



The Red Devil Digest

The 508th Airborne Chapter Newsletter Fury From The Sky

Official Chapter Web Site: www.red-devils.org



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March - April 2002

Corpus Christi Mini-Reunion A Success

Corpus Christi Mini

By Rodger Jacobson



A fun time was had in Corpus Christi, TX recently when 50 Red Devils and friends got together and enjoyed the South Texas sun and hospitality. Regular 320th attendees Belkiewicz, Calvez, Jacobson, Lakey, Miller of the

50's era and Latham Wells, WWII glider field artillerymen got together with first timers Garcia, Graves, Miranda and Boswell.

Red Devil infantry newcomers Bryan, Richards, Sanchez, Clarke, Garcia, Juarez, Hall, Glasgow, Wilborn, Witherington, Fritz, Watson, Peeler, Kruckenberg, Amaya and Stark were greeted by Ben Estes, Charlie Hale, Orlan McClung and John Goff.

Three Red Devils had to cancel out due to personal reasons: Murdock, Simpkins and Luck. William Stevens, Chairman of the Corpus Christi Chapter and wife Elaine attended as did Chairman Frank Hughes and his wife Jean from the San Antonio Chapter.

Sunday afternoon was spent visiting with early arrivals and a great lunch at the Radisson Hotel. Monday morning was busy checking in new arrivals, visiting and taking orders for various Red Devil Quartermaster items. Some of the group visited local sites and the USS Lexington which is now a museum anchored just down the beach from the hotel. Tuesday was spent with more visiting and sightseeing. Then the Banquet in the evening to top of the reunion.

Plans were made by LTC (R) Charles Hale and a group of his K Company men to attend the October reunion in Peoria, IL Former 598th Abn Engr Company Commanders COL (R) Karl Stark and COL (R) John E. Munnely and other members of the

598th also have tentative plans to attend. We also have commitments from some of the Red Devil Football Team to be there. HOW ABOUT YOU?

My Leone and I attended a Reunion Planners Convention later in the week and met the new 82nd Airborne Division Association President Duke Armendariz.

Last but not least, I received a call from Karl Stark and he was the #2 car in a chain reaction accident at the TX-LA line on his way home. Totaled his car, broke one of his golf clubs in the trunk but the tough old trooper came through with only a few aches and pains.

Chapter members in attendance were: Hedrick & Joyce Bryan (SVC/51-53) and guests Arthur & Mary Hardin; Roy Clarke (B51-53); Bennie Estes (SPT/51-56); Jose & Lorisa Garcia (G/51-53); Jessie Glasgow (L/51-52); John & Jean Goff (MED/51-52); LTC (R) Charles & Sarah Hale (K/53-56); Harry & Jamie Hall (B/52-54); Franklin & Jean Hughes (HQ1/45-56); Rodger & Leone Jacobson (HQ320/55-56); Armando Juarez (I/51-54); Orlan & Jeanie McClung (HQ3/51-54); Thomas Peeler (SVC/54-56); Rudy Wilborn (H/51-54); and John & Joan Witherington (K/54-56).

Non Chapter Red Devils in attendance were: Edward & Nora Amaya (H&H/52-54); Eugene R. Belkiewicz (HQ320)/54-56); Bob & Ruby Boswell (HQ320/51-53); Raymond & Ludmilla Calvez (HQ320/51-56); Harold Fritz (G/51-54); Bob Graves (UNK); Oland & Ella Kruckenberg (SPT/53-55); Donald Lakey (HQ320/51-53); Johnny & Emma Miller (UNK); Sam & Maudie Miranda (UNK); Ray Richards (M/53-56); COL (R) Karl Stark (598/51-53) and Latham Wells (A320/42-46).

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Ed's Note: Let's hope the non-members see the light, join the Chapter and take advantage of All American Week and the Association Convention.

Red Devils Found



The Chapter struck the "mother lode" and eighty former Red Devils have been found. Actually, more have been found and their names can be found in the New Chapter Members column.

Wouldn't it be great if all of them could be listed in that column? If you recognize any of your former buddies listed below, email me or drop me a line as I am still not using the telephone. Help us to recruit these troopers. We can't do it alone!

New members are: **Edward W. Abersold**, Enon Valley, PA (B/55-56); **Herbert Almy**, Hopkinsville, KY (K/53-54); **Lionel H. Basye**, Waverly Hall, GA (SVC/51-53); **Hollis Black**, Brevard, NC (598/51-54); **Alfred Brodd, Jr.**, Inver Grove Hgts, MN (G/54-56); **Jerry L. Burch**, Port Isabelle, TX (L/51-54); **Willard Buza**, Bridgeport, CT (51-54); **Humberto (Bert) Cabanas**, El Cajon, CA (MED/54-56); **Gene Cain**, Jackson, TN (51-54); **Lindsey Cameron**, Middleburg, FL (UNK); **Donald C. Carr**, Lakeville, PA (598/51-54); **Carlos T. Castelazo**, Westlake Village, CA (F/55-56); **Armando Delarosa**, San Diego, TX (E/51-54); **Euphemon Derouen**, New Iberia, LA (SVC/51-55); **Nathan Edwards**, Huntington, TX (51-53); **William E. Eisentrout**, Middletown, MD (E/51-54); **William L. Ellis**, Manning, SC (598/51-53); **Joe D. Elwood**, Fayetteville, NC (SVC/51-54); **John F. Emory**, Ruston, LA (51-53); **John J. Espina**, Arabia, LA (G/51-54); **Wilferd Everett**, Jackson, MO (HH1/72/73); **John A. Feeder**, Sun City West, AZ (UNK); **William O. Fortner**, Gainesville, GA (51-54); **Joseph F. Goebig**, Philadelphia, PA (51-54); **Donald L. Golemba**, Caseville, MI (MED/51-54); **Jerold P. Goodwillie**, Auburn, WA (G/55-56); **Theford Grayson**, Detroit, MI (B/55-56); **Marvin L. Green**, Porterville, CA (G/51-53); **Edward J. Guare**, Deerfield, IL (H&H/53-55); **Dennis J. Harris**, Ashford, AL (I/55-56); **Robert Haywood**, Atlanta, GA (F/51-54); **Henry Herther**, West Bend, WI (SVC/51-53); **Ronald O. Hogancamp**, Onawa, I (H/51-54); **Kenneth L. Holder**, Towball, TX (K/51-53); **John P. Husaman**, Houston, TX (G/51-53); **Lawrence S. Hussy**, Braintree, MA (SVC/51-53); **Tage R. Johnson**, Largo, FL (598/51-53); **James Jones, Jr.**, Columbus, GA (G/54-56); **Everett Keller, Jr.**, Longview, TX (G/51-53); **Bill E. Kilgore**, Harrison, TN (598/51-54); **Robert W. Klause**, El Paso, TX (UNK); **Gerald R. Kopacek**, Wilmar, MN (598/51-53); **Arthur Kownslar**, (Bastrop, TX (598/51-53);

John R. Krause, Weslaco, TX (H&H/53-54); **Oland Kruckenberg**, Hazen, ND (SPT/53-55); **James R. Kukkahn**, Safety Harbor, FL (G/55-56); **LTC (R) Henry P. Kutchinski**, Mission, TX (C/52-53); **Paul M. Lane**, Oklahoma City, OK (598/51-53); **Ray F. Leutz**, Saint Helen, MI (598/51-53); **Glenn A. Leisman**, McAllen, TXF/51-53); **Carol D. Loveday**, Knoxville, TN (598/51-53); **Anthony Loverchio**, Ocala, FL (51-54); **Landon Loving**, Glen Jean, WV (G/55-56); **Thomas Maho**, New Orleans, LA (L/53-55); **Carl B. Manning**, Pasadena, TX (G/51-53); **Danny McDonald**, Southbridge, MA (D/51-53); **Joseph R. Naggy**, Latrobe, PA (598/51-53); **Edward V. Nakashian**, Bergenfield, NJ (L/51-53); **Earl M. Myers**, Hagerstown, MD (D/44-46); **Manuel L. Newman**, Watkinsville, GA (598/51-53); **J. L. (Pete) Overton**, Charlotte, NC (51-54); **Cary G. Peel**, Ruston, LA (D/53-56); **James W. Perschka**, Milton, FL (UNK); **Joseph A. Rastelli**, Deepwater, NJ (HQ2/51-54); **James P. Reeves**, Eagleville, TN (SVC/51-53); **H. Edwards Roberts**, Vancouver, WA (598/51-53); **Owen T. Rudd**, Madisonville, KY (51-53); **Ben Salvon**, Santa Rosa, CA (B/55-56); **James Sarago**, Clarksville, TN (E/54-56); **Bobby G. Sewell**, Winchester, TN (598/51-53); **Thomas W. Shank**, Canton, OH (598/51-53); **Edwin Speyerer**, Tampa, FL (F/51-52); **James D. Stanton**, Buffalo, TX (SVC/51-53); **Moses Starr**, Weathersford, OK (598/51-53); **Clifford B. Stricker**, Spotsylvania, VA (G/55-56); **James Trado**, Jacksonville, FL (51-54); **Giles Trull**, Plant City, FL (G/55-56); **Alfred (Sandy) F. Waligura**, Wharton, TX (UNK); **George Wallace**, Anapolis, MD (F/51-54); **Allen D. Watson**, Eufaula, OK (SVC/55-56); **Robert H. Watson**, Worthington, KY (H&H/51-53); **Herbert W. Weisbach**, Phenix City, AL (C/51-54) and **Tom Welch**, Longview, TX (SVC/51-54).

Chairman's Message



In my last message I outlined some goals for the coming year. In just a few short months I am pleased to announce that our Chapter has reached a plateau of membership that no other veteran's chapter except Fayetteville has reached. We have met the goal of

405 members and then some. As of 30 March we stand at 202 Life Members and 211 Annual Members. In addition, we have 60 Affiliate Members. We have surpassed the required number of new members to have earned the coveted 82d Airborne Division Association Membership Excellence Plaque.

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My hat goes off to Rodger Jacobson for his untiring efforts in finding our "lost" troopers and to those of you who furnished leads to enable him to do so.

In addition, my heartfelt thanks to the many members who switched from Annual Membership to AAM (Life) Membership this year. You have made my job so much easier!

Chapter Boosters - 2002



320th Airborne Field Artillery Association;
James Adams (598/54-56); Jean D.
Ashcraft (HQ3/55-56); Bobby R.
Blankenship (B/51-53); Joseph B. Catey
(A1/66-68); Robert E. Chisolm (MP/54-
56); Jerry R. Curren (M/51); Tom Daley
(L/51-52); Jack K. Damron (HQ1/54-57);
LTC (R) James K. Damron; Marvin
Darby (L/51-54); Joseph L. Davis (B/51-
56); John T. Diffin (B/51-53); Garland F.
Drewry (A/44-45); Augustine E.
Fernandez (L/51-54); Bill Fernandez
(SPT/54-56); Samuel D. Gillispie (L/54-
56); CSM (R) Hal S. Gladson (A1/64-66);
Milan Glumac (E/55-56); Kenneth L.
Glynn (L/51-54); Richard S. Gohl, (C/54-

55); Jerry T. Grubbs (A/51-54); Frank Haddy (D/43-
46); Douglas T. Hague, (E/51-54); Kenneth M. Hamill
(E/55-56); David P. Hathaway (D/51-53); Bobbie R.
Henson, (E/51-53); Armando C. Juarez (I/51-54);
Leamon Kendrick (H&H/55-56); CSM (R) Arthur
Kilgore (SVC/51-53); Billy D. Kitchen (M/51-53); Leno
Larez (C/42-44); Joseph R. Leger (H&H/51-54); Joseph
Lesniak (C/51-52); William N. Luck (SVC/51-52); MG
(R) Thomas P. Lynch (H&H/51-52); Sabas Martinez
(SVC/51-53; William J. Mehling (HQ2/51-52); George
W. McClain (SVC/51-53); Rev. Philip G. McConville
H&H/51-53); Henrik M. Moe (C/54); Robert T. Murray
(B/51-53); Henry Perkins (I/54-56); Warren J. Porter
(A1/91-92); Joseph T. Prestigiacomo (HQ2/43-45);
George Quinlan (59-60); Leo R. Quinn (L/51-54); A. B.
(Bill) Raiford (G/45-56); MSG (R) Raul M. Ramos (C/51-
53); Kenneth G. Rilea (G/51-54); Ramario (Tony) Robles
(HQ320/55-56); Harry A. Roll (H/44-46); Robert
Rydbeck (C/55-56); Theodore Schonhans (519/51-54);
CSM (R) George Sekerak (E/51-56); Elwood W. Selover
(HQ2/53-55); Roy Shaw (HQ2/51-53); Frank P. Sicari
(H&H/55-56); LTC (R) Gordon K. Smith (HQ1/54-55);
Dale Stang (L51/53); George I. Stoeckert (42-46);
Joseph A. Turley (A1/90-91); Bruce M. Tyler (A320/55-
56); Robert G. Thompson (HQ3/46); Jerry R. Umlor
(B/52-54); Walter VanCoppennolle (HQ1/51-53); Charles
J. Viviano (K/51-52); Edward R. Wapen, Sr. (C/45-46);

Jack F. Wheeler (HQ@/51-55); Charles C. Williams
(MED/51-53); Gerald J. Wich (C/51-52); Edward W.
Williams (K/51-53) and Robert W. Wright (598/55-56).

Ed's Note: My apologies go out to **Bobbie Henson** (E/51-53) who has for so many years supported the Chapter with donations of the pins we carry in our Quartermaster Sales inventory and also to **Jack Wheeler** (HQ2/51-55) who, for the second year in a row, I neglected to list in the Chapter Booster column in a timely manner. I'll get it right, Jack - third times a charm!

Chapter Notes

Did you know:

1. We have 2232 names entered into our active Chapter data base.
2. We have 527 names entered into our deceased data base.
3. Of the 2232 names in the active data base, 84 are from the WWII era, 1933 from the ARCT era (51-57); 147 are from the 60's to present and 68 have no specified date. **Now you can see why one of our goals for the next two years is to recruit and retain our younger Red Devils!**
4. One hundred and fifty chapter members are on the Internet. One hundred and twenty four elect to receive their newsletter electronically saving the chapter an estimated \$669.60 annually.
5. It is expected that the USPS will raise first class postage from 34¢ to 37¢ effective 30 June 2002. It is estimated that this raise will cost your chapter an additional \$60.00 this year and double that next year.. This does not count mailing of Quartermaster items.

News From National



Veterans Service Office Reports

1. All VA benefits are exempt from taxation. This includes the VA Work Study Program. Monies paid to participants in the Work Study Program are VA educational assistance benefits. VA does not issue W-2 or 1099 forms except that amounts of overpayments that are waived is taxable income and are reported as such to the INS.
- Continued on page 4.

Secondary interest on VA benefits may be taxable. For example, if a veteran deposits his or her compensation check in an interest bearing account, the interest is not tax exempt. Military retired pay veterans in receipt of military retired pay who are awarded VA compensation benefits retroactively may claim exclusion on their income in the amount of the VA compensation they have received had they not been in receipt of military retired pay. Affected veterans should claim the exclusion by submitting the award letter showing the amount and effective date of compensation they would have received but for the receipt of military retired pay. IRS instructions tell affected veterans to submit a "VA Form 20-8993. This form is the award letter. Verification of Total Disability Claimants of the IRS Disability Income Exclusion are required to submit a certificate attesting to permanent and total disability. Under an agreement with the IRS, IRS will accept a VA certification on VA Form 21-0172, Certification of Permanent and Total Disability, based solely on an existing rating of permanent and total disability in place of the required private physicians's statement. Veterans with total disability ratings may request the VA Form 21-0172 by calling or writing the Regional Office.

2. TRICARE has reduced its fiscal year "catastrophic cap" from \$7,500 to \$3,000 for service retirees, their family members and survivors. The cap is the maximum out-of-pocket costs these beneficiaries are required to pay for medical care during year (October 1 through September 30). The catastrophic cap reduction is retroactive to October 1, 2000. Retirees, their family members and survivors who have paid over \$3,000 are eligible for reimbursement. For additional information beneficiaries are encouraged to contact their nearest TRICARE Service Center for assistance.

Wear Of The Maroon Beret

The following is an extract from AR 670-1, on the beret, if members are to wear them, do so in the right manner. "The headband (edge binding) is worn straight across the forehead, 1 inch above the eyebrow with the top of the beret draped over the right ear with the stiffener positioned over the left eye. The ends of the adjusting ribbon will be cut off and the ribbon knot secured inside the edge binding

at the back of the beret. Berets will only be worn with service uniforms and with utility uniforms in a garrison environment. Personnel who wear organizational berets may wear bloused trousers or slacks with black combat boots.

New Chapter Members



Your Chapter is pleased to announce the addition of seven new All American Members (Life), thirteen Annual Members and two Affiliate Members.

All American Members (AAM - Life)

Franklin Burns (SVC/51-53); **Roger A. Frank** (K/55-56); **Mike Granus** (B/55-56); **SSG (R) Richard F. Grasso** E/55-56); **Charles F. McGuigan** (C/53-56); **Nicolas Villa, Jr.** (B3/66-68) and **Chuck Weiss** (G/55-56).

Annual Members For 2002

Hedrick C. Bryan (SVC/51-53); **Henry L. Cappelli** (598/ 51-53); **Roy H. Clarke** (B/51-53); **William R. Doughty, Jr.** (HQ1/46); **Robert W. Gee** (SPT/53-56); **Robert E. Gonia** (B/52-53); **M. Ray Harrison** (HQ3/51-53); **William C. Pranke** (598/51-53); **Curtis Richter** (B1/81-84); **Edwin M. Speyerer** **William F. Stevens, Jr.** MED/52-53); **William (Bill) Voss** (B/54-55); and **Allen D. Watson** (SVC/55-56).

Affiliate Members For 2002

John F. Gajderowicz (E/51-52) and **Thomas H. Peeler** (SVC/54-56).

Taps



James H. Convy (HQ3/44-45) of North Valley Stream LI, NY passed away on March 9, 2002. He is survived by his wife Helen M., two daughters, Eileen and Sharon, two sons, Jerry and Joseph and one grandson, Stephen Continued on page 5.

Joseph M. Finch, Jr. (SPT/54-56), East Helena, MT. No details available.

Ray D. Slonaker (B/54-56). Passed away in Dec. 2001. No further information is available.

Military News

17-Year Olds/Combat Zones

Service members age 17 no longer will be deployed to combat zones as a result of an international treaty that took effect in February. Although the so-called Child Soldier Treaty has not been ratified by the Senate, the Defense Department has been making minor changes in recruiting and deployment policies since the treaty was signed by the United States in May 2000.

Army's Third Stop-Loss

Army officials issued the service's third and by far largest stop-loss increment, adding 10,746 active duty Army, Reserve and National Guard soldiers to the 1,805 soldiers already retained. Soldiers affected by the order cannot retire voluntarily or leave the Army until further notice, even though the person's regular date of retirement, separation or release from active duty may be imminent. The number of soldiers in all three branches now affected by the "can't quit now" policy is 12,551.

New ID Card

A team of contractors will travel worldwide to kick off the issuance of the DOD's new ID cards. About 25,110 soldiers and Army civilians already have received the credit-card size, multiple-functional Common Access Card (CAC). With an embedded computer chip. By May 2003, about 1.4 million cards are scheduled to be issued to Army personnel. The CAC has a magnetic stripe, two bar codes and an integrated circuit chip. The magnetic strip will be used to gain access to controlled areas. The bar codes and computer chip will be used to store identification, demographic and benefits information. The computer chip will also store the class 3 Public Key Infrastructure certificates that allow cardholders to digitally sign documents such as e-mail, encrypt information and establish secure Internet sessions.

Membership Letters

Bill Moran (I/45-46) writes: Dear Mr. Damron, Enclosed is check to renew for 2002. Sorry I'm late.

In the "Wanted pages of the Sept - Dec. 2001 edition of the newsletter I am listed - but what does unit mean?

I can recall the street, the building, Company Hqs, Bn Hqs, the chow hall, the front and back gates, my 1st Sgt (Lamb), many buddies and most of the check points we guarded in Frankfort A/M. I remember being in I Company (Item?) But don't recall the Battalion? Strange how memory sometimes skips a beat.

By the way, did you know they never told us that the Regiment was going to be deactivated - they told us we were returning to the Mother Division, the 82d, at Bragg as a complete and regular regiment. The first group (ours) shipped out from Bremerhaven. We arrived at Camp Kilmer, NJ via New York and at that time they told us the Regiment deactivated and we would be shipped to Ft. Bragg as replacements to the other regiments.

This was devastating, heartbreaking and bitter news. The Constabulary was just being formed in Germany as Occupation Forces. They needed men, experienced soldiers. There were none. Everyone had gone home and the 508th was the only combat team left in Europe where they were employed as Ike's Honor Guard. The Constabulary came over and tried to get our men to transfer to their outfit. They promised rank advancement, the moon and everything else. Many troopers had wives, friends and also good duty and refused transfers primarily because they were loyal to the Regiment and were told the Regiment would remain a unit. Enough said!! You could imagine how we felt.

I was to be discharged, I've always wondered if the Regiment knew the truth in time to decide what they wanted to do.

Best Regards, Bill

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Ed's Note: Bill our records show you were a member of I Company, 3rd Battalion of the 508th PIR. In the phonetic alphabet "I" stood for "Item" and was later changed to "India" as the alphabet was changed in the 50's to make it easier for our allies to pronounce certain words.

Judge Douglas T Hague (E/51-54) writes: Jack, I just spoke to Rodger Jacobson and he said to send membership dues to you. I enclose a little bit extra to pay up for my past unpaid dues.

Rodger heard a rumor that our Colonel Mansfield died, do you know whether this is so? Best regards, Doug.

Ed's Note: An inquiry has been made and we received the following message from COL Mansfield's wife Doris. "Herb is doing fine and he said to tell you that he was glad to be able to rescind any rumors that you have heard. He celebrated his 85 birthday last October and is doing really fine. Thanks for your concern."

Bob Norman (HQ1/51-54) writes: Hi Bob, I just returned from a trip to Belgium and Holland.

We spent two or three days doing "Military Travel." One of the last visits were to the military cemetery in Margraten, Holland and the Nijmegen Airborne Museum. We arrived at the museum 15 minutes before closing. We were told we only had a few minutes to look around. We had traveled most of the day to get there. A lady administrator (Jeanne Melchers) offered to let us stay while she had to catch up on some of her work. She proceeded to practically give us a guided tour of this wonderful museum. After spending an hour and a half in the museum, she offered to take us to the railroad station but not without important stops (relating to the 508th) on the way. The museum is a great tribute to all airborne in the Operation Market Garden where the 508th played an important role. Could you give it a plug in your newsletter. They do a great job in dedicating this museum to all the men who paid the ultimate price. Nijmegen is a great city to explore when on a trip to Holland.

The pictures enclosed are from Margraten and the airborne memorials around Nijmegen.

Take it easy, Bob

Ed's note: Bob, sorry for the delay in getting this in the newsletter.



508th Memorial Near Nijmegen



508th DZ/Operation Market Garden

The following is an email message from **Ray Burbank** (H&H/54-56) to **Jerry Cameron** (K/55-56). Jerry!!! It's so good to hear from comrades of the "golden" days. So many of the soul-mates I had between March 1954 (when I joined the 508th) and August 1956 (when we changed patches and became the 506th Abn Battle Gp) are no longer with us. That's one of the downsides of being a "senior" citizen (+65). The upside is being able to recall so many things in cyber conversation. For instance: I can remember the time we had to go to either Hop-town or Nashville to get a decent drink. C'ville/Mont Co. was still "dry" when I left Ft. Campbell in January 1959 (never to return until 1971). I recall getting bootleg half pints from local cab drivers for \$2.00. By the way, New Providence was annexed by Clarksville with the current northern city limits extending to the state line between Gates 2 & 3 at Ft. Campbell. Continued on page 7.

Clarksville is now the 5th largest city in Tennessee. The “Ryman” still stands as a historical landmark in Nashville, but the Grand Ole Opry is no longer there (moved to the Opry Land Complex in the early 1970's). I met a young girl at Eva Thompson's Dance Studio located on Church St. between 2nd and 3rd Aves. (A block away from the Ryman on 4th) in April 1955, married her in June 1955 and –sadly–buried her here in Clarksville in December 1998.

...Dunbar Cave was owned by Roy Acuff back in the 1950's and he used to have shows there on Friday and Saturday nights. Sometime in the 1960's he either gave or sold the entire complex to the State and they made it a State Park/Recreational Area co-located with Swan Lake Golf Course with tours and the like on a continuing basis. If we met at all, Jerry, it would have been Beppu/Camp Chick. I was assigned to Hq & Hq Co in 1954 and was COL Glenn McGowan's (Regt. CO) driver until I screwed up just before going to Japan (that's another story for another time). I spent my time in Japan as your next door neighbor in Co E, 2nd Bn. Did you know that LTC Patterson was the Regimental Adjutant in July 1954 as a Major? I still have copies of orders to prove that!!

Although I spent 3 tours in Vietnam, I was not in the 101st. First time (1963) was a classified mission with the Combine Studies Program; 2nd tour with 5th Special Forces (1966-67); last was with MACV (Phoenix Program) in 1969-70. I also spent 3 months in the Dominican Republic with 7th Special Forces during the revolution in 1965.

Memories of Beppu include the Bn PT runs in, around, and thru the city and Camp Chick itself, the tactical marches up to Jimangi thru good old smelly “Sulphur City”, the tactical jumps and maneuvers on Mori, dodging “honey buckets” in the dark and laughing at the dues with hangovers that didn't dodge successfully, the hot baths in downtown Beppu, the difference in taste and effect between Toris and Sun Toris whiskey, the big lock-down on May Day and celebration shortly thereafter. With a hundred photos as backup, I could go on for some time—but not now—maybe next time.

The very best to you Jerry. Your triple-dipping comrade (Army-State-Soc Sec). Ray

Dothan Eagle Sunday, 3 February 2001

Paratroopers Hold Reunion

Laughing and joking about their military adventures and mis-adventures, six former Army paratroopers gathered in Taylor Sunday for their first reunion in 47 years.

John Rio, James Kuckkahn, James Jones, Donald Huff, Giles Trull and Augustine Leo met at Rio's residence to reminisce about their time together in Japan as members of the Army's 508th Airborne in 1955 to 1956.

Rio. A retired Fort Rucker helicopter flight instructor said he decided to organize the reunion after getting a newsletter from the 508th Airborne Chapter. After doing some searching on the Internet, Rio found the names and phone numbers of some of his old friends and invited them down for a visit.

At the reunion, the six soldiers talked about their lives and duties at their base in Beppu, on the island of Kyushu, Japan. More often than not, the conversation turned to trouble they frequently got into.

“We talked about everything we did when we were back in Japan,” Rio said. “All the troubles we got into—we were all 18 or 19 back then—privates, not the sharpest soldiers.”

Rio spoke of the time he and Trull went AWOL. It was on this jaunt that Trull met Rio's aunt, who he later married.

Kuckkahn told stories about soldiers sneaking off base and plotting to avoid military police. “You could sign up for a pass to go downtown legally, but that was no fun” he said.

The soldiers also spoke of the time when the company scapegoat, an enlisted man named Prigden who saved the life of another paratrooper. During a jump another soldier's parachute deployed but failed to open.

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The parachute hit Prigden in the face and he wrapped it around his waist, saving the soldier from falling to his death.

Prigden won a medal for his action.

Before that day, Prigden had been notorious for his bad habits. He was so messy he was forced to share a tent with the company mascot, a goat. He was also known for his rowdy behavior.

“He was going to throw me off one of the building in Japan”, Jones said.

Rio said “I don’t know how he lived so long?”

The soldier’s wives sat and listened to their husbands stories, amused by the tales of their husbands antics.

“It’s been going on like this all day” said Sharon Kuckkahn. “Japan was never the same after they left.”

Trulll agreed. If we had made it to Korea, China would be gone,” he said.

Rio said he and his companions enjoyed the reunion and hoped to have another one with even more members of their former company.

A short note from **CSM (R) Warren (Ike) Eichelberger** (MED/55-56) with pictures showing his 70th birthday celebration.



(L - R) WO-3 Jim Powley and Ike



Ike on the move! Airborne all the way!

Sick Call

We recently received word that **Charles R. McGurk** (MED/55-56) is experiencing health problems. Friends of Trooper McGurk can send him cards or letters to 2882 Tuckahoe Rd., Camden, NJ 01804-2861. Let’s let our Airborne Brother know we care! We’re all pulling for your speedy recovery Charles.

Chapter Officers’

Chairman

Secretary /Treasurer

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Vice Chairman

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Quartermaster

Kenneth L. Glynn, Jr.
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Lakeland, FL 33801
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Attention Red Devils: We need more stories and letters. We are running out of materiel for the newsletter!

Quartermaster Sales Form ----- (Members Only)

Complete this form and mail your check payable to Creative Graphics along with your name and address to: **Creative Graphics, ATTN: Ken Glynn, 1228 Lime St., Lakeland, FL 33801-5754** #Please include shipping and handling charges in the amount column to the right of each item ordered.

ITEM/DESCRIPTION	QTY	SIZE (Circle)	COST	#SHIPPING/HANDLING	#AMOUNT
Hat, White, Maroon Bill, Chap Logo Embroidered		One Size Fits All	\$14.50	\$1.50 Each	
Hat, White, Maroon Bill, Chap Logo Screened		One Size Fits All	\$12.00	\$1.50 Each	
Sweatshirt, Grey, Chapter Logo Screened		M L XL *XXL *XXXL	\$22.00	\$3.50 + \$2 Each Additional	
Shirt, T, White, Chapter Logo Screened		M L XL *XXL *XXXL	\$12.00	\$2.00 Each	
Shirt, T, White, Web Site Logo Screened		M L XL *XXL *XXXL	\$12.00	\$2.00 Each	
Shirt, Polo, Abn Maroon, Chap Logo Embroidered		M L XL *XXL *XXXL	\$22.00	\$3.50 + \$1 Each Additional	
Pad, Mouse, Chapter Logo Screened			\$7.50	\$2.00 Each	
Pad, Mouse, Regimental Logo Screened			\$7.50	\$2.00 Each	
Patch, 508 th Abn Chapter (See 1, Below)			\$5.50	\$1.00 (3/\$1.50)	
Patch 508 th ARCT (See 1, Below)			\$5.50	\$1.00 (3/\$1.50)	
Patch, Para Red Devil (See 1, Below)			\$5.50	\$1.00 (3/\$1.50)	
Patch, 320 th Abn FA Bn			\$5.50	\$1.00 (3/\$1.50)	
Pin, 508 th ARCT			\$3.00	No Charge	
Pin, Para Red Devil			\$3.00	No Charge	
Wrap, Can Cooler w/Chapter Logo Screened			\$3.00	\$1.00 Each	
Wrap, Can Cooler w/Regimental. Logo Screened			\$3.00	\$1.00 Each	

TOTAL \$ _____

*** Add an additional \$2 for each X above XL (XXXL size is special order) 1. All patches can be purchased for 3 for \$15.00 - S&H is \$1.50.**
PLEASE ALLOW 2 - 4 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (PLEASE PRINT)

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

All American (Life)
 Renewal
 New Member
 Reinstatement

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. _____ Year _____ to Mo. _____ 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 _____

If this is your initial application for membership, please attach proof of airborne/508th status, i.e., DD214, orders, etc.

MAIL TO: Chairman, 508th Airborne Chapter, 26164 Waterfowl Ln., Punta Gorda, FL 33983-6231

LIFE MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION. You can become and All American Member (Life) if you meeting one of the following criteria: 1) 25* years continuous Association membership - \$60; 2) On active duty with the 82d Abn Div - \$82; 3) *20 years continuous Association membership - \$90; 4) 50 years of age or older - \$100; 5) 49 years of age or younger - \$150.

* Must be verified by the Executive Director, 82d Airborne Division Association.

As an AAM you will receive a permanent plastic membership card and a certificate suitable for framing.

The following appeared on the bottom half of the March - April 2002 Newsletter address page

Proud Plate



Frank Mahmet (E/54-56), N. Olmstead, OH

Moving? Let Us Know!

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