one of his counterparts and asked, "I wonder what the population of Dallas is?" His friend replied, "Oh, about half a million, I think.", speaking of course of the real Dallas, Texas. The calm and serious response was, "That's gonna be a pretty big job for my platoon."

Roy Herren recently retired and he and Naomi are trying to sell their home and build a new one in Florida. When I talked with him in June, he had just returned from a fishing and mushrooming trip to Northern Michigan. He said he didn't catch many fish but he caught a lot of mushrooms---those elusive little devils.

In April, Tex Lowe and leaders from several other airborne groups met with the Curator of the Ft. Benning Infantry Museum to discuss and plan enlarging the airborne section of that Museum. This Museum is large and beautifully arranged and maintained but the Airborne section is quite small. The Curator is willing to provide more space if the material to put in it is forthcoming. As the details are worked out you will get more information through the "Thunderbolt". Save all your Airborne items of any and all kinds and we may one day have a 517 PRCT section in this or some other Airborne Museum.

Russ and Mary Pearson enjoyed the Orlando bash. Since they live in California they will naturally be in San Mateo in 1983 but I think they would be there if it were being held in Timbucktoo. They have 2 daughters and 1 grandchild. Russ is a 1950 Engineering graduate of Michigan State University. He worked for G.M. for 5 years and then went into the aerospace industry in California in 1955 to get away from the Michigan winters. He worked of the Lunar descent engine and the MX and Titan missile programs. During the 70's he worked as a Project Manager for advanced technology energy conversion projects and presently is Senior Staff Engineer at TRW Systems and he has several US and foreign patents. His hobbies are sailing and sport fishing in California, Mexico and Hawaii. He recently took up soaring in sail planes.

Father Al Guenette, our Catholic "hanging" Chaplain, wrote me a long letter from Los Andes, Chile. He will be at the San Mateo Reunion. He has always been a most remarkable man and he continues to do a wonderful work for God and man in Chile.

The 596 does have a Memorial Fund and when any of our members move on to that Big Jump School in the Sky they will be remembered with a funeral wreath in the shape of a parachute.

Ray Hild wrote that Jean and Art Starck stopped by for a visit on their way to Florida in May. He sent photos which you will see on these pages. He has gotten out of his ankle cast and his surgery was a complete success.. He and Mary send their best regards to everyone and are planning on making the California Reunion.

John Chism, who along with Bill Davis, is Jumpmastering the 1983 Reunion in San Mateo, writes: "Your Newsletter is superior! Clearly a great effort and a labor of love. I know the "old troopers" of the 596th get a lift from it. As soon as it came, I called Bill Davis. The Reunion work progresses. Sometimes it gets to be a drag---but as sure as the sun, things will get done."

This Newsletter comes to you free of charge and will always continue to do so. Any contribution you may choose to make toward its support will be greatly appreciated. The printing and postage costs for this issue alone were \$750.00 with the Supplement and Roster. Most issues will not contain as many pages as this one.

CALIFORNIA MINI-REUNION

PLOP!
PLOP!
FIZZ!
FIZZ!



IT WAS A HELLUVA PARTY!!!!

GOODMAN'S GRAND GALA---3 & 4 July 1982

The mini-reunion of the California element of the 596 on July 3 & 4 was a wonderfully warm, easy paced, and fun occasion. We were hosted by gracious Al and charming Alice Goodman in their beautiful home in Bakersfield. There aren't adequate words of praise for the preparatory work done by both for this event and their hospitality went far beyond anyone's expectations. In attendance were Bob & Marie Verdi, Bill & Sophie Christian, Bill & Gloria Hudson, Gene & Elaine Markle, Ed & Jean McKinley, Dick Bramley, Dick Bartholomew, Jack Goudie, Charles & Ann Pugh and the Goodmans. Russ and Mary Pearson couldn't be there because he had a heart attack just a few days earlier. I am happy to report that he has had a pacemaker installed and is now at home recuperating. Jean Goudie couldn't be there because she is recovering from recent heart surgery. Florianne Bartholomew couldn't attend because she

recently entered the hospital in Denver, CO for treatment of a rare lung disease that is similar to tuberculosis. You might like to send some get well cards to the above named who are ill or recuperating. Back to the party---there were a wide variety of activities arranged and provided by our hosts--- golf, pocket billiards, darts, swimming, hot-tubbing, fireworks display, snacking, drinking, hugging, photo taking, photo looking, scrapbook looking, a patio-lawn old fashioned Fourth of July Picnic complete with red, white and blue table cloths and napkins and watermelon, "Remember When and Remember Who" sessions and lots of laughing. We also had dinner on the evening of the 3rd at a delightful Basque restaurant. Al and Alice and Dachshund Edie were magnificent hosts. To recover, Al and Alice are taking a Scandinavian cruise in August. Bon Voyage!

(continued)

CALIFORNIA MINI-REUNION ---continued

Jack Goudie was seeing his first 596er in more than 30 years. He wasn't sure at first that he was going to remember anyone but in a very few minutes the memories came flooding back. He retired as a heavy equipment operator in 1978 in the Chicago area and moved to California. He and Jean have 4 children. He is planning to take her dancing in San Mateo in August 1983.

Dick Bartholomew went to dinner at the Basque restaurant wearing shorts which wasn't permitted; however, the waitresses took a vote and agreed that his legs were so attractive that he could come in anyway. Basques may know sheep but I'm a bit dubious about their taste in legs. Thanks Dick for your most generous contribution to the 596 Newsletter and Memorial Fund.

Dick Bramley had guests coming in to visit him in Palm Springs on the 4th of July and had not planned to come to Bakersfield; but, on the 3rd he found he had to drive up for one day with us. Dick says he still has all the medical records of the troopers of the 596 and on the strength of their contents he plans to retire soon to a life of comfort and ease. Some might call it blackmail but Dick says he is merely going to market an insurance policy that assures his silence so long as the premiums continue to be paid.

Bob Verdi and Jack Goudie disagreed about where the best Italian sausages came from---Chicago or New York. We all finally agreed on New York because that is where the sausages came from that Verdi brought to the picnic and we didn't want him to get mad and not cook them for us. Bob and Al Goodman co-chefed the charcoal grilled Italian sausages and hamburgers. Bob regaled us for hours with ethnic jokes of the Italian and Catholic persuasion. Bob was trying to get out of trouble with lovely wife Marie whose clothes he had left at home in his excitement to get to the reunion. Bob and his son own and operate a liquor store and delicatessen.

Directly after this get-together, Gene and Elaine Markle were visiting relatives in his original home town of Rochester, NY. Gene plans to see Don Saunders while he is in that neck of the woods. Elaine works in a hospital in computer records section. Gene is still in real estate.

Jean McKinley rides her own thoroughbred racehorse daily (it once belonged to Bo Derek) and makes the world's best Mississippi mud chocolate cake---we devoured one at the picnic. She also gardens. Ed is retired. He is another who was seeing his first 596er in 38 years. He is an interesting conversationalist and has a long memory of many WW2 events.

Elaine Hudson swims daily and is a bookkeeper for an interior decorator. Bill is still civil engineering for the state of California. They are a charming couple and brought some delicious sparkling burgundy wine to have with our picnic dinner.

Sophie and Bill Christian are both into physical fitness and regular exercising. She is a charmer who lived in Greece during and after WW2 from age 6 to 16. She sells Avon products. Bill is still with the Public Broadcasting System TV station in Los Angeles. Bill won the prize for the neatest and most extensive photo album from WW2.

Al Goodman is still enjoying his first year of retirement from the Presidency of a steel company in Bakersfield. He is getting to play golf now as often as he had always wanted to. He has lost 17 pounds since our Reunion in Orlando and looks great. He is receiving offers from other companies to go back to work but so far is resisting.

These few words about the individuals at the mini-reunion don't really give you the sense of "oneness" or "wholeness" and intimate fraternity we all felt after only a very moments. The years rolled away and uncovered many memories of shared events and feelings.

In short order, it was as if we were taking up where we left off when last together in Europe-----except we are all much nicer to one another now. The years and the presence of our wives have leavened our high spirits to some degree---thank God.

Loss of Hill Still Bothers Paratrooper

Only Taught How To Win, Declares Yank

By HAL BOYLE

With the 517th Parachute Combat Team, Western Front, Jan. 26 (Delayed) (CP)—"I still feel funny about that hill," says Lieut. Dick Spencer. "We never lost a hill before—and we have never lost one since."

Dick will never forget "that hill" because he thought he had disgraced the paratroopers there. He ordered his platoon to pull back after 22 of its 28 men were killed or wounded trying to storm the slope and knock out 22 enemy pillboxes—a full-sized job for a regiment.

"They had us cold that day," said the slim little 24-year-old former University of Iowa journalist student. "We had been taught how to win, but nobody had taught us how to lose. We didn't know how because we never expect to—in the paratroops."

Dick was assistant platoon leader that day, weeks ago, when they attacked the double-sloped hill at Col De Braus, France, in the Maritime Alps.

"We thought those pillboxes were empty," said Dick. "I studied them for 15 minutes through a telescope and didn't see a sign of any movement. But just as we started up the hill I felt something was wrong."

Patrols found the first three pillboxes empty. "Then I heard a shout and looked up and the air was full of hand grenades and antitank grenades," Dick said.

One grenade burst at Dick's feet. His leg was numb and he was bleeding from his mouth and ears. Several men were killed or wounded, but Dick and three others managed to drag themselves to the nearest pillbox, where Dick set up an aid station.

Regroup for Attack

Two men trying to bring up water were killed. Although realigning he was facing incredible odds, the young platoon leader—he had just come back from the hospital the night before—reorganized for a second attack.

"The Germans opened up again and the leader was killed at the start," said Dick.

Although the Nazis caught them with burp guns, machineguns, rifles and grenades, the paratroopers surged up the hill. Men fell every few steps. The Germans began dropping mortar shells behind them and flames spread in the grass and brush.

Finally they had to fall back to where Dick was caring for the

wounded. One German was killed almost at the entrance to the pillbox. A paratrooper staggered back with a wounded man under each arm. A third wounded man, clinging to his waist, was shot through the lung. The paratrooper himself was wounded in the face, arm and shoulder. He wears the Distinguished Service Cross now.

Only six men were unhurt. The only non-com on his feet was a sergeant with a bullet wound in his knee. He looked down at Dick and said:

"What'll we do, sir? we are being butchered. But we will try once more if you say so."

The lieutenant gave the order to pull back. They worked their way down the hill, with each man helping the wounded as best he could. Eight paratroopers on another hill opened fire and routed a column of 200 Germans trying to cut them off.

"All the way back I thought I would be thrown out of the paratroopers for falling back without orders," Dick recalled.

Instead, he got pats on the back from the battalion commander, who had given orders, after the first attack, for the platoon to withdraw. But their radio was knocked out, the platoon never got the order—and made a second gallant try.

Two days later a battalion and two companies of paratroopers—more than 500 men this time—attacked and took the hill, capturing 18 Germans in the first pillbox alone.

FLASH!!!!

FLASH!!!!

FLASH!!!!

FLASH!!!!

FLASH!!!!

1983 REUNION OF THE 517TH PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

AUGUST 11, 12, 13

VILLA HOTEL

SAN MATEO, CALIFORNIA

I know the JUmprasters of the Reunion are considering, among many things, a visit to one or more wineries and a wine tasting party, a lay-over or a charter trip after the Reunion to Lake Tahoe/Reno, a cruise to Alaska following the Reunion, bus tours into San Francisco, etc. There are a lot of interesting and fun things to do and see in California.

NEWLY FOUND 596ers

Add these names and addresses to your Roster:

Harold C. Johnson (Hazel)

Verlin R. Glenn

Clarence Smith

Joseph Y. Herrera

DECEASED

Oliver J. Nelson--2-20-1970

Francis M. Lester--6-14-1982

William J. Metzger--6-22-1975

Wilburt T. Montomery--11-17-1956

Bruce F. Stroud --11-4-1967

Earl B. Thomas--Feb. 1982

Joe Diaz--5-2-1978 Kenneth E. Harris--2-1-1979

Harold Johnson farmed for 4 years after his discharge and then worked for a building contractor for 20 years. He was Commander of the Alta Vista VFW Post two years ago. He asked if the 596 had more combat deaths than any other company in the Combat Team. Does anyone have any information about this dubious distinction?

Jane Lester wrote that Francis died of lung cancer on 14 June 1982, about 2 weeks before we located him. He was living in Dexter, NY.

Verlin Glenn was out of the service a few years directly after the war but went back in and retired with 30 years service in 1977. He spent 21 years in Special Forces. He spent 5 years in law enforcement after retirement from the military. He and wife Eva have 3 children and 3 grandchildren.

Clarence Smith and wife Rita have no children. He is self employed in the building business and says his health is pretty good and that he works when he has to.

I sent an advance copy of this Newsletter, less the Supplement, to General Yarborough because of his talk that is reprinted in it. He has written to say, "Thank you so much for the para material and the kind words. I continue to envy your enthusiasm, esprit and drive wherever and whenever parachutes of any size, shape, or function are involved. Through your eyes, I see the 596th as the great outfit it really was. Sincerely, Bill"

Brooks Moses wrote to say that Pop Spencer was to visit him in early July. Brooks trains and gives Pop a bird dog from time to time. Moses, Spencer and Greenwood get together in South Carolina occasionally to hunt birds. Brooks says Pop hasn't changed his tactics and strategy since his days in the 596. When there is work to be done he says his legs are bad and that he is too old to get around but when hunting he moves like a teen-ager without any hesitation or complaints.

I have taken the liberty of challenging all other companies and batteries of the Combat Team for the largest attendance at the San Mateo Reunion next year. In Orlando we had 41 of our men there and would have had 40 or 5 more there had it not been for the air controller strike and a few unfortunate accidents and illnesses immediately preceding the Reunion. Needless to say we had the largest attendance of any Company and more than one of the Battalions. There were approximately 250 in attendance for the entire Combat Team. We have found a few more of our men since then and everyone has two years to save up and set aside the time for this great and memorable occasion. So let's really show the rest of the Combat Team the full meaning of esprit-de-corps and pride of unit and the closeness of our extraordinary company. But the essential and compelling reason for you to be there is because you will enjoy three of the best days of your life and because your presence will also help a lot of your buddies enjoy three of the best days of their life. There will be more details of planned activities coming to you in a few months concerning the Reunion.

596ers HAVE

ESPRIT

TO SPARE!!!!!!!

Monk Johnson called to tell me that he is coming to Dallas in October to visit relatives. Joe Senter, Bill Shipley and I will have a chance to visit with him. He says he is feeling much better now.

Clark Archer called to tell me that he is working on a large 596 logo to give to us. This will be great for us to use at Reunions to identify our Hospitality Suite. What a thoughtful and talented guy Clark is.



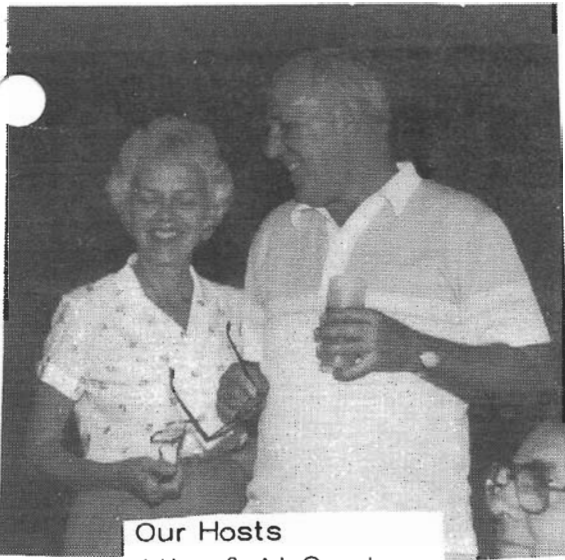
Chef Bob Verdi



Dick Bartholomew & Bill Hudson



Verdi, Hudson, & Bartholomew



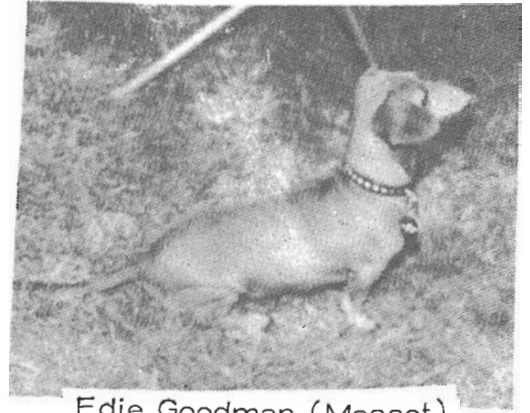
Our Hosts
Alice & Al Goodman



Sophie & Bill Christian, Bartholomew, Gene Markle



Front Row L to R- Christian and Goodman
Back Row L to R-Verdi, McKinley, Hudson, Pugh, Markle



Edie Goodman (Mascot)



Front Row L to R-Hudson, Markle, Christian, Pugh
Back Row L to R-McKinley, Goudie, Verdi, Bartholomew, Goodman

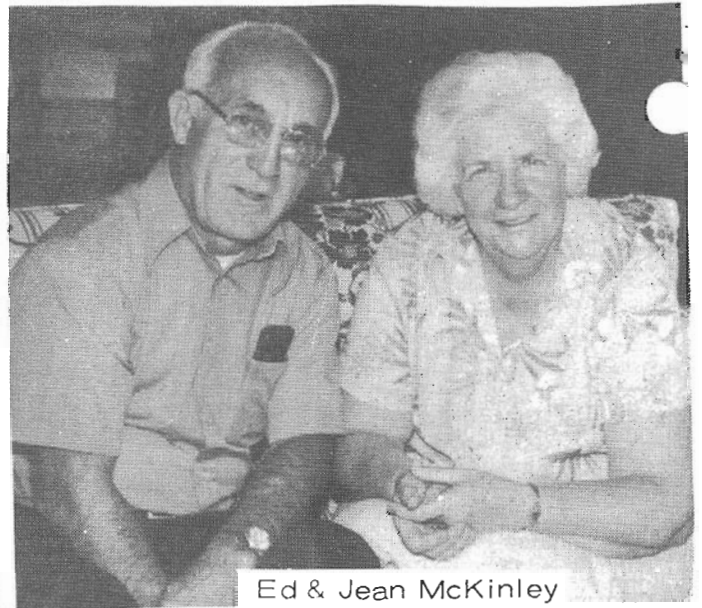


Jack Goudie

(continued)



Marie & Bob Verdi & Ann Pugh



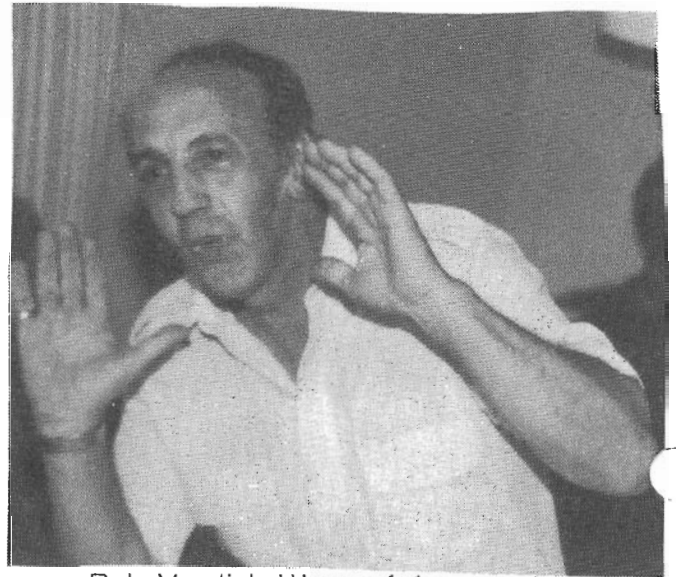
Ed & Jean McKinley



Gloria Hudson, Elaine Markle & Dick Bramley

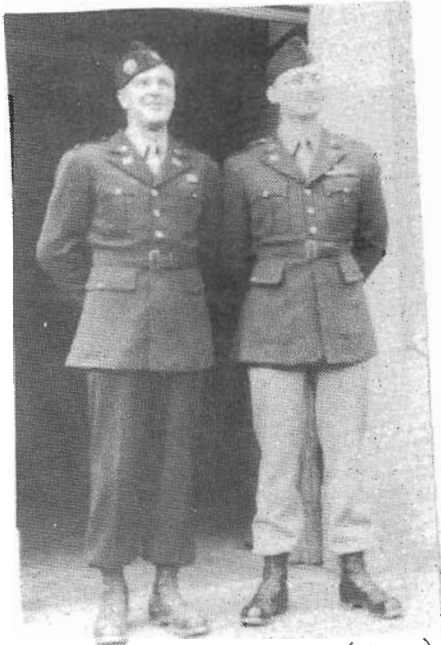


Sophie & Bill Christian

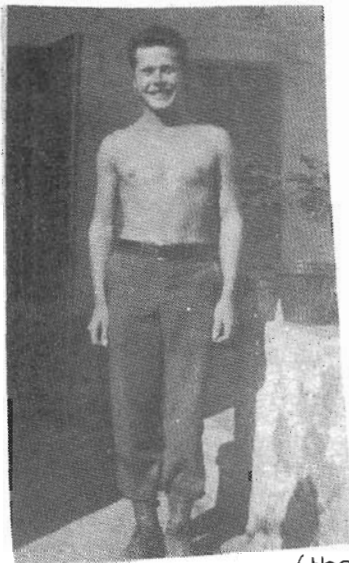


Bob Verdi telling a joke or lying about the fish he caught.

REMEMBRANCE OF THINGS PAST



Bonaventura & Fisher (then)



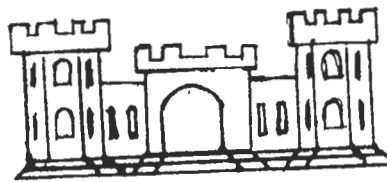
George Williamson (then)



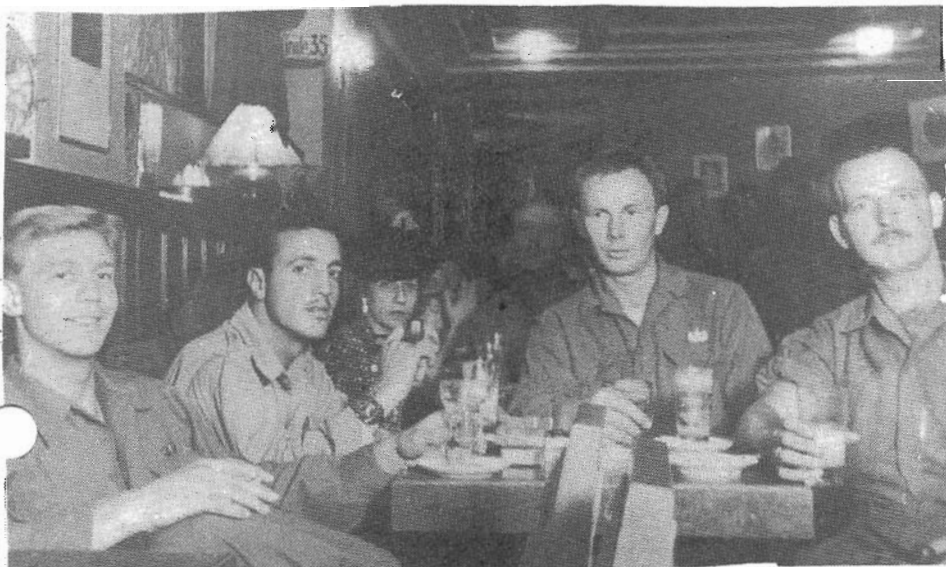
Allen Goodman



Bob Verdi



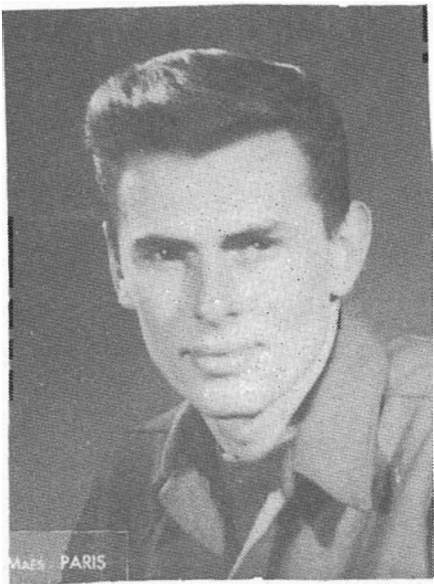
Ross and reptilian friend



Senter, Verdi, M.B. Johnson & Moses



Lillian Luiggi & Max Grona



Don O'Neill



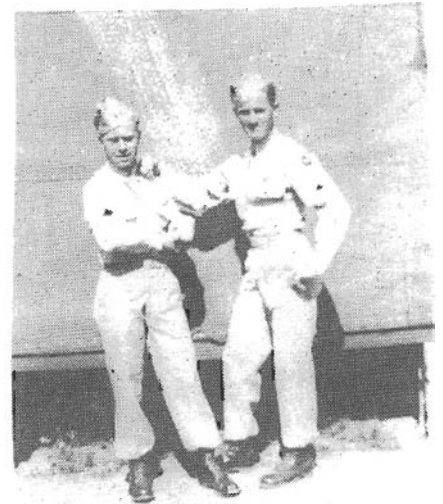
Bob (Valentino) Verdi



Claude K. Mills



Bob Verdi



Roberson & Morgan



Al & Alice Goodman



Barbera & Botts



Hild, Kosan, Moore & Hoffman