508th Parachute Infantry Regiment Association



* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

NEWS LETTER
APRIL 1980

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

ISSUE 14

INDY 1980



1980 REUNION

We are gathering at the Sheraton West Hotel in Indianapolis, Ind. over July 3,4,5 & 6. Joe Petry, I Co, our reunion chairman for Indy has everything tied down. He'd better have it tied down or some of you guys may take it when you leave. Liberation days are not forgotten.

Here's the schedule of events:

July 2,1980 - 1200 hrs -hospitality room open for early birds. Registration starts.

July 3,1980 - Hospitality room open and evening party for early birds.

July 4,1980 - 0800 -Welcoming breakfast
0930 - Business meeting
1400 - Beer bust at the pool
Evening- open with fireworks downtown.

July 5,1980 - 0930 - 6 hour bus tour of the city and 500 track. This is a special charge and registration to be made with the attached application.
1900 - Dinner dance

July 6, 1980 - 1130 - Memorial Luncheon

All of this and meeting with your long lost buddies can be had for $45.00 per person. The hotel is charging us $39.00 single or double. This special rate applies from June 30 to July 8,1980 for our group. Sign up for everything on the form on page 3. Send the registration form and your check or money order to our Treasurer- JIM SMITH, 1403 VALENCIA DRIVE, FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. 28303

The Indy Committee needs mentioning. They are very well organized and doing a great job. Without them, we wouldn't be getting together. Here they are:

Chairman - Joe Petry, I Co
Accommodations & Entertainment - Joe & Mildred Petry
Ceremonies - Jim Murphy, H. Co
Publicity - Dick & Betty Hunt,A Co
Registration - I Co.
Transportation - Herman Jahnigen, A Co
Decorations & Special Events - Ray & Betty Crouse, A Co & Arnold Foster, Hq 1st.

They have lined us up a beautiful, modern 410 unit hotel just off of I - 465 and 1/2 mile east of the airport. Everything is air conditioned, the food is good, there's a pool,also airport transportation, and they will be happy to see us.

A POEM FROM A PARATROOPER TO HIS MOTHER BEFORE COMBAT

Read by John Hardie, C Co, at the 1979 Memorial Service

On soaring wings our transports ride:
Below the lightless country side:
A thin, cold moon, light clouds, dark sky,
Tonight we live, we fight and die.

The planes roar on. Not far ahead
Bursts of flak, flameflowers spread.
Our plane is rocking, rising, falling,
Short miles to go, seconds crawling.

"Ack-Ack" behind, drop zone here, and now
Stand in the door, "ready, we're there."
"Go!" . . . we're out, we're coming down,
"Planes goodbye!" Here comes the ground!

We're down and armed. The enemy is
Everywhere . . . and in the sky
Our transports gone into the night.
We are alone and now the fight.

Staccato, as machine guns bark,
Rifles cracking in the dark.
Forward! Double! Hit the ground!
The night around, a holocaust of sound.

A figure rises, charges, and my rifle
Swings, now right, now left, now up a trifle
My finger closes gently on the trigger,
I see Death touch him . . . icy fingers!

A sudden flash of flaming hell,
A blast of Death, a bursting shell,
The roar of more, as raining down
They bracket every inch of ground.

"Crouch down!" "Lie flat!" "Dig in!" "Dig in!"
I find I'm screaming o're the din,
The firing 'round me dwindles, dies,
Beneath these deathly, flaming skies.

A flash of pain across my back,
A shrapnel splinters . . . bloody track
Warmly trickling down my thigh.
A blood red puddle where I lie.

And to the left, the front, the right
Are little flickers, stabbing white.
The shells at last have ceased to fall,
I hear those stabbing lights . . . that's all

Snaking forward, here they come,
Rushing, firing as they run,
And in my hands my rifle's hot,
Aim and fire . . . "Get that dark blot!"

But what's the good? I'm all alone;
No holding fire except my own.
They know I cannot hold them long
Come more boldly, coming strong.

Now the end, the time to die,
My fire grenades are ready, I lie
So I can throw them one by one
When they get in too close to gun.

Now they're here and now I throw,
Three men die by this last blow.
Two are they who come too nigh,
The third, I know it . . . it is I.

For I am weak, my arm is slow,
The blood and strength together flow.
One second now, and then . . . and then
This is it! All hail the end!!!

James Ellifrit, C Co:508th P.I.R.
Killed in action, Normandy: June, 1944

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

HOSPITALIZED

The I Co grapevine tells us that Jim Mooney is in the hospital. Jim is a faithful 508er all the way. He has a wonderful family that sees that his wheelchair gets to all our reunions, with him in the drivers seat. His adiress is 132 Liberty St. Hackettstown, N.J. 07840.

FOUND - ONE CAMERA

A camera was found in the lobby of the St.Anthony Hotel last September, with the initials J.L.C. If anyone is missing one, contact Mickey Nichols, 6600 Roosevelt Blvd. Philadelphia, Pa 19149. Be sure the initials are J.L.C. Mickey's phone no. is 215-335-9016.

TREASURER

Webster says a treasure is "any person or thing considered valuable". That sure does fit Jim and Dot Smith, B Co. Jim has been our treasurer from the start. That is after he did yeoman service in helping to get this whole Association started. Jim and Dot take care of all of our incoming and outgoing funds. They also do the clerical work associated with our reunion registrations and overseas tours. Jim was First Sergeant of B Co , then stayed in the service for Korea, Vietnam and retirement. He keeps out of trouble now as a service representative for a business machine company. Dot has been a perfect army wife as well as a mother and professional accountant. They make a good team to have on our side. Thanks folks!

* * * * * * * *

508th PIR DUES FOR 1980

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 _____

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM BRITAIN

Larry Green, our friend in Britain, sent special Christmas greetings to all of the 508th from the Gwent Branch Parachute Regiment & Airborne Forces Association. The card is very colorful with the Parachute Regiment patch and Gwent guidon. The Airborne Forces Collect Prayer addressed to us was: May the defense of the Most High be above and beneath around and within us, in our going out and our coming in, in our rising up and our going down, through all our days and all our nights, until the dawn when the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings for the peoples of the world. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

* * * * * * * *



Here's your opportunity to start off the new year on the right foot. Pay your 508th dues. We ask for only $5,00, but accept whatever you can afford. The money goes for this News Letter, our monthly column in Static Line, and to support correspondence necessary to find new members and keep the organization going. No one in the organization is paid. The work is all done volumtarily, so that our income can be used to find and keep us together.

MAIL BAG

Old faithful Dave Jones, Hq 1st, keeps in touch. He and Dolly live in Oakland, Ca. Dave is a salesman and flys as a hobby. He has been with the Association from the start. He did a lot of work to get us started and still pitches in where needed.

Tom Beno, G Co, is retired in Union City, Mich. His hobbies are fishing and women- wife Monica that is.

Just heard from Dick Jones, F & D Co's. He returned to service and served with the 187th RCT, 11th AB, 101st AB, did Vietnam and stateside service before retiring in 1976. He's practicing law in Aberdeen, Miss. now.

Jim Kurz, B Co, is a forester for Weyerhauser in New Bern, N.C. The old 508th footballer now has grandchildren.

Ed Schoff, I Co, lives in Kennebunkport, Maine, with his wife Anna. He's worked in heavy construction in many capacities.

Joe Riolo, Med Det. offered to help us in any way. He's on medical retirement in Belmont, Mich.

Joe Kissane, G Co, is an auditor -investigator in Greenlawn, N.Y. His wife Emily takes good care of him.

Claude Hill, A Co, and his wife Vivian, live in Corpus Christi, TX. Before retiring, Claude was a sales representative for Del Monte.

Marino Gizzi, F Co, is a trucker in Yonkers, N.Y. His wife Rose must have some good wild game recipes, because he's a hunter.

Ralph Mann, Regt Hq, lives in Coopersburg, PA, with his wife Jo. When he is not carving wood he is selling insurance.

Dick Owen, H Co, is a Visual Information Specialist. He and his wife La Rue live in Rockville, Md.

Stewart Lawrence, Hq 3rd, and wife Betty call San Antonio, Tx home. He's a construction supervisor for Southwestern Bill

Ed Kuehn, Ser.Co, and his wife Novella live in Dallas, Tx. He's retired and enjoying all sports.

* * * * * * * * * * *

MEMBERSHIP

Our roster now boasts 724 names and addresses. Seventy names have been added since the San Antonio convention. You guys are terrific, the way you get out and find your buddies. We should hit 1,000 in no time. Keep sending me new addresses so that all of our WW II 508ers can be included.

Also, when you move, send me the new address. When the Post Office tells me your forwarding address, they charge for it and our treasury pays for it

* * * * * * * * * * *

I still have some membership rosters, if you want one, write to me at 335 Ardussi St. Frankenmuth, Mich 48734

See you in Indy!

Jim Allardyce