TO ALL AIRBORNE TROOPERS:

A recent decision by General Bernard Rogers, Chief of Staff, eliminates the beret as the approved headdress of Airborne troops. This decision affects all men of the 82nd Airborne Division, the 101st Airborne Division and men of the 509. Only the Special Forces and Rangers are unaffected by this decision.

The maroon berets of the 82nd and 509 and the blue beret of the 101st are an excellent way of identifying these men. They have worn berets proudly for many years. The decision to take away the beret is certain to have an adverse affect on the morale of these excellent soldiers. You, as an Airborne veteran, know how vital high morale is to any unit.

Airborne troops receive more vigorous training, are constantly on the alert and are recognized around the world as top-notch high spirited units. They are subjected to greater than normal dangers and are the first men called on in time of emergency or national crisis. They volunteer to be Airborne and should definitely be entitled to wear a distinctive uniform. I'm sure that most people will agree that Airborne soldiers are in a category all their own.

I cannot see any benefit to anyone from this decision to eliminate the Airborne beret. As a veteran Parachute Infantryman from World War II, I ask your support in returning the beret to all men of the Airborne. There can be no advantage to any decision that demoralizes so many fine men.

You can assist greatly in this effort by writing to President Carter and to the Senator and Congressman from your district. I ask all Airborne families and their friends to join us in this effort.

Thank you for your assistance.

Best Airborne Wishes & Soft Landings Always,

OBHill

## CHEF DU PONT PICTURE WANTED

Mrs Ruth Ross, Roy Bennett's sister would like a photograph of the 508th Park in Chef Du Pont. Roy was 1st Sgt of Co A and passed away in July '76. Mrs. Ross has all of his medals, citations, etc and would treasure a photograph of our Park as a part of those memories. She lives at 2900 W. Hillcrest, Dayton, Ohio. 45406.

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## REGIMENTAL COLORS

We will have Regimental Colors in San Antonio. They may be active duty or retired colors. Rock Merritt, Hq 1st reports that getting duplicates is very difficult, and if possible, a lengthy process.

## 508th JACKETS

Ralph Burris, F Co, chairman of the jacket committee reports that our jackets will soon be available. The final details are being worked out. They are of a safari styling and will be in sizes 36-48. The price will run $30-31. We will have ordering details by the time of the next news letter.



# 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment Association

1942 1945

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NEWS LETTER
MARCH 1979

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ISSUE 10

## O.B. - O.K.

O.B.Hill,our chairman and founder, underwent double ty-pass, open-heart surgery on Jan.29. He came through with flying colors and is recuperating at home now. Modern medical-surgical procedures had him sitting up in 24 hours and home in a week. He's doing fine but is having to take it slow and easy after this type of surgery.

O.B. put this whole Association together by himself. He started out with the addresses of buddies he knew and kept asking others to send in the addresses they had. What started out as a dream is now over 600 members strong and has an organization to keep itself going.

If you want to contact this trooper who has temporarily hung up his chute, you can write, O.B. Hill, 917 McCarthy Court, El Segundo, Cal. 90245.

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## 508th PIR 1979 REUNION

San Antonio, Texas, Sept 14, 15 & 16, 1979. Rates are $32.00 a night, single, double or twin, and apply to our members immediately before and after the reunion.

Reservation forms will be available in this News Letter and Static Line at a later date.

## NEWS FROM SAN ANTONIO



THE ALAMO

General Dave, our Regimental Medical Officer, and Hank LeFebvre, A & Hq2nd, our President, have been getting things together. The Party at the Jersey Lily Saloon on Thursday night, Sept.13, will be a humdinger. There will be country music and a square dance. There will be Texas Fare: chili, beans,Jalapeno peppers,crackers,soft drinks and endless beer, courtesy of the Pearl Brewery. Harry Roll, H. Co, has promised to lead us in singing, "Blood upon the Risers".

There will be a tour desk in the lobby of the St. Anthony, where you can sign up for bus tours. They offer tours of the Spanish Missions, Homes, Lone Star Hall of Horns and Fins, etc.

We will all march in the Mexican Independence day parade. We should look real sharp in our 508th bush jackets. They are available on page 3.

There are rumors about some of our Texas members showing up with buckboards and cattle trailers. Come on down to San Antonio and see what happens.

## GOLFING



Anyone interested in golfing will want to join Ralph Burris and Dave Thomas the day before the convention begins for a 508th golf tournament. It will be Wednesday September 13, 1979.

All duffers and sandbaggers wanting to participate in this event are asked to fill in this form and mail it to Ralph:

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## FRYING PAN JUMP

M. Finley Coxey wants to get in touch with any of you who jumped with him in the "Frying Pan" area with the demolition section when they blew up a bridge to demonstrate the effect of an airborne demolition for FDR.

Anyone with a good memory can write him at Rt 2 Box 1429
rt McCoy, Fla 32637,
one 1-904-467-9040.

## 1979 508th PIR GOLF TOURNAMENT

NAME-_____
ADDRESS-_____
_____
HANDICAP _____ **
PHONE_____
MAIL TO: RALPH BURRIS
1239 DAY CIRCLE
MILFORD, OHIO, 45150

**
IF NONE YOU'LL BE GIVEN A HANDICAP

. . . . . .

## ON TO BERLIN

Gavins book is good. It's advertised this month in Static Line. It's his personal account of the developement of airborne warfare, the 82nd wartime encounters, and his contacts with the higher echelons and their secret policies.



## 508th PIR DUES FOR 1979

RENEWAL ☐ ☐ NEW MEMBER

Make check payable to: 508th PIR Association.
Mail to ; Jim Smith, 1403 Valencia Drive,
Fayetteville, N.C. 28303, our Treasurer.

Paratrooper _____ Wife _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Company _____ Rank/Rate _____ MOS _____

ASN _____ Dates served _____

Campaigns _____

Occupation _____

Hobbies/Interests _____

Assn. No.

Signature _____

Here's your chance to start off the new year right by paying your dues for 1979. A lot of the guys have sent in their payment already. It's appreciated.

Your dues help support the News Letter, our column in Static Line each month, the cost of correspondence to find our old buddies, and other worthwhile business. The Association officers are all unpaid. All of our income helps to support our existence and growth.

## EUROPE 1979

Here's word from Ed Dugan, 508th, President of the 82nd C-47 Club. The club is planning to celebrate the 35th Anniversary of D-Day in Leicester, England and Ste. Mere Eglise, Normandy. This will be in conjunction with the Committee of Friends in both areas.

The dates are May 31 through June 7, 1979.

The air trip is up to each individual. The reservations in Leicester, the channel boat, and reservations in Ste Mere Eglise will be arranged by the C-47 Club. Let them know which towns you wish to stay in by March 1. If you're planning on the English portion, send a $25.00 deposit.

For all information write to Andy Kilcullen, 90-57 204th St. Hollis, New York, 11423

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## STATIC LINE

Ours and every other airborne mans lifeline is Static Line, a monthly publication put out by Don Lassen, 505th. Don wasn't able to attend our convention because for the first time, he attended his own company's yearly reunion.

If you don't get Static Line, you should. The 508th has at least a page of news in it every month.

Write Don Lassen, Box 87518, College Park, GA . 30337. It's only $15.00 per year.

Remember to send Don your change of address when you move. Static Line is a newspaper and they are never forwarded, so you lose out and Don doesn't know but what you are getting it.

## DEAR DAD, PLEASE SEND MONEY

O.B. reminds us that we can still use a lot of donations for the Chef Du Pont project. If you want something in return, ask for O.B's European Tour Story. They are going for $3.50 each with the profits going into the project. All donations over $3.50 will be more then welcome. Send them to Jim Smith, 1403 Valencia Drive, Fayetteville, N.C. 28303.

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## MAIL BAG

Joe Favela, Hq & Hq, just found us. He lives in La Puente, Cal. with his wife Angie and four offspring. Joe's a math teacher.

Frank Maggio, Hq 3rd, rolled in. He and his wife Maria and 5 kids live in Babylon, N.Y. Frank re enlisted and ended up in Korea with the 187th Frank is a custom painter.

Maurice Mc Cue, I Co, is another new found. He and his wife Mary live in St. Ann, Mo. where h is Chief of Police.

With the help of Bobby Mills wife, Elizabeth, the lost B Co terror was found in Auburn, Mass. Bobbys garage business put five kids through college.

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## O.B.HILL HOSPITALIZED

Our founder and prime mover has had another slight heart atta He was just out for a short bicyc ride like his doctor ordered, but didm't finish. He recognized the signs. O.B. is on the mend now. If you want to contact him, write him at home -917 Mc Carthy Court, El Segundo, Cal. 90245

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Our roster now numbers 607. Good work and keep looking

Jim Allardyce