508th Parachute Infantry Regiment Association



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NEWS LETTER
FEBRUARY 1980

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ISSUE 13

INDY 1980



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Indianapolis for July 3,4,5 & 6 is shaping up. As you're reading this, Joe Petry, O.B. and Rock will be putting the final touches on things. Joe lives nearby and O.B. and Rock will be there on business trips. Bob Chisolm, our VP, visited oe and our reunion site, the Sheraton West Hotel, in early December. He says the hotel is first class, with nice rooms and good convention facilities.

Here's what the Sheraton West tells about itself. They are a multi-storied 410 unit hotel just east of I-465 and 1 ½ Mile east of the airport. The rooms are very luxurious with air conditioning, TV,radios,& phones. There is an indoor and outdoor pool, sauna, whirlpool, and health club facilities. A coffee shop, restaurant, and cocktail lounge are on hand to satisfy our palates. There is transportation to and from the airport. The convention facilities are more than adequate for us.

For those interested in sightseeing, the list is endless, with the Speedway topping the list. Then there is the Interchurch Center, War Memorial and Plaza, Hocks Antique Drug Store, Indiana, Purdue and Butler Universities, Soldiers and Sailors Monument, President Benjamin Harrison's Home, Museum of Art, Military Park, State Capitol Conner Prairie Pioneer Settlement, etc, etc. There is a lot to see and do.

At present, we are planning on this schedule for the reunion:
Thurs. July 3,1980- Registration and early bird party
Fri. July 4, 1980- Welcoming breakfast and registration
Sat. July 5,1980- Business meeting and Dinner Dance
Sun. July 6,1980- Memorial Luncheon

The registration fee will be unchanged at $45.00 per person. Rooms will be $39.00 single or double. This special rate will be effective from June 30 to July 8, 1980 for our group.

More information and a registration form will follow in the next News Letter and Static Line.

THANKS FOR THE CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

All of the officers thank you for the thoughtful Christmas greetings. You swamp us so that it just isn't possible to exchange with each of you. Our wish is that each of you had a blessed Christmas and that you have a happy New Year. Good luck for 1980!

Saturday morning about 50 of us formed up and marched in the parade, celebrating Mexican Independence Day. When the floats with the pretty girls joined us, we found that we hadn't changed a bit. Wolf calls, hoots and whistles showed our spirit. Our new Association, Regimental Colors led us right down Houston Street. Hank LeFebvre, our President, counted a good cadance, and we looked mighty sharp. We even got an honorable mention ribbon. It was very heart warming to hear the crowd constantly applauding us. The silent majority in the nation knows what their veterans have done for them and show their appreciation when they can.

That afternoon we were bused out to Fort Sam Houston, where the 82nd Golden Knights put on a fantastic free fall parachute exhibit. The Fort Sam military band entertained with some good selections while we were gathering. The Golden Knights in closing made our buttons pop by calling us the pioneer paratroopers on which todays parachutists are building.

Saturday evening the dinner dance saw our colors formally introduced. Rock Merritt, Hq 1st, gave our old timers a quick lesson and we fielded our own color party. The men looked sharp in 508th jackets and maroon berets.

The last evening in San Antonio saw the company and regimental CP's manned to the fullest. They are always popular spots and on this night we go until the wee hours.

We did all get up on Sunday for the Memorial Luncheon. This is a solemn occasion where we remember the Regiment's fallen. A candle is lit for Normandy, Holland, the Ardennes, Central Europe and our Allies. The feelings generated by this ceremony are heightened by the knowledge that this is also goodbye for another year. And so we all left, to gather again next year.

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THANKS DAVE

We all want to thank Dave and Jeanne Thomas for making the arrangements for us to enjoy San Antonio hospitality. It was an unique experience for all of us to spend a week in the south west. Jeanne's personally hand crafted, souvenir ash trays were a real hit and a good profit for the Association.

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ATTENDANCE

We had 360 men and guests for the dinner dance. That was our peak attendance.

The attendance prize goes to Ralph and Mary Lou Cook, E Co. When they arrived, they found out that they had lost their roof to the hurricane back in Pensacola, FL. They made arrangements by phone to have it cared for and stayed right on for their first reunion. What 508th spirit!

Felix Martinez was there. He lives in San Antonio and showed up early. He was re-fighting the war with his buddies when I last saw him.

Andy Sklivis, Hq 3rd, showed up in our 508th jacket and a Kraut forage hat. It's a wonder he didn't get shot.

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SPECIAL THANKS

The officers have a special thanks for all of those 508ers and their wives, who pitched in to help make the reunion a success. When asked, they helped and when they saw a need the old airborne spirit saw them pitch in voluntarily. They helped with preparatory paper work, registering guests, selling souvenirs, driving vans, ordering transportation and arranging rooms. There's no greater people, and we couldn't have done it without you.

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HANK LE FEBVRE

Our retiring 1979 President is Hank Le Febvre, A & Hq2nd. Hank did a tremendous job for us. He was always in the fore of the action and had good solid thinking behind his decisions. He was ably supported by his charming wife, Mary Alice, who was no slouch when it came to work either.

Hank delivered a very touching toast to the Regiment at the banquet. He will also be remembered for parading us down Houston Street in San Antonio. His touch of command was still there, and he had to admit that we still looked good too.

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LOW-LEVEL RADIATION

The Defense Department is asking veterans who participated in atmospheric nuclear tests in 1945 to 1962, to contact them. This can be done by phoning toll free 800-336-3068 or writing the Defense Nuclear Agency, Washington, D.C. 20305

They believe the exposure was low but there is some disagreement in the scientific community as to the magnitude of the risk. If you believe your health has been affected, you are urged to consult your family doctor, or your nearest VA Hospital, where you will be examined at Government expense.

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ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The business meeting elected these officers to run the Association in 1980.

Chairman--------O.B.Hill
President-------Rock Merritt
Vice President--Bob Chisolm
Treasurer-------Jim Smith
Secretary-------Jim Allardyce

We wish each of them the best for the coming year, and pledge them our support.

508th JACKETS

The jackets are still available from Orvis. They can be ordered by mail or by phone. Identify yourself as a 508er to get the 20% discount price of $31.60 each.

THE ORVIS COMPANY,INC.
Manchester, Vermont, 05254
Tel: 1-802-362-1300
ATTN: AUDREY ROBERTS
Special Order
The 508 Para.Inf. Assc.
Please send me the Men's or Women's Uplander Bush Jacket.

	Men	Women
	Catalog # C8283	Catalog # C8281
S	34 - 36	10 - 12
M	38 - 40	
L	42 - 44	14 - 16
XL	46 -48	18
	(Oversize if available 50-52)	

(Mens with Epaulets)

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82nd MUSEUM

The museum at Fort Bragg is expanding to make room for more exhibits. Their goal is $70,000. Your contributions will be appreciated, and are tax deductible. Gifts of $100.00 or more will be memorialized on a bronze tablet. Those of $10.00 or more will be inscribed in the museum records.

Make your checks out to the 82nd Airborne Division War Memorial Museum. Mail them to the museum, Ardennes and Gela Streets, Fort Bragg, N.C. 28307

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LOST AND FOUND

Harry Street, C Co, would like help finding Isaac N. "Red" Boley. Red came from Ohio, but may now be living in Florida. Get out the blood hounds for this old 508er!

A SAD NOTE

Marjory Gresik has informed us that Frank died of a heart attack on Sept.24th, one week after returning from the reunion. Frank was with Hq 1st BN. He was a great guy and had the interests of the 508th first and foremost. Marjory, great heart that she is, wants to stay on our mailing list.

Dave Zack has passed the word to us that Fred Jakeway, C Co, passed away on August 28,1979. Fred lived in Oden, Mich.

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PARATROOPER

This book details the history of the U.S. paratrooper from his organization and training through every battle he fought. It includes the 508ths battles and covers episodes with Len Funk, C Co,Jack Schlegel, Hq3rd, and Mickey Nichols, B Co, just to mention a few. There are lots of other 508th names.

Ed Zuroweste,2944 Lower Bellebrook Park, Spring Valley, Ohio,45370 is taking orders for the book. The price is $20,00 a copy, with a generous profit going to our treasury. This arrangement is courtesy of the Ridgeway Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association, of which Ed is a member.

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MEMBERSHIP AND QUALIFICATIONS

Our Association is open to all 508ers who served in WW II. This was decided by a vote of the membership. We feel that being in combat together developed a common bond between us that is unique and exclusive. We feel comfortable with one another.

We do enthusiastically welcome other airborne men at our conventions. They are our type of man and have similar experiences. They fit in and have a good time with us.

The membership certificate is only for the WW II 508ers though. I hope this clears up any questions people may have.

UNDERGROUND WITH ED WENZEL

Ed Wenzel, E Co, and his lovely wife Louise may have driven you in the van in San Antonio. They were one of the great 508th couples who worked at many tasks to make the reunion a success.

Ed was telling us that just recently, back in Renova, PA, he was a party to some British-American war games. His area was occupied by unfriendlies, and the Allied paratroopers were in on a spoiling mission. When they found that Ed was an ex-paratrooper, they immediately enlisted him as an underground agent. His enthusiastic cooperation gave the allies an edge and Ed a lot of fun. His home,van, and time were at their disposal. They thoroughly confused the military referees, Ed made a lot of new friends with both the British and Americans, and brought back some old memories.

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HELP WE NEED HELP

We have a lot of fun at our reunions, but it takes a lot of work. Joe Petry can use help in Indianapolis. He can use planning help right now, and reception, sales, and registration help for the reunion. To help make Indy a success, contact Joe at 920 Lone Oak Rd. Anderson, Ind. 46011

With our mailing list over 700 and our reunions pushing 400 people, our little operation is all of a sudden too much for a couple of people to handle. We are going to be asking more and more for help from everyone to keep a good thing going. Being 508ers, we will keep the show on the road.

Jim Allardyce

I have 1980 rosters, if you want one, let me know.