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Ludlow, MA 01056-3315
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Return Service Requested

508th Parachute Infantry Regiment Association

Newsletter

Winter 2001 Issue 83

Avoid the last minute RUSH:

PLEASE REGISTER EARLY, for our Tampa Reunion.

Full Refund if you have to cancel !!!

The 27th Annual Reunion of the 508 Parachute Infantry Regiment Association will be in Tampa, Florida from Wednesday, August 29, thru Sunday, September 2, 2001.
The Registration form is on page 8. **Send completed form to Ernie Lamson.**
Invite your sons, daughters and grandchildren to come with you. There is growing interest among young people to learn more about the **Greatest Generation.**
They will be excited to meet your war-time buddies of the **508.**
What they **see** and what they **hear** and what they **learn** at the reunion will be **cherished memories** that they will keep for a lifetime.
The young people we meet when we go back to **Normandy, Holland,** and **Belgium** amaze us with their knowledge of the history of **the 508.** They are aware of the battles we fought on their soil. They do not forget the **sacrifices** we made to win back for them their **freedom.** They are taught this in their schools! They are eternally grateful to paratroopers of the 508. They honor our fallen comrades when they visit the beautiful cemeteries in their countries and decorate the graves. Theirs is a living **Memorial** which they observe and renew year after year in **France, Belgium and Holland.**
Will we teach this lesson to our children in America? Will you do your part?

A Donation Hooks You Up

Paratrooper _____ Wife _____

Check one: Member ☐ Associate Member ☐

Address _____ City _____
State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Company _____ Rank / Rate _____
MOS _____
ASN _____ Dates Served

We value your contributions to the 508 PIR Association. Dues have never been required, but the cost of our newsletter has escalated.

Your donation is appreciated.
Your Editor

Make checks or money orders payable to 508th PIR:
Mail to: Ernie Lamson, 1135 Edgcumbe Road,
St. Paul, MN 55105-2831

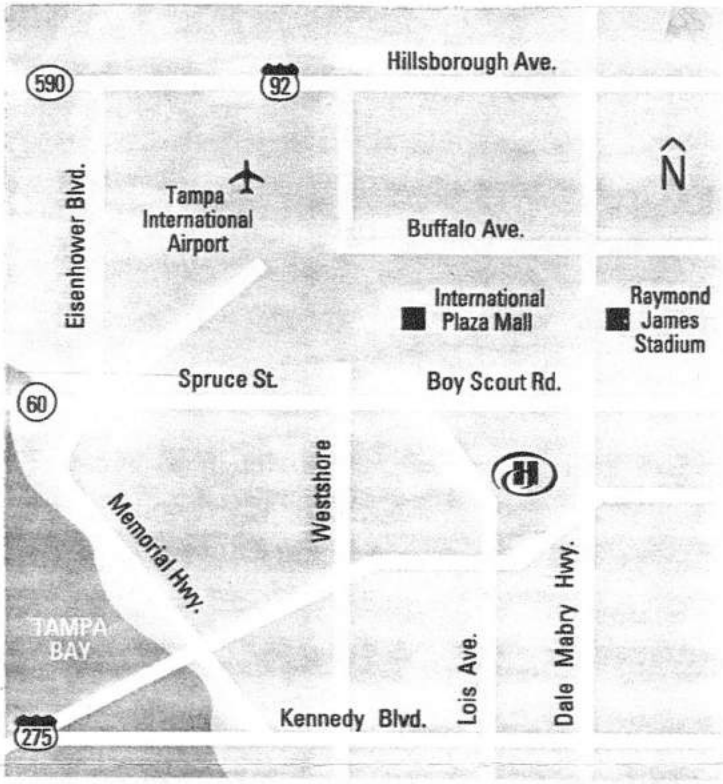
508th P.I.R. Association Officers

OFFICE	NAME	COMPANY	PHONE	ALT. REP	PHONE
Chairman	O.B. Hill	Hq 1st	(760) 325-5118		
President	Bob Speers	Hq 2nd	(918)-245-2359		
Past President	Norb Studelska	D Co	(262)-377-4107		
Vice President	Walter Silver	C Co, HqHq	(225)-343-2037		
Treasurer	Ernie Lamson	A Co	(651)-699-7366		
Secretary	Francis Lamoureux	G Co	(413)-583-2493		
Parliamentarian	Rock Merritt	Hq 1st	(910)-425-5818		
Trustee	Tony Yablonski	I Co	(410)-665-5867		
Trustee	Paul Hamblin	C Co	(770)-451-5015		
Storekeeper	Ernie Lamson	A Co	(651)-699-7366		
Company Rep	Bob White	A Co	(304)-727-3641	William F. Bauman	(618)-392-4710
Company Rep	Nate Silverlieb	B Co	(413)-538-8828	Frank Novak	(440)-843-7923
Company Rep	Bill Traband	C Co	(610)-532-4609	John Coates	(410)-531-2475
Company Rep	Frank Haddy	D Co	(515)-357-4362	Walter Baker	(618)-452-3762
Company Rep	Fred Infanger	E Co	(631)-667-8081	Bob O'Connor	(503)-649-2394
Company Rep	Ted Lee	F Co	(307)-265-2277	Tom Toper	(907)-243-3227
Company Rep	Al Rosman	G Co	(520)-726-1991	Lane Lewis	(615)-890-3638
Company Rep	Harry Roll	H Co	(513)-922-0249	Warren Wilt	(316)-286-5469
Company Rep	Harold Botteon	I Co	(410)-288-5388	Ray Costanzo	(540)-338-9240
Company Rep	George Stoeckert	Hq 1st	(703)-451-4629	Rock Merritt	(910)-425-5818
Company Rep	Chet Graham	Hq 2nd	(925)-937-6839	Louis M. Manion	(502)-447-8250
Company Rep	Lawrence Jeffers	Hq 3rd	(614)-667-6558	Jack Schlegel	(914)-688-5772
Company Rep	Harry Kennedy	HqHq	(650-349-1998	Bob Abraham	(405)-789-2264
Company Rep	Heimer Swanson	Ser Co	(507)-825-3762	Dave Kuony	(402)-553-5324

(If your phone number is incorrect, please send the corrected number to the editor)

Our **President, Bob Speers** reports on the Reunion site for 2002:
At the business meeting in Kansas City the members voted to hold the 2002 Reunion in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.
This was contingent on obtaining a signed contract from the Hotel by the Chairman hosting the reunion. The contract must be reviewed by the **Board of Directors** to make certain that all criteria are agreed upon by both parties. **No contract was submitted to the Board in the time allotted.** The By Laws of the Association delegate authority to the Board to negotiate a reunion site in this instance. **A written proposal was received from the Ramada Express Hotel in Laughlin, Nevada, and, after review, it was accepted by the Board.**
Laughlin is across the Colorado River from **Bullhead City, Arizona.** It is 50 miles southeast of **Las Vegas.** If you are driving it is 10 miles west of **Kingman, AZ.**
Hotel rates are $19.00 per room per night. With tax it comes to $20.71 per night.
From the east, fly to **Phoenix, AZ and take the air bus (737) to Bullhead City, where a courtesy van takes you directly to the hotel. The air-bus is $99.00 round trip. The savings in room cost will more than offset the $99.00 air fare.**
Dates for the 28th Annual Reunion to be held in Laughlin, Nevada:
Sat. August 4, 2002: Arrival Day
Sun Aug. 5, Memorial Breakfast
Mon. Aug 6, Business Meeting
BANQUET Monday Night.
Tues., Aug 7, Farewell Breakfast.
More details available in Tampa.

UPDATE on the Tampa Reunion.
August 30 – September 2, 2001
(See Registration form on page 8.)



Hilton Tampa Airport Westshore

The site of the 508 PIR 27th Annual Reunion is located five minutes from **Tampa International Airport.**
A **Complimentary** hotel shuttle is available at the Airport.
The Hotel on **225 North Lois Avenue, is four miles from downtown TAMPA**
A NEW International Plaza Mall is one block away. Upscale restaurants are across the street from the Hotel.
The group rate will be available one week prior and one week after our reunion.
All reunion guests receive a 25% discount off the total bill in hotel restaurant and lounge.
***NOTE: Room rates are $62.00/night. (Single or double, subject to 11.75% local tax, per room, per night)**
Pay the hotel when you check out.

Frankfurt-am Main – July 1945



OB Hill und Kameraden

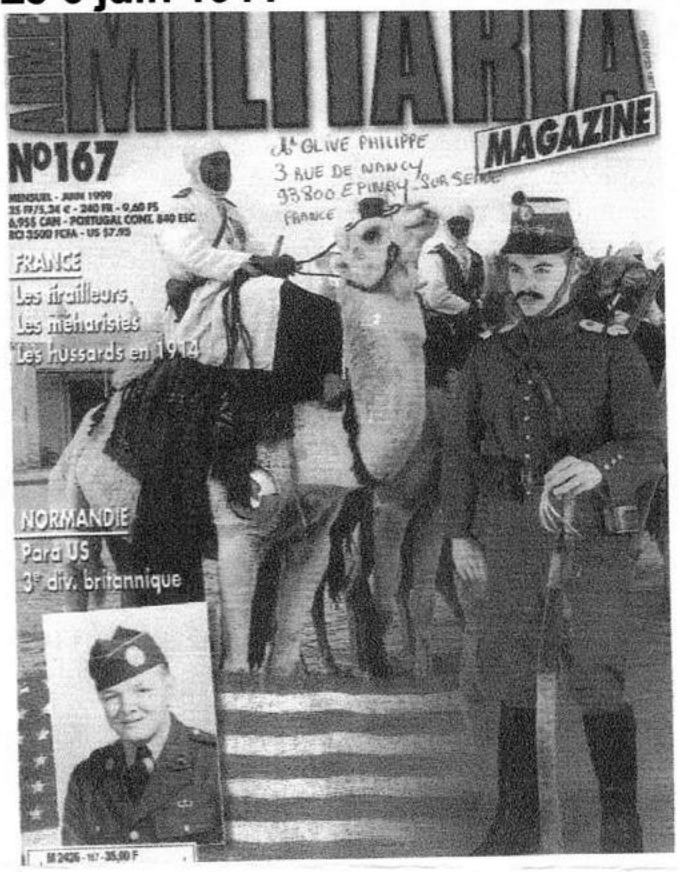
Sprechen Sie Deutsch? All decked out in their Eisenhower jackets the intrepid five plan strategy for a BLITZ on the local Bierstube. OB is second from the right. Can you identify his buddies? Notice the Combat Infantryman's BADGE (CIB) on the left pocket lapel.

The photo above is taken from page 43 of the **French Magazine, "Armes MILITARIA",** issue No. 167, June 1999. The cover is to the right.

I was in the square at Ste.-Mere-Eglise on June 6, 1999.. A Frenchman in his 40's approached me. I had never seen him before. He beckoned me to approach his car parked next to mine.Without a word, he reached into his car, took out this magazine and handed it to me. I had no idea what it was. I offered to pay him. He shook his head and said, "C'est pour vous."

I shook his hand, thanked him for the magazine and we said "goodbye".It was not until much later in the day that I discovered the story of O.B. Hill.

Le Sergeant O.B. Hill, egare Le 6 juin 1944



"The impact when I hit the water was violent. I was sinking rapidly in the muddy current of the Douve. I couldn't move and the inescapable feeling of death seized my mind and my body. Finally, my feet touched solid ground and I stood up and pushed myself out of the water. Suddenly a ray of hope – my mouth came up above the water!"

This is how O.B. Hill described his landing near Beauzeville-la Bastille in Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944 to Dominique Francois.

The five-page spread replete with maps and photos of memorabilia recounts the events of the first five days of combat of O.B. Hill and his comrades from Hq 1st Battalion of the 508 Parachute Infantry Regiment in Normandy.

Correspondence

From the Netherlands: A letter from **Elisabeth Van Elteren, wife of Philip Van Elteren written to Jim and Anne Allardyce in December 2000.**

Philip died May 30, 2000. He was a retired Professor of mathematics at the **University of Nijmegen.** He was a friend of American veterans of **Operation Market Garden**. He and his wife had close ties with the 508. He attended many of our reunions in the United States and was always a gracious host to 508'ers whom he received in his home in **Beek, Ubbergen**.

He made a lasting contribution to the **National Liberation Museum** at **Groesbeek as a member of the Board of the Museum and as a volunteer guide.**

We extend our condolences to his wife, Elisabeth and to the family.

Letter from **Zig Boroughs:** He received an inquiry from Karr Hendrickson whose father, **Kurt Hendrickson, A Co.** was with 508 in Camp Mackall. He would like to hear from men who served with his father. His address:
Mr. Karr Hendrickson, 14345 N. 76th Dr., Peoria, AZ, 85381 or call him at (623) 979-0262.

George Gurwell, HqHq wrote to Zig that his wife Jeanne had major back surgery in June. George was in the hospital in October for surgery on an abdominal anyeurism. His doctor says he now should be able to lift a bale of hay.

TAPS

Harry Roll, H Co., reports death of Linda Van Vels, wife of **Gerrit Van Vels, H Co.** on November 13, 2000.They had five children and several grandchildren

Ben Delameter III, Hq 1st Bn died November 19, 2000. Reported by **George Stoeckert.**

On the Mend

Zig Boroughs, HqHq completed a series of radiation treatments a few weeks ago. He reports that the next six weeks will be a recuperation period. Zig and Mary are settling down in their homestead in Pickens, South Carolina, P.O. Box 1131. **(Zip, 29671) Tel 864-878-9523**

Martha Brown, wife of **Warren Brown, Hq 1st** is recuperating in Hospital after a hip operation and heart surgery. Many prayers have been offered by friends in **HQ 1st** for a complete recovery. We love you, Martha.!

A Letter from Tom Porcella, H Company

Tom has redesigned the **Normandy** pin which commerates the early days of the 508 camapigns in Chef du Pont, Picauville and Hill 30. It's a beautiful pin. I thank him for sending me one.

Tom and **Chet Graham are hosting Lucien Hasley, of Picauville, France as guest at the Tampa reunion. Lucien was a sixteen year old lad on June 6, 1944.** He has vivid memories of the fighting on **Hill 30** close to his home.

He has sculpted one side of his stone house with names of 508 troopers who fought there. This is his memorial to the 508 and a tribute to the Airborne Paratroopers who liberated his village.

The **"Wall"** has become a tourist attraction. **Lucien is a true friend of the 508. Give him a warm welcome in Tampa.**

Mini-Reunions:

Hq 1st Bn holds its yearly gathering in **Fayetteville, NC at the Holiday Inn Bordeaux from April 25 thru April 29. Everyone is welcome for fine food, fun, great comradeship and tours of the Airborne and Special Operations Museum and Fort Bragg faciities. Registration closes April10, 2001. "Rock" Merritt is in charge of details. Call him at (910)425-5818 or call Hq 1st Bn. Company Reps:**

George I. Stoeckert,6153 Roxbury Ave.,Springfield, VA22152-1625

Ken J. (Rock) Merritt, 1517 Atwick Dr., Fayetteville, NC 28304-3901.

Our Vice President, **Walter H. Silver** has set the wheels in motion to complete the **Task 4 Objective** as set up by the **Retirement Advisory Committee (RAC).**

He has furnished **Guidelines** to all company reps. **You will be hearing from them** in a separate mailing. **Please read the suggestions carefully. Please respond.**

*What is **Task 4 ?** It is a **Company Album** which brings together the stories of the men who **stood beside you and fought with you in Normandy, Holland and the Bulge. Your words and deeds, your thoughts and your emotions become a living memorial to you and your buddies. Your Company Album will honor you and your fallen comrades. The Museum at Camp Blanding, Florida will be a fiitting place to house this TRIBUTE to the 508 Parachute Infantry Regiment!***

THE FINAL CURTAIN

The Retirement of the Association will take place in October 2004. This will mark our **30th Annual Reunion.** Plans are underway to make this reunion a gala celebration. You can learn more by attending our 27th Annual Reunion in Tampa, Florida.

Florida is home to **130 members of our Association** – more than in any other state.

Next in line is **California with 96. PA=82; OH=74; NC=62; TX=61.** In descending order are **GA, MI, IL, IN, NJ and VA with a *TOTAL of 230.*** (An average of 38 in the above states.)

Take Heart Ye Party Lovers !

Many of you will continue to meet with your **508 Friends** in more informal surroundings. The **Mini-Reunion is an ideal setting for old soldiers "who never die" and never get arthritis!** All it takes is a phone call or a few letters and you're on your way.

From the EDITOR:

Please keep your addresses up to date *so we can continue to send you the **NEWS LETTER.***

Many letters have been returned with Postage Due. If you are going to be away for an extended time send a postcard to the Secretary. **THANKS!**

Taps

Jeanne Thomas, wife of **Dr. Dave E. Thomas, HqHq Medic,** died November 1999 at home. They were married for 62 years. Dave was **President of the 508 PIR Association in 1977.**
He has moved into new quarters at:
7402 Crestway Dr. Room #107
San Antonio, TX 78239
Dave got out of the hospital Jan. 4,2001.
He concludes a letter to **Zig Boroughs:**
"Have a good one, live life to the fullest, spread cheer, love your fellow man and - Hang loose."
Dave's phone number is : 210-646-5626.
Give him a call, or send a card!

Richard Stanley, E Co, died suddenly November 25, 2000 in Naples, Florida.
He was well known as a judge who metered out sentences in his courtroom with a stern yet compassionate justice. (Letter from his wife Winnie to Fred Infanger.)

Lt. Horne, ***COmpany "I"***
died November 25, 2000 at Dublin, Georgia.
Phone call by his wife Doris Horne to **Fred Gladstone, I company.**
His picture appeared on the cover of **LIFE** magazine , August 1944. A life-size photo of Lt. Horne holding an M1 rifle (captioned "Paratrooper in Normandy" now stands on a wall in the new Airborne Museum in Fayetteville, NC. He was 88 years old.

Jim Whelan of Hq 2nd
died December 9, 2000 of a massive heart attack. He had a military funeral. He was 78.
(Letter to Chet Graham) from his wife.
Mrs James Whelan (Fran)
118 Quincy Dr.
Levittown, PA 19057

Lawrence F. Salva, Hq 3rd died November 11, 2000 in Vero Beach, Fl
He was awarded the silver star, bronze star and two purple hearts. He was buried with full military honors. His wife of 57 years, Stella sent the notice. Larry was 86 .

James A. Jackman, F Co. died December 8, 2000 on Brainbridge Island, WA. He leaves his wife, Patricia of 58 years. (Reported by Ted Lee and Bob Broderick.)

Thelma G. Reidel, AM, H Co. wife of Art Riedel, died December 8, 2000 in Hays, KS. (From Warren and Charlyne Wilt)

Maurice I. Boyer, E Co. Died in Salemburg, NC at age 76. (Phone call from his son Norman.)

George A. Luperchio, Hq 1st died January 6, 2001 at age 77. His son, Michael of Worcester, MA was in charge of arrangements Representing **Hq 1st** at the funeral was **Francis Lamoureux.**

****

Frank Pesce, Hq 1st died January 11, 2001 in Somerset, MA. (His wife, **Elsie** called **Warren Brown, Hq 1st.**

Edwin A. Luczaj, HqHq died of pneumonia on February 7, 2001.
(Phone call to **Harry Hudec** from daughter.)

Okey Mills, Hq 3rd and President of the 508 PIR in 1986

died at age 85 in February 2001.
He was a devoted member of the 508 and was a popular figure at our reunions.
Okey was elected sheriff of Raleigh County five times. He was active in civic and community affairs as well as Veterans Organizations and in his church in Crab Orchard, WV.
He is survived by his wife, Letty.
Phone call from Bill Lord, Hq 3rd. Bill visited Okey during his illness and paid his respects to Letty with another visit to Crab Orchard after the funeral.

508th P.I.R. ASSOCIATION
27th Annual Reunion
HILTON Tampa Airport Westshore
Tampa, Florida
August 30 - September 2, 2001

NAME: Mr. ----------Wife: ---------- Company -----

ADDRESS:----------Telephone:----------

CITY: ----------STATE .....ZIP .....

I WILL HAVE ..... GUESTS. NAMES FOR THEIR ID'S ARE LISTED BELOW:
1. 2. 3. 4.

The fee per person is $65.00.
ENCLOSED IS: $_____ registration FEE for _____ PEOPLE.
Send whole page (or XEROX copy) in with your check and HOTEL RESERVATION.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Registration (Wednesday)		**8/29**	☐ **King-size Bed**
Golf (Thursday)	**8A.M.**	**8/30**	☐ **2 Double Beds**
Company Rep Meeting (Thurs)	**4P.M.**	**8/30**	☐ **Non-Smoking Room**
Memorial Breakfast (Friday)	**9A.M.**	**8/31**	
Pictures (Friday)	**11A.M**	**8/31**	
Business Meeting (Saturday)	**9A.M.**	**9/01**	**Arrival date will be _____**
Banquet (Saturday)	**7P.M.**	**9/01**	**Time_____A.M._____P.M.**
Farewell Breakfast (Sunday)	**9A.M.**	**9/02**	**Checkout DATE _____**

Please make all checks or money orders payable to: 508th P.I.R. Association.
Send this pre-registration form with hotel reservation information and check or money order to:
Ernie Lamson, 1135 Edgcumbe Rd., St. Paul, MN 55105 Ph (651) 699-7366

***** No money is required at this time for Hotel Reservations. **A down payment of $62.00 reserves your room, but, it is needed only if you will arrive after 6:00 P.M.**
When you receive confirmation from the Hotel, your credit card number insures your room.
If you have questions you may contact the Hotel at: **Hilton Hotel, 2225 North Lois Ave., Tampa, FL 33607 or Phone: (813) 877-6688**
Please Note: To set up a room for a Company CP, contact Ernie Lamson to obtain group rate.

PLEASE CHECK OFF HOW YOU CAN HELP AT THE REUNION

☐ **Registration Desk** ☐ **Regimental CP** ☐ **Table Decorations**
I need a wheel chair: ☐ YES **I need a refrigerator for insulin: ☐ YES**
Pre-registration STOPS 3 weeks before the REUNION. Late reservations made at the HOTEL
ALL Changes must be made through ERNIE to avoid FALSE BILLING! And MIX-UPS!