



596 Parachute Combat Engineer Company

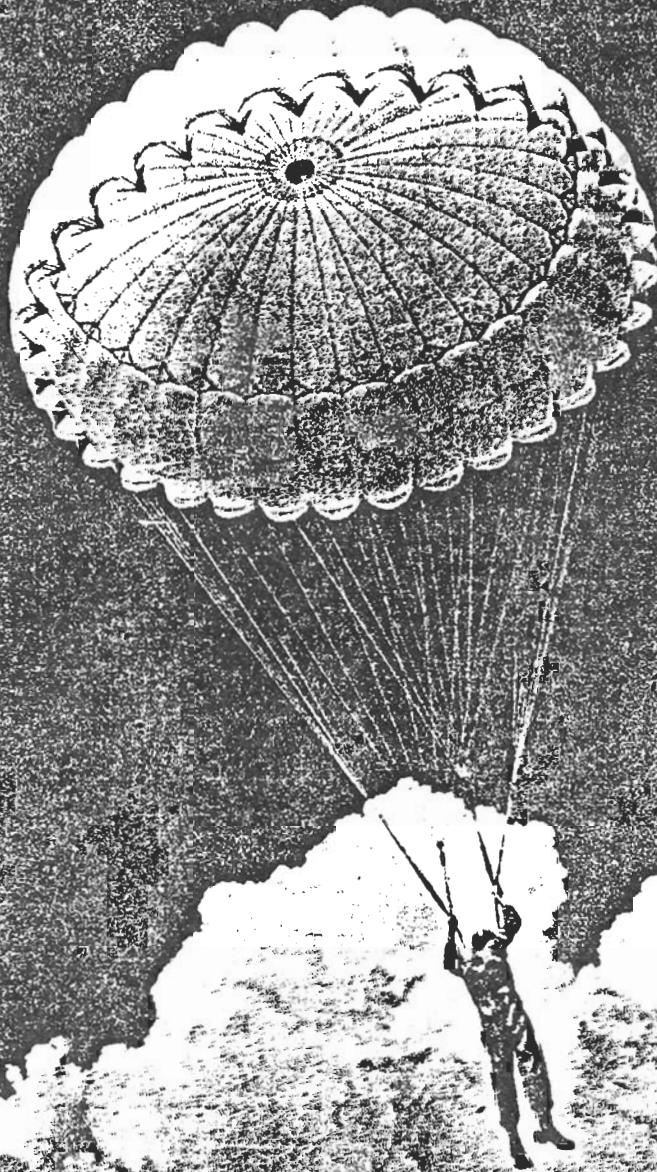


NEWSLETTER

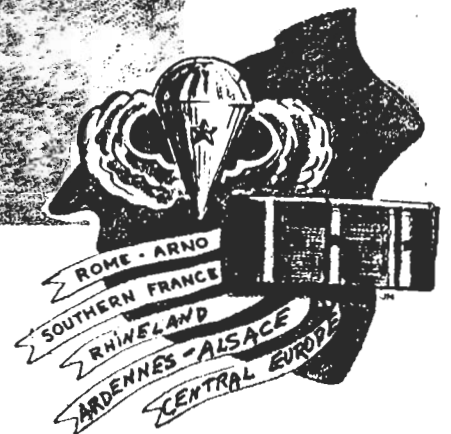
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JUNE 1983





THE 596 NEWSLETTER

JUNE 1983

Official publication of the 596 Parachute
Combat Engineer Company.

Published at least twice yearly.

President: Allan Goodman

Pres.Elect: Don Saunders

Editor: Charles Pugh

623 So. Henderson St.
Ft. Worth, TX 76104

THE EDITOR'S

In the May Newsletter, I suggested that the 517 PRCT might be eligible for a sixth Campaign Battle Star. This has been investigated through military channels and we are not so entitled. The five battle campaigns in which our Combat Team participated will be found on the cover of this issue.

Since the May Newsletter the following 596ers have sent generous contributions in support of this company publication and are deserving of our thanks and recognition:

BROOKS MOSES

RAY HILD

HAROLD ROBERTS

BOB WILSON

MONK JOHNSON

Some of you may still be undecided about participating in the August Reunion in San Mateo, CA. Notice that I didn't say "attending"; I said "participating in". This is a momentous occasion that you can't just attend; it is a happening in which you can't fail to get caught up. In a word, it is EXHILARATING, in another word, TERRIFIC!!! So, I urge you to try to arrange the other elements of your life so that these three special and memorable days can enliven and enrich your life and your memories. We need to be with you and we believe you need to be with us.

Please remember to bring your best WW2 photographs to the Reunion so that all of us can enjoy them. They help jog the old failing memory and it is also nice to see how great we used to look, albeit a bit depressing. In addition to that, two books are in progress which deal in total or in part with the 517 PRCT and both need some special photos. A few people will be trying to look at all photos in every Hospitality Room and may ask to borrow a few for a few days to make copies for publication. If your photo is used, you will be given the book free.

(cOntinued)

In April, President "Tex" Lowe was attacked by his own enraged tractor which ran over his legs and his chest. Tex is paratrooper tough and Betty had to insist he go to the hospital. They almost had to put him in a straight jacket to keep him there for a few days. Happily, there were no serious injuries and Tex is back in action, building their new home. The last word I had was that the tractor was in hiding---in fear for it's life.

If you have sent me a photograph of yourself that has not been put in the Newsletter, it is because it was too dark or the people too small to reproduce recognizably.

This issue is to make a last call for you to make your plans and reservations for our upcoming Reunion in San Mateo, CA on 11, 12, 13 August. Headquarters: Villa Hotel.

The 596 Hospitality Suite will be rooms 218, 218 A and 219 in the South wing of the Villa Hotel. Bring your own bottle. Mix, beer, coffee and snacks will be provided. Bring your WWII photographs and I know you will remember to bring a few war stories along.

If you haven't been to one of our Reunions, I can tell you that it isn't like the high school reunion you may have attended where you are meeting a group of virtual strangers with whom you have little or nothing in common. At our reunions it takes about 5 minutes to recognize everyone and put names and faces together because almost everyone else but you has changed somewhat in appearance over the past 40 years. After the initial shock of seeing how the rest of us have aged, you will experience a warm glow of belonging together, of brotherly love, of fraternity, of closeness and of the joy of REUNION with cherished long lost friends. The three days will pass all too fast and on your way home, your wife will probably complain a lot about how you ignored and neglected her for hours on end.

At the Static Line Airborne Awards Festival in Atlanta in April, our Combat Team had strong representation: Bill Lewis, Clark Archer, Ed McKillop, Robbie Roberson, James Bryant, Earl Price, Bob Thompson, Robert Olson, and Charles Pugh. Clark Archer was appointed to head up the Airborne Historical Society which is in the process of organizing a campaign to solicit militaria artifacts and records as well as funds to expand and improve the Airborne section of the Infantry Museum at Ft. Benning. You will be receiving more information about the Unified All-Airborne Museum later on.

Did you know that ex-517er Colonel James Bryant(Ret) served 54 months in Viet Nam and has SEVEN Purple Hearts. After such a brilliant military career, the unit he wishes most to be identified with is the 517 PRCT.

This is it.

LET YOUR IMAGINATION SOAR.

Come for
the fun of it.

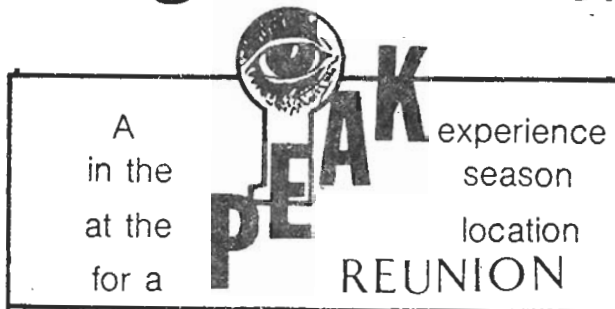
"THE UNIQUE"

RARE!

Let's make it the Biggest
Ever!



In the great tradition.



Don't Miss The Fun

For the pleasure of your company.

The Best just got Better!

Everything you expect and then some.

It's the Best Little Party in

SAN MATEO, CA

11,12,13 AUGUST 1983



IT WON'T BE THE SAME WITHOUT YOU

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS IT!

Let's keep meeting like this.



The **SECOND** Champagne Campaign

FIRST ALLIED AIRBORNE TASK FORCE
PLANNING PEACEFUL INVASION OF THE SOUTH OF FRANCE IN AUGUST 1984

A return to the site of the battle will undoubtedly provide us with many new memories and experiences. One of the more refreshing ones will be the friendliness of the French people who consider the American soldier as the liberator of their country. On any given Sunday you can see the natives visiting the American cemeteries or to clean and lay flowers at the many monuments to American units that fought in the Champagne Campaign. There will be Mayoral Receptions for members of the 509 PIB, 551 PIB, 550 GIB, 463 PFAB, FSSF and 517 PRCT, in the towns they most closely identify with. There will also be a cocktail party and banquet in Nice with French friends and dignitaries. On 15 August, there will be a Special Memorial Service at the U.S. Military cemetery at Draguignan, France.

You are encouraged to bring your spouse, children or grandchildren along on this very special trip. This will give each of us a wonderful opportunity to show them the sources of the many, many war stories they have listened to over the years. To assist us in completing the required planning, it will be necessary at the earliest possible date to have an accurate count of members and guests interested in making the trip with us. It is therefore requested that the form below be completed and mailed to the following address:

Dr. Charles E. Pugh
623 So. Henderson St.
Ft. Worth, Tx. 76104
(817) 336-0212

I am interested in receiving more information about the trip during August 1984 to tour the South of France. I will be accompanied by _____ guest(s). Please send me the brochure with details of the basic tour and the optional tour extensions to Switzerland, Italy or Chateaux Country of France and Paris.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

This submittal is aimed at obtaining an accurate show of interest in the trip and does not commit you in any way. The tour is open to all interested persons, whether or not they were a member of a military unit that was a part of the FAATF.

QUOTABLE QUOTE

THINKING OF THE 596th PARACHUTE ENGINEER COMBAT COMPANY - 1943-1945

When I think back on the 596, my thoughts invariably turn to the splendid company of dedicated soldiers of the United States Army that we became. From Camp Toccoa right through to my taking leave of the company on a wintry day in Stavelot, Belgium, together, we endured and met and overcame many obstacles of varying complexities. Starting with a cadre which was unexcelled, a group of young, eager, tenderfoot soldiers undertook an intensive and rigorous army training program, the results of which became the backbone of our unit and carried us to ultimate victory. We, a diversity of personalities, backgrounds, and demeanors blended into an esprit-de-corps that made the company second to none. As a consequence, we withstood the rigors of war and defeated the enemy. (Albeit, we had a little help from time to time!) Our esprit-de-corps was so strongly forged and welded in those company years together that today, some 38 years later, it stands preeminent in our thoughts as we reunite and reminisce. How we did excel! Thrust into circumstances and events beyond our wildest dreams and absolutely beyond our control, the 596 performed its wartime tasks with the resolute and sure confidence of free men, never doubting that victory would be ours.

I salute with great pride and feeling you of the 596, and I cherish the memory of those who have gone before.

Robert W. Dalrymple

MORE REUNION NEWS

You only go through life this one time and it could be later than you think. If you would like to experience three days of pure unadulterated enjoyment with some of the grandest people you'll ever know, then our Reunion is the time and place. The next Reunion won't come around until June of 1985 in San Antonio, Texas. Reach for the Gusto, NOW!



PLEASE NOTIFY EDITOR OF ANY CHANGE OF ADDRESS

596 SHORT BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA--

-Sat. 13 Aug., 5:30 PM, Hospitality Suite

1. Introductions
2. Awards
3. Election of Officers

Hal Roberts writes, "Jeanne is an avid reader of "The Static Line", She feels close to you people because she, in her own way shared our service experiences with us. She still insists that she's going to hug and get hugged by those broken-down jumpers in San Mateo. I get a thrill when I read about the experiences and successes of my former comrades-in-arms. I am a general contractor here in Seattle. I'm not at all surprised that you fellows are doers and leaders. All of you proved yourselves to be supermen among men during WW2."

Gene Wilson writes that the Newsletters are bringing back many memories. He is retired and his wife is a registered nurse.

Bob Wilson had planned to be at the Reunion but upcoming surgery will make it impossible. He sends his regrets that he will not get to be with us.

Richard Nosky is a consulting civil engineer.

Marvin Rigdon raises soybeans and rice. He and Ann have 1 son, 1 daughter and 3 grandchildren.

Jim MacFadden and Ruth have 5 children and 5 grandchildren. Jim is Chief Operating Engineer in a Water Plant.

It is surprising that not one of our people seems to have made a career out of the single most highly developed skill he acquired while in the 596-shining boots. What a shame to see all that talent go to waste.

The principal purpose of this Newsletter is to promote the closeness and cohesiveness of our company members. To this end, it would be very helpful if all of you who have not yet done so would write me a card or letter with some information about yourself and your family. Quite a few of you are enjoying reading about others but you aren't giving others the same chance to enjoy learning more about you. Some of you keep putting off writing to me and I hope this paragraph will motivate you to share something of yourself with the rest of us. We are genuinely interested.



George Shull writes, "You pack a lot of history and forgotten bits of treasured memories into the Newsletters that we like to read." He and Winston will be in San Mateo.

Our Company attendance at the Reunion will be the envy of all the others. As is usual, we will have the largest number there. Our enthusiasm sets an example for all to emulate. You guys are great!

Monk Johnson writes that he hasn't been feeling too well of late. In January, he was in the hospital for radiation therapy for a spot on a lung. I'm sure Monk would enjoy receiving a card or letter from some of his 596 family.

Jim Benson has voluntarily retired from the ranks of the employed.

Don Saunders is retiring from his teaching career. He is the incoming Chief Engineering Officer of the 596 and will need to apply himself full-time to managing our affairs and our tremendous annual budget.

Ray Hild sent some more WW2 photos for our Newsletter. He and Mary have been planning for two years to be in San Mateo. Presently, Ray is having serious trouble with his knees and may need surgery on one of them. We all hope they can be with us in August.

Remember the Year?

The war tide began to turn. North Africa was ours. Sicily was invaded. Mussolini resigned and Italy surrendered, although it was still held by Germans. The 517 PRCT joined the battle in Europe and the Germans didn't know it but from that moment on they were in BIG trouble.

Back home, meats, fats, cheese and canned goods were added to the ration list. Cars sported windshield stickers that proclaimed A, B or C gasoline priorities.

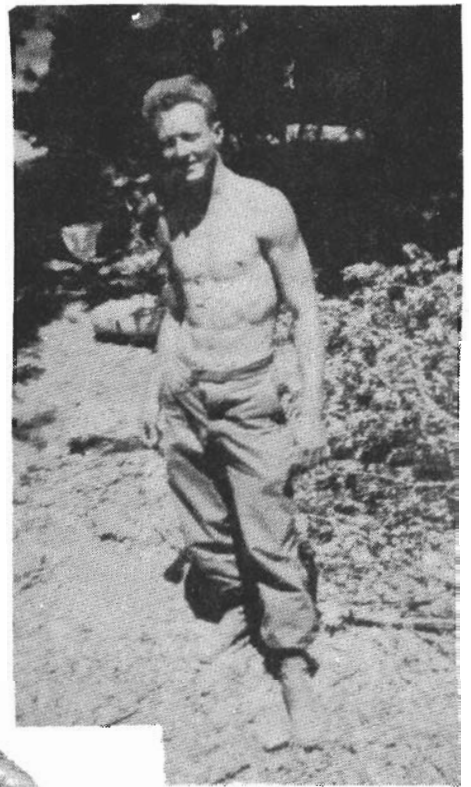
It was the year of the tragic polio epidemic. It was the year of the zoot suit, FDR's signing of the first pay-as-you-go income tax bill, the opening of "Oklahoma" on Broadway. People were reading Wendell Willkie's "One World" and Betty Smith's "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn." Dick Tracy was chasing 88 Keyes and Skeeze was in the Army.

And it was the year of the Swoon King, Frank Sinatra, and his bobby soxers screaming and fainting. The nation listened to Frank every Saturday night on "Your Hit Parade" and the songs they heard were, "As Time Goes By", "That Old Black Magic", "It's Always You", "In the Blue of Evening", "All or Nothing at All", "People Will Say We're in Love", "Don't Get Around Much Anymore", "Pistol-Packin Mama", "Comin' in on a Wing and a Prayer", and "My Heart Told Me". And of course, "You'll Never Know," a song that, for me, will always mean 1943.

REMEMBER WHEN?



Joe Senter, Bob Verdi, Harold Johnson & Brooks Moses



Charlie Pugh



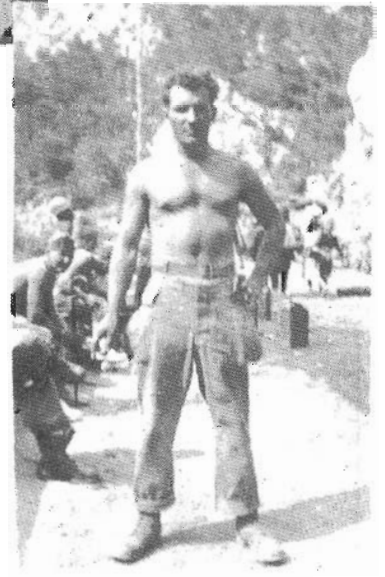
Earl Dillard



Glen Gainer



Bob Wilson and Joe D. Miller



George Miseage

RESOLUTIONS

No one will ever get out of this world alive.

Resolve therefore to maintain a sense of values...

Take care of yourself. Good health is everyone's major source of wealth. Without it, happiness is almost impossible.

Resolve to be cheerful and helpful. People will repay you in kind.

Avoid angry, abrasive persons. They are generally vengeful.

Avoid zealots. They are generally humorless.

Resolve to listen more and talk less. No one ever learns anything by talking.

Be chary of giving advice. Wise men don't need it, and fools won't heed it.

Resolve to be tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and the wrong. Sometime in life you will have been all of these.

Do not equate money with success. There are many successful money-makers who are miserable failures as human beings. What counts most about success is how a man achieves it.



PEIRA CAVA



One in every four people is unbalanced according to the experts. Think about your three closest friends. If they seem okay, then you are in trouble....



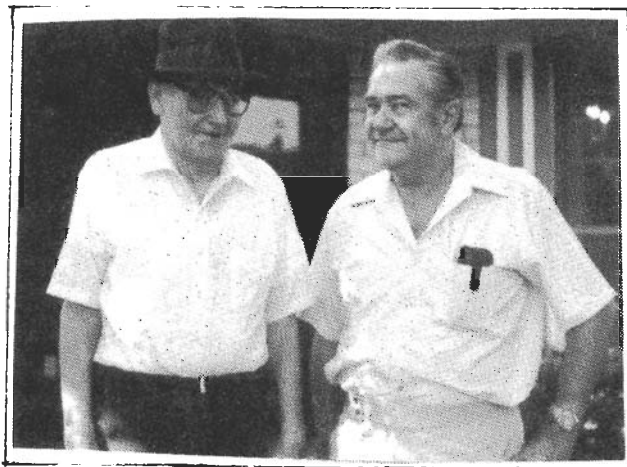
—Pfc. M. W. Slaughter

"Hey! Hold it!! Moths!!!"



"COUNT CADENCE, COUNT!"

—Pfc. Mike Duncan



M. B. Johnson and Dennis Shipley
in Dallas, TX Summer 1982



U.S. Army Paratroopers provide
the enemy with the
maximum opportunity to give
his life for his country.



SOFT LANDINGS
and
SUNNY WEEKENDS