508th Parachute Infantry Regiment Association



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NEWS LETTER
NOVEMBER 1979

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ISSUE 12

INDIANAPOLIS IN 1980

The membership, after a lengthy discussion selected Indianapolis as our 1980 convention site. The dates are July 3,4,5 and 6. The choice was very difficult because we saw some fine presentations for other sites. Atlanta, Portland, Denver, Indianapolis and a cruise were in contention. Indianapolis won out for 1980 and Atlanta was selected for 1981.

Joe Petry and Chuck Atkins are co-chairmen for Indianapolis. Volunteering to help have been Jim Murphy, Herman Jahnigan, Bill Vessels and Dick Hunt. Anyone else who can pitch in, contact Joe or Chuck. There's a lot of work in a well run convention.

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A TEXAS WELCOME

Jim and Louise Able, D Co, had a special welcoming gift for the first 125 ladies registering. They received a complimentary silver charm in the form of the state of Texas. It is a lovely gift from a gracious and thoughtful couple. Jim and Louise always pitch in and help at our reunions and this time they outdid themselves.

TEXAS ANOTHER SUCCESS

San Antonio was great! The weather was sunny and a dry 90-92°F almost every day. The only day it cooled off to the 80's was the day of the parade, and that was for the good.

Everyone had a good time. The war was re-fought many times. All kinds of training camp stories were recalled. Many new faces showed up. Bill Goudy, Hq 1st, even found a lost one on the street. Bruce Nelson, D. Co, was unaware of our existence until he saw Bill on the street with his jacket and cap. Welcome Bruce!

The hotel was plush. The Alamo was four blocks away. The Mexican market and farmers market were a 15 minute free bus ride away.

A lot of folks arrived early but the registration began Thursday. That evening we rode in Loyle McReynolds, D Co, cattle trailer to the Jersey Lily Saloon at the Pearl Brewery. We had beer and Mexican food, and danced to a country band. A square dance group put on a fine demonstration for us. The brewery had a very interesting museum of western equipment and artifacts.

Friday was busy with the Welcoming Breakfast, the business meeting, and a tour of the Spanish Missions for the girls. That night many of us walked along the beautiful riverwalk, where we found bountiful restaurants, Mariachi music, and Mexican folk dancers.

PRE - REGISTRATION 1979 REUNION 508th P.I.R. ASSOCIATION

NAME: Mr _____ WIFE _____ CO _____

ADDRESS: NUMBER AND STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

ENCLOSED IS $_____ FOR THE ABOVE PEOPLE AT $45.00 PER PERSON

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HOTEL ROOM RESERVATION (Send no money for this. Pay when checking out).

PLEASE RESERVE A DOUBLE ROOM _____ SINGLE ROOM _____ TWIN BEDS _____

WE WILL ARRIVE ON (DATE) _____ AM _____ PM _____

WE WILL CHECK OUT ON (DATE) _____ AM _____ PM _____

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TO REGISTER: Send this completed form and $45.00 per person to our treasurer JIM SMITH, 1403 VALENCIA DRIVE, FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. 28303

Make check or money order payable to- 508th P.I.R.Association

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508th JACKET ORDER INFORMATION

To order by mail, use the form below.

Phone orders with credit card are also accepted. Visa and American Express cards are honored. Phone 1-802-362-1300. Reference your call as a special order, Attention: Dave Matthews to get the 508th 20% discount.

JACKET ORDER FORM

THE ORVIS COMPANY, INC.
Manchester, Vermont, 05254

Tel; 1-802-362-1300

ATTN: DAVE MATTHEWS

Special Order

The 508 Para.Inf. Assc.

Please send me the Men's or Women's Uplander Bush Jacket with Epaulets

Men Catalog # 08283		Women Catalog # 08281	
S	34 - 36	10 - 12	
M	38 - 40		
L	42 - 44	14 - 16	
XL	46 - 48	18	

(Oversize if available 50-52)

CIRCLE SIZE

Price is $31.60 ea. item postage pd.
With Epaulets

Men's Size _____

Women's Size _____

Send to: Please Print

_____
Name

_____
Address

_____
City State Zip

Amount of check enclosed$_____

To get our 20 % Discount, note on the envelope:
Attention: Dave Matthews.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - 508th P.I.R. REUNION

Thursday, Sept.13,1979
1:00 PM - Early bird golf tournament at Fort Sam Houston Golf Course.
7:00 PM - Early bird party at the Jersey Lilly Saloon, with chili, tortillas, jalapeno peppers, soft drinks and beer. The beer is courtesy of the Pearl Brewery. Dancing and country music are included.

Friday, Sept. 14,1979
8:30 AM - Welcoming breakfast with General Simpson, retired, at St. Anthony.
10:00 AM - Business meeting for all WW II 508ers.
10:00 AM - Five hour city tour for the wives. This costs $13.00 per person and includes a guide and luncheon.
The afternoon and evening are open for relaxation, shopping, and visiting the hospitality rooms.

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Saturday, Sept 15, 1979
9:45 AM - Start of 5 mile parade, celebrating Mexican Independence Day. The form of our participation hasn't jelled yet.
2:00 PM - Band concert at Fort Sam Houston by the 5th Army Band and jump by the 82nd's Golden Knights parachute team.
Evening - Annual Dinner Dance held at St. Anthony Hotel.

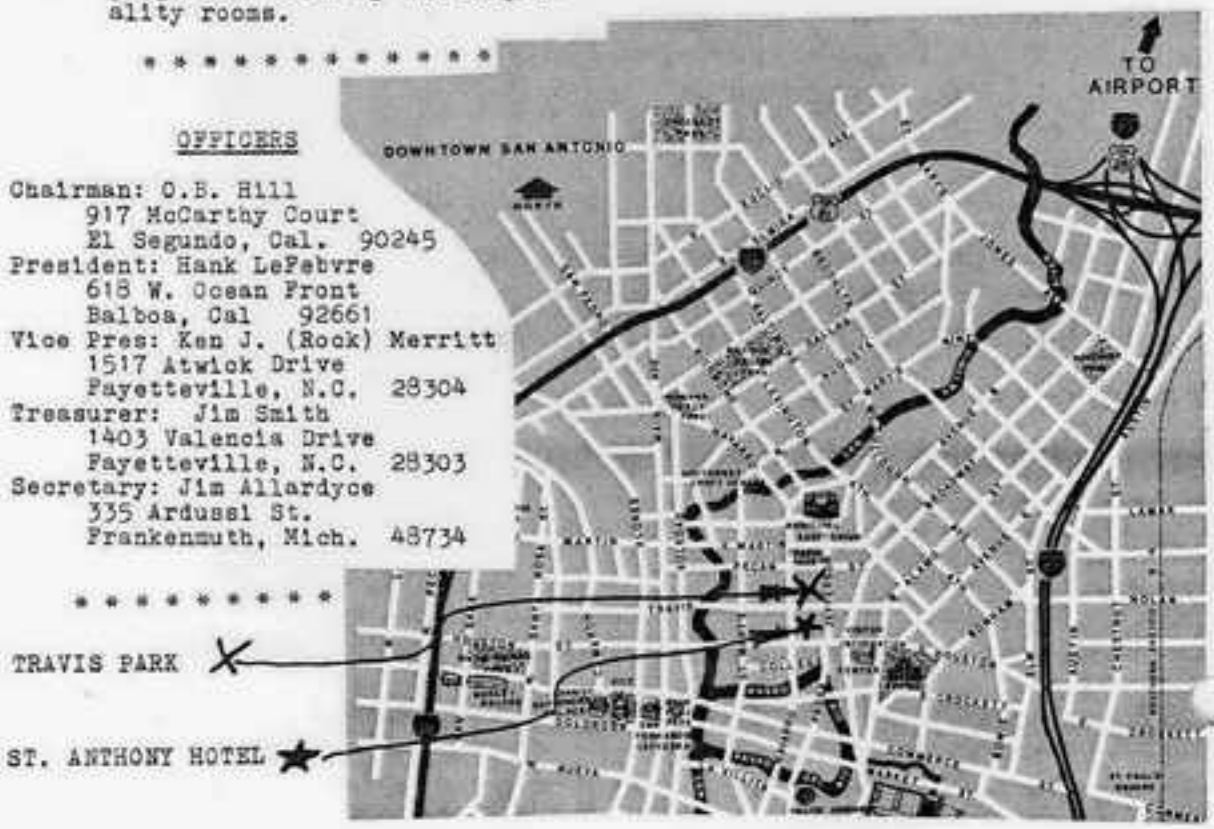
Sunday, Sept.16,1979
12:00 Noon - Memorial Luncheon at St. Anthony Hotel
PM - Departure of optional tour group to Guadalajara, Mexico.
PM - Open house at Dave and Jeanne Thomas' home.

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OFFICERS

Chairman: O.B. Hill
917 McCarthy Court
El Segundo, Cal. 90245
President: Hank LePebvre
618 W. Ocean Front
Balboa, Cal 92661
Vice Pres: Ken J. (Rock) Merritt
1517 Atwick Drive
Fayetteville, N.C. 28304
Treasurer: Jim Smith
1403 Valencia Drive
Fayetteville, N.C. 28303
Secretary: Jim Allardyce
335 Ardussi St.
Frankenmuth, Mich. 48734

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1979 BUSINESS MEETING

This is attended by all WW II 508ers. We will elect officers for 1980, pick reunion sites for 1980 and 81, probably discuss our parade participation, and consider other old and new Association business.

For officers, consider those who have the time and are willing to serve. Change is good for getting new life and ideas- just be sure the candidate is willing.

Those proposing reunion sites for 1980 and 81 come prepared with a presentation. Let Hank Le Febvre our president, know right now that you want time on the program. Hank's address is- 618 W. Ocean Front, Balboa, Cal. 92661. It's understood that if you propose a site, you are reunion chairman for that site.

Give thought to our parade participation on Sept 15. It's a 5 mile march in 90 degree weather. The last time we did that was 35 years ago and we've changed. Medically it isn't a smart thing to do. If you have any ideas, send them to O.B.Hill or Hank LeFebvre.

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GUADALAJARA TOUR

All arrangements for this tour are being handled by Louis Cardenas of Sunglo Tours, 4322 Blanco Rd. Suite 7, San Antonio, Tex.78212. Louis and Dave Thomas have worked this out. They have 50 seats reserved for 508ers, so hurry up and get your reservations to Louis. It will be first come first served.

Those of you who wrote Dave Thomas showing interest will now have to make your intentions known in writing to Sunglo Tours. Dave can't assume anything about anyones final decision in this matter, so please write to Louis yourself.

The tour leaves Sept 16 and ends Sept 21, 1979. Deposits of $50.00 or more per person are due 60 days before and the full payment 30 days before departure. Late stragglers can possibly be accommodated. Sunglo will make the tourist cards for all concerned. The acceptable proofs of U.S. Citizenship are birth certificates, voters registration or passport.

Rates are: Double $188.00 Ea
Triple $178.00 "
Single $200.00 "
Plus $3.00 departure tax.

The tour includes:
6 days - 5 nights
Round trip by jet
Hotel
Transportation to & from airport
Baggage handling & tips
Hotel Taxes
Welcome cocktail
A tour of Guadalajara & Tlaquepaque
Tour Lake Chapa &
the village of Ajijic
Lunch & tour of Chula Vista
And a couple of surprises

Hasta Luego

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508th JACKETS

They've sold like hot cakes. We found out when they arrived that the ladies jackets do not have epaulets. They look more feminine and help tell the boys from the girls.

Everyone agrees they look like a million dollars and should not be cluttered up with a lot of pins and patches. We'd like to have only the small red devil patch over the right breast pocket on both the mens and ladies. The men will also want to have their wings with the 508th background. That should look real sharp and professional.

Jim Smith, our treasurer, has patches. Red Devils are $1.50 and backgrounds $.75 each. Jim has some backgrounds with 1st and 2nd Bn slashes and also the WW II type. Let him know which style you want. Let him know your battalion anyway so he can fit you into the supply on hand.

POW BENEFITS

John Klein, B Co, is active in the American Ex-prisoners of War Association. He's adjutant and treasurer of the Fayetteville, Tarheel Chapter. The purpose of the Association is to help ex-POW's.

From small scale surveys and from general observation its known that ex POW's have a considerably higher incidence of cancer, ulcers, diabetes, heart trouble, arthritis and nervous disorders. They have tried to have the government recognize this through increased disability payments, but with no success. With increasing pressure from former POW's, Congress has finally authorized the VA to conduct a 2 year study of the increased medical problems and shorter life span of the POW's.

I talked with Stan Sommers, National Jr. Vice Commander of the American ex- POW's Association to see if we could help in any way. He says the VA will pick ex-POW's from their files at random and study their medical histories. This random sampling will give an unbiased picture of any problem. Right now you ex-POW's can help by joining and financially supporting a chapter of the ex-POW Association. There are 75 chapters nationwide. Stan Sommers of 1410 Adler Rd, Marshfield, Wis. 54449 can tell you of a nearby one. Or, join John Klein's Tarheel Chapter #1 P.O.Box 64801, Fayetteville, N.C. 29306

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FIND WINGATE

Anyone knowing of the whereabouts of a Lt. George or James Wingate is asked to contact Roger J. Lantagne, Genl Del Bx R #46, APO N.Y. 09777. Wingate was 508th and was rescued from the marshes in Normandy by a French family. Roger is ex 101 and is making corrections in a French historical account of the night of June 5-6.

Walt Filippo, D Co, is trying to get in touch with Andy Kamerac who hailed from the W.Va- Penn. area. Can anyone help?

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BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

I've always wanted to do this but didn't know quite how to start. John Boone, Hq 1st, H & I Co's, gave me the right words.

He wrote to tell us that Bill O'Keefe, Hq 1st, had passed away. Bill was 508th all the way and thought the world of any 508er. His ambition was to make a reunion and see his old buddies because he knew he had something to reckon with soon. He made Denver and John states that it really was uplifting for Bill and John too, with the meaning doubled in seeing what it did for Bill.

Bills death has shaken John so much that the thought of renewing old friendships has taken on new meaning. John has set out to find old buddies starting out with any clue. He is definitely coming to the September reunion because as he says, "it could happen again with someone else".

How better could it be put? If you don't think so, look in the mirror - or maintain our roster like I do. Our Association kind of got started with that thought. A number of us just into our 50's got thinking that way and ran into O.B. Hill. He had the same idea, a list of names, and a dream to get us all together. Here we are now with a roster of 640.

If you have the least inclination to see your buddies, come to the reunion. Beg, borrow, or steal, but come. It may be later than you think.

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See you in San Antonio

Jim Allardyce