President's Message

January 6, 2003

Sally and I wish all of our 508 friends a healthy New Year and we look forward to seeing you at Fort Mitchell, Kentucky. The first order of Association business for 2003 is to finalize the retirement ceremony to be held at Camp Blanding, Florida on October 19, 2004.
At the General membership meeting on August 6, 2002 held in Laughlin, Nevada it was voted to retire the 508 PIR Association at Camp Blanding, and to transfer memorabilia, records and assets to the Camp Blanding Museum and Historical Associates, Inc. for preservation and display in the museum.

As your President, I am working closely with Major Greg Parsons at the Camp Blanding Museum, co-ordinating the official retirement Ceremony with the assistance of Paul Hamblin and the Board. Our Treasurer, Ernie Lamson has made great arrangements with the hotel in Gainesville, Florida. You'll hear more about it at our reunion this year in Fort Mitchell, Kentucky.
Please register early, it makes Ernie's job a lot easier.
Airborne wishes and soft landings,

Ken ("Rock") Merritt

From Hank LeFebvre: "Many of our 508'ers have never received military decorations to which they are entitled. Don't wait until it is too late – bring a copy of your discharge to ***your local Veterans agent or contact any NSO of the VFW, American Legion or the DAV.***. If all else fails, contact your Congressman..
They'll really "HOP" for you."

Time is running out –only two reunions left!

Register EARLY for Fort Mitchell, Kentucky. If you CANCEL for any reason YOU ARE GUARANTEED A FULL REFUND!!!
Please send the entire page 8 when you register. It's for my records.
Thank You,

Ernie Lamson

Attractions of Drawbridge Inn

500 Guest rooms renovated in 2000
Non-smoking rooms
Indoor – Outdoor – heated pool.
Air conditioning in rooms
Hair dryer in rooms
Ironing board in rooms
Coffee maker
Barber/Beauty Shop on site
Hot Tub and Sauna
FREE parking
FREE shuttle to and from Cincinnati Airport (which IS in KENTUCKY)
Things to see and do in area:
Cincinnati Reds Stadium –
Newport Aquarium
Downtown shopping
Golf courses --- ALL 10 minutes away
24-hour restaurant on site (Chaucer's)
Two other restaurants on site.

The hotel has played host to many veterans' reunions. They treat you right. It has a 3 and ½ star rating.
Now listen to what the guests say:
"I love this place. It is a friendly and inexpensive getaway and *a nice place for a romantic weekend."*

From our Mail Bag

15th Annual Mini-Reunion of Hq 1st at Augusta, Georgia March 16 – 19, 2003

Reunion Sponsors: Laura Palmer Tel. 803-613-0453 and Troy & Donna Palmer, Tel. 706-855-1453

WHERE?: Country Suites Riverwalk 3 Ninth Street, Augusta, GA 30901 Tel. (706)-855-1453 or Toll-Free: (1-800-456-4000)

Rooms are $75.00 plus tax per night . (Rate is good 3 nights before and 3 nights after)

Be sure to request Special Rate for 508 Hq 1st Reunion. **ALL are Welcome.**

Cut off date February 11, 2003 for Hotel reservations.(No exceptions)

You must make your own room reservations with Hotel.

Registration fee of $65 per person should be sent to :

Troy Palmer, 1206 River Lane, Evans, GA 30809.

The reunion follows the same format as our annual 508 reunions:

Welcoming Breakfast, Monday 3/17/03

Banquet on Tuesday, 3/18/03

Farewell Breakfast, Wednesday, 3/19/03

A Thank You – via e-mail from:

John McCann, 5 Mountainview Gardens, Co. Derry

Northern Ireland, BT45 7QW

Our notice in the Fall Newsletter, Issue 89 got results and John McCann was pleased by replies from the 508. Send him the story of your stay in Portstewart, Northern Ireland to be included in his book about the 508.

He wrote that the Windsor Hotel in Portstewart is scheduled for demolition.

(It was your Editor's favorite haunt,)

Paul Hamblin inducted into OCS Hall of Fame, Fort Benning, April 4, 2002



Retired Army Colonel Paul W. Hamblin, 508th PIR, Company C in WWII was inducted into 2002 Infantry Officer's Candidate School Hall of Fame at Ft. Benning, Georgia.

The Hall of Fame honors OCS graduates who have left an indelible mark upon the army and the civilian sector. Exceptional leadership and a dedication to public service distinguish inductees selected for the Hall of Fame.

Paul was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in 1943 upon graduating from the University of Delaware. As a qualified parachutist he made 105 jumps during his career. He joined the 508 during the Battle of the Bulge and continued with C company as Honor Guard for General Eisenhower at SHAEF Headquarters in Frankfurt, Germany.

From 1947 to 1957 he served 3 tours with the 82nd Airborne at Fort Bragg, NC. He earned 7 overseas bars for tours of duty in Korea and Vietnam.

Colonel Hamblin retired in1971 after 28 years of military service. He was the recipient of many awards and military decorations, including the Silver Star Medal, the Bronze Star, and Purple Heart with 2 clusters.

Paul served as President of the 508 Parachute Infantry Regiment Association in 1994. As an original member of the Retirement Advisory Committee Paul continues to make contributions to the 508 PIRA .

The picture of Paul and his wife, Sylvia was taken before the awards ceremony.

SCOOP FOR 508

A recent communication from Jim Allardyce:
"Just heard from Bill Windom (B company). He sent me a pre-publicity copy of a poster for a new breath-taking musical in which he plays a starring role."



Jim and Bill Windom have been life-long buddies. They saw combat together in Holland and in the Bulge. You can read Bill's story in Zig Boroughs' book, ***"The Devil's Tale".***

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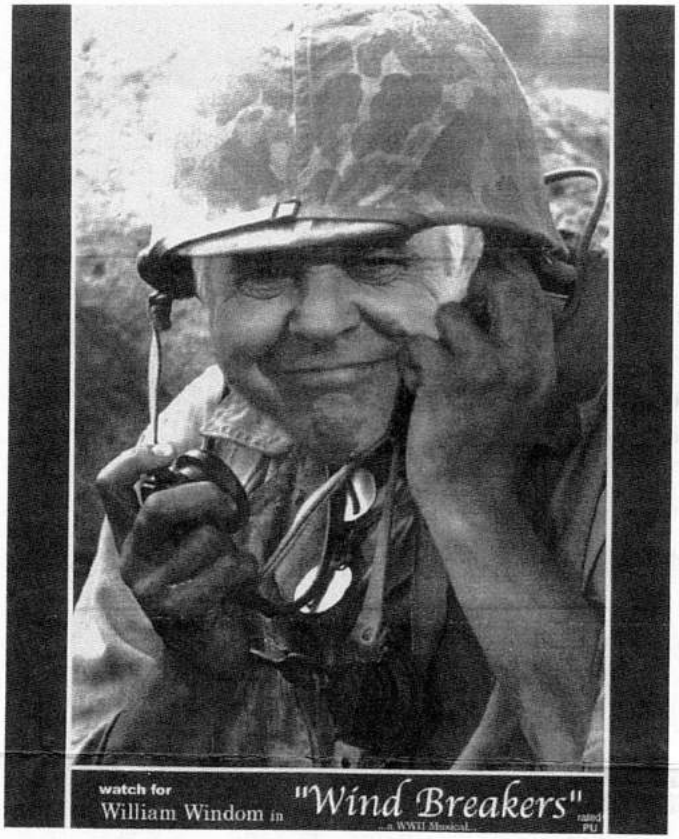
Topping off a distinguished career on stage, Television and the movies, William Windom is a tour de force in the soon to be released WWII musical, "The Windbreakers".
As Bill explained, "I told a TV interviewer that I had cracked the **"Windtalkers"** code while serving with the 508 in WWII. Thereafter I was known in **S2** as the **WINDBREAKER.**

> ***EDITOR's Note:*** Jim Allardyce wrote, "Maybe you can use Bill's irreverent humor in the Newsletter. He used a good choice of words to make a point. Kind of reminds you of the old gang in the old days".

Bill Windom wrote to the Lamoureux's - "Second grandchild is due any minute. I talk to old buddies Cross and Nicklowski. Hope to see you in Fort Mitchell."

William Windom shown venting his stuff in the new WWII musical, Windbreakers.

This is an earth-shattering role for the



versatile veteran actor. **There has been some dissension, especially from distributors who put up a big stink when the film was given the rating PU.** Previously cast in conservative, mild-mannered roles, Windom appeared in 18 Broadway plays before making his film debut in **To Kill a Mockingbird** as the prosecuting attorney against Gregory Peck. He won an "**Emmy**" for the lead in his weekly TV series, **My World and Welcome to It.**
He gained even wider fame portraying the role of Dr. Seth Haslett on the long-running Angela Lansbury TV series **Murder She Wrote.**

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Irving Shanley, (Hq 2nd) reports that he has been invited to attend the Dedication ceremony to be held for **Colonel Tom Shanley, (HqHq)** in Picauville, France during the D-Day Celebration in Normandy this June of 2003. Details of the ceremony have not yet been released by Dominique Francois who is planning the event. Tom Shanley no longer travels, but his wife, Lucille and several of the Shanley children plan to attend. Irving writes: "My wife, Flo, and I had a great time at the Laughlin reunion. The memorial ceremony for O.B. was beautiful. We plan to attend the Fort Mitchell reunion."

Briand N. Beaudin (Hq 3rd – Battalion Surgeon) : "My wife, Irene. And I have a friend who would like to contact 508 buddies of her brother, Pvt. Albert Miller who was wounded in action in the Bulge and later died in a Hospital in England where he was buried in Cambridge. Later he was re-interred in Maryland. His sister is Rosa May McCormick. Please write to me and I will forward your letter to Rosa May:

Briand N. Beaudin, 21 Country Club Dr., Gloversville, NY 12078-1117

Note: ***At the time Captain Beaudin wrote he was preparing to undergo Major surgery. Send him a card to cheer him up.***

News of Hq 1st provided by company rep, George Stoeckert:

Gene Merritt, (AM) brother of our 508 President, "Rock" Merritt was transferred to a convalescent home after surgery. Improvement has been slow. Cheer him up. Send a card to :

Gene Merritt, Baptist Village,
7310 N 127th E Avenue, Apt 22
Owasso, OK 74055

Dave Jones fell at the Laughlin reunion and broke several bones. His wife, Dolly, says the bones have healed, but complications have slowed down his recovery. Send cheer and prayers to :

Dave Jones, 6112 Water Lily Comm.#101, Livermore, CA 94551-8591

Joe Bressler had knee surgery. Send a card to:

1505 N Riverside Dr., Pompano Beach, FL 33062

In Memorium

Arthur R. Reidel, (H Co), died December 8, 2002. He was predeceased by his wife, Thelma. They had been married for 59 years.
Send condolences to his daughter **Kathy Petr, 3128 Applewood Dr., Wichita, KS 67220**

Wayne Beanblossom, (H Co.) died Ootober 2, 2002. He is survived by his wife, Beulah and a daughter, Rita and two grandchildren.
Send condolences to Mrs. Beanblossom at:
2423 Stover Dr., New Albany, IN 47150-4431

Melvin Pommerening, (H, Co.) died May 18, 2002. He and his wife Amelia (Millie) were frequent visitors to Ralph Busson's "Pig Roast". He is survived by his wife, Millie and eight sons and 21 grandchildren.
His wife wrote to Harry Roll, "Our sone had planned on driving us to Laughlin for the reunion. Melvin was looking forward to the trip. I'm sorry I took so long to write to you."

Memorial Donations

Patron-Benefactor donation from Paul Demciak, (B company), Pathfinder, Medic in memory of Brigadier General David Thomas, Regimental Surgeon.

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Donation from Reuben A. Weiner, (HqHq) dedicated to the memory of Alice Abraham, wife of Bob Abraham.

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Donation from Jim Rizzuto, (D co.)
In a letter to Ernie Lamson he writes:
"I was surprised to hear of O.B.'s passing. He was one of the best. Recovering from heart surgery – couldn't make Laughlin. Margaret and I hope we'll get to Fort Mitchell.

Good luck on reunion.
Airborne all the way, Jim

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Donation from Robert B. Newhart(E co) "For the many things OB gave us all, Loretta and I send this in his memory."