517TH PARACHUTE RE-UNION INVADED THE FRENCH QUARTER OF NEW ORLEANS WITHOUT A CASUALTY ON AUG. 12

Although everywhere you looked, and on every corner in the French Quarter of New Orleans, there were clearly visible signs reading "OFF LIMITS 517TH PARACHUTE RE-UNION", with a number of years of wisdom, and cautious approach, some 350 former Troopers, Wives and kids captured and conquered the whole French Quarter without a single known casualty. The Royal Sonesta Hotel, & Command Post Hq., was then the scene of many a handshake and head scratching trying to remember old faces and glad to see more familiar faces of other recent re-unions. As time went by, there were a few minor casualties seen at check paying time in various clubs and restaurants, however this type casualty is always expected when in old New Orleans. First a well deserved thanks, to Ed & Nita Jolly, Re-union Chairman, who did a great job setting up the whole re-union, although they lived some 300 miles away. A special thanks to those who helped Ed & Nita too. Ed & Nita want to add, that they surely hoped everyone enjoyed the re-union just half as much as they enjoyed putting it on.

A few other casualties of minor nature were, Gene Brinkman, G.Co., arrived and found no room, & with tactful approach, Ed Jolly, Gene Champlin, Hq. 1, Dr. Phil Distansilou, A. Co. managed to get Gene up in a supply room with requisitioned rollaway bed, although a little later someone was heard screaming up and down the hall about a lost rollaway bed. A group of early birds/pheasants, had to borrow waiters jacket to get in a very swank restaurant, at which time Joe Williams, B. Co., & Jim Wallys Hq. 1, presented their old buddy, Al Sabel C. Co., with his old tennis shoes, they had stolen from him in earlier years on an Oregon fishing trip, Al graciously accepted the bronzed-plaque shoes with a few choice words, no one was thrown out of the place, so thus these early birds & path finders made it more easy for the main groups to be fully accepted in the French Quarter. It was reported the closest of anyone being thrown in jail, was Funky Dungeon and a few other wild "Northwesterners" keypones place going until 3:30 A.M. Reportedly, Eric Ohyi slipped into an "Off Limits place, Pat O'Brians, and set that place up for the arriving troopers. A couple of Texas boys, Ed Ellington & Darrel Wells Hq. 1st lost their shoes, and were found later in a rather unique place. The Hotel management broke up one 4:30 A.M. slipper party, which developed later into a Brennan's breakfast, which brought about some more minor pocket book casualties. There were many other capers, which would take a month to write so we just mention a few that we heard about.
ED JOLLY, GENERAL CHAIRMAN OF THE RE-UNION STARTS THE FINAL BANQUET-DANCE OFF, by making a few comments to the effect that up until that time, there were no known casualties, and to his knowledge, no bail had been posted for any of the former 517th Troopers, and further intelligence informed him there were none locked up. Some special thanks were handed out to those who helped, in making the Re-Union a good one.... Ed gave a special thanks, followed by strong feeling from the crowd, to George F. Correa (Former Co. G) & his group, "The Pathfinders" who entertained prior and during the meal serving. This fine group of vocals from California did an outstanding job of entertaining. The General Chairman, then introduced, Past President, Bill Boyle, & Mrs Boyle, Past Chairman, Russ Johnson & Mrs. Johnson, shown in above picture to the base. The podium, Col. Cross (Ret) was introduced (in picture above the distinctive looking gentleman with the slight gray beard, glasses, white hair, setting to the left of Col. Cross, then introduced, the Honored Guest & Speaker of the evening, SgM Col. Seitz, who is that younger looking gentleman seated right next to the podium. After receiving a standing ovation from the entire crowd of former Troopers, wives & children, the General then spoke on the highlights of the 517th from start to finish, and then onto the modern Airborne of today's US Army. Dick Seitz, is now the Commanding General, XVIII Airborne Corps & Fort Bragg, Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. As many of us will remember, this means, he is the "Old Man" of the "whole damned outfit involving all the Airborne" in the US Army... WHILE ON THE SUBJECT HERE IS A BIT OF HISTORY ON THIS MAN, THAT THE 2ND BATTALION CLAIMS THAT. TAKEN FROM THE RIGHT FOOT... General Seitz, was born in Leavenworth, Kan., and was commissioned a 2nd Lt. from Kansas State ROTC in 1939. He also holds a BA Degree from University of Nebraska. Was called to active duty in 1940 and in 1941 was among the early graduates of the PA School. Ft. Benning. He joined the 517th in March 1943, and stayed 11th unit until war ended, then returned to the 517th. Since the war ended he has served with the 11th Airborne, served twice in Brazil with Joint Brazil-USMC, served in Iran as a Team Chief, 1955 to 1967 in Republic of Vietnam, First as Deputy Commanding General, US Army Support Command, then Assistant Commanding General, and then Chief of Staff, U.S. Army Vietnam. Later assignments at Ft. Bragg, have been Commanding Officer, 2nd Airborne Brigade, 503 Infantry, & 82nd Airborne Commander, and then Chief of Staff, G-3 - XVIII Airborne Corps and Ft. Bragg, and then... The General has also attended many military schools, such as the Army Language School, Staff School, Army School of Languages, Army Language School, Army School of Languages, plus receiving many decorations, such as Silver Star, Two Legions of Merit, Two Bronze Stars, Air Medal, Purple Heart, French Cross de Guerre with Palm, Korean Order of Military Merit, National Order of Vietnam 5th Class, Brazilian Deport De Corvix, Order of the Pacifico. He is a member of the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity and the Scowboard & Blade, and he is keenly interested in sports as a morale and health builder. As many of you will remember, General Seitz, married the former Battle Juan Metzull, of Ellis, Kansas in June 1945 at Losny, France. Four Children, Patricia, Karolyn, Richard & Victoria followed. To sum it up, as the people from Kansas would say "That ain't bad for a Kansas Boy".

BUSINESS MEETING ON WEDNESDAY A.M. OPENED BY W.J. "BILL" BOYLE, PRESIDENT & DON FRASER, SEC TREAS. The main topic of discussion was the site of the next Re-Union. A number of places were named as possible sites, Philadelphia, New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Kalamazoo-Ft. Bragg. Considerable discussion came about how to, and how to about the various sites suggested, and for some reason Raleigh-Ft. Bragg area kept popping back into the discussion. The general opinion seemed to be that the 517th Re-Union even with age, still had "Friends" in that area. That settled the question, as so many of the leaders, the next re-union will be in 1976 or 1977, rather than three years as planned. Do all of you, it's not to early to start making your plans now. 1975 will be over 30 years since you were in North Carolina, so without a doubt it would be safe to say, you would have no fear of returning. All those pretty North Carolina girls, that you used to call your "Sweethearts", have married, and lived with, and all the rest. A bit of hair and a bit of drinking, have now, they would not probably recognize you anyway, so it would be entirely safe to assure you make your plans and be at the next Re-union in 1976. Towards the end of the business meeting, there was a rigged election, which got James McKinnon, Jr., 2nd, elected as President, and D. Co., West Texas Boy, no... Mel Edwards, elected. Sec-Treas. Jim asked Martin J. Getter, Charlotte & Clarance E. McCollum, Fayetteville to act as Co-Chairmen with Mrs. Jim, getting the Glory, and Sec-Treas. Mel putting the words out, and Martin & Clarance doing the work, and with our "Influential friends", IF YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE THE 517TH PARACHUTE RE-UNION IN AUGUST 1975 AT RALEIGH, N.C. HOLD IT, OR you just can't get one that everybody......
This photo reflects a rather distinguished looking middle-aged group from HQ Co., 2nd BN, except for one who can still easily pass himself off as a young man. Standing L-R: Martin J. Setter, Co-Chairman 1975 Re-Union, Sam Povich, Lester Holdridge, Joe Vuko, and the young looking Gentleman, Lt. Colonel Richard J. "Dick" Seitz, former CO of the 2nd BN. Next is Col. Tom Croce (Ret) former Exec. Officer of 2nd BN, and Forrest J. Turner. Kneeling is Jim Hubert W. Ingle, who has made a career of the Airborne & James H. Mackenzie, newly elected President of the 1975 Raleigh-Ft. Bragg Re-Union. Not a bad looking bunch, considering some of them "lugged" through 61 mm's & 50 Cal. machines over half of hell and back. Harry Robinson & Bill Lewis missed picture.
Received from Lory Curtis, son of Harland “Bud”