508th Parachute Infantry Regiment Association

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NEWS LETTER

AUGUST 1982 ISSUE 21

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1982 REUNION

FAYETTEVILLE - FORT BRAGG

AND ARLINGTON MEMORIAL DEDICATION

This is to be our biggest reunion. It celebrates the 40th year of the regiment's activation, and we dedicate a 508th Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery.

Here's the final schedule:

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 - Informal lunch and on your own to Fayetteville. (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 and Division Airborne activities
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

508th P.I.R. ASSOCIATION - - - 1982 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 THE ACCOMMODATIONS I HAVE INDICATED WITH A CHECK MARK.

APARTEL : Double, 2 beds, 2 persons..... $34.00_____
Single, 1 King bed, 1 person.. $27.00_____
2 persons. $31.00_____

MOTEL : Double, 2 beds, 2 persons..... $30.00_____
Single, 1 bed, 1 person..... $21.00_____
2 persons..... $25.00_____
King bed, 1 person..... $25.00_____
2 persons..... $29.00_____

We will arrive on (Date)_____ at _____AM _____PM

We will check out on (Date)_____

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THE APARTEL UNITS HAVE KITCHEN FACILITIES.

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

SEND NO MONEY FOR THE MOTEL. YOU PAY WHEN LEAVING.

SEND THIS PRE-REGISTRATION FORM AND YOUR CHECK OR MONEY ORDER, WITH THE MOTEL RESERVATION INFORMATION TO: JIM SMITH
1403 VALENCIA DR.
FAYETTEVILLE, NC 28303

All of this can be yours for the registration fee of $45.00 per person. That is unchanged in seven years. Fill in the registration form that is enclosed to assure your attendance.

Our motel also has apartments for rent. Everything is clean and modern. It is located in a shopping and business area. There's a bank, cafeteria, theatre, restaurants and stores of all kinds. The motel has lots of parking, two pools and a restaurant. Rates are very good. Check the prices on the enclosed registration form, fill it in and mail it to our treasurer, Jim Smith. This will assure you staying at the CP motel with your buddies.

508TH MEMORIAL - ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY WASHINGTON, D.C.

It's hoped that many of us will be attending the dedication of our Arlington Memorial. The ceremonies will be very colorful and impressive. They are scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 20, 1982. Here's the program setup for us by Ray Costanzo, I.

Dedication of the Grove of Trees 10:00 A.M.

a - Posting of the colors by the Color Guard of the 3rd Infantry
b - Invocation by Fort Meyers Chaplain
c - Welcoming remarks by our President, Fran Mahan, I
d - Dedication address by Colonel Louis Mendez, former commanding officer, 3rd Bn, 508th Parachute Infantry
e - Benediction
f - Retiring of the colors

Presentation of Wreath and 508th Memorial Plaque at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier 10:35 A.M.

a - Presentation of Wreath and Plaque by our Chairman, O.B. Hill, Hq 1st
b - Tour Arlington Cemetery with visits to graves of former 508ers

Overnight accomodations in the D.C. area are numerous. For convenience, please note that there is an excellent motel located adjacent to Fort Myer and within three quarters of a mile of Arlington National Cemetery. It is the Imperial 400 Motel, formerly known as the Arva Motel. The address is 2201 Arlington Blvd., Arlington, VA. Those desiring accomodations, can call toll free 800-368-4400. The local telephone number for this motel is 703-525-0300. Their rates are single $40.00, double $45.00, triple $50.00 and quad $55.00. These are all plus 9% tax. They accept the well known charge cards: Visa, Master Charge, American Express, Diner's Club and Carte Blanc. Travelers checks are the same as cash. You pay when checking out.

You are on your own for D.C. accomodations. However, those of you making reservations at the Imperial 400 Motel should let me know how many rooms you have reserved. If there are enough of us, we might get a unit discount. Write me after you have made the reservation: Jim Allardyce, 335 Ardussi St., Frankenmuth, Mich. 48734.

TAPS

Dan Manning, Hq-Hq and E Co's, suffered a fatal stroke Feb. 5, 1982. He lived in Deltona, Fla. Howard Brooks, his good friend, passed us the news. Dan will be missed by his 508th buddies.

HISTORY OF THE 508TH PARACHUTE INFANTRY

These hard cover histories are still available at $20.00 each. They can be obtained at The Battery Press Inc., PO Box 3107, Uptown Station, Nashville, Tenn. 37219.

O.B. HILL - OUR CHAIRMAN

A lot of you newer members may not know anything of our founder, O.B. Hill. He had the idea of getting the Regiment together for a reunion about 7 - 8 years ago. He started putting old addresses together and writing to people and soon ran into other 508ers with the same idea. Under his direction, addresses were pooled and contacts made for our first reunion in Chicago in 1975. It was very successful and the group decided to continue meeting with O.B. as Chairman.

We were lucky that we had a man like O.B. as the spark plug because he was able and willing to put lots of his own money and time into getting the organization started. It was really a love affair between him and the Association. He was site chairman, president, vice president, treasurer and secretary. We really took off and the second reunion had even more old 508ers turn up. It was here, though, that O.B. had his first heart attack. He scared the hell out of everyone. We also realized that if we were to continue as an organization he would require a lot of help. We made him permanent Chairman to oversee everything and arranged for president, vice president, treasurer, secretary and reunion chairman to be elected to keep the day to day things going. It's worked out well as we are now pushing 900 members.

O.B. and his wife Margaret live in El Segundo, Calif. He's now on a medical retirement from Howard Hughes Aircraft where he used to ply his trade as an accountant. Just ask him to add up a column of figures. He'll do it quicker in his head than you can do it by hand.

O.B. is a very active Chairman. His permanency gives us a continuity of direction and assures us a reference for advice. He arranges our overseas tours which so many have enjoyed. Every reunion chairman has seen O.B. fly in on his own to help with the early arrangements. We are lucky to have such an exuberant character on our side and it's no wonder he is called Mr. 508th.

NORMANDY REMEMBERED

A very interesting letter was received from Dave Mondt a C-47 pilot of the 62nd Troop Carrier Squadron. He's secretary of their Association. His letter recalled their close relations with the 508th on D-day. Here's an interesting excerpt.

"I sent a copy of our June 44 Historical record to Robert E. Chisolm, also a copy of a navigators log for D-Day and the only load list that was ever retained by a pilot. James E. Able, Box 679, McKinney, Tx. 75069 was on that plane and contacted me and I put him in touch with the crew members. Able was in D Co, 3rd Plt. The 62nd on D-Day dropped Hq's and D Co, the rest of the 508th was delivered by the balance of the 314th and the 313th. Departed from Saltby and Folkingham. The navigators log shows take off time from Saltby at 23:25, and a drop time of 02:06 for the first nine aircraft over DZ N. I was flying in the second nine and recorded a drop time of 02:08, which would be about correct for the formation. Chisolm informed me that he exited at 02:07. Allowing for the possible difference in time pieces -- we all arrived at about the same time."

If you're interested in contacting Dave, his address is David E. Mondt, Box 606, Boone, Ia. 50036.

ORIGINAL CADRE LIST

Don Davis, Hq-Hq, has furnished us a list of the original cadre of the 508th. It's dated Oct. 16, 1942 and forwards them to Camp Blanding, Fla. There are a lot of familiar names: Roy Lindquist, Lou Mendez, Alton Bell, Bob Abraham, Don Davis, Len Funk, Herman Jahnigen, Jim Peek, Dave Jones, Ed Luczaj, Ray Hummel and many more. If you want a copy of this document, drop me a line and I'll send you one. Write Jim Allardyce, 335 Ardussi, Frankenmuth, Mich. 48734.

ASSOCIATION NAME TAGS

Bob Chisolm I, suggests that this is a good time to get your permanent Association name tags. They are just the thing to have at our reunions. Bob's note went as follows:

"I still have on hand approximately 150 of the permanent name tags. If any Association member, that does not now have one would like to order the cost will be $2.00 each. That is just the blank name tag. I can have name, unit, hometown, and state engraved at 5¢ per letter. The price is very reasonable. Any Association member that purchased the blank tags at Daytona Beach and would like to have them engraved can have this done by sending me their blank tags. Cost of engraving can be figured at 5¢ a letter plus 50¢ for postage. This represents the actual cost of this item plus 25¢ per tag for the Association Treasury. Tags are bright, white plastic with the Diablo and lettering in red.

Write Bob at 601 Las Olas Ct., El Paso, Tx. 79932.

MAIL BAG

We heard from Roy Wilferd, I Co. He is retired and lives with his wife Toni in Rocky Mount, N.C. They are looking forward to their first reunion this year.

Joe Shirley, C, is planning on his first reunion this year too. He hails from Savannah, Ga.

Wendell Hayes, A, is the mayor of Weston, W.V. He lives there with his wife Patricia. He's a warehouse manager aside from his civic duties.

Carl Nilsen, E, wrote us a very enthusiastic letter of welcome. He just found us and is raring to go to the Fayetteville reunion. He lives in Downey, Calif. with his wife Billie. He's a quality assurance manager.

551 PIR MEN IN THE 508TH

After the Battle of the Bulge, a number of 551 men were transferred into our Regiment. We were both pretty well decimated and the higher ups must have figured that in union there would be strength. A 551 man is trying to find his old buddies and has asked our help. If you know of any of these men, please send their names and addresses to Dan Morgan, Toroda Creek Rd., Wauconda, Wa. 98859.

1984 REUNION SITE PROPOSAL

We have one site proposal for the 1984 reunion. It's for Omaha, Neb. Tom Heun, B & SVC, and Earl Hickman, F, have volunteered to be Co-chairmen. This proposal will be considered at our membership meeting in Fayetteville.

REGIMENTAL AID STATION

Mickey Nichols, B, had a quadruple by-pass heart operation in the fall. He's been in a long recuperation period but is the same irrepressible Nick. His address is 6600 Roosevelt Blvd., Philadelphia, Pa. 19149.

Chuck Atkins, Hq 1st, is on a long road to recovery from his stroke. Lois is his right hand and chief nurse. His address is RR 15 688A, Marna Lane, Port Myers, Fla. 33903.

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Division Review May 28 at Fort Bragg.

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Jim Allardyce

Secretary