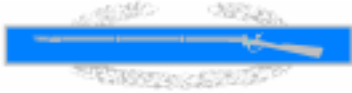




508th Airborne Chapter  
82nd Airborne Division Assn.  
4072 E. 22nd St. PMB #187  
Tucson, AZ 85711-5334

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



**Moving? Let Us Know!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

New Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Permanent \_\_\_\_\_

Temporary \_\_\_\_\_ Dates \_\_\_\_\_

New Tel. # \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_



*Hey, Rigger. This chute don't fit!*



# The Red Devil Digest



The 508th Abn Chap Newsletter Fury From The Sky [www.red-devils.org](http://www.red-devils.org)

## L Company Bonanza

### Company L



Thanks to Rodger Jacobson, our “Road Running Recruiter”, James Gradeless and Francis Saurborn, both Company L Red Devils, we have added 29 troopers from

Comapny L to the chapter data base. We initially found 15 the first part of February and thanks to the acquisition of a Co. L roster from Christmas 55, we were able to search out 14 from the Internet. Of the 15 troopers found in February, 4 have joined the chapter and we are told “more applications are on the way”. We still have a number of troopers who’s addresses we are trying to verify and we anticipate more will be added to the data base. We did a pretty good job last fall when we found a few troopers from Medical Company and they furnished quite a few more names for us to contact but this is a fantastic find for the chapter. We now have 90 Red Devils accounted for from Company L.

You may ask, why is this a lead story in the newsletter? First, it isn’t every day we are able to identify and contact this number of troopers from the same unit. Secondly, and most importantly, it points out that if you are in possession of manifests, unit rosters, orders or other material that contains the names of unit members, please copy and send these items to the chapter secretary who will take the necessary steps to search out these individuals. It will help your chapter to continue to expand the number of troopers names, etc. on the data base and ultimately increase our membership. In addition, it may bring old friends together once again!

### Chapter Web Site



[www.red-devils.org](http://www.red-devils.org) is alive and doing well. For those of you who have not visited the chapter web site, please do so. We have experienced quite a bit of interest as can be seen by the one hundred and eight entries in on our guest book. We have five new members as a result of former troopers finding our web site and expressing a wish to join the chapter.

We have noticed several multiple entries by the same person, some of whom are chapter members. We ask that you only make a single entry unless you have a message of importance to the general readers. We have allotted only so much space to the guest book and then the earliest entries will be deleted to make room for the latest entry. If you have already signed in, and just wish to “cruise” the guest book to look for new entries, there is no reason to take up additional space. If you want to make a comment to the web master, use the e-mail address indicated at the beginning of the guest book. Your cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated. We will be working on a fix to allow more entries at a latter date but we want to finish putting the rest of the web site sections up first.

Later in this edition we will be publishing a few of the entries for general information since the majority of our membership does not have access to the Internet.

Our thanks go out to those members who have furnished their e-mail address. As of this issue the

secretary has 70 membership addresses in the chapter address book. This makes it very easy to send out a quick message to our troopers.

## New Chapter Members



Welcome to our newest members who have just dropped in. They are:  
**Arthur R. Barrera**, San Antonio, TX (A/51-53);  
**Vincent H. Crowley**, Boston, MA (H&H/51-54); **Byron R. Erskine**, Lebanon, TN (A/51-56); **Ronald E. Gerhardtstein**, Mayfield Hts,

OH (54-57); **Hoover C. King**, Clarksville, TN (SVC/55-56); **Roy McDaniel**, Bedford, PA (L/54-56); **Claude Morse**, Chelmsford, MA (MED/55-56); **Edward L. Rice**, Memphis, TN (E/55-56); **William J. Santangelo**, Morristown, PA (51); **Francis P. Saurborn**, Kouts, IN (L/53-56); **Richard F. Scott**, Dundalk, MD (SVC/51-53); **Rodger J. Shockling**, Jacksonville, FL (MED/55-56); **Milton D. Simpkins**, Longview, TX (SVC/51-54); **John W. Snyder**, Loveland, OH (C3/63-65); **Dale R. Stein, Sr.**, Rio Medina, TX (MED/55-56) and **Colin Tinson**, Mahwah, NJ (HQ3/63/65).

## New All American (Life) Members

**John D. Cutler**, Ankeny, IA (SVC/55-56); **Francis G. Ermence**, Kailua-Kona, HI (H&H/55-56); **Warren F. Gilbertson**, Phoenix, AZ (H/54-56); **Leonard J. Victor**, Mt. Laurel, NJ (H/534-56) and **Robert M. Wagner**, Boca Raton, FL (M/51-53).

## Chairmans Message



The chapter submitted our required annual report to National in January. This report will be included as part of the Associations 1999 tax return. My apologies for not having this report in the last issue.

## Treasurer's Report

INCOME	
Net Worth - January 1999	\$2,805
Income from dues & National rebate	3,827
Income from Chapter sales	1,447
Donations received	1,498
Misc. income (Prizes/Awards)	106
Total	\$8,500

DISBURSEMENTS	
Per capita dues to National	\$4,273
Cost of Chapter products	916
Chapter Newsletter printing	1,458
Admin costs (Postage/Supplies/Tel.)	1,155
Donations (Ed. Fund/Blanding Ded)	110
National Delegate Fees	140
Total	\$8,052

As you can see there is not much to work with despite the number of members we have. However, I do not feel any organization should be making money. Any income should go back to servicing the members and then consider supporting other Airborne causes. A Chapter of our size could be worth a lot more if we were a local instead of a National Organization. However, we are not and will never be rich but we are keeping the history, traditions and memories of the 508<sup>th</sup> Infantry alive!

Our largest outlay is our dues remittance to the National Office. We retain \$4 from every \$12.50 we take in and once a year \$3.50 is rebated to us for each All American (Life) member. We also receive a \$1 rebate for every annual member who renews prior to 15 November for the following year. We still have too many annual members who renew late each year. They feel that if they joined in April, May or June, etc. that they do not have to renew until the subsequent April, May or June. **Wrong!** The membership year is from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31. As of March 21, we have 17 Affiliate members and 49 Annual members who have not renewed for the year 2000. So, what do we do? Drop them or carry them for another month or so? We have already sent out 125 newsletters for the Jan. - Feb. issue at a cost of \$77.50 with a reminder to renew their dues. If it were not for the generosity and consideration

of all of you reading this issue we would be in the deep dew and are very thankful for your support as can be seen by our Chapter Boosters column.

## Down Memory Lane

Can you remember a specific day, time, place or person of your time with the 508<sup>th</sup>. Serious, comical or just plain interesting? Why not share them with everyone? Perhaps upon reading them it would stir the memory of others who probably recall the incident or can enlarge upon it. For example, what were you doing in April, or where were you in April of '43, '46, '52 or '56? What ever happened to old what's his name or that ball buster 2<sup>nd</sup> Looey etc? Give it some thought and pass it on to the rest of us. It could be entertaining and interesting.

The month of April marks the forty-eighth anniversary of the 508<sup>th</sup> ARCT jump in Exercise Longhorn conducted in Texas. This has come to be known as the jump that wasn't supposed to be. Due to high winds, the jump was to be canceled but Murphy intervened and the word was never received by those charged with conducting the airborne operation. One Red Devil was killed and 221 troopers were injured, 196 seriously enough to be admitted to the hospital.



The above picture was published in a national journal. The caption read: **Foul-up:** At Exercise Longhorn in Central Texas a failure in communications caused the 508<sup>th</sup> Airborne Regiment to make a jump that no one in command of the maneuvers knew about in advance. As a result, doctors and ambulances weren't on hand for casualties.

## Chapter Boosters

We had twenty-eight boosters listed in the January - February issue. We now have forty-four as of this issue. An increase of sixteen over the past two

months. Our thanks go out to the members listed below for their generous support in making our newsletter possible. *Gentlemen, we salute you!*



*320<sup>th</sup> Airborne Field Artillery Assn.*  
*James Adams (598/54-56); Jean D. Ashcraft (HQ3/55-56); Joseph Ballaro (D/51-53); John F. Brown (E/51-54); Bobbie J. Bush (HQ3/55-56); Anthony Cantillo, Jr. (F/51-54); Joseph B. Catey (A1/66-68); Robert Chisholm (I/43-46); John H. Christopher (HQ3/55-56); James A. Convy (HQ3/44-45); Jack K. Damron (HQ1/54-57); LTC (R)*

*James K. Damron; Marvin Darby ((L/51-54); Joseph L. Davis (B/51-56); Willie F. Davis (G/54-56); MG (R) William H. Duncan (A/52-53); Marvin Darby (M/51-54); DuWayne L. Erdmann (598/51-54) Augie Fernandes (L/51-54); Donald C. Fjoslein (519/52-54); Richard S. Gohl (C/54-55); LTC (R) Charles L. Hale (K/52-56); Cyril D. Hixon (46); CSM (R) Arthur Kilgore (SVC/51-53); Thomas R. Lane (A/51-52); Frank Mahmet (E/54-56); George W. McClain (SVC/50-53); Clarence T. McCluskey (L/51-53); William F. Moran (I/45-46); Robert T. Murray (B/51-53); Arthur D. Nagle (E/51-52); Lee Perttu (E/54-56); Carl Porter (D/45-46); Leo Quinn (L/51-54); Luis (Rudy) R. Reza (C/54-56); Kenneth G. Rilea (G/51-54); Ramiro (Tony) Robles (HQ320/55-56); Walter O. Stacey (HQ2/51-52); Roy Shaw (HQ2/51-53); Keith R. Stevens (B/54-55); Robert Thompson (HQ3/46); Stan Victor (M/51-54) and Walter B. Welton (H&H/51-53)*

If your secretary inadvertently left anyone's name out, please contact him and kick his butt! He will correct his error in the next newsletter. If you don't see your name listed above, and would like to have it there, contact your friendly Chairman, Bob Murray with a donation ( he will never turn you down) and your name will magically appear in the next newsletter.

## Taps



It has been reported that **Paul R. Hoppersburger** (D/51-54), Mountain Top, PA passed away on January 15, 2000. Paul was a former member of the 508<sup>th</sup> Abn Chapter. No details are available.

## Membership Letters

**Duane E. Macleod** (H&H/52-55) writes:  
Dear Robert Murray, Enclosed photo dated Oct. 30, 1953 was taken at Ft. Benning, GA upon completion of Hq & Hq Communications Platoon training jump.

Two new chapter members plus long time member **Charles Bostic** are in the photo and were mentioned on Page 2 of the Jan. 2000 Red Devil Digest. Many who were involved signed the back of the photo.

Thanks for a great newsletter.



Chapter members are: L-R. Row 1 #1 **Bob Wagoner**, #4 **Duane E. Macleod**; Row 2 #1 **Charles Bostic**, #3 **Eugene Leonard**.

Others who signed the back of the picture are: CPL Bob Lammer, Thomas J. Gale, **Joseph Leger** (a chapter member), Sherman T. La Bounty, Edward Arroya, Lloyd R. Richardson, Norman La Mothe (former member), Larry Schroeder, Al C. Engl, Joseph R. Mason, **George L. Kreutzer** (chap member), William Busch, SGT David Grogan, and Johnnie Harms. If you know any of these troopers,

help Duane by identifying them in this picture.

**Bernard E. Brown** (SPT/51-56) writes:

Dear 320<sup>th</sup> Abn FA Bn Troopers,

While I was with the 508<sup>th</sup> ARCT I served in Support Company as a heavy weapons Infantryman. I later went to Korea and became a cannoneer with Btry B, 674 AFA Bn, 187<sup>th</sup> ARCT.

I did not keep any of my uniforms and have been looking for the red parachute background oval for my collection. If any of you Red Leg Troopers of the 320<sup>th</sup> would know where I can find one I would really like to know. Thank You.

Ed Note: You can reach Bernard at: 67 Adele Place, Apt. # 42, Rutland, VT 05701-4938. Obviously there are no Airborne PX's near Bernard!

**Charlie Wheeler** (K/51-54) writes:

Dear Jack, As a result of a couple of inquires for addresses that Rodger Jacobson provided for me, I had a couple of very good responses and thought the membership would be interested. Hence, the enclosed.

We have finally gone "on line" so I had a chance to visit our web site. Really nice job on that. I enjoyed it very much.

Hope you are doing well and we can see each other in May at Fort Bragg.

*ENCLOSURE*

Some information I thought might be of interest to all chapter members. Thanks to Rodger Jacobson's untiring efforts in locating former Red Devils, I made two contacts in the past several months that were extremely rewarding. First was SGT Mike Worobel's widow, whom I contacted by mail and in return received a most interesting and informative letter. The second was Fred (Pete) Petrushkin, who was one of my best buddies in "K" Co. 508<sup>th</sup> ARCT. I hadn't heard from Pete since Jan. 1954 (46 yrs!) At any rate, after Rodger gave me his

address we corresponded several times and decided to meet in Las Vegas in late Feb. On Friday, Feb. 25 we finally got together. Needless to say, it was awesome! After all those years, we had some truly great memories to reminisce over. And, now that contact has been made, we don't intend to let it get away again. We are already formulating plans for next years get together.

So, you see Guys, it really pays to look up those old Buddies. It's an experience you won't soon forget.

Eds Note: Sorry Charlie, I can't make All American Week this year. There will be many Red Devils there and I promise you, you will enjoy your visit to Bragg.

**Joe Russell (L/55-56)** left this message in the **web site guest book: Served with "L" Company, 508<sup>th</sup> ARCT at Ft. Campbell and Camp Chickamauga Mar. 55 - July 56. Good times, good friends and a good experience.**

**I remember Oita and Mori DZ's. Took a dunk in the ocean off Oita and I remember grabbing my chute and running like Hell because the DZ was also the landing strip so about the time you landed the C-47 was coming back to land.**

**Like to hear from some of you Beppu Warriors that were there with the 508<sup>th</sup> during that time. Keep the faith.**



We sent this picture of Oita DZ to Joe. We thought other Beppu Warriors would appreciate seeing the old jumping ground too!

**MG (R) Thomas P. Lynch (G/46/51-52)** writes:

Dear Bob, As I reflect on the past, I am sure that we have met. Permit me to provide a short resume of my service with the 508<sup>th</sup>. I joined G Co. in Heddernheim in April '46. I was promoted to Corporal and returned to the states in Nov. '46. I was assigned to G Co. 504 until 1950. I made Master Sergeant and joined Hq and Hq Co. as the RCT S-2 Sgt. I completed the jumpmaster school with the 508<sup>th</sup> cadre which we all had to finish.

I accepted a commission with concurrent call to active duty in March 1952. I remember most of the old cadre and those who joined us at Fort Benning.

I am sending you some pictures that I have been carrying around for quite a few years. I am carrying the Regimental Colors which I did until I was commissioned. M/SGT Tryon is carrying the National Colors. I cannot recall the names of the color guards. The activation took place in the Division Parade Field.

Enjoy the material and feel free to contact me for picture details. By the way, I retired in July 1980 as a Major General but my first thoughts were about the 508<sup>th</sup>.





MG Lynch's Honorary Membership club card in the Red Devil NCO Club presented to him after his commissioning in 1952.

## VA Eligibility Rules Change

We just received the following information:

Department of Veterans Affairs

DIRECTIVE 2000-006 Dated 29 Feb. 2000

1. Purpose: This Veterans Health Administration directive implements new eligibility and enrollment requirements for veterans awarded the Purple Heart.

2. Policy: Public Law 106-117, the Veterans Health Care and Benefits Act, which amended the law to place veterans awarded the Purple Heart in enrollment priority group 3, and to exempt those veterans from co-payment requirements associated with provisions of hospital care and outpatient medical services.

3. Action: a. Veterans awarded the Purple Heart may submit appropriate documentation (i.e., DD 214, service records, orders of award, certificate, etc.) for inclusion into the veterans's Consolidated Health Record (CHR) folder. Field stations are also to fax these documents to the Health Eligibility Center at (404) 235-1355.

b. As an interim measure, the Health Eligibility Center will provide each Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care facility with a partial listing of Purple Heart recipients to assist facilities in manually exempting these veterans from co-payment requirement associated with hospital care and outpatient medical services. The Office of Information (19) will develop software to capture data on veterans awarded a Purple Heart and effect other changes in the VHA information systems necessary to accommodate provisions to Public Law 106-117 relating to Purple Heart recipients who were previously, or would be, classified in

enrollment priority groups 4 through 7 are placed in enrollment priority group 3 and not charged co-payments.

c. Field stations must ensure that those veterans awarded a Purple Heart who were previously, or would be, classified in enrollment priority groups 4 through 7 are placed in enrollment priority group 3 and not charged co-payments.

d. Manual tracking is necessitated until Veterans Health Information Systems & Technology Architecture (VistA) software modifications are implemented to ensure these veterans are not inappropriately billed medical care co-payment charges.

e. Veterans awarded the Purple Heart are to be reimbursed for any medical care co-payments paid for VHA care provided on or after November 30, 1999.

f. VHA officials must have verifiable evidence that veterans received the Purple Heart before reimbursing any co-payments or changing veterans' enrollment status. **Ed Note: Contact your local VA Office for details.**

## Lion Brigade

Information available at this time indicates the Lion Bde, Vicenza, Italy, of which the 1-508 is the major unit, will be designated the 173d Abn Bde (Sep) sometime this summer. The 1-508th will wear the 173d shoulder patch but will still be the 1-508ABCT. As further details are available, we will keep you advised.

## Chapter Officers

### Chairman/Treasurer

Robert T. Murray  
4072 E. 22<sup>nd</sup> St. PMB #187  
Tucson, AZ 85711  
Tel. (520) 81-8657  
E-mail:  
[RTM508@aol.com](mailto:RTM508@aol.com)

### Vice Chairman

Frank Seif  
2442 N. Sahuara Ave.  
Tucson, AZ 85712  
Tel. (520) 290-9235  
E-mail:  
[fseif@bookmans.com](mailto:fseif@bookmans.com)

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairman

Rodger Jacobson  
Box 14  
Hazel Green, WI 53811  
Tel. (608) 854-2317

### Secretary

Jack K. Damron  
26164 Waterfowl Lane  
Punta Gorda, FL 33983  
Tel. (941) 629-7653  
E-mail:  
[reddevil@peganet.com](mailto:reddevil@peganet.com)

## Order Form for Chapter Memorabilia

Complete this form and mail your check along with your name and complete address to: The 508th Airborne Chapter, 4072 E. 22nd St., PMB #187, Tucson, AZ 85711-5334. Price includes shipping and handling charge except where indicated below for selected items, *but a little extra to help defray expenses is appreciated.*

ITEM/ DESCRIPTION	COST (Ea.)	QTY.	SIZE	AMOUNT
Hat, white, w\red bill	\$14.50		N/A	
Sweatshirt, ash grey w\ screened Chapter logo	\$22.00 + \$3.20 S&H		M, L, XL, *XXL, *XXXL	
Shirt, T, Grey or White w/ Chapter Logo screened	\$12.00		M, L, XL, XXL	
Shirt, Polo, Abn Maroon, w/ Chap Logo embroidered	\$22.00 + \$3.20 S&H		M, L, XL, **XXL, ***XXXL	
Patch, 508th Abn Chapter	\$ 5.50 or 3/\$15		N/A	
Patch, 508th ARCT	\$ 5.50 or 3/\$15		N/A	
Patch, 508th Para Red Devil	\$ 5.50 or 3/\$15		N/A	
Patch, 320th Abn FA Bn	\$ 5.50 or 3/\$15		N/A	
Pin, 508th ARCT	\$ 3.00		N/A	
Pin, Para Red Devil	\$ 3.00		N/A	
Wrap, Can Cooler w/Chap Logo	\$ 3.00		N/A	
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT</b>				\$ _____

**\*Add an additional \$2 for each X above XL**

**\*\*\$24.00    \*\*\*\$26.00 (XXXL size is special order)**

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

508th Abn Chapter, 82nd Abn Div. Assn., Inc.

All American   
  Renewal   
  New Member   
  Reinstatement

**PLEASE PRINT**

Enclosed is \$12.50 for my annual membership dues for the year to include a subscription to the PARAGLIDE.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Street or R.F.D. \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. # \_\_\_\_\_

Rank (Active) \_\_\_\_\_ ASN \_\_\_\_\_ or SSN \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

508th Unit (Circle one) Co. \_\_\_\_ Bn. \_\_\_\_ 508th; Btry. \_\_\_\_ 320th AFA; 427th; 519th QM Co.; 598th Engr. Co.

Date of 508th service: From Mo. \_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_ to Mo. \_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_

Present Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Single \_\_ Married \_\_ Spouses's Name \_\_\_\_\_ # of Children \_\_\_\_

(PLEASE FILL IN APPLICATION COMPLETELY)

I presently am a member of the \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter, 82nd Abn Assn. Enclosed are my reduced dues of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(\$6 min.) I do \_\_ do not \_\_ wish to transfer my membership from the \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter to the 508th

Airborne Chapter. Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL TO:** Chairman, 508th Airborne Chapter, 4072 E. 22nd St., PMB #187, Tucson, AZ 85711-5334

### LIFE MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

You can become an **All American** (Life Member) and avoid the hassle of paying annual dues.

25\* years continuous Association membership - \$60.00

On active duty with the 82nd Airborne Division - \$82.00

20\* years continuous Association membership - \$90.00

50 years of age or older - \$100.00

49 years of age or younger - \$150.00

\* Must be verified by Executive Director, 82nd Airborne Division Association.

**You will receive a permanent plastic membership card and a certificate suitable for framing**