PRESERVING THE LEGACY

REUNION - FAYETTEVILLE, NC
OCTOBER 16-20, 2019

HONORING

75TH ANNIVERARY OF WORLD WAR II COMBAT,
30TH ANNIVERSARY OF OPERATION JUST CAUSE - PANAMA



WORLD WAR II

NATO SUPPORT

KOREA ERA

GRENADA

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

PANAMA

VIETNAM

IRAQ

AFGHANISTAN

508th PIR Association-Family and Friends-508

508

1942 - Present

VETERANS · ACTIVE DUTY
FAMILY · FRIENDS

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS FROM ALL ERAS

WWW.508PIR.ORG

The Family and Friends of the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment Association is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Dedicated to Honoring, Preserving and Communicating the History of All Eras of 508th Paratroopers.

2019 ALL-ERA REUNION

Family and Friends of the 508th PIR Association

Fayetteville, NC

Preliminary Schedule of Events

Wednesday, 16 October	1:00 PM	Arrival and Registration Opens
	2:30 PM – 4:00 PM	Board of Directors Meeting
	4:00 PM	Hospitality Suite Opens
Thursday, 17 October	6:30 AM – 8:30 AM	Coffee/Danish Hour & Hot Buffet Breakfast
	8:30 AM – 9:45 AM	Formal Welcome Program & Events Briefing
	10:30 AM – 12 Noon	Golden Knights Program at Fort Bragg
	12:15 PM – 1:30 PM	Lunch with 508th Paratroopers
	1:45 PM – 2:15 PM	Dutch Airborne Plaque Dedication 1Fury HQ
	2:30 PM – 4:30 PM	Visit to Renovated 82nd Airborne Division War Memorial Museum and Hall of Heroes
	5:00 PM	Hospitality Suite Open
Friday, 18 October	6:30 AM – 9:30 AM	Hot Buffet Breakfast
	9:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Annual Membership Meeting
	11:30 AM – 2:00 PM	Oral Histories & Video Viewing Sandwich Lunch Available during Viewing
	2:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Presentations and Q&A from Different Era Veterans
	6:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Active Duty Appreciation Night Buffet Food, Carving Stations, Open Bar, Raffles
	9:00 PM	Hospitality Suite Open
Saturday, 19 October	7:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Hot Buffet Breakfast
	10:00 AM – 3:00 PM	Open Day

- Tandem Skydiving - Raeford, NC
- Wind Tunnel Indoor Skydiving – Raeford, NC
- M1 Range Firing – Fort Bragg
- Downtown Fayetteville Museums, Parks and Restaurants
- Fayetteville Comic Com – Crown Complex

	6:00 PM – 7:00 PM	Cocktail Hour
	7:00 PM – 9:30 PM	Formal Banquet
	9:30 PM – 11:30 PM	Socializing and Raffles
Sunday, 20 October	7:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Hot Buffet Breakfast
	9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Wrap-Up Board of Directors / Reunion Committee Meeting
		Departure

F&F 508th PIR All-Era Reunion Registration Form Fayetteville, NC

October 16 – October 20, 2019

Registration Fee (per Person)
Members & Active Duty: $135.00 Under 18: $50.00 Non-Members: $175.00

Name _____ Address _____City_____St.____ Zip _____ E-Mail _____Tel: (cell)_____ Unit:_____ Guest(s) Name_____

$135 Members/Active Duty - #Adults_____x $135 =$_____

$50 Children under 18 - # Children _____x $50 =$_____

$175 Non-Members - #Adults_____ x $175 =$_____

Donations to Help with General Expenses =$_____

Total $_____

IMPORTANT: Include the following on a separate page – Full Legal Name, Address, DOB, Driver's License Number, State of Issue. Please indicate if using a Military ID. This information is required for entry to military installations. All personal information safeguarded by the Association. Thanks.

Hotel Reservation Instructions

Please reserve your hotel room(s) at the **Ramada Plaza Fayetteville / Fort Bragg**, 1707 A Owen Drive, Fayetteville NC 28304. **Call +1 910-323-0111**. Be sure to Reference **Reunion Group 508PIR** for the **attractive group rate of $96.05 per night (13% tax and hot buffet breakfast included)** for 2 Queen Beds or 1 King Bed. Reservations must be made by **September 30, 2019** for this special rate. The hotel has a limited number of handicapped accessible rooms—please book early. Also, On-Line Booking Link off the Association's website at http://www.508pir.org/reunion/reunion_01.htm.

REUNION REGISTRATION FEES WILL BE REFUNDED IN FULL IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND, BUT YOU MUST CANCEL YOUR HOTEL ROOM AT LEAST 72 HOURS IN ADVANCE TO AVOID ANY CHARGES.

Pay On-Line (Credit Card & PayPal) at http://www.508pir.org/reunion/reunion_04.htm and Email Form to: Treasurer@508PIR.org

or **Please Mail Registration Form & Fee to:**

Chris Harris – Treasurer, 13 Eastern Ave, So. Deerfield, MA 01373

Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to: "F&F 508th PIR Assoc"







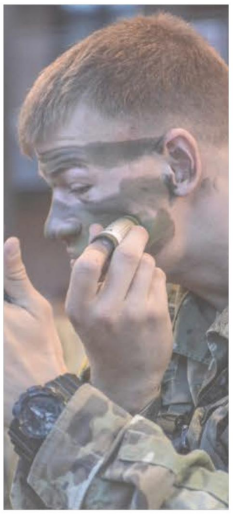
2019 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Join the one Association dedicated to Honoring, Preserving and Communicating the History of all Eras of 508th Paratroopers.

508th PIR Association - Family and Friends -

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1942 - Present







Only $20 for an Annual Membership.
Lifetime Memberships available.

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FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF THE 508TH PIR ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM

Mr. / Mrs. / Ms. First Name: _____ **Last Name:** _____

Spouse's Name (if desired—fee for each membership is based on one per household)**:** _____

Address 1: _____

Address 2: _____

City: _____ **State/Province:** _____ **Zip / Postal Code:** _____

Nation (If Not USA): _____

Home Telephone: _____ **Cell Phone:** _____

E-Mail Address: _____

☐ **I am a Veteran/Active Duty** (circle one) **508th Paratrooper** **Unit:** _____

Years served: _____ **to** _____

ASN: _____

☐ **I am related to a 508th Veteran or Active Duty** (circle one)

(Paratrooper's Name, Unit, Relationship) _____

☐ **I am a Friend of the 508th with the following Connection to 508th Paratroopers:**

_____

_____

How did you hear about the Association?

- ☐ **Army Publication** _____ **(which one?)**
- ☐ **Association Website**
- ☐ **Newsletter**
- ☐ **Social Media**
- ☐ **Friend or Family**

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS: ☐ **Sustaining Member $350** ☐ **Patron $250** ☐ **Supporter $150**

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: ☐ **$20**

Pay On-Line (Credit Card & PayPal) **at** www.508pir.org/f_and_f/paymstr_1.htm **and**
Email Form to Treasurer@508pir.org

Or

Payment may also be made via Personal Check, made out to "F&F of the 508th PIR Assn".
Mail Completed Form and Payment To: Chris Harris, Treasurer; 13 Eastern Ave, So. Deerfield MA 01373

PRESERVING THE LEGACY

DIABLO

The Link for All Veterans and Active Duty & Family and Friends of the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment
Published by Family and Friends of the 508th PIR Association – April 2019

Don't Miss this Year's All Era-Reunion in Fayetteville, NC

We're gathering once again in Fayetteville/Fort Bragg, especially commemorating the 75th Anniversary of WWII combat operations and the 30th Anniversary of Operation Just Cause/Panama. The legacy of the 508th is unmatched, so we encourage all eras of 508th Paratroopers and their families and friends to join us.

Please see the attached preliminary Schedule of Events for the All-Era Reunion. For the latest updates on the Schedule and to Register, go to http://www.508pir.org/reunion/reunion_01.htm. We're doing things a bit differently this year, including the following:

- Your Registration fee now covers a Friday evening "Active Duty Appreciation" event where there will be buffet food and an open bar.
- We have special options for "free time" on Saturday, including Tandem Jumping, Wind Tunnel Skydiving, and M1 Rifle Range Firing. These special events will cost extra. If you are interested in any of these events, please email Chris Harris at harris.chris.j@att.net or call/text him at (310) 729-2745 so that the Association can negotiate prices and come back to interested participants with the lowest possible cost prices.
- We will soon launch our 50/50 Cash Prize Raffle with the goal of selling 2000 $5 Tickets for a 50% winner share of $5000. We really need everyone's participation. The odds of winning are better than any typical lottery, and the proceeds help us pay for our expanded Reunion offering and our efforts to expand and modernize the website. Thanks in advance for your support.

Hoping to see a great turnout in Fayetteville. A great opportunity to "Preserve the Legacy"!

A Message from Our President

By: Jim Farrell

Monica & I attended the 2nd Battalion Ball on March 9th. It was amazing to see Rock Merritt get four standing ovations. His speech inspired everyone, and all the paratroopers were glued to his every word. We felt so honored to be there.

Here are two very exciting items for this year's reunion in October. First, we are scheduling a tandem jump for anyone who wants to participate. I am thrilled to be jumping for my very first time. Second, with the help of Thulai van Maanen, we are inviting all members of the Dutch Army 2007 Tiger Company to our 16-20 October 2019 All-Era Reunion to be held in Fayetteville. These Dutch Paratroopers served with 1st Battalion 508th PIR in Afghanistan. This milestone commemorative event provides a unique opportunity for reuniting combat comrades, building new relationships between Dutch and American soldiers and civilians, and providing historical education to the American public.

In May, I will be attending my first All American Week and look forward to all the events and jumping from the 34-foot tower. We will take pictures for all to see.

We are actively seeking volunteers to our Advisory Committee of Trustees to be ambassadors for their era in the 508th PIR. Please contact me if you are interested.

Reuniting Dutch and 508th Paratroopers

By: Thulai van Maanen



On 20 April 2007, Cpl. Strik and his Dutch 'Tiger' company of 11 Infbat AASLT took part in OP FURIOUS PURSUIT in support of 1-508 PIR, Afghanistan. The 508th was called upon to clear the enemy from the town of Sangin in order to liberate two British forward operating bases that were under siege. While on patrol just south of Sangin, Cpl Strik got mortally wounded after stepping on an IED. Sgt van Aalten, 1-508, volunteered to recover his body because of his Dutch family roots. Just before reaching friendly lines, he stepped on an IED and died. Sgt van Aalten was posthumously awarded the Dutch 'Ereteken voor Verdienste' (Medal of Merit) in gold. This year, we honor the 75th anniversary of the 508th in combat operations to safeguard freedom throughout the world. From the hedgerows of Normandy, France, to the sugar beet fields of Eastern Holland, and then decades later to the mountains of Afghanistan, the 508th along with America's allies have been front and center in battling and defeating tyranny and terrorism. On 19 April 2019, Thulai van Maanen visited the Tiger Company to officially invite them to our reunion in October. After that, an intimate ceremony was held by the Dutch to remember both Cpl Strik and Sgt van Aalten. We thank the Dutch Charlie Tiger Compagnie for remembering both men. The ties between the 508th and Holland will forever be treasured!

Visiting with Veterans

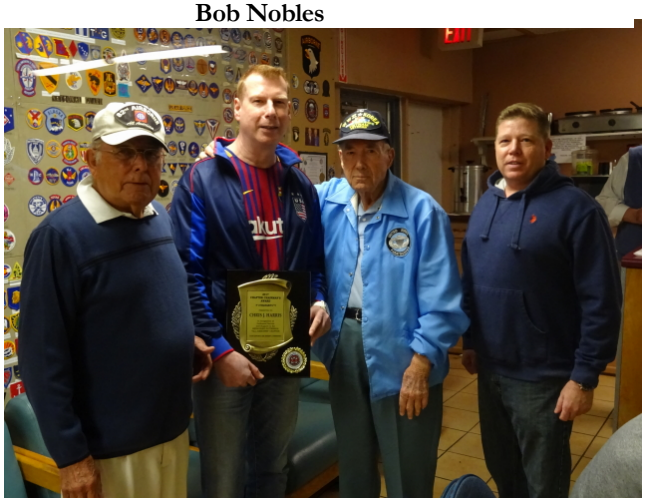
During one of his cross-country trips earlier this year, Association Board Member Chris Harris enjoyed visiting with Bob Nobles, Warren Wilt, Bob Chisolm and Rock Merritt. Glad all are doing well. Look forward to seeing several WWII 508th Paratroopers at the All-Era Reunion in Fayetteville this October.



Bob Nobles



Warren Wilt



Bob Chisolm



Rock Merritt

2Fury Readiness Update

By: CSM Eric Bohannon

Fort Bragg, NC – 2-508th PIR (2Fury) is at peak readiness as part of our nation's Global Response Force (GRF). The rifle companies completed a Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise (CALFX) in March, integrating indirect fire support from artillery as well as Apache gunships. Our heavy weapons and support companies conducted their mounted live fire exercise earlier this month. Following these live fire exercises, we took the battalion to the field for our own Fury Storm exercise involving air assaults, raids, and ambushes as well as exercising our Tactical Operations Center (TOC) and field maintenance team. It was an excellent training event that allowed us to train every task that we must be able to execute if called upon. Add in two battalion mass tactical airborne operations over a two-week period and these Paratroopers are ready to jump into any drop zone and win at a moment's notice.

As a testament to our readiness, we'll be sending Paratroopers to both Combat Training Centers (CTCs) in the coming months. Charlie Company is headed to the National Training Center (NTC) to participate in 2nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division's training rotation throughout the month of May. 3rd Infantry Division requested a light infantry company from across the Army and Charlie Company, 2-508th was specifically selected to ensure success during the rotation. The rest of 2Fury will be headed to the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) in July to serve as the Opposing Forces (OPFOR) for 1st Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division. 2Fury is currently 1-0 against Devil Brigade after penetrating their defensive positions and raiding their brigade headquarters during their Brigade Field Training Exercise in July of last year. While we look forward to testing our proficiency against them again this summer, we know our primary objective is to support their training objectives and prepare them to assume the GRF.
We have some excellent community outreach events coming up in the next month. Our Paratroopers are looking forward to All-American Week in May. We get a chance to showcase our athletic abilities and welcome friends and family, past and present back to Fort Bragg to share stories and build camaraderie. We're going to finish the week with our second annual Fury Fest. All are invited and it should be a great time to celebrate being associated with the 508th PIR.

Finally, we want to thank all of those who have supported us through generous donations of their time and money. The Fury Ball in Pinehurst was an incredible event that would not have been possible without the Family and Friends of the 508th. We greatly appreciated CSM (R) Rock Merritt being on hand to both speak and present the Rock Merritt Best Squad Leader award to SSG Kirby. Rock's speech was beyond inspiring as the Paratroopers of 2Fury are still talking about how fired up they were after hearing him at the ball. Everyone is looking forward to seeing Rock and the rest of the Family and Friends of the 508th during All-American Week. ✈

First Awards of *Rock Merritt Squad Leader of the Year*



2Fury honoree SSG James C. Kirby along with CSM Eric Bohannon, Association President Jim Farrell, CSM (Ret) Rock Merritt, and LTC Terry Hilderbrand.

Battalion commands recognized top squad leaders earlier this year at each of the 508th Battalion Military Balls. 1Fury presented its first *Rock Merritt Squad Leader of the Year* award to SGT Ryan C. Karpik, B Co/1st Plt/2nd Sqd, and 2Fury similarly honored SSG James C. Kirby, B Co/1st Plt/4th Sqd.

Rock made inspiring speeches at both events and participated in presenting the honorees with plaques, a Lifetime Membership in our Association, and a gift card.

The *Rock Merritt Squad Leader of the Year Award* was established by the *Family and Friends of the 508th PIR Association* on Rock's 95th Birthday to honor his distinguished 35-year Army career. This special award is presented to a 508th Paratrooper who demonstrates outstanding leadership performance and potential. ✈

Chisolm to Receive High Honors at Fort Bragg and in El Paso



LTC (Ret) Robert "Bob" E. Chisolm will be inducted into the 82nd Airborne Division Hall of Fame during Fort Bragg's All-American Week on 22 May. The All-American Hall of Fame canonizes soldiers who have made an exceptional contribution to the Division and American society and have exhibited the best qualities and characteristics of the 82nd Airborne Division throughout their lives. Among the first 21 inductees in 2018 were original 508th Paratroopers CSM (Ret) Rock Merritt and 1SGT Leonard A. Funk.

An original World War II Paratrooper, Bob Chisolm made combat jumps into Normandy on D-Day and into Holland during Operation Market Garden, then fought courageously in the Battle of the Bulge. He was wounded in all three actions and evacuated from both France and Belgium. As a Corporal, he was awarded the Legion of Merit for inspiring performance of duty in Holland. In a 29-year distinguished Army career, he led in combat in both Korea and Vietnam, becoming one of 324 soldiers to earn three Combat Infantry Badges. Later, Bob pursued a successful business career and then dedicated himself to veterans' organizations including his beloved Benavidez-Patterson Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association, cementing his legacy through scholarship programs at the Chapter and also at the University of Texas El Paso.

Following All-American Week, Bob will return to El Paso where the City will unveil a granite monument highlighting Bob's military achievements at the LTC Robert "Bob" Chisolm Park on 06 June in commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of D-Day.

101st, 82nd Troopers Kill 233 (Vietnam Era)

Article No. 21 Saigon, Vietnam

Camp Eagle (USA) – Paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division's 3rd Brigade recently killed 103 enemy and captured 23 suspects while paratroopers of the 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, under operational control of the 101st, killed 130 more in two weeks of heavy fighting.

The enemy kills credited to the 82nd's 1st Battalion, 508th Airborne Infantry raised the 15-week toll of Operation Nevada Eagle to 1,658 enemy killed in northern I Corps near Hue.

Engaging an enemy platoon occupying fortified positions 19 miles south of Hue, 82nd paratroopers pinned them down with small arms fire, then fixed bayonets and assaulted the NVA bunker complex.

The enemy platoon broke contact and fled, leaving 14 bodies behind.

The troopers also detained one suspect, who later led the troopers to a cache which included 107 rounds of 82mm mortars and 1,200 NVA uniforms.

During their second day in the same area, the 82nd troopers engaged another enemy platoon entrenched in bunkers. They assaulted and drove the enemy from their positions. A sweep of the area yielded 12 enemy bodies and 13 individual and crew-served weapons.

Other units from the 1st Battalion, 508th Airborne Infantry killed four NVA soldiers and found a large weapons cache containing 176 individual and crew-served weapons, a radio, two heavy machine guns, 10 122mm rockets and miscellaneous small arms and mortar ammunition.

On the third day of the reconnaissance-in-force mission, the 82nd paratroopers engaged an estimated reinforced enemy company, 16 miles south of Hue. Tactical air strike and friendly artillery fire were called in on the enemy position.

At dusk, the supporting fires were lifted while the airborne infantrymen assaulted the bunkers, driving the NVA back again. A sweep the next morning revealed 92 enemy killed and four heavy machine guns captured.

In a second major engagement, paratroopers of the 101st airborne Division's 2nd Battalion, 506th Airborne Infantry, under the operational control of the 25th Infantry Division, received fire from an estimated enemy platoon near Trang Bang, northwest of Cu Chi.

During the afternoon of the first day of battle, the enemy unit expanded to a reinforced company and an additional 35d Brigade company was moved into action.

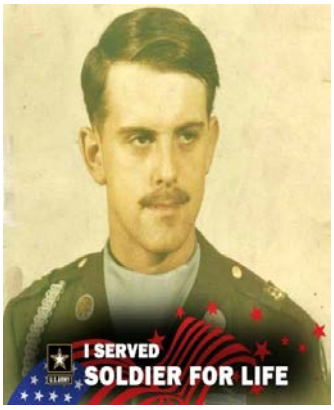
Sweeping the area of contact, the paratroopers found the bodies of 86 enemy killed during the first encounter. Also, 17 suspects were detained and another battalion element apprehended six more after receiving heavy automatic weapons and small arms fire, four miles north of the main area of contact.

In the third day of battle, the 3rd Brigade riflemen swept through the same area, killing one enemy and discovering the bodies of 16 NVA killed in previous fighting. Other scattered fighting accounted for additional enemy killed.

My Combat Tour In Vietnam

April 1968 – April 1969

By: Alvin "Buddy" O'Haver; Submitted by Ellen Peters



9/01/68 Today our platoon and the 3rd platoon went out on a recon along a creek line. We found a small hut with two thousand rounds of fifty caliber ammo, rocket rounds and grenades.

9/03/68 The 2nd platoon found another tunnel with carbine rifles stacked fifteen feet high, two new mortars that never even had the paint taken off them yet.

9/08/68 C Company was hit and had seventeen men wounded. We have been trying to reach them for four days now. It rained so hard we were held up for two days in one spot. We couldn't even get our resupplies and had to ration out our c-rations.

9/09/68 We found a stock pile of weapons and almost got the "Butcher of Hue", (Colonel Mot). He was head of the first attack on Hue awhile back. The V.C. fired about fifteen mortar rounds at us today. Soon artillery and jets were called in and the firing stopped. Now B Company is getting hit by the mortars and small arms fire. Jets and gunships (helicopters) are now firing on the position they are at.

9/10/68 We finally reached C Company; they were resting and cleaning up. After we rested for a while, we all moved out, through brush, stickers and water. Then we came upon a hill that was open, with small elephant grass. On top of the hill, we could see the ocean. B Company is following behind us. Looks like all three companies are teaming up for something.

9/11/68 We were taken out of the area by choppers and landed near the place where B Company was hit. We then split up. The rest moved on. We started to chow down, when we heard firing; B Company was at it again. They ran into an ambush. We joined up with them and chased the enemy up a large hill. We were told to stop. Air support was called in and they bombed the hill up with fire power. Today will be our 40th day in the field. The one time we went in was still counted as our mission. We didn't stay that long anyhow.

9/12/68 We finally got to go in, back to LZ Boyd. We shaved, took showers, changed clothes, and got our mail and packages. Also, there was beer and soda stacked up high for us. The first night back one of our men was killed in a latrine (out house) we don't know what really happened. We thought every company came in, but we just got word that C Company was still out in the field. They were getting ready to load on the choppers, when the V.C. attacked them with mortar fire.

9/13/68 C Company made it in alright. We are to go to Camp Rodriquez for a day, two days at Coco Beach, then either to Bien Hoa or Saigon, we really don't know for sure.

9/14/68 Our lt. told us that our new area of operation in the south would be near Tan Son Nhut Air Field Base around Saigon.

9/17/68 We had a ceremony service for the men we lost in the field and also for the one killed in the latrine.

9/20/68 We must have hurt the enemy pretty bad, because no bases have been hit lately, since we left the field.

9/25/68 We left LZ Boyd and went to Camp Rodriquez. Coco Beach was canceled. We are here for a few days. Stand down. We couldn't believe all the beer and soda they had waiting for us. There were big tents for us to stay in. We called it "tent city".

9/30/68 We left tent city and arrived at Chu Lai Airfield, before going on to Bien Hoa.

10/02/68 We arrived at Bien Hoa and got to run around for a while. We all got to go to the finance office to see if we had any problems in our pay. On the way I passed a sign that said CO, a 4436 signal brigade. That was where my buddy from back home was. He only lived two houses down from me in the states. I stopped in and saw him for a while. Sure was good seeing someone from back home.

10/05/68 Today is our last day here. Our sergeant has to leave for the states on an emergency leave. We will miss him while he is gone.

10/09/68 We left Bien Hoa Oct 6th, by truck convoy. We went through Saigon and about three miles from Tan Son Nhut. They stopped the trucks near the rice paddies and that was all you could see, for a distance. We got off the trucks and headed toward a village. We searched it, then we moved on. We walked about three or four miles through the paddies, till we hit some dry land. We rested there and took our boots and socks off, so they would dry. Later we put them back on and went right back out into the water. This water and mud was something else. We were used to mountains and hills. We had two men drop out the first day.

10/10/68 We only have three platoons out with us. The other one is building bunkers for our fire base. We searched a big village today and stopped at the end of it. Got under some shade trees, ate c-rations and stayed all day.

10/11/68 We got back our 60 cal. machine gun today. Our companies split up and moved out in different directions. Tonight B Company was hit by sniper fire. They called in a spotter plane and gunships.

10/12/68 We did a lot of walking today. Still haven't seen anything. We walked through four villages. The last one was supposed to be V.C. occupied. We lined up in a ditch and waited while B and C Company surrounded the rest of it. The Raven soldiers and popular forces are sweeping the village toward us. It was a waste of time. Nothing was found.



10/16/68 Today we came in from the rice paddies and to a place called Camp Hardcore, for a few days.

10/17/68 Stringing wire around the perimeter of Hardcore. One company stays at camp and pulls detail, while the rest go out on patrol.

10/18/68 When we go out on patrol or night time ambushes, we are taken out by APCs (tanks). They drop us off. Then when we are finished, they come back after us.

10/24/68 Last night the APCs took us out on an ambush. Late that night we heard B Company get into a fight with the V.C. Today is really hot and the tanks didn't come back after us. They had to take the 2nd platoon to a village, so we had to walk back in to camp;

10/26/68 We are supposed to make a combat assault tomorrow called Devil's Strike 1. There is to be at least three divisions of N.V.A. and V.C. dug in fortified bunker complexes. It depends on how long if we make contact or not.

10/29/68 We made our combat assault Oct 27th to the plantation. We circled it twice. The chopper's gunner opened fire to give us cover. We jumped out and landed in water up to our waist. We continued on with our search through water all day. When we did hit dry land it was full of red ants and had to get back into the water. Finally, we found some dry land that didn't have any red ants and stayed the night.

10/30/68 We moved out again stepping in holes and going up to our shoulders in water. Still haven't seen anything. The captain called in to see if we could come in; but they said to stay out longer. We had three men sent in already. A sergeant with heat stroke, one with high fever, and one had cramps in his legs. We got word that B and C Company had landed where there were booby traps. We found some more dry land and set up our night logger for the night. Soon guns started cracking and we all hit the ground. The 1st platoon saw six V.C. walking along the canal and fired at them. They thought they got all of them. The next day a platoon was sent out to see what they could find. Then a fire fight broke out. The V.C. had ambushed them. I think a sergeant was killed and a few wounded. It lasted a good while. The 3rd platoon went out to help while our platoon guarded the perimeter. Gunships and choppers were called in. Soon the firing stopped. We moved up behind the other platoons. They stayed to take care of the wounded and we continued on past the dead V.C. to recon the area. We found two booby traps, a bunker complex. We blew them up and set up our night logger there for the night.

11/01/68 We got word we could get out of the water. Choppers took us back to Camp Hardcore, for two day stand down. Then we were to take over B Company's area of operation.

11/04/68 We made our combat assault yesterday into B Company's area of operation. We searched villages. Found nothing. Someone not sure. Found a Vietnamese man to cut our hair. That night we were fired upon by the V.C. When the fighting stopped, three V.C. were killed. I think we heard that one was the same guy who cut our hair that day. They say next week two platoons of B Company are heading back to the pineapple plantations.

11/05/68 We set up near another village and a general, I think, (Boling) was flown in to talk to us. He told us what a good job we had done and that things have calmed down somewhere we were. The Vietnamese people are afraid to talk to us. Things are a little calmer now.

11/06/68 Nothing much happening. Just sitting around the villages. The 1st platoon said they spotted V.C. soldiers going into the villages. So now we are putting up an ambush.

11/10/68 Made rank of E-4 Oct 8th and just now found out about it. Our sergeant returned today from the states, gained a little weight. We are all glad he is back.

11/12/68 We got called in from the paddies and villages, heading near the Mekong delta. The 1/505th infantry flew in by

big Chinooks (helicopter) as we were leaving, Last night the popular forces were hit with grenade launchers by the V.C.

11/13/68 We are now near the delta. We landed in mud and water. Some patrol boats had contact near us, but so far we haven't seen anything.

11/17/68 We got a new company commander and he tries to keep us on dry land. Some of the companies are going into a base called LZ Lucifer, while we stay out a little longer. No contact yet. We mostly guard a big river, so no sampans (V.C. boats) go up or down it. That night one of our men spotted two sampans going down the river. Our sergeant called in to see what we should do. They said to call out and if they didn't answer to blow them up. Not sure who really fired, but one was hit and exploded. Must have been full of ammo.

11/19/68 Today we got to go into LZ Lucifer. We cleaned up and got our mail.

11/23/68 We made another assault, back into the mud and water. We have been hearing a lot about a typhoon up north.

11/25/68 We have been traveling mostly by boats down the river. We joined up with the rest of our elements and loaded up on boats, which could carry at least fourteen men. We headed back up the river and landed on dry land. Supposed to stay around here for a while and recon the area.

11/27/68 Today all companies were extracted from the field because of the typhoon that was supposed to be headed this way.

11/29/68 The typhoon missed us, so we go back out again tomorrow. Some will go on search and destroy missions by boats, the rest will go by helicopters.

12/02/68 We went out in the mud and water, but this time by big boats that have fold down planks. Landed on dry land, made contact with the V.C. Our platoon caught two of them. Found only one AK-47 rifle. We found a rocket personal gun and a medical bag. Then we got word we were going back to Camp Hardcore and the villages.

12/04/68 Tomorrow we move south to meet the 2nd platoon and set up a blocking force, while the others sweep the area

12/07/68 Today a lot of V.C. were captured. One was a V.C. officer and told them about a cache not far from where we were. When we got there, we found nothing. But some contact with the V.C. broke out. It was mostly swamp and thick trees. All we could do was fire into the area of contact. When the firing stopped, I think they found four dead and one wounded V.C.

12/08/68 We all loaded onto the boats and headed back to Lucifer. We took showers, changed clothes, and drank some beer.

12/12/68 Today we had an awards ceremony. I got the army commendation medal. After it was over, we made a combat assault into our old area of operation.

12/14/68 We came back in, made no contact. Now we are building fences around a village and making bunkers for the popular forces. Some were assigned to our company and they steal you blind, if you don't keep an eye on them.

12/17/68 I'm getting my money and everything ready for my R and R to Singapore. I'm going with one of my buddies, who is in my squad. It will be sometime in January. Then when I get back. I'll have about three months to go.

12/20/68 Our platoon is heading to the pineapple plantation again to patrol a river. We took two boats and motors down the river. We unloaded the motors and left a squad there to guard them. Our sergeant goes on R and R tomorrow to Bangkok.

12/21/68 They called us back in today and told us to pack up everything and get ready to move out. When we arrived at Hardcore, they had big Chinooks ready for us. They didn't tell us where we were going. We landed at Long Binh. We found out we were there to guard against the enemy, while Bob Hope put on a U.S.O. show for the men.

12/25/68 Today is Christmas at Long Binh. We went out and set up an ambush. Our squad separated for the night, in different places along the river. Later on during the night, one of our sergeants called in that his squad had spotted a bunch of sampans moving down the river. They were given orders to blow them up. Flares were shot off into the air to make things brighter. The squad opened up on them and the sergeant and a few others were wounded. Gunships were called in. I think body count was 19 and 29 sampans were sunk or captured. Next day we searched the area and found two rocket personal guns, ammo, food, and AK-47 rifles. After all of that we were trucked into Long Binh for Christmas dinner. Then when we return, the rest will go in.

12/27/68 Today the V.C. fired at the popular forces in the village near us. A few enemy were killed. We don't know how many. Someone just got shot across the road from us. We saw the doc working on someone. Found out one of our sergeants had a 45 cal. pistol and it went off and hit his hand.

1/10/69 Today we are stringing wire around a village for the lazy Ravens. One company has already completed putting wire around one village. We were only supposed to be here to guard Bob Hope show and ended up staying for a while.

1/22/69 I'm back in the field after my R&R to Singapore. While we were gone, we heard our platoon found four bodies buried.

1/30/69 We are stringing wire again, then we go back to Camp Hardcore.

2/02/69 Now they are talking about going to the Cambodia border.

2/03/69 Today they moved 800 men from the 82nd airborne along Song Be, but we were not included. Our sergeant is getting ready to go home. Our radio man wants to give the radio up because our sergeant is leaving. I will never forget him.

2/08/69 Our platoon was sent to a bridge near Tan Son Nhut, to guard it. It sure is a busy one: motor bikes, cars, trucks and horse and buggies.

2/11/69 We were called away from the bridge to a village nearby. B Company said they saw a lot of V.C. near it. Our platoon rode on tanks while artillery and gun ships were called in. We surrounded it, while the rest went in to search the village. They found nothing.

2/13/69 Went back to Camp Hardcore for another awards ceremony. I received the bronze star. A few of us volunteered for our company's short range recon patrols.

2/16/69 We moved from Hardcore to fire base Camp Eagle. We are to stay here till the 1/505th infantry moves in. We had to go out and help B Company. The choppers took us into the swamps. When we got to them, they had killed three V.C. They had everything under control, so we rode the APCs back to Hardcore.

2/17/69 I was taken out of the platoon to go with one of my sergeants to the company post. I rode with him in a jeep delivering supplies to the platoons. Too good to be true! Got replaced by a guy from the rear. They had too many men back there and didn't know what to do with them. When I got back, there were new guys; because the ones that were here for a year went back home.

2/23/69 Our Company is on standby alert, waiting for a battalion of N.V.A. or V.C. that left Cambodia seven days ago, coming to attack Saigon. But we know how rumors are.

2/28/69 We heard that the enemy have really been hitting cities on their way, especially Bien Hoa. About three miles from their air base, 3500 enemy have been killed. We are standing by, in case we have to go to Bien Hoa or Saigon.

3/01/69 Today two of our companies surrounded a village. There were supposed to be about 90 V.C. hiding in it. The Ravens are searching it. Tanks and all were brought in. After this we might go back to the pineapple plantation.

3/03/69 From the village, they got three truckloads of V.C. suspects.

3/6/69 Today we made our combat assault into the pineapple plantation. This time it was dry, no water and no contact with the enemy.

3/08/69 We went to Phu Lai and had a stand down (rest period), then maybe back to Camp Hardcore.

3/20/69 The V.C. activity has really been picking up lately. Today four of them were killed and a V.C. girl captured one of my sergeants. Me and another were sent to a Raven compound for a while. The rest of the platoon are stringing wire around another village.

3/23/69 After three days in the compound, we were sent back to our platoon. One of our lieutenants was wounded while trying to blow up a V.C. grenade. I think they said he was hit pretty badly by shrapnel.

3/28/69 We were sitting around one night, when one of my good buddies told me there was a scorpion near me. I didn't believe him. Then I saw it. He pushed me away and killed it. Today we were walking across the rice paddies and some water buffalos were all around us. I heard someone yell, "Look out!" and they were charging after us. I believe someone shot at them, maybe killing one or two. Not sure.

4/01/69 Today I went back to the rear to have some work done on my teeth. My top sergeant asked me if I ever done any carpenter work. I said some. He asked the company commander if I could stay back and help put up new buildings. He said yes. I rode out to the field with one of my sergeants and he told them I was going to stay in the rear and help do carpenter work. After we got back, we heard that our company had made contact and two men were killed.

4/04/69 A sergeant and a couple others came in with some captured enemy rockets five all together.

4/08/69 I saw my SKS rifle today for the first time. Not bad. It has a fold back bayonet and a cleaning kit in the stock of it.

4/18/69 A few more days to go, before I go home.

The day I left Vietnam, my company and battalion moved to the Cambodia border. After I was home for a while, I got word that my good buddy was killed by a booby trap. I think he only had 10 days to go.

Some of the men in the 4th platoon that I can remember are:

Sgt. William Evans
Sgt. Elliott
Sgt. Jasman
Sgt. Milton (wounded by shrapnel)
Sgt. See
Sgt. A
Sgt. Stanford
Sgt. Holland
Sgt. Kelly (was shot in hand by a pistol)
Sgt. Norton
Sgt. Reverri
Sgt. Cunane
Sgt. Condon
Sgt. King
Sgt. Johnson
Lt. Knight
Lt. Doling
Lt .Batty (wounded)
Cpt. Hayman
Cpt. Frank
Cpt. White
Ronnie Johnson (killed by booby trap)
Ted Swanson
Almaras
Robert Sloan
Brooks
David Valley
Bob Dowling
Noble
Casadei
Willie Williams
Frank Walenga
Thomas
Hill
Hamilton
Taylor
Thweatt
Terry Mccann
McLaughlin (red)
David Beakes
Gage
Davis
Conner
Calahoun
Schrader
Almon
Mahoney
Pete
Burnside
Whitman
Martin

I can't remember the rest.

EVERY SOLDIER HAS A STORY

And we want yours!! Do you have a story to tell of your service in the 508th? Combat or otherwise? If so, please send it to the *DIABLO* editor at Editor@508pir.org. Our goal is to one day have a story or article from each generation of 508th paratroopers in every issue of the *DIABLO* newsletter.

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2019 Committees and Chairpersons

The following Association Committees are established. To learn more about each Committee's mission and objectives, please visit http://www.508pir.org/f_and_f/assn_docs_01.htm. Committee chairpersons' welcome new participants, so please volunteer and contact the Association.

- Constitution & By-Laws Committee: Rock Merritt – Chairperson
- Nominating Committee: Rock Merritt – Chairperson
- Awards Committee: Troy Palmer – Chairperson
- Reunion Committee: Troy Palmer, Chris Harris – Chairpersons
- Advisory Committee of Trustees: Dick O'Donnell – Chairperson

SEARCHING FOR.....

The National Pathfinder Association is dedicating a new monument at the Airborne and Special Operations Museum in Fayetteville, NC and are looking for any living WWII Pathfinders and/or family members of WWII pathfinders to attend. Any contact info would be greatly appreciated.

Please contact me at eeptx@sbcglobal.net

Thank you,
Ellen Peters

Mailbox

I recently received an email from Charlene Confrey, window of Evan Confrey of G Co., saying that she was recently diagnosed with Stage 2N1 Pancreatic Cancer. She is currently having chemotherapy treatments every two weeks for the next three to six months. Once the chemo is complete, her surgeon will do a whipple procedure which is a very serious operation. Charlene has a long road ahead of her, but she also has a very positive attitude and is determined she will beat this.

Please join me in keeping Charlene in your prayers. If you would like to drop her a note or send a card, her address is:

Charlene Confrey
P.O. Box 835
Suffield, CT 06078-0835

Received from Ellen Peters

HELP WANTED

Web site assistance with the following skills:

1 - Transcription assistants. From existing records to Word or Excel (or Open Systems equivalent applications). Accuracy imperative. Will provide master formats for input in either application environment.

2 - HTML experience for creation of new pages to include in existing website to record various types of facts. Raw data and web page templates available.

3 - Access Database design. Experienced person to extend existing design should be a motivated self-starter. Will collaborate regarding design requirements; provide sample inputs and assistance in testing results.

Contact Dick O'Donnell at Jumpmaster@508pir.org or 321-759-6174

THE PX IS OPEN

Hats are $26.95 and Shirts are $35.00. Prices include $5.00 Shipping and Handling. Shirts are available in Blue, Red, Black and Gray. To purchase a shirt, visit the website at www.508pir.org or contact Chris Harris at harris.chris.j@att.net or (310) 729-2745.







Royal Blue



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