508th Parachute Infantry Regiment Association



NEWS LETTER

OCTOBER 1981 ISSUE 18

1982 REUNION AT FORT BRAGG-FAYETTEVILLE

The dates are Oct.21-24,1982. Everything is timed to help us celebrate the 40th anniversary of the activation of the Regiment together with the active Battalions at Fort Bragg. Also, just a couple days prior to that we will be dedicating the 508th Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

It's too early for detailed plans, but we expect a picnic or beer bust, a tour of the 82nd Museum, a battalion drop, etc. Anyone who enjoyed the hospitality of those tarheels at the 1977 Reunion will know that they know how to pour on the smooth organization, hospitality and entertainment. Rock Merritt, Hq 1st, and Jim Smith, B, are the reunion chairmen, and our president, Fran Mahan, I, lives there too.

We will gather at the Heart of Fayetteville Motel and Apartel. Rates should be within 20% of $27 single and $32 double, depending on inflation. There are two pools and banqueting facilities. A stone's throw away are a selection of restaurants, a cafeteria, and shopping centers.

If you haven't been to Fayetteville recently, you should note that it has some beautiful, large shopping malls and is located near many scenic and historic sites.

DAYTONA SETS RECORD ATTENDANCE

The count was 421 at the final banquet, with 362 officially registered. When Mike Wargo invited us to have "fun in the sun in 81" he really meant it. We all had a wonderful time. Mike and his "gator gang" did a terrific job making us welcome. The beach, sun, pool, and pool scenery were there all the time. Expeditions were off daily to Disney and Sea Worlds, Cape Kennedy, fishing, the races and the delicious eating spots. How about raw oysters at the Pub for 10¢ each?

We sure did enjoy the precision parachuting by the Silver Wings from Fort Benning. The Real People TV show had a crew there for a day and a half. They did interviews and personal shots of the reunion. We will be on their show sometime in the fall. Keep your eye on your TV guide for a reunion of WW II paratroopers. That's us.

Everything went very well from the welcome by the mayor at the breakfast buffet through the dinner dance with its fine food and music and appropriately finished at the Memorial Luncheon with its memories of our comrades who didn't come home. The chance to renew old friendships and recall old experiences was enjoyed by all.

We find that we are now even comparing notes about our children and grandchildren with our buddies of 40 years ago. Our wives and families have become an important part of these reunions. They fit into Dad's stories at the right time, and enjoy seeing all the different parts of this great country with us.

Thanks for a wonderful reunion Mike Wargo!

NEWS OF EARLY, EXTRA, SMALLER 508th GATHERINGS

The West coasters are getting together in San Luis, Obisbo, Cal. over March 27,28 & 29,1981. They can't wait til June. Maybe they will decide where they want us in 1983, when the reunion will be held out there. For more information on the March "mini", write- O.B.Hill 917 McCarthy Court, El Segundo, Cal. 90245. Everyone is welcome.

The Hq-Hq Co are getting together early in Daytona Beach, at the Plaza Hotel- that's where we are staying. They want to start on June 21,1981, then hook up with the Regimental activities later in the week. For more information, write- Dan Manning, 2259 Howland Blvd,Daytona Fla, 32725

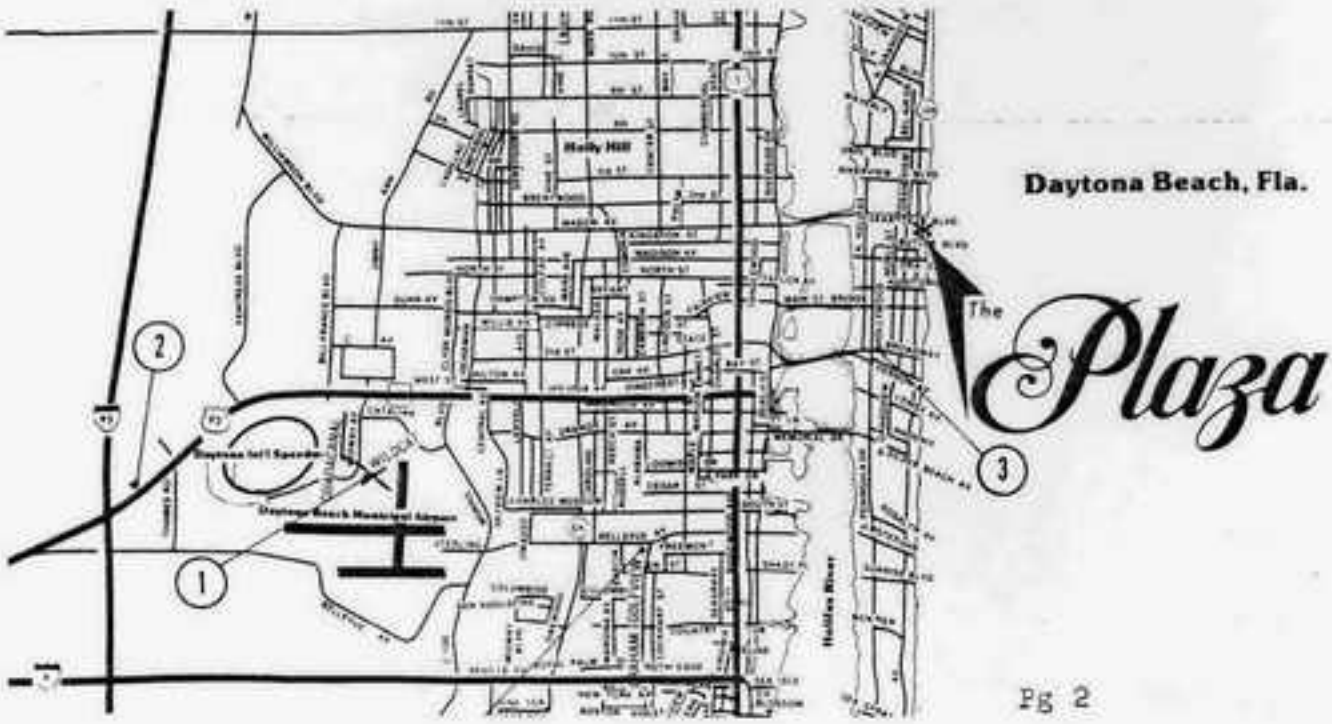
BUSINESS MEETING

The business meeting will be held on Friday, June 26, shortly after the Welcoming Breakfast. This is when we put our heads together to see how things are going and decide what we want to do for the future.

There will be plans to approve for the 508th Memorials in Beek, Holland,and in Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, DC. We'll want to learn of the events being scheduled for the 1982 reunion at Fort Bragg. That's when we join the active Regiment in celebrating the Regiments 40th year of activation. A site for 1983 must be decided. It will be on the west coast, but the town has to be selected. New officers will be elected and we should consider 2 year terms so that the experience of one year doesn't go to waste. Any other new business will be welcome, but contact Bob Chisolm about it between now and then so it can be planned on the agenda.

508th PRESENT OFFICERS

Chairman; O.B.Hill, 917 McCarthy Ct. El Segundo, Cal. 90245
President: Bob Chisolm, 601 Las Olas Ct, El Paso, TX 79932
Vice President: Fran Mahan, 2341 Colgate Dr. Fayetteville, NC28304
Treasurer: Jim Smith, 1403 Valencia Dr. Fayetteville, NC 28303
Secretary: Jim Allardyce, 335 Ardussi St. Frankenmuth, MI 48734



508th P.I.R. ASSOCIATION - - - 1981 REUNION PRE-REGISTRATION

NAME: Mr _____ WIFE _____ CO _____

ADDRESS: NUMBER & STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

I WILL HAVE _____ GUESTS, AND THE NAMES FOR THEIR NAME TAGS ARE:

NAMES _____

REGISTRATION FEE IS $45.00 PER PERSON

ENCLOSED IS $ _____ REGISTRATION FEE FOR _____ PEOPLE.

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HOTEL RESERVATION - No advance payment needed

PLEASE RESERVE _____ SINGLE ROOM, _____ DOUBLE ROOM _____ SUITE.

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

WE WILL CHECK OUT ON (DATE) _____

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MAKE ALL CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO 508th PIR ASSOCIATION

SEND NO MONEY FOR HOTEL.

SEND ALL PRE-REGISTRATION FORMS, CHECK OR MONEY ORDER, WITH THE HOTEL RESERVATION INFORMATION TO: JIM SMITH, 1403 VALENCIA DR. FAYETTEVILLE NC 28303

LAST CALL FOR EUROPEAN TOUR

There probably won't be another News Letter prior to the tour, so here's a last reminder. This is a splendid 10 day tour at a very good price $1080.00 with a one week extension to England for $461.00. First class hotels with private baths are booked. Most meals are included.

The tour starts Tuesday, Sept 15, 1981. Here's the route:

Sept 16 - Arrive Amsterdam & Nijmegen
Sept 17,18,19 - Nijmegen - Dedicate 508th Memorial in Beek.
Sept 19,20,21 - Liege & Battle of the Bulge battle sites.
Sept 21,22,23 - Frankfurt- Tour the Rhine, etc.
Sept 24 - Leave Frankfurt to USA

Optional tour

Sept 24- Frankfurt to Brussels, Tour Brussels.
Sept 25 - Channel ferry to Cambridge, England.
Sept 26 - Tour to Nottingham
Sept 27 - Wollaton Park
Sept 28 - To London via Stratford-on-Avon & Oxford
Sept 29 - Tour London
Sept 30 - London to USA

This is just a brief outline. It doesn't do justice to detailing the many interesting and historic sites to be seen on the tour. For more details and to sign up, write:
Galaxy Tours, 508th PIR,
P.O. Box 45, King of Prussia,
PA, 19406 Telephone 1-215-265-2778

MEMBERSHIP PATROL

We have over 820 names on our roster but need more. Get out your patrols to find all those old WW II 508ers who are still lost. They could live just around the corner from you or be as close as your telephone. We have all known real joy and happiness in getting in touch and seeing each other after 35 years. All those lost troopers have yet to experience that thrill. You guys could do anything with a minimum of food and equipment back then so the same can be done today in finding your lost buddies. Send the names, Co, and addresses to me and they will be included in all our Association activities.

WHEELING & DEALING WITH O.B.HILL

Our Chairman, O.B.Hill, has been out in the streets of Hollywood again. He has contacted the TV show Real People to see if they might be interested in some of our people for a show or even attend our convention. This would be a great experience for us and excellent publicity. It would sure put us in contact with lost buddies who don't even know we exist. To date, we don't know if the show has an interest in us. Good luck O.B.

Like Robin Hood, O.B. has been out to get the Sheriff of Nottingham. The Sheriff and his wife visited the Los Angeles area in early February and O.B. and other 508ers in the area had a get together with them. This was a rare opportunity to show 508th hospitality to our English friends. The Lord Mayor of Nottingham and his council held a reception for our 1978 tour group in June of that year and the welcome was enjoyed by all. At that time, we dedicated a tree and 508th Memorial Plaque in Wollaton Park. Nottingham is like a second home to us 508ers, and being with the Sheriff and his wife was like being with family.

O.B. is also working on getting the 82nd parachute team to jump for us at Daytona Beach. We saw this group in San Antonio and were amazed at their modern day precision. Unlike our sack of "stuff" landings, they can land on your lap.

Our Nottingham friends, Don Cleverly and Dave Pike, have sent a color and sound movie to O.B. It's a tribute to the 82nd and 508th. O.B. says it's good. He has sent it on to Fort Bragg for filing in a safe place. When we visit Bragg for the 1982 reunion, we will all be able to see it.

508th MEMORIALS

We have 2 memorial projects underway. One in Holland, at Beek, just outside Nijmegen and one in Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, DC. Both will be dedicated to our Regiment and the men who served in it in WW II. The Beek Memorial will also be dedicated to the Dutch underground fighters who joined with us in the battles in Holland. This Holland memorial is a monument, designed by a Dutch artist. It will be installed by the City of Beek, and dedicated by our tour group Sept,17,1981.

The Arlington Memorial will be in 2 parts. A clump of trees with a dedication stone and bronze marker near the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and a Memorial Plaque to be mounted in the Memorial Amphitheater. Artist sketches of this project will be shown in Daytona Beach. The Arlington Memorial will be dedicated by us in 1982 in Washington,DC just before the 1982 Convention opens. The presentation will be a formal military ceremony and open to all to attend.

Our memorial fund needs your support, no matter what it is. If everyone of us, could give $5.00, we'd be in good shape. Our money in Holland is being matched dollar for dollar by the people of Beek.

To be a part of these worthy projects, send your donations to our Treasurer, Jim Smith, 1403 Valencia Dr. Fayetteville, NC 28303. When your families and friends visit these sites they will really see something of which you can be proud.

THE BERET IS BACK

All qualified airborne personnel can wear the maroon beret again, thanks to the Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Edward C. Meyer. Thanks also to all you old paratroopers who wrote all the politicians and newspapers.

Jim Allandyce