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508th Parachute Infantry Regiment Association

Summer 2003

Newsletter

Issue 92

508 PIR Association 29th Annual Reunion
August 21-24th, 2003

The Drawbridge, Villager Premier Hotel
Fort Mitchell, Kentucky

The Northern Kentucky Hospitality Community welcomes you!
You will find many exciting entertainment and dining options from which to choose.

- Take a riverboat lunch or dinner cruise for fine or casual fare along the Ohio River.
- The Southbank Shuttle runs in a continuous loop between Covington, Newport and downtown Cincinnati. (Each ride only 50 cents per person.)
- The Newport Aquarium, with spectacular aquatic exhibits offers a world-class array of freshwater and saltwater marine species.
- Numerous shopping locations: downtown and historic manufacturer's outlets & boutiques.
- ***SEE page 8 for Registration & page 5 for MORE Reunion Attractions.***

A Donation Hooks You Up

Paratrooper _____ Wife _____

Check one: Member ☐ Associate Member ☐

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Company _____ Rank _____

ASN Dates Served

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



IT IS NOT too late to register for our 29th Annual Reunion. SEE page 8 for details. ALL are Welcome! Bring the Kids and Grand-kids.

508th P.I.R. Association Officers

OFFICE	NAME	COMPANY	PHONE	ALT. REP	PHONE
President	Ken "Rcck" Merritt	Hq 1st	(910)-425-5818		
Vice President	Norb Studelska	D Co	(262)-377-4107		
Past President	Bob Speers	Hq 2nd	(561)-575-3011		
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	(641)-357-4362	Walter Baker	(618)-452-1177
Company Rep	Bob O'Connor	E Co	(503)-649-2394	George A. Shenkle	(610)-489-4266
Company Rep	Ted Lee	F Co	(307)-265-2277	Tom Toper	(907)-243-3227
Company Rep	Lane Lewis	G Co	(615)-890-3638	*Francis Lamoureux	(413)-583-2493
Company Rep	Harry Roll	H Co	(513)-922-0249	Warren Wilt	(316)-286-5469
Company Rep	Joseph P. Schwan	I Co	(480)-945-5381	Fred Gladstone	(912)-437-4687
Company Rep	George Stoeckert	Hq 1st	(703)-451-4629	*Ken (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	(740)-667-6558	Jack Schlegel	(845)-688-7114
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

*Acting Alternates

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

President's Report :

At the Annual Static Line Awards held at the Marriott Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia on April 9 thru April 12, 2003, our good friend, Dr. John Hardie was chosen as the 508 Parachute Infantry Regiment "Man of the Year." John was selected by your Board of Directors, unanimously, as most deserving of the award for his loyal and selfless dedication to the members of our Association since its beginning in 1975.

****

508 Man of the Year - 2003



PHOTO by Don Lassen, ***The Static Line***

Always ready to extend a helping hand, John Hardie, Company C, 508 Parachute Infantry Regiment was given the high honor at the Awards ceremony held in Atlanta, Georgia.

****

I had registered for the Awards Program. I wanted to be there to congratulate John on the spot, but Murphy's Law took a turn. My wife, Sally was admitted to the hospital on the 1st of April with double pneumonia. She came home on April 5th.

I had a nurse stay with Sally, then headed for Fort Benning. I had agreed to be the guest speaker at the airborne graduation ceremony on Thursday, April 10. When I got to Benning, I learned that the class of over 300 had not made one jump.

My speech was cancelled. The next day I drove back to Fayetteville to relieve the Nurse. I drove 800 miles for nothing.
My biggest regret is that I did not get to see "Doc" Hardie get his well-deserved Man of the Year Award.

I thank the members of our 508 association for the flowers and cards they sent for my Brother Gene's funeral.
I know that Brother Gene loved all the 508th association members. Over 30 e-mail messages of condolences were received. George Stoeckert, in his e-mail described how the 508th felt toward Brother Gene. George's e-mail was read at the Eulogy.

We lucked out on the honor guard for the burial ceremony. A retired Sergeant-Major in charge of the local VFW delegation gave Brother Gene full military honors, including a 21-gun salute.

I have signed the memorandum of agreement with the Officials at Camp Blanding. I will give a a complete Report to the Board, the company reps and to the general membership at our reunion in Fort Mitchell, Kentucky this August.

Again, I want to congratulate Dr. John Hardie for being the 508th Man of the Year for 2003. We all know how much he has done for our association, as well as the many times he has attended to our sick at reunions and the long hours that he spent at the hospital caring for our members.

In closing, I wish all of you and your families a safe and a patriotic Fourth of July Celebration. Make it a great day for parades, picnics and outdoor barbeques.

See you all in Fort Mitchell, Kentucky !

Rock Merritt

From The Veterans' Park Press:
In observance of Veterans' Day, second graders of MS Sheila O'Neill's class at the Ludlow Veterans' Park Elementary School were treated to a visit from one of Ludlow's own --- Sergeant Francis Lamoureux. Displaying posters, pictures and other memorabilia, he shared many personal experiences as a paratrooper in World War II. The young students' interest level was apparent by their many questions. Mr. Lamoureux's visit will be remembered for many Veterans' Days to come.



Dear Mr. Lamoureux
Thank you for makeing fredom
I never thoght it could
be so intorsthing.
Mr. Lamoureux you are very lucky
you didn't die in the war
I'm soury your friends died in the war
When I grow up I am going to be a
paratrooper.
your
buddy,
christopher

From Sebastopol, California :
David Nagle (E company) was guest speaker at Memorial Day Ceremonies in his hometown. The theme of his talk centered around the role of the 508 on their D-Day jump into Normandy, June 6, 1944 . The 508 accomplished their mission of blocking the advance of German troops toward the beaches , thereby assuring the breach of the Atlantic Wall by the invading ground troops coming by sea. David's speech got him thunderous applause.

The 508 participates in D-Day Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery.

Members of the 82nd Airborne Division Association's Washington, D.C. Chapter, including a delegation of members of the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment Association placed wreaths at the grave of 1st Sergeant Leonard Funk, (C Company of the 508 PIR) and at the 82nd Airborne Monument on June 7, 2003.

Representing the 508 at the graveside were: Dr. John & Elaine Hardie, (C Co.); Mrs. Leonard (Gertrude) Funk (C Co.), Dick and LaRue Owen, (H Co.); Mrs. Forrest (Mary) Simmons, (H Co.); George and Shirley Stoeckert, (Hq 1st); and A. Maureen Stoeckert, (AM, Hq1st).

At a luncheon following the ceremony, Mrs. Gertrude Funk assisted by Dr. John Hardie, (E company, 508) presented a scholarship award to a young student. The scholarship was made available through the "Leonard Funk Memorial Educational Fund" which is endowed by the D.C. Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association.

John Hardie thrilled the 60 troopers and guests at the luncheon with "Leonard Funk tales".

A PLEA to preserve your war story!

Kathleene Lang who works with the Library of Congress on the Veterans History Program met Harry Roll (H Co) and learned of our 508 reunion. She will schedule your interview any day at the hotel. Please contact her if you wish to have your story preserved on tape. You may bring along pictures, maps or other memorabilia to include in your file.
The veterans name and a short bio will be put on the Internet, along with a few video clips from the interview.

All interviews will be archived at the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. where they will be available to historical researchers and for producers of film documentaries.

If you are willing to participate in this project, PLEASE CALL Ms Lang at : (513)-738-0771 at any time.

Or via e-mail at : maaglang@netzero.net

29th Annual Reunion of the 508 meets August 21-24, 2003 in Fort Mitchell, Kentucky.

Treasurer, Ernie Lamson (A, Co.) has been working hard as Reunion Chairman to make sure that this year's reunion will be hard to beat. Assisting Ernie with arrangements is Harry Roll (H, Co).

Harry lives in Cincinnati and he and Ernie are working hand-in-glove with the Hotel and Convention Bureau to bring you the best of what the Northern Kentucky Region has to offer.

For Ladies Only:

A complimentary Continental Breakfast will be served at the Hotel on Saturday, August 31 at 9:00 A.M.

The event is being co-ordinated by Charlene Lamson and Ruby Roll. They promise to keep the ladies who attend entertained while the men conduct their Annual Business Meeting.

Expect to enjoy true Southern Hospitality. Kentucky-style . . . and the Association picks up the tab.

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Ernie reports that 250 have already registered for the reunion. More registrations are expected. Do not miss this opportunity to meet with close friends and to meet new ones. Rooms are $79.00 per night. Make your reservations through Ernie Lamson.

REUNION Attractions, continued . . .

++++++++++++++++++++

Cincinnati Museum Center
Omnimax Theater
Riverboat Casinos: the Argosy, Belterra or the Grand Victoria. (Tempt Lady Luck)
World Peace Bell – Newport, KY
Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Gardens – (In top 5 of U.S. zoos.)
Paramount's King Island (America's most popular amusement park.)

Reunion Banquet to be known as:

O.B. Hill Memorial Banquet

The Board of Directors at their Post-Reunion meeting in Laughlin, Nevada voted to honor the memory of the founder of our 508 Parachute Infantry Regiment Association by naming the annual banquet after O.B. Hill at our reunion this year in Fort Mitchell, Kentucky and for our final reunion in 2004 at Camp Blanding, Florida.

Margaret Hill and members of the Hill family will be with us as we celebrate our 29th Annual Reunion.

We ask you to welcome them with open arms!

For Your Information

The official name recorded in the BYLAWS of the 508 PIR Association is :

The 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment Association WWII, 1942-1945.

The purposes of the Association shall be:

A. To affirm and renew the friendships, trust and confidence each member shared during WWII, to perpetuate the memory of all who served, and to commemorate fittingly, all members who now "Rest in Peace".

B. To conduct and engage in all lawful activities in furtherance of the purposes of the Association.

QUESTION?

Is there a way to perpetuate the memory of the 508 PIR after our retirement in 2004?

ANSWER

YES ! To learn how, come to our annual business meeting on Saturday, August 23, 2003 at 9:00 A.M. There you will see a presentation by Richard O'Donnell. He will demonstrate how with our own 508 website our HISTORY can live on during our lifetime and beyond.

Memorial Day in Madera California



The flag of Louis Spera (I, Co.) flies overhead at services honoring servicemen from Madera who gave their lives. Photo by Angelina Fuller, Associate Member, sister of Louis Spera , who tends to her brother's flag.

Memorial Donations

Patron- Benefactor Donations:

Harry Kennedy, HqHq donation in memory of Worster M. Morgan, (HqHq)
Harry Kennedy, HqHq donation in memory of O.B. Hill, Hq 1st.
Clem Crain, (D Company) in memory of John T.Agee, Jr., (D Company)
Tim Lamberson (AM, E Company) in memory of Bill Lamberson (E Company).
Mrs. James ("Babe") Jusek (AM, HqHq) in memory of Jim Jusek.
Mrs. Phyllis Yourkovich, (AM, E Company) in memory of her husband, Lou Yourkovich.
Ernie and Virginia Glover, (H Company) in memory of Joan Evans (wife of William Evans, H Co.)
Jean Perrotta, (HqHq) in memory of Dorothy Hudec, wife of Harry Hudec, (HqHq)
Alvin E. Hagen, (D Company) in memory of John Agee, (D Company).
Memorial Donations (continued)

The family of Roland Rogers in memory of Roland Rogers (I Co).
D Company, a Friend in memory of John Agee.
D Company, a Friend in memory of Roland Bishop.
D Company, a Friend in memory of Ed Ott.
D Company, a Friend in memory of Jim Pratt.
Dorothy Morgan (AM, Hq 3rd) in memory of her husband, Charles Morgan.

An updated listing of Patron-Benefactor DONATIONS will be available at the Reunion.

We Thank all those who made donations to honor a loved one, a friend, a fellow trooper. We share in your commitment to perpetuate their memory.

***May they rest in* Peace.**

Memorial Day - 2003

It is the soldier, not the poet, *who has given us the freedom of speech.*

It is the soldier, not the lawyer, *who has given us the right to a Fair trial.*

It is the soldier who SALUTES the FLAG, SERVES UNDER THE FLAG, and whose coffin is DRAPED BY THE FLAG, who is the Defender of Our Freedom.

(Adapted from words of Father Denis O'Brien, USMC)

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From our Vice President, Norb Studelska: Company Reps should send nominations for the 2003 O.B. Hill Awards directly to Norb as soon as possible. Mail to:
Norb Studelska, 1021 12th Ave,
Grafton, WI 53024-1964
Tel. 262-377-4107
So far only eight companies have replied: (D,E H,I,Hq1st,Hq2nd,Hq3rd. & Service Co.)

****

From Darrell Glass, Chairman of the Nominating Committee: A slate of officers will be presented at the Annual Business Meeting, Saturday, August 23, 2003.

Taps

Day is done, gone the sun from the lake,
from the hills, from the sky.
All is well, safely rest. God is nigh

Joseph L. Beasley, ("E" Co) died December 9, 2002 in St. Augustine, Florida. Obituary notice received from his wife, Virginia Haynes Beasley. He was buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery. Born in Hinton, West Virginia, he was the youngest of 12 children. At the outbreak of World War II he was a student at Marshall University when he joined the U.S. Army. He was a master parachutist with the 82nd Airborne at Fort Bragg, N.C.
His retired as a Major in 1963 after 20 years in the military, including tours of duty in the Korean Conflict and Vietnam. He served with "E" company of the 508 Parachute Infantry Regiment as Staff Sergeant from 1943 to 1945. He was one of the earliest to join the elite 10th Special Forces under Colonel Aaron Banks in Bad Tolz, Germany.
He is survived by his wife, Jinny, two daughters and two stepsons and one granddaughter.

Send condolences to:
Mrs. Joseph L. Beasley and Family
404 Prince Road
Saint Augustine, FL 32086-6124

Worster Miles Morgan, (HqHq) died March 17, 2003 in Dallas, Texas.
He jumped into Normandy with the 508th on D-Day, June 6, 1944. He also made the combat jump into Holland on September 17, 1944 with the 508 and saw action in the Battle of the Bulge where he was wounded by shrapnel and awarded the Purple Heart. He went with the 508 to Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany after VE Day when the Regiment was selected as Honor Guard to General Eisenhower at SHAEF Headquarters.
For his action in the Ardennes Campaign he was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant with a battlefield commission.
He retired from Mobil Oil Company after a career of 40 years in the oil industry.
He was active in his community and in his church. He enjoyed his work for the Lighthouse for the Blind and other charities.
He was deeply loved and will be sorely missed by his wife of 55 years, Lynn Sinclair Morgan and his daughters and their families.
Interment was at Hillcrest Memorial Park.
(Letter *from* Harry J. Kennedy: " Sergeant Morgan was NCO in the regimental S-2 section. Morgan's nickname was "Pappy". He was 28 years old - most of us were kids. I always said that "Pappy" was an exceptional leader and a fine human being".)
Send condolences to:
Mrs. Worster M. Morgan,
3420 Jubilee Trail,
Dallas, TX 75229-2638

Jack Wald, (Service Co.) died April 5, 2003. Reported by Company Rep. Heimar Swanson who had a phone call from Jack's wife, Rose.
Send condolences to:
Mrs. Jack Wald, 117 E. Ave. Box211,
Iron Ridge, WI 53035

Roland Rogers, ("I" Co.) died in April, 2003. He was buried at the Fort Snelling, Minnesota Military Cemetery with full military honors on May 1, 2003. Roland was always a cheerful presence at our 508 reunions, making the rounds in his motorized wheelchair. He will be dearly missed by the entire 508th PIR Association. Our Treasurer, Ernie Lamson made the arrangements. As a final salute of respect to our fallen comrade, Ernie affixed a 508 "Red Devil" Insignia to the casket.
Send condolences to Roland's brother:
Gerald Rogers,
1303 Washington St. NE
Minneapolis, MN 55413

Homer E. Hall, (A Co) died March 7, 2003. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Aileen (Rose) Hall. He was a POW in Germany for nearly one year.
He retired as Deputy Chief of the Wichita, Kansas Fire Department.
Homer was buried with full military honors at the National Veterans Cemetery, Camp Robinson, North Little Rock, Arkansas.
Send condolences to: Mrs. Homer E. Hall, 267 Ledgerwood Rd., Hot Springs, AR 71913

PLEASE send this entire page with Registration FEE

508th P.I.R. Association , 29th Annual Reunion
Thursday, August 21 through Sunday, August 24, 2003
Fort Mitchell, Kentucky

NAME: Mr Zig Boroughs **Wife:** Mary Boroughs **Company** Hq Hq

ADDRESS: PO Box 1131, Pickens SC 29671 **Telephone:** (864) 878-9523

CITY: Pickens **STATE** SC **ZIP** 29671

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: $ $130.00 **registration FEE for** 2 **PEOPLE.**
Send THIS WHOLE PAGE with your check.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Registration (Thursday)		**8/21**	☑ **King-size Bed** ☐ **Double beds**
Company Rep Meeting (Thurs.)	**4 P.M.**	**8/21**	☑ **Non-Smoking Room**
Memorial Breakfast (Friday)	**9 A.M.**	**8/22**	
Pictures (Friday)	**11 A.M**	**8/22**	
Business Meeting (Saturday)	**9 A.M.**	**8/23**	**Arrival date will be** Aug. 21
Banquet (Saturday)	**7 P.M.**	**8/23**	**Time_____A.M._____P.M.**
Farewell Breakfast (Sunday)	**9 A.M.**	**8/24**	**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 $79.00 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: **Drawbridge Villager Premier Hotel, 2477 Royal Drive, Fort Mitchell, KY 41017. Telephone: (859)-341-2800**
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**
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!

FREE SHUTTLE from AIRPORT direct to Hotel. FREE SHUTTLE