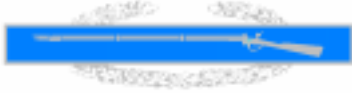




508th Airborne Chapter
82nd Airborne Division Assn.
4072 E. 22nd St. PMB #187
Tucson, AZ 85711-5334



IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE



The Red Devil Digest



The 508th Abn Chap Newsletter Fury From The Sky www.reddevils.org

VE Day - May 1945

Month of May

Perhaps the date of May 8 brings back old memories for 508th PIR troopers. At that time in 1945 the PIR was at Chartres and Dreux, France awaiting the possibility of another airborne operation to liberate POW camps should the need arise. Enough cannot be said of the tremendous contributions made by the officers and men of the 508th PIR in bringing about the fall of Germany and peace to Europe once again. We, of the 508th Airborne Chapter, salute our brothers in arms!



508th PIR troopers - VE Day in Chartres, France

Another person who we all know and owe a great deal of thanks to is "Mom." As you know, May is the month we honor Mom with Mother's Day. Who says the rough, tough paratrooper doesn't

have a soft heart when it comes to Mom. How many times have you seen troopers sporting a tattoo of wings on one arm and MOM on the other? Another example is the short note I recently received from Aristeo Blanco (C/51-54). He sent me the names of two potential chapter members and further stated: Enclosed is a picture of a pillow case I sent my Mom in 1952. We found it last year. It's still in good shape as you can see but I will put it in a framed glass enclosure.

I will be in Laughlin, NV Feb. 23 - 29 for the Airborne Winter Conference. I think Bob Murray will also be there. Many 508th Troopers go to this one. AIRBORNE, A. Blanco, Jr.



Ed's note: Aristeo's wife recently suffered a stroke and he hasn't been feeling too well himself. Friends can give him a call or send a card at his address shown on page 2.

Ariesto Blanco
Box 7604
Reno, NV 89510-7604
Tele. (702) 673-3343

Chairman's Message



As of May 20 we have 124 AAM, 198 Regular and 54 Affiliate members totaling 322 for the Association rolls and 376 for our Chapter records. We need a total of 341 to be awarded our fourth consecutive Membership Excellence Award. The award has been the same each year, a plaque that can be wall mounted. We don't have a wall, hall or anything to display them for our members. We presented Rodger Jacobson with last year's award in recognition of all the time, effort, and dollars he has expended to locate you and have you enroll in the Chapter.

The Chapter officers are disappointed that there was such a minimal response of suggestions and concern about organizing, planning and scheduling an activity for next year to recognize the 50th anniversary of the reactivation of the 508th and forming of the 508th ARCT. Secretary Jack has something to say about that in another section of the newsletter. He will inform you of the tentative and suggested plan of what we can do, where we can do it and when it will be held. Then the participation and success or failure of it is in the memberships hands.

Other than the aforementioned items, the Chapter is in good shape. Thanks mostly to you, the members, and your generous support and donations. Airborne!

Close and Yet So Far

This tale of two Red Devils, Chapter members, illustrating how close people can be yet far away.

A few years ago, one of the two was umpiring a Little League game for the area championship. At a

crucial moment of the game he had to make a call, a tough call, that decided the outcome. Needless to say the losing teams supporters were unhappy and voiced their feeling upon our man. The Ump was leaving the field when one of the spectators in passing said, "Your call cost us the game. That took guts, but it was the right call." The Ump was pleased and the two engaged in small talk as they walked of the field. That talk revealed that both were from the same town, attended the same schools, both were now retired from the same company and had worked in the same department for many years. "When were you hired?" "Right after I got out of the Army." "Me too." "What outfit?" "I went Airborne." "Same here. What outfit?" Ever hear of the 508th ARCT?" "Sure, I was in F Co." "No kidding. Did you Gyroscope to Japan?" "Sure did. Went to Thailand, jumped there. Then the Phillippines and that big parade at Clark Field." After some more small talk about did you know so and so, or wonder what became of so and so, the conversation entered the jump story phase. "F Co. made a drop up at Mori DZ once that I won't forget. A guy in the company tangled or something on the way down and lost his hand. He was laying there, Medics all around him. Bad scene! One Medic had the hand in a box. You could see the guy's wedding ring. I'll never forget that. Saw the guy back at the hospital before they shipped him home." There was a pause, then the spectator said "I remember that day well, I was there. I'm the Medic, Dan Rowsey."

That is how Dan Rowsey (MED/55-56) and Bill Congleton (F/54-56) formally met after living in each others shadow for so many years. Thanks Bill for passing this on to the Chapter.

New Chapter Members



Welcome to our newest members who just dropped in. But first a **correction: Vincent H. Crowley**, Boston, MA (H&H/51-54) should read: **Vincent H. Cawley**. Sorry for the error Vincent.

Continued on page 3.

Lawrence Adams, Jr., Metairie, LA (I/51-53); **Lawrence C. Beachel**, Midway, GA (L/54-56); **John W. Carpenter**, Shiocton, WI (A/51-53); **John M. Dwyer**, San Jose, CA (F/51-52); **Joseph P. Ferraro**, Marston Mills, MA (H&H/53-55); **Irwin G. Jarvis**, Fort Ann, NY (L-55-56); **Henry (Al) Keating**, Lillington, NC (H&H/55-56); **Roy McDaniel**, Bedford, PA (L/54-57); **L. (Tom) B. Measles**, Enterprise, AL (598/51-56); **Fred Petruskin**, Fresno, CA (K/51-54); **Alan Vittori**, Kenosha, WI (A2/72-74); **John F. Whipple**, Olean, NY (E/51-54).

New All American (Life) Members

James J. Carbonel, Paducah, KY (L/55-56); **Vincent H. Cawley**, Boston, MA (H&H/51-54); **Allen R. Conrad**, Bristol, CT (B/51-54); **Robert S. Copeland**, Spruce Grove, Alberta, Canada (B1/70-71); **Daniel T. Furlong**, Seattle, WA (H/42-45).

Chapter Boosters



We had forty-four boosters listed in our March - April Newsletter. Today, we are adding eight more names to bring the total number of chapter members who have so generously contributed to the chapter to keep the newsletter and web site going. We can't thank you enough!

320th Airborne Field Artillery Assn.
James Adams (598/54-56); **Jean D. Ashcraft** (HQ3/55-56); **Joseph Ballaro** (D/51-53); **Lou Belleau** (SPT/51-52); **LTC (R) Lloyd Bender** (F/52-53); **Charles Bostic** (H&H/51-

54); **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);

Daniel T. Furlong (H/42-45); **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 J. Mehling** (HQ2/51-52); **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); **LTC (R) Gordon K. Smith** (HQ1/54/55); **Roy Shaw** (HQ2/51-53); **Walter O. Stacey** (HQ2/51-52); **Keith R. Stevens** (B/54-55); **George I. Stoeckert** (42-46); **Robert Thompson** (HQ3/46); **Stan Victor** (M/51-54) and **Walter B. Welton** (H&H/51-53) and **Jack E. Yelverton** (HQ2/53-55).

Membership Letters

Joseph R. Leger (H&H/51-54) writes: Hi 508th, Enclosed is a change of zip code. Also a picture of **Charlie Bostic** (H&H/51-54) along with **Richard P. Kaley** (H&H/51-53) from New York and **Huey P. Taylor** (H&H/51-54) from Louisiana. I saw my old friend Charlie's name in the last Digest, as a new member, so I thought I'd send the picture along to remind him of how he looked as a proud member of the 508th.



(L-R) Bostic, Kaley and Taylor

John J. Doyle (51-53) writes: Dear Bob, Hope my note finds you well. I like C. Bostic's plan so I am enclosing one extra payment for some old trooper chosen by you who can't afford it plus my renewal. Continued on page 4.

Stay well and keep up the good work. Best Regards,

Ed's note: Thanks John. Your generosity has been appreciated by one of our old troopers who has had a spell of bad luck.

Clarence T. McCluskey (L/51-52) writes: I am writing to tell you of one of our Airborne buddies, **Richard McKinley**. He was with us in the 508th from the beginning in 1951. Later, on the way to join the 187th in Japan, our orders were cut and we were grounded and sent to the 7th Inf. Div. in Korea. I lost contact with him after that until I read the enclosed story in the Stars and Stripes or the Buffalo Bugle in 1953. I tried to contact him a couple of times with no luck. I wanted to see if he would join us in the 508th Chapter. His last known address was: Richard McKinley, 106 West Alameda, Roswell, NM. I would like to contact him to find out the rest of the story. Maybe someone out there can help.

Thanks, Airborne All the Way!

Ed's note: You can contact Mac at 52 Fox Drive, Oxford, Ct 06748. Tele. (203) 888-4091. Now for the rest of the story, see news item below.

McKinley had trained for 29 months with infantry, ranger and airborne troops. All his training came to a boil the night he was in front of a platoon trying to recapture strategic Dale Outpost about 500 yards from Old Baldy.

The men had moved into the darkness until they were stopped cold by barbed wire. As they idled in a moment of indecision, the Chinese opened up from both sides with burp guns, churning the darkness into a sea of light and death.

McKinley raced forward, threw himself across the barbed wire so the 27-man attacking party could storm out of the trap. McKinley lay there and counted 48 boots thud into his back as he warned the troops where the Chinese were.

The last three over didn't hear his warnings in the noise and confusion of the battle and were picked off as they crossed his body. McKinley helped evacuate

them and then rejoined his unit. Later Outpost Dale was in American hands.

McKinley, in his first hour of battle saved the lives of 27 men. The Yank force would have been chewed to ribbons at the bottleneck of the barbed wire. The men had to clear out. McKinley knew it. But he didn't think of going back—he thought of moving forward.

His spirit and body bridged an impossible situation. McKinley said his mind was perfectly clear and perfectly blank. He acted under fire the way he was taught as a trainee. In his first test McKinley found how much soldier pumped through him.



CPL Richard McKinley

Bob Thompson (HQ#/46) writes: Enclosed are two pictures. The first was taken in Feb. '46 at the newly remodeled supply room of Hq Co, 3d Bn, 508th, Heddernheim, Germany. The second picture was taken some 52 years later at Lake Superior on the occasion of retirement after several years in the education field.



Tony Peralta (D/52-55) writes: Bob, Hope to find you at your best. Enclosed are photos with airborne skydiving tags. Hope you can use them in the newsletter.

Continued on page 5.

I couldn't make the trip to Laughlin, NV. I fell off a 7 ft. ladder and made a stand up landing against a wall. I will have to see a foot doctor this week.

Bob, I'm looking for a T-5 and T-7 harness with container and without the canopy for our parades. I already have a T-10 since 1990. Spread the word for me please. Airborne.

Ed's note: The word has been spread Tony. Anyone out there able to help?



Harry M. Meyer Jr. writes: Hi Folks, thought I would drop a line after reading the latest 508th newsletter. First, why don't you code the mailing labels as to "Due Date" for renewal of chapter membership although Jan. - Dec. makes sense to me - we are getting older and in my case a bit addled, so an individual reminder is nice and some times necessary. I am a life member so I am lucky!

The article on Chapter Boosters - I saw two old friends names. - **Frank Mahmat** (E/54-56) and **Edward L. Rice** (E/55-56), Memphis, TN. If possible, I would like an address or phone number to contact them to say hi and rehash some memories and any other troopers from E Co.

Down Memory Lane article - I have to start digging but I have some pics and thoughts in that area and will try to get some together. In the mean time, I am sending some that I have that you or others may remember and can pass on the info to me, please! I added a couple of me, one when I was in the 506th, 101st. I also sent a list of lost troopers to Rodger Jacobson to see if he could have better luck than I in locating them. Enclosed is the list.

I have picked my brain. I hope this helps some. I could use any info on any of those mentioned in the letter. Thanks.

Ed's note: We will investigate the placing of membership date on mailing label. Good suggestion. When time permits we will attempt to track down the names of those Red Devils from Co. E and get back to you Harry. Last, but not least, a roster of Co. E troopers will be placed in the mail to you today. In surfing other Airborne web sites we encountered Paul A. Cole who was another Co. E trooper from 55-56. We have traded several E-mails and he assured me his application is in the mail!



Joseph A. Preston, Jr. (E/55-56) , Camp Chick

50th Anniversary - 508TH ARCT

As many of you know, the year 2001 marks the 50th Anniversary of the reactivation of the 508th AIR and the activation of the 508th ARCT. Last year we asked the membership to give us their thoughts of where a possible reunion could be held. The majority of responses was Ft. Bragg (I must add there wasn't a lot of responses). Fort Bragg has been selected and we have made tentative overtures to gather information concerning billeting, dining facilities, transportation, hospitality suite and other details if we are to pull this off during All American Week in May, 2001.

Bragg was selected since it is now the only major home of the Airborne, it has a great host of airborne activities during All American Week and it was there that the 508th AIR was reactivated in May, 1951. Continued on page 6.

We are investigating hotel/motel arrangements in Spring Lake or Fayetteville as it will provide a place for all Red Devils to be billeted together as well as having a hospitality suite available. We are working to get sponsorship from a local distributor for beer and soft drinks, have available 508th ARCT special edition T-shirts/hats to be worn at the Division Revue and will lead the veterans pass in revue after the Association officials. We plan a 508th dinner on Wednesday night of All American Week.

Now, is this going to happen? It depends entirely on the membership. Below is a simple form to complete which indicates your interest in attending this function. It is not binding but we must have some idea of what the attendance would be so adequate arrangements can be made in the near future. Once we have these figures, we can begin intensive planning, cost out the reunion and decide exact arrangements, etc. If there is inadequate response, we may fall back and regroup. Possibly just have an informal gathering or dinner at the 82d Abn Div Association Annual Convention in Charleston, SC in August, 2001. As Bob Murray has said on several occasions, "the ball is in your court!"

Please complete the form below and send ASAP to:
Secretary, 508th Airborne Chapter
26164 Waterfowl Lane
Punta Gorda, FL 33983-6231

If you are interested in attending and are on the Internet, just send a note to reddevil@peganet.com with the info below.

YES, I am interested in attending a 508th AIR Anniversary Reunion:

NAME: _____ Unit/Yr _____

Number to attend _____

Moving? Let Us Know!

Name _____
New Address _____
City, State, Zip+4 _____
New Tel. # _____
Perm. ____ Temp. ____ Dates _____
New E-mail address _____

Chapter Officers

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“Heavy Drop” -- Forgot my ^%\$#^%&* dog tags.