WINGS

596 PARACHUTE COMBAT ENGINEER COMPANY

Dec 1985
596 Parachute Combat Engineer Company

Chief Engineering Officer
Earl H. Billard

Jr. Engineering Officer
Manuel Ventosa

Past Chief Engineering Officer
Don Saunders

517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team Association

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The publication of this newsletter did not quite meet my self-imposed date of a Christmas delivery. It is in prayer, going to make the Holiday season which I understand extends to Epiphany (Jan. 6).

When asked by a friend why I agreed to be the editor of the 596th newsletter, I didn’t have an answer. However, upon reflection I think the reason is quite simple.

We met each other over forty years ago in Toccoa, Georgia. The Cadre had met for the first time a couple of weeks before. When we met the only common thread was the war. There was another reason for our meeting. That was the desire to become Paratroopers. Later the desire to become the finest Parachute Combat Engineer Company in the U.S. Army evolved. That goal was achieved.

Those are the things that make wonderful memories. Along with all of this developed a camaraderie. We must not ever lose that camaraderie.

That is the answer to the question. I hope I can help us retain the camaraderie we have regained through the work of Charlie Pugh. The war is over but our friendships should last forever.

I know we will continue in that direction with the leadership of our Chief Engineering Officer, Earl Dillard and Junior Engineering Officer Manuel Ventosa. We will give them all the cooperation necessary.

One more item: Besides the time it takes to publish this Newsletter, the two other ingredients are needed. They are money and news. Please keep your cards and letters coming, preferably letters because money can be put into the envelopes.

The losses of 248 men of the 101st Division in November brought out one of the problems of serving in the military during peacetime. The men are looked at by many people of this country as a part of the federal bureaucracy. The tragedy made us realize that we of the 596th Engineers have a stake in this. We all should be very proud of being part of the best troops in the U.S. Army. Whether it was forty years ago or today, when a difficult job had to be done, the Parachute troops were and are called. The 101st has a long history of distinguished service. Then when well trained, dependable troops were needed to keep the peace the para troopers from the 101st were called to do the difficult assignment. I’m sure the majority of the people in the U.S. did not realize we had troops in the Sinai. We, members of the 596th Engineers, part of the 517th R.C. T. should be proud that we were able to serve in the parachute troops of the U.S. Army.

Excerpts from Charlie’s Column in “The Static Line”

Many of you were disappointed in San Antonio when you learned that the ‘517 logo’ wrist watches. We only had thirty of them and they sold and were never ordered. Many of you probably never even saw one of them. These watches are attractive with a full color logo on the face and are quartz crystal accurat and run by battery. They cost $30 each and can be ordered by sending a check to Bill Lewis, 6600 Rosie Lane, Hudson FL 33567.

The Fiesta Brunch and Fashion Show for our ladies on Thursday was an excellent opportunity for our wives to get better acquainted with one another while being entertained by a Spanish Dance Group, a mariamba band, and male and female models from our own group, June Huffman, Ann Pugh, all the hostesses, all those who helped decorate the ballroom, and all the models deserve our thanks for carrying out this event that was very special and involved much hard work. There were a large number of valuable door prizes that added to the enjoyment of the occasion.

The riverboat dinner cruise on the San Antonio River was enjoyed by the 100 persons who registered for it early. Unfortunately, even two years ago, there were only 5 boats available to us. Many of our people attended the Mariachi Mass at the San Fernando Cathedral and reported that it was most unusual and an enjoyable new experience.

The bus tour of San Antonio with stops at the Alam, La Villita, Market Square and the Lone Star Brewery (yes, there were free samples) was a delightful afternoon excursion. The weather was pleasant for our entire stay.

LATE FLASH!! The title of our book will be "Paratroopers Odyssey" and the price is $24.95 postpaid. Order from Bill Lewis, 6600 Josie Lane, Hudson, FL 33567 and make check out to 517 PARC.

Here’s wishing all of you a happy and healthy New Year.
It has been my pleasure to edit and publish the "596 Newsletter" since 1977. At that time, we had located about 16 of our 596ers. Presently, we have 136 members on our mailing roster and have accounted for 194 of the men who served with our Company. In fact, only about 23 men remain unlocated. We have come a long way in locating our men and re-organizing our Company. Our group is widely recognized and admired, not only in our Combat Team but throughout the Airborne World, for our extraordinary cohesiveness and lively spirit. There has been a tendency for many of you to attribute too much of our success to my efforts. I have been a focal point and a catalyst but it has been the time, talent, effort and financial support of our entire membership that has enabled us to make the kind of progress we have enjoyed. Some have been able to do more than others but almost every member has played a part in our team effort. We were a superior, elite military unit in 1963-65 and we are just as superior and elite as civilians.

Ed Phillips has taken over our publication. He is capable, intelligent, witty, articulate, willing, and writes well. I urge you to write him about yourself presently or about your wartime experiences and memories, and send him photos, newspaper clippings, jokes, cartoons, etc. He will also need your financial support. The newsletter requires a lot of work by Ed, but it must have news material of some kind and money from you. Let's all try to make Ed's job easier.

Don Saunders

Hi Troopers,

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you who attended the reunion in San Antonio for the help you gave Marian and I to make our Hospitality Suite a success. As always, we had the best and most friendly group. I had several troopers from other companies thank me for the cordial welcome they received from the men of the 596th. I would like to thank Earl Dillard for helping me get set up and Ed Phillips for taking over the bartending duties. I would also like to congratulate Earl on being elected the 1985-87 CEO and Manny Ventosa on his JEO election. And a big thanks to Ed Phillips for taking over the newsletter from Charlie Pugh. I hope that all of you will take time to drop Ed a line and keep him up on what you are doing so he can put it in our "Newsletter".

As for Charlie Pugh and his wife Ann, what can anyone say. He did such a superb job as Pres. of the 517th FROT Assoc., wrote for the Staunton Hone and Ed Phillips our "Newsletter". He sure deserves the rest and some time to spend with Ann. If I know Charlie, he probably took over some other job with the community, church, or Dental Assoc. I think he is a workaholic.

Thanks again to all of you who made my two years as CEO of the 596th such an enjoyable time. I am already making plans for 1987 in Albany at the Turf Inn. I stopped there when I got back from San Antonio and it looks like a nice place for our next reunion.

Regards to all,

Don Saunders
Rear: Verdi, Markle, Guthrie, Botta, Mitchell, Senter, Zubricky, Phillips
Middle: Christian, Sears, Ward, Williamson, Simpson, Pugh, Herren, Goodman, Madison
Front: hose, Dalmynple, Hipley, Billard, Sanders, Wilkerson, Vantosa, Harrell, Eddy, Shull
Missing: Branley, Miller

James (Brooks) Moses
Ed Phillips
Louis J. Vose (66) - Gen. Dick Seitz (52) - Col. Bob Darymple (56)
Aime Teccard of San Antonio - Don Lasser, Editor of "The Static Line."

Left: Charlie Fugh introducing
Gov. Sanford

Below: Head table -
Gov. Terry Sanford,
Ann Fugh
Col. Rupert Graves
Elette Cross
Models at the fashion show and brunch at reunion in San Antonio: Bob Salymple, Bob Verdi, Sophia Christian, Judy Koman and Gene Markle.

Verdi, Senter, Mitchell, Christian in Mexico - June 1985

Al & Alice Goodman and their Mobile Home
Hi Edwad:

Received your letter, we sure can never repay Charlie Fugh for all his expense, time etc he has showered us with. I thank him.

As for me, I retired Sept. 30th guess that is what it is called, seems more time and energy expended now compared to working full time. Am lucky to enjoy good health, hope to be able to attend the Albany, N.Y. reunion.

Good Health to All.

Bob Wilson

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Wishing you and the wife a very good coming year. My wife Violet had a stroke last year November. Recovery is slow but she’s making progress. The stroke knocked out her right leg. It was a rare one, a blood clot in the spine. Hope to see you in Albany Ed.

The best to you,
Mike and Violet Kovach

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Dear Ed:

Thanks for taking on the newsletter job. We’re in your debt. Gloria and I are sorry to have missed San Antonio due to need to care for family. Fortunately we’ve managed to make better arrangements, and hope to be freer. Gloria’s mother, who lives with us, will be 96 in November.

I was especially sad to hear of “Judge” Harrell’s accidental death. “Ah, not for whom the bell tolls—.” I recall that he had two close calls during the war. Once when he tried to tap into a power line at La Colle on the Riviera, and in Manhway where a shell landed between him and Bob Verdi and knocked us all down, but with no injuries. Such is the roulette wheel of life.

I’ll retire in 1987, after 35 years with the State of California. We thought of moving many places, but plan to stay here for some years, at least.

How is your family? Hoping all is going well.

With best regards
Bill Hudson

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Hello Kaye and Ed:

How are you both doing. We are fine and healthy. I received your note to get in touch. Only thing that happened was that we became grandparents again and she is doing fine. Here’s wishing you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Your buddy in Service,
Pete and Rose Zubrisky

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Dear Ed:

I know you asked for some correspondence before Thanksgiving, sorry I am late, but for two weeks I have been planning to go to Ft. Benning, 200 miles west of us, and thought I would get some pictures for the newsletter especially of Flying Farn Area. However, an unusual my plans continue to get snafued. Maybe next time.

Now that your fishing season is over for the year, my hunting season has just started. It is too hot to hunt yet we haven’t even had frost so far. We have something here called rattlesnakes that do not hibernate until cold weather. I almost stepped on one yesterday so I will postpone hunting again until after a freeze.

It was a good trip to San Antonio, I was glad to see all the crowd. I must say Charles Fugh organized one of (if not the) best programs I have ever seen.

My wife and I and our two boys and their families are in good health and doing fine, as far as I know.

Nothing very much ever happens in redneck country in southeast Georgia. We live a life that is dull and routine, and try not fuss and feud with our neighbors too much.

All the way,

Loves

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DARATROOPER
Dear Ed,

and, if you print this in the newsletter, greetings to all 596ers. I am sure sorry so many missed the reunion in San Antonio and Co. beat us out on attendance. Maybe in 1987 in Albany, we will have a lot of the fellows attend, especially from the northeast part of the country, who have not attended before. I don’t know just what my duties are as Chief Engineering Officer, but if they include promoting attendance at the next reunion, I am going to be in there pitching and I hope every member of our Company will help me. It has meant a lot to me the last three reunions to see again those fellows who shared a brief but so important part of our lives. I get cabin fever and occasionally need to go somewhere. We just returned yesterday from a ten-day trip to Hot Springs, Ark., Eureka Springs, Memphis, Vicksburg & Natchez, Miss. I didn’t get to see Bill Conger in Eureka Springs. He migrates to Arizona for the winters. I talked with him before I left home and he said he was leaving early and going by way of Australia and New Zealand. A trip to northern Arkansas this time of year is especially enjoyable. The foliage on those Ark. hills is fantastic.

Vidalia, La., is just across the river from Natchez. I wanted to visit Sgt. Morgan but couldn’t find him. I didn’t have an address or phone number and phone directory assistance was no help. Then, when I got home last night, I had a letter from Charles Pugh with an up-to-date roster of the 596th members.

I called Morgan tonight and his wife told me that Bill went to the hospital in Alexandria, La., yesterday for some tests and treatment so I gave him a buzz there. He seems to be getting along all right, just requires some treatment occasionally. He has a daughter in Atlanta, TX, about 30 miles from here. I haven’t heard from Ray Hill lately and think I will write him.

Regards,
Earl Dillard

Dear Ed,

Received your note—must say, I like your stationary, and also, I can’t think of a better person to do the 596 Newsletter.

This is Veterans’ Day and I am off! So why not drop Ed a note? Winston and I enjoyed San Antonio and seeing all the guys. We took the side trip to Mexico along with Bob Verdi, Gene Markle and Gene Mace of the 517th.

Am still working but looking forward to retirement in about 1 1/2 years. Having a great fall—been playing tennis about 3 times a week—doubles, that is. Took my bird dog out this morning—found one covey of quails—too hot for hunting, but the season starts in a couple of weeks.

We are doing okay. Got six grand-children so you see, the family keeps increasing.

We are looking forward to Albany and hope to see some of the guys that have been unable to make the last two meetings.

Best Regards to you & Ray,
George and Winston

Dear Ed,

It was great seeing you again in San Antonio, and I was pleased to hear that you will be taking over the job of Editor-in-Chief of the 596th Engineers newsletter. You have BIG boots to fill, in taking over Charlie’s job, so I knew you would welcome any help you could get. I realize this may not meet your deadline, but I still hope you will be able to get an edition out before Christmas.

Elaine and I have already started planning for the reunion in Albany. The good Lord willing, we’ll both be there. We enjoy them so much, and wish that more of the guys and their families that couldn’t make it for the past reunions will be able to make it in 1987.

Best Regards,
Gene Markle
While having coffee in Bean’s Restaurant of South Paris, Maine, a friend approached my table. He sat down and asked me what parachute outfit I had been in during WW II—Told him 596 Engineers, which is part of the 597th. He then told me he was with the 83rd Chemical Mortar Brn. Company D of the 83rd landed in gliders at LeMug at 0700 Aug. 15th and he was part of that group. Company D fired heavy concentrations on an enemy position in preparation of a 517th attack near Les Arcs—Possibly they were in our sector in the mountains—My friend’s name is Walter Thurlow.

Bob Dalrymple called the other day—reported that Garnet had a hip replaced in Nov. and is now home in Green Valley recuperating.

Al and Alice Goodman drove to San Antonio in their motor home—visited with Charlie and Ann Pugh after the reunion, then wandered through the Arkansas Ozarks before then headed home.

Received some more sad news—Theresa Phoebe’s, wife of Mason Phoebe, died Sept. 17, 1985, after a long bout with cancer.

Alice and Al Goodman and their Bakersfield friends, Dr. & Mrs. Maxwell vacationed in Italy, France, England and Scotland in October. They visited Freddy Scotto in Beaullieu-Sur-Mer at his hotel, Beau Site. Freddy was the big Frenchman with the full beard in San Antonio.

De Ole Friddy moved and we presently do not have a mailing address for him.

Glenn Spangler died in May, 1985 of a heart attack—he had planned to be in San Antonio.

Barney Freberg and Zella were unable to attend the reunion in San Antonio because Barney had a hip replaced and wasn’t able to navigate properly.

Wayne Harrell of Houston, TX, was accidentally killed in October when one of his loaded shotguns fell and discharged. He is survived by two daughters, Cindy and Susie, who are married and live in the Houston area. Many of our 596ers know the girls from our past reunions.

Hay Morgan has moved to Vidalia, LA. Dennis Shipley and Charlie Pugh visited him before he moved from Dallas.

Max Grona of Austin, Tx. died this year.

Don Saunders’ winter address is now:

Don also reports that Jim Kennelly called him from Washington last summer—Jim went through basic and maneuvers with us. He was in the hospital when we went overseas and never did rejoin us.

Dave Pierce now lives in Ohio. He and Olga are planning Albany in ‘87. His “retirement” includes lawn care of the condo they live in, drives a school bus, and Olga works 3 days a wk.

The Editor wishes to thank all who sent me news and Christmas cards. The Newsletter "WINGS" is my Thank You and Greetings.

Gene Hymans writes that he and his wife, Jo, were busy selling their home and moving to a condo this summer, therefore they missed San Antonio. However, Albany in ’87 is on their schedule.
Dear Ed,

Received your note and will get with it on my next trip up your way.

The San Antonio reunion was a great success and Mary Ann and I enjoyed it as we always do. I must say, Charlie didn’t have a dry eye in the place with his brief but overwhelming memorial service at the banquet. I have never experienced anything like it.

Mary Ann and I continued our vacation in Calif. after the reunion and, of course, got to see two of our sons.

Hope your wife is doing fine. See you soon. Mary Ann says Hi!

P. S. Ernie & Judy Kosan and Mary Ann and I went over to Ed “Dog” Jordan’s for a little reunion with some of the 517th & 460th men from the area in Sept.—Had a good time.

Best Regards,

Lyle Madison

Dear Ed,

Was sure proud to receive your letter and sure proud to hear that you plan to come by to see me in San.

I have heard from Chas. Pugh, Dillard & George Shipley. All are going fine. Hope they can come to see me, as the weather here has cleared.

I wrote Bernie Barnes, Corey F. Gibson, and George Sebring. Hope to hear from them soon.

Well, I’ll close for now. Write soon. Give our love and regards to family. Can’t wait to see you.

Your Trooper Friend,

Ray Morgan

Dear Ed,

Received your note and sorry it has taken so long to answer, but like you, I have been so busy fishing that there wasn’t time for even the “honey-do’s”.

Betty and I had a great time in Texas. Great seeing all the old friends again, plus the new ones who show for the first time. Don’t think the folks here at home will ever get over the fact that an ex-paratrooper was afraid to fly and so rode the train. On the other hand, Betty did fly (her very first flight) and enjoyed it very much. In fact, she is ready to board a plane for most anywhere.

Hope these pictures will serve the purpose for you. Good luck on the newsletter. Am looking forward to receiving your first one.

Would love to hear from you if you are in Norfolk this winter.

Happy Thanksgiving!!

Sincerely,

Betty and Bob Wilkerson

Judge Harrell & daughter Cindy and Joe Senter
Anderson, Robert E. (Avis)
Ayling, George (Eva)
Barnes, Bernard F. (Thelma)
Bartholomew, Richard B. (Florance)
Bean, Harold R. (Jean)
Bennett, Joseph W.
Benson, James (Dorothy)
Bogan, Robert S. (Anna)
Bonnerturn, Charles M. (Nova)
Botts, James R.
Braden, Richard L.
Buchanan, Robert (Auburn) (LaCie)
Bulino, Michael (Catherine)
Christian, Bill (Sophia)
Ciulla, Salvatore J. (Lodol)
Cochran, Bill E. (Beverly)
Conger, Bill Willard H. (Marge)
Cousineau, Charles E.
Dall, Robert L.
Palden, Robert W. (Garret)
Diamon, Dennis
Dillard, Earl (Edith)
Doane, William R.
Driscol, (Connie) Cornelius (Glendow)
Eddy, (Hal) Harold L. (Polly)
Eggleston, Robert F.
Erickson, Alfred E.
France, Ralph W. (Virginia)
Freiberg, Bernard S. (Ella)
Gaines, Glenn N. (Ruth)
Galen, Louis (Vera)
Gibbons, Coretta F. (Annie Loyd)
Gibson, Frank A. (Laura)
Glenn, Verlin F. (Eva)
Muckle, Gene (Elaine)
Meares, Wm E. (Le Rue)
Miller, Joe D. (Mary)
Miriamis, Nicholas G. (Irene)
Mitchell, George W. (Deen)
Morgan, Ray (Merry)
Moses, (Brooks) James M. (Mary)
Myers, Taylor L.
Narwood, Wayne B. (Alice)
Nasby, Richard L.
O’Toole, Francis J. (Peggy)
Pearson, Russell (Mary)
Phillips, Edward (Kay)
Proby, Mason Harold (Theresa)
Pierce, David (Olga)
Podorabosky, Vincent C. (Joan)
Poe, Raymond E. (Gloria)
Priddy, De Ole (Donna)
Pugh, Dr. Charles E. (Ann)
Randall, John L. (Alice)
Reichwald, Herbert A. (Marie)
Rigdon, Marvin A. (Nan)
Roberson, Paul (Judy Wilson)
Roberts, Harold A. (Jeanna)
Rogers, James M. (Carrie)
Sargent, Raymond R. (Ann)
Sanderberg, Warren E. (Melrose)
Sawyers, Don (Marian)
Sevelli, George
Schmeider, Melvin P.
Scheinberg, Al (Andris)
Schreiber, George (Speed)
Sealey, Merrill W. (Dorothy)
Senter, Joseph F.
Shipley, Dennis (Ina)
Sulli, George H. (Winston)
Simpson, (Harry) Henry S. (Marian)
Smull, Tom G. (Mary)
Smith, Donald K. (Kathleen)
Smith, Joe
Spencer, (Pop) Bernad E. (Mary)
Spencer, Lloyd H. (Harriet)
Starr, Art G. (Jean)
Sterling, Hugh D. (Marje)
Stevens, (Barny) Romo-
Stuckey, Eugene F.
Sumter, T.J. (Olts)
Szekacs, Elmer (Virginia)
Turner, Marshall H. (Devona)
Tutt, David
Ventosa, Manuel (LoWane)
Vesli, Bob (Marie)
Von, Art (Marian)
Walden, George T.
Walker, Leonard I.
Ward, Allan M. (Betty)
Whiteman, John M. (Marilyn)
Wilkerson, Robert C. (Betty)
Williams, Wesly G. (Gladys)
Williamson, George W. (Mary)
Wilson, Eugene L. (Lou Ellen)
Wilson, Robert (Ruth)
Winterling, William F. (Frances)
Wollam, Richard
Wochleski, Leo
Worzal, Edgar L.
Young, Thomas J. (Ruth)
Zdricky, Peter C. (Rose)
LEST WE FORGET
Let us honor
with our prayers
those who have given
their lives for
our country.

The Halls of Valhalla

1st Lt. George R. Flannery----------------------------Italy
PFC Francis T. Ropyak-----------------------------Italy
Pvt. Harry L. Springer--------------------------Italy
Pvt. Henry Wikins-----------------------------Italy
Sgt. Howard D. Jaynes, Jr.-----------------VAR River Valley--So., France
PFC Ernest R. Coffelt-------------------------VAR River Valley--So., France
Pvt. Leonard Mathis-----------------------------VAR River Valley--So., France
Pvt. Patrick L. Michaels---------------------Mountain above Nice, France
PFC William F. Boggs-------------------------Nice, France Airport
Sgt. Wallace P. Englet-------------------------Nice, France Airport
Pvt. Vestal A. Lucas--------------------------Nice, France Airport
PFC Herbert R. Nola--------------------Nice, France Airport
Pvt. Harold H. Miller------------------------Nice, France Airport
PFC Alois J. Siewierski-----------------------Nice, France Airport
Pvt. George (Pappy) Jones---------------------Belgium
Pvt. Louis Barbera----------------------------Southern France

596 PARACHUTE COMBAT ENGINEER COMPANY
IN MEMORIAM

John R. Berryhill      Alton Wayne Harrell      Elias Nolan
Jack W. Boyer          Kenneth E. Harris       Robert B. Powers
Cyrus H. Buckner       Clyde V. Hoffman        Charles Nysic
John Celez            Dr. John T. Holbrook     Don Sherman
Walter K. Charlton     Gordon L. (Tommy) Landrum Clarence D. Smith
Adolph A. Correa       Francis W. Lester       Glenn G. Spangler
Joe Dias              Peter Literatore          Bruce Stroud
Milton C. Dorman      Ralph Longstreet         Earl B. Thomas
Carroll W. Dorothy     Durland (Bucky) McCauley    Ira Van Dyke, Jr.
Frank B. Ennis         Ray W. McMullen            Walter Wutzka
Bill Fisher            William J. Metsger        John Whalen--KIA KOREA
Jesse Floyd           Wilburn T. Montgomery     William Wickersham--KIA KOREA
Al Foley              John F. Nelson            Fred R. Zavattaro
Max W. Orna           Oliver J. Nelson
Francis J. Nale
December 1985
NEWSLETTER

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