508th Parachute Infantry Regiment Association



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NEWS LETTER

MAY 1982 ISSUE 20

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1982 REUNION

FAYETTEVILLE - FORT BRAGG

Fran Mahan, I, and Jim Smith, B, report that the plans are going well in Tarheel country. Almost a whole week of activities is planned for this reunion commemorating the 40th year of activation of the Regiment. They have been working with the Staff at the Post and have put together a remarkable and memorable program. Here are the tentative plans and you do remember what tentative is in the military.

Wednesday, 20 Oct., 1982 - Dedication of Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, D.C.
1000 - Dedication of grove of trees
1035 - Wreath laying and presentation of 508th Memorial Plaque at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
1200 - On your own for lunch and travel to Fayetteville, N.C. (6 hrs.by car)

Thursday, 21 Oct., 1982 - Registration at Heart of Fayetteville Motel
1200 - Bar open - Early Bird gatherings

Friday, 22 Oct., 1982 - Registration continues all day
0830 - Travel arranged by reunion committee to Fort Bragg
0900 - Welcoming breakfast at NCO Club
1100 - Special Forces demonstration of operations and capabilities (Gabriel)
1300 - Luncheon 508th Mess Hall at your expense
1500 - Equipment displays at DZ Sicily
1530 - Personnel and equipment drop on DZ Sicily
1630 - Travel back to Heart of Fayetteville Motel

Saturday, 23 Oct., 1982 - Registration continues all day
0900 - Annual Business Meeting in Conference Room, Heart of Fayetteville Motel
1100 - Travel arranged by reunion committee to Fort Bragg
1130 - Visit 82nd AB Museum at Fort Bragg
1245 - Pig Picking Bar-B-Que and Beer Bust in McKellars Lodge Picnic Area This is with selected members of the active 508th
1530 - Return to motel
1800 - Travel to Fort Bragg Officer's Club
2000 - Dinner Dance. The 82nd Chorus is part of the program. Dancing will start at 2130. Group pictures will be taken during pre-dinner cocktails.
0030 - Return to motel

Sunday, 24 Oct., 1982 - Memorial Brunch
1000 - Memorial Brunch - Main Ballroom, Heart of Fayetteville Motel



A REGIMENT OF THE EIGHTY-SECOND AIRBORNE DIVISION «ALL-AMERICANS»

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL DEDICATION OCTOBER 20,1982

Everything is set for 10A.M.,Oct. 20,1982, in Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, D.C. Ray Costanzo, Bob Chisolm and Fran Mahan, all of I Co., have brought the project to completion.

The grove of trees will be dedicated at 10 A.M. with remarks by our Association President and an address by Lou Mendez. The 3rd Infantry, the Army ceremonial unit, will provide the color guard.

After the grove dedication we will have a Wreath and Plaque presentation ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at 10:35 A.M. O.B. Hill will make the presentation. Following this ceremony, we are invited to tour the cemetery. That will include visits to the grave sites of former 508ers.

Our men have done an excellent job planning this memorial. We are especially grateful for the help of Ray Costanzo, Superintendent of Arlington National Cemetery.

It's hoped that many of us will be able to attend the dedication. It's open to the public too. We'll be on our own for travel and accommodations. Even so, Fran Mahan suggests that we all try to stay in the same Motel, so that we can eat and move around together. If we are at one site, large scale transportation, if necessary, can be more easily arranged. In that regard, an excellent motel adjacent to Fort Meyer and within 3/4 miles of Arlington National Cemetery is the Imperial 400. Its address is 2201 Arlington Blvd., Arlington, VA 22216. You may call toll free 800-531-5300. The local number is 703-525-0300.

508th TENNIS TOURNAMENT

Anyone interested in a 508th single elimination tennis tournament during the 1982 reunion should contact Bob Chisolm, 601 Las Olas, El Paso, Tx, 79932.

If there is enough interest, we will schedule a tournament to include men's and women's singles, men's and women's doubles and mixed doubles.

WEST COAST MINI-REUNION MARCH 26, 27 & 28, 1982

Last call for the West Coast Mini. If you're interested in being in Los Angeles in early spring when the temperatures will be in the 70's, here's your chance.

A three-day affair is planned, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 26,27 and 28,1982. Dress will be casual. There will be a hospitality room, an early bird party Friday, a Saturday dinner and a Sunday brunch. Wives, family and friends are invited as always. Our spouses make up a good portion of the group at these functions.

If you are interested, contact OB Hill for a registration form: OB Hill. 917 McCarthy Ct., El Segundo, Cal. 90245. Phone:213-322-1313

1982 RUSSIAN TOUR

Joe Quade, Past President,of the 17th Airborne Association, has receiv an invitation from the Russian Veterans Association to join them in a tour of Russia and East and West Germany. This would enable our Airborne veterans of WW II to meet with Russian Airborne veterans in a spirit of friendship and comradeship. Joe has extended this invitation to all U.S. Airborne Associations and their friends.

The trip would leave New York on Aug 21,1982 and return on Sept 2. It would tour Moscow, Stalingrad, Leningrad and East and West Berlin.

If you're interested, write - Joe Quade, 23 Westminster Dr. Montville, NJ 07045, or phone 201-263-2433

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS GET TOGETHER

Harry Hudec is getting the Hq-Hq crew together over the Memorial Day weekend again. It will be at the Sheraton in Aurora, Ohio on May 28, 29 and 30th. For more info, write: Harry Hudec, 5190 Forest Ave,Maple Heights, OH,44137





EUROPEAN TOUR AND BEEK MEMORIAL SEPT. 17, 1981

The tour was a huge success. A lot was seen, there was free time, it went smoothly, and it was meaningful and impressive. The high point was the dedication of the 508th Memorial in Beek, Holland.

Our Dutch friends went all out. The Memorial is beautiful. There were 3,000 people present at the dedication, including two young men from Fort Bragg, representing our active Battalions.

To describe the tour through the eyes of the participants, here are notes from Bob and Bette Nobles, C Co.:

It was a great privilege for us to be able to return to Europe with the 508th. It is hard to describe the feeling of love and friendship the people of Holland and Belgium showered on us. The American people could learn a lesson from them in their great love of freedom.

Sept. 16 - L.A.,Chicago and New York groups assembled in Amsterdam, Holland. We were bussed to the Spijker Hotel in Beek. Those of us staying in private homes met our families at the hotel. We certainly got the feel of the Dutch culture living with our hosts for three days. We had an informal reception in the evening.

Sept 17 - Former battle areas and drop zones, including the Nijmegen Bridge area, were visited. It was a beautiful day to take pictures of the bridge and the lovely floral displays nearby.

Our 508th Monument was dedicated on a plot of ground called the "Lt. John P. Foley Plantsoen" opposite the Town Hall. We attended a memorable service at St. Bartholomew Church. Later we were entertained with parachute jumps and a musical program at the School.

Sept 18 - We were driven to Arnhem to the British Airborne Museum. Later, a large reception was held in the Council Chambers of Beek. We were honored with a speech given by Margot van Boldrik, a Dutch friend of the 508th. All were presented with an illustrated booklet of the wartime experiences of the area.

After the reception, a farewell dinner was held at the Spijker Hotel. At one point in the program, I asked for a moment of silence in memory of our comrades and Dutch friends who died in 1944 and 1945. The lights went out when I returned to my seat. We thought that had been pre- arranged. Later it was learned a fuse had blown in the kitchen. The significance of the timing made a chill go down our backs.

Sept 19 - We visited the beautiful American Cemeteries at Margraten and Henri-Chappelle. Capt. Silver, "Doc"Savage, Darrell Glass and I found two of our C Co. members who are interred there: Jim Childs at Margraten and Andy Loewi at Henri-Chappelle. There was a big bash later at Leo Carlier's Supper Club in Trois Ponts. A delicious buffet was served, and the group learned a new dance, "Dance of the Ducks." Many of us found the tape later in the shops. We hope to teach our American friends how to do the Duck Dance.

Sept 20 - Several receptions were held in Belgium - in Werbomont, Manhay and LaGleize. The cameraderie was heartwarming. I drove one of the Army Jeeps the people of Belgium have maintained all these years. Luck was with us in that it always rained at night.

Sept 21 - We spent an hour in the great Cathedral at Cologne. A delightful three hour cruise on the Rhine River was enjoyed. We saw many castles and villages nestled along the river and acres of vineyards on the steep hills.

Sept 22 - We spent the day in Frankfurt. Some of us took the Underground to the area where the 503th was billeted in 1945. Bill Giegold was wounded in a slight altercation with a police dog. We also enjoyed shopping and looking at Hummels.

Sept 23 - We toured Heidelberg, which has one of the older universities in the world. We enjoyed the little shops and the old castle ruins on the hill. The castle has a wine cask that is two stories high.

Sept 24 - Part of the group flew back to the U.S. Part of the tour went on to Nottingham. Bette and I rented a car at the airport in Frankfurt. We toured for two weeks in southern Germany, Switzerland and Austria. We had a tast of driving in snow in the Alps. The scenery was the most beautiful we have ever seen. We toured "Sound of Music" country in Salzburg, Austria. If you haven't seen it, start making plans to do so.

At this point, the tour went on to Brussels for a night and then took the ferry to England via the white cliffs of Dover. The group visited Cambridge and stopped at Duxford to visit the Imperial War Museum.

The group stayed two days in Nottingham, our home away from home prior to the Normandy and Holland jumps. Group members rode to Wollaton Park in a convoy of restored Jeeps and other WW II vehicles. There was a ceremony at the park with the Sheriff of Nottingham and the Lord Mayor of Beeston present. We were told that the museum soon will be completed.

From there, it was on to Shakespeare's home in Stratford-on-Avon, a visit to Churchill's grave in Bladon, and two nights of fun in London. The group flew home from London, Sept.30.

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EX POWS

This request came to us from the V.A.:

We need your help.

On Aug.14, 1981, the President signed Public Law 97-37, known as the "Former Prisoners of War Benefits Act of 1981," expanding VA eligibility for thousands of former prisoners of war. The former POW incarceration period was reduced from 6 months to 30 days, a presumption of service connection was established for certain disabilities resulting from malnutrition, and service connected benefits were allowed for psychoses and anxiety states regardless of when first shown unless there is an intercurrent cause. In addition, former POWs are now to be provided both inpatient and outpatient medical treatment on a priority basis, and their concerns are to be considered by an advisory committee to the Administrator.

VA wants to contact all former POWs to tell them of this new legislation and to assist them in applying for benefits. To do this we need the assistance of your large network of friends to help update our locator files with current information.

We would appreciate it if you would ask the members of your organization to collect for us the following data on as many former POWs as possible and to send it to you as a control point:

- Name, Address and Telephone Number
- VA Claim Number; Social Security Number
- Whether or not veteran is presently receiving VA benefits.

Send this information to me, and I'll get it to the VA. My address is: Jim Allardyce, 335 Ardussi St. Frankenmuth, MI.48734. Phone 517-652-6284.

DIVISION REVIEW

The end of May always sees a Division Review at Fort Bragg. It's a colorful sight with the multi-colored guidons and Regimental and National colors snapping in the bright sunshine.

Our Association had a spectator contingent last year made up of Jim and Dot Smith, B, Harry and Ruby Roll, H, Jim Blue, A, Rock and Sally Merritt, Hq 1st, and Jim and Anne Allardyce, B.

If you've been in a Review but never seen one, you should try it from the reviewing section. When 16,000 men and women march past with the band playing and their colors, weapons, artillery and tanks, it's a sight to behold. The 82nd Association in Fayetteville will get you front row seating, too, if you ask real nicely.

This year General Lindsay, CG 82nd Airborne Division, has invited all "Old Troopers" to march with the Division during the Division Review. What do you think about that?

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TAPS

Some of our buddies made the big jump. They will be missed by their old comrades and families.

Al Raymond, Hq 2nd, of Reading, Pa. Stella, his wife, told us of the news in October.

Loyle McReynolds, D, of Wortham, Texas. His wife Grace said he suffered a fatal heart attack in May.

Charles E. Haughney, Hq Hq, of University Heights, Ohio. We learned the news in October.

Paul Milstead, A, of Santee, CA did not survive a massive heart attack in November of last year.

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508th PIR DUES FOR 1982

RENEWAL ☐ NEW MEMBER ☐

Make check payable to our treasurer:
Jim Smith, 1403 Valencia Drive, Fayetteville, NC. 28303



Paratrooper _____ Wife _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Company _____ Rank/Rate _____ MOS _____

ASN _____ Dates served _____

Campaigns _____

Occupation _____

Hobbies/Interests _____

Assn. No. _____ Signature _____

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 done voluntarily, so that our income can be used to find and keep us together.

MAIL BAG

We found Dwayne Burns, F, in Ft. Worth, Texas. He lives there with his wife Mildred, in retirement from Bell Helicopter.

Heard from Ed Hamilton, H. He and wife Wanda live in Kenton, Ohio.

Homer Jones, B, found us. His wife Betty, and he live in Williamsburg, VA. He's retired from both the Army and teaching.

Dr. G.H.J.M. Peijnenburg was at the Beek dedication. He was with G Co. in Holland with the underground. He's now a Secretary General in the Dutch Ministry of Defense.

Earl and Rachel Richardson, C, signed up last September. He went thru the whole thing with the Regiment. They live in Greenwood, Wis.

Don Bloss, Hq 2nd, lives in Charleston, WV with his wife Pat. He was a machine gunner all the way, and now works as a coordinator for Union Carbide.

Jack Skipper, I, is another 42-45 er. He and wife Peggy live in Hialeah, FL. He's with Eastern Airlines and into fishing and sports for fun.

Clyde Perdue, Hq 3rd, found us. Wife Annabelle and he live in Columbus, OH. He's a retired insurance adjuster and investigator.

Fred Cardin, D,lives with his wife Catherine in Columbus, GA. He was also with us from 1942-45.

Another long timer is Charles Thompson, Serv Co. His wife Eleanor and he live in Rawlings, VA. He's a traveler and gardener in his spare time.

Bob White, A, and Bette live in St. Albans, WV. He helped us find Charley Rollins, B, and Pauline, of Scott Depot, WV. Charley's been writing all of his old friends since joining up again.

LOST

These men were lost to us when the October News Letter was returned for want of a good address. If you know where they are, let me know.

Leon Lineburger, Hq 3rd, Hixeon, TN; Ben Rhodes of Tucker, GA; and John Detwiler, Med, Philadelphia,PA.

GET YOUR STATIC LINE

It's a monthly Airborne newspaper put together by a WW II 505er It carrys 503th news and items on other airborne units as well as photos and stories of historical and current interest. For $20.00 a year the value can't be beat. Send your dues to the address below.



BOX 87518
COLLEGE PARK, GEORGIA 30337

FIND YOUR BUDDIES

You're slipping on sending me the names and addresses of new members. They are out there, because we have only about 900 on our roster. A good 10,000 rolled thru the 508th in 1942-45.

O.B.Hill has found over a half dozen new names just thru the holidays. Last year Jim Able, D, kept them coming in. In 1980 it was Bob Chisolm, I, who helped swell the rolls. Who will it be this year?

Get on the phone and call those names you recall. If a relative answers, they can always tell you where your buddy has moved. Phone rates are cheap and are half price on weekends.

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Jim Allardyce