The Red Devil Digest

The 508th Airborne Chapter Newsletter Fury From The Sky

Official Chapter Web Site: www.red-devils.org

Vol. 6 No. 4 **July - August 2002**

Op Waterside - 56th National Convention

Norfolk, VA August 21-24

Operation Waterside, the 82d Airborne Association's 56th Annual Convention was held in the Navy town of Norfolk. Needless to say our Airborne Troopers took the town by storm. See page 3 for details.

Chairman's Message



The National Convention is behind us and all of you old timers know what that means. This is the time of the year where you must think about renewing your membership for the year 2003. July 31 was the cut-off for membership for the year 2002. As of that date your chapter was the second largest veterans' chapter in the Association. We had 203 All American Members (Life) and 219 Annual Members for a grand total of 422 members. This was only the second time a veterans chapter exceeded the 400 membership mark.. I want to thank all of you who converted their Annual Membership to AAM this past year and also those of you who renewed their membership early which allowed your chapter to gain an extra $1.00 for Early Bird membership. Each year we lose on the average of 30 to 35 Annual Members who fail to renew their membership. For the year 2002, we only lost 13! Lets keep up the good work!

Again we need your support to keep the chapter vibrant. Think about changing your membership from Annual to Life. If you're 50 years old or more a one time payment of $100.00 for AAM (Life) Membership is dirt cheap! We also need your support to renew your membership early. If we turn in your application to Chapter by November 10 you will be considered an "Early Bird" and , as indicated above, your chapter receives an extra $1.00 rebate.

So far we have a big jump in new memberships for 2003. As of 11 August we have three new All American (Life) Members, eight new Annual Members and one new Affiliate Member.
Now is the time to re-op for next year. To date we have twenty four Annual Members who have renewed their membership for 2003 and qualified for "Early Bird" status. That's $24.00 your Chapter has earned in addition to the rebates received in January from National. Don't wait till the Christmas season is upon you and cause your grumpy Re-Up NCO to send you a bill during the holiday season. Seriously, your continued cooperation will be greatly appreciated if you act now.

New Chapter Members

Your Chapter is proud to announce the addition of the following new Chapter members.



All American Members (AAM-Life)

Lawrence E. Coogan (I/SVC/HQ3/51-54)**; Steve Kmyta** (A/43-46); **Jose D. Garcia** (G/51-53); **David A. Vegafria (**HHC1/88-90) and **Nicholas G Wille** (SVC/51-53).

Annual Members For 2003

Bud L. Chess (598/51-53); **E. Eugene Dauphin** (598/51-53); **William R. Eisentrout** (E/51-53); **Raymond L. Olley** (H/52-53); **James R. Pickerel** (598/51-53); **Terry L. Williams** (C1/72-73); and **Hobart J. Wingard (**B/54-56).

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Affiliate Member For 2003

Robert J. Petrelli (C/74-75).

Chapter Boosters - 2002





e320th Airborne Field Artillery Association; James Adams (598/54-56); ***Jean D. Ashcraft*** (HQ3/55-56); ***Bobby R. Blankenship*** (B/51-53);***Joseph B. Catey*** *(A1/66-68);* ***Robert E. Chisolm*** (MP/54-56); ***Anthony Cantillo Jr.*** (F/51-54); ***Jerry R. Curren*** (M/51); ***Tom Daley*** (L/51-52); ***Jack K. Damron*** (HQ1/54-57)***; LTC (R) James K. Damron; Marvin Darby*** ((L/51-54)***; Joseph L. Davis*** (B/51-56)***; John T. Diffin*** (B/51-53); ***Garland F. Drewry*** (A/44-45); ***Augustine E. Fernandez*** (L/51-54); ***Bill Fernandez*** (SPT/54-56); ***Samuel D.* Gillispie** (L/54-56); ***CSM (R) Hal S. Gladson*** (A1/64-66); ***Milan Glumac*** (E/55-56); ***Kenneth L. Glynn*** (L/51-54); ***Richard S. Gohl,*** (C/54-55); ***Jerry T. Grubbs*** (A/51-54); ***Frank Haddy*** (D/43-46); ***Douglas T. Hague***, (E/51-54); ***Kenneth M. Hamill*** (E/55-56); ***David P. Hathaway*** (D/51-53); ***Bobbie R. Henson***, (E/51-53); ***Armando C. Juarez*** (I/51-54); ***Leamon Kendrick*** (H&H/55-56); ***CSM (R) Arthur Kilgore*** (SVC/51-53); ***Billy D. Kitchen*** (M/51-53); ***Leno Larez*** (C/42-44); ***Joseph R. Leger*** (H&H/51-54); ***Joseph Lesniak*** (C/51-52)***; William N. Luck*** (SVC/51-52); ***MG (R) Thomas P. Lynch*** (H&H/51-52); ***Sabas Martinez*** (SVC/51-53: ***William J. Mehling*** (HQ2/51-52); ***George W. McClain*** (SVC/51-53); ***Orlon R. McClung*** (HQ3/51-54); ***Rev. Philip G. McConville*** H&H/51-53); ***Henrik M. Moe*** (C/54); ***Robert T. Murray*** (B/51-53)***; Henry Perkins*** (I/54-56); ***Robert J. Petrelli*** (C2/74-75); ***Warren J. Porter*** (A1/91-92); ***Joseph T. Prestigiacomo*** (HQ2/43-45); ***George Quinlan*** (59-60); ***Leo R. Quinn*** (L/51-54); ***A. B. (Bill) Raiford*** (G/45-56); ***MSG (R) Raul M. Ramos*** (C/51-53); ***Kenneth G. Rilea*** *(G/51-54);* ***Ramario (Tony) Robles*** (HQ320/55-56); ***Harry A. Roll*** (H/44-46); ***Robert Rydbeck*** (C/55-56); ***Theodore Schonhans*** (519/51-54); ***CSM (R) George Sekerak*** (E/51-56); ***Elwood W. Selover*** (HQ2/53-55); ***Roy Shaw*** (HQ2/51-53); ***Frank P. Sicari*** (H&H/55-56); ***LTC (R) Gordon K. Smith*** (HQ1/54-55); ***Charles S. Spigelmire*** (H&H/54-55); ***Dale Stang*** (L51/53); ***George I. Stoeckert*** (42-46)***; Joseph A. Turley*** (A1/90-91); ***Bruce M. Tyler*** (A320/55-56);***Robert G. Thompson*** (HQ3/46)***; Jerry R. Umlor (***B/52-54); ***Walter VanCoppenolle*** (HQ1/51-53); ***Charles J. Viviano*** *(K/51-52);* ***Edward R. Wapen, Sr.*** (C/45-46); ***Jack F. Wheeler*** (HQ2/51-55); ***Charles C. Williams*** (MED/51-53); ***Gerald J. Wich*** (C/51-52); ***Edward W. Williams*** (K/51-53) *and* ***Robert W. Wright*** (598/55-56)**.**

News From National

Division Forces Deploy To Afghanistan

It's official. Task Force Panther (505 PIR) deployed to Afghanistan. The Task Force combat element will consist of the 3-505 PIR (lead element), 1-505 PIR and the 1-504 PIR (from the 504 PIR), with attached slices of combat support and combat service support units. Later elements included artillery support as well.

National Airborne Day - 16 August

It's official. The resolution was ratified by the Senate on 23 July 2002. The same day as last year, with only 36 co-sponsors. Chair Dutton reports that the Democrats wanted to pass other resolutions and the Republicans negotiated to pass ours. Amazing how politics work.

Association's Web Site

National was notified that the web site address was changed effective 1 August. The new address is: www.fayettevilleonline.com/airborne82assn
By the way, the web site is working great, bringing in members to the Association on a daily basis.

2003 Early Bird Program

2002 members who renew for 2003 prior to midnight, 15 November 2002 (envelope to the National Office postmarked by this date) will be listed as Early Birds in the Winter Paraglide. **Those who renew through their Chapter will earn their Chapter an extra $1.00 rebate.** Chapters do not receive the extra rebate for members renewing direct to the National Office. New or those members who skipped 2002 are reinstatements and not eligible for Early Bird status. Rebate will be paid as of business received by 31 December each year.

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Editors Note: Please have your renewal to Chapter NLT 10 November to insure your renewal reaches National by the due date. HELP YOUR CHAPTER BY BEING AN EARLY BIRD!

Association Establishes a FAX Number

At the request of the Board of Directors, a direct, dedicated FAX line has been established at the National Headquarters. The number is: (910) 822-2573. It is expected that this FAX number will be utilized for changes of address, queries that the Chapter Chairman cannot answer, and any other issues that need an urgent reply. Please, no jokes or any other items. This informal Chain of Command should be maintained to wit: Member - Chapter - National.

Editors Note: *Please notify your Chapter first of your change of address, etc. We will inturn notify National. If I can't help you then go to National! I also emphasis - no jokes or junk mail. National has over 11,600 members and additional 12,800 Active Duty Members. They obviously can't handle junk mail FAX's.*

National Reports The Top Five Veteran's Chapters

Fayetteville - North Carolina	1000
508th Airborne Chapter - Nationwide	**422**
LTG James M Gavin - New England, MA	381
North Jersey - New Jersey	351
GEN M B Ridgway - Dayton, OH	341

Operation Waterside - Norfolk, VA

A great time was had by all at the Associations 56th Annual Convention and celebration of the 82d Airborne Division's 60th Anniversary.

The convention site was at the Sheraton Waterside Hotel where we had a beautiful and scenic view of the Elizabeth River. Trolly tours of historic areas of Norfolk were available as well as the MacArthur Memorial within walking distance of the Convention site. The ladies enjoyed a great luncheon and visit to a huge Mall where shopping was done by all.

The 508th Airborne Chapter was represented by the following Chapter members: **David H. Burns** (H/51-54); **Chairman Jack K. & Ruth Damron** (B/HQ1/54-57; **Quartermaster Kenneth L. & Helen Glynn Jr.** (L/51-54); **Steven R. Helms** B2/63-66); **Bobbie & Donna Henson** (E51-53); **Vice Chairman Rodger G. & Leona Jacobson** (HQ320/55-56); **Carson & Anne Johnson** (B/45); **James A. & Phyllis Swindler**(C/55-56); **Joseph Synakowski** (C/46); and **Richard Yates** (HQ320/51-52). It was good seeing our members together and we had a short meeting to bring all up to speed in the status of the Chapter. For those of you who may be interested, **Joe Synakowski** is a Trustee of VFW Post 9249 in Grande Island, NY. The Post has, in my opinion, the best web site of a VFW Post I have ever seen. Joe is ably represented in the web site for all of his contributions. You may access the site at: www.isledegrande.com/vfw

Besides an enjoyable and quick four days in Norfolk, the Chapter was honored as one of only three Veteran's Chapters to be awarded the Associations Membership Excellence Plaque. There are ninety six Veteran's Chapters in the Association. In addition, your Chapter took second place in the Newsletter contest and was awarded a check for $50.00. On an individual basis, the Association holds a drawing each year for those members who are delegates to the Convention. Again, the Chapter was ably represented as **Bobbie Henson** and **Jack Damron** were two of the lucky few whose names were drawn and received checks to pay for their rooms at the hotel.

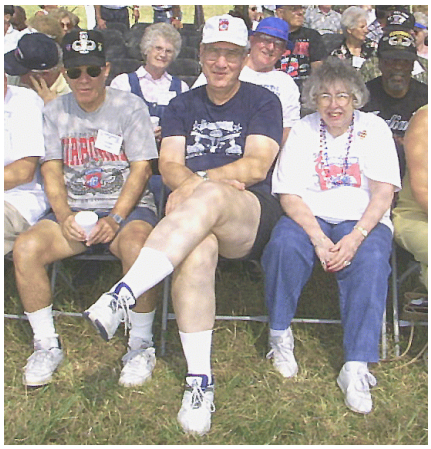
On Friday of the Convention the membership present heard from those members who were running for positions as Directors of the Association. Six Directors were elected. They are: **Richard G. Becker**, an All American Member for the Walter E. Hughes Tri-State Mid Hudson Chapter; **Carl H. Bludau**, an All American Member from The Golden Brigade Chapter; **Steven A. Frazer**, an All American Member from The Wolverine Chapter; **Ronald H. Rath**, an All American Member from The Fayetteville Chapter; **Harold A. Schroeder**, an All American Member from The North Jersey Chapter and **Russell A. Wolfe**, an All American Member form The Lehigh Valley Chapter. More details can be found in the Fall Issue of the Paraglide.

Convention Scenes















Left to right - Top to Bottom: 1) Navy Drydock; 2) Dick Yates, Bobbie & Donna Henson - Immediate rear Leone & Rodger Jacobson 3) Navy Air Base DZ 4) Helen & Ken Glynn, immediate rear Ruth Damron 5) Unknown 82d Trooper, Phyliss Swindler, Anne & Carson Johnson 6) Rodger Jacobson, Dave Burns, Donna & Bobbie Henson 7) Dick Yates, Director Tom Graham & Jim Swindler

Membership Letters

Robert J. Petrelli (C2/74) writes: Dear Jack, I want to thank you for sending me a copy of The Red Devil digest. I have enclosed a money order for $12.00 along with my application to cover the cost of my Affiliate Membership ($6 + another $6) I am very happy to stand once again with my brother "Red Devils."

My chapter in Hartford was being felt out to sponsor a National Convention because of the casinos here in Connecticut. We will be discussing it at our meetings. If we decide to go ahead and sponsor a National Convention I will get in touch with you and perhaps some of the other Red Devils in my area and set up a piggy back convention for the 508th. It is something to think about.

Thanks again, Jack

Fury From The Sky, Bob Petrelli.

Ed's Note: Thanks for the donation Bob. You have a good suggestion concerning a piggy back reunion. More on this subject later.

Charles M. Wheeler (K/51-54) writes: Dear Jack, Using Gordon Sumners format, I forwarded a letter to each of the Senators representing the State of New Hampshire. In the past two weeks, I have received responses from both Bob Smith and Judd Gregg. The responses were definitely positive. They will both co-sponsor the resolution and I wanted to share that with you and the rest of the Chapter.

Had a great time at All American Week, but it was decidedly toned down from the past two that I had attended. Having to stay off post was not a big problem for me, as the Troopers from the 82d were right there with transportation whenever you needed it. I brought along as a guest an old friend of mine from my working days. He served in Korea as Leg. A history nut, he had a wonderful time discussing Korea with a very interesting group of guys that we met at the Fayetteville Chapter picnic. There were three SGM's and a LTC (all retired, of course). All had served in Korea so had a lot of interesting stories to tell.

The Old Timer's Review was again a real treat for me. Although we were fewer in number, we all looked good and stepped out smartly.

Hope you and all the Chapters members are well and enjoying their summer. Airborne, Charlie Wheeler.

Ed's note: Charlie, thanks to you and others concerning contacting your Senators to get the resolution to name August 16 as National Airborne Day. Sorry I missed the last AAW but plan on being there next year.

Charles Bostic (H&H/51-54) writes: I remember being a prison chaser well. We had to show up in Class A uniform. If you were a CPL you got a shot gun.

I got into a truck with a Lifer. We went about 5 miles and got out of the truck. I had the shot gun and he had a bag with a stick with a nail on the end of it. We then proceeded to walk where he picked up the roadside trash. After lunch we then proceeded to the other side of the road. Needless to say I had plenty of blisters by the end of the day. When we got back to the prison we were told one of the prisoners has escaped so back we went and he was found in the woods by one of the other prison chasers. I think I may have shot him if I had found him. I was so uncomfortable and tired and more blisters!

I also remember tower guard - stand two hours off 4 and also post guard, motor pool guard, KP and CQ. Never a day off, but I loved every minute of it and was always glad to be Airborne!

Peoria, IL Mini-Reunion

Time is running out! Don't forget the Peoria Mini-Reunion on October 10-12. Contact Rodger Jacobson or Jack Damron for further specifics and registration form. The deadline for registration is Sept. 10.

Chapter Reunion

In the May - June Chapter newsletter members were asked to respond to the question of where and how often the Chapter should schedule a reunion.
Continued on page 6.

Four responses were received out of over 400 plus members. It is obvious no consensus was reached therefore it has been decided that the next Chapter Reunion will be held in Charleston, WV pending whether satisfactory arrangements can be reached with the convention site hotel. It is contemplated that those Chapter members desirous of attending will register for the 82d Abn Div Assn Annual Convention and make their own hotel reservation. A Chapter banquet would be held on Thursday evening of the convention. More information will be forth coming in future issues of The Red Devil Digest.

The overriding decision to have the reunion in conjunction with the 82d Convention is that is the time and place when the Chapter holds its vote for incoming officers of the Chapter for the years 2004-05. Start thinking about being an officer of the Chapter.

Taps



Wallace (Wally) Bennett, Jr., an All American Member of the Chapter, passed away on June 26, 2002. Wally was a member of Headquarters Company, 3d Battalion, 508th Airborne Regimental Combat Team from 1951 to 1954.

He is survived by his wife Betty Bennett. Burial was in Ogdenburg, NY.

Down Memory Lane

Fifty-eight years ago, the early morning hours of June 6, 1944, found the Red devils of the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment over Normandy, France participating in the invasion of the continent of Europe. The Regiment remained in close combat until July 7, when they were placed in Division Reserve.

On 13 July the 508th returned to England via 2 LST's. Of the 2056 Red Devils who parachuted into France, only 995 returned. The regiment suffered 1061 casualties of which 307 were killed in action.

Chapter Officers

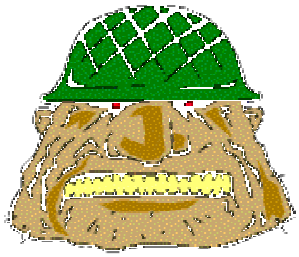
Chairman
Secretary /Treasurer
Jack K. Damron
26164 Waterfowl Lane
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Tel. (941) 629-7653
E-mail:
jdamron@red-devils.org

Vice Chairman

Rodger G. .Jacobson
Box 14
Hazel Green, WI 53881
Tel. (608) 854-231
E-mail:
reddevil508@hotmail.com

Quartermaster
Kenneth L. Glynn, Jr.
836 Glendale St.
Lakeland, FL 33803-4122
Tel. (863) 682-3382

RE-UP



The old Re-enlistment NCO just can't help himself! OK Red Devil Troopers, now is the time to renew your annual membership or re-up as an All American Member (Life). By doing so now your Chapter receives and extra $1 rebate from the Association. That will cover the printing of one issue of The Red Devil Digest plus a few stamps to send them out. Don't procrastinate, **JUST DO IT!**

Moving? Let Us Know!

Name_____
New Address_____
City, State, Zip +4_____ ___
_____
New Tel. #_____
Perm____**Temp**____**Dates**_____
New E-mail
Address_____

This picture appeared at the lower half of the June - July 2002 Issue Front Cover The Red Devil Digest



(L to R) Rodger & Loena Jacobson, Ruth & Jack Damron and Phyllis & Jim Swindler

Quartermaster Sales Form ----- (Members Only)

Complete this form and mail your check payable to Kenneth Glynn along with your name and address to: **Ken Glynn 836 Glendale St., Lakeland, FL 33803-4122.** **#Please include shipping and handling charges in the amount column to the right of each item ordered.**

ITEM/DESCRIPTION	QTY	SIZE (Circle)	COST	#SHIPPING/HANDLING	#AMOUNT
Hat, White, Maroon Bill, Chap Logo Embroidered		One Size Fits All	$14.50	$1.50 Each	
Hat, White, Maroon Bill, Chap Logo Screened		One Size Fits All	$12.00	$1.50 Each	
Sweatshirt, Grey, Chapter Logo Screened		M L XL *XXL *XXXL	$22.00	$3.50 + $2 Each Additional	
Shirt, T, White, Chapter Logo Screened		M L XL *XXL *XXXL	$12.00	$2.00 Each	
Shirt, T, White, Web Site Logo Screened		M L XL *XXL *XXXL	$12.00	$2.00 Each	
Shirt, Polo, Abn Maroon, Chap Logo Embroidered		M L XL *XXL *XXXL	$22.00	$3.50 + $1 Each Additional	
Pad, Mouse, Chapter Logo Screened			$7.50	$2.00 Each	
Pad, Mouse, Regimental Logo Screened			$7.50	$2.00 Each	
Patch, 508th Abn Chapter (See 1 , Below)			$5.50	$1.00 (3/$1.50)	
Patch 508th ARCT (See 1, Below)			$5.50	$1.00 (3/$1.50)	
Patch, Para Red Devil (See 1, Below)			$5.50	$1.00 (3/$1.50)	
Patch, 320th Abn FA Bn			$5.50	$1.00 (3/$1.50)	
Pin, 508th ARCT			$3.00	No Charge	
Pin, Para Red Devil			$3.00	No Charge	
Wrap, Can Cooler w/Chapter Logo Screened			$3.00	$1.00 Each	
Wrap, Can Cooler w/Regimental. Logo Screened			$3.00	$1.00 Each	

TOTAL $_____

*** Add an additional $2 for each X above XL (XXXL size is special order) 1. All patches can be purchased for 3 for $15.00 - S&H is $1.50.** ***PLEASE ALLOW 2 - 4 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY***

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (*PLEASE PRINT)*

508th Abn Chapter, 82nd Abn Div. Assn., Inc.

☐ All American (Life) ☐ Renewal ☐ New Member ☐ Reinstatement

Enclosed is $12.50 for my annual membership dues for the year_____ to include a subscription to the PARAGLIDE.

Name _____ _____ Street or R.F.D. _____

City _____ State_____ Zip Code_____--_____Tel. # _____

Rank (Active)_____ ASN _____ or SSN_____

E-mail address_____

508th Unit (Circle one) Co. ____ Bn. ____ 508th; Btry. ____ 320th AFA; 427th; 519th QM Co.; 598th Engr. Co.

Date of 508th service: From Mo._____ Year_____ to Mo. _____ Year _____

Present Occupation _____ Single _____ Married _____Spouses's Name _____ # of Children _____

(PLEASE FILL IN APPLICATION COMPLETELY)

I **presently am a member of the _____ Chapter, 82nd Abn Assn. Enclosed are my reduced dues of $ _____ ($6 min.) I do __ do not ___ wish to transfer my membership from the _____Chapter to the 508th Airborne Chapter.**

Signature_____

If this is your initial application for membership, please attach proof of airborne/508th status, i.e., DD214, orders, etc.

MAIL TO: Chairman, 508th Airborne Chapter, 26164 Waterfowl Ln., Punta Gorda, FL 33983-6231

LIFE MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION. You can become and All American Member (Life) if you meeting one of the following criteria: 1) 25* years continuous Association membership - $60; 2) On active duty with the 82d Abn Div - $82; 3) *20 years continuous Association membership - $90; 4) 50 years of age or older - $100; 5) 49 years of age or younger - $150.

***** Must be verified by the Executive Director, 82d Airborne Division Association.

As an AAM you will receive a permanent plastic membership card and a certificate suitable for framing.