Hi, y'all and I hope this finds all of you in good spirits and good health.

I recently had a letter from Jim Wittermyer who edits a Newsletter called "Fire in the Hole" for the 139 A/B Engr. Bn. In it he said, "There are two main problems in such an undertaking: 1- getting response from the guys, so that you have current news to pass along and 2- finance. We have chosen to ask for donations and that has worked much beyond my expectations. If I could just find the key to motivate them to send in their stories, and news items, I would call it a big success. They are a wonderful bunch of men; tell them you need money, and it pours in, but they just do not like to write letters."

This has been my experience also. It may not move you to take pen or pencil in hand but a letter or postal card from you about anything at all would be welcomed by all your fellow 596ers and especially by this Editor.

Help!
A little girl ran into the classroom and announced:
"Teacher, two boys are fighting out on the playground and I think the one on the bottom would like to see you."

Both optimists and pessimists contribute to our society. The optimist invents the airplane and the pessimist the parachute.

--Gil Kave, Chicago Tribune

517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team Association

Honorary President
Col. Rupert D. Crowe (Ret)

President
Dr. Charles E. Pugh

Vice-President
Frank Grimbish

Sergeant/News/Editor
Bill Leonard

Robert Edmond
Cameron Gauthier
Clinton (Tex) Lux
Henry (Barky) Simpunk
Dick Spencer
Joe A. C. Williams
The San Mateo Reunion was outstanding. The overall attendance was about 480 with 270 of them being troopers. As usual the 596ers turned out in force. There were 36 of us there—66 including wives and children. This was enough to once again win the attendance award.

We had a large and well appointed Hospitality Suite with revolving volunteer bartenders, headed up by Ed Phillips, who provided ample Attitude Adjustment libations. We visited, hugged, laughed. A few tears were shed, a few tears of joy, a retold oft told war stories, embellished a few war stories, invented a few war stories, suppressed a lot of war stories, had sing-songs, looked at old photographs, took new photographs, and just generally enjoyed being with one another for three days.

At a time in life when our mind makes appointments that our body can’t keep, it is a great pleasure to reminisce about our experiences during those extraordinary 1943-45 years with the wonderful friends who shared those same and similar experiences. Is that living in the past? Perhaps so, but it is great fun to do it and at our time in life we have a lot more past to think and talk about than future.

Allan Goodman was recognized for his service as our first elected (CEP) President and Don Saunders was elected to that position for the next two years. Earl Dillard was elected Junior Engineering Officer (JEO) and I am allowed to continue as Editor of our 596 Newsletter.

The next reunion will be in San Antonio, Texas on 25,26,27 June, 1985. Don’t miss it! We will have longneck beer, world class chili, Tex-Mex food, the Alamo, s—kicker dancing, Mariachi music, revanguard priced boots, the River Walk, real cowboys, Saturday night cowboys and three languages and cultures, American, Texican, and Mexican.

We had several first timers, new faces at this reunion that was celebrating the 40th year since we first met at Camp Toccoa and Camp Mackall: Joe Herrera, Taylor Myers, Mike and Violet Kovach and daughter, John (Red) Guthrie, Ned and Maybelle Hosterman, Jim Nolan, Harold and Jeanne Roberts, Allan and Betty Ward.

Also present were Al and Alcie Goodman, Joe Senter, George Mitchell, Gene and Mary Jo Hymans, Wes and Gladys Williams, Lyle and Mary Ann Madison, Brooks Moses, Ed Phillips, Bob and Garnet Dalrymple, Earl and Edith Dillard, George and Winston Shull, Gene and Elaine Markle, Alton Wayne Barrett and daughter Cindy, Bernie and Thelma Barnes, Barney and Zella Freiberg, Hal and Polly Eddy, Charley and Ann Pugh, Dick and Florianne Bartholomew, Manuel and LaVerne Ventoza, Michael and Catherine Balino, Bill and Gloria Hudson, Russ and Marcy Pearson, David and Olga Pierce, Herb and Marle Reichwald, Don and Marian Saunders, Henry and Marian Simpson, Bob and Betty Wilkerson, Pete and Rose Zubricky.

With the staunch support of my 596 friends, I was elected President of the 517 Para, Combat Team Assoc. for 1983-85. Thanks for your help.

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Kay Phillips continues her recovery battle from the stroke she suffered in November of last year. I'm sure she would appreciate a card or note from her 596 family members.

Joe Miller is fully recovered from the eye surgery that prevented him and Mary from attending our reunion. The Millers and Congers are planning on making the southern France Tour next August.

Ray Hild had to have knee surgery last July and that kept him and Mary from the reunion.

Jack (Red) Guthrie has been involved in the construction of a 500 KV electrical transmission tower in the Virginia mountains. It is scheduled to be completed this month. Red was at the reunion and looks GREAT! He is Division Construction Supervisor for Virginia Electric and Power Co. in Charlottesville, VA.

Tom and Mary Small are back in the U.S.A. (Hickory, NC) for a year and then back to Zambia for their last tour before retirement. They have been doing a wonderful work in Africa for the past 30 years. Mary and Tom visited with us in September. Tom and I had an enjoyable game of golf and Mary and Ann enjoyed seeing the Faberge Collection at the Kimbell Museum. The Smalls both look great.

Warren Sandberg had planned on making the reunion but he had an acute flare up of an old back problem that prohibited any travel. The Sandbergs have 3 boys and 4 girls and the youngest graduated from high school last June. One son is a Staff Sergeant in the 82nd Division and has been a paratrooper for 10 years.

Brooks Moses wrote me shortly after his return home from the reunion to say what a great time he had getting together with all those old guys and that he was already thinking about the 1995 reunion in San Antonio. Nobody is more enthusiastic and gung ho about the 596 than Moses.

James Rogers married Carrie McQueen on 11 June in Denver, Co. The marriage ceremony was in a park under a parachute and with several Airborne men in attendance. A truly Airborne wedding. Carrie is a poet, writer, and artist. We all wish you both a long and happy life together.

Winston Shall wrote that he and George enjoyed the reunion and their visit in San Francisco afterward.

To Those Over Forty

As a man grows older, he reads more of the Book of Experience and less of the Book of Prophecy. He thinks more about the worth of folks and less about their collateral. He boasts less, brags more. He observes that snobbery is a confession of inferiority and kindly politeness the trade mark of the only ....man worth mentioning. He relishes an argument less and notes that streaks of criticism can be washed away with the sands of tolerance. He believes less and accomplishes more. And he comes to know that the best trophy any man can win is the love and understanding of those who need him.—Menasha Rotary Rays.

(continued)
Robert Dail has a construction firm in Virginia and does residential, commercial, and industrial building. He says he was the youngest 596er — born 8 November 1925. Any challengers?

Joe Senter is Operations Facilities Coordinator for Cartwright Engineering Corp in El Paso, TX, when he isn’t playing golf.

Roy & Naomi Herren have finished their new home in Ruskin, FL. It is a shorefront lot and a beautiful place.

Earl and Edith Dillard took a month off for the Reunion plus stops in Reno, Lake Tahoe, Yosemite, Las Vegas, Grand Canyon, and East Texas. They also visited with Alethea Flannery Baker, widow of Lt. Flannery and their daughter in Los Angeles. While there, someone stole all of Earl’s 596 photographs and memorabilia from his auto. They are planning on the Southern France Tour next August and are also planning to buy a home in East Texas to be nearer their children.

Jack and Jean Goudge and their family members are off on a 10 day Caribbean Cruise over the Christmas holidays and send their best wishes to all of you.

Jim Benson retired last April and he and Dot are seriously considering the France Tour.

Our people can’t wait to get together—the following men arrived in San Mateo anywhere from one to four days before the official reunion began:

- Goodman, Madison
- Simpson, Hymen
- Barnes, Pearson
- Dalrymple, Pierce
- Dillard, Shull
- Sanderson, Edy
- Phillips, and Pugh.

Pop Spencer had Special 596 Airborne socks knitted at his own expense for everyone at the reunion. I’m sure he would enjoy a Thank You note from those of us who are the proud owners of such unique footwarmers.

The Nominating Committee for new officers of the 596 to be voted upon in San Antonio in 1985 are: Bob Verdi, Brooks Moses, and Jim Eddy. Verdi says that anyone who wishes to be nominated for something should drop him a note—and don’t forget to enclose MONEY.

Dick Bartholomew is Manager of Operations at Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation in Henderson, Nevada.

Does anyone have a correct address for David Twight????

In November, Ray Sampson had surgery for torn ligaments in his left shoulder and the healing is progressing less rapidly than expected. I am sure Ray would appreciate a cheerful word or two from some of his buddies.

I have photos of everyone who was at the Reunion but I sent many of them to Don Lassen and he used quite a few of them in the December issue of “Static Line” and hasn’t returned the photos to me yet. I will have more reunion Photographs in the next Newsletter.
Quite a few of our people who were at the San Mateo Reunion made contributions to support the publication costs of this Newsletter. Things were so hectic that I didn’t write down the donors names but the list may very well include the entire group who attended (see list elsewhere). I thanked them then and I do so again here, along with the following persons who have made generous contributions since the last Newsletter.

Jack Guthrie (”I” Co.-517 and 596)  
Joe D. Miller  
Louis Gelen  
Ludlow Gibbons (517)  
Col. Rupert Graves (517)  
Joe A.C. Williams (517)  
Gene Markle  
Hal Reddy  
Robert Dalrymple  
Roy Herren  
Warren Sandberg  
Monk Johnson  
Brooks Moses  
Ray Hild  
Bob Wilson  
Harold Roberts  
Cameron Gauthier (460)  
Bernie Barnes  

My apologies to anyone I may have overlooked.

This is to start you thinking about the San Antonio Reunion on 26, 27, 28 June ’85

Words of Wisdom

The pill has taken a lot of the worry out of going to college.

Some military men of great insight and wisdom once said,” Men don’t take a hill for their country or for the Army. They take it for their unit and their buddies.”

My wife says it is more important that girls be pretty rather than smart because men can see better than they can think.
Reclining: Verdi

L to R 1st Row: Goodman, Williams, Hyman, Phillips, Dillard, Zubricky

2nd Row: Pugh, Markle, Dalrymple, Hosterman, Simpson, Ventozza, Eddy, Bulino

3rd Row: Moses, Barnes, Wilkerson, Saunders, Madison, Bartholomew, Roberts

4th Row: Shull, Pearson, Nolan, Ward, Pierce, Reichwald

5th Row: Hudson, Myers, Kovach, Freiberg

A.W.O.L.: Mitchell, Harrell, Senter, Herrera
San Mateo Reunion

Don Saunders and George Shull

Bob and Betty Wilson

Bob and Marie Verdi

Hosterman, Hyman, and Williams

A bunch of our guys were whooping it up....
Front L to R-Jackson, Momahan
Middle L to R-McCauley, Cullen
Back L to R-McBry, Willets

St. Pierre Cathedral--Auxerre, France--1944

Prior to WWII

After the German demolitionists struck
Movie Theatre #1--Camp Mackall, NC---1943

Moses found this relic of Jump School

John Holbrook

Sgt. Gibbons

Saunders & Milla

George Ayling

Bucky McCauley

Lavern Moore & John Moon

Manny Ventoza
Two weeks ago was my forty-fifth birthday. I got up that morning and was not feeling too well; I went into the breakfast room knowing my wife would be pleasant and say happy birthday and probably have a present for me. She didn’t even say “Good Morning” let alone happy birthday. I thought, well that’s a wife for you, the children will certainly remember. They came out to the breakfast table and did not say a word. I left for the office feeling pretty low and blue.

As I walked into my office, Janet said “Good Morning Paul and a very happy birthday to you”. I felt better, some one had remembered.

At noon, Janet knocked on my door and said “It’s a beautiful day, outside and it’s your birthday, let’s you and I go for lunch—just the two of us”. I said “By George, that’s the best thing that I’ve heard in a long time, let’s go”.

We went to lunch, to a place that we normally do go to, out of the country and very quiet and private. We had a martini or two, and a nice lunch. On the way back to the office, Janet said, “Gosh it’s such a lovely day, is there any reason why we should return to the office?” No, I replied, there is no reason at all, what do you think we should do?

Janet suggested “Let’s go to my apartment and I’ll fix you a special birthday martini”. We raced to her apartment singing “Airborne—All The Way”. We enjoyed two or three special martinis and cigarettes.

Then she said, “If you do not mind I would like to go to my bedroom and change into something more comfortable—something more loose”. “no, not at all, not at all”, I replied excitedly. She went into the bedroom and in three minutes she came out carrying a huge birthday cake followed by my wife and kids each carrying a present—all singing “Happy Birthday to youuu”. She was fully dressed and I’m sitting there with only a pair of jump boots on.
Wish I'd said that.

Man West: "When choosing between two evils, I always like to try the one I've never tried before."

G. J. Nathan: "I drink to make other people more interesting."

W. C. Fields: "We lived for days on nothing but food and water."

QUOTABLE QUOTE

What manner of men are those who wear the Maroon Beret? They are firstly all volunteers and are toughened by hard physical training. As a result, they have that infectious optimism and that offensive eagerness which comes from physical well being. They have jumped from the sky and by so doing have conquered fear. Their duty lies in the van of the battle. They are proud of this honor and have never failed in any task. They have the highest standards in all things whether it be skill in battle or smartness in execution of all peace time duties. They have shown themselves to be as tenacious in defense as they are courageous in the attack. They are in fact a breed apart......every man an Emperor. Of all the factors which make for success in battle, the Spirit of the Warrior is the most decisive. That spirit will be found in full measure in the Men who wear the Maroon Beret."

Field Marshall Montgomery

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I want to thank all of you for selecting me as your CBD (President) for the next two years. I will certainly do my best to serve you well. We still have several members of the 596th to locate and I hope each one of you who lives near one or more of them (See list below) will make a few telephone calls to people with the same surname in the former hometown of our unfound comrades. Between now and our 1965 Reunion we should be able to locate several more of our people with the interest and assistance of several of you.

I want to take this opportunity along with my wife Marian to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Hopefully we will all remain well and be able to greet the dawn of many more days to come.

Best Wishes,
Don Saunders, CBD

WANTED!

Martin J. Castello—Brooklyn, NY
John D. Cullen—Brooklyn, NY
Joe Diaz—St. Paul, MN—(Has unlisted phone) Will someone in Minnesota call their local operator and give her Diaz’s name and tell her that he has an unlisted number and there is a medical emergency. Ask her to relay this message to Joe and ask him to call you COLLECT and give her your name and number)
Claude K. Mills—Inez, KY
Richard W. Shaw—Bronx, NY
Edgar L. Murch—Bronx, NY
Elmer Soakway—Staten Island, NY
Robert T. Holligan—Bronx, NY
Kaura A. Johnson—Staten Island, NY
Arthur M. Kemp—Camden, NJ—(Has unlisted phone) Will someone nearby use the tried and true medical emergency play with Arthur?

Marion J. Kroll—Chicago, IL
Patrick A. Kelly—Brooklyn, NY
Gustav Larsson—Quincy, MA
Joseph C.H. Laliberte—New York, NY
George E. Misage—Brackenridge, MN
John J. Moon—Buffalo or Hamburg, NY
Laverne B. Moore—Auburn, NY
Donald P. O’Neil—Buffalo, NY
John J. Riccari, Yonkers, NY
Charles P. Roberts—Bryn Mawr, PA
William A. Rose—Syracuse, NY
Ray Cleverger—Kansas City, MO—(Has unlisted phone number) Will someone please try the medical emergency approach with Ray?

William F. Thompson—Syracuse, NY
Charles E. Swenson, Edmore, ND
William H. Morgan—Collington, LA
Some of you have never written me one word over the past few years. This discourages and frustrated your pyramid editor and takes some of the fun out of putting this Newsletter together. If this message is directed toward you, I hope you will make and keep a New Year’s Resolution to rectify this oversight.

Please. Thanks.

If you guys and gals will write a bit more often or even ONE TIME you won’t have to read so much poetry. While I wait for your cards and letters, here is a poem that I really like by William R. McLaughlin (187th) that I saw in the December issue of “Static Line”:

It is man’s nature wanting always to belong…to the very best, The Elite—where traits like loyalty and courage cannot—will not—accept defeat.

When ordered to perform an almost insurmountable task, does not question why, but plunges into the battle from an unforgiving sky.

Thus, it has been an Airborne duty—indeed, from the time that it began, to instill character and honor, and bring out the best in every man.

Often I reflect upon the names…of comrades, who wore the Paratrooper’s crest, and knew from the beginning that I was serving with the BEST.

VA BOOKLET
INDIANAPOLIS (ALNS) — The 1983 U.S. Government’s publication, “Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents,” is now off the press and available to the public.

The booklet contains a complete listing of all benefits available to veterans and their families or survivors. There are complete lists of all regional offices, medical centers, national cemeteries and vet centers throughout the nation. Also listed are alcohol and drug dependence treatment centers.

The booklet is issued annually and incorporates all of the changes enacted by Congress during the past year. It is one of the most popular of all booklets printed by the government.


Just prior to the Reunion, Ann and I had a wonderful visit with Bob and Garnet Dalymple at their summer place in the Big Sky Country of Montana. Bob tried unsuccessfully to teach me how to fly fish for trout in the Madison River but was it ever FUN!!! And Yellowstone National Park is spectacular. Bob did give me some lessons in drinking martinis and I caught on right away.

From high school boys, afflicted with spring fever, skipped morning classes. After lunch, they reported to the teacher that their car had had a flat tire. Much to their relief, she smiled and said: “Well, you missed a test this morning, so take seats apart from one another and get out your notebooks.”

Still smiling, she waited for them to settle down. Then she said, “First question: Which tire was flat?”

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SECOND
CHAMPAGNE CAMPAIGN

AUGUST 12-19, 1984
RESERVATION APPLICATION

barbara's travel place, inc.
240 W. 6th St. Suite #300
Fort Worth, TX 76102
817-335-6200

NAME(s)

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE # home _______ TWIN _______ SMKG _______ NONSMKG _______ business

EXTENSIONS: PARIS _______ ZURICH _______ HOME _______

Enclosed find $ _______ deposit for basic tour. Enclosed $ _______ deposit for extension.

If you have not received the brochure with the details about the upcoming Southern France Tour, please write or call me and I'll send you one.
In case you have lost or mislaid the brochure sent to you earlier, here is another reservation form. If you have any questions or wish to go earlier or stay on longer, please write or call Barbara Seaver.

The initial deposit is $100 per person. The response is very good so don't wait too long to indicate your intentions.

ISM'S

The following definitions of ISM's were provided by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and might be of interest to you:

Communism: You have two cows. The government takes both of them and gives you part of the milk.

Socialism: You have two cows. The government takes one of them and gives it to your neighbor.

Prestachury: You have two cows. The government takes back both of them, shoots one and milks the other, then pours the milk down the drain.

Capitalism: You have two cows. You sell one of them and buy a bull.

I can't identify this 996 trooper for certain, but he looks suspiciously like someone from our California contingent.

Greenwood and Pop Spencer hunting with one of Moses' Super-dogs.
The men of this Team fought whenever, wherever, and with whomever their lot was cast.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year

"Those who seek for much are left in want of much. Happy is he to whom God has given, with sparing hand, as much as is enough."

Horace