

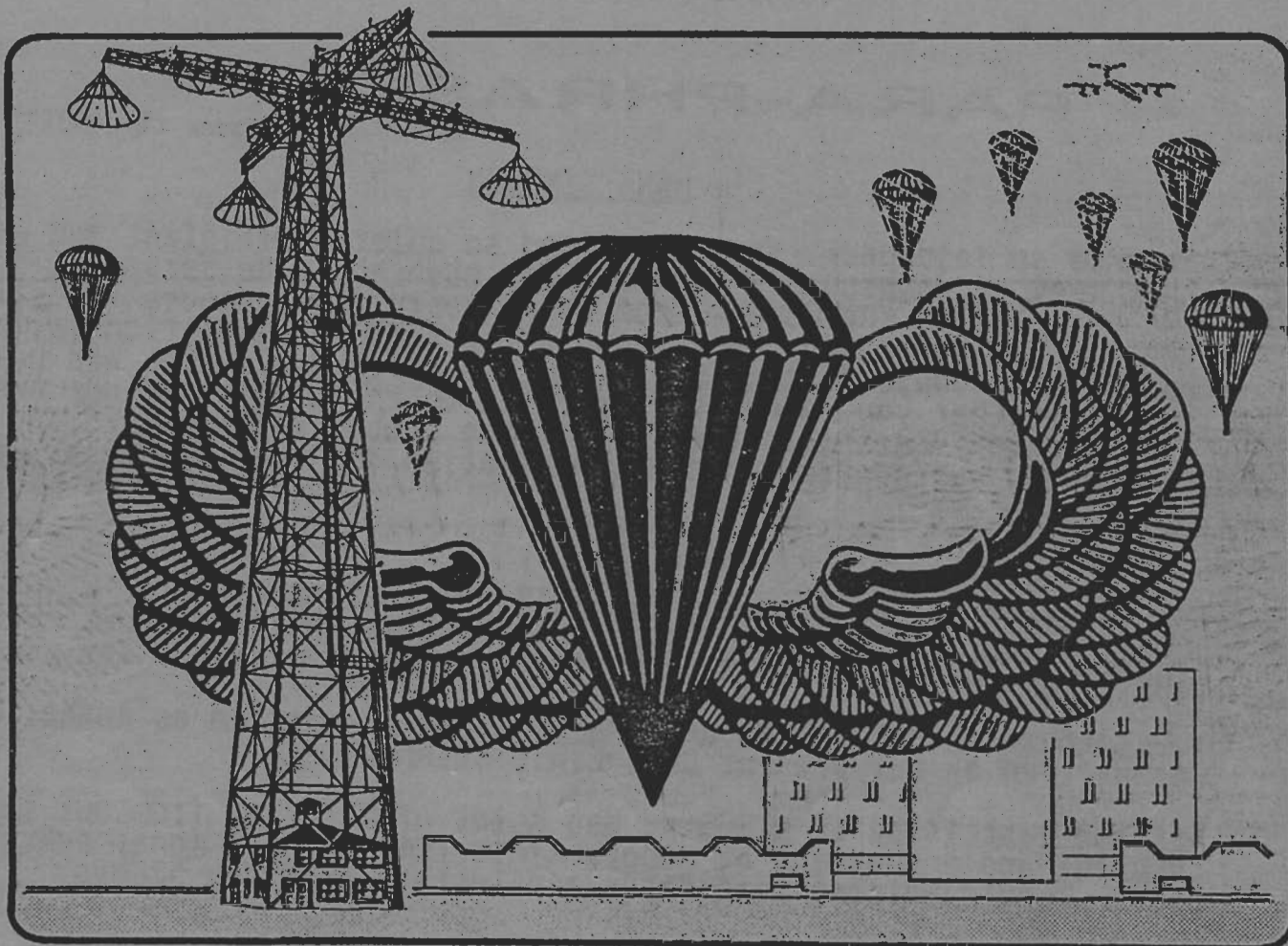


596
PARACHUTE
COMBAT
ENGINEER
COMPANY



W
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S

NEWSLETTER



517 Parachute Combat Team Association

FALL
1995

596 Parachute Combat Engineer Company



ERNIE KOSAN Chief Engineering Officer (CEO)
BOB VERDI Immediate Past CEO
Col. BOB DALRYMPLE--Imm. Past Pres. 517PRCT Assn.
BILL CONGER--Director 517 PRCT Assn.
CHARLEY PUGH--Editor of WINGS

3532 Park Hill Dr.
Ft. Worth, TX 76109
(817)923-7573--Home
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PARA-PHRASES

from the EDITOR

HANK SIMPSON

Hank is so laid back, so modest, and so quietly efficient and effective that many of us probably took him for granted as he served as the 596 Director on the Combat Team Assn. Board of Directors for sixteen years. Two years ago, Hank voluntarily left that position so that Bill Conger could take up where he left off. Hank, that has been a long time that you have been dedicated to the affairs of our Association and we 596ers join the rest of the Combat Team members in expressing our admiration and appreciation for your tireless devotion. OUTSTANDING!!!

The identity of the person on page 19 of the last issue of WINGS is JOHN RANDALL. There are a lot of WWII photos in this issue. How many could you recognize without the name being provided for you?

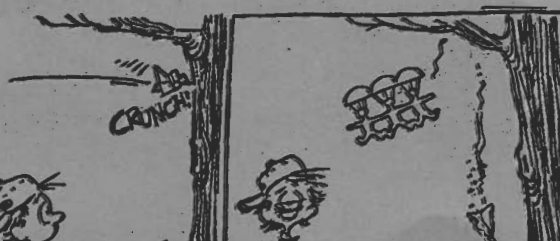
The letter in the last issue of WINGS that I reported as "Author Unknown" was written by our present CEO, Ernie Kosan.

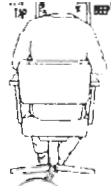
For the last issue of WINGS we had a lot of material from our members to print and a shortage of money. This time we have money but could use and would welcome more cards and letters from you 596ers.

VA publishes new handbook

The VA has published a revised version of "Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents" including changes in law for 1995. The 111-page handbook describes federal benefits for veterans and dependent family members such as medical care, education, disability compensation, pension, life insurance, home loan guaranty, vocational rehabilitation and burial

assistance. The handbook, which sells for \$3.25 a copy, includes addresses and phone numbers of all VA facilities. For copies, ask for GPO stock number 051-000-00205-9 from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402-9325. To order with VISA or MasterCard, phone (202-512-1800.





• THOUGHTS WHILE SHAVING

At our 596 business meeting in Kansas City, we neglected to elect a new Vice President (JEO). So, in 1997 at the reunion in Palm Springs, CA, we will elect a new 596 President and Vice-President. Ernie Kosan is our President for the next two years and Bob Verdi is our Immediate Past President.

If any member of the 596 would like to be or is willing to be the Editor of our 596 Newsletter, please let me know. If you don't wish to be the Editor, then I ask that you be a Contributor of material for it. Anything that you think might be informative, amusing, or of interest to our members will be welcomed. Personal recollections of wartime experiences, photos from the present or past, information about your family, etc. are especially desirable. Any photos will be returned promptly.

Our 596 company was one of the best trained and prepared of any parachute combat engineer company. The camaraderie and esprit de corps in our unit was of a very high order. We were proud of our unit and ourselves as individuals and with justification. That pride continues to this day.

For many or most of us, WWII was a protracted event with such physical, psychological, and emotional impact that it had a profound effect on our character development. Much of the affect was subliminal but still powerfully influential on the development and maturation of our individual psyche. We were not the same person at the end that we were at the beginning of our war. We had to experience and learn how to cope with adversity, danger, fear, pain, man's inhumanity to man, and the sudden death of close friends. For many of us these wartime experiences occasioned an epiphany that has impacted our lives forever after. THE DEFINING EVENT!!!

Our reunions, this publication, our continuing interest in one another, and our abiding friendships are some of the persuasive evidences of the singularity and significance of those three years together.

Your generous support of this Newsletter and the other expenses of the 596 PCEC are greatly appreciated. The "other expenses" include postage for correspondence, long distance phone calls, flowers to funerals, continuing efforts to locate 'lost' 596ers, a plaque of appreciation for those who serve as CEO and JEO of our 596 Association and as Director to the 517 PRCT Assn. and 596ers who serve as President of the 517 PRCT. Assn..

At each reunion, the 596 has its own hospitality suite (in KC it was for one day and evening only) and the cost of that room and any expenses for snacks, soda pop, mixers, and booze are paid for with contributions from members in attendance. This year there were only 15 of us 596 troopers in KC----atotal of 26 including spouses, children, and one widow, Rose Zubricky.

The last issue of WINGS received many good reviews from our 596ers and others in the Combat Team who saw it. That was primarily due to the large number of letters and other information from you 596ers. If you have looked at our roster of 596ers you must have noted that we are only 104 in number. There is considerably more sand in the lower section of our 'hourglass of time' than remains in the upper section. So, to those of you who have not sent me a card or letter or photo in a long time or ever, I ask you to please get into the loop again and let all of us know that you care enough to reach out and touch us. You'll be glad you did and so will we. During your days of active service with the 596 you were at liberty to quit at any time and request reassignment. That is no longer an option. Now we will not accept your resignation nor will we stop sending you THE THUNDERBOLT and WINGS. You are Airborne All The Way and Forevermore! How about dropping me a 20c penny post card right now while it is on your mind.



I think it is quite unusual and remarkable that the members of our company size military unit have maintained contact with one another for the past 50+ years. We have worked hard at locating our troopers and have been fortunate to find over ninety percent of all who served in the 596 PCEC. Our unit was even more unified and cohesive than we realized during our service with it. As the years since the end of WWII have gone by, it has seemed to me that many Army divisions have a veterans association but seldom, if ever, do I hear about company size associations. And company size is the level at which everybody knew everybody else. That fact promoted the bonding of individuals and a unit pride based on high standards of military performance.

As an independent and relatively small combat unit, our 517 PRCT was moved hither and yon and attached to one Division and Corps after another depending on where the combat going was toughest at the time. For those purposes the Combat Team was thought of and sought out quickly but when it came time for us to be re-equipped and re-supplied, we were thought of last, if at all, by Corps and Division Commands. It was only natural for them to take care of the full-time elements of their command first with supplies of ammo, food, warmer clothing, transport, etc. As the smallest element of the 517 PRCT, the 596 was similarly overlooked or shifted to the rear of the supply line as an afterthought by the hierarchy of the Combat Team. This is why paratroopers of independent units had to be such accomplished scroungers and why we 596ers were known as "Ali Dali and his 140 Thieves". If we were to have anything beyond "left-overs", we had to be accomplished at "midnight requisition"----and we were.

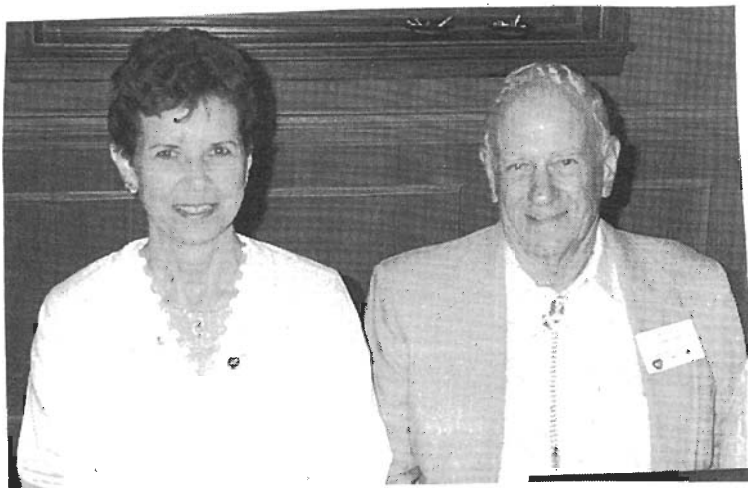
The 596 PCEC was highly competitive within the unit as each platoon vied with the others for superiority. The company was just as determined to prove itself superior in every way possible to any and all of the infantry and artillery companies and batteries----on the firing range, on timed forced marches, on the combat training course, in physical training and fitness, in close order drill, the manual of arms, and how "good" we looked in dress uniform. We didn't always win these unsanctioned contests but we always gave a good accounting of ourselves, often surprising the hell out of other similar sized units as well as ourselves. We were a self-confident force to be reckoned with and almost as capable and daunting as we believed ourselves to be.

No unit, the 596 or any other, was ever THAT good!

As this issue goes to press, no one has stepped forward to volunteer to edit and publish WINGS. We have several members who are more than capable and I hope that during the next several months at least one will come forward. In the meantime please look for articles, jokes, ideas, remembrances, current personal activities, health status, old and new photographs, etc. to send to me for use in future issues of WINGS. With that kind of vital support, I can continue to put together issues of interest to everyone and I can do it with enthusiasm and pleasure because it is then really and truly the members' publication. And when the money runs low, I'll ask for your voluntary donations. It has never been difficult to get you 596ers to part with your money for WINGS but getting very many of you to send anything else is like 'pulling teeth', and who can say that with any more credibility and authority than I?



BOB, DAUGHTER MARY & GARNET DALRYMPLE



JAN & DON SAUNDERS



WINSTON & GEORGE SHULL



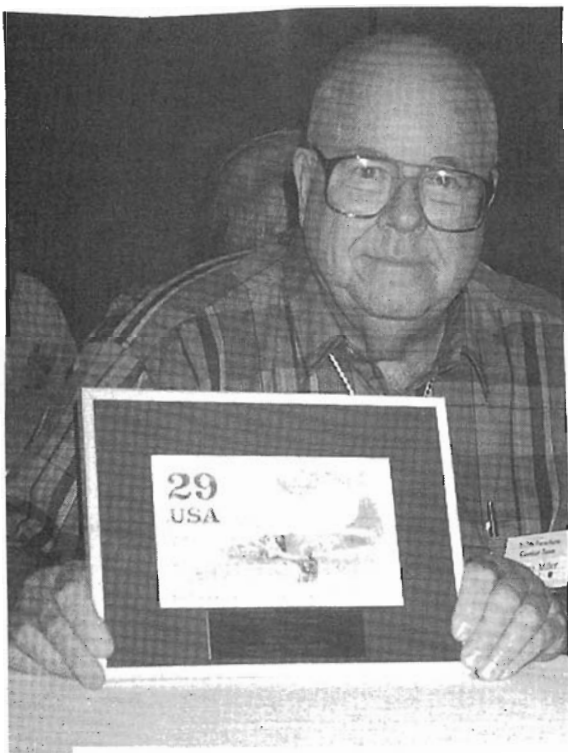
MARGE & BILL CONGER



EDIE & JOE D. MILLER



MIKE & CATHERINE BULINO



JOE D. MILLER
FATHER OF THE FIRST AND
ONLY U.S. AIRBORNE STAMP



BOB DALRYMPLE RECEIVING EAGLE TROPHY
FROM 596 PCEC IN RECOGNITION OF HIS
PRESIDENCY OF THE 517 PRCT ASSN.
PRESENTED BY DIRECTOR BILL CONGER.



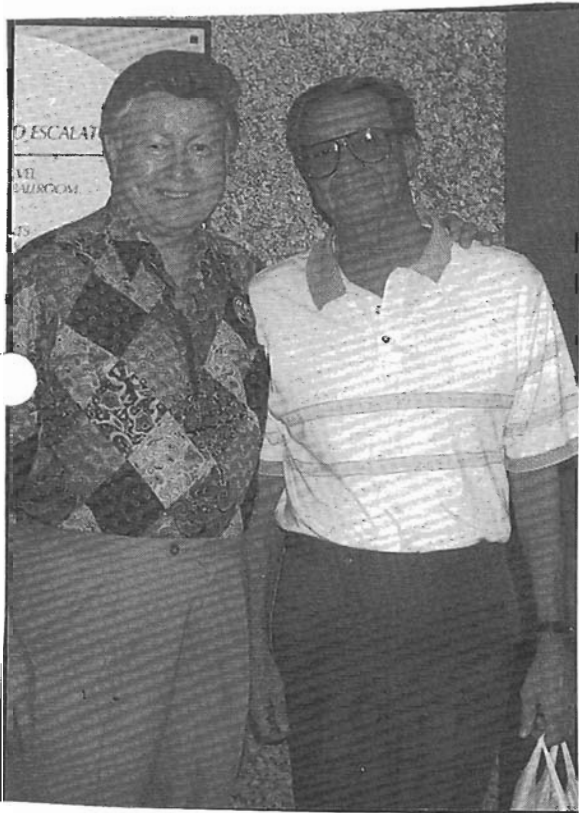
SIDNEY FELBER (460) AND J.K. HORNE (517)
AND CHARLEY PUGH (596) PLACING WREATH
AT MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY IN GENERAL
MELVIN ZAIS PARK AT FORT LEAVENWORTH, KS



GLORIA & BILL HUDSON



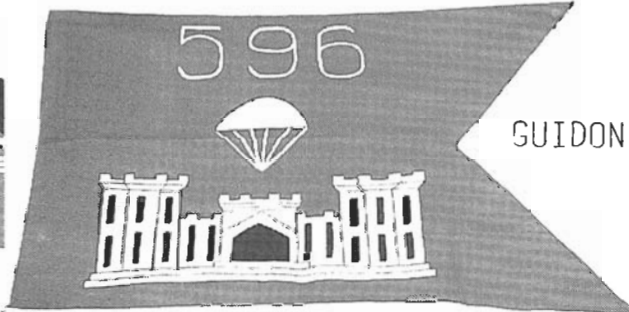
HANK & MARIAN SIMPSON



CHARLEY PUGH & JOE SENTER



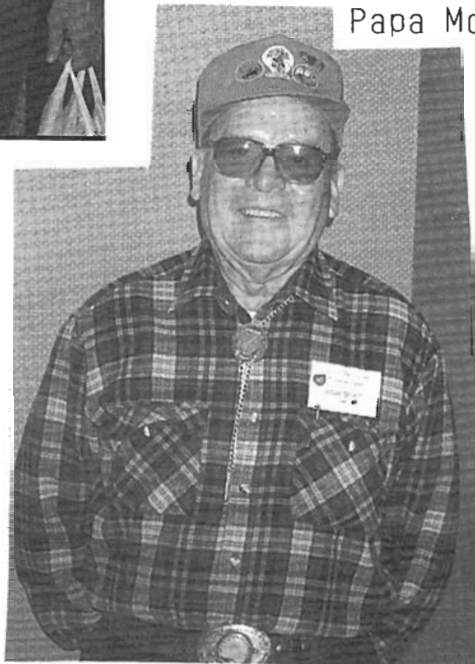
Manny Ventoza
and
Grandson in
Seattle



Papa Moses, son Martin, and Mitchell



Manny Ventoza



ALLAN WARD

(seven)



ROSE ZUBRICKY

SPECIAL FRIENDS OF THE 596

KC REUNION



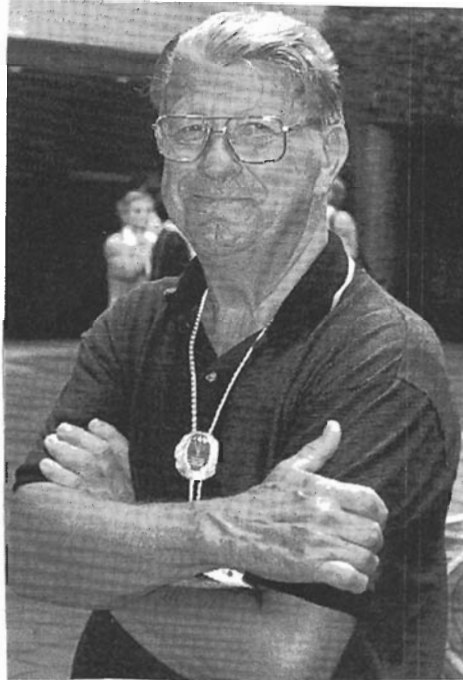
JANE & GENE MARS
517 HQ 2



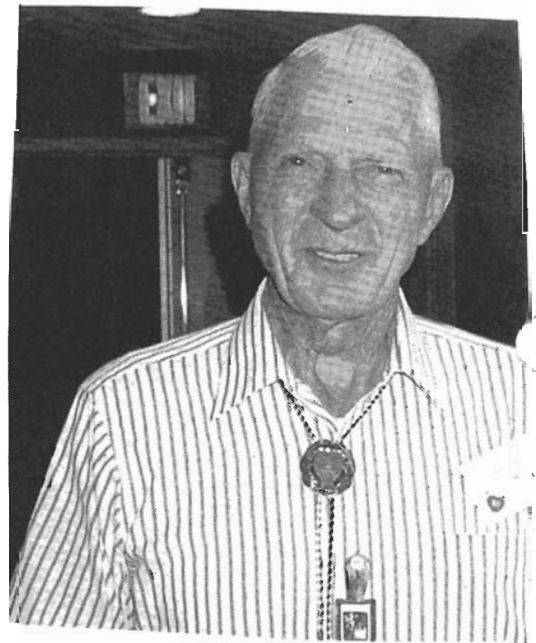
LTG. RICHARD SEITZ & GINNY
517--HQ 2



JACK SMOTHERS--517 CO. A



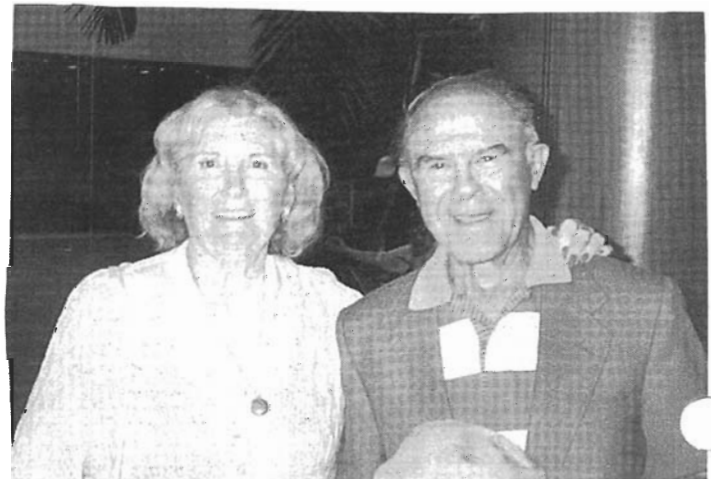
MEL BIDDLE--517 CO. B
CMOH RECIPIENT



JOE A.C. WILLIAMS---517 CO. B



JANET & EARL EHLY
Hq. 1, 517



VERONICA & JOHN LISSNER
517--CO. F

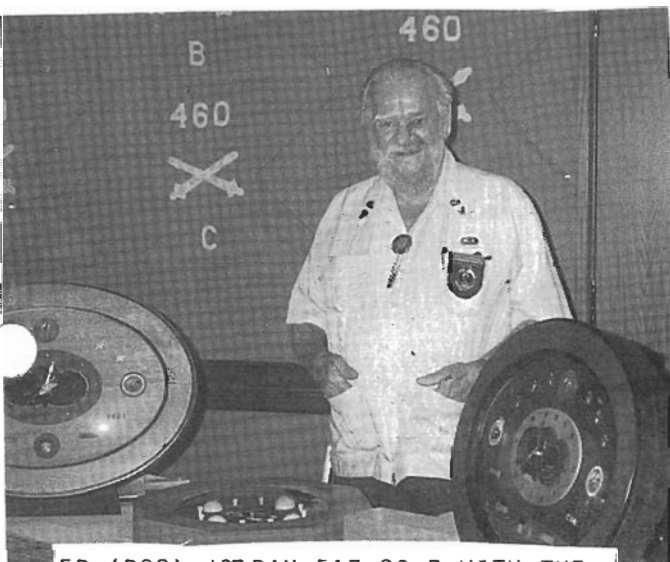


Our Belgian friends who visited with our Association in KC.
Maria Gaspar in center
Irma & Arnold Targnion left & right

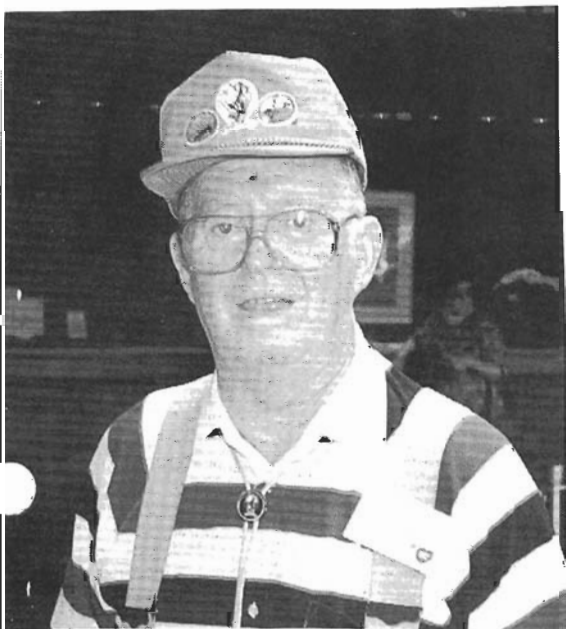
KC REUNION



EXECUTIVE DIRECTRESS IRENE LEWIS



ED (DOG) JORDAN, 517, CO. B WITH THE
THREE AIRBORNE CLOCKS HE MAKES AND
DONATES TO THE COMBAT TEAM TO BE
RAFFLED OFF AT EVERY REUNION.



CHARLES (DOC) KEEN--517 CO. B--MEDIC



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BILL LEWIS



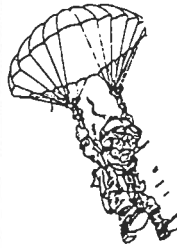


MARY & RAY HILD
50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
NOVEMBER 1993



CLYDE V. HOFFMAN & WIFE
AS CIVILIAN IN 1949

PHOTO FROM RAY HILD



Goodman
Football
Player



Eggleston & Goodman
Bon Vivants in Paris



ALLAN GOODMAN



ALICE GOODMAN



Goodman
Nice Airport
Removing Mines



Ladies of the 596 in KC Hospitality Suite. L to R--Marian Simpson, Catherine Bulino, Ann Pugh, Alice Goodman, Gloria Hudson, and Edie Miller



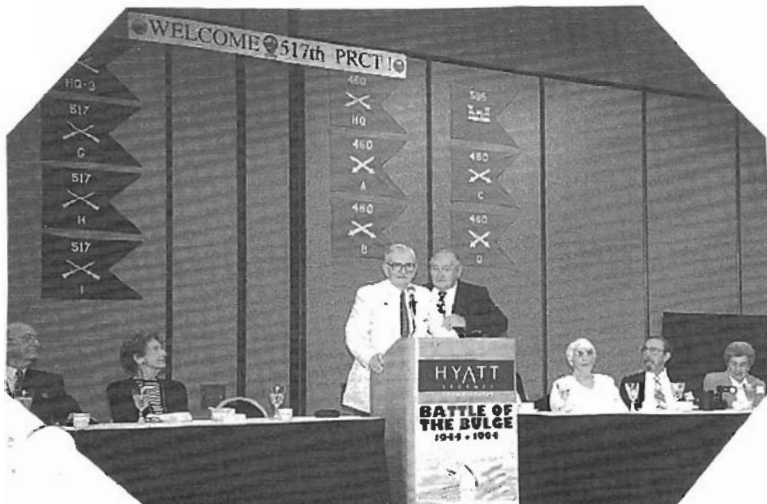
The Moses and Ed Phillips at a reunion previous to KC.



Wall decoration at 596 Hospitality Suite in KC Made by Clark Archer



Most of the 596 troopers at the KC Reunion. Miller and Mitchell were misplaced at this moment. Standing L to R--Shull, Moses, Ward, Bulino, Ventoza, Conger, Senter, Simpson and Hudson. Seated L to R--Dalrymple, Pugh, Saunders and Goodman.



Col. Bob presiding at KC Banquet.



Standing L to R--Moses, Pugh, Martin Moses Seated L to R--Mitchell and Senter in KC.

TODAY AND YESTERDAY



Gen. Richard J. Seitz at lectern at Kansas City reunion special surprise cocktail party tribute arranged by Dave Barry.



— The General and his lady Ginny with rest of family as they too were part of the surprise.



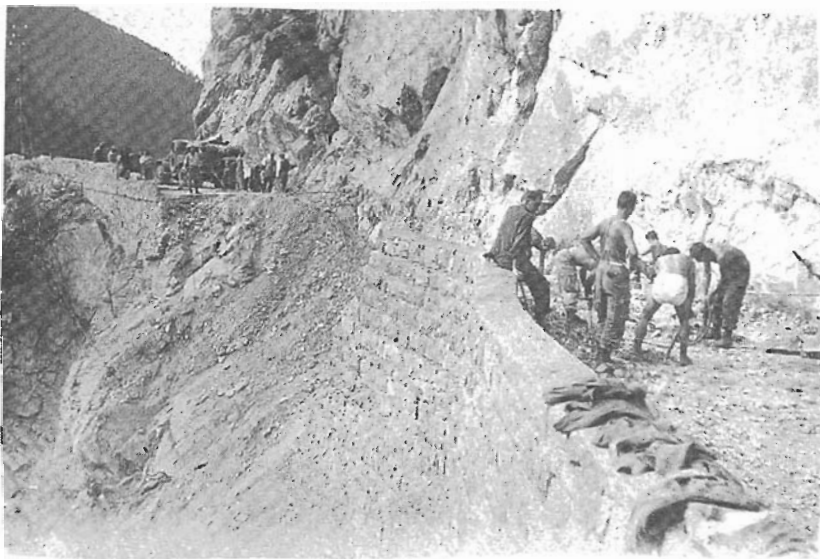
Bob Anderson in Europe-1944



Wall decoration in KC Hospitality Suite



Jim Greenwood & Wes Williams-Europe



This is a very clear and graphic photo of 596ers rebuilding a section of the mountain road on way to Sospel that had been blown out by the retreating German troops----- and under sniper, mortar, and artillery fire in daylight.

Photo courtesy Ray Hild



In September after the June 6, D-Day celebrations in Normandy, all of the store windows and many homes and autos were decorated with decals such as this one and welcoming messages expressing their gratitude. (twelve)

THOSE WERE THE DAYS, MY FRIEND. WE THOUGHT THEY'D NEVER END ----UNLESS PREMATURELY



'POP' MOSES---ITALY 1944



JUDGE HARRELL



BOB VERDI--OCT. 1944



BERNIE LYON



JIM BENSON & FRIEND
ROME----1944



PETE ZUBRICKY--1944



SAL CIULLA--1944



PAUL ROBERSON



SHAW & BILL CHRISTIAN
(thirteen)



CHARLEY PUGH--1944



GENE MARKLE--1944

ALL OF THESE PHOTOS FROM BILL CHRISTIAN



HOMER MC ROY



OWEN DORMAN & LLOYD SPENCER
OCTOBER-1944-L'ESCARRENE FRANCE



ARTHUR KEMP

ALL OF THESE PHOTOS



FROM BILL CHRISTIAN

CAPT. DALRYMPLE
READY TO JUMP



JIM BOTTS--1944



DICK BARTHOLOMEW--1944
(fourteen)



TOMMY LANDRUM &
LEONARD WALKER
CHABLIS, JUNE 1945

AH, SWEET BIRD OF YOUTH !



BILL HUDSON--ITALY



HAROLD C. JOHNSON



AL KUNZER--1944



JOE SENTER--1944



CLAUDE MILLS



HANK SIMPSON--1944



ACE COSTELLO



GEORGE MISEAGE-
-CHABLIS 1945



VERLIN GLENN--1944

ALL OF THESE PHOTOS FROM BILL CHRISTIAN



AL SCHORNBERG--1944



ERNIE KOSAN--1944



GEORGE MITCHELL-1944



THERE WERE SOME GOOD DAYS



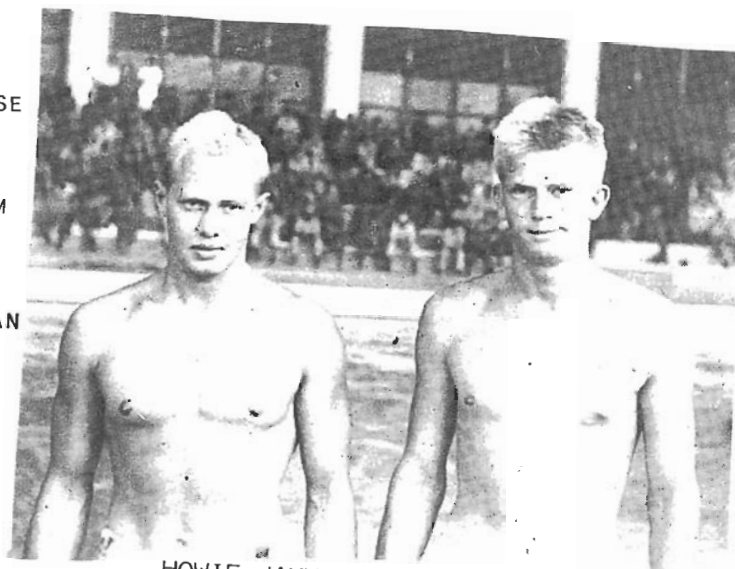
BOTTOM--LANDRUM--TOP--COCHRAN
1ST ROW--MATHIS, THOMAS
2ND ROW--RANDALL, WALKER, SENTER



BILL CHRISTIAN & TOMMY LANDRUM
CAMP MACKALL, NC--1943



ALL OF THESE
PHOTOS FROM
BILL CHRISTIAN



HOWIE JAYNES & ERNIE COFFELT
SWIM MEET--ROME, 1944

TOP L TO R--BOYER, DOANE, BARTHOLOMEW
BOTTOM L TO R--CHRISTIAN, KUNZER
COCHRAN, LONGSTRETH, LANDRUM



307th ENGINEER BN. FOOTBALL TEAM IN BERLIN IN 1945. SEE IF YOU CAN IDENTIFY THESE 596ers.
M&ROY, SHIPLEY, SHULL, TURNER, WILLIAMSON, EGGLE, STERLING, NEMETH, VENTOZA, HERRIGAN, SENTER,
CHRISTIAN, AND THE MANAGER WAS DORMAN----ABOUT HALF THE PLAYERS WERE 596ers.

(sixteen)

THIRD PLATOON



Hyman in Berlin



Montgomery



Madison



O'Neil & MacFadden



Pierce



Turner & Holbrook fishing with TNT



Don O'Neil



Ventoza & Turner



Pierce & Small Hurlgen Forest



March of 1945

R Top: Williamson, Winterling, Floyd, Kovach, Mahoney(?), Spangler
Kneeling: Madison, Smith, Goodman, Valadez
Front: ?????



'Tex' Lucas and Friend



Madison Goodman Egler in Paris



Holbrook Goodman Bramley



Little known Airborne facts:

In addition to being called upon to breach the largest enemy minefield encountered by U.S. troops in WWII in Belgium while under fire, at night and in extremely adverse weather conditions, the 596 Parachute Combat Engineer Company removed and deactivated more than 2300 mines and booby traps of all types in southern France in a period of 9 weeks. Cost: 9 men killed and 7 men wounded. In one 7 day period, 16-22 September, 1944, the Third Platoon removed and deactivated more than 1244 such devices.

"THE REUNION"

From all across the land they come, with just one thought in mind

To share again the memories of the days they left behind.

'Tis fifty years ago or more they stood on foreign soil

And said godd-bye to friends they'd known, in blood and sweat and toil.

They are Fathers, Husbands, Friends, of many different kinds

But just for now they're veterans of another war and time.

Theirs is friendship forged in danger, and tempered under fire

But these are combat soldiers, and fighting men don't cry.

They bow their heads in tribute to those not here today

Those men who once they knew as friends, who fell along the way.

Their ranks are growing thinner now, the passing years will tell

But they are soldiers, everyone, who served their country well.

And so they meet, embrace and talk, and remember days of yore

For theirs is just a deep desire, to see their friends once more.

This may be their last reunion, for some it is the last good-bye

'Till they meet again in Heaven - At the great reunion in the sky.



TAPS for **The Brothers Beyond**

REPORTED SINCE MAY 1995

Ned Hosterman

"A

nd so to you we raise a silent glass
Pledging ourselves to keep your memory bright
And pray we too when comes our time to pass
May look with fearless eyes into the night."

Food For Thought

U.S. Army Gen. Colin Powell, who served two terms as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, recently retired from active duty. Here are "some thoughts to live by" the general has collected over the years:

- It ain't as bad as you think; it will look better in the morning.
- Get mad, then get over it.
- Avoid having your ego so close to your position that when your position falls your ego goes with it.
- It can be done!
- Be careful what you choose — you may get it.
- Don't let adverse facts stand in the way of a good decision.
- You can't make someone else's choices; you shouldn't let someone else make yours.
- Check small things.
- Share credit.
- Remain calm.
- Be kind.
- Have a vision.
- Don't take counsel of your fears or your naysayers.
- Perpetual optimism is a force multiplier.



"It's best not to speak to paratroopers about saluting. They always ask where you got your jump boots."

IT WAS MY WAR



I'll remember it
the way I want to!

World War II through the eyes of G. William Sefton, a paratrooper, Officer in Normandy, Holland, and Bastogne.

THIS IS A REDUCED COPY OF THE BOOK JACKET OF A WWII BOOK WITH THE BEST AND MOST HONEST TITLE OF THEM ALL. IT IS A TITLE THAT I WISH I HAD THOUGHT OF FIRST.

AT AN EXHIBITION of the world's best swordsmen, the third-place fencer took the stage. A fly was released, and with an arc of his sword he cut the fly in half. The crowd cheered. Then the second-place man sliced a fly into quarters. A hush fell in anticipation of the world's greatest swordsman.

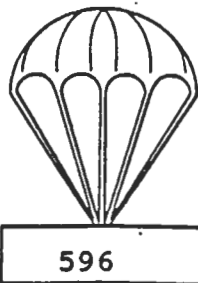
His blade came down in a mighty arc—but the insect continued on its way! The crowd was aghast. The greatest swordsman had missed his target completely, yet he continued to smile.

"Why are you so happy?" someone yelled. "You missed!"

"Ah," replied the swordsman, "you weren't watching very carefully. The fly lives, yes—but he will never be a father."

Zipper Zinger

As you age, you first forget names. Then you forget faces. Then you forget to pull your zipper up. Then you forget to pull your zipper down.



REMEMBER

D-DAY

15 AUGUST

1944

Oh, a wise guy!

The sergeant was in a rare mood as he finished drilling his company. He barked out a final order: "All right, you idiots, fall out!"

The men fell out, but one rookie stood firm. The sergeant stared as the rookie smiled.

"There were a lot of them, weren't there, sarge?"

— Phil Burns

Geronimo!

Quizmaster: "How many successful jumps must a paratrooper make before he graduates?"

Contestant: "All of them."

— Southeastern Oil Review



Are You Ready
For This Bull ?

Alan Goodman tells the story that he and Alice were married only a short time before he shipped out to Europe. He had allotted his entire monthly pay to go to Alice. She would send him money as he needed it. He wrote and asked Alice to send him ten dollars or so for candy bars, shaving cream, and stuff. Alice wrote back, "Here is \$5.00 for candy bars and shaving cream. Your 'stuff' is at home".

Bill Conger tells the story that he knew the bloom was off the rose in his marriage to Marge when one night he got up to go to the bathroom and, when he returned, his side of the bed had been made up.

THE TROUBLE WITH HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE IS THAT OLD FLAMES NOW REALLY ARE OLD FLAMES.

Billy Goad

A housewife pored over her mail, most of which was junk, but she ran across one envelope that read in big letters, "THIS IS NOT A BILL." Thanking God for her good fortune, she opened that one first. Inside, however, she found a neatly typed letter that began, "THIS IS YOUR BILL."

Murphy's laws of combat

By David Evans

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

SENT BY RAY HILD

WASHINGTON — In a few short weeks the nation's military academies will graduate about 4,000 new officers into the commissioned ranks of our armed forces. They will join an ancient and honored fraternity, one that has been around ever since *homo combatus* first picked up a club to smite other primates horning in on his territory.

The typical freshly minted lieutenant or ensign wants to succeed badly and, perhaps more importantly, avoid embarrassment. Accordingly, the more ambitious among them will no doubt look for the secret formula to success by reading the Chinese warlord Sun Tzu's 500 B.C. treatise, *The Art of War*. Others might search in Frederick the Great's 1747 *Instructions for His Generals*, and some will read the more recent collected memoranda Gen. George Patton issued to his corps and division commanders in World War II.

But why bother with book-length tomes? An Army colonel of my acquaintance has distilled everything any new officer needs to know about fighting into a single page. Call his cribsheet "Murphy's Laws of Combat":

1. You are not supermen. (Freshly graduated recruits from Marine boot camp and all fighter pilots, especially, take note.) AND PAR ATR OOPER S

2. Suppressive fires — won't.

3. If it's stupid but works, it isn't stupid.

4. Don't look conspicuous — it draws fire. (For this reason aircraft carriers have been called "bomb magnets.")

5. When in doubt, empty the magazine.

6. Never share a foxhole with anyone braver than you are.

7. Never forget your weapon was made by the lowest bidder.

8. If your attack is going really well, it's an ambush.

9. No plan survives the first contact intact.

10. All five-second grenade fuses will burn down in three seconds.

11. Try to look unimportant, because the bad guys may be low on ammo. (Trivia devotees will recall the sudden disappearance of rank and distinctive caps on the uniforms worn by Soviet officers in Afghanistan.)

12. If you are forward of your position, the artillery will fall short.

13. The enemy diversion you are ignoring is the main attack.

14. The important things are always simple.

15. The simple things are always hard.

16. The easy way is always mined.

17. If you are short of everything except enemy, you are in combat.

18. When you have secured an area, don't forget to tell the enemy.

19. Incoming fire has the right-of-way.

20. No combat-ready unit has ever passed inspection. (Note: No Marine unit has ever failed a combat-readiness inspection, which suggests peacetime inspections are to readiness as mess-hall food is to cuisine.)

21. If the enemy is in range, SO ARE YOU.

22. Beer math is 2 beers times 37 men equals 49 cases.

23. Body-count math is 3 guerrillas plus 1 probable plus 2 pigs equals 37 enemy killed in action.

24. Friendly fire — isn't.

25. Things that must be together to work usually can't be shipped together.

26. Radios will fail as soon as you need fire support desperately. (Corollary: Radar tends to fail at night and in bad weather, and especially during both.)

27. Anything you do can get you shot — including doing nothing.

28. Make it too tough for the enemy to get in, and you can't get out. (This seems to be the guiding design principle behind the Soviets' BMP and our own Bradley infantry fighting vehicle, both of which nicely package the troops in armored boxes for group destruction.)

29. Tracers work BOTH ways.

30. The only thing more accurate than incoming enemy fire is incoming friendly fire.

31. If you take more than your fair share of objectives, you will have more than your fair share to take.

32. When both sides are convinced they are about to lose, they're both right.

33. Professional soldiers are predictable, but the world is full of amateurs.

34. Murphy was a grunt.

There you have it, a phenomenal amount of wisdom and combat savvy on one page.

But can we do even better? Can we distill everything, from Sun Tzu to Murphy, into a one-line predictor of victory or defeat?

I think so, and in fact I stand in awe of Marine Reserve Maj. Mark Cancian, who now directs studies on defense matters at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. Shortly before he left active duty a few years ago, Cancian reduced man's entire knowledge of war into this dictum: "The side with the simplest uniforms wins."

CHECK THIS OUT THROUGHOUT HISTORY
AND YOU WILL FIND THIS HAS ALMOST
ALWAY BEEN TRUE.



My First Reunion

We were there that winter long ago.
We survived; many of our comrades fell.
Twin enemies were the weather and the foe
--the never-ending cold and the bursting shell.

Conceived of this ordeal of fire and icy earth
This brotherhood of old men came to be.
A kinship stronger far than that by birth
Was born when we were young, across the sea.

Of the ties that bind, others cannot know,
But we were there, that winter long ago.

By Dale R. Carver

Age Phrase

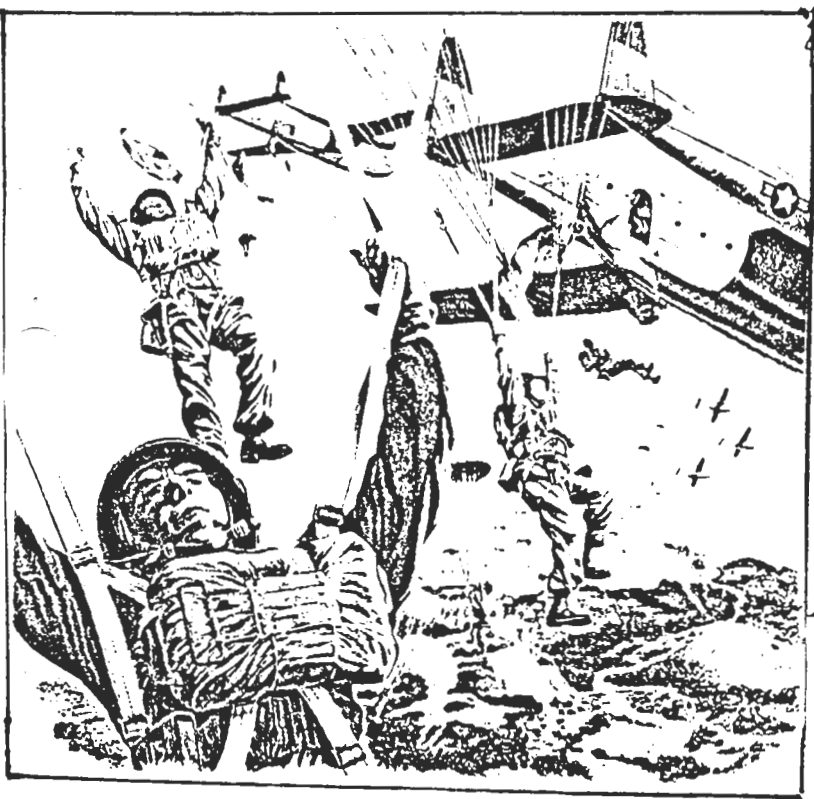
When you're a little kid, you're so excited about getting older that you think in fractions. When children are asked how old they are, they respond: "I'm 6 and a half." Nobody ever says "I'm 53 and a half."

The greatest day of your life is when you *become* 21. But you *turn* 30, and it makes you sound like bad milk. Then you're *pushing* 40. It's all slipping away. Then you *reach* 50.

Next, you *make it* to 60. By then you've built up so much speed that you *hit* 70.

After that, it's day by day. You *hit* Wednesday. In your 80s, you *hit* lunch.

In the 90s you start going backward: "I was *just* 92." Then, if you make it over 100, a strange thing happens. You become a kid again: "I'm 104, and a half."



Timid Heir

Scrawled on the walls of a London pub are the words:

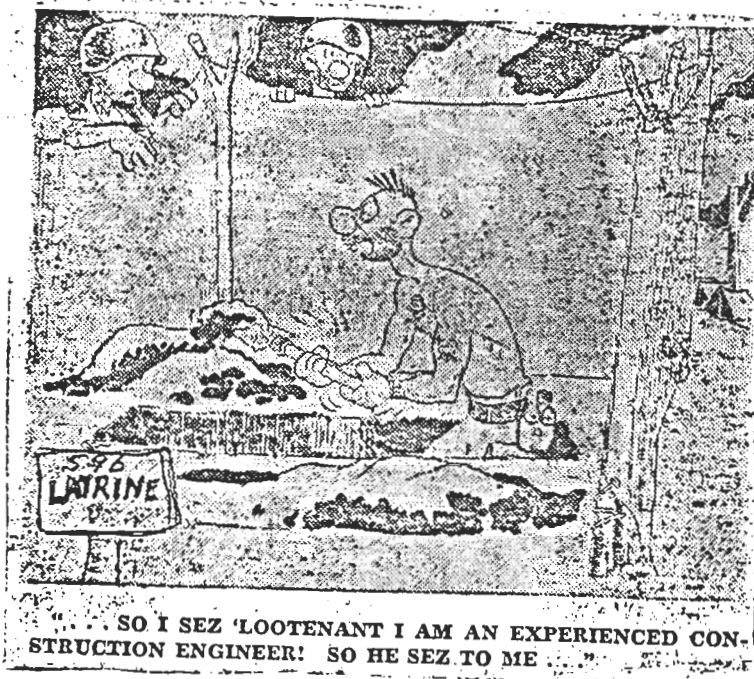
"The meek shall inherit the Earth."
Underneath it someone wrote:
"If that's okay with the rest of you."

Discriminating Viewers

Youth is when television keeps you up; age is when it puts you to sleep.

Slim Chance

Nothing in the world arouses more false hope than the first few hours of a diet.



"... SO I SEZ 'LOOTENANT I AM AN EXPERIENCED CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER! SO HE SEZ TO ME ..."

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

You 596ers have come through 'BIG TIME' in response to the request for operating funds for the 596, made in the last issue of WINGS and in a special mailing by Bob Dalrymple. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and is certainly the life-blood of our publication. This indicates to me that our members do enjoy keeping up with one another through these pages. At this time, we are in good shape financially but when you receive this issue you can be sure that the expenses have made a huge dent in our treasury. So, if you haven't made a donation yet this year, feel free to do so whenever the spirit moves you. How much? That isn't important. Anything from nothing on up is just fine. The much more desired and important contribution from you would be a card or letter with some information about yourself, your family, your WWII memories, photos, etc.

This is a list of those who have sent in a contribution since May 1, 1995. Some have donated twice.

Larson----Randall----Kosan
Hudson----Dalrymple----Conger
Madison----Verdi----Kelly
Eddy----Reichwald----Lyon
Bean----Gelen----Markle
Hild----Ventoza----Simpson
Saunders----Shull----Bulino
Pearson----Senter----Guthrie
Ward----Christian----Moses
Goodman----Joe Miller----Mitchell
Cameron Gauthier-460th

AND THANK YOU AGAIN

Being defeated is often a temporary condition. Giving up is what makes it permanent.
(by Marilyn vos Savant)

Veterans' Survivors

Did You Know?

"Waltzing Matilda", the unofficial anthem of Australia, is not about a woman who dances at all. In its history, like any other country, Australia has had good economic periods and bleak ones. During its version of the "Great Depression" many laborers could not find work. Many of them took to going from place to place to find what work they could. In doing so, they carried a bed roll as they needed an inexpensive place to sleep. The expression "waltzing Matilda" refers to this bed roll. The roll was referred to as Matilda and the walking from place to place was the waltzing. So next time you hear the song think of itinerate workers instead of a beautiful young woman gliding across the dance floor.

Furnish the funeral director a copy of the veteran's discharge, DD Form 214, Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) claim number if known, and the veteran's social security number. When furnished with such, the funeral director may apply for the amounts allowed from the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Social Security Administration toward burial and plot expenses.

The funeral director may also apply for a United States Flag to drape the casket, or application for the Flag may be made with the local postmaster. The funeral director may also assist in applying for a headstone or grave marker from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

If the veteran was a member of a veterans organization, that veterans organization should be contacted for the ritual service (firing squad, if organization has such) and pallbearers, if needed. If it is the desire of the family to have the U.S. Flag presented to the next of kin during the graveside service, the veterans organization should be contacted.

Important documents to have available when applying for benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Social Security Administration:

- ★ Discharge from the Armed Forces or DD Form 214
 - ★ Marriage License
- Important information to be pre-recorded:

Veterans's Social Security Number
Spouse's Social Security Number
Veteran's Service Number
Veteran's DVA Claim Number
Veteran's Insurance Numbers
Location of DVA Claim File
Location of G.I. Insurance File
Pastor's Telephone Number
Funeral Home Telephone Number



Written by Ann Barham Pugh
Westy the Hare

Goes to
The National Western
Stock Show & Rodeo

By Glenn Giffin
Denver Post Book Editor

"My mother," reminisced Ann Barham Pugh, "was in that class of children who went down to The Denver Post on Saturdays and sat at the feet of Buffalo Bill Cody and listened to him tell stories."

Maybe it was that heritage that started the 70-year-old Pugh on her own storytelling career. The Fort Worth, Texas-based author is a playwright, novelist, scriptwriter and retired television hostess whose latest work is "Westy the Hare Goes to the National Western Stock Show & Rodeo," a book specifically designed for schoolchildren as part of the show's outreach program.

Writing about the stock show wasn't on her priority list at all; it was a friend's idea that made it possible. "I was working on a TV documentary. While I was working on that, a friend of mine came up and said, 'I want to write a book about an armadillo.'"

As the two collaborated, they found that no one had ever written a book about the Fort Worth Stock Show. With much advice from teachers, Pugh and her friend co-authored "Diggy Armadillo Goes to the Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo." It was a hit with both teachers and the Fort Worth show, but that seemed to be that — until Pugh sent a copy of the book to her cousin in Littleton.

Her cousin thought it would be a good idea for the National Western to have a similar book. The idea mushroomed, and Pugh was invited to Denver to talk to National Western officials and to teachers.

"I spent a week visiting with school administrators" and other educators. She was told to make her book multiethnic. "One teacher put it bluntly, 'People do not realize we have so many languages spoken in Denver. We have Russians, Hispanics, a large Asian population.' So that was my task: to write a book about the stock show; work in multiethnic, multicultural children; and utilize an animal, nonthreatening. They decided on the jackrabbit."

At the Kansas City reunion, several wives of 596ers chastized me for the the minimal amount of words and space that I had devoted in the last issue of Wings to Ann Pugh's most recent book that was commissioned by the Denver National Western Stock Show and Rodeo. They purchased 12,000 copies of the book in English and 4,000 copies in Spanish. Ann also wrote a song that they purchased and are having recorded. Now she is hoping they will decide to buy the same number of books or more annually. At the left is a shortened review of the book from the Denver Post.

Your Editor says YEE HA!!!!!!

BATTLE OF THE BULGE FACTS

Where: The heavily-forested Ardennes region of Eastern Belgium and Northern Luxembourg.

When: December 16, 1944—January 25, 1945

Who: More than one million men:

- 600,000 Americans (more than the combined Union/Confederate forces at Gettysburg)
- 3 American Armies and 6 corps (equivalent to 31 divisions)
- 55,000 British
- 3 British divisions plus contingents of Belgian, Canadian and French troops
- 500,000 Germans
- 3 German Armies and 10 corps (equivalent to 26 divisions)

Casualties: American — 81,000 including 19,000 killed
British — 1,400 including 200 killed
German — 100,000

Equipment: 800 tanks lost on each side; 1,000 German aircraft.

Three powerful German armies plunged headlong into the rugged mountains and dense forests of the Ardennes determined to break the American line of defense, and trap the Allied Forces in Belgium and Luxembourg.

They met fierce opposition the minute they engaged the thinly spread American line and paid a heavy price for every inch of ground they gained.

The battle raged for three consecutive days until powerful Allied reinforcements arrived to join the fighting, and keep the Germans from breaking through.

The fighting then continued for four weeks in bitter cold and snow, and all the Germans could accomplish was to put a small bulge in the line. And at the end, the line held firm and the Germans suffered a terrible loss of men, tanks and planes.

The Malmedy Massacre, which occurred during the Ardennes Campaign, was the worst atrocity committed against American troops in Europe during the World War II.

Those who fought in the Battle of the Bulge will never forget it.

This battle involved the most men & equipment and was the greatest battle in the history of warfare.

(twenty-three)

ISBN # 0-9643660-0-2
specify English or Spanish Edition
Tattered Cover Book Store 1-800-833-9327



Mail Call

Manny Ventoza sent several of the photos in this issue that he made at the KC reunion, Thank you Manny.

Manny wrote that when he entered the service, he had hoped to get into the Cavalry or some aspect of the military that would relate to his ambition to become a Veterinarian after the war was ended. At the induction center, he was persuaded that there was an acute shortage of paratroopers, so he volunteered. He doesn't regret that decision but he does wish he had made a career in the military and gave it serious thought.

After his discharge, Manny married his childhood sweetheart, LaVerne. They are the parents of five children and spoil ten grandchildren.

Manny has had a very successful career as a Longshoreman on the Seattle waterfront. He recently retired after 43 years. He has held positions of considerable responsibility and has had an enjoyable and productive career and doesn't regret not having studied to become a Vet.

Manny is very active in a Military unit in the Shrine, the Legion of Honor Drill Team. The group performs in parades, memorial ceremonies and in competitions with other similar groups from around the country.

Editor's note: There was never a 596 trooper who was more devoted to the our unit or willing to make any sacrifice for it than Manny. An Airborne Salute to Manny Ventoza!

AIRBORNE SICK CALL

In the June issue of THE STATIC LINE I read that HUGH STERLING has recently had a little flare-up with his by-pass surgery of five years ago but is doing OK at this time. Hang tough, HUGH.

I also read that Verlin Glenn has suffered a stroke and cannot read. Drop him a card and his wife, Eva, can read it to him. It might be a lift for him to know you were thinking about him.

SHORT NOTES

Just received "WINGS". Great job. Donation enclosed. RUSS PEARSON

Received "WINGS" this week. It was great as always. Winston and I will see you in KC. GEORGE SHULL

A great job on "WINGS". A lot of hard work and we are grateful. I like the old pictures that make us look so young. LYLE MADISON

Hope this contribution helps. Love to Ann. Sorry we are missing KC but have two grandchildren graduating. BOB VERDI

Here is some fluid for the pot. I enjoy the newsy 596 magazine and realize you really put tremendous time and effort into its composition. In the near future, I'll send a couple of pics and a little story the fellows might find amusing. JIM LYON

• Italy • France
• Belgium • Germany
• French Croix de Guerre
Presidential Unit Citation
OD of the Belgian Army



• Rome • Arno
• So. France
• Rhineland
• Ardennes • Alsace
• Central Europe

(twenty-four)

Letters Letters Letters Letters Letters

We Love Them! Send Us More

RAY HILD writes:

Received the Newsletter earlier this week and want to tell you it was a marvelous issue. I have gone through it three times in case I might have missed something. I am feeling pretty good but stay close to home. I wish we could make it to Kansas City to see all of you again. Art and Jean Starck stopped by a few days ago for a short visit. Enclosed is a check to help pay the cost of the Newsletter. RAY HILD

LOUIS GELEN writes:

Thank you so much for the recent Newsletter and many others over the years. Your efforts are sincerely appreciated. I must also apologize for not responding to your requests over the years. Time passes so quickly and many things don't get done. I have paged thru the last Newsletter several times and the tears still want to roll, so many have left us. I remember most of them as vibrant young men. I still enjoy good health (Thank God) and retired from the Minnesota State Patrol after 30 years of service. Enclosed is a check to help the kitty. LOUIS GELEN

HAL BEAN writes:

As I look at today's date, the memories come flooding back. How happy we all were when the word came down that our battle was over. Do you remember all the rumors of where we would be going next? Like most rumors, most of them were wrong. So we are now a group dedicated to memories. Some terrible, of hardship, fright, and most of all, the buddies that did not make it----we will never forget. And the good memories of all the characters that we served with and the many fun experiences we had. I am sending a little something to help on the cost of the Newsletter. HAL BEAN--2nd Plt.

JACK (RED) GUTHRIE writes:

Thanks once again for "WINGS", another one of your tremendous keepsakes----I have them all!!! Also good to see so many happy, healthy faces. Sorry we can't make the reunion in KC. but will be there in spirit. Have enclosed a few bucks for "WINGS". Airborne All The Way! Jack Guthrie

BILL CHRISTIAN writes:

Thanks for "WINGS", very interesting and brings back some memories. Sorry we will miss KC reunion. I've been working with Jack Smothers in planning to get the 1997 reunion in Palm Springs. Hope it flies, as we have a great program planned. (Editor's Note: The membership at KC voted in favor of Palm Springs) Enclosed is a check to help with your production and printing. I have enclosed a number of pictures. Several of these photos should surprise some of the guys. They probably have never seen a lot of these photos. Maybe their children and grandchildren will enjoy them too. Regards and good health, BILL CHRISTIAN

Editor's Note: Thanks Bill for the many photos from the war years. Most of the photos in this issue from that time are through the courtesy and thoughtfulness of Bill

HANK & MARIAN SIMPSON write:

Received the latest edition of "WINGS". Both Hank and I thought it was one of the best we have had yet. You really covered it "all". Here is a token of thanks for all your hard work and time spent on it. See you in Kansas City. HANK AND MARIAN SIMPSON

EDITOR'S NOTE: You guys have laid the praise and flattery on pretty thickly and very transparently but I guess you know which of my buttons to push because here is another issue of "WINGS". Thank all of you who continue to be so supportive in every way. To those of you who haven't written me even a few words, I say "ASSUME THE POSITION AND GIMME FIFTY!". Well then, how about FIVE? Airborne! (twenty-five)

Letters Letters Letters Letters Letters

We Love Them! Send Us More!

Dear Charley:

8 May 1995

Today is a very appropriate day to write you while all of the TV programs are commemorating VE day. I hauled out my 517th book filled with the signatures of our buddies and compared them to your list. I'm sorry to say there were 11 names now listed as deceased....can't believe it!

Want to thank you for the great job you did on the issue you sent me of "WINGS". It was great to read about all of our friends in the 596.....never fully appreciate the time and effort it takes to publish it so I thought I better say a great big "THANK YOU". Also am enclosing a contribution towards the expense.

We think often of our great reunion in Europe last September. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for both Marie and I. We had the greatest group on that bus touring Belgium/France and wasn't the welcome we received everywhere heartwarming?

I am sorry to report that we will not be able to be with you in Kansas City later this month. After our stay in Europe, I again had to have some bladder surgery and I'm sorry to say that the latter part of the month I must go in again for a full checkup. But our thoughts will be with all of you and as the years are flying by so rapidly, I sure hate to miss any of the get-togethers. Fate must be against me.

Again, we wish you and lovely Ann all the best, and keep up the great work!

Our very best wishes,,

HERB & MARIE REICHWALD

POLLY & HAL EDDY write:

Thanks for the nice issue of "WINGS" and for reminding me the kitty ~~could~~ use some money. Polly and I are both well. I drive cars for two dealerships two or three times a week. Polly and I have been involved for four years in the Historic Dixon Theatre renovation project. A group of us got together and bought it to save it from being turned into a parking lot. Most of the renovation is being done by volunteers. I have become a jack of all trades---carpenter, plumber, electrician, etc.. Polly has done a lot of painting and cleaning. After four years, it is looking beautiful and is almost ready for business. Love, HAL

POLLY adds: Hi. Are you surprised Hal wrote something!!! Mark it on your calendar. I am resting up from a very busy income tax season. Am getting ready for the State Bowling Tournament this week-end in Rockford and then I'll work on my golf swing. Hoping to see every one the end of this month in KC.

The new CEO of the 596, ERNIE KOSAN writes:

Thank you for a most wonderful issue of "WINGS". It was truly a labor of love. Both Judy and I read it several times. I am enclosing a donation so that the Newsletter can keep coming. I don't know how the others feel but I would be satisfied with an annual issue. Judy and I are so sorry we will be missing the KC reunion but we have family events that demand our presence, baptisms, graduations, and baby sitting among other disruptions of our idyllic existence. Congratulations to Ann for being commissioned by the Denver Stock Show and Rodeo to write a children's book for the third and fourth grade Denver school children. We hope it is a great success. God's Blessings,

ERNIE & JUDY KOSAN

(twenty-six)

COL. HERB LARSON is a very talented writer. He and wife Ann had planned to be with us in Kansas City, but shortly before, he was diagnosed as having prostate cancer. Later he obtained a second opinion that is much more favorable. Herb wrote me two very interesting letters which I am editing to make it fit space limitations!

THANK YOU for sending me "WINGS". I enjoy every issue of it and have over the years. You can understand that I am torn between my MOTHER UNIT (the 596) and the units to which I belonged and later commanded. But the lessons I learned from the 596 were invaluable and the 596th will always remain close to my heart. The 596 was a well disciplined group and togetherness of the 596th, the 460th and the 517th cannot be matched and the closeness still goes on after more than 50 years.

It has been my misfortune that something has come along for the past several reunions that has prevented us from attending. Mostly it has been because of health problems for myself or Ann.

You have done a splendid job with "WINGS" and here is some help with the expenses. If you need more help just say the word.

I must relate a humorous anecdote about the 596th. Many of the men loved to go to Charlotte on week-end pass to "let off steam" after the hard and hot training at Camp Mackall. My wife and I had an old Packard car and gas stamps were readily available to the military through the 'black market'. Some of the 596 troopers hired my wife and I to drive them to Charlotte and we had a designated time and place to meet on Sunday night to return to camp. One week-end Sgt. Morgan was in the group and he did not show up at the Sunday night agreed upon time. Two of the other men and I set out to find the already infamous Sgt. Morgan, platoon sergeant of Lt. Dillard's second platoon. We found him without much trouble in one of the hotels and began to lead him back to the car. We were about half way across the busiest street in downtown Charlotte when we met a Marine in "dress blues", their most distinguished uniform. Sgt. Morgan, three sheets to the wind as usual, yelled out, "Hi there, Bell Hop!" Fortunately, the Marine either realized Morgan was drunk or that he was outnumbered and had the good sense to ignore the insult and walked on by. I think this may have been the beginning of Sgt. Morgan being a Staff Sergeant on Fridays and a Private on Mondays and then a Staff Sergeant again by the next Friday. You may all remember that he and Lt. Dillard had the best drill team in the Company and that he was an outstanding Sergeant with some difficulty holding his liquor and his good sense at the same time.

At one time I knew every man in the 596th. They were all TOPS and a Company hard to equal. I shall never forget them--no never.
AIRBORNE and GOD BLESS, HERB LARSON

Pat Kelly writes:

Received "WINGS" a few days ago and enjoyed it very much, especially the Company Picture. For some reason or other I never got my copy back in 1943. Enclosed is a contribution for the Newsletter. I never heard any more from 'Ace' Costello after I met him in Sept. 1945, after we both got home from Europe. He went on to jump on to Corregidor with the 503rd PIR. He was wounded during this military operation. Has anyone else ever heard anything from him or about him? PAT KELLY

BILL HUDSON WRITES:

Here is something to help repair the Company's finances. I was shocked to hear of Art Von's death. I talked to him about 6 months ago and his morale was pretty low. He said he was on dialysis. I really didn't know just how ill he was, as I was planning to see him in June when I visit my brother in Minnesota. hope to see our gang in KC at the reunion. BILL HUDSON

This letter to Bob Dalrymple is reprinted here with permission of the author, John Randall.

9May95

Dear Bob.,

This will be a strange letter in as much as I will dictate ~~the results.~~
You see it is a bit strange to call you Bob. It is not that your name is not Bob it is that I never got used to calling you that. For one thing the first time I met you was at Camp Tocoa and it was suggested I do 200 push ups. I was amazed. So you suggested I see Sgt. Barnes. He suggested 300 I was greatly amazed. About midnight I got to meet you albeit a bit tired. And so it came that you got 1st place on my hit list. From there we went to McCall. We learned to obey you and to pay attention to Barnes. That did not last long as we were sent to Fort Benning to learn how to jump out of a plane. So after a short sojourn in the area of Tennessee we went off to fight the Hun.

Now I am not going to say you were and are a 1st class bastard.. because you are not, as a matter of fact you did not rate a second rate place.. Barnes did but not you. First place went to the idiots who thought out how to fight a war. Now I am not complaining too much, we came back many did not. What is apparent is there were a few good men who kept us alive like you, and Barnes. Thank You.

Now it would be totally unfair to give you and Barnes all the credit.. There were others that made the list, namely Dillard, Hild, and Norwood to name but a few. What a grand team you all made. You taught us how to soldier and how to do the impossible when needed. You also taught us how to goof-off and we became pretty efficient at that too.

After the war I met and became a good friend of General Ridgley Gaither. He followed my army career for many years. He asked how I progressed so fast in rank in so short a time. It took him 12 years to go from 2nd, Lt. to 1st. I told him I had a good teacher and because of this I went from Capt. to full Col. In ten years. And so it is that I bow in suppleness to you and Barnes..

And so as time passes and that creep with a scythe presses ever closer, it is time to set the record straight, clear my conscious and right you a letter. You were a dandy God, Pop, Brother, S.O.B. or whatever at a time we so needed one. Thanks again.

Regards

John L. Randall

(twenty-eight)

THE WISH FISH

While walking in the woods one day,
I met a little man.
He winked an eye and grinned a grin
And took me by the hand.
He led me to a waterfall
That splashed into a brook.
At first I only glanced at it,
Then took another look.
For in the pool beneath the falls
There was a golden fish,
Who swam among the lily pads
And told me, "Make a wish",
"He's magical!" I told myself
wondering at the news.
"And he can grant my fondest wish
If only I can choose."
So, now I thought of all my goals
And thought of what each means.
I tried to make a single choice
Of all the usual dreams.
First, I thought of wealth and riches,
A mansion of my own.
Then I thought, "For riches
Would I trade my happy home?"
Next, it was power that came to mind,
To rule some place or thing.
But with power comes a lot of problems
And also worrying.
Then, I thought of happiness
And my searching there did end.
I asked the fish, "Please make me happy
With lots of happy friends."
I expected a flash of magic light
And joy to fall round my head.
But that old fish just slyly smiled,
And then he softly said,
"Your life is your own to live,
But first you have to plan it.
I only helped you choose your goal;
I didn't say I'd grant it."

Author Unknown

Am I Rxally Nxxdxd?

Xvx though my typewriter is an old
modxl, it works wxll xxcept for onx of
thx kxys. I'vx wishxd many timxs that it
workxd pxxrfctly. Trux, thxrx arx 42 kxys that
function, but only onx kxy not working makxs
thx diffxxncx.

Somxtimxs, it sxxms to mx that our organi-
zation is somxwhat likx my typewriter — not
all thx pxoplx arx working propxxly. You
might say, "Wxll I'm only onx pxxson. It
won't makx much diffxxncx." But you sxx,
an organization, to bx xffixxnt, nxxds thx
participation of vxxy pxxson.

(Author Unknown.)

And that mxans wx rxally
do nxxd you!!!!

POT POURRI



This the logo of the 1er Regiment de Chasseurs Parachutistes
of which all members of the 517 FRCT are honorary members.

T-Shirt Philosophy

My next husband
will be normal.



n the beginning,
there was the word.
And the word was
Chocolate.
And it was good.
Confections: 1.5 oz., 240 cal.

Mantra for Garnet Dalrymple



KILROY WAS HERE
AND SO WERE YOU



V-E Day

"Th' hell with it. I ain't standin'
up till he does!"

IN THE BEGINNING...

GOD CREATED EARTH AND RESTED.
THEN GOD CREATED MAN AND RESTED.
THEN GOD CREATED WOMAN.
SINCE THEN, NEITHER GOD NOR
MAN HAS RESTED!

IT'S ALL IN THE MIND!

Think Old and You are Old.
Think Young and You're Still Old.

Did you want
to talk to the
MAN
IN CHARGE
or the
WOMAN
who knows what's
going on?

MENTAL Anxiety
MENTAL Breakdown
MENstrual Cramps
MENopause...

Did you ever notice
how all of our problems
begin with **MEN**?

THE DENTIST

Picasso, the surrealist painter, had some expensive dental
restoration done. He was rather particular about the aesthetics
of the case, but finally seemed satisfied.

"Doctor," said he, "I would like to show my appreciation.
May I present you with one of my paintings?"

Naturally, the dentist was flattered. A few weeks later a
large canvas was delivered. It covered a whole panel of the
wall and depicted a large mouth . . . wide open . . . teeth very
prominent . . . and in the center a portrait of the dentist.

The doctor studied the painting very carefully for awhile,
then drily remarked, "Well, I'm glad I'm not a proctologist!"

596TH AIRBORNE ENGINEER COMPANY
Camp Mackall, North Carolina

1 May 1944

To the Wives and Mothers of all my men:

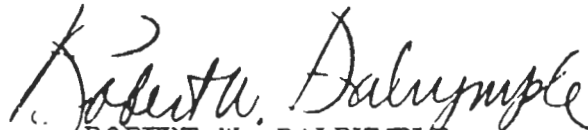
You, my friends, are wonderful people--YOU ARE WHAT WE ARE FIGHTING FOR. Why do I say this? Because I have your sons and your husbands in my command and they are splendid young men.

If time permitted, I would write each of you about the personal achievements of your son or husband, but their achievements are many and my letters would run into volumes. These men, and I say men because they are no longer boys, were entrusted to me by the United States Army. It has been my duty to train them to defeat the enemy wherever he is met. My task has not been easy. I have had to be sound in my judgement and firm in my convictions. Yet, I have enjoyed every minute of our training.

Our men are smart and they grasp new phases of training very quickly. They have developed into an unbeatable fighting team. As the final test approaches, that of combat, I feel that my officers and I have fulfilled our duty to the best of our ability. It remains now for our men to use what they have learned in the manner in which they were trained. I have full confidence in their ability to acquit themselves with distinction on the battlefield--- THEY WILL COME THROUGH; NEVER DOUBT IT! They have courage, faith, loyalty, love of country, love of home, and above all, youth. --- Youth with its freshness, its stamina and its ability to rebound quickly from the rigors of warfare.

I humbly ask your trust and confidence as I lead these men into battle. I pray that I will return each dear one to you when this war is over. God bless you all.

This is the letter sent to our families just before we shipped out for Italy.


ROBERT W. DALRYMPLE,
Capt. 596th AB Engr Co.,
Commanding.

PARACHUTING IS THE SECOND GREATEST THRILL KNOWN TO MAN.

LANDING SAFELY IS THE FIRST!!!!!!

GOOD ADVICE FOR 596ers: Try to avoid jumping from any more airplanes unless there is a national emergency and someone holds a gun on you. Try to break your old, bad habit---VOLUNTEERING!

29 April 1995
45 West Grand Avenue
Astoria, Or. 97103

General James Lindsay
Airborne and Special Operations Museum
Suite 200
316 Green Street
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28302

Dear General Lindsay,

Tonight's presentation at the 18th annual Airborne Awards Festival marks the end of a long journey for those who labored almost five decades seeking a commemorative stamp honoring the airborne forces. The earliest known appeal was made to the Postmaster General in the late 1940's.

It may baffle future historians as to why this recognition was so long overdue. Certainly, this is still an issue our ranks find difficult to understand. However, it serves no useful purpose for us to recount the heartbreak and bitterness of the past.

"All's well that ends well" is an appropriate adage at this point in our history as the nations premier "on call" military force. The stamp issued last year as part of the WW II series fulfills our dreams and heals most wounds.

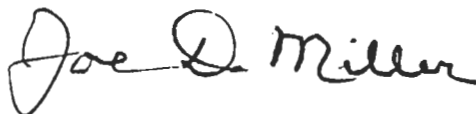
The enlarged replica of this stamp given you today is one of only two such reproductions prepared by the U.S. Post Office. The companion facsimile is currently displayed at the Airborne Museum in Ste. Mere Eglise, France.

Your copy is intended for permanent display at the Airborne and Special Operations Museum which you are spearheading. It is presented on behalf of the Postmaster General, Marvin Runyon, the Department of Defense 50th Anniversary Commemoration Committee, and the Airborne Commemorative Stamp Committee, Joe D. Miller, Chairman and Don Lassen, Sponsor.

These words are inscribed on the plaque attached to the stamp. "Given in Grateful Memory And Deep Affection For All Airborne Personnel Serving our Nation Since 1940. Let Those Who So Dared Forever Know How Indebted Are We who Love This Land. The WW II Committee added the caption "A Grateful Nation Remembers".

May future generations visit your new facility and view with pride the contribution their forefathers made to the preservation of freedom and democratic societies around the world.

Respectfully,



Joe D. Miller, Chairman
Airborne Commemorative Stamp Committee

Our own Joe D. Miller will forever be recognized as the Father of the first and only American Airborne postage stamp.

Editor

Was it Jesse Floyd who said, "I like to shoot dice every day because I might be walking around LUCKY and not know it"? Did you know that Jesse won about \$25,000 shooting craps aboard ship on the way home from Europe. He hired other troopers to guard him and his money so that he could get some sleep. He said he planned to return to his small hometown in Alabama and open a pool room. I don't know whether he did that or not but I have been told that he was killed shortly after the end of the war in a sport parachute sky-diving accident.

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM OUR 596 CEO

ERNIE KOSAN writes again: It's hard to believe but August 15 marks the 51st anniversary of our jump into combat in southern France. Coincidentally, this is also VJ day, so we will have two things to celebrate.

Have you bought a copy of BATTLING BUZZARDS? If you haven't read it, you are missing a big treat. What makes it so interesting is that it's written from our perspective with many direct quotes. Even though memories fade so that some events may not have been exactly as portrayed, it's still a hell of a good account. Maybe Paul Roberson can explain how he got to be in two different sticks! I have loaned my copy to half a dozen friends and each one has enjoyed it.

Let's all start planning to attend the next reunion in Palm Springs in 1997. Having something desirable to look forward to helps to keep us young, at least in mind and spirit. God Bless you all until we meet again.

ERNIE KOSAN

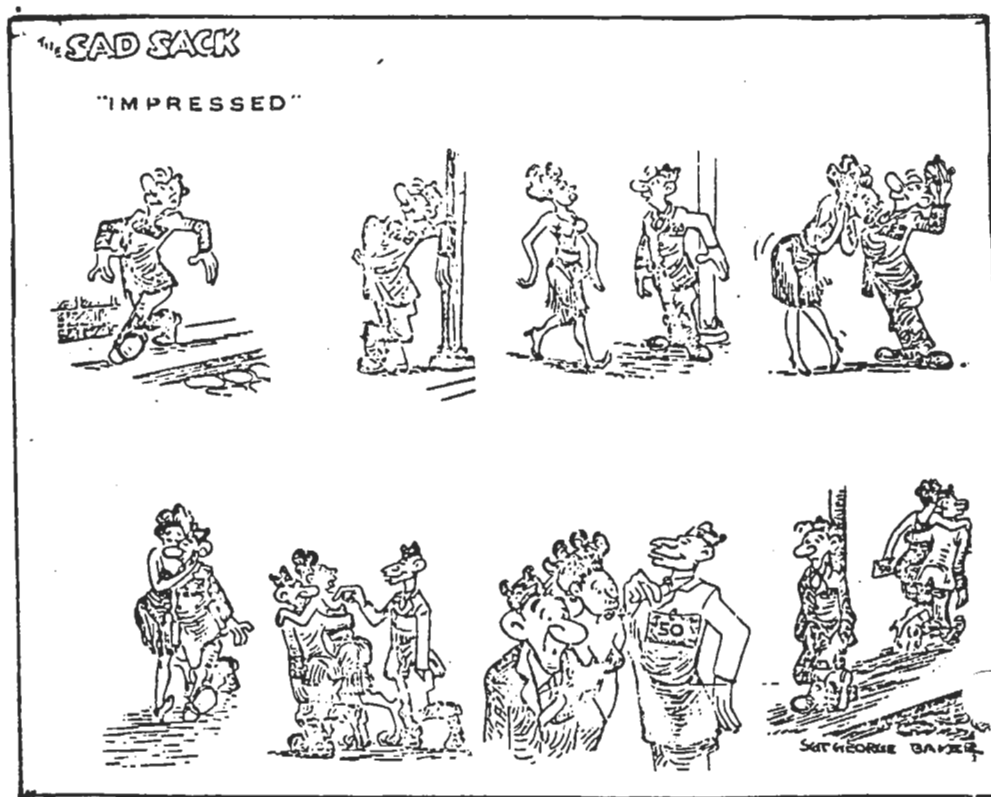
(Editor's Note) The book, BATTLING BUZZARDS is available from our 517 PRCT Assn. FACTOTUM Col. Bill Lewis for \$20. Get one. You will enjoy it and your family members and friends will enjoy it and understand you better and admire you even more.

A PERFECT NON-SEQUITUR
FOR ALL OCCASIONS

The next time someone asks you a dumb question or one that you prefer not to answer, try this response and note the effect. *"It has to do with where you go and what you do in going back and following through in terms of what's taking place".*

They say good judgment comes from experience, but experience comes from poor judgment. ■

Gem of the day :: Adam and Eve had an ideal marriage. He didn't have to hear about all the great guys she could have married, and she didn't have to hear about his mother's wonderful cooking.





A PRECIS OF THE TRAINING AND COMBAT EXPERIENCE OF THE 596 Para. Engr. Co.

The combat role of a Parachute Engineer Company in military operations was, indeed, a new concept of employment for an engineer unit. One might even say that this development of military art was in its infancy. However, fundamental to battlefield survival is the ability to close with and destroy an enemy. Thus, the school of the soldier was basic to our unit: physical and mental conditioning; use of and care and maintenance equipment and clothing; rifle and weapons marksmanship; ceremonies and formations; hygiene and sanitation; bivouacking and marching; and field adaptability.

Proceeding through individual and small unit training, the 596th Parachute Combat Engineer Company began to develop the cohesiveness and unit discipline and esprit de corps that are necessary elements for survival and success on the battlefield.

Combined unit training along with continuation of physical and mental conditioning led to a tough capable, and durable outfit. Specialized training in demolitions, road repair and maintenance, bridge erection, mine laying and recording, mine detection and removal, fortifications including barbed wire and anti-personnel obstacles, antitank obstacles, and mapping and surveying were conducted concurrently. Finally, parachute rigging and parachute qualification.

Our training culminated in the testing phase of field maneuvers, where all units of the combat team became wedded in combined operations.

In the Parachute Infantry Combat Team, the Parachute Engineer Company, after deployment, is limited in its support capability because no engineer heavy equipment was authorized in the TO&E. With few exceptions pioneer tools were the basic equipment. These, together with special equipment including mine detectors; demolition equipment, etc, could be packaged for airdrops as part of basic loads with other specialized equipment and supplies added as the mission dictated. For example, in the Southern France operation there were several bridges on the periphery of the Combat Team position that were possible targets for demolition if such action had become necessary. Thus, airdrop loads contained the necessary additional explosives, mines, and equipment to accomplish these possible missions. In fact, the bridges were reconnoitered, but I do not recall that we actually prepared them for destruction. As lightly equipped and supplied as the Engineer Parachute Company was 40 years ago, it was obvious that advantage would be taken

of local materials, equipment, and transportation that might be available, plus any captured material the enemy might have possessed.

The 517th Parachute Infantry Regimental Combat Team (CT) baptism of fire occurred as a unit of the 36th Infantry Division. This more or less standard ground operation placed the 596th Engrs in a position of providing direct combat support to any element of the CT engaged in operations. Consequently, the Company Supply Officer, (Lt. Herbert V. Larson), was able to requisition and draw from higher echelon supply depots a considerable amount of the standard combat engineer company mobile and heavy quipment required for direct combat support functions. During this period, therefore, we had a limited number of dump trucks, a bull dozer, and truck mounted air compressors at our disposal. Obviously, we could not drop this equipment into Southern France, nor did we have enough personnel to leave behind to bring it in over the beaches as part of our "tail", even had we been allowed to retain it. So it was returned to Fifth Army sources, whence we had received it, prior to our departure from Italy.

I should like to state here, that our engineer soldiers showed great ingenuity and adaptability in transporting, handling, and operating this heavy equipment on which they had received very little prior training, if any. A great tribute indeed, to our soldiers and an outstanding example of the confident, "can do" spirit of our engineers at the outset.

In the context of the airborne overprint of the Southern France invasion, the judicious use of the 596th Engineers was a paramount concern of the company commander. After much consultation with the combat team commander and his staff, it was determined that it would be most advantageous to attach engineer platoons in direct support of the Infantry battalions of the CT. This was logical decision in view of the possible dispersion of units in an airborne drop. Also, throughout our advanced training we had attempted to make this disposition so that the battalion commander and the engineer platoon leader would know and understand the capabilities and functions of their respective units. (Our first, second, and third platoons normally were attached in direct support of the first, second, and third battalions of the CT respectively.)

In an airdrop operation, it is paramount, also, that the infantry unit commander command all the troops assigned to him. Thus our

platoons were assigned to and did jump with the various battalions of the combat team, with one exception. The first platoon under Raymond J. Hild was placed in direct support of and jumped with the 509th Parachute Infantry Battalion.

As the airborne operation progressed, the combat team found itself in a ground role situation in a mountainous terrain. The engineer company function here ~~was to provide~~ direct combat support to any element of the combat team, but particularly to the infantry units. The engineers operated in a more or less standard ground role of road repair and maintenance, maintenance of the main supply route, assistance in providing defensive obstacles to impede enemy penetration of forward positions (wire, AP mines, AT mines, abutments), as well as mine detection and removal. The latter operation encompassed far more than the normal amount of such work due to the mountainous terrain, the destruction of main roads, which necessitated the use of many back roads and routes by the infantry and their attendant requirement for this type of engineer combat support. Mine detection and removal, a most hazardous and hair raising battlefield activity, often carried out under enemy fire and observation, brought forth magnificent personal courage on the part of the 596th engineer soldiers. Many were the incidents of this type of bravery.

Since we had no heavy equipment, with the exception of one small dozer, a borrowed R2, our engineers accomplished most of the road maintenance and repair with hand labor. Fortunately, we were able to obtain assistance from the French Pont et Chaussee, particularly in respect to rock and earth-fill material, cabling, steel stringers sand, gravel, and other repair items not available from our regular supply channels.

The 596th moved with the combat team to Soissons, France in early December 1944. No sooner had we become settled, cleaned up, and getting ready for passes to Paris when we were alerted for the Battle of the Bulge. The company was subsequently moved by Transportation Corps semis and the few vehicles we possessed to the vicinity of Werbement, Belgium. The combat team was assigned to the 18th Airborne Corps under General Ridgeway. There followed a series of combat team operations, attachments to larger units, detachment from units, transportation to a new sector sometimes by transport, sometimes marching, another attachment, another combat operation, etc, etc.

The fluidity of the battlefield situation, the constant change of combat team missions, and the constant attachments and detachments from higher units, left little time for the combat team commander to be concerned with his engineer support. It was therefore incumbent upon the engineer commander to analyze the situation and provide the very best engineer support to the combat team as possible under the circumstances. Since major ground combat engineer units were operating in the area, the logical approach was for the CT engineer to report to the engineer of the major command to which the combat team was attached. In that manner, the engineer company, with the concurrence of the combat team commander, was able to be integrated into the overall engineer support function of the combat efforts in the area of operations. This arrangement, SOP for engineer units attached to a larger headquarters, was a great asset in providing needed combat support to our fighting infantry elements.

We had no heavy equipment and insufficient transportation to move ourselves about on the battlefield. About all we had in the way of transport was our kitchen truck and some 3/4 ton resupply trucks. Any major shift in sector necessitated calling forward transportation units supporting us for personnel transport. Some transportation vehicles stayed with us several days because our moves were so frequent, and generally at night.

Over the course of the next several days, as US troops gained the initiative and began overrunning the enemy, we were able to recapture and recoup enough heavy equipment from the battlefield to give us a reasonably decent capability to respond to normal ground force engineer combat support operational requirements.

Col. Robert W. Dalrymple

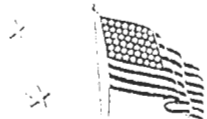
A FREELOADER'S LAST REQUEST

Once upon a time there was a veteran who never joined any organizations. All his life, he took benefits and entitlements won for him by veterans' service organizations. He had ten point preference, A G I Home Loan, he had gone to school on the G I Education Bill, veterans employment even got him a job, among other things, but he still refused to join.

On his death bed he told his wife, "please do something for me - I want to be buried in a National Cemetery, have a military marker and I want a veterans' organization to provide an Honor Guard and be my pallbearers." "But, you never belonged to any veterans' organizations," his wife exclaimed. "Why do you want them for pallbearers?" "Dear," he replied, "they've carried me this far, they might as well carry me the rest of the way"

(thirty-six)





517th PRCT REUNION
KANSAS CITY, MO 1995
596 ENG

Seated L to R--Goodman, Bulino, Ventoza, Shull, Simpson, Moses, Ward
Standing L to R--Dalrymple, Saunders, Conger, Miller, Hudson, Pugh,
Senter, Mitchell



San Antonio, Texas Reunion---1985

Front Row L to R--Moses, Dalrymple, Shipley, Billard, Saunders, Wilkerson,
Ventoza, Harrell, Eddy, Shull
Middle Row L to R--Christian, Kosan, Ward, Williamson, Simpson, Pugh, Herren,
Goodman, Madison
Back Row L to R--Verdi, Markle, Guthrie, Botts, Mitchell, Senter,
Zubricky, Phillips

WINGS is directed to 596ers and their families. If you have any suggestions about what you would like to see and read in this newsletter, please let me hear from you. Or there might be things you would like to see less of or have deleted. In either case, your ideas and criticisms will be welcomed.

EDITOR

(thirty-seven)

The wall decoration in the above photo disappeared after this reunion. A year or so later the Goodmans visited our French friend, Freddie Scotto, in his hotel in Beaulieu-Sur-Mer and saw it decorating a wall there. Freddie had been at the SA reunion. It's OK because he has been a generous friend to the 517 CT.

What's New?

BOB VERDI writes:

Sorry it has taken me so long to thank you for the framed Airborne stamp. It is now hanging on the wall over my desk and it is just beautiful. We couldn't attend the KC reunion because two grandchildren were graduating. I also had a very serious operation, the removal of a cancerous kidney. I am now in treatment and feeling a little better. I hope we can be together in Palm Springs in 1997. Our love to Ann and good health to both of you. Enclosed are a few photos from the 1995 Palm Springs mini-reunion.

EDITOR'S NOTE: I'm sure Bob would enjoy a Get Well note or card from you 596ers. Was there ever anyone in the 596 who could create more joy and laughter than Bob? And even today he is still the life of the party. JOIE DE VIVRE!

The Goodmans have sold their home and will have a new Bakersfield area address by Sept 1.

In late July, Ann and I visited with Joe D. and Edie Miller in Astoria, Oregon. They gave us a Grand Tour of that beautiful area. We had left 105 degree weather in Ft. Worth for their 60 to 75 cool days and nights. Joe had a torn knee ligament that he no doubt abused more as he delayed arthroscopic surgery until we were gone.

Bill and Irene Lewis were in an automobile accident shortly after our reunion in KC. Irene suffered a broken leg and Bill had a broken toe. Both are at home healing and recuperating nicely. Their new auto, that was purchased one day before the accident, was a total loss.



This is the logo for the annual golf tourney for member dentists of the Ft. Worth Dental Society.

Several years ago, Ray Hild sent me a new (WWII vintage) jump suit and I donated it to the Airborne Museum in Ste. Mere Eglise, France, in Ray's name. Last year Ann and I visited that magnificent museum. There were several exhibits with mannequins in jump suits. I am sure one of them must have been Ray Hild's gift. I wish I had held on to it for the recently established Airborne Museum in Le Muy that was dedicated in August, 1994, by our own General Seitz. If you still have a pair of jump boots or jump pants, please donate them to the only museum devoted to the commemoration and exhibition of artifacts and memorabilia of the southern France D-Day, 15 August 1944. See the letter on the next page from the two young men who had the idea for this Museum and are the curators. They are outstanding young men and deserve our support. Please tell me if you send items to this museum so that I can recognize your generosity in the next issue of WINGS.



50th ANNIVERSARY

This issue is WINGS celebrates the 50th anniversary of the end of WWII as well as the 51st anniversary of our combat jump into southern France

Having reached the age of almost 71, I find that there are three drawbacks to growing old. One is that you get forgetful.....



Jean Michel SOLDI
Eric RENOUX

Conservateurs du
" Musée de la Libération
15 Août 1944 "

Mairie du Muy
83490 LE MUY-VAR-FRANCE

Tel: 94-80-70-02 ou 94-68-30-64

CHARLES E. PUGH.
623 SO . HENDERSON STREET
FORT WORTH, TEXAS. 76104. U.S.A.

Le Muy, France-
16 July 1995.

Dear Friend of the South France Airborne Museum,

We received last week your package with the U.S. Airborne flag, and exposed it the same day in the Museum. Each presents, each letter that we receive every weeks enjoy us so much, and increase our motiv'ation.

You ask us in your letter if something can help us for the Museum.

We doesn't dare disturb you but that 's right that we have more problems to complete uniforms for our dummys.

- we have two jump jackets, helmets with the webbing, but no trousers(always ussed by the farmers), and no jumps boots to dress our dummys for exhibition.

You know that all documents, old pictures, are always welcome (Officers photos of the R.C.T. taken during WWII. with their dedications)

Our wishes, because we doesn't have their photos to exhibition are :

- Captain Dalrymple during WWII(to exposed with his uniform)
- 460 F.A.B. Commander Ray Cato. We never had his Picture
- Colonel W. BOYLE, we met him, but never had his picture
- Lieut colonel melvin ZAIS
- 517 Commander Ruppert GRAVES

We are actually working to made a map of the D.Z. and we will be very happy to add pictures of the units commader to complete our work. (already in the Museum Lieut Col. Richard SEITZ our Museum Father, Col. Wood JOERG 551 Com., Lieut col; W. Yarborough 509 Comm. and more British officers of the second independant Brigade.)

We know that perhaps our wishes request are very difficults to be grant but we want to thank you again for your help, and want to tell you how much we appreciate this help and grateful to your work.

Always your Friends in the South France...

Jean et Eric

AIRBORNE

Don Saunders writes:

He talked on the phone last spring with Roy Herren in Florida. Roy had been quite ill but was on the mend. He said they had a great time at the KC reunion. They went back home to Pine City, NY just long enough to mow the lawn and do the laundry and they were off again to Airstream Rallies one after the other for weeks on end. They are really nomads. They did visit with Bernie Barnes and gave him the audio tape and card that we 596ers made at the reunion. Just reading their itinerary makes me tired. Don and Jan have the energy of teenagers. Around 15 October, they go to Florida for 2-3 weeks and then on to Texas in November to stay until spring. Happy Trails!



LIFE FROM A MAN'S VIEWPOINT

1. The female always makes the rules. The rules are subject to change at any time without prior notification.
2. No male can possibly know all the rules.
3. If the female suspects the male knows all the rules, she immediately changes some or all of them.
4. The female is never wrong. If the female is wrong, it's because of a misunderstanding, the result of something the male did or said.
5. If rule 4 applies, the male must apologize immediately for causing the misunderstanding.
6. The female can change her mind at any point or time. The male must never change his mind without written consent from the female.
7. The female can be angry or upset at any given time.
8. The male must remain calm at all times, unless the female wants him to be angry or upset.
9. The female, under no circumstances, must let the male know whether or not she wants him to be angry or upset.
10. If the female has PMS, all rules are null and void.

REFLECTIONS

The time has arrived when all of us 596ers have reached the Biblical allotment of "three score and ten" years or more. I'm sure all of us are thankful for long life and the other blessings and good fortune that have come our way. One of those blessings was the good fortune to serve throughout WWII in a single combat unit with whom we came to know, depend on, admire, respect, and love as brothers. We did it our way, the Airborne Way, All the Way!!!!

DIRTY DANCING!

From the *EDINBURGH EVENING COURANT* 1816

We learn with pain that the indecent foreign dance called the *Waltz* was introduced (the first time) at the British Court, on Friday se'ennight. This is a circumstance which ought not to be passed over in silence. National morals depend on national habits, and it is quite sufficient to cast one's eyes on this dance, to see that it is far indeed removed from the modest reserve which has hitherto been considered distinctive of English females. We know not how it has happened (probably by the recommendation of some worthless and ignorant French dancing-master) that so indelicate a dance has now been exhibited at the British Court; but the novelty is one deserving of severe reprobation, and we trust it will not be tolerated in any moral British society.

LIFE FROM A WOMAN'S VIEWPOINT

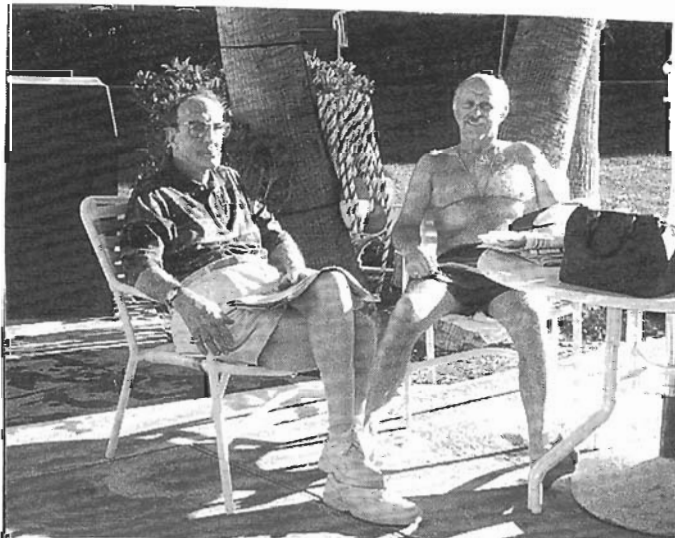
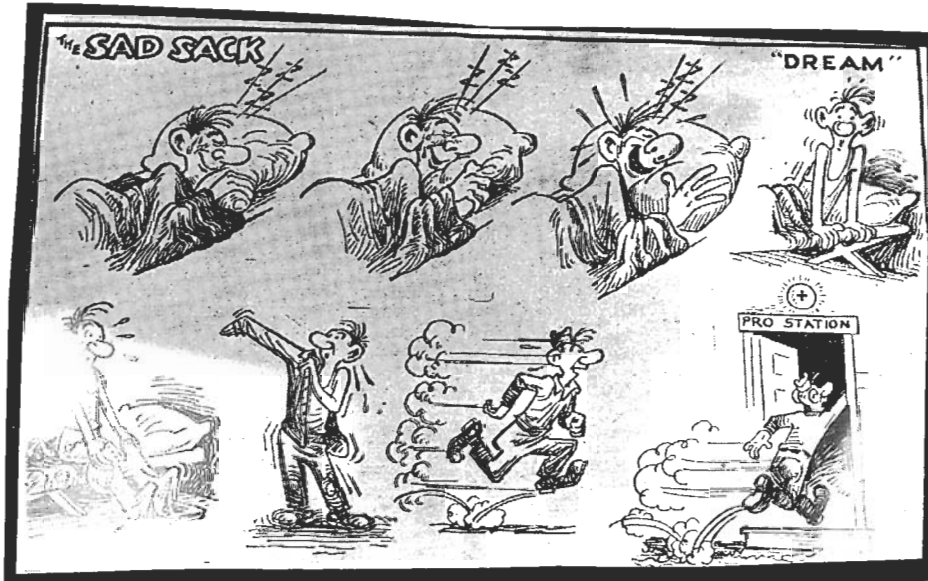
1. The male always makes the rules, subject to change at any time.
2. He's always right and to challenge him can result in a big argument when he accuses her of thinking she knows it all.
3. The male has inalienable rights, such as looking at TV and snacking, ignoring the dog or cat yowling to get out the door. It's the female's responsibility to respect his right to be lazy.
4. The male can sulk, but the female has no right to do so. To allow her means that the male is losing control. He must either: 1, cause an argument and accuse her of being emotional or 2, ask her if she has PMS.
5. Under no circumstances must a male let the female know that he's upset. He must retain rigid control, jaw set, teeth clamped together. That makes her uncertain and ready to negotiate terms.
6. The male is never wrong and the female must find every opportunity to reinforce his superiority, accomplishments and sex-appeal. Not to do so could result in long periods of sulking.
7. If the male is going through male menopause, all rules are null and void.



Marie Verdi, Sophia Christian, Elaine Markle and Gloria Hudson



Christian, Verdi, Hudson, and Markle



Verdi & Christian catching some rays



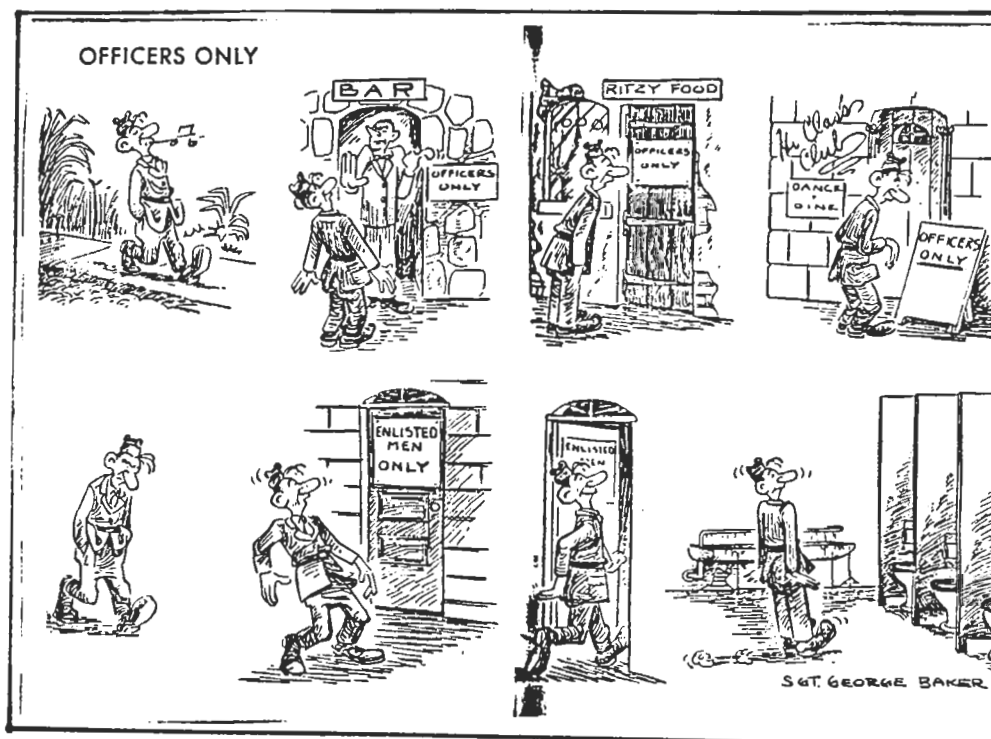
Allan & Alice Goodman

HAL EDDY writes: (This is an excerpt from a letter written in 1985 and needs to finally be shared with everyone.)

On 29 October 1944, "F" Company made the night march over the mountain and entered Sospel. I was the engineer with "F" Company that night. I was at the rear of the patrol when the Frenchman's dog came up to a wire across the trail and would go no farther. The word was passed back "Engineer forward". I worked my way along the narrow trail to the front where the infantry officer told me to find and deactivate all the booby traps I could find. He said, "I will send three riflemen with you for protection." I started crawling forward along the trail and about every ten feet or so I would find another trip-wire and booby trap. I can't remember how many I found but there were several. Every time I went around a bend in the trail, I expected to run into the German soldiers. Early on I looked behind me and discovered that my three infantrymen were nowhere in sight. I was all alone and scared because of where I was and what I was doing. When I could find no more trip-wires, I walked back at least a half-mile to tell the officer. All of them had sacked out and were asleep except for the perimeter guards. At dawn we entered Sospel.

There are remains of nearly 90,000 service members not accounted for...that includes 78,768 from World War II, 8,100 from Korea and 2,483 from Vietnam...the largest number from World War II were sailors who went down with their ships.....6,100 soldiers are missing in the North Korea area....

There are now two beautiful and moving memorials in Washington, DC honoring those who participated in the Korean and Vietnamese wars and especially those who lost their lives in those conflicts. Here's hoping some of us WWII veterans live long enough to see such a memorial constructed in our honor and memory. It's long overdue.



Airborne &
Special Operations

THE LESSON

Then Jesus took His disciples up the mountain and gathering them around Him, He taught them saying:
Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven;

Blessed are the meek;

Blessed are they that mourn;

Blessed are the merciful;

Blessed are you when persecuted;

Blessed are you when you suffer;

Be glad and rejoice for your reward is great in heaven.

Remember what I am telling you.

Then Simon Peter said, 'Do we have to write this down?'

And Andrew said 'Are we supposed to know this?'

And James said, 'Will we have a test on it?'

And Phillip said, 'What if we don't know it?'

And Bartholomew said, 'Do we have to learn this?'

And John said, 'The other disciples didn't have to learn this.'

And Matthew said, 'When do we get out of here?'

And Judas said, 'What does this have to do with real life?'

And the other disciples said similar things.

Then one of the Pharisees who was present asked to see Jesus' lesson plan and inquired of Jesus his terminal objectives in the cognitive domain.

And Jesus wept.

Parachute dogs

FORT BRAGG, N.C. (AP) 1980
The U.S. Army is training a crack corps of 40 German Shepherd dogs for a very undog-like activity — jumping out of airplanes.

Under a new Army program to train combat police dogs, dogs will at first be placed in special harnesses and affixed to the backs of human jumpers. After floating down to 200 feet above the ground, a parachutist will lower the dog on an 18-foot-line so that it hits the ground seconds before the paratrooper to avoid a collision.

PARATROOPER BREAKS WORLD RECORD: Chief Warrant Officer Jay Stokes, 1st Special Warfare Training Group (Airborne), jumped 331 times to set a new record for the most parachute jumps in a 24 hour period on 31 May 1995, at the Raeford Municipal Airport. He began his attempt at 8 pm, 30 May. Just before 6:06 pm, 31 May, he broke the previous world record of 301 jumps. He continued to jump 30 more times, ending the 24 hour period with a new world record of 331 jumps. Stokes accomplished this feat with the support from members of his unit, (some of whom took a day of leave to help), his family, and friends. **AIRBORNE!!**

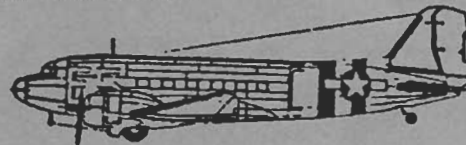
This record would require a jump every 4 minutes and 20 seconds. They must have had a few helicopters taking him up.

KNIGHTS COME HOME IN STYLE: The U S Army Parachute team, the "Golden Knights", recently brought back 13 medals from national and world style and accuracy competitions, adding to their impressive list of achievements a clean-sweep in the men's open division at the 1994 National Skydiving Championships in Clewiston, FL, June 20-23. **CONGRATULATIONS! AIRBORNE!**

Jack 'Hollywood' Dunaway writes to say, "WINGS is such a great magazine it made me regret I was not in the 596 although I probably wouldn't have made PFC there, much less than to commandeer all the mattresses from the Negresco Hotel in Nice. Thanks for the 596 update."

Editor's Note: During the BIG WAR, the mothers of young ladies all over this country warned their daughters about paratroopers. Jack Dunaway and Kilroy were the cause of those warnings that caused the rest of us to suffer----- and unjustifiably.

General Seitz writes: "I've seen many memorial services and think the one we had at Ft. Leavenworth was the best. I was so proud of you and the other 517 and 460 troopers in your WWII uniforms. I heard many fine comments from the people at Ft. Leavenworth and from our own people in attendance. 517th All The Way."

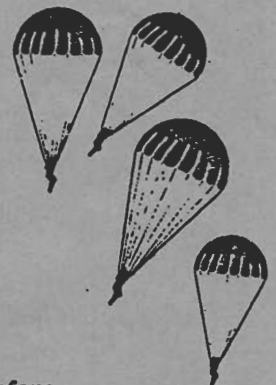


BRIEFS FROM FORT BRAGG

On a downtown street corner an evangelist was telling his listeners to love their enemies.

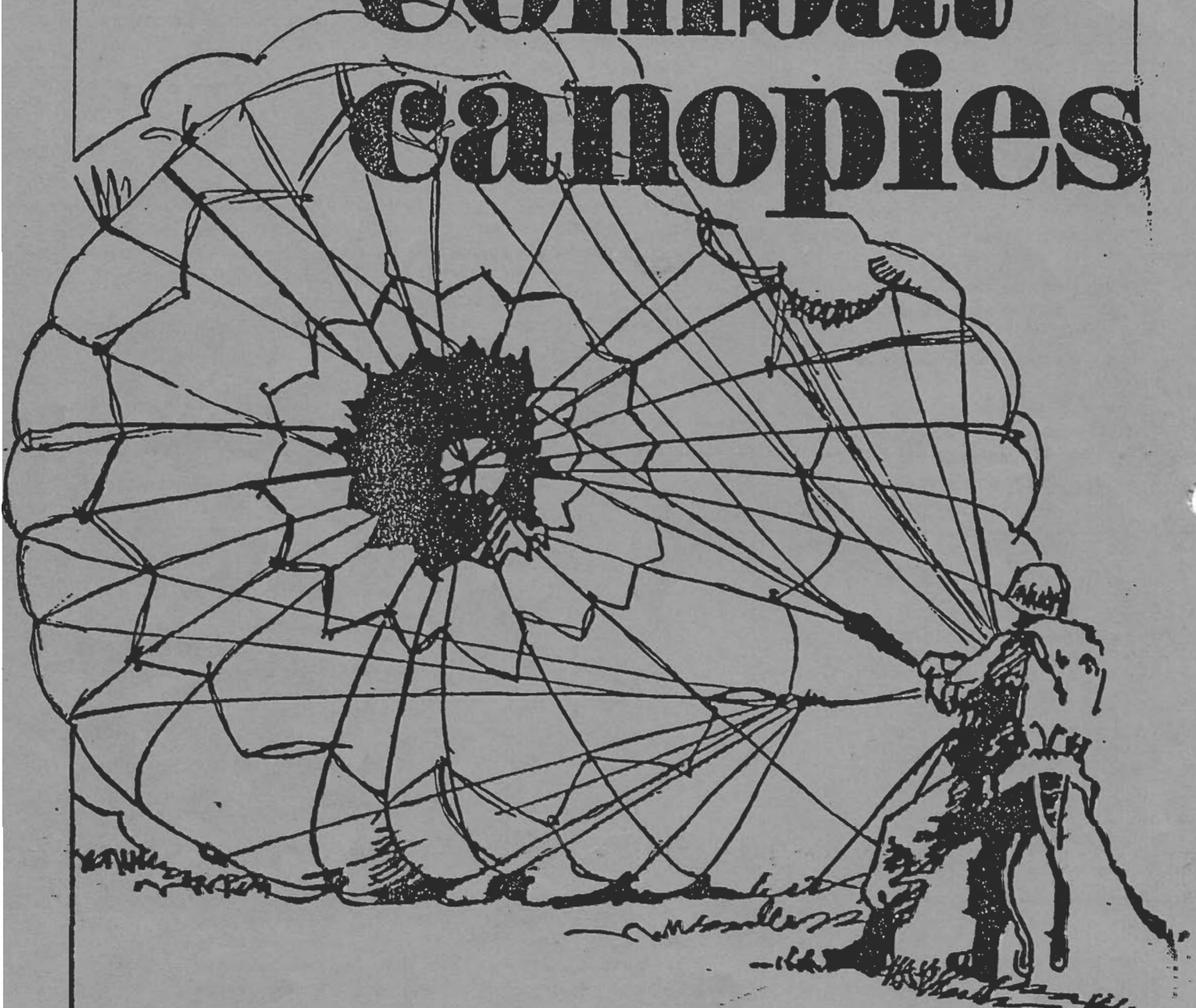
"I do" muttered one paratrooper to his buddy.

"My enemies are whisky and women."





combat canopies



*Think where man's glory most begins and ends.
And say my glory was I had such friends."*

William Butler Yeats

Airborne, stay healthy — and be careful out there !

(forty-four)